

Commutative Operations

1 Why

We introduce language for the case in which an operation does not depend on the order in which it operates.

2 Definition

An operation *commutes* if the result of two elements is the same regardless of their order.

2.1 Notation

Let A be a non-empty set and let $+:A\times A\to A$ be an operation. If + commutes, then

$$a+b=b+a$$

for all $a, b \in A$.