

# Exponential Decay

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As a result, remarkably little information is required to completely characterize the process.

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This quantity is called the half-life  $t_h$  and is independent of the quantity present at the start:

$$\frac{1}{2}y(0) = y(0)e^{kt_h} \quad \text{so} \quad \frac{1}{2} = e^{kt_h} \Rightarrow k = \frac{\ln(\frac{1}{2})}{t_h}$$

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Then the quantity left at time  $t$  is:

$$y(t) = y(0)e^{kt} = y(0) \cdot e^{\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(\frac{t}{t_h}\right)} = y(0) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\left(\frac{t}{t_h}\right)}$$

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The quantity remaining after 180 days is:

$$y(180) = 300 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\left(\frac{180}{140}\right)} = 123.05mg$$

# Question 1

---

bismuth-210 has a half-life of 5 days. How much of a sample of  $200\text{mg}$  is left after 14 days?

1.  $16.48\text{mg}$
2.  $92.57\text{mg}$
3.  $54.67\text{mg}$
4.  $28.71\text{mg}$
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Set  $y(t)$  equal to  $0.1 \cdot y(0)$  and solve for  $t$ :

$$y(t) = 0.1 \cdot y(0) = y(0) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\left(\frac{t}{t_h}\right)} \Rightarrow 0.1 = e^{\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(\frac{t}{t_h}\right)}$$

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Taking the natural logarithm of each side gives:

$$\ln 0.1 = \ln \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{t}{t_h}\right) \quad \text{so}$$

$$t = \frac{t_h \ln 0.1}{\ln \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)} = \frac{140 \cdot \ln 0.1}{\ln \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)} = 465 \text{ days}$$



# Question 2

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carbon-14 has a half-life of 5730 years. How long does it take for 34% of a sample to decay?

1. 2042 *yr s*
2. 6390 *yr s*
3. 5531 *yr s*
4. 7062 *yr s*
5. 3435 *yr s*
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  4. 7062yrs
  5. 3435yrs
  6. cannot be determined
5. 3435yrs.

$$t = \frac{5730 \cdot \ln(1 - 0.34)}{\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)} = 3435 \text{ years}$$

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This quantity is called the doubling time  $t_d$  and is independent of the quantity present at the start:

$$2y(0) = y(0)e^{kt_d} \quad \text{so} \quad 2 = e^{kt_d} \Rightarrow k = \frac{\ln 2}{t_d}$$

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Then the quantity present at time  $t$  is:

$$y(t) = y(0)e^{kt} = y(0) \cdot e^{\ln 2 \left(\frac{t}{t_d}\right)} = y(0) \cdot (2)^{\left(\frac{t}{t_d}\right)}$$

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A bacteria culture starts with 1000 cells and doubles every 2 hours. How many cells are there after 6 hours?

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The equation for the number of cells at time  $t$  is:

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The number of cells present after 6 hours is:

$$y(6) = 1000 \cdot (2)^{\left(\frac{6}{2}\right)} = 8000 \text{ cells}$$



# Question 3

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An experiment with fruit flies finds that the doubling time for the population of *Bactrocera zonata* on a wheat shorts diet is 2.78 days (Hussain, 1995). If we start with a population of 100 flies, what is the number of flies after 20 days?

- |           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1. 14,645 | 4. 15,089               |
| 2. 12,432 | 5. 16,006               |
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1. 14,645.

$$y(20) = 100 \cdot 2^{\frac{20}{2.78}} = 14,645$$

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Set  $y(t)$  equal to 10,000 and solve for  $t$ :

$$y(t) = 10000 = 200 \cdot (2)^{\left(\frac{t}{3}\right)} \Rightarrow 50 = e^{\ln(2)\left(\frac{t}{3}\right)}$$

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$$y(t) = 10000 = 200 \cdot (2)^{\left(\frac{t}{3}\right)} \Rightarrow 50 = e^{\ln(2)\left(\frac{t}{3}\right)}$$

Taking the natural logarithm of each side gives:

$$\ln 50 = \ln (2) \left( \frac{t}{3} \right) \quad \text{so}$$

$$t = \frac{3 \cdot \ln 50}{\ln 2} = 16.93 \text{ hours}$$

# Question 4

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An experiment with fruit flies finds that the doubling time for the population of *Bactrocera zonata* on a wheat shorts diet is 2.78 days (Hussain, 1995). If we start with a population of 100 flies, how many days does it take for the population to reach 4,000 flies?

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|----------|-------------------------|
| 1. 13.91 | 4. 14.02                |
| 2. 15.33 | 5. 16.21                |
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An experiment with fruit flies finds that the doubling time for the population of *Bactrocera zonata* on a wheat shorts diet is 2.78 days (Hussain, 1995). If we start with a population of 100 flies, how many days does it take for the population to reach 4,000 flies?

1. 13.91

4. 14.02

2. 15.33

5. 16.21

3. 14.79

6. cannot be determined

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$$t = \frac{2.78 \cdot \ln 40}{\ln 2} = 14.79 \text{ days}$$

# Exponential Cooling

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Let

$$y = T - T_{ambient}$$

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Let

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Then

$$y(t) = y(0)e^{kt}$$

# Exponential Cooling

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Suppose the heat is turned off under a pot of boiling water ( $212^\circ F$ ) in a room with an ambient temperature of  $70^\circ F$ . After 10 minutes, the temperature has dropped to ( $160^\circ F$ ). What is the temperature of the water after 30 minutes?

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Let

$$y = T - T_{ambient}$$

Then

$$y(0) = 212 - 70 = 142$$

and

$$y(10) = 160 - 70 = 90$$

# Exponential Cooling

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Our exponential cooling equation is then:

$$y(t) = y(0) \cdot e^{kt} \quad \text{so} \quad 90 = 142e^{k \cdot 10} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{90}{142} = e^{k \cdot 10}$$

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Taking logs of both sides, we get

$$\ln \frac{90}{142} = k \cdot 10 \quad \text{so} \quad k = \frac{\ln \frac{90}{142}}{10} = -0.0456$$

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Then

$$y(t) = 142 \cdot e^{-0.0456t} \quad \text{and} \quad y(30) = 142 \cdot e^{-0.0456 \cdot 30} = 36.15$$



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Taking logs of both sides, we get

$$\ln \frac{90}{142} = k \cdot 10 \quad \text{so} \quad k = \frac{\ln \frac{90}{142}}{10} = -0.0456$$

Then

$$y(t) = 142 \cdot e^{-0.0456t} \quad \text{and} \quad y(30) = 142 \cdot e^{-0.0456 \cdot 30} = 36.15$$

So after 30 minutes, the water is  $36.15^\circ F$  above ambient, or  $106.15^\circ F$ .

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# Question 5

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Cooling water from a power plant is pumped into a holding tank at  $90^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After 20 minutes, the temperature has dropped to  $81^{\circ}\text{C}$ . If the ambient temperature is  $24^{\circ}\text{C}$ , what is the temperature of the water after 2 hours?

- |          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| 1. 47.64 | 4. 44.02                |
| 2. 51.39 | 5. 46.21                |
| 3. 55.21 | 6. cannot be determined |

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1. 47.64
2. 51.39
3. 55.21
4. 44.02
5. 46.21
6. cannot be determined

2. 51.39.  $y(0) = 90 - 24 = 66$  and  $y(20) = 81 - 24 = 57$ . So

$$\ln \frac{57}{66} = k \cdot 20 \quad \text{so} \quad k = \frac{\ln \frac{57}{66}}{20} = -0.00733$$

then

$$y(120) = 66 \cdot e^{-0.00733 \cdot 120} = 27.39 \quad T_{120} = 27.39 + 24 = 51.39$$

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