

Trinomial Trees

MScFE 620 Group Project Submission 2

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December 15, 2020

1 Part A - Construction of Trinomial Tree

1.1 Introduction

This paper will construct a trinomial tree with two time steps and one risky stock. Once the trinomial tree and probability measure are defined it will show the market is arbitrage free but the market is not complete. Finally, it will define the conditions and constraints that would make a trinomial tree market complete.

1.2 Define Trinomial Tree

The first step to constructing a trinomial tree is to define the set of possible outcomes in our tree. Since this is a trinomial tree with two time steps there will be 9 elements to Ω . Omega will be:

$$\Omega = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i\}$$

Let us define the one risky stock with two time steps along with the probability measure:

$$d = 1$$

$$T = 2$$

$$\mathbb{P} = 1/9(\delta_a + \delta_b + \delta_c + \delta_d + \delta_e + \delta_f + \delta_g + \delta_h + \delta_i)$$

The transformation at each time step is as follows:

$$X_{n+1} = X_n Z_{n+1} \tag{1}$$

$$X_0 = 1 \tag{2}$$

Z_{n+1} is three random variables. There will be a set Z for each individual node in the tree at time step 1 and 2. This means at time step 1 there is one set of Z and time step 2 there are 3 sets of Z . The Z values will be selected so the value of the stock price increases, decreases and remains the same. For the purpose of this tree, negative stock values are allowed. The reason negative stocks prices are allowed is to allow for the trinomial tree to have at least EMM solution. The following Z will be used:

$$Z_1 = \{2, 1, -2\}$$

$$Z_2 = \begin{cases} \{3, 1, -3\}, \omega \in \{a, b, c\} \\ \{4, 1, -4\}, \omega \in \{d, e, f\} \\ \{5, 1, -5\}, \omega \in \{g, h, i\} \end{cases}$$

The values for each Z were selected so each branch of the tree has a different of transformation weights. Combining this will cases where negative stock prices occurs it will give enough freedom have infinitely many solutions to the system of equation in the second part of the paper. The trinomial tree has the following set and filtration:

$$\mathbb{F} = 2^\Omega$$

$$\mathcal{F}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$$

$$\mathcal{F}_1 = \sigma(\{\{a, b, c\}, \{d, e, f\}, \{g, h, i\}\})$$

$$\mathcal{F}_2 = 2^\Omega$$

This gives the following tabular trinomial tree:

ω	$X_0(w)$	$X_1(w)$	$X_2(w)$
α	1	2	6
β	1	2	2
γ	1	2	-6
θ	1	1	4
ρ	1	1	1
η	1	1	-4
ψ	1	-2	-10
ν	1	-2	-2
λ	1	-2	10

The above conditions define a probability space with a propagated trinomial tree using equation 1 with the defined Z_t 's.

2 Part B - Arbitrage-free conditions and market completeness

2.1 Solve the EMM for the Trinomial Tree in Part A

The condition of total probabilities gives the first equation in the system of equations to solve this trinomial tree.

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \theta + \rho + \eta + \psi + \nu + \lambda = 1 \quad (3)$$

The next 4 equations come from the martingale conditional expected values:

$$6\alpha + 2\beta - 6\gamma + 4\theta + \rho - 4\eta - 10\psi - 2\nu + 10\lambda = 1 \quad (4)$$

$$6\alpha + 2\beta - 6\gamma = 2(\alpha + \beta + \gamma) \implies \alpha = 2\gamma \quad (5)$$

$$4\theta + \rho - 4\eta = \theta + \rho + \eta \implies \theta = 5/3\eta \quad (6)$$

$$-10\psi - 2\nu + 10\lambda = -2(\psi + \nu + \lambda) \implies \psi = 4/3\lambda \quad (7)$$

The conditional expected value equations 5, 6 and 7 give an interesting property where they are independent of β , ρ and ν . This means the system of equations can have two extreme scenarios. One where the sum of β , ρ and ν are equal to 1 or in other words all the other probabilities are 0. If we solve for this case, we get the following:

$$\beta + \rho + \nu = 1 \quad (8)$$

$$2\beta + \rho - 2\nu = 1 \quad (9)$$

Subtracting 8 from 9 gives:

$$\beta + \rho - 3\nu = 0 \implies \beta = 3\nu \quad (10)$$

Substituting 10 back into 8 gives:

$$\beta + \rho + 3\beta = 1 \implies \beta = \frac{1 - \rho}{4} \quad (11)$$

And finally 11 into 10 gives:

$$\nu = \frac{3 - 3\rho}{4} \quad (12)$$

Using equation 8, 11 and 12 we can define the following thresholds for β , ρ and ν :

$$0 \leq \beta \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

$$0 \leq \rho \leq 1$$

$$0 \leq \nu \leq \frac{1}{4}$$

We have finally reached a point where we can say the trinomial tree from Part A is arbitrage free because $|\mathcal{P}| \neq 0$ as dictated by FTAPI. This means that \mathcal{P} is as follows:

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \left(0, \frac{1-\rho}{4}, 0, 0, \rho, 0, 0, \frac{3-3\rho}{4}, 0 \right) : 0 \leq \rho \leq 1 \right\}$$

There is also the other case where β , ρ and ν are 0 meaning the sum of the remaining probabilities are equal to 1. In this situation, the Martingale conditions can be written as:

$$\alpha + \gamma + \theta + \eta + \psi + \lambda = 1 \quad (13)$$

$$2\alpha + 2\gamma + \eta - 2\psi - 2\lambda = 1 \quad (14)$$

$$6\alpha - 6\gamma + 4\theta - 4\eta - 10\psi + 10\lambda = 1 \quad (15)$$

$$\alpha = 2\gamma \quad (16)$$

$$\theta = \frac{5}{3}\eta \quad (17)$$

$$\psi = \frac{4}{3}\lambda \quad (18)$$

Substituting 16, 17, 18 into 13, 15 and 14 gives

$$3\gamma + \frac{8}{3}\eta + \frac{7}{3}\lambda = 1$$

$$6\gamma + \frac{8}{3}\eta - \frac{14}{3}\lambda = 1$$

$$\implies -3\gamma + 7\lambda = 0$$

$$\implies \lambda = \frac{3}{7}\gamma$$

$$\implies \psi = \frac{4}{7}\gamma$$

Then

$$3\gamma + \frac{3}{8}\eta + \frac{3}{7}\gamma + \frac{4}{7}\gamma = 1$$

$$\frac{8}{3}\eta = 1 - 4\gamma$$

$$\implies \eta = \frac{3(1-4)}{8}\gamma$$

$$\implies \theta = \frac{5-20\gamma}{8}$$

The set of equivalent Martingale measures is therefore:

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \left(2\gamma, 0, \gamma, \frac{5-20\gamma}{8}, 0, \frac{3-12\gamma}{8}, \frac{4}{7}\gamma, 0, \frac{3}{7}\gamma \right) : 0 \leq \gamma \leq \frac{1}{4} \right\}$$

2.2 Additional Assumptions to Construct a Trinomial Tree that is a Complete Market

For this section of the task, we will apply the arbitrage-free conditions to the numerical trinomial tree construction above and also to a completely general trinomial tree. In the later case, we will also derive

conditions under which the market is complete. We begin by defining a market $((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{F}, \mathbb{P}), X)$ with $T = 2$ and $d = 1$. $X = (1, X_t)$ is comprised of one risk-free asset (normalised to 1) and one risky asset which we will denote as X_t . Since we are trying to describe the trinomial model, we know that the sample space will consist of the three possibilities for asset evolution at any given time, namely up u , down d and nothing n . Assuming the completely general case where the asset price can move a different amount at each time step, we have $ud \neq du$ (commutativity property does not hold) and so $\Omega = \{uu, un, ud, nu, nn, nd, du, dn, dd\}$. For \mathcal{F} , we use the natural filtration which prevents look ahead bias. Specifically, $\mathbb{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_0, \mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2\}$ where

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}_0 &= \{\emptyset, \Omega\} \\ \mathcal{F}_1 &= \sigma(\{\{uu, un, ud\}, \{nu, nn, nd\}, \{du, dn, dd\}\}) \\ \mathcal{F}_2 &= 2^\Omega\end{aligned}$$

We can define the evolution of the risky asset as:

$$\begin{aligned}X_{t+1} &= X_t Z_{t+1}, \quad t : 0 < t \leq 2 \\ X_0 &= c \in \mathbb{R}^+ \neq 0\end{aligned}$$

with Z_t , $t : 1 \leq t \leq 2$ a sequence of random variable taking on three values:

$$Z_t(w) = \begin{cases} U_t, & \omega = u \\ N_t, & \omega = n \\ D_t, & \omega = d \end{cases}$$

In this case, U_t denotes the magnitude of the stock price change at time t and the corresponding definitions hold for N_t and D_t . Note that the condition of order is imposed on the values of Z_t : $0 < D_t < N_t < U_t$ for all t . Finally, the probability measure is defined below with the following constraints enforced (these arise from the definition of a probability measure): $0 < p_u, p_d < 1$ and $0 < p_u + p_d < 1$

$$\mathbb{P} = p_u \delta_u + p_d \delta_d + (1 - p_u - p_d) \delta_n$$

For the purpose of this assignment, we will assume that the coefficients of \mathbb{P} do not vary with time. Below is an enumeration of all possible values of X_t from 0:

ω	$Z_1(w)$	$Z_2(w)$	$X_0(w)$	$X_1(w)$	$X_2(w)$
uu	U_1	U_2	c	cU_1	cU_1U_2
un	U_1	N_2	c	cU_1	cU_1N_2
ud	U_1	D_2	c	cU_1	cU_1D_2
nu	N_1	U_2	c	cN_1	cN_1U_2
nn	N_1	N_2	c	cN_1	cN_1N_2
nd	N_1	D_2	c	cN_1	cN_1D_2
du	D_1	U_2	c	cD_1	cD_1U_2
dn	D_1	N_2	c	cD_1	cD_1N_2
dd	D_1	D_2	c	cD_1	cD_1D_2

At $t = 1$, we can write the Martingale condition as follows:

$$p_u \times cU_1 + p_d \times cD_1 + (1 - p_u - p_d) \times cN_1 = c \quad (19)$$

$$\implies p_u U_1 + p_d D_1 + (1 - p_u - p_d) N_1 = 1 \quad (20)$$

assuming that $c \neq 0$. At $t = 2$, we can write three equations representing the Martingale requirement:

$$p_u \times cU_1U_2 + p_d \times cU_1D_2 + (1 - p_u - p_d) \times cU_1N_2 = cU_1 \quad (21)$$

$$\implies p_u U_2 + p_d D_2 + (1 - p_u - p_d) N_2 = 1 \quad (22)$$

$$p_u \times cN_1U_2 + p_d \times cN_1D_2 + (1 - p_u - p_d) \times cN_1N_2 = cN_1 \quad (23)$$

$$\implies p_u U_2 + p_d D_2 + (1 - p_u - p_d) N_2 = 1$$

$$p_u \times cD_1U_2 + p_d \times cD_1D_2 + (1 - p_u - p_d) \times cD_1N_2 = cN_1 \quad (24)$$

$$\implies p_u U_2 + p_d D_2 + (1 - p_u - p_d) N_2 = 1$$

assuming that $U_1, N_1, D_1 \neq 0$. Note that equations 21, 23 and 24 all simplify to 22 and therefore equations 20, 22 and $\{c, U_t, N_t, D_t \neq 0\}$ are the constraints for our trinomial tree.

In order to determine the conditions for which this market is arbitrage-free / complete, we use the Fundamental Theorem of Asset Pricing (FTAP) 1 and 2. Therefore, we must determine an equivalent Martingale measure and to do this, we construct it arbitrarily as follows:

$$\mathbb{P}^* = \alpha \delta_u + \beta \delta_d + \gamma \delta_n \quad (25)$$

For 25 to be an EMM, it must satisfy two conditions: 1) it must be a probability measure and equivalent to \mathbb{P} and 2) X_t must be an $(\mathbb{F}, \mathbb{P}^*)$ -Martingale. The first condition is confirmed by recognising that both \mathbb{P} and \mathbb{P}^* have the same null set (the empty set \emptyset) as well as enforcing the following condition:

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1 \quad (26)$$

$$\alpha, \beta, \gamma > 0$$

The second condition is satisfied when the following constraints are observed (see 20 and 22 except $\{p_u, p_d, 1 - p_u - p_d\}$ have been replaced by $\{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$):

$$\alpha U_1 + \beta D_1 + \gamma N_1 = 1 \quad (27)$$

$$\alpha U_2 + \beta D_2 + \gamma N_2 = 1 \quad (28)$$

Then equations 26, 27 and 28 form a system of linear equations.

$$Ax = b$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_1 & D_1 & N_1 \\ U_2 & D_2 & N_2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (29)$$

Recall that the FTAPI dictates that there are no arbitrage opportunities if and only if $|\mathcal{P}| \neq 0$ and FTAPII states that the market is complete if and only if $|\mathcal{P}| = 1$. This is equivalent to determining under which conditions 29 has at least one solution and what conditions does it have only one solution. If Z_t is time invariant i.e. $U_s = U_t$ for all s, t (similar requirement for D_t and N_t), we automatically have that the market is arbitrage free since the matrix A contains two equivalent rows which results in an infinite number of solutions. This set of solutions will depend on a parameter (let's denote it p) and therefore to enforce market completeness, all that is needed is to select one value of p within its allowable domain. Since symbolic calculations involving 29 could become tedious, we have instead taken the numerical examples in part A to show an example of this. Recall that X_t evolves according to the table below:

ω	$X_0(w)$	$X_1(w)$	$X_2(w)$
uu	1	2	6
uu	1	2	2
uu	1	2	-6
uu	1	1	4
uu	1	1	1
uu	1	1	-4
uu	1	-2	-10
uu	1	-2	-2
uu	1	-2	10

To simplify calculations, consider only the cases $\{uu, un, ud\}$ and assume that the asset evolves according to

$$Z_t(w) = \begin{cases} 2, & \omega = u \\ 1, & \omega = n \\ -2, & \omega = d \end{cases}$$

and so equation 29 becomes:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (30)$$

Performing row reduction:

$$\begin{aligned}
\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] &= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
&= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \\
&= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \\
&= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \\
&= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have $\alpha = \frac{3-3\beta}{4}$, β free and $\gamma = \frac{1-\beta}{4}$. Additionally, we need to enforce the condition that $\alpha, \beta, \gamma > 0$ which leads to the set of equivalent Martingale measures being:

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \left(\frac{3-3\beta}{4}, \beta, \frac{1-\beta}{4} \right) : 0 < \beta < 1 \right\}$$

Since $\mathcal{P} \neq \emptyset$, the market is arbitrage free. To enforce market completeness, fix β to a value between 0 and 1 which will lead to $|\mathcal{P}| = 1$. \square