

**Student:** Cole Lamers  
**Date:** 09/02/19

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

**Assignment:** 2.3 The Precise Definition of a Limit

For the given function  $f(x)$  and values of  $L$ ,  $c$ , and  $\varepsilon > 0$  find the largest open interval about  $c$  on which the inequality  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  holds. Then determine the largest value for  $\delta > 0$  such that  $0 < |x - c| < \delta \rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ .

$$f(x) = x^2, \quad L = 25, \quad c = -5, \quad \varepsilon = 0.3$$

Solve  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  to find the largest interval containing  $c$  on which the inequality holds.

$$|x^2 - L| < 0.3 \rightarrow -0.3 < x^2 - 25 < 0.3$$

Simplify by adding 25 to all expressions.

$$-0.3 < x^2 - 25 < 0.3 \rightarrow 24.7 < x^2 < 25.3$$

Since all three expressions are greater than 0, simplify by taking the square root of all expressions.

$$4.9699 < x < 5.0299$$

However,  $c$  is  $-5$ , not  $5$ . Multiply  $(4.9699 < x < 5.0299)$  by  $-1$ , producing  $-5.0299 < -x < -4.9699$ . Note: since  $x > 0$ ,  $-x < 0$ .

Since interval  $(-5.0299, -4.9699)$  is not symmetric with respect to  $-5$ ,  $\delta$  is the distance from  $-5$  to the closer endpoint of the interval.

Thus,  $\delta = 0.0299$ .

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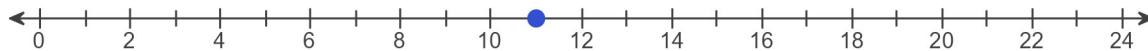
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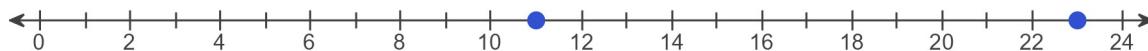
Suppose that the interval  $(a,b)$  is on the x-axis with the point  $c$  inside the interval. For the given values of  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ , find the value of  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x$ ,  $0 < |x - c| < \delta \rightarrow a < x < b$ .

$$a = 11, \quad b = 23, \quad c = 20$$

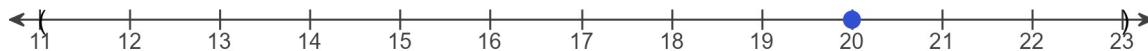
Plot  $a$  on the number line.



Now plot  $b$  on the number line.



Plot  $c$ . Notice the number line is the interval  $(a,b)$ .



The distance from  $c$  to  $b$  is shorter than the distance from  $c$  to  $a$  since  $c$  is closer to  $b$  on the number line.

The expression  $|x - c|$  gives the distance of any point,  $x$ , on the x-axis from the point  $c$ . To make sure  $x$  is in the interval, the distance from  $c$  to  $x$  must be less than the distance from  $c$  to either endpoint. Therefore, the distance must be less than  $23 - 20 = 3$ .

If the distance of any point,  $x$ , on the x-axis is less than 3 from the given point  $c$ , then that point will be within the interval  $(a,b)$ . Symbolically, if  $|x - c| < 3 \rightarrow a < x < b$ .

Thus,  $\delta = 3$ .

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$$f(x) = 2x + 3, \quad L = 9, \quad c = 3, \quad \varepsilon = 0.04$$

Solve  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  to find the largest interval containing  $c$  on which the inequality holds.

$$|(2x + 3) - 9| < 0.04 \rightarrow -0.04 < [(2x + 3) - 9] < 0.04$$

Combine the constants.

$$-0.04 < 2x - 6 < 0.04$$

Simplify.

$$5.96 < 2x < 6.04$$

Complete the solution of the inequality by dividing the three expressions by 2.

$$2.98 < x < 3.02$$

Since the interval  $2.98 < x < 3.02$  is centered on  $c = 3$ ,  $\delta$  is the distance from 3 to either endpoint of the interval.

Thus, the value of  $\delta$  is 0.02.

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For the given function  $f(x)$  and numbers  $L$ ,  $c$ , and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , find an open interval about  $c$  on which the inequality  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  holds. Then give a value for  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x$  satisfying  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$  the inequality  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  holds.

$$f(x) = x^2 - 7, L = 2, c = 3, \varepsilon = 1$$

Begin by solving the inequality  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  to find an open interval  $(a, b)$  containing  $c$  on which the inequality holds for all  $x \neq c$ .

Remove the absolute value sign and rewrite the inequality as a compound inequality.

$$\begin{aligned} |(x^2 - 7) - 2| &< 1 \\ -1 &< (x^2 - 7) - 2 &< 1 \end{aligned}$$

Simplify the center expression and isolate the  $x$ -term.

$$\begin{aligned} -1 &< (x^2 - 7) - 2 &< 1 \\ -1 &< x^2 - 9 &< 1 \\ 8 &< x^2 &< 10 \end{aligned}$$

Isolate  $x$  by taking the square root of all three parts.

$$\begin{aligned} 8 &< x^2 &< 10 \\ 2\sqrt{2} &< x &< \sqrt{10} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for the open interval  $(2\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{10})$ , which contains  $x = 3$ , the inequality  $|(x^2 - 7) - 2| < 1$  holds.

Now choose a positive value for  $\delta$  that places the open interval  $(c - \delta, c + \delta)$  centered on  $c$  inside the interval  $(2\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{10})$ .

Use the smallest distance between  $c = 3$  and the endpoints of the interval  $(2\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{10})$ .

The distance to the first endpoint is  $3 - 2\sqrt{2} \approx 0.1716$ .

The distance to the second endpoint is  $\sqrt{10} - 3 \approx 0.1623$ .

The largest possible value for  $\delta$  is  $\sqrt{10} - 3$ .

Therefore, for all  $x$  satisfying  $0 < |x - 3| < \sqrt{10} - 3$ , the inequality  $|(x^2 - 7) - 2| < 1$  holds.

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For the given function  $f(x)$ , the point  $c$ , and a positive number  $\varepsilon$ , find  $L = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ . Then find a number  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x$ ,

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta \rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon.$$

$$f(x) = 8 - 3x, c = 4, \varepsilon = 0.03$$

Notice that  $f(x)$  is a linear function. Since a linear function is a simple polynomial function and it is defined for all  $x$ , the limit  $L = \lim_{x \rightarrow c}$  is the value of  $f(x)$  at  $c$ .

Evaluate the function at  $c = 4$ .

$$L = 8 - 3(4) = -4$$

To find  $\delta$ , begin by solving the inequality  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  to find an open interval  $(a, b)$  containing  $c$  on which the inequality holds for all  $x \neq c$ .

Remove the absolute value sign and rewrite the inequality as a compound inequality.

$$\begin{aligned} |(8 - 3x) - (-4)| &< 0.03 \\ -0.03 &< (8 - 3x) - (-4) < 0.03 \end{aligned}$$

Simplify the center expression and isolate the  $x$ -term.

$$\begin{aligned} -0.03 &< (8 - 3x) - (-4) < 0.03 \\ -0.03 &< -3x + 12 < 0.03 \\ -12.03 &< -3x < -11.97 \end{aligned}$$

Then isolate  $x$  in the center. Notice that the direction of the inequalities has been changed.

$$\begin{aligned} -12.03 &< -3x < -11.97 \\ 4.01 &> x > 3.99 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for  $x$  in the interval  $(3.99, 4.01)$ , the inequality  $|(8 - 3x) - (-4)| < 0.03$  holds. Now choose a positive value for  $\delta$  that places the open interval  $(c - \delta, c + \delta)$  centered on  $c$  inside the interval  $(3.99, 4.01)$ .

Use the smallest distance between  $c = 4$  and the endpoints of the interval  $(3.99, 4.01)$ .

The distance to the first endpoint is  $4 - 3.99 = 0.01$ .

The distance to the second endpoint is  $4.01 - 4 = 0.01$ .

The largest possible value for  $\delta$  is 0.01.

Therefore, for all  $x$  satisfying  $0 < |x - 4| < 0.01$ , the inequality  $|(8 - 3x) - (-4)| < 0.03$  holds.

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**Assignment:** 2.3 The Precise Definition of a Limit

Give an  $\varepsilon$ - $\delta$  proof of the limit fact.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (5x + 1) = 1$$

We begin by giving the precise meaning of limit.

To say that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  means that for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  (no matter how small) there is a corresponding  $\delta > 0$  such that  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ ,

provided that  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ ; that is,

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon.$$

To establish the proof, we first perform a preliminary analysis to find the appropriate choice of  $\delta$ .

Let  $\varepsilon$  be any positive number.

We must produce a  $\delta > 0$  such that  $0 < |x - 0| < \delta \Rightarrow |(5x + 1) - 1| < \varepsilon$ .

By simplifying the inequality on the right, we will determine the value of  $\delta$  needed for the inequality on the left.

$$\begin{aligned} |(5x + 1) - 1| &< \varepsilon \Leftrightarrow |5x| < \varepsilon \\ &\Leftrightarrow |5| |x| < \varepsilon \\ &\Leftrightarrow 5|x| < \varepsilon \\ &\Leftrightarrow |x| < \frac{\varepsilon}{5}, \text{ or equivalently, } |x - 0| < \frac{\varepsilon}{5} \end{aligned}$$

Now we see that we should choose  $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{5}$ . We can now construct the formal proof of the statement  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (5x + 1) = 1$ .

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. Choose  $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{5}$ . Then  $0 < |x - 0| < \delta$  implies the following chain of equalities and an inequality.

$$\begin{aligned} |(5x + 1) - 1| &= |5x| && \text{Simplify inside absolute value bars.} \\ &= |5| |x| && \text{Rewrite as product of absolute values.} \\ &= 5|x| && \text{Simplify.} \\ &= 5|x - 0| && \text{Rewrite expression inside absolute value bars.} \\ &< 5\delta && \text{Apply the condition } 0 < |x - 0| < \delta. \\ &= \varepsilon && \text{Substitute } \delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{5} \text{ and multiply.} \end{aligned}$$

The result of the above chain of equalities and an inequality is that  $|(5x + 1) - 1| < \varepsilon$ .

Therefore, we have proven that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (5x + 1) = 1$ .

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Give an  $\varepsilon$ - $\delta$  proof of the limit fact.

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

We begin by giving the precise meaning of limit.

To say that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  means that for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  (no matter how small) there is a corresponding  $\delta > 0$  such that  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ ,

provided that  $0 < |x - c| < \delta$ ; that is,

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon.$$

To establish the proof, we first perform a preliminary analysis to find the appropriate choice of  $\delta$ .

Let  $\varepsilon$  be any positive number. Insert the information from the problem into the precise definition of limit.

We must produce a  $\delta > 0$  such that  $0 < |x - 2| < \delta \Rightarrow \left| \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} - 4 \right| < \varepsilon$ .

By simplifying the inequality on the right, we will determine the value of  $\delta$  needed for the inequality on the left. Simplify the expression inside the absolute value bars.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} - 4 \right| &< \varepsilon \Leftrightarrow \left| \frac{(x+2)(x-2)}{x-2} - 4 \right| && \text{Factor the difference of two squares.} \\ &\Leftrightarrow |x+2-4| && \text{Simplify the rational expression.} \\ &\Leftrightarrow |x-2| && \text{Combine like terms.} \end{aligned}$$

We next choose the value  $\delta$ . Based on the analysis above, should choose  $\delta = \varepsilon$ . With  $\delta = \varepsilon$ , we have  $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$  because of the result from the previous step.

We can now construct the formal proof of the statement  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \left( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} \right) = 4$ .

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. Choose  $\delta = \varepsilon$ . Then  $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$  implies the following chain of equalities and an inequality.

Begin with the left side of the inequality we want to prove.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} - 4 \right| &= |(x+2)-4| && \text{Factor the difference of two squares and divide by the common factor.} \\ &= |x-2| && \text{Combine like terms.} \\ &< \delta && \text{Now apply the condition } 0 < |x-2| < \delta. \\ &= \varepsilon && \text{Finally, substitute, using } \delta = \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

The result of the above chain of equalities and an inequality is that  $\left| \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} - 4 \right| < \varepsilon$ .

Therefore, we have proven that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \left( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} \right) = 4$ .

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Then determine the largest value for  $\delta > 0$  such that  $0 < |x - c| < \delta \rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ .

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 81}{x - 9}, \quad c = 9, \quad \varepsilon = 0.07$$

Begin by determining the value of the limit  $L$ .

$$L = \lim_{x \rightarrow 9} \frac{x^2 - 81}{x - 9} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 9} \frac{(x + 9)(x - 9)}{x - 9} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 9} (x + 9) = 18$$

Now that  $L$  is known, solve  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$  to find the largest interval containing  $c$  on which the inequality holds and use this information to determine  $\delta$ .

$$\left| \frac{x^2 - 81}{x - 9} - 18 \right| < 0.07 \rightarrow 17.93 < (x + 9) < 18.07$$

So, the interval on the  $x$ -axis is  $8.93 < x < 9.07$ ,  $x \neq 9$  because  $f(x)$  is not defined at  $x = 9$ .

Now,  $|x - c| < \delta$  is  $|x - 9| < \delta$ , which implies  $-\delta < (x - 9) < \delta$ , or  $9 - \delta < x < 9 + \delta$ ,  $x \neq 9$ .

Comparing the intervals or  $9 - \delta < x < 9 + \delta$  and  $8.93 < x < 9.07$ ,  $9 - \delta = 8.93$  and  $9 + \delta = 9.07$ . Thus,  $\delta = 0.07$ .