

# CONTINUITY

# AP CALCULUS

- A polynomial is continuous everywhere.
- A rational function is continuous at every point where the denominator is nonzero and has discontinuities at the points where the denominator is zero.

## POINT CONTINUITY

$f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = c$  provided that

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

## REMOVABLE DISCONTINUITY

A function  $f$  is said to have a removable discontinuity at  $x = c$  provided that

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists at  $x = c$  and
2.  $f$  is not continuous at  $x = c$ , either because
  - a)  $f$  is not defined at  $x = c$
  - b)  $f(c) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$

## INTERVAL CONTINUITY

$f(x)$  is continuous on a closed interval  $[a, b]$  provided that

1.  $f$  is continuous on  $(a, b)$ .
2.  $f$  is continuous from the right at  $x = a$ .
3.  $f$  is continuous from the left at  $x = b$ .

## INTERMEDIATE VALUE THEOREM

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

If  $f$  is continuous on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ , and if  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  are nonzero and have opposite signs, then there is at least one solution of the equation  $f(x) = 0$  in the interval  $(a, b)$ .

## PROPERTIES

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

1.  $f \pm g$  is continuous at  $x = c$ .
2.  $f \cdot g$  is continuous at  $x = c$ .
3.  $f/g$  is continuous at  $x = c$  if  $g(c) \neq 0$ .

## COMPOSITE FUNCTIONS

If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L$  and if the function  $f$  is continuous at  $L$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(g(x)) = f\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)\right)$

**Squeeze Theorem (See AP Video 1.8)**

If  $g(x) \leq f(x) \leq h(x)$  for all values of  $x$  in an open interval containing  $c$ , except possibly at  $c$  itself, and if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = L = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} h(x)$  then the  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists and equals  $L$ .

**Trig Limits to Memorize**

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin bx}{bx} = 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x} = 0$$

**Example:**

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin 5x}{4x} =$$