

Week 1

Note Title

3/30/2015

Agenda :

- Basic financial instruments
- Arbitrage pricing
- Put-call parity (in practice)

HW 1

- probability
- recursion / mathematical inductions
- compound interest

Bond basics

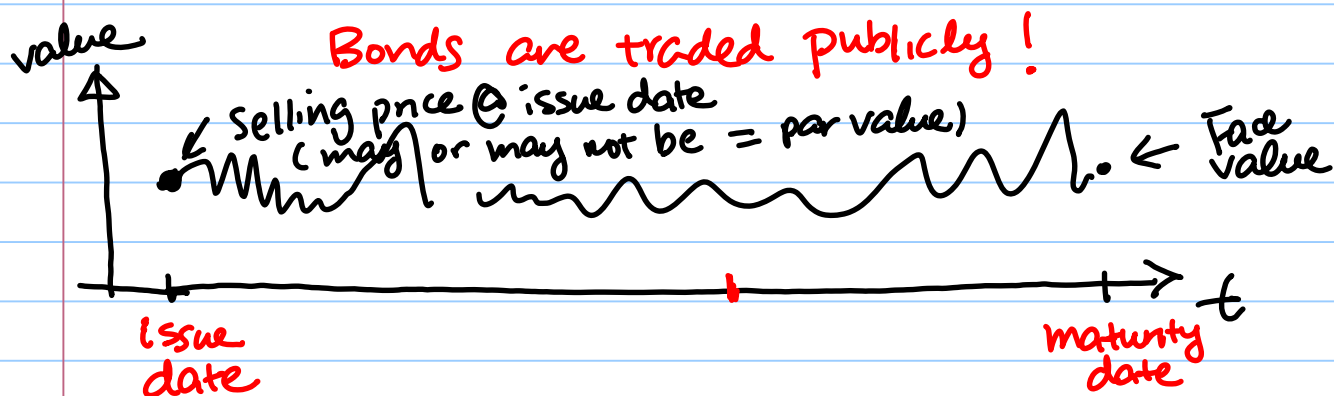
- like an I.O.U. given by a Borrower (typically a corporate or government) to a Lender (the investor)

- Bonds are **debt**, Stocks are **equity**

You may want to understand the difference between owning the bonds of a company and the stocks of the same company.

Face Value / Par Value

- the amount of money a holder will get back once a bond matures



Coupon (the interest rate)

- the amount the bondholder will receive as interest payment

e.g. 3.375% (per year, but pay every 6 months)

- Bonds are traded in the open market
- NOT every investor would hold the bonds to maturity.



GOOGLE CORPORATE BOND:

US Treasury Bonds :

- Default risk (what happens to the corporate bonds you own if the company goes bankrupt?)
- Bond rating
- US government securities are considered 'risk-free assets'

Forward basic

A **forward contract** on a commodity is a contract to purchase or sell a specific amount of the commodity at a specific price and at a specific time in the future.

The "commodity" may be :

- Gold
- soyabeans
- oil
- foreign currency etc.
- an index (e.g. S&P500)

Purpose : a vehicle for transferring risk from a hedger to a speculator
(e.g. airline - hedger
oil trader - speculator)

Forward price = the price that applies at delivery
(value of the contract is **zero** when it initiated)

Terminology :

Spot market

"

the open market for immediate delivery of the asset

VS

forward market

"

the market of forward contracts for future delivery

"Theorem" Suppose an asset can be stored at zero cost and also sold short.

Suppose : current Spot price ($t=0$) is S

Then : the theoretical forward price
(for delivery at $t=T$)

is $F = S e^{rT}$ ——— (X)



Growth factor if money is deposited in an ideal bank offering continuous time compound interest with annualized rate r for a period of time T (years)

["Theorem" because I haven't defined what the theoretical forward price is supposed to mean.]

Regardless, (X) seems too simple to make any sense, considered that it does not account for any prediction of the supply and demand in $(0, T]$ of the underlying asset.

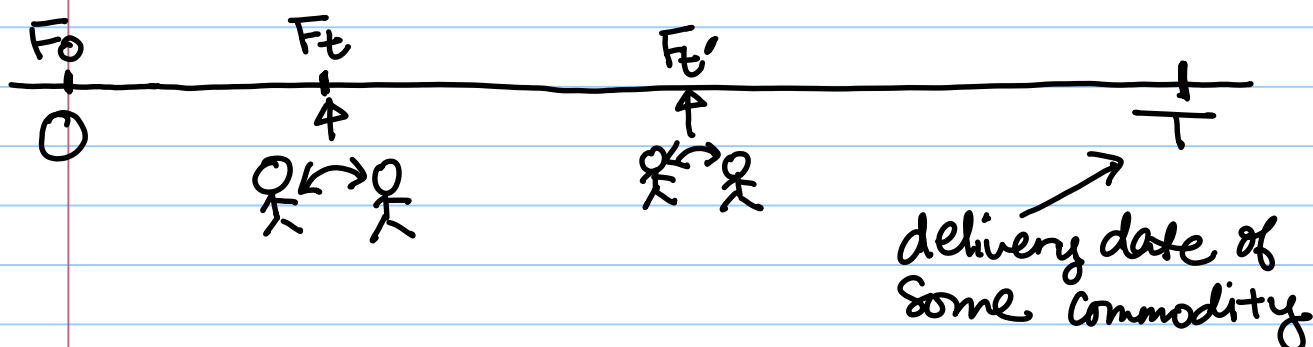
[And what about the supply and demand of such forward contracts ??]

Will get back to this

Futures basic

- Forward contracts are traded over the counter.
- Desirable to standardize the contracts and trade them on an organized exchange
 - convenient
 - no need to find counterparty
 - liquidity

Challenge of Standardizing forward contracts :

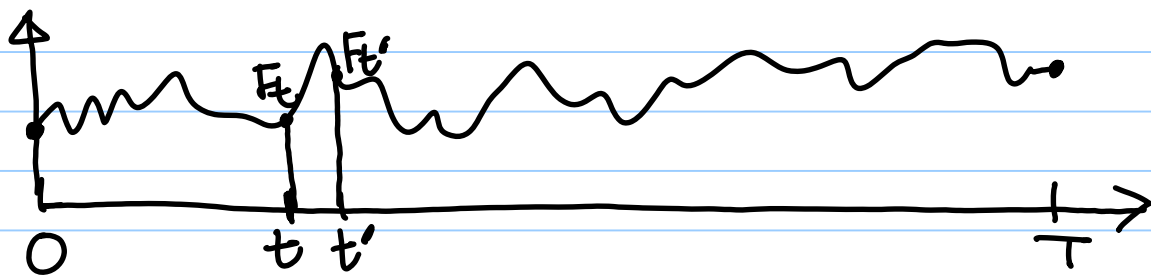


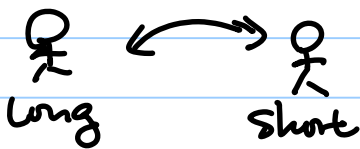
Exchange needs to keep track of the thousands of outstanding forward contracts each having a different price, even all other terms of the contract (delivery date, quantities to be delivered, quality of delivered goods etc.) are identical.

A BOOKKEEPING NIGHTMARE

The brilliant invention:

FUTURES MARKET




 enters a futures contract
 @ price F_t

Note: the long side does not pay the short side $\$F_t$.

But 5-10% of the contract price is required as a deposit in each side's **margin account**.

At the end of each trading day, when the contract price change from F_t to $F_{t'}$

account of long side: $+\$ (F_{t'} - F_t)$

account of short side: $-\$ (F_{t'} - F_t)$

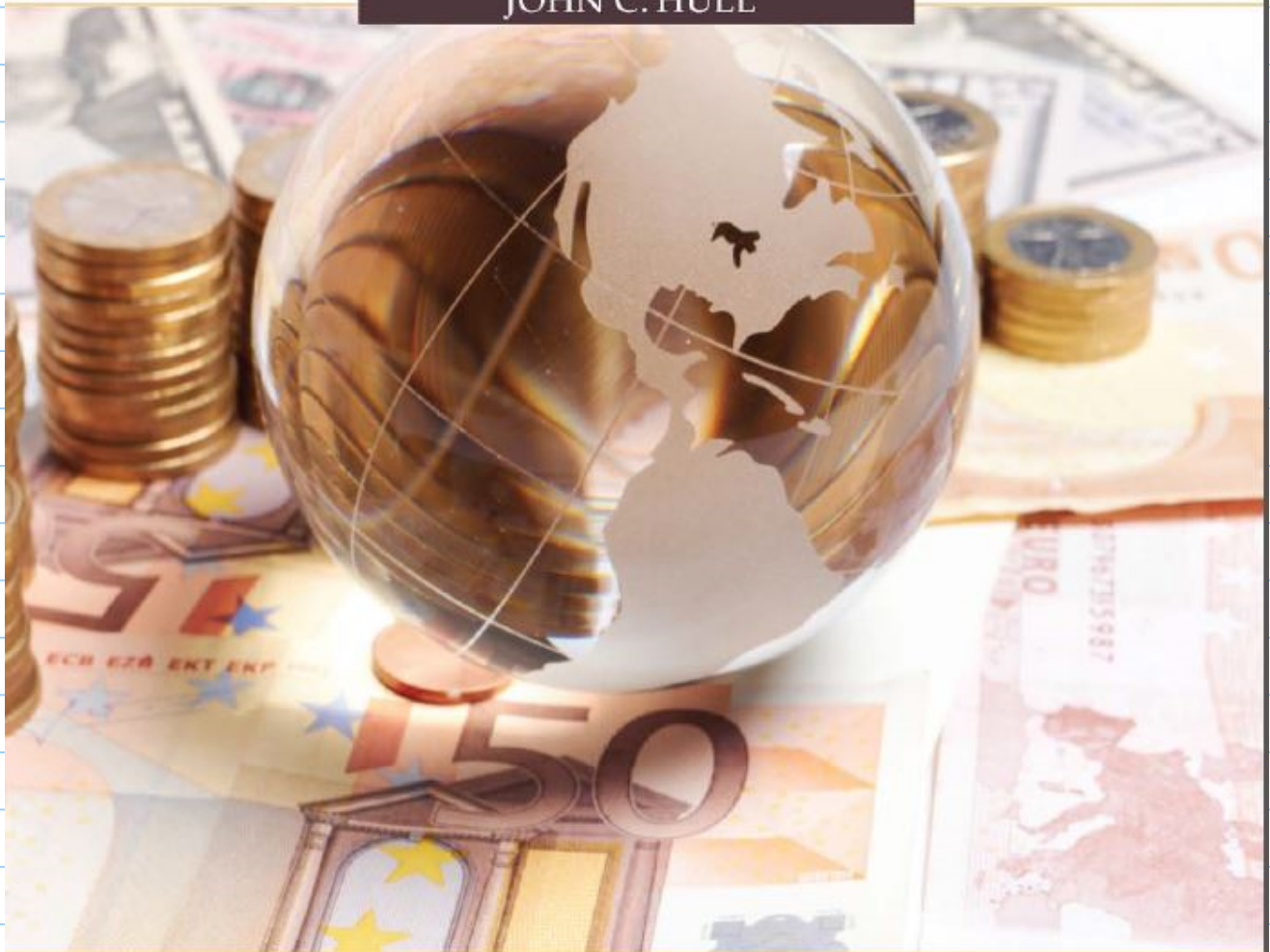
This process of adjusting the contracts is called **marking to the market** done by the **clearinghouse**.

An authoritative reference:

Options, Futures, and Other Derivatives

TENTH EDITION

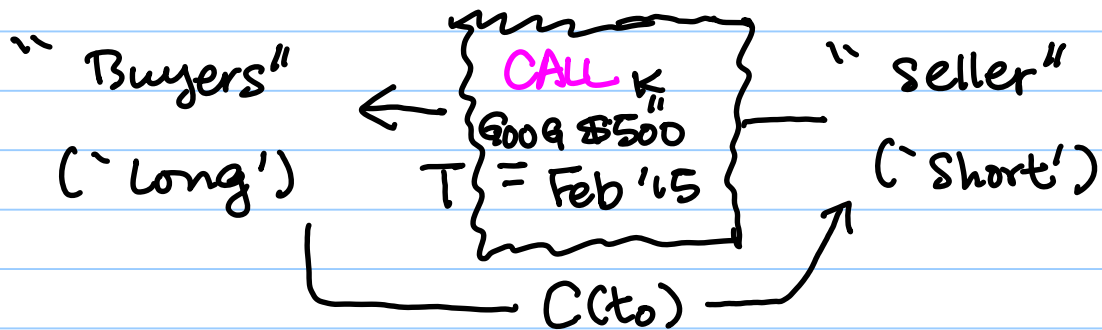
JOHN C. HULL



options basic

European Call Options on an underlying asset

- Contracts between two parties

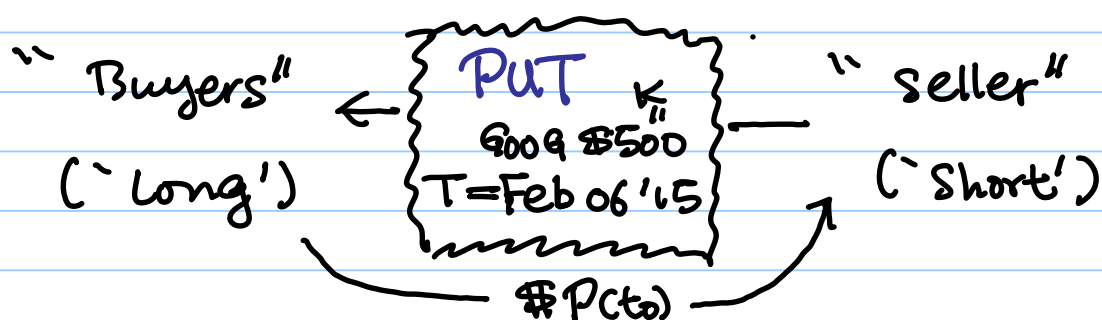


- Buyer has the right, but not the obligation, to buy from the seller of the option one unit of the asset (e.g. 100 shares of Google stock) at a predetermined time T in the future for a predetermined price K .

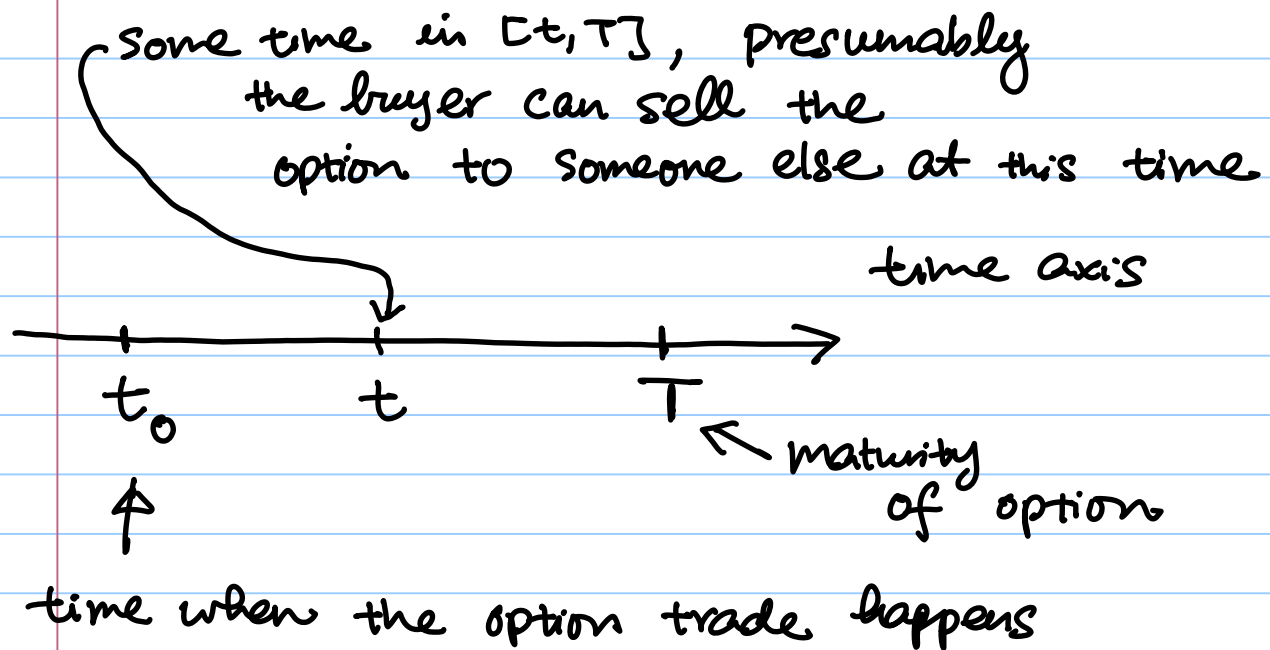
- T : maturity (or expiration) date
 K : strike price

- If "at a predetermined time T " is changed to "at or before time T ", the call option is called an American call option.

- Difference between E. and A. options has little to do with physical geography. Basically all options traded publicly on exchanges are American options.
- But we shall first develop the theory for European options.
- European Put option on an underlying asset is a contract between two parties:



- Buyer has the right, but not the obligation, to **sell to the seller** of the option one unit of the asset (e.g. 100 shares of Google stock) at a predetermined time T in the future for a predetermined price K .



- Buyer of the call option pays $\$C(t)$ at time $t (< T)$ to the seller of the call option.
- Buyer of the put option pays $\$P(t)$ at time $t (< T)$ to the seller of the put option.

Hard Question:

What are the fair prices for $C(t)$ & $P(t)$?

More options terminologies:

— $S(t)$ = price of the underlying asset at time t .

In particular, $S(T)$ = price of the underlying asset at maturity

— At time t , a call option is

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{in the money (ITM) if } S(t) > K \\ \text{at the money (ATM) if } S(t) = K \\ \text{out of the money (OTM) if } S(t) < K \end{array} \right.$

Similarly, a put option is

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{in the money (ITM) if } S(t) < K \\ \text{at the money (ATM) if } S(t) = K \\ \text{out of the money (OTM) if } S(t) > K \end{array} \right.$

Q : You enter a long position for a call option at t_0 . At maturity the call is in the money. If you exercise the option, you make a profit in this trade, is that right?

Ans: not necessarily, remember that you have to pay a premium for the option. You profit only if $S(T) - K > C(t_0)$.

Payoff of a call option at maturity is

$$C(T) = \max(S(T) - K, 0)$$

$$= \begin{cases} S(T) - K & \text{if } S(T) > K \\ 0 & \text{if } S(T) \leq K \end{cases}$$

Payoff of a put option at maturity is

$$P(T) = \max(K - S(T), 0)$$

Another teaser "theorem", called PUT-CALL PARITY:

"Theorem": Let $C(t)$ and $P(t)$ be the values at time t of a European call and put option, respectively, with maturity T and Strike K , on the same non-dividend paying asset with spot price $S(t)$. Then

$$\textcircled{\&} - P(t) + S(t) - C(t) = K e^{-r(T-t)}$$

"time to expiration" \nearrow

If not, some greedy traders will step in the market, do something smart, and quickly force $\textcircled{\&}$ to be 'satisfied'.

[April 1, Apple trading at \$124]

| AAPL | | | | SIMULATED TRADING | | | | SIMULATED TRADING | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Call | | | | Description | Put | | | | | | |
| Last | Change | Bid | Ask | | Last | Change | Bid | Ask | | | |
| | | | | ▼ APR 02 '15 | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 1.50 | -0.44 | ♦ 1.47 | 1.55 ♦ | 123 | ♦ 0.30 | -0.21 | ♦ 0.28 | 0.31 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 0.80 | -0.48 | ♦ 0.82 | 0.85 ♦ | 124 | ♦ 0.61 | -0.24 | ♦ 0.59 | 0.64 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 0.40 | -0.36 | ♦ 0.39 | 0.40 ♦ | 125 | ♦ 1.22 | -0.09 | ♦ 1.12 | 1.19 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 0.18 | -0.26 | ♦ 0.16 | 0.18 ♦ | 126 | ♦ 2.04 | +0.03 | ♦ 1.90 | 1.98 ♦ | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | ▼ APR 10 '15 | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 2.55 | -0.27 | ♦ 2.51 | 2.58 ♦ | 123 | ♦ 1.38 | +0.18 | ♦ 1.29 | 1.32 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 1.97 | -0.23 | ♦ 1.94 | 1.97 ♦ | 124 | ♦ 1.77 | +0.20 | ♦ 1.70 | 1.74 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 1.44 | -0.26 | ♦ 1.45 | 1.48 ♦ | 125 | ♦ 2.33 | +0.29 | ♦ 2.20 | 2.27 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 1.01 | -0.23 | ♦ 1.04 | 1.07 ♦ | 126 | ♦ 2.94 | +0.35 | ♦ 2.78 | 2.85 ♦ | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | ▼ APR 17 '15 | | | | | | | |
| ♦ 3.50 | -0.05 | ♦ 3.25 | 3.35 ♦ | 122.86 | ♦ 2.15 | +0.28 | ♦ 1.89 | 1.92 ♦ | | | |
| 3.20 | -0.25 | | | 123 | ♦ 2.00 | +0.07 | ♦ 1.95 | 1.98 ♦ | | | |
| 2.59 | -0.28 | | | 124 | ♦ 2.48 | +0.14 | ♦ 2.38 | 2.42 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 2.36 | -0.35 | ♦ 2.49 | 2.53 ♦ | 124.29 | 2.60 | +0.13 | | | | | |
| ♦ 2.10 | -0.27 | ♦ 2.14 | 2.19 ♦ | 125 | ♦ 3.00 | +0.17 | ♦ 2.88 | 2.92 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 1.80 | -0.24 | ♦ 1.83 | 1.86 ♦ | 125.71 | ♦ 3.35 | +0.15 | ♦ 3.25 | 3.35 ♦ | | | |
| ♦ 1.71 | -0.18 | ♦ 1.71 | 1.74 ♦ | 126 | ♦ 3.70 | +0.33 | ♦ 3.40 | 3.50 ♦ | | | |

Arbitrage - free pricing

Arbitrage opportunity - an investment opportunity guaranteed to earn money without any risk.
(arb. opp.)

Usually price of just about anything is decided by supply and demand. But imagine that some financial instrument is priced in such a way that creates an arb. opp., then quite likely this person (and/or other people who see the same opportunity) will try to buy/sell as many units of the instrument (and whatever else necessary for generating riskless profit) as possible so as to generate as much riskless profit as possible.

As such, the surge in supply/demand will (typically quickly) move the price to a price that eliminates the arbitrage opportunity.

Such an equilibrium price is called a no-arbitrage price of the financial instrument.

Interest

- "the time value of money"
- riskless return

Assume interest rate is
100r% per year

It means :

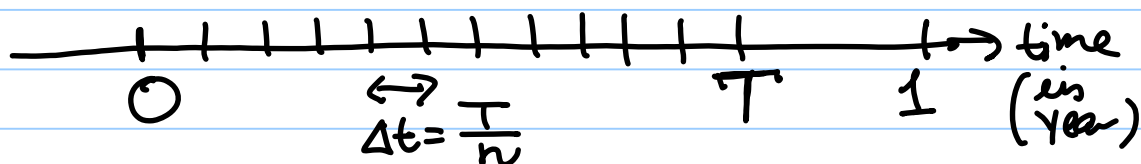
If interest is paid at the end of every year, a capital of \$C invested becomes
 $\$C \cdot (1+r)$ after one year

If interest is paid quarterly, and one re-invests the interest, a capital of \$C invested becomes
 $\$C \left(1 + \frac{r}{4}\right)^4$ after one year

If interest is compounded daily,
\$C becomes $\$C \left(1 + \frac{r}{365}\right)^{365}$ after one year

More generally, if compounded n times for a period of T (years),

$$\begin{aligned} \$C \text{ becomes } & \$C (1 + \Delta t r)^n \\ & = \$C \left(1 + \frac{T}{n} r\right)^n \end{aligned}$$



Recall

④ — $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n = e (\approx 2.718)$

so $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\left(1 + \frac{Tr}{n}\right)^{\frac{n}{Tr}} \right]^{Tr} = e^{rT}$

↑
The growth factor
assuming "continuous
compounding" for a
period of time T (years)
with an annualized
interest rate r .

Of financial interest:

would you rather compound
the interest more frequently
or less frequently?

that is: How does $\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$ vary
to ask: with n ?

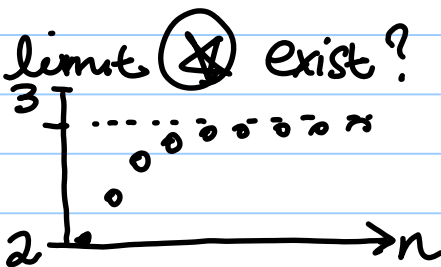
Of mathematical interest:

why does the limit ④ exist?

If we can prove:

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n < 3$$

and $\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \uparrow$ as $n \uparrow$ then the
limit must exist.



Interestingly, proving the monotonicity of $(1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$ answers both questions. (HW 1)

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n = e$ is perhaps one of

the most nontrivial limits in basic analysis. The monotonicity is a bit tricky to show. (I know of two different proofs.)
