

LIMITS

Department of Mathematics, FPT University

Hanoi
2021

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1 A Preview of Calculus

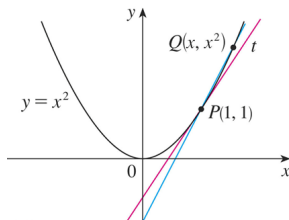
2 The Limit of a Function

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The Tangent Problem

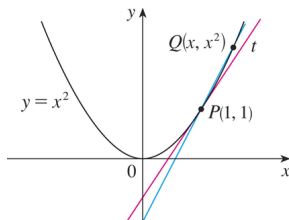
How to find an equation of the tangent line to the parabola $y = x^2$ at the point $P(1, 1)$?



We know that the slope of the secant line PQ is $m_{PQ} = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 1}$.

The Tangent Problem

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Investigate the example of a falling ball

Suppose that a ball is dropped from upper observation deck of the CN Tower in Toronto, $450m$ above the ground. Find the velocity of the ball after 5 seconds.

If the distance fallen after t seconds is denoted by $s(t)$ and measured in meters, then Galileo's law is expressed by the following equation

$$s(t) = 4.9t^2.$$



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The Velocity Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \text{average} &= \frac{\text{change in position}}{\text{time elapsed}} \\ &= \frac{s(5.1) - s(5)}{0.1} = 49.49 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the (instantaneous)
velocity after 5s is: $v = 49 \text{ m/s}$.

Time interval	Average velocity (m/s)
$5 \leq t \leq 6$	53.9
$5 \leq t \leq 5.1$	49.49
$5 \leq t \leq 5.05$	49.245
$5 \leq t \leq 5.01$	49.049
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The Area Problem

We begin by attempting to solve the area problem:

Find the area of the region S that lies under the curve $y = f(x)$ from a to b .

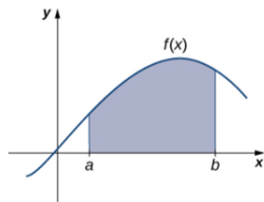


Figure 2.8 The Area Problem: How do we find the area of the shaded region?

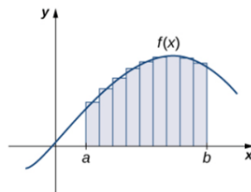


Figure 2.9 The area of the region under the curve is approximated by summing the areas of thin rectangles.

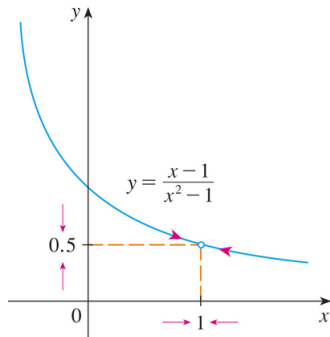
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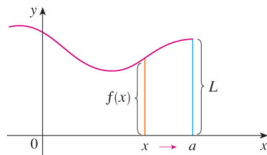
The Limit of a Function

In general,

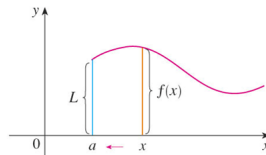
we write $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ if we can make the values of $f(x)$ arbitrarily close to L by taking x to be sufficiently close to a but not equal to a .



We write $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$ if we can make the values of $f(x)$ arbitrarily close to L by taking x to be sufficiently close to a and x less than a .



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



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

Similarly, “the right-hand limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a is equal to L ” and

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

Example

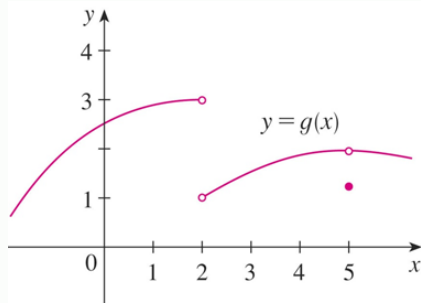
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} g(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} g(x)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x) = ?$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^-} g(x) = ?$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^+} g(x) = ?$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} g(x) = ?$$



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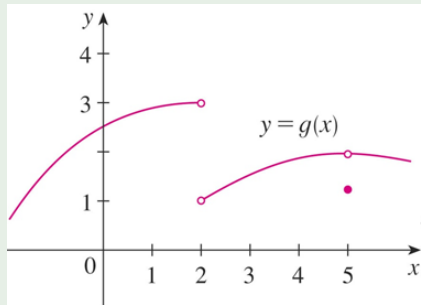
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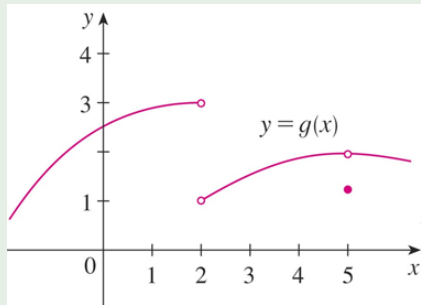
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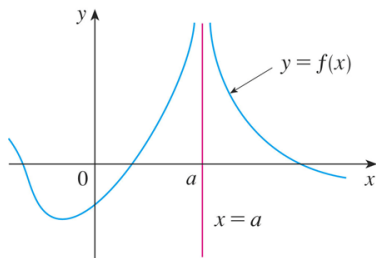
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} g(x) = ?$$



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

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

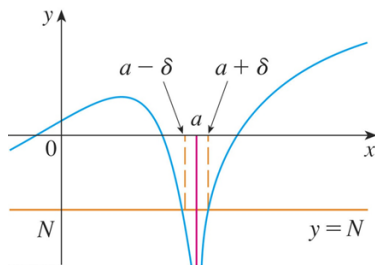
means that the values of $f(x)$ can be made arbitrarily large by taking x sufficiently close to a , but not equal to a .



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 .



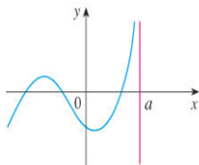
Similar definitions can be given for the one-sided limits:

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

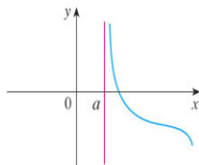
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = -\infty$$

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

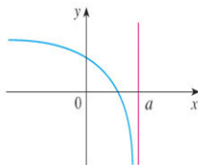
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$



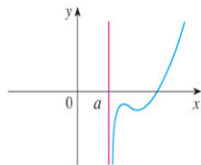
(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \infty$



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



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



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

Definition

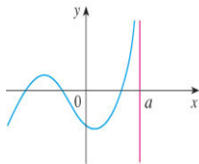
$x = a$ is called **the vertical asymptote** of $f(x)$ if we have one of the following:

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

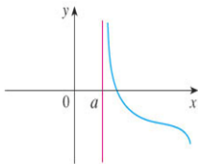
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \infty$$

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

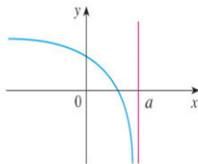
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$



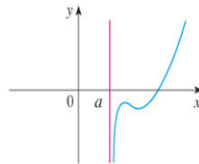
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The Limit Laws

Suppose that c is a constant and the limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ exist. Then

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) \pm g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \pm \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$
3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [cf(x)] = c \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$
4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$
5. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)}$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$

Using the limit laws, we have

$$6. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)]^n = \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \right]^n$$

$$7. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} c = c$$

$$8. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a$$

$$9. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} x^n = a^n$$

$$10. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{x} = \sqrt[n]{a}$$

$$11. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}$$

The Limit Laws

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$$3. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [cf(x)] = c \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$$

$$4. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

$$5. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)} \text{ if } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$$

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Theorem

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

The Squeeze Theorem

Theorem

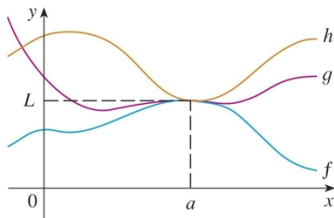
Let $f(x)$, $g(x)$ and $h(x)$ be defined for all $x \neq a$ over an open interval containing a . If

$$f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$$

for all $x \neq a$ in an open interval containing a and

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

where L is a real number, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L$.



The Squeeze Theorem

Example

Show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} = 0$.

Solution.

Note that we

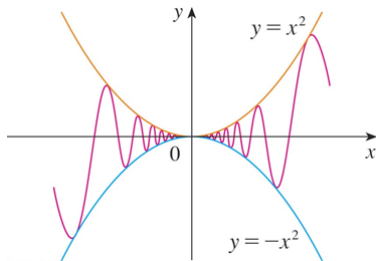
cannot use $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin \frac{1}{x} = 0$

since $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin \frac{1}{x}$ does not exist.

However, since $-1 \leq \sin \frac{1}{x} \leq 1$, we have

$$-x^2 \leq x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} \leq x^2.$$

Taking $f(x) = -x^2$ and $h(x) = x^2$ in the Squeeze Theorem, we obtain: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} = 0$.



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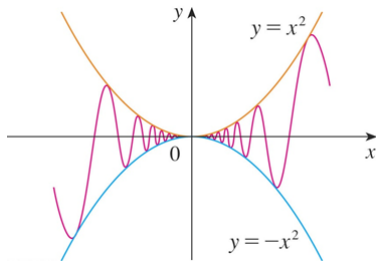
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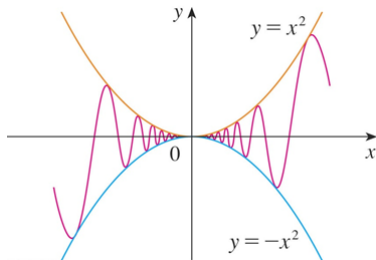
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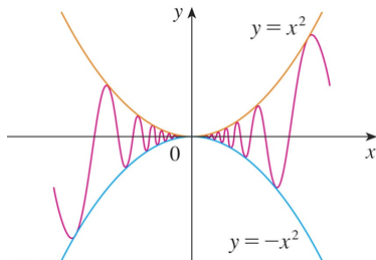
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Quiz questions

Choose one correct answer (TRUE or FALSE) for the following statements.

1 If $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 0$ then $\frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x)}$ does not exist.

2 If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)]$ exists, then the limit must be $f(a)g(a)$.

Quiz questions

Choose one correct answer (TRUE or FALSE) for the following statements.

- ❶ If $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 0$ then $\frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x)}$ does not exist.
- ❷ If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)]$ exists, then the limit must be $f(a)g(a)$.

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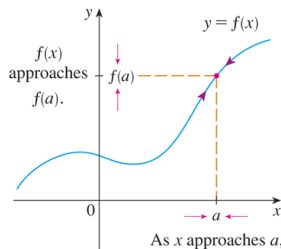
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Definition

A function f is **continuous at a point** a if and only if the following three conditions are satisfied

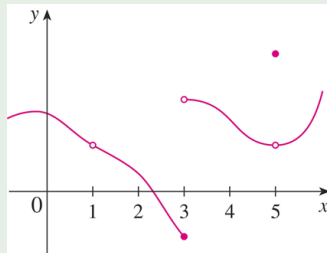
- 1 $f(a)$ is defined;
- 2 $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists.
- 3 $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$.

A function is **discontinuous at a point** a if it fails to be continuous at a .



Example

The figure shows the graph of a function f .
At which numbers is f discontinuous? Why?

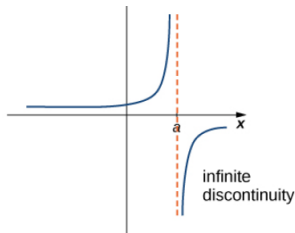
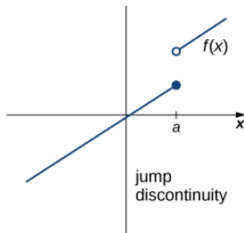
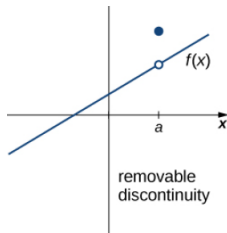


Types of Discontinuities

Definition

If $f(x)$ is discontinuous at a , then

- 1 f has a **removable discontinuity** at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists. (Note: When we state that $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists, we mean that $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$, where L is a real number.)
- 2 f has a **jump discontinuity** at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ both exist, but $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$. (Note: When we state that $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ both exist, we mean that both are real-valued and that neither take on the values $\pm\infty$.)
- 3 f has an **infinite discontinuity** at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \pm\infty$ and or $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \pm\infty$.



Example

Classify discontinuous points of the following functions

❶ $f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}.$

❷ $g(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 + 4 & \text{if } x \leq 3 \\ 4x - 8 & \text{if } x > 3 \end{cases}.$

❸ $h(x) = \frac{x + 2}{x + 1}.$

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❸ $h(x) = \frac{x + 2}{x + 1}.$

Definition

A function $f(x)$ is said to be **continuous from the right** at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$.

A function $f(x)$ is said to be **continuous from the left** at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = f(a)$.

Definition

A function f is **continuous on an interval** if it is continuous at every number in the interval.

If f is defined only on one side of an endpoint of the interval, we understand “continuous at the endpoint” to mean “continuous from the right” or “continuous from the left.”

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Definition

A function $f(x)$ is said to be **continuous from the right** at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$.

A function $f(x)$ is said to be **continuous from the left** at a if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = f(a)$.

Definition

A function f is **continuous on an interval** if it is continuous at every number in the interval.

If f is defined only on one side of an endpoint of the interval, we understand “continuous at the endpoint” to mean “continuous from the right” or “continuous from the left.”

Theorem

If f and g are continuous at a and c is a constant, then the following functions are also continuous at a :

- 1 $f + g$
- 2 $f - g$
- 3 cf, cg
- 4 fg
- 5 $\frac{f}{g}$ if $g(a) \neq 0$

Remarks

The following types of functions are continuous at every number in their domains:

- Polynomials
- Rational functions
- Root functions
- Trigonometric functions

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Composite Function Theorem

If $f(x)$ is continuous at L and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L$, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f[g(x)] = f\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)\right) = f(L).$$

Theorem

If x is close to a , then $g(x)$ is close to L ; and, since f is continuous at L , if $g(x)$ is close to L , then $f(g(x))$ is close to $f(L)$.

This theorem is often expressed informally by saying “a continuous function of a continuous function is a continuous function”.

The Intermediate Value Theorem

Let f be continuous over a closed, bounded interval $[a, b]$. If z is any real number between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then there is a number c in $[a, b]$ satisfying $f(c) = z$ in Figure 1.

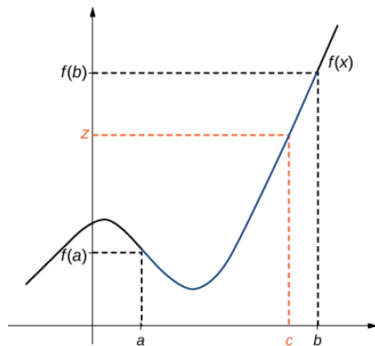


Figure 1:

Example

Show that there is a root of the equation $4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2 = 0$ between 1 and 2.

Solution.

Let $f(x) = 4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2$. This function is continuous over $[1, 2]$.

We are looking for a solution of the given equation that is, a number c between 1 and 2 such that $f(c) = 0$.

We have $f(1) = -1 < 0$ and $f(2) = 12 > 0$.

Therefore, by Intermediate Value Theorem there exists a number $c \in [a, b]$ such that $f(c) = 0$.

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Let f be a function defined for every $x > a$. Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$ means that

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists M > 0 \text{ if } x > M \text{ then } |f(x) - L| < \epsilon.$$

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The line $y = L$ is called the *horizontal asymptote* of $f(x)$ if we have one of the following:

- ① $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = L;$
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Quiz questions

1) If $f(1) > 0$ and $f(3) < 0$ then there exists a number c between 1 and 3 such that $f(c) = 0$.

A. True

B. False

2) Which is the equation expressing the fact that “ f is continuous at 2”?

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

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

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

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

3) Let $f(x) = \frac{x^3 - 1}{x^3 + x^2 - 2}$. The horizontal asymptote of $f(x)$ is

A. $y = 1$

B. $y = -1$

C. $y = 0$

D. None of them

4) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \cos x = ?$

A. Infinity

B. -1

C. 1

D. Does not exist

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THANK YOU!