

10.4) Applications to modelling

Worked example

The price of a car in £s, x years after purchase, is modelled by the function

$$f(x) = 5000 (0.58)^x - 100 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- (a) Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 5 years after purchase.

Your turn

The price of a car in £s, x years after purchase, is modelled by the function

$$g(x) = 15000 (0.85)^x - 1000 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- (a) Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 10 years after purchase.

(a) £3500

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- (b) Show that $f(x)$ has a root between 7 and 8.

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- (a) Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 10 years after purchase.
- (b) Show that $g(x)$ has a root between 19 and 20.

(b)

$$g(19) = 543.11 \dots > 0$$

$$g(20) = -331.55 \dots < 0$$

Change of sign and $g(x)$ continuous in the interval $[19, 20]$

\therefore root in the interval $[19, 20]$

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- (b) Show that $f(x)$ has a root between 7 and 8.
- (c) Taking 7.5 as a first approximation, apply the Newton-Raphson method once to $f(x)$ to obtain a second approximation for the time when the value of the car is zero. Give your answer to 3 decimal places.

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(c)

$$g'(x) = (15\,000)(0.85)^x(\ln 0.85) - 1000 \cos x$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(19.5) &= 15000(0.85)^{19.5} - 1000 \sin(19.5) \\ &= 25.0693 \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g'(19.5) &= 15000(0.85)^{19.5}(\ln 0.85) - 1000 \cos(19.5) \\ &= -893.3009 \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$x_1 = 19.5 - \frac{g(19.5)}{g'(19.5)} = 19.528 \text{ (3 dp)}$$

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- Criticise this model with respect to the value of the car as it gets older.

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(d) In reality, the car can never have a negative value so this model is not reasonable for cars that are approximately 20 or more years old.