

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 \\
&= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [a_n x^n] + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [a_{n-1} x^{n-1}] + \dots + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [a_1 x] + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [a_0] \\
&= a_n \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [x^n] + a_{n-1} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [x^{n-1}] + \dots + a_1 \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [x] + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} a_0 \\
&= a_n (\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x)^n + a_{n-1} (\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x)^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 (\lim_{x \rightarrow a} x) + a_0 \\
&= a_n a^n + a_{n-1} a^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 a + a_0 = f(a)
\end{aligned}$$

Example Find the $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (2x^2 - 3x + 4)$.

We will use the same steps as we did in the proof of the above Corollary.

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} (2x^2 - 3x + 4) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 2x^2 - \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 3x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 4 \text{ by Law 1} \\
&= 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x^2 - 3 \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 4 \text{ by Law 2} \\
&= 2[\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x]^2 - 3 \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} x + \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} 4 \text{ by Law 5} \\
&= 2(5)^2 - 3(5) + 4 = 39
\end{aligned}$$

Example Find the $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^3 + 2x^2 - 1}{5 - 3x}$.

First note that $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} 5 - 3x = 5 - 3 \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} x = 11 \neq 0$. So we may use the Law 4 for quotients.

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^3 + 2x^2 - 1}{5 - 3x} &= \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} x^3 + 2x^2 - 1}{\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} 5 - 3x} \\
&= \frac{(-2)^3 + 2(-2)^2 - 1}{11} = \frac{-1}{11}
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem If f is a rational function and "a" is in the domain of f , then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$.

After the Example above the proof of this theorem should be clear. Let's see what happens if "a" is not in the domain of our rational function.