

Cauchy Mean Value Theorem

Suppose f and g are continuous on $[a, b]$ and $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ exist

$\forall x \in (a, b)$. Then $\exists c \in (a, b)$ s.t. $f'(c)(g(b) - g(a)) = g'(c)(f(b) - f(a))$

hence if $g'(c) \neq 0$ and $g(b) - g(a) \neq 0$ then $\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}$

(if $g(x) = x$ we have MVT).

Proof: Let $h(x) = (f(x) - f(a))(g(b) - g(a)) - (g(x) - g(a))(f(b) - f(a))$

h is cts on $[a, b]$ and $h'(x) = f'(x)(g(b) - g(a)) - g'(x)(f(b) - f(a))$

and $h'(x)$ is defined $\forall x \in (a, b)$.

$h(a) = 0$ and $h(b) = 0$ so by Rolle's Thm, $\exists c \in (a, b)$ s.t.

$h'(c) = 0$. ■

L'Hopital's Rule (proved by Bernoulli)

Suppose that f, g are continuous on $(a-s, a) \cup (a, a+s)$ for some s .

and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 0$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = 0$ also suppose $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ are defined on $(a-s, a) \cup (a, a+s)$.

and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = L$. Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = L$. (obvious modifications for one-sided limits).

Bonus problem for second midterm:

Disprove L'Hopital's Rule:

$$\text{Let } f(x) = \frac{x}{e^{\sin(\frac{1}{x})}(2 + x \sin(\frac{1}{x}))}$$

$$g(x) = \frac{x}{2 + x \sin(\frac{1}{x})}$$

Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ does not exist.

Hint: transform limits at 0 to limits at ∞ .

Bonus problem and $f(x) = \frac{1}{e^{\sin(\frac{1}{x})}} g(x)$

After some gruesome calculations, we can show that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \alpha(x) \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \\ g'(x) &= \beta(x) \cos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for } x \neq 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} \stackrel{?}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\alpha(x)}{\beta(x)} = 0, \text{ so L'Hopital's rule is wrong.}$$

In fact, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ does not exist.

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0 \text{ s.t. } 0 < |x| < \delta \Rightarrow \overbrace{x \in \text{dom}\left(\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = \frac{\alpha(x) \cos(\frac{1}{x})}{\beta(x) \cos(\frac{1}{x})}\right)}^{(1)} \text{ and } \left| \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} \right| < \varepsilon$$

but " $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0}$ " $\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ (where ① is on the left) exists and $= 0$.

Proof of L'Hopital's rule (we will prove the right-handed version)

Hypothesis of RH-version: f and g are cts on $(a, a+s)$ for some $s > 0$.

and $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ are defined $\forall x \in (a, a+s)$. and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} g(x)$

and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = L$. Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = L$ too.

We know: for some $0 < s' \leq s$, $g'(x) \neq 0 \forall x \in (a, a+s')$

(Re)define if necessary, $f(a) = g(a) = 0$.

Then f and g are cts on $[a, a+s)$.

Also $g(x) \neq 0$ for $x \in (a, a+s')$. If $g(x_0) = 0$ for $x_0 \in (a, a+s')$, then by Rolle's thm, $g'(c) = 0$ for some $c \in (a, x_0) \subseteq (a, a+s)$ (contradiction).

By CMVT, for $x \in (a, a+s')$,

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{g(x) - g(a)} = \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} \text{ for some } c \in (a, x_0) \subseteq (a, a+s')$$

$$\text{As } x \rightarrow a^+, c \rightarrow a^+. \text{ So } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = L$$

ε - λ justification:

Given $\varepsilon > 0$ we can find λ , $0 < \lambda < s$ s.t.

$$0 < c - a < \lambda \Rightarrow c \in \text{dom}\left(\frac{f'}{g'}\right) \text{ and } \left| \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} - L \right| < \varepsilon$$

So

$$0 < x - a < \lambda \Rightarrow 0 < c - a < \delta \Rightarrow \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} - \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} - L \right| < \epsilon$$