

Numerical analysis and optimization an introductio Printable PDF

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Understanding the fundamentals of numerical analysis and optimization is essential for tackling complex mathematical problems in various scientific, engineering, and financial applications. These fields provide powerful tools and techniques that enable us to find approximate solutions to problems that are otherwise difficult or impossible to solve analytically. This article offers an in-depth introduction to numerical analysis and optimization, exploring their core concepts, methods, and real-world applications.

What is Numerical Analysis?

Numerical analysis is a branch of mathematics that focuses on developing and analyzing algorithms for solving mathematical problems numerically—that is, approximately rather than exactly. Its primary goal is to obtain reliable, efficient, and accurate numerical solutions to problems involving equations, integrals, derivatives, and systems of equations.

Key Objectives of Numerical Analysis

- Approximate solutions when exact solutions are impossible or impractical
- Analyze the error associated with numerical methods
- Develop algorithms that are computationally efficient
- Ensure the stability and convergence of numerical procedures

Common Problems Addressed by Numerical Analysis

- Solving nonlinear equations
- Interpolating data points
- Numerical integration and differentiation
- Solving ordinary and partial differential equations
- Eigenvalue and eigenvector computations

Fundamental Concepts in Numerical Analysis

Understanding the key concepts in numerical analysis helps in selecting appropriate methods for specific problems.

Error Analysis

- Types of errors:
- Round-off error: Due to finite precision in computations
- Truncation error: Resulting from approximating a mathematical process
- Error bounds are used to estimate the maximum possible error in a numerical solution

Convergence and Stability

- A numerical method is convergent if its solution approaches the exact solution as the step size decreases
- Stability refers to the method's sensitivity to small changes or errors in input or intermediate calculations

Discretization

- The process of transforming continuous models into discrete counterparts suitable for numerical computation
- Examples include dividing an interval into small steps for solving differential equations

Numerical Methods and Techniques

Numerical analysis encompasses a wide array of algorithms tailored for different types of problems. Here are some of the most widely used methods:

Root-Finding Methods

- Bisection Method: A bracketing method that repeatedly halves an interval containing the root
- Newton-Raphson Method: Uses tangent lines to find successively better approximations
- Secant Method: Similar to Newton-Raphson but avoids computing derivatives

Interpolation and Approximation

- Lagrange Polynomial Interpolation: Fits a polynomial passing through given data points
- Spline Interpolation: Uses piecewise polynomials for smoother approximations
- Least Squares Approximation: Finds the best-fit function minimizing the sum of squared errors

Numerical Integration and Differentiation

- Trapezoidal Rule: Approximates integrals using trapezoids
- Simpson's Rule: Uses quadratic polynomials for better accuracy
- Finite Difference Methods: Approximate derivatives using differences between function values

Solving Differential Equations

- Euler's Method: Simple explicit method for initial value problems
- Runge-Kutta Methods: Higher-order methods providing better accuracy
- Finite Element and Finite Difference Methods: For partial differential equations

Optimization: Finding the Best Solutions

Optimization is the process of finding the best solution from a set of possible options, often subject to constraints. It plays a vital role in engineering design, machine learning, logistics, finance, and many other domains.

Types of Optimization Problems

- Unconstrained Optimization: No restrictions on variables
- Constrained Optimization: Variables must satisfy certain conditions or inequalities
- Discrete Optimization: Variables are restricted to discrete values

Key Concepts in Optimization

- Objective Function: The function to be minimized or maximized
- Constraints: Conditions that solutions must satisfy
- Feasible Solution: Any solution that meets all constraints
- Optimal Solution: The feasible solution that optimizes the objective function

Common Optimization Techniques

- Gradient Descent: Iteratively moves towards the minimum based on the gradient
- Newton's Method: Uses second derivatives for faster convergence
- Linear Programming: Optimizes linear objectives subject to linear constraints
- Genetic Algorithms: Mimic natural selection for complex, nonlinear problems
- Simulated Annealing: Probabilistic technique for global optimization

Applications of Numerical Analysis and Optimization

These fields have extensive applications across various industries:

Engineering

- Structural analysis
- Control system design
- Computational fluid dynamics

Finance

- Risk assessment
- Portfolio optimization
- Option pricing models

Data Science and Machine Learning

- Training algorithms involve minimizing loss functions
- Hyperparameter tuning through optimization techniques

Scientific Research

- Modeling physical phenomena
- Simulation of complex systems

Challenges and Future Directions

While numerical analysis and optimization are powerful, they face challenges such as:

- Handling high-dimensional problems
- Ensuring numerical stability
- Dealing with noisy or incomplete data
- Developing algorithms that are both faster and more accurate

Advances in computational power, machine learning, and parallel processing continue to drive innovation in these fields. Emerging areas include:

- Adaptive algorithms that adjust parameters dynamically
- Integration of artificial intelligence with classical methods
- Quantum computing applications for optimization

Conclusion

Numerical analysis and optimization are fundamental to solving real-world problems that involve complex mathematics. By understanding their core principles, methods, and applications, professionals can develop efficient algorithms that yield reliable solutions. As technology advances, these fields will continue to evolve, offering new tools and approaches to address increasingly sophisticated challenges across scientific and engineering disciplines.

Keywords: Numerical analysis, optimization, algorithms, error analysis, convergence, stability, root-finding, interpolation, numerical integration, differential equations, constraints, gradient descent, linear programming, applications, future trends

Numerical analysis and optimization an introduction: Unlocking Efficient Solutions for Complex Problems

In the rapidly evolving landscape of science, engineering, and data science, numerical analysis and optimization an introduction serves as a foundational guide for understanding how we can effectively solve complex mathematical problems that traditional analytical methods often struggle to handle. Whether you're working on designing a new machine component, training a machine learning model, or simulating physical phenomena, mastering the principles of numerical analysis and optimization is crucial to achieving accurate, efficient, and robust solutions.

Understanding Numerical Analysis and Optimization

What is Numerical Analysis?

Numerical analysis is a branch of mathematics that focuses on developing algorithms for approximating solutions to mathematical problems that cannot be solved exactly or are too complex

to solve analytically. It encompasses techniques to discretize continuous problems, estimate errors, and ensure the stability and convergence of algorithms.

Key objectives of numerical analysis include:

- Approximating solutions to differential equations, linear and nonlinear systems
- Managing computational errors and stability
- Optimizing algorithms for speed and accuracy

What is Optimization?

Optimization involves finding the best solution from a set of feasible options, often by maximizing or minimizing a particular function known as the objective function. It plays a pivotal role across disciplines?helping engineers minimize material costs, data scientists maximize model accuracy, and economists optimize resource allocation.

Core components of optimization include:

- Defining the objective function
- Establishing constraints
- Selecting appropriate algorithms to find optimal solutions

The Interplay Between Numerical Analysis and Optimization

Numerical analysis and optimization are deeply interconnected. Many optimization problems?especially those involving continuous variables?rely on numerical methods to evaluate functions, compute derivatives, and iteratively improve solutions.

For example:

- Gradient-based optimization algorithms use numerical derivatives when analytical derivatives are unavailable.
- Nonlinear programming often relies on numerical techniques to handle complex constraints.
- Large-scale problems necessitate efficient numerical algorithms to manage computational resources.

Fundamental Concepts in Numerical Analysis

Discretization and Approximation

Numerical analysis often involves replacing a continuous problem with a discrete counterpart. For example:

- Approximating derivatives via finite differences
- Discretizing differential equations with methods like finite element or finite difference methods
- Using polynomial interpolation to approximate functions

Error Analysis

Understanding how close an approximation is to the true solution is vital. Errors are generally classified as:

- Round-off errors: Due to finite precision in computers
- Truncation errors: Resulting from approximating an infinite process with a finite one

Analyzing and minimizing these errors ensures the reliability of numerical solutions.

Stability and Convergence

- Stability refers to the algorithm's ability to produce bounded errors over iterations.
- Convergence indicates whether an iterative process approaches the true solution as the number of iterations increases.

Designing stable and convergent algorithms is essential for trustworthy numerical methods.

Core Numerical Techniques

Solving Systems of Equations

- Direct methods: Gaussian elimination, LU decomposition
- Iterative methods: Jacobi, Gauss-Seidel, Conjugate Gradient

Numerical Integration and Differentiation

- Trapezoidal rule, Simpson's rule
- Finite difference approximations

Solving Nonlinear Equations

- Bisection method
- Newton-Raphson method
- Secant method

Eigenvalues and Singular Value Decomposition

- Power iteration
- QR algorithm

Foundations of Optimization

Types of Optimization Problems

- Unconstrained optimization: No restrictions on variables
- Constrained optimization: Variables must satisfy certain conditions (equalities or inequalities)

Common Optimization Algorithms

- Gradient descent
- Newton's method
- Quasi-Newton methods (e.g., BFGS)
- Interior point methods
- Genetic algorithms and other heuristic methods for global optimization

Challenges in Optimization

- Local minima trapping
- High-dimensionality
- Non-convexity
- Computational expense

Practical Applications of Numerical Analysis and Optimization

- Engineering Design: Optimizing structural components for strength and weight
- Machine Learning: Tuning model parameters to minimize loss functions
- Economics: Portfolio optimization to balance risk and return
- Physics and Chemistry: Simulating molecular interactions or physical systems
- Data Science: Dimensionality reduction, clustering, and predictive modeling

Choosing the Right Methods

Selecting appropriate numerical and optimization techniques depends on:

- Problem type: Linear, nonlinear, discrete, continuous
- Size and scale: Small systems vs. large-scale problems
- Accuracy needs: Approximate solutions vs. highly precise
- Computational resources: Availability of processing power
- Convergence guarantees: Whether the method guarantees reaching a solution

For example, large-scale sparse systems often benefit from iterative solvers like Conjugate Gradient, while small dense systems might be best tackled with LU decomposition.

Challenges and Future Directions

As problems grow in complexity and data volumes increase, the field of numerical analysis and optimization faces several challenges:

- Developing algorithms that are both scalable and accurate
- Handling noisy or incomplete data
- Ensuring robustness in uncertain environments
- Integrating machine learning techniques with traditional numerical methods

Emerging areas such as quantum computing and parallel algorithms promise new paradigms for tackling previously intractable problems.

Conclusion

Mastering numerical analysis and optimization an introduction empowers practitioners to approach complex scientific and engineering problems with confidence. By understanding the core concepts,

techniques, and challenges, you can develop solutions that are not only mathematically sound but also computationally efficient and practically applicable. As technology advances and problems become more intricate, the importance of these fields will only grow, making them essential skills for future innovators.

Embarking on a journey into numerical analysis and optimization opens doors to a world of efficient problem-solving?whether you're optimizing a machine learning model, designing a bridge, or simulating climate change models. The blend of mathematical rigor and computational ingenuity lies at the heart of modern science and engineering.

Question What is the primary goal of numerical analysis in optimization problems? The primary goal of numerical analysis in optimization is to develop and apply algorithms that efficiently find approximate solutions to complex mathematical problems where analytical solutions are difficult or impossible to obtain. How do gradient-based methods facilitate optimization in numerical analysis? Gradient-based methods utilize the derivatives of the objective function to iteratively move towards the minimum or maximum, making them efficient for smooth, differentiable functions in optimization problems. What are some common challenges faced in numerical optimization algorithms? Common challenges include local minima trapping, convergence speed, handling large-scale problems, numerical instability, and ensuring robustness in the presence of noisy or incomplete data. Can you explain the difference between unconstrained and constrained optimization? Unconstrained optimization involves finding the best solution without restrictions, while constrained optimization seeks the optimal solution subject to specific constraints or conditions on the variables. Why is the choice of initial guess important in optimization algorithms? The initial guess can significantly affect the convergence and the quality of the solution since many algorithms may converge to local minima or fail to converge if the starting point is poorly chosen.

Related keywords: numerical methods, optimization techniques, algorithms, computational mathematics, mathematical modeling, linear algebra, nonlinear optimization, gradient descent, convergence analysis, problem-solving

introduction to analysis

Introduction to Analysis

Analysis is a foundational branch of mathematics that deals with understanding the behavior of functions, sequences, and structures through rigorous methods. It forms the backbone of many scientific disciplines, including physics, engineering, economics, and computer science. Whether you're exploring the limits of a function, examining the convergence of a series, or studying the

properties of geometric objects, analysis provides the tools needed to delve deep into the mathematical universe. This comprehensive guide introduces the core concepts, historical development, and applications of analysis, serving as an essential resource for students and professionals alike.

What is Analysis?

Analysis, often referred to as mathematical analysis, is the study of limits, continuity, derivatives, integrals, and infinite processes. It is concerned with understanding and formalizing the concepts of change and accumulation, which are fundamental in modeling real-world phenomena.

Historical Background of Analysis

The origins of analysis trace back to the 17th century with the development of calculus by Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. Their groundbreaking work introduced the fundamental ideas of differentiation and integration. Over time, mathematicians formalized these concepts, leading to the rigorous foundations of analysis in the 19th century?primarily through the work of Augustin-Louis Cauchy, Karl Weierstrass, and others.

Core Objectives of Analysis

- To understand the properties of functions and sequences
- To rigorously define limits, continuity, derivatives, and integrals
- To analyze the behavior of mathematical systems under various operations
- To provide tools for solving real-world problems involving change and accumulation

Branches of Analysis

Analysis is a broad field with several interconnected branches, each focusing on different aspects of mathematical concepts.

Real Analysis

Real analysis deals with real numbers and real-valued functions. It explores the properties of sequences, series, limits, continuity, differentiation, and integration in the context of real numbers.

Complex Analysis

Complex analysis studies functions of complex variables. It involves the analysis of holomorphic functions, complex integration, and conformal mappings, with applications in physics and

engineering.

Functional Analysis

This branch extends the ideas of analysis to infinite-dimensional spaces. It involves the study of function spaces, operators, and their properties, crucial in quantum mechanics and signal processing.

Fourier and Harmonic Analysis

Focuses on representing functions as sums or integrals of sinusoidal functions. It is fundamental in signal processing, acoustics, and image analysis.

Fundamental Concepts in Analysis

Understanding analysis requires familiarity with several foundational concepts that underpin the entire discipline.

Limits and Continuity

- Limit: Describes the behavior of a function as the input approaches a specific point.
- Continuity: A function is continuous if small changes in input lead to small changes in output.

Formally, a function f is continuous at a point c if $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$.

Differentiation

Differentiation measures how a function changes at a point. The derivative $f'(x)$ indicates the slope of the tangent line to the graph of f .

Integration

Integration accumulates quantities such as area under a curve. The definite integral $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ computes the accumulation of f from a to b .

Sequences and Series

- Sequences: Ordered lists of numbers that approach a limit.
- Series: Sum of the terms of a sequence. Convergence or divergence of series is a central topic in analysis.

Key Theorems and Principles

Several fundamental theorems form the backbone of analysis, providing tools for understanding and solving problems.

Limit Theorems

- Squeeze Theorem: If $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$ near a point and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} h(x) = L$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L$.

Continuity Theorems

- Intermediate Value Theorem: If f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and d is between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then there exists $c \in [a, b]$ such that $f(c) = d$.

Differentiation and Integration Theorems

- Mean Value Theorem: There exists some $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$.
 - Fundamental Theorem of Calculus: Connects differentiation and integration, stating that they are inverse processes.

Applications of Analysis

Analysis has numerous applications across various fields:

- Physics: Modeling motion, electromagnetism, and quantum mechanics.
- Engineering: Signal processing, control systems, and systems analysis.
- Economics: Optimization, modeling market behavior, and risk assessment.
- Computer Science: Algorithms, numerical methods, and complexity analysis.
- Mathematics: Developing further theories in topology, differential equations, and mathematical modeling.

Learning and Studying Analysis

Mastering analysis requires a systematic approach:

- Start with the fundamentals of algebra and calculus.
- Study definitions carefully and understand the logical structure of proofs.
- Practice solving problems regularly to develop intuition.
- Explore real-world applications to see the relevance of theoretical concepts.
- Use textbooks, online courses, and educational videos for diverse perspectives.

Conclusion

Analysis is an essential and vibrant part of mathematics that underpins many scientific and engineering disciplines. Its rigorous approach to understanding the behavior of functions and sequences provides a powerful framework for solving complex problems. Whether you are a student beginning your journey or a professional applying analysis in research, a solid grasp of its principles opens up a world of intellectual exploration and practical application. Embracing the study of analysis not only enhances mathematical skills but also enriches the understanding of the natural and technological world around us.

Analysis is a foundational discipline that underpins numerous fields, from mathematics and science to economics and social sciences. Its primary purpose is to systematically examine, interpret, and understand complex data, phenomena, or concepts to uncover underlying patterns, relationships, or principles. As an intellectual pursuit, analysis enables us to transform raw information into meaningful insights, thereby informing decision-making, advancing knowledge, and fostering innovation. This comprehensive overview delves into the core aspects of analysis, exploring its origins, methodologies, types, applications, and significance in contemporary society.

Understanding the Concept of Analysis

Analysis, at its core, involves breaking down a complex whole into simpler, more manageable parts to better understand how they function individually and collectively. This process is akin to dissecting a machine to see how each component contributes to the overall operation. The fundamental goal is to identify relationships, causality, and structure within the subject under examination.

Key Characteristics of Analysis:

- **Decomposition:** Dividing a subject into constituent parts.
- **Examination:** Investigating each part thoroughly.
- **Interpretation:** Drawing meaningful conclusions from the parts.
- **Synthesis:** Reintegrating insights to understand the whole.

Analysis is both a methodology and a way of thinking?an intellectual toolkit essential for problem-solving and critical thinking.

The Origins and Evolution of Analysis

The roots of analysis trace back to ancient civilizations, where early mathematicians and philosophers sought methods to quantify and understand the world. However, it was during the 17th and 18th centuries that analysis emerged as a formal discipline.

Historical Milestones:

- Ancient Greece: Philosophers like Aristotle laid early groundwork by categorizing and dissecting ideas and natural phenomena.
- Mathematics: The development of calculus by Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz in the 17th century marked a pivotal moment, providing tools to handle change and motion mathematically.
- 19th Century: Formalization of analysis as a branch of mathematics, focusing on limits, continuity, and rigorous proofs, primarily through the work of Augustin-Louis Cauchy and Karl Weierstrass.
- Modern Era: Expansion into various fields such as data analysis, qualitative analysis in social sciences, and computational analysis with the advent of computers.

Over time, analysis has evolved from a purely mathematical activity to a versatile approach applicable across disciplines, emphasizing systematic inquiry and empirical evaluation.

Different Types of Analysis

Analysis manifests in various forms depending on the context, purpose, and nature of the subject matter. Here, we explore some of the most prominent types.

Mathematical Analysis

Mathematical analysis deals with functions, limits, derivatives, integrals, and infinite series. It provides the rigorous foundation for calculus, enabling precise examination of change, accumulation, and structure in mathematical models.

Key aspects include:

- Real Analysis: Focuses on real numbers and real-valued functions, exploring concepts like continuity, convergence, and measure theory.
- Complex Analysis: Extends analysis into the complex plane, studying functions of complex variables, with applications in engineering and physics.

- Functional Analysis: Investigates spaces of functions and their transformations, crucial for quantum mechanics and differential equations.

Data Analysis

In the contemporary digital age, data analysis involves examining large datasets to extract meaningful patterns and insights. It combines statistical techniques, computational algorithms, and visualization tools.

Main components:

- Descriptive Analysis: Summarizes data characteristics through measures like mean, median, and standard deviation.
- Inferential Analysis: Draws conclusions and makes predictions about populations based on samples.
- Predictive Analysis: Uses historical data to forecast future trends.
- Prescriptive Analysis: Recommends actions based on data insights.

Qualitative Analysis

Used predominantly in social sciences, qualitative analysis interprets non-numerical data such as interviews, observations, and texts to understand meanings, experiences, and social phenomena.

Methods include:

- Content analysis
- Thematic coding
- Discourse analysis

Scientific Analysis

In scientific research, analysis involves designing experiments, collecting data, and interpreting results to validate hypotheses or establish new theories.

Types include:

- Experimental analysis
- Statistical analysis

- Comparative analysis

The Methodology of Analysis

Effective analysis follows a structured approach, often iterative, to ensure thorough understanding and reliable conclusions.

Typical steps include:

- Defining the Objective: Clarify what questions need answering.
- Data Collection: Gather relevant data through experiments, surveys, observations, or literature.
- Data Processing: Clean, organize, and prepare data for examination.
- Decomposition: Break down the subject into parts or features.
- Examination: Analyze each component using appropriate techniques.
- Interpretation: Derive insights, identify patterns, and establish relationships.
- Synthesis: Integrate findings into a comprehensive understanding.
- Validation: Verify results through replication, peer review, or cross-validation.
- Reporting: Communicate findings clearly and accurately.

This methodology emphasizes rigor, transparency, and critical evaluation at every stage.

Applications of Analysis Across Disciplines

Analysis is integral to numerous fields, each with unique methodologies and objectives.

In Mathematics and Engineering

Analysis underpins the development of models for physical systems, optimization problems, and algorithms. For example:

- Analyzing the stability of structures.
- Optimizing network flows.
- Designing control systems.

In Economics and Finance

Economic analysis helps understand market behaviors, policy impacts, and financial risks.

- Welfare analysis
- Cost-benefit evaluations
- Portfolio analysis

In Social Sciences and Humanities

Qualitative and quantitative analyses uncover social trends, cultural patterns, and human behaviors.

- Sociological surveys
- Historical document analysis
- Literary critique

In Data Science and Technology

Data analysis fuels artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data applications.

- Pattern recognition
- Natural language processing
- Predictive modeling

Significance and Challenges of Analysis

The value of analysis lies in its capacity to transform complexity into clarity. It enables informed decision-making, innovation, and scientific advancement.

Key benefits include:

- Enhanced understanding: Clarifies intricate phenomena.
- Problem solving: Identifies root causes and solutions.
- Forecasting: Anticipates future developments.
- Innovation: Inspires new ideas and approaches.

However, analysis also faces challenges:

- Data quality: Inaccurate or incomplete data can lead to misleading conclusions.
- Bias: Subjectivity can distort interpretation.
- Complexity: Highly intricate systems may resist straightforward analysis.

- Overfitting: Excessive focus on data nuances may impair generalizability.

Addressing these challenges requires methodological rigor, transparency, and ongoing validation.

The Future of Analysis

As technology advances, analysis continues to evolve, becoming more sophisticated and accessible. Notable trends include:

- Big Data Analytics: Managing and interpreting vast datasets.
- Machine Learning and AI: Automating complex analysis and pattern recognition.
- Interdisciplinary Approaches: Integrating methods across fields for holistic insights.
- Real-Time Analysis: Enabling immediate decision-making in dynamic environments.

Furthermore, ethical considerations surrounding data privacy and responsible interpretation are increasingly prominent, emphasizing the importance of integrity in analytical practices.

Conclusion

Analysis stands as a cornerstone of human intellectual activity, empowering us to navigate an increasingly complex world. From its mathematical foundations to its applications in technology, science, economics, and beyond, analysis equips us with tools to decipher patterns, understand systems, and make informed decisions. Its evolution reflects humanity's relentless pursuit of knowledge and mastery over the unknown. As new challenges and opportunities emerge, the discipline of analysis will undoubtedly continue to adapt and expand, remaining vital in shaping our understanding of the universe and our place within it.

Question What is the main goal of analysis in mathematics? The main goal of analysis is to rigorously study limits, continuity, derivatives, integrals, and infinite series to understand the behavior of functions and sequences. **Answer** How does calculus relate to analysis? Calculus is a fundamental part of analysis, focusing on derivatives and integrals, and provides the tools and concepts used to analyze change and accumulation in mathematical functions. What are the key foundational topics in an introduction to analysis? Key topics include limits, continuity, sequences and series, differentiation, integration, and the topology of real numbers. Why is the rigorous approach important in analysis? A rigorous approach ensures that mathematical concepts are well-defined and proofs are logically sound, which is essential for establishing solid mathematical foundations. What is the significance of the epsilon-delta definition in analysis? The epsilon-delta definition provides a precise way to define limits and continuity, making concepts that seem intuitive into formal mathematical statements. How does real analysis differ from basic calculus? Real analysis delves into the theoretical and foundational aspects of calculus, providing rigorous proofs

and exploring the underlying structures, whereas basic calculus focuses on computational techniques and applications.

Related keywords: mathematical analysis, real analysis, calculus, limits, continuity, derivatives, integrals, sequences and series, epsilon-delta definition, functions

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