

7.8 Solving Problems with Exponents and Logs

Many formulas include exp. + logs — investments, loans
 Many everyday occurrences involve exp + logs — weather, earthquakes
 growth/decay

here are a few

future value $\rightarrow FV = \frac{R[(1+i)^n - 1]}{i}$

R = regular \$ investment

i = interest rate % per compounding period

n = # of investments

present value $\rightarrow PV = \frac{R[1 - (1+i)^{-n}]}{i}$

magnitude of an earthquake (Richter Scale - after Charles Richter)

$$M = \log\left(\frac{I}{S}\right)$$

M = magnitude

I = intensity of vibrations

S = intensity of a standard earthquake

ex. 1 Chile had an earthquake of magnitude 9.5 in 1960. Calculate the intensity in terms of a standard earthquake.

$$M = \log\left(\frac{I}{S}\right)$$

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$$9.5 = \log\left(\frac{I}{S}\right)$$

$$10^{9.5} = \frac{I}{S}$$

$$10^{9.5} S = I$$

3 billion S

It was $10^{9.5}$ times as intense.

ex.2 A person borrows \$15,000 for a car. They can pay \$300 a month. The loan will be repaid with equal monthly payments at 6% annual interest, compounded monthly. How many monthly payments will they make?

$$PV = \frac{R [1 - (1+i)^{-n}]}{i}$$

$$15000 = \frac{300 [1 - (1+0.005)^{-n}]}{0.005}$$

x 0.005

$$75 = \underline{300} [1 - (1.005)^{-n}]$$

$PV = \$15,000$

$i = \frac{6\%}{12} = 0.005$
comp monthly

$R = \$300$

$n = ?$

$\div 300$

300

$$0.25 = \frac{1}{-1} - (1.005)^{-n}$$

$$-0.75 = \frac{-1}{-1} (1.005)^{-n}$$

$$0.75 = 1.005^{-n}$$

$$\log 0.75 = \log 1.005^{-n}$$

$$\frac{\log 0.75}{\log 1.005} = \frac{-n \log 1.005}{\log 1.005}$$

$$-57.68 \dots = -n$$

$$57.68 \dots = n$$

$$n \div 58 \text{ months}$$

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