Solving linear and quadratic simultaneous equations

A LEVEL LINKS
Scheme of work: 1c. Equations – quadratic/linear simultaneous

Key points

- Make one of the unknowns the subject of the linear equation (rearranging where necessary).
- Use the linear equation to substitute into the quadratic equation.
- There are usually two pairs of solutions.

Examples

Example 1 Solve the simultaneous equations $y = x + 1$ and $x^2 + y^2 = 13$

$x^2 + (x + 1)^2 = 13$	**1** Substitute $x + 1$ for y into the second equation.
$x^2 + x^2 + x + x + 1 = 13$ $2x^2 + 2x + 1 = 13$	**2** Expand the brackets and simplify.
$2x^2 + 2x - 12 = 0$ $(2x - 4)(x + 3) = 0$ So $x = 2$ or $x = -3$	**3** Factorise the quadratic equation. **4** Work out the values of x.
Using $y = x + 1$ When $x = 2$, $y = 2 + 1 = 3$ When $x = -3$, $y = -3 + 1 = -2$	**5** To find the value of y, substitute both values of x into one of the original equations.
So the solutions are $x = 2$, $y = 3$ and $x = -3$, $y = -2$	
Check: equation 1: $3 = 2 + 1$ YES and $-2 = -3 + 1$ YES equation 2: $2^2 + 3^2 = 13$ YES and $(-3)^2 + (-2)^2 = 13$ YES	**6** Substitute both pairs of values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Example 2 Solve $2x + 3y = 5$ and $2y^2 + xy = 12$ simultaneously.

$x = \frac{5-3y}{2}$	**1** Rearrange the first equation.
$2y^2 + \left(\frac{5-3y}{2}\right)y = 12$	**2** Substitute $\frac{5-3y}{2}$ for x into the second equation. Notice how it is easier to substitute for x than for y.
$2y^2 + \frac{5y-3y^2}{2} = 12$ $4y^2 + 5y - 3y^2 = 24$	**3** Expand the brackets and simplify.
$y^2 + 5y - 24 = 0$ $(y + 8)(y - 3) = 0$ So $y = -8$ or $y = 3$	**4** Factorise the quadratic equation. **5** Work out the values of y.
Using $2x + 3y = 5$ When $y = -8$, $2x + 3 \times (-8) = 5$, $x = 14.5$ When $y = 3$, $2x + 3 \times 3 = 5$, $x = -2$	**6** To find the value of x, substitute both values of y into one of the original equations.
So the solutions are $x = 14.5$, $y = -8$ and $x = -2$, $y = 3$	
Check: equation 1: $2 \times 14.5 + 3 \times (-8) = 5$ YES and $2 \times (-2) + 3 \times 3 = 5$ YES equation 2: $2\times(-8)^2 + 14.5\times(-8) = 12$ YES and $2 \times (3)^2 + (-2) \times 3 = 12$ YES	**7** Substitute both pairs of values of x and y into both equations to check your answers.

Practice

Solve these simultaneous equations.

1 $y = 2x + 1$
$x^2 + y^2 = 10$

2 $y = 6 - x$
$x^2 + y^2 = 20$

3 $y = x - 3$
$x^2 + y^2 = 5$

4 $y = 9 - 2x$
$x^2 + y^2 = 17$

5 $y = 3x - 5$
$y = x^2 - 2x + 1$

6 $y = x - 5$
$y = x^2 - 5x - 12$

7 $y = x + 5$
$x^2 + y^2 = 25$

8 $y = 2x - 1$
$x^2 + xy = 24$

9 $y = 2x$
$y^2 - xy = 8$

10 $2x + y = 11$
$xy = 15$

Extend

11 $x - y = 1$
$x^2 + y^2 = 3$

12 $y - x = 2$
$x^2 + xy = 3$