

## Square inequalities; Sign square trinomials

Square inequalities are forms:

$$ax^2 + bx + c > 0$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c \geq 0$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c < 0$$

$$ax^2 + bx + c \leq 0$$

where  $x$  is real variable (unknown) and  $a, b, c$  are real numbers,  $a \neq 0$ .

In the square function, we analyze how can look graph of square functions  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ , depending on the character  $a$  and  $D$ ,  $D = b^2 - 4ac$

### Remind yourself:

$$1) a > 0, D > 0 \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccc} & + & & - & & + & \\ & | & & | & & | & \\ -\infty & & x_1 & & x_2 & & \infty \end{array}$$

$$2) a > 0, D = 0 \Rightarrow y \geq 0 \text{ always}$$

$$3) a > 0, D < 0 \Rightarrow y > 0 \text{ always}$$

$$4) a < 0, D > 0 \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccc} & - & & + & & - & \\ & | & & | & & | & \\ -\infty & & x_1 & & x_2 & & \infty \end{array}$$

$$5) a < 0, D = 0 \Rightarrow y \leq 0 \text{ always}$$

$$6) a < 0, D < 0 \Rightarrow y < 0 \text{ always}$$

**Example 1.** Determine sign of trinomials:

a)  $3x^2 - 11x - 4$

b)  $-5x^2 - x + 4$

c)  $9x^2 + 12x + 4$

d)  $-x^2 - 6x - 9$

Solution:

a)  $3x^2 - 11x - 4$

First, decide the appropriate square equality:  $3x^2 - 11x - 4 = 0$

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 a=3 & D=b^2-4ac & x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a} = \frac{11 \pm 13}{6} \\
 b=-11 & D=121+48 & x_1 = 4 \\
 c=-4 & D=169 & x_2 = -\frac{2}{6} = -\frac{1}{3}
 \end{array}$$

Since  $a=3 > 0$  and  $D=169 > 0$  (first situation):



$$3x^2 - 11x - 4 > 0 \text{ for } x \in \left(-\infty, -\frac{1}{3}\right) \cup (4, \infty)$$

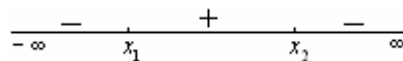
$$3x^2 - 11x - 4 < 0 \text{ for } x \in \left(-\frac{1}{3}, 4\right)$$

b)  $-5x^2 - x + 4$

$-5x^2 - x + 4 = 0$  **See: no multiplication and sharing with some number!**

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 a=-5 & D=1+80 & x_{1,2} = \frac{1 \pm 9}{-10} \\
 b=-1 & D=81 & x_1 = -1 \\
 c=4 & & x_2 = \frac{-8}{-10} = \frac{4}{5}
 \end{array}$$

situation 4:  $a < 0, D > 0$  so:



$$-5x^2 - x + 4 > 0 \text{ za } x \in \left(-1, \frac{4}{5}\right)$$

$$-5x^2 - x + 4 < 0 \text{ za } x \in \left(-\infty, -1\right) \cup \left(\frac{4}{5}, \infty\right)$$

c)  $9x^2 + 12x + 4$

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 a=9 & D=144-144 & x_{1,2} = \frac{-12 \pm 0}{18} \\
 b=12 & D=0 & x_1 = -\frac{12}{18} = -\frac{2}{3} \\
 c=4 & & x_2 = -\frac{2}{3}
 \end{array}$$

$a > 0$  and  $D=0 \rightarrow$  (situation 2)  $9x^2 + 12x + 4 \geq 0$  always,  $(3x+2)^2 \geq 0$

d)  $-x^2 - 6x - 9$

$$\begin{array}{lll} a = -1 & & x_{1,2} = \frac{6 \pm 0}{-2} \\ b = -6 & D = 36 - 36 & x_1 = -3 \\ c = -9 & D = 0 & x_2 = -3 \end{array}$$

$a < 0$  and  $D = 0 \rightarrow -x^2 - 6x - 9 \leq 0$  always,  $\forall x \in R$

This we can see also from transformation:

$$-x^2 - 6x - 9 = -(x^2 + 6x + 9) = -(x + 3)^2 \leq 0$$

**Example 2.** Solve the inequalities:  $(x^2 - 4x - 5) \cdot (x^2 + 2x - 3) < 0$

Solution:

This is a complex form of inequalities, where we can use the template already known:

$$A \cdot B < 0 \Leftrightarrow (A > 0, B < 0) \vee (A < 0, B > 0)$$

**Our recommendation is that such duties deal with the plates!**

First, we both square equations apart on the factors, with  $ax^2 + bx + c = a(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$

$$x^2 - 4x - 5 = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x_1 = -1, \\ x_2 = 5 \end{array} \quad x^2 - 4x - 5 = (x + 1)(x - 5)$$

$$x^2 + 2x - 3 = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x_1 = 1 \\ x_2 = -3 \end{array} \quad x^2 + 2x - 3 = (x - 1)(x + 3)$$

Now look at inequalities:

$$(x + 1)(x - 5)(x - 1)(x + 3) < 0$$

Make table:

	$-\infty$				$\infty$
$x + 1$					
$x - 5$					
$x - 1$					
$x + 3$					
$(x + 1)(x - 5)$					
$(x - 1)(x + 3)$					

So, each of the terms provided in the table, and the last type is "what" we should found.

Top of the line from  $-\infty$  to  $\infty$  we share to 5 intervals.

Above the vertical line we will enter the numbers. Which?

These numbers are solutions of square equations,  $x + 1 = 0$ ;  $x - 5 = 0$ ;  $x - 1 = 0$ ;  $x + 3 = 0$   
 $-1, 5, 1$  and  $-3$   $\longrightarrow$  of the smallest to the largest:  $-3, -1, 1, 5$

	$-\infty$	$-3$	$-1$	$1$	$5$	$\infty$
$x+1$	-					
$x-5$	-					
$x-1$	-					
$x+3$	-					
$(x+1)(x-5)$						
$(x-1)(x+3)$						

We choose any number from each of 5 intervals and replace it in the terms  $x+1$ ,  $x-5$ ,  $x-1$  and  $x+3$ ; do not interest us that the number we got, but only the sign  $+$  or  $-$  who we entered in table.

For example, in the interval  $(-\infty, -3)$  select number  $-10$ , and change in:

$$x+1 = -10+1 = -9 \rightarrow \text{take } - \text{ (included in the table)}$$

$$x-5 = -10-5 = -15 \rightarrow - \text{ enroll in the table}$$

$$x-1 = -10-1 = -11 \rightarrow + \text{ enroll in the table}$$

$$x+3 = -10+3 = -7 \rightarrow - \text{ enroll in the table}$$

Between  $-3$  and  $-1$ , select  $-2$ , etc. ... We have:

	$-\infty$	$-3$	$-1$	$1$	$5$	$\infty$
$x+1$	-	-	+	+	+	+
$x-5$	-	-	-	-	-	+
$x-1$	-	-	-	+	+	+
$x+3$	-	+	+	+	+	+
$(x+1)(x-5)$	+	-	+	-	+	+
$(x-1)(x+3)$						

In this way we resolve the two inequalities:

$$(x^2 - 4x - 5)(x^2 + 2x - 3) < 0$$

$$(x^2 - 4x - 5)(x^2 + 2x - 3) > 0$$

As is our task to solve first,  $(x^2 - 4x - 5)(x^2 + 2x - 3) < 0$ , we elect solution where the minus are:

$$x \in (-3, -1) \cup (1, 5)$$

**Example 3.** Solve the inequalities:  $\frac{x^2 - 3x + 4}{1 - x^2} > 0$

Solution:

$$x^2 - 3x + 4 = 0$$

$$a = 1 \quad D = b^2 - 4ac$$

$$b = -3 \quad D = 9 - 16$$

$$c = 4 \quad D = -7$$

**Watch out:** since  $a > 0$  and  $D < 0$  then  $x^2 - 3x + 4 > 0$  for  $\forall x$

Therefore, must be  $1 - x^2 > 0$

$$1 - x^2 = 0 \quad a = -1 \quad D = 0^2 - 4 \cdot (-1) \cdot 1 \quad x_{1,2} = \frac{0 \pm 2}{-2}$$

$$b = 0 \quad D = 4 \quad x_1 = -1$$

$$c = 1 \quad x_2 = 1$$

$$\frac{-}{-\infty} \quad \frac{+}{-1} \quad \frac{-}{1} \quad \frac{-}{\infty}$$

Conclude:  $x \in (-1, 1)$  is solution!

**Example 4:** Find the value for x, that is  $\frac{-x^2 + 2x - 5}{2x^2 - x - 1} < -1$

Solution:

$$\frac{-x^2 + 2x - 5}{2x^2 - x - 1} + 1 < 0$$

$$\frac{-x^2 + 2x - 5 + 2x^2 - x - 1}{2x^2 - x - 1} < 0$$

$$\frac{x^2 + x - 6}{2x^2 - x - 1} < 0$$

$$x^2 + x - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = 2 \quad \Rightarrow x^2 + x - 6 = (x - 2)(x + 3)$$

$$x_2 = -3$$

$$2x^2 - x - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = 1 \quad \Rightarrow 2x^2 - x - 1 = 2(x - 1)\left(x + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Now, we have: 
$$\frac{(x-2)(x+3)}{2(x-1)\left(x+\frac{1}{2}\right)} < 0$$

	$-\infty$	$-3$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1$	$2$	$\infty$
$x-2$		-	-	-	-	+
$x+3$		-	+	+	+	+
$x-1$		-	-	-	+	+
$x+\frac{1}{2}$		-	-	+	+	+
$\frac{(x-2)(x+3)}{2(x-1)\left(x+\frac{1}{2}\right)} < 0$		+	-	+	-	+

**Solution:**  $x \in \left(-3, \frac{1}{2}\right) \cup (1, 2)$

**Example 5:** We have  $y = (r^2 - 1)x^2 + 2(r - 1)x + 2$ . Determine the real parameter  $r$ , function to be positive for any real  $x$ .

**Solution:**

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

function is positive if:  $a > 0$  and  $D < 0$

$$\begin{aligned} a &= r^2 - 1 \\ \text{So: } b &= 2(r - 1) \\ c &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$-4r^2 - 8r + 12 < 0 / : (-4)$$

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

$$r_{1,2} = \frac{-2 \pm 4}{2}$$

$$r_1 = 1$$

$$r_2 = -3$$

$$a > 0$$

$$r^2 - 1 > 0$$

$$r^2 - 1 = 0$$

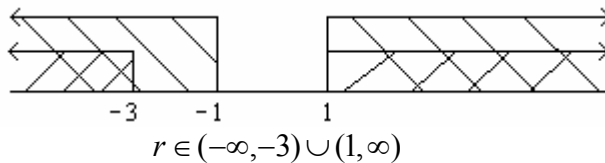
$$r_1 = -1$$

$$r_2 = 1$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & + & & - & & + & \\ -\infty & & -3 & & 1 & & \infty \\ & + & & - & & + & \\ r \in & (-\infty, -3) \cup & & & & & (1, \infty) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & + & & - & & + & \\ -\infty & & -1 & & 1 & & \infty \\ & + & & - & & + & \\ r \in & (-\infty, -1) \cup & & & & & (1, \infty) \end{array}$$

Final solution:



**Example 6. Solve the inequalities**  $rx^2 + 2(r+2)x + 2r + 4 < 0$  **for all real value r.**

**Solution:**

$$rx^2 + 2(r+2)x + 2r + 4 < 0$$

Must be:  $a < 0$  and  $D < 0$

$$a = r$$

$$b = 2(r+2)$$

$$c = 2r + 4$$

$$D = b^2 - 4ac$$

$$D = [2(r+2)]^2 - 4 \cdot r(2r+4)$$

$$D = 4(r+2)^2 - 4r(2r+4)$$

$$D = 4(r^2 + 4r + 4) - 8r^2 - 16r$$

$$D = 4r^2 + 16r + 16 - 8r^2 - 16r$$

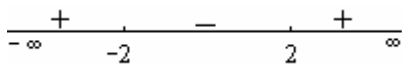
$$D = -4r^2 + 16$$

$$-4r^2 + 16 < 0 / : (-4)$$

$$r^2 - 4 > 0$$

$$r_1 = 2$$

$$r_2 = -2$$



$$r \in (-\infty, -2) \cup (2, \infty) \text{ and } \begin{matrix} a < 0 \\ r < 0 \end{matrix}$$



Final solution:  $r \in (-\infty, -2)$





