

ECONOMIC EQUIVALENCE VIEWED AS A MOMENT DIAGRAM

The similarity between cash flow and free body diagrams allows an analogy that helps some students better understand economic equivalence.² Think of the cash flows as forces that are always perpendicular to the axis. Then the time periods become the distances along the axis.

When we are solving for unknown forces in a free body diagram, we know that a moment equation about any point will be in equilibrium. Typically moments are calculated by using the right-hand rule so that counterclockwise moments are positive, but it is also possible to define moments so that a clockwise rotation is positive. We are assuming that **clockwise rotations are positive**. This allows us to make the normal assumptions that positive forces point up and positive distances from the force to the pivot point are measured from left to right. Thus, negative forces point down, and negative distances are measured

ENGINEERING ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

ELEVENTH EDITION

Donald G. Newnan

San Jose State University

Ted G. Eschenbach

University of Alaska Anchorage

Jerome P. Lavelle

North Carolina State University

Four Cases For Forces and distance relation.

from the force on the right to the pivot point on the left. These assumptions are summarized in the following diagram.

① upward Force is +ve

$$(+)(+) = +$$

Moment is +ve
Clockwise rotation

Point to the right d is +ve



Force is +ve }
distance is -ve }
Moment is -ve
anti-clock
rotation

With these assumptions we can write force moment equations at equilibrium for the following diagram.

Force is downwards (-ve)

distance is +ve

$$\text{Moment will have } (-)(+) = (-)$$

negative sign

Force is down wards

F is -ve

distance is to the Left
of the Force $\rightarrow (-)$

$$\text{Moment is } (-)(-) = +ve$$

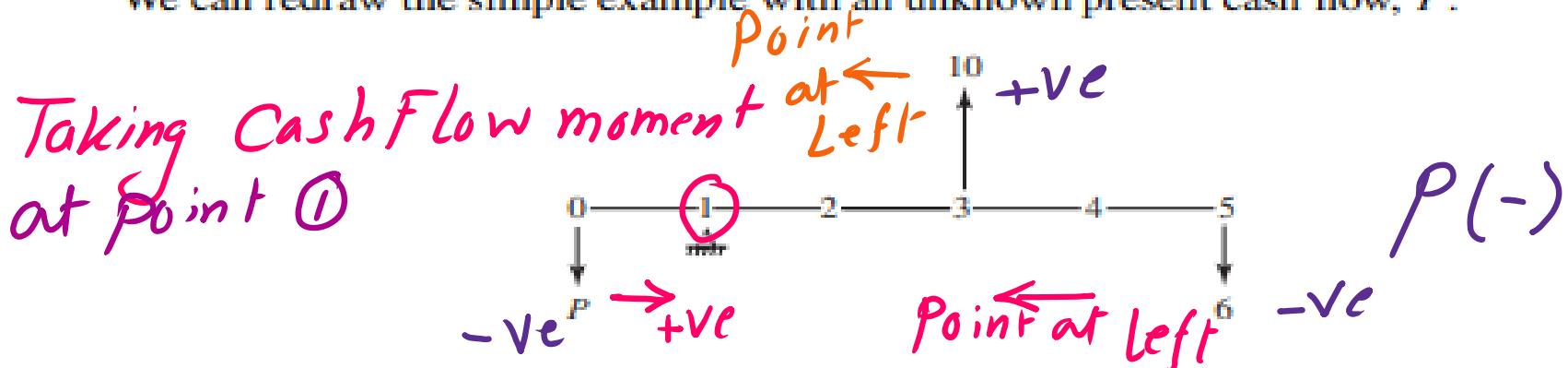
Cash Flow moment equation

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To write the cash flow moment equation for the cash flow diagram we need:

1. A sign convention for cash flows, such that positive values point up.
2. A way to measure the moment arm for each cash flow. This moment arm must be measured as $(1 + i)^T$, where T is the number of periods measured *from the cash flow to the pivot point or axis of rotation*.
 - a. Thus the sign of the distance is moved to the exponent.
 - b. For cash flows at the pivot point, $T = 0$, and $(1 + i)^0 = 1$.

We can redraw the simple example with an unknown present cash flow, P .



Since P is drawn as a negative cash flow, we put a minus sign in front of it when we write the cash flow moment equation. To rewrite the cash flow moment equation at Year 1, we use the distances from the diagram as the exponents for $(1 + i)^t$:

$$0 = -P \times (1 + i)^1 + 10 \times (1 + i)^{-2} + -6 \times (1 + i)^{-4}$$

+ve values are up

moment arm = $(1 + i)^n$

$n = 0$ at the same point

$\sum M = 0$ at point ①

We can get the relation between P & Future value

as follows:

P is assumed
at the right

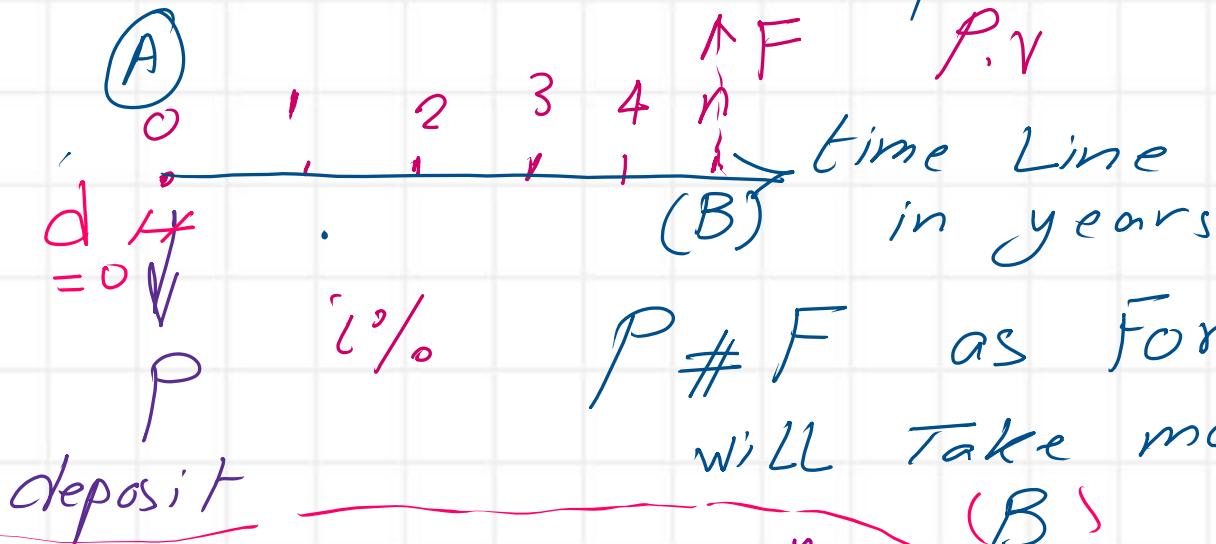
$$\sum M_A = 0$$

P is downward Force $\Rightarrow (-P)$

F is upward Force $(+F)$

A : at distance 0 \rightarrow From P

B : at distance n \rightarrow From P



$$-P(1+i)^0 + F(1+i)^{-n} = 0$$
$$P(1) = \frac{F}{(1+i)^n} \Rightarrow \text{known formula}$$

A at distance $(-n)$ at left of F
 B at distance (0) From F

We can get the relation between P & Future value

as follows:

Cash Flow
- moment

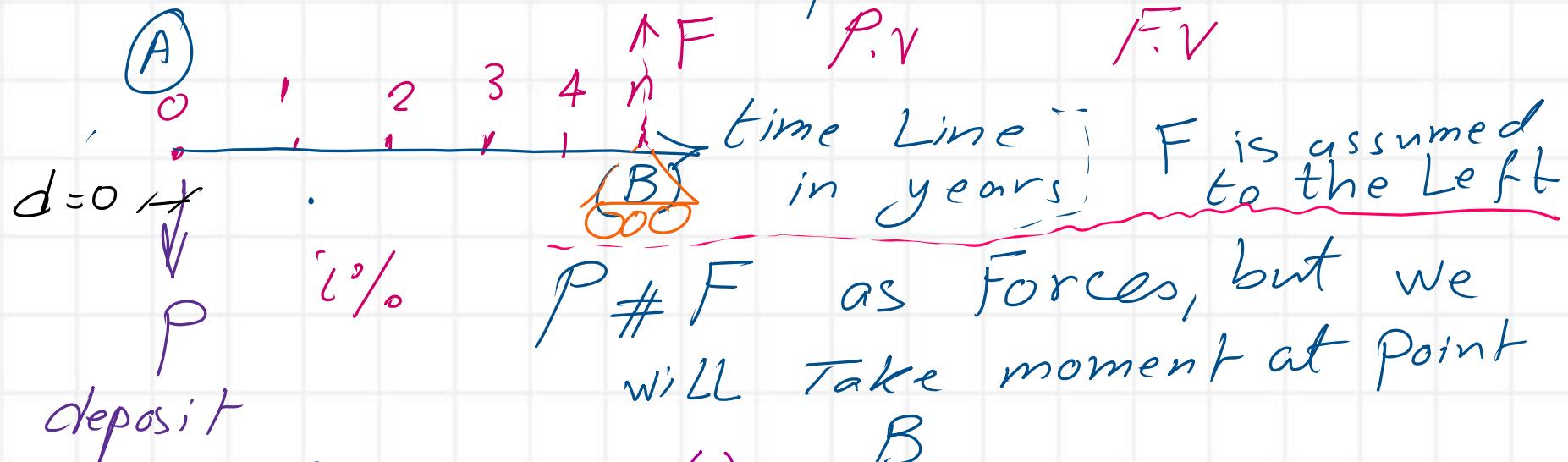
$$\sum M_B = 0$$

P : is downward Force $\Rightarrow (-P)$

F : is upward Force $(+F)$

A : at distance $0 \rightarrow$ From P

B : at distance $n \rightarrow$ From P



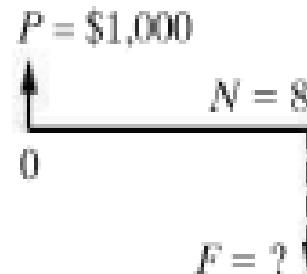
$$-P(1+i)^n + F(1+i)^{(0)} = 0$$

$$P(1+i)^n = F(1) \Rightarrow F = P(1+i)^n$$

A at distance $(-n)$ at left of F
 B at distance (0) From F

TABLE 4-2 Discrete Cash-Flow Examples Illustrating Equivalence

Example Problems (All Using an Interest Rate of $i = 10\%$ per Year—See Table C-13 of Appendix C)

To Find:	Given:	(a) In Borrowing— Lending Terminology:	(b) In Equivalence Terminology:	Cash-Flow Diagram ^a	Solution
<i>For single cash flows:</i>					
F	P	A firm borrows \$1,000 for eight years. How much must it repay in a lump sum at the end of the eighth year?	What is the future equivalent at the end of eight years of \$1,000 at the beginning of those eight years?		$ \begin{aligned} F &= P(F/P, 10\%, 8) \\ &= \$1,000(2.1436) \\ &= \$2,143.60 \end{aligned} $

P $P = \$1000, i = 10\%, n = 8$. Taking moment at $n = 8$
 as pivot point $\Rightarrow P(1+i)^n - F(1+i)^0 = 0$
 $100(1+0.10)^8 - F(1+0)^0 = 0$
 $F = 100(1.10)^8 / 1 = \$2143.588$

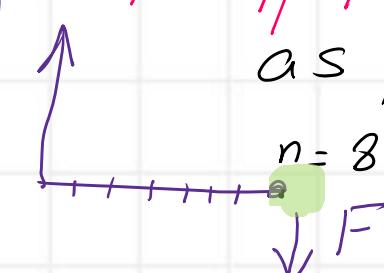
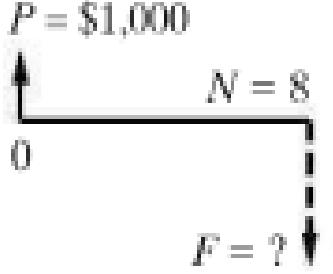


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