

(7) Nonlinear Functions and Related Topics

In this last video, I will cover basic points about

- The *inverse* of a function, *increasing* / *decreasing* functions,
- How a *multi-variate* (multiple variable) function looks through important examples,
- When and how to sum functions *horizontally* or *vertically*,
- How *compound interest* works, and how to calculate the *net present value* of a payoff stream,
- The summation sign that you might see in statistical or economic tables.



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(7) Inverse Function

- **Inverse of a function f** , called f^{-1} , **reverses** the mapping from the output y to the input x . It is as if expressing x in terms of y values, rather than y in terms of x values:

$$f(x) = y \iff f^{-1}(y) = x$$

$$y = f(x) = 2x + 6 \rightarrow y - 6 = 2x \rightarrow x = \frac{y-6}{2} = \frac{1}{2}y - 3 = f^{-1}(y)$$

Left graph: A coordinate system showing the function $f(x) = 2x + 6$ as a solid line. The line intersects the y-axis at 6 and the x-axis at -3. A dashed line represents the identity function $y=x$. The function f is labeled near the line. The x-axis is labeled with x and the y-axis with y . The point $(-3, 0)$ is marked on the x-axis, and the point $(0, 6)$ is marked on the y-axis. The equation $0 = 2x + 6$ and $-3 = x$ are written next to the x-intercept.

Right graph: A coordinate system showing the inverse function $f^{-1}(y) = \frac{1}{2}y - 3$ as a solid line. The line intersects the x-axis at -3 and the y-axis at 6. A dashed line represents the identity function $y=x$. The function f^{-1} is labeled near the line. The x-axis is labeled with x and the y-axis with y . The point $(-3, 0)$ is marked on the x-axis, and the point $(0, 6)$ is marked on the y-axis.



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(7) Inverse Function

- For example, the *demand function* $Q = 120 - 2p$ can be reorganized as

$p = 60 - \frac{Q}{2}$, which is called the ***inverse demand***.

$$f(p) = Q = 120 - 2p$$

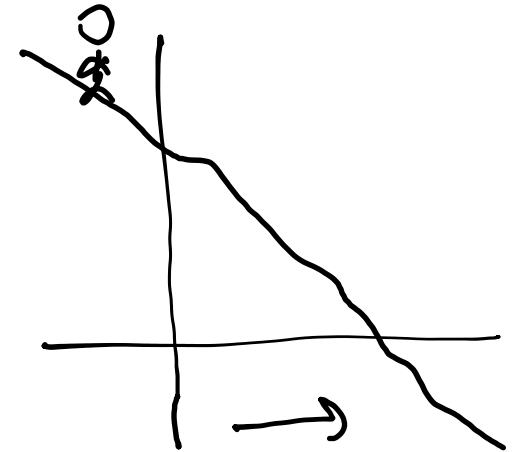
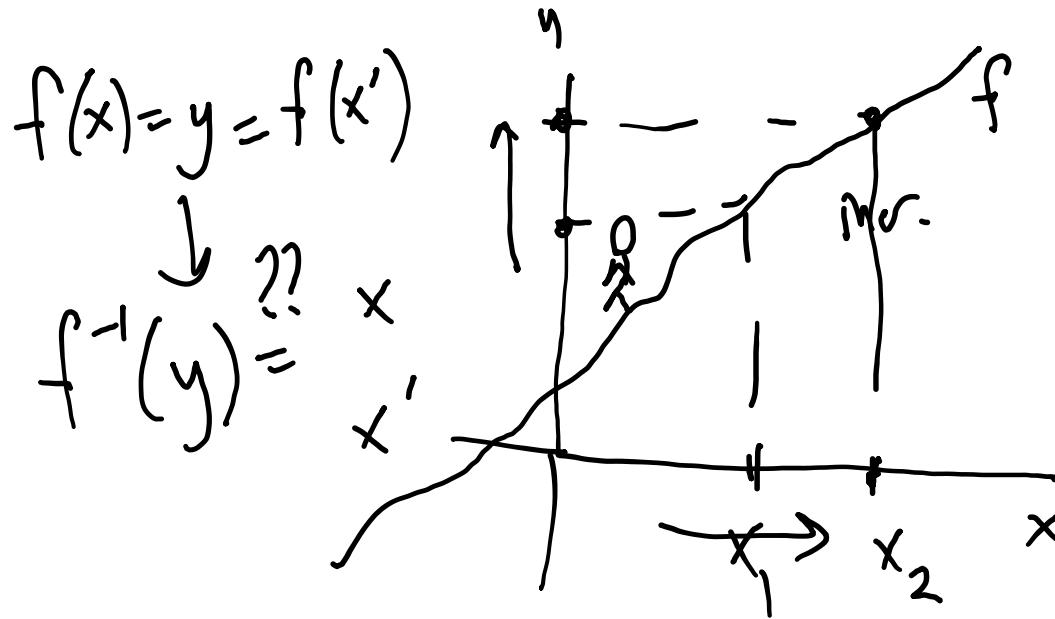
$$\begin{aligned} 2p &= 120 - Q \\ p &= 60 - \frac{Q}{2} \end{aligned}$$



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(7) Increasing and decreasing Functions

- For the inverse function f^{-1} to be well defined, the function f should be ***monotonic***:
either ***increasing***: $x_2 > x_1$ implies $f(x_2) > f(x_1)$
or ***decreasing***: $x_2 > x_1$ implies $f(x_2) < f(x_1)$

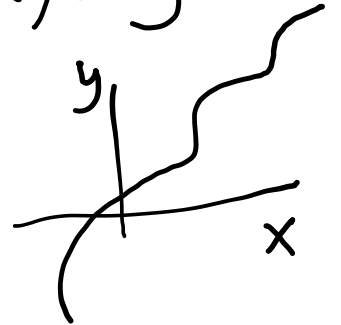


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(7) Functions of many variables

- A multi-variable function has more than one input (*independent*) variable mapped to an output (*dependent*) variable, for example: the *utility function*

$$u(x, y) = \sqrt{x} + y^2$$

$$f(x) = y$$


$$f(x, y) = z$$



x	y	u(x,y)
4	2	
4	3	
9	2	
9	3	



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(7) Functions of many variables

- A multi-variable function has more than one input (*independent*) variable mapped to an output (*dependent*) variable, for example: the ***utility function***

$$u(x, y) = \sqrt{x} + y^2$$

x	y	u(x,y)
4	2	$\sqrt{4} + 2^2 = 6$
(4)	(3)	$\sqrt{4} + 3^2 = 11$
(9)	(2)	$\sqrt{9} + 2^2 \neq 7$
9	3	$\sqrt{9} + 3^2 = 12$



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(7) Functions of many variables

Consider the production function $Y = F(K, L) = 3 \cdot K^{0.4} \cdot L^{0.6}$

- We can plug in different values for K and L to find the values of the function:

$$F(3, 2) = 7.056 \quad F(2, 5) = 8.453 \quad \dots \text{etc.} \quad (ab)^k = a^k \cdot b^k$$

- Notice that $F(2K, 2L) = 3 \cdot (2K)^{0.4} \cdot (2L)^{0.6} = 3 \cdot 2^{0.4} \cdot K^{0.4} \cdot 2^{0.6} \cdot L^{0.6}$
 $= 2^{0.4} \cdot 2^{0.6} \cdot (3 \cdot K^{0.4} \cdot L^{0.6}) = 2^1 \cdot F(K, L) \rightarrow \text{constant returns to scale}$
 $a^k \cdot a^t = a^{k+t}$



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(7) Functions of many variables

$$F(K, L) = A \cdot K^a \cdot L^b \text{ has}$$

$$0.4 + 0.6 = 1$$

- *Constant* returns to scale $\leftrightarrow a + b = 1$
- *Increasing* returns to scale $\leftrightarrow a + b > 1$
- *Decreasing* returns to scale $\leftrightarrow a + b < 1$
- A function of this form is called a *Cobb-Douglas function*.

$$F(cK, cL) = A \cdot (cK)^a \cdot (cL)^b = A c^a K^a c^b L^b$$

$$c > 1 \quad = c^a c^b \boxed{A K^a L^b} = c^{a+b} F(K, L)$$

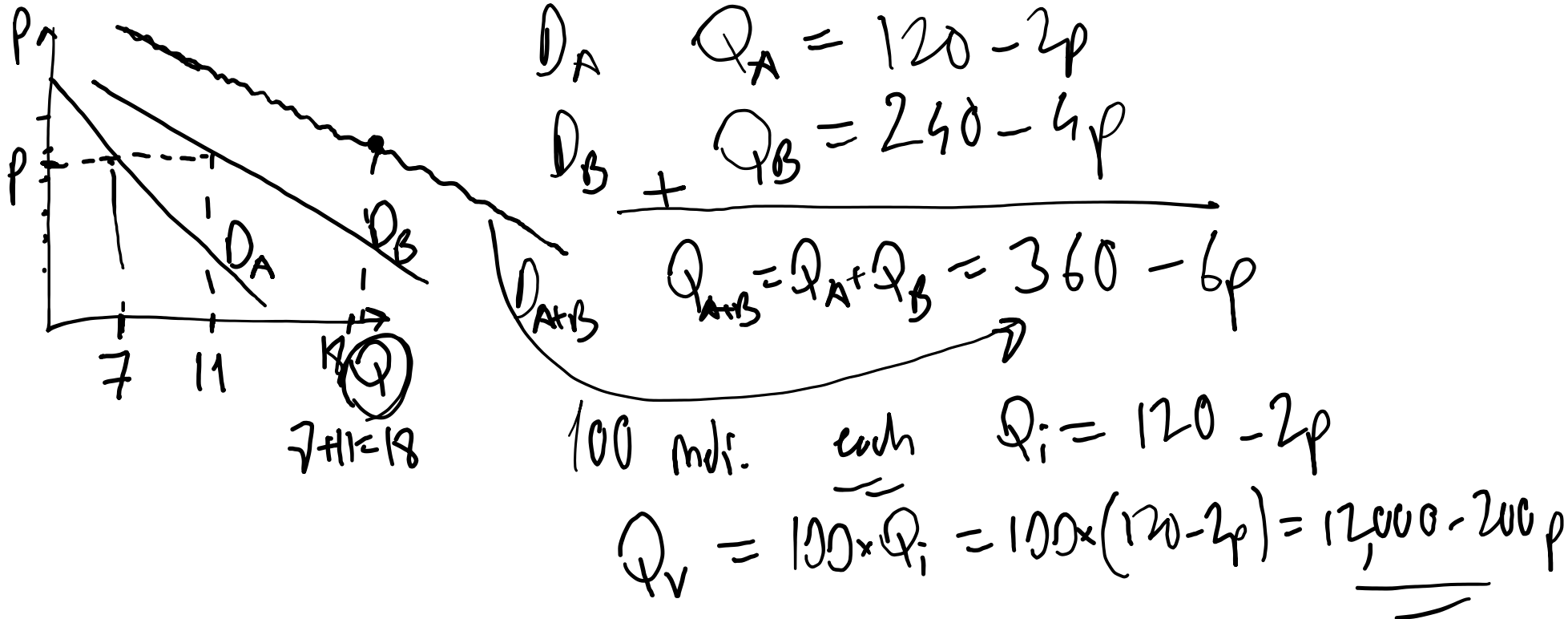
$$c^{a+b} > c \leftrightarrow a+b > 1$$



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(7) Summing functions horizontally vs. vertically

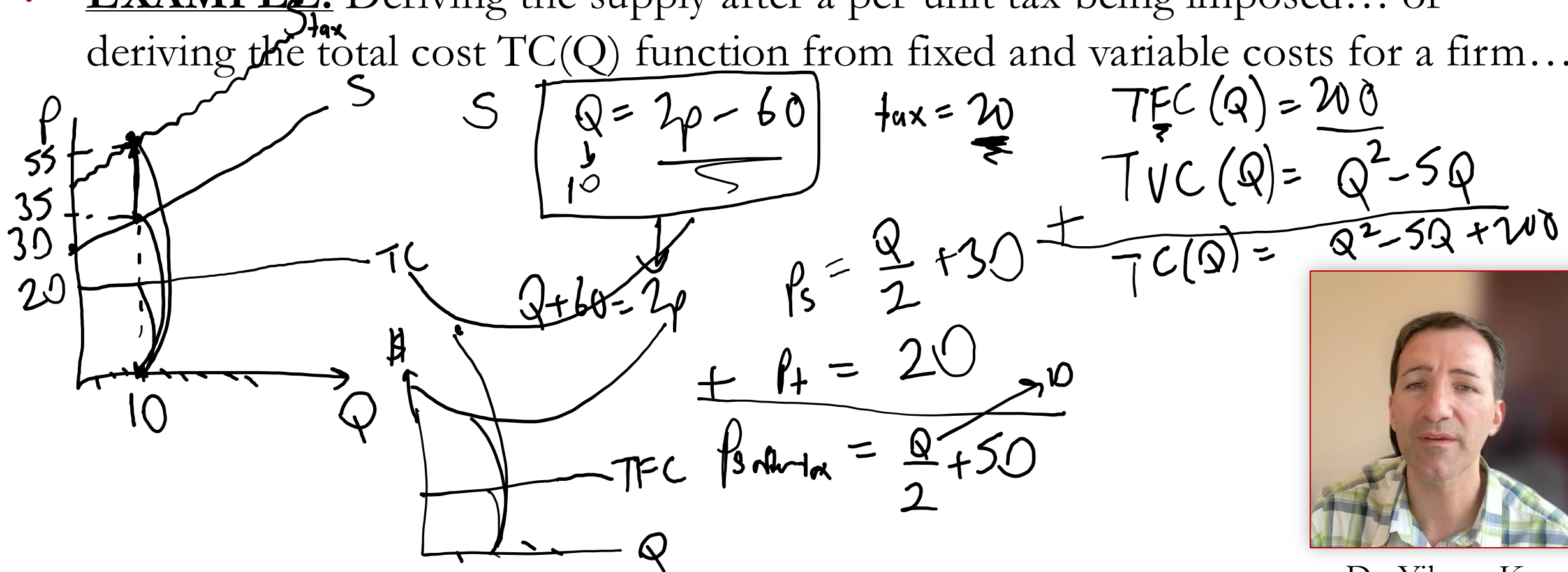
- When summing functions horizontally, express the variable on horizontal axis (**Q**) in terms of the other variable (**p**) and sum the right-hand sides.
- EXAMPLE:** Deriving the market demand from individual demands



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(7) Summing functions horizontally vs. vertically

- When summing functions vertically, express the variable on vertical axis (**p**) in terms of the other variable (**Q**) and sum the right hand sides.
- EXAMPLE:** Deriving the supply after a per-unit tax being imposed... or deriving the total cost $TC(Q)$ function from fixed and variable costs for a firm...



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(7) Compound Interest rates, Net Present Value

- Suppose you deposit P dollars at *annual interest rate* i (Ex: 7% interest, $i = 0.07$)
- After t years you will have $P \cdot (1 + i)^t$
- So, P dollars now is worth $P \cdot (1 + i)^t$ dollars t years later. Or alternatively;
- X dollars received t years from now has present value of $\frac{X}{(1+i)^t}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \$100 \\ \hline t=0 \\ \\ ? \\ \hline t=0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 100(1+i) \\ \hline 100 + 100i \\ \hline t=1 \\ \\ X \\ \hline t=1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 100(1+i)(1+i) \\ \hline t=2 \\ \\ ? \cdot (1+i) = X \\ ? = \frac{X}{1+i} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

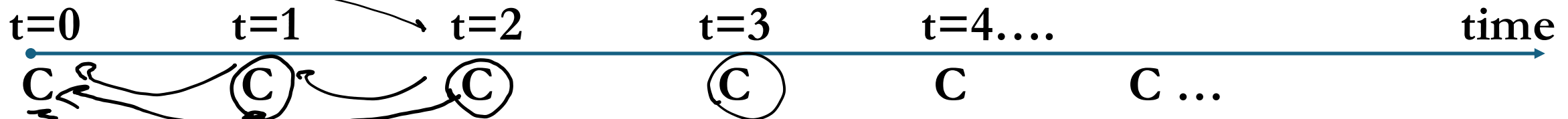


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(7) Compound Interest rates, Net Present Value

- Assume you are given **C** dollars each year starting from now, for eternity.

- Now* $\xrightarrow{\text{next year the following year....}}$



- Net Present Value (NPV)** of this stream of payoffs will be:

$$NPV = \textcircled{C} + \frac{C}{(1+i)^1} + \frac{C}{(1+i)^2} + \frac{C}{(1+i)^3} + \dots$$

- $\frac{1}{1+i} = \textcircled{\delta}$ is sometimes called the *discount factor*.

$$NPV = C + C\delta + C\delta^2 + C\delta^3 + \dots$$

Handwritten notes:

$\delta \in (0,1)$

100δ (at $t=0$) and 100 (at $t=1$) are connected by an arrow, illustrating the discounting of a future cash flow.



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(7) Compound Interest rates, Net Present Value

- Net Present Value (NPV)* of this stream of payoffs will be:

$$\underline{\text{NPV}} = C + C\delta + C\delta^2 + C\delta^3 + \dots = C(1 + \delta + \delta^2 + \delta^3 + \dots)$$

$$\underline{\delta \cdot \text{NPV}} = C(\delta + \delta^2 + \delta^3 + \delta^4 + \dots)$$

$$(1 - \delta) \cdot \text{NPV} = C \quad i = 5\%$$

$$\underline{\text{NPV}} = \frac{C}{1 - \delta} = \frac{C}{1 - \frac{1}{1+i}} = \frac{C}{\frac{1+i-1}{1+i}} = C \cdot \frac{1+i}{i} = C \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right)$$

$$100 \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{0.05}\right) = \underline{\underline{2100}}$$



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(7) Summation Sign, Price Indices

$$\bullet \sum_{i=2}^5 (2i^2 - 1) = (2 \cdot 2^2 - 1) + (2 \cdot 3^2 - 1) + (2 \cdot 4^2 - 1) + (2 \cdot 5^2 - 1)$$

$$= 7 + 17 + 31 + 49 = 104$$

$\sum_{i=a}^b f(i)$

• In general, $\sum_{i=a}^b f(i) = f(a) + f(a+1) + \dots + f(b-1) + f(b)$

• In the previous example on a stream of **C** dollars each year, we would have:

$$\bullet \text{NPV} = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{C}{(1+i)^t} = C \cdot \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1+i)^t}$$

$$2(a+b) = 2a + 2b$$

$$\sum_{i=2}^5 (2i^2 - 1) = 2 \sum_{i=2}^5 i^2 - \sum_{i=2}^5 1$$

$$= C + \frac{C}{1+i} + \frac{C}{(1+i)^2} + \dots$$



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