
Project 08: Newton's Law of Cooling

Objective

To investigate Newton's Law of Cooling.

Narrative

Newton's Law of Cooling states that the rate dT/dt at which the temperature $T = T(t)$ of an object changes with respect to time t , is proportional to the difference $A - T$ between the ambient temperature A of the environment, and the temperature T of the object; that is

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k(A - T) \quad (*)$$

where $k > 0$ is a positive real constant.

Tasks

- Using Maple, draw (in one graphic):
 - the direction field associated to the differential equation for Newton's Law of Cooling assuming that $A = 80^\circ$, $k = 0.5$, $t \in [0, 4]$, and $T \in [0, 125]$, and.
 - the solutions to this equation that correspond to $T(0) = 10^\circ$, $T(0) = 60^\circ$, $T(0) = 120^\circ$.

At this point, make a hard-copy of your typed input and Maple's responses. Then, ...

- On the graphic you produced for Task 1, label the coordinate axes, draw and label by hand the line whose equation is $T = A$, and label the curves corresponding to the three initial conditions. (Label the curve corresponding to $T(0) = 10^\circ$ by " $T(0) = 10^\circ$ ", for example.)
- On the graphic you produced for Task 1, draw by hand the solution that corresponds to $T(0) = 100^\circ$.
- Use the curve you drew in Task 3 to estimate $T(4)$.
- If $T(0) < A$:
 - what does (*) imply about the sign of dT/dt ?
 - does this mean T is increasing or decreasing?
 - explain (on physical grounds) why T should approach A as t gets large.
- If $T(0) > A$:
 - what does (*) imply about the sign of dT/dt ?
 - does this mean T is increasing or decreasing?
 - explain (on physical grounds) why T should approach A as t gets large.