Real Analysis HW #9

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Question 1

Let $g : A \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $f : A \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = 0$.

(a) Show that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)g(x) = 0$ for any function g as above IS NOT TRUE.

Proof: Assume for the sake of contradiction that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)g(x) = 0$ for any $g(x)$. Consider the case when $g(x) = 1/x^2$. Let $\epsilon > 0$. Then there exists δ such that whenever $0 < |x - 0| < \delta$ we have $|f(x)g(x) - 0| < \epsilon$.

By the Archimedes principle there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $n > N$, $0 < |1/n| < \delta$. Thus,

$$|f(1/n)g(1/n) - 0| = |f(1/n)n^2 - 0| < \epsilon.$$

We consider three cases:

1. If $f(1/n)$ approaches zero at a faster rate than n^2 increases then $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)g(x) = 0$ is true.
2. If $f(1/n)$ approaches zero at the same rate that n^2 increases then $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)g(x) = L$ for $L \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ and the assumption is false.
3. If $f(1/n)$ approaches zero slower then n^2 increases then we choose $n_* > N$ such that $|f(1/n_*)n_*^2| > \epsilon$, a contradiction. Thus, the assumption is false.

Hence, $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)g(x) = 0$ for any function g is not true.

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(b) Assume that g is a bounded function on A. Show that $\lim_{x\to a} g(x)f(x) = 0$.

Proof: Let $\epsilon > 0$ and g be bounded by $B \in \mathbb{R}^+$. So $|g(x)| < B$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Because $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = 0$ then there exists δ such that if $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ we automatically have $|f(x) - 0| < \epsilon/|B|$. Now,

$$|g(x)f(x) - 0| < |g(x)|\frac{\epsilon}{|B|} \leqslant |B|\frac{\epsilon}{|B|} = \epsilon.$$

Hence, if g is a bounded function on A, $\lim_{x\to a} g(x)f(x) = 0$. 😊

Question 2

Let a and b be real numbers with $a \neq 0$. Use the definition of continuity to prove that the function f defined by $f(x) = ax + b$ is continuous at every real number.

Proof: Let $\epsilon > 0$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Choose $\delta = \epsilon/|a|$. If we have $|x - c| < \delta$ it follows

$$|f(x) - f(c)| = |ax + b - (ac + b)| = |ax + b - ac - b| = |ax - ac| = |a(x - c)| = |a||x - c| < |a|\frac{\epsilon}{|a|} = \epsilon.$$

Thus, $f(x) = ax + b$ is continuous at every real number. ☺

Question 3

Use the definition of limit to prove that $\lim_{x\to c} x^2 = c^2$ for every real number c.

Proof: Let $\epsilon > 0$. Choose $\delta = \min\{1, \epsilon/(|2c| + 1)\}$. If we have $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ it follows that,

$$|f(x) - L| = |x^2 - c^2| = |x + c||x - c| < (|2c| + 1)\frac{\epsilon}{|2c| + 1} = \epsilon$$

.

Thus, $\lim_{x\to c} x^2 = c^2$ for every real number c. ☺

Question 4

Find constants a and b so that the function f defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3ax^2 + 1 & 0 \leqslant x \leqslant 1 \\ ax + b & 1 < x < 2 \\ 2bx + a & 2 \leqslant x \leqslant 4 \end{cases}$$

has a limit at each point of $[0, 4]$. Be sure to show the limit exists.

Solution:

First we find constants a and b so that $f(x)$ has a limit defined at each point $[0, 4]$. Plugging in 1 and 2 in each of the equations defined in the piecewise function $f(x)$ yields a system of equations:

$$2a + 1 = a + b \implies 2a + 1 = b$$

and

$$2a + b = 4b + a \implies a = 3b.$$

Substituting $a = 3b$ into the first equation yields

$$2(3b) = b \implies 6b + 1 = 6 \implies 5b = -1 \implies b = \frac{-1}{5}.$$

Finally, solving for $a = 3b = 3(-1/5) = -3/5$. Thus,

$$b = \frac{-1}{5} \text{ and } a = \frac{-3}{5}$$

and f becomes

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -9/5x^2 + 1 & 0 \leqslant x \leqslant 1 \\ -3/5x - 1/5 & 1 < x < 2 \\ -2/5x - 3/5 & 2 \leqslant x \leqslant 4 \end{cases}$$

Now, we show that the limit exists at 2 and 1 from the left and the right.

Proof: $\lim_{x\to 1^-} = -4/5$:

Let $\epsilon > 0$. Now, we restrict our δ to be a maximum of 1 . Choose $\delta = \min\{1, \epsilon\frac{5}{18}\}$. Then when $1-\delta < x < 1$ (Note: $\max\delta = 1 \implies x+\delta = x+1 < 2$) we have

$$|f(x) - L| = |-9/5x^2 + 1 - -4/5| = |-9/5x^2 + 9/5| = |9/5x^2 - 9/5| = 9/5|x^2 - 1|$$

$$= \frac{9}{5}|x-1||x+1| < \frac{9}{5}\epsilon\frac{5}{18}2 = \epsilon$$

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Proof: $\lim_{x\to 1^+} = -4/5$

Let $\epsilon > 0$ and choose $\delta = \epsilon\frac{5}{3}$. Then when $1 < x < 1+\delta$ we have

$$|f(x) - L| = |-3/5x - 1/5 - -4/5| = |-3/5x + 3/5| = \frac{3}{5}|-x+1| = \frac{3}{5}|x-1| < \frac{3}{5}\epsilon\frac{5}{3} = \epsilon.$$

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Proof: $\lim_{x\to 2^-} = -7/5$

Let $\epsilon > 0$ and choose $\delta = \epsilon\frac{5}{3}$. Then when $2-\delta < x < 2$ we have

$$|f(x) - L| = |-3/5x - 1/5 - -7/5| = |-3/5x + 6/5| = \frac{3}{5}|-x+2| = \frac{3}{5}|x-2| < \frac{3}{5}\epsilon\frac{5}{3} = \epsilon.$$

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Proof: $\lim_{x\to 2^+} = -7/5$

Let $\epsilon > 0$ and choose $\delta = \epsilon\frac{5}{2}$. Then when $2 < x < 2+\delta$ we have

$$|f(x) - L| = |-2/5x - 3/5 - -7/5| = |-2/5x + 4/5| = \frac{2}{5}|-x+2| = \frac{2}{5}|x-2| < \frac{2}{5}\epsilon\frac{5}{2} = \epsilon.$$

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Question 5

Let $f : [a, b] \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on $[a, b]$ and suppose that $f(x) = 0$ for each irrational number x in $[a, b]$. Prove that $f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in [a, b]$.

Proof: If $f : [a, b] \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ then it must be continuous on every point $c \in [a, b]$. Assume, for the sake of contradiction, that there exists a rational number, x_0, such that $f(x_0) \neq 0$ and with $x_0 \in [a, b]$.

Then f must be continuous at x_0, and there must exist δ such that $|x - x_0| < \delta$ implies that $|f(x) - f(x_0)| < |f(x_0)|/2$.

By the density of the rationals in the real numbers there must exist an irrational number, x_I, such that $|x_I - x_0| < \delta$.

Since x_I is irrational then $f(x_I) = 0$ and we have $|f(x_I) - f(x_0)| = |f(x_0)| < |f(x_0)|/2 \implies 1 < 1/2 \rightarrow\leftarrow$. Thus, we have arrived at a contradiction. Hence,$f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in [a, b]$.

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Question 6

CHAT GPT CHALLENGE: Let $f : [a, b] \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function on $[a, b]$, and suppose that $f(x) = 0$ for each rational number x in $[a, b]$. We aim to show that $f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in [a, b]$.

Assume, for the sake of contradiction, that there exists $c \in [a, b]$ such that $f(c) \neq 0$. Since f is continuous, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that for all $x \in [a, b]$, if $|x - c| < \delta$, then $|f(x) - f(c)| < \epsilon$.

Good job setting the stage for you proof, this is correct. Consider the case when $\epsilon = |f(c)|$. By continuity, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $x \in [a, b]$, if $|x - c| < \delta$, then $|f(x) - f(c)| < |f(c)|$. This implies

$$-f(c) < f(x) - f(c) < f(c).$$

Be careful with your absolute signs, $-f(c) < f(x) - f(c) < f(c)$ is not true. In order for this to hold you must keep the absolute signs $-|f(c)| < f(x) - f(c) < |f(c)|$. What happens if there are irrational numbers such that $f(c)$ is negative?

Adding $f(c)$ to all parts of the inequality yields $0 < f(x)$ for x in the interval $(c - \delta, c) \cap [a, b]$. Similarly, subtracting $f(c)$ from all parts of the inequality yields $f(x) < 0$ for x in the interval $(c, c+\delta) \cap [a, b]$. Now, consider the set of rational numbers in $[a, b]$. Since $\mathbb{Q}$ is dense in $\mathbb{R}$, there exist rational numbers in both $(c - \delta, c) \cap [a, b]$ and $(c, c + \delta) \cap [a, b]$. However, we have shown that for any rational x in these intervals, $f(x)$ has opposite signs, which is a contradiction.

You have some good ideas but you need to be more careful in your reasoning. Try and come up with different values of ϵ to show a contradiction. Also consider looking at the irrational numbers, those are the numbers that we need to show are mapped to zero by f. Therefore, our assumption that there exists c such that $f(c) \neq 0$ is false, and we conclude that $f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in [a, b]$.