

第 1.2 节 函数的极限 (limits of Functions)

一、内容提要 (contents)

极限作为一种在某个变化过程中变量的确定的变化趋势。单侧极限 (one-sided limit)。

定理: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \Leftrightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L, \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$ 均成立

水平渐近线 (horizontal asymptote): $y = L$ 称为曲线 $y = f(x)$ 的水平渐近线如果下面极限之一成立: $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = L$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L$ 或 $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$ 。

铅垂渐近线 (Vertical Asymptote): $x = a$ 称为曲线 $y = f(x)$ 的铅垂渐近线如果下面极限之一成立: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = +\infty$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = +\infty$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = -\infty$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = +\infty$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = -\infty$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$ 。

二、习题解答 (answers)

Exercise 1.2

1. Do the following limits exist? Why?

(1) $x \rightarrow 0, f(x) = \cos \frac{1}{x}$

Solution: As $x \rightarrow 0$, $u = \frac{1}{x} \rightarrow \infty$, and $\cos \frac{1}{x} = \cos u$ is a periodic wave without end, so there is no definite tendency, so $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos \frac{1}{x} = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \cos u$ does not exist.

(2) $x \rightarrow 0, f(x) = \frac{1}{1+2^{\frac{1}{x}}}$

Solution: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} 2^{\frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{u \rightarrow +\infty} 2^u = +\infty$

So $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{1+2^{\frac{1}{x}}} = \frac{1}{+\infty} = 0$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} 2^{\frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{u \rightarrow -\infty} 2^u = 0$$

$$\text{So } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{1+2^{\frac{1}{x}}} = \frac{1}{1+0} = 1$$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x)$, (the right hand limit is not the same as the left hand limit) , so $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ does not exist

$$(3) \quad x \rightarrow \infty, f(x) = \arctan x$$

Solution:

From the graph of $f(x) = \arctan x$, we have $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = -\frac{\pi}{2}$.

So $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \arctan x$ does not exist (because the left hand limit is not equal to the right hand limit)

$$(4) \quad x \rightarrow 0, f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1 & x < 0 \\ 1 & x = 0 \\ 2 & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

Solution:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x+1) = 0+1 = 1$$

$$\text{whereas } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} 2 = 2$$

So $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$, hence $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ does not exist.

2. Find horizontal and vertical asymptotes for function $f(x) = \frac{x^2+x-2}{x^2-3x+2}$

Solution.

$$\text{As } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2+x-2}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1+\frac{1}{x}-\frac{2}{x^2}}{1-\frac{3}{x}+\frac{2}{x^2}} = \frac{1+0-0}{1-0+0} = 1$$

So, $y = 1$ is a horizontal asymptote.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2+x-2}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x+2)(x-1)}{(x-2)(x-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x+2)}{(x-2)} = \infty .$$

So, $x = 2$ is a vertical asymptote of $f(x)$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2+x-2}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x+2)(x-1)}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x+2)}{(x-2)} = \frac{1+2}{1-2} = -3$$

So, $x = 1$ is not a vertical asymptote of $f(x)$, although as $x \rightarrow 1$

The denominator, $x^2 - 3x + 2 \rightarrow 0$.