PRICING ARITHMETIC ASIAN OPTIONS UNDER THE BACHELIER MODEL

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ABSTRACT. In this set of notes we derive the time-zero prices of various chooser options under the continuous Bachelier model. These are contracts with a fixed maturity date T and a chooser date τ satisfying $0 \le \tau \le T$, for which an agent is allowed to choose at time τ the underlying security that determines the structure of the payoff at time T.

This paper is still in progress, the following are yet to be added:

- Go through all the fixme's and edit appropriately
- Add github link to appendix explain the code
- \bullet Greeks + calculations

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1. Introduction

In April 2020, the price of oil futures went negative. The often used Black-Scholes model, however, is unable to model assets with negative prices, due to its assumption that asset price follows a log-normal distribution. This reignited interest for the scarcely-used Bachelier model, a similar mathematical model where asset prices follow a

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normal distribution, with the advantage of being able to handle negative prices (which was considered a limitation at its inception).

2. The Bachelier Model

In this paper we work within the context of the Bachelier model, where the stock prices $\{S_t\}_{t\geqslant 0}$ evolves according to

$$S_t = e^{rt} \left(S_0 + \kappa^{-rt} W_t + \kappa r \int_0^t e^{-rs} W_s \, ds \right), \tag{2.1}$$

where $S_0 > 0$ denotes the initial stock price at time 0, $\{W_t\}_{t \ge 0}$ is a Brownian motion under the risk neutral measure $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$, r is the interest rate, and κ is a measure of volatility. We note to the reader that in the special case when r = 0, (2.1) reduces to

$$S_t = S_0 + \kappa W_t. \tag{2.2}$$

2.1. European Call when r = 0. We first consider a European call where the payoff at time T is given by

$$C_T^E = (S_T - K)^+ (2.3)$$

for a fixed strike price K. We note that under $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$, $W_T \sim N(0,T)$, therefore

$$S_T \sim N(S_0, \kappa^2 T)$$
 under the risk neutral measure $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$. (2.4)

According to the risk neutral pricing formula, the time-0 price of this security is given by

$$C_0^E = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(S_T - K)^+]. \tag{2.5}$$

Recall that if we have a random variable X with probability density function f_X under a probability measure \mathbb{P} , then the "law of the unconscious statistician" tells us that

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_X(x) \, dx. \tag{2.6}$$

In our setting, we have

$$g(S_T) = (S_T - K)^+,$$
 (2.7)

and the distribution of S_T under $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ as a random variable is given in (2.4). Therefore, the time-zero price V_0 is given by

$$C_0^E = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(S_T - K)^+] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[g(S_T)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - K)^+ \psi(x) \, dx, \tag{2.8}$$

where

$$\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\nu} \varphi\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\nu}\right), \ \varphi(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-y^2/2},$$
 (2.9)

and

$$\mu = S_0, \ \nu = \kappa \sqrt{T}. \tag{2.10}$$

To compute (2.8), we first note that since $(x-K)^+=0$ for $x\leqslant K$, the domain of integration is the set $\{x\mid x\geqslant K\}$. Now we use the change of variables

$$y = -\frac{x - \mu}{\nu} \Longleftrightarrow x = \mu - \nu y, \tag{2.11}$$

and we note that since $\nu > 0$,

$$x \geqslant K \Longleftrightarrow \frac{x - \mu}{\nu} \geqslant \frac{K - \mu}{\nu} \Longleftrightarrow y \leqslant \frac{\mu - K}{\nu} =: d_{-}.$$
 (2.12)

Then by performing a change of variables, (2.8) becomes

$$C_0^E = \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} (\nu y + K - \mu) \varphi(-y) \ dy = \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} (\nu y + K - \mu) \varphi(y) \ dy = \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{d_-} \nu y \varphi(y) \ dy}_{:-I} + \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{d_-} (K - \mu) \varphi(y) \ dy}_{:-IJ}. \tag{2.13}$$

We define the cumulative distribution function of a standard normal random variable X under $\mathbb P$ via

$$\varphi(x) = \mathbb{P}[X \leqslant x] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_{X \leqslant x}] = \int_{-\infty}^{x} \varphi(y) \, dy. \tag{2.14}$$

With this notation in hand, we can write

$$II = (K - \mu) \int_{-\infty}^{d_{-}} \varphi(y) \, dy = (K - \mu)\varphi(d_{-}), \tag{2.15}$$

and

$$I = \nu \int_{-\infty}^{d_{-}} y \varphi(y) \, dy = \frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \lim_{t \to -\infty} \left(e^{-t^{2}/2} - e^{-d_{-}^{2}/2} \right) = -\frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-d_{-}^{2}/2}. \tag{2.16}$$

Therefore

$$C_0^E = -\frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-d_-^2/2} + (K - \mu)\varphi(d_-). \tag{2.17}$$

where

$$\mu = S_0, \ \nu = \kappa \sqrt{T}, \ d_- = \frac{\mu - K}{\nu}.$$
 (2.18)

2.2. European Put when r = 0. To compute the price of a put, one can use put-call parity (C.3). By substitution,

$$P_0^E = K - S_0 + (K - \mu)\varphi(d_-) - \frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-d_-^2/2}.$$
(2.19)

2.3. Arithmetic Asian Call. Next we consider an arithmetic Asian call where the payoff at time T is given by

$$C_T^A = (A_T - K)^T, \ A_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T S_t \ dt = S_0 + \frac{\kappa}{T} \int_0^T W_t \ dt.$$
 (2.20)

As shown in (D), under the risk neutral measure $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$,

$$\int_0^T W_t \, dt \sim N(0, T^3/3). \tag{2.21}$$

Therefore we have

$$A_T \sim N(S_0, \kappa^2 T/3)$$
 under the risk neutral measure $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$. (2.22)

Comparing this to (2.4), we see that A_T has a similar distribution, the only difference is that the variance of A_T is smaller by a factor of 1/3, so the standard deviation of A_T is smaller by a factor of 1/ $\sqrt{3}$. By performing the exact same set of calculation as before, the time-0 price of an Asian option is

$$C_0^A = -\frac{\nu}{\sqrt{6\pi}} e^{-3d_-^2/2} + (K - \mu)\varphi(\sqrt{3}d_-), \tag{2.23}$$

where

$$\mu = S_0, \ \nu = \kappa \sqrt{T}, \ d_- = \frac{\mu - K}{\nu}.$$
 (2.24)

We note that since $\sqrt{3} > 1$, we see from (2.23) that the price of an Asian call is higher than the price of a European call. This should be expected as the taker is paying a premium for a less volatile product.

2.4. **Arithmetic Asian Put.** To compute the price of a put, one can use the Asian option put-call parity shown (C.8). By substitution,

$$P_0^A = Ke^{-rT} + (K - \mu)\varphi(\sqrt{3}d_-) - \frac{\nu}{\sqrt{6\pi}}e^{-3d_-^2/2} - w_0.$$
 (2.25)

Recall that w_0 is the price of an option at time 0 which pays A_T at time T.

3. Chooser Pricing under the Bachelier Model

In this section we derive the arbitrage-free prices of some contracts in the simplest setting when r = 0.

3.1. **Properties of a Chooser.** In this section we consider a more complicated type of financial contracts known as *chooser options*. These are contracts with a fixed maturity date T and a strike price K, and an agent is allowed to decide on a choosing date $\tau < T$ to choose the underlying derivative in the contract. Many results are known when an agent is allowed to choose between a European call and a European put; we are interested in a variant of this type of contract that allows an agent to decide between two securities that pays

$$C_T = (A_T - K)^+, P_T = (K - A_T)^+,$$
 (3.1)

where A_T is defined via (2.20). Here, we assume the agent chooses optimally with no outside information. At time τ , the agent will choose the option of higher value between the put and call, therefore the value of this contract at time τ is

$$V_{\tau} = \max(C_{\tau}, P_{\tau}). \tag{3.2}$$

The time-zero price of this contract is then

$$V_0 = e^{-r\tau} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[V_\tau]. \tag{3.3}$$

In the next subsection, we simplify the expression for V_{τ} via the method of replication.

3.2. **Replication.** We first note that by properties of the max function (E), we can write

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + \max(0, P_{\tau} - C_{\tau}) \tag{3.4}$$

where P_{τ} and C_{τ} are an Asian put and call, respectively. By (A.1), we have

$$P_T - C_T = (K - A_T)^+ - (A_T - K)^+ = K - A_T.$$
(3.5)

Next, we identify the time- τ prices of contracts paying $P_T - C_T$ and $K - A_T$ at time T.

To replicate a security with payoff $P_T - C_T$, we consider a portfolio that goes long an Asian Put and short an Asian Call at time 0, both with maturity T and strike K. To replicate a security with payoff $K - A_T$, we consider a portfolio investing Ke^{-rT} into the money account at time 0 and shorting a contract (FIXME: what kind of contract?) (FOLLOWUP I'm tempted to say ZCB but I'm not sure) to receive A_T at time T.

Since both portfolios have the same payoff at time T by (3.5), they have the same price for all times t where $0 \le t \le T$ under the assumption that the market is arbitrage-free according to B.

Using this notation, at time τ the value of the first portfolio is $P_{\tau} - C_{\tau}$. Also, at time τ the second portfolio has $Ke^{-rT+r\tau}$ in the bank and is shorting a contract which pays A_T at T, therefore the time- τ value of the second portfolio is $Ke^{r(\tau-T)} - A_{\tau}$. We denote the value of a contract at time τ which pays A_T at time T as w_{τ} . By replication, the time τ prices of the portfolios are equal, therefore we have

$$P_{\tau} - C_{\tau} = Ke^{r(\tau - T)} - w_{\tau}. \tag{3.6}$$

Substituting this result back into (3.2), the value of the original chooser contract at τ is

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + \max(0, Ke^{r(\tau - T)} - w_{\tau}). \tag{3.7}$$

Our next goal is to find an explicit formula for w_{τ} .

For simplicity, we define U_{τ} to be the time τ price of a contract with payoff Y_T at time T, where Y_T is defined via

$$Y_T = \int_0^T S_t \, dt. \tag{3.8}$$

Once U_{τ} is determined, then we can recover w_{τ} as $w_{\tau} = \frac{U_{\tau}}{T}$.

Note that (3.8) can be split into two parts,

$$Y_T = \int_0^{\tau} S_t \, dt + \int_{\tau}^{T} S_t \, dt. \tag{3.9}$$

Observe that the integral from 0 to τ is known at time τ as each price S_t will be known by the time τ . So we can treat this integral as a constant and now try to replicate the integral from time τ to T.

3.3. Replicating the Asian chooser when r > 0. We begin our replicating strategy by buying x shares of stock at time τ . For all times t where $\tau \le t \le T$, we will continuously sell off stock at the rate α_t and invest the revenue. With this strategy, at time T, the bank has

$$\int_{\tau}^{T} \alpha_t S_t e^{r(T-t)} dt \tag{3.10}$$

To finish the replication, we want our replicating portfolio to be equal to the integral we are replicating:

$$\int_{\tau}^{T} \alpha_t S_t e^{r(T-t)} dt = \int_{\tau}^{T} S_t dt. \tag{3.11}$$

Solving for α_t , we find that

$$\alpha_t = e^{r(t-T)} \tag{3.12}$$

Thus, the amount of shares our strategy started with was

$$x = \int_{\tau}^{T} e^{r(t-T)} dt = \frac{1}{r} - \frac{e^{r(\tau-T)}}{r}.$$
 (3.13)

This tells us that the cost at time τ to receive the stock from times τ to T continuously is xS_{τ} . This gives us

$$U_{\tau} = \int_{0}^{\tau} S_{t} dt + \frac{S_{\tau}}{r} \left(1 - e^{r(\tau - T)} \right)$$
 (3.14)

Recall that w_{τ} is the price at time τ to receive A_T , equivalent to $\frac{Y_T}{T}$, at time T. Thus, the price at τ to receive just A_T is

$$w_{\tau} = \frac{U_{\tau}}{T} = \frac{\int_{0}^{\tau} S_{t} dt + \frac{S_{\tau}}{r} \left(1 - e^{r(\tau - T)}\right)}{T}$$
(3.15)

Returning to (3.6), we can write out the equation as

$$P_{\tau} - C_{\tau} = Ke^{r(\tau - T)} - \frac{\int_{0}^{\tau} S_{t} dt + \frac{S_{\tau}}{r} \left(1 - e^{r(\tau - T)}\right)}{T}.$$
 (3.16)

Substituting this into (3.7), the value of V_{τ} is

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + \max(0, Ke^{r(\tau - T)} - \frac{\int_{0}^{\tau} S_{t} dt + \frac{S_{\tau}}{r} \left(1 - e^{r(\tau - T)}\right)}{T})$$
(3.17)

3.4. Replicating Asian options when $\mathbf{r}=\mathbf{0}$. We now consider the case when r=0. Observe we cannot plug r=0 into the formula we derived for r>0 since we divide by r. However, we can apply a similar replication argument as before. (FIXME: this is a little confusing since the interest rate was never specified. maybe specify that you are assuming r>0 initially and now you're considering r=0 as a special case. If you choose to do this I recommend breaking this section into different subsections). To fix this, we return to our replicating strategy for w_{τ} accounting for this special case.

Define U_{τ} and Y_{T} the same way as above. Again, split the integral Y_{T} such that

$$Y_T = \int_0^{\tau} S_t \, dt + \int_{\tau}^{T} S_t \, dt \tag{3.18}$$

We now replicate the integral from time τ to T for the special case. We follow the same replicating strategy as before. Purchase x shares of stock. For all times t where $\tau \leq t \leq T$, we continuously sell off at the rate α_t and invest the revenue. By time T, the bank will have

$$\int_{-\tau}^{T} \alpha_t S_t \ dt \tag{3.19}$$

We finish the replication by setting this equal to the value we're replicating

$$\int_{\tau}^{T} \alpha_t S_t dt = \int_{\tau}^{T} S_t dt \tag{3.20}$$

Solving for α_t , we see that when r=0 that $\alpha_t=1$. Thus, the number of shares the strategy started with was

$$\int_{\tau}^{T} dt = T - \tau \tag{3.21}$$

Similar to the $r \neq 0$ case, it then follows that

$$U_{\tau} = \int_{0}^{\tau} S_{t} dt + S_{\tau}(T - \tau), \ w_{\tau} = \frac{U_{\tau}}{T} = \frac{\int_{0}^{\tau} S_{t} dt + S_{\tau}(T - \tau)}{T}$$
(3.22)

Thus, Put-Call Parity in the special case tells us that

$$P_{\tau} - C_{\tau} = K - \frac{U_{\tau}}{T} = K - \frac{\int_0^{\tau} S_t dt + S_{\tau}(T - \tau)}{T}.$$
 (3.23)

Substituting this result into the chooser option formula, we have

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + \max(0, K - \frac{\int_{0}^{\tau} S_{t} dt + S_{\tau}(T - \tau)}{T})$$
(3.24)

Note that when the interest rate is 0, the stock prices evolve according to

$$S_t = S_0 + \kappa W_t \tag{3.25}$$

where $S_0 > 0$ and $\{W_t\}_{t \ge 0}$ is a Brownian motion under the risk neutral measure. We can now rewrite our chooser option formula as

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + \max(0, K - \frac{\int_{0}^{\tau} (S_{0} + \kappa W_{t}) dt + (S_{0} + \kappa W_{\tau})(T - \tau)}{T})$$
(3.26)

Simplifying, we find that

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + \left(K - S_0 - \frac{\kappa(T - \tau)}{T}W_{\tau} - \frac{\kappa}{T} \int_0^{\tau} W_t dt\right)^{+}.$$
 (3.27)

Then by the risk-neutral pricing formula and the linearity of expection, the time-zero price V_0 is given by

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] + \tilde{\mathbb{E}}\left[\left(K - S_0 - \frac{\kappa(T - \tau)}{T}W_\tau - \frac{\kappa}{T}\int_0^\tau W_t dt\right)^+\right]. \tag{3.28}$$

Let X be the random variable defined via

$$X = \frac{\kappa (T - \tau)}{T} W_{\tau} + \frac{\kappa}{T} \int_{0}^{\tau} W_{t} dt.$$
 (3.29)

We now calculate the mean and variance of random variable X. We define X as the sum of random variables

$$Y = \frac{\kappa(T - \tau)}{T} W_{\tau} \tag{3.30}$$

$$Z = \frac{\kappa}{T} \int_0^\tau W_t \, dt. \tag{3.31}$$

Note from (D) that the mean of the brownian motions in both Y and Z are 0, thus the means of both Y and Z are 0. We now calculate the variance of X as the sum of two random variables

$$Var(X) = Var(Y+Z) \tag{3.32}$$

It is known that

$$Var(Y+Z) = Var(Y) + Var(Z) + 2Cov(YZ). \tag{3.33}$$

Note from (D) the variances of brownian motion. It follows that

$$Var(Y) = \tau \left(\frac{\kappa(T-\tau)}{T}\right)^2 \tag{3.34}$$

$$Var(Z) = \frac{\tau^3}{3} \left(\frac{\kappa}{T}\right)^2 \tag{3.35}$$

To calculate the covariance term, we expand it out in terms of expected value. Note that the expected values of the brownian motions are 0.

$$Cov(YZ) = \mathbb{E}(YZ) - \mathbb{E}(Y)\mathbb{E}(Z) = \mathbb{E}(YZ)$$
(3.36)

We can now rewrite the covariance as

$$Cov(YZ) = \mathbb{E}(W_{\tau} \int_0^{\tau} W_t \, dt) \, \frac{\kappa^2 (T - \tau)}{T^2}$$

$$\tag{3.37}$$

For simplicity, let $\alpha = \frac{\kappa^2(T-\tau)}{T^2}$. By a property of integrals and expected value, we can move the integral outside the expected value as such (FIXME: probably need to fix this).

$$\alpha \mathbb{E}(W_{\tau} \int_{0}^{\tau} W_{t} dt) = \alpha \int_{0}^{\tau} \mathbb{E}(w_{\tau} w_{t}) dt$$
(3.38)

Observe that $t \leq \tau$. Thus, we can further simplify down to

$$\alpha \int_{0}^{\tau} \mathbb{E}((w_{\tau} + w_{t} - w_{t})w_{t})dt = \alpha \int_{0}^{\tau} \mathbb{E}(w_{t}^{2} + (w_{\tau} - w_{t})w_{t})dt$$
(3.39)

We can expand the expected value by linearity of expectations. Recall from (D) that the expected value of $(w_{\tau} - w_t)w_t$ is 0 and that the expected value of w_t^2 is t. Thus, we have

$$Cov(XY) = \alpha \int_0^{\tau} t \, dt = \alpha \frac{\tau^2}{2} \tag{3.40}$$

It follows that the mean and variance of X can be computed as (IMPORTANT FIXME: add details of this computation!)

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}(X) = 0 \tag{3.41}$$

$$\sigma^{2} = Var(X) = \tau (\frac{\kappa(T-\tau)}{T})^{2} + \frac{\tau^{3}}{3} (\frac{\kappa}{T})^{2} + \tau^{2} \frac{\kappa^{2}(T-\tau)}{T^{2}}.$$
 (3.42)

$$\nu = \sigma \tag{3.43}$$

(FIXME: typically σ denotes the standard deviation, so this isn't very consistent with standard notation)

Using methods of stochastic calculus detailed in (D), X is normally distributed with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Therefore we can define the probability density function as

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \tag{3.44}$$

$$\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\nu}\varphi(\frac{x-\mu}{\nu})\tag{3.45}$$

Now we can substitute back into our equation from (4.12) and use the definition of expectation on a continuous random variable to get

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (K - S_0 - x)^+ \, \psi(x) \, dx. \tag{3.46}$$

To integrate the second term in V_0 we will let

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}.\tag{3.47}$$

it follows that

$$x = z\nu + \mu \tag{3.48}$$

$$dx = \nu dz \tag{3.49}$$

We note that

$$K - S_0 - x \geqslant 0 \iff x \le K - S_0 \iff \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \le \frac{K - S_0 - \mu}{\nu}$$
 (3.50)

and define d_{-} via

$$d_{-} = \frac{K - S_0 - \mu}{\nu} \tag{3.51}$$

so by (3.50), we have

$$K - S_0 - x \geqslant 0 \Longleftrightarrow z < d. \tag{3.52}$$

Now using (3.48) and (3.52) we can rearrange (3.46) as:

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] + \left(\int_{-\infty}^{d_-} (K - S_0 - z\nu - \mu) \, \varphi(z) \, dz \right). \tag{3.53}$$

Simplifying this expression we get the form

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] - \nu \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} z \varphi(z) \nu \, dz + (K - S_0 - \mu) \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} \varphi(z) \, dz$$
 (3.54)

Excluding the call, we can easily simplify the latter of the terms by defining the cumulative distribution function

$$\Phi(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} \varphi(y)dy. \tag{3.55}$$

We resolve the former term by first substituting in (3.44)

$$\frac{-\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{d_{-}} y e^{-y^2} = \frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-d_{-}^2}{2}}$$
 (3.56)

Thus, we find that

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] + \frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-d_-^2}{2}} + (K - S_0 - \mu)\Phi(d_-), \tag{3.57}$$

which through (G.1), gives us the final equation

$$V_0 = C_0 + \frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-d_-^2}{2}} + (K - S_0 - \mu)\Phi(d_-), \tag{3.58}$$

4. Chooser Option Variants

4.1. **Tail Chooser.** We will now consider a variant of the Asian chooser we looked at earlier. We assume all conditions remain the same, except we now define $A_{\tau,T}$ as

$$A_{\tau,T} = \int_{\tau}^{T} S_t \, dt \tag{4.1}$$

where τ is the choice date, and T is the time of maturity.

4.2. **Asian Tail Choosers when** r = 0. To price this option, we slightly modify the replication strategy from before. Let $Y_T = \int_{\tau}^{T} S_t dt$ and U_{τ} be the price at τ to receive Y_T at time T.

We proceed with the replication of Y_T . Suppose an agent purchases x shares at time τ , and chooses to sell them off continuously at rate α_t at time t. At time t, the agent's portfolio is worth

$$\int_{\tau}^{T} \alpha_t S_t e^{r(T-t)} dt \tag{4.2}$$

Since we assume here that r=0, this reduces to

$$\int_{\tau}^{T} \alpha_t S_t dt \tag{4.3}$$

To complete the replication, we set this equal to the value we are trying to reproduce:

$$\int_{\tau}^{T} \alpha_t S_t \, dt = \int_{\tau}^{T} S_t \, dt \tag{4.4}$$

It follows that

$$\alpha_t = 1 \tag{4.5}$$

for all t where $\tau \leq t \leq T$. Thus,

$$x = \int_{\tau}^{T} \alpha_t \, dt = T - \tau. \tag{4.6}$$

It then follows that $U_{\tau} = (T - \tau)S_{\tau}$. Observe that

$$A_{\tau,T} = \frac{U_{\tau}}{T - \tau}.\tag{4.7}$$

Again using the notation w_{τ} as the price needed at time τ to receive $A_{\tau,T}$ at time T, it follows that

$$w_{\tau} = \frac{(T-\tau)S_{\tau}}{T-\tau} = S_{\tau}. \tag{4.8}$$

Referring back to (3.6) and using r = 0, we have

$$P_{\tau} - C_{\tau} = K - S_{\tau}.\tag{4.9}$$

Using (3.4), the price of the tail chooser option with choice date τ , which we write as V_{τ} , is

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + (K - S_{\tau})^{+}. \tag{4.10}$$

Recall in the Bachelier model that the stock evolves according to $S_t = S_0 + \kappa W_t$ when r = 0, $S_0 > 0$, and W_t is a brownian motion under the risk-neutral measure. Then,

$$V_{\tau} = C_{\tau} + (K - (S_0 + \kappa W_{\tau}))^+. \tag{4.11}$$

Applying the risk-neutral pricing formula and linearity of expectations, we have

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] + \tilde{\mathbb{E}}((K - S_0 - \kappa W_\tau)^+). \tag{4.12}$$

To simplify the above, define random variable X and function g(X) as

$$X = \kappa W_{\tau}, \ g(X) = (k - S_0 - X)^+ \tag{4.13}$$

Applying the law of the unconscious statistician, we can express V_0 as

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (k - S_0 - X)^+ \psi(x) dx$$
 (4.14)

where

$$\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\nu} \varphi\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\nu}\right) \tag{4.15}$$

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-x^2}{2}} \tag{4.16}$$

Let $y = \frac{x - \mu}{\nu}$. Observe that

$$y = \frac{x - \mu}{\nu} \implies x = y\nu + \mu \implies dx = \nu \, dy \tag{4.17}$$

We can now take the positive part of the integral from (4.14)

$$k - S_0 - x \ge 0 \implies -x \ge S_0 - k \tag{4.18}$$

Adding μ and dividing by ν on both sides,

$$-y = \frac{-x + \mu}{\nu} \ge \frac{S_0 - k + \mu}{\nu} \tag{4.19}$$

It follows that

$$y \le \frac{k - S_0 - \mu}{\nu} = d_- \tag{4.20}$$

We now evaluate 4.14 using 4.17

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] + \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} (k - S_0 - y\nu - \mu)(\frac{1}{\nu}\varphi(y))(-\nu) \, dy$$
 (4.21)

Simplifying and splitting the integral, we have

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] - \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} (k - S_0 - \mu)\varphi(y) \, dy + \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} y\nu\varphi(y)) \, dy$$

$$(4.22)$$

Define the CDF the same as (3.55).

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] - (k - S_0 - \mu)\Phi(d_-) + \int_{-\infty}^{d_-} y\nu\varphi(y) \, dy$$
 (4.23)

The remaining integral term can be simplified through (4.16).

$$\nu \int_{-\infty}^{d_{-}} y \varphi(y) \, dy = \nu \int_{-\infty}^{d_{-}} y \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-y^{2}}{2}} \, dy = -\frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-d^{2}}{2}}$$
(4.24)

The final form for the time 0 price of the tail chooser is then

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_\tau] - (k - S_0 - \mu)\Phi(d_-) - \frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{d_-^2}{2}}$$
(4.25)

5. Approximating Asian Options

Typically, it may not be feasible to compute an Asian Option in a competitive time. Following are some approximations which sacrifice accuracy for ease of computation. (FIXME: Expand Description?)

5.1. Approximating Arithmetic Asian under Black-Scholes Model. (FIXME: find reference for why this is an acceptable approximation, flesh out reasoning) In the Black-Scholes Model, the asset price S_t for $0 \le t \le T$ evolves according to

$$S_t = S_0 e^{\sigma W_t + (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)t}. (5.1)$$

Recall the notation

$$A_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T S_t \, dt. \tag{5.2}$$

Note that the integrand S_t is a lognormal random variable. However, the integral of S_t will not be lognormal (cite somewhere). Thus, we model A_t with a log-normal Y_t with the same mean and variance, which leaves us with equations

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[A_T] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[Y_T] \tag{5.3}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[A_T^2] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[Y_T^2] \tag{5.4}$$

$$Y_t = Y_0 e^{\Gamma W_t + rt - \frac{1}{2}\Gamma^2 t} \tag{5.5}$$

Starting with the RHS of (5.3)

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[A_T] = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_t] dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_0 e^{\sigma W_t + rt - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t}] dt = \frac{S_0}{T} \int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{\sigma W_t} e^{rt - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t}] dt$$
 (5.6)

We can factor out the constant part of the expected value and are left to evaluate

$$\widetilde{\mathbb{E}}[A_T] = \frac{S_0}{T} \int_0^T e^{rt - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t} \widetilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{\sigma W_t}] dt$$
(5.7)

Using Moment Generating Function e^{yX} , we know if X is a normally distributed random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2 than

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{yX}] = e^{\mu y + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 y^2} \tag{5.8}$$

Recalling that the Brownian motion W_t is of mean μ and variance σ^2

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{\sigma W_t}] = e^{\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t},\tag{5.9}$$

which we can plug in to (5.7) to get

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[A_T] = \frac{S_0}{T} \int_0^T e^{rt - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{\sigma W_t}] dt = \frac{S_0}{T} \int_0^T e^{\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t} e^{rt - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t} dt = \frac{S_0}{T} \int_0^T e^{rt} dt = \frac{S_0}{rT} (e^{rT} - 1)$$
 (5.10)

We can then simplify the LHS of (5.3) using the moment generating function (5.8) to get

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[Y_T] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[Y_0 e^{\Gamma W_t + rt - \frac{1}{2}\Gamma^2 t}] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[Y_0] \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{rt - \frac{1}{2}\Gamma^2 t}] \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[\Gamma W_t] = Y_0 e^{rt - \frac{1}{2}\Gamma^2 t} e^{\frac{1}{2}\Gamma^2 t} = Y_0 e^{rT}$$
(5.11)

So, according to (5.3), we have

$$Y_0 = \frac{S_0}{rT}(1 - e^{-rT}) \tag{5.12}$$

We next simplify the second equation. Moving onto the LHS of (5.4),

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[A_T^2] = \frac{1}{T^2} \left(\int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_t] dt \right)^2 \tag{5.13}$$

Observe that the square of an integral can be rewritten as a double integral as follows

$$\frac{1}{T^2} \left(\int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_t] dt \right)^2 = \frac{1}{T^2} \int_0^T \int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_s] \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_t] ds dt = \frac{1}{T^2} \int_0^T \int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_s S_t] ds dt$$
 (5.14)

WLOG, assume that $0 \le s \le t$. Integrating under these conditions yields us half of the desired area. Through a symmetry argument, we can conclude that

$$\frac{1}{T^2} \int_0^T \int_0^T \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_s S_t] \, ds \, dt = \frac{2}{T^2} \int_0^T \int_0^t \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_s S_t] \, ds \, dt \tag{5.15}$$

We now deal with the expression inside the expected value. We can expand S_s and S_t and separate out the Brownian motions

$$S_s S_t = S_0^2 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s) + \sigma(W_t + W_s)} = S_0^2 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s)} e^{\sigma W_t} e^{\sigma W_s}$$
(5.16)

Observe that $W_t = W_s + (W_t - W_s)$. Using this, we write

$$S_sS_t = S_0^2 e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s)} e^{\sigma W_t} e^{\sigma W_s} = S_0^2 e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s)} e^{\sigma W_s} e^{\sigma(W_t-W_s)} e^{\sigma W_s} = S_0^2 e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s)} e^{2\sigma W_s} e^{\sigma(W_t-W_s)}$$
 (5.17)

This is of interest because the Brownian motions W_s and $W_t - W_s$ are independent as defined in (D). Observe that $W_s \sim N(0, s)$ and $W_t - W_s \sim N(0, t - s)$ (ref?). Due to independence, we can write out the expected value as follows

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_0^2 e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s)} e^{2\sigma W_s} e^{\sigma(W_t-W_s)}] = S_0^2 e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s)} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{2\sigma W_s}] \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{\sigma(W_t-W_s)}]$$
 (5.18)

Using (5.8) again, observe that

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{2\sigma W_s}] = e^{2\sigma^2 s} \tag{5.19}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{\sigma(W_t - W_s)}] = e^{\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(t-s)} \tag{5.20}$$

Substituting, we find that

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[S_s S_t] = S_0^2 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t+s)} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{2\sigma W_s}] \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{\sigma(W_t - W_s)}] = S_0^2 e^{r(t+s) + \sigma^2 s}$$
(5.21)

We now return to the main integral using this new result

$$\frac{2}{T^2} \int_0^T \int_0^t S_0^2 e^{r(t+s)+\sigma^2 s} ds dt = \frac{2}{T^2} \int_0^T S_0^2 e^{rt} \int_0^t e^{(r+\sigma^2)s} ds dt$$
 (5.22)

We begin by evaluating the inside integral from (5.22)

$$\frac{2}{T^2} \int_0^T S_0^2 e^{rt} \int_0^t e^{(r+\sigma^2)s} ds dt = \frac{2}{T^2} \int_0^T \frac{S_0^2 e^{rt}}{r+\sigma^2} (e^{(r+\sigma^2)t} - 1) dt = \frac{2S_0^2}{T^2(r+\sigma^2)} \int_0^T (e^{(2r+\sigma^2)t} - e^{rt}) dt \qquad (5.23)$$

Evaluating the next integral, we see that

$$\frac{2S_0^2}{T^2(r+\sigma^2)} \int_0^T \left(e^{(2r+\sigma^2)t} - e^{rt}\right) dt = \frac{2S_0^2}{T^2(r+\sigma^2)} \left[\frac{1}{2r+\sigma^2} \left(e^{(2r+\sigma^2)t} - 1\right) - \frac{1}{r} \left(e^{rT} - 1\right)\right]$$
(5.24)

Thus,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[A_T^2] = \frac{2S_0^2}{T^2(r+\sigma^2)} \left[\frac{1}{2r+\sigma^2} \left(e^{(2r+\sigma^2)t} - 1 \right) - \frac{1}{r} \left(e^{rT} - 1 \right) \right]$$
 (5.25)

Continuing on to the RHS of (5.4), we can apply the moment generating function again with the information that $W_t \sim N(0,t)$ to get

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[Y_T^2] = Y_0^2 e^{(2r - \Gamma^2)T} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{2\Gamma W_T}] = Y_0^2 e^{(2r + \Gamma^2)T}$$
(5.26)

Equating $\mathbb{E}[A_T^2]$ and $\mathbb{E}[Y_T^2]$ in (5.4) and recalling the calibration (5.12) we found from (5.3), it follows that

$$\Gamma^2 = \frac{1}{T} \left(\ln \left(\frac{2S_0^2}{Y_0^2 T^2 (r + \sigma^2)} \right) + \ln \left(\frac{1}{2r + \sigma^2} \left(e^{2rT + \sigma^2 T} - 1 \right) - \frac{1}{r} (e^{rT} - 1) \right) - 2rT \right)$$
 (5.27)

5.2. Approximating Arithmetic Asian under the Black-Scholes Model using the Bachelier Model. If we assume r = 0, stock price evolves as follows in the Bachelier Model

$$S_t = S_0 + \kappa W_t \tag{5.28}$$

One can price an option sold at time t = 0 which expires at time t = T according to

$$V_0 = e^{-rT} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[V_T] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[V_T] \tag{5.29}$$

Therefore, we can price a European call as so

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(S_T - K)^+] \tag{5.30}$$

Note that $S_t \sim N(S_0, \kappa^2 T)$, as the variance of a Brownian motion is defined as T shown in (D) and κ is constant. Now we can price an Asian call as follows

$$A_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T S_t \, dt \tag{5.31}$$

The time 0 price is

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(A_T - K)]^+ \tag{5.32}$$

Expanding S_t yields

$$\int_0^T S_t dt = \int_0^T S_0 dt + \int_0^T \kappa W_t dt = S_0 T + \kappa \int_0^T W_t dt$$
 (5.33)

Plugging this into (5.31) yields

$$A_T = S_0 + \frac{\kappa}{T} \int_0^T W_t \, dt \tag{5.34}$$

Plugging this into (5.32) yields

$$V_0 = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(A_T - K)]^+ = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[((S_0 + \frac{k}{T} \int_0^T W_t \, dt) - K)^+]$$
 (5.35)

Note that this is the same form as the European Call, except the European Call has S_T inplace of A_T . The variance of A_T is $\frac{\kappa^2 T}{3}$, as $\frac{\kappa}{T}$ is constant and the variance of $\int_0^T W_t \ dt$ is $\frac{T^3}{3}$ as shown in (D).

$$\frac{\kappa^2}{T^2} \frac{T^3}{3} = \frac{\kappa^2 T}{3} \tag{5.36}$$

The variance of A_T is exactly $\frac{1}{3}$ the variance of S_T , while the mean remains the same as S_T . Variance is equal to volatility squared. So, we can approximate the price of an Asian in the Black-Scholes Model by pricing it with the same parameters as a European Option but just changing the volatility to be $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ of the original. This result also applies to Asian Puts through Put-Call Parity(C), using a European Put with $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ of the original volatility.

This is an approximation because the Black-Scholes and Bachelier Model scale differently. (FIXME: Use data to show when this is an acceptable approximation)

The advantage of this approximation is that European Options are the most well-known option, so one could easily estimate the price of an Asian Option using already existing infrastructure.

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APPENDIX A. NOTATION AND CONVENTIONS

For a random variable X we use the notation X^+ to denote the random variable $\max(X,0)$. We note that by definition, we have

$$X = X^{+} - (-X)^{+}, \tag{A.1}$$

from which the *put-call parity* can be derived.

For a normal random variable X we use the notation $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ to denote that it has mean μ and variance σ^2 .

APPENDIX B. ARBITRAGE-FREE PRICING

Before defining arbitrage-free pricing, we first must define arbitrage. An arbitrage strategy has three properties.

- (1) the agent's initial capital is zero.
- (2) the agent has zero percent chance of losing money.
- (3) the agent has a strictly positive probability of profit.

Under this definition of arbitrage, the arbitrage-free price of an asset is the price where an arbitrage strategy is not possible.

B.1. Arbitrage-free Market. In this paper we work under the assumption that the market is arbitrage-free. As such, we claim that if the values of two portfolios are equal at time T > 0, then for all times τ where $0 \le \tau \le T$, the values of both portfolios are equal.

We prove by contrapositive. Assume that at time T>0 the prices of two portfolios are equal, and that at time τ where $0 \le \tau \le T$ that one portfolio is worth more than the other. Let P_1 be the value of portfolio 1 and P_2 be the value of portfolio 2. Thus, without loss of generality, at time τ , let $P_1 > P_2$. At time τ , we buy portfolio 2 and sell portfolio 1. We can pocket the difference $P_1 - P_2$. At time T, we can then sell portfolio 2 to pay off the time T cost of portfolio 1. Thus, there exists an arbitrage strategy, which is a contradiction.

It follows that under an arbitrage-free model, if two portfolios have equal value at time T, they must have equal value at all times from 0 to T.

APPENDIX C. PUT-CALL PARITY

An important result used repeatedly throughout this paper is put-call parity.

For some asset of price S_T at time T, define the European put and call of strike K as

$$P_T^E = (K - S_T)^+ \tag{C.1}$$

$$C_T^E = (S_T - K)^+.$$
 (C.2)

By (A.1),

$$P_T^E - C_T^E = K - S_T. (C.3)$$

We can replicate the LHS portfolio by going long a put and short a call at time τ . The RHS can be replicated by investing $Ke^{r(\tau-T)}$ into a risk-free return and shorting the asset at $T=\tau$. Under the assumption of the arbitrage-free market, it follows that

$$P_{\tau}^{E} - C_{\tau}^{E} = Ke^{r(\tau - T)} - S_{\tau}. \tag{C.4}$$

We apply a similar argument towards Asian puts and calls. Again define an asset with price S_T at time T. Define the Asian put and call with strike price K respectively as

$$P_T^A = (K - \int_0^T S_t \, dt)^+ \tag{C.5}$$

$$C_T^A = (\int_0^T S_t dt - K)^+.$$
 (C.6)

By (A.1),

$$P_T^A - C_T^A = K - \int_0^T S_t \, dt. \tag{C.7}$$

We replicate the LHS by going long the put and short the call at time τ . The RHS can be replicated by investing $Ke^{r(\tau-T)}$ and shorting an option at w_{τ} which pays A_T at time T, all at time τ . Thus,

$$P_{\tau}^{A} - C_{\tau}^{A} = Ke^{r(\tau - T)} - w_{\tau}. \tag{C.8}$$

The calculation of w_{τ} is demonstrated in the above sections.

APPENDIX D. BROWNIAN MOTION

Brownian Motion is a stochastic process used to model evolution of asset prices in a continuous-time model. The following properties are of use in this paper:

- $W_0 = 0$
- The mapping of t to W_t is continuous
- For each $t \geq 0$, $W_t \sim N(0,t)$
- For all s, t with $0 \le st$, we have $W_t W_s \sim N(0, t s)$
- For all s_1, t_1, s_2, t_2 with $0 \le s_1 < t_1 \le s_2 < t_2$ the variables $W_{t_1} W_{s_1}$ and $W_{t_2} W_{s_1}$ are independent

Another important property is that $\int_0^T W_t \ dt \sim N(0, \frac{T^3}{3})$, which can be derived through stochastic calculus. (FIXME: what tools) (FOLLOWUP: not a proper reference, but

https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/1336471/variance-of-an-integral-of-brownian-motion shows a proof with integration by parts and Fubini),

APPENDIX E. MAX TRANSFORMATION

We derive the following property of the max function:

$$\max(a,b) = a + \max(0,b-a). \tag{E.1}$$

The proof follows through casework. First consider when a > b, it follows that

$$\max(a, b) = a \tag{E.2}$$

$$a + \max(0, b - a) = a + 0 = a.$$
 (E.3)

The second case we consider is $b \geq a$, then

$$\max(a, b) = b \tag{E.4}$$

$$a + \max(0, b - a) = a + (b - a) = b.$$
 (E.5)

The proof is now complete.

APPENDIX F. MOMENT GENERATING FUNCTIONS

We define $m_X(y)$ to be moment generating function on random variable X such that

$$m(y) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{yX}]$$
 (F.1)

where $y \in \mathbb{R}$. When $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, we have

$$m(y) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}[e^{yX}] = e^{(\mu y + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 y^2)}$$
 (F.2)

APPENDIX G. VARIOUS REPLICATING STRATEGIES

G.1. **Replicating Puts and Calls.** The put and call options are two often used contracts which give the buyer the right, but not obligation, to respectively sell or buy an underlying security.

To "price back" a put or call from time t to time 0, where $t \ge 0$, we simply buy a put or call respectively at time 0. It thus follows that

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[C_t] = C_0 \tag{G.1}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[P_t] = P_0 \tag{G.2}$$

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