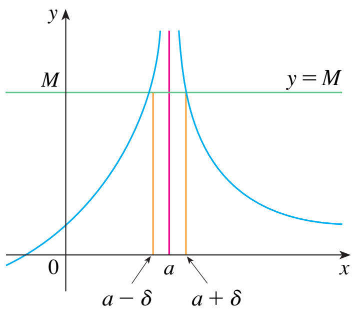


FIGURE 10

This says that the values of $f(x)$ can be made arbitrarily large (larger than any given number M) by taking x close enough to a (within a distance δ, where δ depends on M, but with $x \neq a$). A geometric illustration is shown in Figure 10.

Given any horizontal line $y = M$, we can find a number $\delta > 0$ such that if we restrict x to lie in the interval $(a - \delta, a + \delta)$ but $x \neq a$, then the curve $y = f(x)$ lies above the line $y = M$. You can see that if a larger M is chosen, then a smaller δ may be required.

V EXAMPLE 5 Use Definition 6 to prove that $\lim_{x \to 0} \dfrac{1}{x^2} = \infty$.

SOLUTION Let M be a given positive number. We want to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad 0 < |x| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad 1/x^2 > M$$

But
$$\frac{1}{x^2} > M \iff x^2 < \frac{1}{M} \iff |x| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}$$

So if we choose $\delta = 1/\sqrt{M}$ and $0 < |x| < \delta = 1/\sqrt{M}$, then $1/x^2 > M$. This shows that $1/x^2 \to \infty$ as $x \to 0$.

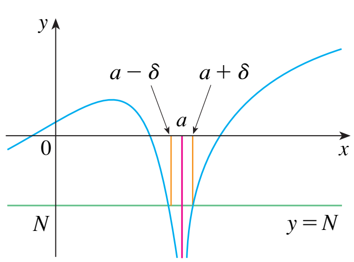


FIGURE 11

Similarly, the following is a precise version of Definition 5 in Section 2.2. It is illustrated by Figure 11.

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

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

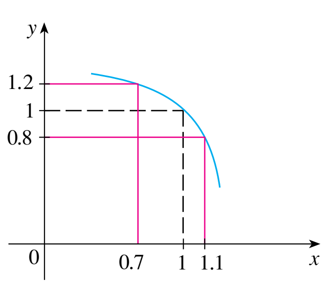
means that for every negative number N there is a positive number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad 0 < |x - a| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad f(x) < N$$

2.4 Exercises

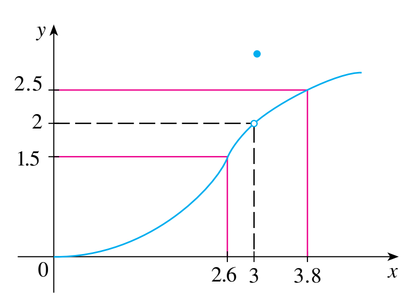
1. Use the given graph of f to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad |x - 1| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad |f(x) - 1| < 0.2$$



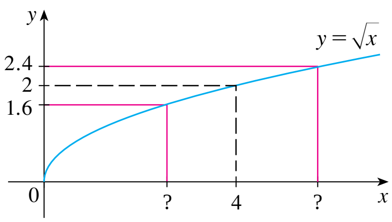
2. Use the given graph of f to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad 0 < |x - 3| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad |f(x) - 2| < 0.5$$



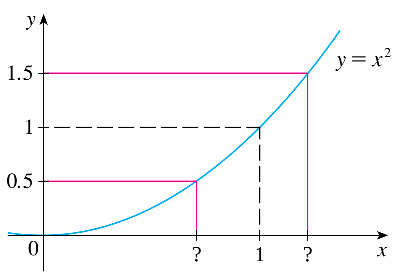
3. Use the given graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad |x - 4| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad |\sqrt{x} - 2| < 0.4$$



4. Use the given graph of $f(x) = x^2$ to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad |x - 1| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad |x^2 - 1| < \tfrac{1}{2}$$



5. Use a graph to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad \left| x - \frac{\pi}{4} \right| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad |\tan x - 1| < 0.2$$

6. Use a graph to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad |x - 1| < \delta \quad \text{then} \quad \left| \frac{2x}{x^2 + 4} - 0.4 \right| < 0.1$$

7. For the limit

$$\lim_{x \to 2} (x^3 - 3x + 4) = 6$$

illustrate Definition 2 by finding values of δ that correspond to $\varepsilon = 0.2$ and $\varepsilon = 0.1$.

8. For the limit

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{e^{2x} - 1}{x} = 2$$

illustrate Definition 2 by finding values of δ that correspond to $\varepsilon = 0.5$ and $\varepsilon = 0.1$.

9. Given that $\lim_{x \to \pi/2} \tan^2 x = \infty$, illustrate Definition 6 by finding values of δ that correspond to (a) $M = 1000$ and (b) $M = 10{,}000$.

10. Use a graph to find a number δ such that

$$\text{if} \quad 5 < x < 5 + \delta \quad \text{then} \quad \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x - 5}} > 100$$

11. A machinist is required to manufacture a circular metal disk with area 1000 cm^2.
(a) What radius produces such a disk?
(b) If the machinist is allowed an error tolerance of $\pm 5\ \text{cm}^2$ in the area of the disk, how close to the ideal radius in part (a) must the machinist control the radius?
(c) In terms of the ε, δ definition of $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$, what is x? What is $f(x)$? What is a? What is L? What value of ε is given? What is the corresponding value of δ?

12. A crystal growth furnace is used in research to determine how best to manufacture crystals used in electronic components for the space shuttle. For proper growth of the crystal, the temperature must be controlled accurately by adjusting the input power. Suppose the relationship is given by

$$T(w) = 0.1w^2 + 2.155w + 20$$

where T is the temperature in degrees Celsius and w is the power input in watts.
(a) How much power is needed to maintain the temperature at 200°C?
(b) If the temperature is allowed to vary from 200°C by up to ±1°C, what range of wattage is allowed for the input power?
(c) In terms of the ε, δ definition of $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$, what is x? What is $f(x)$? What is a? What is L? What value of ε is given? What is the corresponding value of δ?

13. (a) Find a number δ such that if $|x - 2| < \delta$, then $|4x - 8| < \varepsilon$, where $\varepsilon = 0.1$.
(b) Repeat part (a) with $\varepsilon = 0.01$.

14. Given that $\lim_{x \to 2}(5x - 7) = 3$, illustrate Definition 2 by finding values of δ that correspond to $\varepsilon = 0.1$, $\varepsilon = 0.05$, and $\varepsilon = 0.01$.

15–18 Prove the statement using the ε, δ definition of a limit and illustrate with a diagram like Figure 9.

15. $\lim_{x \to 3} \left(1 + \frac{1}{3}x\right) = 2$

16. $\lim_{x \to 4} (2x - 5) = 3$

17. $\lim_{x \to -3} (1 - 4x) = 13$

18. $\lim_{x \to -2} (3x + 5) = -1$

19–32 Prove the statement using the ε, δ definition of a limit.

19. $\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{2 + 4x}{3} = 2$

20. $\lim_{x \to 10} \left(3 - \frac{4}{5}x\right) = -5$

21. $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{x^2 + x - 6}{x - 2} = 5$

22. $\lim_{x \to -1.5} \frac{9 - 4x^2}{3 + 2x} = 6$

23. $\lim_{x \to a} x = a$

24. $\lim_{x \to a} c = c$

25. $\lim_{x \to 0} x^2 = 0$

26. $\lim_{x \to 0} x^3 = 0$

27. $\lim_{x \to 0} |x| = 0$

28. $\lim_{x \to -6^+} \sqrt[8]{6 + x} = 0$

29. $\lim_{x \to 2} (x^2 - 4x + 5) = 1$

30. $\lim_{x \to 2} (x^2 + 2x - 7) = 1$

31. $\lim_{x \to -2} (x^2 - 1) = 3$

32. $\lim_{x \to 2} x^3 = 8$

33. Verify that another possible choice of δ for showing that $\lim_{x \to 3} x^2 = 9$ in Example 4 is $\delta = \min\{2, \varepsilon/8\}$.

34. Verify, by a geometric argument, that the largest possible choice of δ for showing that $\lim_{x \to 3} x^2 = 9$ is $\delta = \sqrt{9 + \varepsilon} - 3$.

CAS **35.** (a) For the limit $\lim_{x \to 1} (x^3 + x + 1) = 3$, use a graph to find a value of δ that corresponds to $\varepsilon = 0.4$.
(b) By using a computer algebra system to solve the cubic equation $x^3 + x + 1 = 3 + \varepsilon$, find the largest possible value of δ that works for any given $\varepsilon > 0$.
(c) Put $\varepsilon = 0.4$ in your answer to part (b) and compare with your answer to part (a).

36. Prove that $\lim_{x \to 2} \dfrac{1}{x} = \dfrac{1}{2}$.

37. Prove that $\lim_{x \to a} \sqrt{x} = \sqrt{a}$ if $a > 0$.

$$\left[\textit{Hint: } \text{Use } \left| \sqrt{x} - \sqrt{a} \right| = \frac{|x - a|}{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{a}}. \right]$$

38. If H is the Heaviside function defined in Example 6 in Section 2.2, prove, using Definition 2, that $\lim_{t \to 0} H(t)$ does not exist. [*Hint:* Use an indirect proof as follows. Suppose that the limit is L. Take $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}$ in the definition of a limit and try to arrive at a contradiction.]

39. If the function f is defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \text{ is rational} \\ 1 & \text{if } x \text{ is irrational} \end{cases}$$

prove that $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x)$ does not exist.

40. By comparing Definitions 2, 3, and 4, prove Theorem 1 in Section 2.3.

41. How close to -3 do we have to take x so that

$$\frac{1}{(x + 3)^4} > 10{,}000$$

42. Prove, using Definition 6, that $\lim_{x \to -3} \dfrac{1}{(x + 3)^4} = \infty$.

43. Prove that $\lim_{x \to 0^+} \ln x = -\infty$.

44. Suppose that $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = \infty$ and $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = c$, where c is a real number. Prove each statement.
(a) $\lim_{x \to a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \infty$
(b) $\lim_{x \to a} [f(x)g(x)] = \infty \quad \text{if } c > 0$
(c) $\lim_{x \to a} [f(x)g(x)] = -\infty \quad \text{if } c < 0$

2.5 Continuity

We noticed in Section 2.3 that the limit of a function as x approaches a can often be found simply by calculating the value of the function at a. Functions with this property are called *continuous at a*. We will see that the mathematical definition of continuity corresponds closely with the meaning of the word *continuity* in everyday language. (A continuous process is one that takes place gradually, without interruption or abrupt change.)

As illustrated in Figure 1, if f is continuous, then the points $(x, f(x))$ on the graph of f approach the point $(a, f(a))$ on the graph. So there is no gap in the curve.

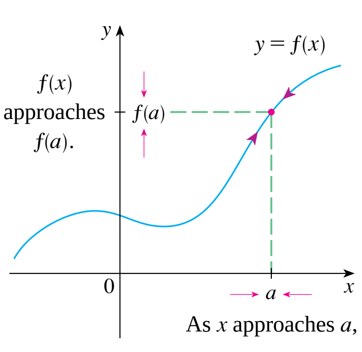


FIGURE 1

1 Definition A function f is **continuous at a number a** if

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = f(a)$$

Notice that Definition 1 implicitly requires three things if f is continuous at a:

1. $f(a)$ is defined (that is, a is in the domain of f)

2. $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ exists

3. $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = f(a)$

The definition says that f is continuous at a if $f(x)$ approaches $f(a)$ as x approaches a. Thus a continuous function f has the property that a small change in x produces only a