# Class 10: 2/19/14 Section 3.4

Last class we ~~used~~ stated the theorem useful for studying a property of rational functions:

<u>Thm</u> Let $f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$ be rational. Then

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \deg(p) < \deg(q) \\ L & \text{if } \deg(p) = \deg(q) \\ \infty & \text{if } \deg(p) > \deg(q) \end{cases}$$

where $L$ is a real number.

We then used this to ~~solve~~ calculate

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3x^2-4x+5}{7x^3+3x^2+6} = 0$$

(Recall the multiplication of 1 in the form $\left(\frac{\frac{1}{x^3}}{\frac{1}{x^3}}\right)$.).

exercise: Do the same calculation for $h(x) = \frac{3x^3-4x+5}{7x^3+3x^2+6}$.

Here $\deg(p) = \deg(3x^3-4x+5) = 3$

$\deg(q) = \deg(7x^3+3x^2+6) = 3$.

Strategy: Use a clever multiplication by 1 and the limit laws to evaluate.

Solution: $h(x)$ is certainly continuous for $x$ large enough. Hence

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} h(x) = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3x^3-4x+5}{7x^3+3x^2+6} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3x^3-4x+5}{7x^3+3x^2+6}\left(\frac{\frac{1}{x^3}}{\frac{1}{x^3}}\right)$$

(why $\frac{1}{x^3}$?)

$$= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3-\frac{4}{x^2}+\frac{5}{x^3}}{7+\frac{3}{x}+\frac{6}{x^3}}$$

$$\overset{\text{quotient Law for limits}}{=} \frac{\lim_{x\to\infty}\left(3-\frac{4}{x^2}+\frac{5}{x^3}\right)}{\lim_{x\to\infty}\left(7+\frac{3}{x}+\frac{6}{x^3}\right)} \quad \cancel{\text{Sum Rule for limits}}$$

$$\overset{\text{Constant Multiple \& Sum Rule for limits}}{=} \frac{\lim_{x\to\infty} 3 - 4\left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x^2}\right)+5\left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x^3}\right)}{\lim_{x\to\infty} 7+3\left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x}\right)+6\left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x^3}\right)}$$

$$\boxed{\text{Note: } \lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x^2} = \left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x}\right)\left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x}\right) \text{ by Product Rule for limits}}$$

$$= \frac{3-4(0)+5(0)}{7+3(0)+6(0)} = \frac{3}{7} = L \text{ in thm.}$$

Can you see what the $L$ is in the theorem?

In thm, if $\deg(p) = \deg(q)$ for $f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$

then $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = L$, where $L$ is the ratio of the leading coefficients of $p, q$.

ex. Now do the same calculation on

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} i(x), \text{ where } i(x) = \frac{3x^7 - 4x + 5}{7x^3 + 3x^2 + 6}.$$

to show limit does not exist.

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Other ways to see limits at infinity of rational functions?

(I) The third type in the ~~system~~ theorem, where $\deg(p) > \deg(q)$, is called an improper rational function. One can always write an improper rational function as the sum of a polynomial and a proper rational function (where $\deg(p) < \deg(q)$) via long division:

ex. (pg III, middle)

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

How so? left hand side is

$$\begin{array}{r|l}
 & x^2+x-1 \\
\hline
x^2-x+2 & x^4+2x-5 \\
 & -(x^4-x^3+2x^2) \\
\hline
 & x^3-2x^2+2x \\
 & -(x^3-x^2+2x) \\
\hline
 & -x^2-5 \\
 & -(-x^2+x-2) \\
\hline
 & -x-3
\end{array}$$

result is $x^2+x-1$ with remainder $-x-3 = -(x+3)$.

So right hand side is

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

Can you see why

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{x^4+2x-5}{x^2-x+2} = \lim_{x\to\infty} x^2+x-1-\frac{x+3}{x^2-x+2}$$ Does not exist?

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(II) The theorem is really a statement on the relationship between $x^m$ and $x^n$ the 2 power functions that make up the leading monomials of $p(x)$, $q(x)$.

Recall problem 26, Section 1.2:

for $n > m$, $x^n > x^m$ when $x > 1$

But this means $\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{x^n}{x^m} = \lim_{x \to \infty} x^{n-m}$

where $n - m = r > 0$. Here limit DNE.

And if $n < m$, $\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{x^n}{x^m} = \lim_{x \to \infty} x^{n-m}$

where $n - m = r < 0$. Here limit is $0$.

Notes: ① If $n = m$, $\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{x^n}{x^m} = 1$ and

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{a x^n}{b x^n} = \frac{a}{b} \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{x^n}{x^n} = \frac{a}{b}.$$

② As $x$ gets large (going to $\infty$), all of the lower order monomials become inconsequential and do not contribute to the determination of the limit.

why?

Here is a new problem: Let $g(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$

Find: ⓐ $\lim_{x \to \infty} g(x)$

ⓑ $\lim_{x \to 0} g(x)$

if they exist.

Notes: ① A chart or graph may be helpful here but may be misleading

② $g(x)$ is continuous on all of $\{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \neq 0\}$, as the product of 2 continuous functions on this domain.

③ Direct calculation will be tough.

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But we can compare $g(x)$ to functions we know the limit of!

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<u>Sandwich Thm</u>

(I) If $f(x) \le g(x) \le h(x)$ are continuous funct. for all $x$ on an open interval containing a pt $c$ (except possibly at $x=c$), and

$\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = \lim_{x \to c} h(x) = L$, then $\lim_{x \to c} g(x) = L$.

## Sandwich Thm (cont'd)

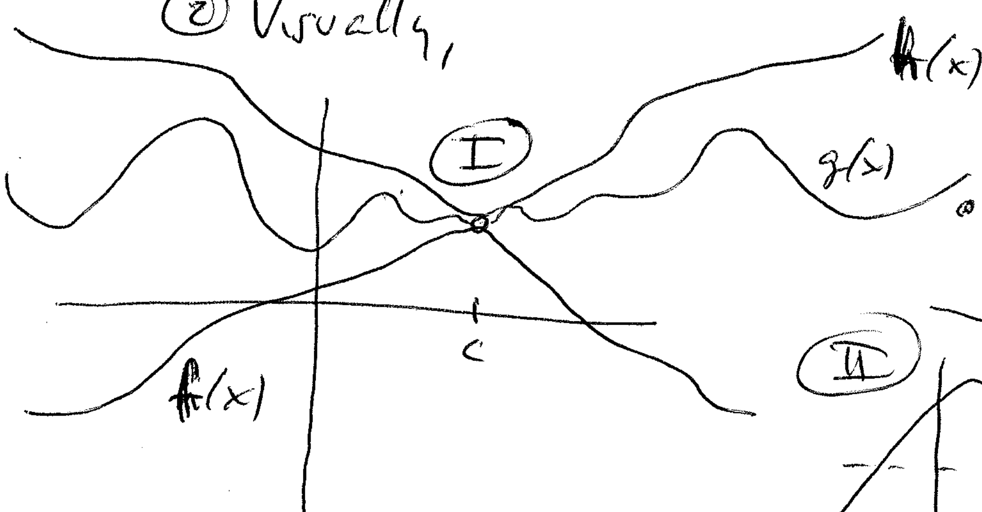
(II) if $f(x) \le g(x) \le h(x)$ are continuous on some interval $[x_0, \infty)$ and

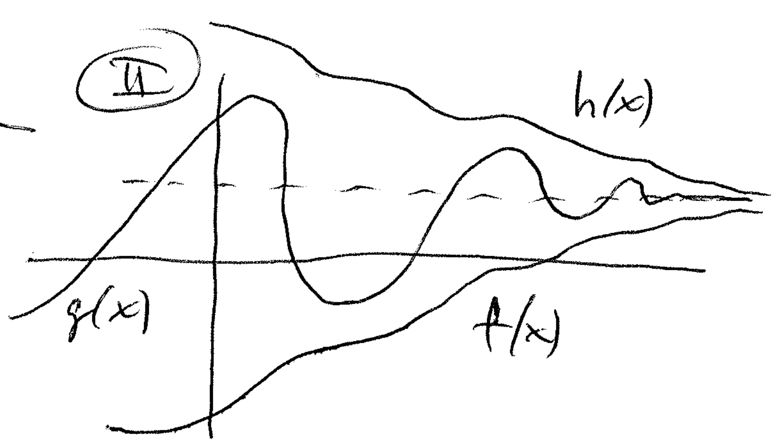
$\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \to \infty} h(x) = L$, then $\lim_{x \to \infty} g(x) = L$.

(III) Same for $\lim_{x \to -\infty} g(x)$.

Notes (1) in effect, the functions $f(x)$ and $h(x)$ squeeze or sandwich $g(x)$, forcing it to have the same limit.

(2) Visually,




(3) No need for any direct calculations

Back to example

(a) Find $\lim_{x\to\infty} g(x) = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\sin x}{x}$ if it exists.

First, notice that for all $x > 0$, (for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ really)

$$-1 \le \sin x \le 1$$

and dividing by any positive $x$ doesn't change the sense of the inequality:

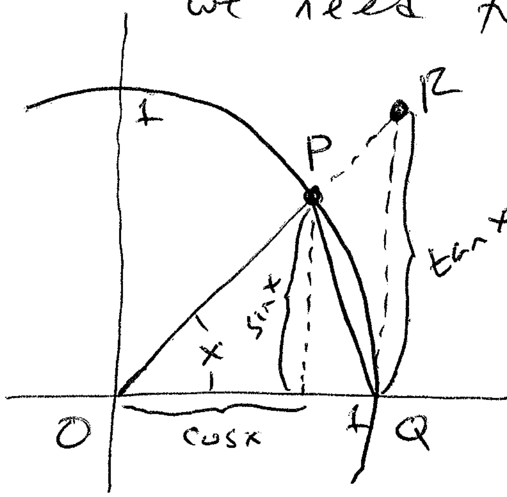
$$-\frac{1}{x} \le \frac{\sin x}{x} \le \frac{1}{x}$$

So let $f(x) = -\frac{1}{x}$, $h(x) = \frac{1}{x}$. Then part II of the Sandwich Thm holds and since

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{x} = \lim_{x\to\infty} -\frac{1}{x} = 0$$

It follows that $\boxed{\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 0.}$

For part (b), find $\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$ if it exists, we need to be more clever:




Let $P$ be a point in the first quadrant on the unit circle. $P$ has coordinates $(\cos x, \sin x)$ where $x$ is the angle the ray $\overrightarrow{OP}$ makes with the positive horizontal axis.

Verify that $\text{area}(\Delta OPQ) \leq \text{area}(\text{sector } OPQ) \leq \text{area}(\Delta ORQ)$ for any $x \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$. But then

$$\frac{1}{2}(1)(\sin x) \leq \pi (1)^2 \left(\frac{x}{2\pi}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2}(1)(\tan x)$$

or $$\sin x \leq x \leq \tan x$$

when we cancel out the $\frac{1}{2}$ and the $\pi$'s.

Divide by the positive quantity $\sin x$ (for $x \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$) to get

$$1 \leq \frac{x}{\sin x} \leq \frac{\tan x}{\sin x} = \frac{1}{\cos x}$$

And invert to get (reversing the sense of the inequality)

$$\cos x \leq \frac{\sin x}{x} \leq 1.$$

Now the middle of the inequality is $g(x)$.

Let $f(x) = \cos x$ and $h(x) = 1$. Both of these are continuous on all $\mathbb{R}$, and since

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \cos x = \lim_{x \to 0} 1 = 1,$$

by the Squeezing Thm, (Sandwich) we get $\boxed{\lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1.}$

<u>Note</u>: ① The hard part is to come up with the comparison functions $f(x)$ and $h(x)$. But do not worry, here you will not be asked to be too clever.

② To actually establish that $\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$, (the full limit), one would have to do the same thing for the "other side" of 0, for $x<0$, small negative angles.