

Theorem 26.1: Let $f(x)$ be a function and let a be a real number. Let $r > 0$ be a positive real number such that f is defined at every point of $\{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 0 < |x - a| < r\}$. Let L be any real number.

Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ if and only if for every sequence $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ that converges to a and satisfies $0 < |x_n - a| < r$ for all n , we have that the sequence $\{f(x_n)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to L .

Theorem 26.2. (Algebra and limits of functions): Suppose f and g are two functions and that a is a real number, and assume that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = M$$

for some real numbers L and M . Then

- (1) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (f(x) + g(x)) = L + M$.
- (2) For any real number c , $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (c \cdot f(x)) = c \cdot L$.
- (3) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (f(x) \cdot g(x)) = L \cdot M$.
- (4) If, in addition, we have that $M \neq 0$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (f(x)/g(x)) = L/M$.

Theorem 26.3. (Squeeze Theorem for limits): Suppose f , g , and h are three functions and a is a real number. Suppose there is a positive real number $r > 0$ such that

- each of f, g, h is defined on $\{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 0 < |x - a| < r\}$,
- $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$ for all x such that $0 < |x - a| < r$, and
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} h(x)$ for some number L .

Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L$.

- (1) Use Theorem 26.1 to show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ does not exist.

Suggestion: Let $f(x) = \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ and suppose $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = L$. Find sequences $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ and $\{y_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ such that

- $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ and $\{y_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ both converge to 0,
- $f(x_n) = 1$ for all n , and
- $f(y_n) = -1$ for all n .

You can use any trig facts on the bottom of the page.

- (2) Use Theorem 26.2 plus a fact from last time¹ to compute $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{3x^2 - x + 2}{x + 3}$.
- (3) Use Theorem 26.3 to show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 0$. You can use any trig facts on the bottom of the page.
- (4) Use Theorem 26.1 to deduce Theorem 26.3 from our Squeeze Theorem for sequences.
- (5) Use Theorem 26.1 to deduce Theorem 26.2 part (1) from our Theorem on algebra and sequences.
- (6) Use Theorem 26.1 to deduce Theorem 26.2 part (4) from our Theorem on algebra and sequences.

- $-1 \leq \sin(x) \leq 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\sin(x) = 1 \iff x \in \frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi\mathbb{Z}$
- $\sin(x) = 0 \iff x \in \pi\mathbb{Z}$

- $\sin(x) = -1 \iff x \in \frac{-\pi}{2} + 2\pi\mathbb{Z}$
- $\pi \notin \mathbb{Q}$
- $\sin(x) = \sin(y) \iff x - y \in 2\pi\mathbb{Z} \text{ or } x + y \in \pi + 2\pi\mathbb{Z}$

¹ $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} mx + b = ma + b$. In particular, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow b} b = b$.