

## [6.29] Dirac's delta (impulse) and Heaviside (step) functions

Neither of these two functions are built in to the 89/92+, but both are easily defined. Dirac's delta function, also called the impulse function, is defined as

$$\delta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } x \neq 0 \\ \infty & \text{when } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

This can be defined as a function with

$$\text{Define } \delta(x) = \text{when}(x=0, \infty, 0)$$

The Heaviside step function is usually defined as

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x < 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

This is defined as a function with

$$\text{Define } H(x) = \text{when}(x < 0, 0, \text{when}(x=0, \text{undef}, 1))$$

Sometimes the Heaviside function is defined as

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x < 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \text{for } x = 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

The function definition for this case is

$$\text{Define } H(x) = \text{when}(x < 0, 0, \text{when}(x=0, 1/2, 1))$$