

Math 3B: Lecture 17

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Newton's Law of Cooling

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$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k(A - T)$$

General solution

$$T(t) = A - Ce^{-kt}.$$

Example 2

An object takes 20 minutes to cool from 90° to 86° in a room which is 70° . At what time will it be 75° ?

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- We know $T(0) = 90$ and $T(20) = 86$.
- Thus

$$90 = 70 - C \quad \text{so} \quad C = -20.$$

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$$e^{-20k} = \frac{86 - 70}{20} = \frac{4}{5} \quad \text{so} \quad k = -\frac{1}{20} \ln \left(\frac{4}{5} \right) \approx -0.01.$$

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- To find k we use $T(20) = 86$

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$$75 = 70 + 20e^{-0.01t}.$$

- Rearranging we get $20e^{-0.01t} = 5$ i.e.

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- Applying a logarithm

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- So we get

$$t = -100 \ln\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) \approx 138 = 2 \text{ hours } 18 \text{ minutes.}$$