

9-4 The Addition-or-Subtraction Method

Objective: To use addition or subtraction to solve systems of linear equations in two variables.

Vocabulary

Addition-or-subtraction method A method to solve systems of equations. You can use the addition-or-subtraction method whenever two equations have the same or opposite coefficients for one of their terms.

Example 1 (The Addition Method)

Solve: $4x - y = 7$
 $2x + y = 5$

Solution 1. Add similar terms of the two equations.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4x - y = 7 \\ 2x + y = 5 \\ \hline 6x = 12 \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{The } y\text{-terms} \\ \text{are eliminated.} \end{array} \right.$$

2. Solve the resulting equation.

$$x = 2$$

3. Substitute 2 for x in either of the original equations to find y .

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x + y = 5 \\ 2(2) + y = 5 \\ \hline y = 1 \end{array}$$

4. Check $x = 2$ and $y = 1$ in both original equations.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4x - y = 7 \\ 4(2) - 1 \stackrel{?}{=} 7 \\ \hline 7 = 7 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 2x + y = 5 \\ 2(2) + 1 \stackrel{?}{=} 5 \\ \hline 5 = 5 \end{array}$$

The solution is (2, 1).

Example 2 (The Subtraction Method)

Solve: $5c + 3d = 14$
 $5c - d = 22$

Solution 1. Subtract similar terms of the two equations.

$$\begin{array}{r} 5c + 3d = 14 \\ 5c - d = 22 \\ \hline 4d = -8 \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{The } c\text{-terms} \\ \text{are eliminated.} \end{array} \right.$$

2. Solve the resulting equation.

$$d = -2$$

3. Substitute -2 for d in either of the original equations to find c .

$$\begin{array}{r} 5c + 3(-2) = 14 \\ 5c - 6 = 14 \\ \hline 5c = 20 \\ \hline c = 4 \end{array}$$

4. The check in both equations is left for you.

The solution is (4, -2).

9-4 The Addition-or-Subtraction Method (continued)

Solve by the addition-or-subtraction method.

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| 1. $x + y = 6$
$x - y = 2$ (4, 2) | 2. $m + n = 12$
$m - n = 6$ (9, 3) | 3. $2x + y = 3$
$x - y = 3$ (2, -1) |
| 4. $2x + y = 5$
$x + y = 4$ (1, 3) | 5. $3m - 2n = 11$
$5m + 2n = 13$ (3, -1) | 6. $12m + 3n = 0$
$5m + 3n = 7$ (-1, 4) |
| 7. $6x - 7y = 14$
$-6x + 3y = -6$ (0, -2) | 8. $4a - 5b = 10$
$2a - 5b = 0$ (5, 2) | 9. $2c + 3d = 3$
$2c + d = -3$ (-3, 3) |
| 10. $4x - 3y = -10$
$2x + 3y = 4$ (-1, 2) | 11. $2x - y = 7$
$3x + y = 8$ (3, -1) | 12. $6x - 5y = 1$
$2x - 5y = 17$ (-4, -5) |
| 13. $9x + 2y = -22$
$9x - 10y = 2$ (-2, -2) | 14. $5m + 12n = -1$
$8m + 12n = 20$ (7, -3) | 15. $3a + 2c = 30$
$5a - 2c = 2$ (4, 9) |
| 16. $3m + 4n = 7$
$-3m + 9n = 6$ (1, 1) | 17. $4x - 2y = -8$
$4x + 5y = 6$ (-1, 2) | 18. $6a - 5b = 2$
$4a + 5b = -32$ (-3, -4) |
| 19. $7x - 11y = -1$
$13x + 11y = 61$ (3, 2) | 20. $\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{3}y = 2$
$\frac{3}{2}x - \frac{1}{3}y = 2$ (2, 3) | 21. $\frac{3}{4}x - \frac{1}{6}y = -7$
$\frac{5}{4}x - \frac{1}{6}y = -11$ (-8, 6) |

Solve by either the substitution or the addition-or-subtraction method.

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| 22. $a = 4b$
$a + 2b = -6$ (-4, -1) | 23. $x - 5y = 3$
$2x + y = 6$ (3, 0) | 24. $3x - 8y = 10$
$2x + 8y = -20$ (-2, -2) |
| 25. $3(a-2b) = 6$
$2(a+3b) = -6$ (0, -1) | 26. $n = 6m - 2$
$\frac{1}{2}n - m = -1$ (0, -2) | 27. $\frac{1}{3}a - \frac{2}{3}b = -2$
$a + b - 12 = 0$ (6, 6) |
| 28. $y = \frac{2}{3}x$
$2x + 3y = -24$ (-6, -4) | 29. $\frac{a}{3} - \frac{b}{3} = 2$
$2a + b = 3$ (3, -3) | 30. $2n - 11 = \frac{m}{4}$
$n = \frac{m}{-3}$ (-12, 4) |

Mixed Review Exercises

- Simplify.** $6x^3 + 9x^2 - x$ 2350
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|--|---|---|
| 1. $6x^3 + 4x^2 - x + 5x^2$ | 2. $2 \cdot 3^2$ 18 | 3. $(2 \cdot 10^3) + (3 \cdot 10^2) + (5 \cdot 10)$ |
| 4. $-3[2n - (n + 1)] - 3n + 3$ | 5. $(8x^3y^2)(\frac{3}{4}x^2y)$ $6x^5y^3$ | 6. $(2a^5)^2$ $4a^{10}$ |
| 7. $(-2ab^2)^3 - 8a^3b^6$ | 8. $2x[3x + 2(4 - x)]$ | 9. $(4ab)(-2ab^2)(5a^2b^3) - 40a^4b^6$ |
| 10. $(-\frac{1}{12})(60)(\frac{1}{5}) - 1$ | 11. $\frac{-6}{2} - 12$ $2x^2 + 16x$ | 12. $\frac{1}{5}(-45m + 30n) - 9m + 6n$ |