

Section 1.5 – Population: Exponential Growth/Decay

Modeling Population Growth

The mathematical model of the growth of a population is given by:

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = rP(t)$$

$P(t)$: Population at time t .

r : Growth rate or reproductive rate ($r > 0$)

The nature of the predictions of the model depend on the nature of the reproductive rate r .

Malthusian Method

Since r is a constant because the birth or death rates do not depend on time or on the size.

Therefore the solution to $P' = rP$ is given by:

$$\int \frac{dP}{P} = r \int dt$$

$$\ln|P| = rt + C$$

$$P = e^{rt+C}$$

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{rt}$$

The population at time $t = 0$ is P_0 .

Doubling Time: $T = \frac{\ln 2}{r}$

Example

A biologist starts with 10 cells in a culture. Exactly 24 hrs later he counts 25. Assuming a Malthusian model, what the reproductive rate? What will be the number of cells at the end of 10 days?

Solution

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

$$P = 10e^{rt}$$

$$25 = 10e^{r(1)}$$

$$24 \text{ hrs} = 1 \text{ day } P = 25$$

$$\frac{25}{10} = e^r$$

$$\ln \frac{25}{10} = \ln e^r$$

$$r = \ln 2.5$$

$$\approx 0.9163$$

$$P(t) = 10e^{0.9163t}$$

$$P(10) = 10e^{0.9163(10)}$$

$$\approx 95367 \text{ cells}$$

Decay

The rate of decay of a material at time t is proportional to the amount of material present at time t .

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -rA(t)$$

$A(t)$: Amount of material present at time t .

r : Decay rate ($r > 0$)

$$\int \frac{dA}{A} = -r \int dt$$

$$\ln|A| = -rt + C$$

$$A = e^{-rt+C}$$

$$A(t) = A_0 e^{-rt}$$

$$rT = \ln \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{Half-life: } T = \frac{\ln 2}{r}$$

Example

A certain radioactive material is decaying at a rate proportional to the amount present. If a sample of 50 grams of the material was present initially and after 2 hours the sample lost 10% of its mass, find:

- An expression for the mass of the material remaining at any time.
- The mass of the material after 4 hours.
- How long will it take for 75% of the material to decay?
- The half-life of the material.

Solution

Given: $A_0 = 50g$

$$A(2) = 50 - .1(50) = 45 \text{ g}$$

$$a) \quad A(t) = A(0)e^{-rt}$$

$$A(2) = 50e^{-2r}$$

$$45 = 50e^{-2r}$$

$$e^{-2r} = \frac{45}{50} = \frac{9}{10}$$

Convert to logarithm

$$-2r = \ln \frac{9}{10}$$

$$r = -\frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{9}{10}$$

$$A(t) = 50e^{\frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{9}{10} \right) t}$$

$$= 50e^{\ln \left(\frac{9}{10} \right)^{t/2}}$$

$$= 50 \left(\frac{9}{10} \right)^{t/2}$$

$$b) \quad A(4) = 50 \left(\frac{9}{10} \right)^2 = \underline{40.5 \text{ g}}$$

$$c) \quad \text{At 75\%} \Rightarrow A(t) = 50 \times .25 = 12.5 \text{ g}$$

$$12.5 = 50 \left(\frac{9}{10} \right)^{t/2}$$

$$\left(\frac{9}{10} \right)^{t/2} = \frac{12.5}{50}$$

$$\frac{t}{2} \ln \left(\frac{9}{10} \right) = \ln \left(\frac{12.5}{50} \right)$$

$$t = \frac{2 \ln \left(\frac{12.5}{50} \right)}{\ln \left(\frac{9}{10} \right)} \approx \underline{26.32 \text{ hours}}$$

$$d) \quad T = \frac{\ln 2}{-\frac{1}{2} \ln 0.9} \approx \underline{13.16 \text{ hrs}}$$

Note

We can use this formula to solve most of the questions

$$rT = \ln \frac{A}{A_0}$$

Logistic Model of Growth

Suppose an environment is capable of sustaining no more than a fixed number K of individuals in its populations. The quantity K is called the **carrying capacity** of the environment. In reality this model is unrealistic because environments impose limitations to population growth.

The logistic equation is given by:

$$P' = rP\left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right) = KrP(K - P) \quad P' = kP(M - P) \quad \text{where} \quad k = \frac{r}{K} \quad \& \quad M = K$$

The logistic equation can be solved by separation of variables

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = rP\left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right)$$

$$\int \frac{dP}{P\left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right)} = \int r dt$$

$$\frac{1}{P\left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right)} = \frac{K}{P(K - P)} = \frac{1}{P} + \frac{1}{K - P}$$

$$\int \frac{dP}{P} + \int \frac{dP}{K - P} = \int r dt$$

$$\ln|P| - \ln|K - P| = rt + C$$

$$\ln\left|\frac{P}{K - P}\right| = rt + C$$

$$\frac{P}{K - P} = e^{rt+C}$$

$$\frac{P}{K - P} = Ae^{rt}$$

$$t = 0 \Rightarrow A = \frac{P_0}{K - P_0}$$

$$P = KAe^{rt} - PAe^{rt}$$

$$P\left(1 + Ae^{rt}\right) = KAe^{rt}$$

$$P = \frac{KAe^{rt}}{1 + Ae^{rt}}$$

$$= \frac{KA}{e^{-rt} + A}$$

$$= \frac{K \frac{P_0}{K - P_0}}{e^{-rt} + \frac{P_0}{K - P_0}}$$

$$= \frac{KP_0}{e^{-rt} + \frac{P_0}{K - P_0}}$$

$$= \frac{KP_0}{\left(K - P_0\right)e^{-rt} + P_0}$$

$$P(t) = \frac{KP_0}{P_0 + \left(K - P_0\right)e^{-r(t-t_0)}} \quad \text{or} \quad P(t) = \frac{MP_0}{P_0 + \left(M - P_0\right)e^{-kMt}}$$

Example

Suppose we start at time $t_0 = 0$ with a sample of 1000 cells. One day later we see that the population has doubled, and sometime later we notice that the population has stabilized at 100,000.

Solution

$$\text{Given: } K = 100,000 = 10^5, \quad P_0 = 1000$$

$$P(t) = \frac{10^5 10^3}{10^3 + (10^5 - 10^3)e^{-r(t-0)}}$$

$$= \frac{10^8}{10^3 + 10^3(100 - 1)e^{-rt}}$$

$$= \frac{10^5}{1 + 99e^{-rt}}$$

$$2P_0 = \frac{10^5}{1 + 99e^{-r(1)}}$$

$$2 \times 10^3 = \frac{10^5}{1 + 99e^{-r}}$$

$$1 + 99e^{-r} = \frac{10^5}{2 \times 10^3}$$

$$1 + 99e^{-r} = 50$$

$$99e^{-r} = 49$$

$$e^{-r} = \frac{49}{99}$$

$$-r = \ln\left(\frac{49}{99}\right)$$

$$r \approx 0.7033$$

$$P(t) = \frac{10^5}{1 + 99e^{-0.7033t}}$$

Exercises

Section 1.5 – Population: Exponential Growth/Decay

1. The rate of growth of bacteria in a petri dish is proportional to the number of bacteria in the dish.
2. The rate of growth of a population of field mice is inversely proportional to the square root of the population.
3. A biologist starts with 100 *cells* in a culture. After 24 *hrs*, he counts 300. Assuming a Malthusian model, what the reproductive rate? What will be the number of cells of the end of 5 *days*?
4. A biologist prepares a culture. After 1 *day* of growth, the biologist counts 1000 *cells*. After 2 *days*, he counts 3000. Assuming a Malthusian model, what the reproductive rate and how many cells were present initially?
5. A population of bacteria is growing according to the Malthusian model. If the population is triples in 10 *hrs*, what is the reproduction rate? How often does the population double itself?
6. Consider a lake that is stocked with walleye pike and that the population of pike is governed by the logistic equation

$$P' = 0.1P\left(1 - \frac{P}{10}\right)$$

where time is measured in days and P in thousands of fish. Suppose that fishing is started in this lake and that 100 fish are removed each day.

- a) Modify the logistic model to account for the fishing.
 - b) Find and classify the equilibrium points for your model.
 - c) Use qualitative analysis to completely discuss the fate of the fish population with this model. In particular, if the initial fish population is 1000, what happens to the fish as time passes? What will happen to an initial population having 2000 fish?
7. Suppose that in 1885 the population of a certain country was 50 million and was growing at the rate of 750,000 people per year at that time. Suppose also that in 1940 its population was 100 million and was then growing at the rate of 1 million per year. Assume that this population satisfies the logistic equation. Determine both the limiting population M and the predicted population for the year 2000.
 8. The time rate of change of a rabbit population P is proportional to the square root of P . At time $t = 0$ (months) the population numbers 100 rabbits and is increasing at the rate of 20 rabbits per month. How many rabbits will there be one year later?
 9. Suppose that the fish population $P(t)$ in a lake is attacked by a disease at time $t = 0$, with the result that the fish cease to reproduce (so that the birth rate is $\beta = 0$) and the death rate δ (deaths per week per fish) is thereafter proportional to $\frac{1}{\sqrt{P}}$. If there were initially 900 fish in the lake and 441 were left after 6 weeks, how long did it take all the fish in the lake to die?

10. Suppose that when a certain lake is stocked with fish, the birth and death rates β and δ are both inversely proportional to \sqrt{P}
- Show that $P(t) = \left(\frac{1}{2}kt + \sqrt{P_0} \right)^2$, where k is a constant.
 - If $P_0 = 100$ and after 6 months there are 169 fish in the lake, how many will there be after 1 year?
11. The time rate of change of an alligator population P in a swamp is proportional to the square of P . The swamp contained a dozen alligators in 1988, two dozen in 1998.
- When will there be four dozen alligators in the swamp?
 - What happens thereafter?
12. Consider a prolific breed of rabbits whose birth and death rates, β and δ , are each proportional to the rabbit population $P = P(t)$, with $\beta > \delta$
- Show that $P(t) = \frac{P_0}{1 - kP_0 t}$, k constant
Note that $P(t) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $t \rightarrow \frac{1}{kP_0}$. This is doomsday
 - Suppose that $P_0 = 6$ and that there are nine rabbits after ten months. When does doomsday occur?
 - With $\beta < \delta$, repeat part (a)
 - What now happens to the rabbit population in the long run?
13. Consider a population $P(t)$ satisfying the logistic equation $\frac{dP}{dt} = aP - bP^2$, where $B = aP$ is the time rate at which births occur and $D = bP^2$ is the rate at which deaths occur.
- If the initial population is $P(0) = P_0$, and B_0 births per month and D_0 deaths per month are occurring at time $t = 0$, show that the limiting population is $M = \frac{B_0 P_0}{D_0}$.
 - If the initial population is 120 rabbits and there are 8 births per month and 6 deaths per month occurring at time $t = 0$, how many months does it take for $P(t)$ to reach 95% of the limiting population M ?
 - If the initial population is 240 rabbits and there are 9 births per month and 12 deaths per month occurring at time $t = 0$, how many months does it take for $P(t)$ to reach 105% of the limiting population M ?
14. The amount of drug in the blood of a patient (in mg) due to an intravenous line is governed by the initial value problem

$$y'(t) = -0.02y + 3, \quad y(0) = 0 \text{ for } t \geq 0$$

Where t is measured in hours

- a) Find and graph the solution of the initial value problem.
- b) What is the steady-state level of the drug?
- c) When does the drug level reach 90% of the steady-state value?

15. A fish hatchery has 500 *fish* at time $t = 0$, when harvesting begins at a rate of b *fish/yr.* where $b > 0$. The fish population is modeled by the initial value problem.

$$y'(t) = 0.1y - b, \quad y(0) = 500 \quad \text{for } t \geq 0$$

Where t is measured in years.

- a) Find the fish population for $t \geq 0$ in terms of the harvesting rate b .
 - b) Graph the solution in the case that $b = 40$ *fish / yr*. Describe the solution.
 - c) Graph the solution in the case that $b = 60$ *fish / yr*. Describe the solution.
16. A community of hares on an island has a population of 50 when observations begin at $t = 0$. The population for $t \geq 0$ is modeled by the initial value problem.

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.08P \left(1 - \frac{P}{200} \right), \quad P(0) = 50$$

- a) Find the solution of the initial value problem.
 - b) What is the steady-state population?
17. When an infected person is introduced into a closed and otherwise healthy community, the number of people who become infected with the disease (in the absence of any intervention) may be modeled by the logistic equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \left(1 - \frac{P}{A} \right), \quad P(0) = P_0$$

Where k is a positive infection rate, A is the number of people in the community, and P_0 is the number of infected people at $t = 0$. The model assumes no recovery or intervention.

- a) Find the solution of the initial value problem in terms of k , A , and P_0 .
 - b) Graph the solution in the case that $k = 0.025$, $A = 300$, and $P_0 = 1$.
 - c) For fixed values of k and A , describe the long-term behavior of the solutions for any P_0 with $0 < P_0 < A$
18. The reaction of chemical compounds can often be modeled by differential equations. Let $y(t)$ be the concentration of a substance in reaction for $t \geq 0$ (typical units of y are *moles/L*). The change in the concentration of a substance, under appropriate conditions, is $\frac{dy}{dt} = -ky^n$, where $k > 0$ is a rate constant and the positive integer n is the order of the reaction.
- a) Show that for a first-order reaction ($n = 1$), the concentration obeys an exponential decay law.
 - b) Solve the initial value problem for a second-order reaction ($n = 2$) assuming $y(0) = y_0$

- c) Graph and compare the concentration for a first-order and second-order reaction with $k = 0.1$ and $y_0 = 1$

19. The growth of cancer tumors may be modeled by the Gomperts growth equation. Let $M(t)$ be the mass of the tumor for $t \geq 0$. The relevant initial value problem is

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = -aM \ln \frac{M}{K}, \quad M(0) = M_0$$

Where a and K are positive constants and $0 < M_0 < K$

- a) Graph the growth rate function $R(M) = -aM \ln \frac{M}{K}$ assuming $a = 1$ and $K = 4$. For what values of M is the growth rate positive? For what values of M is maximum?
- b) Solve the initial value problem and graph the solution for $a = 1$, $K = 4$, and $M_0 = 1$. Describe the growth pattern of the tumor. Is the growth unbounded? If not, what is the limiting size of the tumor?
- c) In the general equation, what is the meaning of K ?
20. The halibut fishery has been modeled by the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky \left(1 - \frac{y}{M} \right)$$

Where $y(t)$ is the biomass (the total mass of the members of the population) in kilograms at time t (measured in years), the carrying capacity is estimated to be $M = 8 \times 10^7$ kg and $k = 0.71$ per year.

- a) If $y(0) = 2 \times 10^7$ kg, find the biomass a year later.
- b) How long will it take for the biomass to reach 4×10^7 kg.
21. Suppose a population $P(t)$ satisfies $\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.4P - 0.001P^2$, $P(0) = 50$, where t is measured in years.
- a) What is the carrying capacity?
- b) What is $P'(0)$?
- c) When will the population reach 50% of the carrying capacity?
22. The board of directors of a corporation is calculating the price to pay for a business that is forecast to yield a continuous flow of profit of \$500,000 per year. The money will earn a nominal rate of 5% per year compounded continuously. What is the present value of the business?
- a) For 20 years?
- b) Forever (in perpetuity)?
23. The population of a community is known to increase at a rate proportional to the number of people present at a time t . If the population has doubled in 6 years, how long it will take to triple?

24. Let population of country be decreasing at the rate proportional to its population. If the population has decreased to 25% in 10 *years*, how long will it take to be half?
25. Suppose that we have an artifact, say a piece of fossilized wood, and measurements show that the ratio of C-14 to carbon in the sample is 37% of the current ratio. Let us assume that the wood died at time 0, then compute the time T it would take for one gram of the radioactive carbon to decay this amount.
26. A certain radioactive material is known to decay at a rate proportional to the amount present. If initially there is 50 *mg* of the material present and after of its original mass, find
- a) An expression for the mass of the material remaining at any time t .
 - b) The mass of the material after 4 *hours*
 - c) The time at which the material has decayed to one half of its initial mass.
27. The rate at which radioactive nuclei decay is proportional to the number of such nuclei that are present in given sample. Half of the original number of radioactive nuclei have undergone disintegration in a period of 1,500 *years*.
- a) What percentage of the original radioactive nuclei will remain after 4,500 *years*?
 - b) In how many years will only one-tenth of the original number remain?