

APPENDIX TO INTUITIVE AND FORMAL MODELS OF WHOLE NUMBER MULTIPLICATION: RELATIONS AND EMERGING STRUCTURES

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Notation and definitions

Assuming Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory, we define whole numbers as follows:

- $0 = \emptyset$ (empty set)
- $n^+ = n \cup \{n\}$

Here n^+ denotes the successor of the whole number n . A generic set A is considered as having n elements when there is a bijection between A and n ; we write $|A| = n$. We use the symbol $A \setminus B$ to designate the complementary set of B in A , where $B \subseteq A$.

Addition is defined recursively:

- $n + 0 = n$
- $n + m^+ = (n + m)^+$.
- $n - m = p$ when $m + p = n$.

Multiplication and division are defined in the FRSM as follows.

- $0 \cdot n = 0$
- $m^+ \cdot n = m \cdot n + n$
- $n : m$ is q with a remainder $0 \leq r < m$ when $n \cdot q + r = m$

Multiplication and division are also defined in FARM:

- $n * m = |n \times m|$
- $n \div m$ is q with a remainder $0 \leq r < m$ when $n * q + r = m$

Where the symbol “ \times ” is used for Cartesian product.

We use the symbol “ \cdot ” to denote multiplication in FRSM and the symbol “ $*$ ” to represent multiplication in FARM. “ $:$ ” indicates division in FRSM and “ \div ” stands for division in FARM.

Claim 1

For any whole numbers n and m , we have $n \cdot m = m \cdot n$.

Proof of Claim 1

Proof

We use $m = 0$ as the base case.

We must prove that $n \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot n$.

The base case $0 \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot 0$ is true.

Inductive hypothesis: $n \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot n$.

$$n^+ \cdot 0 = n \cdot 0 + 0$$

$$n \cdot 0 + 0 = 0 \cdot n + 0$$

$$0 \cdot n + 0 = 0 + 0$$

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

$$0 = 0 \cdot n^+$$

So, we have proved commutativity in the case $m = 0$.

We assume that $n \cdot m = m \cdot n$ and we obtain

$$m^+ \cdot n = m \cdot n + n$$

$$m \cdot n + n = n \cdot m + n$$

The proof would be finished if $n \cdot m + n = n \cdot m^+$.

It is easy to see it in the base case $n = 0$.

Then we assume $n \cdot m^+ = n \cdot m + n$ and so

$$n^+ \cdot m^+ = n \cdot m^+ + m^+$$

$$n \cdot m^+ + m^+ = n \cdot m + n + m^+$$

$$n \cdot m + n + m^+ = n \cdot m + (n + m)^+$$

$$n \cdot m + (n + m)^+ = n \cdot m + (m + n)^+$$

$$n \cdot m + (m + n)^+ = n \cdot m + m + n^+$$

$$n \cdot m + m + n^+ = n^+ \cdot m + n^+$$

□

Comments

Here we use induction on m .

This corresponds to putting 0 instead of m .

We use induction on n and we adopt $n = 0$ as the base case.

We assume it as true for n , and we prove it for n^+ .

Because of the definition of multiplication.

Because of the inductive hypothesis.

Because any number multiplied by 0 is 0.

Because of the definition of addition.

Because any number multiplied by 0 is 0.

Because of transitivity of the equality.

This is an inductive hypothesis. We then have to prove it in the case of m^+ .

Because of the definition of multiplication.

Because of the inductive hypothesis.

To prove that, we resort again to mathematical induction on n .

Because in that case both sides of the equivalence are 0.

This is the inductive hypothesis.

Because of the definition of multiplication.

Because of the inductive hypothesis.

Because of associativity of sum.

Because of commutativity of sum.

Because of the definition of sum.

Because of the definition of multiplication.

So the proof is complete because of the transitivity of equivalence.

Claim 2

For any whole numbers n, m and p , we have $n \cdot m + n \cdot p = n \cdot (m + p)$.

Proof of Claim 2

Proof

It is easily verified when $n = 0$
because $0 \cdot m + 0 \cdot p = 0 + 0 = 0$
and also $0 \cdot (m + p) = 0$.

We assume that $n \cdot m + n \cdot p = n \cdot (m + p)$

We obtain that

$$n^+ \cdot m + n^+ \cdot p = n \cdot m + m + n \cdot p + p$$

that is

$$n \cdot m + n \cdot p + m + p$$

This is equal to

$$n \cdot (m + p) + (m + p).$$

$$n \cdot (m + p) + (m + p) = n^+ \cdot (m + p).$$

□

Comments

We use this as the base case of our induction on n .

This is the inductive hypothesis.

Because of the definition of multiplication.

Because of the commutativity of sum.

Because of the inductive hypothesis.

Because of the definition of multiplication.

Claim 3

For any whole numbers a and b with $b \leq a$ ($b \subseteq a$), we have $|a \setminus b| = a - b$.

Proof of Claim 3

Proof

Let be $|a \setminus b| = d$

Then, there is a bijection z between $a \setminus b$ and d . We define the function

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} z(x) & \text{if } x \in a \setminus b \\ x + d & \text{if } x \in b \end{cases}$$

We can prove that h is a bijection between a and $d + b$.

Indeed, $z(x)$ is a bijection and so the elements of $a \setminus b$ are as many as the elements of d .

Furthermore, through the translation $x + d$ the first b elements of a go in the last b elements of $d + b$.

Therefore $a = d + b$.

So $a - b = d = |a \setminus b|$.

□

Comments

We call d the whole number corresponding to the cardinality of the set $|a \setminus b|$.

The function z is a bijection between two subsets of a and $d + b$ (that are the domain and codomain of the function h). Indeed, z has $a \setminus b$ (that is included in a) as domain and d (that is included in $d + b$) as codomain.

This is shown in Figure A1.

This because of the definition of subtraction.

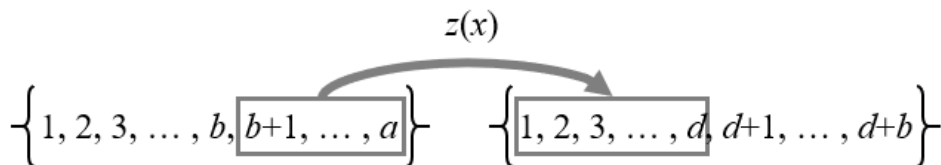


Figure A1. $z(x)$ is a bijection between $a \setminus b$, that is included in a , and $d \subseteq d + b$.

Claim 4

For any whole numbers n and m , $m^+ * n = m * n + n$

Proof of Claim 4

Proof

We define $k: m^+ \times n \setminus m \times n \rightarrow n$ as

$$k((m, y)) = y$$

This function is a bijection and so $m^+ \times n \setminus m \times n$ is isomorphic to n .

$$|m^+ \times n \setminus m \times n| = |m^+ \times n| - |m \times n|$$

so, by transitivity, $n = |m^+ \times n| - |m \times n|$.

□

Comments

This function takes just the second element of any couple in its domain. The letter m appears as first element because the elements $m^+ \times n \setminus m \times n$ are all couples of this kind.

Because of Claim 3.

This is equivalent to the thesis because of the definition of subtraction.

Claim 5

For any whole numbers n and m , $m \cdot n = m * n$.

Proof of Claim 5

Proof

If $m = 0$, both $n \cdot m$ and $n * m$ are zero.

Let us assume that $n \cdot m = n * m$, so

$$n \cdot m^+ = n \cdot m + n$$

$$n \cdot m + n = n * m + n$$

and so

$$n \cdot m^+ = n * m^+.$$

□

Comments

This is the base case.

This is the inductive hypothesis.

Because of the definition of multiplication within FRSM.

Because of the inductive hypothesis.

Because of Claim 4.

The thesis follows by mathematical induction.