2 Friday, August 25

Review

Definition (Informal Definition of Limit)**.** Suppose $f(x)$ is defined in an open interval about $x = c$, *except possibly at* $x = c$. If the values of $f(x)$ become arbitrarily close to L as the values of x approach c from both sides, then the **limit** of $f(x)$ as x approaches c is L, or

$$\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = L.$$

Definition (One-sided Limit)**.** If $f(x) \to L$ as $x \to c$ from x values that are to the left of c ($x < c$), then

$$\lim_{x \to c^-} f(x) = L.$$

Similarly, if $f(x) \to M$ as $x \to c$ from x values that are to the right of c ($x > c$), then

$$\lim_{x \to c^+} f(x) = M.$$

Theorem (Two-sided Limit Existence)**.**

$$\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = L \qquad \text{if and only if} \qquad \lim_{x \to c^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \to c^+} f(x) = L.$$

Finding Limits Graphically

Given the graph of a function $f(x)$, the value of a one-sided limit at $x = c$ is the expected y-coordinate of the point if one was to trace the graph from the appropriate direction. The value of the two-sided limit is found by computing the one-sided limits and then applying the two-sided limit existence theorem. Remember, *the value of $f(x)$ at $x = c$ has no bearing on the existence or value of the limit.*