Exercise 10

Does the following table represent a linear function? If so, find the linear equation that models the data.

x	-4	0	2	10
g(x)	18	-2	-12	-52

Solution

The table does represent a linear function. Use two points, (-4, 18) and (0, -2), to determine the line's slope.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{-2 - 18}{0 - (-4)} = \frac{-20}{4} = -5$$

Then use the point-slope formula with either of the two points to obtain the equation of the line.

$$y - (-2) = -5(x - 0)$$
$$y + 2 = -5x$$
$$y = -5x - 2$$