



Chapter 1: Limits and continuity

1.1: Limits

Example: $y = f(x) = 2x^2 + x + 1$

$$x = 1.9 \Rightarrow y = f(1.9) = 2 \cdot 1.9^2 + 1.9 + 1 = 10.12$$

$$x = 1.99 \Rightarrow y = f(1.99) = 2 \cdot 1.99^2 + 1.99 + 1 = 10.9102$$

$$x = 1.999 \Rightarrow y = f(1.999) = 2 \cdot 1.999^2 + 1.999 + 1 = 10.991$$

$$x = 1.9999 \Rightarrow y = f(1.9999) = \dots = 10.9991$$

$$x = 1.99999 \Rightarrow y = f(1.99999) = \dots = 10.99991$$

(from the left)

It looks like: when x goes to 2^+ , y goes to 11

we can write: when $x \rightarrow 2^-$, $y \rightarrow 11$ or

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} y = 11$$



let x goes to 2 from the right and observe the value of y .

$$x = 2.1 \Rightarrow y = f(2.1) = 11.92$$

$$x = 2.01 \Rightarrow y = f(2.01) = 11.0902$$

$$x = 2.001 \Rightarrow y = f(2.001) = 11.009$$

$$x = 2.0001 \Rightarrow y = \dots = 11.0009$$

$$x = 2.00001 \Rightarrow y = \dots = 11.00009$$

we observe that when x goes to 2 from the right
 y goes to 11 as well

we write: $x \rightarrow 2^+$, $y \rightarrow 11$ or

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} y = 11$$

we call $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} y$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} y$ one-sided limits

If $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} y = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} y$ then we say

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} -$ exists and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} = 11$

Example : $y = f(x) = 2x^2 + x + 1$

Guess $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} -$

Approach 1 : plug in $x = 2.9, 2.99, 2.999, 2.9999$

and observe $-$ values

plug in $x = 3.1, 3.01, 3.001, 3.0001 \dots$

and observe $-$

we observe: y goes to 22 when x goes to 3

Approach 2 : plug in $x = 3$

$$f(3) = 2 \cdot 3^2 + 3 + 1 = 22$$

Example : $y = f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$

Guess $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2024} -$

Approach 1

x	y
2024.01	2027.01
2024.001	2027.001
⋮	⋮
2024.00001	2027.00001

Guess: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2024} y = 2027$

Approach 2

: plug $x = 2024$ in

$$f(2024) = \frac{2024^2 - 9}{2027 - 3} = 2027$$

Exon 6: $y = f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$

Guess $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} y$

Approach 2 does not work because we cannot plug

$x = 3$ in, or $f(3)$ does not exist.

Approach 1

x	y
3.01	6.01
3.001	6.001
3.0001	6.0001
	↓
	6

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} 4 = 6$$