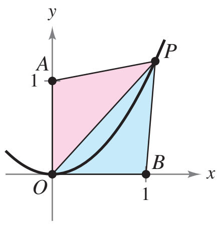
P.S. Problem Solving

See CalcChat.com for tutorial help and worked-out solutions to odd-numbered exercises.

1. Perimeter Let $P(x, y)$ be a point on the parabola $y = x^2$ in the first quadrant. Consider the triangle $\triangle PAO$ formed by P, $A(0, 1)$, and the origin $O(0, 0)$, and the triangle $\triangle PBO$ formed by P, $B(1, 0)$, and the origin.



(a) Write the perimeter of each triangle in terms of x.

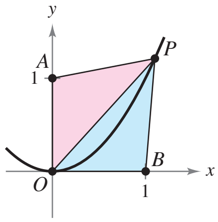
(b) Let $r(x)$ be the ratio of the perimeters of the two triangles,

$$r(x) = \frac{\text{Perimeter } \triangle PAO}{\text{Perimeter } \triangle PBO}.$$

Complete the table. Calculate $\lim_{x \to 0^+} r(x)$.

x	4	2	1	0.1	0.01
Perimeter $\triangle PAO$					
Perimeter $\triangle PBO$					
$r(x)$					

2. Area Let $P(x, y)$ be a point on the parabola $y = x^2$ in the first quadrant. Consider the triangle $\triangle PAO$ formed by P, $A(0, 1)$, and the origin $O(0, 0)$, and the triangle $\triangle PBO$ formed by P, $B(1, 0)$, and the origin.



(a) Write the area of each triangle in terms of x.

(b) Let $a(x)$ be the ratio of the areas of the two triangles,

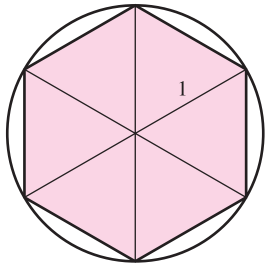
$$a(x) = \frac{\text{Area } \triangle PBO}{\text{Area } \triangle PAO}.$$

Complete the table. Calculate $\lim_{x \to 0^+} a(x)$.

x	4	2	1	0.1	0.01
Area $\triangle PAO$					
Area $\triangle PBO$					
$a(x)$					

3. Area of a Circle

(a) Find the area of a regular hexagon inscribed in a circle of radius 1. How close is this area to that of the circle?



(b) Find the area A_n of an n-sided regular polygon inscribed in a circle of radius 1. Write your answer as a function of n.

(c) Complete the table. What number does A_n approach as n gets larger and larger?

n	6	12	24	48	96
A_n					

4. Tangent Line Let $P(3, 4)$ be a point on the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 25$.

(a) What is the slope of the line joining P and $O(0, 0)$?

(b) Find an equation of the tangent line to the circle at P.

(c) Let $Q(x, y)$ be another point on the circle in the first quadrant. Find the slope m_x of the line joining P and Q in terms of x.

(d) Calculate $\lim_{x \to 3} m_x$. How does this number relate to your answer in part (b)?

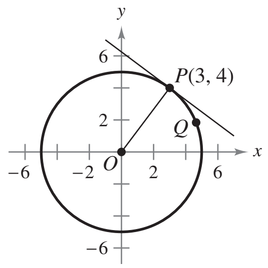


Figure for 4

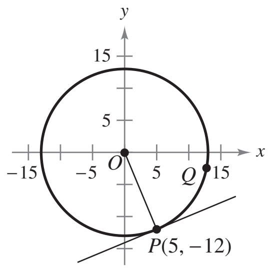


Figure for 5

5. Tangent Line Let $P(5, -12)$ be a point on the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 169$.

(a) What is the slope of the line joining P and $O(0, 0)$?

(b) Find an equation of the tangent line to the circle at P.

(c) Let $Q(x, y)$ be another point on the circle in the fourth quadrant. Find the slope m_x of the line joining P and Q in terms of x.

(d) Calculate $\lim_{x \to 5} m_x$. How does this number relate to your answer in part (b)?

6. Finding Values Find the values of the constants a and b such that

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sqrt{a + bx} - \sqrt{3}}{x} = \sqrt{3}.$$

7. Finding Limits Consider the function

$$f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{3 + x^{1/3}} - 2}{x - 1}.$$

(a) Find the domain of f.

(b) Use a graphing utility to graph the function.

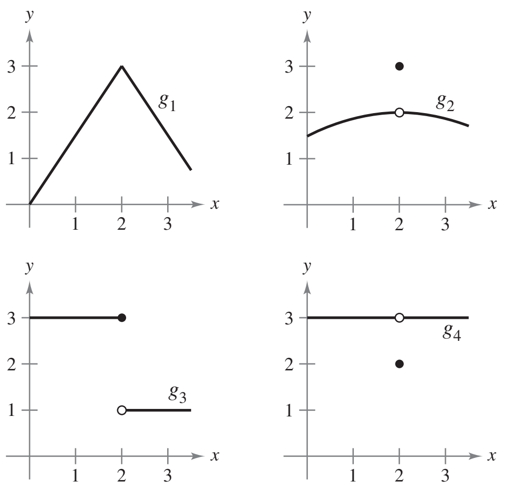
(c) Calculate $\lim_{x \to -27^+} f(x)$.

(d) Calculate $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$.

8. Making a Function Continuous Determine all values of the constant a such that the following function is continuous for all real numbers.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{ax}{\tan x}, & x \geq 0 \\ a^2 - 2, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

9. Choosing Graphs Consider the graphs of the four functions g_1, g_2, g_3, and g_4.



For each given condition of the function f, which of the graphs could be the graph of f?

(a) $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x) = 3$

(b) f is continuous at 2.

(c) $\lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x) = 3$

10. Limits and Continuity Sketch the graph of the function

$$f(x) = \left[\!\left[\frac{1}{x} \right]\!\right].$$

(a) Evaluate $f\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$, $f(3)$, and $f(1)$.

(b) Evaluate the limits $\lim_{x \to 1^-} f(x)$, $\lim_{x \to 1^+} f(x)$, $\lim_{x \to 0^-} f(x)$, and $\lim_{x \to 0^+} f(x)$.

(c) Discuss the continuity of the function.

11. Limits and Continuity Sketch the graph of the function $f(x) = [\![x]\!] + [\![-x]\!]$.

(a) Evaluate $f(1)$, $f(0)$, $f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$, and $f(-2.7)$.

(b) Evaluate the limits $\lim_{x \to 1^-} f(x)$, $\lim_{x \to 1^+} f(x)$, and $\lim_{x \to 1/2} f(x)$.

(c) Discuss the continuity of the function.

12. Escape Velocity To escape Earth's gravitational field, a rocket must be launched with an initial velocity called the **escape velocity.** A rocket launched from the surface of Earth has velocity v (in miles per second) given by

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r} + v_0^2 - \frac{2GM}{R}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{192{,}000}{r} + v_0^2 - 48}$$

where v_0 is the initial velocity, r is the distance from the rocket to the center of Earth, G is the gravitational constant, M is the mass of Earth, and R is the radius of Earth (approximately 4000 miles).

(a) Find the value of v_0 for which you obtain an infinite limit for r as v approaches zero. This value of v_0 is the escape velocity for Earth.

(b) A rocket launched from the surface of the moon has velocity v (in miles per second) given by

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{1920}{r} + v_0^2 - 2.17}.$$

Find the escape velocity for the moon.

(c) A rocket launched from the surface of a planet has velocity v (in miles per second) given by

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{10{,}600}{r} + v_0^2 - 6.99}.$$

Find the escape velocity for this planet. Is the mass of this planet larger or smaller than that of Earth? (Assume that the mean density of this planet is the same as that of Earth.)

13. Pulse Function For positive numbers $a < b$, the **pulse function** is defined as

$$P_{a,b}(x) = H(x - a) - H(x - b) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < a \\ 1, & a \leq x < b \\ 0, & x \geq b \end{cases}$$

where $H(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & x < 0 \end{cases}$ is the Heaviside function.

(a) Sketch the graph of the pulse function.

(b) Find the following limits:

(i) $\lim_{x \to a^+} P_{a,b}(x)$ (ii) $\lim_{x \to a^-} P_{a,b}(x)$

(iii) $\lim_{x \to b^+} P_{a,b}(x)$ (iv) $\lim_{x \to b^-} P_{a,b}(x)$

(c) Discuss the continuity of the pulse function.

(d) Why is $U(x) = \dfrac{1}{b - a} P_{a,b}(x)$ called the **unit pulse function?**

14. Proof Let a be a nonzero constant. Prove that if $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x) = L$, then $\lim_{x \to 0} f(ax) = L$. Show by means of an example that a must be nonzero.