

Questions

Example Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x}$.

Example Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \tan(1/x)$.

Example Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1}{\ln x} - \frac{1}{x-1} \right)$.

Solutions

Example Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x}$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x} \rightarrow \frac{\infty}{\infty} \quad (\text{direct substitution leads to indeterminant quotient; use l'H.R.})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}[e^x]}{\frac{d}{dx}[x]} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{1} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^x \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

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

Example Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \tan(1/x)$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \tan(1/x) \rightarrow \infty \cdot \tan 0 \rightarrow \infty \cdot 0 \quad (\text{indeterminant product; cannot use l'H.R.})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \tan(1/x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tan(1/x)}{1/x} \rightarrow \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{indeterminant quotient; can now use l'H.R.}) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}[\tan(1/x)]}{\frac{d}{dx}[1/x]} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sec^2(1/x)(-1/x^2)}{(-1/x^2)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sec^2(1/x) \\ &= \sec^2(0) = \frac{1}{\cos^2 0} = 1 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \tan(1/x) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Example Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1}{\ln x} - \frac{1}{x-1} \right)$.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1}{\ln x} - \frac{1}{x-1} \right) \rightarrow \infty - \infty \quad (\text{indeterminant difference; cannot use l'H.R.})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1}{\ln x} - \frac{1}{x-1} \right) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{x-1-\ln x}{(x-1)\ln x} \right) \rightarrow \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{indeterminant quotient; can now use l'H.R.}) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{\frac{d}{dx}[x-1-\ln x]}{\frac{d}{dx}[(x-1)\ln x]} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1-1/x}{(x-1)\frac{d}{dx}[\ln x] + \ln x \frac{d}{dx}[x-1]} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1-1/x}{(x-1)(1/x) + \ln x(1)} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1-1/x}{1-1/x + \ln x} \right) \rightarrow \frac{0}{0} \quad (\text{indeterminant quotient; can use l'H.R.}) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{\frac{d}{dx}[1-1/x]}{\frac{d}{dx}[1-1/x + \ln x]} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1/x^2}{1/x^2 + 1/x} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{1+1} = \frac{1}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{1}{\ln x} - \frac{1}{x-1} \right) = \frac{1}{2}$$