
GR 12 MATHS

Analytical Geometry THEORY

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Compliments of



Gr 12 Maths Paper 2 – Analytical Geometry THEORY

THE STRAIGHT LINE

The Gradient of a line: Values & Applications

► Values of the gradient

- Consider these lines:

The gradients are:



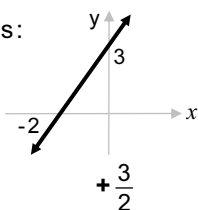
POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

ZERO

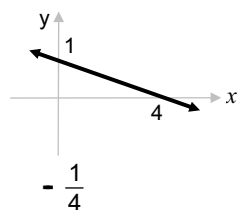
UNDEFINED

- Consider these lines:



The gradients are:

$+\frac{3}{2}$



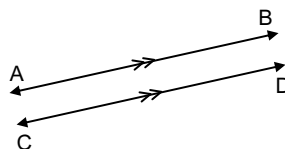
$-\frac{1}{4}$

The gradient of a line
 $= \pm \frac{\text{RISE}}{\text{RUN}}$
 (or $\pm \frac{\text{vertical}}{\text{horizontal}}$)

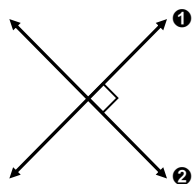
► Parallel lines

Parallel lines have **equal** gradients.

$$AB \parallel CD \iff m_{AB} = m_{CD}$$



► Perpendicular lines



In the figure, line ① is perpendicular to line ②.

If the gradient of line ① is $+\frac{2}{3}$,

then the gradient of line ② will be $-\frac{3}{2}$

$$\text{So: } m_1 \times m_2 = \left(+\frac{2}{3}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) = -1$$

i.e. The product of the gradients of \perp lines is -1.

$$\text{line ①} \perp \text{line ②} \iff m_1 \times m_2 = -1 \quad \text{or} \quad m_1 = -\frac{1}{m_2}$$



► Collinear points



Three points A, B & C are collinear if the gradients of **AB** & **AC** are equal.

$$m_{AB} = m_{AC} \iff A, B \text{ \& C are collinear}$$

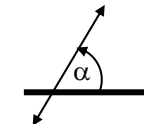
Note: Point A is common

also: $m_{AB} = m_{BC}$, where point B is common, $m_{AC} = m_{BC}$, where pt C is common

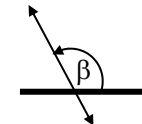
The Inclination of a line

Angles α and β alongside are angles of inclination.

The Inclination of a line is the angle which it makes with the positive direction of the x -axis.



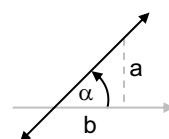
α acute ...
gradient of
line is positive



β obtuse ...
gradient of line
is negative

The gradient of a line is also the tan of the \angle of inclination, i.e. **$m = \tan \alpha$** or **$\tan \beta$** .

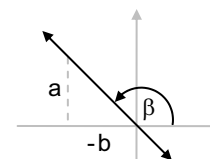
If a and b represent positive lengths, then:



$$m = \frac{a}{b}$$

and

$$\tan \alpha = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}} = \frac{a}{b}$$

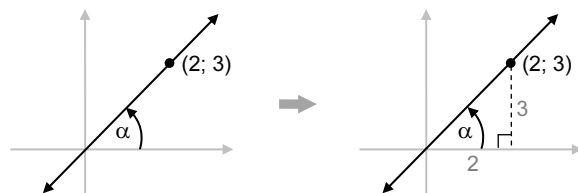


$$m = -\frac{a}{b}$$

and

$$\tan \beta = -\frac{a}{b}$$



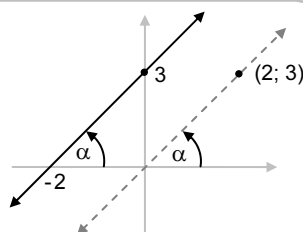
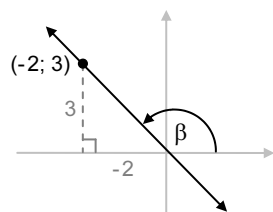
e.g. **Acute angle α :**

The gradient = $\frac{3}{2}$
and
 $\tan \alpha = \frac{3}{2}$

$\tan \alpha = \frac{3}{2} \Rightarrow \alpha = \tan^{-1} \frac{3}{2} = 56,31^\circ$ **← The inclination of the line**

In the sketch alongside, the two parallel lines both have a positive gradient = $+\frac{3}{2}$.

\therefore They have the same inclination, α .
(The angles correspond.)

**Obtuse angle β :**

The gradient = $-\frac{3}{2}$ **and** $\tan \beta = -\frac{3}{2}$

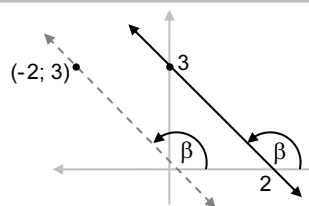
The gradient is **NEGATIVE**.
 $\therefore \beta$ is obtuse

$\therefore \beta = 180^\circ - 56,31^\circ$
 $= 123,69^\circ$ **← The inclination of the line**



In the sketch alongside, the two parallel lines have a negative gradient = $-\frac{3}{2}$.

\therefore They have the same inclination, β .
(The angles correspond.)

**The gradient of the line is the tan of the angle of inclination**

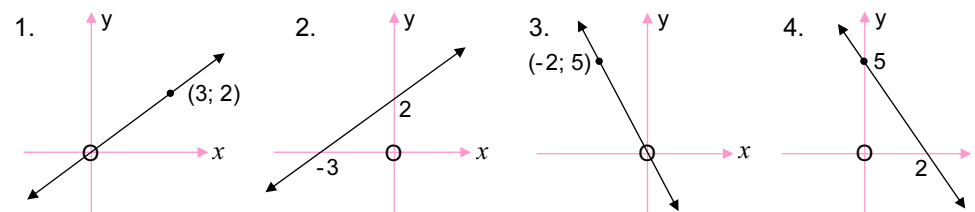
i.e. $m = \tan \alpha$ or $\tan \beta$ as in $y = mx + c$

e.g. $y = 3x + 1$ $m = 3$
 $\therefore \tan \alpha = 3$
 $\therefore \alpha \approx 71,57^\circ$

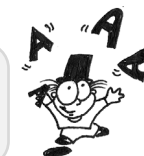
$y = -x$ $m = -1$
 $\therefore \tan \beta = -1$
 $\therefore \beta = 180^\circ - 45^\circ$
 $= 135^\circ$

Worked Example

Write down (a) the gradient, and (b) the inclination of the following lines:

**Note:**

From the gradient, we can calculate the inclination, or from the inclination, we can calculate the gradient.

**Answers**

(a):	1. $\frac{2}{3}$	2. $\frac{2}{3}$	3. $-\frac{5}{2}$	4. $-\frac{5}{2}$
(b):	For both 1. & 2.: $33,69^\circ$		For both 3. & 4.: $180^\circ - 68,2^\circ = 111,8^\circ$	



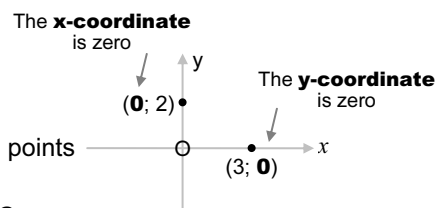
Graphs in general

3 Basic facts about graphs in general

①: Axis intercepts

Every point on the y-axis has $x = 0$.

Every point on the x-axis has $y = 0$.



②: The equation

The **equation** of a graph is true for all points on the graph.

∴ The **equation** of the y-axis is $x = 0$;

& the **equation** of the x-axis is $y = 0$.

③: Types of graph

Different **types/patterns** are indicated by various equations.

(See the variations of the equation of a line below.)



Straight line graphs & their equations

Standard forms

There are 2 standard forms of the equation of a straight line:

- $y = mx + c$: where m = the gradient & c = the y-intercept

When $m = 0$: $y = c$... a line || x-axis

When $c = 0$: $y = mx$... a line through the origin

Also: $x = k$... a line || y-axis (see **Case 1** on p. 5.6)

- $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$: where m = the gradient & $(x_1; y_1)$ is a fixed point on the line.

This standard form will be explained on page 5.9.

As with distance, midpoint and gradient, we will consider **equations** in the same **3 cases** as on page 5.6.



Refer to
The Answer
Series
Gr 11 Maths
3 in 1.



Case 1: Horizontal and Vertical lines

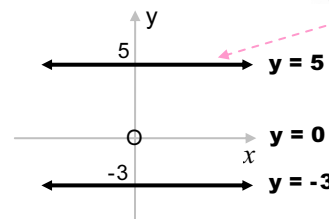


• Horizontal lines:

Have the equation

$$y = c \quad \dots (m = 0)$$

(i.e. $y = a \text{ number}$)



EVERY point on this line has a y-coordinate equal to 5.

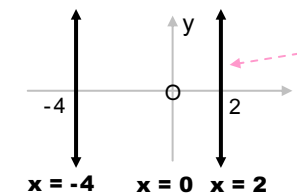
These are the **EQUATIONS** of the lines.

• Vertical lines:

have the equation

$$x = k$$

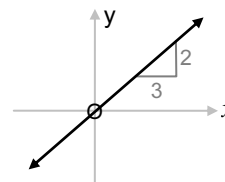
(i.e. $x = a \text{ number}$)



EVERY point on this line has an x-coordinate equal to 2.

These are the **EQUATIONS** of the lines.

Case 2: Lines through the Origin



The y-intercept would always be zero.

$$\therefore c = 0$$

Substitute in $y = mx + c$:

$$\therefore y = mx \quad \leftarrow \text{the standard form of lines through the origin}$$

$$\therefore \text{The equation of the line above is: } y = \frac{2}{3}x \quad \leftarrow$$

Case 3: "Other lines"



When lines are not parallel to the axes or through the origin, we consider:

$$y = mx + c \quad \text{or} \quad y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

e.g. Substitute $m = 5$ and point $(1; 6)$ in:

$$y = mx + c$$

$$\therefore 6 = (5)(1) + c$$

$$\therefore 6 = 5 + c$$

$$\therefore 1 = c$$

$$\therefore y = 5x + 1 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$\therefore y - 6 = 5(x - 1)$$

$$\therefore y - 6 = 5x - 5$$

$$\therefore y = 5x + 1 \quad \leftarrow$$



The Equation $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$: An Explanation

Given a fixed point, e.g. (2; 3), on a line, then, for **any** other point (x; y) on the line, it is **true** that:

$$\frac{y-3}{x-2} = m \quad \dots = \text{the gradient of the line}$$

$$\therefore y - 3 = m(x - 2)$$

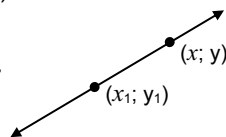
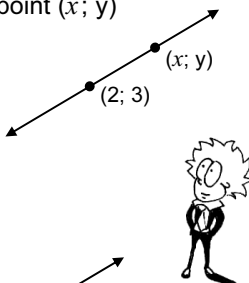
So, generally ...

Given a **fixed** point $(x_1; y_1)$, then, for **any** point (x; y) on the line, it is true that:

$$\frac{y - y_1}{x - x_1} = m \quad \dots = \text{the gradient of the line}$$

$$\therefore y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

BE OPEN TO THIS ALTERNATIVE TO $y = mx + c$. It is a much quicker method!



Non-standard forms of the equation

e.g. (1) $3x - 4y = 12$

(2) $\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{5} = 1$

It is **not** always necessary to convert these equations into the standard form, $y = mx + c$.



The Dual-intercept method ...

To sketch these graphs, one can determine the intercepts as follows.

For the **y-intercept**, put $x = 0$

(1) $3(0) - 4y = 12$

$$\therefore y = -3$$

(2) $\frac{0}{3} + \frac{y}{5} = 1$

$$\therefore y = 5$$

& for the **x-intercept**, put $y = 0$

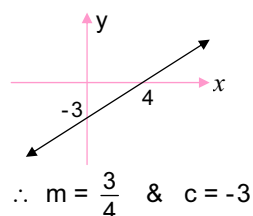
$$\therefore 3x - 4(0) = 12$$

$$\therefore x = 4$$

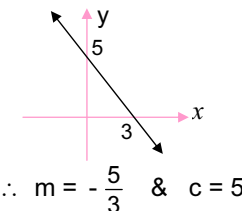
$$\frac{x}{3} + \frac{0}{5} = 1$$

$$\therefore x = 3$$

\therefore The sketches:



$$\therefore m = \frac{3}{4} \text{ \& } c = -3$$



$$\therefore m = -\frac{5}{3} \text{ \& } c = 5$$

The general form of the equation



$ax + by + c = 0$ is the **general form** of the equation of a straight line. This form is useful when finding the axis-intercepts and/or the gradient.

e.g. $2x + 3y + 6 = 0$

Again, the 'dual-intercept' method is useful.

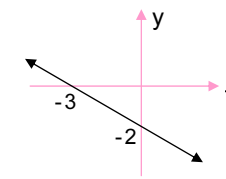
y-int: Put $x = 0$, then $3y + 6 = 0$

$$\therefore y = -2$$

x-int: Put $y = 0$, then $2x + 6 = 0$

$$\therefore x = -3$$

\therefore The intercepts are: (0; -2) and (-3; 0) & the gradient = $-\frac{2}{3}$



$2x + 3y + 6 = 0$, the *general form*, converts to the *standard form*, $y = -\frac{2}{3}x - 2$.

Finding the equation of a line ...

① Given **m** and **c**:



1.1 **Given:** A line has a gradient of -2 and cuts the y-axis at 3.

Method: Substitute $m = -2$ & $c = 3$ in $y = mx + c$.

Equation: $y = -2x + 3$ <

The 'gradient-intercept' method

1.2 **Given:** A line || to the line $y = -x + 2$, passes through the point (0; 4)

Method: Substitute $m = -1$ & $c = 4$ in $y = mx + c$.

Equation: $y = -x + 4$ <

② Given **m** and **a point**:



2.1 **Given:** A line has a gradient of 3 and passes through the point (1; 6).

Method: Substitute $m = 3$ & (1; 6) in:

$$y = mx + c$$

$$\therefore 6 = (3)(1) + c$$

$$\therefore 4 = c$$

Equation: $y = 3x + 4$ <

or

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$\therefore y - 6 = 3(x - 1)$$

$$\therefore y - 6 = 3x - 3$$

$$\therefore y = 3x + 4$$
 <

2.2 **Given:** A line passes through point $(-2; 4)$ and is perpendicular to line $y = 2x + 5$.

Method: Substitute $m = -\frac{1}{2}$ & $(-2; 4)$ in:

$$\begin{aligned} y &= mx + c & \text{or} & & y - y_1 &= m(x - x_1) \\ \therefore 4 &= \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)(-2) + c & & & \therefore y - 4 &= -\frac{1}{2}(x + 2) \\ \therefore 4 &= 1 + c & & & \therefore y - 4 &= -\frac{1}{2}x - 1 \\ \therefore 3 &= c & & & \therefore y &= -\frac{1}{2}x + 3 \end{aligned}$$

Equation: $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 3$ <



A quick method!

③ **Given 2 points :** 

3.1 **Given:** A line passes through the points $(-3; 1)$ and $(4; -6)$.

Method:

► The gradient of the line,
 $m = \frac{-6 - 1}{4 - (-3)} = \frac{-7}{7} = -1$

► Substitute $m = -1$ and a point, say $(-3; 1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} y &= mx + c & \text{or} & & y - y_1 &= m(x - x_1) \\ \therefore 1 &= (-1)(-3) + c & & & \therefore y - 1 &= (-1)(x + 3) \\ \therefore 1 &= 3 + c & & & \therefore y - 1 &= -x - 3 \\ \therefore -2 &= c & & & \therefore y &= -x - 2 \end{aligned}$$

Equation: $y = -x - 2$ <

3.2 **Given:** A line passes through points $(-3; -2)$ and $(-3; 5)$.

No 'method' needed!

NB: The x -coordinates are the same! ... Draw a sketch!

∴ The line is parallel to the y -axis

∴ Calculating m is 'not possible' ... The gradient is undefined!

Equation: $x = -3$ <

Remember to sketch the situation and think before being lead blindly by formulae and rote methods.



Facts about Points on Graphs and Points of Intersection

FACT ①

If a point lies on a graph, the equation is true for its coordinates, i.e. **the coordinates of the point SATISFY the equation** ... so substitute! and, conversely,

If a point (i.e. its coordinates) **satisfies the equation of a graph**

(i.e. "makes it true"), then it **lies on the graph**. [See Q1 in Exercise 5.2 on p 5.11 in The Answer Series Mathematics Grade 11 3 in 1.]

FACT ②

The POINT(S) OF INTERSECTION of two graphs :

The coordinates of the point(s) of intersection of two graphs "obey the conditions" of both graphs,

i.e. they **SATISFY BOTH EQUATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY**.

They are found

- "algebraically" by solving the 2 equations (see below), or
- "graphically" by reading the coordinates from the graph.



THESE 2 FACTS ARE CRUCIAL !!

Worked Example

Find the points of intersection of the 2 lines ...

$$y = x + 5 \quad \& \quad y = -x + 1$$

Answer

At the point of intersection, P

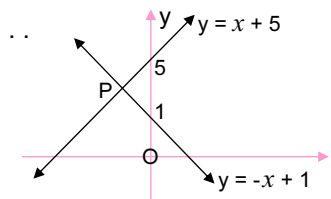
$$x + 5 = -x + 1 \quad \dots \text{(both = } y\text{)}$$

$$\therefore 2x = -4$$

$$\therefore x = -2$$

$$\& \quad y = x + 5 = 3 \quad \text{or} \quad y = -x + 1 = 3$$

∴ The point of intersection, P is $(-2; 3)$



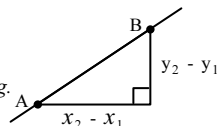
REVISION OF FORMULAE

Consider two points $A(x_1; y_1)$ and $B(x_2; y_2)$:

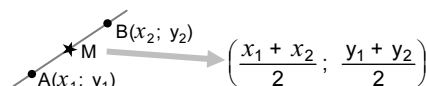
DISTANCE FORMULA

$$AB^2 = (x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 \quad \dots \text{Pythag.}$$

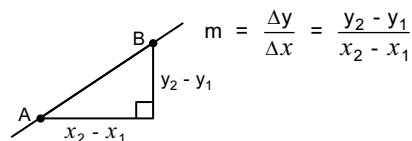
$$AB = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$



MIDPOINT

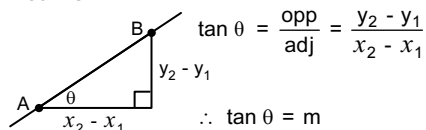


GRADIENT



$$m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

Also NOTE



$$\tan \theta = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$\therefore \tan \theta = m$$

FACTS ABOUT GRADIENTS

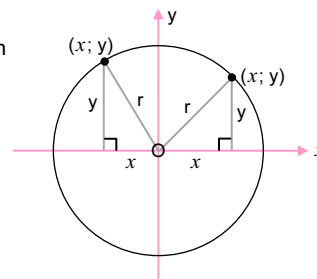
- **|| lines:** equal gradients
- **⊥ lines:** gradients neg. inv. of each other, i.e. $m_1 \times m_2 = -1$
- For points A, B and C to be **collinear**:
 $m_{AB} = m_{AC} = m_{BC}$

CIRCLES

Circles with the origin as centre:

True of any point $(x; y)$ on a circle with centre $(0; 0)$ and radius r is that:

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

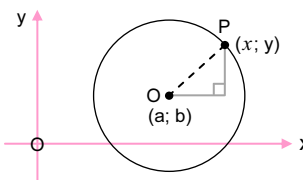


(The Theorem of Pythagoras !)

Circles with any given centre:

True of any point $(x; y)$ on a circle with centre $(a; b)$ and radius r is that:

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$



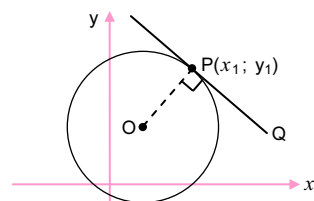
Distance formula !
(i.e. the Theorem of Pythagoras again)

A Tangent to a ⊙

is **perpendicular** to the **radius** of the ⊙ at the **POINT** of contact.

Therefore,

to find the **equation** of a tangent we usually use "**m and 1 point**" in the straight line equation
 $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$



$$m_{OP} = 2$$

$$\therefore m_{PQ} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

(\therefore radius $OP \perp$ tangent PQ)

NOTE:

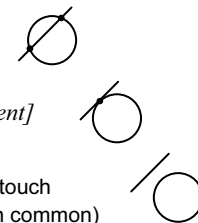
A line and a circle (or parabola!)

either

① "cut" (twice!) [*secant*]
(2 points in common)

or ② "touch" (once!) [*tangent*]
(1 point in common)

or ③ don't cut or touch
(no points in common)



and if we substitute $y = mx + c$

into the equation of the ⊙

there will either be 2 solutions, 1 solution or no solutions for x , resulting in one of the above scenarios

Converting from

general form $Ax^2 + Bx + Cy^2 + Dy + E = 0$

to

standard form $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$
(using completion of squares)

$$\text{e.g. } x^2 - 6x + y^2 + 8y - 25 = 0$$

$$\therefore x^2 - 6x + y^2 + 8y = 25$$

$$\therefore x^2 - 6x + 3^2 + y^2 + 8y + 4^2 = 25 + 9 + 16$$

$$\therefore (x - 3)^2 + (y + 4)^2 = 50$$

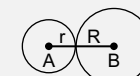
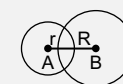
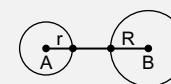
i.e. a ⊙ with centre $(3; -4)$ & radius, $r = \sqrt{50} (= 5\sqrt{2})$ units

An interesting fact . . .

When 2 ⊙'s touch, the **distance between their centres** = the **sum of their radii** (& vice versa)

i.e. $AB = r + R$

\therefore for $AB > r + R$ and $AB < r + R$



FINAL ADVICE

Use your common sense & ALWAYS DRAW A PICTURE !!!

