

## 12. EXPONENTIAL GROWTH AND DECAY

(15/10/2019)

Goals.

- (1) Exponential growth
- (2) Half-life
- (3) Newton's law of cooling

Midterm

Thu, in-class ~50 min  
 ~ similar to sample exam  
 \* follow instructions

Last Time.

Applications of the derivative: (1) velocity = rate of change of position  
 (2) acceleration = " " " " velocity  
 (3) speed

More generally, physical quantities can be derivatives of other quantities

End of class: students arrive to office hours independently,  
 prob of seeing a student in short time interval is  $\approx r \cdot dt$ .

Calc: If  $P(t)$  prob of waiting  $t$  without seeing anyone

then  $P'(t) = -rP(t)$ .

Remarks: (1) This kind of object is called a differential equation  
 (it's an equation, involving derivatives, unknown is a function)

(2) This particular equation is common.

## Solving this equation

Notes  $(e^t)' = e^t$ , so  $(e^{kt})' = k e^{kt}$ .

Also (linearity)  $(C e^t)' = C e^t$ .

similarly  $(C e^{kt})' = k(C e^{kt})$ .

Conclusion: The function  $y(t) = C e^{kt}$  solves the diff eqn

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = k y.$$

(ex) (y. if  $P'(t) = -r P(t)$ , then  $P(t) = C e^{-rt}$ .

(the probability of waiting time  $t$  decays exponentially at rate  $r$ )

Can find  $C$  by considering  $P(0) = 1$

$$\Rightarrow C = 1 \quad (e^{-0} = 1)$$

— if know  $r$ , can find  $C$  from  $P(t_0)$  at any time  $t_0$ .

Math 100 – WORKSHEET 12  
EXPONENTIAL GROWTH AND DECAY

1. EXPONENTIALS

(1) Suppose<sup>1</sup> that a pair of invasive opossums arrives in BC in 1935. Unchecked, opossums can triple their population annually.

(a) At what time will there be 1000 opossums in BC?  
10,000 opossums?

Let  $N(t)$  be the number of opossums,  $t$  years after 1935

Then  $N(t) = 2 \cdot 3^t = 2(e^{\log 3})^t = 2 \cdot e^{(\log 3) \cdot t}$  Then

$$N(t) = 1000 \text{ if } 2 \cdot 3^t = 1000, \text{ so } 3^t = 500 \text{ so } t = \frac{\log 500}{\log 3}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } N(t) = 10,000 \text{ if } t = \frac{\log 5,000}{\log 3}$$

(b) Write a differential equation expressing the growth of the opossum population with time.

Sol'n 1: exp. growth rate is  $\log 3 \Rightarrow$  eqn is  $\frac{dN}{dt} = (\log 3) \cdot N$

Sol'n 2:  $\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} (2 \cdot 3^t) = 2 \cdot 3^t \cdot \log 3 = (\log 3) \cdot \frac{dN}{dt}$

Date: 15/10/2019, Worksheet by Lior Silberman. This instructional material is excluded from the terms of UBC Policy 81.

<sup>1</sup>See <http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/efauna/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Didelphis%20virginiana>

Common to measure exponential growth rate in terms of doubling time or decay in terms of halving time commonly called the half-life

(i.e. instead of writing  $C \cdot e^{kt}$ , we write

$$C \cdot 2^{t/\tau} \quad \text{or} \quad C \cdot 2^{-t/\tau} = C \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/\tau}$$

where  $\tau$  = doubling time / half-life.

Note:  $2^{t/\tau} = e^{\frac{\log 2}{\tau} \cdot t}$ . (can convert from half-life/doubling time to exp growth rate and back)



(2) A radioactive sample decays according to the law

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = km.$$

(a) Suppose that one-quarter of the sample remains after 10 hours. What is the half-life?

(b) A 100-gram sample is left unattended for three days. How much of it remains?

(a)  $\frac{1}{4} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2$ , so two halvings take 10 hours, and  $t_{1/2} = \tau = 5h$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b) } m(3\text{days}) &= (100 \text{ gr}) \cdot 2^{\left(-\frac{72}{5}\right)} \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad \text{quantity} \\ &\quad \text{at } t=0 \\ &= 100 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{72}{5}} \text{ gr} \\ &= 100 \cdot e^{-\log_2 \cdot \frac{72}{5}} \end{aligned}$$

(3) (Final, 2015) A colony of bacteria doubles every 4 hours. If the colony has 2000 cells after 6 hours, how many were present initially? Simplify your answer.

The initial number is  $\frac{2000}{2^{1.5}} \leftarrow 1.5 \text{ doublings in } 6 \text{ hours} = \frac{1000}{\sqrt{2}} \approx 707$

Alternative:  $N(t) = N_0 \cdot 2^{t/4}$ ,  $t$  in hours so  $2000 = N_0 \cdot 2^{6/4}$   
 number at  $t$       initial  
 so  $N_0 = \frac{2000}{2^{1.5}}$

## 2. NEWTON'S LAW OF COOLING

**Fact.** When a body of temperature  $T_0$  is placed in an environment of temperature  $T_{env}$ , the rate of change of the temperature  $T(t)$  is negatively proportional to the temperature difference  $T - T_{env}$ . In other words, there is a (negative) constant  $k$  such that

$$T' = k(T - T_{env}).$$

- *key idea:* change variables to the temperature difference. Let  $y = T - T_{env}$ . Then

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dT}{dt} - 0 = ky$$

so there is  $C$  for which

$$y(t) = Ce^{kt}. \leftarrow \text{the temperature difference decays exponentially}$$

Solving for  $T$  we get:

$$T(t) = T_{env} + Ce^{kt}.$$

Setting  $t = 0$  we find  $T_{env} + C = T_0$  so  $C = T_0 - T_{env}$  and

$$T(t) = T_{env} + (T_0 - T_{env})e^{kt}.$$

**Corollary.**  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 0$  so  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T(t) = T_{env}$ .

(1) (Final, 2010) When an apple is taken from a refrigerator, its temperature is  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After 30 minutes in a  $19^{\circ}\text{C}$  room its temperature is  $11^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

(a) Find the temperature of the apple 90 minutes after it is taken from the refrigerator, expressed as an integer number of degrees Celsius.

Let  $y(t)$  be the difference in temperature between the apple and the room, where  $t$  is measured in minutes. We are told that  $y(0) = -16^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $y(30) = 11 - 19 = -8^{\circ}\text{C}$ , since  $y(30) = \frac{1}{2}y(0)$ , and Newton's law of cooling says  $y(t)$  decays exponentially, we see that  $y(t) = y(0) \cdot (\frac{1}{2})^{t/30}$   
 so  $y(90) = -16^{\circ}\text{C} \cdot \frac{1}{8} = -2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , so  $T(90) = -2^{\circ}\text{C} + 19^{\circ}\text{C} = 17^{\circ}\text{C}$

(b) Determine the time when the temperature of the apple is  $16^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

We need  $t$  so that  $-16^{\circ}\text{C} \cdot (\frac{1}{2})^{t/30} = -3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , i.e.  $\leftarrow 16^{\circ}\text{C} - 19^{\circ}\text{C} =$   
 $(\frac{1}{2})^{t/30} = \frac{3}{16}$  so  $\frac{t}{30} \log(\frac{1}{2}) = \log 3 - \log 16$   
 so  $t = \frac{\log 16 - \log 3}{\log 2} \cdot 30$  minutes.

(c) Write the differential equation satisfied by the temperature  $T(t)$  of the apple.

Decay rate is  $(\frac{1}{2})^{t/30} = e^{-\frac{\log 2}{30}t}$  so the DE is

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = -\frac{\log 2}{30} (T - 19^{\circ}\text{C}).$$