

1. Find the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\ln(n)}$$

There were two ways to approach this problem: (1) using the squeeze theorem and (2) using l'Hopitals rule on the associated function.

(1) The Squeeze Theorem:

Note that $\sqrt[n]{x} \geq 1$ for $x \geq 1$. So for $n > 2$, $\sqrt[n]{\ln(n)} \geq 1$. Also, $\ln(n) \leq n$ for all positive integers and so $\sqrt[n]{\ln(n)} \leq \sqrt[n]{n}$. Summarizing, we have for $n > 2$:

$$1 \leq \sqrt[n]{\ln(n)} \leq \sqrt[n]{n}$$

We know that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = 1$ (this is computed as an example in the text.) Then by the squeeze theorem,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\ln(n)} = 1.$$

(2) l'Hopital's Rule:

Consider the function $f(x) = \sqrt[x]{\ln(x)}$. Rewrite the function as $f(x) = \exp[\frac{1}{x} \ln(\ln x)]$. We want to compute $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) &= \exp\left[\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \ln(\ln x)\right] \quad (\text{by continuity of } \exp[\]) \\ &= \exp\left[\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x \ln x}\right] \quad (\text{by l'Hopital}) \\ &= \exp[0] \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\ln(n)} = 1.$$

The most common mistakes were to argue in some way that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\ln(n)} = \infty^0 = 1$ or to say that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\ln(n)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = 0$. The former is a nonsensical statement. The same argument would say that $n = \sqrt[n]{n^n} \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, which is clearly false. The latter is a misunderstanding of the rules for logarithms: $\frac{\ln n}{n} = \ln(\sqrt[n]{n})$ not $\sqrt[n]{\ln n}$.

Because the method was an essential part of the problem, for the most part no points were given if neither (1) nor (2) were employed.