

$$y - ax = b \tag{1a}$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2 \tag{1b}$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2 \tag{1c}$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2 \tag{1d}$$

For the case where the label is part of a sentence:

Once referenced: equation (1a)

Two referenced: equations (1a, 1b)

Three referenced: equations (1a–1c)

For the case where the labels begin a sentence:

Equation (1a) is one equation.

Equations (1a, 1b) are two equations.

Equations (1a–1c) are three equations.