MA2002 - Calculus Suggested Solutions (Semester 2: AY2021/22)

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Question 1

(a) Use only the ϵ, δ definition of limit, prove that $\lim_{x\to 2} \frac{3x^2 - x - 4}{x + 1} = 2$.

Ans:

We need to find a $\delta > 0$ such that for all $\epsilon > 0$,

$$0 < |x-2| < \delta \implies \left| \frac{3x^2 - x - 4}{x+1} - 2 \right| < \epsilon$$

We can set,

$$\delta = \min\left\{3, \frac{\epsilon}{3}\right\}$$

Thus, for $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$,

$$\left| \frac{3x^2 - x - 4}{x + 1} - 2 \right| = \left| \frac{3x^2 - x - 4 - 2x - 2}{x + 1} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{3x^2 - 3x - 6}{x + 1} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{3(x + 1)(x - 2)}{x + 1} \right|$$

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

$$< 3\left(\frac{\epsilon}{3}\right) = \epsilon$$

Note we've set $\delta \leq 3$ because $\delta \leq 3 \implies |x-2| < 3 \implies -1 < x \implies x+1 \neq 0$.

(b) Let p and q be positive constants. It is known that

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{1}{px - \sin x} \int_0^x \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{q + t^2}} dt = 3$$

Find the values of p and q.

Ans:

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{1}{px - \sin x} \int_0^x \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{q + t^2}} dt = 3$$

$$\implies \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\int_0^x \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{q + t^2}} dt}{px - \sin x} = 3$$

It is clear that:

$$x \to 0 \implies \int_0^x \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{q+t^2}} dt \to 0; \quad px - \sin x \to 0$$

Therefore, we may use L'Hôpital's rule as follows:

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\frac{d}{dx} \int_0^x \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{q+t^2}} dt}{\frac{d}{dx} (px - \sin x)} = 3$$

$$\implies \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\frac{x^2}{\sqrt{q+x^2}}}{p - \cos x} = 3$$

$$\implies \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x^2}{(p - \cos x)\sqrt{q+x^2}} = 3$$

Clearly, if $p \neq 1$; $q \neq 0$, the above limit will evaluate to 0, irrespective of the value of p and q. Thus, p = 1. So, we get:

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{1}{px - \sin x} \int_0^x \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{q + t^2}} dt = 3 \implies \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\frac{x^2}{\sqrt{q + x^2}}}{1 - \cos x} = 3$$

$$\implies \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x^2 (1 + \cos x)}{\sqrt{q + x^2} (1 - \cos x) (1 + \cos x)} = 3$$

$$\implies \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x^2}{\sin^2 x} \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{(1 + \cos x)}{\sqrt{q + x^2}} = 3$$

$$\implies \left(\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x}{\sin x}\right)^2 \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{(1 + \cos x)}{\sqrt{q + x^2}} = 3$$

$$\implies 1 \cdot \frac{2}{\sqrt{q}} = 3$$

$$\implies q = \frac{4}{9}$$

Thus the solution is p = 1; $q = \frac{4}{9}$.

Evaluate the following limits.

(a)
$$\lim_{x \to 0} (\cos x)^{\frac{1}{\ln(1+x^2)}}$$

Ans:

$$\lim_{x \to 0} (\cos x) \frac{1}{\ln(1+x^2)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \to 0} \exp\left(\ln\left((\cos x) \frac{1}{\ln(1+x^2)}\right)\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(\lim_{x \to 0} \ln\left((\cos x) \frac{1}{\ln(1+x^2)}\right)\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\ln\cos x}{\ln(1+x^2)}\right)$$

It is known that:

$$x \to 0 \implies \ln \cos x \to \ln 1 = 0; \quad x \to 0 \implies \ln(1 + x^2) \to \ln 1 = 0$$

Therefore, we may use L'Hôpital's rule as follows:

$$\exp\left(\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{\ln(\cos x)}{\ln(1+x^2)}\right) = \exp\left(\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{\frac{d(\ln(\cos x))}{dx}}{\frac{d(\ln(1+x^2))}{dx}}\right) = \exp\left(\lim_{x\to 0} -\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\sin x}{x} \cdot \frac{1+x^2}{\cos x}\right)$$
$$= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \lim_{x\to 0} \cdot \frac{\sin x}{x} \cdot \frac{1+x^2}{\cos x}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

(b)
$$\lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x}{x-1} - \frac{1}{\ln x} \right)$$

Ans:

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x}{x-1} - \frac{1}{\ln x} \right) = \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x \ln x - x + 1}{(x-1) \ln x} \right)$$

It is known that:

$$x \to 1 \implies x \ln x - x + 1 \to 0; \quad x \to 1 \implies (x - 1) \ln x \to 0$$

Therefore, we may use L'Hôpital's rule as follows:

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x}{x-1} - \frac{1}{\ln x} \right) = \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x \ln x - x + 1}{(x-1) \ln x} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{\frac{d}{dx} (x \ln x - x + 1)}{\frac{d}{dx} (x \ln x - \ln x)} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{1 + \ln x - 1}{\frac{x-1}{x} + \ln x} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x \ln x}{x - 1 + x \ln x} \right)$$

It is known that:

$$x \to 1 \implies x \ln x \to 0; \quad x \to 1 \implies x - 1 + x \ln x \to 0$$

Therefore, we may use L'Hôpital's rule as follows:

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x}{x-1} - \frac{1}{\ln x} \right) = \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x \ln x}{x - 1 + x \ln x} \right)$$
$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{1 + \ln x}{1 + \ln x + 1} \right)$$

Taking the limit,

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{x}{x - 1} - \frac{1}{\ln x} \right) = \lim_{x \to 1} \left(\frac{1 + \ln x}{1 + \ln x + 1} \right) = 0.5$$

(a) Let $f(x) = e^{2\sqrt{x}}$, where x > 0. It is known that f''(x) may be expressed as:

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

where k is a constant. Find the value of k.

Ans

Calculating the first derivative:

$$f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}e^{2\sqrt{x}}$$
$$= e^{2\sqrt{x}}\frac{d}{dx}(2\sqrt{x})$$
$$= e^{2\sqrt{x}}\frac{2}{2\sqrt{x}}$$
$$= \frac{e^{2\sqrt{x}}}{\sqrt{x}}$$

Calculating the second derivative:

$$f''(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{e^{2\sqrt{x}}}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{x} \frac{d}{dx} e^{2\sqrt{x}} - e^{2\sqrt{x}} \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt{x}}{x}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{x} \frac{e^{2\sqrt{x}}}{\sqrt{x}} - e^{2\sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}}{x}$$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{x} e^{2\sqrt{x}} - e^{2\sqrt{x}}}{2x\sqrt{x}}$$

$$= \frac{e^{2\sqrt{x}}(2\sqrt{x} - 1)}{2x\sqrt{x}}$$

On comparing the above equation with the equation given in question, we get:

$$k = \frac{1}{2}$$

(b) Prove that $x - \frac{x^2}{2} < \ln(1+x) < x \text{ for all } x > 0.$

Ans:

First, we show that $x - \frac{x^2}{2} < \ln(1+x)$ for all x > 0. Let,

$$g(x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \ln(1+x)$$

Thus,

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

For x > 0, 1 + x > 0 and $x^2 > 0$. Thus, $-\frac{x^2}{1+x} < 0 \implies g'(x) < 0$. Thus, g(x) is a decreasing function for x > 0. Moreover,

$$g(0) = 0$$

Thus, g(x) will have a value lesser than 0 for all x > 0. Hence for all x > 0,

$$g(x) < 0 \implies x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \ln(1+x) < 0 \implies x - \frac{x^2}{2} < \ln(1+x)$$

Next, we show that ln(1+x) < x for all x > 0. Let,

$$h(x) = \ln(1+x) - x$$

Thus,

$$h'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x} - 1 = \frac{1-x-1}{1+x} = -\frac{x}{1+x}$$

For x > 0, 1 + x > 0. Thus, $-\frac{x}{1+x} < 0 \implies h'(x) < 0$. Thus, h(x) is a decreasing function for x > 0. Moreover,

$$h(0) = 0$$

Thus, h(x) will have a value lesser than 0 for all x > 0. Hence for all x > 0,

$$h(x) < 0 \implies \ln(1+x) - x < 0 \implies \ln(1+x) < x$$

In view of the above inequalities, we get that for all x > 0,

$$x - \frac{x^2}{2} < \ln(1+x) < x$$

Remark: An alternative way to prove the above inequality (taught in Analysis) Let $f(x) = \ln(1+x)$ By Maclaurin Expansion,

$$\ln(1+x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \cdots$$

By Taylor's theorem

$$ln(1+x) = P_0(x) + R_0(x) = x + R_0(x)$$

By Mean Value Theorem $\exists c \in (0, x)$ such that,

$$f(x) - f(0) = f'(c)x \implies \ln(1+x) = f'(c)x = \frac{x}{1+c}$$

Further, $0 < c < x \implies \frac{1}{1+x} < \frac{1}{1+c} < 1$. Thus,

$$\ln(1+x) < x$$

Similarly $\exists c \in (0, x)$ such that

$$f(x) - x + \frac{x^2}{2} - 0 = x\left(\frac{1}{1+c} - 1 + c\right) = \frac{xc^2}{1+c} > 0$$

Thus,

$$\ln(1+x) > x - \frac{x^2}{2}$$

Remark: An alternative way to prove the above inequality Since, x > 0,

$$\ln(1+x) = \int_0^x \frac{1}{1+t} \, dt < \int_0^x \, dt = x$$

Also, we may show that:

$$t > 0 \implies t^2 > 0 \implies 1 > 1 - t^2 \implies \frac{1}{1+t} > 1 - t$$

Thus,

$$\ln(1+x) = \int_0^x \frac{1}{1+t} dt > \int_0^x (1-t) dt = x - \frac{x^2}{2}$$

Evaluate the following definite integrals.

(a)
$$\int_{1}^{2} x\sqrt{2-x} \ dx$$

Ans:

$$\begin{split} \int_{1}^{2} x \sqrt{2 - x} \, dx &= \left[x \int \sqrt{2 - x} \, dx - \int (x)' \left(\int \sqrt{2 - x} \, dx \right) \, dx \right]_{1}^{2} \\ &= \left[-\frac{2x}{3} (2 - x)^{3/2} - \int -\frac{2}{3} (2 - x)^{3/2} \, dx \right]_{1}^{2} \\ &= \left[-\frac{2x}{3} (2 - x)^{3/2} - \frac{4}{15} (2 - x)^{5/2} \right]_{1}^{2} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} (2 - 1)^{3/2} + \frac{4}{15} (2 - 1)^{5/2} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{15} \\ &= \frac{14}{15} \end{split}$$

(b)
$$\int_0^{36} |\sqrt{x} - 2| dx$$

Ans:

$$|\sqrt{x} - 2| = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x} - 2, & \sqrt{x} \ge 2 \\ 2 - \sqrt{x}, & \sqrt{x} < 2 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x} - 2, & x \ge 4 \\ 2 - \sqrt{x}, & x < 4 \end{cases}$$

Therefore,

$$\int_0^{36} |\sqrt{x} - 2| dx = \int_0^4 (2 - \sqrt{x}) dx + \int_4^{36} (\sqrt{x} - 2) dx$$

$$= \left[2x - \frac{2}{3} x^{3/2} \right]_0^4 + \left[\frac{2}{3} x^{3/2} - 2x \right]_4^{36}$$

$$= 8 - \frac{16}{3} + \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) 6^3 - 72 - \frac{16}{3} + 8$$

$$= 16 - \frac{32}{3} - 72 + 144$$

$$= 88 - \frac{32}{3}$$

$$= \frac{232}{3}$$

(a) It is known that $\int_1^e x^2 (\ln x)^2 dx = \frac{1}{27} (Ae^3 + B)$, where A and B are integers. Find the values of A and B.

Ans:

$$\begin{split} \int_{1}^{e} x^{2} (\ln x)^{2} \, dx &= \left[(\ln x)^{2} \int x^{2} \, dx - \int ((\ln x)^{2})' \left(\int x^{2} \, dx \right) \, dx \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \left[\frac{x^{3}}{3} (\ln x)^{2} - 2 \int \frac{\ln x}{x} \cdot \frac{x^{3}}{3} \, dx \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \left[\frac{x^{3}}{3} (\ln x)^{2} - \frac{2}{3} \int x^{2} \ln x \, dx \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \left[\frac{x^{3}}{3} (\ln x)^{2} - \frac{2}{3} \left(\ln x \int x^{2} \, dx - \int (\ln x)' \left(\int x^{2} \, dx \right) \, dx \right) \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \left[\frac{x^{3}}{3} (\ln x)^{2} - \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{x^{3}}{3} \ln x - \int \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{x^{3}}{3} \, dx \right) \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \left[\frac{x^{3}}{3} (\ln x)^{2} - \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{x^{3}}{3} \ln x - \frac{1}{3} \int x^{2} \, dx \right) \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \left[\frac{x^{3}}{3} (\ln x)^{2} - \frac{2x^{3}}{9} \ln x + \frac{2x^{3}}{27} \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \left[\left(9 (\ln x)^{2} - 6 \ln x + 2 \right) \frac{x^{3}}{27} \right]_{1}^{e} \\ &= \frac{5e^{3}}{27} - \frac{2}{27} \\ &= \frac{1}{27} (5e^{3} - 2) \end{split}$$

Thus, we get:

$$A = 5, B = -2$$

(b) Let $f(x) = (3+x) \int_{1}^{e^{2x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt$. Find the value of f'(0).

Ans:

$$f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left[(3+x) \int_{1}^{e^{2x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt \right]$$

$$= (3+x) \frac{d}{dx} \left[\int_{1}^{e^{2x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt \right] + \int_{1}^{e^{2x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt$$

$$= (3+x) \frac{d}{dx} (e^{2x}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln (e^{2x})}} + \int_{1}^{e^{2x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt$$

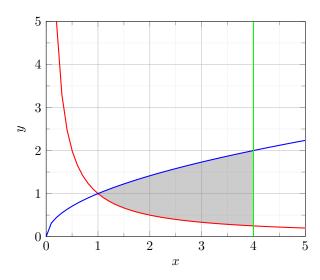
$$= \frac{2(3+x)e^{2x}}{\sqrt{1+2x}} + \int_{1}^{e^{2x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt$$

Thus,

$$f'(0) = \frac{2(3)}{\sqrt{1}} + \int_1^{e^0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt = 6 + \int_1^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\ln t}} dt = 6 + 0 = 6$$

(a) Let R be the region bounded by the graphs of $y = \frac{1}{x}$, $y = \sqrt{x}$ and the line x = 4. Find the volume of solid formed by rotating R completely about the y-axis.

Ans:



Using the cylindrical shell method, the volume of the solid is given by:

$$V = \int_{1}^{4} 2\pi x (\sqrt{x} - \frac{1}{x}) dx$$
$$= 2\pi \left[\frac{2}{5} x^{5/2} \right]_{1}^{4} - 2\pi \left[x \right]_{1}^{4}$$
$$= \frac{128\pi}{5} - \frac{4\pi}{5} - 6\pi$$
$$= \frac{94\pi}{5}$$

(b) A curve C has equation $y = \sec(2x)$, where $0 \le x \le \frac{\pi}{6}$. Find the length of the curve C.

Ans: The length of the curve is given by:

$$L = \int_0^{\pi/6} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/6} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{d}{dx}\sec(2x)\right)^2} dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/6} \sqrt{1 + (2\sec(2x)\tan(2x))^2} dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/6} \sqrt{4\sec^2(2x)\tan^2(2x) + 1} dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/6} \sqrt{4\sec^4(2x) - 4\sec^2(2x) + 1} dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/6} \sqrt{(2\sec^2(2x) - 1)^2} dx$$

Moreover, $0 \le x \le \frac{\pi}{6} \implies \sec 0 \le \sec(2x) \le \sec \frac{\pi}{3} \implies 1 \le \sec^2(2x) \le 4 \implies 1 \le 2\sec^2(2x) - 1 \le 7 \implies 2\sec^2(2x) - 1 > 0$. Thus,

$$L = \int_0^{\pi/6} \sqrt{(2\sec^2(2x) - 1)^2} \, dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi/6} (2\sec^2(2x) - 1) \, dx$$

$$= 2 \int_0^{\pi/6} \sec^2(2x) \, dx - \int_0^{\pi/6} \, dx$$

$$= [\tan(2x) - x]_0^{\pi/6}$$

$$= \tan\frac{\pi}{3} - \frac{\pi}{6}$$

$$= \sqrt{3} - \frac{\pi}{6}$$

(a) Let y denote the solution of the differential equation

$$x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} - xy = 1$$

with x > 0 that satisfies y = 1 when x = 1. Find the value of y when x = 2.

Ans:

$$x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} - xy = 1 \implies \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{y}{x} = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

Thus, the given differential equation is a linear differential equation, and can be calculated by finding its integrating factor:

$$I.F. = \exp\left(\int -\frac{1}{x} dx\right)$$
$$= \exp\left(-\int \frac{1}{x} dx\right)$$
$$= \exp\left(\ln \frac{1}{x}\right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{x}$$

Thus, the solution of the differential equation is given by:

$$\frac{y}{x} = \int \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \int \frac{1}{x^3} dx$$

$$\implies \frac{y}{x} + \frac{1}{2x^2} = c$$

Since the point (1,1) satisfies the equation,

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} = c \implies c = \frac{3}{2}$$

Thus, we get the following solution to the differential equation:

$$\frac{y}{x} + \frac{1}{2x^2} = \frac{3}{2}, \quad x > 0$$

For x = 2, we arrive at the following solution:

$$\frac{y}{2} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$\implies 4y + 1 = 12$$

$$\implies y = \frac{11}{4}$$

(b) Two chemicals A and B react to form the substance X according to the differential equation

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = k(100 - Q)(50 - Q)$$

where Q = Q(t) denotes the amount of substance X per unit volume at time t, and k is a positive constant. Initially, no amount of X is present. Derive an expression for the amount of X per unit volume at time t.

Ans:

The given differential equation is variable separable. The variables can be separated as follows:

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = k(100 - Q)(50 - Q)$$

$$\implies \frac{dQ}{(100-Q)(50-Q)} = kdt$$

Let Q be the amount of substance at time t. Thus, integrating both sides gives us:

$$\int \frac{dQ}{(100 - Q)(50 - Q)} = \int kdt$$

$$\implies \int \frac{dQ}{(100 - Q)(50 - Q)} = kt + c_1$$

Solving the integral,

$$\int \frac{dQ}{(100 - Q)(50 - Q)} = \int \frac{dQ}{Q^2 - 150Q + 5000}$$

$$= \int \frac{dQ}{Q^2 - 150Q + 5625 - 625}$$

$$= \int \frac{dQ}{(Q - 75)^2 - (25)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{50} \log \left(\frac{Q - 75 - 25}{Q - 75 + 25} \right) + c_2$$

$$= \frac{1}{50} \log \left(\frac{Q - 100}{Q - 50} \right) + c_2$$

Thus, the solution of the differential equation is:

$$\frac{1}{50}\log\left(\frac{Q-100}{Q-50}\right) + c = kt$$

Since, the amount is 0 at t = 0, we get:

$$c = k(0) - \frac{1}{50} \log \left(\frac{0 - 100}{0 - 50} \right) \implies c = -\frac{1}{50} \log 2$$

Thus, we get the following solution

$$\log\left(\frac{Q - 100}{Q - 50}\right) = 50kt + \log 2$$

$$\implies \frac{Q - 100}{Q - 50} = \exp\left(50kt + \log 2\right)$$

$$\implies Q = \frac{50\exp\left(50kt + \log 2\right) - 100}{\exp\left(50kt + \log 2\right) - 1}$$

Thus the amount of X per unit volume at time t, is given by:

$$Q = \frac{50 \exp(50kt + \log 2) - 100}{\exp(50kt + \log 2) - 1}$$

(a) Let f(x) be an even function. Suppose f'(0) exists. Prove that f'(0) = 0.

Ans:

Since f'(0) exists, the right hand and the left hand derivatives should be equal. Thus,

$$f'(0) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(0-h) - f(0)}{-h}$$

$$\implies \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(-h) - f(0)}{-h}$$

$$\implies \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(h) - f(0)}{h} + \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(-h) - f(0)}{h} = 0$$

Moreover, since f is an even function, f(h) = f(-h). Thus,

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(h) - f(0)}{h} + \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(h) - f(0)}{h} = 0$$

$$\implies 2 \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(h) - f(0)}{h} = 0$$

$$\implies 2f'(0) = 0$$

$$\implies f'(0) = 0$$

(b) Let f be a function defined on a closed interval [a,b]. We say that f is differentiable at x=a if $f'_+(a)=\lim_{h\to 0^+}\frac{f(a+h)-f(a)}{h}$ exists. Similarly, we say that f is differentiable at x=b if $f'_-(b)=\lim_{h\to 0^-}\frac{f(b+h)-f(b)}{h}$ exists. Let $c\in (a,b)$ and f is said to be differentiable at x=c if $f'(c)=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{f(c+h)-f(c)}{h}$ exists. A function is said to be differentiable on an interval I if f is differentiable at every point in the interval I. Let f be a differentiable function on [a,b]. Suppose $f'_+(a)>0, f'_-(b)>0$ and $f(a)\geq f(b)$. Prove that the equation f'(x)=0 has at least two distinct roots in (a,b). (Hint: Use Fermat Theorem.)

Ans:

We need to show that f has at least 2 local extrema in the interval (a, b). First, we assume that f has no local maxima in (a, b). Since f is differentiable in I, and hence continuous, this would mean that:

$$\nexists$$
 $c \in [a, b]$ such that $f(c) > f(a)$ and $f(c) > f(b)$

Since $f(a) \ge f(b)$ our assumption would imply:

$$\nexists c$$
 such that $f(c) > f(a)$

This would mean that a is an absolute maximum for f(x) for $x \in [a,b]$. This would mean, that for h > 0,

$$f(a+h) < f(a) \implies \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} < 0 \implies \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} < 0 \implies f'_+(a) < 0$$

However, this contradicts the given statement that $f'_{+}(a) > 0$. Thus, f has at least one local maximum in (a, b). Next, we assume that f has no local minimum in (a, b). Since f is differentiable in I, and hence continuous, this would mean that:

$$\nexists c \in [a,b]$$
 such that $f(c) < f(a)$ and $f(c) < f(b)$

Since $f(a) \ge f(b)$ our assumption would imply:

$$\nexists c$$
 such that $f(c) < f(b)$

This would mean that b is an absolute minimum for f(x) for $x \in [a, b]$. This would mean, that for h < 0,

$$f(b+h) < f(b) \implies \frac{f(b+h) - f(b)}{h} < 0 \implies \lim_{h \to 0^-} \frac{f(b+h) - f(b)}{h} < 0 \implies f'_-(b) < 0$$

However, this contradicts the given statement that $f'_{-}(b) > 0$. Thus, f has at least one local minimum in (a, b). In view of the above statements, f has at least 2 local extrema in (a, b). Thus, by Fermat's theorem (given that f is a differentiable, hence continuous function in I), there exists at least 2 points in (a, b), where f'(x) = 0. Thus, f'(x) = 0 has at least two distinct roots in (a, b).