

1086-60-338

Christoph Frei* (cfrei@ualberta.ca), University of Alberta, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G1, Canada, and **Nicholas Westray**. *Optimal execution of a VWAP order: a stochastic control approach.*

We consider the optimal liquidation of a position of stock (long or short) where trading has a temporary market impact on the price. The aim is to minimize both the mean and variance of the order slippage with respect to a benchmark given by the market VWAP (volume weighted average price). In this setting, we introduce a new model for the relative volume curve which allows simultaneously for accurate data fit, economic justification and mathematical tractability. Tackling the resulting optimization problem using a stochastic control approach, we derive and solve the corresponding Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation to give an explicit characterization of the optimal trading rate and liquidation trajectory. (Received August 22, 2012)