

Review. Direct comparison and limit comparison

L'Hospital's rule

Example 119. The following example illustrates that limits of the form " $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ " are completely undetermined. Anything is possible for the actual limit:

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x = \infty$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{3x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x(1 + \sin^2(x))}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \sin^2(x))$ This limit does not exist.

Theorem 120. (L'Hospital's rule) If $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \infty$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x) = \infty$, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}.$$

The same conclusion holds if $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x) = 0$.

[It is important to realize that L'Hospital's rule only applies to the undetermined cases " $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ " and " $\frac{0}{0}$ ".]

Example 121. $\int_0^{\infty} x e^{-3x} dx =$

Your final answer should be $\frac{1}{9}$.

Along the way, you will need the limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x e^{-3x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{e^{3x}} \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3e^{3x}} = 0$.