

## Supplement to 1.4. Proofs of Standard Limits.

1.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = 0$  for any fixed  $p > 0$ .

*Proof.*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \right)^p = 0^p = 0.$$

2.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^n = 0$  for any fixed  $c$  where  $|c| < 1$ .

*Proof.* Case 1: When  $c = 0$ , the statement is obvious.

Case 2: When  $c > 0$ , we have

$$\ln \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^n \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln c^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \ln c = -\infty.$$

Thus,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^n = 0$ .

Case 3: When  $c < 0$ , we have  $-|c|^n \leq c^n \leq |c|^n$  for all  $n$ .

By Case 2, we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-|c|^n) = 0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |c|^n$ . Hence by Squeeze theorem, we also have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^n = 0$ .

3.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$  for any fixed  $c > 0$ .

*Proof.*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^{\frac{1}{n}} = c^{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n}} = c^0 = 1$ .

4.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = 1$ .

*Proof.*

$$\ln \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln \sqrt[n]{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = 0 \text{ (by L'Hopital's rule).}$$

Thus,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = e^0 = 1$ .

5.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^p}{c^n} = 0$  for any fixed  $p$  and  $c > 1$ .

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^p}{c^n} \right) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (p \ln n - n \ln c) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{p \ln n - n \ln c}{n} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \\ &= (-\ln c) \cdot (+\infty) = -\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^p}{c^n} = 0$ .

6.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c^n}{n!} = 0$  for any fixed  $c$ .

*Proof.* Observe that  $a_n = \frac{c^n}{n!} = \frac{c \cdot c \cdots c}{n(n-1) \cdots 1}$ . Now fix an integer  $M > c$ . Then for any  $n > M$ ,

$$a_n = \frac{c \cdot c \cdots c}{n(n-1) \cdots (M+1)} a_M < a_M.$$

Thus we have, for  $n > M$ ,  $0 \leq a_n < \frac{c}{n} a_M$ .

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 = 0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c}{n} a_M$ , by the Squeeze theorem,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ .

7.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x$  for any fixed  $x$ .

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n \right) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln \left( \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n \right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)}{\frac{1}{n}} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) \cdot \frac{-x}{n^2}}{-\frac{1}{n^2}} \\ &= x. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x$ .