

PH3915  
September 2023

Simple Discounting,  
Compounding and  
Decision Criteria

# Simple Compounding/Discounting

Let,  $P$  = the principal (beginning amount)

$r$  = the interest rate

$V_n$  = the value of the amount at the end  
of year  $n$ ,

Assume,  $P = \$100$  (e.g. a bond ) and  $r = 10\%$

Then,  $V_1 = P + r \cdot P = P(1 + r) = \$110$

$$V_2 = V_1(1 + r) = P(1 + r)(1+r) = P(1 + r)^2 = 121$$

$$V_6 = V_5(1 + r) = P(1 + r)(1 + r)(1 + r)$$

$$(1 + r)(1 + r) = 177$$

$$\text{or, } P(1 + r)^6 = V_6$$

$$V_n = V_{n-1}(1 + r) = P(1 + r)^n$$

General formula for simple compounding is

$$V_n = P(1 + r)^n$$

Discounting formula reverses this process and is

$$P = V_n / (1 + r)^n$$

## Annuities

If  $V_n$  = the value of the amount at the end of year  $n$ , and

If  $V_1 = V_2 = V_3 = \dots = V_n$ , we have a series of of fixed payments called an annuity.

When this is the case, the present value formula for discounting  $[P = V_n / (1 + r)^n]$ , is transformed into

$$P = V \left[ \frac{1}{1+r} + \frac{1}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{1}{(1+r)^3} + \dots + \frac{1}{(1+r)^n} \right]$$

or the present discounted value of an annuity.

Note: This is equivalent to

$$P = \sum_{t=0}^n \frac{V_t}{(1+r)^t}$$

Where all  $V_t$  are equal.

Or,

$$P = V_t \sum_{t=0}^n \frac{1}{(1+r)^t}$$

## Table A: Simple Discounting Example

$$\begin{aligned} P &= V_n / (1+r)^n = V_5 / (1.09)^5 \\ &= \$500 / (1.09) (1.09) (1.09) (1.09) (1.09) \\ &= \$500 / 1.5386 = \$324.97 \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, using the table, where  $r = 9\%$ , and  $n=5$  years we find 0.6499. Simply multiple  $0.6499 \times 500 = \$324.97$ .

Thus, the table give us

$$\frac{1}{(1 + r)^n}$$

For various  $r$  and  $n$  values, as  $0.6499 = 1/1.5386$ .

## **Table B: Present Value of Annuities**

$$P = V \left[ \frac{1}{1+r} + \frac{1}{(1+r)^2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{(1+r)^6} \right]$$
$$= 500 \left[ \frac{1}{1.06} + \frac{1}{(1.06)^2} + \frac{1}{(1.06)^3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{(1.06)^6} \right]$$

= 500 [4.917] = \$2,458.50, the present discounted value of the annuity; i.e, 4.917 is from the table where,  $r = 6\%$  and  $n = 6$  years.

Thus, table B gives us  $\sum_{t=0}^n \frac{1}{(1+r)^t}$

As if  $V = 1$ .

This value is then multiplied by the real value of  $V$  to yield  $P$ .

## Problem 1

Assume we have the opportunity to invest in a new activity and we have the following information.

REVENUE		COSTS
$R_0 = \$0$	(TODAY)	$C_0 = \$0$
$R_1 = 100$	(YEAR 1)	$C_1 = 50$
$R_2 = 300$	(YEAR 2)	$C_2 = 200$
$R_3 = 400$	(YEAR 3)	$C_3 = 400$
$R_4 = 100$	(YEAR 4)	$C_4 = 200$

$$R = 12\%$$

Given  $P = V_n / (1+r)^n$ , find the present value of revenue and then of costs. Determine the present value of profit.

## Solution to Problem 1

Use Table A:

$R_0 = \$0$	$C_0 = \$0$
$R_1 = 100 (.8929) = 89.29$	$C_1 = 50 (.8929) = 44.65$
$R_2 = 300 (.7972) = 239.16$	$C_2 = 200 (.7972) = 159.44$
$R_3 = 400 (.7118) = 284.72$	$C_3 = 400 (.7118) = 284.72$
$R_4 = 100 (.6355) = \underline{63.55}$	$C_4 = 200 (.6355) = \underline{127.10}$
$\$676.72$	$\$615.91$

$$\text{Profit (discounted)} = \$676.72 - \$615.91 = \$60.81$$

## Problem 2

$$R = 12\%$$

REVENUES	COSTS
$R_0 = \$0$	$C_0 = \$1000$
$R_1 = 100$	$C_1 = 600$
$R_2 = 300$	$C_2 = 600$
$R_3 = 500$	$C_3 = 600$
$R_4 = 800$	$C_4 = 600$
$R_5 = 800$	$C_5 = 700$
$R_6 = 800$	$C_6 = 200$
$R_7 = 800$	$C_7 = 200$
$R_8 = 800$	$C_8 = 200$
$R_9 = 800$	•
•	•
•	•
•	•
$R_{20} = 800$	$C_{20} = 200$

Find the present value of revenues, costs and profits, utilizing Tables A and B.



## Solution to Problem 2

$R_0 = \$0$	$C_0 = \$1000$ (no discounting)
$R_1 = 100 (.8929) = 89.29$	$C_1 = 600(3.037) = \$1822.00$ to where, 3,037 is a 4 $C_4$ year annuity at 12% interest
$R_2 = 300(.7972) = 239.16$	$C_5 = 700(.5674) = 397.18$
$R_3 = 500(.7118) = 355.90$	$C_6 = 200(6.811) (.5674) = 772.91$ to where 6.811 is a 15 year $C_{20}$ annuity; 0.5674 is the 5 year discount factor at 12%
$R_4 = 800(7.120) (.7118)$ to = 4,054.42 $R_0$ where, 7.120 is a 17 year annuity at 12% interest, and 0.7118 is the 3 year discount factor at $r = 12\%$	Present value of costs = \$3,992
Present value of R = \$4,738.76	

$$\text{Present value of profit} = \$4,738.76 - \$3,992.29 = \$747.47$$

## Solution to Exercise

Alternative #1:

$$R_0 = \$0$$

$$R_1 = 6,000(.9259) = 5555.40$$

$$R_2 = 20,000(8.244)(.9259)$$

to = 152,662.39

$$R_{15}$$

$$R_{16} = 5,000(8.559) (.3152)$$

to = 13,488.98

$$R_{30}$$

$$\text{Present Value} = \$171,706.77$$

$$C_0 = \$100,000$$

$$C_1 = 2000(.9259) = 1851.80$$

$$C_2 = 5000(.8573) = 4286.50$$

$$C_3 = 4000(11.258) (.8573)$$

to = 38,605.93

$$C_{32}$$

Scrap Value

$$- 1,000 \times 0.0994 = -99.40$$

$$\text{Present Value} = \$144,644.83$$

$$\text{Net present value} = \$27,061.94$$

Alternative #2:

$$\text{Net present value} = \$35,000$$

Solution: Choose alternative #2

## Brief Review

(1)  $V_n = P(1 + r)^n$ , is the simple compounding formula

(2)  $P = V_n / (1 + r)^n$  or

$$P = \sum_{t=0}^n V_t / (1 + r)^t,$$

Is the formula for present value (simple) discounting table A calculates

$$\frac{1}{(1 + r)^n} \quad \text{for you.}$$

$$(2) \quad P = V \left[ \frac{1}{1 + r} + \frac{1}{(1 + r)^2} + \frac{1}{(1 + r)^3} + \dots + \frac{1}{(1 + r)^n} \right]$$

or 
$$P = V \sum_{t=0}^n 1 / (1 + r)^t$$

Is the formula for finding the discounted present value of an annuity.

Table B calculates  $\sum_{t=0}^n 1 / (1 + r)^t$  for you.

# Compounding/Discounting Multiple Times per Year

$$P = V_n / (1 + r/m)^{mn}$$

Where,  $m$  = number of times per year  
which we compound  
 $n$  = number of years  
 $r$  = discount rate

# Decision Criteria

## 1. Net Present Value Rule (NPV):

Formula: 
$$NPV = A_0 + \frac{A_1}{(1+r)} + \frac{A_2}{(1+r)^2} + \dots + \frac{A_n}{(1+r)^n}$$

Where  $A$  = benefits less costs

$r$  = social discount rate

$n$  = year

The net benefits (benefits less costs) in each period are discounted to the present to yield the NPV, if  $NPV > 0 \rightarrow$  accept project. If  $NPV < 0 \rightarrow$  reject.

When considering mutually exclusive projects, the one with the higher NPV is recommended.

Alternatively, the formula may be stated.

$$\sum_{t=0}^n B_t / (1+r)^t = \sum_{t=0}^m C_t / (1+r)^t$$

## Decision Criteria

### 2. Benefit – Cost Ratio (B/C):

Formula:

$$\frac{\left( b_0 + \frac{b_1}{1+r} + \frac{b_2}{(1+r)^2} + \dots + \frac{b_n}{(1+r)^n} \right)}{\left( c_0 + \frac{c_1}{1+r} + \frac{c_2}{(1+r)^2} + \dots + \frac{c_m}{(1+r)^m} \right)}$$

Where b = benefits

c = costs

n = years of benefits

m = years of costs

The discounted present value of benefits is divided by the discounted present value of costs. If  $b/c = >$  accept project. If  $b/c = <$  reject.

When considering mutually exclusive projects, the one with the higher b/c is recommended.

When the NPV and b/c ratios make contradictory recommendations, the NPV rule is superior.

$$\sum_{t=0}^n B_t (1+r)^t / \sum_{t=0}^n C_t (1+r)^t$$

# Decision Criteria

## 3. Internal Rate of Return Rule (IRR):

Formula: 
$$A_0 + \frac{A_1}{1+i} + \frac{A_2}{(1+i)^2} + \dots + \frac{A_n}{(1+i)^n} = 0$$

Where A = benefits less cost

I = the internal rate of return

r = the social discount rate

n = years

- If  $r < i \Rightarrow$  accept project
  - If  $r > i \Rightarrow$  reject project
- 
- ❖ The internal rate of return that will reduce the future net benefit stream to zero is calculated and compared to the social discount rate.
  - ❖ Where the decision-criteria conflict, the NPV rule is always superior.

# Numerical Example Illustrating Comparison of Decision Rules

Assume Projects 1, 2 & 3 are Mutually Exclusive  
(only one will be funded)

Basic question: Which project should be funded?

## Project 1

		Discount Rate	
		r = 10%	r = 6%
Decision Rule	Net Present Value	-\$56,741	\$29,606
	Benefit/Cost Ratio	0.92	1.04

## Project 2

		Discount Rate	
		r = 10%	r = 6%
Decision Rule	Net Present Value	\$383,500	\$541,767
	Benefit/Cost Ratio	1.59	1.80

## Project 3

		Discount Rate	
		r = 10%	r = 6%
Decision Rule	New Present Value	\$126,478	\$163,721
	Benefit/Cost Ratio	2.71	3.11