Solving Polynomial Inequalities

Using the Graph

where does the function have positive "y" values

A polynomial inequality, $x^3 + x^2 - 9x - 9 > 0$, can be solved by examining the graph of the corresponding polynomial function, $y = (x^3 + x^2)(-9x - 9)$

- Roots: $y = 0$

$y = x^2(x+1) - 9(x+1)$

$y = (x+1)(x^2 - 9)$

$y = (x+1)(x+3)(x-3)$

$\boxed{x = -3, -1, 3}$

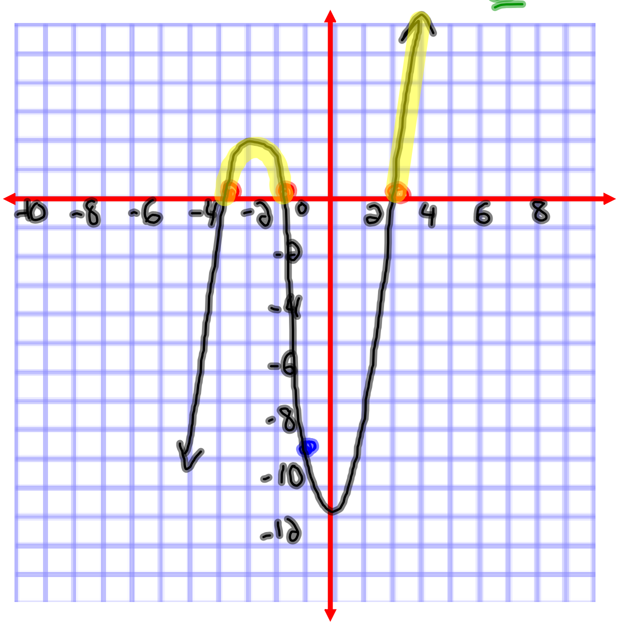
- y intercept $(x=0)$

$y = x^3 + x^2 - 9x - 9$

$y = (0)^3 + (0)^2 - 9(0) - 9$

$\boxed{y = -9}$

- Degree → 3^{rd}
- Stretch Factor: $a = 1$



$\boxed{-3 < x < -1 \text{ and } x > 3}$

$x \in (-3, -1)$ $\quad$ $x \in (3, \infty)$

$\boxed{x \in (-3, -1) \cup (3, \infty)}$

Interval Notation

The statement $-2 < x < 3$ can be written as $x \in (-2, 3)$; that is x belongs to the interval $(-2, 3)$. The round brackets mean that x is not equal to -2 *or* 3.

The statement $-4 \leq x \leq 2$ can be written as $x \in [-4, 2]$. The square brackets mean that x may be equal to -4 *or* 2.

Explain the meaning of the following interval notations.

$x \in (-\infty, 2)$	$-\infty < x < 2$	$x<2$
$x \in (-\infty, 2]$	$-\infty < x \leq 2$	$x\leq 2$
$x \in (3, \infty)$	$3 < x < \infty$	$x>3$
$x \in [3, \infty)$	$3 \leq x < \infty$	$x\geq 3$

Note: Infinity cannot be inclusive

Solving Polynomial Inequalities

Using the Number Line

Example: $x^3 + x^2 > 6x$

Step 1: State the Roots of the function

Step 2: Draw a number line and mark the roots of the equation. These roots separate the rest of the number line into three intervals.

$x \in (-\infty, \text{small } x\text{-int})$

$x \in (\text{small } x\text{-int}, \text{large } x\text{-int})$

$x \in (\text{large } x\text{-int}, \infty)$

Step 3: The value of the expression $x^3 + x^2 - 6x$ has the same sign throughout each interval in step 2 **because a function can only change signs at a root.** Therefore, choose a *test value of x* in each interval and evaluate the expression. Write a *plus or a minus* over that interval on the number line to indicate whether the expression is positive or negative.

Step 4: State the intervals for which $x^3 + x^2 - 6x > 0$

Using the Number Line

Example: $x^3 + x^2 > 6x$

$$\boxed{x^3 + x^2 - 6x > 0}$$

"+" y values

Step 1: State the Roots of the function

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

$y = x(x^2 + x - 6)$

$y = x(x+3)(x-2)$

Roots:

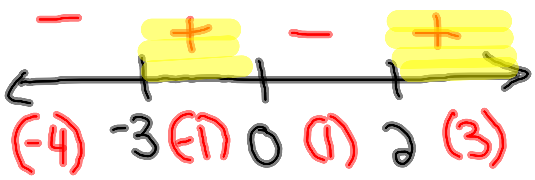
$\boxed{x = -3, 0, 2}$

Step 2: Draw a number line and mark the roots of the equation. These roots separate the rest of the number line into three intervals.

$x \in (-\infty, \textit{small x-int})$

$x \in (\textit{small x-int}, \textit{large x-int})$

$x \in (\textit{large x-int}, \infty)$



Step 3: The value of the expression $x^3 + x^2 - 6x$ has the same sign throughout each interval in step 2 **because a function can only change signs at a root.** Therefore, choose a *test value of* x in each interval and evaluate the expression. Write a *plus or a minus* over that interval on the number line to indicate whether the expression is positive or negative.

$x = -4$

$y = x(x+3)(x-2)$

$y = (-4)(-1)(-6)$

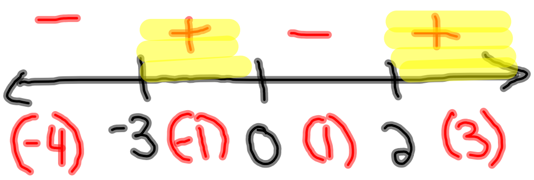
$y = -24$

$x = -1$

$y = (-)(+)(-)$

$y = +$

Step 4: State the intervals for which $x^3 + x^2 - 6x > 0$



$x \in (-3, 0) \cup (2, \infty)$

Homework

④ c) $2x^2 \geq 9x - 9$

$2x^2 - 9x + 9 \boxed{\geq} 0$ ← y values are greater than or equal to 0

$y = 2x^2 - 9x + 9$ ← Trinomial Decomp.

$\underline{-6} \times \underline{-3} = 18$

$\underline{-6} + \underline{-3} = -9$

$y = (2x^2 - 6x)(-3x + 9)$

$y = 2x(x-3) - 3(x-3)$

$y = (2x-3)(x-3)$

① Roots: $2x - 3 = 0$ | $x - 3 = 0$

$2x = 3$ | $x = 3$

$x = 3/2$

②/③ $+ \quad - \quad +$

$\longleftarrow \; (0) \; \frac{3}{2} \; (2) \; 3 \; (4) \; \longrightarrow$

④ $x \in (-\infty, 3/2] \cup [3, \infty)$

7 b) $x^3-4x^2-x+4<0$

y values are negative

$y=(x^3-4x^2)(-x+4)$

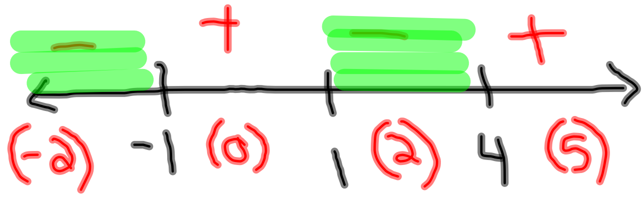
$y=x^2(x-4)-1(x-4)$

$y=(x^2-1)(x-4)$

$y=(x+1)(x-1)(x-4)$

1 Roots: $x=-1,1,4$

2/3



4 $x \in (-\infty,-1) \cup (1,4)$