

## 3.1 (more) Linear Models

a lecture for MATH F302 Differential Equations

Ed Bueler, Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, UAF

Fall 2023

for textbook: D. Zill, *A First Course in Differential Equations with Modeling Applications*, 11th ed.

## linear models

- we got a good start on this material back in §1.3; it is not really new . . .
- this section §3.1 requires ability to solve these types of DEs:
  - ① the easiest DE:  $y' = ky$
  - ② separable linear equations from §2.2:  
 $y' = g(x)y$  or  $y' = ay + b$
  - ③ general linear equations from §2.3:  $y' + P(x)y = f(x)$
- §2.3 method handles all first-order *linear* equations ( ③ ), but other methods are usually quicker for forms ① or ② , if you have a choice
- these slides simply contain 5 exercises from §3.1 in this order:  
# 4, 42, 17, 36, 37

## exercise 4

4. *The population of bacteria in a culture grows at a rate proportional to the number of bacteria present at time  $t$ . After 3 hours it is observed that 400 bacteria are present. After 10 hours 2000 bacteria are present. What was the initial number of bacteria?*

## exercise 42

**42. Fluctuating Population** *The differential equation  $dP/dt = (k \cos t)P$ , where  $k$  is a positive constant, is a mathematical model for a population  $P(t)$  that undergoes yearly seasonal fluctuations. Solve the equation subject to  $P(0) = P_0$ . Use a graphing utility to graph the solution for different choices of  $P_0$  [and  $k$ ].*

exercise 42, cont.

## exercise 17

**17.** *A thermometer reading  $70^\circ F$  is placed in an oven preheated to a constant temperature. Through a glass window in the oven door, an observer records that the thermometer reads  $110^\circ F$  after  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute and  $145^\circ F$  after 1 minute. How hot is the oven?*

exercise 17, cont.

## exercise 36

**36. How High?—No Air Resistance** *Suppose a small cannonball weighing 16 pounds is shot vertically upward, as shown in the Figure, with an initial velocity  $v_0 = 300\text{ft/s}$ . The answer to “How high does the cannonball go?” depends on if we take air resistance into account.*

**(a)** *Suppose air resistance is ignored. If the positive direction is upward then a model for the height  $s(t)$  of the cannonball is given by  $m d^2s/dt^2 = -mg$  or equivalently  $d^2s/dt^2 = -g$ . Since  $ds/dt = v(t)$  the last differential equation is the same as  $dv/dt = -g$ . We take  $g = 32\text{ft/s}^2$ . Find the velocity  $v(t)$  of the cannonball at time  $t$ .*



exercise 36, cont.

**(b)** Use the result in part **(a)** to determine the height  $s(t)$  of the cannonball, measured from ground level. Find the maximum height attained by the cannonball.

## exercise 37

**37. How High?—Linear Air Resistance** *Repeat exercise 36, but this time assume that air resistance is proportional to instantaneous velocity. In particular, suppose that the constant of proportionality is  $k = 0.25$ .<sup>1</sup> It stands to reason that the maximum height must be less than computed in exercise 36. Show this.*

---

<sup>1</sup>Value for  $k$  changed to make effect more obvious.

exercise 37, cont.

exercise 37, cont. cont.

## expectations

- to learn this material, just listening to a lecture is *not* enough!
- also:
  - *read* section 3.1 in the textbook
    - for quizzes and exams you must be able to handle the examples like 1-6 in this section
  - look for “modeling with differential equations” on YouTube or Google
  - *do* Homework 3.1