

Jump-Diffusion Models

Jump-diffusion (JD) models are particular cases of exponential Lévy models in which the frequency of jumps is finite. They can be considered as prototypes for a large class of more complex models such as the stochastic volatility plus jumps model of Bates [1].

Consider a market with a riskless asset (the bond) and one risky asset (the stock) whose price at time t is denoted by S_t . In a JD model, the SDE for the stock price is given as

$$dS_t = \mu S_{t-} dt + \sigma S_{t-} dZ_t + S_{t-} dJ_t \quad (1)$$

where Z_t is a Brownian motion and

$$J_t = \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} Y_i$$

is a compound Poisson process where the jump sizes Y_i are independent and identically distributed with distribution F and the number of jumps N_t is a Poisson process with jump intensity λ . The asset price S_t thus follows geometric Brownian motion between jumps. Monte Carlo simulation of the process can be carried out by first simulating the number of jumps N_t , the jump times, and then simulating geometric Brownian motion on intervals between jump times.

The SDE (1) has the exact solution:

$$S_t = S_0 \exp \{ \mu t + \sigma Z_t - \sigma^2 t/2 + J_t \} \quad (2)$$

Merton [6] considers the case where the jump sizes Y_i are normally distributed.

Risk-neutral drift

If the above model is used as a pricing model, the drift μ in (1) is given by the risk-neutral drift $\hat{\mu}$ plus a jump compensator μ_J :

$$\mu = \hat{\mu} + \mu_J$$

To identify μ_J , taking expectations of equation (1) and from the definition of $\hat{\mu}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[dS_t] &= \hat{\mu} S_t dt = \mu S_t dt \\ &+ \lambda \left\{ \int \xi F(d\xi) \right\} S_t dt \end{aligned}$$

where F is the risk-neutral jump distribution. The jump compensator is then given by

$$\mu_J = -\lambda \int \xi F(d\xi)$$

To simplify the presentation, we henceforth assume zero dividends so that $\hat{\mu} = r$, the risk-free rate.

Characteristic Function

Define the forward price $F := S_0 e^{rT}$. If $x_t := \log S_t/F$ is a Lévy process, its characteristic function $\phi_T(u) := \mathbb{E}[e^{iu x_T}]$ has the Lévy-Khintchine representation

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_T(u) &= \exp \left\{ i u (\mu_J - \sigma^2/2) T - u^2 \sigma^2/2 T \right. \\ &\left. + T \int [e^{iu\xi} - 1] \nu(\xi) d\xi \right\}. \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

Typical assumptions for the distribution of jump sizes are: normal as in the original paper by Merton [6] and double-exponential as in Kou [4]. In the Merton model, the Lévy density $\nu(\cdot)$ is given by

$$\nu(\xi) = \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\xi - \alpha)^2}{2\delta^2} \right\}$$

where α is the mean of the log-jump size $\log J$ and δ the standard deviation of jumps. This leads to the explicit characteristic function

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_T(u) &= \exp \left\{ i u \omega T - \frac{1}{2} u^2 \sigma^2 T \right. \\ &\left. + \lambda T \left(e^{i u \alpha - u^2 \delta^2/2} - 1 \right) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

In the double-exponential case

$$\nu(\xi) = \lambda \left\{ p \alpha_+ e^{-\alpha_+ \xi} \mathbf{1}_{\xi \geq 0} + (1-p) \alpha_- e^{-\alpha_- \xi} \mathbf{1}_{\xi < 0} \right\}$$

where α_+ and α_- are the expected positive and negative jump sizes respectively and p is the relative probability of a positive jump. This gives the explicit characteristic function

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_T(u) &= \exp \left\{ i u \omega T - \frac{1}{2} u^2 \sigma^2 T \right. \\ &\left. + \lambda T \left(\frac{p}{\alpha_+ - i u} - \frac{1-p}{\alpha_- + i u} \right) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\omega = -\frac{1}{2} \alpha^2 - \lambda \left(\frac{p}{\alpha_+ + 1} - \frac{1-p}{\alpha_- - 1} \right)$$

Pricing of European options

Given a characteristic function, European call options can be priced using Fourier methods as in Lewis [5]:

$$\begin{aligned} C(S, K, T) &= e^{-rT} \left\{ F - \sqrt{FK} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{du}{u^2 + \frac{1}{4}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \text{Re} \left[e^{-iuk} \phi_T(u - i/2) \right] \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where the log-strike $k := \log(K/F)$.

Valuation equation

Assuming the process (1), and a constant risk-free rate r , and further supposing that the market is complete, the value $V(S, t)$ of a European-style option satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + r S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - r V + \lambda \int F(d\xi) \\ \left\{ V(S e^\xi, t) - V(S, t) - (e^\xi - 1) S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \right\} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where for ease of notation, V denotes $V(S, t)$. Equation (5) is a partial integro-differential equation (PIDE) which can be solved using finite difference methods [2].

A Valuation Formula for European Options

Merton [6] derived an exact solution of the valuation equation (5) for a European-style call option with strike K and time-to-expiration T which has the form of an infinite sum of Black-Scholes-like terms:

$$\begin{aligned} C(S, K, T) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda T} (\lambda T)^n}{n!} \int F_n(d\xi) \\ &\quad \times C_{BS}(S e^\xi e^{\mu_J T}, K, r, \sigma, T) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where F_n is the distribution of the sum of n independent jumps and $C_{BS}(\cdot)$ denotes the Black-Scholes solution, which is given as

$$C_{BS}(S, K, r, \sigma, T) = S N(d_1) - K e^{-rT} N(d_2)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 &= \frac{\log(S/K) + rT}{\sigma\sqrt{T}} + \frac{\sigma\sqrt{T}}{2}; \\ d_2 &= \frac{\log(S/K) + rT}{\sigma\sqrt{T}} - \frac{\sigma\sqrt{T}}{2}; \end{aligned}$$

Jump to Ruin

In the case where $e^{Y_i} = 0$ with probability 1, $\mu_J = \lambda$ and equation (6) simplifies to

$$C(S, K, T) = e^{-\lambda T} C_{BS}(S e^{\lambda T}, K, r, \sigma, T) \quad (7)$$

which is the Black-Scholes formula with a shifted interest rate $r \rightarrow r + \lambda$. This special case of the JD model where the stock price jumps to zero (or ruin) whenever there is a jump, is the simplest possible model of default. Equation (7) for the option price in the jump-to-ruin model may also be derived from a Black-Scholes style replication argument using stock and bonds of the issuer of the stock; upon default of the issuer, both stock and bonds jump to zero. The cost of funding stock with bonds of the issuer is $r + \lambda$ in this picture, which explains the simple form (7) of the solution.

Local volatility

There is a particularly simple expression for Dupire local volatility in the jump-to-ruin model. It is given by Gatheral [3]

$$\sigma_{loc}^2(K, T; S) = \sigma^2 + 2\lambda\sigma\sqrt{T} \frac{N(d_2)}{N'(d_2)}$$

with

$$d_2 = \frac{\log(S/K) + \lambda T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}} - \frac{\sigma\sqrt{T}}{2};$$

As $K \rightarrow \infty$, $d_2 \rightarrow -\infty$ and the correction term vanishes, and as $K \rightarrow 0$, the correction term explodes. In addition, as the *hazard rate* λ increases, so does d_2 , increasing local volatility for low strikes K relative to high strikes.

Normally distributed jumps

Merton [6] also shows that if jumps are normally distributed with $Y_i \sim N(\alpha, \delta)$, equation (6) again simplifies considerably to give

$$\begin{aligned} C(S, K, T) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda' T} (\lambda' T)^n}{n!} C_{BS}(S, K, r_n, \sigma_n, T) \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda' &= \lambda e^{\alpha + \delta^2/2} \\ \sigma_n^2 T &= \sigma^2 T + n \delta^2 \\ r_n T &= (r + \mu_J) T + n (\alpha + \delta^2/2) \end{aligned}$$

Each term $C_{BS}(S, K, r_n, \sigma_n, T)$ in equation (8) is the value of the option conditional on there being exactly n jumps during its life.

Implied volatility smile

If there were no jumps in this model, the implied volatility smile would be flat. Jumps in the JD stock price process induce an implied volatility smile whose short time limit (see *e.g.*, [3]) is given as

$$K \frac{\partial}{\partial K} \sigma_{BS}^2(K, T) \rightarrow -2\mu_J \text{ as } T \rightarrow 0.$$

The greater μ_J , because jumps are either more frequent or more negatively skewed, the more negative is the implied volatility skew.

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