

1. [11 points] On April 22, 1994, the museum where Ross worked received a prehistoric cave painting, and a team of scientists tried to determine its age. The painting contains Carbon-14, but only 15% of the original amount of Carbon-14 was left. The team knew that Carbon-14 decays at a *non-continuous* rate of 1.2% each century (100 years). Let  $G(c)$  be the amount of Carbon-14, in grams, left in the painting  $c$  centuries after April 22, 1994. (Note that negative values of  $c$  correspond to dates prior to April 22, 1994.)

- a. [4 points] If  $a$  is the amount of Carbon-14, in grams, the painting contained on April 22, 1994, write a formula for the function  $G(c)$ . (Your answer should involve  $a$ .)

*Solution:*  $G(c) = a(0.988)^c$

- b. [3 points] What is the continuous decay rate of the function  $G(c)$ ? Give your answer in **exact** form.

*Solution:*

$$\begin{aligned} e^k &= 0.988 \\ \ln(e^k) &= \ln(0.988) \\ k \ln(e) &= \ln(0.988) \\ k &= \ln(0.988) \end{aligned}$$

- c. [4 points] How many centuries before April 22, 1994 was the painting created? Give your answer in **exact** form or estimate it accurately to three decimal places.

*Solution:* The amount of Carbon-14 when it was first created was  $\frac{a}{0.15}$  grams.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a}{0.15} &= a(0.988)^c \\ \ln\left(\frac{1}{0.15}\right) &= \ln(0.988^c) \\ -\ln(0.15) &= c \ln(0.988) \\ c &= -\frac{\ln(0.15)}{\ln(0.988)} \approx -157.14286 \end{aligned}$$

The painting was created  $\frac{\ln(0.15)}{\ln(0.988)}$  or 157.143 centuries before April 22, 1994.