

Financial Engineering

Assignment 1

Unit 1 & 2

1.

- (i) Arbitrage opportunity is a situation where we can make a certain profit without any risk. Arbitrage opportunity also means that we start at time 0, with portfolio that has net value of 0, i.e. a zero-cost portfolio.
At some future time, T,
Probability of loss is zero and probability we make a strictly positive profit is greater than zero.

- (ii) Law of one price states that "Assuming principle of no arbitrage, two securities or combinations of securities that gives exact same payments must have the same price. "

- (iii) Pt: Price of 3 month European put

$$S_0 = 125$$

$$K = 120$$

$$c = 30$$

$$R_f = 5\% \text{ pa}$$

- (a) If dividends are paid continuously at rate of $q=15\%$

Using put call parity,

$$c + Ke^{-r(T-t)} = p + Ste^{-q(T-t)}$$

$$30 + 120e^{-0.05 * 3/12} = p + 125 e^{-0.15 * 3/12}$$

$$p = 28.11$$

- (b) If the price of put option is Rs. 23 then, it is cheaper.

To make profit, we buy cheap and sell the expensive. So, we will

buy put option @ Rs.23

Sell call option @ Rs.30

Buy one share @125

Borrow(sell) cash 118

So, in 3 months' time, cash to be re-paid would be $118 * e^{0.05 * 3/12} = 119.48$

We will receive dividends on share, d

So, if share price is above 120, call option would be exercised by the holder and we would let our put option expire worthless.

Our profit payoff would be:

$$120 - 119.48 + d = 0.52 + d$$

If share price is below 120, we would exercise our put option, and the holder of call option would let it go worthless. Our profit payoff would be:

$$120 - 119.78 + d = 0.52 + d$$

In either case, we generate positive profit at outset of 0.52

2. $dX_t = \alpha\mu(T-t) dt + \sigma \sqrt{(T-t)} dZ_t$
 $f(x,t) = e^{(m(T-t)-x)}$; where m is a differentiable equation
 find $\partial m / \partial t$ if $f(x,t)$ is a martingale

Ans.

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} = e^{(m(T-t) - X_t)} * \frac{\partial m}{\partial t} = f \left(\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} (T-t) + m \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial dX_t} = e^{(m(T-t) - X_t)} * (-1) = -f$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial^2 dX_t} = e^{(m(T-t) - X_t)} = f$$

Therefore,

By ito's lemma,

$$df(x,t) = dX_t \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + dt \frac{\partial F}{\partial dX_t} + \frac{(dX_t)^2}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial^2 dX_t}$$

$$df = (\alpha\mu(T-t) dt + \sigma \sqrt{(T-t)} dZ_t) (-f) + dt f \left(\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} (T-t) + m \right) + \frac{\sigma^2 (T-t) dt}{2} f$$

$$df = dt(-f \alpha\mu(T-t) + f \left(\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} (T-t) + m \right) + \frac{\sigma^2 (T-t) dt}{2} f) - f \sigma \sqrt{(T-t)} dZ_t$$

Since $f(x,t)$ is a martingale, it means that it has zero drift.

$$\text{i.e. } dt(-f \alpha\mu(T-t) + f \frac{\partial m}{\partial t} (T-t) + m + \frac{\sigma^2 (T-t) dt}{2} f) = 0$$

$$dt f \left(\alpha\mu(T-t) + \frac{\partial m}{\partial t} (T-t) + m + \frac{\sigma^2 (T-t) dt}{2} \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} = - \left(\alpha\mu(T-t) + \frac{\sigma^2 (T-t) dt}{2} + m \right) * \frac{1}{(T-t)}$$

3. $dX_t/X_t = 0.25 dt + \sigma dW_t$

$$dX_t = X_t(0.25dt + \sigma dW_t)$$

$$Y_t = f(t, X_t)$$

$$\text{Where } f(t, X_t) = e^{-t} x^2$$

- (i) Expression for dY_t :

By ito's lemma.

$$dY_t = dX_t * e^{-t} 2X_t + dt * e^{-t} x^2 * (-1) + \frac{(dX_t)^2}{2} * 2e^{-t}$$

$$dY_t = dX_t * e^{-t} 2X_t - dt * e^{-t} x^2 + \sigma^2 dt X_t^2 * e^{-t}$$

$$dY_t = 2e^{-t} X_t^2 \frac{dX_t}{X_t} - Y_t dt + Y_t dt \sigma^2$$

$$dY_t = 2Y_t (0.25 dt + \sigma dW_t) - Y_t dt + Y_t dt \sigma^2$$

$$\frac{dY_t}{Y_t} = (0.5 - 1 + \sigma^2) dt + 2\sigma dW_t$$

$$dY_t = (\sigma^2 - 0.5)dt Y_t + 2\sigma dW_t Y_t$$

(ii) The process is martingale when the drift would be zero, i.e.

$$\sigma^2 - 0.5 = 0$$

$$\sigma^2 = 0.5$$

4. American call option

T = 10 months

Rf = 9.5% pa

K = 350

Dividend = 10 after three months from now and again after six months from now.

If option is exercised before prior to dividend date, then the payoff is (St-K).

After dividend,

Doubt

5. St follows geometric Brownian motion

$$S_t = S_0 e^{(\mu - \sigma^2/2)T + \sigma X_t}$$

Therefore, ln(st) follows Normal distribution with $[\ln(S_0) + (\mu - \sigma^2/2)T, \sigma^2 t]$

E(St) = 16%

Sd(St) = 35%

S0 = 254

In this case, mean = 5.5867

Std dev = 0.24748

Probability that European call with k=258 in 6 months will be exercised

Call will be exercised if the share price is above the strike price

Therefore,

$$P(S_t > 258) = P(\ln(S_t) > \ln(258)) = P(\ln(S_t) > 5.553)$$

$$P\left(\frac{\ln(S_t) - 5.5867}{0.24748} > \frac{5.553 - 5.5867}{0.24748}\right)$$

$$P(z > -0.136) = P(z < 0.136) = 0.55172$$

Probability that European put with same exercise price and maturity will be exercised :

European put will only be exercised if share price is less than strike price

$$P(S_t < 258) = 1 - 0.55172 = 0.4482$$

6. GBM

(i) Show that $\frac{dS_t}{S_t} = \mu dt + \sigma dB_t$

$$\log\left(\frac{S_t}{S_0}\right) = \mu t + \sigma B_t$$

$$S_t = S_0 e^{\mu t + \sigma B_t}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial G}{\partial t} &= \mu * S_0 e^{\mu t + \sigma Bt} = \mu St \\ \frac{\partial G}{\partial St} &= \sigma * S_0 e^{\mu t + \sigma Bt} = \sigma St \\ \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial^2 t} &= \sigma^2 * S_0 e^{\mu t + \sigma Bt} = \sigma^2 St\end{aligned}$$

By Ito's lemma,

$$dSt = dBt \sigma St + dt \mu St + \frac{(dBt)^2}{2} \sigma^2 St$$

$$dSt = dBt \sigma St + dt \mu St + \frac{dt}{2} \sigma^2 St$$

$$\frac{dSt}{St} = dBt \sigma + dt(\mu + \frac{\sigma^2}{2})$$

$$\text{Hence, } \frac{dSt}{St} = x dBt + y dt$$

$$\text{Where } x = \sigma \text{ and } y \text{ is } (\mu + \frac{\sigma^2}{2})$$

(ii) $E[St] = E[S_0 e^{\mu t + \sigma Bt}] = S_0 e^{\mu t} E[e^{\sigma Bt}]$

Bt follows $N(0, t)$

By mgf

$$E[e^{\sigma Bt}] = e^{\frac{\sigma^2 t}{2}}$$

$$E[St] = S_0 e^{\mu t + \frac{\sigma^2 t}{2}}$$

$$V[St] = E[S^2t] - (E[St])^2$$

$$V[St] = S_0^2 e^{2\mu t} E[e^{2\sigma Bt}] - S_0^2 e^{2\mu t + \sigma^2 t}$$

By mgf,

$$E[e^{2\sigma Bt}] = e^{\frac{4\sigma^2 t}{2}} = e^{2\sigma^2 t}$$

$$V[St] = S_0^2 e^{2\mu t + 2\sigma^2 t} - S_0^2 e^{2\mu t + \sigma^2 t} = S_0^2 e^{2\mu t} e^{(2\sigma^2 t - \sigma^2 t)}$$

(iii) $\text{Cov}[St_1, St_2]$ when $0 < t_1 < t_2$

(iii) $\text{Cov}(St_1, St_2) = E[St_1 St_2] - E[St_1]E[St_2]$ where $0 < t_1 < t_2$

$\text{Cov}(St_1, St_2) = E[St_1 St_2] - E[St_1]E[St_2]$

$E[St_1] = S_0 e^{\mu t_1 + \frac{\sigma^2 t_1}{2}}$
 $E[St_2] = S_0 e^{\mu t_2 + \frac{\sigma^2 t_2}{2}}$

$E[St_1 St_2] = E\left[S_0 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2) + \sigma(B_{t_1} + B_{t_2}))}\right]$
 $= S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} E[e^{\sigma(B_{t_1} + B_{t_2}))}]$
 $= S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} E[e^{\sigma(B_{t_1} + (B_{t_2} - B_{t_1})))}]$
 $= S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} E[e^{\sigma(B_{t_1} + B_{t_2} - B_{t_1}))}]$
 $= S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} E[e^{\sigma(B_{t_2})}]$
 $= S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} e^{\frac{\sigma^2 t_2}{2}}$

$\text{Cov}(St_1, St_2) = S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} e^{\frac{\sigma^2 t_2}{2}} - S_0^2 e^{\mu t_1 + \frac{\sigma^2 t_1}{2}} e^{\mu t_2 + \frac{\sigma^2 t_2}{2}}$
 $= S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} e^{\frac{\sigma^2 t_2}{2}} \left[1 - e^{-\mu(t_2-t_1) - \frac{\sigma^2(t_2-t_1)}{2}}\right]$
 $= S_0^2 e^{\mu(t_1+t_2)} e^{\frac{\sigma^2 t_2}{2}} \left[1 - e^{-\mu(t_2-t_1) - \frac{\sigma^2(t_2-t_1)}{2}}\right]$

7. $dC = \mu Cdt + \sigma C dW_t$

recombining binomial tree

(i) first step of binomial process

	p	$S_0 \cdot u$
S_0	Probabilities	
	(1-p)	$S_0 \cdot d$

Doubt

8. binomial

(i) Derive the Price of option in one step binomial model using risk neutral valuations.

The share price S_0 can either move upwards to S_0u or downwards to S_0d , according to one step binomial model. and $d < e^r < u$ as principle of no arbitrage applies.

The derivative pays c_u if the price goes up and c_d if the price goes down.

So, in a portfolio, at time 0,

There are ϕ units of cash and $\emptyset$ units of stock

$$V = \emptyset S_0 + \phi$$

At time 1,

It's either ;

$$V_1 = \emptyset S_{0u} + \phi e^r \text{ or } \emptyset S_{0d} + \phi e^r$$

Therefore,

$$c_u = \emptyset S_{0u} + \phi e^r \text{ and } c_d = \emptyset S_{0d} + \phi e^r$$

Solving two equations simultaneously, we get

$$\emptyset = \frac{c_u - c_d}{S_0(u-d)} \text{ and } \phi = \frac{e^{-r}[u c_d - d c_u]}{u-d}$$

inputting the values back in equation at time 0:

$$V_0 = e^{-r}(c_u q + (1-q)c_d)$$

Where $q = \frac{e^r - d}{u-d}$ and q is the risk neutral probability.

(ii) Price of the option does not incorporate the probabilities of the stock going up or stock going down even though it is intuitive to assume. As we observe the formula, the price of the option is calculated on the potential derivative payoffs of upward and downward movement with risk neutral probability introduced by us, which also just depends on u , d and r .

(iii) Show that underlying stock price grows on average at risk free rate

Expected value of stock price at time 1 can be written as

$$E(S_{t1}) = S_0 (q u + (1-q)d)$$

And substituting the values of q and $(1-q)$

$$\text{We get } E(S_{t1}) = S_0 e^r$$

Hence we can see that the underlying stock price grows at risk free rate on average.

- (iv) In terms of risk neutral world,
People do not require compensation for risk as they are indifferent to risk. Hence, expected return on all securities and options is the risk free interest

9. Table

- (i) Calculate price of 3 month forward on Iota Ltd

$$F = S_0 e^{rT}$$

Where F is the price of forward, S_0 is the stock price, r is the risk-free rate continuously compounded and t is the time to expiry.

Put call parity says that:

$$c + Ke^{-rt} = p + S_0$$

since we need S_0 and r, we can input 2 values from the table and solve simultaneously to get S_0 and r

$$13.334 + 70e^{-r*3/12} = 0.120 + S_0$$

$$8.869 + 75e^{-r*3/12} = 0.568 + S_0$$

Solving simultaneously, we get

$$r = 7.02\%$$

$$S_0 = 81.996$$

Hence,

Price of forward is 83.447

- (ii) Calculate forward rate for delivery between 3 months from now and 6 months from now

- (iii) According to put call parity,

$$c + Ke^{-rt} = p + S_0$$

To find a,

$$6.889 + a * e^{-0.0702 * 0.25} = 1.055 + 81.996$$

$$a = 77.51$$

To find b,

$$b + 80 * e^{-0.0702 * 0.25} = 1.789 + 81.996$$

$$b = 5.1768$$

To find c,

$$2.594 + 85 * e^{-0.0702 * 0.25} = c + 81.996$$

$$c = 4.119$$

10. N step recombining binomial model

Each time period is one month

Interest rates are assumed to be zero

- (i) Show that the risk neutral step up probability q is less than 0.5

$$q = \frac{e^{r-d}}{u-d} \text{ and since interest rates are 0,}$$

$$q = \frac{1-d}{u-d}$$

in recombining model $d = \frac{1}{u}$

substituting this value, we get

$$q = \frac{1}{u+1}$$

and if no arbitrage principle is supposed to hold, $d < 1 < u$

then, $u > 1$

$$u+1 > 2$$

$$\frac{1}{u+1} < \frac{1}{2}$$

$$q < \frac{1}{2}$$

hence proved.

11. Sum

- (i) Recombining binomial tree: here, the size of upward movement (u) and downward movement (d) are assumed to be the same under all states and all time intervals. And hence it also has a constant risk neutral probability q at all times and states.

Main advantage is that it only has n+1 possible states of time as opposed to 2^n states in non-recombining binomial tree. This reduces the model by a large extent.

Disadvantage is that it assumes the upward and downward movement to be constant which may not be true in real world scenario.

- (ii) Two step binomial tree

6 month European put option

$$K = 950$$

$$S_0 = 1000$$

For first three months,

$$U_1 = 1.1$$

$$D_1 = 0.95$$

$$R_{f1} = 1.75\%$$

For next three months,

$$U_2 = 1.2$$

$$D_2 = 0.9$$

$$R_{f2} = 2.5\%$$

- (a) Value of put option

$$q_1 = \frac{e^{r-d}}{u-d} = 0.4510$$

$$q_2 = 0.41772$$

K=950

State	St	payoff
V1(1) = So u	1100	0
V1(2) = So d	950	0
V2 (1)= So u u	1320	0
V2(2) = So u d	990	0
V2(3) = So d u	1140	0
V2 (4)= So d d	855	95

$$V1(1) = e^{-r} (Cu q + (1 - q) Cd)$$

$$V1(1) = 0$$

$$V1(2) = e^{-r} (Cu q + (1 - q) Cd)$$

$$V1(2) = e^{-0.025} (0.41772 * 0 + 0.58228 * 95)$$

$$V1(2) = 53.9508$$

$$V0 = e^{-r} (V1(1)q + V1(2)(1 - q))$$

$$V0 = e^{-0.0175} (0.4510 * 0 + 53.9508 * 0.5490)$$

$$V0 = 29.105$$

(b) Main disadvantage would be to have appropriate values for each time step , i.e. values for u, d and r at each step. This would produce more accurate answer but it is difficult to obtain all these parameters.

Also, a new tree would have 2^6 i.e. 64 nodes and this is extensive.

An alternative model is 6 step recombining tree that will only have 6+1 i.e. 7 nodes and constant values of u and d.

12. Z_t is the standard Brownian motion, derive SDEs and explain which process has zero drift

a. $U(t) = 2Z_t - 2$

By Ito's Lemma,

$$dU_t = dZ_t^2 - 0$$

$$dU(t) = 0dt + 2dZ_t$$

$U(t)$ has zero drift.

b. $V(t) = (Z_t)^2 - t$

By Ito's Lemma,

$$dV(t) = dZ_t (2*Z_t) + dt(-1) + \frac{(dZ_t)^2}{2} * 2$$

$$dV(t) = 2Z_t dZ_t - dt + dt$$

$$dV(t) = 2Z_t dZ_t$$

$V(t)$ has zero drift.

c. $W(t) = t^2 Z(t) - 2 \int_0^t s Z(s) ds$

By Ito's Lemma,
 $dW(t) = dZt$ (–
 doubt

13. At the money American put option

$$S_0 = 200$$

$$R_f = 10\% \text{ pa}$$

$$\sigma = 35\% \text{ pa}$$

$$t = 2 \text{ months}$$

(i) Values of u and d

$S_t = S_0 e^{((\mu - 1/2 \sigma^2)T + \sigma dW_t)}$, since stock price follows geometric Brownian motion

$$\text{Thus, } \frac{S_t}{S_0} \sim \ln N\left(\left(\mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)T, \sigma^2 T\right)$$

$$\text{Assumption: } u = \frac{1}{d}$$

$e^{(\mu + 1/2 \sigma^2)} = \text{mean of a log normal distribution}$

$$E(S_T/S_0) = e^{((\mu - 1/2 \sigma^2)dt + 1/2 \sigma^2 dt)} = e^{\mu dt}$$

$$E(S_T) = S_0 e^{\mu dt}$$

The variance is given by:

$$\text{Var}(S_T/S_0) = E(S_T/S_0)^2 - (E(S_T/S_0))^2$$

$$= \ln u^2 q + (-\ln u)^2 (1 - q) - (S_0 e^{\mu dt}) \sigma^2 dt$$

$$= \ln u^2 q + (-\ln u)^2 (1 - q) - (S_0 e^{\mu dt}) \sigma^2 dt$$

$$= (-\ln u)^2 \sigma \sqrt{dt}$$

$$= \ln u$$

$$\text{Thus, } u = e^{(\sigma \sqrt{dt})} \text{ and } d = e^{(-\sigma \sqrt{dt})}$$

(ii) Value of American put option using 2 time step

$$q = 0.5161$$

Payoff at time 1 = 0, 9.85 and payoff at time 2 = 0, 0, 6.62, 19.22

$$\text{Value of (holding the) option at time 1} = e^{(-0.1 \times 1/12)} (6.62 \times q + 19.22(1 - q))$$

= 12.61. This is more than the payoff of exercising the option (9.85). Thus, we will hold the option.

$$\text{Value at time 0} = e^{(-0.1 \times 1/12)} (0 + (1 - q)12.61)$$

$$\text{Value of put option at time 0} = 6.05$$

14. $S_0 = 500$

One-time step : 3 month period

$$T = 2$$

$$u = 1.06$$

$$d = 0.95$$

$r_f = 5\% \text{ pa continuously compounded}$

- (i) Value of six-month European call option with $K = 510$

Payoff diagram for European call:

State	St	payoff
$V1(1) = S_0 u$	530	20
$V1(2) = S_0 d$	475	0
$V2(1) = S_1 u u$	561.8	51.8
$V2(2) = S_1 u d$	503.5	0
$V2(3) = S_1 d u$	451.25	0

$$q = \frac{e^r - d}{u - d} = 0.5689$$

$$\text{Value of 6 month European call} = e^{-r} (V1(1) * q + V1(2) * (1 - q))$$

$$\text{Where } V1(1) = e^{-r} (V2(1) * q + V2(2) * (1 - q))$$

$$V1(2) = e^{-r} (V2(2) * q + V2(3) * (1 - q))$$

$$\text{Hence, } V_0 = 16.351$$

- (ii) Payoff diagram for European put:

State	St	payoff
$V1(1) = S_0 u$	530	0
$V1(2) = S_0 d$	475	35
$V2(1) = S_1 u u$	561.8	0
$V2(2) = S_1 u d$	503.5	6.50
$V2(3) = S_1 d u$	451.25	58.75

$$\text{Value of 6 month European put} = e^{-r} (V1(1) * q + V1(2) * (1 - q))$$

$$\text{Where } V1(1) = e^{-r} (V2(1) * q + V2(2) * (1 - q))$$

$$V1(2) = e^{-r} (V2(2) * q + V2(3) * (1 - q))$$

$$\text{Hence, } V_0 = 13.759$$

Using put call parity,

$$C + Ke^{-rt} = P + S_0$$

$$\text{LHS: } 16.351 + 510e^{-0.05*1/2} = 513.759$$

$$\text{RHS: } 13.759 + 500 = 513.758$$

Hence proved.

- (iii) For american option, payoffs are same, although only difference is the time when the option can be exercised. So we calculate the value of put at time 1 too, to check if it is advisable to exercise early.

$$V1(1) = e^{-0.05*1/4} (6.5 * 0.4311 + 0) = 2.767$$

$$V1(2) = e^{-0.05*1/4} (6.5 * 0.5689 + 58.75 * 0.4311) = 28.65$$

However, payoff by immediate exercise at $V1(2)$ is 35.

$$35 > 28.65$$

Advisable to exercise immediately at this point.

Value of American put is

$$e^{-0.05 \cdot 1/4} (35 \cdot 0.4311 + 2.767 \cdot 0.5689) = 16.46$$

(iv) Expected return = 9%

So expected payoff in 3 months is calculated using this real rate of return.

$$\text{Thus } p = \frac{e^{0.09 \cdot 3/12} - 0.95}{1.06 - 0.95}$$

$$p = 0.6614$$

The payoff at time $V_1(1)$ of the call option was 20

Hence the expected payoff = $20 \cdot 0.6614 = 13.228$.

However, we might not know the correct discount rate that is to be used to compute the real world probability and hence the expected payoff. Therefore, it is easier to use risk neutral valuations wherein the asset is expected to earn only the risk-free rate.

15. $dS = \mu S dt + \sigma S dz$

(i) process followed by S^k

$$f(S_t) = S^k$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial S_t} = k \cdot S^{k-1}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial S_t^2} = k(k-1) \cdot S^{k-2}$$

By Ito's Lemma,

$$dF = dS_t \cdot k S^{k-1} + (dS_t)^2 / 2 \cdot k(k-1) \cdot S^{k-2}$$

$$df = (\mu S dt + \sigma S dz) k S^{k-1} + (\sigma^2 S^2 dt) \cdot \frac{k(k-1)}{2} S^{k-2}$$

$$df = \mu k f dt + \sigma k f dz + \sigma^2 \frac{k(k-1)}{2} f dt$$

$$df = \left(\mu k + \sigma^2 \frac{k(k-1)}{2} \right) f dt + \sigma k f dz$$

Hence,

S^k follow geometric Brownian motion with drift i.e. $\mu_1 = \mu k + \sigma^2 \frac{k(k-1)}{2}$ and volatility $\sigma_1 = \sigma k$.

f/f_0 follows lognormal distribution with mean $(\mu_1 - 1/2 \sigma_1^2)$ and variance with $\sigma_1^2 t$.

(ii) $f(S_t, t) = S_t e^{-rt}$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial S_t} = e^{-rt}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial S_t^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} = -r e^{-rt} S_t$$

By Ito's lemma,

$$df = -re^{-rt} S_t dt + dS_t e^{-rt}$$

substituting dS_t ,

$$df = (\mu - r)f dt + \sigma f dZ_t$$

process is martingale if and only if the drift term i.e. dt term is 0.

Here, if $\mu = r$, then the process is a martingale.

(iii) For S^k to be a martingale,

We need drift term to be 0 i.e. $\mu k + \sigma^2 \frac{k(k-1)}{2}$ to be 0.

If the values solve to be 0, we can say that the process is a martingale.