

Calculus I Recitation

Yuanxing Cheng

September 11, 2023

1	Functions and Limits	2
1.1	Four Ways to Represent a Function	2
1.2	Mathematical Models	2
1.3	New Functions from Old Functions	4
1.4	The Tangent and Velocity Problems	4
1.5	The Limit of a Function	4
1.6	Calculating Limits using the Limit Laws	5
1.7	The Precise Definition of a Limit	6
1.8	Continuity	6
1.9	Exercises	7
2	Derivatives	9
2.1	Derivatives and Rates of Change	9
2.2	The Derivative as a Function	9
2.3	Exercises	11

The recitation is based on *Calculus, 9th edition, Stewart*.

1 Functions and Limits

1.1 Four Ways to Represent a Function

function, it's domain and range

function $y = f(x)$ and X, Y are two sets. $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$. A function is a rule that assigns each $x \in X$ to exactly one element $y = f(x) \in Y$. Domain of a function X is the set of inputs accepted by the function so that the function makes sense.

- age, height are positive by default
- $1/0$ doesn't make sense

range can be obtained after you have the domain $Y = \{y = f(x) \mid x \in X\}$.

piecewise defined function

Divide domain of f into subsets X_1, X_2, \dots without intersection, so $X_i \cap X_j = \emptyset$. Then,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f_1(x), & x \in X_1 \\ f_2(x), & x \in X_2 \\ \vdots \end{cases}$$

even function and odd function

function $f(x)$ is even if $f(x) = f(-x)$ and is odd if $f(x) = -f(-x)$, for any x in its domain.

increasing and decreasing

function $f(x)$ is increasing on an interval I if $f(x_1) \leq f(x_2)$, for any $x_1, x_2 \in I$, $x_1 < x_2$.

function $f(x)$ is decreasing on an interval I if $f(x_1) \geq f(x_2)$, for any $x_1, x_2 \in I$, $x_1 < x_2$.

1.2 Mathematical Models

mathematical model

math description of a phenomenon, usually by equations. For example someone's age vs year.

year (at Jan. 1st)	age
2020	1
2021	2
2022	3

linear function: y is a linear function of x .

when changes of y is proportion to the changes of x . For an arbitrary point belong to this relationship, (x, y) and a fixed point (x_1, y_1) also belong to this relationship,

$$\begin{aligned} y - y_1 &= m(x - x_1), m \neq 0 \\ y &= mx - mx_1 + y_1 = mx + b \end{aligned}$$

we call m the slope and b the y -intercept.

polynomial function: $P(x)$

$P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$, n is nonnegative integer, $a_n \neq 0$ and its degree is n . A linear function is a polynomial of degree 1, and a quadratic function is a polynomial of degree 2, cubic for 3.

power function

$f(x) = x^a$. If a is an integer n ,

- if n is even, then $f(x)$ is even for $f(x) = f(-x)$
- if n is odd, then $f(x)$ is odd for $f(x) = -f(-x)$

If $a = 1/n$ with n a positive integer, $f(x) = x^a$ is a root function. If $a = -1$, $f(x) = x^{-1}$ is a reciprocal function.

rational function

$f(x) = P(x)/Q(x)$, where P and Q are two polynomial functions.

Trigonometric function

Given a right triangle, an angle x in radian measure. For this angle x , define the opposite side to be the side opposite to x , with length a , define the adjacent side to be the side between x and the right angle, with length b , and the hypotenuse side to be the side opposite to the right angle, with length c , then

$\sin(x) = a/c$, $\cos(x) = b/c$, and $\tan(x) = a/b$; then $\csc(x) = 1/\sin(x)$, $\sec(x) = 1/\cos(x)$ and $\cot(x) = 1/\tan(x)$.



period function

if $f(x) = f(x + T)$, where T is a constant.

algebraic function, and transcendental if not

functions constructed using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, raising to a whole number power, and taking roots. And some transcendental functions: $\sin(x)$, $\log(x)$, e^x .

Exponential and Logarithmic function

Exponential function has the form $y = f(x) = b^x$, and logarithmic function has the form $y = f(x) = \log_b x = \log x / \log b$

1.3 New Functions from Old Functions

shifting a function $f(x)$

new function $g(x) = f(x - h) + v$, has the plot same as shift the plot of $f(x)$ v units to the right vertically and h units upward horizontally. Notice when $h < 0$, shifting h units to the right equals to shifting $|h|$ units to the left.

stretching and reflecting a function $f(x)$

new function $g(x) = v \times f(x/h)$, has the plot same as stretch the plot of $f(x)$ by a factor of v vertically and h units horizontally.

If $v < 0$, we do a reflection about the line $y = 0$ (x-axis) first then stretch by a factor of $|v|$ vertically, and if $h < 0$, we do a reflection about the line $x = 0$ (y-axis) first then stretch by a factor of $|h|$ horizontally.

if $|v| < 1$ or $|h| < 1$, it's a shrinking operation, not stretching.

combination of functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$

$f + g$ sum, $f - g$ difference, fg product, and f/g quotient. The domain of the new function is the intersection of domains of f and g .

composition of functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$

$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$. To make sure x is accepted, first $g(x)$ need to make sense, then exclude those x so that if letting $z = g(x)$, $f(z)$ make sense.

1. Let $z = g(x)$ so that $f \circ g(x) = f(z)$
2. find domain of $f(z)$, say set/interval Z
3. simplify $z = g(x) \in Z$ and obtain $x \in X_1$
4. find domain of $g(x)$, X_2
5. the domain of $f \circ g(x)$ is then $X_1 \cap X_2$

1.4 The Tangent and Velocity Problems

secant line and tangent line

With a given curve C , a secant line is a line passing through two points of a curve. In most cases, as one point is brought towards the other, the secant line tends to be the tangent line at the other point.

The slope of the tangent line is the limit of the slopes of the secant lines.

difference quotient

$$\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}, h \neq 0$$

1.5 The Limit of a Function

the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a

Suppose $f(x)$ is defined when x is near the number a , Then we write

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

or $f(x) \rightarrow L$ as $x \rightarrow a$, if we can make the values of $f(x)$ arbitrarily close to L by restricting x to be sufficiently close to a (on either side of a) but not equal to a .

In $\epsilon - \delta$ language, the condition is: $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x, 0 < |x - a| < \delta$ we have $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$.

left-side limits

Suppose $f(x)$ is defined when x is near the number a , and also $x < a$. Then we write

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

or $f(x) \rightarrow L$ as $x \rightarrow a^-$, if we can make the values of $f(x)$ arbitrarily close to L by restricting x to be sufficiently close to a (on left side of a) but not equal to a .

In $\epsilon - \delta$ language, the condition is: $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x, 0 < a - x < \delta$ we have $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$.

Right-side limit is defined in a similar way.

And we have $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \iff \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$

infinite limits

In this case the limit doesn't exist.

Suppose $f(x)$ is defined when x is near the number a , Then we write

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

or $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow a$, if we can make the values of $f(x)$ arbitrarily large by restricting x to be sufficiently close to a (on either side of a) but not equal to a .

In $\epsilon - \delta$ language, the condition is: $\forall M > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x, 0 < |x - a| < \delta$ we have $f(x) > M$.

Negative infinite limits, one-sided infinite limits can be defined similarly.

And then we call $x = a$ the vertical asymptote of the curve $f(x)$.

1.6 Calculating Limits using the Limit Laws

limit laws

Following operation is interchangeable with finding the limits.

- summation
- difference
- scalar multiplication
- product
- quotient (excluding the case where the denominator has limit 0)
- power to n or $1/n$, n is any positive integer

direct substitution property

if the function limit at a is equal to the function value at a . And we call the function is continuous at a if this property hold.

the Squeeze theorem

Lemma 1.1. if $f(x) \leq g(x)$ when x is near a , and the limits of f and g exist at a , then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$.

Theorem 1.2. With this, we can show that if $f \leq g \leq h$ when x is near a , and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} h(x) = L$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L$.

1.7 The Precise Definition of a Limit

see the $\epsilon - \delta$ language part in [subsection 1.5](#). For $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$, we mean that $f(x)$ will approach L , as long as we move x to a point close enough to a , but not a itself.

- a , the target point, where we want to know about the function limit
- ϵ measures how close the function value $f(x)$ at the moving point x to the limit L , with $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$
- we want ϵ arbitrarily small, so ϵ can be any positive number
- δ measures how close the moving point x to the target point a , with $0 < |x - a| < \delta$
- In many simple cases, δ is a function of ϵ . So if we can prove that $0 < |x - a| < \delta(\epsilon)$ leads to $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$, then the limit L is found.

The easiest case is when $f(x) = x, x \neq a$, we can consider $\delta(\epsilon) = \epsilon$ so that we have $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = a$.

1.8 Continuity

point continuity

A function f is continuous at $x = a$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

type of discontinuity at a point $x = a$

- removable: when we can define a new value for $f(a)$ so that $f(x)$ can regain continuity at $x = a$. (a pothole)
- jump: when the left limit and the right limit exist but they are not equal (stairs)
- infinite: when the left limit or the right limit doesn't exist. ($1/x$ and $\sin(1/x)$)

left continuity and interval continuity

A function f is continuous from the right at a point $x = a$ 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.

Properties of continuous function

Theorem 1.3. If f and g are both continuous at a , then their combination $f \pm g, fg, f/g$ where $g(a) \neq 0$, are continuous at a .

If g is continuous at a and f is continuous at $g(a)$, then the composition $f(g(x))$ is continuous at a .

Intermediate Value Theorem

Theorem 1.4. 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 $f(c) = N$.

meaning a continuous function takes on every intermediate value between the function values at two ends of the interval.

1.9 Exercises

Define $y(x) = \frac{x^2-x}{2(x-2)}$ and $g(x) = \frac{x}{2}$. State the difference between them and plot them.

Given that $y = x^2$, is y a function of x ? is x a function of y ? If not, add a restriction to make it/them function(s) and plot them.

are the following functions odd, even, or neither. x^2 where $x > 0$, $\tan(x + \pi/4)$, x^{20} , x^{-20} , e^{x^3} , x^x where x is a integer.

transform the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{2x} + 2$ to $g(x) = -\frac{1}{x-2}$, and plot what you gain at each step.

find difference quotient of $x^2 + 2x + 3$ and $\frac{2}{x}$.

plot function $y = \text{sgn}(x) := \begin{cases} 1, & x > 0 \\ 0, & x = 0 \\ -1, & x < 0 \end{cases}$ and function $z = g(x) = \begin{cases} |x|, & x \neq 0 \\ 1, & x = 0 \end{cases}$. And then find the limit, left limit and right limit of $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ at $x = 0$.

An object is moving straightforward. The location x and time t has an approximated relation $x = 2t^3 + t^2 + 5t$. What's the average speed from $t = 1$ to $t = 3$?

For the previous question, first simplify the difference quotient of the distance function $\frac{x(t+\Delta t)-x(t)}{\Delta t}$ at $t = 1$. What's the limit when Δt goes to 0? Also what's the limit of $x(t)$ at $t = 1$? Use words to explain their difference.

Use $\epsilon - \delta$ language to show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 1/x = 1$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^3 = 8$.

Use $\epsilon - \delta$ language to prove $x \sin(1/x)$ has limit 0 at $x = 0$ and $\sin(1/x)$ doesn't have limit at $x = 0$. Then use Squeeze theorem to prove the first part.

Use $\epsilon - \delta$ language to prove that the limit at point $x = a$ doesn't exist when the left limit doesn't equal to the right limit.

Use $\epsilon - \delta$ language to prove that function of the form kx^n is continuous everywhere, where $k \neq 0$ and n is an integer.

Use $\epsilon - \delta$ language to prove the properties of the continuous function [Theorem 1.3](#).

Show that there's a solution of the equation $x^4 - 5 = 0$ between 0 and 2.

Show function $f(x) = x$ and function $g(x) = \sin(x)$ intersect with each other.

In the film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, Benjamin was born at the age of 85. His age decreases as time passes until the end of his life at age 0. Now consider somewhere on earth a normal child Xavier was born at the same time when Benjamin was born. Assume Xavier is gonna live for at least 85 years, prove there exists a time when Benjamin and Xavier will be at the same age. Make a story of this kind on your own. Maybe transferring water from cup A to cup B.

2 Derivatives

2.1 Derivatives and Rates of Change

tangent line to the curve $f(x)$ at the point $P(a, f(a))$

The line through P with slope:

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

provided that this limit exists.

Notice that we can define $g(x, a) = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$ and it will be the slope of the secant line passing points $(a, f(a))$ and $(x, f(x))$.

Another form can be obtained by a change of variable. Letting $x = a + h$, we have

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

average velocity and instantaneous velocity

With a displacement function, or a position function $x(t)$, we define the following:

- Average velocity: $\bar{v}(t) = \frac{x(t + \Delta t) - x(t)}{\Delta t}$
- Instantaneous velocity (or just call it velocity): $v(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \bar{v}(t)$
- Speed: the absolute value of velocity $|v(t)|$

the derivative of a function f at a point a , denoted by $f'(a)$

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

if the limit exists.

rate of change of y with respect to x

- Average rate of change of y with respect to x : $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x_1 + \Delta x) - f(x_1)}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$
- Instantaneous rate of change of y with respect to x : $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \lim_{x_2 \rightarrow x_1} \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$

2.2 The Derivative as a Function

the derivative of a function f

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

and it is defined where $f'(x)$ exists. Other notations

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

$$f'(a) = \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=a} = \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right]_{x=a}$$

differentiable function

If $f'(a)$ exists, we say f is differentiable at point $x = a$.

differentiability implies continuity

Theorem 2.1. *If f is differentiable at a , then f is continuous at a .*

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(x+h) - f(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (f(x+h) - f(x)) \left(\frac{h}{h} \right) \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} h \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= 0 f'(x) = 0\end{aligned}$$

□

And the converse is not true.

cases of function that is not differentiable at point $x = a$.

- $f(a)$ doesn't exist
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ doesn't exist
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \neq f(a)$
- $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ doesn't exist
 - limit is infinity: notice in this case we say the function has a vertical tangent line and it's not the vertical asymptote.
 - left limit does not equal to right limit

The first three cases are for discontinuity.

higher derivatives

The n th derivative of $f(x)$ is denoted by $f^{(n)}(x)$ and is obtained from f by differentiating n times. Other notations:

$$f^{(n)}(x) = y^{(n)} = \frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$$

$$f''(x) = (f'(x))'$$

In the case of position function $x(t)$, we call

- position $x(t)$
- velocity $x'(t) = v(t) = \dot{x}(t)$
- acceleration $x''(t) = a(t) = \dot{v}(t) = \ddot{x}(t)$
- jerk $x'''(t) = j(t) = \dot{a}(t)$

2.3 Exercises

find the derivatives of the functions of general types: linear, polynomial, power, rational, trigonometric, exponential and logarithmic

find the tangent line at point $x = 1$ for the following functions: $y = \frac{3}{x^2}$, $y = \sqrt{5x - 3}$, $y = \frac{x+1}{x+2}$, $y = 6$

If f is odd, what about f' ? And what if f is even?
