

# Black-Scholes call price

## Question:

Yara Inc is listed on the NYSE with a stock price of \$40 - the company is not known to pay dividends. We need to price a call option with a strike of \$45 maturing in 4 months. The continuously-compounded risk-free rate is 3%/year, the mean return on the stock is 7%/year, and the standard deviation of the stock return is 40%/year. What is the Black-Scholes call price?

## Solution:

**Formula:** Black-Scholes model

$$c = P_a N(d_1) - P_e N(d_2) e^{-rt}$$

**Where:**

$$d_1 = \frac{\ln(P_a / P_e) + (r + 0.5s^2)t}{s\sqrt{t}}$$

$$d_2 = d_1 - s\sqrt{t}$$

$c$  = Price of the call option

$P_e$  = The exercise price

$e$  = Euler's number = 2.71828

$r$  = The risk – free interest rate

$t$  = Time to expiry of the option

$N(d)$  = normal distribution probability density function

$P_a$  = The price of the underlying item, such as current share price

$s$  = standard deviation of the returns of the underlying item.

## Step 0: Parameters

$$P_a = \$40, P_e = \$45, t = 0.33, r = 7\% = 0.07, s = 40\% = 0.4$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 1: Calculating } d_1 &= \frac{\ln(40/45) + (0.07 + (0.5 \times 0.4^2))0.33}{0.4\sqrt{0.33}} \\
 d_1 &= \frac{-0.0214}{0.2298} \\
 &= -0.0931 \text{ (approx. -0.1)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 2: Calculating } d_2 &= d_1 - s\sqrt{t} \\
 &= -0.0931 - 0.4\sqrt{0.33} \\
 &= -0.0931 - 0.2298 \\
 &= -0.3229 \text{ (approx. -0.32)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 3: } N(d_1), N(d_2) & \quad \text{From Standard normal distribution table (z)} \\
 N(d_1) &= 0.46017 \text{ (using } d_1) \\
 N(d_2) &= 0.37448 \text{ (using } d_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 4: Calculating } c &= P_d N(d_1) - P_e N(d_2) e^{-rt} \\
 &= 40(0.46017) - 45(0.37448)e^{-(0.07 \times 0.33)} \\
 &= 18.4068 - 16.4674 \\
 &= 1.9394
 \end{aligned}$$