

Solutions to selected problems in HW for Week 04

1. Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x = 0; \\ e^{-1/x^2}, & x \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

It is known that $f^{(n)}(0) = 0$ for all n . Verify this for $f'(0)$ and $f''(0)$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{-1/x^2}}{x} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-t}}{1/\sqrt{t}} = 0 \quad (\text{L'Hôpital's Rule}) \\ &\Rightarrow f'(0) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Check that

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \begin{cases} 0, & x = 0; \\ 2x^{-3}e^{-1/x^2}, & x \neq 0. \end{cases} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(x) - f'(0)}{x - 0} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x^{-3}e^{-1/x^2}}{x} = 2 \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-t}}{1/t^2} = 0 \quad (\text{L'Hôpital's Rule}) \\ &\Rightarrow f''(0) = 0. \end{aligned}$$