

In the below theorem, "lim" will mean any of the following limits

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty}$$

Let either $\lim f(x) = \lim g(x) = 0$ or $\lim |g(x)| = \infty$. Then the following is true:

if the limit $\lim \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ exists (proper or improper one), then

also the limit $\lim \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ exists and we have

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

The preceding theorem may be proved using the mean value theorem and is a basis for what is called L'Hospital's rule, which is a useful tool for evaluating limits of the type

$$\frac{0}{0} \quad \frac{\infty}{\infty} \quad 0 \cdot \infty \quad \infty - \infty \quad 1^\infty \quad 0^0 \quad \infty^0 \text{ etc.}$$

Here $\frac{0}{0}$ for example means that we are to calculate the limit

$$\lim \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \quad \text{where} \quad \lim f(x) = \lim g(x) = 0$$

$\frac{0}{0}$ example

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x \cos x - \sin x}{x^3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - x \sin x - \cos x}{3x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin x}{3x} = \frac{-1}{3}$$

$\frac{0}{0}$ example

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan x - \sin x}{x - \sin x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{\cos^2 x} - \cos x}{1 - \cos x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos^3 x}{\cos^2 x(1 - \cos x)} = \\&= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3\cos^2 x \sin x}{-2\cos x \sin x(1 - \cos x) + \cos^2 x \sin x} = \\&= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3\cos^2 x \sin x}{-2\cos x \sin x + 3\cos^2 x \sin x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3\cos^2 x}{-2\cos x + 3\cos^2 x} = 3\end{aligned}$$

Note that we also have

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

$\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ example

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^5} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{5x^4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{5 \cdot 4x^3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3x^2} + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2x} =$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \infty$$

$0 \cdot \infty$ example

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (1-x) \tan \frac{\pi x}{2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(1-x)}{\cot \frac{\pi x}{2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{-1}{\frac{-\pi}{2 \sin^2 \frac{\pi x}{2}}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2 \sin^2 \frac{\pi x}{2}}{\pi} = \frac{2}{\pi}$$

$\infty - \infty$ example

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{2x+1} - \sqrt{x} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{\frac{2}{t} + 1} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{t}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sqrt{2+t} - 1}{\sqrt{t}} = \infty$$

1^∞ example

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1+x^2)^{\frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\ln(1+x^2)^{\frac{1}{x}}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{\ln(1+x^2)}{x}} =$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{2x}{1+x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{2x}{1+x^2}} = e^0 = 1$$

∞^0 example

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[x]{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{\frac{\ln x}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{\frac{1}{\frac{x}{\ln x}}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{\frac{1}{x}} = e^0 = 1$$

0^0 example

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^{\sin x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\ln x \sin x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{\sin x}{\ln x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{\cos x}{\frac{-1}{\ln^2 x}}} = e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} -x \cos x \ln^2 x} =$$

$$= e^{-\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos x \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \ln^2 x} = e^{-\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \ln^2 x} = e^{-\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln^2 x}{\frac{1}{x}}} =$$

$$= e^{-\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{2 \ln x}{x}}{\frac{-1}{x^2}}} = e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 2x \ln x} = e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 \ln x}{\frac{1}{x}}} =$$

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

$$y = x^{\sin x}$$

