

Section 10: L'Hopital's Rule

Theorem 1: (L'Hopital's Rule) Suppose f and g are functions that are differentiable on the interval (a, b) except possibly at a point $c \in (a, b)$ and that $g'(x) \neq 0$ on (a, b) except possibly at $x = c$. If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = 0$, then

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

provided the limit on the right-hand side exists.

Example 1: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$

Example 2: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x^2}$

Example 3: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{x + 1}{x^2 + 4x + 3}$

Example 4: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln x}{x^2}$

Example 5: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3}{x - \tan x}$

Example 6: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\ln(x+1)}$

Example 7: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1 - x}{x^2}$

Theorem: (L'Hopital's Rule - Version 2)

Suppose f and g are differentiable on the interval (a, b) except possibly at a point $c \in (a, b)$ and that $g'(x) \neq 0$ on (a, b) except possibly at $x = c$. If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ is of the

form $\frac{0}{0}$ or $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ and that $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = L$ (or $\pm\infty$). Then,

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

Example 8: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan x - x}{x^3}$

Example 9: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{\sin x}$

Example 10: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{e^x}$

Example 11: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\csc x}$

Remark: Some limits of the form $\infty - \infty$, 0^0 , $0 \cdot \infty$, ∞^0 , and 1^∞ can be manipulated into one of the indeterminate forms $\frac{0}{0}$ or $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ and then L'Hopital's Rule can be used to evaluate the limit.

Example 12: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^x$

Example 13: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{1}{\ln(x+1)} - \frac{1}{x} \right]$

Example 14: Using L'Hopital's Rule

Use L'Hopital's Rule to evaluate the limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin x)^x$