

**1071.** Proposed by Peter A. Lindstrom, Batavia, NY.

In a beginning calculus course, one finds two Mean Value Theorems:

MVT for the Derivative: If a function  $f \in C[a, b]$  and  $f \in D(a, b)$ , then there exists at least one point  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f'(c) = \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$ .

MVT for the Definite Integral: If a function  $f \in C[a, b]$ , then there exists at least one point  $d \in (a, b)$  such that  $\int_a^b f(x)dx = f(d)(b-a)$ .

Does there exist a non-constant function  $f$  such that  $c = d$  in these two theorems for any given  $a$  and  $b$ , where  $a < b$ ?

*Solution by Rex H. Wu, Brooklyn, NY.*

The answer is yes, there is such a function.

Suppose  $g(x) \neq t$  where  $t$  is a constant, and  $g \in [a, b]$ . Let's say  $\int_a^b g(x)dx = G(x)|_a^b = G(b) - G(a)$ . We also further assume that there is a  $c_0 \in (a, b)$  such that

$$g'(c_0) = \frac{g(b) - g(a)}{b - a}$$

and

$$\int_a^b g(x)dx = g(c_0)(b - a) = G(b) - G(a)$$

From the above two equalities, we have

$$(b - a) = \frac{g(b) - g(a)}{g'(c_0)} = \frac{G(b) - G(a)}{g(c_0)}$$

An obvious solution is when  $g(x) = g'(x) = \int g(x)dx$ . This condition is satisfied by the function  $g(x) = e^x$ . ■