

## CHAPTER 4:

### *LINEAR FUNCTIONS OF 2 VARIABLES*

#### **4.1 RATES OF CHANGES IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS**

From Precalculus, we know that  $y = f(x)$  is a linear function if the rate of change of the function is constant. I.e., for every unit that we move in the  $x$  direction, the *rise* in the  $y$  direction is constant.

#### *Example*

Consider the function given by the following table:

$x$	0	1	2	3
$f(x)$	2	5	8	11

For each movement of 1 in the  $x$  direction, the output  $f(x)$  from the function increases by 3. Hence, the function is linear with slope (rate of change) equal to three.

#### *Example*

Consider the function given by the following table:

$x$	0	1	2	3
$f(x)$	1	3	9	16

From 0 to 1, the output  $f(x)$  increases by 2. From 1 to 2, the output  $f(x)$  increases by 6. Hence the rate of change of the function is not constant and the function is not linear.

#### ***RATES OF CHANGE IN THE X AND Y DIRECTIONS***

In the case of functions of two variables we also have a notion of rate of change. However, there are now two variables,  $x$  and  $y$ , and so we will consider two rates of change: a rate of change associated with movement in the  $x$  direction and a rate of change associated with movement in the  $y$  direction.

### Example

Consider the situation we saw in the previous chapter where both parents in a household work and the father earns \$5.00 an hour while the mother earns \$10.00 an hour. As before we shall be using:

$x$  = number of hours that the mother works in a week

$y$  = number of hours that the father works in a week

$z = f(x, y)$  = weekly salary for the family

For each increase of one unit in  $x$ , the value of the function increases by 10. That is, for each hour that the mother works in a week, the weekly family salary increases by 10 dollars. Hence the rate of change in the  $x$  direction (we refer to this as the slope in the  $x$  direction or  $m_x$ ) is 10. Similarly, for each increase of one unit in  $y$ , the value of the function increases by 5. That is, for each increase of one in the number of hours the father works the family salary increases by 5 dollars. Hence the rate of change in the  $y$  direction (we refer to this as the slope in the  $y$  direction or  $m_y$ ) is 5.

## 4.2 DEFINITION OF A LINEAR FUNCTION OF TWO VARIABLES

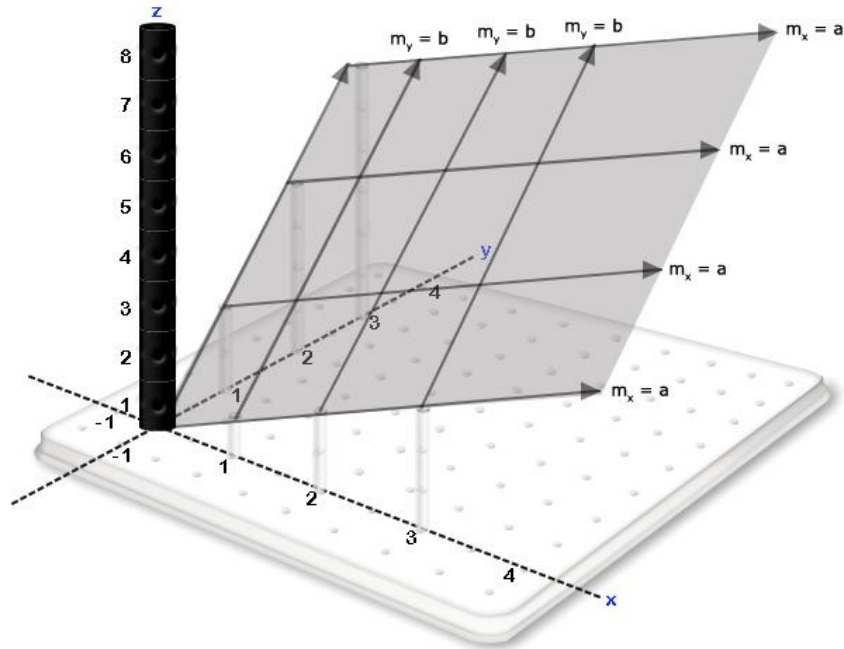
### DEFINITION

A function of two variables is said to be *linear* if it has a constant rate of change in the  $x$  direction and a constant rate of change in the  $y$  direction. We will normally express this idea as  $m_x$  and  $m_y$  are constant.

## 4.3 RECOGNIZING A LINEAR FUNCTION OF TWO VARIABLES

### SURFACES

If a linear function is represented with a surface, the surface will have a constant slope in the  $x$  direction and the  $y$  direction. Such a surface is represented below.



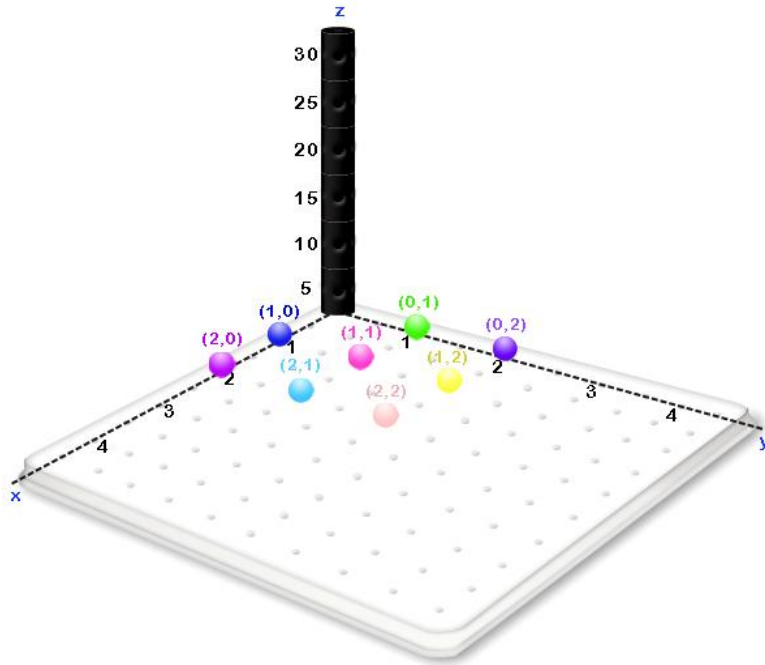
On the above surface, in the  $x$  directions the cross sections are a series of lines with slope  $a$  and in the  $y$  direction, the cross sections are a series of lines with slope  $b$ . This is consistent with constant slopes in the  $x$  and in the  $y$  directions. If we visualize a surface with constant slopes in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions, the surface that represents a linear function in 3 dimensions will always be a plane.

### **TABLES**

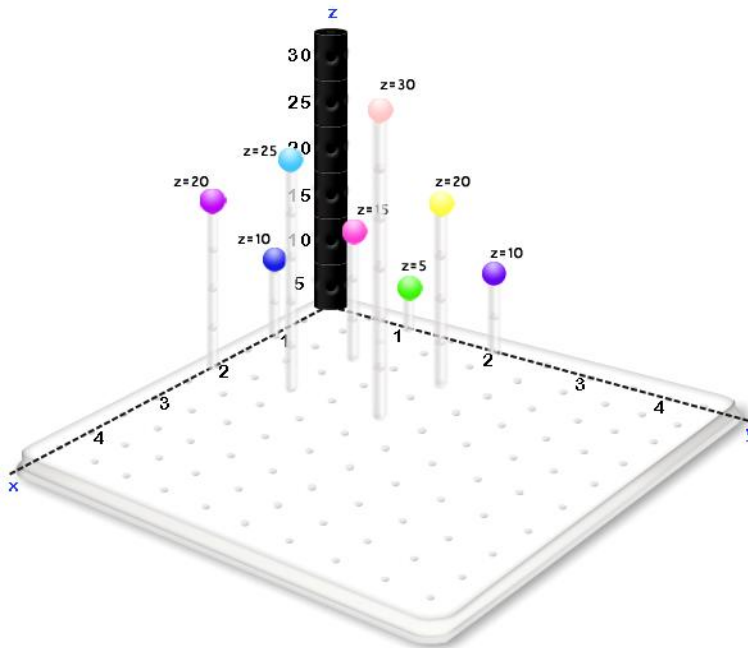
Assume that the function  $f$  is represented by the following table:

	$y = 0$	$y = 1$	$y = 2$	$y = 3$
$x = 0$	0	5	10	15
$x = 1$	10	15	20	25
$x = 2$	20	25	30	35
$x = 3$	30	35	40	45

Geometrically, we can see the information contained in the table by first placing a point for each  $(x, y)$  in the table on the  $xy$  plane of our 3-space



Then we can raise each point to its appropriate  $z$  value (height) in 3 dimensions.



If this is a plane, any two points in the  $x$  direction should give us the same slope. For example, if we go from  $(0, 0, 0)$  to  $(1, 0, 10)$ , we can obtain one slope in the  $x$  direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{10}{1} = 10$ . If we go from  $(1, 1, 15)$  to  $(3, 1, 35)$ , this will provide another slope in

the  $x$  direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{20}{2} = 10$ . If we obtain the slope in this manner for any two points that are oriented in the  $x$  direction, we will find that they all result in a slope of 10. Hence, the slope in the  $x$  direction for the data points in this table are all equal to 10.

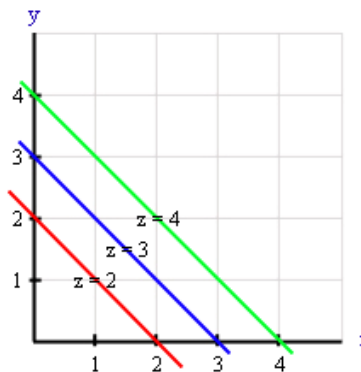
If this is a plane, any two points in the  $y$  direction should also give us the same slope. For example, if we go from  $(0, 0, 0)$  to  $(0, 1, 5)$ , we can obtain one slope in the  $y$  direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{5}{1} = 5$ . If we go from  $(1, 1, 15)$  to  $(1, 3, 25)$ , this will provide

another slope in the  $y$  direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{30}{3} = 5$ . If we obtain the slope in this manner for any two points that are oriented in the  $y$  direction, we will find that they all result in a slope of 5. Hence, the slope in the  $y$  direction for the data points in this table are all equal to 5.

As the slopes in the  $x$  direction that are associated with these points and the slopes in the  $y$  direction associated with these points are both constant, this plane is consistent with the definition of a linear function.

## CONTOUR DIAGRAMS

Assume that the function  $f$  is represented by the following contour diagram:



If this is a plane, any two points in the  $x$  direction should give us the same slope. For example, if we go from  $(2, 0, 2)$  to  $(2, 0, 3)$ , we can obtain one slope in the  $x$  direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$ . If we go from  $(1, 2, 3)$  to  $(2, 2, 4)$ , this will provide another slope in the  $x$

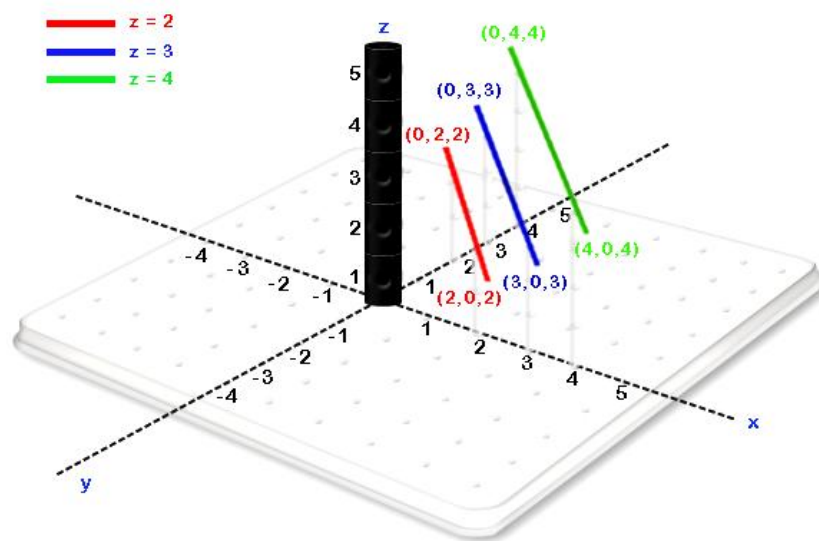
direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$ . If we obtain the slope in this manner for any two points that are oriented in the  $x$  direction, we will find that they all result in a slope of 1. Hence, the slopes in the  $x$  direction for the data points in this table are all equal to 1.

If this is a plane, any two points in the  $y$  direction should also give us the same slope. For example, if we go from  $(2, 0, 2)$  to  $(2, 1, 3)$ , we can obtain one slope in the  $y$  direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$ . If we go from  $(1, 1, 2)$  to  $(1, 3, 4)$ , this will provide another

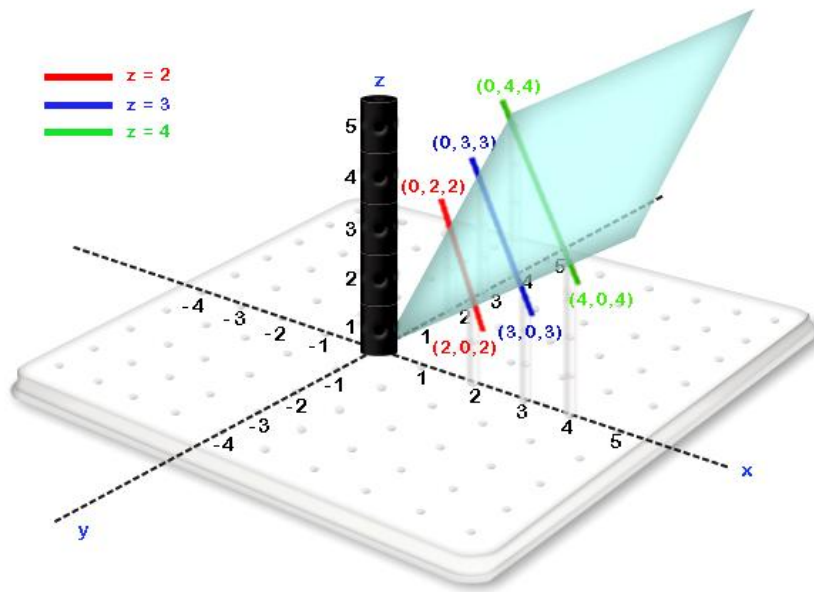
slope in the  $y$  direction. This slope is equal to  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{2}{2} = 1$ . If we obtain the slope in this manner for any two points that are oriented in the  $y$  direction, we will find that they all result in a slope of 1. Hence, the slope in the  $y$  direction for the data points in this table are all equal to 1.

As the slopes in the  $x$  direction that are associated with these points and the slopes in the  $y$  direction associated with these points are both constant, this contour is consistent with the definition of a linear function.

Geometrically, we can see the information contained in the contour by moving each contour on the  $xy$  plane to its appropriate height in 3-space

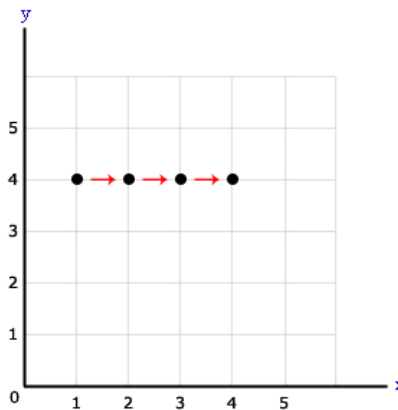


With these contours in 3-space, we can see that the contour diagram is consistent with the following plane.

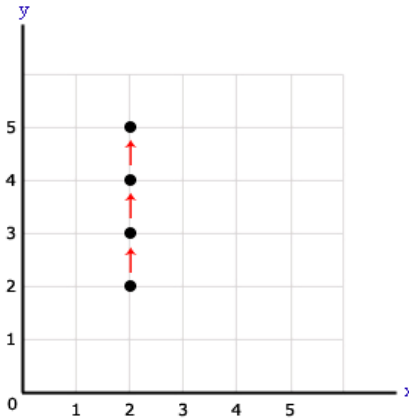


## FORMULAS

Given a formula, the key to determining whether slopes are constant in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions lies in the fact that when we move in the  $x$  direction,  $y$  is constant and when we move in the  $y$  direction  $x$  is constant.



For example, the above trajectory starts at  $(1, 4)$  and moves in the  $x$  direction through the points  $(2, 4)$ ,  $(3, 4)$  and  $(4, 4)$ . While  $x$  increases with a trajectory in the  $x$  direction, the value of  $y$  remains constant at  $y = 4$ .

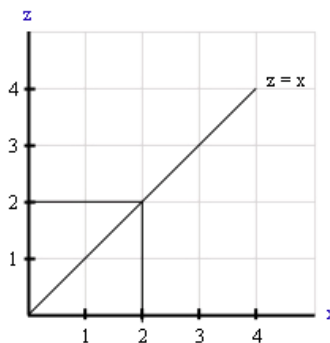


In the above case, the trajectory starts at  $(2, 2)$  and moves in the  $y$  direction through the points  $(2, 3)$ ,  $(2, 4)$  and  $(2, 5)$ . While  $y$  increases with a trajectory in the  $y$  direction, the value of  $x$  remains constant at  $x = 2$ .

**Example Exercise 4.3.1:** Given the function represented with the formula  $z = f(x,y) = x + y$ , determine whether the formula represents a linear function.

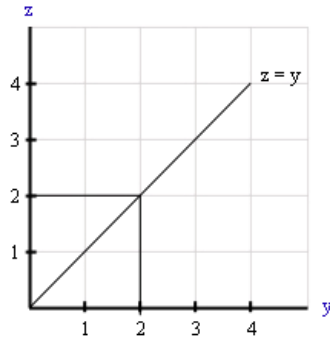
**Solution:**

Assume that we start at any point  $(a, b)$  on the  $xy$  plane. If we move in the  $x$  direction then  $y$  remains constant in  $y = b$  and the cross section of the curve will be  $z = x + b$  where  $b$  is constant. This cross section is a line with slope equal to 1. Hence the slope in the  $x$  direction is equal to 1 for every point  $(a, b)$ . For example, when we start at the point  $(0, 0)$  and move in the  $x$  direction, our trajectory will be associated with the cross section  $y = 0$  where  $z = x + 0$ .

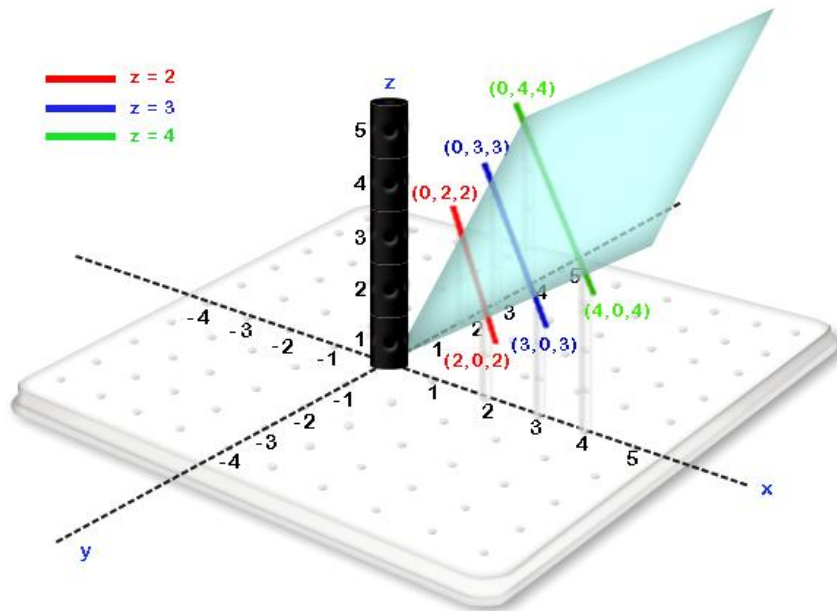


If we move in the  $y$  direction then  $x$  remains constant in  $x = a$  and the cross section of the curve will be  $z = a + y$  where  $a$  is constant. This cross section is a line with slope equal to 1. Hence the slope in the  $y$  direction is equal to 1 for every point  $(a, b)$ . For example, when we start at the point  $(0, 0)$  and move in the  $y$  direction, our trajectory will be associated with the cross section  $x = 0$  where  $z = 0 + y$ .





Hence, the function represented by the formula  $z = f(x,y) = x + y$  has constant slopes in both the  $x$  direction and the  $y$  direction and does represent a linear function. If we note that the point  $(0, 0, 0)$  satisfies the function and place the appropriate cross sections in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions, we can see that the associated plane will have the following form:



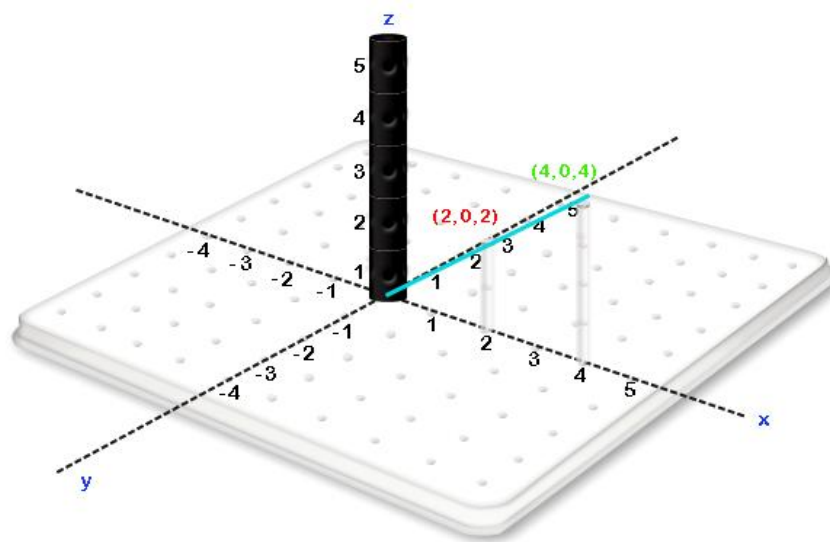
**Example Exercise 4.3.2:** Given the function represented with the formula  $z = f(x,y) = x + y^2$ , determine whether the formula represents a linear function.

**Solution:**

Assume that we start at any point  $(a, b)$  on the  $xy$  plane. If we move in the  $x$  direction then  $y$  remains constant in  $y = b$  and the cross section of the curve will be  $z = x + 3b^2 + 1$  where  $b$  is constant. This cross section is a line with slope equal to 2. Hence the slope in the  $x$  direction is equal to 1 for every point  $(a, b)$ .

*Example:*  $y = 0 \Rightarrow z = f(x, 0) = x + 0^2 = x$ . This is  $z = x$ .

$x$	$z$
2	2
4	4

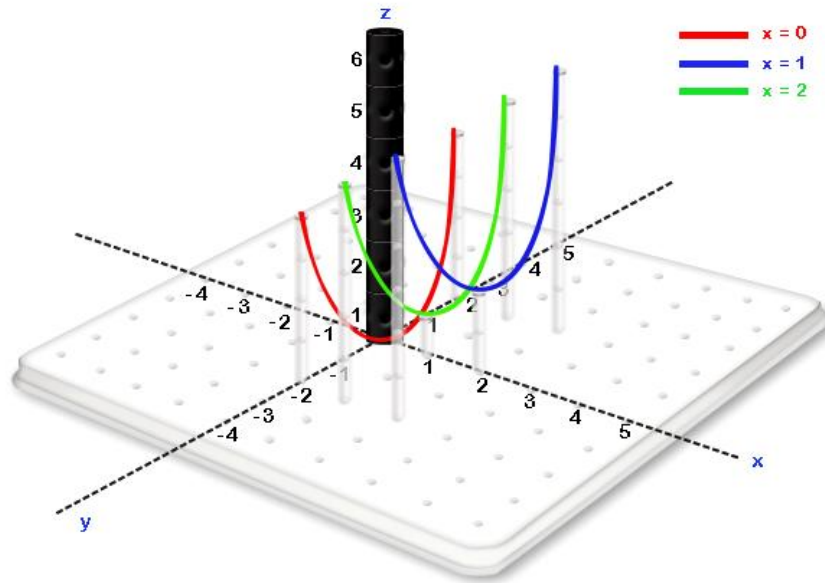


If we move in the  $y$  direction then  $x$  remains constant in  $x = a$  and the cross section of the curve will be  $z = x + a^2$  where  $a$  is constant. This cross section is a parabola. As a parabola is not a curve with a constant slope, the slope in the  $y$  direction is not constant.

If  $x = 0 \Rightarrow z = 0 + y^2 = y^2$ . This is the equation of a parabola that open toward them  $z > 0$  with vertex  $(0, 0)$  on the  $yz$  plane.

If  $x = 1 \Rightarrow z = 1 + y^2$ . This is the equation of a parabola that open toward them  $z > 1$  with vertex  $(0, 1)$  on the  $yz$  plane.

If  $x = 2 \Rightarrow z = 2 + y^2$ . This is the equation of a parabola that open toward them  $z > 2$  with vertex  $(0, 2)$  on the  $yz$  plane.



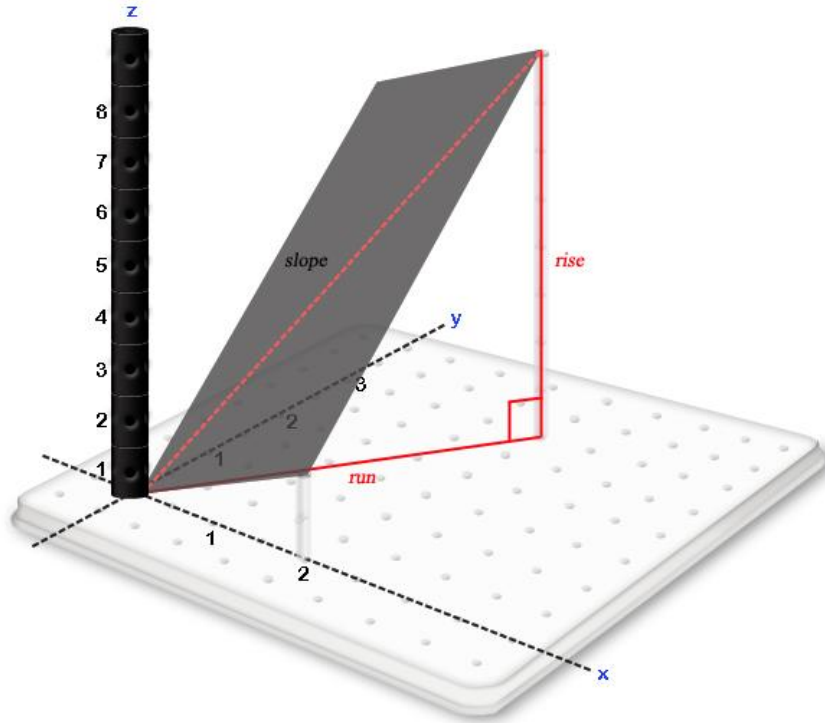
Hence, the function represented by the formula  $z = f(x,y) = x + y^2$  has a constant slope in the  $x$  direction but does not have a constant slope in the  $y$  direction and does not represent a linear function.

#### 4.4 MOVEMENT ON PLANES AND THE ASSOCIATED CHANGE IN HEIGHT

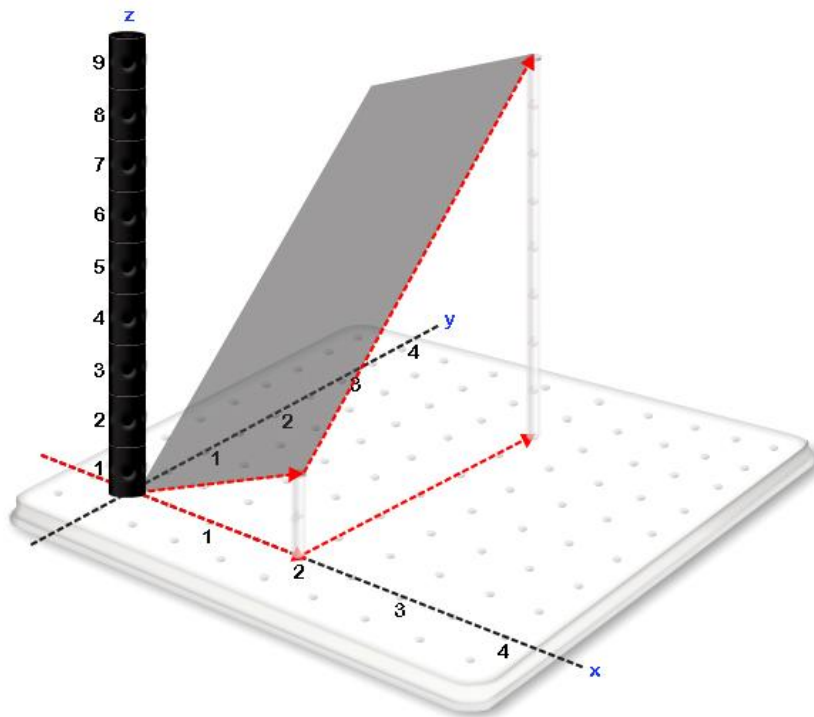
**Example Exercise 4.4.1:** Given a plane with  $m_x = 1$  and  $m_y = 2$ , find the difference in height between  $(0, 0, f(0, 0))$  and  $(2, 3, f(2, 3))$ .

**Solution:**

1. Identify the right triangle whose *rise* and *run* are associated with this slope.

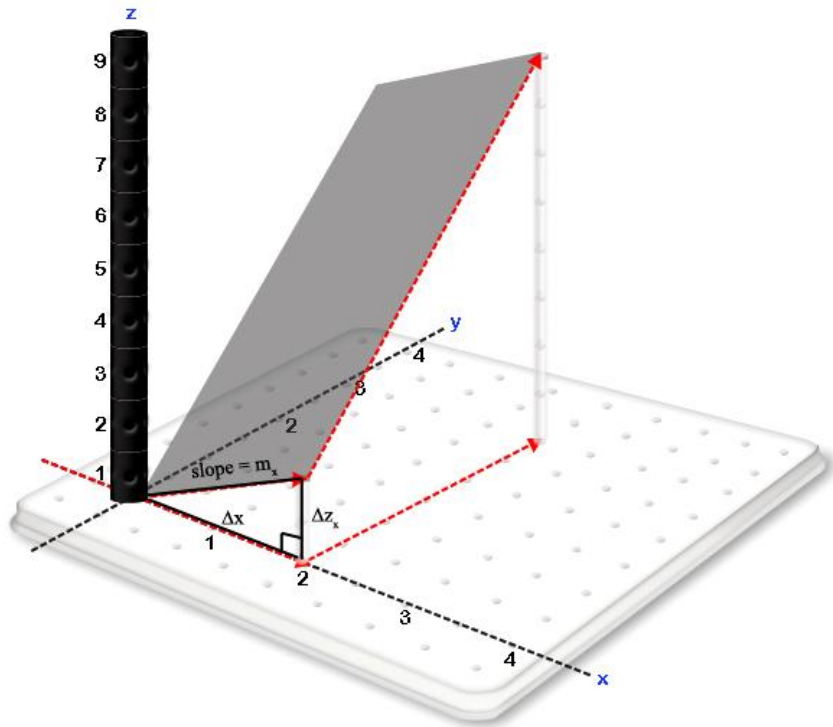


2. Divide the trajectory into movement in the  $x$  direction and movement in the  $y$  direction.



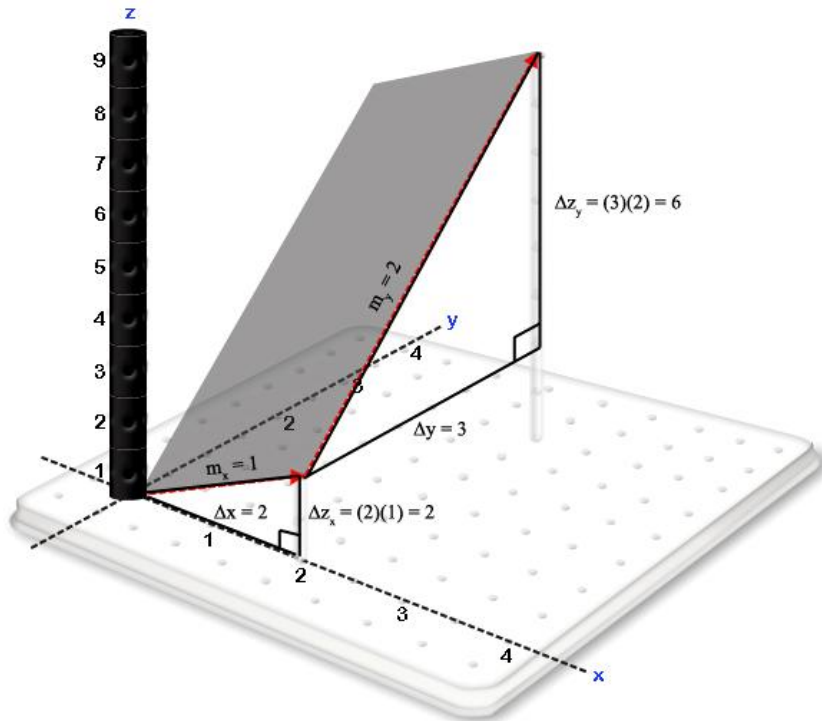
3. Find the change in height associated with each component of the trajectory:

*Rise* in the  $x$  direction:



$$\Delta x = 2, m_x = 1 \rightarrow \Delta z_x = 2$$

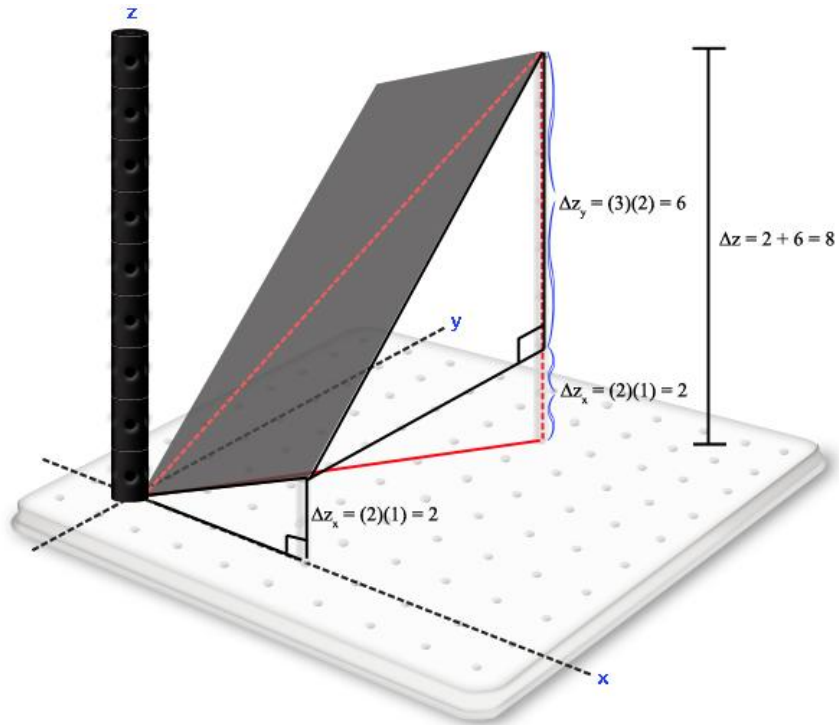
Rise in the y direction:



$$\Delta y = 3, m_y = 2 \rightarrow \Delta z_y = 6$$

4. Find the overall change in height:

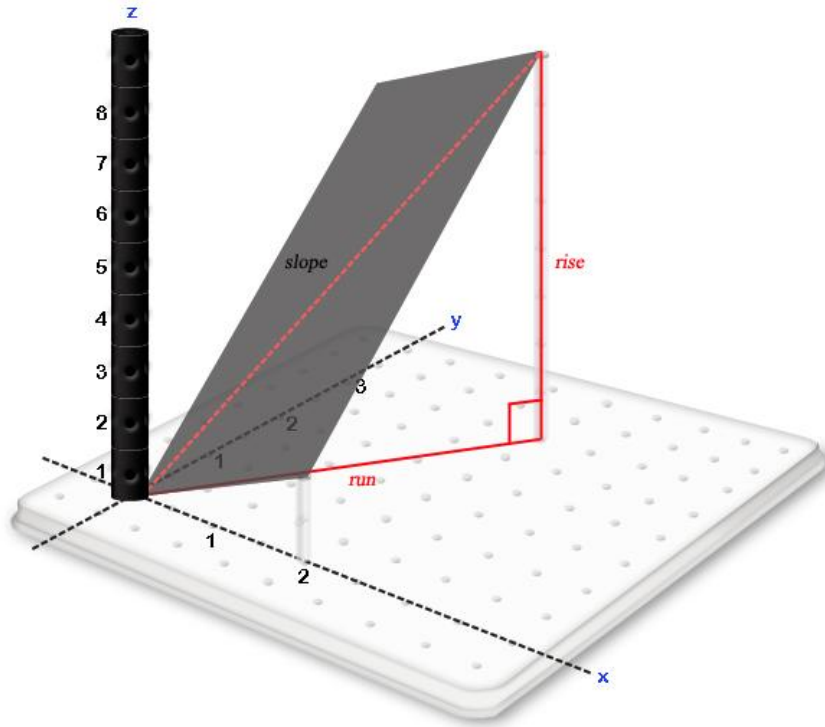
Taking both components of the change in height, the total difference in height is  $\Delta z_x + \Delta z_y = 8$



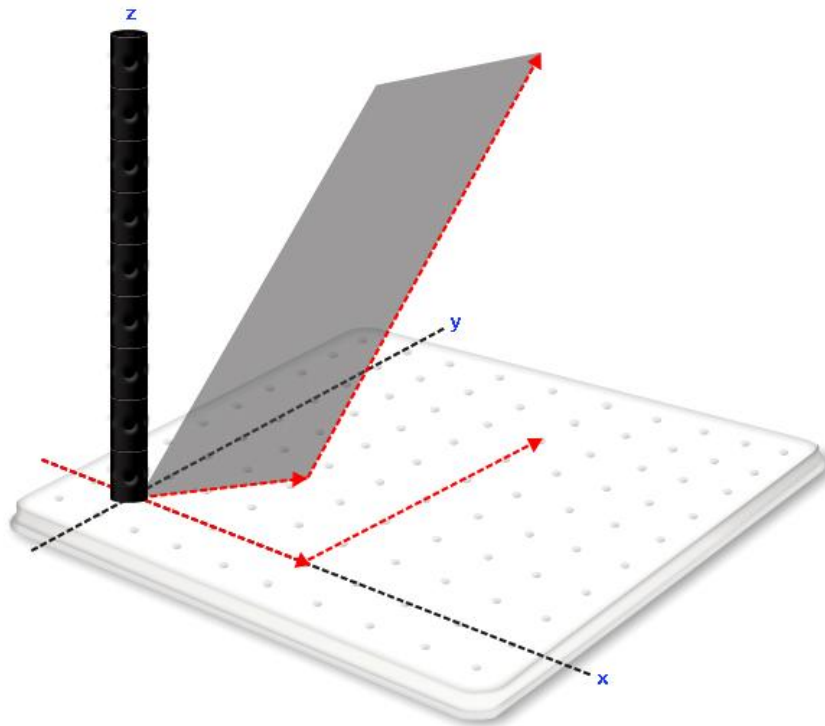
### Generalization

If  $m_x$  is known and  $m_y$  is known then the difference in height between any two points on a plane can be obtained with the following steps.

1. Identify the right triangle whose *rise* and *run* are associated with this slope.

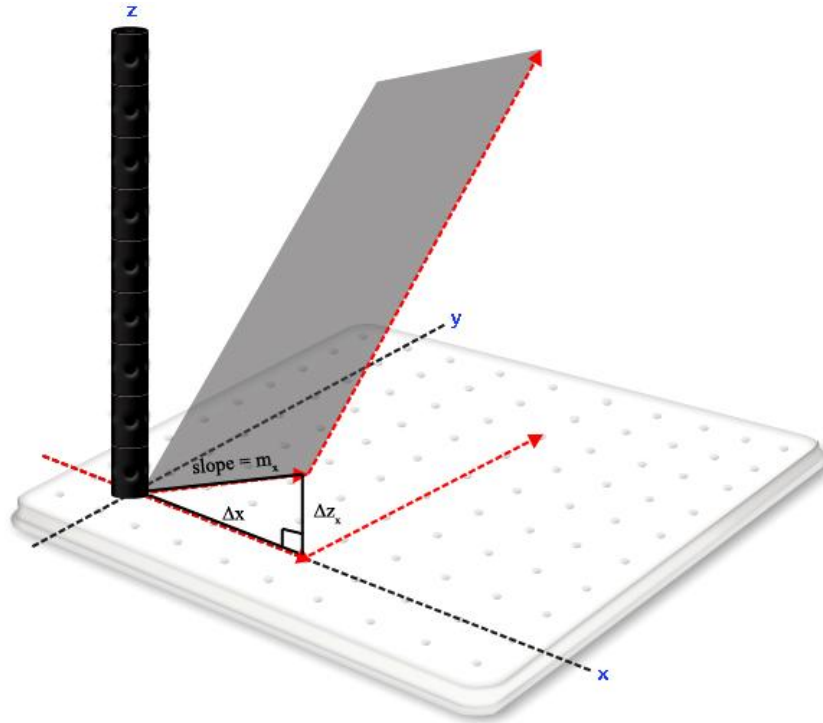


2. Divide the trajectory into movement in the  $x$  direction and movement in the  $y$  direction.



3. Find the change in height associated with each component of the trajectory.

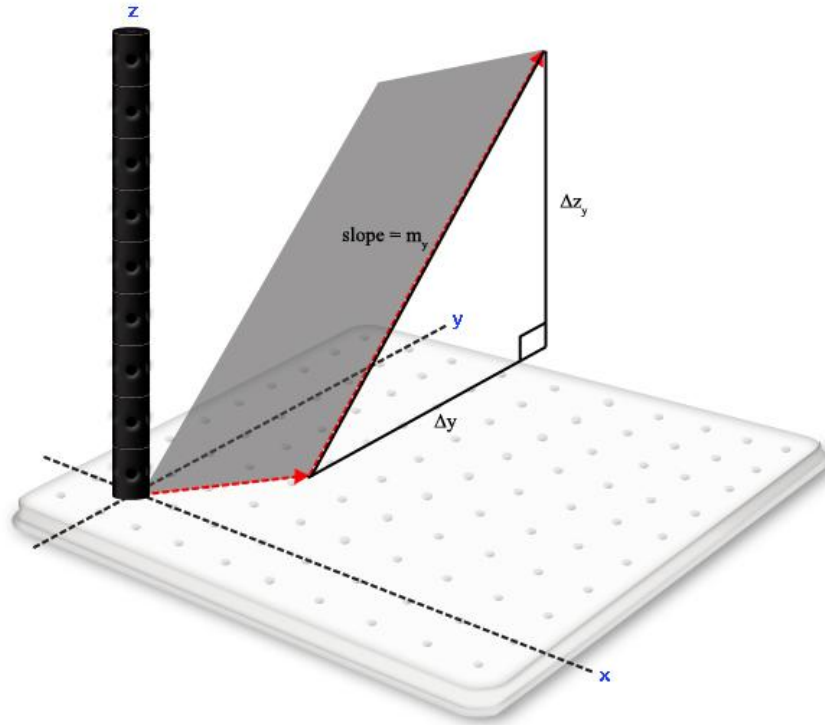
Rise in the  $x$  direction:



The *rise* in the  $x$  direction  $\Delta z_x = m_x \cdot \Delta x$ .

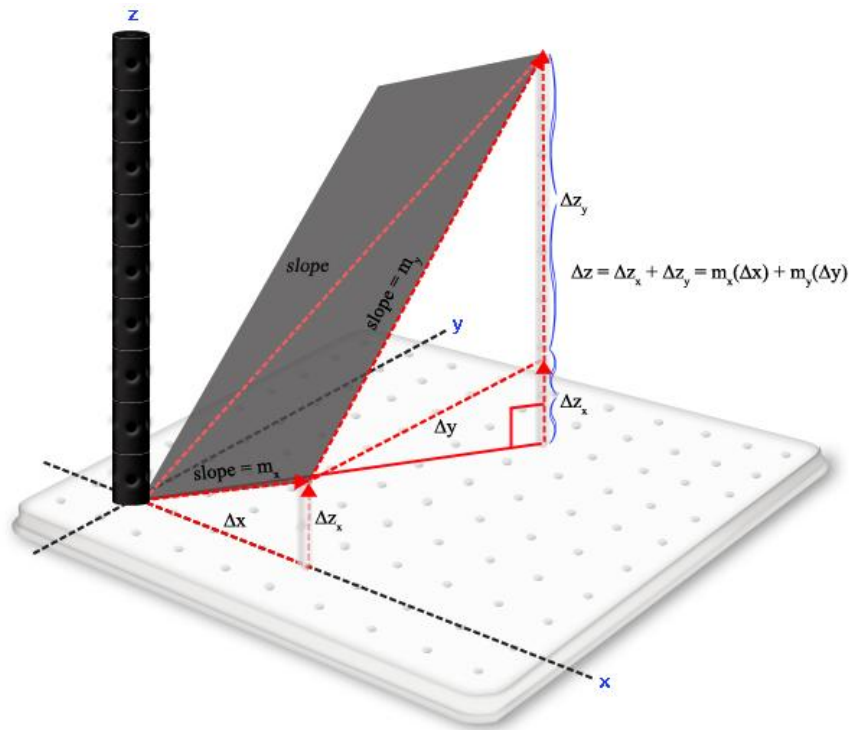
In a similar manner we can find that the *rise* in the  $y$  direction  $\Delta z_y = m_y \cdot \Delta y$ .





**Conclusion:** Taking both components of the change in height, the total difference in height is

$$\Delta z = \Delta z_x + \Delta z_y = m_x \cdot \Delta x + m_y \cdot \Delta y .$$

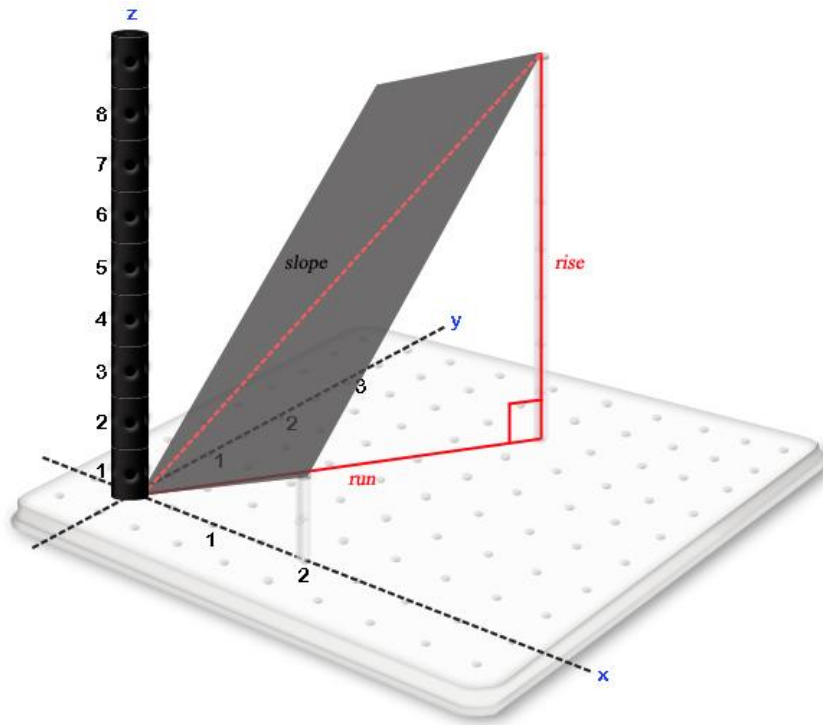


## 4.5 PLANES AND SLOPES IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS

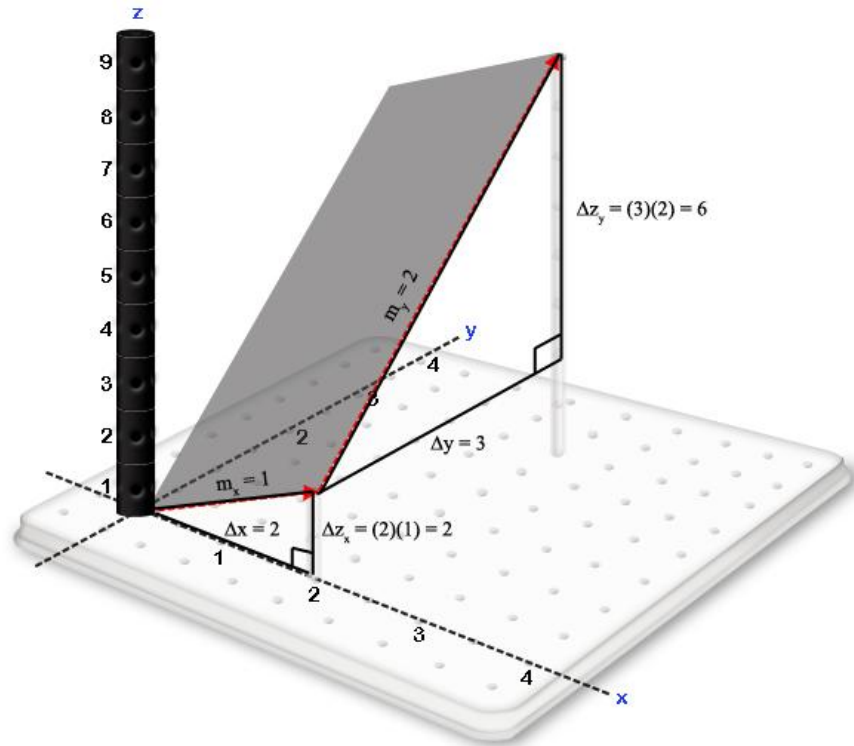
**Example Exercise 4.5.1:** Given a plane with  $m_x = 1$  and  $m_y = 2$ , find the slope in the direction of the vector  $\langle 2, 3 \rangle$ . We will refer to this as  $m_{\langle 2, 3 \rangle}$ .

**Solution:**

- Identify the right triangle whose *rise* and *run* are associated with this slope.



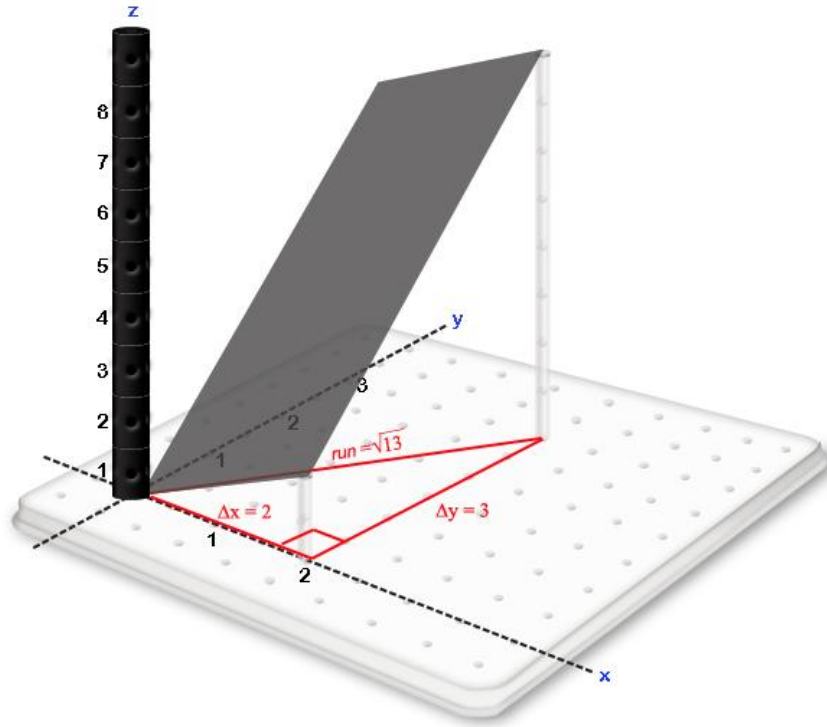
- Obtain the *rise* for  $\Delta x = 2, \Delta y = 3$ .



- $\Delta x = 2, m_x = 1 \rightarrow \Delta z_x = 2$
- $\Delta y = 3, m_y = 2 \rightarrow \Delta z_y = 6$
- $\Delta z = \Delta z_x + \Delta z_y = 2 + 6 = 8$

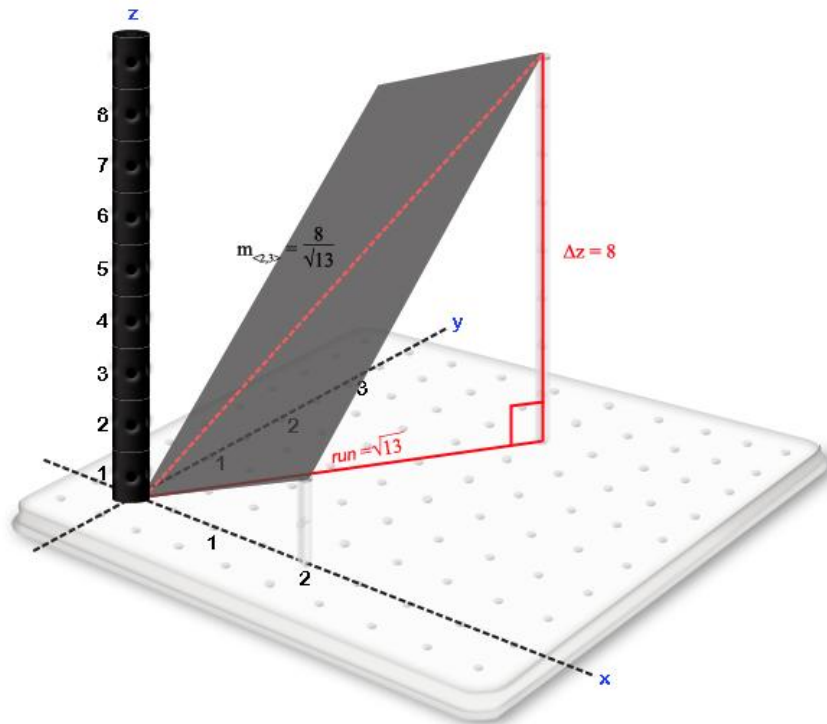
4. Obtain the *run* for,  $\Delta x = 2, \Delta y = 3$ .

Using Pythagoras and the above right triangle,  $run = \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{13}$ .



5. Obtain the slope.

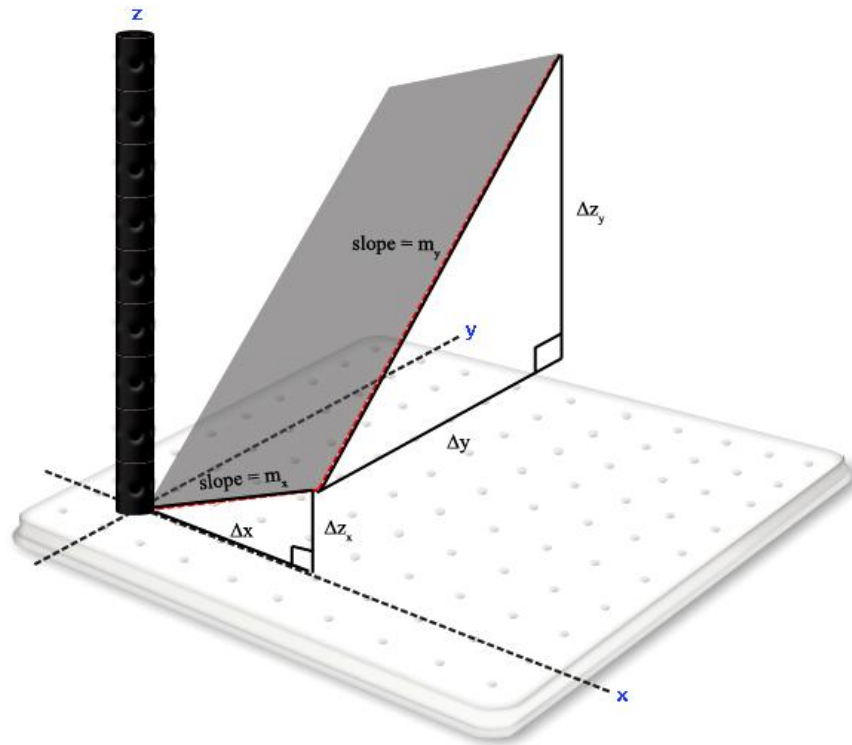
$$m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{8}{\sqrt{13}}$$



## Generalization

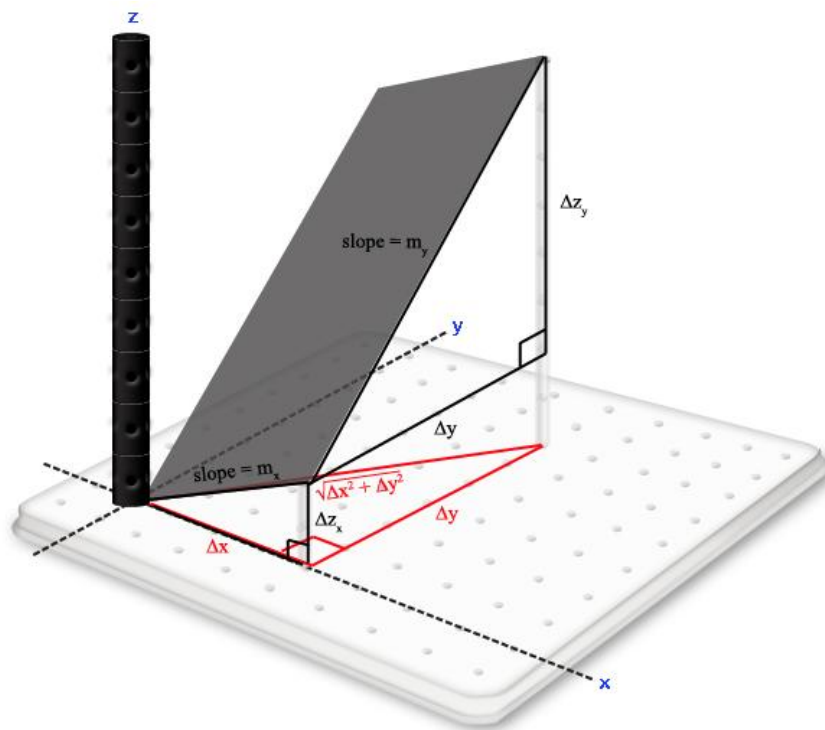
If  $m_x$  and  $m_y$  are known then the slope in any direction can be obtained with the following steps.

1. Obtain the *rise* using  $\Delta x$ ,  $\Delta y$ ,  $m_x$ , and  $m_y$ .



- Rise in the  $x$  direction:  $\Delta z_x = m_x \cdot \Delta x$
  - Rise in the  $y$  direction:  $\Delta z_y = m_y \cdot \Delta y$
  - Total rise:  $\Delta z = \Delta z_x + \Delta z_y = m_x \cdot \Delta x + m_y \cdot \Delta y$
2. Obtain the *run* for  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$ .

$$\text{run} = \sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2}$$



3. Obtain the slope:

$$m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{(m_x \cdot \Delta x) + (m_y \cdot \Delta y)}{\sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2}}$$

## 4.6 FORMULAS FOR A PLANE

### POINT SLOPE FORMULA

Recall from Precalculus that there are various formulas to represent the same line. One of them is  $m = (y - y_0)/(x - x_0)$  where  $m$  is the slope of the line and  $(x_0, y_0)$  is a point on the line. This is usually written as  $y - y_0 = m(x - x_0)$  and is called the *point-slope formula*. This formula can be generalized to get a formula for a plane as shown below.

Suppose that we are given a point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  on a plane and that the slopes in the  $x$  direction and in the  $y$  direction,  $m_x$  and  $m_y$  respectively, are known. We want a formula that will relate the coordinates of an arbitrary point on the plane  $(x, y, z)$  to the rest of the known information. To find this, recall from the previous section that the change in height from the given point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  to the generic point  $(x, y, z)$  can be obtained by first moving in the  $x$  direction and then moving in the  $y$  direction and adding the corresponding changes in height. That is,

$$\Delta z = \Delta z_x + \Delta z_y$$

But we saw in section 4.4 that  $\Delta z_x = m_x \Delta x = m_x(x - x_0)$  and  $\Delta z_y = m_y \Delta y = m_y(y - y_0)$  so that the change in height may be written as in the following box.

*Point-Slopes Formula for a Plane*

An equation for a plane that contains the point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and has slopes  $m_x$  and  $m_y$  in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions respectively is

$$z - z_0 = m_x(x - x_0) + m_y(y - y_0)$$

*Example*

Suppose that in the following table, we are given some values of a linear function. The problem is to find a formula for  $f(x, y)$ .

$x \setminus y$	1	2	3
1	9	12	15
2	11	14	17
3	13	16	19

We know that since the function is linear the graph must be a plane. Looking at the table we see that the slopes in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions are  $m_x = \frac{11-9}{2-1} = 2$  and  $m_y = \frac{12-9}{2-1} = 3$ . Further, the table gives us nine points we can choose from, so that we may use the Points-Slopes Formula. Take for example  $(1,1,9)$ . Then applying the formula we get:

$$z - 9 = 2(x - 1) + 3(y - 1)$$

which simplifies to

$$z = 2x + 3y + 4.$$

Of course we would have gotten the same formula had we used any other point on the table.

## ***THE SLOPES-INTERCEPT FORMULA FOR A PLANE***

Another formula for a line seen in Chapter 1 was the *slope-intercept formula*:  $y = mx + b$  where  $m$  is the slope and  $b$  is the  $y$ -intercept of the line. This is a useful formula to represent a line when the slope and the  $y$ -intercept of the line are known. This formula can be generalized to get a formula for a plane.

Note that in the Point-Slopes Formula, if the known point happens to be the  $z$  intercept  $(0,0,c)$  then plugging into the formula produces:

$$z - c = m_x(x - 0) + m_y(y - 0)$$

Simplifying yields the Slopes-Intercept Formula for a plane shown in the box below.

### *Slopes-Intercept Formula for a Plane*

The equation of a plane that crosses the  $z$  axis at  $c$  and that has slopes  $m_x$  and  $m_y$  in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions respectively is

$$z = m_x x + m_y y + c .$$

Note the slopes-intercept formula for a plane has the form:  $z = ax + by + c$ . You may think of this as a generalization of the formula  $y = ax + b$  for lines, where now you have two slopes and an intercept instead of one slope and an intercept as it was with lines.

**Example:** From a Formula to a Geometric Plane

Consider the plane  $z = 2x + 3y + 4$ .

The cross-section corresponding to  $x = 0$  is  $z = 2(0) + 3y + 4$ . This is a line in the  $y$  direction with a slope of 3. The cross-section corresponding to  $y = 0$  is  $z = 2x + 3(0) + 4$ . This is a line in the  $x$  direction with a slope of 2. Also, observe that the  $z$  intercept must be 4. This may be observed by taking both  $x = 0$  and  $y = 0$  to get  $z = 2(0) + 3(0) + 4 = 4$ .

To summarize we have obtained the following three data:

- The slope in the  $x$  direction:  $m_x = 2$ .
- The slope in the  $y$  direction:  $m_y = 3$ .
- The point  $(0,0,4)$  satisfies the equation.



We can now geometrically represent this information by placing the point  $(0,0,4)$  in 3-space and as we know that for every step in the  $x$  direction, our height increases by 2 and for every step in the  $y$  direction our height increases by 3, we can place lines in the  $x$  direction and in the  $y$  direction consistent with this information. The result is illustrated in *Figure 4.6.1*. With this information, we can place the unique plane which will satisfy  $m_x = 2$ ,  $m_y = 3$  and have  $z$  intercept at  $(0,0,4)$  (see *Figure 4.6.2*).

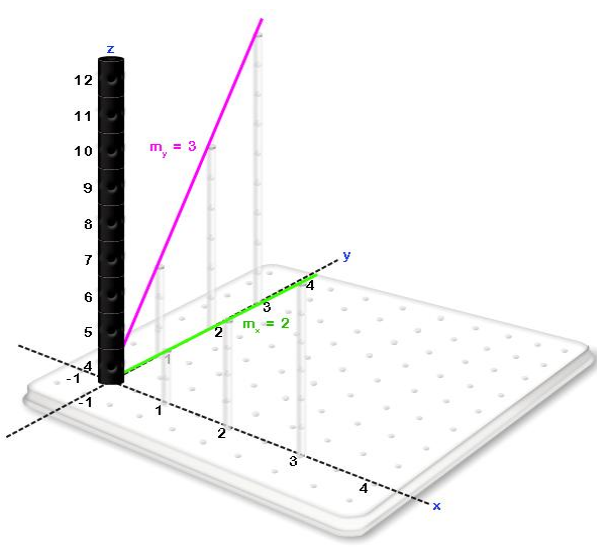


Figure 4.6.1

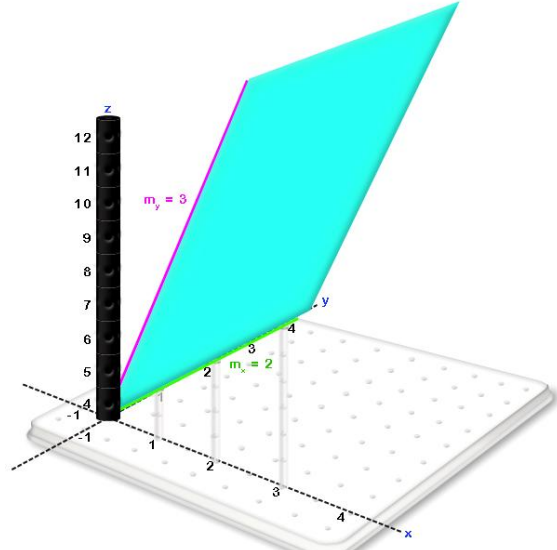


Figure 4.6.2

**Example Exercise 4.6.1:** Find a formula for the function in following table:

$x \backslash y$	0	1	2	3
0	4	7	10	13
1	6	9	12	15
2	8	11	14	17
3	10	13	16	19

**Solution:**

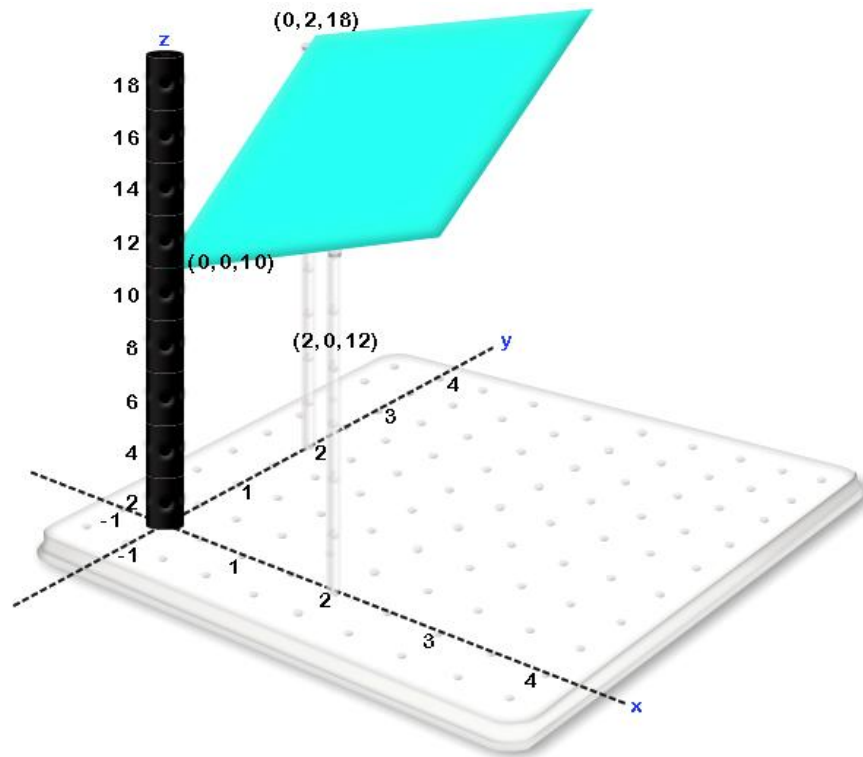
We can easily verify the following three facts:

- For every step we take in the  $x$  direction (that is,  $\Delta x=1$  and  $\Delta y=0$ ), our height increases by 2 irrespective of where we begin. This is the slope in the  $x$  direction:  $m_x = 2$ .
- For every step we take in the  $y$  direction (that is,  $\Delta x=0$  and  $\Delta y=1$ ), our height increases by 3 irrespective of where we begin. This is the slope in the  $y$  direction:  $m_y = 3$ .
- The point  $(0,0,4)$  satisfies the equation.

Hence, using the Slopes-Intercept Formula, the equation is  $z = 2x + 3y + 4$ .

**Example Exercise 4.6.2:** From a Geometric Plane to the Slopes-Intercept Formula

Consider the following plane:



**Solution:**

Observe that:

- The point  $(0,0,10)$  lies on the plane hence the  $z$  intercept is 10.
- Upon moving 2 steps in the  $x$  direction we've risen 2 units indicating a *rise* of 1 for each step in the  $x$  direction or  $m_x = 1$ .

- Upon moving 2 steps in the  $y$  direction we've risen 8 units indicating a *rise* of 2 for each step in the  $y$  direction or  $m_y = 4$ .

Using the Slopes-Intercept Formula we get that the equation of the plane is  $z = x + 4y + 10$ .

### THE POINT-NORMAL FORMULA OF A PLANE

In *Figure 4.6.3* below, we have a point in 3-space  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and a vector  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ . There is only one plane that will pass through the point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and for which  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  is the perpendicular (also called *normal*). This is illustrated in *Figure 4.6.4*.

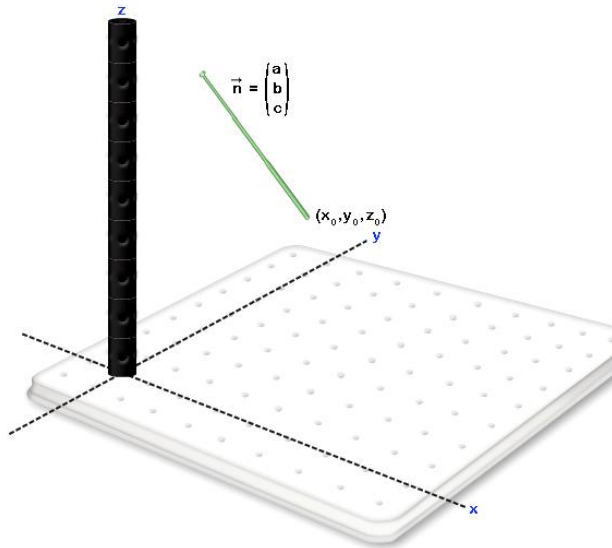


Figure 4.6.3

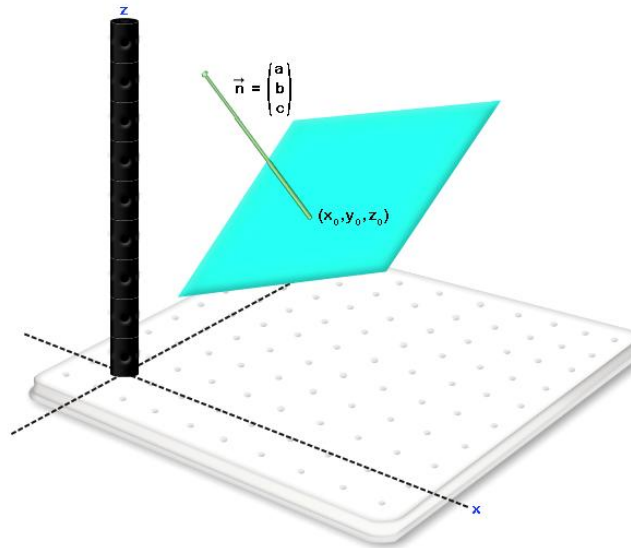


Figure 4.6.4

Hence one point on a plane and a vector perpendicular to the plane is sufficient to determine a unique plane in three-dimensional space. Our goal is to find the formula for this plane.

This formula can be derived through the following steps:

**Step 1:** As  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  lies on the plane, if  $(x, y, z)$  is any point on the plane other than  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  then, as *Figure 4.6.5* illustrates, the displacement vector from  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  to  $(x, y, z)$ ,  $\langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle$ , is parallel to the plane, that is, it can be placed on the plane.

Step 2: If  $\langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle$  lies on the plane then it is perpendicular to the normal vector  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  (see Figure 4.6.6).

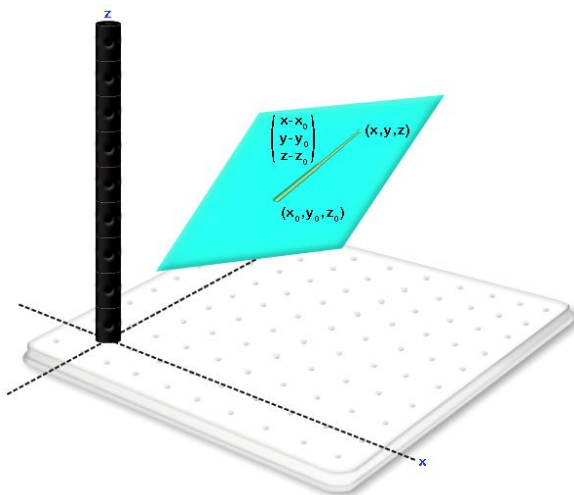


Figure 4.6.5

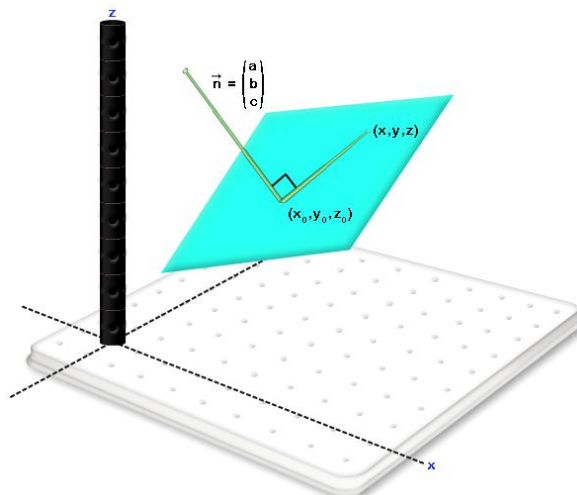


Figure 4.6.6

Step 3: As  $\langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle$  is perpendicular to  $\langle a, b, c \rangle$  we can conclude that  $\langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle \cdot \langle a, b, c \rangle = 0$  or  $a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$ .

Hence we have:

*The Point-Normal Formula of a Plane*

The plane that passes through  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  with normal vector  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  has equation:

$$a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$$

It is worth noting that the above formula can be rewritten as  $ax + by + cz = d$  where  $d = ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0$ . From here it is not hard to show that if we have the formula for a plane expressed as  $ax + by + cz = d$  then the vector  $\langle a, b, c \rangle$  is perpendicular to the plane.

**Example Exercise 4.6.4:** Find the equation of the plane that passes through  $(1, 2, -3)$  and that is normal to the vector  $\langle 2, -5, 4 \rangle$ .

Using the Point-Normal Formula results in:  $2(x-1)-5(y-2)+4(z+3)=0$  and so simplifying we get  $2x-5y+4z=-20$ .

**Example Exercise 4.6.5:** Find a vector that is perpendicular to the plane  $z=2x-3y+4$ .

Rewriting the equation of the plane in the form  $ax+by+cz=d$  we get  $-2x+3y+z=4$ . From here we can read off the normal vector  $\langle -2,3,1 \rangle$ .

### EXERCISE PROBLEMS:

1. For each of the following planes, find

- i. The slope in the  $x$  direction
- ii. The slope in the  $y$  direction
- iii. The  $z$  intercept
- iv. A vector perpendicular to the plane
- v. The slope in the direction NE
- vi. The slope in the direction  $\langle 2,3 \rangle$

- A.  $z = 2x + 3y + 4$
- B.  $x + 4y - z = 3$
- C.  $2x + 3y + 4z = 5$
- D.  $3x = 2y - 5z + 3$
- E.  $2x - 3y = 7z + 3$
- F.  $3y = 2x - 4z + 3$

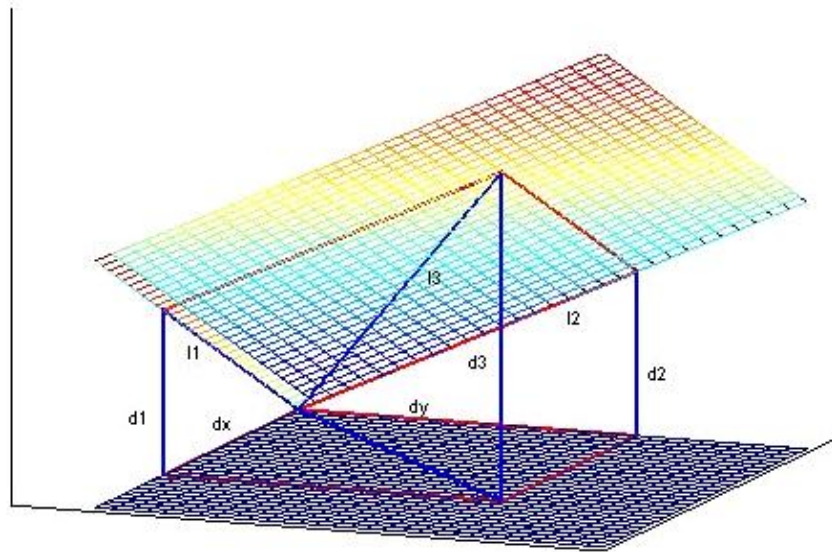
2. For each of the following data associated with a plane, find

- i. The slope in the  $x$  direction
- ii. The slope in the  $y$  direction
- iii. The slope in the direction NE
- iv. The slope in the direction  $\langle 3,4 \rangle$
- v. The formula for a plane consistent with these data and with  $z$  intercept 4
- vi. The formula for a plane consistent with these data that passes through  $(3,2,5)$ .

- A. The slope towards the east is 3 and the slope towards the north is 2
- B. If we move 3 meters east, our altitude rises 6 meters and if we move 2 meters north our altitude rises 10 meters.
- C. A normal vector to the plane is  $\langle 1,2,3 \rangle$ .
- D. A normal vector to the plane points directly upwards.
- E. The slope towards the west is -3 and the slope towards the north is 4

F. If we move 3 meters north, our altitude falls 6 meters and if we move 2 meters west, our altitude rises 10 meters.

3. The following diagram represents a plane. The values  $dx$  and  $dy$  are displacements in the direction  $x$  and the direction  $y$  respectively. The distances,  $d1$ ,  $d2$ , and  $d3$  are vertical line segments. The lines  $l1$ ,  $l2$ , and  $l3$  are lines on the plane.



- If  $dx = 2$ ,  $dy=3$ ,  $d1 = 6$  and  $d2 = 4$ , find the slopes of  $l1$ ,  $l2$  and  $l3$ .
- If  $dx = 4$ ,  $dy=2$ ,  $d1 = 16$  and  $d2 = 10$ , find the slopes of  $l1$ ,  $l2$  and  $l3$ .
- If  $dx = 3$ ,  $dy=3$ ,  $d1 = 6$  and  $d3 = 24$ , find the slopes of  $l1$ ,  $l2$  and  $l3$ .
- If  $dx = 2$ ,  $dy=3$ ,  $d2 = 6$  and  $d3 = 24$ , find the slopes of  $l1$ ,  $l2$  and  $l3$ .
- If  $dx = 2$ ,  $dy=3$ , the slope in the direction  $l1$  is 3 and the slope in the direction  $l2$  is 5, find the distances  $d1$ ,  $d2$  and  $d3$  and the slope in the direction  $l3$ .
- If  $dx = 4$ ,  $dy=2$ , the slope in the direction  $l1$  is 2 and the slope in the direction  $l2$  is 3, find the distances  $d1$ ,  $d2$  and  $d3$  and the slope in the direction  $l3$ .
- If  $dx = 4$ ,  $dy=3$ , the slope in the direction  $l1$  is 5 and the slope in the direction  $l3$  is 7, find the distances  $d1$ ,  $d2$  and  $d3$  and the slope in the direction  $l2$ .