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$\lim _{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x}=0=\lim _{x \rightarrow-\infty} \frac{1}{x}$. Note that for a positive number $k$,

$$
\lim _{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^{k}}=0=\lim _{x \rightarrow-\infty} \frac{1}{x^{k}} .
$$

## Mathematical Definition

For $f(x)$ a real function, the limit of $f$ as $x$ approaches infinity is $L$, denoted

$$
\lim _{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)=L
$$

means that for all $\varepsilon>0$, there exists c such that $|f(x)-L|<\varepsilon$ whenever $x>c$. Similarly, the limit of $f$ as $x$ approaches negative infinity is $L$, denoted

$$
\lim _{x \rightarrow-\infty} f(x)=L
$$

means that for all $\varepsilon>0$ there exists $c$ such that $|f(x)-L|<\varepsilon$ whenever $x<c$. For example

$$
\lim _{x \rightarrow-\infty} e^{x}=0
$$



## An application: Finding the Area of a Circle

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Let $f(n)$ be the area of the $n$-gon inscribed in a circle of radius $r$. Then, Area of a circle with radius $r$ is $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n)=\pi r^{2}$

## Math Dance Moves

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## Infinite Limits

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$\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{+}} f(x)=\infty$ means that $f(x)$ can be made as large as we wish by taking $x$ sufficiently close but to the right of $c$. $\lim ^{+} f(x)=-\infty$ means that $f(x)$ can be made as small as we wish by taking $x$ sufficiently close but to the right of $c$.

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$\lim _{x)^{+}} f(x)=-\infty$ means that $f(x)$ can be made as small as we wish by $x \rightarrow c^{+}$ taking $x$ sufficiently close but to the right of $c$. $\lim _{x \rightarrow 0^{-}} f(x)=\infty$ means that $f(x)$ can be made as large as we wish by $x \rightarrow c^{-}$ taking $x$ sufficiently close but to the left of $c$.

## Infinite Limits

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$\lim _{x \rightarrow]^{-}} f(x)=\infty$ means that $f(x)$ can be made as large as we wish by $x \rightarrow c^{-}$ taking $x$ sufficiently close but to the left of $c$.
$\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{-}} f(x)=-\infty$ means that $f(x)$ can be made as small as we wish by taking $x$ sufficiently close but to the left of $c$.


## Vertical and Horizontal Asymptotes

## Definition

Line $x=c$ is a vertical asymptote of the graph of $y=f(x)$. If any of the following is satisfied:

- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{+}} f(x)=\infty$
- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{+}} f(x)=-\infty$
- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{-}} f(x)=\infty$
- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{-}} f(x)=-\infty$


## Vertical and Horizontal Asymptotes

## Definition

Line $x=c$ is a vertical asymptote of the graph of $y=f(x)$. If any of the following is satisfied:

- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{+}} f(x)=\infty$
- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{+}} f(x)=-\infty$
- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{-}} f(x)=\infty$
- $\lim _{x \rightarrow c^{-}} f(x)=-\infty$


## Definition

Line $y=b$ is a horizontal asymptote of the graph of $y=f(x)$. If any of the following is satisfied:

- $\lim _{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)=b$
- $\lim _{x \rightarrow-\infty} f(x)=b$

