



Unit 6: Systems of Equations

6.3 Solving Systems by Substitution

Steps

1. Choose the simpler equation.
2. Isolate a variable (x or y).
3. Substitute the expression from 2 into the other equation.
4. Distribute/Combine like terms to solve for a variable (x=7).
5. Substitute the number (found in 4) into an original equations in place of x or y.
6. Simplify and solve for the other variable.
7. Write answer as an **ordered pair**.
8. Verify.



Ex.) Solve the following system of equations through substitution.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x + 4y = 17 \\
 -4y \quad -4y \\
 \hline
 x = (17 - 4y) \\
 \hline
 x = 17 - 4(3) \\
 x = 5 \\
 \boxed{(5, 3)}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{l}
 2x - y = 7 \\
 2(17 - 4y) - y = 7 \\
 34 - 8y - y = 7 \\
 34 - 9y = 7 \\
 -34 \quad -34 \\
 \hline
 -9y = -27 \\
 \frac{-9y}{-9} = \frac{-27}{-9} \\
 y = 3
 \end{array}$$

Ex.) Solve the following system of equations through substitution.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 4x + 3y = 0 \\
 -4x \quad -4x \\
 \hline
 3y = -\frac{4x}{3} \\
 \frac{3y}{3} \\
 y = (-\frac{4}{3}x) \\
 \hline
 y = (-\frac{4}{3})(\frac{1}{4}) \\
 y = -\frac{1}{3} \\
 \boxed{(\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{3})}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{l}
 8x - 9y = 5 \\
 8x - 9(-\frac{4}{3}x) = 5 \\
 8x + 12x = 5 \\
 \frac{20x}{20} = \frac{5}{20} \\
 x = \frac{1}{4}
 \end{array}$$



Ex.) Solve the following system of equations through substitution.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &5(2a-3)+b=5 && 6a-2(b-4)=20 \\
 &10a-15+b=5 && 6a-2b+8=20 \\
 &\quad -10a+15 && \quad -10a+15 \\
 &\underline{b=(-10a+20)} && \\
 &b=-10(2)+20 && 6a-2(-10a+20)+8=20 \\
 &b=0 && 6a+20a-40+8=20 \\
 & && 26a-32=20 \\
 & && \quad +32 \quad +32 \\
 & && \underline{26a=52} \\
 & && \quad \underline{26} \quad \underline{26} \\
 & && a=2
 \end{aligned}$$

$(2, 0)$
a b



Review:

How can you determine the number of solutions by looking at an equation in slope y-intercept form?

	0	1	∞
m	Same	diff	Same
b	diff	doesn't matter	Same

parallel

Review:

Solve the following system of equations through graphing.

$$y = -2x + 9$$

$$y = 3x - 7$$

$$\left(\frac{16}{5}, \frac{13}{5}\right)$$