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ON OPTION PRICING IN ILLIQUID MARKETS WITH RANDOM JUMPS

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Abstract. One of the shortcomings of the Black and Scholes model on option pricing is the assumption that trading of the underlying asset does not affect the price of that asset. This assumption can be fulfilled only in perfectly liquid markets. Since most markets are illiquid, this assumption might be too restrictive. Thus, taking into account the price impact in option pricing is an important issue. This issue has been dealt with, to some extent, for illiquid markets by assuming a continuous process, mainly based on the Brownian motion. However, the recent financial crisis and its effects on the global stock markets have propagated the urgent need for more realistic models where the stochastic process describing the price trajectories involves random jumps. Nonetheless, works related to markets with jumps are scant compared to the continuous ones. In addition, these previous studies do not deal with illiquid markets. The contribution of this paper is to tackle the pricing problem for options in illiquid markets with jumps as well as the hedging strategy within this context, which is the first of its kind to the best knowledge.

Keywords: Options pricing, illiquid markets, jump diffusion, incomplete markets.

JEL classification: G12, G13.

1 Introduction

Financial derivatives are important tools for dealing with financial risk. An option is an example of such derivatives, which gives the right but not the obligation, to engage in a future transaction on some underlying financial asset. For instance, a European call option on an asset with the price $(S_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ is a contract between two agents (buyer and seller), which gives the holder the right to buy the asset at a pre-specified future time T (the expiration date) for an amount K (called the strike price). The buyer of the option is not obliged to exercise the option. When the contract is issued the buyer of the option needs to pay a certain amount of money called the premium. The payoff for this option is $h(S_T) = \max(S_T - K, 0) = (S_T - K)^+$. The writer of the option receives a premium that is invested in the combination of the risky and risk free assets. The pricing problem is then to determine the premium, i.e. the price that the seller should charge for this option.

The pricing problem has been solved in the pioneer work of Black and Scholes (1973). One of the shortcomings of the Black and Scholes model is the assumption that an option trader cannot affect the underlying asset price. However, it is well-known that in a market with imperfect liquidity, trading does affect the underlying asset price see, for example (Chan and Lakonishok, 1995; Keim and Madhavan, 1996; and Sharpe, Alexander and Bailey, 1999).

In Liu and Yong (2005), the authors study the effect of the replication of a European option on the underlying asset price. They obtain a generalization of the Black and Scholes pricing P.D.E. as the following:

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t}(S, t) + \frac{\sigma^2 S^2}{2 \left(1 - \lambda(S, t) S \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial S^2}(S, t) \right)^2} \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial S^2}(S, t) + r_t S \frac{\partial v}{\partial S}(S, t) - r_t v(S, t) = 0 \quad (1)$$

for $(S, t) \in]0, +\infty[\times]0, T]$

$$v(S, T) = f(S), \quad 0 < S < \infty, \quad (2)$$

where $\lambda(S, t)$ is the price impact function of the trader. The classical Black–Scholes P.D.E. is a special case of (2) when $\lambda(S, t) = 0$.

On the other hand, several works have studied the financial markets with jumps (among others, Merton, 1976; El-Khatib and Privault, 2003; Wu and Zeng 2006). However, none of the previous studies based on the jump-diffusion approach deals with illiquid markets, to the best knowledge. This paper extends the model of Liu and Yong (2005) by including jump-diffusion structure. This is an important issue because the model that is suggested in this paper allows for the possibility to account for sudden and random significant changes in the market that might not be captured by the existing models in the literature such as the continuous model by Liu and Yong (2005). Thus, the approach that is developed in this paper is expected to be useful in financial risk management, especially in the cases in which the financial markets are under stress.

The disposition of the rest of the paper is the following. Section 2 introduces the jump-diffusion model for an illiquid market. Section 3 deals with the pricing problem of an option within the context of a jump-diffusion model along with the proof for the suggested solution. Section 4 concludes the paper.

2 A Jump-Diffusion Model for Illiquid Markets

We start with presenting some necessary denotations. Let $(N_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ be a Poisson process with deterministic intensity ρ . Let also $M_t = N_t - \rho t$ be its associated compensated process. The variable $(B_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ denotes a Brownian motion. The probability space of interest is (Ω, F, P) with $(M_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ and $(B_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ being independent. Let $(F_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ signify the filtration generated by $(N_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ and $(B_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$. The market is assumed to have two assets— namely— a risky asset denoted by $(S_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ and a risk-free asset denoted by $(A_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$. The maturity is T , and the strike

is K . As in Liu and Yong (2005), we assume that the return on the risk free asset indirectly depends on S_t and the option trader's trading in the stock market has a direct impact on the stock price. This price impact, which an investor can cause by trading on an asset, functions in such way that it increases the price when buying the asset and it decreases the price when selling the asset.

The price of the risk-free asset is given by

$$dA_t = r(t, S_t)A_t dt, \quad t \in [0, T], \quad (3)$$

where $r > 0$ denotes the interest rate. The price of the risky asset is generated by the stochastic differential equation

$$dS_t = \mu(t, S_t)dt + \sigma(t, S_t)(dW_t + a dM_t) + \lambda(t, S_t)d\theta_t, \quad t \in [0, T], \quad S_0 = x > 0, \quad (4)$$

where μ and σ represent the expected return and volatility, respectively, the term a represents a real constant and $\lambda(S, t)$ denotes the price impact factor created by the trader via selling or buying in the underlying asset. θ_t is the number of shares that the trader has in the stock at time t . Hence, $\lambda(S, t)d\theta_t$ is the price impact of the trading.

Remark 1 *The parameter a in (4) determines the direction of the jumps¹. In fact the following can be stated:*

- If $a < 0$, the jumps are pushing the stock price down, i.e. the stock price is decreasing at each jump.
- If $a = 0$, then there are no jumps and therefore model (4) is reduced to the model in Liu in Yong (2005).
- If $a > 0$, the jumps are pushing the stock price up, i.e. the stock price is increasing at each jump.

¹It affects also the size of the jumps.

3 Pricing of a European Option in a Jump-Diffusion Illiquid Market

Let $(V_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ be the wealth process for the trader. Let also $(\psi_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ denote the number of shares invested in the risk-free asset. Then, the value of the portfolio is given by

$$V_t = \psi_t A_t + \theta_t S_t, \quad t \in [0, T]. \quad (5)$$

Assume that the number of shares of the risky asset satisfies the following condition:

$$d\theta_t = \eta_t dt + \zeta_t (dW_t + b dM_t), \quad t \in [0, T]. \quad (6)$$

Let us consider a European call option with the payoff defined as $h(S_T) := (S_T - K)^+$. In order to replicate the option for a perfect hedge, we search for a strategy $(\psi_t, \theta_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$, which, at the expiration date of the option, leads to having a value of the underlying wealth to be equal to the payoff, that is $V_T = h(S_T)$. Then, we can state the following corollary.

Corollary 1 *The wealth process for the trader of the jump-diffusion model in section 2 satisfies the following stochastic differential equation :*

$$\begin{aligned} dV_t = & \{r(t, S_t)V_t + [\mu(t, S_t) - r(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t)\eta_t] \theta_t S_t\} dt \\ & + \theta_t S_t [\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t + \sigma(t, S_t)] dW_t + \theta_t S_t [a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] dM_t \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Proof of Collary 1. By using equations (3), (4), (5) and (6) we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} dV_t &= \psi_t dA_t + \theta_t dS_t \\ &= \frac{V_t - \theta_t S_t}{A_t} dA_t + \theta_t S_t [\mu(t, S_t) dt + \sigma(t, S_t)(dW_t + a dM_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) d\theta_t] \\ &= \{r(t, S_t)V_t + (\mu(t, S_t) - r(t, S_t))\theta_t S_t\} dt + \theta_t S_t \{\sigma(t, S_t)(dW_t + a dM_t) \\ &\quad + \lambda(t, S_t)[\eta_t dt + \zeta_t (dW_t + b dM_t)]\} \\ &= \{r(t, S_t)V_t + [\mu(t, S_t) - r(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t)\eta_t] \theta_t S_t\} dt \\ &\quad + \theta_t S_t [\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t + \sigma(t, S_t)] dW_t + \theta_t S_t [a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] dM_t \end{aligned}$$

which ends the proof.

Our aim in this paper is to price the European option with payoff $h(S_T)$ where S_T is given by equation (4). We replicate the European option by searching a wealth $(V_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ which leads to the terminal value $V_T = h(S_T)$. Thus, as in Liu and Yong (2005), we need to solve the following system of stochastic differential equations.

$$d\theta_t = \eta_t dt + \zeta_t (dW_t + b dM_t),$$

$$\frac{dS_t}{S_t} = [\mu(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t)\eta_t] dt + [\sigma(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] dW_t + [a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] dM_t,$$

$$dV_t = \{r(t, S_t)V_t + [\mu(t, S_t) - r(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t)\eta_t]\theta_t S_t\} dt$$

$$+ \theta_t S_t [\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t + \sigma(t, S_t)] dW_t + \theta_t S_t [a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] dM_t,$$

$$\theta_0 > 0, \quad S_0 > 0, \quad V_T = h(S_T), \quad (8)$$

The above system is called FBSDE (forward-backward stochastic differential equations) system. In order to derive the P.D.E. for the European option price, we need Itô formula, which is given by the following lemma (see Protter, 1990).

Lemma 1 *Let g , l , and k be three adapted processes such that*

$$\int_0^t |g_s| ds < \infty, \quad \int_0^t |l_s|^2 ds < \infty, \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^t \rho |k_s| ds < \infty.$$

Let $X = (X_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ be the process defined by

$$dX_t = g_t dt + l_t dW_t + k_t dM_t.$$

For any function $G \in \mathbf{C}^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbf{R})$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} G(t, X_t) &= G(0, X_0) + \int_0^t \left(\partial_s G(s, X_s) + (g_s - k_s \rho) \partial_x G(s, X_{s-}) + \frac{1}{2} l_s^2 \partial_{xx}^2 G(s, X_{s-}) \right) ds \\ &+ \int_0^t l_s \partial_x G(s, X_{s-}) dW_s + \sum_{s \leq t} \left(G(s, X_s) - G(s, X_{s-}) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Equation (9) can also be written in the following format:

$$G(t, X_t) = G(0, X_0) + \int_0^t \left[\partial_s G(s, X_s) + (g_s - k_s \rho) \partial_x G(s, X_{s-}) + \frac{1}{2} l_s^2 \partial_{xx}^2 G(s, X_{s-}) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \rho(G(s, X_{s^-} + k_s) - G(s, X_{s^-})) \Big] ds + \int_0^t l_s \partial_x G(s, X_{s^-}) dW_s \\
& + \int_0^t [G(s, X_{s^-} + k_s) - G(s, X_{s^-})] dM_s. \tag{10}
\end{aligned}$$

The next proposition provides the P.D.E. for the price of the European option in the jump-diffusion illiquid market as presented in section 2.

Proposition 1 *Let $f(t, S_t)$ denote the price of the European option at time $t \in [0, T]$ for the model presented in section 2. Then the corresponding P.D.E. for the underlying option price is given by*

$$\begin{aligned}
& r(t, S_t) V_t + [\mu(t, S_t) - r(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \eta_t] \theta_t S_t = \\
& \partial_t f(t, S_t) + (\mu(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \eta_t - \rho[a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t]) S_t \partial_S f(t, S_t) \\
& + \frac{1}{2} [\sigma(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t]^2 S_t^2 \partial_{SS}^2 f(t, S_t) + \rho \left(f(t, S_{t^-} (1 + a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t)) - f(t, S_{t^-}) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

with the terminal condition $f(T, S_T) = h(S_T)$.

Moreover, the market is incomplete and there is no strategy leading to the terminal wealth $V_T = h(S_T) := f(T, S_T)$ in the current context. Thus, the number of shares θ that minimizes the variance of the difference between the wealth and the payoff is given by

$$\theta_t = \frac{(\sigma + \lambda \zeta)^2 S^2 \partial_S f + \rho S (a\sigma + b\lambda \zeta) (f(t, S_{t^-} (1 + a\sigma + b\lambda \zeta)) - f)}{(\sigma + \lambda \zeta)^2 S^2 + \rho S^2 (a\sigma + b\lambda \zeta)^2}.$$

Proof of Proposition 1. Let (θ, S, V) be an adapted solution of the FBSDE (8) and assume that there exists a smooth function $f \in \mathbf{C}^{1,3}([0, T] \times \mathbf{R})$ such that $f(t, S_t)$ represents the price of the European option at time $t \in [0, T]$. Since the price of the option at maturity is equal to the payoff, then $f(T, S_T) = h(S_T)$. Now, using Itô formula (10) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
df(t, S_t) & = \{ \partial_t f(t, S_t) + (\mu(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \eta_t - \rho[a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t]) S_t \partial_S f(t, S_t) \\
& + \frac{1}{2} [\sigma(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t]^2 S_t^2 \partial_{SS}^2 f(t, S_t) + \rho (f(t, S_{t^-} (1 + a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t)) - f(t, S_{t^-})) \}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - f(t, S_{t^-}) \Big) dt + [\sigma(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t] S_t \partial_S f(t, S_t) dW_t \\
& + [f(t, S_{t^-} (1 + a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t)) - f(t, S_{t^-})] dM_t.
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

By comparing equations (7) and (11) one can deduce that it is impossible to find a strategy $(\eta_t, \zeta_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ that results in the terminal wealth $V_T = h(S_T) := f(T, S_T)$. Thus, we put the term belonging to dt in equations (7) and (11) equal to each other, which gives the P.D.E. of the option price and then we minimize the distance between the wealth V_T and the price $f(T, S_T) = h(S_T)$ over the number of shares of the underlying asset, i.e. θ_t . The P.D.E. of the option price is

$$\begin{aligned}
& r(t, S_t) V_t + [\mu(t, S_t) - r(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \eta_t] \theta_t S_t = \\
& \partial_t f(t, S_t) + (\mu(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \eta_t - \rho[a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t]) S_t \partial_S f(t, S_t) \\
& + \frac{1}{2} [\sigma(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t]^2 S_t^2 \partial_{SS}^2 f(t, S_t) + \rho \left(f(t, S_{t^-} (1 + a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t)) - f(t, S_{t^-}) \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

with the terminal condition

$$f(T, S_T) = h(S_T).$$

To find the number of shares θ_t invested in S_t we need to solve the problem

$$\text{Minimize } \rho E[(h(S_T) - V_T)^2]. \tag{13}$$

Using (7), (11) and (12) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& E[(h(S_T) - V_T)^2] = E \left[\left(\int_0^T ([\sigma(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t] S_t (\partial_S f(t, S_t) - \theta_t)) dW_t \right)^2 \right] \\
& + E \left[\left(\int_0^T (f(t, S_{t^-} (1 + a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t) \zeta_t)) - f(t, S_{t^-})) \right) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\theta_t S_t [a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] dM_t)^2] \\
& = E \left[\int_0^T ([\sigma(t, S_t) + \lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] S_t (\partial_s f(t, S_t) - \theta_t))^2 dt \right] \\
& + E \left[\int_0^T \rho \left(f(t, S_{t-} (1 + a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t)) - f(t, S_{t-}) \right. \right. \\
& \quad \left. \left. - \theta_t S_t [a\sigma(t, S_t) + b\lambda(t, S_t)\zeta_t] \right)^2 dt \right] \\
& = E \left[\int_0^T l(\theta_t) dt \right],
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$l(x) = (\sigma + \lambda\zeta)^2 S^2 (\partial_s f - x)^2 + \rho \left(f(t, S_{t-} (1 + a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta)) - f - xS(a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta) \right)^2.$$

The minimum is obtained at $l'(x) = 0$ that gives

$$-2(\sigma + \lambda\zeta)^2 S^2 (\partial_s f - x) - 2S(a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta) \rho \left(f(t, S_{t-} (1 + a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta)) - f - xS(a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta) \right) = 0,$$

and

$$\theta_t = \frac{(\sigma + \lambda\zeta)^2 S^2 \partial_s f + \rho S(a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta) \left(f(t, S_{t-} (1 + a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta)) - f \right)}{(\sigma + \lambda\zeta)^2 S^2 + \rho S^2 (a\sigma + b\lambda\zeta)^2},$$

which ends the proof.

It is worth mentioning that in the case where there are no jumps i.e. when $a = b = 0$, then $\theta = \partial_s f$ and the P.D.E. in the previous proposition is reduced to the P.D.E. as obtained in Liu and Yong (2005), when there are no dividends.

4 Conclusions

Option pricing is an integral part of modern risk management in financial markets. The classical Black and Scholes model is regularly used for this purpose. However, one of the main pillars that makes this model operational is the underlying assumption that the markets are perfectly liquid. This assumption is, nonetheless, rarely fulfilled since perfectly liquid markets do not exist. The question should not be whether the markets are illiquid or not, the question should be about the degree of illiquidity. Thus, taking into account the fact that markets are illiquid can improve on the precision of the underlying option pricing.

This paper extends the existing literature on option pricing by introducing a jump-diffusion model for illiquid markets. This seems to be a more realistic approach to deal with a market that is incomplete. A solution for the option pricing within this context is provided along with the underlying proof. The suggested solution might be useful to investors in order to determine the optimal value of an option in a market that is characterized by illiquidity.

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