



BOSTON UNIVERSITY STATISTICS  
AND PROBABILITY SEMINAR SERIES

**The Leland Approximation for European  
Options**

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**Abstract:** In 1985 Leland suggested an approach to pricing contingent claims under proportional transaction costs. Its main idea is to use the classical Black Scholes formula with a suitably enlarged volatility for a periodically revised portfolio whose terminal value approximates the pay-off  $h(S_T) = (S_T - K)^+$  of the call-option. In subsequent studies, Lott, Kabanov and Safarian, Gamys and Kabanov provided a rigorous mathematical analysis and established that the hedging portfolio approximates this pay-off in the case where the transaction costs decrease to zero as the number of revisions tends to infinity.

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