

**Definition 34.** A function of three variables is a rule that assigns to each tuple of real numbers  $(x, y, z)$  in a set  $D$  a unique output denoted by  $f(x, y, z)$ .

Note: The graph of  $w = f(x, y, z)$  lies... in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ !

$$f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \text{ where } D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$$

We can still think about the domain and range of these functions. Instead of level curves, we get level surfaces.

**Example 35.** Describe the <sup>largest possible</sup> domain of the function  $f(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{4 - x^2 - y^2 - z^2}$ .

The only issue is  $\div$  by 0. So need to avoid

$$4 - x^2 - y^2 - z^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

So  $D_f$  is all of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  except the sphere of radius 2 centered at  $(0, 0, 0)$ .

**Example 36.** Describe the level surfaces of the function  $g(x, y, z) = 2x^2 + y^2 + z^2$ .

@  $k=1$   $1 = 2x^2 + y^2 + z^2$  ellipsoid

@  $k=0$   $0 = 2x^2 + y^2 + z^2$  a point

@  $k=-1$   $-1 = 2x^2 + y^2 + z^2$  no solution.  
 $k < 0$  also no soln.

$k > 0$  ellipsoids that are bigger/smaller.

## §14.2 Limits &amp; Continuity

Exam 1

in one week.

In this room @ 2pm.

Definition 37. What is a limit of a function of two variables?

**DEFINITION** We say that a function  $f(x, y)$  approaches the **limit**  $L$  as  $(x, y)$  approaches  $(x_0, y_0)$ , and write

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} f(x,y) = L$$

if, for every number  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a corresponding number  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $(x, y)$  in the domain of  $f$ ,

$$|f(x, y) - L| < \epsilon \quad \text{whenever} \quad 0 < \sqrt{(x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2} < \delta.$$

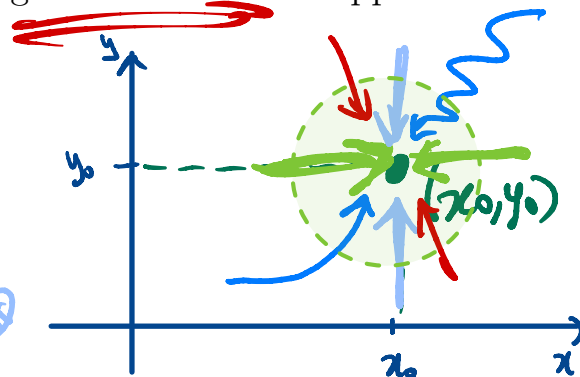
We won't use this definition much: the big idea is that  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} f(x,y) = L$  if andonly if  $f(x, y)$  is close to  $L$  regardless of how we approach the point  $(x_0, y_0)$ .

From Calc I.

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

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

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

Definition 38. A function  $f(x, y)$  is **continuous** at  $(x_0, y_0)$  if

1.  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} f(x,y) = L$  should exist
2.  $f(x_0, y_0)$  exists
3. The two values should be equal.

**Key Fact:** Adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, or composing two continuous functions results in another continuous function.Example

$$f_1(x, y) = x$$

$$f_2(x, y) = y$$

both continuous

e.g.

$$f(x, y) = x + y \quad f(x, y) = \frac{x}{y}$$

$$f(x, y) = xy$$

$$f(x, y) = (x + y)xy \quad \text{cont. in } x, y \text{ and } xy$$

Example 39. Evaluate

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (2,0)} \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4}, \text{ if it exists.}$$

Check @  $(x, y) = (2, 0)$ 

$$f(2, 0) = \frac{\sqrt{4-0}-2}{4-0-4} = \frac{2-2}{4-0} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ DNE.}$$

tangent① L'Hop?  
② use algs.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} - 0}{1-0} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{4} \checkmark$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4} \times \frac{\sqrt{x}+2}{\sqrt{x}+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\cancel{x-4}}{(x-4)(\sqrt{x}+2)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}+2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}+2} = \frac{1}{4} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

Try ② Since not sure how to generalize ①.

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (2,0)} \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4} \times \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}+2}{\sqrt{2x-y}+2}$$

$$= \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (2,0)} \frac{\cancel{2x-y}-4}{(\cancel{2x-y}-4)(\sqrt{2x-y}+2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4-0}+2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

**Example 40.** *You try it!* Evaluate  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)} \frac{\cos y + 1}{y - \sin x}$ , if it exists.

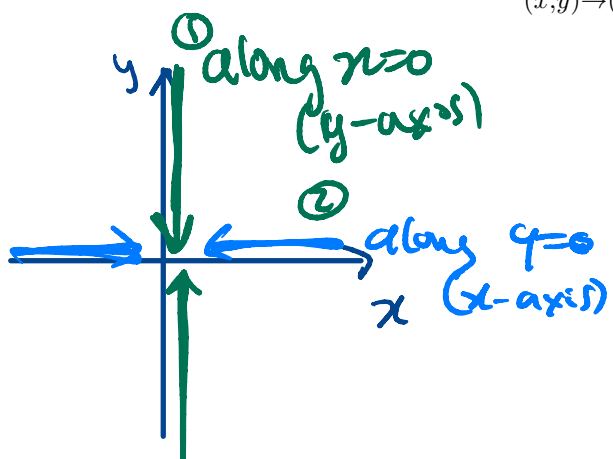
**Example 40.** *You try it!* Evaluate  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)} \frac{\cos y + 1}{y - \sin x}$ , if it exists.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)} \frac{\cos y + 1}{y - \sin x} &= \frac{\cos(0) + 1}{0 - \sin(\frac{\pi}{2})} = \frac{1+1}{0-1} = \frac{2}{-1} \\ &= \boxed{-2} \end{aligned}$$

Sometimes, life is harder in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and limits can fail to exist in ways that are very different from what we've seen before.

**Big Idea:** Limits can behave differently along different paths of approach

**Example 41.** Evaluate  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^2}$ , if it exists. Here is its graph.



@  $x=0$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^2} = \lim_{(0,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{0}{0 + y^2} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

@  $y=0$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^2} = \lim_{(x,0) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2}{x^2 + 0} = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

so

by the TWO-PATH test  
The limit is DNE

This idea is called the **two-path test**:

If we can find two paths approaching to  $(x_0, y_0)$  along which limit of  $f(x,y)$  takes on two different values, then the limit is DNE.

# Quiz 2 due Friday in Gradescope.

Example 42. Show that the limit

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 y}{x^4 + y^2}$$

does not exist.

Try @  $x=0$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 y}{x^4 + y^2} = \lim_{(0,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{0}{y^2} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Try @  $y=0$  ditto 0  $\checkmark$

Try @  $y=mx$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 y}{x^4 + y^2} = \lim_{(x, mx) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 * mx}{x^4 + m^2 x^2}$$

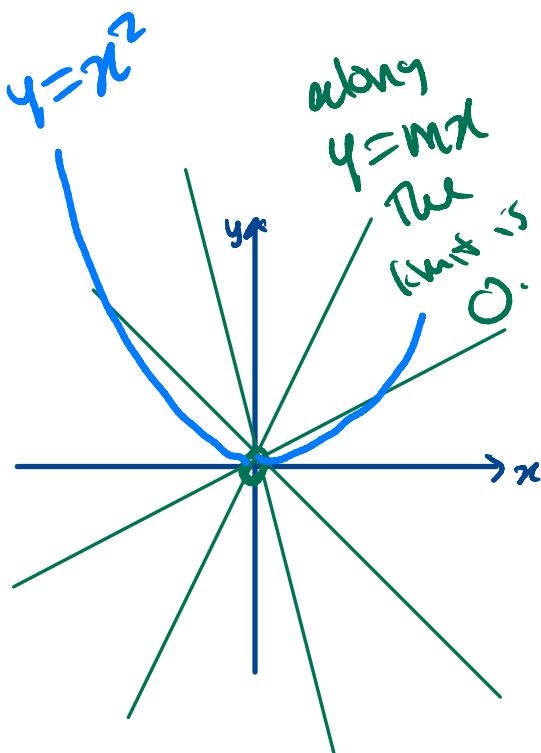
$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3}{x^3} * \frac{m}{x + \frac{m^2}{x}} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

try @  $y=x^2$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 y}{x^4 + y^2} = \lim_{(x, x^2) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 * x^2}{x^4 + (x^2)^2}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4}{2x^4} = \frac{1}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

by the two-path test the limit is DNE



**Example 43.** *You try it!* Show that the limit  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2}$  is DNE by using the two-path test. *Hint: try two parabolas.*

① try.

② @  $y=0$  The  $x$ -axis & @  $y=x^2$  parabola.

① @  $y=0$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2} = \lim_{(x,0) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + 0} = 1. \checkmark$$

② @  $y=x^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2} &= \lim_{(x,x^2) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + (x^2)^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4}{2x^4} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

by the two-path test  
The limit is DNE



**Example 43.** *You try it!* Show that the limit  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2}$  is DNE by using the two-path test. *Hint: try two parabolas.*

$$f(x,y) = \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2} \quad \text{Let } y = mx^2$$

$$\text{Then } f(x, mx^2) = \frac{x^4}{x^4 + m^2 x^4} = \frac{1}{1+m^2}.$$

$$\text{So } \lim_{\substack{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0) \\ \text{along } y=mx^2}} f(x,y) = \frac{1}{1+m^2}.$$

So, by Two-path test the limit is DNE. ///

**Example 44. [Challenge:]** Show that the limit

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4 y}{x^4 + y^2}$$

does exist using the Squeeze Theorem.

**Theorem 45** (Squeeze Theorem). If  $f(x, y) = g(x, y)h(x, y)$ , where  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} g(x, y) = 0$  and  $|h(x, y)| \leq C$  for some constant  $C$  near  $(a, b)$ , then  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x, y) = 0$ .

Idea  $f(x, y) = \frac{x^4 y}{x^4 + y^2} = \underbrace{y}_{\text{goes to zero}} \underbrace{\frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2}}_{\text{bounded}}$

Show ① goes to zero ② bounded

①  $g(x, y) = y$  tend to zero as  $y \rightarrow 0$  ✓

② notice  $y^2 \geq 0$  so  $x^4 + y^2 \geq x^4$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \geq \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2}$$

so  $h(x, y) \leq 1 = C$

so  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x, y) = 0$  by Squeeze

by ① & ②  $f(x, y) = g(x, y) \cdot h(x, y)$  tends to 0 as  $(x, y) \rightarrow (0, 0)$ .

~~doesn't happen~~

~~$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x + \frac{1}{x^2}$~~

~~goes to zero~~

~~goes to  $\infty$~~

**Math 2551 Worksheet 8 - Review for Exam 1**

1. Set up the integral to find the arc length of the curve  $y = e^x$  from the point  $(0, 1)$  to the point  $(1, e)$ . Focus on finding a parameterization, and on what values of  $t$  give these two points. Is this an integral you would want to compute? Why or why not?
2. Parameterize the line tangent to the curve

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle \cos^2(t), \sin(t) \cos(t), \cos(t) \rangle$$

at the point where  $t = \pi/2$ .

3. Compute the unit tangent vector  $\mathbf{T}(t)$  and the unit normal vector  $\mathbf{N}(t)$  to the circle

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle 2 \cos(t), 2 \sin(t) \rangle.$$

Before checking, should the normal vector be pointing into or out of the circle? Why?

4. We have seen that the curvature of a circle with radius  $a$  is  $1/a$ . Thinking about the geometry of a helix with radius  $a$ , do you think its curvature will be greater than or less than  $1/a$ ? Why? Compute the curvature using the parameterization

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle a \cos(t), t, a \sin(t) \rangle$$

to confirm or challenge your intuition.

5. The function  $\ell(t)$  below describes a line. There is a particular plane that  $\ell(t)$  is normal to at the point  $t = 0$ . Find an equation of this plane.

$$\ell(t) = \langle 3 - 3t, 2 + t, -2t \rangle.$$

Where does this line intersect the different plane  $3x - y + 2z = -7$ ?

6. Find and sketch the domain of each of the following functions of two variables:

(a)  $\sqrt{9 - x^2} + \sqrt{y^2 - 4}$

(b)  $\arcsin(x^2 + y^2 - 2)$

(c)  $\sqrt{16 - x^2 - 4y^2}$

7. Solve the differential equation below, together with its given initial conditions. Remember that this means finding all functions  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  which satisfy the given equations.

$$\mathbf{r}''(t) = 2\mathbf{i} + 6t\mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{t}}\mathbf{k}, \quad \mathbf{r}'(1) = 2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}, \quad \mathbf{r}(1) = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}$$

8. Let  $f(x, y) = (x^2 - y^2)/(x^2 + y^2)$  for  $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ . Is it possible to define  $f(0, 0)$  in a way that makes  $f$  continuous at the origin? Why?