

Another important limit

Find the value of y:

$$y = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{x/h} \quad (\text{problem})$$

$$\ln y = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{h} \ln \left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right) \quad (\text{because there is a variable exponent take the ln of each side})$$

$$\ln y = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln \left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)}{\frac{h}{x}} \quad (\text{convert to a L'Hopitals indeterminate form})$$

$$\ln y = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{1 + \frac{h}{x}}}{\frac{1}{x}} \quad (\text{L'Hopitals rule})$$

$$\ln y = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\frac{x+h}{x}} \quad (\text{simplify})$$

$$\ln y = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{x+h} \quad (\text{simplify})$$

$$\ln y = 1 \quad (\text{evaluate the limit})$$

$$y = e \quad (\text{change ln equation to exponential form})$$

$$\therefore \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{x/h} = e$$