

IB Math 3 Indeterminate Limit and L'Hopital's rule

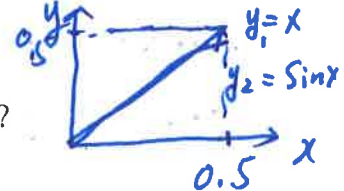
Name: Key Period:

1. Revisiting a familiar trigonometric limit;

a. what is the $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$?

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

b. Sketch $y = x$ and $y = \sin x$ in the window $x : [0, 0.5]$ by $y : [0, 0.5]$ in radian mode. What do you notice?



c. How does the graphs of $y = x$ and $y = \sin x$ help confirm the answer of $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$?

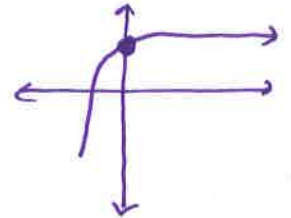
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} \approx 1$$

4. When we substitute 0 for x in the $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$, we are trying to find the limit of $\frac{0}{0}$. This is an example of an

indeterminate limit. Some of the indeterminate limits are in the form of $\lim \frac{0}{0}$, $\lim \frac{\infty}{\infty}$, and $\lim 0 \cdot \infty$.

a. Explain why $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x^3 + 7x^2 - 9}{x^3 + 3x^2 - 4}$ is an example of an indeterminate limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2(1) + 7(1) - 9}{(1)^3 + 3(1)^2 - 4} = \frac{0}{0} \Rightarrow \text{Indeterminate}$$



b. Find the limit by graphing. Sketch your graph.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x^3 + 7x^2 - 9}{x^3 + 3x^2 - 4} = \boxed{2.22}$$

x	0.99	1	1.01
$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = y$	-2.2226	undef	2.2219
		$\hat{=} 2.22$	

c. Let $f(x) = 2x^3 + 7x^2 - 9$ and $g(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 4$. Graph $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ in the window $x : [0.75, 1.25]$ by $y : [-3, 3]$. Compare the graphs of $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ at $x = 1$. Compare their slopes. Do they have the same slope? If one steeper than the other?

d. Find $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ and compute $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f'(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g'(x)$.

$$f'(x) = 6x^2 + 14x \rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f'(x) = 6 + 14 = 20$$

$$g'(x) = 3x^2 + 6x \rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g'(x) = 3 + 6 = 9$$

e. How do the limits of $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ compare to $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x^3 + 7x^2 - 9}{x^3 + 3x^2 - 4}$?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \hat{=} 2.22 \quad \text{vs} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = \frac{20}{9} \hat{=} 2.22$$

L'Hôpital's rule:

Theorem: Let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be the functions that are differentiable on an open interval (a, b) containing c . Assume that $g'(x) \neq 0$ for all x in (a, b) . If the limit of $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ as x approaches c produces the indeterminate form $\lim \frac{0}{0}$,

$\lim \frac{\infty}{\infty}$, and $\lim 0 \cdot \infty$, then

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

Proof: Suppose $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are differentiable function for $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

and $f(c) = g(c) = 0$. $\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{0}{0} \right)$

$$f(x) \approx L(x) = f'(c)(x-c) + f(c)$$

$$g(x) \approx G(x) = g'(c)(x-c) + g(c)$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{L(x)}{G(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(c)(x-c) + f(c)}{g'(c)(x-c) + g(c)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(c)(x-c)}{g'(c)(x-c)}$$

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

Example 1) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} \left(\frac{0}{0} \right)$

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

Example 2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2 - 3x + 1}{3x^2 + 5x - 2} \left(\frac{\infty}{\infty} \right)$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x - 3}{6x + 5} \left(\frac{\infty}{\infty} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4}{6} = \boxed{\frac{2}{3}}$$

Example 3) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1 - \cos x) \sin 4x}{x^3 \cos x}$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{2x} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{4 \cos 4x}{1} \cdot 1$$

Example 4) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \sin \frac{1}{x}$

$$\left(\infty \cdot \sin \frac{1}{\infty} \right) \Rightarrow \left(\infty \cdot 0 \right)$$

$$\left(\begin{matrix} u = \frac{1}{x} \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{u} \\ x \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow u \rightarrow 0 \end{matrix} \right) \Rightarrow \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{u} \sin u = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin u}{u} \left(\frac{0}{0} \right) = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos u}{1} = \boxed{1}$$