

Determine where the following function is continuous. Write your answer using interval notation. You must use proper notation and calculus methods to justify your answer.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} & x < 3 & 1 \\ 0 & x = 3 & 2 \\ 5x - 9 & 3 < x < 4 & 3 \\ 11 & x = 4 & 4 \\ 27 - x^2 & x > 4 & 5 \end{cases}$$

a) $(-\infty, 4), (4, \infty)$

check cont. for each piece

b) $(-\infty, 3), (3, \infty)$

$$\frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} = (x + 3) \quad x < 3$$

$x - 3 \rightarrow x \neq 3$

c) $(-\infty, 3), (3, 4), (4, \infty)$

d) $(-\infty, \infty)$

ALL function pieces are cont.

@ $x=3$ transition p.

1) $f(3) = 0$

2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \left(\frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} (x + 3) = 6$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} (5x - 9) = 5 \cdot 3 - 9 = 6$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 6$

3) $f(3) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x)$

$0 \neq 6$

f is NOT cont. at $x=3$

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@ $x=4$

1) $f(4) = 11$

2) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^-} (5x - 9) \stackrel{DSP}{=} 5 \cdot 4 - 9 = 11$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4^+} (27 - x^2) \stackrel{DSP}{=} 27 - 4^2 = 27 - 16 = 11$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) = 11$

3) $f(4) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} f(x) = 11 \quad \checkmark$

f is cont. at $x=4$

f is NOT cont. at $x=3$ exclude 3

Interval for cont: ($-\infty, 3$), ($3, \infty$)