

2. [6 points] Let  $f(x) = xe^{-x^2}$ .

- a. [4 points] Find the Taylor series of  $f(x)$  centered at  $x = 0$ . Be sure to include the first 3 nonzero terms and the general term.

*Solution:* We can use the Taylor series of  $e^y$  to find the Taylor series for  $e^{-x^2}$  by substituting  $y = -x^2$ .

$$e^{-x^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x^2)^n}{n!} = 1 + (-x^2) + \frac{(-x^2)^2}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{(-x^2)^n}{n!} + \cdots$$

Therefore the Taylor series of  $xe^{-x^2}$  is

$$xe^{-x^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{n!} = x - x^3 + \frac{x^5}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{n!} + \cdots$$

- b. [2 points] Find  $f^{(15)}(0)$ .

*Solution:* We know that  $\frac{f^{(15)}(0)}{15!}$  will appear as the coefficient of the degree 15 term of the Taylor series. Using part (a), we see that the degree 15 term has coefficient  $\frac{-1}{7!}$ . Therefore

$$f^{(15)}(0) = \frac{-15!}{7!} = -259,459,200$$

3. [3 points] Determine the exact value of the infinite series

$$1 - \frac{2}{1!} + \frac{4}{2!} - \frac{8}{3!} + \cdots + \frac{(-1)^n 2^n}{n!} + \cdots$$

*Solution:* Notice that this is the Taylor series for  $e^y$  applied to  $y = -2$ . Therefore, the series has exact value  $e^{-2}$ .