

14.3) Exponential modelling

Worked example

Suppose the population P of a village is modelled by $P = 500e^{2t}$ where t is the numbers of years since February 2009. Find:

- a) The initial population
- b) The initial rate of growth
- c) The population in February 2014

Your turn

Suppose the population P of a village is modelled by $P = 100e^{3t}$ where t is the numbers of years since January 2010. Find:

- a) The initial population
- b) The initial rate of growth
- c) The population in January 2014

a) 100

b) $\frac{dP}{dt} = 300$

c) 16275479

Worked example

The density of a pesticide in a given section of field, P mg/m², can be modelled by the equation $P = 80e^{-0.003t}$ where t is the time in days since the pesticide was first applied.

- Use this model to estimate the density of pesticide after 30 days.
- Interpret the meaning of the value 80 in this model.
- Show that $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$, where k is a constant, and state the value of k .
- Interpret the significance of the sign of your answer in part (c).
- Sketch the graph of P against t .

Your turn

The density of a pesticide in a given section of field, P mg/m², can be modelled by the equation $P = 160e^{-0.006t}$ where t is the time in days since the pesticide was first applied.

- Use this model to estimate the density of pesticide after 15 days.
- Interpret the meaning of the value 160 in this model.
- Show that $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$, where k is a constant, and state the value of k .
- Interpret the significance of the sign of your answer in part (c).
- Sketch the graph of P against t .

a) 145.2 mg/m^2

b) 160 is the initial density of pesticide in the field.

c) $\frac{dP}{dt} = -0.96e^{-0.006t}$; $k = -0.96$

d) The rate is negative, thus the density of pesticide is decreasing.

e)

