

NEWTON'S LAW OF COOLING

The temperature of an object, T , in surrounding air with temperature T_s , will behave according to the formula

$$T(t) = Ae^{kt} + T_s$$

where

- t is time
- A is the difference between the initial temperature of the object and the surroundings
- k is a constant, the continuous rate of cooling of the object

EXAMPLE 5

Using Newton's Law of Cooling

A cheesecake is taken out of the oven with an ideal internal temperature of 165°F , and is placed into a 35°F refrigerator. After 10 minutes, the cheesecake has cooled to 150°F . If we must wait until the cheesecake has cooled to 70°F before we eat it, how long will we have to wait?

$$\begin{aligned} 165 &= Ae^{k(0)} + 35 \\ 165 &= A + 35 \\ A &= 130 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 150 &= 130e^{k(10)} + 35 \\ \frac{115}{130} &= \frac{130e^{10k}}{130} \\ .8846 &= e^{10k} \\ k &= \frac{\ln .8846}{10} \\ &= -.01227 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T(t) &= Ae^{kt} + T_s \\ T(t) &= Ae^{kt} + 35 \end{aligned}$$

$$T(t) = 130e^{kt} + 35$$

EXAMPLE 3

Finding the Age of a Bone

A bone fragment is found that contains 20% of its original carbon-14. To the nearest year, how old is the bone?

$$\begin{aligned} 70 &= 130e^{-.01227t} + 35 \\ 35 &= 130e^{-.01227t} \\ \frac{35}{130} &= e^{-.01227t} \\ t &= \frac{\ln\left(\frac{35}{130}\right)}{-.01227} \end{aligned}$$

107 minutes

$$A(t) = 130e^{-.01227t} + 35$$

$$(0, 165) \quad (30, 145)$$

$$165 = Ae^{k(0)} + 75$$

$$A = 90$$

$$A(t) = 90e^{-.0084t} + 75$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 145 = 90e^{30k} + 75 \\ - 75 \qquad \qquad - 75 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$70 = 90e^{30k}$$

$$k = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{7}{9}\right)}{30}$$

$$k = -.0084$$