

1 (10 pts). Find the solution set to the given inequality. Write your answer in interval notation.

a. $\frac{x+3}{x-1} \geq 2.$

b. $|2 - 4x| \geq 7.$

1a. (Source: 1.1.52) Don't cross multiply. We can't determine whether multiplication by $(x - 1)$ would change the direction of the inequality since $(x - 1)$ could be positive or negative, depending on the value of x . Instead, use this basic technique for solving nonlinear equations and inequalities:

Get a zero on one side and factor the other.

$$0 \geq 2 - \frac{x-3}{x-1} = \left(\frac{2}{1}\right) \left(\frac{x-1}{x-1}\right) - \left(\frac{x+3}{x+1}\right)$$

$$= \frac{2(x-1) - (x+3)}{x-1} = \frac{x-5}{x-1}$$

Now make a sign chart.

$x - 5 :$	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 0 + + + + + + + +
$x - 1 :$	- - - - -	- 0 + + + + + + + +	+ + + + + + + +
$\frac{x-5}{x-1} :$	+ + + + + + + +	DNE - - - - -	- 0 + + + + + + + +
$x :$		1	5

So, $0 \geq \frac{x-5}{x-1}$ on the interval $(1, 5]$. (done)

1b. (Source: 1.2.more.2c) Remember that the absolute value of a number is its distance from 0 on the number line. So, $|2 - 4x| \geq 7$ says that $2 - 4x$ is a number at least than 7 units from 0, and therefore

$$2 - 4x \leq -7 \quad \text{or} \quad 2 - 4x \geq 7$$

$$-4x \leq -9 \quad \text{or} \quad -4x \geq 5$$

$$x \geq 9/4 \quad \text{or} \quad x \leq -5/4$$

That makes the solution set $(-\infty, -5/4] \cup [9/4, \infty)$. (done)

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