

5.10 Limits and composition of functions: proof

Theorem 5.6. (Limits and composition of functions)

Let $m, n, p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Let $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ and $g: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be functions and let $a \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $\ell \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Assume that $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(g(x))$ exist and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = \ell$.

Then

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \ell} f(y) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(g(x)).$$

Proof.

Let $L = \lim_{y \rightarrow \ell} f(y)$.

To show: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(g(x)) = L$.

To show: If $e \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ then there exists $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that

if $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is within 10^{-d} of a then $f(g(x))$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

Assume $e \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

To show: There exists $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that

if $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is within 10^{-d} of a then $f(g(x))$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

Since $\lim_{y \rightarrow \ell} f(y) = L$ we know that there exists $d_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that

if $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is within 10^{-d_1} of ℓ then $f(y)$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

Since $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = \ell$ we know that there exists $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that

if $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is within 10^{-d} of a then $g(x)$ is within 10^{-d_1} of ℓ .

To show: If $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is within 10^{-d} of a then $f(g(x))$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

Assume $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is within 10^{-d} of a .

To show: $f(g(x))$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

Since x is within 10^{-d} of a then $g(x)$ is within 10^{-d_1} of ℓ ,

and so $f(g(x))$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

So, if $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is within 10^{-d} of a then $f(g(x))$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

So there exists $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that if $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is within 10^{-d} of a then $f(g(x))$ is within 10^{-e} of L .

So $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(g(x)) = L$.

□