



Why

We want to solve equations with squares.

Definition

Let m be a square number. We want to find n to satisfy

$$n^2 = m.$$

We call such an n a *square root* of m .

Proposition 1. *The square root of a square number is unique.*

This result motivates defining a function the *square root function* which square numbers to their roots.

Notation

Let $S \subset \mathbf{N}$ denote the set of square numbers. Let $f : S \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ be the function such that $f(s)$ is the square root of s . We denote the result of f on n by \sqrt{n} .

