

Exercise Solve the linear system

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

$$3x + 3y - z = 6$$

$$x - y + z = -1$$

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

$$-4z = 12$$

$$\textcircled{2} \mapsto \textcircled{2} - 3\textcircled{1}$$

$$-2y = 1$$

$$\textcircled{3} \mapsto \textcircled{3} - \textcircled{1}$$

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

$$-2y = 1$$

$$\textcircled{2} \leftrightarrow \textcircled{3}$$

$$-4z = 12$$

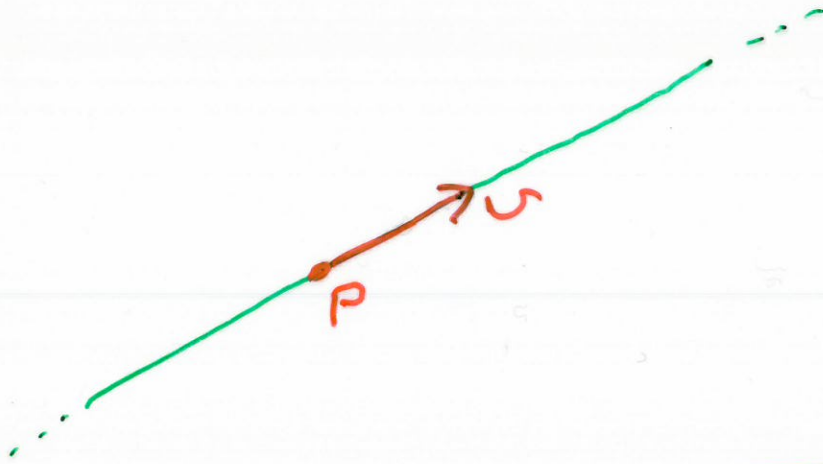
Back substitution

$$z = -3$$

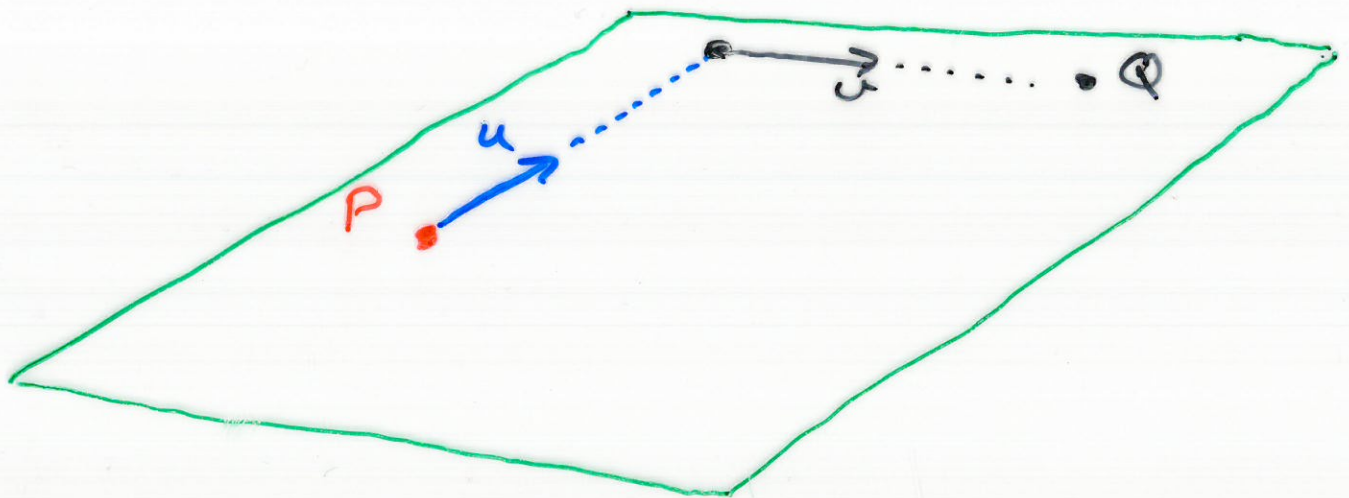
$$y = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{3}{2}$$

A line (in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ) is determined by a point  $P$  on the line, and a direction vector.



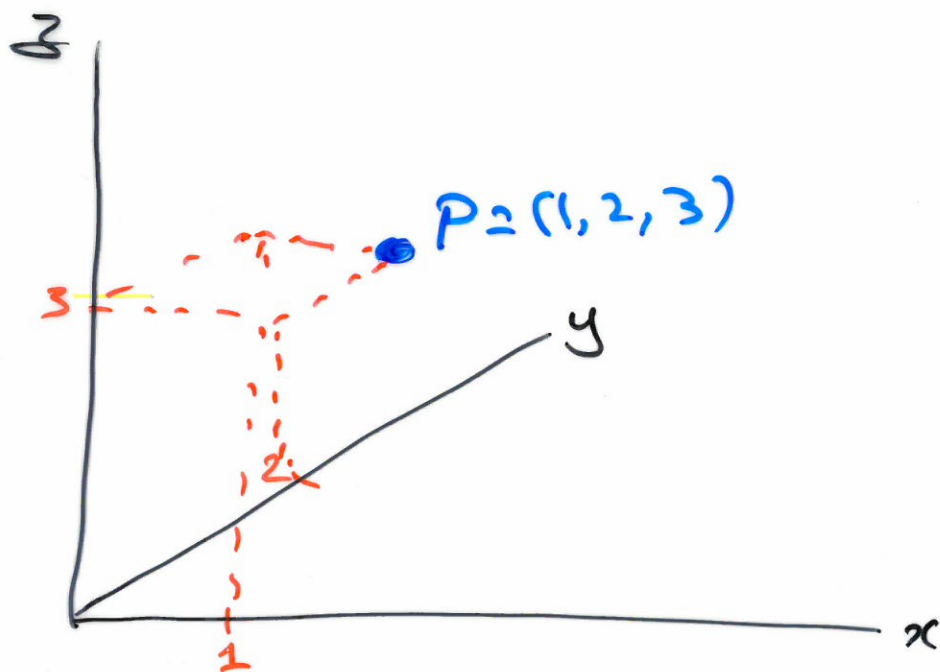
A plane (in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ) is determined by a point  $P$  and two direction vectors.



In  $\mathbb{R}^3$  a point is a triple

$$P = (1, 2, 3)$$

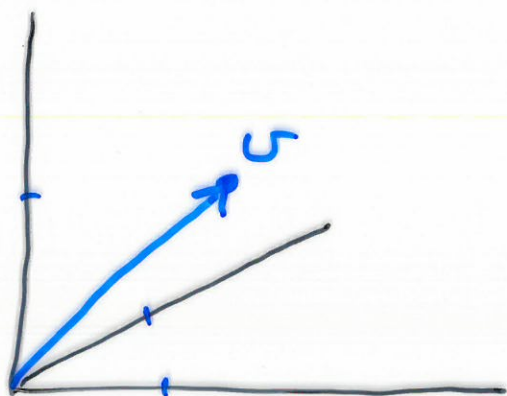
for instance.



A direction vector  $u$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is also a triple

$$u = (1, 1, 2)$$

for instance.



A point  $Q$  in the plane has the form

$$Q = P + \lambda u + \mu v$$

where  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Example Let

$$S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} : 3x + 5y + 7z = 15 \right\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$$

Note:  $P = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{15}{3} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  lies in  $S$ .

An arbitrary point  $Q$  in  $S$  has the form

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 5 - \frac{5}{3}\lambda - \frac{7}{3}\mu \\ \lambda \\ \mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{5}{3} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{7}{3} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



So  $S$  is in fact the plane  
determined by

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and directions}$$

$$u = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{5}{3} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad v = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{7}{3} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Conclusion:

~~Any equation~~

A linear equation such as  
 $3x + 5y + 7z = 15$  determines  
a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$