

Answer the following questions, providing a motivation for each answer.

(In case of negative answer the "motivation" is a counterexample)

1. Is it true that a continuous function defined on the interval $]1, 3]$ has an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum?

NO. A counterexample is the function $f :]1, 3] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 & \forall x \in]1, 2[\\ -6 + x & \forall x \in [2, 3] \end{cases}$$

f has a absolute minimum at $x = 2$ but it hasn't an absolute maximum.

2. Is it true that a continuous function defined on the interval $]1, 3]$ has a relative maximum and a relative minimum?

NO. A counterexample is the function $f :]1, 3] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 & \forall x \in]1, 2[\\ -2 - x & \forall x \in [2, 3] \end{cases}$$

f has an absolute (hence relative) minimum at $x = 3$ but it hasn't an absolute maximum.

3. Consider a function $f :]-1, 1[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and assume that it is differentiable on $] - 1, 1[\setminus \{0\}$ and that the limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f'(x)$ does NOT exist. Can we conclude that the function f is not differentiable at $x = 0$?

NO. The function

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} x^2 \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) & \forall x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

is differentiable at any point: indeed, if $x \neq 0$ $f'(x) = 2x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$, while for $x = 0$ one can compute the derivative as limit of the differential quotient (do it by exercise), so obtaining that $f'(0) = 0$.

However the limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f'(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 2x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$$

does not exist.

4. Suppose that a function $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at all points of $]0, 1[$ and that f is continuous at $x = 0$ and $x = 1$. Can we conclude that f is integrable?

YES. Indeed f is differentiable, hence continuous on $]0, 1[$, moreover it is continuous at $x = 0$ and $x = 1$. Therefore it is continuous on the closed and bounded interval $[0, 1]$, hence it is integrable on $[0, 1]$.

5. Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ be a convergent series which does not converge absolutely. Can we conclude that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n)^4 = 0?$$

YES. A necessary condition for the series to be convergent is $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$. Hence one also has $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n| = 0$. In particular there is \bar{n} such that $|a_n| < 1$ for all $n > \bar{n}$. Therefore, for all $n > \bar{n}$ one has $0 \leq a_n^4 = |a_n|^4 \leq |a_n|$, and by the two policemen theorem one concludes that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n^4 = 0$

6. Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ be a convergent series. Is it true that the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$, with $b_n = -a_n \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, is a convergent series as well?

YES. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is convergent one has $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k^a = S \in \mathbb{R}$, where, for every k , $S_k^a := a_1 + \dots + a_k$.

Setting $S_k^b := b_1 + \dots + b_k = -a_1 + \dots - a_k = -S_k^a$, one gets $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k^b = -S$, i.e. the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converges (and its sum is $-S$).

7. Consider a complex polynomial $P(z) = b_5 z^5 + b_4 z^4 + b_3 z^3 + b_2 z^2 + b_1 z + b_0$ ($b_0, \dots, b_5 \in \mathbb{C}$). Is it true that the equation $P(z) = 0$ has at least one real solution?

NO. A simple counterexample is

$$P(z) := (z + i)^5 = z^5 + 5iz^4 - 10z^3 - 10iz^2 + 5iz + i$$

and the only solution of $P(z) = 0$ is $-i$.

8. Same as in the previous question but with $b_0, \dots, b_5 \in \mathbb{R}$

YES. By the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra we know that there are 5 solutions (when counted with their multiplicity). Moreover, since the coefficients of $P(z)$ are real, for every solution $z = x + iy$, also its conjugate $\bar{z} = x - iy$ is a solution. Therefore, there must be at least one solution \hat{z} which coincides with its conjugate. This is possible if and only if \bar{z} is a real number.

9. Consider a function $f : [0, +\infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and assume that the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$, where $a_n := f(n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, converges. Can we conclude that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 0$?

NO. A counterexample is

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x^2} & \forall x \in \mathbb{N} \\ 1 & \forall x \in [0, +\infty[\setminus \mathbb{N} \end{cases}$$

The limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$ does not exist.