



Limits in Mathematics

PROFESSIONAL MATHEMATICS

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Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction to Limits in Mathematics	2
Chapter 2: Techniques for Calculating Limits	4
Chapter 3: Advanced Applications of Limits.....	5

Chapter 1: Introduction to Limits in Mathematics

Welcome, students! In this chapter, we'll be introducing the topic of limits in mathematics. Limits are a fundamental concept in calculus, which is the branch of mathematics that deals with rates of change and smoothness. Limits are used to describe the behavior of a function as the input of the function gets arbitrarily close to a certain value.

In this chapter, we'll be discussing the basic concepts of limits, including the formal definition of a limit, how to calculate limits using algebraic and graphical methods, and the concept of infinity. We'll also be exploring the use of limits in the study of continuity and differentiability.

The first concept in limits is the formal definition of a limit. A limit is a value that a function approaches as the input of the function gets arbitrarily close to a certain value. For example, the limit of the function $f(x) = x^2$ as x approaches 2 is 4, because as x gets arbitrarily close to 2, the value of the function approaches 4.

Another important concept in limits is the idea of infinity. Infinity is not a specific value, but rather a concept that represents the idea of unboundedness. In limits, we often encounter the concept of infinity when the function approaches a value as x approaches infinity. For example, the limit of the function $f(x) = 1/x$ as x approaches infinity is 0, because as x gets arbitrarily large, the value of the function approaches 0.

Once we have learned the basic concepts of limits, we can use them to understand the behavior of functions. Limits are used to study the continuity of a function, which is the property of a function that means that its output value changes smoothly as its input value changes. A function is continuous at a point if the limit of the function as the input approaches that point is equal to the function's output at that point.

Limits are also used to study the differentiability of a function, which is the property of a function that means that its output value changes at a consistent rate as its input value changes. A function is differentiable at a point if the limit of the function's slope as the input approaches that point is equal to the function's actual slope at that point.

To calculate limits, we can use algebraic methods, such as factoring, canceling, or rationalizing, or we can use graphical methods, such as sketching the graph of the function or using a table of values.

In conclusion, limits are a fundamental concept in calculus that is used to describe the behavior of a function as the input of the function gets arbitrarily close to a certain value. This chapter provided an introduction to the basic concepts of limits and their use in the study of continuity and differentiability.

In the next chapter, we will be diving deeper into the different techniques used to calculate limits and how they can be applied to a wide range of functions.

Thank you for joining me today. I hope you found this introduction to limits in mathematics to be helpful and informative. I can't wait for our next lesson!

Chapter 2: Techniques for Calculating Limits

Welcome back, students! In the previous chapter, we introduced the basic concepts of limits in mathematics and their use in the study of continuity and differentiability. In this chapter, we'll be diving deeper into the different techniques used to calculate limits and how they can be applied to a wide range of functions.

The first technique for calculating limits is the algebraic method. The algebraic method involves manipulating the function algebraically to find the limit. This can involve factoring, canceling, or rationalizing the function, and using the properties of limits such as the sum, difference, product and quotient rule.

For example, to find the limit of the function $f(x) = (x^2 - 4) / (x - 2)$ as x approaches 2, we can factor the numerator and cancel out $(x - 2)$ from the numerator and denominator, resulting in the limit of $x + 2$.

Another technique for calculating limits is the graphical method. The graphical method involves sketching the graph of the function and using it to determine the limit. This can involve finding the coordinates of the point that the function approaches, or using the vertical and horizontal asymptotes of the graph to determine the limit.

Another important technique is L'Hopital's Rule, it's a technique that allows us to evaluate limits of the form $(f(x))/(g(x))$ as x approaches a certain value, when the limit is of the form $0/0$ or ∞/∞ .

In conclusion, there are various techniques that can be used to calculate limits, including the algebraic method, the graphical method and L'Hopital's rule. Each technique has its own strengths and weaknesses and is best suited to certain types of functions. It's important to practice using these techniques and to understand when to use them.

In the next chapter, we will be discussing the use of limits in advanced topics such as optimization and integration.

Thank you for joining me today. I hope you found this discussion of techniques for calculating limits to be helpful and informative. I can't wait for our next lesson!

Chapter 3: Advanced Applications of Limits

Welcome back, students! In the previous chapters, we have been discussing the concepts of limits and the techniques used to calculate them. In this chapter, we'll explore how limits are used in advanced topics such as optimization and integration.

In optimization, limits are used to find the maximum or minimum value of a function. The first-derivative test is a common method used in optimization that involves finding the derivative of the function and setting it equal to zero to find the critical points of the function. The second-derivative test is then used to determine whether the critical point is a maximum, minimum or a saddle point.

In integration, limits are used to find the area under a curve. The concept of a definite integral is used to find the area between a function and the x-axis over a certain interval, and the concept of an indefinite integral is used to find the antiderivative of a function.

In addition, limits play an important role in the study of sequences and series. A sequence is a function whose domain is the set of natural numbers and a series is the sum of the terms in a sequence. The limit of a sequence is used to determine whether a sequence converges or diverges and the limit of a series is used to determine whether a series converges or diverges.

In conclusion, limits are a fundamental concept that is used in a wide range of advanced mathematical topics such as optimization, integration, sequences and series. Understanding the concept of limits and the techniques used to calculate them is essential for understanding these advanced topics.

In conclusion, this chapter provided an overview of how limits are used in advanced mathematical topics such as optimization, integration, sequences and series. These application of limits in advanced topics provides a glimpse of the vastness of mathematics and the importance of understanding the concepts covered in this book.

Thank you for joining me throughout this journey of exploring limits in mathematics. I hope you found it informative and helpful. I encourage you to explore the application of limits in other advanced topics and to continue to practice and deepen your understanding of the concepts covered in this book.