

Rolle's Theorem :

If a function $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

i) Continuous on $[a, b]$

ii) derivable on (a, b) and

iii) $f(a) = f(b)$, then

There exists atleast one real number $c \in (a, b)$ so that $f'(c) = 0$

Pr oof : Given function $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

i) Continuous on $[a, b]$

ii) derivable on (a, b) and

iii) $f(a) = f(b)$, then

Now i) \Rightarrow function f is Continuous on $[a, b]$

\Rightarrow f is bounded and attain its bounds on $[a, b]$

\therefore Let M & m be the bounds i.e Supremum & Infimum of f on $[a, b]$.

Then there exists $c, d \in [a, b]$ so that $f(c) = M$ & $f(d) = m$

Here there are two possibilities.

They are either $M = m$ or $M \neq m$

Case 1) When $M = m$

Then $f(x) = M = m, \forall x \in [a, b]$

$\Rightarrow f$ is a constant function on $[a, b]$

$\Rightarrow f'(x) = 0, \forall x \in [a, b]$

\therefore The theorem is true.

Case 2) When $M \neq m$

Now iii) $\Rightarrow f(a) = f(b)$

\Rightarrow Atleast one of the values of M or m will be different from the equal values $f(a)$ & $f(b)$

Suppose $M = f(c)$ is different from $f(a)$ & $f(b)$

i.e $f(c) \neq f(a)$ & $f(c) \neq f(b)$

$\Rightarrow c \neq a$ & $c \neq b$

$\Rightarrow c \notin (a, b)$

Also ii) $\Rightarrow f$ is derivable on (a, b)

$\Rightarrow f$ is derivable on at c , as $c \in (a, b)$

$f'(c-) = f'(c+) \text{ ----- (1)}$

Clearly, we know that $f(c) [= M]$ is the supremum of f on $[a, b]$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) \leq f(c), \forall x \in [a, b]$$

In particular $f(c-h) \leq f(c)$ & $f(c+h) \leq f(c)$ -----(2)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } f'(c-) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow c-} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c-h) - f(c)}{-h} \\ &\geq 0, \text{ from (2)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Similarly } f'(c+) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow c+} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} \\ &\leq 0, \text{ from (2)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But (1)} \Rightarrow f'(c-) = f'(c+)$$

i.e both the limits must be equal.

\therefore This happened only when $f'(c-) = 0$ & $f'(c+) = 0$

$$\therefore f'(c) = 0, \text{ where } c \in (a, b)$$

$$\text{i.e } \exists c \in (a, b) \ni f'(c) = 0$$

$$\text{Similarly } \exists d \in (a, b) \ni f'(d) = 0$$

Hence the Rolle's theorem

Lagrange's Mean Value Theorem:

If a function $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

(i) Continuous on $[a, b]$ and

(ii) derivable on (a, b) , then

there exists atleast one real number $c \in (a, b)$ so that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$

Pr oof : Given function $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

(i) Continuous on $[a, b]$ and

(ii) derivable on (a, b)

Define a function $\phi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $\phi(x) = f(x) + Kx$ ----- (1)

where K is a constant to be determined so that $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$ -----(2)

Now(2) $\Rightarrow \phi(a) = \phi(b)$

$$\Rightarrow f(a) + Ka = f(b) + Kb$$

$$\Rightarrow K(a - b) = f(b) - f(a)$$

$$\Rightarrow -K = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \text{ -----(3)}$$

We know that f is continous on $[a, b]$ from (i) and K , being a constant function, is continuous on \mathbb{R} ie on $[a, b]$, we have

$f(x) + Kx$ is continuous on $[a, b]$

$\Rightarrow \phi(x)$ is continuous on $[a, b]$, from (1)

III^{ly} we know that f is derivable on (a, b) from (i) and K , being a constant function, is derivable on \mathbb{R} ie on (a, b) , we have

$$f(x) + Kx \text{ is derivable on } (a, b)$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(x) \text{ is continuous on } (a, b), \text{ from (1)}$$

\therefore The function $\phi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

i) Continuous on $[a, b]$

ii) derivable on (a, b) and

iii) $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$

$\therefore \phi$ satisfies all the conditions of Rolle's theorem.

\therefore By Rolle's theorem $\exists c \in (a, b)$ so that $\phi'(c) = 0$ --- (4)

$$\text{Now (1)} \Rightarrow \phi(x) = f(x) + Kx$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi'(x) = f'(x) + K$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi'(c) = f'(c) + K$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = f'(c) + K, \text{ from (4)}$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(c) = -K$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}, \text{ from (3)}$$

\therefore there exists atleast one real number $c \in (a, b)$ so that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$

Hence the theorem

Cauchy's Mean value Theorem:

If two functions $f:[a,b] \rightarrow R, g:[a,b] \rightarrow R$ are

- (i) Continuous on $[a,b]$
- (ii) derivable on (a,b) and
- (iii) $g'(x) \neq 0, \forall x \in (a,b)$, then

there exists atleast one real number $c \in (a,b)$ so that $\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}$

Pr oof : Given two functions $f:[a,b] \rightarrow R, g:[a,b] \rightarrow R$ are

- (i) Continuous on $[a,b]$
- (ii) derivable on (a,b) and
- (iii) $g'(x) \neq 0, \forall x \in (a,b)$

Define a function $\phi : [a,b] \rightarrow R$ such that $\phi(x) = f(x) + Kg(x)$ ----- (1)

where K is a constant to be determined so that $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$ ----- (2)

Now (2) $\Rightarrow \phi(a) = \phi(b)$

$$\Rightarrow f(a) + Kg(a) = f(b) + Kg(b)$$

$$\Rightarrow K[g(a) - g(b)] = f(b) - f(a)$$

$$\Rightarrow -K = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)} \quad \text{-----(3)}$$

Because $g(a) \neq g(b)$, Otherwise,

By Rolle's th. $\exists c \in (a,b)$ so that $g'(c) = 0$

which is a contradiction to (iii)

We know that f, g are continuous on $[a,b]$ from (i) and K , being a constant function, is continuous on R ie on $[a,b]$, we have

$f(x) + Kg(x)$ is continuous on $[a,b]$

$\Rightarrow \phi(x)$ is continuous on $[a,b]$, from (1)

III^{ly} we know that f, g are derivable on (a, b) from (i) and K , being a constant function, is derivable on \mathbb{R} ie on (a, b) , we have

$$f(x) + Kg(x) \text{ is derivable on } (a, b)$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(x) \text{ is derivable on } (a, b), \text{ from (1)}$$

\therefore The function $\phi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

i) Continuous on $[a, b]$

ii) derivable on (a, b) and

iii) $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$

$\therefore \phi$ satisfies all the conditions of Rolle's theorem.

\therefore By Rolle's theorem $\exists c \in (a, b)$ so that $\phi'(c) = 0$ --- (4)

$$\text{Now (1)} \Rightarrow \phi(x) = f(x) + Kg(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi'(x) = f'(x) + Kg'(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi'(c) = f'(c) + Kg'(c)$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = f'(c) + Kg'(c), \text{ from (4)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = -K$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}, \text{ from (3)}$$

\therefore there exists atleast one real number $c \in (a, b)$ so that $\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}$

Hence the theorem

Pr ob : Verify Rolle's theorem for the function $f(x) = (x-a)^m(x-b)^n$, $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, in the interval $[a, b]$

Sol : Given function is $f(x) = (x-a)^m(x-b)^n$, $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, in the interval $[a, b]$

Clearly $f(x)$, being a polynomial function, is continuous on \mathbb{R} i.e on $[a, b]$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Also } f'(x) &= (x-a)^m[n(x-b)^{n-1}] + (x-b)^n[m(x-a)^{m-1}] \\ &= (x-a)^{m-1}(x-b)^{n-1}[n(x-a) + m(x-b)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = (x-a)^{m-1}(x-b)^{n-1}[(m+n)x - (mb+na)] \quad \text{-----(1)}$$

clearly this exists

$\therefore f'(x)$ exists i.e f is derivable on (a, b)

Also $f(a) = 0$ & $f(b) = 0$ so that $f(a) = f(b)$

$\therefore f$ satisfies all the conditions of Rolle's theorem.

\therefore By Rolle's theorem $\exists c \in (a, b)$ so that $f'(c) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow f'(c) = (c-a)^{m-1}(c-b)^{n-1}[(m+n)c - (mb+na)] = 0, \text{ from (1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (m+n)c - (mb+na) = 0, \because c \neq a, c \neq b$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \frac{mb+na}{m+n} \in (a, b), \text{ as this is the point in } (a, b) \text{ which divides } a \text{ and } b \text{ in the ratio } m:n \text{ internally}$$

\therefore Rolle's theorem is verified

Pr ob : Verify Rolle's theorem for the function $f(x) = 2 + (x-1)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ in the interval $[0,2]$

Sol : Given function $f(x) = 2 + (x-1)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ in the interval $[0,2]$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } f'(x) &= 0 + \frac{2}{3}(x-1)^{\frac{2}{3}-1} \\ &= \frac{2}{3}(x-1)^{-\frac{1}{3}} \end{aligned}$$

Which does not exist when $x = 1 \in (0,2)$

\therefore f is not derivable on $(0,2)$

\therefore Rolle's theorem is not applicable to the given function.

Pr ob : Verify Rolle's theorem for the function $f(x) = \frac{\text{Sin}x}{e^x}$ on $[0, \pi]$

Sol : Given function is $f(x) = \frac{\text{Sin}x}{e^x}, \forall x \in [0, \pi]$

$$\text{Also } f'(x) = \frac{e^x \text{Cos}x - \text{Sin}x(e^x)}{e^{2x}}$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = \text{Cos}x - \text{Sin}x, e^x \neq 0, \forall x \in R \text{ ----(1)}$$

clearly this exists $\forall x \in R$

$\therefore f'(x)$ exists i.e f is derivable on $[0, \pi]$

Since derivability imply continuity, f is continuous on $[0, \pi]$

Also $f(0) = 0$ & $f(\pi) = 0$ so that $f(0) = f(\pi)$

$\therefore f$ satisfies all the conditions of Rolle's theorem.

\therefore By Rolle's theorem $\exists c \in (a, b)$ so that $f'(c) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Cos}c - \text{Sin}c = 0, \text{ from (1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Tanc} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \frac{\pi}{4} \in (0, \pi)$$

\therefore Rolle's theorem is verified

Pr ob : Verify Lagrange's theorem for the function $f(x) = x(x-1)(x-2)$ on $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

Sol : Given function is $f(x) = x(x-1)(x-2)$ on $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = x(x^2 - 3x + 2) = x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x$$

Being a polynomial function $f(x)$ is continuous on \mathbb{R} i.e on $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

Also $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 6x + 2$, exists $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ i.e on $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

$\therefore f'(x)$ exists i.e f is derivable on $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

$\therefore f$ satisfies the two conditions of Lagrange's Mean value theorem.

\therefore By Lagrange's Mean value theorem $\exists c \in (a, b)$ so that $f'(c) = \frac{f(\frac{1}{2}) - f(0)}{\frac{1}{2} - 0}$ --- (1)

$$\text{Now } f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2} - 1\right)\left(\frac{1}{2} - 2\right) = \frac{1}{2} \times -\frac{1}{2} \times -\frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{8}$$
$$\& \quad f(0) = 0$$

$$\text{Now (1)} \Rightarrow f'(c) = \frac{\frac{3}{8} - 0}{\frac{1}{2} - 0} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \frac{\pi}{4} \in (0, \pi)$$

\therefore Rolle's theorem is verified

Since derivability implies continuity, f is continuous on $[0, \pi]$

$$\text{Now(1)} \Rightarrow 3c^2 - 6c + 2 = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow 12c^2 - 24c + 5 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \frac{-(-24) \pm \sqrt{576 - 240}}{24}$$

$$= \frac{24 \pm \sqrt{336}}{24}$$

$$= \frac{24 \pm \sqrt{16 \times 21}}{24}$$

$$= \frac{24 \pm 4\sqrt{21}}{24}$$

$$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{21}}{6}$$

\therefore The two values of c are $\frac{6 + \sqrt{21}}{6}, \frac{6 - \sqrt{21}}{6}$

But out of these $\frac{6 + \sqrt{21}}{6} \notin (0, \frac{1}{2})$

\therefore The possible value of c is $c = \frac{6 - \sqrt{21}}{6} \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$

\therefore Lagrange's mean value theorem is verified

Pr ob : Verify Lagrange's theorem for the function $f(x) = lx^2 + mx + n, x \in [a, b]$

Sol : Given function is $f(x) = lx^2 + mx + n, x \in [a, b]$

Being a polynomial function $f(x)$ is continuous on \mathbb{R} i.e on $[a, b]$

Also $f'(x) = 2lx + m$, exists $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ i.e on $[a, b]$

$\therefore f'(x)$ exists i.e f is derivable on $[a, b]$

$\therefore f$ satisfies the two conditions of Lagrange's Mean value theorem.

\therefore By Lagrange's Mean value theorem $\exists c \in (a, b)$ so that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$ --- (1)

$$\text{Now } f(a) = la^2 + ma + n$$

$$\& f(b) = lb^2 + mb + n$$

$$\text{Now } f(b) - f(a) = \frac{lb^2 + mb + n - la^2 - ma - n}{b - a}$$

$$= \frac{l(b^2 - a^2) + m(b - a)}{b - a}$$

$$= l(b + a) + m$$

$$\therefore (1) \Rightarrow 2lc + m = l(b + a) + m$$

$$\Rightarrow 2lc = l(b + a)$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \frac{a + b}{2} \in (a, b), \text{ as this is arithmetic mean of } a \text{ and } b$$

\therefore Lagrange's Mean value theorem is verified

Pr ob : Find c of Cauchy's mean value theorem for the functions

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}, g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}, x \in [a, b]$$

Sol : Given functions are $f(x) = \sqrt{x}, g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}, x \in [a, b]$

$$\text{Then } f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}, g'(x) = -\frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}-1} = -\frac{1}{2x^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

Also $f'(x)$ & $g'(x)$ exists $\forall x \in [a, b]$

\therefore By Cauchy's Mean value theorem $\exists c \in (a, b)$ so that

$$\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{c}}}{-\frac{1}{2c\sqrt{c}}} = \frac{\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{b}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow -c = \frac{\sqrt{b} - \sqrt{a}}{\left[\frac{\sqrt{a} - \sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{a}\sqrt{b}} \right]}$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \sqrt{ab}$$

Clearly $c = \sqrt{ab} \in (a, b)$.