

SECTION 2-2: THE LIMIT OF A FUNCTION

1. DEFINITION: Two-Sided Limit

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

Words: the limit of $f(x)$, as x approaches a , is L .

It means: As the x -values get closer + closer to a (larger + smaller than a) the y -values of $f(x)$ get close to L . In fact, the y 's can be forced arbitrarily close to L .

Evaluate the limits below numerically. Estimate the limit to 4 decimal places, if possible.

2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = \boxed{1}$

x	$\sin(x)/x$
0.1	0.99833
0.01	0.99998
0.001	0.99999
0	DNE
-0.001	0.99999
-0.01	0.99998
-0.1	0.99833

4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{|x+1|}{x+1} = \boxed{\text{DNE}}$

x	$ x+1 /(x+1)$
-0.9	1
-0.99	1
-0.999	1
-0.9999	1
-1	DNE
-1.0001	-1
-1.001	-1
-1.01	-1
-1.1	-1

from page 2
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} \frac{|x+1|}{x+1} = \boxed{1}$
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} \frac{|x+1|}{x+1} = \boxed{-1}$

3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\cos(x)(x-2)}{3x^2-5x-2} = \boxed{0.0594}$

x	$\cos(x)(x-2)/(3x^2-5x-2)$
2.1	-0.069157
2.01	-0.060486
2.001	-0.05955
2.00001	-0.05945
2	
1.99999	-0.059448
1.999	-0.059345
1.99	-0.058397
1.9	-0.04825

5. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{x-1} = \boxed{\text{DNE}}$

x	$1/(x-1)$
1.1	10
1.01	100
1.001	1000
1.0001	10,000
1	DNE
0.9999	-10,000
0.999	-1000
0.99	-100
0.9	-10

from page 2
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{1}{x-1} = +\infty$
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1}{x-1} = -\infty$

6. DEFINITION: One-Sided Limits

Notation:

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

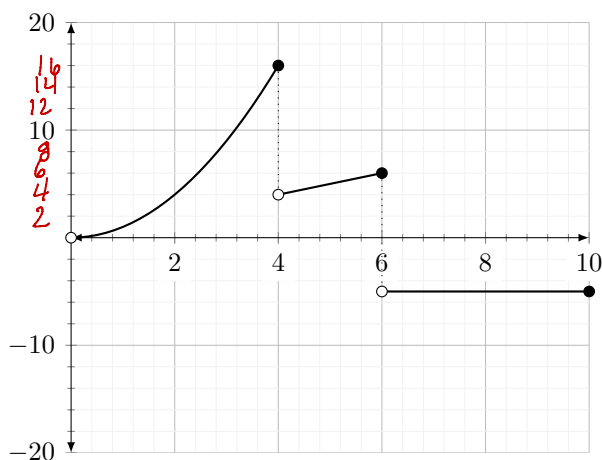
x-values approach a only on left or below or x-values less than $x=a$

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

x-values approach $x=a$ only on the right or above or from x-values larger than $x=a$.

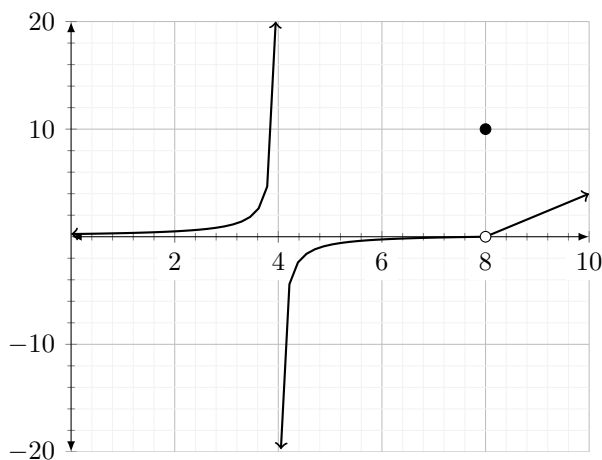
Limits can also be evaluated graphically.

7. The function $g(x)$ is graphed below. Use the graph to fill in the blanks.



- (a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} g(x) = \underline{16}$
 (b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} g(x) = \underline{4}$
 (c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} g(x) = \underline{DNE}$
 (d) $g(4) = \underline{16}$
 (e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} g(x) = \underline{-5}$
 (f) $g(8) = \underline{-5}$

8. The function $h(x)$ is graphed below. Use the graph to fill in the blanks.



- (a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} h(x) = \underline{+\infty}$
 (b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} h(x) = \underline{-\infty}$
 (c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} h(x) = \underline{DNE}$
 (d) $h(4) = \underline{DNE}$
 (e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} h(x) = \underline{0}$
 (f) $h(8) = \underline{10}$

9. Find any vertical asymptotes of $f(x) = \frac{2}{x+5}$ and justify your answer using a limit.

V.a.: $x = -5$ ← Value makes denominator zero.

Justification:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -5^+} \frac{2}{x+5} = +\infty$$

as $x \rightarrow -5^+$ (e.g. like $-4.9, -4.99$)

$$x+5 \rightarrow 0^+$$

10. Sketch the graph of a function that satisfies *all* of the given conditions. Compare your answer with that of your neighbor.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = 1 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = -2 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} f(x) = 3 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} f(x) = 0$$

$$f(0) = -2$$

$$f(4) = 1$$

