

Topic 1.8 – Determining Limits Using the Squeeze Theorem

1. If $4x - 9 \leq f(x) \leq x^2 - 4x + 7$ for $x \geq 0$, find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x)$.

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (4x - 9) = 4 \cdot 4 - 9 = 16 - 9 = 7$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (x^2 - 4x + 7) = 4^2 - 4(4) + 7 = 7$

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) = 7$

2. If $2x \leq g(x) \leq x^4 - x^2 + 2$ for all x , find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x)$.

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (2x) = 2 \cdot 1 = 2$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (x^4 - x^2 + 2) = 1^4 - 1^2 + 2 = 2$

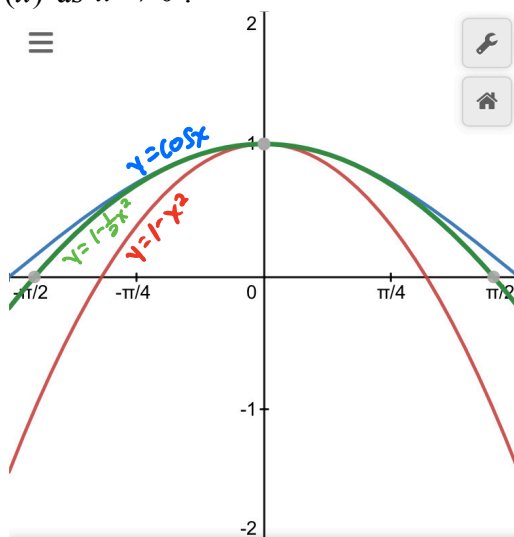
$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x) = 2$

3. Sketch the graphs of the curves $y = 1 - x^2$, $y = \cos x$, and any arbitrary function $y = f(x)$, where f is a function that satisfies the inequalities $1 - x^2 \leq f(x) \leq \cos x$ for all x in the interval $\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$. What can you say about the limit of $f(x)$ as $x \rightarrow 0$?

• $f(x) = 1 - \frac{2}{3}x^2$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 1$

Any $f(x)$ of the form $1 - ax^2$, where $\frac{1}{2} \leq a < 1$, will work



+	↶	↷	⚙	☰
1		$y = 1 - x^2$	×	
2		$y = \cos(x)$	×	
3		$y = 1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2$	×	

Find the value of each limit. For a limit that does not exist, state why.

4. $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{1 - \sin \theta}$ produces indeterminate $\frac{0}{0}$

If $[\cos^2 \theta]' = -2 \cos \theta \sin \theta$ and $[1 - \sin \theta]' = -\cos \theta$

①

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^2 \theta = (\cos \frac{\pi}{2})^2 = 0$$

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} (1 - \sin \theta) = 1 - \sin \frac{\pi}{2} = 1 - 1 = 0$$

③ L'HOSPITAL'S

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

$$= 2 \cdot \sin \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

$$= 2 \cdot 1$$

$$= 2$$

6. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \begin{cases} 2x^2 - 3x, & x < 3 & x \rightarrow 3^- \\ 8 - \cos \left(\frac{\pi x}{3} \right), & x > 3 & x \rightarrow 3^+ \end{cases}$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} (2x^2 - 3x) = 2(3)^2 - 3(3)$
 $= 18 - 9$
 $= 9$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \left[8 - \cos \left(\frac{\pi x}{3} \right) \right] = 8 - \cos \left(\frac{\pi 3}{3} \right)$
 $= 8 - \cos \pi$
 $= 8 - (-1)$
 $= 9$

∴ The limit as $x \rightarrow 3$ is 9

5. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x + \sin x}{x}$ produces indeterminate $\frac{0}{0}$

If $[x + \sin x]' = 1 + \cos x$ and $x' = 1$

①

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x + \sin x) = 0 + \sin 0 = 0$$

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

③ L'HOSPITAL'S

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 + \cos x}{1} = 1 + \cos(0) = 1 + 1 = 2$$

7. $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 \sin 3\theta}{\theta}$ produces indeterminate $\frac{0}{0}$

If $[2 \sin(3\theta)]' = 6 \cos(3\theta)$ and $\theta' = 1$

①

- $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} 2 \sin(3\theta) = 2 \sin(3 \cdot 0) = 2 \sin 0 = 2 \cdot 0 = 0$
- $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \theta = 0$

③ L'HOSPITAL'S

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{6 \cos(3\theta)}{1} = 6 \cos(3 \cdot 0)$$

$$= 6 \cos(0)$$

$$= 6 \cdot 1$$

$$= 6$$