

LIMIT PROPERTIES & Algebra Techniques for Finding Limits Activity: Finding Limits Analytically

Evaluate each of the following limits.

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} 5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (-6) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -0.5} x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Use your results to complete the following:

5. For the constant function: $f(x) = A$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} A = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$, where c is any number.
6. For the identity function: $f(x) = x$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$, where c is any number.

Evaluate each of the following limits.

7. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} 6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 9. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (x + 6) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
10. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} 7 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 11. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 12. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (7 - x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
13. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (6x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 14. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (7x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 15. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left(\frac{x+6}{6x} \right) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
16. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} [(7x)^2] = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 17. $\left[\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (7x) \right]^2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
18. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \sqrt{x+6} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ 19. $\sqrt{\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} x+6} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
20. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} [3x^4 - x^3 + 2x^2 + x - 1] = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Use your results from above to complete the following:

21. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) + g(x)] = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
 In words, the limit of the sum of two functions equals _____.
22. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) - g(x)] = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
 In words, the limit of the difference of two functions equals _____.
23. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
 In words, the limit of the product of two functions equals _____.
24. If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ is known and if $n \geq 2$ is a positive integer, then
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x)]^n = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.
 In words, the limit of the power a function equals _____.
25. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
 In words, the limit of the quotient of two functions equals _____.
26. If P is a polynomial function then, $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} P(x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.

Finding Limits Analytically: Techniques:

1. **Substitution Theorem:** For a polynomial or a rational function, $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$, if the denominator of the rational function is not zero. If substitution yields $\frac{0}{0}$, the following may be needed in order to find the limit.

- 2. **Factor Numerator and/or Denominator**
- 3. **Rationalize the Numerator or Denominator**
- 4. **Combine Fractions**

Examples:

1.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^4 + 3x^3 - 13x^2 - 27x + 36}{x^2 + 3x - 4} =$$

2.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}}{x - 2} =$$

3.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^3 - 27}{x - 3} =$$

4.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+3} - \sqrt{3}}{x} =$$

5.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 49} \frac{x - 49}{\sqrt{x} - 7} =$$

Exercises

Find each of the limits analytically.

1.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 - \sqrt{4+x}}{x}$$

2.
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{1 - \frac{2}{x}}{x^2 - 4}$$

For Exercises 3-8, find the limits if $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = 2$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = -3$

3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sqrt{2f(x) - 4g(x)}$	4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) + 1]^3$	5. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{2f(x) + 3g(x)}{g(x) - f(x)}$
6. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) \cdot 2g(x)]$	7. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) \cdot (g(x) + 3)]$	8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)^2}{1 - g(x)}$

Find the limits if they exist. Show work in the space provided. Write your final answer in the right column...HERE!

1	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \sqrt{9 - x^2}$	
2 *	$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \left(\frac{x^3 + 8}{x + 2} \right)$	
3	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{x+3} - \frac{1}{3}}{x} \right)$	
4 *	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \left(\frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - 3}{x - 27} \right)$	
5	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{x^3} \right)$	
6	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 10} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 10}{x - 100}$	
7 *	$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{4x + 3}{\sqrt{16x^2 - 2}} \right)$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \left(\frac{4x + 3}{\sqrt{16x^2 - 2}} \right)$
8	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left(\frac{2x^2 - 3x - 9}{x - 3} \right)$	
9	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left(\frac{2x^2 - 3x - 8}{x - 3} \right)$	
10	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left(\frac{2x^2 - 3x - 9}{x - 5} \right)$	
11	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{4x^2 - 3}}{x - 1} \right)$	
12	$\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \left(\frac{ x + 1 }{x + 1} \right)$	
13	$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \left(\frac{ x + 1 }{x + 1} \right)$	

#14-16 Find all vertical and horizontal asymptotes.

Vertical

Horizontal/Oblique

$$14. f(x) = \frac{5x^2 - 3x + 2}{36 - 21x^2 + 3x^4}$$

$$15. f(x) = \frac{2x + 1}{\sqrt{9x^2 - 1}}$$

$$16. f(x) = \frac{x^3 + 5x + 1}{x^2 - 5x + 6}$$

#17-28: Use this information to find limits.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 3, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 4, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} h(x) = 0, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} j(x) = 5, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} j(x) = 0, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} k(x) = 0, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} k(x) = 5$$

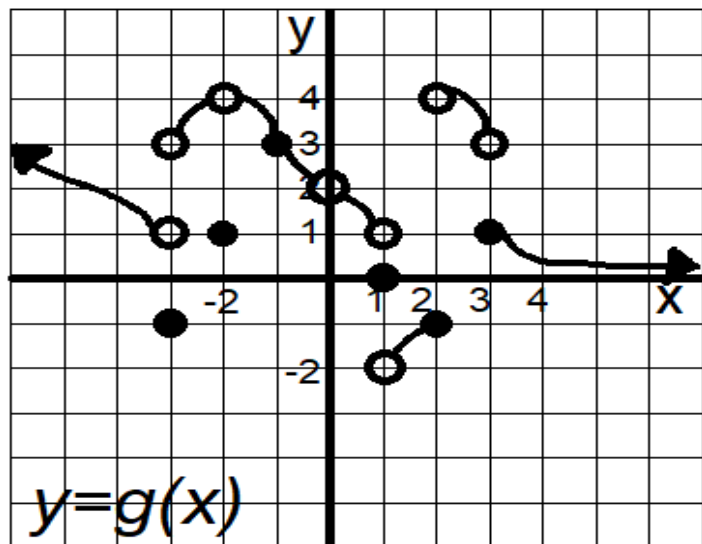
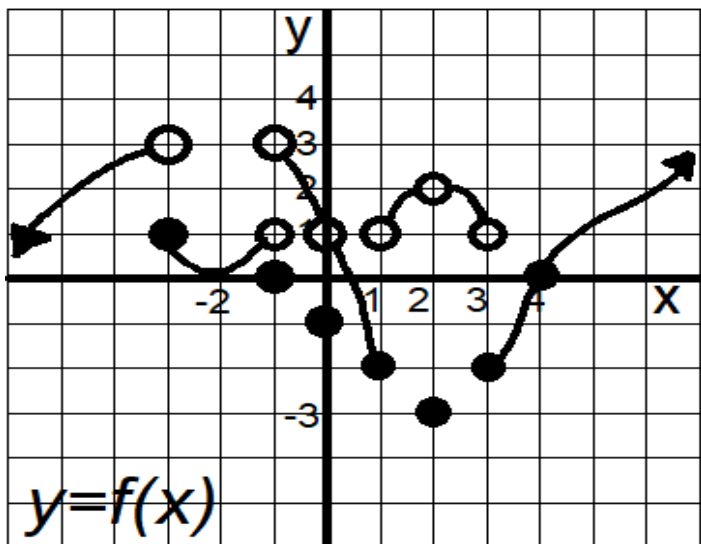
17. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [f(x) + g(x)]$	18. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [f(x) \cdot h(x)]$	19. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left[\frac{h(x)}{f(x)} \right]$	20. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left[\frac{g(x)}{h(x)} \right]$
21. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [j(x)]$	22. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [k(x)]$	23. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [j(x) + k(x)]$	24. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [j(x) \cdot k(x)]$
25. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [j(x) + h(x)]$	26. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [j(x) \cdot h(x)]$	27. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [f(g(x) - 1)]$	28. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 9} [j(\sqrt{x})]$

29) Draw pictures and write sentences to show two different ways the limit of a function will not exist.

More Work with Limits

Note that the limit properties (limit of a sum, difference, product, quotient of two functions) only apply if **the limits of both of the functions exist** at the specified point.

Practice: Given the functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ below, evaluate the limits or explain why they don't exist. NOTE: In the event you think the limit does not exist, be sure to check to see if the left-hand-limit equals the right-hand-limit to confirm your conclusion.



1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} [f(x) + g(x)]$	2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} [f(x) + g(x)]$	3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} [f(x) + g(x)]$	4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} [f(x) \cdot g(x)]$
5. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [f(x) + g(x)]$	6. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [f(x) \cdot g(x)]$	7. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(g(x))$	8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(g(x))$
9. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} [f(x) \cdot g(x)]$	8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(f(x))$	11. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(g(x))$	12. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} g(f(x))$

Compute Limits Analytically using algebraic strategies, showing appropriate work and notation. Strategies:

- 1) direct substitution
- 2) factor
- 3) rationalize using conjugate factor
- 4) simplify complex fractions.

Examples: Evaluate each of the following.

13. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} (4x^2 - 10x + 3)$

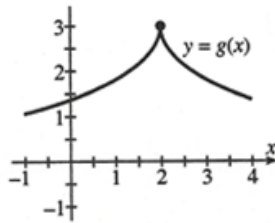
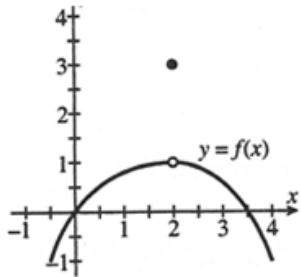
14. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{x^2 - 6x + 5}{x - 1} \right)$

15. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \sqrt[3]{\frac{4x + 44}{6x - 29}}$

16. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$ where $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \geq 3 \\ 6x - 4 & x < 3 \end{cases}$

17. given the graphs $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} [f(x) + g(x)]$

18. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{\sqrt{2+x} - \sqrt{2}}{x} \right)$



19. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{x} - x}{\frac{1}{x} - 1} \right)$

20. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 9} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 3}{x - 9}$

21. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \left(\frac{5 - x}{\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{x}} \right)$