

# Inequalities and quadratics

John T. Baldwin

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# Class outline

Inequalities  
and quadratics

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Solving  
Inequalities

Solving  
Quadratic  
Equations

- 1 Solving inequalities
  - 1 Writing solutions
  - 2 Inequalities in one variable
  - 3 Inequalities in two variables
- 2 Solving quadratics
  - 1 What is a solution
  - 2 equations from geometry
  - 3 functions from physics
  - 4 Where do higher degree polynomials come from?
  - 5 Solving quadratic equations

# And versus Or

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Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are two statements.

When is  $A$  and  $B$  true?

When is  $A$  or  $B$  true?

# And versus Or

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Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are two statements.

When is  $A$  and  $B$  true?

When is  $A$  or  $B$  true?

$A$  and  $B$  is true exactly when both are true.

$A$  or  $B$  is true exactly when at least one of them is true.  
inclusive or.

# Solutions of Absolute Value Inequalities

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$|x| < a$  means  
 $x < a$  AND  $x > -a$ .

# Solutions of Absolute Value Inequalities

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$|x| < a$  means  
 $x < a$  AND  $x > -a$ .

$|x| > a$  means  
 $x > a$  OR  $x < -a$ .

# Homework Problem

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$$|3 - 4x| > 8$$

Everyone could draw the solution on the number line. What is the correct way to describe the solution algebraically?

# Graphical Methods: Example

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Example of the split point method: To solve  $|3x - 2| < 7$  by the split point method, graph the two functions  $y = |3x - 2|$  and  $y = 7$ . The solution is the set of numbers on the real line such the value of the first function is less than the value of the second.

The real axis is divided into a finite number of intervals by those  $x$  where the lines cross. These are called **split points**.

(In this example the intervals are  $(-\infty, -\frac{5}{3})$ ,  $(-\frac{5}{3}, 3)$ , and  $(3, \infty)$ . The middle one is where the inequality holds.)



# Graphical Methods: General case

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Let  $f$  and  $g$  be polynomials.

To solve:  $f(x) < g(x)$ .

Graph the two functions. They will cross at finitely many points  $a_i$  where  $f(a_i) = g(a_i)$ .

These are the split points. The solutions are the intervals determined by these split points where the inequality holds.

# Two kinds of problems

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1. inequalities in **one** variable. The solution is a union of intervals in the real line – a set of numbers.
2. inequalities in **two** variable. The solution is a set of points in the plane. The solution will be a shaded set of point in the plane.

# Homework reprise

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$$\begin{aligned}y &< 3x + 6 \\ -3x &> y - 6 \\ y &< x^2\end{aligned}$$

Shade the region in the plane that satisfies these inequalities.  
What are the exact boundary points of the region?

# Homework reprise: continued

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We must solve the two quadratic equations:

$$x^2 = 3x + 6$$

$$x^2 = -3x + 6$$

# Equations, Lines, Solutions

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Consider the problem:  $y = x^2 + 2x + 4$ .  
What do we know about it?

# Equations, Lines, Solutions

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Consider the problem:  $y = x^2 + 2x + 4$ .

What do we know about it?

What is the difference between an equation and a line.

# Equations, Lines, Solutions

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Consider the problem:  $y = x^2 + 2x + 4$ .

What do we know about it?

What is the difference between an equation and a line.

$$y = 2x + 4$$

is an equation.

The set of points

$$\{(a, 2a + 4) : a \in \mathfrak{R}\}$$

is a line.

$3y = 6x + 12$  is another equation satisfied by the same line.

# Understanding 'solution'

Inequalities  
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The diagonal of a rectangle measures  $\sqrt{205}$  inches.  
What are the possible dimensions of the rectangle?



# Understanding 'solution'

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The diagonal of a rectangle measures  $\sqrt{205}$  inches.

What are the possible dimensions of the rectangle?

What if I demand that the length and width of the rectangle are integers?

How many solutions are there?

# Specific question

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The diagonal of a rectangle measures  $\sqrt{205}$  inches. The area of the rectangle is 42 square inches.

What are the length and width of the rectangle?

# Solving quadratics

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What is a solution of a quadratic equation?

E.g. of

$$3x^2 + 6x + 3 = 0.$$

# Solving quadratics

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1. geometric answer: places where the parabola intersects the  $x$ -axis

# Solving quadratics

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What is a solution of a quadratic equation?

E.g. of

$$3x^2 + 6x + 3 = 0.$$

1. geometric answer: places where the parabola intersects the  $x$ -axis
2. algebraic answer: Those numbers  $a$  such that

$$3a^2 + 6a + 3 = 0.$$

# Solving quadratics

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What is a solution of a quadratic equation?

E.g. of

$$3x^2 + 6x + 3 = 0.$$

1. geometric answer: places where the parabola intersects the  $x$ -axis
2. algebraic answer: Those numbers  $a$  such that

$$3a^2 + 6a + 3 = 0.$$

3. combining: The points  $(a, 0)$  from 2.

# Methods of Solving Quadratic equations

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- 1 factoring (for contrived problems)
- 2 completing the square (general method)
- 3 the quadratic formula (plug and chug)

# Clock arithmetic

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Definition. For  $a, b$  with  $0 \leq a, b < 12$  define  $a \diamond b$  is the remainder when  $a \times b$  is divided by 12.

Examples:

$$2 \diamond 3 = ?$$

$$3 \diamond 5 = ?$$

$$10 \diamond 11 = ?$$

$$6 \diamond 4 = ?$$



# Zero Product Property

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CME page 641 number 1:

What is the Zero Product Property?

If the product of two (real) numbers is 0, one of them must be 0.

# Zero Product Property

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CME page 641 number 1:

What is the Zero Product Property?

If the product of two (real) numbers is 0, one of them must be 0.

On page 603, it says if and only if. Why?

# Factoring

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Write out carefully a solution to the equation

$$x^2 + 3x + 2 = 0.$$

Justify your steps.

# Solution

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If  $x^2 + 3x + 2 = 0$  then by the distributive law  
 $(x + 1)(x + 2) = 0$ .

# Solution

Inequalities  
and quadratics

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If  $x^2 + 3x + 2 = 0$  then by the distributive law  
 $(x + 1)(x + 2) = 0$ .

By ZPP,  $x + 1 = 0$  or  $x + 2 = 0$ .

# Solution

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If  $x^2 + 3x + 2 = 0$  then by the distributive law  
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So  $x = -1$  or  $x = -2$ .

# Solution

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If  $x^2 + 3x + 2 = 0$  then by the distributive law  
 $(x + 1)(x + 2) = 0$ .

By ZPP,  $x + 1 = 0$  or  $x + 2 = 0$ .

So  $x = -1$  or  $x = -2$ .

(In fact, each step is reversible so these are the solutions.)

# Literal Solutions

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## Theorem (CME 4.6, page 377)

*Given the system*

$$ax + by = e$$

$$cx + dy = f$$

*the unique solution is*

$$(x, y) = \left( \frac{de - bf}{ad - bc}, \frac{ae - cf}{ad - bc} \right)$$

*$ad - bc \neq 0$ . (If  $ad - bc = 0$  the two lines are parallel.)*

Work on proving this.



# Proof of formula

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Multiply first equation by  $c$  and second equation by  $a$  to get:

$$cax + cby = ce$$

$$acx + ady = af$$

# Proof of formula

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Multiply first equation by  $c$  and second equation by  $a$  to get:

$$cax + cby = ce$$

$$acx + ady = af$$

Subtract the first equation from the second.

$$(ad - bc)y = af - ce$$

Dividing by  $(ad - bc)$ , we get the value for  $y$ .

Homework: Continue to compute the value for  $x$ .

# The quadratic formula I

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What are the solutions of the quadratic equation

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0?$$

# The quadratic formula II

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

$$ax^2 + bx = -c$$

$$x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x = \frac{-c}{a}$$

$$x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{b^2}{4a^2} = \frac{-c}{a} + \frac{b^2}{4a^2}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 = \frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right) = \pm\sqrt{\left(\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}\right)}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right) = \frac{\pm\sqrt{(b^2 - 4ac)}}{2a}$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{(b^2 - 4ac)}}{2a}$$