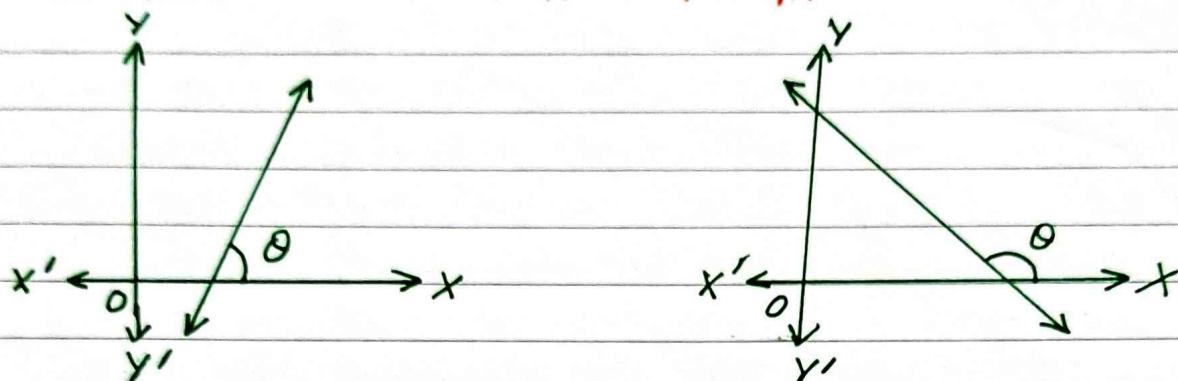


Ch - 14 Equation of a Straight Line

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INCLINATION OF A STRAIGHT LINE



The angle which a straight line makes with the positive direction of x -axis measured in the anticlockwise direction is called the inclination (or angle of inclination) of the line.

The inclination is usually denoted by θ .

→ Inclination of a line parallel to y-axis is 90° .

→ Inclination of a line parallel to x-axis is 0° .

(i) Any line parallel to x -axis is horizontal line.

(ii) Any line parallel to y -axis is vertical line.

(iii) A line which is neither parallel to x -axis nor parallel to y -axis is called an oblique line.

Slope (or gradient) of a straight line

→ The slope of a line is usually denoted by ' m '.

If $\theta (\neq 90^\circ)$ is the inclination of a line then

$$m = \tan \theta$$

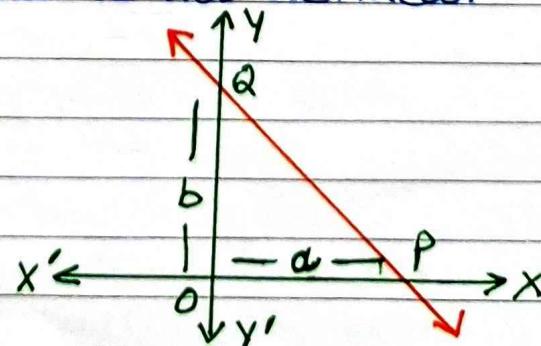
If $\theta = 90^\circ$, then $\tan 90^\circ$ is not defined, i.e. slope of a vertical line is not defined.

Here, a is x -intercept

b is y -intercept

Co-ordinates of $P(a, 0)$

and $Q(0, b)$



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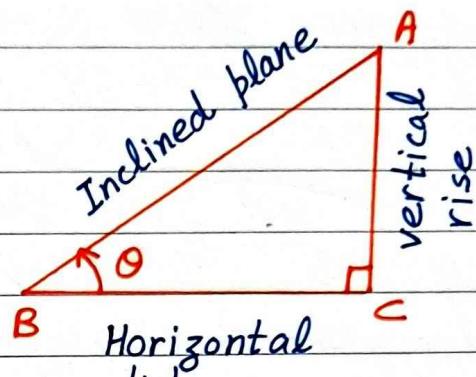
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slope of AC

$$= \frac{\text{vertical rise}}{\text{horizontal distance}} = \frac{AB}{BC}$$

$$= \tan \theta$$

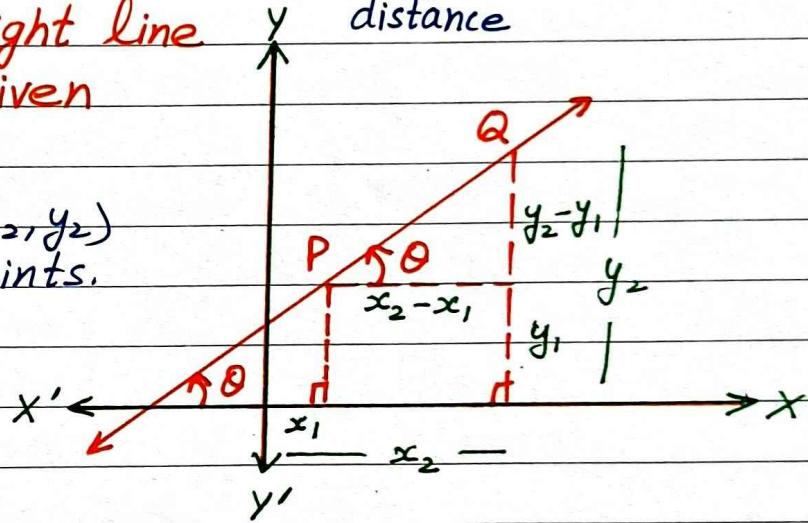


The slope of a straight line passing through two given fixed points :-

Let P(x₁, y₁) and Q(x₂, y₂) be any two fixed points.

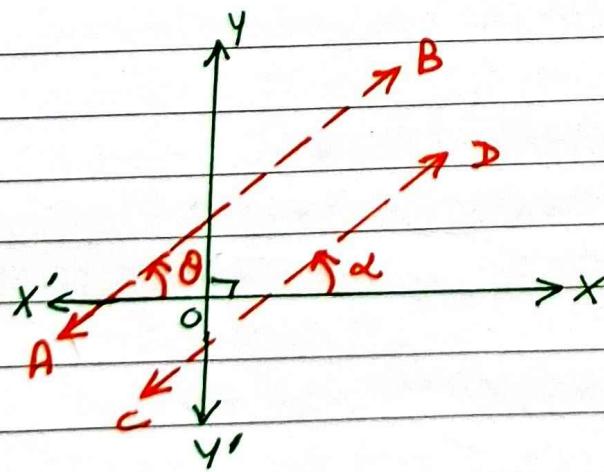
$$\text{slope } 'm' = \tan \theta$$

$$= \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \text{ or } \frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2}$$



i.e. Difference of ordinates of the given points
Difference of their abscissae

Parallel Lines

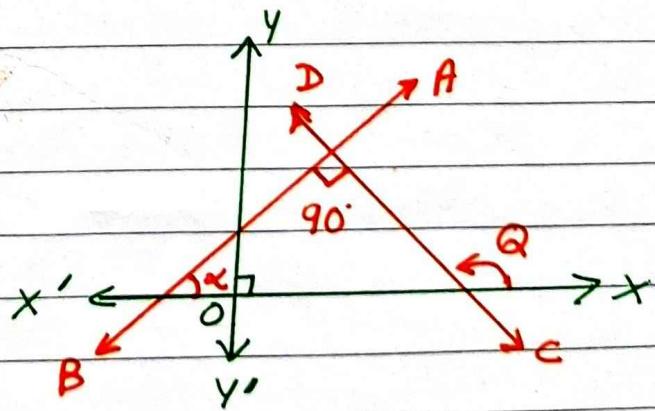


$$\tan \theta = \tan \alpha$$

$$\text{slope of } AB = \text{slope of } CD$$

$$\text{i.e. } m_1 = m_2$$

Perpendicular Lines



$$\tan \theta \cdot \tan \alpha = -1$$

$$\text{slope of } AB \times \text{slope of } CD = -1$$

$$\text{i.e. } m_1 \cdot m_2 = -1$$

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Hence, if two lines are parallel their slopes are equal.

If two lines are mutually perpendicular, the product of their slopes is -1 .

Example 1 Find the slope of the line passing through the points $A(-2, 3)$ and $B(2, 7)$. Also find :-

(i) the inclination of the line AB

(ii) slope of the line parallel to AB

(iii) slope of the line perpendicular to AB .

Solution:- Let $A(-2, 3) = (x_1, y_1)$ and $B(2, 7) = (x_2, y_2)$

$$\text{Slope of } AB = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{7 - 3}{2 + 2} = 1$$

(i) Let inclination of line AB be θ

$$\therefore \tan \theta = 1 \Rightarrow \tan \theta = \tan 45^\circ \Rightarrow \theta = 45^\circ$$

(ii) Slope of the line parallel to AB

$$= \text{slope of } AB = 1$$

(iii) Slope of the line perpendicular to AB

$$= -\frac{1}{\text{slope of } AB} = -\frac{1}{1} = -1$$

Example 2 The line joining $A(-3, 4)$ and $B(2, -1)$ is parallel to the line joining $C(1, -2)$ and $D(0, x)$.

Find x

Solution:- Slope of AB = Slope of CD

$$\Rightarrow \frac{-1-4}{2+3} = \frac{x+2}{0-1} \quad [\text{Since } AB \parallel CD]$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -1$$

Equation of a Line:-

The equation of a straight line is a linear equation in x and y , which is satisfied by the co-ordinates of every point on the line and not by any point outside this line.

X-intercept

If a line meets the x -axis at a point A , then the distance of point A from the origin O (i.e. OA) is called x -intercept.

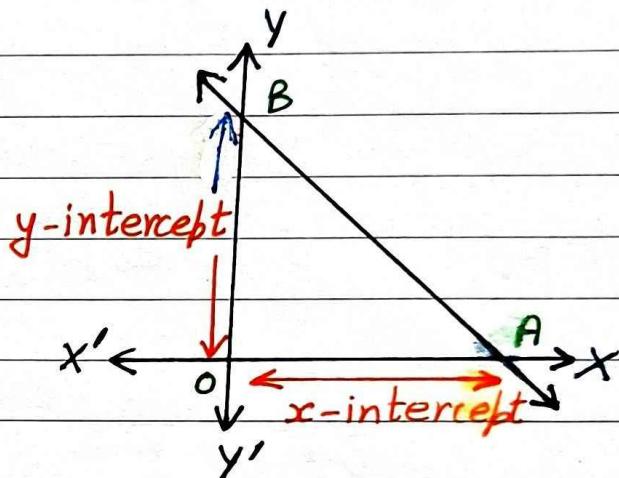
Y-intercept

If a line meets the y -axis at point B , then the distance of point B from the origin O (i.e. OB) is called y -intercept.

e.g. If x -intercept of a point A is 5 then $A(5, 0)$

If y -intercept of a point B is 4 then $B(0, 4)$

If y -intercept of a point P is -8 then $P(0, -8)$



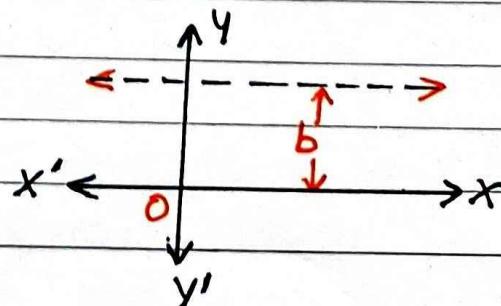
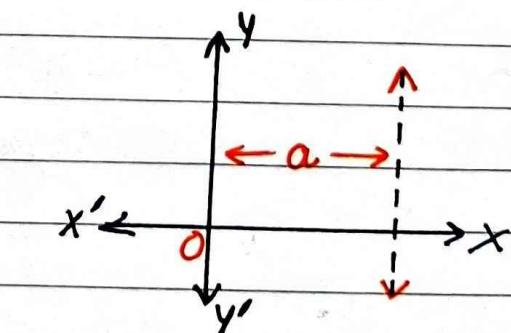
Equation of a straight Line in Various Forms :-

I Equation of x -axis is $y = 0$

II Equation of y -axis is $x = 0$

III Equation of a line parallel to y -axis, and at a distance 'a' from it is $x = a$

IV Equation of a line parallel to x -axis, at a distance 'b' from it is $y = b$



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Equation of an Oblique Line in Various Forms

I Slope-intercept Form

When slope (gradient) and intercept on the y -axis are given.

Let AB be a line which makes an angle θ° with x -axis and whose intercept OB on the y -axis is ' c ' (i.e. $OB = c$)

Then, $m = \tan \theta$

Let $P(x, y)$ be any point on AB

Draw $PM \perp x$ -axis and $BN \perp PM$

Then, clearly $BN \parallel x$ -axis

$\therefore \angle PBN = \angle BAO = \theta$ [corresponding \angle 's]

Now, $BN = OM = x$, $MN = OB = c$

and $PM = y$

From right-angled $\triangle BNP$, we have

$$\frac{PN}{BN} = \tan \theta \Rightarrow \frac{PM - MN}{BN} = m \quad [\because \tan \theta = m]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{y - c}{x} = m \quad [\because PM = y, MN = OB = c \text{ and } BN = OM = x]$$

$$\Rightarrow y = mx + c$$

Hence, the equation of the given line is $y = mx + c$.

II Point-Slope Form

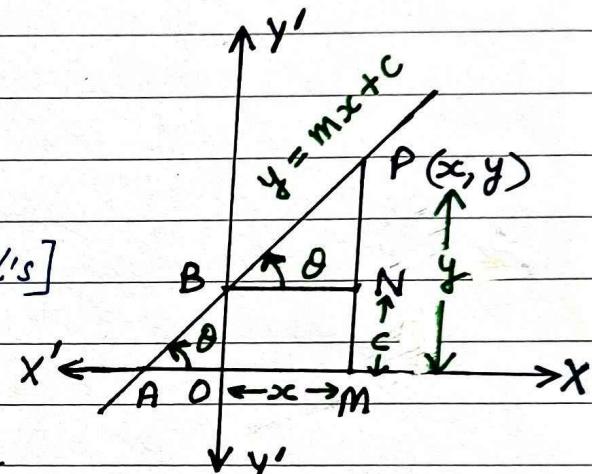
The equation of a line with slope m and passing through a point $A(x_1, y_1)$ is given by,

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

III Two-point Form

The equation of a line passing through two points $A(x_1, y_1)$ and $B(x_2, y_2)$ is given by,

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



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Example 1 Find the equation of a line :-

(i) whose inclination is 45° and y-intercept is 5

Solution:- Given, inclination is 45° and y-intercept $c = 5$,

$$\therefore \text{slope } m = \tan \theta = \tan 45^\circ = 1$$

Substituting the values of m and c in the equation $y = mx + c$, we get $y = x + 5$

(ii) with inclination $= 60^\circ$ and passing through $(-2, 5)$

$$\text{Given, } \theta = 60^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{slope } m = \tan 60^\circ = \sqrt{3} \text{ and } (x_1, y_1) = (-2, 5)$$

Substituting in $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$, we get

$$y - 5 = \sqrt{3}(x + 2) \Rightarrow y = \sqrt{3}x + 2\sqrt{3} + 5$$

(iii) passing through the points $(-3, 1)$ and $(1, 5)$

$$\text{Let } (-3, 1) = (x_1, y_1) \text{ and } (1, 5) = (x_2, y_2)$$

$$\therefore \text{slope of the line} = m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{5 - 1}{1 + 3} = 1$$

$$\text{Equation is. } y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y - 1 = 1(x + 3) \Rightarrow y = x + 4$$

Example 2 Find the equation of the line whose x-intercept is 8 and y-intercept is -12 .

Solution:- When x-intercept $= 8$; corresponding point on the x-axis $= (8, 0)$

When y-intercept $= -12$; corresponding point on the y-axis $= (0, -12)$

$$\text{Let } (8, 0) = (x_1, y_1) \text{ and } (0, -12) = (x_2, y_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{slope} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{-12 - 0}{0 - 8} = \frac{3}{2}$$

And, the required equation is $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$

$$\Rightarrow y - 0 = \frac{3}{2}(x - 8) \Rightarrow 2y = 3x - 24$$

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Example 3 Find the equation of the line which passes through $(2, 7)$ and whose y -intercept is 3.

Solution:- y -intercept = 3

\Rightarrow The corresponding point on the y -axis = $(0, 3)$

Now, we have $(x_1, y_1) = (2, 7)$ and $(x_2, y_2) = (0, 3)$

$$\therefore \text{slope } (m) = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{3 - 7}{0 - 2} = \frac{-4}{-2} = 2$$

And, required equation is $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$

$$\Rightarrow y - 7 = 2(x - 2) \Rightarrow y - 7 = 2x - 4$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 2x + 3$$

Alternative method :-

Given y -intercept = 3 i.e. $c = 3$

$$\therefore y = mx + c \Rightarrow y = mx + 3$$

Since, the line $y = mx + 3$ passes through $(2, 7)$

$$\therefore 7 = mx + 3 \Rightarrow m = 2$$

Hence, the required equation is $y = 2x + 3$

Find the equation of a line given a point on the line and the slope (gradient)

Example:

Find the equation of the line passing through $(-3, 1)$ with slope 2.

Using

$$y = mx + c$$

$$y = 2x + c \quad m = \text{slope} = 2$$

$$1 = 2(-3) + c$$

Substitute $x = -3$
and $y = 1$

$$1 = -6 + c$$

$$c = 7$$

Equation is:

$$y = 2x + 7$$

$$2x - y + 7 = 0$$

Using

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

$$y - 1 = 2(x - (-3)) \quad m = \text{slope} = 2$$

$$y - 1 = 2x + 6 \quad \text{Substitute } x_1 = -3 \text{ and } y_1 = 1$$

$$2x - y + 7 = 0$$

1. Distance Formula : The distance between the points P (x_1, y_1) and Q (x_2, y_2)

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

2. Section Formula : The co-ordinates of the point which divides the line segment joining the points P (x_1, y_1) and Q (x_2, y_2) in the ratio $m_1 : m_2$ are

$$\left(\frac{m_1 x_2 + m_2 x_1}{m_1 + m_2}, \frac{m_1 y_2 + m_2 y_1}{m_1 + m_2} \right)$$

3. Mid-point Formula : The co-ordinates of the mid-point of the line segment joining the points P (x_1, y_1) and Q (x_2, y_2) are

$$\left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

4. Centroid Formula : The co-ordinates of the centroid of a triangle whose vertices are A (x_1, y_1), B (x_2, y_2) and C (x_3, y_3) are

$$\left(\frac{x_1 + x_2 + x_3}{3}, \frac{y_1 + y_2 + y_3}{3} \right)$$

5. Slope of a Straight Line :

- (i) If the inclination of a line is θ ($\neq 90^\circ$),
its slope = $m = \tan \theta$.
- (ii) Slope of a line through (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) is given by $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$.

6. Equation of a Straight Line :

- (i) Equation of a line parallel to x -axis is $y = b$.
- (ii) Equation of a line parallel to y -axis is $x = a$.
- (iii) Equation of a line with slope m and y -intercept c is $y = mx + c$.
- (iv) Equation of a line through (x_1, y_1) and with slope m is $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$.

