



# SOLVING INEQUALITIES

4.3.3

# WHY DO WE NEED INEQUALITIES?

Maria and Violet need to buy toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Walmart sells each roll of toilet paper for \$1.65 and a bottle of hand sanitizer for \$3. Albertsons sells each roll of toilet paper for \$1.78 and a bottle of hand sanitizer for \$2.80.

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Inequalities arise when we wish to know when one quantity is larger or smaller than another in terms of time, cost, rate, or any other attribute that a variable might measure.

# WHAT IS AN INEQUALITY?

An inequality compares two values, showing if one is  $<$  (less than),  $>$  (greater than),  $\leq$  (less than or equal to),  $\geq$  greater than or equal to), or simply  $\neq$  (not equal) to another value.

In other words, for any numbers  $a$  and  $b$ , either  $a = b$  or  $a \neq b$ . If  $a \neq b$  then there are two possibilities:

1.  $a < b$

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$$x \geq 8 - 5$$

$$x \geq 3$$

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One rule to remember!! If you multiply or divide by a negative number, you need to flip the inequality.

Ex 1:  $x + 5 \geq 8$   
 $x \geq 8 - 5$   
 $x \geq 3$

Ex 2:  $-x + 5 \geq 8$   
 $-x \geq 8 - 5$   
 $x \leq -3$

# SETTING UP INEQUALITIES

Maria and Violet need to buy toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Walmart sells each roll of toilet paper for \$1.65 and a bottle of hand sanitizer for \$3. Albertsons sells each roll of toilet paper for \$1.78 and a bottle of hand sanitizer for \$2.80.



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If we let  $W(t)$  be the cost of  $t$  toilet paper rolls with Walmart and if we let  $A(t)$  be the cost of  $t$  toilet paper rolls with Albertsons, which choice reflects the correct equations?

# SETTING UP INEQUALITIES

Walmart : 1 toilet paper roll 1.65, 1 bottle hand sanitizer \$3.00

Albertsons: 1 toilet paper roll \$1.78 and a bottle of hand sanitizer for \$2.80

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1. Walmart :  $W(t) = 3t + 1.65$  , Albertsons :  $A(t) = 2.80t + 1.78$

2. Walmart :  $W(t) = 3 + 1.65t$  , Albertsons :  $A(t) = 2.80 + 1.78t$

# SETTING UP AN INEQUALITY

Set up an inequality to be solved to determine the amount where Walmart is preferred over Albertsons.

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1.  $\text{Walmart} < \text{Albertsons}$
2.  $\text{Albertsons} < \text{Walmart}$
3.  $\text{Walmart} \neq \text{Albertsons}$
4. I have no idea

# LET'S PUT IT ALL TOGETHER AND SOLVE IT

What do we know?

- Equations:  $W(t) = 3 + 1.65t$  ,  $A(t) = 2.80 + 1.75t$
- Inequality: Walmart  $<$  Albertsons

# LET'S PUT IT ALL TOGETHER AND SOLVE IT

What do we know?

- Equations:  $W(t) = 3 + 1.65t$  ,  $A(t) = 2.80 + 1.75t$
- Inequality: Walmart < Albertsons

Our Inequality is

$$3 + 1.65t < 2.80 + 1.75t$$

# SOLVING AN INEQUALITY

$$3 + 1.65t < 2.80 + 1.75t$$

$t$  ?



# SOLVING AN INEQUALITY

The solution to our inequality was  $t > 2$ , but what does that mean?

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The solution to our inequality was  $t > 2$ , but what does that mean?

1. If more than 2 toilet papers are bought, then Walmart would cost less than Albertsons.
2. If more than 2 toilet papers are bought, then Albertsons would cost less than Walmart.

**NO PRESSURE**

**BUT IT'S YOUR TURN**

makeameme.org

Company A  
\$15 per month  
21 cents per minutes

Company B  
\$20 per month  
18 center per minute

### Steps to solving an inequality

Step 1: Set up equations

Step 2: Set up Inequality

Step 3: Solve for your variable

Step 4: Interpret your solution

# THEOREM 4.11 - $f(x) < g(x)$

For any continuous real functions  $f$  and  $g$ , with domain  $D$ :

a. If  $h$  is strictly increasing on the intersection of  $f(D)$  and  $g(D)$ , then

$$f(x) < g(x) \Leftrightarrow h(f(x)) < h(g(x)).$$

b. If  $h$  is strictly decreasing on the intersection of  $f(D)$  and  $g(D)$ , then

$$f(x) > g(x) \Leftrightarrow h(f(x)) > h(g(x)).$$

# EXAMPLE OF THEOREM 4.11

Consider the inequality  $f(x) > g(x)$ , where the functions  $f$  and  $g$  and with  $f(x) = a^x$  and  $g(x) = b^x$ . Let  $h(x) = \log x$ . Now  $h$  is increasing, therefore,

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If we substitute our values of  $f(x)$ ,  $g(x)$ , and  $h(x)$ , what do we end up with?



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$$f(x) > g(x) \Leftrightarrow h(f(x)) > h(g(x))$$

We get

$$a^x > b^x \Leftrightarrow \log a^x > \log b^x$$

Use a power log on the right-hand side, and what do we get?



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Consider the inequality  $f(x) > g(x)$ , where the functions  $f$  and  $g$  and with  $f(x) = a^x$  and  $g(x) = b^x$ . Let  $h(x) = \log x$ . Now  $h$  is increasing, therefore,

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We get:

$$a^x > b^x \Leftrightarrow x \log a > x \log b$$

# EXAMPLE OF THEOREM 4.11

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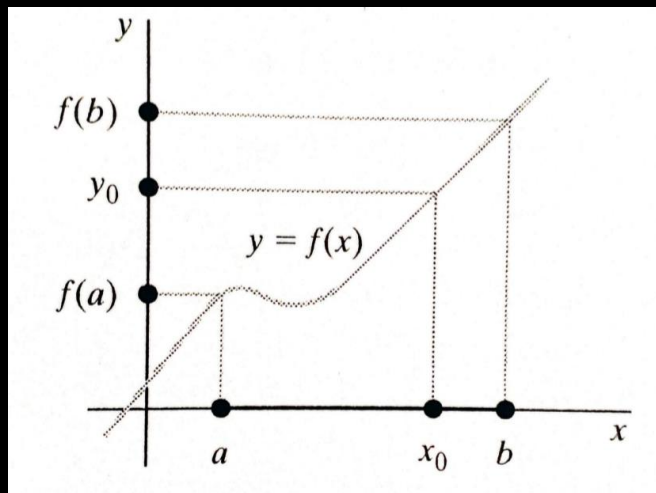
Remembering our rule, if  $x > 0$ , we can divide by  $x$  without changing the inequality. On the other hand, if  $x < 0$ , the division by  $x$  will flip the inequality.


Therefore, when  $a^x > b^x$ , then  $a > b$  if  $x$  is positive, and  $a < b$  if  $x$  is negative.

# INTERMEDIATE VALUE THEOREM

Suppose  $f$  is a continuous function on the interval  $[a, b]$ .

Then for every real number between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ , there is at least one real number  $x_0$  between  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $f(x_0) = y_0$ .






SOLVE  $\frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$

Step 1: Find the zeros of  $f$

$$f(x) = \frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6}$$



SOLVE  $\frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$

Step 1: Find the zeros of  $f$

$$f(x) = \frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6}$$

$$x + 1 = 0$$


$$x = ?$$

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

$$x = ?$$

$$5x + 6 = 0$$

$$x = ?$$


$$\text{SOLVE } \frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$$

Step 1: Find the zeros of  $f$

$$f(x) = \frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6}$$

$$x + 1 = 0$$

$$x = -1$$

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

$$x = 3$$

$$5x + 6 = 0$$

$$x = 1.2$$

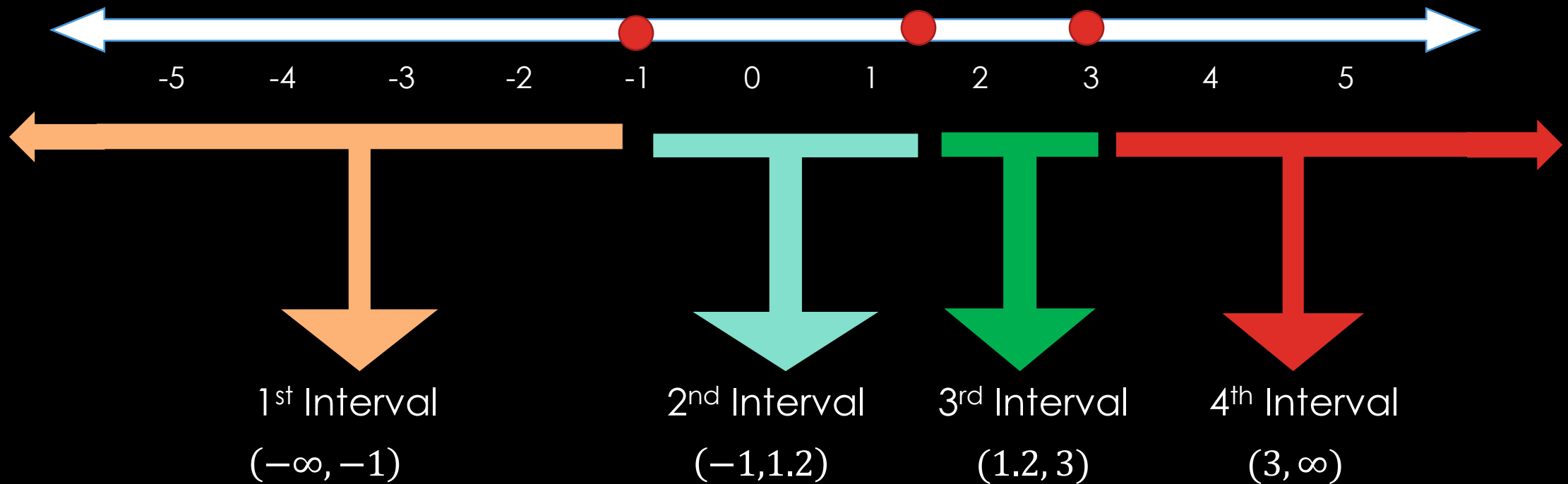
SOLVE  $\frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$

Step 2: Find your intervals



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# SOLVE $\frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$

Step 3: Find a representative value of  $f$  for  $x$  in each interval



Interval  $(-\infty, -1)$  :

We let  $x = -2$

$$f(-2) = \frac{-1(-5)^2}{-16} = \frac{25}{16} > 0$$

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Interval  $(-\infty, -1)$  :      We let  $x = -2$        $f(-2) = \frac{-1(-5)^2}{-16} = \frac{25}{16} > 0$       **TRUE**

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Interval $(-\infty, -1)$ :	We let $x = -2$	$f(-2) = \frac{-1(-5)^2}{-16} = \frac{25}{16} > 0$	<b>TRUE</b>
Interval $(-1, 1.2)$ :	We let $x = 0$	$f(0) = \frac{1(-3)^2}{-6} = -1.5 > 0$	<b>FALSE</b>
Interval $(1.2, 3)$ :	We let $x = 2$	$f(2) = \frac{3(-1)^2}{4} = \frac{3}{4} > 0$	<b>TRUE</b>
Interval $(3, \infty)$ :	We let $x = 5$	$f(5) = \frac{6(2)^2}{19} = \frac{24}{19} > 0$	<b>TRUE</b>

# SOLVE $\frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$

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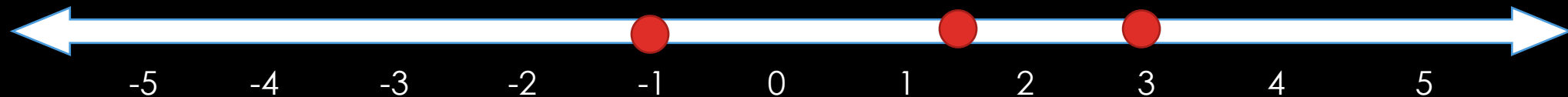
Thus, the solution set to  $\frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$  is  $(-\infty, -1) \cup (1.2, 3) \cup (3, \infty)$

SOLVE  $\frac{(x+1)(x-3)^2}{5x+6} > 0$

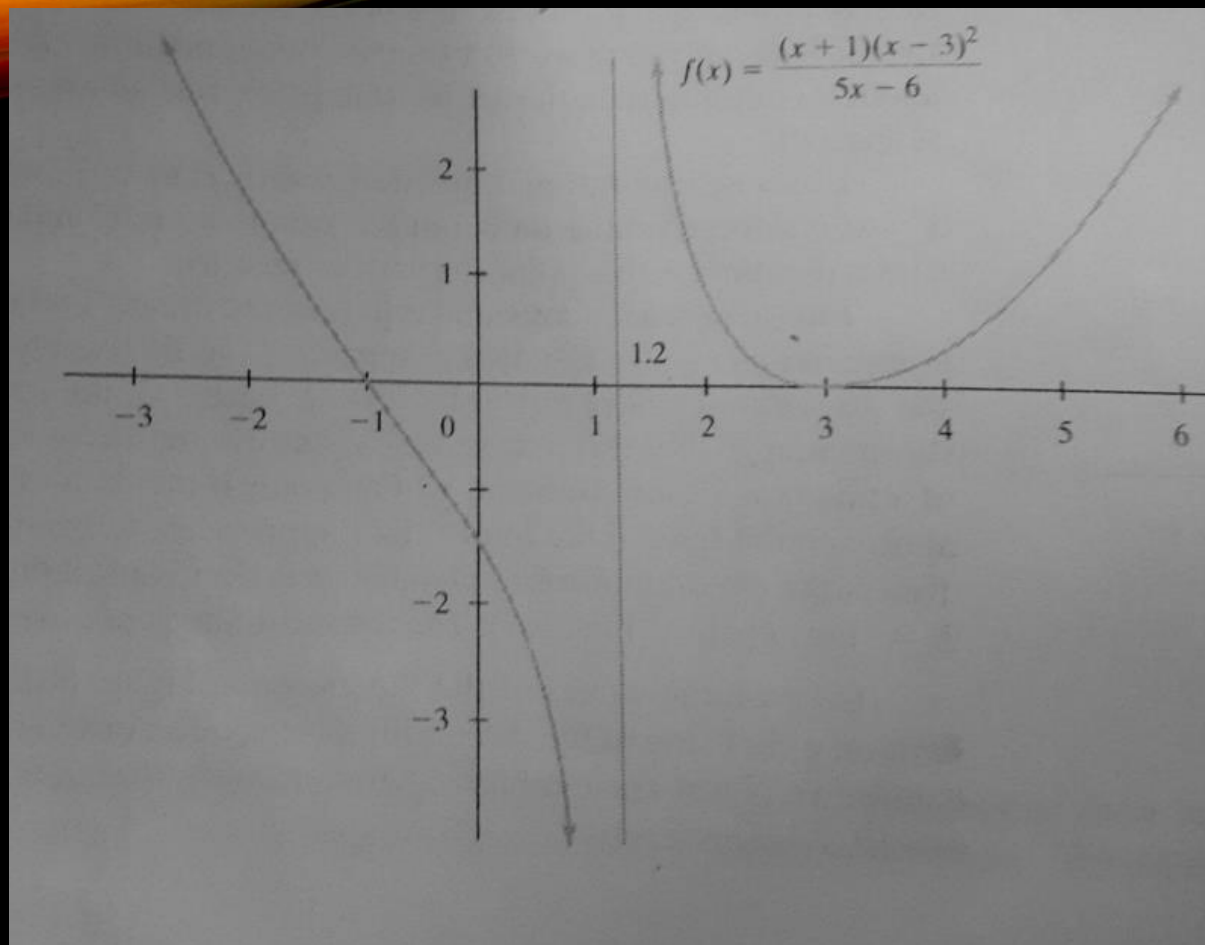
Intermediate Value Theorem:

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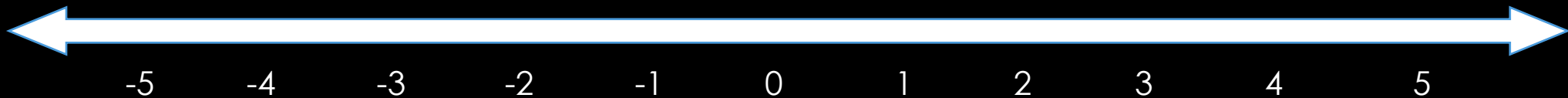
# INTERMEDIATE VALUE THEOREM

Step 1: Find your zeros

$$f(x) = \left[ \frac{x^2 + 10x + 25}{x - 5} \right] - 6$$

$$\text{SOLVE } \frac{x^2 + 10x + 25}{x - 5} > 6$$

Step 2: Find your intervals



Step 3: Find a representative of  $f$  for  $x$  in each interval

Interval

Let  $x = ?$

$$f( ) = \left[ \frac{( )^2 + 10( ) + 25}{( ) - 5} \right] - 6$$