



Math Study Strategies

Addition of Signed Numbers

Case 1

The numbers to be added have the **same** sign

$$3+4$$

both numbers are positive

$$2.5+6$$

both numbers are positive

$$-3+(-2)$$

both numbers are negative

$$-3.1+(-2)$$

both numbers are negative

Proceed as follows:

Add the numbers and **carry** the sign

$$3+4 = 7$$

$$2.5+6 = 8.5$$

$$-3+(-2) = -5$$

$$-3.1+(-2) = -5.1$$

both numbers are positive: add and carry the positive sign both numbers are negative: add and carry the negative sign

Case 2

The numbers to be added have **different** signs

$$3+(-1)$$

positive

negative

$$3.5+(-2)$$

positive

negative

$$-4+3$$

negative

positive

$$-5.2+3$$

negative

positive

Proceed as follows:

Subtract the smaller number from the larger number and **carry** the sign of the larger number

$$3+(-1) = 2$$

3 is bigger than 1. Subtract 1 from 3 and carry the sign of the 3

$$3.5+(-2) = 1.5$$

3.5 is bigger than 2. Subtract 2 from 3.5 and carry the sign of the 3.5

$$-4+3 = -1$$

4 is bigger than 3. Subtract 3 from 4 and carry the sign of the 4

$$-5.2+3 = -2.2$$

5.2 is bigger than 3. Subtract 3 from 5.2 and carry the sign of the 5.2

