

# L'Hôpital's rule

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In problems 1-6:

- (a) Write the indeterminate form you get when you try to evaluate the limit by substitution. It must be  $0/0$  or  $\pm\infty/\infty$  in order to use L'Hôpital's rule.
- (b) Use L'Hôpital's rule to evaluate the limit.

Note: you may need to apply L'Hôpital's rule multiple times in order to convert the limit into a form that is easy to evaluate. You must check *each time* that it is one of the two allowable indeterminate forms.

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

4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan 4x}{\tan 7x}$

2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x^3-2x^2+6}{\pi x^3+4}$

5.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1-\cos 3x}{x^2}$

3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{2 \tan x}{\sec^2 x}$

6.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^n-1}{x-1}$  ( $n$  is a positive integer)

7. Evaluate the following limit:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} (1-x) \tan \left( \frac{\pi x}{2} \right).$$

Hint: rewrite the *product* as a *quotient* and apply L'Hôpital's rule. Make sure you verify that you have one of the two acceptable indeterminate forms before applying the rule.

8. Evaluate:

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

Hint: write as  $\frac{x - \sqrt{x^2 + 1}}{1}$  and rationalize the numerator.

9. Evaluate:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left( \cot x - \frac{1}{x} \right).$$

Hint: write  $\cot x$  as  $\cos x / \sin x$ , then find the common denominator with  $1/x$  and write as a single fraction.

10. Let  $f(x) = x^{2x}$ . We will evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$ .

(a) Let  $g(x) = \ln f(x)$ .

(b) Rewrite  $g(x)$  as a quotient and use L'Hôpital's rule to evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} g(x)$ .

(c) Since  $e^x$  is a continuous function,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} e^{g(x)} = e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} g(x)}.$$

Use this fact to evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$ .

11. We say that  $g(x)$  *grows faster than*  $f(x)$  if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = 0.$$

Use L'Hôpital's rule to show that  $1.000001^x$  grows faster than  $x^{10000}$ . Why do you think people use the term “exponential” to refer to quantities that grow very rapidly?