

Guillaume-François-Antoine De L'hospital Encyclopedia Article

Guillaume-François-Antoine De L'hospital

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1661-1704

French mathematician who was instrumental in introducing calculus into France. His *Analyse des infiniment petits* (1696) was the first textbook on differential calculus and dominated eighteenth-century thinking on the subject. Jean Bernoulli taught him calculus and agreed to turn his mathematical discoveries over to l'Hospital for a salary. Consequently, Bernoulli's result on indeterminate forms is known as L'Hospital's rule. The pedagogical qualities of l'Hospital's *Traité analytique des sections coniques* (1707) made it the standard eighteenth-century analytic geometry text.