Financial Mathematics

MATH 5870/6870[1]
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[1] Based on Robert L. McDonald's *Derivatives Markets*, 3rd Ed, Pearson, 2013.

Chapter 3. Insurance, Collars, and Other Strategies

Chapter 3. Insurance, Collars, and Other Strategies

§ 3.1 Basic insurance strategies

§ 3.2 Put-call parity

§ 3.3 Spreads and collars

§ 3.4 Speculating on volatility

§ 3.5 Problems

Options can be

1. Used to insure long positions (floors)
2. Used to insure short positions (caps)
3. Written against asset positions (selling insurance)

   Covered call writing

   Covered put writing

Four positions

positions w.r.t. asset	put option	call option
long	purchased (floor)	written
short	written	purchased (cap)

Buying insurance

floor = buying a put option

cap = buying a call option

Selling insurance

Covered put writing

Covered call writing

We will work under the following setup

S&S index

index price today	\$1,000
6-month interest rate	2%
premium for 1000-strike 6-month call	\$93.809
premium for 1000-strike 6-month put	\$74.201

Insuring a long position – Floors

owning a home	owning a stock index
insuring the house	buying a put (floor)

Goal: to insure against a fall in the price of the underlying asset.

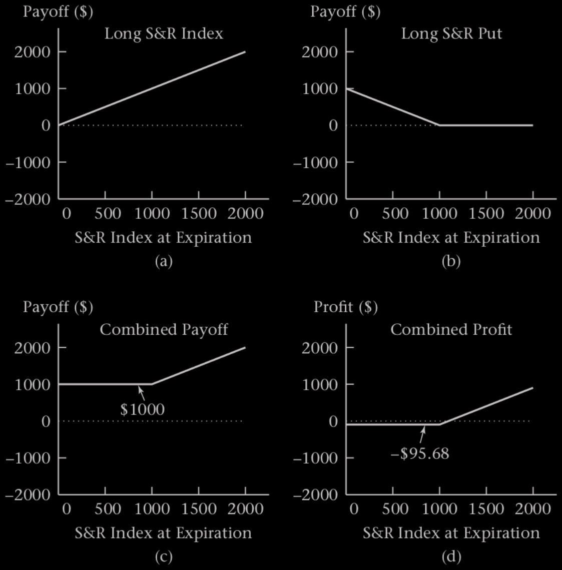
Example 3.1-1 Under the following scenario, compute the combined profit of insuring a long position via buying a put for the following S&R index.

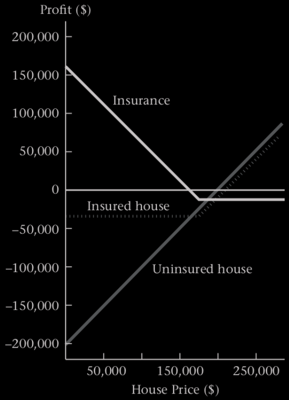
index price today	\$1,000
6-month interest rate	2%
premium for 1000-strike 6-month put	\$74.201
index price at expiration	\$900

Solution.

$$\underbrace{\$900 - \$1,000 \times 1.02}_{\text{profit on S\&R index}} + \underbrace{\$1,000 - \$900 - \$74.201 \times 1.02}_{\text{profit on put}} = -\$95.68.$$

$\square$


Payoff ($)
Long S&R Index
2000
1000
0
–1000
–2000
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(a)
Payoff ($)
Long S&R Put
2000
1000
0
–1000
–2000
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(b)
Payoff ($)
Combined Payoff
2000
1000
$1000
0
–1000
–2000
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(c)
Profit ($)
Combined Profit
2000
1000
0
–$95.68
–1000
–2000
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(d)



Profit ($)
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
−50,000
−100,000
−150,000
−200,000
Insurance
Insured house
Uninsured house
50,000
150,000
250,000
House Price ($)

Insuring a short position – Caps

If we have a short position in the S&R index, we experience a loss when the index rises.

We can insure a short position by purchasing a call option (cap) to protect against a higher price of repurchasing the index.

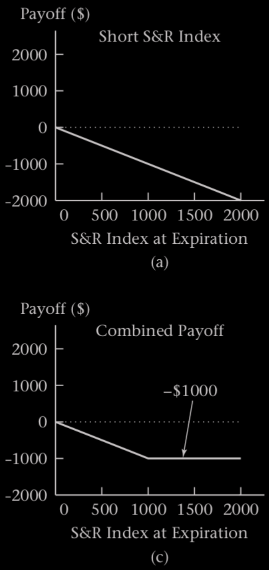
Example 3.1-2 Under the following scenario, compute the combined profit for insuring a short position via buying a call of the following S&R index.

index price today	\$1,000
6-month interest rate	2%
premium for 1000-strike 6-month call	\$93.809
index price at expiration	\$1,100

Solution.

$$\underbrace{\$1,000 \times 1.02}_{\text{future value of short S\&R index}} - \underbrace{\$93.809 \times 1.02}_{\text{FV of premium for call}} - \underbrace{\$1,000}_{\text{exercise the call option}} = -\$75.685.$$

□



Payoff ($)
Short S&R Index
2000
1000
0
−1000
−2000
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(a)
Payoff ($)
Long S&R Call
2000
1000
0
−1000
−2000
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(b)
Payoff ($)
Combined Payoff
2000
1000
0
−1000
−2000
−$1000
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(c)
Profit ($)
Combined Profit
2000
1000
0
−1000
−2000
−$75.68
0 500 1000 1500 2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(d)

Selling insurance

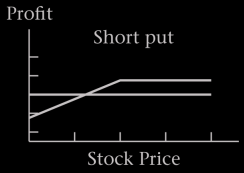
For every insurance buyer there must be an insurance seller

Strategies used to sell insurance

- Covered writing (option overwriting or selling a covered call) is writing an option when there is a corresponding long position in the underlying asset.
- Naked writing is writing an option when the writer does not have a position in the asset.

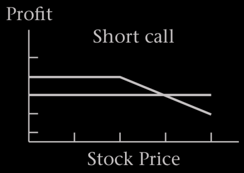
Covered call writing

Long position of the asset + Sell a call option $\sim$



Covered put writing

Short position of the asset + Sell a put option $\sim$



Covered call writing

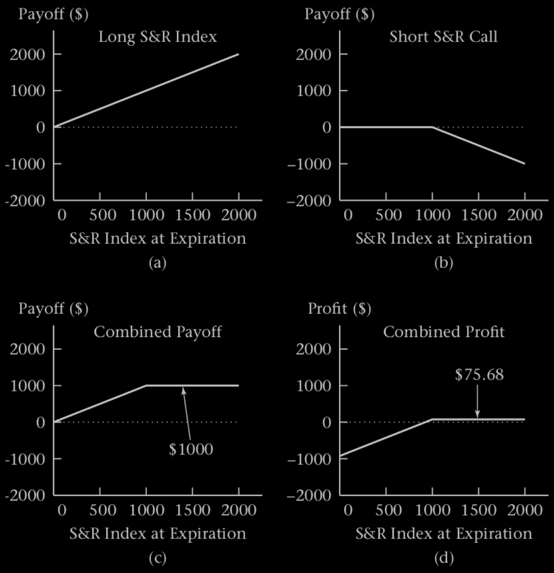
Example 3.1-3 Under the following scenario, compute the combined profit for writing a covered call for S&R index.

index price today	\$1,000
6-month interest rate	2%
premium for 1000-strike 6-month call	\$93.809
index price at expiration	\$1,100

Solution.

$$\underbrace{\$1,100 - \$1,000 \times 1.02}_{\text{profit on S\&R index}} + \underbrace{\$1,000 - \$1,100 + \$93.809 \times 1.02}_{\text{profit on written call}} = \$75.68.$$

□


Payoff ($)
Long S&R Index
2000
1000
0
-1000
-2000
0
500
1000
1500
2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(a)
Payoff ($)
Short S&R Call
2000
1000
0
−1000
−2000
0
500
1000
1500
2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(b)
Payoff ($)
Combined Payoff
2000
1000
0
-1000
-2000
$1000
0
500
1000
1500
2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(c)
Profit ($)
Combined Profit
2000
1000
0
−1000
−2000
$75.68
0
500
1000
1500
2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(d)

Covered put writing

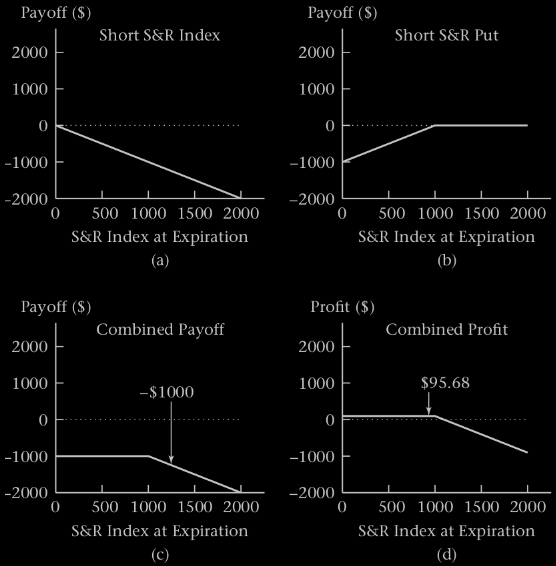
Example 3.1-4 Under the following scenario, compute the combined profit for writing a covered put for S&R index.

index price today	\$1,000
6-month interest rate	2%
premium for 1000-strike 6-month put	\$74.201
index price at expiration	\$900

Solution.

$$\underbrace{\$1,000 \times 1.02 - \$900}_{\text{profit on selling S\&R index}} + \underbrace{\$900 - \$1,000 + \$74.201 \times 1.02}_{\text{profit on written put}} = \$95.685.$$

□



Payoff ($)
Short S&R Index
2000
1000
0
−1000
−2000
0
500
1000
1500
2000
S&R Index at Expiration
(a)
Payoff ($)
Short S&R Put
S&R Index at Expiration
(b)
Payoff ($)
Combined Payoff
–$1000
S&R Index at Expiration
(c)
Profit ($)
Combined Profit
$95.68
S&R Index at Expiration
(d)

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