

3. [9 points] Consider the function h defined by

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{60(x^2 - x)}{(x^2 + 1)(3 - x)} & \text{for } x < 2 \\ c & \text{for } x = 2 \\ 5e^{ax} - 1 & \text{for } x > 2 \end{cases}$$

where a and c are constants.

a. [5 points] Find values of a and c so that both of the following conditions hold.

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x)$ exists.
- $h(x)$ is not continuous at $x = 2$.

Note that this problem may have more than one correct answer. You only need to find one value of a and one value of c so that both conditions above hold. Remember to show your work clearly.

Solution: In order for $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x)$ to exist, it must be true that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} h(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} h(x)$.

Now $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} h(x) = \frac{60(2^2 - 2)}{(2^2 + 1)(3 - 2)} = 24$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} h(x) = 5e^{2a} - 1$. So it follows that $5e^{2a} - 1 = 24$. Solving for a , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 5e^{2a} - 1 &= 24 \\ e^{2a} &= 5 \\ 2a &= \ln(5) \\ a &= \ln(5)/2 \approx 0.804. \end{aligned}$$

When $a = \ln(5)/2$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x) = 5e^{(\ln(5)/2)*2} = 5e^{\ln(5)} - 1 = 24$. So, h is not continuous at $x = 2$ as long as $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} h(x) \neq h(2)$. Since $h(2) = c$, we can choose c to be any number other than 24.

Answer: $a = \underline{\ln(5)/2}$ and $c = \underline{7 \text{ (or any value other than 24)}}$

b. [2 points] Determine $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} h(x)$. If the limit does not exist, write DNE.

Solution: By looking at the rational function

$$\frac{60(x^2 - x)}{(x^2 + 1)(3 - x)} = \frac{60(x^2 - x)}{-x^3 + 3x^2 - x + 3},$$

(the relevant piece of the function here) we see that as $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $h(x)$ approaches 0.

Answer: $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} h(x) = \underline{0}$

c. [2 points] Find all vertical asymptotes of the graph of $h(x)$. If there are none, write NONE.

Answer: Vertical asymptote(s): $\underline{\text{NONE}}$