

AMATH/PMATH 331 Solutions to Assignment 2

1: Let $a \in \mathbb{R}$. For each of the following statements, provide a simple description of the functions $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for which the statement is true.

(a) $\forall \epsilon > 0 \forall \delta > 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R} (|x - a| \leq \delta \implies |f(x) - f(a)| \leq \epsilon)$

Solution: We claim that this statement is true if and only if f is constant. Suppose that f is constant. Let $\epsilon > 0$, let $\delta > 0$ and let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that $|x - a| \leq \delta$. Since f is constant, we have $f(x) = f(a)$ and so $|f(x) - f(a)| = 0 \leq \epsilon$.

Conversely, suppose that f is not constant. Since f is not constant, we can choose $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(x) \neq f(a)$. Since $f(x) \neq f(a)$ we also have $x \neq a$. Choose $\epsilon = \frac{|f(x) - f(a)|}{2}$ and choose $\delta = |x - a|$. Then $|x - a| \leq \delta$ and $|f(x) - f(a)| > \epsilon$. We have shown that $\exists \epsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 \exists x \in \mathbb{R} (|x - a| \leq \delta \text{ and } |f(x) - f(a)| > \epsilon)$, in other words, we have shown that the given statement is false.

(b) $\exists \epsilon > 0 \forall \delta > 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R} (|x - a| \leq \delta \implies |f(x) - f(a)| \leq \epsilon)$

Solution: A function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is *bounded* when there exists $M \geq 0$ such that $|f(x)| \leq M$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. We claim that the given statement is true if and only if f is bounded. Suppose that f is bounded. Choose $M \in \mathbb{R}$ so that $|f(x)| \leq M$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Choose $\epsilon = 2M$. Let $\delta > 0$ and let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that $|x - a| \leq \delta$. Since $|f(x)| \leq M$ and $|f(a)| \leq M$ we have $|f(x) - f(a)| \leq |f(x)| + |f(a)| \leq 2M = \epsilon$.

Conversely, suppose that f is not bounded. This means that for all $M \geq 0$ there exists $x \in \mathbb{R}$ with $|f(x)| > M$. Let $\epsilon > 0$. Since f is not bounded we can choose $x \in \mathbb{R}$ so that $|f(x)| > |f(a)| + \epsilon$. Note that $|f(x)| = |f(x) - f(a) + f(a)| \leq |f(x) - f(a)| + |f(a)|$ and so we have $|f(x) - f(a)| \geq |f(x)| - |f(a)| > \epsilon$. Note that since $|f(x)| \neq |f(a)|$ we must have $x \neq a$, so we can choose $\delta = |x - a| > 0$ to get $|x - a| \leq \delta$. We have shown that $\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R} (|x - a| \leq \delta \text{ and } |f(x) - f(a)| > \epsilon)$, in other words, we have shown that the given statement is false.

(c) $\forall a \in \mathbb{R} \forall x \in \mathbb{R} \exists \epsilon > 0 \forall \delta > 0 (|f(x) - f(a)| \leq \epsilon \implies |x - a| \leq \delta)$.

Solution: We claim that the given statement is true if and only if f is injective. Suppose that f is injective. Let $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. If $x = a$ then we choose $\epsilon = 1$, and then for all $\delta > 0$ we have $|x - a| = 0 \leq \delta$ and so the statement “ $|f(x) - f(a)| \leq \epsilon \implies |x - a| \leq \delta$ ” is true. If $x \neq a$ then, since f is injective, we have $f(x) \neq f(a)$ so we can choose $\epsilon = \frac{|f(x) - f(a)|}{2}$ and then for all $\delta > 0$ we have $|f(x) - f(a)| > \epsilon$ and so once again the statement “ $|f(x) - f(a)| \leq \epsilon \implies |x - a| \leq \delta$ ” is true.

Conversely, suppose that f is not injective. Choose $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$ so that $x \neq a$ and $f(x) = f(a)$. Let $\epsilon > 0$, and choose $\delta = \frac{|x - a|}{2}$. Then we have $|f(x) - f(a)| = 0 \leq \epsilon$ and $|x - a| > \delta$. We have shown that $\exists a \in \mathbb{R} \exists x \in \mathbb{R} \forall \epsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0 (|f(x) - f(a)| \leq \epsilon \text{ and } |x - a| > \delta)$, in other words, we have shown that the given statement is false.

2: For a sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq p}$ in \mathbb{R} and for $a \in \mathbb{R}$, we say that a is a **subsequential limit point** of $(x_n)_{n \geq p}$ when

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \forall m \in \mathbb{Z} \exists n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq p} (n \geq m \text{ and } |x_n - a| \leq \epsilon).$$

We denote the set of subsequential limit points of $(x_k)_{n \geq p}$ by $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p})$.

(a) Determine whether, for every sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq p}$ in \mathbb{R} , we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = a \implies \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p}) = \{a\}.$$

Solution: This is TRUE. Let $(x_n)_{n \geq p}$ be a sequence in \mathbb{R} with $x_n \rightarrow a$. We claim that $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p}) = \{a\}$. First we show that $\{a\} \subseteq \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p})$. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and let $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq p}$. Since $x_n \rightarrow a$ we can choose $m_0 \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq p}$ so that $n \geq m_0 \implies |x_n - a| < \epsilon$. Let $n = \max\{p, m, m_0\}$. Then $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq p}$ with $n \geq m$ and $|x_n - a| < \epsilon$. This proves that $a \in \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p})$, so we have $\{a\} \subseteq \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p})$.

Conversely, we must show that $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p}) \subseteq \{a\}$. Let $b \in \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p})$. Suppose, for a contradiction, that $b \neq a$. Since $x_n \rightarrow a$, we can choose $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq p}$ so that for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq p}$ we have $n \geq m \implies |x_n - a| < \frac{|b-a|}{2}$. Since $b \in \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p})$, we can choose $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq p}$ with $n \geq m$ and $|x_n - b| \leq \frac{|b-a|}{2}$. Then we have

$$|b - a| = |b - x_n + x_n - a| \leq |b - x_n| + |x_n - a| < \frac{|b-a|}{2} + \frac{|b-a|}{2} = |b - a|,$$

which is not possible. Thus we must have $b = a$, and this shows that $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq p}) \subseteq \{a\}$, as required.

(b) Determine whether, for every sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ in \mathbb{R} , we have

$$\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1}) = \{a\} \implies \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = a.$$

Solution: This statement is FALSE. For example, for the sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ given by $x_n = a$ when n is even and $x_n = n$ when n is odd, $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1}) = \{a\}$ but $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n \neq a$, indeed the sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ diverges.

Here is a proof that $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1}) = \{a\}$. Given $\epsilon > 0$ and given $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ we can choose an even number $n \geq \max\{1, m\}$ to get $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ with $n \geq m$ and $|x_n - a| = |a - a| = 0 < \epsilon$. This shows that $a \in \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1})$ so that $\{a\} \subseteq \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1})$. Conversely, let $b \in \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1})$. Suppose, for a contradiction, that $b \neq a$. Let $\epsilon = \frac{|b-a|}{2}$ and let $m = |b-a| + |b|$. Then for $n \geq m$, if n is even then $|x_n - b| = |a - b| > \epsilon$, and if n is odd then $|x_n - b| = |n - b| \geq n - |b| \geq m - |b| = |b-a| + |b| - |b| = |b-a| > \epsilon$. But this contradicts the fact that $b \in \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1})$. Thus we must have $b = a$, and this shows that $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1}) \subseteq \{a\}$.

Here is a proof that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n \neq a$. Suppose, for a contradiction, that $x_n \rightarrow a$. Choose $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ so that $n \geq m \implies |x_n - a| \leq 1$. Then for all $n \geq m$ we have $a - 1 \leq x_n \leq a + 1$. But we can choose an odd number $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $n \geq \max\{m, a + 2\}$ to get $n \geq m$ with $x_n = n > a + 1$, giving the desired contradiction.

(c) Determine whether there exists a sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ in \mathbb{R} with $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1}) = [0, 1] \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

Solution: This is TRUE. Let $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be the sequence

$$(x_n)_{n \geq 1} = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = \left(\frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{1}, \frac{0}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{2}, \frac{0}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{3}, \frac{0}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4}, \frac{0}{5}, \dots\right).$$

Note that for each $q \in [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$ there exist infinitely many indices $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ for which $x_n = q$: indeed for $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, \ell\}$, we have $x_{\ell(\ell+1)/2} = \frac{0}{\ell}$ and $x_{\ell(\ell+1)/2+k} = \frac{k}{\ell}$, and so when $q = \frac{k}{\ell}$, for $n = t\ell(t\ell+1)/2 + tk$ with $t \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ we have $x_n = \frac{tk}{t\ell} = q$. We claim that for this sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$, we have $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1}) = [0, 1]$.

Let $a \in [0, 1]$. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and let $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Since \mathbb{Q} is dense in \mathbb{R} , we can choose $q \in \mathbb{Q}$ with $q \in [0, 1]$ and $|q - a| < \epsilon$. Since there are infinitely many indices $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ for which $x_n = q$, we can choose $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ with $n \geq m$ such that $x_n = q$, and then $|x_n - a| = |q - a| < \epsilon$. This proves that $[0, 1] \subseteq \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1})$.

Let $a \notin [0, 1]$. Then either $a < 0$ or $a > 1$. In the case that $a < 0$ we choose $\epsilon = \frac{|a|}{2}$, and then for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ we have $x_n \geq 0$ so that $|x_n - a| = x_n - a \geq 0 - a = |a| > \epsilon$. In the case that $a > 1$ we choose $\epsilon = \frac{a-1}{2}$ and then for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ we have $x_n \leq 1$ so that $|x_n - a| = a - x_n \geq a - 1 > \epsilon$. In either case, we have $|x_n - a| > \epsilon$ for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ so that $a \notin \text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1})$. This proves that $\text{Slim}((x_n)_{n \geq 1}) \subseteq [0, 1]$.

3: For a function $f : A \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we say that f is **increasing** when $f(x) \leq f(y)$ for all $x, y \in A$ with $x \leq y$, we say that f is **strictly increasing** when $f(x) < f(y)$ for all $x, y \in A$ with $x < y$, we say that f is **decreasing** when $f(x) \geq f(y)$ for all $x, y \in A$ with $x \leq y$, and we say that f is **strictly decreasing** when $f(x) > f(y)$ for all $x, y \in A$ with $x < y$. Let $a, b, u, v \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a < b$ and $u < v$, and let $f : (a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (u, v) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

(a) Suppose that f is increasing, and let $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence in (a, b) with $x_n \rightarrow b$. Show that $(f(x_n))_{n \geq 1}$ converges in \mathbb{R} .

Solution: Note that $f((a, b))$ is nonempty (for any $x \in (a, b)$ we have $f(x) \in f((a, b))$) and $f((a, b))$ is bounded (since $f((a, b)) \subseteq (u, v)$), and so $f((a, b))$ has a supremum in \mathbb{R} . Let $w = \sup f((a, b)) = \sup \{f(x) \mid x \in (a, b)\}$. We claim that $f(x_n) \rightarrow w$. Let $\epsilon > 0$. By the Approximation Property of the supremum, we can choose $q \in f((a, b))$ with $w - \epsilon < q \leq w$. Since $q \in f((a, b))$ we can choose $p \in (a, b)$ with $f(p) = q$. Since $x_n \rightarrow b$ and $p < b$ we can choose $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ so that $n \geq m \implies |x_n - b| < b - p \implies x_n > p$. Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ with $n \geq m$. Since f is increasing and $x_n > p$, we have $f(x_n) \geq f(p) = q > w - \epsilon$. Since $f(x_n) \in f((a, b))$ and $w = \sup f((a, b))$, we also have $f(x_n) \leq w$, so that $w - \epsilon < f(x_n) \leq w$. Thus for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ with $n \geq m$ we have $|f(x_n) - w| < \epsilon$, and so $f(x_n) \rightarrow w$, as claimed.

(b) Suppose that f is continuous and injective. Prove that either f is strictly increasing or f is strictly decreasing.

Solution: Suppose that f is not strictly decreasing. Choose $r, s \in (a, b)$ with $r < s$ such that $f(r) \leq f(s)$. Note that since $r \neq s$ and f is injective, we have $f(r) \neq f(s)$, so that $f(r) < f(s)$. We must prove that f is strictly increasing.

We claim that for all $x, y, z \in (a, b)$ with $x < y < z$, either we have $f(x) < f(y) < f(z)$ or we have $f(x) > f(y) > f(z)$. Let $x, y, z \in (a, b)$ with $x < y < z$. Note that since x, y and z are distinct and f is injective, it follows that $f(x), f(y)$ and $f(z)$ are distinct. Suppose that $f(x) < f(z)$ (the case that $f(x) > f(z)$ is similar). Suppose for a contradiction, that $f(y) < f(x)$. Choose p with $f(y) < p < f(x) < f(z)$. By the IVT (the Intermediate Value Theorem), since f is continuous, we can choose $t_1 \in (x, y)$ so that $f(t_1) = p$ and we can choose $t_2 \in (y, z)$ with $f(t_2) = p$. But then we have $t_1 \neq t_2$ with $f(t_1) = p = f(t_2)$ which contradicts the fact that f is injective. Thus we do not have $f(y) < f(x)$. A similar argument shows that we do not have $f(y) > f(z)$ and so (since $f(x), f(y)$ and $f(z)$ are distinct) it follows that $f(x) < f(y) < f(z)$, as required. This proves the claim.

By the claim proven above, for $x \in (a, b)$, since $f(r) < f(s)$, if $x < r < s$ then $f(x) < f(r) < f(s)$, if $r < x < s$ then $f(r) < f(x) < f(s)$, and if $r < s < x$ then $f(r) < f(s) < f(x)$. It follows that when $x, y \in (a, b)$, if either $x \in \{r, s\}$ or $y \in \{r, s\}$ then we have $f(x) < f(y)$.

Let $x, y \in (a, b)$ with $x < y$ and $x, y \notin \{r, s\}$. When $x < r$ we can have $x < y < r$ (1), $x < r < y < s$ (2), or $x < r < s < y$ (3), and when $r < x < s$ we can have $r < x < y < s$ (4) or $r < x < s < y$ (5), and when $s < x$ we must have $s < x < y$ (6). We consider all 6 cases. Case 1: when $x < y < r$, since $f(x) < f(r)$ we must have $f(x) < f(y) < f(r)$. Case 2: when $x < r < y < s$, we have $f(x) < f(r) < f(y)$. Case 3: when $x < r < s < y$, we have $f(x) < f(r) < f(s) < f(y)$. Case 4: when $r < x < y < s$, since $f(r) < f(y)$ we must have $f(r) < f(x) < f(y)$. Case 5: when $r < x < s < y$, we have $f(r) < f(x) < f(s) < f(y)$. Case 6: when $s < x < y$, since $f(s) < f(y)$ we must have $f(s) < f(x) < f(y)$. In all cases we find that $f(x) < f(y)$, and hence f is strictly increasing.

(c) Suppose that f is increasing and surjective. Prove that f is continuous.

Solution: Let $x \in (a, b)$, and let $y = f(x)$. We need to show that f is continuous at x . Let $\epsilon > 0$. Choose $y_1, y_2 \in (u, v)$ such that $f(x) - \epsilon < y_1 < f(x) < y_2 < f(x) + \epsilon$. Since f is surjective, we can choose $x_1, x_2 \in (a, b)$ such that $f(x_1) = y_1$ and $f(x_2) = y_2$. Since f is increasing and $f(x_1) = y_1 < f(x) < y_2 = f(x_2)$, we must have $x_1 < x < x_2$. Let $\delta = \min\{x - x_1, x_2 - x\}$. Then for all $t \in (a, b)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |t - x| < \delta &\implies x - \delta < t < x + \delta \\ &\implies x_1 = x - (x - x_1) < t < x + (x_2 - x) = x_2 \\ &\implies f(x_1) \leq f(t) \leq f(x_2) \text{ (since } f \text{ is increasing)} \\ &\implies f(x) - \epsilon < y_1 = f(x_1) \leq f(t) \leq f(x_2) = y_2 < f(x) + \epsilon \\ &\implies |f(t) - f(x)| < \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

4: Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous.

(a) Given $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a < b$, show that for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$ there is a point of the form $(t, f(t))$ with $a \leq t \leq b$ which is nearest to the point $(x, 0)$.

Solution: We introduce some terminology and notation. Given a vector $u = (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, the **length** of the vector is given by $\|u\| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$. Given two points $p_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ and $p_2 = (x_2, y_2)$ in \mathbb{R}^2 , the **distance** between the two points is $d(p_1, p_2) = \|p_2 - p_1\| = \|(x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1)\| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$.

Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Define $h : [a, b] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ by $h(t) = d((t, f(t)), (x, 0)) = \sqrt{(t - x)^2 + f(t)^2}$. Since f is continuous, so is the function $g(t) = (t - x)^2 + f(t)^2$, and hence so is the function $h(t) = \sqrt{g(t)}$. By the Extreme Value Theorem, the continuous function h attains its minimum value on $[a, b]$, so we can choose $t_0 \in [a, b]$ so that $h(t_0) \leq h(t)$ for every $t \in [a, b]$, so the distance $d((t_0, f(t_0)), (x, 0))$ is less than or equal to the distance $d((t, f(t)), (x, 0))$ for every $t \in [a, b]$.

(b) Show that for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$ there is a point on the graph of f which is nearest to the point $(x, 0)$.

Solution: Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Define $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $h(t) = d((t, f(t)), (x, 0)) = \sqrt{(t - x)^2 + f(t)^2}$. Note that since $h(t) = \sqrt{(t - x)^2 + f(t)^2} \geq \sqrt{(t - x)^2}$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sqrt{(t - x)^2} \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$, it follows by the Comparison Theorem that $h(t) \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$. Choose $m \geq 0$ so that for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ we have $t \geq m \implies h(t) \geq h(0)$ and $t \leq -m \implies h(t) \geq h(0)$ (we can do this since $h(t) \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$). By Part (a), we can choose $t_0 \in [-m, m]$ so that $h(t_0) \leq h(t)$ for all $t \in [-m, m]$. In particular, we have $h(t_0) \leq h(0)$ because $0 \in [-m, m]$. Then $t \leq -m \implies h(t) \geq h(0) \geq h(t_0)$ and $t \geq m \implies h(t) \geq h(0) \geq h(t_0)$ and $t \in [-m, m] \implies h(t) \geq h(t_0)$, and so we have $h(t_0) \leq h(t)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

(c) Define $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ as follows. Given $x \in \mathbb{R}$, let $g(x)$ be the distance between the point $(x, 0)$ and a nearest point on the graph of f . Show that g is uniformly continuous.

Solution: Note that

$$g(x) = \min \left\{ d((t, f(t)), (x, 0)) \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

and we know that the minimum exists by Part (b). We claim that g is uniformly continuous. Let $\epsilon > 0$. Choose $\delta = \epsilon$. Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $y \in \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that $|x - y| < \delta = \epsilon$. Choose $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ so that the point $(t_0, f(t_0))$ is a point on the graph which is nearest to $(x, 0)$ so that we have

$$g(x) = d((t_0, f(t_0)), (x, 0)) = \|(t_0, f(t_0)) - (x, 0)\|$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} g(y) &= \min \left\{ d((t, f(t)), (y, 0)) \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \right\} \leq d((t_0, f(t_0)), (y, 0)) = \|(t_0, f(t_0)) - (y, 0)\| \\ &= \|(t_0, f(t_0)) - (x, 0) + (x, 0) - (y, 0)\| \\ &\leq \|(t_0, f(t_0)) - (x, 0)\| + \|(x, 0) - (y, 0)\| \quad (\text{by the triangle inequality}) \\ &= g(x) + |x - y| < g(x) + \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly (by interchanging the roles of x and y) we have $g(x) < g(y) + \epsilon$ so that $|g(y) - g(x)| < \epsilon$.