

In the binomial option pricing model, the call option price is given by

$$\begin{aligned} C &= S_0 \sum_{j=k}^n C_j^n (p^*)^j (1-p^*)^{n-j} \frac{u^j d^{n-j}}{e^{rnh}} - K e^{-rnh} \sum_{j=k}^n C_j^n (p^*)^j (1-p^*)^{n-j} \\ &= S_0 \Phi(n, k, \tilde{p}) - K e^{-rT} \Phi(n, k, p^*) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(n, k, p) &= \sum_{j=k}^n C_j^n (p)^j (1-p)^{n-j}, \\ \tilde{p} &= \frac{up^*}{e^{rh}} \text{ and} \\ 1 - \tilde{p} &= \frac{d(1-p^*)}{e^{rh}}. \end{aligned}$$

Define  $\tilde{J} \sim \text{binomial}(n, \tilde{p})$  and  $J \sim \text{binomial}(n, p)$ . So, we have

$$C = S_0 \Pr(\tilde{J} \geq k) - K e^{-rT} \Pr(J \geq k).$$

Approximate the binomial distribution by the normal distribution, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
C &= S_0 \Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{k - 0.5 - n\tilde{p}}{\sqrt{n\tilde{p}(1 - \tilde{p})}} \right) - Ke^{-rT} \Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{k - 0.5 - np^*}{\sqrt{np^*(1 - p^*)}} \right) \\
&= S_0 \Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{\ln \left( \frac{K}{S_0} \right) - n \ln d - 2\sigma\sqrt{h}n\tilde{p} - 0.5(2\sigma\sqrt{h})}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{n\tilde{p}(1 - \tilde{p})}} \right) - \\
&\quad Ke^{-rT} \Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{\ln \left( \frac{K}{S_0} \right) - n \ln d - 2\sigma\sqrt{h}np^* - 0.5(2\sigma\sqrt{h})}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{np^*(1 - p^*)}} \right) \\
&= S_0 \Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{\ln \left( \frac{K}{S_0} \right) - n(rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) - 2\sigma\sqrt{h}n\tilde{p} - \sigma\sqrt{h}}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{n\tilde{p}(1 - \tilde{p})}} \right) - \\
&\quad Ke^{-rT} \Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{\ln \left( \frac{K}{S_0} \right) - n(rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) - 2\sigma\sqrt{h}np^* - \sigma\sqrt{h}}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{np^*(1 - p^*)}} \right) \\
&= S_0 N \left( \frac{\ln \left( \frac{S_0}{K} \right) + n(rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + 2\sigma\sqrt{h}n\tilde{p} + \sigma\sqrt{h}}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{n\tilde{p}(1 - \tilde{p})}} \right) - \\
&\quad Ke^{-rT} N \left( \frac{\ln \left( \frac{S_0}{K} \right) + n(rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + 2\sigma\sqrt{h}np^* + \sigma\sqrt{h}}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{np^*(1 - p^*)}} \right) \\
&= S_0 N \left( \frac{\ln \left( \frac{S_0}{K} \right) + n[2\sigma\sqrt{h}\tilde{p} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h}}{n}]}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{n\tilde{p}(1 - \tilde{p})}} \right) - \\
&\quad Ke^{-rT} N \left( \frac{\ln \left( \frac{S_0}{K} \right) + n[2\sigma\sqrt{h}p^* + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h}}{n}]}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}\sqrt{np^*(1 - p^*)}} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $Z$  is a standard normal random variable.

**Lemma 1**

1.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ p^* 2\sigma\sqrt{h} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h}}{n} \right] = \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) T.$$

2.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ \tilde{p} 2\sigma\sqrt{h} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h}}{n} \right] = \left( r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) T.$$

**Proof**

(1)

By considering

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \frac{e^{rh} - e^{rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}}}{e^{rh + \sigma\sqrt{h}} - e^{rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}}} \\ &= \frac{e^{\sigma\sqrt{h}} - 1}{e^{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} - 1} \end{aligned}$$

We expand the exponential functions into the Taylor series. So, we have

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h} + \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2})}{2\sigma\sqrt{h} + 2\sigma^2 h + O(h^{3/2})} \\ &= \left( \sigma\sqrt{h} + \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right) \frac{1}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} (1 + \sigma\sqrt{h} + O(h))^{-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} \left( \sigma\sqrt{h} + \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right) (1 - \sigma\sqrt{h} + O(h)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} \left[ \sigma\sqrt{h} - \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ p^* 2\sigma\sqrt{h} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h}}{n} \right] \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{T}{h} \left[ \frac{1}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} \left[ \sigma\sqrt{h} - \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right] 2\sigma\sqrt{h} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) \right] + \sigma\sqrt{h} \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{T}{h} \left[ rh - \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right] + \sigma\sqrt{h} \\
&= \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) T.
\end{aligned}$$

(2)

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{p} &= e^{\sigma\sqrt{h}} p^* \\
&= (1 + \sigma\sqrt{h} + O(h)) p^*,
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ \tilde{p} 2\sigma\sqrt{h} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h}}{n} \right] \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ (1 + \sigma\sqrt{h} + O(h)) p^* 2\sigma\sqrt{h} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{h}}{n} \right] \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{T}{h} \left[ (1 + \sigma\sqrt{h} + O(h)) \frac{1}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} \left[ \sigma\sqrt{h} - \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right] 2\sigma\sqrt{h} + (rh - \sigma\sqrt{h}) \right] + \sigma\sqrt{h} \\
&= \left( r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) T.
\end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2**

1.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} np^*(1 - p^*) \left(2\sigma\sqrt{h}\right)^2 = \sigma^2 T.$$

2.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n\tilde{p}(1 - \tilde{p}) \left(2\sigma\sqrt{h}\right)^2 = \sigma^2 T.$$

**Proof**

(1)

From the last proof, we have

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \frac{1}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} \left[ \sigma\sqrt{h} - \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} - O(\sqrt{h}). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} np^*(1 - p^*) \left(2\sigma\sqrt{h}\right)^2 \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{T}{h} \left( \frac{1}{2} - O(\sqrt{h}) \right) \left( \frac{1}{2} - O(\sqrt{h}) \right) \left(2\sigma\sqrt{h}\right)^2 \\ &= \sigma^2 T. \end{aligned}$$

(2)

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{p} &= (1 + \sigma\sqrt{h} + O(h))p^* \\ &= (1 + \sigma\sqrt{h} + O(h)) \frac{1}{2\sigma\sqrt{h}} \left[ \sigma\sqrt{h} - \frac{\sigma^2 h}{2} + O(h^{3/2}) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} - O(\sqrt{h}). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n\tilde{p}(1 - \tilde{p}) \left(2\sigma\sqrt{h}\right)^2 \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{T}{h} \left(\frac{1}{2} - O(\sqrt{h})\right) \left(\frac{1}{2} - O(\sqrt{h})\right) \left(2\sigma\sqrt{h}\right)^2 \\
&= \sigma^2 T.
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemmas 1 and 2, we have the Black-Scholes formula for the call option price.