

Calculus I, Section 4.4, #52
Indeterminate Forms and l'Hospital's Rule

Find the limit. Use l'Hospital's Rule where appropriate. If there is a more elementary method, consider using it. If l'Hospital's Rule doesn't apply, explain why.¹

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \csc(x) - \cot(x)$$

As $x \rightarrow 0$, $\csc(x) \rightarrow \infty$, and $\cot(x) \rightarrow \infty$, so the limit has the indeterminate form $\infty - \infty$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \csc(x) - \cot(x) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sin(x)} - \frac{\cos(x)}{\sin(x)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{\sin(x)} \implies \frac{0}{0} \\ &\stackrel{H}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{0 + \sin(x)}{\cos(x)} \\ &= \frac{0}{1} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \csc(x) - \cot(x) = 0$.

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 312, #52.