



Application of Derivatives / تطبيقات التفاضل

L'Hôpital's Rule = Indeterminate Forms / قاعدة لوبيتال / القواعد الغامضة (غير معرفة)

Before starting up with this lecture, let us address the spelling of "L'Hôpital". It is the name of French mathematician "Guillaume de l'Hôpital".

In the 17th & 18th centuries, the name was commonly spelled as "l'Hospital", & the mathematician himself spelled his name that way. However, French spellings have been altered, the silent "s" have been removed & replaced with the circumflex over the preceding vowel "ô".

Indeterminate Forms / القواعد الغامضة

In mathematics, there are several types of quantities that we don't know their exact value!

Such as: $\frac{0}{0}$, $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, $0 \cdot (\infty)$, 1^∞ , 0^0 , ∞^0 , $\infty - \infty$

Back to the lecture of limits we studied last course, we learn how to deal with the following limits:

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4} \xrightarrow[\text{sub}]{\text{direct}} \frac{4^2 - 16}{4 - 4} = \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{indeterminate quantity})$$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{Factorize the numerator} \rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{(x-4)(x+4)}{(x-4)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (x+4) = 4+4 = \boxed{8}$$



② $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x^2 - 5x}{1 - 3x^2}$ (direct sub) $\frac{\infty}{-\infty}$ (indeterminate) quantity

② Factor out x^2 from numerator & denominator $\rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2(4 - \frac{5}{x})}{x^2(\frac{1}{x^2} - 3)}$
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 - \frac{5}{x}}{\frac{1}{x^2} - 3} = \frac{4 - \frac{5}{\infty}}{\frac{1}{(\infty)^2} - 3} = \frac{4}{-3} = \boxed{-\frac{4}{3}}$

But, what about the following two limits?

③ $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \frac{0}{0}$ (can't be factored)

④ $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^2} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$ (can't factor x^2 out of numerator)

In last two limits no tricks will work with them!

So, to deal with such problems of limits L'Hôpital Rules comes into play.

L'Hôpital Rule : قاعدة لوبيتال

If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{0}{0}$ or $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\pm \infty}{\pm \infty}$

where $a = \text{real number, } \pm \infty$

Then,

$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ ← L'Hôpital's Rule

اذن تستخدم قاعدة لوبيتال في مشكلة $\frac{0}{0}$ او $\frac{\pm \infty}{\pm \infty}$ عن طريق التفاضل المتكرر

Examples

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4} \rightarrow \text{direct substitution} \rightarrow \frac{4^2 - 16}{4 - 4} = \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{USD})$$

"un-defined sol"

As we got $\frac{0}{0}$, then we can use L'Hopital's Rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{2x}{1} \rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} 2x = 2 \times 4 = \boxed{8} \quad \text{Ans}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x^2 - 5x}{1 - 3x^2} \rightarrow \text{direct sub} \rightarrow \frac{4(\infty)^2 - 5(\infty)}{1 - 3(\infty)^2} = \frac{\infty}{-\infty} \quad (\text{USD})$$

As we got $\frac{\infty}{-\infty}$, we can use L'Hopital's Rule.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 \times 2x - 5}{1 - 3 \times 2x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8x - 5}{1 - 6x} \rightarrow \text{direct sub} \rightarrow \frac{8(\infty) - 5}{1 - 6(\infty)} = \frac{\infty}{-\infty} \quad (\text{USD})$$

As we got $\frac{\infty}{-\infty}$, again we can use L'Hopital's Rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8}{-6} = \boxed{\frac{4}{-3}} \quad \text{Ans}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} \rightarrow \text{direct sub} \rightarrow \frac{\sin 0}{0} = \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{USD})$$

By using L'Hopital's Rule

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



$$\textcircled{4} \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \frac{5t^4 - 4t^2 - 1}{10 - t - 9t^3} \xrightarrow[\text{sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{5(1)^4 - 4(1)^2 - 1}{10 - 1 - 9(1)^3} = \frac{5 - 5}{10 - 10} = \boxed{\frac{0}{0}} \quad (\text{VSD})$$

If we were really good at factoring we could factor the numerator & denominator, simplify & take the limit. However, that's going to be more work than just using "L'Hopital Rule"

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \frac{5 \times 4t^3 - 4 \times 2t}{-1 - 9 \times 3t^2} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \frac{20t^3 - 8t}{-1 - 27t^2} = \frac{20 - 8}{-1 - 27} \\ &= \frac{12}{-28} = \boxed{-\frac{3}{7}} \quad \text{Ans} \end{aligned}$$

$$\textcircled{5} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^2} \xrightarrow[\text{sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{\infty}{(\infty)^2} = \boxed{\frac{\infty}{\infty}} \quad (\text{VSD})$$

By applying "L'Hopital Rule"

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2x} \xrightarrow[\text{sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{\infty}{2 \times \infty} = \boxed{\frac{\infty}{\infty}} \quad (\text{VSD})$$

By applying "L'Hopital Rule" one more time,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2} \xrightarrow[\text{sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{\infty}{2} = \frac{\infty}{2} = \boxed{\infty} \quad \text{Ans}$$

Note Sometimes we need to apply L'Hopital's Rule more than once as we have seen in examples $\textcircled{4}$ & $\textcircled{5}$

نحتاج الى تطبيق قاعدة لوبيتال اكثر من مرة في الامثلة $\textcircled{4}$ و $\textcircled{5}$



$$\textcircled{6} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln x \xrightarrow[\text{sub}]{\text{direct}} 0 \ln 0 = \boxed{0 \times -\infty} \text{ (VDS)}$$

In this example by direct substitution, we get $(0 \times -\infty)$ which is one of indeterminate forms we stated before. It is not quotient, so, we can't use L'Hopital Rule directly unless we turn it into a fraction as follows,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{1/x} \xrightarrow[\text{sub}]{\text{direct}} \frac{\ln 0}{1/0} = \boxed{\frac{-\infty}{\infty}}$$

Now, we can use "L'Hopital Rule",

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{1/x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1/x}{-1/x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{-1/x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (-x) = \boxed{0} \quad \text{Ans} \end{aligned}$$

Note ②

From example ⑥, we use the fact that we can always write a product of functions as a quotient by doing one of the following

$$f(x) g(x) = \frac{f(x)}{1/g(x)} \quad \text{or} \quad f(x) g(x) = \frac{g(x)}{1/f(x)}$$

We can use "Note ②" to turn any limit in the form " $0 \times \mp \infty$ " into limit in the form

$$\frac{0}{0} \text{ or } \frac{\mp \infty}{\mp \infty}$$



⑦ Evaluate the following limit

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

Soln

By direct substitution

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x e^x = (-\infty) \cdot 0 = (-\infty)(0)$$

∴ حسب الامثلة @ يمكننا تحويل هذه القام الى مقام كسرية
(بسط ومقام) لكن لدينا خيارين هنا اما ان نقول e^x
في البسط و x في المقام او العكس، لتيسر مع الخيار
الاول

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{e^x}{1/x} \xrightarrow[\text{Sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{-\infty}{1/(-\infty)} = \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{L'Hopital Rule})$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{e^x}{-1/x^2} \xrightarrow[\text{Sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{-\infty}{-1/(-\infty)^2} = \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{L'Hopital Rule again})$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{e^x}{2/x^3} \xrightarrow[\text{Sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{-\infty}{2/(-\infty)^3} = \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{L'Hopital Rule again})$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{e^x}{-6/x^4} \xrightarrow[\text{Sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{-\infty}{-6/(-\infty)^4} = \frac{0}{0}$$

∴ This option doesn't seem to be getting us anywhere

هذا الخيار ليسوا يوصلنا الى نتيجة معينة
كل مرة نقوم باستعمال قاعدة لوبيتال او $\frac{0}{0}$
وفي الحقيقة هذا استعمال قاعدة لوبيتال كلما نتيجة اعمد في كل
مرة نستعملها. هنا علينا ان نقول العكس يعني دالة e^x
في المقام و x في البسط كما في المثالين

$$\textcircled{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x}{1/e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x}{e^{-x}} \xrightarrow[\text{Sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{-\infty}{\infty} = \frac{-\infty}{\infty}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{-e^x} \xrightarrow[\text{Sub.}]{\text{direct}} \frac{1}{-\infty} = \frac{1}{-\infty} = 0 \quad \underline{\text{Ans}}$$



⑧ Evaluate the Following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/x}$$

Solve

The direct substitution will give the indeterminate form (∞^0)

We do the follows to get indeterminate form

$$\frac{0}{0} \text{ or } \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

$$\text{Let } \left\{ y = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/x} \right\} \times \ln$$

$$\ln y = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \ln x^{1/x}$$

$$\ln y = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \ln x = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x} = \frac{\ln \infty}{\infty}$$

$$= \left[\frac{\infty}{\infty} \right] \text{ (UDS)}$$

Apply L'Hôpital Rule, yields;

$$\ln y = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/x}{1} \xrightarrow{\text{PL}} \frac{1/\infty}{1} = \frac{0}{1} = 0$$

$$\therefore [\ln y = 0] \times e \Rightarrow e^{\ln y} = e^0$$

$$\therefore y = e^0 = 1$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/x} = \boxed{1}$$

Ans



⑨ Evaluate the following limit:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x^2 e^x$$

[Soln]

By direct substitution, yields, $(-\infty)^2 e^{-\infty} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$ "UDS"

$$(-\infty)^2 e^{-\infty} = \frac{\infty}{\infty} = \boxed{\frac{\infty}{\infty}} \text{ "UDS"}$$

As the answer is indeterminate $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, then we can use L'Hôpital's Rule, but we need to rewrite the function in the form of quotient $(\frac{f}{g})$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^2}{e^{-x}} \xrightarrow[\text{Rule}]{\text{L'Hôpital}} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2x}{-e^{-x}} \xrightarrow[\text{Rule}]{\text{L'Hôpital}} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2}{e^{-x}}$$

$$\xrightarrow[\text{sub}]{\text{dir}} \frac{2}{e^{\infty}} = \frac{2}{\infty} = \boxed{0} \text{ Ans}$$

⑩ Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sin x \ln x$

[Soln]

By direct substitution, yields,

$$\sin(0) \ln 0 = 0 \times (-\infty) \text{ "UDS"}$$

As the answer is indeterminate $0(-\infty)$, we can't use L'Hôpital's Rule unless we are able to rewrite the eqn to give either $\frac{0}{0}$ or $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, the suitable way is;

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{1/\sin x} \xrightarrow[\text{sub}]{\text{dir}} \frac{\ln 0}{1/\sin 0} = \frac{-\infty}{1/0} = \frac{-\infty}{\infty} \text{ (now can use) L'Hôpital's Rule}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\xrightarrow[\text{Rule}]{\text{L'H}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\frac{-\cos x}{\sin^2 x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{1}{x} \times \frac{-\sin^2 x}{\cos x} \right] \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{\sin x}{x} \times \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \right] \xrightarrow[\text{sub}]{\text{dir}} -1 \times \frac{\sin 0}{\cos 0} \\ &= -1 \times 0 = \boxed{0} \text{ Ans} \end{aligned}$$



⑩ Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x - \ln x]$

Soln

Direct substitution yields,

$$\infty - \ln \infty = \infty - \infty \quad \text{"UDS"}$$

هذا السؤال من النوع الذي يحتاج الى طريقة خاصة لتأجيل الجواب الى وقت لاحق
والتي تسمى طريقة الاستمرار فانه لو قمنا بحساب $\infty - \infty$ فالحال هو
هو عبارة عن استمرار الى وقت لاحق "conjugate"

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x - \ln x] \times \frac{(x + \ln x)}{(x + \ln x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 - (\ln x)^2}{x + \ln x}$$

Direct substitution yields

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 - (\ln x)^2}{x + \ln x} \xrightarrow{\text{direct sub}} \frac{(\infty)^2 - (\ln \infty)^2}{\infty + \ln \infty} = \frac{\infty}{\infty} \quad (\text{can use L'H. rule})$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x - 2 \ln x \times \frac{1}{x}}{1 + \frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x - \frac{2 \ln x}{x}}{1 + \frac{1}{x}}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{2x^2 - 2 \ln x}{x}}{\frac{x+1}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2 - 2 \ln x}{x+1} \xrightarrow{\text{dir sub}} \frac{\infty}{\infty} \quad (\text{L'H. rule})$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x - \frac{2}{x}}{1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [4x - \frac{2}{x}] \xrightarrow{\text{dir sub}} [4(\infty) - \frac{2}{\infty}]$$

$$= \infty - 0 = \infty \quad \text{Ans}$$

Questions For Discussions

المسائل للنقاش

① $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} [\csc x - \cot x]$

② Proof that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x^2 + 4x} - x = 2$

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

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

⑤ $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x}$

⑥ $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{x}}{e^x}$