

§14.2 Limits & Continuity

COVERED on Exam 1.

Phones must be in back pack. Backpacks must be in front of you.

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 ,

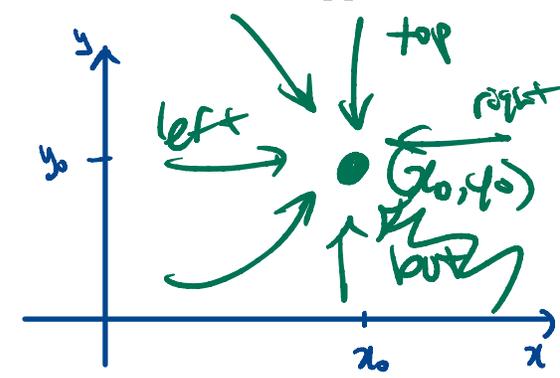
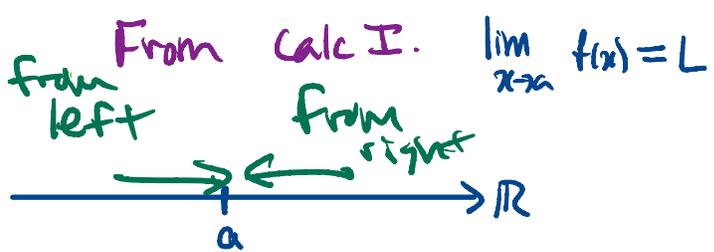
$$|f(x,y) - L| < \epsilon \quad \text{whenever} \quad 0 < \sqrt{(x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2} < \delta.$$

$f(x,y) = \frac{x+y}{x^2}$
as $(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)$
what happens to $z = f(x,y)$?

START on THURS.

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 and

only if $f(x,y)$ approaching L regardless of how we approach the point (x_0, y_0) .



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

- $f(x_0, y_0) = L$ exist
- $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} f(x,y)$ exist
- They are equal.

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

ex. g. $f(x,y) = x$ cont ✓ $h_1 = x+y$ ✓
 $g(x,y) = y$ cont ✓ $h_2 = x(x+y)$ ✓
 $h_3 = x^4 + 3xy$ ✓

Example 39. Evaluate $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (2,0)} \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4}$, if it exists.

Try?
evaluate

$$f(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4} \quad @ (x,y) = (2,0)$$

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

(So $f(x,y)$ is not continuous @ $(x,y) = (2,0)$
bc $f(x,y)$ is NOT DEFINED @ $(2,0)$.)

But can still have a well defined limit.

NOTE: 1-variable techniques include

* L'Hopital's rule (but doesn't seem to work well here)

* algebraic simplification.

Eg. related problem in 1-var calculus
just to get warmed up.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sqrt{2x}-2}{2x-4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sqrt{2x}-2}{2x-4} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2x}+2}{\sqrt{2x}+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(\sqrt{2x})^2 - 2^2}{(2x-4)(\sqrt{2x}+2)}$$

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

has nothing
to do
w/ 2 var.
problem
(show
technique)

Example 39. Evaluate $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (2,0)} \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4}$, if it exists.

Try?
evaluate

$$f(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4} \quad @ (x,y) = (2,0)$$

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

(So $f(x,y)$ is not continuous @ $(x,y) = (2,0)$
bc $f(x,y)$ is NOT DEFINED @ $(2,0)$.)

$$(a-b)(a+b) = a^2 - b^2$$

* algebraic simplification.

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

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

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



lim evaluating the limit
(not dropping)

Example 39. Evaluate $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (2,0)} \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4}$, if it exists.

Try?
evaluate

$$f(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{2x-y}-2}{2x-y-4} \quad @ (x,y) = (2,0)$$

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

(So $f(x,y)$ is not continuous @ $(x,y) = (2,0)$
bc $f(x,y)$ is NOT DEFINED @ $(2,0)$.)

$$(a-b)(a+b) = a^2 - b^2$$

* algebraic simplification.

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

$$= \frac{(\sqrt{2x-y})^2 - 2^2}{(2x-y-4)(\sqrt{2x-y}+2)} = \frac{\cancel{2x-y}-4}{(\cancel{2x-y}-4)(\sqrt{2x-y}+2)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2x-y}+2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4-0}+2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}+2} = \boxed{\frac{1}{4}}$$

Write your limits where all possible

don't **Drop your LIMITS**

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

$$f(x,y) = \cos y \quad \checkmark$$

$$g(x,y) = \sin x \quad \checkmark$$

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

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

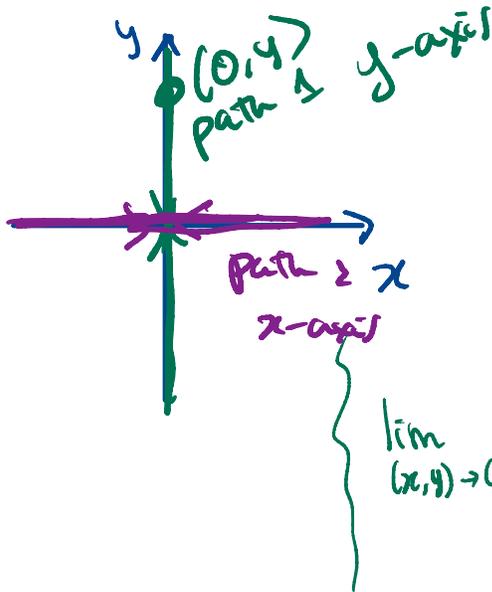
alt soln?

$$f(\frac{\pi}{2}, 0) = \frac{\cos(0) + 1}{0 - \sin(\frac{\pi}{2})} = \frac{1+1}{0-1} = \frac{2}{-1} = \boxed{-2} \quad \checkmark$$

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.



$$f(x,y) = \frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^2}$$

limit of $f(x,y)$ as $(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)$ depends on the path you take.

Path 1 along y-axis.
@ $(x,y) = (0,y)$
or @ $x=0$

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

$$= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{0}{y^2} = 0$$

← along the path $x=0$ the limit value is $L=0$.

Path 2 along x-axis @ $y=0$

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

← along the second path $y=0$ the limit value is 1.

DNE by TWO PATH TEST

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

If we can find two different paths approaching to (x_0, y_0) along which the limit value takes on two different values, then conclude the limit is DNE.

Example 42. Show that the limit

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

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

does not exist.

path 1

Try path along $y=x$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3}{x^4 + x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{x^2 + 1}$$

$$= \frac{0}{0^2 + 1} = 0$$

Try path $y=-x$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-x^3}{x^4 + x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-x}{x^2 + 1} = 0$$

path 3

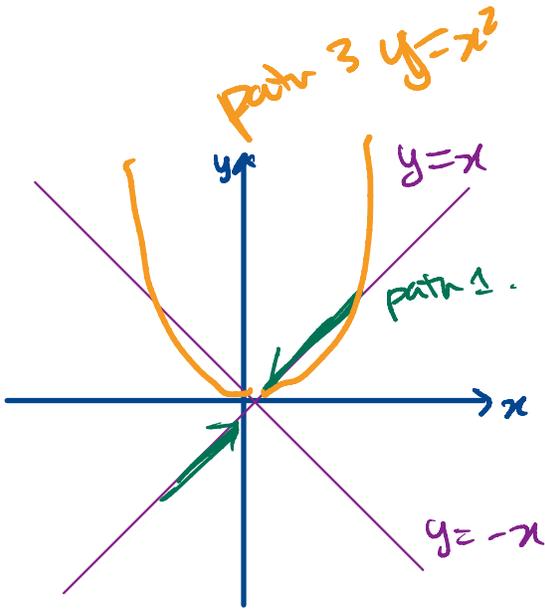
Try $y=x^2$ path.

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

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

Since path 1 & path 3 have have different limit values the limit is

DNE by the TWO PATH TEST



Example 42. Show that the limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} = \text{DNE}$$

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

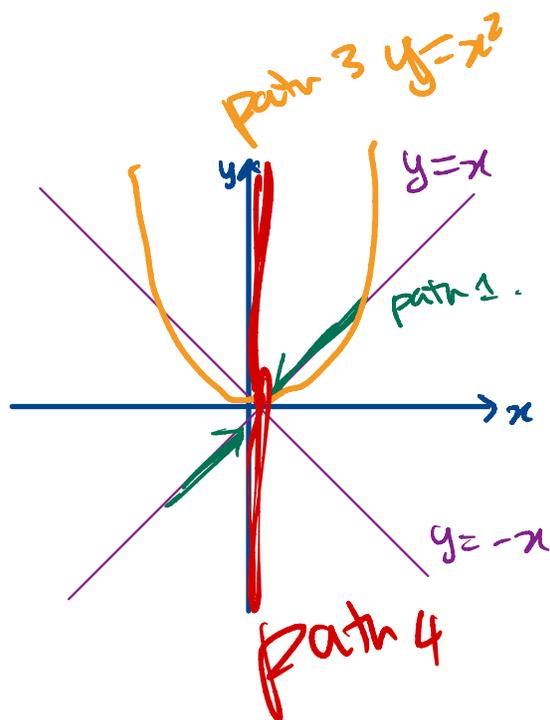
does not exist.

Path 1

Try path along $y=x$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3}{x^4 + x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{x^2 + 1} = \frac{0}{0^2 + 1} = 0$$



Path 4 $x=0$

Watch out for

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

Note $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (1,1)} f(x,y)$

try the paths MUST

INCLUDE (1,1)!!

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.

Path 1 @ $y = x^2$

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

Path 2 @ $x = y^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2} &= \lim_{(y^2, y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{(y^2)^4}{(y^2)^4 + y^2} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{y^8}{y^8 + y^2} = \cancel{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{y^6}{y^6 + 1} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The limit is DNE by the TWO PATH TEST

other paths

$$y = 2x^2 \quad L = 1/5$$

$$\begin{aligned} &x=0, y=0 \quad ?? \\ &L=0 \quad L=1 \end{aligned}$$

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.**

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then @ } y = mx^2 \quad \lim_{(x, mx^2) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x, mx^2) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + (mx^2)^2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4}{x^4 + m^2 x^4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4}{x^4} \cdot \frac{1}{1+m^2} = \frac{1}{1+m^2} \end{aligned}$$

Which takes different values depending on m .

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. Show that $\frac{x^4 y}{x^4 + y^2} = \underbrace{y}_{\text{goes to zero}} * \underbrace{\frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2}}_{\text{bounded}}$

Note $\frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2}$ is bounded. i.e. $\left| \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2} \right| \leq C$ for all $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

In particular $0 \leq \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2} \leq \frac{x^4 + y^2}{x^4 + y^2} = 1$.
 (Whole expression is less than or equal to 1)
 (add something nonneg to numerator)

\uparrow x^4, y^2 both nonneg. $\Rightarrow \left| \frac{x^4}{x^4 + y^2} \right| \leq 1$.

and $y \rightarrow 0$ as $(x, y) \rightarrow (0, 0)$.
 So by SQUEEZE THM the $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4 y}{x^4 + y^2} = 0$

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?