

Exploration 7-2a: Differential Equation or Compound Interest

Objective: Write and solve a differential equation for the amount of money in a savings account as a function of time.

ten money is left in a savings account. It earns interest at a certain percent of what is there. The money you have there, the faster it grows. If the interest is compounded continuously, the interest is added to the amount the instant it is earned.

1. For continuously compounded interest, the instantaneous rate of change of money is directly proportional to the amount of money. Define variables for time and money, and write a differential equation expressing this fact.
2. Separate the variables in the differential equation in Problem 1, then integrate both sides with respect to t . Transform the integrated equation so that the amount of money is expressed explicitly in terms of time.
3. The integrated equation from Problem 2 will contain e raised to a power containing two terms. Write this power as a product of two different powers of e , one that contains the time variable and one that contains no variable.
4. You should have the expression e^t in your answer to Problem 3. Explain why e^t is always positive.

Exploration 7-3a: Differential Equation or Memory Retention

Objective: Write and solve a differential equation for the number of names remembered as a function of time.

Member is a freshman at a large university. One evening he attends a reception at which there are many members of his class whom he has not met. He wants to predict how many new names he will remember at the end of the reception.

1. Ira assumes that he meets people at a constant rate of R people per hour. Unfortunately, he forgets names at a rate proportional to Y , the number he remembers. The more he remembers, the faster he forgets! Let t be the number of hours he has been at the reception. What does dy/dt equal? (Use the letter k for the proportionality constant.)

2. The equation in Problem 1 is a differential equation because it has differentials in it. By algebra, separate the variables so that all terms containing Y appear on one side of the equation and all terms containing t appear on the other side.
3. Integrate both sides of the equation in Problem 2. You should be able to make the integral of the reciprocal function appear on the side containing Y .

4. Show that the solution in Problem 3 can be transformed into the form

$$ky = R - Ce^{-kt}$$

where C is a constant related to the constant of integration. Explain what happens to the absolute value sign that you got from integrating the reciprocal function.

5. Use the initial condition $y = 0$ when $t = 0$ to evaluate the constant C .
6. Suppose that Ira meets 100 people per hour, and that he forgets at a rate of 4 names per hour when $y = 10$ names. Write the particular equation expressing y in terms of t .
7. How many names will Ira have remembered at the end of the reception, $t = 3$ h?

1. Find the solution to the differential equation.

a. $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4y^2$, and $x=1, y=2$

b. $\frac{dy}{dx} = 8x^2y^2$, and $x=1, y=2/3$

c. $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin x}{ye^y}$, and $y(0) = 0$. Solve for y in terms of x .

2. The rate of change of y is proportional to y . When $t=0, y=2$, and when $t=2, y=4$. What is the value of y when $t=3$?

3. The rate of growth of the volume of a sphere is proportional to its volume. If the volume of the sphere is initially $36\pi \text{ ft}^3$, and expands to $90\pi \text{ ft}^3$ after 1 second, find the volume of the sphere after 3 seconds.

4. The rate of decay of a radioactive substance is proportional to the amount of substance, S , present at time t years. The proportional constant is -0.1152 .

- Set up a differential equation involving S and t .
- Find the half-life of the substance.
- How much substance remains after 20 years.