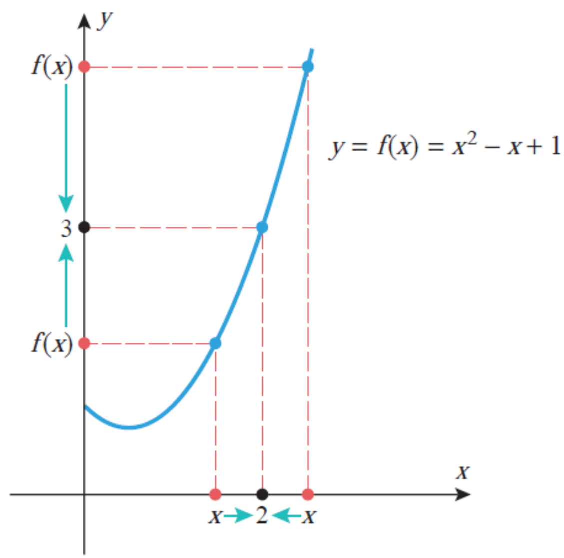
Lecture no 1

LIMITS AND CONTINUITY

Example of Limit:



x	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.95	1.99	1.995	1.999	2	2.001	2.005	2.01	2.05	2.1	2.5	3.0
$f(x)$	1.000000	1.750000	2.710000	2.852500	2.970100	2.985025	2.997001		3.003001	3.015025	3.030100	3.152500	3.310000	4.750000	7.000000

Left side → ← Right side

1.1.1 LIMITS (AN INFORMAL VIEW) If the values of $f(x)$ can be made as close as we like to L by taking values of x sufficiently close to a (but not equal to a), then we write

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L \tag{6}$$

which is read "the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a is L" or "$f(x)$ approaches L as x approaches a." The expression in (6) can also be written as

$$f(x) \to L \quad \text{as} \quad x \to a \tag{7}$$

1.1.2 ONE-SIDED LIMITS (AN INFORMAL VIEW) If the values of $f(x)$ can be made as close as we like to L by taking values of x sufficiently close to a (but greater than a), then we write

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = L \tag{14}$$

and if the values of $f(x)$ can be made as close as we like to L by taking values of x sufficiently close to a (but less than a), then we write

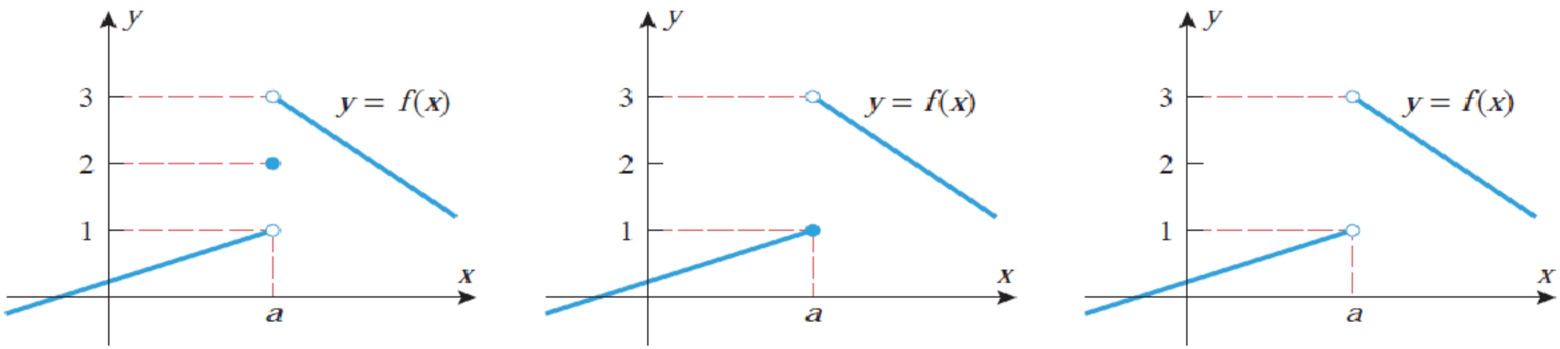
$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = L \tag{15}$$

Expression (14) is read "the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the right is L" or "$f(x)$ approaches L as x approaches a from the right." Similarly, expression (15) is read "the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the left is L" or "$f(x)$ approaches L as x approaches a from the left."

1.1.3 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ONE-SIDED AND TWO-SIDED LIMITS The two-sided limit of a function $f(x)$ exists at a if and only if both of the one-sided limits exist at a and have the same value; that is,

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = L = \lim_{x \to a^+} f(x)$$

Example of two sided limits:



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Example:

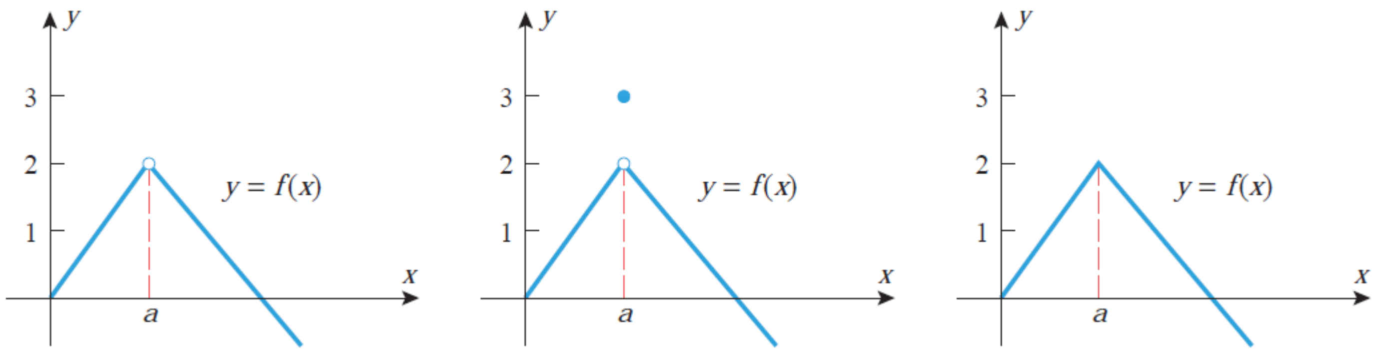
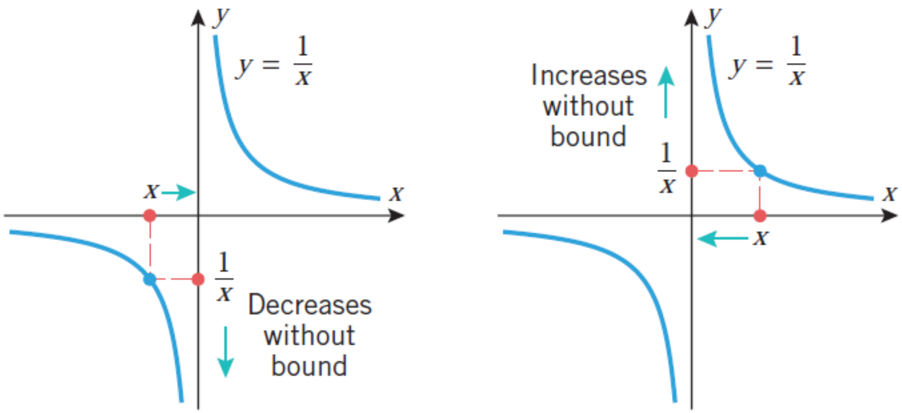


Figure 1.1.14

Example of Infinite Limits:



x	-1	-0.1	-0.01	-0.001	-0.0001	0	0.0001	0.001	0.01	0.1	1
$\frac{1}{x}$	-1	-10	-100	-1000	$-10{,}000$		$10{,}000$	1000	100	10	1

1.1.4 INFINITE LIMITS (AN INFORMAL VIEW) The expressions

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = +\infty$$

denote that $f(x)$ increases without bound as x approaches a from the left and from the right, respectively. If both are true, then we write

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = +\infty$$

Similarly, the expressions

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = -\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$

denote that $f(x)$ decreases without bound as x approaches a from the left and from the right, respectively. If both are true, then we write

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = -\infty$$

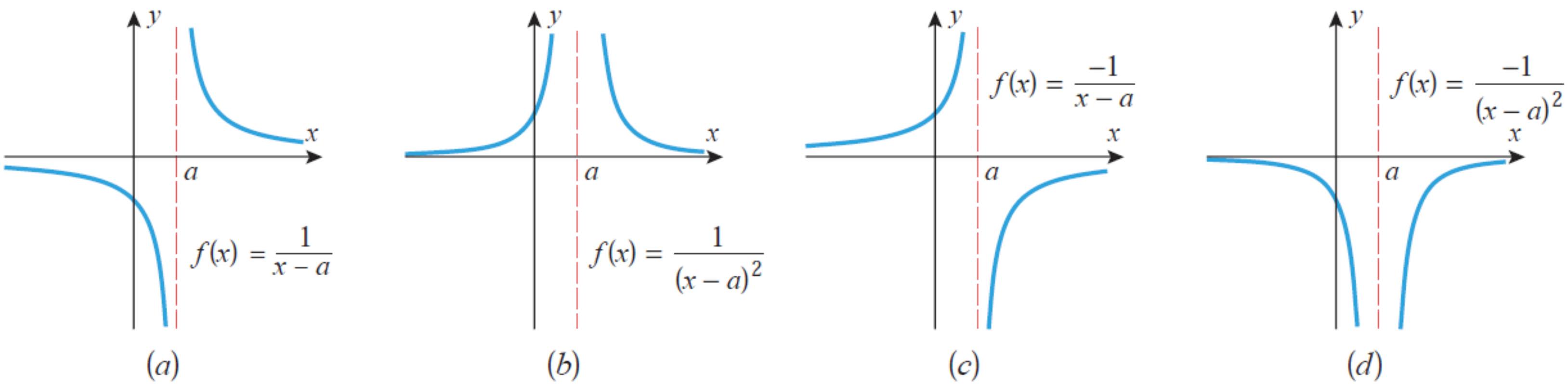


Figure 1.1.16

Continuity:

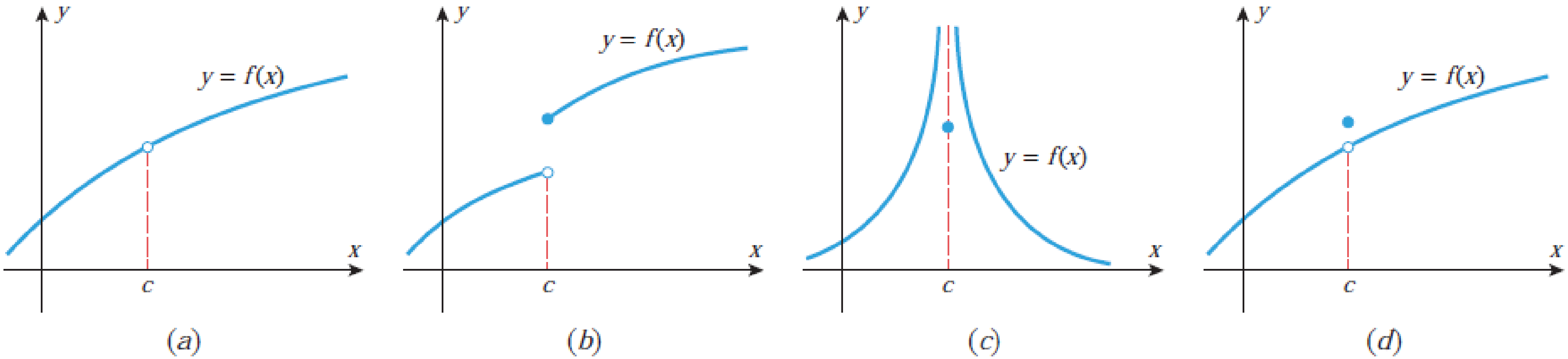


Figure 1.5.1

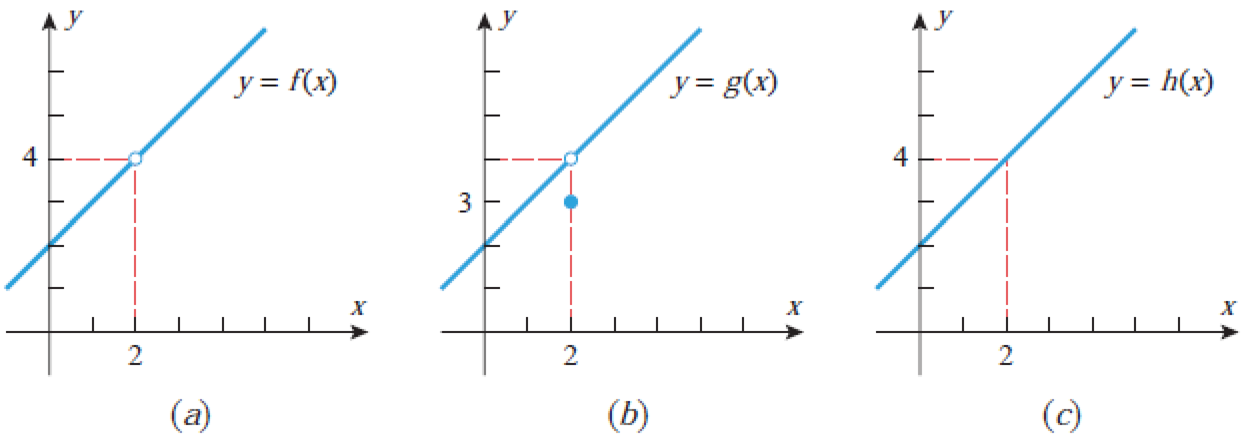
- The function f is undefined at c (Figure 1.5.1a).
- The limit of $f(x)$ does not exist as x approaches c (Figures 1.5.1b, 1.5.1c).
- The value of the function and the value of the limit at c are different (Figure 1.5.1d).

1.5.1 DEFINITION A function f is said to be ***continuous at*** $\boldsymbol{x = c}$ provided the following conditions are satisfied:

1. $f(c)$ is defined.
2. $\lim_{x \to c} f(x)$ exists.
3. $\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = f(c)$.

▶ Example 1 Determine whether the following functions are continuous at $x = 2$.

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}, \qquad g(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}, & x \neq 2 \\ 3, & x = 2, \end{cases} \qquad h(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}, & x \neq 2 \\ 4, & x = 2 \end{cases}$$



▲ Figure 1.5.2

1.5.2 DEFINITION A function f is said to be ***continuous on a closed interval*** $[a, b]$ if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. f is continuous on (a, b).

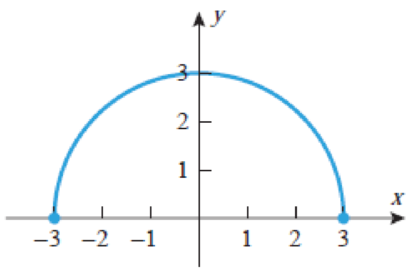
2. f is continuous from the right at a.

3. f is continuous from the left at b.

Example 2 What can you say about the continuity of the function $f(x) = \sqrt{9 - x^2}$?

Solution. Because the natural domain of this function is the closed interval $[-3, 3]$, we will need to investigate the continuity of f on the open interval $(-3, 3)$ and at the two endpoints. If c is any point in the interval $(-3, 3)$, then it follows from Theorem 1.2.2(e) that

$$\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = \lim_{x \to c} \sqrt{9 - x^2} = \sqrt{\lim_{x \to c} (9 - x^2)} = \sqrt{9 - c^2} = f(c)$$



$f(x) = \sqrt{9 - x^2}$

▲ Figure 1.5.5

which proves f is continuous at each point in the interval $(-3, 3)$. The function f is also continuous at the endpoints since

$$\lim_{x \to 3^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 3^-} \sqrt{9 - x^2} = \sqrt{\lim_{x \to 3^-} (9 - x^2)} = 0 = f(3)$$

$$\lim_{x \to -3^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \to -3^+} \sqrt{9 - x^2} = \sqrt{\lim_{x \to -3^+} (9 - x^2)} = 0 = f(-3)$$

Thus, f is continuous on the closed interval $[-3, 3]$ (Figure 1.5.5).