

## Lecture 35: Exponential Decay

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

Recall that the solution to the diff eq

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



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

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  $t \rightarrow \infty$

We call this situation exponential decay.

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

$$\text{Set } y(t) = Ce^{kt} \quad \text{then} \quad y(0) = Ce^{k \cdot 0} = C$$

$$\frac{3}{e} \stackrel{\text{Set}}{=} Ce^{-\frac{1}{2}(2)} = Ce^{-k \cdot 2} = Ce^{k(2)} = Ce^{-\frac{1}{2}(2)} = Ce^{-1}$$

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

$$C = 3$$

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

### 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 a sample to decay.

$\text{Ex 2}$  Bismuth - 210 ( $^{210}_{83}\text{Bi}$ ) has a half life of 5 days. Suppose we have a sample of 800 mg

@ Find the mass remaining after 30 days

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

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

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

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

$$\ln(\frac{1}{2}) = 5k \quad \frac{1}{2} = 2^{-1}$$

$$k = \frac{\ln(\frac{1}{2})}{5} = -\frac{\ln(2)}{5}$$

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 will it take so only 1 mg remains?

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

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

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

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

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

Ex 2/ After 3 days, 58% of a sample of Radon-222 ( $^{222}_{86}\text{Ra}$ ) remains

@ Determine the half life of  $^{223}_{86}\text{Ra}$ ?

$$P(t) = 100 e^{kt} \quad 0.58(P_0) = P_0 e^{kt}$$

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

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

$$\ln(58/100) = 3k$$

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

Q: How is  $k$  and half life related?

Let  $h$  denote the half life

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

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

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

$$k = \frac{\ln(1/2)}{h} = -\frac{\ln(2)}{h} \longleftrightarrow h = -\frac{\ln(2)}{k}$$

Back to the example

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

⑤ How long will take for the sample to decay to 10% the original amount?

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

$$0.1 P_0 = P_0 e^{\frac{\ln(58/100)}{3}t}$$
$$0.1 = e^{\frac{\ln(58/100)}{3}t}$$

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

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

### Carbon Dating

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

Ex3/ A parchment fragment was discovered to have 74% of the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  as present day plant material. Estimate the age of the parchment

$$50 = 100 e^{-kt}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = e^{-5715k}$$

$$-\ln(2) = 5715k$$

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

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

(ii) Estimate age

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

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

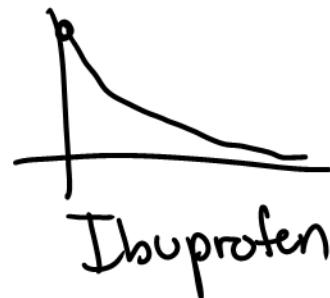
$$\ln\left(\frac{74}{100}\right) = \ln e^{-\frac{\ln(2)}{5715} t}$$

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

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

## 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 elim. drug.



Ex4 At low doses, caffeine is a 1<sup>st</sup>-order el.m. drug with a "half-life" of 5 hrs. If someone consumes 2 cups of coffee (~180mg) at 7AM, what percentage remains at 3 PM?

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

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

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

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

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

### Non Exam in able

Newton's Law of Cooling: The rate an object cools is governed by the IVP

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dT}{dt} = k(T - T_a) \\ T(0) = T_0 \end{cases}$$

where  $T(t)$  is the temp. and  $T_a$  is the ambient temp.

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

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

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k(T - T_a) \longrightarrow \frac{dy}{dt} = ky$$

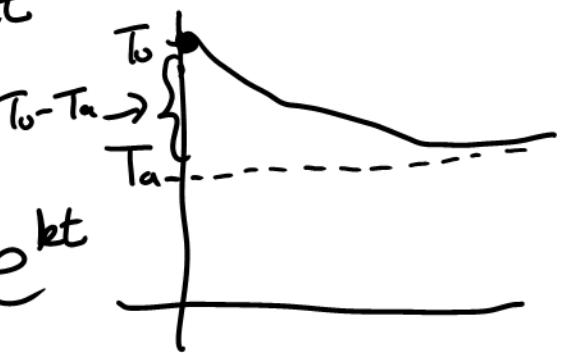
$$y(t) = C e^{kt}$$

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

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

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

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



Ex5 A ham is taken out of the oven and is placed into a 75°F room. The initial temp of the ham is 185°F

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

$$T_a = 75$$

$$T_0 = 185$$

$$\begin{matrix} 185 \\ 75 \\ \hline 110 \end{matrix}$$

$$\text{So, } T(t) = 75 + 110 e^{kt}$$

$$150 = 75 + 110 e^{30k}$$

$$\frac{75}{110} = e^{30k}$$

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

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

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

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

$$T(45) \approx 137^\circ\text{F}$$