

## 2.4 Continuity

### GOAL:

1. Understand definition of continuity at a point.
2. Evaluate functions for continuity at a point, and on open and closed intervals
3. Understand the Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)

Study 2.4, # 131-143; one of 145-149;  
151, 155, 161, HW 1 HW 2



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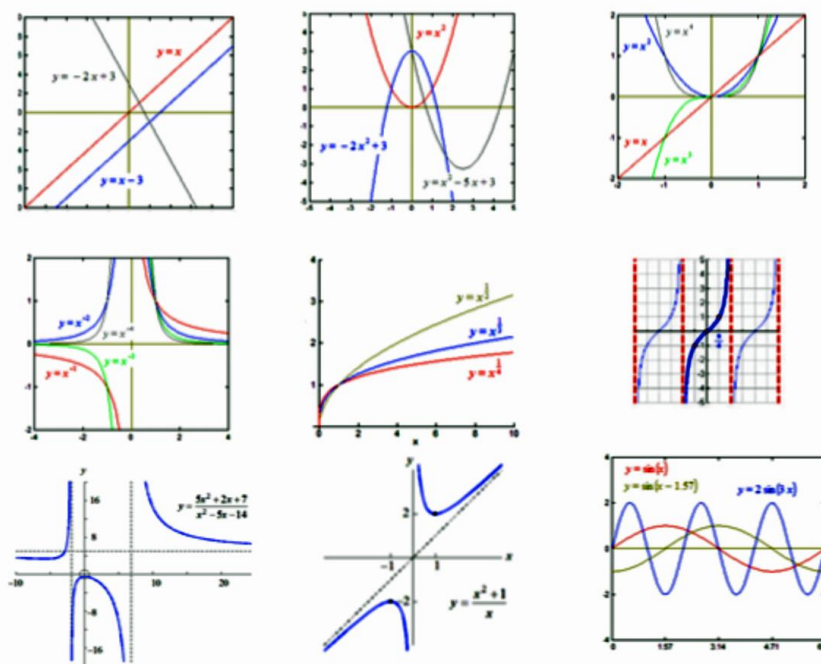
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## 2.4 Continuity

**You have seen a number of different types of graphs, some continuous for all  $x$ , some not.**



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## 2.4 Continuity

**How would you describe the graph of a curve that is continuous on an interval?**

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## 2.4 Continuity

$$y = \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$$

Is  $y$  continuous at  $x = 3$ ?  
Why or why not ?

NO.  $y$  is not defined at  $x=3$

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## 2.4 Continuity

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Is  $y$  continuous at  $x = 3$ ?  
Why or why not ?

No.  $y$  does not exist at  $x=3$  DNE  
bec. div by 0

NO.  $y$  is not defined at  $x=3$

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## 2.4 Continuity

$$y = \frac{1}{x}$$

Is  $y$  continuous at  $x = 0$ ?  
Why or why not ?

NO.  $y$  is not defined at  $x=0$

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## 2.4 Continuity

$$y = \frac{1}{x}$$

Is  $y$  continuous at  $x = 0$ ?  
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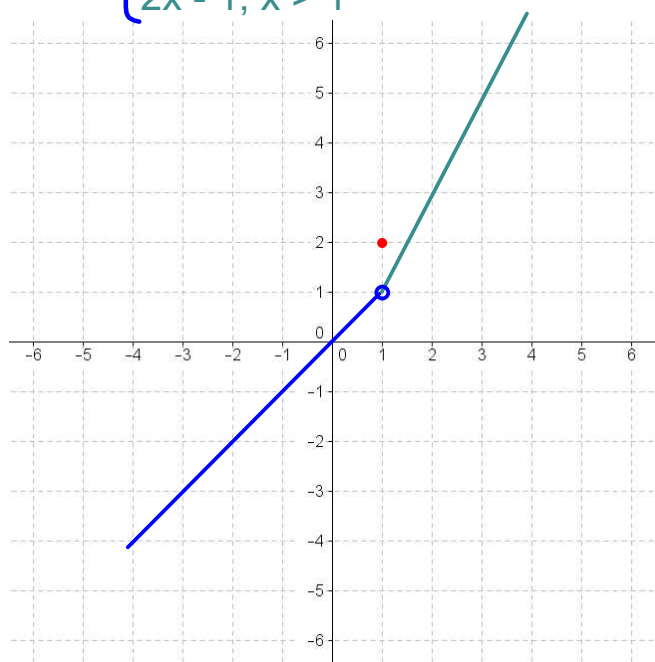
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## 2.4 Continuity

Sketch:

$$y = \begin{cases} x & , x < 1 \\ 2 & , x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Is  $y$  continuous  
at  $x = 1$ ?



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2.4 Continuity

Sketch:

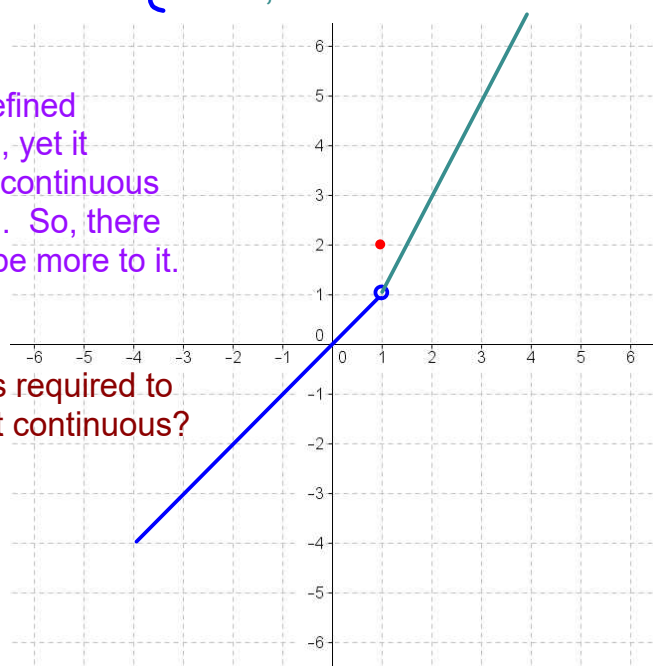
$$y = \begin{cases} x & , x < 1 \\ 2 & , x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Is y continuous at x = 1?

NO!  
Why not?

y is defined at x=1, yet it is not continuous at x=1. So, there must be more to it.

What is required to make it continuous?



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2.4 Continuity

Sketch:

$$y = \begin{cases} x & , x < 1 \\ 2 & , x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Is y continuous at x = 1?

NO!  
Why not?

Does the limit exist?

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} y$

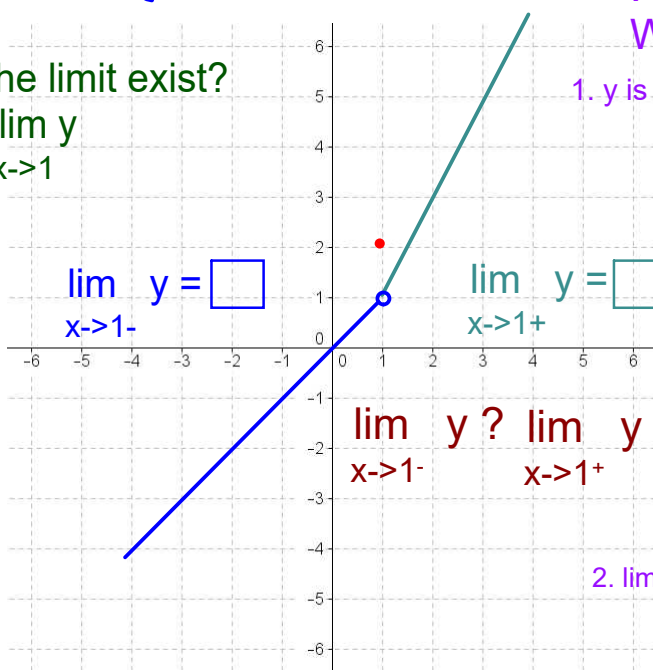
1. y is defined at x=1

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} y = \square$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} y = \square$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} y ? \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} y$

2. limit exists at x=1



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## 2.4 Continuity

Sketch:

$$y = \begin{cases} x & , x < 1 \\ 2 & , x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Is  $y$  continuous at  $x = 1$ ?

**NO!**

Why not?

Does the limit exist?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} y$$

*Yes!*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} y = \boxed{1}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} y = \boxed{1}$$

1.  $y$  is defined at  $x=1$

2. limit exists at  $x \rightarrow 1$

Still not continuous!

What is required to make it continuous?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} y = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} y = 1$$

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## 2.4 Continuity

Sketch:

$$y = \begin{cases} x & , x < 1 \\ 2 & , x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Is  $y$  continuous at  $x = 1$ ?

**NO!**

Why not?

Does the limit exist?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} y$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} y = \boxed{1}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} y = \boxed{1}$$

1.  $y$  is defined at  $x=1$

2. limit exists at  $x \rightarrow 1$

$$\boxed{3. \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)}$$

What is required to make it continuous?

Need to redefine  $f(x)$  at  $x=1$ ;  
let  $f(1) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 1$

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## 2.4 Continuity

## What is needed for continuity at a point?

$f(x)$	$c$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$	$f(c)$	Continuous at $x = c$ ?
$\frac{1}{x}$	0			
$\frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$	3			
$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x < 1 \\ 2, & x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$	1			
$x + 3$	3			

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## 2.4 Continuity

## What is needed for continuity at a point?

$f(x)$	$c$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$	$f(c)$	Continuous at $x = c$ ?
$\frac{1}{x}$	0	DNE	DNE	NO
$\frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$	3	6	DNE	NO
$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x < 1 \\ 2, & x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$	1	1	2	NO
$x + 3$	3	6	6	YES

 NEED?

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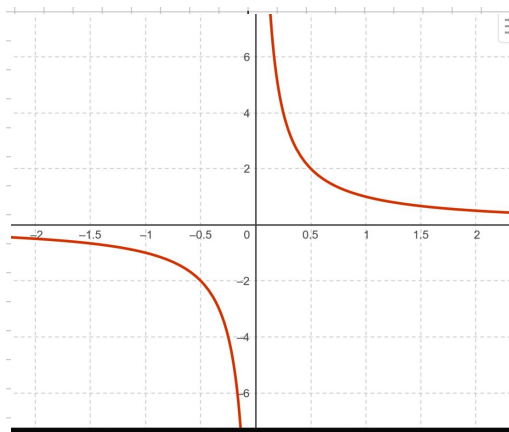
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2.4 Continuity

What is needed for continuity at a point?

$f(x)$	$c$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$	$f(c)$	Continuous at $x = c$ ?
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$\frac{1}{x}$	0
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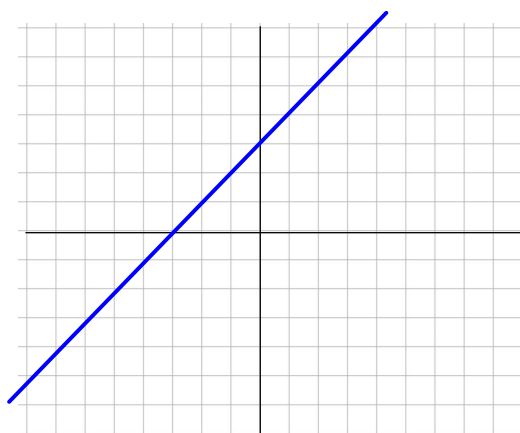
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2.4 Continuity

What is needed for continuity at a point?

$f(x)$	$c$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$	$f(c)$	Continuous at $x = c$ ?
--------	-----	-------------------------------	--------	-------------------------

$x+3$	0
-------	---



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## 2.4 Continuity

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} \rightarrow$$

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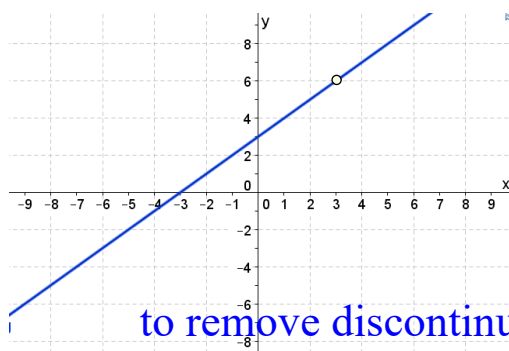
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## 2.4 Continuity

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} \rightarrow \frac{0}{0} \text{ lim. exists.}$$

$$\frac{(x+3)(\cancel{x-3})}{(\cancel{x-3})} \rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} x+3 = 6$$

$$\frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} = x + 3, x \neq 3$$



to remove discontinuity  
at  $x=3$ , let:  $f(3)=6$

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## 2.4 Continuity

**What is needed for continuity at a point?**

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## 2.4 Continuity

**What is needed for continuity at a point?**

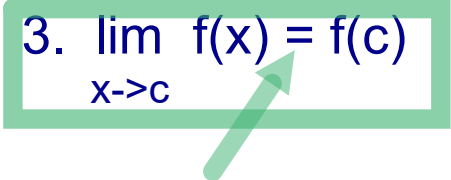
### Continuity at a Point

A function  $f$  is continuous at  $c$  if:

1.  $f(c)$  is defined.

2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists

3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$



**Required to show continuity.**

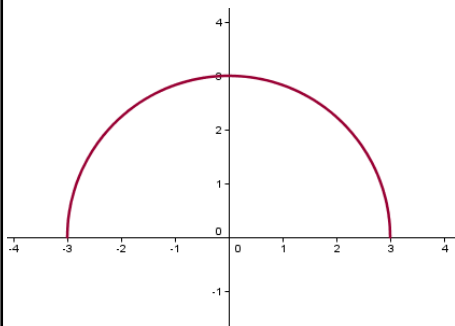
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## 2.4 Continuity

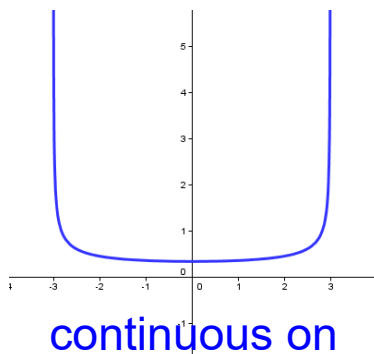
**What about continuity on an interval?** $[a, b]$  or  $(a, b)$ 

$$f(x) = \sqrt{9-x^2}$$



continuous on  
 $[-3, 3]$

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{9-x^2}}$$



continuous on  
 $(-3, 3)$

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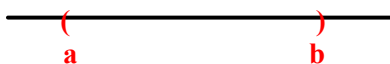
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## 2.4 Continuity

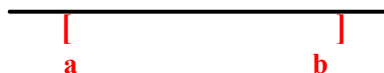
**Continuity on an interval**Consider  $f(x) = \sqrt{9-x^2}$ 

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{9-x^2}}$$

- I. A function is continuous on an **open** interval  $(a, b)$  if it is continuous at each point in  $(a, b)$ .



- II. A function is continuous on an **closed** interval  $[a, b]$  if it is continuous at each point in  $(a, b)$ , and



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow b^-} f(x) = f(b)$$

concerned with  
 inside the  
 interval and the  
 ends

- III. Functions continuous on entire real number line are everywhere continuous.

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## 2.4 Continuity

G:  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - 4}$  F: Is  $g$  continuous on  $[-1, 2]$ ?

G:  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - 4}$  F: Is  $g$  continuous on  $(-1, 2)$ ?

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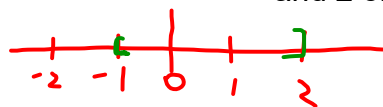
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## 2.4 Continuity

G:  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - 4}$  F: Is  $g$  continuous on  $[-1, 2]$ ?

$x \neq \pm 2$

No at  $x=2$ ,  $g$  DNE  
and 2 on  $[-1, 2]$



G:  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - 4}$  F: Is  $g$  continuous on  $(-1, 2)$ ?

$x \neq 2$

Yes.  
bc. 2  $\notin (-1, 2)$

$g$  differentiable and continuous for all points other than  $x = -2, +2$

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## 2.4 Continuity

G:  $f(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x+1}$       F: Is f continuous for all x?

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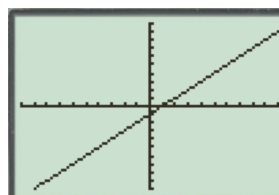
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## 2.4 Continuity

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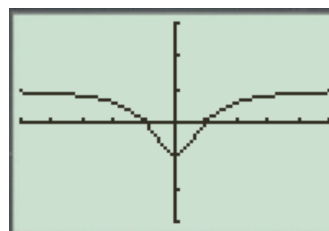
No. At  $x=-1$ , f DNE  
because division by 0.



Discontinuity not visible on graph

G:  $g(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x^2+1}$       F: Is g continuous for all x?

Yes.  
No values of x cause division by 0  
No radicals that restrict domain



No discontinuity is visible on graph

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## 2.4 Continuity

$$G: f(x) = \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x-10}$$

F: a) all x where f not continuous  
b) any removable? how?

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## 2.4 Continuity

$$G: f(x) = \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x-10}$$

F: a) all x where f not continuous  
b) any removable? how?

a) Factor den:  $x^2-3x-10 = (x-5)(x+2)$

at  $x=5, -2$  div by 0

what 2 numbers mult to -10  
and add to -3? -5 and +2

f DNE, and f is discontinuous

$$b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x-10} \rightarrow \frac{4}{0}$$

as  $x \rightarrow 5$  f is unbounded  
and NOT removable

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x-10} \rightarrow \frac{-3}{0}$$

as  $x \rightarrow -2$  f is unbounded  
and NOT removable

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## 2.4 Continuity

$$G: f(x) = \frac{x+2}{x^2-3x-10}$$

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## 2.4 Continuity

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at x=5, -2 div by 0

what 2 numbers mult to -10  
and add to -3? -5 and +2

f DNE, and f is discontinuous

$$b) f(x) = \frac{x+2}{x^2-3x-10} = \frac{x+2}{(x-5)(x+2)} = \frac{1}{x-5}, x \neq 5, -2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{1}{x-5} \rightarrow \frac{1}{0}$$

as  $x \rightarrow 5$  f is unbounded  
and NOT removable

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{1}{x-5} \rightarrow \frac{1}{-7}$$

as  $x \rightarrow -2$ ,  $f \rightarrow -1/7$  and **IS**  
**removable bec limit**  
**exists;** let  $f(-2) = -1/7$

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## 2.4 Continuity

$$\text{let } f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x+2}{x^2-3x-10}, & x \neq -2 \\ \frac{-1}{7}, & x = -2 \end{cases}$$

**Discontinuity at  
x = -2 is removable.**

**Discontinuity at  
x = 5 is NOT  
removable.  
No limit as x → 5.**

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141. G:  $g(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{6u^2+u-2}{2u-1} & \text{if } u \neq \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{7}{2}, & u = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$

F: Is  $g(u)$  continuous at  $u = \frac{1}{2}$ ?

①  $g(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{7}{2}$



141.  $G: g(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{6u^2 + u - 2}{2u - 1} & \text{if } u \neq \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{7}{2} & u = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$

Is  $g(u)$  continuous at  $u = \frac{1}{2}$ ?

Def.  $\text{cont.}$  ①  $g(\frac{1}{2})$  exist ✓  
 ②  $\lim_{u \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} g(u) = \frac{7}{2}$  ?

disc.  $2u - 1 = 0$   
 $u = \frac{1}{2}$

$G: g(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{7}{2}$  ✓

$\lim_{u \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} g(u) = \lim_{u \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} \frac{6u^2 + u - 2}{2u - 1} = \lim_{u \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} \frac{(2u-1)(3u+2)}{(2u-1)} = \lim_{u \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} (3u+2) = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 2 = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{4}{2} = \frac{7}{2}$  ✓

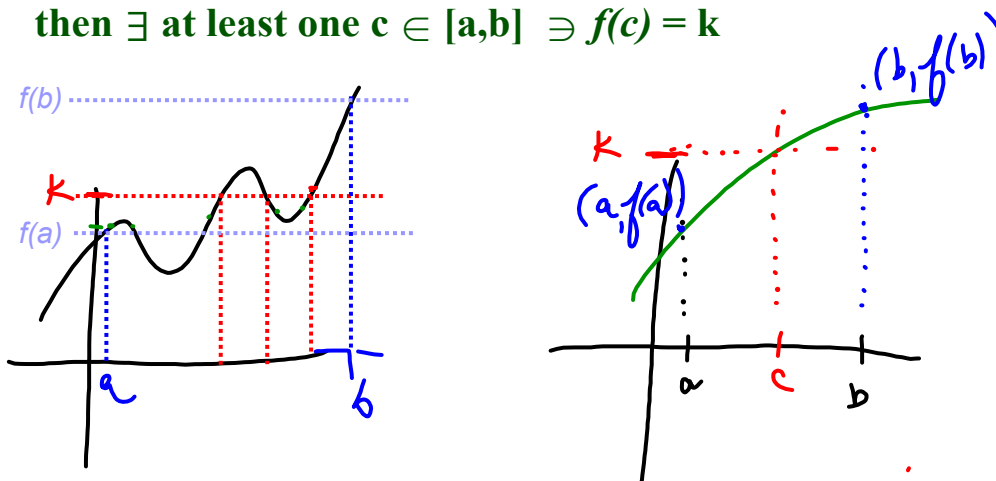
$\therefore \lim_{u \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}} g(u) = \frac{7}{2} = g(\frac{1}{2})$   
 $g$  is cont. at  $u = \frac{1}{2}$

## 2.4 Continuity

## Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)

If:

1.  $f$  is continuous on closed interval  $[a, b]$
2.  $f(a) \neq f(b)$
3.  $k$  is any # between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$

then  $\exists$  at least one  $c \in [a, b]$   $\ni f(c) = k$ 

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## 2.4 Continuity

G:  $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 8$

F: a) Verify IVT on  $[0, 3]$ b)  $c$  so  $f(c) = 0$ Note that  $k=0$ , the  $y$  value

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## 2.4 Continuity

G:  $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 8$

Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)

1.  $f$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ 

YES. Polynomial

2.  $f(a) \neq f(b)$ 

$$f(0) = 0 - 0 + 8 = 8$$

$$f(3) = 9 - 18 + 8 = -1$$

YES.  $8 \neq -1$ 3.  $f(a) < k < f(b)$  or  $f(b) < k < f(a)$ YES.  $-1 < 0 < 8$ then  $\exists$  at least one  $c \in [a, b] \ni f(c) = k$ So, guaranteed there is a  $c$  on  $[0, 3]$  where  $f(c) = 0$ F: a) Verify IVT on  $[0, 3]$ b)  $c$  so  $f(c) = 0$ Note that  $k=0$ , the  $y$  value

$$f(c) = c^2 - 6c + 8 = 0$$

$$c^2 - 6c + 8 = (c - 4)(c - 2) = 0$$

$$c = 2, 4$$

$$c = 2 \quad [0, 3]$$

results in  $f(2) = 0$  $c = 4$  not on  $[0, 3]$ 

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## 2.4 Continuity

G:  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x - 2$

F: a) Verify IVT on  $[0,3]$   
b)  $c$ , so  $f(c) = 4$ 

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## 2.4 Continuity

G:  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x - 2$

Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)

1.  $f$  is continuous on  $[a,b]$ 

YES. Polynomial

2.  $f(a) \neq f(b)$ 

$$f(0) = 0 - 0 + 0 - 2 = -2$$

$$f(3) = 27 - 9 + 3 - 2 = 19$$

YES.  $-2 \neq 19$ 3.  $f(a) < k < f(b)$  or  $f(b) < k < f(a)$ YES.  $-2 < 4 < 19$ then  $\exists$  at least one  $c \in [a,b] \ni f(c) = k$ So, guaranteed there is at least one  $c$  on  $[0, 3]$  where  $f(c) = 4$ F: a) Verify IVT on  $[0,3]$   
b)  $c$ , so  $f(c) = 4$ 

$$f(c) = c^3 - c^2 + c - 2 = 4$$

$$f(c) = c^3 - c^2 + c - 6 = 0$$

want factor of 6 on  $(0,3)$ 

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr}
 2 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -6 \\
 & & 2 & 2 & 6 \\
 \hline
 & 1 & 1 & 3 & 0
 \end{array}$$

$$c^3 - c^2 + c - 6 = (c-2)(c^2 + c + 3) = 0$$

$$c = 2 \quad [0,3]$$

results in  $f(2) = 4$ 


$$b^2 - 4ac = 1 - 12 = -11 < 0$$
  
so no more real roots

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## 2.4 Continuity

## HOMEWORK problem

G:  $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 3$       F: Use IVT to explain why  $f(x)$  has a zero on  $[2, 4]$

 extra at link

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## 2.4 Continuity

## HOMEWORK problem

G:  $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 3$       F: Use IVT to explain why  $f(x)$  has a zero on  $[2, 4]$   
 $y = 0$

1.  $f$  is polynomial, continuous everywhere
2.  $f(2) = 4 - 8 + 3 = -1$  not equal to  $f(4) = 16 - 16 + 3 = 3$   
 and  $-1 < 0 < 3$
3. So, IVT guarantees there is a  $c$  on  $[2, 4]$   
 where  $f(c) = 0$

 extra at link

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## 2.4 Continuity

## HOMEWORK problem

G:  $f(x) = x^2 + x - 1$       F: a) Verify IVT on  $[0, 5]$   
b)  $c$  so  $f(c) = 11$

#91 at link

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$$146. \quad f(\theta) = \begin{cases} \sin \theta, & 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \cos(\theta + k), & \frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \pi \end{cases} \quad \text{F: } k \text{ so } F(\theta) \text{ is continuous over the interval, } [0, \pi]$$

$\sin \theta$  and  $\cos(\theta + k)$  are both continuous everywhere, so only possible discontinuity is at  $\theta = \pi/2$

$$f(\pi/2) = \cos(\pi/2 + k)$$

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2} f(\theta) = ?$$

$$146. \quad f(\theta) = \begin{cases} \sin \theta, & 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \cos(\theta + k), & \frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \pi \end{cases} \quad \text{only } \theta \text{ value at } \theta = \pi/2$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$$

$$\text{need } \lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} f(x) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\right)$$

$$f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\right)$$

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \sin \theta = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^+} \cos(\theta + k)$$

$$\sin \frac{\pi}{2} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\right) = f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

$$y = \sin \theta \text{ cont. all } \theta$$

$$y = \cos(\theta + k) \text{ cont. all } \theta$$

$$1 = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\right)$$

continuity:

$$\text{let } \theta = 0$$

$$\frac{\pi}{2} + k = 0$$

$$k = -\frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} f(\theta) = f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

