Instructor: Yuying Li
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Lecture Times:
MW 2:30-3:50
E2 1732

OH Yuying Li:
Thursday 10 - 11
DC3623

TA Chendi Ni
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DC 3594

Course Web Site: http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs476
My Web Site: http://www.uwaterloo.ca/~yuying

Calendar Description: http://www.ucalendar.uwaterloo.ca/1112/COURSE/course-CS.html#CS476
Schedule of Classes: http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocour/CIR/SA/under.html

Course Description


Course Objectives

To provide students with an overview of modern numerical algorithms for use in financial applications.

Jan 6 Introduction to Options
Random Walks on a Lattice
Jan 13 Ito’s Lemma
Black-Scholes Assignment 1 out
Jan 20 No Arbitrage Lattice
Hedging
Jan 27 Monte Carlo Methods
Risk Neutral Valuation
Feb 3 Hedging Assignment 1 in (due Feb 5)
Delta, Gamma and Greeks Assignment 2 out
Feb 10 VaR and CVaR risk measures Correlated Random Numbers
Feb 17 BS PDE, Reading Week (T-F)
Feb 24 American Options: PDE
Mar 2 Finite Difference Assignment 2 in (Mar 2)
Mar 9 Convexity and Optimality Assignment 3 out
Mar 16 Portfolio Optimization
Mar 23 Option model calibration
Mar 30 Review Assignment 3 in (April 1)

• Reference Material  Course notes are on sale at the W Store in South Campus Hall. The notes also have a list of reference books.

• Background Assumed  You should have taken
– An introductory course in numerical computation, similar to CS370.
– An introductory course in statistics.
– Basic calculus and linear algebra.
– Ability to program in Matlab

I will assume you know nothing about finance.

• **Course Accounts** You will need to register in the course to obtain a computing account on the CS student computing environment. You should register in CS476/676. After you do this, you can obtain a password by going to see the Math Faculty consultants in MC3011 (you must be registered in the course and have a Watcard). If you have a problem which can’t be resolved by the consultants, see Lori Suess in MC3011b. By being on the student environment, you will get a license to use matlab. If you use a research machine, you may not have a license for matlab (depending on your supervisor).

• **Assignments** Must be submitted in class on the due date. Assignments will be posted on the Web page for the course. Check to make sure you are using the most recent version (corrections will be made to the Web posting if necessary).

• **Assignment Marking.** The assignments will consist of programming problems and analytic work. **IMPORTANT:** most of the marks for the programming problems will be given for your description of your algorithms (i.e. pseudo-code) and explanation of the results. Simply handing in “raw code” will get very few marks.

Assignment figures and graphs should be carefully thought out to present the data and your conclusions in an effective and clear manner. Poor presentation of your work will result in a poor mark.

In all cases, I expect you to explain your algorithms, and describe what you see in detail. You should also submit hard copies of your code, along with some documentation. Matlab has good plotting facilities. Create figures with Matlab to include in your assignments.

Assignment solutions will be discussed in class. Assignment solutions will not be posted on the Web. Assignments will be returned in class. Assignments not picked up at that time must be picked up from the TA or instructor office hours.

• **Late Policy** On the due date of an assignment, the work done to date should be submitted in class; further material may be submitted for one-half credit at the start of the next class.

• **Class Grade**

  Revision due to Covid-19: The course has three marked assignments. For all students, the grade allocation is as follows:

  – assignment 1: 20%
  – assignment 2: 40%
  – assignment 3: 40% (no collaboration permitted on this assignment).

• **Graduate Students** To obtain credit for CS676, graduate students will have to complete extra questions on the first two assignments.

• **Programming Languages** Matlab tutorials can be found on the CS370 Web page:

  http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs370

There are many sources of Matlab information on the Web. There are also many reference books available. You are responsible for getting up to speed on Matlab.
• **Final Examination:** Revision due to Covid-19: There will be no final exam.

• **Assignment Retention** Unclaimed assignments will be retained for one month after term grades become official in quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures:


• **Collaboration** We encourage you to discuss general concepts and problems with classmates, tutors, TAs, and instructors. However, the solution that you submit must be worked through by yourself and written in your own words. It is not acceptable to work on an assignment with somebody else and write it up individually. The only exceptions are assignments or projects which the instructor designates as group activities. When discussing course matters, do not take notes, and do not look at another person’s partial solutions, or show them yours.

  Revision due to Covid-19: Assignment 3 needs to be done individually. No collaboration is permitted.

  Note that current Math faculty policy is that a mark of -100% can be recorded for the assignment in question in the case of cheating/copying.

• **Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

• **Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

• **Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about ‘rules’ for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

• **Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

  Note for Students with Disabilities: Note for Students with Disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

• **Intellectual Property:**

  Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

  – Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
– Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
– Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
– Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student’s educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner’s permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository). Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.