

The mechanics of discounting, interest rate calculations

Bernt Arne Ødegaard

17 November 2022

1 Summary

1. Method for evaluating current value of stream of future cashflows

Present Value

2. Subtracting present cost

Net Present Value

or: Value added

Future Value

$$FV_t = PV(1 + r)^t$$

Present Value

$$PV = \frac{FV_t}{(1 + r)^t}$$

Discount factor

$$d_t = 1/(1 + r)^t$$

The internal rate of return: the discount rate that makes the $NPV = 0$.

Multiple cash flows – present value additive

$$PV = \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{C_t}{(1 + r_t)^t}$$

$$NPV = PV - C_0 = \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{C_t}{(1 + r_t)^t} - C_0$$

A *perpetuity*: fixed income for each year for the indefinite future.

$$PV = \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_t}{(1 + r)^t}$$

$$PV = \frac{C}{r}$$

A *growing perpetuity*: a fixed income for each year that grows at a constant rate g .

$$PV = \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_1(1 + g)^{t-1}}{(1 + r)^t}$$

$$PV = \frac{C_1}{r - g}$$

An *annuity*: pays a fixed (constant) amount each year for a specified finite number of years (T).

$$\begin{aligned} PV &= \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{C}{(1+r)^t} \\ &= C \left[\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r(1+r)^T} \right] \end{aligned}$$

The term $A_{r,T} = \left[\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r(1+r)^T} \right]$ is called an *annuity factor*.

Compounding refers to the frequency with which interest is paid.

Discrete compounding m times a year

$$FV_t = PV \left(1 + \frac{r}{m} \right)^{mt}$$

$$PV = FV_t \left(1 + \frac{r}{m} \right)^{-mt}$$

Continuous compounding

$$FV_t = PV(e^{rt})$$

$$PV = FV_t(e^{-rt})$$

Translating

$$r = n \ln \left(1 + \frac{r_n}{n} \right)$$

$$r_n = n \left(e^{\frac{r}{n}} - 1 \right)$$