

### 3. Real functions of one real variable

#### 3.1 Notions of function

##### 3.1.1 General definitions

**Definition 3.1.1** We call digital function on a set  $D_f$  any process which, at all element  $x$  of  $D_f$ , allows to associate at most one element of the set  $R$ , then called image of  $x$  and denoted  $f(x)$ . The elements of  $D_f$  which have an image by  $f$  form the definition set of  $f$ , noted  $D_f$ .

**Example 3.1.1** The function  $f: x \rightarrow \sqrt{x - 1}$  is defined for all  $x \in R$  such that  $x - 1 \geq 0$ . So  $D_f = [1, +\infty[$

**Definition 3.1.2.** We call a graph, or representative curve, of a function  $f$  defined on an interval  $D_f \subset R$ , the set  $\Gamma f = \{(x, f(x)): x \in D_f\}$  formed from the points  $(x, f(x)) \in R^2$  of the plan provided with an orthonormal reference  $(o, \vec{i}, \vec{j})$

##### 3.1.2 Bounded functions, monotonic function

**Definition 3.1.3** Let  $f: D_f \rightarrow R$  be a function. We say that:

a.  $f$  is **bounded from above** if there is a number  $M$  such that for all  $x$  from  $D_f$ :  $f(x) \leq M$ .

we write:  $\exists M \in R, \forall x \in D_f: f(x) \leq M$ .

b.  $f$  is **bounded from below** if there is a number  $m$  such that for all  $x$  from  $D_f$ :  $f(x) \geq m$ .

we write:  $\exists m \in R, \forall x \in D_f: m \leq f(x)$

c.  $f$  is **bounded** if it is bounded both from above and below.

It is to say:  $\exists M > 0, \forall x \in D_f: |f(x)| \leq M$ .

d. Function that is not bounded is called unbounded function

**Definition 3.1.4.** Let  $f: D_f \rightarrow R$  be a function. We say that:

a.  $f$  is increasing on  $D_f$  if:  $\forall x, y \in D_f, x < y \Rightarrow f(x) \leq f(y)$ .

b.  $f$  is strictly increasing on  $D_f$  if:  $\forall x, y \in D, x < y \Rightarrow f(x) < f(y)$ .

c.  $f$  is decreasing on  $D_f$  if:  $\forall x, y \in D, x < y \Rightarrow f(x) \geq f(y)$ .

d.  $f$  is strictly decreasing on  $D_f$  if:  $\forall x, y \in D, x < y \Rightarrow f(x) > f(y)$ .

e.  $f$  is monotonic (strictly monotonic, respectively) on  $D_f$  if  $f$  is increasing or decreasing (strictly increasing or strictly decreasing, resp) on  $D_f$ .

##### Example 3.1.2.

a. Exponential functions  $\exp: R \rightarrow R$  is strictly increasing.

- b. The absolute value function  $x \rightarrow |x|$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}$  is not monotonic

### 3.1.3 Even, odd, periodic function

**Definition 3.1.5.** Let  $I$  be an interval of  $\mathbb{R}$  symmetric with respect to 0.

Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function. We say that:

- a.  $f$  is even (زوجية) if  $\forall x \in I: f(-x) = f(x)$ .  
 b.  $f$  is odd (فردية) if  $\forall x \in I: f(-x) = -f(x)$ .

#### Example 3.1.3.

- a. The function defined on  $\mathbb{R}$  by  $x \rightarrow x^{2n}$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) is even.  
 b. The function defined on  $\mathbb{R}$  by  $x \rightarrow x^{2n+1}$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) is odd.

**Definition 3.1.6.** Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function and  $T$  a real number,  $T > 0$ . The function  $f$  is called periodic of period  $T$  if:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}: f(x + T) = f(x).$$

**Example 3.1.4.** The functions  $\sin$  and  $\cos$  are  $2\pi$  periodic. The tangent function is  $\pi$  periodic.

### 3.1.4 Algebraic operations on functions

The set of functions from  $D \subset \mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ , is denoted  $F(D, \mathbb{R})$ .

**Definition 3.1.7** Let  $f$  and  $g \in F(D, \mathbb{R})$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . We define:

- Sum of two functions  $f + g: x \rightarrow (f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ .
- For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , we define  $\lambda f: x \rightarrow (\lambda f)(x) = \lambda f(x)$ .
- Product of two functions  $fg: x \rightarrow (fg)(x) = f(x)g(x)$ .

The functions  $f + g, \lambda f$  and  $fg$  are functions belonging to  $F(D, \mathbb{R})$ .

**Definition 3.1.8** Let  $f$  and  $g \in F(D, \mathbb{R})$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . We say that

- $f \leq g$  if:  $\forall x \in D, f(x) \leq g(x)$ .
- $f < g$  if:  $\forall x \in D, f(x) < g(x)$ .

**Example 3.1.5** Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions defined on  $]0, 1[$  by:  $f(x) = x, g(x) = x^2$ . We have  $g < f$ , because  $\forall x \in ]0, 1[, x^2 < x$ .

## 3.2 Limit of a function

### 3.2.1 Finite limit of a function at a point $x_0$ نهاية منتهية عند نقطة

Let  $f: D_f \rightarrow R$  be a function. Let  $x_0 \in R$  be a point of  $D_f$  or an extremity of  $D_f$ .

**Definition 3.2.1** Let  $\ell \in R$ . We say that the function  $f$  has a limit  $\ell$  at  $x_0$  if we have:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \forall x \in D_f, |x - x_0| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - \ell| < \varepsilon$$

We write in this case:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$ .

Explanation of the definition: We say that  $f$  has a (finite) limit  $\ell$  in  $x_0$  if, when  $x \rightarrow x_0$ ,  $f(x) \rightarrow \ell$

**Example 3.2.1** Consider the function  $f(x) = 2x - 1$  which is defined on  $R$ . At the point  $x = 1$ ,

Indeed, for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we have  $|f(x) - 1| = 2|x - 1| < \varepsilon$ , if we have, a fortiori,  $|x$

$$|x - 1| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

The right choice will then be to take  $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$

➤ **Limit to the right \ to the left  $x_0$  النهاية عن يمين وعن شمال**

### Definition 3.2.2

- a. We say that the function  $f$  admits  $\ell$  as a limit to the right of  $x_0$ , or when  $x$  tends towards  $x_0^+$ , if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ , such that:  $x_0 < x < x_0 + \delta, \rightarrow |f(x) - \ell| \leq \varepsilon$

We will write, in this case:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x) = \ell$$

- b. We say that the function  $f$  admits  $\ell$  as a limit to the left of  $x_0$ , or when  $x$  tends towards  $x_0^-$ , if for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that:  $x_0 - \delta < x < x_0$ , results  $|f(x) - \ell| \leq \varepsilon$ . We will write, in this case:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = \ell$$

**Example 3.2.2.** The function  $x \in R^+ \rightarrow \sqrt{x}$  tends to 0 when  $x \rightarrow 0^+$

Noticed. If the function  $f$  admits a limit  $\ell$  to the left of the point  $x_0$  and a limit  $\ell'$

to the right of  $x_0$ , for  $f$  to admit a limit at the point  $x_0$  it is necessary and sufficient that.

$$\ell = \ell'$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$$

**Example 3.2.3.** Consider the function defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{si } x \geq 0 \\ -1, & \text{si } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

It admits 1 as the limit to the right of 0 and -1 as the limit to the left of 0. But it admits **no limit at the point 0**.

**Uniqueness of the limit**

**Proposal** If  $f$  admits a limit at the point  $x_0$ , this limit is unique.

### 3.2.2 Infinite limit of a function at a point $x_0$ نهاية غير منتهية عند نقطة $x_0$

Let  $x_0 \in R$ . We will put by definition:

a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = +\infty$  if:

$$\forall A > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \text{ such as } |x - x_0| < \delta \Rightarrow f(x) > A.$$

b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = -\infty$  if:

$$\forall A > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \text{ such as } |x - x_0| < \delta \Rightarrow f(x) < -A.$$

### 3.2.3 Finite limit of a function at infinity ( $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$ ) نهاية منتهية عند المالانهاية

a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = \ell$ , if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists A > 0, \text{ tel que } x > A \Rightarrow |f(x) - \ell| < \varepsilon.$$

We say that  $f$  has a (finite) limit  $\ell$  at  $+\infty$  if, when  $x$  becomes very large,  $f(x)$  becomes very close to  $\ell$

b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = \ell$ , if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists A > 0, \text{ tel que } x < -A \Rightarrow |f(x) - \ell| < \varepsilon.$$

we say that  $f$  has a (finite) limit at  $-\infty$  if, when  $x$  becomes very large in negative value,  $f(x)$  becomes very close to  $\ell$

### 3.2.4 Infinite limit at infinity نهاية غير منتهية عند المالانهاية

Let  $x_0 \in R$ . We will put by definition:

a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty$  if:

$$\forall A > 0, \exists B > 0, \text{ such as } x > B \Rightarrow f(x) > A.$$

b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = -\infty$  if:

$$\forall A > 0, \exists B > 0, \text{ such as } x > B \Rightarrow f(x) < -A.$$

c.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = +\infty$  if:

$$\forall A > 0, \exists B > 0, \text{ such as } x < -B \Rightarrow f(x) > A.$$

d.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = -\infty$  if:

$$\forall A > 0, \exists B > 0, \text{ such as } x < -B \Rightarrow f(x) < -A.$$

### Examples:

Prove the following limits using the definition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 2x - 3 = -1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \sqrt{x} = 2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} 2x^2 + 3x - 1 = +\infty$$

### Indeterminate form

Some forms of limits are called indeterminate. An **indeterminate form** is an expression whose limit cannot be determined solely from the limits of the individual functions.

Example of indeterminate forms:  $0/0$ ,  $\infty/\infty$ ,  $+\infty - \infty$ ,  $0 \times \infty$ ,  $\infty^0$ ,  $0^0$

### 3.2.5 Properties of function limits

Let  $f, g: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_0 \in ]a, b[$ , we have:

a. If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \pm\infty \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{1}{f(x)} = 0$

b. If  $f \leq g$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = \ell' \Rightarrow \ell \leq \ell'$

- c. If  $f \leq g$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = +\infty$  so:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = +\infty$
- d. If  $f \leq g$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = -\infty$  so:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = -\infty$

**Theorem** Let  $f, g, h: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_0 \in ]a, b[$ , if we have:

- i.  $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x), \text{ pour tout } x \in ]a, b[$ ,
  - ii.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} h(x) = \ell \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- $\Rightarrow$  So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = \ell$

### 3.2.6 Operations on the limits

**Theorem** Let  $f, g: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_0 \in ]a, b[$ , such that:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell \\ \text{and} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = \ell' \end{array} \right.$ , so:

- a.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} (f(x) + g(x)) = \ell + \ell'$
- b.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} (\lambda f(x)) = \lambda \ell$
- c.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)g(x) = \ell \cdot \ell'$
- d.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} |f(x)| = |\ell|$
- e.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} |f(x) - \ell| = 0$
- f.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\ell}{\ell'}$  if  $\ell' \neq 0$

Let  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow [c, d], g: [c, d] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_0 \in ]a, b[, y_0 \in [c, d]$ , such that:  
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = y_0$ , and  $\lim_{y \rightarrow y_0} g(y) = \ell$ , so:

Alors  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} (g \circ f)(x) = \ell$

**Proposition** Let  $f, g: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_0 \in ]a, b[$ , we have:

- a. if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = +\infty$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{1}{f(x)} = 0$
- b. if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = -\infty$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{1}{f(x)} = 0$
- c. if  $f \leq g$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$ , and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = \ell'$ , so:  $\ell \leq \ell'$
- d. if  $f \leq g$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = +\infty$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = +\infty$ ,

## 3.3 Continuity of a function

### 3.3.1 General definitions

**Definition 3.3.1.** Consider a function  $f: D_f \rightarrow R$ ,  $D_f$  being an interval of  $R$ . We say that  $f$  is continuous at the point  $x_0 \in D_f$  if:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = f(x_0)$$

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \forall x \in I, |x - x_0| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(x_0)| < \varepsilon$$

**To remember:**

$f$ continuous $\leftrightarrow$	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <math>f(x_0)</math> exists: <math>f</math> is defined at <math>x_0</math>  <div style="text-align: right; margin-left: 150px;">الدالة معرفة عند النقطة <math>x_0</math></div> </li> <li>2. <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x) = \ell</math> and <math>\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = \ell'</math>: <math>\ell</math> and <math>\ell'</math> exist  <div style="text-align: right; margin-left: 150px;">الدالة تقبل نهاية عن يمين وعن شمال النقطة <math>x_0</math></div> </li> <li>3. <math>\ell = \ell'</math>  <div style="text-align: right; margin-left: 150px;">النهايتان عن يمين وعن شمال النقطة <math>x_0</math> متساويتان</div> </li> </ol>
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**Examples**

1. Is the function  $f(x) = \frac{x^2-4}{x-2}$  continuous  
 $f$  is discontinuous at 2 because  $f(2)$  is undefined.
  
2. Determine whether the function  $f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 - 4 & \text{if } x \leq 3 \\ 4x - 8 & \text{if } x > 3 \end{cases}$  is continuous at  $x=3$ 
  - ✓ We calculate  $f(3)$  :  $f(3) = -3^2 - 4 = -5$  , Thus,  $f(3)$  is defined.
  - ✓ We calculate :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow >3} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow <3} f(x)$ 

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow <3} f(x) = -3^2 - 4 = -5$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow >3} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow >3} 4(3) - 8 = 4$$
  - ✓  $-5 \neq 4 \Leftrightarrow$  *not continuous at 3*

**Definition 3.3.2.** A function defined on an interval  $I$  is continuous on  $I$  if it is continuous at every point of  $I$ . The set of continuous functions on  $I$  is denoted by  $C(I)$ .

**Continuity on the left \ on the right**

**Definition 3.3.3** Consider a function  $f: D_f \rightarrow R$ ,  $I$  being an interval of  $R$ .

1. The function is continuous to the right at  $x_0$  if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x) = f(x_0) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \text{ such that: } x_0 < x < x_0 + \delta, \rightarrow |f(x) - f(x_0)| \leq \varepsilon.$$

2. The function  $f$  is said to be left continuous at  $x_0$  if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = f(x_0) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \text{ such that: } x_0 - \delta < x < x_0, \rightarrow |f(x) - f(x_0)| \leq \varepsilon.$$

### 3.3.2 Operations on continuous functions

**Theorem 3.3.1.** Let  $D_f$  be an interval, and  $f$  and  $g$  be functions defined on  $D_f$  and continuous at  $x_0 \in D_f$  Then

1.  $\lambda f$  is continuous at  $x_0, (\lambda \in \mathbb{R})$ .
2.  $f + g$  is continuous at  $x_0$ .
3.  $f \cdot g$  is continuous at  $x_0$ .
4.  $\frac{f}{g}$  (if  $g(x_0) \neq 0$ ) is continuous at  $x_0$ .

### 3.4 Differentiability of a function

Definition and properties

**Definition 3.4.1.** Let  $D_f$  be an interval of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $x_0$  a point of  $D_f$ , and  $f$  a function ( $f: D_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ )

We say that  $f$  is **differentiable (derivable)** at the point  $x_0$  if the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$

**exists finitely**

**تعريف** نقول ان الدالة  $f$  قابلة للاشتقاق في النقطة  $x_0$  اذا كانت النهاية  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$  **موجودة** **ومنتهية**

This limit is called the derivative of  $f$  at  $x_0$  and is noted  $f'(x_0)$

تسمى هذه النهاية مشتق الدالة  $f$  عند النقطة  $x_0$  ونرمز لها بـ  $f'(x_0)$

If we put  $x - x_0 = h$  we obtain:



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h} = f'(x_0)$$

### Graphically (بيانياً)

The derivative of  $f$  at  $x_0$  is the **slope of the tangent line** at this point  $(x_0, f(x_0))$ , which is the limit as  $h \rightarrow 0$  of the slopes of the lines through

**Example** Let  $f$  be the real function defined on  $R$  by  $f(x) = x^2$ . The derivative of  $f$  at a point  $x_0 \in R$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(h + x_0) - f(x_0)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(h + x_0)^2 - x_0^2}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x_0^2 + h^2 + 2x_0 \cdot h - x_0^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} h + 2x_0 = 2x_0 \end{aligned}$$

For  $x_0 = 1, f'(x_0) = 2$

The function  $y = f(x)$  is said to be differentiable in an open interval  $I$  if it is differentiable at every point of  $I$

**Proposition 3.4.1.** Every differentiable function is continuous, but the converse is not true. (differentiable  $\Rightarrow$  continuous)

كل دالة قابلة للاشتقاق عند نقطة ما فهي مستمرة عند تلك النقطة. العكس غير صحيح

### 3.4.1 Derivation operations

**Theorem 3.4.1** Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions defined on the interval  $I \subset R$  with and  $x_0 \in I$ . If the functions  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable at  $x_0$ , then

1.  $\forall \alpha \in R, \alpha f$  is differentiable at  $x_0$  and we have:

$$(\alpha f)'(x_0) = \alpha f'(x_0)$$

2.  $f + g$  is differentiable at  $x_0$  and we have

$$(f + g)'(x_0) = f'(x_0) + g'(x_0)$$

3.  $f \cdot g$  is differentiable at  $x_0$  and we have

$$(f \cdot g)'(x_0) = f'(x_0) \cdot g(x_0) + f(x_0) \cdot g'(x_0)$$

4. If  $g'(x_0) \neq 0$  the function  $\frac{f}{g}$  is differentiable

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)'(x_0) = \frac{f'(x_0)g(x_0) - f(x_0)g'(x_0)}{g^2(x_0)}$$

$$(1/g)'(x_0) = \frac{-g'(x_0)}{g^2(x_0)}$$

**Theorem** Let  $J$  be an interval of  $R$ ,  $f: I \rightarrow J$  and  $g: J \rightarrow R$ . If  $f$  is differentiable in  $x_0 \in I$  and  $g$  differentiable at  $f(x_0) \in J$ , the composite function  $g \circ f : I \rightarrow R$  is differentiable at  $x_0$  and

$$(g \circ f)'(x) = f'(x) \cdot g'(f(x))$$

### 3.4.2 Derivatives of standard functions

Fonction $f$	Dérivée $f'$	Fonction $f$	Dérivée $f'$
$x^n$	$nx^{n-1}$	$u^n$	$nu' u^{n-1}, n \in \mathbb{N}^*$
$\frac{1}{x}$	$-\frac{1}{x^2}$	$\frac{1}{u}$	$-\frac{u'}{u^2}$
$\sqrt{x}$	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$	$\sqrt{u}$	$\frac{u'}{2\sqrt{u}}$
$\ln x$	$\frac{1}{x}$	$\ln u$	$\frac{u'}{u}$
$e^x$	$e^x$	$e^u$	$u' e^u$
$\sin(x)$	$\cos(x)$	$\sin(u)$	$u' \cos(u)$
$\cos(x)$	$-\sin(x)$	$\cos(u)$	$-u' \sin(u)$

**Proposition** Let  $f : I \rightarrow R$  be a differentiable function on an Intervale  $I$  we have:

- (1)  $\forall x \in I, f'(x) = 0$  if and only if  $f$  is constant on  $I$
- (2) If  $\forall x \in I, f'(x) \geq 0$  (resp  $f'(x) > 0$ ), then  $f$  is increasing (resp strictly increasing).
- (3) if  $\forall x \in I, f'(x) \leq 0$  (resp  $f'(x) < 0$ ), then  $f$  is decreasing (resp strictly decreasing)

### 3.4.3 L'hopital's rule

**Theorem 3.4.7** Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions differentiable on  $I$  and both tending towards 0 ( or both tend to  $\infty$ ) for  $x \rightarrow a$  (or  $\infty$ ). We assume that  $g(x) \neq 0$  does not vanish in a neighborhood of  $a$  and that:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = l$  ( $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$  exists)

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

In other words, if the limit:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  is of indeterminate type  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$  for  $x \rightarrow a$  or  $\infty$  then

we have:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = l$

Example Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2}{\sin x}$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x^2 + x + 4}{5x^2 + 8x}$

*Solution* As observed above, this limit is of indeterminate type  $\frac{0}{0}$ , so l'Hôpital's rule applies. We have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2}{\sin x} \left( \frac{0}{0} \right) \stackrel{\text{l'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x}{\cos x} = \frac{0}{1} = 0,$$

where we have first used l'Hôpital's rule and then the substitution rule.  $\square$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^2 + x + 4}{5x^2 + 8x} \left( \frac{\infty}{\infty} \right) \stackrel{\text{l'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6x + 1}{10x + 8} \left( \frac{\infty}{\infty} \right) \stackrel{\text{l'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{10} = \frac{6}{10} = \frac{3}{5}.$$