

$$\begin{aligned}
 57. \quad & \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} \frac{|x - a|}{x^2 - a^2} \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} \frac{|x - a|}{(x - a)(x + a)} = -\frac{1}{2a} \quad (a \neq 0)
 \end{aligned}$$