

# Applications of Derivatives

## MATH 2511, BCIT

Technical Mathematics for Geomatics

January 30, 2018

# Rate of Change

If  $f(t)$  expresses some type of position of something dependent on time  $t$ , then the rate of change over an interval is the slope of the secant line. The derivative  $f'(t)$  is then the instantaneous rate of change or the slope of the tangent line at  $t$ .

Sometimes the rate of change is not with respect to a position. For example, acceleration is the rate of change with respect to a velocity. Another common example is the rate of change in numbers of a population. In economics, the rate of change in pricing may be of interest.

# Exercises for Rate of Change (Position)

If a ball is given a push so that it has an initial velocity of 5m/s down a certain inclined plane, then the distance it has rolled after  $t$  seconds is  $s = 5t + 3t^2$ .

- 1 Find the velocity after 2 seconds.
- 2 How long does it take for the velocity to reach 35m/s?

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# Exercises for Rate of Change (Geometry)

A stone is dropped into a lake, creating a circular ripple that travels outward at a speed of  $60\text{cm/s}$ . Find the rate at which the area within the circle is increasing after one second; three seconds; and five seconds. What can you conclude?

# Exercises for Rate of Change (Physics)

Newton's Law of Gravitation says that the magnitude  $F$  of the force exerted by a body of mass  $m$  on a body of mass  $M$  is

$$F = \frac{GmM}{r^2} \quad (1)$$

where  $G$  is the gravitational constant and  $r$  is the distance between the bodies. Suppose it is known that the Earth attracts an object with a force that decreases at the rate of  $2\text{N/km}$  when  $r = 20,000\text{km}$ .

- 1 How fast does this force change when  $r = 10,000\text{km}$ ?
- 2 What is the mass of the object?

Assume the following as constants:

$$G = 6.67408 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{m}^3 \text{kg}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2} \quad (2)$$

$$m = 5.9722 \cdot 10^{24} \text{kg} \quad (3)$$

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# Exercises for Rate of Change (Population)

The number of yeast cells in a laboratory culture increases rapidly initially but levels off eventually. The population is modeled by the function

$$n = f(t) = \frac{a}{1 + be^{-0.7t}} \quad (4)$$

where  $t$  is measured in hours. At time  $t = 0$  the population is 20 cells and is increasing at a rate of 12 cells per hour. Find the values of  $a$  and  $b$ . According to this model, what happens to the yeast population in the long run?



# Exercises for Rate of Change (Economics)

The cost, in dollars, of producing  $x$  yards of a certain fabric is

$$C(x) = 1200 + 12x - 0.1x^2 + 0.0005x^3 \quad (5)$$

- 1 Find the marginal cost function.
- 2 Find  $C'(200)$  and explain its meaning. What does it predict?
- 3 Compare  $C'(200)$  with the cost of manufacturing the 201st yard of fabric.

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# Exponential Growth and Decay I

Growth often happens proportional to size. For example, a population of 500 will grow to 550 during a given period of time while at the same growth rate a population of 1000 will grow to 1100 during the same period of time. Interest on a bank account is another example. Radioactive decay is an example for decay, sometimes also called negative growth.

The growth rate  $f'(t)$  should be proportional to the population  $f(t)$ , so  $f'(t) = kf(t)$ , where  $k$  is some constant. We already know that the function

$$f(t) = Ce^{kt} \tag{6}$$

fulfills this constraint. It turns out that the function in (6) is the only function fulfilling this constraint. Calculate  $C$  in terms of  $f$ .

# Exponential Growth and Decay II

Many natural phenomena have been found to follow the law that an amount  $f(t)$  varies with time  $t$  according to

$$f(t) = f(0)e^{kt} \quad (7)$$

If  $k > 0$ , there is growth. If  $k < 0$ , there is decay.

# Uninhibited Growth and Decay Exercise

A colony of bacteria grows according to the law of uninhibited growth according to the function

$$N(t) = 100e^{0.045t} \quad (8)$$

where  $N$  is measured in grams and  $t$  is measured in days.

- 1 Determine the initial amount of bacteria.
- 2 What is the growth rate of the bacteria?
- 3 What is the population after five days?
- 4 How long will it take for the population to reach 140 grams?
- 5 What is the doubling time for the population?

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# Radiocarbon Dating

Radiocarbon dating is a method archeologists use to determine the age of ancient objects. The carbon dioxide in the atmosphere always contains a fixed fraction of radioactive carbon, carbon-14 ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ), with a half-life of about 5730 years. Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which then makes its way to animals through the food chain. Thus, all living creatures contain the same fixed proportions of  $^{14}\text{C}$  to nonradioactive  $^{12}\text{C}$  as the atmosphere.

After an organism dies, it stops assimilating  $^{14}\text{C}$ , and the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  in it begins to decay exponentially. We can then determine the time elapsed since the death of the organism by measuring the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  left in it.

# Radiocarbon Dating Example

If a donkey bone contains 73% as much  $^{14}\text{C}$  as a living donkey, when did it die?

Look at the following table to notice the pattern,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 100\% & \dots & 2^{-0} & \dots & 5730 \cdot 0 & & \\ 50\% & \dots & 2^{-1} & \dots & 5730 \cdot 1 & & \\ 25\% & \dots & 2^{-2} & \dots & 5730 \cdot 2 & & \end{array} \quad (9)$$

Therefore ( $t$  being the number of years ago that the donkey died),

$$t = (-\log_2 0.73) \cdot 5730 = -\frac{\ln 0.73}{\ln 2} \cdot 5730 \approx 2600 \quad (10)$$

# Radioactive Decay

The half-life of radium-226 is 1590 years. A sample of radium-226 has a mass of 100mg.

- 1 Find a formula for the mass of the sample that remains after  $t$  years.
- 2 Find the mass after 1000 years correct to the nearest milligram.
- 3 When will the mass be reduced to 30 mg?

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# Newton's Law of Cooling

The temperature  $u$  of a heated object at a given time  $t$  can be modeled by the following function,

$$u(t) = T + (u_0 - T)e^{kt} \quad (11)$$

where  $k$  is a negative constant,  $T$  is the constant temperature of the surrounding medium, and  $u_0$  is the initial temperature of the heated object.



# Newton's Law of Cooling Exercise 1

An object is heated to  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  (degrees Celsius) and is then allowed to cool in a room whose air temperature is  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

- 1 If the temperature of the object is  $80^{\circ}\text{C}$  after five minutes, when will its temperature be  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ ?
- 2 Determine the elapsed time before the temperature of the object is  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- 3 What do you notice about  $u(t)$ , the temperature, as  $t$ , time, passes?

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# Newton's Law of Cooling Exercise 2

A frozen steak has a temperature of  $28^{\circ}F$ . It is placed in a room with a constant temperature of  $70^{\circ}F$ . After 10 minutes, the temperature of the steak has risen to  $35^{\circ}F$ .

- 1 What will the temperature of the steak be after 30 minutes?
- 2 How long will it take the steak to thaw to a temperature of  $45^{\circ}F$ ?

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# Newton's Law of Cooling Exercise 3

The hotel Bora-Bora is having a pig roast. At noon, the chef put the pig in a large earthen oven. The pig's original temperature was  $75^{\circ}F$ . At 2:00PM the chef checked the pig's temperature and was upset because it had reached only  $100^{\circ}F$ .

- 1 If the oven's temperature remains a constant  $325^{\circ}F$ , at what time may the hotel serve its guests, assuming that pork is done when it reaches  $175^{\circ}F$ ?

# Newton's Law of Cooling Exercise 4

Suppose that a corpse was discovered in a motel room at midnight and its temperature was  $80^{\circ}F$ . The temperature of the room is kept constant at  $60^{\circ}F$ . Two hours later the temperature of the corpse dropped to  $75^{\circ}$ . Find the time of death (i.e. the time when the temperature of the body was  $98.6^{\circ}F$ ). Round the time to the nearest minute.

# End of Lesson

Next Lesson: Maxima and Minima