

Multi-keyword multi-click advertisement option contracts for sponsored search¹

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Limitations of auction mechanisms in sponsored search

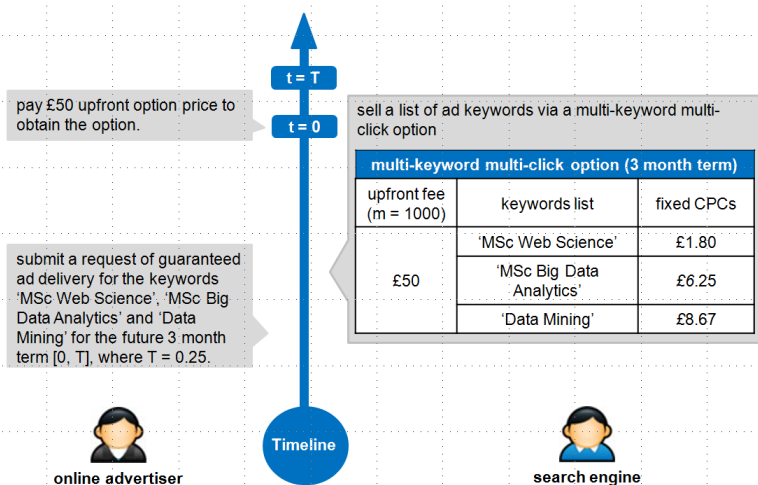
- Uncertainty in payment prices for advertisers;
- Volatility in the search engine's revenue;
- Weak loyalty between advertiser and search engine.

A **multi-keyword multi-click ad option contract** allows its buyer to:

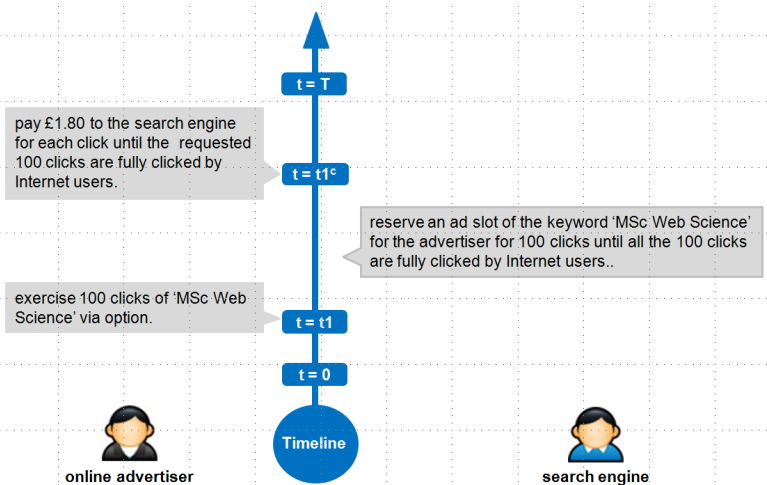
- Target a set of candidate keywords for a certain number of total clicks;
- Multiply exercise the option to purchase guaranteed clicks at any time on or prior to the contract expiration date;
- Switch among candidate keywords when exercise the option without paying any cost.

It has the properties of multi-asset option and multi-exercise option.

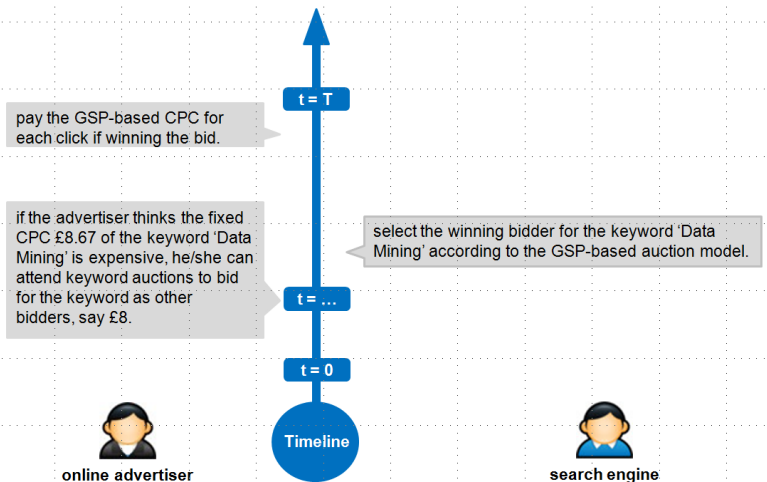
Buy and sell an ad option



Exercise an ad option



Not exercise an ad option



| Advertiser | Search engine |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Secure ad service delivery | Obtain upfront income in advance |
| Reduce uncertainty from auctions | Have a stable & increased revenue |
| Cap advertising costs | Increase advertisers' loyalty online |

Option pricing building blocks

- Underlying stochastic model
- Option payoff formulation
- Option pricing framework and solution

Multivariate geometric Brownian motion

The keyword K_i 's spot market CPC can be described as follows

$$dC_i(t) = \mu_i C_i(t) dt + \sigma_i C_i(t) dW_i(t), \quad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

where μ_i and σ_i are the drift and volatility, respectively, and $W_i(t)$ is a standard Brownian motion satisfying the conditions:

$$\mathbb{E}(dW_i(t)) = 0,$$

$$\text{var}(dW_i(t)) = \mathbb{E}(dW_i(t)dW_i(t)) = dt,$$

$$\text{cov}(dW_i(t), dW_j(t)) = \mathbb{E}(dW_i(t)dW_j(t)) = \rho_{ij} dt,$$

where ρ_{ij} is the correlation coefficient between the i th and j th keywords, such that $\rho_{ii} = 1$ and $\rho_{ij} = \rho_{ji}$. The correlation matrix is denoted by Σ , so that the covariance matrix is $M\Sigma M$, where M is the matrix with σ_i along the diagonal and zeros everywhere else.

The value of an m -click ad option at time t is equal to m number of 1-click ad option:

$$V(t, \mathbf{C}(t); T, \mathbf{F}, m) = mV(t, \mathbf{C}(t); T, \mathbf{F}, 1).$$

If exercised, we have

$$V(t, \mathbf{C}(t); T, \mathbf{F}, 1) = \Phi(\mathbf{C}(t)) := \max\{C_1(t) - F_1, \dots, C_n(t) - F_n, 0\},$$

where \mathbf{F} is a vector of exercise prices for candidate keywords, T is the expiration date, and $\Phi(\mathbf{C}(t))$ is the option payoff at time t .

Since $e^{-rt}\Phi(\mathbf{X}(t))$ is a sub-martingale under the risk-neutral probability measure \mathbb{Q} (see Appendix A), the proposed ad option can be priced as same as its European structure, focusing on the payoff on the contract expiration date.

The option price π_0 (i.e., the option value at time 0) can be obtained as follows (see Appendix B for the derivation):

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_0 &= \mathbb{E}[\Phi(\mathbf{C}(T)) \mid \mathbb{F}_0] \\ &= me^{-rT} (2\pi T)^{-\frac{n}{2}} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n \sigma_i \right)^{-1} \\ &\quad \times \int_0^\infty \cdots \int_0^\infty \frac{\Phi(\tilde{\mathbf{C}})}{\prod_{i=1}^n \tilde{C}_i} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\zeta}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\zeta} \right\} d\tilde{\mathbf{C}},\end{aligned}$$

where \mathbb{F}_0 is the information history up to time 0, $\boldsymbol{\zeta} = (\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n)'$, and $\zeta_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sqrt{T}} (\ln\{\tilde{C}_i/C_i(0)\} - (r - \frac{\sigma_i^2}{2})T)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$.

| # of keywords | Pricing method | Reference |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Black-Scholes formula for European call option | See Appendix C |
| 2 | Peter Zhang dual strike European call option | See Appendix C |
| ≥ 3 | Monte Carlo simulation | See Algorithm 1 |

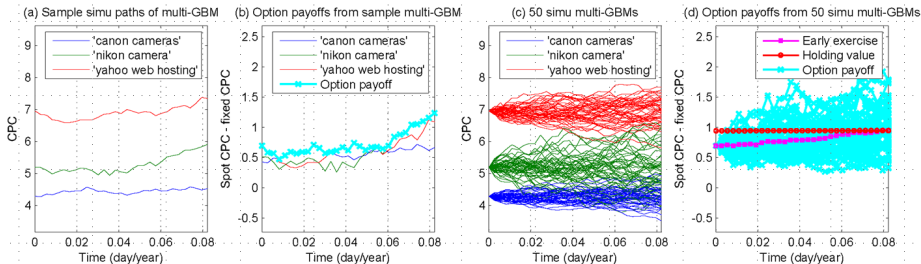
Algorithm 1:

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function OptionPricingMC( $K, C(0), \Sigma, M, m, r, T$ )
  for  $k \leftarrow 1$  to # of simulations do
     $[z_{1,k}, \dots, z_{n,k}] \leftarrow \text{GenerateMultivariateNoise}(MVN[0, M\Sigma M])$ 
    for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
       $C_{i,k} \leftarrow C_i(0) \exp \left\{ \left( r - \frac{1}{2} \sigma_i^2 \right) T + \sigma_i z_{i,k} \sqrt{T} \right\}$ .
    end for
     $G_k \leftarrow \Phi([C_{1,k}, \dots, C_{n,k}])$ .
  end for
  return  $\pi_0 \leftarrow me^{-rT} \mathbb{E}_0[\Phi(C(T))] \approx me^{-rT} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n G_k \right)$ .
end function

```

Empirical example of ad option pricing using Monte Carlo simulation



$$K = \begin{Bmatrix} \text{'canon cameras'} \\ \text{'nikon camera'} \\ \text{'yahoo web hosting'} \end{Bmatrix}, \quad \sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0.2263 \\ 0.4521 \\ 0.2136 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1.0000 & 0.2341 & 0.0242 \\ 0.2341 & 1.0000 & -0.0540 \\ 0.0242 & -0.0540 & 1.0000 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Revenue analysis for 1-keyword 1-click ad options

Let $D(F)$ be the difference between the expected revenue from an ad option and the expected revenue from only keyword auctions, we then have

$$\begin{aligned} D(F) &= \underbrace{\left(C(0)\mathcal{N}[\zeta_1] - e^{-rT}F\mathcal{N}[\zeta_2] + e^{-rT}F \right)}_{\text{Discounted value of expected revenue from option if } \mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] \geq F} \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] \geq F) \\ &+ \underbrace{\left(C(0)\mathcal{N}[\zeta_1] - e^{-rT}F\mathcal{N}[\zeta_2] + e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] \right)}_{\text{Discounted value of expected revenue from option if } \mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] < F} \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] < F) \\ &- \underbrace{e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)]}_{\text{Discounted value of expected revenue from auction}} \\ &= C(0)\mathcal{N}[\zeta_1] - e^{-rT}F\mathcal{N}[\zeta_2] - e^{-rT}(\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] - F) \times \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] \geq F), \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{N}[\cdot]$ is the cumulative probability of a standard normal distribution.

Revenue analysis for 1-keyword 1-click ad options con't

- If $F = 0$, v_0 achieves its maximum value; therefore, $D(F) \rightarrow 0$.
- If $\pi_0 = 0$, F is as large as possible, $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] \geq F) \rightarrow 0$ and $D(F) \rightarrow 0$.
- Since $\ln\{C(T)/C(0)\} \sim \mathbf{N}((r - \sigma^2/2)T, \sigma^2T)$,

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)] \geq F) \approx \mathcal{N}\left[\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}\left(\ln\{C(0)/F\} + (r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T\right)\right] = \mathcal{N}[\zeta_2].$$

Therefore, $D(F) = C(0)\mathcal{N}[\zeta_1](1 - e^{-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2T}) > 0$, then

$$\frac{\partial D(F)}{\partial F}\Big|_{F=\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)]} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 D(F)}{\partial F^2}\Big|_{F=\mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)]} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\zeta_2^2} \frac{1}{F\sigma\sqrt{T}} < 0,$$

suggests that by setting $F = \mathbb{E}_0^Q[C(T)]$, the search engine can increase its profit.

| Market | Group | Training set (31 days) | Deve&test set (31 days) |
|--------|-------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| US | 1 | 25/01/2012-24/02/2012 | 24/02/2012-25/03/2012 |
| | 2 | 30/03/2012-29/04/2012 | 29/04/2012-31/05/2012 |
| | 3 | 10/06/2012-12/07/2012 | 12/07/2012-17/08/2012 |
| | 4 | 10/11/2012-11/12/2012 | 11/12/2012-10/01/2013 |
| UK | 1 | 25/01/2012-24/02/2012 | 24/02/2012-25/03/2012 |
| | 2 | 30/03/2012-29/04/2012 | 29/04/2012-31/05/2012 |
| | 3 | 12/06/2012-13/07/2012 | 13/07/2012-19/08/2012 |
| | 4 | 18/10/2012-22/11/2012 | 22/11/2012-24/12/2012 |

³The data was collected from Google AdWords by using its Traffic Estimation Service.

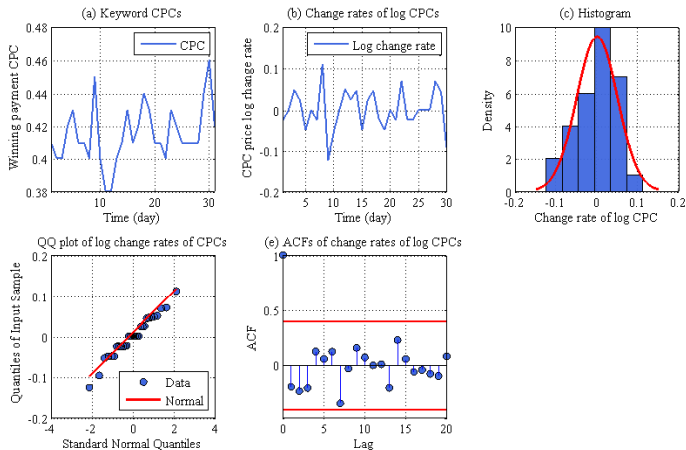
① Normality of change rates of log CPCs

Histogram/Q-Q plot and the Shapiro-Wilk test

② Independence from previous data

Autocorrelation function (ACF) and the Ljung-Box statistic

Empirical example of the GBM assumption test

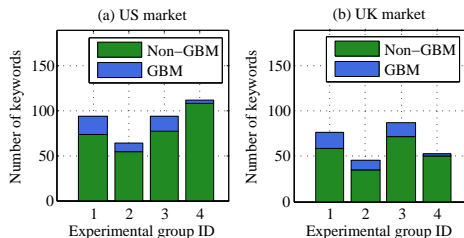


Keyword 'canon 5d'

The Shapiro-Wilk test is with p -value 0.3712

The Ljung-Box test is with p -value 0.4555.

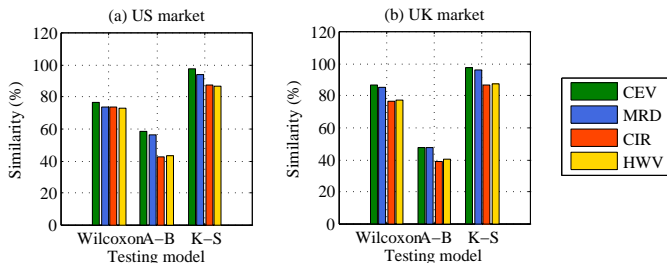
GBM assumption tests



There are 14.25% and 17.20% of keywords in US and UK markets that satisfy the GBM assumption, respectively.

Non-GBM dynamics and data fitting

| Model | Stochastic differential equation (SDE) |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Constant elasticity of variance (CEV) | $dC_i(t) = \mu_i C_i(t)dt + \sigma_i (C_i(t))^{1/2} dW_i(t)$ |
| Mean-reverting drift (MRD) | $dC_i(t) = k_i(\mu_i - C_i(t))dt + \sigma_i (C_i(t))^{1/2} dW_i(t)$ |
| Cox-Ingersoll-Ross (CIR) | $dC_i(t) = k_i(\mu_i - C_i(t))dt + (\sigma_i)^{1/2} C_i(t) dW_i(t)$ |
| Hull-White/Vasicek (HWV) | $dC_i(t) = k_i(\mu_i - C_i(t))dt + \sigma_i dW_i(t)$ |



Wilcoxon test, Ansari-Bradley (A-B) test and Two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test

Check arbitrage via delta hedging

- Calculate delta
 - 1-keyword 1-click ad options

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial C} = \mathcal{N} \left[\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{T}} \left(\ln \left\{ \frac{C(0)}{F} \right\} + \left(r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) T \right) \right].$$

- n -keyword 1-click options (calculated by Monte Carlo method)

$$\partial V / \partial C_i = \mathbb{E}^Q[\partial V(T, C(T)) / \partial C_i(T)]$$

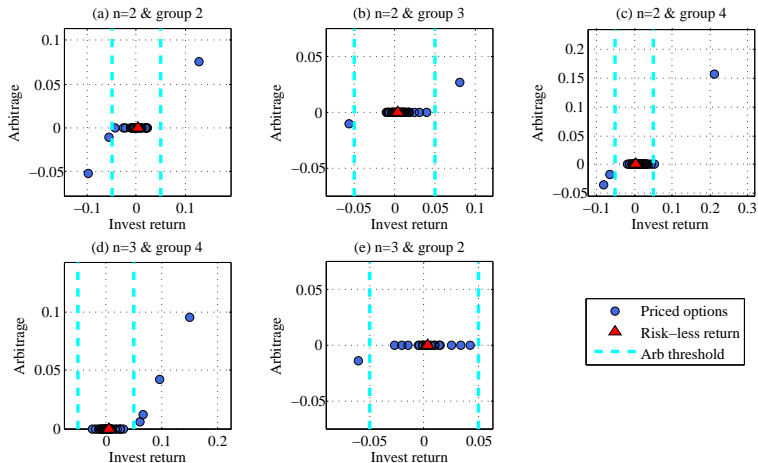
- The arbitrage detection criteria is

$$|\tilde{\gamma} - \tilde{r}| \leq \varepsilon ? \text{ arbitrage does not exist : arbitrage exists,}$$

where $\tilde{\gamma}$ is the rate of returns from constructed hedging strategy, \tilde{r} is the equivalent (discrete) risk-less bank interest rate in the period, and ε is the model variation threshold (and we set $\varepsilon = 5\%$ in experiments). The identified arbitrage α is defined as the excess return, that is

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} \tilde{\gamma} - (\tilde{r} - \varepsilon), & \text{if } \tilde{\gamma} < \tilde{r} - \varepsilon, \\ \tilde{\gamma} - (\tilde{r} + \varepsilon), & \text{if } \tilde{\gamma} > \tilde{r} + \varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

Check arbitrage via delta hedging con't



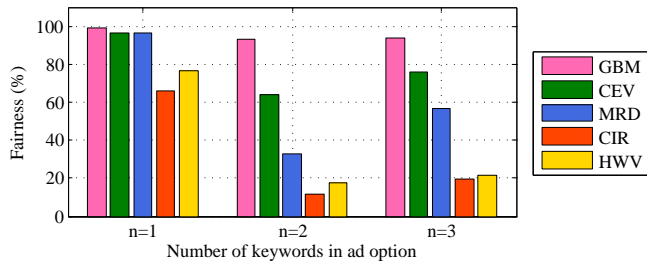
Empirical example of arbitrage analysis based on GBM for the US market.

Check arbitrage via delta hedging con't

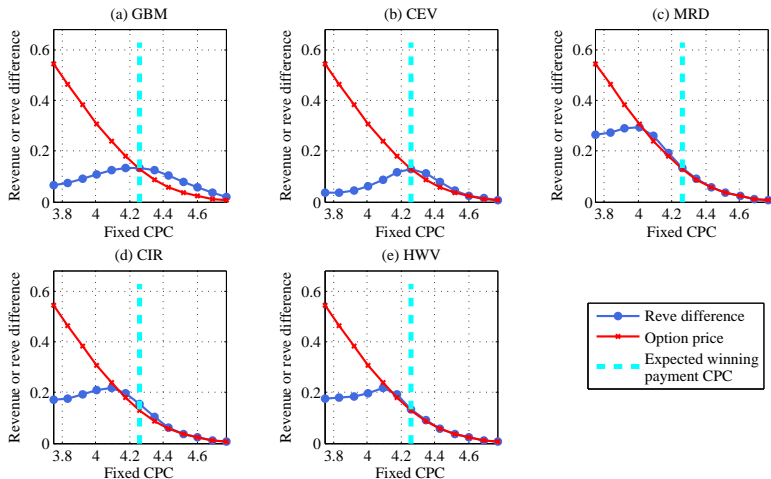
Testing arbitrage of options under the GBM: n is the number of keywords, N is the number of options priced in a group, $\mathbb{P}(\alpha)$ is % of options in a group identified arbitrage, and the $\mathbb{E}[\alpha]$ is the average arbitrage value of the options identified arbitrage.

| n | Group | US market | | | UK market | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | N | $\mathbb{P}(\alpha)$ | $\mathbb{E}[\alpha]$ | N | $\mathbb{P}(\alpha)$ | $\mathbb{E}[\alpha]$ |
| 1 | 1 | 94 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 76 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | 2 | 64 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 45 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | 3 | 94 | 1.06% | 0.75% | 87 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | 4 | 112 | 0.89% | -0.37% | 53 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 2 | 1 | 47 | 4.26% | 1.63% | 38 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | 2 | 32 | 9.38% | 0.42% | 22 | 4.55% | 13.41% |
| | 3 | 47 | 4.26% | 0.84% | 43 | 4.65% | 0.82% |
| | 4 | 56 | 5.36% | 3.44% | 26 | 23.08% | -6.22% |
| 3 | 1 | 31 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 25 | 4.00% | 0.00% |
| | 2 | 21 | 4.76% | -1.38% | 15 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| | 3 | 31 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 29 | 3.45% | -1.12% |
| | 4 | 37 | 10.81% | 3.87% | 17 | 35.29% | -2.54% |

Robust tests of pricing models

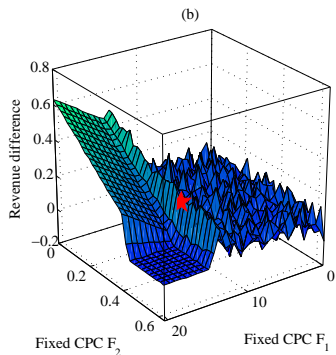
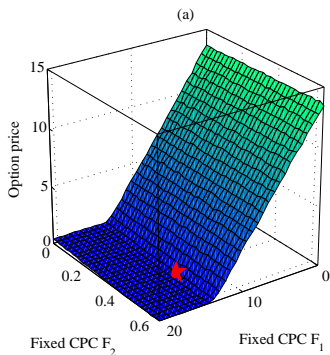


Empirical example of revenue analysis for a 1-keyword 1-click ad option



Keyword 'canon cameras'

Empirical example of revenue analysis for a 2-keyword 1-click ad option



Keywords 'non profit debt consolidation' and 'canon 5d', where $\rho = 0.2247$

- Other sophisticated stochastic processes are worth studying, such as jump-diffusion models and stochastic volatility models.
- Game-theoretical pricing models for ad options.
- Optimal pricing and allocation of ad options.