

Calculus I, Section 2.3, #26
Calculating Limits Using the Limit Laws

Evaluate the limit, if it exists.¹

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{t} - \frac{1}{t^2 + t} \right)$$

If we try direct substitution, we get fractions that are undefined. Let's do the algebra to rewrite the difference as a single fraction.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{t} - \frac{1}{t^2 + t} \right) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{t} - \frac{1}{t(t+1)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{t} \cdot \frac{t+1}{t+1} - \frac{1}{t(t+1)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{t+1}{t(t+1)} - \frac{1}{t(t+1)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{t+1-1}{t(t+1)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{t}{t(t+1)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t+1} \end{aligned}$$

and now we do direct substitution

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{(0+1)} \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{t} - \frac{1}{t^2 + t} \right) = 1$$

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 103, #26.