

# MAT 122 2.0 Calculus

Dr. G.H.J. Lanel

Lecture 8

# Outline

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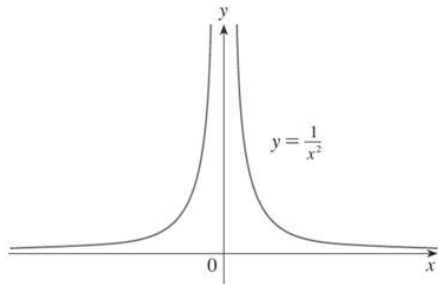
# Infinite Limits

Consider the following example:

Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 1/x^2$  if it exists.

**Solution :**

As  $x$  becomes close to 0,  $x^2$  also becomes close to 0, and  $1/x^2$  becomes very large.



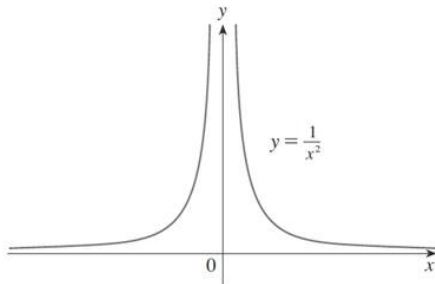
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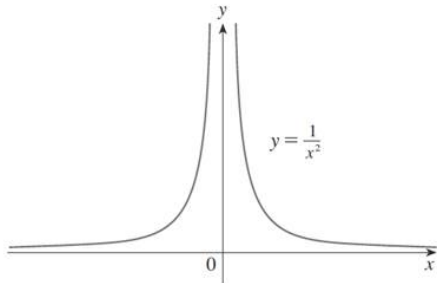
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Values of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily large by taking  $x$  close enough to 0. Thus, the values of  $f(x)$  do not approach a number, so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2}$  does not exist.

## Definition

Let  $f$  be a function defined on both sides of  $a$ , except possibly at  $a$  itself. Then

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

means that the values of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily large (as large as we please) by taking  $x$  sufficiently close to  $a$ , but not equal to  $a$ .

A similar definition can be given for the limit of  $f(x)$ , as  $x$  approaches  $a$  in negative infinity.

Similar definitions can be given for the one-sided infinite limits.

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

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

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

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



## Definition

The line  $x = a$  is called a **vertical asymptote** of the curve  $y = f(x)$  if at least one of the following statements is true:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = -\infty \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \infty \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = -\infty \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \infty \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty \end{aligned}$$

For instance, the y-axis is a vertical asymptote of the curve  $y = 1/x^2$  because  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1/x^2) = \infty$

## Example:

Find the vertical asymptotes of  $f(x) = \tan x$

## Solution:

$$\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$$

- There are potential vertical asymptotes where  $\cos x = 0$
- $\cos x \rightarrow 0^+$  as  $x \rightarrow (\pi/2)^-$  and  $\cos x \rightarrow 0^-$  as  $x \rightarrow (\pi/2)^+$
- When  $\sin x$  is positive when  $x$  is near  $\pi/2$ , we have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow (\pi/2)^-} (\tan x) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow (\pi/2)^+} (\tan x) = -\infty$
- This shows that the line  $\pi/2$  is a vertical asymptote. Similar reasoning shows that the lines  $x = (2n + 1)\pi/2$ , where  $n$  is an integer, are all vertical asymptotes of  $f(x) = \tan x$ .

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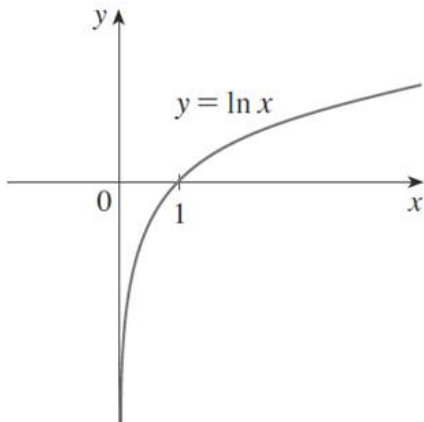
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**Example:** Another example of a function whose graph has a vertical asymptote is the natural logarithmic function  $y = \ln x$

**Solution:**

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

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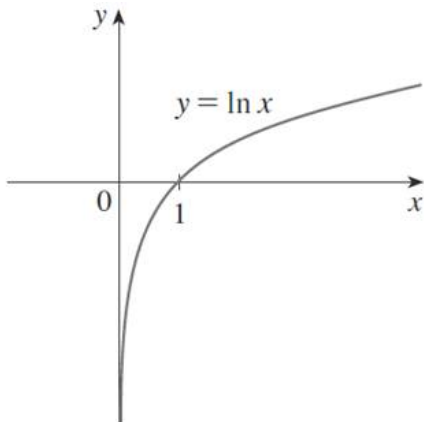


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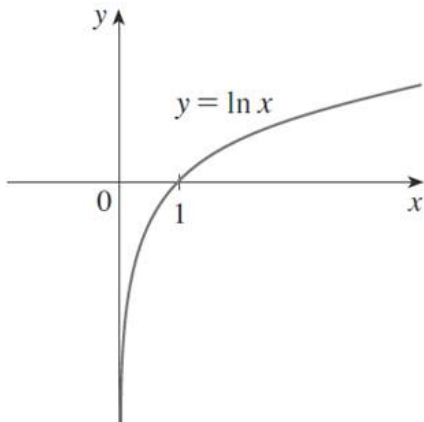


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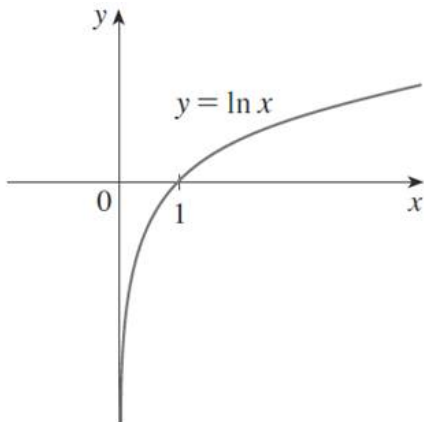


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# Definition

Let  $f$  be a function defined on some open interval that contains the number  $a$ , except possibly at itself. Then

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

means that for every positive number  $M$  there is a positive number  $\delta$  such that

$$f(x) > M \text{ whenever } 0 < x - a < \delta$$

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Use  $\epsilon - \delta$  definition to prove that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2} = \infty$

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1. Guessing a value for  $\delta$ . Given  $M > 0$ , we want to find  $\delta > 0$  such that

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that is,

$$x^2 < \frac{1}{M} \text{ whenever } 0 < x < \delta$$

$$x < \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \text{ whenever } 0 < x < \delta$$

This suggests that we should take  $\delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$

Showing that this  $\delta$  works. If  $M > 0$  is given, let  $\delta = 1/\sqrt{M}$ . If  $0 < x - 0 < \delta$  then,

$$\begin{aligned} x < \delta &\Rightarrow x^2 < \delta^2 \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{x^2} > \frac{1}{\delta^2} = M \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{1}{x^2} > M \text{ whenever } 0 < x - 0 < \delta$$

Therefore by definition  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2} = \infty$



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A function  $f$  is **continuous at a point  $x = a$**  if the following are true:

- 1  $f(a)$  is defined
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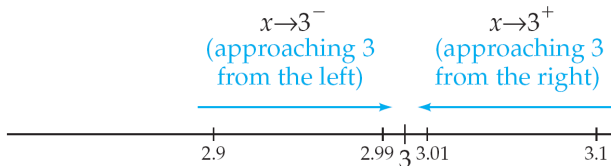
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**Eg. 01**

Where are each of the following functions discontinuous?

1

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

2

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x^2}, & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 1, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

A function  $f(x)$  is defined as follows :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3 + 2x, & \text{if } -\frac{3}{2} < x \leq 0 \\ 3 - 2x, & \text{if } 0 < x \leq \frac{3}{2} \\ -3 - 2x, & \text{if } x > \frac{3}{2} \end{cases}$$

Show that  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = 0$  and is discontinuous at  $x = \frac{3}{2}$ .

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A function  $f$  is **continuous from the right** at the number  $a$  if

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## Definition

A function  $f$  is **continuous on an interval** if it is continuous at every number in the interval.

Note that if  $f$  is defined only on one side of an endpoint of the interval, that means the function **continuous from the right or continuous from the left**.

**Eg. 02**

Show that the function  $f(x) = 1 - \sqrt{1 - x^2}$  is continuous on the interval  $[-1,1]$ .

**Sol:** If  $-1 < a < 1$ , then using the limit laws, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 - x^2} \right) \\ &= 1 - \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt{1 - x^2} \\ &= 1 - \sqrt{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (1 - x^2)} \\ &= 1 - \sqrt{1 - a^2} \\ &= f(a)\end{aligned}$$

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- Thus, by first definition,  $f$  is continuous at  $a$  if  $-1 < a < 1$ . Similar calculations show that,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = 1 = f(-1) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = 1 = f(1)$$

- So  $f$  is continuous from the right at  $-1$  and continuous from the left at  $1$ .
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## Theorem

*If  $f$  and  $g$  are continuous at  $a$  and  $c$  is constant, then the following functions are also continuous at  $a$ :*

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2)  $f - g$

3)  $cf$

4)  $fg$

5)  $\frac{f}{g}$ , if  $g(a) \neq 0$

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Each of the five parts of this theorem follows from the corresponding limit law. For instance, we give the proof of part 1). Since  $f$  and  $g$  are continuous at  $a$ , we have

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- 2 *Any rational function is continuous wherever it is defined; that is, it is continuous on its domain.*

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**Proof:****Proof of Part (1):**

A polynomial is the function of the form

$$P(x) = c_n x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 x + c_0$$

where  $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n$  are constants.

We know that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} c_0 = c_0$$

and

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# Proof Contd..

- This equation is precisely the statement that the function  $f(x) = x^n$  is a continuous function.
- Thus by part 3) of previous theorem, the function  $g(x) = cx^n$  is continuous.
- Since  $P$  is a sum of functions of the form and a constant function, it follows from part 1) of previous theorem that  $P$  is continuous.

# Proof Contd..

## Proof of Part (2):

A rational function is a function of the form

$$f(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$

- where  $P$  and  $Q$  are polynomials.
- The domain of  $f$  is  $D = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid Q(x) \neq 0\}$ .
- We know from part (a) that  $P$  and  $Q$  are continuous everywhere.
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## Theorem

### ***The Intermediate Value Theorem***

*Suppose that  $f$  is continuous on the closed interval  $[a,b]$  and let  $N$  be any number between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ , where  $f(a) \neq f(b)$ . Then there exists a number  $c$  in  $(a,b)$  such that  $f(c) = N$ .*

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Approaching 3 from the left ↓

| $x$   | $2x + 4$ |
|-------|----------|
| 2.9   | 9.8      |
| 2.99  | 9.98     |
| 2.999 | 9.998    |

Limit is 10 ↓

This table shows  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} (2x + 4) = 10$

Approaching 3 from the right ↓

| $x$   | $2x + 4$ |
|-------|----------|
| 3.1   | 10.2     |
| 3.01  | 10.02    |
| 3.001 | 10.002   |

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This table shows  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} (2x + 4) = 10$

**Eg.**

Show that there is a root of the equation  $4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2 = 0$ , between 1 and 2.

**Sol:**

Let  $f(x) = 4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2 = 0$ . Suppose number  $c$  is the root such that  $f(c) = 0$ .

We take  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2$  and  $N = 0$  in Theorem, we have

$$f(1) = 4 - 6 + 3 - 2 = -1 < 0$$

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- Thus,  $f(1) < 0 < f(2)$ ; that is,  $N = 0$  is a number between  $f(1)$  and  $f(2)$ .
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