

Calculus and Probability Theory

Assignment 1

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February 5, 2017

After completing these exercises successfully you should be confident with the following topics:

- Even and odd functions
- The domain and range of a function
- The limit of a function

1. **(10 points)** Let $f(x) = x - x^3$. Determine the values x for which

1. $f(x) = 0$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}x - x^3 &= 0 \\x &= x^3\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= -1 \\x_2 &= 0 \\x_3 &= 1\end{aligned}$$

2. $f(x) > 0$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}x - x^3 &> 0 \\x &> x^3\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$0 < x < 1$ and $x < -1$ or stated in another way: $(0, 1)$ and $(-\infty, -1)$

2. **(10 points)** Let's assume that x runs through the interval $(0, 1)$. What values does y run through for $y = a + (b - a)x$, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

Solution:

The most convenient form of straight-line equations is the "slope-intercept" form

$$y = mx + b$$

where m is the slope and b gives the y-intercept.

In the given equation

$$y = (b - a)x + a$$

$(b - a)$ is the slope and a is the y-intercept. Because we are dealing with variables here, I can't give definitive values for which y would run through. Nevertheless, the y-intercept would be a and the slope would be $(b - a)$.

3. **(10 points)** Are the following functions even or odd? In your explanation use the definition.

Definition: Parity of function

A function $f : (-a, a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **even** if $f(-x) = f(x)$, for all $x \in (-a, a)$, and **odd** if $f(-x) = -f(x)$, for all $x \in (-a, a)$.

(a) $f(x) = 3x - x^3$

Solution:

Let's check if the function is odd by checking if $f(-x) = -f(x)$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 3x - x^3 \\ f(-x) &= 3(-x) - (-x)^3 \\ f(-x) &= -3x + x^3 \\ &= -(3x - x^3) \\ &= -f(x) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the function is odd.

(b) $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{(1-x)^2} + \sqrt[3]{(1+x)^2}$

Solution:

Let's check if the function is even by checking if $f(-x) = f(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= \sqrt[3]{(1-x)^2} + \sqrt[3]{(1+x)^2} \\f(-x) &= \sqrt[3]{(1-(-x))^2} + \sqrt[3]{(1+(-x))^2} \\f(-x) &= \sqrt[3]{(1+x)^2} + \sqrt[3]{(1-x)^2} \\f(-x) &= f(x)\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the function is even.

4. **(10 points)** What is the inverse of

$$y = \frac{ax+b}{cx+d} \quad (ad-bc \neq 0)?$$

Solution:

- Switch the x's for y's

$$\frac{ay-b}{cy+d} = x$$

- Multiply both sides by $cy+d$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{ay-b}{cy+d} \cdot cy+d &= x \cdot cy+d \\ay-b &= x(cy+d)\end{aligned}$$

- Expand the x through the parenthesis

$$ay-b = cxy+dx$$

- Move y's to one side

$$ay-cxy = b+dx$$

- Factor out the x

$$y(a-cx) = b+dx$$

- Divide both sides by $a-cx$ and you get the inverse

$$y = \frac{b+dx}{a-cx}$$

5. **(30 points)** Determine the domains and ranges of the following functions.

(a) $f(x) = \sqrt{7-x^2} + 1$

Solution:

- $D(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid -\sqrt{7} \leq x \leq \sqrt{7}\}$
- $R(f) = \{f(x) \in \mathbb{R} \mid 1 \leq f(x) \leq 1 + \sqrt{7}\}$

(b) $f(x) = \frac{x-5}{x^2-3x-10}$

Solution:

Trying to simplify the term:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{x-5}{x^2-3x-10} \\ &= \frac{x-5}{(x-5)(x+2)} \\ &= \frac{1}{x+2} \end{aligned}$$

- $D(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \neq -2 \wedge x \neq 5\}$
- $R(f) = \{f(x) \in \mathbb{R} \mid f(x) \neq 0 \wedge f(x) \neq \frac{1}{7}\}$

(c) $f(x) = \frac{1}{|x|}$

Solution:

- $D(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \neq 0\}$
- $R(f) = \{f(x) \in \mathbb{R} \mid f(x) > 0\}$

6. **(30 points)** Find the limits. (Hint: try to simplify as much as possible before applying the limit!)

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3(x-1)+3}{x}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3(x-1)+3}{x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x-3+3}{x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x}{x} \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x-2}{x^2+x-6}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x-2}{x^2+x-6} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x-2}{(x-2)(x+3)} \\
&= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{1}{x+3} \\
&= \frac{1}{5}
\end{aligned}$$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2-4x+3}{x^2+x-2}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2-4x+3}{x^2+x-2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)(x-3)}{(x-1)(x+2)} \\
&= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-3}{x+2} \\
&= -\frac{2}{3}
\end{aligned}$$