

Brief solutions to selected problems in homework week 04

Given $\varepsilon = \frac{|f(c)|}{2} > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$0 < |x-c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| < \varepsilon$ Because $f(x)$ is conti.
at c , $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$

$-\frac{|f(c)|}{2} < f(x) - f(c) < \frac{|f(c)|}{2}$ ∴ if $f(c) > 0$:

$-\frac{|f(c)|}{2} + f(c) < f(x) < \frac{|f(c)|}{2} + f(c)$ $0 < -\frac{f(c)}{2} + f(c) < f(x)$ for $x \in (c-\delta, c+\delta)$

∴ if $f(c) < 0$:

$f(x) < f(c) - \frac{|f(c)|}{2} = \frac{f(c)}{2} < 0$

for $x \in (c-\delta, c+\delta)$

Figure 1: Correct answer section 2.5, problem 68 (only minor mistake)

68

suppose $f(c) > 0$ by continuity, for any ε , there exists a δ such that $0 < |x-c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| < \varepsilon$

$0 < |x-c| < \delta \Rightarrow \varepsilon > f(x) < \varepsilon + f(c)$

take $\varepsilon = \frac{f(c)}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}f(c) < f(x) < \frac{3}{2}f(c)$ if $0 < |x-c| < \delta$

∴ $f(x)$ have the same sign as $f(c)$ and corresponding δ

$f(c) < 0$
take $\varepsilon = -\frac{f(c)}{2}$

Figure 2: A common mistake of section 2.5, problem 68. One should at least state how to choose ε when $f(c) < 0$