

# A Perfect Calibration! Now What?

## **Wim Schoutens**

K. U. Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 200 B, B-3001 Leuven, Belgium.

E-mail: [Wim.Schoutens@wis.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:Wim.Schoutens@wis.kuleuven.ac.be)

## **Erwin Simons**

ING SWE, Financial Modeling, Marnixlaan 24, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.

E-mail: [Erwin.Simons@ing.be](mailto:Erwin.Simons@ing.be)

## **Jurgen Tistaert**

ING SWE, Financial Modeling, Marnixlaan 24, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.

E-mail: [Jurgen.Tistaert@ing.be](mailto:Jurgen.Tistaert@ing.be)

### **Abstract**

We show that several advanced equity option models incorporating stochastic volatility can be calibrated very nicely to a realistic option surface. More specifically, we focus on the Heston Stochastic Volatility model (with and without jumps in the stock price process), the Barndorff-Nielsen-Shephard model and Lévy models with stochastic time. All these models are capable of accurately describing the marginal distribution of stock prices or indices and hence lead to almost identical European vanilla option prices. As such, we can hardly discriminate between the different processes on the basis of their smile-conform pricing characteristics. We therefore are tempted applying them to a range of exotics. However, due to the different structure in path-behaviour between these models, the resulting exotics prices can vary significantly. It motivates a further study on how to model the fine stochastic behaviour of assets over time.

## **1 Introduction**

Since the seminal publication of the Black-Scholes model in 1973, we have witnessed a vast effort to relax a number of its restrictive assumptions. Empirical data show evidence for non-normal distributed log-returns together with the presence of stochastic volatility. Nowadays, a battery of models are available which capture non-normality and integrate stochastic volatility. We focus on the following advanced models: the Heston Stochastic Volatility Model (Heston 1993) and its generalization allowing for jumps in the stock price process (see e.g. Bakshi, Cao and Chen, 1997), the Barndorff-Nielsen-Shephard model introduced in

(Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard 2001) and Lévy models with stochastic time introduced by Carr, Geman, Madan and Yor (Carr, et al 2001). This class of models are build out of a Lévy process which is time-changed by a stochastic clock. The latter induces the desired stochastic volatility effect.

Section 2 elaborates on the technical details of the models and we state each of the closed-form characteristic functions. The latter are the necessary ingredients for a calibration procedure, which is tackled in section 3. The pricing of the options in that framework is based on the analytical formula of Carr and Madan (1998). We will show that all of the above models can be calibrated very well to a representative set of European call options. Section 4 describes the simulation algorithms for

the stochastic processes involved. Armed with good calibration results and powerful simulation tools, we will price a range of exotics. Section 5 presents the computational results for digital barriers, one-touch barriers, lookbacks and cliquet options under the different models. While the European vanilla option prices hardly differ across all models considered, we obtain significant differences in the prices of the exotics. The paper concludes with a formal discussion and gives some directions for further research.

## 2 The Models

We consider the risk-neutral dynamics of the different models. Let us shortly define some concepts and introduce their notation.

Let  $S = \{S_t, 0 \leq t \leq T\}$  denote the stock price process and  $\phi(u, t)$  the characteristic function of the random variable  $\log S_t$ , i.e.,

$$\phi(u, t) = E[\exp(iu \log(S_t))].$$

If for every integer  $n$ ,  $\phi(u, t)$  is also the  $n$ th power of a characteristic function, we say that the distribution is *infinitely divisible*. A Lévy process  $X = \{X_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a stochastic process which starts at zero and has independent and stationary increments such that the distribution of the increment is an infinitely divisible distribution. A *subordinator* is a non-negative nondecreasing Lévy process. A general reference on Lévy processes is Bertoin (1996), for applications in finance see Schoutens (2003).

The risk-free continuously compound interest rate is assumed to be constant and denoted by  $r$ . The dividend yield is also assumed to be constant and denoted by  $q$ .

### 2.1 The Heston stochastic volatility model

The stock price process in the Heston Stochastic Volatility model (HEST) follows the Black-Scholes SDE in which the volatility is behaving stochastically over time:

$$\frac{dS_t}{S_t} = (r - q)dt + \sigma_t dW_t, \quad S_0 \geq 0,$$

with the (squared) volatility following the classical Cox-Ingersoll-Ross (CIR) process:

$$d\sigma_t^2 = \kappa(\eta - \sigma_t^2)dt + \theta\sigma_t d\tilde{W}_t, \quad \sigma_0 \geq 0,$$

where  $W = \{W_t, t \geq 0\}$  and  $\tilde{W} = \{\tilde{W}_t, t \geq 0\}$  are two correlated standard Brownian motions such that  $\text{Cov}[dW_t d\tilde{W}_t] = \rho dt$ .

The characteristic function  $\phi(u, t)$  is in this case given by Heston (1993) or Bakshi, Cao and Chen (1997):

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(u, t) &= E[\exp(iu \log(S_t)) | S_0, \sigma_0^2] \\ &= \exp(iu(\log S_0 + (r - q)t)) \\ &\quad \times \exp(\eta\kappa\theta^{-2}((\kappa - \rho\theta ui - d)t - 2 \log((1 - ge^{-dt})/(1 - g)))) \\ &\quad \times \exp(\sigma_0^2\theta^{-2}(\kappa - \rho\theta iu - d)(1 - e^{-dt})/(1 - ge^{-dt})), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$d = ((\rho\theta ui - \kappa)^2 - \theta^2(-iu - u^2))^{1/2}, \quad (1)$$

$$g = (\kappa - \rho\theta ui - d)/(\kappa - \rho\theta ui + d). \quad (2)$$

### 2.2 The Heston stochastic volatility model with jumps

An extension of HEST introduces jumps in the asset price (Bakshi, Cao and Chen 1997). Jumps occur as a Poisson process and the percentage jump-sizes are lognormally distributed. An extension also allowing jumps in the volatility was described in Knudsen and Nguyen-Ngoc (2003). We opt to focus on the continuous version and the one with jumps in the stock price process only.

In the Heston Stochastic Volatility model with jumps (HESJ), the SDE of the stock price process is extended to yield:

$$\frac{dS_t}{S_t} = (r - q - \lambda\mu_j)dt + \sigma_t dW_t + J_t dN_t, \quad S_0 \geq 0,$$

where  $N = \{N_t, t \geq 0\}$  is an independent Poisson process with intensity parameter  $\lambda > 0$ , i.e.  $E[N_t] = \lambda t$ .  $J_t$  is the percentage jump size (conditional on a jump occurring) that is assumed to be lognormally, identically and independently distributed over time, with unconditional mean  $\mu_j$ . The standard deviation of  $\log(1 + J_t)$  is  $\sigma_j$ :

$$\log(1 + J_t) \sim \text{Normal}\left(\log(1 + \mu_j) - \frac{\sigma_j^2}{2}, \sigma_j^2\right);$$

The SDE of (squared) volatility process remains unchanged:

$$d\sigma_t^2 = \kappa(\eta - \sigma_t^2)dt + \theta\sigma_t d\tilde{W}_t, \quad \sigma_0 \geq 0,$$

where  $W = \{W_t, t \geq 0\}$  and  $\tilde{W} = \{\tilde{W}_t, t \geq 0\}$  are two correlated standard Brownian motions such that  $\text{Cov}[dW_t d\tilde{W}_t] = \rho dt$ . Finally,  $J_t$  and  $N$  are independent, as well as of  $W$  and of  $\tilde{W}$ .

The characteristic function  $\phi(u, t)$  is in this case given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(u, t) &= E[\exp(iu \log(S_t)) | S_0, \sigma_0^2] \\ &= \exp(iu(\log S_0 + (r - q)t)) \\ &\quad \times \exp(\eta\kappa\theta^{-2}((\kappa - \rho\theta ui - d)t - 2 \log((1 - ge^{-dt})/(1 - g)))) \\ &\quad \times \exp(\sigma_0^2\theta^{-2}(\kappa - \rho\theta iu - d)(1 - e^{-dt})/(1 - ge^{-dt})), \\ &\quad \times \exp(-\lambda\mu_j iu t + \lambda t((1 + \mu_j)^{iu} \exp(\sigma_j^2(iu/2)(iu - 1)) - 1)), \end{aligned}$$

where  $d$  and  $g$  are as in (1) and (2).

### 2.3 The Barndorff-Nielsen-Shephard model

This class of models, denoted by BN-S, were introduced in Barndorff, Nielsen and Shephard (2001) and have a comparable structure to HEST. The volatility is now modeled by an Ornstein Uhlenbeck (OU) process driven by a subordinator. We use the classical and tractable example of

the Gamma-OU process. The marginal law of the volatility is Gamma-distributed. Volatility can only jump upwards and then it will decay exponentially. A co-movement effect between up-jumps in volatility and (down)-jumps in the stock price is also incorporated. The price of the asset will jump downwards when an up-jump in volatility takes place. In the absence of a jump, the asset price process moves continuously and the volatility decays also continuously. Other choices for OU-processes can be made, we mention especially the Inverse Gaussian OU process, leading also to a tractable model.

The squared volatility now follows a SDE of the form:

$$d\sigma_t^2 = -\lambda\sigma_t^2 dt + dz_{\lambda t}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\lambda > 0$  and  $z = \{z_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a subordinator as introduced before.

The risk-neutral dynamics of the log-price  $Z_t = \log S_t$  are given by

$$dZ_t = (r - q - \lambda k(-\rho) - \sigma_t^2/2)dt + \sigma_t dW_t + \rho dz_{\lambda t}, \quad Z_0 = \log S_0,$$

where  $W = \{W_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a Brownian motion independent of  $z = \{z_t, t \geq 0\}$  and where  $k(u) = \log E[\exp(-uz_1)]$  is the cumulant function of  $z_1$ . Note that the parameter  $\rho$  is introducing a co-movement effect between the volatility and the asset price process.

As stated above, we chose the Gamma-OU process. For this process  $z = \{z_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a compound-Poisson process:

$$z_t = \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} x_n, \quad (4)$$

where  $N = \{N_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a Poisson process with intensity parameter  $a$ , i.e.  $E[N_t] = at$  and  $\{x_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$  is an independent and identically distributed sequence, and each  $x_n$  follows an exponential law with mean  $1/b$ . One can show that the process  $\sigma^2 = \{\sigma_t^2, t \geq 0\}$  is a stationary process with a marginal law that follows a Gamma distribution with mean  $a$  and variance  $a/b$ . This means that if one starts the process with an initial value sampled from this Gamma distribution, at each future time point  $t$ ,  $\sigma_t^2$  is also following that Gamma distribution. Under this law, the cumulant function reduces to:

$$k(u) = \log E[\exp(-uz_1)] = -au(b+u)^{-1}.$$

In this case, one can write the characteristic function (Barndorff-Nielsen, Nicolata and Shephard 2002) of the log price in the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(u, t) &= E[\exp(iu \log S_t) | S_0, \sigma_0] \\ &= \exp(iu(\log(S_0) + (r - q - a\lambda\rho(b - \rho)^{-1})t)) \\ &\quad \times \exp(-\lambda^{-1}(u^2 + iu)(1 - \exp(-\lambda t))\sigma_0^2/2) \\ &\quad \times \exp\left(a(b - f_2)^{-1} \left(b \log\left(\frac{b - f_1}{b - iu\rho}\right) + f_2\lambda t\right)\right), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 &= f_1(u) = iu\rho - \lambda^{-1}(u^2 + iu)(1 - \exp(-\lambda t))/2, \\ f_2 &= f_2(u) = iu\rho - \lambda^{-1}(u^2 + iu)/2. \end{aligned}$$

## 2.4 Lévy models with stochastic time

Another way to build in stochastic volatility effects is by making time stochastic. Periods with high volatility can be looked at as if time runs faster than in periods with low volatility. Applications of stochastic time change to asset pricing go back to Clark (1973), who models the asset price as a geometric Brownian motion time-changed by an independent Lévy subordinator.

The Lévy models with stochastic time considered in this paper are build out of two independent stochastic processes. The first process is a Lévy process. The behaviour of the asset price will be modeled by the exponential of the Lévy process suitably time-changed. Typical examples are the Normal distribution, leading to the Brownian motion, the Normal Inverse Gaussian (NIG) distribution, the Variance Gamma (VG) distribution, the (generalized) hyperbolic distribution, the Meixner distribution, the CGMY distribution and many others. An overview can be found in Schoutens (2003). We opt to work with the VG and NIG processes for which simulation issues become quite standard.

The second process is a stochastic clock that builds in a stochastic volatility effect by making time stochastic. The above mentioned (first) Lévy process will be subordinated (or time-changed) by this stochastic clock. By definition of a subordinator, the time needs to increase and the process modeling the rate of time change  $y = \{y_t, t \geq 0\}$  needs also to be positive. The economic time elapsed in  $t$  units of calendar time is then given by the integrated process  $Y = \{Y_t, t \geq 0\}$  where

$$Y_t = \int_0^t y_s ds.$$

Since  $y$  is a positive process,  $Y$  is an increasing process. We investigate two processes  $y$  which can serve for the rate of time change: the CIR process (continuous) and the Gamma-OU process (jump process).

We first discuss NIG and VG and subsequently introduce the stochastic clocks CIR and Gamma-OU. In order to model the stock price process as a time changed Lévy process, one needs the link between the stochastic clock and the Lévy process. This role will be fulfilled by the characteristic function enclosing both independent processes as described at the end of this section.

**NIG Lévy process:** A NIG process is based on the Normal Inverse Gaussian (NIG) distribution,  $NIG(\alpha, \beta, \delta)$ , with parameters  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $-\alpha < \beta < \alpha$  and  $\delta > 0$ . Its characteristic function is given by:

$$\phi_{NIG}(u; \alpha, \beta, \delta) = \exp\left(-\delta \left(\sqrt{\alpha^2 - (\beta + iu)^2} - \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \beta^2}\right)\right).$$

Since this is an infinitely divisible characteristic function, one can define the NIG-process  $X^{(NIG)} = \{X_t^{(NIG)}, t \geq 0\}$ , with  $X_0^{(NIG)} = 0$ , as the process having stationary and independent NIG distributed increments. So, an increment over the time interval  $[s, s + t]$  follows a  $NIG(\alpha, \beta, \delta t)$  law. A NIG-process is a pure jump process. One can relate the NIG process to an

Inverse Gaussian time-changed Brownian motion, which is particularly useful for simulation issues (see section 4.1).

**VG Lévy process:** The characteristic function of the  $VG(C, G, M)$ , with parameters  $C > 0$ ,  $G > 0$  and  $M > 0$  is given by:

$$\phi_{VG}(u; C, G, M) = \left( \frac{GM}{GM + (M - G)iu + u^2} \right)^C.$$

This distribution is infinitely divisible and one can define the VG-process  $X^{(VG)} = \{X_t^{(VG)}, t \geq 0\}$  as the process which starts at zero, has independent and stationary increments and where the increment  $X_{s+t}^{(VG)} - X_s^{(VG)}$  over the time interval  $[s, s + t]$  follows a  $VG(Ct, G, M)$  law. In Madan, Carr and Chang (1998) it was shown that the VG-process may also be expressed as the difference of two independent Gamma processes, which is helpful for simulation issues (see Section 4.2).

**CIR stochastic clock:** Carr, Geman, Madan and Yor Carr, et al (2001) use as the rate of time change the CIR process that solves the SDE:

$$dy_t = \kappa(\eta - y_t)dt + \lambda y_t^{1/2} dW_t,$$

where  $W = \{W_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a standard Brownian motion. The characteristic function of  $Y_t$  (given  $y_0$ ) is explicitly known (see Cox, Ingersoll and Ross 1985):

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{CIR}(u, t; \kappa, \eta, \lambda, y_0) &= E[\exp(iuY_t)|y_0] \\ &= \frac{\exp(\kappa^2 \eta t / \lambda^2) \exp(2y_0 iu / (\kappa + \gamma \coth(\gamma t / 2)))}{(\cosh(\gamma t / 2) + \kappa \sinh(\gamma t / 2) / \gamma)^{2\kappa \eta / \lambda^2}}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\gamma = \sqrt{\kappa^2 - 2\lambda^2 iu}.$$

**Gamma-OU stochastic clock:** The rate of time change is now a solution of the SDE:

$$dy_t = -\lambda y_t dt + dz_{\lambda t}, \quad (5)$$

where the process  $z = \{z_t, t \geq 0\}$  is as in (4) a compound Poisson process. In the Gamma-OU case the characteristic function of  $Y_t$  (given  $y_0$ ) can be given explicitly.

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\Gamma-OU}(u, t; \lambda, a, b, y_0) &= E[\exp(iuY_t)|y_0] \\ &= \exp\left(iuy_0\lambda^{-1}(1 - e^{-\lambda t})\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda a}{iu - \lambda b} \left( b \log\left(\frac{b}{b - iu\lambda^{-1}(1 - e^{-\lambda t})}\right) - iut \right). \end{aligned}$$

**Time changed Lévy process:** Let  $Y = \{Y_t, t \geq 0\}$  be the process we choose to model our business time (remember that  $Y$  is the integrated process of  $y$ ). Let us denote by  $\varphi(u; t, y_0)$  the characteristic function of  $Y_t$  given  $y_0$ .

The (risk-neutral) price process  $S = \{S_t, t \geq 0\}$  is now modeled as follows:

$$S_t = S_0 \frac{\exp((r - q)t)}{E[\exp(X_{Y_t})|y_0]} \exp(X_{Y_t}), \quad (6)$$

where  $X = \{X_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a Lévy process. The factor  $\exp((r - q)t) / E[\exp(X_{Y_t})|y_0]$  puts us immediately into the risk-neutral world by a mean-correcting argument. Basically, we model the stock price process as the ordinary exponential of a time-changed Lévy process. The process incorporates jumps (through the Lévy process  $X_t$ ) and stochastic volatility (through the time change  $Y_t$ ). The characteristic function  $\phi(u, t)$  for the log of our stock price is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(u, t) &= E[\exp(iu \log(S_t)) | S_0, y_0] \\ &= \exp(iu((r - q)t + \log S_0)) \frac{\varphi(-i\psi_X(u); t, y_0)}{\varphi(-i\psi_X(-i); t, y_0)^{iu}}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where

$$\psi_X(u) = \log E[\exp(iuX_1)];$$

$\psi_X(u)$  is called the characteristic exponent of the Lévy process.

Since we consider two Lévy processes (VG and NIG) and two stochastic clocks (CIR and Gamma-OU), we will finally end up with four resulting models abbreviated as VG-CIR, VG-OUG, NIG-CIR and NIG-OUG.

Because of (time)-scaling effects, one can set  $y_0 = 1$ , and scale the present rate of time change to one. More precisely, we have that the characteristic function  $\phi(u, t)$  of (7) satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{NIG-CIR}(u, t; \alpha, \beta, \delta, \kappa, \eta, \lambda, y_0) &= \phi_{NIG-CIR}(u, t; \alpha, \beta, \delta y_0, \kappa, \eta/y_0, \lambda/\sqrt{y_0}, 1), \\ \phi_{NIG-\Gamma OU}(u, t; \alpha, \beta, \delta, \lambda, a, b, y_0) &= \phi_{NIG-\Gamma OU}(u, t; \alpha, \beta, \delta y_0, \lambda, a, by_0, 1), \\ \phi_{VG-CIR}(u, t; C, G, M, \kappa, \eta, \lambda, y_0) &= \phi_{VG-CIR}(u, t; Cy_0, G, M, \kappa, \eta/y_0, \lambda/\sqrt{y_0}, 1), \\ \phi_{VG-\Gamma OU}(u, t; C, G, M, \lambda, a, b, y_0) &= \phi_{VG-\Gamma OU}(u, t; Cy_0, G, M, \lambda, a, by_0, 1). \end{aligned}$$

Actually, this time-scaling effect lies at the heart of the idea of incorporating stochastic volatility through making time stochastic. Here, it comes down to the fact that instead of making the volatility parameter (of the Black-Scholes model) stochastic, we are making the parameter  $\delta$  in the NIG case and the parameter  $C$  in the VG case stochastic (via the time). Note that this effect does not only influence the standard deviation (or volatility) of the processes, also the skewness and the kurtosis are now fluctuating stochastically.

### 3 Calibration

Carr and Madan Carr and Madan (1998) developed pricing methods for the classical vanilla options which can be applied in general when the characteristic function of the risk-neutral stock price process is known.

Let  $\alpha$  be a positive constant such that the  $\alpha$ th moment of the stock price exists. For all stock price models encountered here, typically a value of  $\alpha = 0.75$  will do fine. Carr and Madan then showed that the price

$C(K, T)$  of a European call option with strike  $K$  and time to maturity  $T$  is given by:

$$C(K, T) = \frac{\exp(-\alpha \log(K))}{\pi} \int_0^{+\infty} \exp(-iv \log(K)) \varrho(v) dv, \quad (8)$$

where

$$\varrho(v) = \frac{\exp(-rT) E[\exp(i(v - (\alpha + 1)i) \log(S_T))]}{\alpha^2 + \alpha - v^2 + i(2\alpha + 1)v} \quad (9)$$

$$= \frac{\exp(-rT) \phi(v - (\alpha + 1)i, T)}{\alpha^2 + \alpha - v^2 + i(2\alpha + 1)v}. \quad (10)$$

Using Fast Fourier Transforms, one can compute within a second the complete option surface on an ordinary computer. We apply the above calculation method in our calibration procedure and estimate the model parameters by minimizing the difference between market prices and model prices in a least-squares sense.

The data set consists of 144 plain vanilla call option prices with maturities ranging from less than one month up to 5.16 years. These prices are based on the volatility surface of the Eurostoxx 50 index, having a value of 2461.44 on October 7th, 2003. The volatilities can be found in table 4. For the sake of simplicity and to focus on the essence of the stochastic behaviour of the asset, we set the risk-free interest rate equal to 3 percent and the dividend yield to zero. The results of the calibration are visualized in Figure 1 and Figure 2 for the NIG-CIR and

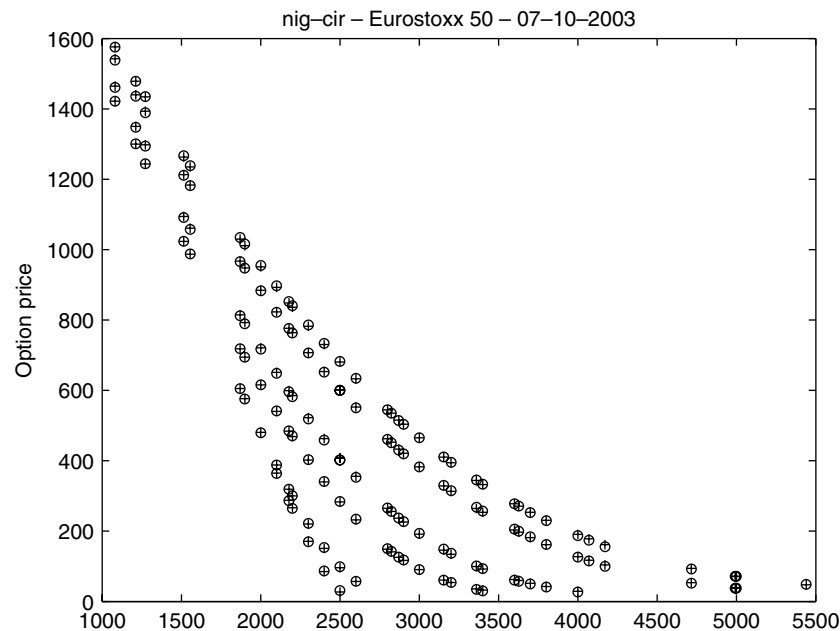


Figure 1: Calibration of NIG-CIR Model

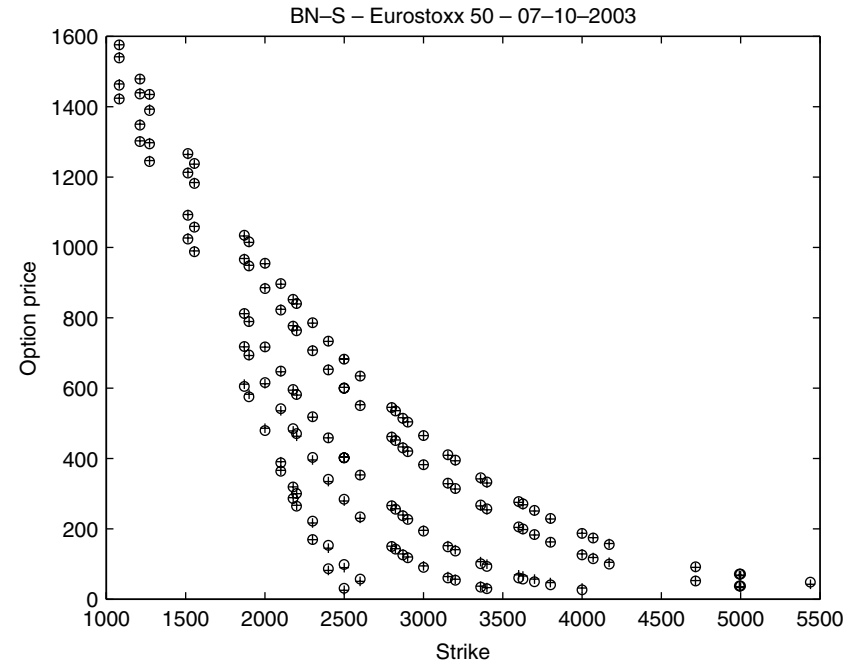


Figure 2: Calibration of Barndorff-Nielsen-Shephard Model

the BNS model respectively; the other models give rise to completely similar figures. Here, the circles are the market prices and the plus signs are the analytical prices (calculated through formula (8) using the respective characteristic functions and obtained parameters).

In Table 1 one finds the risk-neutral parameters for the different models. For comparative purposes, one computes several global measures of fit. We consider the root mean square error (*rmse*), the average absolute error as a percentage of the mean price (*ape*), the average absolute error (*aee*) and the average relative percentage error (*arpe*):

$$rmse = \sqrt{\sum_{options} \frac{(\text{Market price} - \text{Model price})^2}{\text{number of options}}}$$

$$ape = \frac{1}{\text{mean option price}} \sum_{options} \frac{|\text{Market price} - \text{Model price}|}{\text{number of options}}$$

$$aee = \sum_{options} \frac{|\text{Market price} - \text{Model price}|}{\text{number of options}}$$

$$arpe = \frac{1}{\text{number of options}} \sum_{options} \frac{|\text{Market price} - \text{Model price}|}{\text{Market price}}$$

In Table 2 an overview of these measures of fit are given.

**TABLE 1: RISK NEUTRAL PARAMETERS**

HEST

$$\sigma_0^2 = 0.0654, \kappa = 0.6067, \eta = 0.0707, \theta = 0.2928, \rho = -0.7571$$

HESJ

$$\sigma_0^2 = 0.0576, \kappa = 0.4963, \eta = 0.0650, \theta = 0.2286, \rho = -0.9900, \\ \mu_j = 0.1791, \sigma_j = 0.1346, \lambda = 0.1382$$

BN-S

$$\rho = -4.6750, \lambda = 0.5474, b = 18.6075, a = 0.6069, \sigma_0^2 = 0.0433$$

VG-CIR

$$C = 18.0968, G = 20.0276, M = 26.3971, \kappa = 1.2145, \eta = 0.5501, \\ \lambda = 1.7913, y_0 = 1$$

 VG-OU $\Gamma$ 

$$C = 6.1610, G = 9.6443, M = 16.0260, \lambda = 1.6790, a = 0.3484, \\ b = 0.7664, y_0 = 1$$

NIG-CIR

$$\alpha = 16.1975, \beta = -3.1804, \delta = 1.0867, \kappa = 1.2101, \eta = 0.5507, \\ \lambda = 1.7864, y_0 = 1$$

 NIG-OU $\Gamma$ 

$$\alpha = 8.8914, \beta = -3.1634, \delta = 0.6728, \lambda = 1.7478, a = 0.3442, \\ b = 0.7628, y_0 = 1$$

**TABLE 2: GLOBAL FIT ERROR MEASURES**

Model:	rmse	ape	aae	arpe
HEST	3.0281	0.0048	2.4264	0.0174
HESJ	2.8101	0.0045	2.2469	0.0126
BN-S	3.5156	0.0056	2.8194	0.0221
VG-CIR	2.3823	0.0038	1.9337	0.0106
VG-OU $\Gamma$	3.4351	0.0056	2.8238	0.0190
NIG-CIR	2.3485	0.0038	1.9194	0.0099
NIG-OU $\Gamma$	3.2737	0.0054	2.7385	0.0175

## 4 Simulation

In the current section we describe in some detail how the particular processes presented in section 2 can be implemented in practice in a Monte-Carlo simulation pricing framework. For this we first discuss the numerical implementation of the four building block processes which

drive them. This will be followed by an explanation of how one assembles a time-changed Lévy process.

### 4.1 NIG Lévy process

To simulate a NIG process, we first describe how to simulate  $\text{NIG}(\alpha, \beta, \delta)$  random numbers. NIG random numbers can be obtained by mixing Inverse Gaussian (IG) random numbers and standard Normal numbers in the following manner. An  $\text{IG}(a, b)$  random variable  $X$  has a characteristic function given by:

$$E[\exp(iuX)] = \exp(-a\sqrt{-2ui + b^2} - b)$$

First simulate  $\text{IG}(1, \delta\sqrt{\alpha^2 - \beta^2})$  random numbers  $i_k$ , for example using the Inverse Gaussian generator of Michael, Schucany and Haas (Devroye 1986). Then sample a sequence of standard Normal random variables  $u_k$ . NIG random numbers  $n_k$  are then obtained via:

$$n_k = \delta^2 \beta i_k + \delta \sqrt{i_k} u_k;$$

Finally the sample paths of a  $\text{NIG}(\alpha, \beta, \delta)$  process  $X = \{X_t, t \geq 0\}$  in the time points  $t_n = n\Delta t$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  can be generated by using the independent  $\text{NIG}(\alpha, \beta, \delta\Delta t)$  random numbers  $n_k$  as follows:

$$X_0 = 0, \quad X_{t_k} = X_{t_{k-1}} + n_k, \quad k \geq 1.$$

### 4.2 VG Lévy process

Since a VG process can be viewed as the difference of two independent Gamma processes, the simulation of a VG process becomes straightforward. A Gamma process with parameters  $a, b > 0$  is a Lévy process with  $\text{Gamma}(a, b)$  distributed increments, i.e. following a Gamma distribution with mean  $a/b$  and variance  $a/b^2$ . A VG process  $X^{(VG)} = \{X_t^{(VG)}, t \geq 0\}$  with parameters  $C, G, M > 0$  can be decomposed as  $X_t^{(VG)} = G_t^{(1)} - G_t^{(2)}$ , where  $G^{(1)} = \{G_t^{(1)}, t \geq 0\}$  is a Gamma process with parameters  $a = C$  and  $b = M$  and  $G^{(2)} = \{G_t^{(2)}, t \geq 0\}$  is a Gamma process with parameters  $a = C$  and  $b = G$ . The generation of Gamma numbers is quite standard. Possible generators are Johnk's gamma generator and Berman's gamma generator (Devroye 1986).

### 4.3 CIR stochastic clock

The simulation of a CIR process  $y = \{y_t, t \geq 0\}$  is straightforward. Basically, we discretize the SDE:

$$dy_t = \kappa(\eta - y_t)dt + \lambda y_t^{1/2} dW_t, \quad y_0 \geq 0,$$

where  $W_t$  is a standard Brownian motion. Using a first-order accurate explicit differencing scheme in time the sample path of the CIR process  $y = \{y_t, t \geq 0\}$  in the time points  $t = n\Delta t$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is then given by:

$$y_{t_n} = y_{t_{n-1}} + \kappa(\eta - y_{t_{n-1}})\Delta t + \lambda y_{t_{n-1}}^{1/2} \sqrt{\Delta t} v_n,$$

where  $\{v_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$  is a series of independent standard Normally distributed random numbers. For other more involved simulation schemes, like the Milstein scheme, resulting in a higher-order discretisation in time, we refer to Jäckel (2002).

#### 4.4 Gamma-OU stochastic clock

Recall that for the particular choice of a OU-Gamma process the subordinator  $z = \{z_t, t \geq 0\}$  in equation (3) is given by the compound Poisson process (4).

To simulate a Gamma( $a, b$ )-OU process  $y = \{y_t, t \geq 0\}$  in the time points  $t_n = n\Delta t, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , we first simulate in the same time points a Poisson process  $N = \{N_t, t \geq 0\}$  with intensity parameter  $a\lambda$ . Then (with the convention that an empty sum equals zero)

$$y_{t_n} = (1 - \lambda\Delta t)y_{t_{n-1}} + \sum_{k=N_{t_{n-1}}+1}^{N_{t_n}} x_k \exp(-\lambda\Delta t\tilde{u}_k),$$

where  $\tilde{u}_k$  are a series of independent uniformly distributed random numbers and  $x_k$  can be obtained from your preferred uniform random number generator via  $x_k = -\log(u_k)/b$ .

#### 4.5 Path generation for time-changed Lévy process

The explanation of the building block processes above allow us next to assemble all the parts of the time-changed Lévy process simulation puzzle. For this one can proceed through the following five steps (Schoutens 2003):

- (i) simulate the rate of time change process  $y = \{y_t, 0 \leq t \leq T\}$ ;
- (ii) calculate from (i) the time change  $Y = \{Y_t = \int_0^t y_s ds, 0 \leq t \leq T\}$ ;
- (iii) simulate the Lévy process  $X = \{X_t, 0 \leq t \leq Y_T\}$ ;
- (iv) calculate the time changed Lévy process  $X_{Y_t}$ , for  $0 \leq t \leq T$ ;
- (v) calculate the stock price process using (6). The mean correcting factor is calculated as:

$$\frac{\exp((r-q)t)}{E[\exp(X_{Y_t})|y_0]} = \frac{\exp((r-q)t)}{\varphi(-i\psi_X(-i); t, 1)}.$$

## 5 Pricing of Exotic Options

As evidenced by the quality of the calibration on a set of European call options in section 3, we can hardly discriminate between the different processes on the basis of their smile-conform pricing characteristics. We therefore put the models further to the test by applying them to a range of more exotic options. These range from digital barriers, one-touch barrier options, lookback options and finally cliquet options with local as well as global parameters. These first generation exotics with path-dependent payoffs were selected since they shed more light on the dynamics of the stock processes. At the same time, the pricings of the cliquet options are highly sensitive to the forward smile characteristics induced by the models.

## 5.1 Exotic options

Let us consider contracts of duration  $T$ , and denote the maximum and minimum process, resp., of a process  $Y = \{Y_t, 0 \leq t \leq T\}$  as

$$M_t^Y = \sup\{Y_u; 0 \leq u \leq t\} \text{ and } m_t^Y = \inf\{Y_u; 0 \leq u \leq t\}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T.$$

### 5.1.1 Digital barriers

We first consider digital barrier options. These options remain worthless unless the stock price hits some predefined barrier level  $H > S_0$ , in which case they pay at expiry a fixed amount  $D$ , normalised to 1 in the current settings. Using risk-neutral valuation, assuming no dividends and a constant interest rate  $r$ , the time  $t = 0$  price is therefore given by:

$$\text{digital} = e^{-rt} E_Q[1(M_T^S \geq H)],$$

where the expectation is taken under the risk-neutral measure  $Q$ .

Observe that with the current definition of digital barriers their pricing reflects exactly the chance of hitting the barrier prior to expiry. The behaviour of the stock after the barrier has been hit does not influence the result, in contrast with the classic barrier options defined below.

### 5.1.2 One-touch barrier options

For one-touch barrier call options, we focus on the following 4 types:

- The down-and-out barrier call is worthless unless its minimum remains above some “low barrier”  $H$ , in which case it retains the structure of a European call with strike  $K$ . Its initial price is given by:

$$DOB = e^{-rT} E_Q[(S_T - K)^+ 1(m_T^S > H)]$$

- The down-and-in barrier is a normal European call with strike  $K$ , if its minimum went below some “low barrier”  $H$ . If this barrier was never reached during the life-time of the option, the option remains worthless. Its initial price is given by:

$$DIB = e^{-rT} E_Q[(S_T - K)^+ 1(m_T^S \leq H)]$$

- The up-and-in barrier is worthless unless its maximum crossed some “high barrier”  $H$ , in which case it obtains the structure of a European call with strike  $K$ . Its price is given by:

$$UIB = e^{-rT} E_Q[(S_T - K)^+ 1(M_T^S \geq H)]$$

- The up-and-out barrier is worthless unless its maximum remains below some “high barrier”  $H$ , in which case it retains the structure of a European call with strike  $K$ . Its price is given by:

$$UOB = e^{-rT} E_Q[(S_T - K)^+ 1(M_T^S < H)]$$

### 5.1.3 Lookback options

The payoff of a lookback call option corresponds to the difference between the stock price level at expiry  $S_T$  and the lowest level it has reached during its lifetime. The time  $t = 0$  price of a lookback call option

is therefore given by:

$$LC = e^{-rt} E_Q[S_T - m_T^S].$$

Clearly, of the 3 path-dependent options introduced so-far, the lookback option depends the most on the precise path dynamics.

### 5.1.4 Cliquet options

Finally we also test the proposed models on the pricing of cliquet options. These still are very popular options in the equity derivatives world that allow the investor to participate (partially) in the performance of an underlying over a series of consecutive time periods  $[t_i, t_{i+1}]$  by “clicking in” the sum of these local performances. The local performances are measured relative to the stock level  $S_{t_i}$  attained at the start of each new subperiod, and each of the local performances is floored and/or capped to establish whatever desirable mix of positive and/or negative payoff combination. Generally on the final sum an additional global floor (cap) is applied to guarantee a minimum (maximum) overall payoff. This can all be summarised through the following payoff formula:

$$\min \left( cap_{glob}, \max \left( floor_{glob}, \sum_{i=1}^N \min \left( cap_{loc}, \max \left( floor_{loc}, \frac{S_{t_i} - S_{t_{i-1}}}{S_{t_{i-1}}} \right) \right) \right) \right)$$

Observe that the local floor and cap parameters effectively border the relevant “local” price ranges by centering them around the future, and therefore unknown, spot levels  $S_{t_i}$ . The pricing will therefore depend in a non-trivial subtle manner on the forward volatility smile dynamics of the respective models, further complicated by the global parameters of the contract. For an in-depth account of the related volatility issues we refer to the contribution of Wilmott (2003) in one of the previous issues.

### 5.2 Exotic option prices

We price all exotic options through Monte-Carlo simulation. We consistently average over 1.000.000 simulated paths. All options have a life-time of 3 years. In order to check the accuracy of our simulation algorithm we simulated option prices for all European calls available in the calibration set. All algorithms gave a very satisfactory result, with pricing differences with respect to their analytic calibration values less than 0.5 percent.

An important issue for the path-dependent lookback, barrier and digital barrier options above, is the frequency at which the stock price is observed for purposes of determining whether the barrier or its minimum level has been reached. In the numerical calculations below, we have assumed a discrete number of observations, namely at the close of each trading day. Moreover, we have assumed that a year consists of 250 trading days.

In Figure 3 we present simulation results with models for the digital barrier call option as a function of the barrier level (ranging from  $1.05S_0$  to  $1.5S_0$ ). As mentioned before, aside from the discounting factor  $e^{-rt}$ , the premiums can be interpreted as the chance of hitting the barrier during the option lifetime. In Figures 4–6, we show prices for all one-touch

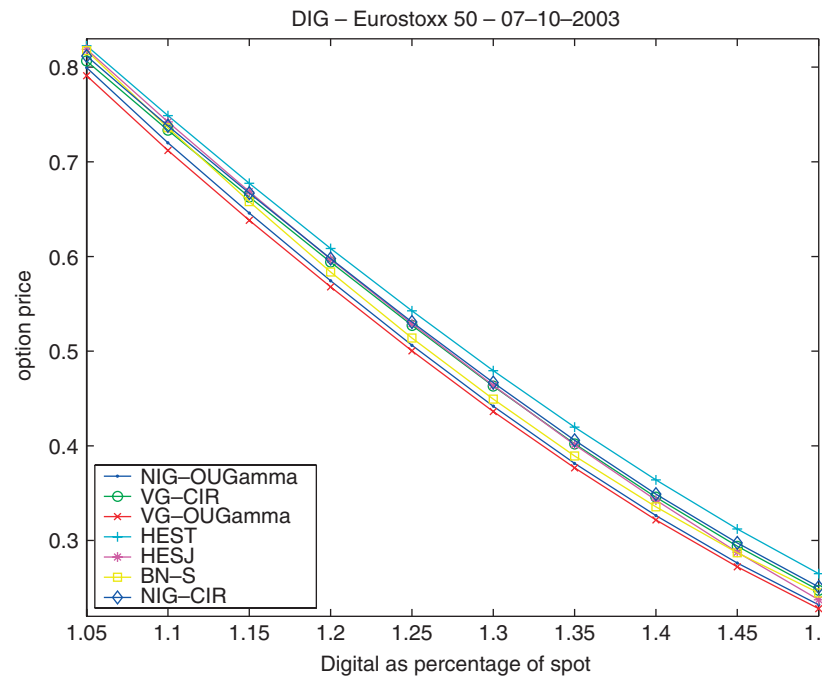


Figure 3: Digital Barrier prices

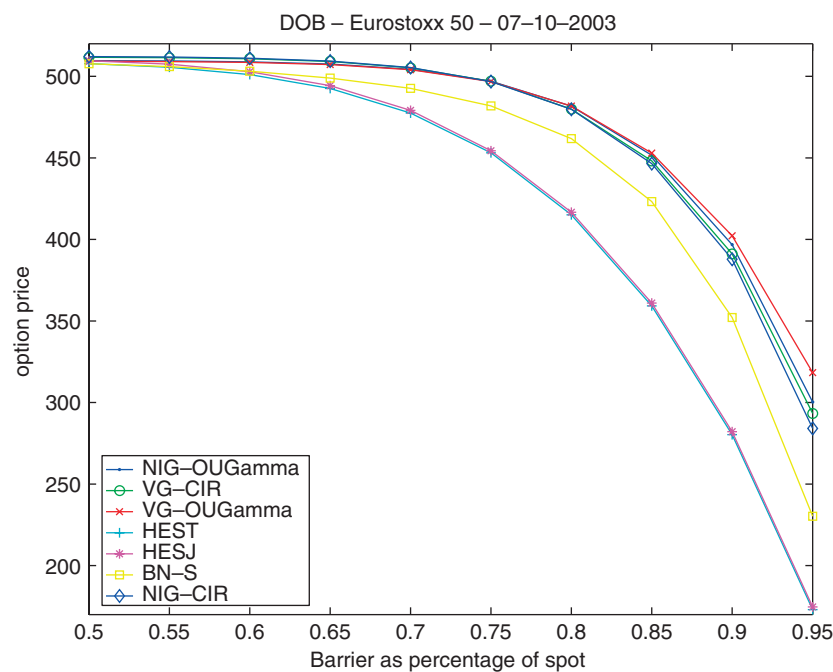


Figure 4: DOB prices



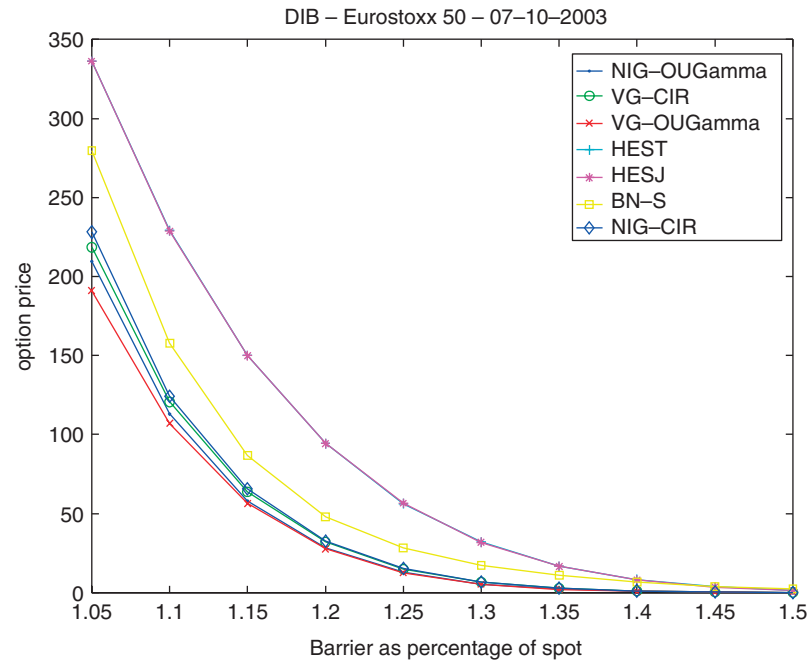


Figure 5: DIB prices

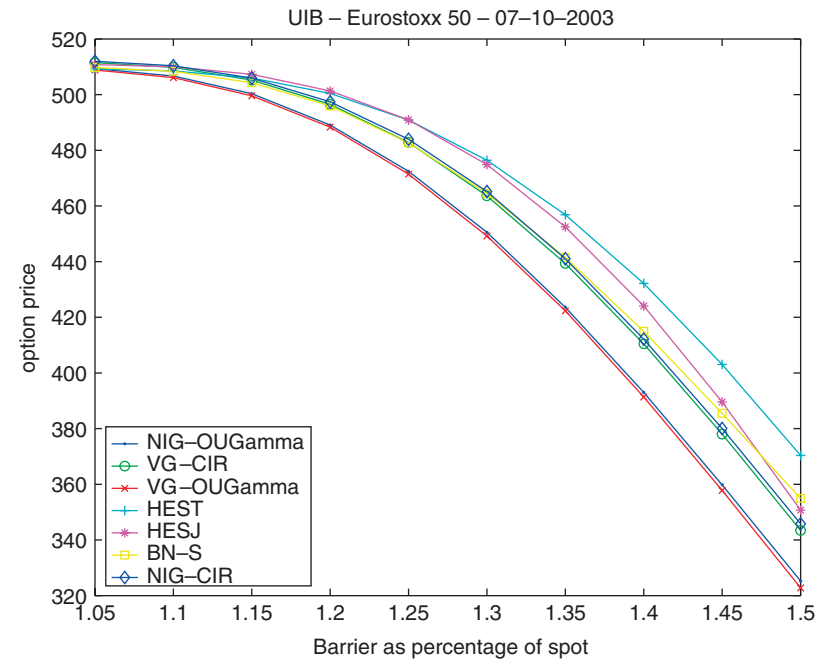


Figure 7: UIB prices

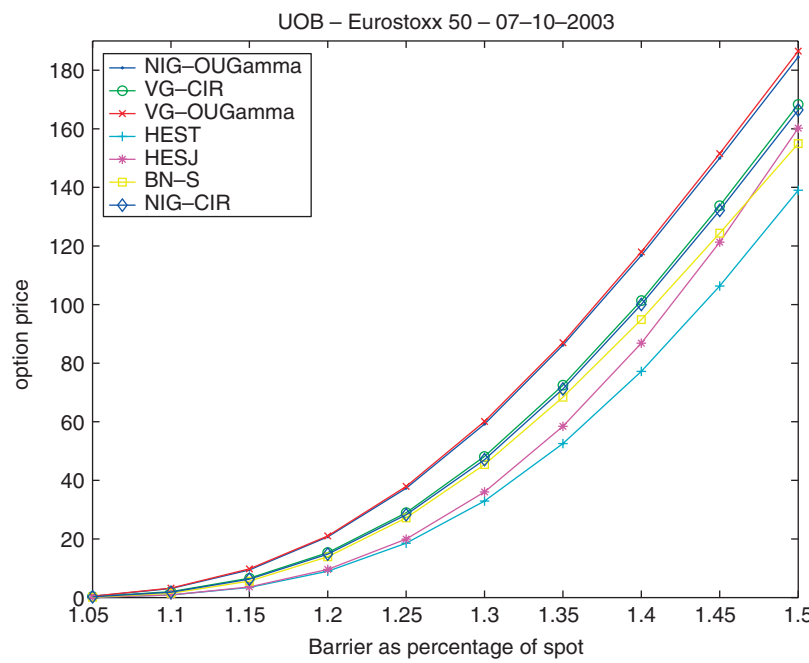


Figure 6: UOB prices

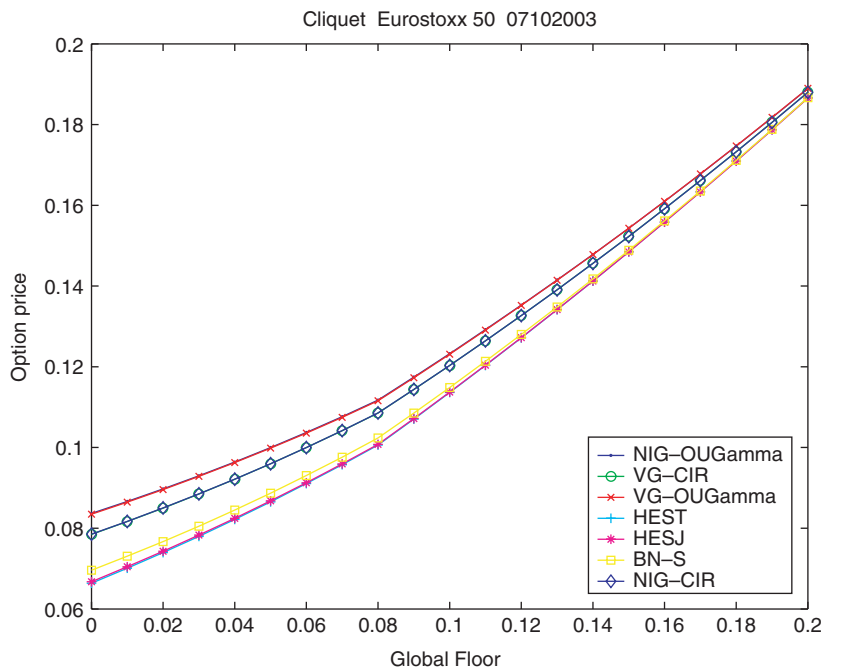


Figure 8: Cliquet prices:  $cap_{loc} = 0.08$ ,  $flo_{loc} = -0.08$ ,  $cap_{glo} = +\infty$ ,  $N = 3$ ,  $t_1 = 1$ ,  $t_2 = 2$ ,  $t_3 = 3$

**TABLE 3: LOOKBACK OPTION PRICES**

HEST	HESJ	BN-S	VG-CIR	VG-OU $\Gamma$	NIG-CIR	NIG-OU $\Gamma$
838.48	845.19	771.28	724.80	713.49	730.84	722.34

**TABLE 4: IMPLIED VOLATILITY SURFACE EUROSTOXX 50, OCT 7TH 2003**

Maturity (yearfraction)	0.0361	0.2000	1.1944	2.1916	4.2056	5.1639
Strike						
1081.82			0.3804	0.3451	0.3150	0.3137
1212.12			0.3667	0.3350	0.3082	0.3073
1272.73			0.3603	0.3303	0.3050	0.3043
1514.24			0.3348	0.3116	0.2920	0.2921
1555.15			0.3305	0.3084	0.2899	0.2901
1870.30		0.3105	0.2973	0.2840	0.2730	0.2742
1900.00		0.3076	0.2946	0.2817	0.2714	0.2727
2000.00		0.2976	0.2858	0.2739	0.2660	0.2676
2100.00	0.3175	0.2877	0.2775	0.2672	0.2615	0.2634
2178.18	0.3030	0.2800	0.2709	0.2619	0.2580	0.2600
2200.00	0.2990	0.2778	0.2691	0.2604	0.2570	0.2591
2300.00	0.2800	0.2678	0.2608	0.2536	0.2525	0.2548
2400.00	0.2650	0.2580	0.2524	0.2468	0.2480	0.2505
2499.76	0.2472	0.2493	0.2446	0.2400	0.2435	0.2463
2500.00	0.2471	0.2493	0.2446	0.2400	0.2435	0.2463
2600.00		0.2405	0.2381	0.2358	0.2397	0.2426
2800.00			0.2251	0.2273	0.2322	0.2354
2822.73			0.2240	0.2263	0.2313	0.2346
2870.83			0.2213	0.2242	0.2295	0.2328
2900.00			0.2198	0.2230	0.2288	0.2321
3000.00			0.2148	0.2195	0.2263	0.2296
3153.64			0.2113	0.2141	0.2224	0.2258
3200.00			0.2103	0.2125	0.2212	0.2246
3360.00			0.2069	0.2065	0.2172	0.2206
3400.00			0.2060	0.2050	0.2162	0.2196
3600.00				0.1975	0.2112	0.2148
3626.79				0.1972	0.2105	0.2142
3700.00				0.1964	0.2086	0.2124
3800.00				0.1953	0.2059	0.2099
4000.00				0.1931	0.2006	0.2050
4070.00					0.1988	0.2032
4170.81					0.1961	0.2008
4714.83					0.1910	0.1957
4990.91					0.1904	0.1949
5000.00					0.1903	0.1949
5440.18						0.1938

barrier options (as a percentage of the spot). The strike  $K$  was always taken equal to the spot  $S_0$ . For reference we summarize in Table 5 all option prices for the above discussed exotics. One can check that the barrier results agree well with the identity  $DIB + DOB = \text{vanilla call} = UIB + UOB$ , suggesting that the simulation results are well converged. Lookback prices are presented in Table 3.

Consistently over all figures the Heston prices suggest that this model (for the current calibration) results in paths dynamics that are more *volatile*, breaching more frequently the imposed barriers. The results for the Lévy models with stochastic time change seem to move in pairs, with the choice of stochastic clock dominating over the details of the Lévy model upon which the stochastic time change is applied. The first couple, VG- $\Gamma$  and NIG- $\Gamma$  show very similar results, overall showing the least *volatile* path dynamics, whereas the VG-CIR and NIG-CIR prices consistently fall midway the pack. Finally the OU- $\Gamma$  results without stochastic clock typically fall between the Heston and the VG-CIR and NIG-CIR prices.

Besides these qualitative observations it is important to note the magnitude of the observed differences. Lookback prices vary over about 15 percent, the one-touch barriers over 200 percent, whereas for the digital barriers we found price differences of over 10 percent. Finally for the cliquet premiums a variation of over 40 percent was noted.

For the Cliquet options, the prices are shown in Figures 8-9 for two different combinations. The numerical values can be found in Tables 6 and 7. These results are in-line with the previous observations.

## 6 Conclusion

We have looked at different models, all reflecting non-normal returns and stochastic volatility. Empirical work has generally supported the need for both ingredients.

We have demonstrated the clear ability of all proposed processes to produce a very convincing fit to a market-conform volatility surface. At the same time we have shown that this calibration could be achieved in a timely



manner using a very fast computational procedure based on FFT.

Note, that an almost identical calibration means that at the time-points of the maturities of the calibration data set the marginal distribution is fitted accurately to the risk-neutral distribution implied by the market. If we have different models leading all to such almost perfect calibrations, all models have almost the same marginal distributions. It should however be clear that even if at all time-points  $0 \leq t \leq T$  marginal distributions among different models coincide, this does not imply that exotic prices should also be the same. This can be seen from the following discrete-time example. Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $X = \{X_i, i = 1, \dots, n\}$  be an iid sequence and let  $\{u_i, i = 1, \dots, n\}$  be a independent sequence which randomly varies between  $u_i = 0$  and 1. We propose two discrete (be it unrealistic) stock price models,  $S^{(1)}$  and  $S^{(2)}$ , with the same marginal distributions:

$$S_i^{(1)} = u_i X_1 + (1 - u_i) X_2 \text{ and } S_i^{(2)} = X_i$$

The first process flips randomly between two states  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , both of which follow the distribution of the iid sequence, and so do all the marginals at the time points  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . The second process changes value in all time points. The values are independent of each other and all follow again the same distribution of the iid sequence. In both cases all the marginal distributions (at every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are the same (as the distribution underlying the sequence  $X$ ). It is clear however that the maximum and minimum of both processes behave completely different. For the first process, the maximal  $\max_{j \leq i} S_j^{(1)} = \max(X_1, X_2)$  and minimal process  $\min_{j \leq i} S_j^{(1)} = \min(X_1, X_2)$  for  $i$  large enough, whereas for the second process there is much more variation possible and it clearly leads to other distributions. In summary, it should be

**TABLE 5: EXOTIC OPTION PRICES**

	$H/S_0$	NIG- OU $\Gamma$	VG- CIR	VG- -OU $\Gamma$	HEST	HESJ	BN-S	NIG- CIR
Call		509.76	511.80	509.33	509.39	510.89	509.89	512.21
DOB	0.95	300.25	293.28	318.35	173.03	174.64	230.25	284.10
DOB	0.9	396.80	391.17	402.24	280.30	282.09	352.14	387.83
DOB	0.85	451.61	448.10	452.97	359.27	360.99	423.21	446.52
DOB	0.8	481.65	479.83	481.74	415.06	416.63	461.82	479.77
DOB	0.75	497.00	496.95	496.80	453.13	454.33	481.85	496.78
DOB	0.7	504.31	505.24	504.05	477.47	479.12	492.62	505.38
DOB	0.65	507.53	509.10	507.21	492.52	494.25	498.93	509.34
DOB	0.6	508.88	510.75	508.53	501.09	502.84	503.17	511.09
DOB	0.55	509.43	511.40	509.06	505.55	507.41	505.93	511.80
DOB	0.5	509.64	511.67	509.24	507.78	509.51	507.68	512.08
DIB	0.95	209.51	218.51	190.98	336.35	336.25	279.61	228.10
DIB	0.9	112.95	120.62	107.08	229.08	228.80	157.72	124.37
DIB	0.85	58.14	63.69	56.35	150.11	149.90	86.65	65.68
DIB	0.8	28.11	31.96	27.59	94.32	94.26	48.04	32.43
DIB	0.75	12.76	14.84	12.53	56.26	56.56	28.01	15.42
DIB	0.7	5.45	6.55	5.28	31.91	31.77	17.24	6.83
DIB	0.65	2.23	2.70	2.11	16.86	16.64	10.94	2.87
DIB	0.6	0.88	1.04	0.79	8.29	8.05	6.69	1.11
DIB	0.55	0.33	0.39	0.26	3.83	3.48	3.94	0.40
DIB	0.5	0.12	0.13	0.09	1.60	1.38	2.19	0.13
UIB	1.05	509.32	511.52	508.84	509.30	510.81	509.73	511.98
UIB	1.1	506.68	509.80	506.11	508.52	510.00	508.38	510.37
UIB	1.15	500.33	505.21	499.56	505.96	507.28	504.28	505.93
UIB	1.2	489.05	496.50	488.30	500.42	501.31	495.95	497.41
UIB	1.25	472.47	482.84	471.39	490.85	490.93	482.66	483.94
UIB	1.3	450.54	463.62	449.23	476.43	474.86	464.48	465.16
UIB	1.35	423.62	439.32	422.32	456.83	452.47	441.48	441.00
UIB	1.4	393.01	410.46	391.36	432.17	424.09	414.98	412.16
UIB	1.45	359.77	378.05	357.80	403.03	389.56	385.50	380.04
UIB	1.5	325.25	343.46	322.79	370.33	350.68	354.90	345.79
UOB	1.05	0.44	0.27	0.49	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.23
UOB	1.1	3.08	2.00	3.22	0.87	0.89	1.48	1.84
UOB	1.15	9.43	6.59	9.77	3.42	3.61	5.58	6.27
UOB	1.2	20.71	15.29	21.03	8.96	9.58	13.91	14.80
UOB	1.25	37.29	28.95	37.94	18.53	19.96	27.20	28.26
UOB	1.3	59.22	48.17	60.10	32.95	36.03	45.38	47.04
UOB	1.35	86.14	72.47	87.00	52.55	58.42	68.39	71.21
UOB	1.4	116.75	101.33	117.96	77.20	86.80	94.88	100.04
UOB	1.45	149.98	133.74	151.52	106.35	121.33	124.36	132.16
UOB	1.5	184.50	168.33	186.53	139.04	160.21	154.96	166.41

(Continued)

TABLE 5: Continued

	$H/S_0$	NIG- OU $\Gamma$	VG- CIR	VG- -OU $\Gamma$	HES $\Gamma$	HESJ	BN-S	NIG- CIR
DIG	1.05	0.7995	0.8064	0.7909	0.8226	0.8189	0.8173	0.8118
DIG	1.1	0.7201	0.7334	0.7120	0.7487	0.7421	0.7360	0.7380
DIG	1.15	0.6458	0.6628	0.6382	0.6774	0.6685	0.6580	0.6670
DIG	1.2	0.5744	0.5940	0.5678	0.6084	0.5971	0.5836	0.5977
DIG	1.25	0.5062	0.5273	0.5003	0.5427	0.5290	0.5138	0.5308
DIG	1.3	0.4418	0.4630	0.4363	0.4794	0.4637	0.4493	0.4668
DIG	1.35	0.3816	0.4021	0.3767	0.4198	0.4012	0.3893	0.4059
DIG	1.4	0.3264	0.3456	0.3217	0.3640	0.3426	0.3355	0.3490
DIG	1.45	0.2763	0.2940	0.2722	0.3122	0.2877	0.2870	0.2975
DIG	1.5	0.2321	0.2474	0.2280	0.2649	0.2374	0.2446	0.2510

TABLE 6: CLIQUET PRICES:  $cap_{loc} = 0.08, flo_{-loc} = 0.08, cap_{glo} = +\infty, flo_{glo} \in [0, 0.20], N = 3, t_1 = 1, t_2 = 2, t_3 = 3$

$flo_{glo}$	NIG- CIR	NIG- OU $\Gamma$	VG- -OU $\Gamma$	VG- CIR	HESJ	HES $\Gamma$	BN-S
0.00	0.0785	0.0837	0.0835	0.0785	0.0667	0.0664	0.0696
0.01	0.0817	0.0866	0.0865	0.0817	0.0704	0.0701	0.0731
0.02	0.0850	0.0897	0.0896	0.0850	0.0743	0.0740	0.0767
0.03	0.0885	0.0930	0.0928	0.0885	0.0783	0.0780	0.0805
0.04	0.0922	0.0964	0.0963	0.0921	0.0825	0.0822	0.0845
0.05	0.0960	0.1000	0.0998	0.0960	0.0868	0.0865	0.0887
0.06	0.1000	0.1037	0.1036	0.1000	0.0913	0.0911	0.0930
0.07	0.1042	0.1076	0.1075	0.1042	0.0959	0.0957	0.0976
0.08	0.1086	0.1117	0.1116	0.1085	0.1008	0.1006	0.1024
0.09	0.1144	0.1174	0.1173	0.1144	0.1072	0.1070	0.1085
0.10	0.1203	0.1232	0.1231	0.1203	0.1137	0.1136	0.1149
0.11	0.1264	0.1292	0.1291	0.1264	0.1204	0.1203	0.1214
0.12	0.1327	0.1353	0.1352	0.1327	0.1272	0.1272	0.1280
0.13	0.1391	0.1415	0.1414	0.1391	0.1342	0.1341	0.1348
0.14	0.1456	0.1478	0.1478	0.1456	0.1412	0.1412	0.1418
0.15	0.1523	0.1543	0.1543	0.1523	0.1485	0.1485	0.1489
0.16	0.1591	0.1610	0.1610	0.1591	0.1558	0.1559	0.1561
0.17	0.1661	0.1677	0.1678	0.1661	0.1633	0.1634	0.1635
0.18	0.1732	0.1747	0.1747	0.1733	0.1709	0.1710	0.1711
0.19	0.1805	0.1817	0.1818	0.1806	0.1787	0.1787	0.1788
0.20	0.1880	0.1889	0.1890	0.1880	0.1866	0.1866	0.1867

clear that equal marginal distributions of a process do not at all imply equal marginal distributions of the associated minimal or maximal process. This explains why matching European call prices do not lead necessarily to matching exotic prices. It is the underlying fine-grain structure of the process that will have an important impact on the path-dependent option prices.

We have illustrated this by pricing exotics by Monte-Carlo simulation, showing that price differences of over 200 percent are no exception. For lookback call options a price range of more than 15 percent amongst the models was observed. A similar conclusion was valid for the digital barrier premiums. Even for cliquet options, which only depend on the stock realisations over a limited amount of time-points, prices vary substantially among the models. At the same time the presented details

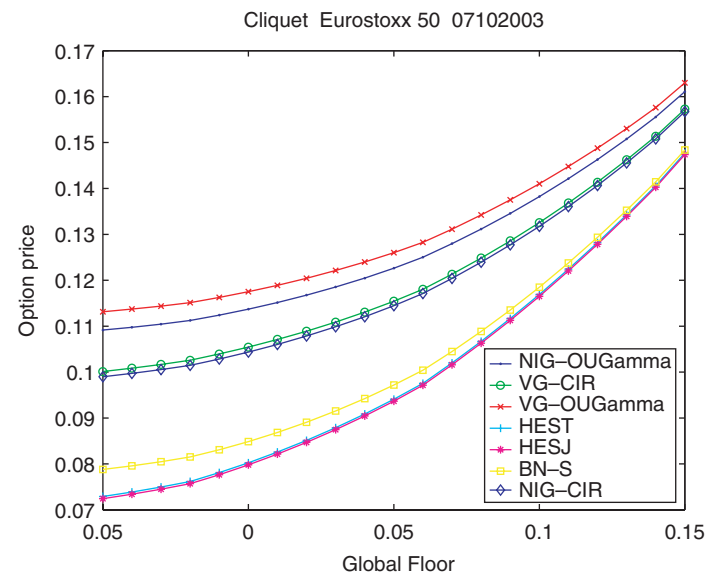


Figure 9: Cliquet Prices:  $flo_{loc} = -0.03, cap_{loc} = 0.05, cap_{glo} = +\infty, T = 3, N = 6, t_i = i/2$

**TABLE 7: CLIQUET PRICES:  $f_{lo_{loc}} = -0.03$ ,  $cap_{loc} = 0.05$ ,  $cap_{glo} = +\infty$ ,  $T = 3$ ,  $N = 6$ ,  $t_i = i/2$**

$f_{lo_{glo}}$	NIG-CIR	NIG-OUT	VG-OUT	VG-CIR	HESJ	HEST	BN-S
-0.05	0.0990	0.1092	0.1131	0.1001	0.0724	0.0729	0.0788
-0.04	0.0997	0.1098	0.1137	0.1008	0.0734	0.0739	0.0796
-0.03	0.1005	0.1104	0.1144	0.1017	0.0745	0.0750	0.0805
-0.02	0.1015	0.1112	0.1151	0.1026	0.0757	0.0762	0.0815
-0.01	0.1028	0.1124	0.1162	0.1039	0.0776	0.0781	0.0831
0.00	0.1044	0.1137	0.1175	0.1054	0.0798	0.0802	0.0849
0.01	0.1060	0.1152	0.1189	0.1071	0.0821	0.0826	0.0869
0.02	0.1079	0.1168	0.1204	0.1089	0.0847	0.0851	0.0891
0.03	0.1099	0.1185	0.1221	0.1109	0.0874	0.0879	0.0915
0.04	0.1121	0.1205	0.1240	0.1131	0.0904	0.0909	0.0942
0.05	0.1145	0.1226	0.1260	0.1154	0.0937	0.0941	0.0972
0.06	0.1171	0.1250	0.1283	0.1180	0.0971	0.0975	0.1004
0.07	0.1204	0.1280	0.1311	0.1213	0.1016	0.1020	0.1045
0.08	0.1239	0.1312	0.1342	0.1248	0.1063	0.1067	0.1088
0.09	0.1277	0.1346	0.1375	0.1286	0.1113	0.1117	0.1135
0.10	0.1317	0.1382	0.1410	0.1326	0.1165	0.1169	0.1185
0.11	0.1361	0.1421	0.1448	0.1368	0.1220	0.1224	0.1238
0.12	0.1406	0.1463	0.1488	0.1414	0.1278	0.1282	0.1294
0.13	0.1456	0.1508	0.1531	0.1462	0.1339	0.1343	0.1353
0.14	0.1508	0.1556	0.1576	0.1514	0.1403	0.1406	0.1415
0.15	0.1567	0.1611	0.1630	0.1573	0.1474	0.1477	0.1484

of the Monte-Carlo implementation should allow the reader to embark on his/her own pricing experiments.

The conclusion is that great care should be taken when employing attractive fancy-dancy models to price (or even more important, to evaluate hedge parameters for) exotics. As far as we know no detailed study about the underlying path structure of assets has been done yet. Our study motivates such a deeper study.

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