

1. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a < b$, let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function. Discuss the validity of the statement: f is uniformly continuous if and only if it is bounded. Justify your answer.

Solution: Since given f is uniformly continuous it will map a cauchy sequence to another cauchy sequence. Since (a, b) is dense in $[a, b]$ there exists sequences $\{x_n\}$ and $\{y_n\}$ in (a, b) such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = a$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = b$. Thus, both $\{x_n\}$ and $\{y_n\}$ are cauchy sequences and so are $\{f(x_n)\}$ and $\{f(y_n)\}$.

Hence both $\{f(x_n)\}$ and $\{f(y_n)\}$ are convergent. Let $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x_n) = c$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(y_n) = d$.

Now, let us define a new function $g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} c, & \text{if } x = a \\ f(x), & \text{if } x \in (a, b) \\ d, & \text{if } x = b \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Then we get that $g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function and hence bounded. Thus $f(x)$ is also bounded.

The other way is not true as $\sin(\frac{1}{x})$ is a bounded continuous function on $(0, 1)$ but it is not uniformly continuous. \square

2. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function, satisfying $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f = 0$. Prove that f is bounded on \mathbb{R} and f attains a maximum or minimum on \mathbb{R} . Give examples to show that f attains a maximum but not a minimum and vice versa.

Solution: Since $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f = 0$, given $\epsilon > 0$ we get $M_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that.

$$|f(x)| < \epsilon, \quad \forall x > M_1.$$

again, $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f = 0$ implies given $\epsilon > 0$ we get $M_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that.

$$|f(x)| < \epsilon, \quad \forall x < -M_2.$$

for our case let us choose $\epsilon = 1$.

Now since f is continuous on \mathbb{R} we get that f is bounded on $[-M_2, M_1]$. Hence, we get that $|f(x)| \leq m, \forall x \in [-M_2, M_1]$ for some $m \in \mathbb{R}$ so if $M = \max\{1, m\}$ then $|f(x)| \leq M$, for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and hence is bounded.

$f(x)$ can attain both the extremums, let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x}, & \text{if } x > 1 \text{ or } x < -1 \\ x, & \text{if } x \in [-1, 1] \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

then $f(x)$ is a continuous function such that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f = 0$ and attains both the extremums 1 and -1 .

Examples: $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$ is continuous function, satisfying $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f = 0$, and is bounded by 1 and attains only its maximum at $x = 0$ and do not attain its minimum which is 0

$g(x) = -\frac{1}{1+x^2}$ is a continuous function on \mathbb{R} satisfying $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f = 0$, it attains its minimum at $x = 0$ but do not attain its maximum which is 0. \square

3. Does there exists a continuous function which takes every real value exactly twice? Justify your answer.

Solution: Let us hold there is such a function. According to the assumption there are only two zeroes of f say x and $y \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $x < y$, and $f(x) = 0 = f(y)$.

Let us look at the behaviour of the function on $[x, y]$.

First, $f(x)$ can either be positive or negative on $[x, y]$. Otherwise it will have another zero in $[x, y]$ by the intermediate value property, which will pose a contradiction to the assumption.

without loss of generality lets us assume that $f(x)$ is positive throughout $[x, y]$. Since f is continuous it will have a maximum in $[x, y]$ which can't be zero as then f will have three zeroes and again it will give a contradiction.

Say there exists a $c \in (x, y)$ such that $f(c) = M$.

Now by the assumption there is another point say $d \neq x, y$ such that $f(d) = M$.

Now let us look at the position of d with respect to the interval $[x, y]$.

if $d > y$ then the values in $(0, M)$ will be taking thrice, i.e. in between (x, c) , (c, y) and (y, d) , which will be a contradiction. Similarly, d can't be less than x .

d can't be in between (c, y) because then in the interval (c, d) $f(x) < M$ which is a contradiction because the values which are less than M are already been taken twice in the intervals (a, c) and (d, y) .

Similarly, d can't be in between (x, c) . Thus such a d cannot exist, which tells that such a continuous function cannot exist. \square

4. Let $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function which is differentiable on $(0, \infty)$. Suppose $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f'(x)$ both exists (as real numbers). Prove that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f'(x) = 0$.

Solution: Let $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = l$, and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f'(x) = m$. Thus,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) + f'(x) = l + m.$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\exp(x)f(x)}{\exp(x)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\exp(x)(f(x) + f'(x))}{\exp(x)} \quad (\text{by L'Hospital's Rule}) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (f(x) + f'(x)) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we get that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f'(x) = 0$. \square

5. Let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function on an interval I having the intermediate value property (i.e. for any two points $a, b \in I$ and any real number k between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, there exists some c between a and b such that $f(c) = k$). Is f necessarily continuous? Justify your answer.

Solution: Let $f(x) : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(\frac{1}{x}), & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Then $f(x)$ is surely not continuous at 0, but $f(x)$ has the intermediate value property. \square

6. Let f be continuous on $[a, b]$ and assume the second derivative f'' exists on (a, b) . Suppose the graph of f and the line joining $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$ intersect at a point $(c, f(c))$ where $a < c < b$. Show that there exists a point d such that $f''(d) = 0$.

Solution: Since the the points $(a, f(a)), (b, f(b)), (c, f(c))$ lie on the same line, i.e. the line joining $(a, f(a)), (b, f(b))$, we get that the slope of the line joining $(a, f(a)), (c, f(c))$ and $(c, f(c)), (b, f(b))$ are equal, i.e.

$$\frac{(f(c) - f(a))}{(c - a)} = \frac{(f(b) - f(c))}{(b - c)}$$

By Lagrange's mean value theorem we get that there are two points $m \in (a, c)$ and $n \in (c, b)$ such that

$$f'(m) = \frac{(f(c) - f(a))}{(c - a)}$$

and

$$f'(n) = \frac{(f(b) - f(c))}{(b - c)}$$

Since, f'' exists on (a, b) we get that f' is continuous on (a, b) . Hence, if we apply the Rolle's theorem in the interval $[m, n]$ we get that there is a point $d \in (m, n)$ such that $f''(d) = 0$. \square

7. Does the limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin(x)^x)$ exist? If yes what is it?

Solution: Let $y = (\sin(x)^x)$ for $x > 0$. Then $\ln y = x \ln \sin(x)$ then we have :

$$| \sin(x) \ln \sin(x) | < | x \ln \sin(x) | < | x \ln x |$$

now,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln x &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\frac{1}{x}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{-\frac{1}{x^2}} \text{ by LHospitals Rule} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} -x \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

hence, we also get that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sin(x) \ln \sin(x) = 0$. thus, by sandwich theorem we see that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln \sin(x) = 0$.

So,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} y = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \exp(x \ln \sin(x)) = \exp(0) = 1.$$

Hence, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin(x)^x)$ exists and is equal to 1.