

planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

Darboux's theorem (analysis)

Canonical name DarbouxsTheoremanalysis

Date of creation 2013-03-22 12:45:01 Last modified on 2013-03-22 12:45:01 Owner mathwizard (128) Last modified by mathwizard (128)

Numerical id 7

Author mathwizard (128)

Entry type Theorem Classification msc 26A06

Synonym intermediate value property of the derivative

Let $f:[a,b] \to \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued continuous function on [a,b], which is differentiable on (a,b), differentiable from the right at a, and differentiable from the left at b. Then f' the intermediate value theorem: for every t between $f'_{+}(a)$ and $f'_{-}(b)$, there is some $x \in [a,b]$ such that f'(x) = t.

Note that when f is continuously differentiable $(f \in C^1([a,b]))$, this is trivially true by the intermediate value theorem. But even when f' is not continuous, Darboux's theorem places a severe restriction on what it can be.