Graphing Calculator Reference

FOR ALGEBRA

PEARSON Education

Created in conjunction with TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Basics

CONVERTING FRACTIONS TO DECIMALS The calculator will automatically convert a fraction to a decimal. Type in a fraction, 3 ÷ 1 5, on the home screen and press ENTER. The decimal will appear as the answer:

```
3/15
                .2
```

CONVERTING DECIMALS TO FRACTIONS The calculator will convert some decimals to fractions. Type the decimal .258 on the home screen. Press MATH ENTER ENTER, and the screen will display the fraction.

```
.258
MATH NUM CPX PRB
1:▸Frac
2:▸Dec
3:³
4:³√(
5:ˣ√
6:fMin(
7↓fMax(
```

```
.258▸Frac
```

```
.258▸Frac
            129/500
```

NOTE If the fraction has a denominator with more than four digits, the calculator will return the same decimal.

```
.295648▸Frac
            .295648
```

INPUTTING INFORMATION The most important thing to remember when entering information into the calculator is to follow the **order of operations.** For example, to evaluate the expression x^2 when $x = -8$, if you press (−) 8 x^2 ENTER, the calculator will display this:

```
-8²
              -64
```

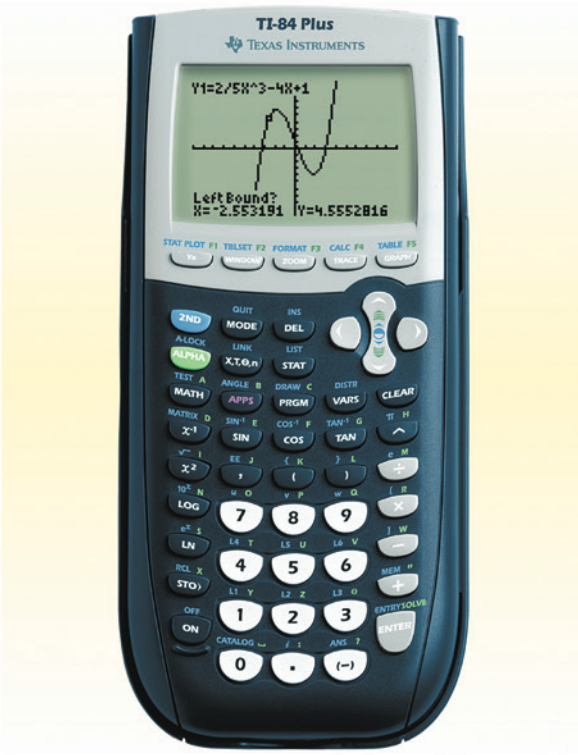
Use parentheses around the **negative** number to compute its square properly. Press ((−) 8) x^2 ENTER to get:

```
(-8)²
              64
```

Another method is to store –8 in the calculator as x and evaluate x^2 by pressing (−) 8 STO▸ X,T,Θ,n ALPHA · X,T,Θ,n x^2 ENTER.

NOTE − (subtraction) and (−) (negative) are *different* keys and can't replace one another. If the keys are used improperly, an error may occur or the calculator may calculate incorrectly.

The TI-83 Plus and TI-84 Plus models were used to display the keystroke sequences and resulting screen captures for this reference card. Users should be aware that other graphing calculators may produce slightly different results.



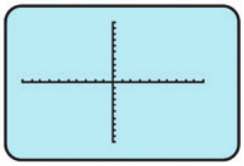
SETTING THE WINDOW Delete or turn off any existing functions or plots. To modify the window, press WINDOW. You should be looking at this screen:

```
WINDOW
Xmin=-10
Xmax=10
Xscl=1
Ymin=-10
Ymax=10
Yscl=1
Xres=1
```

It contains the settings for the standard viewing windows.

NOTE If your calculator's screen doesn't look like this, pressing ZOOM 6 will reset the calculator to the standard viewing window.

This window should produce **axes** that look like this:

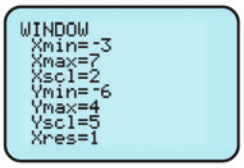


These are the default settings for the calculator.

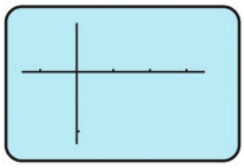
more▸

ISBN-13: 978-0-321-39475-0
ISBN-10: 0-321-39475-5

Modify the window by changing the values for the Xmin, Xmax, Ymin, and Ymax. The Xscl and Yscl are the distances between tick marks on the graph. For example, if the default window is changed to:

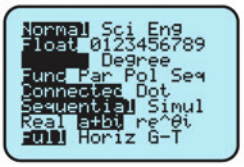


Its graph screen will look like this:



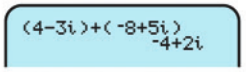
Notice the Xmin of −3 is on the graph but isn't marked by a tick mark. This is because of the change in the Xscl.

OPERATIONS ON COMPLEX NUMBERS For operations on complex numbers, the calculator must be changed into complex mode. Press MODE, then scroll down and select **a+bi** on the menu by pressing ENTER.



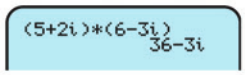
Press 2ND MODE to return to the home screen.

To add $(4 - 3i) + (-8 + 5i)$, press:



(4 − 3 2ND ·) + ((−) 8 + 5 2ND ·) ENTER.

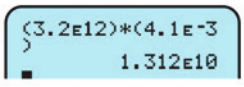
To multiply $(5 + 2i) \times (6 - 3i)$, press: (5 + 2 2ND ·) × (6 − 3 2ND ·) ENTER.



Division and subtraction work the same way.

NOTE Don't forget to reset the calculator back to real numbers by pressing MODE and scrolling down to select **Real** by pressing ENTER.

SCIENTIFIC NOTATION Your calculator is capable of doing operations with scientific notation. For example, if you want to simplify $(3.2 \times 10^{12})(4.1 \times 10^{-3})$, press (3 · 2 2ND , 1 2) × (4 · 1 2ND , (−) 3) and ENTER.

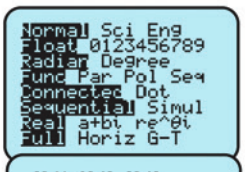


Notice this answer is in scientific notation, using the same format as was input. However, this is not always the case. Input $(1.1 \times 10^{2}) \times (1.2 \times 10^{-3})$ and the calculator returns .132.

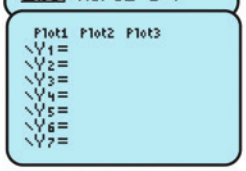
SETTING THE DEFAULTS/TROUBLESHOOTING Certain keys can be pressed accidentally that will alter the way the calculator performs. If your calculator begins to act strangely, check the following screens:

more>

1. Press MODE. The default setting should look like this. If your screen doesn't look this way, change it by using the arrow keys to place the blinking cursor on the setting you want and pressing ENTER.

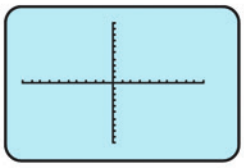


2. Press Y=. The screen should look like this:



NOTE Statistical plots that are turned on (highlighted) will affect the grapher. Suppose **Plot1** is turned on. Use the arrow keys to place the cursor on **Plot1** and press ENTER. This will turn off the plot.

3. Press GRAPH. The screen should look like this:



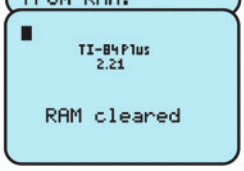
If the graphing window has been altered, it can affect the way a function is displayed. To reset the default window, press ZOOM 6.

RESETTING THE CALCULATOR'S MEMORY Resetting the memory will erase all stored variables, programs, and commands. To do this, press 2ND +,

press 7,

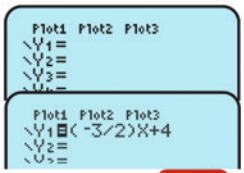
press 1,

press 2.
The calculator's memory is now cleared.



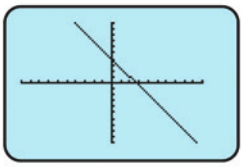
Graphing

GRAPHING LINEAR FUNCTIONS For your calculator to be able to graph an equation, the equation must be solved for y. If you have a linear equation like $3x + 2y = 8$, use algebra to solve for y. Here we have the equation in slope–intercept form: $y = \frac{-3}{2}x + 4$. Press Y=. Delete or turn off any existing functions or plots in the grapher so the screen looks like this:



more>

Press ((−) 3 ÷ 2) X,T,θ,n + 4 and GRAPH to get a screen that looks like this:

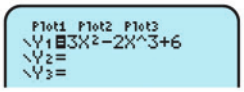


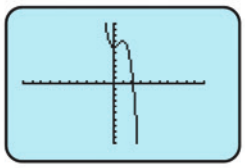
NOTE If your screen doesn't look like this, press ZOOM 6 to reset your window. Otherwise, check to see if any other graphs or plots are turned on.

GRAPHING POLYNOMIAL FUNCTIONS The key to graphing functions successfully is to remember that the calculator uses the **order of operations** when inputting the function. Using (−) and − properly can also save a great deal of frustration. The examples shown here are as complicated as you're likely to see in your text. Most functions that you graph will be much simpler.

Polynomials graph much like linear functions. All equations must be solved for y before being input into the grapher. In addition, you must be careful with the use of parentheses.

Graph $y = 3x^2 - 2x^3 + 6$ by pressing Y= 3 X,T,θ,n x² − 2 X,T,θ,n ^ 3 + 6 and GRAPH to get the following:

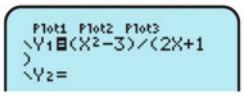


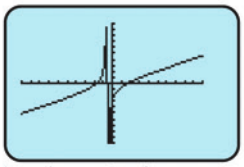


NOTE Always remember to turn off other graphs and plots before graphing a function. If your window isn't in the default setting, press ZOOM 6 to reset it.

GRAPHING RATIONAL FUNCTIONS Rational functions can be tricky to graph correctly with the calculator. A good rule of thumb is that all of the numerator *and* all of the denominator must be put in parentheses for the calculator to graph correctly.

For example, to graph $y = \dfrac{x^2 - 3}{2x + 1}$, press Y= (X,T,θ,n x² − 3) ÷ (2 X,T,θ,n + 1) and GRAPH.

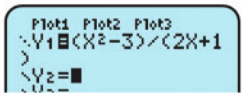


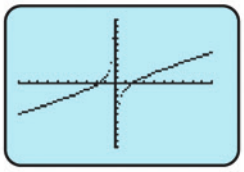


If the graph style icon is changed to dot, as in the screen at the top the next column, the graph looks different. The vertical line at $x = -\dfrac{1}{2}$ is no longer graphed. In connected mode, the calculator connects points that should *not* be connected.

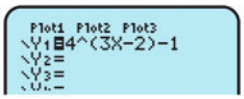
more>

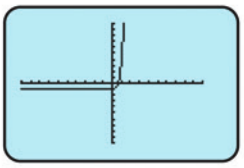
There is a vertical asymptote at $x = -\dfrac{1}{2}$, which should be represented by a dotted line when you draw the graph.



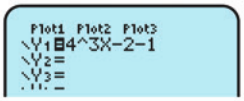


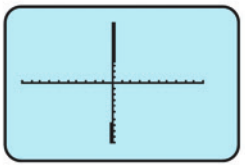
GRAPHING EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS Exponential functions can be tricky to graph because using parentheses is imperative to graphing the correct equation. To graph $y = 4^{3x-2} - 1$, remember to use parentheses. Press Y= 4 ^ (3 X,T,θ,n − 2) − 1 and GRAPH to get:



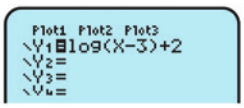


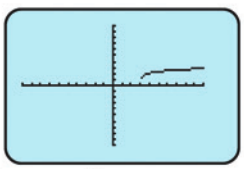
Notice that if you do not use the parentheses properly, the graph that you get is entirely different:



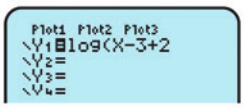


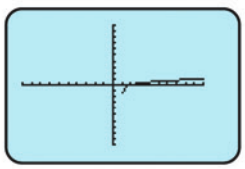
GRAPHING LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS It is critical to use parentheses correctly when graphing logarithmic functions. For instance, graphing $y = \log(x - 3) + 2$ requires parentheses (although the calculator provides the first parentheses). Press Y= LOG X,T,θ,n − 3) + 2 GRAPH to get:



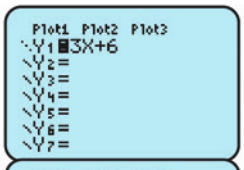


Notice that if you don't close the parentheses, you get a subtly different graph:

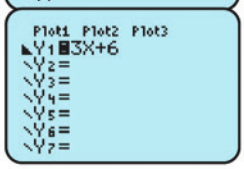




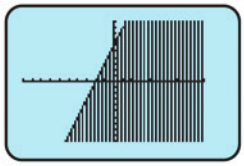
GRAPHING LINEAR AND NONLINEAR INEQUALITIES The shading required to change a regular function into an inequality is easily inserted using the graphing utility. For example, to graph $y < 3x + 6$ press Y= 3 X,T,θ,n + 6 to get this screen:



To change the grapher so that it shades *under* the line (because the inequality is less than), use ◀ to move the cursor to the left of Y_1:

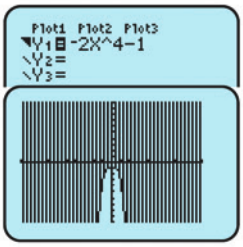


Press ENTER until the graph style icon looks like ◣, then press GRAPH. Your screen should look like this:



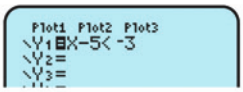
NOTE The calculator will automatically reset the graph style icon to **Connected** by clearing the function out of Y_1.

To graph nonlinear inequalities such as $y > -2x^4 - 1$, press Y= (-) 2 X,T,θ,n ^ 4 − 1, use ◀ to move the cursor to the left of Y_1, press ENTER until the graph style icon looks like this ◥, then press GRAPH.

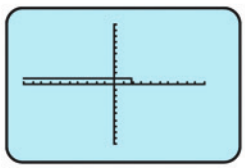


GRAPHING INEQUALITIES OF A SINGLE VARIABLE AND ABSOLUTE VALUE INEQUALITIES The grapher can easily be used for inequalities of one variable. For example, to graph $x - 5 < -3$ press Y=. Delete or turn off any existing functions or plots.

Press X,T,θ,n − 5 2ND MATH 5 (-) 3. Your screen should look like this:

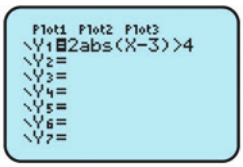


Press GRAPH to graph the inequality.

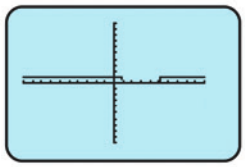


NOTE Depending on the inequality you are trying to graph, you may have to adjust your window to see the graph properly.

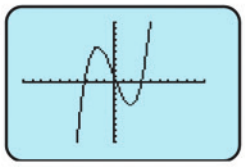
The grapher can also be used to graph inequalities involving absolute values, with only a few more keystrokes. For example, to graph $2|x - 3| > 4$, press Y= 2 2ND 0 ENTER (this finds the **absolute value** command from the catalog) X,T,θ,n − 3) 2ND MATH 3 4 to get this screen:



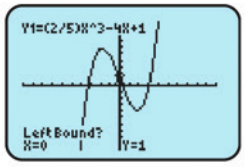
Press GRAPH to graph the inequality.



FINDING THE MAXIMUM/MINIMUM VALUE OF A FUNCTION Finding extreme values (max/min) is useful in mathematics. To find the maximum and minimum of a function, say $f(x) = \frac{2}{5}x^3 - 4x + 1$, input the function into the grapher and press GRAPH. Find the local maximum value of the function first.

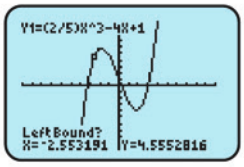


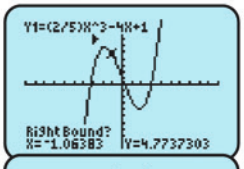
Press 2ND TRACE 4 for "maximum." Notice the cursor blinking in the middle of the screen and the "Left Bound?" prompt.

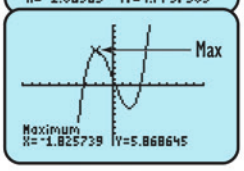


Using the arrow keys, move the cursor to a point left of the maximum and press ENTER. Try to get the cursor reasonably close to the maximum.

Notice the screen is now prompting "Right Bound?" Now move the cursor along the function to a point right of the maximum and press ENTER. The screen will prompt you for a "Guess?" Ignore this and press ENTER one more time. The cursor is now sitting on the local maximum value of the function. In this case, the maximum occurs when $x = -1.825739$ and the function has a maximum value of $y = 5.868645$.

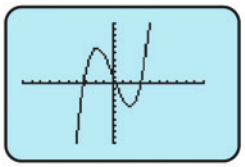






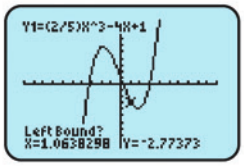
NOTE Answers may vary slightly after four decimal places.

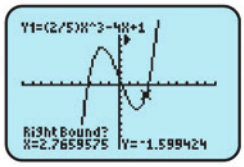
The procedure for finding the local minimum value of $f(x) = \frac{2}{5}x^3 - 4x + 1$ is exactly the same. Graph the function, press

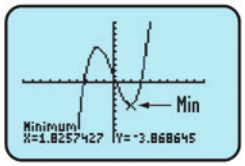


more>

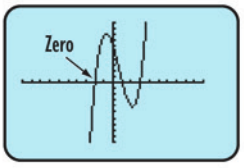
2ND TRACE 3 for "minimum." Place the cursor just slightly *left* of the minimum and press ENTER. Then place the cursor just slightly *right* of the minimum and press ENTER. Ignore the "Guess?" by pressing ENTER one more time, and the cursor should be sitting on the minimum value with the numbers displayed below. In this case, the minimum occurs when $x = 1.8257427$ and has a minimum value of $y = -3.868645$.

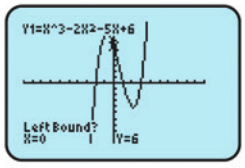






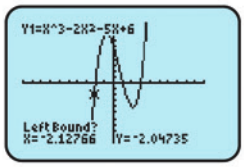
FINDING ZEROS/*x*-INTERCEPTS Zeros of functions and/or *x*-intercepts of graphs of functions can be determined with similar steps. To demonstrate, use $f(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 - 5x + 6$. Input the function into the graphing utility and press GRAPH to look at the function. We will be solving for the zero on the far left of the screen. To do this, press 2ND TRACE 2. The cursor will be somewhere on the function and the screen will be prompting you for a "Left Bound?" Use the arrow keys to move the cursor so that it is just to the left of the zero you want to solve for. Press ENTER.



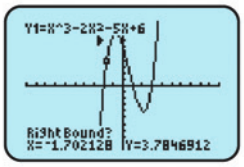


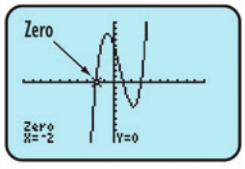
NOTE It doesn't matter if the cursor is above or below the *x*-axis, only that it is to the left of the intersection.

Now the screen should be prompting you for a "Right Bound?" Use the arrow keys to move the cursor just to the right of the zero you want to solve for. Press ENTER.

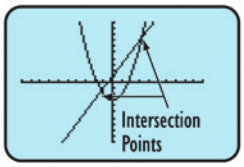


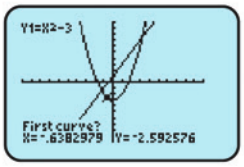
Ignore the "Guess?" prompt by pressing ENTER for a third time. The cursor should now be sitting on the zero with the *x*- and *y*-values written at the bottom of the screen (note that the *y*-value should always be 0, hence the word zero). In this case, the zero is at $x = -2$. You can find the two other zeros of this function in the same manner.



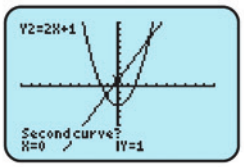


INTERSECTIONS OF FUNCTIONS To find the point where two functions intersect, for instance $f(x) = x^2 - 3$ and $g(x) = 2x + 1$, input both functions into the graphing utility (say $f(x)$ as Y_1 and $g(x)$ as Y_2). Be sure to turn off any other functions or plots. After the functions have been input, press GRAPH to look for the intersection points. Press 2ND TRACE 5 to find the intersection points. The calculator should prompt you with a cursor asking "First Curve?"



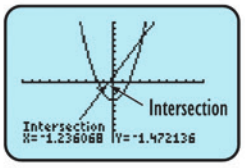


Press ENTER to confirm the first curve. You will now be prompted for "Second Curve?" Confirm by pressing ENTER. The calculator will prompt you for a"Guess?" Ignore this and press ENTER one last time.



NOTE The calculator will usually find the *closest* intersection point from where you place the cursor initially. You should move the cursor so that it is closest to the intersection point you want to solve for.

The cursor should now be sitting on the point of intersection with the *x*- and *y*-values on the bottom of the screen. In this case, $x = -1.236068$ and $y = -1.472136$. Now you can find the second intersection point.

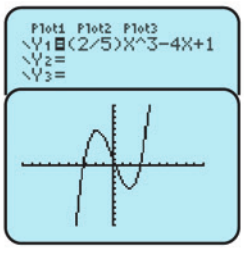


Solving an Equation: The intersection calculation can be used to solve *almost any* equation. For example, if you want to solve the equation $x^2 - 3x + 4 = \frac{2}{5}x - 9$, input the left side of the equation into Y_1 and the right side into Y_2 and use the instructions above.

Evaluating Functions

You can use your calculator to evaluate functions using either the TRACE utility or the VARS option.

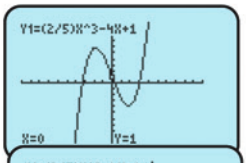
USING TRACE TO EVALUATE FUNCTIONS Press the Y= key and input the function you wish to evaluate. Remember to turn off any other graphs in the grapher. To evaluate $f(1.9)$ when $f(x) = \frac{2}{5}x^3 - 4x + 1$,



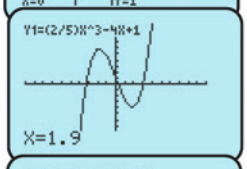
more►

input Y= (2 ÷ 5) X,T,Θ,n ^ 3 − 4 X,T,Θ,n + 1 and GRAPH. If you do not see the screen at right, press ZOOM 6.

Press TRACE

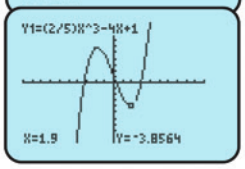


then input 1 . 9 (notice that X = 1.9 appears in the bottom left corner of the screen) and press ENTER.

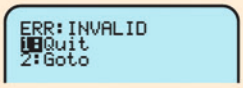


The *y* value of −3.8564 will appear in the bottom right of the screen.

This tells you that $f(1.9) = -3.8564$.



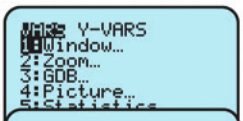
NOTE If an *x* value is input that is outside the window dimensions, an **ERR: INVALID** message will display:



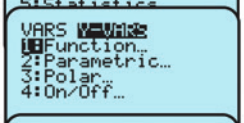
Press 1 then WINDOW to adjust the *x* values to include the value you wish to evaluate.

USING VARS TO EVALUATE FUNCTIONS To evaluate $f(1.9)$ when $f(x) = \frac{2}{5}x^3 - 4x + 1$, input the function into the grapher by pressing Y= (2 ÷ 5) X,T,Θ,n ^ 3 − 4 X,T,Θ,n + 1.

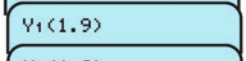
Press 2ND MODE, which will quit to the home screen. Press VARS. Using the right arrow key, highlight **Y-VARS** and ENTER to choose **1: Function**.

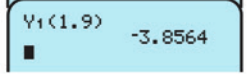


ENTER again to get Y_1 on your home screen.



Then press (1 . 9) and ENTER and the screen will display −3.8564, which means that $f(1.9) = -3.8564$. If a function that you want to evaluate is in Y_2, find Y_2 in the VARS menu and proceed in exactly the same manner.



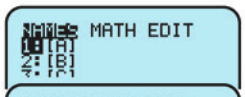


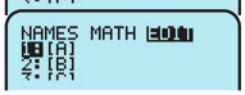
Equations with Matrices and Reduced Row Echelon Form

USING MATRICES Your calculator can use matrices to solve most systems of equations. However, they must be in standard form. An example of a system of equations in standard form is

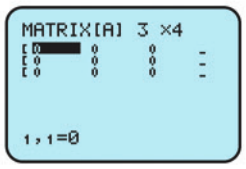
$$\begin{cases} x + y - 3z = 1 \\ 2x - y + z = 9 \\ 3x + y - 4z = 8. \end{cases}$$

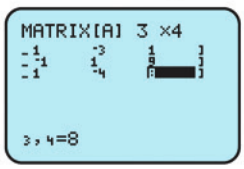
Notice the coefficients and variables are on one side of the equation—in the same order—and the constants are on the other. Press 2ND x^{-1} to get into the matrix menu. Use the ▷ key to move the cursor to **EDIT** and press ENTER.



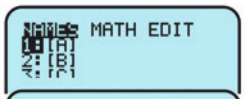


The calculator will prompt you for the dimensions of matrix A, which is the one you should use. In this case, the dimensions are 3 by 4. Input this by pressing 3 ENTER 4 ENTER. Input the coefficients and constants of the system by pressing the number and pressing ENTER. When you finish, your screen should look like the screen on the right.

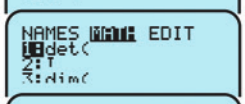


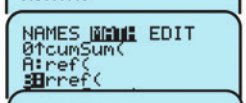


First press 2ND MODE to exit the matrix screen.



Press 2ND x^{-1} and move the cursor to **MATH.** Move the cursor down until it rests on a command **rref(**. You will have to move down to the next screen to do this.





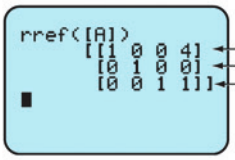
Press ENTER. You should be on the home screen.

To have the calculator produce the reduced row echelon form of matrix A, press 2ND x^{-1} ENTER).

Your screen should look like this:

Press ENTER to perform the calculation, producing the following screen. It has to be interpreted a bit.

The solution to the system is (4, 0, 1).



NOTE If the answer's bottom row of the matrix is all zeros, then the system has *infinitely many solutions.* If the bottom row is all zeros except one 1 in the rightmost position, then the system has *no solutions.*