Notes 2.3

Subtraction Rule for Real Numbers:

To subtract b from a, add the opposite of b to a.

Algebra: a – b = a + (-b)

Example: 12 – 9 = 12 + (-9) = 3

Example 2: -8 – 9 = -8 + (-9) = -17

Example 3: 21 – (-4) = 21 + -(-4) = 21 + 4 = 25

Example 4: Evaluate y – x + 4.3 when x = -2 and y = 6.4

6.4 – (-2) + 4.3 = 6.4 + -(-2) + 4.3 = 6.4 + 2 + 4.3 = 12.7

Example 5: Temperature Change

One of the most extreme temperature changes in the United States history occurred in Fairfield, Montana, on December 24, 1924. At noon, the temperature was 63 degrees F. By midnight, the temperature fell to -21 degrees F. What was the change in temperature?

-21 - 63 = -21 + (-63) = -84 degrees F change