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Sec 5 Compounding ^{of} interest ("Compound interest")

Def Compound interest is the addition of interest to the principal sum of a loan or a deposit. In other words, it is interest on interest.

Interest reinvested is interest compounded.

Terms P, principal (not profit here): initial investment or deposit or loan

r , ^{annual} rate of interest accrual: percent (as a decimal) paid on principal over time

n , number of compounding periods; times per year interest is compounded

t , time in years; length of time investment or deposit or loan (given time in months say, then $t = \frac{\text{months}}{12}$)

Suppose for some ^{deposit} P, a rate of 3% ($r = .03$) is offered.

Suppose interest is paid only once a year ($n = 1$).

After 1 yr, the interest earned is $P \cdot r = .03P$

The account has $P + .03P$ in it after 1 year. ($t = 1$)

Assuming no more principal is added, the account will have, after 2 years:

$$P + .03P + \underbrace{.03(P + .03P)}_{\text{interest}} = \text{amt after year 2}$$

Simplifying:

$$\boxed{P(1 + .03)} + \underbrace{.03P}_{*} \boxed{(1 + .03)} = \boxed{P(1 + .03)} \underbrace{(1 + .03)}_{*} = F$$

Final value = $P(1 + .03)^2$

Let F be "final value".

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This is an example of simple interest, interest compounded once a year. The formula for simple interest is.

$$F = P(1+r)^t \quad r = \text{annual rate}, t = \text{years}$$

Repeating this analysis for $r = .03$, but compounding quarterly ($n=4$ rather than 1), then interest is being added to the principal every quarter, so $n=4$

After one quarter you will have:

$$P + P\left(\frac{.03}{4}\right) \text{ since you've earned only } \frac{1}{4} \text{ of the } 3\%$$

by then. (That is, $P + \text{interest} = P + P\left(\frac{.03}{4}\right)$.)

Simplifying this by factoring, we get $P\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right)$. After another quarter we will add this to more interest:

$$P\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right) + \left(P\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right)\right)\left(\frac{.03}{4}\right) = P\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right)\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right) = P\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right)^2 \leftarrow \begin{matrix} (4 \cdot \frac{1}{4}) \\ n \cdot t \end{matrix}$$

Notice the exponent 2 is half the number of compounding periods per year. Continuing in this way, after 3 quarters, we have in the account:

$$P\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right)^3 \leftarrow \begin{matrix} (4 \cdot \frac{3}{4}) \\ n \cdot t \end{matrix}, \text{ where exponent 3 is } \frac{3}{4} \text{ of } 4.$$

Finally, after 1 year ($t=1$) we have a final value:

$$F = P\left(1 + \frac{.03}{4}\right)^4 \leftarrow (4 \cdot 1)$$

The formula for compound interest, then, is found to be

$$F = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$$

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Anticipating the more complex calculations entailing integration (calculus methods) we rename P and F as present value and future value of an investment or deposit or loan.

Continuous compounding and "e":

Per the video, we have an idea that the more periods each year ~~of~~ we compound the interest, the greater the interest earned. The "intermittent principals" are growing

Fact (for another section of text):

As n goes to infinity, $(1 + \frac{r}{n})^n$ goes to e.

(Later we'll write $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{r}{n})^n = e$.)

For now, we claim (correctly) that "compounding at each instant" of the year (i.e., $n \rightarrow \infty$) affects the ~~sum~~ quantity $(1 + \frac{r}{n})^n$ by making it approach e^r . But back up a minute. On page 53 of the text, some trick algebra leads to the formula for $n \Rightarrow \infty$ periods.

<u>Continuous Compounding of Interest</u>	
$F = Pe^{rt}$	$n, \text{ infinite}$

whereas, for	<u>n being finite,</u>	
	$F = P(1 + \frac{r}{n})^{nt}$	$n, \text{ finite}$

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Suppose you have a final value in mind and you know rate and time. To get the principal needed to invest, do the following:

$$F = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$$

n being finite
compounding

$$\frac{F}{\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}} = P \rightarrow \boxed{P = F \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{-nt}}$$

$$F = P e^{rt}$$

$$\frac{F}{e^{rt}} = P \rightarrow \boxed{P = F e^{-rt}}$$

n infinite
or continuous
compounding

Finally, "principal" + "final" value are often renamed in other contexts (later in text) as

"present" + "future" value of an account.

We can still use P and F , respectively.

