

1 The Black-Scholes Formula for a European Call or Put

Recall:

$$V(f) = e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{E}_{RN} [f(S_T)]$$

where the expectation is taken with respect to the risk-neutral measure.

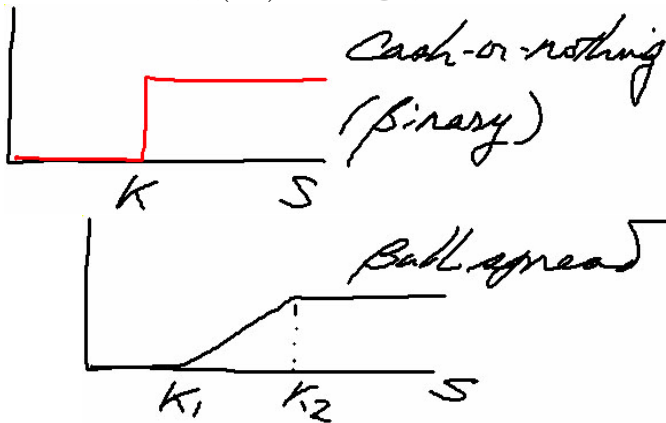
In a risk-neutral world, the stock price dynamics is

$$S_T = S_t e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-t) + \sigma\sqrt{T-t}Z}, \quad Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

or equivalently

$$\log\left(\frac{S_T}{S_t}\right) \sim \mathcal{N}\left[\left(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)(T-t), \sigma^2(T-t)\right]$$

Note that $f(S_T)$ is the payoff, a known function of S_T , e.g.,



1.1 Evaluation of European Options

Evaluation of a European Call/Put at $t = 0$. Let us quote the results first:

$$\begin{aligned} c[S_0, T, K] &= S_0 N(d_1) - K e^{-rT} N(d_2), \\ p[S_0, T, K] &= K e^{-rT} N(-d_2) - S_0 N(-d_1) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} N(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy \\ d_1 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 T}} \log \left[\frac{S_0 e^{(r + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T}}{K} \right] \\ d_2 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 T}} \log \left[\frac{S_0 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T}}{K} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$d_2 = d_1 - \sqrt{\sigma^2 T}$$

First, let us evaluate the expectation of the following function

$$f(x) \equiv \begin{cases} e^{ax}, & x \geq k \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where X is a Gaussian-distributed random variable with mean m and variance σ'^2 :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[f(x)] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma'^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-m)^2}{2\sigma'^2}} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma'^2}} \int_k^{\infty} e^{ax} e^{-\frac{(x-m)^2}{2\sigma'^2}} dx \end{aligned}$$

Complete the square:

$$ax - \frac{(x-m)^2}{2\sigma'^2} = am + \frac{1}{2}a^2\sigma'^2 - \frac{[x - (m + a\sigma'^2)]^2}{2\sigma'^2}$$

therefore,

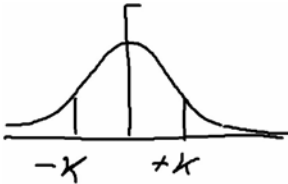
$$\mathbb{E}[f(x)] = e^{am + \frac{1}{2}a^2\sigma'^2} \frac{1}{\sigma' \sqrt{2\pi}} \int_k^{\infty} e^{-\frac{[x - (m + a\sigma'^2)]^2}{2\sigma'^2}} dx$$

Changing variable,

$$y \equiv \frac{x - (m + a\sigma'^2)}{\sigma'}$$

yields

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[f(x)] &= e^{am + \frac{1}{2}a^2\sigma'^2} \int_{\kappa = \frac{k - (m + a\sigma'^2)}{\sigma'}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy \\ &= e^{am + \frac{1}{2}a^2\sigma'^2} \int_{-\infty}^{-\kappa} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy \quad (\text{even-symmetry of a Gaussian}) \\ &= e^{am + \frac{1}{2}a^2\sigma'^2} N\left(-\frac{k - (m + a\sigma'^2)}{\sigma'}\right) \end{aligned}$$



Therefore, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[f(x)] = e^{am + \frac{1}{2}a^2\sigma'^2} N(d), \quad d \equiv \frac{-k + m + a\sigma'^2}{\sigma'} \quad (1)$$

1.1.1 European Call

Applying Eq. (1) to a European call:

$$V(f) = e^{rT} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (S_0 e^x - K)_+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2 T}} e^{-\frac{(x - (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T)^2}{2\sigma^2 T}} dx$$

Note that

$$S_0 e^x - K \geq 0 \implies x > \log \frac{K}{S_0}$$

1. For the first term in the payoff, i.e., $S_0 e^x$, we use the result above with

$$a = 1, \quad k = \log \frac{K}{S_0}, \quad m = \left(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right) T, \quad \sigma'^2 = \sigma^2 T$$

therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & e^{-rT} \int_k^{\infty} S_0 e^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2 T}} e^{-\frac{(x - (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T)^2}{2\sigma^2 T}} dx \\ &= S_0 e^{-rT} e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 T} N(d_1) \\ &= S_0 N(d_1) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 &= \frac{-\log \frac{K}{S_0} + \left(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right) T + \sigma^2 T}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 T}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 T}} \log \left[\frac{S_0 e^{(r + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T}}{K} \right] \end{aligned}$$

2. For the 2nd term (i.e., -K), choose

$$a = 0,$$

then,

$$e^{-rT} \int_k^{\infty} K \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2 T}} e^{-\frac{(x - (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T)^2}{2\sigma^2 T}} dx = K e^{-rT} N(d_2)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} d_2 &= \frac{-\log \frac{K}{S_0} + \left(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right) T}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 T}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 T}} \log \left[\frac{S_0 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T}}{K} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$c(S_0, T, K) = S_0 N(d_1) - K e^{-rT} N(d_2)$$

1.1.2 European Put

How to evaluate a put? Use the put-call parity

$$p - c = Ke^{-rT} - S_0$$

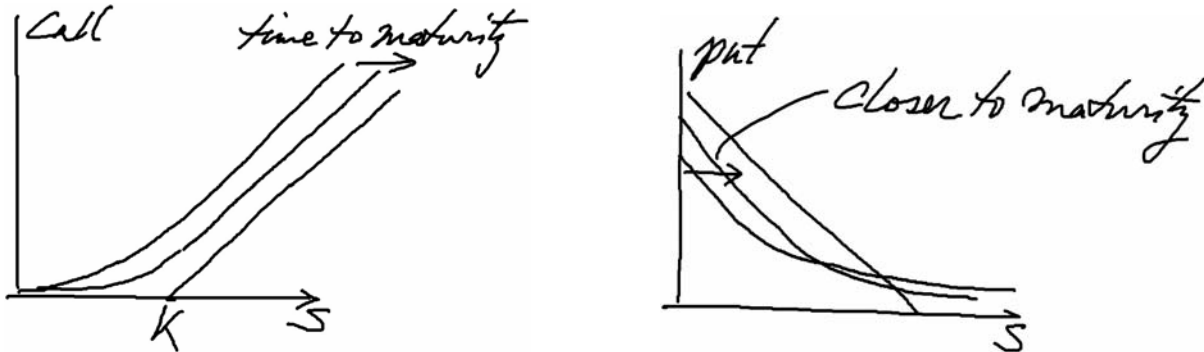
Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} p(S_0, T, K) &= c(S_0, T, K) + Ke^{-rT} - S_0 \\ &= S_0N(d_1) - S_0 + Ke^{-rT} - Ke^{-rT}N(d_2) \\ &= -S_0(1 - N(d_1)) + Ke^{-rT}(1 - N(d_2)) \\ &= -S_0N(-d_1) + Ke^{-rT}N(-d_2) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$p(S_0, T, K) = Ke^{-rT}N(-d_2) - S_0N(-d_1)$$

Note that the notation T can be understood as the maturity of the contract counting from the day when the option is setup or it can also be understood as the time-to-maturity — which is, sometimes, emphasized through the notation $T - t$ with T being reserved for maturity.



Note that

1. These prices are good as long as the lognormal stock price dynamics is a good model for our market;
2. Parameters in the formula:

S_0 — the present value of a stock,
 K — Strike,
 r — risk-free interest rate,
 T — maturity or time-to-maturity
 σ — volatility

what is the value of σ ?

- (a) Historical volatility;
- (b) Implied volatility — cf. Volatility smile, volatility skew.



Issues:

1. How good is the lognormal dynamics?
2. How to hedge away some of the problem?

2 Hedging

2.1 Hedging in a Binomial World

$$\begin{array}{l}
 S_0 \\
 f_0 \\
 \left. \begin{array}{l} \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} S_+ = S_0 u = S_0 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\delta t + \sigma\sqrt{\delta t}} \\ f_+ \\ \\ S_- = S_0 d = S_0 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\delta t - \sigma\sqrt{\delta t}} \\ f_- \end{array} \\
 \leftarrow \delta t \rightarrow
 \end{array}$$

$$f_0 = f(S_0, t + \delta t) + \left[-rf(S_0, t + \delta t) + rS_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial S_0} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S_0^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S_0^2} \right] \delta t + o(\delta t)$$

where all the derivatives are evaluated at $t + \delta t$.

Suppose we misparameterized σ :

$$\sigma' = \sigma + \delta\sigma$$

where $\delta\sigma$ is the error.

Then, the incorrect price for our contingent claim:

$$f'_0 = f(S_0, t + \delta t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma} \delta \sigma + \left[-rf(S_0, t + \delta t) + rS_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial S_0} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S_0^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S_0^2} \right] \delta t + o(\delta t)$$

For the purpose of illustrating the idea of hedging, we have assumed $\delta \sigma$ and δt are of the same order, otherwise, there are further expansions of those derivatives with respect to $\delta \sigma$. Here, we neglect higher order terms, e.g. $O(\delta t \delta \sigma)$.

Therefore, the mispriced amount is

$$\begin{aligned} \delta f_0 &\equiv f'_0 - f_0 \\ &\approx \frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma} \delta \sigma \end{aligned}$$

However, if we have another contingent claim on the same stock to form a portfolio:

$$f + xg, \quad x \text{ — the number of unit of } g\text{-option.}$$

Then the total mispricing will be

$$\delta(f + xg) \approx \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma} + x \frac{\partial g}{\partial \sigma} \right) \delta \sigma$$

if

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma} + x \frac{\partial g}{\partial \sigma} &= 0 \\ \text{i.e., } x &= \frac{-\frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma}}{\frac{\partial g}{\partial \sigma}} \end{aligned}$$

then we can hedge away potential mispricing due to incorrect volatility parameterization to $O(\delta \sigma)$ — a Vega hedging.

Terminology:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vega} &: \\ \mathcal{V}_f &\equiv \frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma}, \quad \mathcal{V}_g \equiv \frac{\partial g}{\partial \sigma} \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,

$$x = -\frac{\mathcal{V}_f}{\mathcal{V}_g}$$

Question: Have we hedged away all risks yet? Let's analyze this issue further.

Recall that the replicating portfolio in a risk-neutral valuation is

$$-f_0 + \underbrace{\Delta_f S_0 + B_f}_{\text{replicating prtfl}} = 0$$

in a correctly parameterized world. i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} -f_+ + \Delta_f S_+ + B_f e^{r\delta t} &= -f_- + \Delta_f S_- + B_f e^{r\delta t} \\ \therefore \Delta_f &= \frac{f_+ - f_-}{S_+ - S_-} \end{aligned}$$

is the amount of stock needed to hedge away the risk

Due to σ -misparameterization:

$$-f'_0 + \Delta'_f S_0 + B'_f = 0 \quad \text{at } t = 0$$

therefore,

$$\Delta'_f = \frac{f'_+ - f'_-}{S_+ - S_-}$$

where f'_+ , f'_- and B'_f are computed using σ' . So in a time-step δt , our risk is

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\Pi_f &= (-f_+ + \Delta'_f S_+ + B'_f e^{r\delta t}) - (-f_- + \Delta'_f S_- + B'_f e^{r\delta t}) \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad \text{N.B. in the real world, our } f \text{ has to pay } f_+ \\ &\quad \text{rather than } f'_+ \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \delta\Pi_f = -(f_+ - f_-) + \Delta'_f (S_+ - S_-)$$

$$\because \Delta_f = \Delta_f(\sigma)$$

$$\therefore \Delta'_f \approx \Delta_f + \frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma}\delta\sigma + o(\delta\sigma)$$

therefore,

$$\delta\Pi_f = \underbrace{-(f_+ - f_-) + \Delta_f (S_+ - S_-)}_{= 0} + \frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma}\delta\sigma (S_+ - S_-)$$

\because perfectly hedged
with correct σ

$$\therefore \delta\Pi_f = \frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma} (S_+ - S_-) \delta\sigma$$

which, in general, is not zero. However,

$$S_+ - S_- \approx O(\sigma\sqrt{\delta t})$$

$$\therefore \delta\Pi_f = O\left(\left(\frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma}\sigma\sqrt{\delta t}\right)\delta\sigma\right)$$

which contains risks — Either we are content to live with these risks (they could be small or large, depending on the combination of $\frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma}\sigma\delta\sigma$) or we can try to hedge further — Let's see how theoretically this can be done. First note that, even for our portfolio

$$f + xg$$

we have

$$\delta\Pi_{f+xg} = \delta\Pi_f + \delta\Pi_g = \left(\frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma} + x\frac{\partial\Delta_g}{\partial\sigma} \right) (S_+ - S_-) \delta\sigma$$

which means there are still risks, i.e. our portfolio $f + xg$ is not completely Δ -neutral.

Now suppose we have another contingent claim on the same stock to form a new portfolio:

$$f + xg + yh$$

we can choose x, y , such that

$$\text{Vega-Neutral: } \frac{\partial f}{\partial\sigma} + x\frac{\partial g}{\partial\sigma} + y\frac{\partial h}{\partial\sigma} = 0 \quad \text{i.e. } \mathcal{V}_f + x\mathcal{V}_g + y\mathcal{V}_h = 0 \quad (2a)$$

$$\text{and } \Delta\text{-Neutral: } \frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma} + x\frac{\partial\Delta_g}{\partial\sigma} + y\frac{\partial\Delta_h}{\partial\sigma} = 0 \quad (2b)$$

then we have hedged away potential mispricing and risks due to misparameterization of σ .

Importance of being nonlinear: Question: can we use the stock as our third option for hedging, i.e.,

$$h(S_T) = S_T$$

i.e., the stock itself for our option $h(S)$? Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_h &= \frac{\partial S}{\partial\sigma} = 0 \quad \text{— a stock has vanishing Vega} \\ \text{and } \Delta_h &= \frac{\partial S_0}{\partial S} = 1 \quad \left[\text{or } \Delta_h = \frac{S_+ - S_-}{S_+ - S_-} = 1 \right] \\ \text{i.e., a stock has } \Delta &= 1 \\ \implies &\text{ stock } S \text{ is a linear derivative} \end{aligned}$$

Can we use the stock itself for our h ?

Since Eqs. (2) now become

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial\sigma} + x\frac{\partial g}{\partial\sigma} + y \cdot 0 &= 0 \\ \text{and } \frac{\partial\Delta_f}{\partial\sigma} + x\frac{\partial\Delta_g}{\partial\sigma} + y \cdot 0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

leading to no solution for x , and y , in general.

The story is just to give you some sense of how issues of hedging arise and how hedging can be done. This simple example illustrates the need for **nonlinear** derivatives for hedging purposes.

Conclusion:

Even if a stock price dynamics is not 100% accurate, as long as it is sufficiently close to the true dynamics — meaning both model specification and model parameterization — then we can use a well-balanced (hedged) portfolio to eliminate most of risks.

2.2 Hedging (General Formulation) — Greeks

2.2.1 Greeks

Portfolio value:

$$\Pi = \Pi(t, S, \sigma, r)$$

where t is time-to-maturity. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\Pi &= \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial t}\delta t + \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial S}\delta S + \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial\sigma}\delta\sigma + \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial r}\delta r \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2\Pi}{\partial S^2}(\delta S)^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

where δt indicates the changing of time. What are the Greeks? They are no more than

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{Theta} &: \Theta = \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial t}, \\ \textit{Delta} &: \Delta = \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial S}, \\ \textit{Vega} &: \mathcal{V} = \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial\sigma}, \\ \textit{rho} &: \rho = \frac{\partial\Pi}{\partial r} \\ \textit{Gamma} &: \Gamma = \frac{\partial^2\Pi}{\partial S^2} \end{aligned}$$

Note that a portfolio contains, e.g., stocks, calls, puts, etc. each of which has its own corresponding Δ, Γ , etc. For example, for a stock,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_S &= 1 \\ \Gamma_S &= 0 \\ \mathcal{V}_S &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

2.2.2 Greeks for a European Call/Put:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_c &= \frac{\partial}{\partial S_0}c(S_0, T, K) = N(d_1) \quad (\text{How to evaluate? HW}) \\ \Delta_p &= \frac{\partial}{\partial S_0}p(S_0, T, K) = -N(-d_1) = N(d_1) - 1 \end{aligned}$$

the second line of which can be seen directly from the put-call parity.

Note that the hedging portfolio in a risk-neutral way would be

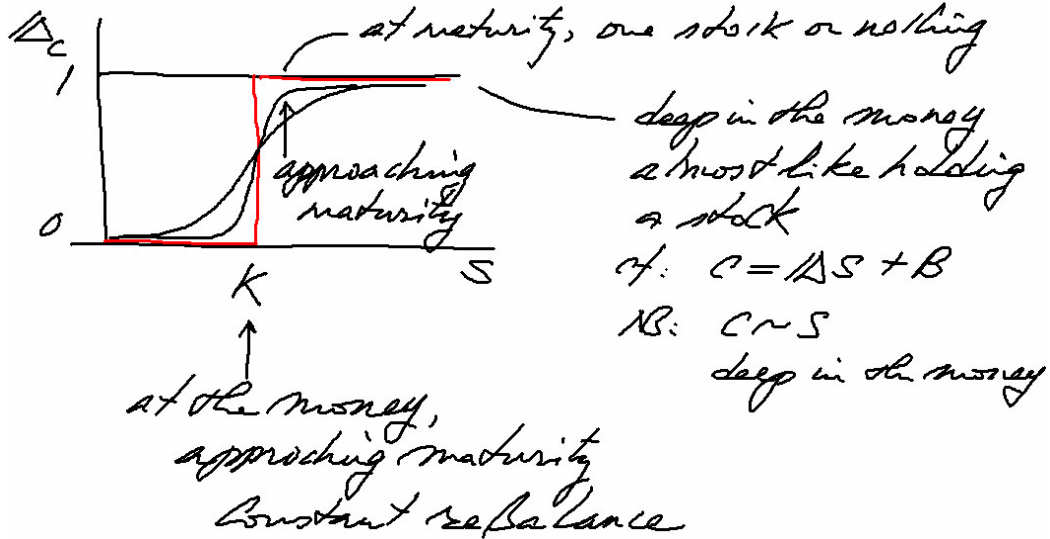
$$\Delta_c S_0 - c$$

With changing Δ_c , one has to rebalance.

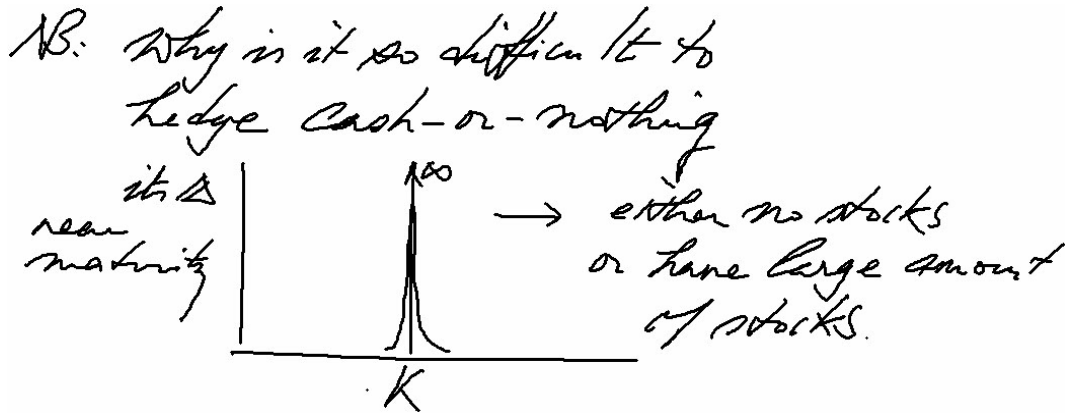
$\Delta := \frac{\partial}{\partial S_0}$ — sensitivity to the change of the stock price.

Call: $1 \geq N(d_1) \geq 0$

Put: $-1 \leq N(d_1) - 1 \leq 0$



Q: Why is it so difficult to hedge a cash-or-nothing?

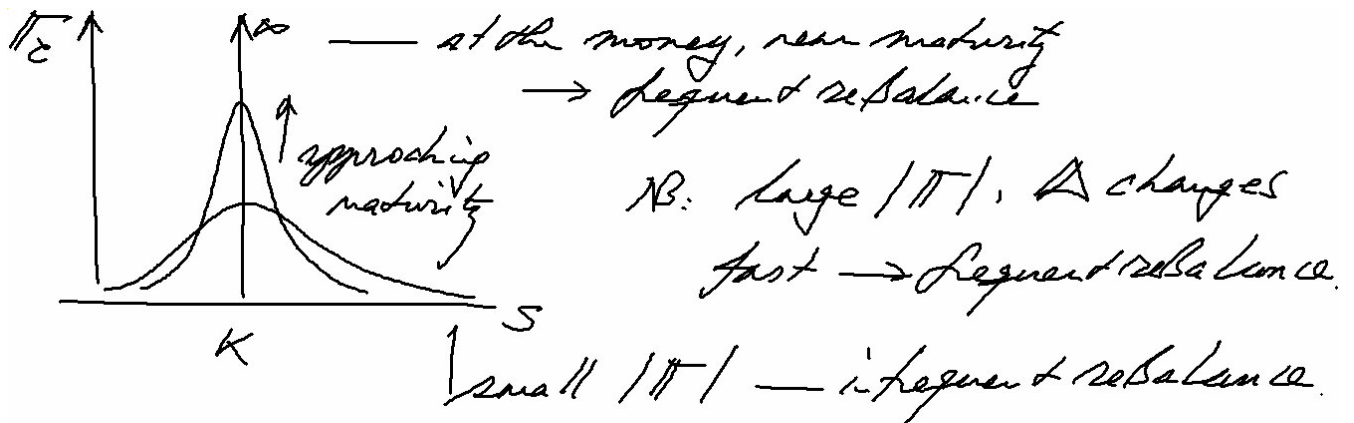


$\Gamma := \frac{\partial^2}{\partial S_0^2}$ — Δ -sensitivity to the change of S_0

Call: $\Gamma_c = \frac{1}{S_0 \sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2 T}} \exp\left[-\frac{d_1^2}{2}\right] > 0$

Put: $\Gamma_p = \Gamma_c$

$\Gamma_p = \Gamma_c$ can be seen directly from the put-call parity.



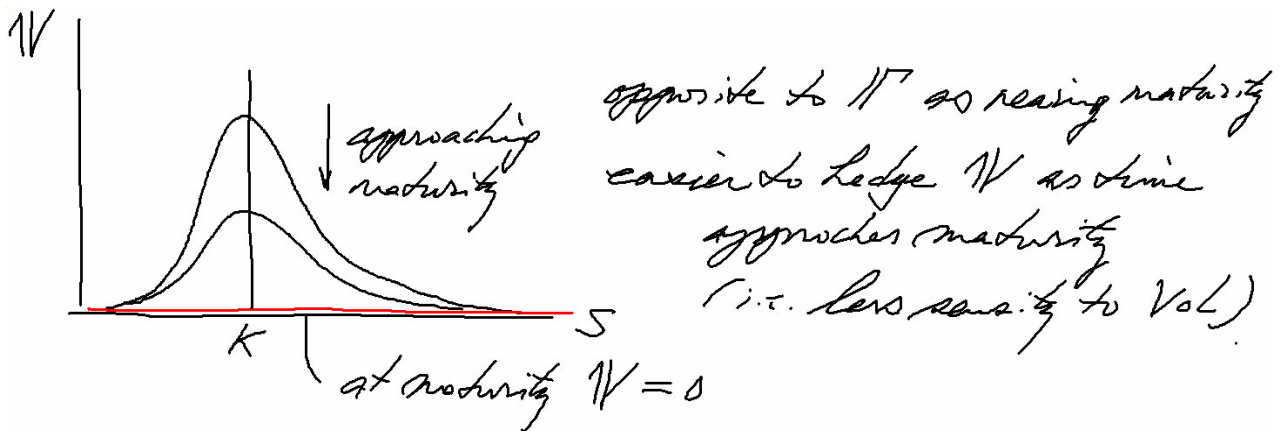
$\nu := \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma}$ — sensitivity to the volatility change

Call: $\nu_c = S_0 \sqrt{\frac{T}{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{d_1^2}{2}\right] > 0,$

Put: $\nu_p = \nu_c$

again, the relation $\nu_p = \nu_c$ can be seen from the put-call parity.

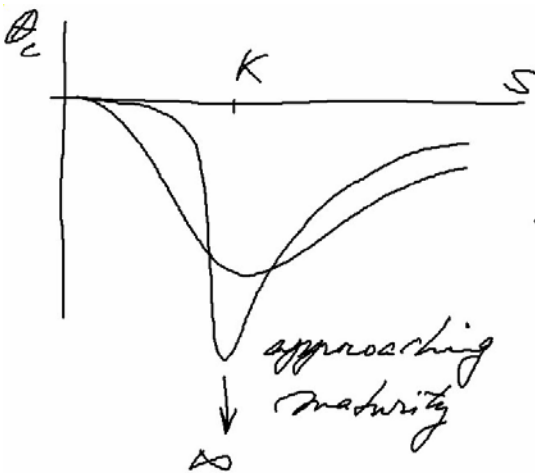
Note that the Black-Scholes formula assumes a constant σ . But, if volatility changes, then rebalance is needed.



$\Theta := \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ — sensitivity to "time-to-maturity"

Call : $\Theta_c = -\frac{S_0\sigma}{2\sqrt{2\pi T}} \exp\left[-\frac{d_1^2}{2}\right] - rKe^{-rT}N(d_2) < 0$

Put : $\Theta_p = -\frac{S_0\sigma}{2\sqrt{2\pi T}} \exp\left[-\frac{d_1^2}{2}\right] + rKe^{-rT}N(d_2) = \begin{cases} > 0 \\ < 0 \end{cases}$



Why Θ ?
What do we mean by sensitivity to "time to maturity"
— nothing uncertain about time?
→ another way of dealing w/ Γ

What do we mean by sensitivity to "time-to-maturity" since there is nothing uncertain about time after all? Actually this is another way of looking at Gamma Γ .

Recall the Black-Scholes PDE:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} + rS \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} - rf = 0$$

i.e.,

$$\Theta + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \Gamma + rS \Delta = rf \tag{3}$$

Note that

1. If we need nothing to enter a contract (a portfolio with many options), then

$$f(0) = 0$$

If we want to maintain that way, i.e., constant rebalance to ensure $f = 0$, then, Eq. (3) yields

$$\Delta\text{-neutral, } \Theta\text{-neutral} \implies \Gamma\text{-neutral}$$

2. For a Δ -neutral portfolio, we have

$$\Theta + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \Gamma = rf$$

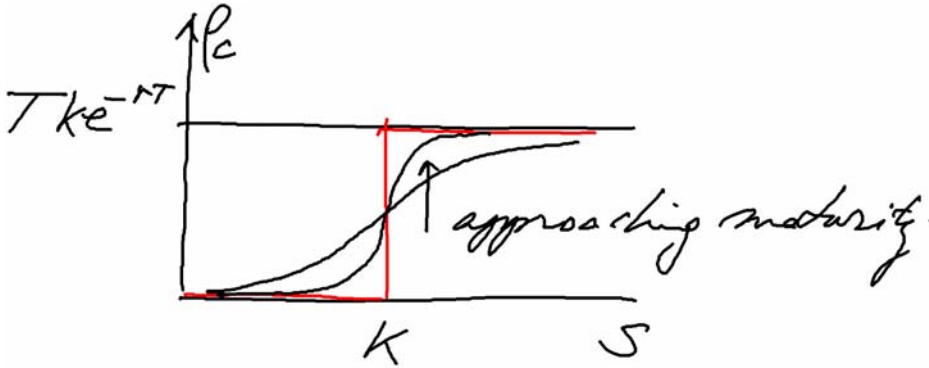
then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{large, positive } \Theta &\implies \text{large, negative } \Gamma \\ \text{large, negative } \Theta &\implies \text{large, positive } \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

$\rho := \frac{\partial}{\partial r}$ — sensitivity to the change of interest rate

Call : $\rho_c = TKe^{-rT}N(d_2) > 0$

Put : $\rho_p = -TKe^{-rT}N(-d_2) = TKe^{-rT}[N(d_2) - 1] < 0$



2.2.3 General Hedging:

Δ -Hedge: e.g.,

n_1 units of an option f_1 on the same stock.

and the portfolio is

$$\Pi_1 = n_1 f_1 + n_s S_0 + B$$

where B stands for the amount of bond. Δ -neutral is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial S_0} \Pi_1 = 0$$

$$\text{i.e., } n_1 \Delta_1 + n_s = 0$$

which is insensitive to the change of the stock price. Since,

$$n_1 f_1 + n_s S_0 + B = V_1$$

$$n_1 \Delta_1 + n_s = 0$$

which are two equations with two unknowns, n_1, n_s , there is no more freedom to hedge other Greeks.

\mathcal{V} -Hedge: However, if we have two options f_1, f_2 (on the same stock) with n_1 and n_2 units, respectively, then the value of the portfolio is

$$\Pi_2 = n_1 f_1 + n_2 f_2 + n_s S_0 + B$$

its value is

$$n_1 f_1 + n_2 f_2 + n_s S_0 + B = V_2, \quad (4)$$

with Δ -neutral position, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \Pi_2}{\partial S_0} &= 0 \\ \implies n_1 \Delta_1 + n_2 \Delta_2 + n_s &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Now we have more freedom for hedging. For example, we can demand *Vega*-neutral, i.e.,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma} \Pi_2 = 0 \implies n_1 \mathcal{V}_1 + n_2 \mathcal{V}_2 = 0 \quad (6)$$

Eqs. (4), (5) and (6) can be solved for the three unknowns, n_1, n_2, n_3 — thus, achieving Δ -neutral and *Vega*-neutral, reducing the exposure to the changes or mis-specification of volatility, etc.

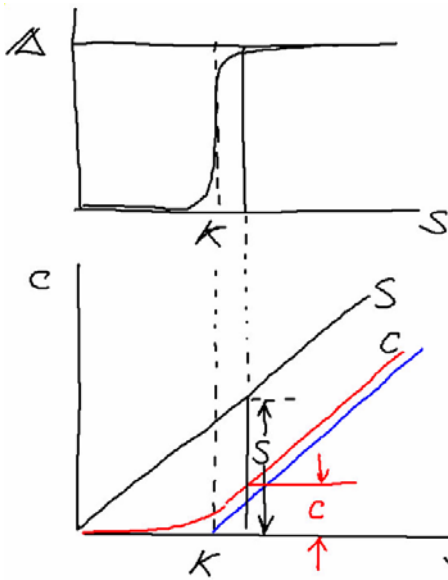
Note that

1. By increasing types of options, we can hedge away other kinds of risks described by other Greeks.
2. Dynamic balancing: Often times Γ and *Vega* are monitored but not zeroed out. Δ is zeroed out daily by rebalancing shares.
3. There is a difficulty of Γ -neutral and \mathcal{V} -neutral — which require **nonlinear** derivatives that are traded at competitive prices.

2.2.4 Speculation using Greeks

Consider only a European call

$$\begin{aligned} \delta c &= \frac{\partial c}{\partial S} \delta S = \Delta \delta S \\ \frac{\delta c}{c} &= \frac{\Delta}{c} \delta S = \frac{S \Delta}{c} \frac{\delta S}{S} \end{aligned}$$



S near K , $\frac{S}{C}$ can be quite large
 $\Delta \leq 1$ (NB $\Delta \leq 1$)
 $\rightarrow \frac{S}{C} \Delta$ can be large.

One can easily make $\frac{S}{C} \Delta > 1$

Especially, as time-to-maturity goes to zero, $\frac{S}{C} \Delta$ can be very large for a call at-the-money.

\rightarrow possible large gains or losses

If

$$\frac{S}{C} \Delta \gg 1$$

then, a percentage change of stock price $\delta S/S$ can lead to an appreciably large percentage change of option price.

One can also bet on volatility:

$$\delta \Pi = \frac{\delta \Pi}{\delta \sigma} \delta \sigma = \nu \delta \sigma$$

$$\frac{\delta \Pi}{\Pi} = \frac{\nu}{\Pi} \sigma \left(\frac{\delta \sigma}{\sigma} \right)$$

If a portfolio is constructed in such a way that

$$\frac{\nu}{\Pi} \sigma \gg 1$$

then, it is possible to use this portfolio for speculation with high leverage, i.e., a change of volatility is magnified by a factor $\frac{\nu}{\Pi} \sigma$ in the portfolio price.