

37. We label the two isotopes with subscripts 1 (for  $^{32}\text{P}$ ) and 2 (for  $^{33}\text{P}$ ). Initially, 10% of the decays come from  $^{33}\text{P}$ , which implies that the initial rate  $R_{02} = 9R_{01}$ . Using Eq. 43-16, this means

$$R_{01} = \lambda_1 N_{01} = \frac{1}{9} R_{02} = \frac{1}{9} \lambda_2 N_{02} .$$

At time  $t$ , we have  $R_1 = R_{01}e^{-\lambda_1 t}$  and  $R_2 = R_{02}e^{-\lambda_2 t}$ . We seek the value of  $t$  for which  $R_1 = 9R_2$  (which means 90% of the decays arise from  $^{33}\text{P}$ ). We divide equations to obtain  $(R_{01}/R_{02})e^{-(\lambda_1-\lambda_2)t} = 9$ , and solve for  $t$ :

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \frac{1}{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2} \ln\left(\frac{R_{01}}{9R_{02}}\right) = \frac{\ln(R_{01}/9R_{02})}{\ln 2/T_{1/2\ 1} - \ln 2/T_{1/2\ 2}} \\ &= \frac{\ln[(1/9)^2]}{\ln 2[(14.3\text{ d})^{-1} - (25.3\text{ d})^{-1}]} = 209\text{ d} . \end{aligned}$$