

Which of the following statements about the function $y = f(x)$ graphed here are true, and which are false?

The limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)$ exists only if the values of $f(x)$ are close to a fixed value L whenever x is close to x_0 (on either side of x_0).

There are three main cases where a function does not have a limit, namely, if it jumps, if its absolute value grows too large, or if it oscillates too much.

In this example, $y = f(x)$ does not grow very large (the range is $[-1, 1]$) and does not oscillate, so it is only necessary to determine if it jumps.

Remember that a single point will not prevent a limit from existing. A function is only said to jump if there are two disconnected segments at a point.

a. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ exists.

Since $f(x)$ jumps at $x = 0$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ does not exist.

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

Since $f(x)$ does not approach 0 as x approaches 0, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) \neq 0$.

c. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = -1$.

Since $f(x)$ does not approach -1 as x approaches 0, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) \neq -1$.

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

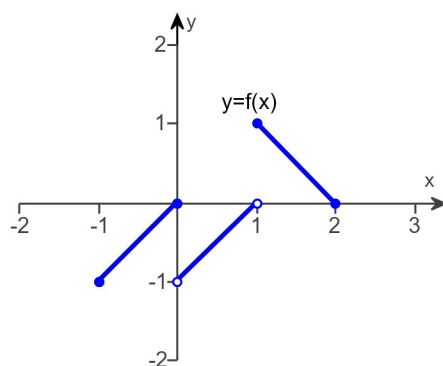
Since $f(x)$ does not approach 1 as x approaches 1, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) \neq 1$.

e. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 0$.

Since $f(x)$ does not approach 0 as x approaches 1, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) \neq 0$.

f. $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)$ exists at every point x_0 in $(-1, 1)$.

Since $f(x)$ jumps at $x = 0$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)$ does not exist at every point x_0 in $(-1, 1)$.



THEOREM 1—Limit Laws If L , M , c , and k are real numbers and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M, \quad \text{then}$$

1. *Sum Rule:* $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x) + g(x)) = L + M$
2. *Difference Rule:* $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x) - g(x)) = L - M$
3. *Constant Multiple Rule:* $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (k \cdot f(x)) = k \cdot L$
4. *Product Rule:* $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x) \cdot g(x)) = L \cdot M$
5. *Quotient Rule:* $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}, \quad M \neq 0$
6. *Power Rule:* $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x)]^n = L^n, n \text{ a positive integer}$
7. *Root Rule:* $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{L} = L^{1/n}, n \text{ a positive integer}$

(If n is even, we assume that $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L > 0$.)

THEOREM 2—Limits of Polynomials

If $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0$, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} P(x) = P(c) = a_n c^n + a_{n-1} c^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0.$$

THEOREM 3—Limits of Rational Functions

If $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are polynomials and $Q(c) \neq 0$, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{P(c)}{Q(c)}.$$

Identifying Common Factors

It can be shown that if $Q(x)$ is a polynomial and $Q(c) = 0$, then $(x - c)$ is a factor of $Q(x)$. Thus, if the numerator and denominator of a rational function of x are both zero at $x = c$, they have $(x - c)$ as a common factor.

Student: Cole Lamers
Date: 08/30/19

Instructor: Viktoriya Shcherban
Course: Calc 1 11:30 AM / Internet
 (81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
 Limit Laws

2.

Which of the following statements about the function $y = f(x)$ graphed here are true, and which are false?

a. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ exists.

- ☐ False
☒ True

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

- ☒ False
☐ True

c. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = -1$.

- ☒ True
☐ False

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

- ☒ False
☐ True

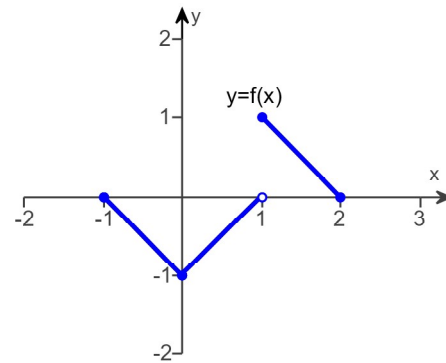
e. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 0$.

- ☐ True
☒ False

f. $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)$ exists at every point x_0 in $(-1, 1)$.

- ☒ True
☒ False

YOU ANSWERED: False



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 (81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
 Limit Laws

Find the limit as x approaches -3 for the function $f(x) = 4x + 7$.

The $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (4x + 7)$ has the form $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} (f(x) + g(x))$.

Apply the Sum Rule.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} (f(x) + g(x)) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x)$$

Substitute $f(x) = 4x$ and $g(x) = 7$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (4x + 7) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (4x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (7)$$

Apply the Constant Multiple Rule to $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (4x)$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (4x) = 4 \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (x)$$

Apply the Limit of the Identity Function Rule to $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (x)$.

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

$$\text{Thus, } 4 \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (x) = 4(-3) = -12.$$

Apply the Limit of a Constant Function Rule to $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (7)$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (7) = 7$$

$$\text{Thus, } 4 \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} (7) = -5.$$

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(81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
Limit Laws

Find the limit as t approaches 5 for the function $f(t) = 3(t - 2)(t - 4)$.

The $\lim_{t \rightarrow 5} (3(t - 2)(t - 4))$ has the form $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [k \cdot f(t) \cdot g(t)]$.

Apply the Constant Multiple Rule.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [k \cdot f(t) \cdot g(t)] = k \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [f(t) \cdot g(t)]$$

Apply the Product Rule.

$$k \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [f(t) \cdot g(t)] = k \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f(t) \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} g(t)$$

For this exercise, $k = 3$, $t_0 = 5$, $f(t) = t - 2$, and $g(t) = t - 4$.

Find the limits of $f(t)$ and $g(t)$.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 5} f(t) = 3, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 5} g(t) = 1$$

Putting all the parts together, $\lim_{t \rightarrow 5} (3(t - 2)(t - 4)) = 9$.

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(81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
Limit Laws

Evaluate the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (4x^3 - 3x^2 + 6x + 4)$$

The limit of a polynomial is found by direct substitution. That is, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} p(x) = p(a)$, where p is a polynomial and a is a constant.

Substitute -5 for x in the polynomial.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (4x^3 - 3x^2 + 6x + 4) = 4(-5)^3 - 3(-5)^2 + 6(-5) + 4$$

Simplify the expression to evaluate the limit.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (4x^3 - 3x^2 + 6x + 4) &= 4(-5)^3 - 3(-5)^2 + 6(-5) + 4 \\ &= -601 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (4x^3 - 3x^2 + 6x + 4) = -601$.

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Instructor: Viktoriya Shcherban
Course: Calc 1 11:30 AM / Internet
 (81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
 Limit Laws

Find the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{x + 3}{x^2 + 6x + 9}$$

To evaluate the limit of a rational function as x approaches a point c at which the denominator is not zero, substitute c for x in the formula for the function.

If $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are polynomials and $Q(c) \neq 0$, then the limit of the rational function as x approaches c is the value of the function at $x = c$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{P(c)}{Q(c)}$$

For the given rational function, the denominator is not equal to zero when $x = 7$.

Since the denominator is not equal to zero when $x = 7$, use the theorem from above to evaluate the limit. Substitute 7 for x in the function, then simplify.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{x + 3}{x^2 + 6x + 9} = \frac{7 + 3}{7^2 + 6(7) + 9}$$

Substitute.

$$= \frac{10}{7^2 + 6(7) + 9}$$

Simplify the numerator.

$$= \frac{10}{100}$$

Simplify the denominator.

Simplify the resulting fraction.

$$\frac{10}{100} = \frac{1}{10}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{x + 3}{x^2 + 6x + 9} = \frac{1}{10}.$$

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(81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
Limit Laws

Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \frac{x-6}{x^2-36}$.

Before trying to determine the limit, factor the denominator and simplify the resulting expression.

$$x^2 - 36 = (x + 6)(x - 6)$$

$$\text{Since } x^2 - 36 = (x + 6)(x - 6), \frac{x-6}{x^2-36} = \frac{x-6}{(x+6)(x-6)} = \frac{1}{x+6}.$$

$$\text{Since } \frac{1}{x+6} \text{ is equivalent to the original function, } \frac{x-6}{x^2-36}, \text{ except perhaps at } x=6, \lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \frac{x-6}{x^2-36} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \frac{1}{x+6} = \frac{1}{12}.$$

$$\text{Thus, } \lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \frac{x-6}{x^2-36} = \frac{1}{12}.$$

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 (81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
 Limit Laws

Find the limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{x^2 - 5x - 50}{x - 10}$$

Recall the quotient rule for limits, where $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}, M \neq 0$$

Notice that the quotient rule cannot be applied directly to $\lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{x^2 - 5x - 50}{x - 10}$ since the value of the denominator is 0 when $x = 10$. However, the limit can be found after factoring the polynomial in the numerator and dividing out the common factor. Factor the numerator.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{x^2 - 5x - 50}{x - 10} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{(x - 10)(x + 5)}{x - 10}$$

Divide out any common terms and rewrite the expression.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{\overset{1}{\cancel{(x - 10)}}(x + 5)}{\underset{1}{\cancel{(x - 10)}}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} (x + 5)$$

Recall the polynomial rule for limits. If $p(x)$ defines a polynomial function, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} p(x) = p(a)$.

Apply the polynomial rule to the limit. Evaluate $p(x)$ for $x = 10$.

$$p(x) = x + 5$$

$$p(10) = (10) + 5$$

Now simplify the expression.

$$10 + 5 = 15$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{x^2 - 5x - 50}{x - 10} = 15.$$

Student: Cole Lamers
Date: 08/30/19

Instructor: Viktoriya Shcherban
Course: Calc 1 11:30 AM / Internet
(81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
Limit Laws

Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 16} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 4}{x - 16}$.

Before trying to determine the limit, rationalize the numerator and simplify.

$$\frac{\sqrt{x} - 4}{x - 16} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x} + 4}{\sqrt{x} + 4} = \frac{x - (4)^2}{(x - 16)(\sqrt{x} + 4)} = \frac{x - 16}{(x - 16)(\sqrt{x} + 4)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x} + 4}$$

Substituting the rationalized and simplified form gives the following.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 16} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 4}{x - 16} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 16} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x} + 4} = \frac{1}{8}$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sqrt{3h+1} - 1)}{h} \cdot \frac{(\sqrt{3h+1} + 1)}{(\sqrt{3h+1} + 1)}$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{3h+1} - \cancel{1}}{\cancel{h} (\sqrt{3h+1} + 1)} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3}{\sqrt{3h+1} + 1}$$

$$= \frac{3}{\sqrt{3 \cdot 0 + 1} + 1} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{1} + 1} = \frac{3}{2}$$

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 (81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
 Limit Laws

Limits of the form $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ occur frequently in calculus. Evaluate this limit for the given value of x and function f .

$$f(x) = x^2, \quad x = 7$$

First rewrite the limit in terms of the given function f .

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h}$$

Now substitute 7 for x in the function and simplify.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(7+h)^2 - 7^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{49 + 14h + h^2 - 49}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(14+h)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (14+h) \end{aligned}$$

Evaluate each term in the numerator.

Simplify and factor the numerator.

Simplify.

To evaluate the limit of a polynomial function as x approaches c , substitute c for x in the formula for the function.

If $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$, then the limit as x approaches c is the value of the polynomial function at $x = c$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} P(x) = P(c) = a_n c^n + a_{n-1} c^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$$

Use the theorem given above to evaluate the limit.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (14+h) = 14$$

The value of the limit is 14.

Student: Cole Lamers
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Course: Calc 1 11:30 AM / Internet
(81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
Limit Laws

Find $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ for the given function and value of x .

$$f(x) = 3x - 5, x = 8$$

To find the limit, begin by finding $f(x+h)$. Substitute $x+h$ for each x in $f(x)$.

$$f(x+h) = 3(x+h) - 5$$

Next, substitute the functions $f(x+h)$ and $f(x)$ into $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ and then simplify.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3(x+h) - 5 - (3x - 5)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3h}{h}$$

Simplify the quotient.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3h}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 3$$

Find the limit.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 3 = 3$$

$$\text{Thus, } \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = 3.$$

Student: Cole Lamers
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Instructor: Viktoriya Shcherban
Course: Calc 1 11:30 AM / Internet
 (81749&81750) Shcherban

Assignment: 2.2 Limit of a Function and
 Limit Laws

If $\sqrt{11 - 8x^2} \leq f(x) \leq \sqrt{11 - x^2}$ for $-1 \leq x \leq 1$, find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$.

The sandwich theorem allows you to calculate the limit of a function f whose values fall between the values of two other functions g and h that have the same limit L at a point c .

Suppose that $g(x) \leq f(x) \leq h(x)$ for all x in some open interval containing c , except possibly at $x = c$ itself. If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$ and

$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} h(x)$ are both equal to L , then $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ is also equal to L .

Begin by finding $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{11 - 8x^2}$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{11 - 8x^2} = \sqrt{11 - 8(0)^2} = \sqrt{11}$$

Next, find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{11 - x^2}$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{11 - x^2} = \sqrt{11 - (0)^2} = \sqrt{11}$$

Since $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{11 - 8x^2} = \sqrt{11}$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{11 - x^2} = \sqrt{11}$, the sandwich theorem implies that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \sqrt{11}$.