

1 Related Rates

1. A circle's area is expanding at a constant rate of $5m^2/s$. How fast is its radius changing when its area is $100\pi m^2$?

Solution: The area of a circle is given by $A = \pi r^2$. Taking the derivative, we have that $A' = 2\pi r r'$. Now we plug in the values that we are give. We know that the area is increasing at a constant rate of 5 so $A' = 5$ and when $A = 100\pi$, we know that $r = \sqrt{100} = 10$. So $5 = 2\pi(10)r'$ so $r' = \frac{5}{20\pi} = \frac{1}{4\pi}m/s$.

2. A conical cup that is $6cm$ wide at the top and $5cm$ tall is filled with water is punctured at the bottom and water is coming out at a rate of $10^{-6}m^3/s$. Initially, the cup is filled. How fast is the height of the water changing when the height is $2cm$?

Solution: If the height of the water is h , then the radius of the cone formed by the water would be $3/5h$ and so the volume of the water cone is $V = \pi/3(3/5h)^2 \cdot h = \frac{3\pi h^3}{25}$. Taking the derivative of both sides gives

$$V' = \frac{9\pi h^2 h'}{25}$$

and plugging in -10^{-6} for V' and $2 \cdot 10^{-2}$ for h gives

$$-10^{-6} = \frac{9\pi 4 \cdot 10^{-4} h'}{25} \implies h' = \frac{-1}{144\pi} m/s.$$

3. A lamppost is $5m$ tall. A woman who is $2m$ tall is walking away from it at a constant rate of $10cm/s$. When she is $2m$ away from the lamppost, how fast is her shadow length changing?

Solution: Using similar triangles, if the woman is at a distance d from the lamppost and the shadow height is h , then

$$\frac{h}{2} = \frac{h+d}{5} \implies 2d = 3h.$$

Taking the derivative, we have that $2d' = 3h'$ and $d' = 10\text{cm}/s$ so $h' = \frac{20}{3}\text{cm}/s$.

4. Sand is being dumped in a conical pile whose width and height always remain the same. If the sand is being dumped in at a rate of $2\text{m}^3/\text{hr}$, how fast is the height of the sand changing when the pile is 10cm tall?

Solution: Let the height of the pile be h . Then the radius of the pile is $r = \frac{h}{2}$ and the volume of the pile is $V = \frac{\pi r^2 h}{3} = \frac{\pi h^3}{12}$. Taking the derivative gives $V' = \frac{\pi}{4}h^2h'$. Now we plug in 2 for V' and 10^{-1} for h to get $h' = \frac{800}{\pi}\text{m}/\text{hr} = \frac{800}{3600\pi}\text{m}/s = \frac{2}{9\pi}\text{m}/s$.

5. A ladder 5m tall is lying against a wall. The bottom of the ladder is pulled out at a rate of $10\text{cm}/s$. How fast is the area of the triangle formed by the ladder, wall, and floor changing when the bottom of the ladder is 3m away from the wall?

Solution: Let d be how far the bottom of the ladder is away from wall. Then the area of the triangle formed is $\frac{1}{2} \cdot d \cdot \sqrt{25 - d^2} = A$. Squaring both sides gives $4A^2 = d^2(25 - d^2)$. Now we can take the derivative to get that $8AA' = 2dd'(25 - d^2) + d^2(-2dd')$. When $d = 3$, the area is $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 3 \cdot 4 = 6$ and so

$$8 \cdot 6 \cdot A' = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot d'(16) + 9(-6d') \implies 48A' = 42d'.$$

Since $d' = 10^{-1}\text{m}/s$, we have that $A' = \frac{7}{80}\text{m}/s$.

6. A conical volcano is 100m tall and the base has a radius of 50m . It is filling with lava at a rate of $\pi\text{m}^3/s$. At what rate is the height of the lava rising with it is 50m tall?

Solution: Let h be the height of the lava. Then we can calculate the volume of the truncated cone by taking the total area and subtracting the missing top cone. The top cone has a height of $100 - h$ and radius of $(100 - h)/2$. Thus the volume of the lava is

$$V(h) = \frac{\pi \cdot 50^2 \cdot 100}{3} - \frac{\pi \cdot (100 - h)^2 \cdot (100 - h)}{2^2 \cdot 3}.$$

Taking the derivative, we get that

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = -\frac{\pi(100 - h)^2(-h')}{4}.$$

Since $V' = \pi$, we have that $h' = \frac{4}{50^2} = \frac{1}{625}$.

2 L'Hopital's Rule

7. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2x}\right)^{3x}$.

Solution: We use the trick of turning exponents into products by taking e to the \ln of the function. So doing this gives

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2x}\right)^{3x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \exp \left[\ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{2x}\right)^{3x} \right] = \exp \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 3x \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{2x}\right) \right].$$

Plugging in ∞ gives $\infty \cdot 0$ which is a product indeterminate and so we can turn this product into a quotient. Doing so gives

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 3x \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{2x}\right) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{2x}\right)}{(3x)^{-1}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{1+1/2x}(-2(2x)^{-2})}{-3(3x)^{-2}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{2 + \frac{1}{x}} = \frac{3}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the answer to the original limit is $e^{3/2}$.

8. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x - 4}{\sqrt{x} - 2}$.

Solution: Plugging in $x = 4$ gives $0/0$ which is indeterminate. Now we use L'Hopitals rule to get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x - 4}{\sqrt{x} - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{1}{1/(2\sqrt{x})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} 2\sqrt{x} = 4.$$

9. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x \tan x}{\sin 3x}$.

Solution: Plugging in $x = 0$ gives $0/0$ so using L'Hopitals gives

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x \tan x}{\sin 3x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x \sec^2(x) + \tan x}{3 \cos(3x)} = \frac{0}{3} = 0.$$

10. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x^2)}{x \tan x}$.

Solution: Plugging in 0 gives 0/0 and so we can use LHopitals rule to get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x^2)}{x \tan x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x \cos(x^2)}{x \sec^2(x) + \tan x}.$$

Plugging in 0 again gives 0/0 yet again, so we use LHopital's again to get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x \cos(x^2)}{x \sec^2(x) + \tan x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 \cos x^2 - 4x^2 \sin x^2}{2 \sec^2(x) + 2x \tan x \sec^2(x)} = \frac{2 - 0}{2 + 0} = 1.$$

11. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 e^x}{\tan^2 x}$.

Solution: Plugging in 0 gives 0/0 so we use LHopitals to get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 e^x}{\tan^2 x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x e^x + x^2 e^x}{2 \tan x \sec^2 x}.$$

Plugging in 0 again gives 0/0 so we use LHopitals again to get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x e^x + x^2 e^x}{2 \tan x \sec^2 x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 e^x + 4x e^x + 2e^x}{2 \tan x (2 \sec x \cdot \sec x \tan x) + 2 \sec^4 x} = \frac{2}{2} = 1.$$

12. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x + 1})$.

Solution: Plugging in ∞ gives $\infty - \infty$ which is an indeterminate. This is not a quotient so we can't use LHopital's yet. But we can try to multiply by the conjugate to get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x + 1}) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 + 1 - (x + 1)}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{x + 1}}.$$

Now we plug in ∞ to get ∞/∞ so we can use LHopitals and get

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

Note that we could have solved it after multiplying by the conjugate by dividing the top and bottom by the largest power of x we saw, which was x^2 . Doing so gives

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 - x}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{x + 1}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - 1/x}{\sqrt{1/x^2 + 1/x^4} + \sqrt{1/x^3 + 1/x^4}} = \infty/0 = \infty.$$

13. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln x \cdot \tan x$.

Solution: Plugging in 0 gives $(-\infty) \cdot 0$. So, we can write it as

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\cot x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1/x}{-\csc^2(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-\sin^2 x}{x}.$$

Plugging in 0 gives 0/0 so we can use L'Hopitals again to get

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

14. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^{\sin x}$.

Solution: We don't like having x raised to some function of x so we do our trick of taking e to the \ln of the function. This gives

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^{\sin x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \exp(\ln x^{\sin x}) = \exp \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sin x \ln x \right].$$

Calculating the inner limit gives

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sin x \ln x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\csc(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1/x}{-\cot(x) \csc(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-\sin^2(x)}{\cos(x)x}.$$

Plugging in 0 again gives 0/0 so we use L'Hopitals again to get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-2 \sin x \cos x}{\cos x - x \sin x} = 0.$$

So our original answer is $e^0 = 1$.