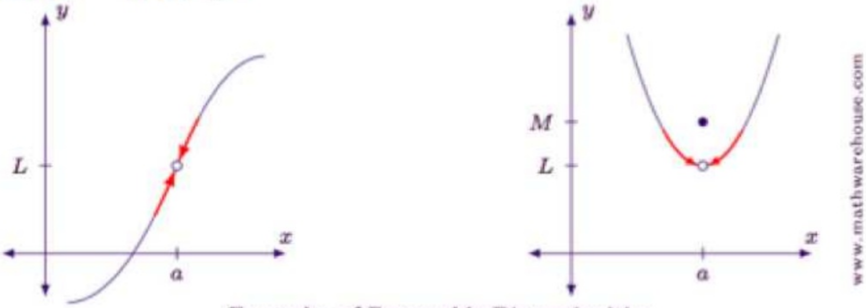
1.4 Continuity At A Point & The Intermediate Value Theorem

ex: If f(2)=4, can you conclude anything about the limit of f(x) as x approaches 2? Explain your reasoning.

ex: If the limit of f(x) as x approaches 2 is 4, can you conclude anything about f(2)? Explain your reasoning.

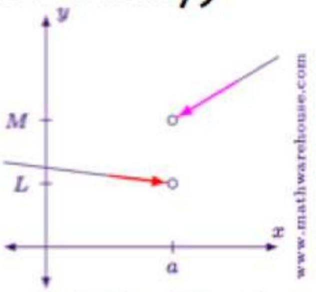
Types of Discontinuities

- Removable - holes

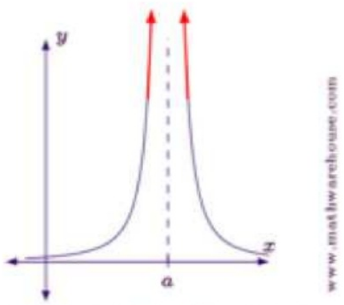


Examples of Removable Discontinuities

- Nonremovable - jumps, vertical asymptotes (a.k.a. infinite discontinuity)



Example of a Jump Discontinuity



Example of an Infinite Discontinuity

ex: At what x-values, if any, is f(x) discontinuous? For each discontinuity state the x-value, the type of discontinuity, and whether the discontinuity is removable or nonremovable.

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 - 4x + 3}$$

Continuity At A Point, x=c

DEFINITION OF CONTINUITY

Continuity at a Point: A function f is **continuous at** c if the following three conditions are met.

1. $f(c)$ is defined.
2. $\lim_{x \to c} f(x)$ exists.
3. $\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = f(c)$

Continuity on an Open Interval: A function is **continuous on an open interval** (a, b) if it is continuous at each point in the interval. A function that is continuous on the entire real line $(-\infty, \infty)$ is **everywhere continuous.**

ex: Is f(x) continuous at x=0? Justify your answer.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & x \le 0 \\ x^2+1, & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

ex: Is g(x) continuous at x=3? Justify your answer.

$$g(x) = \frac{x^3 - 27}{x - 3}$$

ex: Find the value of b so that the function f(x) is continuous everywhere.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3, & x \le 2 \\ bx+7, & x > 2 \end{cases}$$

ex: Find the value of a so that the function h(x) is continuous everywhere.

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{x^2 - a^2}{x - a}, & x \neq a \\ 28, & x = a \end{cases}$$

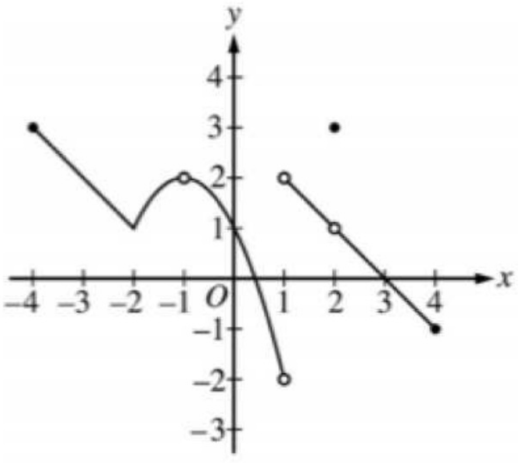
ex: Find the values of a and b so that the function f(x) is continuous everywhere.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2 & x < 1 \\ ax^2 + bx & 1 \le x \le 4 \\ 3 & x > 4 \end{cases}$$

ex: Find the values of a and c so that the function f(x) is continuous everywhere.

$$f(x)=\begin{cases} ax+3 & \text{if } x>5 \\ 8 & \text{if } x=5 \\ x^2+bx+1 & \text{if } x>5 \end{cases}$$

ex:



Graph of f

The graph of the function f is shown in the figure above. For how many values of x in the open interval $(-4, 4)$ is f discontinuous?

(A) one

(B) two

(C) three

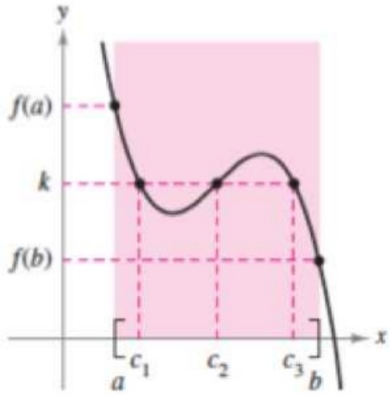
(D) four

Intermediate Value Theorem

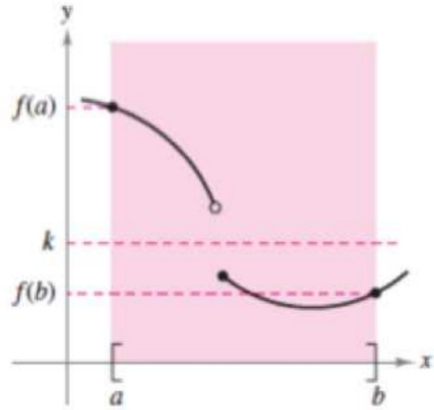
THEOREM 1.13 INTERMEDIATE VALUE THEOREM

If f is continuous on the closed interval $[a, b]$, $f(a) \neq f(b)$, and k is any number between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then there is at least one number c in $[a, b]$ such that

$$f(c) = k.$$



f is continuous on $[a, b]$.
[There exist three c's such that $f(c) = k$.]



f is not continuous on $[a, b]$.
[There are no c's such that $f(c) = k$.]

ex: Use the Intermediate Value Theorem to show a zero exists on f(x) on the given interval.

$$f(x) = x^3 + 2x - 1, \qquad [0,1]$$

ex: Consider the table of values of f(x) given below.

x	0	2	3	10	20
$f(x)$	-2	3	4	20	-10

What is the least amount of time f(x)=15 on [0, 20]? Justify your answer.

ex:

x	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$g(x)$	$g'(x)$
1	6	4	2	5
2	9	2	3	1
3	10	−4	4	2
4	−1	3	6	7

The functions *f* and *g* are continuous for all real numbers. The table above gives values of these functions and their first derivatives at selected values of *x*. The function *h* is given by $h(x) = f(g(x)) - 6$. Explain why there must be a value r for $1 < r < 3$ such that $h(r) = -5$.