

## SECTION 4.8 L'HÔPITAL'S RULE

1. L'Hôpital's Rule says:

If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \begin{matrix} \nearrow 0 \\ \searrow \infty/\infty \end{matrix}$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}, \text{ provided the second limit exists or is } \pm\infty.$$

2. Example 0/0.

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 - 2x} \stackrel{\text{Ⓜ}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{2x}{2x - 2} = \frac{2 \cdot 2}{2 \cdot 2 - 2} = \frac{4}{2} = 2$

*plug in*  $\rightarrow = \frac{2^2 - 4}{2^2 - 4} = \frac{0}{0}$  *form 0/0*

*\* Could have worked this by factoring!*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(x-2)(x+2)}{x(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x+2}{x} = \frac{2+2}{2} = 2$$

*you:* (b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(4x)}{3e^{3x} - 3} \stackrel{\text{Ⓜ}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{4\cos(4x)}{9e^{3x}} = \frac{4\cos(0)}{9e^0} = \frac{4 \cdot 1}{9 \cdot 1} = \frac{4}{9}$

*form 0/0*

3. Example  $\infty/\infty$ .

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{\sqrt{x}} \stackrel{\text{Ⓜ}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\sqrt{x}}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} = 0$

*form  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$*

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e^x + 1}{1 - 3e^x} \stackrel{\text{Ⓜ}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e^x}{-3e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2}{3} = -\frac{2}{3}$

*form  $\frac{\infty}{-\infty}$*

4. Example  $0 \cdot \infty$ .

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{x}\right)$    
 $\frac{\pi}{x} \rightarrow 0, \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{x}\right) \rightarrow 0$    
 $x \rightarrow \infty$    
 form  $\infty \cdot 0$

rewrite as  $\frac{0}{0}$    
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin(\pi x^{-1})}{x^{-1}} \stackrel{(4)}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\cos(\pi x^{-1}) \cdot (-\pi x^{-2})}{-x^{-2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \pi \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{x}\right)$    
 cancel   
 $= \pi \cos(0) = \pi$

\* use  $x = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x}}$

or  $x = x^1 = x^{(-1)(-1)} = (x^{-1})^{-1}$

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln(x)$    
 form  $0 \cdot (-\infty)$    
 rewrite   
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln(x)}{x^{-1}} \stackrel{(4)}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{-x^{-2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-x^2}{x}$    
 form  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$    
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} -x = -0 = 0$

5. Example  $1^\infty$  or  $0^0$  or  $\infty^0$

(a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (1+x)^{1/x} = e^1 = e$    
 $1^\infty$

change problem:

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x} \ln(1+x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} \stackrel{(4)}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{1+x}}{1} = \frac{1}{1+0} = 1$    
 form  $\frac{0}{0}$

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^{\sin(x)} = e^0 = 1$    
 $0^0$

change problem

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sin(x) \cdot \ln(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln(x)}{(\sin(x))^{-1}} \stackrel{(4)}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{-\sin(x)^{-2} \cos(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-\sin^2 x}{x \cos(x)}$    
 form  $0 \cdot (-\infty)$    
 form  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$    
 $\stackrel{(4)}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-2 \sin(x) \cos(x)}{x(-\sin(x)) + 1 \cdot \cos(x)} = \frac{-2 \cdot 0 \cdot 1}{0(0) + 1 \cdot 1} = \frac{0}{1} = 0$