

For most functions  $f$  a proof of  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = L$  based on the definition in the notes should consist from the following steps.

- (1) Find  $X_0$  such that  $f(x)$  is defined for all  $x \geq X_0$ . Justify your choice.
- (2) Use algebra to simplify the expression  $|f(x) - L|$  with the assumption that  $x \geq X_0$ . Try to eliminate the absolute value.
- (3) Use the simplification from (2) to discover the BIN:

$$|f(x) - L| \leq b(x) \quad \text{valid for } x \geq X_0.$$

Here  $b(x)$  should be a simple function with the following properties:

- (a)  $b(x) > 0$  for all  $x \geq X_0$ .
- (b)  $b(x)$  is tiny for huge  $x$ .
- (c)  $b(x) < \epsilon$  is easily solvable for  $x$  for each  $\epsilon > 0$ . The solution should be of the form

$$x > \text{some expression involving } \epsilon.$$

- (4) Use the solution of  $b(x) < \epsilon$  and  $X_0$  to define  $X(\epsilon) = \max\left\{X_0, \text{the solution}\right\}$ .
- (5) Use the BIN to prove the implication  $x > X(\epsilon) \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .