

We want to find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x-5) \cdot \ln(x-1)}{(x-x^3) \cdot \sin(x-2)}$.

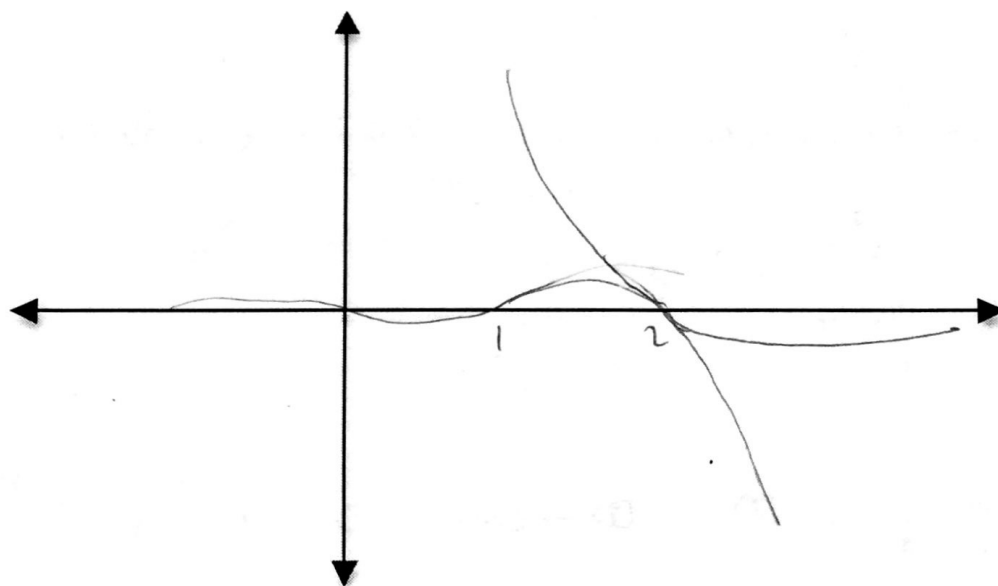
First, check to see what happens if we substitute $x = 2$ into the expression.

$$\frac{0}{0}$$

Estimate the limit on your calculator by substituting values of x near $x = 2$.

Obviously, some of our earlier algebraic techniques won't get us very far in this problem.

Let $f(x) = (x-5) \cdot \ln(x-1)$ and let $g(x) = (x-x^3) \cdot \sin(x-2)$. Plot both functions together.



Now zoom in around $x = 2$ so that both functions look (more or less) like straight lines.

Write the equation of the tangent line to f at $x = 2$.

$$f'(2) = -3 \rightarrow y - 0 = -3(x - 2)$$

Write the equation of the tangent line to g at $x = 2$.

$$g'(2) = -6 \quad y - 0 = -6(x - 2)$$

Since these linear functions are good approximations of f and g near $x = 2$, we may substitute

$$\text{Find } \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\text{tangent line to } f}{\text{tangent line to } g} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{-3(x-2)}{-6(x-2)} = \frac{1}{2}$$

assume $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \Rightarrow \frac{f'(a)}{g'(a)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}}{\frac{g(x) - g(a)}{x - a}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{g(x) - g(a)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$$

AP
stuff
occurrences
Handout on limits

graphs $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y = x \\ y = \ln x \end{array} \right.$

$$y = x \\ y = \ln(x)$$

$$\frac{0}{0}, \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

$$0 \cdot \infty, \infty - \infty, 0^0, \infty^0, 1^\infty$$