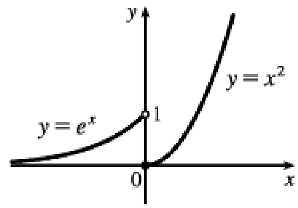
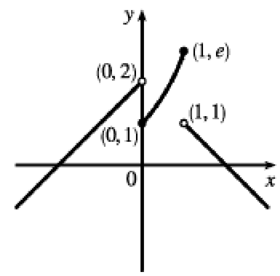
15. $f(x) = \begin{cases} e^x & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x^2 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$



The left-hand limit of f at $a = 0$ is $\lim\limits_{x \to 0^-} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 0^-} e^x = 1$. The right-hand limit of f at $a = 0$ is $\lim\limits_{x \to 0^+} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 0^+} x^2 = 0$. Since these limits are not equal, $\lim\limits_{x \to 0} f(x)$ does not exist and f is discontinuous at 0.

21. By Theorem 5, the polynomial $t^4 - 1$ is continuous on $(-\infty, \infty)$. By Theorem 7, $\ln x$ is continuous on its domain, $(0, \infty)$. By Theorem 9, $\ln(t^4 - 1)$ is continuous on its domain, which is $\{t \mid t^4 - 1 > 0\} = \{t \mid t^4 > 1\} = \{t \mid |t| > 1\} = (-\infty, -1) \cup (1, \infty)$.

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



f is continuous on $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(1, \infty)$ since on each of these intervals it is a polynomial; it is continuous on $(0, 1)$ since it is an exponential.

Now $\lim\limits_{x \to 0^-} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 0^-} (x + 2) = 2$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to 0^+} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 0^+} e^x = 1$, so f is discontinuous at 0. Since $f(0) = 1$, f is continuous from the right at 0. Also $\lim\limits_{x \to 1^-} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 1^-} e^x = e$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to 1^+} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 1^+} (2 - x) = 1$, so f is discontinuous at 1. Since $f(1) = e$, f is continuous from the left at 1.

33. $f(x) = \begin{cases} cx^2 + 2x & \text{if } x < 2 \\ x^3 - cx & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$

f is continuous on $(-\infty, 2)$ and $(2, \infty)$. Now $\lim\limits_{x \to 2^-} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 2^-} (cx^2 + 2x) = 4c + 4$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to 2^+} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to 2^+} (x^3 - cx) = 8 - 2c$. So f is continuous $\Leftrightarrow$ $4c + 4 = 8 - 2c$ $\Leftrightarrow$ $6c = 4$ $\Leftrightarrow$ $c = \frac{2}{3}$. Thus, for f to be continuous on $(-\infty, \infty)$, $c = \frac{2}{3}$.

37. $f(x) = x^4 + x - 3$ is continuous on the interval $[1, 2]$, $f(1) = -1$, and $f(2) = 15$. Since $-1 < 0 < 15$, there is a number c in $(1, 2)$ such that $f(c) = 0$ by the Intermediate Value Theorem. Thus, there is a root of the equation $x^4 + x - 3 = 0$ in the interval $(1, 2)$.