

Problem 1: Use the Squeeze Theorem to show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^3 2^{\cos(1/x)} = 0$.

Solution. We know that $-1 \leq \cos(1/x) \leq 1$. Because 2^x is monotonically increasing, this implies $2^{-1} \leq 2^{\cos(1/x)} \leq 2^1$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} x^3 2^{-1} &\leq x^3 2^{\cos(1/x)} \leq x^3 \cdot 2 \\ \frac{x^3}{2} &\leq x^3 2^{\cos(1/x)} \leq 2x^3 \end{aligned}$$

But $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3}{2} = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 2x^3$. Therefore by Squeeze Theorem, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^3 2^{\cos(1/x)} = 0$.

Problem 2: Use the Intermediate Value Theorem to show that $f(x) = \pi x^2 e^{-x} - 1$ has a root on the interval $[0, 1]$.

Solution. The function $f(x)$ is continuous. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} f(0) &= \pi \cdot 0e^0 - 1 = -1 < 0 \\ f(1) &= \pi \cdot 1 \cdot e^{-1} - 1 = \frac{\pi}{e} - 1 > 0 \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from the fact that $\pi > e$ ($\pi \approx 3$ and $e \approx 2$). Because $-1 < 0 < \frac{\pi}{e} - 1$, it follows from the Intermediate Value Theorem that there is $c \in [0, 1]$ so that $f(c) = 0$. But then c is a root of $f(x)$ on $[0, 1]$.

Problem 3: Use the definition of the derivative to find the derivative of $f(x) = 2x^2 + 3x - 5$.

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[2(x+h)^2 + 3(x+h) - 5] - (2x^2 + 3x - 5)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2(x^2 + 2hx + h^2) + 3x + 3h - 2x^2 - 3x + 5}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x^2 + 4hx + 2h^2 + 3x + 3h - 2x^2 - 3x + 5}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4hx + 2h^2 + 3h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(4x + 2h + 3)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (4x + 2h + 3) \\ &= 4x + 0 + 3 \\ &= 4x + 3 \end{aligned}$$