

Puzzle of the Week

Combining Digits – Easy as 1 2 3 4

Here are some ways to get 0 and 1 using 1, 2, 3, and 4.

$$0 = 1 + 4 - 2 - 3$$

$$0 = (3 - 1 - 2) * 4$$

$$1 = (2 - 1) * (4 - 3)$$

$$1 = 4 - 3 * (2 - 1)$$

THE CHALLENGE: How many numbers can you get using each of the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 in any order, using addition, subtraction, and multiplication?

EXPLORATION: How many more numbers can you make if you are also allowed to make two-digit numbers with the digits? For example, $26 = 24 + 3 - 1$.