

Exercise 8.6

Use Optional sampling theorem to show that the following holds

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-rT} (S(T) - K)^+] = \max_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_{0,T}} \tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-r\tau} (S(\tau) - K)^+]$$

Each $\tau \in \mathcal{T}_{0,T}$ decides to stop at $u \in [0, T]$ based on the path of the stock price between 0 and u . This result reiterates the fact that early exercise is useless for American calls paying no dividend.

Proof

$\tau = T$ is a stopping time which belongs to $\mathcal{T}_{0,T}$. Therefore,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-rT} (S(T) - K)^+] \leq \max_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_{0,T}} \tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-r\tau} (S(\tau) - K)^+]$$

From Lemma 8.5.1., $e^{-rt} (S(t) - K)^+$ is a submartingale under $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}$. Therefore, for each $\tau \in \mathcal{T}_{0,T}$,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-rT \wedge \tau} (S(T \wedge \tau) - K)^+] \leq \tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-rT} (S(T) - K)^+]$$

However, for any $\tau \in \mathcal{T}_{0,T}$, $T \wedge \tau = \tau$. Therefore,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-r\tau} (S(\tau) - K)^+] \leq \tilde{\mathbb{E}} [e^{-rT} (S(T) - K)^+], \quad \forall \tau \in \mathcal{T}_{0,T}.$$

Taking max from the left hand side, the result immediately follows.