

Let $f(x, y) = \frac{6(x-1)^3(y-2)}{2(x-1)^4 + (y-2)^4}$. Consider $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y)$.

Remember: all paths we try must go through the point $(1, 2)$!

1. Find the limit as you approach the origin along the line $x = 1$.

$$\lim_{(1,y) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow 2} \frac{0}{(y-2)^4} = 0.$$

2. Find the limit as you approach the origin along the line $y = 2$.

$$\lim_{(x,2) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{0}{2(x-1)^4} = 0.$$

Let $f(x, y) = \frac{6(x-1)^3(y-2)}{2(x-1)^4 + (y-2)^4}$. Consider $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y)$.

Remember: all paths we try must go through the point (1, 2)!

3. Find the limit as you approach the origin along the line $y = x + 1$.
(Notice that the point (1, 2) lies on this line.)

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{(x,x+1) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{6(x-1)^3(x-1)}{2(x-1)^4 + (x-1)^4} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{6(x-1)^4}{3(x-1)^4} \\ &= 2.\end{aligned}$$

Let $f(x, y) = \frac{6(x-1)^3(y-2)}{2(x-1)^4 + (y-2)^4}$. Consider $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y)$.

Remember: all paths we try must go through the point (1, 2)!

4. Find the limit as you approach the origin along the line $y = m(x - 1) + 2$.
(Again, notice that the point (1, 2) lies on this line.)

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{(x, m(x-1)+2) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{6(x-1)^3(m(x-1))}{2(x-1)^4 + (m(x-1))^4} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{6m(x-1)^4}{(2+m^4)(x-1)^4} \\ &= \frac{6m}{2+m^4} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)^4}{(x-1)^4} \\ &= \frac{6}{2+m^4}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $f(x, y) = \frac{6(x-1)^3(y-2)}{2(x-1)^4 + (y-2)^4}$. Consider $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y)$.

5. What can you conclude about $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (1,2)} f(x, y)$?

If we approach $(1, 2)$ along some line through $(1, 2)$, what z -value we approach depends upon which line we're traveling along.

Since we approach different values along different paths, the limit does not exist.

(We could have concluded this after #3, but I wanted to demonstrate that the different limit along $y = x + 1$ wasn't a fluke; instead, getting the *same* limit along $x = 1$ and $y = 2$ was the fluke.)