

In section 7.3 you will learn to:

- Use back substitution to solve linear systems in row-echelon form.
- Use Gaussian elimination to solve systems of linear equations,
- Solve non-square systems of linear equations.
- Model and solve real-life problems by setting up systems of linear equations in three or more variables.

Multivariable linear systems

An equation with three variables represents what?

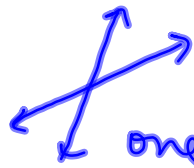
a shape in 3-d



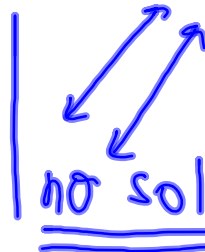
(a linear eqn in 3d)

What are the possibilities for solutions to three equations in three unknowns?

Note: (Remember 2-d)



one pt.



no soln

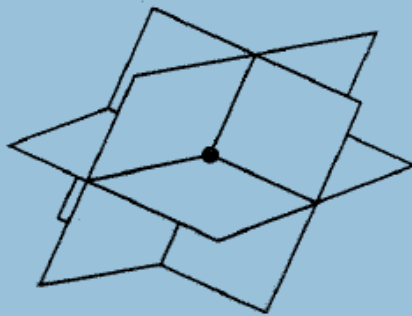


same line  
 $\infty$  solns

System of 3 linear eqns  
in 3 variables

$$ax + by + cz = d$$

$a, b, c, d$  are constants



①

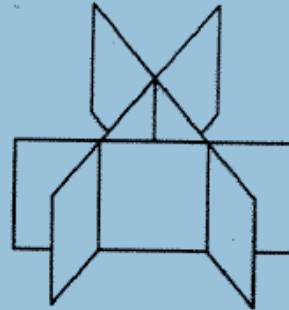
Solution: one point



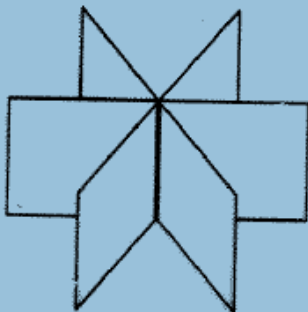
③a

Solution: one plane

②a



Solution: none

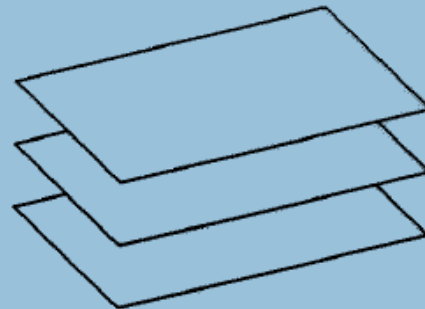


③b

(hardest)

Solution: one line

②b



Solution: none

Method of Gaussian Elimination -- You may:

(Solving a system  
of linear eqns)

- ① Exchange two rows.
- ② Multiply a row by a nonzero constant.
- ③ Temporarily multiply a row by a nonzero constant, add it to another row and replace one of the rows with the result. (elimination step)

(Note: row = an entire eqn)



Example 2 Solve

$$\begin{array}{r} (-3) \\ \rightarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{l} -3x + 6y - 3z = -12 \\ x - 2y + z = 4 \\ 3x - 6y + 3z = 7 \\ 2x + y + 4z = 2 \end{array}$$


$$\begin{array}{l} x - 2y + z = 4 \\ \boxed{0 = -5} \\ 2x + y + 4z = 2 \end{array}$$

$$0 \neq -5$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{no solution}$$

$$-2x + 4y + 2z = 10$$

$$(-2) \quad x - 2y - z = -5$$

$$\text{wall} \quad \textcircled{2x} + y + z = 5$$


(Note: this is underdetermined system) (in 3d) (fewer eqns than variables)

$$\textcircled{1} \quad x - 2y - z = -5$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad 5y + 3z = 15$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad 3z = -5y + 15$$

$$z = -\frac{5}{3}y + 5$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad x - 2y - \left(-\frac{5}{3}y + 5\right) = -5$$

$$x - 2y + \frac{5}{3}y - 5 = -5$$

$$x - \frac{1}{3}y = 0$$

$$x = \frac{1}{3}y$$

pts on line

x	y	z
0	0	5
$\frac{1}{3}$	1	$\frac{10}{3}$
$\frac{2}{3}$	2	$\frac{5}{3}$

line of intersection

$$x = \frac{1}{3}y$$

$$z = -\frac{5}{3}y + 5$$

$$y = y$$

re-parameterize

$$y = 3t$$

$$x = \frac{1}{3}(3t) = t$$

$$z = -\frac{5}{3}(3t) + 5 = -5t + 5$$

## Example 4

Find the equation of the parabola  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$  that passes through the points

$(0,3)$ ,  $(1,4)$  and  $(2,3)$ .



$$\begin{cases} \textcircled{1} & 3 = c \\ \textcircled{2} & 4 = a + b + c \\ \textcircled{3} & 3 = 4a + 2b + c \end{cases}$$

so

$$\begin{cases} 4 = a + b + 3 \\ 3 = 4a + 2b + 3 \end{cases} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} a + b = 1 \\ 4a + 2b = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\begin{cases} -2a - 2b = -2 \\ 4a + 2b = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$2a = -2$$

$$a = -1$$

$$b = 2$$

$$\{ Q : y = -x^2 + 2x + 3 \}$$