

## Lab -1

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In this lab we modeling the radioactive chain of three elements and analyze how this chain works.

### I. INTRODUCTION

In this lab, we model the situation where one radioactive substance decays into another radioactive substance, forming a chain of such substances.

### II. MODEL

Radioactive substance A, decays into radio active substance B, and this radio active substance B also decays into substance C, and we have a chain of a substances. the decay rate of A is a and decay rate of B is b. we can write difference equation of A and B as given below.

$$\Delta A = -aA\Delta t \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta B = -(aA - bB)\Delta t \quad (2)$$

### III. EXPERIMENTS

A Develop a model for a radioactive chain of three elements A,B,C.

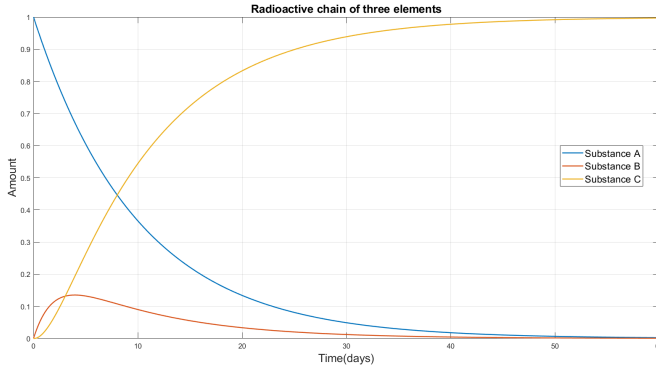


FIG. 1: Amount of elements A,B,C vs Time.

Here, we take  $A_0=1$ ,  $a=0.1$ ,  $b=0.5$ , days=60; As time passes substance A will decay and produce

substance B with rate a and similarly, B will decay and produce substance C with rate b.

B Explain the shape of graphs.

We can clearly see that from the figure 1 that substance A will have decaying curve nature always because its initial amount is fixed and decay rate too. For substance B will have bell shape curve as initially amount of A will generate B and as time passes A will reduce and B will increase, at some point of time A is too small to add something significant in B and in other hand B will continuously generating C from that we can say that at some particular time B will have a peak this theory we will prove analytically in future. Now substance C is increases as B decreases so C will have increasing nature of curve and since its amount becoming from B and B from A so Amount of C can't be more than initial amount of A so as time passes curve of C will converges to  $A_0$ .

C Find max disintegration day for different rate of changes a.

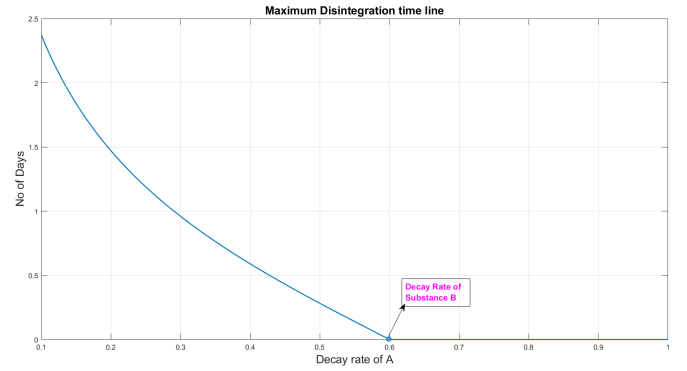


FIG. 2: No. of days to get max total radioactivity vs decay rate of substance A (a).

$b=0.6$ , days=100;  $a=0.1$  to 1 with step size 0.001

Conclusion: The quantity  $a * A + b * B$  it's giving change in  $A +$  change in  $B$  at a particular moment we need to find time at which maximum disintegration occurs so as we can clearly see there is

(a)  $a < b$

Here, b is greater than a so  $b*B$  term dom-

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inates in the total contribution so when a change in B is maximum then overall sum.

(b)  $a \geq b$

if a is greater than b then  $a \cdot A$  will dominate in final answer and  $a \cdot A$  will be maximum at first step so for this condition it's answer always be the constant which is  $t=0$

D With b being the decay rate of B, in several cases where  $a < b$ , observe that eventually we have the following approximation:

$$\frac{B}{A} = \frac{a}{b-a}$$

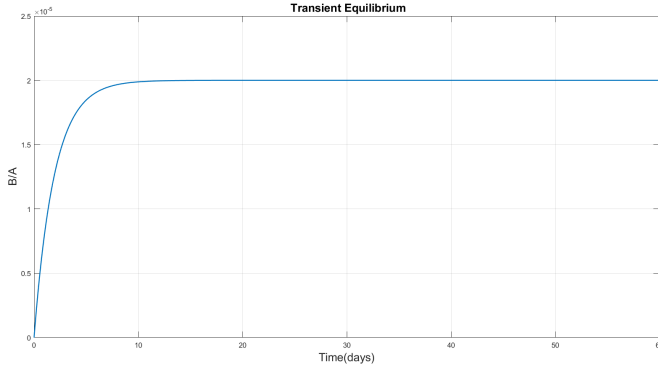


FIG. 3: B/A vs days when  $a < b$

$a=0.00001$ ,  $b=0.5$ , days=60

• Analytic solution:

$$A = A_0 e^{-at}$$

$$B = \frac{aA_0}{b-a} (e^{-at} - e^{-bt})$$

given that  $a < b$  so,  $e^{-bt} \rightarrow 0$

$$\therefore \frac{B}{A} \approx \frac{a}{b-a} (\text{Transient Equilibrium})$$

E Here we are repeating above part with condition  $a > b$

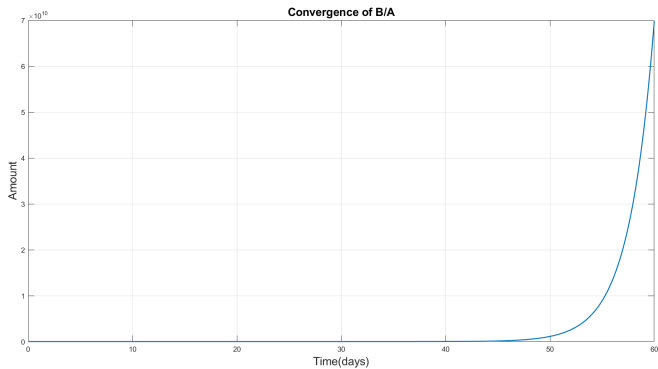


FIG. 4: B/A vs days when  $a > b$

$a=0.5$ ,  $b=0.1$ , days=60

F Verify the observation from part (E) analytically using work similar to that in part (D).

$$A = A_0 e^{-at}$$

$$B = \frac{aA_0}{b-a} (e^{-at} - e^{-bt})$$

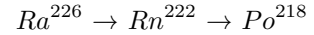
given that  $a > b$  so,  $e^{-at} \rightarrow 0$

$$\therefore \frac{B}{A} \approx \frac{(-a)(A_0 e^{-bt})}{(b-a)(A_0 e^{-at})}$$

since,  $e^{-at} \rightarrow 0$

$$\therefore \frac{B}{A} \rightarrow \infty$$

G If a is much smaller than b, we have  $A \approx A_0$  and  $B \approx \frac{aA_0}{b-a}$ . With the two amounts being almost constant, we have a situation called secular equilibrium.



Decay rate of  $Ra^{226}$  is  $a = 0.00000117/\text{da}$  and the Decay rate of  $Rn^{222}$  is  $b = 0.181/\text{da}$ .

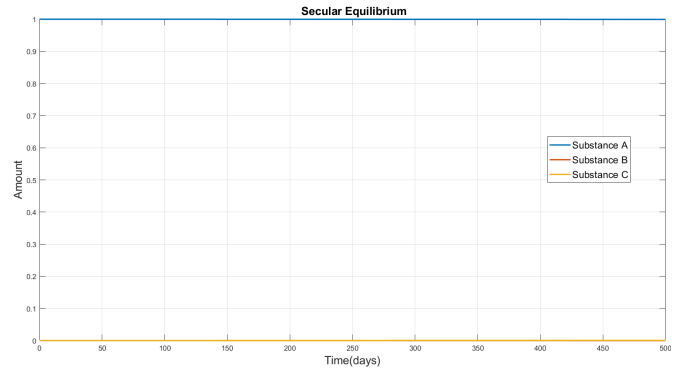


FIG. 5: Amount of elements A,B,C vs Time. when  $a \ll b$

conclusion:

as we can see the decay rate of A is too small so that there is no decay at all but if we simulate for some 10 lac years then we can see some decay.

H Show analytically that the approximations from Part (G) hold.

$$A = A_0 e^{-at}$$

$$A = A_0 \left( 1 + (-at) + \frac{(-at)^2}{2!} + \dots \right)$$

as  $a \ll b$  and  $0 < a < 1$  and  $0 < b < 1$

therefore  $A \approx A_0$

$$\text{now, } B = \frac{aA_0}{b-a} (e^{-at} - e^{-bt})$$

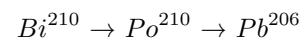
$a \ll b$  and  $0 < a < 1$  and  $0 < b < 1$

therefore  $e^{-bt} \rightarrow 1$

$$\therefore B \approx \frac{aA_0}{b-a} (e^{-at})$$

$$\therefore B \approx \frac{aA_0}{b-a}$$

I In the radioactive chain



(bismuth-210 to polonium-210 to lead-206), the decay rate of  $Bi^{210}$ , a, is 0.0137/da and the decay rate of  $Po^{210}$ , b, is 0.0051/da. Assuming the

initial mass of  $Bi^{210}$  is  $10^{-8}$  g and using your model from part(A), find, approximately, the maximum mass of  $Po^{210}$  and when the maximum occurs.

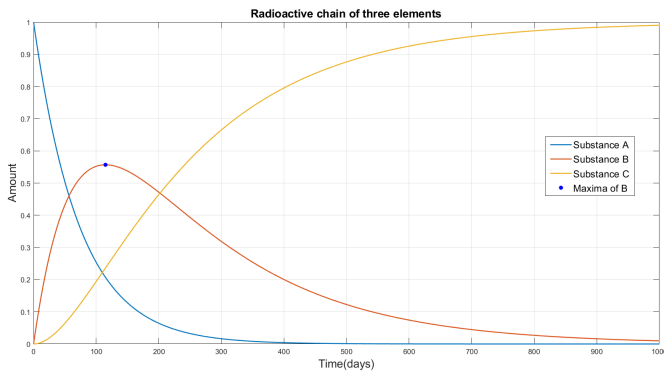


FIG. 6: Amount of elements A,B,C vs Time.

max amount=0.5568, days=114.900,  $a=0.0137$ ,  $b=0.0051$

J In Part (D), we verified that  $B = \frac{aA_0}{b-a}(e^{-at} - e^{-bt})$ . Using this result, find analytically the maximum of mass of substance B and when this maximum occurs.

$$B = \frac{aA_0}{b-a}(e^{-at} - e^{-bt})$$

$$\therefore \frac{dB}{dt} = \frac{(aA_0)}{(b-a)} \frac{d}{dt} (e^{-at} - e^{-bt}) = 0$$

$$\therefore -ae^{-at} + be^{-bt} = 0$$

$$\therefore ae^{-at} = be^{-bt}$$

$$\therefore e^{(-b+a)t} = \frac{a}{b}$$

$$(-b+a)t = \log_e(a/b)$$

$$t = \frac{\log_e(a/b)}{a-b}$$

max Quantity of B during decay is

$$B(t_1) = \frac{aA_0}{b-a}(e^{-at_1} - e^{-bt_1})$$

$$\text{where, } t_1 = \frac{\log_e(a/b)}{a-b}$$

we can put all values from Que. and get value around  $B(t_1) = 0.55656$  and time( $t_1 = 114.9018$ )

K Check your approximations of Part (I) using your solution to Part (J).

- so, experimental answer (0.5568) and analytical answer(0.55656) are almost same
- Time for reaching B at maximum is ( $t_1 = 114.9018$ ) analytically and in simulation we got ( $t_1 = 114.9$ ).

L For the chain in Part (G), use your solution to Part (J) to find when the largest mass of  $Rn^{222}$  occurs.  $t=66$  days

M For the chain in Part g, use your simulation of Part a to approximate the time when the largest mass of  $Rn^{222}$  occurs. How does your approximation compare with the analytical solution of Part (I)?

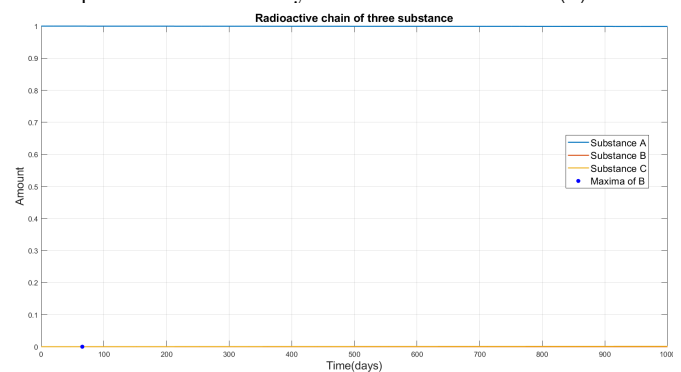


FIG. 7: Amount of elements A,B,C vs Time.

By simulation, we found the value  $t=65.6$  days for part (g), which is pretty close to the result obtained in part (I)