

True or false?

1. If $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, then the range of f is some interval $[c, d]$.

True by combining intermediate-value theorem with extreme-value theorem (special case: for a constant function, the interval $[c, d]$ degenerates to a point).

2. A continuous function maps convergent sequences to convergent sequences.
[assuming the limit of the sequence belongs to the domain of the function]

True: equivalent formulation of the notion of continuity.

3. A continuous function maps Cauchy sequences to Cauchy sequences.

Depends on the domain of f .

If domain of f is all of \mathbb{R} , then true.

Counterexample to 3

Consider $f: (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x) = 1/x$ and the sequence $\{1/n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$.

This is a Cauchy sequence in the domain.

But the image sequence $\{f(1/n)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is not a Cauchy sequence.

The quantified formulation of continuity

f is continuous at c if for every positive ε there exists a positive δ such that the inequality $|x - c| < \delta$ implies the inequality $|f(x) - f(c)| < \varepsilon$.

The value of δ is allowed to depend on ε and on c and on f but not on x .

If δ can be chosen to be independent of the point c in the domain of f , then f is called *uniformly continuous*.

A uniformly continuous function does map Cauchy sequences to Cauchy sequences.

A third important property of a continuous function whose domain is a closed, bounded interval

Theorem

Suppose $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous. Then

1. f attains a maximum value and attains a minimum value (extreme-value theorem);
2. the range of f is an interval or a single point (intermediate-value theorem); and
3. f is automatically uniformly continuous.

Assignment due next class

Write a solution to Exercise 3.4.10.