Section 3.4: The Slope of a Line

Slope of a Line

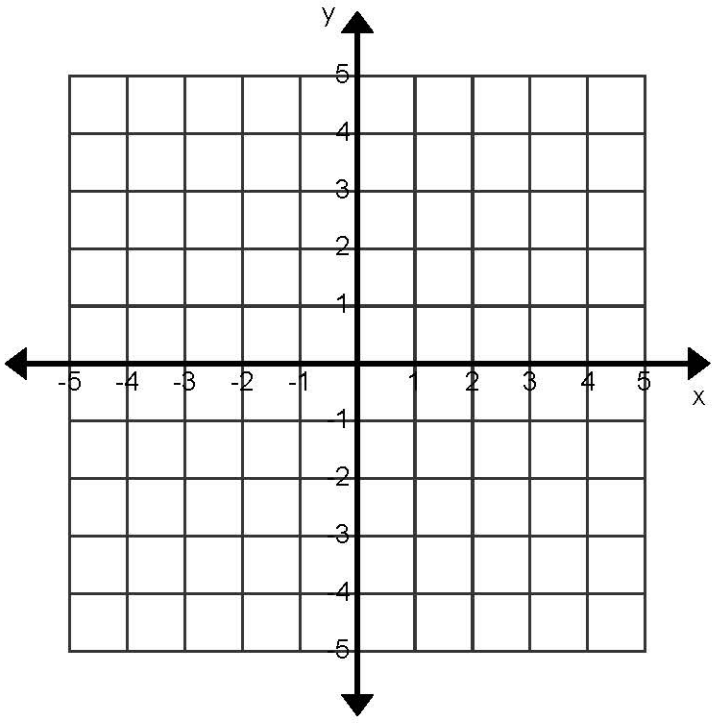
The slope of the line connecting the points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) where $x_1 \neq x_2$ is

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

Slope is commonly referred to as "rise over run" where a positive rise means you go up , a negative rise means you go down, a positive run means you go right, and a negative run means you go left.

Example 1: Find the slope of the line determined by each pair of points.

a. (-1, 5) and (3, 2)



Example 2: Find the slope of the line determined by each pair of points.

a. (8, -7), and (-10, -7)