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Jerome A. Goldstein* (jgoldste@memphis.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152, Rosa Maria Mininni, Dipartimento di Matematica, Universita di Bari, via Orabona, 4, 70125 Bari, Italy, and Silvia Romanelli, Dipartimento di Matematica, Universita di Bari, via Orabona, 4, 70125 Bari, Italy. A new explicit formula for the solution of the Black-Merton-Scholes equation. Preliminary report.

In the early 1970s, F. Black, R. Merton and M. Scholes figured out how to find the fair price of a (European) call option. Starting from a simple linear stochastic differential equation, they derived the BMS equation, a PDE for the (fair) price function u(t,x) of the option; here t is time and x is a positive parameter ranging over all possible stock prices. This work received a Nobel Prize in Economics. We use semigroups of operators to derive an explicit formula for the solution of the BMS equation. (Received September 25, 2006)