

The Call Option and The Black-Scholes Formula

Anton Yang

May 4, 2023

Call Option

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Suppose I tell you that I will give you \$10 tomorrow if it rains, and if it doesn't, nothing happens.

Would you accept the offer?

Call Option

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So what actually is a call option?

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A call option is a financial derivative where the trader buys a contract to have the right, not the obligation, to purchase a share of stock at the strike price.

Call Option

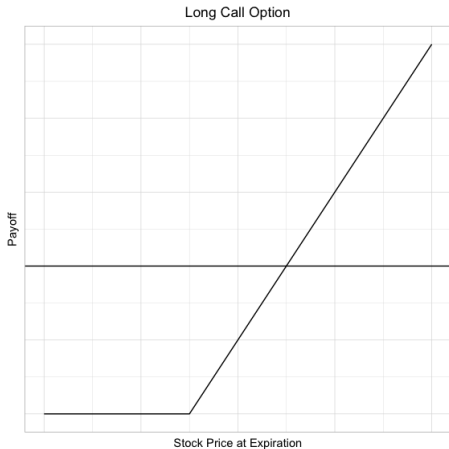
A call option is a financial derivative where the trader buys a contract to have the right, not the obligation, to purchase a share of stock at the strike price.

Ex: Suppose you decided to buy a call option at the strike price of \$165 with a premium price of \$5, and Tesla's current stock price is \$160. If the next day, Tesla's stock price increases to \$180. You can exercise the option and get a payoff of \$15 and a profit of \$10 per share.

Call Option

$$\text{Payoff} = \max[(S_t - K), 0]$$

$$\text{Profit} = \max[(S_t - K), 0] - C$$



The Black-Scholes Formula

$$C(S_0, K, \sigma, r, T, \delta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(S e^{-\delta T} \int_{-\infty}^{\frac{\ln \frac{S}{K} + (r - \delta + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2) T}{\sigma \sqrt{T}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} x^2} dx - K e^{-rT} \int_{-\infty}^{\frac{\ln \frac{S}{K} + (r - \delta - \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2) T}{\sigma \sqrt{T}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} x^2} dx \right)$$

S_0 = Stock Price

K = Strike Price

σ = Volatility

r = Interest Rate

T = Time to Expire (in years)

δ = Dividend Yield

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$$N(d) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^d e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} dx$$

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Derivation of The Black-Scholes Formula

Assume that continuously compounded returns, on the stock underlying the call option, from $t=0$ to $t=T$, are log-normal distributed with a mean and a variance $((r - \delta - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T, \sigma^2 T)$

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$$\ln\left(\frac{S_T}{S}\right) \sim \mathcal{N}\left((r - \delta - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T, \sigma^2T\right)$$

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Apply the identity $\ln\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = \ln a - \ln b$ and shift the mean:

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$$-d_2 = -\frac{\ln S - \ln K + (r - \delta - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}$$

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Partial Expectation

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Then:

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