

Asymptotes and Continuity

p. 130: 63-68, 80-82

63.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{5+4x}{x+3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{\frac{5}{x} + 4}{1 + \frac{3}{x}} = \frac{0+4}{1+0} = 4$ , so  $y=4$  is a horizontal

asymptote.  $y = f(x) = \frac{5+4x}{x+3}$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -3^+} f(x) = -\infty$  since

$5+4x \rightarrow -7$  and  $x+3 \rightarrow 0^+$  as  $x \rightarrow -3^+$ . Thus,  $x=-3$  is a vertical asymptote. The graph confirms our work.

64.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{2x^2+1}{3x^2+2x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{2+\frac{1}{x^2}}{3+\frac{2}{x}-\frac{1}{x^2}} = \frac{2}{3}$ , so  $y=\frac{2}{3}$  is a horizontal

asymptote.  $y = f(x) = \frac{2x^2+1}{3x^2+2x-1} = \frac{2x^2+1}{(3x-1)(x+1)}$ . The

denominator is zero when  $x=\frac{1}{3}$  and  $x=-1$  but the numerator is nonzero, so  $x=\frac{1}{3}$  and  $x=-1$  are vertical asymptotes. The graph confirms our work.

65.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{2x^2+x-1}{x^2+x-2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{1+\frac{1}{x}-\frac{1}{x^2}}{1+\frac{1}{x}-\frac{2}{x^2}} = \frac{2+0+0}{1+0-0} = 2$ , so  $y=2$  is a horizontal

asymptote.  $y = f(x) = \frac{2x^2+x-1}{x^2+x-2} = \frac{(2x-1)(x+1)}{(x+2)(x-1)}$ , so

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x) = -\infty$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = -\infty$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = \infty$ . Thus,  $x=-2$  and  $x=1$  are vertical asymptotes. The graph confirms our work.

66.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{1+x^4}{x^2-x^4} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x^4}+1}{\frac{1}{x^2}-1} = \frac{0+1}{0-1} = -1$ , so  $y=-1$  is a horizontal

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

The denominator is zero when  $x=0, -1$  and  $1$ , so these are vertical asymptotes. Notice that as  $x \rightarrow 0$ , the numerator and denominator are both positive, so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \infty$ . The graph confirms our work.

$$67. y = f(x) = \frac{x^3 - x}{x^2 - 6x + 5} = \frac{x(x^2 - 1)}{(x-1)(x+5)} = \frac{x(x-1)(x+1)}{(x-1)(x+5)} = \frac{x(x+1)}{x-5}$$

for  $= g(x)$  for  $x \neq 1$ . The graph of  $g$  is the same as the graph of  $f$  with the exception of a hole in the graph of  $f$  at  $x = 1$ . By long

division,  $g(x) = \frac{x^2 + x}{x-5} = x + 6 + \frac{30}{x-5}$ . As  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$ ,  $g(x) \rightarrow \pm\infty$ , so

there is no horizontal asymptote. The denominator of  $g$  is zero when  $x = 5$ , and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^-} g(x) = -\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5^+} g(x) = \infty$ , so  $x = 5$  is a vertical asymptote. The graph confirms our work.

$$68. \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e^x}{e^x - 5} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e^x}{e^x - 5} \cdot \frac{1/e^x}{1/e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{1 - (5/e^x)} = \frac{2}{1 - 0} = 2, \text{ so } y = 2 \text{ is}$$

a horizontal asymptote.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e^x}{e^x - 5} = \frac{2}{0 - 5} = 0$ , so is a horizontal asymptote. The denominator is zero (and the numerator isn't) when  $e^x - 5 = 0 \Rightarrow e^x = 5 \Rightarrow x = \ln 5$ . Thus,  $x = \ln 5$  is a vertical asymptote. The graph confirms our work.

80. If the graph of  $y = \frac{mx^3 + x + a}{x^3 - 2}$  crosses its horizontal asymptote at the point  $(6, -5)$  then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{mx^3 + x + a}{x^3 - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m + \frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{a}{x^3}}{1 - \frac{2}{x^3}} = -5, \text{ so } m = -5.$$

$$\text{But } y(6) = -5 = \frac{m \cdot 6^3 + 6 + a}{6^3 - 2} = \frac{-5 \cdot 6^3 + 6 + a}{6^3 - 2} = \frac{-1074 + a}{214} \Rightarrow -5(214) = -1074 + a \Rightarrow 4 = a.$$

Thus, the value of  $m + a$  is (B)  $-1$ .

81. To find the horizontal asymptotes, we must evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{mx + m \cdot 6^{-x}}{4x + 6^{-x}}$ . If  $m = 48$  then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{48x + 48 \cdot 6^{-x}}{4x + 6^{-x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{48x + \frac{48}{6^x}}{4x + \frac{1}{6^x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{48 + \frac{48}{x \cdot 6^x}}{4 + \frac{1}{x \cdot 6^x}} = \frac{48 + 0}{4 + 0} = \frac{48}{4} = 12, \text{ so in this case, } y = 12 \text{ is a}$$

horizontal asymptote. However, if  $m = 12$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{12x + 12 \cdot 6^{-x}}{4x + 6^{-x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{12 \cdot 6^{-x}}{6^{-x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 12 = 12$ . Therefore the line  $y = 12$  will be a horizontal asymptote for (C) both  $m = 48$  and  $m = 12$ .

82. Let  $f(x) = \frac{3+4^{\frac{1}{x}}}{5+4^{\frac{1}{x}}}$ , and  $t = \frac{1}{x}$ . Then as  $x \rightarrow 0^-$ ,  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ , and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{3+4^t}{5+4^t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{3+0}{5+4^t} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{3+0}{5+0} = \frac{3}{5}$ .

Also, as  $x \rightarrow 0^+$ ,  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3+4^t}{5+4^t} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4^t}{4^t} = 1$ . Finally,

$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3+4^{\frac{1}{x}}}{5+4^{\frac{1}{x}}} = \frac{3+1}{5+1} = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$ . Therefore  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \frac{3}{5} + 1 + \frac{2}{3}$ , which is

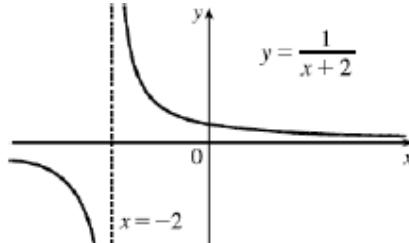
$$(A) \frac{34}{15}.$$

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17. The function  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } x \neq 3 \\ 4 & \text{if } x = 3 \end{cases}$  satisfies  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = 2 \neq f(3) = 4$ .

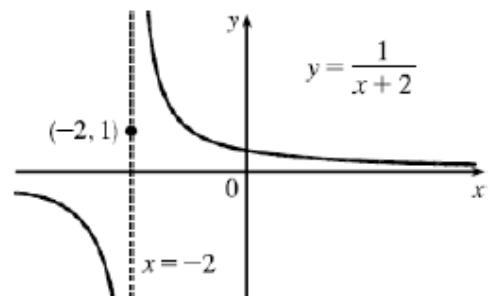
18. The function  $f(x) = \frac{2(x-2)}{(x+2)}$  has a vertical asymptote at  $x = -2$  and a horizontal asymptote at  $x = 2$ .

27.  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x+2}$  is discontinuous at  $a = -2$  because  $f(-2)$  is undefined.



28.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x+2} & \text{if } x \neq -2 \\ 1 & \text{if } x = -2 \end{cases}$ . For this function,  $f(-2) = 1$ , but

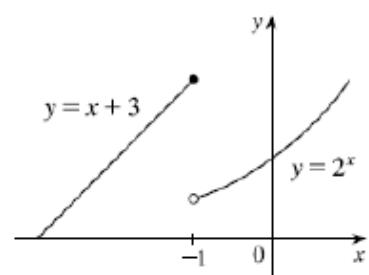
$\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^-} f(x) = -\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} f(x) = \infty$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} f(x)$  does not exist and  $f$  is discontinuous at  $x = -2$ .



29.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3 & \text{if } x \leq -1 \\ 2^x & \text{if } x > -1 \end{cases}$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} (x+3) = -1+3=2$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} 2^x = 2^{-1} = \frac{1}{2}$ .

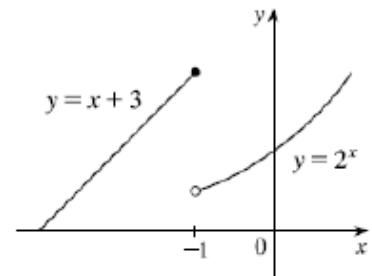
Since the left-hand and right-hand limits of  $f$  at  $-1$  are not equal,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$  does not exist, and  $f$  is discontinuous at  $-1$ .



29.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3 & \text{if } x \leq -1 \\ 2^x & \text{if } x > -1 \end{cases}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} (x+3) = -1+3=2 \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} 2^x = 2^{-1} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

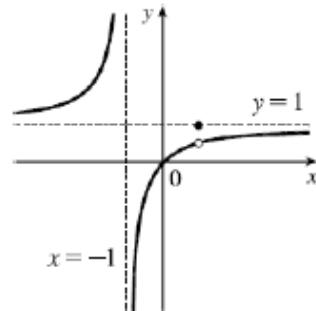
Since the left-hand and right-hand limits of  $f$  at  $-1$  are not equal,  
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$  does not exist, and  $f$  is discontinuous at  $-1$ .



30.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 - x}{x^2 - 1} & \text{if } x \neq 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } x = 1 \end{cases}$

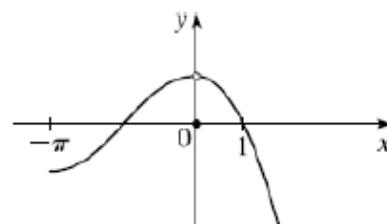
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - x}{x^2 - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x(x-1)}{(x+1)(x-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x}{x+1} = \frac{1}{2}, \text{ but}$$

$f(1) = 1 \neq \frac{1}{2}$  so  $f$  is discontinuous at  $1$ .



31.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \cos x & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 1-x^2 & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$

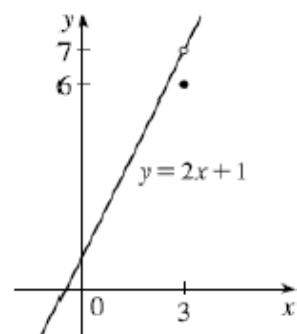
$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 1$ , but  $f(0) = 0 \neq 1$ , so  $f$  is not continuous at  $0$ .



32.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x-3} & \text{if } x \neq 3 \\ 6 & \text{if } x = 3 \end{cases}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x-3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{(2x+1)(x-3)}{x-3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} 2x+1 = 7, \text{ but}$$

$f(3) = 6 \neq 7$ , so  $f$  is discontinuous at  $3$ .



35. Let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{4-\sqrt{x^2+x+10}}{x-2} & \text{if } x \neq 2 \\ -\frac{5}{8} & \text{if } x = 2 \end{cases}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{4-\sqrt{x^2+x+10}}{x-2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{4-\sqrt{x^2+x+10}}{x-2} \cdot \frac{4+\sqrt{x^2+x+10}}{4+\sqrt{x^2+x+10}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{16-(x^2+x+10)}{(x-2)(4+\sqrt{x^2+x+10})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{-(x^2+x-6)}{(x-2)(4+\sqrt{x^2+x+10})} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{-(x+3)(x-2)}{(x-2)(4+\sqrt{x^2+x+10})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{-(x+3)}{(4+\sqrt{x^2+x+10})} \\ &= \frac{-5}{4+\sqrt{4+2+10}} = \frac{-5}{4+\sqrt{16}} = -\frac{5}{8} \text{ and so } f \text{ is continuous at } x = 2. \end{aligned}$$

44. The function  $y = \frac{1}{1+e^{1/x}}$  is discontinuous at  $x = 0$  because the left- and right-hand limits at  $x = 0$  are different.

45. The function  $y = \tan^2 x$  is discontinuous at  $x = \frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi k$ , where  $k$  is any integer. The function is discontinuous where  $\tan^2$  is 0, that is at  $x = \pi k$ . So  $y = \ln(\tan^2 x)$  is discontinuous at  $x = \frac{\pi}{2} n$ ,  $n$  any integer.

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$$50. f(x) = \begin{cases} 1-x^2 & \text{if } x \leq 1 \\ \ln x & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

By Theorem 3, since  $f(x)$  equals the polynomial  $1-x^2$  on  $(-\infty, 1]$ ,  $f$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, 1]$ . By Theorem 3, since  $f(x)$  equals the logarithmic function  $\ln x$  on  $(1, \infty)$ ,  $f$  is continuous on  $(1, \infty)$ .

$$51. f(x) = \begin{cases} 1-x^2 & \text{if } x \leq 1 \\ \ln x & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

By Theorem 3, the trigonometric functions are continuous. Since  $f(x) = \sin x$  on  $(-\infty, \pi/4)$  and  $f(x) = \cos x$  on  $(\pi/4, \infty)$ ,  $f$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, \pi/4) \cup (\pi/4, \infty)$ . In addition,

$\lim_{x \rightarrow (\pi/4)^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow (\pi/4)^-} \sin x = \sin \frac{\pi}{4} = 1/\sqrt{2}$  since the sine function is continuous at  $\pi/4$ . Similarly,

$\lim_{x \rightarrow (\pi/4)^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow (\pi/4)^+} \cos x = \cos \frac{\pi}{4} = 1/\sqrt{2}$  by the continuity of the cosine function at  $\pi/4$ . Thus

$\lim_{x \rightarrow (\pi/4)} f(x)$  exists and equals  $1/\sqrt{2}$  which agrees with the value of  $f(\pi/4)$ . Therefore,  $f$  is continuous at  $\pi/4$ , so  $f$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

$$57. f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^3 - a^3}{x - a} & \text{if } x \neq a \\ c & \text{if } x = a \end{cases}$$

For  $x \neq a$ ,  $f(x) = x^2 + ax + a^2$ , so  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} (x^2 + ax + a^2) = a^2 + a^2 + a^2 = 3a^2$ . In order for  $f$  to be continuous at  $a$ , we need  $f(a) = c = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 3a^2$ . Therefore,  $c = 3a^2$  and

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^3 - a^3}{x - a} & \text{if } x \neq a \\ 3a^2 & \text{if } x = a \end{cases}.$$

$$58. f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} & \text{if } x < 2 \\ ax^2 - bx + 3 & \text{if } 2 \leq x < 3 \\ 2x - a + b & \text{if } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

At  $x = 2$ :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{(x-2)(x+2)}{x-2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} (x+2) = 4$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} (ax^2 - bx + 3) = 4a - 2b + 3.$$

We must have  $4a - 2b + 3 = 4$  or  $4a - 2b = 1$  (1)

At  $x = 3$ :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} (ax^2 - bx + 3) = 9a - 3b + 3$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} (2x - a + b) = 6 - a + b.$$

We must have  $9a - 3b + 3 = 6 - a + b$  or  $10a - 4b = 3$  (2).

Now solve the system of equations by addition -2 times equation (1) to equation (2):

$$\begin{array}{rcl} -8a + 4b = -2 \\ 10a - 4b = 3 \\ \hline 2a & = 1 \end{array} \quad \text{so } a = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Substituting  $a = \frac{1}{2}$  for  $a$  in (1) gives us  $-2b = -1$ , so  $b = \frac{1}{2}$  as well. Thus, for  $f$  to be continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ ,  $a = b = \frac{1}{2}$ .

59. The function  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{3+4^{1/x}}{5+4^{1/x}} & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ k & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$  cannot be made continuous at  $x = 0$  because

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3+4^t}{5+4^t} = \frac{3}{5} \neq 1 = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4^t}{5+4^t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3+4^t}{5+4^t} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x).$$

60. (a) Let  $f(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x^2 - 1} = \frac{(x-1)(2x-3)}{(x-1)(x+1)} = \frac{2x-3}{x+1} = g(x)$  for  $x \neq 1$ . But

$g(1) = \frac{2(1)-3}{1+1} = \frac{-1}{2} = -\frac{1}{2}$ . Observe that  $f$  is not defined at  $x = 1$ , but if we define  $f(1) = -\frac{1}{2}$ , the function will be continuous at  $x = 1$  because  $g(x)$  is continuous at  $x = 1$ .

(b) Observe that  $f(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x^2 - 1} = \frac{(x-1)(2x-3)}{(x-1)(x+1)}$  has a vertical asymptote at  $x = -1$  so it cannot be made continuous there.