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**OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Mathematics**

**MATH 2144 (Calculus I)**  
Instructor: Dr. Mathias Schulze

**MIDTERM 1**  
**September 17, 2008**

**Duration: 50 minutes**

**No aids allowed.**

This examination paper consists of **7** pages and **6** questions. Please bring any discrepancy to the attention of an invigilator. The number in brackets at the start of each question is the number of points the question is worth.

Answer **5 of 6** questions.

**To obtain credit, you must give arguments to support your answers.**

For graders' use:

	Score
1 (10)	
2 (10)	
3 (10)	
4 (10)	
5 (10)	
6 (10)	
<b>Total (60)</b>	

1. [10] True or False? Write a “T” (for true) or an “F” (for false) for each statement.

- (a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \left( \frac{2x}{x-4} - \frac{8}{x-4} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{2x}{x-4} - \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{8}{x-4}$
- (b) If  $p$  is a polynomial, then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} p(x) = p(1)$ .
- (c) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)]$  exists, then it must be equal to  $f(a)g(a)$ .
- (d) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = -\infty$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = 0$ .
- (e) If  $x = 1$  is a vertical asymptote of  $y = f(x)$  then  $f$  is not defined at 1.
- (f) If  $f$  is continuous at  $a$ , then  $f$  is differentiable at  $a$ .
- (g) If  $f(x) > 1$  for all  $x > 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$  exists, then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) > 1$ .
- (h) If  $f'(r)$  exists, then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow r} f(x) = f(r)$ .
- (i) The equation  $x^{10} - 10x^2 + 5 = 0$  has a root in the interval  $(0, 2)$ .
- (j) A rational function can have two different horizontal asymptotes.

**Solution:** (a) F (limit law does not apply to infinite limits)

(b) T (polynomials are continuous)

(c) F (example:  $f(x) = x$ ,  $g(x) = x^{-1}$ ,  $a = 0$ )

(d) F (example:  $f(x) = x^{-2}$ ,  $g(x) = -x^{-4}$ ,  $a = 0$ )

(e) F (limits in the definition of the vertical asymptote “ignore”  $f(1)$ )

(f) F (example:  $f(x) = |x|$ )

(g) F (example:  $f(x) = x + 1$ )

(h) T (differentiable implies continuous)

(i) T (apply Intermediate Value Theorem to  $[0, 1]$ )

2. [10] Give a simple example or write “N/A” if there is no such example.
- (a) A polynomial that is a power function.
  - (b) A polynomial that is not a rational function.
  - (c) A rational function that is not a polynomial.
  - (d) An inverse trigonometric function that is not an algebraic function.
  - (e) A continuous function without horizontal and vertical asymptotes.
  - (f) A function with 3 vertical asymptotes.
  - (g) A root function whose domain does not include  $-1$ .
  - (h) An algebraic function with domain  $(-1, 1)$ .
  - (i) A function with infinitely many discontinuities.
  - (j) A continuous but not differentiable function.

**Solution:**

- (a)  $f(x) = 1 (= x^0)$
- (b) N/A (by definition any polynomial is a rational function)
- (c)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$
- (d)  $\sin^{-1}$  (essentially any inverse trigonometric function works)
- (e)  $f(x) = x$
- (f)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^3-x} (= \frac{1}{(x-(-1))(x-0)(x-1)})$
- (g)  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$
- (h)  $f(x) = 1/\sqrt{1-x^2}$
- (i)  $f(x) = \llbracket x \rrbracket$  (discontinuous at all integers)
- (j)  $f(x) = |x|$

3. [10]

- (a) For  $f(x) = \frac{2x^2-18}{x^2+2x-3}$ , find all asymptotes and the limits that describe the asymptotic behavior of the function.
- (b) Find the horizontal asymptotes of the function  $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x^6-1}}{x^3+7x^2+4x-8}$ .

**Solution:** (a) Dropping the terms with not highest exponents in the numerator and denominator of  $f$  (as explained in the lecture) yields  $y = \frac{2x^2}{x^2} = 2$  as horizontal asymptote for both  $x \rightarrow \infty$  and  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ . So we have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} f(x) = 2$ . To find the vertical asymptotes, we factorize and cancel factors if possible:

$$f(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 18}{x^2 + 2x - 3} = 2 \frac{(x+3)(x-3)}{(x+3)(x-1)} = 2 \frac{x-3}{x-1}$$

So,  $x = 1$  is the only vertical asymptote. As  $x - 3 < 0$  for  $x$  close to 1, we have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} = -\infty$ .

- (b) Dropping the terms with not highest exponents under the root and in the denominator of  $f$  (as above) yields  $\frac{\sqrt{x^6}}{x^3} = \frac{|x|^3}{x^3} = |x|/x$  which has the same asymptotic behavior as  $f(x)$  for large  $|x|$ . So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} |x|/x = 1$  and similarly  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = -1$ . In other words,  $y = 1$  and  $y = -1$  are two (different) horizontal asymptotes.

4. [10]

(a) Find all values for  $a$  and  $b$  such that the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2-9}{x-3} & \text{if } x < 1 \\ (x-a)^2 & \text{if } 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 2ax - b & \text{if } 2 \leq x \end{cases}$$

becomes continuous.

(b) Is  $f$  differentiable for some choice of  $a$  and  $b$ ?**Solution:**(a) First, note that  $f(x) = x + 3$  for  $x < 1$ . Continuity is clear at  $x \neq 1, 2$ . The following two conditions are equivalent to continuity at 1 and 2 respectively:

$$4 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = f(1) = (1-a)^2,$$

$$(2-a)^2 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = f(2) = 4a - b.$$

The first equality gives  $a = 1 \mp 2$ , so  $a = -1$  or  $a = 3$ . Then the second equality reads  $5 \pm 4 = (1 \pm 2)^2 = 4 \mp 8 - b$  which gives  $b = -1 \mp 12$ . So either  $a = -1$  and  $b = -13$  or  $a = 3$  and  $b = 11$ .

(b) Note that if  $f$  is continuous, then  $f(1) = 4$  by the first part. For  $f'(1) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(1+h)-f(1)}{h}$  to exist, the corresponding left- and right-sided limits

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1+h+3-4}{h} = 1,$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(1+h-a)^2 - 4}{h}$$

must be equal. But, for  $a = 1 \mp 2$ , the right-sided limit equals

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(h \pm 2)^2 - 4}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{h^2 \pm 4h}{h} = \pm 4$$

which is not equal to the left-sided limit. So the answer is “no”.

5. [10]

- (a) Compute the derivative of  $f(x) = \frac{1-x}{1+x}$  (using the limit definition).  
 (b) Find the domains of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ .

**Solution:**

(a)

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1-x-h}{1+x+h} - \frac{1-x}{1+x}}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1-x-h)(1+x) - (1-x)(1+x+h)}{h(1+x+h)(1+x)} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1-x-h+x-x^2-hx-1-x-h+x+x^2+hx}{h(1+x+h)(1+x)} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-2h}{h(1+x+h)(1+x)} = -\frac{2}{(1+x)^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Both domains are obviously  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1\}$ .

6. [10] Compute the limits.

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\sqrt{4x^6 - x}}{x^3 + 9}$

(b)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t^2 - t}{2t^2 + t + 7}$

(c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( x^4 \cos \frac{2}{x} \right)$  (Hint: use the Squeeze Theorem)

(d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{8}} \arctan \left( \frac{64x^2 - \pi^2}{64x - 8\pi} \right)$

(e)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \sin(x + \sin(x + \sin(x + \sin(x + \sin x))))$

**Solution:**

(a) Note that for  $x < 0$ , we have  $x^{-3} = -\sqrt{x^{-6}}$ . Using this, we compute

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\sqrt{4x^6 - x}}{x^3 + 9} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} -\frac{\sqrt{4x^6 - x}\sqrt{x^{-6}}}{(x^3 + 9)x^{-3}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} -\frac{\sqrt{4 - \frac{1}{x^5}}}{1 + \frac{9}{x^3}} = -2.$$

(b)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t^2 - t}{2t^2 + t + 7} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t^2}{2t^2} = \frac{1}{2}$

(c) We have  $-x^4 \leq x^4 \cos \frac{2}{x} \leq x^4$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^4 = 0$ . So, by the Squeeze Theorem, it follows that also  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( x^4 \cos \frac{2}{x} \right) = 0$ .

(d) By Theorem 8 in Section 2.5,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{8}} \arctan \left( \frac{64x^2 - \pi^2}{64x - 8\pi} \right) = \arctan \left( \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{8}} \frac{64x^2 - \pi^2}{64x - 8\pi} \right)$ .

But  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{8}} \frac{64x^2 - \pi^2}{64x - 8\pi} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{8}} \left( x + \frac{\pi}{8} \right) = \frac{\pi}{4}$  and hence the result is  $\arctan \frac{\pi}{4} = 1$ .

(e) By continuity,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \sin(x + \sin(x + \sin(x + \sin(x + \sin x)))) = \sin(\pi + \sin(\pi + \sin(\pi + \sin(\pi + \sin \pi)))) = 0$ .

**End of examination**

**Total pages: 7**

**Total marks: 60**