

Strand	Limits, Continuity and Differentiability
Sub – Strand	Limits
Content Learning Outcome	Explore the method of finding Limits
Reference from Text Book	Pg 108 - 115

Achievement Indicator:

- To calculate limits. Using substitution and Table method

General Formula

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

approaches

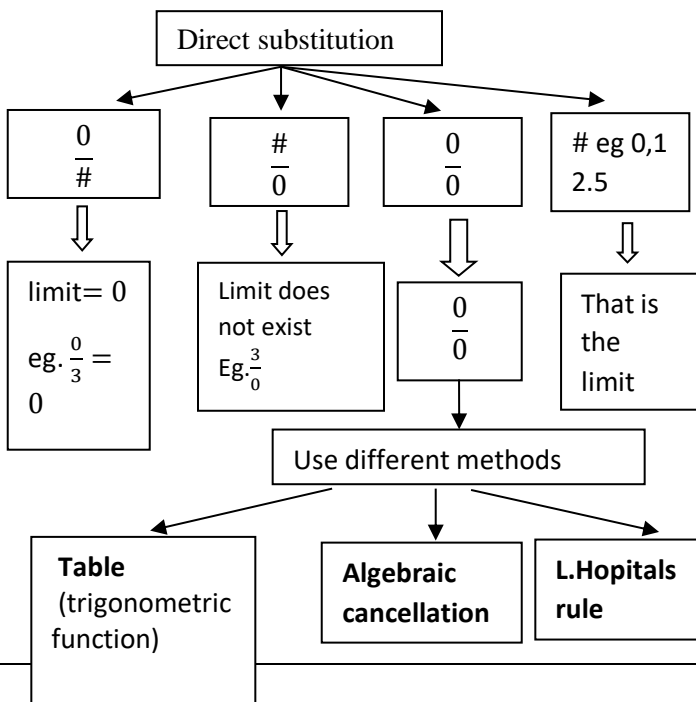
function

Steps

- Use direct substitution.
- Substitute the value(a) directly into the expression.

Case 1: x approaches a number

Upon direct substitution, the result will be one of the following:



Type 1: Table Method

Example 1

Find the limit

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

Solution

Direct substitution

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

$$= \frac{0^2 + 0}{0}$$

$$= \frac{0}{0}$$

∴ limit exists

The value gets closer and closer to 1 as x approaches 0

Table Method

$f(x)$	-0.01	0	0.01
$\frac{x^2 + x}{x}$	$\frac{(-0.01)^2 + (-0.01)}{(-0.01)}$ = 0.99	-	$\frac{(0.01)^2 + (0.01)}{(0.01)}$ = 1.01

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

Example 2

Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin x$

Direct substitution

$$\sin 0 = 0$$

(in this case the limit is zero.)

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin x = 0$$

Example 3

Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{x+8}{x-2}$

Direct substitution

$$\frac{-5+8}{-5-2} = \frac{3}{-7}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow -5} \frac{x+8}{x-2} = \frac{-3}{7}$$

Example 4

Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 8}{x - 3}$

Direct substitution

$$= \frac{2(3)^2 - 5(3) - 8}{3 - 3} = \frac{5}{0}$$

In this case **limit does not exist**

Trigonometric Functions (sine, cosine, tangent)

- Logarithmic and ln functions are not trigonometric

Note: when using trigonometric function
Calculator to be in radian mode

Steps: → →
PRESS

After doing the question change the calculator to
degree mode.

Steps:

Example:

Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$

Solution

Direct substitution

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \frac{\sin 0}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \therefore \text{limit exists}$$

Therefore use a **table method**

**Calculator to
be in radian
mode**

x	-0.01	0	0.01
$\frac{\sin x}{x}$	$\frac{\sin(-0.01)}{(-0.01)}$ = 0.99	-	$\frac{\sin(0.01)}{0.01}$ = 0.99

→ 1 ←

The values get closer and closer to 1 as x approaches zero.

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Calculate the following limits

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan x}{\sin 2x}$

(c)

Calculate the value of $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 3e^x + 1$

WEEK 2: MONDAY 12/07 TO FRIDAY 16/07**Achievement Indicator:**

- To calculate limits when x approaches infinity.

Case 1: x approaches infinity(∞)**Type 1**

$$f(x) = \frac{ax + b}{cx + d}$$

Type 2

$$f(x) = a \pm \frac{bx}{cx + d}$$

Cross multiply

$$f(x) = \frac{a}{1} \pm \frac{bx}{cx + d}$$

Steps

- For the rational function in the form $\frac{ax+b}{cx+d}$
- Look for the highest power of (x) in the function.
- If x^n is the highest term then:

$$\text{limit } f(x) = \frac{\text{coefficient of } x^n \text{ in numerator}}{\text{coefficient of } x^n \text{ in denominator}}$$

Note : consider the sign in front of the coefficient**Example 1**

Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2-x^2+x^4}{2x^4-5x}$ (highest power of x is 4)

$$= \frac{1x^4}{2x^4}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \quad (\text{coefficient of } x^4)$$

Example 2

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 6 - \frac{3}{x+1}$$

Cross multiply

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{1} - \frac{3}{x+1}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6(x+1)}{1} - \frac{3(1)}{x+1}$$

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

$$= \frac{6x+3}{x+1} \quad (\text{highest power of } x \text{ is } 1)$$

$$= \frac{6x}{x}$$

$$= \frac{6}{1} \quad (\text{coefficient of } x)$$

$$= 6$$

Student Activity

Evaluate the following limits

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2-5x^3+3x+4}{-4x+2x^3}$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2+1}{x^3+1}$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 4 - \frac{3}{x+1}$

WEEK 3: MONDAY 19/07 TO FRIDAY 23/07

Achievement Indicator:

- To calculate limits.

Type 2: Algebraic Cancellation

Steps

- Take out a common factor
- Factorize numerator and denominator.
- Cancel out the common factor.
- Substitute value of x

Example

Find the limit

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

Solution

Direct substitution

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

$$= \frac{0^2 + 0}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \therefore \text{limit exists}$$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(x+1)}{x} \quad (\text{factorise the numerator and cancel } x)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x + 1$$

$$= 0 + 1 \quad (\text{substitute } x\text{-value})$$

$$= 1$$

Type 3: L.Hopital's Rule (differentiation)

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

Rules of differentiation

- Bring the power in front.
- Subtract 1 from the power.

$$f(x) = x^n \quad f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$$

Example

$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
$f(x) = 3$	$f'(x) = 0$
$f(x) = 3x$	$f'(x) = 1.3x^{1-1}$ $= 3x^0 = 3(1) = 3$
$f(x) = 3x^2$	$f'(x) = 2.3x^{2-1}$ $= 6x$
$f(x) = \sqrt{x}$	$f(x) = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$ $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{1}{2}-1} = \frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$

Example

Find limit

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

Direct substitution

$$= \frac{3(-1)^2 - 3}{-1 + 1}$$

$$= \frac{3-3}{0}$$

$$= \frac{0}{0} \therefore \text{limit exists.}$$

Use L.Hopitals Rule (differentiate num. and den.)

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

$$= \frac{2.3x^{2-1} - 0}{1 + 0}$$

$$= \frac{6x}{1}$$

$$= \frac{6(-1)}{1} \quad (\text{substitute } x\text{-value}(-1))$$

$$= \frac{-6}{1}$$

$$= -6$$

Student Activity

Evaluate the following limits.

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^2 + 5x + 6}{x^2 - 4}$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^3 - 6}{7x}$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x^2 - 2x - 1}{x^2 - 2}$

WEEK 4: MONDAY 26/07 TO FRIDAY 30/07

Achievement Indicator:

- To calculate limits.

Limits of Trigonometric Functions

► For the **Indeterminate Form** in trig functions, you probably have to use some Trig Identities to compute limits:

- $\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1$
- $\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cdot \cos x$
- $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$

- L' Hôpital's rule where applicable.

Some derivatives are given below:

$y = \sin x$	$y = \cos x$	$y = \cos bx$	$y = \sin bx$
$y' = \cos x$	$y' = -\sin x$	$y' = -b \sin bx$	$y' = b \cos bx$

► **Example 1** Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x}{x}$

✍ **Answer**

Use identity $\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x}{x}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \frac{1}{x}$$

Directly substitute π ,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{\pi}$$

► **Example 2** Evaluate $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\sin \theta}{\sin 2\theta}$

✍ **Answer**

Directly substitute π ,

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\sin \theta}{\sin 2\theta} = \frac{0}{0}$$

The limit may exist.

Use identity, cancel then substitute:

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\sin \theta}{\sin 2\theta}$$

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\sin \theta}{2 \sin \theta \cos \theta}$$

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi} \frac{1}{2 \cos \theta}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi} \frac{1}{2 \cos \theta}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}$$

Use identity:
 $\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cdot \cos x$

Student Activity

Find the following limits using trigonometric identities.

1.

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin 2\theta}$$

2.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\sin 2x}{\tan x}$$

WEEK 5: MONDAY 02/08 TO FRIDAY 06/08

Achievement Indicator:

- To calculate limits using different techniques

Student Activity

1. Evaluate the following limits using the appropriate method.

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -7} \frac{x^2 - 49}{x + 7}$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 2x + 4$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-5x + 2}{2x - 3}$

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{7x + 3}{9 - x}$

(e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{2x}$

2. Find b if $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x^2 - bx}{x + 3x^2} = 2$