

Section 1.2 Finding Limits Graphically and Numerically

**Informal definition of limit:** If  $f(x)$  become arbitrarily close to a single number  $L$  as  $x$  approaches  $c$  from either side, the **limit** of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $c$  is  $L$ .

The limit is written as  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ .

Complete the tables and use the result to estimate the limits. Use a graphing utility to graph the functions and confirm your results.

Ex.1

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x - 2}{x^2 - 4} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

$x$	1.9	1.99	1.999	2.001	2.01	2.1
$f(x)$	0.256	0.251	0.250	0.250	0.249	0.244

↑ Rounded to the nearest thousandths

Ex.2

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{\sqrt{4-x} - 3}{x + 5} = -\frac{1}{6} = -0.1\bar{6}$$

$x$	-5.1	-5.01	-5.001	-4.999	-4.99	-4.9
$f(x)$	-0.166	-0.167	-0.167	-0.167	-0.167	-0.167

Rounded to the nearest thousandths

Ex.3

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

$x$	-0.1	-0.01	-0.001	0.001	0.01	0.1
$f(x)$	0.998	1	1	1	1	0.998

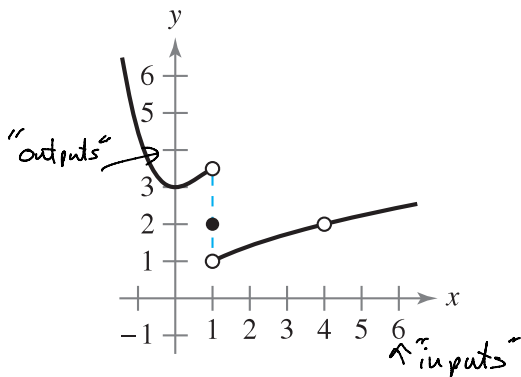
... Rounded to the nearest thousandths

## Limits That Fail to Exist

### Common Types of Behavior Associated with Nonexistence of a Limit

1.  $f(x)$  approaches a different number from the right side of  $c$  than it approaches from the left side.
2.  $f(x)$  increases or decreases without bound as  $x$  approaches  $c$ .
3.  $f(x)$  oscillates between two fixed values as  $x$  approaches  $c$ .

Use the graph of  $f$  to find the following limits and function values. If the limit does not exist, explain why.



Ex.4 (a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x)$ , (b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$ , (c)  $f(1)$  and (d)  $f(4)$ ,

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) = 2$

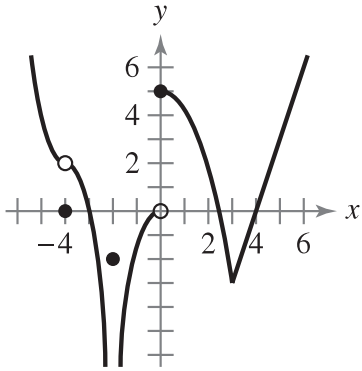
(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = \text{Does Not Exist}$

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

(c)  $f(1) = 2$

(d)  $f(4) = \text{Undefined}$

Use the graph of  $g$  to find the following limits and function values. If the limit does not exist, explain why.



limit as  
an "output  
expectation"  
near a  
particular  
input value

Ex.5 (a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x)$ , (b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x)$ , (c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -4} g(x)$ , (d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} g(x)$ ,  
(e)  $g(0)$ , (f)  $g(-3)$ , and (g)  $g(-4)$ ,

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

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = \text{Does Not Exist}$   
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} g(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} g(x)$

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

(d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} g(x) = 0$

(e)  $g(0) = 5$

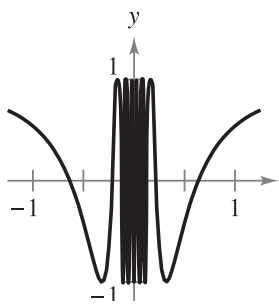
(f)  $g(-3) = 0$

(g)  $g(-4) = 0$

Use the graph to find the following limit. If the limit does not exist, explain why.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos \frac{1}{x}$$

The limit does not exist due to oscillation.



Ex.5  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos \left( \frac{1}{x} \right)$

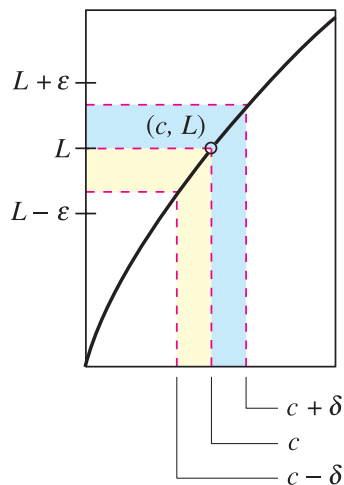
### Definition of Limit

Let  $f$  be a function defined on an open interval containing  $c$  (except possibly at  $c$ ) and let  $L$  be a real number. The statement

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

means that for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that if

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta, \text{ then } |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon.$$



The  $\varepsilon$ - $\delta$  definition of the limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $c$