

Math 111

September 9, 2022

Limit Theorem

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3. If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) \neq 0$, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)}.$$

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Main point. The limit allows us to construct limits of complicated functions from limits of simpler functions.

Some simple limits

Proposition. Let c and k be real numbers. Then

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Examples.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 13 = 13$$

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Examples.

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x = 5.$$

Example of the Limit Theorem in action

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x^2$$

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x^2 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (x \cdot x)$$

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x^2 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (x \cdot x) = \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x \right) \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x \right)$$

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Example of the Limit Theorem in action

Claim \star . If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ exists and $k \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} kf(x) = k \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x).$$

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{3x^2 - 5}{x^3 - 2x + 3} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (3x^2 - 5)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (x^3 - 2x + 3)}$$

(part 3)

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$$= \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 3x^2 + \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (-5)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x^3 + \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} -2x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 3} \quad (\text{part 1})$$

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$$= \frac{3(\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x^2) - 5}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x^3 - 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 3} \quad (\star \text{ and Prop.})$$

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$$= \frac{3(\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x) - 5}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x - 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 3} \quad (\text{part 2})$$

$$= \frac{3(1 \cdot 1) - 5}{1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 - 2 \cdot 1 + 3} = \frac{-2}{2} = -1 \quad (\text{Prop.})$$