

Example of graph we can't yet sketch:

$$f(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{x^2 - 4x}$$

What happens near 0?

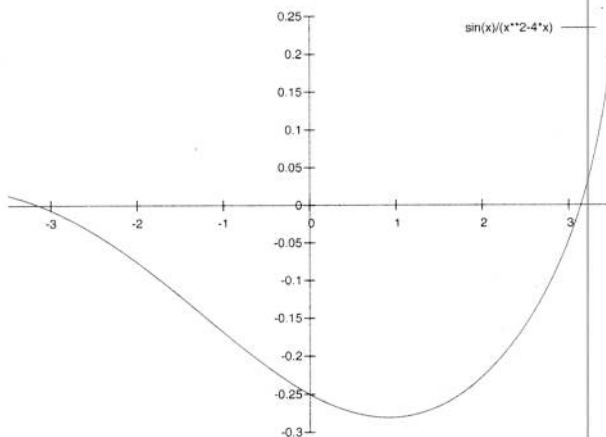
i.e., what is  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ ?

## L'Hôpital

Near 0,  $\sin(x)$  is well approximated by  $x$  [this is the equation of the tangent line at 0, since  $\sin'(0) = \cos(0) = 1$ ], and  $x^2 - 4x$  is well approximated by  $-4x$  [since  $\frac{d}{dx} x^2 - 4x \Big|_0 = 2x - 4 \Big|_0 = -4$ ]

So near 0,  $\frac{\sin(x)}{x^2 - 4x} \approx \frac{x}{-4x} = -\frac{1}{4}$ .

So we expect  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x^2 - 4x} = -\frac{1}{4}$ . **Indeed:**



**This kind of reasoning yields:** Theorem: [L'Hôpital's Rule] Suppose  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ .

Then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ , assuming the right hand limit exists.

Here,  $a$  is allowed to be  $+\infty$  or  $-\infty$ , and so is the right hand limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x+2}{x+1} = 2$$

+

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{1} = 1$$