

Algebra 2 *with* TI-nspire

Semester 2

Brendan Kelly

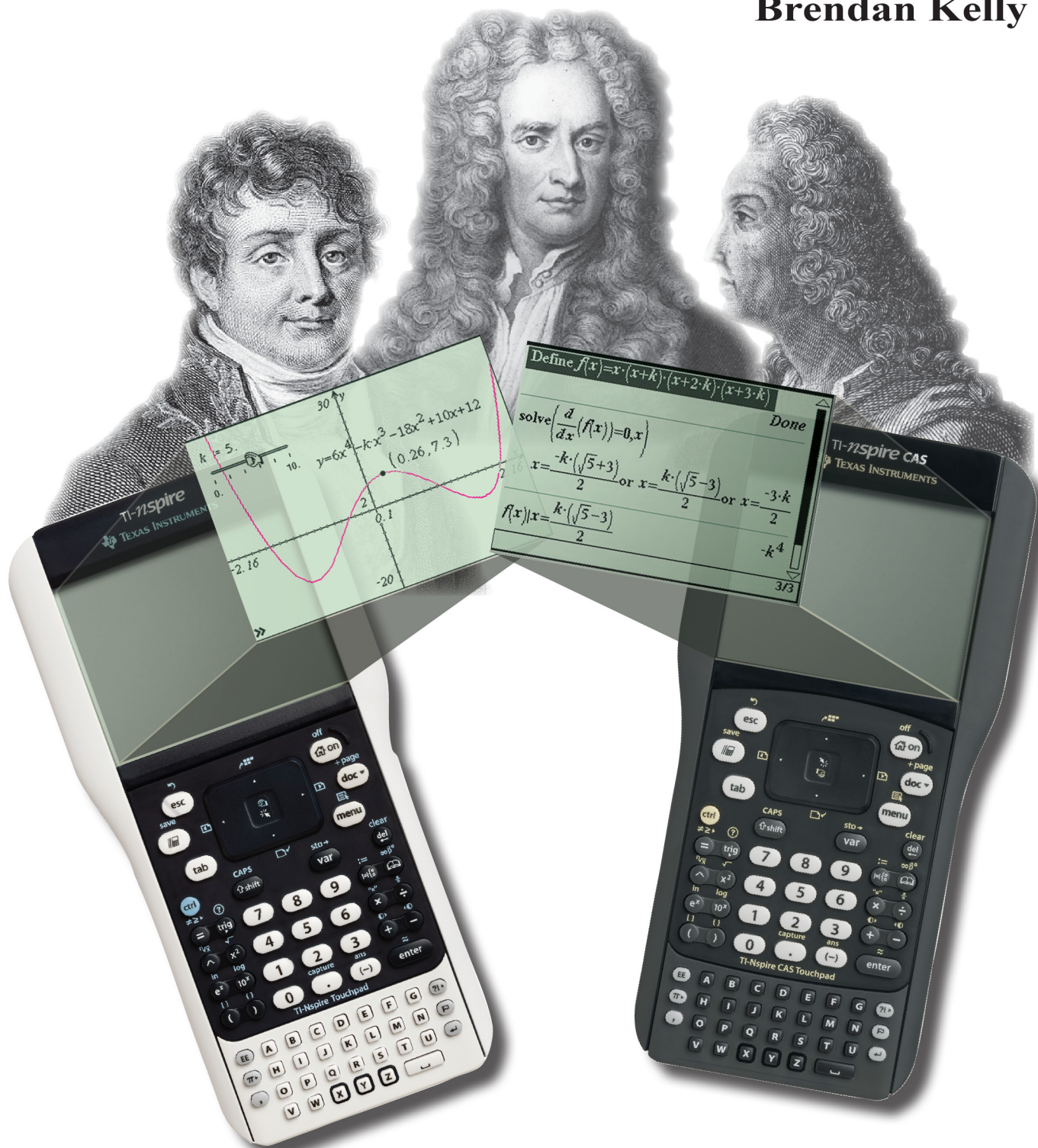


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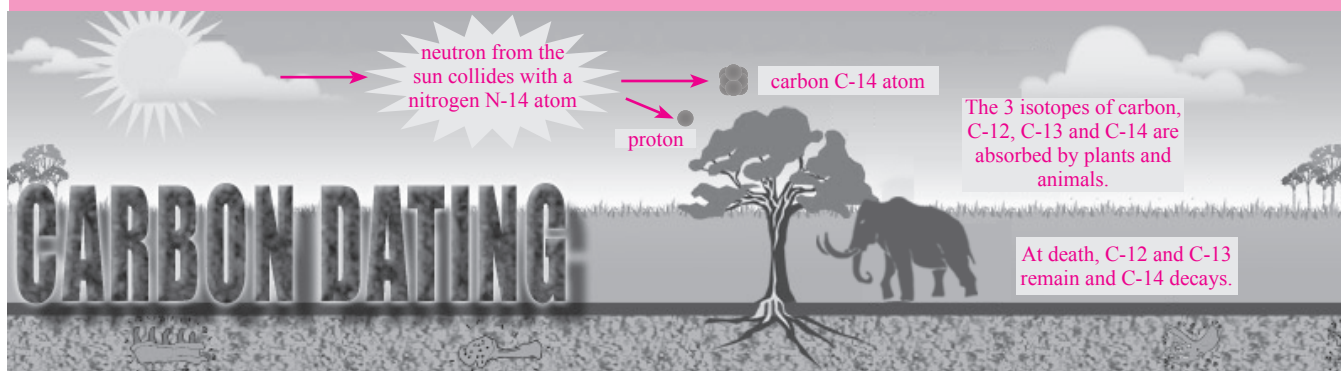
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Exploration 48: Exponential Decay



Before 1949, it was difficult to estimate the ages of bones from pre-historic mastodons or wood from ancient Egyptian tombs. Then, in 1949 Willard Libby and his colleagues at the University of Chicago came upon a brilliant idea. They observed that all living organisms contain carbon in three isotopic forms, i.e., C-12, C-13 and C-14. However, when a plant or animal dies, the C-14 isotope decays exponentially while the other isotopes remain constant. By measuring the proportion of C-14 remaining, it is relatively easy to calculate from the rate of decay of the C-14 the number of years ago that the plant or animal has died. This technique is valid for estimating times of death up to 50,000 years ago and was applied by Professor Kullman of Sweden in 2009 to determine the age of the world's oldest tree at more than 8000 years. In 1960, Professor Libby was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery of the carbon-dating technique.



Willard Libby



Leif Kullman

Example 1

The percentage y of C-14 in a plant or animal x years after it dies is given by $y = 10^{2 - 0.00005254x}$. Graph y as a function of x and determine the number of years required for the C-14 to decay to 50% of its original mass.

Solution

We access the *Graphs* application by pressing $\text{2nd} \text{ ON} \text{ 2nd} \text{ ENTER}$.

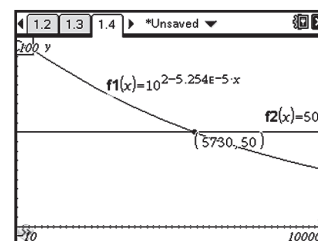
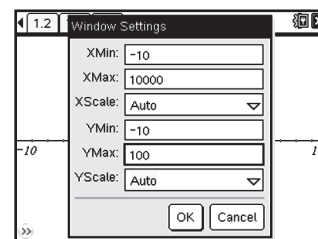
Then we define the function $f1(x) = 10^{2 - 0.00005254x}$ in the entry line. To define an appropriate window for the graph, we press $\text{2nd} \text{ WINDOW} \text{ / Zoom} \text{ 2nd} \text{ ENTER}$ and complete the template as in the display and click OK.

The C-14 is 50% of its original mass when $y = 50$, so we define $f2(x) = 50$. To find the point of intersection of $f1(x)$ and $f2(x)$, we press:

$\text{2nd} \text{ POINTS \& LINES} \text{ 2nd} \text{ INTERSECTION POINT(S)}$

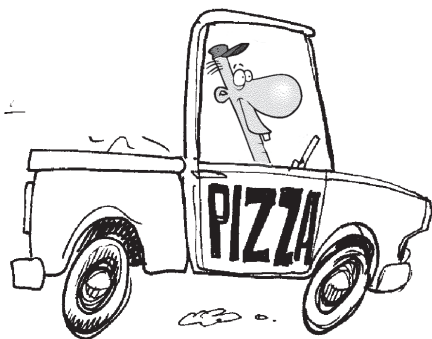
Then we click on each graph to obtain the point of intersection (5730, 50). This indicates that the C-14 decays to half its original mass in 5730 years.

Definition: The *half-life* of an exponential function, defined by the equation $f(x) = Ab^x$, is the value of h such that $f(x + h) = \frac{1}{2}f(x)$ for all x .



Worked Examples

HOT FROM THE OVEN



In the 1990s, a large pizza company guaranteed delivery in 30 minutes or they would discount the cost. When one of their pizza delivery cars was involved in a car accident, the company was sued for encouraging reckless driving. Why the rush? –because of Newton’s Law of Cooling. Most people like their pizza hot, but when it comes out of the oven it begins to cool exponentially!

20 MINUTES LATER



Example 2

The temperature in degrees Fahrenheit of a pizza x minutes after it comes out of the oven and is placed in an insulated delivery bag is given by $f(x) = 75 + 275 \times 10^{-0.028x}$.

- Graph $f(x)$ in the window: $-10 \leq x \leq 90$; $-10 \leq y \leq 500$.
What is the temperature of the pizza when:
 - it comes out of the oven?
 - it’s delivered 20 minutes later?
 - it’s delivered 30 minutes later?
 - it’s delivered 1 hour later?
 Construct a function table for $f(x)$ to verify your answers.
- Compare the temperature drop in the first 30 minutes with the temperature drop in the second 30 minutes. Does it make much sense to rush after 60 minutes?
- How long does it take for the pizza to cool to 76°F ?

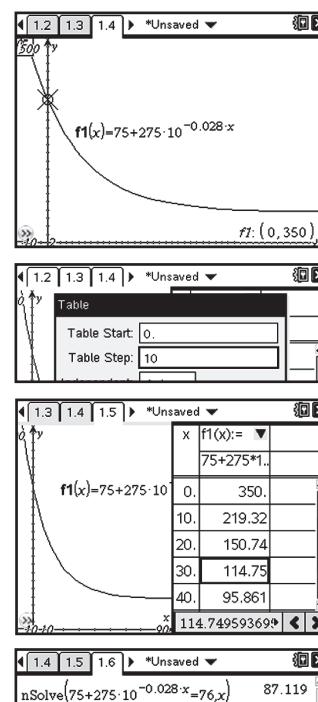
Solution

a) We access the *Graphs* application by pressing $\text{2nd} \rightarrow \text{ON} \rightarrow \text{ENTER}$. Then we define the function $f1(x) = 75 + 275 \times 10^{-0.028x}$ in the entry line. To define an appropriate window, we press $\text{MENU} \rightarrow \text{WINDOW / ZOOM} \rightarrow \text{ENTER}$ and set the window variables to: $-10 \leq x \leq 90$; $-10 \leq y \leq 500$. To trace along the graph, we press $\text{MENU} \rightarrow \text{TRACE} \rightarrow \text{GRAPH TRACE}$. Then we press: $\text{0} \rightarrow \text{ENTER}$, $20 \rightarrow \text{ENTER}$, $30 \rightarrow \text{ENTER}$, and $60 \rightarrow \text{ENTER}$ to obtain temperatures of 350°F , 150.74°F , 114.75°F and 80.75°F respectively.

To display a function table for $f1(x)$, we press $\text{MENU} \rightarrow \text{VIEW} \rightarrow \text{SHOW TABLE}$. To set the table step to 10 minute intervals, we press $\text{MENU} \rightarrow \text{TABLE} \rightarrow \text{EDIT TABLE SETTINGS}$ and complete the template as in the display. On clicking OK, we scroll down to verify our answers.

b) In the first 30 minutes the temperature of the pizza falls from 350°F to 114.75°F or 235.25°F , while in the next 30 minutes it falls from 114.75°F to 80.75°F or 34°F . After 60 minutes, the pizza is a few degrees above room temperature, so it’s no longer hot.

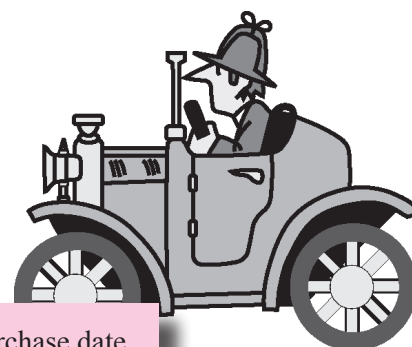
c) To determine the time it takes the pizza to reach 76°F , we can find the intersection of the line $f2(x) = 76$ with $f1(x)$ or, alternatively, use the *nSolve* command as in the display. This yields $x = 87.119$ minutes, i.e., it takes about 87 minutes for the pizza to cool to 76°F .



Worked Examples

Is a car an Investment or an Expenditure?

When you purchase a new car, its value begins to decline from the moment that you drive it off the lot. This gradual decline in value is called *depreciation*. Eventually, the depreciation renders the car worthless. Since an investment is expected to increase in value over time, a car is usually an expenditure.



Example 3

The table shows the value of a luxury car at the end of each year after the purchase date.

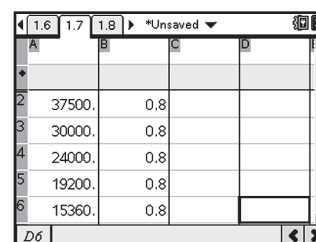
The Value of a Car in the First 5 Years after its Purchase						
Years after Purchase	0	1	2	3	4	5
Value in Dollars	46,875	37,500	30,000	24,000	19,200	15,360

- Prove that the value of the car depreciates exponentially. What percent of its value does the car lose each year?
- Derive the equation that expresses the value $f(x)$ of the car x years after its purchase. Graph $f(x)$ as a function of x .
- Calculate the half-life of the car's value and the year when the car has depreciated to one-quarter of its original value.

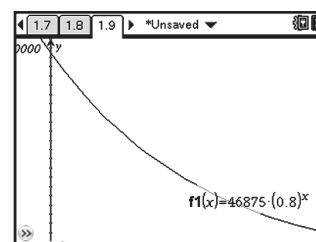
Solution

The depreciation is exponential if (and only if) the values of $f(x)$ at any equally-spaced set of values of x form a geometric series, i.e., the ratios of successive terms are constant. Proceeding as in *Example 1b* of *Exploration 47*, we access the *Lists & Spreadsheet* application by pressing $\text{2nd} \rightarrow \text{on} \rightarrow \text{2nd} \rightarrow \text{enter}$.

a) We enter the car values in Column A. To find the ratio of the value at the end of each year to the value at the beginning of that year, we enter $=\text{A}2 \div \text{A}1$ in cell *b2*. Then we copy this formula into cells *b3* through *b6*. The number 0.8 appears in cells *b2* through *b6*, indicating that values of $f(n)$ form a geometric series with common ratio 0.8. That is, the value of the car depreciates each year to 0.8 or 80% of its value at the beginning of that year. The car loses 20% of its remaining value each year.

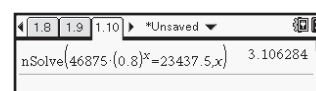


b) It follows from *part a* that $f(x)$ is an exponential function, so $f(x) = Ab^x$ for some constants, A and b .
 Since $f(0) = 46,875$, $A = 46,875$. Since $f(1) = 37,500$, then $46,875b = 37,500$. Therefore, $b = 37,500 \div 46,875$ or 0.8. Hence $f(x) = 46,875 \cdot 0.8^x$.



When we graph $f(x)$ in the window $-1 \leq x \leq 8$; $-5000 \leq y \leq 50000$, we obtain the graph in the display, verifying that the car's value decays exponentially.

c) To find the half-life, we could find the intersection of the graph of $f(x)$ with the graph of $y = 46,875 \div 2$ i.e., $y = 23,437.50$. Alternatively, we use the *nSolve*(command to solve $f(x) = 23,437.50$, as in the display. The half-life of the car's value is about 3.106 years. After 3.106 years, the car has decreased to half its original value, and after another 3.106 years, i.e., after 6.2 years, it decreases to one quarter of its original value.



Answers to the Exercises & Hints for the Investigations

Exploration 47 *cont'd*

8. The display verifies the doubling time for each of the functions in Exercise 7. Since we have established that these are exponential functions, we know that the change in $f(x)$ is the same on any interval of length d . Therefore, we can evaluate $f(x)$ at $x = 0$ and $x = d$ to find the doubling time.

<code>nSolve(f7(0+d)=2*f7(0),d)</code>	0.215338
<code>nSolve(f8(0+d)=2*f8(0),d)</code>	0.430677
<code>nSolve(f5(0+d)=2*f5(0),d)</code>	0.215338
<code>nSolve(f6(0+d)=2*f6(0),d)</code>	14.2067

9. The population growth in the period from 1960 to 1990 is given by $f(1990) - f(1960)$ where $f(x) = 0.000014(1.017)^x$. Substituting 1990 and 1960 for x yields a population growth of about 2.058 billion in 30 years. This is an average growth rate of $2.058 \div 30$ or 68.61 million per year. The population growth from 1990 to 2009 was 6.8 billion $- f(1990)$ or about 1.6 billion, in 19 years. The average growth rate from 1990 to 2009 was $1.6E9 \div 19$ or about 84.95 million per year. The rate of population growth from 1990 to 2009 was greater than from 1960 to 1990.

10. a) If d is the doubling time for the function $f(x) = Ab^x$, then $Ab^{x+d} = 2Ab^x$. That is, $Ab^x b^d = 2Ab^x$, so $b^d = 2$. ①
Similarly, if δ is the doubling time for $f(x) = b^x$, then $b^{x+\delta} = b^x b^\delta = 2b^x$, so $b^\delta = 2$. ②
Comparing ① and ② yields $d = \delta$, so Ab^x and b^x have the same doubling time.

b) The doubling time d for the exponential function $f(x) = b^x$ is the solution of the equation $b^{x+d} = 2b^x$ for d . Multiplying both sides of this equation by b^{-x} yields $b^d = 2$. To solve $b^d = 2$, using the `nSolve`(command, we write `nSolve(b^d = 2, d)` or, equivalently, `nSolve(b^x = 2, x)`.

11. If $f(x) = b^x$ doubles every two years, then $f(x+2) = 2f(x)$, that is, $b^{x+2} = 2b^x$, i.e., $b^2 b^x = 2b^x$, so $b^2 = 2$. Therefore $b = \sqrt{2}$.
Therefore, $f(x)$ increases by about 141.4% each year.

12. The population reached 500,000 on the 15th day.

13. The population increases by a factor of 1.12 each year. Therefore, it increases by a factor of 1.12^{10} or about 3.11 at the end of 10 years. That is, it more than triples in 10 years.

14. The investment doubles in value after n years where n satisfies the equation $100000(1.03)^n = 200000$, i.e., $(1.03)^n = 2$.

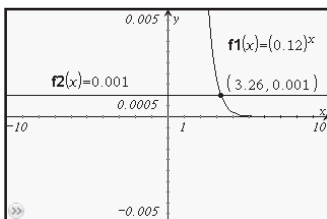
To find the value of n we enter the `nSolve`(command as in the display to obtain $n \approx 23.45$. That is, the investment doubles in about $23\frac{1}{2}$ years.

<code>nSolve((1.03)^n=2,n)</code>	23.4498
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15. a) Let $f(x) = Ab^x$. Then, $Ab^{1.2} = 15.8341$ ① and $Ab^{3.5} = 384$ ②.
Dividing ② by ① yields $b^{2.3} = 384/15.8341$, from which we find $b = (384/15.8341)^{1/2.3}$ or 4. Substituting into equation ① or ②, we find $A = 3$. Therefore, the function is $f(x) = 3 \cdot 4^x$.

b) Proceeding as in part a, we obtain $b = [f(p)/f(q)]^{1/(p-q)}$
and $A = f(p)^{q/(q-p)} f(q)^{p/(p-q)}$.

16. We can write $12^x > 10^{2x-3}$ as the inequality $12^x/10^{2x} > 1/10^3$, which can be written as: $(12/100)^x > 1/10^3$, or $(0.12)^x > 0.001$. By graphing or using `nSolve`(, we find $0.12^x = 0.001$ at $x = 3.26$. Therefore, $12^x > 10^{2x-3}$ for $x < 3.26$.



Exploration 47 *cont'd*

17. A function $f(x)$ is exponential if $f(x+d)/f(x) = f(x+d)/f(x)$ for any value of d . Using this test we find the following results.

a) For $d = 0.5$, $f(x+d)/f(x) = 2$, so this is an exponential function.

b) For $d = 3$, $f(3+d)/f(3) = 1.06\dots$, but $f(6+d)/f(6) = 1.07\dots$, so this table does not define an exponential function.

c) For $d = 3$, $f(3.4+d)/f(3.4) = 1.225\dots$ and $f(6.4+d)/f(6.4) = 1.225\dots$ and this ratio is the same for all adjacent x values in the table so this table defines an exponential function.

18. Using the method in Exercise 15, we find the following equations for the exponential functions defined in 17a and 17c.

a) $f(x) = 4^x$ b) $f(x)$ is not exponential c) $f(x) = 3(1.07)^x$

19. To grow 8-fold, it must double 3 times. Since it doubles every 2 years, it will double 3 times or 8-fold in 6 years.

20. An exponential function $f(x)$ is characterized by the property that ratios of successive values of $f(x)$ on a sequence of equally-spaced values of x are constant. That is, for any fixed d , the ratios of successive terms of the sequence $f(x), f(x+d), f(x+2d), \dots$ is a fixed constant, say k . Then the sequence $f(x), f(x+d), f(x+2d), \dots$ can be written as the sequence $f(x), kf(x), k^2f(x), k^3f(x), \dots$. The successive differences of this sequence are $(k-1)f(x), (k^2-k)f(x), (k^3-k^2)f(x), \dots$ and the ratios of the successive terms in this sequence are the constant k . That is, the consecutive differences are growing exponentially.

Exploration 48

1. a) The half-life of a mass of radioactive material is the time it takes to decay to half of its present value.

b) i) 176 years ii) 264 years

2. One-eighth of the original amount of C-14 will remain after 17,190 years.

3. a) After n years the value of the car is $\$25000(0.7)^n$.

b) The display shows the values of the car each year after purchase.

c) The table shows that at the end of the seventh year, the car is worth $\$2058.86$.

<code>x</code>	<code>f1(x) =</code>
	<code>25000*(0.7)^x</code>
3.	8575.
4.	6002.5
5.	4201.75
6.	2941.23
7.	2058.86
2058.8575	

4. a) The top display shows the window settings and the display, below left, shows the graph.

b) The display below left shows that 78.5% of the original C-14 remains after 2000 years.

c) The display, below right, shows that the graph intersects the line $y = 20$ at the point (13,303, 20). That is, there is 20% of the C-14 remaining after 13,303 years.

XMin:	0
XMax:	20000
XScale:	Auto
YMin:	0
YMax:	100
YScale:	Auto
OK Cancel	

