

MEAN VALUE THEOREMS

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OBJECTIVES

After going through this chapter you will be able to: ☐ State and prove three mean value theorems (MVT):

Rolle's MVT,

Lagrange's MVT

and Cauchy's MVT

INTRODUCTION:

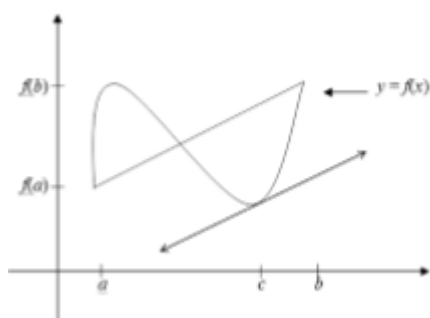
The Mean Value Theorem is one of the most important theoretical tools in Calculus. Let us consider the following real life event to understand the concept of this theorem: If a train travels 120 km in one hour, then its average speed during is 120 km/hr. The car definitely either has to go at a constant speed of 120 km/hr during that whole journey, or, if it goes slower (at a speed less than 120 km/hr) at a moment, it has to go faster (at a speed more than 120 km/hr) at another moment, in order to end up with an average speed of 120 km/hr. Thus, the Mean Value Theorem tells us that at some point during the journey, the train must have been traveling at exactly 120 km/hr. This theorem form one of the most important results in Calculus.

Geometrically we can say that MVT states that given a continuous and differentiable curve in an interval $[a, b]$, there exists a point $c \in [a, b]$ such that the tangent at c is parallel to the secant joining $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$.

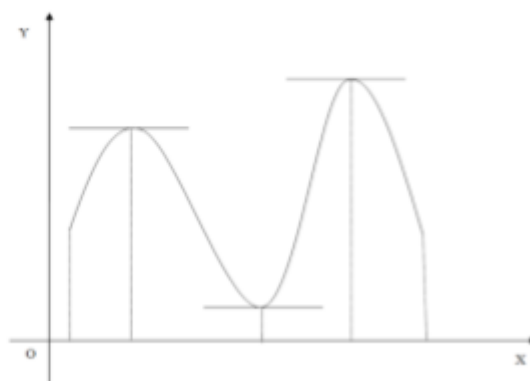
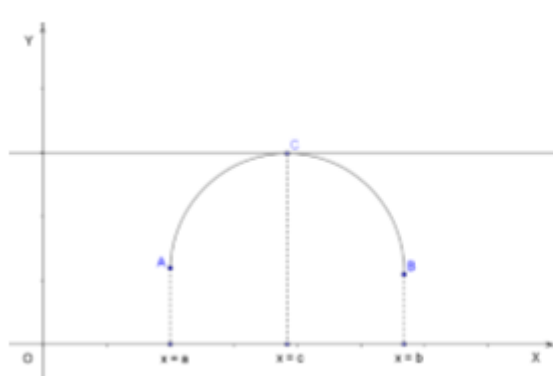
Rolle's Theorem:

If f is a real valued function such that

- (i) f is continuous on $[a, b]$,
- (ii) f is differentiable in (a, b) and
- (iii) $f(a) = f(b)$ then there exists a point $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c)=0$



Geometrical Interpretation of Rolle's theorem:



Algebraic Interpretation of Rolle's Theorem: We have seen that the third condition of the hypothesis of Rolle's theorem is that $f(a) = f(b)$. If for a function f , both $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ are zero that is a and b are the roots of the equation $f(x) = 0$, then by the theorem there is a point c of (a, b) , where $f'(c) = 0$, which means that c is a root of the equation $f'(x) = 0$. Thus Rolle's theorem implies that between two roots a and b of $f(x) = 0$ there always exists at least one root c of $f'(x) = 0$ where $a < c < b$. This is the algebraic interpretation of the theorem.

Example 1: Verify Rolle's Theorem for the following

(1) x^2 in $[-1, 1]$ (2) x^2 in $[1, 3]$

Solution: (1) Let $f(x) = x^2$

, $x \in [-1, 1]$

As $f(x) = x^2$ is a polynomial in x , it is continuous and differentiable everywhere on its domain. Also

$f(-1) = f(1) = 1$

The conditions of the Rolle's theorem are satisfied.

We may have to find some $c \in [1, 1]$ such that $f'(c) = 0$

$$\text{Now } f(x) = x^2 \quad \therefore f'(x) = 2x. \quad \therefore f'(c) = 2c.$$

$$\therefore f'(c) = 0 \Rightarrow 2c = 0 \quad \therefore c = 0 \text{ and lies in } [-1, 1]$$

\therefore Rolle's Theorem is verified.

$$2) \quad \text{Let } f(x) = x^2, \quad x \in [1, 3]$$

$f(x)$ is polynomial in x . $\therefore f(x)$ is continuous and differentiable everywhere on its domain. i.e. (i) f is continuous on $[1, 3]$ and (ii) f is differentiable in $(1, 3)$.

But we have $f(1) = 1$ and $f(3) = 9$ which are not equal.

\therefore The values of f at the end points are not equal i.e. $f(1) \neq f(3)$

\therefore The function x^2 in $(1, 3)$ do not satisfy all the conditions of Rolle's Theorem.

Example 2: verify rolle's theorem for $f(x) = x(x+3)e^{-x/2}$ in $[-3, 0]$

Solution: given $f(x) = x(x+3)e^{-x/2}$ in $[-3, 0]$

i). $f(x)$ is continuous in $[-3, 0]$ since it is a product of continuous functions.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(ii) } f'(x) &= (2x+3)e^{-x/2} + (x^2+3x)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)e^{-x/2} = e^{-x/2} \left[2x+3 - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{3x}{2} \right] \\ &= e^{-x/2} \left[-\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x}{2} + 3 \right] \text{ exists in } (-3, 0) \end{aligned}$$

ii). $f(-3) = f(0) = 0$

All conditions of Rolle's Theorem are satisfied

\therefore There exists $c \in (-3, 0)$ such

$$\begin{aligned} \text{that } f'(c) &= 0 \Rightarrow e^{-c/2} \left[-\frac{c^2}{2} + \frac{c}{2} + 3 \right] = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow -c^2 + c + 6 = 0 \Rightarrow c^2 - c - 6 = 0 \\ &\therefore c = 3, -2 \\ \therefore 3 \notin (-3, 0) \quad \therefore c \neq 3, \quad \Rightarrow c = -2 \in (-3, 0) \end{aligned}$$

Hence Rolle's theorem is verified and $c = -2$ is the required value.

Example 3: verify rolle's theorem for $f(x) = \log \left[\frac{x^2+ab}{x(a+b)} \right]$ in $[a, b]$ in $a, b > 0$

Solution: $f(x)$ is continuous in (a, b) and $f(x) = \log(x^2 + ab) - \log x - \log(a + b)$

$$\therefore f'(x) = \frac{2x}{x^2 + ab} - \frac{1}{x} = \frac{x^2 - ab}{x(x^2 + ab)} \text{ exists, since it is not indeterminate or}$$

infinite.

Also $f(a) = f(b) = 0 \therefore$ All conditions of Rolle's Theorem are satisfied.

\therefore There exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$

$$\therefore \frac{c^2 - ab}{c(c^2 + ab)} = 0 \quad (\text{i.e.}) \quad c^2 - ab = 0 \quad \therefore c = \sqrt{ab}, \text{ which lies in } (a, b).$$

Example 4: verify rolle's theorem for $f(x)=e^{-x}(\sin x - \cos x)$ in $[\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}]$

Solution: Since e^{-x} , $\sin x$, $\cos x$ are continuous and differentiable functions, the given functions is also continuous in $[\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}]$ and differentiable in $(\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4})$

$$\text{Also, } f(\pi/4) = e^{-\pi/4}(\sin \pi/4 - \cos \pi/4) = 0$$

$$f(5\pi/4) = e^{-5\pi/4}(\sin 5\pi/4 - \cos 5\pi/4) = 0$$

$$\therefore f(\pi/4) = f(5\pi/4) = 0$$

Hence, Rolle's Theorem is applicable.

$$\text{Now, } f'(x) = -e^{-x}(\sin x - \cos x) + e^{-x}(\cos x + \sin x) = 2e^{-x} \cos x$$

$$f'(c) = 2e^{-c} \cos c = 0 \quad \therefore c = \pi/2, \text{ which lies in } (\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4})$$

Example 5: verify rolle's theorem for $f(x)=\sin^2 x, 0 \leq x \leq \pi$

Solution: we have $f(x)=\sin^2 x, 0 \leq x \leq \pi$

Since $\sin x$ continuous and differentiable in $[0, \pi]$

And $\sin^2 x$ is also continuous and differentiable in $[0, \pi]$

$$\text{Now } f(0)=f(\pi)=0$$

\therefore all the conditions of rolle's theorem are satisfied.

At least one point $c \in (0, \pi)$ such

that $f'(c) = 0$ Now, $f'(x) = 2 \sin x \cos x = \sin 2x$.

$$\therefore f'(c) = \sin 2c \Rightarrow f'(c) = 0 \Rightarrow \sin 2c = 0 \Rightarrow 2c = 0, \pi, 2\pi, 3\pi, \dots$$

$$\therefore c = 0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \dots$$

Since $c = \frac{\pi}{2}$ lies in $(0, \pi)$, it is the required value. Hence Rolle's theorem is verified.

Example 7: if $f(x) = x(x+1)(x+2)(x+3)$ then show that $f(x)$ has three real roots in $[-3, 0]$.

Solution: We apply Rolle's Theorem to $f(x)$ in three intervals $[-1, 0]$, $[-2, -1]$, $[-3, -2]$

We observe that

- (i) $f(x)$ is continuous in all the intervals since it is a polynomial in x .
- (ii) $f(x)$ is differentiable in all the intervals \therefore polynomial in x .
- (iii) $f(-3) = f(-2) = f(-1) = f(0) = 0$.

Hence Rolle's Theorem is applicable in all each interval such that $f'(c) = 0$

$\therefore f(x)$ has three real roots.

LAGRANGE'S MEAN VALUE THEOREM

Theorem 6.1 : If $y = f(x)$ is a real valued function defined on $[a, b]$, such that,

- (i) $f(x)$ is continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$, (ii) $f(x)$ is differentiable in (a, b) then there exists at least one point $c \in (a, b)$ such that

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

Geometrical Interpretation of the Lagrange's Mean Value Theorem:

Let $A(a, f(a))$ and $B(b, f(b))$ and , be two points on the curve $y = f(x)$. The slope m of the line AB is given by,

m

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

Also, $f'(c)$ is the slope of the tangent at the point $C(c, f(c))$. Lagrange's

Mean Value Theorem says that there exists at least one point $C(c, f(c))$, on the graph where the slope of the tangent line is same as the slope of line AB. (i.e.) C is a point on the graph where the tangent is parallel to the chord joining the extremities of the curve.

Some Important Deductions from the Mean Value Theorem

Example 11: Verify mean value theorem for $f(x)=\log x$ on $[1,e]$

Solution: The given function is $f(x) = \log x$ on $[1, e]$

We know that $f(x) = \log x$ is continuous on $[1, e]$ and differentiable on $(1, e)$.

Thus all the conditions of Lagrange's mean value theorem are satisfied.

$$\therefore \exists c \in (1, e) \text{ such that } \frac{f(e) - f(1)}{e - 1} = f'(c)$$

$$\therefore \frac{\log e - \log 1}{e - 1} = f'(c)$$

Since $\log e = 1$, $\log 1 = 0$ and $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ we get $\frac{1}{e - 1} = \frac{1}{c}$

$\therefore c = e - 1$ which lies in the interval $(1, 2)$ and hence in $(1, e)$, since $2 < e < 3$.

Example 13: show that if $x > 0$, $x - \frac{x^2}{2} < \log(1+x) < x - \frac{x^2}{2(1+x)}$ for $x > 0$

Solution: Let us assume, $f(x) = \log(1+x) - x + \frac{x^2}{2}$

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

$\therefore f'(x) > 0$ for all $x > 0$ except at $x = 0$. and $f(0) = 0$.

$\therefore f(x)$ is an increasing function in $(0, \infty)$

$\therefore f(x)$ increasing from 0 and hence $f(x) > 0$.

$$\log(1+x) < x - \frac{x^2}{2}, \text{ for } x > 0$$

... (i)

Consider,

$$f(x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2(1+x)} - \log(1+x)$$

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

$\therefore f'(x) > 0$ for $x > 0$ except at $x = 0$ when it is zero.

$f(x)$ is an increasing function in $(0, \infty)$

$f(x)$ increasing from 0 and hence $f(x) > 0$.

$$\therefore x - \frac{x^2}{2(1+x)^2} > \log(1+x) \text{ for } x > 0.$$

... (ii)

From (i) and (ii), $x - \frac{x^2}{2} < \log(1+x) < x - \frac{x^2}{2(1+x)^2}$ for $x > 0$.

Show that $\left| \tan^{-1} x - \tan^{-1} y \right| < |x - y|$

Let $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x)$

\therefore By Lagrange's Theorem,

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

$$\therefore \frac{\tan^{-1}(x) - \tan^{-1}(y)}{x - y} = \frac{1}{1 + c^2} \text{ for } -\pi/2 < x < c < y < \pi/2$$

But, $\frac{1}{1 + c^2} < 1$ ($\because c^2$ is positive)

$$\therefore \left| \frac{\tan^{-1} x - \tan^{-1} y}{x - y} \right| < 1$$

$$\therefore \left| \tan^{-1} x - \tan^{-1} y \right| < |x - y|$$

example:

show that , $\frac{b-a}{1+b^2} < \tan^{-1}(b) - \tan^{-1}(a) < \frac{b-a}{1+a^2}$

hence show that $\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{3}{25} < \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) < \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{1}{6}$

Let $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x)$ in $[a, b]$

$$\therefore f'(x) = \frac{1}{1 + x^2}$$

\therefore By Lagrange's M. V. T.

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \text{ where } c \in (a, b)$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{1 + c^2} = \frac{\tan^{-1}(b) - \tan^{-1}(a)}{b - a} \quad (1)$$

Since $a < c < b$, $a^2 < c^2 < b^2$

$$\therefore 1 + a^2 < 1 + c^2 < 1 + b^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{1 + a^2} > \frac{1}{1 + c^2} > \frac{1}{1 + b^2} \quad (2)$$

From (1) and (2)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{1 + b^2} &< \frac{\tan^{-1} b - \tan^{-1} a}{b - a} < \frac{1}{1 + a^2} \\ \therefore \frac{b - a}{1 + b^2} &< \tan^{-1} b - \tan^{-1} a < \frac{b - a}{1 + a^2} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

For the second part;

Since $\tan^{-1} = \pi/4$ we put $a = 1$ and $b = \frac{4}{3}$ in (3)

$$\therefore \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 1}{1 + \left(\frac{16}{9}\right)} < \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) - \tan^{-1}(1) < \frac{\frac{4}{3} - 1}{1 + 1}$$

$$\therefore \frac{3}{25} + \pi/4 < \tan^{-1} \frac{4}{3} < \frac{1}{6} + \pi/4.$$

Example: prove that , $\frac{b-a}{b} < \log(b/a) < \frac{b-a}{a}$ for $0 < a < b$

Hence deduce that $\frac{1}{4} < \log\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) < \frac{1}{3}$

Solution: Let $f(x) = \log x$ in $[a, b]$

Since $f(x)$ is (i) continuous in $[a, b]$ and (ii) differentiable in (a, b)

by Lagrange's M. V. T. $\exists c \in (a, b)$ such that $\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} = f'(c)$

But $f(x) = \log x$

$$\therefore f'(x) = \frac{1}{x} \quad \therefore f'(c) = \frac{1}{c}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\log b - \log a}{b - a} = \frac{1}{c}$$

(1)

$$\text{But } a < c < b, \quad \frac{1}{a} < \frac{1}{c} < \frac{1}{b}$$

(2)

From (1) and (2) we get,

$$\frac{1}{b} < \frac{\log b - \log a}{b - a} < \frac{1}{a} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{b - a}{b} < \log b - \log a < \frac{b - a}{a}$$

$$\therefore \frac{b - a}{b} < \log\left(\frac{b}{a}\right) < \frac{b - a}{a}$$

For the second part $a = 3, b = 4$.

$$\therefore \frac{1}{4} < \log \frac{4}{3} < \frac{1}{3}$$

Cauchy's Mean Value Theorem:

If functions f and g are (i) continuous in a closed interval $[a, b]$, (ii) differentiable in the open interval (a, b) and (iii) $f'(x) \neq 0$ for any point of the open interval

(a, b) then for some $c \in (a, b)$, $f'(c) [g(b) - g(a)] = g'(c) [f(b) - f(a)]$

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{g'(c)}{f'(c)} = \frac{g(b) - g(a)}{f(b) - f(a)} \quad a < c < b.$$

Example 20: Verify Cauchy's MVT for the function x^2 and x^3 in the interval $[1, 2]$.

Solution:

Let $f(x) = x^2$ and let $g(x) = x^3$.

As $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are polynomials (i) they are continuous on $[1, 2]$, (ii) they are differentiable on $(1, 2)$ and (iii) $g'(x) \neq 0$ for any value in $(1, 2)$

\therefore Cauchy's mean value theorem can be applied. \therefore If $c \in (1, 2)$ such that,

$$\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(2) - f(1)}{g(2) - g(1)}$$

$$\frac{2c^2}{3c^2} = \frac{2^2 - 1^2}{2^3 - 1^3} = \frac{4 - 1}{8 - 1} = \frac{3}{7} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{2}{3c} = \frac{3}{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow 9c = 14 \quad \therefore c = \frac{14}{9} \in (1, 2)$$

\therefore Cauchy mean value theorem is verified.

Example: using CMVT show that $\frac{\sin b - \sin a}{\cos a - \cos b} = \cot c$, $a < c < b$, $a > 0$ and $b > 0$

Solution: Let $f(x) = \sin x$ and $g(x) = \cos x$.

Here, $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) and for any c in (a, b) , thus CMVT can be applied.

$$\therefore c \in (a, b) \text{ such that, } \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{-\cos c}{\sin c} = \frac{\sin b - \sin a}{\cos b - \cos a} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \cot c = \frac{\sin b - \sin a}{\cos a - \cos b}$$

Example: if in CMVT we write $f(x)=e^x$ and $g(x)=e^{-x}$ show that c is the arithmetic mean between a and b

Solution: Now $f(x) = e^x$ and $g(x) = e^{-x}$

It can be proved that function $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are continuous on any closed interval $[a, b]$ and differentiable in (a, b) . Also $g'(x) \neq 0$ and $x \in (a, b)$

Then CMVT can be applied. $\therefore \exists c \in (a, b)$ such that, $\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}$

$$\text{Now } \frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{e^c}{-e^{-c}} = -e^{2c} \text{ and } \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)} = \frac{e^b - e^a}{e^{-b} - e^{-a}} = -e^{a+b} \text{ where}$$

$$c \in (a, b)$$

$$\therefore -e^{2c} = -e^{a+b} \Rightarrow a + b = 2c$$

$$\therefore c = \frac{a+b}{2} \in (a, b)$$

Thus, c is the arithmetic mean between a and b .

Example: if $1 < a < b$, show that there exist c satisfying $a < c < b$ such that $\log\left(\frac{b}{a}\right) = \frac{b^2 - a^2}{2c^2}$

Solution: We have to prove that, $\frac{\log b - \log a}{b^2 - a^2} = \frac{1}{2c^2}$

This suggests us to take $f(x) = \log x$ and $g(x) = x^2$. Now, $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) and $g'(x) \neq 0$ for any c in (a, b) .

\therefore CMVT can be applied. $\therefore \exists c \in (a, b)$ such that,

$$\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)} \Rightarrow \frac{1/c}{2c} = \frac{\log b - \log a}{b^2 - a^2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2c^2} = \frac{\log b - \log a}{b^2 - a^2} \Rightarrow \log \frac{b}{a} = \frac{b^2 - a^2}{2c^2}$$

Beta and gamma function

Improper integrals

consider the integral $\int_a^b f(x)dx$ such an integral, for which

- either the interval of integration is not finite. i.e., $a = -\infty$ or $b = \infty$ or both
- Or the function $f(x)$ is unbounded at one or more points in $[a, b]$ is called an improper integral.

Definition

Beta function:

The definite integral $\int_0^1 x^{m-1} (1-x)^{n-1} dx$ is called the beta function and denoted by $B(m,n)$ and read as "beta m,n". the above integral converges for $m>0, n>0$

Properties of beta function:

i). symmetry of beta function i.e., $B(m,n)=B(n,m)$

proof: by definition, we have

$$B(m,n)=\int_0^1 x^{m-1} (1-x)^{n-1} dx$$

Put $1-x=y$ so that $dx=-dy$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore B(m,n) &= \int_1^0 (1-y)^{m-1} y^{n-1} (-dy) = \int_0^1 y^{n-1} (1-y)^{m-1} dy \\ &= \int_0^1 x^{n-1} (1-x)^{m-1} dx = B(n,m) \left[\int_a^b f(t) dt = \int_a^b f(x) dx \right]\end{aligned}$$

Hence $B(m,n)=B(n,m)$

ii). $B(m,n)=2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^{2m-1} \theta \cos^{2n-1} \theta d\theta$

proof: By definition ,we have

$$B(m,n)=\int_0^1 x^{m-1} (1-x)^{n-1} dx$$

Put $x=\sin^2 \theta$ so that $dx = \sin 2\theta d\theta$

$$\therefore B(m,n)=\int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin^2 \theta)^{m-1} (1-\sin^2 \theta)^{n-1} \sin 2\theta d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}B(m,n) &= \int \sin^{2m-2} \theta \cos^{2n-2} \theta 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^{2m-1} \theta \cos^{2n-1} \theta d\theta \quad \dots\dots\dots(1)\end{aligned}$$

Note : from (1) , we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^{2m-1} \theta \cos^{2n-1} \theta d\theta = \frac{1}{2} B(m,n)$$

iii). $B(m,n)= B(m+1,n) + B(m,n+1)$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{proof: } B(m+1,n) + B(m,n+1) &= \int_0^1 x^m (1-x)^{n-1} dx + \int_0^1 x^{m-1} (1-x)^n dx \\ &= \int_0^1 [x^m (1-x)^{n-1} + x^{m-1} (1-x)^n] dx \\ &= \int_0^1 x^{m-1} (1-x)^{n-1} [x + (1-x)] dx\end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_0^1 x^{m-1} (1-x)^{n-1} dx = B(m,n)$$

Hence $B(m,n) = B(m+1,n) + B(m,n+1)$

Solved examples:

Example 1: show that $\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^m \theta \cos^n \theta d\theta$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Solution: } \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^m \theta \cos^n \theta d\theta &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^{m-1} \theta \cos^{n-1} \theta (\sin \theta \cos \theta) d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin^2 \theta)^{(m-1)/2} (\cos^2 \theta)^{(n-1)/2} \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Put } \sin^2 \theta = x \quad \text{so that} \quad \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta = \frac{dx}{2}$$

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^m \theta \cos^n \theta d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 x^{(m-1)/2} (1-x)^{(n-1)/2} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 x^{\frac{m+1}{2}-1} (1-x)^{\frac{n+1}{2}-1} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} B\left(\frac{m+1}{2}, \frac{n+1}{2}\right)$$

Example 2: Express the following integrals in terms of beta function

$$\text{i). } \int_0^1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx \quad \text{ii). } \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} dx$$

$$\text{solution: i) put } x^2 = y \quad \text{so that } dx = \frac{dy}{2x} = \frac{1}{2} y^{(-\frac{1}{2})} dy$$

when $x=0$, $y=0$; when $x=1$, $y=1$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx &= \int_0^1 \frac{y^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\sqrt{1-y}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} y^{(-\frac{1}{2})} dy \\ &= (1/2) \int_0^1 (1-y)^{(-\frac{1}{2})} dy \\ &= (1/2) \int_0^1 y^{1-1} (1-y)^{\frac{1}{2}-1} dy \\ &= (1/2) B(1, \frac{1}{2}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{ii). Put } x^2 = 9y \quad \text{so that } dx = (3/2) y^{(-\frac{1}{2})} dy$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} dx &= \int_0^1 (9-x^2)^{(-\frac{1}{2})} dx \\ &= \int_0^1 (9-9y)^{(-\frac{1}{2})} dy \\ &= (3/2) \int_0^1 y^{(-\frac{1}{2})} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) (1-y)^{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)-1} dy \quad \Gamma \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (1/2) \int_0^1 y^{\frac{1}{2}-1} (1-y)^{\frac{1}{2}-1} dy \\
&= (1/2) B\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

Gamma function

Definition: The definite integral $\int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-1} dx$ is called the gamma function and is defined by $\Gamma(n)$ and read as “gamma n”

The integral converges only for $n > 0$

Thus $\Gamma(n) = \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-1} dx$, where $n > 0$

Gamma function is also called eulerian integral of the second kind.

The integral $\int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-1} dx$ does not converge if $n \leq 0$.

Properties of gamma function

i). To show that $\Gamma(1) = 1$

proof: by the definition of gamma function, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma(n) &= \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-1} dx \\
\Gamma(1) &= \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{1-1} dx \\
&= \int_0^\infty e^{-x} dx \\
&= (-e^{-x})_0^\infty \\
&= -(0-1) \\
&= 1 \text{ for } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e^x} = 0
\end{aligned}$$

ii). To show that $\Gamma(n) = (n-1) \Gamma(n-1)$, where $n > 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{proof: } \Gamma(n) &= \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-1} dx = \left[x^{n-1} \frac{e^{-x}}{(-1)} \right]_0^\infty - \int_0^\infty (n-1) x^{n-2} \frac{e^{-x}}{-1} dx \\
&= - \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^{n-1}}{e^x} = 0 + (n-1) \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-2} dx \\
&= (n-1) \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-2} dx \quad \left(\text{since } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^{n-1}}{e^x} = 0 \text{ for } n > 1 \right) \\
\Gamma(n) &= (n-1) \Gamma(n-1)
\end{aligned}$$

iii). If n is a non-negative integer, then $\Gamma(n+1) = n!$

proof: from property ii, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma(n+1) &= n \Gamma(n) = n(n-1) \Gamma(n-1), \text{ by property ii again} \\
&= n(n-1)(n-2) \Gamma(n-2), \text{ by property ii again}
\end{aligned}$$

$$=n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3) \Gamma(n-3)$$

$$=n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)\dots\dots\dots 3.2.1. \Gamma(1) \text{ (since } \Gamma(1)=1)$$

$$=n!$$

Thus $\Gamma(n+1)=n!$ ($n=0,1,2,3,\dots\dots$)