

Solving Linear Systems Using Substitution

Solving a linear system by **substitution** is an algebraic method that gives **exact solutions**. Since a solution to a linear system is the point that satisfies **BOTH** equations, the x-value and the y-value of the point must be the same for each equation. This means that we can substitute the value of x and/or y from one equation into the other.

Steps for Solving a Linear Systems using Substitution:

Example:

$2x + y = 10 \quad \textcircled{1}$ $y - 2 = 2x \quad \textcircled{2}$	Label the equations.
From eq'n $\textcircled{2}$, isolate y: $y = 2x + 2 \quad \textcircled{3}$	Isolate a variable in the " easiest " equation by rearranging one of the equations. Label this new, equivalent , equation.
Substitute eq'n $\textcircled{3}$ into eq'n $\textcircled{1}$: $2x + y = 10 \quad \leftarrow \text{eq'n } \textcircled{1}$ $2x + (2x + 2) = 10 \quad \leftarrow \text{eq'n } \textcircled{3} \text{ subst.}$ $2x + 2x + 2 = 10$ $4x + 2 = 10$ $4x = 10 - 2$ $4x = 8$ $x = \frac{8}{4}$ $x = 2$	Substitute the equation from the previous step into the other equation (the one you have not yet used) and solve for the remaining variable.
Sub. $x = 2$ into $\textcircled{2}$: $y - 2 = 2(2)$ $y - 2 = 4$ $y = 4 + 2$ $y = 6$ $\therefore \text{The solution is } (2, 6).$	Substitute your answer from the previous step into the original equation to solve for the remaining variable (the one you rearranged for earlier).

Reflect: Why do you think this method is called the SUBSTITUTION method?

Use the steps and example provided to complete the following question:

Use Substitution to solve this linear system. CHECK YOUR ANSWER.

$$2x + 3y - 9 = 0$$

$$x - y - 2 = 0$$

Practice:

- **Page 38:** 3, 5c, 8, 9bc, 10, 16, 17, 19 (challenge)