

About Approaching Infinitely

Ugur Buyukdurak

January 2025

1 Introduction

This paper is going to mention a detail that caught my eye, but about which there is no official explanation. The formal limit definition is a bit odd here, and it has to do with limits, and $0.\bar{9}$ being equal to 1.

2 Idea

For example,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{(x-1)(x+1)}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} x+1 = 1+1 = 2$$

Here, we are generally taught that you can divide by $(x-1)$ because x is infinitely approaching 1, while not being 1. But the same bastards say $0.\bar{9} = 1$ (with rigorous proofs), which is exactly the same thing as the limit that approaches 1 from left. You could then say,

$$\frac{(0.\bar{9}-1)(x+1)}{0.\bar{9}-1} = \frac{(1-1)(1+1)}{1-1} = \frac{0*2}{0} = \frac{0}{0}$$

which would technically be undefined because you cannot divide by zero (but limit does).

You see that $0.\bar{9}$ is same as $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-}$ where the former is 1 and the latter is not considered 1 during division operation.

There seems to be logical inconsistencies in definitions and concepts when approaching infinitely because:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} x = 0.\bar{9} = 1$$

The limit definition does not say anything about the exact value, but we know $0.\bar{9} = 1$ with rigorous proofs. But it is also that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} x = 0.\bar{9}$. One states an exact value, but the limit definition does not. Therefore, there seems to be logical inconsistency.