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UNIT 6: Inequalities

Specific Objectives:

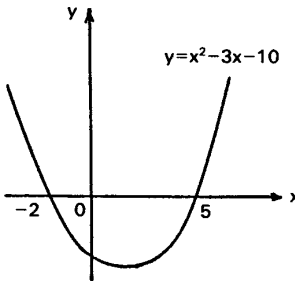
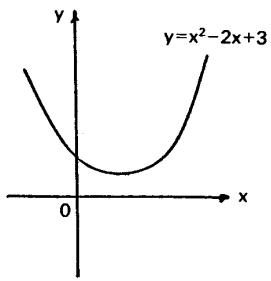
1. To understand the basic rules of inequalities.
2. To solve linear inequalities in one variable.
3. To solve quadratic inequalities in one variable.

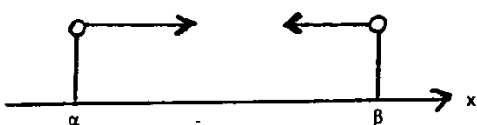


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| 6.1 Basic Rules of Inequalities | 1* | <p>Teachers should emphasize that if $a-b$ is a positive number then $a>b$, and vice versa. With this fact, the following basic rules can be derived. For real numbers a, b, c:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) If $a>b$, and $b>c$, then $a>c$. (2) If $a>b$, then $a+c>b+c$ (3) If $a>b$, then <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $ac>bc$ for $c>0$. (b) $ac<bc$ for $c<0$. (c) $ac=bc$ for $c=0$. <p>Simple proofs of inequalities by using the basic rules should be introduced.</p> |
| 6.2 Linear Inequalities in one Variable | 4 1*+1 | <p>Students should be reminded that the method of solving linear inequalities resembles that of solving linear equations. The only difference is that when an inequality is multiplied or divided by a negative number, then the inequality sign has to be reversed.</p> |

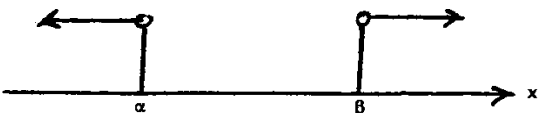
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6.3 Quadratic Inequalities in One Variable

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| | | <p>It is a good practice for students to sketch the diagrams of the solutions. It is particularly helpful in solving compound inequalities where individual solutions are sketched on the same number line. The following two examples are typical.</p> <p><i>Example 1</i> Solve the compound inequalities: $7x-3 < 5x+1$ and $\frac{x}{2} < x + \frac{1}{2}$</p> <p><i>Example 2</i> Solve the compound inequalities: $\frac{2(x+1)}{5} < \frac{3(1-x)}{7}$ or $2 - \frac{4-5x}{4} < \frac{7x+1}{8}$</p> |
| | 4*+2 1*+3 | <p>There are several methods in solving quadratic inequalities such as graphical methods, factorization and tabulation.</p> <p>The graphical solutions of quadratic equations have been learnt in lower forms. Graphs may be used to solve quadratic inequalities. For example:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>$y = x^2 - 3x - 10$</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>$y = x^2 - 2x + 3$</p> </div> </div> |

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| | | <p>From the graphs, it is obvious that the solution of:</p> <p>$x^2 - 3x - 10 > 0$ is $x < -2$ or $x > 5$, $x^2 - 3x - 10 \leq 0$ is $-2 \leq x \leq 5$,</p> <p>$x^2 - 2x + 3 > 0$ is all real values of x, and that $x^2 - 2x + 3 < 0$ has no real solution.</p> <p>The method of solving quadratic inequalities is similar to that of solving quadratic equations. The terms are rearranged to make the right hand side zero, then the quadratic expression on the left hand side may be factorized (if possible).</p> <p>The inequality can then be solved by using the fact that</p> <p>(1) If $ab > 0$, then $\begin{cases} a > 0 \\ b > 0 \end{cases}$ or $\begin{cases} a < 0 \\ b < 0 \end{cases}$</p> <p>(2) If $ab < 0$, then $\begin{cases} a > 0 \\ b < 0 \end{cases}$ or $\begin{cases} a < 0 \\ b > 0 \end{cases}$</p> <p>It would be very helpful to memorize the following two results in which $\alpha < \beta$.</p> <p>(1) For $(x-\alpha)(x-\beta) < 0$, the solution is $\alpha < x < \beta$ and its graph is</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> |

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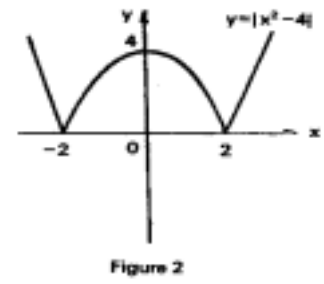
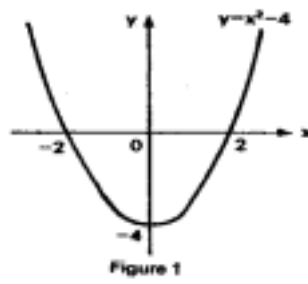
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| | | <p>(2) For $(x-\alpha)(x-\beta)>0$, the solution is $x<\alpha$ or $x>\beta$ and its graph is:</p>  <p>Students should be given due amount of practice in order to master the skill. When the quadratic expression cannot be factorized, teachers should remind students to convert it into the form $(x+c)^2+d>0$ or $(x-\frac{-b+\sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a})$ $(x-\frac{-b-\sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a})>0$ and etc. In employing the method of tabulation for solving $(x-\alpha)(x-\beta)>0$ etc, students are advised to construct a table and determine the sign of $(x-\alpha)(x-\beta)$ for $x<\alpha$, $\alpha<x<\beta$ and $x>\beta$ respectively.</p> <p>The following examples could be introduced.</p> <p><i>Example 1</i> Solve the inequality $3x^2>7x-1$</p> <p><i>Example 2</i> Prove that for real values of x, the function $y = \frac{x-1}{x^2+3}$ must lie in the range $-\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{6}$.</p> |

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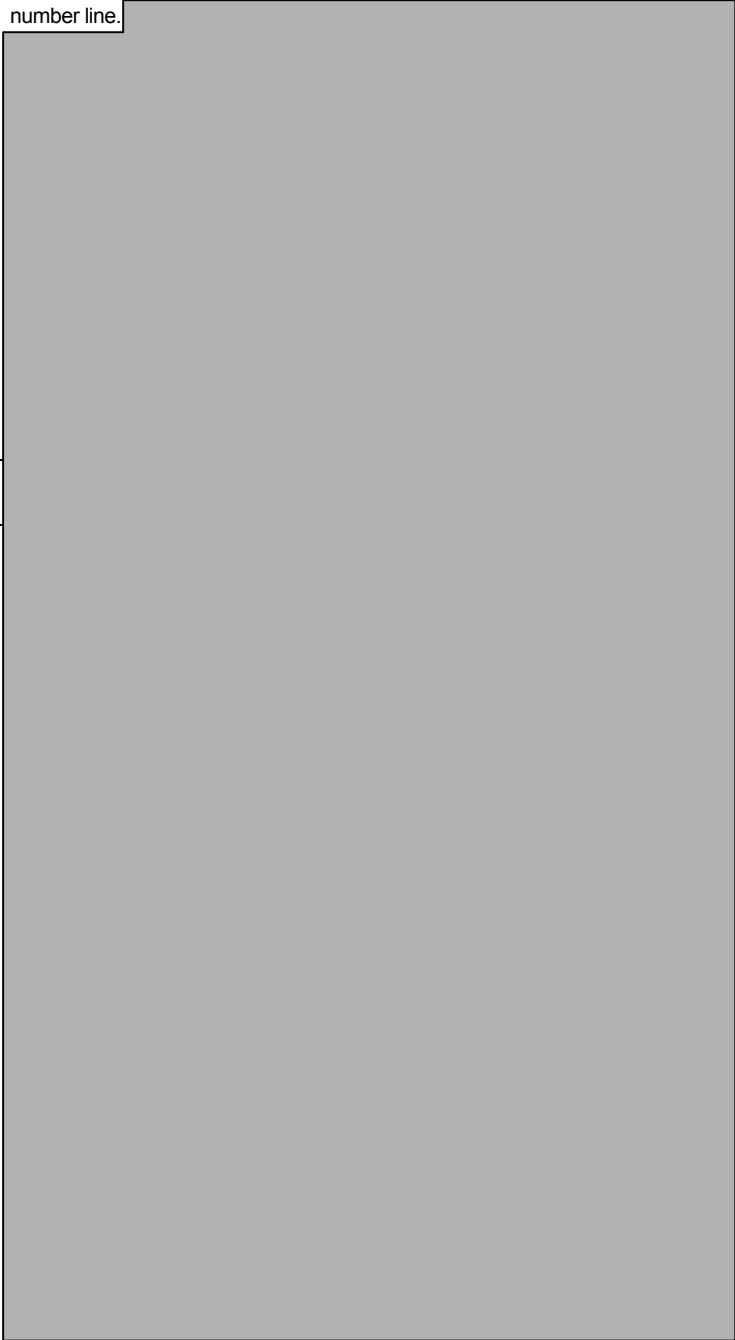
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| <p>6.5 Absolute values</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>It is more appropriate to introduce the topic "Absolute values" in Unit 3 (Quadratic Equations and Quadratic Functions).</p> </div> | 1 | <p>The definition $x = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$ should be clearly stated.</p> <p>The graph of $y= x$ should be introduced.</p> <p>To sketch graphs of simple functions involving absolute values, students should be reminded to remove at first the absolute value sign. For example, after removing the absolute value sign from $y= x^2-4$, the graph obtained will be that shown in figure 1. Since y is always non-negative in $y= x^2-4$, the required graph should be that as shown in figure 2.</p> |

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It would be helpful for students to treat $|x|$ as the distance of x from zero on the number line. In this way, $|x-y|$ represents the distance between the two points x, y on the number line.



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