

Inequalities

1 Solving inequalities

We can build upon our previous algebraic skills in order to solve more complex inequalities

Remember:

- Don't multiply anything that could be negative - use "squared" things
- Find the critical values ($f(x)=0$)
- Sketch the graph to solve

1.1 Examples

1.1.1 Example 1

$$2x^2 < x + 3$$

Move all terms to one side

$$2x^2 - x - 3 < 0$$

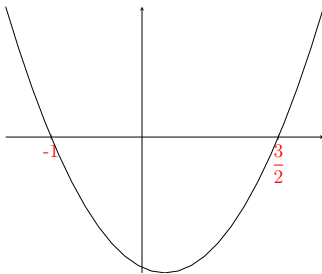
Factorise

$$(2x - 3)(x + 1) < 0$$

Solve to find critical values

$$\text{CVs: } x = \frac{3}{2}, -1$$

Draw graph to find inequality



Write inequality for when the graph is below the x axis

$$-1 < x < \frac{3}{2}$$

1.1.2 Example 2

$$\frac{x}{x+1} < \frac{2}{x+2}$$

Multiply both sides by $(x+1)^2(x+3)^2$

$$x(x+1)(x+3)^2 < 2(x+3)(x+1)^2$$

Put all terms on one side

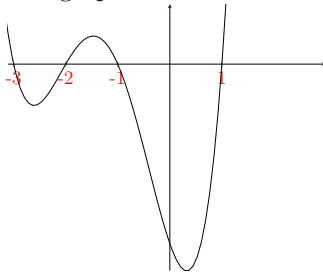
$$x(x+1)(x+3)^2 - 2(x+3)(x+1)^2 < 0$$

Simplify

$$(x+1)(x+3)(x(x+3) - 2(x+1)) < 0$$

$$(x+1)(x+3)(x+2)(x-1) < 0$$

Plot graph



Write the inequality for when the graph is below the x axis

$$-3 < x < -2, \quad -1 < x < 1$$

2 Modulus inequalities

When doing inequalities using modulus signs, they can be solved by squaring each side and rearranging, but this will often result in difficult to solve equations.

It is often easier to find critical values by removing the modulus signs and setting them equal to each other to find one set, then , multiply one side by -1 to find the other set.