

Exercise 34

Find the limit or show that it does not exist.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1 + x^6}{x^4 + 1}$$

Solution

Make the substitution, $u = -x$, so that as $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $u \rightarrow \infty$. Then multiply the numerator and denominator by the reciprocal of the highest power of u in the denominator.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1 + x^6}{x^4 + 1} &= \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + (-u)^6}{(-u)^4 + 1} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + u^6}{u^4 + 1} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + u^6}{u^4 + 1} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{u^4}}{\frac{1}{u^4}} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(1 + u^6) \frac{1}{u^4}}{(u^4 + 1) \frac{1}{u^4}} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{u^4} + u^2}{1 + \frac{1}{u^4}} \\ &= \frac{\lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{u^4} + u^2 \right)}{\lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{u^4} \right)} \\ &= \frac{\lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{u^4} + \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} u^2}{\lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} 1 + \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{u^4}} \\ &= \frac{0 + \infty}{1 + 0} \\ &= \infty \end{aligned}$$