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Glossary of Concepts and Terms

Annual amount or worth (A or AW) Equivalent uniform annual worth of all cash inflows and outflows over estimated life.

Annual operating cost (AOC) Estimated annual costs to maintain and support an alternative Measure of central tendency; average of sample values

Average (\overline{X})

Benefit/cost ratio (B/C) Ratio of a project's benefits to costs expressed in PW, AW, or FW terms.

Bond dividend (I) Dividend (interest) paid periodically on a bond.

Book value (BV) Remaining investment in an asset after depreciation is removed.

Borrowing rate (ib) Interest rate on externally borrowed capital funds.

Breakeven point (QBE) Quantity at which revenues and costs are equal, or two alternatives are equivalent. Capital recovery (CR) Equivalent annual cost of owning an asset plus the required return on the initial investment.

Capitalized cost (CC or P) Present worth of an alternative that will last forever (or a long time).

Cash flow (CF) Actual cash amounts, which are receipts (inflows) and disbursements (outflows).

Cash flow before or after taxes (CFBT or CFAT) Cash flow amount before relevant taxes or after taxes are applied.

Compounding frequency (m)Number of times interest is compounded per period (year).

Cost estimating relationships (C_2 or C_T) Relations that use design variables and changing costs over time to estimate current and future costs.

Cost of capital (WACC) Interest rate paid for the use of capital funds; for debt and equity considered, it is weighted average cost of capital.

Debt-equity mix (D-E) Percentages of debt and equity investment capital used by a corporation to fund projects.

Depreciation (D) Reduction in the value of assets using specific models and rules; there are book and tax depreciation methods.

Depreciation rate (d) Annual rate for reducing the value of assets using depreciation. Economic service life (ESL) Number of years at which the AW of costs is a minimum. Expenses (E) All corporate costs incurred in transacting business.

First cost (P and B) Total initial cost—purchase, setup, etc.; also the basis for depreciation. Future amount or worth (F or FW) Amount at some future date considering time value of money. Gradient, arithmetic (G) Uniform change (+ or -) in cash flow each time period Gradient, geometric (g) Constant rate of change (+ or -) each time period Gross income (GI) Income from all sources for corporations or individuals Inflation rate (f) Rate that reflects changes in the value of currency over time.

Interest Simple interest is based on the principal only; compounding accrues interest on principal plus all accumulated interest. Interest rate (i or r) Interest expressed as a percentage of the original amount per time period; nominal (r) and effective (i) rates

Interest rate, inflated (if) Interest rate adjusted to take inflation into account.

Life; study period (n) Number of years or periods over which an alternative or asset will be used; the evaluation time.

Measure of worth (Varies) Value, such as PW, AW, i^* , B/C, used to judge economic viability. Minimum attractive rate of return (MARR) Minimum value of the rate of return for an alternative to be financially viable.

Net cash flow (NCF) Resulting net amount of cash that flows in or out during a time period.

Net operating income (NOI) Difference between gross income and expenses; same as EBIT—earnings before interest and taxes.

Payback period (n_p) Number of years to recover the initial investment and a stated rate of return. Present amount or worth (P or PW) Amount of money at the current time or a time denoted as present.

Random variable (X) Parameter or characteristic that can take on any one of several values; discrete and continuous, Rate of return, external (i' or i") Unique compound interest rate resulting from specified reinvestment and/or borrowing rates.

Rate of return, internal (i* or ROR) Compound interest rate on unpaid or unrecovered balances such that the final amount results in a zero balance.

Recovery period (n) Number of years to completely depreciate an asset. Reinvestment rate (i_r) Investment rate for an excess (positive) net cash flow.

Salvage value (S) Expected trade-in or market value when an asset is traded or disposed of. Standard deviation (s) Measure of dispersion or spread about the expected value or average

Taxable income (TI) Amount upon which income taxes are based

Tax rate (T) Decimal rate, usually graduated, used to calculate corporate or individual taxes. Tax rate, effective (Te) Single-figure tax rate incorporating (graduated) rates for federal, state and local taxes.

Indicator for a time period. Time (t)

Value added (EVA) Economic value added by a project to the corporation's net worth.

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