

# §1.6 L'Hospital's Rule

## Limits

Most limits are easy

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{e^x - \ln(x^2)}{x^3 + \sqrt[3]{x+7}} = \frac{e - \ln(1)}{1 + \sqrt[3]{8}}$$

Just plug in

$$= \frac{e}{3}$$

(continuous)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - 1 \rightarrow 0}{x - 1 \rightarrow 0} \neq \frac{0}{0}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1)(x+1)}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x+1 = 2.$$

## Indeterminate forms

$$\frac{0}{0}, \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

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None of these are valid answers to anything

# Indeterminate forms

$$\frac{0}{0}, \frac{\infty}{\infty}, \infty \pm \infty, 0 \cdot \infty$$

$$1^\infty, 0^0, \infty^0$$

Not #'s, but not indeterminate

~~$$\frac{\infty}{0} = \infty$$~~

$$0^\infty = 0$$

~~$$\frac{1}{0} = \infty$$~~

$$2^\infty = \infty$$

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None of these are valid  
answers to anything

$$e = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (1+h)^{1/h}$$

must do  
more work  
before you  
plug in

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don't give as answers  
but they tell you  
what lim is

No indet form: easy

indet form: maybe hard

Few calc tools

work on transcendental fns

- factoring
- conjugate

What does trans fns?

- Small  $<$  approx

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

- Squeeze Thm

Thm (L'Hospital's Rule)

Suppose  $f, g$  are diff'able

$g'(x) \neq 0$  near  $a$   
(maybe at  $a$ )

not  
important

Suppose either

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = 0$$

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

Very  
important

Then

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

if Right-Hand side exists.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \begin{matrix} \nearrow 5 \\ \searrow 3 \end{matrix} = \frac{5}{3} \text{ easy}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \begin{matrix} \nearrow 0 \\ \searrow 3 \end{matrix} = 0 \text{ easy}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \begin{matrix} \nearrow 3 \\ \searrow 0 \end{matrix} = \pm \infty \text{ medium}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \begin{matrix} \nearrow 0 \\ \searrow 0 \end{matrix} \text{ maybe hard } \text{indet form} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{L'H} \\ \text{L'H} \end{matrix}$$

Sketch of pf/

assume  $f(a) = g(a) = 0$

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)$$

$$g(x) \approx g(a) + g'(a)(x-a)$$

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \approx \frac{f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)}{g(a) + g'(a)(x-a)}$$

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

Sketch of  $f/g$

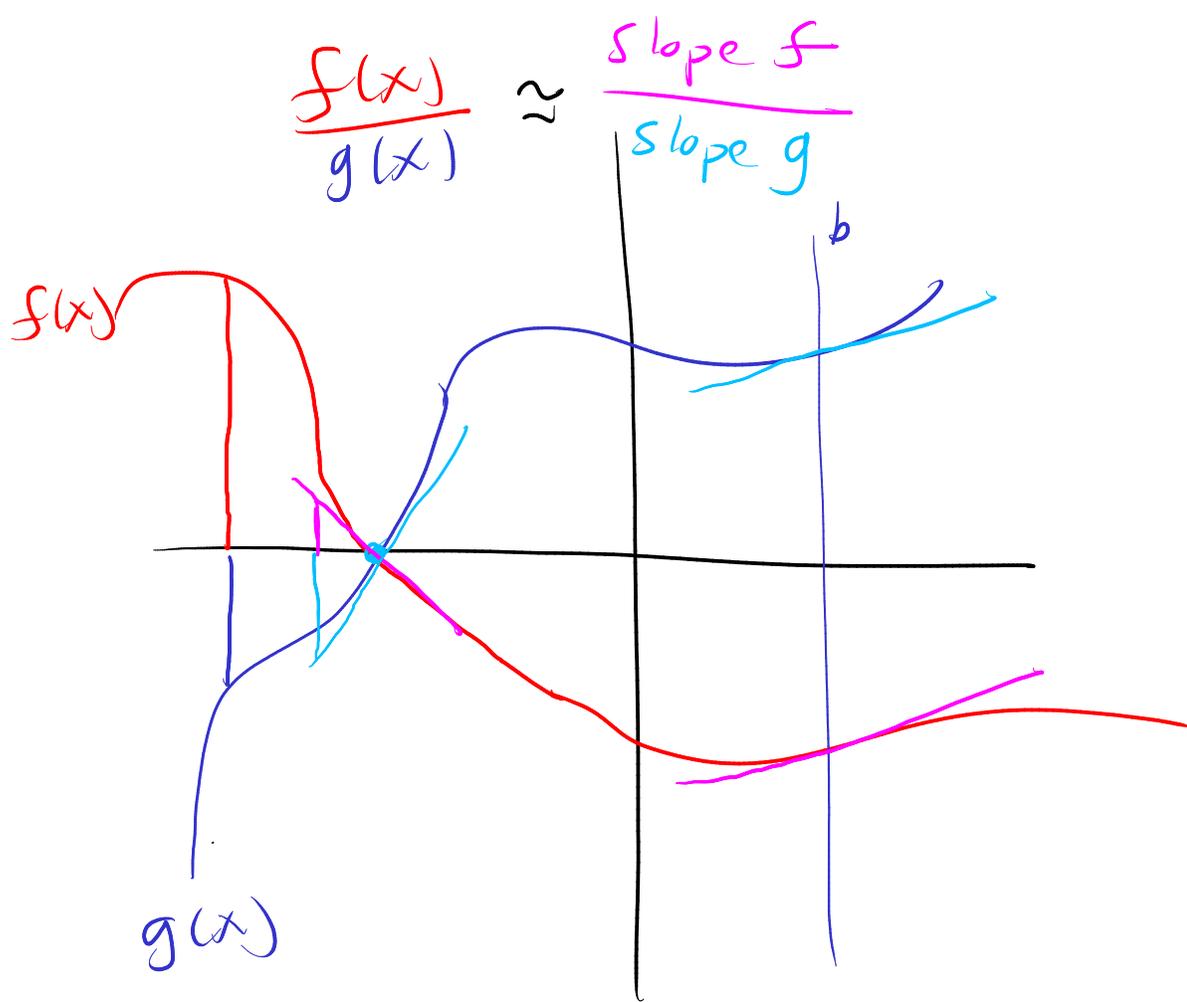
assume  $f(a) = g(a) = 0$

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)$$

$$g(x) \approx g(a) + g'(a)(x-a)$$

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \approx \frac{f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)}{g(a) + g'(a)(x-a)}$$

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



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 4x + 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} \xrightarrow{0/0} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2x - 4}{2x - 2} \xrightarrow{2/4} = \frac{2}{4}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{\sin(x)} \xrightarrow{0/0} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} \xrightarrow{0/1} = \frac{0}{1} = 0$$

Cancel!  $\cdot \frac{1 + \cos(x)}{1 + \cos(x)}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln(x)}{x-1} \xrightarrow{0/0} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1/x}{1} \xrightarrow{1/1} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$$

No quotient  
Rule!

Show you  
checked that  
L'H applies

Don't write  
 ~~$= 0/0$~~

$$\bullet \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1 - x}{x^2} \xrightarrow{0/0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1}{2x} \xrightarrow{0/0} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

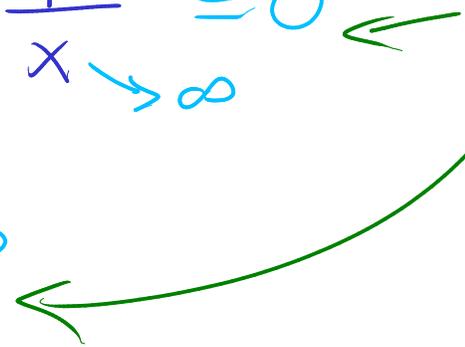
Can also use for  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$

$$\bullet \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x^2 + 5x + 3}{x^2 + 7x - 2} \xrightarrow{\infty/\infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2x + 5}{2x + 7} \xrightarrow{\infty/\infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{2} = 1$$

$$\bullet \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x} \xrightarrow{\infty/\infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1/x}{1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$$

$$\bullet \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{e^x}{x} \xrightarrow{\infty/\infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{e^x}{1} = +\infty$$

Important  
for CS



Warning examples

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

~~$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\cos(x) \rightarrow -1}{\sin(x) \rightarrow 0} = \pm \infty$$~~

$\frac{-1}{\text{small \#}} = \text{big \#}$   
(maybe negative)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1 - x \rightarrow 0}{x^3 \rightarrow 0}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1 \rightarrow 0}{3x^2 \rightarrow 0}$$

~~$$\stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x \rightarrow 1}{6x \rightarrow 0} \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$$~~

WRONG

Bonus:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x \rightarrow \infty}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} \rightarrow \infty}$

$= \pm \infty$

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

Can solve it calc!  
L'H does not help!

how to handle other IFS?

Rewrite as  $\frac{f}{g}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x^{1/(1-x)} = e^{-1} = 1/e$$

$\downarrow \infty$

$$y = x^{\frac{1}{1-x}}$$

$$\ln|y| = \ln|x^{\frac{1}{1-x}}| = \frac{1}{1-x} \ln|x|$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln|x| \rightarrow 0}{1-x \rightarrow 0} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1/x}{-1} = -1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \ln|y| = -1 \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} y = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} e^{\ln|y|} = e^{-1}$$

