

Exercise

1. Solve the following inequalities, using appropriate methods as needed:

(a) $(2x - 1)(x - 3)(3 - 2x) > 0$

(b) $(x + 1)(x - 2)(x^2 + 2x + 4) > 0$

(c) $x^3 + x^2 - x - 1 \geq 0$

(d) $(x - 3)(x^2 - 13x + 13) < 51 - 17x$

(e) $\frac{4}{x-6} < 6$

(f) $\frac{6}{x^2+6x+10} \geq 3$

(g) $\frac{x+1}{2-x} > 1$

(h) $x + 3 < \frac{10}{x}$

(i) $\sec(x) > \sqrt{2}$

(j) $(\log_3(x))^2 + 2\log_3(3x) > 7$

(k) $\log_x(4) \geq \log_3(2)$

(l) $5^{\sin(x)} < 5^{\cos(x)}$

(m) $\tan(e^x) < 0$

(n) $2\sin(x) \leq 1 \leq \tan(x)$

(o) $x\sin(x) < 0$

(p) $\sin(x) + \sqrt{3}\cos(x) \leq 1$ and $0 \leq x < 2\pi$ (Hint: Assume $\sin(x) + \sqrt{3}\cos(x) = A\cos(x + B)$)

(q) $(x - \pi)\cos(2x)e^x > 0$ and $0 \leq x < 2\pi$

(r) $3x - 4 < 8$ and $x^2 - 8 > 1$

(s) $\frac{2}{x+3} \geq 1$ and $\ln(x) > 6$

(t) $\log_2(x) > \log_3(x)$ and $x^2 - 2x - 3 \leq 0$

(u) $(2x + 6 < 0$ or $3x + 5 > 2)$ and $x^2 \leq 16$

(v) $(xe^x < 0$ and $-6 \leq 2x - 2 \leq -4)$ or $\frac{1}{x} < 1$

(w) $(\sin(2^x) > 0$ and $\log_2(5) < x < \log_2(6))$ or $(\log_x(4) < 1$ and $x > 0)$

2. Determine whether each of the following statement is true or false:

- (a) For any real number x , $\frac{1}{x^2} \geq 0$.
- (b) The inequality $\cos(x) > 1$ has no real solution.
- (c) If $x > y$ then $x^2 > y^2$.
- (d) If $c < 0$ and $x > y$ then $cx < cy$.
- (e) $\sec(x) \geq \cos(x)$ for all real number x .
- (f) If $\sin(x) < \sin(y)$ then $x < y$.
- (g) $x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} \geq x + \frac{1}{x}$ for all $x > 0$.
- (h) If $a, b, x > 0$ and $\log_a(x) > \log_b(x)$ then $a < b$.
- (i) If $\log_x(2) < 5$ then $x > \sqrt[5]{2}$ or $0 < x < 1$.
- (j) $2020^{2021} > 2021^{2020}$.
- (k) The maximum value for $\sin(x) + \cos(2x)$ is 2.
- (l) An increasing function cannot be decreasing.
- (m) If $f(x)$ is strictly decreasing, then there is one and only one solution to $f(x) = 0$.
- (n) If both $f(x), g(x)$ are strictly increasing then $f(x)g(x)$ is strictly increasing.
- (o) If both $f(x), g(x)$ are strictly decreasing then $f(g(x))$ is strictly increasing.

3. Find the range of the following expressions:

- (a) $x^2 - 4x + 5$, $-4 \leq x \leq 4$
- (b) $(\frac{1}{3})^{x^2+5x+6}$, $-1 \leq x \leq 1$
- (c) $\log_2(\sin(x) + 3)$
- (d) $\frac{x^2+6x+4}{x^2-3x+4}$ (Hint: Divide both numerator and denominator by x)
- (e) $\frac{(x+3)^2}{x-1}$, $x > 1$ (Hint: Transform the expression into $A(x-1) + B + \frac{C}{x-1}$)
- (f) $\frac{\sin(2x)}{1+\cos(2x)}$, $-\frac{\pi}{4} \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$
- (g) $\frac{\cos(x)-\sin(x)}{\cos(x)+\sin(x)}$, $0 \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{3}$

- (h) $\frac{4-\sin(x)}{\cos^2(x)+\sin(x)+11}$
 (i) $\log_{\frac{1}{2}}\left(\frac{x}{4}\right), 2 \leq x \leq 4$

4. Prove the following inequalities (Variables are real unless otherwise specified):

- (a) $|\sin(x)| \leq |\tan(x)|, x \neq n\pi + \frac{\pi}{2}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$
 (b) $\log_2(3) < \log_3(5)$
 (c) $e^{x^2+5x+6} > \sin(x)$
 (d) $2\sqrt{x+1} - 2\sqrt{x} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} < 2\sqrt{x} - 2\sqrt{x-1}, x > 1$ (Hint: Take reciprocal)
 (e) $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{a} \geq 2$, where $a, b > 0$
 (f) $3(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) \geq (a + b + c)^2 \geq 3(ab + bc + ca)$ (Hint: Show $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 \geq ab + bc + ca$)
 (g) $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 + d^3 \leq 27$, where $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 = 9$ (Hint: Show $a^3 \leq 3a^2$)
 (h) $a^2 + 4b^4 + c^2 + 1 \geq b(4ab - b - 2c) - a(ac^2 + c)$
 (i) $\frac{a+b+c+d}{4} \geq \sqrt[4]{abcd}$, where $a, b, c, d \geq 0$ (Hint: $\sqrt[4]{abcd} = \sqrt{\sqrt{ab}\sqrt{cd}}$. Let $u = \sqrt{ab}, v = \sqrt{cd}$.)
 (j) $\frac{u+v+w}{3} \geq \sqrt[3]{uvw}$, where $u, v, w \geq 0$ (Hint: Use previous result with $a = u, b = v, c = w, d = \frac{u+v+w}{3}$. So $d = \frac{a+b+c+d}{4}$. Now show $d \geq \sqrt[3]{abc}$)
 (k) $(ab^2 + bc^2 + ca^2)(a^2b + b^2c + c^2a) \geq 9(abc)^2$, where $a, b, c \geq 0$ (Hint: Use previous result)
 (l) $(a + \frac{1}{b})(b + \frac{1}{c})(c + \frac{1}{a}) \geq 8$, where $a, b, c > 0$ (Hint: Use $\frac{a+b}{2} \geq \sqrt{ab}$)

5. Let $f(x) = c(x-a_1)(x-a_2)\dots(x-a_8)$, where a_1, a_2, \dots, a_8 are real numbers with $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_8$ and $c \neq 0$. Suppose $a_5 < r < a_6$ and $f(r) > 0$.

- (a) Is c positive or negative?
 (b) Show that if $a_2 < m < a_3$ then $f(m) < 0$.
 (c) Solve $f(x) \geq 0$.
 (d) Sketch the graph of $y = f(x)$.

6. In this question, we will talk about local maximum and minimum:

Let $f(x)$ be a function. $f(x)$ is said to attain local maximum at $x = a$ if there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $f(x) \leq f(a)$ whenever $a - \delta < x < a + \delta$.

Similarly, $f(x)$ is said to attain local minimum at $x = a$ if there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $f(x) \geq f(a)$ whenever $a - \delta < x < a + \delta$.

Conceptually, it means you can find a small neighbourhood near a such that $f(a)$ is larger than (or smaller than) all $f(x)$ within that neighbourhood.

- (a) Find an example such that the function attains local minimum but not global minimum.
- (b) Identify the local maximum and local minimum of $y = \csc(x)$ for $0 < x < 2\pi$.
- (c) Show that $f(x) = x^4 - x^2$ attains local maximum at $x = 0$.
- (d) Show that $f(x) = |\ln(x)|$ attains local minimum at $x = 1$.
- (e) Show that $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ attains neither local maximum nor local minimum for $x > 0$.
- (f) Show that if $f(x)$ does not attain local maximum, then it does not attain global maximum.
- (g) Show that if $f(x)$ attains local minimum at $x = a$, then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $f(x)$ is decreasing on $(a - \delta, a]$ and increasing on $[a, a + \delta)$.

7. Let $f(x) = x^2 + (n - 2)x + (n - 5)$, where n is a real number. Suppose α, β are the roots of $f(x)$.

- (a) Show that α and β are real and $\alpha \neq \beta$.
- (b) Express $(\alpha - 3)(\beta - 3)$ in terms of n .
- (c) Assume $\alpha < 3 < \beta$. Using the previous result, show that $n < \frac{1}{2}$.
- (d) Further suppose $\beta - \alpha < \sqrt{44}$. Show that $-2 < n < \frac{1}{2}$.

8. In this question, we will introduce hyperbolic functions. Define:

$$\sinh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2} \quad \cosh(x) = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} \quad \tanh(x) = \frac{\sinh(x)}{\cosh(x)} = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$$

These functions are useful in physics calculations.

- (a) Show that $\sinh(x)$ is strictly increasing.
- (b) Show that $\cosh(x)$ is strictly decreasing on $(-\infty, 0]$ and strictly increasing on $[0, \infty)$.

- (c) Hence, or otherwise, show that $\cosh(x) \geq 1$ for all x .
- (d) Show that $\tanh(x)$ is strictly increasing. (Hint: Reduce amount of variables)
- (e) Show that $|\sinh(x)| < |\cosh(x)|$ for all x .
- (f) Hence, or otherwise, show that $-1 < \tanh(x) < 1$ for all x .

9. In this question, we will introduce another proof to the inequality " $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} > x + \frac{1}{x}$ for any $x > 0$ ". Let $x > 0$, and $y = x + \frac{1}{x}$

- (a) By splitting cases for $0 < x < 1$ and $x > 1$, prove that $\sqrt{x} \neq \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$.
- (b) By (a), show that $y > 2$. Hence, show that $y^2 - y - 2 > 0$.
- (c) Hence, show that $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} > x + \frac{1}{x}$.