

This weightless assignment is due on Crowdmark by Wednesday, September 16, at 9:00pm EST. It does not count toward your course grade.

Exercise 1. In a paragraph, introduce yourself! For instance, you could include: where was your high school? Have you seen proofs before, and if so, in what subject? If you are online, what country are you in? What program of study do you hope to enter?

Exercise 2. Please read Spivak's Chapter 1, "Basic properties of numbers," before this exercise. Determine if the following statement is true or false, and explain your answer in one sentence.

- Spivak's proof that $a - b = b - a$ implies $a = b$ relies only on the arithmetic axioms, which are: associativity, commutativity of addition and multiplication, neutral elements for addition and multiplication, inverse elements for addition and multiplication, and the distributive law.