

The Distance from a Point to a Line given the point (x_1, y_1) not on the line $Ax + By + C = 0$ is:

$$d = \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} \quad [\text{denominator is given the sign of } B \text{ where } B \neq 0]$$

The Directed Distance of a Point off a Line is determined by looking at the value of d :

If $d < 0$ or negative, then the point is BELOW a horizontal or slant line or to LEFT of a vertical line.

If $d = 0$ or zero, then the point is ON a horizontal, slant, or vertical line.

If $d > 0$ or positive, then the point is ABOVE a horizontal or slant line or to RIGHT of a vertical line.

Guided Practice

2/112

$$2x - 4y + 2 = 0, (1, 3) \quad A = 2, B = -4, C = 2, x = 1, y = 3$$

$$d = \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}$$

$$d = \frac{(2)(1) + (-4)(3) + 2}{-\sqrt{(2)^2 + (-4)^2}}$$

denominator (-) since B is (-)

$$d = \frac{2 - 12 + 2}{-\sqrt{4 + 16}}$$

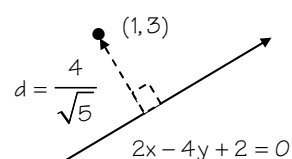
$$d = \frac{-10 + 2}{-\sqrt{20}}$$

$$d = \frac{-8}{-\sqrt{20}}$$

$$d = \frac{8}{2\sqrt{5}}$$

$$d = \boxed{\frac{4}{\sqrt{5}}} \approx 1.79$$

directed d is positive (+) implies
the point is ABOVE the line.



12/112

$$l_1: x + 2y - 2 = 0; \quad A = 1, B = +2, C = -2$$

$$l_2: x + 2y + 5 = 0; \quad \text{if } y = 0, \text{ then } x = -5 \text{ or point } (-5, 0)$$

$$d = \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}$$

$$d = \frac{(1)(-5) + (2)(0) + (-2)}{+\sqrt{(1)^2 + (2)^2}}$$

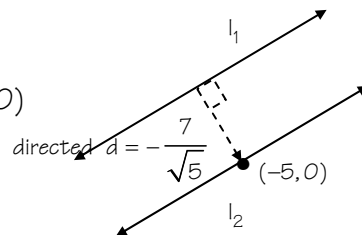
denominator (+) since B is (+)

$$d = \boxed{-\frac{7}{\sqrt{5}}} \quad [\text{directed distance}]$$

$$d = \left| -\frac{7}{\sqrt{5}} \right|$$

$$d = \boxed{\frac{7}{\sqrt{5}}} \approx 3.13 \quad [\text{real distance}]$$

directed d is negative (-) implies point is BELOW
the line and therefore line l_1 is ABOVE line l_2



Guided Practice

$$\begin{aligned} 22/112 \quad l_1: 8x + 15y - 5 &= 0; & A = 8, & B = +15, & C = -5 \\ l_2: 5x - 12y + 1 &= 0; & A = 5, & B = -12, & C = 1 \end{aligned}$$

point is ABOVE one line and BELOW the other line

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 &= -d_2 \\ \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} &= -\frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} \\ \frac{(8)(x) + (15)(y) - 5}{+\sqrt{(8)^2 + (15)^2}} &= -\frac{(5)(x) + (-12)(y) + 1}{-\sqrt{(5)^2 + (-12)^2}} \\ \frac{8x + 15y - 5}{\sqrt{64 + 225}} &= \frac{5x - 12y + 1}{\sqrt{25 + 144}} \\ \frac{8x + 15y - 5}{\sqrt{289}} &= \frac{5x - 12y + 1}{\sqrt{169}} \\ \frac{8x + 15y - 5}{17} &= \frac{5x - 12y + 1}{13} \\ 13[8x + 15y - 5] &= 17[5x - 12y + 1] \\ 104x + 195y - 65 &= 85x - 204y + 17 \end{aligned}$$

$$19x + 399y - 82 = 0$$

$$m_{\text{bisector}} = -\frac{A}{B} = -\frac{19}{399} = -\frac{1}{21}$$

point is above or below BOTH lines

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 &= d_2 \\ \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} &= \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} \\ \frac{(8)(x) + (15)(y) - 5}{+\sqrt{(8)^2 + (15)^2}} &= \frac{(5)(x) + (-12)(y) + 1}{-\sqrt{(5)^2 + (-12)^2}} \\ \frac{8x + 15y - 5}{\sqrt{64 + 225}} &= \frac{5x - 12y + 1}{-\sqrt{25 + 144}} \\ \frac{8x + 15y - 5}{\sqrt{289}} &= \frac{5x - 12y + 1}{-\sqrt{169}} \\ \frac{8x + 15y - 5}{17} &= \frac{5x - 12y + 1}{-13} \\ -13[8x + 15y - 5] &= 17[5x - 12y + 1] \\ -104x - 195y + 65 &= 85x - 204y + 17 \end{aligned}$$

$$0 = 189x - 9y - 48$$

$$m_{\text{bisector}} = -\frac{A}{B} = -\frac{189}{-9} = \frac{21}{1} = 21$$

*** Note that the angle bisectors of intersecting lines are perpendicular as proven in geometry ***

$$\begin{aligned} 28/112 \quad y &= mx + 5, \quad (0, 0), \quad d = 4 \\ 0 &= mx - y + 5 \quad \text{with } A = m, \quad B = -1, \quad C = 5, \quad x_1 = 0, \quad y_1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} d &= \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + C}{\pm\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} \\ 4 &= \frac{(m)(0) + (-1)(0) + 5}{-\sqrt{(m)^2 + (-1)^2}} \\ 4 &= \frac{5}{-\sqrt{m^2 + 1}} \\ 4 &= \frac{-5}{\sqrt{m^2 + 1}} \\ 4\sqrt{m^2 + 1} &= -5 \\ \sqrt{m^2 + 1} &= \frac{-5}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\sqrt{m^2 + 1}\right]^2 &= \left[\frac{-5}{4}\right]^2 \\ m^2 + 1 &= \frac{25}{16} \\ m^2 &= \frac{25}{16} - \frac{16}{16} \\ m^2 &= \frac{9}{16} \\ m &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{9}{16}} \\ m &= \boxed{\pm\frac{3}{4}} \end{aligned}$$

