

Chapter Twentyone.

Monte Carlo part II: variance reduction by antithetic variates

Outline Solutions to odd-numbered exercises from the book:

An Introduction to Financial Option Valuation:

Mathematics, Stochastics and Computation,

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21.1 Starting from (21.1) and using (3.6) and (3.7), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}(X, Y) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY - X\mathbb{E}(Y) - \mathbb{E}(X)Y + \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) + \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y).\end{aligned}$$

If X and Y are independent then $\mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) = 0$ (see (3.9)), so $\text{cov}(X, Y) = 0$.

21.3 Using (3.6) and (3.10), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X + Y) &= \mathbb{E}((X + Y)^2) - (\mathbb{E}(X + Y))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}((X + Y)^2) - (\mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2 + 2XY + Y^2) - \mathbb{E}(X)^2 - 2\mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) - \mathbb{E}(Y)^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) + 2\mathbb{E}(XY) + \mathbb{E}(Y^2) - \mathbb{E}(X)^2 - 2\mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) - \mathbb{E}(Y)^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mathbb{E}(X)^2 + \mathbb{E}(Y^2) - \mathbb{E}(Y)^2 + 2(\mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)) \\ &= \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2\text{cov}(X, Y).\end{aligned}$$

21.5 Consider the circumstance where f and g are both monotonic increasing. We look at two cases.

Case 1: If $x \geq y$ then $f(x) - f(y) \geq 0$ and $g(x) - g(y) \geq 0$, so $(f(x) - f(y))(g(x) - g(y)) \geq 0$.

Case 2: If $y \geq x$ then $f(x) - f(y) \leq 0$ and $g(x) - g(y) \leq 0$, so $(f(x) - f(y))(g(x) - g(y)) \geq 0$. (We could also just refer to Case 1 and say “by symmetry”.)

A similar argument works for the monotonic decreasing case.

21.7 For this f , when $U \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 1)$ we have $f(U_i) + f(1 - U_i) = \alpha U_i + \beta + \alpha(1 - U_i) + \beta = \alpha + 2\beta$, so the sum in (21.13) reduces to $\frac{1}{2}\alpha + \beta$ (which is non-random). The true expected value $\mathbb{E}(f(U))$ is $\mathbb{E}(\alpha U + \beta) = \alpha\mathbb{E}(U) + \beta = \frac{1}{2}\alpha + \beta$. Hence the estimate (21.13) is exact for this f . Each computed sample of $\frac{1}{2}(f(U_i) + f(1 - U_i))$ has the same, non-random, value, so the sample variance is zero. The confidence interval then collapses to the point $\frac{1}{2}\alpha + \beta$; this correctly reflects the fact that the sample mean is exact.

Similarly, when $U \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ we have $f(U_i) + f(-U_i) = \alpha U_i + \beta + \alpha(-U_i) + \beta = 2\beta$, so the sum in (21.19) reduces to β (which is non-random). The true expected value $\mathbb{E}(f(U))$ is $\mathbb{E}(\alpha U + \beta) = \alpha\mathbb{E}(U) + \beta = \beta$. Hence the estimate (21.19) is exact for this f . Each computed sample of $\frac{1}{2}(f(U_i) + f(-U_i))$ has the same, non-random, value, so the sample variance is zero. The confidence interval then collapses to the point β ; this correctly reflects the fact that the sample mean is exact.