

Limits and Continuity

Dr. G.H.J. Lanel

Lecture 3

Outline

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- 1 Limits
- 2 Continuity
- 3 Derivatives

Limit of a Function

Intuitive Definition

Suppose f is defined when x is near the number a . (This means that f is defined on some open interval that contains a , except possibly at a itself.)

Then write,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

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And say

”the limit of f , as x approaches a , equals L ?

If we can make the values of f arbitrarily close to L (as close to L as we like) by restricting x to be sufficiently close to a (on either side of a) but not equal to a .

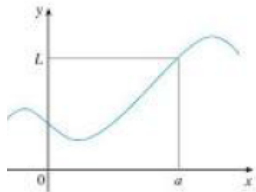
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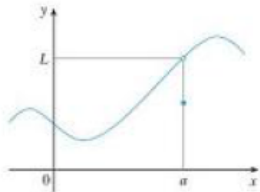
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Exercise 1

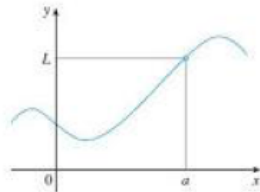
What is the limit as x approaches a in each graph?



(a)



(b)



(c)

Exercise 2

Find the limit numerically:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x - 1}{x^2 - 1}$$

$x < 1$	$f(x)$
0.5	0.666667
0.9	0.526316
0.99	0.502513
0.999	0.500250
0.9999	0.500025

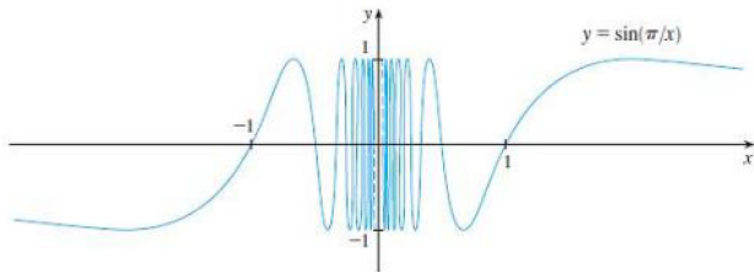
$x > 1$	$f(x)$
1.5	0.400000
1.1	0.476190
1.01	0.497512
1.001	0.499750
1.0001	0.499975

Exercise 3

Find the limit numerically :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{x}\right)$$

(Try $x = 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{100}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{2}{11}, \frac{2}{101}$)



One Sided Limits

Intuitive Definition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$$

and say the left-hand limit of f as x approaches a [or the limit of f as x approaches a from the left] is equal to L if we can make the values of f arbitrarily close to L by taking x to be sufficiently close to a with x less than a .

One Sided Limits

Intuitive Definition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$$

and say the left-hand limit of f as x approaches a [or the limit of f as x approaches a from the left] is equal to L if we can make the values of f arbitrarily close to L by taking x to be sufficiently close to a with x less than a .

One Sided Limits

Intuitive Definition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

and say the right-hand limit of f as x approaches a [or the limit of f as x approaches a from the right] is equal to L if we can make the values of f arbitrarily close to L by taking x to be sufficiently close to a with x greater than a .

One Sided Limits

Intuitive Definition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

and say the right-hand limit of f as x approaches a [or the limit of f as x approaches a from the right] is equal to L if we can make the values of f arbitrarily close to L by taking x to be sufficiently close to a with x greater than a .

Theorem

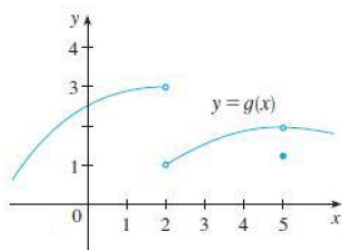
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

iff

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$$

Exercise 4

Find each limit (*if it exists.*)

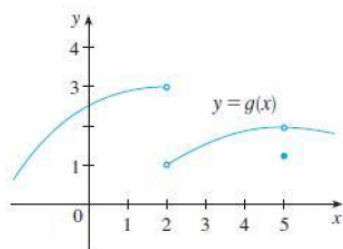


$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} g(x), \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} g(x), \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)$$

$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 5^-} g(x), \lim_{x \rightarrow 5^+} g(x), \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} g(x)$$

Exercise 4

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Exercise 5

Find the limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{|x|}{x}$$

Infinite Limits

Intuitive Definition

Let f be a function defined on both sides of a , except possibly at a itself. Then,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$$

means that the values of f can be made arbitrarily large (as large as we please) by taking x sufficiently close to a , but not equal to a .

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Intuitive Definition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = -\infty$$

Means that the values of f can be made arbitrarily large negatively by taking x sufficiently close to a , but not equal to a .

Exercise 6

Find

$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{x^2}$$

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Find

$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{x^2}$$

Exercise 7

Find

$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{x}$$

$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x}$$

$$(c) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x}$$

Exercise 7

Find

$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{x}$$

$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x}$$

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Limit Laws

Suppose that c is a constant and the limits

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$$

and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

exist. Then,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) - g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)}, \text{ if } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)^n = \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \right)^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} cf(x) = c \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} c = c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x^n = a^n$$

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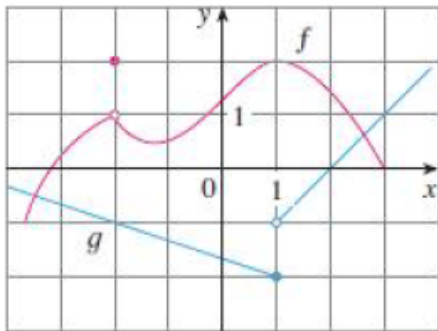
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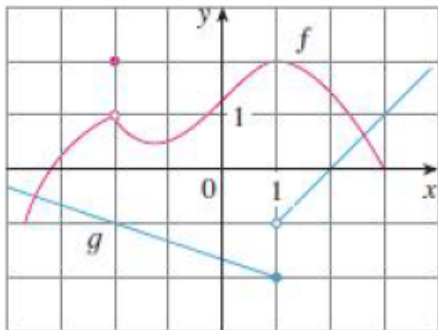
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x^n = a^n$$

Exercise 8

Use the Limit Laws and the graphs of f and g in Figure to evaluate the following limits, if they exist.



$$(i) \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} (f(x) + 3g(x))$$



$$(ii) \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) \cdot g(x)$$

$$(iii) \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$$

Direct Substitution Property

If f is a polynomial or a rational function and a is in the domain of f then,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$$

Exercise 9

Find

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{x-3}$$

The Squeeze Theorem

The Squeeze Theorem

If $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$ when x is near a (except possibly at a) and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} h(x) = L$$

then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L$$

Exercise 10

Find

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}$$

Outline

- 1 Limits
- 2 Continuity**
- 3 Derivatives

Continuity

Definition

A function f is continuous at a number a if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$$

f is discontinuous at a (or f has a discontinuity at a) if f is not continuous at a .

A discontinuity may be a removable discontinuity, jump discontinuity or an infinite discontinuity.

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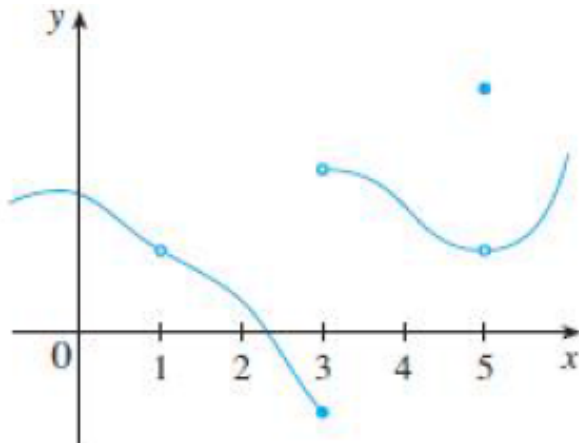
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Exercise 11

At which numbers is f discontinuous? Why?



Exercise 12

Where are each of the following functions discontinuous?

$$f(x) = \frac{1 - x^2}{1 - x}$$

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x^2}, & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Exercise 12

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- A function f is continuous from the right at a number a if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$$

- A function f is continuous from the left at a number a if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = f(a)$$

- A function f is continuous on an interval if it is continuous at every number in the interval.

- A function f is continuous from the right at a number a if

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- A function f is continuous on an interval if it is continuous at every number in the interval.

- If f is defined only on one side of an endpoint of the interval, it is continuous at the endpoint to mean continuous from the right or continuous from the left.

- If f and g are continuous at a and if c is a constant, then the following functions are also continuous at a :

$f + g, f - g, fg, cf,$ and f/g with $g(a) \neq 0$.

- The following types of functions are continuous at every number in their domains:

polynomials, *rational functions, root functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions.*

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Exercise 13

On what intervals is each function continuous?

- $f(x) = x^{10} - \pi x^5 + 7$

- $g(x) = \sqrt{x} + \frac{1+x}{1-x}$

If f is continuous at b and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = b$$

then,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f[g(x)] = f(b)$$

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Theorem

Theorem

If g is continuous at a and f is continuous at $g(a)$, then the composite function $f \circ g$ is continuous at a .

Exercise 14

On which interval

$$f(x) = \sin(x^2)$$

continuous?

Intermediate Value Theorem

Definition

Suppose that f is continuous on the closed interval $[a; b]$ and let N be any number between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, where $f(a) \neq f(b)$.

Then there exists a number $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f(c) = N$.

Exercise 15

Show that there is a root of the equation

$$4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2 = 0$$

between 1 and 2.

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Derivatives

Definition

The derivative of a function f at a number a , denoted by $f'(a)$, is

$$f'(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a + h) - f(a)}{h}$$

provided that this limit exists.

- The tangent line to the curve $y = f(x)$ at the point $P(a, f(a))$ is the line through P with slope $m = f'(a)$.

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Exercise 16

Find an equation of the tangent line to the parabola $y = x^2$ at the point $P(1, 1)$.

Exercise 17

A manufacturer produces bolts of a fabric with a fixed width.

The cost of producing x meters of this fabric is $C = f(x)$ rupees.

- What is the meaning of the derivative $f'(x)$? What are its units?
- In practical terms, what does it mean to say that $f'(1000) = 9$?

Notations

- If replace a by x which is a variable, it regard $f'(x)$ as a function.

Notations for derivative of $y = f(x)$

$$y' = y'(x) = f' = f'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}f = \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = Df(x) = D_x f(x)$$

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A function f is differentiable at a if $f'(a)$ exists. It is differentiable on an open interval (a, b) [or $(-\infty, b)$ or (a, ∞) or $(-\infty, \infty)$] if it is differentiable at every number in the interval.

Exercise 18

On which interval $f(x) = |x|$ differentiable?

Theorem

Theorem

If f is differentiable at a , then f is continuous at a .

- A function may fail to be differentiable due to a discontinuity, a corner, or a vertical tangent.
- If f is a differentiable function, then its derivative f' is also a function.

f' may have a derivative of its own, denoted by $(f')' = f''$.

This new function f'' is called the *second derivative* of f because it is the derivative of the derivative of f .

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- Notations for higher order derivatives; $f''(x)$, $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$, ... , $f^n(x)$, $\frac{d^ny}{dx^n}$
- If $s = s(t)$ is the position function of an object that moves in a straight line, its first derivative represents the (instantaneous) velocity $v(t)$ of the object as a function of time.

The instantaneous rate of change of velocity with respect to time is called the acceleration $a(t)$ of the object.

Thus the acceleration function is the derivative of the velocity function and is therefore the second derivative of the position function.

- Notations for higher order derivatives; $f''(x)$, $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$, ..., $f^n(x)$, $\frac{d^ny}{dx^n}$
- If $s = s(t)$ is the position function of an object that moves in a straight line, its first derivative represents the (instantaneous) velocity $v(t)$ of the object as a function of time.

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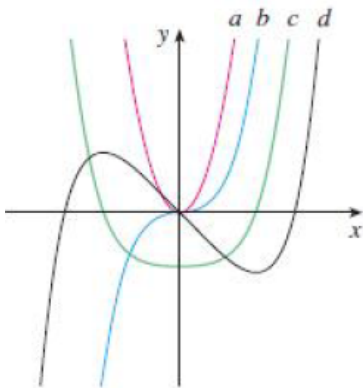
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Exercise 19

Figure shows graphs of f , f' , f'' , and f''' .

Identify each curve, and explain your choices.



Exercise 20

Researchers measured the average blood alcohol concentration $C(t)$ of eight men starting one hour after consumption of 30ml of ethanol (corresponding to two alcoholic drinks).

t (hours)	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
$C(t)$ (g/dL)	0.033	0.024	0.018	0.012	0.007

- Find the average rate of change of C with respect to t over each time interval:
 - $[1.0, 2.0]$
 - $[1.5, 2.0]$
 - $[2.0, 2.5]$
 - $[2.0, 3.0]$ In each case, include the units.
- Estimate the instantaneous rate of change at $t = 2$ and interpret your result. What are the units?

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