

1. (5 points) Using the  $\varepsilon, \delta$  method, show that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x - 3} = 7.$$

**Solution:** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We seek a  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $0 < |x - 3| < \delta$ , then

$$\left| \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x - 3} - 7 \right| < \varepsilon.$$

To do this, we note that the numerator factors as  $(2x + 1)(x - 3)$ , so for  $x \neq 3$  we have

$$\left| \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x - 3} - 7 \right| = |2x + 1 - 7| = |2x - 6| = 2|x - 3|.$$

Now since we wish for this to be less than  $\varepsilon$  when  $|x - 3| < \delta$ , it suggests that we should take  $\delta = \varepsilon/2$ .

We now show that this  $\delta$  “works”. If  $0 < |x - 3| < \delta = \varepsilon/2$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon &> 2|x - 3| \\ &= |2(x - 3)| \\ &= |2x - 6| \\ &= |2x + 1 - 7| \\ &= \left| \frac{(2x + 1)(x - 3)}{x - 3} - 7 \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x - 3} - 7 \right|. \end{aligned}$$

This is what we desired, and therefore the proof is complete.