

The Field Axioms

(A0) (Existence of Addition) Addition is a well defined process which takes pairs of real numbers a and b and produces from them one single real number $a + b$.

(A1) (Associativity) If a , b , and c are real numbers, then

$$a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c.$$

(A2) (Additive Identity) There is a number 0 such that for all numbers a

$$a + 0 = a.$$

(A3) (Additive Inverse) For every real number a there is a real number $-a$ such that

$$a + (-a) = 0.$$

(A4) (Commutativity) If a and b are any real numbers, then

$$a + b = b + a.$$

(M0) (Existence of Multiplication) Multiplication is a well defined process which takes pairs of real numbers a and b and produces from them one single real number ab .

(M1) (Associativity) If a , b , and c are any real numbers, then

$$a(bc) = (ab)c.$$

(M2) (Multiplicative Identity) There is a number 1 such that for all numbers a

$$a1 = a.$$

(M3) (Multiplicative Inverse) For every real number $a \neq 0$, there is a real number a^{-1} such that

$$aa^{-1} = 1.$$

(M4) (Commutativity) If a and b are any real numbers, then

$$ab = ba.$$

(D) (Distributive) For all real numbers a , b , and c ,

$$a(b + c) = ab + ac.$$

(Z) (Non-triviality) $0 \neq 1$