

Day 3 — Summary — Limits and continuity of functions

15. Let f be a function defined on $S \subset \mathbb{R}$. The limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a exists if there exists an L such that for all ε there is a $\delta > 0$ such that $|x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ for $x \in S$. We write such a limit as $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$.
16. Limits commute with addition, multiplication, division, and non-strict inequalities
- (a) If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (cf)(x) = c \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ for any real c .
 - (b) If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (f + g)(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ if both limits on the right exist.
 - (c) If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (fg)(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ if both limits on the right exist.
 - (d) If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (f/g)(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) / \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ if both limits on the right exist and the limit of g is nonzero.
 - (e) If $f(x) \leq g(x)$ for all x sufficiently close to a , then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$, provided both limits on the right exist.
17. The function $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$.
18. The function f is continuous on the set S if f is continuous at every point in S .
19. The composition of two continuous functions is continuous.
20. Intermediate value theorem: Let f be continuous on $[a, b]$. For any y satisfying $f(a) < y < f(b)$ or $f(b) < y < f(a)$, there exists an $x \in (a, b)$ such that $f(x) = y$.
21. The function f is uniformly continuous on the set S if for all ε , there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that $|x - y| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(y)| < \varepsilon$. Notice that the dependence of δ on ε does not depend on the position within the set. That is what makes it uniform.
22. A continuous function on a closed, bounded interval is uniformly continuous.

Warmup:

Example of sequences x_n, y_n satisfying

$$x_n \rightarrow 0$$

$$y_n \rightarrow 0$$

$$\frac{x_n}{y_n} \rightarrow a$$

Example:

$$x_n \rightarrow 0$$

$$y_n \rightarrow \infty$$

~~$x_n y_n$~~ has no limit yet is still bounded

15) Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ means $\forall \epsilon \exists \delta$ st $|x-a| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x)-L| < \epsilon$

Conceptually: f ~~is~~ ^{is} arbitrarily close to L for values of x ^{sufficiently} near a .

Example: Let $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x=0 \\ x \sin \frac{1}{x} & \text{if } x \neq 0 \end{cases}$



Claim: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 0$.

Fix ϵ . Let $\delta = \frac{\epsilon}{2}$. If $|x| < \delta$, then

$$|f(x)| = \begin{cases} |x \sin \frac{1}{x} - 0| & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ |0 - 0| & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\leq \begin{cases} |x| |\sin \frac{1}{x}| & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\leq |x| < \delta = \epsilon \quad \square$$

16c) If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = M$ then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)g(x) = LM$

Getting at the Proof:

Know: $|f(x) - L|$ small when x near a
 $|g(x) - M|$ small when x near a

Want: $|f(x)g(x) - LM|$ small when x near a

Consider $|f(x)g(x) - Lg(x) + Lg(x) - LM|$

$$= |(f(x) - L)g(x) + L(g(x) - M)| \leq \underbrace{\frac{\epsilon}{2C}}_{\text{small}} \underbrace{C}_{\text{finite}} + \underbrace{\frac{\epsilon}{2C}}_{\text{small}} \underbrace{C}_{\text{finite}} = \epsilon$$

Need to argue g is bdd.

$$\text{Let } \epsilon = 1. \exists \delta \text{ st } |x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow |g(x) - M| < 1 \\ \Rightarrow |g(x)| \leq 1 + |M|$$

Proof:

We need to show $\forall \epsilon \exists \delta$ st $|x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow |fg - LM| < \epsilon$.

By $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = M$, $\exists \delta_0$ st $|g(x)| \leq 1 + M$ for all $|x - a| < \delta_0$.

Choosing $C = \max(1 + M, L)$, ~~note~~ Let δ_f & δ_g be from def: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f = L$
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g = M$
 for $\epsilon/2C$

Fix ϵ . Let $\delta = \min(\delta_f, \delta_0, \delta_g)$

$$\text{Then } |f(x)g(x) - LM| = |(f(x) - L)g(x) + L(g(x) - M)| \\ \leq |f(x) - L| |g(x)| + |L| |g(x) - M| \\ \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2C} C + C \frac{\epsilon}{2C} = \epsilon$$

16e)

$f(x) \leq g(x)$ for all $|x-a| < \delta \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ if both limits exist,

Example:

Why can't we

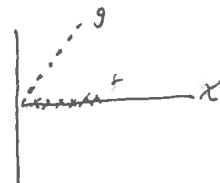
Can we make a corresponding statement with strict inequalities?

$f(x) < g(x) \Rightarrow \lim f < \lim g$?? No

Let $S = (0, \infty)$

$f(x) = 0$, $g(x) = x$

On S , $f(x) < g(x)$. But $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = 0$.

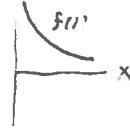


Why don't we say $f(x) \leq g(x)$ for all $x \Rightarrow \lim f(x) \leq \lim g(x)$ if both limits exist,

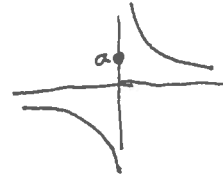
With limits as $x \rightarrow a$, nothing that is a finite distance away from $x=a$ matters. All that matters is that $f \leq g$ "near" $x=a$.

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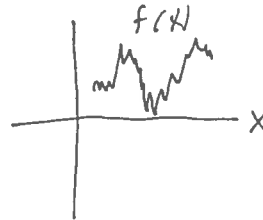
Examples: $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ is continuous on $(0, \epsilon)$



$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/x & x \neq 0 \\ a & x = 0 \end{cases}$ is not continuous on \mathbb{R} for any a .



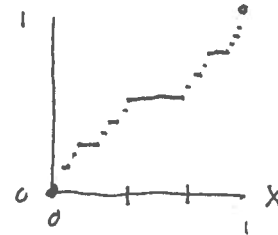
Advanced example: Brownian motion
(Continuous random walk)
infinite arc length



Cantor function

continuous & monotonic
increasing

increases despite
being flat almost everywhere

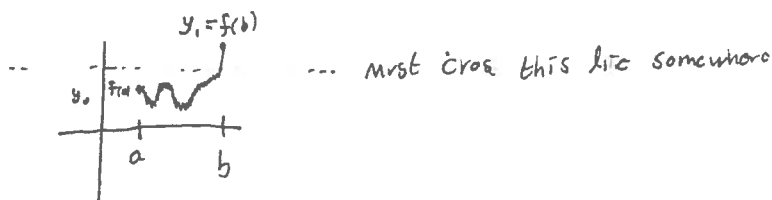


To specify $c(x)$:

- 1) write x in base 3
- 2) If x contains a 2, replace all digits subsequent to first 2 by 0
- 3) Replace all 2's with 1's
- 4) Interpret as binary #.

20) Intermediate Value Theorem

Conceptually: For $y = f(x)$
 If you go from y_0 to y_1 , you must pass every value in between.



Application: Consider a track. ^{with continuous temperature} Is there ^{necessarily} a pair of opposing points with equal temperature?

Let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be L periodic and continuous

$$f(x+L) = f(x)$$

Must there be an x such that $f(x + \frac{L}{2}) = f(x)$?

Yes. Consider $g(x) = f(x + \frac{L}{2}) - f(x)$, continuous.

$$g(0)$$

$$f(\frac{L}{2}) - f(0)$$

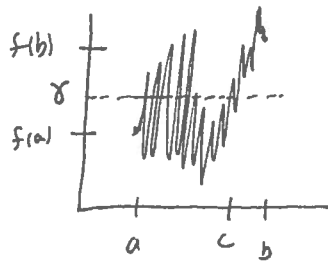
$$\text{Claim: } g(0) = -g(\frac{L}{2})$$

$$\text{Note: } f(\frac{L}{2}) - f(0) = -(f(\frac{L}{2} + \frac{L}{2}) - f(\frac{L}{2}))$$

Either $g(0) = -g(\frac{L}{2}) = 0$ or IVT guarantees $\exists x$ st $g(x) = 0$.

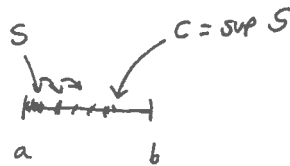
~~Proof of IVT (Sketch)~~

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c is given by Supremum of set of points w/ value $\leq \gamma$.

Let $S = \{x \mid f(x) \leq \gamma\}$



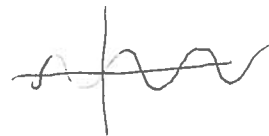
By continuity $f(c) = \lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow c \\ x \in S}} f(x) \leq \gamma$

For any $x > c$, $f(x) > \gamma$. So $f(c) = \lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow c \\ x \in T = (c, b]}} f(x) \geq \gamma$.

So $f(c) = \gamma$.

21,22 ~~7/8~~ Uniform Continuity

Examples: $f(x) = \sin x$ is unif cont on \mathbb{R}



$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ on $\{x > 0\}$ not uniformly continuous



$f(x) = \sin(\frac{1}{x})$ on $\{x > 0\}$ not uniformly continuous



Is uniform continuity saying something about slope (if it exists)?

Sort of, but no.

$f(x) = \sqrt{1-x^2}$ is uniformly continuous on $[-1, 1]$
and has infinite slope near $x = \pm 1$.



Proof that $f \in C[a,b] \Rightarrow f$ is uniformly continuous on $[a,b]$ (sketch)

By contradiction & Bolzano Weierstrass

If not, $\exists x_n, y_n$ st $|x_n - y_n| \rightarrow 0$ but $|f(x_n) - f(y_n)| > \epsilon$

By BZw, $x_{(n)} \rightarrow x^*$

By BZw $x_{(n)} \rightarrow x^*$ & $y_{(n)} \rightarrow y^*$. $y^* = x^*$ by $|x_n - y_n| \rightarrow 0$

By continuity $f(x_{(n)}) \rightarrow f(x^*) = f(y^*) \leftarrow f(y_{(n)})$.

contradiction $|f(x_n) - f(y_n)| > \epsilon$ \blacksquare