

1. Evaluate

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \left( x + \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5} \right).$$

**Solution.** Since plugging in  $-\infty$  yields an indeterminate form of  $-\infty + \infty$ , we have to try harder. In this case, multiplying by the conjugate (over itself) helps us:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \left( x + \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5} \right) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \left( x + \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5} \right) \cdot \frac{x - \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5}}{x - \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^2 - (x^2 + 4x + 5)}{x - \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-4x - 5}{x - \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5}}. \end{aligned}$$

Unfortunately, plugging in  $-\infty$  still yields an indeterminate form, but we note that the ‘degree’ of the numerator and the denominator are the same, where we consider  $\sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5}$  to have ‘degree’ 1. We then divide the numerator and denominator by  $x^1$ , using that for negative values of  $x$ ,  $x^1 = -\sqrt{x^2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-4x - 5}{x - \sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5}} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\frac{-4x}{x} - \frac{5}{x}}{\frac{x}{x} - \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + 4x + 5}}{-\sqrt{x^2}}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-4 - \frac{5}{x}}{1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4}{x} + \frac{5}{x^2}}} \end{aligned}$$

Now, plugging in  $-\infty$  gives us the answer we so desire:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-4 - \frac{5}{x}}{1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4}{x} + \frac{5}{x^2}}} = \frac{-4}{1 + \sqrt{1}} = -2.$$

$\boxed{-2}$

2. Find all horizontal asymptotes of

$$f(x) = \frac{2e^x - 4}{4 - e^{2x}}.$$

**Solution.** Horizontal asymptotes are just limits at  $\pm\infty$ , so we find the limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  goes to either  $\infty$  or  $-\infty$ . First, we see that by plugging in,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2e^x - 4}{4 - e^{2x}} = \frac{-4}{4} = -1,$$

so one of our horizontal asymptotes is  $y = -1$ . To find our other limit, first note that plugging in  $\infty$  yields an indeterminate form. Then, we apply a method similar to that of problem 1 and divide both the numerator and the denominator by  $e^x$ .

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

Now, plugging in does not yield an indeterminate form, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e^x - 4}{4 - e^{2x}} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 - \frac{4}{e^x}}{\frac{4}{e^x} - e^x} \\ &= \frac{2}{-\infty} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have *two* horizontal asymptotes,

$$\boxed{y = -1, 0}$$

3. **Using the limit definition**, find the equation of the tangent line of  $f(x) = 1 - x^2$  at  $x = 3$ .

**Solution.** The tangent line to  $f(x)$  at  $x = 3$  is the line that has slope  $f'(3)$  and goes through the point  $(3, f(3))$ . We first find  $f'(3)$  using the limit definition.

$$\begin{aligned} f'(3) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(3+h) - f(3)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (3+h)^2 - (1 - 3^2)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-9 - 6h - h^2 + 9}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-h(6+h)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -(6+h) \\ &= -6. \end{aligned}$$

Now, we just use this slope along with our point  $(3, f(3)) = (3, -8)$  to get our line:

$$\boxed{y + 8 = -6(x - 3)}$$