

**Section 5: First Order Equations Models and Applications**

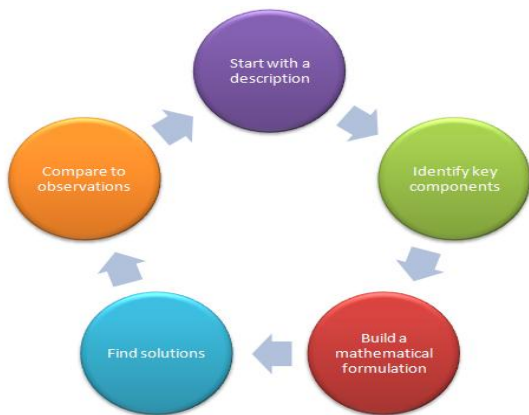


Figure: Mathematical Models give Rise to Differential Equations

## Population Dynamics

A population of dwarf rabbits grows at a rate proportional to the current population. In 2011, there were 58 rabbits. In 2012, the population was up to 89 rabbits. Estimate the number of rabbits expected in the population in 2021.

Let  $P(t)$  be the population density of rabbits (no. individuals per unit habitat) at time  $t$  in years since 2011.

The rate of change of  $P$  is  $\frac{dP}{dt}$ . This is proportional to population means

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \quad \text{for some constant } k$$

The populations given in 2011 and 2012 can be

$$\text{written as } P(0) = 58 \quad \text{and} \quad P(1) = 89$$

Combining  $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$  and  $P(0) = 58$  gives  
an IVP. Separating variables

$$\frac{1}{P} \frac{dP}{dt} = k$$

$$\int \frac{1}{P} dP = \int k dt$$

$$\ln |P| = kt + C$$

$$P = e^{kt+C} = Ae^{kt} \text{ where } A = e^C$$

Using  $P(0) = 58$

$$P(t) = Ae^{k(t)} = 58$$

$$A = 58$$

Hence  $P(t) = 58e^{kt}$

We can use  $P(1) = 89$  to find  $k$ .

$$P(1) = 58e^{k(1)} = 89$$

$$e^k = \frac{89}{58}$$

$$k = \ln\left(\frac{89}{58}\right)$$

The population density

$$P(t) = 58 e^{t \ln\left(\frac{89}{58}\right)}$$

In 2021,  $t=10$ . The population is expected to be

$$P(10) = 58 e^{10 \ln\left(\frac{89}{58}\right)} \approx 4198$$

Roughly 4200 rabbits.

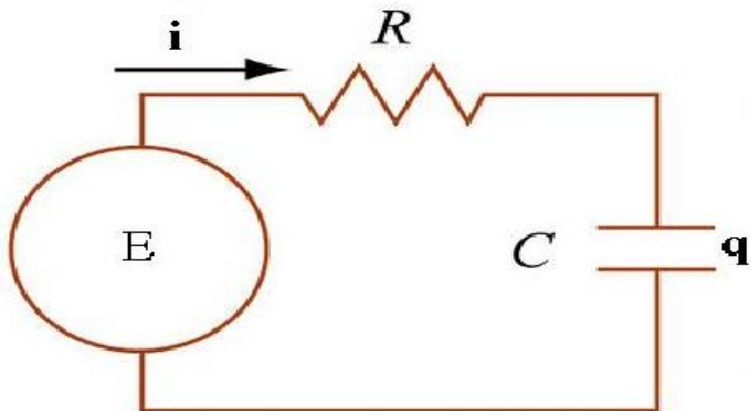
## Exponential Growth or Decay

If a quantity  $P$  changes continuously at a rate proportional to its current level, then it will be governed by a differential equation of the form

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \frac{dP}{dt} - kP = 0.$$

Note that this equation is both separable and first order linear. If  $k > 0$ ,  $P$  experiences **exponential growth**. If  $k < 0$ , then  $P$  experiences **exponential decay**.

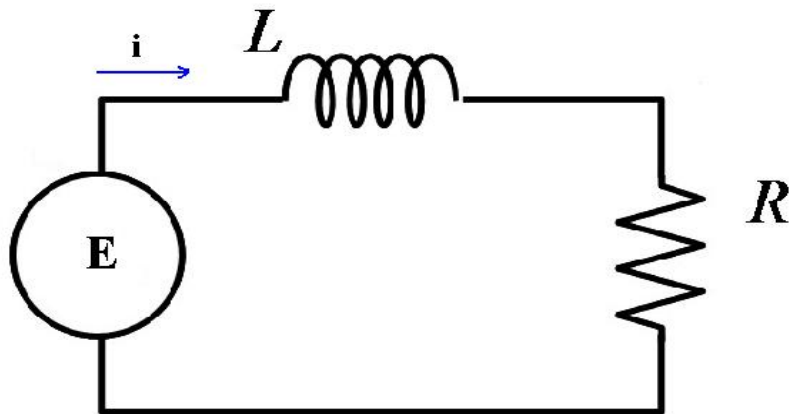
## Series Circuits: RC-circuit



**Figure:** Series Circuit with Applied Electromotive force  $E$ , Resistance  $R$ , and Capacitance  $C$ . The charge of the capacitor is  $q$  and the current  $i = \frac{dq}{dt}$ .



## Series Circuits: LR-circuit



**Figure:** Series Circuit with Applied Electromotive force  $E$ , Inductance  $L$ , and Resistance  $R$ . The current is  $i$ .

## Measurable Quantities:

Resistance  $R$  in ohms ( $\Omega$ ),      Implied voltage  $E$  in volts (V),  
Inductance  $L$  in henries (h),      Charge  $q$  in coulombs (C),  
Capacitance  $C$  in farads (f),      Current  $i$  in amperes (A)

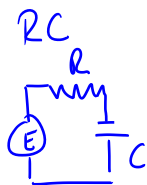
Current is the rate of change of charge with respect to time:  $i = \frac{dq}{dt}$ .

Component	Potential Drop
Inductor	$L \frac{di}{dt}$
Resistor	$Ri$ i.e. $R \frac{dq}{dt}$
Capacitor	$\frac{1}{C} q$

# Kirchhoff's Law

The sum of the voltages around a closed circuit is zero.

In other words, the sum of potential drops across the passive components is equal to the applied electromotive force.



Sum of potential drops = implied voltage

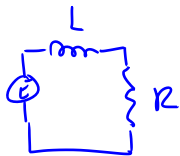
across resistor + across capacitor = E

$$R \frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} q = E$$

Linear 1st order ODE for charge  $q$ :

LR

across inductor + across resistor = E



$$L \frac{di}{dt} + Ri = E$$

1st order linear ode for current  $i$ .