

# The Snell envelope and analysis of various approximation schemes

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March 2, 2012

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P. Del Moral, P. HU, N. Oudjane and B. Rmillard, "On the Robustness of the Snell Envelope" [40p], SIAM J. Finan. Math., Vol. 2, pp. 587-626 , 2011.

P. Del Moral, P. HU and N. Oudjane, "Snell envelope with small probability criteria" [22p], preprint inria-00507794 [submitted], 2010.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Broadie-Glasserman Models
- 3 Genealogical/Ancestral tree based model
- 4 Snell envelope with small probability criteria

## 1 Introduction

- Some notation
- Path space models
- Snell envelope
- Preliminary
- Examples
- Path dependent case
- Exponential concentration inequalities

## 2 Broadie-Glasserman Models

## 3 Genealogical/Ancestral tree based model

## 4 Snell envelope with small probability criteria

$E$  state space,  $\mathcal{P}(E)$  proba. on  $E$  &  $\mathcal{B}(E)$  bounded functions

- $(\mu, f) \in \mathcal{P}(E) \times \mathcal{B}(E) \longrightarrow \mu(f) = \int \mu(dx) f(x)$
- $M(x, dy)$  **integral operator over  $E$**

$$M(f)(x) = \int M(x, dy) f(y)$$
$$[\mu M](dy) = \int \mu(dx) M(x, dy) \quad (\implies [\mu M](f) = \mu[M(f)])$$

Markov chain  $X_n$  with transitions  $M_n(x_{n-1}, dx_n)$  from  $E_{n-1}$  to  $E_n$

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}_{\eta_0}} \{f_n(X_n) | X_0, \dots, X_k\} = M_{k,n}(f_n)(X_k) := \int_{E_n} M_{k,n}(X_k, dx_n) f_n(x_n)$$

with

$$M_{k,n}(x_k, dx_n) = (M_{k+1} M_{k+2} \dots M_n)(x_k, dx_n) = \mathbb{P}(X_n \in dx_n | X_k = x_k)$$

## Path space notations

- Given a elementary  $X'_k$  Markov chain with transitions  $M'_k(x'_{k-1}, dx'_k)$  from  $E'_{k-1}$  into  $E'_k$ .
- The historical process  $X_k = (X'_0, \dots, X'_k) \in E_k = (E'_0 \times \dots \times E'_k)$  can be seen as a Markov chain with transitions  $M_k(x_{k-1}, dx_k)$

## Description

- For  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , some process  $Z_k$  (gain) with  $\mathcal{F}_k$  available information on  $k$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_k$  set of stopping times taking value in  $(k, k+1, \dots, n)$
- **Purpose:** find  $\sup_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_k} \mathbb{E}(Z_\tau | \mathcal{F}_k)$
- $Y_k$  the **Snell envelope** of  $Z_k$  :

$$Y_n = Z_n$$

$$Y_k = Z_k \vee \mathbb{E}(Y_{k+1} | \mathcal{F}_k)$$

- Main property of the Snell envelope:

$$Y_k = \sup_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_k} \mathbb{E}(Z_\tau | \mathcal{F}_k) = \mathbb{E}(Z_{\tau_k^*} | \mathcal{F}_k) \quad \tau_k^* = \min \{k \leq j \leq n : Y_j = Z_j\} \in \mathcal{T}_k$$

## Assumption

- Some Markov chain  $(X_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$ , with  $\eta_0 \in \mathcal{P}(E_0)$ ,  $M_n(x_{n-1}, dx_n)$  from  $E_{n-1}$  to  $E_n$  on filtered space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}_{\eta_0})$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_k$  associated natural filtration.
- For  $f_k \in \mathcal{B}(E_k)$ , assume  $Z_k = f_k(X_k)$  (payoff)
- Then  $Y_k = u_k(X_k)$

## Snell envelope recursion:

$$u_k = f_k \vee M_{k+1}(u_{k+1}) \quad \text{with} \quad u_n = f_n$$

## A NSC for the existence of the Snell envelope

$M_{k,l}f_l(x) < \infty$  for any  $1 \leq k \leq l \leq n$ , and any state  $x \in E_k$ . To check this claim, we simply notice that

$$f_k \leq u_k \leq f_k + M_{k+1}u_{k+1} \implies f_k \leq u_k \leq \sum_{k \leq l \leq n} M_{k,l}f_l$$

## Numerical solution

- Replacing  $(f_k, M_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$  by some approximation model  $(\hat{f}_k, \hat{M}_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$  on some possibly reduced measurable subsets  $\hat{E}_k \subset E_k$ .
- $\hat{u}_k = \hat{f}_k \vee \hat{M}_{k+1}(\hat{u}_{k+1})$  with terminal condition  $\hat{u}_n = \hat{f}_n$  for  $0 \leq k \leq n$

## A robustness/continuity lemma

For any  $0 \leq k < n$ , on the state space  $\hat{E}_k$ , we have that

$$|u_k - \hat{u}_k| \leq \sum_{l=k}^n \hat{M}_{k,l} |f_l - \hat{f}_l| + \sum_{l=k}^{n-1} \hat{M}_{k,l} |(M_{l+1} - \hat{M}_{l+1})u_{l+1}|$$

**Proof:** By inequality  $|(a \vee b) - (a' \vee b')| \leq |a \vee a'| + |b \vee b'|$  and induction.



## Deterministic models

- Cut-off type models
- Euler approximation models
- Interpolation type models
- Quantization tree models

## Monte Carlo models ( stoch. N-grid approximation)

- ▷ Broadie-Glasserman models [ $N^2$ ]
  - ▷ BG type adapted mean-field particle model [ $N^2$ ]
  - ▷ Importance sampling model for path dependent case [ $N^2$ ]
- Genealogical tree based model [ $N$ ]

## Problematic

- Given gain functions  $(f_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$  and **obstacle functions**  $(G_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$
- Snell envelope of  $f_k(X_k) \prod_{p=0}^{k-1} G_p(X_p)$  ?
- Impossible to compute if  $G_k$  too small

## New recursion

- Original Snell envelope :  
$$\mathbf{u}_k(X_0, \dots, X_k) = f_k(X_k) \prod_{p=0}^{k-1} G_p(X_p) \vee \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{u}_{k+1}(X_0, \dots, X_{k+1}) | \mathcal{F}_k)$$
  
with  $\mathbf{u}_n(X_0, \dots, X_n) = f_n(X_n) \prod_{p=0}^{n-1} G_p(X_p)$
- We provide a **new recursion**  $v_k = f_k \vee (G_k M_{k+1}(v_{k+1}))$  with  $v_n = f_n$
- $\mathbf{u}_k(x_0, \dots, x_k) = v_k \prod_{p=0}^{k-1} G_p(x_p)$

## Important constants

$$\forall p \geq 0 \quad a(2p)^{2p} = (2p)_p 2^{-p} \quad \text{and} \quad a(2p+1)^{2p+1} = \frac{(2p+1)_{p+1}}{\sqrt{p+1/2}} 2^{-(p+1/2)}$$

## Proposition

*If we have a Khinchine's type  $\mathbb{L}_p$ -mean error bounds in the following form:*

*$\forall$  integer  $p \geq 1$  and constant  $c$*

$$\sqrt{N} \sup_{x \in E_k} \|u_k(x) - \hat{u}_k(x)\|_{\mathbb{L}_p} \leq a(p) c$$

*then we have the following exponential concentration inequality*

$$\sup_{x \in E_k} \mathbb{P} \left( |u_k(x_k) - \hat{u}_k(x_k)| > \frac{c}{\sqrt{N}} + \epsilon \right) \leq \exp(-N\epsilon^2/c^2)$$

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  - Original Broadie-Glasserman
  - BG adapted mean-field particle model
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# Broadie-Glasserman Models

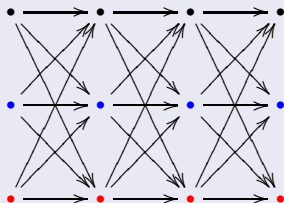
M. Broadie and P. Glasserman. A Stochastic Mesh Method for Pricing High- Dimensional American Options *Journal of Computational Finance* (04)

## Original Broadie-Glasserman Models (hyp : $M'_k \ll \eta_k$ )

$\eta_k \simeq \hat{\eta}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{\xi_k^i}$  where  $\xi_k := (\xi_k^i)_{1 \leq i \leq N} \sim$  i.i.d.  $N$ -grid  $\eta_k$  on  $\hat{E}'_k = E'_k$

$$\begin{aligned}
 M'_{k+1}(x'_k, dx'_{k+1}) &\simeq \hat{M}'_{k+1}(x'_k, dx'_{k+1}) = \hat{\eta}_{k+1}(dx'_{k+1}) \underbrace{R_{k+1}(x'_k, x'_{k+1})}_{\substack{\text{Payoff} \\ \text{and} \\ \text{divergence}}} \\
 &= \hat{\eta}_{k+1}(dx'_{k+1}) \frac{dM'_{k+1}(x'_k, \cdot)}{d\eta_{k+1}}(x'_{k+1})
 \end{aligned}$$

( $N = 3$   $n = 3$ )



$\rightsquigarrow N^2$  computations / time units

By Khintchine's inequality we notice:

$$\sqrt{N} \left\| \left[ M'_{l+1} - \widehat{M}'_{l+1} \right] (f)(x'_l) \right\|_{\mathbb{L}_p} \leq 2 a(p) \eta_{l+1} \left[ (R_{l+1}(x'_l, \cdot) f)^p \right]^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

We provide the following non asymptotic convergence estimate

## Theorem

*For any integer  $p \geq 1$ , we denote by  $p'$  the smallest even integer greater than  $p$ . Then for any time horizon  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , and any  $x'_k \in E'_k$ , we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{N} \| u'_k(x'_k) - \widehat{u}'_k(x'_k) \|_{\mathbb{L}_p} \\ & \leq 2a(p) \sum_{k \leq l < n} \left\{ \int M'_{k,l}(x'_k, dx'_l) \eta_{l+1} \left[ (R_{l+1}(x'_l, \cdot) u_{l+1})^{p'} \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{p'}} \end{aligned}$$

New ( $N^2$ ) algorithm with the choice  $\eta_k = \text{Law}(X'_k) = \eta_{k-1} M'_k$

Description (hyp. :  $M'_k \ll \lambda_k$ )

$\eta_k \simeq \hat{\eta}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{\xi_k^i}$  with i.i.d. copies  $\xi_k^i$  of  $X'_k$

$$M'_{k+1}(x'_k, dx'_{k+1}) \simeq \hat{M}'_{k+1}(x'_k, dx'_{k+1}) = \hat{\eta}_{k+1}(dx'_{k+1}) \frac{H_{k+1}(x'_k, x'_{k+1})}{\hat{\eta}_k(H_{k+1}(\cdot, x'_{k+1}))}$$

with

$$(H)_0 \quad H_n(x'_{n-1}, x'_n) = \frac{dM'_n(x'_{n-1}, \cdot)}{d\lambda_n}(x'_n)$$

## Snell envelope

- Set by recursion  $\widehat{u}'_k(x'_k) = f'_k(x'_k) \vee \left( \int_{\widehat{E}'_{k+1}} \widehat{M}'_{k+1}(x'_k, dx'_{k+1}) \widehat{u}'_{k+1}(x'_{k+1}) \right)$   
with terminal condition  $\widehat{u}'_n = f'_n$

## Theorem

$$(H)_1 \quad \|M'_{l+1}(h_{l+1}^{2p})\| < \infty \text{ with } \sup_{x'_l, y'_l \in E'_l} \frac{H_{l+1}(x'_l, x'_{l+1})}{H_{l+1}(y'_l, x'_{l+1})} \leq h_{l+1}(x'_{l+1})$$

$$\|M'_{l+1}(u_{l+1}^{2p})\| < \infty$$

Under the conditions  $(H)_0$  and  $(H)_1$  stated above, for any even integer  $p > 1$ , any  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , and  $x'_k \in E'_k$ , we have

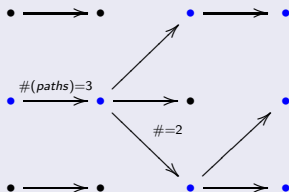
$$\sqrt{N} \|u'_k(x'_k) - \widehat{u}'_k(x'_k)\|_{\mathbb{L}_p} \leq 2a(p) \sum_{k \leq l < n} \left( \|M'_{l+1}(h_{l+1}^{2p})\| \|M'_{l+1}(u_{l+1}^{2p})\| \right)^{\frac{1}{2p}}$$



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## Evolution example of genealogical tree

$(N = 3 \ n = 3)$



⊕ Snell envelope computation on the  $N$ -stochastic grid

## notation

- The  $k$ -th coordinate mapping

$$\pi_k : x_n = (x'_0, \dots, x'_n) \in E_n = (E'_0 \times \dots \times E'_n) \mapsto \pi_k(x_n) = x'_k \in E'_k$$

- $\forall 0 \leq k < n$ ,  $x'_k \in E'_k$  and any function  $f \in \mathcal{B}(E'_{k+1})$ , we have

$$\eta_n = \text{Law}(X'_0, \dots, X'_n) \quad \text{and} \quad M'_{k+1}(f)(x) := \frac{\eta_n((1_x \circ \pi_k)(f \circ \pi_{k+1}))}{\eta_n((1_x \circ \pi_k))}$$

- Remark  $\eta_n = \eta'_0 \times M'_1 \times \dots \times M'_n = \eta_{n-1} M_n$

## Particle system = Neutral genetic particle algorithm

- Markov chain taking values in the product state spaces  $E_k^N$ .
- Initial system  $\bar{X}_0 = (\bar{X}_0^i)_{1 \leq i \leq N}$  i.i.d. random copies of  $X_0$
- Evolution

$$\bar{X}_k \in E_k^N \xrightarrow{\text{Selection}} \hat{X}_k := (\hat{X}_k^i)_{1 \leq i \leq N} \in E_k^N \xrightarrow{\text{Mutation}} \bar{X}_{k+1} \in E_{k+1}^N$$

## Structure = Ancestral lines

$$\bar{X}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{X}_k^1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{X}_k^i \\ \vdots \\ \bar{X}_k^N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (\bar{X}_{0,k}^1, \bar{X}_{1,k}^1, \dots, \bar{X}_{k,k}^1) \\ \vdots \\ (\bar{X}_{0,k}^i, \bar{X}_{1,k}^i, \dots, \bar{X}_{k,k}^i) \\ \vdots \\ (\bar{X}_{0,k}^N, \bar{X}_{1,k}^N, \dots, \bar{X}_{k,k}^N) \end{bmatrix}$$

## Remark

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{X}_{k+1}^i &= \left( \underbrace{(\bar{X}_{0,k+1}^i, \bar{X}_{1,k+1}^i, \dots, \bar{X}_{k,k+1}^i)}_{\parallel}, \bar{X}_{k+1,k+1}^i \right) \\ &= \left( \underbrace{(\hat{X}_{0,k}^i, \hat{X}_{1,k}^i, \dots, \hat{X}_{k,k}^i)}_{\parallel}, \bar{X}_{k+1,k+1}^i \right) = \left( \hat{X}_k^i, \bar{X}_{k+1,k+1}^i \right) \end{aligned}$$

## Occupation measures

$$\eta_k^N := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq N} \delta_{\bar{X}_k^i} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\eta}_k^N := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq N} \delta_{\hat{X}_k^i}$$

- $\hat{\eta}_k^N$  : empirical meas. of  $\hat{X}_k^i \stackrel{c-iid}{\sim} \eta_k^N$
- $\eta_k^N$  : empirical meas. of  $\bar{X}_k^i \stackrel{c-iid}{\sim} \hat{\eta}_{k-1}^N M_k$

With elementary decomposition

$$[\eta_n^N - \eta_{k-1}^N M_{k,n}] = \sum_{l=k}^n [\eta_l^N - (\eta_{l-1}^N M_l)] M_{l,n}$$

and Khintchine's inequality, by induction we have following estimates

## Lemma

*For any  $p \geq 1$ ,  $p'$  the smallest even integer greater than  $p$ . In this notation, for any  $k \geq 0$  and any function  $f$ , we have the almost sure estimate*

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{N} \mathbb{E} \left( \left| [\eta_n^N - \eta_{k-1}^N M_{k-1,n}](f) \right|^p \mid \mathcal{F}_{k-1}^N \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ \leq 2a(p) \sum_{l=k}^n \left[ \eta_{k-1}^N M_{k-1,l} (|M_{l,n}(f)|^{p'}) \right]^{\frac{1}{p'}} \end{aligned}$$

## Approximation of the Markov transitions $M'_{k+1}$

$$\widehat{M}'_{k+1}(f)(x) := \frac{\eta_n^N((1_x \circ \pi_k)(f \circ \pi_{k+1}))}{\eta_n^N((1_x \circ \pi_k))} := \frac{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq N} 1_x(\bar{X}_{k,n}^i) f(\bar{X}_{k+1,n}^i)}{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq N} 1_x(\bar{X}_{k,n}^i)}$$

## Construction of Model

$$\widehat{u}_k(x) = \begin{cases} f_k(x) \vee \widehat{M}'_{k+1}(\widehat{u}_{k+1})(x) & \forall x \in \widehat{E}_{k,n} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In terms of the ancestors at level  $k$ , this recursion takes the following form

$$\forall 1 \leq i \leq N \quad \widehat{u}_k(\bar{X}_{k,n}^i) = f_k(\bar{X}_{k,n}^i) \vee \widehat{M}'_{k+1}(\widehat{u}_{k+1})(\bar{X}_{k,n}^i)$$



Applying the local error given by precedent lemma and the robustness lemma, we finally get

### Theorem

*For any  $p \geq 1$ , and  $0 \leq i \leq N$  we have the following uniform estimate*

$$\sup_{0 \leq k \leq n} \left\| (u_k - \hat{u}_k)(\bar{X}_{k,n}^i) \right\|_{\mathbb{L}_p} \leq c_p(n) / \sqrt{N}$$

*with some collection of finite constants  $c_p(n) < \infty$  whose values only depend on the parameters  $p$  and  $n$ .*

## Asset modeling

$$\frac{dX'(i)_t}{X'(i)_t} = rdt + \sigma_i dz_t^i, \quad i = 1, \dots, d = 6.$$

- $z^i$  independent standard Brownian motions
- $r=5\%$  annually
- $X'_0(i) = 1$  and  $\sigma_i = 20\%$  annually

## Bermudan options

Maturity  $T = 1$  year and 11 equally distributed exercise opportunities:

- geometric average put with payoff  $(K - \prod_{i=1}^d X'(i)_T)_+$ ,  $K = 1$
- arithmetic average put with payoff  $(K - \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i=1}^d X'(i)_T)_+$ ,  $K = 1$

## Benchmark

Nb. assets	1	2	3	4	5	6
Geometric	0.06033	0.07815	0.08975	0.09837	0.10511	0.11073
Arithmetic	0.0603331	0.03881	0.02945	0.02403	0.02070	0.01895

**Figure:** Benchmark values for the geometric and arithmetic put options (taken from B. Bouchard and X. Warin, Monte-Carlo valorisation of American options: facts and new algorithms to improve existing methods, To appear in *Numerical Methods in Finance*, ed. R. Carmona, P. Del Moral, P. Hu and N. Oudjane (2011)).

Methods : random tree, stochastic mesh, Binomial tree, quantization approach or **quantization-like approach**:

### State space partitioning

- 1 Simulate  $N$  i.i.d. paths according to asset dynamic
- 2 At each time step, partition the particles into  $M$  subsets
- 3 For each subset, compute the representative state  $(S_k^j)_{1 \leq j \leq M, 1 \leq k \leq n}$  as average of particles

### Finite state space Markov chain

- 1 Define  $\tilde{E}_k = \{S_k^1, \dots, S_k^M\}$  as new finite state space.
- 2 The dynamic of new Markov chain  $\tilde{X}_k$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(\tilde{X}_k = S_k^j \mid \tilde{X}_{k-1} = S_{k-1}^i) = \mathbb{P}(X_k \in V_k^j \mid X_{k-1} = S_{k-1}^i)$$

## Complexity and errors

Complexity : Forward step  $O(MN)$ , Backward step  $O(N)$

- State discretization error bounded by  $\frac{c}{M^{\frac{1}{d}}}$
- G.T algorithm error bounded by  $c\frac{M^{\beta}}{N}$ , for  $\beta > 0$

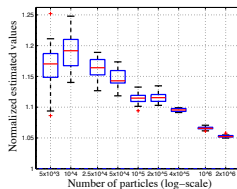
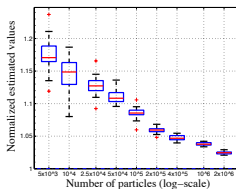
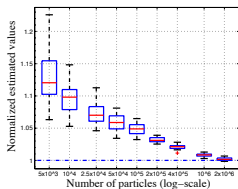
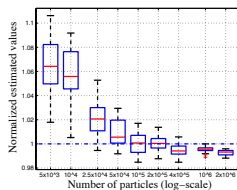
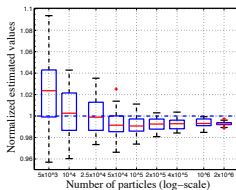
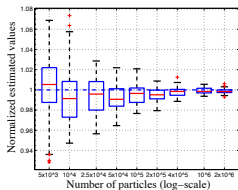
## Optimization

Set  $M = O(N^{\frac{d}{2\beta d+2}})$

- Global complexity of order  $N^{\frac{(1+2\beta)d+2}{2\beta d+2}}$
- Approximation error bounded by  $\frac{c}{N^{\frac{1}{2\beta d+2}}}$

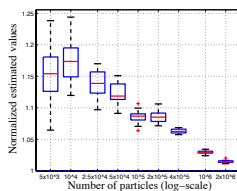
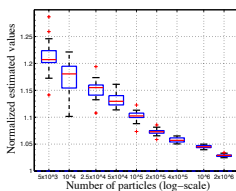
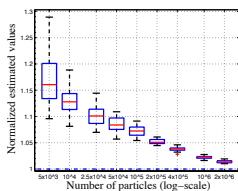
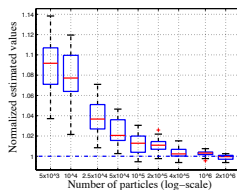
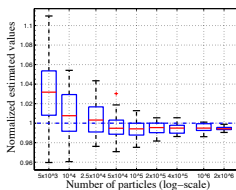
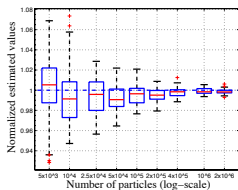
In following example, we set  $\beta = 1/2$  so that the complexity grows with the dimension from  $N^{4/3}, N^{3/2}, N^{8/5}, \dots, N^2$  for dimensions  $d = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \infty$ .

# Numerical examples



Boxplots for estimated option values (divided by the benchmark values) as a function of the number of particles for the **geometric** put-payoff. The box stretches from the 25th percentile to the 75th percentile, the median is shown as a line across the box, the whiskers extend from the box out to the most extreme data value within 1.5 IQR (Interquartile Range) and red crosses indicates outliers.

# Numerical examples



Boxplots for estimated option values (divided by the benchmark values) as a function of the number of particles for the **arithmetic put-payoff**.

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## Problematic

- Markov chain  $(X_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$  on  $(E_k, \mathcal{E}_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$  with  $(M_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$
- $(\mathbb{P}_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n} \sim (X_0, \dots, X_k)_{0 \leq k \leq n}$
- To calculate, with  $v_n = f_n$ :
  - $v_k = f_k \vee (G_k M_{k+1}(v_{k+1})) \quad 0 \leq G_k \leq 1$   
(Barrier options.)
  - $v_k = f_k \vee (M_{k+1}(v_{k+1}))$  but  $f_k$  are localized in a small region  
(Deep out of money options.)

## Change of measure

- Natural and optimal choice to reduce variance:

$$d\mathbb{Q}_n = \frac{1}{Z_n} \left[ \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} G_k \right] d\mathbb{P}_n, \quad \text{with} \quad Z_n = \mathbb{E} \left( \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} G_k(X_k) \right) = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} \eta_k(G_k)$$

where

$$\eta_k(f) := \frac{\mathbb{E} \left( f(X_k) \prod_{p=0}^{k-1} G_p(X_p) \right)}{\mathbb{E} \left( \prod_{p=0}^{k-1} G_p(X_p) \right)}$$

- Remark  $\eta_k(f) = \frac{\eta_{k-1}(G_{k-1} M_k(f))}{\eta_{k-1}(G_{k-1})}$  and define  $\eta_k = \Phi_k(\eta_{k-1})$

### Notation & Hyp.

- $Q_k(f)(x_{k-1}) := \int G_{k-1}(x_{k-1})M_k(x_{k-1}, dx_k)f(x_k)$
- $M_k(x_{k-1}, dx_k) = H_k(x_{k-1}, x_k)\lambda_k(dx_k)$

### Lemma on the change of measure

- For **any measure  $\eta$**  on  $E_k$ , recursion of  $v_k$  can be rewritten:

$$v_k(x_k) = f_k(x_k) \vee Q_{k+1}(v_{k+1})(x_k) = f_k(x_k) \vee \Phi_{k+1}(\eta) \left( \frac{dQ_{k+1}(x_k, \cdot)}{d\Phi_{k+1}(\eta)} v_{k+1} \right),$$

for any  $x_k \in E_k$ , where

$$\frac{dQ_{k+1}(x_k, \cdot)}{d\Phi_{k+1}(\eta)}(x_{k+1}) = \frac{G_k(x_k)H_{k+1}(x_k, x_{k+1})\eta(G_k)}{\eta(G_k H_{k+1}(\cdot, x_{k+1}))}$$

for any  $(x_k, x_{k+1}) \in E_k \times E_{k+1}$ .

## Algorithm

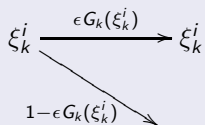
- $\xi_0 = (\xi_0^i)_{1 \leq i \leq N}$  i.i.d. random copies of  $X_0$

- Evolution

$$\xi_k \in E_k^N \xrightarrow[S_{k, \eta_k^N}]{\text{Selection}} \hat{\xi}_k := (\hat{\xi}_k^i)_{1 \leq i \leq N} \in E_k^N \xrightarrow[M_{k+1}]{\text{Mutation}} \xi_{k+1} \in E_{k+1}^N$$

## Selection $S_{k, \eta_k^N}$

- First step



$$\forall \epsilon \text{ s.t. } \epsilon G_k \leq 1$$

2<sup>nd</sup> step

- Second step  $\xi_k^i \sim \widehat{\xi}_k^i$  with proba  $\frac{G_k(\xi_k^i)}{\sum_{j=1}^N G_k(\xi_k^j)}$

## Occupation measure

$$\eta_k^N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{\xi_k^i}$$

## Proposition

For any integer  $p \geq 1$ , we denote by  $p'$  the smallest even integer greater than  $p$ . In this notation, for any  $0 \leq k \leq n$  and any integrable function  $f$  on space  $E_{k+1}$ , we have:

$$\mathbb{E} (\eta_{k+1}^N(f) | \mathcal{F}_k^N) = \Phi_{k+1}(\eta_k^N)(f)$$

and

$$\sqrt{N} \mathbb{E} \left( \left| [\eta_{k+1}^N - \Phi_{k+1}(\eta_k^N)](f) \right|^p | \mathcal{F}_k^N \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq 2 a(p) \left[ \Phi_{k+1}(\eta_k^N)(|f|^{p'}) \right]^{\frac{1}{p'}}$$

## Approximation of the transition operator $Q_{k+1}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \widehat{Q}_{k+1}(f)(x_k) &:= \int_{E_{k+1}^N} \eta_{k+1}^N(dx_{k+1}) \frac{dQ_{k+1}(x_k, \cdot)}{d\Phi_{k+1}(\eta_k^N)}(x_{k+1}) f(x_{k+1}) \\
 &= \int_{E_{k+1}^N} \eta_{k+1}^N(dx_{k+1}) \frac{G_k(x_k) H_{k+1}(x_k, x_{k+1}) \eta_k^N(G_k)}{\eta_k^N(G_k H_{k+1}(\cdot, x_{k+1}))} f(x_{k+1}) \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq N} \frac{G_k(x_k) H_{k+1}(x_k, \xi_{k+1}^i) \sum_{1 \leq j \leq N} G_k(\xi_k^j)}{\sum_{1 \leq l \leq N} G_k(\xi_k^l) H_{k+1}(\xi_k^l, \xi_{k+1}^i)} f(\xi_{k+1}^i)
 \end{aligned}$$

## Remark

- $Q_{k+1}(x_k, dx_{k+1}) := \Phi_{k+1}(\eta_k^N)(dx_{k+1}) \frac{dQ_{k+1}(x_k, \cdot)}{d\Phi_{k+1}(\eta_k^N)}(x_{k+1})$  **No Error!**
- $\widehat{Q}_{k+1}(x_k, dx_{k+1}) := \eta_{k+1}^N(dx_{k+1}) \frac{dQ_{k+1}(x_k, \cdot)}{d\Phi_{k+1}(\eta_k^N)}(x_{k+1})$

## Construction of Model

$$\hat{v}_k(x) = \begin{cases} f_k(x) \vee \hat{Q}_{k+1}(\hat{u}_{k+1})(x) & \forall x \in E_k^N \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Theorem

For any  $0 \leq k \leq n$  and any integer  $p \geq 1$ , we have

$$\sup_{x \in E_k} \|(\hat{v}_k - v_k)(x)\|_{L_p} \leq \sum_{k < l < n} \frac{2 a(p)}{\sqrt{N}} q_{k,l} \left[ Q_{k,l+1} (h_{l+1}^{p'-1} v_{l+1}^{p'})(x) \right]^{\frac{1}{p'}}$$

with a collection of constants  $q_{k,l}$  and functions  $h_k$  defined as

$$q_{k,l} := \left[ \|G_l\| \|h_{k+1}\| \prod_{m=k}^{l-1} \|G_m\| \right]^{\frac{p'-1}{p'}} \quad \text{and} \quad h_k(x_k) := \sup_{x,y \in E_{k-1}} \frac{H_k(x, x_k)}{H_k(y, x_k)}$$



## Prices dynamics

$$dS_t(i) = S_t(i)(rdt + \sigma dz_t^i),$$

with  $r = 10\%$ ,  $\sigma = 20\%$ ,  $T = 1$ ,  $n = 11$ , and  $S_{t_0}(i) = 1$ , for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ .

## Options Model

- 1 Geometric average put option with payoff  $(K - \prod_{i=1}^d S_T(i))_+$ ,
- 2 Arithmetic average put option with payoff  $(K - \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i=1}^d S_T(i))_+$ ,

### Choice of potential functions

$$\begin{cases} G_0(x_1) = (f_1(x_1) \vee \varepsilon)^\alpha, \\ G_k(x_k, x_{k+1}) = \frac{(f_{k+1}(x_{k+1}) \vee \varepsilon)^\alpha}{(f_k(x_k) \vee \varepsilon)^\alpha}, \quad \text{for all } k = 1, \dots, n-1, \end{cases}$$

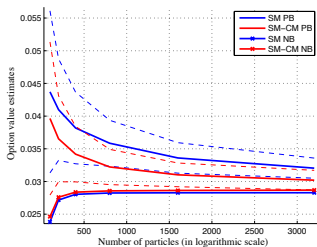
where  $f_k$  are the payoff functions and  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  are parameters fixed in our simulations to the values  $\alpha = 1/5$  and  $\varepsilon = 10^{-7}$ .

## SM vs. SMCM

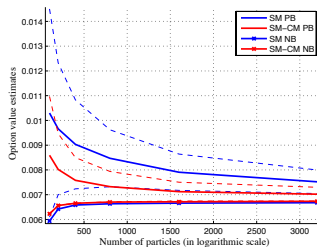
Payoff	$K$	$d = 1$	$d = 2$	$d = 3$	$d = 4$	$d = 5$
Geometric Put	0.95	1 (1%)	1 (3%)	1 (6%)	1 (9%)	1 (10%)
	0.85	5 (2%)	8 (6%)	6 (11%)	4 (14%)	3 (14%)
	0.75	18 (6%)	28 (11%)	18 (17%)	16 (18%)	11 (16%)
Arithmetic Put	0.95	1 (1%)	3 (2%)	3 (7%)	4 (13%)	5 (18%)
	0.85	5 (2%)	13 (6%)	24 (19%)	56 (24%)	100 (20%)
	0.75	18 (6%)	71 (15%)	363 (14%)	866 (16%)	– (–)

**Table:** Variance ratio ( $\frac{\text{Var}(\hat{v}_{SM})}{\text{Var}(\hat{v}_{SMCM})}$ ) and Bias ratio ( $\frac{\mathbb{E}(\hat{v}_{SM}) - \mathbb{E}(\hat{v}_{SMCM})}{\mathbb{E}(\hat{v}_{SM})}$ ) (within parentheses) computed over 1000 runs for  $N = 3200$  mesh points. (For the arithmetic put, when  $d = 5$  and  $K = 0.75$ , the 1000 estimates provided by the standard SM algorithm were all equal to zero, hence the associated variance ratio has not been reported).

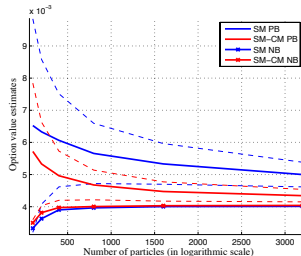
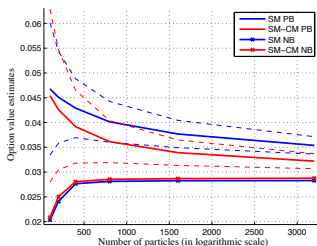
# Numerical results

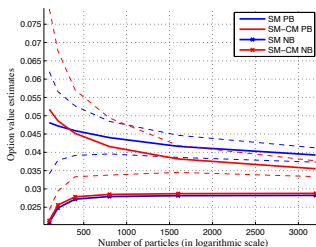


(a) Geometric Put with  $d = 3$

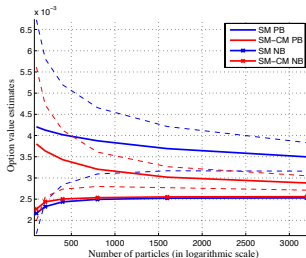


(b) Arithmetic Put with  $d = 3$





(e) Geometric Put with  $d = 5$



(f) Arithmetic Put with  $d = 5$

**Figure:** Positively-biased option values estimates (average estimates with 95% confidence interval computed over 1000 runs) and Negatively-biased option values estimates (average estimates over the 1000 runs each forward estimate being evaluated over 10000 forward Monte Carlo simulations), computed by the *SM* algorithm (in blue line) and the *SMCM* algorithm (in red line), as a function of the number of mesh points for geometric (on the left column) and arithmetic (on the right column) put options with **strike**  $K = 0.95$ .

Thank you!