

Step-1

Consider the system of equations is

$$u + v + w = -2$$

$$3u + 3v - w = 6$$

$$u - v + w = -1$$

Find the solution to above system by applying elimination.

Step-2

Write the system in the matrix form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 3 & -1 & 6 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Apply $R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 3R_1$,

$$R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_1$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 12 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Apply $R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is upper triangular form.

Step-3

From above upper triangular form, we have

$$u + v + w = -2$$

$$-2v = 1$$

$$-4w = 12$$

From $-4w = 12$

$$\frac{-4w}{-4} = \frac{12}{-4}$$

$$\boxed{w = -3}$$

From $-2v = 1$

$$v = \boxed{\frac{-1}{2}}$$

From $u + v + w = -2$

$$u + \left(\frac{-1}{2}\right) - 3 = -2 \quad \left(\text{Since } v = -\frac{1}{2}, w = -3\right)$$

$$u = -2 + \frac{1}{2} + 3$$

$$u = 1 + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\boxed{u = \frac{3}{2}}$$

Therefore solutions are $\boxed{u = \frac{3}{2}, v = -\frac{1}{2}, w = -3}$.

Step-4

In the given $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 3 & -1 & 6 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ if we replace the coefficient -1 of v by 1 , then we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 3 & -1 & 6 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Apply $R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 3R_1, R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_1$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 12 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore the system becomes singular (2 equal columns) and hence it has no solution.

Hence the change of coefficient -1 of v by 1 would make the system impossible to proceed and elimination break down.

