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1. If $f(x) = \cos(e^{-x^2})$, find $f'(x)$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \cos(e^{-x^2}) \\ &= -\sin(e^{-x^2}) \frac{d}{dx} e^{-x^2} \\ &= -\sin(e^{-x^2})(e^{-x^2}) \frac{d}{dx} -x^2 \\ &= -\sin(e^{-x^2})(e^{-x^2})(-2x) \end{aligned}$$

2. Consider the curve given by the parametric equations

$$x = 2t^3 + 1$$

$$y = t^4$$

$$-5 \leq t \leq 5$$

Find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ when $t = -1$.

Solution: First, we find the first derivative.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{4t^3}{6t^2} = \frac{2t}{3}$$

Next, we compute the second derivative.

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \frac{dy}{dx}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \frac{2t}{3}}{\frac{d}{dt} (2t^3 + 1)} = \frac{\frac{2}{3}}{6t^2} = \frac{1}{9t^2}$$

Lastly, we evaluate $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ when $t = -1$.

$$\left. \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right|_{t=-1} = \frac{1}{9 \cdot (-1)^2} = \frac{1}{9}$$