

ITCS 111 Chapter 1

Review of Limits

Some of the material in these slides is from *Calculus* 10/E by
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Two Basic Problems of Calculus

- The concept of “**limit**” is the fundamental building block on which all calculus concepts are based.
- We will study limits informally, with the goal of developing an intuitive feel for the basic ideas, then we will focus on computational methods and precise definitions.

Two Basic Problems of Calculus

Many of the ideas of calculus originated with the following two geometric problems:

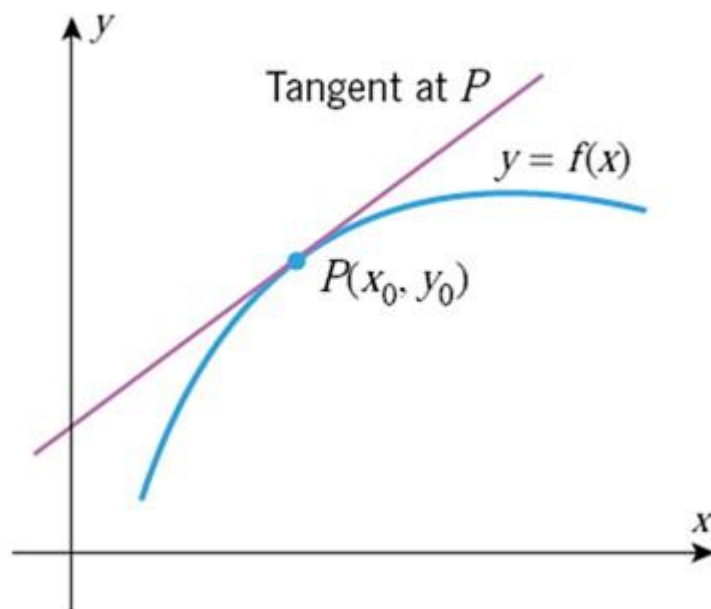
THE TANGENT LINE PROBLEM Given a function f and a point $P(x_0, y_0)$ on its graph, find an equation of the line that is tangent to the graph at P (Figure 1.1.1).

THE AREA PROBLEM Given a function f , find the area between the graph of f and an interval $[a, b]$ on the x -axis (Figure 1.1.2).

The solution to both of these problems requires the use of **limits**.

Two Basic Problems of Calculus

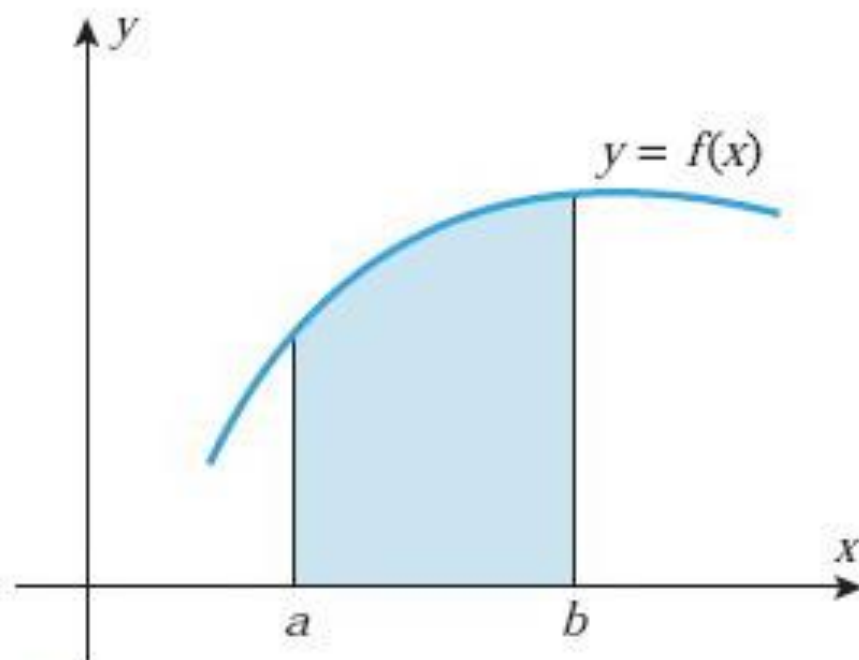
Tangent Line



▲ Figure 1.1.1

Two Basic Problems of Calculus

Area



▲ Figure 1.1.2

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \quad (6)$$

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

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

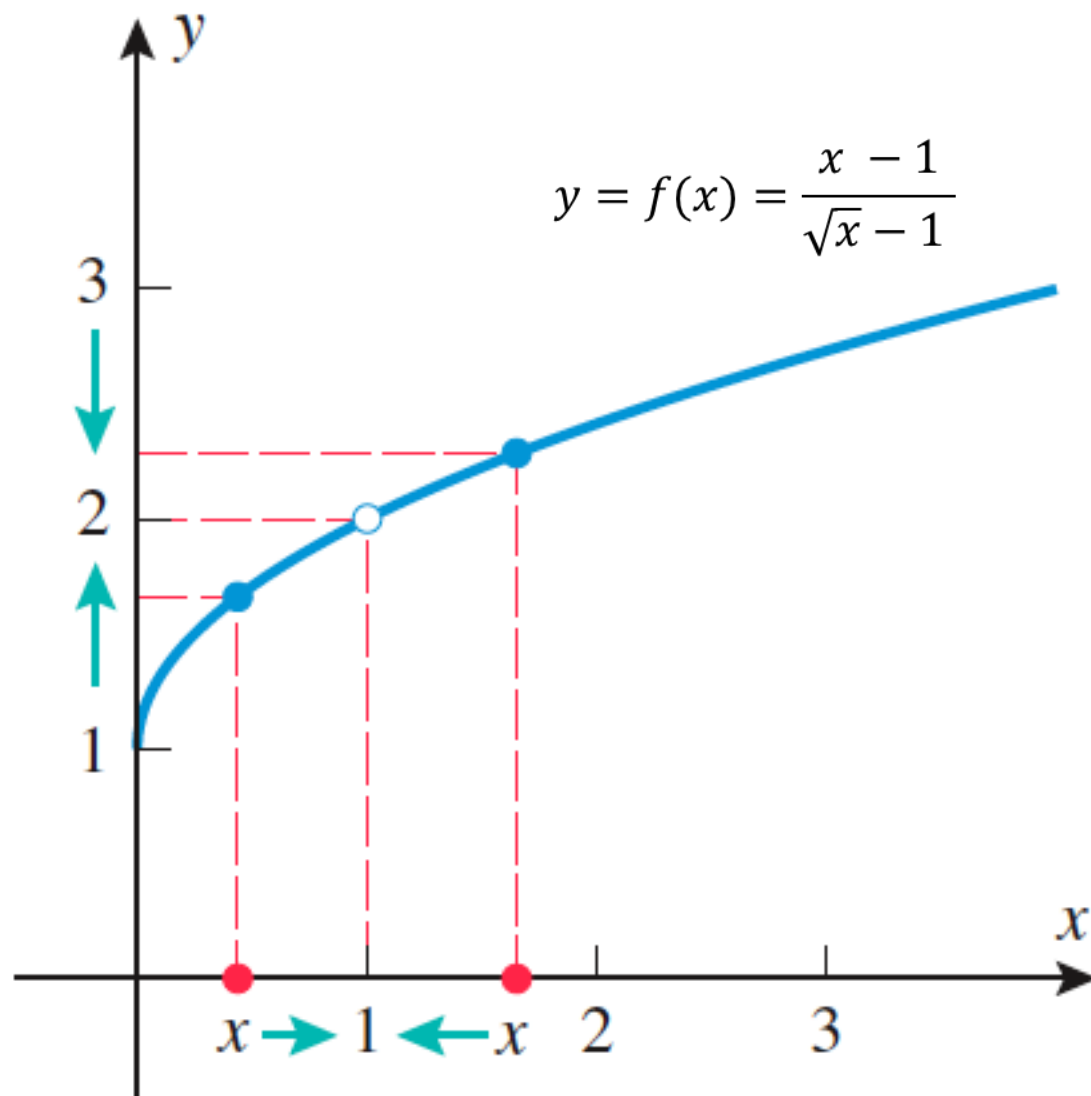


Figure 1.1.9

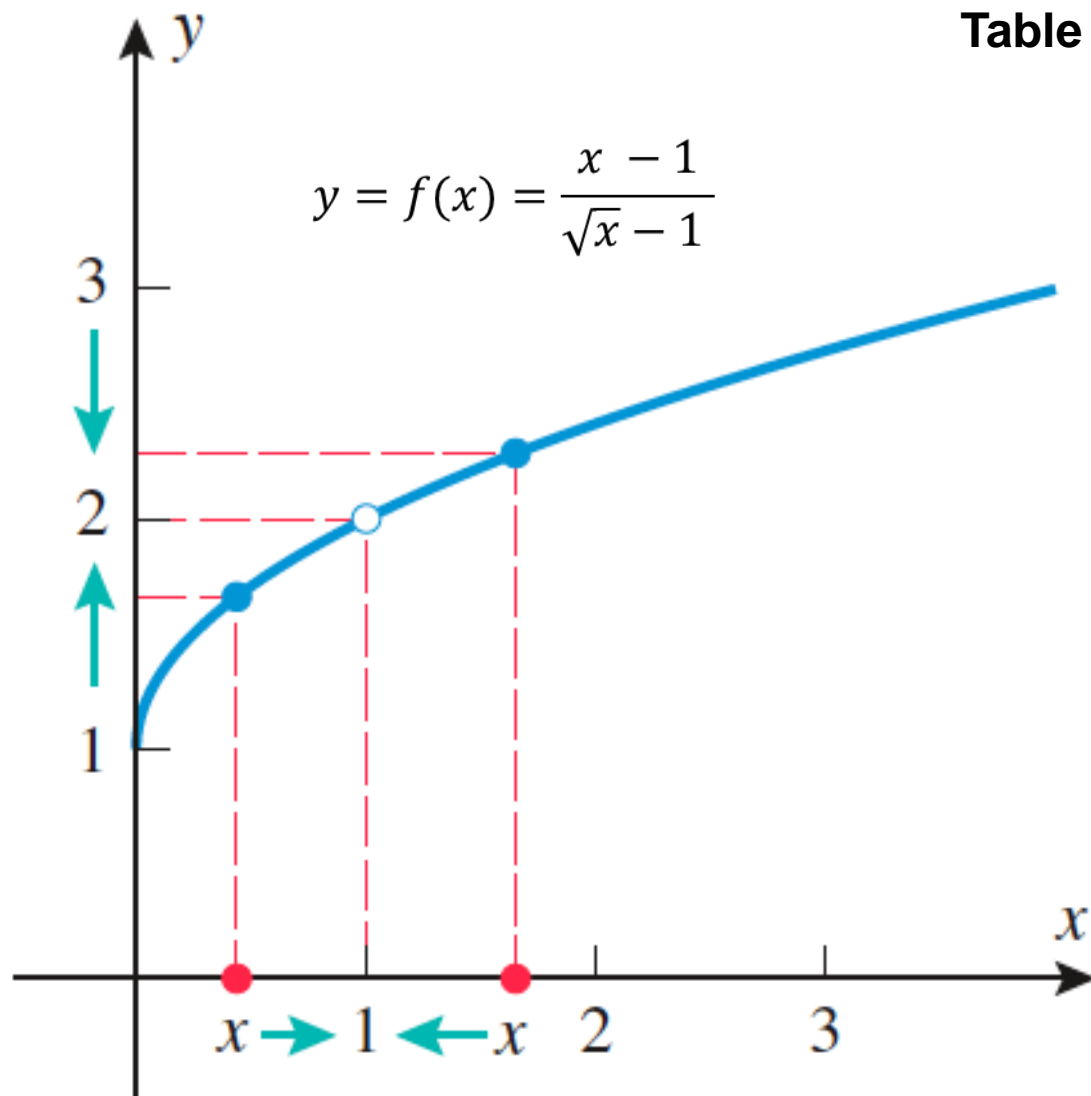


Figure 1.1.9

Table 1.1.1

x	$f(x)$
0.99	1.994987
0.999	1.999500
0.9999	1.999995
1.00001	2.000005
1.0001	2.000050
1.001	2.000500
1.01	2.004988

$f(x)$ is undefined at $x=1$, this has no bearing on the limit. Table 1.1.1 shows sample x -values approaching 1 from the left side and from the right side. In both cases, the corresponding $f(x)$ appear to get closer and closer to 2. **Hence we conjecture that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 2$**

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L \quad (14)$$

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L \quad (15)$$

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,

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

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Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} |x| / x$

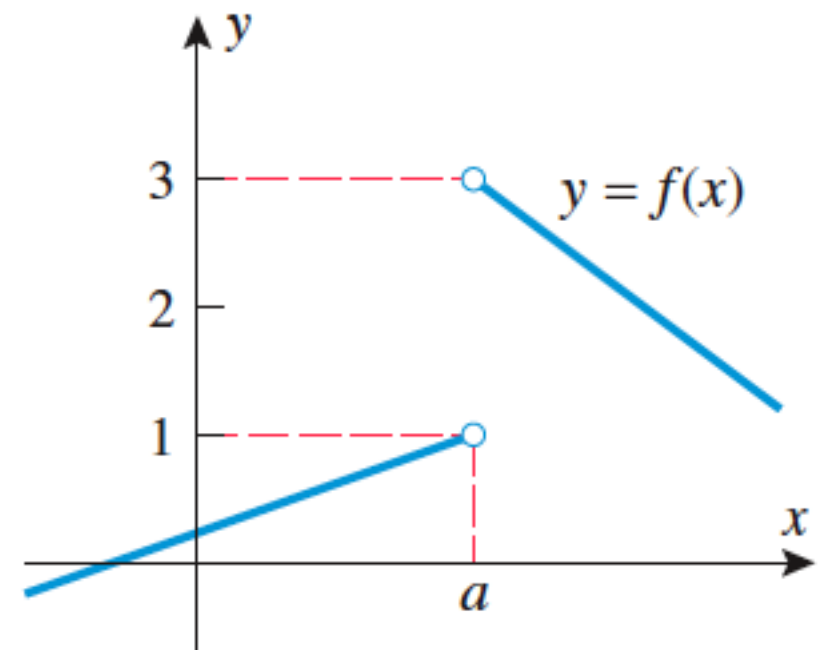
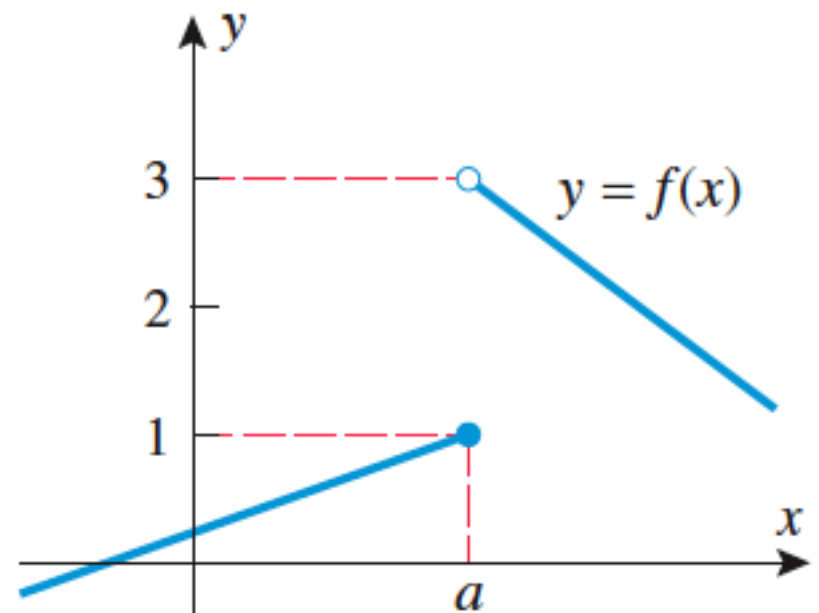
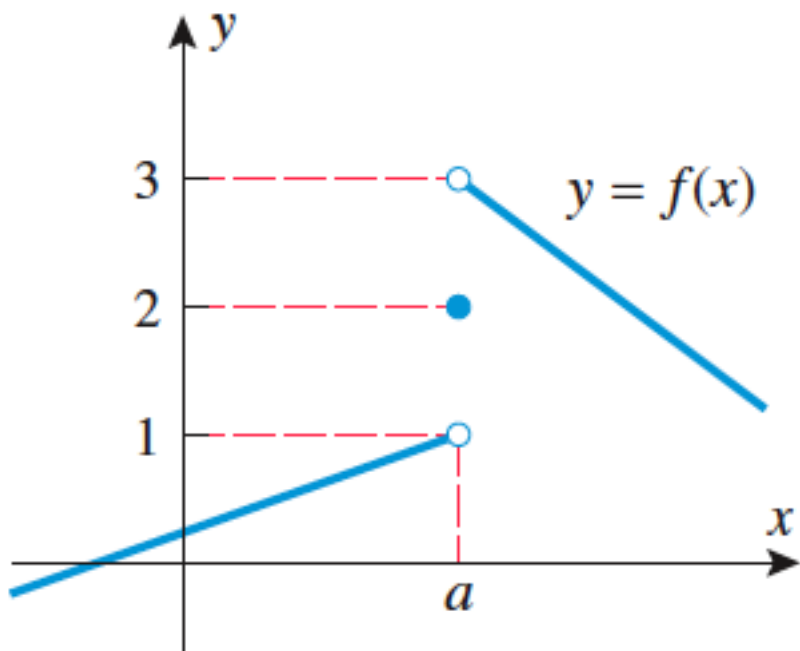
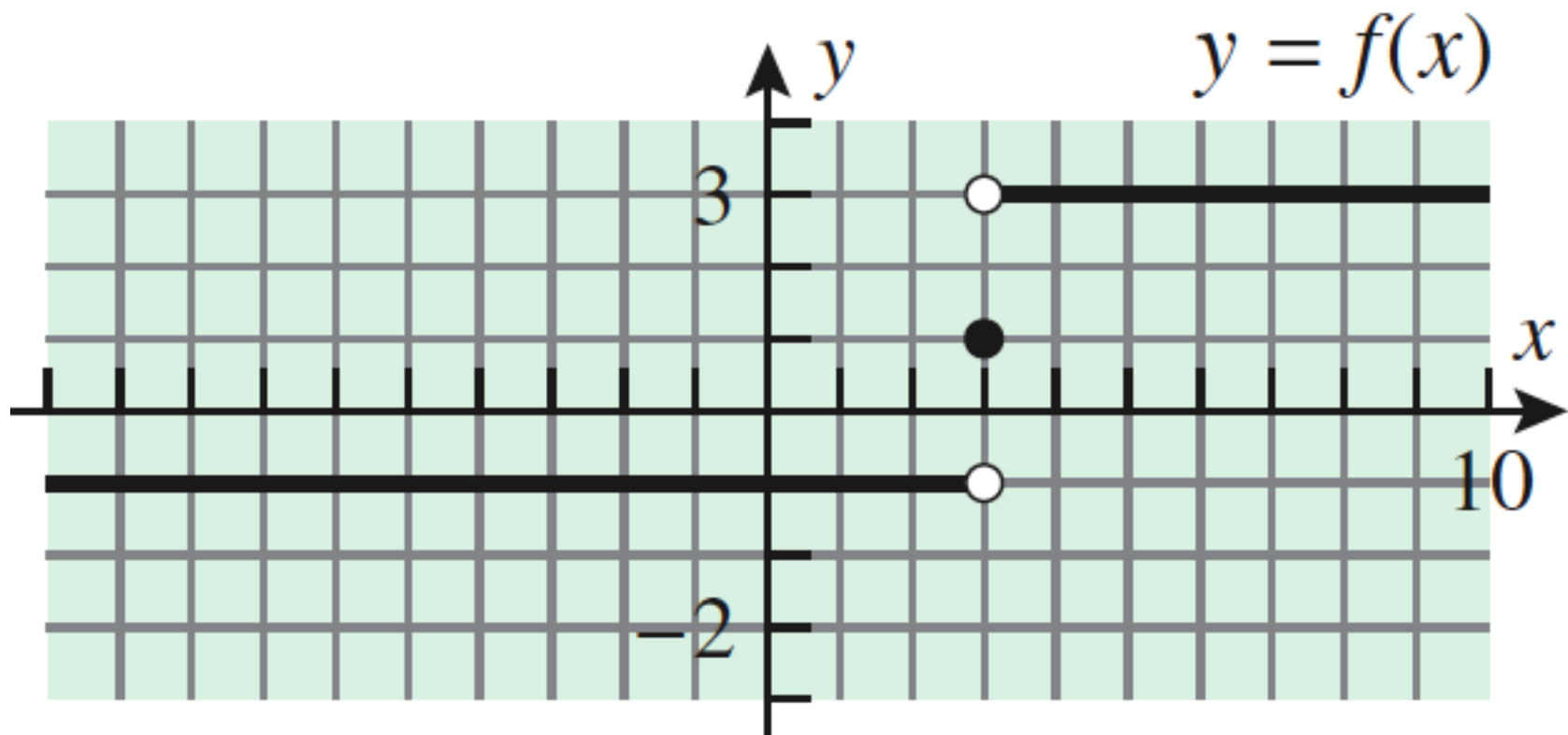
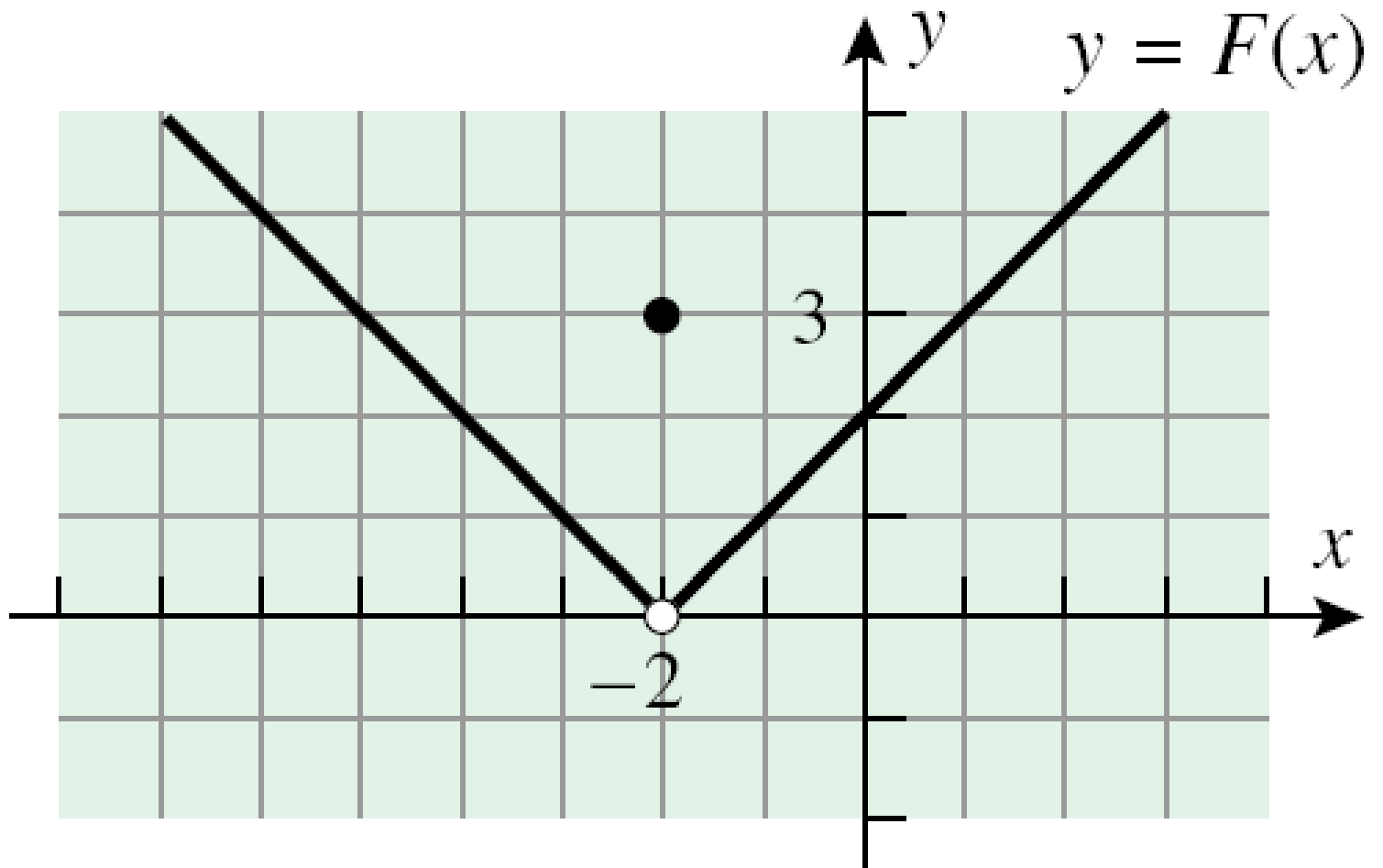


Figure 1.1.13



Exercise 1.1.3



Exercise 1.1.5

1.1.4 INFINITE LIMITS (AN INFORMAL VIEW) The expressions

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

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

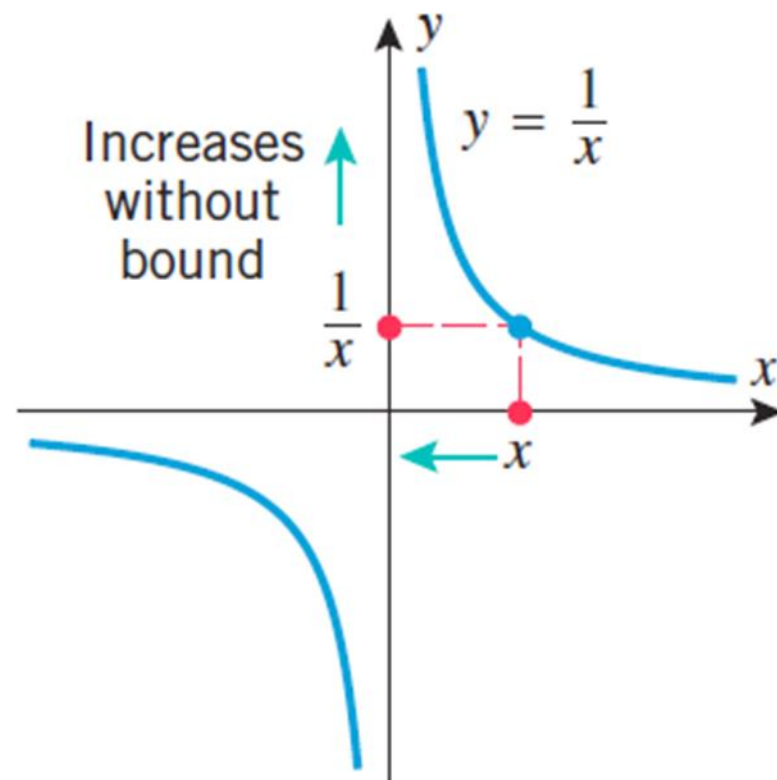
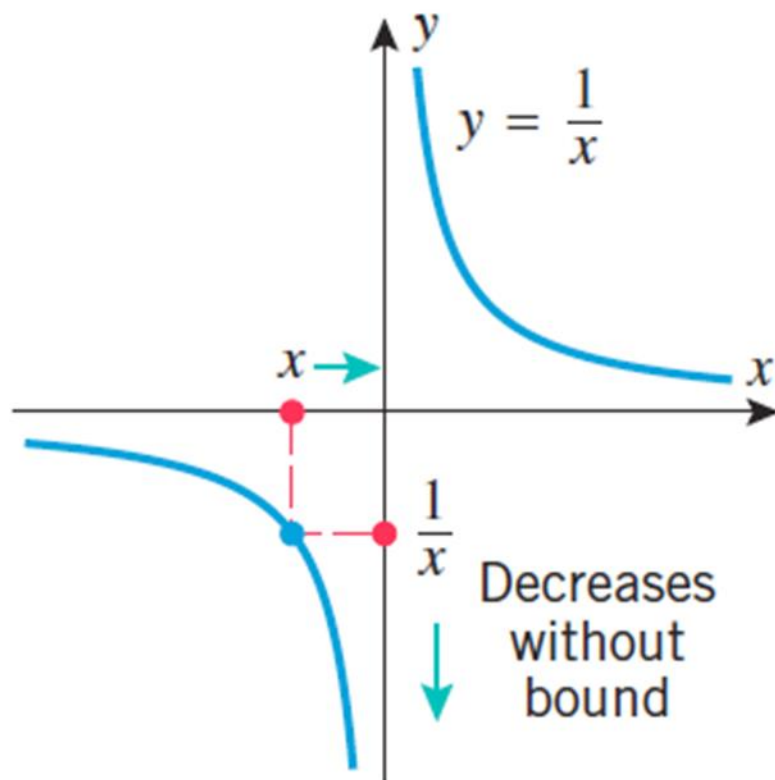
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = +\infty$$

Similarly, the expressions

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

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

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

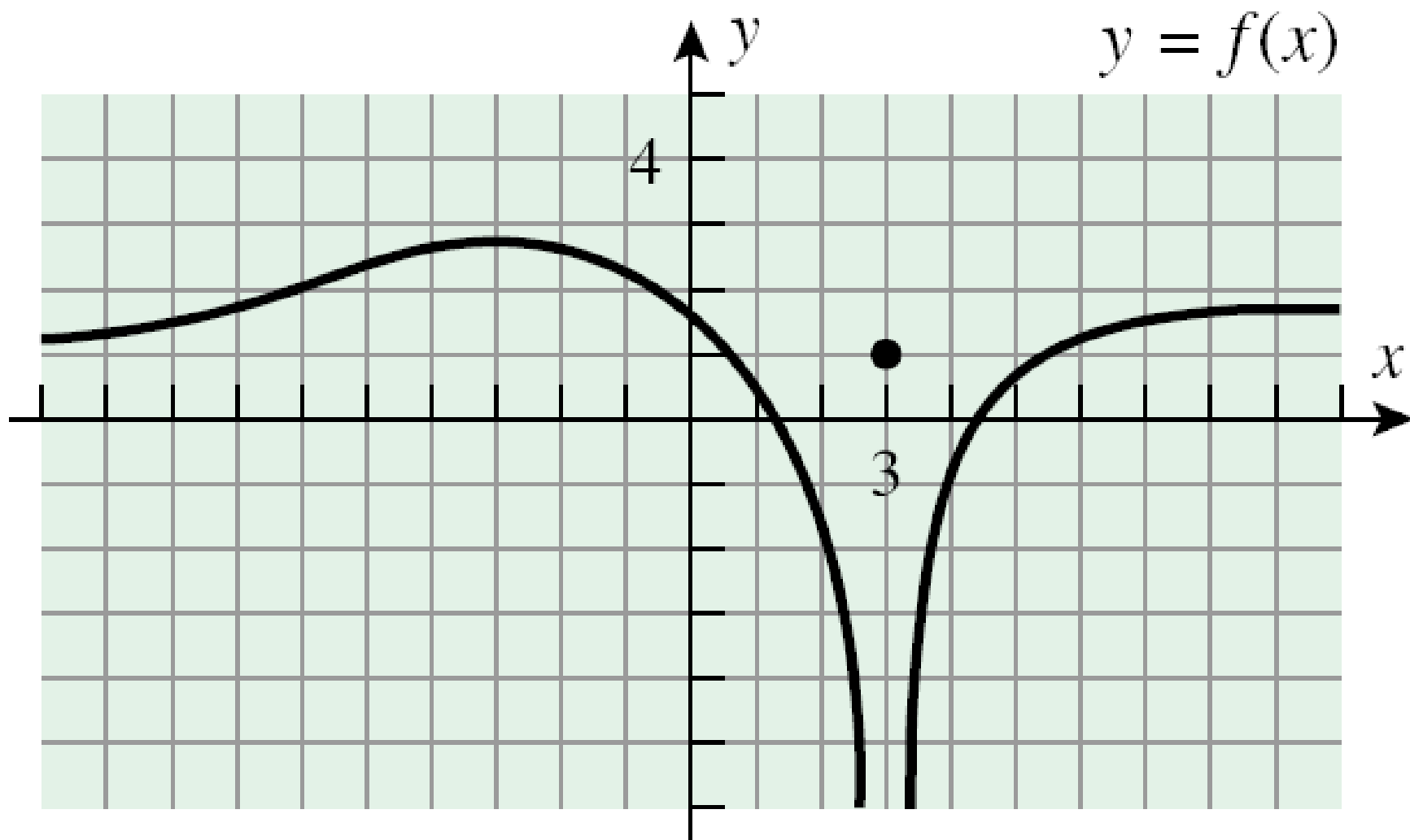


x	-1	-0.1	-0.01	-0.001	-0.0001	0	0.0001	0.001	0.01	0.1	1
$\frac{1}{x}$	-1	-10	-100	-1000	-10,000		10,000	1000	100	10	1

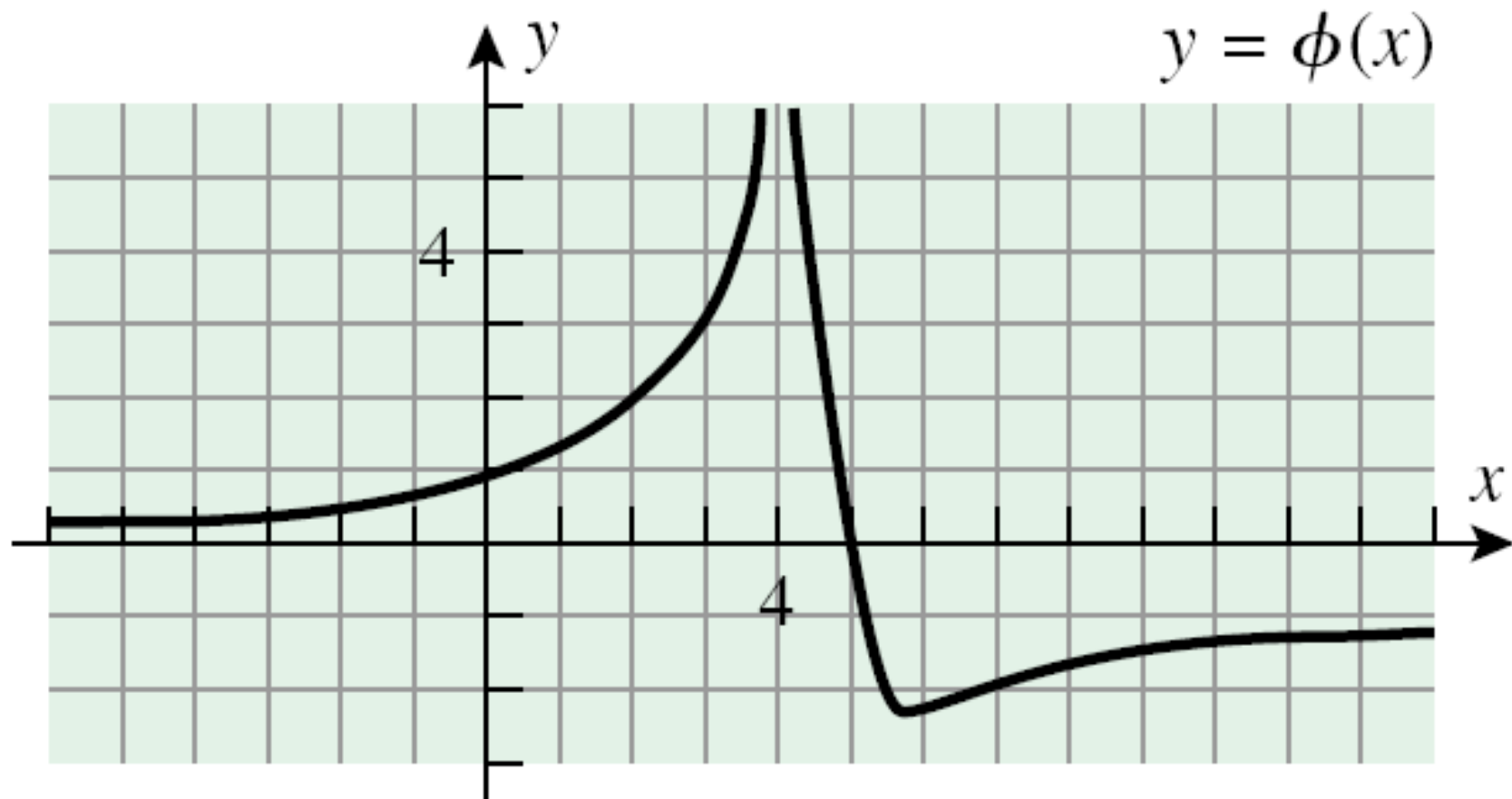
Left side

Right side

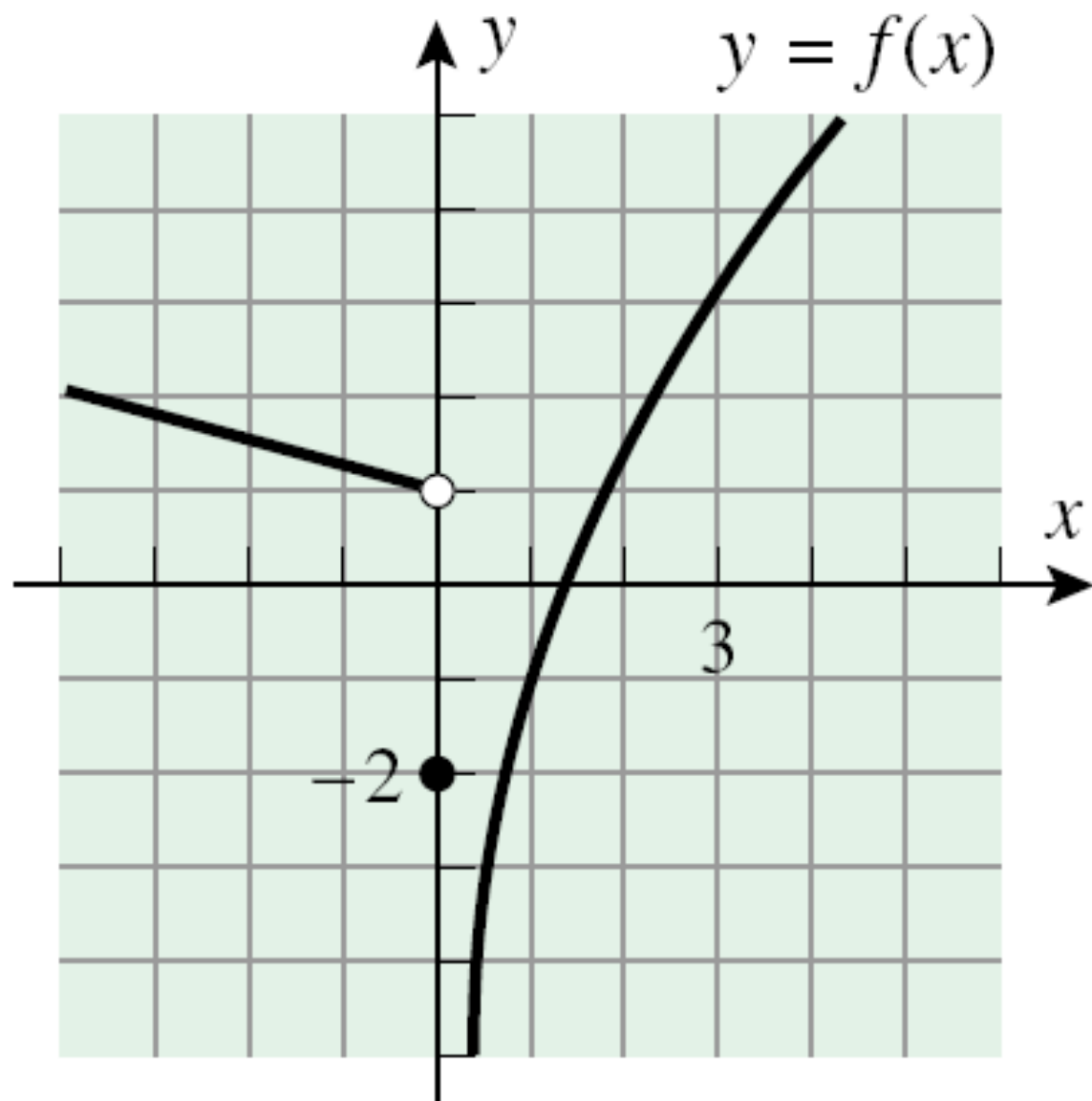
Figure 1.1.15 : Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{x}$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x}$



Exercise 1.1.7



Exercise 1.1.8



Exercise 1.1.9

Exercise 1: Limits (Intuitive Approach)

1.2 Calculating Limits – Basic Cases

Some Basic Limits

The strategy for finding limits algebraically has two parts:

- First we will obtain the limits of some simple functions.
- Then, we will develop a repertoire of theorems that will enable us to use the limits of those simple functions as building blocks for finding limits of more complicated functions.

1.2.1 THEOREM *Let a and k be real numbers.*

$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow a} k = k \quad (b) \lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a \quad (c) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{x} = -\infty \quad (d) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x} = +\infty$$

Theorem 1.2.1

1.2 Calculating Limits – Basic Cases

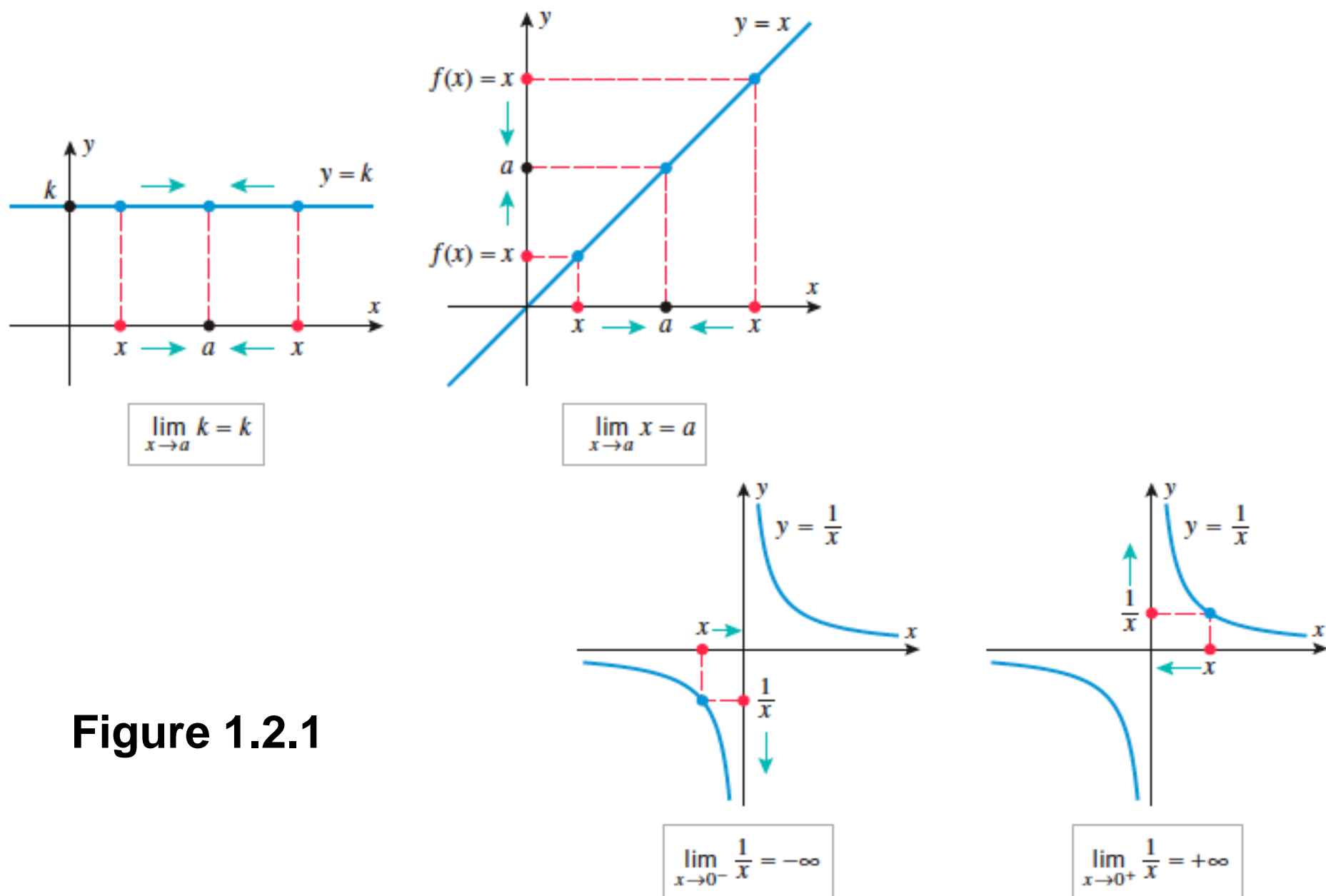


Figure 1.2.1

1.2 Calculating Limits – Algebra Rules

1.2.2 THEOREM *Let a be a real number, and suppose that*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L_2$$

That is, the limits exist and have values L_1 and L_2 , respectively. Then:

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L_1 + L_2$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) - g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L_1 - L_2$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)] = \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \right) \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \right) = L_1 L_2$

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)} = \frac{L_1}{L_2}, \quad \text{provided } L_2 \neq 0$

(e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{L_1}, \quad \text{provided } L_1 > 0 \text{ if } n \text{ is even.}$

Moreover, these statements are also true for the one-sided limits as $x \rightarrow a^-$ or as $x \rightarrow a^+$.

1.2 Calculating Limits – Algebra Rules

1.2.3 Theorem For any polynomial

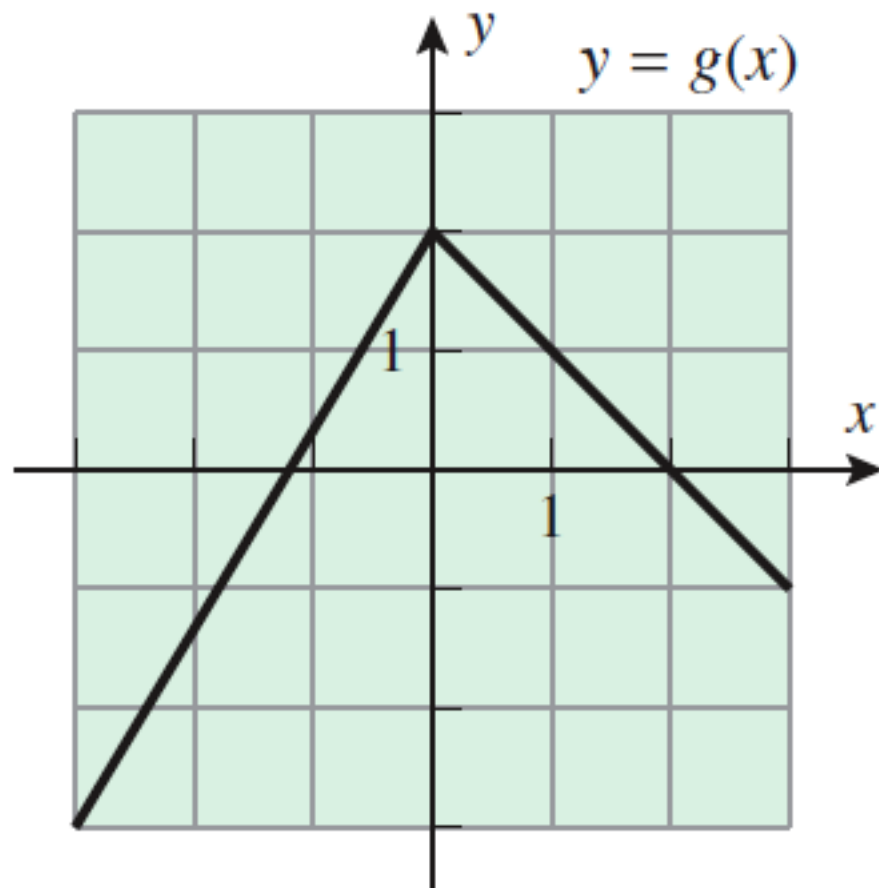
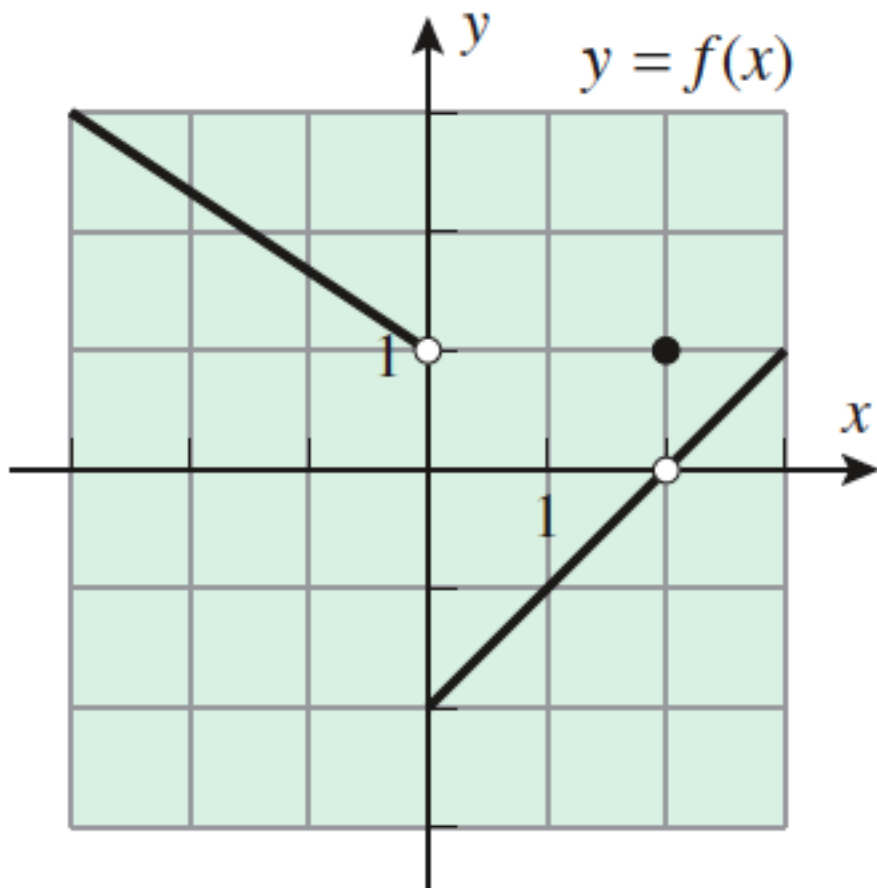
$$p(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots + c_nx^n$$

and any real number a ,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} p(x) = c_0 + c_1a + \dots + c_na^n = p(a)$$

1.2 Calculating Limits – Algebra Rules

- Example:**
- (1) Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{5x^3 + 4}{x - 3}$
 - (2) Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{2 - x}{(x - 4)(x + 2)}$
 - (3) Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 6x + 9}{(x - 3)}$
 - (4) Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow -4} \frac{2x + 8}{(x^2 + x - 12)}$
 - (5) Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{x^2 - 3x - 10}{(x^2 - 10x + 25)}$



Exercise 1.2.2: Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (f(x) + g(x))$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} (f(x)g(x))$,
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (f(x)/g(x))$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (f(x) - g(x))$

Calculating Limits – Rational Functions

1.2.4 THEOREM *Let*

$$f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$$

be a rational function, and let a be any real number.

- (a) If $q(a) \neq 0$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$.*
- (b) If $q(a) = 0$ but $p(a) \neq 0$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ does not exist.*

Theorem 1.2.4

Exercise 2: Computing Limits

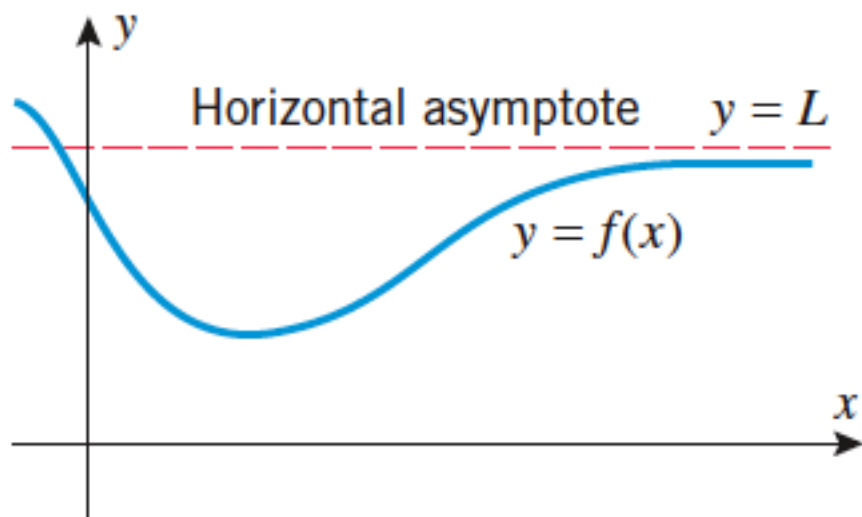
1.3 Calculating Limits – As x goes to $+$, $-$ Infinity

1.3.1 LIMITS AT INFINITY (AN INFORMAL VIEW) If the values of $f(x)$ eventually get as close as we like to a number L as x increases without bound, then we write

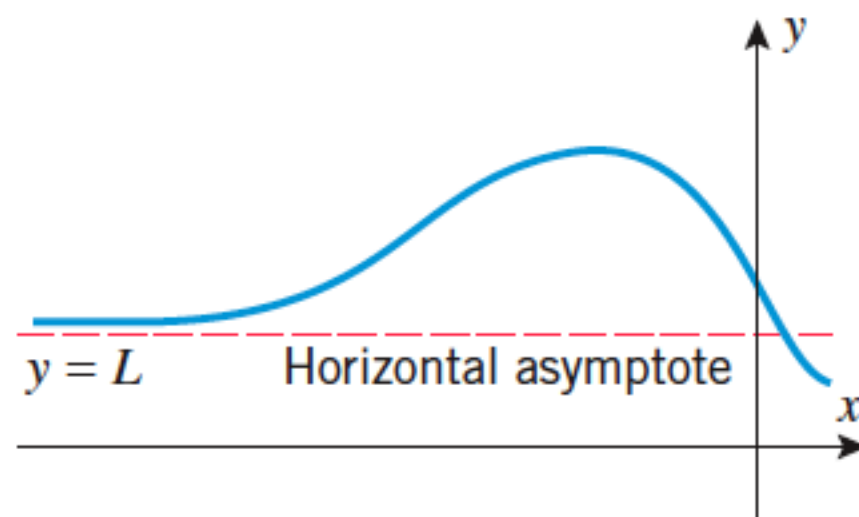
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = L \quad \text{or} \quad f(x) \rightarrow L \text{ as } x \rightarrow +\infty \quad (3)$$

Similarly, if the values of $f(x)$ eventually get as close as we like to a number L as x decreases without bound, then we write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L \quad \text{or} \quad f(x) \rightarrow L \text{ as } x \rightarrow -\infty \quad (4)$$

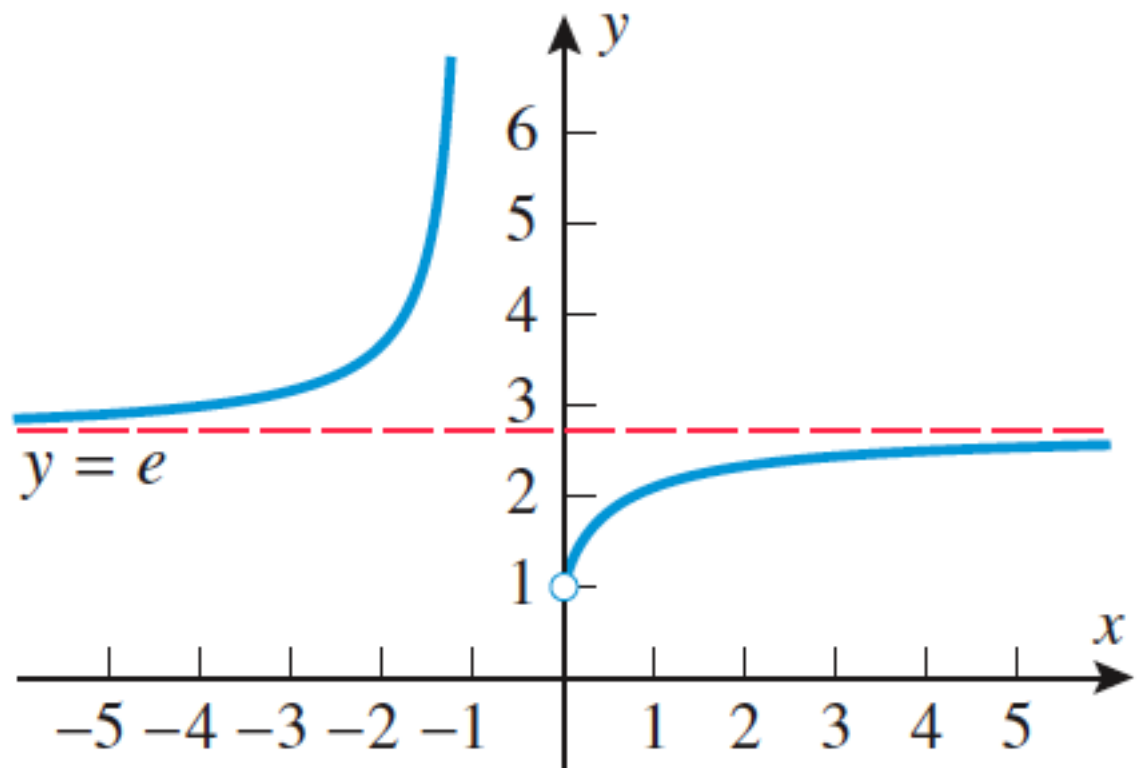


$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = L$$



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

Figure 1.3.2



$$y = \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x$$

Figure 1.3.4

1.3 Calculating Limits – As x goes to $+$, $-$ Infinity

1.3.2 INFINITE LIMITS AT INFINITY (AN INFORMAL VIEW) If the values of $f(x)$ increase without bound as $x \rightarrow +\infty$ or as $x \rightarrow -\infty$, then we write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = +\infty$$

as appropriate; and if the values of $f(x)$ decrease without bound as $x \rightarrow +\infty$ or as $x \rightarrow -\infty$, then we write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = -\infty \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = -\infty$$

as appropriate.

1.3 Calculating Limits – As x goes to $+$, $-$ Infinity

Technique for a rational function:

Divide each term in the **numerator** and **denominator** by the highest power of x that occurs in the denominator.

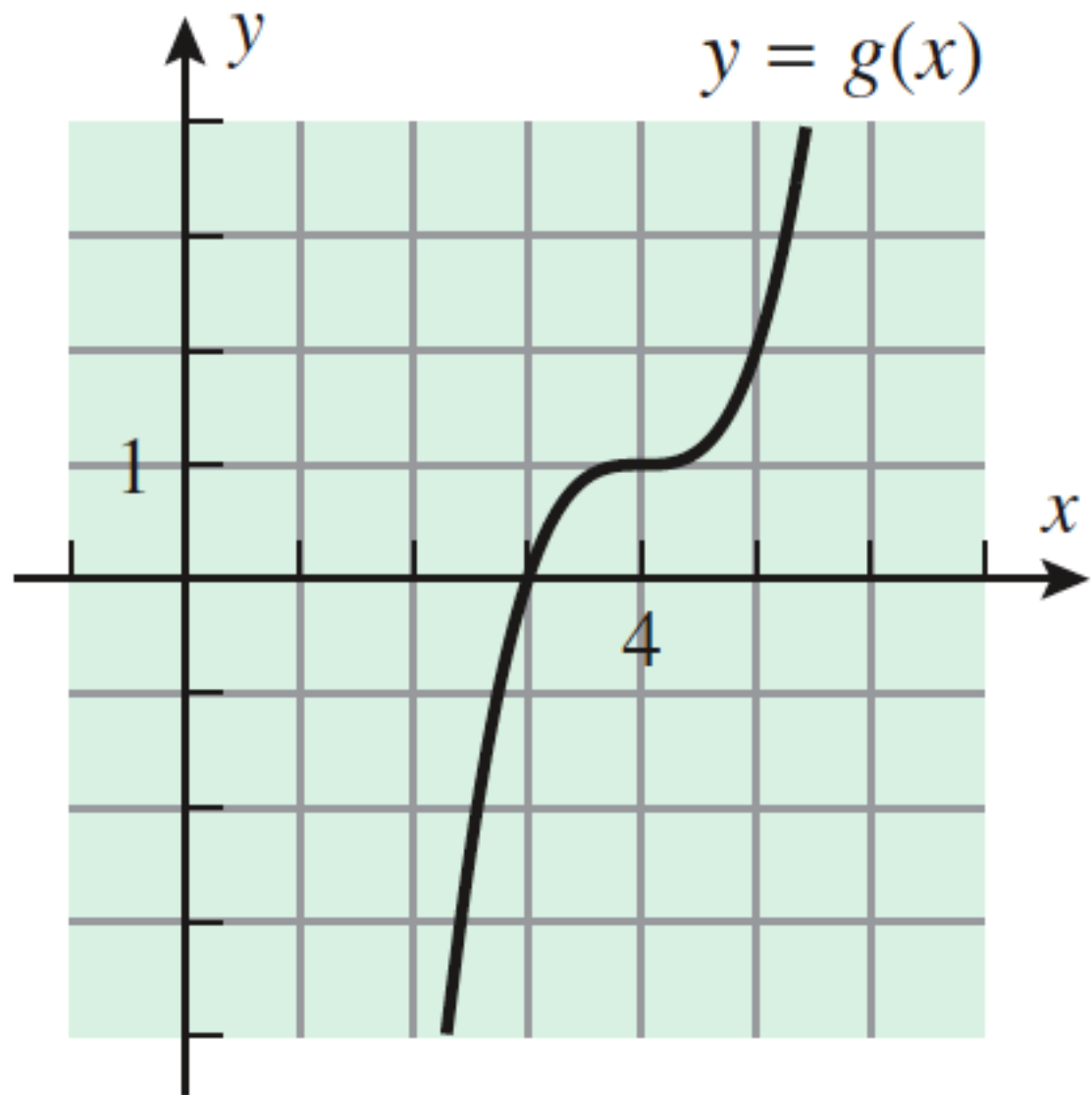
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x^2 - 5x}{1 - 3x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 - \frac{5}{x}}{\frac{1}{x^2} - 3} = -\frac{4}{3}$$

1.3 Calculating Limits – As x goes to $+$, $-$ Infinity

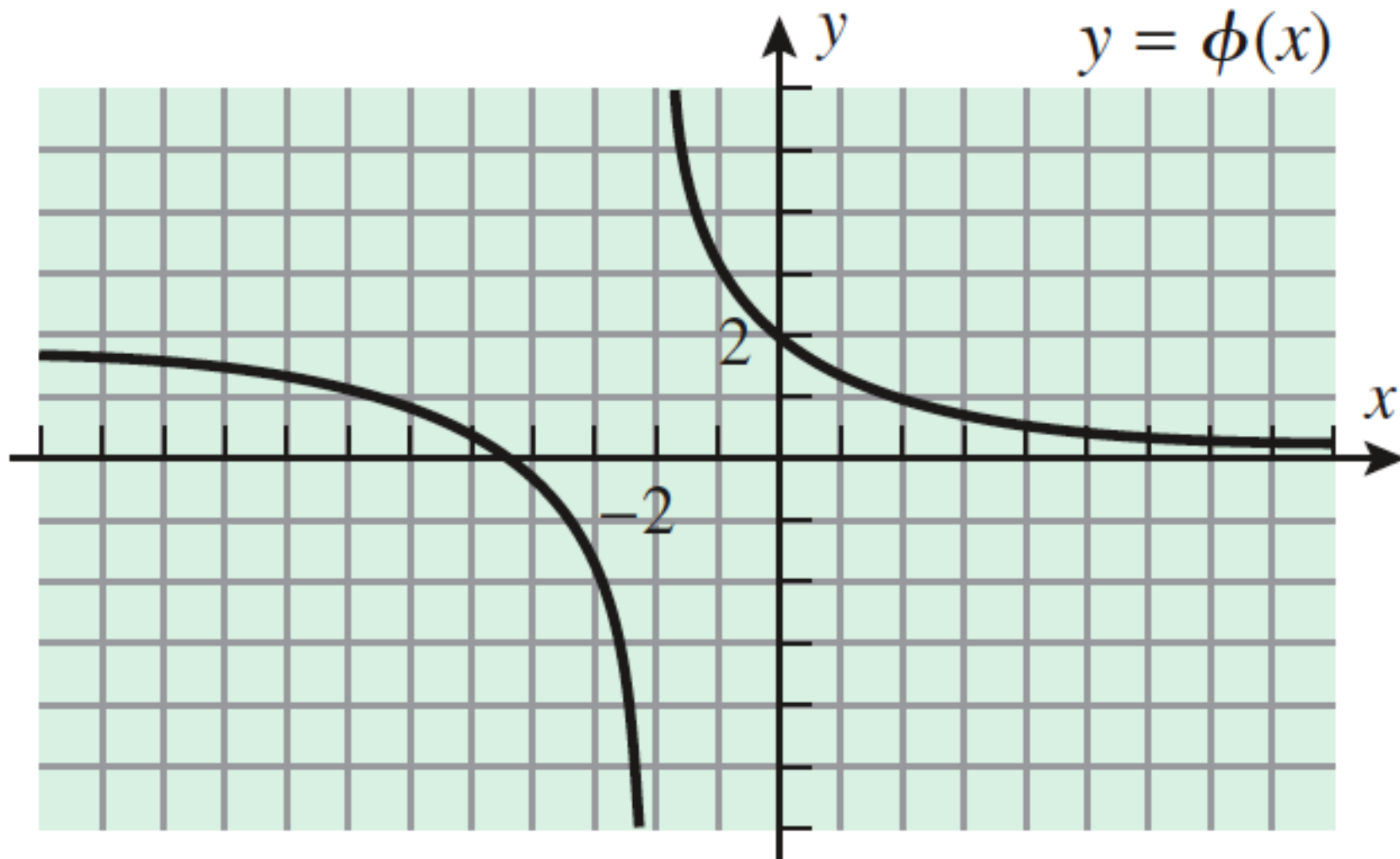
Technique for a rational function:

L'Hospital's Rule

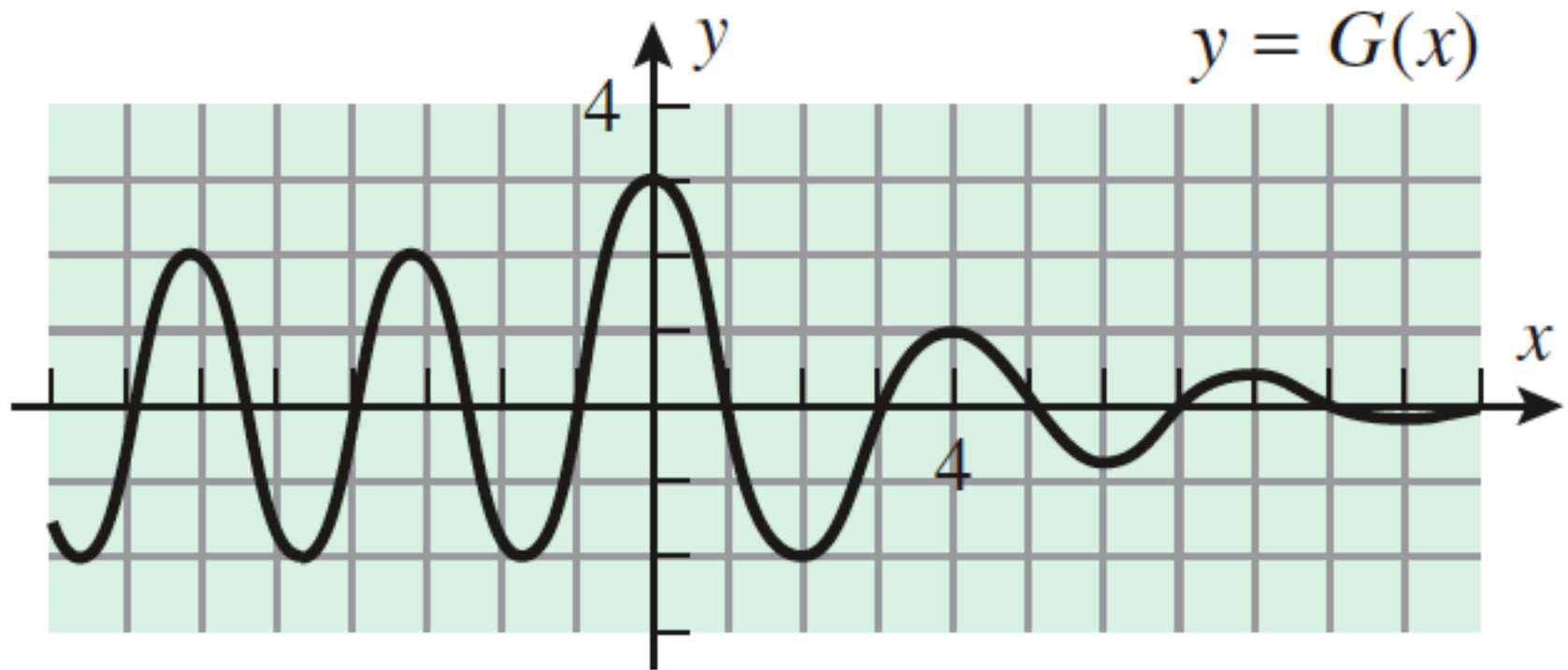
The rule tells us that if we have an indeterminate form $0/0$ or inf/inf we need to do is differentiate the ***numerator*** and differentiate the ***denominator*** and then take the limit.



Exercise 1.3.1



Exercise 1.3.2



Exercise 1.3.4

Exercise 3: Limit at Infinity, End Behavior of a function

1.5 Continuous Functions

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

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

1.5 Continuous Functions

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 .

1.5 Continuous Functions

1.5.3 THEOREM *If the functions f and g are continuous at c , then*

- (a) $f + g$ is continuous at c .*
- (b) $f - g$ is continuous at c .*
- (c) fg is continuous at c .*
- (d) f/g is continuous at c if $g(c) \neq 0$ and has a discontinuity at c if $g(c) = 0$.*

1.5 Continuous Functions

1.5.4 THEOREM

- (a) *A polynomial is continuous everywhere.*
- (a) *A rational function is continuous at every point where the denominator is nonzero, and has discontinuities at the points where the denominator is zero.*

Continuity on $(-\infty, \infty)$:

If a function f is continuous at each number in $(-\infty, \infty)$, then we say that f is continuous on $(-\infty, \infty)$, or f is continuous everywhere.

1.5 Continuous Functions

1.5.5 THEOREM *If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L$ and if the function f is continuous at L , then $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(g(x)) = f(L)$. That is,*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(g(x)) = f\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)\right)$$

This equality remains valid if $\lim_{x \rightarrow c}$ is replaced everywhere by one of $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+}$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-}$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty}$, or $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty}$.

In the special case of this theorem where $f(x) = |x|$, the fact that $|x|$ is continuous everywhere allows us to write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} |g(x)| = \left| \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) \right| \quad (3)$$

Example:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} |5 - x^2| = \left| \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (5 - x^2) \right| = |-4| = 4$$

1.5 Continuous Functions

1.5.6 THEOREM

- (a) *If the function g is continuous at c , and the function f is continuous at $g(c)$, then the composition $f \circ g$ is continuous at c .*
- (b) *If the function g is continuous everywhere and the function f is continuous everywhere, then the composition $f \circ g$ is continuous everywhere.*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f \circ g)(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(g(x)) = f\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)\right) = f(g(c)) = (f \circ g)(c) \quad \blacksquare$$

Theorem 1.5.5

g is continuous at c .

Exercise 4: Continuity

1.6 Continuity of Trigonometric, Exponential, Inverse Functions

1.6.1 THEOREM *If c is any number in the natural domain of the stated trigonometric function, then*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sin x = \sin c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \cos x = \cos c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \tan x = \tan c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \csc x = \csc c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sec x = \sec c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \cot x = \cot c$$

Theorem 1.6.1 implies that the six basic trigonometric functions are continuous on their domains. In particular, $\sin x$ and $\cos x$ are continuous everywhere.

1.6 Continuity of Trigonometric, Exponential, Inverse Functions

Example Find the limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \cos[(x^2 - 1)/(x - 1)]$$

1.6 Continuity of Trigonometric, Exponential, Inverse Functions

1.6.2 THEOREM *If f is a one-to-one function that is continuous at each point of its domain, then f^{-1} is continuous at each point of its domain; that is, f^{-1} is continuous at each point in the range of f .*

1.6 Continuity of Trigonometric, Exponential, Inverse Functions

1.6.3 THEOREM *Let $b > 0$, $b \neq 1$.*

- (a) The function b^x is continuous on $(-\infty, +\infty)$.*
- (b) The function $\log_b x$ is continuous on $(0, +\infty)$.*

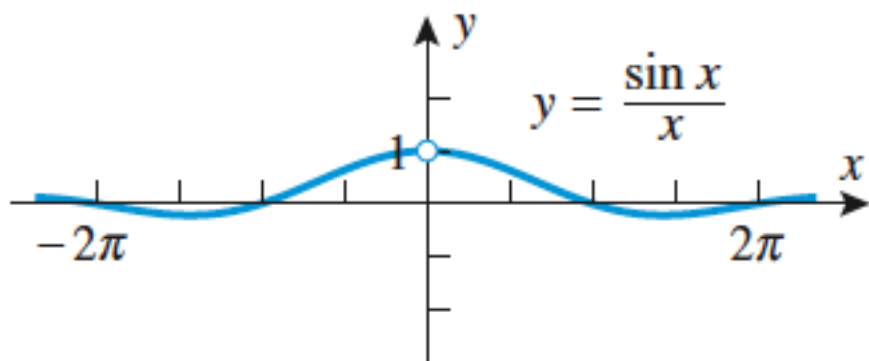
1.6 Two useful Trigonometric Limits

1.6.5 THEOREM

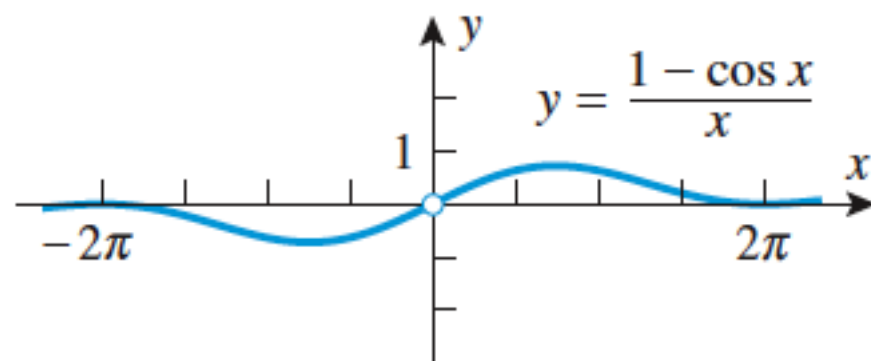
$$(a) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$

$$(b) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x} = 0$$

1.6 Two useful Trigonometric Limits



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x} = 0$$

Figure 1.6.3

Exercises: Evaluate the following limits

1) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} (\sin x + \cos 2x)$

2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin 5x}{x}$

3) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \tan\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$

4) $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t^2}{1 - \cos^2 t}$