

“ we always calculate  
limit at a point ”



# LIMITS



“ Something which you can  
approach but can't achieve ”

# LIMITS

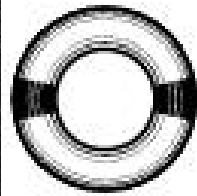
"A limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  captures how  $f(x)$  behaves as  $x$  gets arbitrarily close to  $a$ . Whether  $f(a)$  itself is undefined (a hole or vertical asymptote) or defined but possibly discontinuous, the limit lets us 'zoom in' and see if there's a single value  $L$  that  $f(x)$  approaches. Formally, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there's a  $\delta > 0$  so that whenever  $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ , we have  $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ ."

$$x \rightarrow a \Rightarrow |x - a| < \delta$$

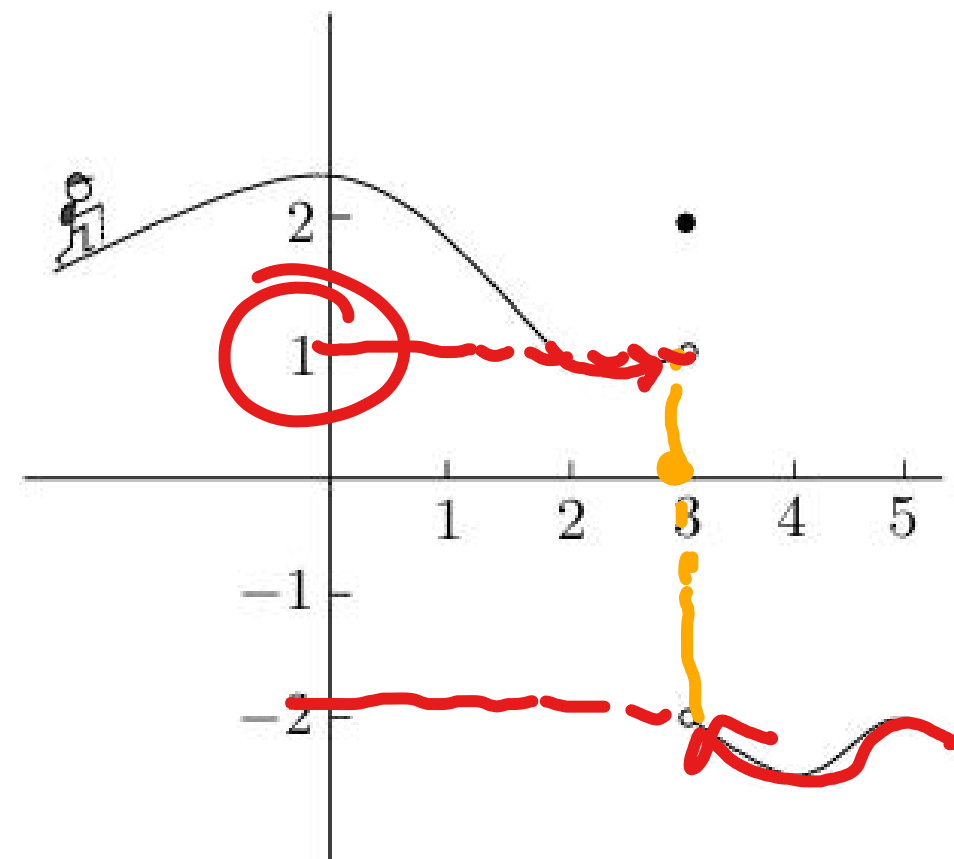
then

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

# LIMITS



We've seen that limits describe the behavior of a function near a certain point. Think about how you would describe the behavior of  $h(x)$  near  $x = 3$ :



limit of  $h(x)$   
 $= \text{DNE}$

We can summarize our findings from above by writing

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} h(x) = 1$$

and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} h(x) = -2.$$

This is taken from BOOK the CALCULUS LIFESAVER

# LIMITS

Now, limits don't always exist, as we'll see in the next section. But here's something important: the regular two-sided limit at  $x = a$  exists **exactly when** both left-hand and right-hand limits at  $x = a$  exist **and are equal to each other!** In that case, all three limits—two-sided, left-hand, and right-hand—are the same. In math-speak, I'm saying that

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

is the same thing as

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

If the left-hand and right-hand limits are not equal, as in the case of our function  $h$  from above, then the two-sided limit does not exist. We'd just write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} h(x) \text{ does not exist}$$

or you could even write "DNE" instead of "does not exist."

$\hookrightarrow \mathcal{X}_n = x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$

This is taken from BOOK the CALCULUS LIFESAVER

\*  $x_n = 2n - 1 = 2$   $x_n = (-1)^n \Rightarrow -1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, \dots$   
 Divergent Seq.

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n}{n} - \frac{1}{n}$   
 $= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2 - \frac{1}{n}$   
 $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8$

\*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2n - 1 = \text{deg. to } \infty$   
 $= 2(\infty) - 1$   
 $= \infty - 1$   
 $= \boxed{\infty}$   
 \*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2n - n^2$   
 deg to  $-\infty$

Seq. is a func. whose domain is the set of +ve integers  $\mathbb{N}$

$\{x_n\} \rightarrow L$   
 for every  $\epsilon > 0$  then

$|x_n - L| < \epsilon$   
 we say that "L" is limit of  $\{x_n\} \exists$  natural no  $N$  s.t  $n > N$

# LIMIT OF SEQUENCE

Convergent Seq.  
 Divergent Seq.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \{x_n\} = L$   
 (Koi finite no.)  
 unique limit  
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \{x_n\} = \infty / -\infty / L$  is not unique

# LIMIT OF SEQUENCE

Some of the most useful rules about convergent sequences are summarized below:

1. Every convergent sequence is bounded; that is, there exists a positive number,  $M$ , such that the absolute value of every term of the sequence is no greater than  $M$ . [The converse of this statement is not true; for example, the sequence  $(x_n)$  with  $x_n = (-1)^n$  is bounded, but not convergent.]

2. If a sequence is monotonic and bounded, then it's convergent.

3. If  $k$  is a constant, and  $(a_n)$  converges to  $A$ , then  $(ka_n) \rightarrow kA$ .

4. If  $(a_n)$  converges to  $A$  and  $(b_n)$  converges to  $B$ , then

$$(a_n + b_n) \rightarrow A + B,$$

$$(a_n - b_n) \rightarrow A - B,$$

$$(a_n b_n) \rightarrow AB, \text{ and}$$

$$\left( \frac{a_n}{b_n} \right) \rightarrow \frac{A}{B} \text{ (assuming that } B \neq 0).$$

5. (a) If  $k$  is a positive constant, then  $\left( \frac{1}{n^k} \right) \rightarrow 0$ .

(b) If  $|k| > 1$ , then  $\left( \frac{1}{k^n} \right) \rightarrow 0$ .

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{n} = 2$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$

$$= 2(0)$$

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{2^n} \right\} \rightarrow 0 \quad \left\{ \frac{1}{3^n} \right\} \rightarrow 0$$

This is taken from BOOK Cracking the GRE Subject Mathematics

# LIMITS

Find the value of each of these limits (if they exist):

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2 - x + 1}{x^2 + 4}$

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2 - x + 1}{x^3 + 4}$

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

(d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x}$

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

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} (\tan^{-1} x) = \tan^{-1}(-\infty) = -\frac{\pi}{2}$$

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

= DNE

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

So,

$$\text{LHL} \neq \text{RHL}$$

$x$  approaches  $a$  from below  
and  $f(x) \rightarrow L$  then it is  
"Left Hand Limit"

$x$  approaches  
 $a$  from above  
and  $f(x) \rightarrow L$   
then  
"Right Hand Limit"

# LIMIT OF FUNCTION

When

$$\text{LHL} = \text{RHL}$$

then  
Limit  
Exists!

$f(x) \rightarrow L$  as  $x \rightarrow a$   
written as

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

# LIMIT OF FUNCTION

When working with limits of functions, the following rules are often used:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} k = k$  (for any constant  $k$ ), and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x^n = a^n$ .

2. If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L_1$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L_2$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = L_1 + L_2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) - g(x)] = L_1 - L_2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)] = L_1 L_2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \left[ \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{L_1}{L_2} \text{ (assuming that } L_2 \neq 0 \text{)}.$$

3. To say that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$  means that for every sequence  $(x_n)$  converging to  $a$ , the sequence  $(f(x_n))$  converges to  $L$ .

4. Assume that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} h(x) = L$ . If there is a positive number  $\delta$  such that

$f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$  for all  $x$  satisfying  $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L$ . This, again, is the Sandwich (or Squeeze) theorem.

$$x_n = e^{-n} \cos n^n$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-n} \leq e^{-n} \cos n^n \leq e^{-n}$$

$$x_n \rightarrow a$$

$$f(x_n) \rightarrow L$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-n} \cos n^n = 0$$

$$f(x) \rightarrow L$$

$$g(x) \rightarrow L$$

$x$

This is taken from BOOK Cracking the GRE Subject Mathematics

# LIMITS

Evaluate each of the following limits:

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{\sqrt{x}+1}$

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{\sqrt{x}-1}$

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

(d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} [x-1]$

→ bracket func  
 $|a| = a, a > 0$   
 $|a| = -a, a < 0$

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

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

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} [x-1] = -1$$