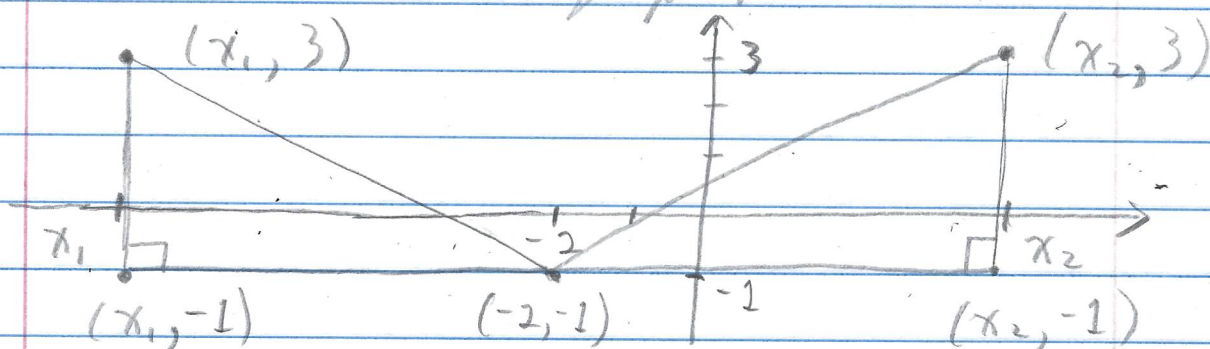


Exercise 1.1.49 (Modified) Find all points having a y-coordinate of 3 whose distance from the point $(-2, -1)$ is 13.

- (a) by using the Pythagorean Theorem, and
(b) by using the distance formula.

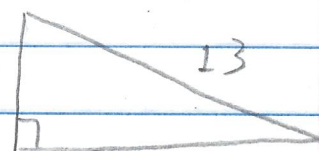
Solution

(a) We have the graph:



On the left we have:

$$(3) - (-1) = 4$$



and so by the

Pythagorean Theorem,

$$(13)^2 = (4)^2 + (-2 - x_1)^2 \text{ or}$$

$$169 = 16 + (-2 - x_1)^2 \text{ or } 153 = (-2 - x_1)^2$$

$$\text{or } \sqrt{153} = \sqrt{(-2 - x_1)^2} = |-2 - x_1| = -2 - x_1,$$

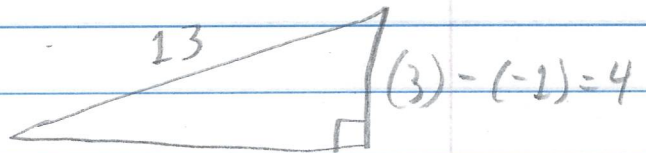
since $x_1 < -2$ and so $0 < -2 - x_1$.

$$\text{So } -2 - x_1 = \sqrt{153} \text{ or } x_1 = -2 - \sqrt{153}.$$

Hence, the point on the left

$(x_1, 3) = (-2 - \sqrt{153}, 3)$ is 13 units from point $(-2, -1)$.

The right triangle is



and so by the Pythagorean Theorem,

$$(13)^2 = (4)^2 + (x_2 + 2)^2 \text{ or } 169 = 16 + (x_2 + 2)^2$$

$$\text{or } \sqrt{153} = \sqrt{(x_2 + 2)^2} = |x_2 + 2| = x_2 + 2$$

since $x_2 > -2$ and so $x_2 + 2 > 0$.

$$\text{So } x_2 + 2 = \sqrt{153} \text{ or } x_2 = -2 + \sqrt{153}.$$

Hence the point on the right

$(x_2, 3) = (-2 + \sqrt{153}, 3)$ is 13 units from point $(-2, -1)$. \square

(b) With $(x, y) = (x, 3)$ a point distance 13 from point $(-2, -1)$, we have by the distance formula:

$$13 = \sqrt{(x - (-2))^2 + ((3) - (-1))^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{(x + 2)^2 + (4)^2}$$

$$\text{Then } (13)^2 = (\sqrt{(x + 2)^2 + 16})^2$$

$$\text{or } 169 = (x + 2)^2 + 16 \text{ or } 153 = (x + 2)^2 \text{ or } \sqrt{153} = \sqrt{(x + 2)^2} = |x + 2|, \text{ therefore}$$

$$x + 2 = \pm \sqrt{153} \text{ or } x = -2 \pm \sqrt{153}.$$

So the two desired points are

$$(-2 - \sqrt{153}, 3) \text{ and } (-2 + \sqrt{153}, 3)$$

(as also shown in part (a)). \square