

Feasibility of Division by Zero Based on Fixed-Point Theorems

Theorem Given a zero vector $\mathbf{0}$, the following is true:

$$\frac{\mathbf{0}}{\mathbf{0}} = \mathbf{0}$$

and so is $0/0 = 0$.

Proof Using the unit position vector \mathbf{e}_r , the norm $|\mathbf{r}|$ of the position vector \mathbf{r} , and the tangential velocity vector \mathbf{v} , the acceleration vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ is expressed as

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \mathbf{e}_r \times \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{r}|} \quad (1)$$

A closed disk $B^2 = \{(x, y) | x^2 + y^2 \leq 1\}$ is now considered on a flat surface R^2 , and it is assumed that it is given in polar coordinates $\{r, \theta\}$.

Then, according to L.E.J. Brouwer's fixed-point theorem, continuous map f from the closed disk B^2 onto itself has at least one fixed point P . According to Poincare–Hopf fixed-point theorem, the tangential vector field contains at least one zero point $\mathbf{0}$; therefore, there is a point on the disk B^2 where the tangential velocity vector $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$, which can be established as the origin (the center of the disk B^2), and in this case, the angular velocity vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ can be said to be $\boldsymbol{\omega} = \mathbf{0}$. Consequently, (1) becomes

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \mathbf{e}_r \times \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{r}|} = \mathbf{e}_r \times \frac{\mathbf{0}}{|\mathbf{r}|} = \frac{\mathbf{e}_r \times \mathbf{0}}{r} = \frac{\mathbf{0}}{r} = \mathbf{0} \quad (2)$$

In addition, as the fixed point P is the origin, the position vector \mathbf{r} in (2) is $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0}$, and thus

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \mathbf{e}_r \times \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{r}|} = \mathbf{e}_r \times \frac{\mathbf{0}}{|\mathbf{0}|} = \frac{\mathbf{e}_r \times \mathbf{0}}{0} = \frac{\mathbf{0}}{0} = \mathbf{0} \quad (3)$$

Of course, if only the size of the zero vector $\mathbf{0}$ is considered, it can be treated as the scalar quantity 0 without any issues, yielding

$$\frac{0}{0} = 0 \quad (4)$$

QED

Thus, fixed-point theorems arguably ensure that division by zero can be performed, and the zero vector division theorem described above easily leads to the fundamental theorem of division by zero, $0/0=0$. Conversely, the above theorem is the vector extension of the fundamental theorem of division by zero, $0/0=0$.