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Article

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Article

A Note on Simulation Pricing of π -Options

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Abstract: In this work, we adapt a Monte Carlo algorithm introduced by Broadie and Glasserman in 1997 to price a π -option. This method is based on the simulated price tree that comes from discretization and replication of possible trajectories of the underlying asset's price. As a result, this algorithm produces the lower and the upper bounds that converge to the true price with the increasing depth of the tree. Under specific parametrization, this π -option is related to relative maximum drawdown and can be used in the real market environment to protect a portfolio against volatile and unexpected price drops. We also provide some numerical analysis.

Keywords: π -option; American-type option; optimal stopping; Monte Carlo simulation

MSC: 49L20; 60G40

JEL Classification: G13; C61

1. Introduction

In this paper, we analyze π -options introduced by Guo and Zervos (2010) that depends on so-called relative drawdown and can be used in hedging against volatile and unexpected price drops or by speculators betting on falling prices. These options are the contracts with a payoff function:

$$g(S_T) = (M_T^a S_T^b - K)^+ \quad (1)$$

in case of the call option and

$$g(S_T) = (K - M_T^a S_T^b)^+ \quad (2)$$

in the case of put option, where

$$S_t = S_0 \exp \left(\left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) t + \sigma B_t \right) \quad (3)$$

is an asset price in the Black-Scholes model under martingale measure, i.e., r is a risk-free interest rate, σ is an asset's volatility and B_t is a Brownian motion. Moreover,

$$M_t = \sup_{w \leq t} S_w$$

is a running maximum of the asset price and T is its maturity. Finally, a and b are some chosen parameters.

A few very well-known options are particular cases of a π -option. In particular, taking $a = 0$ and $b = 1$ produces an American option and by choosing $a = 1$ and $b = 0$ we derive a lookback option.

Another interesting case, related to the concept of drawdown (see Figure 1), is when $-a = b = 1$ and $K = 1$. Then the pay-out function $(K - M_T^a S_T^b)^+ = 1 - \frac{S_T^b}{M_T^a} = \frac{M_T - S_T}{M_T} = D_T^R$ equals the relative drawdown D_t^R , defined as a quotient of the difference between maximum price and the present value of the asset and the past maximum price. In other words, D_t^R corresponds to the percentage drop in price from its maximum. We take a closer look at this specific parametrization of the π -option in the later sections, starting from Section 3.2.

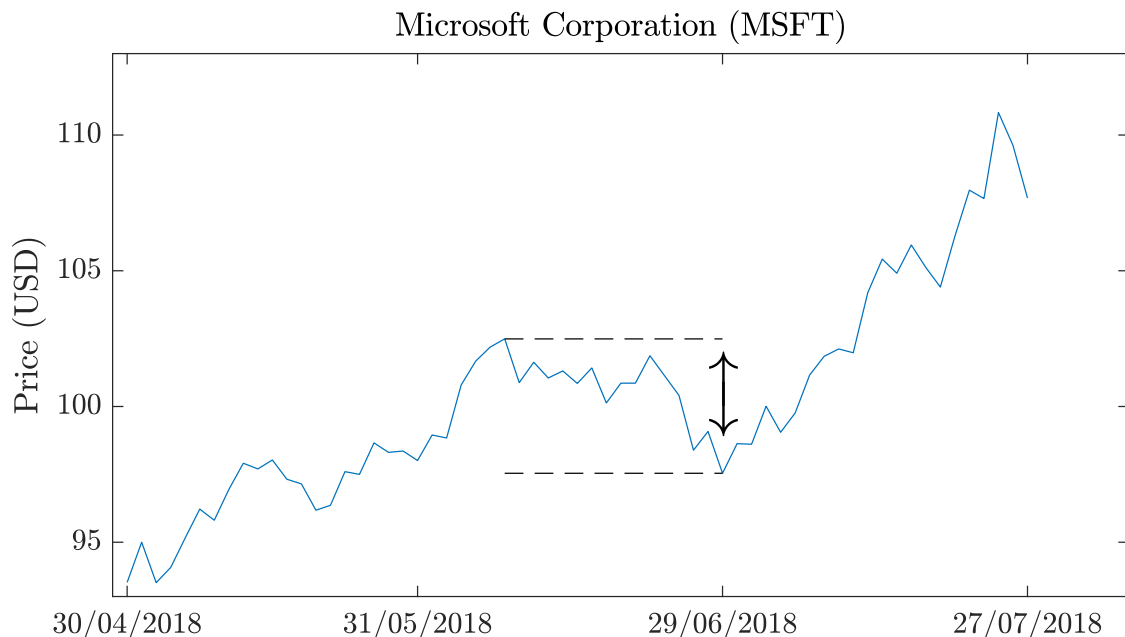


Figure 1. A sample drawdown for the Microsoft Corporation stock is marked with black arrows and dashed lines. Data is taken from www.finance.yahoo.com.

Monte Carlo simulations are widely used in pricing in financial markets they have proved to be valuable and flexible computational tools to calculate the value of various options as witnessed by the contributions of Barraquand and Martineau (1995); Boyle (1977); Boyle et al. (1997); Broadie et al. (1997); Calfisch (1998); Clément et al. (2002); Dyer and Jacob (1991); Geske and Shastri (1985); Glasserman (2004); Jäckel (2002); Joy et al. (1996); Longstaff and Schwartz (2001); Niederreiter (1992); Raymar and Zwecher (1997); Rogers (2002); Tilley (1993); Tsitsiklis and van Roy (1999, 2001); Resenburt and Torrie (1993); Villani (2010). One of the first attempts of Monte Carlo simulation for American options is by Tsitsiklis and van Roy (1999) where the backward induction algorithm was introduced. However, as appears later, Tilley method suffers from exponentially increasing computational cost as the number of dimensions (assets) increases. Broadie et al. (1997) to overcome this problem offered a non-recombining binomial simulation approach instead combined with some pruning technique to reduce computation burden and other variance reduction techniques to increase precision. In the same year Broadie and Glasserman (1997) construct computationally cheap lower and upper bounds to the American option price. This method is used in this paper. An alternative way to formulate the American option pricing problem is in terms of optimal stopping times. This is done in Carriere (1996), where it was proved that finding the price of American option can be based on a backwards induction and calculating several conditional expectations. This observation gives another breakthrough in pricing early exercise derivatives by Monte Carlo done by Longstaff and Schwartz (2001). They propose least square Monte Carlo (LSM) method which has proved to be versatile and easy to implement. The idea is to estimate the conditional expectation of the payoff from continuing to keep the option alive at each possible exercise point from a cross-sectional least squares regression using the information in the simulated paths. To do so we have to then solve some minimization problem. Therefore, this method is still computationally expensive.

Some improvements of this method have been also proposed; see also [Stentoft \(2004a, 2004b\)](#) who gave theoretical foundation of LSM and properties of its estimator.

There are other, various pricing methods in the case of American-type options; we refer [Zhao \(2018\)](#) for review. We must note though that not all of them are good for simulation of prices of general π -options as it is a path-dependent product. In particular, in pricing π -options one cannot use finite difference method introduced by [Brennan and Schwartz \(1978\)](#); [Schwartz \(1977\)](#) which uses a linear combination of the values of a function at three points to approximate a linear combination of the values of derivatives of the same function at another point. Similarly, the analytic method of lines of [Carr and Faguet \(1994\)](#) is not available for pricing general π -options. One can use though a binomial tree algorithm (or trinomial model) though which goes backwards in time by first discounting the price along each path and computing the continuation value. Then this algorithm compares the former with the latter values and decide for each path whether or not to exercise; see [Broadie and Detemple \(1996\)](#) for details and references therein. It is a common belief that Monte Carlo method is more efficient than binomial tree algorithm in case of path-dependent financial instruments. It has another known advantages as handling time-varying variants, asymmetry, abnormal distribution and extreme conditions.

In this paper, we adapt a Monte Carlo algorithm proposed in 1997 by [Broadie and Glasserman \(1997\)](#) to price π -options. This numerical method replicates possible trajectories of the underlying asset's price by a simulated price tree. Then, the values of two estimators, based on the price tree, are obtained. They create an upper and a lower bound for the true price of the option and, under some additional conditions, converge to that price. The first estimator compares the early exercise payoff of the contract to its expected continuation value (based on the successor nodes) and decides if it is optimal to hold or to exercise the option. This estimation technique is one of the most popular ones used for pricing American-type derivatives. However, as shown by [Broadie and Glasserman \(1997\)](#), it overestimates the true price of the option. The second estimator also compares the expected continuation value and early exercise payoff, but in a slightly different way, which results in underestimation of the true price. Both Broadie–Glasserman Algorithms (BGAs) are explained and described precisely in Section 2. The price tree that we need to generate is parameterized by the number of nodes and by the number of branches in each node. Naturally, the bigger the numbers of nodes and branches, the more accurate price estimates we get. The obvious drawback of taking a bigger price tree is that the computation time increases significantly with the size of the tree. However, in this paper we show that one can take a relatively small price tree and still the results are satisfactory.

The Monte Carlo simulation presented in this paper can be used in corporate finance and especially in portfolio management and personal finance planning. Having American-type options in the portfolio, the analyst might use the Monte Carlo simulation to determine its expected value even though the allocated assets and options have varying degrees of risk, various correlations and many parameters. In fact determining a return profile is a key ingredient of building efficient portfolio. As we show in this paper portfolio with π -options out-performs typical portfolio with American put options in hedging investment portfolio losses since it allows investors to lock in profits whenever stock prices reaches its new maximum.

In this paper, we use BGA to price the π -option on relative drawdown for the Microsoft Corporation's (MSFT) stock and for the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures. Input parameters for the algorithm are based on real market data. Moreover, we provide an exemplary situation in which we explain the possible application of the π -option on relative drawdown to the protection against volatile price movements. We also compare this type of option to an American put and outline the difference between these two contracts.

This paper is organized as follows. In the next section we present the Broadie–Glasserman Algorithm. In Section 3 we use this algorithm to numerically study π -options for the Microsoft Corporation's stock and WTI futures. Finally, in the last section, we state our conclusions and recommendations for further research in this new and interesting topic.

2. Monte Carlo Algorithm

Formulas identifying the general price of π -option are known in some special cases and they are given in terms of so-called scale functions and hence in terms of the solution of some second order ordinary differential equations; see for example, (Christensen 2013, chp. 5) and Egami and Oryu (2017) for details and further references. Still, the formulas are complex, and a Monte Carlo method of pricing presented in this paper is very efficient and accurate alternative method. In this section we present a detailed description of the used algorithm. In particular, we give formulas for two estimators, one biased low and one biased high, that under certain conditions converge to the theoretical price of the option.

2.1. Preliminary Notations

We adapt the Monte Carlo method introduced by Broadie and Glasserman (1997) for pricing American options. In this algorithm, values of two estimators are calculated on the so-called price tree that represents the underlying’s behavior over time. This tree is parametrized by the number of nodes n and the number of branches in each node—denoted by l . For example, the tree with parameters $n = 2, l = 3$ is depicted in Figure 2.

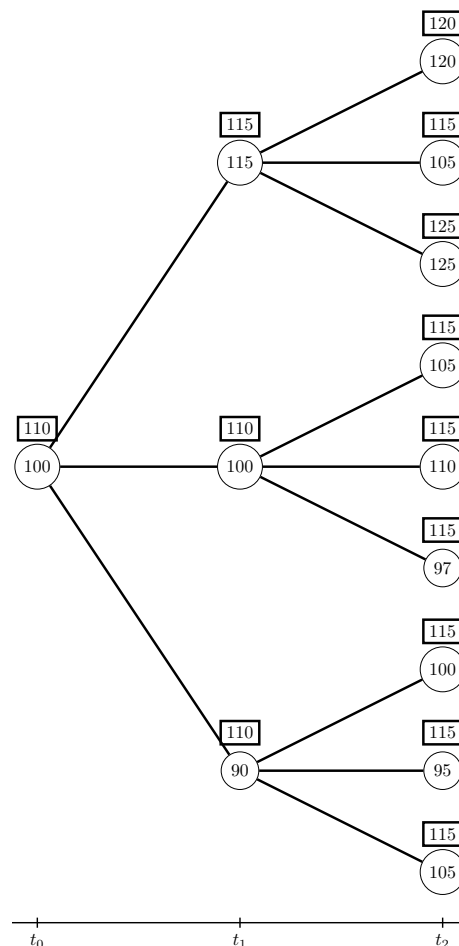


Figure 2. An example of the price tree. Underlying’s price is marked with circles and corresponding maximums are marked with rectangles.

To apply the numerical algorithm, we must discretize the price process given in (3), by considering the time sequence $t_0 = 0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = T$ with $t_i = i\frac{T}{n}$ for $i = 0, \dots, n$. By

$$S_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i}$$

we denote the asset's price at the time $t_i = i\frac{T}{n}$. The upper index l_1, \dots, l_i , associated with t_i , describes the branch selection (see Figure 3) in each of the tree nodes and allows us to uniquely determine the path of the underlying's price process up to time t_i . Similarly, we define

$$M_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i} = \max_{k \leq i} S_{t_k}^{l_1, \dots, l_k}$$

We introduce the state variable $\tilde{S}_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i} = (S_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i}, M_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i})$ as well.

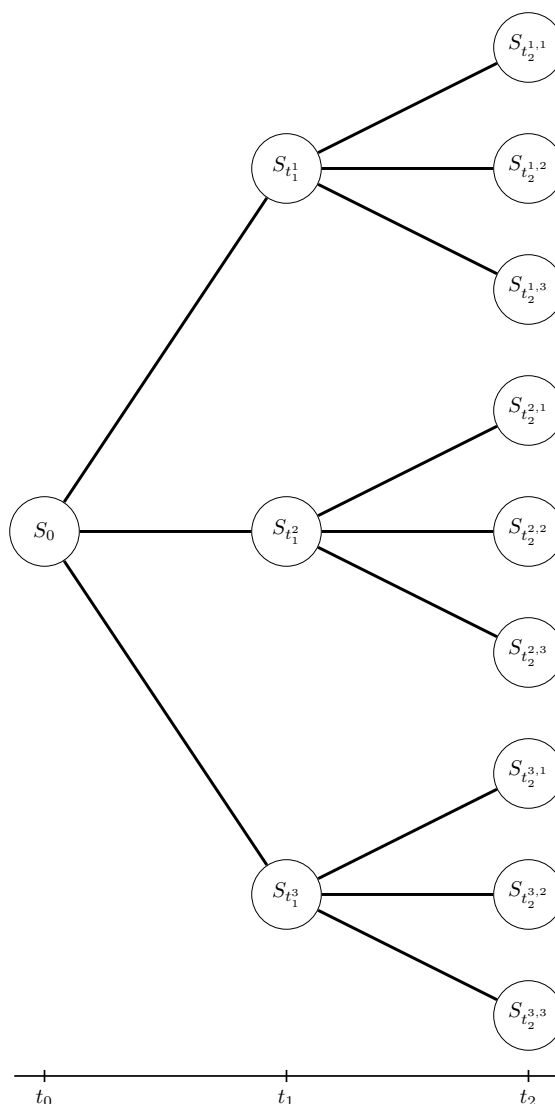


Figure 3. Branch selecting.

We relate with it the payoff of an immediate exercise (for π -put) at time t_i in the state $\tilde{S}_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i}$ given by

$$h_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i}) = (K - S_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i} M_{t_i}^{l_1, \dots, l_i})^+$$

and the expected value of holding the option from t_i to t_{i+1} , given asset's value $\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}$ at time t_i defined via

$$g_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}) = \mathbb{E} \left[e^{-\frac{r}{n}} f_{t_{i+1}}(\tilde{S}_{t_{i+1}^{l_1, \dots, l_{i+1}}}) \middle| \tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}} \right],$$

where

$$f_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}) = \max\{h_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}), g_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}})\}$$

is the option value at time t_i in state $\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}$. Please note that

$$f_{t_n}(\tilde{S}_{t_n^{l_1, \dots, l_n}}) = f_T(\tilde{S}_{T^{l_1, \dots, l_n}}) = h_T(\tilde{S}_{T^{l_1, \dots, l_n}}) = (K - S_{T^{l_1, \dots, l_n}}^a M_{T^{l_1, \dots, l_n}}^b)^+.$$

2.2. Estimators

We will now give the formulas for the estimators Θ and Φ which overestimate and underestimate the true price of the option, respectively. Then, we will state the main theorem showing that both estimators are asymptotically unbiased and that they converge to the theoretical price of the π -option. We also provide a detailed explanation of the estimation procedure based on the exemplary price tree. In all calculations we consider a π -put option with parameters $a = -1, b = 1$ and $K = 1$. Additionally, we assume that the risk-free rate used for discounting the payoffs equals 5%.

2.2.1. The Θ Estimator

The formula for the estimator is recursive and given by:

$$\Theta_{t_i} = \max \left\{ h_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}), e^{-\frac{r}{n}} \frac{1}{l} \sum_{j=1}^l \Theta_{t_{i+1}^{l_1, \dots, l_{i,j}}} \right\}, \quad i = 0, \dots, n - 1.$$

At the option's maturity, T , the value of the estimator is given by

$$\Theta_T = f_T(\tilde{S}_T).$$

The Θ estimator, at each node of the price tree, chooses the maximum of the payoff of the option's early exercise at time $t_i, h_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}})$, and the expected continuation value, i.e., the discounted average payoff of successor nodes. Figure 4 shows how the value of Θ estimator is obtained given the certain realization of a price tree. All calculations are also shown below:

- **a** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Holding value: } \frac{0 + \frac{10}{110} + 0}{3} e^{-0.05} \approx \underline{0.028} \\ \text{Early exercise: } 0 \end{array} \right.$
- **b** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Holding value: } \frac{\frac{5}{110} + 0 + \frac{13}{110}}{3} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.052 \\ \text{Early exercise: } \frac{10}{110} \approx \underline{0.091} \end{array} \right.$
- **c** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Holding value: } \frac{\frac{10}{110} + \frac{15}{110} + \frac{5}{110}}{3} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.086 \\ \text{Early exercise: } \frac{20}{110} \approx \underline{0.182} \end{array} \right.$
- **d** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Holding value: } \frac{0.028 + 0.091 + 0.182}{3} e^{-0.05} \approx \underline{0.095} \\ \text{Early exercise: } \frac{10}{110} \approx 0.091 \end{array} \right.$

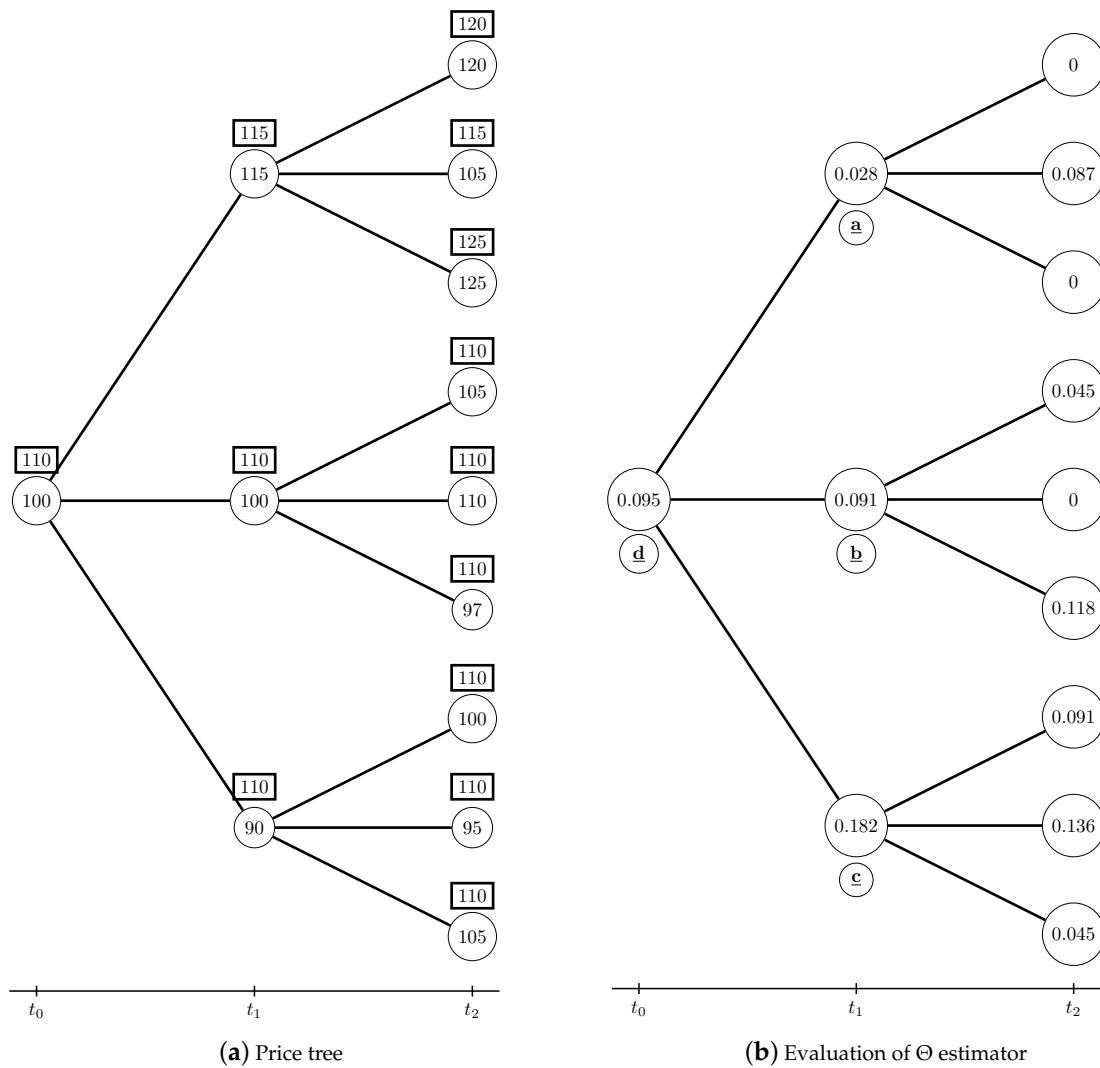


Figure 4. Explanation of Θ estimator.

2.2.2. The Φ Estimator

The Φ estimator is also defined recursively. Before we give the formula we need to introduce an auxiliary function ζ by

$$\zeta_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}^j = \begin{cases} h_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}), & \text{if } h_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}) \geq e^{-\frac{r}{n}} \frac{1}{l-1} \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \neq j}}^l \Phi_{t_{i+1}^{l_1, \dots, l_i, k}} \\ e^{-\frac{r}{n}} \Phi_{t_{i+1}^{l_1, \dots, l_i, j}}, & \text{if } h_{t_i}(\tilde{S}_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}) < e^{-\frac{r}{n}} \frac{1}{l-1} \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \neq j}}^l \Phi_{t_{i+1}^{l_1, \dots, l_i, k}} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

for $j = 1, \dots, l$. Now we can define the Φ estimator in the following way:

$$\begin{cases} \Phi_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}} = \frac{1}{l} \sum_{j=1}^l \zeta_{t_i^{l_1, \dots, l_i}}^j \\ \Phi_T = f_T(\tilde{S}_T). \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

The formula for this estimator is more complicated. Therefore, we provide a detailed explanation of the mechanism behind the algorithm in the following part of this section. In our explanation we refer

to Figure 5. Please note that in the following example, underlined numbers correspond to the final values associated with the specific branches of the tree.

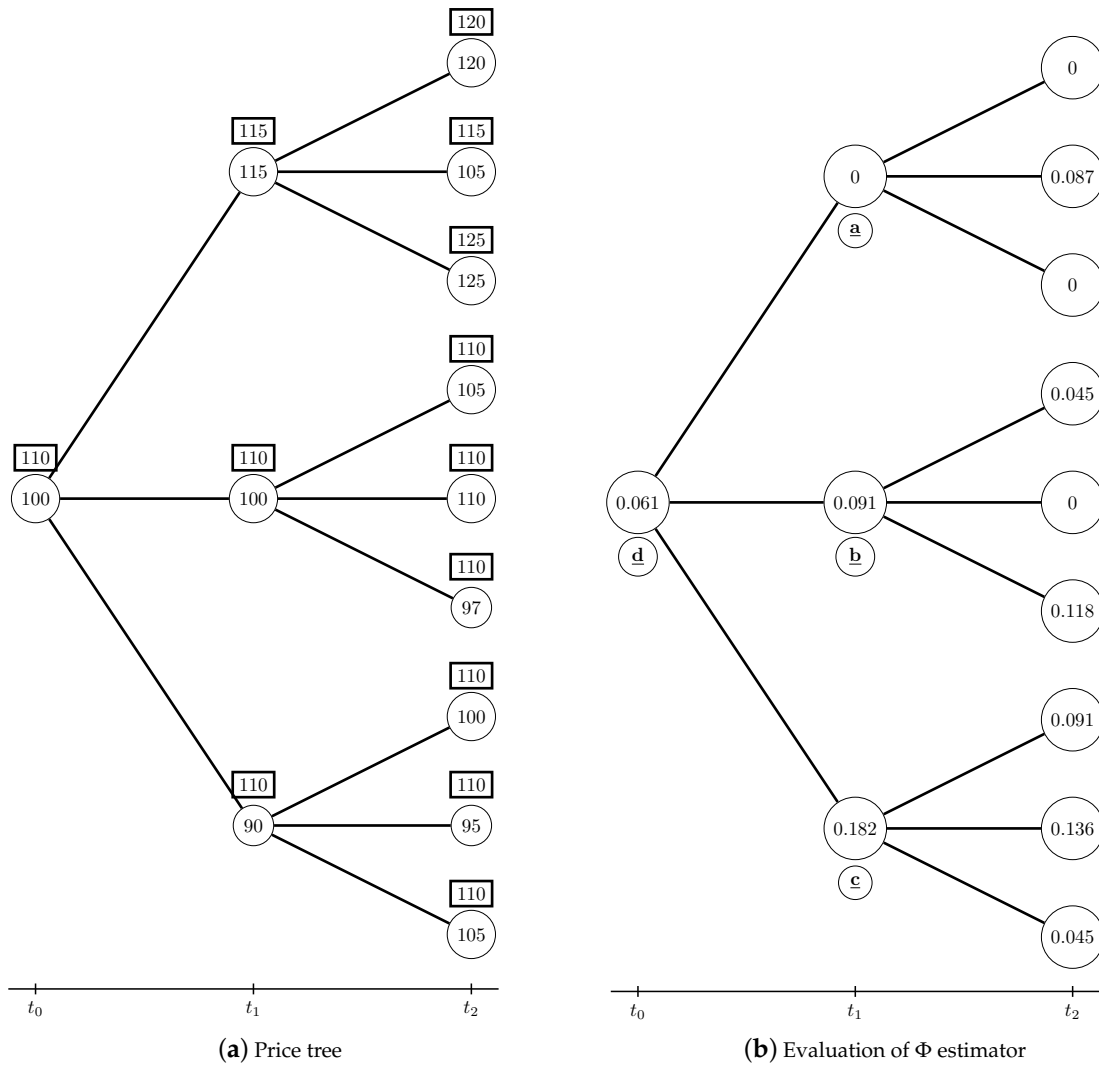


Figure 5. Explanation of Φ estimator.

- (a) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Early exercise: } 0 \\ \text{Holding value for branch } j = 1: \frac{0.087+0}{2}e^{-0.05} \approx 0.041 > 0 \rightarrow \underline{0} \\ \text{Holding value for branch } j = 2: \frac{0+0}{2}e^{-0.05} = 0 \leq 0 = h_i(\tilde{S}_{t_i}) \rightarrow \underline{0} \\ \text{Holding value for branch } j = 3: \frac{0+0.087}{2}e^{-0.05} \approx 0.041 > 0 \rightarrow \underline{0} \end{array} \right.$

For the branch $j = 1$ we look at the two remaining ones to determine whether early exercising (payoff = 0) or holding the option (payoff = $\frac{0.087+0}{2}e^{-0.05}$) is more profitable. Obviously, early exercise is not optimal, so we hold the option and thus, as the value of $\zeta_{t_1}^1$ we take the payoff of the branch $j = 1$ which is 0.

For the branch $j = 2$ both early exercise value and holding value from two other branches equals 0. Thus, from (4) the value of $\zeta_{t_1}^2$ equals the payoff of early exercise, which is 0.

For the third branch, again holding the option is a more profitable decision (based on the payoffs of the two remaining branches). Thus, $\zeta_{t_1}^3$ takes the value corresponding to the branch $j = 3$ and it is 0.

Now the value of the estimator for node **a** is the sum of $\zeta_{t_1}^j$ across all branches:

$$\Phi_{t_1} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{j=1}^3 \zeta_{t_1}^j = 0.$$

Similarly, we have the following values of our estimator.

- **b**
 - Early exercise: $\frac{10}{110} \approx \underline{0.091}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 1$: $\frac{0+0.118}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.056 < 0.091 \rightarrow \underline{0.091}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 2$: $\frac{0.045+0.118}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.078 < 0.091 \rightarrow \underline{0.091}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 3$: $\frac{0.045+0}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.021 < 0.091 \rightarrow \underline{0.091}$

In this case, the value of the estimator for the **b** node equals 0.091.

- **c**
 - Early exercise: $\frac{20}{110} \approx \underline{0.182}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 1$: $\frac{0.045+0.136}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.086 < 0.182 \rightarrow \underline{0.182}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 2$: $\frac{0.091+0.045}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.065 < 0.182 \rightarrow \underline{0.182}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 3$: $\frac{0.091+0.136}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.108 < 0.182 \rightarrow \underline{0.182}$

For node **c** the value of the estimator is 0.182.

- **d**
 - Early exercise: $\frac{10}{110} \approx \underline{0.091}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 1$: $\frac{0.091+0.182}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.13 > 0.091 \rightarrow \underline{0}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 2$: $\frac{0.0+0.182}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.087 < 0.091 \rightarrow \underline{0.091}$
 - Holding value for branch $j = 3$: $\frac{0+0.091}{2} e^{-0.05} \approx 0.043 < 0.091 \rightarrow \underline{0.091}$

The value of the estimator for this node equals $\frac{0+0.091+0.091}{3} = 0.061$. This is also the (under)estimated value of the option.

Following arguments of [Broadie and Glasserman \(1997\)](#), one can easily prove the following crucial fact.

Theorem 1. Both Θ and Φ are consistent and asymptotically unbiased estimators of the option value. They both converge to the true price of the option as the number of price tree branches, l , increases to infinity. For a finite l :

- The bias of the Θ estimator is always positive, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{E}[\Theta_0(l)] \geq f_0(\tilde{S}_0).$$

- The bias of the Φ estimator is always negative, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{E}[\Phi_0(l)] \leq f_0(\tilde{S}_0).$$

On every realization of the price tree, the low estimator Φ is always less than or equal to the high estimator Θ , i.e.,

$$\mathbb{P}(\Phi_{t_1^{i_1}, \dots, i_l} \leq \Theta_{t_1^{i_1}, \dots, i_l}) = 1.$$

3. Numerical Analysis

In this section, we will present results of the numerical analysis. First, we use the algorithm described above to price the American option with arbitrary parameters. This will allow us to confirm that our Monte Carlo algorithm produces precise estimates of options' prices. We focus on options related to Microsoft Corporation stock. Next, we price π -options for several combinations of parameters. We also consider π -option on drawdown using the real market data and we compare

it with an American put, which is one of the most popular tool for protecting our portfolio against price drops.

3.1. American Options

First of all, we decided to check the robustness of the Monte Carlo pricing algorithm. We estimate prices of the American call options with different strike prices. In the example, the underlying asset price S_0 equals 100, $\sigma = 20\%$, risk-free rate $r = 5\%$ and the maturity is 30 days. In Table 1 we present the results of the estimation. Please note that when using the Broadie–Glasserman algorithm, we obtain the upper and the lower boundaries of the option price. To obtain the American option price estimate we average both values.

Table 1. Comparison of the estimated and ‘real’ American option prices with different strikes. Absolute percentage errors are also included.

Strike	Low Est.	High Est.	Estimated Price	Real Price	Abs. Perc. Err.
\$80	\$20.16	\$20.55	\$20.36	\$20.33	0.14%
\$85	\$15.10	\$15.54	\$15.32	\$15.35	0.19%
\$90	\$10.28	\$10.62	\$10.45	\$10.43	0.19%
\$95	\$5.84	\$6.02	\$5.93	\$5.89	0.68%
\$100	\$2.54	\$2.60	\$2.57	\$2.51	2.36%
\$105	\$0.76	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.73	5.33%
\$110	\$0.16	\$0.16	\$0.16	\$0.14	13.35%

3.2. π -Options

We will analyze put π -option for various combinations of parameters a and b . We assume that parameter a is varying from -1.1 to -0.9 and b parameter between 0.9 and 1.1 . The ranges of these parameters have been chosen arbitrarily for illustrative purposes. All input parameters for options pricing, S_0 , M_0 , volatility and interest rate are taken from the real market data for the Microsoft Corporation stock (MSFT) and are given in Table 2. The numerical results are presented in Figure 6.

Table 2. Input parameters for pricing π -put option on the Microsoft Corporation stock.

Parameter	Value
S_0	106.08
M_0	110.83
σ	17.03%
r	1.5%
l	65
K	1

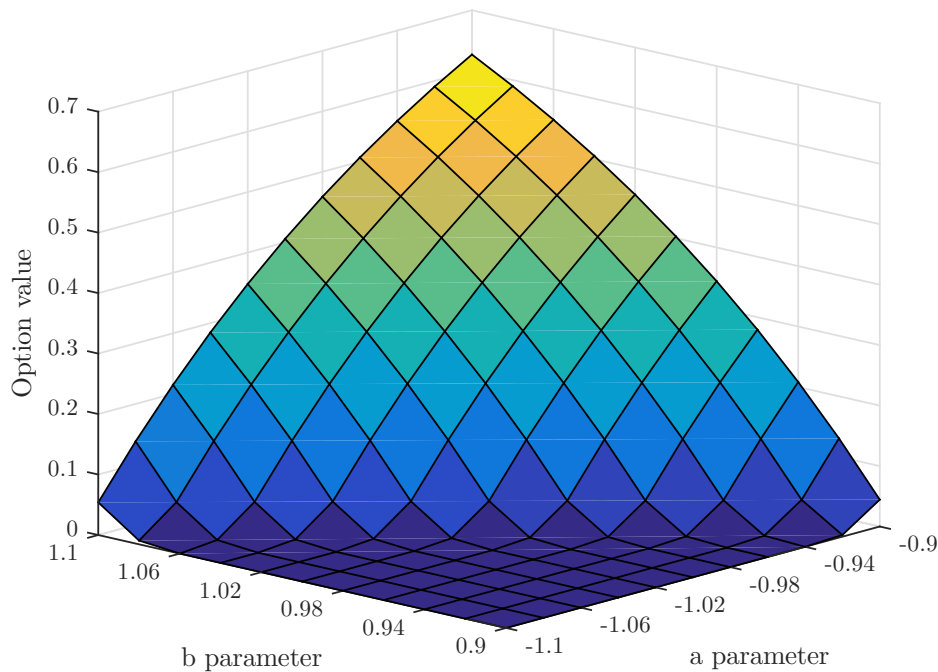


Figure 6. π -option price estimations for varying a and b —Microsoft Corporation stock.

3.3. π -Options on Relative Drawdown

Recall that for $a = -1$ and $b = 1$ the payoff of the π -option equals

$$\left(K - \frac{S_t}{M_t}\right)^+, \tag{6}$$

where S_t/M_t is the current value of the relative drawdown of the underlying asset. We believe that such contracts could be very efficiently used for hedging and managing portfolio risk against the volatile drops in underlying’s price (see Section 3.4). One can adjust the payoff function (6) by the appropriate choice of the strike K . The choice is arbitrary and solely dependent on the risk management goals of the option’s buyer. It allows the setting of the minimal size of drawdown we would like to protect against and let the buyer adjust and full control of the level of our exposure at risk associated with unexpected price drops. For example by setting $K = \frac{9}{10}$, the payoff of our option becomes greater than zero only if the drop in the price of the underlying from its maximum exceeds 10%. Of course, the bigger the value of K , the more expensive the option is.

We take a closer look at the impact of M_t and K on the price of this special case of π -option. Here, we assume that the maximum price M_t is between 100 and 120 and K ranges between 0.8 and 1. This time, the remaining parameters, namely S_0 , r and σ , have been arbitrarily chosen for illustrative purposes and are given in Table 3. The results are shown in Figure 7.

Table 3. Input parameters for pricing π -option on relative drawdown.

Parameter	Value
S_0	100
σ	20%
r	5%
l	100

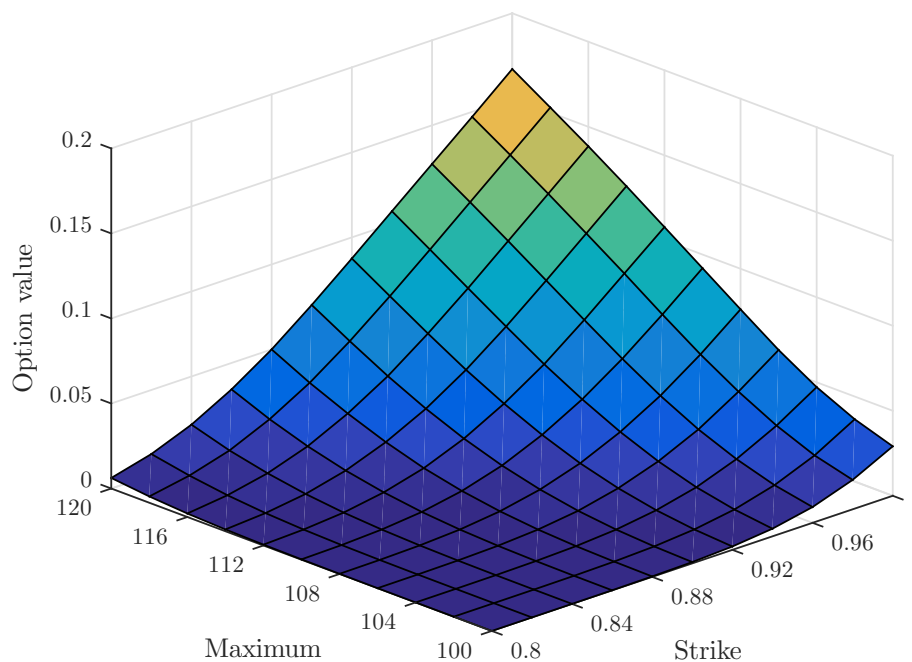


Figure 7. π -option on relative drawdown price estimations for varying K and M_0 parameters.

3.4. π -Options on Relative Drawdown - Application

We now focus on the potential application of π -options and compare the prices of American put and π -option on relative drawdown. We compare these particular instruments due to the fact that their values increase with the decrease of the underlying asset's price. As an exemplary environment for the options comparison we choose two time series containing daily closing prices of the Microsoft Corporation's stock (see Figure 8) as well as daily closing prices of the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures (see Figure 9). Both datasets are taken from www.finance.yahoo.com and span approximately one year, from 6 November 2017 to 9 November 2018. We use the first 9 months (from 6 November 2017 to 3 August 2018) to calibrate the historical volatility for both assets, which is one of the input parameters in our pricing algorithm.

Then, using the historical volatility, we compute prices of π and American options (using assets' prices from 3 August 2018), both expiring 3 months after the end of calibration period. Please note that the parameters for the π -option on a relative drawdown are $a = -1$, $b = 1$ and $K = 1$. Input parameters for calculation and estimated options prices for both assets are given in Tables 4 and 5.

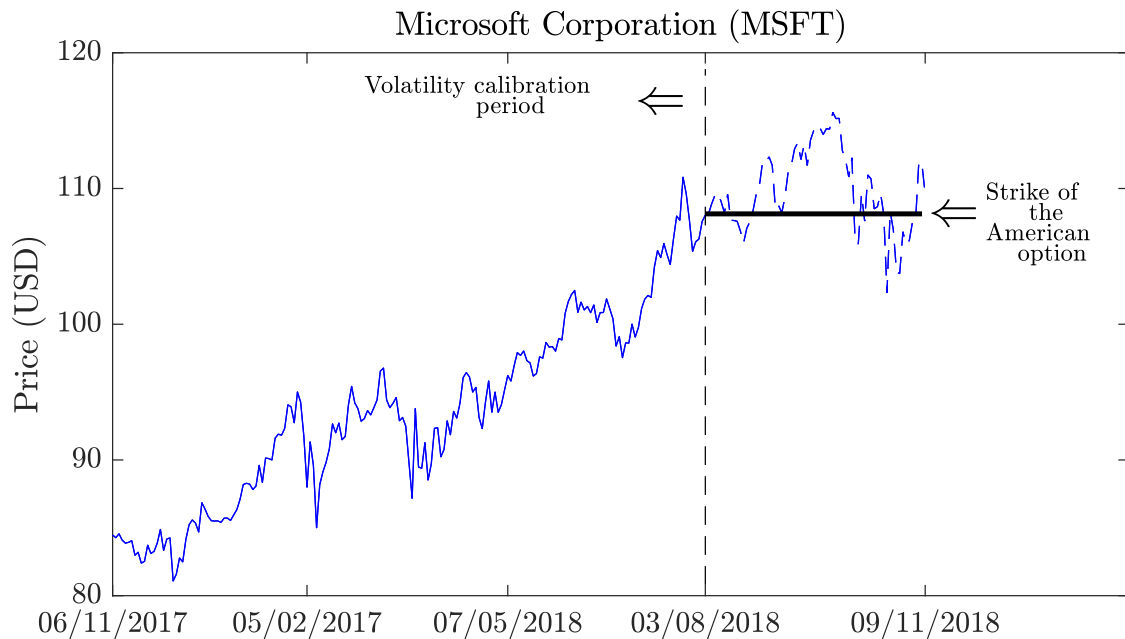


Figure 8. Daily closing prices of the Microsoft Corporation's stock. Data spans from 6.11.2017 to 9.11.2018. Vertical dashed line indicates the end of volatility calibration period. Option prices are calculated based on the volatility and the stock's price on 3.08.2018.

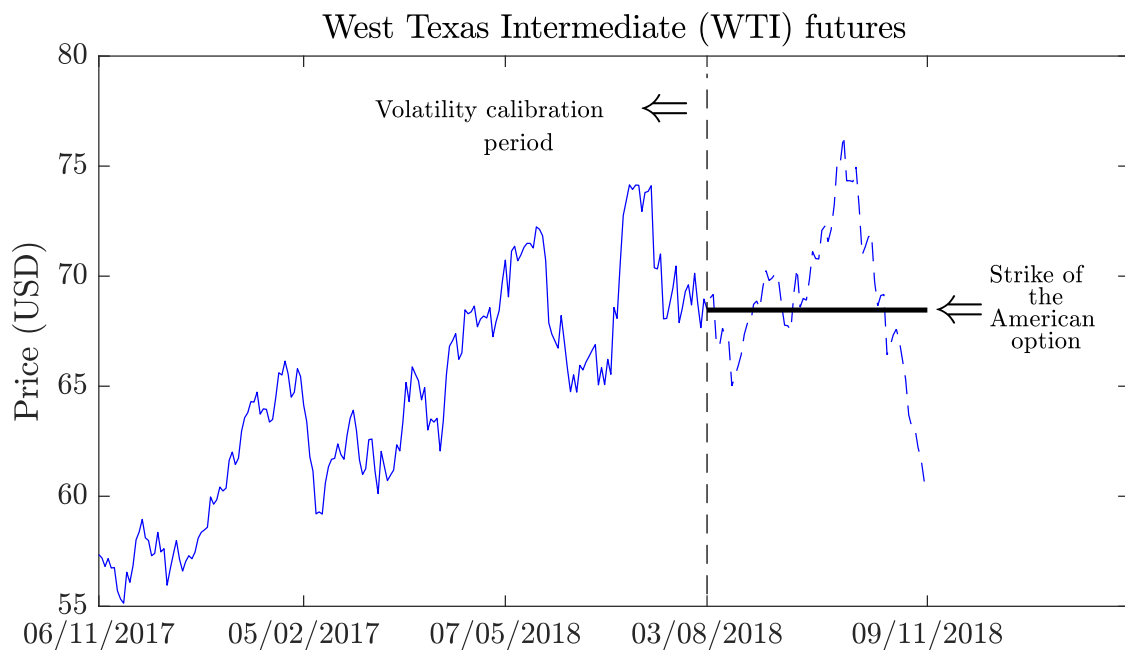


Figure 9. Daily closing prices of the West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures contracts. Data spans from 6.11.2017 to 9.11.2018. Vertical dashed line indicates the end of volatility calibration period. Option prices are calculated based on the volatility and the asset's price on 3.08.2018.

Since the payoff of π -option on relative drawdown with $K = 1$ is always less than 1, to compensate against the drop in underlying's price, we need a certain number of these contracts per each unit of stock in our portfolio. This number must be equal to M_0 . Please note that in Tables 4 and 5, the real price of the single π -option on relative drawdown contract should be 0.0735 for MSFT and 0.0949 for WTI. However, in order to be able to compare the results to the American put values, we initially need to make the instruments pay the same amount in case of a price drop, therefore we multiply the price of single π -option on drawdown by M_0 (110 and 74 for MSFT and WTI respectively). That is why in

Tables 4 and 5 the price of π -option equals $0.0735 \cdot 110 = 8.09$ for the stock and $0.094 \cdot 74 = 6.95$ for the oil futures contract.

Table 4. Input parameters for computation and estimated options' prices for the MSFT dataset.

MSFT			
American Put		π on Drawdown	
Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value
K	108.13	M_0	110.83
S_0			108.13
σ			24.06%
r			2.25%
l			100
T			3
Option price			
	\$5.47		\$8.09

Table 5. Input parameters for computation and estimated options' prices for the WTI dataset.

WTI			
American Put		π on Drawdown	
Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value
K	68.49	M_0	74.15
S_0			68.49
σ			23.97%
r			2.25%
l			100
T			3
Option price			
	\$3.07		\$6.95

It turns out that π -option is more expensive than vanilla put in case of both assets, which is not a surprise as it initially pays the amount equivalent to the present maximum drawdown. However, since the difference in price between these instruments is rather significant, a question emerges whether there exists a situation in which purchasing π -option on relative drawdown is more profitable than buying a simple vanilla put. To answer this question, let us focus on the dashed part of the Microsoft Corporation and WTI futures data from the beginning of this section. In Figures 10 and 11 we show the amount each instrument would pay (on each day) throughout the whole 3-month period until options' maturity.

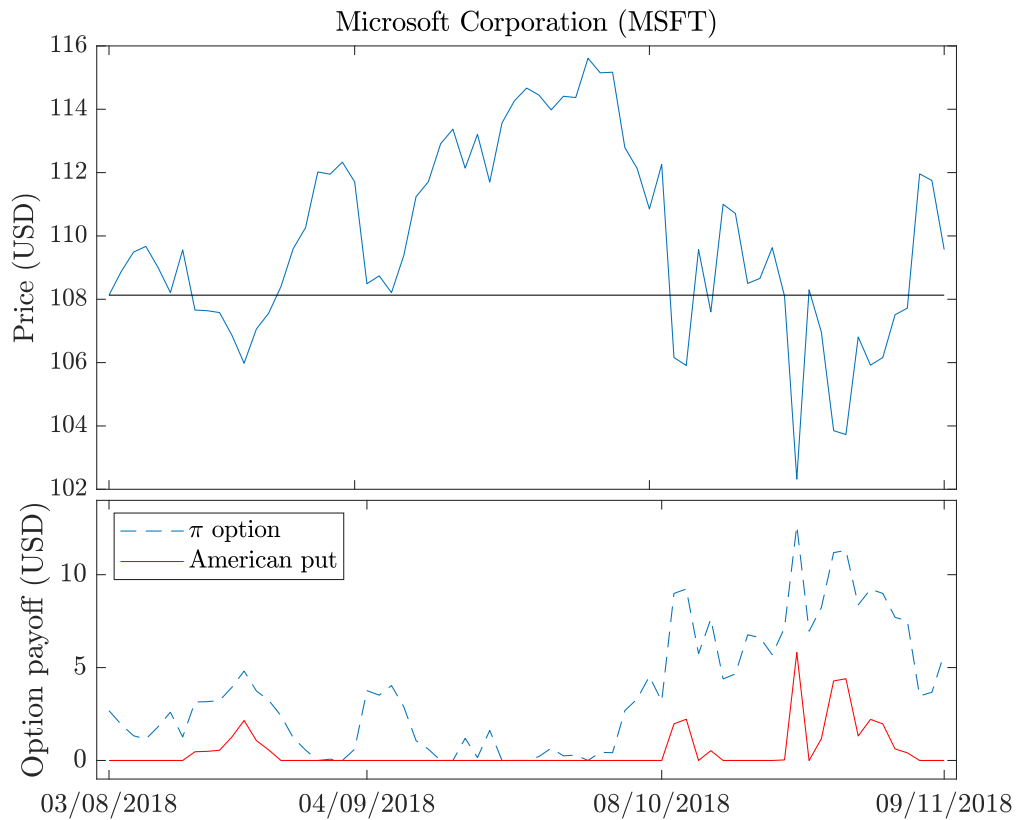


Figure 10. Microsoft Corporation stock closing prices (**top**) and the corresponding payoffs of π -option on relative drawdown and American put (**bottom**) with the parameters from Table 4.

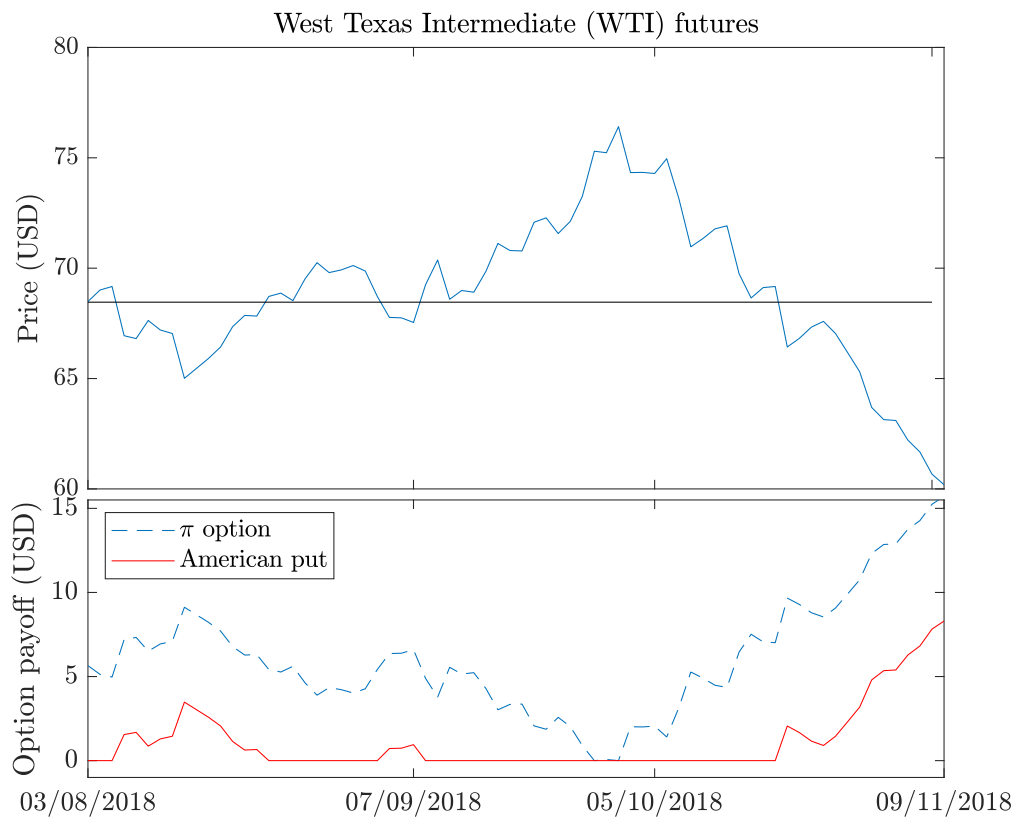


Figure 11. WTI crude oil futures contract closing prices (**top**) and the corresponding payoffs of π -option on relative drawdown and American put (**bottom**) with the parameters from Table 5.

To display the difference more clearly, we construct two portfolios V_{American} and V_{π} , both consisting of an underlying asset (a single Microsoft Corporation stock or a barrel of the WTI crude oil) and an option (American put and π -option on relative drawdown, respectively). We observe them at the end of the volatility calibration period. Assets' prices and options prices are taken from Tables 4 and 5. In Tables 6 and 7 we show the initial net values of both V_{American} and V_{π} portfolios.

Table 6. Portfolios and their initial net values for the MSFT dataset.

Portfolio	V_{American}	V_{π}
Initial asset value	108.13	108.13
Option premium	−\$5.47	−\$8.09
Option initial payoff	\$0	\$2.68
Portfolio's net value	\$102.66	\$102.72

Table 7. Portfolios and their initial net values for the WTI dataset.

Portfolio	V_{American}	V_{π}
Initial asset value	68.49	68.49
Option premium	−\$3.07	−\$6.95
Option initial payoff	\$0	\$5.66
Portfolio's net value	\$65.42	\$67.20

Then we analyze the behavior of the constructed portfolios, by calculating the net value of each portfolio for each day until options' maturity; see Figures 12 and 13.

Based in Figures 12 and 13 we can observe that the maximum value of portfolio V_{American} is greater than the one for V_{π} . Thus, when focusing purely at the possible maximum profit over some period of time, then the portfolio containing American option performs better. However, we can notice that V_{American} 's value over time is much more volatile compared to V_{π} and it directly follows the behavior of underlying asset (it increases when asset's price rises and decreases in the opposite situation). The value V_{π} of π -option portfolio is most of the time non-decreasing. Moreover, V_{π} increases its value every time the asset's price reaches a new maximum and essentially does not decrease in case of any price drop. In other words, combining the underlying asset and π -option on drawdown allow us to lock in our profit whenever the price reaches its new maximum.

This brings us to the conclusion that the purpose of using π -option on relative drawdown and an American put is completely different. Vanilla American option protects us from asset price drops and ensures us that the current worth of our portfolio will not be less than its initial value. Unfortunately, in this case our portfolio's value is more volatile and reflects the volatility of the underlying asset. This may result in bigger gains when compared to the use of π -option on relative drawdown if the price of the underlying rises significantly and stays on that level until option's maturity. However, in case of a drop in asset price after the upswing, we do not benefit from the fact that the new maximum has been reached and thus the value of our portfolio decreases together with the price of the underlying asset. When looking at the value of V_{π} over time one can notice that combining stock or a commodity and π -option on relative drawdown protects us against price drops as well but the volatility of our portfolio is reduced significantly. Additionally, the contract allows us to benefit from the underlying's price upswings and locks in the profit every time new maximum is reached.

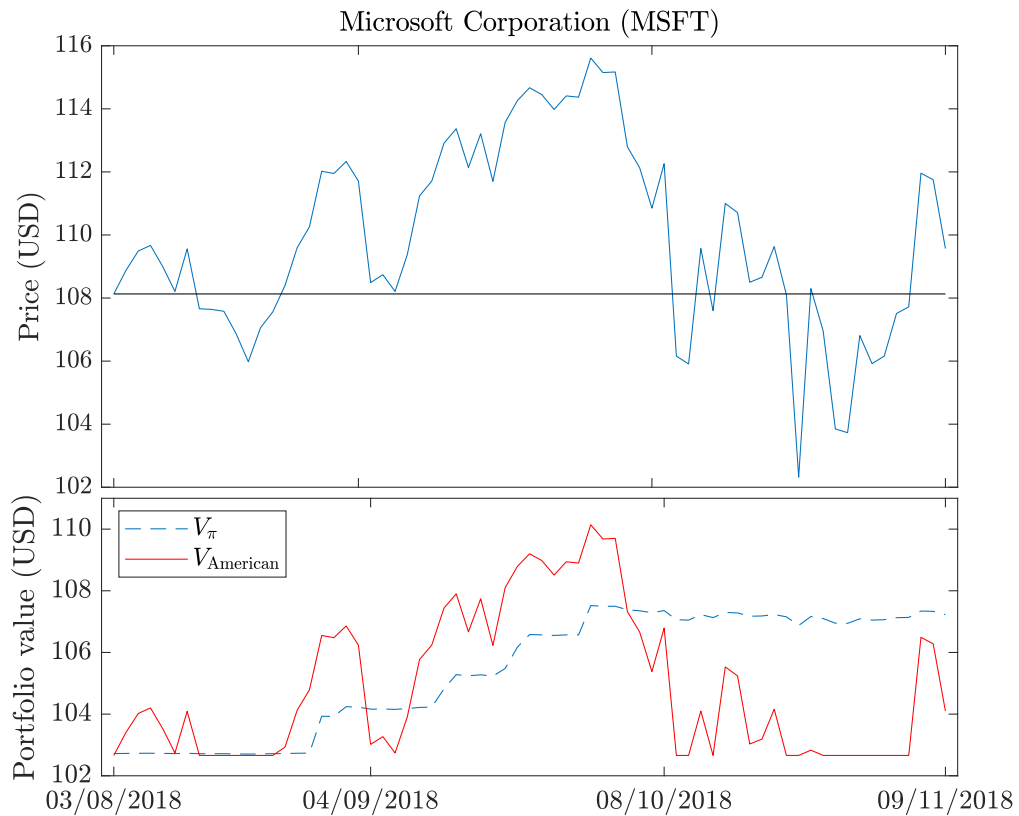


Figure 12. Microsoft Corporation stock closing prices (top) and payoffs of portfolios with parameters from Table 4 (bottom).

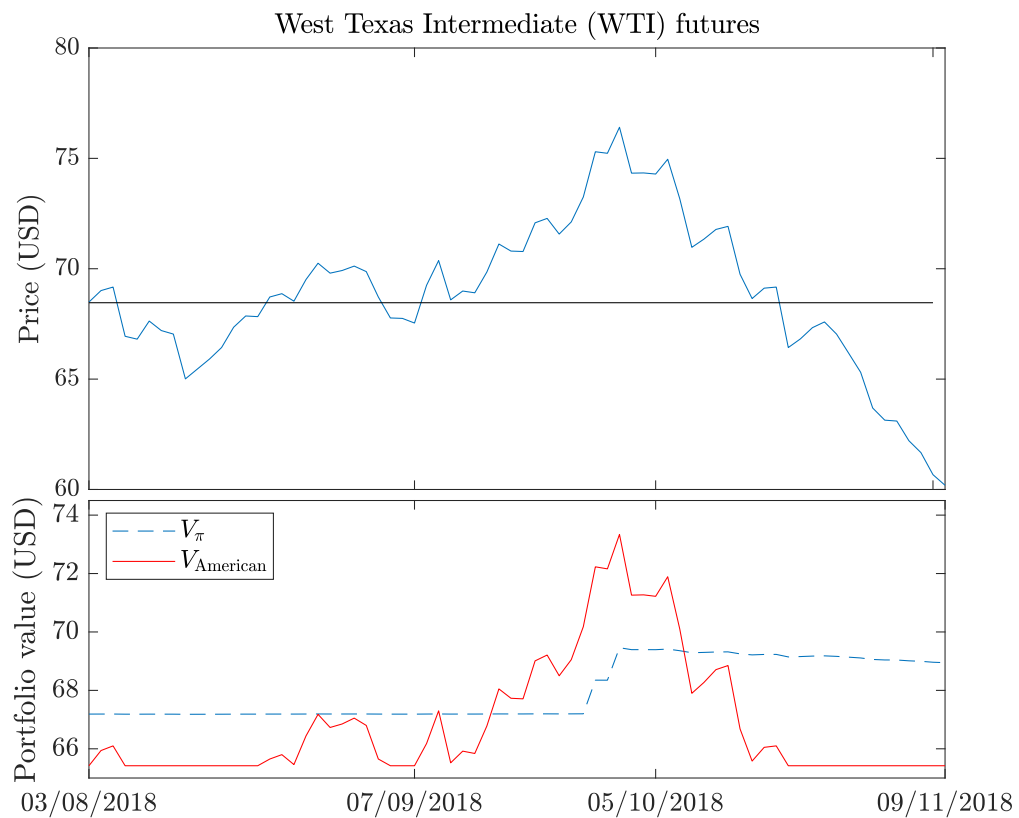


Figure 13. WTI crude oil futures contract closing prices (top) and payoffs of portfolios with parameters from Table 5 (bottom).

We have analyzed two datasets, MSFT and WTI, and the above analysis shows that the behavior of a portfolio based on π -option is similar for various choices of underlying assets.

4. Conclusions

In this paper we focus on the numerical pricing of the new derivative instrument—a π -option. We adapted the Monte Carlo algorithm proposed by Broadie and Glasserman (1997) to price this new option. We focused on a specific parametrization of this option which we call the π -option on drawdown. We observed that this specific financial instrument is related to so-called relative maximum drawdown. We obtained prices of the π -option on relative drawdown for the Microsoft Corporation stock with different parameters to examine the influence of those parameters on option's premium. Our next step involved the analysis of two portfolios: first one based on a π -option on relative drawdown and the second one based on an American put. We used the Microsoft Corporation data as well as the West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures dataset. It turned out that the portfolios behave in a completely different manner. The value of the portfolio containing the American put was highly correlated with the underlying's price movements and thus had an unpredictable and volatile behavior. On the other hand, combining π -option on relative drawdown with the underlying asset not only ensures that the worth of the portfolio will not drop below the initial level, but it also allows us to take advantage of price upswings and to reduce the portfolio's volatility at the same time. Similar analysis could be carried out for a geometric Lévy process of asset price. One can also consider the regime-switching market.

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