

Let $0 < a < b$. Prove that:

$$\int_a^b (x^2 + 1) e^{-x^2} dx \geq e^{-a^2} - e^{-b^2}$$

Solution:

It is easy to see that:

$$\int_{a^2}^{b^2} e^{-t} dt = e^{-a^2} - e^{-b^2}$$

Doing this change of variable $t = x^2$:

$$\int_a^b (x^2 + 1) e^{-x^2} dx = \int_{a^2}^{b^2} (t + 1) e^{-t} \frac{dt}{2\sqrt{t}}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b (x^2 + 1) e^{-x^2} dx \geq e^{-a^2} - e^{-b^2} &\iff \int_{a^2}^{b^2} (t + 1) e^{-t} \frac{dt}{2\sqrt{t}} \geq \int_{a^2}^{b^2} e^{-t} dt \\ &\iff \frac{t + 1}{2\sqrt{t}} \geq 1 \\ &\iff \frac{t^2 + 2t + 1}{4t} \geq 1 \\ &\iff (t - 1)^2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since the previous condition is satisfied for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, the required inequality is proven.