

number as if

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The inhabitants of the land of Nog look, act and sound just like us. But they differ in number, not in their count, but in their manner. In our mind a number is a quantity, a stack of like items, but in Nog a number is a crystal of facets in infinite dimensional space. Workers of Nog regularly combine numbers in crystal form to create new numbers. Outsiders have been able to replicate a few of these techniques. For example, given numbers n and m in crystal form, the number $n \star m$ is made by letting each dimension aggregate individually. The number $n \nabla m$ is made by taking the smallest in each dimension. The number $n \triangle m$ is made by taking the largest in each dimension. There is a technique $n \dagger m$ practiced only by the great masters of Nog. The \dagger technique is a powerful tool in the hands of these masters. I have personally witnessed a master create extraordinarily intricate crystal structure with just one application of \dagger , starting from simple numbers in crystal form.