

The equation of a line

$$y = mx + b$$

Variables

m: slope - the rate at which the line increases or decreases

- Need 2 points on the line to find the slope

• Label the points (x, y)

point 1 (x_1, y_1)

point 2 (x_2, y_2)

- "rise over run" \rightarrow rate $\rightarrow \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{y}{x}$

- Formula: $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$

- Given 2 points on a line: $(x_1, y_1) = (3, 11)$ and $(x_2, y_2) = (2, 8)$
Find the slope

point 1: $(x_1, y_1) = (3, 11)$

point 2: $(x_2, y_2) = (2, 8)$

* Rewrite the equation w/ the values (points) plugged in

$$m = \frac{8 - 11}{2 - 3} = \frac{-3}{-1} = \frac{3}{1} = 3 \quad \begin{array}{l} -3 = -1 \cdot 3 \\ -1 = -1 \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

$$m = \frac{3}{1} = 3$$

* A positive slope implies an increasing/incline/accelerate

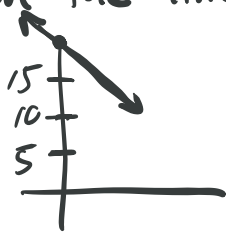


* Negative slope



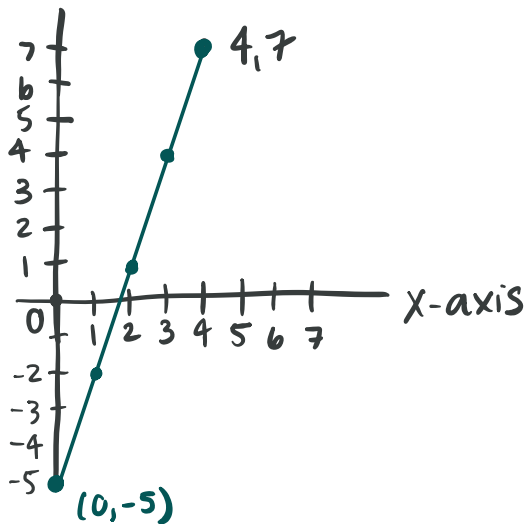
• Variable 'b' is the y-intercept

y-intercept is the y-coordinate of the point at which the line crosses the y-axis



$$b = 20$$
$$(0, 20)$$

EX: 2 points on a line: $(0, -5)$ and $(4, 7)$



* positive slope

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

* Recall slope formula

* Label the points

$$pt 1: (0, -5) = (x_1, y_1)$$

$$pt 2: (4, 7) = (x_2, y_2)$$

* Rewrite equation

$$m = \frac{7 - (-5)}{4 - 0} = \frac{12}{4} = \frac{3}{1}$$

: b y-intercept

$$(0, -5)$$
$$(x, y)$$

$$b = -5$$

$$y = mx + b = \frac{3}{1}x + (-5)$$

Given: $(0, -5)$ and $(4, 7)$

$$y = \frac{3}{1}x - 5$$

Is there another point
on the line? YES \rightarrow Infinitely
many points

If $x=0$, $y=?$

• Can you list 2?

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

$$y = -5$$

If $x=4$, $y=7$? $y = \frac{3}{1}(4) - 5 = 12 - 5 = 7$

If $x=1$ and $y = \frac{3}{1}x - 5$ what does $y=?$

(x, y)

$$y = 3x - 5$$

$(1, -2)$

$$y = 3 \cdot x - 5 \rightarrow y = 3 \cdot 1 - 5 = -2$$

$$y = -2$$