

Calculus 1: Review (Test 1)

1. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (5x^2 + 3x + 8)$$

Solution: Since this expression is a polynomial, we can find the limit as x approaches 5 by evaluating at 5.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (5x^2 + 3x + 8) &= 5(5)^2 + 3(5) + 8 \\ &= 125 + 15 + 8 \\ &= 148. \end{aligned}$$

2. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{x^2 - 3x - 28}{x - 7}$$

Solution: Note that this rational function is not defined at $x = 7$. However, factoring the numerator we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{x^2 - 3x - 28}{x - 7} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{(x - 7)(x + 4)}{x - 7} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{\cancel{(x - 7)}(x + 4)}{\cancel{x - 7}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} (x + 4) \\ &= 11. \end{aligned}$$

3. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$$

Solution: Note that this expression is not defined if $x = 3$. However, we can factor the numerator as a difference of squares and cancel.

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

4. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x - 4}{\sqrt{x} - 2}$$

Solution: Note that this expression is not defined if $x = 4$. However, we can factor the numerator as a difference of squares.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x - 4}{\sqrt{x} - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{(\sqrt{x} - 2)(\sqrt{x} + 2)}{\sqrt{x} - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (\sqrt{x} + 2) = 4$$

5. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 26} \frac{\sqrt{x-1} - 5}{x - 26}$$

Solution: Note that this expression is not defined if $x = 26$. But also note that if we multiply the numerator by its radical conjugate, something nice happens:

$$(\sqrt{x-1} - 5)(\sqrt{x-1} + 5) = x - 1 - 25 = x - 26.$$

Let's try multiplying by 1, but write 1 as $\frac{\sqrt{x-1} + 5}{\sqrt{x-1} + 5}$ over itself.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 26} \frac{\sqrt{x-1} - 5}{x - 26} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 26} \left(\frac{\sqrt{x-1} - 5}{x - 26} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x-1} + 5}{\sqrt{x-1} + 5} \right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 26} \frac{x - 26}{(x - 26)(\sqrt{x-1} + 5)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 26} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-1} + 5} \\ &= \frac{1}{10} \end{aligned}$$

6. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 28} \frac{\sqrt{x-3} - 5}{x - 28}$$

Solution: Note that this expression is not defined if $x = 28$. But also note that if we multiply the numerator by its radical conjugate, something nice happens:

$$(\sqrt{x-3} - 5)(\sqrt{x-3} + 5) = x - 3 - 25 = x - 28.$$

Let's try multiplying by 1, but write 1 as $\frac{\sqrt{x-3} + 5}{\sqrt{x-3} + 5}$ over itself.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 28} \frac{\sqrt{x-3} - 5}{x - 28} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 28} \left(\frac{\sqrt{x-3} - 5}{x - 28} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x-3} + 5}{\sqrt{x-3} + 5} \right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 28} \frac{x - 28}{(x - 28)(\sqrt{x-3} + 5)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 28} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-3} + 5} \\ &= \frac{1}{10} \end{aligned}$$

7. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^3 - 2x^2 - 9x + 18}{x - 2}$$

Solution: Note that this rational function is not defined if $x = 2$. However, 2 is a root of both the numerator and the denominator, so we can factor (either by grouping or using long or synthetic division) and cancel.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^3 - 2x^2 - 9x + 18}{x - 2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2(x - 2) - 9(x - 2)}{x - 2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x - 2)(x^2 - 9)}{x - 2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x^2 - 9) \\ &= -5 \end{aligned}$$

8. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -4} \frac{x^3 + 6x^2 + 5x - 12}{x + 4}$$

Solution: Note that this rational function is not defined if $x = -4$. However, -4 is a root of both the numerator and the denominator, so we can factor (using either long or synthetic division) and cancel.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -4} \frac{x^3 + 6x^2 + 5x - 12}{x + 4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -4} \frac{(x + 4)(x^2 + 2x - 3)}{x + 4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -4} (x^2 + 2x - 3) = 5$$

9. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} |x^2 + 2x - 4|$$

Solution: The function which we are computing the limit of here is continuous everywhere; so to find the limit, we can simply evaluate this function at $x = 0$. Thus

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} |x^2 + 2x - 4| = |-4| = 4$$

So the limit is $\boxed{4}$.

10. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \left| \frac{x^3 - 125}{x - 5} \right|$$

Solution: Note that this expression is not defined if $x = 5$ because of the $x - 5$ in the denominator. However, we can factor the numerator as a difference of cubes and cancel.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \left| \frac{x^3 - 125}{x - 5} \right| = \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \left| \frac{(x - 5)(x^2 + 5x + 25)}{x - 5} \right| = \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} |x^2 + 5x + 25| = |75| = 75$$

Now this function is continuous everywhere, so we can compute the limit by evaluating at $x = 5$; this yields a limit of $\boxed{75}$.

11. Compute the limit of the difference quotient

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow t} \frac{f(x) - f(t)}{x - t}$$

when $f(x) = 2x + 1$ and $t = 10$.

Solution: We have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{f(x) - f(10)}{x - 10} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{(2x + 1) - (2 \cdot 10 + 1)}{x - 10} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{2x - 2 \cdot 10}{x - 10} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{2(x - 10)}{x - 10} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 10} 2 \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

12. Compute the limit of the difference quotient

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow t} \frac{f(x) - f(t)}{x - t}$$

when $f(x) = 9x^2 + 8x + 3$ and $t = 7$.

Solution: We have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{f(x) - f(7)}{x - 7} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{(9x^2 + 8x + 3) - (9(7)^2 + 8(7) + 3)}{x - 7} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{9x^2 - 9(7)^2 + 8x - 8(7) + 3 - 3}{x - 7} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{9(x^2 - 7^2) + 8(x - 7)}{x - 7} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{9(x - 7)(x + 7) + 8(x - 7)}{x - 7} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{(x - 7)(9(x + 7) + 8)}{x - 7} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} (9(x + 7) + 8) \\ &= 9(7 + 7) + 8 \\ &= 134 \end{aligned}$$

13. Compute the limit of the difference quotient

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow t} \frac{f(x) - f(t)}{x - t}$$

when $f(x) = \sqrt{x + 2}$ and $t = 2$.

Solution: We have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{f(x) - f(2)}{x - 2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sqrt{x + 2} - \sqrt{4}}{x - 2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \left(\frac{\sqrt{x + 2} - \sqrt{4}}{x - 2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x + 2} + \sqrt{4}}{\sqrt{x + 2} + \sqrt{4}} \right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x + 2) - (4)}{(x - 2)(\sqrt{x + 2} + \sqrt{4})} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x - 2}{(x - 2)(\sqrt{x + 2} + \sqrt{4})} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x + 2} + \sqrt{4}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{4}} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

14. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(8x)}{x}$$

Solution: Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(8x)}{x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{8 \sin(8x)}{8x} \\
 &= 8 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(8x)}{8x} \\
 &= 8 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \text{sinc}(8x) \\
 &= 8 \text{sinc}\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 8x\right) \quad (\text{since sinc is continuous}) \\
 &= 8 \text{sinc}(0) \\
 &= 8.
 \end{aligned}$$

15. Compute the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x^2 + 5x + \sin x}{x}$$

Solution: This expression is not defined if $x = 0$. However, we can split this fraction like so:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x^2 + 5x + \sin(x)}{x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{3x^2 + 5x}{x} + \frac{\sin x}{x} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(3x + 5 + \frac{\sin x}{x} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that the limit of a sum is the sum of limits, *provided* the limit of each summand exists. In this case they do, and we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (3x + 5) + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} \\
 &= 5 + 1 \\
 &= 6.
 \end{aligned}$$

16. Let $f(x)$ be the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x-b}{b+3} & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x^2 + b & \text{if } x \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

Find the value(s) of the constant b such that $f(x)$ is continuous everywhere.

Solution: Remember that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ exists precisely when the one-sided limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x)$ exist and are equal to one another. In this case, we have

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

and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{x-b}{b+3} = \frac{-b}{b+3}.$$

Setting these equal, we have

$$b = \frac{-b}{b+3}.$$

The values for b we want are precisely the solutions of this equation. Clearing denominators, we have

$$b^2 + 3b = -b,$$

and solving for zero we have

$$b^2 + 4b = 0 \quad \text{which factors as} \quad b(b + 4) = 0.$$

So $b = 0$ or $b = -4$.

17. Compute the following derivative.

$$\frac{d}{dx} (6x^2 + 13x + 11)$$

Solution: Since this function is a polynomial, we can use the power rule on each term. The derivative is

$$\boxed{f'(x) = 12x + 13.}$$

18. Compute the derivative of the following function of t .

$$f(t) = \frac{7}{t^3} + \frac{4}{t} + 8t^5.$$

Solution: We start by moving all the variables to the numerators of fractions like so.

$$f(t) = 7t^{-3} + 4t^{-1} + 8t^5.$$

Now we can use the power rule on each term. In particular, we have

$$\boxed{f'(t) = -21t^{-4} - 4t^{-2} + 40t^4.}$$

19. Let $f(x) = x + \frac{4}{x}$.

(a) Compute the derivative of f .

(b) Find an equation for the line tangent to f at the point $(2, 4)$.

Solution: Note that

$$f(x) = x + 4x^{-1},$$

which we can differentiate term-by-term using the power rule to get

$$\boxed{f'(x) = -4x^{-2}.}$$

Recall that the line tangent to the graph of f at a point (u, v) has slope $f'(u)$ and passes through (u, v) . Thus the slope of the tangent line to f at $x = 2$ is $f'(2) = -1$, and the line with this slope and passing through $(2, 4)$ is given by the equation

$$-1 = \frac{y - 4}{x - 2}$$

or, in slope-intercept form,

$$\boxed{y = -x + 6.}$$

20. Compute the derivative of the following function.

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 5x + 3}{6x - 5}$$

Solution: We can use the quotient rule on this function as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} f(x) &= \frac{\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + 5x + 3)}{6x - 5} \\ &= \frac{(6x - 5) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + 5x + 3) - (x^2 + 5x + 3) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (6x - 5)}{(6x - 5)^2} \\ &= \frac{(6x - 5)(2x + 5) - (x^2 + 5x + 3)(6)}{(6x - 5)^2} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{6x^2 - 10x - 43}{(6x - 5)^2}} \end{aligned}$$

21. Find the values of x at which the line tangent to

$$f(x) = x^3 + 11x^2 + 44x + 87$$

is horizontal.

Solution: Recall that a line is horizontal precisely when its slope is zero, and that the slope of the line tangent to f at c is given by $f'(c)$. So it suffices to find the solutions x of the equation $f'(x) = 0$. To this end, note that

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 + 23x + 44.$$

This is a quadratic, which we can solve using our favorite method to find that f has a horizontal tangent line precisely when x is $\boxed{-4 \text{ or } -11/3}$.