



# Exponential Growth + Decay

Def. A differential equation (Diff Eq) is an equation involving a function ( $y$ ) and its derivative(s).

Ex.  $y'' - 2y' + y = \sin x$

$$xy' - y^2 = e^{2x} + 3$$

A solution to a diff. eq. is a function  $y = f(x)$  that makes the diff. eq. true. satisfies the diff. eq.

Ex.  $y' = y$

$y = e^x$  is a solution to the diff. eq.  $y' = y$

because  $y' = e^x$   
 $= y \checkmark$

but,  $y = 2e^x$  is also a solution:

$$y' = 2e^x = y \checkmark$$

$y = Ce^x$  is the general solution to  
the diff. eq.  $y' = y$ .

(a family of solutions)

proof:  $y' = Ce^x = y \checkmark$

What about  $y = e^{x+2}$  is this also a  
solution?

$$y' = e^{x+2} (1) = y \checkmark$$

$$\text{but } y = e^{x+2} = e^x e^2 = \overbrace{e^2}^C e^x$$

so this is part of the  $y = Ce^x$  family.

Ex.  $y' = ky$   $k$  constant  $\neq 0$ .

Ex.  $y' = 5y$



Work on this problem  
on your own

for  $y' = ky$

$y = e^{kx}$  is a solution

$y' = ke^{kx} = ky \checkmark$

Ex.  $y' = 5y$

$y = e^{5x}$  is  
a solution.

$y' = 5e^{5x} = 5y \checkmark$

and  $y = Ce^{kx}$  is the general solution to  
the diff. eq.  $y' = ky$ .

check it is a solution

$y' = C \cdot ke^{kx} = k \underbrace{(Ce^{kx})}_y = ky \checkmark$

The differential equation  $y' = ky$  is a common model for real world problems.

(This is the only diff. eq. we'll use this lesson.)

$$y' = k \cdot y$$

↑  
rate of change of amount is proportional to current amount

population growth

rate of change of population is proportional to current population

decay of radioactive elements

rate of change of amount of element is proportional to the current amount present,

then since  $y' = ky$ , we know

$k$  = relative  
growth/decay  
rate.

$$y = C e^{kx}$$

$$\text{or } y = C e^{kt} \quad t \text{ time}$$

Ex. A cell of the bacteria *E. coli* divides into 2 cells every 20 minutes. A culture of this bacteria starts with 60 cells.

bacteria population, use  $P$  instead of  $y$ .

$$P' = kP \quad \text{and} \quad P = C e^{kt}$$

notice that at  $t=0$ ,  $P = C e^{k(0)} = \underbrace{C}_{P_0}$   
initial population

$$P = P_0 e^{kt}$$

given  $P_0 = 60$

$$P = 60 e^{kt}$$



We also know that each cell divides into two cells every 20 minutes.  
 $= \frac{1}{3}$  hr.  $\leftarrow$  parts b-d below ask in terms of hours

$$120 = 60e^{k(\frac{1}{3})}$$

solve for  $k$        $2 = e^{\frac{1}{3}k}$

$$\ln 2 = \frac{1}{3}k$$

$$3 \ln 2 = k$$

$$\ln 2^3 = k$$

$$\ln 8 = k. \quad \text{relative growth rate.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } P &= 60 e^{(\ln 8)t} = 60 (e^{\ln 8})^t \\ &= 60 \cdot 8^t \end{aligned}$$

a) find The relative growth rate (ie,  $k$ )

$$k = \ln 8, \text{ above.}$$

b) find an expression for The number of

cells after  $t$  hours.

$$P = 60 \cdot 8^t, \text{ above.}$$

c) find The number of cells after 6 hours

$$P = \underline{60 \cdot 8^6} = 15,728,640$$

leave in

this form on exam

d) find The rate of growth after 6 hours

$P'$

$$\text{we know } P' = kP = (\ln 8) 60 \cdot 8^6 \frac{\text{cells}}{\text{hr}}$$

e) when will The population reach 20,000 cells?

$$\text{ie, find } t \Rightarrow P(t) = 20,000$$



$$P = 60 \cdot 8^t$$

$$20,000 = 60 \cdot 8^t$$

$$\frac{20,000}{60} = \frac{1000}{3} = 8^t$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{1000}{3}\right) = t \ln 8$$

$$t = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{1000}{3}\right)}{\ln 8} \text{ hours. } \approx 2.8 \text{ hours}$$
$$\approx 2 \text{ hrs } 48 \text{ min}$$

Note if  $k > 0$ , exponential growth function  
 $k =$  relative growth rate

if  $k < 0$ , exponential decay function  
 $-k =$  relative decay rate



$$y = 800 e^{kt}$$

$$400 = 800 e^{k \cdot 5} \quad \text{half life} = 5 \text{ days}$$

$$\frac{400}{800} = e^{5k}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = e^{5k}$$

$$\ln \frac{1}{2} = 5k$$

$$k = \frac{\ln \frac{1}{2}}{5} \Rightarrow y = 800 e^{(\ln \frac{1}{2}) \frac{t}{5}}$$

$$y = 800 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/5}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } y &= 800 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{30/5} = 800 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^6 = \frac{800}{64} = \frac{25}{2} \\ &= 12.5 \text{ mg.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{c) } 1 = 800 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/5}$$

$$\frac{1}{800} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/5}$$



# Newton's Law of Cooling

let  $T$  = temperature of object

$T_s$  = surrounding (air) temperature

$t$  = time

$$\underbrace{\frac{dT}{dt}}_{y'} = k \underbrace{(T - T_s)}_y$$

$T_s$   
constant

$$y' = \frac{d}{dt} (T - T_s)$$
$$= \frac{dT}{dt} - 0$$

then  $y = C e^{kt}$

$$T - T_s = C e^{kt}$$

$$T = C e^{kt} + T_s$$

notice initial  
temperature  
 $T_0 = C + T_s$

Ex. A thermometer is taken from a warm room ( $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) to a cold room ( $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). After one minute, The Thermometer reads  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Initial temp of Therm  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$$T(0) = 20 = C + T_s$$

given  $T_s = 5$  (cold room  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

$$t = 1, T(1) = 12$$

$$T = C e^{kt} + T_s$$

given  $T_0 = 20$  and  $T_s = 5$

$$\text{so } 20 = C e^{k(0)} + 5$$

$$20 = C + 5$$

$$C = 15$$

$$T = 15 e^{kt} + 5 \quad \text{now need } k$$

given at  $t = 1, T = 12$



$$12 = 15e^{k(1)} + 5$$

$$7 = 15e^k$$

$$\frac{7}{15} = e^k \quad k = \ln\left(\frac{7}{15}\right)$$

$$T = 15e^{\ln\left(\frac{7}{15}\right)t} + 5$$

$$e^{\ln\left(\frac{7}{15}\right)} = \frac{7}{15}$$

$$= 15\left(e^{\ln\left(\frac{7}{15}\right)}\right)^t + 5$$

$$T = 15\left(\frac{7}{15}\right)^t + 5$$

a) What temperature will the thermometer read after one more minute?

after one more minute, at  $t = 2$

$$T = 15\left(\frac{7}{15}\right)^2 + 5$$

$$= \frac{15 \cdot 49}{15 \cdot 15} + 5 = 3\frac{4}{15} + 5 = 8\frac{4}{15}^\circ\text{C} \approx 8^\circ\text{C}$$

b) when will the thermometer read  $6^\circ\text{C}$ ?

find  $t \rightarrow T = 6^\circ$

$$6 = 15 \left( \frac{7}{15} \right)^t + 5$$

$$1 = 15 \left( \frac{7}{15} \right)^t$$

$$\frac{1}{15} = \left( \frac{7}{15} \right)^t$$

$$\ln \left( \frac{1}{15} \right) = t \ln \left( \frac{7}{15} \right)$$

$$t = \frac{\ln \left( \frac{1}{15} \right)}{\ln \left( \frac{7}{15} \right)} \approx 3.6 \text{ minutes}$$