

Notes on limits: In recitation on Thursday, we will cover some examples of limits. Below I will state some facts about limits that we will use.

1. If $f(x)$ is a continuous function and $g(x)$ is any function, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(g(x)) = f(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x))$.

2. Let us denote the expression:

- (a) " $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ " by ∞ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = \infty$
- (b) " $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ " by $-\infty$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = -\infty$

Then when A is a constant finite number, we have:

- (a) $A + \infty = \infty + A = \infty$
- (b) $A - \infty = -\infty + A = -\infty$
- (c) $-A + \infty = \infty - A = \infty$
- (d) $-A - \infty = -\infty - A = -\infty$
- (e) $\infty + \infty = \infty$
- (f) $-\infty - \infty = -\infty$
- (g) $A * \infty = \infty * A = \infty$ if $A > 0$, and $A * \infty = \infty * A = -\infty$ if $A < 0$
- (h) $\infty * \infty = \infty$
- (i) $\frac{A}{\infty} = 0$
- (j) $\frac{\infty}{A} = \infty$ if $A > 0$, and $\frac{\infty}{A} = -\infty$ if $A < 0$

There are two special cases that we will study in this course, where simple rules like those above no longer work.

Case: $\infty - \infty$:

Here are three examples showing that $\infty - \infty$ may equal any of ∞ , $-\infty$, or a finite constant number A .

- (a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x^2 - x] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x(x - 1)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x] * \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [(x - 1)] = \infty * \infty = \infty$
- (b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x - (x - A)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [A] = A$
- (c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x^2 - x^3] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x^2(1 - x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x^2] \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [(1 - x)] = \infty * (-\infty) = -\infty$

Case: ∞/∞ :

Here are four examples showing that ∞/∞ may equal any of ∞ , $-\infty$, 0 , or a nonzero finite constant number A .

- (a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x^2/x] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x] = \infty$
- (b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [Ax/x] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [A] = A$
- (c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x^2/x^3] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [1/x] = 0$
- (d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [-x^2/x] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [-x] = -\infty$