

Tutorial – Mathematics for Social Scientists

Winter semester 2024/25

Functions and Relations

To do

- Weekly recap
- Real world applications
- Hands on practice
- Questions

• Upcoming Deadline: 19.11.2024 10:00 AM CET | Problem Set 01 | Algebra

Chapter 3 | Functions and Relations

Functions

Functions $f(x): A \rightarrow B$

- ‘f maps A into B’
- describe the **relationship** between two variables as a **unique one-to-one mapping** where each value of the **domain A** is mapped to one value of the **codomain B**
 - if this mapping is **NOT unique**, we are talking about a **correspondence**
- values reached by $x \in A$ are known as **image**
 - the **image** is a subset of the **codomain B**

Function composition

- We are 'sending' the result of $f(x)$ through $g(x)$
→ ,g of f of x'
- **NOTE:** keep domain conditions in mind! some functions might be defined for e.g. \mathbb{R}^+

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$$

- **Example:**

$$f(x) = 3x - 4 \text{ and } g(x) = x^2 \text{ for } x = 2$$

$$g(f(x)) = (3x - 4)^2$$

$$g(f(2)) = (3 \cdot 2 - 4)^2 = (2)^2 = 4$$

Hands on – Function composition

Task: Solve $g(f(x))$ for $x = 2$!

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \quad g(f(x)) &= (6x)^3 \\ &= (6 \cdot 2)^3 = 12^3 = \underline{\underline{1728}} \end{aligned}$$

1) $f(x) = 6x$ and $g(x) = x^3$

2) $f(x) = x + \frac{3}{4}$ and $g(x) = x + 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{2} \quad g(f(x)) &= \left(x + \frac{3}{4}\right) + 2 \\ &= x + \frac{3}{4} + 2 \\ &= x + \frac{3+8}{4} \\ &= x + \frac{11}{4} \\ &= 2 + \frac{11}{4} \\ &= \frac{8+11}{4} = \frac{19}{4} = \underline{\underline{4.75}} \end{aligned}$$

Hands on – Function composition

Solution:

$$1) \ g(f(2)) = (6 \cdot 2)^3 = 12^3 = 1728$$

$$2) \ g(f(2)) = \left(x + \frac{3}{4}\right) + 2 = \left(2 + \frac{3}{4}\right) + 2 = 2.75 + 2 = 4.75$$

Further practice: <https://www.mathsisfun.com/sets/functions-composition.html>

Inverse and Identity functions

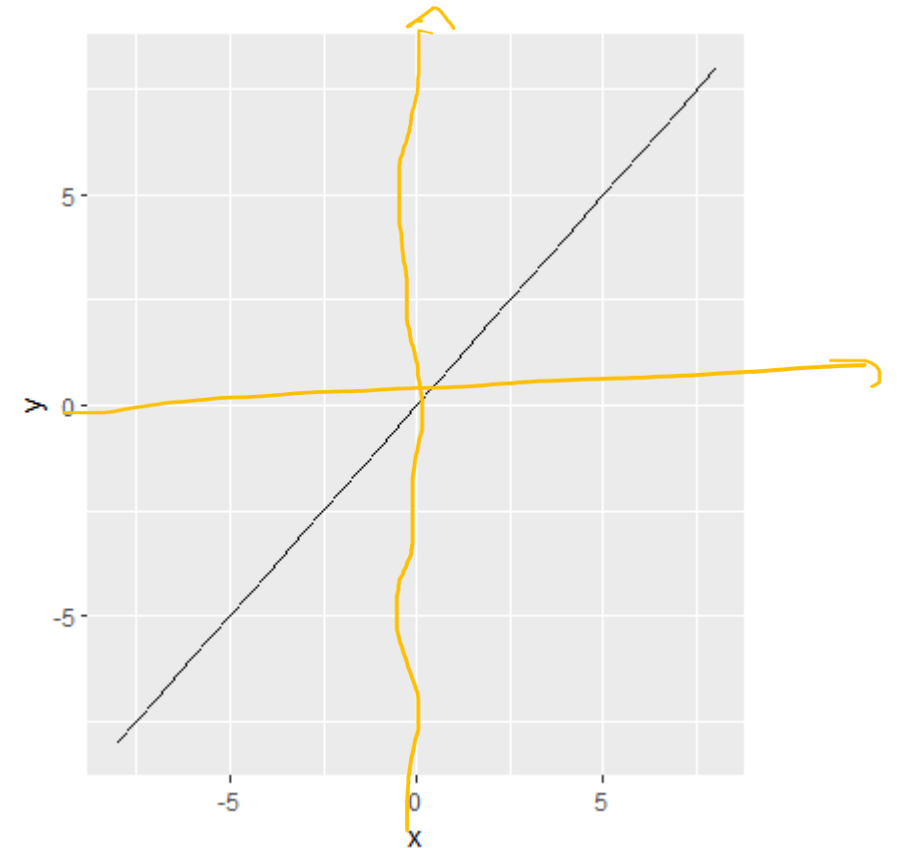


Inverse functions – ‘Inverse’

- functions that return identity function when **composed** with their original functions
- $f^{-1}(x): B \rightarrow A$
- ‘invertible functions’ have an inverse!

Identity function

- returns value of input **argument x**: $f(x) = x$
 - $f(5) = 5$
 - $f(0) = 0$
 - $f(-5) = -5$



Inverse functions

Algorithm for $f^{-1}(x): B \rightarrow A$

- 1) replace $f(x)$ with y in original function
- 2) 'switch' instances of x and y (any variables) in original function
- 3) solve for y
- 4) change y to $f^{-1}(x)$

Example: find $f^{-1}(x)$ of $f(x) = 3x - 4$

Inverse functions

Example: Find $f^{-1}(x)$ of $f(x) = 3x - 4$!

1) replace $f(x)$ with y in original function

$$y = 3x - 4$$

2) 'switch' instances of x and y (any variables) in original function

$$x = 3y - 4$$

3) solve for y

$$x + 4 = 3y \mid \div 3$$

$$y = \frac{x+4}{3}$$

4) change y to $f^{-1}(x)$

$$f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x+4}{3}$$

Hands on – Inverse functions

Task: Find the respective inverse of the following functions!

$$1) f(x) = 2x + 6$$

$$2) g(x) = x^2 - 1$$

$$3) h(x) = \frac{1}{3}x + 10$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad f(x) = 2x + 6$$

$$1. \quad y = 2x + 6$$

$$2. \quad x = 2y + 6 \quad | -6$$

$$3. \quad x - 6 = 2y \quad | :2$$

$$y = \frac{x-6}{2}$$

$$4. \quad f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x-6}{2}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad g(x) = x^2 - 1$$

$$1. \quad y = x^2 - 1$$

$$2. \quad x = y^2 - 1 \quad | +1$$

$$3. \quad x+1 = y^2 \quad | \sqrt{}$$

$$y = \sqrt{x+1}$$

$$4. \quad f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x+1}$$

$$(3) \quad h(x) = \frac{1}{3}x + 10$$

$$1. \quad y = \frac{1}{3}x + 10$$

$$2. \quad x = \frac{1}{3}y + 10 \quad | -10$$

$$3. \quad x - 10 = \frac{1}{3}y \quad | : \frac{1}{3}$$

$$y = \frac{3}{1} \cdot x - \frac{3}{1} \cdot 10$$

$$y = 3x - 30$$

$$4. \quad f^{-1}(x) = 3x - 30$$

What happens when we compose $h(x)$ with $h^{-1}(x)$? Will we receive the identity for $x=2$?

$$h(h^{-1}(x)) = \frac{1}{3}(3x - 30) + 10$$

$$= \frac{1}{3}(3 \cdot 2 - 30) + 10$$

$$= \frac{1}{3}(6 - 30) + 10$$

$$= -\frac{24}{3} + 10$$

$$= -8 + 10$$

$$= 2 = x = y$$

Hands on – Inverse functions

Solution:

$$1) f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x-6}{2}$$

$$2) g^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x+1} \quad \leftarrow \text{Note: We typically imply both } \sqrt{x+1} \text{ and } -\sqrt{x+1}$$

$$3) h^{-1}(x) = 3x - 30$$

Further practice: <https://www.mathsisfun.com/sets/function-inverse.html>

Hands on – Inverse functions & function composition

Task: Are these functions inverses of each other? Show using function composition! Check, if the composed functions produce the identity function!

$$1) f(x) = 2x - 4 \text{ and } g(x) = \frac{x+4}{2}$$

$$2) f(x) = 4x + 3 \text{ and } g(x) = \frac{x-4}{3}$$

$$f(x) = 2x - 4 \quad g(x) = \frac{x+4}{2} \quad \textcircled{2} \text{ composition } \frac{3}{3}$$

↓ Find inverse

$$f^{-1}(x) = ?$$

$$y = 2x - 4$$

$$x = 2y - 4 \quad | +4$$

$$x + 4 = 2y \quad | :2$$

$$y = \frac{x+4}{2}$$

$$\underline{f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x+4}{2} = g(x)}$$

$$f(g(x)) = ?$$

$$x = 2$$

$$2\left(\frac{x+4}{2}\right) - 4 = 2\left(\frac{2+4}{2}\right) - 4$$

$$= 2\left(\frac{6}{2}\right) - 4$$

$$= 6 - 4 = 2$$

$$x = 2 = y //$$

$$f(x) = 4x + 3 \quad ; \quad g(x) = \frac{x-4}{3}$$

1. Find inverse

$$f(x) = 4x + 3$$

$$y = 4x + 3$$

$$x = 4y + 3 \quad | -3$$

$$x - 3 = 4y \quad | :4$$

$$y = \frac{x-3}{4}$$

$$f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x-3}{4} \neq g(x) = \frac{x-4}{3}$$

$g(x)$ is NOT the inverse of $f(x)$!

2. Function composition

for e.g. $x = 2$

$$f(g(x)) = 4\left(\frac{x-4}{3}\right) + 3$$

$$= 4\left(\frac{2-4}{3}\right) + 3$$

$$= 4\left(\frac{-2}{3}\right) + 3$$

$$= \frac{4 \cdot (-2)}{3} + 3$$

$$= -\frac{8}{3} + 3$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \neq 2$$

composing $f(x)$ with $g(x)$ does NOT yield the identity!

Hands on – Inverse functions & function composition

Solution:

1) Yes!

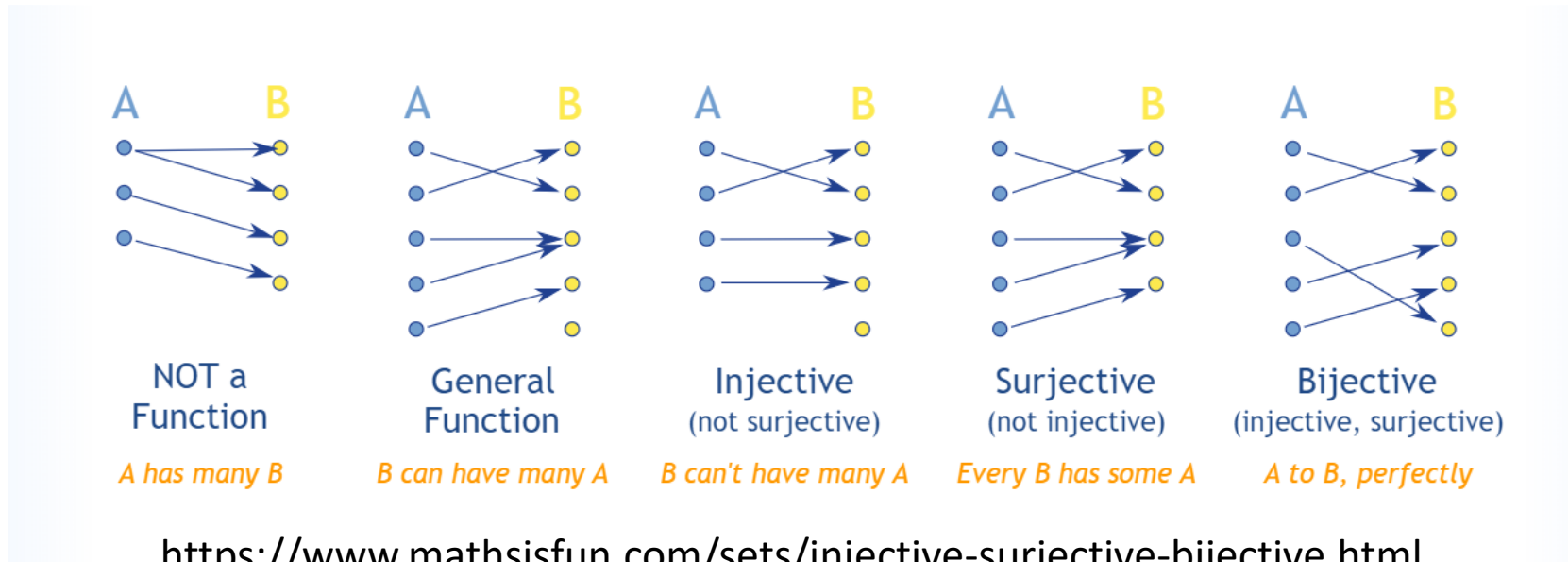
$$\rightarrow f(g(x)) = 2 \left(\frac{x+4}{2} \right) - 4 = x$$

2) No!

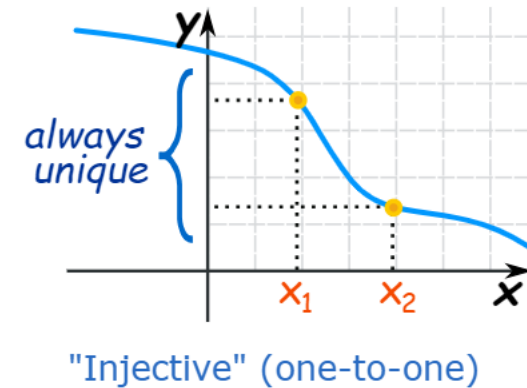
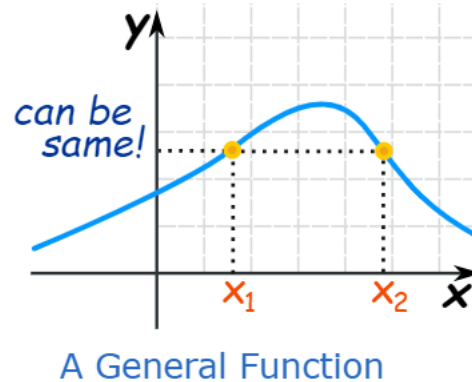
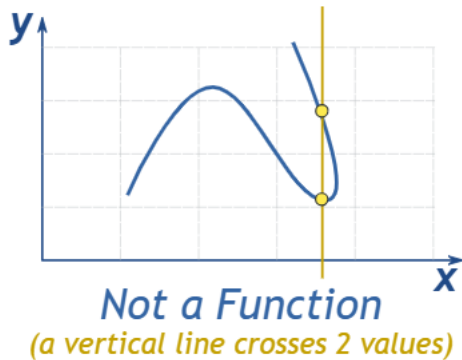
$$\rightarrow f(g(x)) = \frac{4x}{3} - \frac{16}{3} + 3 \neq x$$

Injective, bijective, surjective functions...

... are classes of functions that describe, how arguments x are mapped to images y



Injective, bijective, surjective functions



A function f is...

- **injective** if and only if whenever $f(x) = f(y)$, $x = y$
- **surjective** iff $f(A) = B$ or for every y in B , there is at least one x in A such that $f(x) = y$
- **bijective** (from set A to B) if, for every y in B , there is exactly one x in A such that $f(x) = y$

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/sets/injective-surjective-bijective.html>

Monotonicity

Monotonicity is a concept to describe **order**:

- a function f is called **monotonically increasing**, if for every
$$x \leq y, f(x) \leq f(y)$$
so that f preserves order
- a function f is called **monotonically decreasing**, if for every
$$x \geq y, f(x) \geq f(y)$$
so that f preserves order

Monotonicity

Table 3.2: Monotonic Function Terms

Term	Meaning
Increasing	Function increases on subset of domain
Decreasing	Function decreases on subset of domain
Strictly increasing	Function always increases on subset of domain
Strictly decreasing	Function always decreases on subset of domain
Weakly increasing	Function does not decrease on subset of domain
Weakly decreasing	Function does not increase on subset of domain
(Strict) monotonicity	Order preservation; function (strictly) increasing over domain

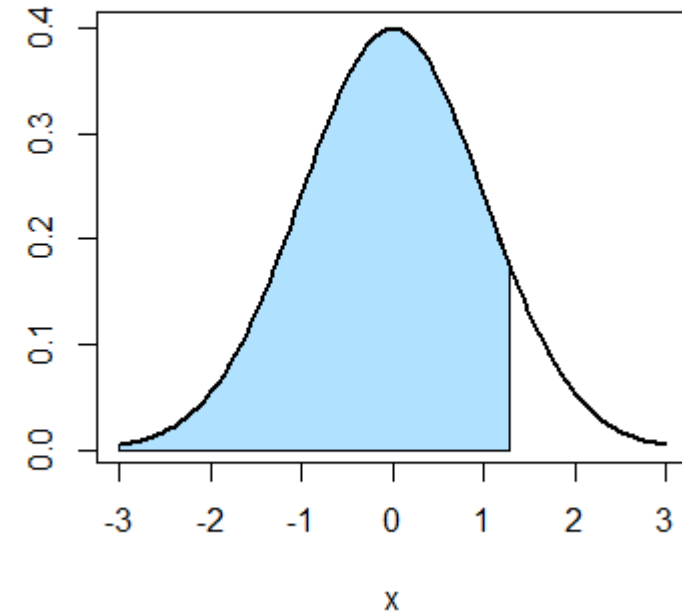
Moore & Siegel, 2013, p.51

NOTE: ALL strictly monotonic functions are invertible due to a strict one-to-one mapping!

Real world applications - Monotonicity

Monotonicity describes **strength** of **relationships** between **variables**!

- think about **correlation** and **probability theory**!
- if X is a **RV**, its **cumulative distribution function** is a **monotonically increasing** function!
- $F_X(x) = P(X \leq x)$



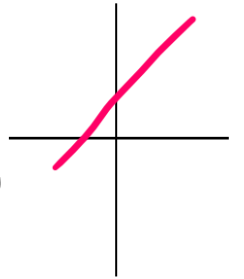
Linear functions & equations

- **linear equations** in slope-intercept form $f(x) = mx + b$
 - consist only of terms like x^1 and $x^0 = 1$ multiplied by constants
 - are also called 'affine function'

Slope

Intercept

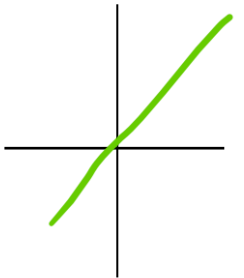
Note: the intercept $b \neq 0$



- **linear functions** are of the same form but additionally satisfy ... because they are fixed at the origin! $f(x) = mx + 0$

- **additivity** – superposition $f(x_1 + x_2) = f(x_1) + f(x_2)$
- **scaling** – homogeneity $f(ax) = a \cdot f(x)$ for all a

Note: the intercept is at the origin!



- **Note:** We often call the equation above a 'linear function' – even though it does not satisfy the scaling and additivity properties!

Linear functions & equations - Additivity

Linear functions $y = f(x) = \beta(x)$

$$f(x_1 + x_2) = \beta(x_1 + x_2) = \beta x_1 + \beta x_2$$
$$f(x_1) + f(x_2) = \beta x_1 + \beta x_2$$

$$\alpha \neq 0$$

$$y = f(x) = \alpha + \beta x$$

Linear equations/affine functions

$$f(x_1 + x_2) = \alpha + \beta(x_1 + x_2) = \alpha + \beta x_1 + \beta x_2$$

$$f(x_1) + f(x_2) = (\beta x_1 + \alpha) + (\beta x_2 + \alpha)$$

$$\alpha + \beta x_1 + \beta x_2 \neq 2\alpha + \beta x_1 + \beta x_2$$

$$\alpha \neq 2\alpha$$

Linear functions & equations - Scaling

Linear functions $y = f(x) = \beta(x)$

$$f(ax) = \beta(ax) = a\beta(x)$$

$$af(x) = a\beta(x)$$

//

$$\alpha \neq 0$$

$$y = f(x) = \alpha + \beta x$$

Linear equations/affine functions

$$f(ax) = \alpha + \beta(ax) = \alpha + a\beta x$$

$$af(x) = a\alpha + a\beta x$$

$$\alpha + a\beta x \neq a\alpha + a\beta x$$

$$\alpha \neq a\alpha$$

Real world applications – linear equation

But don't you worry, there are many applications of linear equations, including your potentially favorite one – **random variables**!

Distribution of parameters of random variables:

- Let X be a RV with expected value $E(X)$ and variance $Var(X)$
→ generate a new RV using the linear transformation of X :
- $Y = a + bX$ with expected value $E(Y) = a + b \cdot E(X)$ and
 $Var(Y) = b^2 \cdot Var(X)$

→ **if X is distributed normally, Y will be distributed normally, too!**

Exponents, roots, logarithms

Idea: Let's look at b^n

- How do I solve for x in $b^n = x$?
→ **exponents**
- How do I solve for n in $b^n = x$?
→ **logarithms**
- How do I solve for b in $b^n = x$?
→ **radicals/roots**

Exponentials

$$x^1 = x$$

$$x^0 = 1$$

$$x^{-1} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$x^m x^n = x^{m+n}$$

$$\frac{x^m}{x^n} = x^{m-n}$$

$$(x^m)^n = x^{mn}$$

$$(xy)^n = x^n y^n$$

$$\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^n = \frac{x^n}{y^n}$$

$$x^{-n} = \frac{1}{x^n}$$

$$x^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{x^m} = (\sqrt[n]{x})^m$$

Logarithms

Logarithmic form: $\log_b m = x$

Exponential form: $b^x = m$

$$\ln x = \log_e x$$

$$\ln e^x = x$$

$$\log 10^x = x$$

$$\log_n n^x = x$$

$$\log_b(x) = \log_b(n) \rightarrow x = n$$

$$\log_b(m) + \log_b(n) = \log_b(mn)$$

$$\log_b(m) - \log_b(n) = \log_b\left(\frac{m}{n}\right)$$

$$k \cdot \log_b(m) = \log_b(m^k)$$

$$\log_b(m) = \frac{\log m}{\log b}$$

Radicals/Roots

$$\sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b} = \sqrt[n]{a \cdot b}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}} = \sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}}$$

$$\sqrt[m]{\sqrt[n]{a}} = \sqrt[m \cdot n]{a}$$

$$(\sqrt[n]{a})^m = \sqrt[n]{a^m}$$

$$\sqrt{a^n} = (\sqrt{a})^n = a^{\frac{n}{2}}$$

→ **even more rules (you probably won't need):**

https://www.mathwords.com/s/square_root_rules.htm

Chapter 4 | Limits, Continuity, Sequences & Series

Sequences

Sequences are an ordered ‚list‘ of things $a = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$

- can be **finite** $\{a_i\}_{i=1}^n$ or **infinite** $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$
- use $\{\}$ and a comma as delimiter
- have ‚rules‘ that ‚predict/give‘ the next value
- **values** have an **order**, which **identifies** them $a_3 \leftarrow$ the third value!

Differences between **sequences** and **sets**:

- **sets** contain every **element once**, **sequences** may contain **one element many times**
- **sequences** are **ordered**, whereas **order does not matter** in **sets**

Series

A **series** is the **summation** of a **sequence** $S = 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 + \dots$

- can also be **finite** or **infinite**, depending on their sequence
- if $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n = S_n$ then $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$

- **geometric series** $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \delta^t = \frac{1}{1-\delta}$ **if $|\delta| < 1$**

- the sum of an **infinite** number of **terms** with a **constant ratio** between them
- the **geometric series converges** **if $|\delta| < 1$**

- **harmonic series** $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{\infty}$

- the sum of all positive **unit fractions**

Limits

A limit is the value a function/sequence approaches if argument x approaches some value c

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ ‘the limit of f of x as x approaches c equals L ’
- limits are often **challenging** to **compute**, to decide whether a limit exists, we may choose to carry out a convergence test first!
 - **convergent** \leftarrow finite limit
 - **divergent** \leftarrow limit DoesNotExist or limit = $\pm\infty$

Limits

Fun fact: the word 'limit' is derived from the Latin 'limes' and means **boundary wall** ← the same word the Romans used for their military boundary walls in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa



<https://www.dw.com/de/der-limes-mehr-als-ein-grenzwall-der-r%C3%B6mer/a-51926911>, 07.11.2023

Limits of...

- **a sequence** a_i is a number L such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$
 - limits of sequences are **unique**
- **a series** S_n considers the sum of its elements and is a number S such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n = S$
- **a function** $y = f(x)$ are values of y given arbitrarily small steps toward an argument $x = c$ such that $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$
 - it is **possible** to approach the limit from **two sides!**
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L^+$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L^-$
 - **the limit exists iff $L^+ = L^- = L$**

Hands on – limits of sequences

Task: Do the sequences converge or diverge?

1) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{1}{4^n} \right\}$

2) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{2n\}$

Solution:

- 1. converges, approaches 0
- 2. diverges, approaches ∞

Note:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta^n = 0 \text{ if } |\delta| < 1$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^z} = 0 \text{ if } z > 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x^2 - 9}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x^2 - 9}$$

Limits of functions - computation

Substitution

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x^2 - 9} \\ = \frac{(4)^2 - 2 \cdot (4) - 3}{(4)^2 - 9} = \frac{5}{7}\end{aligned}$$

Factoring

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x^2 - 9} \\ = \frac{-(3)^2 - 2 \cdot (3) - 3}{(3)^2 - 9} = \frac{0}{0} \\ \rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{(x-3)(x+1)}{(x-3)(x+3)} \\ = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x+1}{x+3} \\ = \frac{3+1}{3+3} = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}\end{aligned}$$

Note: This does not always stop us from finding limits!

When direct substitution does not work, we can try some other options!

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{x+2} - \frac{1}{2}}{x}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+2)^2 - 4}{x}$$

Limits of functions - computation

Common denominator

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{x+2} - \frac{1}{2}}{x} \leftarrow \text{pluggin in 0 is baaad idea... ☺}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{2}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{x+2} - \frac{x+2}{x+2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{2 - (x+2)}{2 \cdot (x+2)}}{x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{-x}{2(x+2)}}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-x}{2(x+2)} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{2(x+2) \cdot 1} = \frac{-1}{2(0+2)} = \frac{-1}{4}$$

Opening parentheses

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+2)^2 - 4}{x}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 4x + 4 - 4}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 4x}{x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(x+4)}{x} = x + 4 = 0 + 4 = 4$$

→ we first expand, then simplify!

Hands on – limits of functions

Task: Find the limit to the following functions!

$$1) \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 10$$

$$2) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{36 - x^2}$$

$$3) \lim_{x \rightarrow (-1)} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 8}{x^2 + 5x + 4}$$

Hands on – limits of functions

Solution:

$$1) \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 10 = 10$$

$$2) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{36 - x^2} = \sqrt{36 - 0^2} = \sqrt{36} = 6$$

$$3) \lim_{x \rightarrow (-1)} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 8}{x^2 + 5x + 4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow (-1)} \frac{(x+4)(x-2)}{(x+4)(x+1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow (-1)} \frac{x-2}{x+1} = -\frac{(-1)-2}{(-1)+1} = \frac{-3}{0} \leftarrow \text{DNE}$$

Limits – computation rules

$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) \neq 0$):

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x) + g(x)) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x),$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x) - g(x)) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x),$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x)g(x)) = (\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x))(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)),$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x)/g(x)) = (\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x))/(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)).$$

Moore & Siegel, 2013, p.91

Continuous functions

A continuous function's graph does not have sudden breaks!

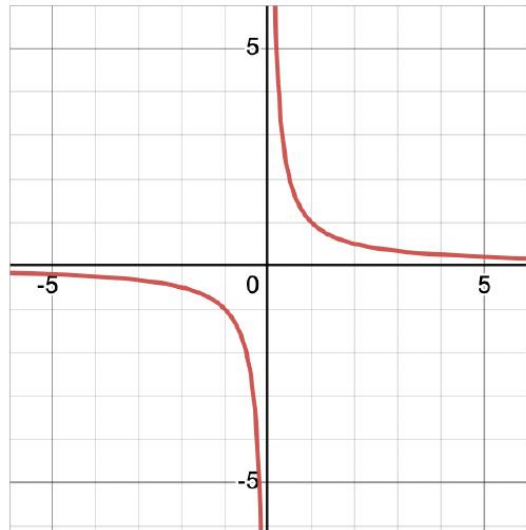
- the **pencil test**: can you draw the graph without lifting up a pencil?
- the **limit test**: a function is continuous at argument x , if x exists and is equal to

$$f(x) \text{ such that } \lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = f(c)$$

NOTE: a **discontinuous function's** graph has **at least one break** in it!

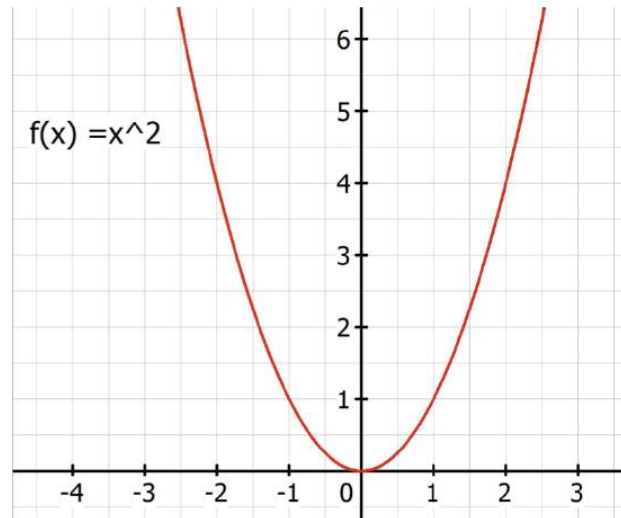
Hands on – Continuity I

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$



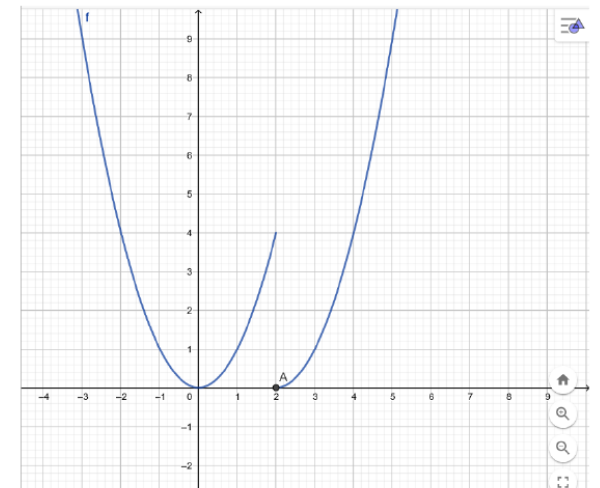
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)?$$

$$f(x) = x^2$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)?$$

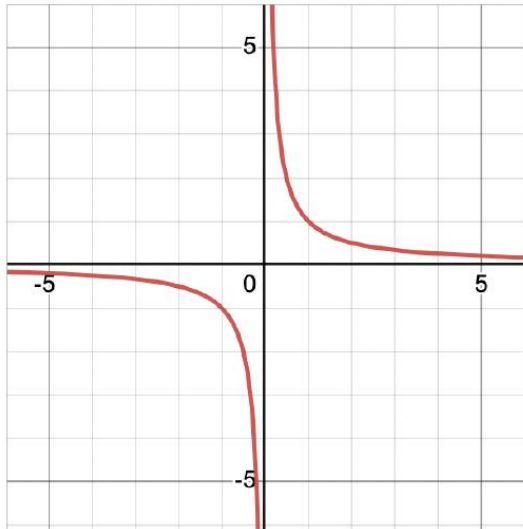
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ (x-2)^2, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)?$$

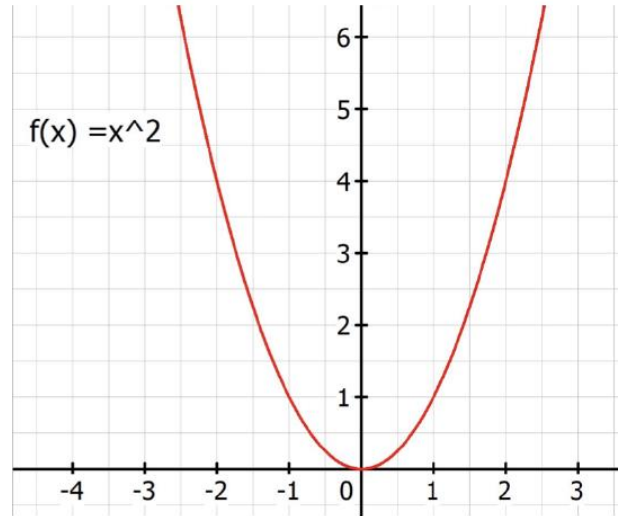
Hands on – Continuity I

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$



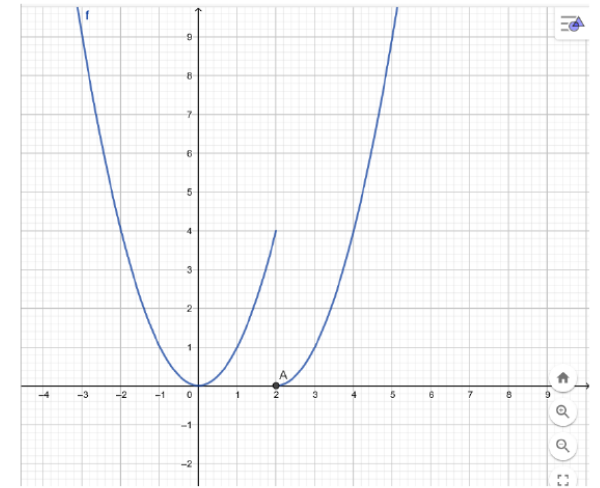
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{0} \leftarrow \text{DNE}$$

$$f(x) = x^2$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^2 = 2^2 = 4$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ (x-2)^2, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} x^2 &= 2^2 = 4 \text{ and} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} (x-2)^2 &= (2-2)^2 = 0^2 \\ &\leftarrow \text{DNE} \end{aligned}$$

Hands on – Continuity II

Task: Are the following functions continuous?

$$1) f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4}$$

$$2) f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ x^3 - 4, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

Hands on – Continuity II

Solution:

$$1) f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4}$$

→ No, f is undefined for $f(4)$ and thus discontinuous

$$2) f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ x^3 - 4, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

$$L^+ = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^2 = 2^2 = 4$$

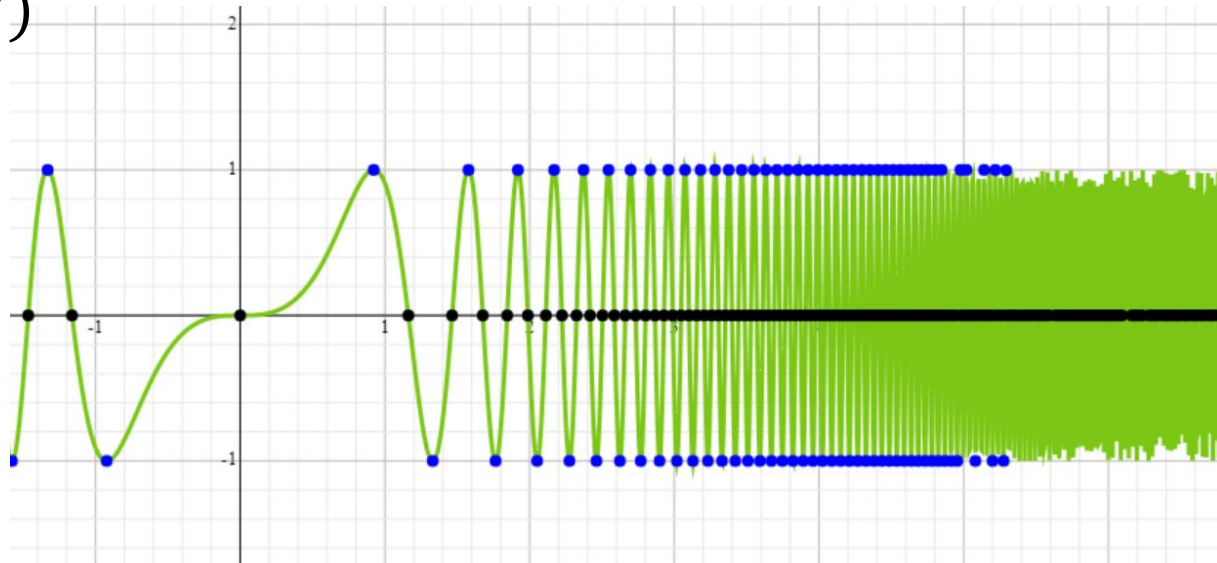
$$L^- = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^3 - 4 = 2^3 - 4 = 8 - 4 = 4$$

→ Yes, f is continuous since $L^+ = L^- = L$

Real world applications – Continuity

Continuity is required for the following:

- differentiation
- integration
- $\sin(x)$ and $\cos(x)$ are continuous and describe e.g. oscillation, e.g. $f(x) = \sin(2x^3)$



Open, closed, compound sets

Open set like $(0,1)$

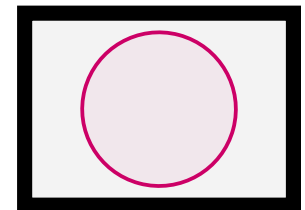
- there is some (arbitrarily small) distance between elements at all times
- like 'a room, in which you can keep walking and never quite reach the walls'

Closed set like $[0,1]$

- limits are clearly defined **and do belong** to set!

Compound set

- limits are clearly defined, and set lies itself in a bounded space
- without metrics the term 'bounded' is meaningless!



Hands on – Sets

Task: Classify the type of set for each of the following!

1) $[-5, 20]$

2) $(-5, 20)$

3) $[-5, 20)$

Hands on – Sets

Solution:

- 1) Closed
- 2) Open
- 3) Neither

Further practice: What is the complement of $[-5, 20]$?

→ $(-\infty, -5) \cup (20, \infty)$

Time for your questions

- Any questions during the week?
 - joerdis.strack@uni-konstanz.de

