

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

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

x	1.9	1.99	1.999	2.001	2.01	2.1
$f(x)$						

Ex.2

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{\sqrt{4 - x} - 3}{x + 5}$$

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

Ex.3

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

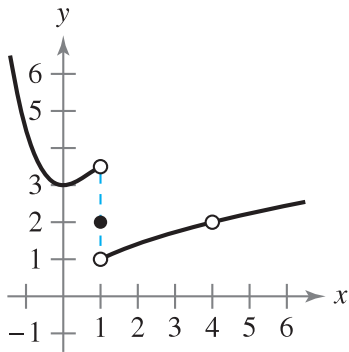
x	-0.1	-0.01	-0.001	0.001	0.01	0.1
$f(x)$						

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) $f(4)$,

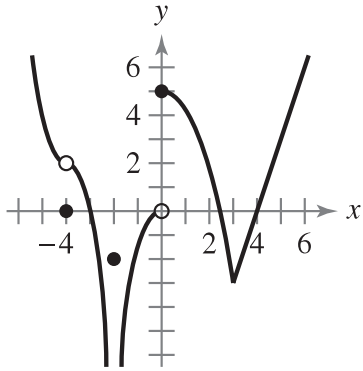
(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) =$

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

(c) $f(1) =$

(d) $f(4) =$

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



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

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) =$

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

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

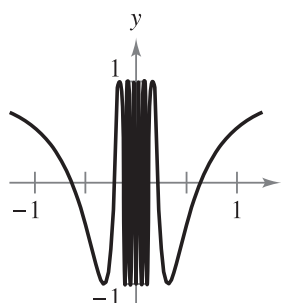
(e) $g(0) =$

(f) $g(-3) =$

(g) $g(-4) =$

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

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



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

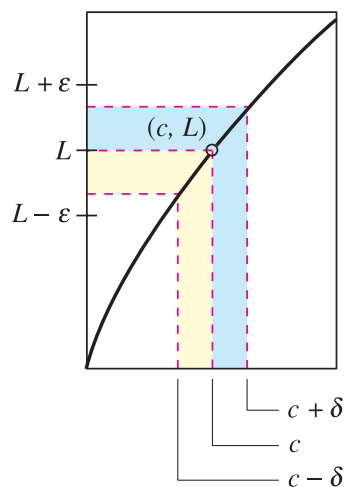
Definition of Limit

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 ε - δ definition of the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches c