

# Radioactive decay

-0.5 pro math error

① i)  $N(t) = N_0 \cdot 2^{-t/t_{1/2}}$

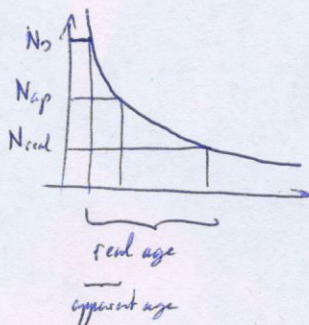
$N(t_{\text{now}}) = 0.1 N_0 \Rightarrow 0.1 N_0 = N_0 \cdot 2^{-t/t_{1/2}}$

$\sim \boxed{t} = - \frac{\ln(0.1)}{\ln(2)} \cdot t_{1/2}$

$\approx \boxed{19'034 \text{ years}}$   
 $\uparrow$   
 $t_{1/2} = 5730$

full points in the range  
19'000 ± 200

①.5 ii) a) Qualitatively:



Since the sample now contains more  $^{14}\text{C}$ , we have the impression that the  $^{14}\text{C}$  has decayed less (there is a higher percentage of  $N_0$ ), i.e. the sample appears to be younger.

good enough explanation or plot

0.5

b) Quantitatively

•  $\gamma = 5\%$  of the sample is contaminated

•  $p = 10\% = N/N_0$  : real proportion of the decayed  $^{14}\text{C}$

•  $p_c = 100\% = N/N_0$  : real proportion of the (modern)  $^{14}\text{C}$  (none of it has decayed!)

$\Rightarrow$  New proportion  $\frac{N}{N_0}$  :  $p(1-\gamma) + p_c \cdot \gamma = 0.1(1-0.05) + 0.05 = \underline{14.5\%}$

$\boxed{E} = - \frac{\ln(0.145)}{\ln(2)} \cdot 5730 \sim \boxed{15'963 \text{ years}}$

16'000 ± 200 : full points

①.5 iii) • ~25% of the body made of C

•  $m = 70 \text{ kg}$  : average mass

•  $10^{-12}$  : ratio of  $^{14}\text{C}$

•  $12 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ kg} = 1 \text{ mol of C}$

①.5 # of  $^{14}\text{C}$  atoms:  $\frac{70}{4} \cdot 10^{-12} \cdot \frac{1}{12 \cdot 10^{-3}} \cdot 6 \cdot 10^{23} \sim 10^{15}$

①.5  $A = - \frac{dN}{dt} = + \frac{N_0}{t_{1/2}} \cdot \ln(2) \cdot 2^{-t/t_{1/2}} = + \frac{N(t) \ln(2)}{t_{1/2}}$

①.5  $\sim \frac{10^{15} \cdot \ln(2)}{5730 \cdot (3 \cdot 10^7)} \sim \boxed{3.85 \text{ kBq}}$