

Name:

Problem 1: Solve the following system of linear equations:

$$\begin{aligned}x - z &= 0 \\3x + y &= 1 \\-x + y + z &= 4\end{aligned}$$

Solution: We first put the system in echelon form:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}x - z = 0 & & x - z = 0 \\3x + y = 1 & \xrightarrow{\rho_2 - 3\rho_1} & y + 3z = 1 \\-x + y + z = 4 & \xrightarrow{\rho_3 + \rho_1} & y = 4\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{rcl}x - z = 0 & & x - z = 0 \\y + 3z = 1 & \xrightarrow{\rho_3 - \rho_2} & y + 3z = 1 \\y = 4 & & -3z = 3\end{array}$$

Now that the system is in echelon form we just have to “walk up”:

- From the bottom row we get $z = -1$.
- Then plugging this into the second row we get $y - 3 = 1$ or $y = 4$.
- Finally plugging this into the first row we get $x - (-1) = 0$ or $x = -1$.

There is a unique solution and it is $(-1, 4, -1)$.