

14.2, number 43: **Show that** $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4 - y^2}{x^4 + y^2}$ **does not exist.**

Answer: We compute

$$\lim_{\substack{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0) \\ \text{along } y=0}} \frac{x^4 - y^2}{x^4 + y^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4}{x^4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 1 = 1$$

and

$$\lim_{\substack{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0) \\ \text{along } y=x^2}} \frac{x^4 - y^2}{x^4 + y^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^4 - (x^2)^2}{x^4 + (x^2)^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{0}{2x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 0 = 0.$$

Two different approaches to $(0, 0)$ gave different values for $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4 - y^2}{x^4 + y^2}$.

We conclude that $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4 - y^2}{x^4 + y^2}$ does not exist.
