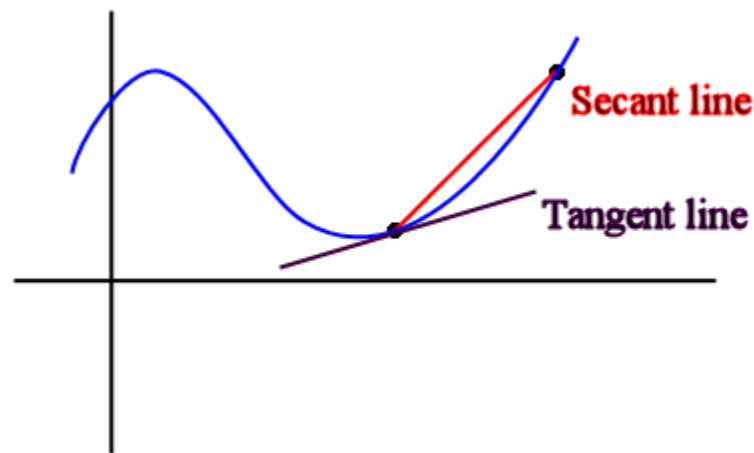


Lecture 2 (Limits)

We shall start with the tangent line problem.

Definition: A **tangent line** (Latin word 'touching') to the function $f(x)$ at the point $x = a$ is a line that touches the graph of the function at that point.

A **secant line** (Latin word 'cutting') is a line that cuts a curve more than once.



Example¹: Let's find a tangent line ($y = mx + b$) to the parabola

$$f(x) = 15 - 2x^2 \text{ at } x = 1$$

$$P(1, 13)$$

$$Q(2, 7)$$

$$m_{PQ} = \frac{f(2) - f(1)}{2 - 1} = \frac{7 - 13}{2 - 1} = -6$$

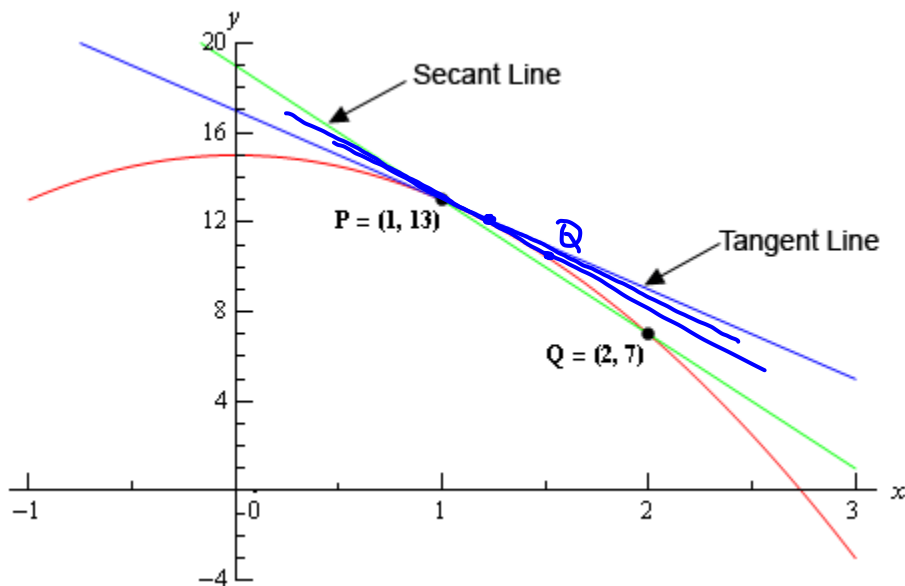
→ slope of secant line PQ

We can use it as an estimate of m .

But we can do better than that

Take Q closer to P

Consider $Q(x, f(x))$, $m_{PQ} \rightarrow m$ as $Q \rightarrow P$
i.e. $x \rightarrow 1$



¹ Source: http://tutorial.math.lamar.edu/Classes/CalcI/Tangents_Rates.aspx

We can get a formula by finding the slope between P and Q using the general form of $Q = (x, f(x))$, i.e.

$$m_{PQ} = \frac{f(x) - f(1)}{x - 1} =$$

$$\frac{15 - 2x^2 - 13}{x - 1} = \frac{2 - 2x^2}{x - 1} = \frac{-2 \cancel{(x-1)}(x+1)}{\cancel{x-1}} = -2(x+1)$$

Now we pick some values of x getting closer and closer to $x = 1$, plug in and get slopes for secant lines:

x	m_{PQ}	x	m_{PQ}
2	-6	0	-2
1.5	-5	0.5	-3
1.1	-4.2	0.9	-3.8
1.01	-4.02	0.99	-3.98
1.001	-4.002	0.999	-3.998
1.0001	-4.0002	0.9999	-3.9998

from the right ↓
from the left ↓

↓ -4
↓ -4

We say that the slope of the tangent line, m , is the **limit** of the slopes of the secant lines:

$$\lim_{Q \rightarrow P} m_{PQ} = m = -4$$

The equation of the line that goes through $(a, f(a))$ is given by

$$y = f(a) + m(x - a)$$

Thus, the equation of the tangent line to $f(x) = 15 - 2x^2$ at $x = 1$ is

$$m = -4, \quad a = 1, \quad f(a) = 13$$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= 13 - 4(x - 1) \\ &= 13 - 4x + 4 \end{aligned}$$

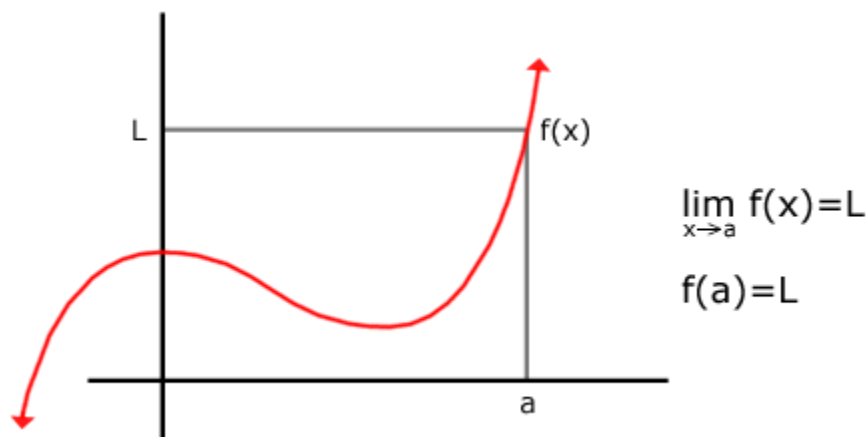
$$y = -4x + 17$$

Limit of Function

Definition: Let $f(x)$ be defined on some open interval that contains number a (except possibly at a itself). Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

if we can make the values of $f(x)$ arbitrarily close to L by taking x to be sufficiently close to a (on either side of a) but not equal to a .



Example: Given graph of $y = f(x)$ find the following limits:

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$

$$= 2$$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$

$$= 3$$

although $f(x)$ is not defined at $x=2$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$

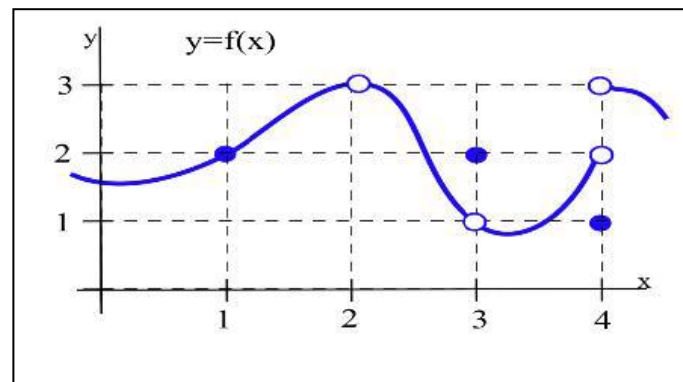
$$= 1$$

although $f(3) = 2$

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x)$

does not exist (dne)

although $f(4) = 1$



Example²: Determine the value of $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{x - 1} = \frac{2 \cdot 3^2 - 3 - 1}{3 - 1} = 7$

Construct the table of values:

x	f(x)
2.9	6.82
2.9997	6.9994
2.999993	6.999986
2.9999999	6.9999998
↓	↓
3	7

x	f(x)
3.1	7.2
3.004	7.008
3.0001	7.0002
3.000002	7.000004
↓	↓
3	7

Thus,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{x - 1} = 7$$

² <http://www.saylor.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2-2FunctionLimit.pdf>

Example (continued): $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{x - 1}$ $\frac{0}{0}$

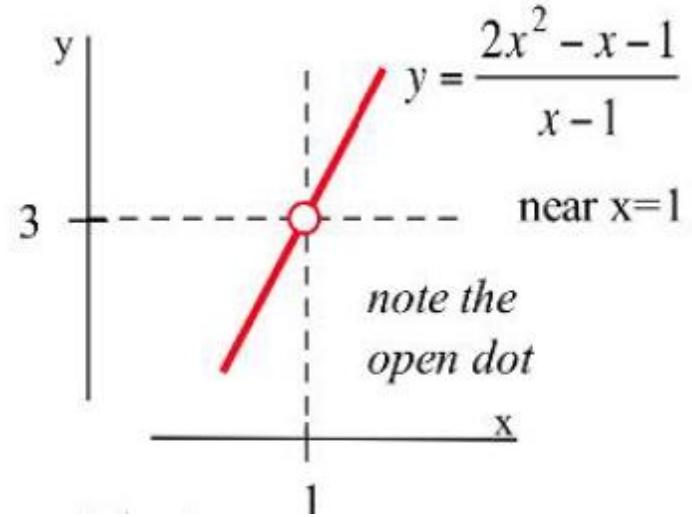
$$\frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{x - 1} = \frac{(2x + 1)\cancel{x - 1}}{\cancel{x - 1}}$$

$$= 2x + 1$$

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

\rightarrow (applying limit laws to be defined later)

x	f(x)
0.9	2.82
0.9998	2.9996
0.999994	2.999988
0.9999999	2.9999998
↓	↓
1	3



x	f(x)
1.1	3.2
1.003	3.006
1.0001	3.0002
1.000007	3.000014
↓	↓
1	3

Example: What can you say about $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin \frac{\pi}{x}$?

$$f(x) = \sin \frac{\pi}{x}$$

↳ not defined at 0

$$f(1) = \sin \pi = 0$$

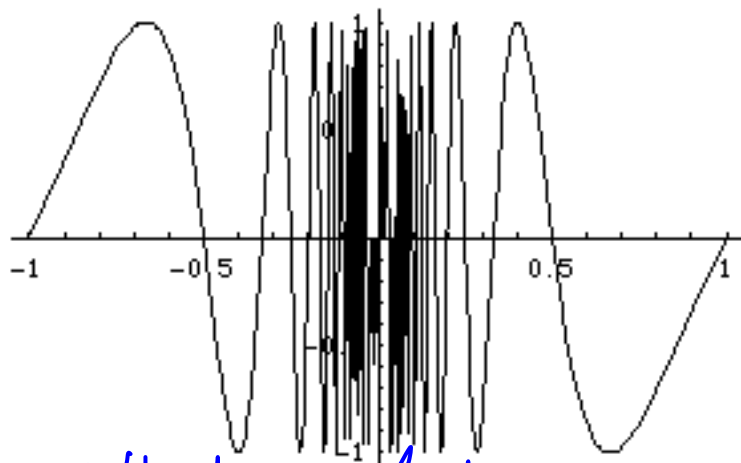
$$f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \sin 2\pi = 0$$

$$f\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \sin 4\pi = 0$$

$$f\left(\frac{1}{100}\right) = \sin 100\pi = 0$$

So, is limit zero?

No!

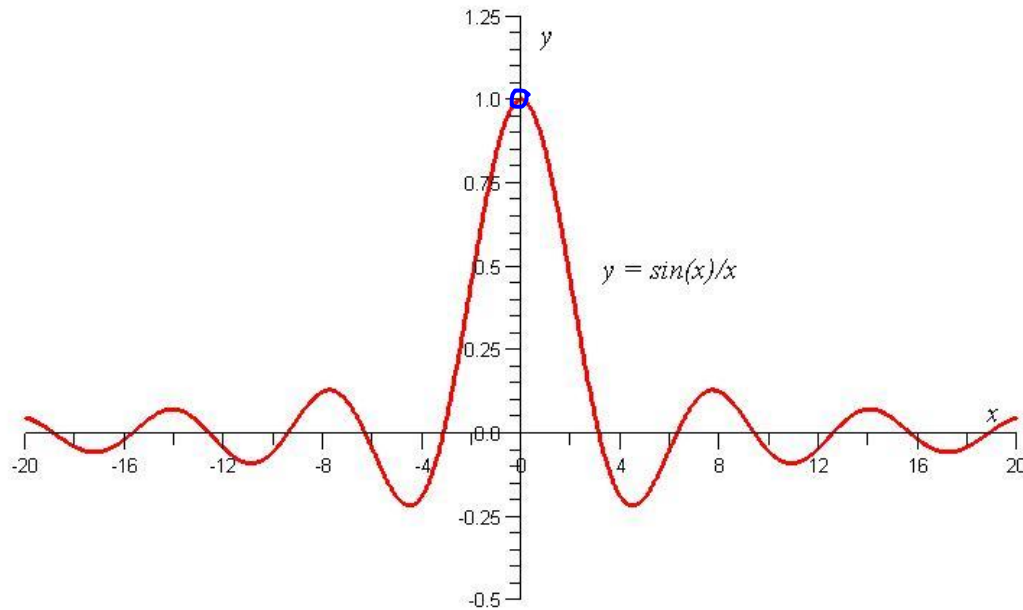


Values of $f(x)$ oscillate between 1 and -1 infinitely often. Thus, limit dne.

Example (famous limit): $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$

Table of values:

x (radians)	-0.7	-0.2	-0.05	0	0.01	0.03	0.3	1.4
$\sin x / x$	0.92031	0.993347	0.999583	***	0.999983	0.99985	0.98506	0.703893



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$

One-Sided Limits

Definition: We write

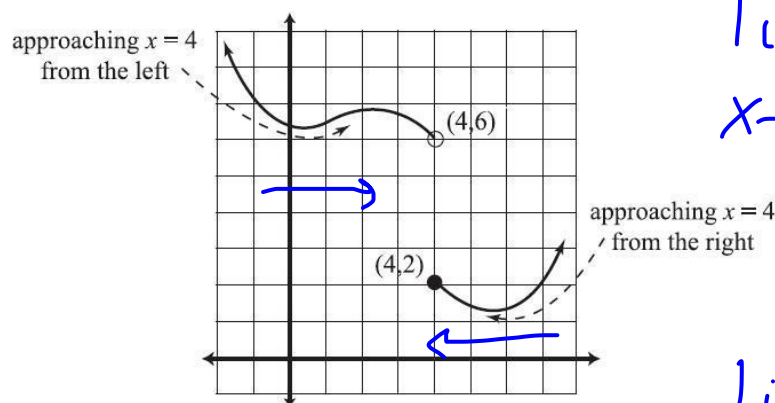
$$\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a^- \\ x < a}} f(x) = L$$

to denote the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the left (**left-hand limit**).

We write

$$\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a^+ \\ x > a}} f(x) = L$$

to denote the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the right (**right-hand limit**).



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} f(x) = 6 \quad \#$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} f(x) = 2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) \text{ dne}$$

Theorem: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ if and only if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$

Corollary: If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ does not exist.

Example: Let $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x < 1 \\ x, & 1 \leq x \leq 3 \\ 2, & 3 < x \end{cases}$.

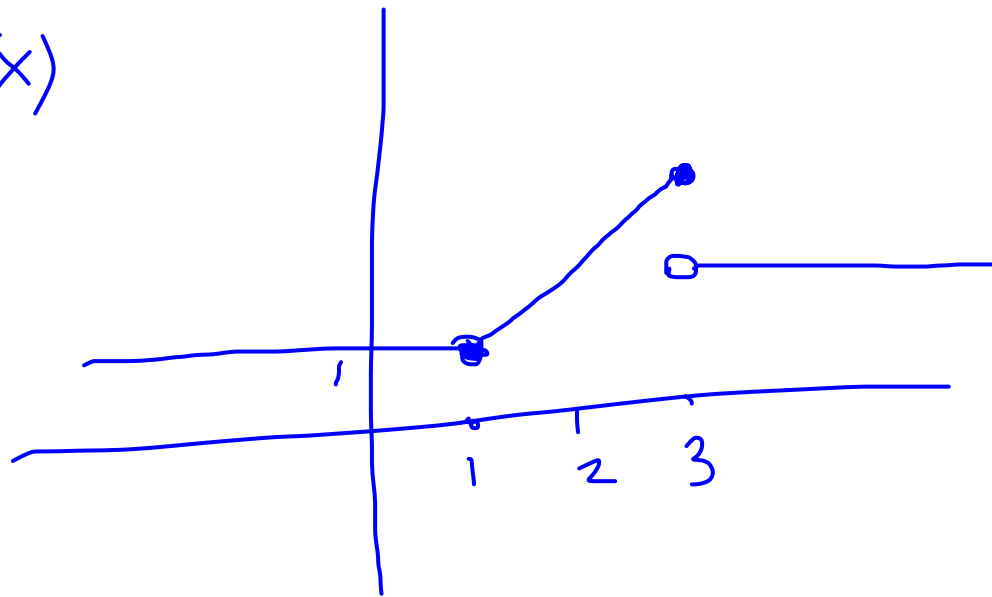
Find the one and two-sided limits of f at 1 and 3.

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

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 1$$

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

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) \text{ dne}$$



Infinite Limits $\pm \infty$

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

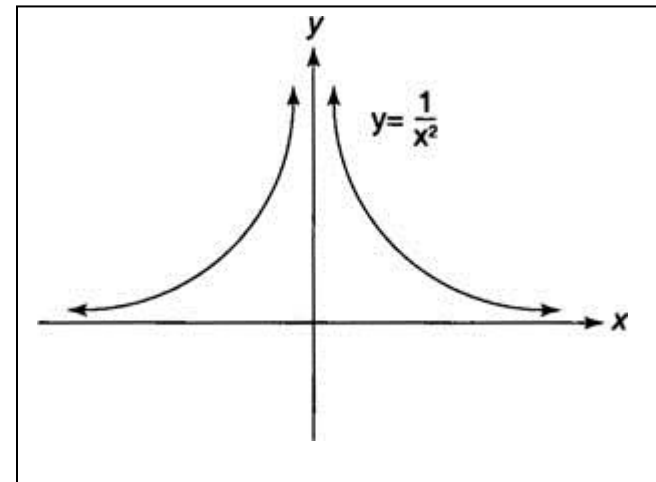
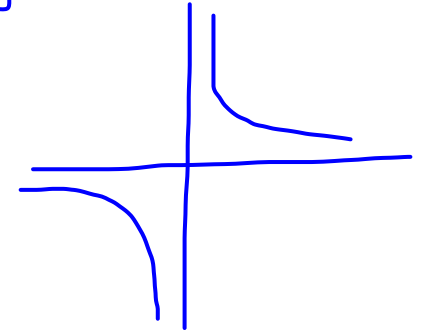
Table of values:

x	$\frac{1}{x^2}$
± 1	1
± 0.5	4
± 0.2	25
± 0.1	100
± 0.05	400
± 0.01	10,000
± 0.001	1,000,000

What about $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x}$?

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x} = \infty$$



Definition: Let f be a function defined on both sides of a , except possibly at a itself. Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$$

means that the values of $f(x)$ can be made arbitrarily large by taking x sufficiently close to a , but not equal to a .

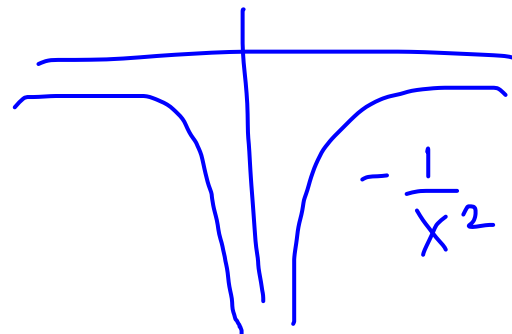
Another notation: $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow a$

Similarly, let f be a function defined on both sides of a , except possibly at a itself. Then

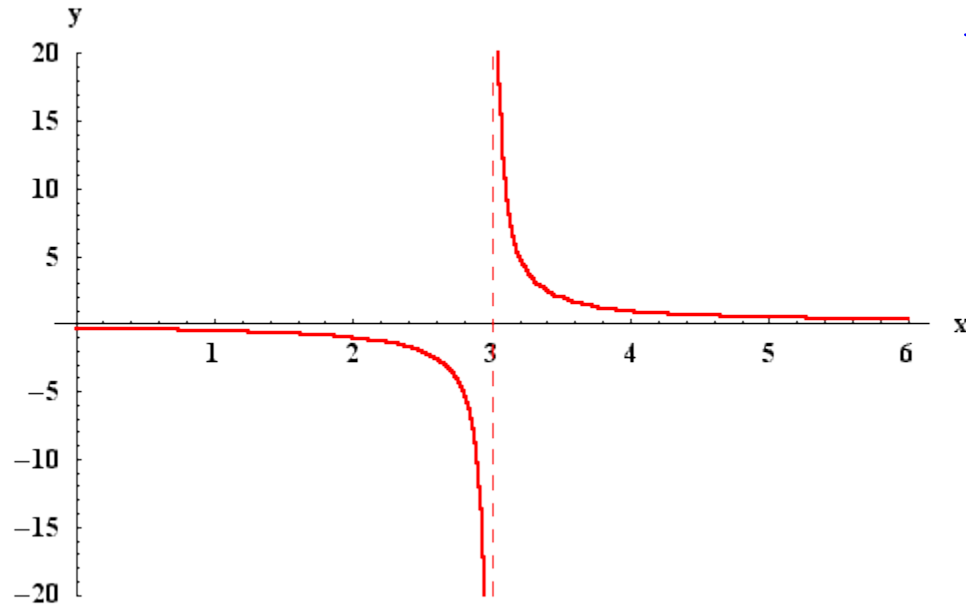
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = -\infty$$

means that the values of $f(x)$ can be made arbitrarily large negative by taking x sufficiently close to a , but not equal to a .

Example: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(-\frac{1}{x^2}\right) = -\infty$



Example: Consider function $f(x) = \frac{1}{x-3}$.



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{1}{x-3} = -\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{1}{x-3} = \infty$$

$x = 3$ is VA

Note: When x gets closer to 3, then the points on the graph get closer to the (dashed) vertical line $x = 3$. Such a line is called a **vertical asymptote**. (VA)

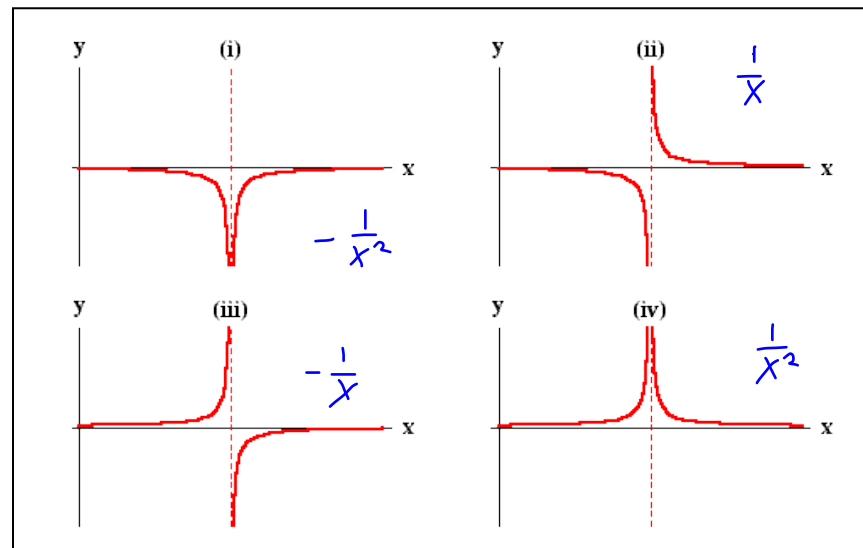
For a given function $f(x)$, there are four cases, in which vertical asymptotes can present themselves:

(i) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = -\infty; \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty;$

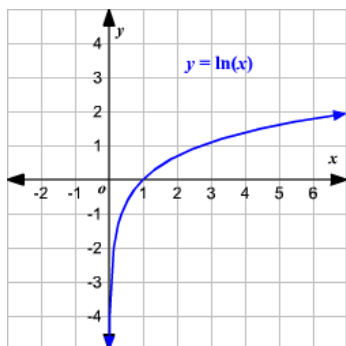
(ii) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = -\infty; \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = +\infty;$

(iii) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = +\infty; \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty;$

(iv) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = +\infty; \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = +\infty;$



Example: $y = \ln x$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln x = -\infty$$

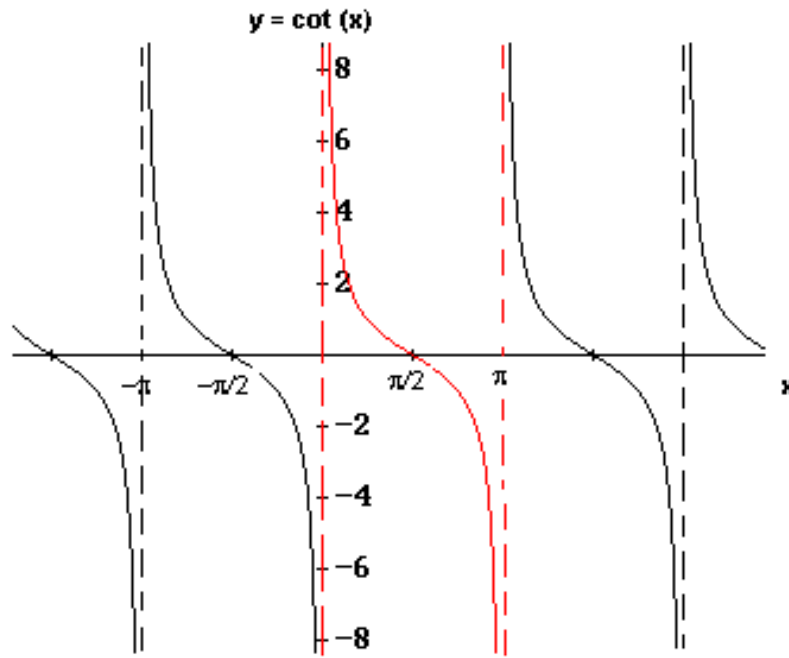
$x=0$ is VA

Example: $y = \cot x = \frac{\cos x}{\sin x}$ $\xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 0^-} -\infty$
 $\sin x \rightarrow 0 < 0$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \cot x = -\infty$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \cot x = \infty$

$x=0$ is VA



In general, $x = k\pi$ is VA
 $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

Limit Laws

Suppose that c is a constant and the limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ exist.
Then

$$\longrightarrow 1. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

$$\longrightarrow 2. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) - g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

$$\longrightarrow 3. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [cf(x)] = c \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$$

$$\longrightarrow 4. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

$$\longrightarrow 5. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)} \text{ if } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$$

Example: Given $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 3$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x) = -2$, find

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} [2f(x) - 5g(x)]$$

$$= 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) - 5 \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x)$$

$$= 2 \cdot 3 - 5(-2) = 16$$

Example: Use the limit laws and the graphs of f and g to evaluate the following limits, if they exist.

$$(a) \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} [f(x) - 2g(x)]$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x) - 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} g(x) = -1 - 2 \cdot 0 = -1$$

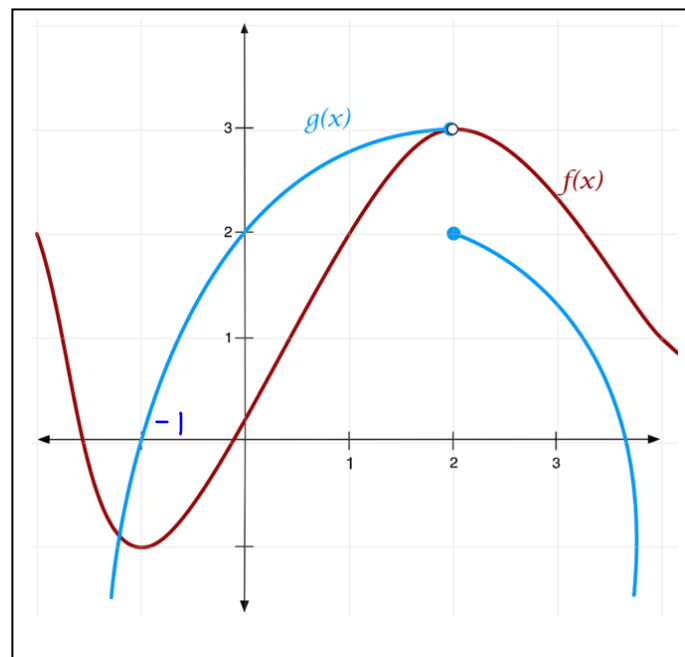
$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} [f(x)g(x)]$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x) \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} g(x) = -1 \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$(c) \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} [f(x)g(x)] \text{ dne}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)$$

$$3 \quad \text{dne}$$



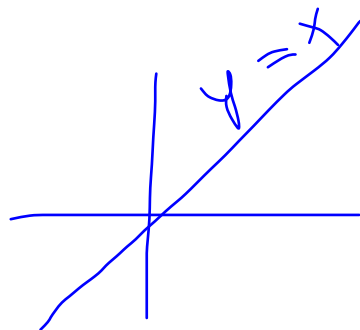
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = 3$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} g(x) = 3 \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} g(x) = 2$$

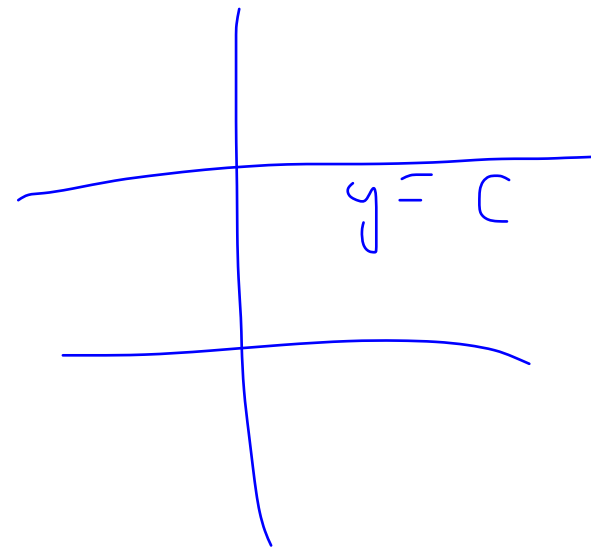
Limit Laws (continued)

→ 6. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)]^n = [\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)]^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

→ 7. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} c = c$



→ 8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a$



→ 9. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x^n = a^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$
6+8 $\hookrightarrow (\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x)^n = a^n$

10. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{x} = \sqrt[n]{a}, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ (if n is even, we assume that $a > 0$)

11. In general: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

12. If f is a continuous function (to be studied in the next lecture) at a (i.e. polynomial or a rational function defined at a), then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$$

Example: Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x^2 - 3x + 5) = f(0)$
 $= 0^2 - 3 \cdot 0 + 5 = 5$

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

Note: not all limits can be evaluated by direct substitution.

Example: Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^3 - 1}{x - 1}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\cancel{(x-1)}(x^2 + x + 1)}{\cancel{x-1}} = 1^2 + 1 + 1$
 \hookrightarrow not defined at $x = 1$ $= 3$

$$(x^3 + y^3) = (x + y)(x^2 - xy + y^2)$$

Example: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x^2+25}-5}{x^2}$ not defined at $x=0$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\sqrt{x^2+25}-5}{x^2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x^2+25}+5}{\sqrt{x^2+25}+5} \\ &= \frac{(\sqrt{x^2+25})^2 - 5^2}{x^2(\sqrt{x^2+25}+5)} = \frac{x^2 + \cancel{25} - \cancel{25}}{x^2(\sqrt{x^2+25}+5)} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{x^2}}{x^2(\sqrt{x^2+25}+5)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+25}+5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x^2+25}-5}{x^2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+25}+5} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{0^2+25}+5} \\ &= \frac{1}{10} = 0.1 \end{aligned}$$

Fact: If $f(x) = g(x)$ when $x \neq a$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$
(provided that limits exist).

Example: Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)$ given $g(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x \neq 2 \\ 4, & x = 2 \end{cases}$

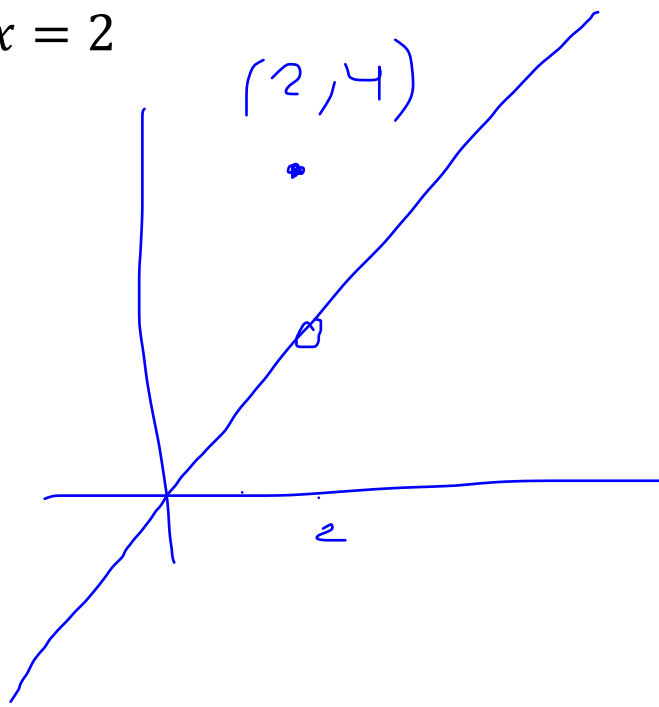
Define $f(x) = x$

Then $f(x) = g(x)$, $x \neq 2$

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

$\parallel \rightarrow$ fact

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)$



Theorem:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

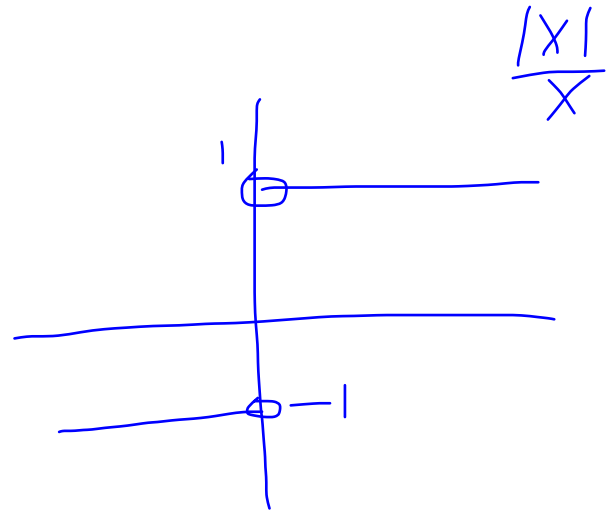
if and only if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$$

Example: Investigate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{|x|}{x}$

$$|x| = \begin{cases} x, & x \geq 0 \\ -x, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{|x|}{x} = \begin{cases} 1, & x > 0 \\ -1, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{|x|}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{-x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} (-1) = -1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+, x > 0} \frac{|x|}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (1) = 1$$

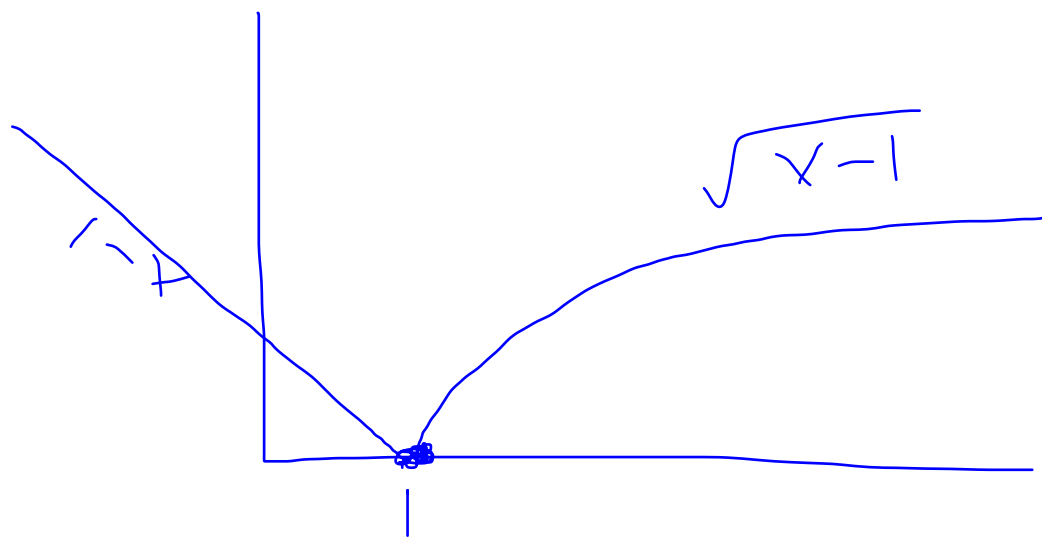
$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{|x|}{x}$ dne

Example: If $f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x-1}, & x > 1 \\ 1-x, & x < 1 \end{cases}$, determine whether $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$ exists.

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

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

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

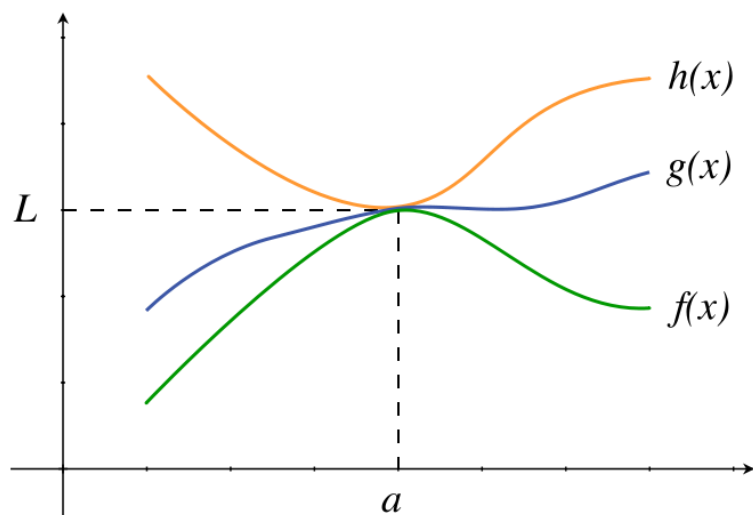


The Squeeze Theorem: If $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$ when x is near a (except possible at a) and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} h(x) = L$$

then

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



Theorem of two policemen



$$f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$$

Example: Show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \underbrace{x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}}_{g(x)} = 0$

$$-1 \leq \sin \frac{1}{x} \leq 1 \quad \bullet \quad x^2 \geq 0$$

$$\underbrace{-x^2}_{f(x)} \leq \underbrace{x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}}_{g(x)} \leq \underbrace{x^2}_{h(x)}$$

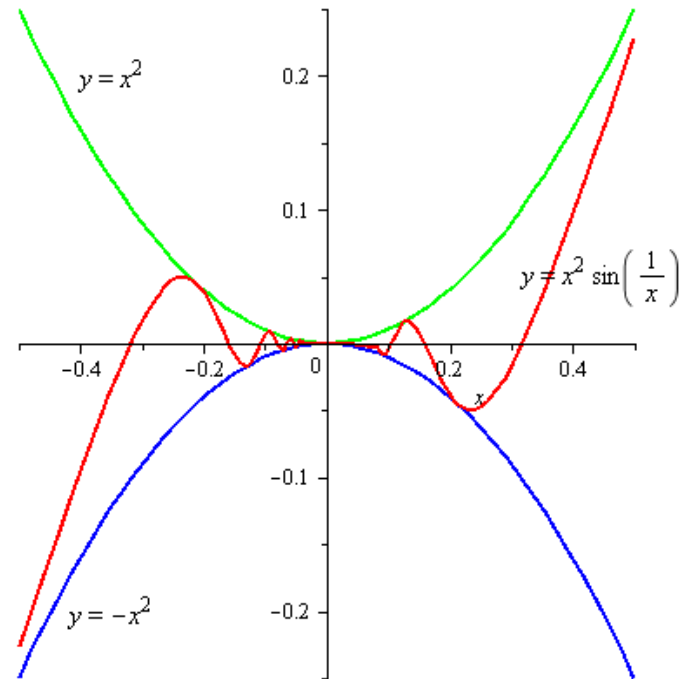
$$\downarrow x \rightarrow 0$$

$$0$$

$$\downarrow x \rightarrow 0$$

$$0$$

by Squeeze Thm
 $\downarrow x \rightarrow 0$
 0



Precise Definition of Limit

The previous definition of a limit that we used is quite intuitive. We say 'as x is close to a , $f(x)$ gets closer and closer to L '. What does this mean?

Example: $f(x) = 2x + 3$. What happens if x gets close to 2?

Intuitively we know that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (2x + 3) = 7$.

What if we want to know how close x must be to 2 so that $f(x)$ differs from 7 by less than 0.1?

We denote by $|x - 2|$ the distance from x to 2 and $|f(x) - 7|$ the distance from $f(x)$ to 7.

Problem: Find a number $\delta > 0$ such that $|f(x) - 7| < 0.1$ if $|x - 2| < \delta$.

$$|f(x) - 7| < 0.1$$

$$|2x + 3 - 7| < 0.1$$

$$|2x - 4| < 0.1$$

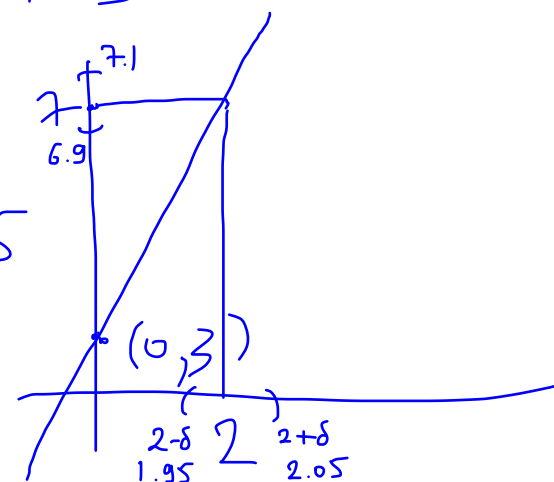
$$2|x - 2| < 0.1$$

$$|x - 2| < 0.05$$

$$f(x) = 2x + 3$$

$$|x - 2| < 0.05$$

Choose $\delta = 0.05$



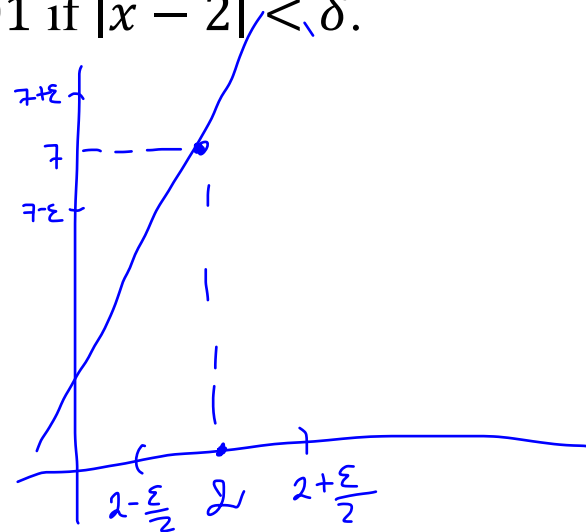
Problem: Find a number $\delta > 0$ such that $|f(x) - 7| < 0.01$ if $|x - 2| < \delta$.

$$|f(x) - 7| < 0.01$$

$$|2x - 3 - 7| < 0.01$$

$$|x - 2| < \frac{0.01}{2} = 0.005$$

Choose $\delta = 0.005$



Problem: Find a number $\delta > 0$ such that $|f(x) - 7| < \epsilon$ if $|x - 2| < \delta$, for any arbitrarily small $\epsilon > 0$.

$$|f(x) - 7| < \epsilon$$

$$|2x + 3 - 7| < \epsilon$$

$$|2x - 4| < \epsilon$$

$$2|x - 2| < \epsilon$$

$$|x - 2| < \epsilon/2$$

Choose $\delta = \frac{\epsilon}{2}$

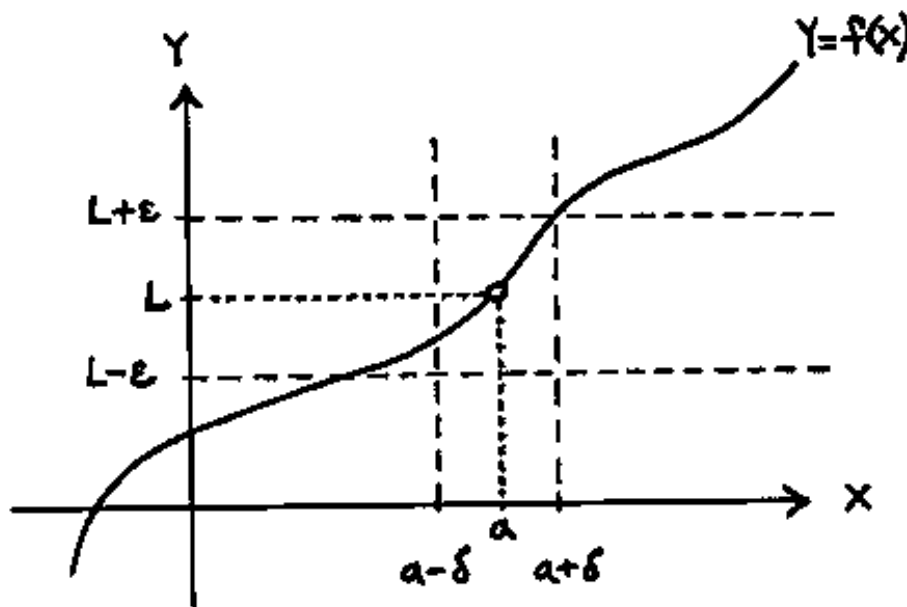
So, we can make the values of $f(x)$ within an arbitrary distance ϵ from 7 by taking x within distance $\epsilon/2$ from 2.

Definition: Let f be a function defined on some open interval that contains the number a , except possibly at a itself. Then we say that the **limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a is L** , and we write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

if for every number $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a number $\delta > 0$ such that

if $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ then $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$



Example: Use ε, δ definition to show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (7x + 2) = 23$.

$f(x)$

$\delta(\varepsilon)$

Need to show:

for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there is $\delta > 0$ s.t.

$$\text{if } 0 < |x - 3| < \delta \implies |f(x) - 23| < \varepsilon$$

$$|f(x) - 23| < \varepsilon$$

2. Show this δ works

$$|7x + 2 - 23| < \varepsilon$$

$$|x - 3| < \delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{7}$$

$$|7x - 21| < \varepsilon$$

repeat steps

$$7|x - 3| < \varepsilon$$

$$|f(x) - 23| < \varepsilon$$

$$|x - 3| < \frac{\varepsilon}{7}$$

1. Choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{7}$

Similarly we can define:



- **Left-hand limit:** $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$ if for every number $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a number $\delta > 0$ such that if $a - \delta < x < a$ then $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$
- **Right-hand limit:** $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$ if for every number $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a number $\delta > 0$ such that if $a < x < a + \delta$ then $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$

Example: Prove that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{x} = 0$

for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there is $\delta > 0$ s.t.

$$0 < x < 0 + \delta \Rightarrow |\sqrt{x} - 0| < \varepsilon$$

$$|\sqrt{x} - 0| < \varepsilon$$

$$|\sqrt{x}|^2 < \varepsilon^2$$

$$x < \varepsilon^2$$

Choose $\delta = \varepsilon^2$

Show that $\delta = \varepsilon^2$ works

$$\text{If } 0 < x < \delta$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 < x < \varepsilon^2$$

$$\sqrt{x} < \varepsilon$$

$$|\sqrt{x} - 0| < \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{x} = 0$$

- **Infinite limits:** Let f be a function defined on some open interval that contains the number a , except possibly at a itself. Then

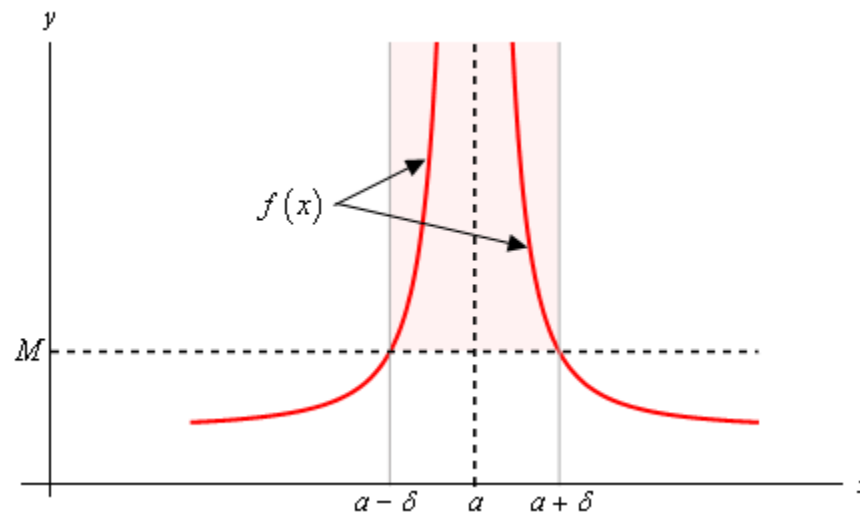
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = +\infty$$

$$(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = -\infty)$$

means that for every positive number M (negative number N) there is a positive number δ such that if

$$0 < |x - a| < \delta \text{ then } f(x) > M$$

$$(f(x) < N)$$



Example: Use the definition of the limit to show that

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

Given any $M > 0$, there is $\delta > 0$ s.t.
whenever $0 < |x - 0| < \delta$ $\implies \frac{1}{x^2} > M$
 $|x| < \delta$

$$\frac{1}{x^2} > M$$

$$x^2 < \frac{1}{M}$$

$$|x| < \sqrt{\frac{1}{M}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$$

$$\text{Choose } \delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$$

Show that $\delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$ works

$$\text{If } |x| < \delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$$

$$x^2 < \frac{1}{M}$$

$$\frac{1}{x^2} > M$$

(for any $M > 0$)

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

Ex

Dirichlet function

$$D(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ 1, & x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} D(x) = L \quad \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{assume limit} \\ \text{exists} \end{array} \text{ Then}$$

for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $\delta > 0$ s.t.

$$0 < |x - 0| < \delta \Rightarrow |D(x) - L| < \varepsilon$$

Choose $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}$: $0 < |x| < \delta \Rightarrow |D(x) - L| < \frac{1}{2}$

take any rational $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ s.t. $0 < |r| < \delta$

$$\text{Then } D(r) = 0 \Rightarrow |0 - L| < \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow L \leq |L| < \frac{1}{2}$$

Now take any irrational $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ s.t. $0 < |s| < \delta$

$$\text{Then } D(s) = 1 \Rightarrow |1 - L| < \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow 1 - L \leq |1 - L| < \frac{1}{2}$$

$\Rightarrow L > 1 - \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow L > \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow$ contradiction. Thus, limit dne.