

P_0 = Initial Loan Size (\$)
 R = Annual interest rate (APR) described as an annual number (% 0-1)
 $r = R/12$ Interest rate per month (% 0-1)
 M = Monthly Payment (\$)
 n = Number of payments (months)

Each month there is an interest payment on the principal. Anything extra beyond the interest payment will deduct from the principal. For month 1:

$$\text{Interest owed} = P_0 * r \quad (1)$$

Since the principal is reduced by payment beyond the interest, the principal is reduced by

$$M - P_0 r \quad (2)$$

So the principal after the first payment will be

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= P_0 - (M - P_0 r) \\ &= P_0(1 + r) - M \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

And the principal after the second payment will be

$$\begin{aligned} P_2 &= P_1 - (M - P_1 r) \\ &= P_1(1 + r) - M \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

And the third payment will be

$$\begin{aligned} P_3 &= P_2 - (M - P_2 r) \\ &= P_2(1 + r) - M \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Clearly, there is a pattern, the following recursive formula is true:

$$P_{n+1} = P_n(1 + r) - M \quad (6)$$

Right now, this is not useful. If we substitute (4) into (5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} P_3 &= (P_1(1 + r) - M)(1 + r) - M \\ &= P_1(1 + r)^2 - M(1 + r) - M \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

And substituting (3) into (7) gives

$$\begin{aligned} P_3 &= (P_0(1 + r) - M)(1 + r)^2 - M(1 + r) - M \\ &= P_0(1 + r)^3 - M(1 + r)^2 - M(1 + r) - M \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The pattern here is

$$P_n = P_0(1 + r)^n - [M + M(1 + r) + M(1 + r)^2 + \dots + M(1 + r)^{n-1}] \quad (9)$$

The M terms are going through a geometric series. The factor by which M is multiplied is $(1 + r)$. For a standard geometric series:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ar^n = a \left(\frac{1 - r^n}{1 - r} \right) \quad (10)$$

and substituting values from (9) gives

$$\begin{aligned} P_n &= P_0(1 + r)^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M(1 + r)^n \\ &= P_0(1 + r)^n - \left[M \left(\frac{1 - (1 + r)^n}{1 - (1 + r)} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

We are interested in when $P_n = 0$ because this is when the amount owed is 0. Now we just need to solve for M when $P_n = 0$. Rearranging (11),

$$M \left(\frac{(1 + r)^n - 1}{r} \right) = P_0(1 + r)^n \quad (12)$$

so

$$\boxed{M = \frac{rP_0(1 + r)^n}{(1 + r)^n - 1}} \quad (13)$$