

Example Compute

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^3 + y^3}{x^2 + y^2}$$

or show it does not exist.

Solution: Maybe start by trying along  $y=mx$

for some fixed  $m$ :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3 + m^3 x^3}{x^2 + m^2 x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \frac{1+m^3}{1+m^2} = 0$$

This does not imply the limit is 0 (but it suggests that it might be the case).

$x^2 + y^2$  in denom suggests polar:

$$\lim_{\substack{r \rightarrow 0^+ \\ \theta \text{ any}}} \frac{(r \cos \theta)^3 + (r \sin \theta)^3}{r^2}$$

$$= \lim_{\substack{r \rightarrow 0^+ \\ \theta \text{ any}}} r \underbrace{(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta)}_{\text{this is between } -2 \text{ and } 2}$$

$$-2r \leq r(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) \leq 2r$$

↑ these → 0 ↑

So by Squeeze then we have

$$\lim_{\substack{r \rightarrow 0^+ \\ \theta \text{ any}}} r(\cos^3 \theta + \sin^3 \theta) = 0.$$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^7 y^6 + x^3 + y^3 + x^2 y^2 + y^4}{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$= 0$$

Same strategy works. Key point:

$$\frac{r^{13} \cos^7 \theta \sin^6 \theta}{r^2}$$

Squeeze...  $\longrightarrow 0$ .