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# POLITECNICO DI TORINO

## BRIDGING COURSE IN MATHEMATICS

### SHEET 3

## RATIONAL AND IRRATIONAL EQUALITIES AND INEQUALITIES

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## 1 EQUATIONS

Determining *the zero set* of a function  $f$ , that is, finding the elements  $x$  of the domain where  $f$  becomes zero, means finding the solutions to the equation  $f(x) = 0$  in the variable  $x$ .

Determining the *level sets*, the elements in the domain where the map assumes a given value  $k$ , means solving the equation  $f(x) = k$ , ie  $f(x) - k = 0$ .

More generally, the problem is of the following kind: given two maps  $f$ ,  $g$ , determine the elements  $x$  such that  $f(x) = g(x)$ , or  $f(x) - g(x) = 0$ .

**Definition 1.1** *Two equations are called **equivalent** if every solution to the former is a solution to the latter, and conversely, if every solution to the latter also solves the former.*

An equation transforms into an equivalent one by:

- adding or subtracting to both sides the same function defined over  $\mathbb{R}$ ;
- multiplying or dividing both sides by the same function defined over  $\mathbb{R}$  and non-zero.

Warning: if we add a function  $h(x)$  that is not defined everywhere on  $\mathbb{R}$ , the new equation might no longer be equivalent to the original one. Analogous problems may arise with the multiplication.

For example: the equation  $x^2 = 4$  has two solutions  $x = 2$  and  $x = -2$ ; by multiplying by  $\frac{1}{x-2}$  we lose the solution  $x = +2$ .

## 2 INEQUALITIES

Determining where a map is positive, that is to say, finding the subset of the domain where  $f(x) > 0$ , means solving the corresponding inequality.

In the same way one may find the set where the map is negative  $f(x) < 0$ , non-negative  $f(x) \geq 0$ , or non-positive  $f(x) \leq 0$ .

Similarly to what we have seen for equalities, we may consider inequalities of the type  $f(x) < g(x)$  or  $f(x) > g(x)$ : the latter allows to determine the domain elements for which the graph of  $f$  lies “above” the graph of  $g$ .

An inequality transforms into an equivalent one by adding or subtracting to both sides the same function defined over  $\mathbb{R}$ , or by multiplying or dividing both sides by the same function defined over  $\mathbb{R}$  and strictly positive.

Multiplying the inequality  $f(x) > g(x)$  by a map  $h(x)$  that is defined over  $\mathbb{R}$  and negative has the effect of producing the equivalent inequality  $f(x)h(x) < g(x)h(x)$ .

### 3 EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES OF DEGREE 1

An equation of degree 1 has the form

$$ax + b = 0,$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers.

For  $a = 0$  we have two cases:

- if  $b \neq 0$ , the equation has no solution and is called *inconsistent*;
- if  $b = 0$ , the equation has infinitely many solutions, and is called *indeterminate*.

For  $a \neq 0$  the solution is unique, namely  $x = -\frac{b}{a}$ .

An inequality of degree 1 has the form

$$ax + b > 0,$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are real.

Excluding the trivial case  $a = 0$ , to study the inequality we have to distinguish the cases  $a > 0$  and  $a < 0$ :

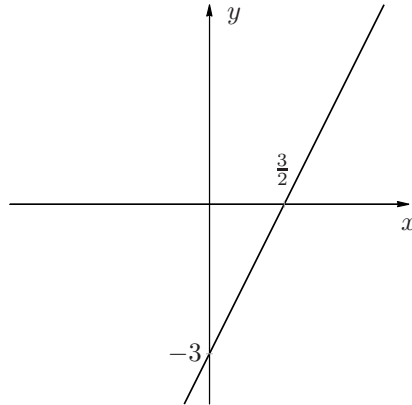
- if  $a > 0$  the solutions are given by the set of  $x > -\frac{b}{a}$ ;
- if  $a < 0$  the solutions are given by the set of  $x < -\frac{b}{a}$ .

#### EXAMPLE

The results obtained for the following equality and inequality are confirmed by geometrical considerations:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x - 3 = 0 &\Rightarrow x = \frac{3}{2} \\ 2x - 3 > 0 &\Rightarrow x > \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

The graph intersects the  $x$ -axis at  $x = \frac{3}{2}$  and is positive for  $x > \frac{3}{2}$ .



## 4 EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES OF DEGREE 2

An equation of degree 2 (a quadratic equation) is of the form

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

where  $a, b, c$  are real numbers. When  $a = 0$  the equation reduces to degree one, so from now on we shall assume  $a \neq 0$ . Let's consider a few special cases:

- if  $c = 0$  the equation reads

$$ax^2 + bx = 0 \Rightarrow x(ax + b) = 0,$$

which is solved by  $x_1 = 0$  and  $x_2 = -b/a$ ;

- if  $b = 0$  the equation reads

$$ax^2 + c = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 = -\frac{c}{a},$$

solved by  $x_{1,2} = \pm\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}$  provided  $-\frac{c}{a} \geq 0$ .

In general, to solve second-degree equations one has to compute the discriminant

$$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac.$$

Then

- if  $\Delta > 0$  the equation has two distinct real solutions:  $x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$ ;
- if  $\Delta = 0$  the equation has two coinciding real solutions:  $x_1 = x_2 = -\frac{b}{2a}$ ;
- if  $\Delta < 0$  the equation has no real solutions.

**Remark 4.1** In case  $\Delta \geq 0$  the following relationships hold between the solutions  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  and the equation's coefficients:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 \cdot x_2 = c/a \\ x_1 + x_2 = -b/a \end{cases}$$

#### 4.1 INEQUALITIES OF DEGREE 2

From the previous sheet we know the vertex of the parabola  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$  is  $V = (-\frac{b}{2a}; -\frac{\Delta}{4a})$ , and if  $a > 0$  the graph is U-shaped (convex), while for  $a < 0$  it is concave.

	$a > 0$	$a < 0$
$\Delta > 0$		
$\Delta = 0$		
$\Delta < 0$		

The study of equations has taught us that  $\Delta > 0$  forces the parabola to have two zeroes (two intersections with the  $x$ -axis),  $\Delta = 0$  implies the existence of one double zero (the parabola is tangent to the axis at its vertex), and  $\Delta < 0$  says the parabola doesn't meet the  $x$ -axis.

These considerations hint at a general method for solving inequalities of degree two like

$$ax^2 + bx + c > 0.$$

Given the solutions  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  to the corresponding equality, we have

- if  $a > 0$  and  $\Delta > 0$  the solutions are given by any  $x \in (-\infty, x_1) \cup (x_2, +\infty)$ ;
- if  $a > 0$  and  $\Delta = 0$  the solutions are given by the set  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{-b/2a\}$ ;
- if  $a > 0$  and  $\Delta < 0$  the solutions are given by any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ;

- if  $a < 0$  and  $\Delta > 0$  the solutions are given by the interval  $(x_1, x_2)$ ;
- if  $a < 0$  and  $\Delta = 0$  or  $\Delta < 0$  there are no solutions.

The other inequality signs are dealt with in a similar way.

## 5 FRACTIONAL EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES

Consider the equation

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = 0$$

defined where  $g(x) \neq 0$ .

To find its solutions it suffices to solve  $f(x) = 0$ , possibly excluding the solutions such that  $g(x)$  is zero.

Recall that a fraction is positive when numerator and denominator are both positive or both negative. Then, to solve

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} > 0$$

we must solve the systems

$$\begin{cases} f(x) > 0 \\ g(x) > 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} f(x) < 0 \\ g(x) < 0 \end{cases}$$

and take the union of the solution sets. The other signs are treated similarly.

### 5.1 DETAILED EXAMPLES

1. Let's solve  $\frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 3} \geq 0$ .

First of all we solve the equation  $\frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 3} = 0$ , which amounts to solving  $x^2 - 1 = 0$ ; then we must exclude the values that make the denominator zero. The solutions to  $x^2 - 1 = 0$  are  $x_1 = -1$  and  $x_2 = 1$ , both valid.

To solve  $\frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 3} > 0$ , we need to understand the sign of  $f_1(x) = x^2 - 1$  and of  $f_2(x) = x - 3$ ; these maps have the same sign on  $(3, +\infty)$  (positive) and on  $(-1, 1)$  (negative).

Therefore we can say that the initial inequality holds on  $[-1, 1] \cup (3, +\infty)$ .

2. We solve  $\frac{1 - x^2}{x^2 - 2x - 1} < 0$ .

Let's consider the signs of  $g_1(x) = 1 - x^2$  and  $g_2(x) = x^2 - 2x - 1$ . These maps have different sign on  $(-\infty, -1)$ , on  $(1 - \sqrt{2}, 1)$  and on  $(1 + \sqrt{2}, +\infty)$ . The inequality's solution is therefore given by the union of these three intervals.

## 6 EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES WITH ABSOLUTE VALUES

Given  $|f(x)| = c$ , there are three possibilities:

- $c < 0 \Rightarrow$  no solution;
- $c = 0 \Rightarrow$  the equation becomes  $f(x) = 0$ ;
- $c > 0 \Rightarrow$  the solution set is the union of the solutions of the two systems:

$$\begin{cases} f(x) = c \\ f(x) \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} -f(x) = c \\ f(x) < 0 \end{cases}$$

As far as inequalities are concerned, consider  $|f(x)| \leq c$ . We have three cases:

- $c < 0 \Rightarrow$  no solution;
- $c = 0 \Rightarrow$  the solutions are those of the equation  $f(x) = 0$ ;
- $c > 0 \Rightarrow$  the inequality is equivalent to  $-c \leq f(x) \leq c$ .

If, instead, we consider  $|f(x)| \geq c$ , these are the possibilities:

- $c \leq 0 \Rightarrow$  the inequality is true for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
- $c > 0 \Rightarrow$  the solution set is the union of the solution sets of

$$f(x) \geq c \quad \text{and} \quad f(x) \leq -c$$

### 6.1 DETAILED EXAMPLES

1. We solve  $|x + 3| = 1$ .

By the definition of absolute value we obtain the equations  $-x - 3 = 1$ , if  $x < -3$ , and  $x + 3 = 1$ , if  $x \geq -3$ . Solving them, and bearing in mind the restrictions, we get the solutions  $x_1 = -4$  and  $x_2 = -2$ .

2. Let's solve  $|x^2 - 5x + 6| + x^2 = 0$ .

We rewrite the equation as  $|x^2 - 5x + 6| = -x^2$ . The left-hand side is positive or zero, whereas the right-hand side is negative or zero. They can be equal only if both vanish. But this cannot happen, because the zeroes of the left-hand side are  $x = 2$ ,  $x = 3$ , while the term on the right is null only at the origin. Hence the starting equation hasn't got solutions.

## 7 IRRATIONAL EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES

Consider an equation of the type

$$\sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[m]{g(x)}$$

where  $f, g$  are given maps and  $n > 1$ ,  $m \geq 1$ .

It can be solved, assuming  $x \in \text{dom}f \cap \text{dom}g$ , by raising to the right power. Let's see how through examples.

1. We wish to solve  $\sqrt[3]{x^3+4} - 1 = x$ .

Since there's an odd root, the map's domain is the whole  $\mathbb{R}$ . First, we must isolate the root to one side,  $\sqrt[3]{x^3+4} = x+1$ , and then raise to the power 3,  $(\sqrt[3]{x^3+4})^3 = (x+1)^3$ . A few computations yield the solutions  $x_1 = \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$  and  $x_2 = \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$ .

2. Solve  $\sqrt{2x-1} = x-2$

Let's impose that the radicand is non-negative, so  $x \geq \frac{1}{2}$ . Notice that the left-hand side is certainly non-negative, hence also the right side must be so. This further implies  $x \geq 2$ . Squaring both sides and solving the quadratic equation produces  $x_1 = 1$  and  $x_2 = 5$ , but only the latter is valid because of the constraints.

3. Solve  $\sqrt{x-1} + \sqrt{x+1} = \sqrt{6-x}$ .

The domain is the intersection of the domains of the three roots, that is the interval  $[1, 6]$ . Squaring leads to  $2\sqrt{(x-1)(x+1)} = 6-3x$ . As the right-hand side must be non-negative, we have  $x \leq 2$ . Keeping the previous constraint in mind,  $x$  must belong to  $[1, 2]$ . Now we square once more and get  $4x^2 - 4 = 36 - 36x + 9x^2$ , whose roots are  $x_1 = \frac{18-2\sqrt{31}}{5}$  and  $x_2 = \frac{18+2\sqrt{31}}{5}$ . Only  $x_1$  is contained in  $[1, 2]$  and thus acceptable.

The study of irrational inequalities must be carried out with extreme care; let's look at

$$\sqrt[n]{f(x)} > \sqrt[m]{g(x)}$$

where  $f, g$  are given maps and  $n > 1$ ,  $m \geq 1$ .

- Odd roots

There are no problems with the domain; we just raise everything to the suitable power. For instance,  $\sqrt[3]{f(x)} > g(x)$  becomes  $f(x) > g(x)^3$ .

- Even roots

Here we must mind the functions' domains and the "hidden" constraints: for instance,

$$\sqrt{f(x)} < g(x)$$

is equivalent to the system

$$\begin{cases} f(x) \geq 0 \\ g(x) > 0 \\ f(x) < (g(x))^2 \end{cases} .$$

The inequality

$$\sqrt{f(x)} > g(x)$$

reduces to the two systems

$$\begin{cases} f(x) \geq 0 \\ g(x) < 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} g(x) \geq 0 \\ f(x) > (g(x))^2 \end{cases} .$$

The required solution is the union of the solutions of these systems.

Explicitly, let's solve  $\sqrt{x-1} > 12-2x$ .

We need to consider only  $x \geq 1$ . The inequality is clearly satisfied when the right-hand side is negative, hence when  $x > 6$ . If  $x \leq 6$  we may square (both sides are non-negative) to get  $x-1 > 144+4x^2-48x$ , hence  $4x^2-49x+145 < 0$ . The solution to the latter is given by the interval  $(5, 29/4)$ ; therefore, the inequality holds on  $(5, +\infty)$ .



## 8 EXERCISE - RATIONAL AND IRRATIONAL EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES

TRUE OR FALSE?

- |   |                            |                            |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The equation $0x = 0$ hasn't got solutions.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. The equation $0x = 1$ doesn't have solutions.                            | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. The solution to $5x - 3 = 0$ is $x = -2$ .                               | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. The solution to $4x = 0$ is $x = \frac{1}{4}$ .                          | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5. The equation $x(x^2 + 1) = 0$ has solution $x = 0$ .                     | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 6. $-5(x - 1)(x + 3)(x^2 + 10) = 0$ is equivalent to $(x + 1)(x + 3) = 0$ . | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 7. The equation $(x^2 + 5)^2 (x^2 + 2)^2 = 0$ has no rational solutions.    | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 8. $\frac{x-4}{2x-6} = 0$ is solved by $x = 4$ and $x = 3$ .                | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 9. $\frac{1}{x-2} = 3$ is equivalent to $x - 2 = \frac{1}{3}$ .             | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 10. The discriminant of $3x^2 - 5x + 4 = 0$ is negative.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 11. $ x  = 2$ is equivalent to $x^2 = 4$ .                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
- 

### EXERCISE 1

Let  $f$  be a real map of one real variable. Tell which of the following statements are equivalent to  $f(x) = 0$ :

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. $f(x) + x = x$                             | 5. $f^2(x) = 0$             |
| 2. $f(x) + \frac{1}{x^2-3} = \frac{1}{x^2-3}$ | 6. $f(x) - x^2 = x^4$       |
| 3. $(x^2 - 1)f(x) = 0$                        | 7. $\frac{f(x)}{x^4+1} = 0$ |
| 4. $(x^2 + 1)f(x) = 0$                        | 8. $\frac{f(x)}{x-3} = 0$   |
-

EXERCISE 2

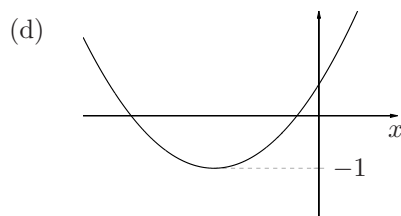
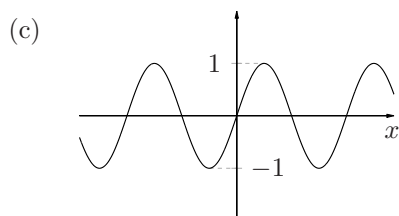
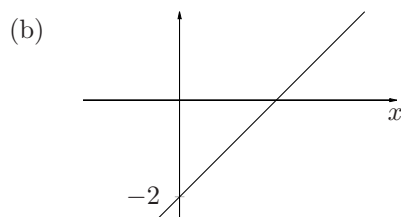
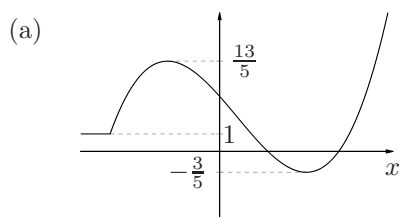
Given real maps  $f$  and  $g$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ , say which inequalities are equivalent to  $f(x) < g(x)$ :

1.  $f(x) + g(x) > 0$
2.  $f(x)g(x) < 0$
3.  $2 - g(x) < 2 - f(x)$
4.  $(1 + x^2)f(x) < (1 + x^2)g(x)$
5.  $(x^2 - 1)g(x) > (x^2 - 1)f(x)$
6.  $\frac{f(x)}{x+3} < \frac{g(x)}{x+3}$
7.  $f(x)g(x) < (g(x))^2$
8.  $(f(x))^2 < (g(x))^2$

EXERCISE 3

Consider the four graphs of the map  $f$  below, one at a time. Tell if the equation  $f(x) = k$  satisfies the following properties (if any):

1. there's no solution, whichever  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
2. for some value  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  there's no solution;
3. for every  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  there's exactly one solution;
4. for some  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  there are at least two solutions;
5. there isn't any solution when  $k = -3$ , and three solutions when  $k = 2$ ;
6. for all  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  there are two solutions.



EXERCISE 4

Solve and interpret geometrically the following equations:

1.  $-3x + 7 = 2x + \frac{3}{4}$
  2.  $\frac{3}{2}x - 5 = 2(1 - x)$
  3.  $\frac{2}{3}x - 1 = \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)x + 25$
  4.  $2x + 3 = 2x - 5$
  5.  $\frac{x+2}{1+\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{x-2}{1-\frac{1}{3}}$
  6.  $x^2 - 2 = |x|$
- 

EXERCISE 5

Solve and interpret geometrically the following inequalities:

1.  $x + \frac{1}{3} < -\frac{2}{3}x + \frac{1}{2}$
  2.  $\frac{1}{5}x + \frac{1}{2} < \frac{2x-1}{5-\frac{1}{2}}$
  3.  $3x + \frac{1}{3} < 3x + 2$
  4.  $-x - 3 > \frac{-\frac{5}{4}x+3}{\frac{3}{4}+\frac{1}{2}}$
- 

EXERCISE 6

Solve on  $\mathbb{R}$  the following equations of degree two, providing a geometric explanation based *only* on the graphs of the maps appearing on either side:

1.  $x^2 - 2x + 3 = 2x$
  2.  $x^2 - 8x + \frac{1}{2} = -x^2 + 8x - \frac{1}{2}$
  3.  $x^2 + 4x - \frac{2}{3} = x^2 - 3x + 1$
  4.  $2x^2 - 4x + 3 = -3x^2 + 12x - 13$
- 

EXERCISE 7

Choose values for the coefficients  $a, b, c$  of  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$  so that the set where  $f$  is positive is:

1.  $\mathbb{R}$
2.  $(-2, 3)$
3.  $\emptyset$ ;
4.  $(-\infty, 1) \cup (5, \infty)$
5.  $(-\infty, 2) \cup (2, \infty)$

EXERCISE 8

Solve the following inequalities:

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$$1. \frac{x^2 + 5x + 4}{x^4 + 1} > 0$$

$$2. \frac{x^3 + 8}{x^2 - 1} > 0$$

$$3. \frac{x - 2}{|2x + 1|} > -\frac{1}{3}x$$

$$4. \frac{|x - 1|}{|3x + 1|} \leq 1$$

#### EXERCISE 9

Solve the following inequalities and interpret them geometrically:

$$1. |x + 2| = 1$$

$$2. |x + 5| = -1$$

$$3. |x - 1| + |2x + 1| = 10$$

$$4. |x^2 - 1| - |x^2 - 5| = 3$$

#### EXERCISE 10

Tell under which conditions the roots are well defined, and transform them into roots of the same index:

$$1. \sqrt{a}, \sqrt[12]{a^5}, \sqrt[4]{a^3}$$

$$2. \sqrt[3]{x - y}, \sqrt[5]{x + y}, \sqrt[4]{x^2 - y^2}$$

#### EXERCISE 11

Rationalize<sup>1</sup> the following expressions:

$$1. \frac{5}{\sqrt[3]{54}} \quad 2. \frac{1}{3 - \sqrt{2}} \quad 3. \frac{1 - \sqrt{\pi + 1}}{1 + \sqrt{\pi + 1}} \quad 4. \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2\sqrt{3} - 3\sqrt{2}} \quad 5. \frac{2}{\sqrt[3]{5} - \sqrt[3]{3}}$$

#### EXERCISE 12

Solve the following irrational inequalities and equations:

$$1. 2\sqrt{x - 1} - x = 0$$

$$2. \sqrt{x + 3} = 1 - 3x$$

$$3. \sqrt{2x + 6} - x + 1 = 0$$

$$4. 3\sqrt{x + 2} - x - 4 = 0$$

$$5. \sqrt[3]{x + 4} = 3$$

$$6. \sqrt{x - 1} - \sqrt{2x - 3} = 0$$

$$7. \sqrt{5x - 6} > x$$

$$8. \sqrt{x + 2} + \sqrt{3x - 1} > 0$$

$$9. \sqrt{\frac{x - 4}{x + 2}} < 2$$

#### EXERCISE 13

Discuss using graphs:

<sup>1</sup>*Rationalizing* means getting rid of a root appearing in a denominator by multiplying and dividing the ratio simultaneously by a suitable factor. For instance,  $3/\sqrt{2}$  can be rationalized if we multiply and divide by  $\sqrt{2}$ , while  $3/(\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{2})$  gets rationalized by using the factor  $\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{2}$ .

1.  $\sqrt{x+1} \geq x-3$

3.  $\sqrt{-x-1} > 0$

2.  $\sqrt{x-2} > -1$

4.  $\sqrt{x+5} \geq 2$

---

EXERCISE 14

Determine domain and positivity set for:

1.  $f(x) = \sqrt{x-2} + 1$

6.  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x+2} - \sqrt{x+2}$

2.  $f(x) = \sqrt{x+3} + \sqrt{x^2+9}$

7.  $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x-5} + \sqrt{2x+1}}{\sqrt[3]{1-x}}$

3.  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x^2-1}$

4.  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x-1} + \sqrt[3]{x-2}$

8.  $f(x) = \sqrt[4]{x^4-1} - x^2$

5.  $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x}-1}{\sqrt{|x|-2}}$

9.  $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x-1}\sqrt{x+2}}{\sqrt{6x^2+x-2}}$

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## 9 SOLUTIONS

TRUE OR FALSE?

True: 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11

EXERCISE 1

Equivalent: 1, 4, 5, 7

EXERCISE 2

Equivalent: 3, 4

EXERCISE 3

1. none
2. (a), (c), (d)
3. (b)
4. (a), (c), (d)
5. (a)
6. none

EXERCISE 4

1.  $\frac{5}{4}$
2. 2
3. 12
4.  $\emptyset$
5. 6
6.  $\{-2, 2\}$

EXERCISE 5

1.  $(-\infty, \frac{1}{10})$
2.  $(\frac{65}{22}, +\infty)$
3.  $\mathbb{R}$
4.  $\emptyset$

EXERCISE 7

1.  $a > 0, \Delta < 0$  (eg  $a = 1, b = 0, c = 1$ )
2.  $a = -1, b = 1, c = 6$  (more generally,  $a = -y, b = y, c = 6y$  with  $y > 0$ )
3.  $a < 0, \Delta \leq 0$  (for example  $a = -1, b = 0, c = -1$ )
4.  $a = 1, b = -6, c = 5$  (more generally,  $a = y, b = -6y, c = 5y$  with  $y > 0$ )
5.  $a = 1, b = -4, c = 4$  (more generally,  $a = y, b = -4y, c = 4y$  with  $y > 0$ )

EXERCISE 8

1.  $(-\infty, -4) \cup (-1, +\infty)$
2.  $(-2, -1) \cup (1, +\infty)$
3.  $(1, +\infty)$
4.  $(-\infty, -1] \cup [0, +\infty)$

EXERCISE 9

1.  $\{-3, -1\}$
2.  $\emptyset$
3.  $\{-10/3, 10/3\}$
4.  $\{-3\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, 3\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\}$

EXERCISE 10

1. All defined for  $a \geq 0$ ,  $\sqrt[12]{a^6}$ ,  $\sqrt[12]{a^5}$ ,  $\sqrt[12]{a^9}$
2. Defined for  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \{-|x| \leq y \leq |x|\}$ .  $\sqrt[60]{(x-y)^{20}}$ ,  $\sqrt[60]{(x+y)^{12}}$ ,  $\sqrt[60]{(x^2-y^2)^{15}}$  respectively.

## EXERCISE 11

1.  $\frac{5\sqrt[3]{54^2}}{54}$
2.  $\frac{3+\sqrt{2}}{7}$
3.  $\frac{2\sqrt{\pi+1}-\pi-2}{\pi}$
4.  $-3-\sqrt{6}$
5.  $\sqrt[3]{25} + \sqrt[3]{15} + \sqrt[3]{9}$

## EXERCISE 12

1. 2
2.  $-2/9$
3. 5
4.  $-1, 2$
5. 23
6. 2
7.  $(2, 3)$

8.  $[\frac{1}{3}, +\infty)$

9.  $[-\infty, -4) \cup [4, +\infty)$

## EXERCISE 14

The domains and positivity sets are, respectively:

1.  $[2, +\infty), [2, +\infty)$
2.  $[-3, +\infty), [-3, +\infty)$
3.  $\mathbb{R}, (-\infty, -1) \cup (1, +\infty)$
4.  $\mathbb{R}, (\frac{3}{2}, +\infty)$
5.  $[0, 4) \cup (4, +\infty), [0, 1) \cup (4, +\infty)$
6.  $[-2, +\infty), [-2, -1)$
7.  $[5, +\infty), \emptyset$
8.  $(-\infty, -1] \cup [1, +\infty), \emptyset$
9.  $[1, +\infty), (1, +\infty)$