

### Algebraic “Facts” Challenge

Here are the properties of integers discussed in class:

1. Additive associativity: for any elements  $a, b, c$ ,

$$a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$$

2. Additive commutativity: for any elements  $a, b$ ,

$$a + b = b + a$$

3. Additive identity: there exists an element  $z$  such that for any element  $a$ ,

$$a + z = a$$

We denote  $z$  as 0.

4. Additive inverse: for any element  $a$ , there exists a element  $b$  such that

$$a + b = 0$$

We denote  $b$  as  $-a$ .

5. Multiplicative associativity: for any elements  $a, b, c$ ,

$$a(bc) = (ab)c$$

6. Multiplicative commutativity: for any numbers  $a, b$ ,

$$ab = ba$$

7. Multiplicative identity: there exists an element  $u$  such that for any element  $a$ ,

$$au = a$$

We denote  $u = 1$ .

8. Distributivity: for any elements  $a, b, c$ ,

$$a(b + c) = ab + ac$$

Prove the following “facts” using the above properties:

1. 0 is the unique additive identity.
2. For any elements  $a, b, c$ : if  $a + b = a + c$ , then  $b = c$ .
3. Additive inverses are unique.
4. For any element  $a$ :  $0a = 0$  (So 0 times anything is 0.)
5. For any elements  $a, b$ :  $(-a)b = -(ab)$  (In particular, a negative times a positive is negative.)
6. For any elements  $a, b$ :  $(-a)(-b) = ab$  (In particular, a negative times a negative is positive.)