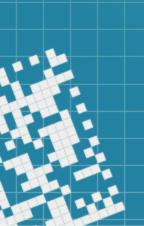
Options Fundamentals Ep 6

Demystifying the Greeks: Theta

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Disclaimer

This presentation is for educational purposes only. Nothing in this presentation is intended to be trading or financial advice.

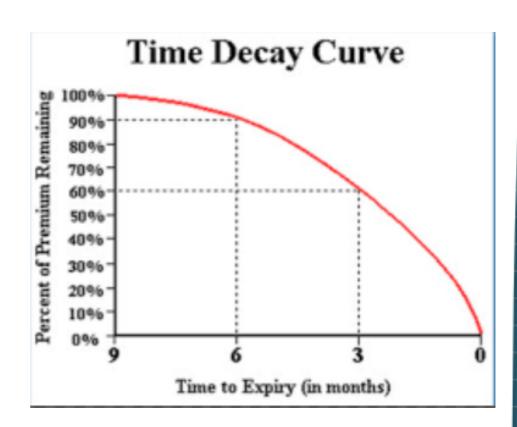


What is Theta?

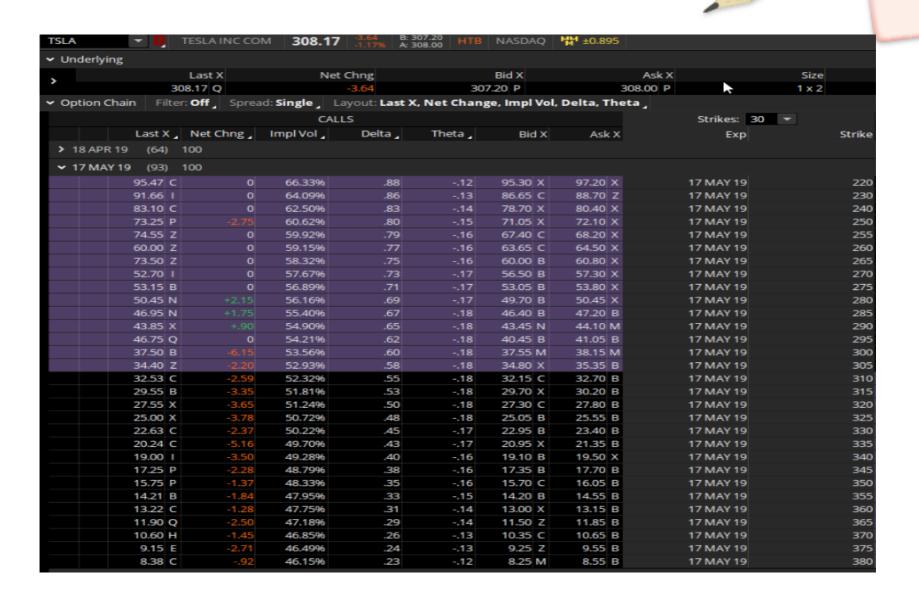
- Extrinsic Value
 - Volatility
 - Time
- All extrinsic goes away at expiration
- Theta measures the affect on the price of an option after the passage of a unit of time (day)
 - It measures the effect of <u>time decay</u> on the option price

Theta Behavior

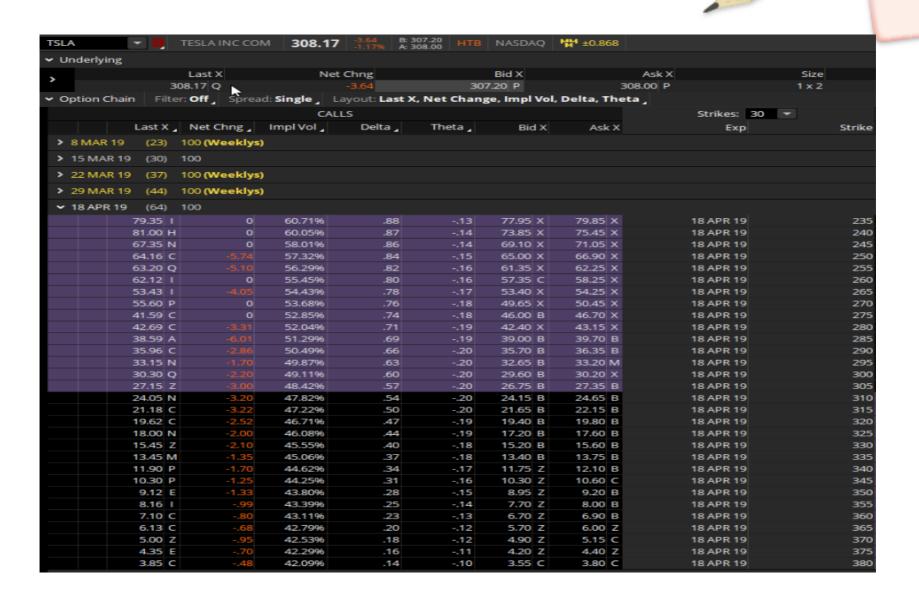
- Theta moves at the square root of time
 - As you move out in time it goes up slower
 - As you get closer to expiration, it accelerates
- This behavior is most true ATM
 - ITM/OTM options move more linearly with respect to time



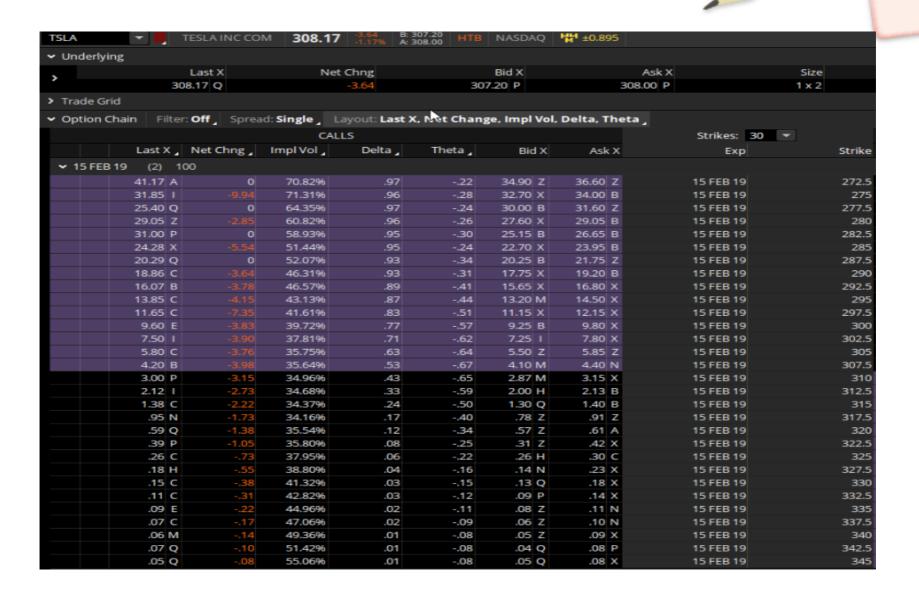
Theta @ 90 days



Theta @ 60 days



Theta @ 2 days



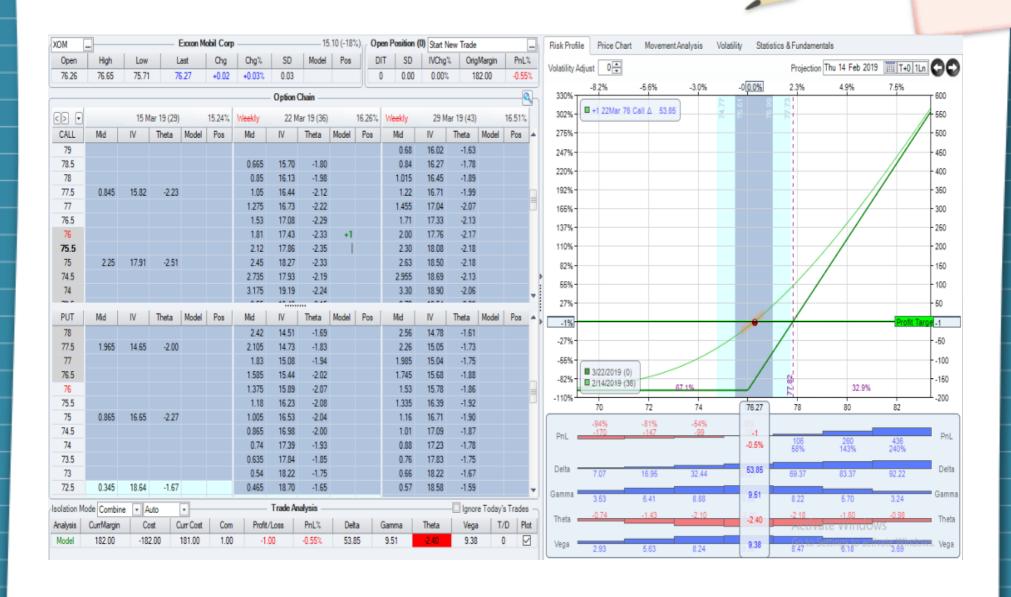
Real-World Theta

- Theta is a theoretical value
- In the real world, theta does not necessarily decay at an even rate even throughout a week
- Due to markets being closed on weekends, theta will come out faster starting around Weds/ Thurs to account for the weekend
 - If it didn't, everyone would sell options near the close on Fri and buy them back at the open on Mon.

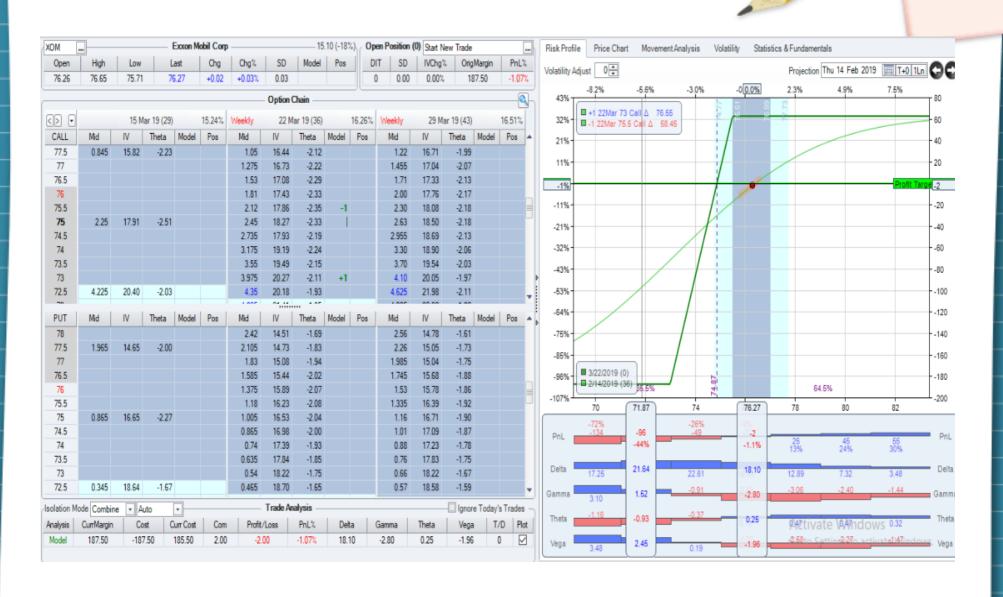
Why Do Traders Care?

- Theta decay is a foe of option buyers and a friend to option sellers
- Some traders like to trade spreads where they sell more theta than they buy, thus the trade has positive theta and time works in favor of the trade.

Long Call: Negative Theta



Long Call Spread: Positive Theta



Summary

- Theta quantifies the amount an option will decay over time (typically per day)
- Options decay faster ATM and faster as expiration approaches
- Theta works for option sellers and against options buyers
- Spreads can be used to create positive theta by selling more time decay than you buy

