

Exercise.

(Easy)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3 - 2x}{2x^3 + x^2 - 3x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(x^2 - 2)}{x(2x^2 + x - 3)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 - 2}{2x^2 + x - 3} \stackrel{\text{cont.}}{=} \frac{0 - 2}{0 + 0 - 3} = \frac{2}{3}.$$

(Medium)

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} 2x(\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} 2x \left(\underbrace{|x|}_{=-x \text{ for negative } x} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + x \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} 2x^2 \left(-\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + 1 \right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} 2x^2 \left(-\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + 1 \right) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + 1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} 2x^2 \cdot \frac{-(1 + \frac{1}{x^2}) + 1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + 1} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} 2x^2 \cdot \frac{-\frac{1}{x^2}}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2}{\underbrace{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}} + 1}_{\rightarrow 1, \text{ by (1)}}} \stackrel{\text{AL}}{=} \frac{-2}{1 + 1} = -1. \end{aligned}$$

Ad (1). We used LCC with $g(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x^2}$ and $f(y) = \sqrt{y}$. Of course $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} g(x) \stackrel{\text{AL}}{=} 1$ and f is continuous at 1, therefore, $\lim_{y \rightarrow 1} f(y) = 1$.

(Hard)

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{+} + \sqrt{+}}{\sqrt{+} + \sqrt{+}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \frac{\frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1} - \left(\frac{1}{x} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1} \right)}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \frac{2\sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}}}. \end{aligned}$$

At this point, we should realize that close to zero (from the right) the most dominant terms are things like $\frac{1}{x}$ (and not 1 or x, \dots). So,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \frac{2\sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}}} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \frac{2\sqrt{\frac{1}{x}} \cdot \sqrt{1 + x}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{x}} \left[\sqrt{1 + x\sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} + \sqrt{1 - x\sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} \right]} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \frac{2\sqrt{1 + x}}{\sqrt{1 + \sqrt{x + x^2}} + \sqrt{1 - \sqrt{x + x^2}}} \stackrel{\text{cont.}}{=} \frac{2 \cdot \sqrt{1 + 0}}{\sqrt{1 + \sqrt{0 + 0}} + \sqrt{1 - \sqrt{0 + 0}}} = \frac{2}{2} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Alternative way. You basically use substitution $y = \frac{1}{x}$. We will get much more familiar expressions. But, you need to do that properly, i.e. use LCI. So,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{x} + 1}} &\stackrel{(1)}{=} \lim_{y = \frac{1}{x}} \lim_{y \rightarrow +\infty} \sqrt{y + \sqrt{y + 1}} - \sqrt{y - \sqrt{y + 1}} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{y + \sqrt{y + 1} - (y - \sqrt{y + 1})}{\sqrt{y + \sqrt{y + 1}} + \sqrt{y - \sqrt{y + 1}}} = \lim_{y \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2\sqrt{y} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{y}}}{\sqrt{y} \left[\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{y}\sqrt{y + 1}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{y}\sqrt{y + 1}} \right]} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{y}}}{\sqrt{1 + \sqrt{\frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{y^2}}} + \sqrt{1 - \sqrt{\frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{y^2}}}} \stackrel{\text{AL}}{=} \frac{2}{1 + 1} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

We also need to explain that all square roots go indeed to 1. We need LCC, similarly as in the previous example. Add (1). Let $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ and $f(y) = \sqrt{y + \sqrt{y + 1}} - \sqrt{y - \sqrt{y + 1}}$. Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} g(x) = +\infty$ (it is important that the limit is just from the right!) and we just computed that $\lim_{y \rightarrow +\infty} f(y) = 1$. Condition (I) holds trivially, and LCI gives us that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0_+} f(g(x)) = 1$.