

Continuity and Differentiability Worksheet

(Be sure that you can also do the graphical exercises from the text- These were not included below! Typical problems are like problems 1-3, p. 161; 1-13, p. 171; 33-34, p. 172; 1-4, p. 131; 41, 46-48, 51 p. 176)

1. Definition: A function f is said to be continuous at $x = a$ if: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$
2. The definition of continuity implies that we have three things to check. What are they? (1) $f(a)$ exists (or $f(a)$ is defined), (2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists. (3) The numbers in (1) and (2) are the same.
3. Finish the definition: A function f is said to be right continuous at $x = a$ if: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$.
4. Finish the definition: A function f is said to be continuous on the interval $[a, b]$ if: f is continuous for every point in (a, b) , is left continuous at $x = a$ and right continuous at $x = b$.
5. Finish the definition: The derivative of f at $x = a$ is:

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

6. Finish the definition: A function f is said to be differentiable on the interval (a, b) if: f is differentiable at each x in the interval (a, b) .
7. Why is the interval open in the last definition? Because we need to be able to take the limit (from both sides) of each number in (a, b) . If we included the point $x = a$ or $x = b$, we'd have to take a "one-sided" derivative.
8. List three interpretations of the derivative of f at $x = a$. (1) Slope of the Tangent Line to f at $x = a$. (2) Velocity (if f is a displacement function over time), (3) Instantaneous rate of change of f .
9. True or False, and give a short reason:
 - (a) If a function is differentiable, then it is continuous. This is true (it was a theorem in class).
 - (b) If a function is continuous, then it is differentiable. False. Example: $y = |x|$ at $x = 0$.
 - (c) If f is continuous on $[-1, 1]$ and $f(-1) = 4$ and $f(1) = 3$, then there is an $x = r$ so that $f(r) = \pi$. True- This is the statement of the Intermediate Value Theorem.
 - (d) If f is continuous at 5, and $f(5) = 2$, then the limit as $x \rightarrow 2$ of $f(4x^2 - 11)$ must be 2. True. Because f is continuous, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$.
 - (e) All functions are continuous on their domains. Not True- All of our "basic" functions are, but there are functions that are not continuous anywhere (for example, the function that is zero on the rationals and 1 on the irrationals).
 - (f) It is possible for a function to be continuous everywhere, but not differentiable anywhere. True- Many examples are called "fractals".

10. State the domain of each function, and say why the function is continuous on its domain:

- (a) $f(x) = \sqrt{\frac{4-x^2}{1-x^2}}$ This function will be continuous on its domain because it is constructed from the functions $4 - x^2$, $1 - x^2$ and \sqrt{x} . To find the domain, we require that:

$$\frac{(2+x)(2-x)}{(1+x)(1-x)} \geq 0$$

so we use a table to solve:

$(2+x)$	—	+	+	+	+
$(2-x)$	+	+	+	+	—
$(1+x)$	—	—	+	+	+
$(1-x)$	+	+	+	—	—
	$x < -2$	$-2 < x < -1$	$-1 < x < 1$	$1 < x < 2$	$x > 2$

By the table, the domain is:

$x \leq -2$, or $-1 < x < 1$, or $x \geq 2$. which is also where $f(x)$ is continuous.

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

First, recall that the domain of $\sin^{-1}(x)$ is $-1 \leq x \leq 1$. Therefore, the domain of $\sin^{-1}(1 - x^2)$ is where $-1 \leq 1 - x^2 \leq 1$. This implies that $-2 \leq -x^2 \leq 0$, or where $0 \leq x^2 \leq 2$.

Thus, the answer is: The function f is continuous on its domain, $-\sqrt{2} \leq x \leq \sqrt{2}$.

(c) $f(x) = \ln\left(\frac{x+3}{x-5}\right)$

This function will be continuous on its domain- The function $\ln(x)$ has a domain: $x > 0$, so $\ln\left(\frac{x+3}{x-5}\right)$ has a domain that satisfies: $\frac{x+3}{x-5} > 0$. Use a table to solve:

$x+3$	—	+	+
$x-5$	—	—	+
	$x < -3$	$-3 < x < 5$	$x > 5$

Conclusion: The function is continuous for $x < -3$ or $x > 5$.

(d) $f(x) = \frac{x}{x^2 + 5x + 6}$

Here, we need to make sure that $x^2 + 5x + 6 \neq 0$, so solve by factoring.

Conclusion: The function is continuous on all reals except where $x = -3$ and $x = -2$.

11. Explain why the function is discontinuous at the given point, $x = a$.

(a) $f(x) = \ln|x+3|$ at $a = -3$ (Extra: Is f continuous everywhere else?)

f is not continuous at $a = -3$ because f is not defined for $a = -3$. (Yes, f is continuous for all other x).

(b)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2-2x-8}{x-4}, & \text{if } x \neq 4 \\ 3, & \text{if } x = 4 \end{cases} \quad a = 4$$

For this function, (1) f is defined at $a = 4$, and $f(4) = 3$. (2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} x + 2 = 6$. (3) The answers for (1) and (2) are not the same, so f is not continuous at $a = 4$.

(c) $f(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x+1}$, at $a = -1$

For this function, f is not continuous at $a = -1$ because $f(-1)$ is not defined.

(d)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1-x, & \text{if } x \leq 2 \\ x^2-2x, & \text{if } x > 2 \end{cases} \quad a = 2$$

We again check the three properties: (1) $f(2) = -1$, so f is defined at $a = 2$. (2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$ does not exist- The limit coming from the right is 0, the limit coming from the left is -1 . We don't have to check the third property- f is not continuous because the limit at $a = 2$ does not exist.

12. For each function, determine the value of the constant so that f is continuous everywhere:

(a)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2-16}{x-4}, & \text{if } x \neq 4 \\ C, & \text{if } x = 4 \end{cases}$$

First check the limit, since we want $C = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2-16}{x-4} = 8$.

(b)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3x^2 - 1, & \text{if } x < 0 \\ cx + d, & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ \sqrt{x+8}, & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Again, we want to make sure the limits match at $x = 0$ and at $x = 1$ as we come in from the right and left.

At $x = 0$:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = d \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = -1$$

So $d = -1$. Next, we check $x = 1$:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = 3 \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = c + 1$$

so $c = 2$.

(c)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sqrt{7x+2}-\sqrt{6x+4}}{x-2}, & \text{if } x \geq -\frac{2}{7}, \text{ and } x \neq 2 \\ k, & \text{if } x = 2 \end{cases}$$

We want the limits from the left and right of $x = 2$ to match up. First from the left:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{\sqrt{7x+2}-\sqrt{6x+4}}{x-2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{\sqrt{7x+2}-\sqrt{6x+4}}{x-2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{7x+2}+\sqrt{6x+4}}{\sqrt{7x+2}+\sqrt{6x+4}} = \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{1}{\sqrt{7x+2}+\sqrt{6x+4}} = \frac{1}{8} \end{aligned}$$

and, if we take the limit from the right:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} k = k$$

Putting the two together, $k = \frac{1}{8}$

13. If f and g are continuous functions with $f(3) = 4$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [2f(x) - g(x)] = 5$, what is $g(3)$?

By continuity,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [2f(x) - g(x)] = 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 2f(3) - g(3) = 8 - g(3)$$

so that we now have:

$$8 - g(3) = 5$$

so $g(3) = 3$.

14. Show that there must be at least one real solution to $x^5 - x^2 - 4 = 0$. This is an Intermediate Value Theorem, where 0 is the Intermediate Value. Therefore, we need to find an x so that $x^5 - x^2 - 4 < 0$ and an x so that $x^5 - x^2 - 4 > 0$. For example, if $x = 1$, then we get a -4 . If $x = 2$, we get $32 - 4 - 4 = 24 > 0$. Therefore, a solution to the equation is somewhere between $x = 1$ and $x = 2$.
15. Each limit is the derivative of some function at some number a . State f and a in each case:

(a) $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+h} - 1}{h}$
 $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $a = 1$.

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^9 - 1}{x - 1}$
 $f(x) = x^9$ at $a = 1$

$$(c) \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + t\right) - 1}{t}$$

$f(x) = \sin(x)$ at $a = \frac{\pi}{2}$

16. For each function below, compute the derivative using the definition. Also state the domain of the original function, and the domain of the derivative function.

(a) $f(x) = \sqrt{1+2x}$ Domain of f : $x \geq -\frac{1}{2}$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+2(x+h)} - \sqrt{1+2x}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+2(x+h)} - \sqrt{1+2x}}{h} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{1+2(x+h)} + \sqrt{1+2x}}{\sqrt{1+2(x+h)} + \sqrt{1+2x}} =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1+2x+2h-1-2x}{h(\sqrt{1+2(x+h)} + \sqrt{1+2x})} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{(\sqrt{1+2(x+h)} + \sqrt{1+2x})} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+2x}}$$

(b) $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{(x+h)^2} - \frac{1}{x^2}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x^2 - (x+h)^2}{x^2(x+h)^2}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-2x-h}{x^2(x+h)^2} = -\frac{2}{x^3}$$

(c) $h(x) = x + \sqrt{x}$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[x+h+\sqrt{x+h}] - [x+\sqrt{x}]}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h + \sqrt{x+h} - \sqrt{x}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(1 + \frac{\sqrt{x+h} - \sqrt{x}}{h}\right) =$$

$$1 + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+h} - \sqrt{x}}{h} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}} = 1 + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})} = 1 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

(d) $f(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3-x}}$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{2}{\sqrt{3-(x+h)}} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{3-x}}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2(\sqrt{3-x} - \sqrt{3-x-h})}{h\sqrt{3-x}\sqrt{3-x-h}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3-x} + \sqrt{3-x-h}}{\sqrt{3-x} + \sqrt{3-x-h}} =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2}{\sqrt{3-x}\sqrt{3-x-h}(\sqrt{3-x} + \sqrt{3-x-h})} = \frac{2}{(3-x)2\sqrt{3-x}} = \frac{1}{(3-x)^{3/2}}$$

(e) $f(x) = \frac{x}{x^2-1}$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x+h}{(x+h)^2-1} - \frac{x}{x^2-1}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)(x^2-1) - x((x+h)^2-1)}{h((x+h)^2-1)(x^2-1)} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-hx^2 + xh^2 - h}{h((x+h)^2-1)(x^2-1)} =$$

$$\frac{-x^2-1}{(x^2-1)^2}$$

17. Let $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$.

(a) Use $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$ to compute $f'(a)$, for $a \neq 0$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - \sqrt[3]{a}}{x - a} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - \sqrt[3]{a}}{(\sqrt[3]{x} - \sqrt[3]{a})(x^{2/3} + a^{1/3}x^{1/3} + a^{2/3})} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^{2/3} + a^{2/3}x^{2/3} + a^{2/3}} =$$

$$\frac{1}{3x^{2/3}}$$

(b) Show that $f'(0)$ does not exist. What does this mean with respect to the graph of f at $a = 0$?

From our formula, we see that, as $x \rightarrow 0$, $f'(x) \rightarrow \infty$, which means that at $x = 0$, there is a vertical tangent line.

18. Given f below, where is f not continuous? Where is f not differentiable?

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \\ 5 - x, & \text{if } 0 < x < 4 \\ \frac{1}{5-x}, & \text{if } x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

Not continuous at: $x = 0$, because the limit from the right is not the limit from the left. It is continuous at $x = 4$, and for all other x .

The function is not differentiable at $x = 0$, because it was not continuous there. Let's see if it's differentiable at $x = 4$. We need to see if the limit from the left and right of $\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ are the same.

From the left, the limit is -1 , and from the right, the limit is 1 , so the function is not differentiable at $x = 4$.

Details:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(4+h) - f(4)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1-h-1}{h} = -1 \\ \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(4+h) - f(4)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{1-h} - 1}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1-1+h}{h(1-h)} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

19. Let $f(x) = x^3 - 2x$. (a) Find $f'(2)$. (b) Compute the equation of the line tangent to f at the point $(2, 4)$.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2+h)^3 - 2(2+h) - (2^3 - 2(2))}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(10 + 6h + h^2)}{h} = 10$$

20. Sketch the graph of a function that satisfies the following conditions: $g(0) = 0$, $g'(0) = 3$, $g'(1) = 0$, $g'(2) = 1$

Your graph should have at least: A point at $(0, 0)$ with the curve going through the origin fairly steeply (local slope of 3), where the curve goes through $x = 1$, the curve should be flat (slope of zero), and finally, where the curve goes through $x = 2$, the slope should be about 1.

21. Find the slope of the line tangent to $y = x^2 + 2x$ at $x = -3$, then compute the equation of the line.

$$m_{\text{tan}} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(-3+h) - f(-3)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(-3+h)^2 + 2(-3+h) - 3}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-4h + h^2}{h} = -4$$

The tangent line has the equation: (In general: $y - f(a) = f'(a)(x - a)$)

$$y - 3 = -4(x + 3)$$