

HOSSAM GHANEM

(2) 2.3 Techniques for finding limits (A)

$$(x + a)^2 = x^2 + 2ax + a^2$$

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

$$x^3 + a^3 = (x + a)(x^2 - ax + a^2)$$

$$x^3 - a^3 = (x - a)(x^2 + ax + a^2)$$

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

$$|x| = \begin{cases} -x & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ x & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$|x - 3| = \begin{cases} -(x - 3) & \text{if } x < 3 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 3 \\ x - 3 & \text{if } x > 3 \end{cases}$$

$$|x + 5| = \begin{cases} -(x + 5) & \text{if } x < -5 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = -5 \\ x + 5 & \text{if } x > -5 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{|x - a|}{x - a} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } x < a \\ 1 & \text{if } x > a \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{|x|}{x} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{|x - 2|}{x - 2} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } x < 2 \\ 1 & \text{if } x > 2 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{|x + 4|}{x + 4} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } x < -4 \\ 1 & \text{if } x > -4 \end{cases}$$



Example 1

60 October 31, 2011

(2 points) Find the limit, if it exists.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sqrt{2x+5} - 2}{x^2 - 9}$$

Solution

$$L = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sqrt{2x+5} - 2}{x^2 - 9} = \frac{\sqrt{2(2)+5} - 2}{(2)^2 - 9} = \frac{\sqrt{9} - 2}{4 - 9} = \frac{3 - 2}{4 - 9} = \frac{1}{-5} = -\frac{1}{5}$$

Example 2

48 March 25, 2008 A

Find the limit, if it exists

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

Solution

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^3 - 1}{x^2 - 3x + 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)(x^2 + x + 1)}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x^2 + x + 1)}{(x-2)} = \frac{1 + 1 + 1}{1 - 2} = -3$$

Example 3

46 Date: July 5, 2007

Find the following limit, if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left(\frac{x^3 - 27}{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{3}} \right)$$

Solution

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left(\frac{x^3 - 27}{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{3}} \right) = \frac{3^3 - 27}{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{3}} = \frac{27 - 27}{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{3}} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left(\frac{x^3 - 27}{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{3}} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{(x-3)(x^2 + 3x + 9)}{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{3}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{3})(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{3})(x^2 + 3x + 9)}{(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{3})}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{3})(x^2 + 3x + 9) = (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3})(9 + 9 + 9) = 2\sqrt{3} \cdot 27 = 54\sqrt{3}$$

Example 4

23 May 26, 2002

Evaluate the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \frac{3x^{\frac{2}{3}} - 27}{x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3}$$

Solution

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \frac{3x^{\frac{2}{3}} - 27}{x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \frac{3(27)^{\frac{2}{3}} - 27}{(27)^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \frac{3(9) - 27}{3 - 3} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \frac{3x^{\frac{2}{3}} - 27}{x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \frac{3 \left[\left(x^{\frac{1}{3}} \right)^2 - 9 \right]}{x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 27} \frac{3 \left(x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3 \right) \left(x^{\frac{1}{3}} + 3 \right)}{\left(x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3 \right)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 27} 3 \left(x^{\frac{1}{3}} + 3 \right) = 3(3 + 3) = 18$$

$$(27)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \sqrt[3]{27} = 3$$

Example 5

33 October 25, 2001

A

Find the limit, if it exists $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{\sqrt[3]{x}-1}$ **Solution**

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{\sqrt[3]{x}-1} = \frac{1-1}{1-1} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{\sqrt[3]{x}-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\left[\left(x^{\frac{1}{3}} \right)^3 - 1 \right]}{x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\left(x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 1 \right) \left(x^{\frac{2}{3}} + x^{\frac{1}{3}} + 1 \right)}{x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(x^{\frac{2}{3}} + x^{\frac{1}{3}} + 1 \right) = 1 + 1 + 1 = 3$$

Example 6

29 Feb. 24, 2000

Evaluate the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{1 - \sqrt{\frac{x}{2}}}{1 - \frac{x}{2}}$$

Solution

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

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

Example 7

12 November 2, 1995

Find the following limit, if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x|x-1|}$$

Solution

$$L = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x|x-1|} = \frac{1+2-3}{(1)|1-1|} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x|x-1|} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x+3)(x-1)}{x|x-1|}$$

$$L_1 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x|x-1|} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{(x+3)(x-1)}{x(x-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{(x+3)}{x} = \frac{4}{1} = 4 \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

$$L_2 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x|x-1|} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{(x+3)(x-1)}{-x(x-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{(x+3)}{-x} = -\frac{4}{1} = -4 \quad \rightarrow (2)$$

from (1), (2)

$$\therefore L_1 \neq L_2$$

$$\therefore L = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x|x-1|} \text{ D.N.E}$$

Example 8

24 November 3, 1998

Evaluate the following limit

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

Solution

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

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

$$L_1 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x - 2}{x - 2} \sqrt{(x - 2)^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \sqrt{(x - 2)^2 + 1} = 1 \rightarrow (1)$$

$$L_2 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x - 2}{-(x - 2)} \sqrt{(x - 2)^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} -\sqrt{(x - 2)^2 + 1} = -1 \rightarrow (2)$$

from (1), (2)

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x)$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x - 2) \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{(x - 2)^2}} \quad D.N.E$$

Example 9

38 January 15, 2011

Suppose that $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ both exist.if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = 5$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) - g(x)] = 1$ then find $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)]$ **Solution**Let $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = K$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L + K$$

$$\therefore L + K = 5 \quad \rightarrow [1]$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) - g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L - K$$

$$\therefore L - K = 1 \quad \rightarrow [2]$$

$$[1] + [2] \quad 2L = 6 \quad \rightarrow \quad L = 3$$

$$[1] - [2] \quad 2K = 4 \quad \rightarrow \quad K = 2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L \cdot K = 3 \cdot 2 = 6$$

Homework

1 Find the limit , if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^3 + 8}{x + 2}$$

30 October 19, 2000 A

2 Evaluate the following limit(if it exists)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - 1}{x - 1}$$

6 January 6, 1993

3 Evaluate the following limit (if it exists)

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

32 March 22, 2001

4 Find

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{x^2 - 1}$$

36 April 19, 2003 A

5 Find the limit , if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3|x|}{x + x^3}$$

3 March 19, 1992

6 Evaluate the following limit(if it exists)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{3|x - 1|}{x - x^3}$$

8 October 28, 1993

7 Find the limit , if it exists

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

3 December 30, 1991

8 Evaluate the following limit(if it exists)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (x - 3) \sqrt{\frac{x^2 + 1}{(x - 3)^2}}$$

9 Evaluate the following limit(if it exists)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} \frac{3x^{\frac{2}{3}} - 12}{x^{\frac{1}{3}} - 2}$$

12 January 19, 1995

10 Evaluate the following limit

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

1 November 1987

11 Find the limit , if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2}$$

11 March 31, 1994

Homework

12 Evaluate the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} - 1}$$

15 July 15, 1996

13 Find the following limit , if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{x^3 - 1}$$

14 Find the limit , if it exists

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

14 March 28, 1996



Homework10

Find the following limit , if it exists

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

Solution

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

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x - 2}{x - 2} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = \sqrt{5} \rightarrow (1)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x - 2}{-(x - 2)} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} -\sqrt{x^2 + 1} = -\sqrt{5} \rightarrow (2)$$

from (1), (2)

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x)$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x - 2) \sqrt{\frac{x^2 + 1}{(x - 2)^2}} \quad D.N.E$$

11

Find the limit , if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2}$$

Solution

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{5|x - 1|}{(x + 2)(x - 1)} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{5(x - 1)}{(x + 2)(x - 1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{5}{(x + 2)} = \frac{5}{3} \rightarrow (1)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{-5(x - 1)}{(x + 2)(x - 1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{-5}{(x + 2)} = -\frac{5}{3} \rightarrow (2)$$

from (1), (2)

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2} \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{5|x - 1|}{x^2 + x - 2} \quad D.N.E$$

12

Evaluate the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} - 1}$$

Solution

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sqrt{\frac{1 - x^2}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{|x|} \sqrt{1 - x^2}$$

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{x}{-x} \sqrt{1 - x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} -\sqrt{1 - x^2} = -1 \quad \rightarrow (2)$$

from (1), (2)

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x)$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} - 1} \text{ D.N.E}$$

13

Find the following limit , if it exists

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{x^3 - 1}$$

Solution

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{x^3 - 1} = \frac{1 - 1}{1 - 1} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{x^3 - 1} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{(x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{(\sqrt{x} - 1)(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x^2 + x + 1)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x^2 + x + 1)} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} = \frac{1}{6} \end{aligned}$$

14

Find the limit , if it exists

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

Solution

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \sqrt{\frac{x^2 + 1}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2}{|x|} \sqrt{x^2 + 1}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2}{x} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = 0 \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{x^2}{|x|} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{x^2}{-x} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} -x \sqrt{x^2 + 1} = 0 \quad \rightarrow (2)$$

from (1), (2)

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = 0$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} - 1} = 0$$