MATH 135 Calculus 1, Fall 2013

Important Limit Theorems from Section 2.3

Suppose that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x\to a} g(x)$ both exist. Then

1. $\lim_{x\to a}[f(x)+g(x)] = \lim_{x\to a} f(x) + \lim_{x\to a} g(x)$ (*limit of the sum = sum of the limits*)
2. $\lim_{x\to a}[f(x)-g(x)] = \lim_{x\to a} f(x) - \lim_{x\to a} g(x)$ (*limit of the difference = difference of the limits*)
3. $\lim_{x\to a} cf(x) = c\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$ for any constant c (*constants pull out*)
4. $\lim_{x\to a}[f(x)g(x)] = \lim_{x\to a} f(x)\cdot\lim_{x\to a} g(x)$ (*limit of the product = product of the limits*)
5. $\lim_{x\to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x\to a} f(x)}{\lim_{x\to a} g(x)}$ if $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) \neq 0$ (*limit of the quotient = quotient of the limits*)
6. $\lim_{x\to a} [f(x)]^n = \left[\lim_{x\to a} f(x)\right]^n$ where n is any positive integer (*this follows from 4.*)
7. $\lim_{x\to a} c = c$ for any constant c (*the limit of a constant is itself*)
8. $\lim_{x\to a} x = a$
9. $\lim_{x\to a} x^n = a^n$
10. $\lim_{x\to a} \sqrt[n]{x} = \sqrt[n]{a}$ where n is a positive integer. (If n is even, we assume that $a > 0$.)
11. $\lim_{x\to a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x\to a} f(x)}$ where n is a positive integer. (If n is even, we assume that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) > 0$.)

Direct Substitution Property If f is a polynomial or a rational function and a is in the domain of f, then $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = f(a)$. (*Just plug it in!*)

Limit Existence Theorem $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$ if and only if $\lim_{x\to a^-} f(x) = L = \lim_{x\to a^+} f(x)$. (*The left- and right-hand limits must both exist and be equal for the general limit to exist.*)

The Squeeze Theorem If $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$ when x is near a (except possibly at a) and

$$\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = \lim_{x\to a} h(x) = L,$$

then $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = L$.