

Remember to show all of your work.

Problem 1. Determine the following limits, or write DNE:

(a) (2 points) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{1}{x - 5}$

Sample Solution: Here we have to check the left- and right-hand limits separately.

Consider $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^-} \frac{1}{x - 5}$. We'll take $x = 4.5, 4.9,$ and 4.99 .

$$\text{Let } x = 4.5, \text{ then } \frac{1}{x - 5} = \frac{1}{4.5 - 5} = \frac{1}{-0.5} = -2.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 4.9, \text{ then } \frac{1}{x - 5} = \frac{1}{4.9 - 5} = \frac{1}{-0.1} = -10.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 4.99, \text{ then } \frac{1}{x - 5} = \frac{1}{4.99 - 5} = \frac{1}{-0.01} = -100.$$

Repeating this process gives $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^-} \frac{1}{x - 5} = -\infty$

Now consider $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^+} \frac{1}{x - 5}$. We'll take $x = 5.5, 5.1,$ and 5.01 .

$$\text{Let } x = 5.5, \text{ then } \frac{1}{x - 5} = \frac{1}{5.5 - 5} = \frac{1}{0.5} = 2.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 5.1, \text{ then } \frac{1}{x - 5} = \frac{1}{5.1 - 5} = \frac{1}{0.1} = 10.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 5.01, \text{ then } \frac{1}{x - 5} = \frac{1}{5.01 - 5} = \frac{1}{0.01} = 100.$$

Repeating this process gives $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^+} \frac{1}{x - 5} = \infty$

Thus,

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

and because the left- and right-hand limits are different, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{1}{x - 5}$ does not exist.

(b) (2 points) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2}$

Sample Solution: Similarly, here we also have to check the left- and right-hand limits separately.

Consider $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2}$. We'll take $x = 0.5, 0.9$, and 0.99 .

$$\text{Let } x = 0.5, \text{ then } \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(0.5-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(-0.5)^2} = \frac{4}{0.25} = 16.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 0.9, \text{ then } \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(0.9-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(-0.1)^2} = \frac{4}{0.01} = 400.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 0.99, \text{ then } \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(0.99-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(-0.01)^2} = \frac{4}{0.0001} = 40000.$$

Repeating this process gives $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \infty$

Now consider $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2}$. We'll take $x = 1.5, 1.1$, and 1.01 .

$$\text{Let } x = 1.5, \text{ then } \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(1.5-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(0.5)^2} = \frac{4}{0.25} = 16.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 1.1, \text{ then } \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(1.1-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(0.1)^2} = \frac{4}{0.01} = 400.$$

$$\text{Let } x = 1.01, \text{ then } \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(1.01-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(0.01)^2} = \frac{4}{0.0001} = 40000.$$

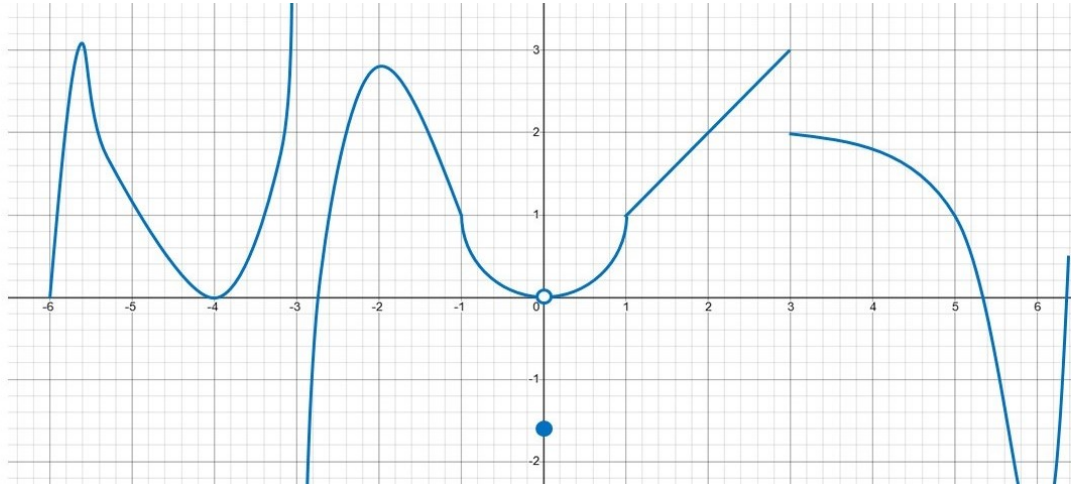
Repeating this process gives $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \infty$

Thus,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \infty = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2}$$

and because the left- and right-hand limits are the same, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{4}{(x-1)^2} = \infty$.

Problem 2. Use the graph below to determine the following limits, or write DNE. Assume lines off the graph go to ∞ or $-\infty$. (1 point each):



(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -4}$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3}$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0}$

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1}$

(e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3}$

(f) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6}$

Sample Solutions

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -4} = 0$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3} = \text{DNE}$, because $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3^-} = \infty$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3^+} = -\infty$

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

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} = 1$

(e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} = \text{DNE}$, because $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} = 3$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} = 2$

(f) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} = -\infty$