

# Special Limits

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Where **e = 2.7 1828 1828 ...**

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$(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$	2.5937	2.70481	2.71692	2.71814	2.71826	$\rightarrow e$

Where **e = 2.7 1828 1828 ...**

This limit will give the same result:

$$e = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x$$

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- ▶ **e** is easy to remember to **9** decimal places because **1828** repeats twice:  **$e = 2.718281828$** . For this reason, do not use **2.7** to estimate **e**.

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- ▶ use the **e<sup>x</sup>** button on your calculator to find **e**. Use **1** for **x**.
- ▶ example: **F = Pe<sup>rt</sup>** is often used for calculating compound interest in business applications.

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Here are four useful limits:



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## Special Limits

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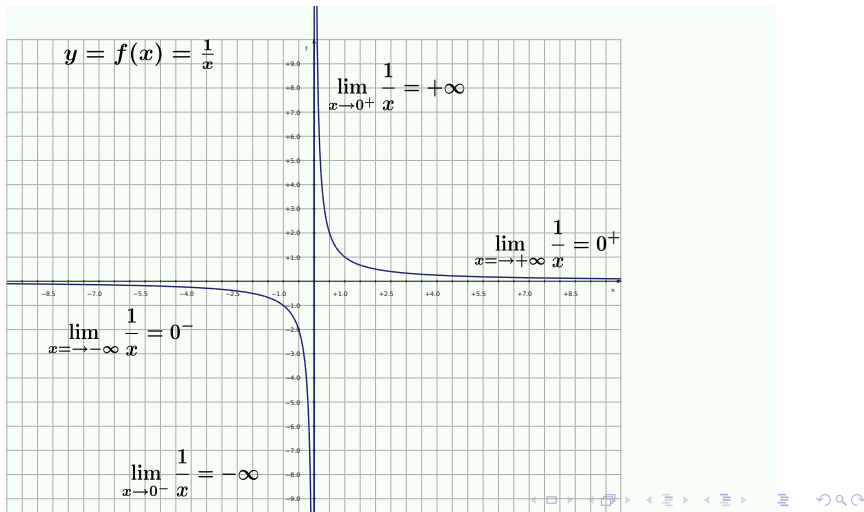
$$\frac{1}{+\text{small}} \rightarrow +\text{BIG}$$



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# Special Limits

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$



## Special Limits

$$\frac{1}{\text{BIG}} = \text{small}, \frac{1}{\text{small}} = \text{BIG}$$

Look at  $\frac{1}{x}$  using some numbers:

$x$	10	100	1000	10000	100000	$\rightarrow +\infty$
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	.1	.01	.001	.0001	.00001	$\rightarrow \mathbf{0^+}$

$x$	-10	-100	-1000	-10000	-100000	$\rightarrow -\infty$
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	-.1	-.01	-.001	-.0001	-.00001	$\rightarrow -\mathbf{0^+}$

$x$	.1	.01	.001	.0001	.00001	$\rightarrow \mathbf{+0}$
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	10	100	1000	10000	100000	$\rightarrow +\infty$

$x$	-.1	-.01	-.001	-.0001	-.00001	$\rightarrow -\mathbf{0}$
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	-10	-100	-1000	-10000	-100000	$\rightarrow -\infty$

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$x \rightarrow \pm\infty$  for Polynomials

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- ▶ when taking limits of polynomials to  $\pm\infty$  drop the lower degree terms and only keep the highest degree term of the polynomial.
- ▶ this is an intermediate step in taking the limit. Use algebra to simplify the expression at this step then continue to work on finding the limit to infinity.
- ▶ this works because for large values of  $x$  the highest power term of the polynomial is so much larger that all of the smaller degree terms that the smaller degree terms have no effect in the limit to infinity.

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examples of  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$  for Polynomials

$$\blacktriangleright \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2x^3 + 99x + 1000}{1 + 2x^2 + 4x^3}$$

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$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2x^4 + 99x + 1000}{1 + 2x^2 + 4x^6}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2x^4 + 99x + 1000}{1 + 2x^2 + 4x^6} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2x^4}{4x^6} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{4x^2} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{2x^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{+\infty} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0^+ = 0^+ = 0\end{aligned}$$

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