

Problem 1

Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - 1}{\sqrt{x} - 1}$.

Solution

Make the substitution, $x = u^6$. Note that as $x \rightarrow 1$, $u \rightarrow 1$ as well.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - 1}{\sqrt{x} - 1} &= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt[3]{u^6} - 1}{\sqrt{u^6} - 1} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{u^2 - 1}{|u^3| - 1}\end{aligned}$$

The absolute value sign may be removed because u^3 is a positive number as $u \rightarrow 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - 1}{\sqrt{x} - 1} &= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{u^2 - 1}{u^3 - 1} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{(u + 1)(u - 1)}{(u - 1)(u^2 + u + 1)} \\ &= \lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{u + 1}{u^2 + u + 1} \\ &= \frac{1 + 1}{1^2 + 1 + 1} \\ &= \frac{2}{3}\end{aligned}$$