
Section 4.5 Exponential growth and decay

If $y(t)$ is the value of a quantity y at time t and if the rate of change of y with respect to t is proportional to $y(t)$ at any time, then

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$$

where k is a constant. This equation is called the **law of natural growth if $k > 0$** or the **law of natural decay if $k < 0$** ~~the~~

The only solution to this equation is

$$y(t) = y(0)e^{kt}$$

Example 1. A bacteria culture starts with 500 bacteria and after 3 hours there are 8000 bacteria.

1. Find an expression for the number of bacteria after t hours.

$p(t)$ is the population after t hours.

$$p(0) = 500, \quad p(3) = 8000$$

$$p(t) = p(0)e^{kt} = 500e^{kt}, \quad k \text{ is an unknown constant}$$

$$p(3) = 500e^{3k} = 8000$$

$$e^{3k} = \frac{80}{5} = 16$$

$$3k = \ln 16$$

$$k = \frac{\ln 16}{3}$$

$$p(t) = 500e^{\frac{\ln 16}{3}t} = 500\left(e^{\ln 16}\right)^{\frac{t}{3}}$$

$$p(t) = 500(16^{t/3})$$

2. Find the number of bacteria after 4 hours.

$$p(4) = 500(16^{4/3}) \approx 20,158.74$$

3. When will the population reach 30,000?

Find t such that

$$\frac{500(16^{t/3})}{500} = \frac{30000}{500}$$

$$16^{t/3} = 60$$

$$p(t) = 30000$$

$$\ln(16^{t/3}) = \ln 60$$

$$\frac{t}{3} \ln 16 = \ln 60$$

$$\frac{t}{3} = \frac{\ln 60}{\ln 16}$$

$$t = 3 \frac{\ln 60}{\ln 16}$$

$$\approx 4.43 \text{ hours}$$

Example 2. Polonium-214 has a half-life of 1.4×10^{-4} s.

1. If a sample has a mass of 50 mg, find a formula for the mass that remains after t seconds.

$m(t)$ is the mass after t sec.

$$m(0) = 50, \quad m(t) = m(0)e^{kt}$$

$$m(t) = 50e^{kt}$$

$$m(1.4 \times 10^{-4}) = \frac{1}{2}m(0)$$

$$25 = 50e^{k(1.4 \times 10^{-4})}$$

$$\ln e^{k(1.4 \times 10^{-4})} = \ln \frac{1}{2}$$

$$(1.4 \times 10^{-4})k = \ln \frac{1}{2} = -\ln 2$$

$$k = -\frac{\ln 2}{1.4 \times 10^{-4}} = -\frac{\ln 2}{1.4} \cdot 10^4$$

$$\begin{aligned} m(t) &= 50e^{-\frac{\ln 2}{1.4} 10^4 t} \\ &= 50 \left(e^{\ln 2} \right)^{-\frac{10^4}{1.4} t} \\ &= \boxed{50 \left(2^{-\frac{10^4}{1.4} t} \right)} \end{aligned}$$

2. Find the mass that remains after a hundredth of a second.

$$m(0.01) = 50 \left(2^{-\frac{10^4}{1.4} \frac{1}{100}} \right) = 50 \left(2^{-\frac{100}{1.4}} \right) \approx \boxed{1.57 \times 10^{-20} \text{ (mg)}}$$

3. How long would it take for the mass to decay to 40 mg?

$$\begin{aligned} m(t) &= 40 \\ 40 &= 50 \left(2^{-\frac{10^4}{1.4} t} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\ln \frac{4}{5} = \ln \left(2^{-\frac{10^4}{1.4} t} \right)$$

$$-\frac{10^4}{1.4} t = \frac{\ln \frac{4}{5}}{\ln 2}$$

$$t = -\frac{1.4}{10^4} \frac{\ln(4/5)}{\ln 2} \approx \frac{4.5}{10^5} = \boxed{4.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ sec}}$$

Example 3. A roast turkey is taken from the oven when its temperature has reached 185°F and is placed on a table in a room where the temperature is 75°F .

1. If the temperature of turkey is 150°F after half an hour, what is the temperature after 45 min?

$T(t)$ is the temperature after t min, $T(0) = 185$
 Newton's Law of Cooling: $\frac{dT}{dt} = k(T - 75)$

substitution: $u = T - 75$, $u'(t) = T'(t) - 0 = T'(t)$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = ku, \quad u(0) = T(0) - 75 = 185 - 75 = 110$$

$$u(t) = u(0)e^{kt} = 110e^{kt}$$

$$T(t) - 75 = 110e^{kt}$$

$$T(t) = 75 + 110e^{kt}, \quad T(30) = 150$$

$$T(30) = 75 + 110e^{30k} = 150$$

$$110e^{30k} = 75, \quad \ln(e^{30k}) = \frac{75}{110} \ln\left(\frac{15}{22}\right)$$

$$30k = \ln \frac{15}{22}$$

$$k = \frac{1}{30} \ln \frac{15}{22}$$

$$T(t) = 75 + 110e^{\frac{t}{30} \ln \frac{15}{22}} = 75 + 110 \left(\frac{15}{22}\right)^{\frac{t}{30}} = T(t)$$

$$T(45) = 75 + 110 \left(\frac{15}{22}\right)^{\frac{45}{30}} \approx \boxed{137^{\circ}\text{F}}$$

$$e^{\ln \frac{15}{22}} = \frac{15}{22}$$

2. When will the turkey have cooled to 100°F ?

Find t such that $T(t) = 100$

$$75 + 110 \left(\frac{15}{22}\right)^{\frac{t}{30}} = 100$$

$$110 \left(\frac{15}{22}\right)^{\frac{t}{30}} = 25$$

$$\ln \left(\frac{15}{22}\right)^{\frac{t}{30}} = \frac{25}{110} = \ln \frac{5}{22}$$

$$\frac{t}{30} \ln \left(\frac{15}{22}\right) = \ln \frac{5}{22}$$

$$t = 30 \frac{\ln \frac{5}{22}}{\ln \frac{15}{22}} \approx \boxed{116 \text{ min}}$$

Example 4. A tank contains 1500 L of brine with a concentration of 0.3 kg of salt per liter. In order to dilute the solution, pure water is run into the tank at a rate of 20 L/min and the resulting solution, which is stirred continuously, runs out at the same rate.

1. How many kilograms of salt will remain after 30 min?

$q(t)$ is amount of salt in the tank after t min

$$q(0) = (1500)(0.3) = 450 \text{ kg}$$

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = [\text{rate in}] - [\text{rate out}]$$

$$[\text{rate in}] = 0$$

$$[\text{rate out}] = \left(\frac{q(t)}{1500} \right) \cdot (20) = \frac{q(t)}{75}$$

concentration of salt at time t .

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = 0 - \frac{q(t)}{75} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{dq}{dt} = -\left(\frac{1}{75}\right)q(t)$$

$$q(t) = q(0)e^{-\frac{t}{75}}$$

$$q(t) = 450e^{-\frac{t}{75}}$$

$$q(30) = 450e^{-\frac{30}{75}} \approx 302 \text{ kg}$$

2. When will the concentration of salt be reduced to 0.2 kg/L?

$$\frac{q(t)}{1500} \quad \text{concentration of salt after } t \text{ min}$$

Find t such that $\frac{q(t)}{1500} = 0.2$

$$\frac{450}{1500} = \frac{45}{150} = \frac{3 \cdot 15}{10 \cdot 15}$$

$$\frac{450}{1500} e^{-\frac{t}{75}} = 0.2$$

$$0.3 e^{-\frac{t}{75}} = 0.2$$

$$\ln e^{-\frac{t}{75}} = \ln \frac{2}{3}$$

$$-\frac{t}{75} = \ln \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{or} \quad t = -75 \ln \frac{2}{3} \approx 30 \text{ (min)}$$