

Mathematics of Finance
Problem Set 2 Solutions

Exercise 1.2: We want $x A(1) + y S(1)$ to be 1160 if stock goes up and 1040 if stock goes down.

Thus $100x + 30y = 1160$ and $100x + 20y = 1040$. Subtracting one equation from the other gives $10y = 120$ so $y = 12$ and $100x + 360 = 1160$ so $x = 8$.

Exercise 1.7 When the strike price is 90, the call option will be worth 30 if stock goes up and zero if it goes down. To replicate the call option with x shares and y bonds, we must have $120x + 110y = 30$ and $x80 + y110 = 0$. Subtracting second equation from the first, we have $40x = 30$ so $x = \frac{3}{4}$ and so $60 + 110y = 0$ and $y = -\frac{6}{11}$. The price of the option at time zero must be $xS(0) + yA(0) = 75 - \frac{6}{11} \times 100 \sim 20.45$. When the strike price is 110, a similar argument shows that $x = \frac{1}{4}$ and $y = -\frac{2}{11}$, so the price is $25 - \frac{2}{11} \times 100 \sim 6.82$.

Exercise 1.8 (a) Suppose $A(0) = 100$, $A(1) = 105$, $S(0) = 100$ and $S(1)$ is 120 (stock up) or 80 (stock down). Then $C(1)$ is 20 (stock up) or 0 (stock down). Thus $20 = 120x + 105y$ and $0 = 80x + 105y$. Subtracting second equation from the first, we have $20 = 80x$ so $x = .5$ and $y = -8/21$. Then $C(0) = .5 \times 100 + \frac{8}{21} \times 100 \sim 11.9$. For (b), we have $A(1) = 115$ and $C(1)$ is again 20 (stock up) or 0 (stock down). Then we have $20 = 120x + 115y$ and $0 = 80x + 115y$. Subtracting, we have $40x = 20$, so $x = .5$, and $115y + 40 = 0$, so $y = -23/8$. Then $C(0) = .5 \times 100 - \frac{8}{23} \times 100 \sim 15.21$.

Exercise 1.11 See Exercise 1.12.

Exercise 1.12 The risk, as measured by standard deviation, is $(160 - 40)\sqrt{p(1-p)} = 120\sqrt{p(1-p)}$ with option and $(135 - 75)\sqrt{p(1-p)} = 60\sqrt{p(1-p)}$ without option. This comes from a general fact that when a random variable X takes on just two values a and b , a with probability p and b with probability $1 - p$, the standard deviation is $(a - b)\sqrt{p(1-p)}$.

Exercise 2.7 $100 \times 1.1^2 = 1.21$ and $100 \times 1.05^4 = 121.55$.

Exercise 2.18 $1000001 = 1000000e^{1t}$ $e^{-1t} = 1.000001$. Taking logs of both sides, $t \sim .00001 = 10^{-5}$ years.