

Here is a set of five equations:

$$\begin{aligned}b + c + d + e &= 4 \\a + c + d + e &= 5 \\a + b + d + e &= 1 \\a + b + c + e &= 2 \\a + b + c + d &= 0\end{aligned}$$

What do you notice when you add the five equations?

Can you now find the values of a , b , c , d and e ?

Here is a different set of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}xy &= 1 \\yz &= 4 \\xz &= 0\end{aligned}$$

What do you notice when you multiply the three equations given above?

Can you now find the values of x , y and z ?

Is there more than one possible set of values?

Here is a third set of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}ab &= 1 \\bc &= 2 \\cd &= 3 \\de &= 4 \\ea &= 6\end{aligned}$$

Can you find all the sets of values a , b , c , d and e that satisfy these equations?

Extension

Can you create your own set of symmetrical equations?