

l'Hôpital's rule

Find the following limit.

$$y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{n^2}\right)^n$$

Rewrite as

$$y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \exp \left[n \log \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{n^2}\right) \right]$$

By composition limit law rewrite as exponential of limit.

$$y = \exp \left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \log \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{n^2}\right) \right]$$

Rewrite again as

$$y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \exp \left[\frac{\log \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{n^2}\right)}{\frac{1}{n}} \right]$$

Both numerator and denominator have limit zero hence apply l'Hôpital's rule.

$$y = \exp \left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dn} \log \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{n^2}\right)}{\frac{d}{dn} \frac{1}{n}} \right] = \exp \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{2\alpha}{n^3 - \alpha n}}{-\frac{1}{n^2}} \right)$$

Hence

$$y = \exp \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\alpha}{\frac{\alpha}{n} - n} \right) = \exp(0) = 1$$