

The large-maturity smile for the Heston model

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Received: 17 March 2009 / Accepted: 1 March 2010 / Published online: 1 December 2010
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Abstract Using the Gärtner–Ellis theorem from large deviations theory, we characterise the leading-order behaviour of call option prices under the Heston model, in a new regime where the maturity is large and the log-moneyness is also proportional to the maturity. Using this result, we then derive the implied volatility in the large-time limit in the new regime, and we find that the large-time smile mimics the large-time smile for the Barndorff–Nielsen normal inverse Gaussian model. This makes precise the sense in which the Heston model tends to an exponential Lévy process for large times. We find that the implied volatility smile does not flatten out as the maturity increases, but rather it spreads out, and the large-time, large-moneyness regime is needed to capture this effect. As a special case, we provide a rigorous proof of the well-known result by Lewis (Option Valuation Under Stochastic Volatility, Finance Press, Newport Beach, 2000) for the implied volatility in the usual large-time, fixed-strike regime, at leading order. We find that there are two critical strike values where there is a qualitative change of behaviour for the call option price, and we use a limiting argument to compute the asymptotic implied volatility in these two cases.

Keywords Implied volatility · Heston · Asymptotics · Large deviations

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000) 60G44 · 91B70 · 91B25

The work of Forde has been supported by the European Science Foundation, AMaMeF Exchange Grant 2107 and by a SFI grant for the Edgeworth Centre for Financial Mathematics.

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JEL Classification C02 · C63 · G12 · G13

1 Introduction

In contrast to the small-time case, there is a comparatively small literature on large-time asymptotics for stochastic volatility models. Lewis [31] approximated the characteristic function of the logarithmic return for the Heston model at large maturities by the leading-order term of its eigenfunction expansion. Using Laplace's method for contour integrals along a horizontal line going through the saddle point of the eigenvalue function on the imaginary axis (see the sequel paper by Forde et al. [19] and Theorem 4.7.1 of Olver [33] for more details), Lewis derived an asymptotic formula for the price of a call option in the large-time, fixed-strike regime, and developed a similar asymptotic result for the Black–Scholes model.

By equating the asymptotic call option formulae under the Heston model and the Black–Scholes model at zeroth order and $O(1/t)$, Jacquier in unpublished work computed the corresponding asymptotic formula for implied volatility. The leading-order term in the expansion is a fixed number, independent of the log-moneyness, which is equal to eight times the principal eigenvalue of the Sturm–Liouville operator associated with the instantaneous variance process. The correction (or “skew”) term is affine in x/t , where t represents the maturity and x is the log-moneyness. From this we see that this approach captures the skew effect, but not the smile effect; we have to go to higher order to see the x^2/t^2 term. The arguments of Lewis and Jacquier were not rigorous as they did not explicitly compute the contour of steepest descent, or justify the truncation of the eigenfunction expansion with tail estimates.

Keller-Ressel [29] provides a general treatise on the long-term properties of a general affine stochastic volatility model (in the sense of Duffie et al. [14]). These models can incorporate an auxiliary finite or infinite jump process in addition to the diffusion component, and many properties of these models can be analysed by using differential equations of the generalised Riccati type. In [29], the author derives conditions for the price process to be a martingale and conservative (i.e., without explosions or killing), and conditions for the existence of an invariant distribution of the stochastic variance process, and characterises this distribution in terms of its cumulant generating function. Under mild conditions, the stochastic variance process will converge in law to the invariant distribution. Keller-Ressel also provides explicit expressions for the explosion time at which a given moment of the terminal stock price becomes infinite and establishes results for the long-term properties of the price process, showing that as time tends to infinity, its rescaled cumulant generating function (cgf) tends to the cgf of an infinitely divisible random variable (which has a normal inverse Gaussian distribution in the case of the Heston model).

The theory of large deviations provides a natural approach to the approximation of the exponentially small probabilities associated with the behaviour of a diffusion process over a very small time interval, or a very large time interval when the process has ergodic behaviour. In recent years there has been an explosion of literature on small-time asymptotics for stochastic volatility models (see Berestycki et al. [4, 5], Forde and Jacquier [17, 18], Hagan et al. [25], Henry-Labordère [26], Robertson [34]

and unpublished work by Laurence). All these articles characterise the behaviour of the Black–Scholes implied volatility for European options in the small maturity limit, and they are essentially applications and/or higher order corrections to the seminal work of Varadhan [37, 38] and the Freidlin–Wentzell theory of large deviations for stochastic differential equations [21], the main point being that the small-time behaviour of a diffusion process can be characterised in terms of an energy/distance function on a Riemannian manifold, whose metric is induced from the inverse of the diffusion coefficient.

The Heston model is the canonical example of an affine stochastic volatility model, and is widely used because the characteristic function of the log stock price can be computed in closed form by solving the Riccati equations, so call option prices are easily calculated using Fourier inversion techniques (see Lee [30]). The critical moment $p^* = \inf\{p \geq 1 : \mathbb{E}(S_t^p) = \infty\}$ is in $(1, \infty)$ (see Andersen and Piterbarg [1] and Lions and Musiela [32]), so the right tail of the density of S_t is fatter than the standard Black–Scholes model (for which $p^* = \infty$), thinner than the popular SABR model with $\beta = 1$, $\rho = 0$ (which has $p^* = 1$), and comparable to a SABR model with $\beta = 1$, $\rho < 0$, where $p^* \in (1, \infty)$ (see Jourdain [28]).

We can characterise the limiting behaviour of the implied volatility in the small-time limit using the Gärtner–Ellis theorem from large deviations theory (see Forde and Jacquier [17]), or we can go further and compute a small-time expansion for call options and implied volatility using Laplace’s method for contour integrals (see Forde et al. [20]). As the maturity of a European option becomes larger, the smile for the Heston model flattens much more quickly than the smile for a time-homogeneous local volatility model (e.g. the CEV model), and tends to a single number in the large-time limit, which is related to the principal eigenvalue for a certain Sturm–Liouville operator (see Lewis [31]).

In this article, we establish a large-time large deviation principle for the log return divided by the time-to-maturity. We accomplish this by applying the Gärtner–Ellis theorem to the exponential affine closed-form solution for the log stock price moment generating function (Theorem 2.1). As a corollary, we derive an asymptotic formula for the price of a call option under the Heston model in the large-maturity limit, when the log-moneyness is also proportional to the maturity (Corollary 2.4). To prove Corollary 2.4, we first prove a corresponding large-time large deviation principle under the share measure, and then use the trick on p. 4 in Carr and Madan [7], expressing the call option price as the probability of the log stock price minus an independent exponential random variable exceeding the strike price under the share measure. We derive a similar result for the Black–Scholes model (Corollary 2.12).

We derive the corresponding asymptotic formula for the implied volatility (Corollary 2.14), which shows (contrary to popular belief) that the smile effect does not disappear at large maturities, but rather it just spreads out. Moreover, we find that the asymptotic implied volatility smile is the same as that for the normal inverse Gaussian model, because both models have the same limiting behaviour for the cgf of the log stock price. Gatheral and Jacquier [24] have also recently proved that under a suitable change of variables and condition (2.2), this asymptotic volatility smile is algebraically equal to the stochastic volatility inspired (SVI) parametrisation proposed by Gatheral in [23], thus confirming Gatheral’s conjecture about the large-time

form of the Heston smile. Friz et al. [22] have recently derived a *large-strike* expansion of the form $\sigma_{BS}(k, T)^2 T = (\beta_1 k^{1/2} + \beta_2 + \beta_3 \frac{\log k}{k^{1/2}} + \dots)^2$ for the implied volatility $\sigma_{BS}(k, T)$ as a function of the log-moneyness k under the Heston model, where all constants are explicitly known in terms of p^* . Their analysis is based entirely on affine principles; they do not require the explicit form of the Heston cgf, but rather they extract all the necessary information on the Mellin transform by analysing the corresponding Riccati equations near the critical point, using higher order Euler estimates. They also noted that the SVI parametrisation is not compatible with their implied volatility expansion at finite maturities; this anomaly is resolved by noting that the β_2 term in the Friz et al. expansion is $O(T^{-1/2})$ as $T \rightarrow \infty$. Finally, they proved that the initial level of the instantaneous variance and its long run level do not affect the tail asymptotics.

Forde et al. [19] took a less probabilistic approach, and used Laplace's method for contour integrals as detailed in Olver [33] to derive asymptotic formulae for the price of a call option and the implied volatility under the Heston model, in the same large-time, large-strike regime considered in this article. The correction term for implied volatility takes account of the initial level of the instantaneous volatility process and provides a sharp estimate for call option prices in the large-time, large-strike limit. For the usual large-time, *fixed-strike* regime, [19] give a rigorous proof of the expansion proposed by Jacquier in unpublished work. The large-strike expansion in [22] and the large-time, large-strike expansion in [19] suggest that the SVI parametrisation should be modified at finite maturities. For the affine class of models, Keller-Ressel [29] makes the statement that "the marginal distributions of the price process approach those of an exponential Lévy process". For the Heston model, this statement can be disproved using saddlepoint methods (see [19]), essentially because it takes account of the rate function in the exponent but not the pre-factor in front of the exponent for the moment generating function (mgf).

The leading-order term for the implied volatility in the large-time, large-strike regime is independent of the initial level of the instantaneous variance process, due to the ergodic property of this process. The variance process for the Heston model is a Cox–Ingersoll–Ross (CIR) diffusion, and it is well known that the invariant distribution for this process is a gamma distribution, with mean equal to the mean reversion level of the process. Mathematically, it is more natural to work in this regime, because we retain more information about the full implied volatility smile at large maturities, rather than characterizing its behaviour with just one or two numbers as in the previous works of Lewis and Jacquier. We show how to prove Lewis' result rigorously at leading order in Corollary 2.17.

The leading-order large-time asymptotics in this article are closely related to the work of Feng et al. [16]. Using an extension of the Gärtner–Ellis theorem with Gamma convergence, they establish a large deviation principle for the log stock price in a small-time, fast mean-reverting regime, and derive corresponding results for call option prices and implied volatility. In this article, the drift term for the log stock price shows up in the leading-order asymptotics, but in [16], the only effect of the drift is the lack of lower semicontinuity of the limiting logarithmic moment generating function, which is why Gamma convergence is needed because the Gärtner–Ellis theorem does not apply.

Our work is also related to a recent paper by Tehranchi [36]. Tehranchi merely imposes that the stock price process is a non-negative local martingale under a locally equivalent measure, and that the stock price tends to zero almost surely as time tends to infinity. The latter condition is equivalent to the reasonable economic assumption that the call price tends to the initial stock price as time becomes large (the Heston model satisfies these conditions). Under these weak assumptions, Tehranchi derives an expression for the asymptotic implied variance in the fixed-strike, large-time regime, which depends only on the expectation of the minimum of the stock price and the strike price. Theorem 4.7 in Tehranchi [36] essentially proves and corrects a missing term in (3.8) in Chap. 6 of Lewis [31] for the large-time implied volatility in the Heston model in the fixed-strike regime.

The asymptotics in this paper can be traced back to the seminal work of Donsker and Varadhan [10–13], who showed that for an ergodic diffusion process with reasonable coefficients, the occupation measure satisfies a large-time large deviation principle, and the rate function has a variational representation as the infimum of a certain functional over the space of probability measures. Intuitively, this rate function measures the exponentially small probability of the realised occupation measure deviating from the stationary (invariant) measure for the process. They also showed that the large-time asymptotics can be characterised in terms of the principal eigenvalue for the associated second-order elliptic operator for the process plus a potential term, and they derive a variational representation for this eigenvalue which generalises the classical Rayleigh–Ritz formula for a self-adjoint operator. If the occupation measure for the instantaneous volatility process for a stochastic volatility model satisfies a large deviation principle, then the integrated variance (which is just a linear functional of the occupation measure) also satisfies a large deviation principle (by the contraction principle), and the rate function will govern the large-time behaviour of digital and variance call options on a logarithmic scale.

2 Main results

We work on a model $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ with a filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ supporting two Brownian motions and satisfying the usual conditions. All expectations are taken under \mathbb{P} unless otherwise stated, and we assume that the prevailing risk-free interest rate is zero. All the results below are very easily amended in the case of constant interest rates, where it is more convenient to deal directly with the forward price rather than the stock price.

Let $(S_t)_{t \geq 0}$ denote a stock price process with a strictly positive non-random initial value S_0 , and assume that $X_t = \log S_t$ is governed by the Heston stochastic volatility model, defined by the stochastic differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} dX_t &= -\frac{1}{2}Y_t dt + \sqrt{Y_t} dW_t^1, \\ dY_t &= \kappa(\theta - Y_t) dt + \sigma\sqrt{Y_t} dW_t^2, \\ d\langle W^1, W^2 \rangle_t &= \rho dt, \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

with $\kappa, \theta, \sigma > 0$, $|\rho| < 1$, $X_0 = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, $Y_0 = y_0 > 0$ and $2\kappa\theta > \sigma^2$, which ensures that zero is an unattainable boundary for the process Y . The process Y is a Cox–Ingersoll–Ross (CIR) diffusion (also known as the square root process), and the stochastic differential equation for the CIR diffusion satisfies the Yamada–Watanabe condition, so it admits a unique strong solution. The process X can be expressed as a stochastic integral of Y , so it is also well defined.

2.1 A large-time large deviation principle

In this section, we derive the following result which describes the large-time asymptotic behaviour of the moment generating function and the distribution function of the log stock price under the Heston model, in the regime where the maturity is large, and the log-moneyness is also proportional to the maturity.

Theorem 2.1 *Assume that*

$$\kappa > \rho\sigma. \quad (2.2)$$

Then the process $(\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0))$ satisfies a large deviation principle as t tends to infinity, with rate function $V^(x) = V^*(x; \kappa, \theta, \sigma, \rho)$ equal to the Legendre transform of*

$$\begin{aligned} V(p) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E} \left(e^{p(X_t - x_0)} \right) \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{\kappa\theta}{\sigma^2} (\kappa - \sigma\rho p - \sqrt{(\kappa - \sigma\rho p)^2 - \sigma^2 p(p-1)}), & \text{for } p \in [p_-, p_+], \\ \infty, & \text{for } p \notin [p_-, p_+], \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

where

$$p_{\pm} = \frac{\sigma - 2\kappa\rho \pm \eta}{2(1 - \rho^2)\sigma} \quad \text{and} \quad \eta = \sqrt{\sigma^2 + 4\kappa^2 - 4\rho\sigma\kappa}.$$

V^* is continuous, attains its minimum value at $x^* = V'(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\theta < 0$, and we note that $V(0) = V(1) = 0$, $p_- < 0$, $p_+ > 1$, and for all $a < b$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} \in (a, b) \right) &= \inf_{x \in (a, b)} V^*(x) \\ &= \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } a \leq x^* \leq b, \\ V^*(b), & \text{for } a \leq b \leq x^*, \\ V^*(a), & \text{for } x^* \leq a \leq b. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Remark 2.2 By Lemma 2.3 in Andersen and Piterbarg [1], we know that $\kappa - \rho\sigma$ is the mean reversion level of the Y process under the so-called share measure \mathbb{P}^* , defined in Sect. 3.2.1. We postpone the discussion on the physical significance of this measure to the proof of Theorem 2.1. If $\kappa < \rho\sigma$, the Y process is not mean reverting anymore under \mathbb{P}^* , and thus does not have the required ergodic behaviour under \mathbb{P}^* , and we see that Y_t grows exponentially as $t \rightarrow \infty$. We can see this using the representation

of the CIR process as a time-changed Bessel process, see Lemma 2.1 in Atlan [2] for instance. Note that condition (2.2) also appears in Sect. 6.1 of Keller-Ressel [29]. In equity markets, the correlation ρ is almost always negative, so this condition is not overly restrictive.

Remark 2.3 If we set $\alpha = \frac{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + 4\kappa^2 - 4\kappa\rho\sigma}}{2\sigma\bar{\rho}^2}$, $\beta = \frac{2\kappa\rho - \sigma}{2\sigma\bar{\rho}^2}$, $\mu = -\frac{\kappa\theta\rho}{\sigma}$, $\delta = \frac{\kappa\theta\bar{\rho}}{\sigma}$, $\bar{\rho} = \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}$, then, by completing the square, we find that V is the cumulant generating function of a normal inverse Gaussian distribution $NIG(\alpha, \beta, \mu, \delta)$, which reads

$$V(p) = \delta \left(\sqrt{\alpha^2 - \beta^2} - \sqrt{\alpha^2 - (\beta + p)^2} \right) + \mu p,$$

for $\alpha, \delta > 0$, $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $|\beta| < \alpha$. Note that we can rewrite α as $\alpha = \frac{\sqrt{\beta^2 + 4\kappa^2\bar{\rho}^2}}{2\sigma\bar{\rho}^2}$, so that $|\beta| < \alpha$ (see also Remark 2.16). This does not imply that the transition density for $\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0)$ tends to that of a normal inverse Gaussian distribution, and this can be shown to be false because for the transition density, we also have to take account of the leading eigenfunction for the Sturm–Liouville operator associated with the Heston model (see Lewis [31] and Forde et al. [19] and also Remark 2.16).

For a standard Brownian motion $(W_t)_{t \geq 0}$ in \mathbb{R} , the moment generating function is given by $\mathbb{E}(e^{pW_t}) = \exp(\frac{1}{2}p^2t)$, and $V(p) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E}(e^{p(X_t - x_0)}) = \frac{1}{2}p^2$. Hence (2.4) still holds, but in this case the rate function $V^*(x)$ is given by the Legendre transform of V which easily reads $V^*(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2$. We can also extend Theorem 2.1 to a Heston model with jumps, which has an additional independent driving Lévy process (mean-corrected so the stock price process remains a martingale). In this case, the limit $V(p)$ is easily computed in terms of the characteristic function for the Lévy process (see for example Keller-Ressel [29] for details).

The convergence of the rescaled cumulant generating function to $V(p)$ in (2.3) is proved in Sect. 2 as the first step of the proof of the theorem. For the Heston model (and more general affine stochastic volatility models), an alternative proof is possible using Theorem 3.4 in Keller-Ressel [29],¹ although our approach makes clear the physical meaning of the condition $\kappa - \rho\sigma > 0$.

2.2 Pricing digital and European options in the large-time limit

2.2.1 The Heston model

In this section, we prove the following useful corollary of Theorem 2.1, which is a rare event estimate for pricing European put/call options in the large-time, large-strike regime.

¹We thank an anonymous referee for pointing out this alternative proof.

Corollary 2.4 *For the Heston model defined in (2.1) under condition (2.2), we have for put/call options the large-time asymptotic behaviour*

$$\begin{aligned} -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+ &= V^*(x) - x, \quad \text{for } x \geq \frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}, \\ -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log (S_0 - \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+) &= V^*(x) - x, \quad \text{for } -\frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta} \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}, \\ -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log (\mathbb{E}(S_0 e^{xt} - S_t)^+) &= V^*(x) - x, \quad \text{for } x \leq -\frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\bar{\theta} = \frac{\kappa \theta}{\kappa - \rho \sigma}$.

Remark 2.5 If we set $V_S^*(-x) = V^*(x) - x$, then $V_S^*(x)$ is the rate function associated with the family of random variables $-\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0)$ under the share measure \mathbb{P}^* (see Corollary 3.1 and Sect. 3.2.1). The value $x_S^* = \frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}$ is the turning point of $V_S^*(-x)$, where $V_S^*(-\frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}) = (V_S^*)'(-\frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}) = 0$.

Remark 2.6 We note that the “effective” rate function $V^*(x) - x$ for call options is different from the rate function $V^*(x)$ for digital call options, in contrast to the small-time regime discussed in Forde and Jacquier [17], where both rate functions are the same.

We also have the following corollaries of Theorem 2.1 and Corollary 2.4 for the usual large-time, fixed-moneyness regime.

Corollary 2.7 *We have for digital call options of strike $K = S_0 e^x > 0$ on S the large-time asymptotic behaviour*

$$\begin{aligned} -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}(S_t > K) &= -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}(X_t - x_0 > x) \\ &= V^*(0) = \frac{\kappa \theta}{2\sigma^2(1 - \rho^2)}(-2\kappa + \rho\sigma + \eta) > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.8 Note that $V^*(0)$ is minus the minimum value of V .

Corollary 2.9 *We have for European call options of strike $K > 0$ on S the large-time asymptotic behaviour*

$$-\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log (S_0 - \mathbb{E}(S_t - K)^+) = V_S^*(0) = V^*(0) > 0.$$

Remark 2.10 Note that the limits in Corollaries 2.7 and 2.9 are the same and independent of the fixed strike K , i.e., we do not see the smile effect in the fixed-strike regime.

2.2.2 The Black–Scholes model

In this section, we consider the standard Black–Scholes model with zero interest rates for a log stock price process $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ with volatility $\sigma > 0$, which satisfies $dX_t = -\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 dt + \sigma dW_t$, with $X_0 = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. We obtain similar results to Theorem 2.1 and Corollary 2.4.

Theorem 2.11 *For the Black–Scholes model, the process $(\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0))$ satisfies a large deviation principle as t tends to infinity, with rate function $V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma)$ equal to the Legendre transform of*

$$V_{BS}(p, \sigma) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E} \left(e^{p(X_t - x_0)} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 (p^2 - p).$$

The function $x \mapsto V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma)$ is continuous, attains its minimum value at the point $x^* = \partial_p V_{BS}(p, \sigma)|_{p=0} = -\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 < 0$, and $V_{BS}(0, \sigma) = V_{BS}(1, \sigma) = 0$. Furthermore, for all $a < b$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} \in (a, b) \right) &= \inf_{x \in (a, b)} V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) \\ &= \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } a \leq x^* \leq b, \\ V_{BS}^*(b, \sigma), & \text{for } a \leq b \leq x^*, \\ V_{BS}^*(a, \sigma), & \text{for } x^* \leq a \leq b. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Corollary 2.12 *For the Black–Scholes model, we have for call and put options the asymptotic behaviour*

$$\begin{aligned} -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E} (S_t - S_0 e^{x t})^+ &= V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) - x, \quad \text{for } x \geq \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2, \\ -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log (S_0 - \mathbb{E} (S_t - S_0 e^{x t})^+) &= V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) - x, \quad \text{for } -\frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2, \\ -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E} (S_0 e^{x t} - S_t)^+ &= V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) - x, \quad \text{for } x \leq -\frac{1}{2} \sigma^2, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) = \frac{(x + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2}.$$

Remark 2.13 Corollary 2.12 is very important in the proof of Corollary 2.14, where we characterise the implied volatility under the Heston model in the large-time, large-strike regime.

2.3 Large-time behaviour of implied volatility

We can also compute the asymptotic implied volatility in the large-time limit. Let $\sigma_t(x)$ denote the Black–Scholes implied volatility of a European call option with

strike price $K = S_0 e^{xt}$ under the Heston model. In Sect. 3.6 we prove the following result:

Corollary 2.14 *Under condition (2.2), we have for $\sigma_t(x)$ the large-time asymptotic behaviour*

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_\infty^2(x) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_t^2(x) \\ &= \begin{cases} 2(2V^*(x) - x - 2\sqrt{V^*(x)^2 - V^*(x)x}), & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [-\frac{1}{2}\theta, \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}], \\ 2(2V^*(x) - x + 2\sqrt{V^*(x)^2 - V^*(x)x}), & \text{for } x \in (-\frac{1}{2}\theta, \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}). \end{cases} \quad (2.5)\end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.15 The main practical use of Corollary 2.14 is to approximate the Heston call price $\mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+$ by $C^{BS}(S_0, S_0 e^{xt}, t, \sigma_\infty(x))$ in some sense (for large t), where $C^{BS}(S_0, K, t, \sigma)$ is the Black–Scholes call option formula with initial stock price S_0 , strike price K , maturity t and volatility σ . It can also be used for implied volatility smile extrapolations at large maturities, where Monte Carlo and PDE methods break down. However, it is important to note that Corollary 2.14 does not imply that

$$\mathbb{E}(S_t - K e^{xt})^+ \rightarrow C^{BS}(S_0, S_0 e^{xt}, t, \sigma_\infty(x)) \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

This is because the exponential bounds associated with the large deviation principle are too crude to be able to say anything sharper. However, if we calculate the next term in the expansion for the implied volatility as $\sigma_t(x)^2 = \sigma_\infty^2(x) + \frac{1}{t}a(x) + O(1/t^2)$, then it is true that

$$\mathbb{E}(S_t - K e^{xt})^+ \rightarrow C^{BS}\left(S_0, K e^{xt}, t, \sqrt{\sigma_\infty^2(x) + \frac{a(x)}{t}}\right) \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

(see the sequel paper by Forde et al. [19] and unpublished work by Forde, where the correction term $a(x)$ is computed using Laplace’s method for contour integrals).

Remark 2.16 The proof of Corollary 2.14 is an immediate consequence of the limiting behaviour $V(p) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E}(e^{p(X_t - x_0)})$, and nothing else. This means that the Heston model has the same rate function $V^*(x)$ and the same asymptotic implied volatility $\sigma_\infty(x)$ as the Barndorff–Nielsen normal inverse Gaussian model, where $X_t - x_0 \sim \text{NIG}(\alpha, \beta, \mu t, \delta t)$ and $\mathbb{E}(e^{p(X_t - x_0)}) = e^{V(p)t}$ for all $t > 0$, if $\alpha, \beta, \mu, \delta$ are chosen as in Remark 2.3 (see Benaïm and Friz [3], Cont and Tankov [8], Keller–Ressel [29] for further details).

Gatheral and Jacquier [24] recently proved that under a suitable change of variables and condition (2.2), the asymptotic volatility smile in (2.5) is algebraically equal to the stochastic volatility inspired (SVI) parametrisation proposed by Gatheral in [23], thus confirming the conjecture about the large time form of the Heston smile.

2.3.1 The cases $x = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$, $x = -\frac{1}{2}\theta$ and $x = 0$

Using the fact that $V_S^*(-\frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}) = 0$ and $V^*(-\frac{1}{2}\theta) = 0$, we find that

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}} \sigma_\infty^2(x) &= \bar{\theta}, \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}\theta} \sigma_\infty^2(x) &= \theta.\end{aligned}$$

For the at-the-money case $x = 0$, we have

$$\sigma_\infty^2(0) = 8V_S^*(0) = 8V^*(0) = \frac{4\kappa\theta}{\sigma^2(1-\rho^2)}(-2\kappa + \rho\sigma + \eta), \quad (2.6)$$

which agrees with the expressions in (3.9) and (4.3) in Chap. 6 of Lewis [31] at leading order.

2.4 The large-time, fixed-strike regime

We can compute the leading-order asymptotic implied volatility in the large-time, fixed-strike regime given in (3.9) and (4.3) in Chap. 6 of Lewis [31].

Corollary 2.17 *Let $K > 0$. For the standard Heston model in Theorem 2.1, we have for the implied volatility $\hat{\sigma}_t(x)$ of a European call option on $S = e^X$ with strike $K = S_0 e^x$ as t tends to infinity the asymptotic behaviour*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\sigma}_t(x)^2 = 8V_S^*(0) = 8V^*(0) = \frac{4\kappa\theta}{\sigma^2(1-\rho^2)}(-2\kappa + \rho\sigma + \eta).$$

Remark 2.18 Note that the answer is the same as for the at-the-money case $x = 0$ in (2.6). See Theorem 4.6 in Tehranchi [36] for a similar result.

2.5 Numerics

In this section, we provide some visual explanations of the results presented above. In all the graphs below, we take $\kappa = 1.15$, $\theta = 0.04$, and $\sigma = 0.2$ and $\rho = -0.4, 0$ and 0.4 . Figure 1 shows the domain of existence and essential smoothness of the limiting moment generating function V as well as the behaviour of the function V_{BS}^* , which serves as a tool in the proof of Corollary 2.14. It is interesting to compare this figure with the asymptotic implied volatility smile in Fig. 3 and the effective rate function $V_S^*(-x) = V^*(x) - x$ in Fig. 2. As ρ grows from a negative value to a positive one, the asymmetry of V translates into that of the smile and (inversely) of V^* . The intuition behind this result is that, when considering the positive axis for instance, a large value of $V(p)$ means high values of the stock price process (almost surely), hence larger values for call options, which implies the asymmetry of the smile. We also zoom in on Fig. 2 so as not to lead to the wrong impression that the minimum of V_S^* is independent of the correlation ρ .

Note that from Corollary 2.14, the asymptotic implied volatility smile under the Heston model does not depend on the initial value y_0 of the variance process. The

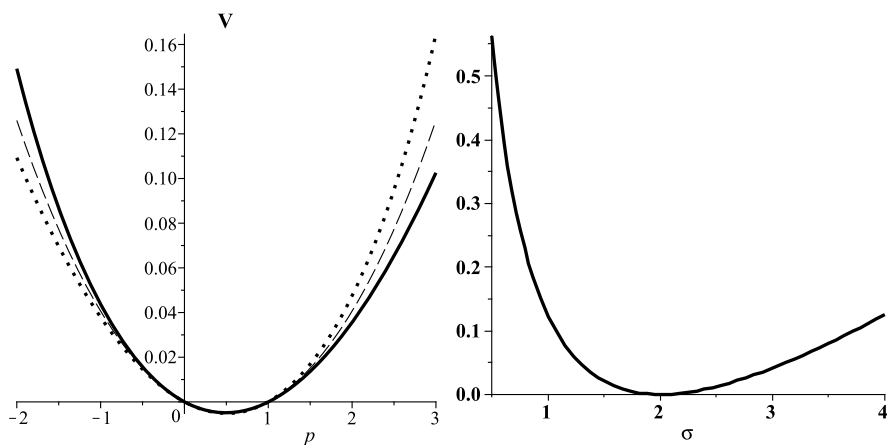


Fig. 1 The left figure is the graph of the function V defined in (2.3) for $\rho = -0.4, 0, 0.4$ (solid, dashed and dotted lines, respectively). We can immediately identify the points $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ where $V'(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$ and $V'(1) = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$. On the right, we plot the function $\sigma \mapsto V_{BS}^*(-1, \sigma)$ given in Corollary 2.12. This graph is essentially here as a visual aid for the proof of Corollary 2.14 in Sect. 3.6

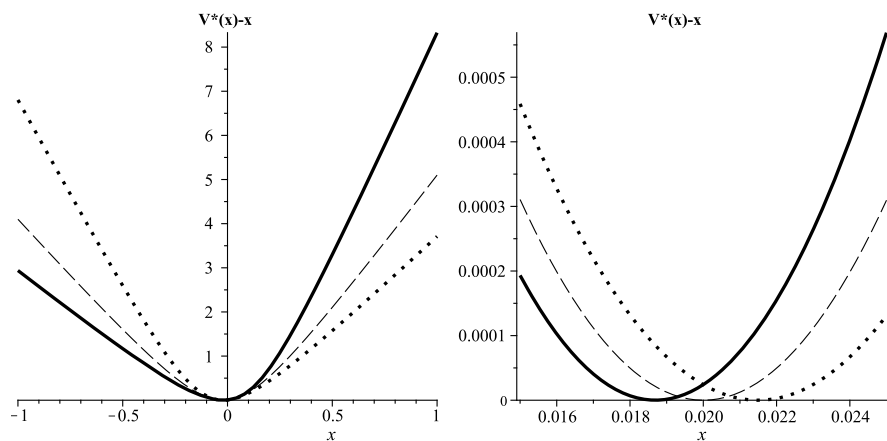


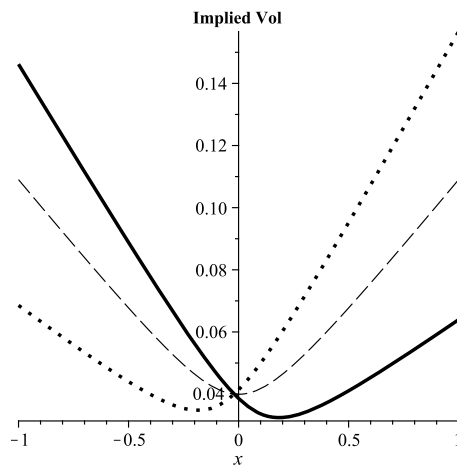
Fig. 2 We plot here the function $x \mapsto V^*(x) - x$ for $\rho = -0.4, 0, 0.4$, which achieves its minimum value of zero at $x = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta} = 0.0187$ for $\rho = -0.4$, 0.02 for $\rho = 0$, and 0.0215 for $\rho = 0.4$. The right graph is a zoomed-in version which shows the dependence of the minimum on ρ

form of this large-time smile was conjectured by Gatheral in [23], who called it the stochastic volatility inspired parametrisation, and it was recently proved in [24] that it is precisely the limit of the Heston smile as the maturity goes to infinity, which is indeed independent of y_0 .

3 Proofs of the main results

We first prove Theorem 2.1. It is trivial to prove the form of $V(p)$ when it exists; the more delicate issue is proving that $V(p)$ is infinite outside (p_-, p_+) . For this, we

Fig. 3 This graph represents the asymptotic implied volatility smile $\sigma_\infty(x)$ for $\rho = -0.4, 0, 0.4$ given in Corollary 2.14. $\rho = 0$ leads to a symmetric smile (*dashed*) and the sign of ρ indicates the asymmetry of the smile



recall the two conditions that appear in Theorem 3.1 in Hurd and Kuznetsov [27] and Proposition 3.1 in Andersen and Piterbarg [1]. We show that for our purposes, one of the conditions implies the other. In Sect. 2.2, we prove Corollary 2.4 in a series of steps. We first introduce the share measure \mathbb{P}^* . It turns out that the effective rate function for call options is equal to the rate function for the log stock price divided by the maturity under \mathbb{P}^* and not \mathbb{P} , in contrast to small-time large deviations theory where both rate functions are the same.

In Lemma 3.2, we establish a simple relationship between the rate functions under \mathbb{P} and \mathbb{P}^* which simplifies subsequent calculations. In the final proof of Corollary 2.4, we exploit an interesting identity derived in Carr and Madan [7], namely that the price of a call option under \mathbb{P} is equal to the price of a digital call option on the log stock price minus an independent exponential variable, under the measure \mathbb{P}^* . Corollaries 2.7 and 2.9 then follow almost immediately from the smoothness properties of the Legendre transforms under \mathbb{P} and \mathbb{P}^* . The Black–Scholes versions of these results are then proved using similar arguments. This enables us to derive the implied volatility asymptotic behaviour, namely Corollary 2.14, for which we use Theorem 2.12 to sandwich the Heston call option price between two Black–Scholes call prices whose volatilities are very close to each other, and from this we obtain bounds for the implied volatility itself, by using the monotonicity of the Black–Scholes call price as a function of the volatility. Finally, Corollary 2.17 follows from a simple combination of Corollaries 2.7 and 3.3.

3.1 Proof of Theorem 2.1

The process $S = \exp(X)$ is a true martingale (see Proposition 2.5 in Andersen and Piterbarg [1] and Proposition 2.10 in Bühler [6]) and, by Lemma 2.3 in [1], we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left(e^{p(X_t - x_0)} \right) = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_p} \left(e^{\frac{1}{2} p(p-1) \int_0^t Y_s ds} \right), \quad (3.1)$$

with

$$dY_t = \kappa(\theta - Y_t) dt + \rho \sigma p Y_t dt + \sigma \sqrt{Y_t} d\tilde{W}_t^2 = \tilde{\kappa}(\tilde{\theta} - Y_t) dt + \sigma \sqrt{Y_t} d\tilde{W}_t^2,$$

where \tilde{W}^2 is a \mathbb{Q}_p -Brownian motion, $\tilde{\kappa} = \kappa - \rho\sigma p$, $\tilde{\theta} = \frac{\kappa\theta}{\kappa - \rho\sigma p}$ and $Y_0 = y_0$. Note that we use (3.1) because we have not seen a rigorous (existence and uniqueness) proof of the characteristic function for $X_t - x_0$ using Riccati equations, and Hurd and Kuznetsov [27] is the only article we are aware of that provides a rigorous probabilistic proof of the moment generating function of $\int_0^t Y_s ds$, using Girsanov's theorem and the well-known non-central chi-square transition density for the CIR process (see also Dufresne [15]). This proof circumvents the need for Riccati equations and then having to use analytic continuation to go from the characteristic function of $X_t - x_0$ to the mgf of $X_t - x_0$ inside the strip of analyticity, which is contrary to the probabilistic spirit of the article. Equation (3.1) is also used in Andersen and Piterbarg [1], Feng et al. [16], Lewis [31] and Lions and Musiela [32]. Also, although the statement of Lemma 2.3 in [1] is limited to the case of $p \geq 1$, the proof is not limited to that case, allowing $p \in \mathbb{R}$. From Theorem 3.1 in Hurd and Kuznetsov [27], if

$$\tilde{\kappa} > 0 \quad (3.2)$$

and

$$\omega \leq \frac{\tilde{\kappa}^2}{2\sigma^2}, \quad (3.3)$$

then

$$\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_p} \left(e^{\omega \int_0^t Y_s ds} \right) < \infty$$

for all $t > 0$ (ω here corresponds to d_1 in [27]). Condition (3.2) ensures that Y has mean-reverting behaviour under \mathbb{Q}^p , and condition (3.3) ensures that the square root in the expression v_1 in Theorem 3.1 in [27] is real, which is needed to define a real Girsanov change of measure in the proof. Intuitively, from condition (3.3), we see that the mean reversion effect and the volatility compete with each other—higher values of $\tilde{\kappa}$ thin the tails of $\int_0^t Y_s ds$, but higher values of σ have the opposite effect. To use (3.1), we set $\omega = \frac{1}{2}p(p-1)$ and the conditions read

$$\kappa > \rho\sigma p, \quad (3.4)$$

$$(\kappa - \rho\sigma p)^2 \geq p(p-1)\sigma^2. \quad (3.5)$$

Both these inequalities also appear in Proposition 3.1 in [1]; together they ensure that the moment explosion time $T^*(p)$ is infinite for $X_t - x_0$ under the original measure \mathbb{P} . Note that this is a special case of the general affine time-homogeneous Markov process used in Keller-Ressel [29], and this solution can also be obtained using ordinary differential equations of the Riccati type. Under these conditions, we have the exponential affine closed-form solution

$$\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_p} \left(e^{\frac{1}{2}p(p-1) \int_0^t Y_s ds} \right) = e^{m(t) - n(t)y_0} < \infty, \quad (3.6)$$

where

$$m(t) = \frac{2\kappa\theta}{\sigma^2} \log \left(\frac{\bar{b}e^{\frac{bt}{2}}}{\bar{b} \cosh(\frac{1}{2}\bar{b}t) + b \sinh(\frac{1}{2}\bar{b}t)} \right),$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 n(t) &= -p(p-1) \frac{\sinh(\frac{1}{2}\bar{b}t)}{\bar{b} \cosh(\frac{1}{2}\bar{b}t) + b \sinh(\frac{1}{2}\bar{b}t)}, \\
 b &= \kappa - \rho\sigma p, \\
 \bar{b} &= \sqrt{(\kappa - \rho\sigma p)^2 - \sigma^2 p(p-1)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Equation (3.5) is equivalent to $p_- \leq p \leq p_+$, and recalling that p_{\pm} is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_{\pm} &= \frac{\sigma - 2\kappa\rho \pm \sqrt{\sigma^2 + 4\kappa^2 - 4\rho\sigma\kappa}}{2(1 - \rho^2)\sigma} \\
 &= \frac{\sigma - 2\kappa\rho \pm \sqrt{(\sigma - 2\kappa\rho)^2 + 4\kappa^2(1 - \rho^2)}}{2(1 - \rho^2)\sigma},
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

we see that $p_- < 0$. From Appendix B, we also know that $p_+ > 1$. For $0 \leq \rho < 1$, if $\kappa > \rho\sigma p_+$, then $\kappa > \rho\sigma p$ for $p \in [p_-, p_+]$. But p_+ depends on κ itself, so we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \kappa > \rho\sigma p_+ &\iff 2\kappa(1 - \rho^2) > \rho\sigma - 2\kappa\rho^2 + \rho\sqrt{(\sigma - 2\kappa\rho)^2 + 4\kappa^2(1 - \rho^2)} \\
 &\iff 2\kappa - \rho\sigma > \rho\sqrt{(\sigma - 2\kappa\rho)^2 + 4\kappa^2(1 - \rho^2)} \\
 &\iff (2\kappa - \rho\sigma)^2 > \rho^2(\sigma - 2\kappa\rho)^2 + 4\kappa^2\rho^2(1 - \rho^2) \\
 &\iff \kappa - \rho\sigma > 0,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

which is true by assumption. Thus (3.4) is implied by (3.5). For $\rho \leq 0$, choosing $\kappa > \rho\sigma p_-$ ensures that condition (3.4) is satisfied for all $p \in [p_-, p_+]$. But p_- also depends on κ , and we see that (3.8) is clearly true for all $\rho < 0$.

Analysing (3.6) for t large and $p \in [p_-, p_+]$, we find that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{m(t)}{t} &\rightarrow \frac{\kappa\theta}{\sigma^2}(b - \bar{b}), \\
 \frac{n(t)}{t} &\rightarrow 0
 \end{aligned}$$

as t tends to infinity, so the $m(t)$ term dominates the $n(t)$ term (in contrast to the small-time regime where the $n(t)$ term dominates; see Forde and Jacquier [17]).

We have shown that (3.5) implies (3.4). Taking the contraposition, if (3.4) does not hold, then (3.5) does not hold and $p \notin [0, 1]$ (recall that $p_- < 0$ and $p_+ > 1$); thus, by Proposition 3.1 in [1], $\mathbb{E}(e^{p(X_t - x_0)}) = \infty$ for t sufficiently large, and (2.3) holds. We also note that $V(0) = V(1) = 0$, and

$$V(p_{\pm}) = \frac{\kappa\theta(2\kappa - \rho\sigma \mp \rho\eta)}{2\sigma^2(1 - \rho^2)} < \infty,$$

so $V : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ is lower semicontinuous, but is not continuous at $p = p_{\pm}$. Differentiating $V(p)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} V'(p) &= \frac{\kappa\theta}{\sigma^2} \left(-\rho\sigma + \frac{1}{2} \frac{2\rho\kappa - \sigma + 2p\sigma(1-\rho^2)}{\sqrt{(\kappa - \rho\sigma p)^2 + \sigma^2(p^2 - p)}} \right), \\ V''(p) &= \frac{\kappa\theta\eta^2}{4((\kappa - \rho\sigma p)^2 + \sigma^2(p - p^2))^{\frac{3}{2}}} \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

for any $p \in (p_-, p_+)$. From this, we see that $|V'(p)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $p \nearrow p_+$ or $p \searrow p_-$, and $V''(p) > 0$ for $p \in (p_-, p_+)$. Thus V is convex, essentially smooth (see Appendix A for a definition) and lower semicontinuous, so we can appeal to the Gärtner–Ellis theorem recalled in Appendix A to establish that the process $(\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0))$ satisfies a large deviation principle with rate function V^* equal to the Fenchel–Legendre transform of V . By the essential smoothness property of V , the equation

$$\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial p}(px - V(p)) \right|_{p^*} = 0$$

has a solution $p^* = p^*(x)$ in (p_-, p_+) , which equivalently solves $x = V'(p^*(x))$. This equation is solvable in closed form and we obtain

$$p_{\pm}^*(x) = \frac{\sigma - 2\kappa\rho \pm (\kappa\theta\rho + x\sigma)\eta}{2(1 - \rho^2)\sigma\sqrt{x^2\sigma^2 + 2x\kappa\theta\rho\sigma + \kappa^2\theta^2}}. \quad (3.10)$$

Note that the square root appearing in the denominator of (3.10) is well defined for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. The square root in (3.9) has to be positive, so setting $V'(p) = x$ and rearranging (3.7), we have the sign condition

$$\frac{2\rho\kappa - \sigma + 2p\sigma(1 - \rho^2)}{x\sigma + \rho\kappa\theta} > 0, \quad (3.11)$$

and substituting $p = p_{\pm}^*(x)$, the left-hand side of (3.11) becomes

$$\pm \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{x^2\sigma^2 + \theta^2\sigma^2 + 2\kappa\theta\rho x\sigma}},$$

so we see that $p_{\pm}^*(x)$ is the only valid root. By a direct calculation, we find that

$$p_+^*(0) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sigma - 2\rho\kappa - |\rho|\eta}{\sigma(1 - \rho^2)}.$$

The unique minimum x^* of V^* occurs at $x^* = ((V^*)')^{-1}(0) = V'(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\theta$, and $V^*(-\frac{1}{2}\theta) = 0$. For $p \in (p_-, p_+)$, $V'(p)$ is negative when $p < p_+^*(0)$ and positive when $p > p_+^*(0)$. V is C^2 , essentially smooth (see Definition A.4 in Appendix A) and strictly convex inside (p_-, p_+) , so using standard calculus, we can easily show that $x = V'(p)$ for $p \in (p_-, p_+)$ if and only if $p = (V^*)'(x)$ (see the proof of

Lemma 2.5 in Feng et al. [16] for a very similar analysis, and Theorem V.26.5 in Rockafellar [35]). Thus for $p > 0$, we have

$$x = V'(p) > V'(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\theta,$$

$$p^* = (V^*)'(x) > 0,$$

and the Fenchel–Legendre reduces to the Legendre transform. Consequently, V^* is strictly increasing when $x > -\frac{1}{2}\theta$. Similarly, we can show that V^* is strictly decreasing when $x < -\frac{1}{2}\theta$, and (2.4) follows from Lemma A.3 in Appendix A.

3.2 Proof of Corollary 2.4

The proof of Corollary 2.4 requires some intermediate notions and results.

3.2.1 The share measure

We can rewrite the SDEs (2.1) for the Heston model as

$$dX_t = -\frac{1}{2}Y_t dt + \sqrt{Y_t} \left(\rho dB_t^2 + \sqrt{1-\rho^2} dB_t^1 \right),$$

$$dY_t = \kappa(\theta - Y_t) dt + \sigma \sqrt{Y_t} dB_t^2,$$

where B^1 and B^2 are independent Brownian motions under \mathbb{P} . As the process $(S_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale (see [1] and [6]), by Girsanov's theorem, we can define the so-called share measure \mathbb{P}^* as

$$\mathbb{P}^*(A) = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left(\frac{S_t}{S_0} 1_A \right) = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left(e^{-\frac{1}{2} \int_0^t Y_s ds + \int_0^t \rho \sqrt{Y_s} dB_s^2 + \int_0^t \sqrt{1-\rho^2} \sqrt{Y_s} dB_s^1} 1_A \right)$$

for every $A \in \mathcal{F}_t$. \mathbb{P}^* is the measure associated with using $S = e^X$ as the numéraire. Setting $B_t^{*1} = B_t^1 - \int_0^t \sqrt{1-\rho^2} \sqrt{Y_s} ds$, $B_t^{*2} = B_t^2 - \int_0^t \rho \sqrt{Y_s} ds$, we have

$$dX_t = \frac{1}{2}Y_t dt + \sqrt{Y_t} \left(\rho dB_t^{*2} + \sqrt{1-\rho^2} dB_t^{*1} \right),$$

$$dY_t = \kappa(\theta - Y_t) dt + \rho \sigma Y_t dt + \sigma \sqrt{Y_t} dB_t^{*2} = \bar{\kappa}(\bar{\theta} - Y_t) dt + \sigma \sqrt{Y_t} dB_t^{*2},$$

where $\bar{\kappa} = \kappa - \rho\sigma$, $\bar{\theta}$ is defined in Corollary 2.4, and B^{*1} and B^{*2} are two independent \mathbb{P}^* -Brownian motions. From this we see that

$$d(-X_t) = -\frac{1}{2}Y_t dt + \sqrt{Y_t} dZ_t^{*1},$$

$$dY_t = \bar{\kappa}(\bar{\theta} - Y_t) dt + \sigma \sqrt{Y_t} dZ_t^{*2},$$
(3.12)

where Z^{*1} and Z^{*2} are two correlated Brownian motions under \mathbb{P}^* such that we have $d\langle Z^{*1}, Z^{*2} \rangle_t = -\rho dt$ (note the minus sign).

3.2.2 A large-time large deviation principle under the share measure

Working with the share measure \mathbb{P}^* gives the following corollary of Theorem 2.1.

Corollary 3.1 *Under \mathbb{P}^* , $-\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0)$ satisfies a large deviation principle as t tends to infinity, with rate function V_S^* equal to the Legendre transform of*

$$V_S(p) = V(p; \bar{\kappa}, \bar{\theta}, \sigma, -\rho) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^*} \left(e^{-p(X_t - x_0)} \right) \\ = \begin{cases} \frac{\bar{\kappa}\bar{\theta}}{\sigma^2} (\bar{\kappa} + \sigma \rho p - \sqrt{(\bar{\kappa} + \sigma \rho p)^2 - \sigma^2 p(p-1)}), & \text{for } p \in [p_-^S, p_+^S], \\ \infty, & \text{for } p \notin [p_-^S, p_+^S], \end{cases}$$

where $p_{\pm}^S = \frac{2\bar{\kappa}\rho + \sigma \pm \eta_S}{2(1-\rho^2)\sigma}$ and $\eta_S = \sqrt{\sigma^2 + 4\bar{\kappa}^2 + 4\rho\sigma\bar{\kappa}}$. Furthermore, $p_-^S < 0$, $p_+^S > 1$, $V_S^*(-x)$ attains its minimum value at $x_S^* = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$, and for all $a < b$,

$$-\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}^* \left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} \in (a, b) \right) = \inf_{x \in (a, b)} V_S^*(-x) \\ = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } a \leq x^* \leq b, \\ V_S^*(-b), & \text{for } a \leq b \leq x^*, \\ V_S^*(-a), & \text{for } x^* \leq a \leq b. \end{cases}$$

Proof The corollary just follows by applying Theorem 2.1 to (3.12) under the measure \mathbb{P}^* after noticing that the condition $\bar{\kappa} = \kappa - \rho\sigma > -\rho\sigma$ is trivially satisfied because $\kappa > 0$ by assumption. \square

We also require the following lemma.

Lemma 3.2 *For all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, we have $V_S^*(-x) = V^*(x) - x$.*

Proof Let $B_\delta(x)$ denote a ball of radius δ centered at $x \in \mathbb{R}$. The functions V^* and V_S^* are continuous, so for any $\delta > 0$, there exists an $\epsilon = \epsilon(\delta)$ such that $V_S^*(-x) - \epsilon < V_S^*(y) < V_S^*(-x) + \epsilon$ for $y \in B_\delta(x)$. Applying the large-time large deviation principle under \mathbb{P}^* , we have

$$e^{-(V_S^*(-x) + 2\epsilon)t} \leq \mathbb{P}^* \left(-\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} \in B_\delta(-x) \right) \\ = \mathbb{P}^* \left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} \in B_\delta(x) \right) \\ = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left(e^{X_t - x_0} 1_{\left\{ \frac{X_t - x_0}{t} \in B_\delta(x) \right\}} \right) \\ \leq e^{(x+\delta)t} \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} \in B_\delta(x) \right) \\ \leq e^{(x+\delta)t} e^{-(V^*(x) + 2\epsilon)t}.$$

We proceed similarly for the lower bound. \square

Corollary 3.3 *For all $K = S_0 e^x > 0$, we have for S_t under \mathbb{P}^* the large-time asymptotic behaviour*

$$\begin{aligned} -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}^*(S_t > K) &= -\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}^*(X_t - x_0 > x) = V^*(0) \\ &= \frac{\kappa \theta}{2\sigma^2(1 - \rho^2)}(-2\kappa + \rho\sigma + \eta) > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Corollary 2.4 We first consider $x > \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$. From p. 4 in Carr and Madan [7], we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{S_0} \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+ &= \mathbb{P}^*(\log S_t - E > \log(S_0 e^{xt})) \\ &= \mathbb{P}^*(X_t - x_0 - E > xt), \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

where E is an independent exponential random variable under \mathbb{P}^* with parameter $\lambda = 1$. By Corollary 3.1 and the independence assumption, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^*} \left(e^{p(-(X_t - x_0 - E))} \right) &= \frac{1}{t} \log \left(\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^*} (e^{-p(X_t - x_0)}) \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^*} (e^{pE}) \right) \\ &= V_S(p) + O(1/t) \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned}$$

i.e., E does not affect the leading-order asymptotics of $X_t - x_0$. Thus, using Corollary 3.1 and the continuity of V_S^* , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}^*(X_t - x_0 - E > xt) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}^*(-(X_t - x_0 - E) < -xt) \\ &= V_S^*(-x). \end{aligned}$$

Now, for $-\frac{1}{2}\theta < x < \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$, using (3.13) we have

$$1 - \frac{1}{S_0} \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+ = \mathbb{P}^*(X_t - x_0 - E \leq xt).$$

Taking logs and dividing by t , we obtain

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(1 - \frac{1}{S_0} \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+ \right) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}^*(X_t - x_0 - E \leq xt) = V_S^*(-x).$$

Finally, for $x < -\frac{1}{2}\theta$, proceeding along similar lines to Carr and Madan [7], we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{K} \mathbb{E}(K - S_t)^+ &= \mathbb{E} \left(1 - \frac{S_t}{K} \right)^+ = \int_0^\infty (1 - e^{-y}) f(y) dy \\ &= \int_0^\infty (1 - F(y)) e^{-y} dy, \end{aligned}$$

where $S/K = e^{-y}$, f is the density of y , and F is the corresponding distribution function. But e^{-y} is the density of a positive exponential random variable E with parameter 1, so we can rewrite this expression as

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\log \frac{K}{S_t} > E\right) = \mathbb{P}(X_t - x_0 + E < x).$$

Setting $K = S_0 e^{xt}$ and using the Gärtner–Ellis theorem under \mathbb{P} and the continuity of V , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(\frac{1}{S_0 e^{xt}} \mathbb{E}(S_0 e^{xt} - S_t)^+ \right) &= -x + \frac{1}{t} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \log \mathbb{E}(S_0 e^{xt} - S_t)^+ \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{P}(X_t - x_0 + E < xt) = -V^*(x), \end{aligned}$$

and the result follows from Lemma 3.2. \square

3.3 Proofs of Corollaries 2.7 and 2.9

Proof of Corollary 2.7 Consider $x > 0$. By Theorem 2.1, we know that for all ϵ , $\delta > 0$, there exists a $t^* = t^*(\delta, \epsilon, x)$ such that for all $t > t^*$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-(V^*(\delta) + \epsilon)t} &\leq \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} > \delta\right) \leq \mathbb{P}(X_t - x_0 > x) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} > \frac{x}{t}\right) \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{X_t - x_0}{t} > 0\right) \leq e^{-(V^*(0) - \epsilon)t}. \end{aligned}$$

The result then follows from the continuity of V^* . We proceed similarly for $x < 0$. \square

Proof of Corollary 2.9 Consider $x > 0$. By Corollary 2.4 in the case $-\frac{1}{2}\theta \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$, we know that for all $\delta \in (0, \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta})$ and all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a $t^* = t^*(\delta, \epsilon, x)$ such that for all $t > t^*$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-(V_S^*(-\delta) - \epsilon)t} &\geq S_0 - \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{\delta t})^+ \geq S_0 - \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^x)^+ \\ &\geq S_0 - \mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0)^+ \geq e^{-(V_S^*(0) + \epsilon)t}. \end{aligned}$$

The result then follows from the continuity of V_S^* , and the fact that $V_S^*(0) = V^*(0)$ by Lemma 3.2. We proceed similarly for $x < 0$. \square

3.4 Proof of Theorem 2.11

We proceed similarly to Corollary 2.4. For the Black–Scholes model with volatility $\sigma > 0$, the moment generating function of $X_t - x_0$ has the closed-form expression

$$\mathbb{E}\left(e^{p(X_t - x_0)}\right) = \exp(V_{BS}(p, \sigma)t),$$

where $V_{BS}(p, \sigma) = \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(p^2 - p)$. The function $p \mapsto V_{BS}(p, \sigma)$ is convex, lower semicontinuous and essentially smooth (see also Fig. 1), so, by the Gärtner–Ellis theorem, the process $(\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0))$ satisfies a large deviation principle with rate function $V_{BS}^*(\cdot, \sigma)$ equal to the Fenchel–Legendre transform of $V_{BS}(\cdot, \sigma)$. By the essential smoothness property of $V_{BS}(\cdot, \sigma)$, we see that the equation

$$\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial p}(px - V_{BS}(p, \sigma)) \right|_{p^*} = 0$$

has a unique solution $p^* = p^*(x)$ given by $p^*(x) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{x}{\sigma^2}$.

3.5 Proof of Theorem 2.12

We can then compute $V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma)$ as

$$V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) = p^*(x)x - V_{BS}(p^*(x), \sigma) = \frac{(x + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2} \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma > 0.$$

We can easily show that Lemma 3.2 also holds for the Black–Scholes model, so we can then compute the rate function $\tilde{V}_{BS}^*(x, \sigma)$ for $-\frac{1}{t}(X_t - x_0)$ under \mathbb{P}^* as

$$\tilde{V}_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) = V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) - x = V_{BS}^*(-x, \sigma) = \frac{(-x + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2}.$$

3.6 Proof of Corollary 2.14

Let $\sigma_\infty(x)$ be given by (2.5), and first assume that $x > \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$ so the negative square root applies. Both roots are solutions to the equation

$$V^*(x) - x = V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma_\infty(x)) - x = \frac{(-x + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_\infty^2(x))^2}{2\sigma_\infty^2(x)},$$

and clearly the expression with the negative square root is the smaller of the two solutions. By Theorem 2.1, we know that for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a $t^*(\epsilon)$ such that for all $t > t^*(\epsilon)$, we have

$$\mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+ \leq e^{-(V^*(x) - x - \epsilon)t} = e^{-(V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma_\infty(x)) - x - \epsilon)t}. \quad (3.14)$$

Now $\sigma_\infty(x)$ is continuous as a function of x , and

$$\frac{1}{2}\sigma_\infty^2(x) - x = \left(2(V^*(x) - x) - 2\sqrt{(V^*(x) - x)^2 + (V^*(x) - x)x} \right) < 0,$$

because $V^*(x) - x > 0$. For x fixed, $V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma) - x = \frac{(-x + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2}$ is a continuous and strictly decreasing function of $\sigma > 0$ for $\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 < x$ (see also Fig. 1). Thus, for any $\delta > 0$ such that $\frac{(\sigma_\infty(x) + \delta)^2}{2} < x$, we can choose an $\epsilon = \epsilon(\delta) > 0$ such that

$$V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma_\infty(x)) - \epsilon = V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma_\infty(x) + \delta) + \epsilon, \quad (3.15)$$

where $\epsilon(\delta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\delta \rightarrow 0$. Combining (3.14), (3.15) and Proposition 2.12, we have

$$\mathbb{E}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+ \leq e^{-(V_{BS}^*(x, \sigma_\infty(x)) - x - \epsilon)t} \leq \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}_{\sigma_\infty(x) + \delta}^{BS}}(S_t - S_0 e^{xt})^+,$$

for t sufficiently large, where \mathbb{P}_σ^{BS} denotes the probability measure under which the log stock price follows the Black–Scholes model with volatility σ . Thus, by the monotonicity of the Black–Scholes call option formula as a function of the volatility, we have for the implied volatility $\sigma_t(x)$ at maturity t the upper bound

$$\sigma_t(x) \leq \sigma_\infty(x) + \delta.$$

Similarly, we can prove that for all $\delta > 0$, there exists $t(\delta) > 0$ such that for all $t > t(\delta)$, we have $\sigma_\infty(x) - \delta \leq \sigma_t(x)$, so we have $|\sigma_t(x) - \sigma_\infty(x)| < \delta$ for t sufficiently large. We proceed similarly for the lower bound, and for the cases $-\frac{1}{2}\theta < x < \frac{1}{2}\bar{\theta}$ and $x < \frac{1}{2}\theta$.

3.7 Proof of Corollary 2.17

Let $K > 0$. Recall the well-known identity

$$\mathbb{E}(S_t - K)^+ = S_0 \mathbb{P}^*(S_t > K) - K \mathbb{P}(S_t > K).$$

From Corollaries 2.7 and 3.3, we know that $\mathbb{P}(S_t > K) \rightarrow 0$ and $\mathbb{P}^*(S_t > K) \rightarrow 1$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$; thus we see that $\mathbb{E}(S_t - K)^+$ converges from below to S_0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$. By inspection of the Black–Scholes call option formula, we see that this can only happen if the dimensionless implied variance $\hat{\sigma}_t(x)^2 t$ tends to infinity as t tends to infinity. Using the classical notation for the Black–Scholes formula, we set

$$d_1 = \left(-x + \frac{1}{2} \hat{\sigma}_t^2(x) t \right) / (\hat{\sigma}_t(x) \sqrt{t}), \quad d_2 = d_1 - \hat{\sigma}_t(x) \sqrt{t},$$

and we see that $d_1 \rightarrow \infty$ and $d_2 \rightarrow -\infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. By Corollary 2.9, we know that for any $\delta, \epsilon > 0$, there exists a $t^* = t^*(\delta, \epsilon)$ such that for all $t > t^*$, we have by using Appendix C and $Kn(d_2) = S_0 n(d_1)$ that

$$\begin{aligned} S_0 - e^{-(V_S^*(0) + \epsilon)t} &\geq \mathbb{E}(S_t - K)^+ \\ &= S_0 \Phi(d_1) - K \Phi(d_2) \\ &= S_0(1 - \Phi^c(d_1)) - K \Phi^c(-d_2) \\ &\geq S_0 \left(1 - \frac{1}{d_1} n(d_1) \right) - K \frac{1}{|d_2|} n(d_2) \\ &= S_0 \left(1 - \frac{1}{d_1} n(d_1) - \frac{1}{|d_2|} n(d_1) \right) \\ &\geq S_0 \left(1 - \frac{1 + \delta}{\hat{\sigma}_t(x) \sqrt{t}} n(d_1) \right) \\ &\geq S_0(1 - (1 + \delta)n(d_1)). \end{aligned}$$

Subtracting S_0 from both sides, taking logs and dividing by t , we obtain

$$V_S^*(0) + \epsilon \geq \frac{(-x + \frac{1}{2}\hat{\sigma}_t(x)^2)^2}{2\hat{\sigma}_t(x)^2 t} - \epsilon \geq \frac{1}{8}\hat{\sigma}_t(x)^2 - \epsilon.$$

We proceed similarly for the other bound and the corollary follows.

Acknowledgements We should like to thank Jin Feng, Jean-Pierre Fouque, Jim Gatheral, Archil Gulisashvili, Martin Keller-Ressel, Alan Lewis, Roger Lee and Aleksandar Mijatović for useful discussions. We are also grateful to two anonymous referees.

Appendix A: The large deviation principle and the Gärtner–Ellis theorem

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space, and consider a sequence of \mathbb{R}^d -valued random variables $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ on Ω .

Definition A.1 A lower semicontinuous mapping $I : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is called a *rate function* I if for all $\alpha \geq 0$, the level set $\Psi_\alpha = \{x : I(x) \leq \alpha\}$ is closed. A rate function is said to be *good* if all level sets are compact subsets of \mathbb{R}^d .

Definition A.2 (See p. 5 in Dembo and Zeitouni [9]) The sequence $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ satisfies a *large deviation principle with rate function* I if for all $\Gamma \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\begin{aligned} - \inf_{x \in \Gamma^0} I(x) &\leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{P}(X_n \in \Gamma) \\ &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{P}(X_n \in \Gamma) \leq - \inf_{x \in \bar{\Gamma}} I(x). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Lemma A.3 If the rate function I is continuous on a set $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, then

$$- \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{P}(X_n \in B) = \inf_{x \in B} I(x).$$

Proof The function I is continuous, so $\inf_{x \in \Gamma^0} I(x) = \inf_{x \in \bar{\Gamma}} I(x)$, hence the \liminf equals the \limsup in (A.1); see also the discussion on I -continuity sets on p. 5 in [9]. \square

Definition A.4 (Definition 2.3.5 in Dembo and Zeitouni [9]) Consider a convex function $\Lambda : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$, and let $\mathcal{D}_\Lambda = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^d : \Lambda(\lambda) < \infty\}$. Λ is said to be *essentially smooth* if

- the interior \mathcal{D}_Λ^0 of \mathcal{D}_Λ is non-empty
- Λ is differentiable throughout \mathcal{D}_Λ^0
- Λ is steep, namely $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\nabla \Lambda(\lambda_n)| = \infty$ whenever $\{\lambda_n\}$ is a sequence in \mathcal{D}_Λ^0 converging to a boundary point of \mathcal{D}_Λ^0 .

Assumption A.5 (Assumption 2.3.2 in Dembo and Zeitouni [9]) *For each $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we assume that the logarithmic moment generating function, defined as the limit*

$$\Lambda(\lambda) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{E} \left(e^{n \langle \lambda, X_n \rangle} \right),$$

exists as an extended real number. Further, the origin belongs to the interior of $\mathcal{D} = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^d : \Lambda(\lambda) < \infty\}$.

We recall part (c) of the Gärtner–Ellis theorem (Theorem 2.3.6 in Dembo and Zeitouni [9]):

Theorem A.6 *Let Assumption A.5 hold. If Λ is lower semicontinuous and essentially smooth, then the sequence of random variables $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ satisfies a large deviation principle with rate function Λ^* , which is the Fenchel–Legendre transform of Λ , defined by the variational formula*

$$\Lambda^*(x) = \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^d} \{ \langle \lambda, x \rangle - \Lambda(\lambda) \} \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Lemma A.7 (Lemma 2.3.9(a) in Dembo and Zeitouni [9]) *Let Assumption A.5 hold. Then Λ is a convex function, $\Lambda(\lambda) > -\infty$ everywhere, and Λ^* is a good rate function and is convex.*

Remark A.8 Since $\mathbb{P}(X_n \in \mathbb{R}^d) = 1$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, it is necessary that $\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} I(x) = 0$. If Λ^* is a good rate function, then the level set $\{x : \Lambda^*(x) \leq \alpha\}$ is compact, so we know that the infimum is attained on this compact set because Λ^* is lower semicontinuous, i.e., there exists at least one point x^* for which $\Lambda^*(x^*) = 0$ (see pp. 5 and 6 in Dembo and Zeitouni [9]).

Appendix B: Proof that $p_+ > 1$

Recall that

$$p_{\pm} = \frac{\sigma - 2\kappa\rho \pm \eta}{2(1 - \rho^2)\sigma},$$

where $\eta^2 = (\sigma - 2\kappa\rho)^2 + 4\kappa^2(1 - \rho^2) = \sigma^2 + 4\bar{\kappa}\kappa$, with $\bar{\kappa} = \kappa - \rho\sigma > 0$ by assumption. We have

$$\begin{aligned} p_+ > 1 &\iff \frac{\sigma - 2\kappa\rho + \eta}{2\sigma(1 - \rho^2)} > 1 \iff \sigma - 2\kappa\rho + \eta > 2\sigma(1 - \rho^2) \\ &\iff \eta > \sigma + 2\kappa\rho - 2\sigma\rho^2 = \sigma + 2\rho(\kappa - \rho\sigma) = \sigma + 2\bar{\kappa}\rho. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^2 &= \sigma^2 + 4\bar{\kappa}\kappa = (\sigma + 2\bar{\kappa}\rho)^2 + 4\bar{\kappa}(\kappa - \rho\sigma - \bar{\kappa}\rho^2) \\ &= (\sigma + 2\bar{\kappa}\rho)^2 + 4\bar{\kappa}^2(1 - \rho^2) > (\sigma + 2\bar{\kappa}\rho)^2, \end{aligned}$$

and hence inequality (B.1) is always satisfied.

Appendix C: Estimates for the standard normal distribution function

Let $n(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-z^2/2}$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\Phi^c(x) = \int_x^\infty n(z) dz$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then when $x > 0$, we have the well-known bounds

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^{-1} n(x) \leq \Phi^c(x) \leq \frac{1}{x} n(x).$$

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