



Math for the people, by the people.

there exist additive functions which are not linear

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Example 1. There exists a function $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which is additive but not linear.

Proof. Let V be the infinite dimensional vector space \mathbb{R} over the field \mathbb{Q} . Since 1 and $\sqrt{2}$ are two independent vectors in V , we can extend the set $\{1, \sqrt{2}\}$ to a basis E of V (notice that here the axiom of choice is used).

Now we consider a linear function $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(1) = 1$ while $f(e) = 0$ for all $e \in E \setminus \{1\}$. This function is \mathbb{Q} -linear (i.e. it is additive on \mathbb{R}) but it is not \mathbb{R} -linear because $f(\sqrt{2}) = 0 \neq \sqrt{2}f(1)$. \square