

Example: Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \sqrt{x^2 + 2x} + x$

Solution:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 2x} + x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{(\sqrt{x^2 + 2x} + x)(\sqrt{x^2 + 2x} - x)}{(\sqrt{x^2 + 2x} - x)}$

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

An unjustified/wrong

Solution:

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \sqrt{(x+1)^2 - 1} + x = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \sqrt{(x+1)^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{(x+1)^2}\right)} + x$

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} |x+1| \cdot \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{(x+1)^2}} + x$

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} |x+1| + x = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} -(x+1) + x$

**WRONG!!!**

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} -x - 1 + x = -1$

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2x}{\sqrt{x^2 \left(1 + \frac{2}{x}\right)} - x}$

$\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$

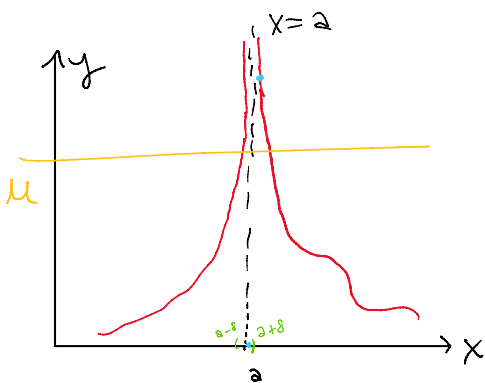
$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2x}{|x| \sqrt{1 + \frac{2}{x}} - x}$

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

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2}{(-1) \cdot \left(\sqrt{1 + \frac{2}{x}} + 1\right)}$

$= \frac{2}{(-1) \cdot (1+1)} = -1$

Infinite limits



An informal defn: Let  $f$  be a function defined on a neighborhood of a point  $a$ , possibly except at  $a$ .

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

if  $f(x)$  values can be made arbitrarily large by taking  $x$  values sufficiently close to  $a$ .

Formal defn: For all  $M$ , there is  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ , then  $f(x) > M$

$\Leftrightarrow$

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

One can similarly define the notions

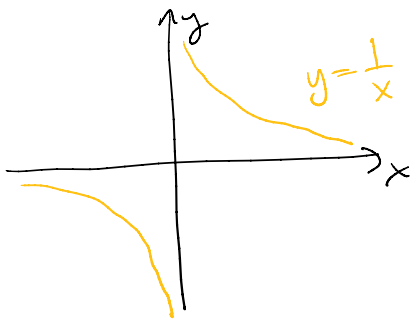
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = -\infty, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = +\infty, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = +\infty$$

Terminological warning: If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = +\infty$ , then we still say that "f does not have a limit at 2", that is, when we say that "f has a limit at 2", it means that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Examples:



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



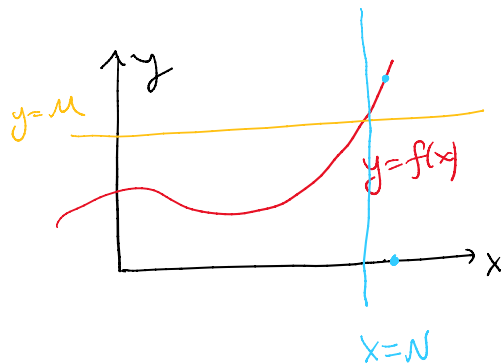
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x} = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{x} = -\infty$$

(so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \neq +\infty$ )

An informal defn: We write  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = +\infty$  if  $f(x)$

values can be made arbitrarily large by taking  $x$  values arbitrarily large

(Formal defn: For all  $M$ , there exists  $N$  such that if  $x > N$ , then  $f(x) > M$ )



One can similarly define  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = -\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = +\infty$

Examples:

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} -2x^2 + x + 4 = -\infty$

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x^4 + x - 2 = +\infty$

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} -2x^3 + x^2 = +\infty$

Example: Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2 - 3x - 10}{-x^2 + 5x}$

Solution:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2 - 3x - 10}{-x^2 + 5x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(x-5)(x+2)}{-(x-5)x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} -\frac{x+2}{x}$$

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

Fact:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \mp \infty} \frac{a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_nx^n}{b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + \dots + b_mx^m} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n < m \\ \mp \infty & \text{if } n > m \\ \frac{a_n}{b_m} & \text{if } n = m \end{cases}$$

depends on whether  $x \rightarrow +\infty$  or  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ , and the coefficients  $a_n, b_m$  and  $n$  and  $m$

Examples:

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x^4}(1+x+x^3)}{\frac{1}{x^4}(7-x^4)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x^4} + \frac{1}{x^3} + \frac{1}{x}}{\left(\frac{7}{x^4} - 1\right)} = \frac{0+0+0}{0-1} = 0$

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{7+x-2x^3}{x+x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\frac{7}{x^3} + \frac{1}{x^2} - 2}{\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x}} = +\infty$

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

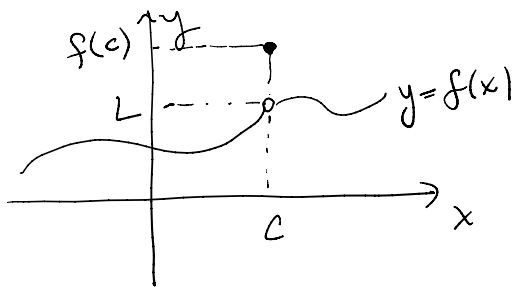
## Continuity

Defn: let  $f$  be a function defined on some interval  $(a, b)$  and let  $c$  be in  $(a, b)$ . We say that  $f$  is continuous at  $c$  if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$

When  $c$  is a right-end point of the domain of  $f$ , we say that  $f$  is continuous at  $c$  if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = f(c)$ . Similarly

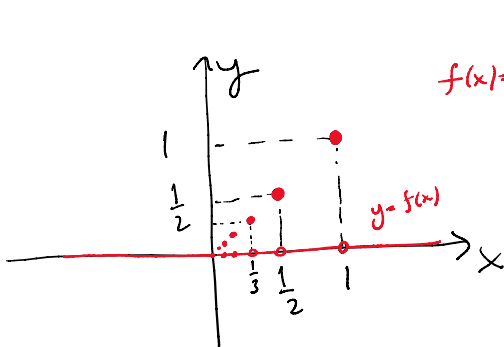
$f$  is said to be continuous at a left-end point  $c$  of its domain if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = f(c)$

We say that  $f$  is continuous if  $f$  is continuous at every point in its domain.



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \neq f(c)$$

$f$  is not continuous at  $c$



$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x = \frac{1}{n} \text{ for a positive integer } n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 0 = f(0)$$

$f$  is continuous at 0