

Option Pricing under Stochastic Volatility, Equity Premium, and Interest Rates in a Complete Market

Nicole Hao¹, John Holmes², Echo Li², Diep Luong-Le³

¹ Cornell University ² Ohio State University ³ Lehigh University

December 17, 2025

1 Introduction

- Options Pricing
- Preliminaries
- Black-Scholes-Merton PDE

2 Research Problem

- Research Objectives and Methodology
- Assumptions
- Our Model

3 Main Results

- Overview
- Derivations and the Fundamental Theorem of Hegeability
- Numerical Results

4 References

Options Pricing

Definition (Options)

Options contracts provide the buyer or investor with the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset at a preset price, called the strike price K , at the expiration time T .

Options Pricing

Definition (Options)

Options contracts provide the buyer or investor with the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset at a preset price, called the strike price K , at the expiration time T .

Definition (Options Pricing)

The process of determining the fair price of an option that helps traders maximize profits and optimize decision-making.

Preliminaries

Definition (Martingale)

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space, let T be a fixed positive number, and let $\mathcal{F}(t), 0 \leq t \leq T$, be a filtration of sub- σ -algebras of \mathcal{F} . Consider a stochastic process $M(t)$ adapted to $\mathcal{F}(t)$, each $M(t) \in L^1$, where $0 \leq t \leq T$. If

$$\mathbb{E}[M(t)|\mathcal{F}(s)] = M(s) \text{ for all } 0 \leq s \leq t \leq T$$

we say $M(t)$ is a martingale. It has no tendency to rise or fall.

Preliminaries

Definition (Martingale)

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space, let T be a fixed positive number, and let $\mathcal{F}(t), 0 \leq t \leq T$, be a filtration of sub- σ -algebras of \mathcal{F} . Consider a stochastic process $M(t)$ adapted to $\mathcal{F}(t)$, each $M(t) \in L^1$, where $0 \leq t \leq T$. If

$$\mathbb{E}[M(t)|\mathcal{F}(s)] = M(s) \text{ for all } 0 \leq s \leq t \leq T$$

we say $M(t)$ is a martingale. It has no tendency to rise or fall.

Theorem (Martingale and Risk-neutral measure)

A discounted process is a martingale under risk-neutral measure (a probability measure that assumes all risky assets earn the risk-free rate of return).

The Black-Scholes-Merton Equation

- Provides a mathematical foundation for the determination of the price of an option

The Black-Scholes-Merton Equation

- Provides a mathematical foundation for the determination of the price of an option
- Geometric Brownian Motion

$$dS(t) = \mu S(t)dt + \sigma S(t)dW(t)$$

- ▶ Brownian motion W : Continuous-time martingale.

The Black-Scholes-Merton Equation

- Provides a mathematical foundation for the determination of the price of an option
- Geometric Brownian Motion

$$dS(t) = \mu S(t)dt + \sigma S(t)dW(t)$$

- ▶ Brownian motion W : Continuous-time martingale.
- The BSM equation:

$$V_t = rV - rSV_s - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}S^2V_{ss}$$

Research Objectives

- **Motivation:** Restrictions of the BSM model
 - ▶ Constant variance of stock price
 - ▶ Constant risk-free interest rate
 - ▶ Constant equity premium

Research Objectives

- **Motivation:** Restrictions of the BSM model
 - ▶ Constant variance of stock price
 - ▶ Constant risk-free interest rate
 - ▶ Constant equity premium

- **Research Objectives:** build a more robust model that accounts for changes in equity premium and variance of stocks as well as the bond's interest rate.

Assumptions

- No arbitrage allowed: If $P(T) = V(T)$, then $P(t) = V(t) \forall 0 < t \leq T$
- All processes are pricing processes

Definition (Pricing process)

For any stochastic process $\{V_t\}$ adapted to $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}$, the natural filtration generated by the portfolio process P, then we say V_t is a **pricing process** if there exists a risk-neutral measure Q of the portfolio process P, such that discounted option price process is a martingale.

- No transaction costs: No extra fee when trading.
- Perfect liquidity: Buy or sell any quantity of any asset at any time.

Our Model

We assumed the following system to describe the evolution of the stock price:

$$\begin{cases} dS(t) &= (\mu + X(t) + r)S(t)dt + \sqrt{\sigma_s(t)}S(t)dW_1(t) \\ dX(t) &= -\kappa_x X(t)dt + \sigma_x(\rho_x dW_1(t) + \sqrt{1 - \rho_x^2}dW_2(t)) \\ d\sigma_s(t) &= \kappa_x(\sigma - \sigma_s(t))dt + \eta\sqrt{\sigma_s(t)}(\rho_s dW_1(t) + \sqrt{1 - \rho_s^2}dW_3(t)) \\ dR(t) &= \kappa_R(r - R(t))dt + \xi(\rho_R dW_1(t) + \sqrt{1 - \rho_R^2}dW_4(t)) \end{cases}$$

- $S(t)$: Underlying asset price/stock price
- $X(t)$: Change in equity premium
- $\sigma_s(t)$: Variance of the stock price
- $R(t)$: Bond's interest rate

Results: Overview

- Applied two modeling techniques to derive the PDE for the price of an option.
 - ▶ Replicating portfolio
 - ▶ Risk-Neutral Measure

Results: Overview

- Applied two modeling techniques to derive the PDE for the price of an option.
 - ▶ Replicating portfolio
 - ▶ Risk-Neutral Measure
- Proposed and proved the Fundamental Theorem of Hedgeability
 - ▶ Further validates our derivation using two approaches

Results: Overview

- Applied two modeling techniques to derive the PDE for the price of an option.
 - ▶ Replicating portfolio
 - ▶ Risk-Neutral Measure
- Proposed and proved the Fundamental Theorem of Hedgeability
 - ▶ Further validates our derivation using two approaches
- The PDE (4 variables, S , σ_s , X , R):

$$\begin{aligned}V_t = & R(V - V_s S - V_x X - V_{\sigma_s} \sigma_s - V_r R) \\& - \frac{1}{2}(V_{SS}\sigma_s^2 S^2 + V_{\sigma_s\sigma_s}\eta^2\sigma_s^2 + V_{RR}\sigma_R^2 + V_{XX}\sigma_X^2) \\& - V_{S\sigma_s}\eta\sigma_s S\rho_S - V_{SR}\sigma_R\sqrt{\sigma_s}S\rho_R - V_{R\sigma_s}\sigma_R\eta\sqrt{\sigma_s}\rho_R\rho_S \\& - V_{X\sigma_s}\eta\sqrt{\sigma_s}\sigma_X\rho_X\rho_S - V_{XS}\sigma_X\sqrt{\sigma_s}S\rho_X - V_{XR}\sigma_X\sigma_R\rho_R\rho_X\end{aligned}$$

Results: Overview

- Applied two modeling techniques to derive the PDE for the price of an option.
 - ▶ Replicating portfolio
 - ▶ Risk-Neutral Measure
- Proposed and proved the Fundamental Theorem of Hedgeability
 - ▶ Further validates our derivation using two approaches
- The PDE (4 variables, S , σ_s , X , R):

$$\begin{aligned}V_t = & R(V - V_s S - V_x X - V_{\sigma_s} \sigma_s - V_r R) \\& - \frac{1}{2}(V_{SS}\sigma_s S^2 + V_{\sigma_s \sigma_s}\eta^2 \sigma_s + V_{RR}\sigma_R^2 + V_{XX}\sigma_X^2) \\& - V_{S\sigma_s}\eta\sigma_s S\rho_S - V_{SR}\sigma_R\sqrt{\sigma_s}S\rho_R - V_{R\sigma_s}\sigma_R\eta\sqrt{\sigma_s}\rho_R\rho_S \\& - V_{X\sigma_s}\eta\sqrt{\sigma_s}\sigma_X\rho_X\rho_S - V_{XS}\sigma_X\sqrt{\sigma_s}S\rho_X - V_{XR}\sigma_X\sigma_R\rho_R\rho_X\end{aligned}$$

- Used the finite difference method to approximate the solution of the PDE.

Derivation: Replicating Portfolio Method

Theorem

Hedgeability Theorem states that every derivative is hedgeable if and only if every underlying asset of the derivative is tradeable.

Assuming S, X, σ_s are tradable pricing processes. By Hedgeability theorem, we have every derivative process $V(S, X, \sigma_s, t)$ for some t can be hedged by a portfolio process P given that every pricing process generating the derivative is tradeable, that is,

Derivation: Replicating Portfolio Method

Theorem

Hedgeability Theorem states that every derivative is hedgeable if and only if every underlying asset of the derivative is tradeable.

Assuming S, X, σ_s are tradable pricing processes. By Hedgeability theorem, we have every derivative process $V(S, X, \sigma_s, t)$ for some t can be hedged by a portfolio process P given that every pricing process generating the derivative is tradeable, that is,

$$dP = R(P - \Delta_x X - \Delta_s S - \Delta_{\sigma_s} \sigma_s - \Delta_R R)dt + \Delta_x dX + \Delta_s dS + \Delta_{\sigma_s} d\sigma_s + \Delta_R dR$$

for arbitrary previsible adapted processes $\{\Delta_i\}$ denoting for the trading strategy on each asset i .

Derivation: Replicating Portfolio Method

Theorem

Hedgeability Theorem states that every derivative is hedgeable if and only if every underlying asset of the derivative is tradeable.

Assuming S, X, σ_s are tradable pricing processes. By Hedgeability theorem, we have every derivative process $V(S, X, \sigma_s, t)$ for some t can be hedged by a portfolio process P given that every pricing process generating the derivative is tradeable, that is,

$$dP = R(P - \Delta_x X - \Delta_s S - \Delta_{\sigma_s} \sigma_s - \Delta_R R)dt + \Delta_x dX + \Delta_s dS + \Delta_{\sigma_s} d\sigma_s + \Delta_R dR$$

for arbitrary previsible adapted processes $\{\Delta_i\}$ denoting for the trading strategy on each asset i . Hence, setting $V = P$ and given V, P are pricing processes, we have $dV = dP$.

Derivation: Replicating Portfolio Method

Theorem

Hedgeability Theorem states that every derivative is hedgeable if and only if every underlying asset of the derivative is tradeable.

Assuming S, X, σ_s are tradable pricing processes. By Hedgeability theorem, we have every derivative process $V(S, X, \sigma_s, t)$ for some t can be hedged by a portfolio process P given that every pricing process generating the derivative is tradeable, that is,

$$dP = R(P - \Delta_x X - \Delta_s S - \Delta_{\sigma_s} \sigma_s - \Delta_R R)dt + \Delta_x dX + \Delta_s dS + \Delta_{\sigma_s} d\sigma_s + \Delta_R dR$$

for arbitrary previsible adapted processes $\{\Delta_i\}$ denoting for the trading strategy on each asset i . Hence, setting $V = P$ and given V, P are pricing processes, we have $dV = dP$.

Solve $dV = dP$ by setting Δ terms, we can get the PDE with only deterministic terms left.

Derivation: Risk-Neutral Measure Method

We choose a probability measure Q such that the discounted pricing processes, $DS, DX, D\sigma_s$ are martingales where people are risk neutral under Q .

Derivation: Risk-Neutral Measure Method

We choose a probability measure Q such that the discounted pricing processes, $DS, DX, D\sigma_s$ are martingales where people are risk neutral under Q .

Applying Girsanov's theorem, we are able to find Q .

$$d(DS) = SdD + DdS + dDdS = DS\sqrt{\sigma_s}\left(\frac{\mu + X}{\sqrt{\sigma_s}}dt + dW_1\right) =: DS\sqrt{\sigma_s}d\widetilde{W}_1$$

where \widetilde{W}_1 denotes for a martingale under new measure Q . And we do the same thing for every other discounted asset process, getting that

Derivation: Risk-Neutral Measure Method

We choose a probability measure Q such that the discounted pricing processes, $DS, DX, D\sigma_s$ are martingales where people are risk neutral under Q .

Applying Girsanov's theorem, we are able to find Q .

$$d(DS) = SdD + DdS + dDdS = DS\sqrt{\sigma_s}\left(\frac{\mu + X}{\sqrt{\sigma_s}}dt + dW_1\right) =: DS\sqrt{\sigma_s}d\widetilde{W}_1$$

where \widetilde{W}_1 denotes for a martingale under new measure Q . And we do the same thing for every other discounted asset process, getting that

$$\begin{cases} d(DS) = DS\sqrt{\sigma_s}d\widetilde{W}_1 \\ d(D\sigma_s) = D\eta\sqrt{\sigma_s}(\rho_s d\widetilde{W}_1 + \sqrt{1 - \rho_s^2}d\widetilde{W}_3) \\ d(DX) = D\sigma_X(\rho_X d\widetilde{W}_1 + \sqrt{1 - \rho_X^2}d\widetilde{W}_4) \end{cases}$$

Derivation: Risk-Neutral Measure Method (Cont.)

Note that V is a pricing process, such that its discounted process DV is a martingale, where we notice that

$$d(DV) = DdV + VdD$$

and since DV is a martingale, applying Ito's lemma on DV , the deterministic part of the equation is equal to 0.

Derivation: Risk-Neutral Measure Method (Cont.)

Note that V is a pricing process, such that its discounted process DV is a martingale, where we notice that

$$d(DV) = DdV + VdD$$

and since DV is a martingale, applying Ito's lemma on DV , the deterministic part of the equation is equal to 0.

Thus, we get the desired PDE

$$\begin{aligned} V_t &= R(V - \sum V_{X_i} X_i) - \frac{1}{2}(V_{SS}\sigma_s S^2 + V_{\sigma_s \sigma_s} \eta^2 \sigma_s + V_{RR}\sigma_R^2 + V_{XX}\sigma_X^2) \\ &\quad - V_{S\sigma_s} \eta \sigma_s S \rho_S - V_{SR}\sigma_R \sqrt{\sigma_s} S \rho_R - V_{R\sigma_s} \sigma_R \eta \sqrt{\sigma_s} \rho_R \rho_S - V_{R\sigma_s} \sigma_R \eta \sqrt{\sigma_s} \rho_R \rho_S \\ &\quad - V_{X\sigma_s} \eta \sqrt{\sigma_s} \sigma_X \rho_X \rho_S - V_{XS}\sigma_X \sqrt{\sigma_s} S \rho_X - V_{XR}\sigma_X \sigma_R \rho_R \rho_X \end{aligned}$$

Theorem of Hedgeability

Theorem

Suppose a market whose asset processes satisfy No Arbitrage, Frictionless, Free Trading Position and full liquidity of assets. Consider the market consists some value processes $X_i(t)$ and a riskless interest rate process R_t for $i \in I = \{1, \dots, n\}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$. Denote V for arbitrary derivative processes of (X_1, \dots, X_n, R, t) w.r.t. Q , a risk-neutral measure. We use P to denote portfolio process.

For any such V , there exists a portfolio process $dV = dP$ if and only if P can be written into the form

$$dP = R(P - \sum_{i \in I} \Delta_i X_i - \Delta_R R)dt + \sum_{i \in I} \Delta_i dX_i + \Delta_R dR \quad (1)$$

Hedgeability Theorem: Proof

(\Rightarrow)

For the forward proof it suffices to prove that

$$dP = dV \implies dP = R(P - \sum_{i \in I} \Delta_i X_i - \Delta_R R) dt + \sum_{i \in I} \Delta_i dX_i + \Delta_R dR \quad (2)$$

is true. Suppose some pricing processes X_j are not tradeable and unadapted, then it leads to a contradiction to $dV = dP$. Otherwise it must can be written in dP form to be tradeable.

Hedgeability Theorem: Proof

(\Rightarrow)

For the forward proof it suffices to prove that

$$dP = dV \implies dP = R(P - \sum_{i \in I} \Delta_i X_i - \Delta_R R) dt + \sum_{i \in I} \Delta_i dX_i + \Delta_R dR \quad (2)$$

is true. Suppose some pricing processes X_j are not tradeable and unadapted, then it leads to a contradiction to $dV = dP$. Otherwise it must be written in dP form to be tradeable.

(\Leftarrow)

Consider interest-discounted process $\{X'_i, P', V'\}$ for each X_i, P , and V . Since V' is a pricing process for all V .

We have that $\{X'_i, P', V'\}$ are martingales under Q . Therefore, We may apply martingale transformation theorem on V' , finding out it could be represented by some discounted portfolio processes P' .

Derivative Estimation

- Derivative estimation for time: $\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} \approx \frac{U_{i,j,m,n}^{t+1} - U_{i,j,m,n}^t}{\Delta t}$

Derivative Estimation

- Derivative estimation for time: $\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} \approx \frac{U_{i,j,m,n}^{t+1} - U_{i,j,m,n}^t}{\Delta t}$
- First-order single-variable spatial derivative estimation:
$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial S} \approx \frac{U_{i+1,j,m,n}^t - U_{i-1,j,m,n}^t}{2\Delta S} \rightarrow \text{similar for } \sigma_s, X, \text{ and } R.$$

Derivative Estimation

- Derivative estimation for time: $\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} \approx \frac{U_{i,j,m,n}^{t+1} - U_{i,j,m,n}^t}{\Delta t}$
- First-order single-variable spatial derivative estimation:
$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial S} \approx \frac{U_{i+1,j,m,n}^t - U_{i-1,j,m,n}^t}{2\Delta S} \rightarrow \text{similar for } \sigma_s, X, \text{ and } R.$$
- Second-order single-variable spatial derivative estimation:
$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial S^2} \approx \frac{U_{i+1,j,m,n}^t - 2U_{i,j,m,n}^t + U_{i-1,j,m,n}^t}{\Delta S^2} \rightarrow \text{similar for } \sigma_s, X, \text{ and } R.$$

Derivative Estimation

- Derivative estimation for time: $\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} \approx \frac{U_{i,j,m,n}^{t+1} - U_{i,j,m,n}^t}{\Delta t}$
- First-order single-variable spatial derivative estimation:
$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial S} \approx \frac{U_{i+1,j,m,n}^t - U_{i-1,j,m,n}^t}{2\Delta S} \rightarrow \text{similar for } \sigma_s, X, \text{ and } R.$$
- Second-order single-variable spatial derivative estimation:
$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial S^2} \approx \frac{U_{i+1,j,m,n}^t - 2U_{i,j,m,n}^t + U_{i-1,j,m,n}^t}{\Delta S^2} \rightarrow \text{similar for } \sigma_s, X, \text{ and } R.$$
- Second-order mixed-variable spatial derivative estimation:
$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial S \partial \sigma_s} \approx \frac{U_{j+1,m+1,n}^t - U_{j-1,m-1,n}^t - U_{j+1,m-1,n}^t + U_{j-1,m+1,n}^t}{4\Delta S \Delta \sigma_s}$$

 $\rightarrow \text{similar for other mixed-variable spatial derivatives}$

Numerical Schemes

Let M be a transformation matrix. Our goal is to find U^{t+1} .

Numerical Schemes

Let M be a transformation matrix. Our goal is to find U^{t+1} .

- Explicit scheme:

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = MU^t$$

Numerical Schemes

Let M be a transformation matrix. Our goal is to find U^{t+1} .

- Explicit scheme:

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = MU^t$$

- Implicit scheme:

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = MU^{t+1}$$

Numerical Schemes

Let M be a transformation matrix. Our goal is to find U^{t+1} .

- Explicit scheme:

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = MU^t$$

- Implicit scheme:

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = MU^{t+1}$$

- Crank-Nicolson: Combination of explicit and implicit schemes with a weight θ

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = (1 - \theta)MU^t + \theta MU^{t+1}$$

Numerical Schemes

Let M be a transformation matrix. Our goal is to find U^{t+1} .

- Explicit scheme:

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = MU^t$$

- Implicit scheme:

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = MU^{t+1}$$

- Crank-Nicolson: Combination of explicit and implicit schemes with a weight θ

$$U^{t+1} - U^t = (1 - \theta)MU^t + \theta MU^{t+1}$$

European Call and Up-and-out Barrier Call Options

Let strike price $K = 5$, barrier $B = 8$. The expiration time is $T = 1$, stock price $S = [0, 10]$, variance of the stock price $\sigma_s = [0, 1]$, change in equity premium $X = [-1, 1]$, and interest rate $R = [-0.2, 0.2]$.

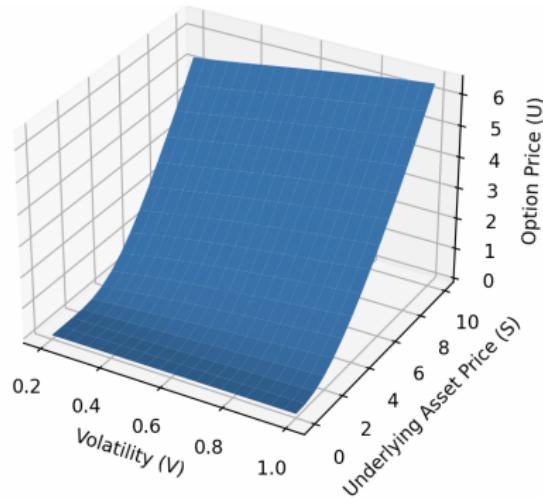


Figure: Call option price when $X = 0.5$ and $R = 0.06$

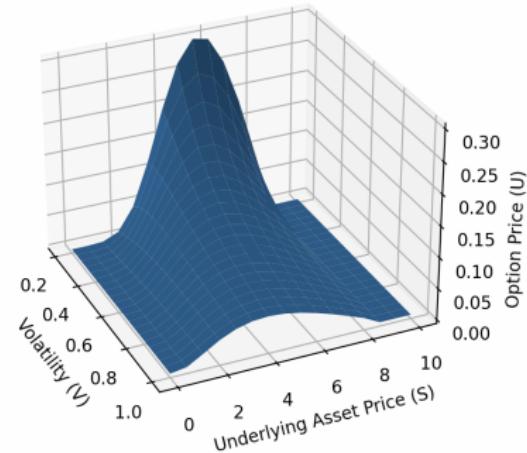


Figure: Barrier option price when $X = 0.5$ and $R = 0.06$

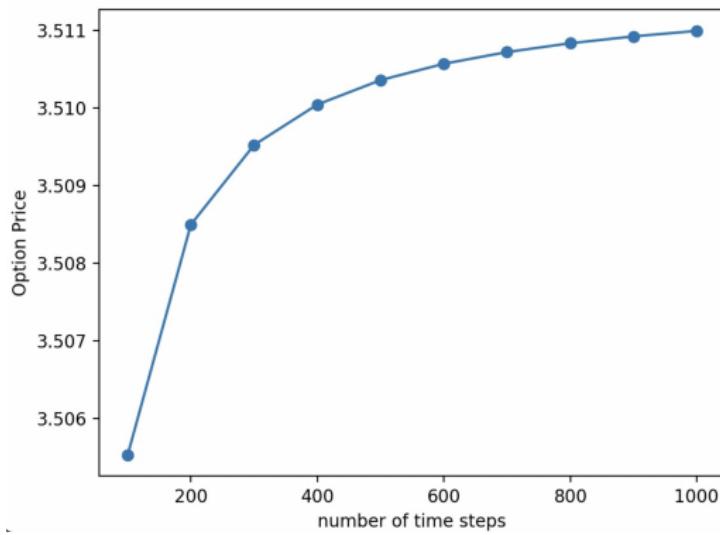
Convergence

A numerical scheme is convergent means that the solution to the finite difference approximation approaches the true solution of the PDE when the mesh is refined.

Convergence

A numerical scheme is convergent means that the solution to the finite difference approximation approaches the true solution of the PDE when the mesh is refined.

Below is the European call option price at different time steps of Crank-Nicolson scheme when $S = 8.5$, $\sigma_s = 0.28$, $X = 0$, and $R = 0.02$.



Future Directions

- Find an accurate numerical approximation to the solution of the Asian option PDE

$$\begin{aligned}V_t &= R(V - \sum V_{X_i} X_i) - V_{AS} \\&\quad - \frac{1}{2}(V_{SS}\sigma_s S^2 + V_{\sigma_s\sigma_s}\eta^2\sigma_s + V_{RR}\sigma_R^2 + V_{XX}\sigma_X^2) \\&\quad - V_{S\sigma_s}\eta\sigma_s S\rho_S - V_{SR}\sigma_R\sqrt{\sigma_s}S\rho_R \\&\quad - V_{R\sigma_s}\sigma_R\eta\sqrt{\sigma_s}\rho_R\rho_S - V_{X\sigma_s}\eta\sqrt{\sigma_s}\sigma_X\rho_X\rho_S \\&\quad - V_{XS}\sigma_X\sqrt{\sigma_s}S\rho_X - V_{XR}\sigma_X\sigma_R\rho_R\rho_X\end{aligned}$$

- Use different numerical schemes and compare results
 - ▶ Craig–Sneyd (CS)
 - ▶ Hundsdorfer–Verwer (HV)

References

- Banerji, G. (2021, September 27). Individuals embrace options trading, turbocharging stock markets. The Wall Street Journal.
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/individuals-embrace-options-trading-turbocharging-stock-markets-11632661201>
- Chakravarty, S. R., & Sarkar, P. (2020). Option pricing using finite difference method. In *Introduction to Algorithmic Finance, Algorithmic Trading and Blockchain*, 49–56.
<https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-78973-893-320201008>
- Crowley, S. (2021, May 7). Numerical Solutions to Exotic Options. Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Wake Forest University Department of Mathematics and Statistics.
- Holmes, J. (2023). The Abridged Notes on Stochastic Calculus.
- Shreve, S. E. (2011). *Stochastic calculus for finance II*. Springer.