

Part II.

Question 1.

Presented in the figures below include the implied volatility plots for the given options written on Google stock. We note a decided ‘smile’ in shape of the implied volatilities as a function of strike price. That is, contrary to the modelling assumption of constant volatilities, we find variable values for the volatilities as computed by the binomial model.

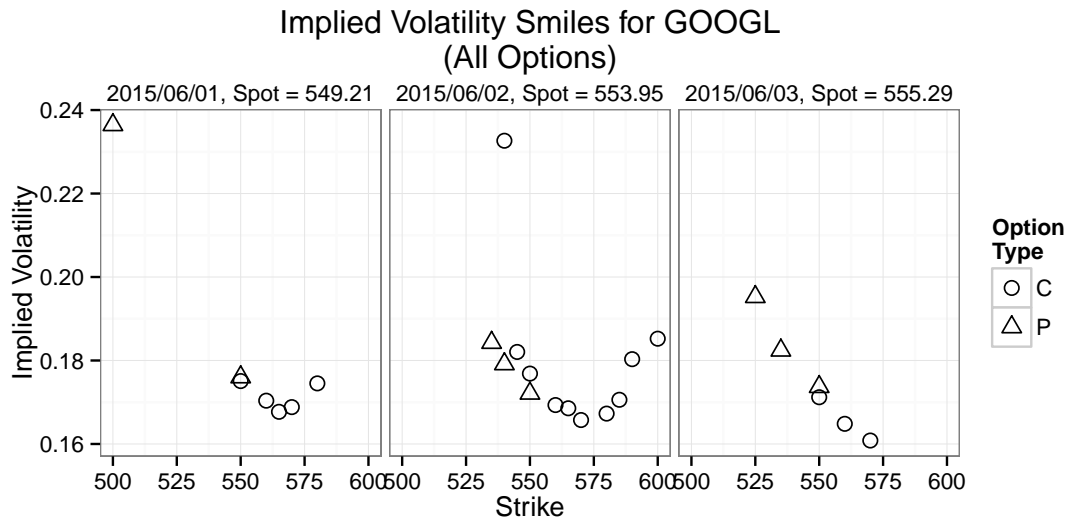


Figure 1: Volatility smile(s) for all options written on GOOGL.

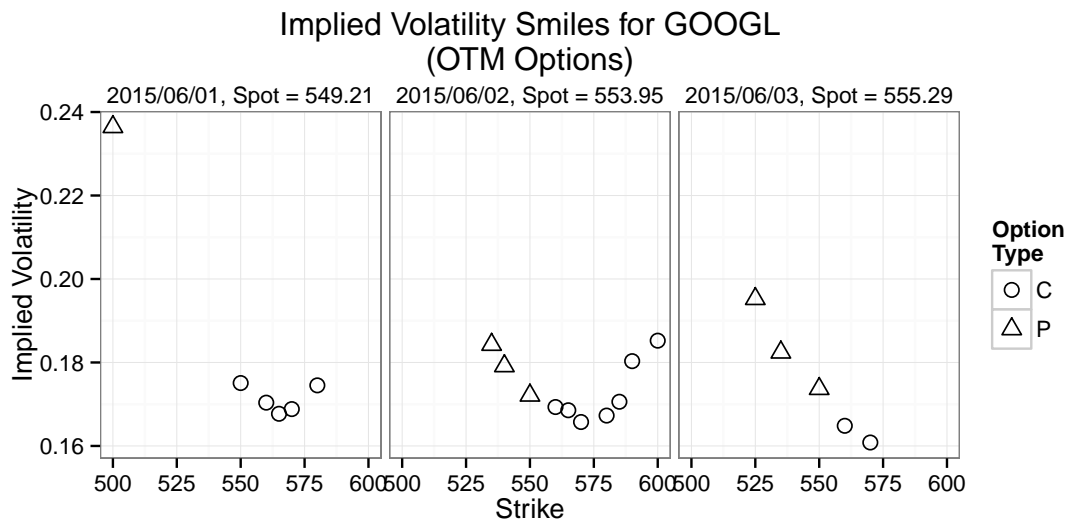


Figure 2: Volatility smile(s) for OTM options written on GOOGL.

If we were so daring as to examine the convergence of the binomial model we do indeed find a trend towards convergence relatively quickly. As illustrated by the figures below, given a four sampled options from the set of 26, by $N = 10^3$ we see little appreciable gain in volatility estimates.

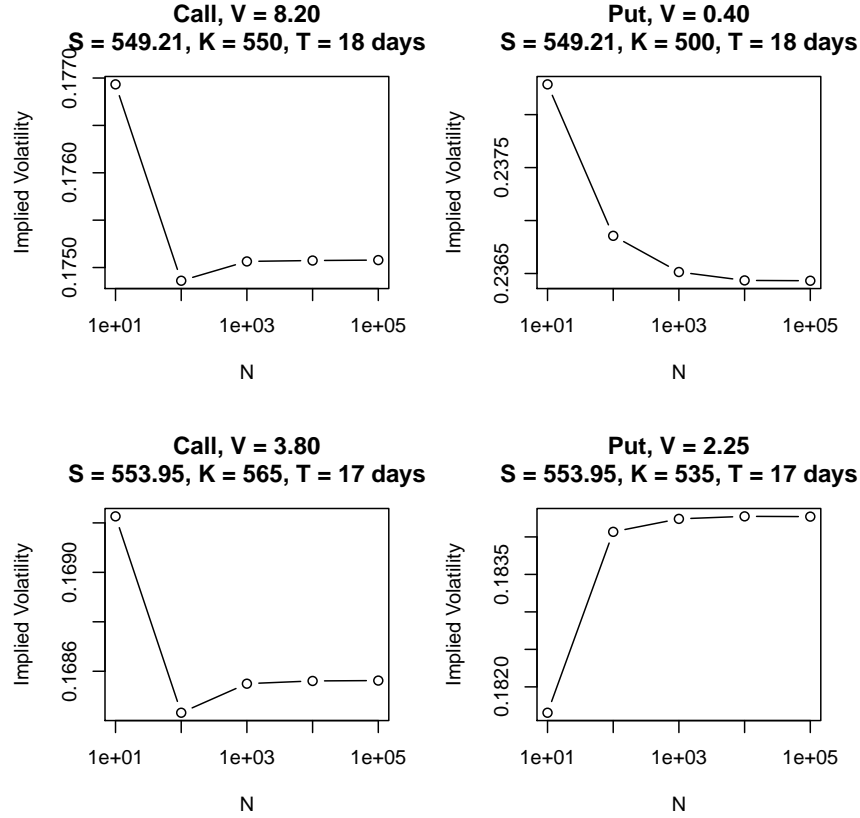


Figure 3: Implied volatility estimates given call option strike prices as a function of the N -steps of the binomial model. Qualitatively, convergence appears to occur relatively rapidly: By $N = 10^3$ little gains to volatility precision occurs.

However, examining the volatilities in question at such large intervals obfuscates some interesting behaviour of the binomial model. If we consider the model output while increasing the number of steps one at a time we find periodicity in our volatility estimates. For example, consider the figures below illustrating the first option in our list: A European call option with ask 8.20, spot price 549.21, strike price 550, with 18 days to expiry.

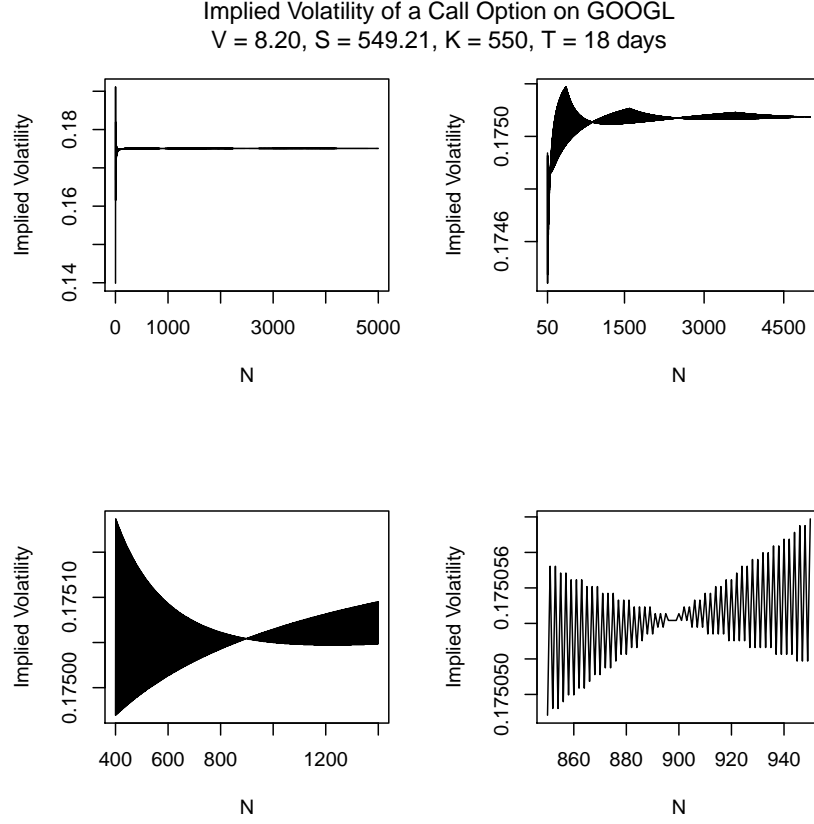


Figure 4: Periodic behaviour seen in the values of the implied volatility as computed for the first option in our data set by the bisection algorithm.

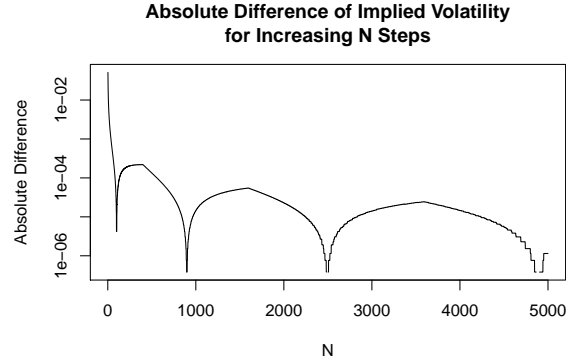


Figure 5: Increasing the value of N leads to periodic behaviour in the additional precision for estimates of implied volatility, with a decreasing trend. Stepwise behaviour for large N can be attributed to the cut-off of $|V_{obs} - V_{imp}| < 10^{-5}$ in the bisection and not the underlying model.

To be sure that such periodicity is not attributable to the bisection algorithm, or some source other than the binomial model, we should also examine the output of the pricing algorithm a single step at a time. As an example, we consider the first option in our list:

The same European call option with ask 8.20, spot price 549.21, strike price 550, with 18 days to expiry. To price an option we require a value for σ and so for the sake of illustration we also assume a “true” value for the volatility parameter σ to be 0.17507.

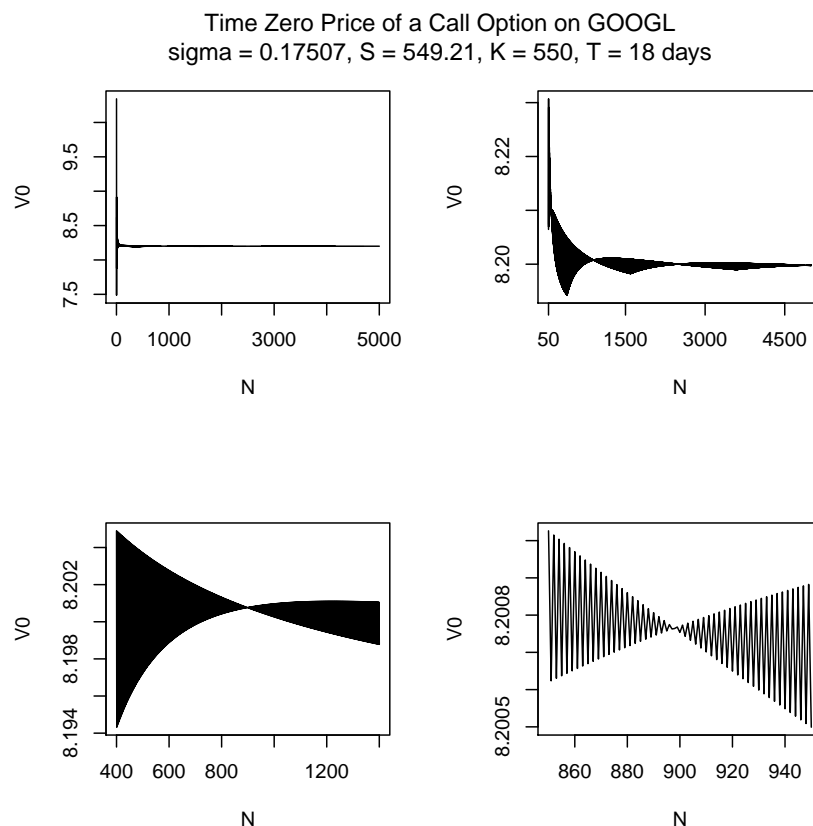


Figure 6: Periodic behaviour seen in the values of the prices as computed for the first option in our data set by the binomial model.

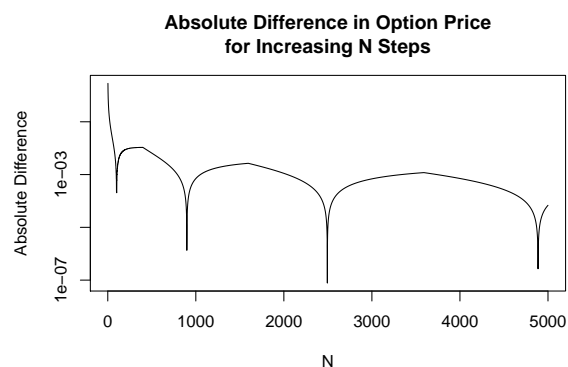


Figure 7: Increasing the value of N leads to periodic behaviour in the additional precision for the prices given by the binomial model, with a decreasing trend.

Appendix A Code Output: Data Table

N	spots	strike	tau	type	ask	vol	time
10	549.21	550	0.0493151	C	8.2	0.176933	3.9e-05
10	549.21	560	0.0493151	C	4.1	0.170029	3.7e-05
10	549.21	565	0.0493151	C	2.7	0.16742	4.7e-05
10	549.21	570	0.0493151	C	1.8	0.166173	3.4e-05
10	549.21	580	0.0493151	C	0.8	0.177043	3.5e-05
10	549.21	500	0.0493151	P	0.4	0.238286	3.5e-05
10	549.21	550	0.0493151	P	8.9	0.177883	4.3e-05
10	553.95	540	0.0465753	C	19.4	0.230424	3.6e-05
10	553.95	545	0.0465753	C	13.9	0.178366	3.2e-05
10	553.95	550	0.0465753	C	10.6	0.174327	3.4e-05
10	553.95	560	0.0465753	C	5.5	0.165306	3.3e-05
10	553.95	565	0.0465753	C	3.8	0.169226	3.8e-05
10	553.95	570	0.0465753	C	2.45	0.164458	3.7e-05
10	553.95	580	0.0465753	C	1	0.172824	3.7e-05
10	553.95	585	0.0465753	C	0.65	0.17106	3.2e-05
10	553.95	590	0.0465753	C	0.5	0.17981	3.6e-05
10	553.95	600	0.0465753	C	0.2	0.197235	3.1e-05
10	553.95	535	0.0465753	P	2.25	0.181655	4.4e-05
10	553.95	540	0.0465753	P	3.2	0.184056	3.4e-05
10	553.95	550	0.0465753	P	6.3	0.169496	3.8e-05
10	555.29	550	0.0438356	C	10.9	0.167392	3.2e-05
10	555.29	560	0.0438356	C	5.6	0.161185	3.2e-05
10	555.29	570	0.0438356	C	2.4	0.160159	3.6e-05
10	555.29	525	0.0438356	P	0.85	0.201013	2.9e-05
10	555.29	535	0.0438356	P	1.8	0.179182	3.5e-05
10	555.29	550	0.0438356	P	5.6	0.169864	3.4e-05
100	549.21	550	0.0493151	C	8.2	0.174861	0.000776
100	549.21	560	0.0493151	C	4.1	0.170056	0.000611
100	549.21	565	0.0493151	C	2.7	0.167812	0.000743
100	549.21	570	0.0493151	C	1.8	0.16941	0.000743
100	549.21	580	0.0493151	C	0.8	0.175021	0.000672
100	549.21	500	0.0493151	P	0.4	0.236856	0.000673
100	549.21	550	0.0493151	P	8.9	0.175797	0.000743
100	553.95	540	0.0465753	C	19.4	0.232136	0.000779
100	553.95	545	0.0465753	C	13.9	0.182533	0.000784
100	553.95	550	0.0465753	C	10.6	0.176918	0.000776
100	553.95	560	0.0465753	C	5.5	0.168933	0.000775
100	553.95	565	0.0465753	C	3.8	0.168432	0.000783
100	553.95	570	0.0465753	C	2.45	0.166134	0.000779
100	553.95	580	0.0465753	C	1	0.167133	0.000658
100	553.95	585	0.0465753	C	0.65	0.170506	0.000713
100	553.95	590	0.0465753	C	0.5	0.180766	0.000716
100	553.95	600	0.0465753	C	0.2	0.186349	0.000669
100	553.95	535	0.0465753	P	2.25	0.184068	0.000792

N	spots	strike	tau	type	ask	vol	time
100	553.95	540	0.0465753	P	3.2	0.179029	0.000764
100	553.95	550	0.0465753	P	6.3	0.172232	0.000791
100	555.29	550	0.0438356	C	10.9	0.170963	0.000748
100	555.29	560	0.0438356	C	5.6	0.1646	0.000774
100	555.29	570	0.0438356	C	2.4	0.161098	0.00074
100	555.29	525	0.0438356	P	0.85	0.195326	0.000718
100	555.29	535	0.0438356	P	1.8	0.182423	0.000703
100	555.29	550	0.0438356	P	5.6	0.173479	0.000707
1000	549.21	550	0.0493151	C	8.2	0.175064	0.050889
1000	549.21	560	0.0493151	C	4.1	0.170354	0.043909
1000	549.21	565	0.0493151	C	2.7	0.167709	0.043309
1000	549.21	570	0.0493151	C	1.8	0.168856	0.044952
1000	549.21	580	0.0493151	C	0.8	0.174512	0.03246
1000	549.21	500	0.0493151	P	0.4	0.236514	0.04254
1000	549.21	550	0.0493151	P	8.9	0.176002	0.047771
1000	553.95	540	0.0465753	C	19.4	0.232622	0.045503
1000	553.95	545	0.0465753	C	13.9	0.182027	0.044222
1000	553.95	550	0.0465753	C	10.6	0.176851	0.049084
1000	553.95	560	0.0465753	C	5.5	0.169344	0.047043
1000	553.95	565	0.0465753	C	3.8	0.16855	0.048993
1000	553.95	570	0.0465753	C	2.45	0.165744	0.042694
1000	553.95	580	0.0465753	C	1	0.167281	0.048292
1000	553.95	585	0.0465753	C	0.65	0.170593	0.037344
1000	553.95	590	0.0465753	C	0.5	0.180357	0.044509
1000	553.95	600	0.0465753	C	0.2	0.185284	0.041304
1000	553.95	535	0.0465753	P	2.25	0.184241	0.037318
1000	553.95	540	0.0465753	P	3.2	0.17914	0.043963
1000	553.95	550	0.0465753	P	6.3	0.172108	0.041886
1000	555.29	550	0.0438356	C	10.9	0.171241	0.047301
1000	555.29	560	0.0438356	C	5.6	0.164866	0.050523
1000	555.29	570	0.0438356	C	2.4	0.160804	0.046303
1000	555.29	525	0.0438356	P	0.85	0.195227	0.037083
1000	555.29	535	0.0438356	P	1.8	0.182427	0.047123
1000	555.29	550	0.0438356	P	5.6	0.173728	0.049172
10000	549.21	550	0.0493151	C	8.2	0.175074	4.71119
10000	549.21	560	0.0493151	C	4.1	0.170379	4.69071
10000	549.21	565	0.0493151	C	2.7	0.167714	4.89059
10000	549.21	570	0.0493151	C	1.8	0.168842	3.96676
10000	549.21	580	0.0493151	C	0.8	0.174532	4.45607
10000	549.21	500	0.0493151	P	0.4	0.236435	4.21464
10000	549.21	550	0.0493151	P	8.9	0.176011	4.88668
10000	553.95	540	0.0465753	C	19.4	0.232652	4.65932
10000	553.95	545	0.0465753	C	13.9	0.182063	4.41524
10000	553.95	550	0.0465753	C	10.6	0.176868	4.8393
10000	553.95	560	0.0465753	C	5.5	0.16933	4.01044
10000	553.95	565	0.0465753	C	3.8	0.168561	4.05048
10000	553.95	570	0.0465753	C	2.45	0.165742	4.47098

N	spots	strike	tau	type	ask	vol	time
10000	553.95	580	0.0465753	C	1	0.167287	4.70188
10000	553.95	585	0.0465753	C	0.65	0.170599	4.0263
10000	553.95	590	0.0465753	C	0.5	0.180325	4.20716
10000	553.95	600	0.0465753	C	0.2	0.185236	4.03739
10000	553.95	535	0.0465753	P	2.25	0.184274	4.27669
10000	553.95	540	0.0465753	P	3.2	0.179147	4.28248
10000	553.95	550	0.0465753	P	6.3	0.172112	4.72111
10000	555.29	550	0.0438356	C	10.9	0.171207	4.9435
10000	555.29	560	0.0438356	C	5.6	0.164836	4.92557
10000	555.29	570	0.0438356	C	2.4	0.160832	4.94991
10000	555.29	525	0.0438356	P	0.85	0.195248	4.25358
10000	555.29	535	0.0438356	P	1.8	0.182429	4.94104
10000	555.29	550	0.0438356	P	5.6	0.17369	4.6847
100000	549.21	550	0.0493151	C	8.2	0.175079	446.639
100000	549.21	560	0.0493151	C	4.1	0.170382	474.247
100000	549.21	565	0.0493151	C	2.7	0.167716	453.913
100000	549.21	570	0.0493151	C	1.8	0.16884	432.367
100000	549.21	580	0.0493151	C	0.8	0.174525	456.261
100000	549.21	500	0.0493151	P	0.4	0.236432	394.25
100000	549.21	550	0.0493151	P	8.9	0.176016	475.177
100000	553.95	540	0.0465753	C	19.4	0.232656	472.296
100000	553.95	545	0.0465753	C	13.9	0.182059	447.961
100000	553.95	550	0.0465753	C	10.6	0.17687	475.176
100000	553.95	560	0.0465753	C	5.5	0.169334	453.966
100000	553.95	565	0.0465753	C	3.8	0.168562	438.335
100000	553.95	570	0.0465753	C	2.45	0.165746	462.006
100000	553.95	580	0.0465753	C	1	0.167287	441.636
100000	553.95	585	0.0465753	C	0.65	0.170599	394.529
100000	553.95	590	0.0465753	C	0.5	0.180324	434.661
100000	553.95	600	0.0465753	C	0.2	0.185236	391.775
100000	553.95	535	0.0465753	P	2.25	0.184271	473.288
100000	553.95	540	0.0465753	P	3.2	0.17915	472.246
100000	553.95	550	0.0465753	P	6.3	0.172108	475.347
100000	555.29	550	0.0438356	C	10.9	0.171209	475.17
100000	555.29	560	0.0438356	C	5.6	0.164837	474.334
100000	555.29	570	0.0438356	C	2.4	0.160834	388.06
100000	555.29	525	0.0438356	P	0.85	0.195245	388.702
100000	555.29	535	0.0438356	P	1.8	0.182426	453.996
100000	555.29	550	0.0438356	P	5.6	0.173694	366.163

Appendix B Code

B.1 main.cpp

```
#include <iostream>
#include <iomanip> // more decimal precision
#include <fstream> // file stream
#include <sstream> // string stream
#include <cmath>
#include <ctime> // calculate time between dates
#include <time.h> // time code
#include <vector>

using namespace std;

const double p = 0.5; // global variable
const double q = 1 - p; // global variable

vector<string> splitstr(string str, char c) { // split string into vector by commas
    vector<string> out;
    stringstream ss(str);

    while (ss.good()) {
        string substr;
        getline(ss, substr, c);
        out.push_back(substr);
    }
    return out;
}

tm make_tm(string date) { // converts string to date/time struct tm
    // assumes YYYYMMDD date format
    int year, month, day;
    year = stoi( date.substr(0, 4) );
    month = stoi( date.substr(4, 2) );
    day = stoi( date.substr(6, 2) );
    tm tm = {0};
    tm.tm_year = year - 1900; // years count from 1900
    tm.tm_mon = month - 1; // months count from Jan = 0
    tm.tm_mday = day; // days count from 1
    return tm;
}

double u_fxn(double R, double sigma, double dt) { // up factor function
    return exp(sigma * sqrt(dt) + (R - 0.5 * pow(sigma, 2)) * dt);
}

double d_fxn(double R, double sigma, double dt) { // down factor function
    return exp(-sigma * sqrt(dt) + (R - 0.5 * pow(sigma, 2)) * dt);
}

double price_asset(double S0, int n, int h, double u, double d) { // asset price function
    return S0 * pow(u, h) * pow(d, n - h); // we should probably check if 0 <= h <= n...
}

double payoff(double S, double K, char type) {
    if (type == 'c') // payoff if call option
```



```

    return fmax(S - K, 0);
else if (type == 'p') // payoff if put option
    return fmax(K - S, 0);
else
    return -1; // do something obviously wrong if input is invalid
}

double price_option_r(int n, int h, int N, double S0, double K,
    double R, double sigma, double dt, char type) { // naive recursive implementation

    if (n == N) { // terminal node is simply the payoff
        double u = u_fxn(R, sigma, dt);
        double d = d_fxn(R, sigma, dt);
        double S = price_asset(S0, n, h, u, d);
        return payoff(S, K, type);
    }
    else { // if we're not at the terminal node, use the recursive algorithm
        return pow(1 + R, -dt) * ( p * price_option_r(n + 1, h + 1, N, S0, K, R, sigma, dt,
            type)
            + q * price_option_r(n + 1, h, N, S0, K, R, sigma, dt, type) );
    }
}

double price_option_i(int N, double S0, double K,
    double R, double sigma, double dt, char type) { // iterative implementation
    // assumes you want the time-zero price of the option
    double prices[N + 1], S;
    double u = u_fxn(R, sigma, dt);
    double d = d_fxn(R, sigma, dt);

    // first loop over all the terminal nodes for all possible H and T combinations
    // to compute V_N = payoff
    for (int i = 0; i < N + 1; i++) { // traverse upwards through the nodes
        S = price_asset(S0, N, i, u, d);
        prices[i] = payoff(S, K, type);
    }

    // use the recursive algorithm to price nodes prior to the terminal nodes
    for (int i = N - 1; i >= 0; i--) // traverse backwards through the tree
        for (int j = 0; j < i + 1; j++) // traverse upwards through the nodes
            prices[j] = p * prices[j + 1] + q * prices[j];
    return pow(1 + R, -dt * N) * prices[0];
}

double implied_vol(double V_obs, double S0, double K,
    int N, double R, double dt, char type, double eps = pow(10, -5)) { // bisection
    // bisection algorithm to solve for an implied volatility estimate
    const double ESCAPE_MIN = pow(10, -5); // value to quit if we go too low
    const double ESCAPE_MAX = 10; // value to quit if we go too high

    double V_test_lo, V_test_hi, V_test, sig_test;
    double sig_lo = 0.10;
    double sig_hi = 0.50;

    do {
        V_test_lo = price_option_i(N, S0, K, R, sig_lo, dt, type);
        V_test_hi = price_option_i(N, S0, K, R, sig_hi, dt, type);
    }

```

```

    if ( fabs(V_test_lo - V_obs) < eps) // first guess for sig_lo was correct
        return sig_lo;
    else if ( fabs(V_test_hi - V_obs) < eps ) // first guess for sig_hi was correct
        return sig_hi;
    else if ( V_test_lo > V_obs ) { // sig_lo was originally set too high
        sig_hi = sig_lo;
        sig_lo = sig_lo/10;
    } else if ( V_test_hi < V_obs ) { // sig_hi was originally set too low
        sig_lo = sig_hi;
        sig_hi = 2 * sig_hi;
    } else { // sig_obs is somewhere in between sig_lo and sig_hi
        do {
            sig_test = (sig_lo + sig_hi)/2; // bisection!
            V_test = price_option_i(N, S0, K, R, sig_test, dt, type);

            if ( V_test > V_obs ) // price too high: contract right endpoint
                sig_hi = sig_test;
            else // price too low: contract left endpoint
                sig_lo = sig_test;
        } while ( fabs(V_test - V_obs) > eps );
        return sig_test;
    }
} while ( (sig_lo > ESCAPE_MIN) & (sig_hi < ESCAPE_MAX) );
return -1; // do something obviously wrong is we reach the escape values
}

int main() {
    string filepath = "google-opt2_old.csv";
    double S0[] = {549.21, 553.95, 555.29};
    int N[] = {pow(10,1),pow(10,2),pow(10,3),pow(10,4),pow(10,5)};
    double R = 0.005;
    double vol, dt; char type;
    vector<double> taus, strikes, asks, spots;
    vector<string> types;

    // READ DATA
    /*
    Our approach will be to loop over each line in the CSV and save each column
    to its own vector. Later we will loop over each vector value to compute
    the relevant implied vols.
    */
    ifstream data (filepath);
    string line; // each row of the csv prior to processing
    vector<string> row; // we will separate the csv rows into their entries
    struct tm tm1, tm2; // to store the issue date & expiry

    getline(data, line); // read header
    while (getline(data, line)) { // loop over each line in the CSV
        row = splitstr(line, ','); // split line on comma

        // get start & expiry dates for years to expiry
        tm1 = make_tm( row.at(0) );
        tm2 = make_tm( row.at(1) );
    }
}

```

```

taus.push_back( difftime(mktime(&tm2), mktime(&tm1))/(60 * 60 * 24 * 365) );
types.push_back( row.at(2) ); // "C" call or "P" put
strikes.push_back( stod(row.at(3)) );
asks.push_back( stod(row.at(4)) );

if (tm1.tm_mday == 1) { // select appropriate closing price
    spots.push_back( S0[0] );
} else if (tm1.tm_mday == 2) {
    spots.push_back( S0[1] );
} else if (tm1.tm_mday == 3) {
    spots.push_back( S0[2] );
}
}
data.close(); // close input csv

// WRITE DATA
ofstream outfile;
outfile.open("implied_vols_googl_rounded.csv"); // initialized csv
outfile << "N,spots,strike,tau,type,ask,vol,time" << endl; // header

for (int j = 0; j < (sizeof(N)/sizeof(N[0])); j++) { // loop over all values of N
    clock_t t1, t2; // time code

    // COMPUTE IMPLIED VOLS
    for (int i = 0; i < taus.size(); i++) { // loop over every option in the data set
        dt = taus.at(i) / N[j];

        // check if call or put option
        if ( types.at(i) == "C" ) {
            type = 'c';
        } else if ( types.at(i) == "P" ){
            type = 'p';
        } else { // do something obviously wrong if input is unexpected
            type = 'z';
        }

        t1 = clock(); // start timer
        // compute implied vol here
        vol = implied_vol(asks.at(i), spots.at(i), strikes.at(i), N[j], R, dt, type);
        t2 = clock(); // end timer
        float diff = ((float)t2 - (float)t1); // compute time

        // print to CSV
        outfile << N[j] << "," << spots.at(i) << "," << strikes.at(i)
        << "," << taus.at(i) << "," << types.at(i) << "," << asks.at(i)
        << "," << vol << "," << diff/CLOCKS_PER_SEC << endl;

        // print to console
        cout << i << "\t" << "N: 10^" << log10(N[j]) << "\t vol: " << vol
        << "\t time: " << diff/CLOCKS_PER_SEC << endl;
    }
    cout << "-----" << endl;
}

```

```
    outfile.close();  
}
```
