

# Important Theorems and Definitions concerning Limits and Continuity

<p><b>The Definition of limit</b> (delta-epsilon definition)</p>	<p>The limit of <math>f(x)</math> as <math>x</math> approaches <math>c</math> is <math>L</math>, written <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L</math> if and only if <math>f</math> is defined for all <math>x</math> on some open interval containing <math>c</math> (except possibly at <math>c</math> itself) and for any <math>\varepsilon &gt; 0</math> (no matter how small) there exists a <math>\delta &gt; 0</math> such that <math> f(x) - L  &lt; \varepsilon</math> whenever <math>0 &lt;  x - c  &lt; \delta</math></p>
<p><b>Properties of Limits</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Constant Law: <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} b = b</math></li> <li>2. Identity Law: <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} x = c</math></li> <li>3. Scalar Law: <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} kf(x) = k \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)</math></li> <li>4. Sum or difference law  <math display="block">\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) \pm g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \pm \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)</math> </li> <li>5. Product Law <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x)g(x)) = \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)\right)\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)\right)</math></li> <li>6. Quotient Law <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)}</math> provided  <math display="block">\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) \neq 0</math> </li> <li>7. Power Law <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x))^n = \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)\right)^n</math></li> </ol>
<p><b>Limit of a Composite Function</b></p>	<p>If <math>f(x)</math> and <math>g(x)</math> are functions such that <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L</math> and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow L} f(x) = f(L)</math>,. Then <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(g(x)) = f\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)\right) = f(L)</math></p>
<p><b>Limits of Trigonometric Functions</b></p>	<p>If <math>c</math> is a real number in the domain of a trig function, then</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sin(x) = \sin(c)</math></li> <li>2. <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \cos(x) = \cos(c)</math></li> <li>3. <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \tan(x) = \tan(c)</math></li> <li>4. <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \csc(x) = \csc(c)</math></li> <li>5. <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sec(x) = \sec(c)</math></li> <li>6. <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \cot(x) = \cot(c)</math></li> </ol>
<p><b>The Almost Equal Theorem</b></p>	<p>If <math>f(x) = g(x)</math> for all <math>x \neq c</math> in some open interval containing <math>c</math>, and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L</math> then <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L</math></p>
<p><b>The Squeeze (or Sandwich) Theorem</b></p>	<p>If <math>f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)</math> for all <math>x</math> in an open interval containing <math>c</math>, except possibly at <math>c</math> itself, and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L</math> and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} h(x) = L</math> then <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L</math></p>
<p><b>Two Special Trigonometric Limits</b> AKA The "Necklace, Earring, bracelet" theorems</p>	<p><math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1</math> and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x} = 0</math></p>

<p><b>Definition of one sided limits</b></p>	<p>The limit of <math>f(x)</math> as <math>x</math> approaches <math>c</math> from the right is <math>L</math>, written <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L</math> if and only if <math>f</math> is defined for all <math>x</math> on some open <math>(c,b)</math> and for any <math>\varepsilon &gt; 0</math> (no matter how small) there exists a <math>\delta &gt; 0</math> such that <math> f(x) - L  &lt; \varepsilon</math> whenever <math>0 &lt; x - c &lt; \delta</math></p> <p>The limit of <math>f(x)</math> as <math>x</math> approaches <math>c</math> from the left is <math>L</math>, written <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L</math> if and only if <math>f</math> is defined for all <math>x</math> on some open <math>(b,c)</math> and for any <math>\varepsilon &gt; 0</math> (no matter how small) there exists a <math>\delta &gt; 0</math> such that <math> f(x) - L  &lt; \varepsilon</math> whenever <math>0 &lt; c - x &lt; \delta</math></p>
<p><b>Existence of a Limit theorem</b></p>	<p>The <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L</math> if and only if <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L</math></p>
<p><b>Definition of Continuity of a function at a point</b></p>	<p>A function is continuous at <math>x = c</math> if and only if the following three conditions are true</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <math>f(c)</math> exists</li> <li>ii) <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)</math> exists</li> <li>iii) <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)</math></li> </ol>
<p><b>Definition of continuity on an <u>open</u> and <u>closed</u> Interval</b></p>	<p>A function is continuous on an open interval <math>(a,b)</math> if it is continuous at each point in the open interval <math>(a,b)</math>.</p> <p>A function is continuous on a closed interval <math>[a,b]</math> if the function is continuous on the open interval and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <math>f(a)</math> exists</li> <li>ii) <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)</math> exists</li> <li>iii) <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)</math></li> <li>i) <math>f(b)</math> exists</li> <li>ii) <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow b^-} f(x)</math> exists</li> <li>iii) <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow b^-} f(x) = f(b)</math></li> </ol>
<p><b>Properties of Continuity</b></p>	<p>If <math>f(x)</math> and <math>g(x)</math> are functions that are continuous at <math>x = c</math>, then the following are also continuous at <math>x = c</math></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. scalar multiple <math>kf(x)</math></li> <li>2. Sum and difference <math>f(x) \pm g(x)</math></li> <li>3. Product <math>f(x)g(x)</math></li> <li>4. Quotient <math>\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}</math> if <math>g(c) \neq 0</math></li> <li>5. If <math>g</math> is continuous at <math>c</math> and <math>f</math> is continuous at <math>g(c)</math>, then the composite function <math>(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))</math> is continuous at <math>c</math>.</li> </ol>
<p><b>The Intermediate Value Theorem</b></p>	<p>If <math>f</math> is continuous of the closed interval <math>[a,b]</math> and <math>d</math> is any number between <math>f(a)</math> and <math>f(b)</math>, then there exists at least one number <math>c</math> in <math>(a,b)</math> such that <math>f(c)=d</math>.</p>

<h3>Definition of Infinite Limits</h3>	<p>The limit of <math>f(x)</math> as <math>x</math> approaches <math>c</math> is infinity, written <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \infty</math> if and only if <math>f</math> is defined for all <math>x</math> on some open interval containing <math>c</math> (except possibly at <math>c</math> itself) and for any <math>M &gt; 0</math> (no matter how large) there exists a <math>\delta &gt; 0</math> such that <math>f(x) &gt; M</math> whenever <math>0 &lt;  x - c  &lt; \delta</math></p> <p>The limit of <math>f(x)</math> as <math>x</math> approaches <math>c</math> is negative infinity, written <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = -\infty</math> if and only if <math>f</math> is defined for all <math>x</math> on some open interval containing <math>c</math> (except possibly at <math>c</math> itself) and for any <math>N &lt; 0</math> (no matter how small) there exists a <math>\delta &gt; 0</math> such that <math>f(x) &lt; N</math> whenever <math>0 &lt;  x - c  &lt; \delta</math>.</p> <p>Note: If the <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \infty</math> or <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = -\infty</math> then the limit DOES NOT EXIST. The notation means that the limit fails to exist because it increases (or decreases) without bound.</p>
<h3>Definition of Vertical Asymptotes</h3>	<p>The graph of the function <math>y = f(x)</math> has a vertical asymptote at <math>x = c</math> if and only if <math>f(x)</math> approaches infinity (or negative infinity) as <math>x</math> approaches <math>c</math> from the right or the left.</p>
<h3>Properties of Infinite Limits</h3>	<p>If <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \infty</math> and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L</math> then</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sum or difference <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) \pm g(x)] = \infty</math></li> <li>2. Product <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x)g(x)) = \infty</math> if <math>L &gt; 0</math> and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f(x)g(x)) = -\infty</math> if <math>L &lt; 0</math></li> <li>3. Quotient <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{g(x)}{f(x)} = 0</math></li> </ol> <p>Similar properties hold for one-sided limits and for functions for which the <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = -\infty</math></p>
<h3>Definition of Limits at Infinity</h3>	<p>The limit of <math>f(x)</math> as <math>x</math> approaches infinity is <math>L</math>, written <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L</math> if for any <math>\varepsilon &gt; 0</math>, there exists an <math>M &gt; 0</math> such that <math> f(x) - L  &lt; \varepsilon</math> whenever <math>x &gt; M</math>.</p> <p>The limit of <math>f(x)</math> as <math>x</math> approaches negative infinity is <math>L</math>, written <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L</math> if for any <math>\varepsilon &gt; 0</math>, there exists an <math>N &lt; 0</math> such that <math> f(x) - L  &lt; \varepsilon</math> whenever <math>x &lt; N</math>.</p>
<h3>Definition of a Horizontal Asymptote</h3>	<p>The graph of the function <math>y = f(x)</math> has a horizontal asymptote at <math>x = L</math> if and only if <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L</math> or <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L</math>.</p>