



Why

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Definition

Let $a \in \mathbf{Z}$ and let $p \in \mathbf{N}$. Define the first power of a to be a . Define the second power of a to be a^2 . Define the p th power of a for $p \geq 2$ to be $a^p = aa^{p-1}$.

Negative powers

Let $a \in \mathbf{Z}$ and let $p \in \mathbf{Z}$ with $p < 0$. Then define a^p to be $1/a^{-p}$. Since p is negative, $-p$ is positive and so we have defined a^{-p} .

Zero

Define $a^0 = 1$.

¹Future editions will include. This sheet include only a very basic outline of a few definitions.

