

# MATH 6740: Financial Mathematics and Simulation

## Homework 2 solutions/presentation

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### 1. Q1

For each time interval  $\Delta t$ , the stock price's transition from  $S(n)$  to  $S(n+1)$  is based on a binary model, with  $S(n+1) = uS(n)$  at probability  $p_u$ , and  $S(n+1) = dS(n)$  at probability  $p_d$ . The coefficients  $u$  and  $d$  are:

$$\begin{cases} u = e^{\mu\Delta t + \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}, \\ d = e^{\mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  are the mean rate of return per unit time and variance per unit time respectively. Under the assumption that the market is arbitrage-free, the probability of up and down-market are:

$$\begin{aligned} q_u &= \frac{e^{r\Delta t} - e^{\mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}}{e^{\mu\Delta t + \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}} - e^{\mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}} \\ &\approx \frac{r\Delta t + \frac{(r\Delta t)^2}{2} - \left[ \mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t} + \frac{(\mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t})^2}{2} \right]}{\left[ \mu\Delta t + \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t} + \frac{(\mu\Delta t + \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t})^2}{2} \right] - \left[ \mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t} + \frac{(\mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t})^2}{2} \right]} \\ &= \frac{(r - \mu)\sqrt{\Delta t} + \frac{r^2}{2}(\Delta t)^{\frac{3}{2}} + \sigma - \frac{\mu^2(\Delta t)^{\frac{3}{2}} + \sigma^2\sqrt{\Delta t} - 2\mu\sigma\Delta t}{2}}{2\sigma + 2\mu\sigma\Delta t} \\ &\approx \frac{1}{2} + \frac{r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}}{2\sigma}\sqrt{\Delta t}, \end{aligned} \quad (2a)$$

$$q_d = 1 - q_u = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}}{2\sigma}\sqrt{\Delta t}. \quad (2b)$$

Since  $X(n)$  is the number of heads in  $n$  coin tosses, we define a set of random variable  $\{\zeta_j\}$  to indicate if head shows up in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  coin toss. Therefore:

$$\zeta_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w/ } p_u, \\ 0 & \text{w/ } p_d, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

with the mean and variance of  $\zeta_j$  being:

$$E[\zeta_j] = p_u, \quad (4a)$$

$$\text{var}(\zeta_j) = E[\zeta_j^2] - (E[\zeta_j])^2 = p_u(1 - p_u). \quad (4b)$$

$X(n)$  is defined as the sum of the first  $n$  elements in the set of i.i.d. variables  $\{\zeta_j\}$ :

$$X(n) = \sum_{j=1}^n \zeta_j, \quad (5)$$

$$E[X(n)] = \sum_{j=1}^n E[\zeta_j] = np_u, \quad (6a)$$

$$\text{var}(X(n)) = \sum_{j=1}^n \text{var}(\zeta_j) = np_u(1 - p_u). \quad (6b)$$

## 2. Q2

Define the random variable  $Z(n)$  as:

$$Z(n) = \frac{2X(n) - n}{\sqrt{n}}. \quad (7)$$

Therefore:

$$E[Z(n)] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}}E[X(n)] - \sqrt{n} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}}np_u - \sqrt{n} = \sqrt{n}(2p_u - 1), \quad (8a)$$

$$\text{var}(Z(n)) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}}\text{var}(X(n)) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}}np_u(1 - p_u) = 2\sqrt{n}p_u(1 - p_u). \quad (8b)$$

## 3. Q3

According to the Central Limit Theorem, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (therefore  $\Delta t = t/n \rightarrow 0$ ):

$$\frac{X(n) - np_u}{\sqrt{np_u(1 - p_u)}} \rightarrow N(0, 1), \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{X(n) - n\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}}{2\sigma} \sqrt{\Delta t}\right)}{\sqrt{n\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{(r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2})^2}{\sigma^2} \Delta t\right)}} \rightarrow N(0, 1), \\ & \frac{2X(n) - n - n \frac{r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}}{\sigma} \sqrt{\Delta t}}{\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow N(0, 1), \\ & \frac{2X(n) - n}{\sqrt{n}} - \frac{r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}}{\sigma} \sqrt{n\Delta t} \rightarrow N(0, 1), \\ & \frac{2X(n) - n}{\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow N\left(\frac{r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}}{\sigma} \sqrt{t}, 1\right). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

3.1. (b)

$$\begin{aligned}
S(t) &= S(0)u^{\#H}d^{\#T} = S(0)e^{(\mu\Delta t + \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t})\#H}e^{(\mu\Delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t})\#T} \\
&= S(0)e^{\mu\Delta t(\#H + \#T)}e^{\sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}(\#H - \#T)} \\
&= S(0)e^{\mu\Delta tn}e^{\sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}Z(n)\sqrt{n}} \\
&= S(0)e^{\mu t + Z(n)\sigma\sqrt{t}},
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

therefore:

$$\ln S(t) = \ln S(0) + \mu t + Z(n) \cdot \sigma \sqrt{t}. \tag{12}$$

From the conclusion from Equation (10):

$$\begin{aligned}
Z(t) &\sim N\left(\frac{r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}}{\sigma} \sqrt{t}, 1\right), \\
Z(t) \cdot \sigma \sqrt{t} &\sim N\left(\left(r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)t, \sigma^2 t\right), \\
\ln S(t) &\sim N\left(\ln S(0) + \mu t + \left(r - \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)t, \sigma^2 t\right), \\
\ln S(t) &\sim N\left(\ln S(0) + \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)t, \sigma^2 t\right).
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

#### 4. Q4

$$X(n) = \begin{cases} +1, & p_u = 1/2, \\ -1, & p_d = 1/2, \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

$$S(n) = S(n-1) + X(n). \tag{15}$$

To show that the stochastic process  $\{S(n)\}$  is a Martingale:

$$\begin{aligned}
E_p[S(n+1)|\mathbb{F}_n](\omega_1 \cdots \omega_n) &= E_p[S(n) + X(n+1)|\mathbb{F}_n](\omega_1 \cdots \omega_n) \\
&= S(n)(\omega_1 \cdots \omega_n) + E_p[X(n+1)|\mathbb{F}_n] \\
&= S(n)(\omega_1 \cdots \omega_n) + \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (-1)\right) \\
&= S(n)(\omega_1 \cdots \omega_n).
\end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

5. Q5

$$\begin{aligned} E[S(n)] &= E[S(0) + \sum_{j=1}^n X(j)] \\ &= E[S(0)] + \sum_{j=1}^n E[X(j)] \\ &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(S(n)) &= E[S(n)^2] - (E[S(n)])^2 \\ &= E\left[\left(S(0) + \sum_{j=1}^n X(j)\right)^2\right] - (E[S(n)])^2 \\ &= E\left[\sum_{j=1}^n X(j)^2\right] - 0 \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n E[X(j)^2] \\ &= n. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

**Appendix A. Original Homework Questions (attached)**

Chjan Lim, Professor Mathematical Sciences

For Q1 – 3, Stock price  $S(t)$  is given by an exponential expression involving  $\mu$  the mean rate of return per unit time and  $\sigma$  (variance per unit time), namely

$S(t) = S(n\Delta t) = S(0)\exp(\mu t + \sigma\sqrt{t})$ . This lognormal model will be discretized using  $t = n(\Delta t)$  in Q 1 – 3.

1. Calculate (a) mean and variance of  $X(n)$ , where  $X(n)$  equals the number of Heads minus the number of Tails in  $n$  coin tosses.
2. Calculate mean and variance of  $(2X(n) - n) / \sqrt{n}$
3. Use the Central Limit thm to show that  $(2X(n) - n) / \sqrt{n}$  converges as  $\Delta t$  tends to zero, to a Normal distribution with mean =  $\sqrt{t}(\mu + \sigma^2/2 - r) / \sigma$  and variance equal to 1.

Hint: what are the limits of the mean and var in Q2 as the time period  $\Delta t$  goes to 0

3 b) Verify that  $S(t)$  is lognormally distributed with mean =  $\log S(0) + (r - \sigma^2/2) t$  and var =  $(\sigma^2) t$ .

For Q4 and more,  $S(n)$  is NOT stock price but given by definition below.

4. Consider the symmetric random walk:

$S(n) = S(n-1) + X(n)$  with  $S(0) = 0$  and  $X(n) = -1$  or  $+1$  with equal probability.

Show that the stochastic process  $\{S(n)\}$  is a Martingale

5. Calculate  $E[S(n)]$  and var  $(S(n))$
6. Harder problems on First Exit Times: The first time  $t$  at which the random walker above hits the level  $S(t) = 10$  say is a random variable, so we can ask for its mean and variance. We will briefly outline without some of the proofs the methods for calculating such Optional Stopping times, this and next week.