

#4 Systems of Two Linear Equations in Two Variables.

We start with two linear equations.

$$j: a_1x + b_1y = c_1$$

$$k: a_2x + b_2y = c_2$$

These are two lines in 2D!

Proof. If $\underline{ax+by=c}$ then we can solve for y !

$$\text{then } by = c - ax$$

$$\text{then } \underline{y} = \frac{c}{b} - \frac{a}{b}x$$

$$= -\frac{a}{b}x + \frac{c}{b}. \text{ Choose } m = -\frac{a}{b} \text{ and } d = \frac{c}{b}.$$

then $y = mx + d$ is an equation of a line with

$$\text{Slope } m = -\frac{a}{b} \text{ and } d = \frac{c}{b}.$$

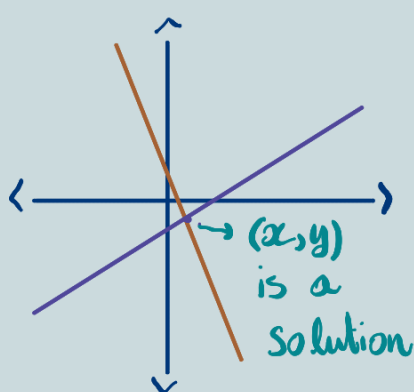
\downarrow can be any number!

Done. Now, two lines in space. What are the odds?

$$j: a_1x + b_1y = c_1 \quad \text{becomes} \quad j: y_1 = m_1x + d_1$$

$$k: a_2x + b_2y = c_2 \quad \text{becomes} \quad k: y_2 = m_2x + d_2$$

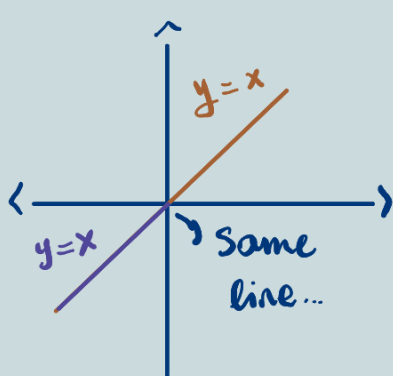
Intersect once!



$$m_1 \neq m_2$$

One solution
 (x, y)

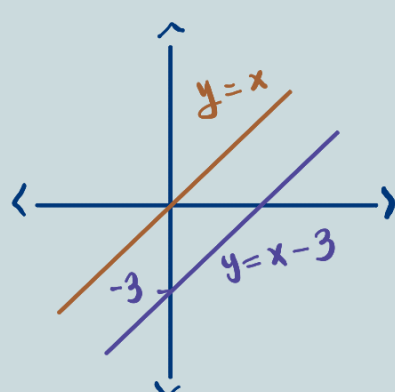
Intersect always...



$$m_1 = m_2$$

$c_1 = c_2$
infinitely many
solutions

Never Intersect.



$$m_1 = m_2$$

$c_1 \neq c_2$
no solutions
 (x, y)

These would also be different cases of solutions to the system of equations j, k . A pair (x, y) on both lines would satisfy both respective equations.

Question. How do we solve this system of equations?

$$-x + y = -3.5$$

$$x + 3y = 9.5$$

Two standard methods.

1. Elimination,

Notice that the coefficients of x are -1 and 1 . This is great,

$$\begin{array}{r} -x + y = -3.5 \\ x + 3y = 9.5 \end{array}$$

as adding both equations would give us an equation in one variable.

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{+} \quad \begin{array}{r} -x + y = -3.5 \\ x + 3y = 9.5 \end{array} \\ \hline 0 + 4y = 6 \end{array}$$

↳ nice!

We know how to solve the above equation.

$$y = \frac{3}{2}.$$

Finally, if $y = \frac{3}{2}$, and $x + 3y = 9.5$, then we can

• plug-in $y = \frac{3}{2}$: $x + 3y = x + 3\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = 9.5$

• solve for x : $x = 9.5 - 3 \cdot \frac{3}{2} = 5$

Then $(x, y) = (5, \frac{3}{2})$ satisfy both equations. check this!

2. Substitution,

we start by solving one equation in two variables.

Choose an equation $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -x + y = -3.5 \quad (1) \\ x + 3y = 9.5 \quad (2) \end{array} \right.$

Choose your favourite variable $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -x + y = -3.5 \Rightarrow y = -3.5 + x \quad (3) \end{array} \right.$

Plug-in $-3.5 + x$ for y in (2) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x + 3(-3.5 + x) = 9.5 \Rightarrow x = 5 \end{array} \right.$ group, solve
↑

Plug-in 5 for x in (3) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y = -3.5 + x \Rightarrow y = -3.5 + 5 \Rightarrow y = 1.5 = \frac{3}{2} \end{array} \right.$

A bit more tedious. This is why elimination is nicer to work with: it is much easier to set up your equations to cancel a variable out.

Setting up your equations. Let us make this more precise.

$$5x + 14y = 45 \quad (1)$$

$$10x + 7y = 27 \quad (2)$$

How would you eliminate x (or y)?

Observation. Notice that multiplying $5x$ by -2 gives us $-10x$.

$$\begin{array}{l} \times(-2) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 5x + 14y = 45 \quad (1) \\ 10x + 7y = 27 \quad (2) \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

Key. Multiply equation (1) by -2 ! Then,

$$5x + 14y = 45 \quad \xrightarrow{[-2]} \Rightarrow -10x - 28y = -90$$

$$\oplus \quad 10x + 7y = 27$$

$$\boxed{-21y = -63}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = \frac{-63}{-21} = 3}$$

Plugging in (1),

$$5x + 14y = 45 \Rightarrow 5x + 14 \cdot 3 = 45$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x = \frac{45 - 14 \cdot 3}{5} = \frac{3}{5}}$$

This should be good preparation for the worksheet.