

## 3.2: one sided limits and limits at infinity

DF1: let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $f$  be a real function

i.  $f(x)$  is said to be converge to  $L$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  from the right iff

$f$  is defined on some open interval  $I$  with left endpoint  $a$  and for every  $(\epsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0$  (which in general depends on  $\epsilon, I, f$  and  $a$ ) such that  $a + \delta \in I$  and  $a < x < a + \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .)

Hence,  $L$  is called the right hand limit of  $f$  at  $a$  and denote it by

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

$$|x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$$

$$-\delta < x - a < \delta$$

$$a - \delta < x < a + \delta$$

بالنسبة لكل  $\epsilon > 0$  يوجد  $\delta > 0$  بحيث  $a < x < a + \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$

$$\Rightarrow a < x < a + \delta$$



ii.  $f(x)$  is said to be converge to  $L$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  from the left iff

$f$  is defined on some open interval  $I$  with right endpoint  $a$  and for every

$(\epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t  $a - \delta \in I$  and  $a - \delta < x < a \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .)

Here,  $L$  is called the left hand limit of  $f$  at  $a$  and denote by

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

expl:

1. prove that  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & x \geq 0 \\ x-1, & x < 0 \end{cases}$  has one sided limits at  $x=0$  but

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$  DNE.

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

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

let  $\epsilon > 0$  and set  $\delta = |\epsilon|$

IF  $0 < x < \delta$  then  $|f(x) - 1| = |(x+1) - 1| = |x| = x < \delta = \epsilon$

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

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

let  $\epsilon > 0$  and set  $\delta = \epsilon$

IF  $-\delta < x < 0$  then  $|f(x) - (-1)| = |(x-1) - (-1)| = |x| = -x < \delta = \epsilon$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$  DNE

By sandwich theorem

let  $x_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $f(x_n) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n} + 1, & \text{even } n \\ -\frac{1}{n} - 1, & \text{odd } n \end{cases}$

$f(x_n) = (-1)^n (1 + \frac{1}{n})$  does not conv. as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

Hence, By the sequential characterization of limits:

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$  DNE

expt:

$$ii. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{x} = 0 \quad a \leq x < \delta + a, \quad a=0$$

let  $\epsilon > 0$  set  $\delta = \epsilon^2$

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If  $0 < x < \delta$  then  $|f(x) - L| = |\sqrt{x} - 0| = \sqrt{x}$   
 $< \sqrt{\delta}$   
 $< \sqrt{\epsilon^2}$

بما اننا افترضنا ان  $\delta$  فاننا ايضا  $\delta$

بين  $\delta$  و  $\epsilon$  يكون  $\delta = \epsilon^2$

**Thm 1:** let  $f$  be a real function Then the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  exists and equals

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

proof:

$\Rightarrow$  suppose that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$  exists. Then given  $\epsilon > 0$   $\exists \delta > 0$  s.t.  $0 < |x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$  \*

$0 < |x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$  \*

If  $a < x < a + \delta$ , then  $a - \delta < x < a + \delta$  (i.e.  $|x - a| < \delta$ )

and \* implies  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ . Hence,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$  exists.

similarly, if  $a - \delta < x < a$ , then  $|x - a| < \delta$  and \* implies  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$

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

cont.

conversely, suppose  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$ , Then given  $\epsilon > 0$

$\epsilon > 0, \exists \delta_1, \delta_2 > 0$  s.t

$a < x < a + \delta_1 \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$  --- ①

$a - \delta_2 < x < a \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$  --- ②

$a - \delta_2 < x < a + \delta_1$

Set  $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$ , Then

$|x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow a - \delta < x < a + \delta$  which implies

$a < x < a + \delta_1$  or  $a - \delta_2 < x < a$

Hence 1 and 2 give  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$

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



PF2: limits at infinity  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$

let  $a, L \in \mathbb{R}$  and let  $f$  be a real function

$f(x)$  is said to be converge to  $L$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  iff  $\exists c > 0$  s.t  $(c, \infty) \subset \text{Dom}(f)$

and given  $\epsilon > 0$  there is an  $M \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t  $x > M \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$

in which case we shall write  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  or  $f(x) \rightarrow L$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$

similarly,  $f(x) \rightarrow L$  as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$  iff  $\exists c > 0$  s.t  $(-\infty, -c) \subset \text{Dom}(f)$

and given  $\epsilon > 0$  there is an  $M \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t  $x < M \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$

in which case we shall write  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L$  or  $f(x) \rightarrow L$  as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$

ii.  $f(x)$  is said to be converge to  $\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow a$  (ie  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$ ) ; 9x4  
 iff there is an open interval  $I$  containing  $a$  s.t  $I \setminus \{a\} \subset \text{Dom}(f)$  and  
 given  $M \in \mathbb{R}$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  s.t  $0 < |x-a| < \delta \Rightarrow f(x) > M$   
 in which case we write  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$  or  $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow a$ .

similarly  $f(x)$  is said to converge to  $-\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow a$  (ie  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = -\infty$ )  
 iff  $\exists$  an open interval  $I$  containing  $a$  s.t  $I \setminus \{a\} \subset \text{Dom}(f)$  and given  
 $M \in \mathbb{R}$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  s.t  $0 < |x-a| < \delta \Rightarrow f(x) < M$ .

*note*  
**RMK:** obvious modifications of this DF, we define  $f(x) \rightarrow \pm \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow a^+$   
 and  $x \rightarrow a^-$ , and  $f(x) \rightarrow \pm \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow \pm \infty$ .

exp:

i. prove that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$ .

let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given, set  $M = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$

If  $\underbrace{x > M}_{\frac{1}{x} < \frac{1}{M}}$  then  $|f(x) - 0| = \left| \frac{1}{x} - 0 \right| = \frac{1}{x}$

$\frac{1}{x} < \frac{1}{M}$  we want  $< \epsilon$  so choose  $M$   
 $< \frac{1}{(1/\epsilon)} = \epsilon$   $\square$

$\epsilon > 0$   
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RMK:

$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \infty$  : given  $M \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\exists \delta > 0$  s.t  
 $a < x < a + \delta \Rightarrow f(x) > M$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \infty$  : given  $M \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\exists \delta > 0$  s.t  
 $a - \delta < x < a \Rightarrow f(x) > M$

3.2.1(c)

exp: prove that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} \frac{1}{x^2-1} = -\infty$  بما ان  $(x-1)(x+1)$   $\rightarrow -1 < x < -1+\delta$

let  $M \in \mathbb{R}$  we need to find a  $\delta > 0$  s.t.  $-1 < x < -1+\delta$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2-1} < M$$

suppose without loss of generality (WLOG) that  $M < 0$ .

set  $\delta = \min \left\{ 1, \frac{-1}{2M} \right\}$  M negative

IF  $-1 < x < -1+\delta$  then  $-1 < x < 0$  since  $\delta \leq 1$

Hence,  $-1 < 1-x < 2$  and  $x^2-1 < 0$

$$(x+1)(x-1) < 0$$

Thus,  $0 < 1-x^2 = (1-x)(1+x)$

$$< (1-x) \delta$$

$$< 2\delta$$

$$< 2 \left( \frac{-1}{2M} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{M}$$

Now choose  $\delta$  s.t.  $2\delta < -\frac{1}{M} \Rightarrow 1-x^2 < -\frac{1}{M}$

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

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

ie,  $1-x^2 < -\frac{1}{M}$  we conclude that  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2-1} < M$

Notation:  $\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ x \in I}} f(x)$  (\*) [a is an extended real number]

• \* will denote  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  (when it exists).

• If a is a finite left endpoint of I, then \* will denote  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$  (when it exists).

• If a is a finite right endpoint of I, then \* will denote  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$  (when it exists).

• If  $a = \pm\infty$  is an endpoint of I, then \* will denote  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} f(x)$  (when each exists).

→ using this notation, we can state a sequential characterization of limits valid for two-sided, one-sided and infinite limits.

**Thm 2:** let a be an extended real number, and let I be a nondegenerate open interval which either contains a or has a as one of its endpoints. suppose further that f is a real function defined on I except possibly at a. Then  $\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ x \in I}} f(x)$  exists and equals L iff  $f(x_n) \rightarrow L$  for all seq.  $x_n \in I$  which satisfy  $x_n \neq a$  and  $x_n \rightarrow a$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

proof →

proof:

case,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$  iff  $|f(x_n) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for any seq.  $x_n \in I$  which converges to  $a$  and  $x_n \neq a \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  spse  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$  if  $x_n \in I, x_n \rightarrow a$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $x_n \neq a$

Then given  $M \in \mathbb{R}, \exists \delta > 0$  s.t

$0 < |x - a| < \delta \Rightarrow f(x) > M$  i

and  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t  $n \geq N \Rightarrow |x_n - a| < \delta$  ii

consequently (i and ii),  $n \geq N \Rightarrow f(x_n) > M$

(i.e)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x_n) = \infty$   $\square$

$\leftarrow$  conversely, spse that  $f(x_n) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for any seq.

$x_n \in I$  which  $x_n \rightarrow a$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $x_n \neq a$  but  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \neq \infty$

By the def'n of "convergence" to  $\infty$ , there are numbers

$M_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_n \in I$  s.t  $|x_n - a| < \frac{1}{n}$  and  $f(x_n) \leq M_0 \quad \forall n > N$

We have a seq.  $x_n \rightarrow a$  but  $f(x_n) \not\rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

which is a contradiction. Thus,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$

$\square$



**RMK:** using Thm 2, we can prove limit Theorems represented in sec 3.1. These limits thms can be used to evaluate infinite limits and limits at  $\pm\infty$ .

**exp 3:** prove that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2 - 1}{1 - x^2} = -2$

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

Try By def'n.

let  $\epsilon > 0$  and set  $M$

If  $x > M$  then  $\left| \frac{2x^2 - 1}{1 - x^2} + 2 \right|$

$$= \left| \frac{2x^2 - 1 + 2 - 2x^2}{1 - x^2} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{1}{(1-x)(1+x)} \right|$$