

Consider the following **differential equation** in y :

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky \text{ where } k \text{ is a constant.}$$

The only solutions of the above equation are the exponential functions

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

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dt} &= \frac{d}{dt} (y(0)e^{kt}) = y(0) \frac{d}{dt} (e^{kt}) = y(0) e^{kt} \frac{d(kt)}{dt} \\ &= y(0) k e^{kt} = ky \end{aligned}$$

$\frac{d}{dt} (e^u) = \frac{d}{du} (e^u) \frac{du}{dt} = e^u \frac{du}{dt}$

- $k = 0$ implies $y(t)$ is a constant function.
- $k > 0$ implies $y(t)$ grows exponentially.
- $k < 0$ implies $y(t)$ decays exponentially.

Population Growth: Let $P(t)$ be the size of population at time t . Then

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \Rightarrow P(t) = P(0)e^{kt} \quad (k > 0)$$

Since we have

$$k = \frac{1}{P} \frac{dP}{dt}$$

the constant k is called the **relative growth rate**.

Problem 1: The cell of a bacterium divides into two cells every 20 minutes. The initial population of a culture is 50 cells.

1. Find the relative growth rate.
2. Find an expression for the number of cells after t hours.
3. Find the number of cells after 6 hours.
4. Find the rate of growth after 6 hours.
5. When will the population reach a million cells?

$20 \text{ min} = \frac{20}{60} \text{ hours}$

$$P\left(\frac{20}{60}\right) = 2P(0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1) \quad P(t) &= P(0)e^{kt} \xrightarrow{t=\frac{20}{60}} P\left(\frac{20}{60}\right) = P(0)e^{k \times \frac{20}{60}} \\ &\Rightarrow 2P(0) = P(0)e^{k/3} \\ &\Rightarrow 2 = e^{k/3} \Rightarrow \ln 2 = \ln e^{k/3} \Rightarrow \ln 2 = k/3 \\ &\Rightarrow k = 3 \ln 2 \Rightarrow k = \ln 2^3 \Rightarrow k = \ln 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$2) \quad P(t) = 50 e^{(\ln 8)t} = 50 e^{t \ln 8} = 50 e^{\ln 8^t} = 50(8)^t$$

$$P(t) = 50(8)^t$$

$$e^{\ln f(x)} = f(x)$$

$$3) P(6) = 50(8)^6 \text{ cells}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(b^x) = b^x \ln b$$

$$4) \text{ rate of growth} = P'(t) . \text{ Find } P'(6)$$

$$\left[\begin{aligned} P(t) &= 50(8)^t \Rightarrow P'(t) = 50 \frac{d}{dt}(8^t) \\ \Rightarrow P'(t) &= 50(8)^t \ln 8 \Rightarrow P'(6) = 50(8)^6 \ln 8 \end{aligned} \right.$$

$$P'(t) = k P(t) \Rightarrow P'(6) = k P(6) = (\ln 8) P(6) \\ = (\ln 8) 50(8)^6$$

$$5) t \text{ for which } P(t) = 10^6 \text{ cells.}$$

$$\Rightarrow 50(8)^t = 10^6 \Rightarrow (8)^t = \frac{10^6}{50} = \frac{10^5}{5} = 2 \times 10^4 \\ = 20000$$

$$\Rightarrow 8^t = 20000$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln 8^t = \ln(20000) \Rightarrow t \ln 8 = \ln(20000)$$

$$t = \frac{\ln(20000)}{\ln 8} \rightarrow \text{hours}$$

Radioactive Decay: Radioactive substances decay by spontaneously emitting radiation.

If $m(t)$ is the mass remaining after time t , from an initial mass of $m(0)$, then

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = km \text{ where } k \text{ is a negative constant}$$

Therefore,

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

The time required to decay to half of the initial mass is called **half life** ($t_{1/2}$) of a substance.

Problem 2: The half-life of radium-226 is 1590 years.

1. A sample of radium-226 has a mass of 100 mg, Find a formula for the mass of the sample that remains after t years. $m(0)$
2. Find the mass after 1000 years.
3. When will the mass be reduced to 30 mg?

$$t_{1/2} = 1590 \text{ years.}$$

$$m(t_{1/2}) = \frac{m(0)}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow m(0)e^{kt_{1/2}} = \frac{m(0)}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{kt_{1/2}} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \ln(e^{kt_{1/2}}) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow kt_{1/2} = \ln \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow t_{1/2} = \frac{1}{k} \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \Rightarrow t_{1/2} = \frac{-\ln 2}{k}$$

$$1.) m(t) = m(0)e^{kt} = 100e^{kt}$$

$$\Rightarrow m(t) = 100e^{\frac{-\ln 2}{1590}t}$$

$$\Rightarrow m(t) = 100e^{\ln(2)^{-t/1590}} = 100(2)^{\frac{-t}{1590}}$$

$$\Rightarrow m(t) = 100(2)^{-t/1590}$$

$$2.) m(1000) = 100(2)^{\frac{-1000}{1590}}$$

$$3.) t \text{ for which } m(t) = 30 \text{ mg}$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{-\ln 2}{1590}$$

$$\Rightarrow 100 (2)^{-t/1590} = 30 \Rightarrow 2^{-t/1590} = \frac{30}{100}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln 2^{-t/1590} = \ln \frac{30}{100}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{-t}{1590} \ln 2 = \ln 0.3$$

$$\Rightarrow t = \frac{(-\ln 0.3) 1590}{\ln 2} \text{ years}$$