

L'Hôpital's Rule

1/31

ES: what is L'Hôpital's Rule? How do we apply it?

what is the rule?

If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{0}{0}$ then, *indeterminate*

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

Other Indeterminate Forms

$\frac{0}{0}$	$\frac{\infty}{\infty}$	$\frac{-\infty}{-\infty}$
$\frac{-\infty}{\infty}$	$\frac{\infty}{-\infty}$	

Find the limit

(ex1)

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

Step 1
Always plug in c first to test.
And separate the functions

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} (2x^2 - 2) \\ = 2(-1)^2 - 2 \\ = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} (x + 1) \\ = (-1) + 1 \\ = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Step 2 since we have an indeterminate form $\frac{0}{0}$ we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{2x^2 - 2}{x + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{4x}{1} = \frac{4(-1)}{1} = \boxed{-4}$$

(ex2)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^2 - 1}{2x^2 + 1}$$

Step 1 check

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (3x^2 - 1) &= 3(\infty)^2 - 1 \\ &= \infty \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (2x^2 + 1) &= 2(\infty)^2 + 1 \\ &= \infty \end{aligned}$$

Step 2 since $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ is an indeterminate, we can apply

L'Hôpital's Rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^2 - 1}{2x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6x}{4x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{4} = \boxed{\frac{3}{2}}$$

ES: Does L'Hôpital's Rule always give us a limit?

(ex) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^2 + 5x}{4x^2 - 10}$

(Step 1) check

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (3(\infty)^2 + 5(\infty)) = \infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (4(\infty)^2 - 10) = \infty$$

(Step 2) Since $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ is an indeterminate, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6x + 5}{8x} \Rightarrow \text{we still get } \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

What do we do?

Apply L'Hôpital's Rule Again!

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{8} = \boxed{\frac{3}{4}}$$

Summary