

The activity of a radioisotope is found to decrease by 30% in one week (168 hrs). What are the values of its decay constant, half-life, and mean lifetime?

for pure decay

$$A(t) = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$\frac{A(168 \text{ hrs})}{A_0} = 0.7 = e^{-168\lambda}$$

a 30% decrease

$$\ln 0.7 = -168\lambda$$

$$\text{or } \lambda = -\frac{\ln 0.7}{168} = \boxed{2.123 \times 10^{-3} \text{ hr}^{-1}} \quad \text{or } 3.567 \times 10^{-1} \text{ wk}^{-1}$$

$$\text{then } t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda} = \boxed{326.5 \text{ hr}} \quad \text{or } 1.943 \text{ wks}$$

$$\bar{T} = \frac{1}{\lambda} = \boxed{471.0 \text{ hrs}} \quad \text{or } 2.804 \text{ wks}$$

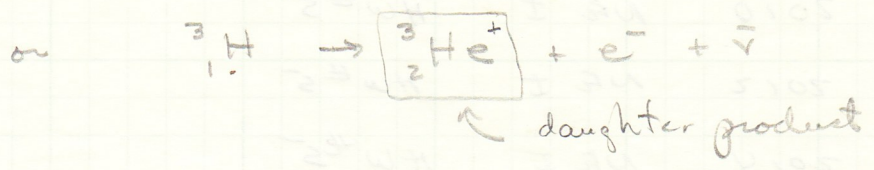
↑
ans

2.29

given: Tritium = ${}^3\text{H}$ decay by β^-
 $T_{1/2} = 12.26 \text{ yr}$
 $M = 3.016$

a) what is daughter of ${}^3\text{H}$ decay?

in β^- decay $n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}$ (conceptual)



b) what is the mass of 1 mCi of Tritium?

activity $\equiv \alpha = 1 \text{ mCi} \times \frac{3.7 \times 10^{10} \text{ decays/sec}}{1 \text{ Ci}} \times \frac{10^{-3} \text{ Ci}}{1 \text{ mCi}}$
 $= 3.7 \times 10^7 \text{ dps}$

also $\alpha = \lambda N$ where $\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{T_{1/2}}$

$\therefore \lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{12.26 \text{ yr}} \times \frac{1 \text{ yr}}{365 \text{ day}} \times \frac{1 \text{ day}}{86400 \text{ s}}$
 $= 1.7928 \times 10^{-9} \text{ sec}^{-1}$

and $N = \frac{\alpha}{\lambda} = \frac{3.7 \times 10^7 \text{ atoms/s}}{1.7928 \times 10^{-9} / \text{s}} = 2.0638 \times 10^{16} \text{ atoms}$

finally $\frac{\text{grams of } {}^3\text{H}}{\text{atoms of } {}^3\text{H}} = 2.0638 \times 10^{16} \text{ atoms } {}^3\text{H} \times \frac{3.016 \text{ g } {}^3\text{H}}{0.6022 \times 10^{24} \text{ atoms } {}^3\text{H}}$

$= 1.0335 \times 10^{-7} \text{ g } {}^3\text{H}$

$= 0.103 \mu\text{g}$ ans



Polonium-210 decays to the ground state of Pb-206 by the emission of a 5.305 MeV α particle with a half life of 138 days. What mass of Po-210 is required to produce 1 MW of thermal power?

$$\text{Power} = \left(\frac{\text{energy}}{\text{decay}} \right) \left(\frac{\text{decays}}{\text{sec}} \right)$$

but $\alpha = \lambda N$

$$= \frac{5.305 \text{ MeV}}{\text{decay}} \times \frac{1.602 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J}}{\text{MeV}} \times \frac{\ln 2}{138 \text{ day}} \times \frac{1 \text{ day}}{86400 \text{ sec}} \times N$$

↑
of atoms

$$= 4.941 \times 10^{-20} \text{ N Watts}$$

$\lambda = 5.213 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}^{-1}$

∴ To produce $P = 1 \text{ MW}$

$$N = \frac{10^6 \text{ W}}{4.941 \times 10^{-20} \text{ W}} = 2.024 \times 10^{25} \text{ atoms}$$

now $m_{\text{Po210}} = N \times \frac{M}{N_A}$

$$= (2.024 \times 10^{25} \text{ at}) \left(\frac{210 \text{ g/mole}}{0.6022 \times 10^{24} \text{ at/mole}} \right)$$

$$m_{\text{Po210}} = \boxed{7058 \text{ g}} = \boxed{7.058 \text{ kg}}$$

ans

2.36.

Given: SNAP-9 RTG with 475g of ²³⁸Pu

$$\rho_{Pu} = 12.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

$$T_{1/2} \text{ of } Pu^{238} = 89 \text{ yrs} \quad (\alpha\text{-emitter})$$

$$E_{\alpha} = 5.6 \text{ MeV per disintegration}$$

$$\eta = .054 \quad (\text{Thermal to electrical efficiency})$$

a. Calc fuel efficiency in Ci/Watt (curies per watt thermal)

$$N_{Pu} = \frac{12.5 \text{ g of Pu}}{\text{cm}^3} \times \frac{238 \text{ g of Pu}}{250 \text{ g of Pu}} \times \frac{0.6022 \times 10^{24} \text{ atoms of Pu}}{238 \text{ g of Pu}}$$

$$= .030 \times 10^{24} \text{ atoms of Pu}$$

$$\text{cm}^3$$

$$Vol = \frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{density}} = \frac{475 \text{ g of Pu}}{12.5 \text{ g of Pu/cm}^3} = 38 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ of Pu}$$

$$\therefore N_{Pu} = 1.144 \times 10^{24} \text{ atoms of Pu}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{T_{1/2}} = \frac{\ln 2}{89 \text{ yrs}} \times \frac{1 \text{ yr}}{3.1536 \times 10^7 \text{ sec}}$$

$$\alpha_{Pu} = \lambda N_{Pu} = (2.470 \times 10^{-10} \text{ sec}^{-1}) (1.144 \times 10^{24}) = 2.825 \times 10^{14} \text{ dps}$$

$$= 7.788 \times 10^{-3} \text{ yrs}^{-1}$$

and 1 Ci = 3.7×10^{10} dps

$$\therefore \alpha_{Pu} = 7.636 \times 10^3 \text{ Ci}$$

also

$$\text{Power} = 2.825 \times 10^{14} \frac{\text{decays}}{\text{sec}} \times \frac{5.6 \text{ MeV}}{\text{decay}} \times \frac{1.602 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J}}{\text{MeV}} \times \frac{1 \text{ W}}{1 \text{ J/s}}$$

$$\text{Power} = 253.4 \text{ watts}$$

$$\therefore \text{fuel eff} = \frac{7636 \text{ Ci}}{253.4 \text{ watts}} = 30 \text{ Ci/watt} \quad \text{ans}$$

50 SHEETS EYE GLASS 5 SQUARE
100 SHEETS EYE GLASS 5 SQUARE
200 SHEETS EYE GLASS 5 SQUARE
42-381 100 RECYCLED WHITE 5 SQUARE
42-382 200 RECYCLED WHITE 5 SQUARE
42-383 200 RECYCLED WHITE 5 SQUARE
Made in U.S.A.



36. cont.

(b) Calc specific power in Watt/g of fuel

$$\therefore \text{specific power} = \frac{253.4 \text{ Wth}}{475 \text{ g of fuel}} = \boxed{0.533 \text{ Wth/g of fuel}} \quad \text{ans}$$

(c) Calc power density in Watt/cm³

$$\therefore \text{power density} = \frac{253.4 \text{ W}}{38 \text{ cm}^3} = \boxed{6.67 \text{ Wth/cm}^3} \quad \text{ans}$$

(d) Calc total electrical power of the generator

$$P_{\text{elec}} = \eta * P_{\text{th}} \\ = (0.054)(253.4 \text{ watts})$$

$$\therefore \boxed{P_{\text{elec}} = 13.7 \text{ watts}} \quad \text{ans}$$

added by JRC

(e) What is the expected lifetime of the generator if the minimum electrical power needed to perform properly is 12 watts?

→ Since λ_{232} is radioactive and there is no production, the activity simply decreases exponentially, or

$$A(t) = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

Since the power is directly proportional to activity, we have

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$\therefore \frac{P(t)}{P_0} = e^{-\lambda t} \quad \text{or} \quad \ln \frac{P(t)}{P_0} = -\lambda t$$

$$\text{or} \quad t = -\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \frac{P(t)}{P_0} \quad \text{and in our case} \quad t_{\text{lifetime}} = -\frac{89 \text{ yrs}}{\ln 2} \ln \left(\frac{12}{13.7} \right)$$

$$\boxed{t_{\text{lifetime}} \approx 17 \text{ yrs}} \quad \text{ans}$$

50 SHEETS (E/EASE) 5 SQUARE
100 SHEETS (E/EASE) 5 SQUARE
200 SHEETS (E/EASE) 5 SQUARE
42-392 100 RECYCLED WHITE 5 SQUARE
42-399 200 RECYCLED WHITE 5 SQUARE
Made in U.S.A.



Case 1) Determine the densities $A(t)$, $B(t)$, and $C(t)$ for the decay chain



where C is stable and the initial densities are A_0 , B_0 , & C_0 .

For this case ① $\frac{dA}{dt} = -\lambda_A A$ (no production)

② $\frac{dB}{dt} = \lambda_A A - \lambda_B B$

③ $\frac{dC}{dt} = \lambda_B B$ (no loss)

① $\frac{dA}{dt} = -\lambda_A A$

simply integrate to give

$$\frac{dA}{A} = -\lambda_A dt$$

\Rightarrow

$$A(t) = A_0 e^{-\lambda_A t}$$

ans

$$\ln \frac{A}{A_0} = -\lambda_A t$$

② $\frac{dB}{dt} + \lambda_B B = \lambda_A A(t) = \lambda_A A_0 e^{-\lambda_A t}$

1st order ODE, with integrating factor I.F. = $e^{\int \lambda_B dt} = e^{\lambda_B t}$

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dt} (B e^{\lambda_B t}) = \left(\frac{dB}{dt} + \lambda_B B \right) e^{\lambda_B t} = \lambda_A A_0 e^{(\lambda_B - \lambda_A)t}$$

Integrate both sides

$$B(t) e^{\lambda_B t} - B_0 = \frac{\lambda_A A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} \left[e^{(\lambda_B - \lambda_A)t} - 1 \right]$$

or

$$B(t) = B_0 e^{-\lambda_B t} + \frac{\lambda_A A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} \left[e^{-\lambda_A t} - e^{-\lambda_B t} \right]$$

ans

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \frac{dC}{dt} = \lambda_B B = \lambda_B B_0 e^{-\lambda_B t} + \frac{\lambda_A \lambda_B A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} \left[e^{-\lambda_A t} - e^{-\lambda_B t} \right]$$

Integrating, both sides

$$C(t) - C_0 = -B_0 e^{-\lambda_B t} \Big|_0^t - \frac{\lambda_B A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} e^{-\lambda_A t} \Big|_0^t + \frac{\lambda_A A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} e^{-\lambda_B t} \Big|_0^t$$

$$C(t) = C_0 + B_0 \left[1 - e^{-\lambda_B t} \right] + \frac{\lambda_B A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} \left[1 - e^{-\lambda_A t} \right] + \frac{\lambda_A A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} \left[e^{-\lambda_B t} - 1 \right]$$

ans

Note: at large t, all the exponential terms approach zero

$$\therefore C_\infty = C_0 + B_0 + \underbrace{\frac{\lambda_B A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} - \frac{\lambda_A A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A}}_{A_0}$$

or $C_\infty = C_0 + B_0 + A_0$ as expected (ok)

42-381 50 SHEETS EYE BASE 5 SQUARE
 42-382 100 SHEETS EYE BASE 5 SQUARE
 42-383 200 SHEETS EYE BASE 5 SQUARE
 42-392 100 RECYCLED WHITE 5 SQUARE
 42-399 200 RECYCLED WHITE 5 SQUARE
 Made in U.S.A.





\uparrow
 R_A

Case 2

Determine the densities $A(t)$, $B(t)$, and $C(t)$ for the following decay chain



where A is produced from fission with constant production rate R_A and nuclide C is stable

for this case ① $\frac{dA}{dt} = R_A - \lambda_A A$ ($R_A = \text{const}$)

② $\frac{dB}{dt} = \lambda_A A - \lambda_B B$

③ $\frac{dC}{dt} = \lambda_B B$ (C is stable)

① $\frac{dA}{dt} + \lambda_A A = R_A$ ← 1st order ODE

I.F. = $e^{\int \lambda_A dt} = e^{\lambda_A t}$

$\therefore e^{\lambda_A t} \left[\frac{dA}{dt} + \lambda_A A \right] = \frac{d}{dt} [e^{\lambda_A t} A] = R_A e^{\lambda_A t}$

integrating $e^{\lambda_A t} A \Big|_0^t = R_A \left[\frac{1}{\lambda_A} e^{\lambda_A t} \right]_0^t$

$e^{\lambda_A t} A(t) - A(0) = \frac{R_A}{\lambda_A} [e^{\lambda_A t} - 1]$

now multiply through by $e^{-\lambda_A t}$

$A(t) = A_0 e^{-\lambda_A t} + \frac{R_A}{\lambda_A} [1 - e^{-\lambda_A t}]$ and.

② $\frac{dB}{dt} + \lambda_B B = \lambda_A A(t)$ ← same form as ① except RHS is no longer constant

$\therefore e^{\lambda_B t} B \Big|_0^t = \lambda_A \int_0^t A(t) e^{\lambda_B t} dt$

" $= \lambda_A \left[A_0 \int_0^t e^{(\lambda_B - \lambda_A)t} dt + \frac{R_A}{\lambda_A} \int_0^t e^{\lambda_B t} dt - \frac{R_A}{\lambda_A} \int_0^t e^{(\lambda_B - \lambda_A)t} dt \right]$

$e^{\lambda_B t} B(t) - B_0 = \frac{\lambda_A A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} [e^{(\lambda_B - \lambda_A)t} - 1] + \frac{R_A}{\lambda_B} [e^{\lambda_B t} - 1] - \frac{R_A}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} [e^{(\lambda_B - \lambda_A)t} - 1]$

$\therefore B(t) = B_0 e^{-\lambda_B t} + \frac{\lambda_A A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} [e^{-\lambda_A t} - e^{-\lambda_B t}] + \frac{R_A}{\lambda_B} [1 - e^{-\lambda_B t}] - \frac{R_A}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} [e^{-\lambda_A t} - e^{-\lambda_B t}]$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \frac{dC}{dt} = \lambda_B B(t) \quad \leftarrow \text{simply integrate}$$

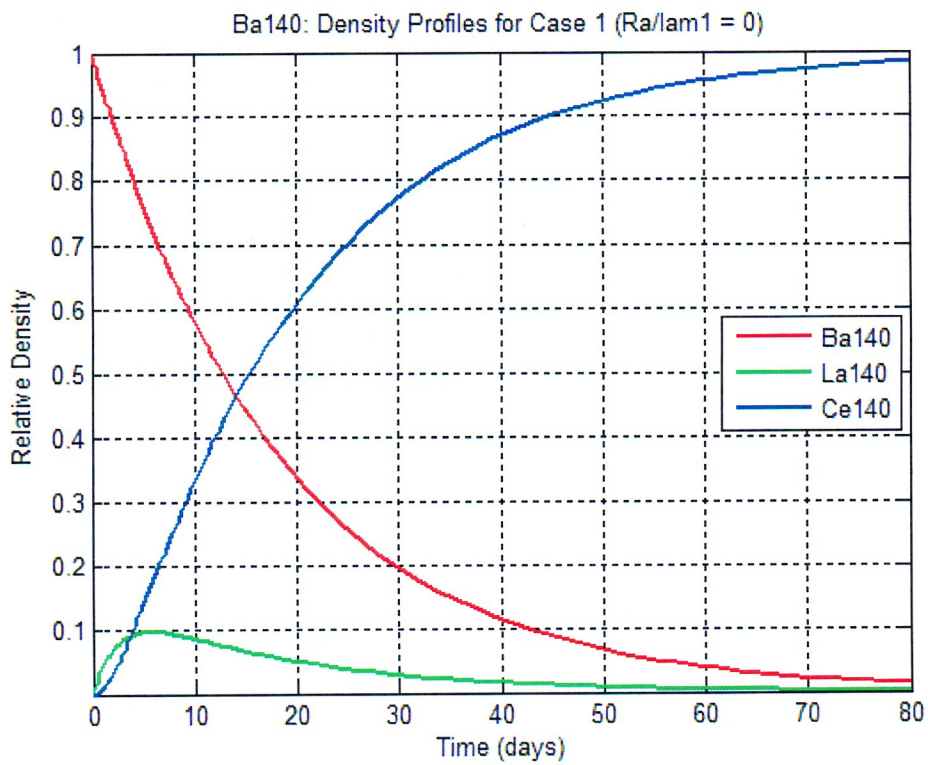
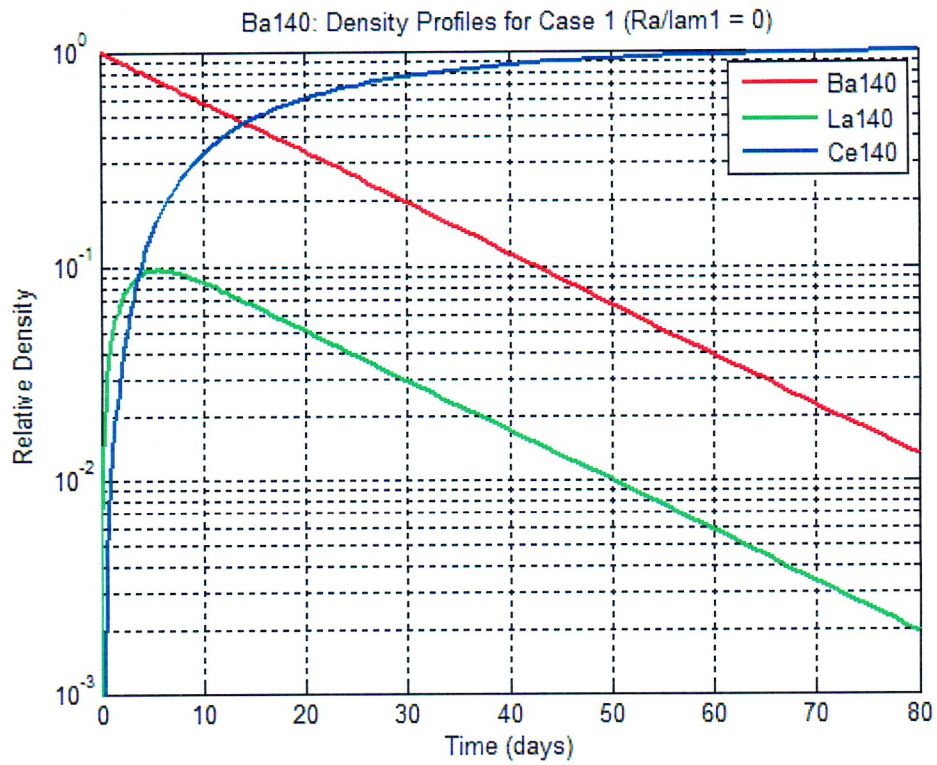
$$C(t) - C_0 = \lambda_B \int_0^t B(t) dt$$

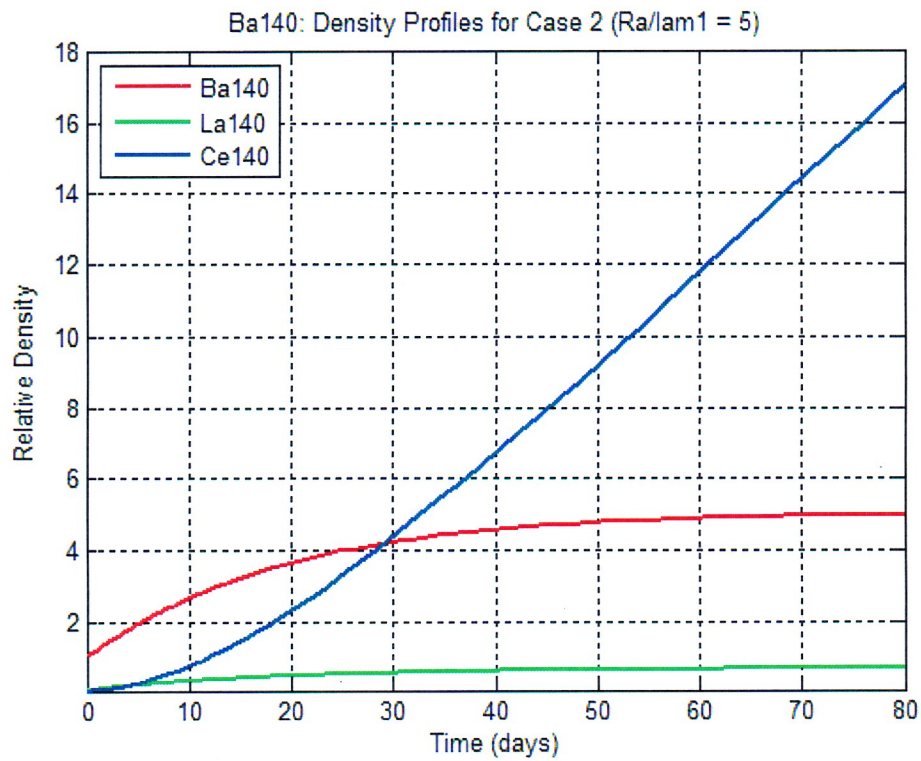
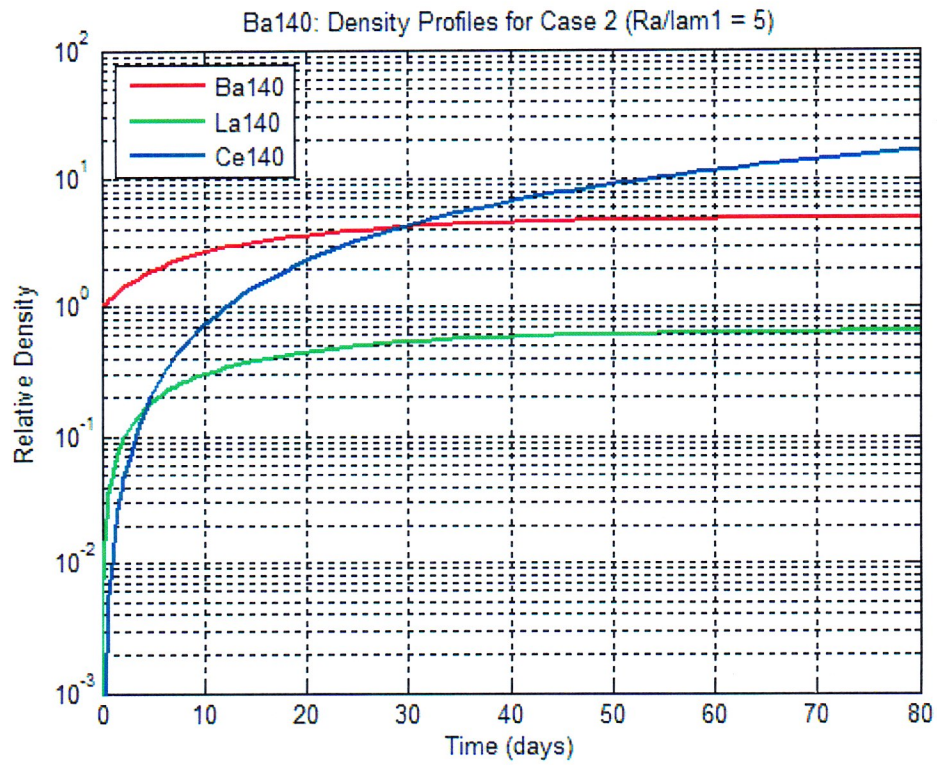
integrating each term gives

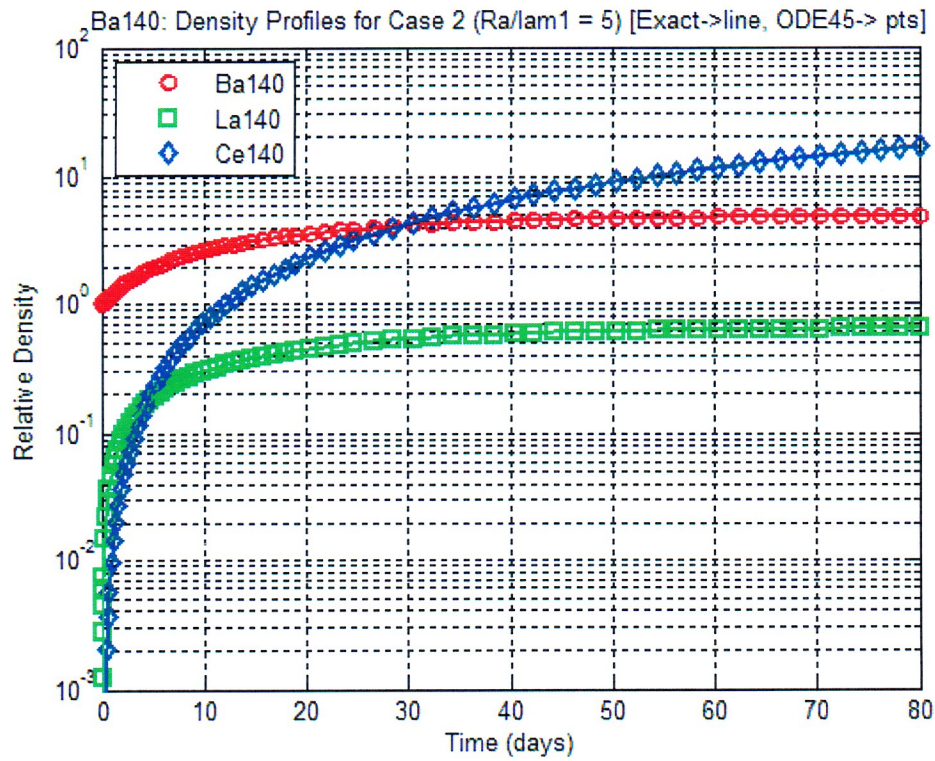
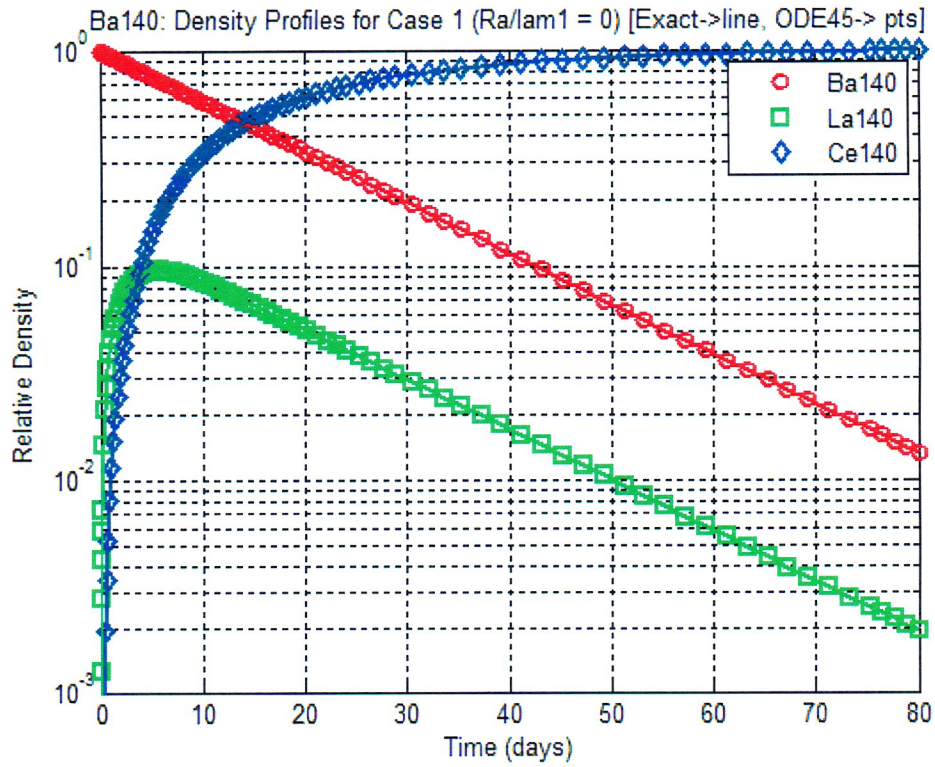
$$\begin{aligned} C(t) &= C_0 + \lambda_B B_0 \left(\frac{-1}{\lambda_B} \right) \left[e^{-\lambda_B t} - 1 \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda_A \lambda_B A_0}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} \left[\left(\frac{-1}{\lambda_A} \right) (e^{-\lambda_A t} - 1) - \left(\frac{-1}{\lambda_B} \right) (e^{-\lambda_B t} - 1) \right] \\ &\quad + R_A t - R_A \left(\frac{1}{-\lambda_B} \right) (e^{-\lambda_B t} - 1) \\ &\quad - \frac{\lambda_B R_A}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} \left[\left(\frac{-1}{\lambda_A} \right) (e^{-\lambda_A t} - 1) - \left(\frac{-1}{\lambda_B} \right) (e^{-\lambda_B t} - 1) \right] \end{aligned}$$

simplifying and combining terms gives

$$\begin{aligned} C(t) &= C_0 + B_0 (1 - e^{-\lambda_B t}) \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda_B}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} (A_0 - R_A/\lambda_A) [1 - e^{-\lambda_A t}] \\ &\quad - \frac{\lambda_A}{\lambda_B - \lambda_A} (A_0 - R_A/\lambda_A) [1 - e^{-\lambda_B t}] \\ &\quad + R_A t - (R_A/\lambda_B) [1 - e^{-\lambda_B t}] \end{aligned} \quad \underline{\text{ans}}$$







```

%
% BA140.M    Simulation of Ba140 Chain (with & without constant production)
%
% This program solves the first order differential equations associated
% with the radioactive decay chain A -> B -> C, where C is stable.
%
% Two separate cases are treated, with and without constant production of
% isotope A, and these cases should be compared to expected behavior for
% the physical situations described here.
%
% Specific decay data for the Ba140 decay chain are used and, for the case with
% constant production of Ba140, we assume that Ra = 5*initial activity.
%
% The ODE45 routine is also used for numerical integration of the equations
% that result (written in matrix form for ease of manipulation). The ODE function
% file is written in matrix form as an anonymous function. The numerical results
% are compared to the analytical solutions developed by straightforward integration
% of the defining ODEs.
%
% --> all nuclide densities are normalized to Ao = 1
%
% File prepared by J. R. White, UMass-Lowell (Oct. 2014)
%

clear all, close all, nfig = 0;

%
% nuclide order: Ba140 -> 1 = A    La140 -> 2 = B    Ce140 -> 3 = C
%
% halflives in hours, converted to decay constants (1/hr)
%   hl1 = 12.8*24;   lam1 = log(2)/hl1;
%   hl2 = 40.2;     lam2 = log(2)/hl2;
%
% set time interval and initial conditions
%   to = 0;          % initial time for simulation (hours)
%   tf = 24*80;     % final time (80 days -- should be near equilibrium)
%   Ao = 1; Bo = 0; Co = 0; % initial conditions (normalized to unity for first
nuclide)
%   No = [Ao Bo Co]'; % initial condition vector
%   tol = 1e-4;      % max error tolerance for ODE routine
%   options = odeset('RelTol',tol);
%
% CASE 1 (no production)
%
% numerical solution
%   Ra = 0;          % production rate of first component (1/hr)
%   FF = [Ra 0 0]'; % forcing function in state eqns
%   AA = [-lam1 0 0 ; % state matrix in state eqns
%         lam1 -lam2 0 ;
%         0 lam2 0];
%   ftn = @(t,n) AA*n+FF;
%   [t1,N1n] = ode45(ftn,[to,tf],No,options);
%   tp = t1/24;     % scale time for plotting in days
%
% analytical solution (evaluate on same time grid)
%   N1a = zeros(size(N1n));
%   c1 = lam1/(lam2-lam1); c2 = Ra/lam1; c3 = Ra/lam2; c4 = lam2/(lam2-lam1);

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v1 = exp(-lam1*t1);    v2 = exp(-lam2*t1);
N1a(:,1) = Ao*v1 + c2*(1-v1);
N1a(:,2) = Bo*v2 + c1*Ao*(v1-v2) + c3*(1-v2) - c1*c2*(v1-v2);
N1a(:,3) = Co + Bo*(1-v2) + c4*(Ao-c2)*(1-v1) ...
          - c1*(Ao-c2)*(1-v2) + Ra*t1 - c3*(1-v2);
%
% plot analytical results on a logarithmic scale
nfig = nfig + 1;    figure(nfig)
semilogy(tp,N1a(:,1),'r-',tp,N1a(:,2),'g-',tp,N1a(:,3),'b-','LineWidth',2)
title(['Ba140: Density Profiles for Case 1 (Ra/lam1 = ',num2str(c2),')'])
xlabel('Time (days)'),ylabel('Relative Density'),grid
vv = axis;    vv(3) = 0.001;    axis(vv)
legend('Ba140','La140','Ce140')
%
% plot analytical results on a linear scale
nfig = nfig + 1;    figure(nfig)
plot(tp,N1a(:,1),'r-',tp,N1a(:,2),'g-',tp,N1a(:,3),'b-','LineWidth',2)
title(['Ba140: Density Profiles for Case 1 (Ra/lam1 = ',num2str(c2),')'])
xlabel('Time (days)'),ylabel('Relative Density'),grid
vv = axis;    vv(3) = 0.001;    axis(vv)
legend('Ba140','La140','Ce140','Location','East')
%
% plot both numerical and analytical results on a logarithmic scale
nfig = nfig + 1;    figure(nfig)
semilogy(tp,N1n(:,1),'ro',tp,N1n(:,2),'gs',tp,N1n(:,3),'bd', ...
          tp,N1a(:,1),'r-',tp,N1a(:,2),'g-',tp,N1a(:,3),'b-','LineWidth',2)
title(['Ba140: Density Profiles for Case 1 (Ra/lam1 = ', ...
       num2str(c2),') [Exact->line, ODE45-> pts]'])
xlabel('Time (days)'),ylabel('Relative Density'),grid
vv = axis;    vv(3) = 0.001;    axis(vv)
legend('Ba140','La140','Ce140')
%
% CASE 2 (constant production of first component)
%
% numerical solution
Ra = 5*lam1;          % production rate of first component (1/hr)
FF = [Ra  0  0]';    % forcing function in state eqns
AA = [-lam1  0  0 ;  % state matrix in state eqns
      lam1 -lam2  0 ;
      0  lam2  0];
ftn = @(t,n) AA*n+FF;
[t2,N2n] = ode45(ftn,[to,tf],No,options);
tp = t2/24;    % scale time for plotting to days
%
% analytical solution (evaluate on same time grid)
N2a = zeros(size(N2n));
c1 = lam1/(lam2-lam1);    c2 = Ra/lam1;    c3 = Ra/lam2;    c4 = lam2/(lam2-lam1);
v1 = exp(-lam1*t2);    v2 = exp(-lam2*t2);
N2a(:,1) = Ao*v1 + c2*(1-v1);
N2a(:,2) = Bo*v2 + c1*Ao*(v1-v2) + c3*(1-v2) - c1*c2*(v1-v2);
N2a(:,3) = Co + Bo*(1-v2) + c4*(Ao-c2)*(1-v1) ...
          - c1*(Ao-c2)*(1-v2) + Ra*t2 - c3*(1-v2);
%
% plot analytical results on a logarithmic scale
nfig = nfig + 1;    figure(nfig)
semilogy(tp,N2a(:,1),'r-',tp,N2a(:,2),'g-',tp,N2a(:,3),'b-','LineWidth',2)

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title(['Ba140: Density Profiles for Case 2 (Ra/lam1 = ',num2str(c2), ' )'])
xlabel('Time (days)'),ylabel('Relative Density'),grid
vv = axis;   vv(3) = 0.001;   axis(vv)
legend('Ba140','La140','Ce140','Location','NorthWest')

% plot analytical results on a linear scale
nfig = nfig +1;   figure(nfig)
plot(tp,N2a(:,1),'r-',tp,N2a(:,2),'g-',tp,N2a(:,3),'b-','LineWidth',2)
title(['Ba140: Density Profiles for Case 2 (Ra/lam1 = ',num2str(c2), ' )'])
xlabel('Time (days)'),ylabel('Relative Density'),grid
vv = axis;   vv(3) = 0.001;   axis(vv)
legend('Ba140','La140','Ce140','Location','NorthWest')

%
% plot results on a logarithmic scale
nfig = nfig +1;   figure(nfig)
semilogy(tp,N2n(:,1),'ro',tp,N2n(:,2),'gs',tp,N2n(:,3),'bd', ...
          tp,N2a(:,1),'r-',tp,N2a(:,2),'g-',tp,N2a(:,3),'b-','LineWidth',2)
title(['Ba140: Density Profiles for Case 2 (Ra/lam1 = ', ...
       num2str(c2), ' ) [Exact->line, ODE45-> pts]'])
xlabel('Time (days)'),ylabel('Relative Density'),grid
vv = axis;   vv(3) = 0.001;   axis(vv)
legend('Ba140','La140','Ce140','Location','NorthWest')

%
% end simulation

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