APS 1022 – Week 1 Project

Option valuation project

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Part 1. Introduction of Option Pricing

Option is a financial derivative that gives the right but not obligation to the option owner to buy or sell an underlying asset under specified terms. An underlying asset for this project is a stock. There are two basic types of options called call option and put option. A call option allows the option owner the right to purchase a stock at the exercise price (K) and by a certain date (Maturity). On the other hand, a put option owner can sell a stock at the exercise price and by a certain date. In order to prevent arbitrage, options will have a premium and is often called option price. Depending on the type of the options (e.g. American, European, Asian, etc.), the exercise time will vary and that will affect the price of the options.

Pricing a derivative such as option is challenging because the value of the option depends on the current stock price, changing price of the underlying asset, strike price, time to expiration, volatility, interest rate and option type. In this project, there would be two approaches in pricing options which are Monte Carlo Simulation and Lattice.

Part 2a. Monte Carlo Simulation

Monte Carlo Option Pricing simulates as many different pricing paths (following normal probability) as the user wants in order to estimate price of the stock in future times.

Table 1: Table of Known Variables

Known Variables						
Initial Price (S)	\$100					
Maturity Time (T)	(2/12) years					
Strike Price (K)	\$105					
Risk-free rate (r)	2%					
Volatility (sigma)	25%					
Number of Simulation	10,000 paths					
(n_simulation)						
Number of Steps	8 steps(weeks)					
(n_step)						

The general equation to simulate a path of an asset price is:

$$S_{tj} = S_{tj-1} e^{\left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)dt + \sigma\sqrt{dt} Z_j}$$

$$Z_j \sim N(0,1)$$

$$j = 1, 2, 3, ..., 8$$

where S_{t_j} denotes stock price at time t_j , dt denotes time step between each time point, Z_j denotes normally distributed random generated variable, r denotes risk free rate of market, σ denotes volatility of underlying stock.

The $\left(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)dt$ part is also referred as drift, and the $\sigma\sqrt{dt}$ is referred as alpha.

Table 2: Variables for Path Simulation

Variables for Path Simulation					
$dt = \frac{T}{T}$	1/48				
$at = \frac{at - n_{step}}{n_{step}}$					
$(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})dt$	-0.000234375				
(drift)					
$(\sigma\sqrt{dt})$	0.036084				
(α)					

Once all the variables are ready, stock prices (figure 2) can be simulated using Python and stored into 2-D Numpy arrays. Simulated price and path scenarios are visualized below.

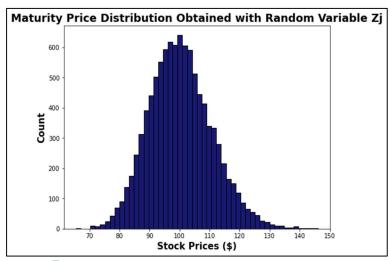


Figure 1: Z_i Random Samples from a Normal Distribution

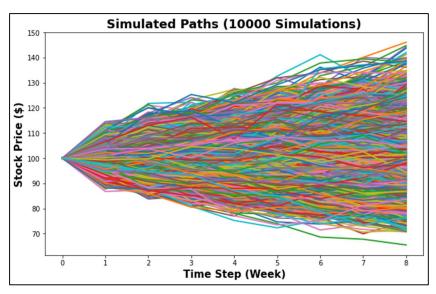


Figure 2: Simulated Stock Price Paths

With the simulated stock prices, different options could be priced according to these scenarios. There are six different types of Asian options that were priced using Monte Carlo simulation (table 3). \bar{S} , S_{max} , S_{min} respectively denote the average, maximum, and minimum values of a particular stock price path over the set of times. By using the equation from table 3, these six option types can be priced accordingly. In Appendix, cell 7 represents the payoff calculation using the equation from table 3. Cell 8 represents the calculation of discounted price of each payoff, assuming discontinuously compounding. Cell 9 represents sample mean calculation of each option type and that will become option price of each option type. Cell 10 represents sample variance calculation, and they will be used to calculate confidence interval of each option price.

Table 3: Payoffs from Path-dependent Options

Option Type	Payoff
Asian Call	$(\bar{S}-K)^+$
Asian Put	$(K-\bar{S})^+$
Lookback Call	$(S_{max} - K)^+$
Lookback Put	$(K - S_{max})^+$
Floating Lookback Call	$(S_T - S_{min})^+$
Floating Lookback Put	$(S_{max} - S_T)^+$

Part 2b. Pricing American Put Option Using Monte Carlo Simulation

American put option pricing is trickier than the previous option types because it can be exercised at any time before the maturity date. The simulated stock price from previous part was adopted for pricing American put option. The binominal tree model (from Pricing American Options Using Monte Carlo Simulations by Nairn Mcwilliams) was used to calculate option price. For each simulated scenario, this method uses Black-Scholes model to calculate option price at time t, then compares the calculated price with payoff from early exercise at time t. If payoff from early exercise is greater, time t would be set at the optimal stopping time. However, if an optimal stopping time was not found for a path, set maturity time T and optimal stopping time. Once optimal stopping time for each path was found, the average option payoff could be calculated to estimated certain American put option.

The Black-Scholes formula used here for is:

$$\mathbb{E}[S_T \mid S_t] = \begin{cases} S_t N(d_1) - Ke^{-r(T-t)} N(d_2) & \text{for a call option} \\ Ke^{-r(T-t)} N(-d_2) - S_t N(-d_1) & \text{for a put option} \end{cases}$$

where

$$d_1 = \frac{\log(\frac{S_t}{K}) + (r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2})(T - t)}{\sigma\sqrt{T - t}} \qquad d_2 = d_1 - \sigma\sqrt{T - t}$$

By following the binominal tree model method, the sample mean of the put option price, variance and 95% confidence intervals obtained will be shown under part 3.

Part 2c. Lattice Approach

Lattice approach in pricing is another method to determine the price of the option. Lattice approach is widely used because of its simplicity, easiness, and visibility in terms of calculation. At every stage, a stock price can go up and go down and movement is calculated by multiplying the current stock price with either up (u) or down (d) multiplier. By having up and down movement on each stage, there will be $2^8=256$ different paths since there are 8 periods (figure 3). To create lattice binomial stock price tree, np.zeros and np.array and the outcome can be depicted on cell output 20 in Appendix. Moreover, binomial trees need to be expanded in order to calculate \bar{S} , S_{max} , $andS_{min}$ per path (cell input and output 14 in Appendix). Payoff at final stages per path can be calculated using equation from table 3. That payoff calculation can

also be seen on cell 16 in Appendix. Once they are established, payoff per price and stage can be calculated backwards (dynamic programming) using the algorithm of cell 17 in Appendix. The equation is:

$$C = (C_u * q + C_d * (1 - q)) * e^{-r\Delta t}$$

Where C_u is the up-payoff after one time step, C_d is the down-payoff after one time step, \boldsymbol{q} is the risk neutral probability. The calculated price is then discounted to present value, assuming continuously compounding.

By doing this calculation from last stage all the way to the initial stage will generate price for given options. Parameters used for the lattice approach and the structured lattice path are shown in Table 4 and Figure 3 below.

Table 4: Variables for Lattice

Variables for Latt	ice
$u = e^{\sigma \sqrt{dt}}$	1.03674
up multiplier (u)	
$d = \frac{1}{2}$	0.96456
$d=\frac{1}{u}$	
down multiplier (d)	
$R = 1 + r \frac{2}{12}$	1.000417
8	
(R)	
R-d	0.496752
$q = \frac{u}{u - d}$	
Risk neutral probability (q)	

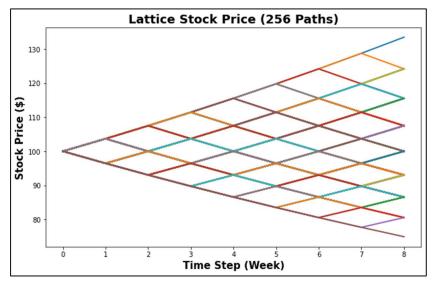


Figure 3: 8-period Binomial Lattice of Stock Price

Part 2d. Pricing American Put Option Using Lattice Approach

Pricing American put option using lattice follows the same principle as part 2c which the payoff is calculated from the last stage to the beginning of the stage (dynamic programming). Using the non-expanded binomial tree that looks like cell output cell 20 in Appendix, the first thing to do is to calculate the payoff at the final stage:

$$payoff_{S_{\Omega}} = \max(K - S_8, 0)$$

Next, is to calculate the payoff per stage and per stock price using equation:

$$payoff_{stock\ pric\ k,stage_i} =$$

$$\left[payoff_{stock\;pric\;_{k}, stage_{i+1}} * q + payoff_{stock\;price_{k+1}, stag\;_{i+1}} * (1-q)\right] * e^{r*dt}$$

After that, there is a condition that need to be met because American option put can be exercised at any time. If the first condition is met, then follow the description of the condition. If not, check the next condition until the condition is met. Once one condition is met starting from the first condition, then stop checking next condition.

- **First Condition**: If the payoff is greater than or equal to zero, and if the strike price is greater than the current stock price, and the current stock price is not zero, then the payoff for that particular price and stage is $\max(payoff_{stock\ price_k, stage_i}, K stockprice_k, stage_i)$.
- **Second Condition:** If the payoff is greater than or equal to zero, and if the strike price is less than the current stock price, and the current stock price is not zero, then the payoff for that stock price and stage remains the same.
- **Third Condition:** if none of the above is met, then the payoff for that stock price and stage is zero.

 $(K-stockprice_k, stage_i)$ on the first condition denotes value of early exercise. In order to follow no arbitrage profit, the payoff that is the higher over the other will be the chosen payoff. If that is not followed, the arbitrage profit will be (higher payoff – lower payoff). All the algorithms above are explained on cell 21 in Appendix.

Part 3. Results and Discussion

Option prices calculated based on Monte Carlo simulation and Lattice approach were shown below.

Table 5: Option Pricing Results

Option Type	Lattice Approach Option Price (\$)	Monte Carlo Approach Option Price (\$)	Variance from Monte Carlo	95% Confidence Interval (Lower Bound & Upper Bound)
Asian Call	0.692490	0.712330	3.876655	0.673739 & 0.750921
Asian Put	5.509542	5.538709	21.638668	5.447535 & 5.629883
Lookback Call	3.574964	3.393235	29.841675	3.286165 & 3.500305
Lookback Put	11.248501	11.035587	31.800712	10.92506 & 11.14612
Floating Lookback Call	6.597918	6.361973	44.118722	6.231786 & 6.492160
Floating Lookback Put	6.547841	6.296680	33.406887	6.183395 & 6.409965
American Put	7.032166	6.963289	35.595983	6.84635 & 7.080227

Using Monte Carlo simulation with 10,000 simulations, the option prices obtained were relatively close to the results from the lattice approach. However, number of computations by the lattice approach is only dependent on size of time steps, while number of computations by Monte Carlo simulation is dependent on both number of time steps and number of simulations. This may imply that lattice approach generally requires less computations than Monte Carlo simulation in order to estimate option prices with similar level of accuracy. On the other hand, using Monte Carlo simulation could generate variances and confidence intervals of the sample prices.

The challenges to price these methods are they require good estimation of parameters such as stock volatility and risk-free rate. One of the limitations is that calculation may require high computational power as time step gets very small as well as number of simulations gets very large.

Appendix: Python code

	 Asian Call Asian Put	I		ig options usin		Simulation wit	th the sample s	ize 250 or
In [1]:	• Floating L	Put Lookback Ca Lookback Pu Ariables initial p	ut					
In [2]:	n_step = 8	# risk-free .25 # vola .25 # vola .25 # unit to .25 # unit	ee rate atility 00 # minim time is pe		ize of 250 there are 8	weeks per 2	months	
Out[2]:	z = np.ran z # x axis	ndom.norma s is numbe 10000 sin	al(0,1,(n_er of step	stent random simulation, os, y axis i 8 diff new	n_step)) s number of .	simulations		
In [3]:	simul_stoo simul_stoo for i in r simul_st	ck[:,0] = cange(1,n_ cock[:,i]	S # curre step+1): = simul_s	ent price in	step+1)) # the beginning * np.exp(dri	ng of every	simulation	
Out[4]:	simul_stoc (10000, 9) array([100. 93.	. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	rinting ex , 100.3279 , 98.5325		path 4529095, 93 4954554, 98			
In [5]:	plt.figure plt.title(plt.ylabel plt.xlabel plt.hist(s plt.show()	e(figsize= ('Maturity ('Count', L('Stock F simul_stoc	=(8, 6)) y Price Di fontsize Prices (\$) ck[:,8],bi	stribution = 15, fontw ',fontsize ns=50, colo	Obtained with eight = 'bold = 15, fontwerr = 'midnight tained with	d') ight = 'bol tblue', edg	d') ecolor = 'bl	ack')
	500 400 300 200) -) -) -						
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	<pre>plt.ylabel plt.xlabel</pre>	L('Stock F L('Time St (simul_sto	Price (\$)' cep (Week) ock[i,:],	<pre>,fontsize = ',fontsize linewidth=2</pre>	15, fontweid = 15, fontweid) for i in ra	ght = 'bold ight = 'bol ange(n_simu	') d') lation)]	
	130 - 120 - 110 - 100 -							
	80 - 70 - 0	i	2	Time S	tep (Week)	6	7 8	
In [7]:	<pre># calculat # taking t payoff_asi payoff_asi payoff_loc payoff_loc</pre>	te option the max of ian_call = ian_put = okback_cal okback_put	<pre>f payoff. e np.maximu np.maximu 11 = np.ma t = np.max</pre>	um(simul_st m(K - simul .ximum(simul .imum(K - si	ative, it wood ock.mean(axis_stock.mean(axis_stock.max(aximul_stock.min_stock.min_stock[::	s=1) - K, 0 axis=1), 0) xis=1) - K, n(axis=1),) # (mean of # (K - mean 0) # (max o 0) # (K - mi	stock - K) of stock) f stock - K, n of stock)
In [8]:	payoff_fl_ Discount payo PV_payoff_ PV_payoff_ PV_payoff_	_lookback_ offs to prese _asian_cal _asian_put _lookback_	ent value ll = payoff call = pa	maximum(sim f_asian_cal _asian_put yoff_lookba	l * np.exp(-r*' ck_call * np.exp(-r*'	(axis=1) - r*T) T) .exp(-r*T)		
In [9]:	PV_payoff_ PV_payoff_ Sample Mean samplemean	_fl_lookba _fl_lookba n_payoff_a n_payoff_a	ack_call = ack_put = asian_call asian_put	<pre>payoff_fl_ payoff_fl_l = np.mean(= np.mean(P</pre>	k_put * np.e: lookback_cal: ookback_put PV_payoff_as: V_payoff_asia	<pre>l * np.exp(* np.exp(-r ian_call) an_put)</pre>	*T)	
In [10]:	samplemean samplemean samplemean samplemean samplemean samplevar_	n_payoff_l n_payoff_f n_payoff_f n_payoff_f	lookback_p fl_lookbac fl_lookbac	<pre>cut = np.mea ck_call = np ck_put = np. = np.sum(np</pre>	an (PV_payoff_ n (PV_payoff_] .mean (PV_payomean (PV_payomean) .square (PV_payomean)	lookback_pu off_fl_look ff_fl_lookb	t) back_call) ack_put) _call-np.mea	
In [11]:	samplevar_samplevar_samplevar_	_payoff_lc _payoff_lc _payoff_fl _payoff_fl	- ookback_ca ookback_pu L_lookback L_lookback	<pre>11 = np.sum(t = np.sum(call = np. call = np.s</pre>	(np.square(Pinp.square(PV)sum(np.squareum(np.square	 V_payoff_lo _payoff_loo e(PV_payoff_ (PV_payoff_	okback_call- kback_put-np _fl_lookback fl_lookback_	np.mean(PV_r .mean(PV_pay _call-np.mean put-np.mean
111 [11].	monte_1 = table_1_a table_1_a[<pre>{'Options 'sample = pd.Data ['95% conf</pre>	variance' samp aFrame(dat	'price (sa : [sampleva levar_payof a = monte_1 terval lowe	r_payoff_asia f_fl_lookbac	[samplemea payoff_fl_l an_call, sam k_call, sam table_1_a['	n_payoff_asi ookback_call mplevar_payo plevar_payof price (sampl	an_call, sar, samplemear ff_asian_putf_fl_lookbace e mean)'] -
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	PV_payoff_ for i in r PV_payof #average c average_st #variance variance_a	_america_prange(0,n_ Ef_america optimal state copping_ti	out = np.z _simulatio a_put[i] = topping ti tme_americ	eros(n_simu n): np.maximum me an_put = np	<pre>m exercise a lation) (K - simul_s: .mean(tao*dt) average_stop)</pre>	tock[i,tao[
	#sample var sample_var #95% confi lower_boun upper_boun <ipython-ir e_scalars</ipython-ir 	an_america ariance riance_ame idence int nd_america nd_america	erican_put terval an_put = s an_put = s edec7e5d6e	ample_mean_ample_mean_e3>:7: Runti	ayoff_america PV_payoff_ame american_put american_put meWarning: d	- erica_put-s - 1.96*np. + 1.96*np. ivide by ze	sqrt(sample_sqrt(sample_	variance_ame variance_ame red in doubl
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