

§ Lecture 8.0

Monday, 7 September 2026

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Negation of integers: If $a-b$ is an integer, the negation $-(a-b)$ is defined as the integer $b-a$.

In particular, $n = n-0$ then $-n = 0-n$.

Trichotomy of integers: Let x be an integer. Then exactly one of the following statements is true:

(i) $x=0$. (ii) $x=n-0$ for some positive natural number n .

(iii) $x=0-n$ " " " " n .

Subtraction: $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ then $x-y = x+(0-y)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{For natural numbers } a, b : \quad a-b &= a+(0-b) \\ &= (a-0)+(0-b) \\ &= a-b\end{aligned}$$

Thus $a-b$ and $a-b$ are the same things.

Ordering of integers: Let x, y be integers.

(i) $x \geq y$ iff $x = y+a$, $a \in \mathbb{N}$.

(ii) $x > y$ iff $x \geq y$ and $x \neq y$.

Claim: $a > b \Rightarrow -b > -a$.

Proof: $a > b \Rightarrow a = b+m$, $m \neq 0, m \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$\Rightarrow -a = -(b+m)$$

$$\Rightarrow -a+m = -b$$

$$\Rightarrow -b > -a.$$

The rationals: A rational number is an expression of the form

a/b , where $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b \neq 0$. Further, $a/b = c/d \Leftrightarrow ad = bc$.

The set of rationals is denoted by $\mathbb{Q}$.

Addition: $a/b + c/d = (ad+bc)/bd$, $b \neq 0, d \neq 0$, $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$

Product: $(a/b)(c/d) = (ac)/(bd)$

Negation: $-(a/b) = (-a)/b$.

Remark: $a/1$ behaves like integer a .

$$a/1 + b/1 = (a+b)/1$$

$$(a/1)(b/1) = (ab)/1$$

$$-(a/1) = (-a)/1$$

Thus we can identify integers as rationals $a/1$.

Note: $a/b = 0$ iff $a=0$.

Reciprocal: Let $x = a/b \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$. Then reciprocal of x is

defined as $\bar{x} = b/a$.

Claim: $x\bar{x} = 1 = \bar{x}x$.

Proof: Let $x = a/b$, $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$.

$$x\bar{x} = (a/b)(b/a) = (ab)/(ab) = 1/1 = 1.$$

Similarly $\bar{x}x = 1$.

Quotient x/y :

$$x/y = x \cdot \bar{y}^{-1}.$$

Claim: $x/y = x/y$ for integers x, y with $y \neq 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Proof: } x/y &= x \times \bar{y}^{-1} = (x/1) \times (1/y) \\ &= x/y.\end{aligned}$$

Thus we can use x/y instead of $x/\bar{y}$.

Positive and negative rational numbers:

x is positive $\Leftrightarrow \exists$ positive integers a, b s.t. $a/b = x$.

x is negative $\Leftrightarrow x = -y$ for some positive rational y .

Ordering of rationals:

(i) $x > y \Leftrightarrow x-y$ is a positive rational.

(ii) $x \geq y \Leftrightarrow$ Either $x > y$ or $x = y$.

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Absolute value: let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then absolute value of x is defined as

$$|x| := \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0. \end{cases}$$

Claim: (i) $|x| \geq 0$. $|x| = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$.

$$(ii) \quad |x+y| \leq |x| + |y|$$

$$(iii) \quad -y < x < y \Leftrightarrow |x| \leq y. \text{ Also } -|x| \leq x \leq |x|.$$

$$(iv) \quad |xy| = |x| |y|.$$

Proof: (i) Note that $x > 0$ or $x < 0$ or $x = 0$.

$$\text{Case 1: } x > 0 \Rightarrow |x| = x > 0$$

$$\text{Case 2: } x < 0 \Rightarrow |x| = -x > 0$$

$$\text{Case 3: } x = 0 \Rightarrow |x| = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow |x| \geq 0.$$

$$* \quad |x| = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0.$$

$$\text{Proof: } \Rightarrow x = 0 \Rightarrow |x| = 0.$$

$$\Leftarrow |x| = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0 \Leftrightarrow x \neq 0 \Rightarrow |x| \neq 0.$$

If $x \neq 0$ then either $x > 0$ or $x < 0$ in both cases $|x| > 0$.

$$(ii) \Rightarrow \text{Suppose } -y \leq x \leq y$$

$$\text{Case 1: } x \geq 0 \text{ then } |x| = x \leq y.$$

$$\text{Case 2: } x < 0 \text{ then } |x| = -x \leq y$$

$$\text{Thus } |x| \leq y.$$

$$\Leftarrow \text{Suppose } |x| \leq y.$$

$$\text{Since } |x| \geq 0, \text{ we have } y \geq |x| \geq 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow -y \leq 0 \leq y.$$

$$\text{Case 1: If } x \geq 0 \text{ then } x = |x| \leq y \\ \& \quad -y \leq 0 \leq x.$$

$$\Rightarrow -y \leq x \leq y.$$

$$\text{Case 2: If } x < 0 \text{ then } -x = |x| \leq y \\ \Rightarrow -y \leq x.$$

$$\& \quad x < 0 \leq y$$

$$\Rightarrow -y \leq x \leq y.$$

$$\text{Taking } y = |x|, \text{ and noting } |x| \leq |x|.$$

$$\text{We have } -|x| \leq x \leq |x|.$$

$$(ii) \quad |x+y| \leq |x| + |y|$$

$$\text{Proof: Note that } -|x| \leq x \leq |x|$$

$$-|y| \leq y \leq |y|$$

$$\Rightarrow -(|x| + |y|) \leq x+y \leq |x| + |y|$$

$$\Rightarrow |x+y| \leq |x| + |y|$$

$$(iv) \quad |xy| = |x| |y|$$

$$\text{Proof: If } x = 0 \text{ or } y = 0 \text{ then LHS} = 0 = \text{RHS.}$$

There are 4 remaining cases.

$$(i) \quad x > 0, y > 0. \text{ Here } xy > 0 \Rightarrow xy = |xy| \\ |x| = x, |y| = y \Rightarrow |x||y| = xy.$$

$$\Rightarrow |xy| = |x| |y|.$$

$$(ii) \quad x > 0, y < 0. \text{ Then } |xy| = -(xy) = x(-y) = |x||y|.$$

Similarly other cases.

$$\text{In particular, take } y = -1, \text{ then } |xy| = |-x|$$

$$|x| |y| = |x| \cdot \Rightarrow |-x| = |x|.$$

Distance: let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$. Then distance between x, y is defined as

$$d(x, y) = |x - y|.$$

It satisfies:

$$(i) \quad d(x, y) \geq 0. \quad d(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = y.$$

$$\text{Proof: } d(x, y) = |x - y| \geq 0$$

$$\text{and } |x - y| = 0 \Leftrightarrow x - y = 0 \text{ or } x = y.$$

$$(ii) \quad d(x, y) \leq d(x, z) + d(z, y)$$

$$\text{Proof: } d(x, y) = |x - y|$$

$$= |x - z + z - y|$$

$$\leq |x - z| + |z - y|$$

$$= d(x, z) + d(z, y).$$

$$(iii) \quad d(x, y) = d(y, x)$$

$$\text{Proof: } d(x, y) = |x - y| = |y - x| = d(y, x).$$

§ Lecture 8.2

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Definition (ε -closeness): Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a rational number, let $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$.

We say that y is ε -close to x iff $d(y, x) \leq \varepsilon$.

Claim: (i) $d(x, y) \leq \varepsilon$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$ is true iff $x = y$.

Proof: $\Rightarrow$ If $x = y$ then $d(x, y) = 0 < \varepsilon \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$.

$\Leftarrow$ Assume $d(x, y) \leq \varepsilon \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$. Then we want to prove that $x = y$.

Contrapositive: $x \neq y \Rightarrow \exists \varepsilon_0 > 0$ s.t. $d(x, y) > \varepsilon_0$.

Proof: Since $x \neq y$, let $x > y$ and $x - y = a > 0$.

Choose $\varepsilon_0 := a - \frac{1}{n+1} < a$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Then $|x - y| = x - y = a > \varepsilon_0$.

This concludes the proof.

(ii) Let $|x - y| \leq \varepsilon$, $|z - w| \leq \delta$, then $|x + z - (y + w)| \leq \varepsilon + \delta$.

Proof: $|x + z - y - w| \leq |x - y| + |z - w| \leq (\varepsilon + \delta)$.

(iii) $d(x, y) \leq \varepsilon$, $d(z, w) \leq \delta$, then $d(xz, yw) \leq (\varepsilon|z| + \delta|x| + \varepsilon\delta)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } d(xz, yw) &= |xz - yw| \\ &= |xz - yz + yz - yw| \\ &\leq |z||x - y| + |y||z - w| \\ &\leq |z|\varepsilon + |y|\delta \end{aligned}$$

Hmm!!

Different trick: Call $x - y = a \Rightarrow |a| \leq \varepsilon$

$z - w = b \Rightarrow |b| \leq \delta$.

$\Rightarrow xz = (a + y)(b + w)$

$xz - yw = ab + aw + yb$

$$\begin{aligned} |xz - yw| &\leq |ab| + |a||w| + |y||b| \\ &\leq \varepsilon\delta + \varepsilon|w| + \delta|y|. \end{aligned}$$

Hmm! Take $y - x = a$

$w - z = b$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow (xz - yw) &= xz - (a + x)(b + z) \\ &= -ab - az - bx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow d(xz, yw) &\leq |a||b| + |a||z| + |b||x| \\ &\leq \varepsilon\delta + |z|\varepsilon + |x|\delta. \end{aligned}$$

All of them are correct.

Exponentiation: Let $x \in \mathbb{Q}$. Define $x^0 = 1$ ($0^0 = 1$).

Assume x^n is defined for some natural number n . Then $x^{n+1} = x^n \cdot x$.

Claim: $x^n \cdot x^m = x^{n+m} = x^m \cdot x^n$. $(x^n)^m = x^{nm}$.

Proof: Induction on n . Fix m .

Base case: $n = 0$ $x^0 \cdot x^m = x^{0+m} \Rightarrow x^m = x^m$.

Inductive step: $x^n \cdot x^m = x^{n+m}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } x^{n+1} \cdot x^m &= x^n \cdot x^m \cdot x \\ &= x^{n+m} \cdot x \\ &= x^{m+n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly for $(x^n)^m = x^{nm}$.

Exponentiation to a negative number:

$$x^{-n} = 1/x^n \quad n > 0.$$