

6.5 First of all write $p_0(\Delta t)$ as an exponential function:

$$p_0(\Delta t) = (1 - \lambda\Delta t)^{\frac{t}{\Delta t}} = \exp\left(\frac{t}{\Delta t} \ln(1 - \lambda\Delta t)\right). \quad (1)$$

Recall Taylor expansion of $\ln(x)$

$$\ln(x + \Delta x) - \ln(x) = \frac{\Delta x}{x} + o(\Delta x),$$

and use this result with $x = 1$ and $\Delta x = -\lambda\Delta t$:

$$\ln(1 - \lambda\Delta t) = -\lambda\Delta t + o(\Delta t). \quad (2)$$

Substitute (2) into (1):

$$p_0(\Delta t) = \exp\left(-\lambda t + \frac{o(\Delta t)}{\Delta t}\right).$$

By definition $\lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{o(\Delta t)}{\Delta t} = 0$, moreover $\exp(x)$ is a continuous function of x , hence

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} p_0(\Delta t) &= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \exp\left(-\lambda t + \frac{o(\Delta t)}{\Delta t}\right) \\ &= \exp\left(\lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \left(-\lambda t + \frac{o(\Delta t)}{\Delta t}\right)\right) \\ &= \exp(-\lambda t). \end{aligned}$$