

Minus Times Minus Equals Plus

Here's an example I like of a negative number times another negative number equaling a positive number:

I have been giving away five dollars each minute.

I started with D_0 dollars. Right now I have D_1 dollars.

How many dollars did I have four minutes ago?

We have $D_{-4 \text{ min}} = D_1 + (-5 \times -4)$.

So, four minutes ago I had (-5×-4) dollars more:

$\Delta_D = -5 \times -4 = 20$. This is an example of a negative number times a negative number equaling a positive number.