

Skill Builder: Topic 1.16 – Working with the Intermediate Value Theorem

1. Let f be a function that is continuous on the closed interval $[2,4]$ with $f(2)=10$ and $f(4)=20$. Which of the following is guaranteed by the Intermediate Value Theorem?

(A) $f(x)=13$ has at least one solution in the open interval $(2,4)$

(B) $f(3)=15$ $y=15$ must exist on $(2,4)$ but $f(3)$ does not have to equal 15

(C) f attains a maximum on the open interval $(2,4)$

(D) $f(x)=10$ at some other value(s) of x other than $x=2$ no

10 is not between 10 and 20.

→ ∴ IVT guarantees a value c , $2 < c < 4$ such that $10 < f(c) < 20$

2. Let g be a function such that $g(-1)=0$ and $g(2)=5$. Which of the following conditions guarantees that there is an x , $-1 < x < 2$, for which $g(x)=3$?

(A) g is defined for all x in $(-1,2)$

(B) g is continuous for all x in $[-1,2]$

(C) g is increasing on $[-1,2]$

(D) there exists an x in $(-1,2)$ such that $g(x)=6$

○ $4 < (g(x)=3) < 5$

$-1 < x < 2$

we need continuity for IVT

x	0	4	6	8	13
$f(x)$	3	4.5	3	2.5	4.4

$y=4$ ↓ $y=4$ ↓ $y=4$ ↓

3. The table above shows selected values of a continuous function f . For $0 \leq x \leq 13$, what is the fewest possible number of times that $f(x)=4$? IVT applies

(A) One (B) Two (C) Three (D) Four

How many consecutive values in the table

"surround" $y=4$?

There must be at least three 4s.

There could be much more.

Intermediate Value Theorem

IVT

4. Let f be a function that is continuous on the closed interval $[1,3]$ with $f(1)=10$ and $f(3)=18$. Which of the following statements must be true?

- (A) $10 \leq f(2) \leq 18$ $\rightarrow f(x)$ could be smaller than 10 or larger than 18.
- (B) f is increasing on the interval $[1,3]$ could be true
- (C) $f(x)=17$ has at least one solution in the interval $[1,3]$ $10 < 17 < 18$
- (D) $f(2)=14$ could be true

5. Let f be a function such that $f(1)=-2$ and $f(5)=7$. Which of the following conditions guarantees that $f(c)=0$ for some value c in the open interval $(1,5)$?

- (A) f is increasing on the closed interval $[1,5]$
- (B) f is continuous on the closed interval $[1,5]$ $-2 < 0 < 7$
IVT needs
- (C) $f(3)=2.5$
- (D) f is decreasing on the closed interval $[1,5]$

t (sec)	0	15	25	30	35	50	60
$v(t)$ (ft / sec)	-20	-30	-20	-14	-10	0	10
$a(t)$ (ft / sec ²)	1	5	2	1	2	4	2

6. A car travels on a straight track. During the time interval $0 \leq t \leq 60$ seconds, the car's velocity v , measured in feet per second, and acceleration a , measured in feet per second per second, are continuous functions. The table above shows selected values of these functions.

For $0 \leq t \leq 60$, must there be a time t when $v(t)=-5$? Justify your answer.

• $v(t)$ is continuous
 • $v(0) = -20$
 $v(60) = 10$ } $-20 < -5 < 10$
 \therefore IVT guarantees a value of t on $(0,60)$ such that $v(t)=-5$

x	$f(x)$	$g(x)$
1	6	2
2	9	3
3	10	4
6	-1	6
10	3	11

7. The functions f and g are continuous for all real numbers, and g is strictly increasing. The table above gives values of the functions at selected values of x . The function h is given by $h(x) = g(f(x))$.

Explain why there must be a value r for $1 < r < 3$ such that $h(r) = 8$.

- f, g are continuous $\therefore h$ is continuous
- $$\left. \begin{array}{l} h(1) = g(f(1)) = g(6) = 2 \\ h(3) = g(f(3)) = g(10) = 11 \end{array} \right\} 2 < 8 < 11$$
- \therefore IVT guarantees a value of r on $(1, 3)$ such that $h(r) = 8$.

t (minutes)	0	2	5	8	12
$v_A(t)$ (meters / minute)	0	100	40	-120	-150

8. Train A runs back and forth on an east-west section of railroad track. Train A 's velocity, measured in meters per minute, is given by a continuous function $v_A(t)$, where t is measured in minutes. Selected values for $v_A(t)$ are given in the table above.

Do the data in the table support the conclusion that Train A 's velocity is -100 meters per minute at some time t with $5 < t < 8$? Give a reason for your answer.

- $v_A(t)$ is continuous
- $$\left. \begin{array}{l} v_A(5) = 40 \\ v_A(8) = -120 \end{array} \right\} -120 < -100 < 40$$
- \therefore IVT guarantees a value of t on $(5, 8)$ such that $v_A(t) = -100$