

The Order of the Quantifiers Is the Whole Content

— Five Kinds of Continuity, and the Shape in Which Delta Answers Epsilon — [Paper 177]

Yuuki YAMAGISHI (山岸 勇輝)

Yamagishi Complexity Torus Lab, Japan

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— *From thinking to syncing.* —

ABSTRACT

Pointwise and uniform continuity become different properties by the exchange of a $\forall$ and an $\exists$. This paper takes a census of “continuous” in five senses and shows in numbers that the shape in which δ answers ε is the classification itself. **NO NEW MATHEMATICAL THEOREM IS CLAIMED** — all of this is standard. First, for $1/x$ on $(0, 1)$ one has $\delta(x) = x^2\varepsilon/(1 + x\varepsilon)$, the measurement agreeing with the closed form to every digit. At $x = 0.002$ it is 4.0×10^{-7} — the infimum falls to 0 and the function is not uniformly continuous (Section 2). Second, the fence is compactness. On $[a, 1]$ the infimum is strictly positive whatever a may be (1.0×10^{-7} even at $a = 0.001$) (Section 3). Third, and this is the core. The slope of $\log \delta$ against $\log \varepsilon$ is the reciprocal of the Hölder exponent — 1.0 for $2x + 1$, 1.00054 for x^2 , 2.0 for $\sqrt{x}$, 3.0 for $x^{1/3}$ (Section 4). Fourth, some continuity is worse than every power. For $1/\log(1/x)$ the δ at $\varepsilon = 0.05$ is 2.06×10^{-9} , agreeing to every digit with $e^{-1/\varepsilon}$ — uniformly continuous, and Hölder for no exponent at all (Section 5). Fifth, and this is the brake. Uniform continuity is not absolute continuity. The Cantor function has slope 0 across every gap and climbs by exactly 1 (the gaps totalling 0.99999986) (Section 6).

Scope of this paper: **NO NEW MATHEMATICAL THEOREM IS CLAIMED** — the ε - δ formulation, the Heine–Cantor theorem, Hölder continuity, and the failure of absolute continuity for the Cantor function are all standard. Nor is ε - δ criticised — what is shown is how much the definition is keeping apart. What is added is measuring the infimum of δ and exhibiting how it falls, confirming numerically that the slope of $\log \delta$ against $\log \varepsilon$ equals the reciprocal Hölder exponent, measuring a δ worse than every power, and setting the vanishing slope of the Cantor function beside the total length of its gaps.

1. Notation and position

A function is continuous at a point when **for every x , for every ε , there is a δ** such that $|y - x| < \delta$ forces $|f(y) - f(x)| < \varepsilon$. It is **uniformly continuous** when **for every ε there is a δ such that for every x** the same holds. The

words are identical; only the order of $\forall x$ and $\exists \delta$ differs. Every δ here was measured by bisection.

Position: Paper 171 wrote that the fence around least squares is linearity, and Paper 173 that Kodaira's fence is integrality. This is the third of them — the fence is compactness. Paper 154 treated the order of limit operations, while this paper treats the order of quantifiers — different orders, and so no collision.

2. Exchanging $\forall$ and $\exists$ gives a different property

Verification 2.1: Take $f(x) = 1/x$ on the open interval $(0, 1)$ and measure δ at each point for $\varepsilon = 0.1$.

x	measured $\delta(x)$	$x^2\varepsilon/(1+x\varepsilon)$
0.9	0.0743119266055	—
0.5	0.0238095238095	0.0238095238095
0.2	0.00392156862745	—
0.05	0.000248756218905	0.000248756218905
0.01	$9.99000999001 \times 10^{-6}$	$9.99000999001 \times 10^{-6}$
0.002	$3.99920015997 \times 10^{-7}$	—

Measurement and closed form agree to every digit. (QED)

Observation 2.2

As x approaches 0 the δ falls like x^2 . No single δ serves every x at once.

Observation 2.3

So f is continuous at every point and not uniformly continuous. Nothing about the function changed — the quantifiers were reordered.

3. The fence is compactness

Verification 3.1: Put the same function on the closed interval $[a, 1]$ and take the infimum of δ over 401 points.

a	infimum of δ
0.5	0.0263157894737
0.1	0.0010101010101
0.01	$1.001001001 \times 10^{-5}$
0.001	$1.00010001 \times 10^{-7}$

Whatever a may be, the infimum is strictly positive. (QED)

Observation 3.2

This is the Heine–Cantor theorem — on a compact set continuity is automatically uniform. The fence is compactness, and the open end at 0 was the only thing breaking it.

4. The core: the shape in which δ answers ε is the classification

Verification 4.1: For uniformly continuous functions, take the slope of $\log \delta$ against $\log \varepsilon$.

function	δ at $\varepsilon = 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-4}$	slope	kind
$2x + 1$	0.005, 0.0005, 5×10^{-5}	1.0	Lipschitz
x^2	0.00501256, 0.000500125, 5.00013×10^{-5}	1.00054	Lipschitz
$\sqrt{x}$	$10^{-4}, 10^{-6}, 10^{-8}$	2.0	Hölder 1/2
$x^{1/3}$	$10^{-6}, 10^{-9}, 10^{-12}$	3.0	Hölder 1/3

(QED)

Observation 4.2

The slope is the reciprocal of the Hölder exponent. One for Lipschitz, two for Hölder one half, three for one third.

Observation 4.3

How δ answers ε is not a detail of a proof — it is the classification. To say “continuous” is already to say something about how fast the answer comes.

5. Worse than every power, and still uniform

Verification 5.1: Take $f(x) = 1/\log(1/x)$, with $f(0) = 0$, on $[0, 1/2]$.

ε	δ near 0	$e^{-1/\varepsilon}$
0.5	0.1353352832	0.1353352832
0.2	0.006737946999	0.006737946999
0.1	$4.539992976 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.539992976 \times 10^{-5}$
0.05	$2.061153622 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.061153622 \times 10^{-9}$

They agree to every digit. (QED)

Observation 5.2

The δ falls like $e^{-1/\varepsilon}$ — faster than ε^k for every k . Uniformly continuous, and Hölder for no exponent at all. “Uniform” does not mean “with a power-law modulus”.

6. The brake: uniform is not absolute

Observation 6.1

The Cantor function is continuous on $[0, 1]$, hence uniformly so, and it climbs from 0 to 1.

Verification 6.2: The difference quotient across the removed middles.

gap	f at the left	f at the right	slope
$1/3$ to $2/3$	0.5	0.5	0
$1/9$ to $2/9$	0.25	0.25	0
$7/9$ to $8/9$	0.75	0.75	0
$1/27$ to $2/27$	0.125	0.125	0

Verification 6.3: The total length of those gaps.

$\sum_{n \geq 1} 2^{n-1}/3^n$ to 40 levels	0.99999986434341
$f(1) - f(0)$	1.0

(QED)

Observation 6.4

The gaps fill measure 1. So $f' = 0$ almost everywhere, and yet f climbs by exactly 1. The integral of f' is 0 and the rise is 1 — the fundamental theorem fails.

Observation 6.5

Uniform continuity was not enough. What is needed is absolute continuity, and the Cantor function is the standard witness that the two differ.

Observation 6.6

This does not contradict Paper 168. What that paper said, that the gauge integral recovers every derivative, is about functions differentiable everywhere. The Cantor function is not differentiable on the Cantor set, so it fails that theorem's hypothesis. The fence holds here too.

Observation 6.7

And “almost everywhere” is to be read in the sense of Paper 176 — what vanishes here is measure, not category.

7. The census

Observation 7.1

kind	quantifiers or shape	separator	witness
pointwise	$\forall x \forall \varepsilon \exists \delta$	δ may depend on x	$1/x$ on $(0, 1)$
uniform	$\forall \varepsilon \exists \delta \forall x$	δ does not	automatic on a compact set
Hölder	$\delta \propto \varepsilon^{1/\alpha}$	answers by a power	$\sqrt{x}$, slope 2
Lipschitz	$\delta \propto \varepsilon$	answers linearly	slope 1
absolute	stated over sums of intervals	the fundamental theorem holds	the Cantor function

Observation 7.2

These five are a staircase — but each step is there for a different reason. The first two are separated by the order of quantifiers, the second and third by how fast the answer comes, the fourth and fifth by whether the fundamental theorem holds.

8. Conclusion

1. The infimum of δ falls to 0 (Ver. 2.1): 4.0×10^{-7} at $x = 0.002$, matching the closed form to every digit.
2. The fence is compactness (Ver. 3.1): on $[a, 1]$ the infimum is positive whatever a is.
3. The slope is the reciprocal Hölder exponent (Ver. 4.1): 1.0, 2.0, 3.0.
4. Some uniform continuity beats every power (Ver. 5.1): $\delta \simeq e^{-1/\varepsilon}$.

5. Uniform is not absolute (Ver. 6.2, 6.3): slope 0 throughout, and a rise of 1.

Closing: ε - δ is not an awkward formality but a vessel carrying distinctions. Where the $\forall$ stands and where the $\exists$ stands — that one difference separates five distinct properties. When a formalism looks like a nuisance, what is usually not being looked at is the distinction it is keeping.

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Yuuki YAMAGISHI (山岸 勇輝)

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