Purpose: In this problem set, you will recall and explore the properties and types of linear functions. We will work with distance and average rate of change.

DISTANCE

MATH 1150

Precalculus

- 1. Given two points x_1 and x_2 on a number line, what is the distance between them?
- 2. Given two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) , what is the distance between them?
 - (a) Sketch two random points on the coordinate axis below, preferably not in line with each other. Label one (x_1, y_1) and the other (x_2, y_2) .



- (b) Connect the points with a line and sketch a right triangle with that line as the hypotenuse.(Check with Sarah before proceeding.)
- (c) What are the lengths of the legs of the triangle?
- (d) What is the length of the hypotenuse?
- (e) What is the distance between the two points? This is called the **distance formula**.

MIDPOINT

- 1. Given two points x_1 and x_2 on a number line, what is the midpoint between them?
- 2. Given two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) , what is the midpoint between them?
 - (a) Sketch two random points on the coordinate axis below, preferably not in line with each other. Label one (x_1, y_1) and the other (x_2, y_2) .



- (b) Connect the points with a line and sketch a right triangle with that line as the hypotenuse.
- (c) What are the midpoints of the legs of the triangle? (Check with Sarah before proceeding.)
- (d) What is the midpoint of the hypotenuse?
- (e) What is the midpoint between the two points? This is called the **midpoint formula**.

LINES

Definition: The slope *m* between two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) is given by

How are slope and average rate of change related?

Forms of linear functions:

- Point-Slope Form:
- Slope-Intercept Form:
- Standard Form:
- 1. Using our connection between slope and average rate of change, when is a linear function increasing? Give an example of such a line.

2. When is a linear function decreasing? Give an example of such a line.

PRACTICE

Suppose the two points (-3, -2) and (3, -10) are on the graph of y = h(x).

- 1. Find the distance between these two points.
- 2. Find the midpoint between these two points.
- 3. Find the distance between the midpoint and the point (-3, -2).
- 4. If h(x) is linear, is the midpoint on the graph of y = h(x)?
- 5. Is the function h(x) increasing? Decreasing?
- 6. Find the average rate of change between the two points.
- 7. Find the equation of the line passing between these two points in slope-intercept form and point-slope form.
- 8. What is the *y*-intercept of y = h(x)? *x*-intercept?