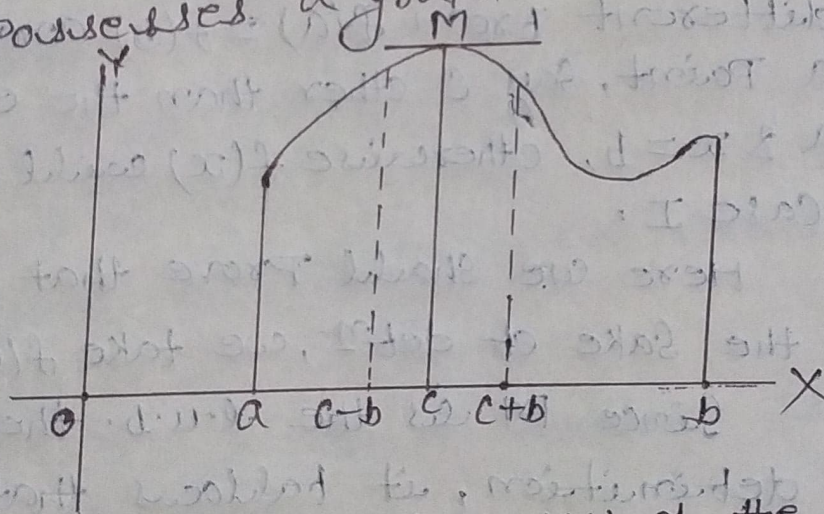


State and Prove Rolle's theorem. Dr. Sumit Jee  
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Statement: - Rolle's theorem states that,  
If  $f(x)$  is real valued function, which is  
(i)  $f(x)$  is continuous in the closed interval  $[a, b]$ .  
(ii)  $f'(x)$  exists for every point in the open interval  $]a, b[$ .  
(iii)  $f(a) = f(b)$ ,  
then there exists at least one point  $c$  where  $a < c < b$  i.e.  $c \in ]a, b[$  such that  
 $f'(c) = 0$ .

Proof: - For the theorem, let we suppose that  $f(x)$  possesses a graph.



The condition (ii) of the theorem stipulates that the graph of  $f(x)$  possesses a tangent at every point of the interval  $]a, b[$  and the conclusion of the theorem is that under the given conditions there is a point  $c$  such that  $a < c < b$  at which the tangent is parallel to the  $x$ -axis.

Since  $f(x)$  is continuous in the closed interval  $[a, b]$ ,  $f(x)$  is bounded and attains its bounds at least once in  $[a, b]$ .

Let its  $\text{sup}$  and  $\text{inf}$  be  $M$  and  $m$  respectively.

We know that  $M \geq m$ , i.e.  $m \leq f(x) \leq M$  for all  $x \in [a, b]$ .

Case I:-

Suppose that  $M = m$ .

In this case,

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

This means that  $f(x)$  is constant in  $[a, b]$ .

Consequently, at point  $c \in ]a, b[$  we should have  $f'(c) = 0$ .

Case II:-

Suppose  $M > m$ .

In this case at least one of the bounds is different from  $f(a) = f(b)$  and is attained at a point, say  $c$  other than the end points  $x = a$  &  $x = b$ , otherwise  $f(x)$  would be const. as in Case I.

Here we shall prove that  $f'(c) = 0$ .

For the sake of def<sup>n</sup>, we take  $f(c) = M$ .

Since  $M$  is the l.u.b. therefore from the definition, it follows that

$$f(c+h) \leq f(c) = M \text{ and also } f(c-h) \leq f(c) = M.$$

where  $h$  is +ve number such that  $c \pm h \in ]a, b[$ .

Now,

$$f(c+h) \leq f(c) \Rightarrow f(c+h) - f(c) \leq 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} \leq 0. \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\text{and, } f(c-h) \leq f(c) \Rightarrow f(c-h) - f(c) \leq 0,$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f(c-h) - f(c)}{-h} \geq 0. \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Now, taking the limits of (1) & (2) as  $h \rightarrow 0$ , we have

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} \leq 0$$

$$\text{i.e. } Rf'(c) \leq 0 \text{ --- (3)}$$

$$\text{and } \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c-h) - f(c)}{-h} \geq 0.$$

$$\text{i.e. } Lf'(c) \geq 0 \text{ --- (4)}$$

Now, from the condition (ii) of the theorem we note that  $f'(x)$  exist for all  $x \in ]a, b[$  and hence we should have,

$$Rf'(c) = Lf'(c) \text{ since } c \in ]a, b[.$$

Hence, it follows from (3) & (4)

we have

$$Rf'(c) = 0 = Lf'(c).$$

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

Similarly when  $f(c) = m$ , we can prove that

$$f'(c) = 0.$$

Thus Rabi's theorem is completed.