

## IB Math HL2 Indeterminate Limit, L'Hopital's rule, and Improper Integral (review)

**L'Hopital'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  $\lim \frac{0}{0}$ ,

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

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

Example 1)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{2x} - 1}{x} \quad (\frac{e^0 - 1}{0} = \frac{1-1}{0} = \frac{0}{0})$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(e^{2x} - 1)'}{(x)'} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 \cdot e^{2x}}{1} = \frac{2 \cdot e^0}{1} = \boxed{2}$$

Example 2)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{-x} \sqrt{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{x}}{e^x} \quad (\frac{\infty}{\infty})$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\sqrt{x})'}{(e^x)'} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot x^{-\frac{1}{2}}}{e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x} \cdot e^x} = \frac{1}{\infty} = \boxed{0}$$

Example 4)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \sin \frac{1}{x}$  (Use of substitution)

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} x \rightarrow \infty \\ u \rightarrow 0 \end{array} \right) \left( x = \frac{1}{u} \Rightarrow u = \frac{1}{x} \right) \quad \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{u} \cdot \sin u = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin u}{u} \quad (\frac{0}{0}) = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sin u)'}{u'} = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos u}{1} = \frac{1}{1} = \boxed{1}$$

Example 5)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin x)^x$  (Indeterminate form  $0^0$ )

(0<sup>0</sup>)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln (\sin x)^x = \ln L$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln \sin x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln \sin x}{\frac{1}{x}} \quad (-\infty \over \infty) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(\ln \sin x)'}{\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)'}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\sin x}\right)(\cos x)}{-\frac{1}{x^2}} \Rightarrow \text{next page}$$

(2)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(\cot x)'}{-\frac{1}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-\csc^2 x}{2x^{-3}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{2} x^3 \cdot \csc^2 x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} -\frac{x^3}{2 \sin^2 x} \cdot \left( \frac{0}{0} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-3x^2}{4 \sin x \cos x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( -\frac{3}{4} \right) \left( \frac{x}{\cancel{\sin x}} \right) \left( \frac{x}{\cancel{\cos x}} \right)$$

$$= \left( -\frac{3}{4} \right) (1)(0) = 0$$

$$\ln L = 0 \Rightarrow L = e^0 = 1$$

(3)

Example 6)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \left( \frac{1}{\ln x} - \frac{1}{x-1} \right)$  (Indeterminate form  $\infty - \infty$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \left( \frac{(x-1) - \ln x}{(\ln x)(x-1)} \right) \left( \frac{1-1-\ln 1}{(\ln 1)(1-1)} = \frac{0}{0} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \left[ \frac{1 - \frac{1}{x}}{\left( \frac{1}{x} \right)(x-1) + (\ln x)(1)} \right] x \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{(x-1)}{(x-1) + x \ln x} \left( \frac{0}{0} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 7)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x$  (Indeterminate form  $1^\infty$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\ln \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x = \ln L \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x = \ln L \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)}{\frac{1}{x}} \left( \frac{0}{0} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left( \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{x}} \right) \left( -\frac{1}{x^2} \right)}{\left( -\frac{1}{x^2} \right)} \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{x}} = \frac{1}{1+0} = 1
 \end{aligned}$$

$I = \ln L$   
 $L = e$

## Improper Integral :

### DEFINITION OF IMPROPER INTEGRALS WITH INFINITE INTEGRATION LIMITS

1. If  $f$  is continuous on the interval  $[a, \infty)$ , then

$$\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b f(x) dx.$$

2. If  $f$  is continuous on the interval  $(-\infty, b]$ , then

$$\int_{-\infty}^b f(x) dx = \lim_{a \rightarrow -\infty} \int_a^b f(x) dx.$$

3. If  $f$  is continuous on the interval  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , then

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^c f(x) dx + \int_c^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

where  $c$  is any real number (see Exercise 120).

In the first two cases, the improper integral converges if the limit exists—otherwise, the improper integral diverges. In the third case, the improper integral on the left diverges if either of the improper integrals on the right diverges.

Example 1) Evaluate  $\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x} dx = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^a e^{-x} dx = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} [-e^{-x}]_0^a$

$$= \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{-1}{e^x} \right]_0^a = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{-1}{e^a} + \frac{1}{1} \right] = \cancel{\frac{-1}{e^a}} + 1 = 1$$

(converges to 1)

Example 2) Evaluate  $\int_1^{\infty} (1-x)e^{-x} dx = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^a \left( \frac{1-x}{e^x} \right) dx$

$$= \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \left[ e^{-x}(x-1) + e^{-x} \right]_1^a = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} [xe^{-x}]_1^a$$

$\frac{u}{1-x}$	$\frac{du}{e^{-x}}$
$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
$-1$	$e^{-x}$
$0$	$\cancel{e^{-x}}$

$$= \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{(a)(\cancel{\frac{1}{e^a}})}{e^a} - \frac{1}{e} \right] = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e^a} - \frac{1}{e} = \boxed{-\frac{1}{e}}$$

(converges to  $-\frac{1}{e}$ )

Example 3) Evaluate  $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x(x+1)}} dx$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^a \frac{1}{\sqrt{x((\sqrt{x})^2+1)}} dx \cdot \begin{cases} u = \sqrt{x} \\ du = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} x \rightarrow \infty \\ u \rightarrow \infty \end{array}$$

$$= \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^a \frac{2}{(u^2+1)} du$$

$$= \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \left[ 2 \arctan u \right]_0^a = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \left[ 2 \arctan a - 2 \arctan 0 \right] = 2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} = \pi$$

(converges to  $\pi$ )