

Example

Given the following system, solve it by substitution.

$$2x - 3y = 4$$

$$4x + 5y = -3$$

When you solve by substitution, you need to solve for one variable in terms of the other in one of the equations.

$$2x - 3y = 4 \Rightarrow 2x = 4 + 3y \text{ Multiply by } \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(2x) = \frac{1}{2}(4 + 3y)$$

$$x = 2 + \frac{3}{2}y^*$$

Now we replace the expression for x to be in the second equation.

$$4\left(2 + \frac{3}{2}y\right) + 5y = -3 \text{ and solve for } y$$

$$8 + \frac{12}{2}y + 5y = -3$$

$$6y + 5y = -11$$

$$11y = -11$$

$$y = -1$$

$$\text{If } x = 2 + \frac{3}{2}y^* \text{ and } y = -1, \text{ then } x = 2 + \frac{3}{2}(-1)$$

$$x = 2 - \frac{3}{2} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Therefore the point of intersection is $(-\frac{1}{2}, -1)$.

The system here is consistent.

There is a third way to find the solution of a system of 2 equations in 2 unknowns and that is called the comparison method.