



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

**additive inverse of one element times another
element is the additive inverse of their
product**

Canonical name	AdditiveInverseOfOneElementTimesAnotherElementIsTheAdditiveInverseOfT
Date of creation	2013-03-22 15:43:40
Last modified on	2013-03-22 15:43:40
Owner	cvalente (11260)
Last modified by	cvalente (11260)
Numerical id	8
Author	cvalente (11260)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 16-00
Classification	msc 20-00
Classification	msc 13-00

Let R be a ring. For all $x, y \in R$

$$(-x) \cdot y = x \cdot (-y) = -(x \cdot y)$$

All we need to prove is that $(-x) \cdot y + x \cdot y = x \cdot (-y) + x \cdot y = 0$

Now: $(-x) \cdot y + x \cdot y = ((-x) + x) \cdot y$ by distributivity.

Since $(-x) + x = 0$ by definition and for all y , $0 \cdot y = 0$ we get:

$$(-x) \cdot y + x \cdot y = 0 \cdot y = 0 \text{ and thus } (-x) \cdot y = -(x \cdot y)$$

For $x \cdot (-y)$, use the previous properties of rings to show that

$$x \cdot (-y) + x \cdot y = x \cdot ((-y) + y) = x \cdot 0 = 0$$

and thus $x \cdot (-y) = -(x \cdot y)$