

Numerical Methods for Option Pricing

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Technical University of Berlin— November 29, 2022

Introduction

This paper mainly introduces some basic numerical methods for Option Pricing and compares their advantages and disadvantages. We mainly introduce four methods: The binomial method, Monte-Carlo methods(Euler-Maruyama, Stochastic Runge-Kutta), and some Numerical methods for PDEs(FDM, FEM, FVM). In the first part, I would like to briefly introduce the definition of the options and some common kinds of options(European option/American option/ Asia options)

1 Options

In finance, an option is a contract that conveys its owner, the holder, the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset or instrument at a specified strike price prior to or on a specified date, depending on the form of the option.

1.1 European call options

Definition (European Call option):

A European Call option is a contract that gives its holder the right(but not the obligation) to buy one unit of a risky asset at a predefined price K (strike) and a prespecified date T (maturity).

Obviously, at maturity T the holder can choose how to acquire the underlying asset. For a rational investor, he will check the current price S_T and exercise the call option if and only if $S_T > K$. Because he can immediately sell the asset for the price S_T and makes a gain of $S_T - K$ per share. However, in case $S_T < K$, the holder will not exercise since he can acquire the underlying asset on the market for the lower price S_T , the option is thus worthless. Of course, if $S_T = K$, it makes no difference whether to exercise or not. In summary, we denote the value of a call option at time t with $V(S_t, t)$. Therefore, its payoff function at maturity T is given by:

$$\begin{cases} 0 & \text{in case } S_T \leq K \text{ (option expires worthless),} \\ S_T - K & \text{in case } S_T > K \text{ (option is exercised),} \end{cases}$$

namely

$$V(S_T, T) = \max\{S_T - K, 0\} = (S_T - K)^+.$$

1.2 European Put option

Definition(European Put option):

A European Put option is a contract that gives its holder the right(but not the obligation) to sell one unit of a risky asset at a predefined price K (strike) and a prespecified date T (maturity). Obviously, for a European put option, exercise only makes sense in case $S_T < K$. The payoff function is thus given by:

$$\begin{cases} 0 & \text{in case } S_T \geq K \text{ (option expires worthless),} \\ K - S_T & \text{in case } S_T < K \text{ (option is exercised),} \end{cases}$$

namely

$$V(S_T, T) = \max\{K - S_T, 0\} = (K - S_T)^+.$$

1.3 American Call and Put Options

As explained above, exercise is only permitted at maturity T for European options. Now we introduce another option that can be exercised at any time up to and including the maturity T, called American options. Therefore, for any $t \leq T$, the payoff functions for an American call and put options are $(S_t - K)^+$ and $(K - S_t)^+$, respectively.

2 The Binomial Model

Determine the value of options in a time-continuous model achieved by following steps:

- One period model,
- Extension of one period model to a discrete model,
- The discrete model converges to a time continuous model.

2.1 The one-period model

Let us assume that the price S can only have two possible outcomes: with $u > 1$ and $0 < d < 1$.

Remark: The condition:

$$d < \exp(rT) < u,$$

has to be satisfied to rule out arbitrage.

Replication Idea: we construct a portfolio at time 0, which replicates precisely the option's terminal payoff at maturity T. We consider the portfolio M:

- a: The amount of money deposited in a bank account or borrowed from a bank,
- b: The number of stocks hold at time 0.

M's value at time 0 is worth:

$$M_0 = a + bS_0,$$

which should replicate the option Value at T, namely

$$\begin{cases} M_T^u = a \exp(rT) + bS_0 u = V_T^u \\ M_T^d = a \exp(rT) + bS_0 d = V_T^d \end{cases}$$

2.2 The n-period model

Now we generalize the one period model to n period model:

where p is the probability of an up movement in the asset price, and $1 - p$ is thus the probability of a downward movement.

2.3 The Binomial procedure

We introduce some notations:

- N : the number of time steps between 0 and T .
- Δt : the length of a single step.
- $t_i = i\Delta t$: time for i -th step.
- S_i : stock price at step i .

We assume that there are no transaction costs and no dividend.

To finish the binomial procedure we firstly need to determine the values of $p = p^*$, u and d . We start with the assumption that the log return of the stock price $\log\left(\frac{S_{i+1}}{S_i}\right)$ follows the normal distribution $N\left(r\Delta t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta t, \sigma^2\Delta t\right)$, we have thus

$$\begin{aligned} E[S_{i+1}] &= S_i \exp(r\Delta t) \\ \text{Var}[S_{i+1}] &= S_i^2 \exp(2r\Delta t) \left(e^{\sigma^2\Delta t} - 1\right) \end{aligned}$$

We calculate then

$$S_i \exp(r\Delta t) = puS_i + (1-p)dS_i \implies \exp(r\Delta t) = pu + (1-p)d$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_i^2 \exp(2r\Delta t) \left(\exp(\sigma^2\Delta t) - 1\right) &= p(uS_i)^2 + (1-p)(dS_i)^2 - (puS_i + (1-p)dS_i)^2 \\ \implies \exp(2r\Delta t) \left(\exp(\sigma^2\Delta t) - 1\right) &= pu^2 + (1-p)d^2 - (pu + (1-p)d)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Besides, due to $S_{i+1} = uS_i = dS_i$ it holds that

$$u \cdot d = 1$$

Finally, we could obtain

$$u = e^{\sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}, \quad d = \frac{1}{u} = e^{-\sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}, \quad p = \frac{e^{r\Delta t} - d}{u - d}, \quad q = 1 - p$$

2.4 Binomial algorithm for European and American options

Notations:

- S_0 : stock price at $t = 0$ (price today)
- $S_{ij} = u^j d^{i-j} S_0$: possible price at $t = t_i, i = 0, \dots, N; j = 0, \dots, i$
- V_t^A : the value of American option at t
- V_t^E : the value of European option at t

1. Initialization of Binomial tree

$$\text{European option : } S_{jN} = u^j d^{N-j} S_0, \quad j = 0, \dots, N$$

$$\text{American option : } S_{ji} = u^j d^{N-j} S_0, \quad \forall i, j$$

2. Computation of the payoff

$$V_{jN} = \begin{cases} (S_{jN} - K)^+ & \text{for Call} \\ (K - S_{jN})^+ & \text{for Put} \end{cases}$$

3. Backward (value) iteration

Finally, $V_{0,0}$ is the approximation of the Option price.

Algorithm 1: European options

```
1 for  $i = N - 1, \dots, 0$  do
2   for  $j = 0, \dots, i$  do
3      $V_{j,i} = e^{-r\Delta t} (pV_{j+1,i+1} + (1-p)V_{j,i+1})$ 
4   end
5 end
```

Algorithm 2: American options

```
1 for  $i = N - 1, \dots, 0$  do
2   for  $j = 0, \dots, i$  do
3      $\hat{V}_{j,i} = e^{-r\Delta t} (pV_{j+1,i+1} + (1-p)V_{j,i+1})$ ;
4      $V_{j,i} = \begin{cases} \max\{(S_{ji} - K)^+, \hat{V}_{j,i}\} & \text{for American Call} \\ \max\{(K - S_{ji})^+, \hat{V}_{j,i}\} & \text{for American Put} \end{cases}$ 
5   end
6 end
```

3 Stochastic Differential Equations

In order to introduce the backward stochastic differential equation (BSDE), I will briefly introduce the stochastic differential equation (SDE) in the first part, which mainly includes Brownian motion, Martingale approach, Stochastic integrals and Itô rules.

3.1 Brownian motion

Definition (Brownian motion):

A Brownian motion is a continuous-time stochastic process W_t , $t \geq 0$ with the following properties :

- (1). $W_0 = 0$
- (2). $t \rightarrow W_t$ is continuous in t (almost surely)
- (3). W_t has stationary, independent increments
- (4). The increment follows the normal distribution :

$$W_t - W_s \sim N(0, t - s), \quad 0 \leq s < t$$

Definition (Geometric brownian motion)

A geometric Brownian motion (GBM) (also known as exponential Brownian motion) is a continuous-time stochastic process in which the logarithm of the randomly varying quantity follows a Brownian motion (also called a Wiener process) with drift.

A stochastic process S_t is said to follow a GBM if it satisfies the following stochastic differential equation (SDE):

$$dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t$$

Where W_t is a Wiener process or Brownian motion, and μ ('the percentage drift') and σ ('the percentage volatility') are constants.

And let S_t be a GBM, it holds that,

- (1). $E[S_t] = S_0 \exp(\mu t)$
- (2). $\text{Var}(S_t) = S_0^2 \exp(2\mu t) (e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1)$

3.2 The martingale approach

Definition (Martingale approach):

An integrable stochastic process $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}^+}$ is a martingale (respectively a supermartingale, respectively a submartingale) with respect to a filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}^+}$ if it satisfies the property:

$$X_s = E[X_t | \mathcal{F}_s], \quad 0 \leq s \leq t;$$

respectively

$$X_s \geq E[X_t | \mathcal{F}_s], \quad 0 \leq s \leq t;$$

respectively

$$X_s \leq E[X_t | \mathcal{F}_s], \quad 0 \leq s \leq t;$$

then we have the proposition:

$$\begin{aligned} E[X_t] &= E[X_s], \quad 0 \leq s \leq t && (\text{let } X_t \text{ be a martingale}) \\ E[X_t] &\leq E[X_s], \quad 0 \leq s \leq t && (\text{let } X_t \text{ be a supermartingale}) \\ E[X_t] &\geq E[X_s], \quad 0 \leq s \leq t && (\text{let } X_t \text{ be a submartingale}) \end{aligned}$$

3.3 Stochastic integrals and calculus

A general SDE with differential notation reads:

$$dX_t = \underbrace{a(t, X_t) dt}_{\text{drift}} + \underbrace{b(t, X_t) dW_t}_{\text{diffusion}}$$

Which can also be written in integral form as:

$$X_t = \underbrace{X_0}_{\text{known}} + \int_0^t a(t, X_t) dt + \int_0^t b(t, X_t) dW_t$$

The first integral part is the ordinary integral. Since $t \mapsto W_t$ is of infinite variation almost surely, $\int_0^t b(t, X_t) dW_t$ can thus not be considered as an ordinary integral!

Stochastic integral with respect to Brownian motion Assumption: $[0, T]$ decomposed into subintervals

$$0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N = T, \quad \xi_i \in [t_{i-1}, t_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

Suppose that $b(t, X_t)$ is a constant function:

$$\int_0^T b dW_t = \sum_{i=1}^N b(W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) = b \sum_{i=1}^N (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) = b(W_T - W_0) = bW_T$$

Suppose that $b(t, X_t)$ is a simple step-function:

$$b(t) = \sum_{i=1}^N f(\xi_i) \mathbb{1}_{[t_{i-1}, t_i)}(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

i.e. the function $b(t)$ takes the value $f(\xi_i)$ on the interval $[t_{i-1}, t_i)$

Definition (L^p spaces)

If $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is a given (σ -finite) probability space, $L^p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is defined for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ by

$$L^p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) := \{f : \Omega \longrightarrow \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}, \quad f \text{ measurable and } \int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^p dP < \infty\}$$

With the L^p seminorm

$$\|\cdot\|_{L^p} := \left(\int_{\Omega} |f(x)|^p dP \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

Remark: The set of simple step functions $b(t)$ of the form above is a linear space which is dense in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^+)$ for the norm

$$\|b(t)\|_{L^2} = \sqrt{\int_0^\infty |b(t)|^2 dt} < \infty, \quad b(t) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^+)$$

Classical integral of $b(t)$:

$$\int_0^\infty b(t) dt = \sum_{i=1}^N f(\xi_i)(t_i - t_{i-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i(t_i - t_{i-1})$$

Can be adapted to a stochastic integration with respect to Brownian motion.

Thus, the stochastic integral with respect to the Brownian motion W_t of the simple step function $b(t)$ is defined by:

$$\int_0^\infty b(t) dW_t = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}})$$

Proposition: The stochastic integral $\int_0^\infty b(t) dW_t$ defined above has a Gaussian distribution

$$\int_0^\infty b(t) dW_t \sim N(0, \int_0^\infty |b(t)|^2 dt)$$

With zero mean $E[\int_0^\infty b(t) dW_t] = 0$ and variance given by the Itô isometry

$$\text{Var} [\int_0^\infty b(t) dW_t] = E \left[\left(\int_0^\infty b(t) dW_t \right)^2 \right] = \int_0^\infty |b(t)|^2 dt$$

Suppose that $b(t, X_t)$ now is any function in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^+)$. In this case $\int_0^\infty f(t) dW_t$ has a Gaussian distribution:

$$\int_0^\infty f(t) dW_t \sim N(0, \int_0^\infty |f(t)|^2 dt)$$

Definition (\mathcal{F}_t - adapted)

A random variable X is said to be \mathcal{F}_t - measurable if the knowledge of X depends only on the information up to time t . A process $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}^+}$ is said to be \mathcal{F}_t - adapted if \mathcal{F}_t - measurable for all $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$

Let $b(t, X_t)$ be a \mathcal{F}_t - adapted process in the space $L^2(\Omega, [0, T])$, which denote the space of stochastic process X_t such that

$$\|X_t\|_{L^2(\Omega, [0, T])} = \sqrt{E \left[\int_0^T |X_t|^2 dt \right]} < \infty$$

3.4 Itô rules

Consider

$$\begin{aligned} dW_t &= W_{t+dt} - W_t \\ df(W_t) &= f(W_{t+dt}) - f(W_t) \end{aligned}$$

Applying the Taylor expansion we have:

$$df(W_t) = f'(W_t) dW_t + \frac{1}{2} f''(W_t) (dW_t)^2 + \frac{1}{3!} f'''(W_t) (dW_t)^3 + \dots$$

However, from the construction of Brownian motion by its small increments we see that

$$dW_t = \pm \sqrt{dt} \Rightarrow (dW_t)^2 = dt$$

Besides,

$$\begin{aligned} (dW_t)^3 &= (\pm \sqrt{dt})^3 \approx 0 \\ (dW_t)^4 &= dt \cdot dt = dt^2 \approx 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since the both terms can be neglected in the Taylor's formula at the first order approximation.

The Itô rules can be summarized as

$$(1). (dt)^2 = dt \cdot dt = 0$$

$$(2). dt \cdot dW_t = 0$$

$$(3). dW_t \cdot dW_t = dt$$

Then we let $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}^+}$ be Itô process of the form

$$dX_t = a(t, X_t) dt + b(t, X_t) dW_t$$

or

$$X_t = X_0 + \int_0^t a(s, X_s) ds + \int_0^t b(s, X_s) dW_s$$

Where $a(t, X_t), b(t, X_t)$ are square-integrable adapted process $(L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{R}^+))$. For any $f \in C^2(\mathcal{R}^+ \times \mathcal{R})$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} df(t, X_t) &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} dt + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dX_t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} b^2(t, X_t) dt \\ &= \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} a(t, X_t) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} b^2(t, X_t) \right] dt + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} b(t, X_t) dW_t \end{aligned}$$

4 Monte-Carlo Simulation

Usually, the fair value of a financial derivative can be presented as $e^{-rT} E^Q[f(S_T)]$, which exhibits often no analytic solution. The Monte-Carlo method can be employed by drawing randomly paths of the corresponding SDEs.

4.1 Monte-Carlo integration

One-dimensional case

Let X be a random variable with the density f . For a measurable function $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$E[g(X)] := \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(x) f(x) dx$$

How to compute a finite integral on a finite interval $[a, b]$

$$\int_a^b g(x) dx$$

using Monte-Carlo method.

- We use the uniform distribution on $D = [a, b]$ with the density

$$f = \frac{1}{b-a} \mathbb{1}_D = \frac{1}{\lambda_1(D)} \mathbb{1}_D$$

where λ_1 is the length of the interval.

- Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} E[g] &\approx \int_a^b g(x) \frac{1}{b-a} \mathbb{1}_D dx = \int_a^b g(x) \frac{1}{\lambda_1(D)} \mathbb{1}_D dx = \frac{1}{\lambda_1(D)} \int_a^b g(x) dx \\ &\Rightarrow \underbrace{\int_a^b g(x) dx}_{\text{basis of the MC integration}} = E(g) \cdot \lambda_1(D) \end{aligned}$$

- x_i be samples of $U[0, 1]$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$, the estimator of $E[g]$ is given by

$$I_N := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N g(x_i) \text{ (law of large numbers)}$$

High-dimensional case

Let $D_m \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be a domain on which the integral

$$\int_{D_m} g(x) dx$$

has to be calculated. Similar to the one-dimensional case we have

$$\int_{D_m} g(x) dx = E[g] \cdot \underbrace{\lambda_m(D_m)}_{\text{volume of } D_m}$$

and the corresponding estimator

$$I_N^m := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N g(X_i) \cdot \lambda_m(D_m)$$

We define the error as

$$e_N = \int_{D_m} g(x) dx - I^m$$

which has the variance

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[e_N] &= E[e_N^2] - E[e_N]^2 = \text{Var}[I^m] = \frac{\text{Var}[g(X_i)]}{N} \lambda_m^2(D_m) \\ \text{where } \text{Var}[g] &= \int_{D^m} g^2 dx - \left(\int_{D^m} g dx \right)^2 \text{ and the standard deviation reads} \\ \sigma(e_N) &= \frac{\sigma(g)}{\sqrt{N}} \lambda_m(D_m) \end{aligned}$$

Remark

Advantages:

- Computation of the grid is cheap
- Convergence rate $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right)$ is independent of $\dim m$ for fixed g
- Intergrand g doesn't need to be smooth

Disadvantages:

- Convergence rate $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right)$ is too slow
- No strict error bound
- Sensitivity with respect to choice of pseudo-random numbers

Improvement?

- Variance reduction
- Quasi Monte-Carlo integration (Van-der-Corput sequence, Halton sequence, Sobol sequence and so on)

4.2 Simulation with SDE

Recall a SDE

$$dX_t = a(t, X_t) dt + b(t, X_t) dW_t, 0 \leq t \leq T$$

X_0 is given. $W : [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $X : [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $a, b : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and in integral form:

$$X_t = X_0 + \int_0^t a(s, X_s) ds + \int_0^t b(t, X_s) dW_s$$

Step size: $h = \Delta t = \frac{T}{M}$, grid points: $t_j = jh$, $j = 0, 1, \dots, M-1$ Approximations: y_0, y_1, \dots, y_M (initial value $y_0 = X_0$)

Definition(The absolute error)

The absolute error at time T is

$$\epsilon(h) := E[|X_T - y_T^h|] = \int_{\Omega} |X_T - y_T^h| dP(w)$$

Definition(Strong convergence)

An approximation y_T^h converges strongly to X_T , if

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} E[|X_T - y_T^h|] = 0$$

We say y_T^h converges strongly with order $\gamma > 0$ if $\varepsilon(h) = \mathcal{O}(h^\gamma)$

Definition(Weak Convergence)

An approximation y_T^h converges weakly to X_T with respect to g , if

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} E[g(y_T^h)] = E[g(X_T)]$$

y_T^h converges weakly to X_T with respect to g of order $\gamma > 0$, if

$$|E[g(y_T^h)] - E[g(X_T)]| = \mathcal{O}(h^\gamma)$$

y_T^h is called weakly convergent if the property holds for all g .

Often just moments X_T are of interest, i.e.

$$E[X_T^q], q = 1, 2, 3, \dots;$$

or $E[g(X_T)]$ with other function g , e.g. payoff function: European Call $e^{-rT} E^Q[(S_T - K)^+]$

4.3 Euler-Maruyama method

For $j = 0, 1, \dots, M - 1$

$$\begin{aligned} dW_{t_j} &\approx \Delta W_j(\omega) = W_{t_{j+1}}(\omega) - W_{t_j}(\omega) \sim N(0, \Delta t) \\ y_{j+1} &= y_j + a(t_j, y_j)h + b(t_j, y_j) \underbrace{\Delta W_j(\omega)}_{\sqrt{\Delta t}Z}, \quad Z \sim N(0, 1) \end{aligned}$$

Fixed $\omega \in \Omega$: particular path of W_t , sequence of real values y_0, y_1, \dots, y_m . Variable ω : random process W_t , sequence of random values y_0, y_1, \dots, y_m .

Remark: The Euler-Maruyama method is strongly convergence with order $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$ and weakly convergent with $\gamma = 1$ for all polynomials g .

Algorithm 3: Euler-Maruyama method

```

1 for  $i = 0, \dots, m - 1$  do
2    $\Delta W = \sqrt{h}Z$ , with  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ 
3    $y_{j+1} := y_j + a(t_j, y_j)h + b(t_j, y_j)\Delta W$ 
4 end
```

4.4 Milstein Method

Itô – Taylor Expansion of SDE

Starting with a SDE (autonomous)

$$dX_t = a(X_t)dt + b(X_t)dW_t, \quad t \geq t_0$$

Apply Itô lemma for $f(X_t)$

$$f(X_t) = f(X_{t_0}) + \int_{t_0}^t [f'(X_s)a(X_s) + \frac{1}{2}f''(X_s)b^2(X_s)]ds + \int_{t_0}^t f'(X_s)b(X_s)dW_s$$

Special case: $f(X_t) \equiv X_t$:

$$X_t = X_{t_0} + \int_{t_0}^t a(X_s)ds + \int_{t_0}^t b(X_s)dW_s$$

Setting $f = a$ and $f = b$ implies

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= X_{t_0} + \int_{t_0}^t \left[a(X_{t_0}) + \int_{t_0}^s (a'(X_z)a(X_z) + \frac{1}{2}a''(X_z)b^2(X_z))dz + \int_{t_0}^s a'(X_z)b(X_z)dW_z \right] ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^t \left[b(X_{t_0}) + \int_{t_0}^s (b'(X_z)a(X_z) + \frac{1}{2}b''(X_z)b^2(X_z))dz + \int_{t_0}^s b'(X_z)b(X_z)dW_z \right] dW_s \\ &\Rightarrow X_t = a(X_{t_0})(t - t_0) + b(X_{t_0}) \int_{t_0}^t dW_s + R \text{ (includes double integrals)} \end{aligned}$$

If we neglect $R \Rightarrow$ Euler-Maruyama method
 Assume that the integrands are bounded:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} \int_{t_0}^s dz ds &= \int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} (s - t_0) ds = \frac{1}{2} h^2 \\ \int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} \int_{t_0}^s dW_z ds &= \int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} (W_s - W_{t_0}) ds \\ \int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} \int_{t_0}^s dz dW_s &= \int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} (s - t_0) dW_s\end{aligned}$$

One can prove that

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} \int_{t_0}^s dW_z ds + \int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} \int_{t_0}^s dz dW_s = \underbrace{\int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} dW_s}_{O(h^{\frac{1}{2}})} \underbrace{\int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} ds}_{O(h)}.$$

Thus, the both double integrals are of order $(h)^{\frac{3}{2}}$. Further, we obtain

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_0+h} \int_{t_0}^s dW_z dW_s \approx O(h)$$

Dominating term in reminder R is

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{t_0}^t \int_{t_0}^s \underbrace{b'(X_z) b(X_z)}_{\text{might be considered as constant}} dW_z dW_s &\approx b'(X_z) b(X_z) \int_{t_0}^t \int_{t_0}^s dW_z dW_s = \frac{b'b}{2} ((\Delta W)^2 - h) \\ \Rightarrow X_t &= X_{t_0} + a(X_{t_0})(t - t_0) + b(X_{t_0}) \int_{t_0}^t dW_s + \frac{b'b}{2} \int_{t_0}^t \int_{t_0}^s dW_z dW_s + \tilde{R}\end{aligned}$$

If we neglect $\tilde{R} \Rightarrow$ Milstein method.

Milstein method For $j = 0, 1, \dots, M - 1$

$$\begin{aligned}dW_{t_j} &\approx \Delta W_j(\omega) = W_{t_{j+1}}(\omega) - W_{t_j}(\omega) \sim N(0, \Delta t) \\ y_{j+1} &= y_j + a(t_j, y_j)h + b(t_j, y_j) \Delta W_j(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} b'(t_j, y_j) b(t_j, y_j) ((\Delta W_j(\omega))^2 - h)\end{aligned}$$

Remark: Milstein method has strong and weak convergence of order $\gamma = 1$.

Algorithm 4: Milstein method

```

1 for  $i = 0, \dots, m - 1$  do
2    $\Delta W = \sqrt{h}Z$ , with  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ 
3    $y_{j+1} = y_j + a(t_j, y_j)h + b(t_j, y_j) \Delta W_j(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} b'(t_j, y_j) b(t_j, y_j) ((\Delta W_j(\omega))^2 - h)$ 
4 end
```

4.5 Stochastic Runge-Kutta method

We want to avoid the evaluations of higher-order derivatives in the Taylor methods. Try to omit derivatives $b'(\frac{\partial b}{\partial x})$ in the Milstein method. Consider

$$dX_t = a(X_t) dt + b(X_t) dW_t$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}b(X_t + \Delta X_t) - b(X_t) &= b'(X_t) \Delta X_t + O(|X_t|^2) \\ &= b'(X_t) (a(X_t) dt + b(X_t) dW_t) + O(h) \\ &= b'(X_t) b(X_t) dW_t + O(h).\end{aligned}$$

We thus have

$$\frac{b(X_t + \Delta X_t) - b(X_t)}{dW_t} + O(\sqrt{h}) = b'(X_t) b(X_t)$$

Replacing $b'b$ in the Milstein method we obtain the stochastic Runge-Kutta method with strong order $\gamma = 1$

Algorithm 5: RK method

```
1 for  $i = 0, \dots, m - 1$  do
2    $\Delta W = \sqrt{h}Z$ , with  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ 
3    $\hat{y} := y_j + a(t_j, y_j)h + b(t_j, y_j)\sqrt{h}$ 
4    $y_{j+1} := y_j + a(t_j, y_j)h + b(t_j, y_j)\Delta W + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{h}}(b(t_j, \hat{y}) - b(t_j, y_j))((\Delta W)^2 - h)$ 
5 end
```

Monte-Carlo simulation of an European option

1. For $k = 1, \dots, N$: solve SDE for S_t with $0 \leq t \leq T$ (*Em, Milstein, etc.*)
2. Evaluate payoff function for $k = 1, \dots, N$

$$V(T, S_T)_k := V(T, (S_T)_k) = \Lambda((S_T)_k)$$

3. Estimation of a risk-neutral expectation

$$\theta_N(V(T, S_T)) := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N V(T, S_T)_k$$

4. Discounted value

$$\hat{V} := e^{-r(T-t)} \theta_N(V(T, S_T))$$

Obviously, $\theta_N(V(T, S_T))$ is an estimator for $V(t, S_t)$

- $E[\theta_N(V(T, S_T))] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N E[V(T, S_T)_k] = E[V(T, S_T)]$
- $\text{Var}[\theta_N(V(T, S_T))] = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{k=1}^N E[V(T, S_T)_k^2] = \frac{\text{Var}[V(T, S_T)]}{N}$

Rate of convergence: $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right)$

Remark: Bias: Monte-Carlo simulation exhibits sampling error $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right)$. Additional error appear due to discretization in case of path-dependent option.

5 Numerical Methods for PDEs

In this section we introduce Black-Scholes Partial difference Equation (B-S PDE) and three different numerical methods, namely Finite Difference Method (FDM), Finite Element Method (FEM) and Finite Volume Method (FVM) to get the numerical solution of the equation. In FDM and FEM we convert the B-S equation into one Heat equation and in FVM we convert it into one self-joint form.

5.1 Black-scholes Partial Difference Equation

The Black-Scholes partial difference equation is an important mathematical model for the pricing of financial derivatives. In this paper, we assume the model as following:

1. No transaction cost
2. No dividend paying
3. Risk-free interest rate r
4. Maturity time T
5. The Underlying asset follow a Geometric Brownian Motion (GBM):

$$dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t.$$

We write the option value as a function of its variables

$$V_t(t, T, r, \mu, \sigma, K, S_t) \rightsquigarrow V_t(t, S_t),$$

We assume we have a bond π , which can also be replicated by an Option V and Δ stock S .

$$\pi = V + \Delta S$$

then we can derive Black-Scholes PDE(linear parabolic) according to Itô rules

$$\rightsquigarrow \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - rV = 0$$

in the interval $S \in (-\infty, +\infty)$ and for $fort \in [0, T]$. The parameters are listed in the following Table:

Parameter	Description
r	Continuously compounded, annualized risk-free rate.
σ	Volatility of the stock price.
S	Stock price
K	Strike price
T	Maturity

For the call option, the boundary conditions can be expressed as

- $v(0, t) = 0$
- $v(S, t) \rightarrow S \exp(-d(T-t)) - K \exp(-r(T-t))$, for $S \rightarrow \infty$,

and the terminal condition is defined as

$$v(S, T) = (S - K)^+.$$

with the notation $(a)^+ := \max(a, 0)$

5.2 Convert to Heat-equation

Here we would use substitution method to convert the B-S equation to Heat-Equation.

we denote

$$x = \ln\left(\frac{S}{K}\right), \tau = \frac{T-t}{2}\sigma^2$$

,

so the partial derivative in the B-S equation can be converted to

- $\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau} \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial t} = -\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau}$
- $\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial S} = \frac{1}{S} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$
- $\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau} \frac{\partial^2 \tau}{\partial S^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial S} \left(\frac{1}{S} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right)$

Then we can get the following PDE with substituting the formulas above into the B-S equation:

$$-\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau} + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right) \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} - rV = 0$$

we set

$$V(\tau, x) = Ku(\tau, x)e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau},$$

then we get

- $\frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau} = K \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} + u(\tau, x) e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} \beta \right) = K e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} + \beta u(\tau, x) \right)$
- $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = K \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} + u(\tau, x) e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} \alpha \right) = K e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \alpha u(\tau, x) \right)$

- $\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} = K[e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} \alpha (\frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} + \alpha u(\tau, x)) + e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} (\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \alpha \frac{\partial u}{\partial x})]$
 $= K[e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} \alpha (e^{\alpha x + \beta \tau} (\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2\alpha \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \alpha^2 u(\tau, x)) + \alpha^2 u(\tau, x))]$

substituting the above partial derivative into the B-S PDE, we get the following heat conduction equation:

$$(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} + \beta u(\tau, x)) - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2\alpha \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \alpha^2 u(\tau, x) - (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \alpha u(\tau, x)) + ru(\tau, x) = 0$$

, continue simplifying:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - (\sigma^2 \alpha + r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + [\beta - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \alpha^2 - (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2) \alpha + r] u(\tau, x) = 0$$

then we do the substitution, set:

- $\sigma^2 \alpha + r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 = 0 \rightarrow \alpha = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{r}{\sigma^2}$
- $\beta - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \alpha^2 - (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2) \alpha + r = 0 \rightarrow \beta = \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 [\alpha^2 + (\frac{2r}{\sigma^2} - 1) \alpha - \frac{2r}{\sigma^2}] = -\frac{1}{4}(\frac{2r}{\sigma^2} + 1)^2$

Then we can get the Heat-Equation form for B-S form:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

with

$$x = \ln\left(\frac{S}{k}\right), \quad \tau = \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(T - t), \quad v(\tau, x) = \frac{V}{K}$$

and

$$u(\tau, x) = v(\tau, x) e^{-\alpha x - \beta \tau}$$

in the domain $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\tau \in [0, \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 T]$.

And set $k = \frac{2r}{\sigma^2}$, so the boundary value can be formed by following:

$$u(\tau, x_{min}) = 0$$

$$u(\tau, x_{max}) = \exp(\frac{1}{2}(k+1)x_{max} + \frac{1}{4}(k+1)^2\tau) - \exp(\frac{1}{2}(k-1)x_{max} + \frac{1}{4}(k-1)^2\tau)$$

and with the terminal value, i.e. $\tau = \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 T$:

$$u(\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 T, x) = \exp(\frac{1}{2}(k-1)x) * \max(0, e^x - 1)$$

5.3 Finite Difference Methods (FDM)

AS we have seen that the Black-Scholer PDE can be transformed into a heat equation with specified initial and boundary conditions. In this section we introduce the finite difference methods (FDM) to solve Black-Scholes equation.

In FDM the PDE's partial derivatives are replaced by discrete approximations obtained via Taylor expansions.

Difference approximation (Taylor Expansion)

Let $f : [\alpha, \beta] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $f \in C^k$, e.g., we consider the Taylor expansion for $f \in C^2$:

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2}f''(\varepsilon); \varepsilon \in (x, x+h)$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{1}{h}[f(x+h) - f(x)] - \frac{h}{2}f''(\varepsilon)$$

Grid: $\dots < x_{i-1} < x_i < x_{i+1} < \dots$, equidistant step size $h = x_{i+1} - x_i$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{1}{h}[f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)] + O(h)$$

$$f_i := f(x_i) \rightsquigarrow f'(x_i) \approx \frac{1}{h}[f_{i+1} - f_i]$$

- Central difference:

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{1}{2h}[f_{i+1} - f_{i-1}] + O(h^2), f \in C^3$$

- Central approximation for the second derivative:

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{1}{h^2}[f_{i+1} - 2f_i + f_{i-1}] + O(h^2), f \in C^4$$

The explicit method

Consider the following difference formulas

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}|_{i,j} = \frac{1}{\Delta\tau}[y_{i+1,j} - y_{i,j}] + O(\Delta\tau)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}|_{i,j} = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2}[y_{i,j+1} - 2y_{i,j} + y_{i,j-1}] + O(\Delta x^2)$$

We neglect the error term (unknown) and denote the approximation of the exact solution $y_{i,j}$ by $w_{i,j}$:

$$\frac{1}{\Delta\tau}[w_{i+1,j} - w_{i,j}] = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2}[w_{i,j+1} - 2w_{i,j} + w_{i,j-1}]$$

$$\Rightarrow w_{i+1,j} = w_{i,j} + \frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta x^2}[w_{i,j+1} - 2w_{i,j} + w_{i,j-1}]$$

$$w_{i+1,j} = \lambda w_{i,j-1} + (1 - 2\lambda)w_{i,j} + \lambda w_{i,j+1},$$

where $\lambda = \frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta x^2}$, and $w_{i+1,j}, j = 1, \dots, M$ can be computed with $w_{i,j}, j = 0, 1, \dots, M+1$, where $w_{i,j}, j = 0, M+1$ are boundary points. This can be represented in matrix form as:

$$w^{(i+1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1-2\lambda & \lambda & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \lambda & 1-2\lambda & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \lambda \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & \lambda & 1-2\lambda \end{bmatrix} w^{(i)}$$

where $w^{(i)} = (w_{i,1}, \dots, w_{i,M-1})^T \in \mathbb{R}^M$.

The implicit method

For the implicit method we consider the following temporal and spatial discretion:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}|_{i,j} = \frac{1}{\Delta\tau}[y_{i+1,j} - y_{i,j}] + O(\Delta\tau)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}|_{i,j} = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2}[y_{i,j+1} - 2y_{i,j} + y_{i,j-1}] + O(\Delta x^2)$$

In a similar way as explicit method, we obtain:

$$w_{i-1,j} = -\lambda w_{i,j-1} + (1 + 2\lambda)w_{i,j} - \lambda w_{i,j+1},$$

which is the system for unknown $w_{1,j}, j = 1, \dots, M$ with known $w_{i,j}, j = 0, 1, \dots, M+1$, where $w_{i,0}$ and $w_{i,M+1}$ are boundary points. Again we write it in a matrix form as:

$$\rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1+2\lambda & -\lambda & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\lambda & 1+2\lambda & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & -\lambda \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & -\lambda & 1+2\lambda \end{bmatrix} w^{(i)} = w^{(i-1)}$$

where $w^{(i)} = (w_{i,1}, \dots, w_{i,M-1})^T \in \mathbb{R}^M$.

The Crank-Nicolson Method

To archive an unconditionally stable method of the second order by averaging the forward and backward difference methods.

Forward:

$$\frac{1}{\Delta\tau} [w_{i+1,j} - w_{i,j}] = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} [w_{i,j+1} - 2w_{i,j} + w_{i,j-1}]$$

Backward:

$$\frac{1}{\Delta\tau} [w_{i+1,j} - w_{i,j}] = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} [w_{i+1,j+1} - 2w_{i+1,j} + w_{i+1,j-1}]$$

Combining both the difference method above one obtain

$$\frac{2}{\Delta\tau} [w_{i+1,j} - w_{i,j}] = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} [w_{i,j+1} - 2w_{i,j} + w_{i,j-1} + w_{i+1,j+1} - 2w_{i+1,j} + w_{i+1,j-1}],$$

namely

$$-\frac{\lambda}{2} w_{i+1,j-1} + (1+\lambda) w_{i+1,j} - \frac{\lambda}{2} w_{i+1,j+1} = \frac{\lambda}{2} w_{i,j-1} + (1-\lambda) w_{i,j} + \frac{\lambda}{2} w_{i,j+1}$$

We call the method above Crank-Nicolson method which can be represented in a matrix form:

$$\rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1+\lambda & -\frac{\lambda}{2} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\frac{\lambda}{2} & 1+\lambda & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & -\frac{\lambda}{2} \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & -\frac{\lambda}{2} & 1+\lambda \end{bmatrix} w^{(i+1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & \frac{\lambda}{2} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \frac{\lambda}{2} & 1-\lambda & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \frac{\lambda}{2} \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & \frac{\lambda}{2} & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} w^{(i)}$$

$$\rightsquigarrow Aw^{(i+1)} = Bw^{(i)}$$

with $w^{(i)} = (w_{i,1}, \dots, w_{i,m-1})^T \in \mathbb{R}^M$.

Boundary conditions

The Black-Scholes equation for V has boundary conditions with $S \rightarrow 0$ and $S \rightarrow \infty$. For the transformation to the heat equation we have used:

$$S = Ke^x \Leftrightarrow x = \ln\left(\frac{S}{K}\right).$$

Obviously, we have

- $S \rightarrow 0 \Leftrightarrow x \rightarrow -\infty$
- $S \rightarrow \infty \Leftrightarrow x \rightarrow +\infty$

Recall that we for the European calls $S \rightarrow 0 : V = 0, S \rightarrow \infty : V = S - Ke^{-r(T-t)} \approx S$ and for the European puts $S \rightarrow 0 : V = Ke^{r(T-t)}, S \rightarrow \infty : V = 0$. From these boundaries we can derive the transformed boundaries conditions for the heat equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\tau} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}.$$

We set that

$$u(\tau, x) = \gamma_1(\tau, x) \text{ for } x \rightarrow -\infty$$

$$u(\tau, x) = \gamma_2(\tau, x) \text{ for } x \rightarrow \infty$$

Recall the transformation that we used:

$$v(\tau, x) = V/K \begin{cases} \text{Call} : \begin{cases} 0; & S \rightarrow 0(x \rightarrow -\infty) \\ \frac{S}{K} = e^x; & S \rightarrow \infty(x \rightarrow \infty) \end{cases} \\ \text{Put} : \begin{cases} e^{-r(T-t)} = e^{-k\tau}; & S \rightarrow 0(x \rightarrow -\infty) \\ 0; & S \rightarrow \infty(x \rightarrow \infty) \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Hence, we have for the calls

$$\begin{cases} \gamma_1(\tau, x) = 0 \\ \gamma_2(\tau, x) = e^{\frac{1}{2}(k-1)x + \frac{1}{4}(k+1)^2\tau} \cdot v(\tau, x) = e^{\frac{1}{2}(k-1)x + \frac{1}{4}(k+1)^2\tau} \end{cases}$$

and for the Puts

$$\begin{cases} \gamma_1(\tau, x) = e^{\frac{1}{2}(k+1)x + \frac{1}{4}(k+1)^2\tau} \\ \gamma_2(\tau, x) = 0 \end{cases}$$

For practical use we need to truncate the domain $-\infty < x < \infty$ to e.g., $a = x_{min} < x < x_{max} = b$:

$$u(\tau, a) = \gamma_1(\tau, a)$$

$$u(\tau, b) = \gamma_2(\tau, b)$$

For example, by including the boundary conditions we rewrite the system for the Crank-Nicolson method as:

$$Aw^{(i+1)} = Bw^{(i)} + d^{(i)}$$

with

$$d = \frac{\lambda}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1(\tau_i, a) + \gamma_1(\tau_{i+1}, a) \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \gamma_2(\tau_i, b) + \gamma_2(\tau_{i+1}, b) \end{bmatrix}.$$

5.4 Consistency, Stability and Convergence of Parabolic PDE with FDM

Definition 5.1 Consistency

Given a partial differential equation $Pu = f$ and a finite difference scheme, $P_{\Delta t, \Delta x}v = f$, we say that the finite difference scheme is consistent with the partial differential equation if for any smooth function $\phi(t, x)$

$$P\phi - P_{\Delta t, \Delta x}\phi \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \Delta t, \Delta x \rightarrow 0$$

Example

Consider our parabolic model here, given the operator $P = \partial/\partial t - \partial/\partial x$

$$P\phi = \phi_t - \phi_{xx}$$

with α greater than 0. We will evaluate the consistency of the forward-time and central space approximation for the second derivative.

First we consider the Explicit method:

$$P_{\Delta t, \Delta x} \phi = \frac{w_{i+1,j} - w_{i,j}}{\Delta \tau} - \frac{w_{i,j+1} - 2w_{i,j} + w_{i,j-1}}{\Delta^2 x}$$

then with Taylor expansion:

$$w_{i+1,j} = w_{i,j} + \Delta \tau w_{\tau} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^2 \tau w_{\tau\tau} + O(\Delta^3 \tau)$$

$$w_{i,j+1} = w_{i,j} + \Delta x w_x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^2 w_{xx} + \frac{1}{6} \Delta^3 w_{xxx} + \frac{1}{24} \Delta^4 w_x^{(4)} + O(\Delta^5 x)$$

$$w_{i,j-1} = w_{i,j} - \Delta x w_x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^2 w_{xx} - \frac{1}{6} \Delta^3 w_{xxx} + \frac{1}{24} \Delta^4 w_x^{(4)} + O(\Delta^5 x)$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = w_{\tau} - w_{xx} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \tau w_{\tau\tau} - \frac{1}{12} \Delta^2 x w_x^{(4)} + O(\Delta^3 x) + O(\Delta^2 \tau)$$

Thus, as $(\Delta t, \Delta x) \rightarrow 0$, $P\phi - P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = -\frac{1}{2} \Delta \tau w_{\tau\tau} + \frac{1}{12} \Delta^2 x w_x^{(4)} + O(\Delta^3 x) + O(\Delta^2 \tau) \rightarrow 0$

Thus, this scheme is consistent.

Next we go for the Implicit method:

$$P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = \frac{w_{i,j} - w_{i-1,j}}{\Delta \tau} - \frac{w_{i,j+1} - 2w_{i,j} + w_{i,j-1}}{\Delta^2 x}$$

similar to the explicit method, with Taylor expansion and some substitutions, we can get that :

$$P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = w_{\tau} - w_{xx} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta \tau w_{\tau\tau} - \frac{1}{12} \Delta^2 x w_x^{(4)} + O(\Delta^3 x) + O(\Delta^2 \tau)$$

Thus, as $(\Delta t, \Delta x) \rightarrow 0$, $P\phi - P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = -\frac{1}{2} \Delta \tau w_{\tau\tau} + \frac{1}{12} \Delta^2 x w_x^{(4)} + O(\Delta^3 x) + O(\Delta^2 \tau) \rightarrow 0$

Thus, this scheme is consistent.

Last let us consider Crank-Nicolson Method:

$$P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = \left[\frac{2}{\Delta \tau} [w_{i+1,j} - w_{i,j}] - \frac{1}{\Delta x^2} [w_{i,j+1} - 2w_{i,j} + w_{i,j-1} + w_{i+1,j+1} - 2w_{i+1,j} + w_{i+1,j-1}] \right] / 2,$$

with the same approach as above we can get:

$$P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = w_{\tau} - w_{xx} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \tau w_{\tau\tau} - \frac{1}{12} \Delta^2 x w_x^{(4)} + \bar{w}_{\tau} - \bar{w}_{xx} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \tau \bar{w}_{\tau\tau} - \frac{1}{12} \Delta^2 x \bar{w}_x^{(4)} + O(\Delta^3 x) + O(\Delta^2 \tau)$$

where the \bar{w} denote $w_{i+1,j}$.

Then we use Taylor expansion to substitute \bar{w} as following:

$$w(i+1, j)_{xx} = w(i, j)_{xx} + \Delta \tau w(i, j)_{xx, \tau} + O(\Delta^2 \tau)$$

$$w(i+1, j)_t = w(i, j)_t + \Delta \tau w(i, j)_{tt, \tau} + O(\Delta^2 \tau)$$

Thus as $(\Delta t, \Delta x) \rightarrow 0$, $P\phi - P_{\Delta \tau, \Delta x} \phi = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \tau (w_{\tau\tau} - \bar{w}_{\tau\tau}) + \frac{1}{12} \Delta^2 x (w_x^{(4)} + \bar{w}_x^{(4)}) - \Delta t w_{xx, t} + O(\Delta^3 x) + O(\Delta^2 \tau) \rightarrow 0$

Thus this scheme is consistent.

Stability and Convergence Analysis

Matrix Norm we define matrix as

- $\|A\|_1 = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ij}|$ (column sum)
- $\|A\|_2 = \sqrt{\rho(A^T A)}$, where ρ is the spectral radius.
- $\|A\|_\infty = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ij}|$ (row sum)

then if B is a symmetric matrix $\|B\|_2 = \sqrt{\rho(B^T B)}$, $\|B\|_{RMS} = \|B\|_2$, where $\|\cdot\|_2 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{M} \|\cdot\|^2}$ for vector. In the infinity norm and in RMS norm we have the local error :

$$\|\delta_{exp}^n\| = O(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2 x), \|\delta_{imp}^n\| = O(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2 x), \|\delta_{CN}^n\| = O(\Delta^2 \tau + \Delta^2 x)$$

Root-Mean-Square value is $rms(x) = \sqrt{\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2}{n}} = \frac{\|x\|_2}{\sqrt{n}}$

For explicit method, we denote matrix $A = \lambda \cdot TriDiag(1, -2, 1)$ and I is an unity matrix, thus we write the explicit method as following:

$$P_{\Delta\tau, \Delta x} \phi = (I - \lambda A) w^{(i)} = w^{(i+1)}$$

We denote the exact solution here as y . So we know

$$y - w^{(i+1)} = \varepsilon^{(i+1)} = (I - \lambda A) \varepsilon^{(i)} + O(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2 x)$$

where ε is an error in the scheme, and an error at $t = 0$ can be seen as the same as $t = N$ as $\varepsilon^{(N)} = (1 - \lambda A) \varepsilon^{(0)}$. And in sup-norm

$$\|I - \lambda A\|_\infty = \max_{1 \leq j \leq M} \left(\sum_{j=1}^M |1 - \lambda a_{ij}| \right) \leq |1 + \lambda| + |1 - 2\lambda| + |1 + \lambda| \leq 1$$

if $\lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}$,

then we can obtain

$$\|\varepsilon^{(N)}\| \leq \|\varepsilon^{(0)}\| + O(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2 x)$$

which means the error will be smaller and smaller (not grow).

So explicit method is stable in sup-norm when $\lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}$, and convergent into $O(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2 x)$.

Let us consider it now in 2-norm:

$I - \lambda A$ is a symmetric matrix, so $\rho(I - \lambda A) = \|I - \lambda A\|_2 = 4 \sin^2(\frac{m\pi\Delta x}{2})$ Now we let $|1 - \lambda A| < 1$, i.e.

$$\begin{cases} 1 - 4\lambda < 1 \\ -1 < 1 - 4\lambda \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \lambda \geq 0 \\ \lambda \leq \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$

and we know $\lambda \neq 0$, so $0 < \lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}$, which means when $0 < \lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}$, the scheme is stable.

Now consider the stability and convergence in implicit method:

With the same approach as explicit method, we can get:

$$(I + \lambda A) \varepsilon^{(N+1)} = \varepsilon^{(N)} \Rightarrow \varepsilon^{(N+1)} = (I + \lambda A)^{-1} \varepsilon^{(N)}$$

Then we divide A into two parts, i.e.

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1+2\lambda & 0 & & & \\ 0 & 1+2\lambda & \ddots & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 1+2\lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$\lambda S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\lambda & & & \\ -\lambda & 0 & \ddots & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & -\lambda \\ & & & -\lambda & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

where $S = \text{TriDiag}(-1, 0, -1)$.
Then we have

- $(1 + 2\lambda)|\varepsilon^{(N+1)}| \leq \lambda S|\varepsilon^{(N+1)}| + |\varepsilon^{(N)}|$, where $\|S\|_\infty = 2$
- $(1 + 2\lambda)\|\varepsilon^{(N+1)}\|_\infty \leq 2\lambda\|\varepsilon^{(N+1)}\|_\infty + \|\varepsilon^{(N)}\|_\infty \Rightarrow \|\varepsilon^{(N+1)}\|_\infty \leq \|\varepsilon^{(N)}\|_\infty$ for all $\lambda > 0$

which means for an arbitrary λ , implicit method will be stable.

Now we consider it in 2-norm, let the global error $z_j^n = u_j^n - (u^*)_j^n$, where $z^n = (z_1^n, \dots, z_M^n)^T$. Since this scheme is stable, so we have

$$Bz^{n+1} = z^n - k\delta_{imp}^{n+1} \Rightarrow z^n = (B^{-1}z^0) - k \sum_{i=1}^n (B^{-1})^i \delta_{imp}^{n+1-i}$$

where $B^{-1} = (I + \lambda\tilde{A})$ and

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & \ddots & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & -1 \\ & & & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 1+2\lambda & 1-\lambda & & & \\ 1-\lambda & 1+2\lambda & \ddots & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & 1-\lambda \\ & & & 1-\lambda & 1+2\lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

Since B is symmetric, $\|B^{-1}\|_2 = \rho(B^{-1}) \leq 1$. And we see

$$\begin{aligned} \|z^n\|_2 &\leq \|z^0\|_2 + k \sum_{i=1}^n \|\delta^{n+1-i}\|_2 \leq \|z^0\|_2 + nkC\sqrt{M(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2x)^2} \\ &\leq \|z^0\|_2 + CT \frac{\Delta\tau + \Delta^2x}{\sqrt{\Delta x}} = \|z^0\|_2 + CT(\lambda + 1)\Delta^{3/2}x \end{aligned}$$

where $M = 1/h, nk = T$, and

$$\|z\|_{RMS} = \sqrt{\frac{\|z\|_2}{M}}$$

then

$$\|z^n\|_{RMS} \leq \|z^0\|_{RMS} + CT(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2x)$$

which shows the implicit method convergent into $O(\Delta\tau + \Delta^2x)$.

Now consider Crank-Nicolson Method:

We use the similar approach as above, we would have:

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + \lambda)\varepsilon_j^{n+1} - \frac{1}{2}\lambda(\varepsilon_{j-1}^{n+1} + \varepsilon_{j+1}^{n+1}) &= \frac{1}{2}\lambda(\varepsilon_{j-1}^n + \varepsilon_{j+1}^n) + (1 - \lambda)\varepsilon_j^n \\ (1 + \lambda)\|\varepsilon_j^{n+1}\|_\infty &\leq \lambda\|\varepsilon^{n+1}\|_\infty + \|\varepsilon^n\|_\infty \\ &\Rightarrow \|\varepsilon^{n+1}\|_\infty \leq \|\varepsilon^n\|_\infty \end{aligned}$$

for $\lambda \leq \frac{1}{2}$, and similarly we can get:

$$\|z^n\|_{RMS} \leq \|z^0\|_{RMS} + CT(\Delta^2\tau + \Delta^2x)$$

so it is convergent into $O(\Delta^2\tau + \Delta^2x)$.

Error Analysis After solving the PDE on Julia, we have the error results as following:

M	N	Exact	FDM	Error
1200.0	200.0	2.88804	2.88467	0.00336847
900.0	150.0	2.88804	2.87393	0.0141124
600.0	100.0	2.88804	2.85252	0.0355208
100.0	50	2.88804	2.68892	0.199124

5.5 Finite-Element Method (FEM)

In this section we introduce the Finite-Element Method (FEM) for option pricing. In comparison to the FDM, the FEM can be used for an irregular domain, especially for multi-factor options (multidimensional space). Moreover, lower smoothness of an exact solution is allowed in the FEM method. It can be shown that the FDM appears as a special case of the FEM.

Weighted Residuals

In one dimensional case, a discretion is either presented by discrete grid points $a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{N-1} < x_N = b$, or by a set of sub-intervals $D_k = [x_{k-1}, x_k]$ with $\bigcup_{k=1}^N D_k = [a, b]$. The approximation of the exact solution $u(x)$ can be computed

- (a) FDM: discrete values: $u_i = u(x_i)$
- (b) FEM: piecewise defined function $p(x)$ on D_k

Principle of weighted residuals

Problem : $Lu = f$, where $u : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the exact solution, L : differential operator and $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is given.

Example of operator L :

- (i) $n = 1 : Lu = -u''$ for $u(x)$
- (ii) $n = 2 : Lu = -u_{xx} - u_{yy}$ for $u(x, y)$

The piecewise approach starts with a partition of the domain D into sub-domains D_k such that

- (i) $\bar{D} = \bigcup_k \bar{D}_k$
- (ii) $\text{int}(D_j) \cap \text{int}(D_k) = \emptyset$ for $j \neq k$

Finite element: A finite element is a pair (D_k, Π_K) consisting of

- (i) a polyhedron $D_k \subset \mathbb{R}^n$
- (ii) a linear space $\Pi \subset C^0(D_k)$ of a finite dimension

Choose basis functions (called also trial functions, shape function) $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n$ ($\varphi_i : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$). We define the ansatz for approximation w of u as

$$(u \approx) w = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i \varphi_i$$

with $c_1, \dots, c_N \in \mathbb{R}$

$$w \in \text{span} \{ \varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_N \}$$

Our aim is to find c_1, \dots, c_N such that $w \approx u$. For example, we determine c_1, \dots, c_N such that residual function $R := Lw - f$ becomes small in some case. We choose test functions (weighting functions) ψ_1, \dots, ψ_N ($\psi : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$) and requires that (Method of Weighted Residuals)

$$\int_D R \psi_j dx = 0; j = 1, \dots, N$$

This can also be interpreted alternatively using the bilinear form $(f, g) = \int_D f g dx$, which implies $(R, \psi_j) = 0, j = 1, \dots, N$, i.e., R is orthogonal to ψ_j . With $R = Lw - f$ we calculate

$$(Lw - f, \psi_j) = 0 \Leftrightarrow (Lw, \psi_j) = (f, \psi_j); j = 1, \dots, N$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow \int_D Lw\psi_j dx = \int_D f\psi_j dx \\ &\Rightarrow \int_D \left(\sum_{i=1}^N c_i L\psi_i \right) \approx \int_D Lw\psi_j dx = \int_D f\psi_j dx \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow Ac = b$ with $c = (c_1, \dots, c_N)^T$. Note that basis functions and test functions have to be chosen such that $\det(A) \neq 0$.

There are a few weighting functions, here we only introduce Galerkin Method.

Galerkin Method

Choose $\psi_j := \varphi_j (j = 1, \dots, N) \Rightarrow a_{i,j} = \int_D L\varphi_i \varphi_j dx$. If L is self-adjoint, i.e. $(Lf, g) = (f, Lg) \Rightarrow \int_D L\phi_i \phi_j dx = \int_D \phi_i L\phi_j dx$ and A is symmetric. Additional properties of $L \Rightarrow$ positive definite matrix A .

MOL with FEM We start with considering our heat equation here with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary condition. Then for any $v \in H_0^1$ we have

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} v dx = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} v dx = u_x v|_0^1 - \int_0^1 u_x v_x dx = - \int_0^1 u_x v_x dx = -a(u, v)$$

where $a(u, v)$ is the bilinear form associated with the elliptic operator $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}$ in space. Here the equation above is the weak formulation for the heat equation, where we look for $u \in H_0^1$ such that the equation is satisfied for all $v \in H_0^1$.

With $h = 1/(M+1)$ and $x_j = jh$, for $j = 0, \dots, M+1$ we consider the piecewise linear basis functions ϕ_j , $j = 0, \dots, M$, the ϕ_j form a basis of an M -dimensional subspace in H_0^1 .

We approximate $u(x, t)$ by $u_h(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^M u_j(t) \phi_j(x)$, with time-dependent coefficients u_j . The $u_j(t)$ correspond with the $U_j(t)$ of the FDM. Taking $v = \phi_i$, as in the Ritz-Galerkin approach, we derive an ODE for the $u_j(t)$.

We obtain the equations

$$\sum_{j=1}^M u_j'(t) \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} = - \sum_{j=1}^M u_j(t) a(\phi_j, \phi_i). \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, M.$$

with the bilinear form a and $\langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} = \int_1^0 \phi_j \phi_i dx$. It is an implicit system of ODEs

$$Mu'(t) = Bu(t)$$

$$u(t) = (u_1(t), \dots, u_M(t))^T$$

$$M = (m_{ij}), m_{ij} = \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} = \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)}$$

$$B = (b_{ij}), b_{ij} = -a(\phi_j, \phi_i) = -a(\phi_i, \phi_j)$$

The (constant) matrices M and B are symmetric. Moreover, M is positive definite and thus regular. The matrix B is negative definite. Using piece-wise linear basis function as above one finds that $B = -\frac{1}{h} \text{TriDiag}(-1, 2, -1) = -hA$. Similar as for MOL, standard methods for systems of ODEs can be used to solve initial value problems.

When $u(0, t) = \alpha(t)$ and $u(1, t) = \beta(t)$, with $\alpha, \beta \in C^1$, we can write $u_b(x, t) = [\beta(t) - \alpha(t)]x + \alpha(t)$ and we express $u(x, t) = w(x, t) + u_b(x, t)$, where $w(0, t) = w(1, t) = 0$. We develop w in the basis functions: $w_h(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^M w_j(t) \phi_j(t)$. Then one approximates u by $\sum_{j=1}^M w_j(t) \phi_j(t) + u_b(t)$, which we enter in the bilinear form $-a(u, v)$. We obtain the system of ODEs

$$Mw'(t) + b(t) = Bw(t) - c(t)$$

$$w(t) = (w_1(t), \dots, w_M(t))^T$$

with M and B as in the equation. The vectors $b(t)$ and $c(t)$ come from $u_b(x, t)$

$$b(t) = (b_1, \dots, b_M)^T$$

$$\begin{aligned}
b_i &= \int_0^1 \frac{\partial u_b}{\partial t}(x, t) \phi_i(x, t) dx, i = 1, \dots, M, \\
&= [\beta'(t) - \alpha'(t)] \int_0^1 x \phi_i(x, t) dx + \alpha'(t) \int_0^1 \phi_i(x) dx \\
c(t) &= (c_1, \dots, c_M)^T
\end{aligned}$$

$$c_i = -[\beta(t) - \alpha(t)] \int_0^1 (\phi_i)_x(x) dx, i = 1, \dots, M$$

Denote that the term $c(t)$ formally show up in the weak formulation. It does not when dealing with FDM. However, each $c_i = 0$, also on a non-equidistant discretion. Numerically this may not happen exactly: hence best is to completely ignore c . The system can be integrated by the Crank-Nicolson Method (Trapezoidal Rule)

$$[M + \frac{k}{2}B]w^{n+1} = [M - \frac{k}{2}B]w^n - \frac{k}{2}(b^{n+1} + b^n),$$

where $w^m = w(t_m)$, $b^m =$, for $m = n, n + 1$. Denote that we ignored the c 's.

At $t = 0$ the initial value $w_j(0)$ can be derived by the either requiring that at $x = x_j$

$$w_j(0) + u_b(0, x_j) = u(x_j) j = 1, \dots, M,$$

or by requiring that

$$\left(\sum_{j=1}^M w_j(0) \phi(\cdot) + u_b(\cdot, 0) - u_0(\cdot) \right) \perp \phi_i(\cdot), i = 1, \dots, M$$

and solve the system for the $w_j(0)$.

Error Analysis After solving the PDE on Julia, we have the error results as following:

M	N	Exact	FEM	Error
5000.0	10.0	2.88804	2.888	0.000131911
2000.0	10.0	2.88804	2.88012	0.00792321
1000.0	10.0	2.88804	2.87428	0.0137681
500.0	10.0	2.88804	2.86261	0.0254282

5.6 Finite Volume Method

Boundary Condition

Let V denote the value of a European call or put option and let x denote the price of the underlying asset. It is known that V satisfies the following Black-Scholes equation:

$$LV := \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 x^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + rx \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} - rV = 0, \quad x \geq 0, \quad t \in [0, T],$$

for $x \in I, t \in [0, T]$, with the boundary and final (or a pay-off) conditions

$$V(0, t) = g_1(t), t \in [0, T],$$

$$V(X, t) = g_2(t), t \in [0, T],$$

$$V(x, T) = g_3(x), x \in \bar{I},$$

where $I = (0, X) \in \mathbb{R}$, $\sigma > 0$ denotes the volatility of the asset, $T > 0$ the expiry data, r the interest rate. We assume that these given functions g_1, g_2 and g_3 defining the above boundary and final conditions satisfy the following compatibility conditions:

$$g_3(0) = g_1(T) \text{ and } g_3(X) = g_2(T)$$

The simplest way to determine the boundary conditions for call options is to choose $V(0, t) = 0$ and $V(X, t) = V(X, T)$. We may also calculate the present value of an amount received at time T .

$$V(0, t) = 0,$$

$$V(X, t) = X - E \exp \left(\int_t^T r(\tau) d\tau \right),$$

In order to have the homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions, we add $f(x) = -LV_0$ to both sides of the BS-equation and define a new variable $u = V - V_0$, where

$$V_0(x, t) = g_1(t) + \frac{g_2(t) - g_1(t)}{X}x$$

and L is the differential operator. The resulting problem can be written in the following self-adjoint form:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(ax^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + bxu \right) + cu = f(x, t),$$

where

$$a = \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2$$

$$b = r - \sigma^2$$

$$c = 2r - \sigma^2$$

where the boundary and final conditions now become

$$u(0, t) = 0 = u(X, t), t \in [0, T)$$

$$u(x, T) = g_3(x) - V_0(x, T), x \in \bar{I}$$

Model define

Let the interval $I = (0, X)$ be divided into N sub-intervals

$$I_i := (x_i, x_{i+1}), i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

with $0 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_N = X$. For each $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$, we put $h_i = x_{i+1} - x_i$ and $h = \max_{0 \leq i \leq N-1} h_i$. We also let $x_{i-1/2} = (x_{i-1} + x_i)/2$ and $x_{i+1/2} = (x_i + x_{i+1})/2$ for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$. These mid-points form a second partition of $(0, X)$ if we define $x_{-1/2} = x_0$ and $x_{N+1/2} = x_N$. Integrating both sides of the equation over $(x_{i-1/2}, x_{i+1/2})$ we have

$$-\int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dx - \left[x \left(ax \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + bu \right) \right]_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} + \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} cu dx = \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} f dx$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$. Applying the mid-point quadrature rule to the first, third and last terms we obtain from the above

$$-\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} l_i - [x_{i+1/2} \rho(u)|_{x_{i+1/2}} - x_{i-1/2} \rho(u)|_{x_{i-1/2}}] + cu_i l_i = f_i l_i$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$, where $l_i = x_{i+1/2} - x_{i-1/2}$, $f_i = f(x_i, t)$, u_i denotes the nodal approximation to $u_{x_i, t}$ to be determined and $\rho(u)$ is the flux associated with u defined by

$$\rho(u) := ax \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + bu$$

Clearly, we now need to derive approximations of the continuous flux $\rho(u)$ defined above at the mid-point, $x_{i+1/2}$ of the interval I_i for all $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$. This discussion is divided into two cases for $i \leq 1$ and $i = 0$, respectively.

Case.I Approximation of ρ at $x_{i+1/2}$ for $i \geq 1$

Let us consider the following two-point boundary value problem:

$$(axv' + bv)' = 0, x \in I_i$$

$$v(x_i) = u_i, v(x_{i+1}) = u_{i+1}$$

And the integration yields the first-order linear equation

$$\rho_i(v) := axv' + bv = C_1$$

where C_1 denotes an additive constant. The integrating factor of this linear equation is $\mu = x^{b/a}$ and the analytic solution to it is:

$$v = x^{-b/a} \left(\int x^{b/a} \frac{C_1}{ax} dx + C_2 \right) = \frac{C_1}{b} + C_2 x^{-b/a}$$

where C_2 is also an additive constant. Note that in this deduction we assume that $b \neq 0$. But as will be seen below, this restriction can be lifted as it is the limiting case of the above when $b \rightarrow 0$. Applying the boundary conditions we obtain

$$u_i = \frac{C_1}{b_{i+1/2}} + C_2 x_i^{-\alpha}, \text{ and } u_{i+1} = \frac{C_1}{b} + C_2 x_{i+1}^{-\alpha},$$

where $\alpha = b/a$. Solving this linear system gives

$$\rho_i(u) = C_1 = b \frac{x_{i+1}^\alpha u_{i+1} - x_i^\alpha u_i}{x_{i+1}^\alpha - x_i^\alpha}$$

This gives a representation for the flux on the right-hand side. Note that $\rho_i(u)$ also holds when $\alpha \rightarrow 0$. This is because

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{x_{i+1}^\alpha - x_i^\alpha}{b} = \frac{1}{a} \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{x_{i+1}^\alpha - x_i^\alpha}{\alpha_i} = \frac{1}{a} (\ln x_{i+1} - \ln x_i) > 0 \quad (5.1)$$

since $x_i < x_{i+1}$ and $a > 0$. Obviously, $\rho_i(u)$ provides an approximation to the flux $\rho(u)$ at $x_{i+1/2}$.

Case II. Approximation of ρ at $x_{1/2}$

Note that the analysis in Case I does not apply to the approximation of the flux on $(0, x_1)$. So we re-consider $(axv' + bv)' = 0, x \in I_i$ with an extra degree of freedom in the following form:

$$(axv' + bv)' = C_2, \text{ in } (0, x_1)$$

$$v(0) = u_0, v(x_1) = u_1$$

where C_2 is an unknown constant to be determined. Integrating $(axv' + bv)' = C_2$ once we have

$$axv' + bv = C_2 x + C_3$$

Using the condition $v(0) = u_0$ we have $C_3 = bu_0$, and so the above equation becomes

$$\rho_0(u) := axv' + bv = bu_0 + C_2 x$$

Solving this problem analytically gives

$$v = \begin{cases} u_0 + \frac{C_2 x}{a+b} + C_4 x^\alpha, & \alpha \neq -1 \\ u_0 + \frac{C_2}{a} x \ln x + C_4 x, & \alpha = -1 \end{cases}$$

where $\alpha_0 = b_{1/2}/a$ as defined before and C_4 is an additive constant (depending on t).

To determine the constants C_2 and C_4 , we first consider the case when $\alpha \neq -1$. When $\alpha \geq 0, v(0) = u_0$ implies that $C_4 = 0$. If $\alpha < 0, C_4$ is arbitrary, so we also choose $C_4 = 0$. Using $v(x_1) = u_1$ then we obtain $C_2 = \frac{1}{x_1} (a+b)(u_1 - u_0)$.

when $\alpha = -1$, and we see that $v(0) = u_0$ is satisfied for any C_2 and C_4 . Therefore, solutions with such C_2 and C_4 are not unique. We choose $C_2 = 0$, and $v(x_1) = u_1$ gives $C_4 = (u_1 - u_0)/x_1$. Therefore, we have

$$\rho_0(u) = (axv' + bv)_{x_{1/2}} = \frac{1}{2} [(a+b)u_1 - (a-b)u_0]$$

for both $\alpha_0 = -1$ and $\alpha_0 \neq -1$. Furthermore,

$$v = u_0 + (u_1 - u_0)x/x_1, x \in [0, x_1]$$

Now with the $\rho_i(u)$ and $\rho_0(u)$ we get in Case I and Case II, we define a global piecewise constant approximation to $\rho(u)$ by $\rho_h(u)$ satisfying

$$\rho_h(u) = \rho_i(u) \text{ if } x \in I_i$$

for $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$.

After submitting the $\rho_i(u)$ and $\rho_0(u)$, depending on the value of i , and then we can obtain:

$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} l_i + e_{i,i-1} u_{i-1} + e_{i,i} u_i + e_{i,i+1} u_{i+1} = f_i l_i$$

where

$$e_{1,0} = -\frac{x_1}{4}(a-b) \quad (5.2)$$

$$e_{1,1} = \frac{x_1}{4}(a+b) + \frac{bx_{1+1/2}x_1^\alpha}{x_2^\alpha - x_1^\alpha} + cl_1 \quad (5.3)$$

$$e_{1,2} = -\frac{bx_{1+1/2}x_1^\alpha}{x_2^\alpha - x_1^\alpha} \quad (5.4)$$

and

$$e_{i,i-1} = -\frac{bx_{i-1/2}x_{i-1}^\alpha}{x_i^\alpha - x_{i-1}^\alpha} \quad (5.5)$$

$$e_{i,i} = \frac{bx_{i-1/2}x_i^\alpha}{x_i^\alpha - x_{i-1}^\alpha} + \frac{bx_{i+1/2}x_i^\alpha}{x_{i+1}^\alpha - x_i^\alpha} + cl_i \quad (5.6)$$

$$e_{i,i+1} = \frac{bx_{i+1/2}x_{i+1}^\alpha}{x_{i+1}^\alpha - x_i^\alpha} \quad (5.7)$$

for $i = 2, 3, \dots, N-1$. These form an $(N-1) \times (N-1)$ linear system for $u := (u_1(t), \dots, u_N(t))^T$ with $u_0(t)$ and $u_N(t)$ being equal to the given homogeneous boundary conditions.

We now discuss the time discretion of the linear ODE system. Let $E_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$, be $1 \times N-1$ row vectors defined by

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= (e_{11}(t), e_{12}(t), 0, \dots, 0), \\ E_i &= (0, \dots, 0, e_{i,i-1}(t), e_{i,i}(t), e_{i,i+1}(t), 0, \dots, 0) \quad i = 2, 3, \dots, N-2, \\ E_{N-1} &= (0, \dots, 0, e_{N-1}(t), e_{N-1,N-1}(t)), \end{aligned}$$

where $e_{i,i-1}(t), e_{i,i}(t)$ and $e_{i,i+1}$ are defined above and those entries which are not defined are considered to be zero. Obviously, using E_i , so we can then obtain:

$$-\frac{\partial u_i(t)}{\partial t} l_i + E_i(t)u(t) = f_i(t)l_i$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$. This is a first-order linear ODE system. To discrete this system, we let $t_i (i = 0, 1, \dots, K)$ be a set of partition points in $[0, T]$ satisfying $T = t_0 > t_1 > \dots > t_K = 0$. Then, we apply the two-level implicit time-stepping method with a splitting parameter $\theta \in [1/2, 1]$, then we get

$$\frac{u_i^{k+1} - u_i^k}{-\Delta t_k} l_i + \theta E_i^{k+1} u^{k+1} + (1-\theta) E_i^k u^k = (\theta f_i^{k+1} + (1-\theta) f_i^k) l_i$$

for $k = 0, 1, \dots, K-1$, where $\Delta t_k = t_{k+1} - t_k < 0$, $E_i^k = E_i(t_k)$, $f_i^k = f(x_i, t_k)$ and u^k denote the approximation fo u at $t = t_k$. Let E^k be the $(N-1) \times (N-1)$ matrix given by $E^k = (E_1^k, E_2^k, \dots, E_{N-1}^k)^T$. Then, the above linear system can be rewritten as

$$(\theta E^{k+1} + G^k) u^{k+1} = f^k + [G^k - (1-\theta) E^k] u^k \quad (5.8)$$

for $k = 0, 1, \dots, K-1$, where $G^k = \text{diag}(l_1/(-\Delta t_k), \dots, l_{N-1}/(-\Delta t_k))$ is an $(N-1) \times (N-1)$ diagonal matrix and $f^k = \theta(f_1^{k+1} l_1, \dots, f_{N-1}^{k+1} l_{N-1})^T + (1-\theta)(f_1^k l_1, \dots, f_{N-1}^k l_{N-1})^T$. When $\theta = 1/2$, the time-stepping scheme becomes Crank-Nicolson scheme and when $\theta = 1$ it is the backward Euler scheme. Both of these schemes are unconditionally stable, and they are of second- and first-order accuracy, respectively.

We now show that, when $|\Delta t_k|$ is sufficiently small, then the system matrix is an M-matrix.

Proof. Let us first investigate the off-diagonal entries of E^{k+1} in (5.8). From (5.2)-(5.7) we see that $e_{i,j} \leq 0$ for all $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, N-1, j \neq i$. This is because

$$\frac{b}{x_{i+1}^\alpha - x_i^\alpha} = \frac{a\alpha}{x_{i+1}^\alpha - x_i^\alpha} > 0$$

for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ and all $b \neq 0$. From (5.1) we see that this also holds when $b \rightarrow 0$. This proves that all of the off-diagonal elements of the system matrix of (5.8) are non-positive.

Furthermore, using (5.2)-(5.7) and the definition of E_i^{k+1} , $i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$, it is easy to check that the diagonal entries of $(\theta E^{k+1} + G^k)$ are given by

$$\frac{l_1}{-\Delta t_k} + \Delta e_{1,1}^{k+1} = \theta \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N-1} |e_{1,j}^{k+1}| \right) + \theta \frac{x_1}{4} (a+b) + \left(\theta c + \frac{1}{|\Delta t_k|} \right) l_1$$

$$\frac{l_j}{-\Delta t_k} + \theta e_{i,i}^{k+1} = \theta \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N-1} |e_{i,j}^{k+1}| \right) + \left(\theta c + \frac{1}{|\Delta t_k|} \right) l_j$$

for $i = 2, 3, \dots, N-1$. Thus, when $|\Delta t_k|$ is sufficiently small, $\theta E^{k+1} + G^k$ is (strictly) diagonally dominant. Therefore, it is an M-matrix.

Error Analysis After solving the PDE on Julia, we have the error results as following:

M	N	Exact	FVM	Error
1000.0	150.0	2.88804	2.89948	0.011435
500.0	100.0	2.88804	2.91295	0.0249105
300.0	50.0	2.88804	2.84555	0.0424954
200.0	10.0	2.88804	2.78465	0.103392

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