

Comp7405: Assignment 3 (30 marks)

Due date: 21-04-2017

1 General Information

In this assignment, you will implement a mini option pricer which can price various options including European options, Asian options, and American options. The computational methods available in the pricer include analytical closed-form formulas, Monte Carlo simulation, and the binomial tree method.

You can freely choose your programming language and platform. If you choose a platform other than MS Windows, you will have to present your project to us during lecture time on 21 April, 2017. To help us properly arrange the presentations, you must inform us your decision by 7 April, 2017.

In this assignment, in general you should not use any third-party code except some basic statistics functions (e.g., normal random variable generator, normal cumulative distribution function, and sample covariance function, etc.). If you are not sure, please check with us first.

You are welcome to work in groups (consisting of no more than 3 team members) on this assignment. You could do it on your own as well.

2 Mathematical Background

For this assignment, we assume that an asset follows the geometric Brownian motion presented in our lecture

$$S(t_{i+1}) = S(t_i)e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\Delta_i + \sigma\sqrt{\Delta_i}Z_i}, \quad (1)$$

If we have two assets, we assume their asset prices can be described by

$$S_1(t_{i+1}) = S_1(t_i)e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2)\Delta_i + \sigma_1\sqrt{\Delta_i}Z_i^{(1)}}, \quad (2)$$

$$S_2(t_{i+1}) = S_2(t_i)e^{(r-\frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^2)\Delta_i + \sigma_2\sqrt{\Delta_i}Z_i^{(2)}}, \quad (3)$$

where σ_i are the respective volatilities of the two assets, $\Delta_i = t_{i+1} - t_i$, $Z^{(1)}$ and $Z^{(2)}$ are both standard normal random variables, and $\rho(Z^{(1)}, Z^{(2)}) = \rho$.

Similar to Asian options, there are two types of baskets. For a geometric mean basket, its level at time t is

$$B_g(t) = \left(\prod_{i=1}^n S_i(t) \right)^{1/n}.$$

It can be shown that $B_g(t)$ follows a geometric Brownian motion with drift μ_{B_g} and volatility σ_{B_g} defined by

$$\sigma_{B_g} = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_i \sigma_j \rho_{i,j}}}{n} \quad (4)$$

$$\mu_{B_g} = r - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2}{n} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{B_g}^2, \quad (5)$$

where $\rho_{i,j}$ is the correlation between **standard normal random variables** $Z_t^{(i)}$ and $Z_t^{(j)}$ **corresponding to asset i and asset j** .

The call/put options on a geometric mean basket have respective payoffs at maturity T

$$\max(B_g(T) - K, 0), \quad \max(K - B_g(T), 0).$$

Then their values are given by

$$C_{B_g} = e^{-rT} \left(B_g(0) e^{\mu_{B_g} T} N(\hat{d}_1) - K N(\hat{d}_2) \right) \quad (6)$$

$$P_{B_g} = e^{-rT} \left(K N(-\hat{d}_2) - B_g(0) e^{\mu_{B_g} T} N(-\hat{d}_1) \right), \quad (7)$$

where $\hat{d}_1 = \hat{d}_2 + \sigma_{B_g} \sqrt{T} = \frac{\ln(B_g(0)/K) + (\mu_{B_g} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{B_g}^2) T}{\sigma_{B_g} \sqrt{T}}$, and $B_g(0) = (\prod_{i=1}^n S_i(0))^{1/n}$.

An arithmetic mean basket is defined by

$$B_a(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n S_i(t).$$

As there are no closed-form formulas for call/put options on such basket, you are required to implement a Monte Carlo pricer to price them. Their payoffs at maturity T are

$$\max(B_a(T) - K, 0), \quad \max(K - B_a(T), 0).$$

Similar to the Asian options, you can use the option on the geometric mean basket as a control variate.

3 Implementation Tasks

The implementation tasks include:

1. Implement Black-Scholes Formulas for European call/put options.
2. Implied volatility calculations.
3. Implement closed-form formulas for geometric Asian call/put options and geometric basket call/put options.
4. Implement the Monte Carlo method with control variate technique for arithmetic Asian call/put options.
5. Implement the Monte Carlo method with control variate technique for arithmetic mean basket call/put options. For the arithmetic mean basket options, you only need to consider a basket with two assets.
6. The Binomial Tree method for American call/put options.

4 Input Parameters and Output Results

You option pricer should provide the following input parameter list for each type of option:

- European call/put option: the spot price of asset $S(0)$, the volatility σ , risk-free interest rate r , repo rate q , time to maturity (in years) T , strike K , and option type (call or put).
- Implied volatility calculator: the spot price of asset $S(0)$, risk-free interest rate r , repo rate q , time to maturity (in years) T , strike K , the option premium, and the option type (call or put).
- American call/put option: the spot price of asset $S(0)$, the volatility σ , risk-free interest rate r , time to maturity (in years) T , strike K , the number of steps N , and option type (call or put).
- Geometric Asian option: $S(0)$, σ , r , T , K , the number of observation times for the geometric average n , and the option type (call or put). With the parameters n and T , you should assume that the geometric average involves $S(\frac{T}{n})$, $S(\frac{2T}{n})$, \dots , $S(\frac{(n-1)T}{n})$, and $S(T)$.
- Arithmetic Asian option: it has all input parameters for geometric Asian option and two extra input parameters. One is the number of paths in the Monte Carlo simulation. The other one is to specify the control variate method (no control variate, or geometric Asian option). Your pricer should output the 95% confidence interval.
- Geometric basket option: the spot prices of two assets $S_1(0)$ and $S_2(0)$, the volatilities of the two assets σ_1 and σ_2 , r , T , K , the correlation ρ , and option type (call or put).
- Arithmetic basket option: it has all input parameters for geometric basket option and two extra input parameters. One is the number of paths in the Monte Carlo simulation. The other one is to specify the control variate method (no control variate, or geometric basket option). Your pricer should output the 95% confidence interval.

5 Test Cases

You can assume $r = 0.05$, $T = 3$, and $S(0) = 100$. The number of paths in Monte Carlo simulation is $m = 100,000$. **Note that for the Monte Carlo implementation, please explicitly fix the initial seed/state of the random number generator so that every time your program runs it produces exactly the same results.** You should test the following cases for each type of options:

- Asian options:

σ	K	n	Type
0.3	100	50	Put
0.3	100	100	Put
0.4	100	50	Put
0.3	100	50	Call
0.3	100	100	Call
0.4	100	50	Call

For the arithmetic Asian option, test the MC without/with control variate.

- Basket options:

$S_1(0)$	$S_2(0)$	K	σ_1	σ_2	ρ	Type
100	100	100	0.3	0.3	0.5	Put
100	100	100	0.3	0.3	0.9	Put
100	100	100	0.1	0.3	0.5	Put
100	100	80	0.3	0.3	0.5	Put
100	100	120	0.3	0.3	0.5	Put
100	100	100	0.5	0.5	0.5	Put
100	100	100	0.3	0.3	0.5	Call
100	100	100	0.3	0.3	0.9	Call
100	100	100	0.1	0.3	0.5	Call
100	100	80	0.3	0.3	0.5	Call
100	100	120	0.3	0.3	0.5	Call
100	100	100	0.5	0.5	0.5	Call

For the arithmetic basket option, test the MC without/with control variate.

6 Report

You need to submit a report consisting of the following sections:

- List the contributions to the assignment from each team member. This is for our information only and doesn't affect the marks each group/group member receives.
- Describe the user interface of your mini option pricer. This is to help us learn how to run your pricer.
- Describe the functionalities of each class/function. This is to help us understand your code. Keep this part short while informative.
- Test cases and analysis. For each type of options, test your pricer with different parameters and analyze how each parameter affects the option price.
- Extensions. If you have implemented something interesting beyond the requirements of the assignment, please present it here.

7 Marking Scheme

- Implementation/Coding (25 marks). The correctness and reliability of your code will be examined.
 - Closed-form formula implementation for European/geometric Asian/geometric Basket options (5 marks).
 - Monte Carlo option pricing (10 marks).
 - Implied volatility calculation (5 marks).
 - Binomial Tree method. (5 marks).
- Testing and Report (5 marks). The report doesn't have to be long. Please keep it within 5 pages.

8 Possible Extensions

When developing a tool, it is important to foresee potential additional requirements for extensions so that you could have a proper design initially. In this section, I try to list some possible extensions to your mini option pricer. They are provided here for information only, and you don't have to implement them in this assignment.

- Price options on a basket with more than two assets.
- In the Asian options, add a start time and an end time for the averaging of the asset prices. You need to extend the closed-form formula for geometric Asian options presented in our lecture.
- Use low-discrepancy random number generator. The idea is to use a deterministic sequence of numbers that can uniformly cover the area of interest. Using low-discrepancy sequences to carry out Monte Carlo is called *quasi-Monte Carlo*, which has much better rate of convergence $O(N^{-1})$.
- Price more generic options. In theory, Monte-Carlo simulation can price any path-dependent options without early exercises. So it is very often you will be asked to price a new type of option quickly.
- Use GPU to accelerate your pricer. Monte-Carlo simulation is by nature a very good user case for GPU application.
- Implement better tree-based pricer for American options.