

## How to write down right proofs exactly

Find the limit, if it exists, or show that the limit does not exist.

a)

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy^2}{x^2 + y^4}$$

*Proof that the limit does not exist*

If  $(x, y)$  approaches to  $(0, 0)$  along the curve  $x = y^2$ , the value of the function is constantly

$$\frac{y^2 y^2}{y^4 + y^4} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

However, if we send  $(x, y)$  to  $(0, 0)$  along the curve  $x = 2y^2$ , the value of the function is constantly

$$\frac{2y^2 y^2}{4y^4 + y^4} = \frac{2}{5}.$$

Hence, the value of  $f(x, y) = \frac{xy^2}{x^2 + y^4}$  depends on the way by which  $(x, y)$  approaches to  $(0, 0)$ . Therefore, it has no limit.

b)

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 y^2}{x^2 + y^2}$$

*Proof that the limit exists and is 0.*

Using the inequality

$$x^2 + y^2 \geq 2|xy|,$$

we get

$$0 \leq \left| \frac{x^2 y^2}{x^2 + y^2} \right| \leq \frac{x^2 y^2}{2|xy|} = \frac{1}{2}|xy|.$$

We know that  $\frac{1}{2}|xy|$  is continuous on the whole plane. Hence, taking  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)}$  on the inequality above, we get

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \left| \frac{x^2 y^2}{x^2 + y^2} \right| &\leq \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{1}{2}|xy| \\ &= \frac{1}{2}|0 \cdot 0| = 0 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 y^2}{x^2 + y^2} = 0.$$