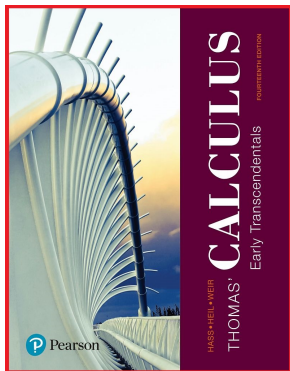


# Calculus 1

## Chapter 2. Limits and Continuity

### 2.4. One-Sided Limits—Examples and Proofs



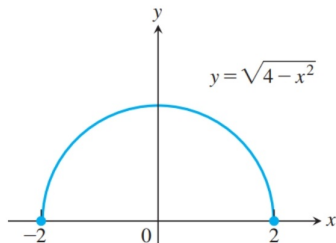
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## Example 2.4.1

**Example 2.4.1.** The domain of  $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2} = \sqrt{(2 - x)(2 + x)}$  is  $[-2, 2]$ ; its graph is the semicircle given here: Discuss its one and two sided limits.

**Solution.** We see from the graph of  $y = f(x)$  that, as  $x$  approaches  $-2$  from the right (i.e., from the positive side), the graph of the function tries to contain the point  $(-2, 0)$ . So by an anthropomorphic version of one-sided limits (or the informal definition),  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} \sqrt{4 - x^2} = 0$ .

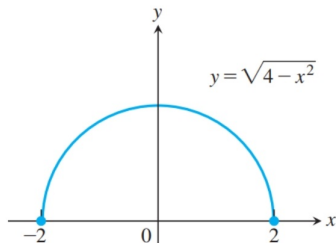


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So by an anthropomorphic version of one-sided limits (or the informal definition),  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} \sqrt{4 - x^2} = 0$ . Similarly, as  $x$  approaches  $+2$  from the left (i.e., from the negative side), the graph of the function tries to contain the point  $(+2, 0)$ . So by an anthropomorphic version of one sided limits (or the informal definition),  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +2^-} \sqrt{4 - x^2} = 0$ . Notice that in both cases, the graph succeeds in containing these points (though this is irrelevant to the existence of the limit).

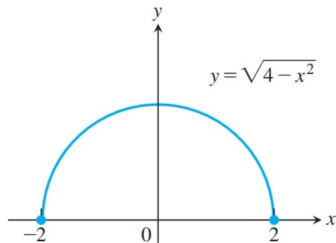


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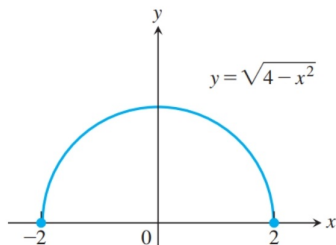
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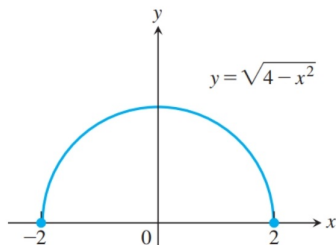
**Solution (continued).** For any other  $c$  with  $-2 < c < 2$ , we see that the function tries to pass through the points  $(c, f(c)) = (c, \sqrt{4 - (c)^2})$  (and succeeds) so that by Dr. Bob's Anthropomorphic Definition of Limit (or the informal definition or the formal definition), the (two-sided) limit exists for each such  $c$ .



Notice that the two-sided limit (or simply “limit”) at  $c = \pm 2$  does not exist. This is because there is not an open interval containing  $c = \pm 2$  on which  $f$  is defined, except possibly at  $c = \pm 2$ ; notice that  $f(x)$  is not defined for  $x < -2$  and  $f(x)$  is not defined for  $x > +2$ .

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**Note.** As just argued, neither  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$  nor  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +2^+} f(x)$  exist. This shows that the evaluation of limits is more complicated than substituting in a value when there is no division by 0. If we substitute  $x = \pm 2$  into  $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$  then we simply get  $f(\pm 2) = 0$  (and 0 is the value of the one-sided limits which exist); but these are not the values of the two-sided limits since these do not exist! The problem that arises in the two sided limits is the square roots of negatives. Notice that when  $x$  is “close to”  $-2$  then  $x$  could be less than  $-2$  yielding square roots of negatives for  $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$ . Similarly when  $x$  is “close to”  $+2$  then  $x$  could be greater than  $+2$  yielding square roots of negatives for  $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$ . This is why the two-sided limits don't exist.  $\square$



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## Exercise 2.4.10

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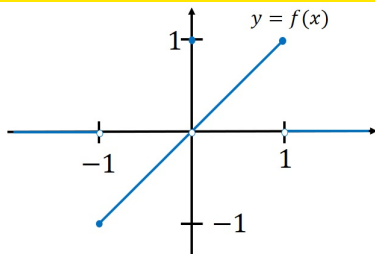
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & -1 \leq x < 0 \text{ or } 0 < x \leq 1 \\ 1, & x = 0 \\ 0, & x < -1 \text{ or } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Graph  $y = f(x)$ .

- (a) What are the domain and range of  $f$ ?
- (b) At what points  $c$ , if any, does  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exist?
- (c) At what points does the left-hand limit exist but not the right-hand limit?
- (d) At what points does the right-hand limit exist but not the left-hand limit?

## Exercise 2.4.10 (continued 1)

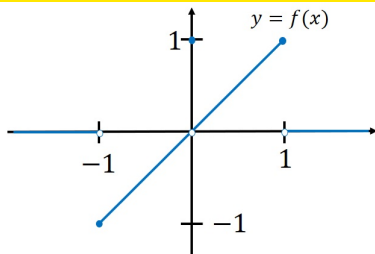
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**Solution.** (a) We see from the graph that the domain of  $f$  is all of  $\mathbb{R}$  and the range of  $f$  is  $[-1, 1]$ .  $\square$

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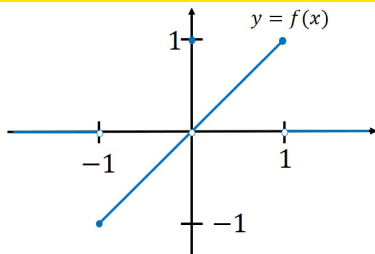


**Solution.** (a) We see from the graph that the domain of  $f$  is all of  $\mathbb{R}$  and the range of  $f$  is  $[-1, 1]$ .  $\square$

(b) We use Dr. Bob's Anthropomorphic Definition of Limit to explore  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ . For  $c < -1$  and  $c > 1$  the graph of  $f$  tries (and succeeds) to pass through the point  $(c, 0)$  so for these  $c$  values the limit exists. For  $-1 < c < 1$  the graph of  $f$  tries to pass through the point  $(c, c)$  (and succeeds, except when  $c = 0$ ) so for these  $c$  values the limit exists.

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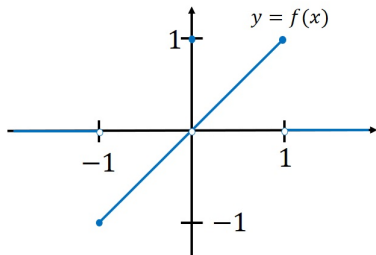


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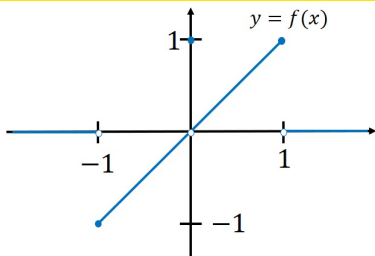
**Solution (continued).** For  $c = \pm 1$  there is no single point through which that the graph of  $f$  tries to pass for  $x$  near  $c$ , so for these  $c$  values the limit does not exist. So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists for

$$c \in (-\infty, -1) \cup (-1, 1) \cup (1, \infty). \quad \square$$

**(c,d)** Notice that for all  $c$ , the graph of  $f$  tries to pass through some point as  $x$  approaches  $c$  from the left (by a one-sided version of Dr. Bob's Anthropomorphic Definition of Limit, or by the Informal Definition of Left-Hand Limits). So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x)$  exists for all  $c$ .

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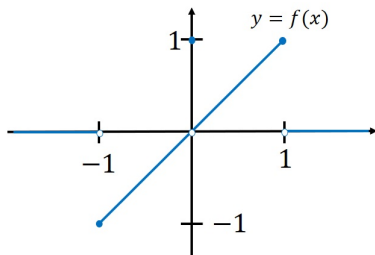
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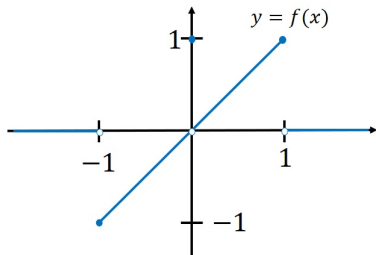
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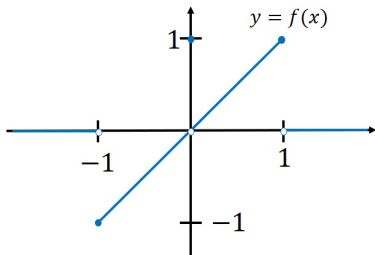
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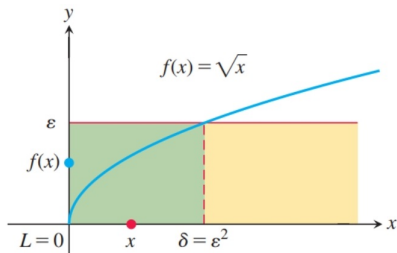
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**Proof.** First, we need  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  defined on an open interval of the form  $(c, b) = (0, b)$ . This is the case since the domain of  $f$  is  $[0, \infty)$  so that we have  $f$  defined on (say)  $(c, 1) = (0, 1)$ . Now let  $\varepsilon > 0$ .



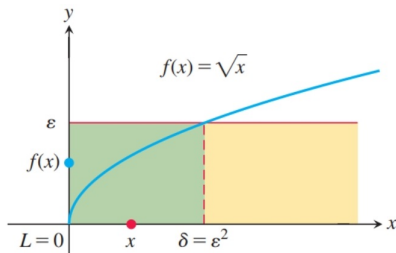
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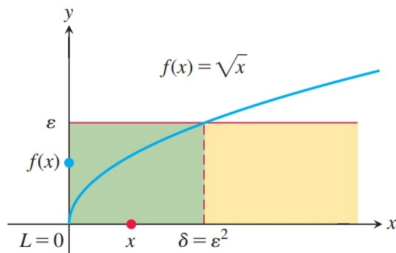
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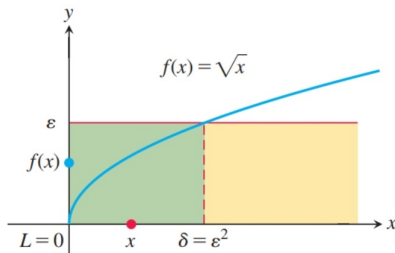
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## Exercise 2.4.50

**Exercise 2.4.50.** Suppose that  $f$  is an even function of  $x$ . Does knowing that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = 7$  tell you anything about either  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$  or  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} f(x)$ ? Give reasons for your answer.

**Solution.** Recall that an even function satisfies  $f(-x) = f(x)$ . When considering  $x \rightarrow 2^-$ , we have  $x$  in some interval of the form  $(2 - \delta, 2)$ . That is, we consider  $2 - \delta < x < 2$ . Then  $-(2 - \delta) > -x > -2$  or  $-2 < -x < -2 + \delta$ .

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} f(x) = 7.$$

We know nothing about  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$ ; if we knew something about  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x)$  then we could use that information to deduce the value of  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$  using the “evenness” of  $f$ , as above.  $\square$

## Exercise 2.4.50

**Exercise 2.4.50.** Suppose that  $f$  is an even function of  $x$ . Does knowing that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = 7$  tell you anything about either  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$  or  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} f(x)$ ? Give reasons for your answer.

**Solution.** Recall that an even function satisfies  $f(-x) = f(x)$ . When considering  $x \rightarrow 2^-$ , we have  $x$  in some interval of the form  $(2 - \delta, 2)$ . That is, we consider  $2 - \delta < x < 2$ . Then  $-(2 - \delta) > -x > -2$  or  $-2 < -x < -2 + \delta$ . Since  $f(x) = f(-x)$ , the behavior of  $f(x)$  for  $2 - \delta < x < 2$  is the same as the behavior of  $f(-x) = f(x)$  for  $-2 < -x < -2 + \delta$ . So if  $|f(x) - 7| < \varepsilon$  for  $2 - \delta < x < 2$ , then  $|f(-x) - 7| < \varepsilon$  for  $-2 < -x < -2 + \delta$ ; or (substituting  $x$  for  $-x$  in the last claim)  $|f(x) - 7| < \varepsilon$  for  $-2 < x < -2 + \delta$ . So we must have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} f(x) = 7.$$

We know nothing about  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$ ; if we knew something about  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x)$  then we could use that information to deduce the value of  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x)$  using the “evenness” of  $f$ , as above.  $\square$

## Theorem 2.7

**Theorem 2.7. Limit of the Ratio  $(\sin \theta)/\theta$  as  $\theta \rightarrow 0$ .**

For  $\theta$  in radians,  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1$ .

**Proof.** Suppose first that  $\theta$  is positive and less than  $\pi/2$ . Consider the picture:

## Theorem 2.7

**Theorem 2.7. Limit of the Ratio**  $(\sin \theta)/\theta$  as  $\theta \rightarrow 0$ .

For  $\theta$  in radians,  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1$ .

**Proof.** Suppose first that  $\theta$  is positive and less than  $\pi/2$ . Consider the picture:

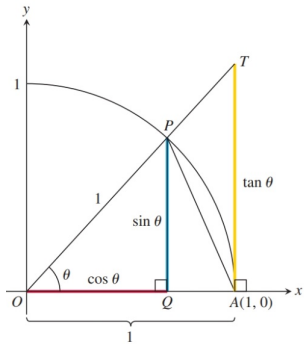


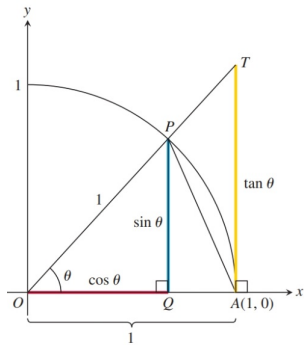
Figure 2.33

## Theorem 2.7

**Theorem 2.7. Limit of the Ratio  $(\sin \theta)/\theta$  as  $\theta \rightarrow 0$ .**

For  $\theta$  in radians,  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1$ .

**Proof.** Suppose first that  $\theta$  is positive and less than  $\pi/2$ . Consider the picture:



**Figure 2.33**

Notice that

Area  $\triangle OAP <$  area sector  $OAP <$  area  $\triangle OAT$ .

We can express these areas in terms of  $\theta$  as follows: Area  $\triangle OAP = \frac{1}{2}$  base  $\times$  height

$$= \frac{1}{2}(1)(\sin \theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sin \theta,$$

$$\text{Area sector } OAP = \frac{1}{2}r^2\theta = \frac{1}{2}(1)^2\theta = \frac{\theta}{2},$$

Area  $\triangle OAT = \frac{1}{2}$  base  $\times$  height

$$= \frac{1}{2}(1)(\tan \theta) = \frac{1}{2} \tan \theta.$$

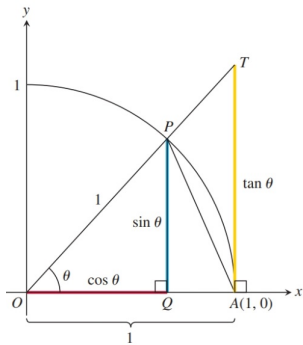
Thus,  $\frac{1}{2} \sin \theta < \frac{1}{2} \theta < \frac{1}{2} \tan \theta$ .

# Theorem 2.7

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Thus,  $\frac{1}{2} \sin \theta < \frac{1}{2} \theta < \frac{1}{2} \tan \theta$ .

## Theorem 2.7 (continued)

**Proof (continued).** Thus,  $\frac{1}{2} \sin \theta < \frac{1}{2} \theta < \frac{1}{2} \tan \theta$ . Dividing all three terms in this inequality by the positive number  $(1/2) \sin \theta$  gives:

$1 < \frac{\theta}{\sin \theta} < \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$ . Taking reciprocals reverses the inequalities:

$\cos \theta < \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} < 1$ . Since  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0^+} \cos \theta = 1$  by Example 2.2.11(b), the

Sandwich Theorem (applied to the one-sided limit) gives  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1$ .

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Since  $\sin \theta$  and  $\theta$  are both odd functions,  $f(\theta) = \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta}$  is an even function

and hence  $\frac{\sin(-\theta)}{-\theta} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta}$ .



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$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1$  by Theorem 2.6 (Relation Between One-Sided and Two-Sided Limits). □

## Theorem 2.7 (continued)

**Proof (continued).** Thus,  $\frac{1}{2} \sin \theta < \frac{1}{2} \theta < \frac{1}{2} \tan \theta$ . Dividing all three terms in this inequality by the positive number  $(1/2) \sin \theta$  gives:

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# Example 2.4.5(a)

**Example 2.4.5(a)** Show that  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} = 0$ .

**Solution.** We multiply by  $\frac{\cos h + 1}{\cos h + 1}$  to get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} \left( \frac{\cos h + 1}{\cos h + 1} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos^2 h - 1}{h(\cos h + 1)} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin^2 h}{h(\cos h + 1)} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin h}{h} \frac{\sin h}{\cos h + 1} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin h}{h} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin h}{\cos h + 1} \text{ by Theorem 2.1(4)} \\
 &\quad \text{(Product Rule)}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example 2.4.5(a)

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## Example 2.4.5(a) (continued)

**Example 2.4.5(a)** Show that  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} = 0$ .

**Solution (continued).**

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin h}{h} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin h}{\cos h + 1} \\
 &= (1) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin h}{\cos h + 1} \text{ by Theorem 2.7} \\
 &= \frac{\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \sin h}{\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \cos h + 1} \text{ by Theorem 2.1(5) (Quotient Rule)} \\
 &= \frac{\sin 0}{\cos 0 + 1} = \frac{0}{1 + 1} = 0 \text{ by Example 2.2.11.}
 \end{aligned}$$



# Exercise 2.4.28

**Exercise 2.4.28.** Evaluate  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{2t}{\tan t}$ .

**Solution.** We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{2t}{\tan t} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{2t}{(\sin t)/(\cos t)} \\
 &= 2 \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t \cos t}{\sin t} \text{ by Theorem 2.1(3) Constant Multiple Rule} \\
 &= 2 \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t}{\sin t} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \cos t \text{ by Theorem 2.1(4) (Product Rule)} \\
 &= 2 \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{(\sin t)/t} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \cos t \\
 &= 2 \frac{\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} 1}{\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (\sin t)/t} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \cos t \text{ by Theorem 2.1(5)} \\
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## Exercise 2.4.28 (continued)

**Exercise 2.4.28.** Evaluate  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{2t}{\tan t}$ .

**Solution (continued).**

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{2t}{\tan t} &= 2 \frac{\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} 1}{\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (\sin t)/t} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \cos t \\ &= 2 \frac{(1)}{(1)} \cos 0 \text{ by Example 2.3.3(b), Theorem 2.7,} \\ &\quad \text{and Example 2.2.11(a)(b)} \\ &= 2.\end{aligned}$$

□



## Exercise 2.4.52

**Exercise 2.4.52.** Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , find  $\delta > 0$  where  $I = (4 - \delta, 4)$  is such that if  $x$  lies in  $I$ , then  $\sqrt{4 - x} < \varepsilon$ . What limit is being verified and what is its value?

**Solution.** We let  $c = 4$  and  $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x}$ . We want  $x \in (c - \delta, c) = (4 - \delta, 4)$  to imply  $|f(x) - L| = |\sqrt{4 - x} - 0| = \sqrt{4 - x} < \varepsilon$ . So we take  $L = 0$ .

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This implies  $\sqrt{0} < \sqrt{4 - x} < \sqrt{\delta}$  since the square root function is an increasing function.

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This implies  $\sqrt{0} < \sqrt{4 - x} < \sqrt{\delta}$  since the square root function is an increasing function. Therefore we need  $\sqrt{\delta} \leq \varepsilon$ , or  $\delta \leq \varepsilon^2$ . In order to

keep  $I = (4 - \delta, 4)$  a subset of the domain of  $f$ , we take  $\delta = \min\{\varepsilon^2, 4\}$ .

## Exercise 2.4.52

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We have  $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x}$ ,  $c = 4$ , and  $L = 0$ . Since we consider  $x$  such that  $4 - \delta < x < 4$ , then we are considering a limit from the negative side as  $x$  approaches  $c = 4$ . So the limit being verified is  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} \sqrt{4 - x} = 0$ .  $\square$

## Exercise 2.4.52

**Exercise 2.4.52.** Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , find  $\delta > 0$  where  $I = (4 - \delta, 4)$  is such that if  $x$  lies in  $I$ , then  $\sqrt{4 - x} < \varepsilon$ . What limit is being verified and what is its value?

**Solution.** We let  $c = 4$  and  $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x}$ . We want

$x \in (c - \delta, c) = (4 - \delta, 4)$  to imply

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$x \in (4 - \delta, 4)$  means  $4 - \delta < x < 4$  or  $-\delta < x - 4 < 0$  or  $0 < 4 - x < \delta$ .

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