

# MATH 351: QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION, 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER

## FUNCTIONS OF ONE VARIABLE: CONTINUITY; LIMITS; SEQUENTIAL CONTINUITY

After explaining to a student through various lessons and examples that:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} \frac{1}{x - 8} = \infty$$

I tried to determine if he really understood the concept, so I gave him a different example.

This was the result:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{1}{x - 5} = 5$$

### CONTINUITY & LIMITS

1. Define *function*, *domain*, *graph*.

Let  $f(x)$  be defined on  $(a, b)$  and let  $p \in (a, b)$ . Define:  **$f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = p$ .**

Give both the “Mattuck” and the traditional  $\epsilon, \delta$  definitions.

2. Define:  $f(x)$  is **continuous** on  $(a, b)$ .
3. Prove, using only the definition of continuity, that each of the following functions is continuous on the given interval.
  - (a)  $f(x) = x^2$  on  $(-\infty, \infty)$
  - (b)  $f(x) = 1/x$  on  $(0, \infty)$
  - (c)  $f(x) = 2x^3 - 4x$  on  $(-\infty, \infty)$
  - (d)  $f(x) = \frac{x}{3+x^2}$  on  $(-\infty, \infty)$
4. Prove that  $g(x) = \sin x$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . Hint: show that  $|\sin a - \sin b| \leq |a - b|$ .
5. What are the four types of discontinuities?
6. Define: right-continuity, left-continuity. Define:  **$f(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ .**
7. Using (4) prove that  $G(x) = \int_0^{\pi} \frac{\sin xt}{t} dt$  is *continuous everywhere*. Which fact(s) about the Riemann integral are you taking for granted?
8. Let  $f$  be defined for  $x$  near  $p$ . Define: **the limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x \rightarrow p$  exists and equals  $L$ .**
9. (a) Let  $f(x) = 3x + 1$ . Prove, using only the definition of limit, that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = 7$$

- (b) Let  $g(x) = x^2$ . Prove, using only the definition of limit, that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x) = 4$$

(c) Prove that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^2 + x - 1 = 5$$

(d) Prove that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{3}$$

**10.** [S. Abbott, **Understanding Analysis**, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Springer (2016)]

True or False? Justify!

- (a) If a particular  $\delta$  has been constructed as a suitable response to a particular  $\varepsilon$  challenge, then any smaller positive  $\delta$  will also suffice.
- (b) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow b} f(x) = L$  and  $b$  happens to be in the domain of  $f$ , then  $L = f(b)$ .
- (c) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow b} f(x) = L$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow b} 3(f(x) - 2)^2 = 3(L - 2)^2$
- (d) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow b} f(x) = 0$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow b} f(x)g(x) = 0$ ,

for any function  $g$  (with domain equal to the domain of  $f$ ).

**11.** What is the relationship between continuity and limit? Define: limit as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  or  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ .

**12.** Prove each of the following results, using only the definition of limit.

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sin \frac{1}{x}$

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{|x^2 - 9|}{x - 3}$

(c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3 + x^2}$

(d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^3 - 125}{x - 5}$