

例 1 求 $y = \frac{\ln x}{x}$ 的 n 阶导数 ($n \geq 2$).

$$\text{解 } y^{(n)} = (x^{-1} \ln x)^{(n)} = (x^{-1})^{(n)} \ln x + \sum_{k=1}^n C_n^k (x^{-1})^{(n-k)} (\ln x)^{(k)}$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^n n!}{x^{n+1}} \ln x + \sum_{k=1}^n C_n^k \frac{(-1)^{n-k} (n-k)!}{x^{n-k+1}} \frac{(-1)^{k-1} (k-1)!}{x^k}$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^n n!}{x^{n+1}} \left(\ln x - 1 - \frac{1}{2} - \cdots - \frac{1}{n} \right).$$

例 2 求 $y = x^{n-1} e^{1/x}$ 的 n 阶导数.

$$\text{解 } n=1 \text{ 时, } (e^{1/x})' = -e^{1/x} / x^2,$$

$$n=2 \text{ 时, } (xe^{1/x})'' = \left(e^{1/x} + x \cdot e^{1/x} \cdot \frac{-1}{x^2} \right)' = \left(\left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right) e^{1/x} \right)' = e^{1/x} / x^3,$$

$$n=3 \text{ 时, } (x^2 e^{1/x})''' = ((2x-1)e^{1/x})'' = \left(\left(2 - \frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}\right) e^{1/x} \right)' = -e^{1/x} / x^4,$$

假定 $n=k$ 时, $(x^{k-1} e^{1/x})^{(k)} = (-1)^k e^{1/x} / x^{k+1}$ 成立, 记 $u = x^{k-1} e^{1/x}$, 则

$$(x^k e^{1/x})^{(k+1)} = (x \cdot u)^{(k+1)} = x \cdot u^{(k+1)} + (k+1)u^{(k)} \quad (\text{利用了莱布尼兹规则})$$

$$= x(u^{(k)})' + (k+1)u^{(k)}$$

$$= x \left((-1)^k e^{1/x} \frac{1}{x^{k+1}} \right)' + (k+1)(-1)^k e^{1/x} \frac{1}{x^{k+1}} \quad (\text{利用了归纳假设})$$

$$= (-1)^k x \left(-e^{1/x} \frac{1}{x^{k+3}} - e^{1/x} \frac{k+1}{x^{k+2}} \right) + (k+1)(-1)^k e^{1/x} \frac{1}{x^{k+1}}$$

$$= (-1)^{k+1} e^{1/x} / x^{k+2}.$$

综上 $(x^{n-1} e^{1/x})^{(n)} = (-1)^n e^{1/x} / x^{n+1}.$

注 一般地可以证明 $\left(x^{n-1} f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right)^{(n)} = (-1)^n f^{(n)}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) / x^{n+1}.$