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:: FUNDAMENTALS

:: Put-Call Parity Relationship::

Consider buying a put and selling a call option on the same underlying, at the same strike price E and same expiry time T . This will guarantee a payoff of $E - S(T)$ at expiry:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Payoff } (t = T) &= \\ C(S, t = T) - \text{Put}(S, t = T) \\ &= \text{Max}[E - S(T), 0] - \text{Max}[S(T) - E, 0] \\ &= E - S(T) \end{aligned}$$

So if we further also consider buying the underlying we can guarantee a payoff of E . This is a riskless investment, and so according to there being no arbitrage opportunities this investment must at all times be the same as having invested **$E \exp(-rT)$** (i.e. the discounted value of E), assuming a constant riskless interest rate r . So at any time t between the writing of the options and expiry, the following relation must hold:

$$S(t) + P(S, t) - C(S, t) = Ee^{-rT}e^{rt}$$

or equivalently:

$$C(S, t) - P(S, t) = S(t) - Ee^{-r(T-t)}$$

Where $C(S, t)$ and $P(S, t)$ are the respective values of the call and the put at time t .

This is the **Put-Call Parity** relation. So having priced a call option one can use this to price a put option on the same underlying with the same strike and expiry.

Written by Raffaello Vardavas.

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