

## Definitions of Limits

There are many different types of limits, each with its own formal definition, but the definitions are all very similar. Here I have tried to emphasize the similarities in form. All the variation arises from essentially two changes:  $x$  can approach  $c$  from the left, right, or from both sides, and either  $x$  or  $f(x)$  can go “to infinity” instead of to some finite number.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$	means	for every $\varepsilon > 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $0 <  x - c  < \delta$ ,	$ f(x) - L  < \varepsilon$ .
$\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L$	means	for every $\varepsilon > 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $0 < x - c < \delta$ ,	$ f(x) - L  < \varepsilon$ .
$\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$	means	for every $\varepsilon > 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $-\delta < x - c < 0$ ,	$ f(x) - L  < \varepsilon$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow c$	means	for every $M > 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $0 <  x - c  < \delta$ ,	$f(x) > M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ as $x \rightarrow c$	means	for every $M < 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $0 <  x - c  < \delta$ ,	$f(x) < M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow c^+$	means	for every $M > 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $0 < x - c < \delta$ ,	$f(x) > M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow c^-$	means	for every $M > 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $-\delta < x - c < 0$ ,	$f(x) > M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ as $x \rightarrow c^+$	means	for every $M < 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $0 < x - c < \delta$ ,	$f(x) < M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ as $x \rightarrow c^-$	means	for every $M < 0$	there exists a $\delta > 0$	such that whenever $-\delta < x - c < 0$ ,	$f(x) < M$ .
$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$	means	for every $\varepsilon > 0$	there exists a $K > 0$	such that whenever $x > K$ ,	$ f(x) - L  < \varepsilon$ .
$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = L$	means	for every $\varepsilon > 0$	there exists a $K < 0$	such that whenever $x < K$ ,	$ f(x) - L  < \varepsilon$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$	means	for every $M > 0$	there exists a $K > 0$	such that whenever $x > K$ ,	$f(x) > M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$	means	for every $M < 0$	there exists a $K > 0$	such that whenever $x > K$ ,	$f(x) < M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow -\infty$	means	for every $M > 0$	there exists a $K < 0$	such that whenever $x < K$ ,	$f(x) > M$ .
$f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ as $x \rightarrow -\infty$	means	for every $M < 0$	there exists a $K < 0$	such that whenever $x < K$ ,	$f(x) < M$ .