

Section: ____ Group Number: ____

Score: ____/10

Names of Group Members PRESENT: _____

LA-16 Key

Credit is only given for group work to those present on all days L&LA is worked in class and who are also present the day it is turned in.

1 Definition Suppose $f(x)$ is defined when x is near the number a . (This means that f is defined on some open interval that contains a , except possibly at a itself.) Then we write

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

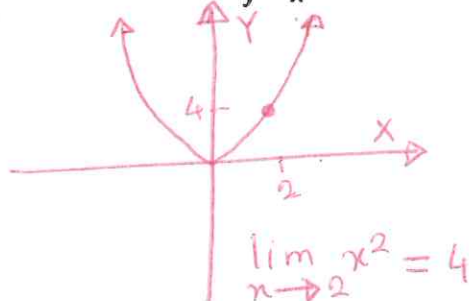
and say "the limit of $f(x)$, as x approaches a , equals L "

if we can make the values of $f(x)$ arbitrarily close to L (as close to L as we like) by taking x to be sufficiently close to a (on either side of a) but not equal to a .

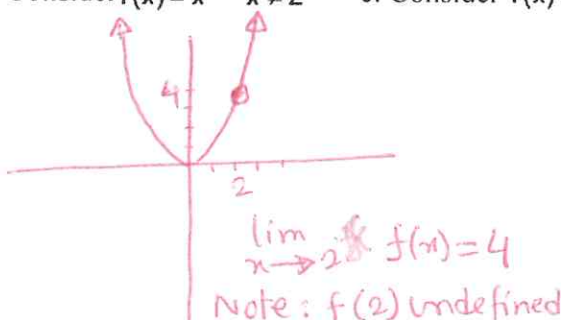
$$\begin{aligned}(1.9)^2 &= 3.61 \\ (1.99)^2 &= 3.9601 \\ (1.999)^2 &= 3.996001 \\ (1.9999)^2 &= 3.99960001\end{aligned}$$

Limits Graphically:

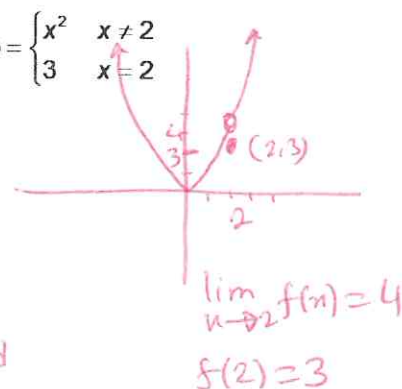
1. a. Consider $y = x^2$



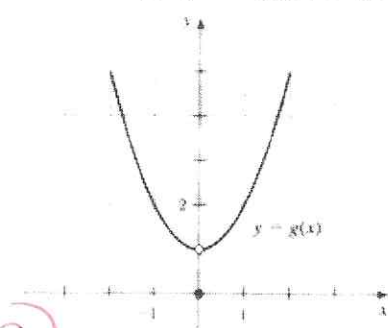
b. Consider $f(x) = x^2$ $x \neq 2$



c. Consider $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \neq 2 \\ 3 & x = 2 \end{cases}$



2. Use the graph of $g(x)$ in the figure to find the following values, if they exist.



a. $g(0) = 0$

b. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = 1$

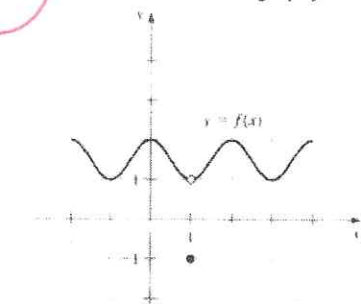
c. $g(1) = 2$

d. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x) = 2$

Not same

same, function is continuous here.

3. Use the graph of $f(x)$ in the figure to find the following values, if they exist.



a. $f(1) = -1$

b. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 1$

c. $f(0) = 2$

d. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 2$

Not same

same, function is continuous here.

Summary: If $f(x)$ is continuous (more about that later), $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

Hole at $x = a$ does not affect $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$

Alternate $f(a)$ along with a hole does not affect $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$

Limits Numerically:

4. Let $f(x) = \frac{x^3 - 1}{x - 1}$.

a. Calculate $f(x)$ for each value of x in the following table.

x	0.9	0.99	0.999	0.9999
$f(x) = \frac{x^3 - 1}{x - 1}$	2.71	2.9701	2.997001	2.9997
x	1.1	1.01	1.001	1.0001
$f(x) = \frac{x^3 - 1}{x - 1}$	3.31	3.0301	3.003001	3.0003

b. Make a conjecture about the value of $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^3 - 1}{x - 1} = 3$

5. Let $f(x) = (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$

a. Make two tables, one showing the values of f for $x = 0.01, 0.001, 0.0001, 0.00001$ and one showing values of f for $x = -0.01, -0.001, -0.0001, -0.00001$. Round your answers to five digits.

x	$f(x)$
0.01	2.70481
0.001	2.71692
0.0001	2.71815
0.00001	2.71827

x	$f(x)$
-0.01	2.73200
-0.001	2.71964
-0.0001	2.71842
-0.00001	2.71830

9 rounded here to six decimal places.

b. Estimate the value of $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$.

≈ 2.718281828

c. What mathematical constant does $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$ appear to equal?

$e = 2.718281828459045 \dots$

6. In the electronic text though WebAssign, Video example 3 on page 90 is an important result we will use in the future. Take the time to look at it later.

DEFINITION One-Sided Limits

1. **Right-hand limit** Suppose f is defined for all x near a with $x > a$. If $f(x)$ is arbitrarily close to L for all x sufficiently close to a with $x > a$, we write

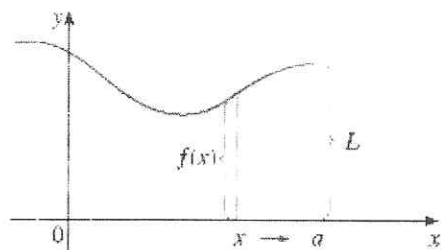
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

and say the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the right equals L .

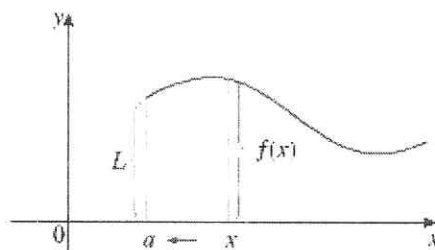
2. **Left-hand limit** Suppose f is defined for all x near a with $x < a$. If $f(x)$ is arbitrarily close to L for all x sufficiently close to a with $x < a$, we write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$$

and say the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the left equals L .



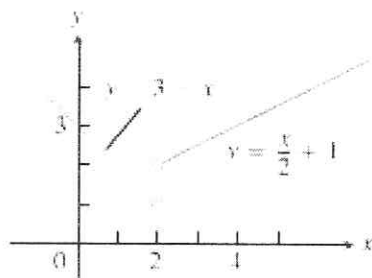
$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$



$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$$

In electronic text, there is a video lecture and video example 7 about one sided limits.

7. Let $f(x) = \begin{cases} 3-x, & x < 2 \\ \frac{x}{2} + 1, & x > 2 \end{cases}$



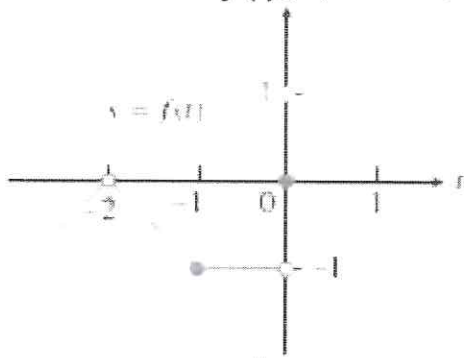
$f(2) =$ **Undefined**

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$ **Does not exist.**

But $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) =$ **2**

and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) =$ **1**

8. For the function $f(t)$ graphed here, find the following limits.



a) $\lim_{t \rightarrow -2} f(t) =$ **0**

$\lim_{t \rightarrow -2^+} f(t) = 0$

b) $\lim_{t \rightarrow -1.5} f(t) =$ **$-\frac{1}{2}$**

$\lim_{t \rightarrow -1.5} f(t) = 0$

c) $\lim_{t \rightarrow -1} f(t) =$ **-1**

d) $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} f(t) =$ **DNE**

e) $\lim_{t \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} f(t) =$ **1**

$$\boxed{3} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

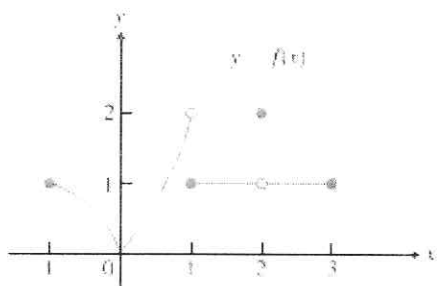
Note

As with two-sided limits, the value of a one-sided limit (if it exists) depends on the values of $f(x)$ near $x = a$ but not on the value of $f(a)$.

"Two-sided" limits do not exist when left-hand limit does not equal right hand limits.

"Two-sided" limits do not exist if one of the one-sided limits dne.

9.



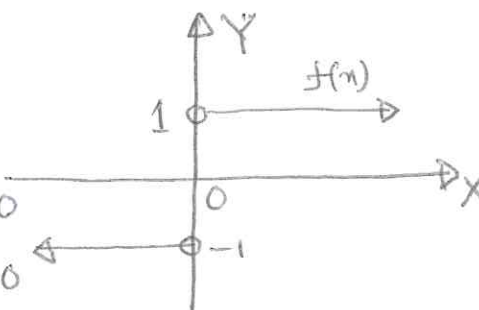
$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) &= 0 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) &= 0 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) &= 2 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) &= 1 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) &= \text{DNE} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) &= 1 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) &= 1 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) &= 1 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 1$$

10. A step function Let $f(x) = \frac{|x|}{x}$, for $x \neq 0$.

a. Sketch a graph of f on the interval $[-2, 2]$.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{x} & , x > 0 \\ -\frac{x}{x} & , x < 0 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} 1 & , x > 0 \\ -1 & , x < 0 \end{cases}$$



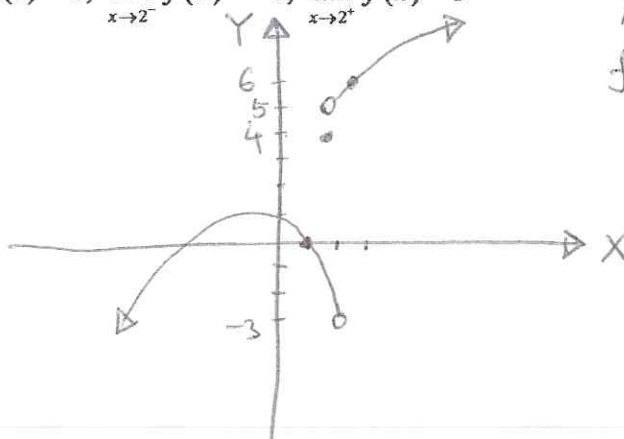
b. Does $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ exist? Explain your reasoning after first examining $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = -1 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = 1 \quad , \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) \quad \text{so} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \text{DNE}$$

11. Electronic text page 91, video example 6 is interesting about the Heaviside function.

12. Sketch the graph of a function with the given properties. You do not need to find a formula for the function.

$$f(1) = 0, f(2) = 4, f(3) = 6, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = -3, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = 5$$

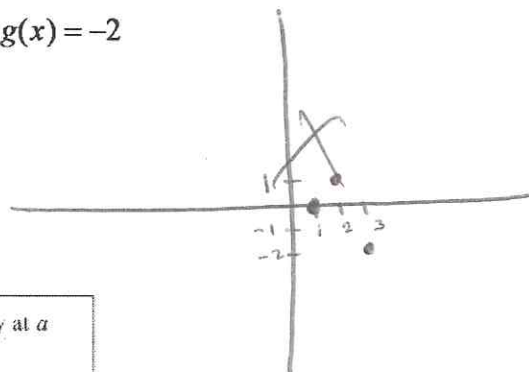
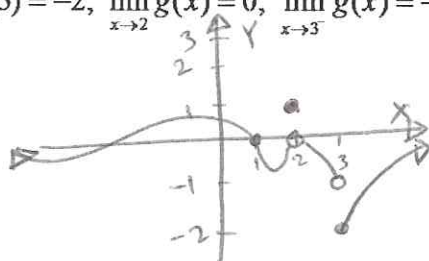


Answer may be different
from person to person

DMS

13. Sketch the graph of a function with the given properties. You do not need to find a formula for the function.

$$g(1)=0, g(2)=1, g(3)=-2, \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)=0, \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} g(x)=-1, \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} g(x)=-2$$



Infinite limits

4 Definition Let f be a function defined on both sides of a , except possibly at a itself. Then

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

means that the values of $f(x)$ can be made arbitrarily large (as large as we please) by taking x sufficiently close to a , but not equal to a .

5 Definition Let f be defined on both sides of a , except possibly at a itself. Then

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

means that the values of $f(x)$ can be made arbitrarily large negative by taking x sufficiently close to a , but not equal to a .

Similar definitions can be given for the one-sided infinite limits

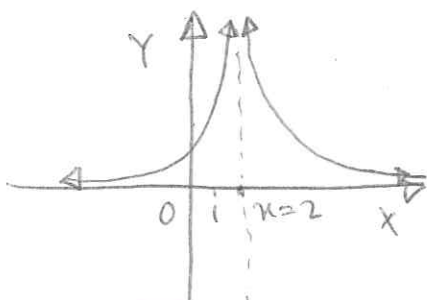
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$$

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

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$

14. a. Consider $f(x) = \frac{1}{(x-2)^2}$

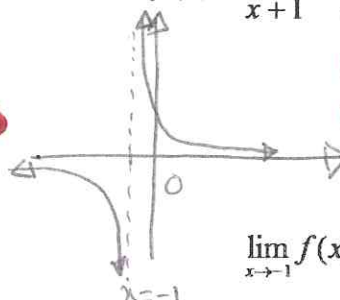


$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = \infty$$

b. Consider $f(x) = \frac{1}{x+1}$

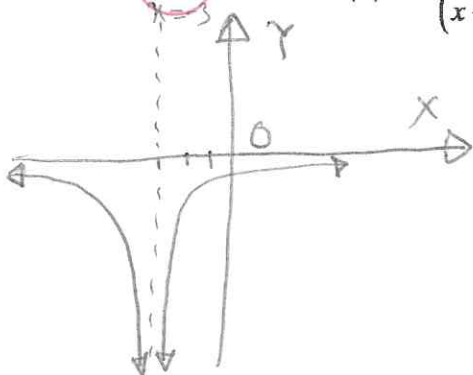


$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = -\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x) = \text{DNE}$$

c. Consider $f(x) = -\frac{1}{(x+3)^4}$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -3^+} f(x) = -\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -3^-} f(x) = -\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} f(x) = -\infty$$

6 Definition The line $x = a$ is called a **vertical asymptote** of the curve $y = f(x)$ if at least one of the following statements is true:

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

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

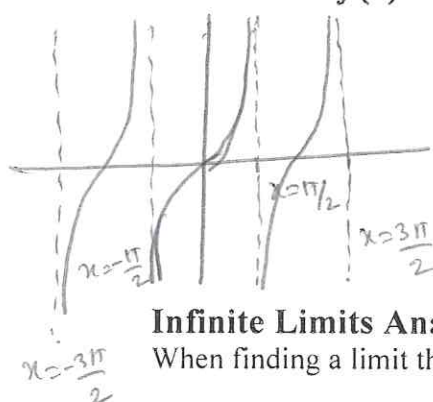
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \infty$$

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

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

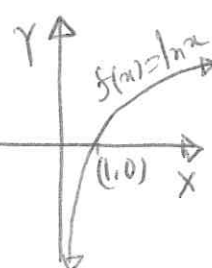
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$

15a. Consider $f(x) = \tan x$



$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^+} \tan x &= -\infty \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \tan x &= +\infty \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \tan x & \text{ DNE} \end{aligned}$$

b. Consider $f(x) = \ln x$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln x = -\infty$$

Infinite Limits Analytically

When finding a limit the first thing to try is direct substitution.

If you get $\frac{0}{0}$, you have more work to do. (We will discuss this in section 2.3)

If you get $\frac{\text{constant} \neq 0}{0}$, the limit is infinite. The text says “The fraction $\frac{a}{b}$ grows arbitrarily large in magnitude if b approaches 0 while a remains nonzero and relatively constant.”

It must be considered whether the denominator is approaching 0 through negative values or whether the denominator is approaching 0 through positive values.

Then apply the traditional positive/negative rules. $\frac{+}{-} = -, \frac{+}{+} = +, \frac{-}{+} = -, \frac{-}{-} = +$

The text uses writing above and below the function to describe what is happening.

For example:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{\overset{\text{approaches } -13}{2-5x}}{\underset{\substack{\text{negative and} \\ \text{positive} \\ \text{approaches } 0}}{x-3}} = -\infty,$$

To simplify the writing, the 1040/1070 and 1060 instructors have chosen to use a “small -” or “small +” notation or “sp” “sn”

This presentation will be required of you on your HW and test answers to get full credit.

For example:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{2-5x}{x-3} = \frac{-13}{\text{small } +} = -\infty$$

16. Evaluate a. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{2}{(x-3)^3}$ b. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{2}{(x-3)^3}$ c. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2}{(x-3)^3}$ dne

$$= \frac{2}{\text{Small-}} = -\infty \quad \left| \quad = \frac{2}{\text{Small+}} = +\infty$$

17. Evaluate the limits

a. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 8^-} \frac{2x}{x+8}$ b. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 8^+} \frac{2x}{x+8}$ c. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} \frac{2x}{x+8}$ DNE

$$= \frac{-16}{\text{Small+}} = -\infty \quad = \frac{-16}{\text{Small-}} = +\infty$$

18. a. Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{4}{(x-7)^2}$ $= \frac{4}{\text{Small+}} = +\infty$

b. Why was $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{4}{(x-7)^2}$ not presented as a one sided limit?

Square in denominator makes denominator positive no matter which side 7 is approached from

19. (2.2: #30-36 even) Note: #36 looks ahead a bit

30. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3^-} \frac{x+2}{x+3} = \frac{-1}{\text{Small-}} = +\infty$

32. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^-} \frac{e^x}{(x-5)^3} = \frac{e^5}{(\text{Small-})^3} = -\infty$

34. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi^-} \cot x = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi^-} \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} = \frac{\cos \pi}{\text{Small+}} = \frac{-1}{\text{Small+}} = -\infty$

36. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 2x}{x^2 - 4x + 4}$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x(x-2)}{(x-2)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x}{x-2}$

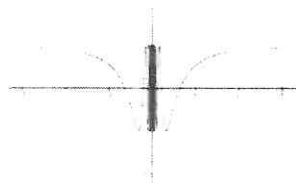
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} = \frac{4-4}{4-8+4} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$= \frac{2}{\text{Small-}} = -\infty$$

DMS

Oscillations

There are some functions with "Strange Behavior"

20. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ **DNE**

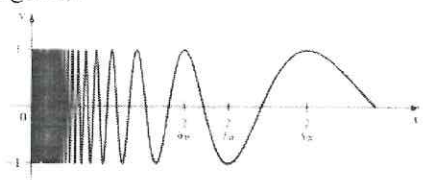
Oscillates too much
near $x=0$ to be able
to find a limit.

21.a. Create a table of values of $\sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ for $x = \frac{2}{\pi}, \frac{2}{3\pi}, \frac{2}{5\pi}, \frac{2}{7\pi}, \frac{2}{9\pi}$, and $\frac{2}{11\pi}$. Describe the pattern of values you observe.

x	$\frac{2}{\pi}$	$\frac{2}{3\pi}$	$\frac{2}{5\pi}$	$\frac{2}{7\pi}$	$\frac{2}{9\pi}$	$\frac{2}{11\pi}$
$\sin \frac{1}{x}$	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1

Values of $\sin \frac{1}{x}$ alternate between -1 and 1

b. Why does a graphing utility have difficulty plotting the graph of $y = \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ near $x = 0$ (see figure)?



Since $\sin\left(\frac{1}{0}\right)$ is undefined. The graph oscillates too much near $x=0$. There would still be a hole at $x=0$.

c. What do you conclude about $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$?

DNE

Summary examples of ways limits fail to exist:

1. The graph jumps at the specific input.

2. The function approaches positive or negative infinity at the specific input. It grows to large to have a limit. (This only needs to happen on one side for the limit to fail to exist.)

3. The function oscillates too much to have a limit. (This only needs to happen on one side for the limit to fail to exist.)

Note on #2: Technically, the "infinite limits" do not exist. But we choose to indicate that they approach infinity in our notation.

HW 2.2: #1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 17, 21, 37