



**Why**

What is the additive inverse of  $[(a, b)]$  in the rationals?

**Result**

**Proposition 1.** *The additive inverse of  $[(a, b)] \in \mathbf{Q}$  is  $[(-a, b)]$ .*

**Notation**

We denote the additive inverse of  $q \in \mathbf{Q}$  by  $-q$ . We denote  $a + (-b)$  by  $a - b$ .

**Subtraction**

We call the operation  $(a, b) \mapsto a - b$  *subtraction*.



