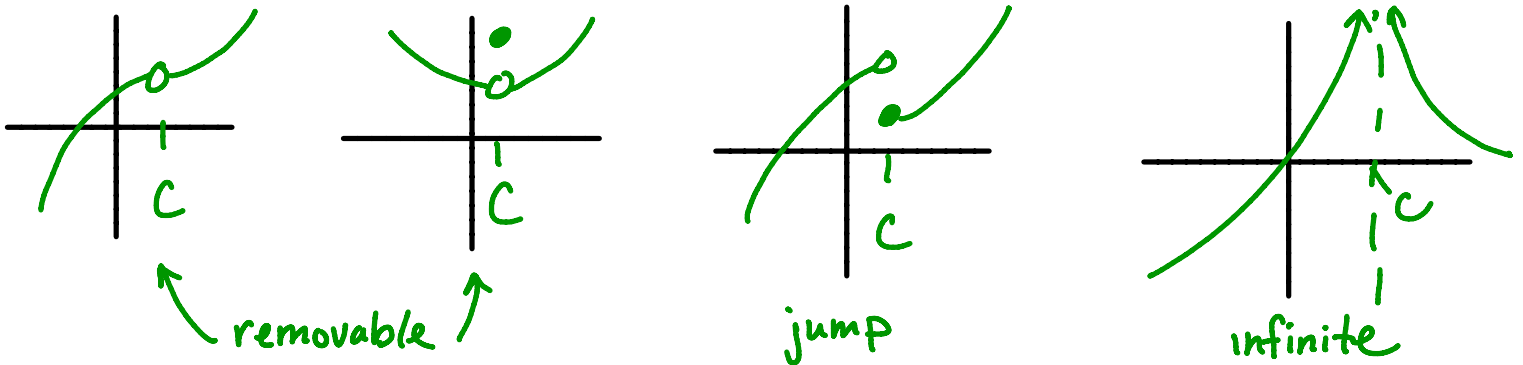


SECTION 2-4: CONTINUITY

Read Section 2.4. Work the embedded problems.

1. Pictures of graph discontinuities



2. Definition of continuity at a point

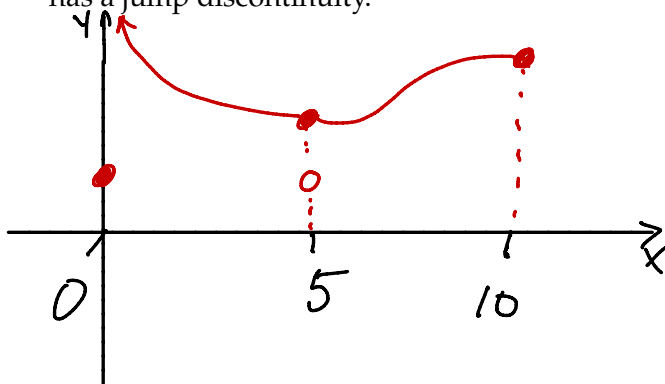
Short version $f(x)$ is continuous at $x=c$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$

check list version $f(x)$ is continuous at $x=c$ if

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ exists
- $f(c)$ exists
- The previous two numbers are equal.

3. Sketch the graph of a function $f(x)$ with the following properties:

- (a) the domain of $f(x)$ is the interval $[0, 10]$.
- (b) $f(x)$ is continuous except at $x = 0$ where it has an infinite discontinuity and $x = 5$ where it has a jump discontinuity.



4. Give an example of a function that is continuous everywhere on its domain.

$$f(x) = x^2, \quad f(x) = \sin(x), \quad f(x) = e^x,$$

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}, \quad f(x) = \ln(x)$$

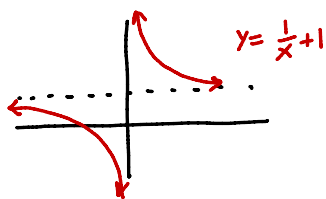
5. Determine the point(s), if any, at which each function is discontinuous. Justify your answer. Classify any discontinuity as jump, removable, infinite, or other.

(a) $g(x) = x^{-1} + 1 = \frac{1}{x} + 1$ (So $x=0$ will be a problem!)

Answer: • $g(x)$ is not continuous at $x=0$.
• The discontinuity is infinite.

Justification: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x} + 1 = +\infty$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{x} + 1 = -\infty$.

Picture to confirm our work



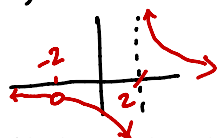
(b) $h(x) = \frac{x+2}{x^2-4} = \frac{x+2}{(x+2)(x-2)}$ (So $x=2$ and $x=-2$ will be a problem)

Answer: $h(x)$ is discontinuous at $x=2$ and $x=-2$.
At $x=2$, the discontinuity is infinite.
At $x=-2$, the discontinuity is removable.

Justification: • $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x+2}{(x+2)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{1}{x-2} = -\frac{1}{4}$ but $h(-2)$ is undefined.
So h has a removable discontinuity at $x=-2$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x+2}{(x+2)(x-2)} = +\infty$. So h has an infinite discontinuity at $x=2$

(picture) →



6. Find the value(s) of k that makes the function continuous over the given interval.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{kx} & \text{if } 0 \leq x < 4 \\ 2x + 1 & \text{if } 4 \leq x \leq 10 \end{cases}$$

We need left- and right-limits to be equal.

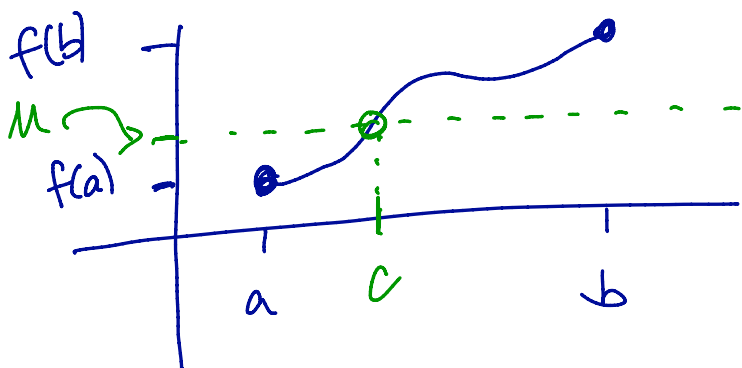
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} 2x + 1 = 2 \cdot 4 + 1 = 9.$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} e^{kx} = e^{4k}. \quad \text{So we need } e^{4k} = 9 \text{ or } 4k = \ln 9 \text{ or } k = \frac{1}{4} \ln 9$$

7. The Intermediate Value Theorem

If $f(x)$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and M is a y -value between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then there is an x -value c in the open interval (a, b) so that $f(c) = M$.

[Nutschell: If $f(x)$ is continuous, it can't skip over values!]



BONUS:

8. Use the Intermediate Value Theorem to show that the equation $x^4 + x - 3 = 0$ must have a solution in the interval from $x = 1$ to $x = 2$.

$$\text{Let } f(x) = x^4 + x - 3.$$

Observe that $f(x)$ is continuous on $[1, 2]$,
because $f(x)$ is continuous everywhere

We check that $f(1) = 1 + 1 - 3 = -1 < 0$ and

$$f(2) = 16 + 2 - 3 = 15 > 0.$$

Since $f(1) < 0 < f(2)$ and $f(x)$ is continuous on $[1, 2]$, there is some c in $(1, 2)$ so that $f(c) = 0$, by the IVThm. That c -value is a solution to $x^4 + x - 3 = 0$.