

THE RANDOMISED HESTON MODEL

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ABSTRACT. We propose a randomised version of the Heston model—a widely used stochastic volatility model in mathematical finance—assuming that the starting point of the variance process is a random variable. In such a system, we study the small-and large-time behaviours of the implied volatility, and show that the proposed randomisation generates a short-maturity smile much steeper (‘with explosion’) than in the standard Heston model, thereby palliating the deficiency of classical stochastic volatility models in short time. We precisely quantify the speed of explosion of the smile for short maturities in terms of the right tail of the initial distribution, and in particular show that an explosion rate of t^γ ($\gamma \in [0, 1/2]$) for the squared implied volatility—as observed on market data—can be obtained by a suitable choice of randomisation. The proofs are based on large deviations techniques and the theory of regular variations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Implied volatility is one of the most important observed data in financial markets and represents the price of European options, reflecting market participants’ views. Over the past two decades, a number of (stochastic) models have been proposed in order to understand its dynamics and reproduce its features. In recent years, a lot of research has been devoted to understanding the asymptotic behaviour (large strikes [7, 8, 14], small / large maturities [25, 26, 27, 54]) of the implied volatility in a large class of models in extreme cases; these results not only provide closed-form expressions (usually unavailable) for the implied volatility, but also shed light on the role of each model parameter and, ultimately on the efficiency of each model.

Continuous stochastic volatility models driven by Brownian motion effectively fit the volatility smile (at least for indices); the widely used Heston model, for example, is able to fit the volatility surface for almost all maturities [34, Section 3], but becomes inaccurate for small maturities. The fundamental reason is that small-maturity data is much steeper (for small strikes)—the so-called ‘short-time explosion’—than the smile generated by these stochastic volatility models (a detailed account of this phenomenon can be found in the volatility bible [34, Chapters 3 and 5]). To palliate this issue, Gatheral (among others) comments that jumps should be added in the stock dynamics; the literature on the influence of the jumps is vast, and we only mention here the clear review by Tankov [54] in the case of exponential Lévy models, where the short-time implied volatility explodes at a rate of $|t \log t|$ for small t . To observe non-trivial convergence (or divergence), Mijatović and Tankov [52] introduced maturity-dependent strikes, and studied the behaviour of the smile in this regime.

As an alternative to jumps, a portion of the mathematical finance community has recently been advocating the use of fractional Brownian motion (with Hurst parameter $H < 1/2$) as driver of the volatility process.

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Alòs, León and Vives [2] first showed that such a model is indeed capable of generating steep volatility smiles for small maturities (see also the recent work by Fukasawa [32]), and Gatheral, Jaisson and Rosenbaum [36] recently showed that financial data exhibits strong evidence that volatility is rough (an estimate for SPX volatility actually gives $H \approx 0.14$). Guennoun, Jacquier and Roome [38] investigated a fractional version of the Heston model, and proved that as t tends to zero the squared implied volatility explodes at a rate $t^{H-1/2}$. This is currently a very active research area, and the reader is invited to consult [5, 22, 23, 24, 29, 50] for further developments. This is however not the end of the story—yet—as computational costs for simulation are a severe concern in fractional models.

We propose here a new class of models, namely standard stochastic volatility models (driven by standard Brownian motion) where the initial value of the variance is randomised, and focus our attention to the Heston version. The motivation for this approach originates from the analysis of forward-start smiles by Jacquier and Roome [44, 45], who proved that the forward implied volatility explodes at a rate of $t^{1/4}$ as t tends to zero. A simple version of our current study is the ‘CEV-randomised Black-Scholes model’ introduced in [46], where the Black-Scholes volatility is randomised according to the distribution generated from an independent CEV process; in this work, the authors proved that this simplified model generates the desired explosion of the smile. The Black-Scholes randomised setting where the volatility has a discrete distribution corresponds to the lognormal mixture dynamics studied in [12, 13]. We push the analysis further here; our intuition behind this new type of models is that the starting point of the volatility process is actually not observed accurately, but only to some degree of uncertainty. Traders, for example, might take it as the smallest (maturity-wise) observed at-the-money implied volatility. Our initial randomisation aims at capturing this uncertainty. This approach was recently taken by Mechkov [51], considering the ergodic distribution of the CIR process as starting distribution, who argues that randomising the starting point captures potential hidden variables. One could also potentially look at this from the point of view of uncertain models, and we refer the reader to [30] for an interesting related study. The main result of our paper is to provide a precise link between the explosion rate of the implied volatility smile for short maturities and the choice of the (right tail of the) initial distribution of the variance process. The following table (a more complete version with more examples can be found in Table 1) gives an idea of the range of explosion rates that can be achieved through our procedure; for each suggested distribution of the initial variance, we indicate the asymptotic behaviour (up to a constant multiplier) of the (square of the) out-of-the-money implied volatility smile (in the first row, the function f will be determined precisely later, but the absence of time-dependence is synonymous with absence of explosion).

Name	Behaviours of $\sigma_t^2(x)$ ($x \neq 0$)	Reference
Uniform	$f(x)$	Equation 4.3
Exponential(λ)	$ x t^{-1/2}$	Theorem 4.16
χ -squared	$ x t^{-1/2}$	Theorem 4.16
Rayleigh	$x^{2/3}t^{-1/3}$	Corollary 4.5
Weibull ($k > 1$)	$(x^2/t)^{1/(1+k)}$	Corollary 4.5

The rest of the paper is structured as follows: we introduce the randomised Heston model in Section 2, and discuss its main properties. Section 3 is a numerical appetiser to give a flavour of the quality of such a randomisation, and relates our framework to model uncertainty. Section 4 is the main part of the paper, in

which we prove large deviations principles for the log-price process, and translate them into short- and large-time behaviours of the implied volatility. In particular, we prove the claimed relation between the explosion rate of the small-time smile and the tail behaviour of the initial distribution. The small-time limit of the at-the-money implied volatility is, as usual in this literature, treated separately in Section 4.6. Section 5 includes a dynamic pricing framework: based on the distribution at time zero and the evolution of the variance process, we discuss how to re-price (or hedge) the option during the life of the contract. Finally, Section 6 presents examples of common initial distributions, and numerical examples. The appendix gathers some reminders on large deviations and regular variations, as well as proofs of the main theorems.

Notations: Throughout this paper, we denote $\sigma_t(x)$ the implied volatility of a European Call or Put option with strike e^x and time to maturity t . For a set \mathcal{S} in a given topological space we denote by \mathcal{S}° and $\bar{\mathcal{S}}$ its interior and closure. Let $\mathbb{R}_+ := [0, \infty)$, $\mathbb{R}_+^* := (0, \infty)$, and $\mathbb{R}^* := \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$. For two functions f and g , and $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, we write $f \sim g$ as x tends to x_0 if $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)/g(x) = 1$. If a function f is defined and locally bounded on $[x_0, \infty)$, and $\lim_{x \uparrow \infty} f(x) = \infty$, define $f^{\leftarrow}(x) := \inf \{y \geq [x_0, \infty) : f(y) > x\}$ as its generalised inverse. Also define the sign function as $\text{sgn}(u) := \mathbf{1}_{\{u \geq 0\}} - \mathbf{1}_{\{u < 0\}}$. Finally, for a sequence $(Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$ satisfying a large deviations principle as t tends to zero with speed $g(t)$ and good rate function Λ_Z^* (Appendix B.1) we use the notation $Z \sim \text{LDP}_0(g(t), \Lambda_Z^*)$. If the large deviations principle holds as t tends to infinity, we denote it by $\text{LDP}_\infty(\dots)$.

2. MODEL AND MAIN PROPERTIES

On a filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{P})$ supporting two independent Brownian motions $W^{(1)}$ and $W^{(2)}$, we consider a market with no interest rates, and propose the following dynamics for the log-price process:

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} dX_t &= -\frac{1}{2}V_t dt + \sqrt{V_t} \left(\rho dW_t^{(1)} + \bar{\rho} dW_t^{(2)} \right), & X_0 &= 0, \\ dV_t &= \kappa(\theta - V_t)dt + \xi \sqrt{V_t} dW_t^{(1)}, & V_0 &\stackrel{(\text{Law})}{=} \mathcal{V}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho \in [-1, 1]$, $\bar{\rho} := \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}$, and κ, θ, ξ are strictly positive real numbers. Here \mathcal{V} is a continuous random variable, independent of the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ (see Remark 2.2), supported on $(\mathbf{v}_-, \mathbf{v}_+)$ for some $0 \leq \mathbf{v}_- \leq \mathbf{v}_+ \leq \infty$, with moment generating function $M_{\mathcal{V}}(u) := \mathbb{E}(e^{u\mathcal{V}})$, for all $u \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}} := \{u \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{E}(e^{u\mathcal{V}}) < \infty\} \supset (-\infty, 0]$, and we further assume that $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}}$ contains at least an open neighbourhood of the origin, namely that $\mathfrak{m} := \sup \{u \in \mathbb{R} : M_{\mathcal{V}}(u) < \infty\}$ belongs to $(0, \infty]$. Then clearly all positive moments of \mathcal{V} exist. Existence and uniqueness of a solution to this stochastic system is guaranteed as soon as \mathcal{V} admits a second moment [48, Chapter 5, Theorem 2.9]. When \mathcal{V} is a Dirac distribution ($\mathbf{v}_- = \mathbf{v}_+$), the system (2.1) corresponds to the standard Heston model [42], and it is well known that the stock price process $\exp(X)$ is a \mathbb{P} -martingale; it is trivial to check that it is still the case for (2.1). Behaviour [56], asymptotics [26, 27, 28], estimation and calibration [4, 56] of the Heston model have been treated at length in several papers, and we refer the interested reader to this literature for more details about it; we shall therefore always assume that $\mathbf{v}_- < \mathbf{v}_+$.

Remark 2.1. For any $t \geq 0$, the tower property for conditional expectations yields

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(V_t) &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}(V_t | \mathcal{V})] = \theta(1 - e^{-\kappa t}) + e^{-\kappa t} \mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V}), \\ \mathbb{V}(V_t) &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{V}(V_t | \mathcal{V})] + \mathbb{V}[\mathbb{E}(V_t | \mathcal{V})] = e^{-2\kappa t} \left(\mathbb{V}(\mathcal{V}) + \frac{\xi^2}{\kappa} (e^{\kappa t} - 1) \mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V}) \right) + \frac{\xi^2 \theta}{2\kappa} (1 - e^{-\kappa t})^2. \end{aligned}$$

Consider the standard Heston model ($\mathbf{v}_- = \mathbf{v}_+ =: V_0$), and construct \mathcal{V} such that $\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V}) = V_0$. Then, for any time $t \geq 0$, both random variables V_t (in (2.1) and in the standard Heston model) have the same expectations;

however, the randomisation of the initial variance increases the variance by $e^{-2\kappa t}\mathbb{V}(\mathcal{V})$. As time tends to infinity, it is straightforward to show that the randomisation preserves the ergodicity of the variance process, with a Gamma distribution as invariant measure, with identical mean and variance:

$$\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{E}(V_t) = \theta \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{V}(V_t) = \frac{\xi^2 \theta}{2\kappa}.$$

Remark 2.2. For any $t > 0$, since the two σ -fields $\sigma(\mathcal{V})$ and \mathcal{F}_t are independent, then the regular conditional probability of (X_t, V_t) given \mathcal{V} is almost surely identical with the law of (X_t, V_t) in the standard Heston with $V_0 = \mathcal{V}$ (see [53, Chapter 9, Section 1, Proposition 1.4]). It suggests that the process (X, V) relative to the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is not Markovian due to the lack of information on \mathcal{V} in \mathcal{F}_t . The process is Markovian, however, with respect to the augmented filtration $\sigma(\mathcal{F}_t \vee \sigma(\mathcal{V}))_{t \geq 0}$.

For any $t \geq 0$, let $M(t, u)$ denote the moment generating function (mgf) of X_t :

$$(2.2) \quad M(t, u) := \mathbb{E}(e^{uX_t}), \quad \text{for all } u \in \mathcal{D}_M^t := \{u \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{E}(e^{uX_t}) < \infty\}.$$

The tower property yields directly

$$(2.3) \quad M(t, u) = \mathbb{E}(e^{uX_t}) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(e^{uX_t} | \mathcal{V})) = \mathbb{E}(e^{C(t,u) + D(t,u)\mathcal{V}}) = e^{C(t,u)} M_{\mathcal{V}}(D(t, u)),$$

where the functions C and D arise directly from the (affine) representation of the moment generating function of the standard Heston model, recalled in Appendix (A.1).

3. PRACTICAL APPETISER AND RELATION TO MODEL UNCERTAINTY

3.1. The bounded support case: a practical appetiser. Before diving into the technical statements and proofs of asymptotic results in Section 4, let us provide a numerical hors-d'oeuvre, teasing the appetite of the reader regarding the practical relevance of the randomisation. As mentioned in the introduction, the main drawback of classical continuous-path stochastic volatility models (without randomisation and driven by standard Brownian motions), is that the small-maturity smile they generate is not steep enough to reflect the reality of the market. Graph 1 below represents a comparison of the implied volatility surface generated by the standard Heston model with

$$\kappa = 2.1, \quad \theta = 0.05, \quad V_0 = 0.06, \quad \rho = -0.6, \quad \xi = 0.1,$$

and that of the Heston model randomised by a uniform distribution with $\mathbf{v}_- = 0.04$ and $\mathbf{v}_+ = 0.082$. From the trader's point of view, this could be understood as uncertainty on the actual value of V_0 (see also [30] for a related approach). Clearly, the randomisation steepens the smile for small maturities, while its effect fades away as maturity becomes large. This numerical example intuitively yields the following informal conjecture:

Conjecture 3.1. *Under randomisation of the initial volatility, the smile 'explodes' for small maturities.*

We shall provide a precise formulation—and exact statements—of this conjecture. Despite the appearances in Figure 1, the conjecture is actually false when the initial distribution has bounded support, such as in the uniform case here. However, as will be detailed in Section 6.1, greater steepness of the smile (compared to the standard Heston model) does appear for a wide range of strikes, but not in the far tails (this is quantified precisely, as well as the at-the-money curvature in the uncorrelated case, in Section 6.1). This leads us to believe that, even if 'explosion' does not actually occur in the bounded support case, this assumption may still be of practical relevance given the range of traded strikes.

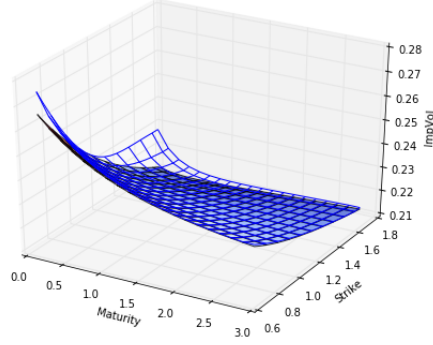


FIGURE 1. Volatility surfaces of standard Heston (coloured) and with randomisation $\mathcal{V}^{(\text{Law})} \mathcal{U}(4\%, 8.2\%)$.

3.2. Model uncertainty. Our framework is closely related to model uncertainty, a detailed review thereof can be found in [41], with our assumed initial distribution of the variance corresponding to calibration and parameter uncertainties: in a standard stochastic volatility model, the starting point v_0 is not observed precisely, and is usually approximated by at-the-money (ATM) implied volatilities with the smallest maturities. As a result, the noises of market data directly contribute to the parameter uncertainty, and the Bayesian method immediately provides a posterior distribution for v_0 . Consider a standard Heston environment, in which a trader wants to calibrate v_0 . From [27, Theorem 3.1], small-time asymptotics of European option prices read

$$(3.1) \quad \frac{C_{\mathcal{H}}(0, t)}{S_0} = \sqrt{\frac{v_0 t}{2\pi}} - \mathfrak{b} t^{3/2} + \mathcal{O}(t^{5/2}),$$

for some explicit constant \mathfrak{b} . Then the map $(v_0, t) \mapsto \sqrt{v_0 t / (2\pi)}$, which only depends on v_0 and t , is an approximation to the (Heston) ATM option price with small maturities. Denote by $\mathcal{P} := (\mathcal{P}^{(i)})_{i=1}^n$ a sequence of observed market ATM mid-prices with one-week maturity ($t \approx 0.019$) on n different dates, and assume that the approximation noises $\varepsilon^{(i)} := \mathcal{P}^{(i)} - (\frac{\tilde{v}_0 t}{2\pi})^{1/2}$, for $i = 1, \dots, n$ form an independent sequence satisfying

$$\mathbb{P}(\varepsilon^{(i)} \in A \mid \tilde{v}_0) = \frac{1}{\delta_i \sqrt{2\pi}} \int_A \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\delta_i^2}\right) dx, \quad \text{for any Borel subset } A \text{ of } \mathbb{R},$$

where \tilde{v}_0 is the 'true' value of v_0 and $(\delta_i)_{i=1}^n$ are positive constants. In this simplified setting, the errors $(\varepsilon^{(i)})_{i=1}^n$ summarise all microstructure effects that can potentially generate market noises. Finally, assume that the prior is a Gamma distribution $\Gamma(\alpha, \beta)$ that approximates the invariant distribution of the variance process. Then the posterior of v_0 is given by

$$\begin{aligned} p(v_0 | \mathcal{P}) &= \mathcal{C} p(v_0) p(\mathcal{P} | v_0) = \mathcal{C} v_0^{\alpha-1} \exp \left\{ -\beta v_0 - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\left(\sqrt{v_0 t / (2\pi)} - \mathcal{P}^{(i)} \right)^2}{2\delta_i^2} \right\} \\ &= \mathcal{C} v_0^{\alpha-1} \exp \left\{ - \left(\beta + \frac{t}{4\pi} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i^{-2} \right) v_0 + \sqrt{\frac{t v_0}{2\pi}} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathcal{P}^{(i)}}{\delta_i} \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

for some normalising factor \mathcal{C} changing from line to line. With the posterior provided, the pricing scheme in our randomised setting can be seen as the partial Bayesian method [11, 41], in which prices (and hedging ratios) are averaged according to the posterior.

4. ASYMPTOTIC BEHAVIOUR OF THE RANDOMISED MODEL

This section is the core of the paper, and relates the explosion of the implied volatility smile in small times to the tail behaviour of the randomised initial variance. Section 4.1 (Proposition 4.1) provides the short-time behaviour of the cumulant generating function (cgf) of the random sequence $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$, and relates it to the choice of the initial distribution \mathcal{V} . This paves the way for a large deviations principle for the sequence $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$. Section 4.2 concentrates on the case where both \mathbf{m} and \mathbf{v}_+ are infinite: Theorem 4.5 indicates that the squared implied volatility has an explosion rate of t^γ with $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$. Results of moderate deviations are stated in Section 4.3. The case where $\mathbf{m} < \mathbf{v}_+ = +\infty$ is covered in Section 4.4, where an explosion rate of \sqrt{t} is obtained. Section 4.5 provides the large-time asymptotic behaviour of the implied volatility in our randomised setting; in particular, the long-term similarities between standard and randomised Heston models are present in this section. Finally, Section 4.6 covers the singular case of the small-time at-the-money implied volatility.

4.1. Preliminaries. As a first step in understanding the behaviour of the implied volatility, we analyse the short-time limit of the rescaled cgf of the sequence $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$. To do so, let $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be a smooth function, which can be extended at zero by continuity with $h(0) := \lim_{t \downarrow 0} h(t) = 0$. In light of (2.3), for any $t \geq 0$, we introduce the effective domain of the moment generating function of the rescaled random variable $X_t/h(t)$:

$$\mathcal{D}_t := \left\{ u \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbf{M} \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right) < \infty \right\},$$

as well as the following sets, for any $t > 0$:

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}}^t := \left\{ u \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{V}} \circ \mathbf{D} \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right) < \infty \right\}, \quad \mathcal{D}^* := \liminf_{t \downarrow 0} \mathcal{D}_t = \bigcup_{t > 0} \bigcap_{s \leq t} \mathcal{D}_s, \quad \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}}^* := \liminf_{t \downarrow 0} \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}}^t = \bigcup_{t > 0} \bigcap_{s \leq t} \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}}^s.$$

We now denote the pointwise limit $\Lambda_h(u) := \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \Lambda_h(t, u/h(t))$, where

$$(4.1) \quad \Lambda_h \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right) := h(t) \log \mathbf{M} \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right).$$

The seemingly identical notations for the function and its pointwise limit should not create any confusion in this paper. Introduce further the real numbers $u_- \leq 0$ and $u_+ \geq 1$ and the function $\Lambda : (u_-, u_+) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{cases} u_- & := \frac{2}{\xi \bar{\rho}} \arctan \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}}{\rho} \right) \mathbf{1}_{\{\rho < 0\}} - \frac{\pi}{\xi} \mathbf{1}_{\{\rho = 0\}} + \frac{2}{\xi \bar{\rho}} \left(\arctan \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}}{\rho} \right) - \pi \right) \mathbf{1}_{\{\rho > 0\}}, \\ u_+ & := \frac{2}{\xi \bar{\rho}} \left(\arctan \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}}{\rho} \right) + \pi \right) \mathbf{1}_{\{\rho < 0\}} + \frac{\pi}{\xi} \mathbf{1}_{\{\rho = 0\}} + \frac{2}{\xi \bar{\rho}} \arctan \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}}{\rho} \right) \mathbf{1}_{\{\rho > 0\}}, \\ \Lambda(u) & := \frac{u}{\xi (\bar{\rho} \cot(\xi \bar{\rho} u / 2) - \rho)}. \end{cases}$$

The following proposition, whose proof is postponed to Appendix D.1, summarises the limiting behaviour of $\Lambda_h(\cdot, \cdot)$ as t tends to zero. In view of Remark 4.2(ii) below, we shall only consider power functions of the type $h(t) \equiv ct^\gamma$. It is clear that there is no loss of generality by taking $c = 1$, as it only acts as a space-scaling factor. We shall therefore replace the notation Λ_h by Λ_γ to highlight the power exponent in action.

Proposition 4.1. *Let $h(t) \equiv t^\gamma$, with $\gamma \in (0, 1]$. As t tends to zero, the following pointwise limit holds:*

$$\Lambda_\gamma(u) := \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \Lambda_\gamma \left(t, \frac{u}{t^\gamma} \right) = \begin{cases} 0, & u \in \mathbb{R}, & \text{if } \gamma \in (0, 1/2), & \text{for any } \mathcal{V}, \\ 0, & u \in \mathbb{R}, & \text{if } \gamma \in [1/2, 1), & \mathbf{v}_+ < \infty, \\ \Lambda(u) \mathbf{v}_+, & u \in (u_-, u_+), & \text{if } \gamma = 1, & \mathbf{v}_+ < \infty, \\ L_{\pm} \mathbf{1}_{\{u = \pm \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}\}}, & u \in [-\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}, \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}], & \text{if } \gamma = 1/2, & \mathbf{v}_+ = \infty, \mathbf{m} < \infty, \end{cases}$$

and is infinite elsewhere, where $L_{\pm} \in [0, \infty]$. Whenever $\gamma > 1$ (for any \mathcal{V}), or $\mathfrak{m} < \infty$ and $\gamma > 1/2$, the limit is infinite everywhere except at the origin.

We shall call the (pointwise) limit ‘degenerate’ whenever it is either equal to zero everywhere or zero at the origin and infinity everywhere else. In Proposition 4.1, only the last two cases are not degenerate.

Remark 4.2.

- (i) The case where \mathfrak{v}_+ and \mathfrak{m} are both infinite is treated separately, in Section 4.2, as more assumptions are needed on the behaviour of the distribution of \mathcal{V} .
- (ii) If h is not a power function, the proofs of Proposition 4.1 and Theorem 4.6 indicate that we only need to compare the order of h with orders of $t^{1/2}$ and t . Any non-power function then yields degenerate limits.
- (iii) In the last case, L_{\pm} depend on the explicit form of the mgf of \mathcal{V} . Example 6.2 illustrates this.

When the random initial distribution \mathcal{V} has bounded support ($\mathfrak{v}_+ < \infty$), Proposition 4.1 indicates that the only possible speed factor is $\gamma = 1$, and a direct application of the Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2) implies a large deviations for the sequence $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$; adapting directly the methodology from [25], we obtain the small-time behaviour of the implied volatility:

Corollary 4.3. *If $\mathfrak{v}_+ < \infty$, then $X \sim \text{LDP}_0(t, \Lambda_{\mathfrak{v}_+}^*)$ with $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{v}_+}^*(x) := \sup \{ux - \Lambda(u)\mathfrak{v}_+ : u \in (u_-, u_+)\}$ and*

$$(4.3) \quad \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \sigma_t^2(x) = \frac{x^2}{2\Lambda_{\mathfrak{v}_+}^*(x)}, \quad \text{for all } x \neq 0.$$

Approximations, in particular around the at-the-money $x = 0$, of the rate function $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{v}_+}^*$, and hence of the small-time implied volatility, can also be found in [25, Theorem 3.2], and apply here directly as well.

4.2. The thin-tail case. In the case $\mathfrak{m} = \infty$, Proposition 4.1 is not sufficient as several different behaviours can occur. In this case, which we naturally coin ‘thin-tail’, a more refined analysis is needed, and the following assumption shall be of uttermost importance:

Assumption 4.4 (Thin-tail). $\mathfrak{v}_+ = \infty$ and \mathcal{V} admits a smooth density f with $\log f(v) \sim -l_1 v^{l_2}$ as v tends to infinity, for some $(l_1, l_2) \in \mathbb{R}_+^* \times (1, \infty)$.

For notational convenience, we introduce the following two special rates of convergence $\frac{1}{2} < \underline{\gamma} < 1 < \bar{\gamma}$, and two positive constants $\underline{\mathfrak{c}}, \bar{\mathfrak{c}}$:

$$(4.4) \quad \underline{\gamma} := \frac{l_2}{1+l_2}, \quad \bar{\gamma} := \frac{l_2}{l_2-1}, \quad \underline{\mathfrak{c}} := (2l_1 l_2)^{\frac{1}{1+l_2}}, \quad \bar{\mathfrak{c}} := (2l_1 l_2)^{\frac{1}{1-l_2}}.$$

The following theorem is the main result of this thin-tail section, and provides both a large deviations principle for the log-stock price process as well as its implications on the small-maturity behaviour of the implied volatility. Define the function $\underline{\Lambda}^* : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ by

$$(4.5) \quad \underline{\Lambda}^*(x) := \frac{\underline{\mathfrak{c}}}{2\underline{\gamma}} x^{2\underline{\gamma}}, \quad \text{for any } x \text{ in } \mathbb{R}.$$

Theorem 4.5. *Under Assumption 4.4, $X \sim \text{LDP}_0(t\underline{\Lambda}^*)$ with $\underline{\Lambda}^*$ given in (4.5), and, for any $x \neq 0$,*

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^{1-\underline{\gamma}} \sigma_t^2(x) = \underline{\mathfrak{c}}^{-1} \underline{\gamma} x^{2(1-\underline{\gamma})}.$$

In exponential Lévy models, the implied variance $\sigma_t^2(x)$ for non-zero x explodes at a rate $|t \log t|$ [54, Proposition 4]. Theorem 4.5 implies that in a thin-tail randomised Heston model we have a much slower explosion rate of t^η with $\eta \in (0, 1/2)$. In [52] the authors commented that market data suggests that implied volatility with decreasing maturity still has a reasonable range of values and does not explode significantly, which might provide empirical grounds justifying the potential value of this randomised model as an alternative to the exponential Lévy models. The theorem relies on the study of the asymptotic behaviour of the rescaled mgf of X_t :

Lemma 4.6. *Under Assumption 4.4, the only non-degenerate speed factor is $\gamma = \underline{\gamma}$, and*

$$(4.6) \quad \Lambda_{\underline{\gamma}}(u) = \frac{\bar{c}}{2^{\underline{\gamma}}} u^{2^{\underline{\gamma}}}, \quad \text{for any } u \text{ in } \mathbb{R}.$$

Assumption 4.4 in particular implies that the function $\log f$ is regularly varying with index l_2 (which we denote $|\log f| \in \mathcal{R}_{l_2}$, see also Appendix B.2 for a review of and useful results on regular variation). Without this slightly stronger assumption, however, the constant in (4.6)—essential to compute precisely the rate function governing the corresponding large deviations principle (Theorem 4.5)—would not be available. In order to prove the lemma and hence the theorem, let us first state and prove the following result:

Lemma 4.7. *If $|\log f| \in \mathcal{R}_l$ ($l > 1$), then $\log M_{\mathcal{V}}(z) \sim (l-1) \left(\frac{z}{l}\right)^{\frac{l}{l-1}} \psi(z)$ at infinity, with $\psi \in \mathcal{R}_0$ defined as*

$$\psi(z) := \left(\frac{z}{|\log f|^{\leftarrow}(z)} \right)^{\leftarrow} z^{\frac{l}{1-l}}.$$

Proof. Since $|\log f| \in \mathcal{R}_l$, Bingham's Lemma (Lemma B.4) implies $\log \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{V} \geq x) = \log \int_x^\infty e^{\log f(y)} dy \sim \log f(x)$, as x tends to infinity, and the result follows from Kasahara's Tauberian theorem [10, Theorem 4.12.7]. \square

Proof of Lemma 4.6 and of Theorem 4.5. By Lemma B.5, the mgf of \mathcal{V} is well-defined on \mathbb{R}_+ . Lemmas 4.7 and C.2 imply that as t tends to zero,

$$t^\gamma \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(D \left(t, \frac{u}{t^\gamma} \right) \right) = \begin{cases} t^\gamma \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\frac{u^2}{2} t^{1-2\gamma} (1 + \mathcal{O}(t^{1-\gamma})) \right) & \sim \frac{\bar{c}}{2^{\underline{\gamma}}} u^{2^{\underline{\gamma}}} t^{\bar{\gamma}(1-\gamma/\underline{\gamma})}, \quad \text{when } \gamma \in (1/2, 1), \\ t \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\frac{\Lambda(u)}{t} (1 + \mathcal{O}(t)) \right) & \sim \frac{\bar{c}}{2^{\underline{\gamma}}} 2^{\bar{\gamma}} \Lambda(u)^{\bar{\gamma}} t^{1-\bar{\gamma}}, \quad \text{when } \gamma = 1. \end{cases}$$

For $u \neq 0$ the right-hand side is well defined with non-zero limit if and only if $\gamma = \underline{\gamma} \in (1/2, 1)$; the case $\gamma = 1$ does not yield any non-degenerate behaviour, and the lemma follows.

The large deviations principle stated in Theorem 4.5 is a direct consequence of Lemma 4.6 and the Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2), noting that the function $\Lambda_{\underline{\gamma}}$ in (4.6) satisfies all the required conditions and admits $\underline{\Lambda}^*$ as Fenchel-Legendre transform. The translation of this asymptotic behaviour into implied volatility follows the same lines as in [25]. \square

4.3. Moderate deviations. The asymptotic behaviours we have studied so far belonged to the realm of large deviations. We temporarily leave this territory and enter that of moderate deviations; mathematically, moderate deviations can be achieved from large deviations via space rescaling as follows: for $\alpha \neq 0$, define the process $X^{(\alpha)}$ pathwise via $X_t^{(\alpha)} := t^{-\alpha} X_t$. The moderate deviations principle for the sequence $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ (equivalently a large deviations principle for $(X_t^{(\alpha)})_{t \geq 0}$) as t tends to zero can be derived similarly to Corollaries 4.3 and 4.5.

Theorem 4.8. *Assume that \mathbf{v}_+ is finite. For any $\gamma \in (0, 1)$, set $\alpha := \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma)$; then $X^{(\alpha)} \sim \text{LDP}_0 \left(t^\gamma, \frac{x^2}{2\mathbf{v}_+} \right)$.*

Since \mathbf{v}_+ is finite, then \mathbf{m} is infinite. Theorem 4.8, however, does not assume a thin-tail behaviour as in Theorem 4.6 in Section 4.2. One of the striking feature of moderate deviations is that, contrary to classical large deviations, the rate function is usually available analytically, and is often of quadratic form [31, 39, 40].

Proof. Let $\alpha, \gamma \in (0, 1)$. From (2.3) and (4.1), for any $t \geq 0$, the rescaled cgf of $X_t^{(\alpha)}$ reads

$$\Lambda_\gamma^{(\alpha)}\left(t, \frac{u}{t^\gamma}\right) := t^\gamma \log \mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(\frac{u X_t^{(\alpha)}}{t^\gamma} \right) \right] = t^\gamma \log \mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(\frac{u X_t}{t^{\gamma+\alpha}} \right) \right] = t^\gamma C \left(t, \frac{u}{t^{\gamma+\alpha}} \right) + t^\gamma \log M_\gamma \left(D \left(t, \frac{u}{t^{\gamma+\alpha}} \right) \right),$$

for all $u \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the left-hand side exists. Lemma C.2 and Lemma C.4 imply that the term $(\gamma + \alpha)$ has to be less than one. Moreover, as t tends to zero, the following asymptotic behaviours hold:

$$\Lambda_\gamma^{(\alpha)}\left(t, \frac{u}{t^\gamma}\right) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{O}(t^\gamma) + \mathbf{v}_+ \Lambda(u) t^{\gamma-1}, & \text{if } \gamma + \alpha = 1, \text{ for all } u \in (u_-, u_+), \\ o(t^\gamma) + \frac{\mathbf{v}_\pm}{2} u^2 t^{1-\gamma-2\alpha}, & \text{if } \gamma + \alpha < 1, \text{ for all } u \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Since $\alpha \neq 0$, the non-degenerate result is obtained if and only if $1 - \gamma - 2\alpha = 0$, i.e. $\alpha = \frac{1-\gamma}{2}$, and the proof follows from the Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2). \square

Theorem 4.9. *Under Assumption 4.4, the following statements hold as t tends to zero:*

- (i) for any $\gamma \in (0, \bar{\gamma})$, set $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma/\underline{\gamma})$; then $X^{(\alpha)} \sim \text{LDP}_0(t^\gamma, \underline{\Lambda}^*)$ with $\underline{\Lambda}^*$ given in (4.5);
- (ii) if $\gamma = \bar{\gamma}$, set $\alpha = 1 - \bar{\gamma}$, then $X^{(\alpha)} \sim \text{LDP}_0(t^{\bar{\gamma}}, \bar{\Lambda}^*)$ where (with Λ and u_\pm defined in (4.2))

$$\bar{\Lambda}^*(x) := \sup_{u \in (u_-, u_+)} \left\{ ux - \frac{\bar{\mathbf{c}}}{\bar{\gamma}} 2^{\bar{\gamma}-1} \Lambda(u)^{\bar{\gamma}} \right\}, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proof. Following the proof of Theorem 4.6, if $\gamma + \alpha < 1$, then

$$\Lambda_\gamma^{(\alpha)}\left(t, \frac{u}{t^\gamma}\right) \sim \frac{\bar{\mathbf{c}}}{2^{\bar{\gamma}}} u^{2\bar{\gamma}} t^{\gamma+[1-2(\alpha+\gamma)]\bar{\gamma}}, \quad \text{as } t \text{ tends to zero, for all } u \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The only non-degenerate result is obtained when $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma/\underline{\gamma})$, and $\gamma + \alpha < 1$ implies that $\gamma < \bar{\gamma}$. The rest follows directly from the Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2). If $\gamma + \alpha = 1$, then

$$\Lambda_\gamma^{(\alpha)}\left(t, \frac{u}{t^\gamma}\right) \sim \frac{\bar{\mathbf{c}}}{\bar{\gamma}} 2^{\bar{\gamma}-1} \Lambda(u)^{\bar{\gamma}} t^{\gamma-\bar{\gamma}}, \quad \text{as } t \text{ tends to zero, for all } u \in (u_-, u_+),$$

which imposes $\gamma = \bar{\gamma}$. Define now the function $f(u) \equiv \bar{\gamma}^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{c}} 2^{\bar{\gamma}-1} \Lambda(u)^{\bar{\gamma}}$ on (u_-, u_+) ; then

$$f'(u) = 2^{\bar{\gamma}-1} \bar{\mathbf{c}} \Lambda(u)^{\bar{\gamma}-1} \Lambda'(u) \quad \text{and} \quad f''(u) = 2^{\bar{\gamma}-1} \bar{\mathbf{c}} [(\bar{\gamma}-1) \Lambda'(u)^2 \Lambda(u)^{\bar{\gamma}-2} + \Lambda(u)^{\bar{\gamma}-1} \Lambda''(u)].$$

Since $\bar{\gamma} > 1$, and since Λ is strictly convex and tends to infinity at u_\pm , then so does f . Consequently, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ the equation $x = f'(u)$ admits a unique solution in (u_-, u_+) , hence the function $\bar{\Lambda}^*$ is well defined on \mathbb{R} and is a good rate function. The large deviations principle then follows from the Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2). \square

Remark 4.10. The case where $\gamma < \underline{\gamma}$ belongs to the regime of moderately out-of-the-money, as in [31, 52], with the time-dependent log-strike $x_t = x t^\alpha$, with $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$ and $\alpha \in (0, 1/2)$. In a thin-tail randomised environment, the rescaled limiting cgf does not satisfy [31, Assumption 6.1] in which the limit is assumed to have a quadratic form. Moreover, Theorem 4.9 implies that for the original process $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$,

$$\mathbb{P}(X_t \geq x_t) = \mathbb{P}\left(X_t^{(\alpha)} \geq x\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{\bar{\Lambda}^*(x)}{t^\gamma}(1 + o(1))\right), \quad \text{as } t \text{ tends to zero.}$$

Corollary 4.11. *Recall the following two different regimes:*

- *Moderately out-of-the-money (MOTM)*: $(\alpha, x) \in (0, 1/2) \times \mathbb{R}^*$;
- *Small time and large strike*: $(\alpha, x) \in (1 - \bar{\gamma}, 0) \times \mathbb{R}^*$.

Under Assumption 4.4, define the time-dependent log-strike $x_t := xt^\alpha$, and set $\hat{\gamma} := (1 - 2\alpha)(1 - \underline{\gamma}) > 0$. Then in each of the two regimes, the implied volatility has the short-time behaviour

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^{\hat{\gamma}} \sigma_t^2(x_t) = \underline{c}^{-1} \underline{\gamma} x^{2(1-\underline{\gamma})}.$$

Proof. We only prove the large-strike regime with $x > 0$, the other cases being analogous. For $\underline{\gamma} := \underline{\gamma}(1 - 2\alpha) > 0$, Remark 4.10 implies that as t tends to zero, $-\log \mathbb{P}(X_t \geq x_t) \sim t^{-\underline{\gamma}} \underline{\Lambda}^*(x)$. It is easy to check that the sequence $((t^\gamma, x_t))_{t \geq 0}$ satisfies [14, Hypothesis 2.2], so that as t tends to zero, [14, Theorem 2.3] implies

$$\sigma_t^2(x_t) \sim \frac{2xt^\alpha}{t} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\underline{c}}{2\underline{\gamma}} \frac{x^{2\underline{\gamma}-1}}{t^{\gamma+\alpha}}} - \sqrt{\frac{\underline{c}}{2\underline{\gamma}} \frac{x^{2\underline{\gamma}-1}}{t^{\gamma+\alpha}}} - 1 \right)^2 \sim \frac{2x}{t^{1-\alpha}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\underline{c}}{2\underline{\gamma}} \frac{x^{2\underline{\gamma}-1}}{t^{\gamma+\alpha}}} + \sqrt{\frac{\underline{c}}{2\underline{\gamma}} \frac{x^{2\underline{\gamma}-1}}{t^{\gamma+\alpha}}} - 1 \right)^{-2} \sim \frac{\underline{\gamma} x^{2(1-\underline{\gamma})}}{\underline{c} t^{\hat{\gamma}}},$$

and the corollary follows. \square

Corollary 4.12. *Under Assumption 4.4, for any $\underline{\gamma} \in (0, \underline{\gamma})$ and any slowly varying (at zero) function $s : \mathbb{R}_+^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^*$, let $\alpha := \frac{1}{2}(1 - \underline{\gamma}/\underline{\gamma})$ and define the time-dependent log-strike $x_t := t^\alpha s(t)$. Then*

$$\mathbb{P}(X_t \geq x_t) = \exp \left(-\frac{\underline{\Lambda}^*(s(t))}{t^\gamma} (1 + o(1)) \right).$$

Proof. The function $q : \mathbb{R}_+^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^*$ defined by $q(t) := s(t)^{-2\underline{\gamma}}$ is slowly varying at zero, and $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^\gamma q(t) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \left(t^{\frac{\underline{\gamma}}{2\underline{\gamma}} / s(t)} \right)^{2\underline{\gamma}} = 0$. Notice that $\underline{\gamma} + \alpha \in (1/2, 1)$, so that $t = o(t^{\underline{\gamma}+\alpha} q(t) s(t))$, and Lemmas C.2-C.4 imply that the rescaled cgf of the process $(X_t / (s(t)t^\alpha))_{t \geq 0}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} t^\gamma q(t) \log M \left(t, \frac{u}{t^{\underline{\gamma}+\alpha} q(t) s(t)} \right) &= t^\gamma q(t) C \left(t, \frac{u}{t^{\underline{\gamma}+\alpha} q(t) s(t)} \right) + t^\gamma q(t) \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(D \left(t, \frac{u}{t^{\underline{\gamma}+\alpha} q(t) s(t)} \right) \right) \\ &= \mathcal{O} \left(t^{1+2\underline{\gamma}+\alpha} q(t)^2 s(t) \right) + t^\gamma q(t) \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\frac{u^2 t (1 + o(1))}{2t^{2(\underline{\gamma}+\alpha)} (q(t) s(t))^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then from Lemma 4.7, plugging in the expressions for α and the function q , the limit of the rescaled cgf reads

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^\gamma q(t) \log M \left(t, \frac{u}{t^{\underline{\gamma}+\alpha} q(t) s(t)} \right) = \frac{\bar{c}}{2\underline{\gamma}} u^{2\underline{\gamma}} \lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^\gamma q(t) \left(\frac{1 + o(1)}{t^{\underline{\gamma}/\underline{\gamma}} (q(t) s(t))^2} \right)^{\bar{\gamma}} = \frac{\bar{c}}{2\underline{\gamma}} u^{2\underline{\gamma}}.$$

The Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2) implies that $(X_t / (s(t)t^\alpha)) \sim \text{LDP}_0(t^\gamma q(t), \underline{\Lambda}^*)$, with $\underline{\Lambda}^*$ in (4.5). Consequently,

$$- \inf_{x \in (1, \infty)} \underline{\Lambda}^*(x) \leq \lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^\gamma q(t) \log \mathbb{P}(X_t \geq x_t) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^\gamma q(t) \log \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{X_t}{t^\alpha s(t)} \geq 1 \right) \leq - \inf_{x \in [1, \infty)} \underline{\Lambda}^*(x).$$

The proof then follows by noticing that $\frac{\underline{\Lambda}^*(1)}{q(t)} = \frac{\underline{c}}{2\underline{\gamma}} s(t)^{2\underline{\gamma}} = \underline{\Lambda}^*(s(t))$ for all $t > 0$. \square

4.4. The fat-tail case. If \mathbf{v}_+ is infinite and \mathbf{m} is finite, Proposition 4.1 states that the only choice for the rescaling factor is $h(t) = t^{1/2}$, but the form of the limiting rescaled cumulant generating function does not yield any immediate asymptotic estimates for the probabilities. In this case, we impose the following assumption on the moment generating function of \mathcal{V} in the vicinity of the upper bound \mathbf{m} of its effective domain:

Assumption 4.13. There exists $(\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \omega) \in \mathbb{R}^* \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{N}_+^*$, such that the following asymptotics hold for the cgf of \mathcal{V} as u tends to \mathbf{m} from below:

$$(4.7) \quad \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(u) = \begin{cases} \gamma_0 \log(\mathbf{m} - u) + \gamma_1 + o(1), & \text{for } \omega = 1, \gamma_0 < 0, \\ \frac{\gamma_0}{(\mathbf{m} - u)^{\omega-1}} \{1 + \gamma_1(\mathbf{m} - u) \log(\mathbf{m} - u) + \gamma_2(\mathbf{m} - u) + o(\mathbf{m} - u)\}, & \text{for } \omega \geq 2, \gamma_0 > 0, \end{cases}$$

and

$$(4.8) \quad \frac{M'_{\mathcal{V}}(u)}{M_{\mathcal{V}}(u)} = \begin{cases} \frac{|\gamma_0|}{\mathbf{m} - u} (1 + o(1)), & \text{for } \omega = 1, \gamma_0 < 0, \\ \frac{(\omega - 1)\gamma_0}{(\mathbf{m} - u)^{\omega}} \{1 + \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{m} - u) \log(\mathbf{m} - u) + \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{m} - u) + o(\mathbf{m} - u)\}, & \text{for } \omega \geq 2, \gamma_0 > 0, \end{cases}$$

where $\mathbf{a} := \gamma_1(\omega - 2)(\omega - 1)^{-1}$ and $\mathbf{b} := [\gamma_2(\omega - 2) - \gamma_1](\omega - 1)^{-1}$.

Remark 4.14. Condition (4.8) together with the expressions of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} imply that the asymptotics of $(\log(M_{\mathcal{V}}))'$ can be derived by differentiating (4.7) term by term. This is of course not always true; however, Condition (4.8) is rather mild, and we shall check it directly in several cases where $M_{\mathcal{V}}$ is known in closed form.

Example 4.15.

- For the Exponential distribution with parameter \mathbf{m} , $(\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \omega) = (-1, \log \mathbf{m}, 1)$.
- For the non-central χ -squared distribution as in Example 6.2, $(\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \omega) = (\frac{\lambda}{4}, -\frac{2q}{\lambda}, -2(1 + \frac{q}{\lambda} \log 2), 2)$.

For $\mathbf{m} \in (0, \infty)$, introduce the function $\Lambda^* : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ as

$$(4.9) \quad \Lambda^*(x) := \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}|x|,$$

as well as, for any $t > 0$ the functions $\mathcal{E}_t, \mathcal{C}_t : \mathbb{R}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^*$ by $\mathcal{E}_t(x) := \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=1\}} + \exp\left(\frac{c_1(x)}{t^{1/4}}\right) \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=2\}}$ and

$$(4.10) \quad \mathcal{C}_t(x) := \begin{cases} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\rho\xi\mathbf{m} + 1)x + \gamma_1\right) \frac{|x|^{|\gamma_0|-1}}{\Gamma(|\gamma_0|)(2\mathbf{m})^{1+|\gamma_0|/2}} t^{1-\frac{1}{2}|\gamma_0|}, & \text{for } \omega = 1, \\ \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\rho\xi\mathbf{m} + 1)x + \gamma_0\gamma_2 + \frac{\gamma_0}{4\mathbf{m}}\right) \frac{1}{2\mathbf{m}\sqrt{2\pi}\zeta(x)} t^{\frac{7}{8}+\frac{1}{4}\gamma_0\gamma_1}, & \text{for } \omega = 2, \end{cases}$$

where the functions c_1 and ζ are defined in Lemmas D.2-D.3 respectively. Then the following behaviour, proved in Section D.2, holds for European option prices:

Theorem 4.16. *Under Assumption 4.13, European Call options with strike e^x have the following expansion:*

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ = (1 - e^x)^+ + \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda^*(x)}{\sqrt{t}}\right) \mathcal{E}_t(x)\mathcal{C}_t(x) (1 + o(1)), \quad \text{for any } x \neq 0, \text{ as } t \text{ tends to zero.}$$

Moreover, the small-time implied volatility behaves as follows whenever $x \neq 0$:

$$\sigma_t^2(x) = \frac{|x|}{2\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t}} + \begin{cases} h_1^{(1)}(x) + h_2^{(1)} \log(t) + o(1), & \text{for } \omega = 1, \\ \frac{c_1(x)}{4\mathbf{m}t^{1/4}} + h_1^{(2)}(x) + h_2^{(2)} \log(t) + o(1), & \text{for } \omega = 2, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h_1^{(1)}(x) &:= \frac{1}{4\mathbf{m}} \left\{ \frac{\rho\xi\mathbf{m}}{2}x + \left(|\gamma_0| - \frac{1}{2}\right) \log|x| + \gamma_1 + \log(4\sqrt{\pi}) - \left(\frac{|\gamma_0|}{2} + \frac{1}{4}\right) \log(2\mathbf{m}) - \log\Gamma(|\gamma_0|) \right\}, \\ h_1^{(2)}(x) &:= \frac{1}{4\mathbf{m}} \left\{ \frac{\rho\xi\mathbf{m}}{2}x + \gamma_0\gamma_2 + \frac{9\gamma_0}{4\mathbf{m}} + \frac{5}{8} \log 2 - \frac{3}{8} \log \mathbf{m} + \frac{1}{4} \log \gamma_0 - \frac{1}{4} \log|x| \right\}, \\ h_2^{(1)} &:= \frac{1}{8\mathbf{m}} \left(\frac{1}{2} - |\gamma_0|\right), \quad h_2^{(2)} := \frac{1}{16\mathbf{m}} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \gamma_0\gamma_1\right). \end{aligned}$$

A particular example of a randomisation satisfying Assumption 4.13 is the non-central Chi-squared distribution. This case was the central focus of [44], where the small-time behaviour of the forward smile in the Heston model was analysed. As a sanity check, our theorem 4.16 corresponds to [44, Theorem 4.1].

Corollary 4.17. *Under Assumption 4.13, for $\omega \leq 2$, $X \sim \text{LDP}_0(\sqrt{t}, \Lambda^*)$.*

Remark 4.18. Even though the leading order in the expansion is symmetric, Theorem 4.16 explains how the asymmetry in the volatility smile is generated. In particular, the term $\rho\xi x/8$ immediately shows how the leverage effect can be produced with $\rho < 0$.

4.5. Large-time asymptotics. As observed in Figure 1, the effect of initial randomness decays when the maturity becomes large, so that the large-time behaviour of the randomised Heston model should be similar to that of the standard Heston model, which has been discussed in detail in [26, 28, 43]. In the particular example of the forward Heston model—which coincides with randomising with a non-central χ -squared distribution—such a large-time behaviour has been analysed in [45]. Throughout this section we assume $|\rho| < 1$ and $\kappa > \rho\xi$ (this condition usually holds on equity markets, where the instantaneous correlation ρ is negative—the so-called leverage effect), which guarantees the essential smoothness of the limiting cgf in a standard Heston as t tends to infinity, and define the function \mathfrak{L} on \mathbb{R} by:

$$(4.11) \quad \mathfrak{L}(u) := \begin{cases} \frac{\kappa\theta}{\xi^2}(\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)), & \text{for } u \in [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+], \\ +\infty, & \text{for } u \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+], \end{cases}$$

where $\bar{u}_\pm := \frac{1}{2\rho^2\xi} \left(\xi - 2\kappa\rho \pm \sqrt{(\xi - 2\kappa\rho)^2 + 4\kappa^2\rho^2} \right)$, and where the function d is given in (A.1). We further denote $\mathfrak{L}^*(x) := \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \{ux - \mathfrak{L}(u)\}$, the convex conjugate of \mathfrak{L} . Forde and Jacquier [26, Theorem 2.1] proved that $\bar{u}_- < 0$ and $\bar{u}_+ > 1$. Consider now the following assumption:

Assumption 4.19. $\max\{\bar{u}_-(\bar{u}_- - 1), \bar{u}_+(\bar{u}_+ - 1)\} < \mathfrak{m}\xi^2 \leq \infty$.

Remark 4.20. Assumption 4.19 is a technical one, needed to ensure that the limiting cgf of the randomised model is essentially smooth. Should it break down, a more refined analysis, similar to the one in [45] could be carried out to prove large deviations, but we leave it for future research.

Theorem 4.21. *Under Assumption 4.19, $(t^{-1}X_t) \sim \text{LDP}_\infty(t^{-1}, \mathfrak{L}^*)$ and*

$$\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \sigma_t^2(xt) = \begin{cases} 2 \left(2\mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x + 2\sqrt{\mathfrak{L}^*(x)(\mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x)} \right), & \text{for } x \in \left(-\frac{\theta}{2}, \frac{\bar{\theta}}{2} \right), \\ 2 \left(2\mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x - 2\sqrt{\mathfrak{L}^*(x)(\mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x)} \right), & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \left[-\frac{\theta}{2}, \frac{\bar{\theta}}{2} \right], \end{cases}$$

where $\bar{\theta} := \frac{\kappa\theta}{\kappa - \rho\xi} > 0$. If $x \in \left\{ -\frac{\theta}{2}, \frac{\bar{\theta}}{2} \right\}$, then $\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \sigma_t^2 \left(\frac{\bar{\theta}t}{2} \right) = \bar{\theta}$, and $\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \sigma_t^2 \left(-\frac{\theta t}{2} \right) = \theta$.

Remark 4.22.

- As proved in [26], the map $x \mapsto \mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x$ is smooth, strictly convex, attains its minimum at the point $\bar{\theta}/2$, and $\mathfrak{L}^*(\bar{\theta}/2) - \bar{\theta}/2 = \mathfrak{L}^*(\bar{\theta}/2)' - 1 = 0$.
- Theorem 4.21 has the same form as [26, Corollary 2.4], confirming the similar large-time behaviours of the classical and the randomised Heston models.
- Higher-order terms can be derived similarly to Theorem 4.16 (see also [45, Proposition 2.12]).

Theorem 4.21 provides the large-time behaviour of the implied volatility smile with a time-dependent strike. For fixed strike, the initial randomisation has no effect, and we recover the flattening effect of the smile:

Corollary 4.23 (fixed strike). *Under Assumption 4.19,*

$$\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \sigma_t^2(x) = 8\mathfrak{L}^*(0) = \frac{4\kappa\theta}{\xi^2(1-\rho^2)} \left(-2\kappa + \rho\xi + \sqrt{\xi^2 + 4\kappa^2 - 4\kappa\rho\xi} \right), \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

4.6. At-the-money (ATM) case. All our small-maturity results above hold in the out-of-the-money case $x \neq 0$. As usual in the literature on implied volatility asymptotics, the at-the-money case exhibits a radically different behaviour, and a separate analysis is needed. We first recall in Lemma 4.24 the at-the-money asymptotics in the classical Heston model [27]. To differentiate between standard and randomised Heston models, denote by $\sigma_t(x, v_0)$ as the implied volatility in the standard Heston model with fixed initial condition $V_0 = v_0 > 0$.

Lemma 4.24. [27, Corollary 4.4] *In the standard Heston model with $V_0 = v_0 > 0$, assume that there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that the map $(t, x) \mapsto \sigma_t^2(x, v_0)$ is of class $C^{1,1}([0, \varepsilon] \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon))$, then $\sigma_t^2(0, v_0) = v_0 + a(v_0)t + o(t)$, where $a(v_0) := -\frac{1}{12}\xi^2(1 - \frac{1}{4}\rho^2) + \frac{1}{4}v_0\rho\xi + \frac{1}{2}\kappa(\theta - v_0)$.*

Theorem 4.25. *In a randomised Heston model, $\sigma_t(0) = \mathbb{E}(\sqrt{\mathcal{V}}) + o(1)$ holds as time tends to zero.*

Proof. Since $\mathfrak{m} \in (0, \infty]$, then $\mathbb{E}(\sqrt{\mathcal{V}})$ is finite. Denote by $C_{\text{BS}}(t, x, \Sigma)$ the European Call option price in the Black-Scholes model with maturity t , strike e^x and volatility Σ , and by $C_{\text{H}}(t, x, v)$ its price in the standard Heston model with $V_0 = v$. Using the tower property,

$$(4.12) \quad \mathbb{E}(e^{X_t} - 1)^+ = \mathbb{E}\left(\mathbb{E}(e^{X_t} - 1)^+ | \mathcal{V}\right) = \mathbb{E}(C_{\text{H}}(t, 0, \mathcal{V})),$$

and Lemma 4.24 and [27, Corollary 4.5] imply that the equation $C_{\text{H}}(t, 0, \mathcal{V}) = C_{\text{BS}}\left(t, 0, \sqrt{\mathcal{V} + a(\mathcal{V})t}\right) (1 + o(1))$ holds \mathbb{P} -almost surely. Also for any $c \in \mathbb{R}$, [27, Proposition 3.4] implies that

$$C_{\text{BS}}\left(t, 0, \sqrt{\Sigma^2 + ct}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\Sigma t^{1/2} + \frac{12c/\Sigma - \Sigma^4}{24\Sigma} t^{3/2} + \mathcal{O}(t^{5/2}) \right).$$

Plugging these equations back into (4.12), and equating (4.12) with $C_{\text{BS}}(t, 0, \sigma_t(0))$, the theorem follows from

$$\sqrt{\frac{t}{2\pi}} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \left(\sqrt{\mathcal{V}} + \frac{12a(\mathcal{V}) - \mathcal{V}^{5/2}}{24\mathcal{V}} t + \mathcal{O}(t^2) \right) (1 + o(1)) \right\} = \sqrt{\frac{t}{2\pi}} \left(\sigma_t(0) - \frac{\sigma_t^3(0)}{24} t + \mathcal{O}(t^2) \right).$$

□

5. A DYNAMIC PRICING FRAMEWORK

The model proposed in this paper has so far only been studied in a static way, namely from the inception time of the (European contract), with a view towards calibration of the implied volatility surface. While providing a better fit to short-maturity options by steepening the skew, it is not obvious, however, how to use the model dynamically; in particular, it is unclear how to choose the random initial value of the volatility process during the life of the contract, should one be wishing to sell or buy the option, or for hedging purposes. Mathematically, assume that at time zero the trader chooses an initial randomisation \mathcal{V} (or classically a Dirac mass at some positive point), and suppose that, at some later time $t > 0$, she needs to reprice the option (with remaining maturity τ). How should she choose the initial random variable \mathcal{V}_t ? Since the variance process has continuous paths, a suitable choice of \mathcal{V}_t , consistent with the dynamics of the variance, is obviously V_t , the solution of the SDE (2.1), after running it from time zero to time t . With an initial guess \mathcal{V} at time zero, then, at time t ,

conditional on \mathcal{V} , V_t is distributed as $\beta_t \chi^2(q, \lambda)$, where $\beta_t := \xi^2(1 - e^{-\kappa t})/(4\kappa)$, and $\chi^2(q, \lambda)$ is a non-central Chi-squared distribution with $q := 4\kappa\theta/\xi^2$ degrees of freedom and non-centrality parameter $\lambda := 4\kappa\mathcal{V}/(\xi^2(e^{\kappa t} - 1))$. From the tower property, the moment generating function of \mathcal{V}_t then reads

$$(5.1) \quad M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) = \mathbb{E} [\mathbb{E} (e^{uV_t} | \mathcal{V})] = (1 - 2\beta_t u)^{-q/2} M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\frac{\exp(-\kappa t)u}{1 - 2\beta_t u} \right),$$

for all $u \in \mathcal{D}_t^H \{u \in \mathbb{R} : M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) < \infty\}$. Setting $\mathbf{b}_t := 1/(2\beta_t)$, we have

$$\mathcal{D}_t^H = (-\infty, \mathbf{b}_t) \cap \left\{ u \in \mathbb{R} : \frac{\exp(-\kappa t)u}{1 - 2\beta_t u} \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}} \right\} = \begin{cases} (-\infty, \mathbf{b}_t), & \text{if } \mathbf{m} = \infty, \\ (-\infty, \mathbf{b}_t) \cap \left(-\infty, \frac{\mathbf{m}}{e^{-\kappa t} + 2\beta_t \mathbf{m}} \right) = (-\infty, \mathbf{b}_t^*), & \text{if } \mathbf{m} < \infty. \end{cases}$$

where $\mathbf{b}_t^* := \frac{\mathbf{m}\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{m} + \mathbf{b}_t e^{-\kappa t}}$. We now discuss the impact of different choices of \mathcal{V} at time zero on the distribution of \mathcal{V}_t and on the implied variance $\sigma_\tau^2(x, t)$ at time t (for a remaining maturity τ). We keep here the terminology introduced in Section 4 regarding the tail behaviour of \mathcal{V} .

5.1. The bounded-support case. In this case, $\mathcal{D}_t^H = (-\infty, \mathbf{b}_t)$; the proof of Proposition 4.1 showed that $\lim_{u \uparrow \infty} u^{-1} \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(u) = \mathbf{v}_+$. Combining this with (5.1), we obtain, as u tends to \mathbf{b}_t from below,

$$\log M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) = -\frac{q}{2} \log(1 - 2\beta_t u) + \frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{v}_+ u}{1 - 2\beta_t u} (1 + o(1)) = \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) + \frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{v}_+ \mathbf{b}_t u}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} (1 + o(1)) = \frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{v}_+ \mathbf{b}_t^2}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} (1 + o(1)),$$

so that, at leading order, \mathcal{V}_t behaves asymptotically as a fat-tail distribution as in Assumption 4.13 with $\omega = 2$.

In the particular case of a uniform distribution on $[\mathbf{v}_-, \mathbf{v}_+] \subset [0, \infty)$, as u tends to \mathbf{b}_t from below, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \log M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) &= \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) + \mathbf{b}_t \mathbf{v}_+ e^{-\kappa t} \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} - 1 \right) + \log \left(\frac{1 - \exp\{(\mathbf{v}_- - \mathbf{v}_+)e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t u / (\mathbf{b}_t - u)\}}{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t u (\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-)} \right) (\mathbf{b}_t - u) \\ &= \frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t^2 \mathbf{v}_+}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \left[1 + \frac{e^{\kappa t} (2 - q)}{2\mathbf{b}_t^2 \mathbf{v}_+} (\mathbf{b}_t - u) \log(\mathbf{b}_t - u) + \left\{ \frac{e^{\kappa t}}{\mathbf{b}_t \mathbf{v}_+} \log \left(\frac{e^{\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t^{q/2-2}}{\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-} \right) - 1 \right\} \frac{\mathbf{b}_t - u}{\mathbf{b}_t} + o(\mathbf{b}_t - u) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence in a uniform randomisation environment, at future time t , the shape of the distribution of \mathcal{V}_t depends both on \mathcal{V} and on the parameters κ, θ, ξ that control the dynamics of the variance process. Moreover from Theorem 4.16, the implied variance at time t , denoted by $\sigma_\tau^2(x, t)$, has an explosion rate of $\sqrt{\tau}$:

$$\sigma_\tau^2(x, t) = \frac{|x|\tau^{-1/2}}{2\sqrt{2\mathbf{b}_t}} + \frac{\sqrt{\mathbf{v}_+ |x|}}{2e^{\kappa t/2}} (2\mathbf{b}_t \tau)^{-1/4} + o(\tau^{-1/4}), \quad \text{for all } x \neq 0, \text{ as } \tau \text{ tends to zero.}$$

5.2. The thin-tail case (Assumption 4.4). Here again, $\mathcal{D}_t^H = (-\infty, \mathbf{b}_t)$ and applying Lemma 4.7 with $\log f \sim -l_1 v^{l_2}$, we have

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \log M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) &= \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) + l_1 (l_2 - 1) \left(\frac{1}{l_1 l_2} \right)^{\frac{l_2}{l_2 - 1}} \left(\frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t^2}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right)^{\frac{l_2}{l_2 - 1}} (1 + o(1)) \\ &= \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) + \frac{2\bar{\gamma} - 1 \bar{c}}{\bar{\gamma}} \left(\frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t^2}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right)^{\bar{\gamma}} (1 + o(1)), \end{aligned}$$

as u tends to \mathbf{b}_t from below, so that a thin-tail initial randomisation generates a fat-tail distribution for \mathcal{V}_t at time t . In light of (5.2), Assumption 4.13 does not hold, and hence \mathcal{V}_t is neither of Gamma or non-central Chi-squared type. A case-by-case analysis depending on the distribution of \mathcal{V} is therefore needed in order to make the $o(\cdot)$ term in (5.2) more precise.

Example 5.1 (Folded-Gaussian randomisation). When $f(v) \equiv ce^{-l_1 v^2}$, straightforward computations yield

$$\begin{aligned} \log M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) &= \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) + \frac{1}{4l_1} \left(\frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t u}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right)^2 + \log \left(\mathbf{c} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{l_1}} \right) + \log \left(\frac{1}{2} + \Phi \left(\frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}_t u}{\sqrt{2l_1}(\mathbf{b}_t - u)} \right) \right) \\ &=: \frac{\mathbf{c}_0}{(\mathbf{b}_t - u)^2} + \frac{\mathbf{c}_1}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} + \mathbf{c}_2 - \frac{q}{2} \log(\mathbf{b}_t - u) + o(1). \end{aligned}$$

We can obtain the small-time asymptotic expansion of the option price using an approach similar to the proof of Theorem 4.16. Specifically, only Lemma D.3 needs to be adjusted, and the rescaling factor is now $\vartheta(\tau) = \tau^{1/6}$; the main contribution to the asymptotics of out-of-the-money option prices is still given in Lemma D.2. Translating this into the asymptotics of the implied variance, we obtain, for small τ ,

$$\sigma_\tau^2(x, t) = \frac{|x|}{2\sqrt{2\mathbf{b}_t\tau}} + \frac{3|x|^{2/3}}{8(4l_1)^{1/3}} \frac{\exp(-\frac{2\kappa t}{3})}{\tau^{1/3}} + o(\tau^{-1/3}).$$

5.3. The fat-tail case. In this case, $\mathcal{D}_t^H = (-\infty, \mathbf{b}_t^*)$. Here we only discuss two special cases for \mathcal{V} : the Gamma distribution, and the (scaled) non-central χ -squared distribution.

Example 5.2 (Gamma randomisation). If $\mathcal{V} \stackrel{(\text{Law})}{=} \Gamma(\alpha, \mathbf{m})$, then from (5.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) &= \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) - \alpha \log \left(1 - \frac{e^{-\kappa t} u \mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{b}_t - u)} \right) = -\alpha \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{m}\mathbf{b}_t - (\mathbf{m} + \exp(-\kappa t)\mathbf{b}_t)u}{\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{b}_t - u)} \right) \\ &= -\alpha \log(\mathbf{b}_t^* - u) + \alpha \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{b}_t - u)}{\mathbf{m} + \exp(-\kappa t)\mathbf{b}_t} \right) + \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Consequently \mathcal{V}_t is still a fat-tail distribution satisfying Assumption 4.13 with $\omega = 1$, while the upper-bound of the support of the mgf now depends on both the initial distribution \mathcal{V} and on the evolution of the process (through \mathbf{b}_t^*). A direct application of Theorem 4.16 further suggests that, for small enough $\tau > 0$,

$$\sigma_\tau^2(x, t) = \frac{|x|}{2\sqrt{2\mathbf{b}_t^*\tau}} + o(\tau^{-1/2}).$$

Example 5.3 (Non-central χ^2 randomisation). If $\mathcal{V} \stackrel{(\text{Law})}{=} \alpha\chi^2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ then $\mathbf{m} = 1/(2\alpha)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \log M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) &= \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) + \left(\frac{\alpha\mathbf{b}z}{1 - 2\alpha z} - \frac{\mathbf{a}}{2} \log(1 - 2\alpha z) \right) \Big|_{z=\exp(-\kappa t)u/(1-2\beta_t u)} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}_t^* u}{2\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{b}_t^* - u)} - \frac{\mathbf{a}}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t(\mathbf{b}_t^* - u)}{\mathbf{b}_t^*(\mathbf{b}_t - u)} \right) + \frac{q}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - u} \right) \\ &= \frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}_t^{*2}}{2\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{b}_t^* - u)} - \frac{\mathbf{a}}{2} \log(\mathbf{b}_t^* - u) + \frac{q - \mathbf{a}}{2} \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}_t}{\mathbf{b}_t - \mathbf{b}_t^*} \right) + \frac{\mathbf{a}}{2} \log \mathbf{b}_t^* - \frac{e^{-\kappa t} \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}_t^*}{2\mathbf{m}} + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{b}_t^* - u), \end{aligned}$$

which satisfies (4.7) in Assumption 4.13 with $\omega = 2$ as u tends to \mathbf{b}_t^* . As a result, the implied variance $\sigma_\tau^2(x, t)$ has an explosion rate of $\sqrt{\tau}$ as τ tends to zero.

This analysis shows that a suitable choice for \mathcal{V}_t , consistent with the dynamics of the variance process, can actually depend on the initial randomisation at time zero, as well as the evolution of the variance. Even though all three types of initial randomisation imply a fat-tail initial distribution at future time, the generated small remaining-maturity implied volatility smiles are very different. The folded-Gaussian (thin-tail) generates a steeper smile compared to the bounded support case; a fat-tail distribution for \mathcal{V} generate an even steeper volatility smile at t , since the coefficient of the leading order is \mathbf{b}_t^* , which is strictly less than \mathbf{b}_t .

5.4. Numerics. We now illustrate numerically the results in Section 5. In Figure 2 we price the option in three different randomisation schemes after one month ($t = 1/12$) into the life of the contract. To compare different schemes, we again match the parameters of \mathcal{V} (at time zero) with different distributions according to Theorem 4.25. We see that the higher-order term in Theorem 4.16 is quite accurate even for relatively large time to maturity. Not surprisingly (especially in the folded-Gaussian case) the leading order is insufficient, and higher orders are needed for reliable approximations.

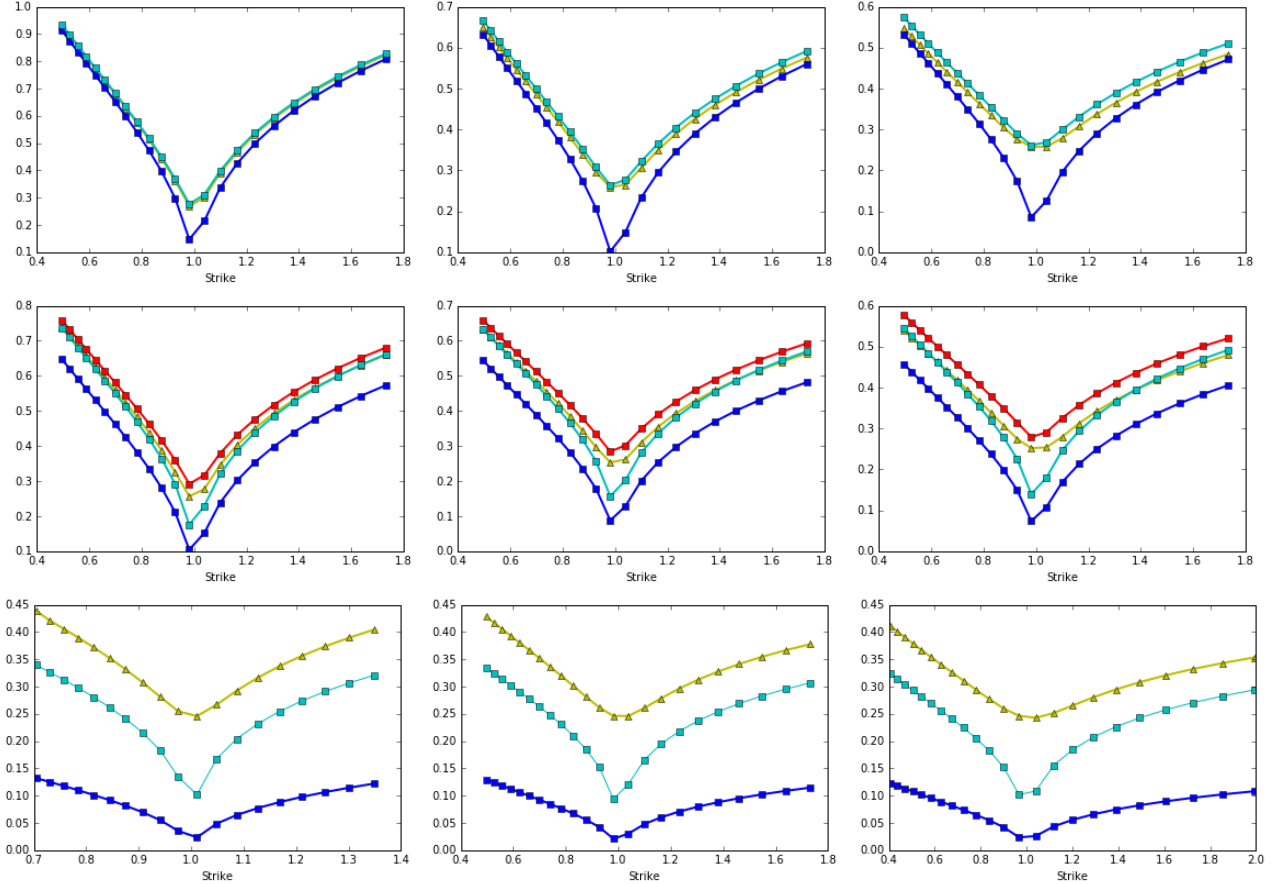


FIGURE 2. We price the option at $t = 1/12$ in three different randomisation schemes: Gamma ($\Gamma(0.4, 3.868)$, top), non-central Chi-squared ($0.07\chi^2(0.23, 1.25)$, middle), folded-Gaussian ($l_2 = 2$, $l_1 = 63.46$, bottom). Time to maturity is one week, one month, two months (left to right). Blue and cyan squares are first- and second-order asymptotics, red squares (in the second row) are third-order asymptotics; yellow triangles are true implied volatilities computed by FFT.

6. EXAMPLES AND NUMERICS

We now choose some common distributions supported on a subset of $[0, \infty)$ for the initial randomisation to illustrate the results in Section 4. We first start with the bounded support case, and provide rigorous justifications to the statements in Section 3. In Section 6.1, we consider a uniformly distributed initial variance, with \mathfrak{v}_+ finite, and provide full asymptotics of European Call prices. The remaining sections are devoted to the unbounded support case; specifically, Sections 6.2-6.3 correspond to the fat-tail case, so that Theorem 4.16

can be applied. The thin-tail environment is illustrated in Section 6.4 where the initial distribution satisfies Assumption 4.4 with $l_2 = 2$.

6.1. Uniform randomisation. Assume that \mathcal{V} is uniformly distributed on $[\mathbf{v}_-, \mathbf{v}_+]$ with $0 \leq \mathbf{v}_- < \mathbf{v}_+ < \infty$, then Corollary 4.3 provides the leading term of short-time implied volatility. However, as will be shown in Section 6.6, the true volatility smile for small t is much steeper compared with the leading term, so that higher-order terms shall be considered. For any $x \neq 0$, denote by $u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)$ the unique solution in (u_-, u_+) to the equation $x = \Lambda'(u)\mathbf{v}_+$, with Λ described in (4.2). From [27, Remark 2.1], existence and uniqueness of such a solution are straightforward, and $u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x) \neq 0$ holds for any non-zero x . Introduce the function $U : \mathbb{R}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^*$ by

$$(6.1) \quad U_{\mathbf{v}_+}(x) := \exp \left\{ D_0^0(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x))\mathbf{v}_+ + C_0(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)) + x \right\},$$

where the functions D_0^0 and C_0 are provided in (C.1)-(C.2). From [27, Remark 3.2], the function U is well defined on \mathbb{R}^* . The following theorem is the main result of this section, and provides a detailed asymptotic behaviour of Call option prices as the maturity becomes small:

Theorem 6.1. *Under uniform randomisation, as t decreases to zero, European Call option prices behave as*

$$\mathbb{E} (e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ = (1 - e^x)^+ + \exp \left(-\frac{\Lambda_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)}{t} \right) \frac{U_{\mathbf{v}_+}(x)t^{5/2} (1 + o(1))}{(\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-)\Lambda(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x))u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)^2 \sqrt{2\pi\mathbf{v}_+\Lambda''(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x))}}, \quad \text{for any } x \neq 0,$$

where the function $\Lambda_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*$ was introduced in Corollary 4.3.

Remark 6.2.

- The remainder is of order $t^{5/2}$, instead of $t^{3/2}$ as in both standard Heston and Black-Scholes models [27]. This can also be seen at the level of the (asymptotic behaviour of) corresponding densities, as noted in Remark 6.3 below.
- The asymptotics holds locally for any fixed log-strike $x \neq 0$. The numerics indicate that for small $t > 0$, as x tends to zero, the asymptotics of option prices and volatility smile explode to infinity. This is in contrast with the standard Heston case [27, Section 5].
- Since the function Λ is strictly positive and strictly convex on $(u_-, u_+) \setminus \{0\}$ and $u_{\mathbf{v}_+}(x) \in (u_-, u_+) \setminus \{0\}$ for any $x \neq 0$, the quotient on the right-hand side is well defined.

Proof. The procedure is essentially the same as the proof of Theorem 4.16. Applying Lemmas C.2 and C.4, the rescaled cgf of X_t for each t is given by (with the same notations as in (4.1))

$$(6.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \Lambda_t(u) &:= \Lambda_1 \left(t, \frac{u}{t} \right) = tC \left(t, \frac{u}{t} \right) + t \log \left(M_{\mathcal{V}} \circ D \left(t, \frac{u}{t} \right) \right) = tC \left(t, \frac{u}{t} \right) + t \log \left(\frac{e^{\mathbf{v}_+ D(t, u/t)} - e^{\mathbf{v}_- D(t, u/t)}}{(\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-) D(t, u/t)} \right) \\ &= \mathbf{v}_+ \Lambda(u) + t (C_0(u) + \mathbf{v}_+ D_0^0(u) - \log((\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-) \Lambda(u))) + t \log t + \mathcal{O}(t^2). \end{aligned}$$

For fixed $x > 0$ and small enough $t > 0$, introduce the time-dependent probability measure \mathbb{Q}_t by

$$\frac{d\mathbb{Q}_t}{d\mathbb{P}} := \exp \left(\frac{u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)X_t - \Lambda_t(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x))}{t} \right).$$

Changing the measure, plugging (6.2) and rearranging terms yield the following expression for the Call option price with strike e^x :

$$\mathbb{E} (e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ = \exp \left(-\frac{\Lambda_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)}{t} \right) U_{\mathbf{v}_+}(x) \frac{t(1 + \mathcal{O}(t))}{(\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-)\Lambda(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x))} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} \left[\exp \left(\frac{-u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)(X_t - x)}{t} \right) (e^{X_t - x} - 1)^+ \right].$$

It is easy to show that for fixed $t > 0$, under \mathbb{Q}_t the random variable $\left(\frac{X_t - x}{\sqrt{t}}\right)$ converges weakly to a Gaussian distribution. The rest of the proof is similar to Section D.2 and we omit the details. \square

We now explain the steepness of the volatility smile in the uncorrelated case $\rho = 0$. Using the at-the-money curvature formula for the implied volatility (in uncorrelated stochastic volatility models) proved by De Marco and Martini [18, Equation (2.9)], we can write, for any $t > 0$,

$$(6.3) \quad \partial_x^2 \sigma(t, x)^2 \Big|_{x=0} = \frac{2}{t} \left\{ \sigma(t, 0) \sqrt{2\pi t} \exp\left(\frac{\sigma(t, 0)^2 t}{8}\right) p_t(0) - 1 \right\},$$

where p_t is the density of the log-price process at time t . In the standard Heston model with the initial condition $V_0 = v_0 \in (\mathbf{v}_-, \mathbf{v}_+)$, such that $\mathbb{E}(\sqrt{V}) = \sqrt{v_0}$, the small-time asymptotics of the density reads [31, Section 5.3]

$$p_t(x) = \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda_{v_0}^*(x)}{t}\right) \frac{U_{v_0}(x)}{\sqrt{2\pi v_0 \Lambda''(x)}} t^{-1/2} (1 + o(1)), \quad \text{for any } x \neq 0,$$

with the function U defined in (6.1). Applying the saddle point method similar to the proof of [27, Theorem 3.1], the small-time asymptotics of the density in a randomised setting, denoted as \tilde{p}_t , has the expression

$$\tilde{p}_t(x) = \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)}{t}\right) \frac{U_{\mathbf{v}_+}(x)}{\sqrt{2\pi \mathbf{v}_+ \Lambda''(x)}} \frac{t^{1/2} (1 + o(1))}{(\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-) \Lambda(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x))}, \quad x \neq 0.$$

Remark 6.3. Note the difference between the powers $t^{1/2}$ and $t^{-1/2}$ in the expressions for p_t and \tilde{p}_t above. Even if, in the bounded support case, the leading-order term is not affected by the randomisation, the latter does act at higher order. We leave a precise study of this issue to further research.

The ratio $p_t(x)/\tilde{p}_t(x)$ then reads

$$\frac{p_t(x)}{\tilde{p}_t(x)} = \frac{1}{t} \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda_{v_0}^*(x) - \Lambda_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)}{t}\right) \left(\frac{\mathbf{v}_+}{v_0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{U_{v_0}(x)}{U_{\mathbf{v}_+}(x)} (\mathbf{v}_+ - \mathbf{v}_-) \Lambda(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)) (1 + o(1)), \quad x \neq 0.$$

It is easy to verify that $\lim_{x \downarrow 0} U_{v_0}(x) = \lim_{x \downarrow 0} U_{\mathbf{v}_+}(x) = 1$ and $\lim_{x \downarrow 0} \Lambda(u_{\mathbf{v}_+}^*(x)) = 0$. Moreover, for any fixed $x \neq 0$,

$$\partial_v \Lambda_v^*(x) = \partial_v [u_v^*(x)x - v\Lambda(u_v^*(x))] = [x - v\Lambda'(u_v^*(x))] \frac{\partial u_v^*(x)}{\partial v} - \Lambda(u_v^*(x)) = -\Lambda(u_v^*(x)) < 0.$$

Combining these results, assume that the density at zero can be approximated by $p_t(x)$ for small enough $x > 0$, then there exists $t^* > 0$ small enough such that $p_t(x)/\tilde{p}_t(x) < 1$ for all $t \in (0, t^*)$. Plugging it back to (6.3), and noticing that (Section 4.6) $\sigma(t, 0) \sim \mathbb{E}[\sqrt{V}] = \sqrt{v_0} \sim \sigma_t(0, v_0)$ holds as t tends to zero, then the small-time curvature in a uniformly randomised Heston is much larger compared with that of a standard Heston, implying a much steeper smile around the at-the-money. Figure 6 provides a visual help.

Finally, we mention that the tail behaviour of the implied volatility in a uniformly randomised Heston model is similar to that of the standard Heston. To see this, notice that the moment explosion property in the standard Heston setting is described in [3, Proposition 3.1]. Specifically, the explosion of the mgf of X_t is equivalent to the explosion of the function D provided in (A.1). Moreover, Equation (2.3) suggests that it is still the case in the uniform randomised setting, since \mathfrak{m} is infinity. Then the similarity of the tail behaviours follows from [49] (see also [8, 14]).

6.2. Non-central χ -squared. Assume that \mathcal{V} is non-central χ -squared distributed with $q > 0$ degrees of freedom and non-centrality parameter $\lambda > 0$, so that its moment generating function reads

$$M_{\mathcal{V}}(u) = \frac{1}{(1-2u)^{q/2}} \exp\left(\frac{\lambda u}{1-2u}\right), \quad \text{for all } u \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}} = (-\infty, 1/2),$$

then \mathbf{v}_+ is infinite and $\mathbf{m} = 1/2$. By Proposition 4.1, the only suitable scale function is $h(t) \equiv \sqrt{t}$, which corresponds exactly to the forward-start Heston model, the asymptotics of which have been studied thoroughly in [44]. Applying Equation D.3 and L'Hôpital's rule with $M'_{\mathcal{V}}(u) = M_{\mathcal{V}}(u) (\lambda(1-2u)^{-2} + q(1-2u)^{-1})$ imply that, at the right endpoint $u = \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} = 1$, as t tends to zero, the pointwise limit

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \Lambda_{1/2} \left(t, \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \right) = \frac{4}{2 - \rho\xi} \lim_{s \downarrow 0} \frac{s^2 M'_{\mathcal{V}}(1/2 - s)}{M_{\mathcal{V}}(1/2 - s)} = \frac{\lambda}{2 - \rho\xi}$$

can be either finite or infinite. In particular, since $\lambda > 0$, the pointwise limiting rescaled cumulant generating function is not continuous at the right boundary of its effective domain. The cgf of \mathcal{V} satisfies Assumption 4.13 with $\omega = 2$, then Theorem 4.16 implies that we can recover [44, Theorem 4.1]:

$$\sigma_t^2(x) = \frac{|x|}{2} t^{-1/2} + \frac{\sqrt{\lambda|x|}}{2} t^{-1/4} + o\left(t^{-1/4}\right), \quad \text{as } t \text{ tends to zero.}$$

6.3. Starting from the ergodic distribution. Remark 2.1 shows that the stationary distribution of a randomised Heston model has the density

$$f_{\infty}(v) = \frac{a^b}{\Gamma(b)} v^{b-1} e^{-av}, \quad \text{for } v > 0,$$

where $a := \frac{2r}{\xi^2}$ and $b := a\theta$. Assume now that f_{∞} is the density of \mathcal{V} , so that the cgf of \mathcal{V} is given by $\log M_{\mathcal{V}}(u) = -b \log(a-u) + b \log a$, with $u < a = \mathbf{m}$. Then Assumption 4.13 is satisfied with $\omega = 1$. A direct application of Theorem 4.16 implies that

$$\sigma_t^2(x) = \frac{\xi|x|}{4\sqrt{\kappa t}} + o\left(t^{-1/2}\right), \quad \text{for any } x \neq 0.$$

6.4. Folded Gaussian case. Assume that $\mathcal{V} \stackrel{(\text{Law})}{=} |\mathcal{N}(0, 1)|$, then the density of \mathcal{V} reads

$$f(v) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}v^2\right), \quad \text{for all } v \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}} = \mathbb{R}_+,$$

which satisfies Assumption 4.4. Simple computations yield $M_{\mathcal{V}}(z) = 2 \exp(z^2/2) \Phi(z)$, for any $z \in \mathbb{R}$, where Φ denotes the Gaussian cumulative distribution function. Therefore, Lemma C.2 implies that for $\gamma \in (0, 1)$,

$$t^{\gamma} \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\mathbf{D} \left(t, \frac{u}{t^{\gamma}} \right) \right) = \frac{u^4}{8} t^{2-3\gamma} + \frac{\rho\xi u^5}{8} t^{3-4\gamma} - \frac{u^3}{4} t^{2-2\gamma} + \mathcal{O}(t^{4-5\gamma}) + \mathcal{O}(t^{\gamma}).$$

If $\gamma = 1$, then $M_{\mathcal{V}}(x\Lambda(u)) = 2 \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\Lambda^2(u)x^2\right) \Phi(x\Lambda(u))$, and hence

$$t \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\mathbf{D} \left(t, \frac{u}{t} \right) \right) = \frac{\Lambda^2(u)}{2t} + \mathbf{D}_0^0(u) + \mathcal{O}(t).$$

The limit is therefore non-degenerate if and only if $h(t) = t^{2/3}$, in which case $\Lambda_{2/3}(u) = \frac{1}{8}u^4$, for all $u \in \mathbb{R}$, and Theorem 4.5 implies

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^{1/3} \sigma_t^2(x) = \frac{(2x)^{2/3}}{3}, \quad \text{for all } x \neq 0.$$

6.5. Other distributions. The following table (more refined version of the one in Section 1) presents some common continuous distributions for the initial variance, together with the corresponding parameters \mathbf{v}_+ , \mathbf{m} , l_2 . In each case, we indicate (up to a constant multiplier) the short-time behaviour of the smile.

TABLE 1. Some continuous distributions with support in \mathbb{R}_+

Name	\mathbf{v}_+	\mathbf{m}	l_2	Behaviour of $\sigma_t^2(x)$ ($x \neq 0$)	Reference
Beta	1	∞		$x^2/\Lambda_1^*(x)$	Equation 4.3
Exponential(λ)	∞	$\lambda < \infty$	1	$ x t^{-1/2}$	Theorem 4.16
χ -squared	∞	1/2	1	$ x t^{-1/2}$	Theorem 4.16
Rayleigh	∞	∞	2	$x^{2/3}t^{-1/3}$	Corollary 4.5
Weibull ($k > 1$)	∞	∞	k	$(x^2/t)^{1/(1+k)}$	Corollary 4.5

6.6. Numerics. We present numerical results for the implied volatility surface for three types of initial randomisation: uniform ($\mathbf{v}_+ < \infty$), exponential ($\mathbf{m} < \mathbf{v}_+ = \infty$) and folded-Gaussian ($\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{v}_+ = \infty$). To generate these surfaces, we apply Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) methods [15] to derive a matrix of option prices, and then compute the corresponding implied volatilities using a root-finding algorithm. The Heston parameters are given by $(\kappa, \theta, \xi, V_0, \rho) = (2.1, 0.05, 0.1, 0.06, -0.6)$, which corresponds to a realistic data set calibrated on the S&P options data. In view of Theorem 4.25, parameters of \mathcal{V} are chosen to satisfy $\mathbb{E}(\sqrt{\mathcal{V}}) = \sqrt{V_0}$, so that results of standard and randomised Heston models can be compared.

The numerics show that the randomised Heston model provides a much steeper short-time volatility smile compared with the standard Heston model, but this difference tends to fade away as maturity increases. The exponential randomisation in Figure 7 provides the steepest short-time volatility smile, reflecting the largest explosion rate of \sqrt{t} (Theorem 4.16) occurs when $\mathbf{m} < \mathbf{v}_+ = \infty$. In the uniform case, Figure 5 and (4.3) may seem contradictory at first, since the former indicates steepness and the latter excludes explosion. There is no issue here, and in fact suggests that even though there is no proper explosion, it is still possible to generate steep short-time volatility smiles in a randomised setting. In Figure 8 we test higher-order terms in a Gamma randomisation scheme while the Heston parameters remain unchanged.

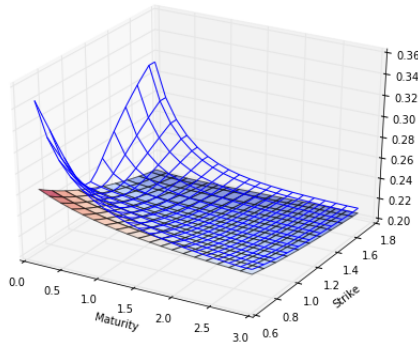


FIGURE 3. Implied volatility surfaces of folded-Gaussian randomisation and standard Heston.

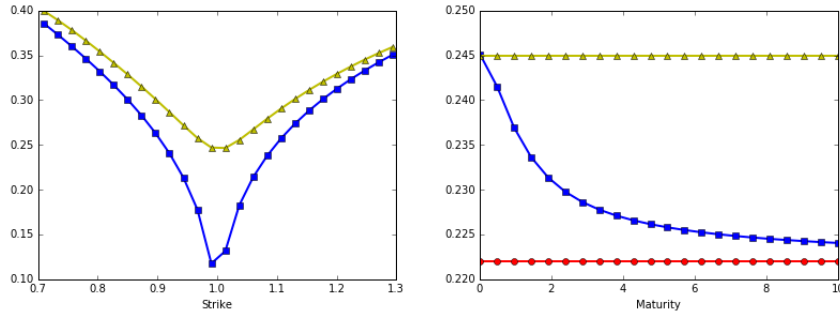


FIGURE 4. $\mathcal{V}^{(\text{Law})}$ Folded-Gaussian. Left: implied volatility by FFT (triangles) and the leading order (squares), $t = 1/24$. Right: triangles, squares and circles represent $\sqrt{V_0}$, ATM implied volatility $\sigma_t(0)$ by FFT, and large-time limit. The parameter l_1 in Assumption 4.4 is 63.46.

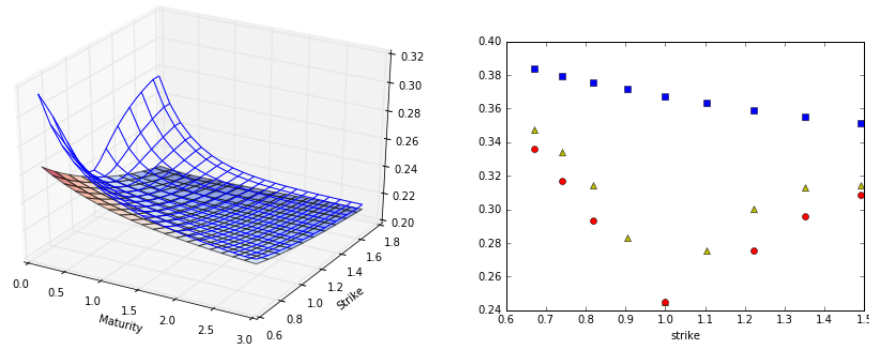


FIGURE 5. Uniform randomisation with $(\mathbf{v}_-, \mathbf{v}_+) = (0, 0.135)$. Left: implied volatility surfaces. Right: triangles, squares and circles represent implied volatility by FFT, leading-, and second-order asymptotics. Time to maturity is $t = 1/24$. Higher-order terms are obtained by inverting the asymptotic formula in Theorem 6.1.

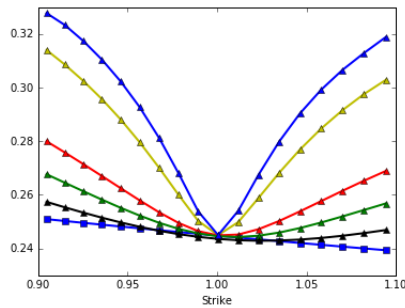


FIGURE 6. Uniform randomisation with $(\mathbf{v}_-, \mathbf{v}_+) = (0, 0.135)$. Blue squares is the implied volatility obtained from the standard Heston model, maturity $t = 0.005$. Blue, yellow, red, green and black triangles represent the implied volatilities computed from the randomised Heston model, with the maturities equal to 0.005, 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, and 0.2. The graph illustrates the increase of steepness in a randomised Heston setting as the maturity tends to zero.

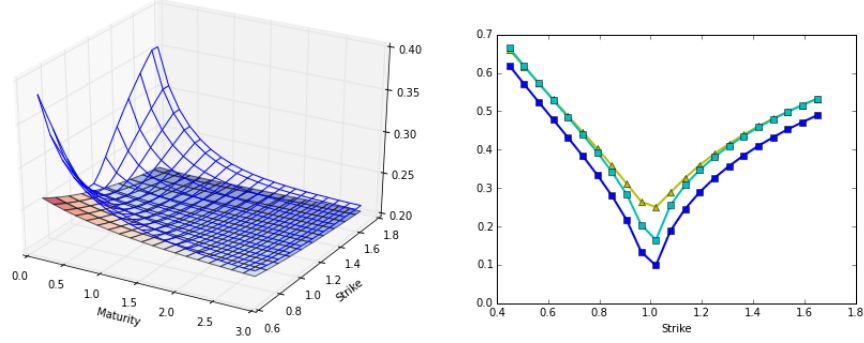


FIGURE 7. $\mathcal{V}^{(\text{Law})}$ Exponential distribution with $\mathbf{m} = 13.1$. Left: volatility surfaces of exponential randomisation and standard Heston. Right: implied volatility computed by FFT (triangles); blue and cyan squares are first- and second-order described in Theorem 4.16. Time to maturity is $t = 1/24$.

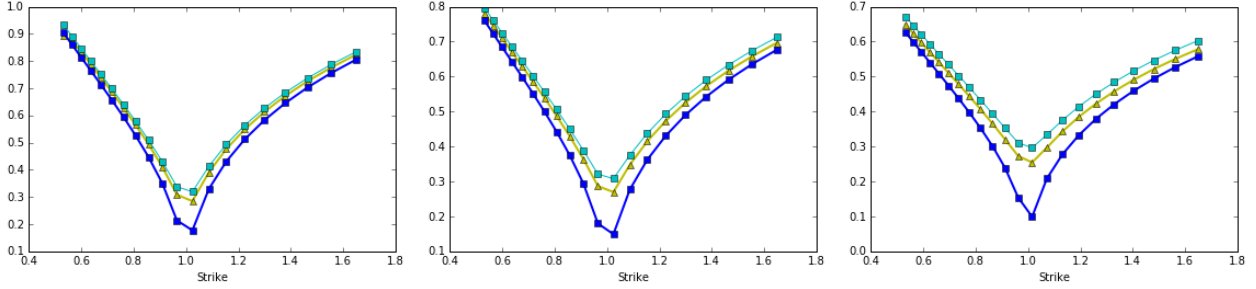


FIGURE 8. $\mathcal{V}^{(\text{Law})} \Gamma(0.4, 3.868)$. Blue and cyan squares are first- and second-order asymptotics, yellow triangles are true smiles by FFT. From left to right maturities are one week, two weeks and one month.

6.7. The Double-mean-reverting model. In [35] (see also [6] for calibration aspects) Gatheral argued that classical stochastic volatility models (in particular Heston) are not able to provide an accurate joint calibration of both SPX and VIX smiles. As an alternative—with the obvious caveat of over-parameterisation—he proposed the double mean-reverting model (which we only present in its ‘Heston’ version)

$$\begin{aligned} dX_t &= -\frac{1}{2}V_t dt + \sqrt{V_t} dW_t, & X_0 &= 0, \\ dV_t &= \kappa(\theta_t - V_t) dt + \xi \sqrt{V_t} dW_t^{(1)}, & V_0 &= v_0 > 0, \\ d\theta_t &= \varkappa(\bar{\theta} - \theta_t) dt + \varpi \sqrt{\theta_t} dW_t^{(2)}, & \theta_0 &> 0, \end{aligned}$$

with obvious restrictions on the parameters, and where all Brownian motions correlated to each other. For a fixed time horizon $t > 0$, one can rewrite the instantaneous variance V_t as

$$V_t = v_0 + \kappa \int_0^t \theta_s ds - \kappa \int_0^t V_s ds + \xi \int_0^t \sqrt{V_s} dW_s^{(1)} = \kappa(\Theta_t - \bar{v}t) + \tilde{V}_t,$$

with $\Theta_t := \int_0^t \theta_s ds$, and where \tilde{V}_t is distributed as the time t solution of a one-dimensional CIR process started at the fixed value v_0 and with (any) long-term parameter $\bar{v} > 0$. Therefore, for any fixed $t > 0$, this double mean-reverting model can be viewed as a randomised Heston model, started with the distribution

$\mathcal{V}_t := v_0 + \kappa(\Theta_t - \bar{v}t)$. The mgf of Θ_t is given by [21]

$$M_{\Theta_t}(u) := \mathbb{E}(e^{u\Theta_t}) = \left[\frac{2z \exp((z + \varkappa)t/2)}{(z + \varkappa)(e^{tz} - 1) + 2z} \right]^{2\varkappa\bar{\theta}/\varpi^2} \exp\left(\frac{2u\theta_0(e^{tz} - 1)}{(z + \varkappa)(e^{tz} - 1) + 2z} \right),$$

where $z := \sqrt{\varkappa^2 - 2\varpi^2 u}$. This implies

$$M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) = \mathbb{E}\left(e^{v_0 u + u\kappa(\Theta_t - \bar{v}t)}\right) = e^{u(v_0 - \kappa\bar{v}t)} M_{\Theta_t}(\kappa u).$$

As u tends to $\mathbf{m} = \varkappa^2/(2\varpi^2\kappa)$ from below, we expand e^{tz} around $z = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{e^{tz} - 1}{(z + \varkappa)(e^{tz} - 1) + 2z} &= \frac{tz + t^2 z^2/2 + t^3 z^3/6 + \mathcal{O}(z^4)}{(\varkappa + z)(tz + t^2 z^2/2 + t^3 z^3/6 + \mathcal{O}(z^4)) + 2z} = \frac{t}{\varkappa t + 2} - \frac{t^3 z^2}{6(\varkappa t + 2)^2} + \mathcal{O}(z^3), \\ \frac{2z}{2z + (\varkappa + z)(e^{tz} - 1)} &= \frac{2z}{2z + (\varkappa + z)(tz + t^2 z^2/2 + t^3 z^3/6 + \mathcal{O}(z^4))} = \frac{2}{2 + \varkappa t} \left(1 - \frac{tz}{2} + \frac{\varkappa t^3 z^2}{12(2 + \varkappa t)} + \mathcal{O}(z^3) \right), \end{aligned}$$

which yields, after straightforward manipulations,

$$\log M_{\mathcal{V}_t}(u) = \mathbf{a}_0 + \mathbf{a}_1(\mathbf{m} - u) + \mathcal{O}\left((\mathbf{m} - u)^{3/2}\right),$$

with

$$\mathbf{a}_0 := \mathbf{m}v_0 + \frac{\varkappa^2 t}{\varpi^2} \left[\bar{\theta} - \frac{\bar{v}}{2} + \frac{\theta_0}{\varkappa t + 2} \right] + \frac{2\varkappa\bar{\theta}}{\varpi^2} \log\left(\frac{2}{\varkappa t + 2} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{a}_1 := -v_0 + \left[\bar{v} - \frac{2\theta_0}{\varkappa t + 2} \right] \kappa t - \frac{\kappa\varkappa\bar{\theta}}{6} t^2 - \frac{2\kappa\varkappa^2\bar{\theta}}{6 + 3\varkappa t} t^2.$$

The cumulant generating function is not steep at the right boundary of the effective domain, which precludes an immediate use of the Gärtner-Ellis theorem. Following the methodology developed in [19], this issue can be dealt with in a relatively simple fashion, yielding a large deviations principle on part of the real line. This example not being the core element of our study here, we leave the details of the computations for future research.

APPENDIX A. NOTATIONS FROM THE HESTON MODEL

In the Heston model, the log stock price satisfies the SDE (2.1), where the initial distribution \mathcal{V} is a Dirac mass at some point $v_0 > 0$. As proved in [1], the moment generating function (2.2) admits the closed-form representation $M(t, u) = \exp(C(t, u) + D(t, u)v_0)$, for any $u \in \mathcal{D}_M^t$, where

$$(A.1) \quad \begin{cases} C(t, u) &:= \frac{\kappa\bar{\theta}}{\xi^2} \left[(\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u))t - 2 \log\left(\frac{1 - g(u)e^{-d(u)t}}{1 - g(u)} \right) \right], \\ D(t, u) &:= \frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\xi^2} \frac{1 - \exp(-d(u)t)}{1 - g(u)\exp(-d(u)t)}, \\ d(u) &:= ((\kappa - \rho\xi u)^2 + \xi^2 u(1 - u))^{1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad g(u) := \frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\kappa - \rho\xi u + d(u)}. \end{cases}$$

In the proof of [27, Lemma 6.1], the authors showed that the functions d and g have the following behaviour as t tends to zero:

$$(A.2) \quad d\left(\frac{u}{t}\right) = \mathbf{i} \frac{d_0 u}{t} + d_1 + \mathcal{O}(t) \quad \text{and} \quad g\left(\frac{u}{t}\right) = g_0 - \mathbf{i} \frac{g_1}{u} t + \mathcal{O}(t^2),$$

with $d_0 := \xi\bar{\rho}\operatorname{sgn}(u)$, $d_1 := \mathbf{i} \frac{2\kappa\rho - \xi}{2\bar{\rho}} \operatorname{sgn}(u)$, $g_0 := \frac{\mathbf{i}\rho - \bar{\rho}\operatorname{sgn}(u)}{\mathbf{i}\rho + \bar{\rho}\operatorname{sgn}(u)}$ and $g_1 := \frac{(2\kappa - \rho\xi)\operatorname{sgn}(u)}{\xi\bar{\rho}(\bar{\rho} + \mathbf{i}\rho\operatorname{sgn}(u))^2}$. The pointwise limit of the (rescaled) cumulant generating function of X_t then reads

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} t \log M\left(t, \frac{u}{t}\right) = \Lambda(u)v_0, \quad \text{for any } u \in (u_-, u_+),$$

where u_- , u_+ and Λ are introduced in (4.2). From [27, Section 2], the function Λ is well defined, smooth and strictly convex on (u_-, u_+) , and infinite elsewhere.

APPENDIX B. REMINDER ON LARGE DEVIATIONS AND REGULAR VARIATIONS

B.1. Large deviations and the Gärtner-Ellis theorem. In this appendix, we briefly recall the main definitions and results from large deviations theory, which we need in this paper. For full details, the interested reader is advised to look at the excellent monograph by Dembo and Zeitouni [20]. Let $(Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$ denote a sequence of real-valued random variables. A map $I : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is said to be a good rate function if it is lower semicontinuous and if the set $\{y : I(y) \leq \alpha\}$ is compact in \mathbb{R} for each $\alpha \geq 0$.

Definition B.1. Let $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be a continuous function that tends to zero at infinity. The sequence $(Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$ satisfies a large deviations principle as n tends to infinity with speed $h(n)$ and rate function I (in our notations, $Y \sim \text{LDP}_\infty(h(n), I)$) if for each Borel measurable set $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}$, the following inequalities hold:

$$-\inf_{y \in \mathcal{S}^o} I(y) \leq \liminf_{n \uparrow \infty} h(n) \log \mathbb{P}(Y_n \in \mathcal{S}) \leq \limsup_{n \uparrow \infty} h(n) \log \mathbb{P}(Y_n \in \mathcal{S}) \leq -\inf_{y \in \bar{\mathcal{S}}} I(y).$$

Let now Λ_h be the pointwise limit of the rescaled cgf of Y : $\Lambda_h(u) := \lim_{n \uparrow \infty} h(n) \log \mathbb{E}[\exp(uY_n/h(n))]$, whenever the limit exists, and denote by $\mathcal{D}_\Lambda := \{u \in \mathbb{R} : |\Lambda_h(u)| < \infty\}$ its effective domain. Then Λ_h is said to be essentially smooth if the interior \mathcal{D}_Λ^o is non-empty, Λ_h is differentiable on \mathcal{D}_Λ^o , and $\lim_{u \rightarrow u_0} |\Lambda_h'(u)| = \infty$, for any $u_0 \in \partial \mathcal{D}_\Lambda$. Finally, for any $y \in \mathbb{R}$, define $\Lambda_h^*(y) := \sup_{u \in \mathcal{D}_\Lambda} \{uy - \Lambda_h(u)\}$, the convex conjugate of function Λ_h .

Theorem B.2 (Gärtner-Ellis theorem, Theorem 2.3.6 in [20]). *If the function Λ_h is lower semicontinuous on \mathcal{D}_Λ and essentially smooth, and $0 \in \mathcal{D}_\Lambda^o$, then $(Y_n)_{n \geq 0} \sim \text{LDP}_\infty(h(n), \Lambda_h^*)$.*

B.2. Regular variations. We recall here some notions on regular variations, following the monograph [10].

Definition B.3. Let $\mathfrak{a} > 0$. A function $f : (\mathfrak{a}, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^*$ is said to be regularly varying with index $l \in \mathbb{R}$ (and we write $f \in \mathcal{R}_l$) if $\lim_{x \uparrow \infty} f(\lambda x)/f(x) = \lambda^l$, for any $\lambda > 0$. When $l = 0$, the function f is called slowly varying.

Lemma B.4 (Bingham's Lemma, Theorem 4.12.10 in [10]). *Let f be a regularly varying function with index $l > 0$; then, as x tends to infinity, the asymptotic equivalence $-\log \int_x^\infty e^{-f(y)} dy \sim f(x)$ holds.*

Let Y be a random variable supported on $[0, \infty)$ with a smooth density f . The following lemma ensures that its moment generating function has unbounded support.

Lemma B.5. *If there exists $l > 1$ such that $|\log f| \in \mathcal{R}_l$, then $\sup\{u \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{E}(e^{uY}) < \infty\} = +\infty$.*

Proof. Karamata's Characterisation Theorem [10, Theorem 1.4.1] implies that $|\log f(v)| = v^l g(v)$ for any $v > 0$, where the function g is slowly varying, and Karamata's Representation Theorem [10, Theorem 1.3.1] provides the following expression:

$$g(v) = c(v) \exp\left(\int_a^v \varepsilon(y) \frac{dy}{y}\right),$$

where the functions c and ε satisfy $\lim_{v \uparrow \infty} c(v) = c > 0$, $\lim_{v \uparrow \infty} \varepsilon(v) = 0$, and a is a fixed positive number. Then there exists $v_1 \geq a$ such that $c(v) > c/2$ for all $v \geq v_1$. Additionally, for any fixed ε_0 small enough

satisfying that $l > 1 + \varepsilon_0$, there exists $v_2 \geq a$ such that $\int_{v_2}^v \varepsilon(y) dy/y > -\varepsilon_0 \log(v/v_2)$, for any $v \geq v_2$. Denote $d := \exp\left(\int_a^{v_2} \varepsilon(y) \frac{dy}{y}\right)$, then for any $v > \max(v_1, v_2)$, and any $u > 0$,

$$u - c(v) \exp\left(\int_a^v \varepsilon(y) \frac{dy}{y}\right) v^{l-1} < u - \frac{cd}{2} \exp\left(\int_{v_2}^v \varepsilon(y) \frac{dy}{y}\right) v^{l-1} < u - \frac{cd}{2} v_2^{\varepsilon_0} v^{l-1-\varepsilon_0}.$$

Thus there exists v_3 large enough so that $u - \frac{1}{2}cdv_2^{\varepsilon_0} v^{l-1-\varepsilon_0} < -1$, for $v \geq v_3$. With $v^* := \max(v_1, v_2, v_3)$,

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{uY}) = \int_0^{v^*} e^{uv} f(v) dv + \int_{v^*}^{\infty} e^{v(u-v^{l-1}g(v))} dv < \int_0^{v^*} e^{uv} f(v) dv + \int_{v^*}^{\infty} e^{-v} dv < \infty.$$

□

APPENDIX C. PRELIMINARY COMPUTATIONS

In view of (2.3), short-time asymptotic expansions of the functions C and D are necessary in order to derive the pointwise limit of the rescaled cgf of $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$. In this appendix we provide these expansions.

C.1. Components of the mgf. We start by investigating the short-time behaviour of the function $D(t, u/h(t))$.

For any $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$, define the function $D_0^\beta : (u_-, u_+) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$(C.1) \quad D_0^\beta(u) := \frac{1 - e^{-id_0u}}{\xi^2(1 - g_0e^{-id_0u})} [(\rho\xi + id_0)\beta u + \kappa - d_1] + \frac{ig_1(\rho\xi + id_0)}{\xi^2} \frac{1 - e^{-id_0u}}{(1 - g_0e^{-id_0u})^2} e^{-id_0u} \\ - \frac{(\rho\xi + id_0)u}{\xi^2} \frac{d_1 - id_0u\beta}{(1 - g_0e^{-id_0u})^2} (1 - g_0) e^{-id_0u},$$

where the functions d_0, d_1, g_0, g_1 are defined below (A.2) above.

Remark C.1. The function D_0^β is well defined: to see this, we only need to check that the β terms sum up to a real number, and the rest follows from [27, Remark 3.2]. The first term in (C.1) reads

$$\frac{1 - e^{-id_0u}}{\xi^2(1 - g_0e^{-id_0u})} (\rho\xi + id_0)\beta u = -\beta\Lambda(u),$$

which is a real number, and the sum of the remaining terms with β reads (taking out the prefactor $id_0u\beta$)

$$\frac{(\rho\xi + id_0)ue^{-id_0u}(1 - g_0)}{\xi^2(1 - g_0 \exp(-id_0u))^2} = \frac{(g_0 - 1)e^{-id_0u}\Lambda(u)}{(1 - g_0e^{-id_0u})(1 - e^{-id_0u})} = \frac{i\bar{\rho} \operatorname{sgn}(u)\Lambda(u)}{\rho \cos(d_0u) + \bar{\rho} \operatorname{sgn}(u) \sin(d_0u) - \rho},$$

which is purely imaginary, so that the whole term is a real number.

The following lemma makes the effective domain of D_0^β precise, and shows that it arises as the second order of the short-time expansion of a rescaled version of the function D in (A.1).

Lemma C.2. *Let $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$. As t tends to zero, the map $t \mapsto D(t, u/h(t))$ behaves as*

$$D\left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)}\right) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } u = 0, & \text{for any function } h, \\ \text{undefined}, & u \neq 0, & \text{if } h(t) = o(t), \\ t^{-1}\Lambda(u) + D_0^\beta(u) + o(1), & u \in (u_-, u_+), & \text{if } h(t) = t + \beta t^2 + o(t^2), \\ \frac{u^2 t}{2h^2(t)} \left[1 - \frac{h(t)}{u} + \frac{\rho\xi ut}{2h(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(t + h^2(t) + \frac{t^2}{h^2(t)}\right) \right], & u \in \mathbb{R}, & \text{if } t = o(h(t)). \end{cases}$$

Remark C.3. (i) If $h(t) = t + o(t)$ without further information on higher-order terms (third case in the lemma), then only the leading order is available: $D(t, u/h(t)) = t^{-1}\Lambda(u)(1 + o(1))$.

(ii) As in Remark 4.2(ii), one can consider $h(t) = ct + \beta t^2 + o(t^2)$, but by dilation, setting $c = 1$ is inconsequential.

(iii) When $h(t) = t^{1/2}$, $D\left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)}\right) = \frac{1}{2}u^2 + \frac{1}{4}(\rho\xi u^2 - 2)ut^{1/2} + \mathcal{O}(t)$, which is consistent with [44, Lemma 6.2].

The function $C_0 : (u_-, u_+) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined as

$$(C.2) \quad C_0(u) := -\frac{\kappa\theta}{\xi^2} \left[(\rho\xi + id_0)u + 2 \log \left(\frac{1 - g_0 \exp(-id_0 u)}{1 - g_0} \right) \right]$$

is clearly real valued [27, Remark 6.2], and determines the asymptotic behaviour of the function C as follows.

Lemma C.4. *The map $t \mapsto C(t, u/h(t))$ has the following asymptotic behaviour as t tends to zero:*

$$C\left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)}\right) = \begin{cases} \text{undefined}, & u \neq 0, & h(t) = o(t), \\ C_0(u) + \mathcal{O}(t), & u \in (u_-, u_+), & h(t) = t + \mathcal{O}(t^2), \\ \mathcal{O}(th(t) + h^3(t)) + \frac{\kappa\theta u^2}{4} \left(\frac{t}{h(t)}\right)^2 \left[1 + \mathcal{O}\left(h(t) + \frac{t}{h(t)}\right)\right], & u \in \mathbb{R}, & t = o(h(t)). \end{cases}$$

Proof of Lemma C.2. Obviously $D(t, 0) \equiv 0$, so we assume from now on that $u \neq 0$. From (A.2), we have

$$(C.3) \quad d\left(\frac{u}{h(t)}\right) = i\frac{d_0 u}{h(t)} + d_1 + \mathcal{O}(h(t)) \quad \text{and} \quad g\left(\frac{u}{h(t)}\right) = g_0 - i\frac{g_1}{u}h(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^2(t)).$$

Plugging these back into the expression of the function D in (A.1), we obtain

$$(C.4) \quad D\left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)}\right) = \left[\frac{\kappa - d_1 - \frac{\rho\xi u + id_0 u}{h(t)} + \mathcal{O}(h(t))}{\xi^2} \right] \left[\frac{1 - \exp\left\{-\frac{iud_0 t}{h(t)} - d_1 t + \mathcal{O}(th(t))\right\}}{1 - [g_0 - i\frac{g_1}{u}h(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^2(t))] e^{-\frac{iud_0 t}{h(t)} - d_1 t + \mathcal{O}(th(t))}} \right].$$

If $h(t) = o(t)$, d_0 is a real number and d_1 is purely imaginary, then as $t/h(t)$ goes to infinity the term $\exp(-iud_0 t/h(t) - d_1 t)$ oscillates on the unit circle in the complex plane, thus no asymptotic can be derived.

Assume now that $h(t) = t + \beta t^2 + o(t^2)$. Then $th^{-1}(t) = 1 - \beta t + o(t)$, and Equation (C.4) yields

$$\begin{aligned} D\left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)}\right) &= \frac{1}{\xi^2} \left[-\frac{(\rho\xi + id_0)u}{h(t)} + (\kappa - d_1) + \mathcal{O}(h(t)) \right] \left[\frac{1 - \exp(-id_0 ut/h(t) - d_1 t + \mathcal{O}(th(t)))}{1 - (g_0 - itg_1/u + \mathcal{O}(t^2)) \exp(-id_0 ut/h(t) - d_1 t + \mathcal{O}(th(t)))} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\xi^2} \left(-\frac{(\rho\xi + id_0)u}{t} (1 - \beta t + o(t)) + (\kappa - d_1) + \mathcal{O}(t) \right) (1 - e^{-id_0 u} (1 - d_1 t + \mathcal{O}(t^2)) (1 + i\beta d_0 ut + o(t))) \\ &\quad \frac{1}{1 - g_0 e^{-id_0 u}} \left(1 + \frac{(-ig_1/u + g_0(id_0 u\beta - d_1))e^{-id_0 u}}{1 - g_0 e^{-id_0 u}} t + o(t) \right) \\ &= \frac{e^{-id_0 u} - 1}{\xi^2 t} \frac{(\rho\xi + id_0)u}{1 - g_0 e^{-id_0 u}} + \frac{1 - e^{-id_0 u}}{\xi^2 (1 - g_0 e^{-id_0 u})} ((\rho\xi + id_0)\beta u + \kappa - d_1) - \frac{(\rho\xi + id_0)u}{\xi^2} \frac{(d_1 - i\beta d_0 u)e^{-id_0 u}}{1 - g_0 e^{-id_0 u}} \\ &\quad + \frac{(\rho\xi + id_0)(ig_1 - g_0 u(i\beta d_0 u - d_1))(1 - e^{-id_0 u})}{\xi^2 (1 - g_0 e^{-id_0 u})^2} e^{-id_0 u} + o(1) \\ &= \frac{\Lambda(u)}{t} + D_0^\beta(u) + o(1). \end{aligned}$$

The form of the effective domain is straightforward from these expressions.

If $h(t) = t + o(t)$ without further information on higher-order terms, then $t/h(t) = 1 + o(1)$. Following the same procedure as above then only the leading order can be derived, i.e. $D(t, u/h(t)) = t^{-1}\Lambda(u)[1 + o(1)]$.

Finally in the case $t = o(h(t))$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left[1 - \left(g_0 - \frac{ig_1}{u}h(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^2(t)) \right) e^{-\frac{id_0 ut}{h(t)} - d_1 t + \mathcal{O}(th(t))} \right]^{-1} &= \frac{1 - \frac{ig_1 h(t)}{u(1-g_0)} - \frac{id_0 g_0 ut}{(1-g_0)h(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(t + h^2(t) + \frac{t^2}{h^2(t)}\right)}{1 - g_0}, \\ 1 - \exp\left(\frac{-id_0 ut}{h(t)} - d_1 t + \mathcal{O}(th(t))\right) &= \frac{id_0 ut}{h(t)} + d_1 t + \frac{d_0^2 u^2 t^2}{2h^2(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{t^2}{h(t)}\right) + \mathcal{O}(th(t)). \end{aligned}$$

Plugging these results into (C.4) yields

$$\begin{aligned}
D\left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)}\right) &= \frac{1}{\xi^2(1-g_0)} \left[-\frac{(\rho\xi + \mathbf{i}d_0)u}{h(t)} + (\kappa - d_1) + \mathcal{O}(h(t)) \right] \left[\frac{\mathbf{i}d_0ut}{h(t)} + d_1t + \frac{d_0^2u^2t^2}{2h^2(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{t^2}{h(t)} + th(t)\right) \right] \\
&\quad \left[1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}g_1h(t)}{u(1-g_0)} - \frac{\mathbf{i}d_0g_0ut}{(1-g_0)h(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(t + h^2(t) + \frac{t^2}{h^2(t)}\right) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{\xi^2(1-g_0)} \left[\frac{(d_0 - \mathbf{i}\rho\xi)d_0u^2t}{h^2(t)} + \frac{[\mathbf{i}d_0u(\kappa - d_1) - d_1u(\rho\xi + \mathbf{i}d_0)]t}{h(t)} - \frac{d_0^2u^3(\rho\xi + \mathbf{i}d_0)t^2}{2h^3(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(t + \frac{t^2}{h^2(t)}\right) \right] \\
&\quad \left[1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}g_1h(t)}{u(1-g_0)} - \frac{\mathbf{i}d_0g_0ut}{(1-g_0)h(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(t + h^2(t) + \frac{t^2}{h^2(t)}\right) \right] \\
&= \frac{u^2t}{2h^2(t)} \left[1 - \frac{h(t)}{u} + \frac{\rho\xi ut}{2h(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{t^2}{h^2(t)} + h^2(t) + t\right) \right],
\end{aligned}$$

where we used the identity

$$\frac{(d_0 - \mathbf{i}\rho\xi)d_0}{(1-g_0)\xi^2} = \frac{(\xi\bar{\rho}\text{sgn}(u) - \mathbf{i}\rho\xi)\xi\bar{\rho}\text{sgn}(u)}{\xi^2\left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}\rho - \bar{\rho}\text{sgn}(u)}{\mathbf{i}\rho + \bar{\rho}\text{sgn}(u)}\right)} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

□

Proof of Lemma C.4. Assume that $u \neq 0$. Expand $d(u/h(t))$ and $g(u/h(t))$ to the third order,

$$\begin{aligned}
(C.5) \quad d\left(\frac{u}{h(t)}\right) &= \mathbf{i}\frac{d_0u}{h(t)} + d_1 - \mathbf{i}d_2h(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^2(t)), \\
g\left(\frac{u}{h(t)}\right) &= g_0 - \mathbf{i}\frac{g_1}{u}h(t) - \mathbf{i}\frac{g_2}{u^2}h^2(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t)),
\end{aligned}$$

where $d_2 := (\kappa^2 - d_1^2)/(2d_0u)$ and $g_2 := [(\kappa^2 - d_1^2)\rho\xi/d_0 + (\kappa - d_1)(\rho\xi - \mathbf{i}d_0)g_1](\rho\xi - \mathbf{i}d_0)^{-2}$. Combining these expansions with Equation (C.3) implies

$$\begin{aligned}
(C.6) \quad C\left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)}\right) &= -\frac{2\kappa\theta}{\xi^2} \log\left(\frac{1 - (g_0 - \mathbf{i}g_1h(t)/u - \mathbf{i}g_2h^2(t)/u^2 + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t)))e^{-\mathbf{i}d_0ut/h(t) - d_1t + \mathbf{i}d_2th(t) + \mathcal{O}(th^2(t))}}{1 - g_0 + \mathbf{i}g_1h(t)/u + \mathbf{i}g_2h^2(t)/u^2 + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t))}\right) \\
&\quad + \frac{\kappa\theta}{\xi^2} \left[(\kappa - d_1)t - \frac{(\rho\xi + \mathbf{i}d_0)ut}{h(t)} + \mathcal{O}(th(t)) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

If $h(t) = o(t)$, no short-time asymptotics can be derived since $t/h(t)$ tends to infinity. For the proof of the case where $h(t) = t + \mathcal{O}(t^2)$ we refer to [27, Lemma 6.1]. Assume now that $t = o(h(t))$, then the following asymptotic expansions hold:

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(1 - g_0 + \frac{\mathbf{i}h(t)g_1}{u} + \frac{\mathbf{i}h^2(t)g_2}{u^2} + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t))\right)^{-1} &= \frac{1}{1-g_0} \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}g_1h(t)}{u(1-g_0)} - \frac{g_3h^2(t)}{u^2(1-g_0)^2} + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t))\right), \\
\exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{i}d_0ut}{h(t)} - d_1t + \mathbf{i}d_2th(t) + \mathcal{O}(th^2(t))\right) &= 1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}d_0ut}{h(t)} - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{d_0ut}{h(t)}\right)^2 - d_1t + \mathbf{i}d_2th(t) + \mathcal{O}\left(th^2(t) + \frac{t^2}{h(t)}\right),
\end{aligned}$$

where $g_3 := g_1^2 + \mathbf{i}g_2(1 - g_0)$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1 - (g_0 - \mathbf{i}g_1h(t)/u - \mathbf{i}g_2h^2(t)/u^2 + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t))) e^{-\mathbf{i}d_0ut/h(t) - d_1t + \mathcal{O}(th(t))}}{1 - g_0 + \mathbf{i}g_1h(t)/u + \mathbf{i}g_2h^2(t)/u^2 + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t))} \\
&= \left\{ 1 - \left[g_0 - \frac{\mathbf{i}g_1}{u}h(t) - \frac{\mathbf{i}g_2}{u^2}h^2(t) + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t)) \right] \right\} \left[1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}d_0ut}{h(t)} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d_0ut}{h(t)} \right)^2 - d_1t + \mathbf{i}d_2th(t) + \mathcal{O} \left(th^2(t) + \frac{t^2}{h(t)} \right) \right] \\
& \frac{1}{1 - g_0} \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}g_1h(t)}{u(1 - g_0)} - \frac{g_3h^2(t)}{u^2(1 - g_0)^2} + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t)) \right) \\
&= \left(1 + \frac{\mathbf{i}g_0d_0ut}{(1 - g_0)h(t)} + \frac{\mathbf{i}g_1h(t)}{u(1 - g_0)} + \frac{d_1g_0 + d_0g_1}{1 - g_0}t + \frac{\mathbf{i}g_2h^2(t)}{u^2(1 - g_0)} + \frac{g_0d_0^2u^2t^2}{2(1 - g_0)h^2(t)} + \mathcal{O} \left(th(t) + h^3(t) + \frac{t^2}{h(t)} \right) \right) \\
& \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{i}g_1h(t)}{u(1 - g_0)} - \frac{g_3h^2(t)}{u^2(1 - g_0)^2} + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t)) \right) \\
&= 1 + \frac{\mathbf{i}g_0d_0u}{1 - g_0} \frac{t}{h(t)} + \frac{u^2d_0^2g_0t^2}{2(1 - g_0)h^2(t)} + \left(\frac{d_1g_0 + d_0g_1}{1 - g_0} + \frac{d_0g_0g_1}{(1 - g_0)^2} \right) t + \mathcal{O} \left(th(t) + h^3(t) + \frac{t^2}{h(t)} \right),
\end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
& \log \left(\frac{1 - [g_0 - \mathbf{i}h(t)g_1/u - \mathbf{i}h^2(t)g_2/u^2 + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t))] e^{-\mathbf{i}d_0ut/h(t) - d_1t + \mathcal{O}(th(t))}}{1 - g_0 + \mathbf{i}h(t)g_1/u + \mathbf{i}h^2(t)g_2/u^2 + \mathcal{O}(h^3(t))} \right) \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{i}g_0d_0u}{1 - g_0} \frac{t}{h(t)} + \frac{u^2d_0^2g_0}{2(1 - g_0)^2} \frac{t^2}{h^2(t)} + \left(\frac{d_1g_0 + d_0g_1}{1 - g_0} + \frac{d_0g_0g_1}{(1 - g_0)^2} \right) t + \mathcal{O} \left(th(t) + h^3(t) + \frac{t^2}{h(t)} + \frac{t^3}{h^3(t)} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Plugging this into (C.6), the result follows by noticing that the coefficients of $\frac{t}{h(t)}$ and t are both zero. \square

APPENDIX D. PROOFS OF THE MAIN RESULTS

D.1. Proof of Proposition 4.1. In [44, Section 6] the authors proved that $\mathcal{D}^* = \mathbb{R}$ whenever $\gamma < 1$, and $\mathcal{D}^* = (u_-, u_+)$ if $\gamma = 1$. Throughout the proof we keep the notation h , emphasising that the statement still holds for function h with a general form, not only polynomials.

Case $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$. We need to analyse the behaviour of $\log M(z)$ as z approaches zero. Since \mathbf{m} is strictly positive, by continuity of the mgf around the origin, $M_{\mathcal{V}}(u^2t(2h^2(t))^{-1}(1 + \mathcal{O}(h(t))))$ converges to $M_{\mathcal{V}}(0) = 1$ as t tends to zero for any u in \mathbb{R} , which implies that $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}}^* = \mathbb{R}$. For small t , a Taylor expansion indicates that

$$\begin{aligned}
\log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(D \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right) \right) &= \log \mathbb{E} \left(\exp \left\{ \frac{u^2t\mathcal{V}}{2h^2(t)} \left[1 - \frac{h(t)}{u} + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{t}{h(t)} \right) + \mathcal{O}(h^2(t)) \right] \right\} \right) \\
&= \log \left\{ 1 + \frac{u^2\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V})t}{2h^2(t)} \left[1 - \frac{h(t)}{u} + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{t}{h(t)} + h^2(t) \right) \right] + \frac{u^4\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V}^2)t^2}{8h^4(t)} + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{t^3}{h^6(t)} \right) \right\} \\
&= \frac{u^2\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V})t}{2h^2(t)} \left(1 + \mathcal{O} \left(h(t) + \frac{t}{h^2(t)} \right) \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Since $h(t)C(t, u/h(t))$ is of order $\mathcal{O}(t^2/h(t) + h^4(t))$, then

$$(D.1) \quad \Lambda_{\gamma} \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right) = \frac{u^2\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V})t}{2h(t)} \left\{ 1 + \mathcal{O} \left(h(t) + \frac{t}{h^2(t)} + h^4(t) \right) \right\},$$

and therefore $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \Lambda_{\gamma}(t, u/h(t)) = 0$, for all $u \in \mathbb{R}$.

Case $\gamma \in (1/2, 1]$. We need to evaluate $M_{\mathcal{V}}$ at infinity. If \mathbf{m} is finite, for t sufficiently small, the term $M_{\mathcal{V}}(\frac{1}{2}u^2th^{-2}(t)(1 + \mathcal{O}(t/h(t))))$ is infinite for any non-zero u , hence $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{V}}^* = \{0\}$, and $\Lambda_{\gamma}(u)$ is null at $u = 0$,

and infinite elsewhere. If \mathbf{m} is infinite, then obviously $\mathcal{D}_V^* = \mathbb{R}$. Assume first that \mathbf{v}_+ is finite; we claim that $\lim_{u \uparrow \infty} (\mathbf{v}_+ u)^{-1} \log M_V(u) = 1$. In fact, let F_V be the cumulative distribution function of \mathcal{V} , then

$$M_V(u) = \mathbb{E}(e^{uV}) \leq \exp(u\mathbf{v}_+) \int_{[\mathbf{v}_-, \mathbf{v}_+]} F_V(dv) = \exp(u\mathbf{v}_+).$$

For any small $\varepsilon > 0$, fix $\delta \in (0, \varepsilon\mathbf{v}_+/2)$, so that

$$\frac{\log M_V(u)}{u\mathbf{v}_+} \geq \frac{1}{u\mathbf{v}_+} \log \left(\int_{\mathbf{v}_+ - \delta}^{\mathbf{v}_+} e^{uv} F_V(dv) \right) \geq \frac{1}{u\mathbf{v}_+} \log \left(e^{u(\mathbf{v}_+ - \delta)} \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{V} \geq \mathbf{v}_+ - \delta) \right) = 1 - \frac{\delta}{\mathbf{v}_+} + \frac{\log \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{V} \geq \mathbf{v}_+ - \delta)}{u\mathbf{v}_+},$$

since \mathbf{v}_+ is the upper bound of the support; therefore $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{V} \geq \mathbf{v}_+ - \delta)$ is strictly positive, and the result follows.

If $\gamma \in (1/2, 1)$, notice that $h(t)C(t, u/h(t))$ is of order $t^{2-\gamma}$ from Lemma C.4, and hence

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \Lambda_\gamma \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \mathcal{O}(t^{2-\gamma}) + \lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^\gamma \log M_V \left(\frac{u^2 t^{1-2\gamma}}{2} (1 + \mathcal{O}(t^{1-\gamma})) \right) = \frac{u^2 \mathbf{v}_+}{2} \lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^{1-\gamma} = 0, \quad \text{for any } u \text{ in } \mathbb{R}.$$

When $\gamma = 1$, $\Lambda(u)$ is positive whenever $u \in (u_-, u_+) \setminus \{0\}$. Therefore,

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \Lambda_\gamma \left(t, \frac{u}{h(t)} \right) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \mathcal{O}(t) + \lim_{t \downarrow 0} t \left(\frac{\mathbf{v}_+ \Lambda(u)}{t} (1 + \mathcal{O}(t)) \right) = \Lambda(u) \mathbf{v}_+, \quad \text{for any } u \in \mathcal{D}^* = (u_-, u_+).$$

Case $\gamma = 1/2$. If \mathbf{v}_+ is finite then the pointwise limit is null on the whole real line. Assume now that \mathbf{v}_+ is infinite and \mathbf{m} is finite. Following Remark C.3(iii), $\frac{u^2}{2} + \left(\frac{\rho\xi u^3}{4} - \frac{u}{2} \right) t^{1/2} + \mathcal{O}(t) < \mathbf{m}$ implies $\mathcal{D}_V^{*o} = (-\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}, \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_V^* \subseteq \limsup_{t \downarrow 0} \mathcal{D}_V^t \subseteq [-\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}, \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}] = \overline{\mathcal{D}_V^*}$. For sufficiently small t ,

$$\Lambda_{1/2} \left(t, \frac{u}{\sqrt{t}} \right) = \frac{\kappa\theta u^2}{4} t^{3/2} + \mathcal{O}(t^2) + t^{1/2} \log M_V \left(\frac{u^2}{2} + \left(\frac{\rho\xi u^3}{4} - \frac{u}{2} \right) t^{1/2} + \mathcal{O}(t) \right).$$

For any fixed u in \mathcal{D}_V^{*o} , by definition there exists a positive t_0 such that u is in \mathcal{D}_V^t for all t less than t_0 . Then the mgf of \mathcal{V} is infinitely differentiable around the point $u^2/2$, and the n -th order derivative at this point is $M_V^{(n)}(\frac{1}{2}u^2) = \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{V}^n \exp(\frac{1}{2}u^2\mathcal{V})]$. Denote now $a_n(u) := M_V^{(n)}(\frac{1}{2}u^2) M_V^{-1}(\frac{1}{2}u^2)$, for $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$, and $a_0(u) := \log M_V(\frac{1}{2}u^2)$. A Taylor expansion of the function M_V around the point $\frac{1}{2}u^2$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_{1/2} \left(t, \frac{u}{\sqrt{t}} \right) &= \sqrt{t} \log \left\{ M_V \left(\frac{u^2}{2} \right) \left[1 + a_1(u) \left(\frac{\rho\xi u^2}{2} - 1 \right) \frac{u\sqrt{t}}{2} + \mathcal{O}(t) \right] \right\} + \frac{\kappa\theta u^2}{4} t^{3/2} + \mathcal{O}(t^2) \\ \text{(D.2)} \quad &= a_0(u) \sqrt{t} + a_1(u) \left(\frac{\rho\xi u^2}{2} - 1 \right) \frac{ut}{2} + \mathcal{O}(t^{3/2}). \end{aligned}$$

Letting t tend to zero, we finally obtain

$$\Lambda_{1/2}(u) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{when } u \in \mathcal{D}_V^{*o}, \\ \infty, & \text{when } u \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \overline{\mathcal{D}_V^*}. \end{cases}$$

However, the limit of $\Lambda_{1/2}(t, \pm\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}/t})$ depends on the explicit form of M_V . To see this, assume that $\rho\xi\mathbf{m} < 1$, which is guaranteed in particular when $\rho \leq 0$, and compute the limit when $u = \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}$. L'Hôpital's rule implies

$$\text{(D.3)} \quad \lim_{t \downarrow 0} t^{1/2} \log M_V \left(\mathbf{m} + \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{m}}{2}} (\rho\xi\mathbf{m} - 1) t^{1/2} + \mathcal{O}(t) \right) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\mathbf{m}}} \frac{1}{1 - \rho\xi\mathbf{m}} \lim_{s \downarrow 0} \frac{s^2 M_V'(\mathbf{m} - s)}{M_V(\mathbf{m} - s)}.$$

D.2. Proof of Theorem 4.16. The systematic procedure is similar to the proof of [44, Theorem 3.1]. To simplify notations, write $\tilde{\Lambda}_t(u) := \Lambda_{1/2}(t, u/\sqrt{t})$, $\tilde{C}_t(u) := C(t, u/\sqrt{t})$ and $\tilde{D}_t(u) := D(t, u/\sqrt{t})$, whenever these quantities are well defined. We shall prove the theorem in several steps: in Lemma D.1 we show that a saddlepoint analysis is feasible; by taking the expectation under a new probability measure, the main contribution of the option price arises and its asymptotic expansion is provided in Lemma D.2; in Lemma D.3 we prove the convergence (with rescaling) of the sequence $(X_t - x)_{t \geq 0}$ under this new measure; finally, the full asymptotics of the Call option price is obtained via inverse Fourier transform.

Lemma D.1. *Under Assumption 4.13, for any $x \neq 0$, $t > 0$ small enough, the equation $\partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u) = x$ admits a unique solution $u_t^*(x)$ such that $\tilde{D}_t(u_t^*(x)) \in \mathcal{D}_V^t$, and the following holds as t tends to zero:*

$$u_t^*(x) = \begin{cases} \operatorname{sgn}(x)\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} + b_1(x)t^{\frac{1}{2\omega}} + o\left(t^{\frac{1}{2\omega}}\right), & \text{for } \omega = 1, \\ \operatorname{sgn}(x)\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} + b_1(x)t^{\frac{1}{2\omega}} + b_2(x)t^{\frac{1}{\omega}} \log t + b_3(x)t^{\frac{1}{\omega}} + o\left(t^{\frac{1}{\omega}}\right), & \text{for } \omega \geq 2, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} b_1(x) &:= -\operatorname{sgn}(x)(2\mathbf{m})^{(1-\omega)/(2\omega)} \left(\frac{\mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=1\}}|\gamma_0| + \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega \geq 2\}}(\omega-1)\gamma_0}{|x|} \right)^{1/\omega} + \frac{1 - \rho\xi\mathbf{m}}{2} \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=1\}}, \\ b_2(x) &:= -\operatorname{sgn}(x) \frac{\alpha\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}}{2\omega^2} b_1^2(x), \\ b_3(x) &:= \operatorname{sgn}(x) \left\{ \frac{b_1^2(x)}{\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}\omega}} \left(1 - \frac{\omega}{2} - 2\alpha\mathbf{m} \log\left(\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}|b_1(x)|\right) - 2\mathbf{b}\mathbf{m} \right) \right\} + \frac{1 - \rho\xi\mathbf{m}}{2} \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=2\}}. \end{aligned}$$

If $x = 0$, then $u_t^*(0)$ defined as the solution to $\partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u) = 0$ satisfies $u_t^*(0) = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{t} + o(\sqrt{t})$.

Proof of Lemma D.1. Assume that $x > 0$, the case when $x < 0$ being analogous. Equation (2.3) implies that for any $u \in \mathbb{R}$, the equation $\partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u) = x$ reads

$$(D.4) \quad x = \partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u) = \sqrt{t} \left(\log M \left(t, \frac{u}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right)' = \sqrt{t} \tilde{C}'_t(u) + \sqrt{t} \frac{M'_V(\tilde{D}_t(u))}{M_V(\tilde{D}_t(u))} \tilde{D}'_t(u).$$

The existence and uniqueness of the solution to (D.4) are guaranteed by the strict convexity of the rescaled cgf $\tilde{\Lambda}_t$ for each t [47, Theorem 2.3] and (4.8), in which the denominator tends to zero as u tends to the boundary of \mathcal{D}_V^t . Denote now the unique solution by $u_t^*(x)$. Applying Lemma C.2 and Lemma C.4 with $h(t) \equiv t^{1/2}$,

$$\tilde{C}'_t(u) = \frac{uk\theta}{2}t + \mathcal{O}\left(t^{\frac{3}{2}}\right), \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{D}'_t(u) = u + \left(\frac{3\rho\xi u^2}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \sqrt{t} + \mathcal{O}(t).$$

We first prove that $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} u_t^*(x) = \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}$. If $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} u_t^*(x) \neq \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}$, there exists a sequence $\{t_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and (small enough) $\varepsilon_0 > 0$, satisfying $\lim_{n \uparrow \infty} t_n = 0$ and $|u_{t_n}^*(x) - \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}| \geq \varepsilon_0$ for any $n \geq 1$. In Section D.1 it is proved that $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \mathcal{D}_V^t \subseteq \limsup_{t \downarrow 0} \mathcal{D}_V^t \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{D}_V^*} = [-\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}, \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}]$. Also notice that for any fixed t small enough the map $\partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_t : \mathcal{D}_V^t \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and strictly increasing. Hence for fixed positive ε_0 there are at most finitely many t_i in the sequence such that $u_{t_i}^*(x) \geq \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} + \varepsilon_0$.

Equation (D.4) implies that for fixed $x > 0$ the limit of $t^{-1/2} \partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))$ is infinity as t tends to zero. Taking a subsequence of $\{t_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ if necessary, assume now that $u_{t_n}^*(x) \leq \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} - \varepsilon_0$, for any $n \geq 1$. Since $\tilde{D}_t(\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} - \varepsilon) = \mathbf{m} - \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2/2 + \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{t})$, then for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $N(\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|\tilde{D}_{t_n}(\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} - \varepsilon) - \mathbf{m} + \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}\varepsilon - \varepsilon^2/2| < \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}\varepsilon/2$ holds for any $n \geq N(\varepsilon)$. Fix $0 < \varepsilon_1 < \min(\varepsilon_0, \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}})$ small enough so that $\mathbf{m} - 3\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}\varepsilon_1/2 + \varepsilon_1^2/2 > \mathbf{m} - \delta_0$, where $\delta_0 > 0$ is chosen to satisfy for any $\mathbf{m} - \delta_0 < u < \mathbf{m}$, the higher-order term in (4.8) is bounded above by

one. Then for such ε_1 and for any $n \geq N(\varepsilon_1)$ we have $\mathbf{m} - \delta_0 < \tilde{D}_{t_n}(\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} - \varepsilon_1) < \mathbf{m} - \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}\varepsilon_1/2 + \varepsilon_1^2/2 < \mathbf{m}$. The function $\partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_t$ is strictly increasing, implying

$$\lim_{n \uparrow \infty} \frac{\partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_{t_n}(u_{t_n}^*(x))}{\sqrt{t_n}} \leq \lim_{n \uparrow \infty} \frac{\partial_u \tilde{\Lambda}_{t_n}(\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} - \varepsilon_1)}{\sqrt{t_n}} \leq \frac{2^{\omega+1} \delta_1}{\varepsilon_1^\omega (\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} - \varepsilon_1)^{\omega-1}} < \infty,$$

where $\delta_1 := \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=1\}}|\gamma_0| + \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega \geq 2\}}(\omega-1)\gamma_0$, hence the contradiction. Therefore $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} u_t^*(x) = \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}$. Analogously we can prove that $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} u_t^*(0) = 0$.

Case $\omega = 1$. Assume that $u_t^*(x) = \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} + h_x(t)$, where $h_x(t) = o(1)$. Equation (D.4) implies that $h_x(t) = \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{t})$, hence all the terms of order $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{t})$ in the expansion of $\tilde{D}_t(u_t^*(x))$ should be included. More specifically,

$$\tilde{D}_t(u_t^*(x)) = \mathbf{m} + \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}h_x(t) + \frac{\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}}{2}(\rho\xi\mathbf{m} - 1)\sqrt{t} + o(\sqrt{t}).$$

Plugging this back into (D.4) and solving at the leading order yield the desired result.

Case $\omega \geq 2$. In this case $h_x(t) = \mathcal{O}(t^{1/(2\omega)})$. Equation (D.4) now reads

$$(D.5) \quad \frac{\sqrt{t}}{x} \left\{ \frac{\kappa\theta\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}}{2}t + \frac{\kappa\theta}{2}th_x(t) + \mathcal{O}(t^{3/2}) + \left(\frac{\delta_0(1+o(1))}{(-\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}h_x(t) + \mathcal{O}(h_x^2 + \sqrt{t}))^\omega} \right) (\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} + h_x(t) + \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{t})) \right\} \equiv 1.$$

Denote by h_x^* as the leading order of the function h_x . Solving (D.5) at the leading order, then $\delta_0\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t} \equiv x(-\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}h_x^*(t))^\omega$, from which $h_x^*(t) = -(2\mathbf{m})^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}}(\delta_0/x)^{\frac{1}{\omega}}t^{\frac{1}{2\omega}}$. Higher orders in the expansion of $u_t^*(x)$ can be derived similarly, simply by replacing the little-o term in (D.5) with precise higher-order terms provided in (4.8). We omit the details.

Finally, when $x = 0$, write $u_t^*(0) = h(t)$ with $h(t) = o(1)$. As t tends to zero, $M_{\mathcal{V}}(u_t^*(0)) \sim 1$, $M'_{\mathcal{V}}(u_t^*(0)) \sim \mathbb{E}(\mathcal{V})$, and $\tilde{D}'_t(u_t^*(0)) = h(t) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{t} + \mathcal{O}(t + h^2(t)\sqrt{t})$. Plugging these into (D.4) with $x = 0$ proves the lemma. \square

Lemma D.2.

(1) When $\gamma_0 > 0$ and $\omega \geq 2$, as t tends to zero,

$$\exp\left(\frac{-xu_t^*(x) + \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda^*(x)}{\sqrt{t}} + c_1(x)t^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}} + o\left(t^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}}\right)\right),$$

for any $x \neq 0$, where $c_1(x) := \omega\gamma_0^{1/\omega} \left(\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}(\omega-1)}}\right)^{1-1/\omega}$, and the function Λ^* is defined in (4.9);

(2) If $\gamma_0 < 0$ and $\omega = 1$, then for any $x \neq 0$, as t tends to zero,

$$\exp\left(\frac{-xu_t^*(x) + \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda^*(x)}{\sqrt{t}} + c_2(x) + \gamma_1\right) \left(\frac{|x|}{|\gamma_0|\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t}}\right)^{|\gamma_0|} (1 + o(1)),$$

where $c_2(x) := \frac{1}{2}(\rho\xi\mathbf{m} - 1)x - \gamma_0$.

Proof of Lemma D.2. **Case $\omega \geq 2$.** Assumption 4.13 and Lemma D.1 imply

$$\begin{aligned} \exp\left(\frac{-xu_t^*(x)}{\sqrt{t}}\right) &= \exp\left\{-\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\left[\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}} + b_1(x)t^{\frac{1}{2\omega}} + o\left(t^{\frac{1}{2\omega}}\right)\right]\right\} = \exp\left\{-\frac{\Lambda^*(x)}{\sqrt{t}} - b_1(x)xt^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}} + o\left(t^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}}\right)\right\}, \\ \exp\left(\frac{\tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}}\right) &= \exp\left(\tilde{C}_t(u_t^*) + \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(\tilde{D}_t(u_t^*))\right) = \exp\left\{\frac{\gamma_0}{(\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}|b_1(x)|)^{\omega-1}}t^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}} + o\left(t^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}}\right)\right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the expression of $b_1(\cdot)$ provided in Lemma D.1, the coefficient of the term of order $t^{\frac{1-\omega}{2\omega}}$ is given by

$$-b_1(x)x + \frac{\gamma_0}{(\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}|b_1|)^{\omega-1}} = \left\{[(\omega-1)\gamma_0]^{\frac{1}{\omega}} + \gamma_0[(\omega-1)\gamma_0]^{\frac{1-\omega}{\omega}}\right\} (\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}})^{\frac{1-\omega}{\omega}} |x|^{1-\frac{1}{\omega}} = \omega\gamma_0^{\frac{1}{\omega}} \left(\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}(\omega-1)}}\right)^{1-\frac{1}{\omega}} = c_1(x).$$

Case $\omega = 1$. This case follows straightforward computations after noticing that

$$\exp \left\{ \frac{\tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}} \right\} = \exp \left\{ \mathcal{O}(t) + \gamma_0 \log \left(\mathbf{m} - \tilde{\mathbf{D}}_t(u_t^*(x)) \right) + \gamma_1 + o(1) \right\} = e^{\gamma_1} \left(\frac{|\gamma_0| \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t}}{|x|} \right)^{\gamma_0} (1 + o(1)).$$

□

For each $x \neq 0$ and $t > 0$ small enough, define the time-dependent measure \mathbb{Q}_t by

$$\frac{d\mathbb{Q}_t}{d\mathbb{P}} := \exp \left(\frac{u_t^*(x)X_t - \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{t^{1/2}} \right).$$

Lemma D.1 implies that $\tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))$ is finite for small t . Also by definition it is obvious that $\mathbb{E}[d\mathbb{Q}_t/d\mathbb{P}] = 1$, then \mathbb{Q}_t is a well-defined probability measure for each t .

Lemma D.3. For any $x \neq 0$, let $Z_t := (X_t - x)/\vartheta(t)$, where $\vartheta(t) := \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=1\}} + \mathbf{1}_{\{\omega=2\}}t^{1/8}$. Under Assumption 4.13, as t tends to zero, the characteristic function of Z_t under \mathbb{Q}_t is

$$\Psi_t(u) := \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} (e^{iuZ_t}) = \begin{cases} e^{-iux} \left(1 - \frac{iux}{\gamma_0} \right)^{\gamma_0} (1 + o(1)), & \text{for } \omega = 1, \\ \exp \left(\frac{-u^2 \zeta^2(x)}{2} \right) (1 + o(1)), & \text{for } \omega = 2, \end{cases}$$

where $\zeta(x) := \sqrt{2} \left(\frac{2\mathbf{m}}{\gamma_0^2} \right)^{1/8} |x|^{3/4}$.

Remark D.4. Lemma D.3 and Lévy's Convergence Theorem [55, Theorem 18.1] imply that under \mathbb{Q}_t the process $(Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$ converges weakly to a Gamma distribution (or a Gamma distribution mirrored to the negative real half line) if $x > 0$ (or $x < 0$) minus the constant x when $\omega = 1$, and to a Gaussian distribution when $\omega = 2$.

Remark D.5. Intuitively, the case $\omega \geq 3$ should be similar to the case $\omega = 2$, so that a suitable candidate for the function ϑ can be found. However, in such scenario more information on the asymptotics of $\log M_V$ and its derivative are required in order to obtain the suitable (non-constant) characteristic function. These extra assumptions turn out to be very restrictive and of little practical use, and are thus omitted.

Proof of Lemma D.3. Assume that $x > 0$, with $x < 0$ being analogous. Function $\log \Psi_t$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(D.6)} \quad \log \Psi_t(u) &= \log \mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(\frac{i u (X_t - x)}{\vartheta(t)} + \frac{u_t^*(x)X_t - \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right] \\ &= -\frac{iux}{\vartheta(t)} + \log \mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(\frac{(iu\sqrt{t}/\vartheta(t) + u_t^*(x)) X_t}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right] - \frac{\tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}} \\ &= -\frac{iux}{\vartheta(t)} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \left(\tilde{\Lambda}_t \left(u_t^*(x) + iu\sqrt{t}/\vartheta(t) \right) - \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x)) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Case $\omega = 1$. Lemma D.1 implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbf{D}}_1(u) &:= \tilde{\mathbf{D}}_t \left(u_t^*(x) + \frac{i u \sqrt{t}}{\vartheta(t)} \right) = \mathbf{m} + \frac{\gamma_0 \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t}}{x} + i u \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t} + o(\sqrt{t}), & \tilde{\mathbf{D}}_2 &:= \tilde{\mathbf{D}}(u_t^*(x)) = \mathbf{m} + \frac{\gamma_0 \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t}}{x} + o(\sqrt{t}), \\ \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_1(u) &:= \tilde{\mathbf{C}} \left(u_t^*(x) + \frac{i u \sqrt{t}}{\vartheta(t)} \right) = \frac{\mathbf{m}\kappa\theta t}{2} + \mathcal{O}(t^{3/2}), & \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_2 &:= \tilde{\mathbf{C}}(u_t^*(x)) = \frac{\mathbf{m}\kappa\theta t}{2} + \mathcal{O}(t^{3/2}). \end{aligned}$$

As a result, the lemma follows in this case from the following computations:

$$\begin{aligned} \log \Psi_t(u) &= -iux + \tilde{C}_1(u) - \tilde{C}_2 + \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(\tilde{D}_1(u)) - \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(\tilde{D}_2) = -iux + \gamma_0 \log \left(\frac{\mathbf{m} - \tilde{D}_1(u)}{\mathbf{m} - \tilde{D}_2} \right) + o(1) \\ &= -iux + \gamma_0 \log \left(1 - \frac{iux}{|\gamma_0|} + o(1) \right) + o(1). \end{aligned}$$

Case $\omega = 2$. Denote $\theta := 1/8$, then $\frac{1}{2} - \theta > \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2\omega}$. Lemma D.1 implies

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{D}_1(u) &= \mathbf{m} + \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_1}t^{1/4} + iu\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t^{1/2-\theta}} + \left(\frac{b_1^2}{2} + \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_3} + \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{m}}{2}}(\mathbf{m}\rho\xi - 1) \right) t^{1/2} + o(\sqrt{t}), \\ \tilde{D}_2 &= \mathbf{m} + \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_1}t^{1/4} + \left(\frac{b_1^2}{2} + \sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_3} + \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{m}}{2}}(\mathbf{m}\rho\xi - 1) \right) t^{1/2} + o(\sqrt{t}), \\ \tilde{C}_1(u) &= \frac{\mathbf{m}\kappa\theta t}{2} + \frac{\kappa\theta\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_1}}{2}t^{5/4} + \mathcal{O}(t^{11/8}), \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{C}_2 = \frac{\mathbf{m}\kappa\theta t}{2} + \frac{\kappa\theta\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_1}}{2}t^{5/4} + \mathcal{O}(t^{3/2}). \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^* + iut^{1/2-\theta}) - \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*)}{\sqrt{t}} &= \tilde{C}_1(u) - \tilde{C}_2 + \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(\tilde{D}_1(u)) - \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(\tilde{D}_2) \\ &= \frac{\gamma_0(\tilde{D}_1(u) - \tilde{D}_2)}{(\mathbf{m} - \tilde{D}_1(u))(\mathbf{m} - \tilde{D}_2)} + \gamma_0\gamma_1 \left(\log(\mathbf{m} - \tilde{D}_1(u)) - \log(\mathbf{m} - \tilde{D}_2) \right) + o(1) \\ &= \frac{\gamma_0(iu\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}t^{1/2-\theta}} + o(\sqrt{t}))}{2\mathbf{m}b_1^2t^{1/2}} \left[1 - \frac{iut^{1/4-\theta}}{b_1} + \mathcal{O}(t^{1/4}) \right] + \frac{iu\gamma_0\gamma_1t^{1/4-\theta}}{b_1} + o(1) = \frac{i\gamma_0u}{\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_1^2}}t^{-\theta} + \frac{\gamma_0u^2}{\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_1^3}} + o(1), \end{aligned}$$

and the proof follows by noticing that $b_1 < 0$ and $\gamma_0 = x\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}b_1^2}$, from Lemma D.1. \square

We finally prove the main theorem, when $x > 0$. The price of a European Call option with strike e^x is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}(e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ &= \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} \left[(e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ \frac{d\mathbb{P}}{d\mathbb{Q}_t} \right] = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} \left[\exp \left(\frac{-u_t^*(x)X_t + \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{t^{1/2}} \right) (e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ \right] \\ &= \exp \left(\frac{-xu_t^*(x) + \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}} \right) e^x \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} \left[\exp \left(\frac{-u_t^*(x)(X_t - x)}{\sqrt{t}} \right) (e^{X_t - x} - 1)^+ \right] \\ &= \exp \left(\frac{-xu_t^*(x) + \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}} \right) e^x \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} \left[\exp \left(\frac{-u_t^*(x)Z_t}{\sqrt{t}/\vartheta(t)} \right) (e^{Z_t\vartheta(t)} - 1)^+ \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Case $\omega = 2$. The proof is identical to [44, Theorem 3.1] and is therefore omitted.

Case $\omega = 1$. The Fourier transform of the modified payoff $\exp \left(-\frac{u_t^*(x)Z_t}{\sqrt{t}} \right) (e^{Z_t} - 1)^+$ under \mathbb{Q}_t is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \exp \left(-\frac{u_t^*(x)z}{\sqrt{t}} \right) (e^z - 1) e^{iuz} dz &= \left[\frac{e^{(1+iu-u_t^*(x)t^{-1/2})z}}{1+iu-u_t^*(x)t^{-1/2}} \right]_0^\infty - \left[\frac{e^{(iu-u_t^*(x)t^{-1/2})z}}{iu-u_t^*(x)t^{-1/2}} \right]_0^\infty \\ &= \frac{1}{iu-u_t^*(x)t^{-1/2}} - \frac{1}{1+iu-u_t^*(x)t^{-1/2}} \\ &= \frac{t}{(u_t^*(x) - (1+iu)\sqrt{t})(u_t^*(x) - iu\sqrt{t})}, \end{aligned}$$

where in the second line we use the fact that $\lim_{t \downarrow 0} u_t^*(x)t^{-1/2} = +\infty$. Recall that the Gamma distribution with shape $|\gamma_0|$ and scale $|\frac{x}{\gamma_0}|$ has density $f_\Gamma \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ given by

$$(D.7) \quad f_\Gamma(y) = \frac{y^{|\gamma_0|-1}}{\Gamma(|\gamma_0|)} \exp\left(-\left|\frac{\gamma_0}{x}\right|y\right) \left(\left|\frac{\gamma_0}{x}\right|\right)^{|\gamma_0|}, \quad \text{for } y > 0.$$

Applying [37, Theorem 13.E] and Lemma D.3,

$$(D.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} \left[\exp\left(\frac{-u_t^*(x)Z_t}{\sqrt{t}}\right) (e^{Z_t} - 1)^+ \right] &= \frac{t}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\Psi_t(u)du}{(u_t^*(x) - (1 - iu)\sqrt{t})(u_t^*(x) + iu\sqrt{t})} \\ &= \frac{t}{4\pi\mathbf{m}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-iux} \left(1 - \frac{iux}{|\gamma_0|}\right)^{\gamma_0} (1 + o(1)) du = \frac{tf_\Gamma(x)}{2\mathbf{m}} (1 + o(1)), \end{aligned}$$

where the last line follows from Fourier inversion. Combining Lemma D.2 and (D.8), the Call price reads

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ = \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda^*(x)}{\sqrt{t}} + x + c_2(x) + \gamma_1\right) \left(\frac{x}{|\gamma_0|\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}}\right)^{|\gamma_0|} \frac{f_\Gamma(x)}{2\mathbf{m}} t^{1-\frac{|\gamma_0|}{2}} (1 + o(1)), \quad \text{for } x > 0.$$

Assume now that $x < 0$, the price of a European Put option with strike e^x is

$$\mathbb{E}(e^x - e^{X_t})^+ = \exp\left(\frac{-xu_t^*(x) + \tilde{\Lambda}_t(u_t^*(x))}{\sqrt{t}}\right) e^x \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}_t} \left[\exp\left(\frac{-u_t^*(x)Z_t}{\sqrt{t}}\right) (1 - e^{Z_t})^+ \right],$$

and the Fourier transform of the modified payoff function $\exp\left(\frac{-u_t^*(x)Z_t}{\sqrt{t}}\right) (1 - e^{Z_t})^+$ is

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 \exp\left(-\frac{u_t^*(x)z}{\sqrt{t}}\right) (1 - e^z) e^{iuz} dz = \frac{t}{(u_t^*(x) - (1 + iu)\sqrt{t})(u_t^*(x) - iu\sqrt{t})}.$$

Following a similar procedure, and noticing that $(e^{X_t})_{t \geq 0}$ is a \mathbb{P} -martingale, the Put-Call parity implies

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ = (1 - e^x) + \exp\left(-\frac{\Lambda^*(x)}{\sqrt{t}} + x + c_2(x) + \gamma_1\right) \left(\frac{|x|}{|\gamma_0|\sqrt{2\mathbf{m}}}\right)^{|\gamma_0|} \frac{f_\Gamma(|x|)}{2\mathbf{m}} t^{1-\frac{|\gamma_0|}{2}} (1 + o(1)), \quad \text{for } x < 0.$$

In the standard Black-Scholes model with volatility $\Sigma > 0$, the short-time asymptotics of the Call option price reads [27, Corollary 3.5] $\mathbb{E}(e^{X_t} - e^x)^+ = (1 - e^x)^+ + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi x^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\Sigma^2 t} + \frac{x}{2}\right) (\Sigma^2 t)^{3/2} (1 + \mathcal{O}(t))$. Then the asymptotics of implied volatility can be derived following the systematic approach provided in [33].

D.3. Proof of Theorem 4.21. We first prove the large deviations statement, which we then translate into the large-maturity behaviour of the implied volatility. Andersen and Piterbarg [3, Proposition 3.1] analysed moment explosions in the standard Heston model, and proved that for any $u > 1$, the quantity $\mathbb{E}(e^{uX_t})$ always exists as long as

$$(D.9) \quad \kappa > \rho\xi u \quad \text{and} \quad d(u) \geq 0.$$

Moreover, the assumption $\kappa > \rho\xi$ implies (see [26]) that (D.9) holds for any $u \in [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+]$, so that $\mathbb{E}(e^{uX_t})$ is well-defined for $u \in [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+]$ and any (large) t in the standard Heston model. The tower property then yields

$$M(t, u) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}(e^{uX_t} | \mathcal{V})] = C(t, u) (M_{\mathcal{V}} \circ D(t, u)).$$

Consequently, for any large t , $M(t, u)$ is well-defined for $u \in \mathcal{S} := [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+] \cap \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}$, where the set $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}} := \bigcup_{t>0} \bigcap_{s \geq t} \{u : D(s, u) < \mathbf{m}\}.$$

Using the expressions of functions C and D in (A.1), the rescaled cgf of the process $(t^{-1}X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ reads

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi(t, u) &:= \frac{1}{t} \log \mathbb{E} (e^{uX_t}) = \frac{1}{t} C(t, u) + \frac{1}{t} \log M_{\mathcal{V}}(D(t, u)) \\ \text{(D.10)} \quad &= \frac{\kappa\theta(\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u))}{\xi^2} - \frac{2\kappa\theta}{\xi^2 t} \log \left(\frac{1 - g(u)e^{-d(u)t}}{1 - g(u)} \right) + \frac{1}{t} \log M_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\xi^2} \frac{1 - e^{-d(u)t}}{1 - g(u)e^{-d(u)t}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

For any $u \in (\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+)$, since the quantity $d(u)$ is strictly positive, then

$$\text{(D.11)} \quad \lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(\frac{1 - g(u)e^{-d(u)t}}{1 - g(u)} \right) = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\xi^2} \frac{1 - e^{-d(u)t}}{1 - g(u)e^{-d(u)t}} = \frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\xi^2}.$$

Since $u \mapsto \Xi(t, u)$ is continuous for each $t > 0$, L'Hôpital's rule implies that $\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \Xi(t, \bar{u}_{\pm}) = \kappa\theta(\kappa - \rho\xi\bar{u}_{\pm})/\xi^2$.

Case $\mathbf{m} = \infty$. Obviously $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}} = \mathbb{R}$, implying that $\mathcal{S} = [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+]$. Equation (D.10) shows that

$$\Xi(u) := \lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \Xi(t, u) \equiv \mathfrak{L}(u), \quad \text{for any } u \in \mathbb{R},$$

with \mathfrak{L} provided in (4.11). In [26, Theorem 2.1], it is proved that the limiting function Ξ and its effective domain \mathcal{S} satisfy all the assumptions of the Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2), and hence the large deviations principle for the sequence $(t^{-1}X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ follows.

Case $\mathbf{m} < \infty$. Equation (D.11) implies that

$$\left\{ u : \frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\xi^2} < \mathbf{m} \right\} \subset \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}} \subset \left\{ u : \frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\xi^2} \leq \mathbf{m} \right\}.$$

As a result, the essential smoothness of function Ξ is guaranteed if

$$[\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+] \subset \left\{ u : \frac{\kappa - \rho\xi u - d(u)}{\xi^2} < \mathbf{m} \right\} = \left\{ u : \kappa - \rho\xi u < \xi^2 \mathbf{m} + \sqrt{(\kappa - \rho\xi u)^2 + \xi^2 u(1 - u)} \right\}.$$

Since $\kappa - \rho\xi u > 0$ holds for any $u \in [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa - \rho\xi u < \xi^2 \mathbf{m} + \sqrt{(\kappa - \rho\xi u)^2 + \xi^2 u(1 - u)} &\iff 0 < u(1 - u) + \xi^2 \mathbf{m}^2 + 2\mathbf{m} \sqrt{(\kappa - \rho\xi u)^2 + \xi^2 u(1 - u)} \\ \text{(D.12)} \quad &\iff \frac{u(u - 1)}{\xi^2} < \mathbf{m}^2 + \frac{2\mathbf{m}}{\xi^2} \sqrt{(\kappa - \rho\xi u)^2 + \xi^2 u(1 - u)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $[0, 1] \subset (\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+)$, Condition (D.12) holds for any $u \in [0, 1]$. Whenever $u > 1$ or $u < 0$, as functions of u , the left-hand-side is strictly increasing while the right-hand-side is strictly decreasing. Therefore, (D.12) holds for any $u \in [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+]$ if and only if $\max\{\bar{u}_-(\bar{u}_- - 1), \bar{u}_+(\bar{u}_+ - 1)\} < \mathbf{m}^2 \xi^2$. Consequently, Assumption 4.19 ensures that $\mathcal{S} = [\bar{u}_-, \bar{u}_+]$, and the proof follows from the Gärtner-Ellis theorem (Theorem B.2).

We now prove the asymptotic behaviour for the implied volatility. We claim that in a randomised Heston setting the European option price has the following limiting behaviour:

$$\begin{aligned} -\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(\mathbb{E} (e^{X_t} - e^{xt})^+ \right) &= \mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x, & \text{for } x \geq \frac{\bar{\theta}}{2}, \\ -\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(1 - \mathbb{E} (e^{X_t} - e^{xt})^+ \right) &= \mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x, & \text{for } -\frac{\theta}{2} \leq x \leq \frac{\bar{\theta}}{2}, \\ -\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(\mathbb{E} (e^{xt} - e^{X_t})^+ \right) &= \mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x, & \text{for } x \leq -\frac{\theta}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is covered in detail in [45, Section 5.2.2], and we therefore highlight the main ideas for completeness. From Theorem 4.21, define a time-dependent probability measure \mathbb{Q}_t :

$$\frac{d\mathbb{Q}_t}{d\mathbb{P}} := \exp \{ u^*(x) X_t - \Xi(t, u^*(x)) t \},$$

where $u^*(x)$ is the solution to the equation $x = \Xi'(u)$. The option price is then expressed as the expectation under \mathbb{Q}_t of a modified payoff, and can be computed by (inverse) Fourier transform with the main contribution equal to $\exp\{-\mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x)t\}$. It is also known (see [25, Corollary 2.12] for instance) that in the Black-Scholes model with volatility Σ , the asymptotics of European option prices with strike e^{xt} are given by

$$\begin{aligned} -\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(\mathbb{E} \left(e^{X_t} - e^{xt} \right)^+ \right) &= \Lambda_{\text{BS}}^*(x, \Sigma) - x, & \text{for } x \geq \frac{\Sigma^2}{2}, \\ -\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(1 - \mathbb{E} \left(e^{X_t} - e^{xt} \right)^+ \right) &= \Lambda_{\text{BS}}^*(x, \Sigma) - x, & \text{for } -\frac{\Sigma^2}{2} \leq x \leq \frac{\Sigma^2}{2}, \\ -\lim_{t \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \left(\mathbb{E} \left(e^{xt} - e^{X_t} \right)^+ \right) &= \Lambda_{\text{BS}}^*(x, \Sigma) - x, & \text{for } x \leq -\frac{\Sigma^2}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Lambda_{\text{BS}}^*(x, \Sigma) := \frac{(x + \Sigma^2/2)^2}{2\Sigma^2}$. Then the leading order of the large-time implied variance is obtained by solving

$$\mathfrak{L}^*(x) - x = \Lambda_{\text{BS}}^*(x, \Sigma) - x = \frac{(-x + \Sigma^2/2)^2}{2\Sigma^2}.$$

We omit the details of the proof which can be found in [26, 28].

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