

**MATH 1314 – COLLEGE ALGEBRA**  
**SECTION 2.7 LINEAR INEQUALITIES AND ABSOLUTE VALUE INEQUALITIES**

■ Properties of Inequalities:

■ Trichotomy Property: For all real numbers  $a$  and  $b$ , one of the following statements is true:

■ Transitive Property: If  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are real numbers, then  
if  $a < b$  and  $b < c$ , then

if  $a > b$  and  $b > c$ , then

■ Addition/Subtraction Properties: Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  be real numbers.

■ If  $a < b$ , then  $a + c <$

■ If  $a < b$ , then  $a - c <$

■ Similarly for  $\leq, \geq, >$

■ Multiplication/Division Properties: Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  be real numbers.

1. If  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ , then  $ca <$

If  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ , then  $\frac{a}{c} <$

2. If  $a < b$  and  $c < 0$ , then  $ca >$

If  $a < b$  and  $c < 0$ , then  $\frac{a}{c} >$

NOTE: If we multiply or divide by a negative number,

■ We will solve quadratic and absolute value functions analytically and graphically.

Ex: Let  $f(x) = 3x - 1$  and  $g(x) = 2$ .

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

(b) Solve  $f(x) > g(x)$ .

(c) Solve  $f(x) < g(x)$ .

(d) Graph both functions and verify the solutions to the parts above.

■ Solving Linear Inequalities:

Ex: Solve  $5(x - 4) > 25$ .

Ex: Solve  $-4(x + 3) \geq 16$ .

■ Compound Inequalities:

Ex: Solve  $-5 \leq 2x + 1 < 9$

Ex: Solve  $x + 1 < 2x - 3 \leq 3x - 5$ .

- Recap: For linear inequalities, we solve like an equation.
- For nonlinear inequalities:
  1. Arrange the inequality so that you are comparing an expression to zero.
  2. Replace the inequality sign with an = sign.
  3. Solve like an equation.
  4. Test intervals on a number line.
- Rational Inequalities: Remember to arrange the inequality so that you are comparing an expression to zero. Set numerator=0 and solve. Set denominator=0 and solve. Test each interval on a number line.

Ex: Solve  $\frac{x-1}{x+5} \geq 0$

- Recall:  $|x|$  means

Ex: Solve  $|x| < 6$ . Verify the solutions graphically.

Ex: Solve  $|2x - 3| \leq 5$ . Verify the solutions graphically.

Ex: Solve  $5|4x - 1| > 30$ . Verify the solutions graphically.

Ex: Solve  $3 < |2x - 3| \leq 5$ . Verify the solutions graphically.