

## MEAN VALUE THEOREMS

**Rolle's Theorem** : If a function  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow R$  is such that

- i) It is continuous on  $[a, b]$
- ii) It is derivable on  $(a, b)$  and
- iii)  $f(a) = f(b)$  then there exists at least one  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f'(c) = 0$ .

**Lagrange's mean -value theorem or first mean - value theorem** :

If a function  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow R$  is such that

- i) It is continuous on  $[a, b]$ .
- ii) It is derivable on  $(a, b)$  then there exists at least one  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} = f'(c)$

### VSAQ'S

1. Verify Rolle's theorem for the function  $x^2 - 1$  on  $[-1, 1]$ .

**Sol.** Let  $f(x) = x^2 - 1$

$f$  is continuous on  $[-1, 1]$  and  $f$  is differentiable on  $(-1, 1)$

since  $f(-1) = f(1) = 0$  and

$\therefore$  By Rolle's theorem  $\exists c \in (-1, 1)$

Such that  $f'(c) = 0$

$$f'(x) = 2x = 0$$

$$\therefore f'(c) = 0$$

$$2c = 0 \Rightarrow c = 0$$

The point  $c = 0 \in (-1, 1)$

Then Rolle's theorem is verified.

2.  $\sin x - \sin 2x$  on  $[0, \pi]$ .

**Sol.** Let  $f(x) = \sin x - \sin 2x$

$f$  is continuous on  $[0, \pi]$   $f$  is differentiable on  $(0, \pi)$

since  $f(0) = f(\pi) = 0$  and

$\therefore$  By Rolle's theorem  $\exists c \in (0, \pi)$

Such that  $f'(c) = 0$

$$f'(x) = \cos x - 2 \cos 2x$$

$$f'(c) = 0 \Rightarrow \cos c - 2 \cos 2c = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos c - 2(2\cos^2 c - 1) = 0$$

$$\cos c - 4 \cos^2 c + 2 = 0$$

$$4\cos^2 c - \cos c - 2 = 0$$

$$\cos c = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1+32}}{8} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{33}}{8}$$

$$\therefore c = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{33}}{8} \right)$$

**3.  $\log(x^2 + 2) - \log 3$  on  $[-1, 1]$ .**

**Sol.** Let  $f(x) = \log(x^2 + 2) - \log 3$

$f$  is continuous on  $[-1, 1]$  and  $f$  is differentiable on  $(-1, 1)$

since  $f(-1) = f(1) = 0 \therefore$  By Rolle's theorem  $\exists c \in (-1, 1)$

Such that  $f'(c) = 0$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 2} (2x)$$

$$f'(c) = \frac{2c}{c^2 + 2} = 0$$

$$2c = 0 \Rightarrow c = 0$$

The point  $c = 0 \in (-1, 1)$

**4. It is given that Rolle's theorem holds for the function  $f(x) = x^3 + bx^2 + ax$  on  $[1, 3]$**

**with  $c = 2t + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ . Find the values of  $a$  and  $b$ .**

**Sol.** Given  $f(x) = x^3 + bx^2 + ax$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2bx + a$$

$$\therefore f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow 3c^2 + 2bc + a = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow c = \frac{-2b \pm \sqrt{4b^2 - 12a}}{6}$$

$$c = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 3a}}{3}$$

$$2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 3a}}{3}$$

$$\frac{-b}{3} = 2 \text{ and } \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - 3a}}{3} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow b = 6 \text{ and } b^2 - 3a = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow 36 - 3 = 3a \Rightarrow 33 = 3a \Rightarrow a = 11$$

Hence  $a = 11$ ,  $b = -6$ .

**5. Find a point on the graph of the curve  $y = x^3$ , where the tangent is parallel to the chord joining (1, 1) and (3, 27).**

**Sol.** Given Points (1, 1) and (3, 27).

$$\text{Slope of chord} = \frac{27-1}{3-1} = 13$$

$$\text{Given } y = x^3$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Slope} = 3x^2$$

$$13 = 3x^2 \Rightarrow x^2 = \frac{13}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \sqrt{\frac{13}{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{39}}{3}$$

$$y = x^3 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{39}}{3}\right)^3 = \frac{39\sqrt{39}}{27} = \frac{13\sqrt{39}}{9}$$

$\therefore$  The point on the curve is  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{39}}{3}, \frac{13\sqrt{39}}{9}\right)$

**6. Find 'c', so that  $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$  in the following case.  $f(x) = x^2 - 3x - 1$ ,  $a = -11/7$ ,**

$$\mathbf{b = 13/7.}$$

$$\mathbf{Sol.} f(b) = f\left(\frac{13}{7}\right) = \frac{169}{49} - \frac{3(13)}{7} - 1$$

$$\frac{169 - 273 - 49}{49} = \frac{-153}{49}$$

$$f(a) = f\left(\frac{-11}{7}\right) = \frac{121}{49} - \frac{3(-11)}{7} - 1$$

$$= \frac{121 + 231 - 49}{49} = \frac{303}{49}$$

$$f'(x) = 2x - 3$$

$$f'(c) = 2c - 3$$

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

$$2c - 3 = \frac{\frac{-153}{49} - \frac{303}{49}}{\frac{13}{7} + \frac{11}{7}} = \frac{-456}{24}$$

$$2c - 3 = \frac{-456}{49} \times \frac{7}{24} = \frac{-19}{7}$$

$$2c = \frac{-19}{7} + 3 = \frac{2}{7} \Rightarrow c = \frac{1}{7}$$

**7. Verify the Rolle's theorem for the function  $(x^2 - 1)(x - 2)$  on  $[-1, 2]$ . Find the point in the interval where the derivate vanishes.**

**Sol.** Let  $f(x) = (x^2 - 1)(x - 2) = x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 2$

$f$  is continuous on  $[-1, 2]$

since  $f(-1) = f(2) = 0$  and

$f$  is differentiable on  $(-1, 2)$

$\therefore$  By Rolle's theorem  $\exists c \in (-1, 2)$

$$\text{Let } f'(c) = 0$$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 4x - 1$$

$$3c^2 - 4c - 1 = 0$$

$$c = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 + 12}}{6} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{28}}{6}$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{7}}{3}$$

**8. Verify the conditions of the Lagrange's mean value theorem for the following function. In each case find a point 'c' in the interval as stated by the theorem.**

**$\sin x - \sin 2x$  on  $[0, \pi]$ .**

**Sol.** Let  $f(x) = \sin x - \sin 2x$

f is continuous on  $[0, \pi]$  and

f is differentiable on  $(0, \pi)$

Given  $f(x) = \sin x - \sin 2x$

$$f'(x) = \cos x - 2 \cos 2x$$

By Lagrange's mean value than  $\exists c \in (0, \pi)$

such there

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(\pi) - f(0)}{\pi - 0} \Rightarrow \cos c - 2 \cos 2c = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos c - 2(2 \cos^2 c - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow \cos c - 4 \cos^2 c + 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 \cos^2 c - \cos c - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow \cos c = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 32}}{8} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{33}}{8}$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{33}}{8} \right)$$