# CH 3 — Function Limits and Continuity

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### **Definitions**

If  $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  is a function and  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$  if for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  s.t. if  $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ , then  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ 

Examples:

**1)**Prove using the  $\varepsilon - \delta$  definition that  $\lim_{x\to 0} f(x)$  DNE where

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -2 & \text{if } x < 0\\ 3 & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

Domain:  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ 

Take  $\varepsilon = 1$ . Consider some  $\delta > 0$ . Whitin  $(0 - \delta, 0 + \delta)$ 

We have both  $(-\delta,0)$  where f(x)=-2 and  $(0,\delta)$  where f(x)=3. If this  $\delta$  exists for  $\varepsilon=1$  then the limit L would need to be distance 1 or both -2 and 3, where is impossible.

$$\therefore \lim_{x \to 0} f(x) = \text{DNE}$$

2) 
$$\lim_{x\to 7} 8x - 3 = 53$$

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary.

We want find  $\delta$  s.t. if  $0<|x-7|<\delta$  then  $|8x-3-53|<\varepsilon\to\delta=\frac{\varepsilon}{8}$ 

Pick  $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{8}$ .

Then if 
$$0 < |x-7| < \frac{\varepsilon}{8}, |(8x-3)-53| = |8x-56| = 8|x-7| < 8 \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{8} = \varepsilon$$

3) 
$$\lim_{x\to 1} x^2 + 3x + 4 = 8$$

We want for any  $\varepsilon>0$  and  $\delta>0:|x-1|<\delta$ , then  $|f(x)-L|<\varepsilon$ 

$$\leftrightarrow |x^2+3x-4|<\varepsilon \leftrightarrow |(x+4)(x-1)|<\varepsilon \leftrightarrow |x+4|-|x-1|<\varepsilon$$

I can always make  $\delta$  smaller if I need to.

take 
$$\delta < 1$$
, then  $|x-1| < 1 \Longrightarrow 0 < x < 2$   $|x+4| < 6 \to |x+4| x - 1| < 6\delta$ , but  $6\delta < \varepsilon \leftrightarrow \delta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ . Say  $\frac{\varepsilon}{7} < \frac{\varepsilon}{6}$  for all epsilon. Take  $\delta < \min(1, \frac{\varepsilon}{6})$ 

#### Proof

Let  $\varepsilon>0$  be given. Take  $\delta=\min\left(\frac{1}{2},\frac{\varepsilon}{7}\right)$ . Then, if  $|x-1|<\delta,|x^2+3x+4-8|=|x^2+3x-4|=|(x+4)(x-1)|=|(x+4)(x-1)|<6\cdot\frac{\varepsilon}{7}<\varepsilon$ 

## 🔪 Info — Sequential Characterization of Limits Theorem

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . let the function f(x) be defined on an open interval containing a, expect possibly at x = a itself. Then the following are equivalent:

- 1.  $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$
- 2. For all sequences  $\{x_n\}$  satisfying  $\lim_{n\to\infty}x_n=a$  and  $x_n\neq a, \forall n\in\mathbb{N}$ , we have that  $\lim_{n\to\infty}f(x_n)=L$

# ▼ Tip — Usage of Sequential Characterization of Limits

- 1. Find a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  with  $x_n \to a$
- 2. Find two sequences  $\{x_n\}, \{y_n\}$  with  $x_n, y_n \to a$  and  $x_n, y_n \neq a, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$  but which  $\{f(x_n)\}, \{f(y_n)\}$  converge to different values

#### **Proof**

$$\Longrightarrow : \lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L \text{ means } \forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0 : |x - a| < \delta, \text{ then } |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon.$$
 Let  $\{x_n\}$  be s.t.  $x_n \to a \text{(meaning that } \forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{R} : \forall n > \mathbb{N}, |x_n - a| < \varepsilon_2) \text{ and } x_n \neq a \text{ for any } n.$ 

In particular, let 
$$\varepsilon$$
 for  $x_n \to a$  be  $\delta$ . Then  $\forall n > N$ ,  $|x_n - a| < \delta$ , and so  $|f(x)_n| < \varepsilon_1$ . Then  $\forall n > N$ ,  $|x_n - a| < \delta$  and so  $|f(x_n) - L| < \varepsilon_1$ . So by definition,  $\lim_{n \to \infty} f(x_n) = L$ 

**Side Question:** We saw the limit of a sequence is unique. Is the same true for limits of functions?

**ANS**: NO, it is like saying  $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$  and = M and  $L \neq M$  Suppose true. By Sequential Characterization of Limits,  $\forall \{x_n\} \to a$  but  $x_n \neq a \forall n, f(x_n) \to L$  and  $f(x_n) \to M$  but  $L \neq M$  Since the limits of sequences are unique, thus there is a contradiction.

#### **Examples:**

Prove that  $\lim_{x\to 0} \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$  does not exist

We take sequences of peak points of  $\cos(\frac{1}{x})$ , that is -1, 1. Then will converge to -1, 1 repeatedly, so by Sequential Characterization,  $\lim_{x\to 0}\cos(\frac{1}{x})$  will not exist.

$$\cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)=1 \text{ if } x=\frac{1}{2k\pi}, k\in\mathbb{Z} \text{, and } \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)=-1 \text{ if } x=\frac{1}{(2k+1)\pi}, k\in\mathbb{Z}.$$

Let  $x_n=\frac{1}{2}n\pi$  and  $y_n=\frac{1}{2n+1}\pi$ . Then  $x_n,y_n\to 0, x_n,y_n\neq 0 \forall n$ . It converges to both -1 and 1. By Sequential Characterization, the limit DNE.

## **Limit Laws**

**info** — Let f,g be functions with  $\lim_{x\to a}f(x)=L$ ,  $\lim_{x\to a}g(x)=M$  for some  $L,M\in\mathbb{R}$  then:

- 1. For any  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , if f(x) = c for all n then L = c
- 2. For any  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\lim_{x \to a} cf(x) = cL$
- 3.  $\lim_{x\to a}(f(x)+g(x))=L+M$
- 4.  $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x) \cdot g(x) = LM$
- 5.  $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}$  if  $M \neq 0$
- 6. If  $\alpha > 0$  and L > 0, then  $\lim_{x>a} f(x)^{\alpha} = L^{\alpha}$

#### **Proof**

We assume functions f,g are defined on a punctured neighborhood of a and  $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$ ,  $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = M$ . In the quotient law we also assume  $M\neq 0$ .

1. Product law

Claim.  $\lim_{x\to a} (f(x)g(x)) = LM$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then  $|f(x)g(x) - LM| = |f(x)(g(x) - M) + M(f(x) - L)| \le |f(x)| \cdot |g(x) - M| + |M| \cdot |f(x) - L|$ .

Since  $f(x) \to L$ , choose  $\delta_0 > 0$  with  $|x - a| < \delta_0 \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < 1$ , hence  $|f(x)| \le |L| + 1$  there.

Choose  $\delta_1, \delta_2 > 0$  so that  $|x-a| < \delta_1 \Rightarrow |g(x)-M| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2(|L|+1)}$  and  $|x-a| < \delta_2 \Rightarrow |f(x)-L| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2(|M|+1)}$ .

Let  $\delta = \min(\delta_0, \delta_1, \delta_2)$ . For  $0 < |x-a| < \delta$ ,  $|f(x)g(x) - LM| \le (|L|+1) \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2(|L|+1)} + |M| \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2(|M|+1)} \le \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon$ .

Thus  $\lim_{x\to a} (fg) = LM$ .

2. Quotient law (with  $M \neq 0$ )

Claim.  $\lim_{x\to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon>0$ . Because  $g(x)\to M\neq 0$ , there exists  $\delta_0>0$  such that  $|x-a|<\delta_0\Rightarrow |g(x)-M|<|M_{\frac{1}{2}}$ , hence  $|g(x)|\geq |M_{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

$$\begin{array}{l} \operatorname{Now}\mid \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} - \frac{L}{M}\mid = \mid Mf(x) - Lg(x) \frac{\mid}{\mid M\mid \cdot \mid g(x)\mid} \leq \frac{\mid M\mid \cdot \mid f(x) - L\mid + \mid L\mid \cdot \mid g(x) - M\mid}{\mid M\mid \cdot \mid g(x)\mid} \leq \left(\frac{2}{\mid}M\mid\right) \cdot \mid f(x) - L\mid + \left(2\mid L\mid M\mid^2\right) \cdot \mid g(x) - M\mid. \end{array}$$

 $\text{Choose } \delta_1, \delta_2 > 0 \text{ with } |x-a| < \delta_1 \Rightarrow |f(x)-L| < \left(|M_{\frac{1}{4}}\right) \cdot \varepsilon \text{ and } |x-a| < \delta_2 \Rightarrow |g(x)-M| < \left(|M_{\frac{|^2}{4(|L|+1)}}\right) \cdot \varepsilon.$ 

Let 
$$\delta = \min(\delta_0, \delta_1, \delta_2)$$
. Then for  $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ ,  $|\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} - \frac{L}{M}| \le \left(\frac{2}{|M|}\right) \cdot \left(|M_{\frac{1}{4}}^{\perp}\right) \cdot \varepsilon + \left(2 \ |L_{\frac{1}{2}}^{\perp}M|^2\right) \cdot \left(|M_{\frac{1}{4(|L|+1)}}^{\perp}\right) \cdot \varepsilon \le \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon$ .

Therefore  $\lim_{x\to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}$ .

Then  $\lim_{x\to a} p(x) = p(a)$ 

Proof

$$\lim_{x \to a} x = a$$
 
$$\lim_{x \to a} x^i = a^i$$
 
$$\lim_{x \to a} a_i x^i = a_i a^i$$

$$\lim_{x\to a}\sum_{i=0}^n a_ix^i=\sum_{i=0}^n a_ia^i$$

# **≥** Info – Limit of Rational Functions

Let  $f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$  when p,q be polynomial functions and  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ 

- 1. If  $q(a) \neq 0$  then  $\lim_{x \to a} \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = \frac{p(a)}{q(a)}$
- 2. If  $\lim_{x\to a} q(a) = 0$  but then  $\lim_{x\to a} p(x) \neq 0$  then  $\lim_{x\to a} \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$  is DNE. If  $x\to a, x<0$ , then the limit diverges to  $-\infty$ . If  $x\to a, x>0$ , then the limit diverges to  $\infty$ .
- 3. Otherwise, p(a)=0=q(a), so both p(x) and q(x) have (x-a) as a factor. Divide it out and then repeat the process.

#### **Examples:**

$$\begin{array}{l} 1. \ \lim_{x \to -3} \frac{x^3 + 10x^2 + 13x - 24}{x^2 - 4x - 21} \\ \Rightarrow \stackrel{\left[\frac{0}{0}\right]}{=} \lim_{x \to -3} \frac{(x+3)(x-1)(x+8)}{(x+3)(x-7)} = \lim_{x \to -3} \frac{(x-1)(x+8)}{(x-7)} = \frac{(-3-1)(-3+8)}{(-3-7)} = \frac{-20}{-10} = 2 \end{array}$$

# **№** Info — Squeeze Theorem(Functions):

If  $g(x) \leq f(x) \leq h(x)$  be functions defined in an open interval I around a except possibly at a.

If  $\forall a \in I \setminus \{a\}$  we have  $g(x) \leq f(x) \leq h(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = \lim_{x \to a} h(x) = L$ , then  $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$ 

- ho **Tip** When to apply Squeeze Theorem
- 1. Trigonometeric functions with clear bounds and polynomial terms before
- 2. Exponential Functions with constants terms or by defining a certain inverval

2. Evaluate  $\lim_{x\to 0} x^2 \cos(\frac{1}{x})$ 

$$-1 \le \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \le 1$$

$$-x^2 \le x^2 \cos \left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \le x^2$$

Notice that  $x^2$  are polynomial function that is defined in  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\lim_{x \to 0} -x^2 = \lim_{x \to 0} x^2 = 0$$

By Squeeze Theorem,  $\lim_{x\to 0} x^2 \cos(\frac{1}{x}) = 0$ 

# One Sided Limits and the Fundamental Trig Limit

- 1. We say that L is the **right side limit** of f at a, and write  $\lim_{x\to a^+} f(x) = L$  if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t. if  $|x-a| < \delta$  and x > a then  $|f(x) L| < \varepsilon$
- 2. We say that L is the **left side limit** of f at a, and write  $\lim_{x\to a^-} f(x) = L$  if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t. if  $|x-a| < \delta$  and x < a then  $|f(x)-L| < \varepsilon$

## **≥** Info – Theorem

$$\lim\nolimits_{x\to a}f(x)=L\Longleftrightarrow\lim\nolimits_{x\to a^{-}}f(x)=\lim\nolimits_{x\to a^{+}}f(x)=L$$

#### Example:

Show that  $\lim_{x\to 0}\sin(x)=0$ ,  $\lim_{x\to 0}\cos(x)=1$ , and  $\lim_{x\to 0}\tan(x)=0$ 

1.  $\lim_{x\to 0} \sin(x)$ :

Construct a unit circle with a triangle that lies in the first quadrant and an arbitrary point, say P(x,y). Then  $P(x,y) = P(\cos(x),\sin(y))$ . The area of the triangle can be represented as  $\frac{1}{2}\sin(x)$ .

Contruct another unit circle and draw P(x,y) at the same location as the previous triangle, however, contruct an sector. The area of this new sector is  $\frac{1}{2}x$ .

Notice that the area bounded by the sector is bigger than the triangle.

We then have  $0 \le \frac{1}{2}\sin(x) \le \frac{1}{2}x \Longrightarrow 0 \le \sin(x) \le x$ . Since  $\lim_{x\to 0^+} 0 = \lim_{x\to 0^+} x = 0$ , by Squeeze Theorem,  $\lim_{x\to 0^+}\sin(x) = 0$ 

 $\lim_{x\to 0^-}\sin(x)=0$  can be achieved similarly to the prove of right side limit and will be omitted.

Thus  $\lim_{x\to 0} \sin(x) = 0$ 

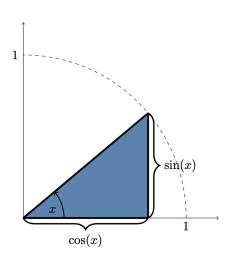
2.  $\lim_{x\to 0} \cos(x) = 1$ :

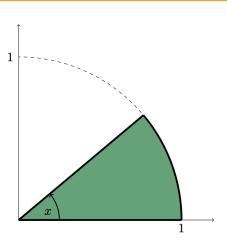
$$\lim_{x\to 0}\cos(x)=\lim_{x\to 0}\sqrt{1-\sin^2(x)}=1$$

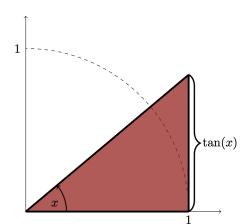
3. 
$$\lim_{x\to 0} \tan(x) = \lim_{x\to 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} = 1$$

# 🔥 Warning — The Fundamental Trig Limit:

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 1$$







We have that  $\frac{1}{2}\cos(x)\sin(x) \le \frac{1}{2}x \le \frac{1}{2}\tan(x) \Longrightarrow \cos(x) \le \frac{x}{\sin(x)} \le \frac{1}{\cos(x)}$ .

By Squeeze Theorem,  $\lim_{x\to 0^+}\frac{\sin(x)}{x}=1.$ 

Since  $\sin(x)$  is a even function, then  $\frac{\sin(-x)}{-x} = \frac{-\sin(x)}{-x} = \frac{\sin(x)}{x}$  so  $\lim_{x\to 0^-} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 1$ 

$$\therefore \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 1$$

### Examples:

1. 
$$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{\tan(x)}{x} = \lim_{x\to 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{\cos(s)} = \lim_{x\to 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} \cdot \lim_{x\to 0} \frac{1}{\cos(x)} = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

$$2. \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(72x)}{\tan(9x)} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(72x)}{72x} \cdot \frac{9x}{\tan(9x)} \cdot 8 = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(72x)}{72x} \cdot \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{9x}{\tan(9x)} \cdot 8 = 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 8$$

$$3. \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(x^2 - 1)}{\sin(x - 1)} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(x^2 - 1)}{\sin(x - 1)} \cdot \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 - 1} \cdot \frac{x - 1}{x - 1} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin(x^2 - 1)}{x^2 - 1} \cdot \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x - 1}{\sin(x - 1)} \cdot \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{$$

# Horizontal Asymptotes and the Fundamental Log Limit

## $\longrightarrow$ Info – Limit at $\pm \infty$

Let  $L \in \mathbb{R}$ . We say that  $\lim_{x \to \infty} \text{ if } \forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. if } x > N, \text{ then } |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ .

Similarly,  $\lim_{x \to -\infty}$  if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. if } x < N, \text{then } |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon.$ 

## **≥** Info — Horizontal Asymptotes

If  $\lim_{x\to\infty}f(x)=L \text{ or } \lim_{x\to-\infty}f(x)=L \text{ for some } L\in\mathbb{R}$  then we way y=L is a

Horizontal Asymptote of f

**Note**: you can cross horizontal asymptotes multiple times

## **≥** Info — Divergence of Limits

- 1. We say that  $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \infty$  if,  $\forall M>0, \exists N\in\mathbb{R}$  s.t. if x>N we have f(x)>M.
- 2. We say that  $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = \infty$  if,  $\forall M > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t. if x < N we have f(x) > M.
- 3. We say that  $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = -\infty$  if,  $\forall M < 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t. if x > N we have f(x) < M.
- 4. We say that  $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = -\infty$  if,  $\forall M < 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t. if x < N we have f(x) < M.

## $\stackrel{\triangleright}{\mathbf{W}}$ Info − Squeeze Theorem at $\pm \infty$

If  $g(x) \le f(x) \le h(x) \forall x \ge N$  for some  $N \in \mathbb{R}$ , and if

 $\lim_{x\to\infty} g(x) = L = \lim_{x\to\infty} h(x)$ , then  $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = L$ 

# ⚠ Warning — The Fundamental Log Limit

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x} = 0$$

#### Proof

 $0 \le \frac{\ln(x)}{x}$  true whenever  $x \ge 1$ . Since  $x \to \infty$ , assume  $x \ge 1$ .

$$\frac{\ln(x)}{x} = \frac{\ln(\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x}} = \frac{2\ln(\sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} \cdot \frac{\ln(\sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x}} \le 1 \le \frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} \text{ (since } \ln(z) \le z, \forall z \text{ arbitrarily large)}$$

$$0 \leq rac{\ln(x)}{x} \leq rac{2}{\sqrt{x}}$$
. By Squeeze Theorem  $\lim_{x o \infty} rac{\ln(x)}{x} = 0$ 

## **Examples:**

1. Show that 
$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x^p} = 0, \forall p > 0$$

$$\lim\nolimits_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x^p} = \lim\nolimits_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln(x^p)}{x^p} \cdot \frac{1}{p} \qquad \text{ Let } u = x^p, x\to\infty, u\to\infty$$

$$\lim_{u \to \infty} \frac{\ln(u)}{u} \cdot \frac{1}{p} = 0 \cdot \frac{1}{p} = 0$$

2. Show that  $\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{\ln(x^p)}{x} = 0, \forall p > 0$ 

$$\lim\nolimits_{x\to\infty}\frac{\ln(x^p)}{x}=\lim\nolimits_{x\to\infty}p\cdot\lim\nolimits_{x\to\infty}\frac{\ln(x)}{x}=p\cdot0=0$$

3. Show that  $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{x^p}{e^x} = 0, \forall p > 0$ 

$$\begin{array}{ll} \lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{x^p}{e^x} & \text{Let } x=\ln u \Leftrightarrow u=e^x, x\to\infty, u\to\infty \\ \lim_{u\to\infty}\frac{\ln(u)^p}{u}=\lim_{u\to\infty}\left(\frac{\ln(u)}{u^\frac{1}{p}}\right)^p=0^p=0 \end{array}$$

4. Show that  $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{x^p}{\ln(x)} = 0, \forall p > 0$ 

$$\begin{array}{l} \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{x^p}{\ln(x)} \left( \text{Let } u = \frac{1}{x} \right) \\ \lim_{u\to \infty} \frac{1}{u^p} \cdot \ln \left( \frac{1}{u} \right) = 0 \end{array}$$

# **≥** Info − Vertical Asymptotes

- 1.  $\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = \infty$  if for every  $m > 0, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t. if  $a < x < a + d + \delta$  then f(x) > m
- 2.  $\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = \infty$  if for every  $m < 0, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t. if  $a < x < a + d + \delta$  then f(x) < m
- 3.  $\lim_{x\to a^+} f(x) = \lim_{x\to a^-} f(x) = \infty \Longrightarrow \lim_{x\to a} f(x) = \infty$
- 4. If  $\lim_{x\to a^\pm} f(x) = \pm \infty$  then there is a vertical asymptote at x=a

# Info — Continuity

We say that a function f is **continuous** at a if f is defined at a and

- 1.  $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = f(a)$
- 2. For every  $\varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t. if  $|x a| < \delta$ , then  $|f(x) f(a)| < \varepsilon$
- 3. for every sequence  $\{x_n\}$  with  $x_n \to a$ , we have  $f(x_n) \to f(a)$
- 4. If f is not continuous at a, then it is called **discountinous at** a

### Example:

1. f(x) = |x| is continuous at a

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x \text{ if } x > 0 \\ -x \text{ if } x \le 0 \end{cases}$$

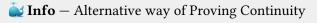
 $\lim_{x \to 0^-} |x| = \lim_{x \to 0^-} -x = 0$ 

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} |x| = \lim_{x\to 0^+} x = 0$$

Thus  $\lim_{x\to 0} |x| = 0$ 

igcap Tip — Polynomials are continuous at all points

$$\lim_{x\to a} p(x) = p(a)$$



$$\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = f(a) \equiv \lim_{h\to 0} f(a+h) = f(a)$$

#### Example:

1. Prove  $\sin(x)$  is continuous at  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ 

$$\sin(a+h) = \sin(a)\cos(h) + \sin(h)\cos(a)$$

$$\lim_{x \to a} \sin(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \sin(a+h)$$

$$= \lim\nolimits_{h \to 0} \sin(a) \cdot \lim\nolimits_{h \to 0} \cos(h) + \lim\nolimits_{h \to 0} \sin(h) \cdot \lim\nolimits_{h \to 0} \cos(a)$$

$$= \sin(a) \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot \cos(a) = \sin(a)$$

2. Given that  $e^x$  is continuous at x=0, prove that it is continuous on all of  $\mathbb R$ 

$$\lim_{x\to a} e^x = \lim_{h\to 0} e^{a+h} = e^a \cdot 1 = \lim_{h\to 0}$$

## **?** Tip − Continuity of Inverse

Let f(x) be invertible at x = a with f(a) = b. Then  $f^{-1}(y)$  is continuous at y = b

## 

Let f, g be continuous at x = a.

- 1. For any constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , cf(x) is continuous at x = a
- 2.  $f(x) \pm g(x)$  remain continuous
- 3. f(x)g(x) remain continuous
- 4. If  $g(x) \neq 0$ ,  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  remain continuous

## **≥** Info − Composition of Continuous Function

If f is continuous at x = a, and g is continuous at x = f(a), then

 $h = g \circ f$  is continuous at x = a

#### Proof:

Given f is continuous at a, then for any  $\{x_n\}$ ,  $x_n \to a$ ,  $f(x_n) \to f(a)$  But g is continuous at f(a), so for any  $\{y_n\}$  with  $y_n \to f(a)$ ,  $g(y_n) \to g(f(a))$ . Let  $y_n = f(x_n)$ . Then  $g(f(x_n)) \to g(f(a))$  since  $x_n$  is aribitrary,  $g \circ f$  is continuous at x = a

## ho Tip — Continuity on Invervals

- 1. We say that a function f is continuous on (a, b) if it is continuous at each  $x \in (a, b)$
- 2. We say that a function f is continuous on [a,b] if it is continuous on (a,b) and we have  $\lim_{x\to a^-}f(x)=f(a)$  and  $\lim_{x\to b^+}f(x)=f(b)$

#### Example:

Find the largest interval on which  $f(x) = x^{\frac{1}{4}}$  is continuous.

For  $(0, \infty)$  given  $a \in (0, \infty)$ , f is continuous at  $a^-$  because it is the inverse of  $x^4$ , which is continuous at  $\mathbb{R}$ .

For  $a=0,\lim_{x\to 0^+}x^{\frac{1}{4}}=0$ , so f is continuous at 0 as well.

f is continuous on  $[0, \infty)$ 

## Info — Types of Discountinuity

- 1. A discontinuity is a removable discontinuity if  $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$  exists but does not equal f(a). All discontinuities not of this type are non-removable.
- 2. A discontinuity is a jump discontinuity if  $\lim_{x\to a^-} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x\to a^+} f(x)$  exist but do not agree.
- 3. A discontinuity is infinite if either  $\lim_{x\to a^-} f(x) = \pm \infty$  or  $\lim_{x\to a^+} f(x) = \pm \infty$ .
- 4. A discontinuity is oscillatory if  $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$  does not exist, but f is bounded and oscillates infinitely often near x = a.

### 🚉 Info — Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)

If f is continuous on a closed interval [a, b] and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  is such that either  $f(a) < \alpha < f(b)$  or  $f(a) > \alpha > f(b)$ , then  $\exists c \in (a, b)$  s.t.  $f(c) = \alpha$ 

#### **Examples:**

1. Show that  $\sin(x)$  and  $1-x^2$  intersects on (0,1)

Since  $\sin(x)$  and  $1-x^2$  are continuous on  $\mathbb R$  therefore continuous on [0,1]

For 
$$x = 1$$
,  $\sin(1) - 1 + (1)^2 = 1^2 - 1 > 1$ 

For 
$$x = 0$$
,  $\sin(0) - 1 + (0)^2 = -1 < 1$ 

By IVT,  $\exists c \in (0,1), f(c) = 0$ , meaning the given function intersect

2. Show that  $x^3 + 3x^2 - x - 3$  has a root in the interval (-5, -2)

Since  $x^3 + 3x^2 - x - 3$  is continuous on  $\mathbb R$  therefore continuous on [-5, -2]

For 
$$x = -5$$
,  $(-5)^3 + 3(-5)^2 - (-5) - 3 = -48 < 0$ 

For 
$$x = -2$$
,  $(-2)^3 + 3(-2)^2 - (-2) - 3 = 3 > 0$ 

$$-48 < 0 < 3$$

By IVT,  $\exists c \in (-5, -2), f(c) = 0$ , meaning there is a point where the given function has a root

#### 🔪 Info — Bisection Method

Let F be a continuous function.

To approximate a value c s.t. F(c) = 0 with an error of at most  $\varepsilon$ 

- 1. We need to find a, b s.t. F(a) and F(b) have opposite signs
- 2. IVT gives that  $c \in (a, b)$
- 3. Look at the mid-point  $a + \frac{b-a}{2}$ . Is  $F(a + \frac{b-a}{2})$  positive or negative?
- $\int 1$ . If it has the same sigh as F(a), then it has the opposite sign with  $F(b) \Longrightarrow \text{IVT}$  gives  $c \in (a + \frac{b-a}{2}, b)$
- 2. If it has the opposite sigh as F(a), then it has the same sign with  $F(b) \Longrightarrow IVT$  gives  $c \in (a, a + \frac{b-a}{2})$
- 4. Repeat Step 3 until  $|b-a| < \varepsilon$

#### CHAPTER ENDS