Pricing of Stock Options using Black-Scholes, Black’s and Binominal Option Pricing Models

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ABSTRACT

Derivative products are very important for developing the financial sector and generating economic growth. Among all the financial derivative products, the most commonly used is Options. Valuation of Options is very crucial in the modern financial industry. Most popular and largely accepted model for pricing options in the modern time is the model given by Black-Scholes. The present study attempts to examine whether the Black-Scholes, Black’s and Binominal model is suitable for pricing call options on Indian stocks for five stocks selected from Financial Services Index of Nifty. Paired samples T-test results indicate that there exists a difference between the calculated prices using the three models and the market prices which is significant for four out of five cases while when the model prices calculated using three models and prices prevailing in the market were compared for HDFC Bank Ltd., stock no significant difference was found. The three models have effectively priced the call option premium of HDFC Bank Ltd. For all the five call options on stocks, it was found that the models have underestimated option premium.

Introduction

An option is a contract, in which the buyer gets the right without the obligation to purchase or sell a stated quantity of the underlying assets, at a stated price on or before the expiration date. Options may have physical commodities or financial instruments as its underlying assets. Options are of two types namely call and put option. The buyer of call option gets the right to purchase while in case of the put option he gets the right to sell. India witnessed a tremendous growth in financial derivatives market over the years. The Equity derivatives turnover on National Stock Exchange has increased from Rs. 2,365 cr in 2000-01 year to Rs. 9,43,70,301.61 cr in 2016-17. Among all the equity derivatives products, the growth of index options has been phenomenal. Pricing Models of Options have occupied a significant place in Derivatives as appropriate pricing helps in computing a proper rate of premium which enables trading and helps to manage the risk. Correct pricing is crucial in order to decide whether to purchase or sell. There are many models for valuation of options which include Black-Scholes model, Black’s, Binominal model, Heston model etc. The Black-Scholes model is a milestone among the historical events of Derivatives. Black-Scholes model is the most accepted model to price options. This model is applied throughout the world by leading stock exchanges, investors and traders for pricing.

Attempts are made in order to alter the Black-Scholes model
as it results in the problem of deviation amongst the price prevailing in the market and calculated model price. Black used a forward price in the place of spot price in the original Black-Scholes model and developed another model for pricing. A comparatively easy and simple method of pricing is Binomial model but it is a powerful technique for valuing various kinds of options. Many researchers have tested the applicability of different models of option pricing and tried to find a model which is most suitable for Indian market. The present study tries to analyze the appropriateness of Black-Scholes model, Black’s model and Binomial Model for pricing call options on Indian stocks for five stocks selected from Financial Services Index of Nifty. Financial services sector is a very crucial sector of Indian economy as it reflects the behavior and performance of the financial market. This sector is having the highest weightage among all the other sectors in the index of Nifty.

**Literature Review**

Black-Scholes (1973) derived a theoretical valuation formula for options and tested the valuation formula. The results revealed that actual prices of options vary from calculated model price. Black (1976) presented formulas for valuing forward contracts and options on commodities about the futures price and other variables. Cox, Ross and Rubinstein (1979) provided a simple discrete-time model to price options.

Tripathi & Gupta (2011) tested the predictive accuracy of pricing index options using Black-Scholes model to examine performance of the original BS model and skewness and kurtosis adjusted BS model of Corrado and Su (1996). They found out that the performance of the modified BS model is better than the original one. Panduranga (2013) has empirically tested the applicability of Black-Scholes model for select stock options from the banking sector. It was revealed from the results that the model has effectively priced the options as out of four banks three banks calculated model prices were close to the prices prevailing in the market.

In the papers of Mitra (2008 and 2012) a comparison was made between the calculated option prices using both Black’s and Black-Scholes formulae with actual market prices. The results indicated that Black’s model was superior in pricing performance than Black-Scholes model. Nagendran and Venkateswar (2014) tested the Black-Scholes model’s validity for pricing Stock Options in India. The results showed that the Black-Scholes model is effective in pricing stock options and that if implied volatility is used in the model it results in improvement of its pricing efficiency. Gupta (2014) found that implied volatility predicts prices of options better in comparison to historical volatility. Fleming (1998) examined the capacity of the S&P 100 implied volatility to forecast stock market volatility of the future. It is observed from the results that the implied volatility is an upward biased forecast, and it also contains important information about future volatility.

Bolia and Juneja (2005) reviewed random tree methods, regression-based methods, and stochastic mesh methods and applied these models to find price of options. They have shown how important the sampling technique, may be combined with these methods to increase their effectiveness. Xiaoping and Jie (2014) studied the sensitivity of put option price to the random binary tree parameters. The results exhibit that the effect of the occurrence probability of the random binomial tree environment on option prices is very significant.

Geske (1979) derived a new formula for the valuing compound option. It was observed in the study that some of the important biases of the Black-Scholes model were corrected by using the new model of pricing. Black, Derman and Toy (1990), described a model for valuing interest rate security and have shown the application of pricing options on Treasury Bonds. Moraleda and Pelsser (2000) tested various spot rate and forward rate models for cap and floor data and the findings showed that spot rate models performed better than the forward rate models. Miltersen and Schwartz (1998) developed a model for valuing commodity futures with stochastic interest rates and stochastic convenience yields. They have given numerical examples using Black-Scholes formulas.

Macbeth and Merville (1980) tested the Call option pricing model by Cox and Black-Scholes call option pricing model. They found that Cox call option pricing model is pricing more effectively than the Black–Scholes model. Scott (1987) scrutinized the pricing of European call options on stocks having variance rates that change randomly. They examined continuous time diffusion processes for the stock return and standard deviation parameter, and found that one should make use of the stock and two options in order to make riskless hedge.

Bennell and Sutcliffe (2004), made a comparison of Black–Scholes model and artificial neural network (ANN) for pricing European call options. ANN model allows for dividends. In the case of out-of-the-money options, the ANN performed better than Black–Scholes model. For in the money options, the results of the ANN is comparable to that of Black–Scholes. Amilon (2003) tried to find if option pricing is better using a neural network (MLP) than the Black–Scholes formula. The results revealed that the neural network models were superior in performance than the benchmarks with regards to pricing as well as hedging. The above studies show that various pricing models are applied which include Black-Scholes model, Black’s, Binomial Model, Artificial neural network, etc. for different products like commodity futures, stock options, index options, interest rates, compound options etc. and attempts are made to examine the relevance of pricing models for various products.

This paper tries to study applicability of Black-Scholes model, Black’s model and Binomial model for five stock call options from Nifty Financial Services Index to fill the gap in the existing literature. This is done by finding calculated option prices using the three models and using paired samples T-test to compare calculated model prices with the market prices.
Objectives

1. To ascertain the theoretical prices of stock options using Black-Scholes model, Black’s model and Binomial Option Pricing Model

2. To find out whether there is significant difference between model prices and the actual market prices of stocks.

Hypotheses

Depending on the objectives of the study, the hypotheses are framed as follows:

$H_0$: There is no significant difference between the model prices and market prices of stocks.

$H_1$: There is a significant difference between the model prices and market prices of stocks.

Data and Methodology

The Nifty Financial Services index is having the highest weightage among all the sectoral indices of Nifty index. This index reflects how the financial market of India behaves and performs. The financial market comprises of banks, financial institutions, housing finance and other companies providing financial services. This Index can be used to benchmark fund portfolios, also to launch index funds, ETFs and structured products Study population constitutes of five call options on stocks which are ranked top five as per their weightage among the stocks of the Nifty Financial Services Index over a period of five years from April 2012 to March 2017. Deliberate Sampling method is used; the historical data are taken from the website of NSE.

Weighted average interest rate of the central government securities is used as proxy for risk free rate. Annualized volatility has been calculated on the basis of the daily closing prices of the previous financial year for each stock. Actual market prices of all the stocks for that year are used for comparing with the model prices.

Pricing is done in four weeks advance for two strike prices, one at In-the-Money (ITM) and the other One-Out-of-the Money (OTM). Calculation of call prices is done for selected stocks using Black-Scholes Model, Black’s and Binomial model. Paired samples T-test is utilized to make a comparison of the actual market prices and the theoretical model prices as per Black-Scholes, Black’s and Binomial option valuation model.

Black-Scholes Model

The Black-Scholes model of pricing stock options was established by Fischer Black and Myron Scholes. It is known all over the world and commonly used model for pricing options. The five variables which are used in the model include spot price, variance, strike price, risk free rate and time to expiry. The model uses the following equations for pricing Call options:

\[
C = SN(d_1) - Xe^{-rt}N(d_2)
\]

\[
d_1 = \frac{\ln \left( \frac{S}{X} \right) + (r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2})t}{\sigma \sqrt{t}}
\]

or

\[
d_2 = d_1 - \sigma \sqrt{t}
\]

Where,

$C$ = Call option price

$S$ = Price of the underlying asset

$X$ = Strike price of the option

$r$ = Interest rate

$t$ = Time to expiration

$\sigma$ = Volatility of the underlying asset

$N$ represents a standard normal distribution with mean $= 0$ and standard deviation $= 1$

Black’s Model

He used forward price in place of spot price in the original model. He substituted the spot term (S) by the discounted value of future price $F.e^{rt}$ in the original Black–Scholes Pricing formula. The Black’s model uses the following equation for pricing call options:

\[
C = F.e^{rt}N(d_1) - X.e^{rt}(Nd_2)
\]

Binomial Model

Cox-Ross-Rubinstein introduced the binomial tree approach for pricing options in 1979. It is a simple, easy and flexible pricing model for pricing various kinds of derivatives. This model has a large popularity. In the study a three step binomial tree is considered for calculation of the price of option. The calculation is done as follows:

- Stock price is considered to be $S$ at Time $t$. In Binomial model the price can either increase or decrease over the time. At time $t_1$ i.e. after one time interval the price can either increase or decrease. Since the possible prices “branch” out over a period of time this option valuation method is called as Binomial tree.

- Stock price is multiplied by the up ratio and the down ratio i.e. $S_u = S * u$ and $S_d = S * d$.

This calculation is constant throughout the tree.

\[
u = e^{r \Delta t}
\]

\[
d = e^{-r \Delta t} = \frac{1}{u}
\]

\[
p = e^{-r \Delta t} - d
\]

\[
u - d
\]

$P$ is the probability of $S$ moving up to $S_u$, $1-p$ is the probability of $S$ coming down $S_d$.

Price at $t_1 = p \cdot S_u + (1-p) \cdot S_d$
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Fig 1: Three step Binomial Tree

Results and Discussion

Model prices are calculated by using Black-Scholes, Black’s and Binomial option pricing model. The following table shows the results of paired samples t-test for five selected stocks from the Nifty Financial Services Index for five years period from April 2012 to March 2017. The paired sample t-test is done between the actual market prices and calculated premium of stock call option using Black Scholes Model, the actual market prices of stock call options and calculated premium using Black’s option Pricing Model and calculated premium using Binomial option Pricing Model and the actual market prices of stock call options.

The Table 1 shows that there is significant difference between the calculated model price and actual price of HDFC, ICICI Bank Ltd., State Bank of India. And Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd call options using all three pricing models. While the model price calculated using all the three models is very close to the actual price of the HDFC Bank Ltd Stock call options. This indicates that all the three models have effectively priced call option of HDFC Bank Ltd.

It is noticed that three models i.e. Black-Scholes, Black’s and Binomial model are underestimating the premium for all the stocks call options under study.
### Table 1: Comparison of Market Premiums and Model Estimate Premium as per Black-Scholes, Black’s and Binomial Option pricing model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stocks</th>
<th>Market Premium –BS Model Premium</th>
<th>Market Premium –B Model Premium</th>
<th>Market Premium –Bin Model Premium</th>
<th>Paired Differences</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval of the Difference</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig. (2-tailed)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Std. Deviation</td>
<td>Std. Error Mean</td>
<td>5% Confidence Lower</td>
<td>Upper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFC Bank Ltd.</td>
<td>3.47283</td>
<td>20.04969</td>
<td>1.83003</td>
<td>-1.5081</td>
<td>7.09647</td>
<td>1.898</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>.060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.66167</td>
<td>19.65747</td>
<td>1.79447</td>
<td>0.10843</td>
<td>7.21490</td>
<td>2.041</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>.044</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.40758</td>
<td>21.29900</td>
<td>1.94432</td>
<td>-1.44237</td>
<td>6.25754</td>
<td>1.238</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>.218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFC</td>
<td>1.30278E1</td>
<td>8.63304</td>
<td>0.78809</td>
<td>11.46735</td>
<td>14.58832</td>
<td>16.531</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.33324E1</td>
<td>8.37236</td>
<td>0.76429</td>
<td>11.81905</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.28900E1</td>
<td>8.76473</td>
<td>0.80011</td>
<td>11.22471</td>
<td>14.39529</td>
<td>16.099</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICICI Bank Ltd.</td>
<td>9.55400</td>
<td>14.20769</td>
<td>1.29698</td>
<td>6.98585</td>
<td>12.12215</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.55833</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8.94483</td>
<td>14.54712</td>
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<td>11.57433</td>
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<td>.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.</td>
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<td>12.15543</td>
<td>1.10963</td>
<td>5.10665</td>
<td>9.50102</td>
<td>6.582</td>
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<td>6.50356</td>
<td>10.87127</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.92975</td>
<td>15.38188</td>
<td>1.40417</td>
<td>5.14936</td>
<td>10.71014</td>
<td>5.647</td>
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<td>.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Bank of India</td>
<td>1.79308E1</td>
<td>25.93737</td>
<td>2.36775</td>
<td>13.24237</td>
<td>22.61913</td>
<td>22.613</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.39880</td>
<td>12.07613</td>
<td>21.57587</td>
<td>7.014</td>
<td>119</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Conclusion

This study of pricing of options will help the investors in understanding the functioning of option pricing. It will help

This study will help various sections from the financial market.
in understanding the Black-Scholes model, Black’s model and Binomial model and their calculation to investors and traders as they make use of calculated option values to evaluate changing risk and to know the gain from their option positions, and will help them to take decisions relating to trading.

The results indicated that for four out of five cases there was significant difference between the calculated price using the three models and prices prevailing in the market which include the call options on HDFC, ICICI Bank Ltd., State Bank of India and Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd Stocks. The data analysis shows that HDFC Bank Ltd. stock call options model prices calculated using all the three models are near to the actual market prices which shows that all the three models are effective in pricing HDFC Bank stock call options. For all the stock call options the three models used in the study have underestimated options premium.

**Limitations**

The present study covers only one sector i.e. Financial Services sector of Nifty and a sample is taken of only top five companies based on their weightage from that sector and only five years data are used for analysis. Further the study is confined to just three models of pricing options. The results may vary across sectors and with a large sample for an extended period of study.

**References**


