

Exercise 24

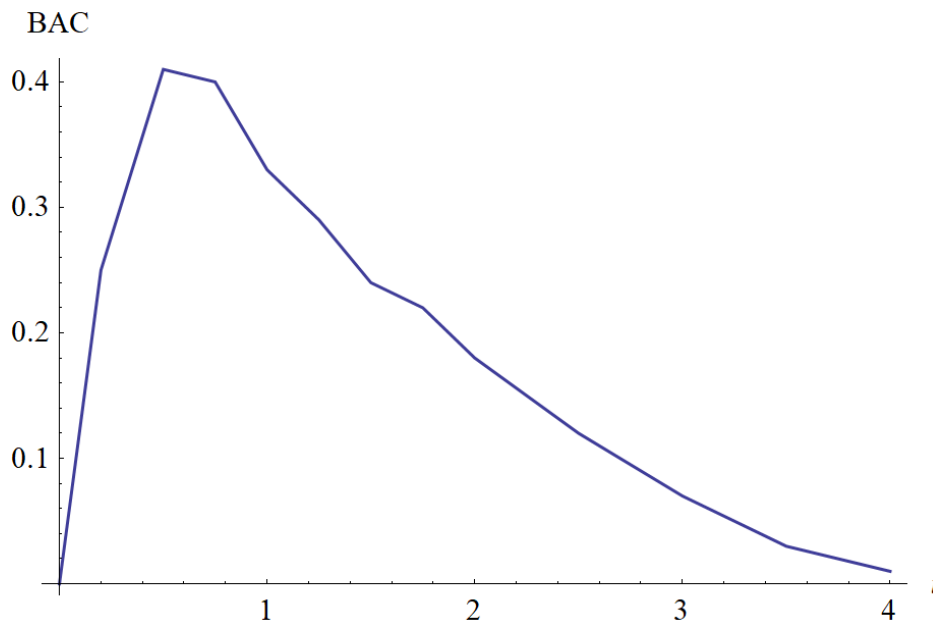
Researchers measured the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of eight adult male subjects after rapid consumption of 30 mL of ethanol (corresponding to two standard alcoholic drinks). The table shows the data they obtained by averaging the BAC (in mg/mL) of the eight men.

- Use the readings to sketch the graph of the BAC as a function of t .
- Use your graph to describe how the effect of alcohol varies with time.

t (hours)	BAC	t (hours)	BAC
0	0	1.75	0.22
0.2	0.25	2.0	0.18
0.5	0.41	2.25	0.15
0.75	0.40	2.5	0.12
1.0	0.33	3.0	0.07
1.25	0.29	3.5	0.03
1.5	0.24	4.0	0.01

Source: Adapted from P. Wilkinson et al., "Pharmacokinetics of Ethanol after Oral Administration in the Fasting State," *Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Biopharmaceutics* 5 (1977): 207–24.

Solution



According to the data, alcohol shows up very quickly in the blood after drinking it. Only after about 3 hours does it start to return to normal levels.