##### Chapter Two

**Determinants of Interest Rates**

#### I. Chapter Outline

1. Interest Rate Fundamentals: Chapter Overview
2. Loanable Funds Theory
   1. Supply of Loanable Funds
   2. Demand for Loanable Funds
   3. Equilibrium Interest Rate
   4. Factors that Cause the Supply and Demand Curves for Loanable Funds to Shift
3. Movement of Interest Rates over Time
4. Determinants of Interest Rates For Individual Securities
   1. Inflation
   2. Real Risk Free Interest Rates
   3. Default or Credit Risk
   4. Liquidity Risk
   5. Special Provisions or Covenants
   6. Term to Maturity
5. Term Structure of Interest Rates
   1. Unbiased Expectations Theory
   2. Liquidity Premium Theory
   3. Market Segmentation Theory
6. Forecasting Interest Rates

### Time Value of Money and Interest Rates

* 1. Time Value of Money
  2. Lump Sum Valuation
  3. Annuity Valuation

#### II. Learning Goals

#### Know who the main suppliers of loanable funds are.

#### Know who the main demanders of loanable funds are.

#### Understand how equilibrium interest rates are determined.

#### Examine factors that cause the supply and demand curves for loanable funds to shift.

#### Examine how interest rates change over time.

#### Know what specific factors determine interest rates.

#### Examine the different theories explaining the term structure of interest rates.

#### Understand how forward rates of interest can be derived from the term structure of interest rates.

#### Understand how interest rates are used to determine present and future values.

#### III. Chapter in Perspective

This is the first of several chapters that familiarize students with the determinants of valuation of bonds and related securities. In this chapter the authors first focus on the economic determinants of interest rates using the flow of funds theory of interest rates. Subsequently, unique characteristics of securities that give rise to different interest rates are discussed. This chapter has four major sections. The first major topic covers interest rate formation in a ‘loanable funds’ framework. The loanable funds theory is the most basic explanation of real risk free interest rate formation in the economy and is easily understood by students. The loanable funds theory describes general economic forces in the economy that determine the opportunity cost of funds which may be thought of as the real, riskless rate. The next section explains why individual investments have different interest rates because of their unique characteristics. The effect of maturity on interest rates is explained in greater detail in the term structure discussion. Three of the main theories of the term structure are presented. The chapter then provides a brief example of using term structure mathematics to forecast interest rates. The final section provides a review of basic time value calculations. The sixth edition of the text drops the discussion of calculating the effective annual rate that had been in prior editions.

#### IV. Key Concepts and Definitions to Communicate to Students

Real riskless rates vs nominal riskless rates Inflation

Compound and simple interest Default risk premiums

Annuity Liquidity risk premiums

Unbiased expectations Term structure

Liquidity premiums Maturity premiums

Market segmentation Future value and present value

Forward rates Safe haven

#### V. Teaching Notes

1. **Interest Rate Fundamentals: Chapter Overview**

### The interest rates that you actually see quoted are **nominal** interest rates; as a result, nominal rates are sometimes called ‘quoted rates.’ The purpose of the chapter is to examine the components of the nominal interest rate. They are a) the real riskless rate of interest that is compensation for the pure time value of money, b) an expected inflation premium that is time dependent and c) a risk premium for liquidity, default and interest rate risk.

### **Loanable Funds Theory**

The interaction of supply and demand of funds sets the basic opportunity cost rate (real riskless interest rate) in the economy. The Federal Reserve estimates supply and demand of funds from households, business, government and foreign sources through its flow of funds accounts. Flows of funds tables are available at the Federal Reserve website at [www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov). The Federal Reserve (Fed) has pushed short term interest rates to near record lows in order to stimulate the economy and has pursued a policy of quantitative easing (purchasing government and mortgage debt by creating money) in an additional attempt to encourage spending and investment. In mid-2013 the Fed announced it would begin gradually tapering its bond purchases although the Fed has continued to promise to keep short term interest rates low well into 2015.

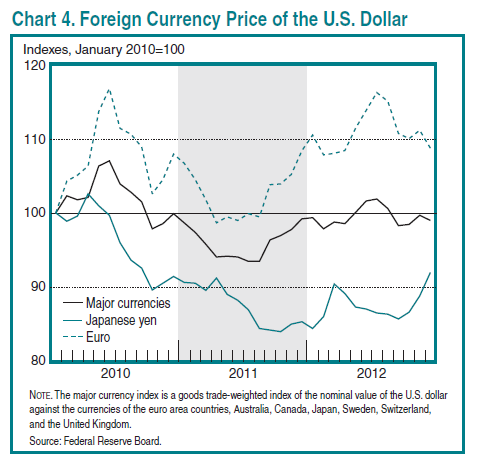
* 1. **Supply of Loanable Funds**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Source Federal Reserve Flow of Funds Matrix  Year 2012 data | Net Supply in Billions of Dollars |
| Households & NPOs | $982 |
| Business Nonfinancial | 219 |
| State & Local Govt. | -253 |
| Federal Government | -1,126 |
| Financial Sector | 56 |
| Foreign | 446 |

The predominant suppliers of loanable funds are households. Household savings rates have increased since the financial crisis. The second largest net supplier of funds is the foreign sector. The U.S. remains highly reliant on foreign sources of funds to meet our funds’ demands. This reliance becomes increasingly problematic with the continued long term fall in the value of the dollar.

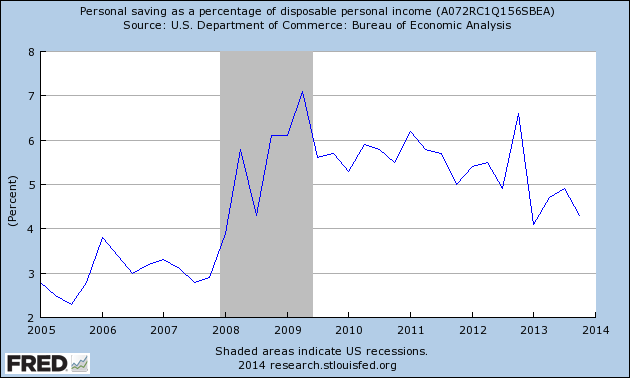
Household savings increase with higher interest rates and the supply curve is upward sloping with respect to interest rates. However, the main determinants of household savings are 1) income and wealth, the greater the wealth or income, the greater the amount saved, 2) attitudes about saving versus borrowing, 3) credit availability, the greater the amount of easily obtainable consumer credit the lower the need to save, 4) job security and belief about safety of the Social Security system and 5) tax policy. In the U.S. tax policy favors borrowing but taxes virtually all savings (except retirement savings). As a result, the supply curve is steeper than one might expect. The instructor may wish to explain that at higher interest rates, savers do not have to save as much to hit specified future values, so savings are not that sensitive to interest rates. Where consumers put their savings is sensitive to interest rates, they move out of liquid accounts as interest rates rise (as the price of foregoing higher rates of return to maintain liquidity rises).

Households apparently try to smooth consumption patterns over different levels of income. As income falls they save less to maintain consumption, as income rises households save more. Other factors include the perceived riskiness of investments, near



Source: www.bea.gov/scb/pdf/2013/10%20October/1013\_international\_services.pdf

Source: FRED data, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



term spending needs, Federal Reserve policy and general economic conditions. Favorable economic conditions also increase savings by increasing income and wealth. Note that on net the foreign sector is the second largest supplier of funds. Foreign funds suppliers examine the same factors as U.S. suppliers except that they must also factor in expected changes in currency values, global interest rates, different tax rates and sovereign risk. There is typically some built in demand for U.S. investments however because the U.S. is considered a **safe haven,** i.e.,a country with relatively low political and economic risk and a stable currency.

The dollar is used to price many commodities, including oil and gold; the dollar is the primary foreign currency reserve asset for many central banks and many exports are dollar denominated even if the ultimate destination is not the U.S. Some feel that the dollar will lose its reserve status eventually if China continues to grow and dominate Asia *and* if Europe increases its commitment to growth policies while continuing to deconstruct some of their increasingly expensive social welfare programs. The time frame required for a major shift away from the dollar may be ten to twenty years or even much longer however, because China will remain far too risky for quite a while and Europe must demonstrate a commitment to growth and solve its sovereign debt problems. China has made several moves lately to free up yuan trading. China now allows exporters to sell some of their foreign currency earnings, allows limited individual trading in its currency and allows yuan financing in international markets. China still maintains capital controls however.

Foreign central banks hold a large amount of foreign currency reserves, the bulk of which are in dollars (about 60% of foreign currency reserves are in dollars).

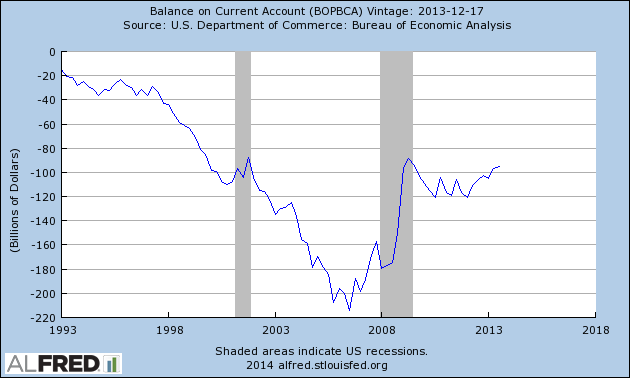
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Foreign Currency Reserves (all $ in billions)** |
| China | $3,317 |
| Saudi Arabia | 643 |
| Russia | 538 |
| Taiwan | 398 |
| S. Korea | 327 |

Source: Economist 2013

These high levels of reserves are indicative of foreign central bank activity to limit the growth in the value of their currencies against the dollar. This may be done to stimulate their export sectors. The dollars are often reinvested in the U.S., typically in Treasuries. This provides an additional source of financing to the U.S. and helps remove a market discipline from U.S. borrowers. Since the money is more or less automatically rechanneled into the U.S., U.S. interest rates don’t rise as much as they would have otherwise when U.S. entities spend more than their income and need to borrow the difference from overseas. This promotes overspending by U.S. entities and can result in asset price bubbles similar to what happened in stocks in the later 1990s and housing in the 2000s.

The negative balance on the U.S. current account (see below) represents excess importing over exporting, or similarly, excess spending over income. The balance has to be financed with capital account transactions or offset by changes in official reserves to prevent the dollar from declining. For the most part the balance is maintained by borrowing from overseas (and net selling of U.S. assets to foreigners). The U.S. net indebtedness to the rest of the world was about $4.46 trillion in 2013 (about 27% of GDP).

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve FRED data



Whether or not this is a serious problem depends on how much money is reinvested in the U.S. and how we use the money reinvested. It certainly points out the U.S. dependence on foreign funds.

* 1. **Demand for Loanable Funds**

The quantity of loanable funds demanded is greater at lower interest rates. Businesses prefer to finance internally when interest rates are high. The demand for loanable funds by households for big ticket items is quite sensitive to interest rates as these items comprise a large percentage of their budget (homes, autos, boats, etc). The Federal government’s demand for funds is relatively insensitive to interest rates, but not wholly so because much of the interest owed on the Federal debt is financed by borrowing. As interest rates rise, the Federal government has to borrow more to pay off the interest on the existing debt. The Federal budget is likely to remain in deficit for the next 10 years at least.

State and local government financing is also quite sensitive to interest rates. New municipal offerings drop when interest rates rise. Not surprisingly, government entities that cannot print money (or raise taxes) are more sensitive to financing costs! Many states are now in financial difficulty because many are required to balance their budgets under state laws, and the recession has decreased the amount of tax revenues and increased state spending on assistance programs. Moreover, the weaker economy has highlighted the overly generous pension benefits promised to state workers that now look unaffordable as federal stimulus money ends.

* 1. **Equilibrium Interest Rate**

It is the job of the 12 Federal Reserve banks to estimate aggregate supply and demand of funds from the various sectors at different interest rates and then build the aggregate supply and demand curves. In free capital markets the interest rate observed will tend toward equilibrium at the rate that intersects the supply and demand curves for each traded instrument.

* 1. **Factors that Cause the Supply and Demand Curves for Loanable Funds to Shift**

Increase in Affect on Supply Affect on Demand

Wealth & income Increase N/A

As wealth and income increase, funds suppliers are more willing to supply funds to markets. Result: lower interest rates

Risk Decrease Decrease

As the risk of an investment decreases, funds suppliers are less willing to purchase the claim. All else equal, demanders of funds would be less willing to borrow as well. Result: higher interest rates

Near term spending needs Decrease N/A

As current spending needs increase, funds suppliers are less willing to invest. Result: higher interest rates

Monetary expansion Increase N/A

As the central bank increases the supply of money in the economy, this directly increases the supply of funds available for lending. Result: lower interest rates

Economic growth Increase Increase

With stronger economic growth, wealth and incomes rise, increasing the supply of funds available. As U.S. economic strength improves relative to the rest of the world, foreign supply of funds is also increased. Business demand for funds increases as more projects are profitable. Result: indeterminate effect on interest rates, but at more rapid growth rates interest rates tend to rise.

Utility derived from assets Decrease Increase

As utility from owning assets increases, funds suppliers are less willing to invest and postpone consumption whereas funds demanders are more willing to borrow. Result: higher interest rates

Restrictive covenants Increase Decrease

As loan or bond covenants become more restrictive, borrowers reduce their demand for funds. Result: lower interest rates

Tax Increase Decrease Increase

Taxes on interest and capital gains reduce the returns to savers and the incentive to save. The tax deductibility of interest paid on debt increases borrowing demand. Result: Higher interest rates

Currency Appreciation Increase N/A

Foreign suppliers of funds would earn a higher rate of return if the currency appreciates and a lower rate of return measured in their own currency if the dollar depreciates. Foreign central banks often buy U.S. Treasury securities as part of their attempts to prevent their currency from appreciating against the dollar.

Result: Lower interest rates

Expected inflation Decrease Increase

An increase in expected inflation implies that suppliers will be repaid with dollars that will have less purchasing power than originally anticipated. Suppliers lose purchasing power and borrowers gain more than originally anticipated. This implies that supply will be reduced and demand increased. Result: Higher interest rates

The marginal propensity to consume (MPC) and the marginal propensity to save (MPS) affect household choices of how much of their income they wish to spend and save respectively. The MPC had increased (and the MPS decreased) inter-generationally in the U.S. before the financial crisis. This change probably came about because of reduced stigma associated with debt and increased availability of credit. Since the crisis the amount of consumer credit to riskier individuals has declined, along with income growth, and one would thus expect savings rates to be higher than during the boom years.

1. **Movement of Interest Rates Over Time**

Interest rates fluctuate in a nearly continuous manner due to the actions of traders. In a free market (capitalist) society, governments do not set prices. Interest rates are the price of borrowing money associated with a specific instrument or claim. Actions to buy, sell and issue securities affect interest rates. In turn, demand and supply of funds fluctuate daily as current and expected macro and instrument specific conditions evolve.

1. **Determinants of Interest Rates For Individual Securities**
   1. **Inflation**
   2. **Real Riskless Interest Rates & Fisher Effect**

**Inflation** is the rate of change in the overall price level. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is the most commonly quoted measure of inflation. The CPI purports to measure the price level of a market basket of goods and services purchased by the typical urban consumer.

The **Fisher effect** states that nominal riskless rates equal real riskless rates plus a premium for expected inflation. This relationship is the basis for the term structure. Differences in annual expected inflation rates cause differences in bond rates with different maturities.

The nominal interest rate is the additional dollars earned from an investment. The real interest rate is the additional purchasing power earned from an investment. The real interest rate refers to the marginal gain in units purchased rather than in dollars.

Teaching Tip: Sometimes we think that ex-ante real rates cannot be negative, but they can because of the convenience yield of liquidity. They have been negative in recent years in both the U.S. and Japan.

The Fisher Effect relates nominal and real interest rates.

The approximate Fisher effect is given as

i = RIR + Expected (IP)

where i = nominal riskless interest rate, RIR = real riskless interest rate and Expected (IP) = expected inflation.

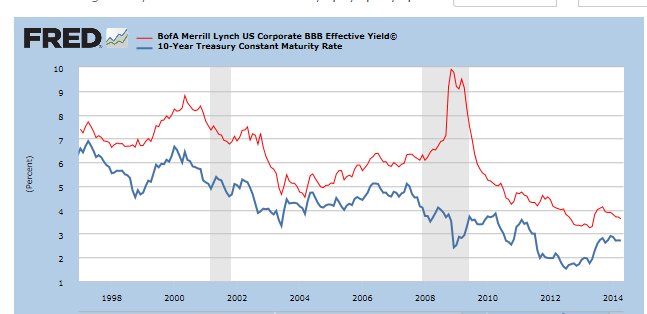
The actual Fisher Effect is given as  
(1+i) = (1+RIR)\*(1+Expected(IP))

The following example illustrates why the actual Fisher Effect is multiplicative:

|  |
| --- |
| **Suppose “It” originally cost you $1. You have $10 so could buy 10 of “it.”**  **If inflation is 5%, in one year “it” will cost $1 + .05 =$1.05.**  **If you invest your $10 and earn 10% + 5% = 15% (the approximate Fisher Effect) you will get back $10 \* 1.15 = $11.50. Can you buy $10% more of “it?” I.E. can you now buy 10 \* 1.1 or 11 of “it?”**  **11 \* $1.05 = $11.55; so you are short 5 cents.**  **In order to buy 10% more of it you must earn an interest rate equal to (1.10 \* 1.05) - 1 = 1.155 - 1 = 15.5% nominal interest.**  **Then your $10 will grow to $10 \* 1.155 = $11.55 and you CAN buy 10% more of it!**  **Since both P & Q are rising, the rate charged must reflect the increments to both P and Q.**  **The difference matters little if inflation is low and/or the time period under consideration is not very long. In international investing environments where inflation is much higher than the U.S. is currently experiencing, the difference can be material.** |

As of this writing, core inflation measures remain subdued but commodity and food prices are increasing. Even though measured inflation, particularly core inflation which excludes food and energy, remains low, prices of high frequency purchases such as food and gas are increasing at a higher rate. Thus, there seems to be more inflation than the CPI numbers indicate. Moreover, the practice of ‘hedonics’ in inflation calculations adds some uncertainty about the validity of actual inflation numbers.[[1]](#footnote-1) Rising oil prices may also reduce economic growth. Sustained high oil prices drive up the cost of production and act as a tax on consumers. Economists estimate that if oil hits $120 a barrel, economic growth will be substantially reduced.

* 1. **Default or Credit Risk**

Default risk premiums (**DRP**s) are increases in required yield needed to offset the possibility the borrower will not repay the promised interest and principle in full or as scheduled. According to the Wall Street Journal Online, credit risk premiums on Aa rated corporate debt relative to Treasuries between March 2010 and March 2011 ranged between 86.6 and 150 basis points and on Baa rated debt ranged between 172 and 237 basis points. DRPs on high yield debt ranged between 453 and 728 basis points over Treasuries. DRPs are cyclical, and rise in periods of weak economic conditions such as the U.S. has been experiencing in recent years. The FRED graph below contains the yields on the Bank of America Merrill Lynch US Corporate BBB Effective Yield and the 10 year Treasury Constant Maturity Rate. Notice the large increase in the spread during the recent recession.

* 1. **Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk premiums are increases in required or promised yields designed to offset the risk of not being able to sell the asset in timely fashion at fair value. These are similar to, but not the same as, the liquidity premiums in the term structure discussion. Liquidity risk can be more significant for some debt instruments than for stocks as many bonds trade in thin markets.

* 1. **Special Provisions of Covenants**
* Municipal bond (Muni) rates are lower than similar corporate bonds because interest (but not capital gains) is exempt from federal taxation. In most states the holder of a muni bond issued in that state is also exempt from state taxes.   
  Teaching Tip: Ask students why munis are granted special tax status. What do they think about industrial development bonds which allow private corporations to issue tax advantaged munis for certain projects? Note that usage of IDBs has been restricted in recent years due to over usage by private firms seeking to exploit the tax advantage of municipals.  
  Teaching Tip: The municipal bond market is going through a crisis in the spring of 2011 because of concerns with large state budget deficits. Longer term muni bond rates were between 3.52% and 4.7% in May 2014. It seems unlikely that failures will occur because the bonds usually carry high priority in state budgets. It seems more likely that bond payments will crowd out other types of state spending.
* Callable bonds have higher required yields than straight bonds because the issuer will normally call them when rates have dropped, forcing the bondholders to reinvest at lower interest rates. Although it varies with interest rate expectations the premium on a callable bond might be 30 to 50 basis points.
* Convertible bonds have lower yields than straight bonds because the bondholder has the right to convert them to preferred or common stock at their choice. Offering a conversion feature may save 100 to 200 basis points, ceteris paribus. In most cases however, the stock has to appreciate 15%-25% over the at issue price in order to make conversion attractive.
  1. **Term to Maturity**

The **term structure** depicts the relationship between maturity and yields for bonds identical in all respects except maturity. In practice, ‘identical’ means same rating, liquidity and hopefully the same coupon (or differential tax effects will be present). The graph of the term structure can take on any shape, but upward sloping is most common (meaning longer term bonds promise higher nominal yields). The yield curve was inverted in Nov 2000 and in parts of 2006 and 2007. Note that for Treasuries, ‘**on the run**’ (newly issued) securities often carry price premiums over ‘**off the run**’ (previously issued) securities.

In the graph below one can see that long term rates are normally above short term rates, although the relationship may change ahead of recessions (depicted by the shaded bars).

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve



* 1. **Summary**

ij\* = f(Riskless real rate, Expected inflation, Default risk premium, Liquidity risk premium, Special covenant premium, Maturity risk premium)

The maturity risk premium is explained in Section 5 where it is defined as the premium for holding a price volatile asset (confusingly called a liquidity premium).

1. **Term Structure of Interest Rates**
   1. **Unbiased Expectations Theory (UET)**

The UET states that the long term interest rate is the geometric average of the current and expected future short term rates. A simple arbitrage proof can be used to show this **when** interest rates are known with certainty under perfect markets:

|  |
| --- |
| If the expected one year rates are 6%, 7% and 8% for the next three years respectively, and the three year rate is 5%, how could one make money on this relationship?  Using the text’s terminology: 0R1 = 6%, 1R1=7% and 2R1 = 8% but 0R3=5%  The average of the short term one year rates is 7%, but the three year rate is only 5%. One could borrow any given amount such as $1000 for the full three years and invest that money one year at a time and rolling over the investment for three years. The borrowing cost per year is 5% and the average rate of return is 7%. This is a riskless arbitrage under the given assumptions that would force the three year rate and the average of the one year rates to converge. |

The instructor may wish to show this relationship first using simpler arithmetic averages as above since students often seem to struggle with the concept of geometric averages. Geometric averages are used to account for compounding; for examples of two or three years where the rates are similar, the use of arithmetic averages will give almost identical results if the returns are similar to one another.

For a series of holding period returns (HPRs) the geometric average can be found as: 

For example if we have a time series of three returns of 10%, -15% and 12% the arithmetic and geometric averages are 2.33% and 1.55% respectively:





**Interpreting the UET**

The UET has different possible interpretations.[[2]](#footnote-2) It can imply that the return over a given time horizon should be the same regardless of the bond maturity chosen. For example, for a 5 year investment horizon the realized rate of return should be the same regardless of whether a 5 year bond or a 10 year bond is held for 5 years. A second interpretation may be termed the ‘local expectations’ form of the UET. This version holds that realized returns will be the same regardless of the bond maturity chosen only for short term holding periods such as 6 months. The third interpretation is that under the UET an investor is indifferent between how one arrives at an N year investment by choosing any bond maturity less than or equal to N and rolling the investment over as needed. For example, one would be indifferent between investing for N years all at once, or investing for 1 year and rolling the investment over N-1 times. All three interpretations ignore interest rate volatility and market imperfections such as transactions costs.

* 1. **Liquidity Premium Theory**

If investors prefer shorter maturities to long, they will require a premium to invest for N years all at once instead of investing for 1 year and rolling the investment over N-1 times. In other words, the long term rate **cannot** be the average of the expected short term rates. The long term rate must equal the average of the short term rates plus what is illogically called a ‘liquidity premium.’ (It is an illiquidity premium.) The rationale for the shorter maturity preference is that with uncertainty about future rates, it is riskier to invest long term rather than investing for a shorter time and rolling the investment over because it is harder to forecast rates further in the future and longer term investments are more price volatile. This is a modification of the UET, but it does not invalidate the logic of the UET. It does imply that long term rates are biased forecasters of expected future short term rates. We don’t know very much about the size of the liquidity premiums. They increase with maturity, and probably do not get much over 100 to 200 basis points.[[3]](#footnote-3)

* 1. **Market Segmentation Theory**

The market segmentation theory claims that there are two or three distinct maturity segments (the segments are ill-defined) and market participants will not venture out of their preferred segment, even if favorable rates may be found in a different maturity. A less extreme version posits that a sufficient interest rate premium may induce investors to switch maturity segments. The idea behind segmentation is that institutions naturally have liabilities of a distinct maturity, e.g., life insurers have long term liabilities, so they will not invest short term. Hence, there is no or only a very weak relationship between interest rates of different maturities and supply and demand of a given maturity sets the individual interest rates. By inference, there is no reason to construct a term structure as there is no relationship between long term rates and expected future short term rates. This is unlikely to strictly hold because it suggests that opportunities to take advantage of mispricing of securities will not be exploited. For example if the 10 year bond rate is much higher than warranted by expectations, one could buy the 10 year bond and short a 9 year bond. If the rates on different maturities are far enough out of line with expectations, some entity will seek to exploit the profit opportunity. If existing investors will not exploit the opportunity, new investors will emerge to do so in a capitalist system. In fact this is a typical hedge fund strategy. On the other hand, daily changes in supply and demand and changes in non-price conditions can certainly cause long term rates to diverge from the average of expected future short term rates. These create profit opportunities for astute bond traders. If bond markets are reasonably efficient, these profit opportunities should not persist long.

1. **Forecasting Interest Rates**

A **forward rate** is a rate that can be imputed from the existing term structure. It is a mathematical tautology that given a set of long term **zero coupon spot rates** one can find the set of individual one year forward rates. For instance using the books terminology:

(1+1R6)6 = (1+1R5)5 \* (1+5F1)

(1+1R5)6 = (1+1R4)4 \* (1+4F1) …

where 1R6 and 1R5 are the long term zero coupon spot rates from today to year 6 and 5 respectively and F stands for a forward rate. The first subscript refers to the loan origination date, but the textbook confusingly uses 1 instead of 0 as is normal to represent today. The second subscript refers to the term to maturity. Since all the spot rates are known one can construct the full set of forward rates, iF1, from them.

Teaching Tip: The text implies that the Treasury issues zero coupon bonds across the maturity structure but this is not true. Most Treasuries beyond one year pay coupons, although a strip program exists. One can calculate the series of zero coupon spot rates implied by the Treasury yields via a process called **bootstrapping**. The zero coupon rates are called spot rates. Not all spot rates are available because the Treasury does not issue every possible maturity. Newly issued securities are preferred because they are more liquid. The missing spot rates can be inferred through interpolation. The bootstrapping process is illustrated in the source mentioned in footnote 2.

Teaching Tip: The text’s terminology is very confusing to me and to students. I use 0RN to mean a spot rate on a loan originated today at time 0 and maturing in year N so that the loan term is N-0. Forward rates such as 4F6 are then understood to be the implied rate on a 2 year loan originated in time period 4 that matures in time period 6. Students have no trouble grasping my terminology. The test bank responses use this terminology as well.

**Interpreting the forward rates** If the UET strictly holds then forward rates are an unbiased estimate of expected future annual rates. If there are liquidity premiums, one should subtract the liquidity premium from the forward rate before using it as an estimate of the expected future spot rate. If segmentation strictly holds, the forward rate has no economic meaning.

### **Time Value of Money and Interest Rates**

* 1. **Time Value of Money**
  2. **Lump Sum Valuation**
  3. **Annuity Valuation**

The **real riskless rate** of interest is the additional compensation required to forego current consumption. This is the essence of the time value of money. That is, the value we place on money depends upon when the money is received (paid) and the time preference for consumption. **Simple interest** is earned if the investor spends the interest earnings each period; **compound interest** assumes the interest earned per period is reinvested. Present and future values of lump sums and **annuities** are covered and the closed form formulas for the annuities are presented in this edition. The closed form versions are summarized below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | FV | PV |
| Lump  Sum | Annual Compound Interest |  |  |
| Non-Annual Compound Interest |  |  |
| Annuity | Annuity Annual Compound Interest |  |  |
| Annuity Non-Annual Compound Interest |  |  |

PV = Present value FV = Future value

i = nominal rate PMT = annuity payment

t = number of years c = number of compounding periods per year

Comparative statics for lump sum and annuity calculations are discussed in the text.

#### VI. Web Links

<http://www.ft.com/> Financial Times, won two Espy awards for best new site and best non U.S. news site. Outstanding coverage of global events and markets

<http://www.wsj.com/> The Wall Street Journal website has excellent data sources and articles on finance and economics. The Wall Street Journal’s international coverage is also outstanding.

<http://www.ustreas.gov/> Treasury data on U.S. national debt

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/> Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System homepage, breaking news, monetary policy data and careers with the Fed

<http://www.moodys.com/> A leading provider of independent credit ratings, research and financial information to the capital markets

<http://www.standardandpoors.com/> A leading provider of independent credit ratings, research and financial information to the capital markets

###### VII. Student Learning Activities

1. Go to the *Wall Street Journal Online* Treasury data bank and obtain the current term structure of interest rates for 10 years. Using these numbers construct next year’s expected term structure. Will it be correct? Why or why not?

1. Go to the following Texas Lottery page: <http://www.txlottery.org/export/sites/default/index.html> and try to determine how much money you could immediately take home if you won the Lotto Texas jackpot. Is this fair to the public?

Suppose you could also receive payments over 25 years. How would the payment amount over 25 years be calculated? What is the withholding tax?

1. Go to the following Federal Reserve site and find the latest report in the Beige Book: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/beigebook/default.htm>. What is projected for supply and demand for funds by the various segments discussed in the text? What should be the effects of the changes on interest rates?
2. In June 2013 the Federal Reserve announced they would begin gradually reducing their purchases of Treasury and mortgage securities. Stock market prices fell and bond yields rose as a result. Explain these results using the supply and demand of loanable funds framework.

1. Hedonics is the ‘art’ of adjusting prices for quality differences over time. For instance, a TV purchased today that costs the same as a TV purchased several years ago has more features. The price of the new TV is adjusted downward to reflect the additional technology. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This section is drawn from F. Fabozzi, The Handbook of Fixed Income Securities, 8th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Although this is not in the text, the **preferred habitat theory** posited by Modigliani and Sutch, Innovations in Interest rate Policy, *American Economic Review*, May 1966, pp.178-197, suggests it is possible for liquidity premiums to be negative. If investors have long investment horizons it is actually less risky for them to hold long duration bonds (as opposed to short duration) to minimize their interest rate risk. If the majority of investors have long time horizons then it would be riskier to hold short term, low duration investments. This could make long term investments preferable to short term, implying that the liquidity premium would have to be negative. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)