



## Why

Since every affine set is a translate of some (unique) subspace, it is natural to define the dimension of an affine set as the dimension of this subspace.

## Definition

The *dimension* of a nonempty affine set is the dimension of the subspace parallel to it. By convention,  $\emptyset$  has dimension  $-1$ . Naturally, the *points*, *lines* and *planes* are affine sets of dimension 0, 1, and 2 respectively.

If an affine set has dimension  $r$ , then we often call it an  *$r$ -flat*.

For any  $S \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ , we define the dimension of  $A$  to be the dimension of the affine hull of  $A$ .

## Notation

We denote the dimension of the set  $S \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  by  $\dim S$ . We have defined it so that

$$\dim S = \dim \operatorname{aff} S$$

This makes sense if  $S$  is affine, since in this case  $\operatorname{aff} S = S$ .

## Result

**Proposition 1.** *Any  $r$ -flat has  $r + 1$  affinely independent points. Each of its sets of size  $r + 2$  are affinely dependent.*



