

Honors Pre-Calculus – Section 12.1  
Exploring Limits

Name Key  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_\_

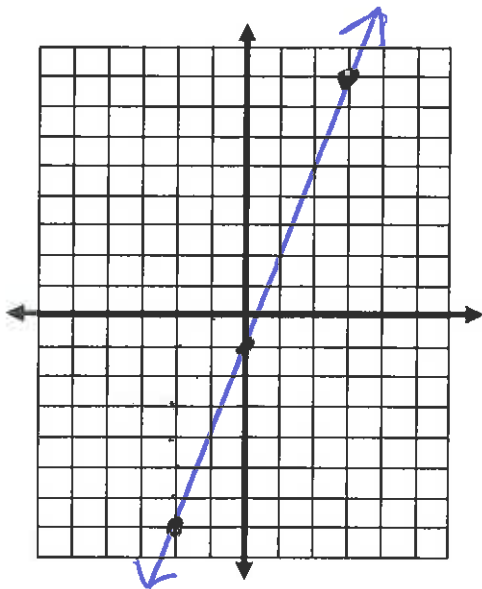
1. Evaluate the function at the indicated values and then plot the points and graph the graph. Then find the indicated limits.

$$f(x) = 3x - 1$$

$$f(0) = -1$$

$$f(3) = 9 - 1 = 8$$

$$f(-2) = -6 - 1 = -7$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (3x - 1) = -1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (3x - 1) = 8$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} (3x - 1) = -7$$

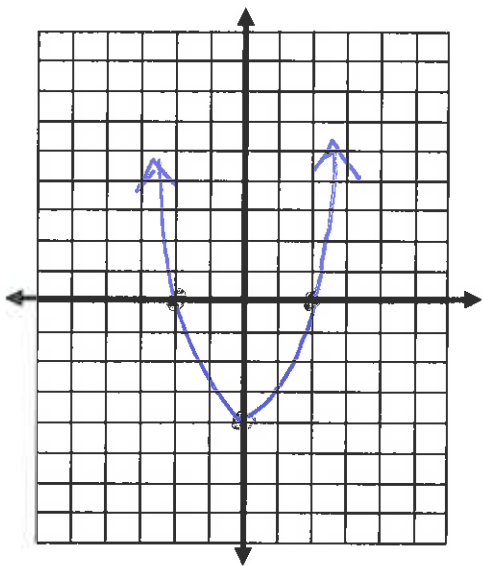
2. Evaluate the function at the indicated values and then plot the points and graph the graph. Then find the indicated limits.

$$f(x) = x^2 - 4$$

$$f(0) = -4$$

$$f(2) = 0$$

$$f(-2) = 0$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x^2 - 4) = -4$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (x^2 - 4) = 9 - 4 = 5$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} (x^2 - 4) = 0$$

**Theorem: The Existence of a Limit**

$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  iff  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$  (i.e. the right and left hand limits are the same). On the functions domain.

3. Graph the given function and then find the indicated limits.

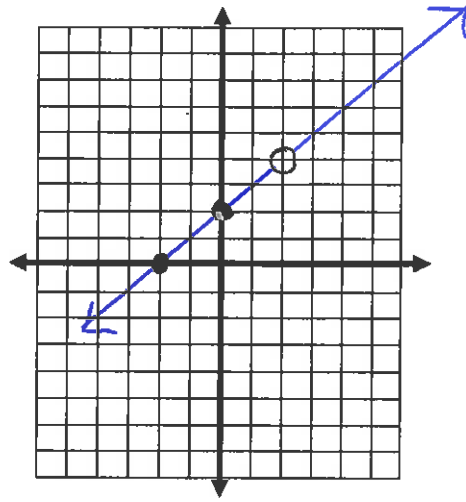
$$y = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$$

$$= \frac{(x-2)(x+2)}{(x-2)}$$

$$y = x + 2$$

$$x \neq 2$$

(2, 4) is a  
Point Discontinuity



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x + 2 = 2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \left( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x + 2 = 4$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \left( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} x + 2 = 0$$

4. Graph the given function and then find the indicated limits.

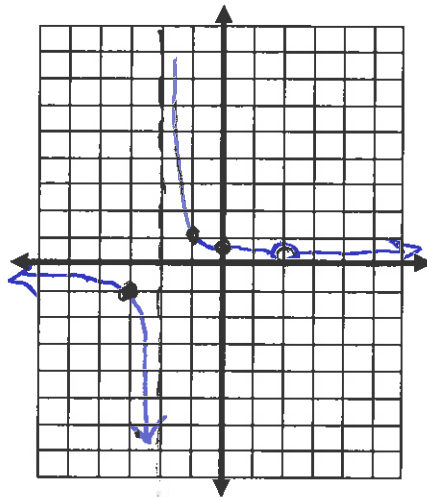
$$y = \frac{x-2}{x^2-4}$$

$$y = \frac{x-2}{(x+2)(x-2)}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{x+2}$$

$x \neq 2$  PD (2, 1/4)

$x \neq -2$  asymptote



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{x-2}{x^2-4} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x+2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \left( \frac{x-2}{x^2-4} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{1}{x+2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \left( \frac{x-2}{x^2-4} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{1}{x+2} = 0 \text{ undefined limit DNE}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{x-2}{x^2-4} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x+2} = 0$$

5. Find the indicated limits by direct substitution verify graphically.

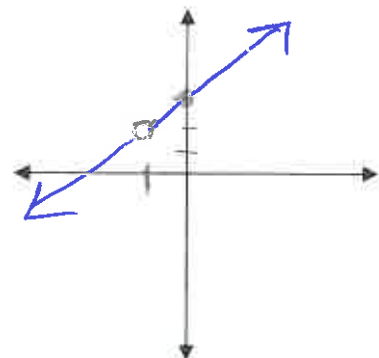
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{x^2 + 4x + 3}{x + 1} \right) = 3$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \left( \frac{x^2 + 4x + 3}{x + 1} \right) =$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+3)(x+1)}{x+1}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x + 3 = 3$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} x + 3 = 2$$



6. Find the indicated limits by direct substitution verify graphically.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{x-3}{x^2-x-6} \right) = \frac{0-3}{0-0-6} = \frac{-3}{-6} = \frac{1}{2}$$

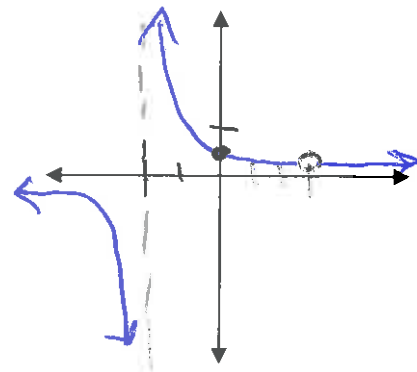
$$y = \frac{x-3}{(x-3)(x+2)} = \frac{1}{x+2} \quad x \neq 3$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left( \frac{x-3}{x^2-x-6} \right) = \frac{0}{0} = \text{indeterminate}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{x-3}{x^2-x-6} \right) = 0$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{1}{x+2} = \frac{1}{5} \quad \left( 3, \frac{1}{5} \right)$$

P.D.



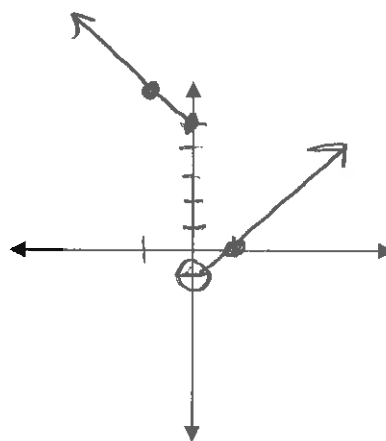
7. Sketch the graph and analyze the limits at the indicated points

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} -x+5 & x \leq 0 \\ x-1 & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} g(x) = -(-2)+5 = 7$

b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 3-1 = 2$

c.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = \text{DNE}$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-}$



8) Graph  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^3-1, & x < 1 \\ 2x-2, & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$

9) Graph  $h(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x+2}, & x \geq -2 \\ (x+2)^2, & x < -2 \end{cases}$

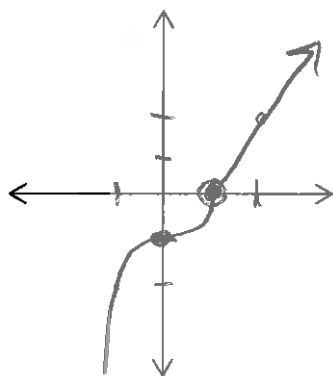
Find:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 0$

Find:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} h(x) = 0$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = 0$$

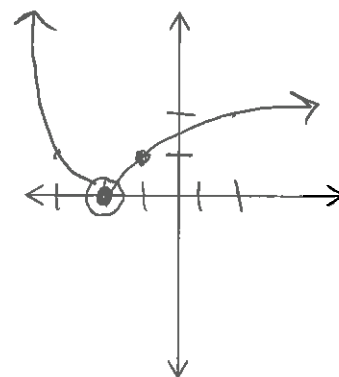
$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 0$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} h(x) = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} h(x) = 0$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} h(x) = 0$$



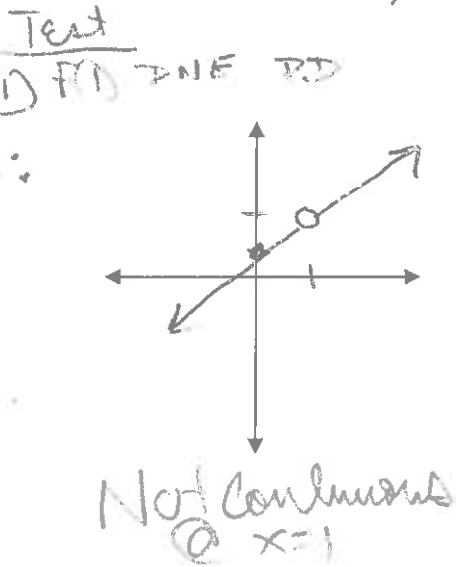
**Definition of Continuity: ("The Continuity Test")**

**Continuity at a Point:** A function  $f$  is **continuous at  $c$**  if the following three conditions are met.

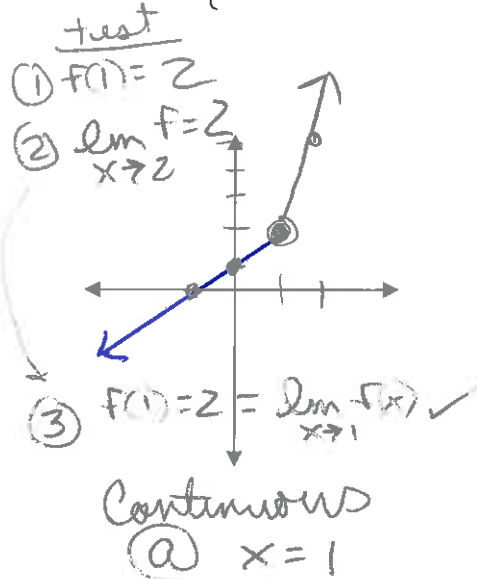
1.  $f(c)$  is defined.  $\rightarrow$  there is a point @  $x=c$
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists.  $\rightarrow$  there is a limit @  $x=c$
3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$ .  $\rightarrow$  the point @  $x=c = \lim$  @  $x=c$

10. Sketch and determine which function is continuous at  $x=1$ . Why?

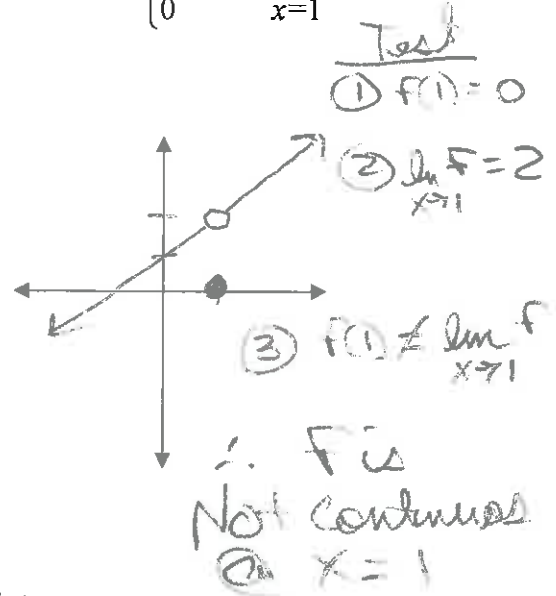
a.  $g(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x-1} = x+1, x \neq 1$



b.  $h(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & x \leq 1 \\ 3x-1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$



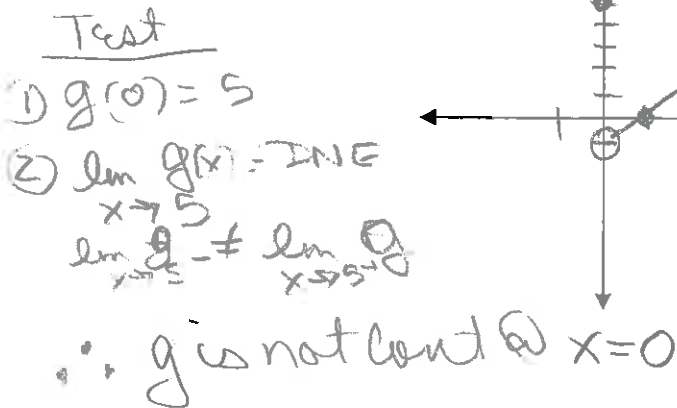
c.  $j(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2-1}{x-1}, & x \neq 1 = x+1 \\ 0, & x=1 \end{cases}$



11. Sketch the following then apply the **continuity test** at the indicated point:

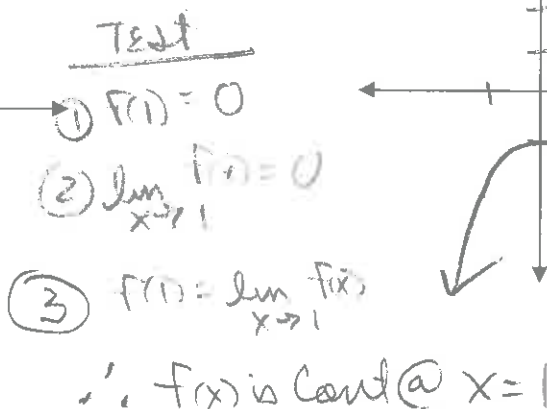
a. Apply the **continuity test** at  $x=0$ .

$g(x) = \begin{cases} -x+5, & x \leq 0 \\ x-1, & x > 0 \end{cases}$



b. Apply the **continuity test** at  $x=1$ .

$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^3-1, & x < 1 \\ 2x-2, & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$



12. Evaluate the following limits given the following:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = 27$        $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = 12$

a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sqrt[3]{f(x)} = \sqrt[3]{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)}$   
 $= \sqrt[3]{27} = 3$

b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{18} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)}{18} = \frac{27}{18} = \frac{3}{2}$

c.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) \cdot g(x)]$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$   
 $= 27 \cdot 12 = 324$

d.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) - 2 \cdot g(x)]$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) - 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$   
 $= 27 - 24 = 3$

13. Evaluate the following limits:

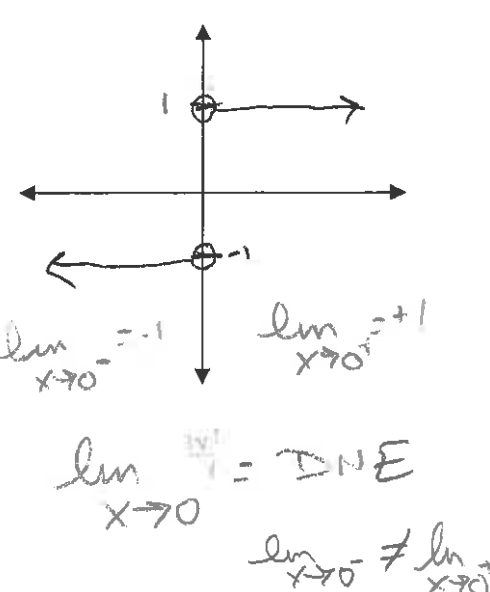
a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left( \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x - 3} \right) =$   
 $= \frac{2 - 5 - 3}{1 - 3} = \frac{-6}{-2} = 3$

b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 6} \left( \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{x-5} \right) =$   
 $= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6-5} = \frac{1}{5} + 1 = \frac{6}{5}$

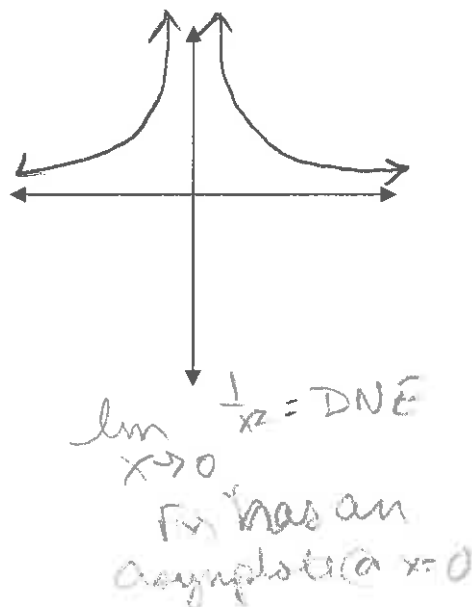
c.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \left( \frac{\sqrt{x+9} - 3}{x} \right) =$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{16} - 3}{7} = \frac{4-3}{7} = \frac{1}{7}$

13. Find the limits by analyzing their graph on a calculator.

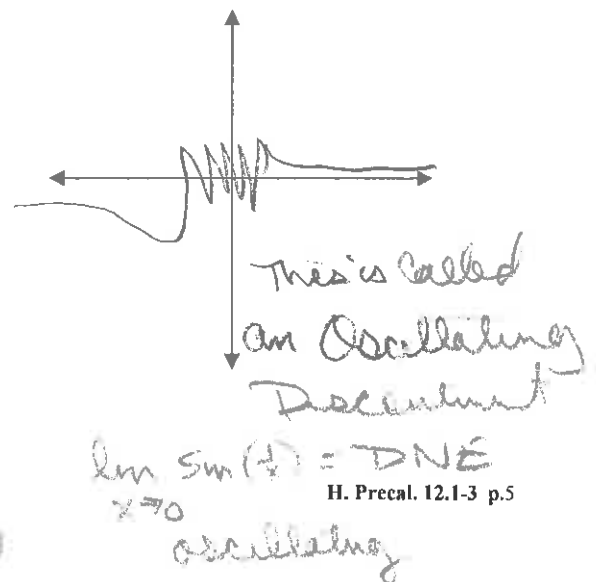
a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{|x|}{x} \right)$  **JUMP DISC**



b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{x^2} \right)$



c.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left[ \sin \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) \right]$



Honors Pre-Calculus – Section 12.2  
Evaluating Limits

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Evaluate the following limits:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left( \frac{x^2 + 11x + 30}{x + 5} \right) &= 9 \\ &= \frac{9 + 33 + 30}{8} = \frac{72}{8} = 9 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left( \frac{\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{x+3}}{x} \right) &= \frac{1}{12} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4}}{1} = \frac{4-3}{12} \\ &= \frac{1}{12} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 7} \left( \frac{\sqrt{x+9} - 3}{x} \right) &= \frac{1}{7} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{16} - 3}{7} = \frac{4-3}{7} \\ &= \frac{1}{7} \end{aligned}$$

2. Evaluate the following:

$$\text{a. } \lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \left( \frac{x^2 + 11x + 30}{x + 5} \right) = \frac{25 - 55 + 30}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ IND}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{\cancel{x+5}(x+6)}{\cancel{x+5}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -5} x + 6 = +1$$

$$\text{b. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left( \frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x - 3} \right) = \frac{9 - 3 - 6}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ IND}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{\cancel{x-3}(x+2)}{\cancel{x-3}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} x + 2 = 5$$

$$\text{c. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\sqrt{x+9} - 3}{x} \right) = \frac{3-3}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ IND}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+9} - 3}{x} \cdot \frac{(\sqrt{x+9} + 3)}{(\sqrt{x+9} + 3)} = \frac{x(9-9)}{x(\sqrt{x+9} + 3)}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{x}}{x(\sqrt{x+9} + 3)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+9} + 3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3+3} = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\text{e. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) \text{ where } f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x+1 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 2x-1 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = 2(0) + 1 = 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = 2(0) - 1 = -1$$

$$\text{d. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\sqrt{5-x} - \sqrt{5}}{x} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{5}}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ IND}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sqrt{5-x} - \sqrt{5})(\sqrt{5-x} + \sqrt{5})}{x(\sqrt{5-x} + \sqrt{5})}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{5 - x - 5}{x(\sqrt{5-x} + \sqrt{5})} = \frac{-x}{x(\sqrt{5-x} + \sqrt{5})}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{5-x} + \sqrt{5}}$$

$$= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{5}} = \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{5}}$$

$$f. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{x+3}}{x} \right) = \frac{\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{3}}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ IND}$$

$$g. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\frac{1}{4-x} - \frac{1}{4}}{x} \right) = \frac{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \text{ IND}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{x+3}}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x+3-3}{(x+3)(3)} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{4 - (4-x)}{(4-x)(4)} \cdot \frac{1}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(4-x)+x}{(4-x)(4)} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{*}{(x+3)(3)} \cdot \frac{1}{*}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{*}{(4-x)(4)} \cdot \frac{1}{*} = \frac{1}{4(4)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3 \cdot 3} = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$= \frac{1}{16}$$

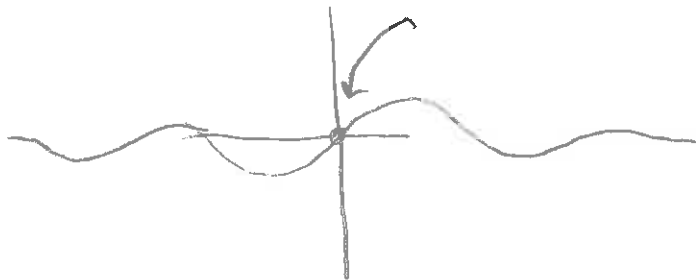
### Theorem: The Existence of a Limit

$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$  iff  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$  (i.e. the right and left hand limits are the same)

3. Evaluate the following (by graphing)

a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\sin x}{x} \right) = 1$

b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1 - \cos x}{x} \right) = 0$



4. Find  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \right)$  for the following:

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

b.  $f(x) = x^2 + 2$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3(x+h)+1 - (3x+1)}{h}$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 + 2 - (x^2 + 2)}{h}$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x+3h+1 - 3x-1}{h}$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2xh + h^2 + 2 - x^2 - 2}{h}$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3h}{h} = 3$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x+h}{h} = 2x+1 = 2x$$