Rules for Integers

Adding Integers

Rule: If the signs are the same, add and keep the same sign.

(+) + (+) = add the numbers and the answer is positive

(-) + (-) = add the numbers and the answer is negative

Rule: If the signs are different, subtract the numbers and use the sign of the larger number.

(+) + (-) = subtract the numbers and take the sign of the bigger number

(-) + (+) = subtract the numbers and take the sign of the bigger number

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Subtracting Integers "Same/Change/Change (SCC)"

Rule: The sign of the first number stays the same, change subtraction to addition and change the sign of the second number. Once you have applied this rule, follow the rules for adding integers.

(+) – (+) = (+)+(-) SCC, then subtract, take the sign of the bigger number

(-) – (-) = (-) + (+) SCC, then subtract, take the sign of the bigger number

(+) – (-) = (+) + (+) SCC, then add, answer is positive

(-) – (+) = (-) + (-) SCC, then add, answer is negative

Multiplying and Dividing Integers

Rule: If the signs are the same, multiply or divide and the answer is always positive.

(+) x (+) = + (+) divided by (+) = +

(-) x (-) = + (-) divided by (-) = +

Rule: If the signs are different, multiply or divide and the answer is always negative.

(+) x (-) = - (+) divided by (-) = -

(-) x (+) = - (-) divided by (+) = -