A Sample Beamer Presentation

Eric Towne

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Bates College

May 14, 2014

Presentation Outline

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A Counterexample

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Consider the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin(1/x), & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

Let's see what f'(0) is.

Finding f'(0)

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By the definition of derivative,

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

$$= \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{h^2 \sin(1/h) - 0}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \to 0} h \sin(1/h)$$

Since $-h \le h \sin(1/h) \le h$ and $\lim_{h \to 0} (-h) = \lim_{h \to 0} (h) = 0$, the Squeeze Theorem says f'(0) = 0.

What Really Happens at x = 0?

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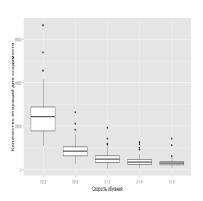
But f(x) oscillates wildly as $x \to 0$, so even though f'(0) = 0, f has neither max, min, nor inflection point at x = 0.

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$$y = f(x), y = x^2, y = -x^2$$

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It's natural to think that if g'(c) > 0 then g must be "increasing at x = c."

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But what does "increasing at x = c." really mean?

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A Reasonable Definition

A function g is *increasing at* x = c if there is an open interval $I = (c - \delta, c + \delta)$ such that

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A function g is *increasing at* x = c if there is an open interval $I = (c - \delta, c + \delta)$ such that if $x_1, x_2 \in I$, then $x_1 < x_2 \Rightarrow g(x_1) < g(x_2)$.

Our Function with a Slight Twist

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Let's modify our function to

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 0.5x + x^2 \sin(1/x), & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

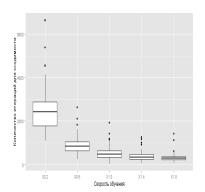
Using the definition of derivative as before, we will find that g'(0)=0.5.

What Really Happens at x = 0?

A Sample Beamer Presentation However, g(x) still oscillates enough as $x \to 0$ that there is no open interval containing x = 0 that satisfies our definition of g increasing at x = 0 even though g'(0) > 0.

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$$y = g(x), y = x^2 + 0.5x, y = x^2 - 0.5x$$

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The function f(x) introduced earlier has other interesting properties, one of which is the fact that while f'(0) exists, f'(x) is discontinuous at x = 0.

We leave it to you to work this out for yourself and to explore this interesting function further.

Thank you for your attention today.