

**Example** Find all numbers "c" in the interval (0, 2) that satisfy the conclusion to Rolle's Theorem for  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x + 5$

Following the "Caution" above let's first check whether the function f satisfies all the conditions for us to apply Rolle's or not.

a) First  $f(x)$  is continuous everywhere because it is a polynomial hence it is continuous in particular over the closed interval  $[0, 2]$

b) Also  $f(x)$  is differentiable everywhere because of the same reason that it is a polynomial, hence over the open interval (0, 2).

c)  $f(0) = 0 - 0 - 0 + 5 = 5$  and  $f(2) = 8 - 12 + 4 + 5 = 5$  implies  $f(0) = f(2) = 5$

So we may apply Rolle's Theorem. And it guarantees that there is (or are) c(c's) in the open interval (0, 2) such that  $f'(c) = 0$ . That is all. We have to find what they are by solving the equation

$$f'(c) = 3c^2 - 6c + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow c = \frac{-(-6) \pm \sqrt{6^2 - 4(3)(2)}}{2(3)} = 1 \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{2}{3}} = 1 \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$$

You have to make sure that both of these c values are in the interval (0, 2) which is the case. So for  $c_1 = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$ ,  $f'(c_1) = 0$  and also for  $c_2 = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$ ,

$f'(c_2) = 0$

Our main purpose in introducing Rolle's Theorem is to prove the Mean Value Theorem even though Rolle's has other applications.