

# **Mathematical Analysis**

## **Chapter 6**

### **Sequences of Functions**

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## Overview

We now look at sequences of functions, which arise naturally in analysis and its applications.

In particular, we will

- discuss two types of convergence (pointwise and uniform), and
- prove some limit interchange theorems.

## Outline

6.1 – Pointwise and Uniform Convergence (p.3)

6.2 – Limit Interchange Theorems (p.14)

6.3 – Exercises (p.28)

## 6.1 – Pointwise and Uniform Convergence

Let  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and  $(f_n)_n$  be a **sequence of functions**  $f_n : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

The sequence  $(f_n(x))_n$  may converge for some  $x \in A$  and diverge for others.

Let  $A_0 = \{x \in A \mid (f_n(x))_n \text{ converges}\} \subseteq A$ . For each  $x \in A_0$ ,  $(f_n(x))$  converges to a unique limit

$$f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x),$$

the **pointwise limit** of  $(f_n)$ , which we denote by  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $A_0$ .

## Examples:

1. Let  $f_n : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f_n(x) = \frac{x}{n}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $f$  be the zero function on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Show that  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . According to the Archimedean Property,  $\exists N_{\varepsilon, x} > \frac{|x|}{\varepsilon}$  so that

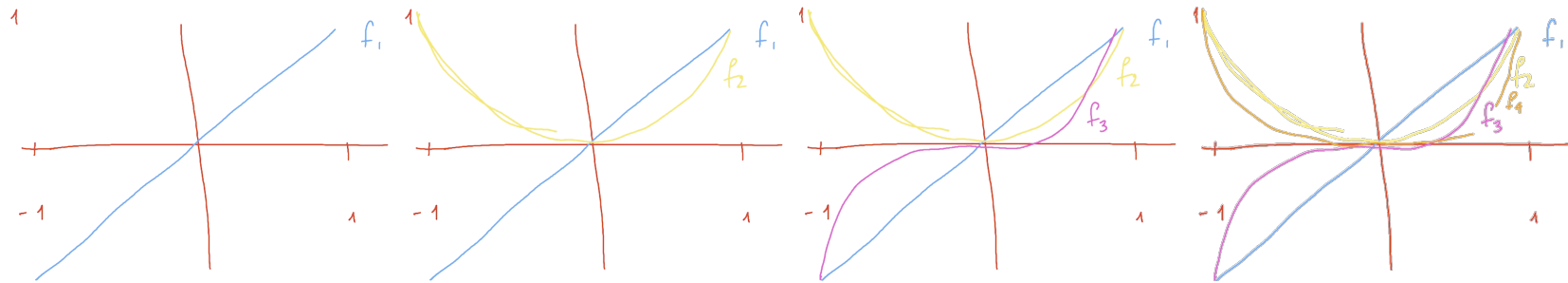
$$n > N_{\varepsilon, x} \implies \left| \frac{x}{n} - 0 \right| < \frac{|x|}{n} < \frac{|x|}{N_{\varepsilon, x}} < \varepsilon,$$

thus  $f_n \rightarrow 0$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ . ■

2. Let  $f_n : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f_n(x) = x^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $f$  be the zero function on  $\mathbb{R}$ , except at  $x = 1$  where  $f(1) = 1$ . Show that  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $(-1, 1]$ .

**Proof.** Using various results seen in Chapters 3 and 4 and in the Exercises, we know that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^n = \begin{cases} 0 & x \in (-1, 1) \\ 1 & x = 1 \\ \text{NA} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Thus  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $(-1, 1]$ . Note that all  $f_n$  are continuous on  $(-1, 1]$ , but that  $f$  is not. ■

3. Let  $f_n : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f_n(x) = \frac{x^2 + nx}{n}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $f$  be the identity function on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Show that  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Proof.** As  $f_n(x) = \frac{x^2}{n} + x \rightarrow f(x) = x, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ . ■

A sequence of functions  $(f_n : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$  **converges uniformly on**  $A_0 \subseteq A$  **to**  $f : A_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , denoted by  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $A_0$ , if the threshold  $N_{\varepsilon, x} \in \mathbb{N}$  in the pointwise definition is in fact **independent** of  $x \in A_0$ :

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } n > N_\varepsilon \text{ and } x \in A_0 \implies |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon.$$

The distinction between pointwise and uniform convergence is not unlike that between continuity and uniform continuity: convergence is uniform if the threshold is the same for all  $x \in A_0$ .

Clearly, if  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $A_0$ , then  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $A_0$ , but the converse is not necessarily true.

### Examples:

1. Show that the sequence  $f_n : [1, 2] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f_n(x) = \frac{\sin x}{nx}$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  converges uniformly to the zero function on  $[1, 2]$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . According to the Archimedean Property,  $\exists N_\varepsilon > \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$  so that

$$n > N_\varepsilon \text{ and } x \in [1, 2] \implies \left| \frac{\sin x}{nx} - 0 \right| = \left| \frac{\sin x}{nx} \right| \leq \frac{1}{nx} \leq \frac{1}{n} < \frac{1}{N_\varepsilon} < \varepsilon,$$

thus  $f_n \Rightarrow 0$  on  $[1, 2]$ . ■



2. Let  $f_n : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f_n(x) = x^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $f$  be the zero function on  $\mathbb{R}$ , except at  $x = 1$  where  $f(1) = 1$ . Show that  $f_n \not\rightarrow f$  on  $(-1, 1]$ .

**Proof.** We use the negation of the definition. Let  $\varepsilon_0 = \frac{1}{4}$ , and set  $x_k = \frac{1}{2^{1/k}}$  and  $(n_k) = (k)$ . Then

$$|f_{n_k}(x_k) - f(x_k)| = \left| \frac{1}{2} - 0 \right| = \frac{1}{2} \geq \varepsilon_0,$$

which completes the proof. ■

A sequence of functions  $f_n$  does not converge uniformly to  $f$  on  $A_0$  if

$\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0$  with  $(f_{n_k}) \subseteq (f_n)$  and  $(x_k) \subseteq A_0$  s.t.  $|f_{n_k}(x_k) - f(x_k)| \geq \varepsilon_0, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

The definition of uniform convergence is only ever useful if a candidate for a uniform limit is available, a situation that we have encountered before.

**Theorem 66.** (CAUCHY'S CRITERION FOR SEQUENCES OF FUNCTIONS)  
*Let  $f_n : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then,  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $A_0 \subseteq A$  if and only if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$  (indep. of  $x \in A_0$ ) such that  $|f_m(x) - f_n(x)| < \varepsilon$  whenever  $m \geq n > N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x \in A_0$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . If  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $A_0$ ,  $\exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon$  when  $x \in A_0$  and  $n > N_\varepsilon$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} |f_m(x) - f_n(x)| &= |f_m(x) - f(x) + f(x) - f_n(x)| \\ &\leq |f_m(x) - f(x)| + |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

whenever  $x \in A_0$  and  $m \geq n > N_\varepsilon$ .

Conversely, let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and assume that  $\exists N_{\varepsilon/2} \in \mathbb{N}$  (independent of  $x \in A_0$ ) such that

$$m \geq n > N_{\varepsilon/2} \text{ and } x \in A_0 \implies -\frac{\varepsilon}{2} < f_m(x) - f_n(x) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

Since  $x \in A_0$ , we know that  $f_m(x) \rightarrow f$  on  $A_0$  when  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus,

$$m \geq n > N_{\varepsilon/2} \text{ and } x \in A_0 \implies \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \leq \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (f_m(x) - f_n(x)) \leq \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\varepsilon}{2},$$

or

$$m \geq n > N_{\varepsilon/2} \text{ and } x \in A_0 \implies -\varepsilon < -\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \leq f(x) - f_n(x) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \varepsilon,$$

and so  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $A_0$ . ■

**Example:** Let  $f_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be the sequence of functions defined by

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} nx, & x \in [0, 1/n] \\ 2 - nx, & x \in [1/n, 2/n] \\ 0 & x \in [2/n, 1] \end{cases}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be the zero function on  $[0, 1]$ . Show that  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $[0, 1]$  but  $f_n \not\rightarrow f$  on  $[0, 1]$ .

**Proof.** If  $x = 0$ ,  $f_n(0) = 0$  for all  $n$  so  $(f_n(0))$  converges to 0.

If  $x \in (0, 1]$ ,  $\exists N_x > 2/x$  by the Archimedean Property. Thus, for  $n > N_x$ ,  $f_n(x) = 0$  since  $x > \frac{2}{N} > \frac{2}{n}$ , so  $f_n(x) \rightarrow 0$  on  $(0, 1]$

Combining these results,  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $[0, 1]$ .

Now, let  $\varepsilon_0 = \frac{1}{2}$ . Note that since  $|f_n(\frac{1}{n}) - f(\frac{1}{n})| = 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we can never obtain

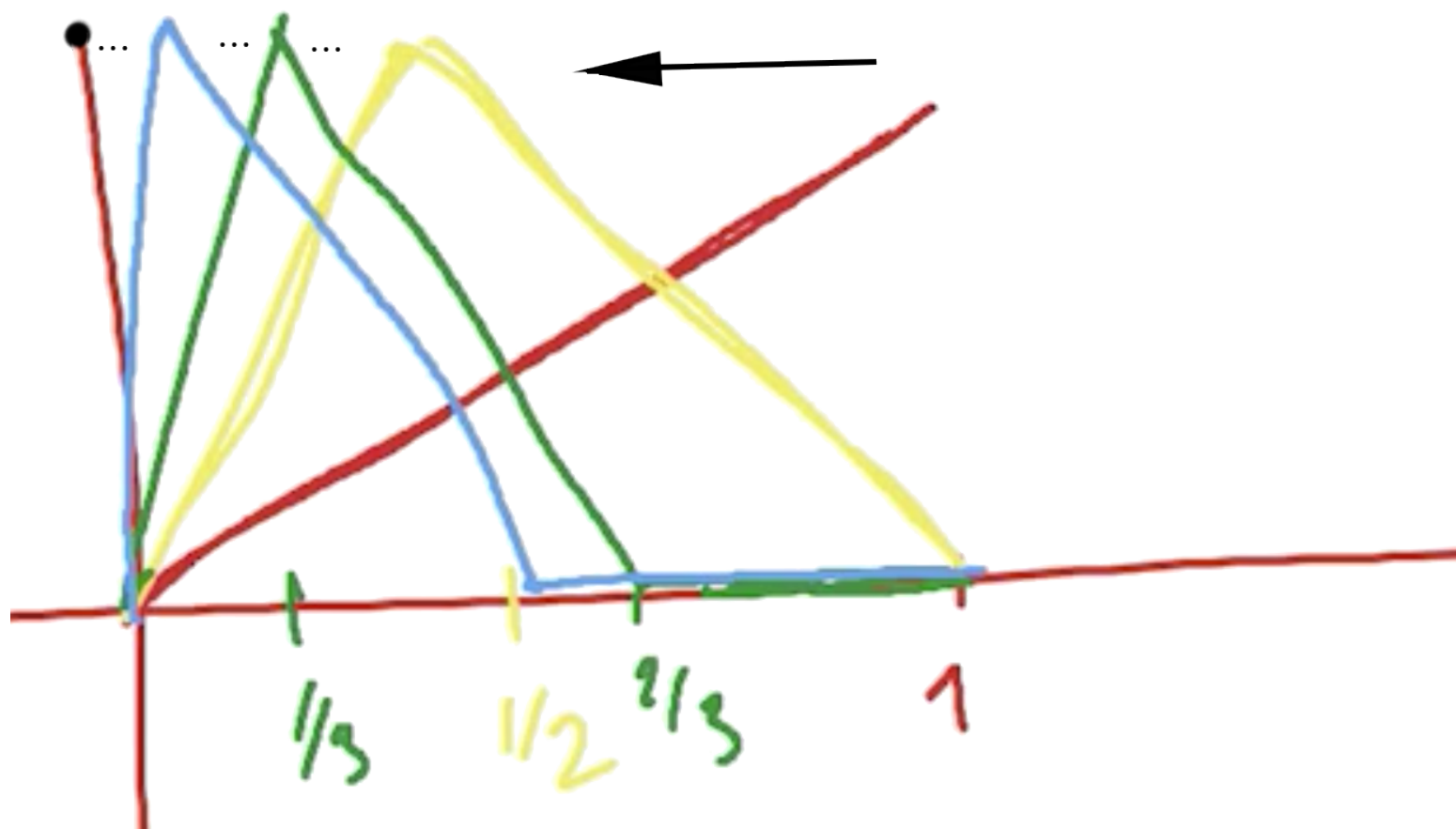
$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon$$

for all  $x \in [0, 1]$ , and so  $f_n \not\Rightarrow f$  on  $[0, 1]$ . ■

The fact that we have to separate the proof for pointwise convergence into distinct argument depending on the value of  $x$  is a strong indication that the convergence cannot be uniform (although it could be that it was possible to do a one-pass proof and that the insight escaped us...)

Intuitively, we can think of the convergence process in the last example as being a flattening process: what happens to the tents' peak as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ?

The fact that we have to “break” the tents in order to get to the pointwise limit is another indication that the convergence cannot be uniform.



## 6.2 – Limit Interchange Theorems

It is often necessary to know if the limit  $f$  of a sequence of functions  $(f_n)$  is continuous, differentiable, or Riemann-integrable. It is not always the case, even when the  $f_n$  are continuous, differentiable, or Riemann-integrable.

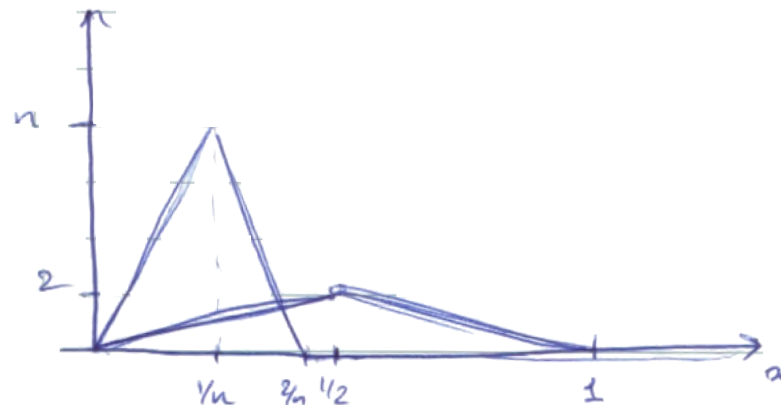
### Examples:

1. Consider the sequence of functions  $f_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $f_n(x) = x^n$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be the zero function except at  $x = 1$  where  $f(1) = 1$ . Then  $f_n$  is continuous on  $[0, 1]$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , but  $f$  is not.
2. The same functions  $f_n$  are differentiable on  $[0, 1]$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , but  $f$  is not (as it is not continuous at  $x = 1$ ).

3. Consider the functions  $f_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} n^2 x, & x \in [0, 1/n] \\ -n^2(x - 2/n), & x \in [1/n, 2/n] \\ 0 & x \in [2/n, 1] \end{cases}$$

for  $n \geq 2$ .





Since  $f_n$  is continuous on  $[0, 1]$  for all  $n \geq 2$ ,  $f_n$  is Riemann-integrable on  $[0, 1]$  for all  $n \geq 2$ , with

$$\int_0^1 f_n = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{n} \cdot n = 1, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 2.$$

If  $x = 0$ ,  $f_n(0) = 0$  for all  $n$  so  $(f_n(0))$  converges to 0.

If  $x \in (0, 1]$ ,  $\exists N_x > 2/x$  by the Archimedean Property. Thus, for  $n > N_x$ ,  $f_n(x) = 0$  since  $x > \frac{2}{N} > \frac{2}{n}$ , so  $f_n(x) \rightarrow 0$  on  $(0, 1]$

So  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $[0, 1]$ , but  $\int_0^1 f = 0 \neq 1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 f_n$ . ■

Note that none of the “convergences” in the previous example are uniform on  $[0, 1]$ . When the convergence  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $A$  is uniform, then if the  $f_n$  are

- continuous on  $A$ , so is  $f$ ;
- differentiable on  $A$ , so is  $f$ , with

$$f' = \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n \right] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{d}{dx} f_n \right] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n;$$

- Riemann-integrable on  $A$ , then so is  $f$ , with

$$\int_A f = \int_A \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_A f_n.$$

We finish this chapter by proving three **Limit Interchange Theorems**.

**Theorem 67.** *Let  $f_n : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous on  $A$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $A$ , then  $f$  is continuous on  $A$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By definition,  $\exists H_{\varepsilon/3} \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$n > H_{\varepsilon/3} \text{ and } x \in A \implies |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}.$$

Let  $c \in A$ . According to the Triangle Inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - f(c)| &\leq |f(x) - f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(x)| + |f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(x) - f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(c)| + |f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(c) - f(c)| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + |f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(x) - f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(c)| + \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \end{aligned}$$

whenever  $n > H_{\varepsilon/3}$ .

But  $f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}$  is continuous at  $c$ , so  $\exists \delta_{\varepsilon/3} > 0$  such that  $|f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(x) - f_{H_{\varepsilon/3}}(c)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$  when  $x \in A$  and  $|x - c| < \delta_{\varepsilon/3}$ . Thus  $|f(x) - f(c)| < \varepsilon$  whenever  $x \in A$  and  $|x - c| < \delta_{\varepsilon/3}$ , so  $f$  is continuous at  $c$ . As  $c \in A$  is arbitrary,  $f$  is continuous on  $A$ . ■

**Theorem 68.** *Let  $f_n : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a sequence of differentiable functions on  $[a, b]$  such that  $\exists x_0 \in [a, b]$  with  $f_n(x_0) \rightarrow z_0$ , and  $f_n'' \rightrightarrows g$  on  $[a, b]$ . Then  $f_n \rightrightarrows f$  on  $[a, b]$  for some function  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f' = g$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $x \in [a, b]$ . Since  $f_n' \rightrightarrows g$  on  $[a, b]$ , the sequence  $f_n'$  satisfies Cauchy's Criterion, and so  $\exists N_1 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$m \geq n > N_1 \text{ and } y \in [a, b] \implies |f_m'(y) - f_n'(y)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)}.$$

As  $(f_n(x_0))$  converges it is also a Cauchy sequence, so  $\exists N_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$m \geq n > N_2 \implies |f_m(x_0) - f_n(x_0)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

According to the Mean Value Theorem,  $\exists y$  between  $x$  and  $x_0$  such that

$$(f_m(x) - f_n(x)) - (f_m(x_0) - f_n(x_0)) = (f'_m(y) - f'_n(y))(x - x_0).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} |f_m(x) - f_n(x)| &\leq |f_m(x_0) - f_n(x_0)| + |f'_m(y) - f'_n(y)| \cdot |x - x_0| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)}(b-a) = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

for all  $m \geq n > \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ .

Both  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are independent of  $x$ , so  $N_\varepsilon = \max\{N_1, N_2\}$  also is, and thus  $(f_n)_n$  satisfies Cauchy's Criterion, which yields  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $[a, b]$ .

It remains only to show that  $f' = g$  on  $[a, b]$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $c \in [a, b]$ . Since  $(f'_n)$  satisfies Cauchy's Criterion (as  $f'_n \Rightarrow g$ ),  $\exists K_1 \in \mathbb{N}$  (independent of  $x$ ) such that

$$m \geq n > K_1 \text{ and } y \in [a, b] \implies |f'_m(y) - f'_n(y)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}.$$

But  $f' \Rightarrow g'$ , so  $\exists K_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  (independent of  $c$ ) such that

$$n \geq K_2 \text{ and } c \in [a, b] \implies |f'_n(c) - g(c)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}.$$

Set  $K_\varepsilon > \max\{K_1, K_2\}$ .

As  $f'_{K_\varepsilon}(c)$  exists,  $\exists \delta_\varepsilon > 0$  such that

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta_\varepsilon \text{ and } x \in [a, b] \implies \left| \frac{f_{K_\varepsilon}(x) - f_{K_\varepsilon}(c)}{x - c} - f'_{K_\varepsilon}(c) \right| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}.$$

According to the Mean Value Theorem,  $\exists y$  between  $x$  and  $c$  such that

$$(f_m(x) - f_n(x)) - (f_m(c) - f_n(c)) = (f'_m(y) - f'_n(y))(x - c).$$

If  $x \neq c$ , then  $m \geq n > K_\varepsilon$  and  $x \in [a, b] \implies$

$$\left| \frac{f_m(x) - f_m(c)}{x - c} - \frac{f_n(x) - f_n(c)}{x - c} \right| = |f'_m(y) - f'_n(y)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}.$$

Letting  $m \rightarrow \infty$  (i.e.  $f_m \rightarrow f$  on  $A$ ), we get

$$n > K_\varepsilon \text{ and } x \in [a, b] \implies \left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - \frac{f_m(c) - f_n(c)}{x - c} \right| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3}.$$

Combining all of these inequalities, for  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_\varepsilon$ ,  $x \in [a, b]$ , and  $k > K_\varepsilon$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - g(c) \right| &= \left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - \frac{f_k(x) - f_k(c)}{x - c} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{f_k(x) - f_k(c)}{x - c} - f'_k(c) + f'_k(c) - g(c) \right| \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - \frac{f_k(x) - f_k(c)}{x - c} \right| + \left| \frac{f_k(x) - f_k(c)}{x - c} - f'_k(c) \right| \\
&\quad + |f'_k(c) - g(c)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \frac{\varepsilon}{3} = \varepsilon,
\end{aligned}$$

which is to say that  $f'(c) = g(c)$ . ■

**Theorem 69.** *Let  $f_n : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be Riemann-integrable on  $[a, b]$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $[a, b]$ , then  $f$  is Riemann-integrable on  $[a, b]$  and*

$$\int_a^b f = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b f_n.$$

**Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $[a, b]$ ,  $\exists K_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$  (independent of  $x$ ) such that

$$n \geq K_\varepsilon \implies |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{4(b-a)}.$$

Since  $f_{K_\varepsilon}$  is Riemann-integrable,  $\exists P_\varepsilon = \{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$  a partition of  $[a, b]$  such that

$$U(P_\varepsilon; f_{K_\varepsilon}) - L(P_\varepsilon; f_{K_\varepsilon}) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2},$$

according to the Riemann Criterion.

For all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , set

$$m_i(f) = \inf\{f(x) \mid x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\}, \quad m_i(f_{K_\varepsilon}) = \inf\{f_{K_\varepsilon}(x) \mid x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\},$$

$$M_i(f) = \sup\{f(x) \mid x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\}, \quad M_i(f_{K_\varepsilon}) = \sup\{f_{K_\varepsilon}(x) \mid x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\}.$$

Then according to the reverse triangle inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x)| < |f_{K_\varepsilon}(x)| + \frac{\varepsilon}{4(b-a)} &\implies |f(x)| < M_i(f_{K_\varepsilon}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{4(b-a)} \text{ on } [x_{i-1}, x_i] \\ &\implies M_i(f) < M_i(f_{K_\varepsilon}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{4(b-a)} \text{ on } [x_{i-1}, x_i]. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $m_i(f) \geq m_i(f_{K_\varepsilon}) - \frac{\varepsilon}{4(b-a)}$  on  $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} U(P_\varepsilon; f) &= \sum_{i=1}^n M_i(f)(x_i - x_{i-1}) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n M_i(f_{K_\varepsilon})(x_i - x_{i-1}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{4(b-a)} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - x_{i-1}) = U(P_\varepsilon; f_{K_\varepsilon}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $L(P_\varepsilon; f) \geq L(P_\varepsilon; f_{K_\varepsilon}) - \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ . Hence

$$U(P_\varepsilon; f) - L(P_\varepsilon; f) \leq U(P_\varepsilon; f_{K_\varepsilon}) - L(P_\varepsilon; f_{K_\varepsilon}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \varepsilon.$$

Thus, according to the Riemann Criterion,  $f$  is Riemann-integrable.

Finally, let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . As  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $[a, b]$ ,  $\exists \hat{K}_\varepsilon$  (indep. of  $x$ ) such that

$$n > \hat{K}_\varepsilon \text{ and } x \in [a, b] \implies |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)}.$$

Consequently,  $\int_a^b f_n \rightarrow \int_a^b f$ , since  $n > \hat{K}_\varepsilon \implies$

$$\left| \int_a^b f_n - \int_a^b f \right| = \left| \int_a^b (f_n - f) \right| \leq \int_a^b |f_n - f| \leq \int_a^b \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \varepsilon. \quad \blacksquare$$

## 6.3 – Exercises

1. Show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{nx}{1 + n^2 x^2} = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .
2. Show that if  $f_n(x) = x + \frac{1}{n}$  and  $f(x) = x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  but  $f_n^2 \not\Rightarrow g$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  for any function  $g$ .
3. Let  $f_n(x) = \frac{1}{(1+x)^n}$  for  $x \in [0, 1]$ . Denote by  $f$  the pointwise limit of  $f_n$  on  $[0, 1]$ . Does  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $[0, 1]$ ?
4. Let  $(f_n)$  be the sequence of functions defined by  $f_n(x) = \frac{x^n}{n}$ , for  $x \in [0, 1]$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Show that  $(f_n)$  converges uniformly to a differentiable function  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and that the sequence  $(f'_n)$  converges pointwise to a function  $g : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , but that  $g(1) \neq f'(1)$ .
5. Show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^2 e^{-nx^2} dx = 0$ .

6. Show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\pi/2}^{\pi} \frac{\sin(nx)}{nx} dx = 0$ .
7. Show that if  $f_n \Rightarrow f$  on  $[a, b]$ , and each  $f_n$  is continuous, then the sequence of functions  $(F_n)_n$  defined by

$$F_n(x) = \int_a^x f_n(t) dt$$

also converges uniformly on  $[a, b]$ .

## Solutions

1. **Proof.** If  $x = 0$ , then  $\frac{nx}{1+n^2x^2} = 0 \rightarrow 0$ .

If  $x \neq 0$ , let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By the Archimedean property,  $\exists N_\varepsilon > \frac{1}{\varepsilon|x|}$  (depending on  $x$ ) s.t.

$$\left| \frac{nx}{1+n^2x^2} - 0 \right| = \frac{n|x|}{1+n^2x^2} < \frac{n|x|}{n^2x^2} = \frac{1}{n|x|} < \frac{1}{N_\varepsilon|x|} < \varepsilon$$

whenever  $n > N_\varepsilon$ , i.e.  $\frac{nx}{1+n^2x^2} \rightarrow 0$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ . ■

2. **Proof.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By the Archimedean property,  $\exists N_\varepsilon > \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$  (independent of  $x$ ) s.t.

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| = \left| x + \frac{1}{n} - x \right| = \frac{1}{n} < \frac{1}{N_\varepsilon} < \varepsilon$$

whenever  $n > N_\varepsilon$ , i.e.  $f_n \Rightarrow 0$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Now,  $(f_n(x))^2 = x^2 + \frac{2x}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2} \rightarrow x^2$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Hence,  $f_n^2 \rightarrow g$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ , where  $g(x) = x^2$ . If  $f_n^2$  converges uniformly to any function, it will have to do so to  $g$ . But let  $\varepsilon_0 = 2$  and  $x_n = n$ . Then

$$\left| (f_n(x_n))^2 - g(x_n) \right| = \left| \frac{2x_n}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2} \right| = 2 + \frac{1}{n^2} \geq 2 = \varepsilon_0$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (this is the negation of the definition of uniform convergence). Hence  $f_n^2$  does not converge uniformly on  $\mathbb{R}$ . ■



3. **Proof.** First note that  $1 \leq 1 + x$  on  $[0, 1]$ .

In particular,  $\frac{1}{1+x} \leq 1$  on  $[0, 1]$ . If  $x \in (0, 1]$ , then  $\frac{1}{(1+x)^n} \rightarrow 0$ , according to one of the examples done in class.

If  $x = 0$ ,  $\frac{1}{(1+x)^n} = \frac{1}{1^n} = 1 \rightarrow 1$ ; i.e.  $f_n \rightarrow f$  on  $[0, 1]$ , where

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \in (0, 1] \\ 1, & x = 0 \end{cases}.$$

However,  $f_n \not\rightarrow f$  by theorem 67, since  $f_n$  is continuous on  $[0, 1]$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , but  $f$  is not. ■

4. **Proof.** The sequence  $f_n(x) = \frac{x^n}{n} \rightarrow f(x) \equiv 0$  on  $[0, 1]$ .

Indeed, let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By the Archimedean Property,  $\exists N_\varepsilon > \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$  s.t.

$$\left| \frac{x^n}{n} - 0 \right| \leq \frac{|x|^n}{n} \leq \frac{1}{n} < \frac{1}{N_\varepsilon} < \varepsilon$$

whenever  $n > N_\varepsilon$ . Note that  $f$  is differentiable and  $f'(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in [0, 1]$ . Furthermore,  $f'_n(x) = \frac{nx^{n-1}}{n} = x^{n-1} \rightarrow g(x)$  on  $[0, 1]$ , where

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \in [0, 1) \\ 1, & x = 1 \end{cases},$$

by one of the examples I did in class. Then  $g(1) = 1 \neq 0 = f'(1)$ . ■

5. **Proof.** As  $\left(e^{-nx^2}\right)' = -2nxe^{-nx^2} < 0$  on  $[1, 2]$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $e^{-nx^2}$  is decreasing on  $[1, 2]$  for all  $n$ , that is

$$e^{-nx^2} \leq e^{-n(1)^2} = e^{-n} \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Now,

$$f_n(x) = e^{-nx^2} \Rightarrow f(x) \equiv 0 \quad \text{on } [1, 2].$$

Indeed, let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By the Archimedean Property,  $\exists N_\varepsilon > \ln \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$  (independent of  $x$ ) s.t.

$$\left|e^{-nx^2} - 0\right| = e^{-nx^2} < e^{-Nx^2} \leq e^{-N} < \varepsilon$$

whenever  $n > N_\varepsilon$ . Then (and only because of this uniform convergence),

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^2 e^{-nx^2} dx = \int_1^2 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-nx^2} dx = \int_1^2 0 dx = 0,$$

by the Limit Interchange Theorem for Integrals. ■

6. **Proof.** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , define  $f_n : [\pi/2, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$f_n(x) = \frac{\sin(nx)}{nx}.$$

Then each  $f_n$  is continuous. For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\sup_{x \in [\pi/2, \pi]} \left\{ \left| \frac{\sin(nx)}{nx} \right| \right\} \leq \frac{2}{n\pi}.$$

Since  $2/n\pi \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have  $f_n \Rightarrow 0$  (why?). Then the limit interchange theorem for integrals applies, and we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\pi/2}^{\pi} \frac{\sin(nx)}{nx} dx = \int_{\pi/2}^{\pi} 0 dx = 0.$$

This completes the proof. ■

7. **Proof.** Define  $F(x) = \int_a^x f(t) dt$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $f_n \Rightarrow f$ ,  $\exists N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that, for all  $n \geq N$ , we have

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{b-a} \quad \forall x \in [a, b].$$

Then, for all  $n \geq N$  and  $x \in [a, b]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |F_n(x) - F(x)| &= \left| \int_a^x f_n(t) dt - \int_a^x f(t) dt \right| \leq \int_a^x |f_n(t) - f(t)| dt \\ &\leq (x-a) \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{b-a} \leq \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $F_n \Rightarrow F$  on  $[a, b]$ . ■