

3.6.2

Theorem. *There is a unique $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for all $y \in \mathbb{R}$, $xy + x - 4 = 4y$.*

Proof. First we prove existence. Let $x = 4$ and suppose y is an arbitrary real number. Then we have $4y + 4 - 4 = 4y + 0 = 4y$, as desired. To prove uniqueness suppose a and b are arbitrary real numbers and that $ay + a - 4 = 4y$ and that $by + b - 4 = 4b$. For $ay + a - 4 = 4y$, let $y = b$ and we have $ab + a - 4 = 4b$. For $by + b - 4 = 4b$, let $y = a$ and we have $ba + b - 4 = 4a$. Now subtracting both sides of $ab + a - 4 = 4b$ from $ba + b - 4 = 4a$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} ba + b - 4 - (ab + a - 4) &= 4a - 4b \\ ba + b - 4 - ab - a + 4 &= 4a - 4b \\ b - a &= 4a - 4b \\ b + 4b &= 4a + a \\ 5b &= 5a \\ b &= a \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, if $ay + a - 4 = 4y$ and $by + b - 4 = 4y$, then $a = b$. □

3.6.3

Theorem. $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}[(x \neq 0 \wedge x \neq 1) \implies \exists! y \in \mathbb{R}(y/x = y - x)]$

Proof. Suppose x is an arbitrary real number, $x \neq 0$, and $x \neq 1$. Let $y = x^2/(x - 1)$, which is defined because $x \neq 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{y}{x} &= \frac{\frac{x^2}{x-1}}{x} = \frac{x^2}{x-1} \cdot \frac{1}{x} = \frac{x^2}{x(x-1)} = \frac{x}{x-1} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - x^2 + x}{x-1} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - x(x-1)}{x-1} \\ &= \frac{x^2}{x-1} - \frac{x(x-1)}{x-1} = \frac{x^2}{x-1} - x = y - x \end{aligned}$$

□