

5.5.45 Since

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= x + x^{-1} + 30x^{-3}, \\ f'(x) &= 1 - x^{-2} - 90x^{-4}. \end{aligned}$$

This is always defined for $x \in (0, \infty)$, so set this equal to zero and solve:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{90}{x^4} &= 0; \\ x^4 - x^2 - 90 &= 0; \\ (x^2 - 10)(x^2 + 9) &= 0; \\ x^2 - 10 = 0 \text{ or } x^2 + 9 = 0; \\ x^2 = 10 \text{ or } x^2 = -9; \\ x = \pm\sqrt{10} \text{ or } x = \pm 3i. \end{aligned}$$

For $x \in (0, \infty)$, the only solution is

$$x = \sqrt{10}.$$

Then

$$f(\sqrt{10}) = (\sqrt{10}) + \frac{1}{(\sqrt{10})} + \frac{30}{(\sqrt{10})^3} = \frac{7\sqrt{10}}{5} \approx 4.427.$$

This may or may not actually be the minimum on $(0, \infty)$. To decide this, I need to check some limits:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = (0) + \frac{1}{(0)} + \frac{30}{(0)^3} = 0 + \frac{1}{0} + \frac{30}{0};$$

since $x > 0$ as $x \rightarrow 0^+$, also $x^3 > 0$, so

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = 0 + \infty + \infty = \infty.$$

Also,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = (\infty) + \frac{1}{(\infty)} + \frac{30}{(\infty)^3} = \infty + 0 + 0 = \infty.$$

These are both well greater than 4.427, so the minimum really is

$$\frac{7\sqrt{10}}{5}.$$