

Proof that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = e$

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x &= e^{\ln \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x \right]} \\ &= e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)} \\ &= e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)}{\frac{1}{x}}} \\ &= e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{x}} \cdot \frac{-1}{x^2}}{\frac{-1}{x^2}}}, \text{ using L'Hospital's rule} \\ &= e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{x}}} \\ &= e\end{aligned}$$