

Mean Value Theorem (MVT): If a function, $f(x)$, is **continuous** on $[a, b]$ and **differentiable** on (a, b) , then there must be at least one point, c in (a, b) where the slope of the tangent (derivative) is equal to the slope of the secant. $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$

In other words, set the derivative equal to the slope between endpoints ($m_{\text{avg.}}$)

MVT Steps:

1. Check Continuity (no breaks between endpoints)
 - a. Does $f(x)$ have variables in the denominator? (V.A. or holes)
 - b. If so, then look to see if the x -value lies in the **closed** interval $[a, b]$
 - c. If the x lies between the interval, then function is not continuous on the interval, MVT fails
2. Check Differentiability (smooth curve between endpoints)
 - a. Does $f'(x)$ have variables in the denominator? (sharp points, slope undefined)
 - b. If yes, then look to see if the x -value lies in the **open** interval (a, b)
 - c. If the x lies between the interval, then function is not differentiable on the interval, MVT fails

Note, all polynomials are continuous and differentiable everywhere

3. Find $m_{\text{avg.}}$ (This is the slope between your endpoints, slope of secant line)
4. Set $f'(x) = m_{\text{avg}}$ and solve for x

Example 1: Determine if the mean value theorem can be applied to $f(x) = 2x^3 + x + 4$ on the interval $[-2, 1]$. If so, find the value of c based on the theorem.

Rolle's Theorem: If a function, $f(x)$ is continuous on $[a, b]$, differentiable on (a, b) , and $f(a) = f(b)$, then there must be at least one point on the function where the slope of the tangent (derivative) is 0.

*In other words, if the endpoints have the same y-values, then we can guarantee a relative maximum or relative minimum somewhere between the endpoints

*Rolle's Theorem is just a specific case of the Mean Value Theorem

Rolle's Theorem Steps:

1. Check Continuity (no breaks between endpoints)
2. Check Differentiability (smooth curve between endpoints)

Note, all polynomials are continuous and differentiable everywhere

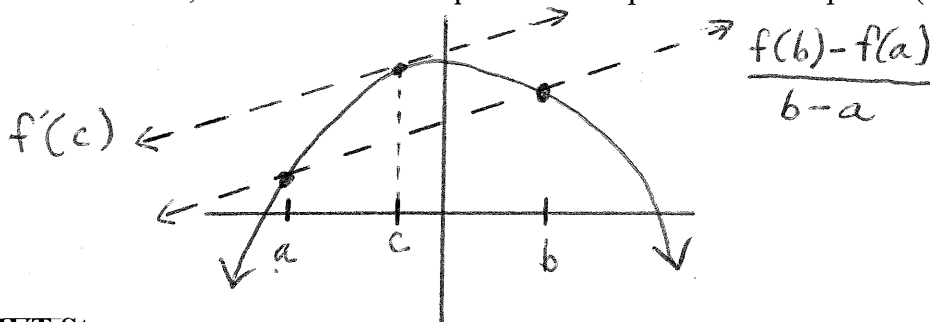
3. Test endpoints. Does $f(a) = f(b)$? If not, then Rolle's fails / does not apply
4. If yes, then set $f'(x) = 0$ and solve for x

Example 2: Determine if Rolle's theorem can be applied to $f(x) = x^2 - 3x + 2$ on the interval $[1, 2]$. If so, find the value of c such that $f'(c) = 0$.

Example 3: Determine if Rolle's theorem can be applied for $f(x) = 3 - |x - 3|$ on $[0, 6]$

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Note, all polynomials are continuous and differentiable everywhere

- Find $m_{avg.}$ (This is the slope between your endpoints, slope of secant line)
- Set $f'(x) = m_{avg.}$ and solve for x

Example 1: Determine if the mean value theorem can be applied to $f(x) = 2x^3 + x + 4$ on the interval $[-2, 1]$. If so, find the value of c based on the theorem.

$f(x)$ is continuous, differentiable on $[-2, 1]$

$$f(-2) = -14$$

$$f(1) = 7$$

$$m_{Avg} = \frac{-14 - 7}{-2 - 1}$$

$$m_{Avg} = \frac{-21}{-3} = 7$$

$$f'(x) = 6x^2 + 1$$

$$\text{set } f'(x) = m_{Avg}$$

$$6x^2 + 1 = 7$$

$$6x^2 = +6$$

$$x = \pm 1$$

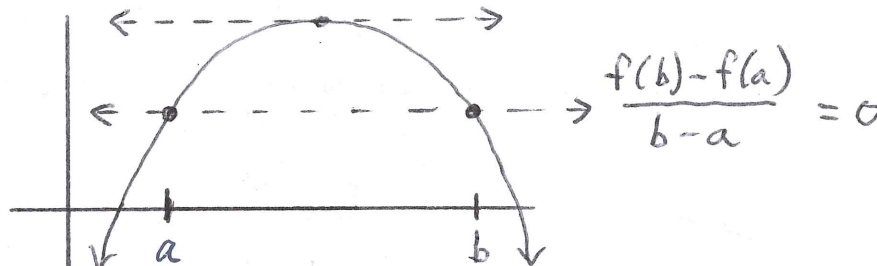
* we are only looking for c -value in the open interval $(-2, 1)$

$$c = 1, \boxed{c = -1}$$

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Note, all polynomials are continuous and differentiable everywhere

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$f(x)$ is continuous and differentiable on $[1, 2]$

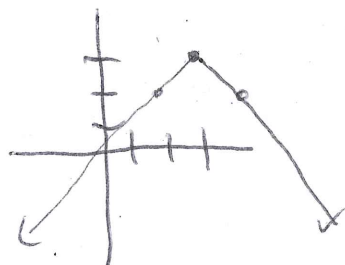
$$\begin{array}{l}
 f(1) = 0 \\
 f(2) = 0
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 m_{\text{Avg}} = \frac{0 - 0}{2 - 1} = 0
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \left|
 \begin{array}{l}
 2x - 3 = 0 \\
 x = \frac{3}{2} \\
 \boxed{c = \frac{3}{2}}
 \end{array}
 \right.$$

set $f'(c) = m_{\text{Avg}}$

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

Example 3: Determine if Rolle's theorem can be applied for $f(x) = 3 - |x - 3|$ on $[0, 6]$

$V(3, 3)$ $f(x)$ not differentiable at $x = 3$, not differentiable on interval $[0, 6]$



Rolle's theorem does not apply.