

LIMITS

(i) Let $f(x, y)$ be a function of two variables in a domain $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ and let (a, b) be any limit point of D . We say that " l " is the limit of $f(x, y)$ as x approaches " a " and y approaches " b " or (x, y) approaches (a, b) .

It can be written as

$$\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ y \rightarrow b}} f(x, y) = l \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (a, b)} f(x, y) = l$$

(ii) For any positive number $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|f(x, y) - l| < \varepsilon$$

whenever

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(x, y) - (a, b)\| < \delta \\ & \text{or} \\ & |x - a| < \delta \quad \text{and} \quad |y - b| < \delta \end{aligned}$$

SIMULTANEOUS LIMIT:

$$\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ y \rightarrow b}} f(x, y) \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (a, b)} f(x, y)$$

is called simultaneous limit.

Repeated Limit or Iterated limits:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \lim_{y \rightarrow b} f(x, y) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \{ \lim_{y \rightarrow b} f(x, y) \}$$

and

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow b} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow b} \{ \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, y) \}$$

are called repeated limits.

The repeated limits

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \lim_{y \rightarrow b} f(x, y) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{y \rightarrow b} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, y)$$

are not necessarily equal.

Although they must be equal if

$$\lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (a, b)} f(x, y)$$

is to exist.

But the equality of repeated limits does not guarantee the existence of simultaneous limit.

Theorem C-1:

If

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x, y)$$

exist then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \lim_{y \rightarrow b} f(x, y) \text{ and } \lim_{y \rightarrow b} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, y)$$

must be equal

But

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \lim_{y \rightarrow b} f(x, y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow b} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, y)$$

does not guarantee the existence of

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x, y)$$

NON-EXISTENCE OF LIMIT:

(i) Repeated limit test:

Simultaneous limit

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x, y)$$

does not exist if the repeated limits

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \lim_{y \rightarrow b} f(x, y) \text{ and } \lim_{y \rightarrow b} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, y)$$

that is

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \lim_{y \rightarrow b} f(x, y) \neq \lim_{y \rightarrow b} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, y)$$

(ii) Two path Test:

Suppose that $g_1(x)$ and $g_2(x)$ are two functions such that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g_1(x) = b \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow b} g_2(x) = a$$

$f(x, y)$ is a function of two variables. The simultaneous limit

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x, y)$$

does not exist, if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, g_1(x)) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, g_2(x))$$

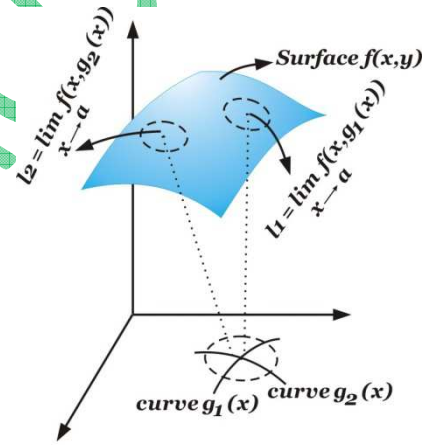
Two-path test is shown in

figure C-7.

Note: $y = g(x)$ or $x = g(y)$ is a straight line or a curve passes through the point (a, b) when $y = g(a) = b$ or $x = g(b) = a$ respectively.

$y = g(x)$ is a straight line or curve nearly passes through the point (a, b) or approaches to (a, b) when

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = b.$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, g_1(x)) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, g_2(x))$$

Figure C-7

Similarly $x = g(y)$ approaches to (a, b) when

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow b} g(y) = a$$

Path: Any curve or straight line (i.e. $y = g(x)$ or $x = g(y)$) nearly passes through the point (a, b) or approaches to (a, b) is a path.

Example 1:

Discuss the limit of the following function at $(0,0)$

$$f(x, y) = \frac{x - y^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^4}}$$

Solution:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - y^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^4}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2}} = 1$$

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - y^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^4}} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{-y^2}{y^2} = -1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) \neq \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, y).$$

So $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x, y)$ does not exist.

Example 2 :

Whether simultaneous limit exists or not for the following function at $(0,0)$.

$$f(x, y) = \frac{x + y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

Solution:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) = 1$$

Now we consider a function $y = g(x) = mx$, which is a straight line passes through $(0, 0)$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, g(x)) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x + mx}{\sqrt{x^2 + m^2 x^2}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(1 + m)}{x\sqrt{1 + m^2}} \\ &= \frac{1 + m}{\sqrt{1 + m^2}} \end{aligned}$$

it depends on m , so the limits are not same for different values of m .

so $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x,y)$ does not exist.

Explanation:

Limit of f does not exist if the remaining value depends on m .

Since $g(x) = mx$

We can consider two functions g_1 and g_2 taking two different values of m .

If $m = 1 \Rightarrow g_1(x) = x$

If $m = 100 \Rightarrow g_2(x) = 100x$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, g_1(x)) = \frac{1+1}{\sqrt{1+1^2}} = \sqrt{2} = 1.4$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, g_2(x)) = \frac{1+100}{\sqrt{1+100^2}} = 0.01$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, g_1(x)) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, g_2(x))$$

Hence $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x,y)$ does not exist,

as shown in

figure C-8.

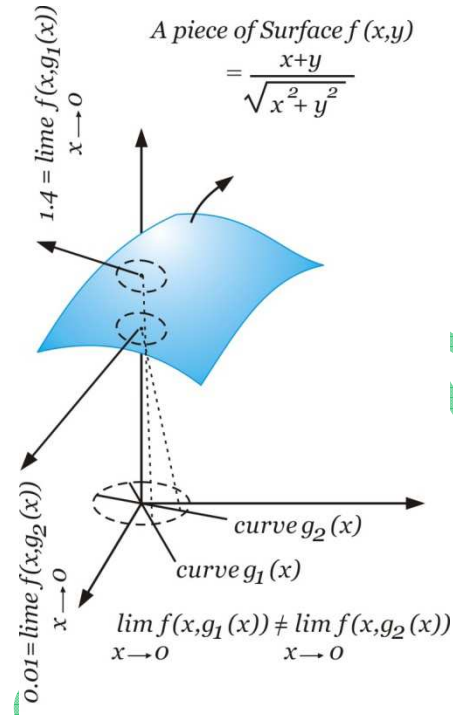


Figure C-8

Example 3:

Discuss the limit of the following function f at $(3,5)$

$$f(x,y) = \frac{(x-3)^2(y-5)^2}{(x-3)^6 + (y-5)^3}$$

Solution:

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (3,5)} f(x,y) = \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (3,5)} \frac{(x-3)^2(y-5)^2}{(x-3)^6 + (y-5)^3}$$

Suppose that

$$y-5 = m(x-3)^2$$

$$g(x) = y = m(x-3)^2 + 5$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} g(x) = 5$$

So that,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x, g(x)) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{(x-3)^2 \{m(x-3)^2\}^2}{(x-3)^6 + \{m(x-3)^2\}^3}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{m^2(x-3)^6}{(x-3)^6(1+m^3)}$$

$$= \frac{m^2}{1+m^3}$$

It depends on m , so limit of f does not exist at $(3,5)$.

Explanation:

Suppose that g_1 and g_2 are the two functions for $m = 1$ and $m = -9/10$ respectively.

$$g_1(x) = (x - 3)^2 + 5$$

$$g_2(x) = -\frac{9}{10}(x - 3)^2 + 5$$

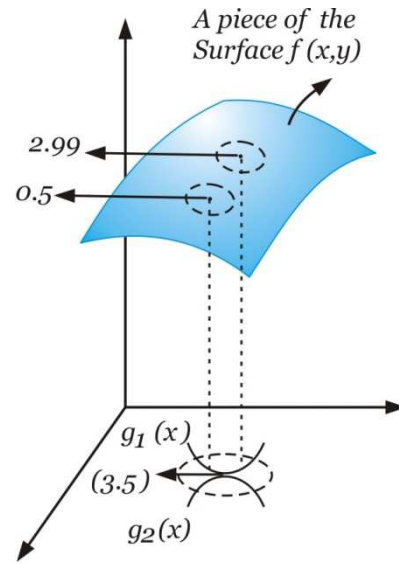
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x, g_1(x)) = 0.5$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x, g_2(x)) = 2.99$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x, g_1(x)) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x, g_2(x))$$

Hence limit of the function does not exist at (3,5).

Figure c-9



Example 4:

Discuss $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x, y)$ for the following functions.

(i) $f(x, y) = \frac{y^3 + 2xy - x^3}{y^3 + x^3}$

(ii) $f(x, y) = x^3 + xy^2$

Solution: (i)

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{y^3 + 2xy - x^3}{y^3 + x^3} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-x^3}{x^3} = -1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{y^3 + 2xy - x^3}{y^3 + x^3} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{y^3}{y^3} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Since $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} f(x, y) \neq \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x, y)$

Hence $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x, y)$ does not exist.

(ii) $f(x, y) = x^3 + xy^2$
 $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x, y) = \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} (x^3 + xy^2) = 0$

Figure C-9

Difference between Two-path Test and Repeated Limit:

Repeated limit is a particular case of two-path test because for repeated limit we discuss the limit of $f(x, y)$ along only two different paths $y \cong b$ and $x \cong a$ when $y \cong b$ is a straight line parallel to x -axis and $x \cong a$ is another straight line parallel to y -axis, as shown in

figure C-10.

{Note : $x \cong a$ mean $x = a^+$ or $x = a^-$ }

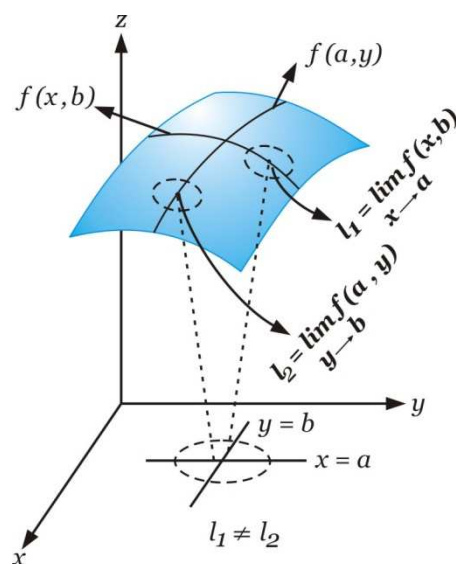


Figure C-10



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Existence of limit:

(i) Let $z = f(x, y)$, where f is a function of two variables. The limit of f at the point (a, b) exists if the limit is same along every approach path as shown in the **figure C-11**.

$g_i(x)$ and $g_j(x)$ are any two paths through the deleted neighborhood of (a, b) .

The limit of f exist when

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, g_i(x)) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x, g_j(x))$$

$$i \neq j, \quad \begin{matrix} i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \\ j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \end{matrix}$$

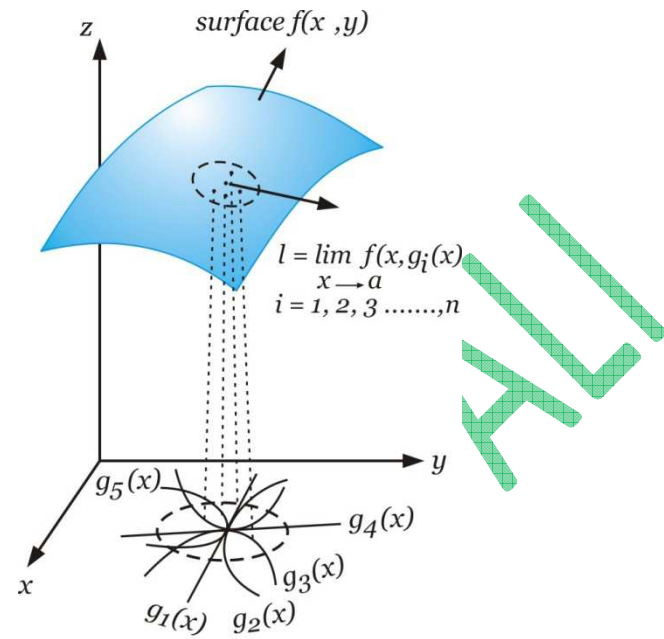


Figure C-11

(ii) The limit of f exist, when $|f(x, y) - l| < \epsilon$

such that

$$|x - a| < \delta, \quad |y - b| < \delta$$

Figure C-12

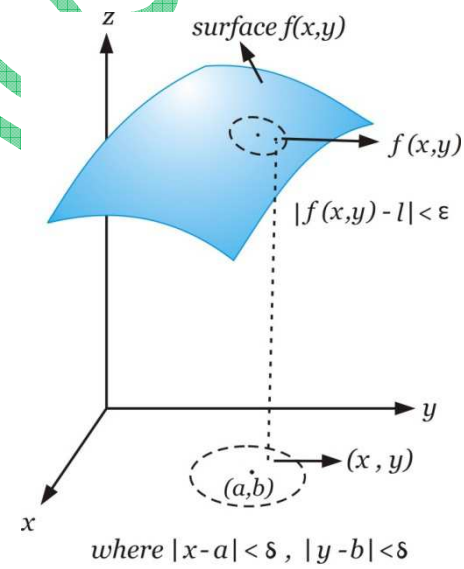


Figure C-12

Difference between the limit of one variable function and two variables function:

Let $y = f(x)$, where f is a function of one variable x . To discuss the limit of f at $x = a$, we find the limit for two values a^- and a^+ lies in an open interval about a . The limits are called left hand limit and right hand limit respectively.

The $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exist if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$$

Let $z = f(x, y)$, where f is a function of two variables. To discuss the limit of f at (a, b) , there are a lot of points lie in the open disk about (a, b) these points lie on the different curves or straight lines passes through the open disk as shown in the **figure C-14**. The limit exists only when all the limits are equal.

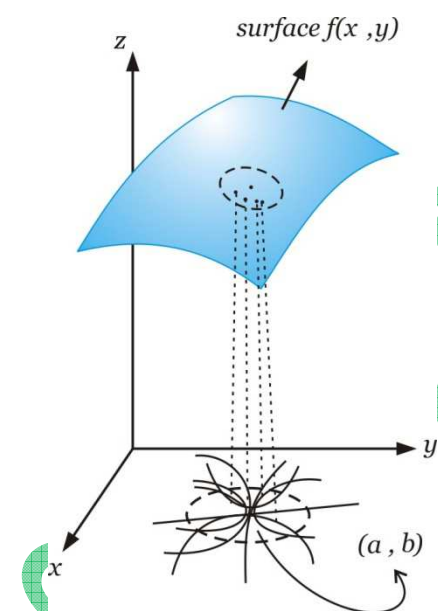


Figure C-14



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EXERCISE C-1

Find the limit of the following functions at the indicated point:

- (1) $f(x, y) = \frac{x^3 - y^3}{x - y}$ at (1,1)
 (2) $f(x, y) = \frac{xy}{x^2 - xy}$ at (0,3)
 (3) $f(x, y) = \frac{x^2 - 2xy + y^2}{x - y}$ at (2,2)
 (4) $f(x, y) = \frac{x+y}{x-y}$ at (3,2)

Show that the simultaneous limit does not exist at (0,0) for the following functions;

- (5) $f(x, y) = \frac{x^2y^2}{x^6 + y^3}$ (6) $f(x, y) = \frac{x^2y^2}{x^3 + y^6}$
 (7) $f(x, y) = \frac{x^3 - y^3}{x^3 + y^3}$ (8) $f(x, y) = \frac{x^2 + xy}{xy + y^2}$

Discuss the limit of the following functions at the indicated point.

- (9) $f(x, y) = \frac{(x-2)(y-1)}{(x-2)^2 + (y-1)^2}$ at (2,1)
 (10) $f(x, y) = \frac{(x-a)^2 + (y-b)}{\sqrt{(x-a)^4 + (y-b)^2}}$ at (a, b)
 (11) $f(x, y) = \frac{(x-1) + (y-2)^2}{\sqrt{(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2}}$ at (1,2)
 (12) $f(x, y) = \frac{x(y-1)}{x^2 + (y-2)^2}$ at (0,1)
 (13) $f(x, y) = \frac{(x-a)^2y^2}{\sqrt{(x-a)^6 + y^{12}}}$ at (a, 0)

Discuss the limit of the following functions along the given path at the indicated point.

$$(14) f(x, y) = \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2} \quad \text{at } (0,0)$$

along the paths

- (i) $y = x$
- (ii) $x = my$
- (iii) $y = 3x$
- (iv) $x = 5y$

$$(15) f(x, y) = \frac{x^3 + y}{\sqrt{x^6 + y^2}} \quad \text{at } (0,0)$$

along the paths

- (i) $y = 2x^3$
- (ii) $x = 3y^{1/3}$
- (iii) $y = 3x^3$
- (iv) $x = my^{1/3}$

$$(16) f(x, y) = \frac{(x-2)^2 + (y-3)}{\sqrt{(x-2)^4 + (y-3)^2}} \quad \text{at } (2,3)$$

along the paths

- (i) $y - 3 = (x - 2)^2$
- (ii) $y - 3 = m(x - 2)^2$
- (iii) $x - 2 = m(y - 3)^{1/2}$

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