

Limits to Infinity

Summary:

lim -

$$\lim \frac{\text{power of } x}{\text{same power of } x} = \frac{\text{coefficient of largest } x}{\text{coefficient of largest } x}$$

$$\lim \frac{\text{smaller power of } x}{\text{larger power of } x}$$

$$\lim \frac{\text{larger power of } x}{\text{smaller power of } x}$$

Check every term for a higher power of x—most exams have at least one trick question to make sure that you are paying attention!

Double-check whether your limit is to ∞ or to $-\infty$.

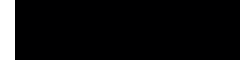
You will see this everywhere: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$. It is important to remember this. Similarly, $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0$.

Common Cases:

Both top and bottom have the same highest power of x:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{+x}{+x} = \frac{-}{-} = \frac{-}{-} = \frac{-}{-} = \frac{-}{-} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-}{-} = \frac{-}{-}$$

*Be careful! $x + x + x = x + x + x$



Limits to Infinity

With square roots:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{x+1} - \sqrt{x-1}}{x^2}$$

