

## TOPIC: SOLVING SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS BY ELIMINATION

### Solving Systems of Linear Equations - Elimination

◆ Another way to solve systems of equations is by \_\_\_\_\_ the equations & \_\_\_\_\_ a variable.

► If not asked to use a specific method, use this when equations are in standard form or have large coefficients.  
( $Ax + By = C$ )

Recall	Substitution	New	Elimination
	$y = 5x - 3$ $x = 2$		$x + y = 1$ $-x + y = 5$

#### EXAMPLE

Solve the system of equations using elimination.

$$3x + 2y = 1$$

$$-x + y = 3$$

#### HOW TO: Solve Systems of Equations - Elimination

- 1) Write BOTH equations in the form  $Ax + By = C$ , aligning coeff's vertically on top of each other
- 2) Multiply eq'n(s) by # (+ or -) so  $x$  or  $y$  coeff's are \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ signs
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ equations vertically to eliminate one variable, then solve for other
- 4) Plug value from **3)** back into *either* eq'n, then solve
- 5) Check answer by plugging values into both eqn's

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### How to Multiply Equations in Elimination Method

◆ To determine what # to multiply by in Step **2**), look at the coefficients of each equation.

Elimination Method - What to Multiply Equation(s) by to Eliminate Variable				
If coefficients of $x$ or $y$ are...	Equal with <b>OPPOSITE</b> sign	Equal with <b>SAME</b> sign	Factors of each other (Evenly divisible)	Anything Else
Multiply...	Nothing! Just add	Either eq'n by $-1$	Eq'n with smaller coeff's by quotient	Each eq'n by <i>other</i> coeff (+ or -)
EXAMPLE	$7x + 13y = 12$ $-7x + 2y = 18$	$5x + 7y = 17$ $6x + 7y = 12$	$12x - 5y = 24$ $3x - 2y = 6$	$6x + 2y = -10$ $-4x - 3y = 15$

### HOW TO: Solve Systems of Equations - Elimination

- 1) Write BOTH equations in the form  $Ax + By = C$ , aligning coeff's vertically on top of each other
- 2) Multiply eq'n(s) by # (+ or -) so  $x$  or  $y$  coeff's are **EQUAL** with **OPPOSITE** signs
- 3) **ADD** equations vertically to eliminate one variable, then solve for other
- 4) Plug value from **3)** back into *either* eq'n, then solve

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### EXAMPLE

Without *fully* solving, multiple one or both equation(s) by an appropriate factor to cancel out a variable.

Elimination Method - What to Mutiply Equation(s) by to Eliminate Variable				
If coefficients of $x$ or $y$ are...	Equal with <i>OPPOSITE</i> sign	Equal with <i>SAME</i> sign	Factors of each other (Evenly divisible)	Anything Else
Multiply...	Nothing! Just add	Either eq'n by $-1$	Eq'n with smaller coeff's by quotient	Each eq'n by <i>other</i> coeff (+ or -)

(A)

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

(B)

$$\begin{aligned}5x + 3y &= 10 \\ -7x + 5y &= 15\end{aligned}$$

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### PRACTICE

Use the elimination method to solve the following system of linear equations.

(A)

$$2x + y = 1$$

$$3x - y = 4$$

#### HOW TO: Solve Systems of Equations - Elimination

- 1) Write BOTH equations in the form  $Ax + By = C$ , aligning coeff's vertically on top of each other
- 2) Multiply eq'n(s) by # (+ or -) so  $x$  or  $y$  coeff's are **EQUAL** with **OPPOSITE** signs
- 3) **ADD** equations vertically to eliminate one variable, then solve for other
- 4) Plug value from **3)** back into *either* eq'n, then solve
- 5) Check answer by plugging values into both eqn's

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(B)

$$10x - 4y = 5$$

$$5x - 4y = 1$$