




3-2: EXPONENTIAL AND LOGISTIC MODELING

I. Constant Percentage Rate and Exponential Functions.

A. Exponential Population Model:

1. If a population P is changing at a constant percentage rate r each year, then
$$P(t) = P_0(1+r)^t$$

where P_0 is the initial population, r is the growth rate (decimal), and t is time.

2. $r > 0 \rightarrow$ exponential growth
 3. $r < 0 \rightarrow$ exponential decay
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B. Example 1: finding growth and decay rates

a. $P(t) = 32,459 \cdot 0.9845^t$ decay, since $1+r < 1$
 $r = -0.0155$
decay rate is 1.55%

b. $P(t) = 890,234 \cdot 1.0239^t$ growth, since $1+r > 1$
 $r = 0.0239$
growth rate is 2.39%

C. Example 2: Find the exponential function with the initial value of 28, and decaying at a rate of 4.5%.

$$f(x) = 28(1 - 0.045)^x = 28(0.955)^x$$



II. Exponential Growth and Decay Models

A. Doubling Time

$$f(t) = a \cdot 2^{\frac{t}{d}} = a \left(\sqrt[d]{2} \right)^t$$

Where $f(t)$ is the population/amount, a is the initial amount, t is the time, and d is the doubling time.

B. Half-Life

$$f(t) = a \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{t}{h}} = a \left(\sqrt[h]{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^t$$

Where $f(t)$ is the population/amount, a is the initial amount, t is the time, and h is the half-life.



C. Example 3: Radioactive iodine is used in various medical diagnostic tests. Its half-life is 8 days.

1. Write a formula for $f(t)$ —the amount of iodine—in terms of the number of days.

$$f(t) = a \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{t}{8}}$$

2. What proportion of the original radioactive iodine is present after 48 days?

$$f(48) = a \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{48}{8}} = a \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^6 = \boxed{\frac{1}{64}a}$$

3. If there is initially 12mL of iodine present, after how many days will there be less than 1 mL? (solve graphically)

$$t \approx 28.68 \text{ days}$$



D. Example 4: suppose that a colony of bacteria exhibits exponential growth. The colony initially contains 5000 bacteria, and takes 4 hours to double.

1. Write a function for $P(t)$ —the population of bacteria—as a function of time.

$$P(t) = 5000(2)^{\frac{t}{4}}$$

2. How many bacteria are there after 10 hours?

$$P(10) = 5000(2)^{\frac{10}{4}} \approx 28,284$$



3. How long will it take until the colony contains 160,000 bacteria?

Algebraically:

$$5000 \cdot 2^{\frac{t}{4}} = 160,000$$

$$2^{\frac{t}{4}} = 32$$

$$2^{\frac{t}{4}} = 2^5$$

$$\therefore \frac{t}{4} = 5$$

$$t = 20 \text{ hours}$$

III. Using Regression to Model Population

A. Example 5: The world population is given in the table to the right.

1. Find an exponential model for the data (in years after 1900)

$$P(t) \approx 1300.7007(1.0149)^t$$

2. Is this a reasonable model?

$$\text{yes, } r^2 \approx 0.9804 \approx 1$$

3. Predict the population in 2010

$$P(110) \approx 6,629,000,000 \text{ people}$$

Year	Population (millions)
1950	2,555
1960	3,039
1970	3,707
1980	4,456
1990	5,283
2000	6,080
2010	6,823*
2020	7,518*
2030	8,140*
*projections	

B. Example 6: The world population is given in the table to the right.

1. Find a logistic model for this population data. Use years after 1900 for t .

$$P(t) = \frac{10929.493}{1 + 14.364e^{-0.029t}}$$

2. Use your model to predict the population in the year 2050

$$P(150) \approx 9175 \text{ million people}$$

3. Use this model to predict the maximum sustainable population for the world.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) = 10,929,493,000$$

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C. Example 8: Find the logistic model with the following characteristics:

1. Initial value of 16 $f(0) = 16$
2. Maximum capacity of 80 $c = 80$
3. Passing through the point (2,40) $f(2) = 40$

$$f(t) = \frac{c}{1 + ab^x}$$

$$f(t) = \frac{80}{1 + ab^x}$$

$$f(0) = 16 = \frac{80}{1+ab^0} \quad f(2) = 40 = \frac{80}{1+4b^2}$$

$$16 = \frac{80}{1+a}$$

$$1+4b^2 = \frac{80}{40}$$

$$1+a = \frac{80}{16}$$

$$4b^2 = 1$$

$$b = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$a = 4$$

$$f(t) = \frac{80}{1+4(0.5)^t}$$

