

Finding limits Analytically

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ES: How do I find the limit algebraically?

Analytically

$$\text{Find } \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x+1) = 2+1 = \boxed{3}$$

Why? there are properties of limits that allow us to do ~~the~~ direct substitution

Basic limits

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{x \rightarrow c} b = b$$

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} 4 = \textcircled{4}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x = c$$

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x = \textcircled{2}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x^n = c^n$$

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^4 = \textcircled{2^4}$$

Scalar multiple

$$\textcircled{4} \lim_{x \rightarrow c} (K \cdot f(x)) = K \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = K \cdot L$$

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} 3x = 3 \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x = 3 \cdot 2 = \textcircled{6}$$

Sum and Difference

$$\textcircled{5} \lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x) \pm g(x)) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \pm \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L_1 \pm L_2$$

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x+3) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} 3 = 2+3 = \textcircled{5}$$

Special Trig limits

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \textcircled{1}$$

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 \sin x}{x}$$

$$= 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$$

$$= 2 \cdot 1 = \boxed{2}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x} = \textcircled{0}$$

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{3x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \cdot 0 = \boxed{0}$$

Factoring to find limits

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 5x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(x+5)}{x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x+5) = \textcircled{5}$$

Rationalizing

what is a conjugate?

$$\textcircled{\text{ex}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+1} - 1}{x}$$

Find the conjugate

$$\sqrt{x+1} - 1 \Rightarrow \sqrt{x+1} + 1$$

Multiply the numerator and denominator by the conjugate of the numerator.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+1} - 1}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{\sqrt{x+1} - 1}{x} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x+1} + 1}{\sqrt{x+1} + 1} \right]$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+1}^2 + \sqrt{x+1} - \sqrt{x+1} - 1}{x(\sqrt{x+1} + 1)}$$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{x}}{\cancel{x}(\sqrt{x+1}+1)}$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{0+1}+1} = \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)$$

Summary