

**888.** Proposed by Brian Bradie, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Virginia.

Evaluate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)^{\sqrt{n/k^3}}.$$

**Solution:**

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Let us call  $L_n = \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)^{\sqrt{n/k^3}}$  and  $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} L_n$ .

Then, by taking logarithms, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln L_n &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sqrt{\frac{n}{k^3}} \ln \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{k}\right)^3} \ln \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)}{n} \\ \ln L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln L_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{k}\right)^3} \ln \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)}{n} = \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x^{3/2}} dx = I \end{aligned}$$

For solving the improper integral  $I$  we change  $x = t^2$ ,  $dx = 2t dt$  and then

$$I = \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+t^2)}{t^3} 2t dt = 2 \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+t^2)}{t^2} dt$$

Now, integrating by parts, with  $u = \ln(1+t^2)$  and  $dv = \frac{dt}{t^2}$  we obtain:

$$I = \frac{-2 \ln(1+t^2)}{t} \Big|_0^1 + 2 \int_0^1 \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt = -2 \ln 2 + 4 \arctan 1 = \pi - 2 \ln 2.$$

(Note that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln(1+t^2)}{t} = 0$ ).

Therefore,  $L = e^{\pi - \ln 4} = \frac{e^\pi}{4}$ .  $\square$