

Options

classmate

Date _____
Page _____

Options is a financial instrument which gives to its holder a right to buy or sell without any obligation to buy or sell.

The person buying an options contract is known as option holder and the person selling option contract is known as option writer.

The price specified in the options contract is known as strike price or exercise price.

Just like futures contracts, even options contracts on stock and index are highly standardised. Options are available on nifty and sensex also on different shares decided by the exchange. The lot size of the options contract is the same as for futures contract.

Similarly just as futures contracts even options contracts are cash settled i.e. no deliveries are taken place.

Options contract that can be exercised only on maturity date are known as European style options. Options that can be exercised at a time on or before maturity date are American style options.

In India options on stock are American while options on index are European.

Type of Investor	Investor's position	Investor's pay-off
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1. Call option Holder	* Right of buying * No obligation of buying.	* potential for unlimited gain * Loss limited to premium paid
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2. Call option writer	* obligation to sell * No right of selling.	* potential for unlimited loss * Limited to premium received
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3. put option holder	* Right of selling * No obligation of selling.	* potential for unlimited gain * Limited to premium paid
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4. put option writer	* obligation to buy * No right of buying.	* potential for unlimited loss * gain limited to premium received
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1. In the Money (ITM) & Out of the Money (OTM) At the Money (ATM) options.

	Call Option	put option
spot price > strike price	ITM	OTM
spot price < strike price	OTM	ITM
spot price = strike price	ATM	ATM

Only ITM options are worth exercising.

2. At the time of deciding whether an option should be exercised or not premium paid should be ignored.

PURE OPTIONS STRATEGY :

Future Expectation	option Holder	option writer
share price / index shall rise above the strike price.	buy call option	sell / write call option
share price / index fall below the strike price	buy put option	sell call option

* income = premium

Options Premium

At the time of entering in to options contract up front premium is to be paid.

This options premium comprises of money an option holder can immediately on exercise (i.e. intrinsic value) and opportunity cost option writer i.e. time value.

$$\text{Options Premium} = \text{Intrinsic value} + \text{Time value}$$

where intrinsic value is —

(a) for call option

$$\text{Higher of } (\text{strike price} - \text{spot price or } 0)$$

(b) for put option

$$\text{Higher of } (\text{spot price} - \text{strike price or } 0)$$

Settlement of Options Contract

1. An investor may wait till the maturity of that date by comparing the spot / strike price decide whether the option be exercised if it is ITM or allow expire.

2. Before the maturity of the option an investor can square up the option. Squaring up means taking a position opposite to the earlier position. For instance, if earlier call option was purchased then for squaring up call option shall be sold.

In case of squaring up it is the difference between option premiums which shall decide the gain or loss. In real markets close to 99% of the option are squared up and never exercised.

COMBINATION OPTION STRATEGIES.

1. STRADDLE STRADDLE

It is a combination of one call and one put with both option having same strike price and expiration date.

2. STRAP STRAP

It is a combination of two calls and one put with all three options having same strike price and expiration date.

3. STRIP.

It is a combination of one call and two put with all three options having same strike price and expiration date.

6. STRANGLE

It is a combination of one call and one put having same expiration date but with strike price of call higher than strike price of put.

Option strategy to be selected

share price $\uparrow$

Option Holder
buy call

Option Writer
sell put

share price $\downarrow$

buy put

sell call

Expected future scenario

Options Holder

Options Writer

1. equal chance of share price rising or falling.

Long strangle
[Buy 1 call
Buy 1 put]

Short strangle
[sell 1 call
sell 1 put]

2. more chance of share price to rise

Long short
[buy 2 call
buy 1 put]

Short short
[sell 2 call
sell 1 put]

3. more chance of share price to fall

Long short
[buy 1 call
buy 2 put]

Short short
[sell 1 call
sell 2 put]

Long strangle

Spread strategy

spread strategy involve simultaneous buying & selling of same option i.e. either buying and selling call option or buying & selling put option

1 BULL SPREAD

This is a spread strategy in which the strike price of option purchased is lower than strike price of option sold.

BULL CALL SPREAD.

Bull spread involving call option is known as Bull call spread. This strategy is performed when there is higher chance of share prices increasing than decline in share prices.

e.g. buy a 400 call and sell a 450 call.

For a bull call spread maximum loss is a net premium paid. Similarly gain is restricted to —

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Higher} \\ \text{strike price} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{lower} \\ \text{strike price} \end{array} \right] - \text{net premium paid}$$

2 BULL PUT SPREAD

A bull spread involving put option is known as a bull put spread. Under this strategy a put option is purchased at lower strike price than put option sold. However, bull put spread is not a popular strategy.

4. BEAR SPREAD STRATEGY

This is a spread strategy in which the strike price of option purchased is higher than the strike price of option sold.

5. BEAR PUT SPREAD

Bear spread involving put options is known as bear put spread. This is a strategy which put option is purchased at a strike price higher than the strike price of put sold.

Bear put spread is preferred when there is a higher chance of fall in share price.

eg. buy a 450 put and sell a 600 put

In the above case, maximum loss is the premium paid. Similarly gain shall be restricted to

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{higher strike} \\ \text{price} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{lower} \\ \text{strike price} \end{array} \right] - \text{Net premium paid}$$

9. BEAR CALL SPREAD

A bear spread involving call options is known as bear call spread. This is a strategy of buying call option at a strike price higher than the strike price of the call option sold. However, bear

6. BUTTERFLY SPREAD

A spread strategy which is a combination of bull spread & bear spread is known as butterfly spread. Butterfly spreads are preferred when there is an equal chance of share prices moving in either direction.

7. Butterfly call spread.

It is a strategy of buying two call options one at a lower strike price and another higher strike price and selling two call options at a strike price exactly at the centre of strike prices of the call options purchased.

For e.g. buy 1 call for ₹ 400, sell 2 call for ₹ 450 and buy one call at ₹

For the above strategy maximum loss shall be not premium paid.

similarly gain shall be restricted to —

Equal	Net
[distance between the strike prices]	[premium paid]

8. Butterfly put spread.

Instead of call option, if the spread involves put option as described above then it is known as butterfly put spread.

Other option strategy

COVERED CALL OPTION

A call option that is covered by shares owned, is known as covered call option. Case shares are not already owned that the time selling call option one can simultaneously buy shares.

buy share

sell call

Thus, covered call option one takes a position in stock market and a short pos in derivative market. Hence, this also acts as hedging strategy. The idea behind covered call option writing is to eliminate the risk of potential loss for call option sold the gains on the stock market.

e.g. a trader purchases shares of ₹ 500 and sells a call option at a strike price of ₹ 700. On expiration date share price rises to ₹ 700. In this case trader has lost ₹ 200 for the call option sold. However, the value of shares has increased by ₹ 200. The loss of call option of ₹ 200 is offset against gain of ₹ 200.

2. PROTECTIVE PUT STRATEGY

This is a strategy which involves buying put option for shares already purchased. The idea behind protective put strategy is to recover the loss on the stock market due to fall in share prices by exercising put option in the derivatives market.

Buy shares
+
Buy put

e.g. If shares are purchased for £ 1000 a trader may simultaneously buy put option at strike price of £ 1000. If later share price falls to £ 400 then the trader has lost £ 600 on shares purchased. However, the put option can be exercised resulting in a gain of £ 600.

(P.T.O.)

Factors affecting value of option

		Value of call	Value of put
1. Spot price	↑ ↓	↑ ↓	↓ ↑
2. Strike price	↑ ↓	↓ ↑	↑ ↓
3. Dividend	Received Not received	↓ ↑	↑ ↓
4. Volatility	High Low	↑ ↓	↑ ↓
5. Time to expiration	↑ ↓	↑ ↓	↑ ↓
6. Interest rates	High Low	↑ ↓	↓ ↑