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Metropolitan  
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# Solving Equations and Inequalities

## **NCS Mathematics DVD Series**



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# Outcomes for this DVD

In this DVD you will:

- Solve quadratic equations LESSON 1.
- Solve quadratic inequalities LESSON 2.
- Solve general inequalities LESSON 3.
- Solve systems of equations LESSON 4.

# Lesson 1

# Solving Quadratic Equations



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# What is a Quadratic Equation?

## Definition of quadratic equation:

- A quadratic equation is an equation that can be written as  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  where  $a, b$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a \neq 0$ .
- $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  is also known as the standard form of the quadratic equation.

# Strategy for solving Quadratic Equations

Write the quadratic equation in standard form:

The roots are solution's of this equation

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0; a \neq 0$$

Either  $x - \alpha = 0$  or  $x - \beta = 0$

Factorize if possible:

$$a(x - \alpha)(x - \beta) = 0$$

or

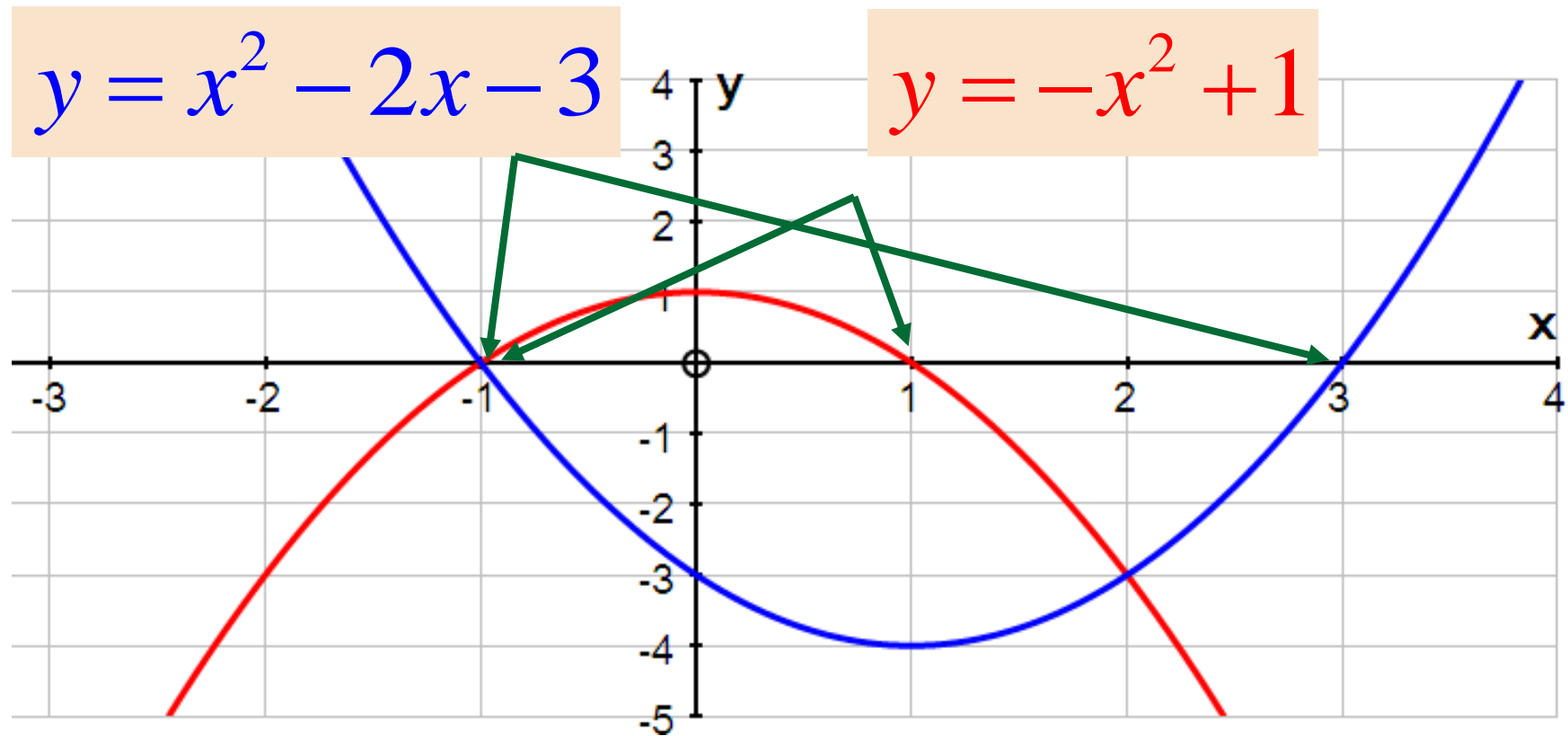
Use Formula:

Roots

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$$

# Roots – The Graphical Interpretation

i.e.  $x$  - intercepts for the graph of  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$



# Example 1: Solving a Quadratic Equation

$$1. (x - 2)(x + 1) = 0$$

This is already given in factorised form:

$$\text{Thus; } (x - 2)(x + 1) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x - 2 = 0 \text{ or } x + 1 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = 2 \text{ or } x = -1$$

# Example 2: Solving a Quadratic Equation

$$2. \quad \text{Solve:} \quad 3x^2 = 27$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 3x^2 - 27 = 0 \quad (\text{Standard form})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - 9 = 0 \quad (\text{Divide by 3})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x + 3)(x - 3) = 0 \quad (\text{Factorise})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = -3 \quad \text{or} \quad 3 \quad (\text{Solutions- Check!})$$



# Example 3: Solving a Quadratic Equation

$$3. \text{ Solve: } 2x(x - 3) = 20$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 2x^2 - 6x - 20 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - 3x - 10 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x - 5)(x + 2) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = 5 \text{ or } x = -2$$

# Tutorial 1: Solving Quadratic Equations

Solve the following quadratic equations:

1.  $12 - x = x^2$

2.  $2 = 15k^2 - k$

3.  $3 + 14x = 5x^2$

**PAUSE DVD**

- Do Tutorial 1
- Then View Solutions

# Tutorial 1 Example 1: Suggested Solution

$$1. \text{ Solve: } 12 - x = x^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 + x - 12 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x + 4)(x - 3) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = -4 \text{ or } x = 3$$

# Tutorial 1 Example 2: Suggested Solution

$$2. \text{ Solve: } 2 = 15k^2 - k$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 15k^2 - k - 2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (5k - 2)(3k + 1) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow k = \frac{2}{5} \text{ or } k = -\frac{1}{3}$$

# Tutorial 1 Example 3: Suggested Solution

$$3. \text{ Solve: } 3 + 14x = 5x^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 5x^2 - 14x - 3 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (5x + 1)(x - 3) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = -\frac{1}{5} \text{ or } x = 3$$

# Solving a Quadratic Equation by Completing the Square

When a quadratic equation does not factorise, we can solve the equation by completing the square.

Especially when:

$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$  is positive but not a perfect square.

Note: Completing the square means that we add and subtract a number to an existing quadratic expression so that part of the expression becomes a perfect square.

# Example 1: Creating a Perfect Square

(1) What must be added to  $x^2 - 6x$ ,  
to make this expression a perfect square?

We rewrite  $x^2 - 6x$  as:

$$x^2 - 6x = x^2 - 6x + \left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 - 9$$

$$= \left(x^2 - 6x + (-3)^2\right) - 9 = (x - 3)^2 - 9$$

- Assume that leading coefficient is 1
- Number to be added and subtracted can be calculated as follows:

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} \times \text{Coefficient of Middle Term}\right)^2$$

## Example 2: Convert the Quadratic Expression into a Perfect Square

(2) To make  $x^2 + 4x$  a perfect square

we add and subtract  $\left(\frac{1}{2} \times 4\right)^2 = 2^2 = 4$  to it.

$x^2 + 4x$  can be rewritten as:

$$x^2 + 4x = \left(x^2 + 4x + 2^2\right) - 4 = (x + 2)^2 - 4$$



# Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the Square

Instruction:	Solve: $2x^2 - 4x - 7 = 0$
Take constant to RHS	$2x^2 - 4x = 7$
Divide both sides by coeff. of $x^2$	$x^2 - 2x = \frac{7}{2}$
Add $\left[\frac{1}{2} \text{coeff. of } x\right]^2$ to both sides	$x^2 - 2x + 1 = \frac{7}{2} + 1$
The 3 terms on LHS form a perfect square	$(x-1)^2 = 1 + 3,5$ $\therefore (x-1)^2 = 4,5$
Take square roots on both sides:	$x-1 = \pm\sqrt{4,5}$
Write final solution:	$x = 1 \pm \sqrt{4,5}$

# Solving $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ by completing the square

Solve  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$   
by completing the square.

$$\Leftrightarrow ax^2 + bx = -c \Leftrightarrow x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x = -\frac{c}{a}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{b^2}{4a^2} = \frac{b^2}{4a^2} - \frac{c}{a} \Leftrightarrow \left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 = \frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x + \frac{b}{2a} = \frac{\pm\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \Leftrightarrow x = -\frac{b}{2a} \pm \frac{\sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$$

This is the formula to solve any quadratic equation.

# Tutorial 2: Solve quadratic equations by completing the square

Solve for  $x$  by completing the square.  
(Write answer(s) correct to 2 decimal digits where necessary.)

1.  $x^2 - 4x + 2 = 0$

2.  $3x^2 - 2x - 2 = 0$

**PAUSE DVD**

- Do Tutorial 2
- Then View Solutions

# Tutorial 2 Problem 1: Suggested Solution

$$1. \quad x^2 - 4x + 2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - 4x = -2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - 4x + (-2)^2 = (-2)^2 - 2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x - 2)^2 = 2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x - 2 = \pm\sqrt{2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x \approx 2 \pm 1,41$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x \approx 3,41 \text{ or } 0,59$$

# Tutorial 2 Problem 2: Suggested Solution

$$2. \quad 3x^2 - 2x - 2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow 3x^2 - 2x = 2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - \frac{2}{3}x = \frac{2}{3}$$

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

$$\Leftrightarrow \left(x - \frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{9} + \frac{2}{3} \Leftrightarrow \left(x - \frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{1+6}{9}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left(x - \frac{1}{3}\right) = \frac{\pm\sqrt{7}}{3}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{7}}{3} \approx \frac{1 \pm 2,65}{3} \Leftrightarrow x \approx 1,22 \text{ or } -0,55$$

# Solving a Quadratic Equation by using the Formula

If  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ , then by completing the square we have:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$$

This is the general formula for solving quadratic equations.

# Using the Formula to Solve Quadratic Equations

Solve for  $x$  by using the general quadratic formula:

$$2x^2 - 7x + 1 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{41}}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{7 + \sqrt{41}}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{7 - \sqrt{41}}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \approx 0,15 \quad \text{or} \quad 3,35$$

Know that:  $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

$$a = 2$$

$$b = -7$$

$$c = 1$$

$$\therefore \Delta = b^2 - 4ac$$

$$= (-7)^2 - 4(2)(1)$$

$$= 49 - 8 = 41$$

# Tutorial 3: Solving quadratic equations

Solve the following quadratic equations using any suitable method:

1)  $x(x - 8) = -12$

2)  $x^2 + 2x - 5 = 0$

(Answers correct to 2 decimal places, where applicable)

**PAUSE DVD**

- Do Tutorial 3
- Then View Solutions



# Tutorial 3 Problem 1: Suggested Solution

$$1. x(x - 8) = -12$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - 8x + 12 = 0$$

$$\Delta = (-8)^2 - 4(1)(12) = 64 - 48 = 4^2$$

$\therefore \Delta$  is a perfect square

$x^2 - 8x + 12$  can be factorised.

$$\therefore x^2 - 8x + 12 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x - 2)(x - 6) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = 2 \text{ or } 6$$

# Tutorial 3 Problem 2: Suggested Solution

$$2) \quad x^2 + 2x - 5 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta = 2^2 - 4(1)(-5) = 24$$

$\therefore \Delta$  is not a perfect square

$\Rightarrow$  Use formula

$$x^2 + 2x - 5 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{24}}{2(1)}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x \approx \frac{-2 \pm 4,899}{2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x \approx 1,45 \text{ or } -3,45$$

# Lesson 2

# Solving Quadratic Inequalities



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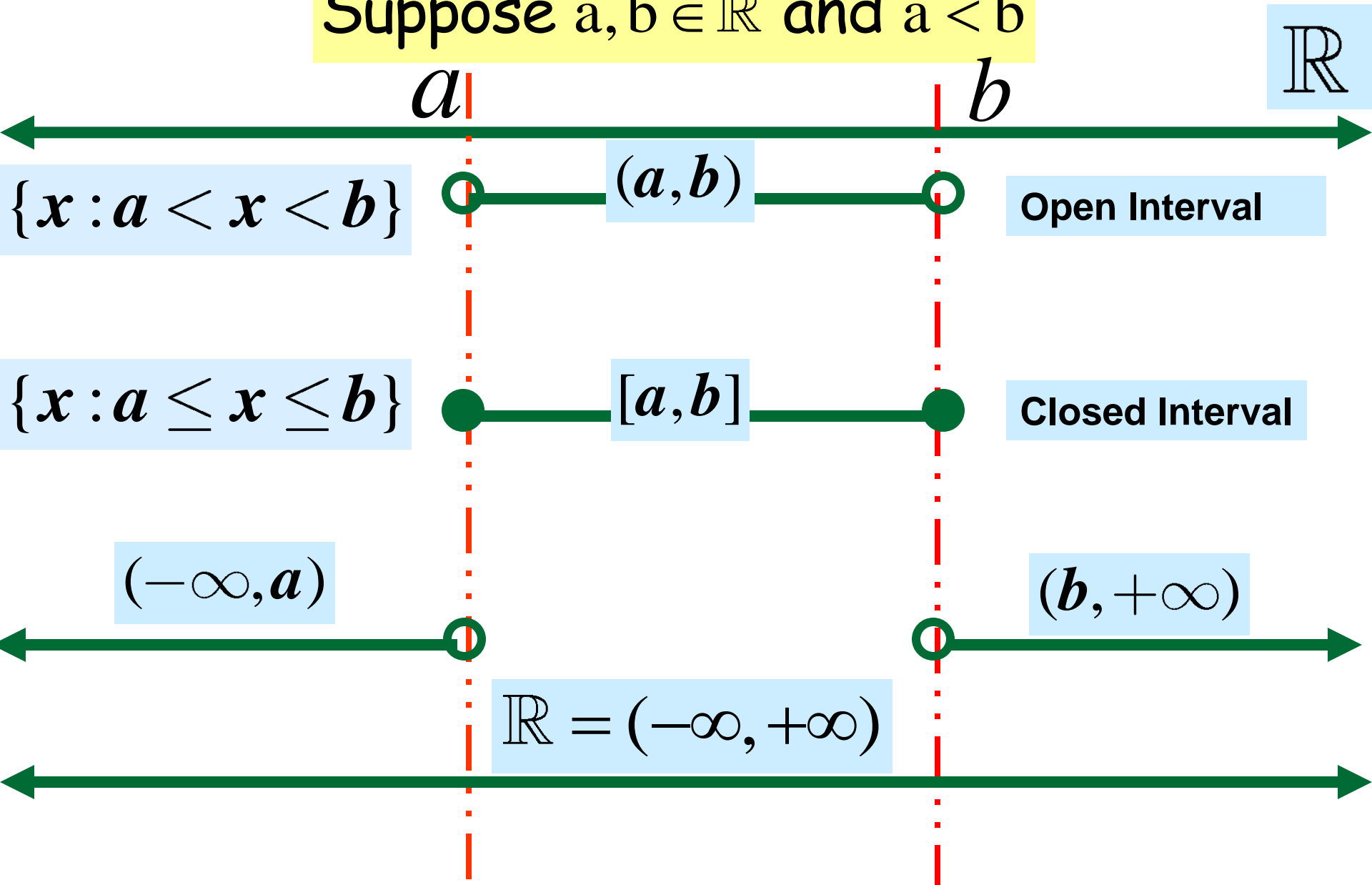


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# Sub-intervals of the Real Number Line

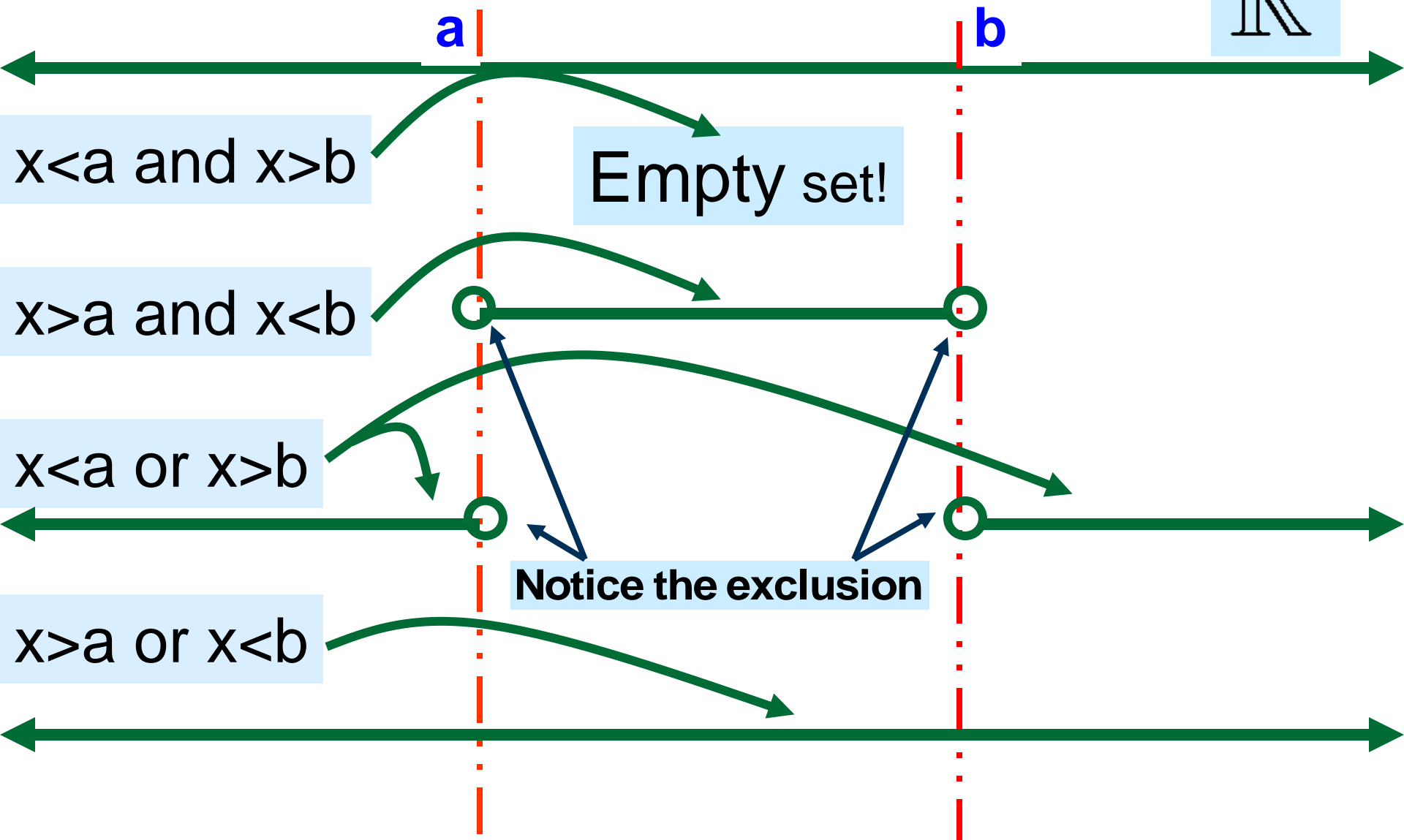
Suppose  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a < b$



# The use of OR / AND

Suppose  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a < b$

$\mathbb{R}$



# Procedure for Graphical Solution of Non-linear Quadratic Inequalities

- Write all non-zero terms on left hand side of inequality.

e.g.  $ax^2 + bx + c \leq 0$  or  $ax^2 + bx + c > 0$

- Sketch the parabola  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$

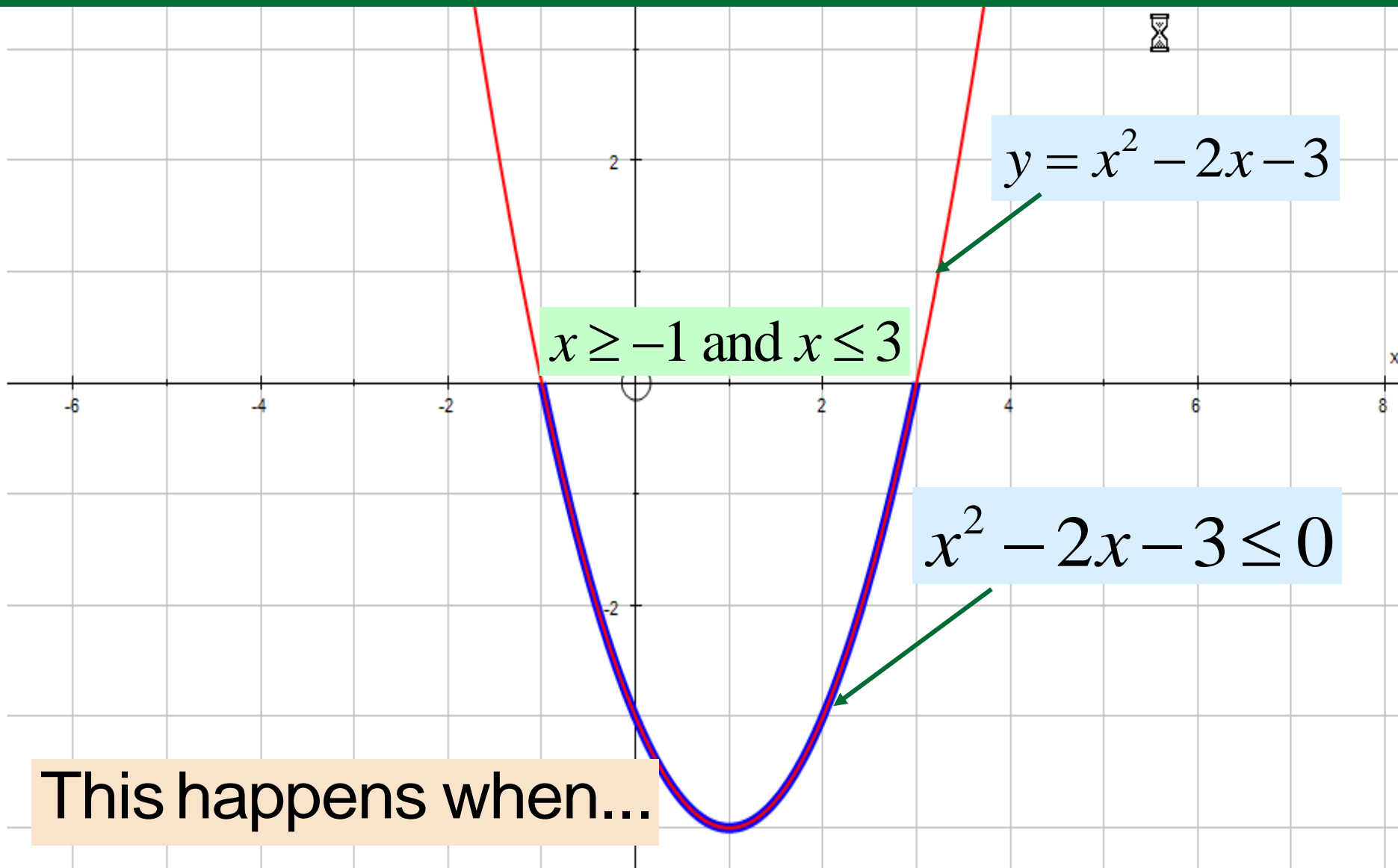
- $ax^2 + bx + c \leq 0$

$\Rightarrow$  For which  $x$  – values does the parabola lie below or on the  $x$  – axis?

- $ax^2 + bx + c > 0$

$\Rightarrow$  For which  $x$  – values does the parabola lie above the  $x$  – axis?

# Graphical View of an Inequality



# Tutorial 4: Quadratic inequalities

Solve the following quadratic inequalities:

1.  $3x^2 \geq 48$  (leave answer in set-builder notation)
2.  $x^2 - 3x \leq 10$  (leave answer in interval notation)
3.  $x - 1 < -2x^2$  (draw graphical solution)

**PAUSE DVD**

- Do Tutorial 4
- Then View Solutions



# Tutorial 4 Problem 1: Suggested Solution

$$1. 3x^2 \geq 48$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 3x^2 - 48 \geq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - 16 \geq 0$$

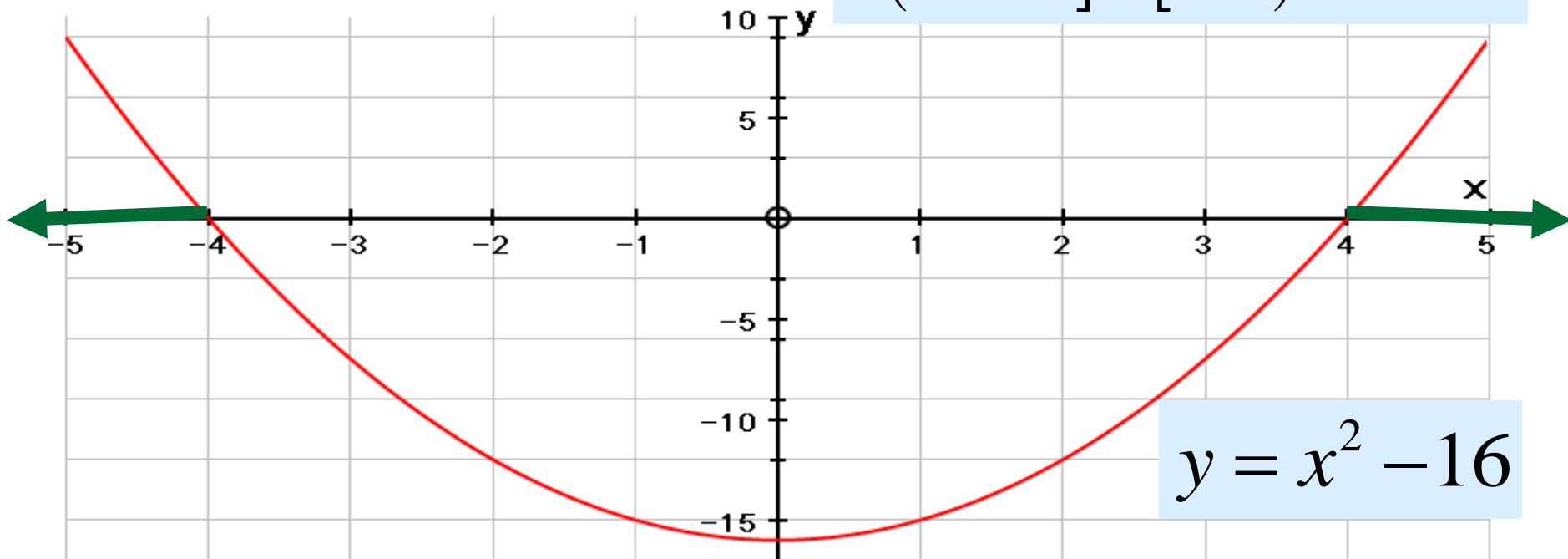
$$\Leftrightarrow (x+4)(x-4) \geq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x \leq -4 \text{ or } x \geq 4$$

$\therefore$  Solution Set

$$= \{x : x \leq -4 \text{ or } x \geq 4; x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$= (-\infty; -4] \cup [4; \infty)$$



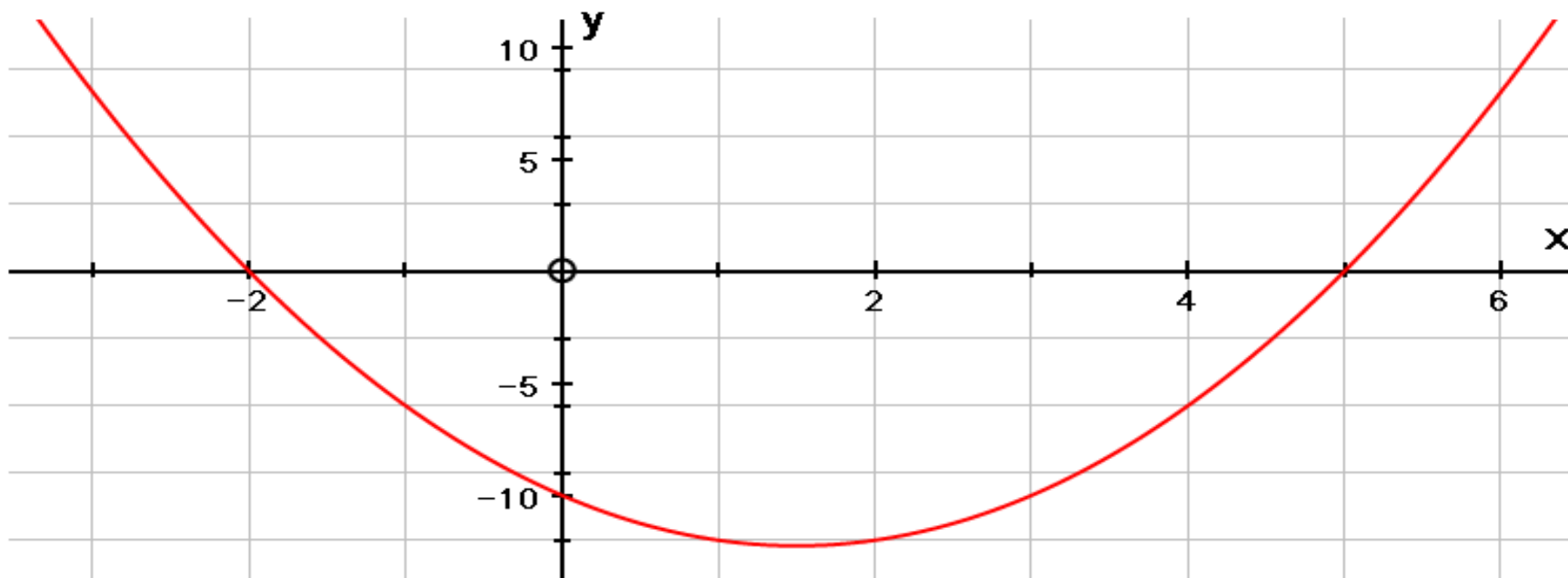
# Tutorial 4 Problem 2: Suggested Solution

$$2. x^2 - 3x - 10 \leq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x+2)(x-5) \leq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -2 \leq x \leq 5$$

$$\text{Solution } x \in [-2; 5]$$



# Tutorial 4 Problem 3: Suggested Solution

3. Write in standard form and factorize:

$$x - 1 < -2x^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 2x^2 + x - 1 < 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (2x - 1)(x + 1) < 0$$

Sketch parabola defined by

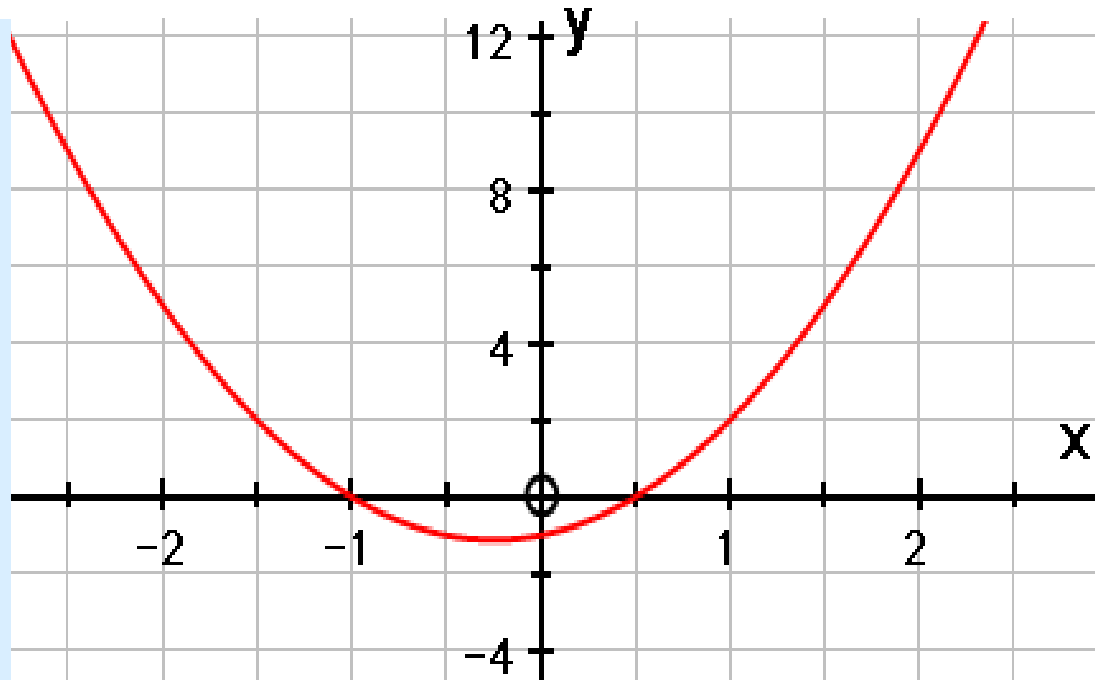
$$y = (2x - 1)(x + 1)$$

From sketch:

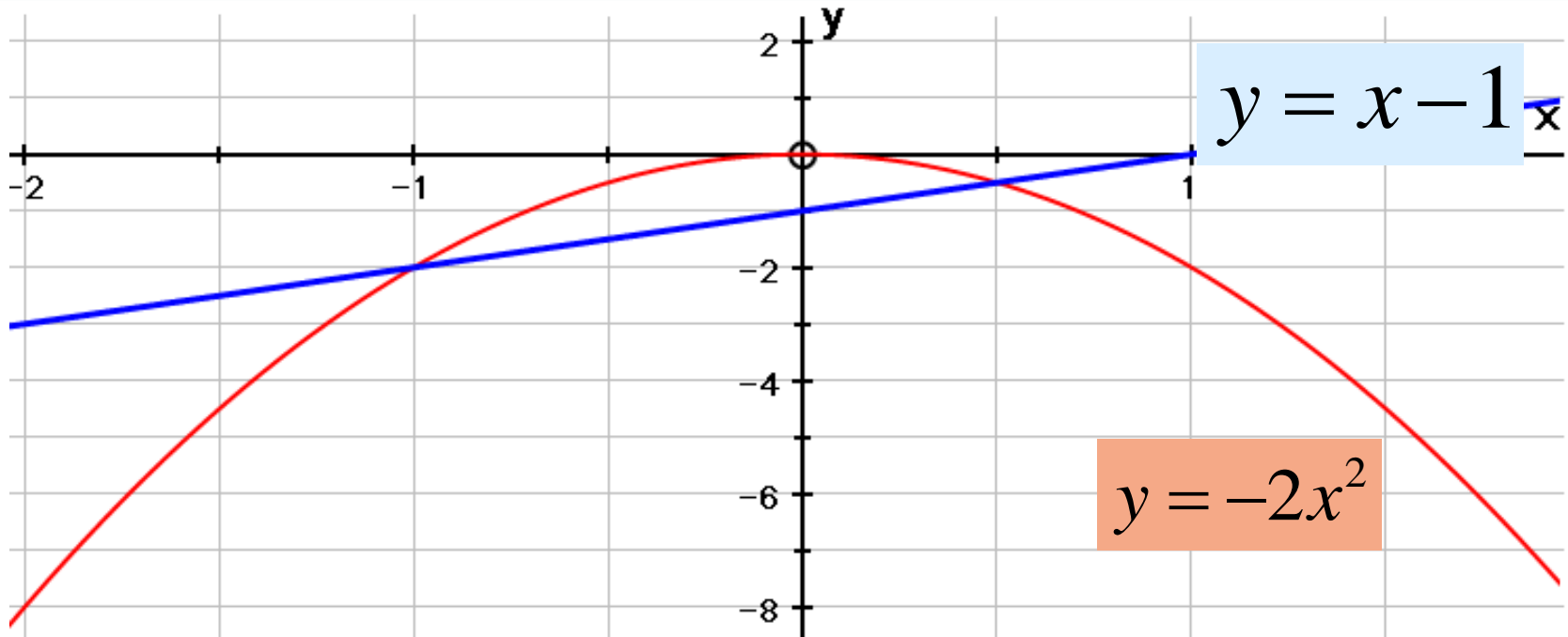
$$(2x - 1)(x + 1) < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -1 < x \text{ and } x < \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore x \in \left(-1; \frac{1}{2}\right)$$



# Tutorial 4 Problem 3: Graphical Solution



We interpret the inequality  $x - 1 < -2x^2$  graphically by finding the value/s of  $x$  for which the graph of  $y = x - 1$  is below the graph of  $y = -2x^2$ . We see from the graph that these values lie between  $-1$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

# Lesson 3

# Solving General Inequalities



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# Strategy to Solve General Inequalities

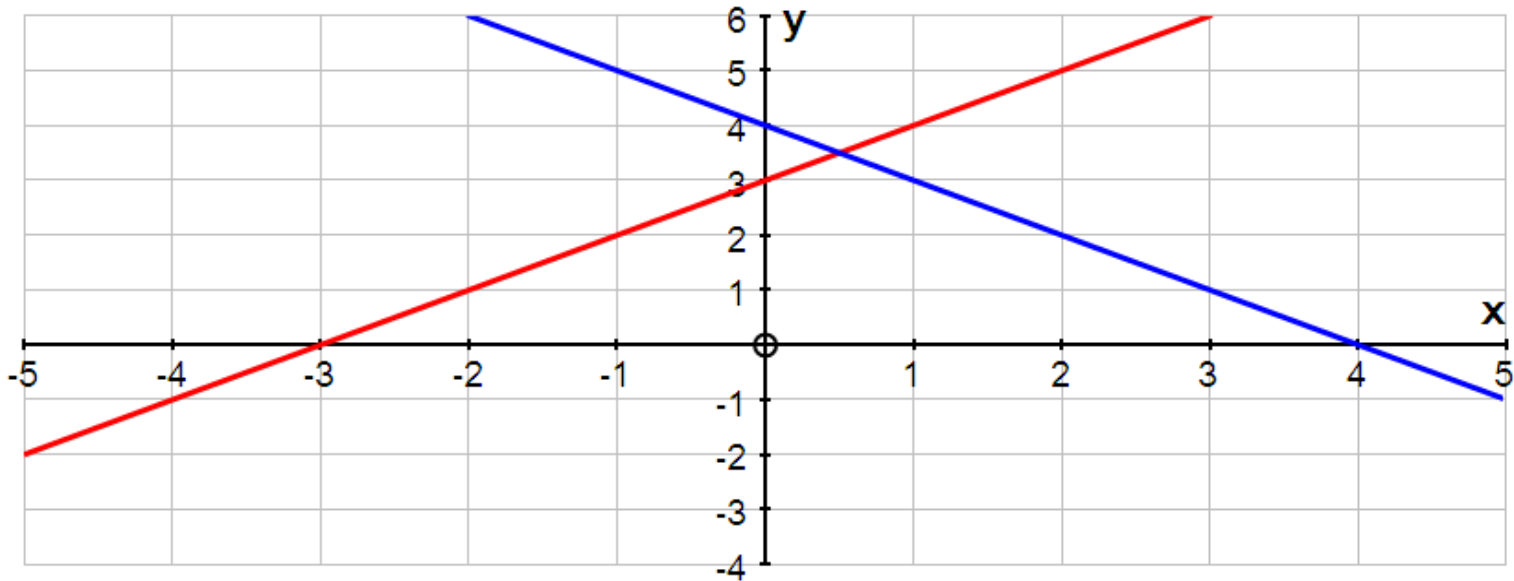
To solve inequalities like  $\frac{x+2}{3-x} < 0$ ;  $\frac{(x-3)(2-x)}{(4+x)} \geq 0$ ; ...

we use the following method:

- Write all terms on LHS of inequality and 0 on RHS
- Write expression on LHS as a factorized fraction
- Find the value for which each factor in the expression is equal to zero
- Determine the sign of each linear factor between zero points, and hence the sign of the overall expression

# Signs of Linear Factors

Consider the graphs of linear functions defined by  $y = x + 3$  and  $y = 4 - x$



Then  $\begin{cases} x + 3 = 0 & \text{when } x = -3 \\ x + 3 > 0 & \text{when } x > -3 \\ x + 3 < 0 & \text{when } x < -3 \end{cases}$  and  $\begin{cases} 4 - x = 0 & \text{when } x = 4 \\ 4 - x > 0 & \text{when } x < 4 \\ 4 - x < 0 & \text{when } x > 4 \end{cases}$

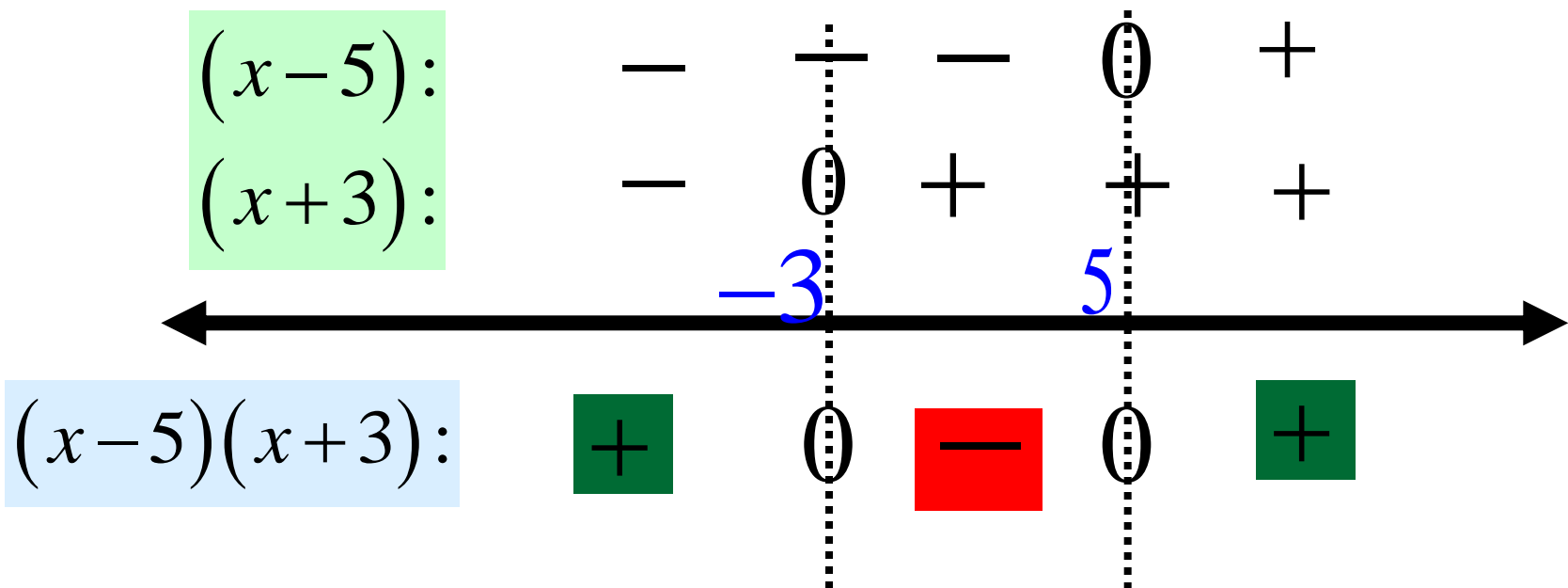
# Example 1: Solve a Quadratic Inequality Algebraically

1. Determine the values of  $x$  such that

$$x^2 - 2x \leq 15$$

Solution:

$$x^2 - 2x - 15 \leq 0 \implies (x-5)(x+3) \leq 0 \implies x \in [-3; 5]$$







# Tutorial 5: Solve General Inequalities

Solve:

1.  $2x^2 - 3x < 0$

2. 
$$\frac{(x-3)}{(2+x)(x-4)} \leq 0$$

**PAUSE DVD**

- Do Tutorial 5
- Then View Solutions

# Tutorial 5 Problem 1: Suggested Solution

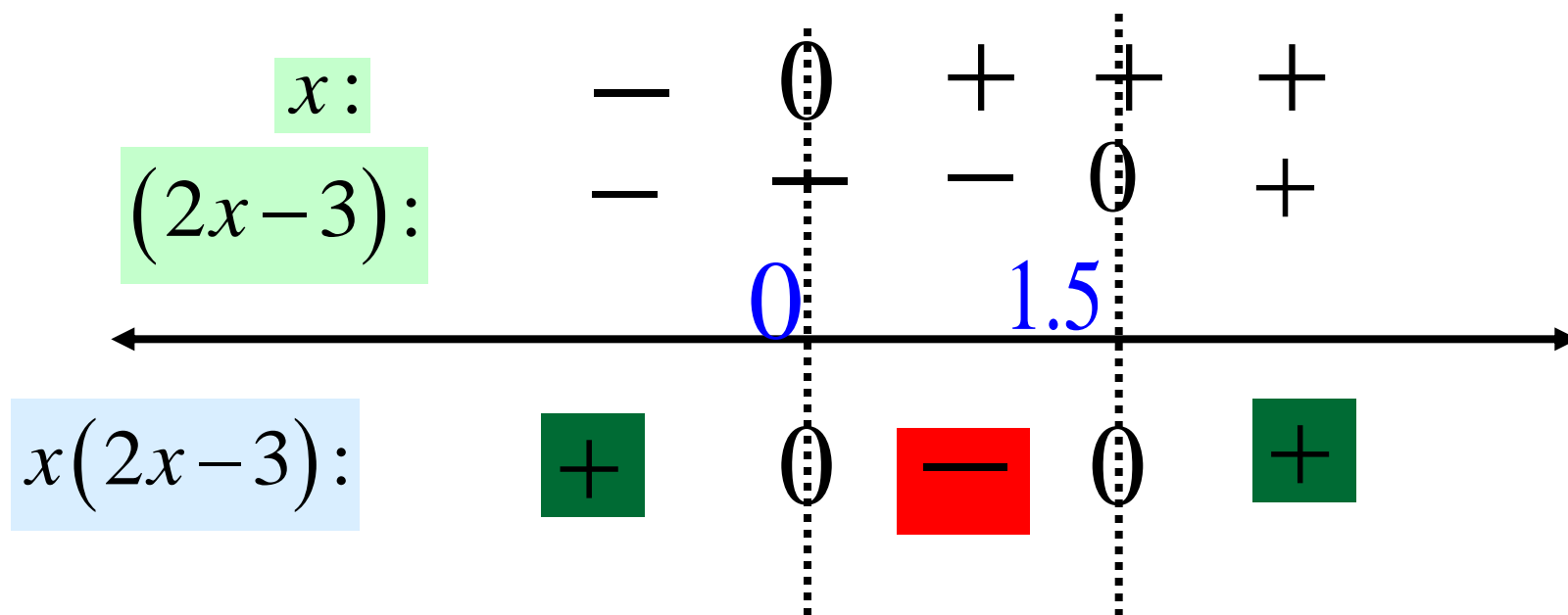
1. Determine the values of  $x$  such that

$$2x^2 - 3x \leq 0$$

Solution:

$$2x^2 - 3x < 0 \Rightarrow x(2x - 3) < 0$$

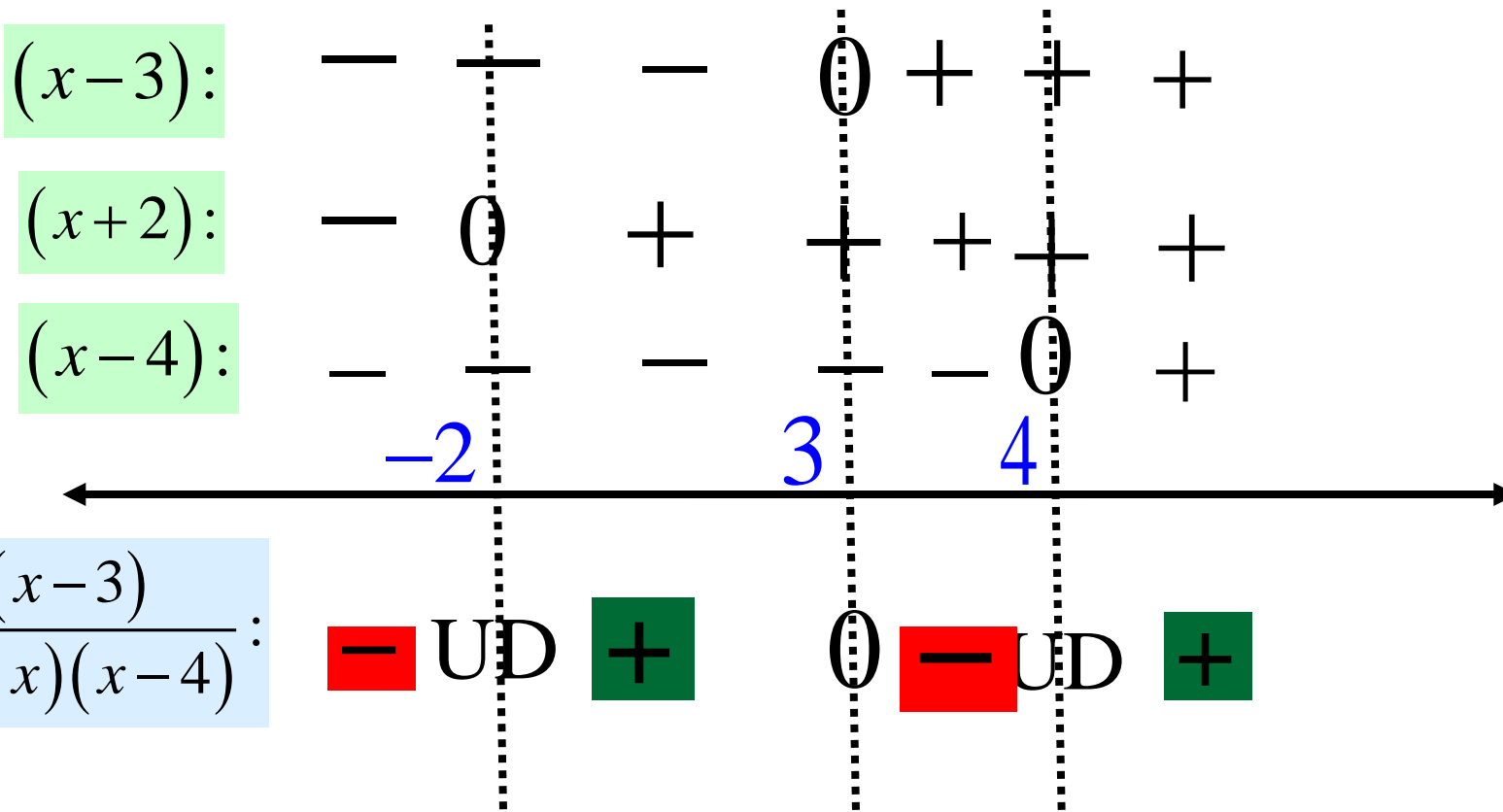
$$\Rightarrow x \in \left( 0; \frac{3}{2} \right)$$



# Tutorial 5 Problem 2: Suggested Solution

2. Determine the values of  $x$  such that

$$\frac{(x-3)}{(2+x)(x-4)} \leq 0 \Rightarrow x \in (-\infty; -2) \cup [3; 4)$$



# Lesson 4

# Solving Systems of Equations



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# Simultaneous Algebraic Solution of two Linear Equations in Two Unknowns

Solve for  $x$  and  $y$  simultaneously:

$$3x - 2y = 1 \cdots (1) \text{ and } x - y = 2 \cdots (2)$$

**Make  $x$  the subject of the formula** in (2):

$$\text{So we have: } x = y + 2$$

Now **substitute** this value for  $x$  in (1):

$$\text{So } 3(y + 2) - 2y = 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 3y + 6 - 2y = 1 \Leftrightarrow y = -5$$

$$\text{So } x = -5 + 2 = -3$$

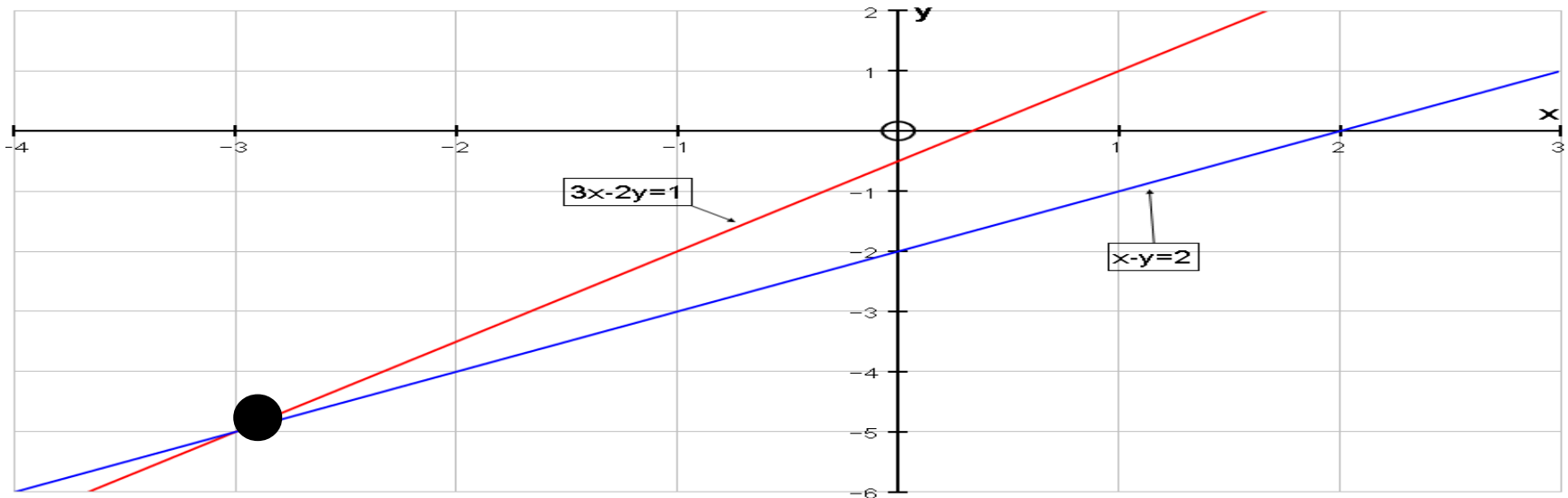
$$\therefore (x; y) \in \{(-3; -5)\}$$

# Graphical Solution of two Simultaneous Linear Equations in Two Unknowns

From previous slide we know that:

$$\{(x; y) : 3x - 2y = 1\} \cap \{(x; y) : x - y = 2\} = \{(-3; -5)\}$$

This implies that the two straight line intersect in the point  $(-3; -5)$  or have the point  $(-3; -5)$  in common.



# Solving Simultaneously a Linear and a Quadratic equation in Two Unknowns

We can now use similar methods in solving 2 equations simultaneously, where one is linear and the other is quadratic

Solve for  $x$  and  $y$  if  $x - y = 3 \dots(1)$  and  $x^2 + y = 27 \dots(2)$

From (1):  $y = x - 3 \dots(3)$

Substitute (3) into (2):

$$\therefore x^2 + (x - 3) = 27 \Rightarrow x^2 + x - 30 = 0$$

$$\therefore (x + 6)(x - 5) = 0 \Rightarrow x = -6 \text{ or } x = 5$$

Back substitute  $x$  - values into (3):

$$\Rightarrow y = -6 - 3 = -9 \text{ or } y = 5 - 3 = 2$$

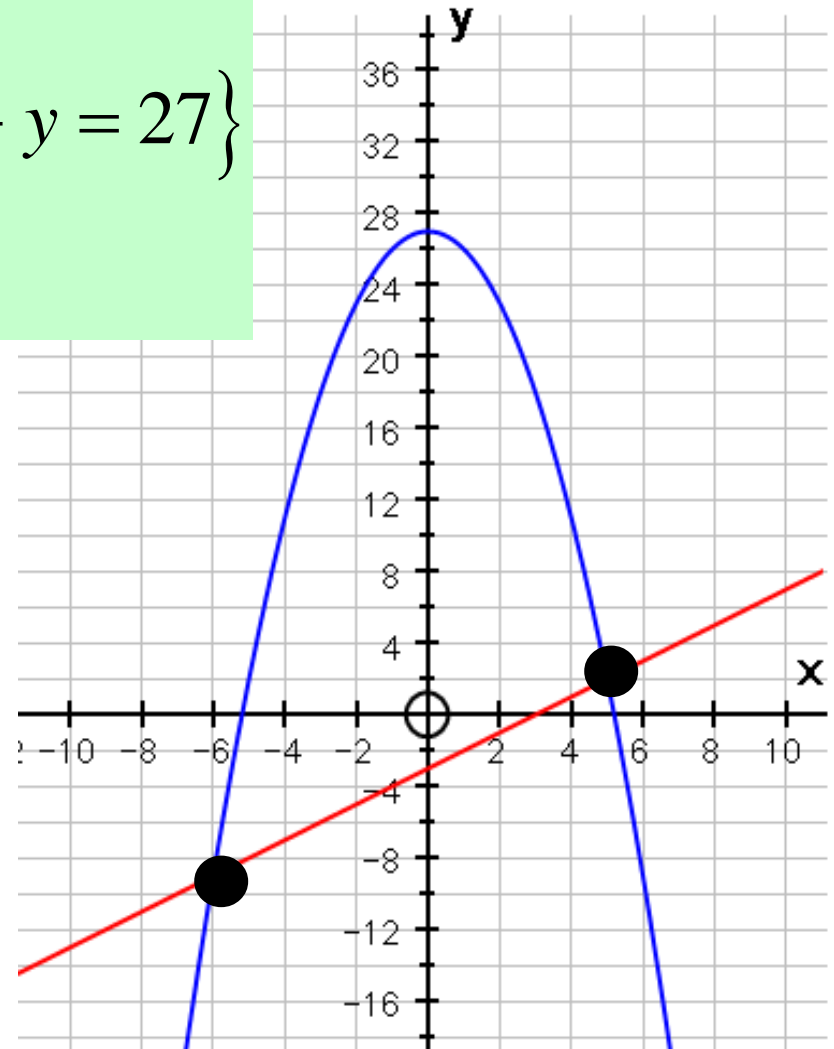
$$\therefore \text{Solution Set} = \{(-6; -9); (5; 2)\}$$



# Solving Simultaneously a Linear and a Quadratic Equation Graphically

From previous slide:

$$\{(x; y) : x - y = 3\} \cap \{(x; y) : x^2 + y = 27\} \\ = \{(-6; -9); (5; 2)\}$$



# Tutorial 6 : Solving Systems of Equations

Solve the following systems of simultaneous equations:

1.  $y = x^2 - 3$

$y = 2x - 4$  (algebraically)

2.  $y = -x^2 + 4$

$y = x + 2$  (graphically)

**PAUSE DVD**

- Do Tutorial 6
- Then View Solutions

# Tutorial 6 Problem 1: Suggested Solution

$$1. \quad y = x^2 - 3 \quad \rightarrow \text{(A)}$$

$$y = 2x - 4 \quad \rightarrow \text{(B)}$$

Substitute for  $y$  in equation (A)

$$\text{We have: } 2x - 4 = x^2 - 3$$

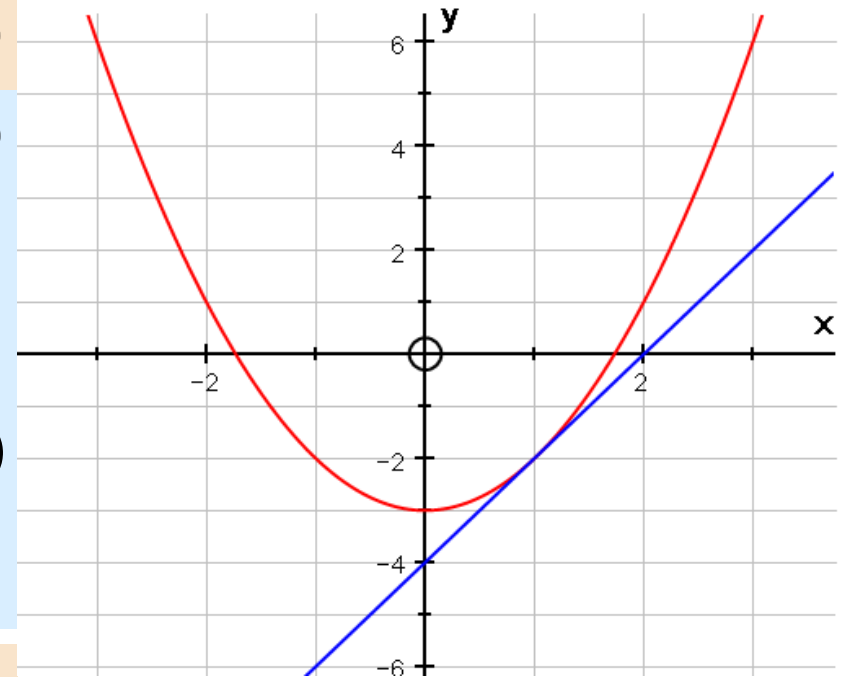
$$\Leftrightarrow x^2 - 2x + 1 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x - 1)(x - 1) = 0$$

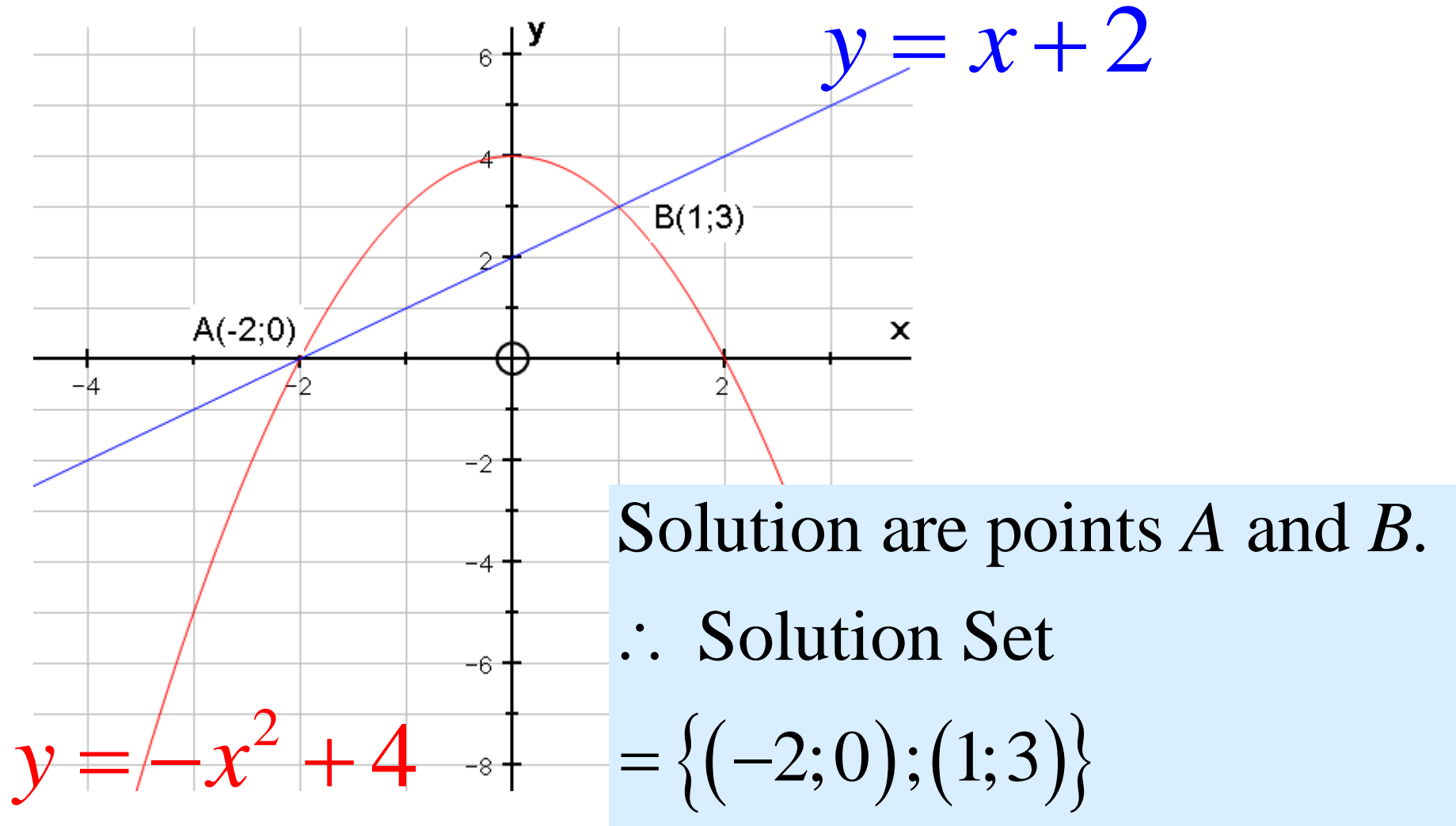
$$\Leftrightarrow x = 1 \quad (\text{only})$$

$$\text{Hence, } y = 2(1) - 4 = -2$$

Solution Set  $\{(1; -2)\}$



# Tutorial 6 Problem 2: Suggested Solution



# End of the DVD on Solving Equations and Inequalities

## REMEMBER!

- Consult text-books for additional examples.
- Attempt as many as possible other similar examples on your own.
- Compare your methods with those that were discussed in the DVD.
- Repeat this procedure until you are confident.
- Do not forget:

**Practice makes perfect!**