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In[172]:=
(*Assume that you are trying to choose between two projects,
one that generate stream of payments p1, and the second that
generates a stream of payments p2. The payments (over 4 years) are:*)
p1 = {50, 50, 50, 50};
p2 = {25, 25, 75, 85};

In[174]:=
(*In order to find the present discounted value of each stream,
we discount each term for the appropriate number of years,
then add up all of the discounted values. Thus,
for each stream of payments, the present discounted value would be:*)
Clear[r]
pvp1 = Sum[p1[[i]] / ((1+r)^i), {i, 1, Length[p1]}]
pvp2 = Sum[p2[[i]] / ((1+r)^i), {i, 1, Length[p2]}]

Out[175]=  $\frac{50}{(1+r)^4} + \frac{50}{(1+r)^3} + \frac{50}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{50}{1+r}$ 

Out[176]=  $\frac{85}{(1+r)^4} + \frac{75}{(1+r)^3} + \frac{25}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{25}{1+r}$ 

In[177]:= (*With a relatively high discount rate,
project 1 would be preferred Can you explain why this is the case?*)
r = 0.10;
pvp1
pvp2

Out[178]= 158.493

Out[179]= 157.793

In[180]:= (*With a relatively low discount rate,
project two would be preferred. Can you explain this as well?*)
r = 0.05;
pvp1
pvp2

Out[181]= 177.298

Out[182]= 181.203

In[183]:= (*Notice that at a zero discount rate, project two would always be preferred,
as the total of the stream of payments is larger.*)
r = 0;
pvp1
pvp2

Out[184]= 200

Out[185]= 210

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