

Mathematical Foundations of Computing

Serhii Denysov

February 2026

One-dimensional space - 1D

- What is an equation in 1D?
- What is a linear equation in 1D?
- Is it hard to solve a linear equation in 1D?
- Geometrical interpretation
- What is a system of equations?

- What is an equation in 1D?

- What is an equation in 1D?

Find $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(x) = 0$

- What is a linear equation in 1D?

- What is an equation in 1D?

Find $x \in \mathbb{R}$ **such that** $f(x) = 0$

- What is a linear equation in 1D?

Find $x \in \mathbb{R}$ **such that** $f(x) = 0$, **where** $f(x) = ax + b$; $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

- Is it hard to solve a linear equation in 1D?

- What is an equation in 1D?

Find $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(x) = 0$

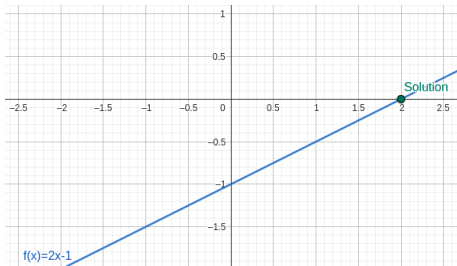
- What is a linear equation in 1D?

Find $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(x) = 0$, where $f(x) = ax + b$; $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

- Is it hard to solve a linear equation in 1D?

Closed form solution $x = -\frac{b}{a}$

- Geometrical interpretation



- What is a system of equations?

Several equations to be solved together. Boring in 1D.

- What about 2D?

- What is a system of equations?
Several equations to be solved together. Boring in 1D.

- What about 2D?

$$\begin{cases} 2x + 5y = 8, \\ 2x - y = 1. \end{cases}$$

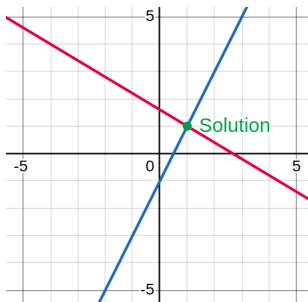
Algebraic interpretation:

- We have two unknowns: x and y .
- We need to find their values such that both equations are satisfied.
- Here we can “easily” guess, that $x^* = 1, y^* = 1$ is a solution.

$$\begin{cases} 3x + 5y = 8, \\ 2x - y = 1. \end{cases}$$

Geometric interpretation:

- Each equation corresponds to a straight line.
- A solution (x^*, y^*) is the intersection point of these lines.



Geometric Picture:

- If the lines intersect at unique point, there is a unique solution.
- If the lines are parallel (no intersection), there is no solution.
- If the lines overlap (coincide), there are infinitely many solutions.

Solving by substitution or elimination in 2D:

- **Substitution:** Solve one equation for y in terms of x , and substitute.
- **Elimination:** Combine equations to remove one variable at a time.

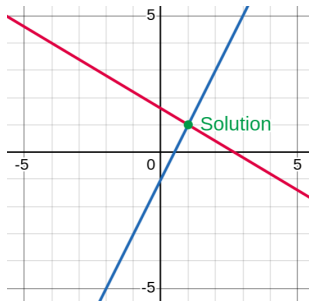
Generic 2D SLE:

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 = b_1, \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 = b_2. \end{cases}$$

Gaussian Elimination

- 1 Choose a pivot equation (e.g., the first).
- 2 Multiply that equation by a factor $k_{12} = -\frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}}$. If you add it to the second equation, x_1 variable will be eliminated.
- 3 Solve for x_2 , then back-substitute to find x_1 .

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 = b_1, \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 = b_2. \end{cases}$$



Why we call it 2D?

- **1D:** $x \in \mathbb{R}$
- **2D:** $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$; $x = (x_1, x_2)$
- **3D:** $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$; $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$
- **nD:** $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$; $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$

System of linear equations in nD:

Find $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such, that $Ax + b = 0$; $A \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

$$A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

- What is Ax ?

Please, multiply

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Generic n -dimensional linear system:

$$Ax = b,$$

or

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1, \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2, \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{nn}x_n = b_n. \end{cases}$$

Key ideas:

- Same elimination approach: use row operations to systematically eliminate variables.
- The process is repeated from the first row to the last, “sweeping” down to get a triangular form, then back-substitute.
- What if we encounter 0 on the leading position?

Test System of Linear Equations (SLE):

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 6 \\ 3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 10 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 = 12 \end{cases}$$

Good versus Evil

- Are all SLEs with an unique solution are equally good?
- Let's come with idea of a “bad” solvable system!
- Easiest intuition is based on geometry.