

### 3.4) limits @ $\infty$ : H.A.

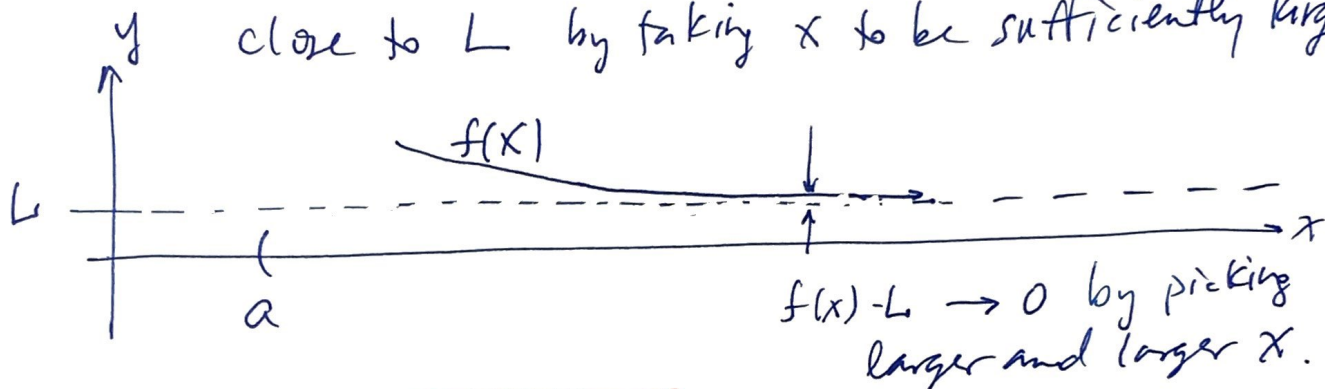
(1)

#### I. Limits at $\infty$

Let  $f(x)$  be a function on  $(a, \infty)$

• Then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  means that

the values of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $L$  by taking  $x$  to be sufficiently large



• Then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L$  means that the values of  $f(x)$  can be made arbitrarily close to  $L$  by taking  $x$  to be sufficiently large negative.



The line  $y=L$  is called a horizontal asymptote of the curve  $y=f(x)$  if either  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  <sup>and</sup> / or  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L$ .

Most limit laws we saw for regular limits also hold for limits at infinity

let  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = F$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x) = G$ , ie. both limits exist.

- Then
- a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [f(x) \pm g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) \pm \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x) = F \pm G$
  - b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} cf(x) = c \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = cF$
  - c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)g(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x) = F \cdot G$
  - d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x)} = \frac{F}{G}$  if  $G \neq 0$
  - e)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [f(x)]^n = \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) \right]^n = F^n$
  - f)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{F}$

The same rules hold if we replace  $\infty$  with  $-\infty$

• Comparison functions

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^r} = 0$  for  $r > 0$  and a rational number

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^r} = 0$  for  $r > 0$  rational num

**EX** Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{4x^3 + 3x + 1}{7x^3 + 2x^2 + x} \right) = \frac{\lim(\text{top})}{\lim(\text{Bot})}$  since the limits don't exist

Trick: divide top and bottom by  $x^3$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(4x^3 + 3x + 1) \cdot \frac{1}{x^3}}{(7x^3 + 2x^2 + x) \cdot \frac{1}{x^3}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 + \frac{3}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x^3}}{7 + \frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 + \frac{3}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x^3}}{7 + \frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 4 + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{x^2} + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^3}}{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 7 + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{x} + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^2}} = \frac{4}{7}$$

⊛ Pre Calc:

HA: • deg (top) < deg (bot)

then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Top}}{\text{Bot}} = 0$

• deg (top) = deg (bot)

then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Top}}{\text{Bot}} = \frac{A_n}{B_n}$

• deg (top) > deg (bot)

then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Top}}{\text{Bot}} = \infty$

$$\frac{t(x)}{b(x)} \Rightarrow t(x) \overline{) b(x)}$$

= long division  
= Q(x)

EX

Find the asymptotic limit for

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^5 + 2x + 1}{-2x^2 - 4}$$

deg(top) > deg(bot)

→ long divide

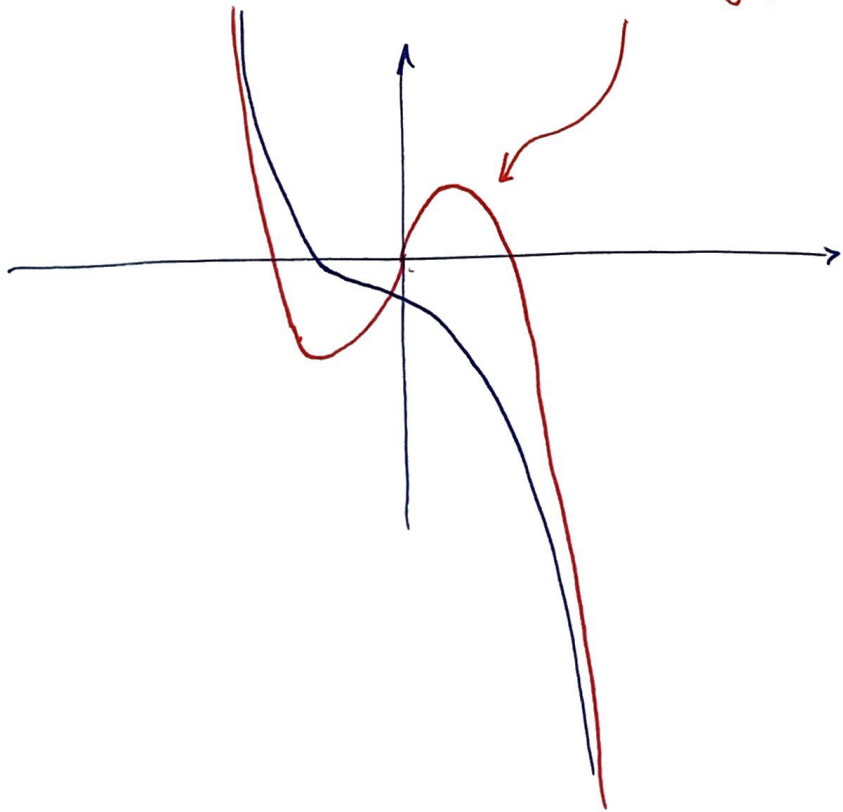
$$\begin{array}{r}
 -\frac{3}{2}x^3 + 3x \\
 \hline
 -2x^2 + 0x - 4 \quad \Big) \quad 3x^5 + 0x^4 + 0x^3 + 0x^2 + 2x + 1 \\
 \underline{-(3x^5 + 0x^4 + 6x^3)} \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\
 -6x^3 + 0x^2 + 2x \\
 \underline{-(-6x^3 + 0x^2 - 12x)} \quad \downarrow \\
 14x + 1
 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{3x^5 + 2x + 1}{-2x^2 - 4} = -\frac{3}{2}x^3 + 3x + \frac{14x + 1}{-2x^2 - 4}$$

done

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \quad \gg \quad = \quad \underline{\underline{-\frac{3}{2}x^3 + 3x}} + 0$$

oblique asymptote



EX Study  $y = \frac{2x^2+1}{\sqrt{x^4-4}}$  at  $\pm\infty$ .

(5)

$$\bullet \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2x^2+1}{\sqrt{x^4-4}} \right) \cdot \frac{1/x^2}{1/x^2}$$

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

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

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2 + \cancel{1/x^2} \rightarrow 0}{\sqrt{1 - \cancel{4/x^4} \rightarrow 0}} \right) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1}} = \boxed{2} \text{ HA}$$

$\bullet \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} ( ) = 2$  also since  $x^4$  and  $x^2$  terms swallow the (-).

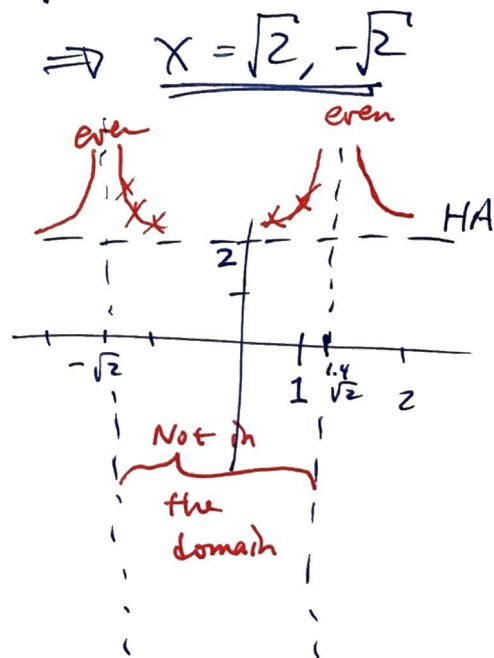
$\bullet$  VA? when is  $\sqrt{x^4-4} = 0$  ?

Ans: when  $x^4 - 4 = 0 \Rightarrow \underline{x = \sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{2}}$

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

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

like wise for  $x \rightarrow -\sqrt{2}$



EX  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (x - \sqrt{x^2 + 2x})$  *looks like  $\sqrt{x^2}$  or  $-x$*

\* rationalize the numerator

$(a-b)(a+b) = a^2 - b^2$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left[ (x - \sqrt{x^2 + 2x}) \cdot \frac{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 2x}}{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 2x}} \right]$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 - (\sqrt{x^2 + 2x})^2}{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 2x}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\cancel{x^2} - (\cancel{x^2} + 2x)}{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 2x}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2x}{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 2x}} \cdot \frac{1/x}{1/x}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\frac{2x}{x}}{\frac{x}{x} + \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + 2x}}{x}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2}{1 + \sqrt{\frac{x^2}{x^2} + \frac{2x}{x^2}}} = \frac{-2}{1 + \sqrt{1 + 0}} = \frac{-2}{2} = \boxed{-1}$$

Curiosity?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} (x - \sqrt{x^2 + 2x})$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2}{1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2x}}$$

*Chpt 11 or 2.9*  
 $\sqrt{1-x} \approx f'(a)(x-a)$   
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{-2}{1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{2}{x}}} \approx \frac{-2}{1 - (-\frac{1}{2x})} = \frac{-2}{1 - \frac{1}{2x}} = 2x$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{-2}{1 - (\text{stuff})}$  Not Defined.

*oblique asymp*

II

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \infty$  means that  $f(x)$  becomes large as  $x$  becomes large.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = \infty$  ditto as  $x$  becomes large negative
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = -\infty$  means that  $f$  becomes large neg. as  $x$  becomes large.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = -\infty$  means that  $f$  becomes neg. large as becomes neg. large.

Ex

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}$$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}$$

$$\cancel{x^2} (1 - \cancel{x^2})$$

$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$   
 $\infty \quad -\infty$

$$= \underline{\underline{-\infty}}$$