

High score: 10; Non-0 Low score: 2; Average score: 7.88 (including 0's)

Problem 1 (10 Points). Newton's Law of Cooling states that an object's temperature changes at a rate proportional to the difference between its temperature and the temperature of the surrounding area. A pastry chef is preparing a pastry for a patron at her restaurant. When she removes the pastry from the oven, its temperature is 200°F . She tests the temperature of the pastry 1 minute later and finds that it is 190°F . If the temperature of the kitchen is 75°F , and if the pastry is best served when its temperature is 150°F , how many more minutes should the pastry chef wait before serving the pastry? Round to 2 decimal places.

Solution. Let T be temperature of the pastry with respect to t being time measured in minutes. The surrounding temperature is 75°F , so the difference between the pastry's temperature and the surrounding temperature is $T - 75$. Since the temperature changes at a rate proportional to $T - 75$, we get the differential equation

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k(T - 75)$$

Using separation of variables, we get

$$\frac{1}{T - 75} dT = k dt$$

Integrating both sides, we get

$$\ln |T - 75| = kt + C$$

Exponentiating both sides, using exponentiation rules, and observing that e raised to a constant is still a constant, we get

$$|T - 75| = e^{kt+C} = e^C e^{kt} = C e^{kt}$$

Since plus or minus a constant is still a constant, we can get rid of the absolute values and add 75 to both sides to obtain

$$T = C e^{kt} + 75$$

When the pastry is removed from the oven, its temperature is 200°F , so when $t = 0$, $T = 200$:

$$200 = C e^0 + 75 = C + 75$$

Giving that $C = 200 - 75 = 125$. Thus, we now have

$$T = 125 e^{kt} + 75$$

Now, we must find k . We know that 1 minute after being pulled out of the oven, the pastry is 190°F , so when $t = 1$, $T = 190$, giving:

$$190 = 125e^k + 75$$

Subtracting 75 from both sides, dividing both sides by 125, and then taking the natural log of both sides, we see

$$k = \ln\left(\frac{115}{125}\right)$$

Thus, we get the equation

$$T = 125e^{\ln\left(\frac{115}{125}\right)t} + 75$$

We want to know when the temperature is 150°F , so we set $T = 150$ and solve for t :

$$150 = 125e^{\ln\left(\frac{115}{125}\right)t} + 75$$

Subtracting 75 from both sides, dividing both sides by 125, and then taking the natural log of both sides, we see

$$\ln\left(\frac{75}{125}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{115}{125}\right)t$$

Thus, we get

$$t = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{75}{125}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{115}{125}\right)} \approx 6.13$$

Thus, it takes approximately 6.13 minutes for the pastry to reach the proper temperature after it is removed from the oven. But we want to know how many more minutes she has to wait after having checked the time at 1 minutes after being removed from the oven. Thus, she has to wait $6.13 - 1 = 5.13$ more minutes.

5.13 more minutes

Common Mistakes

Many people used the wrong formula for Newton's Law of Cooling.

There were algebra errors.

There were calculator input errors.