

**Exercise Abbott 4.5.2:** Provide an example of each of the following, or explain why the request is impossible,

1. A continuous function defined on an open interval with range equal to a closed interval

**Solution:**

Suppose a function  $\sin(x)$  defined on the open interval  $(0, 2\pi)$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Now consider some  $c \in (0, 2\pi)$  and let  $\delta = \epsilon$ . then for all  $x \in (0, 2\pi)$ ,  $|x - c| < \delta$  we get that,

$$\begin{aligned} |\sin(x) - \sin(c)| &= |2\cos(\frac{x+c}{2})\sin(\frac{x-c}{2})| \\ &\leq 2(1)|\sin(\frac{x-c}{2})| \\ &\leq 2(1)|\frac{x-c}{2}| \\ &\leq |x - c| \\ &< \delta \\ &< \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Now note that the range of  $\sin(x)$  on the interval  $(0, 2\pi)$  is  $[-1, 1]$  a closed interval.

2. A continuous function defined on a closed interval with a range equal to an open interval.

**Solution:**

Such a request is impossible. Note that a closed interval is a compact set, by Theorem 4.4.1 (Preservation of Compact Sets) we know that if the domain of a continuous function is compact then so is the range.

3. A continuous function defined on an open interval with range equal to an unbounded closed set different from  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Solution:**

Consider the function  $f(x) = |\tan(x)|$  defined by  $f : (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Note that the range of  $f$  is  $[0, \infty)$  which is an unbounded closed set different from  $\mathbb{R}$ .

4. A continuous function defined on all of  $\mathbb{R}$  with a range equal to  $\mathbb{Q}$

**Solution:**

Such a request is impossible. Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists a function  $f$  defined on all  $\mathbb{R}$  such that the range of  $f$  was equal to  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Consider some set  $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  such that  $K = [a, b]$ . By Theorem 4.4.1  $f(K) = [f(a), f(b)]$ . By the density of  $\mathbb{I}$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  there exists some  $i \in \mathbb{I}$  such that  $i \in f(K)$ . Thus the range of  $f$  is not equal to  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Exercise Abbott 4.5.5 (b):** You may assume that you have found a sequence of nested intervals  $I_k = [a_k, b_k]$  with  $f(a_k) < 0$  and  $f(b_k) \geq 0$  and  $|I_{k+1}| = |I_k|/2$ , where  $|\cdot|$  denotes the length of the interval.

For those of you in Numerical Analysis, this proof of the IVT mirrors the bisection method for finding roots!

*Proof.* Consider the case where  $L = 0$  and we suppose that  $f(a) < 0 < f(b)$ . As described in the text we have constructed a series of nested intervals  $I_k = [a_k, b_k]$  with  $f(a_k) < 0$  and  $f(b_k) \geq 0$  and  $|I_{k+1}| = |I_k|/2$ . By the Nested Interval Property we know that,

$$\bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$$

Let  $c \in \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} I_n$ . Also note that by the NIP that the sequences  $a_k \rightarrow c$ ,  $b_k \rightarrow c$ . Since  $f$  is continuous by the sequential criteria for continuity we know that  $f(a_k) \rightarrow f(c)$  and  $f(b_k) \rightarrow f(c)$ . Recall that by the construction of our intervals  $I_k$  the inequality,

$$f(a_k) < 0 \leq f(b_k),$$

holds for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Finally by the squeeze theorem we get that

$$f(c) \leq 0 \leq f(c),$$

and so  $f(c) = 0$ . □

**Exercise Abbott 4.4.3:** Show that  $f(x) = 1/x^2$  is uniformly continuous on the set  $[1, \infty)$  but not on the set  $(0, 1]$

*Proof.* Consider some function on  $f : [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f(x) = 1/x^2$  and let  $c \in [1, \infty)$ . Consider the following,

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

Note that on the domain of  $[1, \infty)$ ,  $\frac{(x+c)}{x^2c^2}$  is bounded above by 2 which gives us that,

$$|f(x) - f(c)| \leq 2|x - c|.$$

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Choose  $\delta = \epsilon/2$ . Then,  $|x - c| < \delta$  implies,

$$|f(x) - f(c)| \leq 2|x - c| < 2\frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon.$$

□

*Proof.* Consider some function on  $f : (0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f(x) = 1/x^2$ . Consider the sequences  $x_n, y_n \in (0, 1]$  where  $x_n = \frac{1}{n}$  and  $y_n = \frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{1}{n}$ . Now consider the following sequence,

$$|x_n - y_n| = \frac{1}{n} - \left(\frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{1}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{n^2}.$$

Note that  $|x_n - y_n| \rightarrow 0$ . Now consider the function limit

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x_n) - f(y_n)| &= \left| \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n^2}} - \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{1}{n}\right)^2} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n^2}} - \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n^4} - \frac{2}{n^3} + \frac{1}{n^2}} \right| \\ &= |n^2 - (n^4 - \frac{n^3}{2} + n^2)| \\ &= |-n^4 + \frac{n^3}{2}|. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly this limit is divergent, note that  $|f(x_n) - f(y_n)| \geq \frac{1}{2}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . Thus by the Theorem 4.4.5 (Sequential Criterion for Absence of Uniform Continuity) we know that  $f$  is not uniformly continuous on  $(0, 1]$  □

**Exercise Abbott 4.2.10:** Introductory calculus courses typically refer to the right-hand limit of a function as the limit obtained by "letting  $x$  approach  $a$  from the right-hand side."

1. Give a proper definition in the style of Definition 4.2.1 for the right-hand and left-hand limit statements,

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

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

**Solution:**

Let  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $c$  be a limit point of the domain  $A$ . We say that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) =$

$L$  provided that, for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that whenever  $0 < c - x < \delta$  (and  $x \in A$ ) it follows that  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

Similarly we say that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$  provided that, for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that whenever  $0 < x - c < \delta$  (and  $x \in A$ ) it follows that  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

Prove that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$  if and only if both right and left-hand limits equal  $L$

*Proof.* Suppose a function  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with the property that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ . By the definition of the Functional Limit we know that for all  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that whenever  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$  we get that  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ . Consider the case where  $x < c$  then we get the inequality  $0 < x - c < \delta$  and therefore by definition  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$ . Now consider the case where  $x > c$  we get the inequality  $0 < c - x < \delta$  and therefore by definition  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$ .

Suppose a function  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with the property that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$ . By definition this gives us that for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that whenever  $0 < c - x < \delta$  or  $0 < x - c < \delta$  it follows that  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ . Note that  $0 < c - x < \delta$  or  $0 < x - c < \delta$  implies that  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$  thus by definition  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ .  $\square$