

Calculus II, Section 9.4, #22
 Models for Population Growth

Another model for a growth function for a limited population is given by the **Gompertz function**, which is a solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = c \ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right)P$$

where c is a constant and M is the carrying capacity.¹

(a) Solve this differential equation.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dP}{dt} &= c \ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right)P \\ \frac{1}{P \ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right)} dP &= c dt \\ \int \frac{1}{P \ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right)} dP &= \int c dt\end{aligned}$$

Let $u = \ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right)$, so $du = \frac{1}{M} \cdot -\frac{M}{P^2} dP = \frac{P}{M} \cdot -\frac{M}{P^2} dP = -\frac{1}{P} dP$.

$$\begin{aligned}-\int -\frac{1}{P \ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right)} dP &= \int c dt \\ -\int \frac{1}{u} du &= \int c dt \\ \int \frac{1}{u} du &= -\int c dt \\ \ln|u| &= -[ct + C_1] \\ \ln|u| &= -ct + C_2 \\ |u| &= e^{-ct+C_2} \\ |u| &= e^{-ct} \cdot e^{C_2} \\ |u| &= C_3 e^{-ct}\end{aligned}$$

and because $|u| = C_3 e^{-ct} \implies u = \pm C_3 e^{-ct}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}u &= C_4 e^{-ct} \\ \ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right) &= C_4 e^{-ct}\end{aligned}$$

Now, at $t = 0$, $P = P_0$, and

$$\begin{aligned}\ln\left(\frac{M}{P_0}\right) &= C_4 e^{-c \cdot 0} \\ \ln\left(\frac{M}{P_0}\right) &= C_4\end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$\begin{aligned}\ln\left(\frac{M}{P}\right) &= \ln\left(\frac{M}{P_0}\right) e^{-ct} \\ \frac{M}{P} &= e^{\ln\left(\frac{M}{P_0}\right) e^{-ct}} \\ P &= M e^{-\ln\left(\frac{M}{P_0}\right) e^{-ct}}\end{aligned}$$

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 620, #22.

Calculus II

Models for Population Growth

(b) Compute $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} M e^{-\ln\left(\frac{M}{P_0}\right) e^{-ct}} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} M e^{-\ln\left(\frac{M}{P_0}\right) \cdot 0} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} M e^0 \\ &= M\end{aligned}$$

(c) Graph the Gompertz growth function for $M = 1000$, $P_0 = 100$, and $c = 0.05$.

