

0.1 Subtraction of natural numbers

We have inverse functions for addition. This is subtraction.

For function \oplus , its inverse is \oplus' , as defined below:

$$a \oplus b = c$$

$$b = c \oplus' a$$

$$f(a, b) = c \rightarrow f^{-1}(c, b) = a$$

0.1.1 Subtraction

$$a + b = c \rightarrow b = c - a$$

There is no natural number b that satisfies:

$$3 + b = 2$$

While addition and multiplication are defined across all natural numbers, subtraction is not.

0.1.2 Properties of subtraction

Subtraction is not commutative:

$$x - y \neq y - x$$

Subtraction is not associative:

$$x - (y - z) \neq (x - y) - z$$