

L'Hospital Rule

Let $f, g : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable at $x_0 \in (a, b)$. Suppose $f(x_0) = g(x_0) = 0$ and $g'(x_0) \neq 0$.

Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f'(x_0)}{g'(x_0)}$

PROOF : Note that $\frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}}{\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{g(x) - g(x_0)}{x - x_0}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{g(x) - g(x_0)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$

Strong Version of L'Hospital Rule

Let $f, g : [x_0, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Suppose $f(x_0) = g(x_0) = 0$ and f, g are differentiable on (x_0, b) . Let $g'(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in (x_0, b)$. Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

provided $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ exists.

THEOREM:

Cauchy Mean Value Theorem

Let f and g be continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) . Suppose that $g'(x) \neq 0$

for all $x \in (a, b)$. Then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)} = \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)}.$$

Proof:

$$F(x) = f(x) - f(a) - \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}(g(x) - g(a))$$

Then F is continuous on $[a, b]$, differentiable on (a, b) and $F(a) = F(b) = 0$.

By Rolle's Theorem there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that $F'(c) = 0$.

This proves the Theorem.