

1 Continuity

Definition 1.1. Limit definition of continuity Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ with $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $L \in \mathbb{R}^m$. we say

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

if for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that whenever $0 < \|x - c\| < \delta$ then $\|f(x) - L\| < \epsilon$

Remark. A limit exists iff the limit is the same regardless of the path taken to get to c . To prove that limit does not exists we simply take an arbitrary path and prove that limit converges to different points. To prove that limit is convergent, we use the Squeeze theorem.

Theorem 1.1. Multivariable Squeeze Theorem Let $f, g, h : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions and $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Assume that in some neighborhood of c , such that $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$ for all x in that neighborhood. If

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} h(x) = L \text{ then } \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L$$

Remark.

$$-|f(x)| \leq f(x) \leq |f(x)| \text{ then } |f(x)| \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow f(x) \rightarrow 0$$

Theorem 1.2. Sequence Definition of continuity: maps convergent sequence to convergent sequence A function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is continuous if and only if whenever $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} \rightarrow a$ is a convergent sequence in \mathbb{R}^n , then $(f(a_n))_{n=1}^{\infty} \rightarrow f(a)$ is a convergent sequence in \mathbb{R}^m

Theorem 1.3. Topological definition of continuity A function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is continuous if and only if whenever $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ is an open set, then $f^{-1}(U) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is also an open set.

Proof.

\Rightarrow Let $x \in f^{-1}(U)$, then $f(x) \in U$. Since U open, then $B_{\epsilon}(f(x)) \in U$. Since f continuous, let δ for the corresponding ϵ . We claim that $B_{\delta}(x) \in U$. We prove this by taking a point $y \in B_{\delta}(x)$, hence $\|y - x\| < \delta$. Then by continuity $\|f(y) - f(x)\| < \epsilon$. Then $f(y) \in B_{\epsilon}(f(x)) \subseteq U$. Then by definition of inverse functions $y \in f^{-1}(U)$. $B_{\delta}(x) \in U$ is true and therefore $f^{-1}(U)$ is open.

\Leftarrow Assume preimage of an open set is open for which we show f is continuous. Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given. Let $U = B_{\epsilon}(f(x))$ then $x \in f^{-1}(U)$. Since open set, exists $\delta > 0$ such that $B_{\delta}(x) \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$. Let $y \in B_{\delta}(x)$ then $\|y - x\| < \delta$ Since $f(y) \in f(B_{\delta}(x)) \subseteq U = B_{\epsilon}$. Then $\|f(y) - f(x)\| < \epsilon$ as required. \square

Remark. We can use topological definition to prove a set is open by finding a continuous function that transforms the set into an open set.

Theorem 1.4. If $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is continuous at c and $g : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ is continuous at $f(c)$, then $g \circ f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ is continuous at c .