

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Greeks (500 BCE - 200 BCE)

In Euclid's Elements (Book VII), multiplication is defined geometrically:

"A number is that which is composed of units."

A number multiplied by a number is that which is contained as many times in the other as there are units in the former."

This is the first clear formal definition of multiplication as repeated addition.

For Euclid, if you say 3×5 , that means:

"take the number 5 three times."

So we can say the Greeks codified the modern

notation, though they always expressed it in terms of units and ratios, not "arithmetic operations" in our sense.