Some applications of Intermediate Value Theorem: show that an equation has a solution.

The IVT has a variation that is more commonly used: If f is continuous on [a, b] and M lies between f(a) and f(b) then there exists $c \in [a, b]$ such that f(c) = M. Graphic interpretation...

Example: show that there is a solution to the equation $x + \sin x = 4$

It would be extremely difficult to find this solution exactly. But that is not what we are asked to do. Let $f(x) = x + \sin x$.

Then *f* is continuous on $R = (-\infty, \infty)$. Moreover, f(0) = 0 < 4 and $f(6) = 6 + \sin 6 > 4$. There must be a number $c \in (4,6)$ such that f(c) = 4.

Bisection method: cutting the search interval by half each time.

Vertical and horizontal asymptotes:

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0}{b_m x^m + b_{m-1} x^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 x + b_0} = \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{a_n x^n}{b_m x^m}$$

(only the highest powers matter).

$$f(x) = \frac{8 - x^3}{1 - x - x^2 + x^3}$$
$$f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + 4} - x$$