

Math 114 Spring 2017
Calculus I Practice Homework 3.5 Solutions
Do not turn in

1. From the definition, Prove that $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x+1}{x+3} = 1$.

Solution: We guess the limit is 1. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and set $M = \underline{2/\epsilon \text{ or } 2/\epsilon - 3}$. Suppose $x > M$. We can see that

$$\left| \frac{x+1}{x+3} - 1 \right| = \left| \frac{-2}{x+3} \right| = \frac{2}{|x+3|} = \frac{2}{x+3}$$

since $x > M > 0$. Now there are two approaches we can take:

(a)

$$\frac{2}{x+3} < \frac{2}{M+3}$$

so set $M = 2/\epsilon - 3$ and we have

$$\frac{2}{x+3} < \frac{2}{M+3} = \frac{2}{2/\epsilon - 3 + 3} = \epsilon.$$

(b) First observe

$$\frac{2}{x+3} < \frac{2}{x} < \frac{2}{M}$$

so set $M = 2/\epsilon$ and we have

$$\frac{2}{x+3} < \frac{2}{x} < \frac{2}{M} = \frac{2}{2/\epsilon} = \epsilon.$$

2. From the definition, prove that $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x-1}{x^2} = 0$.

Solution: We guess the limit is 0. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and set $M \geq 1, 1/\epsilon$. Then if $x > M$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{x-1}{x^2} - 0 \right| &= \frac{|x-1|}{x^2} = \frac{x-1}{x^2} \leq \frac{x}{x^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{x} < \frac{1}{M} \leq \frac{1}{1/\epsilon} = \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

3. (★) From the definition, prove that $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^2}{x+1} = -\infty$.

Solution: We guess $-\infty$. So let $N > 0$ and set $M = N$. Then if $x < -M$ we know that $x + 1 > x$ and thus $\frac{1}{x+1} < \frac{1}{x}$, so we have

$$\frac{x^2}{x+1} < \frac{x^2}{x} = x < -M = -N.$$