

Infinity Tues 8/27

What do we mean by infinity?

Numbers? Lines? Space? Something else?

How does infinity arise in art & architecture?

Can we do math with infinity?

$$\frac{1}{0} = \infty, \quad \frac{-1}{0} = -\infty, \quad \frac{1}{\infty} = 0, \quad \frac{0}{0} = ? \quad \infty + \infty = \infty, \quad \infty - \infty = ? \quad \frac{\infty}{\infty} = ?$$

Bird example: 2 farmers plant 1 seed/day.

A bird eats one seed every 4 days.

Farmer 1: 1 2 3 ~~X~~ ^{← day 4} 5 6 7 ~~X~~ ^{← day 8} 9 10 ...

Farmer 2: ~~X~~ ~~X~~ 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...

^{day 4} ↗ ↖ ^{day 8}

How many seeds are left "at the end of time"?

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Question: Are all infinities the same "size"?

What does this even mean?

$$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\} \quad \text{"Natural numbers"}$$

$$2\mathbb{N} = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, \dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\} \quad \text{"integers"}$$

$$= \{0, 1, -1, 2, -2, \dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{a}{b} : a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{N}, \gcd(a, b) = 1 \right\} \quad \text{"rational numbers"}$$

$$\mathbb{R} = \{\text{all real numbers}\} \quad \text{"real numbers"}$$

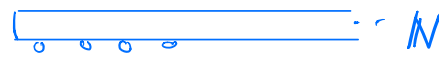
Note: $2\mathbb{N} \subsetneq \mathbb{N} \subsetneq \mathbb{Z} \subsetneq \mathbb{Q} \subsetneq \mathbb{R}$.

Hilbert's hotel:

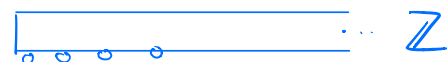
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	...
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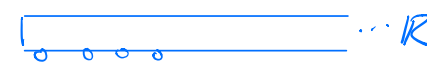
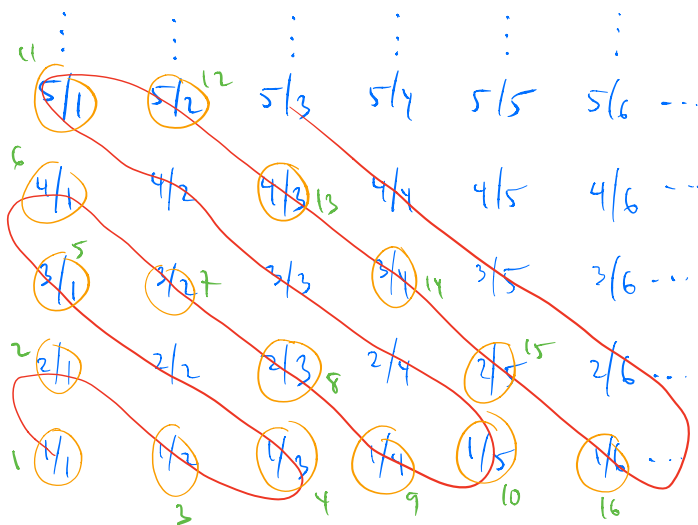
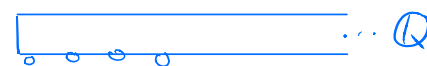
Infinite buses arrive:



How to give them rooms?



Proof that $|\mathbb{N}| = |\mathbb{Q}^+|$



Proof that $|\mathbb{N}| < |\mathbb{R}|$. "Cantor's diagonal argument", 1891

Suppose it were false, and we could order them:

Room 1	0. 1 234802009...
Room 2	3. 8 8 92013481...
Room 3	16. 00 2 1986623...
Room 4	4. 088 1 254565...
Room 5	5. 1823 9 39514...
Room 6	3. 14159 2 8535...

The following number is not on this list:

0.293203... (add 1 to each boxed digit).

This contradicts the hypothesis that we could have ordered the real #'s in the first place.

Timeline 1889: Cantor proved $|\mathbb{Q}| < |\mathbb{R}|$

Cantor then worked on "continuum hypothesis"; is there an infinity between these two?

1899-1917: Cantor in & out of sanatorium.

1940: Gödel's incompleteness theorem

1963: Cohen proves the continuum hypothesis is undecidable.

Goldbach conjecture: Every even number > 2 can be written as a sum of two primes.

Still unproven. Is it also undecidable???

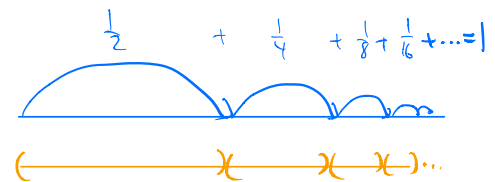
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Two Fun Facts about $|\mathbb{N}| = |\mathbb{Q}| < |\mathbb{R}|$:

① We can "cover" the rationals with intervals of total length 1.



Put n^{th} "ball" $\left(\longleftrightarrow\right)$, of length $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$, around the n^{th} rational number.



② There are countably many computer programs (strings of 0,1), but uncountably many real numbers. So most are uncomputable!

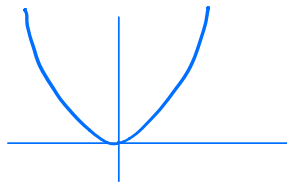
Review of functions

Domain: All possible inputs

Range: All possible outputs

Examples:

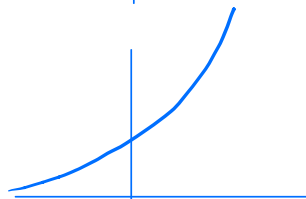
① $f(x) = x^2$



D: $(-\infty, \infty)$ or \mathbb{R} or $-\infty < x < \infty$

R: $[0, \infty)$ or $f(x) \geq 0$

② $f(x) = e^x$



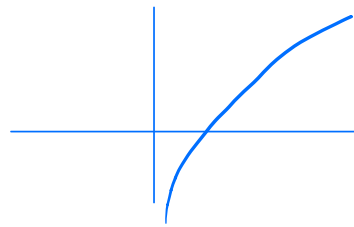
D: $(-\infty, \infty)$

R: $(0, \infty)$ or $f(x) > 0$

③ $f(x) = \ln x$

Recall: $e^{\ln x} = \ln e^x = x$

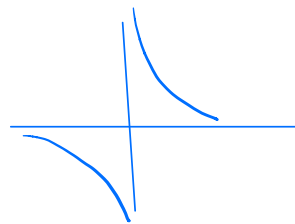
"inverse functions"



D: $(0, \infty)$

R: $(-\infty, \infty)$

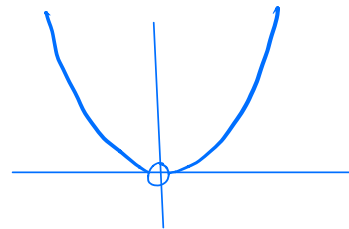
④ $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$



D: $x \neq 0$ or $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$

R: $f(x) \neq 0$ " "

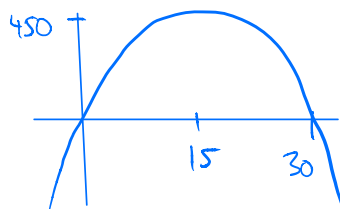
⑤ $f(x) = \frac{x^3}{x}$ ($= x^2$ if $x \neq 0$)



D: $x \neq 0$

R: $f(x) > 0$

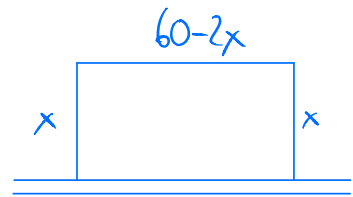
⑥ $f(x) = x(60 - 2x)$



D: $(-\infty, \infty)$

R: $f(x) \leq 450$

⑦ Let $A(x)$ = area of a rectangular pen built with 60 feet of fence, with one side an existing brick wall



D: $0 < x < 30$

Note: $A(x) = x(60-2x)$

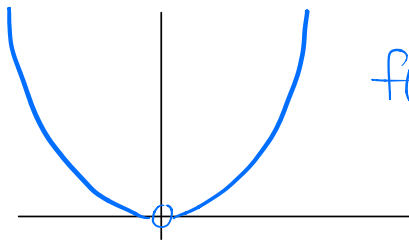
R: $0 < A(x) < 450$

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Limits

Def (informal): $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ is what $f(a)$ "should be"

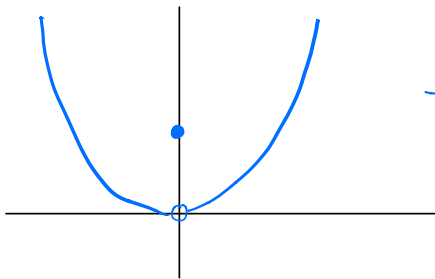
Ex 1:



$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \neq 0 \\ ? & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

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

Ex 2:



$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \neq 0 \\ 2 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

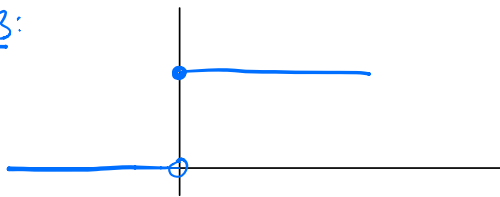
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 0$$

We can define the:

- left-hand limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$

- right-hand limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$

Ex 3:



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{So } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) \text{ DNE}$$

"does not exist"

Note that $f(0) = 0$.

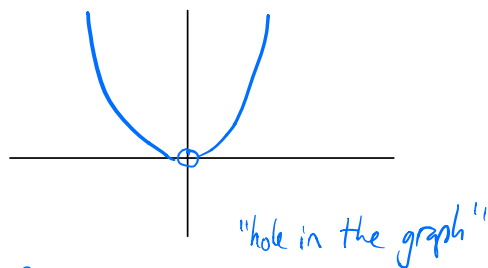
Def: The limit of $f(x)$ at $x=a$ exists when the left-hand & right-hand limits of $f(x)$ at $x=a$ exist. We write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x).$$

Def: The function $f(x)$ is continuous at $x=a$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$.

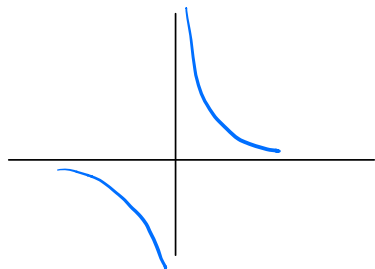
More examples

Ex 4: $f(x) = \frac{x^3}{x} = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \neq 0 \\ \text{undefined} & x = 0 \end{cases}$



Limits at infinity: We can also define $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$, though it may or may not exist.

Ex 5: $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$



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

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

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = -\infty \text{ (DNE)}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \infty \text{ (DNE)}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) \text{ DNE}$$

Sequences can have limits.

Ex 6: Let $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$ (defines the sequence $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{6}, \dots$)

We say that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$.

Many sequences don't have limits, e.g.,

$1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots$

$0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, \dots$

$1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, \dots$

How to find $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$

• First, try plugging in $x = a$.

• If that doesn't work, graph $f(x)$, try to determine $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$

★ Limits generally behave like you'd expect

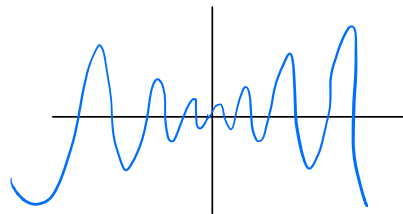
• $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$, provided these exist.

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) g(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)}$

Ex 7: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x^2 + 3x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x^2}{x} + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 2x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 3$
 $= 0 + 3 = 3$

Ex 8: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sin x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin x$
 $= 0 \cdot 0 = 0$

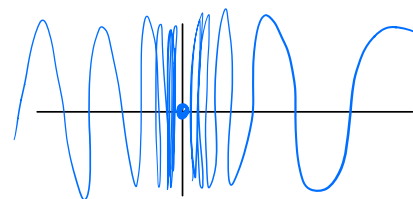


what could go wrong:

Ex 9: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} \stackrel{?}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin x$
 $= \infty \cdot 0 = ???$

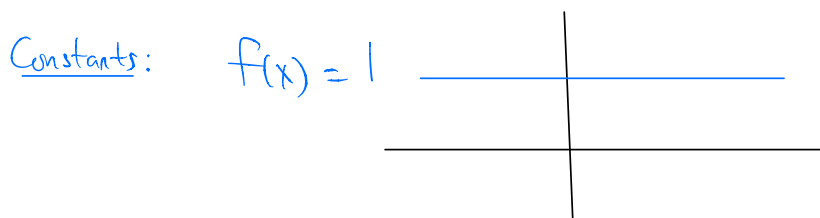
Other things can get weird

Just for fun... let $f(x) = \begin{cases} \sin \frac{1}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$

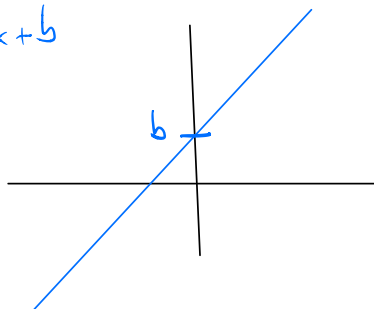


Wed 9/3

let's review some basic functions & how to graph them.



Linear: $f(x) = mx + b$



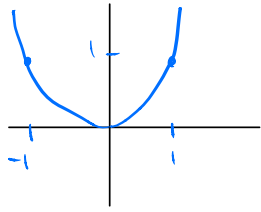
$b = y\text{-intercept}$

$m = \text{slope}$

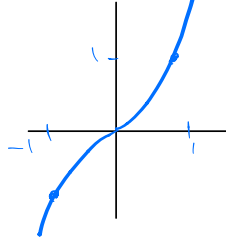
↑ "rise"
run

Polynomials

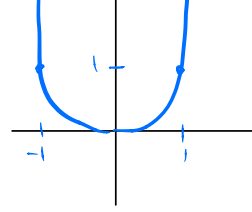
$f(x) = x^2$



$f(x) = x^3$



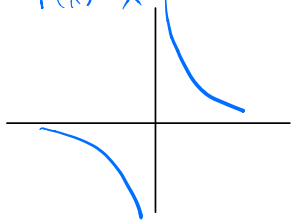
$f(x) = x^4$



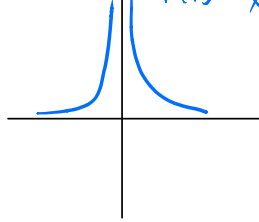
...

x^{-n}

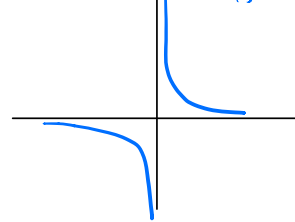
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} = x^{-1}$



$f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} = x^{-2}$

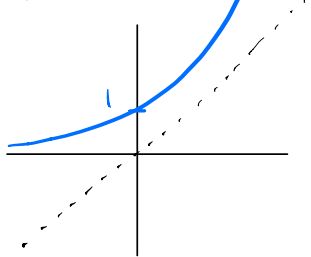


$f(x) = \frac{1}{x^3} = x^{-3}$

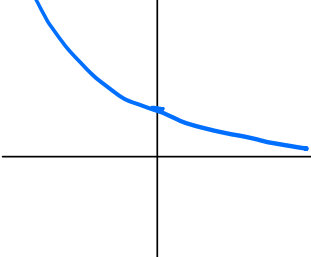


Exponentials:

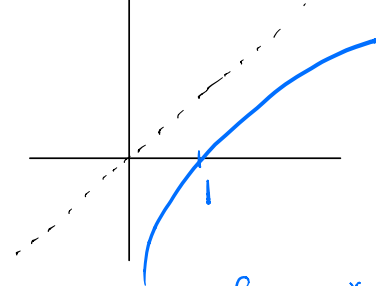
$f(x) = e^x$



$f(x) = e^{-x}$

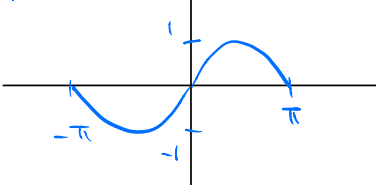


$f(x) = \ln x$

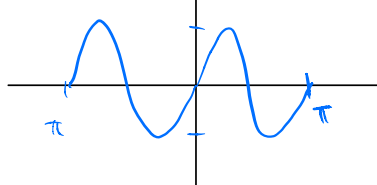


Trig:

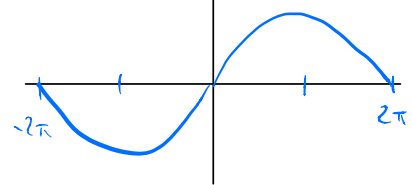
$f(x) = \sin x$



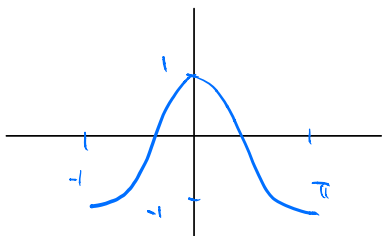
$f(x) = \sin 2x$



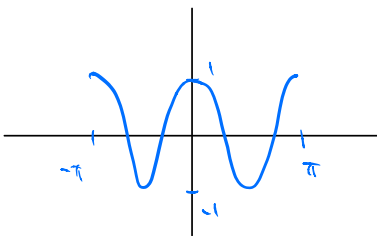
$f(x) = \sin \frac{x}{2}$



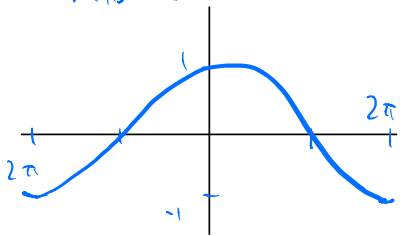
$f(x) = \cos x$



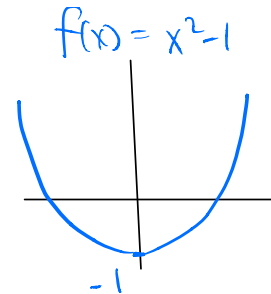
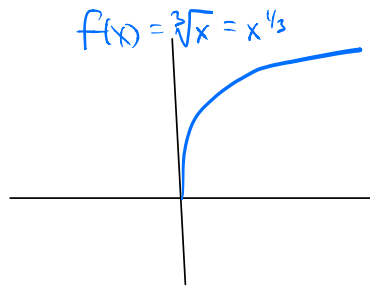
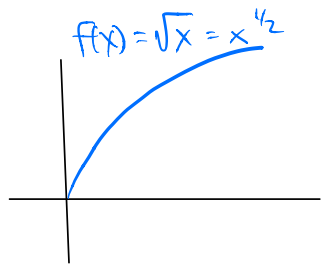
$f(x) = \cos 2x$



$f(x) = \cos \frac{x}{2}$



Others:



Def: A rational function is the quotient of two polynomials.

Limits of rational functions (what to try, for $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$)

1. Plug in $x=a$
2. Factor top & bottom, e.g., $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{(x^2-6x+5)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)}{(x-1)(x-5)} = \frac{-1}{4}$
3. Graph it, inspect, left & right-hand limits.

Limits of rational functions at ∞ : "big guy over big guy".

Ex:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^5 - 4x^2 + 6}{4x^5 + 10x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^5}{4x^5} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x+2}{x+4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 1 = 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8x^3 - 2}{x^4 + 2x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8x^3}{x^4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8}{x} = 0.$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5x^6 + 3x - 1}{4x^4 + 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5x^6}{4x^4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{4} x^2 = \infty \quad (\text{DNE})$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{9x^6} + 2x}{2x^3 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{9x^6}}{2x^3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^3}{2x^3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$$

Note: $\sqrt{9x^6} = \sqrt{9} \sqrt{x^6} = 3 \cdot (x^6)^{1/2} = 3x^3$

★ Think of $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$ as what we get if we "plug in ∞ "

Ex: • $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{e^x + 3x} = \frac{3}{\infty} = 0$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \frac{?}{\infty} = 0$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x}{e^x} = ???$ [Intuition: 0 because e^x "grows faster"]

We'll learn how to do this later... [need calculus]

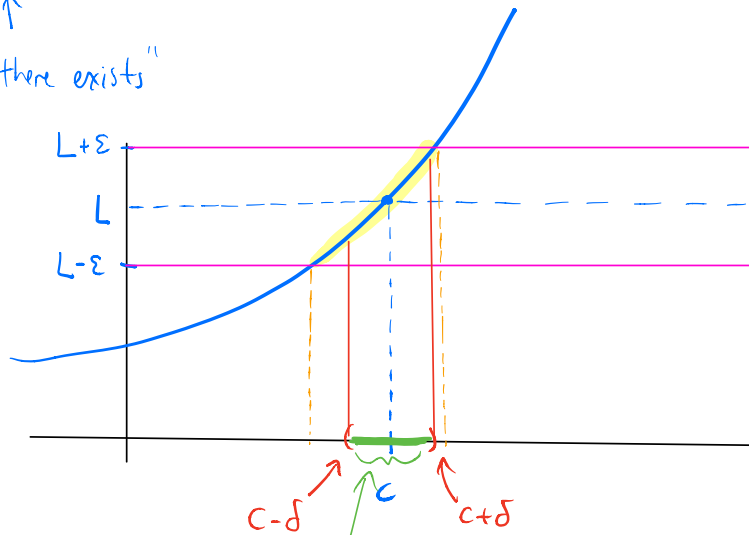
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The formal definition of a limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ means:

$\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ such that if $0 < |x - c| < \delta$, then $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$.

↑ "for all" ↑ "there exists"

Picture of this:



If the input x is within this range, then the output will be within ϵ of L .