

Application Problems

1. Normal Exponential Growth Problems

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

$P(t)$ = amount at time t

P_0 = initial amount

k = growth rate

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Ex. 1) The population of a city grows according to the normal exponential growth model. The population of a city was 257,326 in 2010, and in 2015 the population had grown to 258,877.

A. Find the growth rate.

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

$$258877 = 257326 e^{5k}$$

$$1.006 = e^{5k}$$

$$\ln 1.006 = \frac{5k}{5}$$

$$.0012 = k$$

B. Predict the population in 2020.

$$P = 257326 e^{10(.0012)} = 260,437$$

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Ex. 2) The number of bacteria in a culture is given by the normal growth model. The initial population is 100 bacteria and after 5 hours the population grows to 300 bacteria.

A. Find the growth rate.

$$300 = 100e^{5k}$$

$$3 = e^{5k}$$

$$\ln 3 = 5k$$

$$k = \frac{\ln 3}{5} = .22$$

B. Estimate the time required for the population to double in size.

$$200 = 100e^{.22t}$$

$$2 = e^{.22t}$$

$$\ln 2 = .22t$$

$$t = \frac{\ln 2}{.22} = 3.15 \text{ hours}$$

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Application Problems

2. Compound Interest Problems

Periodically Compounded Interest

$$A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n} \right)^{nt}$$

Continuously Compounded Interest

$$A = Pe^{rt}$$

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Ex. 3) An amount of \$1500 is deposited into a bank account paying an annual interest of 4.3%, compounded quarterly.

A. Find the balance in the account after 6 years.

$$A = 1500 \left(1 + \frac{.043}{4}\right)^{(4)(6)} = \$1938.84$$

B. How many years would it take the account to double in size?

$$2 = \left(1 + \frac{.043}{4}\right)^{4t}$$

$$2 = 1.01075^{4t}$$

$$\frac{\log 1.01075}{4} 2 = \frac{4t}{4}$$

$$t = 16.21 \text{ years}$$

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Ex. 4) \$3200 is deposited into an account that is compounded continuously.

A. If it makes 7.2% interest, how much will it be worth in 5 years?

$$A = 3200 e^{.072 \cdot 5} = 4586.65$$

B. What interest rate is required to make it worth twice as much in 10 years?

$$6400 = 3200 e^{10r}$$

$$2 = e^{10r}$$

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

$$r = .069 \approx 6.9\%$$

C. How many years will it take for the account to be worth \$10,000 at an 8% interest rate?

$$10000 = 3200 e^{.08t}$$

$$3.125 = e^{.08t}$$

$$\ln 3.125 = .08t$$

$$t = \frac{\ln 3.125}{.08}$$

$$t = 14.24 \text{ years}$$

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Application Problems

3. Normal Exponential Decay Problems

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

$P(t)$ = amount at time t

P_0 = initial amount

k = growth rate

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Depreciation:

$$A = P(1-r)^t$$

Half-life:

$$A(t) = A_0 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{t}{n}}$$

n = half-life

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Ex. 5) A bone that originally contained 150 mg of carbon-14 now contains 85 mg of that isotope. Determine the age of the bone to the nearest 100 years if the half life of carbon-14 is 5570 years.

$$A = A_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/n}$$

$$85 = 150 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/5570}$$

$$\frac{17}{30} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{t/5570}$$

$$\log_{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{17}{30}\right) = \frac{t}{5570}$$

$$t = 5570 \log_{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{17}{30}\right)$$

$$t = 4564.21$$

$$t \approx 4600 \text{ years}$$

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Ex. 6) You bought a brand new car for \$32,000 yesterday. The depreciation rate for a new car is approximately 20% of its value.

A. If you plan on selling it when you graduate from college (in 8 years) what would be its value?

$$A = 32000(1-.2)^8 = \$5368.71$$

B. If you plan to sell it when it reaches a value of \$20,000, how many years will you have it?

$$20000 = 32000(.8)^x$$

$$.625 = .8^x$$

$$\log_{.8} .625 = x$$

$$x = 2.11 \text{ years}$$

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Ex. 7) If there are 200 milligrams of carbon 14 (halflife of 5570 years) in a sample, how many years will it take for the sample to have...

100 mg? $\frac{100}{200} = \frac{1}{2}$ 5570 years (1 half life)
50 mg? $\frac{50}{200} = \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}^2$ 11140 yrs (2 half-lives)
25 mg? $\frac{25}{200} = \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{2}^3$ 16710 years (3 half lives)

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