

DEFINITION Rates of Growth as $x \rightarrow \infty$

Let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be positive for x sufficiently large.

1. f grows faster than g as $x \rightarrow \infty$ if

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

or, equivalently, if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g(x)}{f(x)} = 0.$$

We also say that g grows slower than f as $x \rightarrow \infty$.

2. f and g grow at the same rate as $x \rightarrow \infty$ if

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

where L is finite and positive.

$$\textcircled{6} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^2} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2x} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2} = \infty$$

e^x grows faster than x^2

$$\textcircled{7} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3^x}{2^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^x = \infty$$

3^x grows faster than 2^x

$$\textcircled{8} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{\ln x}$$

$$\textcircled{9} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x^{1/n}}$$