

Lecture 1

MATH 0200

Inequalities

Sets

Intervals

Absolute
value

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Inequalities, sets and absolute value

MATH 0200

Dr. Boris Tselikhovskiy

Outline

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1 Inequalities

2 Sets

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Let a and b be two numbers. We will consider the following relations between them:

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Let a and b be two numbers. We will consider the following relations between them:

- $a < b, a \leq b$ (read ' a is less than b ' and ' a is less than or equal to b ');

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Properties

- Transitivity: $a \leq b \leq c$ implies $a \leq c$;

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- Multiplication by a constant:
 - if $a \leq b$ and $c > 0$, then $ac \leq bc$;

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- Addition of inequalities: if $a \leq b$ and $c \leq d$, then $a + c \leq b + d$.

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- Addition of inequalities: if $a \leq b$ and $c \leq d$, then $a + c \leq b + d$.
- If $a > b > 0$, then $\frac{1}{b} > \frac{1}{a}$.

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Definition

A **set** is a collection of objects, satisfying specified properties: $\mathcal{S} = \{\text{objects} \mid \text{properties}\}$.

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Example

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- $A = \{\text{animals in Pitt Zoo}\}$
- $B = \{\text{students at Pitt} \mid \text{student knows sets}\}$

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- $X = \{\text{dog}, \text{panda}\}$ is a set which consists of two
elements, a panda  and a dog .

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A very important class of sets is given by intervals. There are three types of intervals.

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(1) Open interval: $(a, b) = \{c \mid a < c < b\}$.

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A very important class of sets is given by intervals. There are three types of intervals.

- (1) Open interval: $(a, b) = \{c \mid a < c < b\}$.
- (2) Half-open intervals: $[a, b) = \{c \mid a \leq c < b\}$ and $(a, b] = \{c \mid a < c \leq b\}$.

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- (2) Half-open intervals: $[a, b) = \{c \mid a \leq c < b\}$ and $(a, b] = \{c \mid a < c \leq b\}$.
- (3) Closed interval: $[a, b] = \{c \mid a \leq c \leq b\}$.

Operations on sets

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- Union: $A \cup B$ is the set of elements that belong to at least one of the sets A, B .

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Example

Let $A = (-1, 4)$ and $B = [-5, 2]$ be two intervals. Then the union $A \cup B$ is the half-open interval $[-5, 4)$ and the intersection $A \cap B$ is the half-open interval $(-1, 2]$.

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Question

Let $X = \{1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11\}$ and $Y = \{2, 4, 7, 9\}$ be two sets.
What are the union $X \cup Y$ and intersection $X \cap Y$?

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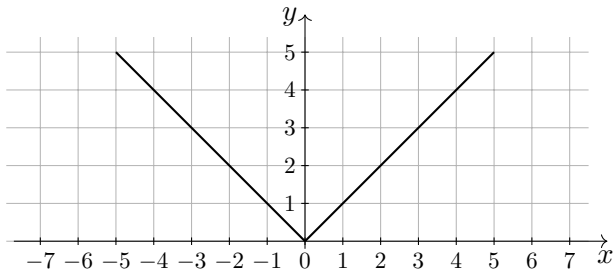
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The inequality is equivalent to $x - 3 \geq 4$ or $x - 3 \leq -4$, which in turn gives the union $x \geq 7 \cup x \leq -1$, in the interval notation, $(-\infty, -1] \cup [7, \infty)$.

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