

# NUFYP Mathematics

## 4.3 Limits

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# Lecture Outline

- One-sided Limits
- Calculating Limits
  - Numerically (previous lecture)
- **Graphically**
- **Algebraically**

# Introduction

Air resistance prevents the velocity of a skydiver indefinitely. The velocity “terminal velocity”.



from increasing approaches the



When two compounds are combined in a beaker to form a new compound, the amount of new compound is the limit of a function as time goes to infinity.

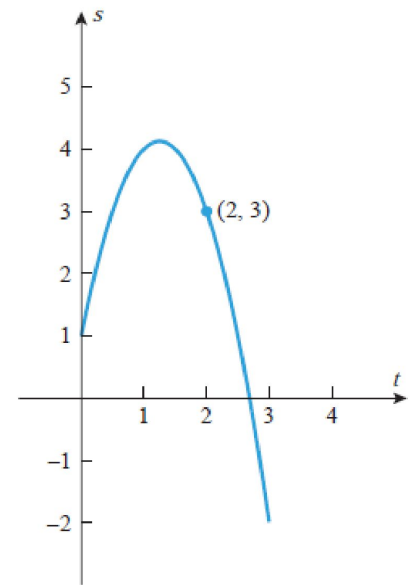
# Computing limits graphically

When you know how a certain function looks like, any limit can easily be determined by following the graph of the function.

**Example 1:** The function  $s(t) = 1 + 5t - 2t^2$  has the graph on the right. Compute the limits:

$$a) \lim_{t \rightarrow 2} s(t)$$

$$b) \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} s(t)$$



# Computing limits graphically

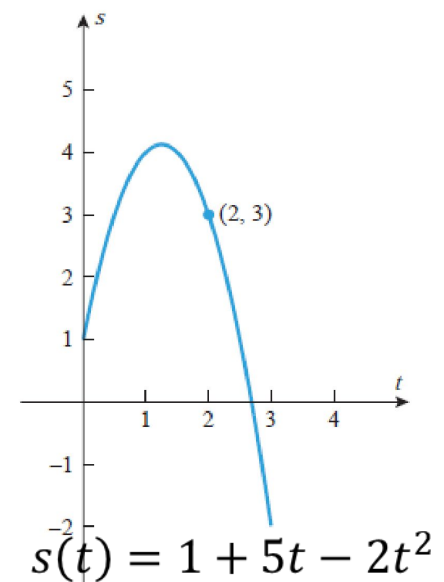
**Solution:** We will follow the graph to find the limits

a) No matter from which side you approach 2, the function will approach 3. Hence,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 2} s(t) = 3$$

b) As you know, a parabola which is concave down will decrease **without**

**bound.** Hence,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} s(t) = -\infty$

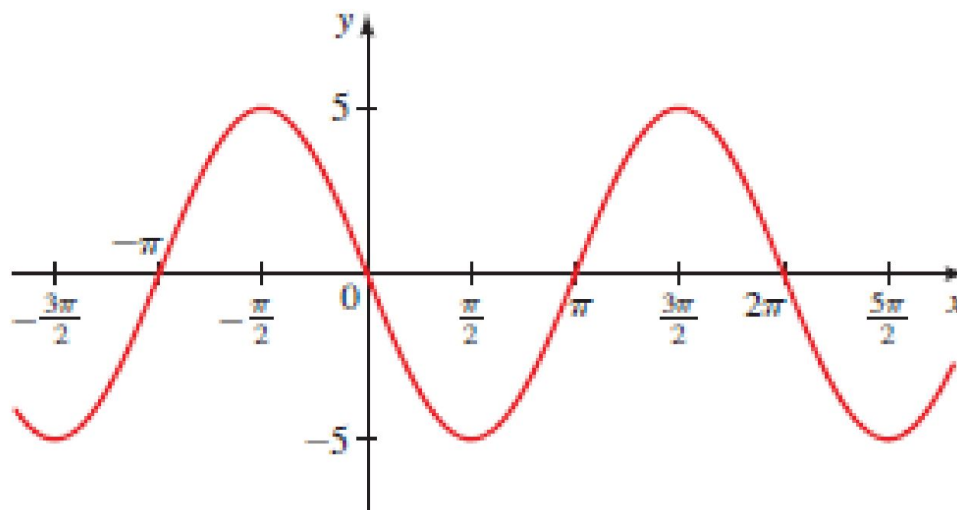


**Example 2:** Compute the limits of the transformed sine function  $y(x)$

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} y(x)$

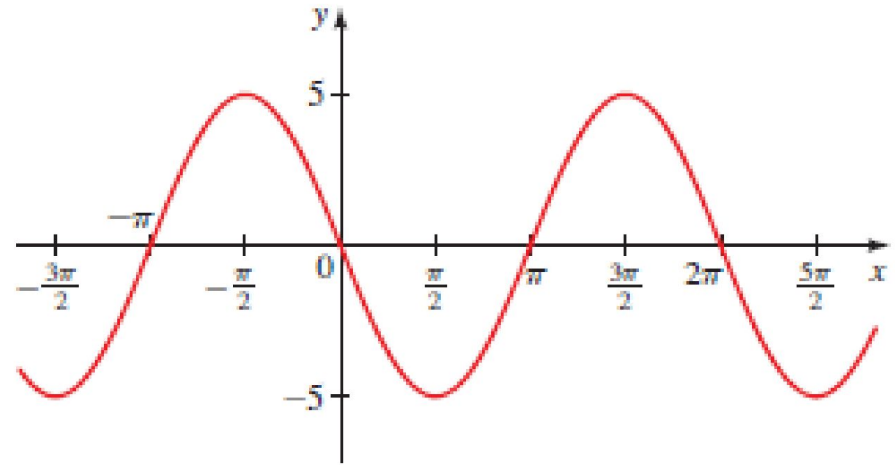
b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{3\pi}{2}} y(x)$

c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} y(x)$



## Solution:

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} y(x) = 0$

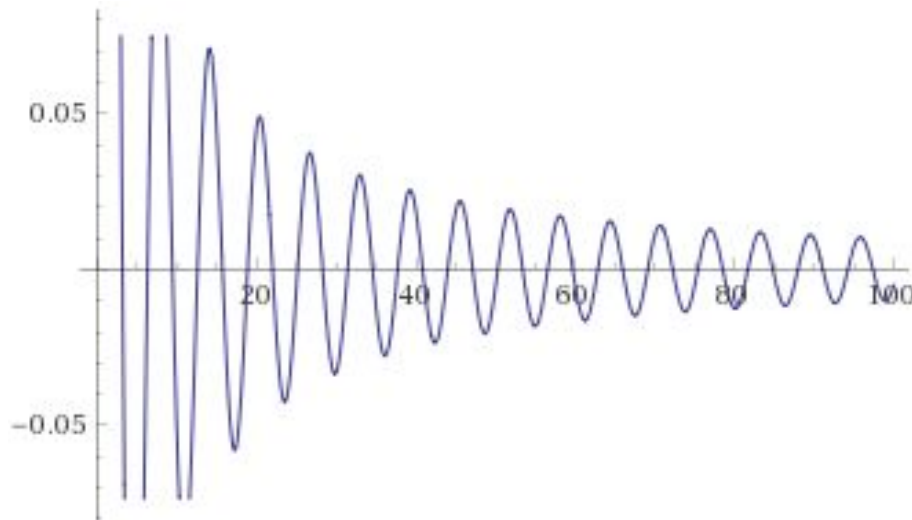


b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{3\pi}{2}} y(x) = 5$

c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} y(x)$  does not exist, because sine keeps oscillating between  $-5$  and  $5$ , and it will not tend to a specific value.

# Your turn!

Compute the limit at positive infinity of the function  $y(x)$  sketched below.



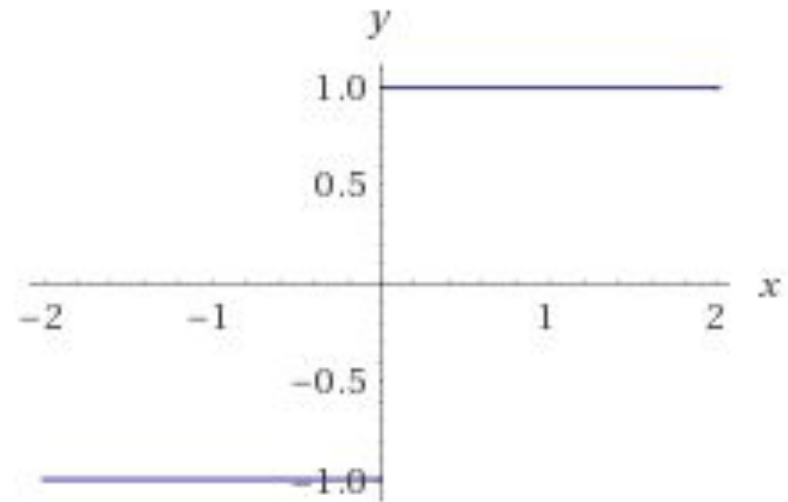
**Solution:** Even though this function also keeps oscillating, the values between which it varies become smaller and smaller (positive and negative), approaching 0. Thus,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} y(x) = 0$



# One-sided limits

**Example 3:** Consider the function

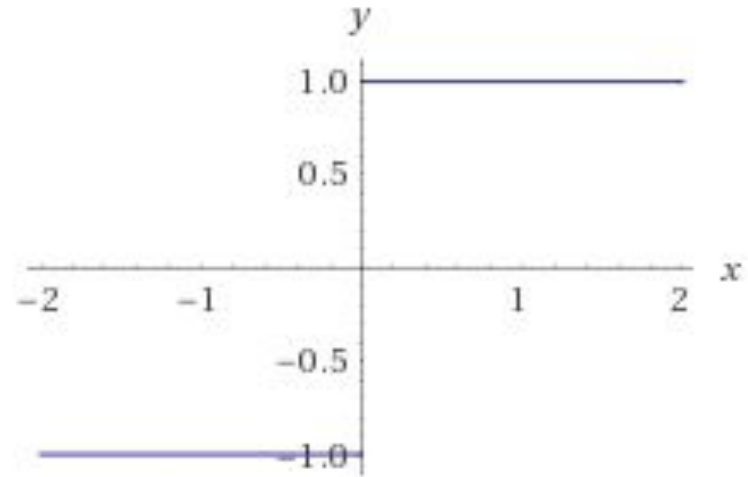
$$f(x) = \frac{|x|}{x} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x > 0 \\ -1, & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$



If we ask what is the limit when  $x$  approaches 0, we get different answers depending on whether we follow the graph from the right or from the left.

### Example 3:

$$f(x) = \frac{|x|}{x} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x > 0 \\ -1, & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|x|}{x} = 1 \quad \text{but} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{|x|}{x} = -1$$

The **superscript +** in  $0^+$ , indicates a limit from the **right** and the **superscript -** in  $0^-$ , indicates a limit from the **left**. This leads to the idea of a one-sided limit.

# One-sided limits

If the values of  $f(x)$  can be made as close as we like to  $L$  by taking values of  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but greater than  $a$ , then we write

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

If the values of  $f(x)$  can be made as close as we like to  $L$  by taking values of  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but less than  $a$ , then we write

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

We read “the limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  from the right (resp. left) is  $L$ .”

# One-sided and two-sided limits

The two-sided limit of a function  $f(x)$  (often called just limit) exists at  $a$  if and only if **both** of the one-sided limits exist at  $a$  **and** have the same value:

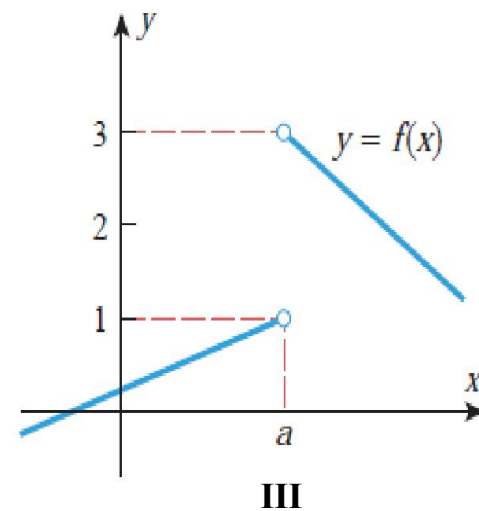
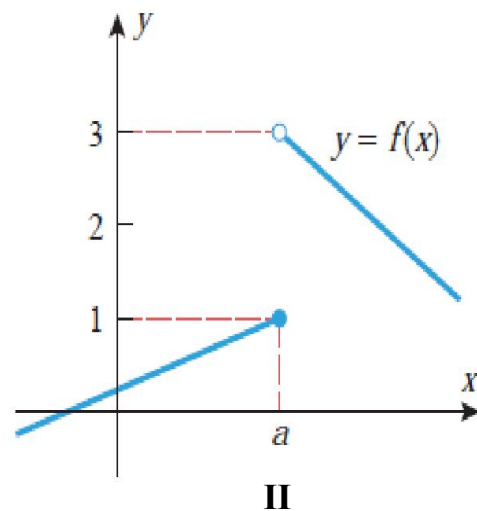
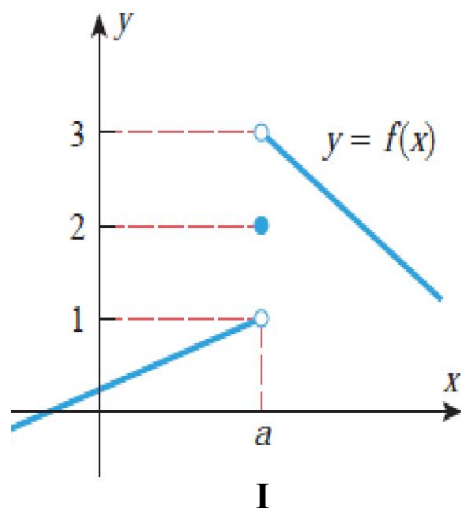
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \text{ iff } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

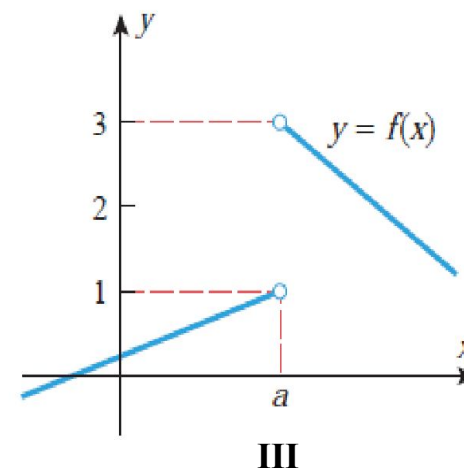
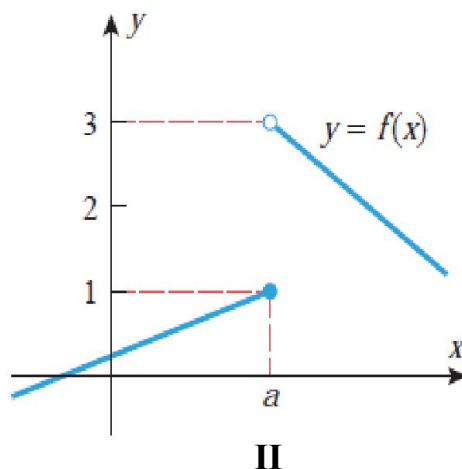
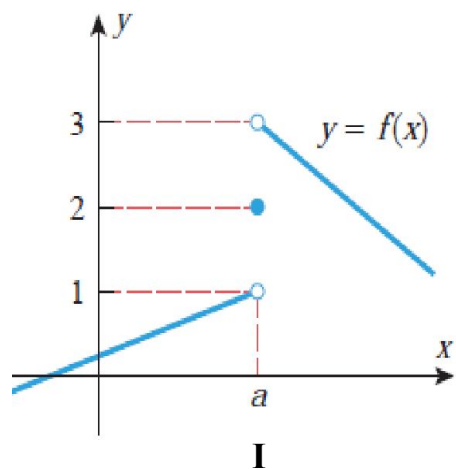


What does the *iff* mean?

What can you conclude about the limit at  $x = 0$

**Example 4:** For the functions presented find the one-sided and the two-sided limits at  $x = a$ , if they exist, as well as the value of the function at  $a$ .





In all three cases we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = 3, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \text{ DNE}$$

The values of the functions at  $a$  are:

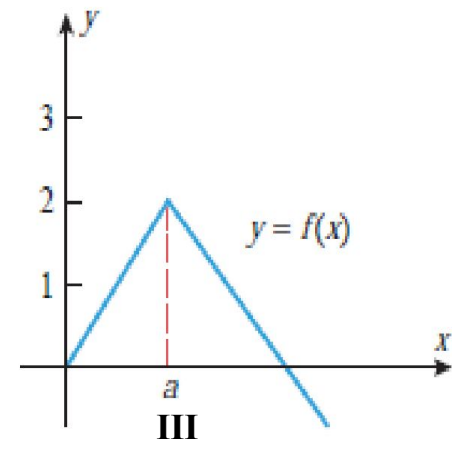
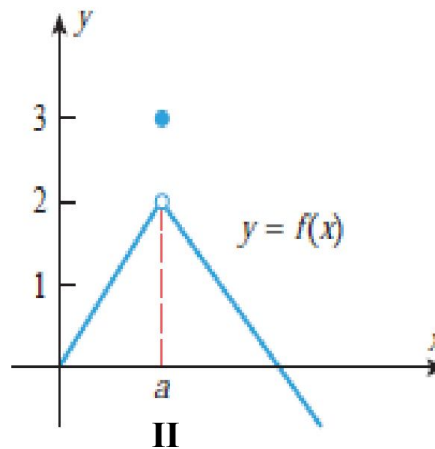
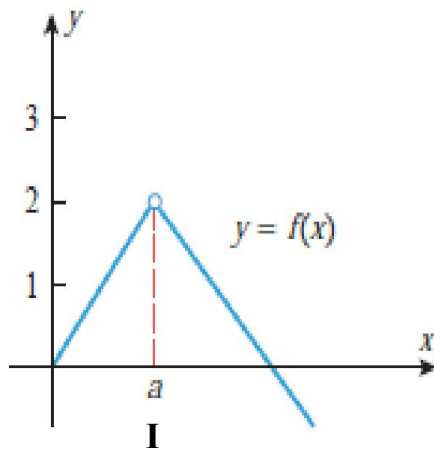
I.  $f(a) = 2$

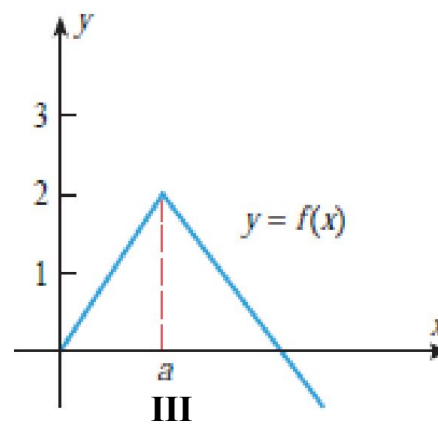
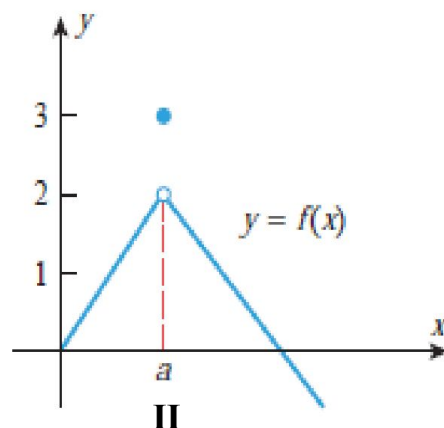
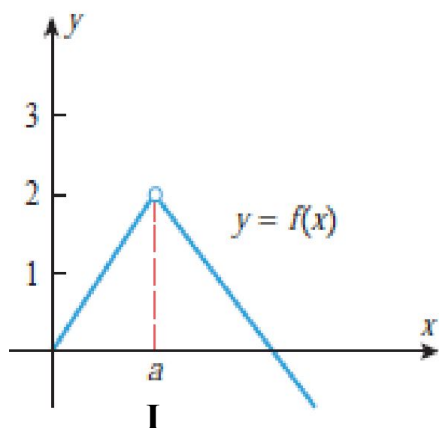
II.  $f(a) = 1$

III.  $f(a)$  is not defined.

# Your turn!

For the functions presented find the one-sided and the two-sided limits at  $x = a$ , if they exist, as well as the value of the function at  $a$ .





I.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = 2, \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = 2, \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 2$   
 $f(a)$  is not defined

II.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = 2, \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = 2, \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 2$   
 $f(a) = 3$

III.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = 2, \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = 2, \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 2,$   
 $f(a) = 2$



## Example 5: Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/(x+2) & x < -2 \\ x^2 - 5, & -2 < x \leq 3 \\ \sqrt{x+13} & x > 3 \end{cases}$$

Find

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x)$

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

## Solution:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/(x+2) & x < -2 \\ x^2 - 5, & -2 < x \leq 3 \\ \sqrt{x+13} & x > 3 \end{cases}$$

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x)$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} \frac{1}{x+2} = \frac{1}{0^-} = -\infty$$

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

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/(x+2), & x < -2 \\ x^2 - 5, & -2 < x \leq 3 \\ \sqrt{x+13}, & x > 3 \end{cases}$$

b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x^2 - 5) = -5$

c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} (x^2 - 5) = 4$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \sqrt{x+13} = 4$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 4$



# Indeterminations

Remember from the previous lecture that situations such as

$$\frac{0}{0}, \quad 0^0, \quad \infty \cdot 0, \quad \infty^0$$

$$+\infty - \infty, \quad \frac{\infty}{\infty}, \quad 1^\infty$$

are **indeterminations**. We can work our way around them by

- factorising and cancelling out the like terms;
- rewriting the expression; or
- conjugate multiplication.

## Example 6:

In the previous lecture we conjectured that

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

Now let's compute the limit analytically to show it is true.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x - 1}{\sqrt{x} - 1} \quad \left( = \frac{0}{0} \text{ Indetermination!!!} \right)$$

Using conjugate multiplication, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x - 1}{\sqrt{x} - 1} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x - 1)(\sqrt{x} + 1)}{(\sqrt{x} - 1)(\sqrt{x} + 1)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x - 1)(\sqrt{x} + 1)}{x - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (\sqrt{x} + 1) = 2 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 7:** Compute, if possible, the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} (\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n})$$

**Solution:**

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} (\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n}) = +\infty - \infty$$

Multiplying and dividing by  $\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}$  leads to

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \left( \frac{(\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n})(\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n})}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}} \right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{n+1-n}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Example 8:

Compute the following limits

$$1. \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^4 - 16}{x - 2}$$

$$2. \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (x^7 - 2x^5 + 1)^{35}$$

$$3. \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x - 2}{(x - 4)(x + 2)}$$

$$4. \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{6x + 4}{2x - 7}$$

and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{6x + 4}{2x - 7}$$

$$5. \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{4x^2 - x}{2x^3 - 5}$$

and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{4x^2 - x}{2x^3 - 5}$$

# Solution:

$$1. \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^4 - 16}{x - 2} = \frac{2^4 - 16}{2 - 2} \left( = \frac{0}{0} \text{ Indetermination!!!} \right)$$

$$x^4 - 16 = (x + 2)(x - 2)(x^2 + 4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^4 - 16}{x - 2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x + 2)(x - 2)(x^2 + 4)}{x - 2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x + 2)(x^2 + 4) = 32 \end{aligned}$$

$$2. \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (x^7 - 2x^5 + 1)^{35} = (1 - 2 + 1)^{35} = 0$$



$$3. \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x-2}{(x-4)(x+2)}$$

The first thing to notice is that the sign of  $(x - 2)$  and  $(x + 2)$  does not change but the sign of  $(x - 4)$  in the denominator will change depending on how  $x \rightarrow 4$ :

- When  $x \rightarrow 4^+$ ,  $x - 4 > 0$
- When  $x \rightarrow 4^-$ ,  $x - 4 < 0$

So, we can suspect that the left and right limits will be different.

$$\bullet \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} \frac{x-2}{(x-4)(x+2)} = \frac{2}{0^+ \cdot 6} = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} \frac{x-2}{(x-4)(x+2)} = \frac{2}{0^- \cdot 6} = -\infty$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x-2}{(x-4)(x+2)}$  does not exist.

$$4. \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{6x+4}{2x-7} \quad \left( = \frac{+\infty}{+\infty} \text{ Indetermination} \right)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{6x+4}{x}}{\frac{2x-7}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{6 + \frac{4}{x}}{2 - \frac{7}{x}} = \frac{6}{2} = 3$$

$$5. \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{4x^2 - x}{2x^3 - 5} \quad \left( = \frac{+\infty}{+\infty} \text{ indetermination} \right)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{4x^2 - x}{x^2}}{\frac{2x^3 - 5}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{4 - \frac{1}{x}}{2x - \frac{5}{x^2}} = \frac{4 - 0}{+\infty - 0} = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{4 - \frac{1}{x}}{2x - \frac{5}{x^2}} = \frac{4 - 0}{-\infty - 0} = 0$$

## Example 9:

Find the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2+2}}{3x-6}$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2+2}}{3x-6}$

**Solution:**

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2+2}}{3x-6} \quad \left( = \frac{+\infty}{+\infty} \quad \textit{Indetermination!!!} \right)$$

Note the  $x^2$  under the square root, and recall that  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$ .

Dividing the numerator and denominator by  $|x|$  we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x^2+2}}{|x|}}{\frac{3x-6}{|x|}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x^2+2}}{\sqrt{x^2}}}{\frac{3x-6}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\sqrt{1+\frac{2}{x^2}}}{3-\frac{6}{x}} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Following the same reasoning,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x^2+2}}{|x|}}{\frac{3x-6}{|x|}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x^2+2}}{\sqrt{x^2}}}{\frac{3x-6}{(-x)}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\sqrt{1+\frac{2}{x^2}}}{-3+\frac{6}{x}} = -\frac{1}{3}$$

# Your turn!

• Compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 3x + 2} - \sqrt{x^2 + 1})$ .

# Your turn!

• Compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 3x + 2} - \sqrt{x^2 + 1})$

(=  $-\infty + \infty$  *Indetermination!!*)

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x^2 + 3x + 2 - x^2 - 1}{\sqrt{x^2 + 3x + 2} + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{3x + 1}{\sqrt{x^2 + 3x + 2} + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \bullet \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{3x + 1}{\sqrt{x^2 \left(1 + \frac{3}{x} + \frac{2}{x^2}\right)} + \sqrt{x^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)}} \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{3x + 1}{\sqrt{x^2 \left(1 + \frac{3}{x} + \frac{2}{x^2}\right)} + \sqrt{x^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)}} \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{3x + 1}{x \sqrt{1 + \frac{3}{x} + \frac{2}{x^2}} + x \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}}}
 \end{aligned}$$



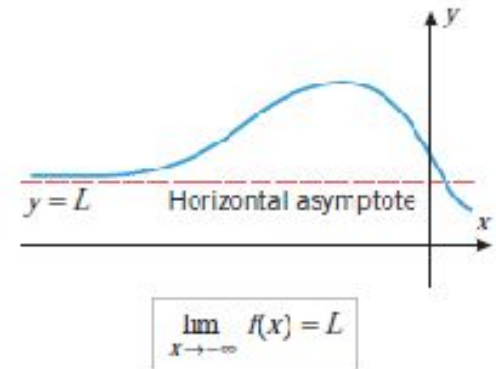
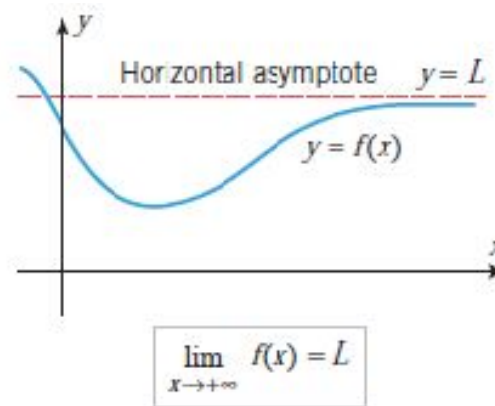
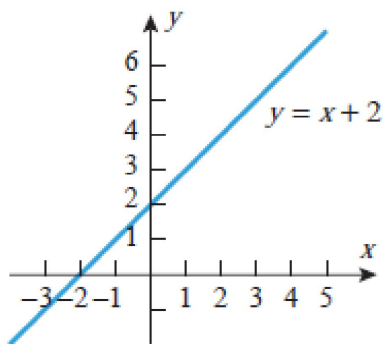
# Limits at infinity

Just like we studied what happens to sequences as  $n$  became larger and larger, we can study what happens to a function  $f(x)$  as  $x$  becomes larger and larger (positive or negative), i.e. as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$  or  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ .

Since these values of  $x$  are “at the end” of the line of real numbers, what happens to the function there is often called the **end behaviour of the function**.

Most often, one of two cases will happen:

1. The function keeps increasing (or decreasing) without bound.
2. The function will approach a finite value. We say the function has a **horizontal asymptote**.



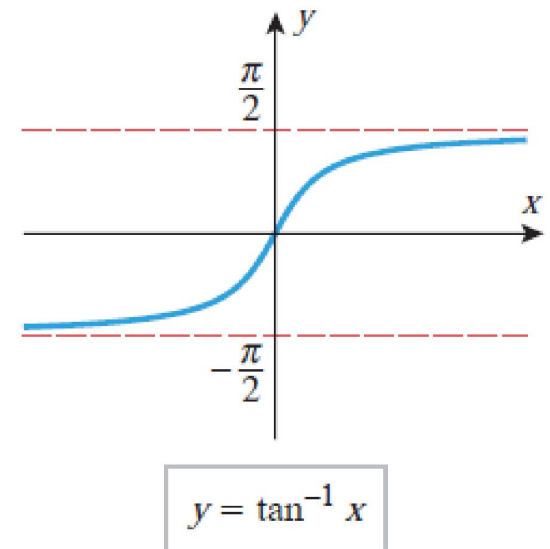
Can a graph cross a horizontal asymptote?

# End behaviour of a function

The end behaviour of the function  $f(x)$  is determined by computing the limits:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x)$$

Note that a function can have two horizontal asymptotes if the limits at limits at positive / negative infinity have different values.



## Example 10:

Determine the end behaviour of the functions:

1.  $f(x) = 3x^2 - 77$

2.  $g(x) = \sqrt{x + 26}$

3.  $h(x) = \arctan x + 4$

# Solution:

$$1. f(x) = 3x^2 - 77$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = +\infty$$

$$2. g(x) = \sqrt{x + 26}$$

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

$g(x)$  is not defined for  $x < -26$ , so we cannot compute

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} g(x).$$

$$3. h(x) = \arctan x + 4$$

# Your turn!

Determine the end behaviour of the functions:

1.  $f(x) = 3x^4 + 5x$

2.  $g(x) = 2x^3 + 7$

3.  $h(x) = 3x^5 + 5x^2$

4.  $s(x) = \frac{26}{\sqrt{x+26}}$



How can we relate the leading term of a

# Your turn!

Determine the end behaviour of the functions:

$$1. f(x) = 3x^4 + 5x$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = +\infty$$

$$2. g(x) = 2x^3 + 7$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} g(x) = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} g(x) = -\infty$$

$$3. h(x) = 3x^5 + 5x^2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} h(x) = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} h(x) = -\infty$$

# Infinite limits

Sometimes a function is not defined for some values of  $x$ . It can happen that around those points it increases or decreases without bound.

Suppose the function  $f(x)$  is not defined when  $x = a$ . If

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = +\infty \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = +\infty$$

or

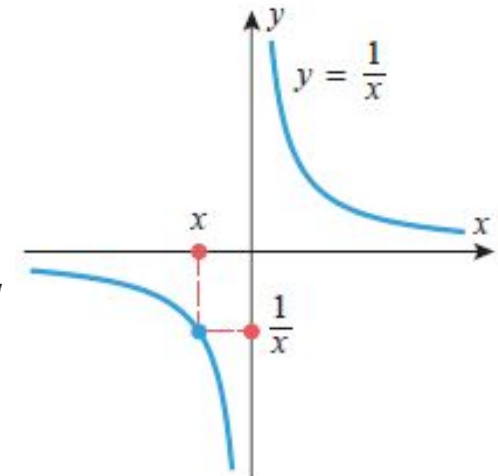
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = -\infty \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$



# Example 11:

Show that the line  $x = 0$  is a vertical asymptote of the function  $y = \frac{1}{x}$

**Solution:** All we need to do is to show that one of the limits from the previous slide is indeed infinite. For practice, we will compute both of them.



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



# Example 12:

Compute, if possible, the following limits:

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

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

$$3. \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\cos x}{x-1}$$

# Solution:

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

Note how the sign of the denominator changes depending on how we approach 3:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{-3^x}{3-x} = \frac{-27}{0^-} = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{-3^x}{3-x} = \frac{-27}{0^+} = -\infty$$

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

Note how the sign of the denominator changes depending on how we approach 2:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{1 - 2x + x^2}{x^2 - 4} = \frac{1}{0^+} = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{1 - 2x + x^2}{x^2 - 4} = \frac{1}{0^-} = -\infty$$

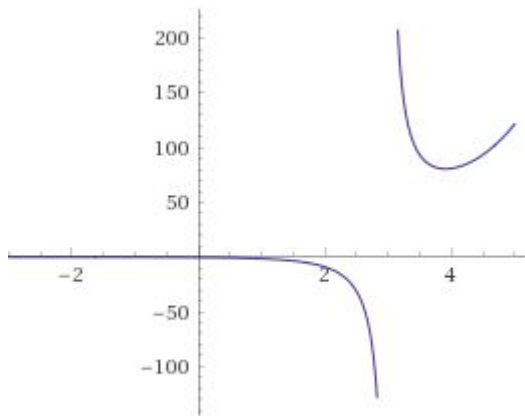
$$3. \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\cos x}{x-1}$$

Note how the sign of the denominator changes depending on how we approach 1:

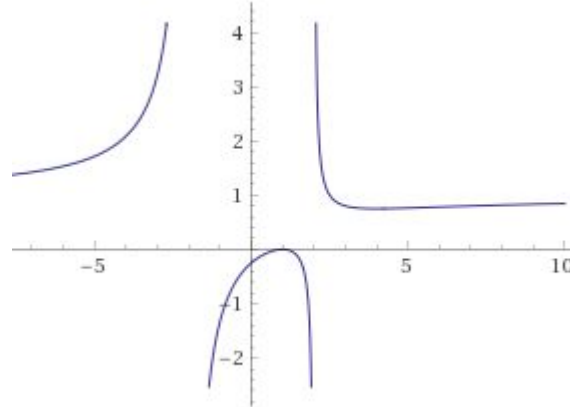
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{\cos x}{x-1} = \frac{\cos 1}{0^+} = +\infty$$

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

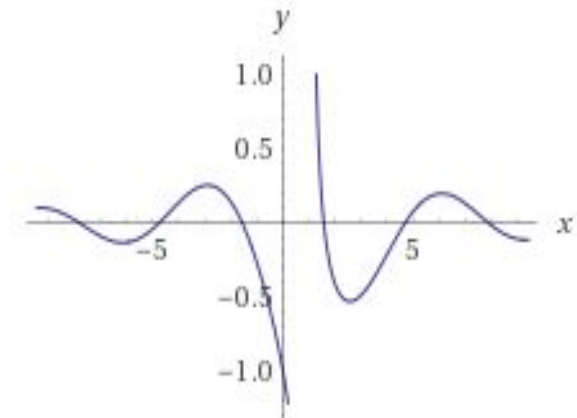
All the functions in the previous example have vertical asymptotes at the values of  $x$  for which we computed the limit:



$$y = \frac{-3^x}{3 - x}$$



$$y = \frac{1 - 2x + x^2}{x^2 - 4}$$



$$y = \frac{\cos x}{x - 1}$$

# Solution:

$$1. \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} (-3^x + 2^x) \quad (= -\infty + \infty \text{ Indetermination!!})$$

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

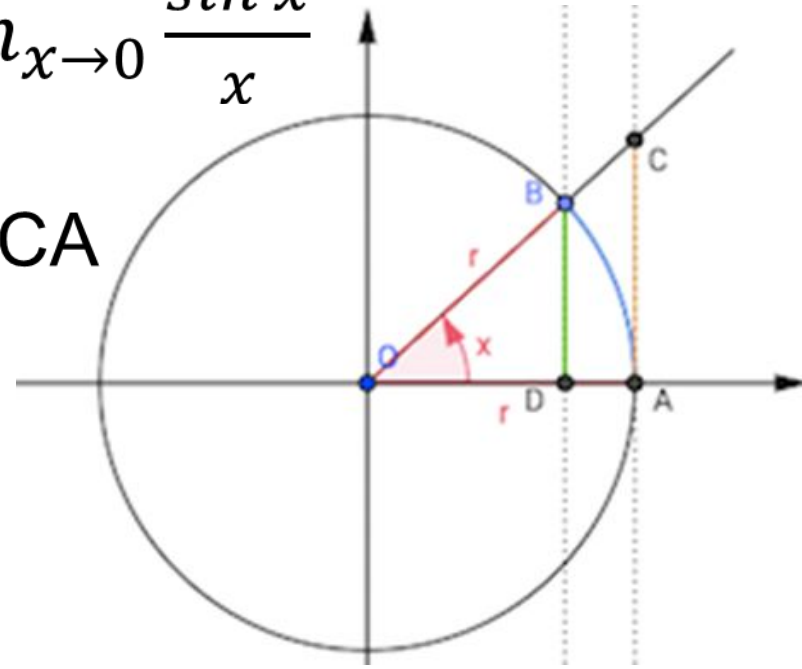
$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} -3^x \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{2}{3} \right)^x \right) = (-3^\infty \cdot 1) = -\infty$$

$$2. \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1-2x+x^2}{1-x^4} \quad \left( = \frac{+\infty}{-\infty} \text{ Indetermination!!} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x^4} - \frac{2}{x^3} + \frac{1}{x^2}}{\frac{1}{x^4} - 1} = \frac{0}{1} = 0$$

**Example 13:** Compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$

Since the triangles OBD and OCA are similar, we have



$$\frac{BD}{OD} = \frac{AC}{OA} \Rightarrow \frac{r \sin x}{r \cos x} = \frac{AC}{r} \Rightarrow AC = r \tan x$$

We also see that

$$BD < \text{arc } AB < AC \Rightarrow r \sin x < rx < r \tan x \\ \Rightarrow \sin x < x < \tan x$$



Dividing all by  $\sin x$ :

$$\frac{\sin x}{\sin x} < \frac{x}{\sin x} < \frac{\tan x}{\sin x} \Rightarrow 1 < \frac{x}{\sin x} < \frac{1}{\cos x}$$

Taking the limit when  $x \rightarrow 0$ :

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 1 \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin x} \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\cos x}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin x} \leq 1$$

Therefore,

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

From

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

We can conclude that

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

Which is the same as

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

**Example 14:** Compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - 1}{x}$

We can apply the previous exercise to compute this limit:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - 1}{x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - \cos 0}{x} \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-2 \sin\left(\frac{x+0}{2}\right) \sin\left(\frac{x-0}{2}\right)}{x} \\
 &= -\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)}{\frac{x}{2}} \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = -1 \times 0 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

# Your turn!

Compute  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^h - 1}{h}$ . You may want to use  $u = e^h - 1$

# Your turn!

Compute  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^h - 1}{h}$ . You may want to use  $u = e^h - 1$

Let us focus on the numerator and introduce a new variable:

$$u = e^h - 1$$

Which is equivalent to:

$$u = e^h - 1 \Leftrightarrow e^h = u + 1 \Leftrightarrow \ln(e^h) = \ln(u + 1)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow h = \ln(u + 1)$$

Note that as  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $u = e^h - 1$  also approaches 0.

Replacing on the expression of the limit (and changing  $h$  for  $u$  in the limit):

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^h - 1}{h} &= \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{u}{\ln(u + 1)} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{u}{u}}{\frac{\ln(u + 1)}{u}} = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{u} \ln(u + 1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \bullet \\
 & = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\ln(u+1)^{\frac{1}{u}}} = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{u}}\right)^{\frac{1}{u}}} \\
 & = \frac{1}{\ln \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{u}}\right)^{\frac{1}{u}}} = \frac{1}{\ln e} = \frac{1}{1} = 1
 \end{aligned}$$

# Learning outcomes

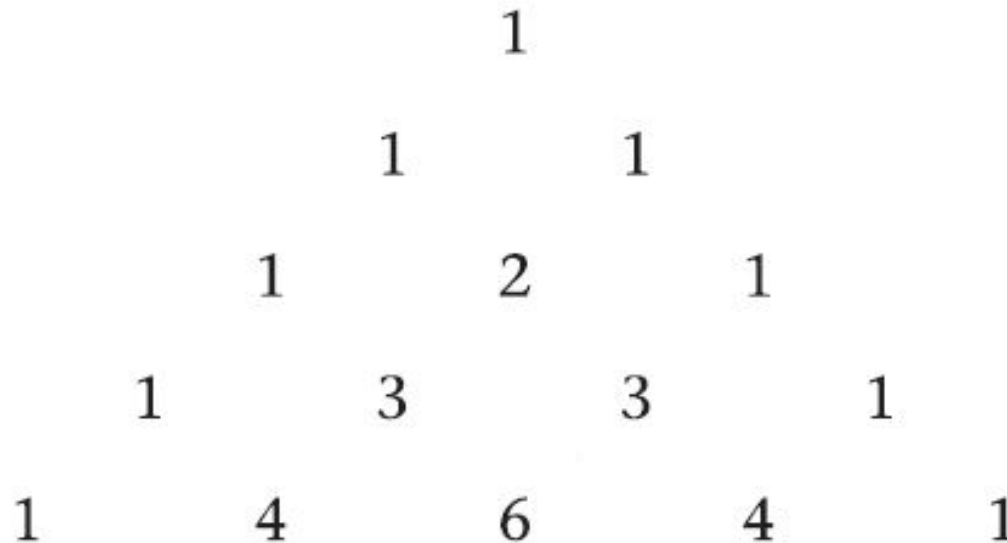
After this lecture, you should be able to

- 4.3.1 Compute limits graphically and analitically;
- 4.3.2 Compute one-sided limits and determine if the limit of a function at a point exists;
- 4.3.3 Identify horizontal and vertical asymptotes.



# Preview activity: Binomial expansions

Find the pattern of the numbers and guess the numbers in the next two rows.



???