

# Projection of the two-dimensional Black-Scholes equation for options with underlying stock and strike prices in two different currencies

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The two-variable Black-Scholes equation is used to study the option exercise price of two different currencies. Due to the complexity of dealing with several variables, reduction methods have been implemented to deal with these problems. This paper proposes an alternative reduction by using the so-called Zwanzig projection method to one-dimension, successfully developed to study the diffusion in confined systems. In this case, the option price depends on the stock price and the exchange rate between currencies. We assume that the exchange rate between currencies will depend on the stock price through some model that bounds such dependence, which somehow influences the final option price. As a result, we find a projected one-dimensional Black-Scholes equation similar to the so-called Fick-Jacobs equation for diffusion on channels. This equation is an effective Black-Scholes equation with two different interest rates, whose solution gives rise to a modified Black-Scholes formula. The properties of this solution are shown and were graphically compared with previously found solutions, showing that the corresponding difference is bounded.

**Keywords:** Diffusion in channels; entropic potential; black-scholes equation; option-pricing model.

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## 1. Introduction

It is well known that a system of stochastic differential equations describes the evolution of the prices of two or more risky assets [1]. The options derived from those two or more underlying risky assets are called multiple-asset options and can be modeled as a terminal-boundary value problem with the multi-dimensional partial differential Black-Scholes equation, in two or more variables, depending on the assets. Due to the complexity of the explicit solution of the equation mentioned above, an essential issue in the price of multiple-asset options is whether a pricing problem can be reduced to a one-dimensional problem by introducing new appropriate variables. One widely used possibility is the use of the so-called *numeraire* change method, which is important in reducing the number of risk sources to be considered in the price of the options, as well as gives significant computational simplifications [2, 3]. A numeraire is any strictly positive price process whose choice does not change the properties of the market. It is used to compare numerical values of two different portfolios, expressing them in terms of the same numeraire [4]. The basic idea of the numeraire approach is to choose a variable that incorporates one of the risk sources and express all market prices in terms of the one chosen as the numeraire. This numeraire asset is risk-free in the new pricing system, thus reducing the number of risk factors from  $n$  to  $n - 1$ . At the end of the calculation, it is possible to return to the standard prices through a simple transformation [2]. Furthermore, in [5] authors introduce a more general multiplicative transformation which can be applied repeatedly, reducing the number of dimensions by two or more and therefore the

sources of risks. They obtain a modified Black-Scholes formula for the option's price, which depends on the volatilities of both variables.

In this paper, we propose a different strategy based not on reducing risks but on considering how much influence one variable has on the other variables. This is achieved by using a projection scheme that has been developed with great success in the study of diffusion in confined systems [6–10]. The method consists of choosing a variable, called transversal, whose influence is bounded and can depend on the other variable that is usually known as longitudinal. To apply this method clearly, we choose a two-variable system and its projection to one dimension. In particular, the evolution of the option price with an exercise price in foreign currency is studied. In this case, both the stock price and the exchange rate will be the two variables on which the option's price will depend. As is well known for certain assumptions in the evolution of prices, it is possible to establish a relationship between the Black-Scholes equation and the usual diffusion equation. Therefore the present method will work under the same assumptions.

The paper is organized as follows: In Sec. 2 we present the general equation of Black-Scholes in two dimensions and briefly summarize the result of the generalized method for this problem which was already presented in Ref. [5]. In Sec. 3 we review the basic steps of the projection method to one dimension of the diffusion equation for a confined system proposed by Zwanzig. This gives rise to the so-called Fick-Jacobs equation, which is an effective one-dimensional diffusion equation modified by the width of the channel [6, 7, 9, 10].

In Sec. 4 the projection method is implemented on the two-dimensional equation of Black-Scholes, obtaining first a Fick-Jacobs-like equation, where the influence of the range where the variable of the exchange rate is clearly defined. This acts as the channel width in the Fick-Jacobs equation but with extra drag and relaxation terms. To give an adequate interpretation, we rewrite that equation as an effective one-dimensional Black-Scholes equation that contains two effective parameters for the interest rates, which include the influence of the integrated variable. If the relationship between both variables is modeled as a power law, both rates depend only on the corresponding exponent, thus modulating its influence. This result contrasts with the numeraire approach or the generalized transformation where a source of risk is reduced, while here, it remains even after integrating a variable.

In Sec. 5, we solve the effective Black-Scholes equation for the value of a European call option at expiration time  $T$  and strike price  $K_p$ , obtaining an effective version of the so-called Black-Scholes formula, whose modification is due to the different interest rates and on the exponent of the power-law. Finally, we graphically compare both solutions for typical values of the variables, and we obtain that the relative error between both is bounded for short times. In the last Sec. 6, we briefly summarize the results of the work.

## 2. Multidimensional Black-Scholes equation and its reduction

We focus on the well-known model in financial mathematics, the so-called Black-Scholes partial differential equation, which is a very particular and important case of the diffusion model to describe the price of the options [11, 12]. The option prices derived from several underlying assets satisfy the multidimensional Black-Scholes equations [1, 3, 5]. The  $(n + 1)$ -dimensional Black-Scholes equation is given in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=0}^n a_{ij} S_i S_j \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S_i \partial S_j} \\ + \sum_{i=0}^n (r - q_i) S_i \frac{\partial V}{\partial S_i} - rV = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $V(S_0, \dots, S_n, t)$  is the option price derived from the assets  $S_i$ , with  $i = 0, \dots, n$ , with dividend rate  $q_i$ . Also,  $r > 0$  is the risk-free interest rate, and  $a_{ij}$  are the components of symmetrical non-negative matrix related to volatilities [1, 3, 5]. The solution of the Eq. (1) has been well studied, for instance, in Refs. [1, 3, 5], so here we will focus on the main example.

To describe the exercise price of an option when the underlying stock is traded in one currency, and the exercise price of the option is in a different one, it is possible to use Eq. (1) in two dimensions, where one variable will be the price  $S(t)$  of the stock and the other will be the exchange

rate between foreign currencies  $X(t)$ . At the initial time, the exercise price is the same as the underlying stock price in the first currency. Initially, it is converted to the second currency and held for the life of the option. The problem is finding the right price at the maturity date when the holder decides whether to pay the exercise price in the second currency to buy the underlying stock. Let  $r_p$  be the corresponding rate in the original currency,  $r_d$  the rate in the new currency,  $K_d$  the exercise price expressed in the second currency, and  $K_p$  the first one.

By considering the same assumptions as in Ref. [5], namely,  $S(t)$  follows a geometric Brownian motion,  $X(t)$  follows the Garman-Kohlhagen model [13], the rates are considered constants, and the Wiener scalar processes of each variable satisfy the following

$$dW^S(t) \cdot dW^X(t) = \rho dt, \quad |\rho| < 1, \quad (2)$$

it is possible to write a Black-Scholes equation for pricing model through the Itô formula [14]

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sigma_S^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + 2\rho\sigma_S\sigma_X SX \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S \partial X} \right. \\ \left. + \sigma_X^2 X^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial X^2} \right] + (r_p - \rho\sigma_S\sigma_X) S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \\ + (r_d - r_p) X \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} - r_d V = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$V(S, X, T) = \max(SX - K_d, 0), \quad (4)$$

where  $V(S, X, T)$  is the payoff function at expiry date, and the strike price  $K_d = K_p(0)X(0) = S(0)X(0)$ , is constant, but  $K_p(t) = S(0)X(0)X^{-1}(t)$  varies randomly.

In Ref. [5] starting from Eq. (3) by the use of a generalized transformation they could reduce problem (3)-(4) with the introduction of the group variable  $z = SX$ , to the following

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_z^2 z^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} + r_d z \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} - r_d V = 0, \quad (5)$$

$$V(z, T) = \max(z - K_d, 0), \quad (6)$$

where  $\sigma_S, \sigma_X$  are the corresponding volatilities. Note that Eq. (5) can be interpreted as a 1D Black-Scholes equation with an effective volatility  $\sigma_z^2 = \sigma_S^2 + 2\rho\sigma_S\sigma_X + \sigma_X^2$ . The solution to the problem (5)-(6) when expressed in the first currency is given by

$$V(S, X, t) = SN(d_1) - \frac{S(0)X(0)}{X} e^{-r_d(T-t)} N(d_2), \quad (7)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{SX}{S_0 X_0}\right) + \left(r_d + \frac{\sigma_z^2}{2}\right)(T-t)}{\sigma_z \sqrt{T-t}}, \\ d_2 = d_1 - \sigma_z \sqrt{T-t}, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

and the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of a normal random variable is defined as

$$N(d) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^d e^{-y^2/2} dy. \quad (9)$$

In the last section, we will return to expressions (7)-(36) to compare with the result obtained with the new proposal.

### 3. Projection method for the diffusion in confined systems

In this section, we review the reduction to one dimension introduced to study physical diffusion in quasi-unidimensional asymmetric channels.

For a 2D channel with boundaries defined by  $A_1(x) < y(x) < A_2(x)$ , with  $w(x) = A_2 - A_1$  its width, Zwanzig [6], Kalinay and Percus [7, 8], Dagdug and Pineda [9], introduced a projection method that allows to obtain corrections of a higher order in terms of a expansion parameter  $\lambda = D_x/D_y$ , which is the ratio of the diffusion constants in the longitudinal and transverse directions. By using this scale, the transverse modes turn out to be fast and transient and separate from the slow longitudinal ones that can be projected by integration in the transverse direction.

Let us start with the diffusion equation in two dimensions for the concentration  $\rho(x, y, t)$

$$\frac{\partial \rho(x, y, t)}{\partial t} = D_x \frac{\partial^2 \rho(x, y, t)}{\partial x^2} + D_y \frac{\partial^2 \rho(x, y, t)}{\partial y^2}, \quad (10)$$

with initial anisotropic diffusion constants  $D_x \neq D_y$ . Let us define the marginal integrated concentration  $P(x, t)$  as follows

$$P(x, t) = \int_{A_1(x)}^{A_2(x)} \rho(x, y, t) dy. \quad (11)$$

The method consists of integrating into the transversal coordinate  $y$ . So, when imposing the parallel-to-boundary-flux, as a boundary condition, and by the use of the Leibniz rule, *i.e.*,

$$\int_0^{A(x)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rho(x, y) dy = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_0^{A(x)} \rho(x, y) dy - A'(x) \rho(x, A(x)), \quad (12)$$

it is possible to turn Eq. (10) into an equation for  $P(x, t)$ . This is the so-called Fick-Jacobs equation when  $D_x = D_y = D_0$

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = D_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} w(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{P(x, t)}{w(x)}. \quad (13)$$

It is worth noting that for this effective 1D diffusion, a drift and a relaxation term induced by the channel width  $w(x)$  can be seen when the equation is rewritten as

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} = D_0 \left( \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \ln w}{\partial x} - P \frac{\partial^2 \ln w}{\partial x^2} \right). \quad (14)$$

We will use this form of the equation later. The drift is caused by the so-called entropic force induced by the boundaries, also called entropic barriers [6].

The Eq. (13) is the lowest order in a projective method that considers that the concentration also depends on the transversal coordinate, see [7–9] for channels. We will limit ourselves to the lowest order in this work, and the complete treatment will be done elsewhere.

### 4. Projection method for the 2D Black-Scholes equation

Let us first define the marginal option price that only depends on the stock price by integrating what we call the transversal variable, which in this case is the exchange rate between foreign currencies  $X$ . Thus, it is necessary to indicate the dependence of the price  $X$  on  $S$ . This will be modeled through function  $X = f(S)$ , which is the analog of the channel width for confined systems

$$U(S, t) = \int_0^{f(S)} V(S, X, t) dX, \quad (15)$$

where we consider that the lowest exchange rate is zero, that is, without variation; of course, both the range and the explicit form of  $f$  will depend on the characteristics of each market and the different currencies. Here we will use power-law type dependencies, only to exemplify the results.

Let us integrate Eq. (3) over  $X$  in some derivative terms the use of Leibniz rule (12) is needed because the integration limits depend on  $S$  so that the final form is the following

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \frac{\sigma_S^2 S^2}{2} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial S^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial S} (f' V(S, x(S))) - f' \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \Big|_{X=f} \right] + \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial S} (f V(S, f(S)) - U) - f' \left( X \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} \Big|_{X=f} \right) \right] \\ + \frac{\sigma_X^2}{2} \left[ X^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} \Big|_0^f - 2XV(S, f(S)) + 2U \right] + (r_p - \rho \sigma_S \sigma_X) S \left[ \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - f' V(S, f(S)) \right] \\ + (r_d - r_p) [fV(S, f(S)) - U] - r_d U = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

In order to simplify this equation, we need to introduce boundary conditions in the same way as in the projection method. This is achieved when we impose that the currency exchange can not exceed the maximum of  $f(S)$ , that is, when the following boundary condition is met

$$f' \sigma_S^2 S^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \Big|_{X=f} = \sigma_X^2 X^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} \Big|_{X=f}. \quad (17)$$

The following is to introduce the order of approximation. At the lowest order, price  $V$  does not depend explicitly on  $X$ , and from (15), we can write

$$V(S, X) = \frac{U(S)}{f(S)}. \quad (18)$$

After these considerations and some algebra where terms are reduced, Eq. (16) can be written in the following simplified form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \frac{\sigma_S^2 S^2}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial S} \left[ f \frac{\partial}{\partial S} \left( \frac{U}{f} \right) \right] \\ + (r_p - \rho \sigma_S \sigma_X) S f \frac{\partial}{\partial S} \left( \frac{U}{f} \right) - r_d U = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

This equation is similar to Fick-Jacobs Eq. (13) for diffusion in channels, where  $f$  is analogous to the channel's width  $w$  and induces modifications into the differential operators. Thus,  $f$  will induce an additional drag term and also a modification to the relaxation term. This can be seen when it is written as follows

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \frac{\sigma_S^2 S^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial S^2} + r_1 S \frac{\partial U}{\partial S} - r_2 U = 0, \quad (20)$$

that can be interpreted as a one-dimensional effective Black-Scholes equation for the marginal price  $U$ , where the effective rates are

$$r_1 = (r_d - \rho \sigma_S \sigma_X) - \frac{\sigma_S^2 S}{2} \frac{\partial \ln f}{\partial S}, \quad (21)$$

$$r_2 = r_d + \frac{\sigma_S^2 S^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \ln f}{\partial S^2} + (r_d - \rho \sigma_S \sigma_X) S \frac{\partial \ln f}{\partial S}. \quad (22)$$

Comparing Eq. (20) with the reduced Eq. (5), we can note that instead of effective volatility and the interest rate in the second currency, in this case, the volatility of the stock remains but two effective rates based on  $r_d$  appear, with modifications due not only to volatilities but now with a coupling to the possible dependence of  $X$  on  $S$  given by  $f$ . It is noteworthy that since  $f$  is a function of  $S$ , the induced rates will not be constant in the general case. However, if we consider a simplified model where  $f$  is a power law of the form  $f = AS^m$  with  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , therefore

$$S \frac{\partial \ln f}{\partial S} = m, \quad S^2 \frac{\partial^2 \ln f}{\partial S^2} = -m, \quad (23)$$

so the rates can be rewritten as

$$r_1 = (r_d - \rho \sigma_S \sigma_X) - \frac{\sigma_S^2}{2} m, \quad (24)$$

$$r_2 = r_d - \frac{\sigma_S^2}{2} m + (r_d - \rho \sigma_S \sigma_X) m, \quad (25)$$

which become constants that only depend on the corresponding power. Note that only in the case where  $m = 0$  and the correlation is zero, the two rates will coincide.

The next step will be to obtain the corresponding effective Black-Scholes formula for this problem with the rates  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ , solving (20) and comparing with the one previously obtained in Ref. [5].

## 5. Effective Black-Scholes formula

As usual for the solution of this equation, the following well-known variable change is chosen, which also serves to scale the variables in dimensionless quantities

$$t = T - \frac{\tau}{\sigma_S^2/2}, \quad S = K_p e^y, \quad (26)$$

with  $T$  the maturity time and the price function given by

$$U(S, T) = K_p v(y, \tau). \quad (27)$$

With this, Eq. (20) becomes

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} + (q_1 - 1) \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - q_2 v, \quad (28)$$

where

$$q_1 = \frac{r_1}{\sigma_S^2/2}, \quad q_2 = \frac{r_2}{\sigma_S^2/2}. \quad (29)$$

with terminal condition  $v(y, 0) = \max(e^y - 1, 0)$ . As customary, we can parameterize the solution by introducing two constant parameters that are easily determined

$$v(y, \tau) = e^{\alpha y + \beta \tau} u(y, \tau), \quad (30)$$

thus, the equation becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} (2\alpha + q_1 - 1) \\ + u[\alpha(q_1 - 1) - q_2 + \alpha^2 - \beta]. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

When we neglect the coefficients of the second and third term on the right side of Eq. (31), we obtain the standard dimensionless diffusion equation  $u_\tau = u_{yy}$ , satisfying  $u(y, 0) = \max(e^{y(1-\alpha)} - e^{-\alpha y}, 0)$ . This set the parameters as follows

$$\alpha = \frac{1 - q_1}{2}, \quad \beta = \frac{-(q_1 - 1)^2}{4} - q_2. \quad (32)$$

The solution to the heat equation can be written in terms of the CDF of a normal random variable (9) as

$$\begin{aligned} u(y, \tau) = e^{(y/2)(q_1+1) + (\tau/4)(q_1+1)^2} N\left(\tilde{d}_1\right) \\ - e^{(y/2)(q_1-1) + (\tau/4)(q_1-1)^2} N\left(\tilde{d}_2\right), \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

where

$$\tilde{d}_1 = \frac{y}{\sqrt{2\tau}} + \sqrt{\frac{\tau}{2}}(q_1 + 1), \quad \tilde{d}_2 = \frac{y}{\sqrt{2\tau}} + \sqrt{\frac{\tau}{2}}(q_1 - 1). \quad (34)$$

When we return to the original variables, substituting the values of  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ , we obtain the following expression that can be regarded as the effective Black-Scholes formula for our problem

$$U(S, T) = S e^{(r_1 - r_2)(T-t)} N(\tilde{d}_1) - K_p e^{-r_2(T-t)} N(\tilde{d}_2), \quad (35)$$

where

$$\tilde{d}_1 = \frac{\ln \frac{S}{K_p} + (r_1 + \frac{\sigma_S^2}{2})(T-t)}{\sigma_S \sqrt{T-t}},$$

$$\tilde{d}_2 = \frac{\ln \frac{S}{K_p} + (r_1 - \frac{\sigma_S^2}{2})(T-t)}{\sigma_S \sqrt{T-t}}. \quad (36)$$

When comparing this solution with (7), we notice is that (35) does not depend on  $X$ . The first term contains an additional temporal dependence that vanishes only when  $r_1 = r_2$ . Amusingly, the arguments of the normal CDF, *i.e.* (36), only depend on the rate  $r_1$  and the volatility of  $S$ , while in the former, they depend on the effective volatility  $\sigma_z$  and also on  $X$ .

In order to graphically compare both formulas, let us consider the value of a call option with an exercise price of  $K_p = 100$  in the first currency. The expiration time will be at, say, one year  $T = 1$ . Taking into account the risk-free interest rate in the first coin to be  $r_d = 0.12$ . For the volatilities  $\sigma_S = 0.085$  and  $\sigma_X = 0.045$ , as standard deviations per year of both the profitability of the stock and the exchange rates, we will also consider the correlation as  $\rho = 0.5$ . The plotted range will be around the exercise price of  $70 < S < 130$ . We realize that since (7) is an equation of two variables, the

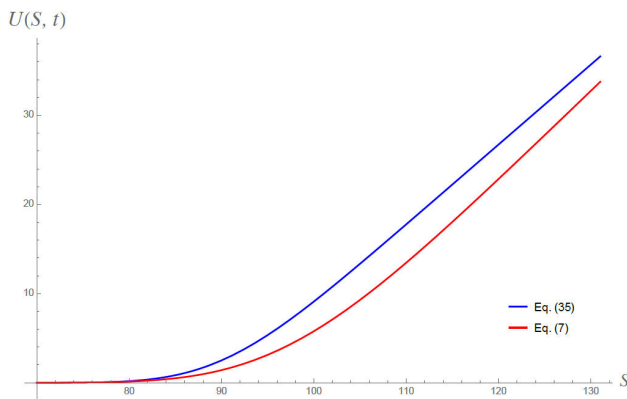


FIGURE 1. Value of the call option when the underlying stock price and strike price in two different currencies, both evaluated near initial time  $t = 0.1$ . Blue curve corresponds to effective Black-Scholes formula (35) with  $m = 1$ . Red curve is Eq. (7) considering  $X(0) = 1.3$  and evaluating at  $X_i = 1.2$ .

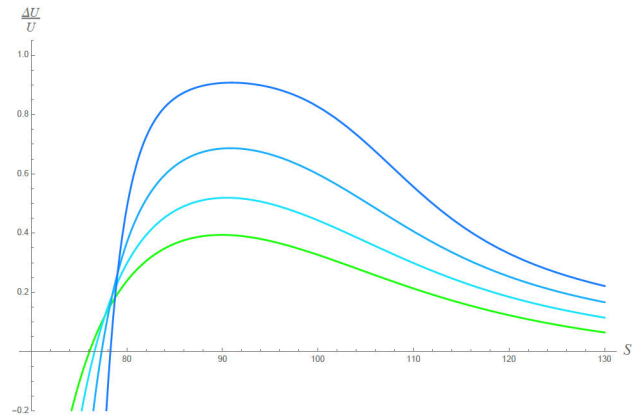


FIGURE 2. Relative difference of both solutions Eq. (7) and Eq. (35). The green curve is close to  $t = 0$ , while going to increasingly blue curves increases the time progressively.

proposed comparison must be for a fixed value of  $X$ , so we will choose a value in the range  $1.2 < X < 1.4$ .

The relative difference  $\Delta U \equiv (U(S, t) - V(S, X_i, t))/U(S, t)$ , between both solutions is bounded as shown in Fig. 2. It can be seen that the greater value of  $\Delta U$  is reached near the expiration time of the option. However, it never exceeds 1.

Qualitatively both solutions are very similar and do not differ too much from one another. However, the comparison strongly depends on the value of  $X$  in which we are comparing. Equation (35) contains the influence of the possible dependence of  $S$  on  $X$  modeled through the function  $f$ , which is still to be established.

For instance, by varying  $m$ , it is possible to change the behavior of the price. Indeed, for a fixed value of the correlation, the variation of the exponent can be seen in Figs. 3 and 4. As  $m$  grows from 0 to 4, the growth of  $U$  becomes slower. This difference decreases as we get closer to the expiration date of the option Fig. 4. It must be determined if this can be observed in the actual behavior of the market. This will indicate the further need to obtain suitable models for  $f$ .

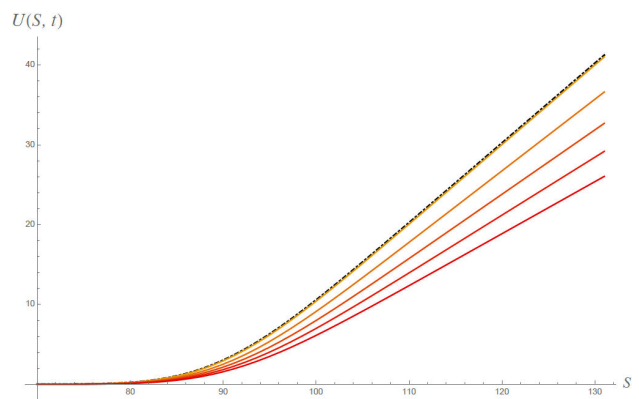


FIGURE 3. Call option value from Eq. (35) at  $t = 0.1$ . The black dot-dashed line is the case  $\rho = 0$  and  $m = 0$ , which is the usual one-dimensional solution and is only drawn as a guide to compare the complete solution. Price curves decrease as the exponent increases from yellow  $m = 0$ , to red  $m = 4$ .

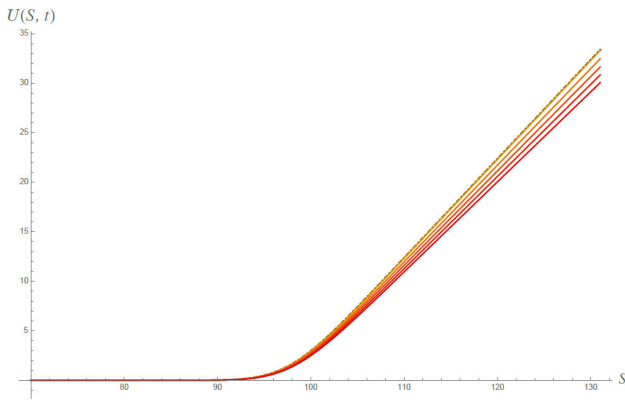


FIGURE 4. Call option value from Eq. (35) at  $t = 0.8$ . Colors as in Fig. 3. The effect of  $m$  decreases when approaching the expiration date of the option.

## 6. Conclusions

In this paper, we apply Zwanwig's projection method, developed to study diffusion in channels, to the bidimensional Black-Scholes equation for the case in which the option's value depends, in addition to the price of the underlying stock, on the exchange rate to a different currency. This case had already been studied by O, Ro, and Wan in Ref. [5], whose solution could be written in a very similar form to a one-dimensional Black-Scholes formula but dependent on the variable of exchange rate and of effective volatility  $\sigma_z$ . In the present one-dimensional projection approach, a Fick-Jacobs equation was obtained, where the width function appears explicitly, and in this case, it bounds the relationship between the stock price and the currency exchange. We rewrite this equation in a similar way to the one-dimensional Black-Scholes equation. The main difference is that we have two different effective interest rates in this case, which in addition are not necessarily constant. For the case in which the width function  $f$  is a power law, the rates become dependent only on the exponent  $m$ . It is then possible to solve the resulting Eq. (20) to find an effective Black-Scholes formula for this problem. Both solutions (7) and (35) were compared, and it is observed that the relative difference between them is bounded, which indicates that the solution shown here is

a good approximation of the solution given in Ref. [5]. This solution has an additional dependency that vanishes when the effective rates are equal, and this occurs whenever  $\rho = 0$  and  $m = 0$ . Otherwise, the effect of the exponent is that, as  $m$  increases, the option value  $U$  grows increasingly slowly, as seen in Figs. 3 and 4. It is possible to improve this behavior by having more suitable models for width  $f$ , perhaps similar to how solutions are bounded in the model predictive control [16, 17]. Also, it is worth stressing that the methods developed here can be applied in other situations. For example, when volatility is stochastic, the price of an option is given by the Merton-Garman equation [15], which is a partial differential equation in two variables, namely, the stock price and volatility. By bounding volatility like in this study, one could find an effective version of the Merton-Garman equation. This will be done elsewhere.

These results open the possibility for the study of multidimensional option pricing problems. They appear when dealing with price options on various underlying assets, such as finding the price of options in a basket that is a financial instrument where the underlying asset is a portfolio of several assets, for example, individual stocks. Most of the works in several dimensions are mainly numerical, and only a few present some exact solutions and approximations [5, 18], so generalizing the present results to various dimensions would be very useful. The projection method, either Zwanwig's or its generalization by Kalinay and Percus, has been successfully applied to reduce two and three-dimensional systems by introducing the width or cross-sectional area function into an effective equation and appropriate position-dependent diffusion coefficient [7, 8]. In  $n$  dimensions, it would be necessary to guarantee that the problem definition domain is such that one of the dimensions is much larger than the other  $n - 1$  and then project towards the longitudinal variable. An alternative method to find the diffusion coefficient was proposed by Berezhkovskii and Szabo [19] for the  $n$ -dimensional problem. A further projection method based on differential geometry was proposed which consists of constructing the channel from the midline and then projecting [20]. The generalization to any dimension of this method would need to have the domain as a function of the large coordinate and correspondingly transform the diffusion tensor, this will be done anywhere.

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