

3 Methods for Solving a Linear or other Systems of Equations

Method	Strengths	Weaknesses
Graphical	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Solution(s) is easily visible2. Can be used with any system that can be graphed	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Some solutions must be approximated.2. The graph may not be accurate enough or large enough to show a solution
Substitution	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Yields exact solution(s)2. Easy to use when a variable has a coefficient of one or -1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There may be extensive computations with fractions2. Solution is not displayed graphically
Elimination	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Yields exact solution(s)2. Easy to use when fractions or decimals appear in the system	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Solutions are not displayed graphically