

# Section 2.5

## Solutions and Hints

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for the book:  
Calculus, Early Vectors  
by James Stewart.

29. Let  $f(x)$  be defined as below. Show that  $f$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x - 1 & x < 3 \\ 5 - x & x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

Clearly  $x - 1$  is continuous from  $(-\infty, 3)$ , as is  $5 - x$  from  $[3, \infty)$   
So the only point we need to worry about is at  $x = 3$ .

To show  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = 3$ , we need to show that:  
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = f(3)$$

To find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$  we must find the left AND right limits.

The left limit:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} (x - 1) = 3 - 1 = 2 \quad (\text{you ought to use tables})$$

The right limit:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} (5 - x) = 5 - 3 = 2 \quad (\text{you ought to use tables})$$

Thus we know:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 2$

And  $f(3) = 5 - 3 = 2$

So we have:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 2 = f(3)$ , thus  $f(x)$  is continuous.

**38. Find the constant  $c$  that makes  $g(x)$  continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .**

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 - c^2 & x < 4 \\ cx + 20 & x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

For any  $c$ ,  $x^2 - c^2$  will be continuous on  $(-\infty, 4)$ .

For any  $c$ ,  $cx + 20$  will be continuous on  $[4, \infty)$ .

So the only point we need to worry about is at  $x = 4$ .

For this we need to find a  $c$  such that the  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} = f(4)$ .

To accomplish this all we need to do is find  $c$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} 4^2 - c^2 &= c \cdot 4 + 20 && \rightarrow 0 = c^2 + 4c + 4 \\ &&& \rightarrow 0 = (c + 2)(c + 2) \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $c = -2$  will make  $g(x)$  continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

**39. Find the constants  $c$  and  $d$  that makes  $h(x)$  continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .**

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 2x & x < 1 \\ cx^2 + d & 1 \leq x \leq 2 \\ 4x & x > 2 \end{cases}$$

For any  $c$  and  $d$ ,  $2x$  will be continuous on  $(-\infty, 1)$ .

For any  $c$  and  $d$ ,  $cx^2 + d$  will be continuous on  $[1, 2]$ .

For any  $c$  and  $d$ ,  $4x$  will be continuous on  $(2, \infty)$

So the points we need to worry about are at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 2$

For this we need to find a  $c$  and  $d$  such that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} = f(1) \text{ AND } \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} = f(2)$$

To accomplish this we need to find  $c$  and  $d$  such that:

$$\text{Equation 1: } 2 \cdot 1 = c \cdot 1^2 + d \rightarrow 2 = c + d \text{ AND}$$

$$\text{Equation 2: } c \cdot 2^2 + d = 4 \cdot 2 \rightarrow 4c + d = 8 \text{ are both true.}$$

Solving for  $d$  using equation 1 we get:

$$2 = c + d \rightarrow 2 - c = d$$

Substitute this in for  $d$  into equation 2 and we get:

$$\begin{aligned} 4c + d &= 8 && \rightarrow 4c + (2 - c) = 8, \text{ and we solve for } c. \\ &&& \rightarrow 3c = 6 \\ &&& \rightarrow \underline{c = 2} \end{aligned}$$

Putting  $c = 2$  back into equation 1 we get:

$$2 = c + d \rightarrow 2 = 2 + d \rightarrow \underline{0 = d}$$

Thus we conclude:

$c = 2$  and  $d = 0$

**43. If  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x$ , show there is a number  $c$  such that  $f(c) = 10$ .**

$f(x)$  is clearly continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , specifically on  $[0, 3]$

$$f(0) = 0$$

$$f(3) = 27 - 9 + 3 = 21$$

$f(0) = 0 < 10 < 21 = f(3)$ , by the Intermediate Value Theorem there must exist a number  $c \in (0, 3)$  such that  $f(c) = 10$ .

**47. Use the Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT) to show that there is a root of  $x^3 + 2x = x^2 + 1$  in the interval  $(0, 1)$ .**

Let  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + 2x - 1$ .

For there to exist a root of  $f(x)$  in  $(0, 1)$  there must exist some number  $c \in (0, 1)$  such that  $f(c) = 0$ .

Clearly  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $[0, 1]$ .

$$f(0) = -1$$

$$f(1) = 1 - 1 + 2 - 1 = 1$$

$f(0) = -1 < 0 < 1 = f(1)$  thus by the IVT there exists a number  $c \in (0, 1)$  such that  $f(c) = 0$ . Thus there must be a root to the given equation in the interval  $(0, 1)$ .