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proof of uniqueness of Lagrange Interpolation formula

 ${\bf Canonical\ name} \quad {\bf ProofOfUniquenessOfLagrangeInterpolationFormula}$

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Entry type Proof Classification msc 65D05 Classification msc 41A05 Existence is clear from the construction, the uniqueness is proved by assuming there are two different polynomials p(x) and q(x) that interpolate the points. Then r(x) = p(x) - q(x) has $n \text{ zeros}, x_1, \ldots, x_n$ and there is a point x_e such that $r(x_e) \neq 0$. r(x) is non-constant with degree $\deg(r(x)) \leq n-1$ and has more than n-1 solutions, which is a contradiction. Thus there can only be one polynomial.