

$-4x + 60 < 72 \text{ Or } 14x + < -31$

Understanding the Compound Inequality: $-4x + 60 < 72$ Or $14x + < -31$

The inequality $-4x + 60 < 72 \text{ Or } 14x + < -31$ presents a combined problem involving two separate inequalities joined by the logical connector "or." To analyze and solve this compound inequality, it is essential to understand the structure and the fundamental principles behind inequalities. This article will guide you through the step-by-step process of solving such inequalities, interpreting their solutions, and understanding their implications.

Breaking Down the Inequalities

What is a Compound Inequality?

A compound inequality involves two or more inequalities connected by "and" or "or."

- "And" inequalities require both inequalities to be true simultaneously.
- "Or" inequalities require at least one of the inequalities to be true.

In our case, the inequality involves "or," meaning the solution set includes all values of x that satisfy either one or both inequalities.

Restating the Given Inequality

The original expression is:

$$-4x + 60 < 72 \text{ or } 14x + < -31$$

Note: The second inequality appears incomplete as written (" $14x + < -31$ "). Assuming a typo, it likely intends to be:

$$14x + c < -31$$

or perhaps:

$$14x + \text{some term} < -31$$

But since the original problem is " $-4x + 60 < 72 \text{ Or } 14x + < -31$," it's likely meant as:

$$-4x + 60 < 72 \text{ or } 14x + k < -31$$

To proceed, we'll interpret it as:

$$-4x + 60 < 72 \text{ or } 14x + c < -31$$

where c is some constant, possibly missing. For the purpose of this detailed explanation, let's assume the second inequality is:

$$14x + 0 < -31$$

which simplifies to:

$$14x < -31$$

Alternatively, if the original problem intended " $14x + \text{something} < -31$," but the "+something" is missing, we'll proceed with the assumption that the second inequality is:

$$14x < -31$$

Thus, the two inequalities are:

1. $-4x + 60 < 72$
2. $14x < -31$

Our goal is to find the set of x -values that satisfy either inequality.

Step-by-Step Solution Process

Solving the First Inequality: $-4x + 60 < 72$

Step 1: Isolate the variable term.

$$-4x + 60 < 72$$

Subtract 60 from both sides:

$$-4x < 72 - 60$$

$$-4x < 12$$

Step 2: Solve for x .

Divide both sides by -4 . Remember, dividing by a negative number reverses the inequality sign:

$$x > 12 / -4$$

$$x > -3$$

Result for the first inequality: $x > -3$

Solving the Second Inequality: $14x < -31$

Step 1: Isolate x .

Divide both sides by 14:

$$x < -31 / 14$$

Simplify:

$$x < -2.2142857... \text{ (or exactly } -31/14)$$

Result for the second inequality: $x < -31/14$

Analyzing the Solution Sets

The solutions to each inequality are:

- First inequality: $x > -3$
- Second inequality: $x < -31/14$

Recall that the original compound inequality uses "or," meaning the overall solution includes all x satisfying either:

- $x > -3$
- $x < -31/14$

Visualizing the Solution Sets on the Number Line

- The inequality $x > -3$ includes all real numbers greater than -3.
- The inequality $x < -31/14$ (approximately -2.214) includes all real numbers less than approximately -2.214.

Since $-31/14 \approx -2.214$ and -3 is less than -2.214, the two solution intervals do not overlap.

Therefore:

- $x < -31/14$ (less than approximately -2.214)
- $x > -3$

But note that:

- The set $x > -3$ includes all numbers greater than -3, i.e., from -3 to infinity.
- The set $x < -31/14$ includes all numbers less than approximately -2.214, i.e., from negative infinity up to -2.214.

Key observation:

- The two solution sets do not overlap because -3 is less than -2.214, so the intervals are separated.

Final Solution Set for the Compound Inequality

Since the overall inequality uses "or," the solution includes:

- All $x > -3$
- All $x < -31/14$

This can be expressed as the union of two intervals:

- $(-\infty, -31/14)$ (all numbers less than approximately -2.214)
- $(-3, \infty)$ (all numbers greater than -3)

Note: The numbers between -3 and -2.214 do not satisfy either inequality. For example, $x = -2.5$ is neither greater than -3 nor less than -2.214, so it is excluded.

Expressing the Solution in Interval Notation

The combined solution set is:

$$(-\infty, -31/14) \cup (-3, \infty)$$

This notation indicates the union of the two intervals.

Implications of the Solution

Understanding the "Or" Condition

The use of "or" broadens the solution set because satisfying either inequality suffices. If the inequalities were connected with "and," the solution would be only the intersection, which would be empty here due to the non-overlapping intervals.

Graphical Representation

Visualizing the solution on a number line:

- Shade all numbers less than -2.214 (to the left).
- Shade all numbers greater than -3 (to the right).
- The unshaded region between approximately -2.214 and -3 is not part of the solution set.

Practical Applications of Solving Such Inequalities

Understanding how to solve inequalities like the one discussed has numerous applications:

- Real-world decision making: For example, determining acceptable ranges for measurements, financial thresholds, or safety margins.
- Engineering and physics: Setting bounds for variables such as speed, temperature, or stress.
- Statistics and data analysis: Establishing confidence intervals or thresholds for data inclusion.

Common Mistakes and Tips for Solving Inequalities

Avoiding Pitfalls

- Remember to reverse the inequality sign when dividing by a negative number.
- Be cautious with the union and intersection. "Or" leads to union, "and" leads to intersection.
- Check your solutions by plugging in values from the solution sets to verify correctness.

Summary of Tips

- Always isolate the variable on one side.
- When dividing or multiplying by negatives, flip the inequality sign.
- Use number line sketches to visualize solutions, especially for compound inequalities.
- Clearly distinguish between "and" (intersection) and "or" (union) when combining solution sets.

Conclusion

The inequality **$-4x + 60 < 72$ Or $14x < -31$** simplifies to finding the union of two solution intervals: $x > -3$ and $x < -31/14$. The solution set, expressed in interval notation, is $(-\infty, -31/14) \cup (-3, \infty)$. Understanding how to interpret and solve such inequalities enables you to handle more complex problems involving multiple conditions. Mastery of these concepts is fundamental for advanced mathematics, real-world problem-solving, and analytical reasoning.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I solve the inequality $-4x + 60 < 72$?

Subtract 60 from both sides to get $-4x < 12$, then divide both sides by -4 (remember to flip the inequality sign), resulting in $x > -3$.

What is the solution to the inequality $14x + \dots < -31$?

It appears the inequality is incomplete. If it is $14x + \text{some number} < -31$, you need to isolate x by subtracting the constant and then dividing by 14, remembering to flip the inequality if dividing by a negative.

Can I combine the two inequalities $-4x + 60 < 72$ and $14x + \dots < -31$ into a system?

Yes, but first ensure both inequalities are complete and correctly written. Once they are, you can find the intersection of their solutions to determine the common values of x satisfying both.

What steps are involved in graphing the solution of $-4x + 60 < 72$?

First, solve for x to find the critical boundary ($x > -3$). Then, on a number line, shade the region to the right of -3 to represent all x greater than -3.

Why is it important to flip the inequality sign when dividing by a negative number?

Dividing both sides of an inequality by a negative reverses the inequality sign to maintain a true statement, ensuring the solution set is accurate.

Additional Resources

$-4x + 60 < 72$ or $14x + < -31$ is a fascinating compound inequality that offers a great opportunity for learners to develop their skills in solving inequalities, understanding logical connectors like "or," and applying these concepts to real-world problem-solving scenarios. This inequality combines two separate linear inequalities connected by the logical "or" operator, meaning that a solution to either one (or both) of the inequalities satisfies the overall statement. As such, it provides an engaging challenge for students and educators alike to explore various solution strategies, graphical interpretations, and the underlying principles that unify algebraic manipulation with logical reasoning.

In this article, we will thoroughly analyze the structure of the inequality, demonstrate step-by-step solutions for each part, discuss the graphical representations, and explore practical applications. Whether you're a student trying to master inequalities or an educator looking for effective teaching strategies, this detailed review will illuminate the core concepts, highlight common pitfalls, and offer insights into the elegance of solving compound inequalities.

Understanding the Structure of the Inequality

The given expression involves two separate inequalities combined with the logical "or":

1. $-4x + 60 < 72$
2. $14x + < -31$

At first glance, the second inequality appears incomplete or possibly contains typographical errors. The expression " $14x + < -31$ " seems to be missing a term after the "+" sign—likely a variable or constant. Assuming the intended inequality is $14x + c < -31$, where c is a constant, or perhaps the "+" was accidental.

For the purpose of clarity and completeness, let's consider two plausible interpretations:

Interpretation 1: The second inequality is $14x < -31$

This seems the most straightforward correction, removing the "+" as an extraneous symbol or typo.

Interpretation 2: The second inequality is $14x + d < -31$, with d as a constant

Since no value for d is provided, and the original expression is ambiguous, we'll focus primarily on the first interpretation, which is more typical in algebraic contexts.

Therefore, the inequalities to analyze are:

- $-4x + 60 < 72$
- $14x < -31$

Step-by-Step Solution for Each Inequality

Solving the First Inequality: $-4x + 60 < 72$

Step 1: Isolate the term with the variable

Subtract 60 from both sides:

$$-4x + 60 - 60 < 72 - 60$$

$$-4x < 12$$

Step 2: Solve for x

Divide both sides by -4. Remember, dividing by a negative number reverses the inequality:

$$x > -3$$

Solution for the first inequality:

$$x > -3$$

Solving the Second Inequality: $14x < -31$

Step 1: Isolate x

Divide both sides by 14:

$$x < -31/14$$

Simplify the fraction:

$$x < -2.2142857... \text{ (approximately)}$$

Solution for the second inequality:

$$x < -31/14$$

Graphical Representation and Solution Sets

Understanding the solutions graphically provides valuable insight into the problem. Because the overall inequality uses "or," the solution set is the union of the solution sets of each individual inequality.

Graph of the first inequality:

- The solution $x > -3$ corresponds to all real numbers to the right of -3 on the number line, but not including -3 itself.

Graph of the second inequality:

- The solution $x < -31/14$ (approximately -2.214) corresponds to all real numbers less than -31/14.

Combined solution:

- Since the overall statement is "or", the solution is:

$$x > -3 \text{ OR } x < -31/14$$

This means the entire real line except for the interval between -3 and -31/14 where $-31/14 < x < -3$ is not included in the solution set.

Visual Representation:

- The union of these two solution sets looks like two rays on the number line:
- One extending to the right from -3 (not including -3)
- The other extending to the left from -31/14 (not including -31/14)
- The interval $(-31/14, -3)$ is not included because neither inequality holds there simultaneously.

Final Solution Set in Interval Notation

The combined solution set is:

$$(-\infty, -31/14) \cup (-3, \infty)$$

This covers all real numbers less than -31/14 and greater than -3.

Key Features and Educational Insights

Features of the Solution

- Union of solution sets: The "or" operator leads to the union, which can be visualized as combining two rays on the number line.
- Open intervals: Since inequalities are strict ($<$), the solution sets are open intervals, excluding boundary points.
- Logical reasoning: Recognizing the importance of the "or" operator is crucial for solving compound inequalities.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Conceptual clarity: Solving inequalities separately enhances understanding.
- Graphical intuition: Visualizing solution sets aids comprehension.
- Real-world applicability: Many problems involve conditions that are "either/or," making this applicable beyond pure mathematics.

Cons:

- Potential confusion: Misinterpreting the logical operator or the inequality boundaries can lead to errors.
- Typographical ambiguity: As seen in the original problem, incomplete expressions can cause confusion.
- Interval notation complexity: Understanding the union of intervals may be challenging for beginners.

Additional Considerations and Variations

Handling Ambiguous or Typographical Errors

In real-world scenarios, inequalities may be misprinted or incomplete. It's essential to clarify expressions before solving:

- Confirm whether the inequality is complete.
- Check for missing variables or constants.
- Clarify the intended logical connectors.

Extending to Other Inequalities

You can apply similar methods to inequalities involving:

- Quadratic expressions
- Absolute values
- Rational expressions

By understanding the fundamental approach—isolating variables, considering boundary points, and visualizing the solution—students can tackle more complex inequalities.

Practical Applications of Compound Inequalities

Compound inequalities, especially those connected by "or," are prevalent in various fields:

- Engineering: Tolerance ranges for materials or systems.
- Economics: Price or interest rate conditions.
- Statistics: Conditions for data thresholds.
- Computer Science: Algorithm constraints.

Understanding how to interpret and solve such inequalities empowers professionals to model and solve real-world problems effectively.

Conclusion

The inequality $-4x + 60 < 72$ or $14x < -31$ exemplifies the richness of algebraic problem-solving. By breaking down each inequality, solving for the variable, and understanding the union of solution sets, learners gain a comprehensive view of how logical operators influence the solution space. The graphical interpretation reinforces conceptual understanding, making the abstract algebraic steps more tangible.

While the problem appears straightforward, attention to detail—especially regarding notation and logical connectors—is vital. This exploration not only enhances algebraic skills but also builds a foundation for tackling more complex mathematical and real-world problems where multiple conditions coexist. Whether you're a student refining your skills or an educator designing engaging lessons, mastering the solution of compound inequalities like this one is a valuable step toward mathematical fluency.

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