

Section 3.3 – The Limit of a Function

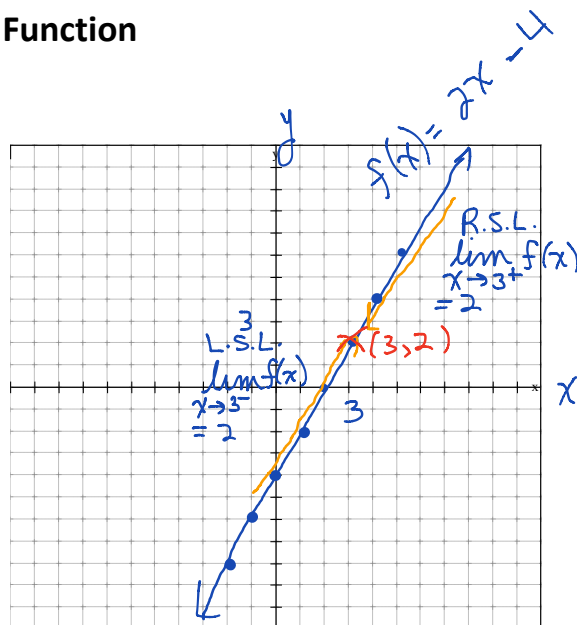
Warm-up

- Graph $f(x) = 2x - 4$.
- Use the **graph** to evaluate the following limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = 2 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x)$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 2$$



- Evaluate the same limit **algebraically**.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (2x - 4) = 2(3) - 4 = 2$$

Ex. 1. Evaluate the following limits by using the **direct substitution technique**.

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

$$= -(-1)^2 + 2(-1) - 4 = -1 - 2 - 4 = -7$$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{-4}{x + 4}$

$$= \frac{-4}{(2) + 4} = \frac{-4}{6} = -\frac{2}{3}$$

c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \sqrt{x^2 - 9}$

$$= \sqrt{(3)^2 - 9} = \sqrt{0} = 0$$

Evaluating the Limit of a Function Using One-Sided Limits

1. Graph $f(x) = \begin{cases} x - 1, & \text{if } x < 1 \\ 1, & \text{if } x = 1 \\ x + 1, & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$

If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ does not exist.

If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$.

- Use the **graph** to evaluate **one-sided limits**, in order to find the indicated limit if it exists.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$$

Left-sided limit

Right-sided limit

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

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

$$= 0$$

$$= 2$$

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) \therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$ does not exist.

- Evaluate the same limit **algebraically**, using **one-sided limits**.

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

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

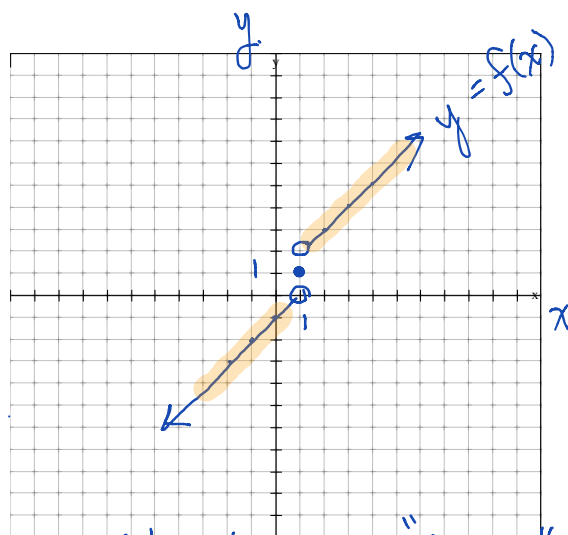
$$= 1 - 1 = 0$$

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

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

$$= 1 + 1 = 2$$

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) \therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$ does not exist.



Note: There is a "jump" discontinuity at $x = 1$.

KEY CONCEPTS

- The limit of a function is written as $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$, which is read as "the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a , equals L ".
- If the values of $f(x)$ approach L more and more closely as x approaches a more and more closely (from either side of a), but $x \neq a$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$.
- The left-sided limit of a function is written as $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$, which is read as "the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the left".
- If the values of $f(x)$ approach L more and more closely as x approaches a more and more closely, with $x < a$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$.
- The right-sided limit of a function is written as $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$, which is read as "the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the right".
- If the values of $f(x)$ approach L more and more closely as x approaches a more and more closely, with $x > a$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$.
- In order for $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ to exist, the one-sided limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ must both exist and be equal. That is,
If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ does not exist.
If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$.
- To check that a function $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = a$, check that the following three conditions are satisfied:
 - a) $f(a)$ is defined (a is in the domain of $f(x)$)
 - b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists
 - c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$Also, if $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = a$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$.
- Every polynomial P is continuous at every number, that is, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} P(x) = P(a)$.
- Every rational function $f(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ where P and Q are polynomials, is continuous at every number a for which $Q(a) \neq 0$, that is, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{P(a)}{Q(a)}$, $Q(a) \neq 0$.
- **Discontinuous:**
 - a) If a function $f(x)$ has a removable discontinuity at $x = a$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ exists, and the discontinuity can be removed by (re)defining $f(x) = L$ at the single point a .
 - b) If a function has a jump discontinuity, the function "jumps" from one value to another.
 - c) If a function $f(x)$ has an infinite discontinuity at $x = a$, the absolute values of the function become larger and larger as x approaches a .

Ex. 2. By evaluating *one-sided limits*, find the indicated limit if it exists. Graph the function and state whether the function is continuous or discontinuous with reasons.

Note: A function that is *continuous* has no breaks in its graph.

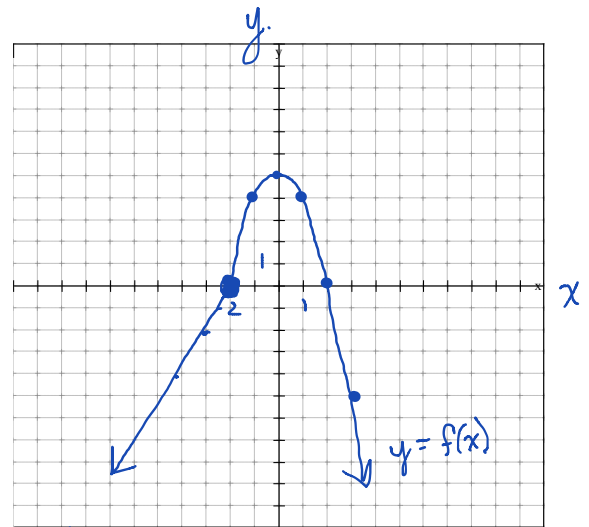
A function that is *discontinuous* has some type of break in its graph. This break is the result of a *hole*, *jump*, or *vertical asymptote*.

a) $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x+4, & \text{if } x < -2 \\ 4-x^2, & \text{if } x \geq -2 \end{cases}; \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x)$

<p>L.S.L.</p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} (2x+4)$ $= 2(-2)+4$ $= 0$	<p>R.S.L.</p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} f(x)$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} (4-x^2)$ $= 4-(-2)^2$ $= 0$
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$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} f(x)$

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x) = 0$



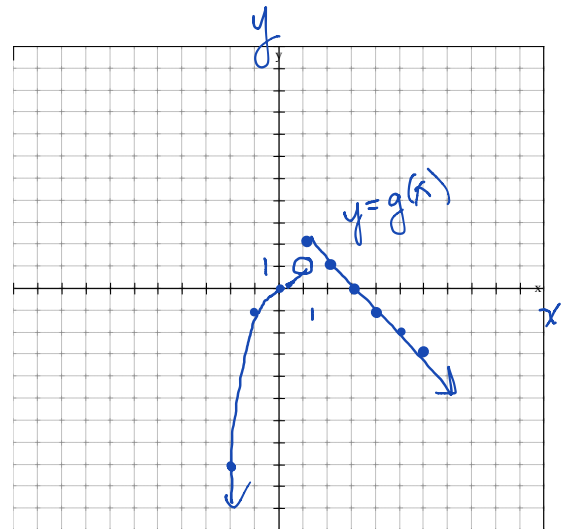
Note: $f(x)$ is continuous for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

b) $g(x) = \begin{cases} -x+3, & \text{if } x \geq 1 \\ x^3, & \text{if } x < 1 \end{cases}; \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x)$

<p>L.S.L.</p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} g(x)$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} x^3$ $= (1)^3$ $= 1$	<p>R.S.L.</p> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} g(x)$ $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} (-x+3)$ $= -(1)+3$ $= 2$
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$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} g(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} g(x)$

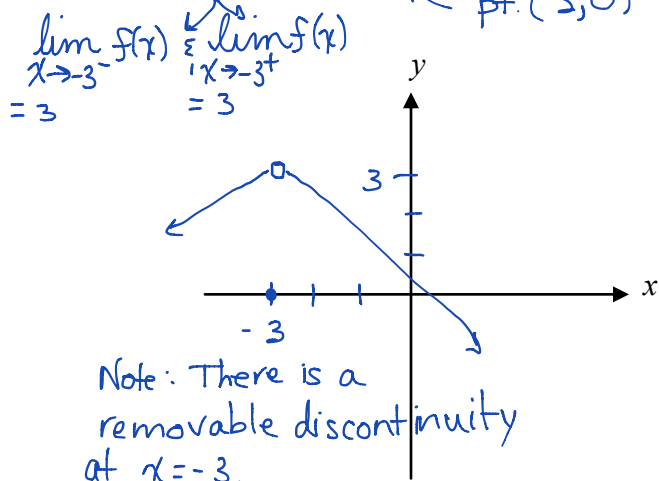
$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x)$ does not exist.



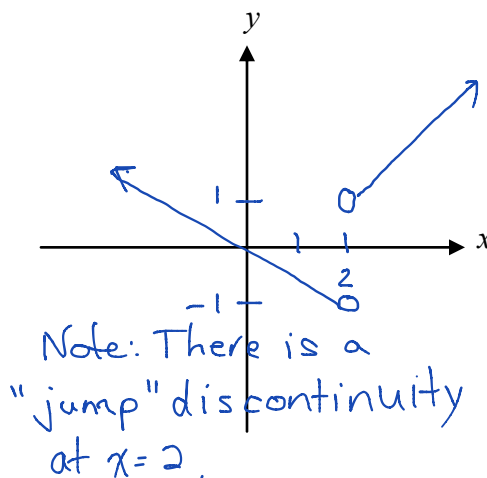
Note: $g(x)$ is discontinuous at $x=1$ where there is a "jump" discontinuity.

Ex. 3. Sketch the graph of any function that satisfies the given conditions in each case.

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} f(x) = 3, f(-3) = 0$



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



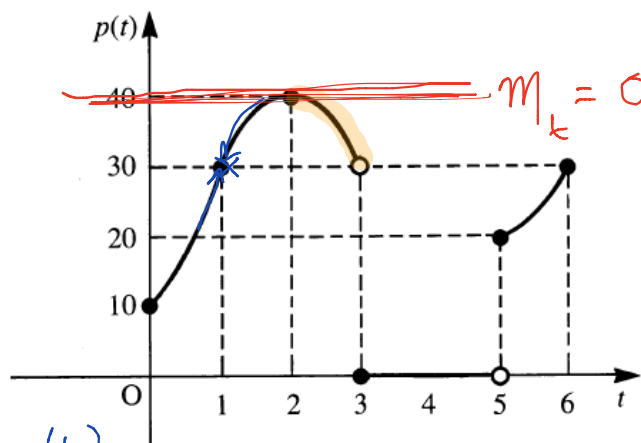
Ex. 4. The function $p(t)$ describes the production of unleaded gasoline in a refinery, in thousands of litres, where the time t , is measured in days.

a) Evaluate $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} p(t)$.

$\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} p(t) = 30$

b) Evaluate $\lim_{t \rightarrow 3^-} p(t)$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow 3^+} p(t)$.

$\lim_{t \rightarrow 3^-} p(t) = 30$ $\lim_{t \rightarrow 3^+} p(t) = 0$



c) When was the refinery shut down for repairs and when did production begin again?

The refinery shut down on day 3 and opened on day 5.

d) At what times is the production function $p(t)$ discontinuous?

$p(t)$ is discontinuous at $t=3$ and $t=5$.

e) At what time was the production highest and what was the rate of change of production at this time?

Production was highest at $t=2$ where the rate of change of production was 0.

Warm-up

1. Evaluate each limit, if possible, using the *direct substitution technique* for evaluating limits.

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (\sqrt{x} + 2)^2$
 $= (\sqrt{4} + 2)^2$
 $= (2 + 2)^2$
 $= (4)^2$
 $= 16$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (\sqrt{1 + \sqrt{1 + x}})$
 $= \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{1}}$
 $= \sqrt{1 + 1}$
 $= \sqrt{2}$

c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{(x+a)^2}{x^2 + a^2}$
 $= \frac{(a+a)^2}{a^2 + a^2}$
 $= \frac{(2a)^2}{2a^2}$
 $= \frac{4a^2}{2a^2} \rightarrow = 2$

d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{1}{x+2}$
 $= \frac{1}{-2+2}$
 $= \frac{1}{0}$
 undefined or d.n.e.

e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x)$ if $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3, & \text{if } x > 2 \\ \frac{4}{x}, & \text{if } x \leq 2 \end{cases}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (x+3)$
 $= (4)+3$
 $= 7$

* $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}} f(x)$ if $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3, & \text{if } x > 2 \\ \frac{4}{x}, & \text{if } x \leq 2 \end{cases}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}} \frac{4}{x}$
 $= 4 \div (-\frac{1}{2}) \rightarrow = -8$

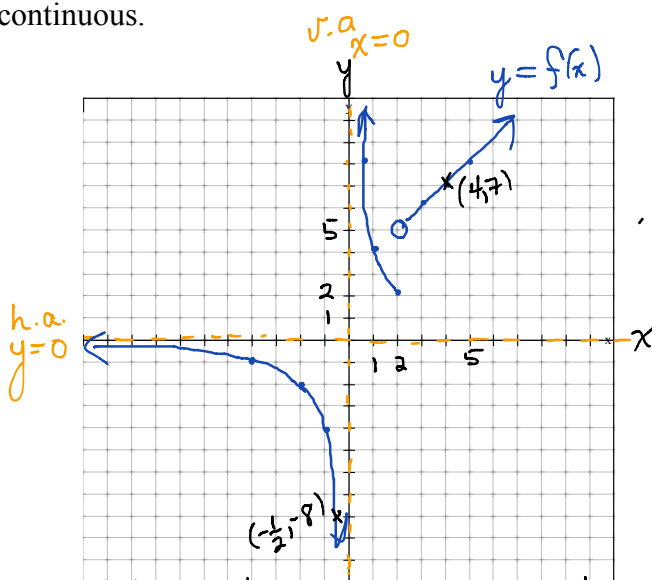
2. By evaluating *one-sided limits*, find the indicated limit if it exists. Graph the function and state whether the function is continuous.

$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3, & \text{if } x > 2 \\ \frac{4}{x}, & \text{if } x \leq 2 \end{cases}$; $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$

L.S.L.
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{4}{x}$
 $= \frac{4}{2}$
 $= 2$

R.S.L.
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} (x+3)$
 $= (2)+3$
 $= 5$

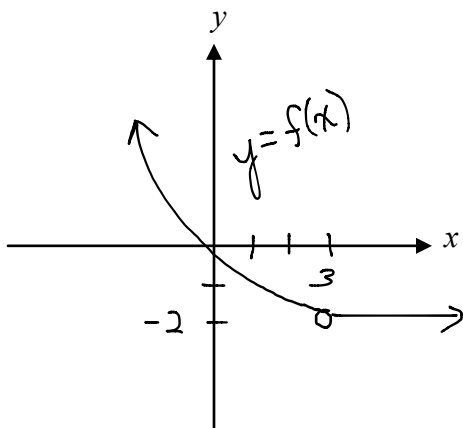
$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x)$
 $\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$ does not exist



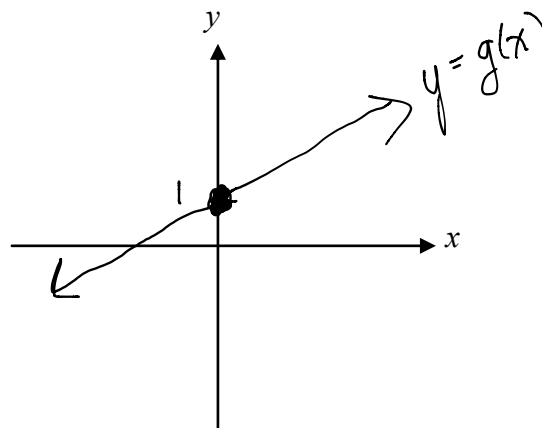
Note: The function is discontinuous at $x=0$ where there is an infinite discontinuity & at $x=2$ where there is a "jump" discontinuity.

3. Sketch the graph of any function that satisfies the given conditions in each case.

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = -2$, $f(x)$ is discontinuous at $x=3$



b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = 1$, $g(x)$ is continuous at $x=0$



Section 3.4 – Limits of Indeterminate Forms

Sometimes the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a cannot be found by direct substitution. This is of special interest when direct substitution results in an **indeterminate form** $\left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$. In such cases, we look for an equivalent function that agrees with f for all values except the troublesome value at $x = a$.

Recall: Factoring

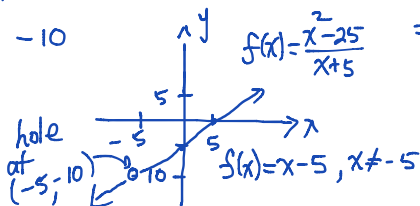
Difference of squares
 $a^2 - b^2$
 $= (a-b)(a+b)$

Difference of cubes
 $a^3 - b^3$
 $= (a-b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$

Sum of cubes
 $a^3 + b^3$
 $= (a+b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$

Ex. 1. Evaluate the limit of each **indeterminate** quotient by using **factoring** or **rationalizing techniques**.

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{x^2 - 25}{x + 5} \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{(x-5)(x+5)}{(x+5)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -5} (x-5)$
 $= -10$



b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} \frac{x^3 + 27}{3x + 9} \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} \frac{x^3 + 3^3}{3(x+3)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} \frac{(x+3)(x^2 - 3x + 9)}{3(x+3)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} \frac{x^2 - 3x + 9}{3}$
 $= \frac{9 + 9 + 9}{3}$
 $= 9$

c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3^{2x} - 3^x}{1 - 3^x} \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3^x(3^x - 1)}{-3^x + 1}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3^x(3^x - 1)}{-(3^x - 1)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3^x}{-1}$
 $= -1$

d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}} \frac{8x^3 - 27}{2x^3 - 9x^2 + x + 12} \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}} \frac{(2x)^3 - (3)^3}{(2x-3)(x^2 - 3x - 4)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}} \frac{[(2x) - (3)][(2x)^2 + (2x)(3) + (3)^2]}{(2x-3)(x^2 - 3x - 4)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}} \frac{4x^2 + 6x + 9}{x^2 - 3x - 4}$
 $= \frac{4\left(\frac{9}{4}\right) + 6\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + 9}{\frac{9}{4} - \frac{9}{2} - 4}$
 $= \frac{27}{-\frac{25}{4}}$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 - 3x - 4 \\ 2x-3 \overline{) 2x^3 - 9x^2 + x + 12} \\ \underline{2x^3 - 3x^2} \\ -6x^2 + x \\ \underline{-6x^2 + 9x} \\ -8x + 12 \\ \underline{-8x + 12} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \sqrt{1+3x}}{x} \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1 - \sqrt{1+3x})(1 + \sqrt{1+3x})}{x(1 + \sqrt{1+3x})}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (1+3x)}{x(1 + \sqrt{1+3x})}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-3x}{x(1 + \sqrt{1+3x})}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-3}{1 + \sqrt{1+3x}}$
 $= -\frac{3}{2}$

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{27}{-\frac{25}{4}} \\ \frac{9}{4} - \frac{18}{4} - \frac{16}{4} \end{array} \right\}$

$= \frac{-27 \times 4}{25}$
 $= \frac{-108}{25}$

Ex. 2. Evaluate the following limit using the *change of variable technique*.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^{\frac{1}{6}} - 1}{x - 1} \quad \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$$

$$= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{u - 1}{u^6 - 1} \quad \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$$

$$= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{u - 1}{(u^3 - 1)(u^3 + 1)}$$

$$= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{\cancel{u - 1}}{\cancel{u - 1}(u^2 + u + 1)(u^3 + 1)}$$

$$= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{(u^2 + u + 1)(u^3 + 1)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(3)(2)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{6}$$

let $u = x^{\frac{1}{6}}$
 if $x \rightarrow 1$, $\frac{1}{6}$
 $u \rightarrow (1)^{\frac{1}{6}}$
 $u \rightarrow \sqrt[6]{1}$
 $u \rightarrow 1$

Find x if
 $(u)^6 = (x^{\frac{1}{6}})^6$
 $u^6 = x$
 $\therefore x = u^6$

Ex. 3. Evaluate the following limit using the *one-sided limits technique*.

Illustrate your results graphically.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x|x-2|}{x-2} \quad \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$$

Case ①

if $x - 2 < 0$
 $x < 2$

L.S.L.

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x[-(x-2)]}{x-2}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} (-x)$$

$$= -2$$

Case ②

if $x - 2 > 0$
 $x > 2$

R.S.L.

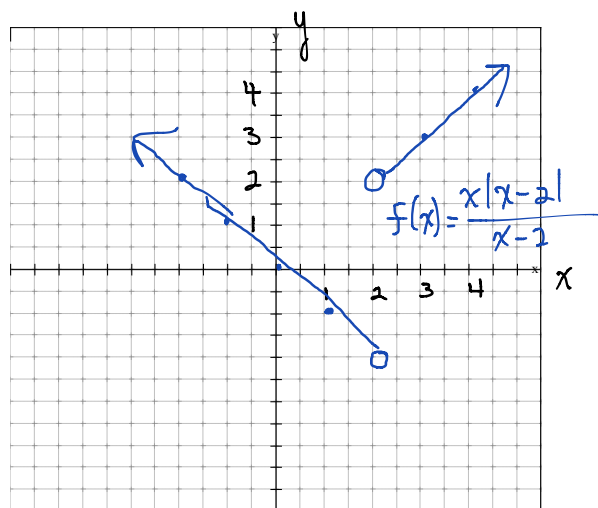
$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x[(x-2)]}{x-2}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} x$$

$$= 2$$

\therefore L.S.L. \neq R.S.L.

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x|x-2|}{x-2}$ does not exist.



$$\text{Let } f(x) = \frac{x|x-2|}{x-2}$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x & , \text{ if } x < 2 \\ x & , \text{ if } x > 2 \end{cases}$$

Section 3.4 – Properties of Limits

The Limit Laws

Suppose that the limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ both exist and c is a constant.

Then, we have the following limit laws.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} c = c$ | |
| 2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a$ | |
| 3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ | -The limit of a sum is the sum of the limits.
"Sum Law" |
| 4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) - g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ | -The limit of a difference is the difference of the limits.
"Difference Law" |
| 5. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [cf(x)] = c \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ | -The limit of a constant times a function is the constant times the limit of the function.
"Constant Multiple Law" |
| 6. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ | -The limit of a product is the product of the limits.
"Product Law" |
| 7. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)}$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$ | -The limit of a quotient is the quotient of the limits.
"Quotient Law" |
| 8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)]^n = \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \right]^n$ | -The limit of a power is the power of the limit.
"Power Law" |
| 9. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x^n = a^n$ | |
| 10. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}$ | -The limit of a root is the root of the limit.
"Root Law" |
| 11. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{x} = \sqrt[n]{a}$ | |

Ex. 1. If $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x) = 9$, state and use the *properties of limits* to evaluate each limit.

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

$$= 2 \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} [f(x)]^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{by the Constant Multiple Law}$$

$$= 2 \cdot \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x) \right]^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{by the Power Law}$$

$$= 2(9)^2$$

$$= 162$$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{\sqrt{f(x)}}{f(x) - x^2}$

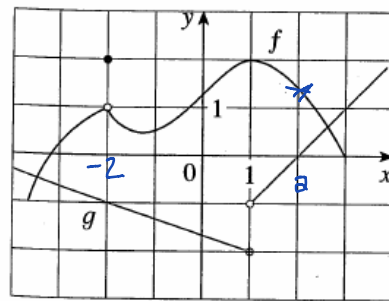
$$= \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \sqrt{f(x)}}{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} [f(x) - x^2]} \quad \leftarrow \text{by the Quotient Law}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x)}}{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} [f(x) - x^2]} \quad \leftarrow \text{by the Root Law}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} x^2}}{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} [f(x) - x^2]} \quad \leftarrow \text{by the Difference Law}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{9}}{9 - (4)} = \frac{3}{5}$$

Ex. 2. Given the graphs of f and g , use and state the **Limit Laws** to evaluate the following limits if they exist.



a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$
 $= \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)}$ ← by the quotient law
 $= \frac{1.5}{0}$ ∵ $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x) = 0$
 $\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ d.n.e.

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} [3f(x) + g(x)]$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} 3f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} g(x)$ ← by the sum law
 $= 3 \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} g(x)$ ← by the constant Multiple Law.
 $= 3(1) + (-1)$
 $= 2$

c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} [f(x) g(x)]$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} g(x)$ ← by the Product Law
 $= (2)(-2)$
 $= -4$

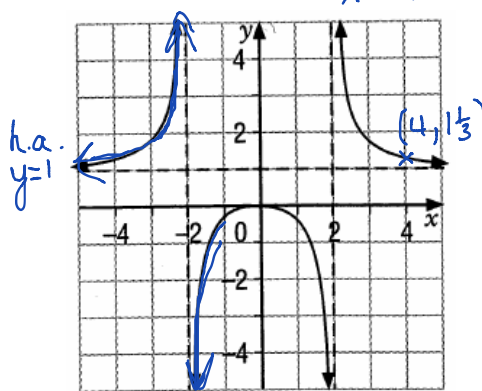
Ex. 3. Evaluate the following limits if possible. (Use $+\infty$ or $-\infty$ if appropriate.)

$f(x) = \frac{x^2}{x^2 - 4}$

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2}{x^2 - 4}$
 $= \frac{(4)^2}{(4)^2 - 4}$
 $= \frac{16}{12}$
 $= \frac{4}{3}$

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

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



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

e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} \frac{x^2}{x^2 - 4} \quad \frac{4}{0}$

f) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^2}{x^2 - 4}$
 $=$ d.n.e.

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

∵ $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} \frac{x^2}{x^2 - 4} \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} \frac{x^2}{x^2 - 4}$

Ex. 4. Evaluate the following limits if possible. (Use $+\infty$ or $-\infty$ if appropriate.)

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6x^2 + 3x - 2}{(3x - 2)^2}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6x^2 + 3x - 2}{9x^2 - 12x + 4} \div \frac{x^2}{x^2}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6 + \frac{3}{x} - \frac{2}{x^2}}{9 - \frac{12}{x} + \frac{4}{x^2}}$
 $= \frac{6}{9}$
 $= \frac{2}{3}$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^2 + x}{3 - x} \div \frac{x}{x}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-x + x + 0}{-x + 3} \div \frac{x}{x}$
 $= +\infty$ or $\frac{x+1}{\frac{3}{x} - 1}$
 $= +\infty$

c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x^2 + 1}$
 $= +\infty$

d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x^2 + 2x - 3} \quad \frac{0}{0}$
 $= \frac{0}{12}$
 $= 0$

e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x^2 + 2x - 3} \quad \left(\frac{0}{0}\right)$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} \frac{(x-3)(x+3)}{(x+3)(x-1)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -3} \frac{x-3}{x-1}$
 $= \frac{-6}{-4}$
 $= \frac{3}{2}$

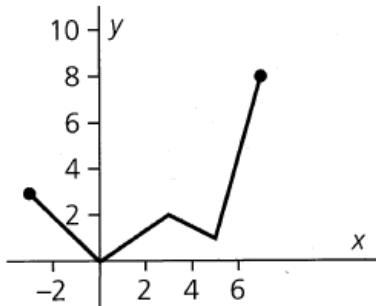
f) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x^2 + 2x - 3} \quad \frac{-8}{0}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{(x-3)(x+3)}{(x+3)(x-1)}$
 $= \boxed{-\infty}$

Section 3.5 – Continuity

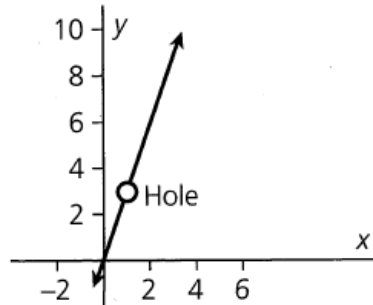
When we talk about a function being *continuous at a point*, we mean that the graph passes through the point without a break.

A graph that is *not continuous at a point* (sometimes referred to as being *discontinuous at a point*) has a break of some type at the point. The following graphs illustrate these ideas.

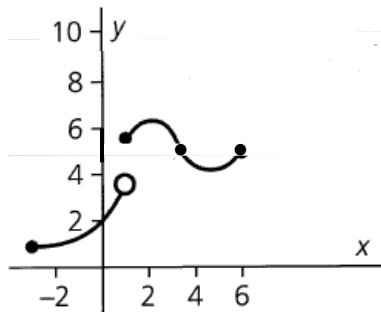
a. Continuous for all values of the domain



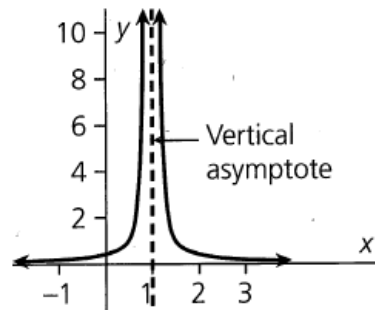
b. Discontinuous at $x = 1$
(removable discontinuity)



c. Discontinuous at $x = 1$
(jump discontinuity)



d. Discontinuous at $x = 1$
(infinite discontinuity)



A function f is **continuous** at $x = a$ if **all three** of the following conditions are satisfied:

- $f(a)$ is defined
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

Ex. 1. Given $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 - 3, & \text{if } x < -1 \\ x - 1, & \text{if } x \geq -1 \end{cases}$,

a) graph the function.

b) determine $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$.

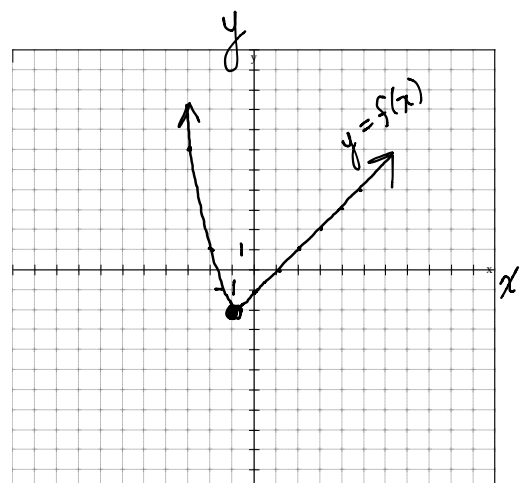
$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x) = -2$

c) determine $f(-1)$.

$f(-1) = -2$

d) is f continuous at $x = -1$? Explain.

yes, f is continuous at $x = -1$
since $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x) = f(-1)$



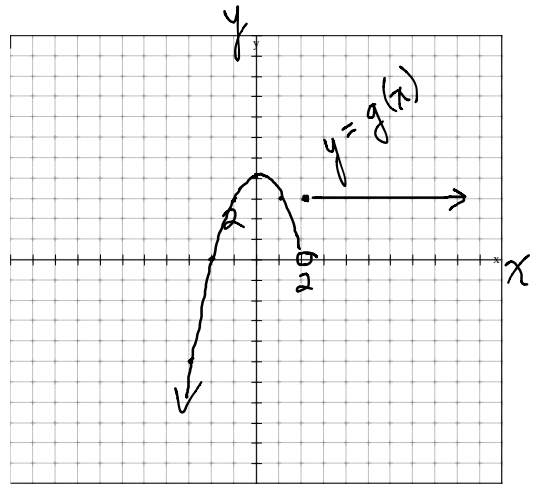
Ex. 2. Test the continuity of each of the following functions at $x = 2$.
 If the function is not continuous at $x = 2$, give a reason why it is not continuous.
 Illustrate graphically.

a) $g(x) = \begin{cases} 4-x^2, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ 3 & , \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$

- $g(2) = 3$
- Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)$

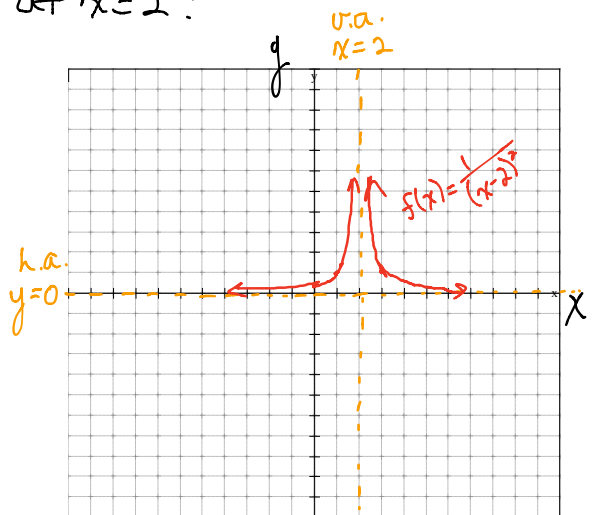
L.S.L.	R.S.L.
$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} (4-x^2)$	$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} g(x)$
$= 4-(2)^2$	$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} 3$
$= 0$	$= 3$

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} g(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} g(x), \therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} g(x)$ d.n.e & $g(x)$ is discontinuous at $x=2$!



b) $f(x) = \frac{1}{(x-2)^2}$

- $f(2)$ d.n.e
- $\therefore f(2)$ is undefined,
- \therefore the function is discontinuous at $x=2$.



c) $h(x) = \frac{x^2 - x - 2}{x - 2}, x \neq 2$ and $h(2) = 2$

- $h(2) = 2$
 - Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x)$
- $$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - x - 2}{x - 2} \left(\frac{0}{0} \right)$$
- $$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x-2)(x+1)}{(x-2)} \quad \therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x) \neq h(2)$$
- $$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x+1)$$
- $$= 3$$
- \therefore The function is discontinuous at $x=2$

