

**Department of Mathematics**  
**School of Advanced Sciences**  
**MAT 1011 – Calculus for Engineers (MATLAB)**  
**Experiment 1–A**  
**Mean value theorem**

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**Mean value theorem:**

Suppose that the function  $y = f(x)$  is continuous at every point of the closed interval  $[a, b]$  and differentiable at every point in  $(a, b)$ , then there is at least one number  $c$  in  $(a, b)$  so that

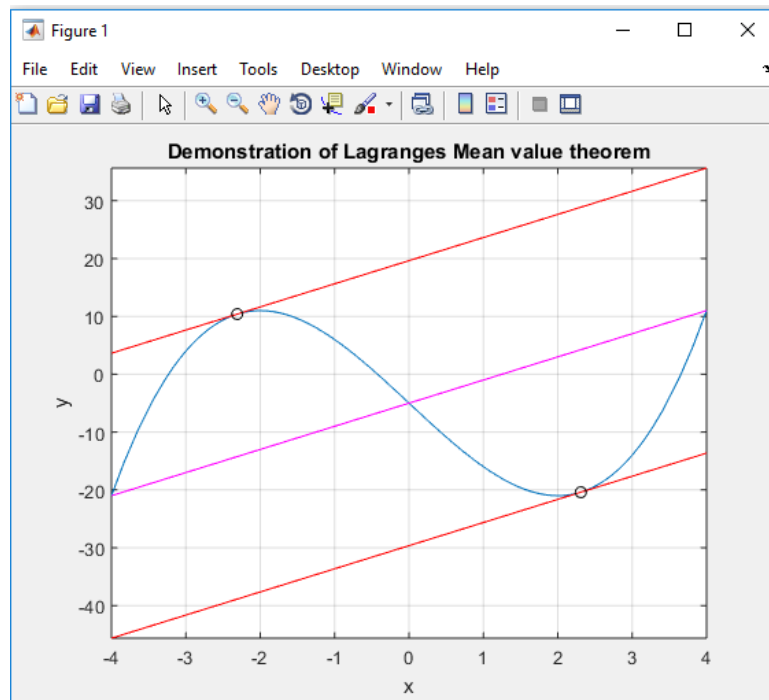
$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

The code given below illustrates the verification of Lagrange's theorem for the function  $f(x) = x^3 - 12x - 5$  on the interval  $[-4, 4]$ .

```
clear
clc
syms x y
f(x)=x^3-12*x-5; I=[-4,4]; % Input the function and interval
a=I(1); b=I(2);
Df=diff(f,x);
m=(f(b)-f(a))/(b-a); %Slope of Secant Line
c=solve(Df==m, x);
c=c(a<c&c<b);
disp('Values of c lying in the interval I are');
disp(double(c));
T=f(c)+m*(x-c); %Tangents at x=c
disp('The Tangent Lines at c are');
disp(vpa(y==T,4));
figure
fplot(f,I); grid on; hold on;
fplot(T, I, 'r'); %Tangent Lines
plot(c, double(f(c)), 'ko');
plot(I, double(f(I)), 'm'); %Secant Line
xlabel('x'); ylabel('y');
title('Demonstration of Lagranges Mean value theorem');
```

**Output:**

```
Values of c lying in the interval I are
-2.3094
 2.3094
The Tangent Lines at c are
y == 4.0*x + 19.63
y == 4.0*x - 29.63
```



**Exercise:**

1. Using MATLAB find the tangent to the curves  $y = \sqrt{x}$  at  $x = 4$  and show graphically.
2. Using MATLAB find the tangent to the curves  $y = -\sin(x/2)$  at the origin and show graphically.
3. Verify Rolle's theorem for the function  $(x+2)^3(x-3)^4$  in the interval  $[-2, 3]$ . Plot the curve along with the secant joining the end points and the tangents at points which satisfy Rolle's theorem.
4. Verify Lagrange's mean value theorem for the function  $f(x) = x + e^{3x}$  in the interval  $[0, 1]$ . Plot the curve along with the secant joining the end points and the tangents at points which satisfy Lagrange's mean value theorem.