

Assignment

problem: prove that the set of rational numbers \mathbb{Q} , equipped with the two binary operations of addition and multiplication, forms a field.

Ans: To prove that the set of rational numbers \mathbb{Q} , equipped with the standard operations of addition (+) and multiplication (\cdot), forms a field, we must verify that it satisfies the 11 field axioms.

the set of rational numbers is defined as:

$$\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{a}{b} \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0 \right\}$$

Let x, y, z be arbitrary rational numbers in \mathbb{Q} .

Axioms of Addition:

1. Closures under addition

The sum of two rational numbers is a rational number.

Let $x = \frac{a}{b}$ and $y = \frac{c}{d}$ where, $a, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b, d \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$

$$x + y = \frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad + bc}{bd}$$

Since $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $ad + bc \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $bd \in \mathbb{Z}$. Also

since $b \neq 0$ and $d \neq 0$, then $bd \neq 0$. Thus

$$x + y \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

2. Associativity of Addition:

the grouping of numbers not affect their sum.

$$(x+y)+z = x+(y+z)$$

this property is inherited from the associativity of addition in the integers (\mathbb{Z}).

3. Commutativity of addition:

the order of numbers does not affect their sum.

$$x+y = y+x$$

this property is also inherited from the commutativity of addition in \mathbb{Z} .

4. Additive Identity (Zero Elements):

there exists a unique element, 0 , in \mathbb{Q} such that

for all $x \in \mathbb{Q}$:

$$x+0 = x$$

the additive identity is $0 = \frac{0}{1} = 0$, since $x+0 = x$.

5. Additive inverses:

for any $a = \frac{x}{y} \in \mathbb{Q}$ consider, $-a = \frac{-x}{y}$

since x is an integer, $-x$ is also an integer, so, $-a \in \mathbb{Q}$

$$a+(-a) = \frac{x}{y} + \frac{-x}{y} = \frac{x-x}{y} = \frac{0}{y} = 0$$

thus, every element in \mathbb{Q} has an additive inverse.

Axioms of multiplication:

6. Closure under multiplication: the product of two rational numbers is a rational number

$$\text{Let } x = \frac{a}{b} \text{ and } y = \frac{c}{d}$$

$$x \cdot y = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$$

Since $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ then $ac \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $bd \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since $b \neq 0$ and $d \neq 0$, then $bd \neq 0$, thus $x \cdot y \in \mathbb{Q}$

7. Associativity of multiplication: the grouping of numbers does not affect their product.

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

This property is inherited from the associativity of multiplication in \mathbb{Z} .

8. Commutativity of multiplication: the order of numbers does not affect their product. $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$ This property is inherited from the commutativity of multiplication in \mathbb{Z} .

9. Multiplicative identity (unity elements):

There exists a unique element, 1, in \mathbb{Q} such that for all $x \in \mathbb{Q}$;

$$x \cdot 1 = x$$

The multiplicative identity is $1 = \frac{1}{1} = 1$,

$$\text{Since } x \cdot 1 = x$$

10. multiplicative inverse:

For any non-zero $a = \frac{x}{y} \in \mathbb{Q}$, we must have $x \neq 0$. consider the element $a^{-1} = \frac{y}{x}$, since $x \neq 0$.

a^{-1} is a well-defined rational number. $a \cdot a^{-1} = \frac{x}{y} \cdot \frac{y}{x} = \frac{xy}{yx} = 1$

thus, every non-zero element in \mathbb{Q} has a multiplicative inverse.

Axiom of Distributivity:

11. Distributivity:

Multiplication is distributive over addition.

$$x \cdot (y + z) = (x \cdot y) + (x \cdot z)$$

this property is inherited from the distributivity in \mathbb{Z} .

Since the set of Rational numbers \mathbb{Q} satisfies all eleven field axioms with respect to addition and multiplication. so $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$ is a field.