

1.8 Continuity

(1)

I Continuity

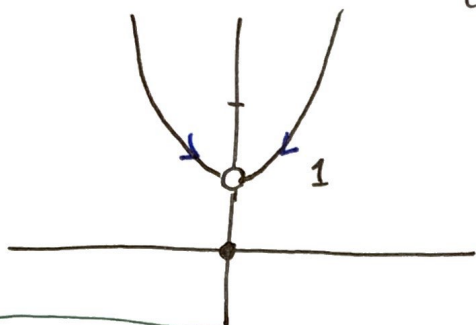
Def: $f(x)$ is continuous at "a" if

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

Counterexample

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 + 1 & \text{for } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

graph:



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

$\Rightarrow x \rightarrow 0^- \text{ \& } x \rightarrow 0^+$ same

But $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 1$ is not $\neq f(0)$ which is 0

This function is not continuous

Proving continuity involves three steps:

(a) $f(a)$ needs to be defined at $x = a$
{ "a" is in f 's domain }

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exist.

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

part c) failed in the opening example.

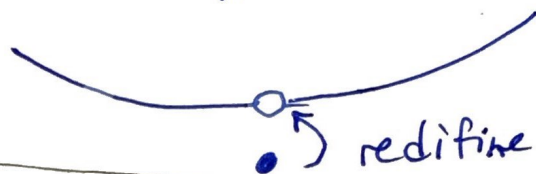
Def: $f(x)$ is discontinuous at $x=a$ if $f(x)$ is not continuous @ $x=a$

(2)

* Types of Discontinuities

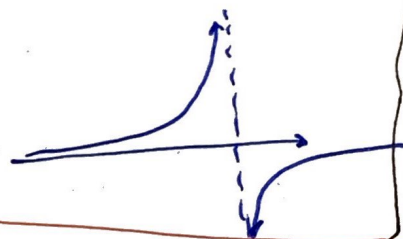
(i) "Removable": we can redefine a value of $f(x)$ at $x=a$ so that the LHL approach is equal to the right hand approach

a.k.a. "Hole discontinuity"



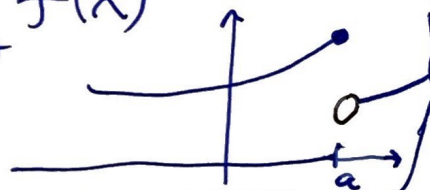
(ii) "Infinite" discontinuity:

These are locations where a vertical asymptote exists.

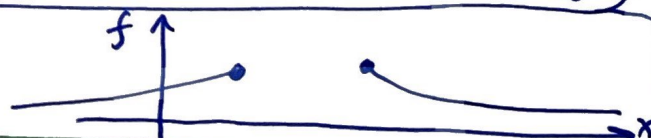


(iii) "Jump" discontinuity:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$$



(iv) "Gap" discontinuity:



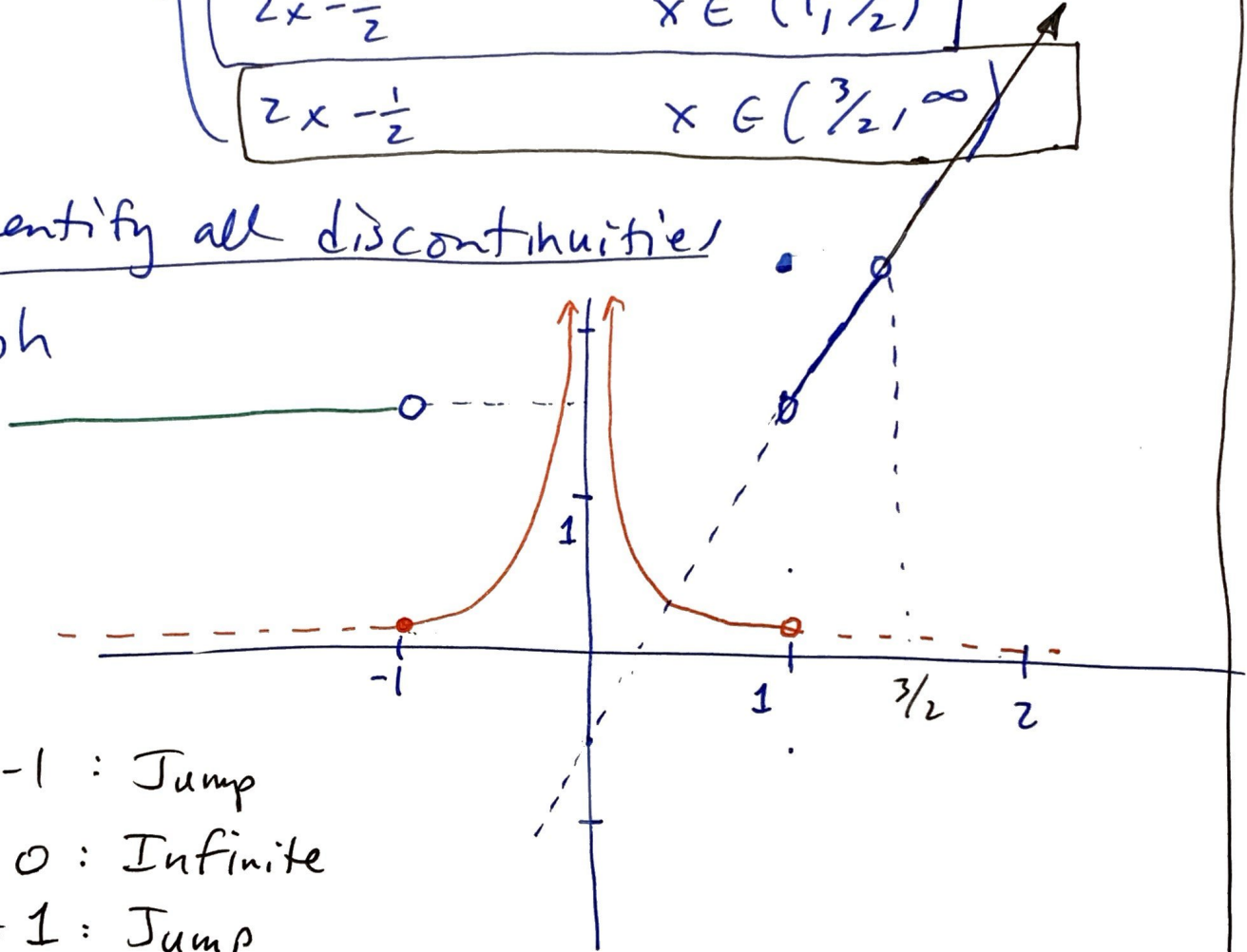
"A function is discontinuous if you need to lift your pencil while tracing the graph of the function"

EX Consider the piecewise function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3/2 & x < -1 \\ 1/x^2 & [-1, 0) \cup (0, 1) \\ 5/2 & x = 1 \\ 2x - 1/2 & x \in (1, 3/2) \\ 2x - 1/2 & x \in [3/2, \infty) \end{cases}$$

Identify all discontinuities

Graph

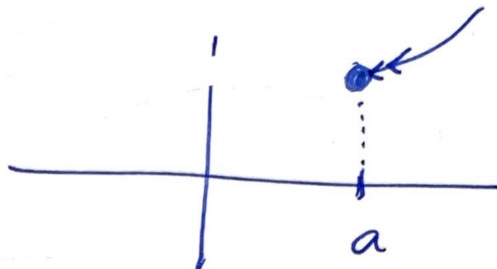


- @ $x = -1$: Jump
- @ $x = 0$: Infinite
- @ $x = 1$: Jump
- @ $x = \frac{3}{2}$: Hole {removable}

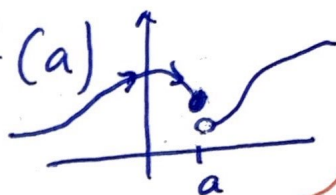
* one-sided continuity

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Def: $f(x)$ is continuous from the right at $x=a$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$



Def: $f(x)$ is continuous from the left @ $x=a$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = f(a)$



Def: $f(x)$ is continuous on an interval

if it is continuous at all interior points in the interval

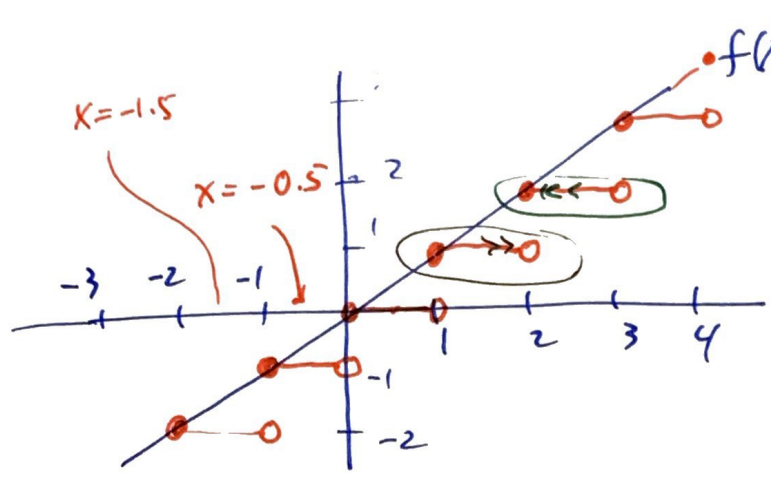
If at a closed boundary at an edge of the interval AND if $f(x)$ is one-sided continuous at that closed boundary

then we include the boundary in the interval

EX Step function

g(x) = floor(x)

truncate a decimal number's value to the next lowest integer



g(0.5) = floor(0.5) = 0
g(0) = floor(0) = 0

g(1) = floor(1) = 1
g(1.5) = floor(1.5) = 1
g(-1.5) = -2

consider x in [2, 3) element of

floor(x) is continuous from the right

b/c lim as x approaches 2 from the right of floor(x) = 2 itself.

but floor(x) is not continuous from the left

b/c lim as x approaches 2 from the left of floor(x) is equal to 1

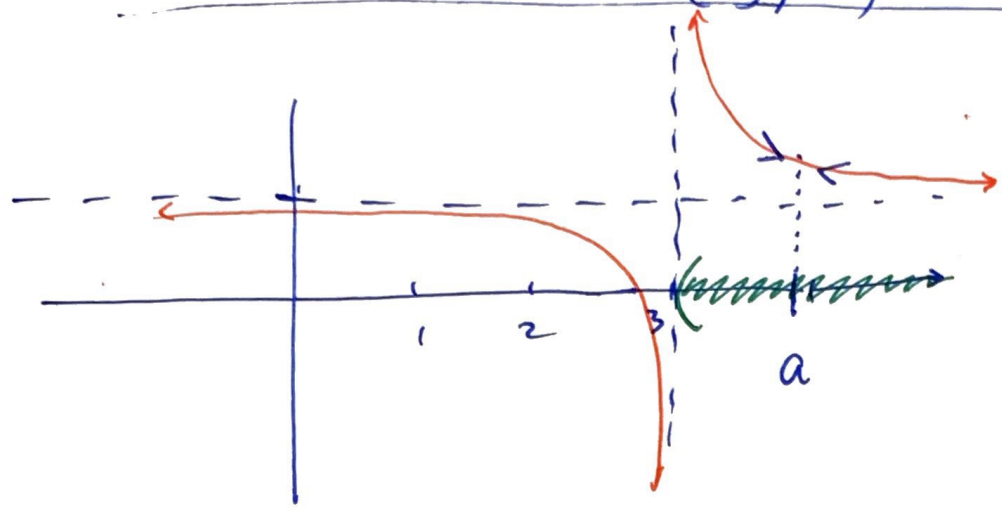
In general lim as x approaches 2 of g(x) does not exist (DNE)

since lim as x approaches 2 from the left of g(x) is not equal to lim as x approaches 2 from the right of g(x)

EX Prove $f(x) = \left(\frac{x+1}{x-3}\right)$ is continuous on the interval $(3, \infty)$

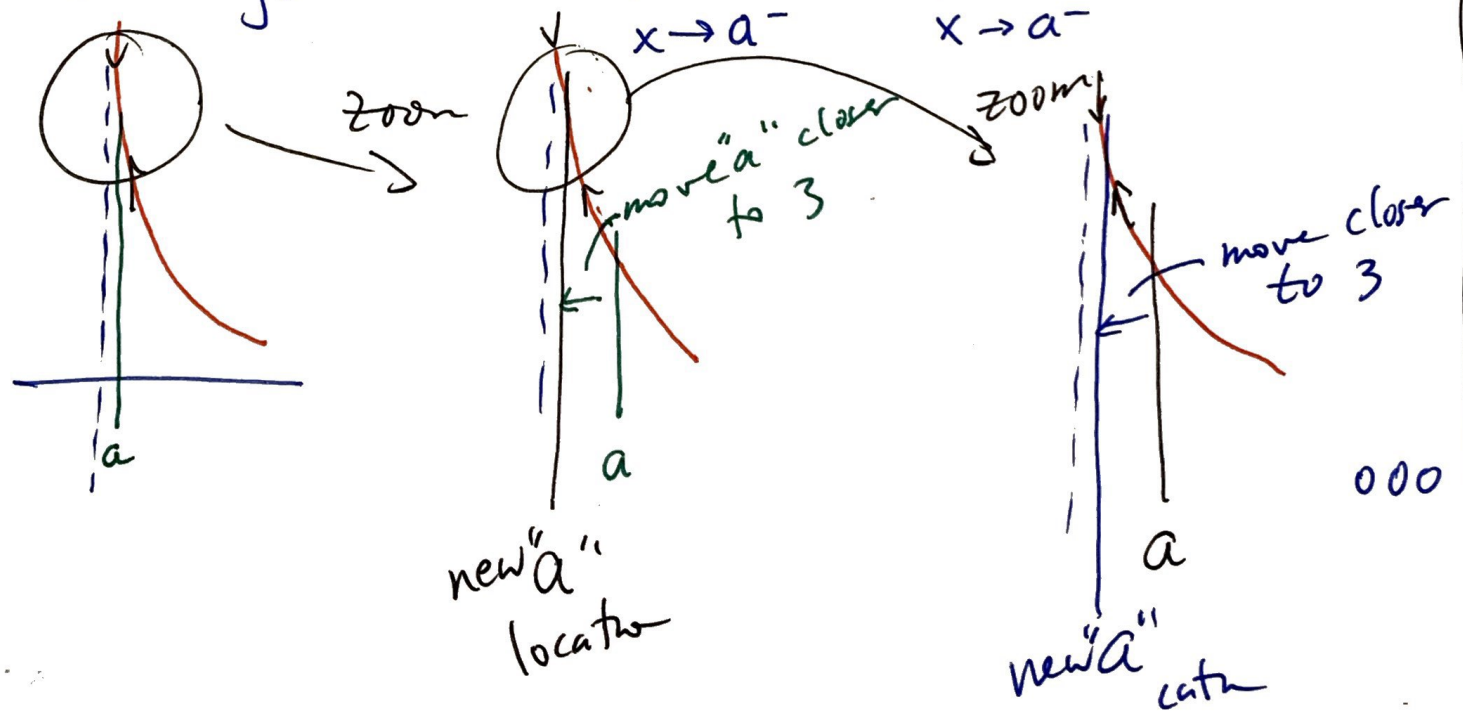
Key

from closed boundary
from open



For all $a > 3$ $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} \left(\frac{x+1}{x-3}\right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \left(\frac{x+1}{x-3}\right)$

at the boundary, open, we can push our "a" as close to 3 as we desire and always have $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+}$



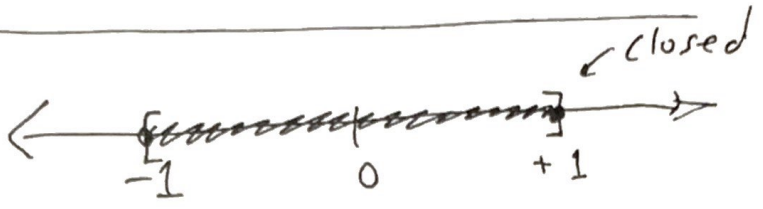
EX

Where is the function

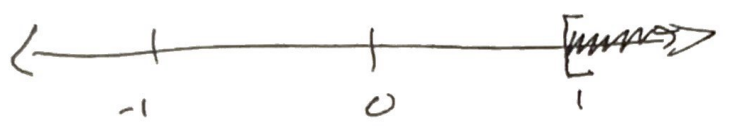
$$f(x) = \frac{\sin^{-1}(x) + \sqrt{x-1}}{\ln(x)} \text{ continuous?}$$

(1st)

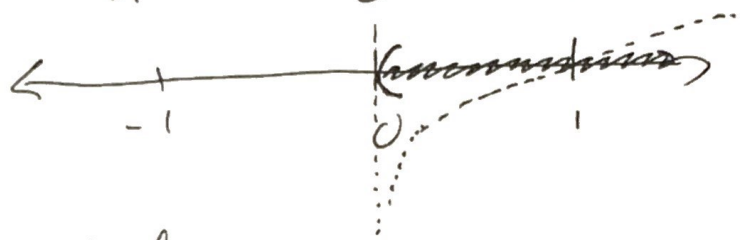
domain of $\sin^{-1}(x)$



domain of $\sqrt{x-1}$



domain of $\ln(x)$



however we cannot include $x=1$ in the domain of $f(x)$, above, since $\ln(1) = 0 \neq \neq 0$

(2nd)

- We examine the intersection of all 3 pieces and we see that only $f(1)$ would be defined in the numerator and also in the denominator but since the denominator is zero at $x=1$ we need to exclude that point also so...

Bottom Line: This function is continuous
Nowhere!

BTW: had we multiplied them

$\{ (\sin^{-1}(x) + \sqrt{x-1}) * \ln(x) \}$ exists at $x=1$, but nowhere else.
 (it is not continuous there)

II Properties

If f and g are continuous at $x=a$ and if "c" is a constant then

$f+g, f-g, f \cdot g, \frac{f}{g}, cf$ are all continuous at $x=a$ also $\{g(a) \neq 0\}$

Ex: all polynomials are continuous on $(-\infty, \infty)$

Ex: all rational functions are continuous on $(-\infty, \infty)$ except where the denominator vanishes

- In their respective domains {where they are defined} the following are continuous
- polynomials
 - rational functions
 - root functions $\sqrt[n]{(\quad)}$
 - trig functions :
 - inverse trig functions
 - exponential functions
 - logarithmic functions

- If $f(x)$ is continuous at $x=b$ and if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = b$ then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(g(x)) = f(b)$

{ composites of continuous outer functions }
are continuous where defined

$$f \circ g \equiv f(g(x))$$

Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f \circ g = f(b)$ where $g(a) = b$

- If g is continuous at $x=a$ and if f is continuous at $g(a)$ then the composite function $f \circ g$ is also continuous @ $x=a$

EX

evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \ln \left(\frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4} \right)$

h

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In pre-calc. class we exclude $x = 4$ from the domain in calc.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \ln \left(\frac{(x+4)(\cancel{x-4})}{(\cancel{x-4})} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \ln (x+4)$$

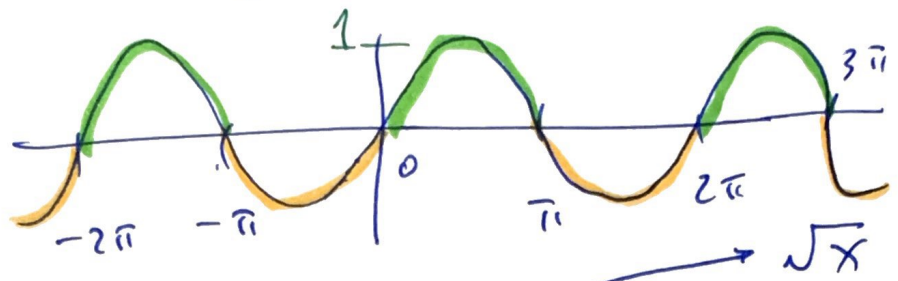
$$= \ln \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} x+4 \right)$$

$$= \ln (4+4) = \ln (8) = \boxed{3 \ln (2)}$$

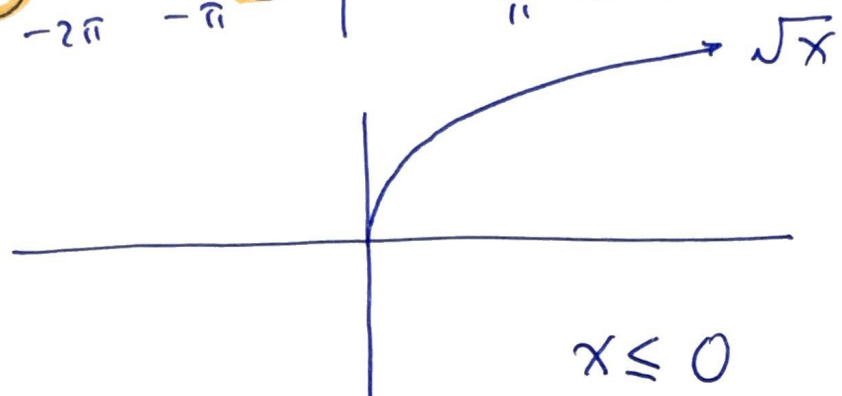
EX Where is $f(x) = \sqrt{\sin(x)}$ continuous? (14)

decompose $h \circ g$ $\begin{cases} h(\) = \sqrt{\ } \\ g(\) = \sin(\) \end{cases}$

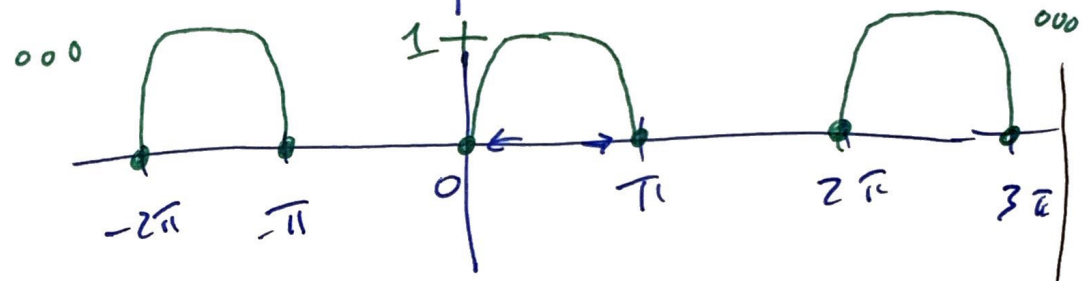
• $\sin(x)$
 $(-\infty, \infty)$



• \sqrt{x}
 $[0, \infty)$



Together



• To be continuous we need $f(a)$ defined and we need $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ which is fine for all $x \in [2\pi k < x < (2k+1)\pi]$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ {integers: $\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots$ }

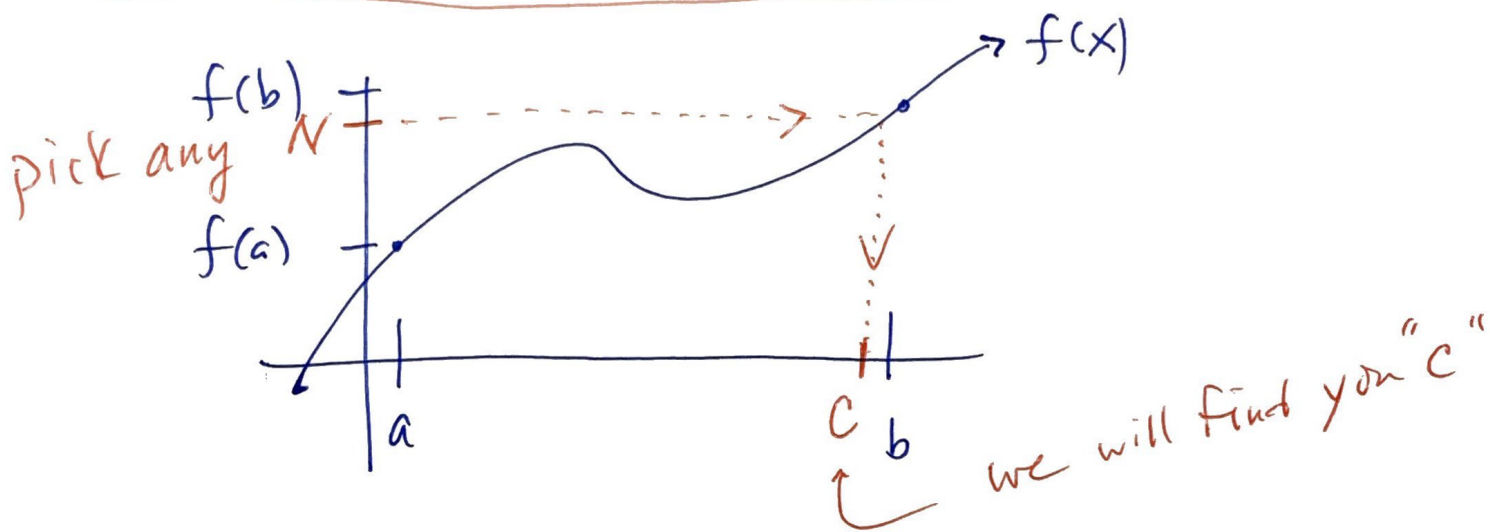
• However we can also include the boundaries since we have one-sided continuity

$$2\pi k \leq x \leq (2k+1)\pi$$

Note
 $2k = \text{even always}$
 $2k+1 = \text{odd always}$

Intermediate Value Theorem

Thm: If $f(x)$ is continuous on the closed interval $[a, b]$ then for any number $N \in [f(a), f(b)]$ there exists a number $c \in [a, b]$ such that $f(c) = N$ $f(a) \neq f(b)$



Math Notation

- \in "element of"
- ∂ "boundary"
- \exists "there exists"
- \forall "for all"
- " | " or \exists "such that"

Conditionals

"a" implies "b" aka
if "a" then "b"
 $a \rightarrow b$ (iff)

Bi-conditional
 $a \rightarrow b \wedge b \rightarrow a$
notation: $a \leftrightarrow b$
"a" if and only if "b"

⊗ Theorem Structure

- premise 1 { conditions or constraints }
- premise 2 { }
- \vdots
- \vdots

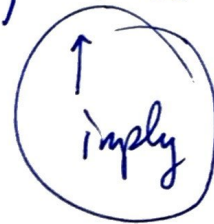
"imply" \Rightarrow

\Rightarrow Conclusion

Logically

$(P_1 \text{ and } P_2 \text{ and } \dots P_n) \rightarrow \text{Conclusion}$

Conditions
or
assumptions
(postulates)



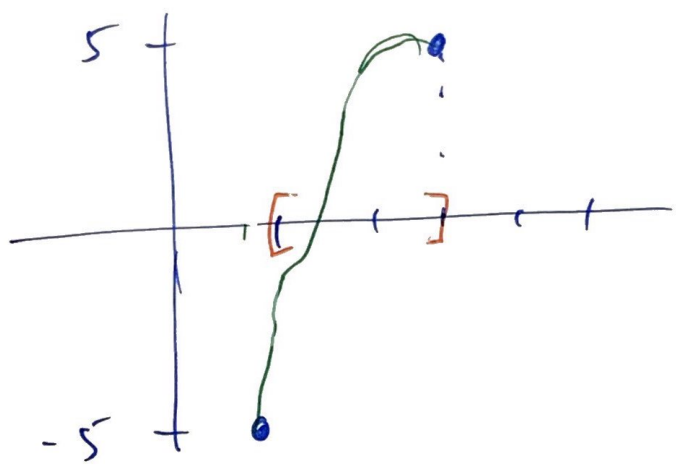
again but in "math speak"

I.V.Thm

for f, C_0 on $[a, b]$,
 $\rightarrow \forall N \in [f(a), f(b)] \exists c \in [a, b]$
 $\ni f(c) = N$

EX

If $f(1) = -5$ and $f(3) = +5$ does
 there have to be an x in $[1, 3]$ such
 that $f(x) = 0$

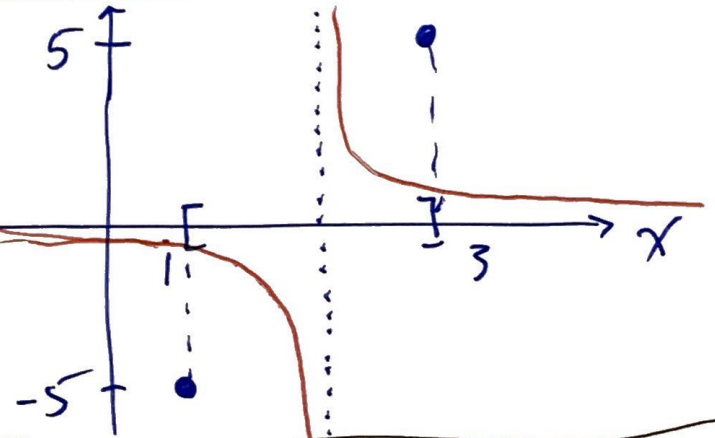


pick
 $N = 0$
 you must find me
 $c \ni f(c) = 0$

Q: before we invoke the IVT is the
 condition (premise) met?

A: No mention of continuity! So I can
 lift my pen.

Counter example



No... we need not
 have $f(x) = 0$ in this
 interval $[1, 3]$

* office hours

48.

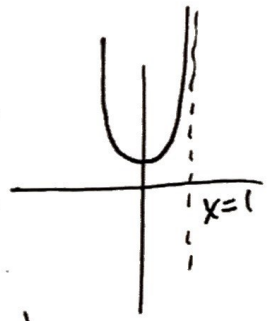
$$m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2}}$$

$$\lim_{v \rightarrow c^-} \left(\frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2}} \right)$$

As $v \rightarrow c^-$ then $\left(\frac{v}{c}\right) \rightarrow 1$ and $\sqrt{1 - \frac{v}{c}} \rightarrow 0$

So the limit is ∞ . "undefined"

Desmos $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ $x \rightarrow 1^-$



$f(0.9), f(0.99), f(0.999) \dots$

49. (a) use numerical. (skip)