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| **Linear Equation** | **Polynomial Equation** |
| y=mx+b  Describes simple, linear relationships. | Describes more complex relationships,  e.g., acceleration, growth |
| Degree 1 (highest power of x is 1) | Degree n (any non-negative integer) |
| Straight line | Curved, may have multiple turns depending on the degree |
| Represents a constant rate of change, constant slope | Represents varying rates of change |
| **Eg:** y=2x+3 |  |