

Info

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created on December 26, 2024 7:29:48 PM,
and was last modified on June 12, 2026 11:48:01 AM.

Fixed points of functions $U \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow U$

fixed points of continuous functions $[a, b] \rightarrow [a, b]$

Example

x^2

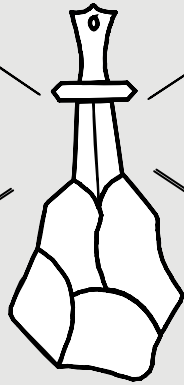
```
top=1.2
left = -0.5
right = +1.5
bottom = -0.2
---
x^2
x
```

Let >

$$f : [a, b] \rightarrow [a, b]$$

be a continuous function. Then there is a point $x \in [a, b]$

PLACEHOLDER



such that

$$f(x) = x$$

that is, a **fixed point**.

- A continuous function

$$f : [a, b] \rightarrow [a, b]$$

means

$$f(a), f(b) \in [a, b]$$

Then consider the continuous function

$$\begin{aligned} [a, b] &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x &\mapsto f(x) - x \end{aligned}$$

- This function maps

$$\begin{aligned} a &\mapsto f(a) - a \geq 0 \\ b &\mapsto f(b) - b \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- If both values are not equal, by

☰ **(Intermediate value theorem for continuous $[a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$)** Let >
 $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and suppose there are two points $\alpha < \beta$
in $[a, b]$ such that $f(\alpha) \neq f(\beta)$. Then $f(x)$ takes every value between
 $f(\alpha)$ and $f(\beta)$ for $x \in (\alpha, \beta)$. That is

$$f(\alpha, \beta) \supseteq (f(\alpha), f(\beta))$$



Let k be a number between $f(\alpha)$ and $f(\beta)$. Then apply

☰ $f : [a, b] \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and suppose $f(a), f(b)$ have opposite sign, that is, >

$$f(a)f(b) < 0$$

Then $\exists c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f(c) = 0$$



• Take $f(a) > 0, f(b) < 0$.

• Define

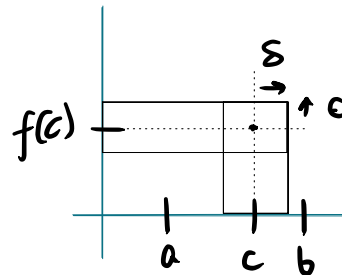
$$c := \sup\{x \in [a, b] : f(x) \geq 0\}$$

• This set has a and is bounded above by b . So c exists and $c \in (a, b)$.

• Assume $f(c) \neq 0$

• $\exists \delta$ such that δ - $B(c)$ has same sign as $f(c)$ from the sign property

• If $f(c) > 0$



then

$$x \in (c, \delta) \implies f(x) \geq 0$$

meaning elements of (c, δ) also belong to the above set. **Contradiction** to the definition of c .

• Assume $f(c) < 0$ (space. R.1. f . cont.)

• Hence, $f(c) = 0$.

for the function $g : [\alpha, \beta] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$g(x) := f(x) - k$$

Use the fact that continuous images of connected sets are connected.

▪ we have a point $c \in [a, b]$ where

$$f(c) - c = 0$$

- If both values are equal, then both are zero, so the function $f(x) = x$ on $[a, b]$.
-

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 - [Rf](#) subobjects of and functions on $\mathbb{R}^n, T^n, S^n, \mathbb{C}^n$
 - [R1](#)
 - [fixed pts](#) Fixed points of functions $U \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow U$

And it has 5 siblings.

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 - [extremum](#) Extremum of functions $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 - [fixed pts](#) Fixed points of functions $U \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow U$
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