

Example

Solve the system if possible.

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 2y &= -2 \\ 6x - 4y &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Let's do it by comparison. We're going to solve for  $y$  in both equations.

Equation ①  $2y = -2 + 3x \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{2}(-2 + 3x)$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= -1 + \frac{3}{2}x \\ y &= \frac{3}{2}x - 1 \end{aligned}$$

Equation ②  $-4y = 1 - 6x \Rightarrow y = -\frac{1}{4}(1 - 6x)$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{6}{4}x \\ y &= -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{2}x \end{aligned}$$

Now, we make the 2  $y$ 's equal to each other.

$$\frac{3}{2}x - 1 = -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{2}x$$

$$0x = -\frac{1}{4} + 1$$

$$0 \neq -\frac{1}{4} + 1 \quad \text{Contradiction}$$

Therefore, the 2 lines are parallel. (No intersection point.)

In this case, the system is called **INCONSISTENT**.

Sometimes you could have 3 equations in 2 unknowns.

Let's see how we can solve them.