Undergraduate Research Opportunity Programme in Science

Financial Mathematics With Python

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Abstract

In this paper, we implemented the derivatives analytics library for Python to solve problems in Financial Mathematics such as derivatives valuation and simulation as suggested by the book "*Python for Finance*".[1] The above methods results correspond to the different approaches in pricing financial derivatives. The key effort is on the development of valuation scheme for the options, in particular, the path-dependent options without a closed-form pricing formula. More importantly, we attempt to apply these valuation schemes onto some of the commonly traded options to verify the valuation results from Monte Carlo simulations as well as the Finite Difference methods. We have examined certain variance reduction techniques for Monte Carlo simulations applied onto these options. Validation of these two valuation schemes has also been conducted by checking upon the convergence of prices in accordance with the increase in data points generated or the number of time differences. Inclusion of the finite difference methods brought a new element of the numerical pricing into the proposed package. In the possiblity of an extension, our project would focus on the incorporation of assumptions beyond the Black-Scholes world into the existing valuation schemes in the current analytics library, and to explore the development of valuation packages for volatility options.

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Contents

1 Introduction

The studies on the usage of Python to carry out derivatives valuation has made much progress over the years as there have already been available libraries built for this purpose. The derivatives analytics library suggested in the book "*Python for Finance*" has its advantages on the coverage upon the various aspects of possible analysis for financial derivatives. Still, we can make justifiable modifications and extensions to improve on the accuracy and speed of computations for estimations.

Possible extensions we can provide for this derivatives analytics library can be classified into the different approaches of valuation for financial derivatives, in particular, options. Derivation for the closed-form formula has always been the most desirable approach for pricing, as this minimizes computation costs and improves on the accuracy. However, in most cases, it appears that either such derivation is not possible, or the formula can be so complicated that we would rather use an approximation of the price.

Regarding the approximation of derivatives prices, both the numerical PDE methods and the Monte Carlo simulations are commonly used in practice. For the pricing of newly structured products, we would prefer to concurrently use the two schemes in order to check for the accuracy of the approximated prices. Valuation of the the options which has readily available PDE discretization methods will be mostly based on the results from the numerical PDE methods. There are several different numerical methods to solve the partial differential equations. Finite difference methods are the oldest and most frequently used, and will be one of our focus in this paper.

The Monte Carlo simulations have been in the favor of many institutions in the finance industry for its compatibility with most of the financial derivatives. Recent development of the parallel computing and GPU has enabled users to generate more data points for the significance of reduction in computational costs of Monte Carlo simulations. Designated variance reduction techniques have been put in place for the simulations, which is also of our interest in the later sections.

Apart from the valuation schemes mentioned above, the derivatives analytics library has already developed certain adaption for the models with assumptions beyond the Black-Scholes world. Discussions on the incorporation of these assumptions into the existing valuation schemes are not included in this paper. Without doubt, efforts in this field to make the analytics library more generic towards the open for extension and closed for modification stage can be rewarding.

2 Derivation of Black Scholes PDE

2.1 Basics

In the Black-Scholes World, we assume that the following two Stochastic Differential Equations hold:

$$dM_t = rM_t dt$$

$$dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t$$

We assume that the It$\hat{o}'$s Lemma hold:

As $dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t$,

$$dV_t = (\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S})dt + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} dS_t$$

2.2 Delta-hedging Argument

For delta-hedging, our aim is to find ϕ_t to construct a portfolio $\Pi_t = V_t - \phi_t S_t$ consisting of the financial derivative and the underlying asset such that the follow two conditions are satisfied:

$$d\Pi_t = dV_t - \phi_t dS_t \text{(Self-financing)}$$

$$d\Pi_t = r\Pi_t dt \text{(risk free)}$$

Combining the conditions, we can obtain the following equations:

$$r\Pi_t dt = dV_t - \phi_t dS_t$$

$$r(V_t - \phi_t S_t)dt = dV_t - \phi_t dS_t$$

$$dV_t = r(V_t - \phi_t S_t)dt + \phi_t dS_t$$

By It$\hat{o}'$s Lemma,

$$dV_t = (\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S})dt + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} dS_t$$

Compare the two equations above term by term, we can proceed to equalities below:

$$\phi_t = \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}$$

$$r(V_t - \phi_t S_t) = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}$$

Substituting the value of ϕ_t in:

$$r(V_t - \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} S_t) = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + r\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} S_t - rV_t = 0$$

At time t, we have the Black-Scholes PDE

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + r\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} S - rV = 0$$

2.3 Replicating portfolio

Our aim is to find a_t and b_t such that the portfolio made up of the underlying asset and the investment in money market account, $\Pi_t = a_t S_t + b_t M_t$ can entirely replicate V_t.

As the self-financing condition still holds, $d\Pi_t = a_t dS_t + b_t dM_t$
Given by the Black-Scholes World basics, $dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t$ and $dM_t = rM_t dt$ both hold.

$$\begin{aligned} d\Pi_t &= a_t(\mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t) + b_t(rM_t dt) \\ &= (a_t \mu S_t + r b_t M_t)dt + (\sigma a_t S_t)dW_t \end{aligned}$$

By It$\hat{o}'$s Lemma,

$$\begin{aligned} dV_t &= (\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S})dt + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} dS_t \\ &= (\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S})dt + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}(\mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t) \\ &= (\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}\mu S_t)dt + (\sigma S_t \frac{\partial V}{\partial S})dW_t \end{aligned}$$

As Π_t fully replicates V_t,

$$d\Pi_t = (a_t \mu S_t + r b_t M_t)dt + (\sigma a_t S_t)dW_t = dV_t$$

Also by It$\hat{o}'$s Lemma,

$$dV_t = (\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}\mu S_t)dt + (\sigma S_t \frac{\partial V}{\partial S})dW_t$$

Comparing the above two Stochastic Differential Equations,

$$a_t = \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}, \quad a_t \mu S_t + r b_t M_t = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}\mu S_t$$

Substituting the value of a_t in:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}\mu S_t + r b_t M_t &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}\mu S_t \\ r b_t M_t &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \\ r a_t S_t + r b_t M_t &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + r a_t S_t \end{aligned}$$

The value of b_t has not been solved fully but it can be taken out from the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} rV_t &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + r\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} S_t \\ \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} &+ r\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} S_t - rV_t = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, at time t we have the Black-Scholes PDE

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + r\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} S - rV = 0$$

2.4 Lognormal property

We shall derive the lognormal property of the underlying asset prices. As given by the Geometric Brownian Motion, $dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t$.
We can define the derivative price function as $V(S_t, t) := \ln S_t$, with

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} = \frac{1}{S}, \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} = -\frac{1}{S^2}, \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = 0$$

By It$\hat{o}'$s Lemma,

$$\begin{aligned} dV_t &= ((\mu S_t)\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_t^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2})dt + b\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} dW_t \\ &= (\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)dt + \sigma dW_t \end{aligned}$$

As μ and σ are constants, V_t is simply a drifted Brownian Motion.

$$V_t - V_0 = \ln S_t - \ln S_0 \sim \mathcal{N}((\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)t, \sigma^2 t)$$

$$\frac{\ln S_t - \ln S_0 - (\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)t}{\sigma\sqrt{t}} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

We can also generalize to the case for time t and T. (Let $\tau = T - t$, $\phi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$)

$$\frac{\ln S_T - \ln S_t - (\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau}{\sigma\sqrt{\tau}} = \phi$$

$$S_T = S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi}$$

3 Finite Difference methods for Numerical PDE

The advantages of using a Finite Difference valuation scheme over Monte Carlo simulations lie in the fact that there have been a lot of well-developed methods for the known problems, and the generally lower computation costs.

In this paper, we have only implemented one-factor models and two-factor models, in which the original Black-Scholes model, Merton's Jump-diffusion model, and Heston's Stochastic Volatility model can be incorporated. With these models above, we are able to give valuation schemes for European options, Barrier options, Asian options. However the more complicated options such as Multi-asset options will require the usage of multiple-factor models.

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + r\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} S - rV = 0$$

If we are to plot out the option prices in a diagram, there should be a 3D diagram with y-axis being the underlying prices, and x-axis being the time, omitting the scenario when the option price is dependent on other stochastic terms such as volatility. In the Black-Scholes formula, we are able to approximate $\Theta = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$, $\Delta = \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}$ and $\Gamma = \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2}$ when the discretization is significantly small and thus it will be easy to simply use the ratio of change in derivatives value with respect to change in time or change in underlying asset value.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} &\approx \frac{P_t - P_{t-\vartriangle t}}{\vartriangle t} \\
\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} &\approx \frac{P_S - P_{S-\vartriangle S}}{\vartriangle S} \approx \frac{P_{S+\vartriangle S} - P_S}{\vartriangle S} \\
\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} &\approx \frac{\partial}{\partial V}\left(\frac{P_{S+\vartriangle S} - P_S}{\vartriangle S}\right) \\
&\approx \frac{\frac{P_{S+\vartriangle S} - P_S}{\vartriangle S} - \frac{P_S - P_{S-\vartriangle S}}{\vartriangle S}}{\vartriangle S} \\
&= \frac{P_{S+\vartriangle S} - 2P_S + P_{S-\vartriangle S}}{(\vartriangle S)^2}
\end{aligned}$$

The three most popular approximation schemes to the time derivative are the explicit and implicit Euler, and Crank-Nicolson schemes. The first two are of first-order accuracy, and the last one has second-order accuracy.[3]

3.1 One factor model using Explicit Euler Scheme

We first define the payoff function as a function of the individual price path and other inherent parameters of the options such as strike price. If we are to assume that the Black-Scholes PDE to be satisfied at $S = 0$, given $\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = rV$can be easily solved, the boundary conditions suggest that V is exponentially related to rT. In light of this, we can have an exact solution and therefore a Dirichlet boundary condition at $S = 0$. For the purpose of option pricing, the PDE is always defined on a semi-infinite domain, which can be fitted onto our implementation with programming using the transformation $x = \log S$ onto the real line or $x = \frac{S}{S+K}$ onto $(0, 1)$as suggested by Wilmott.

Here we omit the mathematical proofs and give an algorithm of exercising explicit euler scheme in the finite difference model. With the input variables r as the continuous compounding interest rate, σ as the volatility, S as the current underlying asset price, f as the payoff function for the option, T as the time to maturity and M as the number of underlying asset price differences required.
We are to denote the discrete time points $0 \to T$ using indices from $1, 2 \dots N$, and to denote the discrete underlying asset price points $0 \to 2S$ using indices from $1, 2, \dots M$

Data: r, σ, S, f, T, M
Result: $V_{\frac{M}{2},1}$, option premium
Initialization;
let $\delta S = \frac{2S}{M}$ be the underlying asset price difference ;
For stability, let $\delta t = \frac{0.9}{\sigma^2 M^2}$ be the time difference;
$N = \frac{T}{\delta t}$;
We define the following vectors:
$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 - ri), \beta_i = 1 - \delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + r), \gamma_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + ri), \forall\, 1 \le i \le M$;
Set the boundary conditions;
for *i = 1 . . . M* **do**
  $V_{i,N} = f(i\,\delta S)$;
end
for *j = 1 . . . N* **do**
  $V_{M,j} = f(2S)e^{-r(N-j)\delta t}$;
end
for *j = N . . . 1* **do**
  for *i = 2 . . . M-1* **do**
    $V_{i,j-1} = \sigma_i V_{i-1,j} + \beta_i V_{i,j} + \gamma_i V_{i+1,j}$;
  end
end
$V_{\frac{M}{2},1}$ is the output value for option premium;

Algorithm 1: One factor Explicit Euler scheme FDM algorithm

In the case that $\frac{M}{2}$ is not integral, interpolation to find a more accurate value is needed.

In short, the equation can be expressed as:

$$V_{i,j-1} = \sigma_i V_{i-1,j} + \beta_i V_{i,j} + \gamma_i V_{i+1,j}, \forall\, 2 \le i \le M-1, \forall\, 1 \le j \le N-1$$

$$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 - ri), \beta_i = 1 - \delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + r), \gamma_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + ri), \forall 1 \le i \le M$$

3.2 One factor model using Implicit Euler Scheme

The greatest difference between explicit and implicit euler scheme lies in the need to solve an implicit equation at each discretization or there is a closed-form formula for each step. Here we give an algorithm of exercising Implicit Euler scheme in the finite difference model. Similar to the previous section, with the input variables r as the continuous compounding interest rate, σ as the volatility, S as the current underlying asset price, f as the payoff function for the option, T as the time to maturity and M as the number of underlying asset price differences required.
We are to denote the discrete time points $0 \rightarrow T$ using incides from $1, 2 \ldots N$, and to denote the discrete underlying asset price points $0 \rightarrow 2S$ using incides from $1, 2, \ldots M$

Data: r, σ, S, f, T, M
Result: $V_{\frac{M}{2},1}$, option premium
Initialization;
let $\delta S = \frac{2S}{M}$ be the underlying asset price difference ;
For stability, let $\delta t = \frac{0.9}{\sigma^2 M^2}$ be the time difference;
$N = \frac{T}{\delta t}$;
We define the following vectors:
$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 - ri), \beta_i = 1 - \delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + r), \gamma_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + ri), \forall\, 1 \leq i \leq M$;
We build the tridiagonal matrix A using α, β, γ;
Let L and U be the LU-decomposition of A;
Set the boundary conditions;
for *i = 1 . . . M* **do**
    $V_{i,N} = f(i\,\delta S)$;
end
for *j = 1 . . . N* **do**
    $V_{M,j} = f(2S)e^{-r(N-j)\delta t}$;
end
let e be a zero vector with dimension $(M-1) \times 1$;
for *j = N . . . 1* **do**
    $e_1 = \alpha_2 V_{1,j}$;
    $temp = V_{2:M,j+1} - e$;
    $tempMatrix = L \setminus temp$;
    $V_{2:M,j} = U \setminus tempMatrix$;
end
$V_{\frac{M}{2},1}$ is the desired option premium;

Algorithm 2: One factor Implicit Euler scheme FDM algorithm

In accordance with the matrix computations, the implicit equation to solve is as follows:

$$V_{i,j+1} = \alpha_i V_{i-1,j} + \beta_i V_{i,j} + \gamma_i V_{i+1,j}$$

$$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(ri - \sigma^2 i^2), \beta_i = 1 + \delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + r), \gamma_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(-\sigma^2 i^2 - ri), \forall 1 \leq i \leq M$$

3.3 Crank-Nicolson method

On the grid of nodes $V_{s,t}$ where s stands for the underlying asset prices and t stands for the time, the Explicit Euler scheme prices the node $V_{s,t-1}$ based on the values of $V_{s-1,t}$, $V_{s,t}$ and $V_{s+1,t}$, and the Implicit Euler scheme prices the nodes $V_{s-1,t-1}$, $V_{s,t-1}$ and $V_{s+1,t-1}$ based on the value of $V_{s,t}$. Similar to the Implicit Euler scheme, the Crank-Nicolson method prices all the three nodes $V_{s-1,t-1}$, $V_{s,t-1}$ and $V_{s+1,t-1}$ based on the values of $V_{s-1,t}$, $V_{s,t}$ and $V_{s+1,t}$.

As a result from the central approximation for $\dfrac{\partial V}{\partial t}$ and $\dfrac{\partial V}{\partial S}$ and standard approximation for $\dfrac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2}$,

$$\frac{\partial V_{s,t-\frac{1}{2}}}{\partial t} \approx \frac{V_{s,t} - V_{s,t-1}}{\delta t}, \quad \frac{\partial V_{s,t-\frac{1}{2}}}{\partial S} \approx \frac{1}{2}[\frac{V_{s+1,t-1} - V_{s-1,t-1}}{2\delta S} + \frac{V_{s+1,t} - V_{s-1,t}}{2\delta S}]$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 V_{s,t-\frac{1}{2}}}{\partial S^2} \approx \frac{1}{2}[\frac{V_{s+1,t-1} - 2V_{s,t-1} + V_{s-1,t-1}}{\delta S^2} + \frac{V_{s+1,t} - 2V_{s,t} + V_{s-1,t}}{\delta S^2}]$$

The implicit equation to solve at each time point is as follows:

$$-\alpha_s V_{s-1,t-1} + (1-\beta_s)V_{s,t-1} - \gamma_s V_{s+1,t-1} = \alpha_s V_{s-1,t} + (1+\beta_s)V_{s,t} + \gamma_s V_{s+1,t}$$

$$\alpha_s = \frac{\delta t}{4}(\sigma^2 s^2 - rs), \beta_s = -\frac{\delta t}{2}(\sigma^2 s^2 + r), \gamma_s = \frac{\delta t}{4}(\sigma^2 s^2 + rs)$$

For the ease of computations, we use matrix computations with adjustments at the boundaries.

Data: r, σ, S, f, T, M
Result: $V_{\frac{M}{2},1}$, option premium
let $\delta S = \frac{2S}{M}$ be the underlying asset price difference ;
For stability, let $\delta t = \frac{0.9}{\sigma^2 M^2}$ be the time difference;
$N = \frac{T}{\delta t}$;
We define the following vectors:
$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 - ri), \beta_i = 1 - \delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + r), \gamma_i = \frac{1}{2}\delta t(\sigma^2 i^2 + ri), \forall\, 1 \le i \le M$;
We build the tridiagonal matrix A and B with $-\alpha, 1-\beta, -\gamma$ and $\alpha, 1+\beta, \gamma$ on diagonals;
Let L and U be the LU-decomposition of A;
for *i = 1 ... M* **do**
    $V_{i,N} = f(i\,\delta S)$;
end
for *j = 1 ... N* **do**
    $V_{M,j} = f(2S)e^{-r(N-j)\delta t}$;
end
let e be a zero vector with dimension $(M-1) \times 1$;
for *j = N-1 ... 1* **do**
    $e_1 = \alpha_2(V_{1,i} + V_{1,i+1}), e_M = \gamma_M(V_{M,i} + V_{M,i+1})$;
    $V_{2:M,j} = U \backslash (L \backslash (DV_{2:M,j} + e))$;
end
$V_{\frac{M}{2},1}$ is the desired option premium;

Algorithm 3: Crank-Nicolson method FDM algorithm

4 Variance Reduction Techniques for Monte Carlo Simulation

Monte Carlo simulations are usually used when there is no readily available closed-form formula and the numerical PDE valuation scheme is not developed yet. However, people have already explored its strength upon the valuation using high-dimensional scheme. When doing option pricing with Monte Carlo simulations, we simulate a series of possible scenarios and use the payoff function to calculate one option payoff. By repeating this process N times and take the average of all the discounted option payoffs, a more accurate option price can be obtained. When there is time variation in parameters of the model, or the option payoff is path dependent, or there are a number of stochastic variables that the option price depends on, a finite difference scheme will be both space and time consuming. With the advancements of GPU and parallel computing, just as suggested in the book "*Python for Finance*",[1] the power of Monte Carlo is able to emerge.

As the simulated option payoffs may scatter all over the real number axis, for example when European call option has a particularly low strike price, the variance of the simulated option payoffs can be so large that the accuracy of the valuation is compromised. In order to prevent this from happening, we adopt many different methods to reduce the variance while keeping the estimate unbiased.[2]

4.1 Control Variate

Control Variate is one of the most common methods adopted for the purpose of variance reduction in simulations. Assuming all the Y_i are realizations of the same variable Y, i.e. $\forall i, Y_i$ follows identical and independent distributions. Our aim is to estimate $\mathrm{E}[Y_i]$

Under simulation, we use $\bar{Y} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} Y_i$ as an estimate of $\mathrm{E}[Y_i]$. Now we introduce a new variable X, with realizations $X_i, \forall i$ such that $1 \leq i \leq n$

Define the new simulated results $Y_i(\lambda) = Y_i - \lambda(X_i - \mathrm{E}(X))$

$$\bar{Y}(\lambda) = \bar{Y} - \lambda(\bar{X} - \mathrm{E}(X)) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}[Y_i - \lambda(X_i - \mathrm{E}(X))]$$

The new estimate $\bar{Y}(\lambda)$ is unbiased and consistent as proven below.

$$\mathrm{E}(\bar{Y}(\lambda)) = \mathrm{E}[\bar{Y} - \lambda(\bar{X} - \mathrm{E}(X))] = \mathrm{E}(\bar{Y}) - \lambda(\mathrm{E}(\bar{X}) - \mathrm{E}(X)) = \mathrm{E}(Y)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} Y_i(\lambda) &= \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}[Y_i - \lambda(X_i - \mathrm{E}(X))] \\
&= \mathrm{E}[Y - \lambda(X - \mathrm{E}(X))] \\
&= \mathrm{E}(Y)
\end{aligned}$$

We can first express the variance of each new simulated result as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{Var}[Y_i(\lambda)] &= \mathrm{Var}[Y_i - \lambda(X_i - \mathrm{E}(X))] \\
&= \mathrm{Var}[Y_i - \lambda X_i] \\
&= \mathrm{Var}(Y_i) + \lambda^2\mathrm{Var}(X_i) - 2\lambda\mathrm{Cov}(X_i, Y_i) \\
&= \sigma_Y^2 + \lambda^2\sigma_X^2 - 2\lambda\sigma_X\sigma_Y\rho_{XY}
\end{aligned}$$

In order to find the minimum variance by varying λ

Set $\frac{\partial \mathrm{Var}[Y_i(\lambda)]}{\partial\lambda} = 2\lambda\sigma_X^2 - 2\sigma_X\sigma_Y\rho_{XY}$ to 0, $\lambda^* = \frac{2\sigma_X\sigma_Y\rho_{XY}}{2\sigma_X^2} = \frac{\sigma_X\sigma_Y\rho_{XY}}{\sigma_X^2} = \frac{\mathrm{Cov}(X,Y)}{\mathrm{Var}(X)}$

Compare the new variance with the old:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\mathrm{Var}[Y_i - \lambda^*(X_i - \mathrm{E}(X))]}{\mathrm{Var}(Y)} &= \frac{\sigma_Y^2 + \lambda^{*2}\sigma_X^2 - 2\lambda^*\sigma_X\sigma_Y\rho_{XY}}{\sigma_Y^2} \\
&= 1 + \frac{\frac{\mathrm{Var}(X)(\mathrm{Cov}(X,Y))^2}{(\mathrm{Var}(X))^2} - \frac{2(\mathrm{Cov}(X,Y))^2}{\mathrm{Var}(X)}}{\sigma_Y^2} \\
&= 1 + \frac{\frac{\sigma_X^4\sigma_Y^2\rho_{XY}^2}{\sigma_X^4} - \frac{2\sigma_X^2\sigma_Y^2\rho_{XY}^2}{\sigma_X^2}}{\sigma_Y^2} \\
&= 1 + \frac{\sigma_Y^2\rho_{XY}^2 - 2\sigma_Y^2\rho_{XY}^2}{\sigma_Y^2} \\
&= 1 - \rho_{XY}^2
\end{aligned}$$

A $100(1-\alpha)\%$ Confidence Interval is $[\bar{Y}(\lambda) - \mathcal{Z}_{1-\alpha/2}\frac{\hat{\sigma}_{n,Y_\lambda}}{\sqrt{n}}, \bar{Y}(\lambda) + \mathcal{Z}_{1-\alpha/2}\frac{\hat{\sigma}_{n,Y_\lambda}}{\sqrt{n}}]$

As a conclusion from the theoretical results, we shall see that the stronger the correlation, the better the reduction in variance. We can use random variables with stronger correlation with the option payoffs as the control variates, such as underlying asset prices, tractable option prices, bond prices.
In the case that it is not feasible to calculate using the probability distribution of X and Y, we should work λ^* out as an estimate using a pilot simulation.

Data: Scenarios for simulations of X and Y
Result: Estimation for $\mathrm{E}(Y)$
initialization;
assign N to be the number of simulations to do;
pilot simulation to obtain correlation;
for *i = 1 . . . N* **do**
  $generate(X_i, Y_i)$;
end
Assign $\lambda^* = \frac{\mathrm{Cov}(X,Y)}{\mathrm{Var}(X)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i-\bar{X})(Y_i-\bar{Y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i-\bar{X})^2}$;
for *i = 1 . . . N* **do**
  $generate(X_i, Y_i)$;
  set $Y_i(\lambda) = Y_i + \lambda^*(X_i - \mathrm{E}[X])$;
end
$\bar{Y}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i(\lambda)$;

Algorithm 4: General Control Variate Algorithm

Here we put down the algorithm for Monte Carlo simulations of option prices using underlying prices as control variates. Denote the underlying prices by U_i, payoff function by f, option payoffs by P_i and the option premium by $\bar{P}(\lambda)$.

Data: Hypothetical distribution of U and option payoff function f
Result: Estimation for $\mathrm{E}(P)$
Initialization;
Assign N to be the number of simulations to do;
for *i = 1 . . . N* **do**
  $generate(U_i)$;
  $P_i = f(U_i)$;
end
Assign $\lambda^* = \frac{\mathrm{Cov}(U,P)}{\mathrm{Var}(U)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (U_i-\bar{U})(P_i-\bar{P})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (U_i-\bar{U})^2}$;
for *i = 1 . . . N* **do**
  $generate(U_i)$;
  $P_i = f(U_i)$;
  set $P_i(\lambda) = P_i + \lambda^*(U_i - \mathrm{E}[U])$;
end
$\bar{P}(\lambda) = e^{-rT}\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n P_i(\lambda)$;

Algorithm 5: Control Variate Algorithm for option pricing

4.2 Stratified Sampling

Stratified sampling refers broadly to any sampling mechanism that constrains the fraction of observations drawn from specific subsets (or strata) of the sample space. Our goal is to estimate $\mathrm{E}[Y]$, by dividing the sample space into n parts, with $A_1, \ldots, A_n$ being disjoint subsets of the real line for which $\mathrm{P}(Y \in \cup_i A_i) = 1$.
By Bayes′ Theorem, $\mathrm{E}[Y] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathrm{P}(Y \in A_i)\mathrm{E}[Y|Y \in A_i] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \mathrm{E}[Y|Y \in A_i]$
We shall exercise proportional sampling which is the simplest case, ensuring $p_i = \mathrm{P}(Y \in A_i)$, the fraction of observations drawn from stratum A_i exactly matches theoretical probability.
Unbiased estimator of $\mathrm{E}(Y)$ is given by $\hat{Y} = \sum_{i=1}^{K}(p_i \frac{1}{n_i} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} Y_{ij}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{K} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} Y_{ij}$

$$\mathrm{E}[\hat{Y}] = \mathrm{E}[\sum_{i=1}^{K}(p_i \frac{1}{n_i} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} Y_{ij})] = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \mathrm{P}(Y \in A_i)\mathrm{E}[Y|Y \in A_i] = \mathrm{E}[Y]$$

We shall generate a stratification variable X which take values in the union of the disjoint sets A_is. As supposedly the values of X are high correlated to the values of Y, in many cases, Y is a function of X. Let X be the discrete path of underlying asset prices, with Y being the European call payoff discounted to time 0. If X has h discrete prices on one path, $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^h$ is the sample space for the X_i's, where $\Omega = \cup_i A_i$ is the union of disjoint sets.
For the purpose of stratified sampling, $\mathbb{P}(X \in A_i)$ and $Y|X \in A_i$ should be easy to generate.
In order to further simplify the trouble of dividing Ω into disjoint subsets, we are going to use the stock prices at time $\frac{T}{2}$ as the condition to determine the distributions of A_i. The stock prices at time $\frac{T}{2}$ will be computed based on the Geometric Brownian Motion of the underlying stock prices. Given that we are to produce n equally probable subsets of Ω, the standard normal distribution can be sliced into n pieces to provide sources of generation. With the underlying asset prices at time $\frac{T}{2}$, we can generate k prices at time T and calculate the respective option payoffs. The average payoffs for each stratum A_i is then computed and discounted back to time $\frac{T}{2}$, at which we calculate the average payoffs across the stratum and discount to time 0.

Data: N the number of total simulations and f the payoff function
Result: $\bar{P}$, Estimation for the option premium
initialization;
$k = \frac{N}{n}$ is the number of simulations for each stratum;
for *i = 1 … n* **do**
  z_{α_i} is the quantile of standard normal distribution at probability $\frac{i}{n}$;
  $S_{\frac{T}{2},i} = S_0 \exp\{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\frac{T}{2} + \sigma\sqrt{\frac{T}{2}} z_{\alpha_i}\}$;
  for *j = 1 … k* **do**
    $S_{T,i,j} = S_{\frac{T}{2},i} \exp\{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\frac{T}{2} + \sigma\sqrt{\frac{T}{2}} z_{i,j}\}$;
    $P_{T,i,j} = f(S_{T,i,j})$;
  end
  $\bar{P}_{\frac{T}{2},i} = \frac{1}{k} e^{-r\frac{T}{2}} \sum_{j=1}^{k} P_{T,i,j}$;
end
$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \bar{P}_{\frac{T}{2},i}$;

Algorithm 6: General Proportional Sampling Algorithm

4.3 Importance Sampling

Importance sampling is a method to reduce variance by changing the probability measure. The word 'Importance' comes from the aim to give more weights to 'important' outcomes by shifting the probability density function.

We are going to estimate $\alpha = \mathrm{E}[h(X)] = \displaystyle\int h(x)f(x)dx$.

From Monte Carlo simulations, $\hat{\alpha} = \hat{\alpha}(n) = \dfrac{1}{n}\displaystyle\sum_{i=1}^{n} h(X_i)$

By using a change of measure based on the following assumption:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, f(x) > 0 \implies g(x) > 0$$

Now the estimate becomes $\alpha = \mathrm{E}[h(X)] = \mathrm{E}[h(X)\dfrac{f(X)}{g(X)}] = \displaystyle\int h(x)\dfrac{f(x)}{g(x)}dx$

As for simulation, $\hat{\alpha}_G = \dfrac{1}{n}\displaystyle\sum_{i=1}^{n} h(X_i)\dfrac{f(X_i)}{g(X_i)}$ We are choosing g to make $X \in A$ more likely after changing measure.

In order to reduce variance, we need to implicitly find the g which gives the minimum possible variance. According to the variance formula $\mathrm{Var}(X) = \mathrm{E}(X^2) - (\mathrm{E}(X))^2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{Var}^G[h(X)\frac{f(X)}{g(X)}] &= \mathrm{E}^G[h(X)^2\frac{f(X)^2}{g(X)^2}] - (\mathrm{E}^G[h(X)\frac{f(X)}{g(X)}])^2 \\
&= \int \frac{h(x)^2 f(x)^2}{g(x)}dx - (\int \frac{h(x)f(x)}{g(x)}g(x)dx)^2
\end{aligned}$$

If $h(x) = \dfrac{g(x)f(x)}{\mathrm{E}(g(x))}$, the variance of estimate will become 0.

Consider the scenario in which we simulate discrete price paths $S(t_i), \forall i = 0, 1, \ldots, m$, which is assumed to be a Markov Chain with homogeneous property. Let the continuous transition probability be $f_i(S(t_{i-1}), S(t_i))$.

We shall use likelihood ratio $\displaystyle\prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{f_i(S(t_{i-1}), S(t_i))}{g_i(S(t_{i-1}), S(t_i))}$ as risk-neutral measure.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(X) &= \int xg(x)dx \\
&= \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}(\frac{d\mathbb{Q}}{d\mathbb{P}}X) \\
&= \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}(e^{\lambda W_T - \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 T}X)
\end{aligned}$$

In the Black-Scholes world,

$$\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}((S_T - K)^+) = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(\frac{d\mathbb{P}}{d\mathbb{Q}}(S_T - K)^+) = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(e^{((\mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} + \sigma A)T + \sigma W_T^{\mathbb{Q}}})(S_T - K)^+)$$

Hence $\dfrac{d\mathbb{Q}}{d\mathbb{P}} = exp\{AW_T - \dfrac{1}{2}A^2 T\}$

5 European call options

5.1 Closed-form formula

We can derive the closed-form formula for the European call options using risk-neutral pricing.
Payoff function of the European call option is : $c_T = (S_T - K)^+$
By the risk-neutral pricing formula,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-\mu t} c_t &= \mathbb{E}^Q[e^{-\mu T} c_T | \mathcal{F}_t] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_t^Q[e^{-\mu T}(S_T - K)^+] \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

By the lognormal property, $\quad S_T = S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi}$

$$\begin{aligned} c_t &= e^{\mu t}\mathbb{E}_t^Q[e^{-rT}(S_T - K)^+] \\ &= e^{\mu t}\mathbb{E}_t^Q[e^{-rT}(S_t e^{(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau+\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi} - K)^+] \\ &= e^{-\mu\tau}\mathbb{E}^Q[(S_t e^{(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau+\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi} - K)^+] \\ &= e^{-\mu\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}(S_t e^{(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau+\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi} - K)^+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi \\ &= e^{-\mu\tau}\int_{-d_2}^{\infty}(S_t e^{(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau+\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi} - K)\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi \\ &= e^{-\mu\tau}\int_{-d_2}^{\infty} S_t e^{(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau+\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi - e^{-r\tau}\int_{-d_2}^{\infty}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}K\,d\phi \\ &= e^{(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau-\mu\tau}S_t\int_{-d_2}^{\infty}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\phi^2-2\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi)}\,d\phi - Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-d_2}^{\infty}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi \\ &= S_t\int_{-d_2}^{\infty}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\phi^2-2\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi+\sigma^2\tau)}\,d\phi - Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi \\ &= S_t\int_{-d_2}^{\infty}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\phi-\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi)^2}\,d\phi - Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi \\ &= S_t\int_{-d_2-\sigma\sqrt{\tau}}^{\infty}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}\,dy - Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi \\ &= S_t\int_{-\infty}^{d_2+\sigma\sqrt{\tau}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}\,dy - Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\,d\phi \\ &= S_t N(d_1) - Ke^{-r\tau}N(d_2) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where,

$$d_2 = \frac{\ln\frac{S_t}{K} + (\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau}{\sigma\sqrt{\tau}}$$

$$d_1 = d_2 + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}$$

Also, N is the cumulative density function of standard normal function.

5.2 Numerical PDE

When we are valuating the European call option using the above stated one factor explicit Euler scheme or Crank-Nicolson scheme, the payoff function $(S_T - K)^+$ is applied onto the calculations of the boundary conditions at time T. For the correction after matrix multiplications, boundary conditions at the uppermost underlying price $2S$ are obtained from the product of discount factor and payoff function.

A tabulation of the numerical PDE valuation results for the European call option with current underlying asset price at 100, time 1 to maturity, in a market environment with interest rate 0.05 and volatility 0.25 is shown below:

StrikePrice	Closed-form formula	Explicit	Crank-Nicolson
105	10.0022021172	9.99125874656262	9.994947147929603
110	8.02638469385	8.015169132295417	8.019178231075507
115	6.37924904693	6.368287281933064	6.371570247327895
120	5.02541348179	5.014236458916882	5.016899778565805
125	3.92690420603	3.9159173482646366	3.9173477294803063
130	3.04592058431	3.0347680902430882	3.0352473874604735
135	2.34679877596	2.3357585042551037	2.3350380410818783
140	1.79723400902	1.7860398244526843	1.7844826501559825
145	1.36889248498	1.3576933808917098	1.3552783009934584
150	1.03756650489	1.026127080342419	1.0232108489443819
155	0.783018613011	0.771330325707126	0.7679977185498107
160	0.588637155719	0.5763898791476967	0.5729398919777561
165	0.440997057228	0.427931579305647	0.4244759648941944
170	0.329392108384	0.31494238748099324	0.3117040307276873
175	0.245381782063	0.2288375045860837	0.2259141929446393
180	0.182377553986	0.16261692613868084	0.160156738018518
185	0.13528073067	0.11078796708307762	0.10885825272849127
190	0.100175092579	0.06880652183892046	0.06748947528233123
195	0.0740722950356	0.032954835262108274	0.03228348040432428
200	0.0547050187389	0.0	0.0

From the tabulated results, we can observe that the Crank-Nicolson method has superiority in accuracy for pricing European call options with relatively lower strike prices, for the ones with high strike prices compared to the current underlying prices, both valuation schemes may not generate a decent result.

5.3 Monte Carlo Simulation

With the following settings: $\sigma = 0.25$, $\mu = 0.05$, $T = 1$, $S_0 = 100$, when we compare the results from Monte Carlo simulation with the option prices computed using the closed form formula, it is observable that a simulation with 500000 data points still has variation of error within range from -0.02 to 0.02. However, this comparison has ensured that our valuation scheme using Monte Carlo simulation and the variance reduction techniques is on the right way, and may be applied onto other options.

A tabulation of the resultant call option prices are shown below:

StrikePrice	Closed-form formula	Ordinary Monte Carlo	Control Variate
105	10.0022021172	10.005252032814727	10.005252032814751
110	8.02638469385	8.0166707887876427	8.016670788787664
115	6.37924904693	6.3659464432937911	6.3659464432937733
120	5.02541348179	5.0148870431746415	5.0148870431746184
125	3.92690420603	3.9241698581683577	3.9241698581683728
130	3.04592058431	3.044679765401427	3.0446797654014213
135	2.34679877596	2.3310307686205207	2.3310307686205225
140	1.79723400902	1.8055531375480696	1.8055531375480751
145	1.36889248498	1.3630119824610754	1.3630119824610734
150	1.03756650489	1.0254470920297398	1.0254470920297361
155	0.783018613011	0.77819086371547286	0.77819086371547308
160	0.588637155719	0.5924848566970754	0.59248485669707973
165	0.440997057228	0.44342591182216823	0.4434259118221664
170	0.329392108384	0.32449718396190719	0.32449718396190735
175	0.245381782063	0.2462392632801686	0.24623926328016907
180	0.182377553986	0.17995020687354496	0.1799502068735449
185	0.13528073067	0.13478417666883458	0.13478417666883413
190	0.100175092579	0.099449778570450814	0.099449778570450523
195	0.0740722950356	0.074452813719303179	0.074452813719303304
200	0.0547050187389	0.051631534936688268	0.051631534936688074

Besides the tabulation, there should be other means for us to check upon the convergence of this valuation scheme in the practice of pricing European call options, and whether the variance reduction techniques really work well in improving accuracy of the estimates. Henceforth we fix the strike price at 110, current underlying asset price at 100, at the market condition with interest rate at 0.05, and volatility at 0.25. We gradually increase the number of simulations from 100000 to 1000000 in order to better display the effect of variance reduction technique, in particular, control variate.

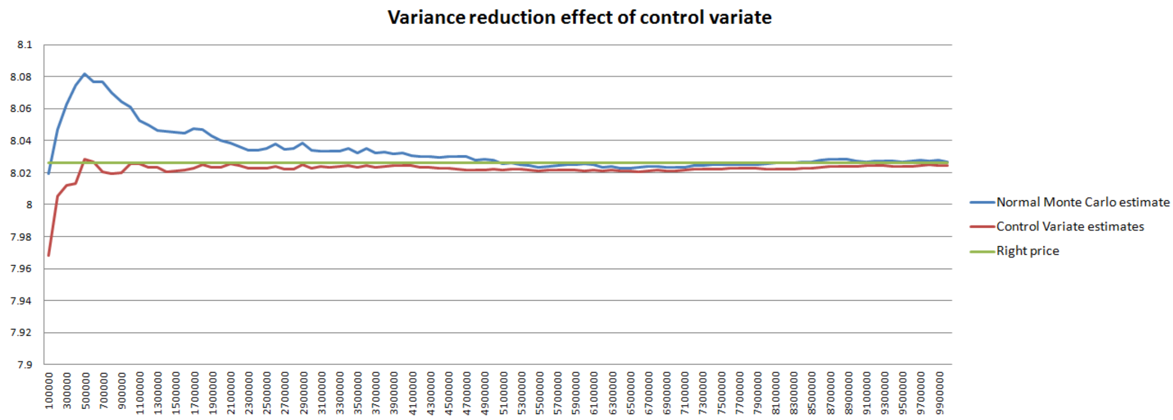

Figure 1: Effect of control variate in pricing European call options

It is clear that both estimations converge to the right price at 8.02638469 given by the closed-form formula, but with the help of control variate, the simulation result can converge to the correct price at a much higher rate.

6 European put options

6.1 Closed-form formula

We can derive the closed-form formula for the European put options using risk-neutral pricing.
Payoff function of the European put option is : $p_T = (K - S_T)^+$
By the risk-neutral pricing formula,

$$
\begin{aligned}
e^{-\mu t} p_t &= \mathbb{E}^Q[e^{-\mu T} p_T | \mathcal{F}_t] \\
&= \mathbb{E}_t^Q[e^{-\mu T}(K - S_T)^+]
\end{aligned}
$$

By the lognormal property, $\quad S_T = S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
p_t &= e^{\mu t}\mathbb{E}_t^Q[e^{-rT}(K - S_T)^+] \\
&= e^{\mu t}\mathbb{E}_t^Q[e^{-rT}(K - S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi})^+] \\
&= e^{-\mu\tau}\mathbb{E}^Q[(K - S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi})^+] \\
&= e^{-\mu\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}(K - S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi})^+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi \\
&= e^{-\mu\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}(K - S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi \\
&= e^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2} K\, d\phi - e^{-\mu\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{-d_2} S_t e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi \\
&= Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi - e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau - \mu\tau} S_t \int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\phi^2 - 2\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi)}\, d\phi \\
&= Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi - S_t \int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\phi^2 - 2\sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi + \sigma^2\tau)}\, d\phi \\
&= Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi - S_t \int_{-\infty}^{-d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\phi - \sigma\sqrt{\tau}\phi)^2}\, d\phi \\
&= Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi - S_t \int_{-\infty}^{-d_2 - \sigma\sqrt{\tau}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}\, dy \\
&= Ke^{-r\tau}\int_{-\infty}^{d_2}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\phi^2}\, d\phi - S_t \int_{-\infty}^{-d_1}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}\, dy \\
&= Ke^{-r\tau}N(-d_2) - S_t N(-d_1)
\end{aligned}
$$

where,

$$
d_2 = \frac{\ln\frac{S_t}{K} + (\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau}{\sigma\sqrt{\tau}}
$$

$$
d_1 = d_2 + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}
$$

Also, N is the cumulative density function of standard normal function.

6.2 Numerical PDE

When we are valuating the European put option using the above stated one factor explicit Euler scheme or Crank-Nicolson method, the payoff function $(K - S_T)^+$ is applied onto the calculations of the boundary conditions at time T. For the correction after matrix multiplications, boundary conditions at the uppermost underlying price $2S$ are obtained from the product of discount factor and payoff function.

A tabulation of the numerical PDE valuation results for the European put option with current underlying asset price at 100, time 1 to maturity, in a market environment with interest rate 0.05 and volatility 0.25 is shown below:

StrikePrice	Closed-form formula	Explicit	Crank-Nicolson
105	9.88129168973	9.264105018831192	9.80644762597815
110	12.6616213889	12.076648517883573	12.570971086879617
115	15.7706328645	15.218399780840814	15.664435976159092
120	19.1729444219	18.65298207114421	19.051949713116926
125	22.8305822686	22.34329607381152	22.69589614557439
130	26.7057457694	26.25077992910964	26.55869822411468
135	30.7627710836	30.340403456441194	30.604793950982373
140	34.9693534391	34.57931788995835	34.801878566249414
145	39.2971590376	38.93960455971693	39.12153797118557
150	43.72198018	43.39667137248722	43.539422717961635
155	48.2235794106	47.93050773117157	48.03510574503699
160	52.7853450758	52.5242003979317	52.591744951927915
165	57.3938520998	57.16437521140931	57.19564403732322
170	62.0383942735	61.840019132904104	61.835778111419174
175	66.7105310697	66.5425473633288	66.5033276567316
180	71.4036739641	71.26495989820106	71.19124656811944
185	76.1127242633	76.0017640524649	75.89387713223185
190	80.8337657477	80.74841572054041	80.60661618201644
195	85.5638100727	85.50119714728328	85.32563135291613
200	90.3005899189	90.2568754253407	90.04762346882995

Similar to the previous section on European call options, we can observe that the Crank-Nicolson method has superiority in accuracy for pricing European put options with relatively lower strike prices. For the put options with high strike prices compared to the current underlying prices, both valuation schemes can generate quite accurate results but the Explicit Euler scheme actually has better performance.

6.3 Monte Carlo Simulation

With the following settings: $\sigma = 0.25$, $\mu = 0.05$, $T = 1$, $S_0 = 100$, when we compare the results from Monte Carlo simulation with the option prices computed using the closed form formula, it is observable that a simulation with 500000 data points still has variation of error within range from -0.02 to 0.02. However, this comparison has ensured that our valuation scheme using Monte Carlo simulation and the variance reduction techniques is on the right way, and may be applied onto other options.

A tabulation of the resultant option prices are shown below:

StrikePrice	Closed-form formula	Ordinary Monte Carlo	Control Variate
105	9.88129168973	9.89121100448	9.89121100448
110	12.6616213889	12.6718073072	12.6718073072
115	15.7706328645	15.7786013449	15.7786013449
120	19.1729444219	19.1488969419	19.1488969419
125	22.8305822686	22.8396769379	22.8396769379
130	26.7057457694	26.7349375768	26.7349375768
135	30.7627710836	30.7487677853	30.7487677853
140	34.9693534391	34.9407041949	34.9407041949
145	39.2971590376	39.3339188168	39.3339188168
150	43.72198018	43.6672929866	43.6672929866
155	48.2235794106	48.2561306956	48.2561306956
160	52.7853450758	52.7364667849	52.7364667849
165	57.3938520998	57.3635053884	57.3635053884
170	62.0383942735	62.0538619165	62.0538619165
175	66.7105310697	66.7099933687	66.7099933687
180	71.4036739641	71.3460094069	71.3460094069
185	76.1127242633	76.1619698093	76.1619698093
190	80.8337657477	80.8390739688	80.8390739688
195	85.5638100727	85.5359768969	85.5359768969
200	90.3005899189	90.2678714265	90.2678714265

Similar to the previous section, we wish to check upon the convergence of this valuation scheme in the practice of pricing European put options, and whether the variance reduction techniques really work well in improving accuracy of the estimates. Henceforth we fix the strike price at 110, current underlying asset price at 100, at the market condition with interest rate at 0.05, and volatility at 0.25. We gradually increase the number of simulations from 100000 to 1000000 in order to better display the effect of variance reduction technique, in particular, control variate.

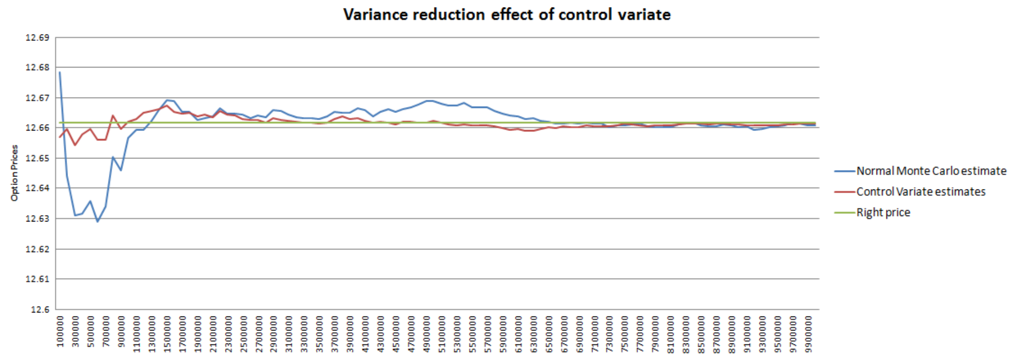

Figure 2: Effect of control variate in pricing European put options

It is clear that both estimations converge to the right price at 12.661621 given by the closed-form formula, but with the help of control variate, the simulation result can converge to the correct price at a much higher rate. Oscillations of the simulated prices are also significantly reduced by control variate.

7 Barrier option

The continuous barrier option is one of the most frequently traded path-dependent options. This option comes with a same payoff function as the normal European call/put at maturity subject to the additional condition for a prescribed level to be crossed or not by the underlying asset price during the life of option. The barrier options can be categorized into four different types with the name down-and-out, down-and-in, up-and-out, up-and-in.

7.1 Joint distribution of Minimum and Terminal Value

We define the minimum value $m_T = \min\limits_{0\leq t\leq T} \ln \dfrac{S_t}{S_0}$ and the terminal value $x_T = \ln \frac{S_T}{S_0}$.

Corollary 1.

$$\mathbb{P}(X_T \geq x, m_T \geq m) = N(\frac{\mu T - x}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - e^{\frac{2\mu m}{\sigma^2}} N(\frac{2m - x + \mu T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})$$

Corollary 2.

$$\mathbb{P}(m_T \geq m) = N(\frac{\mu T - m}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - e^{\frac{2\mu m}{\sigma^2}} N(\frac{m + \mu T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})$$

Details of the proofs for the two corollaries are omitted here.

7.2 Closed-form formula

The payoff function of a down-and-out call option can express as $(S_T - K)\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}$, where $\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}$ is the indicator variable for the payoff to be non-zero, as $\mathbb{F} = \{S_T \geq K, \min\limits_{0\leq t\leq T} S_t \geq B\}$

For risk-neutral valuation, we split the payoff in order to apply the Change of Numeraire Theorem where appropriate. Let $V_T^{(1)} = S_T\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}$, $V_T^{(2)} = K\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}$, with the assumption that there is no dividend yield, we can express the option price as such:

$$\begin{aligned}
c_{do}(S,B,K) &= e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[(S_T - K)\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}] \\
&= e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(S_T\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}) - e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(K\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}) \\
&= e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(V_T^{(1)}) - e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(V_T^{(2)}) \\
&= \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[\frac{V_T^{(1)}}{M_T}] - \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[\frac{V_T^{(2)}}{M_T}] = \frac{V_0^{(1)}}{M_0} - \frac{V_0^{(2)}}{M_0} = V_0^{(1)} - V_0^{(2)}
\end{aligned}$$

We can now use the stock measure $\mathbb{Q}^S$ on $V_0^{(1)}$ and the risk-neutral measure $\mathbb{Q}$ on $V_0^{(2)}$.
By the Change of Numeraire Theorem, $\frac{V_0^{(1)}}{S_0} = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}^S}[\frac{V_T^{(1)}}{S_T}]$, $\frac{V_0^{(2)}}{M_0} = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}^S}[\frac{V_T^{(2)}}{M_T}]$

$$V_0^{(1)} = S_0\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}^S}[\frac{V_T^{(1)}}{S_T}] = S_0\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}^S}[\frac{S_T\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}}{S_T}] = S_0\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}^S}(\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}) = S_0\mathbb{Q}^S(\mathbb{F})$$

$$V_0^{(2)} = M_0\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[\frac{V_T^{(2)}}{M_T}] = M_0\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[\frac{K\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}}{M_T}] = \frac{K}{M_T}\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{F}}) = e^{-rT}K\mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{F})$$

For the case that $K > B$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{F} &= \{S_T \geq K, \min_{0\leq t\leq T} S_t \geq B\} = \{\ln S_T \geq \ln K, \min_{0\leq t\leq T} \ln S_t \geq lnB\} \\
&= \{\ln S_T - \ln S_0 \geq \ln K - \ln S_0, \min_{0\leq t\leq T} \ln S_t - \ln S_0 \geq \ln B - \ln S_0\} \\
&= \{\ln\frac{S_T}{S_0} \geq \ln\frac{K}{S_0}, \min_{0\leq t\leq T} \ln\frac{S_t}{S_0} \geq \ln\frac{B}{S_0}\}
\end{aligned}$$

We can now let $x_T = \ln\dfrac{S_T}{S_0}$, $m_T = \min\limits_{0\leq t\leq T} \ln\dfrac{S_t}{S_0}$, $x = \ln(\dfrac{K}{S_0})$, $m = \ln(\dfrac{B}{S_0})$
and apply Corollary 1 to solve for $\mathbb{Q}^S(\mathbb{F})$ with $\mu = r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
V_0^{(1)} &= S_0\mathbb{Q}^S(\mathbb{F}) = S_0\mathbb{Q}^S(x_T \geq x, m_T \geq m) \\
&= S_0\{N(\frac{(r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T - \ln(\frac{K}{S_0})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - e^{\frac{2(r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})}{\sigma^2}\ln(\frac{B}{S_0})}N(\frac{2\ln(\frac{B}{S_0}) - \ln(\frac{K}{S_0}) + (r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= S_0\{N(\frac{(r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T + \ln(\frac{S_0}{K})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}+1}N(\frac{\ln(\frac{B^2}{S_0K}) + (r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= S_0\{N(d_1) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}+1}N(d_2)\}
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can express $V_0^{(2)}$ as $e^{-rT}K\mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{F})$, and apply Corollary 1 with to solve for $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{F})$ with $\mu = r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
V_0^{(2)} &= e^{-rT}K\mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{F}) = e^{-rT}K\mathbb{Q}(x_T \geq x, m_T \geq m) \\
&= e^{-rT}K\{N(\frac{(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T - \ln(\frac{K}{S_0})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - e^{\frac{2(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})}{\sigma^2}\ln(\frac{B}{S_0})}N(\frac{2\ln\frac{B}{S_0} - \ln\frac{K}{S_0} + (r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= e^{-rT}K\{N(\frac{(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T + \ln(\frac{S_0}{K})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}-1}N(\frac{\ln(\frac{B^2}{S_0K}) + (r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= e^{-rT}K\{N(d_3) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}-1}N(d_4)\}
\end{aligned}$$

For the case that $K > B$, the situation is simplied as the condition $S_T \geq K$ is redundant. The new condition $\mathbb{F}' = \{\min_{0\leq t\leq T} S_t \geq B\}$, with the payoff function being $(S_T - K)\mathbb{1}_{\{\min_{0\leq t\leq T} S_t \geq B\}}$.

We shall apply Corollary 2 to solve for $\mathbb{Q}^S(\mathbb{F}')$ in this case with $\mu = r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2}$, $m_T = \min_{0\leq t\leq T} \ln\frac{S_t}{S_0}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
V_0^{(1)} &= S_0\mathbb{Q}^S(\mathbb{F}') = S_0\mathbb{Q}^S(m_T \geq m) \\
&= S_0\{N(\frac{(r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T - \ln(\frac{B}{S_0})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - e^{\frac{2(r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})}{\sigma^2}\ln(\frac{B}{S_0})}N(\frac{\ln\frac{B}{S_0} + (r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= S_0\{N(\frac{(r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T + \ln(\frac{S_0}{B})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}+1}N(\frac{\ln(\frac{B}{S_0}) + (r+\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= S_0\{N(d_5) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}+1}N(d_6)\}
\end{aligned}$$

We can also apply Corollary 2 to solve for $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{F}')$ in this case with $\mu = r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
V_0^{(2)} &= e^{-rT}K\mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{F}') \\
&= e^{-rT}K\mathbb{Q}(m_T \geq m) \\
&= e^{-rT}K\{N(\frac{(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T - \ln(\frac{B}{S_0})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - e^{\frac{2(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})}{\sigma^2}\ln(\frac{B}{S_0})}N(\frac{2\ln\frac{B}{S_0} - \ln\frac{K}{S_0} + (r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= e^{-rT}K\{N(\frac{(r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T + \ln(\frac{S_0}{B})}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}-1}N(\frac{\ln(\frac{B}{S_0}) + (r-\frac{\sigma^2}{2})T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}})\} \\
&= e^{-rT}K\{N(d_7) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}-1}N(d_8)\}
\end{aligned}$$

Conclusively,

$$c_{do}(S_0, B, K) = \begin{cases} c(S_0, K) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}+1}c(\frac{B^2}{S_0}, K), \text{if } K > B \\ S_0\{N(d_5) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}+1}N(d_6)\} - e^{-rT}K\{N(d_7) - (\frac{B}{S_0})^{\frac{2r}{\sigma^2}-1}N(d_8)\}, \text{if } K \leq B \end{cases}$$

where $c(S_0, K, T)$ denotes the European call option premium
with initial stock price S_0, strike price K.

7.3 Monte Carlo Simulation

A full valuation of the continuous Barrier option will require the usage of the closed-form formula. In the case of pricing a down-and-out call option, discrete Monte Carlo valuation scheme will always give a price higher than the right price as there will always be scenarios missed in which the barrier to be breached. Still, even if we can find an increment in the time zone which can make the scenarios missed to be negligible, the computation cost will increase rapidly and we will not be able to generate enough data points for the accuracy of the estimated option price. Upon this predicament, the research results of Professor Steven Kou[4] shed light on this problem as to give a multiplier to the barrier to enable the discrete valuation of the continuous Barrier option. The new barrier according to the research results is given by $B^* = Be^{\beta\sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}$, where β is a constant with value 0.5826. As the results have been proven both in theory and in practice, we are convinced that the correct pricing can be obtained.

A tabulation of the resultant down-and-out call option prices is shown below, with the leftmost column indicating the strike prices and the uppermost row indicating the barriers, currently stock price at 100, time 1 to maturity, interest rate at 0.05 and volatility of 0.25.

	75	85	95
70	31.970666152	25.1858706232	10.5704766084
80	24.6583030035	20.3399767413	8.8991939912
90	17.8621463707	15.5108745676	7.2279113741
100	12.2374796697	11.0529331703	5.5619564416
110	7.9924835933	7.4269559884	4.0150057856
120	5.013923987	4.7541407506	2.7398001805
130	3.0420520393	2.9259014547	1.7834515724
140	1.7959318431	1.7449454877	1.1168039009
150	1.0371263472	1.0150077571	0.677741966
160	0.5884872655	0.5789572677	0.4010785064

Correct prices from closed-form formula

	75	85	95
70	31.9342389613	25.2939954452	10.4494113445
80	24.7360739924	20.3406635302	8.9096699675
90	17.9471968708	15.5171519681	7.1210238083
100	12.2479562769	11.0524462206	5.6074949358
110	7.9837204154	7.4377240674	3.9666377603
120	5.1471035605	4.784715893	2.8406115503
130	3.0118119801	2.9283119044	1.8069967242
140	1.8041308385	1.6956803311	1.1583686103
150	1.0271540107	1.0270140515	0.6942016255
160	0.6183921248	0.5631658807	0.3880185991

Resultant prices from Monte Carlo simulations

We can see from the simulation results that this valuation scheme should be consistent, and the accuracy of the estimate is unaffected by the change in parameters, as the errors of the simulated option price from the right price do not have a constant pattern in distribution.

In order to look further into the convergence of estimates from Monte Carlo simulations, we plot a graph showing how the price of a down-and-out call option obtained from the simulations is associated with the number of simulations done. The strike price and the barrier have been fixed at 110 and 95, while the current underlying price is at 100. For the market environment, we assume interest rate to be at 0.05 and the volatility to be at 0.25. As the computation costs for conducting control variate is substantial for Barrier options, we do not show the effect of variance reduction in this case.

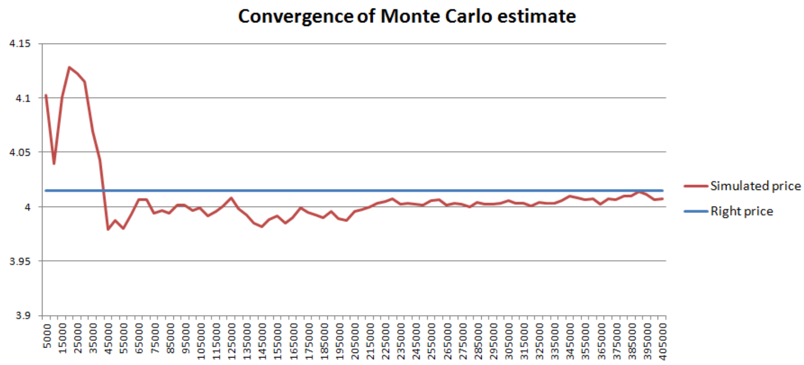

Figure 3: Convergence of Monte Carlo simulated option prices

It is observable that as the number of simulations increases from 5000 to 400000, the difference between the simulated price and right price converges to 0. In light of this argument, we have demonstrated the convergence of this valuation scheme in the practice of pricing Barrier options. This gives us confidence that with the advancement of GPU and parallel computing, we should be able to generate more accurate results for other path-dependent options using this scheme.

7.4 Numerical PDE

When we are valuating the down-and-out call option using the Crank-Nicolson scheme, the payoff function $(S_T - K)^+$ is applied for the calculations of the boundary conditions at time T. We have also dealt with the situation during the valuation that any grid point with underlying asset price lower than the barrier will be automatically set to 0. Surprisingly, the research results of Professor Kou[4] is still applicable here. With the continuity correction, we can obtain a set of approximate option prices.

A tabulation of the numerical PDE valuation results for the down-and-out call option with current underlying asset price at 100, time 1 to maturity, in a market environment with interest rate 0.05 and volatility 0.25 is shown below:

	75	85	95
70	31.970666152	25.1858706232	10.5704766084
80	24.6583030035	20.3399767413	8.8991939912
90	17.8621463707	15.5108745676	7.2279113741
100	12.2374796697	11.0529331703	5.5619564416
110	7.9924835933	7.4269559884	4.0150057856
120	5.013923987	4.7541407506	2.7398001805
130	3.0420520393	2.9259014547	1.7834515724

Correct prices from closed-form formula

	75	85	95
70	32.085945758075205	25.27856574697755	10.352219454364121
80	24.789855125489467	20.436659523689606	8.72512753690639
90	17.991852194524867	15.610137823776594	7.098035619448731
100	12.349282550121789	11.143979910058636	5.475243292435872
110	8.078354256172519	7.50040306730007	3.9620639996657796
120	5.072917082348415	4.806353686333711	2.708713551150372
130	3.077674341219038	2.958081366259531	1.7644768261963428

Resultant prices from the Crank-Nicolson method

Similar to the previous section on the European options, we can observe that the Crank-Nicolson method is able to generate a considerably accurate resultant price as compared to the correct price given by closed-form formula. Also, the computation costs of Barrier options are generally much higher than those of the European options even in the numerical PDE valuation scheme, as we have to make corrections upon part of the price vector each time after matrix multiplications.

8 Conclusion

We have categorized the option pricing problems into the closed-form formula, numerical PDE methods and Monte Carlo simulations. For most of the comparatively more exotic options such as American exercise-style options or Asian options with arithmetic mean, it is considered impossible to give a closed-form formula and hence we have no choice but to resort to Monte Carlo simulations or numerical PDE pricing schemes.

Admittedly, the numerical PDE methods have their advantages on accuracy and computation costs, as the former mathematicians and practitioners derived dozens of elegant solutions for discretization under certain model. Still, there are cases in which the numerical PDE valuation schemes can be very difficult to derive and even if we do, it is possible that the discretization errors accumulates significantly along the grid when we conduct the pricing. Also, the computations for numerical PDE schemes become costly in the more high dimensional problems.

Monte Carlo simulations seem to be our last resort for these problems. Nowadays, as the techniques with parallel computing and GPUs are becoming more mature, the Monte Carlo simulations are more in favour since the time for simulations can be largely shortened.

Besides these valuation methods stated above, those not mentioned in this paper, for example binomial tree methods, still deserve some attention, as we have no idea now whether they will become the core to develop a universally adopted valuation scheme for financial derivatives pricing in general.

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