DERIVATIVE SECURITIES: OPTIONS

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- ▶ What is an option contract?
- ▶ What are some key option terms?
- ▶ What are option payoffs?

OPTIONS

► An option contract gives its owner the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell the 'underlying' asset at a fixed price on or before a given date.

CALL OPTIONS

► A call option gives the owner the right, but not the obligation, to buy the underlying by a certain date for a certain price.

PUT OPTIONS

► A put option gives the owner the right, but not the obligation, to sell the underlying by a certain date for a certain price.

OPTIONS

- ► Whereas it costs nothing to enter into a forward or futures contract, there is a cost to acquiring an option. This is called the **option premium**.
- ▶ American vs. European options

CALL OPTION EXAMPLE

- ▶ Consider a call option on a share of Microsoft with an exercise price of \$20. Let's suppose that the expiration date is in four months, and the price of an option is \$5.
- ► Suppose the current stock price \$11.

PUT OPTION EXAMPLE

▶ Now consider a put option on IBM stock with an exercise price \$90. Suppose the current stock price is \$85, and the expiration date of the option is in three months. Option price is \$7.

SUMMARY

- ▶ Definition of call and put options
- ► Definition of key option terminology
- ► Explain option payoffs and profits
- ► Next we look into forward and future contracts, and swap agreements



WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- ▶ What is a forward contract?
- ▶ What is a futures contract?
- ▶ What are some key forward and futures terms?
- ► What is the difference between a forward and a futures contract?
- ▶ How do they differ from option contracts?

FUTURES AND FORWARD CONTRACTS

- ► Consider a crude oil producer and a manufacturing that uses crude oil.
- ▶ Both are concerned about the future price of crude oil.
- ▶ Both are concerned about price risk.
- ► Forward and futures contracts help manage this risk by sharing the price risk.

FORWARD AND FUTURES

- ▶ A **forward** or **futures contract** is an agreement between two parties to buy or sell an asset at a certain future time for a certain price.
- ► The party who commits to buying the asset has the long position.
- ► The party who commits to delivering the asset at contract maturity has the **short position**.





CORN FUTURES EXAMPLE

Month	Last	Chg.	Open	High	Low	Volume	Open Interest
Sep 2016	383'0	-1'0	383'0	385'4	381'6	8,466	98,657
Dec 2016	390'2	-1'2	390'4	392'6	389'0	18,768	155,964
Mar 2017	399'2	-1'2	399'6	401'6	398'4	502	19,778
May 2017	405'4	-1'2	407'0	407'2	404'4	62	2,539
Sep 2017	402'6	-1'0	402'6	402'6	408'0	0	1,380

Compiled from data obtained from Wall Street Journal January 27, 2016 $\,$



Month	Last	Chg.	Open	High	Low	Volume	Open Interest
Dec 2016	390'2	-1'2	390'4	392'6	389'0	18768	155964



FUTURES

- ▶ Unlike in the case of options, a futures contract **obliges** the long position to purchase the asset at the future prices, and similarly for the short position.
- ► No money is exchanged when the futures contract is entered into.

FUTURES

- ► Futures contracts are traded on organized exchanges.
 - ► Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT)
 - ► Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME)
- ▶ Contracts are standardized to facilitate trading.
- ► The presence of a clearinghouse eliminates counterparty risk.
- ▶ A wide range of commodities (pork belly, live cattle, sugar, lumber, copper, etc.) and financial assets (stock indices, currencies, Treasury bonds, etc.) form the underlying asset in various contracts.



FORWARDS

- ▶ Forward contracts are traded over the counter.
- ► Contracts are customized.
- ► Foreign exchange forward contracts are widely used to hedge currency risk.

SUMMARY

- ▶ Definition of a forward and futures contract
- ▶ Learned key forward and futures terms
- ▶ Read futures prices data and compute payoffs
- ► Explain the main differences between futures and forward contracts and how they differ from options