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An Hilbert space approach for a class of arbitrage free implied volatilities models

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Abstract We present an Hilbert space formulation for a set of implied volatility models introduced in [3] in which the authors studied conditions for a family of European call options, varying the maturing time and the strike price T and K , to be arbitrage free. The arbitrage free conditions give a system of stochastic PDEs for the evolution of the implied volatility surface $\hat{\sigma}_t(T, K)$. We will focus on the family obtained fixing a strike K and varying T . In order to give conditions to prove an existence-and-uniqueness result for the solution of the system it is here expressed in terms of the square root of the *forward implied volatility* and rewritten in an Hilbert space setting. The existence and the uniqueness for the (arbitrage free) evolution of the forward implied volatility, and then of the implied volatility, among a class of models, are proved. Specific examples are also given.

Keywords Implied volatility · Option pricing · Stochastic SPDE · Hilbert space

JEL Subject Classification G13 · C31 · C60.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000) 37L55 · 60H15 · 35R60.

Introduction

The main aim of the paper is to prove an existence-and-uniqueness result, to study properties of the solution and to give some examples for the implied volatility model presented in [3]: in such a seminal work the authors presented a set of conditions, written as a system of SPDEs, for the market (described below) to be arbitrage free. Here we prove that, indeed, under a suitable set of conditions, such a system of SPDEs admits a (unique) solution.

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In other words the results we give allow to identify a class of (non-trivial, arbitrage free) evolutions of the implied volatility starting from some the initial (market-given) surface.

Many aspects of implied volatility models have been diffusely studied and the reader is referred to [10], Chapter 7 for a review.

The setting of the model and some results from [3]

Consider $W_t^{(i)}$, for $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ and $t \geq 0$, m independent real Brownian Motions on the probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. We call \mathcal{F}_t the induced filtration. We consider a fixed $T^* > 0$ and a market in which a bond (with interest rate equal to zero), a stock S_t and a family of European call options $O_t(K, T)$ for $t \geq 0$, $T \in (t, t + T^*]$, and $K > 0$ are liquidly traded. So at every time t we consider the call options expiring in the interval $(t, t + T^*]$ for a fixed T^* . Without losing in generality (changing if necessary the Brownian motions and the measure \mathbb{P}) we can assume that the price of the stock S_t depends only on the first BM, that S_t is martingale and evolves following the SDE

$$dS_t = S_t \theta_t dW_t^{(1)} \quad (1)$$

for some one-dimensional process θ_t . The Black and Scholes price for $O_t(T, K)$ is of course

$$C_t(S_t, \sigma, K, T) = S_t N(d_1(S_t, \sigma, K, T)) - KN(d_2(S_t, \sigma, K, T)) \quad (2)$$

where N is the cumulative distribution of the normal distribution and,

$$d_1(S_t, \sigma, K, T) = \frac{\ln \frac{S_t}{K}}{\sigma \sqrt{T-t}} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma \sqrt{(T-t)}, \quad d_2(S_t, \sigma, K, T) = \frac{\ln \frac{S_t}{K}}{\sigma \sqrt{T-t}} - \frac{1}{2} \sigma \sqrt{(T-t)}.$$

The implied volatility paradigm consists, as well known, in inverting (2) obtaining (and defining) the “(Black-Scholes) implied volatility” $\hat{\sigma}_t(T, K)$ as a function of C_t (and K , T , S_t). So, once we have modeled the evolution of the implied volatility, thanks to its definition, we can use (2) to find the evolution (varying the time t) of the prices of the options $O_t(T, K)$ and we can wonder if the evolution of the market so obtained is arbitrage free namely, if the processes $C_t(T, K) := S_t N(d_1(S_t, \hat{\sigma}_t, K, T)) - KN(d_2(S_t, \hat{\sigma}_t, K, T))$ and S_t have an equivalent common (varying T and K) local martingale measure.

In [3] the authors prove that, if we assume the implied volatility to follow a SDE of the form¹

$$d\hat{\sigma}_t(T, K) = m_t(T, K) dt + v_t(T, K)^* dW_t,$$

the arbitrage-free conditions for the market can be expressed (we do not write the dependence of $\hat{\sigma}_t$, and $u_t := v_t / \hat{\sigma}_t$ on T and K in the second equation) as

$$\begin{cases} dS_t = S_t \theta_t dW_t^{(1)} \\ d\hat{\sigma}_t = \frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_t(T-t)} \left(\hat{\sigma}_t^2 - \left| \theta_t \ell + u_t \ln \frac{K}{S_t} \right|^2 \right) dt + \\ \quad + \left(\frac{1}{8} \hat{\sigma}_t^3 (T-t) |u_t|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \hat{\sigma}_t \theta_t u_t^{(1)} \right) dt + \hat{\sigma}_t u_t^* dW_t \\ \hat{\sigma}_0(T, K) \quad \text{initial condition} \\ \hat{\sigma}_t(T, K) = \left| \theta_t \ell + u_t \ln \frac{K}{S_t} \right| \quad \text{feedback condition} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

¹ Where m_t and v_t are respectively a one-dimensional and a m -dimensional process and they can depend explicitly, as we will assume when we give some sufficient conditions to prove the existence of the solution, on T , K , S_t , $\hat{\sigma}_t$ and θ_t . $v_t(T, K)^*$ is the adjoint of the vector $v_t(T, K)$ so that $v_t(T, K)^* dW_t = \langle v_t(T, K), dW_t \rangle$ ($\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ represents the scalar product in \mathbb{R}^m).

where we called ℓ the vector of R^m given by $(1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$, $|\cdot|$ is the norm in \mathbb{R}^m and the m -dimensional process $u_t = v_t/\hat{\sigma}_t$. They also prove that such a system of SPDEs can be rewritten using the variable² $\xi_t(T, K) = (T - t)\hat{\sigma}_t^2(T, K)$ obtaining

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} dS_t = S_t \theta_t dW_t^{(1)} \\ d\xi_t = \xi_t \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{4} \xi_t\right) |u_t|^2 - \theta_t u_t^{(1)} \right) dt - \left(\theta_t + u_t^{(1)} \ln \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right) \right)^2 dt - \\ \quad - \sum_{i=2}^m \left(u_t^{(i)} \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right) dt + 2 \xi_t u_t^* dW_t \\ \xi_0^T \quad \text{initial condition} \\ \partial_T \xi_t(T, K)|_{T=t} = \left(\theta_t + u_t^{(1)} \ln \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right) \right)^2 + \sum_{i=2}^m \left(u_t^{(i)} \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right) \quad \text{feedback condition} \end{array} \right. \quad (4)$$

where we used $u_t^{(i)}$ for the i -th component of u_t .

The feedback condition is obtained in [3] in order to avoid the phenomenon (already observed in [16], Section 3(a), see also ([1] and [2])) of the “bubble” of the drift for $t \rightarrow T$. Such a condition, it will be clearer in the following, adds a certain number of difficulties in the study of the problem.

In [3] the author does not prove an existence result for equation (3) or (4) but they prove that such conditions are equivalent to the market being arbitrage-free. So, if we can find some sets of $u_t^{(i)}$ and θ_t of stochastic processes such that equations (4, 1) admit a positive solution (ξ_t, S_t) (or, that is the same, (3, 1) admit a positive solution $(\hat{\sigma}_t, S_t)$), the evolution of the market is arbitrage free.

In the present work we study a “reduced” problem: indeed we consider a fixed K and we study the existence and uniqueness for the system of SPDEs (4) varying T . We continue in the introduction to write the equations for the the general problem and we will fix a K in Section 1 (starting from equation (EQ)). For the general case we would need the “compatibility conditions” described in Section 5 to be satisfied.

Forward implied volatility and formal derivation of the state equation

We want to describe the system using the square root of the *forward implied volatility* introduced in [16]. We define X_t , formally, as

$$X_t(x, K) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x \hat{\sigma}_t^2(x, K)) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\xi_t(t+x, K)). \quad (5)$$

The idea of use such a variable in the implied volatility models was introduced for the first time, as far as we know, in [14]. In the works [14, 15] the authors use different techniques to deal with problems strictly related to the our. They use some results about strong solutions for functional SDE proven in [17] (see also [11]) to study the case of the family for a fixed strike K (varying the maturing time T) in [14] and the family for fixed T (varying the strike) in [15].

The main novelty with respect to the results obtained in [14] concerns the mathematical techniques used, but the Hilbert space approach used in the present works allows also to avoid a couple of additional “technical conditions” required³ in [14] and to use an analogous of the Musiela parameterization (see [9]) for the HJM interest rate model. So we can

² See also [4].

³ Actually to compare the Hypotheses needed in the two different setting is not very easy.

consider at every time t the family of call option (for a fixed K) for all the expiration times $T \in [t, t + T^*]$ for a fixed T^* .

From the second equation of (4), using Ito-Venttsel formula (see for example [13]), we have, formally:

$$\begin{aligned} dX_t(x, K) = & \left[\partial_x X_t(x, K) + \left(\int_0^x X_t(r, K) dr \right) \left(\frac{1}{2} X_t(x, K) |u_t|^2 + \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. + \frac{1}{2} \langle u_t, \partial_x u_t \rangle \int_0^x X_t(r, K) dr + 2 \langle u_t, \partial_x u_t \rangle - \theta_t \partial_x u_t^{(1)} \right) + \right. \\ & \left. + X_t(x, K) \left(|u_t|^2 - \theta_t u_t^{(1)} \right) - \right. \\ & \left. - 2 \left\langle \theta_t \ell + u_t \ln \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right), (\partial_x u_t) \ln \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right) \right\rangle \right] dt + \\ & \left. + \left[2X_t(x, K) u_t^* + 2(\partial_x u_t^*) \int_0^x X_t(r, K) dr \right] dW(t) \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the scalar product in \mathbb{R}^m and ℓ as above.

So here we formally defined X_t as derivative of ξ_t and we formally obtained the differential equation that describes the evolution of the square root of the forward implied volatility X_t from the equation for ξ_t . Such a differentiation is only formal and this way to approach the problem (the most natural way from the point of view of the model) is not mathematically rigorous. For this reason our approach will be “reversed”, we will describe it more precisely in the next paragraph.

The Hilbert space setting and the rigorous approach to the problem: the case of a fixed K

We treat the problem using a Hilbert space formulation. A similar approach was used for example in [8] for the HJM interest rate model (see also [7], [5] and [12]).

We consider a fixed $T^* > 0$ and the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} := H^1(0, T^*)$ (the Sobolev space of index 1).

Notation 01 We use the notation $f[x]$ to denote the evaluation of an element f of $H^1(0, T^*)$ (or of $L^2(0, T^*)$) at the point $x \in [0, T^*]$.

We want to describe $X_t(x, K)$ as an element of $H^1(0, T^*)$. So we introduce $\tilde{X}_t(K)$ defined as

$$\tilde{X}_t(K)[x] \stackrel{def}{=} X_t(x, K).$$

Of course, given an arbitrary function $X_t(x, K)$ the function $\tilde{X}_t(K)$ will not necessary belongs to $H^1(0, T^*)$, but we will see that (under suitable conditions on the functions $u^{(i)}$) if the initial $\tilde{X}_0(K)$ is in $H^1(0, T^*)$, its evolution remains in $H^1(0, T^*)$. With an abuse of notation we will call $\tilde{X}_t(K)$ simply $X_t(K)$.

We call I the continuous linear application

$$\begin{cases} I: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}, & f \mapsto I(f) \\ I(f)[x] = \int_0^x f[s] ds \end{cases}$$

and A the generator of the C_0 semigroup $T(t)$ on \mathcal{H} defined, for $t \geq 0$, as

$$(T(t))f[x] = \begin{cases} f[x+t] & \text{if } x+t \leq T^* \\ f[T^*] & \text{if } x+t > T^* \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

so that

$$\begin{cases} D(A) = \{f \in H^2 : f[T^*] = \frac{d}{dt}f[T^*] = 0\} \\ A(f) = \frac{d}{dt}f[\cdot] \end{cases}$$

In order to introduce some assumptions to guarantee the existence of the solution we assume that $u_t^{(i)}$ depends directly on $X_t(K)$, K and S_t and so we write $u_t(i)(K, S_t, X_t(K))[x]$ (since $u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))$ will be an $H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R}^m)$ -valued process we write $u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))[x]$ to mean the evaluation of $u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))$ at the point⁴ $x \in [0, T^*]$, so $u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))[x] \in \mathbb{R}^m$). We write $\partial_x u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))$ for⁵ $\partial_x u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))[x]$. So we can write formally equation (6) in \mathcal{H} as:

$$\begin{cases} dX_t(K) = AX_t(K) dt + \left[I(X_t(K)) \left(\frac{1}{2} X_t(K) |u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))|^2 + \right. \right. \\ \quad \left. \left. + \frac{1}{2} \langle u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)), \partial_x u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)) \rangle I(X_t(K)) + \right. \right. \\ \quad \left. \left. + 2 \langle u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)), \partial_x u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)) \rangle - \theta_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)) \partial_x u_t^{(1)}(K, S_t, X_t(K)) \ell \right) + \right. \\ \quad \left. + X_t(K) \left(|u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))|^2 - \theta_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)) u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))^{(1)} \right) - \right. \\ \quad \left. - 2 \left\langle \theta_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)) \ell + u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)) \ln \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right), (\partial_x u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))) \ln \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right) \right\rangle \right] dt + \\ \quad \left. + [2X_t(K)u_t^*(K, S_t, X_t(K)) + 2(\partial_x u_t^*(K, S_t, X_t(K)))I(X_t(K))] dW(t) \right. \\ dS_t = \theta_t(K, S_t, X_t(K)) S_t dW_t^{(1)} \\ X_0(x, K) \quad \text{initial condition} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the scalar product in \mathbb{R}^m and $\theta_t(K, S, X)$ is for the following function (obtained is sing the fourth equation of (4)):

$$\theta_t(K, S, X) = \sqrt{X[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K, S, X)[0] \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S} \right) - u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X)[0] \ln \left(\frac{K}{S} \right)}. \quad (9)$$

This completes the ‘‘informal’’ formulation of the problem, the rigorous approach (the one that we develop in the paper) is reversed. We consider a fixed $K > 0$, so we consider the family $O_t(T, K)$ for a fixed K and varying $T \in [t, t + T^*]$. We start studying equation (8, 9) in \mathcal{H} and we will introduce the variable ξ and the implied volatility problem only later. This is a scheme of our approach:

1. We start (Section 1) studying the equations (8, 9). So in Section 1 we will introduce equation (EQ), that is nothing but a more concise form for (8), without claiming any connection with the equation (4).
2. We study (Section 2) some properties, existence and uniqueness results for (EQ) and its approximation $(\text{IEQ})_\varepsilon$.

⁴ Note that $u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))[x]$ depends not only on $X_t(K)[x]$ but on all $X_t(K)[\cdot]$.

⁵ So, since $u_t(K, S_t, X_t) \in H^1(0, T^*)$ we have that $\partial_x u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))$ is in $L^2(0, T^*)$. Actually we will give conditions to ensure that $\partial_x u_t(K, S_t, X_t(K))$ belongs to $H^1(0, T^*)$.

3. We introduce (Section 3) $\xi_t(T, K)$ as $\xi_t(T, K) := I(X_t)[T - t]$ and prove that indeed such a $\xi_t(T, K)$ satisfy, as we expect, equation (4). We will use this fact also to prove that both $\xi_t(T, K)$ and $X_t(T, K)$ remain positive.

In Section 4 we present two classes of examples that verify the Hypotheses we described in Section 1 (Hypothesis 11 and 13): in the first is the volvol does not depend on T while in the second (more interesting) the volvol (that is the general statements is a function of X_t) depends in fact on ξ_t in a quite general way. Note that a volvol that depends on X_t through ξ_t is exactly what we need to write the equation (4) without the presence of X_t , and this is exactly the existence result we expected.

1 Formulation of the problem and assumptions

We consider a final time T_0 . Later we will need to require that $T_0 \leq T^*$. So we assume from now $T_0 = T^*$.

Consider a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. Let \mathcal{F}_t be the \mathbb{P} -augmented filtration generated by an m -dimensional Brownian motion W_t (of components $W_t^{(i)}$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$) for $t \geq 0$. Let u be a function

$$\begin{cases} u: [0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times H^1(0, T^*) \rightarrow H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R}^m) = (H^1(0, T^*))^m \\ (t, K, S, X) \mapsto (u_t(K, S, X)^{(1)}[\cdot], \dots, u_t(K, S, X)^{(m)}[\cdot]). \end{cases}$$

For $(t, K, S, X) \in [0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times H^1(0, T^*)$ we define

$$\bar{\theta}_t(K, S, X) := \sqrt{\left| X[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K, S, X)[0] \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S} \right) \right| - u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X)[0] \ln \left(\frac{K}{S} \right)}. \quad (10)$$

We assume that

Hypothesis 11 For all $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$$\begin{cases} u_t^{(i)}: [0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \times H^1(0, T^*) \rightarrow H^1(0, T^*) \\ u_t^{(i)}: (t, K, S, X) \mapsto u_t(K, S, X) \end{cases}$$

is measurable from $\left(([0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \times H^1), \mathcal{B}([0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \times H^1) \right)$ into $\left(H^1, \mathcal{B}(H^1) \right)$ where \mathcal{B} is the σ -algebra generated by the Borel sets. Moreover we assume that, for all $K > 0$ there exists a $C > 0$ such that for all $t > 0$ and for all $(S, X) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times H^1(0, T^*)$ we have

- (i) $\left| u_t^{(i)}(K, S, X)[x] \right| \leq C \frac{1}{1 + |\ln(S)| + \left| \int_0^t X(K)[s] ds \right| + |\bar{\theta}_t(K, S, X)|}$ for all $x \in [0, T^*]$
- (ii) $\partial_x u_t^{(i)}(K, S, X)$ is in $H^1(0, T^*)$
- (iii) $u_t^{(i)}(K, S, X)$, $\partial_x u_t^{(i)}(K, S, X)$, $u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X) \bar{\theta}_t(K, S, X)$, $\partial_x u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X) \bar{\theta}_t(K, S, X)$ are locally Lipschitz (as functions in $H(0, T^*)$) in $(S, X) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times H^1$ uniformly in t
- (iv) $\left| \partial_x u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X) \right| \leq \frac{C}{1 + |\bar{\theta}_t(K, S, X)|}$ and $\left| \partial_x u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X) \bar{\theta}_t(K, S, X) \ln(S) \right| \leq C(1 + |X|)$

Remark 12 Note that we could treat a more general case, using the same arguments, allowing the explicit dependence of $u_t^{(i)}$ on $\omega \in \Omega$. In such a case we would require $u_t^{(i)}$ to be an adapted process and for all $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$

$$\begin{cases} u^{(i)}: [0, T^*] \times \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times (\mathbb{R} \times H^1(0, T^*)) \rightarrow H^1(0, T^*) \\ u^{(i)}: (t, \omega, K, (S, X)) \mapsto u_t(K, S, X)(\omega) \end{cases}$$

is measurable from

$$\left(([0, T^*] \times \Omega) \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times (\mathbb{R} \times H^1), \mathcal{P}_{T^*} \times \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^+) \times \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R} \times H^1) \right)$$

into $(H^1, \mathcal{B}(H^1))$ where \mathcal{B} is the σ -algebra generated by the Borel sets and \mathcal{P}_{T^*} is the σ -field on $([0, T^*] \times \Omega)$ generated by the sets of the form $[s, t] \times F$ with $0 \leq s < t < T^*$ and $F \in \mathcal{F}_s$. In this setting we have to ask that we have to ask (i) .. (iv) to be satisfied uniformly in $\omega \in \Omega$. \square

In order to avoid the absolute value in the definition of $\bar{\theta}$ and then came to the original problem we would like now to impose the following condition (that is implied by (4):

$$X_t(K)[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K, S_t, X_t)[0] \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S_t} \right) \geq 0, \quad (11)$$

but of course such a condition can be imposed only if $X_t(K)[0] \geq 0$. We ask the following (we will see that it is enough to have (11) along the trajectories of the system)

Hypothesis 13

$$X[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K, S, X)[0] \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S} \right) \geq 0 \quad \forall S > 0, \forall X \in H^1(0, T^*) \text{ with } X[0] \geq 0$$

and

$$X[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K, S, X)[0] \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S} \right) = 0 \iff X[0] = 0.$$

We impose that the initial data are strictly positive, this is a realistic assumption from the point of view of the model, note that in [14] the authors argue (Proposition 2.1) that the negativity of the square root of the forward implied volatility causes elementary arbitrage opportunities:

Hypothesis 14 For every $K > 0$ we choose the initial datum $(s_0, x_0) \in (\mathbb{R} \times H^1(0, T^*))$ with $s_0 > 0$ and $x_0 > 0$. This means, since $x_0 > 0$ is in H^1 and then it is continuous, that for every $K > 0$ there exists a $c > 0$ such that $x_0(K)[x] > 0$ for all $x \in [0, T^*]$.

We define the functions

$$\begin{aligned} F: [0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times (\mathbb{R} \times H^1) &\rightarrow H^1 \\ B: [0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times (\mathbb{R} \times H^1) &\rightarrow (H^1(0, T^*))^m = H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R}^m) \\ G: [0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times (\mathbb{R} \times H^1) &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ L: [0, T^*] \times \mathbb{R}^+ \times (\mathbb{R} \times H^1) &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

as

$$\begin{aligned}
F(t, K, S, X) &= I(X) \left(\frac{1}{2} X |u_t(K, S, X)|^2 + \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \langle u_t(K, S, X), \partial_x u_t(K, S, X) \rangle I(X) + \right. \\
&\quad \left. + 2 \langle u_t(K, S, X), \partial_x u_t(K, S, X) \rangle - \theta_t(K, S, X) \partial_x u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X) \ell \right) + \\
&\quad + X \left(|u_t(K, S, X)|^2 - \theta_t(K, S, X) u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X) \right) - \\
&\quad - 2 \langle \theta_t(K, S, X) \ell + u_t(K, S, X) \ln \left(\frac{K}{S} \right), (\partial_x u_t(K, S, X)) \ln \left(\frac{K}{S} \right) \rangle \\
B(t, K, S, X) &= 2X u_t^*(K, S, X) + 2(\partial_x u_t^*(K, S, X)) I(X) \\
L(t, K, S, X) &= X[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K, S, X)[0] \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{K}{S} \right) \\
G(t, K, S, X) &= u_t^{(1)}(K, S, X)[0] \ln \left(\frac{K}{S} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

where θ_t in the expression for F is defined in (9). Under Hypothesis 11 F , B , G and L are locally Lipschitz in S, X uniformly in t , moreover, for all $K > 0$ there exists a $M > 0$ such that

$$\begin{cases} |F(t, K, S, X)|_{H^1} + |B(t, K, S, X)|_{(H^1)^m} \leq M(1 + |X|_{H^1}) \\ G(t, K, S, X) \leq M \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

for all t .

We fix now a $K > 0$, and avoid to write, from now, the dependence on K .

Using such a notation the (8) that can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = AX_t + F(t, S_t, X_t) dt + B(t, S_t, X_t) dW_t, & X_0 = x_0 > 0 \\ dS_t = \left(\sqrt{L(t, S_t, X_t)} - G(t, S_t, X_t) \right) S_t dW_t^{(1)}, & S_0 = s_0 > 0 \end{cases} \tag{EQ}$$

We call \bar{F} the function defined changing in the definition of F $\theta_t(K, S, X)$ with $\bar{\theta}_t(K, S, X)$. Note that \bar{F} is locally Lipschitz in S, X uniformly in t and satisfies (14).

Notation 15 We will use the notation e^{tA} instead of $T(t)$ defined in (7).

From the general theory (see [6]) we have:

Definition 16 An $H^1 \times \mathbb{R}$ - valued predictable process (X_t, S_t) , $t \in [0, T^*]$ is called (mild) solution of (EQ) if

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\int_0^{T^*} |(X_s, S_s)|_{H^1 \times \mathbb{R}} ds < \infty \right] = 1 \tag{15}$$

and for an arbitrary $t \in [0, T^*]$ we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_t \\ S_t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{tA} x_0 + \int_0^t e^{(t-s)A} \bar{F}(s, S_s, X_s) ds + \int_0^t e^{(t-s)A} B(s, S_s, X_s) dW_s \\ s_0 + \int_0^t \left(\sqrt{L(s, S_s, X_s)} - G(s, S_s, X_s) \right) S_s dW_s^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

Note that this implies $L(s, S_s, X_s) \geq 0$.

2 Results for (IEQ) $_{\varepsilon}$

We consider the approximating $X_t^\varepsilon(k)$ substituting $\sqrt{L(t, S_t, X_t)}$ in the second equation with $\sqrt{|L(t, S_t, X_t)|} \vee \varepsilon$:

$$\begin{cases} dX_t^\varepsilon = AX_t^\varepsilon + \bar{F}(t, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^\varepsilon) dt + B(t, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^\varepsilon) dW_t, & X_0^\varepsilon = x_0 > 0 \\ dS_t^\varepsilon = \left(\sqrt{|L(t, S_t, X_t^\varepsilon)|} \vee \varepsilon - G(t, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^\varepsilon) \right) S_t^\varepsilon dW_t^{(1)}, & S_0 = s_0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{IEQ})_{\varepsilon}$$

The definition of solution of the (IEQ) $_{\varepsilon}$ is analogous to the Definition 16.

Notation 21 We take a cut-off $\psi(\cdot): \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. In particular we assume that: $\psi(\cdot)$ is C^∞ , $\psi|_{[-1,1]} \equiv 1$ and that $\psi|_{(-\infty, -2) \cup (2, +\infty)} \equiv 0$.

Lemma 22 Fix now $\bar{\varepsilon} > 0$. Let $\varepsilon \in [0, \bar{\varepsilon}]$. Suppose that there exists a solution $(X^\varepsilon, S^\varepsilon)$ for (IEQ) $_{\varepsilon}$ (that for $\varepsilon = 0$ is (EQ)). Then if we call τ_N the exit time defined as

$$\tau_N = \inf\{t \in [0, T^*] : |X_t^\varepsilon| > N\}^6$$

(and $+\infty$ if the set is void) we have that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{P}[\tau_N \leq T^*] = 0 \quad (16)$$

and the limit is uniformly in $\varepsilon \in [0, \bar{\varepsilon}]$ and in $(X^\varepsilon, S^\varepsilon)$.

Proof We call

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{F}_N(t, S, X) &:= \bar{F}(t, S, X) \psi\left(\frac{|X|}{N}\right) \\ B_N(t, S, X) &:= B(t, S, X) \psi\left(\frac{|X|}{N}\right). \end{aligned}$$

We choose $N > |X_0|$, we have

$$X_{t \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon = e^{t \wedge \tau_N A} x_0 + \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_N} e^{(t-s)A} \bar{F}_N(s, S_s, X_{s \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon) ds + \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_N} e^{(t-s)A} B_N(s, S_s, X_{s \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon) dW_s$$

and so, using (14) and Lemma 7.3 [6],

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{s \in [0, t]} |X_{s \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon|^2 \right] \leq C_{T^*} \left(1 + \mathbb{E} \int_0^t |X_{s \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon|^2 ds + \mathbb{E} \int_0^t |X_{s \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon|^2 ds \right)$$

where C_{T^*} depends on T^* and on the initial datum $x_0 \in H^1$. So, thanks to Gronwall's lemma we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{s \in [0, t]} |X_{s \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon|^2 \right] \leq C$$

uniformly in N . In particular, since X_t^ε is continuous ([6] Theorem 7.4⁷) then

$$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq \tau_N} |X_t^\varepsilon|^2 = N^2 \quad \text{on } \{\tau_N \leq T^*\}$$

and then

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau_N \leq T^*) \leq \frac{C}{N^2}$$

and then we have the claim. \square

⁶ We use $|X_t|$ or $\|X\|$ for the norm in H^1 whereas $\|X[0]\|$ is the norm in \mathbb{R}

⁷ Once we have fixed S^ε , the solution of the (IEQ) $_{\varepsilon}$ for X^ε is unique and it satisfies the properties ensured by Theorem 7.4 of [6]

Lemma 23 *The equation $(\text{IEQ}|_\varepsilon)$ has a unique solution (Definition 16) $(X_t^\varepsilon, S_t^\varepsilon)$. Moreover $(X_t^\varepsilon, S_t^\varepsilon)$ belongs to $C([0, T^*]; L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; (H^1 \times \mathbb{R}))$ and has continuous trajectories.*

Proof We proceed localizing the problem using τ_N as defined in Lemma 22 using the same notations B_N, \bar{F}_N (and also $G_N(t, S, X) = G(t, S, X) \psi\left(\frac{|X|}{N}\right), L_N(t, S, X) = L(t, S, X) \psi\left(\frac{|X|}{N}\right)$). The equation

$$\begin{cases} dX_t^{\varepsilon, N} = AX_t^{\varepsilon, N} + \bar{F}_N(t, S_t^{\varepsilon, N}, X_t^{\varepsilon, N}) dt + B_N(t, S_t^{\varepsilon, N}, X_t^{\varepsilon, N}) dW_t \\ dS_t^{\varepsilon, N} = \left(\sqrt{|L_N(t, S_t, X_t^{\varepsilon, N})|} \vee \varepsilon - G_N(t, S_t^{\varepsilon, N}, X_t^{\varepsilon, N}) \right) S_t^{\varepsilon, N} dW_t^{(1)} \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

(with initial data $X_0^{\varepsilon, N} = x_0 > 0$ and $S_0 = s_0 > 0$) satisfies the hypotheses of Theorem 7.4 of [6] and then has a unique continuous solution $(X_t^{\varepsilon, N}, S_t^{\varepsilon, N})$ in $C([0, T^*], L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; (H^1 \times \mathbb{R})))$.

If $N' > N$ we have that $B_N = B_{N'}$ on $\{|X| \leq N\}$ (and in the same way $\bar{F}_N = \bar{F}_{N'}, G_N = G_{N'}, L_N = L_{N'}$ on $\{|X| \leq N\}$) and then $X_t^{\varepsilon, N} = X_t^{\varepsilon, N'}$ on $\{\tau_N > T^*\}$ a.s. So we can define

$$X_t^\varepsilon = X_t^{\varepsilon, N} \quad \text{on } \{\tau_N > T^*\} \times [0, T^*]. \quad (18)$$

We can obtain an estimate as (16) uniformly in N and then ensure that $\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \{\tau_N > T^*\} = \Omega$. Note that, since $S_{t \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon$ solves

$$S_{t \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon = s_0 + \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_N} \left(\sqrt{|L_N(t, S_t, X_{t \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon)|} \vee \varepsilon - G_N(s, X_{t \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon, S_{t \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon) \right) S_s dW_s^{(1)}$$

then we have

$$\mathbb{E} [|S_{t \wedge \tau_N}^\varepsilon|^2] \leq s_0 e^{2(N+N^2)t} \quad (19)$$

where the second term does not depend on ε and then $\mathbb{P} \left[\int_0^{T^*} |S_t^\varepsilon|^2 dt < +\infty \right] = 0$ as required by (15). The uniqueness follows from the uniqueness for the localized problems. The regularity properties follow from the regularity for the approximating equations. \square

Lemma 24 *Consider $(X_t^\varepsilon, S_t^\varepsilon)$ as in Lemma 23, then X_t^ε is a solution of the following integral equation in $C([0, T^*]; L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; L^2(0, T^*)))$:*

$$X_t^\varepsilon = x_0 + \int_0^t \partial_x X_s^\varepsilon [x] ds + \int_0^t \bar{F}(s, S_s^\varepsilon, X_s^\varepsilon) ds + \int_0^t B(s, S_s^\varepsilon, X_s^\varepsilon) dW_s \quad (20)$$

Proof We can assume that \bar{F} and B are Lipschitz-continuous in $S^\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}$ and $X^\varepsilon \in H^1$ uniformly in t and ω (with Lipschitz constant C), otherwise we can localize the problem as in the proof of Lemma 23.

Consider the Yosida approximation of A given by $A_n = n^2(nI - A)^{-1} - nI$. We consider the solution $X_t^{\varepsilon, n}$ of the equation

$$dX_t^{\varepsilon, n} = A_n X_t^{\varepsilon, n} dt + \bar{F}(t, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^{\varepsilon, n}) dt + B(t, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^{\varepsilon, n}) dW_t, \quad X_0^\varepsilon = x_0.$$

Since A_n is linear continuous, and then Lipschitz, the mild form of such an equation can be written in two equivalent ways:

$$X_t^{\varepsilon, n} = e^{A_n t} x_0 + \int_0^t e^{(t-s)A_n} \bar{F}(s, S_s^\varepsilon, X_s^{\varepsilon, n}) ds + \int_0^t e^{(t-s)A_n} B(s, S_s^\varepsilon, X_s^{\varepsilon, n}) dW_s$$

and

$$X_t^{\varepsilon,n} = x_0 + \int_0^t A_n X_s^{\varepsilon,n} ds + \int_0^t \bar{F}(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^{\varepsilon,n}) ds + \int_0^t B(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^{\varepsilon,n}) dW_s. \quad (21)$$

Moreover (see [6] Proposition 7.5 page 193)

$$X^{\varepsilon,n} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{C([0, T^*]; L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; H^1(0, T^*)))} X^\varepsilon. \quad (22)$$

In order to prove the claim we need only to check that every term of (21) converges to the corresponding term of the (20) in $C([0, T^*]; L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; L^2(0, T^*)))$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t \in [0, T^*]} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \int_0^t B(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_s^\varepsilon) - B(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^{\varepsilon,n}) dW_s \right|_{L^2}^2 \right] &\leq \\ \sup_{t \in [0, T^*]} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \int_0^t B(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_s^\varepsilon) - B(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^{\varepsilon,n}) dW_s \right|_{H^1}^2 \right] &\leq \\ \leq C_1 \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^{T^*} |B(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_s^\varepsilon) - B(s, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^{\varepsilon,n})|_{H^1}^2 ds \right] &\leq \\ \leq C_1 C^2 \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^{T^*} |X_s^\varepsilon - X_t^{\varepsilon,n}|_{H^1}^2 ds \right] &\xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \quad (23) \end{aligned}$$

where the last convergence holds since we have (22). The estimation with the term with \bar{F} can be done in the same way. Moreover

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t \in [0, T^*]} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^t |\partial_x X_s^\varepsilon[x] - A_n X_t^{\varepsilon,n}[x]|_{L^2}^2 ds \right] &\leq \\ \leq I_1 + I_2 \stackrel{def}{=} \sup_{t \in [0, T^*]} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^t |\partial_x A_n X_s^\varepsilon[x] - A_n X_t^{\varepsilon,n}[x]|_{L^2}^2 ds \right] &+ \\ + \sup_{t \in [0, T^*]} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^t |\partial_x X_s^\varepsilon[x] - \partial_x X_t^{\varepsilon,n}[x]|_{L^2}^2 ds \right]. \quad (24) \end{aligned}$$

For I_2 we have:

$$I_2 \leq \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^{T^*} |\partial_x X_s^\varepsilon[x] - \partial_x X_t^{\varepsilon,n}[x]|_{L^2}^2 ds \right] \leq \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^{T^*} |X_s^\varepsilon - X_t^{\varepsilon,n}|_{H^1}^2 ds \right] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

where we used that $|\partial_x X_s^\varepsilon[x] - \partial_x X_t^{\varepsilon,n}[x]|_{L^2} \leq |X_s^\varepsilon - X_t^{\varepsilon,n}|_{H^1}$ since the derivative is a linear continuous contractive function from H^1 to L^2 . To treat I_1 we have only to observe that $A_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\mathcal{L}(H^1; L^2)}$ and $X^{\varepsilon,n} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{C([0, T^*]; L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; H^1))} X^\varepsilon$. And so we have the claim. \square

We consider now the stopping time

$$\bar{\tau}^\varepsilon := \inf\{t \in [0, T^*] : L(t, S_t^\varepsilon, X_t^\varepsilon) < \varepsilon\}.$$

and the process

$$(\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_t^\varepsilon) := \mathcal{X}_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(t)(X_t^\varepsilon, S_t^\varepsilon)$$

It solves the integral equation

$$\begin{cases} \hat{X}_t^\varepsilon = \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(t) e^{tA} x_0 + \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(t) \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(s) e^{(t-s)A} \bar{F}(s, \hat{X}_s^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_s^\varepsilon) ds + \\ \quad + \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(t) \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(s) e^{(t-s)A} B(s, \hat{X}_s^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_s^\varepsilon) dW_s \\ \hat{S}_t^\varepsilon = \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(t) s_0 + \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(t) \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon]}(s) \left(\sqrt{L(s, \hat{X}_s^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_s^\varepsilon)} - G(s, \hat{X}_s^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_s^\varepsilon) \right) \hat{S}_s^\varepsilon dW_s^{(1)} \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

Given a $\gamma < \varepsilon$ we have that

$$(\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_t^\varepsilon) = (\hat{X}_t^\gamma, \hat{S}_t^\gamma) \quad \text{on } t \leq \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon$$

So, we can define

$$(X_t, S_t) := \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} (\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_t^\varepsilon) \quad (26)$$

on $t \leq \bar{\tau}$ where $\bar{\tau}$ is defined as

$$\bar{\tau} := \sup_{\varepsilon > 0}$$

and $(X_t, S_t) := (0, 0)$ on $t > \bar{\tau}$. Passing to the limit in (25) we have that (X_t, S_t) is a solution of

$$\begin{cases} X_t = \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(t) e^{tA} x_0 + \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(t) \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) e^{(t-s)A} \bar{F}(s, X_s, S_s) ds + \\ \quad + \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(t) \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) e^{(t-s)A} B(s, X_s, S_s) dW_s \\ S_t = \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(t) s_0 + \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(t) \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \left(\sqrt{L(s, X_s, S_s)} - G(s, X_s, S_s) \right) S_s dW_s^{(1)} \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

Moreover if we set

$$\bar{\tau} := \sup_{\varepsilon > 0} \bar{\tau}^\varepsilon = \inf\{t \in [0, T^*] : X_t[0] \leq 0\},$$

since $(\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{S}_t^\varepsilon)$ is a solution of (EQ) until time $\bar{\tau}^\varepsilon$ and (EQ) is locally Lipschitz until time $\bar{\tau}$, (X_t, S_t) is the only solution of (EQ) until $\bar{\tau}$.

From Lemma 24 we obtain the following corollary:

Lemma 25 X_t defined in (26) is a solution of the following integral equation:

$$\begin{aligned} X_t = \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(t) \left(x_0 + \int_0^t \partial_x \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) X_s[x] ds + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \bar{F}(s, S_s, X_s) ds + \right. \\ \left. + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) B(s, S_s, X_s) dW_s \right) \quad (28) \end{aligned}$$

We call Y_t the process

$$\begin{aligned} Y_t = x_0 + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \partial_x X_s[x] ds + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \bar{F}(s, S_s, X_s) ds + \\ + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) B(s, S_s, X_s) dW_s \quad (29) \end{aligned}$$

3 The process ξ_t and its properties

In this section we (re)introduce the process ξ_t that we used in the introduction as starting point. We will prove that such a process, here defined integrating X_t , indeed solves the SDE (4) that appears in [3].

Consider now the real process $(\xi_t^T)_{t \in [0, T^*]}$ where

$$\xi_t^T = \int_0^{T-t} Y_t[x] dx. \quad (30)$$

If we define

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^T &: [0, T^*] \times L^2(0, T^*) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \Phi^T &: (t, \phi) \mapsto \int_0^{T-t} \phi[x] dx. \end{aligned}$$

we have that $\xi_t^T = \Phi^T(t, X_t)$. We want to find a (real) SDE solved by ξ_t^T and so we apply Ito's formula to Φ^T using the fact that X_t satisfies (28). We have to put some attention because $\partial_t \Phi^T$ is not defined on all $[0, T^*] \times L^2(0, T^*)$:

Proposition 31 ξ_t^T solves the following SDE:

$$\begin{cases} \xi_{t \wedge \bar{t}}^T = \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{t}]}(s) \left(\xi_s^T \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{4} \xi_s^T \right) |v_s|^2 - \theta_s v_s^{(1)} \right) \right) ds - \\ \quad - \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{t}]}(s) \left(\theta_s + v_s^{(1)} \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right)^2 ds - \\ \quad - \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{t}]}(s) \sum_{j=2}^m \left(v_s^{(j)} \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) ds + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{t}]}(s) 2 \xi_s^T v_s^* dW_s \\ \xi_0^T = \int_0^T Y_0[x] dx = \int_0^T x_0[x] dx \end{cases} \quad (31)$$

where we called $v_s = u_s(k, S_s, X_s)[T-s]$ and θ_t is defined in (9) (note that on $t \leq \bar{t}$ we have that $\theta_t = \bar{\theta}_t$).

Proof We want to apply Ito's formula to Φ^T along Y_t using the fact that Y_t satisfies integral equation (29) and then it is in $C([0, T^*]; L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; L^2(0, T^*)))$. We have that

$$\partial_\phi \Phi^T(t, \phi) = \chi_{[0, T-t]}$$

and

$$\partial_\phi^2 \Phi^T(t, \phi) = 0.$$

and then they are uniformly continuous on bounded set. More problematic is the derivative along the time variable. Anyway we can observe that for $t \leq \bar{t}$ we have that $Y_t = X_t$, and for $t \leq \bar{t}$ X_t is pathwise continuous in H^1 . So we have that, for $t \leq \bar{t}$

$$\partial_t \Phi^T(t, Y_t) = -X_t[T-t].$$

$\partial_t \Phi^T$ is not defined on all $[0, T^*] \times L^2(0, T^*)$ (and a fortiori it is not uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of $[0, T^*] \times L^2(0, T^*)$), we can anyway observe that what is really needed in the proof of Ito's formula (see [6] Theorem 4.17 page 105) is just the convergence

$$\sum_{j=0}^{M-1} \Phi^T(t_{j+1}, Y_{t_{j+1}}) - \Phi^T(t_j, Y_{t_{j+1}}) \xrightarrow{b(\pi) \rightarrow 0} \int_0^t \partial_t \Phi^T(s, Y_s) ds \quad \mathbb{P} - a.s. \quad (32)$$

where " $b(\pi) \rightarrow 0$ " means that the mesh $b(\pi)$ of the partition $\pi = \{0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{M-1} < t_M = t\}$ goes to zero. Note that we only need to verify it on $t \leq \bar{t}$, thanks to the form of

equation (31) and to the fact that the derivative w.r.t. the time enters only in the deterministic integral so (32) can be proved in our case since, for $t \leq \bar{\tau}$,

$$\Phi^T(t_{j+1}, Y_{t_{j+1}}) - \Phi^T(t_j, Y_{t_{j+1}}) = \int_{T-t_j}^{T-t_{j+1}} -X_{t_{j+1}}[x] dx$$

and, the trajectories of $X_t(\omega)$ for $t \leq \bar{\tau}$ are continuous in H^1 .

So we can now use Ito formula and we find:

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_{t \wedge \bar{\tau}}^T &= \Phi^T(t, Y_t) = \Phi^T(0, x_0) + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) (\partial_t \Phi^T(s, Y_s) + \langle \partial_x \Phi^T(s, Y_s), \partial_x X_s[\cdot] \rangle_{L^2}) ds + \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \langle \partial_x \Phi^T(s, Y_s), \bar{F}(s, S_s, X_s) \rangle_{L^2} ds + \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \frac{1}{2} Tr[B(s, S_s, X_s) \partial_x^2 \Phi^T(s, Y_s) B(s, S_s, X_s)] ds + \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \langle \partial_x \Phi^T(s, Y_s), B(s, S_s, X_s) dW_s \rangle_{L^2} = \\ &= 0 + \int_0^{t \wedge \bar{\tau}} \left(-X_s[T-s] + \int_0^{T-s} \partial_x X_s[x] dx \right) ds + \\ &+ \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \int_0^{T-s} \bar{F}(s, S_s, X_s)[x] dx ds + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \int_0^{T-s} B(s, S_s, X_s)[x] dx dW_s = \quad (33) \end{aligned}$$

using the explicit expression of \bar{F} and B given by (13)

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_0^{t \wedge \bar{\tau}} -X_s[0] ds + \\ &+ \int_0^{t \wedge \bar{\tau}} \left| I(X_s)[x] \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{4} I(X_s)[x] \right) |u_s(k, S_s, X_s)[x]|^2 - \theta_s^{(1)} u_s^{(1)}(k, S_s, X_s)[x] \right) \right|_{x=0}^{x=T-s} ds - \\ &\quad - \int_0^{t \wedge \bar{\tau}} \left| \theta_s \ell + u_s(k, S_s, X_s)[x] \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|_{x=0}^{x=T-s} ds + \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) |2I(X_s)[x] u_s^*(k, S_s, X_s)[x]|_{x=0}^{x=T-s} dW_s = \quad (34) \end{aligned}$$

noting that, from (9), $\left| \theta_s \ell + u_s(k, S_s, X_s)[x] \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|_{x=0}^2 = Y_s[0]$, that for $s \leq \bar{\tau}$ is equal to $X_s[0]$, and recalling that $Y_s = X_s$ on $s \leq \bar{\tau}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \xi_s^T \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{4} \xi_s^T \right) |v_s|^2 - \theta_s^{(1)} v_s \right) ds - \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \left| \theta_s \ell + v_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|^2 ds + \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) 2 \xi_s^T v_s^* dW_s \quad (35) \end{aligned}$$

That is the claim. \square

Since we obtained at the beginning $X_t[x]$ differentiating (formally) with respect to x the process $t \mapsto \xi_t^{t+x}$ so what we have obtained now it not unexpected but exactly equation (4).

Theorem 32 For all $T \in [0, T^*]$, $\xi_t^T \geq 0$ for all $t \leq \bar{\tau}$.

$$\mathbb{P}\{\bar{\tau} \leq T^*\} = 0.$$

and $(S_t, X_t) = (S_t, Y_t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T^*$ is the only solution of (EQ). Moreover it is in $C([0, T^*]; L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; (H^1 \times \mathbb{R})))$ and has continuous trajectories.

Proof Since $\xi_{t \wedge \bar{\tau}}^T$ solves the (31) (note that we can use on the right side $\xi_{s \wedge \bar{\tau}}^T$ instead of ξ_s^T without any difference) we can write it as

$$\xi_{t \wedge \bar{\tau}}^T = e^{L_t^T} f(T, k) - e^{L_t^T} \int_0^{t \wedge \bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^T} \left| \theta_s \ell + v_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|^2 ds$$

where

$$L_t^T = L_t(T, K) = \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) 2v_s^* dW_s - \int_0^t \chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(s) \left(\left(1 - \frac{1}{4} \xi_{s \wedge \bar{\tau}}^T \right) |v_s|^2 + \theta_s v_s^{(1)} \right) ds.$$

Since $\xi_{\bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} = 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\bar{\tau}, k) &= \int_0^{\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} \left| \theta_s \ell + v_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|^2 ds = f(\bar{\tau}, k) = \\ &= \int_0^{t \wedge \bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} \left| \theta_s \ell + v_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|^2 ds + \int_{t \wedge \bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} \left| \theta_s \ell + v_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|^2 ds \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

Hence

$$\xi_{t \wedge \bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} = e^{L_t^{\bar{\tau}}} \int_{t \wedge \bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} \left| \theta_s \ell + v_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|^2 ds \geq 0. \quad (37)$$

In particular

$$\int_0^{\bar{\tau}} x_0[x] dx = \xi_0^{\bar{\tau}} = \int_0^{\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} \left| \theta_s \ell + v_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_s} \right) \right|^2 ds = \int_0^{\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} X_s[0] ds = \quad (38)$$

We take now $h \in (0, 1)$, as before we can obtain

$$\int_0^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}} x_0[x] dx = \xi_0^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}} = \int_0^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}}} X_s[0] ds \quad (39)$$

From (38) and (39) we obtain

$$\frac{\int_{(1-h)\bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} x_0[x] dx}{h} = \frac{\int_{(1-h)\bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} X_s[0] ds}{h} + \frac{\int_0^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}} \left(e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} - e^{-L_s^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}}} \right) X_s[0] ds}{h}.$$

Now assume by contradiction that there exist a subset $\bar{\Omega} \subseteq \Omega$ with $\mathbb{P}(\bar{\Omega}) = c > 0$ such that $\bar{\tau}(\omega) \leq T^*$ for $\omega \in \bar{\Omega}$. Observe also that, since $x_0 > 0$ and it is continuous (it is in H^1), we have $x_0 \geq c_2 > 0$. From the previous equation we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\int_{\bar{\Omega}} \left| \int_{(1-h)\bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} x_0[x] dx \right| d\mathbb{P}(\omega)}{h} &\leq \frac{\int_{\bar{\Omega}} \left| \int_{(1-h)\bar{\tau}}^{\bar{\tau}} e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} X_s[0] ds \right| d\mathbb{P}(\omega)}{h} + \\ &+ \frac{\int_{\bar{\Omega}} \left| \int_0^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}} \left(e^{-L_s^{\bar{\tau}}} - e^{-L_s^{(1-h)\bar{\tau}}} \right) X_s[0] ds \right| d\mathbb{P}(\omega)}{h}. \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Passing to the liminf in $h \rightarrow 0$ the left side is greater than $c_2 c \int_{\Omega} |\bar{\tau}| d\mathbb{P}(\omega) > 0$ while the right side goes to zero.

So we can see that $\chi_{[0, \bar{\tau}]}(t)$ in equation (27) is indeed always 1 for $t \in [0, T^*]$ and the process X_t solves the integral equation

$$\begin{cases} X_t = e^{tA} x_0 + \int_0^t e^{(t-s)A} \bar{F}(s, X_s, S_s) ds + \int_0^t e^{(t-s)A} B(s, X_s, S_s) dW_s \\ S_t = s_0 + \int_0^t \left(\sqrt{L(s, X_s, S_s)} - G(s, X_s, S_s) \right) S_s dW_s^{(1)}. \end{cases}$$

Noting that for $t \leq T^*$ we have $t \leq \bar{\tau}$ and then $F = \bar{F}$ we have that (X_t, S_t) is a solution of (EQ) on $[0, T^*]$. The regularity properties follow from the ones of $(X_t^\varepsilon, S_t^\varepsilon)$. \square

Remark 33 *The argument used for the positivity of ξ_t is the same used in [3].*

Proposition 34 ξ_t^T is positive and, on $[0, T^*]$, we have:

$$\begin{cases} dS_t = S_t \theta_t dW_t^{(1)} \\ d\xi_t^T = \xi_t^T \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{4} \xi_t^T\right) |v_t|^2 - \theta_t v_t^{(1)} \right) dt - \left(\theta_t + v_t^{(1)} \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_t} \right) \right)^2 - \\ \quad - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(v_t^{(j)} \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{k}{S_t} \right) + 2 \xi_t^T v_t^* dW_t \\ \xi_0^T = \int_0^T X_0[x] dx \\ \partial_T \xi_t^T |_{T=t} = \left(\theta_t + v_t^{(1)} \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_t} \right) \right)^2 + \sum_{j=2}^m \left(v_t^{(j)} \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{k}{S_t} \right) \end{cases} \quad (41)$$

Proof This is just a corollary of Theorem 32, the result follows from (31) using that $X_t = Y_t$ and that for $T^* \leq \bar{\tau}$. The feedback equation is easily seen to be satisfied thanks to the definition of θ_t . \square

Proposition 35 S_t is a strictly positive process, moreover, for all $x \in [0, T^*]$, we have that

$$X_t[x] \geq 0 \quad \mathbb{P} - a.s.$$

Proof The statement for S_t is easy since it can be written as

$$\frac{dS_t}{S_t} = \theta_t dW_t^{(1)}.$$

The assertion for X_t follows from the same arguments we used in Proposition 31 and in Theorem 32. Indeed for $T_1 < T_2 \leq T^*$ we can define $\xi_t^{T_1, T_2} = \Phi^{T_1, T_2}(t, X_t)$ where

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^{T_1, T_2} : [0, T_2 - T_1] \times L^2(0, T^*) &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \Phi^{T_1, T_2} : (t, \phi) &\mapsto \int_{T_1}^{T_2-t} X_t[x] dx. \end{aligned}$$

It can be seen using the same arguments we used in Proposition 31 that $\xi_t^{T_1, T_2}$ solves the equation

$$\begin{cases} d\xi_t^{T_1, T_2} = \xi_t^{T_1, T_2} \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{4} \xi_t^{T_1, T_2}\right) |v_t|^2 - \theta_t v_t^{(1)} \right) dt - \left(\theta_t + v_t^{(1)} \ln \left(\frac{k}{S_t} \right) \right)^2 - \\ \quad - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(v_t^{(j)} \right)^2 \ln^2 \left(\frac{k}{S_t} \right) + 2 \xi_t^{T_1, T_2} v_t^* dW_t \\ \xi_0^{T_1, T_2} = \int_{T_1}^{T_2} X_0[x] dx \end{cases} \quad (42)$$

Arguing as in Theorem 32 $\xi_t^{T_1, T_2}$ can be proved to be always positive in the interval $t \in [0, T_2 - T_1]$ and then, step-by-step, to be always positive in the interval $t \in [0, T^*]$ and so we have that, for all $0 \leq T_1 \leq T_2 \leq T^*$ all the integrals $\int_{T_1}^{T_2} X_t[x] dx$ are positive and then, since $X_t \in H^1$, we have the claim. \square

4 Two examples

We show now two possible examples in which the Hypotheses 11, 13 are satisfied. In both we take $m = 2$ (similar examples with $m > 2$ can be done). In both the cases $u^{(i)}$ depend on ω only through the variables S and X . Note that in both cases we choose a simple “decoupled” form for $u^{(i)}$ given by

$$u_t^{(i)}(k, S, X)(\omega)[x] = \varphi^{(i)}(X) \psi^{(i)}\left(\frac{k}{S}\right) \eta^{(i)}(|X[0]|).$$

4.1 First example: the volvol does not depend on x

In this first example we assume $u_t(k, S, X): x \mapsto u_t(k, S, X)[x]$ is a constant function. This means that $\partial_x u_t \equiv 0$ and we have no problems in satisfying points (ii) (iv) (and part of (iii)) of Hypothesis 11.

We take

$$u_t^{(2)}(k, S, X)(\omega)[x] = \varphi^{(2)}\left(\sup_{r \in [0, T^*]} |X[r]|\right) \frac{\psi^{(2)}\left(\frac{k}{S}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{k}{S}\right)} \eta^{(2)}(X[0])$$

for all $x \in [0, T^*]$ and $\omega \in \Omega$. We assume that

$$\begin{cases} \eta^{(2)}: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \eta^{(2)}: \sigma \mapsto \eta^{(2)}(\sigma) \end{cases}$$

is locally Lipschitz, bounded, $\eta^{(2)}(0) = 0$, and

$$\eta^{(2)}(\sigma) < \sqrt{\sigma} \quad \text{for all } \sigma > 0. \quad (43)$$

Moreover we assume that

$$\begin{cases} \psi^{(2)}: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \psi^{(2)}: \sigma \mapsto \psi^{(2)}(\sigma) \end{cases}$$

is bounded and continuous and $\sigma \mapsto \frac{\psi^{(2)}(\sigma)}{\ln(\sigma)}$ is bounded and locally Lipschitz continuous. $\varphi^{(2)}$ is continuous, locally Lipschitz continuous and $\sigma \mapsto \varphi^{(2)}(\sigma)(1 + \sigma)$ is bounded. Moreover

$$\varphi^{(2)}(\sigma) \leq 1 \quad \psi^{(2)}(\sigma) \leq 1 \quad (44)$$

We take

$$u_t^{(1)}(k, S, X)(\omega)[x] = \varphi^{(1)}\left(\sup_{r \in [0, T^*]} |X[r]|\right) \frac{\psi^{(1)}\left(\frac{k}{S}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{k}{S}\right)} \eta^{(1)}(X[0])$$

for all $x \in [0, T^*]$ and $\omega \in \Omega$. $\varphi^{(1)}$ is locally Lipschitz $\sigma \mapsto \varphi^{(1)}(\sigma)(1 + \sigma)$ is bounded, $\psi^{(1)}$ is bounded and continuous and $\sigma \mapsto \frac{\psi^{(1)}(\sigma)}{\ln(\sigma)}$ is bounded and locally Lipschitz continuous, $\eta^{(1)}$ is locally Lipschitz continuous and bounded, $\sigma \mapsto \eta^{(1)}(\sigma)\sqrt{\sigma}$ locally Lipschitz continuous.

So if we define

$$\tilde{u}_t^{(2)}(k, S, X) \stackrel{def}{=} u_t^{(2)}(k, S, X) \ln\left(\frac{k}{S}\right) = \varphi^{(2)}\left(\sup_{r \in [0, T^*]} |X[r]|\right) \psi^{(2)}\left(\frac{k}{S}\right) \eta^{(2)}(X[0])$$

we can note that (43) and (44) gives

$$X[0] - \left(\tilde{u}_t^{(2)}(k, S, X) \right)^2 \geq 0$$

and it is equal to zero if and only if $X[0] = 0$; so Hypothesis 13 is satisfied.

Part (i) of Hypothesis 11 follows by the boundedness of $\sigma \mapsto \psi^{(i)}(\sigma)$, of $\sigma \mapsto \varphi^{(i)}(\sigma)(1 + \sigma)$ and of $\sigma \mapsto \eta^{(i)}$.

Local Lipschitz continuity properties required in (iii) of Hypothesis 11 follow by the local Lipschitz continuity properties of the functions considered.

4.2 Second example: $u_t^{(i)}$ depends on ξ

We assume now that $u_t(S, X)[x]$ depends on X through $X[0]$ and $\int_0^x X[r] dr = \xi$, moreover $u_t(S, X)[x]$ depends on x through $\int_0^x X[r] dr = \xi$, note that it is the quantity considered in the formulation of [3] and is the variable interesting from a financial point of view. Note that for technical reasons (to satisfy point (iv) of Hypothesis 11 we have to introduce a cut-off γ_N in other example. γ_N is a C^∞ function $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ equal to 1 in the interval $[-N, N]$ and equal to 0 in $[2N, +\infty)$ and $(-\infty, -2N]$.

We assume

$$u_t^{(2)}(k, S, X)(\omega)[x] = \varphi^{(2)} \left(\int_0^x X[r] dr \right) \frac{\psi^{(2)} \left(\frac{k}{S} \right)}{\ln \left(\frac{k}{S} \right)} \eta^{(2)}(X[0]) \gamma_N(|X|_{H^1})$$

for all $x \in [0, T^*]$ and $\omega \in \Omega$. We assume first that $\varphi^{(2)}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is C^2 , bounded with first and second derivative bounded and we observe that the derivative $\frac{d}{dx} \left[\varphi^{(2)} \left(\int_0^x f[r] dr \right) \right]$ define a locally Lipschitz continuous function on H^1 :

Lemma 41 *Suppose $\varphi^{(2)}: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is C^2 , bounded with first and second derivative bounded: $|\varphi^{(2)}| \leq M$, $|\varphi_x^{(2)}| \leq M$, $|\varphi_{xx}^{(2)}| \leq M$. Then*

(a) *the function*

$$\begin{cases} \Gamma_{\varphi^{(2)}}: H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R}) \\ \Gamma_{\varphi^{(2)}}: f[\cdot] \mapsto \left(x \mapsto \varphi^{(2)} \left(\int_0^x f[r] dr \right) \right) \end{cases}$$

is locally Lipschitz continuous.

(b) *the function*

$$\begin{cases} \Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}: H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R}) \\ \Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}: f[\cdot] \mapsto \left(x \mapsto \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^x f[r] dr \right) f[x] \right) \end{cases}$$

is locally Lipschitz continuous.

Proof We prove only the point (b) because (a) is simpler and can be treated with the same arguments.

We take $f[\cdot]$ and $g[\cdot]$ in $H^1(0, T^*; \mathbb{R})$:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}(f[\cdot]) - \Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}(g[\cdot]) \right|_{H^1} = \\
& = \left| \Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}(f[\cdot]) - \Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}(g[\cdot]) \right|_{L^2} + \left| \partial_x \left(\Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}(f[\cdot]) \right) - \partial_x \left(\Psi_{\varphi^{(2)}}(g[\cdot]) \right) \right|_{L^2} = \\
& = P_1 + P_2 \stackrel{def}{=} \left| \left(\varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot f[r] dr \right) f[\cdot] - \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) g[\cdot] \right) \right|_{L^2} + \\
& \quad + \left| \varphi_{xx}^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot f[r] dr \right) f^2[\cdot] + \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot f[r] dr \right) f_x[\cdot] - \right. \\
& \quad \left. - \varphi_{xx}^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) g^2[\cdot] - \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) g_x[\cdot] \right|_{L^2}. \quad (45)
\end{aligned}$$

We consider first P_1 :

$$\begin{aligned}
P_1 \leq P_1^1 + P_1^2 \stackrel{def}{=} \left| \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot f[r] dr \right) (f[\cdot] - g[\cdot]) \right|_{L^2} + \\
+ \left| \left(\varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot f[r] dr \right) - \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) \right) g[\cdot] \right|_{L^2}. \quad (46)
\end{aligned}$$

For P_1^1 we have simply $P_1^1 \leq M|f - g|_{L^2} \leq M|f - g|_{H^1}$. For P_1^2 note first that there exist a constant C such that for every h in a neighborhood (in H^1) of g we have $|h|_{L^\infty} \leq C$, so locally we have

$$\begin{aligned}
P_1^2 \leq MC \int_0^{T^*} \left(\int_0^x f[r] - g[r] dr \right)^2 dx \leq MC \int_0^{T^*} \left(\int_0^{T^*} f[r] - g[r] dr \right)^2 dx \leq \\
\leq \frac{CM}{T^*} \int_0^{T^*} \int_0^{T^*} (f[r] - g[r])^2 dr dx \leq CM|f - g|_{L^2} \leq CM|f - g|_{H^1}. \quad (47)
\end{aligned}$$

We estimate now P_2 :

$$\begin{aligned}
P_2 = P_2^1 + P_2^2 + P_2^3 + P_2^4 + P_2^5 \stackrel{def}{=} \left| \left(\varphi_{xx}^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot f[r] dr \right) - \varphi_{xx}^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) \right) f^2[\cdot] \right|_{L^2} + \\
+ \left| (f[\cdot] - g[\cdot]) f[\cdot] \varphi_{xx}^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) \right|_{L^2} + \left| (f[\cdot] - g[\cdot]) g[\cdot] \varphi_{xx}^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) \right|_{L^2} + \\
+ \left| \left(\varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot f[r] dr \right) - \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) \right) f_x[\cdot] \right|_{L^2} + \left| \varphi_x^{(2)} \left(\int_0^\cdot g[r] dr \right) (f_x[\cdot] - g_x[\cdot]) \right|_{L^2}. \quad (48)
\end{aligned}$$

Recalling that for h in a neighborhood (in H^1) of g and of f $|h|_{L^\infty} \leq C$ we can estimate P_2^2 and P_2^3 as P_1^1 , P_2^1 and P_2^4 can be treated as P_1^2 . Eventually $P_2^5 \leq M|f_x - g_x|_{L^2} \leq M|f - g|_{H^1}$. \square

We assume that: $\varphi^{(2)}$ is C^2 with bounded first and second derivative, $|\varphi^{(2)}| \leq 1$ and $\sigma \mapsto \varphi^{(2)}(\sigma)(1 + |\sigma|)$ is bounded. Moreover we take $\psi^{(2)}$ bounded and continuous with $|\psi^{(2)}| \leq 1$ such that $\frac{\psi^{(2)}(\cdot)}{\ln(\cdot)}$ is bounded and locally Lipschitz continuous. $\eta^{(2)}$ is locally Lipschitz, with $\sigma \mapsto \eta^{(2)}(\sigma)(1 + \sqrt{|\sigma|})$ bounded and locally Lipschitz continuous, $\eta^{(2)}(0) = 0$, and

$$\eta^{(2)}(\sigma) < \sqrt{\sigma} \quad \text{for all } \sigma > 0. \quad (49)$$

We assume that $u_t^{(1)}$ has the following form:

$$u_t^{(1)}(k, S, X)(\omega)[x] = \varphi^{(1)}\left(\int_0^x X[r] dr\right) \frac{\psi^{(1)}\left(\frac{k}{S}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{k}{S}\right)} \eta^{(1)}(X[0]) \gamma_N(|X|_{H^1})$$

where: $\varphi^{(1)}$ is a C^2 function with bounded first and second derivatives, $\sigma \mapsto \varphi^{(1)}(\sigma)(1 + \sigma)$ is bounded; $\psi^{(1)}$ is bounded and continuous and $\sigma \mapsto \frac{\psi^{(1)}(\sigma)}{\ln(\sigma)}$ is bounded and locally Lipschitz continuous, $\eta^{(1)}$ is locally Lipschitz continuous and bounded with $\sigma \mapsto \varphi^{(1)}(\sigma)(1 + \sqrt{|\sigma|})$ bounded and locally Lipschitz continuous.

We claim that the Hypotheses 11 and 13 are satisfied. Hypothesis 13 follows by (49) and the fact that $\varphi^{(2)}, \psi^{(2)} \leq 1$. Note that thank to the boundedness of $u_t^{(1)}$ and $u_t^{(2)}$ we have that $\theta \leq \sqrt{|X[0]|} + M$ for some constant M . So the first of (iv) of Hypothesis 11 follows by the boundedness of $x \mapsto \varphi^{(i)}(x)(1 + \sqrt{|x|})$ and from the use of the cut-off γ_N ; (i) follows by the boundedness of $x \mapsto \varphi^{(i)}(x)(1 + \sqrt{|x|})$, $x \mapsto \varphi^{(i)}(x)(1 + |x|)$ and $x \mapsto \psi^{(i)}(x)$ and (ii) from Lemma 41 that gives also the local Lipschitz continuity property of $\partial_x u$ required in (iii). The other local Lipschitz continuity property of (iii) can be proved using the local Lipschitz continuity properties of $\psi^{(i)}$, $\varphi^{(i)}$ and $\eta^{(i)}$ and by Lemma 41.

5 Conclusions and future work

We have proven an existence-and-uniqueness result for the implied volatility model presented in [3]. The approach we used was based on the rewriting the problem in a suitable Hilbert space formulation. We dealt with the one-parameter family of European call option $O_t(K, T)$ for a fixed strike price $K > 0$.

A natural object for future work is studying the case of the whole family $O_t(K, T)$ varying both the strike and the expiration time. As we have already observed in the introduction the feedback condition imply the unpleasant equation (9) in which θ_t appears as a function of K . θ_t is the process that drives the evolution of the stock price and of course, if we want to deal with the general case of the complete family $O_t(K, T)$ varying both T and K , it has be the same for every K . So we obtain the following family of *compatibility conditions*: for all the strikes $K_1 > 0$ and $K_2 > 0$

$$\theta_t(K_1, S_t, X_t(K_1)) = \theta_t(K_2, S_t, X_t(K_2))$$

that is

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{X_t(K_1)[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K_1, S_t, X_t(K_1))[0]\right)^2 \ln^2\left(\frac{K_1}{S_t}\right)} - u_t^{(1)}(K_1, S_t, X_t(K_1))[0] \ln\left(\frac{K_1}{S_t}\right) = \\ & \sqrt{X_t(K_2)[0] - \sum_{j=2}^m \left(u_t^{(j)}(K_2, S_t, X_t(K_2))[0]\right)^2 \ln^2\left(\frac{K_1}{S_t}\right)} - u_t^{(1)}(K_2, S_t, X_t(K_2))[0] \ln\left(\frac{K_1}{S_t}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

For the difficulties in trating the multi-strike case see [15].

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