

Exercise 88

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Thomas' Calculus Early Transcendentals

ISBN: 9780134439020

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Explanation Verified

Step 1

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

Find $f'(0)$.

Step 2

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$$\begin{aligned} f'(0) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{h^2}} - 0}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{h}}{e^{\frac{1}{h^2}}} \\ &\rightarrow \frac{\infty}{\infty} \end{aligned}$$

- Substitution
- $\diamond e^{-a} = \frac{1}{e^a}$
- Indeterminate form

Substitute $f(h) = e^{-\frac{1}{h^2}}$ for $h \neq 0$ and evaluate limit.

Step 3

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$$\begin{aligned} t(h) &= \frac{1}{h} \\ g(h) &= e^{\frac{1}{h^2}} \end{aligned}$$

Step1 : Identify $t(h)$ and $g(x)$ where $f(h) = \frac{t(h)}{g(h)}$

Step 4

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$$\begin{aligned} t'(h) &= -\frac{1}{h^2} \\ g'(h) &= e^{\frac{1}{h^2}} \cdot \frac{d}{dh} \left[\frac{1}{h^2} \right] \quad \bullet \quad \frac{d}{dh} [e^{q(h)}] = e^{q(h)} \cdot q'(h) \\ &= e^{\frac{1}{h^2}} \cdot -\frac{2}{h^3} \end{aligned}$$

Step2 : Find derivatives $t'(h)$ and $g'(h)$

Step 5

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$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{h}}{e^{\frac{1}{h^2}}}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\frac{1}{h^2}}{e^{\frac{1}{h^2}} \cdot -\frac{2}{h^3}}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{2} e^{-\frac{1}{h^2}}$$

$$= 0$$

• \diamond

• Substitution of derivatives

• $e^{-\frac{1}{h^2}} \rightarrow 0$ as $h \rightarrow 0$

Step 3 : Apply L'Hopitals Rule

Result

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0

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