

(b) Decay Model (exponential case only)

Exponential Decay :

If a function $x(t)$ decreases continuously at a rate $k > 0$,
its differential equation is given by

$$dx/dt = -kx, \quad k > 0$$

then $x(t)$ has the form

$$x(t) = x_0 e^{-kt}$$

where x_0 is the initial amount $x(0)$. In this case,

the quantity $x(t)$ is said to exhibit exponential decay, and k is the decay rate.

Example - 4

Suppose that a certain radioactive element has an annual decay rate of 10%. Starting with a 200 gram sample of the element, how many grams will be left in 3 years?

$$x_0 = 200, \quad k = 10\% = .1, \quad x[t] \text{ in 3 years} = ?$$

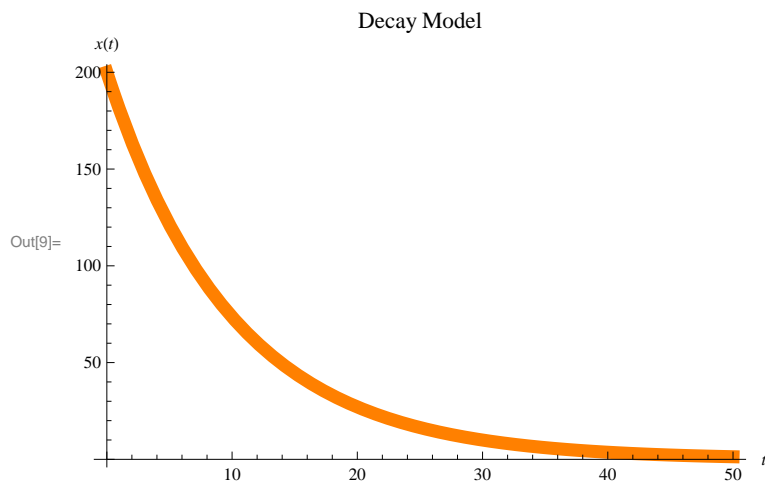
```
In[2]:= Sol = DSolve[x'[t] == -k * x[t], x[t], t]
```

```
Out[2]= {{x[t] -> e^{-k t} C[1]}}
```

```
In[3]:= Sol1 = Evaluate[x[t] /. Sol[[1]] /. {k -> .1, C[1] -> 200}]
```

```
Out[3]= 200 e^{-0.1 t}
```

```
In[9]:= Plot[Sol1, {t, 0, 50}, PlotStyle -> {Orange, Thickness[0.02]},  
PlotLabel -> "Decay Model", AxesLabel -> {t, x[t]}
```



```
In[8]:= x[3] = Evaluate[Sol1 /. {t -> 3}]
```

```
Out[8]= 148.164
```

Conclusion : Hence, grams left after 3 years will be 148.164.

```
In[10]:= ClearAll
```

```
Out[10]= ClearAll
```

Example - 5

Using the same element as Example - 4,

if a particular sample of the element decays to 50 grams after 5 years,
how big was the original sample?

$$k = 10\% = 0.1, \quad t = 5, \quad x(t) = 50, \quad x[0] = ?$$

```
In[15]:= Clear[t, k, x]
```

```
In[16]:= Sol = DSolve[x'[t] == -k * x[t], x[t], t]
```

```
Out[16]= {{x[t] -> e^{-k t} C[1]}}
```

```
In[17]:= Sol1 = Evaluate[x[t] /. Sol[[1]] /. {k -> .1, C[1] -> x_0, t -> 5}]
```

```
Out[17]= 0.606531 x_0
```

```
In[18]:= Sol2 = Solve[Sol1 == 50, x_0]
```

```
Out[18]= {{x_0 -> 82.4361}}
```

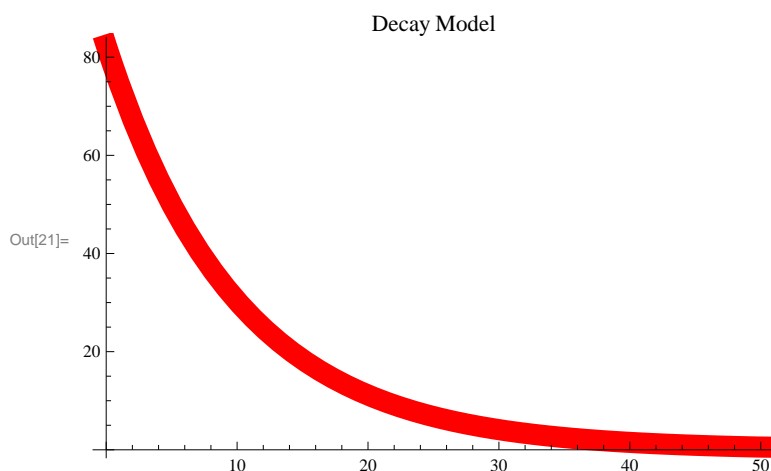
```
In[19]:= Sol3 = x_0 /. Sol2[[1]]
```

```
Out[19]= 82.4361
```

```
In[20]:= Sol4 = x[t] /. Sol[[1]] /. {k -> 0.1, C[1] -> Sol3}
```

```
Out[20]= 82.4361 e^{-0.1 t}
```

```
In[21]:= Plot[Sol4, {t, 0, 50}, PlotStyle -> {Red, Thickness[0.031]}, PlotLabel -> "Decay Model"]
```



Conclusion : Hence, original sample was 82.4361 grams.

Example - 6

Suppose that a certain radioactive isotope has an annual decay rate of 5%. How many years will it take for a 100 gram sample to decay to 40 grams?

Here, $k = 5\% = 0.05$, $x(0) = 100$, $x(t) = 40$, $t = ?$

```
In[22]:= Clear[t, k, x]
```

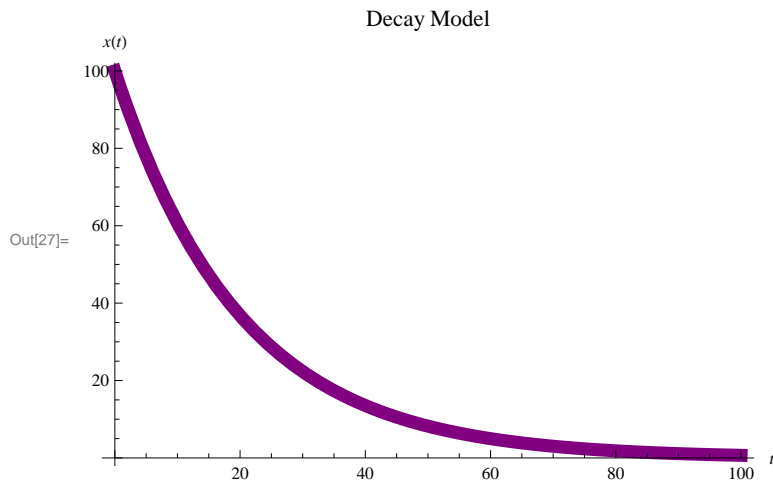
```
In[23]:= Sol = DSolve[x'[t] == -k * x[t], x[t], t]
```

```
Out[23]= {{x[t] -> e^{-k t} C[1]}}
```

```
In[24]:= Sol1 = Evaluate[x[t] /. Sol[[1]] /. {k -> .05, C[1] -> 100}]
```

```
Out[24]= 100 e^{-0.05 t}
```

```
In[27]:= Plot[Sol1, {t, 0, 100}, PlotStyle -> {Purple, Thickness[0.02]},
  PlotLabel -> "Decay Model", AxesLabel -> {t, x[t]}
```



```
In[26]:= Solve[Sol1 == 40, t]
```

Solve::ifun : Inverse functions are being used by Solve, so
some solutions may not be found; use Reduce for complete solution information. >>

```
Out[26]= {{t -> 18.3258}}
```

Conclusion : Hence it will take 18.3258 years for 100 gram sample to decay to 40 grams.

Example - 7

Using the same element as in Example - 6, what is the half life of the element?

Here, $k = 5\% = 0.05$, $x(0) = 100$, $x(t) = 50$, $t = ?$

```
In[28]:= Sol = DSolve[x'[t] == -k*x[t], x[t], t]
```

```
Out[28]= {{x[t] -> e^{-k t} C[1]}}
```

```
In[29]:= Sol1 = Evaluate[x[t] /. Sol[[1]] /. {k -> 0.05, C[1] -> 100}]
```

```
Out[29]= 100 e^{-0.05 t}
```

```
In[30]:= Solve[Sol1 == 50, t]
```

Solve::ifun : Inverse functions are being used by Solve, so
some solutions may not be found; use Reduce for complete solution information. >>

```
Out[30]= {{t -> 13.8629}}
```

Conclusion : Hence, half - life of radioactive isotope is 13.8629 years.