

## Continuity

Def. - A function  $f$  is continuous at a number " $a$ " if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$$

this means the following

①  $f(a)$  is defined. (i.e.  $a \in D_f$ )

②  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  exists.

③  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

\* If  $f$  is continuous at every point in the domain, then say that  $f$  is continuous

\* If a function  $f$  is not continuous at  $a$ , then we say that  $f$  is discontinuous at " $a$ " & " $a$ " is a point of discontinuity of  $f$

e.g.  $f(x) = x+1$  if  $x=0$

①  $f(0) = 0+1 = 1$

②  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x+1 = 0+1 = 1$  exists

③  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = f(a) = 1$

$\therefore f$  is continuous at  $x=0$



e.g.  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  (at  $x=0$ )

①  $f(0) = \frac{1}{0}$  undefined (not exists)

$\therefore f$  is not continuous at 0

e.g. let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2-1}{x-1} & x \neq 1 \\ 5 & x = 1 \end{cases}$

test for continuity at  $x=1$ ?

①  $f(1) = 5$

②  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2-1}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)(x+1)}{(x-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (x+1) = 2$

③  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) \neq f(1) \Rightarrow f$  is not continuous at 1

e.g.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin x}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ 1 & x = 0 \end{cases}$

test for continuity at  $x=0$

properties of continuous: let  $f, g$  be continuous functions at "a" then the following are cont. at "a"

①  $f+g$

②  $c \cdot f$ , for any constant  $c$ .

③  $f \cdot g$

④  $f/g$ , if  $g(a) \neq 0$



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e.g.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x-1 & x < 1 \\ \frac{3x+2}{x^2-4} & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

test for continuity at  $x=1$ ?

note  $x \rightarrow 1^+$  means  $x \rightarrow 1$  and  $x > 1$  &  
 $x \rightarrow 1^-$  means  $x \rightarrow 1$  &  $x < 1$

①  $f(1) = \frac{-5}{3}$

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

b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} 2x-1 = 1$

Since  $a \neq b \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 1}$  does not exist

So  $f(x)$  is not continuous at  $x=1$

e.g.  $f(x) = |2x-1|$  test for continuity at  $x=\frac{1}{2}$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x-1 & x \geq \frac{1}{2} \\ -(2x-1) & x < \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$

①  $f(\frac{1}{2}) = 2(\frac{1}{2})-1 = 0$

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



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

$$\therefore a=b \quad \therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} f(x) \text{ exists}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Since } f(\frac{1}{2}) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} f(x)$$

$$\therefore f \text{ is continuous at } x = \frac{1}{2}$$

e.g.