

Section 4.4: L'Hospital's Rule

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 11:46 AM

Goal: To evaluate limits using L'Hospital's Rule

Warm-up: Find ① $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^2-1}{2x^2+1}$ and ② $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{2x^2-2}{x+1}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(3x^2-1) \frac{1}{x^2}}{(2x^2+1) \frac{1}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{3x^2}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x^2}}{\frac{2x^2}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x^2}} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6x}{4x} = \frac{3}{2}$$

L'Hospital's Rule (II)

Let f and g be differentiable and $g'(x) \neq 0$ near a (except maybe at a). Also let

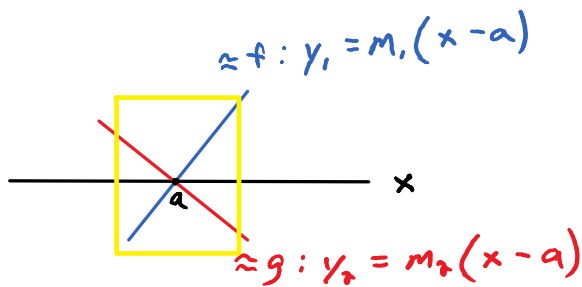
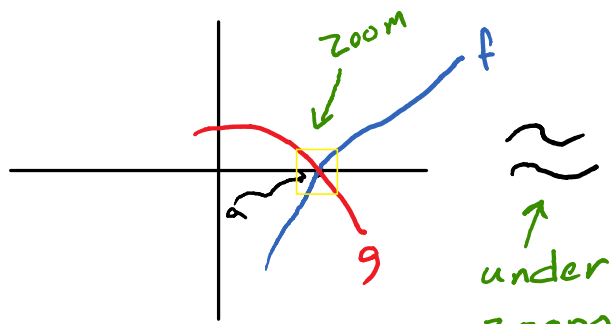
$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = 0$ (or $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \pm\infty$)

and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = \pm\infty$. Then ...

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

Assuming the right hand limit exists or is $\pm\infty$.

$\frac{0}{0}$
 $\frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}$
↑
indeterminate forms



| / \dot{g} under zoom

$$\approx g: y_2 = m_2(x-a)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \approx \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{y_1}{y_2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{m_1}{m_2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{y_1'}{y_2'}$$
$$\approx \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

(ex) Evaluate

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{2x} - 1}{x}$ $\frac{0}{0} \checkmark$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2e^{2x}}{1} = 2$$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x}$ $\frac{\infty}{\infty} \checkmark$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$$

Note: Other indeterminate forms include

$$0 \cdot \infty, 1^\infty, \infty^0, 0^0 \text{ and } \infty - \infty$$

H doesn't apply directly

(ex) Evaluate

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{-x} \sqrt{x}$

$0 \cdot \infty$ H doesn't work

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{x}}{e^x} \quad \frac{\infty}{\infty} \checkmark \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}}{e^x} \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x} e^x} = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin x)^x$ 0^0 \downarrow No H

Set $y = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin x)^x$

$$\ln y = \ln \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin x)^x \right]$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln(\sin x)^x$$

fctns are continuous

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln(\sin x) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln(\sin x)}{\frac{1}{x}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$0 \cdot (-\infty)$ No H
 limit must be one-sided for this to be true
 $\frac{-\infty}{\infty} \checkmark$

$$\stackrel{H}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{\sin x} \cdot \cos x}{-\frac{1}{x^2}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\cot x}{-\frac{1}{x^2}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left(- \frac{x^2}{\tan x} \right) \quad \frac{0}{0} \checkmark$$

$$\stackrel{H}{=} - \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2x}{\sec^2 x} \quad (H \text{ again!})$$

$$= - \frac{0}{1}$$

$$\ln y = 0$$

$$\log_e y = 0$$

$$y = e^0 = 1$$

$$\text{So } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin x)^x = 1$$

Extra Example (Not done in class)

$$c) \lim_{\left(x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}\right)^-} (\sec x - \tan x)$$

$\infty - \infty$ ^{No} H

$$= \lim_{\left(x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}\right)^-} \left(\frac{1}{\cos x} - \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \left(\frac{1 - \sin x}{\cos x} \right) \quad \frac{0}{0} \checkmark$$

$$= \lim_{\left(x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}\right)^-} \left(\frac{1 - \sin x}{\cos x} \right) \quad \frac{0}{0} \checkmark$$

$$= \lim_{\left(x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}\right)^-} \left(\frac{-\cos x}{-\sin x} \right) = \frac{0}{-1} = \textcircled{0}$$