

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 ∞ 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 positive 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 ∞ gives us the answer we so desire:

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

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2. Find all horizontal asymptotes of

$$f(x) = \frac{6 + 2e^x}{e^{2x} - 9}.$$

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{6 + 2e^x}{e^{2x} - 9} = \frac{6}{-9} = -\frac{2}{3},$$

so one of our horizontal asymptotes is $y = -2/3$. To find our other limit, first note that plugging in ∞ 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 .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6 + 2e^x}{e^{2x} - 9} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{6}{e^x} + 2}{e^x - \frac{9}{e^x}}.$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6 + 2e^x}{e^{2x} - 9} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{6}{e^x} + 2}{e^x - \frac{9}{e^x}} \\ &= \frac{2}{+\infty} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have *two* horizontal asymptotes,

$$\boxed{y = -2/3, 0}$$

3. **Using the limit definition**, find the equation of the tangent line of $f(x) = x^2 + 9$ 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.

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

Now, we just use this slope along with our point $(-3, f(-3)) = (-3, 18)$ to get our line:

$$\boxed{y - 18 = -6(x + 3)}$$