

Evaluating Limits

1. Evaluate the following limits for these piecewise functions.

(i) Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 + x, & x < -1 \\ x^2, & -1 \leq x < 1 \\ 2 - x & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

,

find $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x)$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x)$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x)$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x)$. Using what you found what can you say about $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$?

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

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

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

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

(ii) Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 + \sin x, & x < 0 \\ \cos x, & 0 \leq x < \pi \\ \sin x & x \geq \pi \end{cases}$$

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Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} f(x)$ if they exist. If they do not exist explain why.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ exists and is 1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} f(x)$ does not exist as from the left it is -1 but from the right it is 0.

2. Evaluate the following limits or explain why they do not exist

(i)

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2 + h)^3 - 8}{h}$$

Answer: 12

(ii)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 2} \frac{4 - t^2}{t - 2}$$

Answer: -4

(iii)

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

Answer: Does not exist

(iv)

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{25+h}-5}{h}$$

Answer: 1/10