MA 101 (Mathematics-I)

Subhamay Saha and Ayon Ganguly Department of Mathematics IIT Guwahati

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We write: $\lim_{x \to x_0} f(x) = \ell$.

Result: If limit exists, then it is unique.

Example: $\lim_{x \to 1} (\frac{3x}{2} - 1) = \frac{1}{2}$. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. We have to find $\delta > 0$ such that $0 < |x - 1| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - \ell| < \varepsilon$ holds with $\ell = 1/2$. Working backwards,

$$\frac{3}{2}|x-1|<\varepsilon \text{ whenever } |x-1|<\delta:=\frac{2}{3}\varepsilon.$$

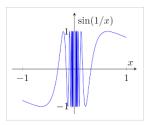
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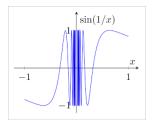
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Theorem (Sequential criterion)

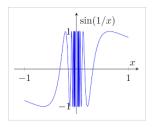
Let $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and let $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for some h > 0, $(x_0 - h, x_0 + h) \setminus \{x_0\} \subseteq D$. Let $f : D \to \mathbb{R}$. Then the following are equivalent.

- (a) $\lim_{x \to x_0} f(x) = \ell$.
- (b) For any sequence (x_n) in D with $x_n \neq x_0$ for all $n \geq 1$ and $x_n \to x_0$, the sequence $(f(x_n))$ converges to ℓ .



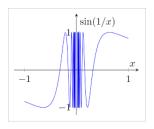


Solution: Let $x_n = \frac{2}{(4n+1)\pi}$ and $y_n = \frac{1}{n\pi}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $x_n \to 0$ and $y_n \to 0$.



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Since $\sin \frac{1}{x_n} = 1$ and $\sin \frac{1}{y_n} = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we get $\sin \frac{1}{x_n} \to 1$ and $\sin \frac{1}{y_n} \to 0$.



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Therefore by the sequential criterion for limit, $\lim_{x\to 0} \sin\frac{1}{x}$ does not exist.

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Result: Let $f:D\to\mathbb{R}$. Suppose that $\lim_{x\to x_0}f(x)=\ell$. Then there exists some $\delta>0$ such that f is bounded on $(x_0-\delta,x_0+\delta)\setminus\{x_0\}$. That is, there exists M>0 such that |f(x)|< M for all $x\in(x_0-\delta,x_0+\delta)$ with $x\neq x_0$.

Let $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and let $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for some h > 0, $(x_0 - h, x_0 + h) \setminus \{x_0\} \subseteq D$. Let $f, g, j : D \to \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that $\lim_{x \to x_0} f(x) = \ell$ and $\lim_{x \to x_0} g(x) = m$. Then

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- (3) $\lim_{x \to x_0} (fg)(x) = \ell m$ and if $m \neq 0$ and $g(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in D$, then $\lim_{x \to x_0} \frac{1}{g(x)} = \frac{1}{m}$.

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- (4) If $f(x) \leq j(x) \leq g(x)$ for all $x \in (x_0 h, x_0 + h) \setminus \{x_0\}$ and $\ell = m$, then $\lim_{x \to x_0} j(x) = \ell$.



Result: Suppose that f(x) is bounded in

$$(x_0 - h, x_0 + h) \setminus \{x_0\}$$
 for some $h > 0$ and $\lim_{x \to x_0} g(x) = 0$.

Then $\lim_{x\to x_0} f(x)g(x) = 0$.

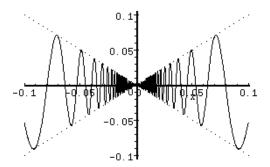
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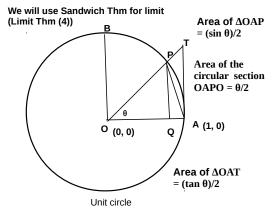
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Result:
$$\lim_{x \to x_0} f(x) = \ell \Leftrightarrow \lim_{x \to x_0+} f(x) = \lim_{x \to x_0-} f(x) = \ell$$
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Limits at infinity and infinite limits

Definition: f(x) has limit ℓ as x approaches $+\infty$, if for any given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists M > 0 such that

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Definition: A function f(x) approaches ∞ $(f(x) \to \infty)$ as $x \to x_0$ if, for every real M > 0, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$0<|x-x_0|<\delta\implies f(x)>M.$$

Similarly, one can define limit of f(x) approaching $-\infty$.

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For (ii), let
$$x_n = \frac{1}{\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi}$$
 and $y_n = \frac{1}{n\pi}$. Then $x_n, y_n \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$.

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Theorem

Suppose that $\lim_{x\to x_0} f(x) = \ell$. If $\ell \neq 0$, then there exists some δ such that $f(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in (x_0 - \delta, x_0 + \delta) \setminus \{x_0\}$.

Continuous functions

Let D be a nonempty subset of $\mathbb R$ and $f:D\to\mathbb R$. We say that f is continuous at $x_0\in D$ if for each $\varepsilon>0$, there exists $\delta>0$ such that $|f(x)-f(x_0)|<\varepsilon$ for all $x\in D$ satisfying $|x-x_0|<\delta$.

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Sequential criterion of continuity: $f: D \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous at $x_0 \in D$ if and only if for every sequence (x_n) in D such that $x_n \to x_0$, we have $f(x_n) \to f(x_0)$.

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We say that $f: D \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous if f is continuous at each $x_0 \in D$.



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Result: If $f: D \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous at $x_0 \in D$ and $f(x_0) \neq 0$, then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $f(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in D$ satisfying $|x - x_0| < \delta$.



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Intermediate value theorem: Let I be an interval of \mathbb{R} and let $f: I \to \mathbb{R}$ be continuous. If $a, b \in I$ with a < b and if f(a) < k < f(b), then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that f(c) = k.

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Examples:

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- **a** The equation $x^2 = x \sin x + \cos x$ has at least two real roots.
- **6** (Fixed point) If $f:[a,b] \to [a,b]$ is continuous, then there exists $c \in [a,b]$ such that f(c) = c.



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Result: If $f:[a,b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, then the supremum and the infimum of f(x) are attained in [a,b]. That is, there exist $x_0, y_0 \in [a,b]$ such that $f(x_0) \le f(x) \le f(y_0)$ for all $x \in [a,b]$.

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Result: Let A be a closed and bounded subset of \mathbb{R} . If $f: A \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, then f is bounded.

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then A is called a closed set if A contains all its limit points. That is, if (x_n) is a sequence in A converging to x, then $x \in A$.

For example, \mathbb{R} , [a, b], $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$, \mathbb{N} are closed sets. But, (a, b), \mathbb{Q} are not closed sets.

Result: Let A be a closed and bounded subset of \mathbb{R} . If $f: A \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, then f is bounded.

Remark: The above result is not true if A is bounded but not closed. For example f(x) = 1/x on (0,1). Also, the result is not true if A is closed but not bounded. For example, f(x) = x on \mathbb{R} .