Transition Maths and Algebra with Geometry

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Lecture Notes Electrical and Computer Engineering









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Continuous functions

Definition

A function y = f(x) is said to be *continuous at a point a* of its domain if

$$\lim_{x\to a}f(x)=f(a).$$

Remark

Note that in the above definition the value f(a) and the limit $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$ have to exist.

If y = f(x) is not continuous at a then a is called a discontinuity Process Proces Process Process Pro

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Continuous functions

Definition

A function y = f(x) is *continuous* if it is continuous at every point of its domain.

Example:

A function $f(x) = \frac{x^2+1}{x}$ is continuous at every point of its domain $D = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}.$



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Theorem

Let y = f(x) and y = g(x) be two functions continuous at a point *a*. Then:

- $f \pm g$ is continuous at a,
- $f \cdot g$ is continous at a,
- $\frac{f}{g}$ is continous at a if $g(a) \neq 0$









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Theorem

If y = f(x) is continuous at a and y = g(x) is continuous at f(a). Then their composition

$$y = g \circ f(x) = g(f(x))$$

is continuous at a. If y = f(x) and y = g(x) are continuous then so is $g \circ f$.

Theorem

All elementary functions defined during the previous lecture are

🛛 continuous.

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Intermediate Value Theorem

Let y = f(x) be a function continuous on a closed interval [a, b]. Then y = f(x) takes on every value between f(a) and f(b). In other words, if y = f(x) is continuous on [a, b] and y_0 lies between f(a) and f(b) then this means that there is a point $x_0 \in [a, b]$ for which $f(x_0) = y_0$.

Corollary

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If y = f(x) is continous on [a, b] and the values f(a) and f(b) differ in sign then there is at least one argument $x \in [a, b]$ for which f(x) = 0.

Tomasz Brengos Transition Maths and Algebra with Geometry

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Example:

Consider a function $f(x) = x^3 + 4x^2 + x - 6$ on [-1, 2]. Clearly, f(-1) < 0 and f(2) > 1. This means that there is $x \in (1, 2)$ for which f(x) = 0. We may use divide and conquer procedure to find a better estimate of a root.





