

Example Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \arcsin\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{x}}{1-x}\right)$

Since $\arcsin\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{x}}{1-x}\right)$ is not defined at $x=1$ we can't simply push $x = 1$ into the function. But, if $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1-\sqrt{x}}{1-x} = b$ and $\arcsin(x)$ is continuous at b , we can use the last theorem.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1-\sqrt{x}}{1-x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1-\sqrt{x}}{1-x} \cdot \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{x}}{1+\sqrt{x}}\right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1+\sqrt{x}-\sqrt{x}-x}{(1-x)(1+\sqrt{x})} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1-x}{(1-x)(1+\sqrt{x})} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{1+\sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Recall that the domain of $\arcsin(x)$ is $[-1, 1]$. Since $1/2$ is in this domain $\arcsin(x)$ is continuous at $x = 1/2$. By last theorem,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \arcsin\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{x}}{1-x}\right) = \arcsin\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1-\sqrt{x}}{1-x}\right) = \arcsin\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{6}$$

Theorem If g is continuous at a and f is continuous at $g(a)$, then the composite function $f \circ g(x) = f(g(x))$ is continuous at a .

Example Where is $F(x) = \ln(1 + \cos(x))$ continuous?

Note that $F(x) = f(g(x))$ where $f(x) = \ln(x)$ and $g(x) = 1 + \cos(x)$. $F(x)$ is only defined when $1 + \cos(x) > 0$. So $F(x)$ is undefined when $\cos(x) = -1$ or $x = \pm\pi, \pm3\pi, \pm5\pi, \dots$. So F is continuous on the intervals between these values.