

### 3.3: Continuity

( $\epsilon$ - $\delta$ ) defn DF1: let  $\emptyset \neq E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

i.  $f$  is said to be continuous at a point  $a \in E$  iff  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$   
(depends on  $\epsilon, f$  and  $a$ ) s.t.  $|x-a| < \delta$  and  $x \in E \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(a)| < \epsilon$ .

ii.  $f$  is said to be continuous on  $E$  iff  $f$  is continuous at every  $x \in E$ .

RMK: let  $I$  be an open interval which contains a point  $a$  and  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $f$  is continuous at  $a \in I$  iff  $f(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$

#### Thm 1: sequential characterization of continuity

suppose that  $E$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ , that  $a \in E$  and that  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Then the following statements are equivalent:

i.  $f$  is cont. at  $a \in E$

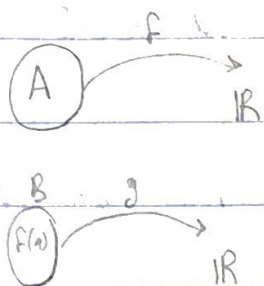
ii. If  $x_n \rightarrow a$  and  $x_n \in E$ , then  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(a)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Thm 2: let  $E$  be a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $f, g: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . If  $f, g$  are continuous at a point  $a \in E$  (resp. continuous on the set  $E$ ), then so are

$f+g$ ,  $fg$ , and  $\alpha f$  (for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

Moreover,  $\frac{f}{g}$  is conti. at  $a \in E$  when  $g(a) \neq 0$  (resp. on  $E$  when  $g(x) \neq 0 \forall x \in E$ ).

**DF 2:** suppose that  $A$  and  $B$  are subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ , that  $f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g: B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . If  $f(x) \in B$  for every  $x \in A$  then the composition of  $g$  with  $f$  is the function  $g \circ f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $(g \circ f)(x) := g(f(x))$ ,  $x \in A$ .



$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) \quad , y \in B$$

$$= g(y)$$

**Thm 3:** suppose that  $A$  and  $B$  are subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$ , that  $f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g: B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and that  $f(x) \in B$ ,  $\forall x \in A$ .

i. If  $A = I \setminus \{a\}$ , where  $I$  is a nondegenerate interval which either contains  $a$  or has  $a$  as one of its endpoints if  $L := \lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ x \in I}} f(x)$  exists and belongs to  $B$ , and if  $g$  is cont. at  $L \in B$  then  $\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ x \in I}} (g \circ f)(x) = g(L)$  (extended real number).

$$\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ x \in I}} (g \circ f)(x) = g\left(\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ x \in I}} f(x)\right) = g(L)$$

ii. If  $f$  is cont. at  $a \in A$  and  $g$  is cont. at  $f(a) \in B$ , then  $g \circ f$  is cont. at  $a \in A$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (g \circ f)(x) = (g \circ f)(a) \quad \text{OR} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(f(x)) = g\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)\right) = g(f(a))$$



proof :

Let suppose that  $x_n \in \overset{A}{I} \setminus \{a\}$  and that  $x_n \rightarrow a$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . <sup>we need</sup>  $(g \circ f)(x_n) \rightarrow g(L)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

since  $f(A) \subseteq B$ ,  $f(x_n) \in B$ . Also by the sequential characterization of limit

$f(x_n) \rightarrow L$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ )

since  $g$  is cont. at  $L \in B$ , it follows by the seq. characterization of continuity,  $(g \circ f)(x_n) = g(f(x_n)) \rightarrow g(L)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

Hence, By the seq. charac. of limits,  $(g \circ f)(x) \rightarrow g(L)$  as  $x \rightarrow a$  in  $I$ .

(ii) exercise.

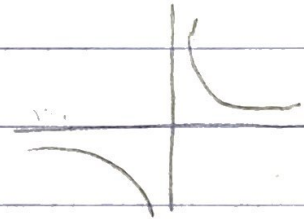
**DF 3:** let  $\emptyset \neq E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . A function  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is said to be bounded on  $E$  iff  $\exists$  an  $M \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $|f(x)| \leq M, \forall x \in E$ . ( $f$  is dominated by  $M$  on  $E$ )

to prove unbd  $\rightarrow$  unbounded:  $\exists x_0$  s.t.  $|f(x_0)| > M \quad \forall M \in \mathbb{R}$

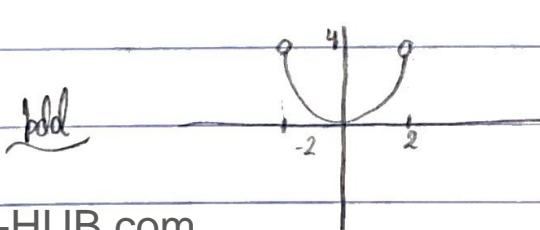
**RMK:** Notice that whether a function  $f$  is bounded or not on a set  $E$  depends on  $E$  as well as on  $f$ . For exp.  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  is bounded on  $[1, \infty)$  but unbounded on  $(0, 2)$ .  $f(x) = x^2$  is bounded on  $(-2, 2)$  (dominated by 4) but unbounded on  $[0, \infty)$ .

exp1:  $x \in [1, \infty) \Rightarrow x \geq 1$   
 $f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \leq 1$   
 $|f(x)| \leq 1$

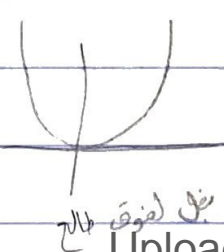
$(0, 2)$  unbd:  
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x} = +\infty$



exp2:  $0 \leq x^2 < 4$  on  $(-2, 2)$



$[0, \infty)$  unbd

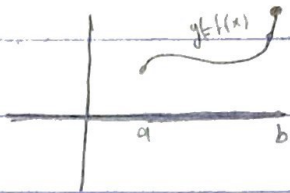


### Thm 4: Extreme Value Thm.

If  $I$  is closed, bounded interval and  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous on  $I$ , then

$f$  is bounded on  $I$ . (Moreover, if  $M = \sup_{x \in I} f(x)$  and  $m = \inf_{x \in I} f(x)$ , then

$\exists$  points  $x_m, x_M \in I$  s.t.  $f(x_M) = M$  and  $f(x_m) = m$ ) absolute max + min



proof:

DEF 3  $\leftarrow$

suppose that  $f$  is unbounded on  $I$ , then  $\exists x_n \in I$  s.t.  $|f(x_n)| > n, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

since  $I$  is bdd, then  $x_n$  is bdd (since  $x_n \in I$ )

By the Bolzano-Weierstrass Thm,  $\{x_n\}$  has a convergent subsequence.

say  $x_{n_k} \rightarrow a$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$

Since  $I$  is closed, by the comparison thm  $a \in I$ .

In particular  $f(a) \in \mathbb{R}$ . back to \* substituting  $n_k$  for  $n$

is  $|f(x_{n_k})| > n_k$ . Taking the limit as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  then  $|f(a)| = \infty$

$|f(a)| \leftarrow$

$|f(a)| = \infty$  a contradiction. ( $f$  is conti. at  $a$ ) \*

Hence,  $f$  is bdd on  $I$

We have proved that  $M$  and  $m$  are finite real numbers. To show

that  $\exists$  an  $x_M \in I$  s.t.  $f(x_M) = M$ , spse to the contrary, that

with  $f(x) < M$  or  $f(x) < m$

$f(x) < M \quad \forall x \in I$ , then  $g(x) = \frac{1}{M-f(x)}$  is continuous  $\rightarrow$

cont. w/ den

So  $g(x)$  is cont.

$g(x)$   
↑  
→ Hence, is bdd on  $I$ ,  $\exists a C > 0$  s.t.  $|g(x)| = g(x) \leq C$ .

$f(x) \leq M - \frac{1}{C}$  it follows that  $f(x) \leq M - \frac{1}{C} \forall x \in I$ .  
 $M - f(x)$   
lets join ←

$$\text{supp. } \Rightarrow \sup_{x \in I} f(x) \leq \sup_{x \in I} (M - \frac{1}{C})$$
$$M \leq \underbrace{M - \frac{1}{C}}_{< M} < M \quad \text{with } \frac{1}{C} > 0$$

Let  $M < M$  !! (a contradiction)

Hence,  $\exists x_m \in I$  s.t.  $f(x_m) = M$ .

Similarly,  $\exists x_m \in I$  s.t.  $f(x_m) = m$ . (do it :).

lets



**BMK:**

1. We also call the value  $M$  (resp.  $m$ ) the maximum (resp. minimum) of  $f$  on  $I$ .
2. The Extreme value Thm is false if either closed or bounded is dropped from the hypothesis.

**counter example 2:**

$(0,1)$  is bounded interval but not closed and  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  is cont. and unbounded on  $(0,1)$ .

$[0, \infty)$  is closed but not bounded and the function  $f(x) = x$  is conti. and unbounded on  $[0, \infty)$ .

**lemma:** suppose that  $a < b$  and that  $f: (a,b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  If  $f$  is continuous at  $x_0 \in [a,b]$  and  $f(x_0) > 0$  then  $\exists$  an  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a point  $x_1 \in [a,b]$  such that  $x_1 > x_0$  and  $f(x) > \varepsilon, \forall x \in [x_0, x_1]$ .

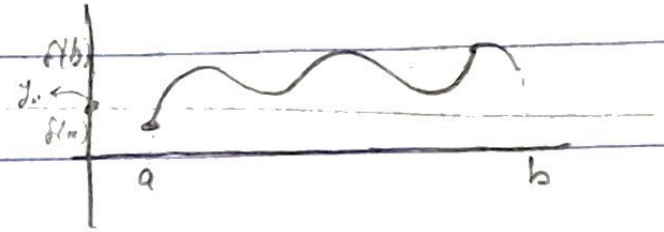
exists  $\uparrow$

### Thm 5: Intermediate Value Theorem:

suppose that  $a < b$  and that  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous. If  $y_0$

lies between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  then  $\exists$  an  $x_0 \in (a, b)$ , such that  $f(x_0) = y_0$ .

Ex: proof:



$$X = \cos X$$

$$f(x) = x - \cos x \quad \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$$

$$f(0) = -1 < 0$$

$$f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{2} > 0$$

ex 1: Prove that  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{|x|}{x}, & x \neq 0 \\ 1, & x = 0 \end{cases}$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, 0)$  and  $(0, \infty)$ , discontinuous at  $x=0$ , and both  $f(0^-)$  and  $f(0^+)$  exist.

Sol:  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \geq 0 \\ -1, & x < 0 \end{cases}$

By Thm

since  $f(x) = 1$  for  $x \geq 0$ , it is clear that  $f(0^+) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} 1 = 1$  exists.

and  $f(x) \rightarrow f(a)$  as  $x \rightarrow a$  for any  $a > 0$ . In particular

$f$  is continuous on  $[0, \infty)$ . Similarly,  $f(0^-) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = -1$  exists.

and  $f$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, 0)$

Finally:

since  $f(0^+) \neq f(0^-)$  then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$  DNE.

$\therefore f$  is discontinuous at  $x=0$ .

or By

$$x_n = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$$

$$y_n = -\frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\text{But } f(x_n) = 1 \rightarrow 1$$

$$f(y_n) = -1 \rightarrow -1$$

$\therefore f$  is discontinuous at  $x=0$  by 2-seq. prop.  $\square$



$$(\sin \circ \frac{1}{x})(x)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sin(\frac{1}{x}), x \neq 0 \\ 1, x = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

exp2: Assume that  $\sin x$  is conti. on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , prove that  $f(x) =$  is conti. on  $(-\infty, 0)$  and  $(0, \infty)$ , discont. at 0, and neither  $f(0^+)$  nor  $f(0^-)$  exists.

Sol:  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  is conti. for  $x \neq 0$ .

Hence, By Thm 3,  $f(x) = (\sin \circ g)(x) = \sin(\frac{1}{x})$ .

is conti. on  $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$ .

To prove  $f(0^+)$  DNE. let  $x_n = \frac{1}{\frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

and observed that  $\sin(\frac{1}{x_n}) = \sin(\frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi) = \sin(\frac{\pi}{2}) \cos n\pi + \cos \frac{\pi}{2} \sin n\pi = (-1)^n, n \in \mathbb{N}$

$x_n \downarrow 0$  But  $(-1)^n$  doesn't converge.

By seq. characterization of continuity  $f(0^+)$  DNE.

Similarly:  $f(0^-)$  DNE.

$y_n = -\frac{1}{\frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  But  $f(y_n) = (-1)^{n+1}$  has No limit.





$$f\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{4}$$

cap 4: prove that  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{q} & , x = \frac{p}{q} \in \mathbb{Q} \text{ (in reduced form)} \\ 0 & , x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$

$$f\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$f\left(\frac{4}{11}\right) = \frac{1}{11}$$

$$f\left(\sqrt{2}\right) = 0$$

is continuous at every irrational in  $(0, 1)$ . But discontinuous at every  $\mathbb{Q}$  in  $(0, 1)$ .

First, we shall prove that  $f$  is discontin. at every rational in  $(0, 1)$ .

let  $a \in (0, 1)$  be a rational and suppose that  $f$  is cont. at  $a$ .

If  $x_n$  is a seq. of irrational s.t.  $x_n \rightarrow a$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

Then  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(a)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

i.e.  $f(a) = 0$  But:  $f(a) \neq 0$  By def. of  $f$ .  $\therefore$  contradiction

Next, we want to prove that  $f$  is conti. at every irrational in  $(0, 1)$ .

Indeed, let  $a \in (0, 1)$  be irrational.

We must show that  $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(a)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for every seq.

$x_n \in (0, 1)$  which satisfies  $x_n \rightarrow a$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

We may suppose that  $x_n \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

We write  $x_n = \frac{p_n}{q_n}$  in reduced form

since  $f(a) = 0$ , it suffices to show that  $f(x_n) = f\left(\frac{p_n}{q_n}\right) = \frac{1}{q_n} \rightarrow 0 = f(a)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

suppose to the contrary that there exist integers  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  s.t.

$$|q_{n_k}| \leq M < \infty \text{ for } k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

since  $x_{n_k} \in (0, 1)$ , it follows that the set  $E = \left\{ \frac{p_{n_k}}{q_{n_k}} : k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$  contains only a finite number of pts.

Hence, the limit of any seq. in  $E$  must belong to  $E$ , a contradiction.

since  $a$  is such a limit and  $a$  is irrational.

$\therefore$   $f$  is conti. at  $a$ .



**RMK:** The composition of two function  $g \circ f$  can be nowhere continuous even though  $f$  is discont. only on  $a$  and  $g$  is discont. at only one point.

proof. let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x}, & x = \frac{1}{q} \in \mathbb{Q} \\ 0, & x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$  is discont. on  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

$g(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \neq 0 \\ 0, & x = 0 \end{cases} \rightarrow$  discont at  $x=0$

clearly  $(g \circ f) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ 0, & x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ g(f(x)) = g\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \end{matrix} \begin{cases} x \notin \mathbb{Q} \\ g(f(x)) = g(0) \end{cases}$   
 $\rightarrow$  is nowhere conti.

Hence,  $g \circ f$  is Dirichlet function

Nowhere continuous By exp 3.