

planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

length function

Canonical name LengthFunction
Date of creation 2013-03-22 13:41:29
Last modified on 2013-03-22 13:41:29

Owner mhale (572) Last modified by mhale (572)

Numerical id 6

Author mhale (572) Entry type Definition Classification msc 20-02 Let G be a group. A **length function** on G is a function $L\colon G\to \mathbb{R}^+$ satisfying:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} L(e) & = & 0, \\ L(g) & = & L(g^{-1}), & \forall g \in G, \\ L(g_1g_2) & \leq & L(g_1) + L(g_2), & \forall g_1, g_2 \in G. \end{array}$$