

## Lecture 35: Exponential Decay

**GOAL:** Discuss situations governed by the equation  $P(t) = P_0 e^{kt}$  for  $k < 0$ .

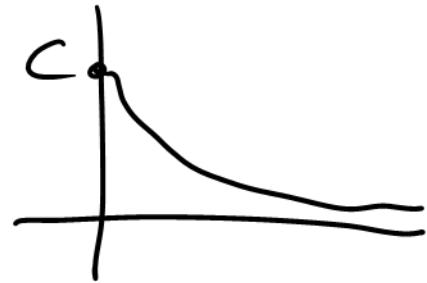
Recall that a solution to the diff eq

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$$

takes the form  $y(t) = Ce^{kt}$

when  $k > 0$ ,  $C > 0$ ,  $y \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$

when  $k < 0$ ,  $C > 0$ ,  $y \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$



This situation is called exponential decay.

**Ex/** Solve the IVP  $\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2}y \\ y(2) = \frac{3}{e} \end{cases}$

$$y(t) = Ce^{kt}$$

$$y(t) = Ce^{-\frac{1}{2}t}$$

$$\frac{3}{e} \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} y(2) = Ce^{-\frac{1}{2}(2)} = Ce^{-1}$$

$$\frac{3}{e} = \frac{C}{e}$$

$$C = 3$$

$$\text{So, } P(t) = 3e^{-\frac{1}{2}t}$$

### Half-Life

The decay of radioactive isotopes follows an exponential decay model.

**Def** The half-life of a substance is the time required for 50% of the sample to decay.

Ex 2/ Bismuth-210 ( $^{210}_{83}\text{Bi}$ ) has a half life of 5 days.  
 Suppose we have a sample size of 800mg  
 @ Find the mass remaining after 30 days

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

$$P(t) = 800 e^{kt}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot 800 = 800 e^{k(5)}$$

$$2^{-1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = e^{5k}$$

$$\ln(1/2) = 5k$$

$$-\ln(2) = 5k$$

$$k = -\frac{\ln(2)}{5}$$

$$\text{So, } P(t) = 800 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5}t}$$

$$P(30) = 800 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5} \cdot 30} = \frac{800}{2^6} = 12.5 \text{ mg}$$

(b) How long until only 1 mg remains?

$$P(t) = 800 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5}t}$$

$$1 = 800 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5}t}$$

$$\frac{1}{800} = e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5}t}$$

$$-\ln(800) = -\frac{\ln(2)}{5}t$$

$$t = \frac{\ln(800) \cdot 5}{\ln(2)} \approx 48.22 \text{ days}$$

Ex/ After 3 days 58% of a sample of Radon - 222  
 $\left({}^{223}_{86}\text{Ra}\right)$  remains

@ Determine the half-life

$$0.58 P_0 = P_0 e^{-kt}$$

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{-kt}$$

$$58 = 100 e^{-k(3)}$$

$$58 = 100 e^{-3k}$$

$$\frac{58}{100} = e^{-3k}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{58}{100}\right) = -3k$$

$$k = \frac{\ln(58/100)}{3}$$

Q: How are  $k$  and the half life related?  
 Let  $h$  denote the half life

$$\frac{1}{2} P_0 = P_0 e^{-kh}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = e^{-kh}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -kh$$

$$-\ln(2) = -kh$$

$$k = \frac{-\ln(2)}{h}$$

$$h = -\frac{\ln(2)}{k}$$

Back to the ex

$$\text{Half-Life} = \frac{-\ln(2)}{k} = \frac{-\ln(2)}{\frac{\ln(58/100)}{3}} \approx 3.82 \text{ days}$$

(b) How long will it take for the sample to decay to 10% the original amount

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{\frac{\ln(58/100)}{3}t}$$

$$10 = 100 e^{\frac{\ln(58/100)}{3}t}$$

$$10^{-1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{10} = e^{\frac{\ln(58/100)}{3}t}$$

$$-\ln(10) = \frac{1}{3} \ln\left(\frac{58}{100}\right)t$$

$$t = \frac{-\ln(10) \cdot 3}{\ln(58/100)} \approx 12.68 \text{ days}$$

Carbon-Dating  
The half-life of Carbon-14 ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ) is roughly 5715 years.  $[5700 \pm 30]$

Ex/ A parchment fragment was discovered to have 74% of the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  as present day plant matter. Estimate the age of the parchment.

(i) Determine  $k$ :

$$50 = 100 e^{5715k}$$

$$k = -\frac{\ln(2)}{5715} \approx -0.000121$$

(ii) Estimate age

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5715}t}$$

$$74 = 100 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5715}t}$$

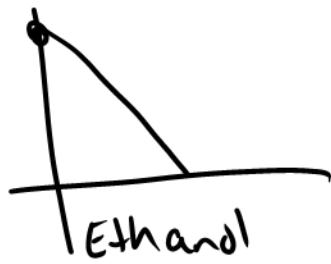
$$\frac{74}{100} = e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5715}t}$$

$$\ln(74/100) = -\frac{\ln(2)}{5715}t$$

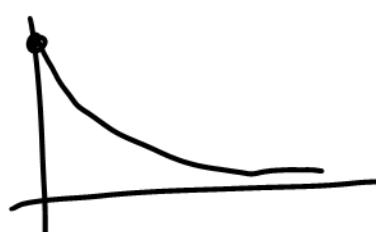
$$t = \frac{\ln(74/100)}{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5715}} \approx 2482.6 \text{ years}$$

## Drugs Leaving the Body

Def If a drug leaves your system at a constant rate, it is called a 0-order elimination drug. If it follows exp. decay., it is a 1<sup>st</sup>-order elm. drug.



Ethanol



Ibuprofen

Ex4. At low doses caffeine is a 1<sup>st</sup> order elm. drug with a "half-life" of 5 hours. If someone consumes 2 cups of coffee (~180mg) at 7AM, what percentage will be in their system at 3PM?

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

$$90 = 180 e^{5k}$$

$$k = -\frac{\ln(2)}{5}$$

$$\text{So, } P(t) = 180 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5} t}$$

$$P(8) = 180 e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5} \cdot 8} \approx 59.38 \text{ mg}$$

$$\text{Percentage} = \left[ \frac{P(8)}{P(0)} \right] \cdot 100 = \frac{59.38}{180} \cdot 100 \approx 33\%$$

## Non-Examinable

Newton's Law of Cooling: If  $T(t)$  is the temperature of an object and  $T_a$  is the ambient temp. The rate the object cools is governed by

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dT}{dt} = k(T_{(t)} - T_a) \\ T(0) = T_0 \end{array} \right.$$

Let  $y(t) = T(t) - T_a$

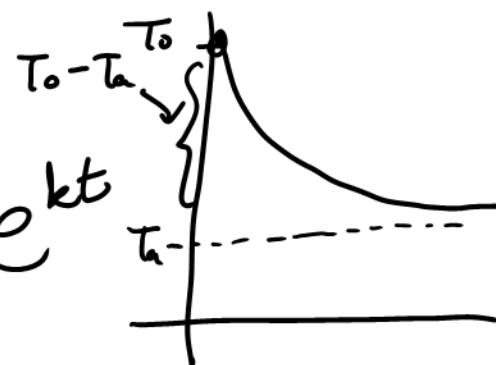
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dT}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k(T(t) - T_a) \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dt} = k y$$

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

$$T(t) - T_a = C e^{-kt}$$

$$T(t) = T_a + C e^{-kt}$$



$$\cancel{T(0) = T_0}$$

$$T(t) = T_a + [T_0 - T_a] e^{-kt}$$

Ex5 A ham is taken out of the oven and is placed into a  $75^{\circ}\text{F}$  room. The initial temp of the ham is  $185^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

@  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr later, the temp is  $150^{\circ}\text{F}$ . What is the temperature after 45 mins.

$$\begin{array}{r} T_a = 75 \\ T_0 = 185 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 185 \\ 75 \\ \hline 110 \end{array}$$

$$T(t) = 75 + 110 e^{kt}$$
$$150 = 75 + 110 e^{30k}$$
$$\frac{75}{110} = e^{30k}$$

$$\ln(75/110) = 30k$$

$$k = \frac{\ln(75/110)}{30}$$

$$\frac{\ln(75/110)}{30} t$$

So,  $T(t) = 75 + 110 e^{\frac{\ln(75/110)}{30} t}$

$$T(45) \approx 137^\circ F$$