

1. If  $f_n$  and  $g_n$  are sequences of continuous functions converging uniformly to  $f$  and  $g$  respectively, prove that  $f_n g_n$  converges uniformly to  $fg$ .

First we note that functions like  $f_n(x) = g_n(x) = x + \frac{1}{n}$  are problematic. I only have “continuous” added to the homework problem, but I am going to assume that these functions have a bounded domain  $S$ .

We know that there exists some  $M$  such that  $\sup f \leq M - 1$  and  $\sup g \leq M - 1$ . Now let's choose some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then we can find some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\|f_n - f\|_\infty < \frac{\varepsilon}{2M}$  and  $\|g_n - g\|_\infty < \frac{\varepsilon}{2M}$  and  $\sup \|f_n\| \leq M$  and  $\sup \|g_n\| \leq M$ .

Now then we make the following calculations for all  $n \geq N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_n g_n - fg\|_\infty &= \|f_n g_n - f g_n + f g_n - fg\|_\infty \\ &= \|g_n(f_n - f) + f(g_n - g)\|_\infty \\ &\leq \|g_n\|_\infty \|f_n - f\|_\infty + \|f\|_\infty \|g_n - g\|_\infty \\ &< M \frac{\varepsilon}{2M} + M \frac{\varepsilon}{2M} = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Well it looks like  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f_n g_n - fg\|_\infty = 0$  and so the product is uniformly convergent.

2. For which values of  $x \geq 1$  does the expression  $x^{x^{x^{\dots}}}$  make sense?

HINT: Define  $f_1(x) = x$  and  $f_{n+1}(x) = x^{f_n(x)}$  for  $n \geq 1$ . Then

- (a) Show that  $f_{n+1}(x) \geq f_n(x)$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

First we note that  $x \geq 1$  and so  $x^x \geq x$ . In other words  $f_2 \geq f_1$ . Next we assume that  $x^{f_n} \geq f_n \geq f_1 \geq 1$ . It follows then that  $x^{x^{f_n}} \geq x^{f_n}$ . And so  $f_{n+1}(x) \geq f_n(x)$ .

- (b) When  $L(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x)$  exists, find optimal upper bounds for  $x$  and  $L$ .

If the limit exists, then raising  $x$  to the limit will give us the limit again. That is  $L = x^L$ . Now we are looking for optimal values, so let's solve and find the derivative:

$$\begin{aligned} L &= x^L \\ x &= L^{1/L} \\ \ln x &= \ln L^{1/L} \\ \frac{dx}{dL} \frac{1}{x} &= \frac{1}{L^2} + \left(-\frac{1}{L^2}\right) \ln L \\ \frac{dx}{dL} &= x \frac{1}{L^2} (1 - \ln L) \\ &= \frac{L^{1/L}}{L^2} (1 - \ln L) \end{aligned}$$

$$0 = L^{1/L-2}(1 - \ln L)$$

Now because  $L \geq f_n \geq f_1 \geq 1$  we know  $L^{1/L-2} > 0$  and so  $1 - \ln L = 0$  or  $L = e$  and  $x = e^{1/e}$ .

- (c) For these values of  $x$ , show by induction that  $f_n(x)$  is bounded above by  $e$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

So obviously  $e^{1/e} < e$  and so if  $x \leq e^{1/e}$  then  $f_1 < e$ . Now then if we assume that  $f_n < e$  and  $x \leq e^{1/e}$  then  $f_{n+1} = x^{f_n} < (e^{1/e})^e = e$

- (d) What happens for larger  $x$ ?

We found that  $\frac{dx}{dL} = 0$  when  $x = e^{1/e}$ . This means that  $L(x)$  goes vertical at this point (it's inverse goes horizontal). And so when  $x > e^{1/e}$  then  $L(x)$  is not finite and  $f_n$  diverges.

## References

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetration>
2. <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/differential-calculus/taking-derivatives/derivatives-inverse-functions/v/calculus-derivative-of-x-x-x>