



Math 1030 #16c

Exponential Modeling

Applications

inflation

radiometric dating

EX 1: Radioactive Carbon-14 has a half-life of about 5700 years.

When a living organism dies, Carbon-14 growth discontinues and it only decays from that point forward. If a mammal has been dead for 900 years, what fraction of the carbon-14 still exists in the bone that is found?

$$T_{\text{half}} = 5700 \text{ yrs}$$

eqn (2b)
$$Q = Q_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{t}{5700}}$$

if $t = 900 \text{ yrs}$,

$$Q = Q_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{900}{5700}} \approx Q_0 (0.896)$$

\Rightarrow 89.6% of original amt of carbon-14
is still in the bone

EX 2: Suppose that the number of alien encounters doubles every 32 years, and there were 45 alien encounters in the year 2012.

$$Q_0 = 45 \quad T_d = 32 \text{ yrs}, \quad t = 0 \text{ in yr 2012}$$

a) How many alien encounters can you expect in 2068?

use eqn (2a) $Q = Q_0 (2)^{\frac{t}{T_d}}$

$$Q = 45 \left(2^{\frac{t}{32}} \right)$$

$$Q = ? \text{ when } t = 2068 - 2012 = 56 \text{ yrs}$$

$$Q = 45 \left(2^{\frac{56}{32}} \right) \approx 151 \text{ alien encounters}$$

b) When will the number of alien encounters reach 360?

$$t = ? \text{ when } Q = 360 \text{ alien encounters}$$

$$\text{in } 32 \text{ yrs, } Q = 45(2) = 90$$

$$\text{in } 64 \text{ yrs, } Q = 90(2) = 180$$

$$\text{in } 96 \text{ yrs, } Q = 180(2) = 360 \text{ alien encounters}$$

\Rightarrow so there are 360 alien encounters after 96 yrs \Rightarrow in year $2012 + 96 = 2108$

EX 3: The inflation rate in mid 2014 was 2.1%. If this rate continues for five years, estimate the cost of a \$10,000 year of college in 2019.

use eqn ① $Q = Q_0 (1+r)^t$

$$r = 0.021, \quad Q_0 = \$10,000, \quad t = 0 \text{ in yr } 2014$$

$$\Rightarrow Q = 10000(1.021)^t$$

$$Q = ? \text{ when } t = 2019 - 2014 = 5 \text{ yrs}$$

$$Q = 10000(1.021)^5 \approx \$11,095$$