



# 262B-Lecture 3

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$$\min f(x) \rightarrow \text{FOC } \nabla f(x_*) = 0$$



## Algorithms

$$x^{(0)} \rightarrow x^{(1)} \rightarrow x^{(2)} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} + \underbrace{\alpha^{(k)}}_{\text{descent}} \underbrace{\Delta x^{(k)}}_{\text{if } \nabla f(x^{(k)})^T \Delta x^{(k)} < 0}$$

exact line search  
 limited line search  
 backtracking

$\alpha$   
 $\alpha\beta$   
 $\alpha\beta^2$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\alpha\beta^t$   
 $\vdots$

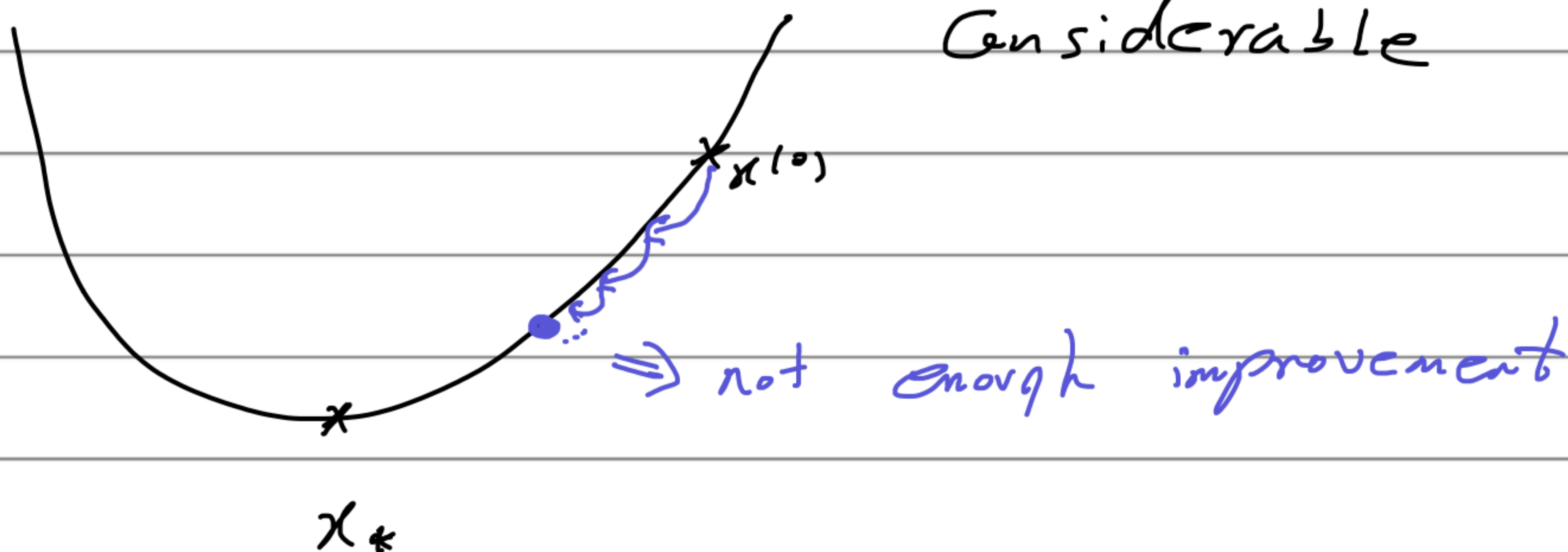
pick  $\alpha^{(k)}$

$$\alpha > 0, \beta \in (0, 1) \rightarrow$$

previously:  $f(x^{(k+1)}) < f(x^{(k)})$

improvement:  $f(x^{(k+1)}) - f(x^{(k)}) < 0$

Considerable



Armijo rule: pre-set parameter  $0 < \sigma < 1$

$$\alpha^{(k)} : \begin{matrix} \alpha \\ \alpha \beta^2 \\ \alpha \beta^4 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha \beta^t \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \Rightarrow f(x^{(k+1)}) - f(x^{(k)}) < \underbrace{\sigma x}_{\text{Constant}} \underbrace{\nabla f(x^{(k)})^T \Delta x^{(k)} \alpha^{(k)}}_{\text{inner product of gradient \& direction}}$$

(\*)  
perturbation

improvement:  $10^{-5}, 1, 10^3$  big / small

Compare against the inner product

$$\underbrace{f(x^{(k+1)}) - f(x^{(k)})}_{\text{improvement}} = \underbrace{\nabla f(x^{(k)})^T \Delta x^{(k)} \alpha^{(k)}}_{\text{same order as first term}} \dots$$

new point      old point

Armijo: pick smallest  $t =$  s.t.  $\alpha^{(k)} = \alpha \beta^t$

satisfies the inequality (\*).

Thm: If  $t >$  threshold, then (\*) is

always satisfied.

$$t \uparrow +\infty \Rightarrow \alpha^{(k)} \downarrow 0$$

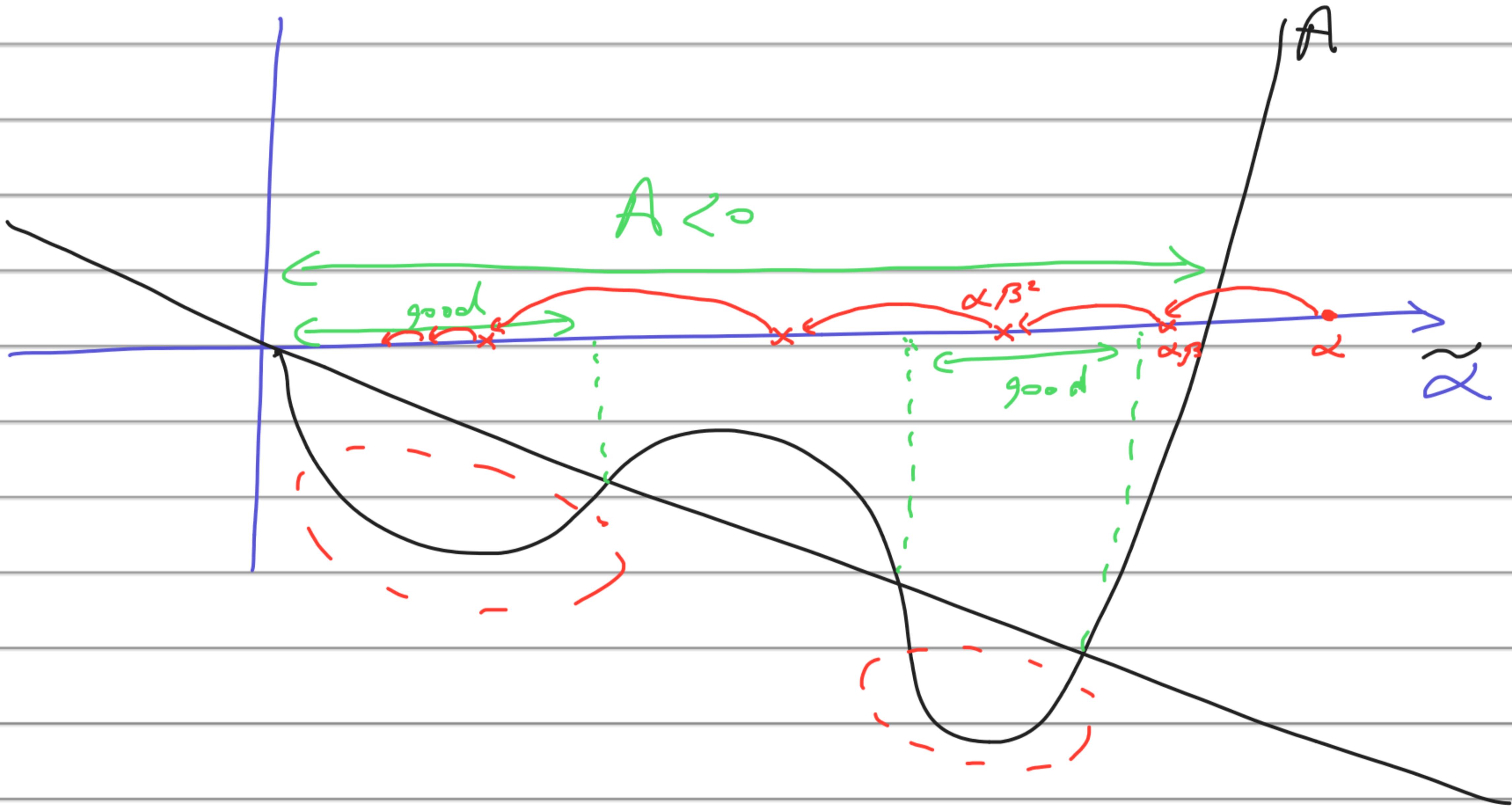
$$f(x^{(k)} + \underbrace{\tilde{\alpha}}_{\text{stepsize}} \Delta x^{(k)}) - f(x^{(k)})$$

versus

$$\sigma \times \nabla f(x^{(k)})^T \times \underbrace{(\underbrace{\tilde{\alpha}}_{\text{Linear}} \Delta x^{(k)})}_{\text{Linear}}$$

A

B



$\tilde{\alpha}$  : stepsize (variable)

B

$\alpha, \alpha\beta, \alpha\beta^2, \alpha\beta^3, \dots$

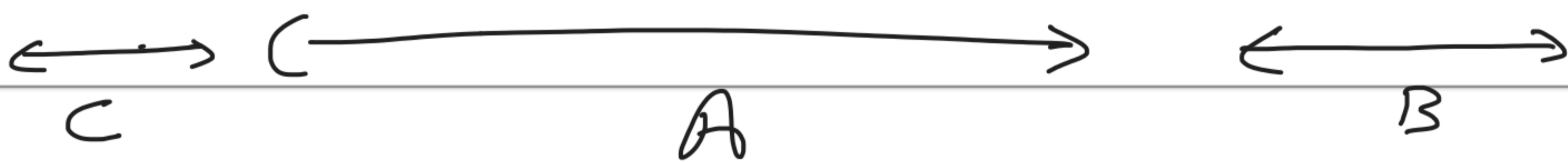
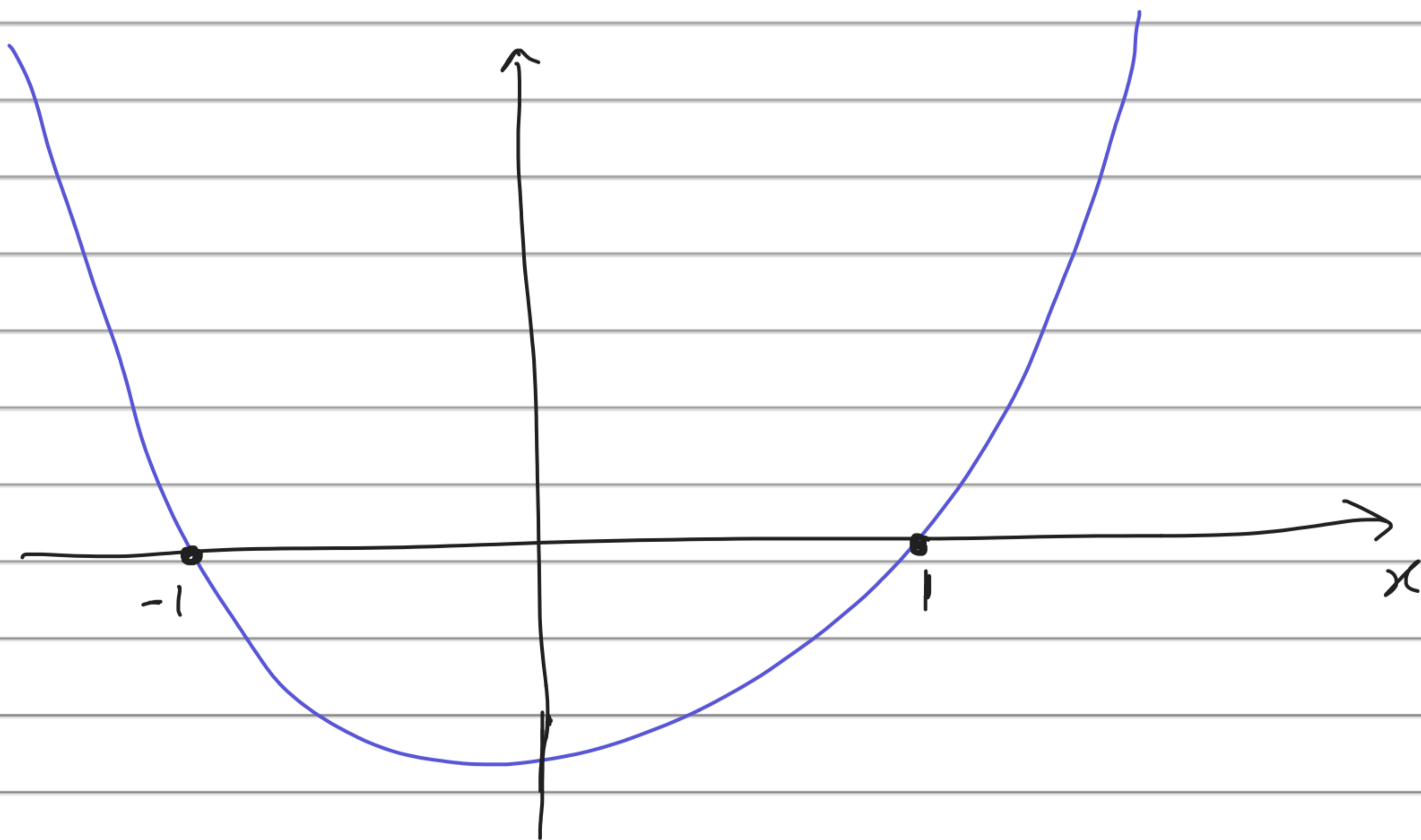
$A < B$

armijo

So far,  $\alpha^{(k)}$  : varying

- what if  $\alpha^{(k)} = \alpha = \text{fixed}$

Gradient algorithm:  $x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} - \alpha \nabla f(x^{(k)})$



A:  $(-1 \leq x \leq 1)$  :  $f(x) = x^2 - 1$

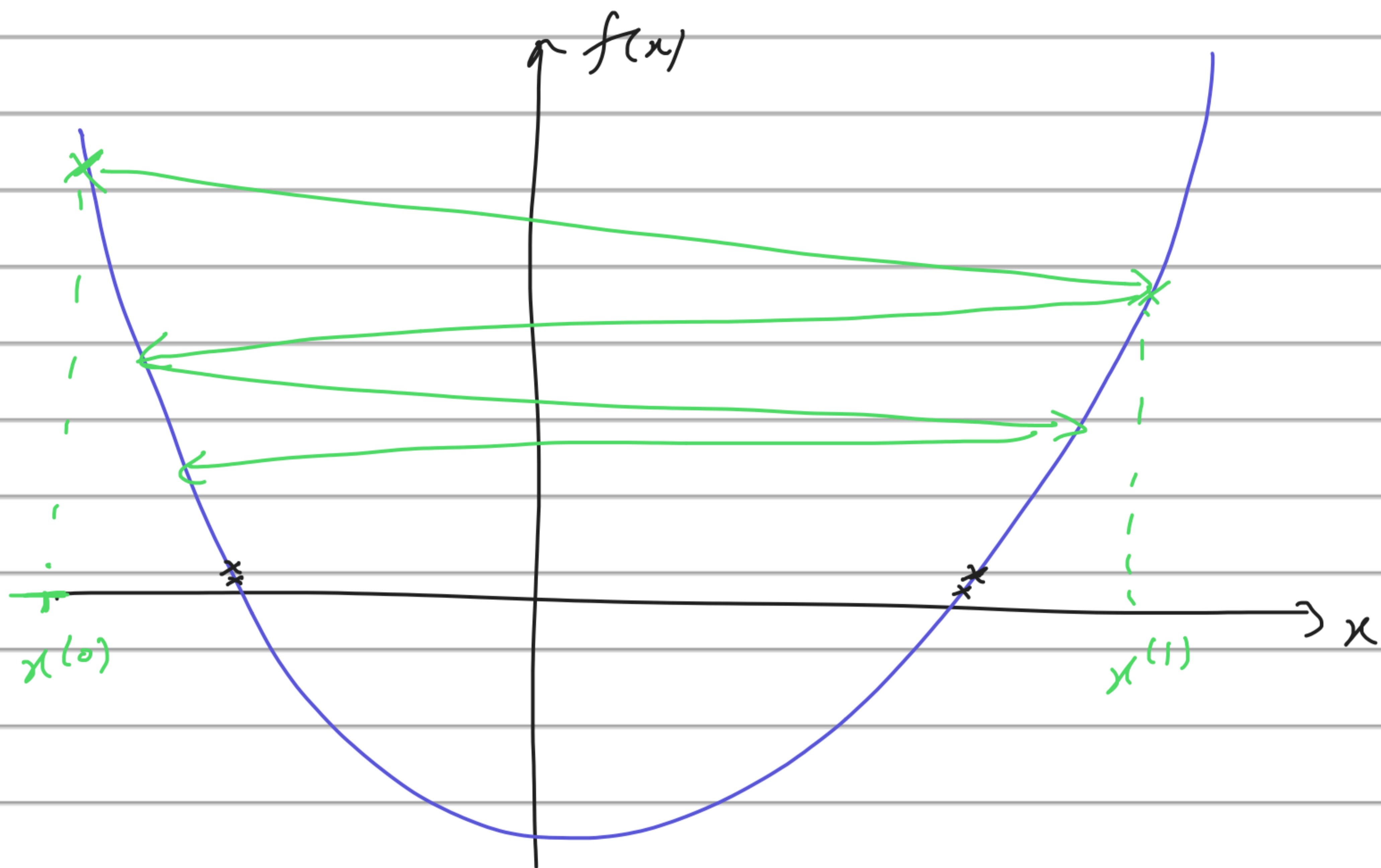
B:  $x \geq 1$  :  $f(x) = \frac{3(1-x)^2}{4} - 2(1-x)$

C:  $x \leq -1$  :  $f(x) = \frac{3(1+x)^2}{4} - 2(1+x)$

$\alpha^{(k)} = \alpha = 1$

→ Gradient algorithm

$|x^{(0)}| > 1$

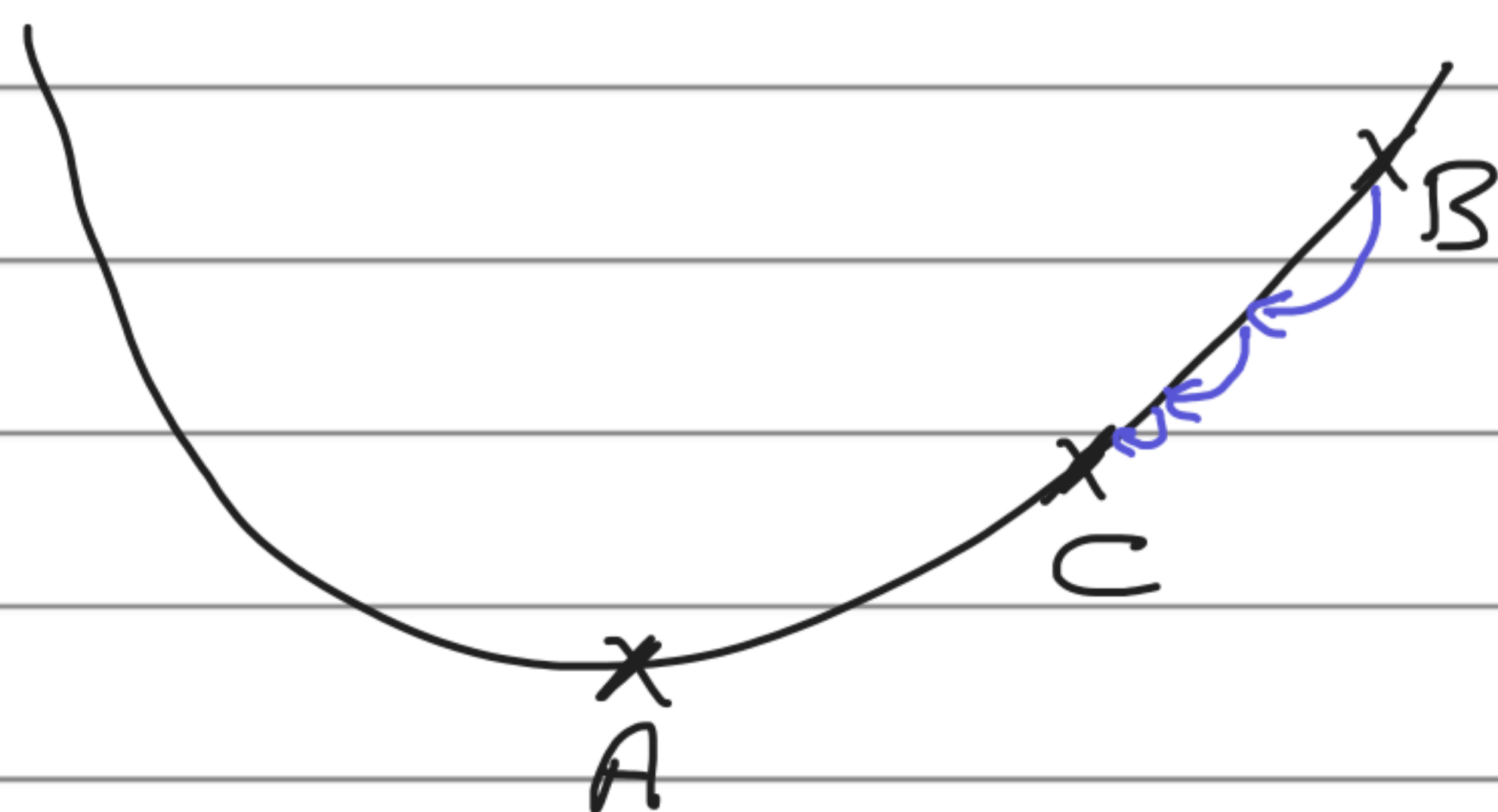


$x^{(0)} \rightarrow x^{(1)} \rightarrow x^{(2)} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow$  get close  
 to points  
 $+1, -1$  in an  
 oscillatory way

$\Rightarrow$  sequence won't converge, has two  
 limit points.

Diminishing stepsize :

$\alpha^{(1)}, \alpha^{(2)}, \alpha^{(3)}, \dots \rightarrow 0$



If  $\alpha^{(k)} \rightarrow 0$  but  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha^{(k)} = +\infty$

$\Rightarrow$  It's going to work.

$$\alpha^{(k)} = \frac{1}{k} \quad \checkmark$$

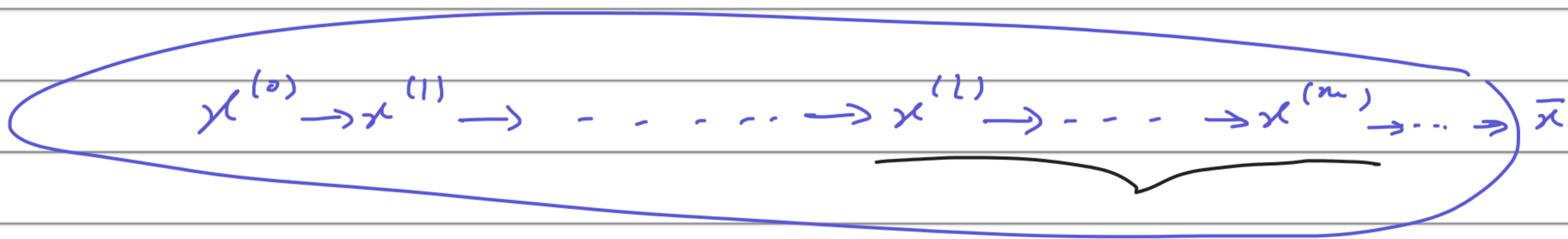
$$\alpha^{(k)} = \frac{1}{k^2} \quad \times$$

Proof: Assume we have convergence:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} x^{(k)} = \bar{x} \stackrel{?}{=} \text{stationary point (FOC)}$$

Pick  $m, L$  (integers) s.t.  $m > L \rightarrow \infty$

$$x^{(L)} \approx x^{(L+1)} \approx \dots \approx x^{(m)} \approx \bar{x}$$



$$x^{(m)} \approx x^{(L)} - \sum_{k=L}^{m-1} \alpha^{(k)} \nabla f(\bar{x})$$

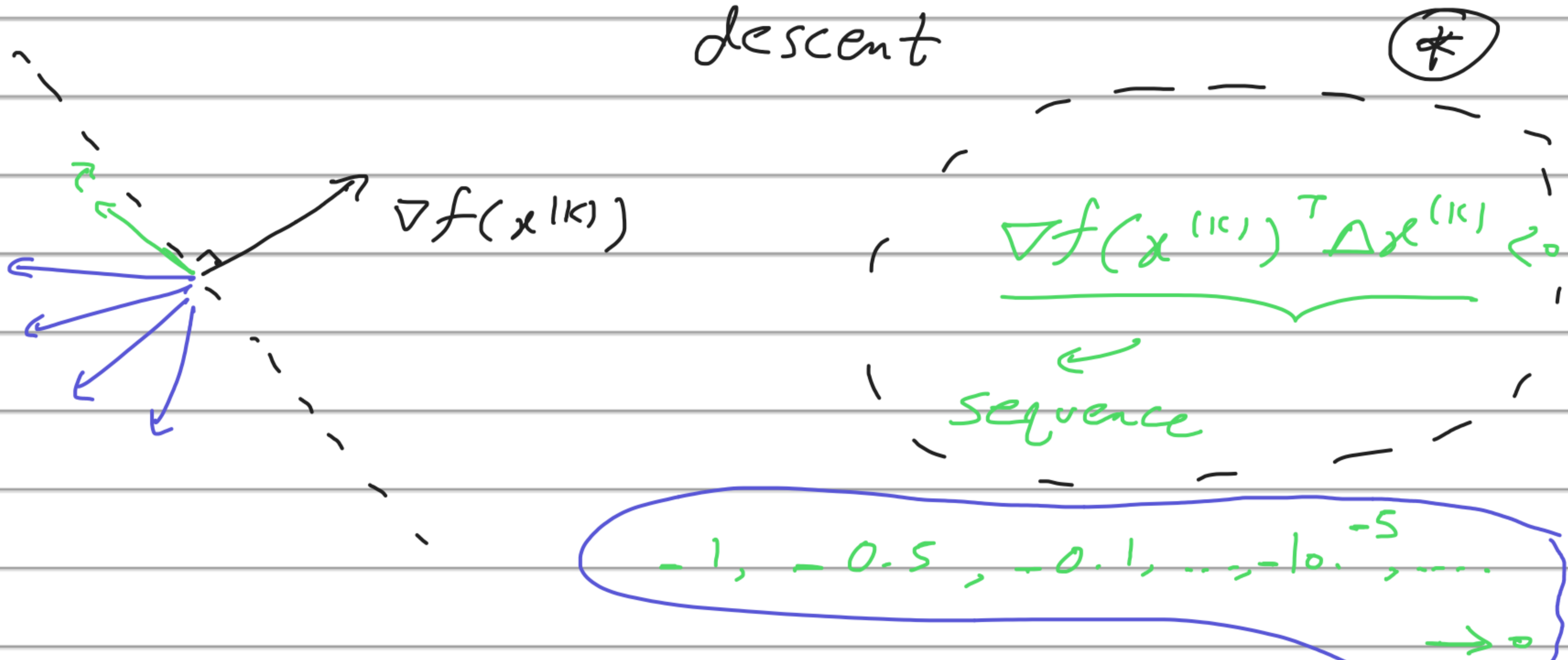
$\rightarrow \infty$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla f(\bar{x}) = 0$$

$\rightarrow 0$

Convergence issue:

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} + \alpha^{(k)} \underbrace{\Delta x^{(k)}}_{\text{descent}}$$



direction is becoming nearly orthogonal to gradient, that would be a problem.

$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty}$  angle between direction and gradient  $\neq 90^\circ$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\nabla f(x^{(k)})^T \Delta x^{(k)}}{\|\nabla f(x^{(k)})\| \|\Delta x^{(k)}\|} < 0$$

~~\*\*~~ : has a limit



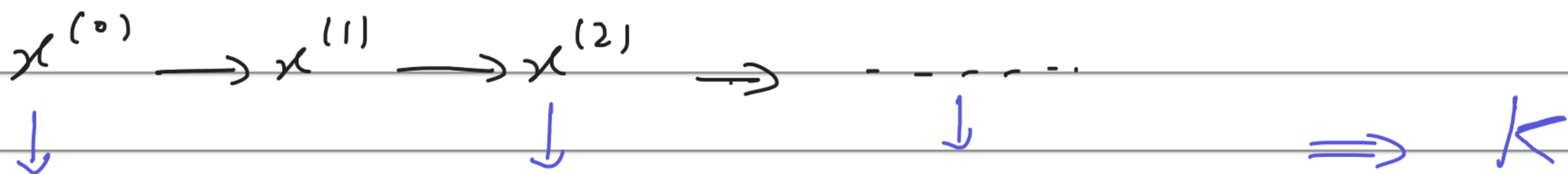
Gradient related:  $\{\Delta x^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is

gradient related if for any sub-sequence

$\{x^{(k)}\}_{k \in K}$  s.t.  $\{x^{(k)}\}_{k \in K}$  converges to

a non-stationary point, then  $\{\Delta x^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is bounded and

$$\limsup_{\substack{k \rightarrow \infty \\ k \in K}} \underbrace{\nabla f(x^{(k)})^T}_{\text{blue}} \underbrace{\Delta x^{(k)}}_{\text{blue}} < 0$$



+1, -1, +1, -1, +1, -1 : Example

$$\Delta x^{(k)} = - \underbrace{D^{(k)}}_{> 0} \nabla f(x^{(k)})$$

scaling: related to gradient

$$c_1 \|\nabla f(x^{(k)})\|^{p_1} \leq \text{eigs of } D^{(k)} \leq c_2 \|\nabla f(x^{(k)})\|^{p_2}$$

If  $\exists \underbrace{c_1}_{>0}, \underbrace{p_1}_{\geq 0}, \underbrace{c_2}_{>0}, \underbrace{p_2}_{\geq 0} \implies$  gradient related

For example:  $\Delta x^{(k)} = -\nabla f(x^{(k)})$

Gradient algorithm

$$\implies D^{(k)} = I \quad \checkmark \quad (p_1 = p_2 = 0)$$

$$x^{(0)} \rightarrow x^{(1)} \rightarrow x^{(2)} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{stop?}$$

$$\left( x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} + \underbrace{\alpha^{(k)}}_{\substack{\text{line search} \\ \text{or backtracking} \\ \text{(armijo)}}} \underbrace{\Delta x^{(k)}}_{\substack{\text{gradient} \\ \text{related}}} \right)$$

Stopping criterion?

Stop if  $\| \nabla f(x^{(k)}) \| \leq \epsilon$

① ✓

(  $\nabla f(x_*) = 0$   
FOC )

min  $f(x)$  v.s. min  $\log f(x)$

$x^{(k)}$  :  $\nabla f(x^{(k)})$  v.s.  $\log, \nabla f(x^{(k)})$

$10^{-2}$  |

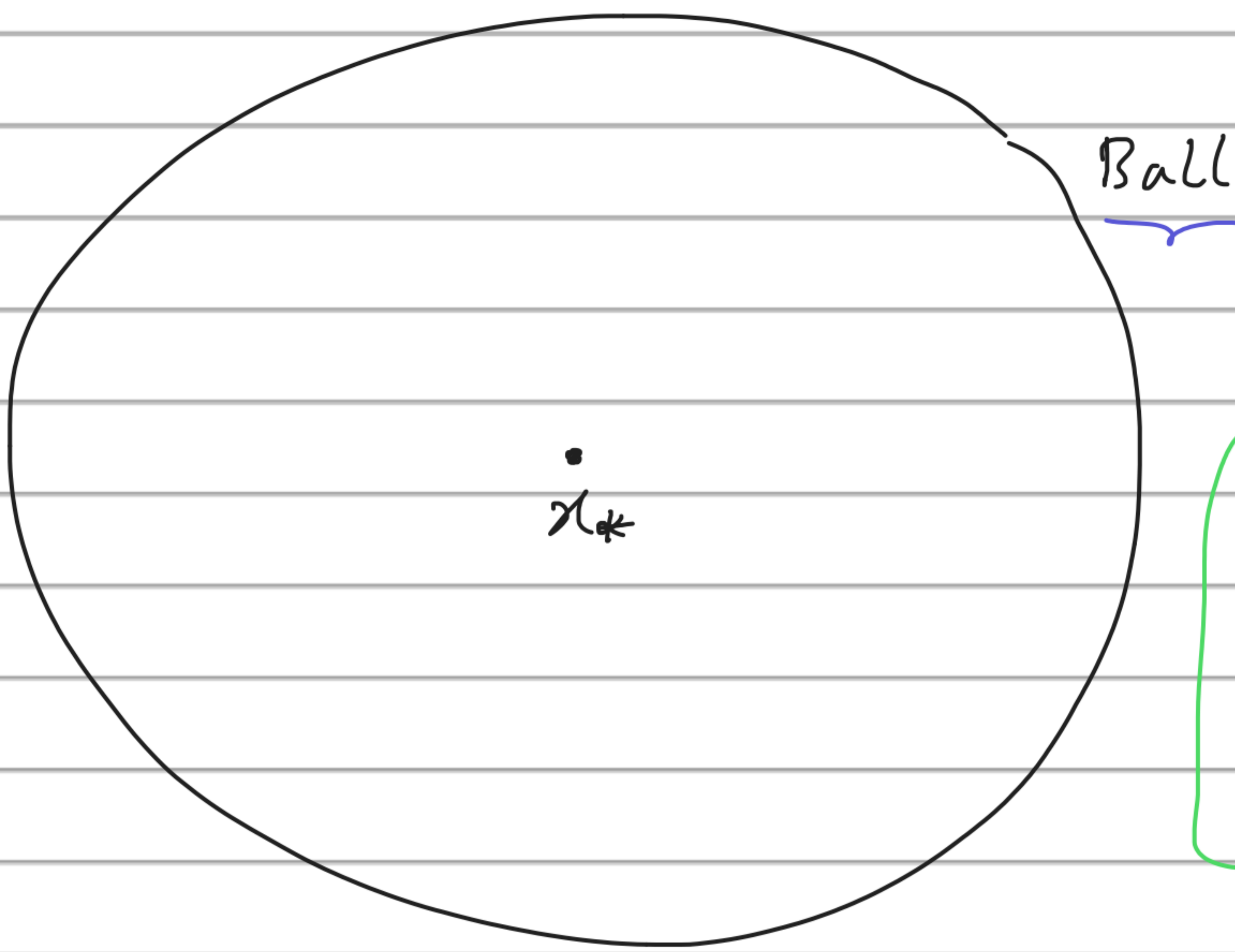
→ no direct relationship between  
gradient & point.

easy fix:  $\frac{\| \nabla f(x^{(k)}) \|}{\| \nabla f(x^{(0)}) \|} < \epsilon$

②

$\| x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)} \| \leq \epsilon$

③



$$\min \text{ eig } \nabla^2 f(x) \geq \underline{m} > 0$$

$$\forall x \in \text{Ball}$$

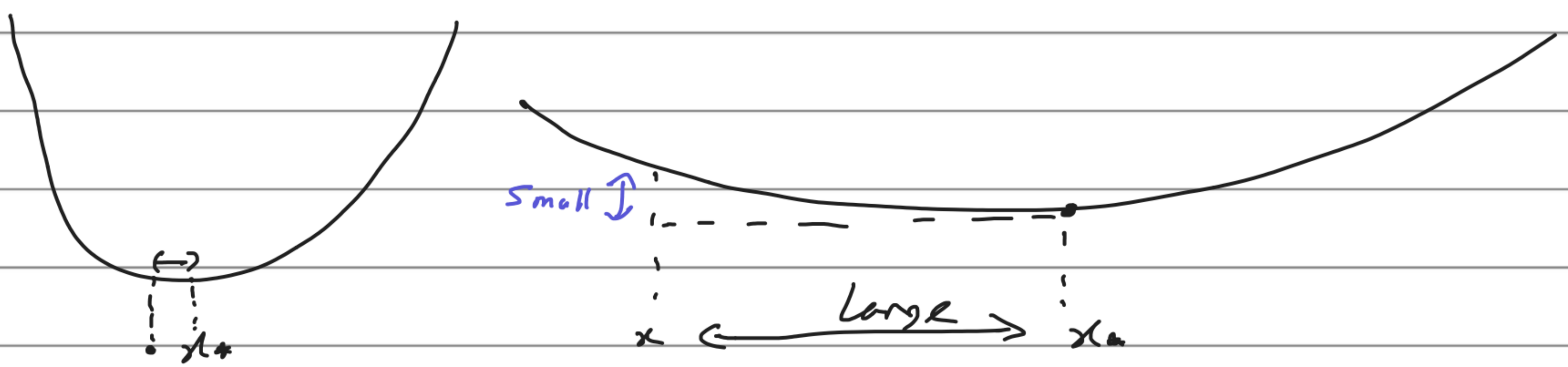
(SOC sufficient :  $\nabla^2 f(x_*) > 0$ )

Thm: If  $\| \nabla f(x) \| \leq \epsilon$  for any  $x \in \text{Ball}$

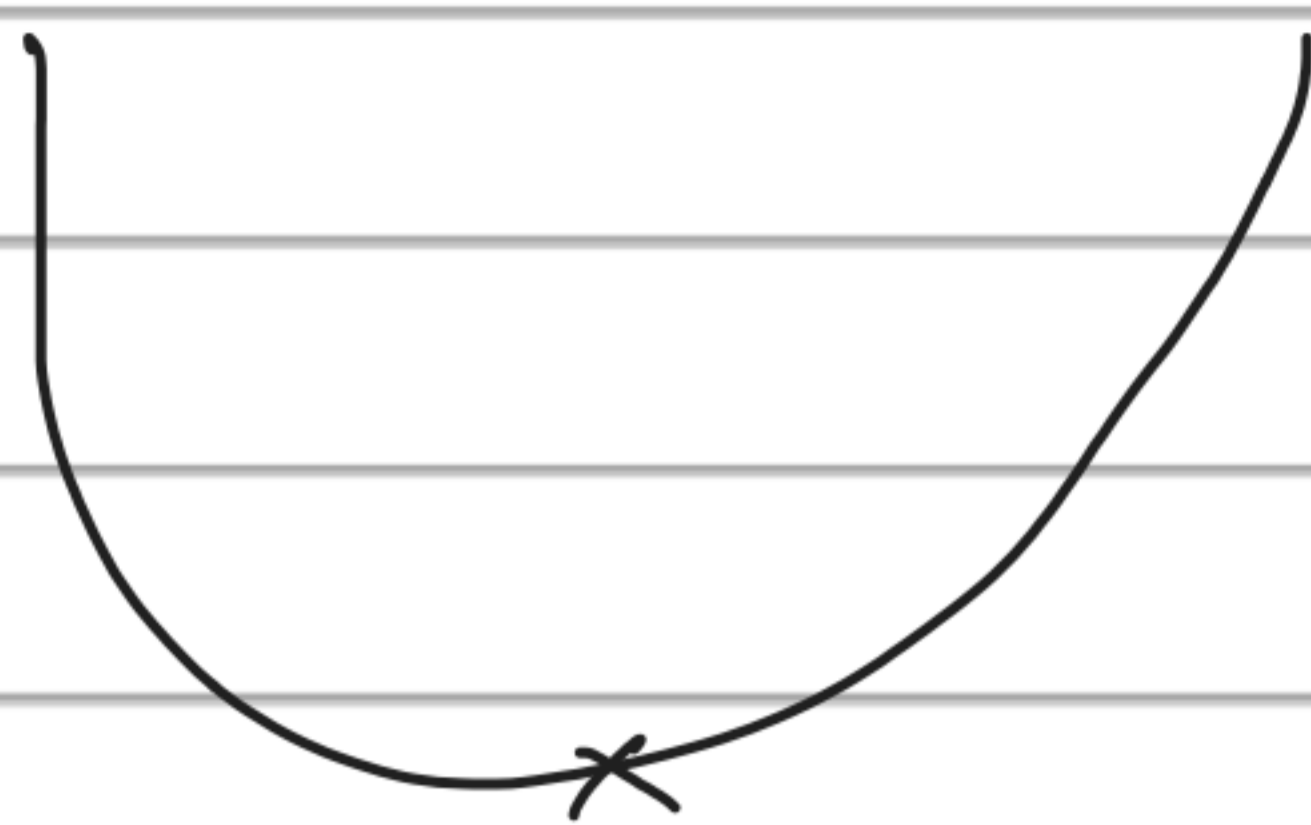
$$1 - \| x - x_* \| \leq \frac{\epsilon}{m} \quad ?$$

$$2 - f(x) - f(x_*) \leq \frac{\epsilon^2}{2m} \quad \checkmark$$

gradient being small  $\Rightarrow$  close enough to solution ( $x_*, f(x_*)$ )

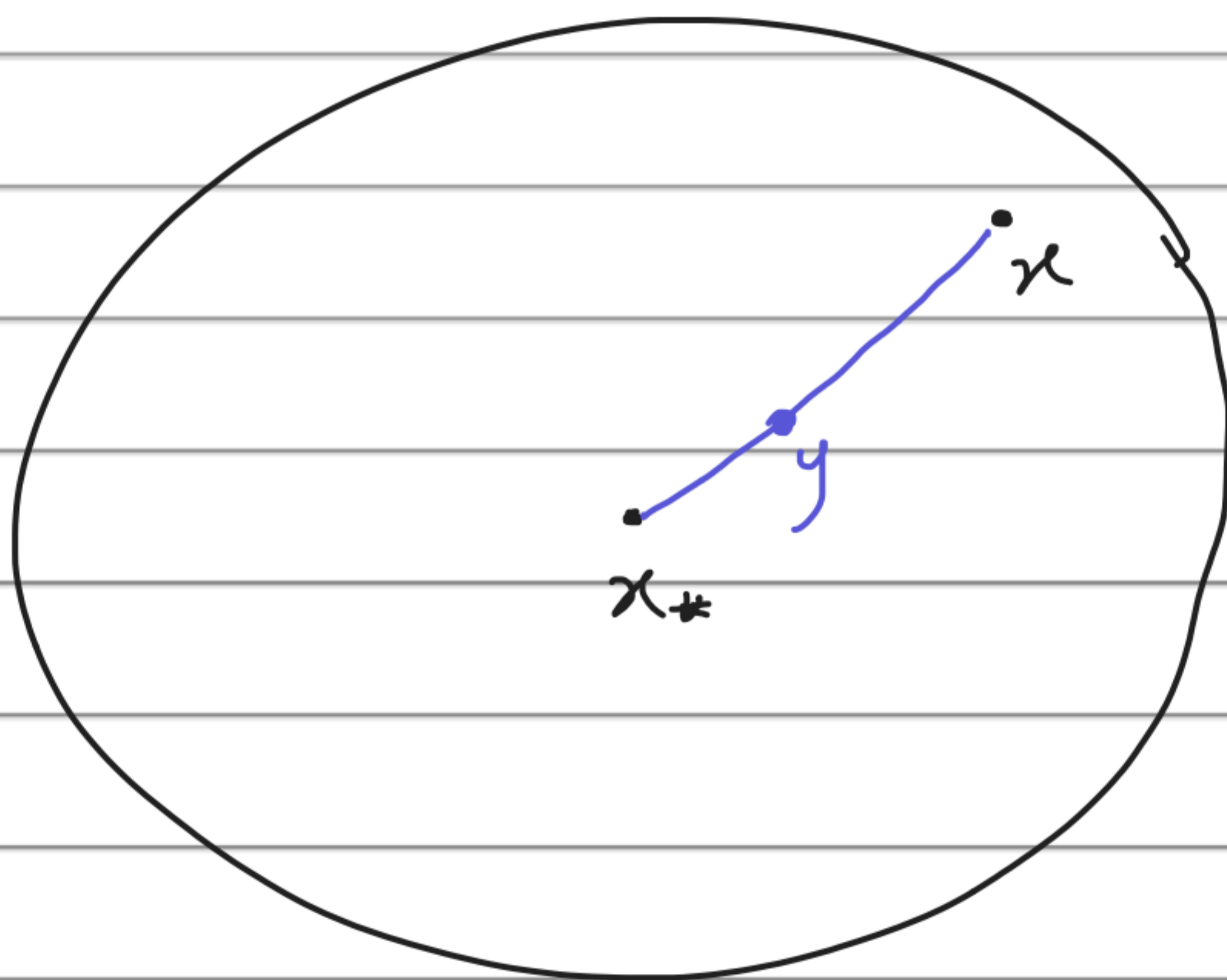


SoC necessary  $\checkmark$ , SoC sufficient  $\times$

$f(x) = x^4$ 

 $\Rightarrow f'(0) = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow 0$

$\Rightarrow m = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\epsilon}{m} = \infty$

Proof:



$y \in \text{Ball}$

$$\underbrace{f(x_*)}_{\text{new point}} = \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{nominal}} + \nabla f(x)^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^T \nabla^2 f(y) \Delta x$$

$\nearrow x_* - x$   
 $\nwarrow \Delta x$

$$\geq f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} m \|\Delta x\|^2$$

$$\nabla^2 f(y) \succeq m I$$

$$\geq \min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T z + \frac{1}{2} m \|z\|^2$$

$$\min_z \quad f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T z + \frac{1}{2} m \|z\|^2$$

Quadratic, Convex



Gradient w.r.t.  $z = 0$



$$0 + \nabla f(x) + \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times m \times z_* = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow z_* = - \frac{(\nabla f(x))}{(m)} \rightarrow \text{plug into the quadratic term}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{f(x_*)} \geq \dots \dots \dots \text{(depends on } z_*)$$

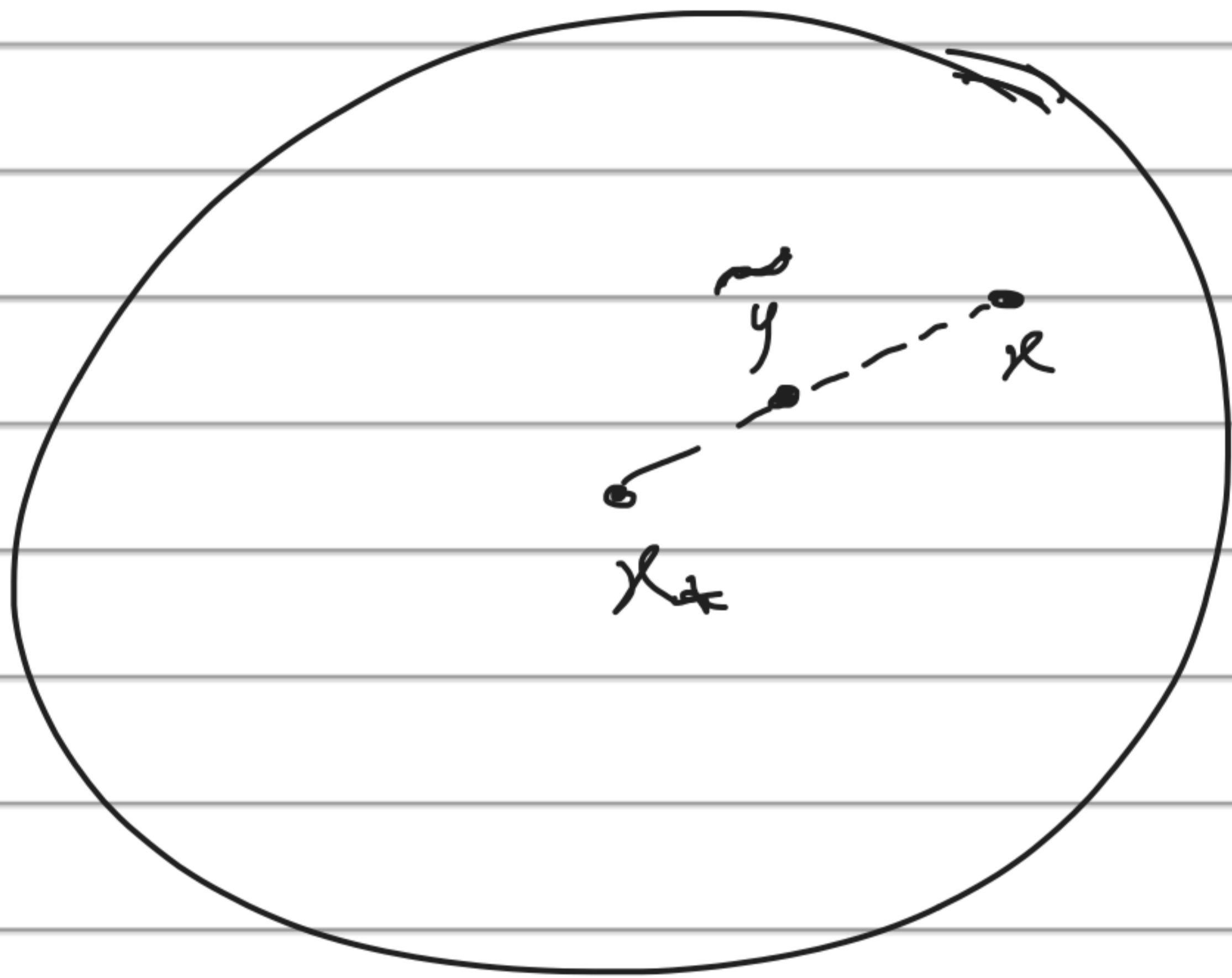
$$= f(x) - \frac{\|\nabla f(x)\|^2}{2m}$$

$$\geq \boxed{f(x) - \frac{\epsilon^2}{2m}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overset{\text{a.v.}}{f(x) - f(x_*)} \leq \epsilon^2 / 2m$$

Proof of part 1 :

$$f(\underline{x}) = f(\underline{x}_*) + \nabla f(\underline{x}_*)^T \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^T \underbrace{(\nabla^2 f)}_{\geq m I}(\bar{y}) \Delta x$$



$$\Rightarrow \cancel{f(x)} \geq \cancel{f(x_*)} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot m \cdot \|\Delta x\|^2$$

$$\text{part } \underline{1} \quad \cancel{f(x_*)} \geq \cancel{f(x)} - \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2m}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{m} \geq \frac{1}{2} m \|\Delta x\|^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{\|\Delta x\|}_{x = x_*} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{m}$$