

## Howard University Math Department

Instructions:

PLEASE PROVIDE STEP BY STEP EXPLANATIONS

WRITING ONLY ANSWERS WILL NOT GET FULL CREDIT

Time Limit 50 minutes. Total 100 points.

Please read the questions carefully before answering

1. Given  $f(x) = 10^x$  and  $g(x) = \log x$  find the following:

(a) (6 points)  $f \circ g(x)$     (b) (6 points)  $g \circ f(x)$     (c) (3 points)  $f \circ g(2)$

Solution:

Main point here is that the natural exponential and logarithm functions are inverses of each other, so they "cancel" each other out. Remember that  $\log x$  actually means logarithm to the base 10, namely  $\log_{10} x$ .

(a)  $f \circ g(x) = 10^{\log(x)} = x$ .

(b)  $g \circ f(x) = \log(10^x) = x$ .

(c) Using the answer for (a) we get  $f \circ g(2) = 2$ .

2. (20 points) Find the following limits, if they exist:

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x+1}{x^2-4}$     (b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{1}{x}}$

Solution:

(a) Idea: Divide numerator and denominator by the highest power term of *both of them* namely  $x^2$ . You get:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{x+1}{x^2}}{\frac{x^2-4}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}}{1 - \frac{4}{x^2}} = \frac{0+0}{1-0} = 0$$

If you divide numerator by  $x$  because that is the highest power in the numerator, then you are changing the value of the fraction because you are dividing by  $x$  and  $x^2$ . You need to divide *both by the same power* which is the highest power of all the terms, whether it be numerator or denominator.

(b) Main point here is that as  $x \rightarrow 0^+$ ,  $1/x \rightarrow \infty$  and also that  $e^x$  goes to infinity as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . So limit does not exist. Not enough to check for one or two points. You need to use the fact that  $e^x$  goes to infinity if the exponent goes to infinity.

But note that as  $x \rightarrow 0^-$ , (from the negative side),  $e^{1/x}$  goes to 0 because as  $x \rightarrow 0^-$ , we have  $1/x \rightarrow -\infty$  and when the exponent goes to  $-\infty$  the function  $e^u$  goes to 0. So while it is true that *as long as  $f(x)$  does not approach a finite value, limit doesn't exist*, it is also not true in this case that  $e^{1/x} \rightarrow \infty$ . It goes to  $\infty$  as you approach 0 from the right and approaches 0 as you approach from the left.

3. (10 points) For  $f(x) = x^2$  find  $f'(2)$  using the basic definition of derivative, namely  $f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$ .

(5 points) Also find the equation of the tangent at  $x = 2$ .

Solution:

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

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4h + h^2}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 4 + h = 4$$

The equation of the line passing through  $(2, 2^2)$  or  $(2, 4)$  with slope 4 is given by  $y - 4 = 4(x - 2)$  or  $y = 4x - 4$ .

4. (15 points) Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sin(1/x)$ . [Use squeeze theorem a.k.a sandwich theorem]

Solution:

$\sin(1/x)$  varies between -1 and 1.

So  $x \sin(1/x)$  is “squeezed” between  $-x$  and  $x$ .

As  $x \rightarrow 0$ , we have  $-x \rightarrow 0$  also.

So the functions on both sides go to 0 and by squeeze a.k.a sandwich theorem, the function in the middle must also go to 0.

So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sin(1/x) = 0$ .

5. (10 points) An object is thrown down from 100 feet and its height (or position) after  $t$  seconds is given by  $H(t) = 100 - 4.9t^2$ . Find its velocity and speed after 5 seconds.

Solution:

Velocity is given by the derivative of the height function. Speed is absolute value of velocity

$H'(t) = -4.9(2t) = -9.8t$ ;  $H'(5) = -9.8(5) = -49$  meters per second. Speed is 49 meters per second.

6. (15 points) Show that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x+2}{x} = 1$  using basic definition of limit. [Your answer should go something like this: We can make the difference between  $(x+2)/x$  and 1 as small as we want by choosing  $x$  big enough. Start by producing an  $M$  such that when  $x > M$  the difference is as small as desired]

Let  $\epsilon$  be a very small real number. We want to show that the difference between  $x/(x+2)$  and 1 is smaller than  $\epsilon$  (*no matter how small it is*) if we choose  $x$  big enough.

So we want

$$\left| \frac{x+2}{x} - 1 \right| < \epsilon.$$

In other words

$$\left| \frac{x+2-x}{x} \right| < \epsilon.$$

i.e,

$$\left| \frac{2}{x} \right| < \epsilon.$$

Here we can get rid of absolute value now because when  $x > M$  where  $M$  is a big positive number  $x$  is also positive so everything is positive and the absolute value doesn't change anything. So we want  $2/x < \epsilon \implies x > 2/\epsilon$ . (Solved for  $x$ ). But now all we need to do is to choose  $M = (2/\epsilon)$  then if  $x > M$  the above inequalities will all be satisfied and  $(x+2)/x$  will be within  $\epsilon$  distance of 1.

7. (10 points) Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - 2x, & x < 1, \\ x + 2, & x \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x)$ . Does  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$  exist? If so, what is it? If not, why not?

Is the function  $f(x)$  continuous at  $x = 1$ ?

Solution:

To find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x)$  we need to look at what happens to the right of 1.

Here the function is defined by  $x + 2$  which is a continuous function and approaches 3 as  $x$  approaches 1. [Since it is continuous the value is obtained by just plugging in 1]. So the limit is 3.

To find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x)$  we need to look at what happens to the left of 1.

Here the function is defined by  $1 - 2x$  which is also a continuous function and approaches -1 as  $x$  approaches 1. As before, since it is continuous the value is obtained by just plugging in 1. So the limit is -1.

Since the two limits are different,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$  does not exist.

From above, we see that it is not continuous at 1 because the limit does not even exist there. [But since it is defined by continuous functions  $1 - 2x$  and  $x + 2$  respectively at all other points, it is continuous everywhere else].