

# Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

## 11 Polynomial Inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Learning Objectives

- Solve polynomial inequalities graphically.
- Solve polynomial inequalities analytically.

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1 - z^{n+1}}{1 - z}$$

## Graphical Interpretations of Equations and Inequalities

$\in$  = element of  
 $\cup$  = union (or)

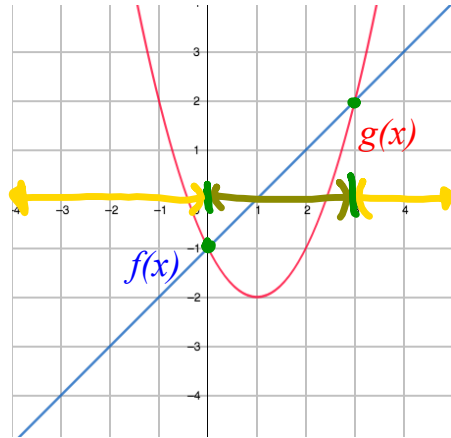
Ex 1: Given this graph of  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ , determine the values of  $x$  for which each of these is true.

a)  $f(x) = g(x)$

at  $x=0$  and  $x=3$

b)  $f(x) < g(x)$  (line is below parabola)  
 $x \in (-\infty, 0) \cup (3, \infty)$

c)  $f(x) > g(x)$  (line is above parabola)  
 $x \in (0, 3)$



## Analytical Solution of Polynomial Inequalities

Ex 2: Given  $f(x) = x^2 - 4$  and  $g(x) = x + 2$ , determine the values of  $x$  for which each of these is true by doing the math.

a)  $f(x) = g(x)$

$$x^2 - 4 = x + 2$$

$$x^2 - x - 6 = 0$$

$$(x-3)(x+2) = 0$$

$$x-3=0 \quad x+2=0$$

$$\boxed{x=3, -2}$$

b)  $f(x) < g(x)$  region 2

$$x \in (-2, 3)$$

sign line:



test cases:

①  $x = -10$       $f(-10) = 100 - 4 = 96$   
                           $g(-10) = -10 + 2 = -8$

②  $x = 0$           $f(0) = 0 - 4 = -4$   
                           $g(0) = 0 + 2 = 2$

③  $x = 5$           $f(5) = 5^2 - 4 = 21$   
                           $g(5) = 5 + 2 = 7$

c)  $f(x) > g(x)$  regions 1 + 3  
 $x \in (-\infty, -2) \cup (3, \infty)$

As the functions get more complicated, it is convenient to use a **sign line** to sort it out.

**Directions for Using a Sign Line**

- Write the inequality as a function,  $f$ , with zero on the right side.
- Determine the zeros of  $f$  and place them on a number line.
- Choose a test value in each of the intervals on the number line.
- Determine the sign of  $f$  for each test value, writing that sign above that interval.
- Your solution is the interval(s) that correspond to the inequality.

Ex 3: Follow the steps above to solve these inequalities.

a)  $x^2 + 2x > 3$

$$x^2 + 2x - 3 > 0$$

$$(x+3)(x-1) > 0 \quad \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{3}$$

$x = -3, 1$   $x \in (-\infty, -3) \cup (1, \infty)$

sign line

test pts:

- $x = -1000$   $(-1000+3)(-1000-1)$   
-(-)
- $x = 0$   $(0+3)(0-1)$   
+(-)
- $x = 1000$   $(1000+3)(1000-1)$   
+(+)

b)  $-3x^2 - 2x \geq -x^2 + x - 2$

$$-2x^2 - 3x + 2 \geq 0$$

$$(2x-1)(-x-2) \geq 0 \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$2x-1=0 \quad -x-2=0$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2} \quad x = -2$$

$x \in [-2, \frac{1}{2}]$

sign line

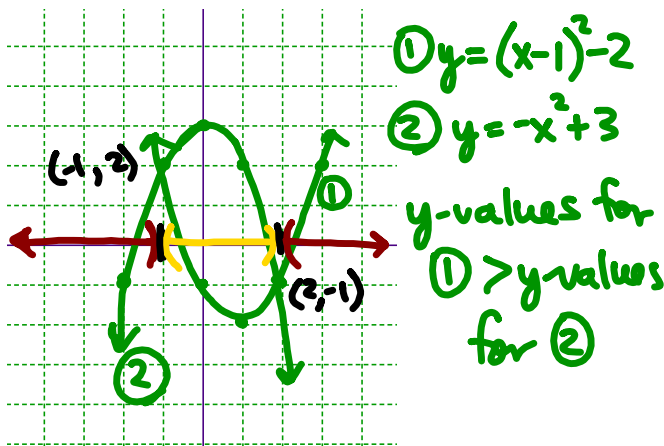
test x-values:

- $x = -1000$   $-(-)$
- $x = 0$   $-(-)$
- $x = 1000$   $+(-)$

Ex 4: Solve this inequality by each method.

a) Graphically  $(x-1)^2 - 2 > -x^2 + 3$

b) Analytically  $(x-1)^2 - 2 > -x^2 + 3$



claim:  $x \in (-\infty, -1) \cup (3, \infty)$

we get the same answer both ways!

Note of warning: graphing doesn't always work so nicely, especially if your  $x$ -values are not integers.

$$(x-1)(x-1)$$

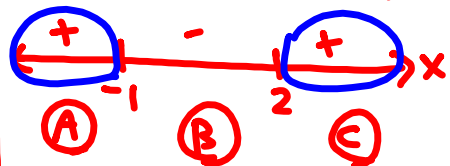
$$x^2 - x - x + 1 - 2 > -x^2 + 3$$

$$2x^2 - 2x - 4 > 0$$

$$2(x^2 - x - 2) > 0$$

$$2(x-2)(x+1) > 0$$

critical values:  $x=2, -1$



test pts:

$$\text{A) } x = -1000000$$

$$-(-)$$

$$\text{B) } x = 0$$

$$-(+)$$

$$\text{C) } x = 1000$$

$$+(+)$$