

Topic 2.3 Day1 - Log/Expo Apps and Modeling

Compound Interest

Everyone needs a calculator for this unit!

We all want a wonderful life with fulfilling work, good health, and loving relationships. And let's be honest: Financial security wouldn't hurt! Achieving this goal depends on understanding how money in savings accounts grows in remarkable ways as a result of *compound interest*. **Compound interest** is interest computed on your original investment as well as on any accumulated interest.

Formulas for Compound Interest

After t years, the balance, A , in an account with principal P and annual interest rate r (in decimal form) is given by the following formulas:

1. For n compounding periods per year: $A = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$
2. For continuous compounding: $A = Pe^{rt}$.

Example 1: A sum of \$10,000 is invested at an annual rate of 8%. Find the balance in the account after 5 years subject to a. monthly compounding and b. continuous compounding.

a.)

$$A = 10000 \left(1 + \left(\frac{.08}{12}\right)\right)^{(12 \cdot 5)}$$

$$A = \$14,898.46$$

b.)

$$A = 10000 \cdot e^{(.08 \cdot 5)}$$

$$A = \$14,918.25$$

Example 2: How long, to the nearest tenth of a year, will it take \$1000 to grow to \$3600 at 5.6% annual interest compounded quarterly?

$$\frac{3600}{1000} = \frac{1000}{1000} \left(1 + \left(\frac{.056}{4} \right) \right)^{4t}$$

$$3.6 = (1.014)^{4t}$$

log form: $\log_{1.014}(3.6) = 4t$

$$\frac{\ln(3.6)}{\ln(1.014)} = \frac{4t}{4}$$

$$t = 23.03...$$

$t = 23 \text{ yrs.}$

Example 3: The formula $A = 37.3e^{0.0095t}$ models the population of California, A , in millions, t years after 2010.

- What was the population of California in 2010?
- When will the population of California reach 50 million?

a.) 37.3 million

b.) $\frac{50}{37.3} = \frac{37.3}{37.3} \cdot e^{0.0095t}$

$$\frac{50}{37.3} = e^{0.0095t}$$

ln form: $\ln\left(\frac{50}{37.3}\right) = \frac{0.0095t}{0.0095}$

$$t = 30.85...$$

$$t = 31 \text{ yrs.}$$

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