

welcome students

so in this lecture we will see an application of derivatives to calculate limits of certain functions

so more specifically we will learn what is known as the l'hopital rules for finding the limit of functions written

as ratio of two functions

so let me state we will learn the l'hopital rules

so this is used to calculate limits of the form  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  where  $c$  is in extended real number by this we mean that  $c$  is either a real number or plus or minus infinity

so first let us look at a special case suppose  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are continuously differentiable functions in some interval  $i$  containing  $c$  also assume that  $f(c)$  is equal to  $g(c)$  and both are zero then and let us assume that  $g'(c)$  is non zero then we can write  $f(x)$  by  $g(x)$  as  $\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{g(x) - g(c)}$  since  $f(c)$  is zero and  $g(c)$  is zero and this we can write as  $\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \cdot \frac{x - c}{g(x) - g(c)}$

so this all these are valid if  $x$  belongs to  $i$  and  $x$  not equal to  $c$

so now we have written this  $f(x)$  by  $g(x)$  as the ratio of  $\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$  and  $\frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c}$  now note

that what we know is that the limit of  $\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$  is nothing but the derivative of  $f$  at  $c$  now  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$  is

$f'(c)$  this is equal to  $f'(c)$  since we have assumed that  $f$  is differentiable at  $c$  this limit

exists and is equal to the derivative at  $c$  and the limit of  $\frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c}$  is

$g'(c)$  divided by  $x - c$  is equal to  $g'(c)$  also we are assuming that the limit of this denominator which is  $g'(c)$  this is given to be non-zero

so therefore  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{g(x) - g(c)} = \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)}$

this is nothing but  $f'(c)$  over  $g'(c)$  but this ratio is nothing but  $f(x)$  by  $g(x)$

for  $x$  not equal to  $c$

so therefore  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)}$  but note that this is equal to

$\frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f'(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g'(x)}$  this is because  $f'(x)$  and  $g'(x)$  are assumed to be continuous assumed to be continuous at  $x$  equal to  $c$  hence  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f'(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g'(x)}$

so this above rule the above rule which is valid for more general cases is known as the l'hopital rule

so this l'hopital is the name of a french mathematician and this is pronounced as l'hopital

so here  $h$  is silent

so now i will state the l'hopital

rule in more general situation suppose  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  is equal to  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$  which is equal to zero or plus or minus infinity that is  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  is of the form zero by zero or infinity by infinity

so if we have this limit in one of these indeterminate form zero by zero or plus minus infinity by infinity then this we apply this l'hospital rule and the second assumption is also assume that limit  $x$  going to  $c$  of  $f$  prime  $x$  by  $g$  prime  $x$  this exists

so suppose we somehow know that the limit of the ratio of the derivatives of these functions  $f$  and  $g$  as  $x$  approaches  $c$  this limit exists and we have that  $g$  prime  $x$  is non-zero for all  $x$  in the interval  $i$  accept possibly at  $x$  equal to  $c$

so we assume that there is some interval in which  $g$  prime is non-zero for all  $x$  in that interval

except may be at  $c$  then the conclusion is then the limit as  $x$  approaches  $c$  of  $f$   $x$  by  $g$   $x$  this exists and this limit is nothing but the limit of  $f$  prime  $x$  by  $g$  prime  $x$

so here it is important to note that only if we have this  $f$   $x$  by  $g$   $x$  is of  $0$  by  $0$  or infinity

by infinity form then we can write this limit as the limit of  $f$  prime  $x$  by  $g$  prime  $x$  provided this

limit of the right hand side exists if we do not have limit in zero by zero form we cannot apply this l'hospital rule

so let us see some examples first example let me take limit  $x$  going to zero of  $\sin x$  by  $x$

so here if we see as  $x$  goes to  $0$   $\sin x$  approaches  $0$  and  $x$  approaches  $0$  also

so this is of  $0$  by  $0$  form now if we look at the limit of  $x$  going to zero of the derivative of  $\sin x$  by  $d$  by  $d$   $x$  of  $x$  then this is equal to limit  $x$  going to zero

the derivative of  $\sin x$  if we know is  $\cosine x$  and derivative of  $x$  is one

so we get this is

equal to limit of  $\cos x$  by one and the limit of  $\cos x$  as  $x$  approaches zero is nothing but

$\cos$  zero divided by one

so this is equal to one

so what we got here is that the limit of the

derivative this exists and the denominator if you see the derivative  $g$  prime  $x$  this is

equal to 1 for all  $x$

so it is nonzero

so by the l'optal rule limit of  $x$  going to  $0$  of  $\sin x$  by  $x$  this

is equal to one which we have calculated directly note that here we use the fact that the derivative of  $\sin x$  is  $\cosine x$  in fact if you remember the way we calculated the

derivative of  $\sin x$  is  $\cos x$  we use it we used the fact that limit of  $\sin x$  by  $x$  is equal to one

but suppose you know this fact by some other means then we can also evaluate the limit of  $\sin$

$x$  by  $x$  equal to one using this l'hospital rule second example let us look at

limit  $x$  going to  $0$  of  $e$  to the  $x$  minus one

minus  $x$  divided by  $x$  square

so again if i look at this is  $f$   $x$  is  $e$  to the  $x$

minus one minus  $x$   $g$   $x$  is  $x$  square  $0$  the numerator is  $0$  denominator is also  $0$  and both numerator and denominator are continuous

functions of  $x$

so the limit of numerator is zero the limit of the denominator is zero  
so by

applying l'hospital rule this is equal to limit  $x$  going to zero of the  
derivative

of numerator that will give  $e^x$  minus one divided by  $2x$  this  
is by using l'hospital rules now if we see this limit now  $e^x$  minus one  
as  $x$  approaches zero is  $e^0$  minus one  
minus one which is zero

so this is still in zero by zero form

so we can try applying l'opital rule again

so if we look at now again the derivative of numerator and denominator we get  
the

derivative of numerator is  $e^x$  the derivative of denominator is  
 $2$  this is again by using n orbital now  $e^x$  is a continuous function

so this

limit is nothing but  $e^0$  divided by  $2$  which is equal to one by two

so now remark like we see here in this example

here we had to use l'hospital rule twice to be able to evaluate the limit

so we might have to apply l'opital rules several times in order to calculate the  
limit let me mention some complications which can occur suppose we try to  
evaluate limit of  $x$  going to infinity of  $e^x$  plus  $e^{-x}$

minus  $x$  by  $e^x$  minus  $e^{-x}$

so here we see that as  $x$  approaches

infinity  $e^x$  this approaches infinity  $e^{-x}$  approaches zero

so we get

this is of the form infinity by infinity form

so we might be tempted to

use l'opital rule directly

so if we use l'hospital rules this is equal

to limit  $x$  going to infinity of derivative of  $e^x$  gives  $e^x$

derivative of  $e^{-x}$

to the minus  $x$  gives minus of  $e^{-x}$  divided by derivative of the

denominator

gives  $e^x$  plus  $e^{-x}$  now if we see again at infinity the

numerator goes

to infinity denominator also goes to infinity so it is still of infinity by

infinity form here

i will write in sort l h to say that we are applying l'hospital's rule

so again if i apply

l'hospital rule we get limit  $x$  going to infinity derivative will give  $e^x$

plus  $e^{-x}$

minus  $x$  by  $e^x$  minus  $e^{-x}$  which is the original limit itself

so here we see that by applying l'hospital rule several times also we won't

be

able to calculate this limit

so we won't be able to calculate the limit by applying l'opital rule directly

however if we put  $e^x$  is equal to  $y$  then as  $x$  approaches positive

infinity  $y$  approaches infinity and then the limit becomes  $e^x$  plus  $e^{-x}$

to the minus  $x$  by

$e^x$  minus  $e^{-x}$  this is nothing but  $y$  plus  $e^{-x}$

$x$  will be one by  $y$  by  $y$  minus one by  $y$  and this can be written as  $y^2$  plus

one by  $y^2$  minus one

so therefore limit  $x$  going to infinity of  $e^x$

to the  $x$  plus  $e^{-x}$  by  $e^x$  minus  $e^{-x}$  is nothing

but limit of  $y$  going to infinity of  $y^2 + 1$  by  $y^2 - 1$  which we know how to calculate we can divide by the highest power  $y^2$  numerator and denominator which is equal to limit of  $y$  going to infinity of  $1 + \frac{1}{y^2}$  by  $1 - \frac{1}{y^2}$  and then this becomes one plus zero by one minus zero so the limit is one or we can use l'hospital rule we could use l'hopital rule to write limit of  $y$  going to infinity  $y^2 + 1$  by  $y^2 - 1$  this is of infinity by infinity form so by l'hopital we can write this as limit  $y$  going to infinity of the derivative of the numerator gives  $2y$  divided by denominator again gives  $2y$  and we can cancel this  $2$  by  $2y$  and we get this is equal to  $1$ .

so this example shows that sometime we have to do some substitution before applying l'hopital rule we can look at another example where applying l'hopital rule directly will not get anywhere

so suppose i write  $\sqrt{x+1}$  by  $\sqrt{x}$  divided by  $\sqrt{x-1}$  by  $\sqrt{x}$

so this again is of infinity by infinity form and if we use l'hopital rule directly then

this will be equal to limit  $x$  going to infinity derivative of  $\sqrt{x+1}$  gives  $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x+1}}$  we have  $x$  to the minus half this is minus half

$x$  to the minus three by two then again we have one by two root  $x$  plus half  $x$  to the minus three by two now as  $x$  goes to infinity the numerator here goes to zero and the denominator also both terms goes to zero

so this is zero by zero form if we apply again l'hopital rule we get limit  $x$  going to infinity this is half  $x$  to the minus half

so we get minus one fourth  $x$  to the minus three by two and then plus this is three by four  $x$  to the minus five by two by this will be minus one fourth  $x$  to the minus three by two this becomes minus three by four  $x$  to the minus five by two this is again zero by zero form

so applying l'hopital rules makes this expression more and more complicated becomes more and more complicated however we can write simply limit  $x$  going to infinity

$\sqrt{x+1}$  by  $\sqrt{x}$  by  $\sqrt{x-1}$  by  $\sqrt{x}$  as we can simplify this expression and

write this as  $\frac{x+1}{x}$  by  $\frac{x-1}{x}$  and then it is easy to see that this limit is one

either by dividing numerator and denominator by  $x$  or you can use l'hopital rule here

and this is limit  $x$  going to infinity of the derivative will give one by one

so this is equal to one

so these two examples were to show that you should not apply l'hopital rule blindly but try to do some simplification before

you apply l'hopital

now we will see that this l'hopital rule can be used for other indeterminate forms forms like zero times infinity or infinity minus infinity  $a^x$  to the power infinity  $0$  to the power  $0$  etc by somehow changing into zero by zero or infinity by infinity forms

so for example lets first calculate what is limit of  $x$  going to infinity of  $x$  square times  $e$  to the minus  $x$

so here if we see as  $x$  goes to infinity  $x$  square goes to infinity  $e$  to the minus  $x$  goes to zero

so this is infinity times zero form which we have seen is an indeterminate form

but here we have this is a product of two functions and not ratio of two functions

so to

be able to apply l'hopital rule first we have to convert it into ratio of two functions

so we

can write this as limit of  $x$  going to infinity of  $x$  square divided by  $e$  to the  $x$  now if

we see the numerator it goes to infinity denominator also goes to infinity

so we get infinity by infinity form therefore we can apply l'hopital rule and

we get this as limit  $x$  going to infinity of the derivative of  $x$  square

gives  $2x$  derivative of  $e$  to the  $x$  is  $e$  to the  $x$  this is

still infinity by infinity form

so we apply l'hopital rule once more and this gives limit  $x$  going to

infinity of  $2$  divided by  $e$  to the  $x$  now as  $x$  goes to infinity this is

numerator goes to  $2$  denominator goes

to infinity

so this is equal to zero

so more generally we can show that limit of  $x$  going to infinity of  $x$  to the  $n$  times

$e$  to the minus  $x$  this is equal to  $0$  for any positive integer  $n$  this is because we write this as

$x$  to the  $n$  divided by  $e$  to the  $x$  and we keep on applying l'hopital rule

so the

denominator is always  $e$  to the  $x$  when you take derivative you keep getting  $e$  to the  $x$  whereas

the numerator is  $x$  to the  $n$

so when we take derivative of  $x$  to the  $n$  the exponent is reduced

by one

so if we take derivative  $n$  times then we get a constant in the numerator and denominator is

still  $e$  to the  $x$  therefore this limit will be zero second example let us look at limit of  $x$  going to zero from the right of

the function  $x$  times natural log of  $x$

so here we are taking the right hand

limit because log  $x$  is defined here we are taking limit  $x$  going to zero plus

because log  $x$  is defined only for  $x$  greater than zero now if we

see what happens this  $x$  as  $x$  approaches  $0$  plus we have seen that what happens to

log  $x$  this approaches negative infinity recall that the graph of log  $x$  is like this at  $1$  log  $x$  is  $0$  and for  $x$  less than  $1$  the value of log  $x$  is

negative and as you keep decreasing the value of  $x$   $\log x$  keeps going to negative infinity

so this

limit is of the form zero times minus infinity we have to convert this into zero by zero or infinity by infinity form

so so let us write  $x \log x$  this is equal to we can write this as  $\log x$  divided by  $x$  to the negative one now this is the numerator goes to negative infinity denominator goes to positive infinity so this is negative infinity by infinity form

so by l'hospital rule this limit

$x$  going to zero plus of  $x \log x$  is equal to limit  $x$  going to zero plus of  $\log x$  by one by  $x$  and this if i use l'hospital rule this is equal to limit  $x$  going to  $0$  plus of derivative of  $\log x$  gives  $1$  by  $x$  derivative of  $1$  by  $x$  is minus  $1$

by  $x$  square and if we simplify this  $1$  by  $x$  divided by minus  $1$  by  $x$  square is nothing but minus  $x$

so this is limit  $x$  going to  $0$  plus of minus  $x$  which is equal to  $0$ .

so the limit of  $x \log x$  as  $x$  approaches zero plus is equal to zero let us try to see example where we have the

limit of the form infinity minus infinity

so let us try to calculate limit  $x$

going to  $0$  of  $1$  by  $x$  minus  $1$  by sine  $x$

so as  $x$  goes to  $0$  one by  $x$  approaches plus or minus infinity from right and left and sine  $x$  as  $x$  approaches zero approaches zero

so this is infinity minus infinity form now here what we can do is we can take the common denominator and write this as sine  $x$  minus  $x$  divided by  $x$  sine  $x$  now if we see as  $x$  approaches  $0$  the numerator is approaching  $0$  and as  $x$  approaches  $0$  denominator is also approaching  $0$

so we get  $0$  by  $0$  form

so we can apply l'opital rule and

write this as limit  $x$  going to  $0$  of the derivative of the numerator gives  $\cos x$  minus  $1$  divided by derivative of the denominator we use product rule and get this as sine  $x$  plus  $x$  cos  $x$  now what happens as  $x$  approaches  $0$  cos  $x$

minus  $1$  goes to cos  $0$  minus  $1$

so that is  $0$  and the denominator has sine  $x$  and  $x$  cos  $x$  so this also approaches  $0$

so we get  $0$  by  $0$  form

so let us try to apply l'hospital rule

again if we take the derivative again we get derivative of cos  $x$  is minus sine

$x$  divided by derivative of the denominator sine  $x$  derivative is cos  $x$  and  $x$  cos

$x$  will give plus cos  $x$  minus  $x$  sine  $x$  now if we put  $x$  equal to zero sin zero is zero but

in the denominator we have cos zero plus cos zero this is let me write down this as minus

sign  $x$  divided by  $2 \cos x$  minus  $x$  sin  $x$  and now we get this is equal to  $0$

divided by two

so this is equal to zero

so we are able to calculate

this limit is equal to zero by using l'hospital rule twice after

converting this into zero by zero form now similarly we can look at limit of  $x$  going to 1 plus of  $x$  minus

1 times tan of  $\pi$  by  $2x$

so as  $x$  approaches 1 from the right hand side  $x$  minus 1 this goes to 0 and then

we have  $10\pi$  by  $2x$

so tan  $x$  it goes to infinity positive

infinity as a you go to  $\pi$  by 2 from the left and from the right this goes to negative infinity

so here we are taking the limit

as  $x$  approaches 1 from the right

so  $\pi$  by  $2x$  approaches  $\pi$  by 2

from the right

so this is equal to 0 times minus infinity to be able to use l'opital rule we should convert it into zero by

zero or infinity by infinity form

so lets try to write this as  $x$

minus one by tan is one by cotangent

so we can write

this as cot of  $\pi$  by two  $x$  now we get zero by zero form

so if we apply l'hospital rule this is

equal to limit  $x$  going to one plus of derivative of  $x$  minus one gives one derivative of

cotangent is minus of cosecant square  $\pi$  by  $2x$  times derivative of  $\pi$  by  $2x$  is  $\pi$  by

2

so we get this and this is nothing but limit  $x$  going to 1 plus of minus 2 by  $\pi$  times sine square  $\pi$

by  $2x$  because 1 by cosecant is sine and now as  $x$  goes to 1 from the positive side  $\pi$

by  $2x$  goes to  $\pi$  by two

so this is equal to minus two by  $\pi$  times sine square  $\pi$  by two sine  $\pi$  by two is one

so this is equal to minus two by  $\pi$  another type of limit is suppose we have 0 by 0 form

so suppose we write limit of  $x$  to the power  $x$  as  $x$  approaches zero from the right

so this is zero by zero form now here what we do is let  $f(x)$  equal to  $x$  to the  $x$  then if we take log natural log of  $f(x)$

is equal to  $x$  times natural log of  $x$  now what we know is that we have seen that limit  $x$  going to zero plus of  $x \log x$  this

is equal to 0 this we calculated by writing this as  $\log x$  by  $1/x$  and then using

l'hospital rule this limit is 0

so therefore limit of  $x$  going to zero plus of log of  $f(x)$  is equal to zero what we have to

find is what is the limit of  $f(x)$

so now  $f(x)$  is nothing but  $e$  to the

power  $\log f(x)$

so therefore limit  $x$  going to zero plus of  $f(x)$  is nothing but

limit  $x$  going to  $0$  plus of  $e$  to the power  $\log f x$  and because exponential is a continuous function this is equal to  $e$  to the power

limit  $x$  going to zero plus of  $\log f x$  this is because  $e$  to the  $x$  is continuous for continuous function the limit of  $f$  of  $x$  is same as  $f$  of the limit and now we have already evaluated that this limit is zero

so this is equal to  $e$  to the zero which is equal to one

so this limit is equal to one next i'll show you that the assumption that limit of the ratio of  $f$  prime  $x$  and  $g$  prime  $x$  exist is necessary

so let me write this as a remark note that if limit  $x$  going to  $c$   $f$  prime  $x$  by  $g$  prime  $x$  does not exist we cannot conclude that the limit of  $f x$  by  $g x$  does not exist

so what we have said is that if the limit exists then the limit  $f x$  by  $g x$  also exists and they are the same but even if the

limit of  $f$  prime  $x$  by  $g$  prime  $x$  does not exist that does not mean that the limit

of  $f x$  by  $g x$  does not exist for example take  $f x$  equal to  $x$  plus  $\sin x$  and  $g x$  equal to  $x$  then limit  $x$  going to positive infinity of  $f x$  is equal to infinity which is also the

limit of  $x$  going to infinity of  $g$  of  $x$  now what about  $f$  prime  $x$  if we look at  $f$  prime  $x$  this

is equal to  $1$  plus  $\cos x$   $g$  prime  $x$  is equal to  $1$

so if we look at  $f$  prime  $x$  by  $g$  prime  $x$  this is equal to one plus  $\cos x$

so the limit as  $x$  going to infinity of this is limit  $x$  going to infinity of  $1$  plus  $\cos x$  which does not exist this is because the limit of  $\cos x$  at infinity does not exist  $\cos x$  it keeps oscillating between negative one and one so

there is no limit as  $x$  approaches infinity however the limit of  $x$  going to infinity of  $f x$  by  $g x$  this is equal to limit  $x$  going to infinity of  $x$  plus  $\sin x$  divided by  $x$  which is can be written as limit  $x$  going to infinity of  $1$  plus  $\sin x$  by  $x$  and now what happens to  $\sin x$  by  $x$  as  $x$  approaches infinity we know that  $\sin x$

is bounded between negative one and one denominator  $x$  goes to infinity

so therefore this  $\sin x$  by  $x$  goes to zero

so and  $\sin x$  by  $x$  in mod is less than equal to one by  $x$  and greater than equal to zero and one by  $x$  this goes to zero as  $x$  approaches infinity

so we have seen that by the sandwich theorem limit  $x$  going to infinity of  $\sin x$  by

$x$  this is equal to  $0$  therefore limit of  $x$  going to infinity of  $f x$  by  $g x$  is equal

to one plus zero which is equal to one though if we directly try to use l'hospital rule

then we get the limit of  $f$  prime  $x$  by  $g$  prime  $x$  which does not exist but that does not mean

that this original limit does not exist

so with this i will stop this lecture thank you you