

Guillaume-François- Antoine de L'Hôpital



1661-1704

Guillaume-François-Antoine de L'Hôpital (1661-1704) was a famous mathematician that has been given credit for coming up with "L'Hôpital's rule". This rule is a method for finding the limit of a rational function whose numerator and denominator tend to zero at a point. L'Hôpital was the son of a lieutenant-general in one of the king's armies. This meant that he was expected to have a military career. He showed no talent in the military and showed extraordinary talent in mathematics. So soon after he was forced to resign from the military due to near-sightedness he devoted all his time to mathematics.