

## Bonus 2: Solution

If we define the following function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \text{ is rational;} \\ 1 & \text{if } x \text{ is irrational.} \end{cases}$$

Then we claim that  $f(x)$  is not cts at any real number. Indeed, let  $a$  be an arbitrary real number. In any interval around  $a$ , there are both rational numbers and irrational numbers. So in any interval around  $a$ , there will be a rational number  $x$ , so  $f(x) = 0$  and an irrational  $y$ , so  $f(y) = 1$ . So no matter how close we get to  $a$ , we will get both  $f(x) = 0$  and  $f(x) = 1$ . Thus the limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  cannot exist, since  $f(x)$  does not approach a consistent value as  $x$  gets close to  $a$ .

Thus since

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$$

does not exist,  $f(x)$  is not cts at  $a$ . Since  $a$  was arbitrary,  $f(x)$  is not cts at any real number.

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It is important to give a reason, as above, why  $f(x)$  is not cts at any real number. Similar-looking functions may be cts; for example, one can show that the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \text{ is rational;} \\ x & \text{if } x \text{ is irrational.} \end{cases}$$

is cts at 0.