

Linear Equation in simple terms

Overview

In mathematics, a linear equation is an equation that may be put in the form

$$a_1x_1 + \cdots + a_nx_n + b = 0,$$

where x_1, \dots, x_n are the variables (or unknowns), and b, a_1, \dots, a_n are the coefficients, which are often real numbers. The coefficients may be considered as parameters of the equation, and may be arbitrary expressions, provided they do not contain any of the variables. To yield a meaningful equation, the coefficients a_1, \dots, a_n are required to not all be zero.

Linear Equation in 3 variables

R^3 is the space of 3 dimensions. There is x , y and z coordinate. Each coordinate can be any real number.

if a, b, c and r are real numbers (and if a, b and c are not all equal to 0) then

$ax + by + cz = r$ is called a linear equation in three variables.

The numbers a , b , and c are called the coefficients of the equation. The number r is called the constant of the equation.

Example

$$x + 2y - 3z = -3 \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$$2x - 5y + 4z = 13 \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

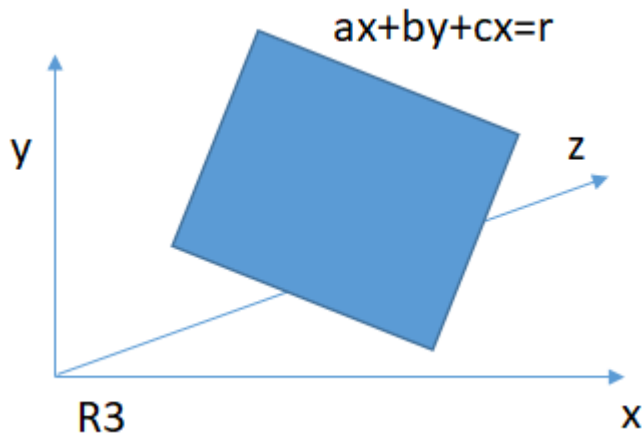
$$5x + 4y - z = 5 \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

Solution to Equations

A solution of a linear equation in three variables $ax + by + cz = r$ is a specific point in R^3 such that when the x -coordinate of the point is multiplied by a , the y -coordinate of the point is multiplied by b , the z -coordinate of the point is multiplied by c , and then those three products are added together, the answer equals r .

Linear Equation and Planes

The set of solutions in R^3 of a linear equation in three variables is a 2-dimensional plane.



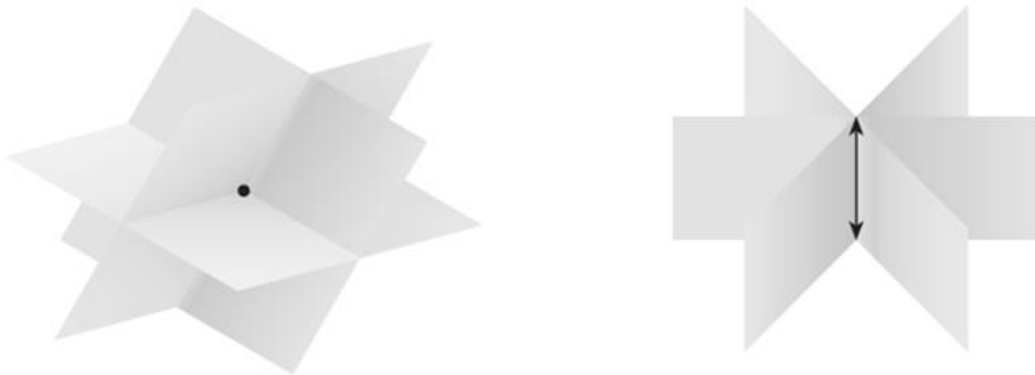
Geometry of Solutions

Suppose we have a system of three linear equations in three variables. Each of the three equations has a set of solutions that's a plane in R^3 . A solution to the system of equations is a point that lies on all three of those planes. If there is only one point that lies on all three planes, then that solution is unique.

If you randomly write down three different linear equations in three variables, the odds are the three corresponding planes will intersect in on and only one point. That means that for most systems of these linear equations in three variables there will be unique solution.

If the planes intersect in a single point, the system has one solution.

If the planes intersect in a line, as infinitely many solutions.



If the planes have no point of intersection, the system has no solution. In the example on the left, the planes intersect pairwise, but all three have no points in common. In the example on the right, the planes are parallel.

