

## Notation for 1.8

**These are the only limits you can evaluate directly.** These limits you can just know.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} k = k \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e^x} = 0 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} e^x = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} x = c \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{e^{-x}} = 0 \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{-x} = 0$$

**Example:** **Notation:** Before you evaluate any limit function, it must be one from the list above.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (4 + h) \quad \text{You cannot evaluate at this step.}$$

You must use the rules of limits before evaluating. Using addition rule of limits  
 $= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (4) + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (h)$  Now you can evaluate. When you evaluate the limit, the limit function is gone.  
 $= 4 + 0 = 4$  The limit of 4 as  $h \rightarrow 0$  is 4 The word limit is gone.

Also see 4<sup>th</sup> page of guidelines on homework.

**Correct notation:**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^2 = DNE$  reason is as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  the  $x^2 \rightarrow \infty$  therefore the limit does not exist.

Infinity is not a number. It does not have a number value.

The function can approach infinity but it **does not equal** infinity

For a limit to exist the function must be approaching a number value. **L**

If the limit of a function is going to infinity then the limit does not exist (DNE)

The following is *incorrect notation*  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^2 = \infty$  I do not want to see this on your homework

### Other information:

Use can use the following facts if needed

Bring limit inside the square root function:  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{4 + h} = \sqrt{\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (4 + h)}$  .

You can also use  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} x^2 = \left( \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x \right)^2$  but only for  $x$  not  $f(x)$

The reason for this is that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} x^2 = \left( \lim_{x \rightarrow c} (x \cdot x) \right) = \left( \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x \right) \left( \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x \right) = \left( \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x \right)^2$

**Hint on #19** make the function a piecewise function by interpreting absolute value function for  $x > 4$  and  $x < 4$ . I have done it in class about  $|x|/x$  .

Recall:  $f(x) = |x|$  you can write as a piecewise function  $f(x) = \begin{cases} -x & x < 0 \\ x & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$  now examine each of

these functions on its domain.

**Finding the limit that is a fraction:** *the limit of the denominator must exist and can't equal zero.*

Only can evaluate the limit of  $f(x)$  if the limit of the denominator is a non-zero constant.

Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(x)}{D(x)}$

Lets say the limit of the denominator is equal to  $k$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} D(x) = k$  (where  $k$  is a non-zero constant)

Then there are four choices

- Limit of the numerator is zero then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(x)}{D(x)} = \frac{0}{k} = 0$
- Limit of the numerator is a non-zero constant  $c$  then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(x)}{D(x)} = \frac{c}{k}$
- As  $x$  approaches infinity, the numerator is approaching  $\pm \infty$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(x)}{D(x)} = \frac{DNE}{k} = DNE$
- If the limit of the numerator DNE, then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(x)}{D(x)} = DNE$

Steps  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(x)}{D(x)}$

1. Reduce fraction

2. Does the limit of the denominator exist?

The limit of the denominator cannot be approaching infinity, or approaching zero.

a) if YES go to step 3

b) if NO; The goal is to force the limit of the denominator to exist

i) Divide each term by the (lead term/lead coefficient) of the denominator

example if  $D(x) = 3x^2 + 10$  lead term is  $3x^2$  but we divide each term by  $x^2$

if the denominator has  $e^x$  in it.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^x = DNE$  Dividing each term by  $e^x$  while  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e^x} = 0$

3. Since the limit of the denominator exist, use the rules of limits to evaluate

4. One of the four choices above should happen.

Example:

*What happens if the limit of numerator is going to infinity and how to using the correct notation?*

If the limit of the numerator does not exist while the limit of the denominator exists, then the limit of the function does not exist.

Example: Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^3 + 3x^2 - 5}{4x - 3}$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 + 3x - 5\frac{1}{x}}{4 - 3\frac{1}{x}} \quad (\text{algebra divide each term by } x - \text{ the largest power function in denominator})$$

$$= \frac{\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}(x)\right)^2 + 3\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}(x) - 5\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}4 - 3\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)} \quad (\text{division, addition, and scalar rules of limits})$$

$$(\text{Evaluating}) = \frac{(DNE)^2 + 3(DNE) - 5(0)}{4 - 3(0)} = \frac{DNE}{4} = DNE \quad (\text{the middle step is optional})$$