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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

MMAT5510 Foundation of Advanced Mathematics 2017-2018  
Supplementary Exercise 5

1. (a) Let  $A$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ . State the definition of a cluster point of  $A$ .  
(b) Let  $A$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $c$  be a cluster point of  $A$ , and  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function.  
State the definition of  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ , where  $L$  is a real number.  
(Remark: The definition is usually called  $\delta - \epsilon$  definition.)  
(c) Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function defined by  $f(x) = 3x + 2$ .  
By using the definition stated in (b), show that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 5$ .

**Ans:**

- (a)  $c$  is said to be a cluster point of  $A$  if  
for all  $\delta > 0$ , there exists  $x \in A \setminus \{c\}$  such that  $|x - c| < \delta$ .  
Symbolic:  $(\forall \delta > 0)(\exists x \in A \setminus \{c\})(|x - c| < \delta)$   
(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  if  
for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ , then  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .  
Symbolic:  $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists \delta > 0)(\forall x \in A \text{ and } 0 < |x - c| < \delta)(|f(x) - L| < \epsilon)$   
(c) Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Take  $\delta = \frac{\epsilon}{3} > 0$ .  
Then, for all  $0 < |x - 1| < \delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x - 1| &< \delta \\ |x - 1| &< \frac{\epsilon}{3} \\ |3x - 3| &< \epsilon \\ |(3x + 2) - 5| &< \epsilon \\ |f(x) - 5| &< \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 5$ .

2. Using the  $\delta - \epsilon$  definition, show that

- (a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} x^3 = c^3$ ;  
(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 5x + 6}{x - 2} = -1$ .

**Ans:**

- (a) Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Take  $\delta = \min\{1, \frac{\epsilon}{3|c|^2 + 3|c| + 1}\}$ .  
Then, for all  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x - c| &< 1 \\ -|c| - 1 &\leq c - 1 < x < c + 1 \leq |c| + 1 \\ |x| &< |c| + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$|x^2 + xc + c^2| \leq |x|^2 + |x||c| + |c|^2 \leq (|c| + 1)^2 + (|c| + 1)|c| + |c|^2 = 3|c|^2 + 3|c| + 1$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} |x - c||x^2 + xc + c^2| &< \frac{\epsilon}{3|c|^2 + 3|c| + 1} \cdot (3|c|^2 + 3|c| + 1) \\ |x^3 - c^3| &< \epsilon \\ |f(x) - c^3| &< \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = c^3$ .

(b) Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Take  $\delta = \epsilon$ .

Then, for all  $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x - 2| &< \epsilon \\ |(x - 3) - (-1)| &< \epsilon \\ \left| \frac{(x - 3)(x - 2)}{x - 2} - (-1) \right| &< \epsilon \quad (0 < |x - 2| \Rightarrow x - 2 \neq 0) \\ |f(x) - (-1)| &< \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = -1$ .

3. Let  $A$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $c$  be a cluster point of  $A$ , and  $f, g : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be functions such that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M$ .

Show that

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) + g(x) = L + M$ ;

(b) if  $g(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in A$  and  $M \neq 0$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}$ .

**Ans:**

(a) Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ , there exists  $\delta_1 > 0$  such that for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_1$ , we have

$$|f(x) - L| < \frac{\epsilon}{2},$$

and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M$ , there exists  $\delta_2 > 0$  such that for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_2$ , we have

$$|g(x) - M| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

Take  $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\} > 0$ , then for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |(f(x) + g(x)) - (L + M)| &\leq |f(x) - L| + |g(x) - M| \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \\ &= \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) + g(x) = L + M$ .

(b) Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M$ , consider  $\epsilon_0 = \frac{|M|}{2}$ , there exists  $\delta_1 > 0$  such that for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_1$ , we have  $|g(x) - M| < \epsilon_0 = \frac{|M|}{2}$  and then

$$M - \frac{|M|}{2} < g(x) < M + \frac{|M|}{2}.$$

If  $M > 0$ , then  $|M| = M$  and  $0 < \frac{M}{2} < g(x)$ , so  $\frac{M}{2} < |g(x)|$ .

If  $M < 0$ , then  $|M| = -M$  and  $g(x) < M + \frac{|M|}{2} = -\frac{|M|}{2}$ , so  $\frac{M}{2} < |g(x)|$ .

Therefore, for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_1$ , we have  $\frac{M}{2} < |g(x)|$  and so  $\frac{1}{|g(x)|} < \frac{2}{|M|}$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ , there exists  $\delta_2 > 0$  such that for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_2$ , we have

$$|f(x) - L| < \frac{|M|\epsilon}{4},$$

and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M$ , there exists  $\delta_3 > 0$  such that for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_3$ , we have

$$|g(x) - M| < \frac{|M|^2\epsilon}{4|L|}.$$

Take  $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3\} > 0$ , then for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} - \frac{L}{M} \right| &= \left| \frac{f(x)M - g(x)L}{g(x)M} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{f(x)M - LM + LM - g(x)L}{g(x)M} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{(f(x) - L)M - (g(x) - M)L}{g(x)M} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{|f(x) - L|}{|g(x)|} + \frac{|g(x) - M||L|}{|g(x)||M|} \\ &< \frac{|M|\epsilon}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{|M|} + \frac{|M|^2\epsilon}{4|L|} \cdot \frac{2}{|M|} \cdot \frac{|L|}{|M|} \\ &\leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}$ .

4. Suppose that  $c$  is a cluster point of  $A$  and  $f, g : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are two functions such that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = 0$  and  $g$  is bounded on a neighborhood of  $c$ .

Show that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)g(x) = 0$ .

**Ans:**

Since  $g$  is bounded on a neighborhood of  $c$ , there exist  $\delta_1 > 0$  and  $M > 0$  such that  $|g(x)| \leq M$  for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_1$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = 0$ , there exists  $\delta_2 > 0$  such that for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta_2$ , we have

$$|f(x) - 0| < \frac{\epsilon}{M}, \text{ i.e. } |f(x)| < \frac{\epsilon}{M}.$$

Take  $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\} > 0$ , then for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x)g(x) - 0| &= |f(x)||g(x)| \\ &< \frac{\epsilon}{M} \cdot M \\ &= \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)g(x) = 0$ .

5. Let  $A$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $c$  be a cluster point of  $A$ , and  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function such that  $a \leq f(x) \leq b$  for all  $x \in A \setminus \{c\}$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  exists.

Show that  $a \leq L \leq b$ .

**Ans:**

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  exists, there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x \in A$  with  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ , we have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$  and so

$$a - \epsilon \leq f(x) - \epsilon < L < f(x) + \epsilon \leq b + \epsilon.$$

We have  $a - \epsilon \leq L \leq b + \epsilon$  for all  $\epsilon > 0$  and so  $a \leq L \leq b$ .

6. Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  and let  $f : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{c\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

The right hand limit of  $f$  at  $c$  is  $L \in \mathbb{R}$  (denoted by  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L$ ) if for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $c - \delta < x < c$ , we have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

The left hand limit (denoted by  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$ ) can be defined in a similar way.

Show that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  if and only if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$ .

**Ans:**

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exist  $\delta > 0$ , such that for all  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$  (i.e.  $c - \delta < x < c$  or  $c < x < c + \delta$ ), we have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

In particular, when  $c < x < c + \delta$ , we have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$  and so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L$ ; when  $c - \delta < x < c$ , we also have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$  and so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L$ , there exist  $\delta_1 > 0$ , such that for all  $c < x < c + \delta_1$ , we have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$ , there exist  $\delta_2 > 0$ , such that for all  $c - \delta_2 < x < c$ , we have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

Take  $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\} > 0$ .

Then for all  $c < x < c + \delta$ , we have  $c < x < c + \delta_1$ , and so  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ ; for all  $c - \delta < x < c$ , we have  $c - \delta_2 < x < c$ , and so  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

That is, for all  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ , we have  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ .