

Additional things you should know for exam 2.

Theorem: Say that f is continuous on $[a, b]$. Then it is bounded on $[a, b]$.

Proof: Say that f is not bounded. Then for each n there is an $x_n \in [a, b]$ with $|f(x_n)| \geq n$. Let $x_n \rightarrow c$ (BZW). Then $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(c)$ (continuity) $\Rightarrow f(x_n)$ is bounded, contradiction.

Theorem: Say that f is continuous on $[a, b]$. Then it must assume its maximum value, i.e., $\exists c \in [a, b]: f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all x .

Proof: Since f is bounded, there is a b with $f([a, b]) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

Thus we may let $b_0 = \sup f([a, b])$. Let $f(x_n) \rightarrow b_0$ where $x_n \in [a, b]$. Let $x_n \rightarrow c$. Then $f(x_n) \rightarrow b_0$ and $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(c)$ so $b_0 = f(c)$.

Theorem: Say that f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and $f(a) < f(b)$.

Then there is a $c \in [a, b]$ with $f(c) = y$.

Proof: Let $S = \{x \in [a, b] : f(x) \leq y\}$. $S \neq \emptyset$ because $a \in S$, and $S \subseteq [a, b]$. Thus we may let $c = \sup S$. We have $\exists x_n \in S$ such that $x_n \rightarrow c$. Thus $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(c)$ and since $f(x_n) \leq y$, we have $f(c) \leq y$. If $f(c) < y$ let $\epsilon = y - f(c)$. Then choose $\delta > 0$ such that $|x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| < \epsilon$. $\Rightarrow f(x) < f(c) + \epsilon$. In particular this is the case for $x = c + \delta/2$, and we have

$$c + \delta/2 \in S \subseteq c$$

a contradiction.

Theorem: Say f is continuous on $[a, b]$. Then it is uniformly continuous on $[a, b]$.

Proof: If f is not uniformly continuous on $[a, b]$, we can find $\epsilon > 0$ and $x_n, x'_n \in [a, b]$ such that $|x_n - x'_n| \rightarrow 0$ but $|f(x_n) - f(x'_n)| \geq \epsilon$. Let $x_n \rightarrow c$ (BZW). Then $|x'_n - c| \leq |x'_n - x_n| + |x_n - c| \rightarrow 0$ so $x'_n \rightarrow c$. Thus $f(x_n) \rightarrow f(c)$, $f(x'_n) \rightarrow f(c) \Rightarrow |f(x_n) - f(x'_n)| \rightarrow 0$ contradicting $|f(x_n) - f(x'_n)| \geq \epsilon$.