Section 4.2 The Mean Value Theorem

23. Show that the equation has exactly one real solution.

$$2x + \cos x = 0$$

Solution:
Let $f(x) = 2x + \cos x$. Then $f(-\pi) = -2\pi - 1 < 0$ and $f(0) = 1 > 0$. Since f is the sum of the polynomial $2x$ and the trignometric function $\cos x$, f is continuous and differentiable for all x. By the Intermediate Value Theorem, there is a number c in $(-\pi, 0)$ such that $f(c) = 0$. Thus, the given equation has at least one real root. If the equation has distinct real roots a and b with $a < b$, then $f(a) = f(b) = 0$. Since f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b), Rolle's Theorem implies that there is a number r in (a, b) such that $f'(r) = 0$. But $f'(r) = 2 - \sin r > 0$ since $\sin r \leq 1$. This contradiction shows that the given equation can't have two distinct real roots, so it has exactly one root.

28. (a) Suppose that f is differentiable on $\mathbb{R}$ and has two roots. Show that f' has at least one root.
(b) Suppose f is twice differentiable on $\mathbb{R}$ and has three roots. Show that f'' has at least one real root.
(c) Can you generalize parts (a) and (b)?

Solution:
(a) Suppose that $f(a) = f(b) = 0$ where $a < b$. By Rolle's Theorem applied to f on $[a, b]$ there is a number c such that $a < c < b$ and $f'(c) = 0$.

(b) Suppose that $f(a) = f(b) = f(c) = 0$ where $a < b < c$. By Rolle's Theorem applied to $f(x)$ on $[a, b]$ and $[b, c]$ there are numbers $a < d < b$ and $b < e < c$ with $f'(d) = 0$ and $f'(e) = 0$. By Rolle's Theorem applied to $f'(x)$ on $[d, e]$ there is a number g with $d < g < e$ such that $f''(g) = 0$.

(c) Suppose that f is n times differentiable on $\mathbb{R}$ and has $n + 1$ distinct real roots. Then $f^{(n)}$ has at least one real root.

33. Show that $\sin x < x$ if $0 < x < 2\pi$.

Solution:
Consider the function $f(x) = \sin x$, which is continuous and differentiable on $\mathbb{R}$. Let a be a number such that $0 < a < 2\pi$. Then f is continuous on $[0, a]$ and differentiable on $(0, a)$. By the Mean Value Theorem, there is a number c in $(0, a)$ such that $f(a) - f(0) = f'(c)(a - 0)$; that is, $\sin a - 0 = (\cos c)(a)$. Now $\cos c < 1$ for $0 < c < 2\pi$, so $\sin a < 1 \cdot a = a$. We took a to be an arbitrary number in $(0, 2\pi)$, so $\sin x < x$ for all x satisfying $0 < x < 2\pi$.

35. Use the Mean Value Theorem to prove the inequality

$$|\sin a - \sin b| \leq |a - b| \quad \text{for all } a \text{ and } b$$

Solution:
Let $f(x) = \sin x$ and let $b < a$. Then $f(x)$ is continuous on $[b, a]$ and differentiable on (b, a). By the Mean Value Theorem, there is a number $c \in (b, a)$ with $\sin a - \sin b = f(a) - f(b) = f'(c)(a - b) = (\cos c)(a - b)$. Thus, $|\sin a - \sin b| \leq |\cos c|\,|b - a| \leq |a - b|$. If $a < b$, then $|\sin a - \sin b| = |\sin b - \sin a| \leq |b - a| = |a - b|$. If $a = b$, both sides of the inequality are 0.

39. Use the method of Example 6 to prove the identity

$$2\sin^{-1} x = \cos^{-1}(1 - 2x^2) \quad x \geq 0$$

Solution:

Let $f(x) = 2\sin^{-1} x - \cos^{-1}(1-2x^2)$. Then $f'(x) = \dfrac{2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} - \dfrac{4x}{\sqrt{1-(1-2x^2)^2}} = \dfrac{2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} - \dfrac{4x}{2x\sqrt{1-x^2}} = 0$

[since $x \geq 0$]. Thus, $f'(x) = 0$ for all $x \in (0,1)$. Thus, $f(x) = C$ on $(0,1)$. To find C, let $x = 0.5$. Thus,

$2\sin^{-1}(0.5) - \cos^{-1}(0.5) = 2\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) - \frac{\pi}{3} = 0 = C$. We conclude that $f(x) = 0$ for x in $(0,1)$. By continuity of f, $f(x) = 0$ on $[0,1]$. Therefore, we see that $f(x) = 2\ \sin^{-1} x - \cos^{-1}(1-2x^2) = 0 \quad\Rightarrow\quad 2\ \sin^{-1} x = \cos^{-1}(1-2x^2)$.

42. **Fixed points** A number a is called a *fixed point* of a function f if $f(a) = a$. Prove that if $f'(x) \neq 1$ for all real numbers x, then f has at most one fixed point.

Solution:

Assume that f is differentiable (and hence continuous) on $\mathbb{R}$ and that $f'(x) \neq 1$ for all x. Suppose f has more than one fixed point. Then there are numbers a and b such that $a < b$, $f(a) = a$, and $f(b) = b$. Applying the Mean Value Theorem to the function f on $[a,b]$, we find that there is a number c in (a,b) such that $f'(c) = \dfrac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$. But then $f'(c) = \dfrac{b-a}{b-a} = 1$, contradicting our assumption that $f'(x) \neq 1$ for every real number x. This shows that our supposition was wrong, that is, that f cannot have more than one fixed point.