

# QMI Lesson 15: Compound Interest

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*principal*

What would happen if, every six months, you were paid half of your yearly interest and were allowed to reinvest it? How much would you have after a year? This is called **compounding** your interest twice per year.

$$1000 \left( \frac{0.06}{2} \right) + \left( 1000 \left( \frac{0.06}{2} \right) + 1000 \right) \left( \frac{0.06}{2} \right) + \underset{\text{principal}}{1000} = 1060.$$

*interest1*                      *interest2*

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where  $e \approx 2.718$  is the natural constant. This is **continuous compounding!**

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If you have a nominal interest rate of 4% per year with interest compounded weekly, calculate the interest rate  $i$  per conversion period.

Well,  $i = \frac{r}{m}$ , where  $r$  is the annual interest rate and  $m$  is the number of conversion periods. So  $i = \frac{0.04}{52} \approx 0.000769 = 0.0769\%$ .

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Say we have a  $P$  dollars invested for time  $t$  at a rate of  $r$  (in terms of time  $t$ ) with interest compounded  $n$  times in the period  $t$ . Let's calculate how much we'll have at time  $t$ .

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$$A_1 = P(1 + i)$$

$$A_2 = [A_1](1 + i) = P(1 + i)(1 + i) = P(1 + i)^2$$

$$A_3 = [A_2](1 + i) = P(1 + i)^2(1 + i) = P(1 + i)^3$$

⋮

$$A_m = [A_{m-1}](1 + i) = P(1 + i)^{m-1} = P(1 + i)^m$$



# Compound Interest

The calculations from the previous slide yield the following formula.

## Definition (Amount from Compound Interest)

$$A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}, \text{ where}$$

$A$  = the total value amount of the investment after  $t$ ,

$r$  = the nominal rate of interest per time  $t$ ,

$P$  = the principal,

$n$  = number of conversions periods in time  $t$ ,

$t$  = the term (often given in years).

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## Definition (Effective Rate of Interest)

$r_{eff} = \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^n - 1$  is the effective rate of interest, where  
 $r$  = the nominal interest rate per year and  
 $n$  = the number of conversion periods (compoundings) per year.

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and for the 5.1% rate

$$r_{eff} = \left(1 + \frac{0.051}{2}\right)^2 - 1 \approx 0.05165.$$

So the 5.1% annual rate compounded semiannually is preferable.

# The Usefulness of the Effective Rate

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Why would such a formula be useful? If you know you needed the amount  $A$  at a future time, you could calculate how much  $P$  would need to be invested now. For this reason, we call  $A$  the **future value** and  $P$  the **present value** of an investment.

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Continuous Compounding: Recall  $e = \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{u}\right)^u$

Naturally, one might wonder what happens to the accumulated value of an investment as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , i.e. as the number of compoundings tends to infinity.

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## Definition (Continuous Compounding Interest Formula)

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## Example

Blakely Properties owns a building in the commercial district of Birmingham. Because of the city's successful urban renewal program, there is a miniboom in urban property. The market value of the property is given by  $V(t) = 300000e^{0.5\sqrt{t}}$ , where  $V$  is in dollars and  $t$  in years from present. If the expected rate of appreciation is 9% compounded continuously for the next 10 years, find an expression for the present value  $P(t)$  of the market price valid for the next 10 years. Compute  $P(7)$ ,  $P(8)$ , and  $P(9)$ . Interpret your results.

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Thus,

$$P(7) = 30000e^{0.5\sqrt{7}-0.09(7)} \approx 599837$$

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So the present value of the property seems to decrease after a certain period of growth, meaning there is an optimal time for the owners to sell. Later, we'll show this time is exactly  $t = 7.72$  years with valued \$600779.

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$$\begin{aligned} 2000 &= 1000 \left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{12(6)} \implies 2 = \left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{12(6)} \\ \implies \ln 2 &= \ln \left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{6(12)} = 72 \ln \left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\ln 2 = 72 \ln \left( 1 + \frac{r}{12} \right) \implies$$

$$0.009627 \approx \frac{\ln 2}{72} = \ln \left( 1 + \frac{r}{12} \right) \implies$$

$$1.009674 \approx e^{\frac{\ln 2}{72}} = e^{\ln(1 + \frac{r}{12})} = \left( 1 + \frac{r}{12} \right) \implies$$

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Thus, we need a rate of about 11.61% to double an investment in 6 years with interest compounded monthly.

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$$1.5 = \left( 1 + \frac{0.12}{4} \right)^{4t} \implies$$

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$$t = \frac{\ln 1.5}{4 \ln 1.03} \approx 3.43.$$

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So it will take approximately 3.43 years.

# Assignment

Read 5.4-5.5. Do problems 4, 8, 14, 22, 28, 30, 38, 40, 48, 50, 52 in 5.3.