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Designing Outcomes: From Yes/No Contracts to Options Basics

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As with all investments, your capital is at risk

Designing Outcomes

From Yes/No Contracts to Options Basics

STACEY GILBERT

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The Options Institute, Cboe Global Markets



Introduction

About Cboe & The OI

Cboe was founded in 1973 as the first US listed options exchange. More than 50 years later, we are now the world's go-to derivatives and securities exchange network, delivering cutting-edge trading, clearing and investment solutions to people around the world.

For over 40 years, Cboe Global markets has backed The Options Institute, Cboe's education team, for investors to learn about financial markets and derivatives products from the experts.



Stacey Gilbert

Sr. Director, The Options Institute,
Cboe Global Markets

22 years at Susquehanna International Group with experience trading options and ETFs on an exchange and trading desk, running the education program and heading the Derivative Strategy team.

6 years at Glenmede Investment Management as CIO and co-Portfolio Manager of Derivatives.

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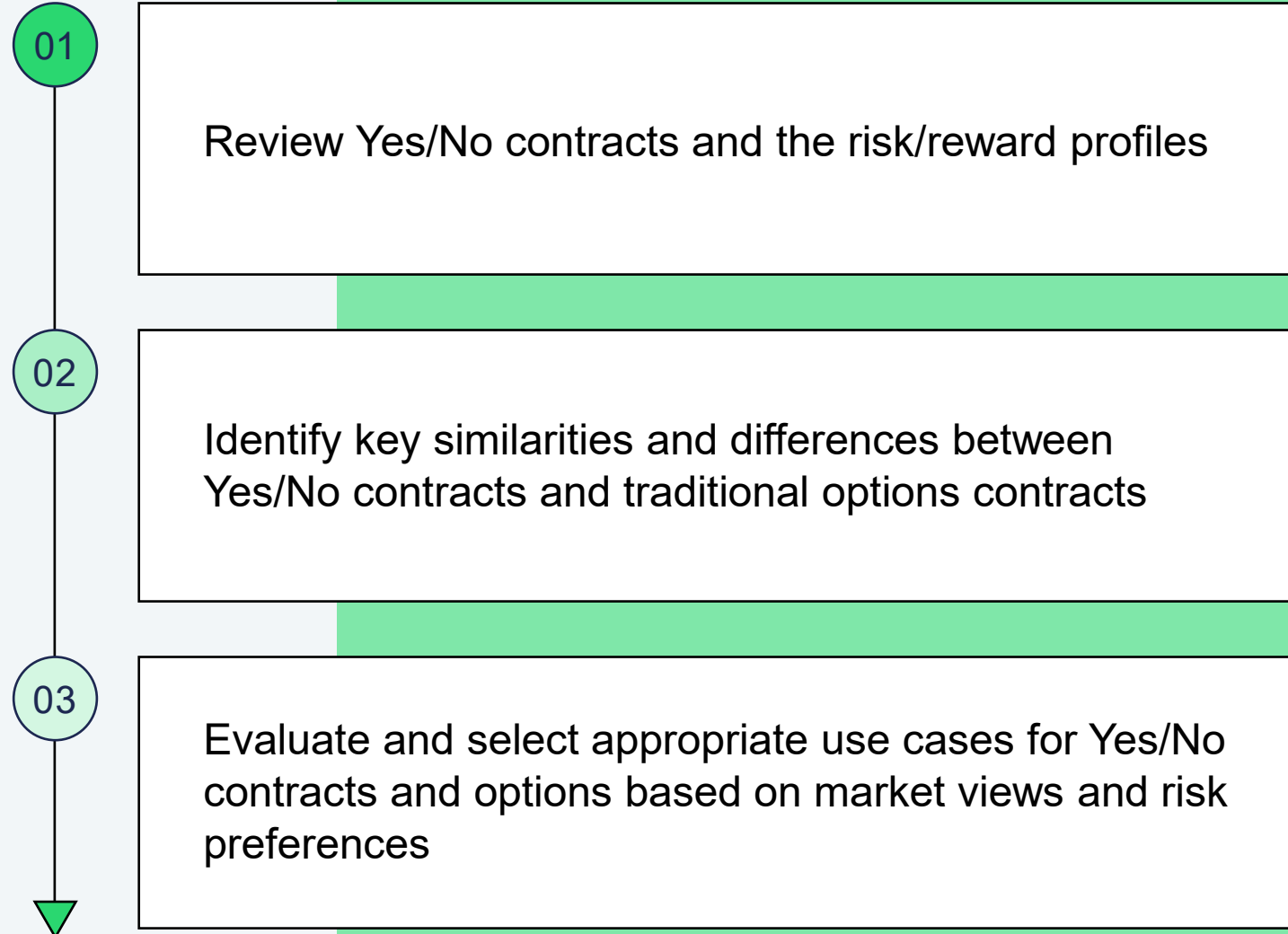
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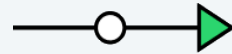
Learning Objectives



Recap: Yes/No Contracts

Exposures and Payouts

Yes/No Contract



- A Yes/No contract is a financial contract that **pays a fixed amount if a specified condition is met** at expiration, and nothing if it is not.
- In other words, it has **only two possible outcomes**: a predetermined payout or a total loss of the investment.

Hypothetical Example of Yes/No Contracts

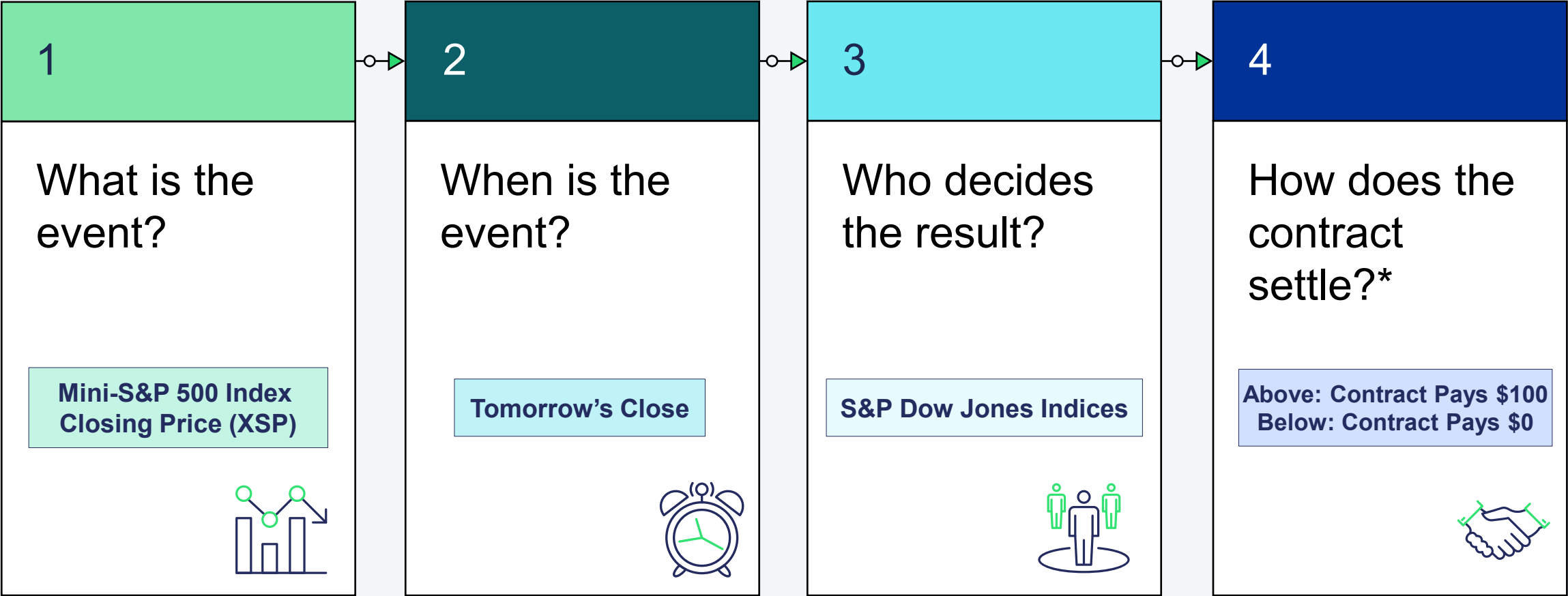
Investor 1 – Yes/No Contract

Paid **\$0.45** for a Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) “Yes” contract that the Index will finish at or above \$727 tomorrow.



Note: Cboe S&P 500 based Prediction Market Contracts have a multiplier of 100, so the total cost for the Yes/No contract is \$45.

What Are the Contract Terms?



*Cboe S&P 500-linked Prediction Market Contracts have a multiplier of 100, so the total value at expiration is \$100 (Success) or \$0 (Unsuccessful)

Payout Example: Yes/No Contract

“Yes” Contract

- Below \$727: **Lose \$45**
- At or above \$727: **Potential Profit \$55**

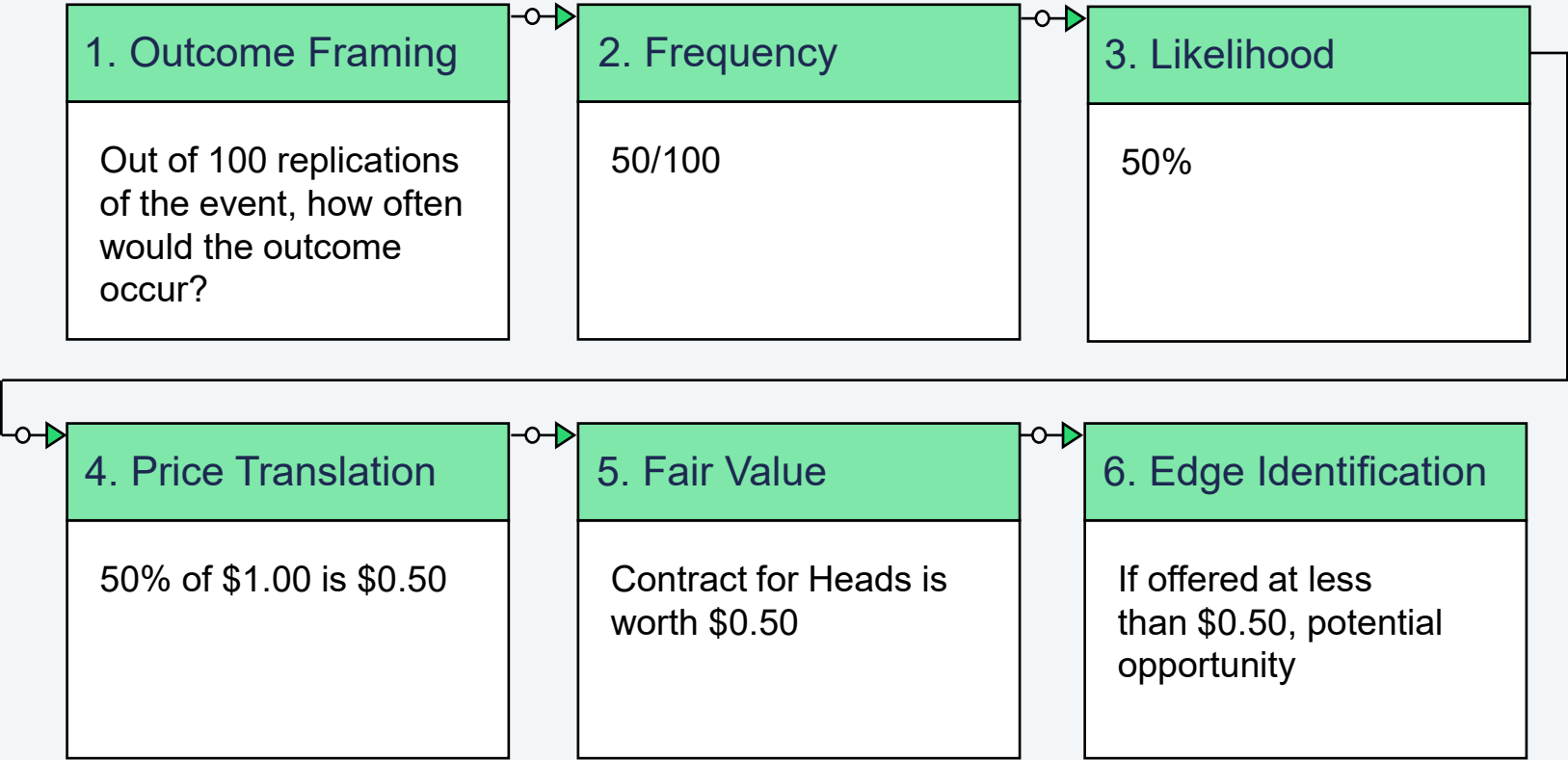


Q&A

Calculating a Fair Value for a Contract

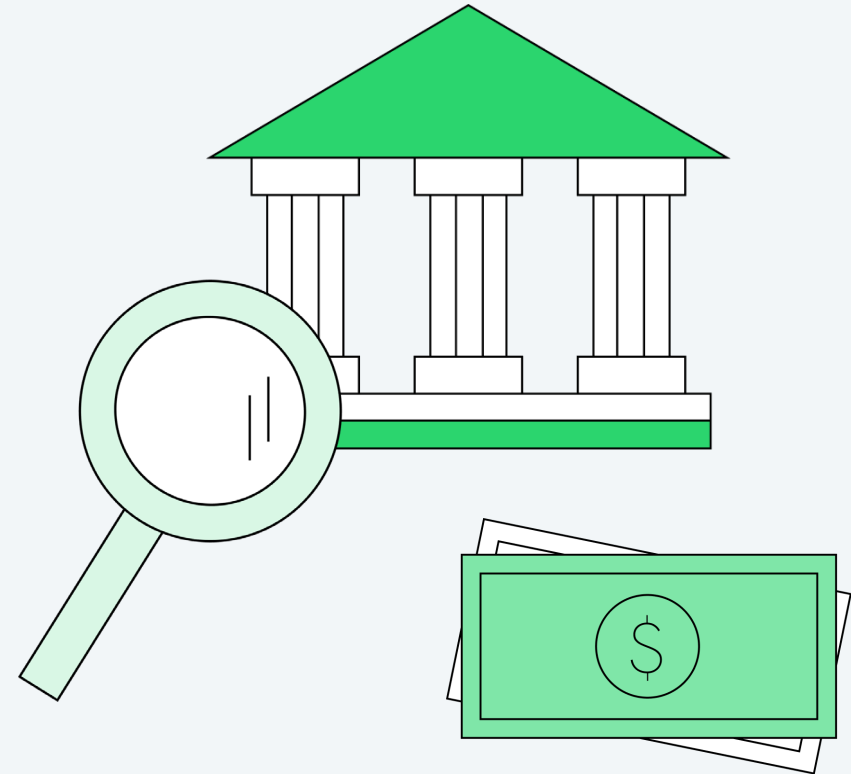
Converting Outcomes to Contract Prices

What is the likelihood of a fair coin landing on heads?



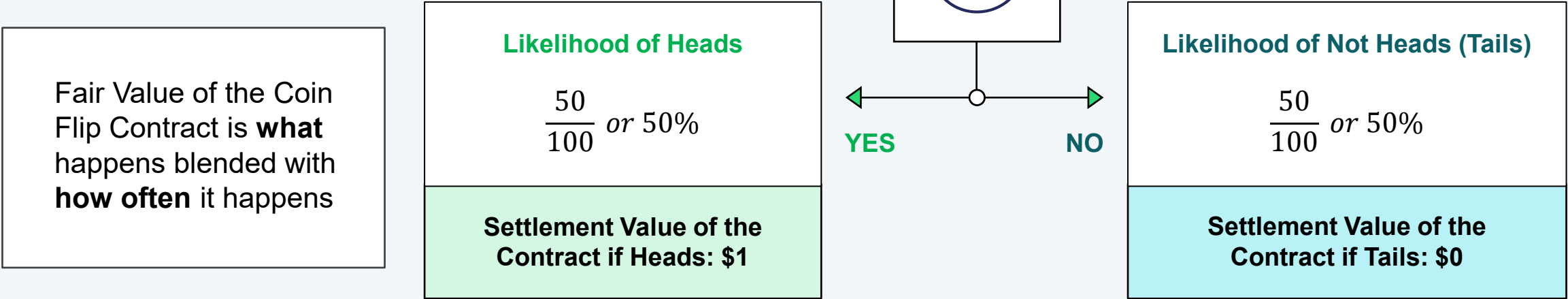
What is Price Translation?

- Turns a belief about an outcome (likelihood) into a contract price you would be willing to pay
- For a Yes/No contract, two values need to be known to determine the price translation:
 - **How likely are all outcomes of the event?**
 - **What is the contract's value at settlement of each result?**



Expansion of Price Translation Into Contract Value

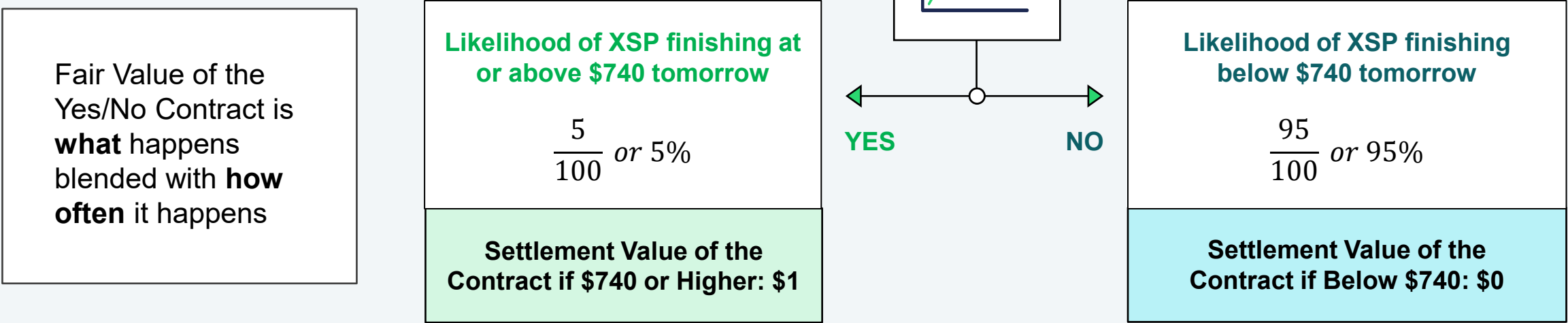
Question 2: What is the contract's value at settlement of each result?



What Happens		How Often		Fair Value of Contract
1. Heads – win \$1	+	1. Heads – 50%	=	"Yes" Value + "No" Value = Contract Value
2. Tails – win \$0		2. Tails – 50%		(50% x \$1) + (50% x \$0) = \$0.50

Expansion of Price Translation Into Contract Value

Question 2: What is the contract's value at settlement of each result?



What Happens		How Often		Fair Value of Contract
1. Above \$740 – win \$1	+	1. Above – 5%	=	“Yes” Value + “No” Value = Contract Value
2. Below \$740 – win \$0		2. Below – 95%		$(5\% \times \$1) + (95\% \times \$0) = \$0.05$

Examples: Yes/No Contracts

Will the Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) close at or above \$740 tomorrow?



Place Your Trade

YES 05c

NO 95c

Quantity (contracts)

01 - +

Quantity (contracts)

01 - +

Order Summary

Avg price

05c / contract

Total cost

\$0.05

Max payout

\$1.00

Potential gain

+\$0.95 (+1,900%)

Avg price

95c / contract

Total cost

\$0.95

Max payout

\$1.00

Potential gain

+\$0.05 (+5.30%)

Buy YES

Buy NO

Resolution Criteria

This market resolves YES if XSP closes at or above **\$740** by tomorrow, as referenced by the closing prices published by Cboe Global Markets.

Examples: “Yes” Yes/No Contracts

Will the Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) close at or above \$740 tomorrow?

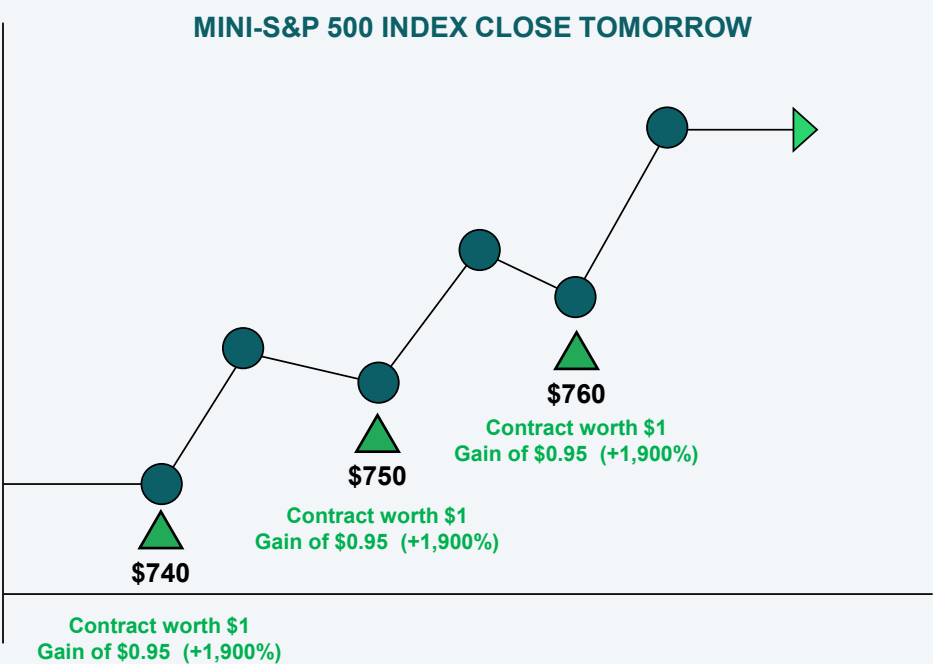


Will the Mini-S&P 500 Index close at or above \$740.00 tomorrow?

YES 05c	NO 95c
Potential gain +\$0.95 (+1,900%)	Potential gain +\$0.05 (+5.30%)

Resolution Criteria

This market resolves YES if XSP closes at or above **\$740** by tomorrow, as referenced by the closing prices published by Cboe Global Markets.



Direction & More

01

Is there a contract that allows expression of opinion on the directional move of the stock...

02

But also rewards for the **magnitude** of the move in that direction?

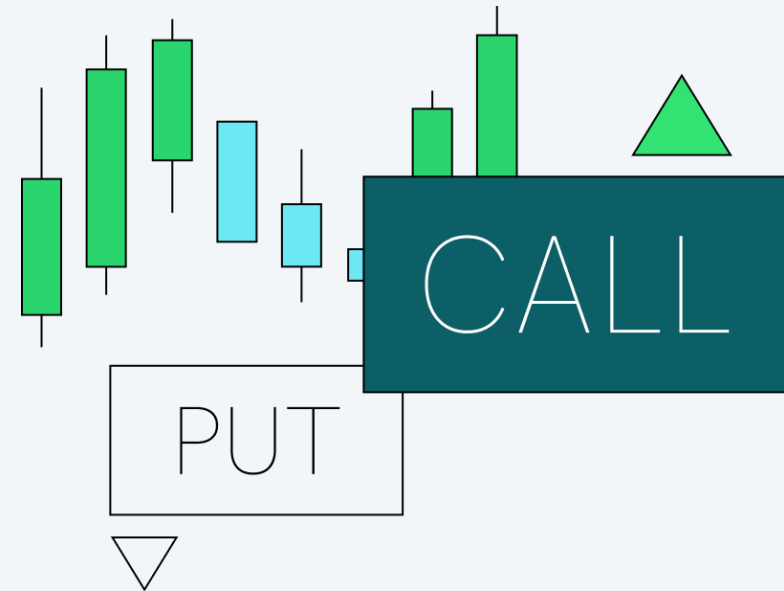


Intro to Options

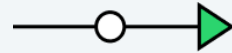
Options 101

What Is An Option?

A financial contract that conveys to the owner *the right, but not the obligation*, to buy or sell (depending on type) the underlying asset at a *specific price* within a *specific timeframe*.



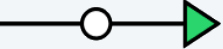
Yes/No vs. Option



- **Yes/No Contracts** pay \$1 if the outcome occurs (Yes) or \$0 if it does not (No).
- **Options Contracts** expire worthless if the outcome is not met and increases in value as the outcome is met and exceeded.

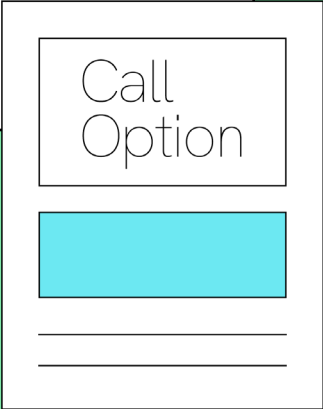
Call Options

Call Options



A financial contract that conveys to the owner the *right, but not the obligation*, to **buy** the underlying asset at *a specific price* within a *specific timeframe*.

Call
Option



Educational Disclaimer – Call Options vs. “Yes” Contracts

For educational purposes, our comparison and analysis of binary contracts to option contracts will be exclusive to Cboe-listed S&P 500 Index-linked Prediction Market “Yes” binary contracts and Cboe-listed mini-S&P 500 Index Call Options (XSP).

Please note that listed options have different types of options mechanics. We are focused on European, cash-settled options only. For more information on other types of options mechanics, consider visiting The Options Institute Learnings Portal (cboe.com/OILP) or join us for **Options 101 & Office Hours**.

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“Yes” Contract vs. Long Call Option

Will the Mini-S&P 500 Index close at or above \$740.00 tomorrow?
(Current price \$726.05)

YES 05c

Potential gain
+\$0.95 (+1,900%)

NO 95c

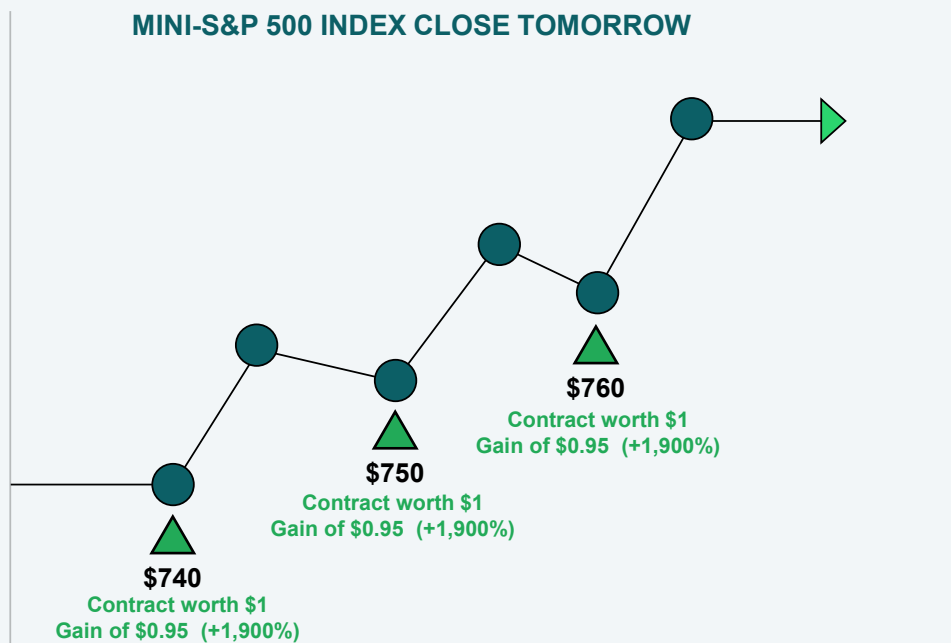
Potential gain
+\$0.05 (+5.30%)

Fair value of a call contract with a \$740 strike on the Mini-S&P 500 Index expiring tomorrow?
(Current price \$726.05)

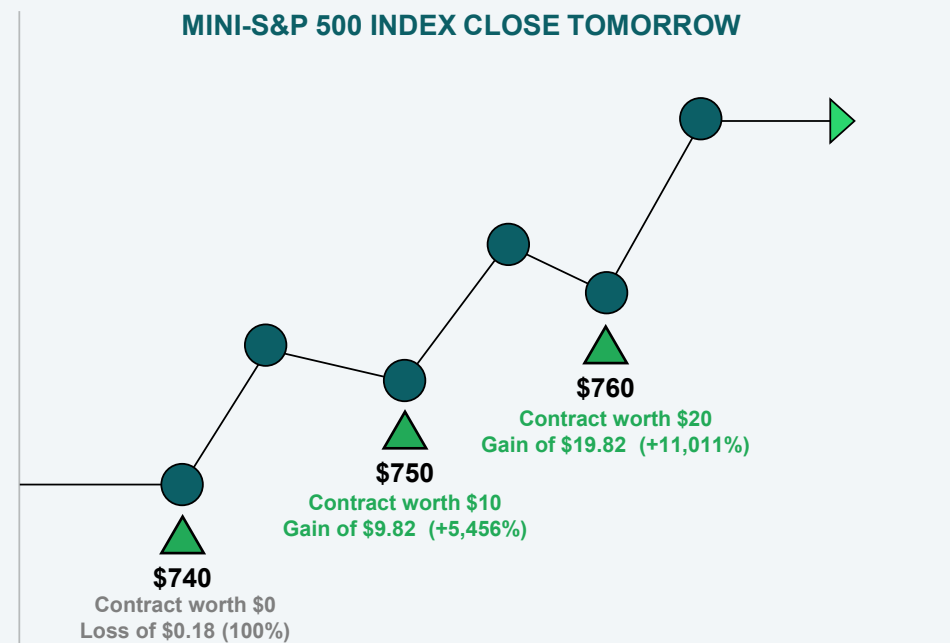
18c

Potential gain
?

MINI-S&P 500 INDEX CLOSE TOMORROW



MINI-S&P 500 INDEX CLOSE TOMORROW



“Yes” Contract vs. Buying Call Option on Mini-S&P 500 Index

“Yes” Contract¹

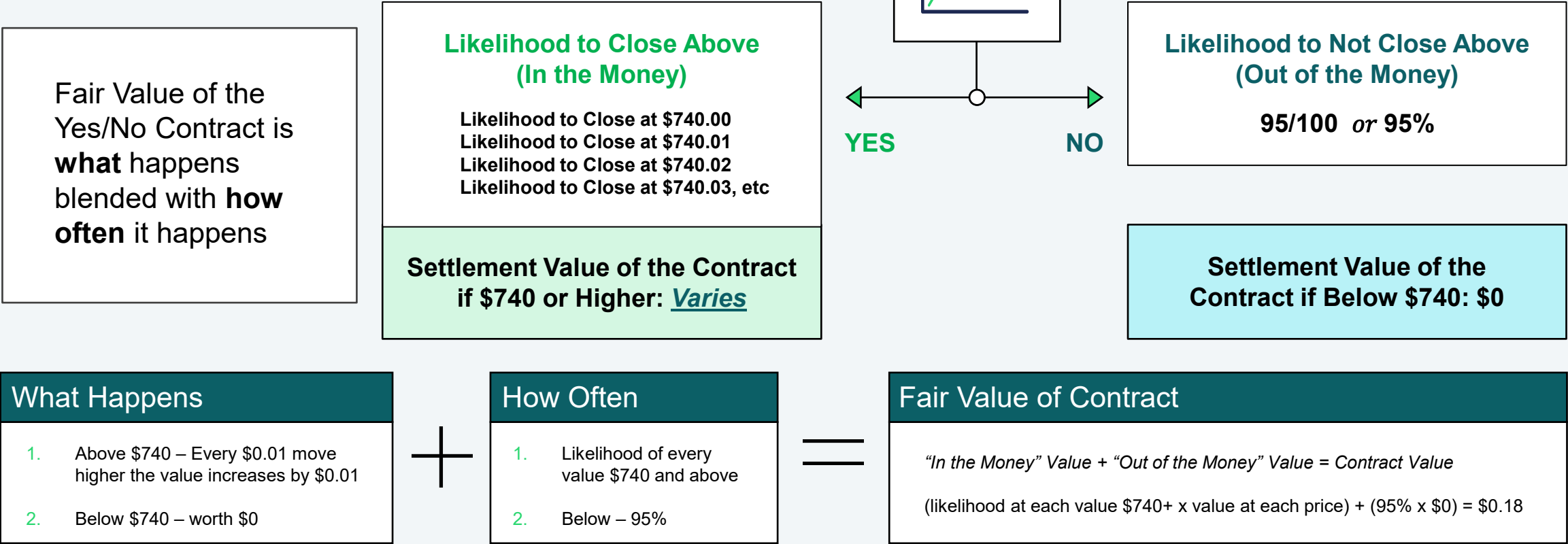
Buying Call Option²

¹ “Yes” contracts are Cboe S&P 500 based prediction market Yes/No contracts.

² Call Options on Cboe’s Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) are European, cash-settled. For more information about options mechanics, please visit The Options Institute Learning Portal (www.cboe.com/oilp)

Expansion of Price Translation Into Contract Value

Question 2: What is the contract's value at settlement of each result?



Hypothetical Example of Yes/No vs. Call Options

Investor 1 – Yes/No Contract

Paid **\$0.05** for a Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) “Yes” contract that the Index will finish at or above \$740 tomorrow.

Investor 2 – Call Option

Paid **\$0.18** for a Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) 740 strike call that expires tomorrow.

Today's XSP Price
\$726.05



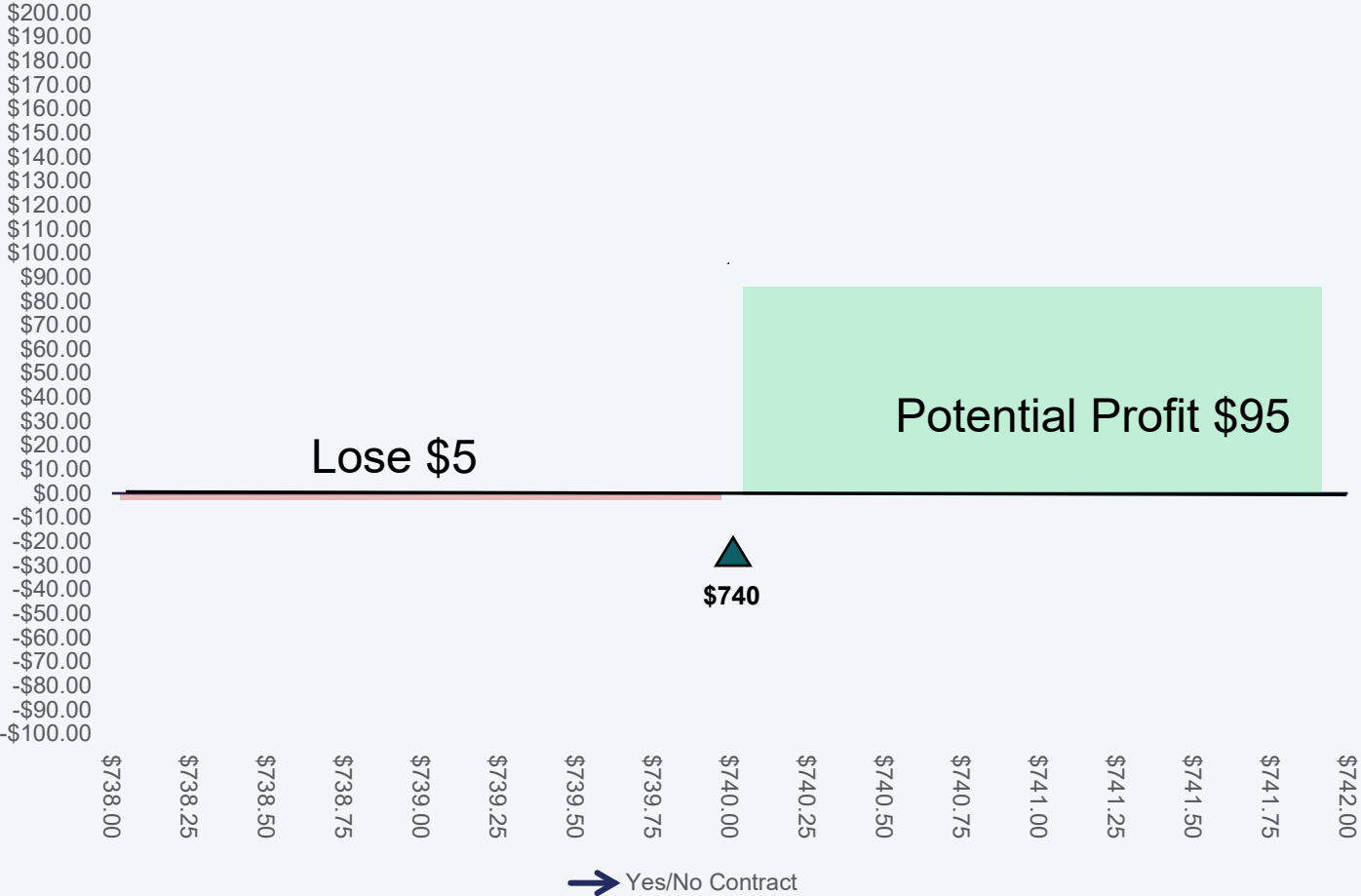
Note: Cboe S&P 500 based Prediction Market Contracts have a multiplier of 100, so the total cost for the Yes/No contract is \$5. US Listed options also have a multiplier of 100, so the total cost for the call contract is \$18.

Payout Comparison: “Yes” Contract vs. Call Option

“Yes” Contract

- Below \$740: **Lose \$5**
- At or above \$740: **Potential Profit \$95**

“Yes” Yes/No Contract vs. Long Call Option



Payout Comparison: Yes/No Contract vs. Call Option

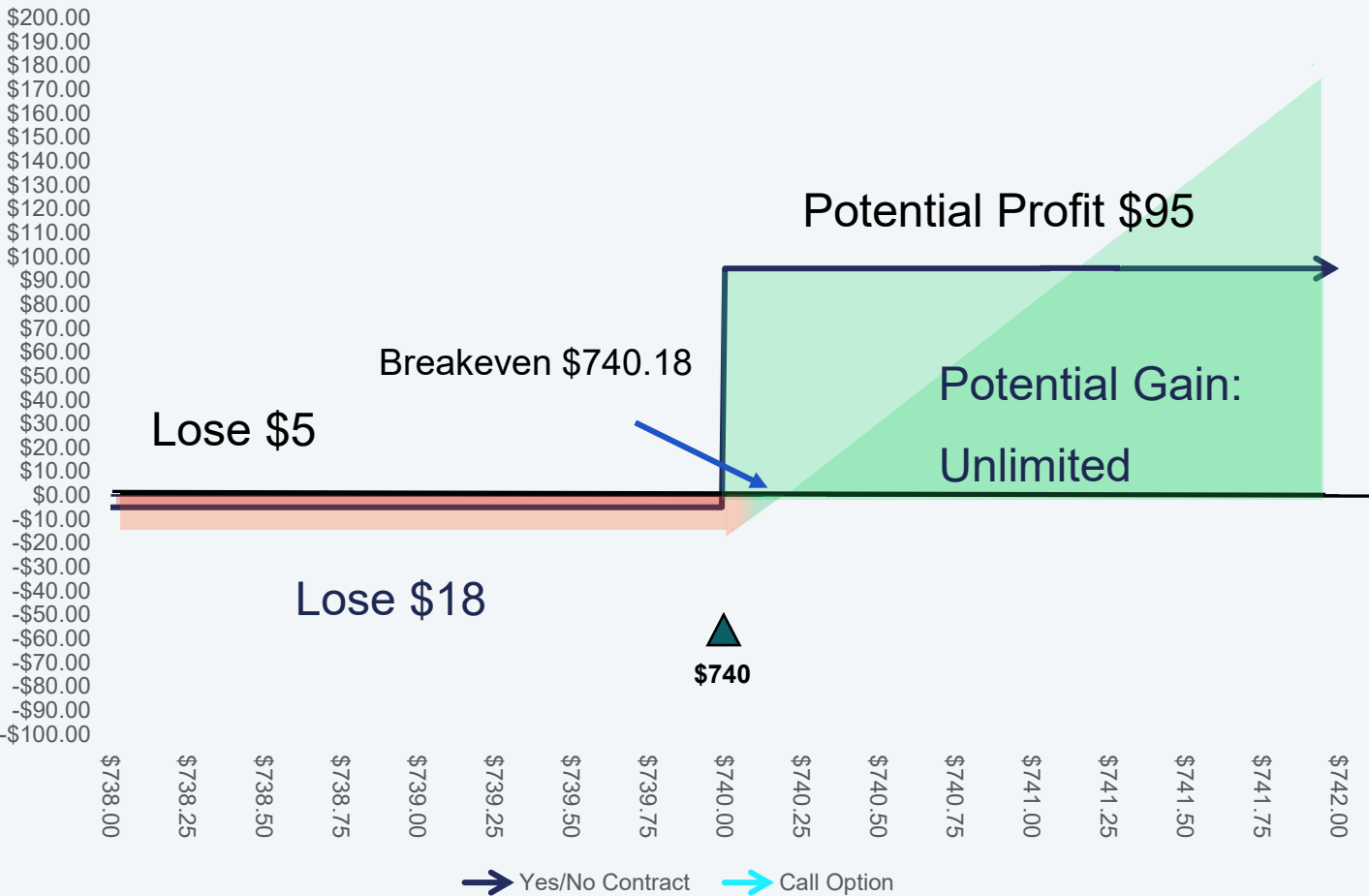
“Yes” Contract

- Below \$740: **Lose \$5**
- At or above \$740: **Potential Profit \$95**

Call Option

- Below \$740: **Lose \$18**
- At or above \$740: **Unlimited Potential Gain (potential gains start after breakeven)**

“Yes” Yes/No Contract vs. Long Call Option



Use Cases – “Yes” Binary Contract vs. Buying Call Option

“Yes” Contract¹

Buying Call Option²

¹ “Yes” contracts are Cboe S&P 500 based prediction market Yes/No contracts.

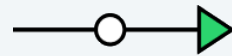
² Call Options on Cboe’s Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) are European, cash-settled. For more information about options mechanics, please visit The Options Institute Learning Portal (www.cboe.com/oilp)

³ Assumes same strike/contract level and same expiration date

Q&A

Put Options

Put Options



A financial contract that conveys to the owner the *right, but not the obligation*, to **sell** the underlying asset at a *specific price* within a *specific timeframe*.

Put
Option

Educational Disclaimer – Put Options vs. “No” Contracts

For educational purposes, our comparison and analysis of binary contracts to option contracts will be exclusive to Cboe-listed S&P 500 Index-linked Prediction Market “No” binary contracts and Cboe-listed mini-S&P 500 Index Put Options (XSP).

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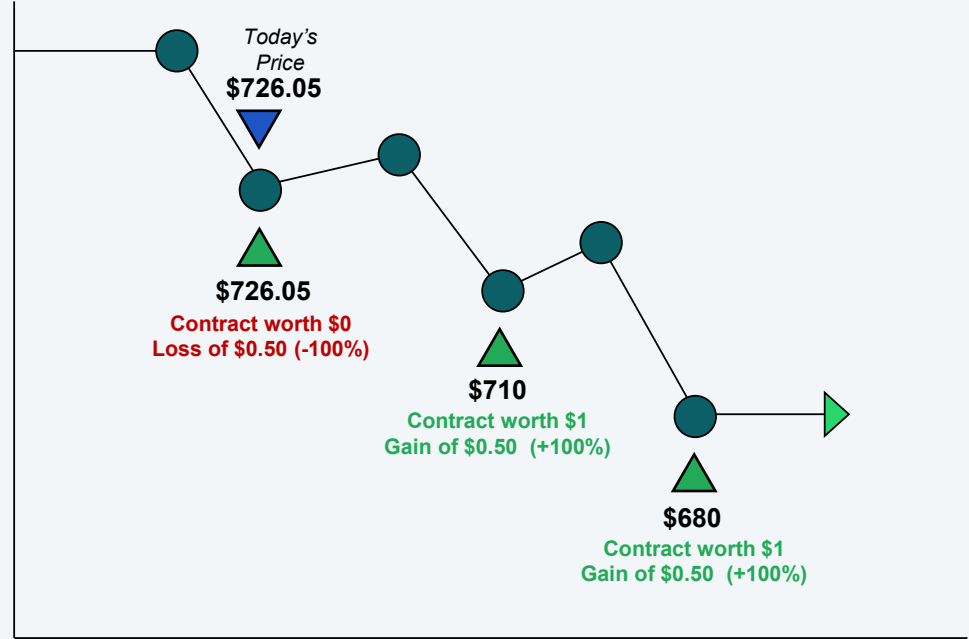
“No” Contract vs. Long Put Option

Will the Mini-S&P 500 Index close above \$726.05 tomorrow?
(Current price \$726.05)

YES 50c
Potential gain
+\$0.50 (+100%)

NO 50c
Potential gain
+\$0.50 (+100%)

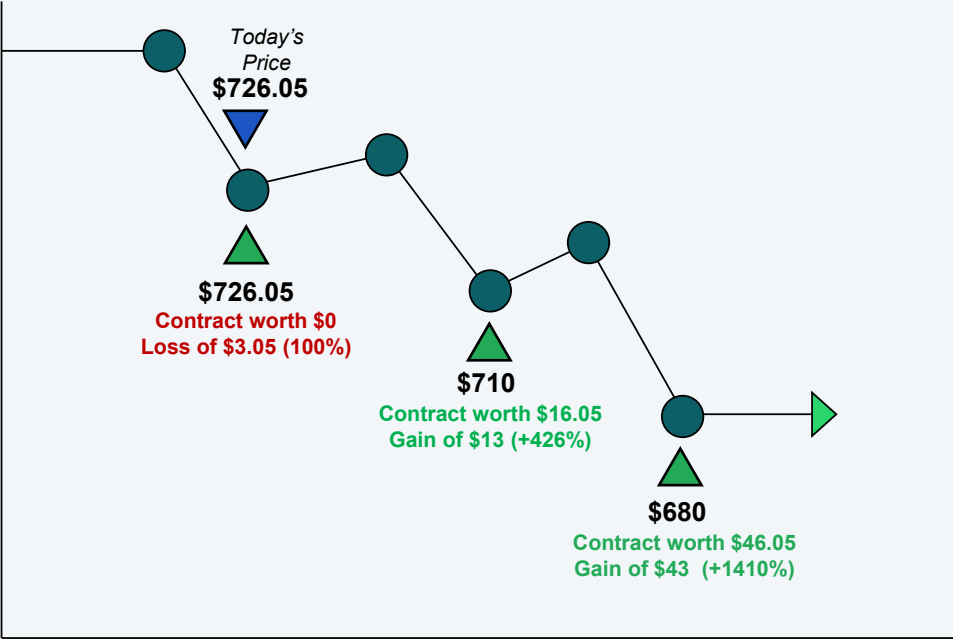
MINI-S&P 500 INDEX CLOSE TOMORROW



Fair value of options contract gaining exposure to the Mini-S&P 500 Index close below \$726.05 tomorrow?
(Current price \$726.05)

\$3.05
Potential gain
?

MINI-S&P 500 INDEX CLOSE TOMORROW



“No” Contract vs. Buying Put Option on Mini-S&P 500 Index

“No” Contract¹

Buying Put Option²

¹ “No” contracts are Cboe S&P 500 based prediction market Yes/No contracts.

² Put Options on Cboe’s Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) are European, cash-settled. For more information about options mechanics, please visit The Options Institute Learning Portal (www.cboe.com/oilp)

Hypothetical Example of Yes/No vs. Long Put Options

Investor 1 – Yes/No Contract

Paid **\$0.50** for a Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) “No” contract that the Index will finish below \$726.05 tomorrow.

Investor 2 – Put Option

Paid **\$3.05** for a Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) 726.05 strike put that expires tomorrow.

Today's XSP Price
\$726.05



Note: Cboe S&P 500 based Prediction Market Contracts have a multiplier of 100, so the total cost for the Yes/No contract is \$50. US Listed options also have a multiplier of 100, so the total cost for the call contract is \$305.

Payout Comparison: Yes/No Contract vs. Call Option

“No” Yes/No Contract vs. Long Put Option

“No” Contract

- At or above \$726.05: **Lose \$50**
- Below \$726.05: **Potential Profit \$50**



Payout Comparison: “No” Contract vs. Put Option

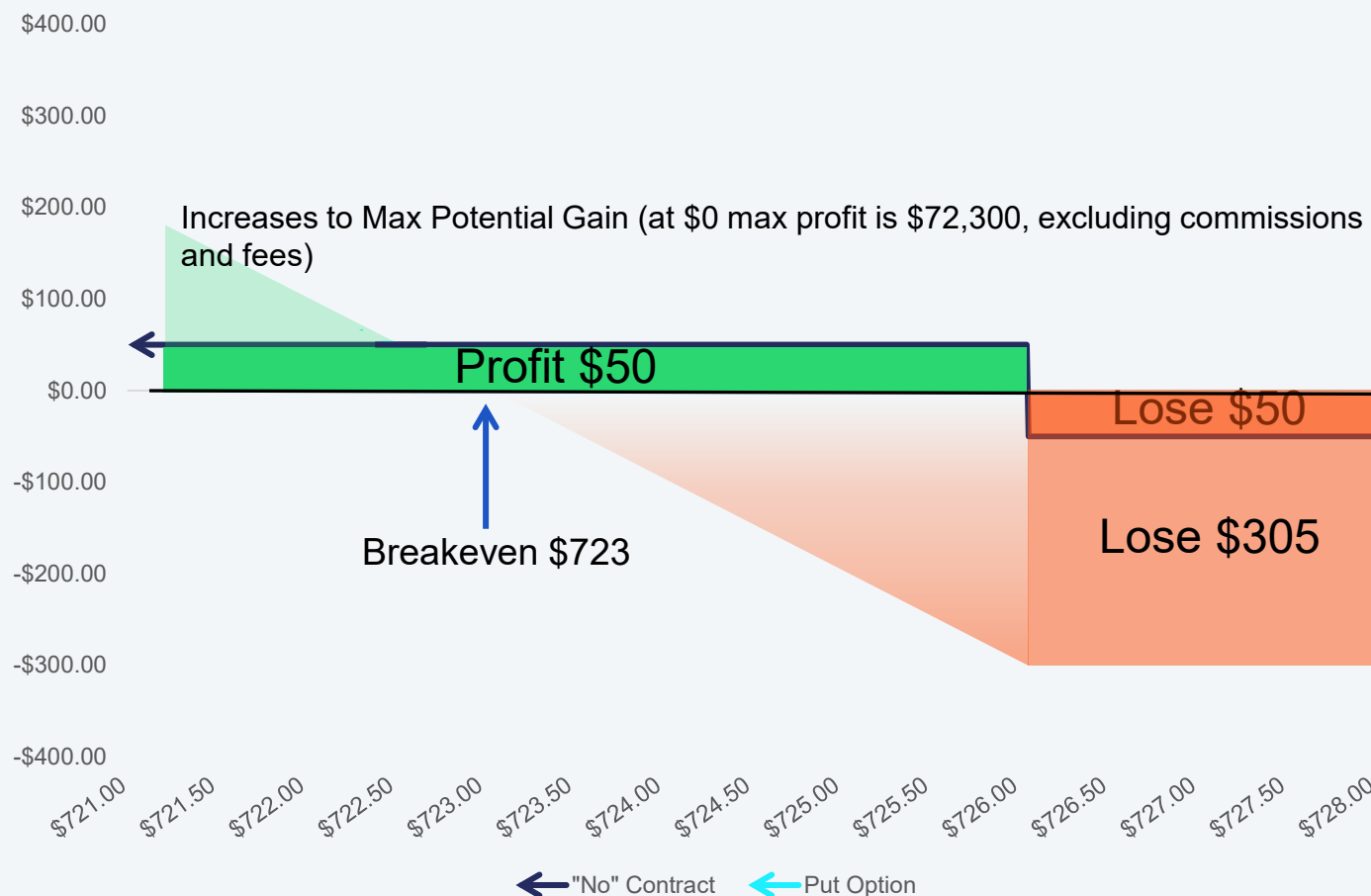
“No” Contract

- At or above \$726.05: **Lose \$50**
- Below \$726.05: **Potential Profit \$50**

Put Option

- At or above \$726.05: **Lose \$305**
- Below \$726.05: **Notable Potential Gain (potential gains start after breakeven...)**

“No” Yes/No Contract vs. Long Put Option



Use Cases – “No” Contract vs. Buying Put Option

“No” Contract¹

Buying Put Option¹

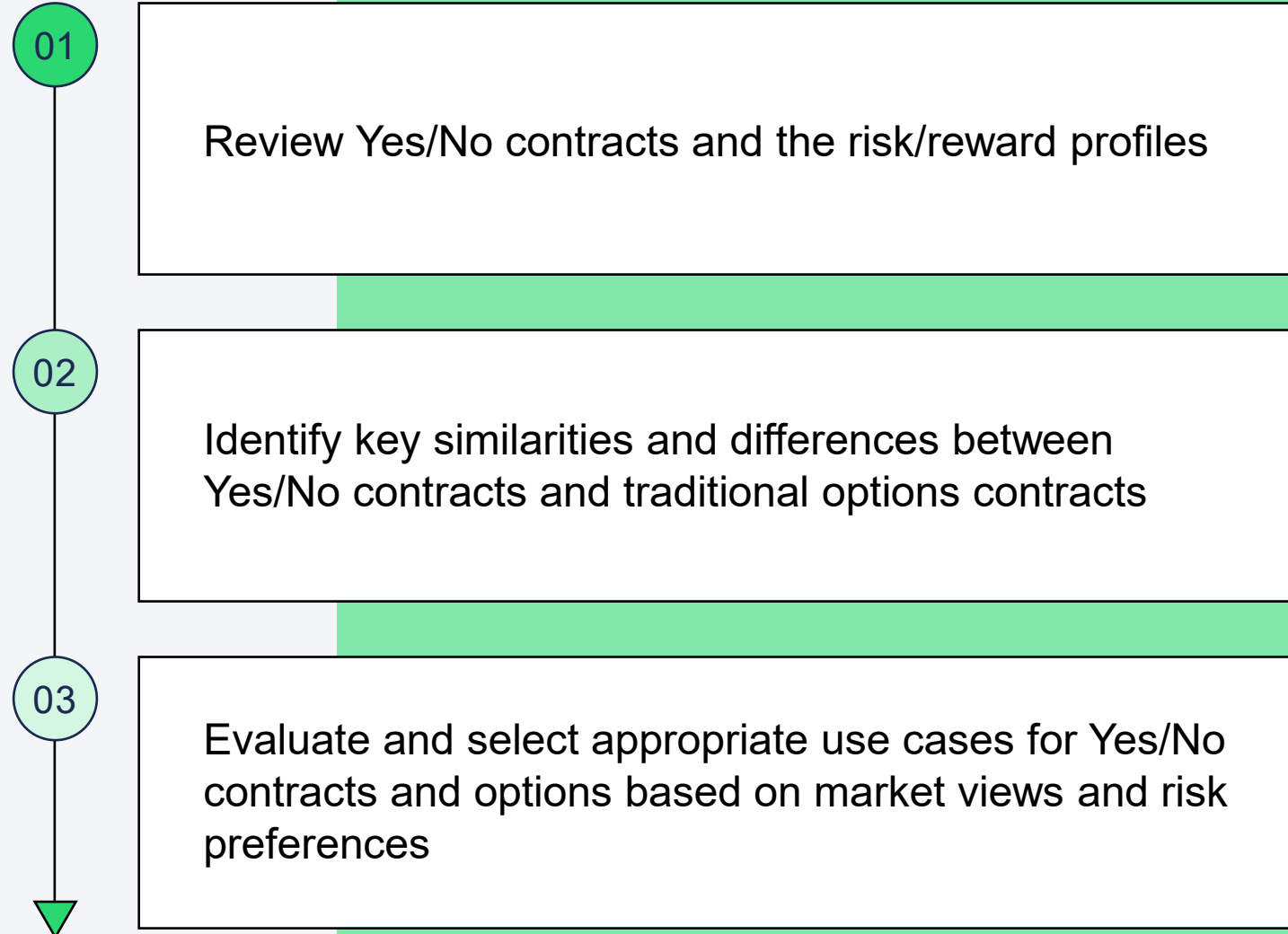
¹ “Yes” contracts are Cboe S&P 500 based prediction market Yes/No contracts.

² Call Options on Cboe’s Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP) are European, cash-settled. For more information about options mechanics, please visit The Options Institute Learning Portal (www.cboe.com/oilp)

³ Assumes same strike/contract level and same expiration date

Q&A

Review



Q&A

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Uncovered option writing is suitable only for the knowledgeable market participant who understands the risks, has the financial capacity and willingness to incur potentially substantial losses, and has sufficient liquid assets to meet applicable margin requirements. In this regard, if the value of the underlying instrument moves against an uncovered writer's options position, the writer may incur large losses in that options position and the participant's broker may require significant additional margin payments. If a market participant does not make those margin payments, the broker may liquidate positions in the market participant's account with little or no prior notice in accordance with the market participant's margin agreement.

Futures

Trading in futures, including futures on digital assets, and options on futures is not suitable for all market participants and involves the risk of loss, which can be substantial and can exceed the amount of money deposited for a futures or options on futures position. You should, therefore, carefully consider whether trading in futures and options on futures is suitable for you in light of your circumstances and financial resources. You should put at risk only funds that you can afford to lose without affecting your lifestyle.

For additional information regarding the risks associated with trading futures and options on futures and with trading security futures, see respectively the [Risk Disclosure Statement Referenced in CFTC Letter 16-82](#) and the [Risk Disclosure Statement for Security Futures Contracts](#).

Taxes

No Cboe Company is an investment adviser or tax advisor, and no representation is made regarding the advisability or tax consequences of investing in, holding, or selling any financial product. A decision to invest in, hold, or sell any financial product should not be made in reliance on any of the statements or information provided. Market participants are advised to make an investment in, hold, or sell any financial product only after carefully considering the associated risks and tax consequences, including information detailed in any offering memorandum or similar document prepared by or on behalf of the issuer of a financial product, with the advice of a qualified professional investment adviser and tax advisor.

Under section 1256 of the Tax Code, profit and loss on transactions in certain exchange-traded options and futures are entitled to be taxed at a rate equal to 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gain or loss, provided that the market participants involved and the strategy employed satisfy the criteria of the Tax Code. Market participants should consult with their tax advisors to determine how the profit and loss on any particular option or futures strategy will be taxed. Tax laws and regulations change from time to time and may be subject to varying interpretations.

VIX® Index and VIX® Index Products

The Cboe Volatility Index® (known as the VIX Index) is calculated and administered by Cboe Global Indices, LLC. The VIX Index is a financial benchmark designed to be a market estimate of expected volatility of the S&P 500® Index, and is calculated using the midpoint of quotes of certain S&P 500 Index options as further described in the methodology, rules and other information [here](#).

VIX futures, Mini VIX futures, and Options on VIX futures traded on Cboe Futures Exchange, LLC and VIX options traded on Cboe Options Exchange, Inc. (collectively, “VIX® Index Products”) are based on the VIX Index. VIX Index Products are complicated financial products only suitable for sophisticated market participants.

Transacting in VIX Index Products involves the risk of loss, which can be substantial and can exceed the amount of money deposited for a VIX Index Product position (except when buying options on VIX Index Products, in which case the potential loss is limited to the purchase price of the options).

Market participants should put at risk only funds that they can afford to lose without affecting their lifestyles.

Before transacting in VIX Index Products, market participants should fully inform themselves about the VIX Index and the characteristics and risks of VIX Index Products, including those described here. Market participants also should make sure they understand the product specifications for VIX Index Products ([VIX futures](#), [Mini VIX futures](#), [VIX options](#), and [Options on VIX Futures](#)) and the methodologies for calculating the underlying VIX Index and the settlement values for VIX Index Products. Answers to questions frequently asked about VIX Index products and how they are settled is available [here](#).

Not Buy and Hold Investment: VIX Index Products are not suitable to buy and hold because:

- On their settlement date, VIX futures, Mini VIX futures, and VIX options convert into a right to receive or an obligation to pay cash. Options on VIX Futures convert into a right to receive VIX futures on their settlement date.
- The VIX Index generally tends to revert to or near its long-term average, rather than increase or decrease over the long term.

Volatility: The VIX Index is subject to greater percentage swings in a short period of time than is typical for stocks or stock indices, including the S&P 500 Index.

Expected Relationships: Expected relationships with other financial indicators or financial products may not hold. In particular:

- Although the VIX Index generally tends to be negatively correlated with the S&P 500 Index - such that one tends to move upward when the other moves downward and vice versa - that relationship is not always maintained.
- The prices for the nearest expiration of a VIX Index Product generally tend to move in relationship with movements in the VIX Index. However, this relationship may be undercut, depending on, for example, the amount of time to expiration for the VIX Index Product and on supply and demand in the market for that product.
- Mini VIX futures contracts trade separately from regular-sized VIX futures, so the prices and quotations for Mini VIX futures and regular-sized VIX futures may differ because of, for example, possible differences in the liquidity of those markets.

Final settlement Value: The method for calculating the final settlement value or exercise settlement value of a VIX Index Product is different from the method for calculating the VIX Index at times other than settlement, so there can be a divergence between the final settlement value or exercise settlement value of a VIX Index Product and the VIX Index value immediately before or after settlement. (See the SOQ Auction Information section [here](#) for additional information.)

Exchange Traded Products ("ETPs")

Cboe does not endorse or sell any ETP or other financial product, including those investment products that are or may be based on a Cboe index or methodology or on a non-Cboe index that is based on investment products trading on a Cboe Company exchange (e.g., VIX futures); and Cboe makes no representations regarding the advisability of investing in such products. An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of these products carefully before investing. Investors also should carefully review the information provided in the prospectuses for these products.

Investments in ETPs involve risk, including the possible loss of principal, and are not appropriate for all investors. Non-traditional ETPs, including leveraged and inverse ETPs, pose additional risks and can result in magnified gains or losses in an investment. Specific risks relating to investment in an ETP are outlined in the fund prospectus and may include concentration risk, correlation risk, counterparty risk, credit risk, market risk, interest rate risk, volatility risk, tracking error risk, among others. Investors should consult with their tax advisors to determine how the profit and loss on any particular investment strategy will be taxed.

Cboe Strategy Benchmark Indices

Cboe Strategy Benchmark Indices are calculated and administered by Cboe Global Indices, LLC as described in the methodologies, rules and other information available [here](#) using information believed to be reliable, including market data from exchanges owned and operated by other Cboe Companies.

Strategy Benchmark Indices are designed to measure the performance of hypothetical portfolios comprised of one or more derivative instruments and other assets used as collateral. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Strategy Benchmark Indices are not financial products that can be invested in directly, but can be used as the basis for financial products or managing portfolios.

The actual performance of financial products such as mutual funds or managed accounts can differ significantly from the performance of the underlying index due to execution timing, market disruptions, lack of liquidity, brokerage expenses, transaction costs, tax consequences and other considerations that may not be applicable to the subject index.

Index and Benchmark Values Prior to Launch Date

Index and benchmark values for the period prior to an index's launch date are calculated by a theoretical approach involving back-testing historical data in accordance with the methodology in place on the launch date (unless otherwise stated). A limitation of back-testing is that it reflects the theoretical application of the index or benchmark methodology and selection of the index's constituents in hindsight. Back-testing may not result in performance commensurate with prospective application of a methodology, especially during periods of high economic stress in which adjustments might be made. No back-tested approach can completely account for the impact of decisions that might have been made if calculations were made at the same time as the underlying market conditions occurred. There are numerous factors related to markets that cannot be, and have not been, accounted for in the preparation of back-tested index and benchmark information.

Extended Trading Hours

Trading outside of regular trading hours (during Global Trading Hours, Extended Trading Hours, and/or Curb Trading Hours) involves material trading risks, including the possibility of lower liquidity, high volatility, changing prices, an exaggerated effect from news announcements, wider spreads, the absence of an updated underlying index or portfolio value or intraday indicative value, the lack of regular trading in the securities underlying an index or portfolio, and other relevant risks. The rules of Cboe U.S. securities exchanges, including Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe Options”) Rule 9.20, further describe these risks and provide that no Trading Permit Holder or Member may accept an order from a customer for execution during these time frames without disclosing these risks to that customer. These risks also exist when trading during these time frames on other Cboe exchanges and markets.

Digital Asset Futures

The volatility and unpredictability of the price of digital assets relative to fiat currency may result in significant loss in digital asset futures over a short period of time. Certain digital assets have experienced extreme daily price volatility.

There are material risks associated with the clearing of digital asset futures contracts, including but not limited to theft, loss, or hack of the underlying digital asset.

Legislative and regulatory changes or actions at the state, federal, or international level may adversely affect the use, transfer, exchange, and value of digital assets.

The value of digital asset futures may be derived from the continued willingness of market participants to exchange fiat currency for digital assets, which may result in the potential for permanent and total loss of value of a particular digital asset should the market for that digital asset diminish or disappear.

The nature of digital assets may lead to an increased risk of fraud or a cybersecurity event. A cybersecurity event could result in a substantial, immediate, and irreversible loss for market participants that invest in digital asset futures. Even a minor cybersecurity event in a digital asset is likely to result in downward price pressure on that digital asset and related digital asset futures and potentially other digital assets and digital asset futures.

The ability to participate in forks could also have implications. For example, if you hold digital asset futures positions through a Cboe Company, you may be adversely impacted if those digital asset futures do not reflect a fork that creates a new digital asset.

Foreign Jurisdictions

Nothing in the information provided should be considered a solicitation to buy or an offer to sell any financial product in any jurisdiction where the offer or solicitation would be unlawful under the laws of that jurisdiction.

No Cboe entity provides or markets, or purports to provide or market, financial services of any kind in any jurisdiction in which that Cboe entity is not registered, licensed, or authorized to provide or market those services; where the provision or marketing of those services by that Cboe entity would be contrary to local laws or regulations; or where that Cboe entity is not otherwise permitted under applicable law to provide or market those services. The information contained in this document and other information disseminated by or in relation to a Cboe entity or the financial services provided by that Cboe entity is not directed to any person in any of these jurisdictions. Access to this information shall be at the liability of the user. If a person undertakes any trades on a Cboe entity trading venue from any of these jurisdictions, those trades will be at the sole risk of that person and should always be made in compliance with the local laws and regulations.

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