

## L'Hopital's Rule

**Theorem** (L'Hopital's rule). *If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = 0$ , then*

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

*provided the derivatives in question exist for all  $x \neq a$  and provided the right hand limit exists.*

Some limits can be converted to this form by first taking logarithms, or by substituting  $1/x$  for  $x$ .

## Problems

1. Evaluate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n \left( 1 - \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2^n}\right) \right),$$

2. Evaluate the following limits:

(a)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n$$

(b)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{n+1}{n+2} \right)^n$$

(c)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n^2} \right)^n$$

(d)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n^2}$$

3. Evaluate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2p_n P_n}{p_n + P_n},$$

where  $p_n = (1 + 1/n)^n$  and  $P_n = (1 + 1/n)^{n+1}$ .

4. Evaluate

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{x} \frac{a^x - 1}{a - 1} \right)^{1/x}.$$

where  $a > 1$ .

5. Let  $f(t)$  and  $f'(t)$  be differentiable on  $[a, x]$  and for each  $x$  suppose there is a number  $c_x$  such that  $a < c_x < x$  and

$$\int_a^x f(t)dt = f(c_x)(x - a).$$

Assume that  $f'(a) \neq 0$ . Then prove that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{c_x - a}{x - a} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

6. Calculate

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \int_0^x e^{t^2 - x^2} dt.$$

7. Prove that the function  $y = (x^2)^x$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ , is continuous at  $x = 0$ .