

Determine which of the following limits exist. Compute the limits that exist.

7. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (1 - 6x) = -5$ 8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x}{x-2}$ No limit
 9. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \sqrt{x^2 + 16} = 5$ 10. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (x^3 - 7)$
 11. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{x^2 + 1}{5 + x} = 13/5$
 12. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \left(\sqrt{6x} + 3x - \frac{1}{x} \right) (x^2 - 4) = 2288/3$
 13. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} (x + \sqrt{x-6}) (x^2 - 2x + 1) = 288$
 14. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} \frac{\sqrt{5x-4} - 1}{3x^2 + 2} = 5/194$
 15. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 5x - 36}}{8 - 3x} = \sqrt{14}/23$

$f(x) = x^2; a = 1$

$f(x) = 1/x; a = 10$

$f(x) = \sqrt{x}; a = 9$

16. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 10} (2x^2 - 15x - 50)^{20} = 0$

17. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 3x}{x} = 3$

19. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{-2x^2 + 4x}{x - 2} = -4$

21. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 16}{4 - x} = -8$

23. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \frac{x^2 - 6x}{x^2 - 5x - 6} = 6/7$

25. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 8} \frac{x^2 + 64}{x - 8}$ No limit

18. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 1} = 2$

20. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x - 3} = 5$

22. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{2x - 10}{x^2 - 25}$

24. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \frac{x^3 - 2x^2 + 3x}{x^2} = 38/7$

26. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 9} \frac{1}{(x - 9)^2}$ No limit

27. Compute the limits that exist, given that

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = \frac{1}{2}$.

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (f(x) + g(x))$ (b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (f(x) - 2g(x))$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) \cdot g(x)$ (d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$

28. Use the limit definition of the derivative to show that if $f(x) = mx + b$, then $f'(x) = m$.

Use limits to compute the following derivatives.

29. $f'(3)$, where $f(x) = x^2 + 1$

30. $f'(2)$, where $f(x) = x^3$

31. $f'(0)$, where $f(x) = x^3 + 3x + 1$

32. $f'(0)$, where $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 2$

In Exercises 33–36, apply the three-step method to compute $f'(x)$ for the given function. Follow the steps that we used in Example 6. Make sure to simplify the difference quotient as much as possible before taking limits.

33. $f(x) = x^2 + 1$

34. $f(x) = -x^2 + 2$

35. $f(x) = x^3 - 1$

36. $f(x) = -3x^2 + 1$

In Exercises 37–48, use limits to compute $f'(x)$. [Hint: In Exercises 45–48, use the rationalization trick of Example 8.]

37. $f(x) = 3x + 1$

38. $f(x) = -x + 11$ $f'(x) = -1$

39. $f(x) = x + \frac{1}{x}$

40. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ $f'(x) = -2/x^3$

41. $f(x) = \frac{x}{x+1}$

42. $f(x) = -1 + \frac{2}{x-2}$

43. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1}$

44. $f(x) = \frac{x}{x+2}$ $f'(x) = 2/(x+2)^2$

45. $f(x) = \sqrt{x+2}$

46. $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + 1}$ $f'(x) = x/\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$

47. $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$

48. $f(x) = x\sqrt{x}$ $f'(x) = 3/2\sqrt{x}$

Each limit in Exercises 49–54 is a definition of $f'(a)$. Determine the function $f(x)$ and the value of a .

49. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1+h)^2 - 1}{h}$

50. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2+h)^3 - 8}{h}$ $f(x) = x^3, a = 2$

51. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{10+h} - \frac{1}{10}}{h}$

52. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(64+h)^{1/3} - 4}{h}$

53. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{9+h} - 3}{h}$

54. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1+h)^{-1/2} - 1}{h}$

28. $f(x+h) = mx + mh + b, f(x+h) - f(x) = mh, f(x+h) - f(x)/h = m, \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} m = m$ 42. $f'(x) = -2/(x-2)^2$ 52. $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}, a = 64$ 54. $f(x) = 1/\sqrt{x}, a = 1$

In Exercises 55–60, match the given limit with a derivative and then find the limit by computing the derivative.

55. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(h+2)^2 - 4}{h}$ 56. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(h-1)^3 + 1}{h}$ $\frac{d}{dx} x^3 \Big|_{x=-1} = 3$
 57. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{h+2} - \sqrt{2}}{h}$ 58. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{h+4} - 2}{h}$ $\frac{d}{dx} \sqrt{x} \Big|_{x=4} = \frac{1}{4}$
 59. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(8+h)^{1/3} - 2}{h}$ 60. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left[\frac{1}{h+1} - 1 \right]$ $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{x} \Big|_{x=1} = -1$

Compute the following limits.

61. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0$ 62. $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0$
 63. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5x+3}{3x-2} = \frac{5}{3}$ 64. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x-8}$
 65. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{10x+100}{x^2-30} = 0$ 66. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2+x}{x^2-1}$

55. Take $f(x) = x^2$; then, the given limit is $f'(2) = 4$.
 57. Take $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$; then, the given limit is $f'(2) = 1/2\sqrt{2}$.
 59. Take $f(x) = x^{1/3}$; then, the given limit is $f'(8) = 1/12$.

In Exercises 67–72, refer to Figure 5 to find the given limit.

67. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 3/4$ 68. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 1$ 69. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} xf(x) = 0$
 70. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (1+2f(x))^3 = 71$ 71. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (1-f(x))^0 = 0$ 72. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} [f(x)]^2 = 9/16$

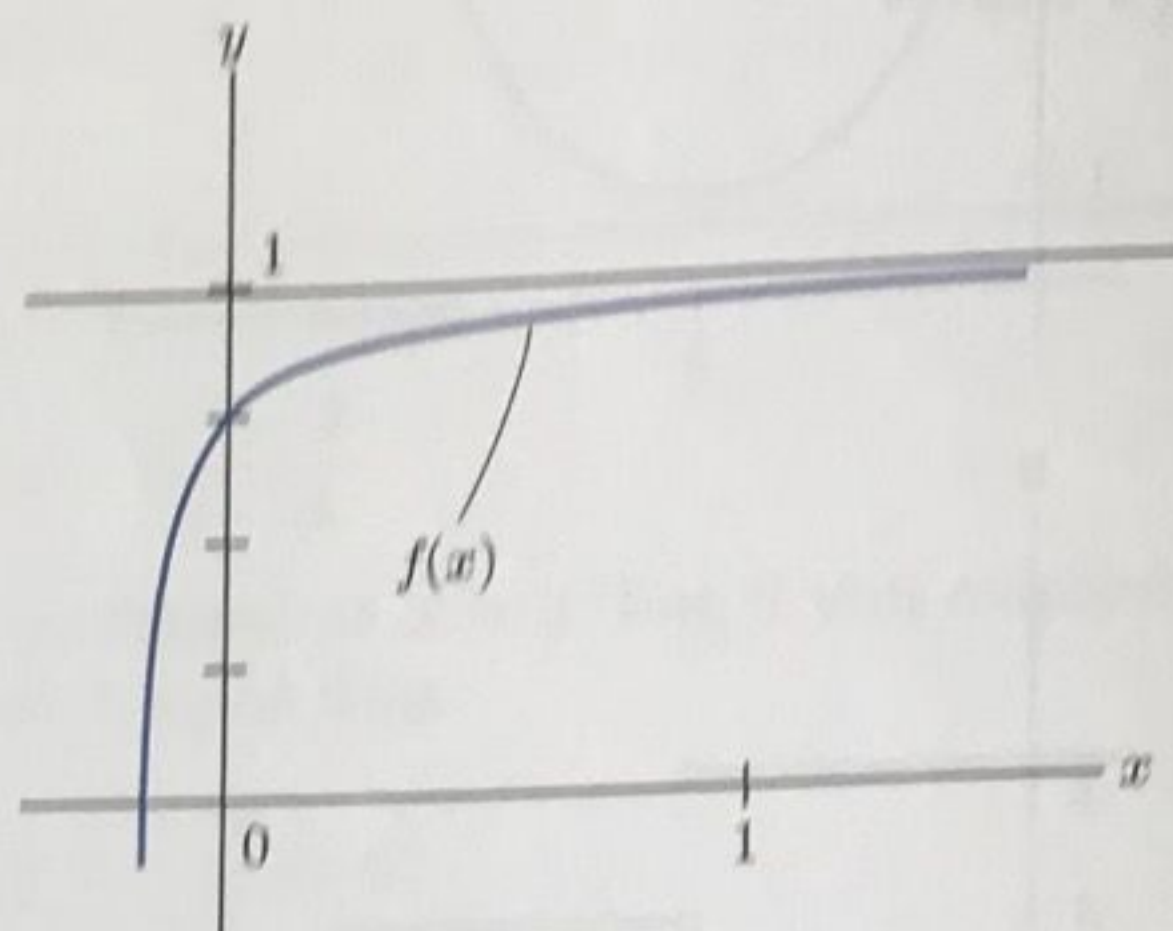


Figure 5

Technology Exercises

Examine the graph of the function and evaluate the function at large values of x to guess the value of the limit.

73. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{25+x} - \sqrt{x} = 0$ 74. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{2^x} = 0$
 75. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 - 2x + 3}{2x^2 + 1} = .5$ 76. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-8x^2 + 1}{x^2 + 1} = -8$

Solutions to Check Your Understanding 1.4

1. The function under consideration is a rational function. Since the denominator has value 0 at $x = 6$, we cannot immediately determine the limit by just evaluating the function at $x = 6$. Also,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} (x - 6) = 0.$$

Since the function in the denominator has the limit zero, we cannot apply Limit Theorem VI. However, since the definition of limit considers only values of x different from 6, the quotient can be simplified by factoring and canceling:

$$\frac{x^2 - 4x - 12}{x - 6} = \frac{(x+2)(x-6)}{(x-6)} = x+2 \quad \text{for } x \neq 6.$$

Now, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} (x+2) = 8$. Therefore,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \frac{x^2 - 4x - 12}{x - 6} = 8.$$

2. No limit exists. It is easily seen that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} (4x+12) = 36$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} (x-6) = 0$. As x approaches 6, the denominator gets very small and the numerator approaches 36. For example, if $x = 6.00001$, the numerator is 36.00004 and the denominator is .00001. The quotient is 3,600,004. As x approaches 6 even more closely, the quotient gets arbitrarily large and cannot possibly approach a limit.

1.5 Differentiability and Continuity

In the preceding section, we defined differentiability of $f(x)$ at $x = a$ in terms of a limit. If this limit does not exist, then we say that $f(x)$ is *nondifferentiable* at $x = a$. Geometrically, the nondifferentiability of $f(x)$ at $x = a$ can manifest itself in several different ways. First, the graph of $f(x)$ could have no tangent line at $x = a$. Second, the graph could have a vertical tangent line at $x = a$. (Recall that slope is not defined for vertical lines.) Some of the various geometric possibilities are illustrated in Fig. 1.

The following example illustrates how nondifferentiability can arise in practice.