

**AP Calculus AB – Unit 2 Outline – Limits and Continuity**

**Friday 8/25**

**Today's Topic: Introduction to Limits: Finding Limits Graphically and Numerically**

**Define: Limit** – The value that a function **approaches** as the input approaches a value from both sides.

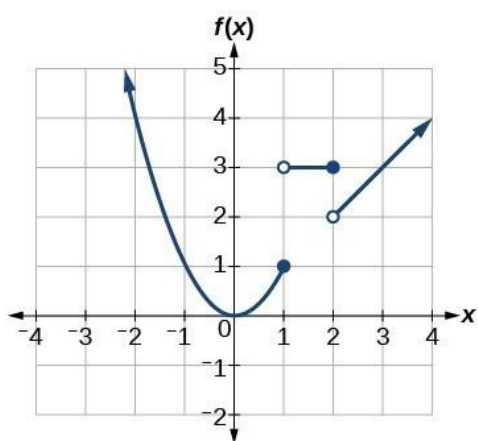
**In-class examples:**

**Ex. 1** For each of the following, what is  $f(x)$  approaching as  $x$  approaches a value of 2?

a)  $f(x) = x - 1$                       b)  $f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x - 2}$

**Ex. 2** For  $f(x) = \frac{|x|}{x}$ , what is  $f(x)$  approaching as  $x$  approaches a value of 0?

Use the graph of  $f(x)$  shown below to find each value.



**Ex. 3**

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x)$     b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$     c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$     d)  $f(0)$

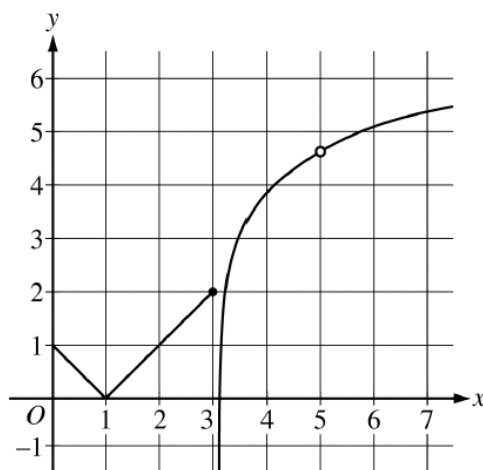
**Ex. 4**

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x)$     b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x)$     c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$     d)  $f(1)$

**Ex. 5**

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x)$     b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$     c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$     d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x)$

**AP Multiple Choice**



Graph of  $f$

The graph of a function  $f$  is shown above. Which of the following limits does not exist?

- (A)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x)$     (B)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$     (C)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x)$     (D)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$     (E)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} f(x)$

**Homework:** Worksheet 7

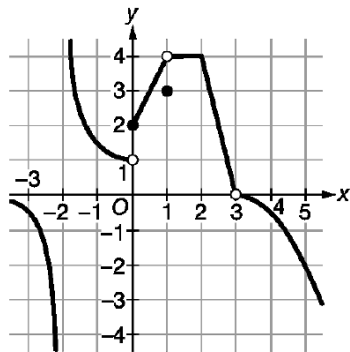
**In-class examples:**

**Ex. 1** Identify the three ways in which a limit will fail to exist. Include a graph for each.

**Ex. 2** Assume that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) = -1$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} g(x) = 3$ , and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} h(x) = 2$ . Find

a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (2g(x) + 3f(x))$       b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \sqrt{h(x) + [g(x)]^2}$       c.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{g(x) - 3}{f(x) + x}$

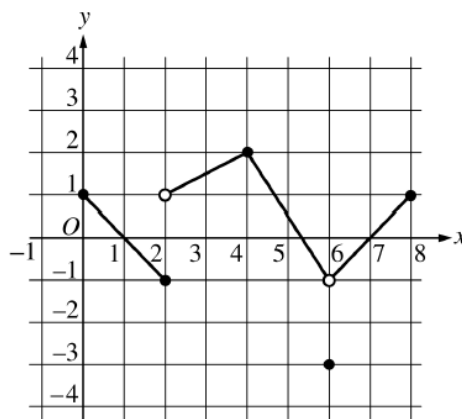
**Ex. 3** Given the graph of  $f(x)$  and a table for selected values of  $g(x)$  below, estimate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (3g(x) - 2f(x))$



Graph of  $f$

$x$	0.8	0.9	0.09	0.009	1.001	1.01	1.1	1.2
$g(x)$	4.16	4.59	4.960	4.996	5.004	5.040	5.39	5.76

**AP Multiple Choice**



The figure above shows the graph of the function  $f$ . Which of the following statements are true?

- I.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = f(2)$
  - II.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 6^+} f(x)$
  - III.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} f(x) = f(6)$
- (A) II only  
 (B) III only  
 (C) I and II only  
 (D) II and III only  
 (E) I, II, and III

Tuesday 8/29

Today's Topic: Algebraic Methods for finding Limits

**In-class examples:**

**Ex. 1** Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (4x^2 + 3)$  using limit laws.

**Ex. 2** Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (\cos x - 4)$  using direct substitution.

**Ex. 3** Evaluate the following limits:

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

b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} x \cos x$

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

d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x + 6}{x - 3}$

**Ex. 4** For  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}x + 1, & x \leq 2 \\ 3 - x, & x > 2 \end{cases}$ , evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$ .

**Ex. 5** For  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 - 5, & x < -3 \\ 0 & x = -3 \\ 8 - x, & x > -3 \end{cases}$ , evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} f(x)$ .

**AP Multiple Choice**

If  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \ln x & \text{for } 0 < x \leq 2 \\ x^2 \ln 2 & \text{for } 2 < x \leq 4, \end{cases}$  then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$  is

(A)  $\ln 2$

(B)  $\ln 8$

(C)  $\ln 16$

(D) 4

(E) nonexistent

**Homework:** Worksheet 9

Wednesday 8/30

Today's Topic: Algebraic Methods for Finding Limits; Indeterminate Forms

**In-class examples:**

**Ex.1** Evaluate the following limits:

a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x - 3}{x^2 - 9}$

b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 5x + 6}{x^2 - 7x + 10}$

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

d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x + 1} - 1}{x}$

**AP Multiple Choice:**

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 + x - 6}{x^2 - 4}$  is

(A)  $-\frac{1}{4}$

(B) 0

(C) 1

(D)  $\frac{5}{4}$

(E) nonexistent

**Homework:** Worksheet 10

<b>Thursday 8/31</b>	<b>Today's Topic:</b> Limits involving the Difference Quotient; The Squeeze Theorem
<b>Warm-Up:</b> Evaluate $\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$ for a) $f(x)=4x-1$ b) $f(x)=x^2-2x+1$	
<b>In-class examples:</b>	
<b>Ex. 1</b> Evaluate $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\Delta x)-f(x)}{\Delta x}$ for a) $f(x)=3x+2$ b) $f(x)=x^2+4x+5$	
<b>The Squeeze Theorem</b>	
<b>Ex. 2</b> If $-3\cos(\pi x) \leq f(x) \leq x^3+2$ , evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x)$ . Justify your answer.	
<b>AP Multiple Choice</b>	
If $a \neq 0$ , then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{x^2 - a^2}{x^4 - a^4}$ is	
(A) $\frac{1}{a^2}$	(B) $\frac{1}{2a^2}$
(C) $\frac{1}{6a^2}$	(D) 0
	(E) nonexistent
<b>Homework:</b> Worksheet 11	

<b>Friday 9/1</b>	<b>Today's Topic:</b> Limits Quiz #1
<b>In-class examples:</b> None	
<b>Homework:</b> None	

<b>Tuesday 9/5</b>	<b>Today's Topic:</b> Limits at Infinity (Principle of Dominance); End Behavior; Definition of a Horizontal Asymptote.
<b>In-class examples</b>	
<b>Ex. 1</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x-1}{x+1}$	<b>Ex. 2</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(5 - \frac{2}{x^2}\right)$
<b>Ex. 3</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^3 + 2x^2 - 5}{3x^2 - 4x + 1}$	<b>Ex. 4</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin x}{3x^2 + 1}$
<b>Ex. 5</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{3x^{20} + 1}$	<b>Ex. 6</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x-2}{\sqrt{2x^2+1}}$
<b>Ex. 7</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{e^x}$	<b>Ex. 8</b> Find the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \cos \frac{1}{x}$
<b>AP Multiple Choice</b>	
$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{9x^4+1}}{4x^2+3}$ is	
(A) $\frac{1}{3}$	(B) $\frac{3}{4}$
(C) $\frac{3}{2}$	(D) $\frac{9}{4}$
	(E) infinite
<b>Homework:</b> Worksheet 12	

<b>Wednesday 9/6</b>	<b>Today's Topic:</b> Special Trig Limits		
<b>In-class examples:</b>			
<b>Ex. 1</b> Use a graphing calculator to determine: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$	<b>Ex. 2</b> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin 3x}{x}$		
<b>Ex. 3</b> Use a graphing calculator to determine: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x}$	<b>Ex. 4</b> $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos 7x}{x}$		
<b>Homework:</b> Find each limit:			
1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}x}{x}$	2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sec x$	3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{2x}$	4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3 \sin x}{x}$
5. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin 3x}{5x}$	6. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin^2 2x}{3x^2}$	7. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan x}{x}$	8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(2x)}{2x}$
9. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x+2}{\cos x}$	10. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \tan x$	11. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1 - \cos x}$ (Hint: Use an identity)	12. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x}{\sin x}$

<b>Thursday 9/7</b>	<b>Today's Topic:</b> 3 Part Definition of Continuity
<b>In-class examples:</b>	
<b>Ex. 1</b> Show that $f(x) = x^2 + 3x + 2$ is continuous at $x = 1$ using the 3-part definition of continuity.	
<b>Ex. 2</b> Determine if $f(x) = \frac{1}{x-2}$ is continuous at $x = 2$ using the 3-part definition of continuity.	
<b>Ex. 3</b> For $f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x+1}, & 0 \leq x \leq 3 \\ 5-x, & 3 < x \leq 5 \end{cases}$ , determine if $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = 3$ .	
<b>AP Multiple Choice</b>	
Let $f$ be the function given by $f(x) = \frac{(x-2)^2(x+3)}{(x-2)(x+1)}$ . For which of the following values of $x$ is $f$ not continuous?	
(A) $-3$ and $-1$ only	
(B) $-3$ , $-1$ , and $2$	
(C) $-1$ only	
(D) $-1$ and $2$ only	
(E) $2$ only	
<b>Homework:</b> Worksheet 13	

**In-class examples:**

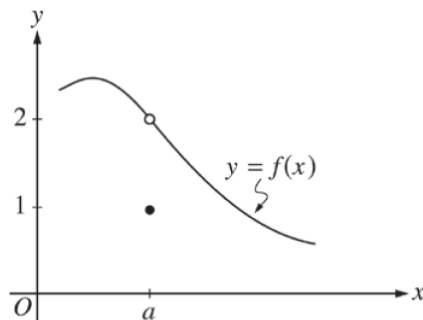
**Ex. 1** Sketch the graph of any function  $f$  such that,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = 1$  and  $f(2) = 5$ .

**Ex. 2**

- Determine the  $x$ -coordinates of any discontinuities on the graph of  $f(x) = \frac{x-3}{x^2-9}$ .
- Identify the discontinuities as either **infinite** or **removable**.
- Evaluate the limit at each **removable** discontinuity.
- State the interval(s) on which  $f(x)$  is continuous.
- Write an extended function of  $g(x)$  that is continuous.

**Ex. 3**

- Determine the  $x$ -coordinates of any discontinuities on the graph of  $g(x) = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - 4}$ .
- Identify the discontinuities as either **infinite** or **removable**.
- Evaluate the limit at each **removable** discontinuity.
- State the interval(s) on which  $f(x)$  is continuous.
- Write an extended function of  $g(x)$  that is continuous.

**AP Multiple Choice**

The graph of a function  $f$  is shown in the figure above. Which of the following statements is true?

- $f(a) = 2$
- $f$  is continuous at  $x = a$ .
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 1$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 2$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  does not exist.

**In-class Examples:**

**Ex. 1** Sketch the graph of any function  $f$  such that,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = -\infty$ .

**Ex. 2**

**Recall Example 2 from Yesterday:**

- f) Identify any vertical asymptotes on the graph of  $f(x)$ . Use limits to describe the behavior of  $f(x)$  on the left and right of the vertical asymptote.

**Ex. 3**

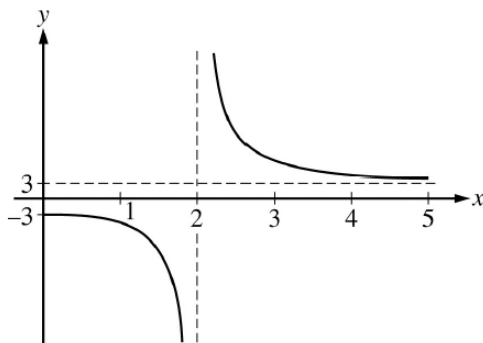
**Recall Example 3 from Yesterday:**

- f) Identify any vertical asymptotes on the graph of  $f(x)$ . Use limits to describe the behavior of  $f(x)$  on the left and right of the vertical asymptote.

**AP Multiple Choice**

The vertical line  $x = 2$  is an asymptote for the graph of the function  $f$ . Which of the following statements must be false?

- (A)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = 0$   
 (B)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = -\infty$   
 (C)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = \infty$   
 (D)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 2$   
 (E)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \infty$



The function  $f$  is given by  $f(x) = \frac{ax^2 + 12}{x^2 + b}$ . The figure above shows a portion of the graph of  $f$ . Which of the following could be the values of the constants  $a$  and  $b$ ?

- (A)  $a = -3, b = 2$   
 (B)  $a = 2, b = -3$   
 (C)  $a = 2, b = -2$   
 (D)  $a = 3, b = -4$   
 (E)  $a = 3, b = 4$

**Tuesday 9/12****Today's Topic:** Continuity; Jump Discontinuities; Review**In-class examples:**

- 1) Sketch the graph of any function  $f$  such that,  $f(3) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = 1$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = 0$ .

Determine whether  $f$  is continuous at  $c$ :  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x < 1 \\ 3x + 2 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$ ,  $c = 1$ .

- 2) Determine the numbers at which the following function is continuous:  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & \text{if } x \leq 0 \\ x + 1 & \text{if } 0 < x < 2 \\ 5 - x & \text{if } 2 \leq x \leq 5 \end{cases}$

**AP Multiple Choice**

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 - 3x + 9 & \text{for } x \leq 2 \\ kx + 1 & \text{for } x > 2 \end{cases}$$

The function  $f$  is defined above. For what value of  $k$ , if any, is  $f$  continuous at  $x = 2$ ?

- (A) 1  
 (B) 2  
 (C) 3  
 (D) 7  
 (E) No value of  $k$  will make  $f$  continuous at  $x = 2$ .

**Homework:** Worksheet 16**Wednesday 9/13****Today's Topic:** Intermediate Value Theorem**In-Class Examples**

**Ex. 1** Use the Intermediate Value Theorem to show that the polynomial function  $f(x) = x^3 + 2x - 1$  has a zero in the interval  $[0, 1]$ .

**Ex. 2** If  $f(x) = x^2 + 10\sin x$ , show that there is a number  $c$  such that  $f(c) = 800$  in  $[0, 30]$ .

**AP Multiple Choice**

Let  $f$  be a function that is continuous on the closed interval  $[2, 4]$  with  $f(2) = 10$  and  $f(4) = 20$ . Which of the following is guaranteed by the Intermediate Value Theorem?

- (A)  $f(x) = 13$  has at least one solution in the open interval  $(2, 4)$ .  
 (B)  $f(3) = 15$   
 (C)  $f$  attains a maximum on the open interval  $(2, 4)$ .  
 (D)  $f'(x) = 5$  has at least one solution in the open interval  $(2, 4)$ .  
 (E)  $f'(x) > 0$  for all  $x$  in the open interval  $(2, 4)$ .

**Homework:** Worksheet 17



Thursday 9/14

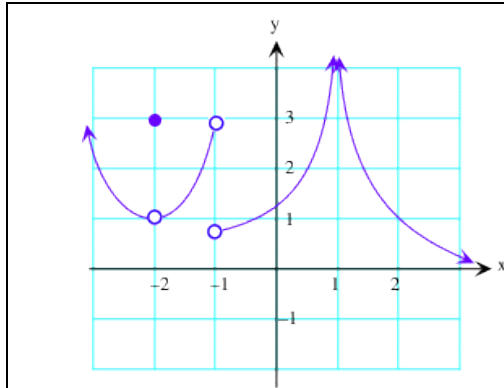
Today's Topic: Limits/Continuity Review

**In-class examples**

**Ex. 1** Let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 - a^2x, & x < 2 \\ 4 - 2x^2, & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$ . Find all values of  $a$  that make  $f$  continuous at  $x = 2$ .

**Ex. 2** Let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin(\pi x), & x < 2 \\ x^2 - cx + 18, & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$ . Find all values of  $a$  that make  $f$  continuous at  $x = 2$ .

**Ex. 3**



The graph of  $f(x)$  is shown at left.

- Determine the domain of  $f(x)$ .
- Determine the values of  $c$  for which  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists.
- Determine the values of  $x$  for which  $f(x)$  is continuous.

**Homework:** Worksheet 18

Friday 9/15

Today's Topic: Unit 2 Test - Limits/Continuity – Good Luck!!

- Good luck on today's exam

**Homework:** None