

Analysis 1B — Tutorial 3

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February 2023

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Introduction

Here is the material to accompany the 3rd Analysis 1B Tutorial on the 20th February. Alternative formats can be downloaded by clicking the download icon at the top of the page. Please send any comments or corrections to [Christian Jones \(caj50\)](#). To return to the homepage, click [here](#).

1 Lecture Recap

1.1 Algebra of Limits for Functions

From last week, recall that we showed that we can characterise the limit of a function at a point in terms of sequences. This was brilliant, as it allowed us to apply the theory we derived in Semester 1 directly to functions. In particular, this gives us an easy way of finding the limits of sums and products of functions:

Theorem 1.1 (Algebra of Limits).

Let $c, L, M, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, and let $f, g : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where D is a punctured neighbourhood of c . Suppose $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$, and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M$. Then:

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f \pm g)(x) = L \pm M$,
2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \lambda f(x) = \lambda L$,
3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (fg)(x) = LM$,
4. If $g(x) \neq 0 \forall x \in D$, and $M \neq 0$, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \left(\frac{f}{g} \right)(x) = \frac{L}{M}.$$

Note that here, we define the **product** of f and g by $(fg)(x) = f(x)g(x)$ — don't get this confused with the composition $(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$!

1.2 Left and Right Limits

When finding the limit of a function f at a point c in the interior of its domain, we are free to approach c from whichever direction we like. However, we could equally restrict ourselves to approaching c only from the left or the right, and observing how the function values respond. This gives rise to the idea of **left and right hand limits**.

Definition 1.1 (Left and Right Hand Limits).

Let $c, L, M \in \mathbb{R}$, and let $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where D is a punctured neighbourhood of c . Then:

1. (Right hand limit) $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L$ means that

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 \text{ s.t } \forall x \in D, 0 < x - c < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon.$$

2. (Left hand limit) $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = M$ means that

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 \text{ s.t } \forall x \in D, 0 < c - x < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - M| < \epsilon.$$

As the names suggest, we approach c from the left when calculating the left hand limit, and we approach c from the right when calculating the right hand limit. It also turns out that these objects can be very useful in calculating function limits, especially when the function is defined piecewise:

Proposition 1.2.

Let $c \in \mathbb{R}$, and let $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where D is a punctured neighbourhood of c . Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ exists if and only if both the left and right hand limits exist, and are equal.

Finally, note that if we had a function on a domain such as $D = [-1, 2]$, we could only search for the right hand limit at $c = -1$, and the left hand limit at $c = 2$. This is because there is no way we could approach these elements of the domain from the left or right respectively.

1.3 Continuity

A stronger statement than requiring a function to have a limit at a value c is for that function to be continuous. Up until now, you may have thought of a continuous function as one that can be drawn without taking your pen off the page. We can make that idea more precise in the following definition:

Definition 1.2 (Continuity).

Let $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, and $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then f is continuous at a point c if

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall x \in D, |x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| < \epsilon.$$

You might be thinking that this looks remarkably like the definition of a limit from last week, and you would be right. In fact:

$$f \text{ is continuous at } c \iff \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c).$$

However, note that we require f to be defined at c for f to be continuous; in the limit definition, we didn't care whether or not $f(c)$ existed.

2 Hints

As per usual, here's where you'll find the problem sheet hints!

- 1) Part a) is all about using the epsilon-delta definition of limit. Firstly, note that there are two things to prove here because of the 'if and only if'. Think about how you can substitute variables to move from the definition of one limit to the definition of the other. For part b), think about using a step function for f .
- 2) Again, this is all about manipulating an unfamiliar definition, and again, there are two things to prove! Pretty much the same idea applies here too — try and rewrite one definition so it starts to look like the other, then use that to make a choice of δ and/or M (depending on which implication you are proving).

3) This is very similar to the example we did in tutorials. The trick $(a - b)(a + b) = a^2 - b^2$, and the triangle inequality should come in handy for this one!