

### 3.4: uniform continuity.

Def 1: let  $E$  be a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f$  is said to be uniformly continuous on  $E$  iff  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t.

$$|x-a| < \delta \text{ and } x, a \in E \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(a)| < \epsilon.$$

Notice that  $\delta$  here depends on  $\epsilon$  and  $f$ , but not on  $a$  and  $x$ .

ex1: prove that  $f(x) = x^2$  is uniformly continuous on  $(0, 1)$ ?

proof: given  $\epsilon > 0$  and set  $\delta = \frac{\epsilon}{2}$

IF  $x, a \in (0, 1)$  and  $|x-a| < \delta$ , then

$$|f(x) - f(a)| = |x^2 - a^2| = |x+a| |x-a|$$

$$\leq (|x| + |a|) |x-a|$$

$$< (1+1) |x-a|$$

$$< 2|x-a|$$

$$< 2\delta$$

$$< 2\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)$$

$$< \epsilon$$



RMK :

1. The difference between the def'n of continuity and uniform continuity is that for a continuous function,  $\delta$  may depend on  $\epsilon$ , whereas for a uniformly continuous function,  $\delta$  must be chosen independently of  $\epsilon$ .

uniform  
cont

2. Every uniformly continuous function on  $E$  is also continuous on  $E$ . But the converse is not true. exp:  $f(x) = x^2$  is cont. on  $[0, \infty)$  But it is not uniformly cont.

→ Nonuniform continuity criteria :

let  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and let  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then the following statements are equivalent.

i.  $f$  is not uniformly cont. on  $E$ .

ii.  $\exists$  an  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  s.t.  $\forall \delta > 0$  there are points  $x, y \in E$  s.t.  $|x - y| < \delta$  and  $|f(x) - f(y)| \geq \epsilon_0$ .

iii.  $\exists$  an  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  and two sequences  $x_n, y_n \in E$  s.t.  $x_n - y_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $|f(x_n) - f(y_n)| \geq \epsilon_0, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

exp: show that  $f(x) = x^2$  is not uniformly continuous on  $[0, \infty)$ .

proof:

$$\text{let } x_n = n + \frac{1}{n} \text{ and } y_n = n$$

$$\text{Then } |x_n - y_n| = \left| n + \frac{1}{n} - n \right| = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{But } |f(x_n) - f(y_n)| &= \left| \left( n + \frac{1}{n} \right)^2 - n^2 \right| \\ &= \left| n^2 + 2 + \frac{1}{n^2} - n^2 \right| \\ &= 2 + \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &\geq \underline{2}, \quad \forall n \end{aligned}$$

exp: show that  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$  is uniformly cont. on  $[1, \infty)$  But it is NOT uniformly cont. on  $(0, \infty)$ .

proof.

$\rightarrow f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$  is unifor. cont. on  $[1, \infty)$

$$\text{let } \varepsilon > 0, \text{ set } \delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

If  $x, q \in [1, \infty)$  and  $|x - q| < \delta$ , Then

$$|f(x) - f(q)| = \left| \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{q^2} \right| = \left( \frac{x+q}{x^2 q^2} \right) |x-q|$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{xq^2} + \frac{1}{x^2 q} \right) |x-q|$$

$$< \left( \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{1} \right) |x-q|$$

$$= 2 |x-q|$$

$$< 2 \delta$$

$$< 2 \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right)$$

$$< \varepsilon$$



Continue: (we will use the definition of uniform continuity)

→  $f$  is not unif. cont. on  $(0, \infty)$

$$\text{let } x_n = \frac{1}{n}, \quad y_n = \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$|x_n - y_n| = \left| \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right| = \frac{1}{n(n+1)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x_n) - f(y_n)| &= |n^2 - (n+1)^2| = |n^2 - n^2 - 2n - 1| \\ &= \underline{2n+1} \\ &\geq 1 \quad \forall n \\ &> \varepsilon \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

exp:  $f(x) = \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$  is Not unif. cont. on  $(0, \infty)$

Take proof: (we will use the definition of uniform continuity)

$$\text{let } x_n = \frac{1}{2n\pi}, \quad y_n = \frac{1}{2n\pi + \frac{\pi}{2}}$$

$$|x_n - y_n| = \left| \frac{1}{2n\pi} - \frac{1}{2n\pi + \frac{\pi}{2}} \right| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

$$\text{But } |f(x_n) - f(y_n)| = \left| \sin(2n\pi) - \sin\left(2n\pi + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right| = \underline{1} > \varepsilon_0$$

**lemma:** suppose that  $E \subset \mathbb{R}$  and that  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is uniformly continuous.

If  $\{x_n\} \subset E$  is Cauchy then  $\{f(x_n)\}$  is Cauchy.

proof:

let  $\varepsilon > 0$ , since  $f$  is unif. conti. on  $E$ ,  $\exists \delta > 0$  s.t.

$$\underline{|x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(a)| < \varepsilon, \forall x, a \in E.}$$

since  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy,  $\exists N \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.

$$\underline{m, n \geq N \Rightarrow |x_n - x_m| < \delta}$$

$$\text{Then } |f(x_n) - f(x_m)| < \varepsilon, \forall m, n \geq N$$

This means  $\{f(x_n)\}$  is Cauchy.

**Note:** A function is conti. iff it is unif. conti. also the lemma is false if it is

counter example:

$$x_n = \frac{1}{n}, \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$f(x_n) = n \quad \checkmark$$

**Thm 1:** suppose that  $I$  is a closed, bounded interval. If  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous on  $I$ , then  $f$  is uniformly continuous on  $I$ .

ex:  $f(x) = x^2$ ,  $[0, 1]$

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proof: suppose to the contrary that  $f$  is conti. But not uniformly on  $I$ .

Then,  $\exists$  an  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  and  $x_n, y_n \in I$  s.t.  $|x_n - y_n| < \frac{1}{n}$

and  $|f(x_n) - f(y_n)| \geq \epsilon_0$ ,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

By the Bolzano-Weierstrass, then and the comparison Thm,

$\{x_n\}$  has a convergent subseq. say  $x_{n_k} \rightarrow x \in I$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

similarly, the seq.  $\{y_n\}$  has a conv. subseq. say  $x_{n_{k'}} \rightarrow x$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ .

and  $f$  is conti. it follows that

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \geq \epsilon_0 \quad \text{i.e. } f(x) \neq f(y).$$

But  $|x_n - y_n| < \frac{1}{n}$ ,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , so by squeeze thm  $x = y$ .

Therefore  $f(x) = f(y)$  a contradiction.  $\square$



**RMK:** Thm 1 might Not hold if "closed" replaced By "open"

exp  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  is cont. on  $(0,1)$  But not uniformly cont. on  $(0,1)$ .

$$(x_n = \frac{1}{n}, y_n = \frac{1}{n+2}, |x_n - y_n| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty)$$

$$\text{But } |f(x_n) - f(y_n)| = |n - (n+2)| = 2 \geq \epsilon_0$$

Thm 1 might Not true if "bdd" replaced By "unbdd"

exp  $f(x) = x^2$  is cont. on  $[0, \infty)$  But is Not uniformly cont. on  $[0, \infty)$

**Thm 2:** Suppose that  $a < b$  and that  $f: (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f$  is uniformly continuous

on  $(a, b)$  iff  $f$  can be continuously extended to  $[a, b]$ , i.e.

iff there is a continuous function  $g: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  which satisfies

$$f(x) = g(x), \quad x \in (a, b).$$

**exp:** prove that  $f(x) = \frac{x-1}{\ln x}$  is uniformly continuous

**proof:**

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x-1}{\ln x} \stackrel{0/0 \rightarrow \text{L'Hopital}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x}} = 1$$

$$\text{Define } g(x) = \begin{cases} f(x), & 0 < x < 1 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x), & x = 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x), & x = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{x-1}{\ln x}, & x \in (0, 1) \\ 0, & x = 0 \\ 1, & x = 1 \end{cases}$$

Notice that  $g: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a conti. function on  $[0,1]$  and

$$g(x) = f(x) \quad \forall x \in (0,1)$$

Hence,  $f$  is continuously extendable on  $[0,1]$ . so By Thm 2  
 $f$  is uniformly cont. on  $(0,1)$ .

**RMK:** let  $f$  be conti. on a bounded, open, nondegenerate interval  $(a,b)$

Notice that  $f$  is continuously extendable to  $[a,b]$  iff  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$  and

$\lim_{x \rightarrow b^-} f(x)$  exist. Indeed, when they exist we define  $g$  at  $x=a$

and  $x=b$  as  $g(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ ,  $g(b) = \lim_{x \rightarrow b^-} f(x)$

Exercises  $a \rightarrow b$