

Appendix : Mathematical background for stability.

Definition. A subset $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is bounded if $\exists k < \infty$ such that $\forall x \in S, \|x\| \leq k$.

Equivalently, one can say that $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is bounded if $\exists k < \infty$ such that $S \subset B_k(0)$.

Lemma. Suppose that $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous. Then, $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}$, the set of points (i.e., the sublevel sets) $\mathcal{L}(c) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid V(x) \leq c\}$ is closed.

Note: \rightarrow We used that Lemma last time when we were considering the sublevel sets of the function V we had defined.

Proof of the Lemma: To prove the lemma, we will use the sequence characterization of closed sets. Let (x_n) be a sequence of points in $\mathcal{L}(c)$, that is, $\forall n \geq 1, V(x_n) \leq c$, and such that $x_n \rightarrow \bar{x}$, i.e. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \bar{x}$.

We want to show that $\bar{x} \in \mathcal{L}(c)$, [i.e., that means $V(\bar{x}) \leq c$]

To prove that, we first note that since V is continuous, we have that $V(\bar{x}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} V(x_n)$. [Recall Problem 2 in your HW2.]

Moreover, by definition we have $\forall n \geq 1, V(x_n) \leq c$. That means, $V(x_n)$ is a convergent sequence in $(-\infty, c] \subset \mathbb{R}$, where by

definition $(-\infty, c]$ is a closed set.

Now, we have that the limit point $V(\bar{x})$ of $V(x_n)$ should belong into $(-\infty, c]$, because if a set S is closed, then it contains its limit points \downarrow

[Recall Problem 3 in your HW2.]

Hence we proved that $\bar{x} \in L(c)$, i.e., $V(\bar{x}) \leq c$.

Definition. We often denote $\mathbb{R}_+ = [0, +\infty)$

A function $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is radially unbounded if $\forall c < \infty, \exists k < \infty$ such that $\|x\| > k \Rightarrow V(x) > c$.

Notation \rightarrow This definition essentially tells us that:
 $V(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $\|x\| \rightarrow \infty$.

Lemma Suppose that $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

- (i) continuous
- (ii) $V(x) \rightarrow \infty$, as $\|x\| \rightarrow \infty$.

Then, $\forall c \geq 0, L(c) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid V(x) \leq c\}$ are closed and bounded.

Proof We proved that $L(c)$ is closed earlier. It suffices to show that $L(c)$ is bounded.

$\forall x \quad c \geq 0$. We will show that

if $L(c)$ is NOT bounded, then V is NOT radially unbounded.

If $L(c)$ is NOT bounded, then $\forall K < \infty, \exists x \in L(c)$ with $\|x\| > K$. (note we negated the property of bounded set)

That means, $\forall K < \infty, \exists x$ such that $\underbrace{V(x) \leq c}_{\text{since } x \in L(c)}$ and at the same time $\|x\| \geq K$,

which implies that V is NOT radially unbounded. This completes the proof.

Definition A subset $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is compact if it is closed and bounded.

Note: This definition is not valid for infinite-dimensional normed spaces!

Definition [Weierstrass Theorem.] Suppose that $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and that S is compact. Then f achieves a minimum and a maximum on S ; that is, $\exists s^* \in S$ and $s_* \in S$ such that $f(s^*) = \sup_{x \in S} f(x)$, $f(s_*) = \inf_{x \in S} f(x)$
 $= \max_{x \in S} f(x)$ $= \min_{x \in S} f(x)$

Non-Examples.

1) $S = [0, +\infty) \subset \mathbb{R}$ is closed, but is not bounded.

Consider the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2} > 0 \quad \forall x \in S$.

We have $\inf_{x \in S} f(x) = 0$. That means, $\nexists s_* \in S$ such that

$$f(s_*) = 0,$$

since $f(x) > 0 \quad \forall x \in S$.

In this case, the minimum is not achieved.

Note also that in this case there happens to be a maximum since $\sup_{x \in S} f(x) = 1 = f(0)$, though it is not

guaranteed to exist by the theorem.

2) $S = (0, 1) \subset \mathbb{R}$ is bounded but it is not closed.

Consider the function $f(x) = x$

We have $\inf_{x \in S} f(x) = 0$ BUT $\nexists x_* \in S$ such that $f(x_*) = 0$.
(minimum is not achieved.)

$\sup_{x \in S} f(x) = 1$ BUT $\nexists x^* \in S$ such that $f(x^*) = 1$
(maximum is not achieved.)

Definition.

$h: S \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is uniformly continuous if $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta(\epsilon) > 0$ such that $\forall x, y \in S,$

$$\|x - y\| < \delta \Rightarrow \|h(x) - h(y)\| < \epsilon.$$

Key Point: The same δ must work for all x, y ! Of course, as ϵ gets smaller, you may require δ to get smaller too, so δ does depend on ϵ .

Non-example. $h(x) = e^x$. It is continuous at every $x \in \mathbb{R}$, but not uniformly continuous.

Proof: We want to show that $h(x) = e^x$ is not uniformly continuous. We start by negating the property of uniform continuity.

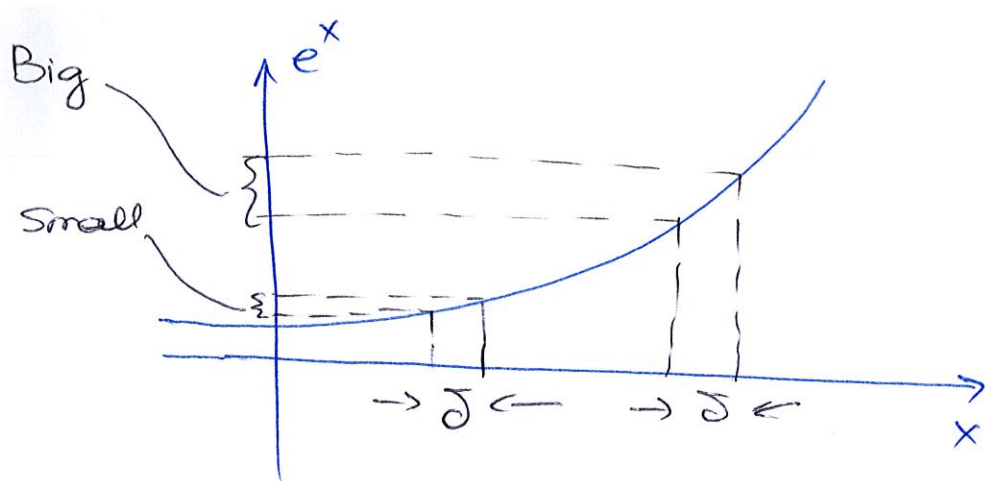
$\exists \epsilon > 0$ such that $\forall \delta(\epsilon) > 0, \exists x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $|x - y| < \delta$ but $|e^x - e^y| \geq \epsilon$.

Let $\epsilon = 1$, and $\delta > 0$ arbitrary but fixed.

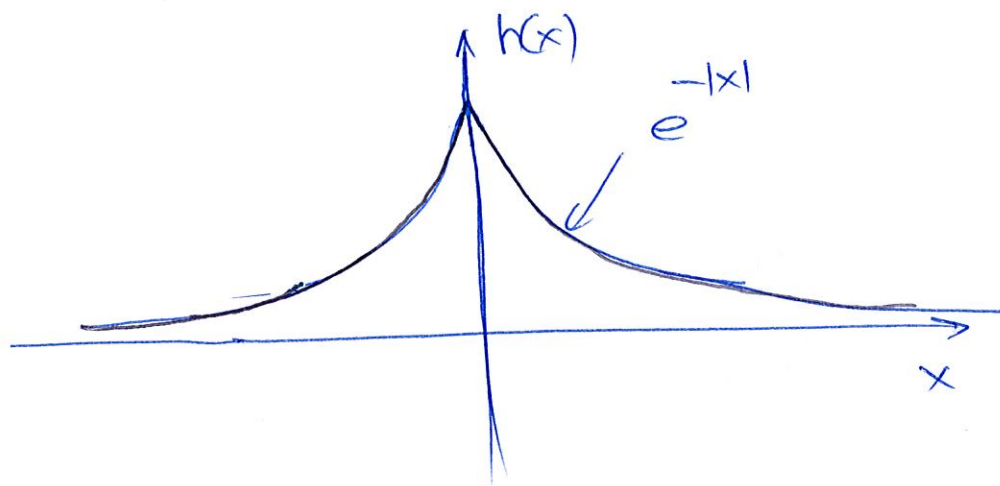
Let $x = -\ln(e^{0.9\delta} - 1)$ and $y = x + 0.9\delta$. Then,

$$|x - y| = 0.9\delta < \delta \text{ and}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |e^x - e^y| &= |e^x - e^x e^{0.9\delta}| = e^x |1 - e^{0.9\delta}| = \\ &= \frac{|1 - e^{0.9\delta}|}{|e^{0.9\delta} - 1|} = 1. \end{aligned}$$



Example. $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $x \rightarrow e^{-|x|}$ (i.e., $h(x) = e^{-|x|}$) is uniformly continuous.



Theorem If $h: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is continuous and S is compact, then h is uniformly continuous.

[continuity + compactness] \Rightarrow uniform continuity.

Non-Example: Consider $S = (0, 1]$ and $h(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, then $h(x)$ is not uniformly continuous over S .

Example: Consider $S = [10^{-3}, 1]$ and $h(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, then $h(x)$ is uniformly continuous over S .

Definition.

A function $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is bounded from below if $\exists m > -\infty$ such that $h(x) \geq m, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Definition

A function $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is non-increasing if $y \geq x \Rightarrow h(y) \leq h(x)$.

Remark.

In a similar manner we can define bounded from above, and non-decreasing.

Examples.

Note that to be non-increasing, a function can be constant for a while, then decreasing for a while, and so on. It does not have to be strictly decreasing (i.e., $x < y \Rightarrow h(x) > h(y)$) in order to be non-increasing. Neither does it have to be continuous.

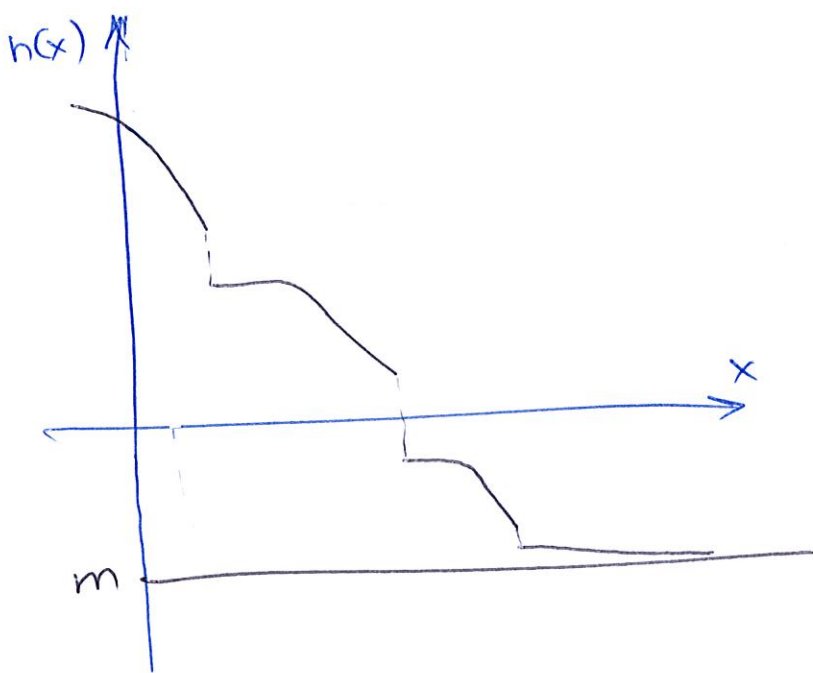


Fig ① Example of bounded from below and non-increasing.

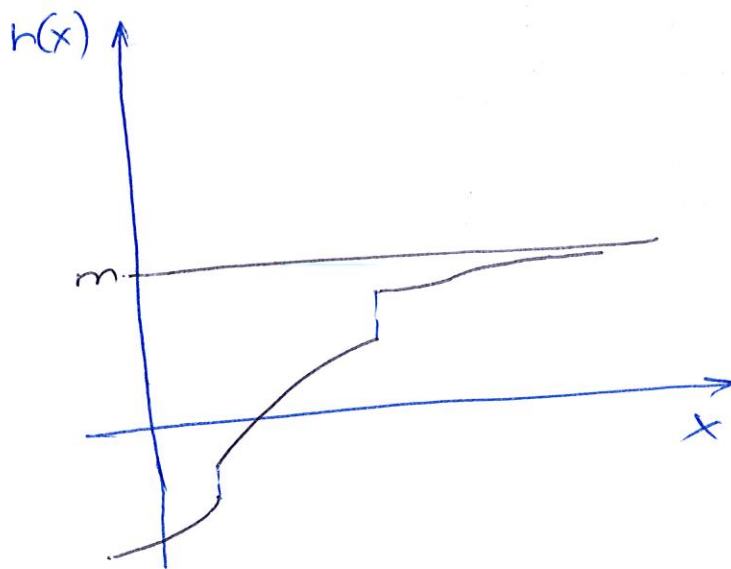


Fig ② Example of bounded from above and non-decreasing.

Theorem

If $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is non-increasing and bounded from below then there exists a unique $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} h(x) = c$.

Similarly, if h is non-decreasing and bounded from above, then there exists a unique $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} h(x) = c$.

Definition

$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} h(x) = c$ if $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists K < \infty$ such that

$$x \geq K \Rightarrow |h(x) - c| < \epsilon.$$