

**Section 3-4:
Comparing and
Ordering Decimals**

Which number is bigger?

12.507 or **13.101**

3.53 or 3.52

-2.025 or **-1.023**

-0.501 or ~~-0.55~~

Steps for comparing decimals:

1. Stack the numbers so that the place values line up. Use 0's to fill in missing place values.
2. Begin at the left and compare each place value one by one.

**** Negatives are opposite. The smaller numbers are really bigger.****

Compare using $<$, $>$ or $=$

$$12.58 > 11.99$$

\rightarrow

$$\begin{array}{r} 12.58 \\ 11.99 \end{array}$$

$$3.548 < 3.568$$

\rightarrow

$$\begin{array}{r} 3.548 \\ 3.568 \end{array}$$

$$0.\overline{4} > 0.4$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.40444\dots \\ 0.40000\dots \end{array}$$

$$24.4301 > 24.43$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24.4301 \\ 24.4300 \end{array}$$

$$-5 < -4$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -2.334 \\ \text{Bigger} \rightarrow -2.034 \end{array}$$

$$-2.334 < -2.034$$

Beware of Negatives!

Order from least to greatest:

1.2, 0.8, 1.8, 0.2

1.2
1.8

0.2, 0.8, 1.2, 1.8

0.8
0.2

Order from greatest to least:

4.25, 4.52, 4.2, 4.5

4.25

4.52, 4.5, 4.25, 4.2

4.52

4.52
4.50

4.20

4.50