Exercises

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1 Preliminary Work

1.1 Intuitive idea of limits

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 1

Read the limits from the graph of the function f represented below.



5.
$$\lim_{x \to -2^{-}} f(x) = \dots$$

6.
$$\lim_{x \to -2} f(x) = \dots$$

7. $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x) = \dots$

Rule of thumb for Limits

Limits are what they should be, meaning you can tell right away what they are, unless one of the following *inderterminate* forms appears : $"\frac{0}{0}$ ", " $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ ", " $\infty - \infty$ ", " 0^0 " and " 1^∞ ".

where for example " $\frac{0}{0}$ " means that the limit of the numerator is 0 and the limit of the denominator is 0 (Do not let the notation mislead you : they are NOT *equal* to 0, they *approach* 0).

Interestingly enough, when there is an indeterminate form, anything could happen : maybe the limit does not exist, maybe it does but in that case it could be any number.

- 🖗 - Surviving indeterminate forms

In order to deal with the indeterminate forms, you will usually need to factorise then simplify the expression ... until it no longer is an indeterminate form.

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□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 2

- 1. $\lim_{x \to +\infty} x^2 = \dots$
- **2.** $\lim_{x \to -\infty} x^3 1 = \dots$
- **3.** $\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{1+x}{2-3x} = \dots$
- 4. $\lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{1}{x} = \dots$
- 5. $\lim_{x \to 0^{-}} \frac{1}{x} = \dots$ 6. $\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{3x - 4x^5}{x} = \dots$

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 3

- 1. $\lim_{x \to +\infty} x^2 + 3 = \dots$
- **2.** $\lim_{x \to +\infty} x^2 5x = \dots$
- **3.** $\lim_{x \to -\infty} x^2 5x = \dots$

Deriv. DrH Exercise 4 Eval

aluate
$$\lim_{x \to \frac{7}{2}} \frac{4x^2 - 49}{2x - 7}$$

Deriv. DrH Exercise 5 Evaluate $\lim_{r \to -3} \frac{x^3 + 27}{9 - x^2}$

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 6

- 1. $\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{x^2 1}{x + 1} = \dots$ 2. $\lim_{x \to -1} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x + 1} = \dots$
- **3.** $\lim_{x \to 3} \frac{x^3 8}{3x 6} = \dots$
- 4. $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{x^3 8}{3x 6} = \dots$
- 5. $\lim_{x \to 2.5} \frac{2x^2 x 10}{2x 5} = \dots$

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 7

- 1. $\lim_{x \to 3} \frac{x^2 9}{x + 3} = \dots$
- **2.** $\lim_{x \to -3} \frac{x^2 9}{x + 3} = \dots$
- **3.** $\lim_{x \to 3} \frac{x^3 27}{3x 9} = \dots$
- 4. $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{x^3 27}{3x 9} = \dots$
- 5. $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{x^3 8}{3x 6} = \dots$
- **6.** $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{2x^2 x 6}{-2x + 4} = \dots$

Deriv. DrH Exercise 8 Let $f(x) = -2 - \frac{1}{x+5}$

- **1.** Find the derivative of f
- **2.** Sketch the graph of *f*

- **3.** Find $\lim_{x \to +\infty} f(x)$
- 4. Find $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x)$
- 5. Find $\lim_{x \to -5^+} f(x)$
- 6. Find $\lim_{x \to -5^-} f(x)$

Deriv. DrH Exercise 9 Let $f(x) = 7 + \frac{1}{x-3}$

- **1.** Find the derivative of f
- **2.** Sketch the graph of f
- **3.** Find $\lim_{x \to +\infty} f(x)$
- 4. Find $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x)$
- 5. Find $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x)$
- 6. Find $\lim_{x \to 3^-} f(x)$

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 10



1.2 What if there is something other than *x* in the function?

 \Box **Deriv. DrH Exercise 11** What if there is something other than x in the function?

Let $f(x) = \frac{x+1}{x-1}$.

Sally says that $f(\frac{1}{x}) = -f(x)$ and Tara says that this is completely wrong. Who is right? Give reasons (I mean a mathematical reason, not « Tara is usually right » :-).

2 Differenciating from First Principles

"Differenciate using First Principles" means using the *definition* of the derivative, i.e., the limit of the rate of change :

If the limit $\lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$ exists, then the function *f* is *differentiable at x* and the derivative at *x* is equal to the above limit, i.e.

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

3 Differentiating powers

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 12

Find the derivative of the following functions.

1.
$$f_1(x) = x^7 \sqrt{x}$$
.
2. $f_2(x) = \frac{x^7 \sqrt{x}}{3}$.
3. $f_3(x) = \frac{x^4}{\sqrt{x}}$.

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 13

Let *f* be the function defined for all *x* by $f(x) = x^4$

- **1.** Find the derivative of f.
- **2.** Prove that the function 'looks like the square function' meaning that
 - **a.** it is decreasing for x < 0
 - **b.** it is increasing for x > 0
 - **c.** and it has a horizontal tangent for x = 0.

□ Deriv. DrH Exercise 14

Let *f* be the function 'cube root' defined for all x > 0by $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$

- **1.** Find the derivative of *f* and rewrite it without indices.
- **2.** Prove that the function 'cube root' is increasing on its domain.

4 Chain Rule

 \Box **Deriv. DrH Exercise 15** Let *f* be the function defined for all x > 0 by $f(x) = (\sqrt{x})^3$. The goal of this exercise is to find the derivative of *f* using different methods.

- Find the derivative of *f* using the formula for differentiating a power of *x*. First rewrite *f*(*x*) = x^α with α =
- **2.** Find the derivative of *f* using the Chain rule. First rewrite $f(x) = u^3$ with $u = \dots$
- **3.** Find the derivative of *f* using the Chain rule. First rewrite $f(x) = \sqrt{u}$ with $u = \dots$

□ **Deriv. DrH Exercise 16** Let *u* be the function defined by $u(x) = -2x^2 + 8x + 42$. Let *f* be the function defined by $f(x) = \sqrt{u(x)}$.

- **1.** Natural domain of f:
 - **a.** Write u(x) in a factorised form.
 - **b.** What is the natural domain of *f* ?
- **2.** Find the *x*-coordinate of any point where the tangent to the graph of *f* is horizontal.

Deriv. DrH Exercise 17 Find the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{6}{(2x+5)^3}$

5 Product rule

□ **Deriv. DrH Exercise 18** Let *f* be the function defined by $f(x) = -3x\sqrt{1-4x}$.

- **1.** Find the natural domain of f.
- **2.** Differentiate f.
- **3.** Find the point(s) where the tangent to the graph of *f* is horizontal.

6 Quotient rule

7 Differentiability

□ **Deriv. DrH Exercise 19** Let *f* be the function de- $((x-2)^2)$ if $x \le 3$

fined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} (x-2)^2 & \text{if } x \le 3\\ 2 - (x-4)^2 & \text{if } x > 3 \end{cases}$

- **1.** Sketch the graph of f.
- **2.** Is f continuous at x = 3?
- **3.** Is *f* differentiable at x = 3?

8 Tangent, Normal

□ **Deriv. DrH Exercise 20** Is it possible to chose *p* such that the tangent to $y = 3x^2 + px + 7$ at the point with *x*-coordinate equal to 2 is parallel to the straight line ℓ with equation 5x - y + 8 = 0?

In case you were wondering, this was written using ET_EX (free software for beautiful documents).

- Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 1 .
- Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 2.

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 3.

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 4. $\frac{4x^2-49}{2x-7} = 2x+7 \text{ so } \lim_{x \to \frac{7}{2}} \frac{4x^2-49}{2x-7} = 2\frac{7}{2}+7 = 14$

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 5. $\frac{x^3+27}{9-x^2} = -\frac{x^2-3x+9}{x-3} \text{ so } \lim_{x \to -3} \frac{x^3+27}{9-x^2} = -\frac{(-3)^2-3(-3)+9}{-3-3} = -\frac{9}{2}$

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 6.

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 7.

- 1. $\lim_{x \to 3} \frac{x^2 9}{x + 3} = \dots$ 2. $\lim_{x \to -3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x + 3} = \dots$ 3. $\lim_{x \to 3} \frac{x^3 - 27}{3x - 9} = \dots$ 4. $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{x^3 - 27}{3x - 9} = \dots$ 5. $\frac{x^3 - 8}{3x - 6} = \frac{x^2 + 2x + 4}{3}$ so $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{x^3 - 8}{3x - 6} = 8$
- 6. Simplify: $\frac{2x^2 x 6}{-2x + 4} = -\frac{2x + 3}{2}$ so $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{2x^2 x 6}{-2x + 4} = -\frac{7}{2}$

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 8.

- 1. $f(x) = -2 \frac{1}{x+5} = -2 (x+5)^{-1}$ so its derivative is $f'(x) = 0 - 1 \times -1 \times (x+5)^{-2} = \frac{1}{(x+5)^2}$
- **2.** Graph of *f*



- 4. $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = -2$
- **5.** As *x* approaches -5 from the right, f(x) becomes infinitely large in absolute value (and negative) so the limit is $-\infty$. $\lim_{x \to -5^+} f(x) = -\infty$
- 6. As *x* approaches -5 from the left, f(x) becomes infinitely large (and positive) so the limit is $+\infty$. $\lim_{x \to -5^{-}} f(x) = +\infty.$

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 9.

1. $f(x) = 7 + \frac{1}{x-3} = 7 + (x-3)^{-1}$ so its derivative is $f'(x) = 0 - 1 \times (x-3)^{-2} \times 1 = -\frac{1}{(x-3)^2}$



- $4. \lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = 7$
- **5.** As *x* approaches 3 from the right, f(x) becomes infinitely large in absolute value (and positive) so the limit is $+\infty$. $\lim_{x \to -5^+} f(x) = +\infty$
- **6.** As *x* approaches 3 from the left, f(x) becomes infinitely large (and negative) so the limit is $-\infty$. $\lim_{x \to 3^{-}} f(x) = -\infty.$

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 10.

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 11.

 $f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = \frac{\frac{1}{x}+1}{\frac{1}{x}-1} = \frac{1+x}{1-x}$ (multiply the numerator and the denominator by *x*). Now note that $\frac{1+x}{1-x} = \frac{x+1}{-(x-1)} = -\frac{x+1}{x-1} = -f(x)$ so Sally is right.

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 12.

- 1. $f_1(x) = x^7 \sqrt{x} = x^7 x^{\frac{1}{2}} = x^{7+\frac{1}{2}} = x^{\frac{15}{2}}.$ Therefore, $f'_1(x) = \frac{15}{2} x^{\frac{15}{2}-1} = \frac{15}{2} x^{\frac{13}{2}} = \frac{15}{2} x^{\frac{12}{2}+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{15}{2} x^{\frac{12}{2}+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{15}{2} x^6 \sqrt{x}.$
- **2.** $f_2(x) = \frac{x^7 \sqrt{x}}{3} = \frac{1}{3} x^7 \sqrt{x} = \frac{1}{3} f_1(x).$ Therefore, $f_2'(x) = \frac{1}{3} f_1'(x) = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{15}{2} x^6 \sqrt{x} = \frac{5}{2} x^6 \sqrt{x}$
- **3.** $f_3(x) = \frac{x^4}{\sqrt{x}} = \frac{x^4}{x^{\frac{1}{2}}} = x^{4-\frac{1}{2}} = x^{\frac{7}{2}}.$ Therefore, $f'_3(x) = \frac{7}{2}x^{\frac{7}{2}-1} = \frac{7}{2}x^{\frac{5}{2}} = \frac{7}{2}x^{\frac{4}{2}+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{7}{2}x^2x^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{7}{2}x^2\sqrt{x}$

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 13. Un jour....

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 14. Un jour....

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 15.

1. $f(x) = (\sqrt{x})^3 = x^{\frac{3}{2}}$, so $f(x) = x^{\alpha}$ with $\alpha = \frac{3}{2}$. Therefore its derivative is $f'(x) = \frac{3}{2}x^{\frac{3}{2}-1} = \frac{3}{2}x^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{x}$

- **2.** Find the derivative of *f* using the Chain rule. First rewrite $f(x) = u^3$ with $u = \sqrt{x}$. Therefore $f'(x) = 3u^2 \times \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} = 3\sqrt{x}^2 \times \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} = 3x \times \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{3x}{2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{3x \times \sqrt{x}}{2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{3}{2\sqrt{x}}\sqrt{x}$
- **3.** $f(x) = (\sqrt{x})^3 = x^{\frac{3}{2}} = (x^3)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{x^3} = \sqrt{u}$ with $u = x^3$. Therefore $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} \times 3x^2 = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x^3}} \times 3x^2 = \frac{3x^2}{2\sqrt{x^3}} = \frac{3x^2}{2x^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{3x^2x^{-\frac{3}{2}}}{2} = \frac{3x^{2-\frac{3}{2}}}{2} = \frac{3x^2}{2} = \frac{3\sqrt{x}}{2} = \frac{3\sqrt{x}}{2} = \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{x}.$

Of course, we get the same derivative each and every time.

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 16.

- **1.** Natural domain of f:
 - **a.** u(x) = -2(x+3)(x-7)
 - **b.** The natural domain of *f* is all the values of *x* such that $u(x) \ge 0$. i.e. $-3 \le x \le 7$. (Graph *u*, using the *x*-intercepts found in part 1).

 $f(x) = \sqrt{u(x)}$ with $u(x) = -2x^2 + 8x + 42$ so its derivative is $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} \times (-4x + 8) = \frac{-2x+4}{\sqrt{-2x^2+8x+42}}$. The *x*-coordinate of any point where the tangent to the graph of *f* is horizontal is a solution of f'(x) = 0 i.e. x = 2.



2. Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 17.

 $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{6}{(2x+5)^3} \right) = 6 \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{(2x+5)^3} \right) = 6 \frac{d}{dx} \left((2x+5)^{-3} \right) = 6 \frac{d}{du} \left(u^{-3} \right) \frac{d}{dx} (2x+5) \text{ with } u = 2x+5.$ $f'(x) = 6 \times -3u^{-4} \times 2 = -36(2x+5)^{-4} = -\frac{36}{(2x+5)^4}.$

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 18.

1. Natural domain of f:

2. $f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(-3x\sqrt{1-4x} \right) = \frac{18x-3}{\sqrt{-4x+1}}$

3. The *x*-coordinate of any point where the tangent to the graph of *f* is horizontal is a solution of f'(x) = 0. $f'(x) = 0 \iff 18x - 3 = 0 \iff x = \frac{1}{6}$. The *y*-coordinate of the point is $y = f(\frac{1}{6}) = -3 \times \frac{1}{6}\sqrt{1 - 4 \times \frac{1}{6}} = -\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}$

ANSWER : The tangent to the the graph of *f* is horizontal at the point with coordinates $\left(\frac{1}{6}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right)$



Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 19.



- **2.** $\lim_{x\to 3^-} f(x) = 1$ and $\lim_{x\to 3^+} f(x) = 1$. They are equal so *f* is continuous at x = 3. This is what we expected from the diagram as there is no break in the graph.
- **3.** Strategy : Find the derivative on both sides of 3 and take their limit.

 $\lim_{x\to 3^-} f'(x) = 2$ and $\lim_{x\to 3^+} f'(x) = 2$. They are equal so f is differentiable at x = 3 with f'(3) = 2. This is what we expected from the diagram as there is no break and no sharp corner in the graph.

Solution of Deriv. DrH Exercise 20.

 $5x - y + 8 = 0 \iff y = 5x + 8$ so the gradient of ℓ is 5. $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x + p$ so f'(2) = 12 + p. Parallel lines have the same gradient so 12 + p = 5 so

p = -7.