Continuity (P.124)

DEFINITION **Continuous at a Point**

Interior point: A function $y = f(x)$ is **continuous at an interior point c** of its domain if

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

Endpoint: A function $y = f(x)$ is **continuous at a left endpoint a** or is **continuous at a right endpoint b** of its domain if

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = f(a) \qquad \text{or} \qquad \lim_{x \to b^-} f(x) = f(b), \quad \text{respectively}.$$

Continuity Test

A function $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$ if and only if it meets the following three conditions.

1. $f(c)$ exists (c lies in the domain of f)
2. $\lim_{x \to c} f(x)$ exists (f has a limit as $x \to c$)
3. $\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = f(c)$ (the limit equals the function value)

THEOREM 9 **Properties of Continuous Functions**

If the functions f and g are continuous at $x = c$, then the following combinations are continuous at $x = c$.

1. *Sums*: $f + g$
2. *Differences*: $f - g$
3. *Products*: $f \cdot g$
4. *Constant multiples*: $k \cdot f$, for any number k
5. *Quotients*: f/g provided $g(c) \neq 0$
6. *Powers*: $f^{r/s}$, provided it is defined on an open interval containing c, where r and s are integers

EXAMPLE 6 Polynomial and Rational Functions Are Continuous

(a) Every polynomial $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0$ is continuous because $\lim_{x \to c} P(x) = P(c)$ by Theorem 2, Section 2.2.

(b) If $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are polynomials, then the rational function $P(x)/Q(x)$ is continuous wherever it is defined ($Q(c) \neq 0$) by the Quotient Rule in Theorem 9.

EXAMPLE 7 Continuity of the Absolute Value Function

The function $f(x) = |x|$ is continuous at every value of x. If $x > 0$, we have $f(x) = x$, a polynomial. If $x < 0$, we have $f(x) = -x$, another polynomial. Finally, at the origin, $\lim_{x \to 0} |x| = 0 = |0|$. ■

THEOREM 10 **Composite of Continuous Functions**
If f is continuous at c and g is continuous at $f(c)$, then the composite $g \circ f$ is continuous at c.

EXAMPLE 8 Applying Theorems 9 and 10

Show that the following functions are continuous everywhere on their respective domains.

(a) $y = \sqrt{x^2 - 2x - 5}$ **(b)** $y = \dfrac{x^{2/3}}{1 + x^4}$

(c) $y = \left| \dfrac{x - 2}{x^2 - 2} \right|$

Example:

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\sin x}{x}, & x \neq 0 \\ 1, & x = 0. \end{cases}$$

The function $F(x)$ is continuous at $x = 0$ because

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = F(0)$$

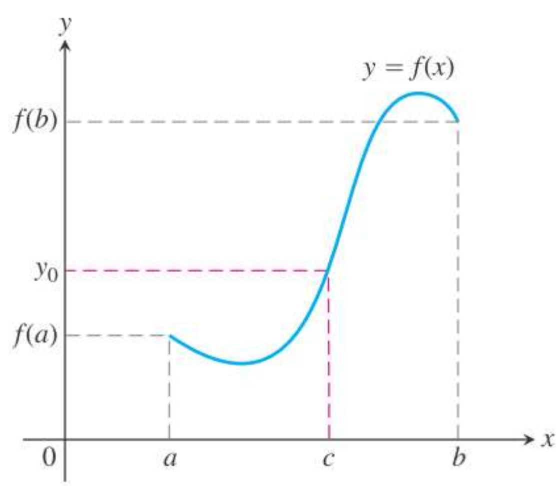
EXAMPLE 9 A Continuous Extension

Show that

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 + x - 6}{x^2 - 4}$$

has a continuous extension to $x = 2$, and find that extension.

THEOREM 11 The Intermediate Value Theorem for Continuous Functions
A function $y = f(x)$ that is continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$ takes on every value between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$. In other words, if y_0 is any value between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then $y_0 = f(c)$ for some c in $[a, b]$.

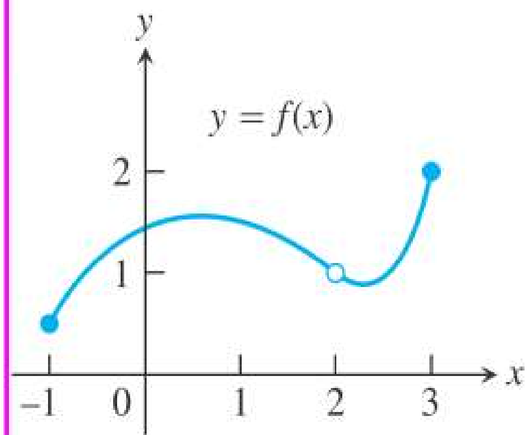


EXERCISES 2.6 P.132

Continuity from Graphs

In Exercises 1–4, say whether the function graphed is continuous on $[-1, 3]$. If not, where does it fail to be continuous and why?

1.



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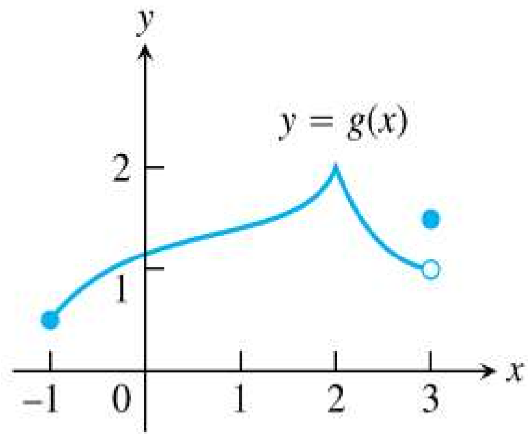

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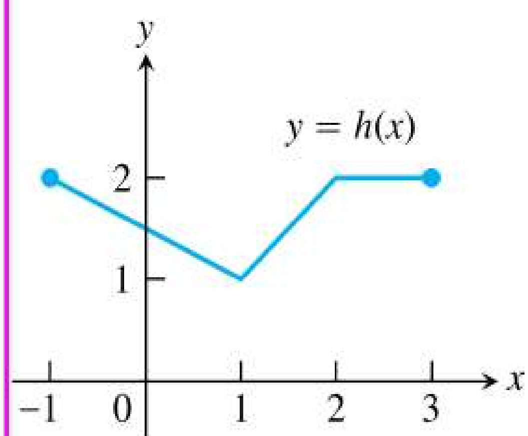

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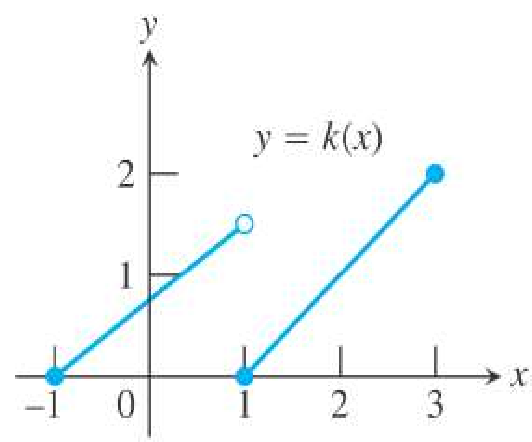
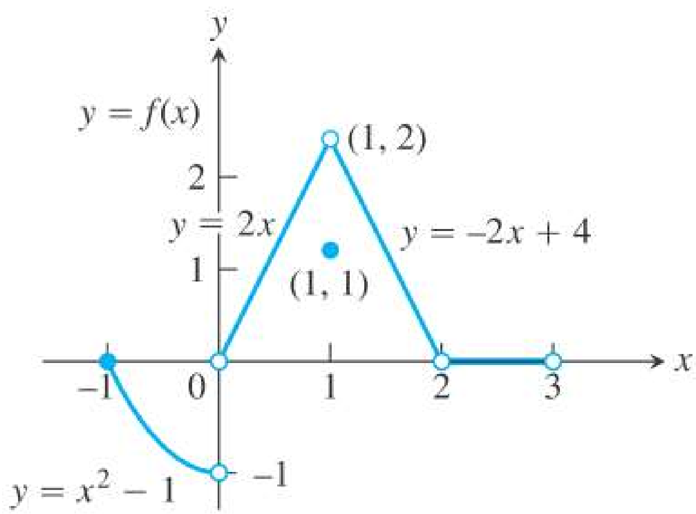


Exercises 5–10 are about the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 - 1, & -1 \le x < 0 \\ 2x, & 0 < x < 1 \\ 1, & x = 1 \\ -2x + 4, & 1 < x < 2 \\ 0, & 2 < x < 3 \end{cases}$$

graphed in the accompanying figure.



The graph for Exercises 5–10.

5. **a.** Does $f(-1)$ exist?
   b. Does $\lim_{x\to -1^+} f(x)$ exist?
   c. Does $\lim_{x\to -1^+} f(x) = f(-1)$?
   d. Is f continuous at $x = -1$?

6. **a.** Does $f(1)$ exist?
   b. Does $\lim_{x\to 1} f(x)$ exist?
   c. Does $\lim_{x\to 1} f(x) = f(1)$?
   d. Is f continuous at $x = 1$?

7. **a.** Is f defined at $x = 2$? (Look at the definition of f.)
   b. Is f continuous at $x = 2$?

8. At what values of x is f continuous?

9. What value should be assigned to $f(2)$ to make the extended function continuous at $x = 2$?

10. To what new value should $f(1)$ be changed to remove the discontinuity?

At what points are the functions in Exercises 13–28 continuous?

13. $y = \dfrac{1}{x-2} - 3x$

14. $y = \dfrac{1}{(x+2)^2} + 4$

15. $y = \dfrac{x+1}{x^2 - 4x + 3}$

16. $y = \dfrac{x+3}{x^2 - 3x - 10}$

17. $y = |x-1| + \sin x$

18. $y = \dfrac{1}{|x|+1} - \dfrac{x^2}{2}$

19. $y = \dfrac{\cos x}{x}$

20. $y = \dfrac{x+2}{\cos x}$

21. $y = \csc 2x$

22. $y = \tan \dfrac{\pi x}{2}$

23. $y = \dfrac{x \tan x}{x^2 + 1}$

24. $y = \dfrac{\sqrt{x^4 + 1}}{1 + \sin^2 x}$

25. $y = \sqrt{2x + 3}$

26. $y = \sqrt[4]{3x - 1}$

27. $y = (2x - 1)^{1/3}$

28. $y = (2 - x)^{1/5}$

Continuous Extensions

35. Define $g(3)$ in a way that extends $g(x) = (x^2 - 9)/(x - 3)$ to be continuous at $x = 3$.

36. Define $h(2)$ in a way that extends $h(t) = (t^2 + 3t - 10)/(t - 2)$ to be continuous at $t = 2$.

37. Define $f(1)$ in a way that extends $f(s) = (s^3 - 1)/(s^2 - 1)$ to be continuous at $s = 1$.

38. Define $g(4)$ in a way that extends $g(x) = (x^2 - 16)/(x^2 - 3x - 4)$ to be continuous at $x = 4$.

39. For what value of a is

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 - 1, & x < 3 \\ 2ax, & x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

continuous at every x?

40. For what value of b is

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x < -2 \\ bx^2, & x \geq -2 \end{cases}$$

continuous at every x?

Tangents and Derivatives P.134

DEFINITIONS Slope, Tangent Line

The **slope of the curve** $y = f(x)$ at the point $P(x_0, f(x_0))$ is the number

$$m = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h} \qquad \text{(provided the limit exists).}$$

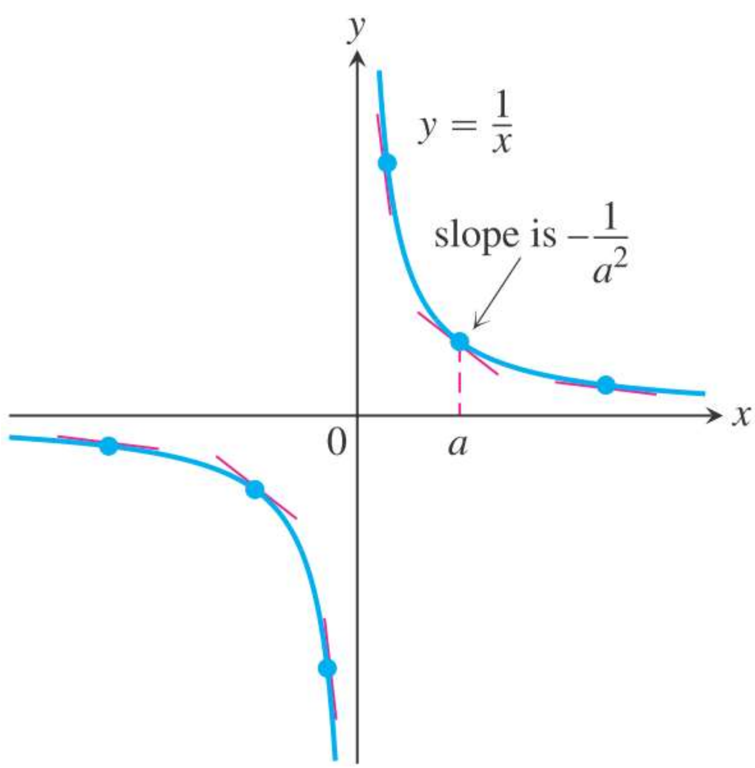
The **tangent line** to the curve at P is the line through P with this slope.

EXAMPLE 3 Slope and Tangent to $y = 1/x$, $x \neq 0$

(a) Find the slope of the curve $y = 1/x$ at $x = a \neq 0$.

(b) Where does the slope equal $-1/4$?

(c) What happens to the tangent to the curve at the point $(a, 1/a)$ as a changes?



In Exercises 11–18, find the slope of the function's graph at the given point. Then find an equation for the line tangent to the graph there.

11. $f(x) = x^2 + 1, \quad (2, 5)$

12. $f(x) = x - 2x^2, \quad (1, -1)$

13. $g(x) = \dfrac{x}{x - 2}, \quad (3, 3)$

14. $g(x) = \dfrac{8}{x^2}, \quad (2, 2)$

15. $h(t) = t^3, \quad (2, 8)$

16. $h(t) = t^3 + 3t, \quad (1, 4)$

17. $f(x) = \sqrt{x}, \quad (4, 2)$

18. $f(x) = \sqrt{x + 1}, \quad (8, 3)$

The Derivative as a Function

DEFINITION Derivative Function

The **derivative** of the function $f(x)$ with respect to the variable x is the function f' whose value at x is

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h},$$

provided the limit exists.

EXAMPLE 1 Applying the Definition

Differentiate $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{x-1}$.

EXAMPLE 2 Derivative of the Square Root Function

(a) Find the derivative of $y = \sqrt{x}$ for $x > 0$.

(b) Find the tangent line to the curve $y = \sqrt{x}$ at $x = 4$.

Notation.

All the following symbols are the same meaning

$$f'(x) = y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = D(f)(x) = D_x f(x).$$

EXAMPLE 5 $y = |x|$ Is Not Differentiable at the Origin

Show that the function $y = |x|$ is differentiable on $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(0, \infty)$ but has no derivative at $x = 0$.

EXAMPLE 6 $y = \sqrt{x}$ Is Not Differentiable at $x = 0$

THEOREM 1 Differentiability Implies Continuity

If f has a derivative at $x = c$, then f is continuous at $x = c$.