Spreadsheet Activity: Solving Systems of Inequalities in Two Variables

For use before the lesson "Solve Systems of Linear Inequalities"

QUESTION

How can you use a spreadsheet to tell whether an ordered pair is a solution of a system of linear inequalities in two variables?

A system of linear inequalities in two variables consists of two or more linear inequalities in the same variables. An example is shown.

$$x + 1.5y < 7.5$$

$$3x - y \ge -4$$

A solution of a system of inequalities is an ordered pair that is a solution of each inequality in the system.

EXAMPLE

Use a spreadsheet to tell whether an ordered pair is a solution of a system of inequalities

Use a spreadsheet to tell whether each ordered pair is a solution of the system of inequalities: (5, 7), (-3.5, 8), (-8, -0.5), (4, -3).

STEP 1 Enter coordinates and formulas. Label columns *x*-coordinates, *y*-coordinates, solution of inequality 1, solution of inequality 2, and solution of system. Enter the *x*-coordinates in column A. Enter the *y*-coordinates in column B. Then enter the formulas to tell whether the ordered pair is a solution of each inequality and the system.

	Α	В	С	D	E				
1	<i>x</i> -coordinates	<i>y</i> -coordinates	Solution of	Solution of	Solution of				
			Inequality 1	Inequality 2	system				
2	5	7	=A2+1.5*B2<7.5	=3*A2-B2>=-4	=AND(C2, D2)				
3	-3.5	8	=A3+1.5*B3<7.5	=3*A3-B3>=-4	=AND(C3, D3)				
4	-8	-0.5	=A4+1.5*B4<7.5	=3*A4-B4>=-4	=AND(C4, D4)				
5	4	-3	=A5+1.5*B5<7.5	=3*A5-B5>=-4	=AND(C5, D5)				

STEP 2 From column E below, you can conclude that (4, -3) is a solution of the system because it is a solution of *each* inequality in the system. The other ordered pairs are *not* solutions because they are not solutions of both of the inequalities.

	Α	В	С	D	E						
1	<i>x</i> -coordinates	<i>y</i> -coordinates	Solution of	Solution of	Solution of						
			Inequality 1	Inequality 2	system						
2	5	7	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE						
3	-3.5	8	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE						
4	-8	-0.5	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE						
5	4	-3	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE						

PRACTICE

Use a spreadsheet to tell whether each ordered pair is a solution of the system of inequalities.

1.
$$x - y \ge -2.5$$

 $y > -x + 7$
 $(1.5, 12), (-3, 0), (7, 5), (6, -9.5)$

2.
$$2.5x - y \le 5$$

 $y < -3.5x$
 $(-5, 1.5), (0, 10), (3, -7), (-4, 5)$

LESSON 6.6

Spreadsheet Activity: Solving Systems of Inequalities in Two Variables continued

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EXCEL

Select cell A1.

x-coordinates TAB y-coordinates TAB Solution of Inequality 1 TAB Solution of

Inequality 2 TAB Solution of system ENTER

Select cell A2.

5 ENTER -3.5 ENTER -8 ENTER 4 ENTER

Select cell B2.

7 ENTER 8 ENTER -0.5 ENTER -3 ENTER

Select cell C2.

= A2 + 1.5*B2 < 7.5 ENTER

Select cell C2. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Copy**.

Select cells C3–C5. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Paste**.

Select cell D2.

= 3*A2 - B2 > = -4 ENTER

Select cell D2. From the Edit menu, choose Copy.

Select cells D3-D5. From the Edit menu, choose Paste.

Select cell E2.

=AND(C2, D2) **ENTER**

Select cell E2. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Copy**.

Select cells E3-E5. From the Edit menu, choose Paste.