

Axioms for Integers

The set of integers, \mathbb{Z} , is a non-empty set with a binary operation $+$ satisfying:

1. $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ for any $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ ($+$ is associative);
2. there is an integer 0 where $0 + a = a + 0 = a$ for all $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ (there is an additive identity);
3. for every $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ there is a $b \in \mathbb{Z}$ where $a + b = b + a = 0$ (every element has an additive inverse); and
4. $a + b = b + a$ for all $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ (addition is commutative).

Also, there is another binary operation \times on \mathbb{Z} which

1. is associative;
2. has an identity not equal to the additive identity;
3. distributes through addition on both the left and right, i.e., $a \times (b + c) = a \times b + a \times c$ and $(a + b) \times c = a \times c + b \times c$ for all $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$; and
4. is commutative.

Further, there is a order relation \leq on \mathbb{Z} which totally orders \mathbb{Z} , i.e.,

1. $a \leq a$ for all $a \in \mathbb{Z}$;
2. if $a \leq b$ and $b \leq a$, then $a = b$;
3. if $a \leq b$ and $b \leq c$, then $a \leq c$; and
4. for all $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, either $a \leq b$ or $b \leq a$.

This order relation satisfies:

1. if $a \leq b$, then $a + c \leq b + c$ for all $c \in \mathbb{Z}$;
2. if $a \leq b$ and $0 \leq c$, then $a \times c \leq b \times c$; and
3. $0 < 1$. (Here $<$ means \leq and not equal.)

Finally, every non-empty subset of $\mathbb{N} = \{a \in \mathbb{Z} : 0 \leq a\}$ has a least element.