

The Eliminator III



Solving the system of linear equations by using the *elimination* method.

1) $4x + 5y = -1$
 $2x - y = 3$

1. Can I add or subtract the two equations to eliminate a variable?

1st: *Why, when the equations are added or subtracted, a variable is *not eliminated*? The variables are *not* eliminated because the _____ of the variables are *not* the same (for elimination by subtraction) or opposites of each other (for elimination by addition).

*The _____ (x/y) variable could be eliminated if the coefficient of the _____ (x/y) variable of the second equation was changed from _____ to _____.

Start with the given system.

$$4x + 5y = -1$$

$$2x - y = 3$$

Prepare to *eliminate y* by multiplying the 2nd equation by 2.

$$4x + 5y = -1 \Rightarrow$$

$$5(2x - y = 3) \Rightarrow$$

Write the equations; add to *eliminate y*.

2nd:

2. Solve for the remaining variable.

3rd:

3. Solve for the eliminated variable by substituting the known variable value into either of the original equations.

4th: $4x + 5y = -1$ | $2x - y = 3$

4. Verify your solution by substituting the values in to *both* equations.

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y = 5 \\ 3x - 2y = 1 \end{array}$$

1. a) Can I add or subtract the two equations to eliminate a variable? - _____ (If yes, stop here and solve!)

b) Can I multiply one equation by a constant to eliminate one of the variables? _____ (If yes, stop here and solve by multiplying the top or bottom equation and solve.)

c) Can I multiply the top equation by a constant, and the bottom equation by a different constant to obtain coefficients of one variable that are the same (to use with subtraction) OR opposites of each other (to use with addition) to eliminate a variable?

I would multiply the top equation by _____ and the bottom equation by _____ so that the coefficients of the _____ (x/y) variable become _____ (the same / opposites) and can be eliminated.

Start with the given system.

Prepare to *eliminate* _____ by multiplying the top equation by _____ and the bottom equation by _____.

Write the new equations; _____ (+ / -) to *eliminate* _____.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} 2x + 3y = 5 & \Rightarrow & 2(2x + 3y = 5) \Rightarrow \\ 3x - 2y = 1 & \Rightarrow & 3(3x - 2y = 1) \Rightarrow \end{array}$$

2nd:

2. Solve for the remaining variable.

3rd:

3. Solve for the eliminated variable by substituting the known variable value into either of the original equations.

$$\begin{array}{l} 4^{\text{th}}: \quad 2x + 3y = 5 \quad | \quad 3x - 2y = 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

4. Verify your solution by substituting the values in to **both** equations.

Solve each of the following systems by the *elimination method*. Verify your *solution*. Ask yourself the following questions for each of the problems below, to help you solve. You do not need to record your answers.

a) Can I add or subtract the two equations to eliminate a variable? _____ (If yes, stop here and solve!)

b) Can I multiply one equation by a constant to eliminate one of the variables?
_____ (If yes, stop here and solve by multiplying the top or bottom equation and solve.)

c) Can I multiply the top equation by a constant, and the bottom equation by a different constant to obtain coefficients of one variable that are the same (to use with subtraction) OR opposites of each other (to use with addition) to eliminate a variable?

I would multiply the top equation by _____ and the bottom equation by _____ so that the coefficients of the _____ (x/y) variable become _____ (the same/opposites) and can be eliminated.

3)
$$\begin{array}{l} x - y = 2 \\ 2x + 2y = 4 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 4) \quad 5x - 6y = -32 \\ \quad \quad 3x + 6y = 48 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 5) \quad 3x - 10y = -25 \\ \quad \quad 4x + 40y = 20 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 6) \quad 3x + 2y = -9 \\ \quad \quad -10x + 5y = -5 \end{array}$$