

§3.10 Mean Value Theorem – Student Notes

MEAN VALUE THEOREM: If a function is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) , then there is as number c in the interval (a, b) such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \quad \text{or} \quad (b - a) f'(c) = f(b) - f(a).$$

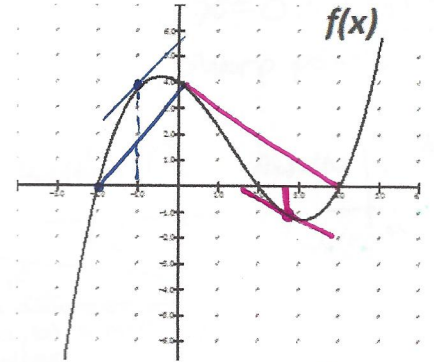
1. Use the graph to illustrate the Mean Value Theorem with a continuous and differentiable function. Show $f(x)$, a , b , c and all other conditions of the theorem.

EX. $x \in [-2, 0]$

$$\frac{f(0) - f(-2)}{0 - (-2)} = f'(-1)$$

EX. $x \in [0, 4]$

$$\frac{f(4) - f(0)}{4 - 0} = f'(2.8)$$

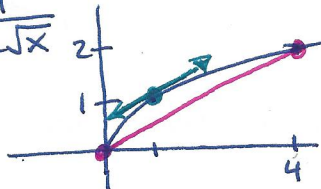


2. Find the number c that satisfies the Mean Value Theorem (MVT) for $f(x) =$

\sqrt{x} on the interval $[0, 4]$. Draw a picture.

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

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



$f(x)$ is continuous on the closed interval $[0, 4]$ and differentiable on the open $(0, 4)$

$$\frac{f(4) - f(0)}{4 - 0} = \frac{2 - 0}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$$

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

$$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow$$

$$\therefore f'(1) = \frac{f(4) - f(0)}{4 - 0} \quad c = 1$$

3. Why does the MVT not apply?

a) $y = \frac{x+3}{x-2}$ on $[0, 3]$

The function is not continuous at $x = 2$
 \therefore the MVT does not apply.

b) $f(x) = x^{\frac{1}{3}}$ on $[-1, 1]$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{3\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$$

$f(x)$ is continuous on $[-1, 1]$ but $f(x)$ is not differentiable on $(-1, 1)$
 b/c $f'(0)$ is undefined \therefore the MVT does not apply.

4. Apply the MVT, if possible. If not possible explain why.

A $f(x) = x^2$ on $[-2, 1]$

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

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

$$2x = \frac{1 - 4}{1 + 2}$$

$$2x = \frac{-3}{3} \therefore x = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$f'(-\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{f(1) - f(-2)}{1 - (-2)} = -1$$

\therefore MVT is satisfied for $f(x)$ on $[-2, 1]$ when $c = -\frac{1}{2}$.

B $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2$ on $[0, 3]$

$\checkmark f(x)$ is continuous on $[0, 3]$
 $\checkmark f'(x)$ is diff on $(0, 3)$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 6x$$

$$3x^2 - 6x = \frac{f(3) - f(0)}{3 - 0} = 0$$

$$3x(x - 2) = 0$$

$$x = 0 \neq x = 2$$

$$f'(0) = f'(2) = \frac{f(3) - f(0)}{3 - 0} = 0$$

\therefore The MVT is satisfied for $f(x)$ on $[0, 3]$ when $c = 0$ & 2 .

C $f(x) = x^{\frac{2}{3}}$ on $[0, 1]$

$\checkmark f(x)$ is continuous on $[0, 1]$
 $\checkmark f'(x)$ is diff on $(0, 1)$

$$f'(x) = \frac{2}{3}x^{-\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

$$\frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{x}} = \frac{f(1) - f(0)}{1 - 0} = 1$$

$$\sqrt[3]{x} = \frac{2}{3} \therefore x = \frac{8}{27}$$

$$f'(\frac{8}{27}) = \frac{f(1) - f(0)}{1 - 0} = 1$$

\therefore MVT is satisfied for $f(x)$ on $[0, 1]$ when $c = \frac{8}{27}$.

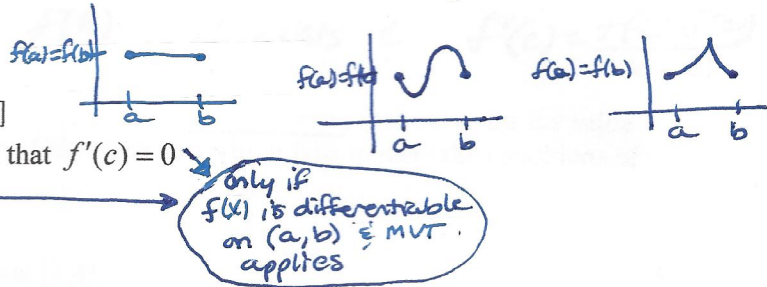
MVT Problems

1. The function $f(x) = x^{\frac{2}{3}}$ on $[-8, 8]$ does not satisfy the conditions of the Mean Value Theorem because
- A. $f(0)$ is not defined
 - B. $f(x)$ is not continuous of $[-8, 8]$
 - C. $f'(-1)$ does not exist
 - D. $f(x)$ is not defined for $x < 0$.
 - E. $f'(0)$ does not exist**

$f(x)$ is continuous on $[-8, 8]$ but $f(x)$ is not differentiable at $x=0 \therefore f'(0)$ DNE (sharp point)

2. If $f(a) = f(b)$ and $f(x)$ is continuous on $[a, b]$, then

- ~~A. $f(x)$ must be identically zero~~
- ~~B. $f'(x)$ may be different from zero for all x on $[a, b]$~~
- ~~C. there exists at least one number c , $a < c < b$, such that $f'(c) = 0$~~
- ~~D. $f'(x)$ must exist for every x on (a, b)~~
- E. none of the preceding is true**



only if $f(x)$ is differentiable on (a, b) is MVT applies

3. Find the value of c that satisfies the Mean Value Theorem for $f(x) = x^3 + x - 4$ on the interval $[-2, 1]$.

- A. -1**
- B. 1
- C. 0
- D. 4
- E. None of these.

$f'(c) = \frac{f(1) - f(-2)}{1 - (-2)}$
 $3c^2 + 1 = \frac{-2 + 14}{3}$
 $3c^2 + 1 = 4$
 $3c^2 = 3$
 $c^2 = 1$
 $c = 1$ or $c = -1$

4. Find the number that satisfies the MVT on the given interval or state why the theorem does not apply.

Sharp pt. @ $x=0$

a) $f(x) = x^{\frac{2}{3}}$ on $[0, 32]$
 $f(x)$ is cont. on $[0, 32]$
 $f(x)$ is diff. on $(0, 32)$
 $f'(c) = \frac{2}{3}c^{-\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{2}{5c^{\frac{1}{5}}} = \frac{f(32) - f(0)}{32 - 0}$
 $\frac{4 - 0}{32} = \frac{1}{8} = \frac{2}{5c^{\frac{1}{5}}} \rightarrow c^{\frac{1}{5}} = 16$
 $c = 16^5$ by MVT.

b) $f(x) = \frac{1}{(x-2)^2}$ on $[2, 5]$
 $f(x)$ is discontinuous at $x=2 \therefore$ MVT does not apply

c) $g(x) = x + \frac{1}{x}$ on $[1, 3]$
 $g(x)$ is continuous on $[1, 3]$ & diff on $(1, 3) \therefore$
 $g'(c) = 1 - \frac{1}{c^2} = \frac{c^2 - 1}{c^2} = \frac{g(3) - g(1)}{3 - 1}$
 $\frac{c^2 - 1}{c^2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 2}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{2}}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 2}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{2}}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 2}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{2}}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 2}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{2}}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 2}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{2}}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 2}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{2}}{2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 2}{2}$
 $\frac{c^2 - 1}{c^2} = \frac{1}{3} \rightarrow 3c^2 - 3 = c^2 \rightarrow 2c^2 = 3 \rightarrow c = \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ by MVT.

d) $h(x) = x^{\frac{1}{2}} + 2(x-2)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ on $[1, 9]$
 $h(x)$ is not differentiable at $x=2$ b/c $\sqrt[3]{x-2}$ has vertical tangent. \therefore MVT does not apply.

2003 #92: Let f be defined by $f(x) = x + \ln(x)$. What is the value of c for which the instantaneous rate of change of f at $x=c$ is the same as the average rate of change of f over $[1, 4]$?

- (A) 0.456
- (B) 1.244
- (C) 2.164
- (D) 2.342
- (E) 2.452

$f(x) = x + \ln(x)$ is continuous on $[1, 4]$ & differentiable on $(1, 4)$.

$f'(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x} = \frac{x+1}{x} = \frac{f(4) - f(1)}{4 - 1}$
 $1 + \frac{1}{x} = \frac{x+1}{x} = \frac{(4 + \ln 4) - (1 + \ln 1)}{3} = \frac{3 + \ln 4}{3} = \frac{x+1}{x}$
 $\frac{3 + \ln 4}{3} = \frac{x+1}{x}$
 $(3 + \ln 4)x = 3x + 3$
 $(3 + \ln 4)x - 3x = 3$
 $x(\ln 4) = 3$
 $x = \frac{3}{\ln 4}$

"RECALL"

DAY 58

★ HW ✓

HW MVT

Write the definition of continuity.

1) $f(c)$ exists	2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ exists	3) $f(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$
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Write mathematical notation for differentiability:

$$f'(c^-) = f'(c^+) \text{ or } \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f'(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f'(x) = f'(c)$$

State the two prerequisite conditions that must be determined before the Mean Value Theorem can be applied.

- 1) $f(x)$ must be continuous on the closed interval $[a, b]$
- 2) $f(x)$ must be differentiable on the open interval (a, b)

What two calculations must be determined before making a conclusion using the Mean Value Theorem.

- 1) $f'(c)$ exists
- 2) $\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$ exists $\hat{=}$ $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$

Read questions #1-4. If the function satisfies the hypotheses of the Mean Value Theorem, then solve for the value of c that satisfies the conclusion of the Mean Value Theorem. Otherwise, tell why it fails to meet the conditions of the Mean Value Theorem.

- 1. Given $f(x) = 5 - \frac{4}{x}$, find all values, c , in the interval $[1, 4]$.

$f(x)$ is continuous on $[1, 4]$ & differentiable on $(1, 4)$

\therefore MVT applies $\hat{=}$

$$\frac{f(4) - f(1)}{4 - 1} = \frac{4 - 1}{4 - 1} = 1 = f'(c) = \frac{4}{c^2}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{4}{x^2}$$

$$1 = \frac{4}{c^2}$$
$$c = \pm 2$$

$$\therefore \text{By MVT } c = 2, f'(2) = \frac{f(4) - f(1)}{4 - 1} = 1$$

- 2. Given $f(x) = x^4 - 2x^2$, find all values, c , in the interval $[-2, 2]$.

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

\therefore MVT applies $\hat{=}$

$$\frac{f(2) - f(-2)}{2 - (-2)} = \frac{8 - 8}{2 + 2} = \frac{0}{4} = 0$$

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 4x = 4x(x^2 - 1)$$
$$4x(x - 1)(x + 1) = 0 \quad x = 0, 1, -1$$

$$\therefore \text{By MVT when } c = 0, -1, +1$$
$$f'(c) = \frac{f(2) - f(-2)}{4} = 0$$

- 3. Given $f(x) = x(x^2 - x - 2)$, find all values, c , in the interval $[-1, 1]$.

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

\therefore MVT applies $\hat{=}$

$$\frac{f(1) - f(-1)}{1 - (-1)} = \frac{-2 - 0}{2} = -1$$

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

$$3x^2 - 2x - 2 = -1$$
$$3x^2 - 2x - 1 = 0$$
$$(3x + 1)(x - 1) = 0$$
$$x = -\frac{1}{3} \quad x = 1$$

$$\therefore \text{By MVT when } c = -\frac{1}{3}, 1$$
$$f'(c) = \frac{f(1) - f(-1)}{2} = -1$$

- 4. Given $f(x) = x^{\frac{2}{3}} - 1$, find all values, c , in the interval $[-8, 8]$.

$f(x)$ is continuous on $[-8, 8]$

but $f(x)$ is not differentiable on $(-8, 8)$

b/c $f'(0)$ does not exist (sharp point on $f(x)$)

so MVT does not apply.