

## Section 4.5 : Indeterminate forms and l'Hôpital's Rule.

- Indeterminate form " $0/0$ "
- L'Hôpital's rule and its use
- Indeterminate forms " $\infty/\infty$ ", " $\infty \cdot 0$ ", " $\infty - \infty$ "
- Indeterminate powers " $1^\infty$ ", " $0^0$ ", " $\infty^0$ "
- Indeterminate form " $0/0$ "

EXAMPLE! How does  $F(x) := \frac{x - \sin(x)}{x^3}$  behave near  $x=0$ ?

•  $F(0)$  is undefined (why?), so we look at  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} F(x)$  instead.

• Temptation is to apply the quotient rule for limits:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)}, \text{ provided limits on RHS exist,}$$

right-hand side  
and denominator of RHS not zero.

$$\text{So, } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin(x)}{x^3} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x - \sin(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^3}$$

$$\stackrel{?}{=} \frac{0}{0}$$

• Such a limit (" $\frac{0}{0}$ " form) may or may not exist in general - but we need more tools to examine further!

NOTE: We use " $\frac{0}{0}$ " as notation for the INDETERMINATE FORM

produced by substituting  $x=a$  into the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ , where  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are both continuous functions that are zero at  $x=a$ .

Lecture 1, continued.

In general, an INDETERMINATE FORM is a meaningless expression such as " $\frac{0}{0}$ ", " $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ ", " $\infty \cdot 0$ ", " $\infty - \infty$ ", " $0^0$ ", " $1^\infty$ ", which cannot be evaluated in a consistent way.

Sometimes these limits work out:

EXAMPLE:  $f'(a) := \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} = \frac{f(a) - f(a)}{a - a} = \boxed{\frac{0}{0}}$

But not always! As we said, we need stronger tools to analyze further...

THEOREM: L'Hôpital's Rule (Johann Bernoulli, 1696)

If  $f = f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are differentiable in a nbhd. of  $a$  neighborhood

- $g'(x) \neq 0$  in a deleted nbhd. of  $a$
- EITHER  $(f(a) = g(a) = 0)$  or  $(f(a) = g(a) = \infty)$

THEN  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$  provided this limit exists.

NOTES: • Must have " $\frac{0}{0}$ " or " $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ " form !!

(i.e., L'Hôpital's Rule doesn't replace the quotient rule for limits)

• We really do want  $\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ , NOT  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  (crossed out) =  $\frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$  (crossed out)

(i.e., do not incorrectly use the quotient rule for derivatives)

Lecture 1, ct'd.

EXAMPLES,  $\boxed{1}$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x - \sin(x)}{x}$  ~~Quot~~  $\frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 3x - \sin(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x}$  ~~" $\frac{0}{0}$ "~~

Can we use l'Hôpital's rule?

$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ , so  $a=0$   
 $f(x) = 3x - \sin(x)$   
 $g(x) = x$

- ✓  $f(a) = g(a) = 0$
- ✓  $f'(x) = 3 - \cos(x)$   
 $g'(x) = 1$  } both  $f$  and  $g$  are diff'ble everywhere, including in a nbd. of  $a=0$
- ✓  $g'(x) = 1 \neq 0$  everywhere, including in a deleted nbd. of  $a=0$ .

so, YES - let's apply l'Hôpital's Rule:

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x - \sin(x)}{x} \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3 - \cos(x)}{1}$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 3 - \cos(x)$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 3 - \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos(x)$   
 $= 3 - 1$   
 $= 2$

$\boxed{2}$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+x} - 1}{x}$  ~~Quot~~  $\frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{1+x} - 1}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x}$  ~~" $\frac{0}{0}$ "~~

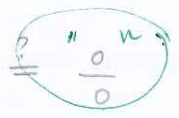
$f(x) = \sqrt{1+x} - 1$ ,  $g(x) = x$   
 $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+x}}$ ,  $g'(x) = 1$

✓  $f(0) = g(0) = 0$   
 ✓  $f, g$  diff'ble around  $a=0$   
 ✓  $g'(x) = 1 \neq 0$  around  $a=0$

?  $\stackrel{?}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+x}}$   $\stackrel{?}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+x}}$   
 $= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+0}} = \frac{1}{2}$

EXAMPLES

3  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin(x)}{x^3}$  ~~?~~  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin(x)}{x^3}$



use l'Hôpital's Rule?

check:  $f(x) = x - \sin(x)$   
 $g(x) = x^3$

- $f'(x) = 1 - \cos(x)$
- $g'(x) = 3x^2$
- so both are diff'ble around  $a=0$
- $g'(x) = 3x^2 \neq 0$  in a deleted mbd. of  $a=0$
- $f(0) = g(0) = 0$

USE L'HÔPITAL'S RULE.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin(x)}{x^3} \stackrel{L'Hôp.}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{3x^2}$

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

~~Quot~~  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{3x^2} \neq \frac{0}{0}$

use l'Hôpital again?

$f(x) = 1 - \cos(x) \Rightarrow f'(x) = \sin(x)$   
 $g(x) = 3x^2 \Rightarrow g'(x) = 6x$

- ✓  $f, g$  both diff'ble around  $a=0$
- ✓  $g'(x) = 6x \neq 0$  around  $a=0$  except at  $a=0$
- ✓  $g(0) = f(0) = 0$

$\stackrel{L'Hôp.}{=}$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{6x}$

~~Quot~~  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{6x} \neq \frac{0}{0}$

use l'Hôpital a 3<sup>rd</sup> time?

$f(x) = \sin(x) \Rightarrow f'(x) = \cos(x)$   
 $g(x) = 6x \Rightarrow g'(x) = 6$

- ✓  $f, g$  both diff'ble around  $a=0$
- ✓  $g'(x) = 6 \neq 0$  around  $a=0$
- ✓  $g(0) = f(0) = 0$

$\stackrel{L'Hôp.}{=}$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x)}{6} = \frac{1}{6} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos(x) = \frac{1}{6}$

Lecture 1, chd.

EXAMPLES. 4

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

~~Quot~~

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

"0/0"

✓  
l'Hôp

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{1 + 2x}$$

✓  
Quot

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{1 + 2x}$$

$$= \frac{0}{1} = 0$$

A FALSE EXAMPLE. 5

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{1 + 2x}$$

$$f(x) = \sin(x), g(x) = 1 + 2x$$
  
$$f'(x) = \cos(x), g'(x) = 2$$

"0/0"  
"0/0"

•  $f(0) = \sin(0) = 0$   
•  $g(0) = 1 + 2(0) = 1$  } 1<sup>ST</sup> CONDITION NOT SATISFIED (since  $g(0) \neq 0$ )

- ✓  $f, g$  both diff'ble around  $a=0$
- ✓  $g'(x) = 2 \neq 0$  around  $a=0$

what if we used l'Hôpital's rule anyway?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{1 + 2x} \stackrel{?}{\underset{\text{l'Hôp.}}{=}}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos(x)$$

~~$= \frac{1}{2}$~~

INCORRECT!

So we MUST have the indeterminate form "0/0" or "∞/∞".

EXAMPLE 6

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

~~Quot~~

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

$$= \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

$$f(x) = e^x, g(x) = x^2$$
  
$$f'(x) = e^x, g'(x) = 2x$$

✓  
l'Hôp  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2x}$

~~Quot~~  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2x} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$

- ✓  $f(\infty) = g(\infty) = \infty$
- ✓  $f, g$  diff'ble
- ✓  $g'(\infty) \neq 0$

$$f(x) = e^x, g(x) = 2x$$
  
$$f'(x) = e^x, g'(x) = 2$$

✓  
l'Hôp  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^x$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\infty) = \infty$$

- $f(\infty) = g(\infty) = \infty$
- $f', g'$  exist
- $g'(\infty) \neq 0$

Lecture 1, ctd.

Other indeterminate forms:  $0 \cdot \infty$ ,  $\infty - \infty$

We turn them into  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$  by algebraic manipulation:

EXAMPLES

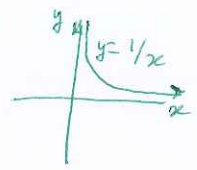
7  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (x \sin(\frac{1}{x}))$

~~Prod~~  $(\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x) (\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sin(\frac{1}{x}))$

~~Func.~~  $(\infty) (\sin(\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x}))$

~~Prod~~  $(\infty) (\sin 0)$

~~Prod~~  $\infty \cdot 0$



try again:

$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} [x \sin(\frac{1}{x})] = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} [(\frac{1}{h}) \sin(h)]$

$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sin(h)}{h}$  ? "0/0" quot.

$\stackrel{\text{L'Hôpital}}{=} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\cos(h)}{1}$

$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \cos(h) = 1$

LET  $x = \frac{1}{h}$   
 $h := \frac{1}{x}$



8  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sqrt{x}) \ln(x)$

$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$

~~Prod~~  $(\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{x}) (\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln(x)) = "0 \cdot \infty"$

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

~~quot~~  $\frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} 1/\sqrt{x}} = "0/\infty"$

So let  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ ,  $g(x) = 1/\sqrt{x}$   
 $f'(x) = 1/x$ ,  $g'(x) = -1/(2x^{3/2})$

- ✓  $f(0^+) \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $g(0^+) \rightarrow \infty$
- ✓  $f, g$  diff'ble around  $a=0$
- ✓  $g'(x) = -1/(2x^{3/2}) \neq 0$  around  $a=0$

$\stackrel{\text{L'Hôpital}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1/x}{-1/(2x^{3/2})}$

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

Examples.

9  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin(x)} - \frac{1}{x} \right]$

Careful to check both the left and right limits!

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin(x)} - \frac{1}{x} \right] \neq \infty - \infty$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin(x)} - \frac{1}{x} \right] \neq -\infty + \infty$

Try again:

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin(x)} - \frac{1}{x} \right] = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin(x)}{x \sin(x)}$  get a common denominator

$\stackrel{\text{L'Hôp}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{\sin(x) + x \cos(x)}$  " $\frac{0}{0}$ "

$\stackrel{\text{L'Hôp}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{+\sin(x)}{\cos(x) + \cos(x) - x \sin(x)}$

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

$\stackrel{\text{Quot}}{=} \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} +\sin(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 2\cos(x) - x \sin(x)} = \frac{0}{2} = \boxed{0}$

So far, strategies for " $\infty - \infty$ " and " $0 \cdot \infty$ ":

- Get a common denominator
- write  $a \cdot b$  as  $\frac{a}{1/b}$  or  $\frac{b}{1/a}$
- Rewrite limiting variable as  $h := \frac{1}{x}$

Indeterminate powers "1<sup>∞</sup>", "0<sup>0</sup>", "∞<sup>0</sup>".

Recall:

$$e^{\ln(\text{anything})} = \text{anything}$$

$$\ln(a^b) = b \cdot \ln(a)$$

example,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (\cos x)^{1/x^2}$

has the form "1<sup>∞</sup>"

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \ln \left[ (\cos x)^{1/x^2} \right] \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \ln \left[ (\cos x)^{1/x^2} \right] \right] \quad \text{continuity of ln function}$$

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2} \cdot \ln(\cos x) \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(\cos x)}{x^2} \right]$$

has form "0/0"

$f(x) = \ln(\cos x), g(x) = x^2$   
 $f'(x) = \frac{-\sin x}{\cos x}, g'(x) = 2x$

f, g diff'ble in a nbd. of 0  
 $g'(x) = 2x \neq 0$  in a deleted nbd. of 0.

$\checkmark$   
 l'Hôp

$$\exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin(x)}{2x \cos(x)} \right]$$

has form "0/0" again!

$f(x) = -\sin x, g(x) = 2x \cos(x)$   
 $f'(x) = -\cos x, g'(x) = 2\cos(x) - 2x \sin(x)$

f, g -diff'ble in nbd. of 0  
 $g'(x) \neq 0$  in a deleted nbd. of 0.

$\checkmark$   
 l'Hôp

$$\exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\cos(x)}{2\cos(x) - 2x \sin(x)} \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \right]$$

$$= e^{-1/2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{e}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (\cos x)^{1/x^2}$$



example,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/x}$  has the form " $\infty^0$ "

$$= \exp \left[ \ln \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/x} \right] \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \ln(x^{1/x}) \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \ln(x) \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x} \right] \text{ has form } \frac{0}{\infty}$$

let  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ ,  $g(x) = x$   
 $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $g'(x) = 1$

- $f, g$  diff'ble as  $x \rightarrow \infty$
- $g'(x) \neq 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$

?  
 L'Hôpital  $\exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/x}{1} \right]$

$$= \exp \left[ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \right]$$

$$= \exp [0]$$

$$= e^0 = \boxed{1 = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/x}}$$

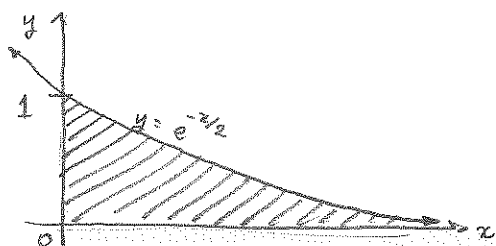
More examples at end of lecture  
 (as time permits)

Section 8.8: Improper Integrals.

- Infinite limits of integration
- The integral  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^p}$
- Integrands with vertical asymptotes
- Direct comparison test
- Limit comparison test

Infinite limits of integration.

Consider the area under the curve  $y = e^{-x/2}$  in the 1<sup>st</sup> quadrant:



$$A = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x/2} dx$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b e^{-x/2} dx$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{-b/2} -2e^u du$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -2e^u \Big|_{u=0}^{-b/2} \right]$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -2e^{-b/2} + 2e^0 \right]$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ 2 - 2e^{-b/2} \right]$$

$$= 2 - 2 \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} e^{-b/2}$$

$$= 2 - 2 \exp\left(\frac{-1}{2} \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} b\right)$$

$\underbrace{\begin{matrix} \rightarrow \infty \\ \rightarrow -\infty \\ \rightarrow 0 \end{matrix}}_{\rightarrow 0}$

$$= 2.$$

The area  
is finite!

$$u = -x/2 \Rightarrow \begin{matrix} u(b) = -b/2 \\ u(0) = 0 \end{matrix}$$

$$du = -\frac{dx}{2} \Rightarrow dx = -2 du$$

DEFINITION. Integrals with infinite limits of integration are called IMPROPER INTEGRALS OF TYPE I;

- $\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx := \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b f(x) dx$ , if  $f(x)$  is cts. on  $[a, \infty)$
- $\int_{-\infty}^b f(x) dx := \lim_{a \rightarrow -\infty} \int_a^b f(x) dx$ , if  $f(x)$  cts. on  $(-\infty, b]$
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx := \int_{-\infty}^c f(x) dx + \int_c^{\infty} f(x) dx$ , if  $f(x)$  cts.  $(-\infty, \infty)$   
where  $c$  is any real number.

If the limit is finite, we say the improper integral CONVERGES and is the VALUE of the improper integral.

Otherwise, the improper integral DIVERGES.

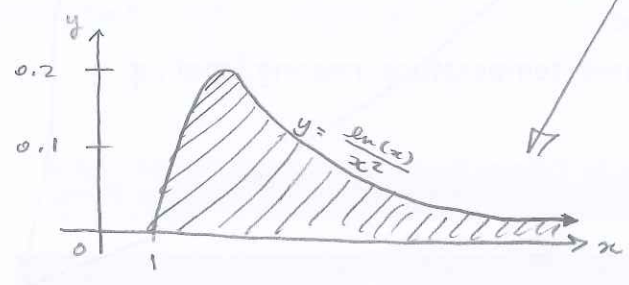
Example: Is the area under the curve  $y = \frac{\ln(x)}{x^2}$  from  $x=1$  to  $x=\infty$  finite? If yes, what is its value?  
1, p. 505

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \int_1^{\infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x^2} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{\ln(x)}{x^2} dx & \begin{cases} u = \ln(x) & v = -\frac{1}{x} \\ du = \frac{1}{x} dx & dv = \frac{1}{x^2} dx \end{cases} \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{\ln(x)}{x} \Big|_{x=1}^b - \int_1^b \left(-\frac{1}{x}\right) \left(\frac{1}{x}\right) dx \right] & \int u dv = uv - \int v du \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{\ln(x)}{x} - \frac{1}{x} \Big|_{x=1}^b \right] = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{-\ln(x) - 1}{x} \Big|_{x=1}^b \right] \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{-\ln(b) - 1}{b} + \frac{\ln(1) + 1}{1} \right] = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{b} - \frac{\ln(b)}{b} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

Lecture 1, ct'd

Example, ct'd.

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{b} - \frac{\ln(b)}{b} \right] \\
 &= 1 - \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b} - \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(b)}{b} \\
 &\stackrel{?}{=} 1 - \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b} - \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/b}{1} \quad \text{form } \frac{\infty}{\infty}, \quad \begin{matrix} f(b) = \ln(b), & g(b) = b \\ f'(b) = 1/b, & g'(b) = 1 \end{matrix} \\
 &\stackrel{\text{L'Hôp}}{=} 1 - \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b} - \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/b}{1} \\
 &= 1 - 2 \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b} \\
 &= 1
 \end{aligned}$$



The integral  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^p}$ .

Example 2  
p. 507

For which values of  $p$  does  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^p}$  converge? When it does converge, what is its value?

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^p} &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{dx}{x^p} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{x^{(1-p)}}{(1-p)} \Big|_{x=1}^b \right] \quad \leftarrow \text{IF } p \neq 1 \\
 &= \frac{1}{1-p} \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} [b^{1-p} - 1] \quad \lim_{c \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}} = \infty \\
 &= \frac{1}{p-1} + \frac{1}{1-p} \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{1}{b^{p-1}} \right] \quad \lim_{c \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{c^2} = 0 \\
 &= \begin{cases} \infty & , p \leq 1 \\ \frac{1}{p-1} & , p > 1 \end{cases} \quad \leftarrow \text{Recall: } \lim_{c \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{c^k} = \begin{cases} 0, & k > 1 \\ \infty, & k < 1 \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

and if  $p=1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{dx}{x^p} &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{dx}{x} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \ln(x) \Big|_{x=1}^b \right] \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} [\ln(b)] = \infty
 \end{aligned}$$

- Integrands with vertical asymptotes:

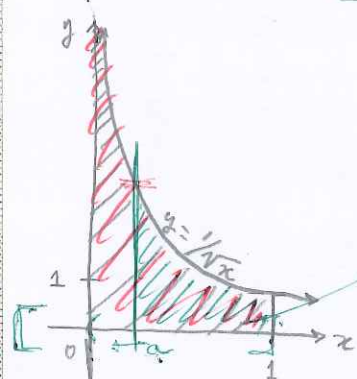
### Example 3

P. 507

Consider the region in the 1<sup>st</sup> quadrant that lies under the curve

$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \text{ from } x=0 \text{ to } x=1:$$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \left[ \int_a^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx \right] \\ &= \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \left[ 2\sqrt{x} \Big|_{x=a}^1 \right] \\ &= \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} [2 - 2\sqrt{a}] \\ &= 2 - 2 \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{a} \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$



**DEFINITION.** Integrals of functions that become infinite at a point within the interval of integration are called IMPROPER INTEGRALS OF TYPE II:

- $f$  is cts. on  $(a, b]$  and discts. at  $a$ :

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \int_c^b f(x) dx$$

- $f$  is cts. on  $[a, b)$  and discts. at  $b$ :

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{c \rightarrow b^-} \int_a^c f(x) dx$$

- $f$  is discts. at  $c \in (a, b)$  and cts. on  $[a, c) \cup (c, b]$ :

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^c f(x) dx + \int_c^b f(x) dx$$

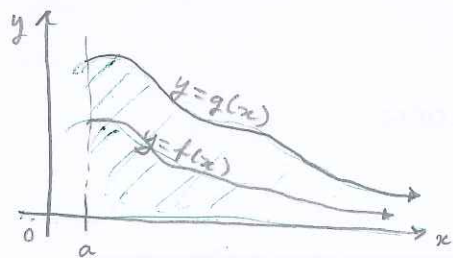
In each case, if the limit is finite we say the improper integral CONVERGES and its VALUE is the value of the limit; otherwise, we say it DIVERGES.

• Tests for convergence/divergence

Sometimes, we cannot evaluate an improper integral directly — and sometimes, the only thing we care about is whether the integral converges, not what it converges to.

**THEOREM** (Direct comparison test)

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be continuous functions on  $[a, \infty)$  with  $0 \leq f(x) \leq g(x)$  for all  $x \geq a$ . Then:

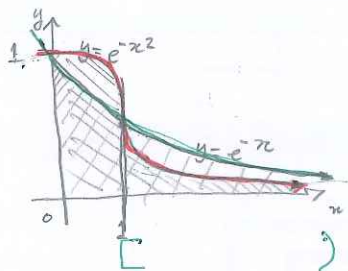


• IF  $\int_a^{\infty} g(x) dx$  converges, THEN so does  $\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx$ .

• IF  $\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx$  diverges, THEN so does  $\int_a^{\infty} g(x) dx$ .

- NOTES:**
- The "bottom" integral can force the "top" to DIVERGE
  - The "top" integral can force the "bottom" to CONVERGE
  - IT IS MEANINGLESS IF THE "TOP" INTEGRAL DIVERGES
  - IT IS MEANINGLESS IF THE "BOTTOM" INTEGRAL CONVERGES

Example:



Interested in whether  $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$  converges.

Notice for all  $x \geq 1$ ,  $e^{-x^2} \leq e^{-x}$

So if  $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x} dx$  converges, then so does our integral  $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$ .

Let's see:  $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b e^{-x} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} -e^{-x} \Big|_{x=1}^b = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} [-e^{-b} + e^{-1}] = \frac{1}{e}$ .

So since  $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x} dx = \frac{1}{e}$  converges and  $e^{-x^2} \leq e^{-x}$  for  $x \geq 1$ ,  $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$  conv. as well.

THEOREM (Limit comparison test)

Let  $f, g$  be positive functions continuous on  $[a, \infty)$ .

$$\text{IF } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = L, \text{ where } \boxed{0 < L < \infty}$$

THEN the integrals  $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$  and  $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$   
either both converge or both diverge.

Example. Show that  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+x^2}$  converges by comparison with  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2}$ .  
Find  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2}$  compare the two integral values.

Let  $f(x) := \frac{1}{1+x^2}$  and  $g(x) := \frac{1}{x^2}$ . Then both  $f$  and  $g$  are positive and cts. on  $[1, \infty)$ , so to use the limit comparison test:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{1+x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{1+x^2} \left( \frac{1/x^2}{1/x^2} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x} + 1} = 1,$$

and  $0 < 1 < \infty$ , so by the limit comparison test, the integrals

$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+x^2}$  and  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2}$  either both converge, or both diverge. To

find out which, we evaluate  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2}$  directly:

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{dx}{x^2} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{x} \right]_{x=1}^b = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{b} + 1 \right] = 1.$$

So,  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2}$  converges, and therefore  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+x^2}$  also converges.

To find the value of  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+x^2}$ , we use an alternative method (not discussed here), and see:  $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+x^2} = \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

The upshot: even if both converge, both may converge to different values!