

MA 113

1/23/17

[1] Log in to your REEF account using your phone, laptop, or tablet.  
(See my Canvas announcement about this.)

[2] Today we will be testing REEF system.

[3] After today, I will take attendance using REEF on random days; not every day.

[4] See Canvas announcement for reminders about homework / quiz info for this week.

ANSWER: 1

## Average + Inst. Velocity §2.1

Ex: Suppose we drop an object from high up. Ignoring air resistance,

Galileo's law applies:

If  $s(t)$  = distance in meters fallen after  $t$  seconds, then

$$s(t) = 4.9 \cdot t^2 \text{ m/s.}$$

← units.

Picture:

\* Drop point

$s(t)$

\* ground

Q: Do you want to consider  $s(t)$  as a positive or as a negative quantity?

A: There is no clear answer. We must decide.

This leads to distance i.e. total amount traveled, no sign.

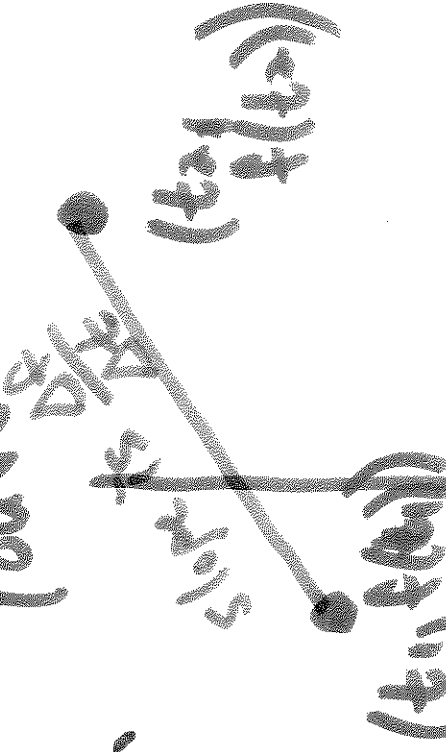
+ displacement i.e. distanced traveled w/ a sign indicating direction.

So, distance =  $|s(t)|$ , displacement, i.e. sign, depends on observer.

Average Velocity: Given an object with position  $f(t)$  meters at  $t$  seconds, the average velocity of the object between time  $t_1$  and time  $t_2$  is you've seen this!

$$\text{change in } f \rightarrow \frac{\Delta f}{\Delta t} = \frac{f(t_2) - f(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

change in time



(try this!)

which is greatest?

Q: For  $s(t) = 4.9t^2$ , which is greatest?

(a)  $\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t}$  with  $t_1 = 0, t_2 = 1$

(b)  $\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t}$  with  $t_1 = \frac{1}{2}, t_2 = \frac{3}{4}$

(c)  $\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t}$  with  $t_1 = 3, t_2 = 3.1$

(a) is  $4.9 \text{ m/s}$

(b)  $6.125 \text{ m/s}$

(c)  $29.89 \text{ m/s}$

greatest! (even though  
smallest time  
change...)

---

What do we really want? : How fast is  
the object falling at a specific instant in  
time?

To answer this, we consider average  
velocity for very small time intervals.

- Ex:  $s(t) = 1.9t^2$  m/s, estimate the "instantaneous" velocity at 3.2 seconds.
- use time interval  $[3.2, 3.21]$  + get  $\boxed{31.409 \text{ m/s.}}$

$$[3.199, 3.2] + \text{get}$$

$$\boxed{31.3551 \text{ m/s.}}$$

- use time interval

$$\frac{s(3.2) - s(3.199)}{3.2 - 3.199} =$$

$$[3.15, 3.25] + \text{get}$$

$$\frac{s(3.25) - s(3.15)}{3.25 - 3.15} = \boxed{31.36 \text{ m/s}}$$

- use time interval

Def<sup>n</sup>: The instantaneous velocity  
at a seconds of an object with  
position  $s(t)$  meters at  $t$  seconds is  
the limiting value of

$$\frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

"difference"  
quotient"  $\left\{ \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{a+h-a} = \right.$

for very small values of  $h$  (if a limiting  
value exists).

NEXT BIG Q: What does "limiting value" mean?  
We will tell you a half-truth in  
response.

# The Limit of a Function

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University of Kentucky

January 25, 2017



## Bill of Fare

1. Why Study Limits, Anyhow?
2. The Limit of a Function
3. One-Sided Limits
4. Infinite Limits

# Deadlines, Deadlines!

- Webwork A3 due Wednesday
- Webwork A4 due Friday
- Quiz #2 in recitation Thursday
- Written Assignments due Friday

## Why Study Limits, Anyhow?

The *concept* of limit in Calculus seeks to make sense out of what we did in the Falling Body problem, where we wanted to compute instantaneous velocity at  $t = 1$  if the signed distance from the starting point is given by

$$g(t) = -16t^2 + 64t$$

measuring  $t$  in seconds and distance in feet.

We found that the average velocity between  $t = 1$  and  $t = 1 + h$  seconds is

$$\frac{g(1+h) - g(1)}{h} = \frac{32h + 16h^2}{h} = 32 + 16h$$

## Why Study Limits, Anyhow?

We found that the average velocity between  $t = 1$  and  $t = 1 + h$  seconds is

$$\frac{g(1+h) - g(1)}{h} = \frac{32h + 16h^2}{h} = 32 + 16h$$

Thus, although the “average velocity between  $t = 1$  and  $t = 1$ ” doesn’t make any sense, the *instantaneous velocity* is certainly what you get as  $h$  “tends to zero.” What’s going on here?

The answer is that there is a difference between the *value of a function at a point* and the *limit of a function as its argument approaches a point*

## The Limit of a Function

Consider the rational function

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

whose domain is the set of all real numbers  $x \neq 1$ . So, there is *no such thing* as  $f(1)$ .

However...

$x$	$f(x)$
1.01	3.01
1.001	3.001
1.0001	3.0001

$x$	$f(x)$
0.99	2.99
0.999	2.999
0.9999	2.9999

so that, the closer  $x$  gets to 1, the closer  $f(x)$  gets to 3, i.e.,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 3$$

## An Important Note

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

$x$	$f(x)$
1.01	3.01
1.001	3.001
1.0001	3.0001

$x$	$f(x)$
0.99	2.99
0.999	2.999
0.9999	2.9999

In finding  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$ , it is important to examine the behavior of  $f(x)$  *both* as  $x$  approaches 1 from the right *and* as  $x$  approaches 1 from the left!

## What's the Trick?

Of course,

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

on its domain, so without looking at a table of data, we could use this formula to predict

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 3$$

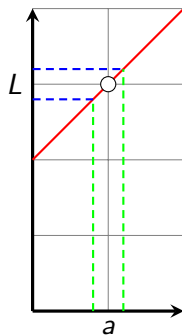
The crucial point is, *even though  $x = 1$  does not belong to the domain of  $f$ , it still makes sense to talk about the limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  tends to 1.*

# The Intuitive Definition of Limit

We say that a number  $L$  is the **limit** of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$ , written

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

if the value of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $L$  by choosing  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ .



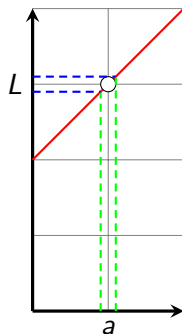


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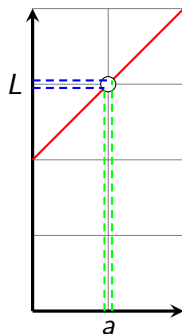


# The Intuitive Definition of Limit

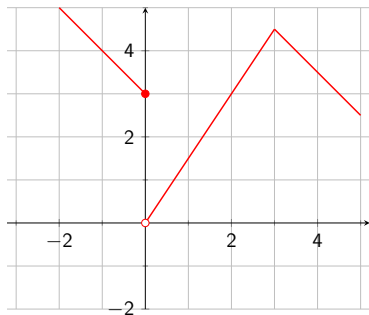
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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

if the value of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $L$  by choosing  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ .



# Find the Limits!

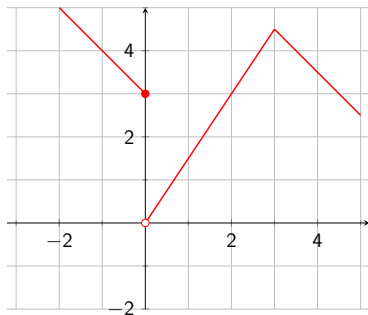


For the graph shown:

Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. The limit does not exist

# Find the Limits!

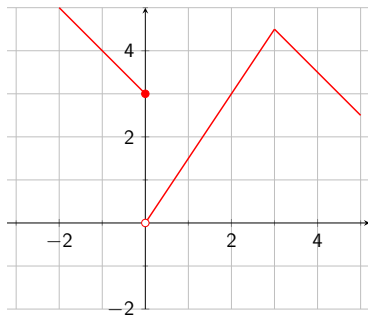


For the graph shown:

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

- A. 3.5
- B. 5.5
- C. 3
- D. The limit does not exist

# Find the Limits!



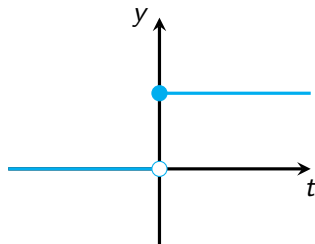
For the graph shown:

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

- A. 3
- B. 0
- C. 1.5
- D. The limit does not exist

## One-Sided Limits

The *Heaviside Function* (known informally as the “off-on function”) is defined as:



$$H(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t < 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } t \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

The value of  $H(t)$  approaches 0 as  $t$  tends to zero from the left

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^-} H(t) = 0$$

The value of  $H(t)$  approaches 1 as  $t$  tends to zero from the right

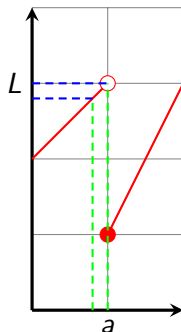
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} H(t) = 1$$

# Left-Hand Limits

We say that

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

and say that **the left-hand limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  is  $L$**  if the value of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $L$  by choosing  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but *less than*  $a$

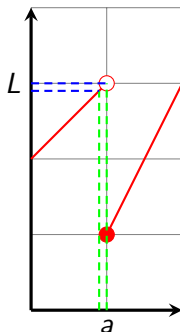


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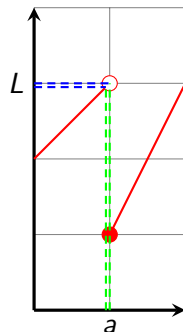


# Left-Hand Limits

We say that

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and say that **the left-hand limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  is  $L$**  if the value of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $L$  by choosing  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but *less than*  $a$

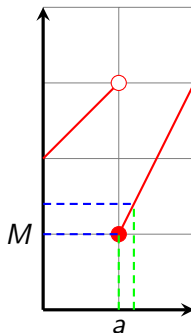


# Right-Hand Limits

We say that

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

and say that **the right-hand limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  is  $M$**  if the value of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $M$  by choosing  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but *greater than*  $a$

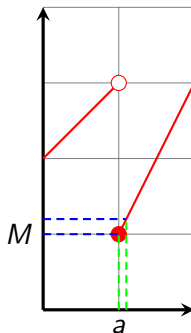


## Right-Hand Limits

We say that

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

and say that **the right-hand limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  is  $M$**  if the value of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $L$  by choosing  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but *greater than*  $a$

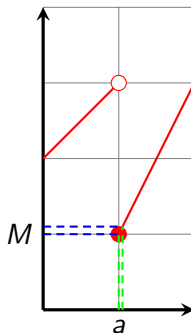


## Right-Hand Limits

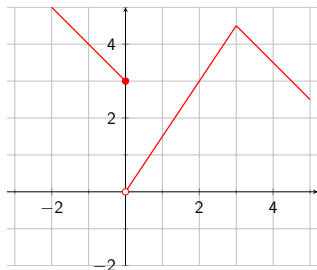
We say that

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

and say that **the right-hand limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $a$  is  $M$**  if the value of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $M$  by choosing  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but *greater than*  $a$



# Find the Left- and Right-Hand Limits!

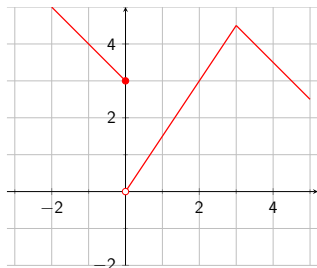


For the graph shown:

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

- A. 0
- B. 2
- C. 1.5
- D. 3
- E. Does not exist

# Find the Left- and Right-Hand Limits!



For the graph shown:

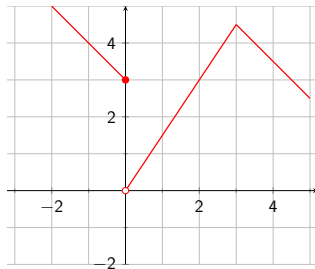
Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$

- A. 0
- B. 2
- C. 1.5
- D. It cannot be determined from the information given

# Find the Left- and Right-Hand Limits!

For the graph shown:

Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x)$



- A.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = +2.5$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = -2.5$
- B.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = 4.5$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = -4.5$
- C.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = 4.5$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = 4.5$
- D.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = 3$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = -3$

# Left-Hand Limits, Right-Hand Limits, and Limits

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

if and only if

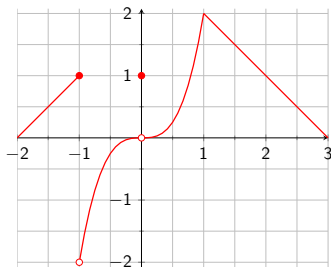
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

In words: The limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  tends to  $a$  is a number  $L$  *if and only if*

- the left- and right-hand limits  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$  both exist
- Both the left- and the right-hand limits are equal to the number  $L$



# Have We Reached the Limit Yet?

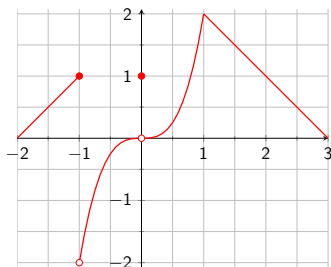


To the left is the graph of a function  $f(x)$ .

For which points  $a$  are the left- and right-hand limits of  $f(x)$  as  $x \rightarrow a$  equal?

- A.  $a = -1$  and  $a = 1$
- B.  $a = 0$  and  $a = 1$
- C.  $a = -1$  only
- D.  $a = -1$ ,  $a = 0$ , and  $a = 1$

# Have We Reached the Limit Yet?

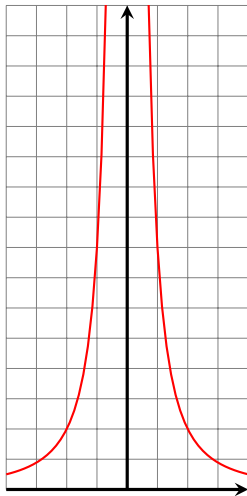


To the left is the graph of a function  $f(x)$ .

For which points  $a$  does the limit as  $x \rightarrow a$  of  $f(x)$  exist?

- A.  $a = -1$  and  $a = 1$
- B.  $a = 0$  and  $a = 1$
- C.  $a = -1$  only
- D.  $a = -1$ ,  $a = 0$ , and  $a = 1$

# Infinite Limits



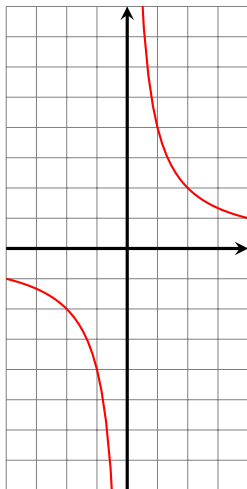
Let's look at the graph of the function

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

To describe this function's behavior at zero, we can say that  $f(x) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 0$  or write

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

# Infinite Limits



Let's look at the graph of the function

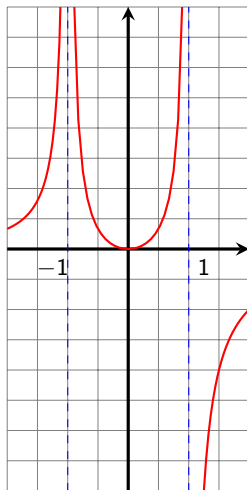
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

To describe this function's behavior at zero, we can say that

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

and

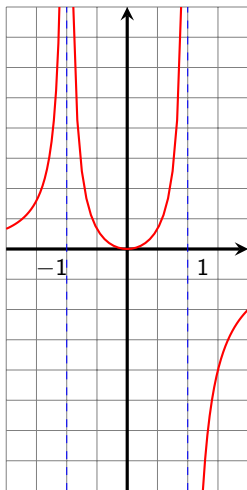
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = +\infty$$



At left the the graph of a function  $f(x)$ . Find the following infinite limits or say that they don't exist:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x)$
3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x)$
4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$

Notice that the lines  $x = -1$  and  $x = +1$  are both *vertical asymptotes* for the function  $f$



At left the the graph of a function  $f(x)$ . Find the following infinite limits or say that they don't exist:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x) \quad +\infty$

2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) \quad +\infty$

3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) \quad -\infty$

4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) \quad \text{DNE}$

Notice that the lines  $x = -1$  and  $x = +1$  are both *vertical asymptotes* for the function  $f$

# The Limit Laws

Peter A. Perry, Posing as Ben Braun

University of Kentucky

January 27, 2016

## Bill of Fare

1. Why the Limit Laws?
2. The Limit Laws
3. The Direct Substitution Property
4. The Squeeze Theorem



## Why the Limit Laws?

Remember the limit in the Falling Body Problem?

We found that the average velocity between  $t = 1$  and  $t = 1 + h$  seconds is

$$\frac{g(1+h) - g(1)}{h} = \frac{32h + 16h^2}{h} = 32 + 16h$$

The instantaneous velocity is

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (32 + 16h) = 32$$

Our goal is to develop a way of calculating limits given *any* expression involving  $h$  (or  $x$ , or ...)

# A Big Long List of Rules to Know

If  $f$  and  $g$  are functions and  $c$  is a constant:

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

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

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

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

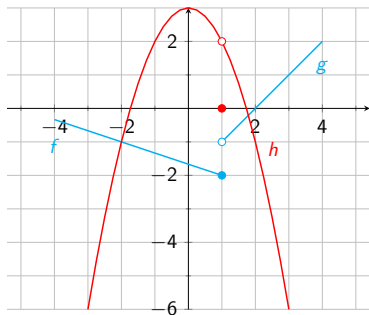
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \left( \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right) = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)}$$

provided  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$

How on earth are you supposed to remember all these rules?

- (1) By using them and
- (2) by rephrasing them in English

# Use The Rules!



For  $f$ ,  $g$  and  $h$  as shown on the left, find:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} (f(x) + 3h(x))$
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} (h(x) + 2f(x))$
3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)}{h(x)}$
4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (3g(x) + 2)$
5.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} (h(x)g(x))$

# Use The Rules!

If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = -5$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 7$ , find:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) + 3g(x)$
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{f(x)}{g(x) + 1}$
3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} 4f(x) - 2g(x)$
4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x)g(x)$

# Use The Rules!

If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = -5$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 7$ , find:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) + 3g(x)$  16

2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{f(x)}{g(x) + 1}$   $-5/8$

3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} 4f(x) - 2g(x)$   $-34$

4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x)g(x)$   $-35$

## Rephrase The Rules in English

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

means “the limit of a sum is the sum of the limits”

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

means “the limit of a difference is the difference of the limits”

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

means

## Rephrase The Rules in English

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

means “the limit of a sum is the sum of the limits”

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

means “the limit of a difference is the difference of the limits”

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

means “the limit of a product is the product of the limits”

## Another Big Long List of Rules to Know

If  $f$  is a function, and  $c$  is a constant:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)]^n = \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \right]^n$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} c = c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x = a$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{x} = \sqrt[n]{a}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}$$



## How to Do Things with Rules

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## Simplify Your Life!

You are also allowed to use algebra to *simplify* expressions before taking the limit. For instance:

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Now use the same technique to find:

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

Is the answer...

- A. 6
- B. 4
- C. 0
- D. -1
- E. All of the above

## Simplify Your Life by Complicating It

Find  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{9+h} - 3}{h}$  using the identity

$$(\sqrt{a} - \sqrt{b})(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}) = a - b$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{9+h} - 3}{h} =$$

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# Now You Try It!

Find  $\lim_{u \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sqrt{4u+1} - 3}{u - 2}$  using the identity

$$(\sqrt{a} - \sqrt{b})(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}) = a - b$$

with  $a = \sqrt{4u+1}$  and  $b = 9$

## Can I Use the Shortcut Now?

The effect of the rules we've discussed is to guarantee that the following "shortcut method" can be used to compute limits:

**Direct Substitution Property** If  $f$  is a polynomial or a rational function and  $a$  is in the domain of  $f$ , then

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

## Can I Use the Shortcut Now?

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Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^3 + x}{\sqrt[3]{2x^2}}$

- A.  $10/3$
- B.  $8/3$
- C.  $5$
- D.  $\pi$

# On the One hand... On the Other Hand...

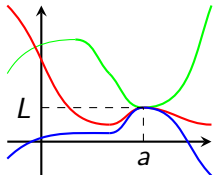
**Theorem**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$  if and only if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$

Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 + 1 & x < 1 \\ (x - 2)^2 + 1 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Does  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$  exist? Why or why not?

# The Squeeze Theorem



**The Squeeze Theorem** If

$$f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$$

when  $x$  is near  $a$  (except possibly at  $x = a$ )  
and

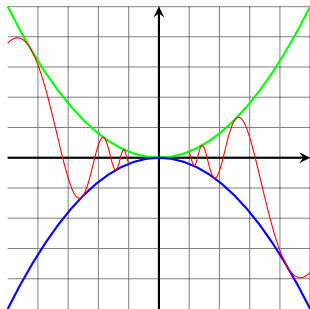
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} h(x) = L$$

then

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



# Everybody's Favorite Example of the Squeeze Theorem



y axis stretched by a factor of 4

Suppose that

$$g(x) = x^2 \sin(1/x)$$

Recall that  $-1 \leq \sin \theta \leq 1$  so

$$-x^2 \leq x^2 \sin(1/x) \leq x^2$$

Find

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \sin(1/x)$$

## Squeeze for Yourself

Prove that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^4 \cos \frac{2}{x} = 0.$$

You'll need to find functions  $f(x)$  and  $h(x)$  so that

$$f(x) \leq x^4 \cos \frac{2}{x} \leq h(x)$$

near  $x = 0$ , with the property that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} h(x)$ .

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