

Mathematics 3208 More Limits

Limits and Absolute Value.

Recall: $|x| = \begin{cases} x, & x \geq 0 \\ -x, & x < 0 \end{cases}$ or $|x-a| = \begin{cases} x-a, & x \geq a \\ -(x-a), & x < a \end{cases}$

Evaluate each limit

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x^2 - 4}{|x-2|}$

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

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} x+2$

$= 4$ \square

2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{x^2 + 2x - 15}{|x-3|}$

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

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{x+5}{-1}$

$= \frac{8}{-1}$

$= -8$ \square

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

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

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

$= 3$ \square

When determining $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ and direct substitution yields $\frac{k}{0}$, where $k \neq 0$, this will yield one of the following situations.

Limits 1 Mathematics 3208

Consider the following. Remember take \lim from both left and right.

a. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x}$

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

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

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

b. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2}$

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

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

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

c. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x+4}{x-2}$

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

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

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x+4}{x-2}$ dne

Limits 2 Mathematics 3208

- as x approaches 2 from the left, the numerator approaches 6, and the denominator approaches 0 through negative values: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x+4}{x-2} = -\infty$
- as x approaches 2 from the right, the numerator approaches 6, and the denominator approaches 0 through positive values: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x+4}{x-2} = \infty$
- the $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x+4}{x-2}$ does not exist
- the function has a vertical asymptote at $x = 2$

You try:

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

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

3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{3x}{x-5}$

4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x-5}{x^4}$