

November 11

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1. Evaluate the following limits

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow e} \frac{\ln x - 1}{x - e}$

SOLUTION: If we were to plug in e we see that this takes the form $\frac{0}{0}$, therefore we may use L'Hôpital's Rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow e} \frac{\ln x - 1}{x - e} = \lim_{x \rightarrow e} \frac{1/x}{1} = \frac{1}{e}$$

(b) $\lim_{u \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{\tan u - \cot u}{u - \pi/4}$

SOLUTION: If we were to plug in $\pi/4$ we would get the form $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, so we may use L'Hôpital's Rule

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{\tan u - \cot u}{u - \pi/4} = \lim_{u \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{\sec^2 u + \csc^2 u}{1} = 4$$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^4 - x^2}{6x^4 + 12}$

SOLUTION: If we were to "plug in" ∞ , we would get the form $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, so we may use L'Hôpital's Rule

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^4 - x^2}{6x^4 + 12} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{12x^3 - 2x}{24x^3} && \text{use L'Hôpital's Rule} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{36x^2 - 2}{72x^2} && \text{use L'Hôpital's Rule again} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{72x}{144x} && \text{use L'Hôpital's Rule again} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{2 \tan x}{\sec^2 x}$

SOLUTION: If we were to plug in $\pi/2$ we would have the form $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, so we may use L'Hôpital's Rule.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{2 \tan x}{\sec^2 x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{2 \sec^2 x}{2 \sec x (\sec x \tan x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{1}{\tan x} = 0$$

(e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \csc x$

SOLUTION: If we plug 0 in, we get the form $0 \cdot \infty$, so we must first recast this as a fraction. We could use either of these facts:

$$x = \frac{1}{1/x} \quad (\text{if } x \neq 0), \quad \text{or} \quad \csc x = \frac{1}{\sin x}$$

We would prefer to keep x in the numerator, because its derivative is simply 1, whereas the derivative of $1/x$ in the denominator is $-1/x^2$. So let's use the second substitution.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \csc x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin x}$$

Now we may use L'Hôpital's Rule.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\cos x} = 1$$

(f) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}$

SOLUTION: If we “plug in” ∞ we have the form $\infty - \infty$, we must first factor out something to try to put it in the form of $\infty \cdot 0$. If we factor out x^2 from the expression under the square root we get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x - x\sqrt{1 - 1/x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x(1 - \sqrt{1 - 1/x^2})$$

If we make a substitution that $t = \frac{1}{x}$, and we note

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

So the original limit becomes

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x(1 - \sqrt{1 - 1/x^2}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - t^2}}{t}$$

which is of the form $\frac{0}{0}$, so we may use L'Hôpital's Rule.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - t^2}}{t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{2}(1 - t^2)^{-1/2}(-2t) = 0$$

(g) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^{2x}$

SOLUTION: To handle limits of the form $f(x)^{g(x)}$, we first find L , the limit of the logarithm.

$$L = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} 2x \ln x$$

We can write $x = \frac{1}{1/x}$ to recast this as a fraction.

$$L = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} 2x \ln x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{1/x}$$

This is of the form $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, so we may use L'Hôpital's Rule.

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

Since $L = 0$, the original limit is $e^L = 1$.

(h) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + 4x)^{3/x}$

SOLUTION: Again we must take the limit of the log and find L .

$$L = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3 \ln(1 + 4x)}{x}$$

Which is of the form $\frac{0}{0}$, so we may use L'Hôpital's Rule.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3 \ln(1 + 4x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{12}{1 + 4x} = 12$$

The the original limit is e^{12} .

(i) $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} (\tan \theta)^{\cos \theta}$

SOLUTION: Again we must take the limit of the log.

$$L = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} \cos \theta \ln(\tan \theta)$$

This takes the form of $0 \cdot \infty$, we we recast it as a fraction.

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} \cos \theta \ln(\tan \theta) = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} \frac{\ln(\tan \theta)}{\sec \theta}$$

This takes the form $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, so we may use L'Hôpital's Rule.

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} \frac{\ln(\tan \theta)}{\sec \theta} = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} \frac{\sec^2 \theta}{\tan \theta \cdot \sec \theta \tan \theta} = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} \frac{\sec \theta}{\tan^2 \theta} = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2^-} \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} = 0$$

So the original limit is $e^0 = 1$

2. Compare the growth rates of the following functions

(a) $x^{10}; e^{0.01x}$

SOLUTION: To compare the growth rates, we evaluate the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^{10}}{e^{0.01x}}$$

By applying L'Hôpital's Rule 10 times we finally get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^{10}}{e^{0.01x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{10!}{(0.01)^{10} e^{0.01x}} = 0$$

So the exponential function has a greater growth rate.

(b) $\ln \sqrt{x}; \ln^2 x$

SOLUTION: To compare growth rates, we evaluate the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \sqrt{x}}{\ln^2 x}$$

Before using L'Hôpital's Rule, let's use log properties to re-write the numerator

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \sqrt{x}}{\ln^2 x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln x}{\ln x \cdot \ln x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2 \ln x} = 0$$

So $\ln^2 x$ has a greater growth rate.

3. Evaluate this limit, which appeared in L'Hôpital's book.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\sqrt{2a^3x - x^4} - a\sqrt[3]{a^2x}}{a - \sqrt[4]{ax^3}}$$

SOLUTION: If we plug in a , we get the form $\frac{0}{0}$, so we apply the rule.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\sqrt{2a^3x - x^4} - a\sqrt[3]{a^2x}}{a - \sqrt[4]{ax^3}} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\frac{1}{2}(2a^3x - x^4)^{-1/2}(2a^3 - 4x^3) - \frac{a}{3}(a^2x)^{-2/3}(a^2)}{-\frac{1}{4}(ax^3)^{-3/4}(3ax^2)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}(2a^4 - a^4)^{-1/2}(2a^3 - 4a^3) - \frac{a^3}{3}(a^3)^{-2/3}}{-\frac{1}{4}(a^4)^{-3/4}(3a^3)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}(a^{-2}(-2a^3)) - \frac{a^3}{3}a^{-2}}{-\frac{1}{4}a^{-3}(3a^3)} \\ &= \frac{-a^{-6} - \frac{a^{-6}}{3}}{-\frac{3}{4}} \\ &= \frac{-\frac{4}{3}a^{-6}}{-\frac{3}{4}} \\ &= \frac{16}{9a^6} \end{aligned}$$

4. Consider the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{ax+b}}{\sqrt{cx+d}}$$

where a, b, c, d are all positive real numbers. What happens when L'Hôpital's rule is used? How else can the limit be found?

SOLUTION: When L'Hôpital's rule is used, we just get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{cx+d}}{\sqrt{ax+b}}$$

Which is basically where we started. But we forgot that this may be written

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{ax+b}}{\sqrt{cx+d}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{ax+b}{cx+d}} = \sqrt{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ax+b}{cx+d}} = \sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}$$

5. Find all antiderivatives

(a) $g(x) = 11x^{10}$

SOLUTION: $G(x) = x^{11}$

(b) $f(x) = -4 \cos(4x)$

SOLUTION: $F(x) = -\sin(4x)$

(c) $f(y) = \frac{-2}{y^3}$

SOLUTION: $F(y) = \frac{1}{y^2}$

6. Solve the indefinite integrals

(a) $\int (3x^5 - 5x^9) dx$

SOLUTION: $\int (3x^5 - 5x^9) dx = \frac{3}{6}x^6 - \frac{5}{10}x^{10} + C$

(b) $\int (\sec^2 - 1) dx$

SOLUTION: $\int (\sec^2 - 1) dx = \tan x - x + C$

(c) $\int \frac{3}{4+x^2} dx$

SOLUTION: We recognize the pattern of \tan^{-1} , but it's not quite right. First we should factor out $\frac{3}{4}$

$$\int \frac{3}{4+x^2} dx = \frac{3}{4} \int \frac{1}{1+x^2/4} dx$$

Now we can make a substitution, letting $u = x/2$, so $du = dx/2$ which means $dx = 2du$

$$\frac{3}{4} \int \frac{1}{1+x^2/4} dx = \frac{3}{4} \int \frac{2}{1+u^2} du = \frac{3}{2} \tan^{-1} u + C = \frac{3}{2} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) + C$$

7. Solve for the antiderivative using the initial conditions

(a) $f(t) = \sec^2 t, F(\pi/4) = 1$

SOLUTION: $F(t) = \tan t + C$, so plugging in $\pi/4$ we have $1 = 1 + C$, so $C = 0$. The final answer is $F(t) = \tan t$.

(b) $g'(x) = 7x(x^6 - \frac{1}{7}), g(1) = 24$

SOLUTION: Rewrite $g'(x) = 7x^7 - x$. So $g(x) = \frac{7}{8}x^8 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + C$. Plugging in 1 we have $24 = \frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{2} + C$ so $C = 23.625$. Finally the answer is $g(x) = \frac{7}{8}x^8 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 23.625$

(c) $F''(x) = \cos x, F'(0) = 3, F(\pi) = 4$

SOLUTION: $F'(x) = \sin x + C$, and plugging in 0 we get $3 = C$. So we have $F'(x) = \sin x + 3$. Then $F(x) = -\cos x + 3x + K$, (so we aren't reusing letters). Using the initial condition, we get $4 = 1 + 3\pi + K$, so $K = 3 - 3\pi$. Thus $F(x) = -\cos x + 3x + 3 - 3\pi$.