

# Complex Analysis Theory

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## Complex Number System $\mathbb{C}$

**Proposition 1.** *Addition is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{C}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then there exist  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $z = a + bi$ .

Since  $w \in \mathbb{C}$ , then there exist  $c, d \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $w = c + di$ .

Thus,  $z + w = (a + c) + (b + d)i$ .

Since  $a + c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $b + d \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $z + w \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Therefore,  $\mathbb{C}$  is closed under addition, so addition of complex numbers is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{C}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** *algebraic properties of addition over  $\mathbb{C}$*

1.  $z_1 + (z_2 + z_3) = (z_1 + z_2) + z_3$  for all  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*associative*)
2.  $z_1 + z_2 = z_2 + z_1$  for all  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*commutative*)
3.  $z + 0 = 0 + z = z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*additive identity*)
4.  $z + (-z) = (-z) + z = 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*additive inverses*)

*Proof.* We prove addition is associative.

Let  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z_1 = a + bi$  and  $z_2 = c + di$  and  $z_3 = e + fi$  for some  $a, b, c, d, e, f \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}(z_1 + z_2) + z_3 &= [(a + bi) + (c + di)] + (e + fi) \\ &= [(a + c) + (b + di)] + (e + fi) \\ &= [(a + c) + e] + [(b + d) + f]i \\ &= [a + (c + e)] + [b + (d + f)]i \\ &= (a + bi) + [(c + e) + (d + f)]i \\ &= (a + bi) + [(c + di) + (e + fi)] \\ &= z_1 + (z_2 + z_3).\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, addition is associative.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove addition is commutative.

Let  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z_1 = a + bi$  and  $z_2 = c + di$  for some  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}z_1 + z_2 &= (a + bi) + (c + di) \\&= (a + c) + (b + d)i \\&= (c + a) + (d + b)i \\&= (c + di) + (a + bi) \\&= z_2 + z_1.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, addition is commutative. □

*Proof.* We prove  $z + 0 = 0 + z = z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}z + 0 &= (x + yi) + (0 + 0i) \\&= (x + 0) + (y + 0)i \\&= x + yi \\&= z \\&= x + yi \\&= (0 + x) + (0 + y)i \\&= (0 + 0i) + (x + yi) \\&= 0 + z.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z + 0 = z = 0 + z$ . □

*Proof.* We prove  $z + (-z) = (-z) + z = 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $-x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $-y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $-z = -x - yi$ .

Since  $-x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $-y \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $-z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}z + (-z) &= -z + z \\&= (-x - yi) + (x + yi) \\&= (-x + x) + (-y + y)i \\&= 0 + 0i \\&= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z + (-z) = (-z) + z = 0$ . □

**Proposition 3.** *Multiplication is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{C}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then there exist  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $z = a + bi$ .

Since  $w \in \mathbb{C}$ , then there exist  $c, d \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $w = c + di$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} zw &= (a + bi)(c + di) \\ &= ac + adi + bci + bdi^2 \\ &= ac + adi + bci + bd(-1) \\ &= ac + adi + bci - bd \\ &= (ac - bd) + (adi + bci) \\ &= (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $zw = (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i$ .

Since  $\mathbb{R}$  is closed under addition, subtraction, and multiplication, then  $ac - bd \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $ad + bc \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Hence,  $zw \in \mathbb{C}$ , so  $\mathbb{C}$  is closed under multiplication.

Therefore, multiplication of complex numbers is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{C}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.** *algebraic properties of multiplication over  $\mathbb{C}$*

1.  $z_1 \cdot (z_2 \cdot z_3) = (z_1 \cdot z_2) \cdot z_3$  for all  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*associative*)
2.  $z_1 \cdot z_2 = z_2 \cdot z_1$  for all  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*commutative*)
3.  $z \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot z = z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*multiplicative identity*)
4.  $z \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot z = 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .
5.  $z_1 \cdot (z_2 + z_3) = z_1 \cdot z_2 + z_1 \cdot z_3$  for all  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*left distributive*)
6.  $(z_1 + z_2) \cdot z_3 = z_1 \cdot z_3 + z_2 \cdot z_3$  for all  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ . (*right distributive*)

*Proof.* We prove multiplication is associative.

Let  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z_1 = a + bi$  and  $z_2 = c + di$  and  $z_3 = e + fi$  for some  $a, b, c, d, e, f \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (z_1 \cdot z_2) \cdot z_3 &= [(a + bi)(c + di)](e + fi) \\ &= [(ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i] \cdot (e + fi) \\ &= [(ac - bd)e - (ad + bc)f] + [(ac - bd)f + (ad + bc)e]i \\ &= (ace - bde - adf - bcf) + (acf - bdf + ade + bce)i \\ &= (ace - bed - adf - bcf) + (acf - bdf + aed + bce)i \\ &= (ace - bed - adf - bcf) + (acf + aed + bce - bdf)i \\ &= (ace - adf - bcf - bed) + (acf + aed + bce - bdf)i \\ &= [a(ce - df) - b(cf + ed)] + [(acf + ed) + b(ce - df)]i \\ &= (a + bi) \cdot [(ce - df) + (cf + ed)i] \\ &= (a + bi) \cdot [(c + di) \cdot (e + fi)] \\ &= z_1 \cdot (z_2 \cdot z_3). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, multiplication is associative. □

*Proof.* We prove multiplication is commutative.

Let  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z_1 = a + bi$  and  $z_2 = c + di$  for some  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 \cdot z_2 &= (a + bi) \cdot (c + di) \\ &= (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i \\ &= (ca - db) + (da + cb)i \\ &= (ca - db) + (cb + da)i \\ &= (c + di) \cdot (a + bi) \\ &= z_2 \cdot z_1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, multiplication is commutative. □

*Proof.* We prove  $z \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot z = z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $1 = 1 + 0i$ , then  $1 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} z \cdot 1 &= 1 \cdot z \\ &= (1 + 0i) \cdot (x + yi) \\ &= (1 \cdot x - 0 \cdot y) + (1 \cdot y + 0 \cdot x)i \\ &= (x - 0) + (y + 0)i \\ &= x + yi \\ &= z. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot z = z$ . □

*Proof.* We prove  $z \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot z = 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $0 = 0 + 0i$ , then  $0 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} z \cdot 0 &= 0 \cdot z \\ &= (0 + 0i) \cdot (x + yi) \\ &= (0x - 0y) + (0y + 0x)i \\ &= (0 - 0) + (0 + 0)i \\ &= 0 + 0i \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot z = 0$ . □

*Proof.* We prove  $z_1 \cdot (z_2 + z_3) = z_1 \cdot z_2 + z_1 \cdot z_3$ .

Let  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z_1 = a + bi$  and  $z_2 = c + di$  and  $z_3 = e + fi$  for some  $a, b, c, d, e, f \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 z_1 \cdot (z_2 + z_3) &= (a + bi) \cdot [(c + di) + (e + fi)] \\
 &= (a + bi) \cdot [(c + e) + (d + f)i] \\
 &= [a(c + e) - b(d + f)] + [a(d + f) + b(c + e)]i \\
 &= (ac + ae - bd - bf) + (ad + af + bc + be)i \\
 &= (ac - bd + ae - bf) + (ad + bc + af + be)i \\
 &= [(ac - bd) + (ae - bf)] + [(ad + bc) + (af + be)]i \\
 &= [(ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i] + [(ae - bf) + (af + be)]i \\
 &= (a + bi) \cdot (c + di) + (a + bi) \cdot (e + fi) \\
 &= z_1 \cdot z_2 + z_1 \cdot z_3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, multiplication is left distributive over addition.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove  $(z_1 + z_2) \cdot z_3 = z_1 \cdot z_3 + z_2 \cdot z_3$ .

Let  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z_1 = a + bi$  and  $z_2 = c + di$  and  $z_3 = e + fi$  for some  $a, b, c, d, e, f \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (z_1 + z_2) \cdot z_3 &= [(a + bi) + (c + di)] \cdot (e + fi) \\
 &= [(a + e) + (b + d)i] \cdot (e + fi) \\
 &= [(a + e)e - (b + d)f] + [(a + c)f + (b + d)e]i \\
 &= (ae + ce - bf - df) + (af + cf + be + de)i \\
 &= (ae - bf + ce - df) + (af + be + cf + de)i \\
 &= [(ae - bf) + (ce - df)] + [(af + be) + (cf + de)]i \\
 &= [(ae - bf) + (af + be)]i + [(ce - df) + (cf + de)]i \\
 &= (a + bi) \cdot (e + fi) + (c + di) \cdot (e + fi) \\
 &= z_1 \cdot z_3 + z_2 \cdot z_3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, multiplication is right distributive over addition.  $\square$

**Proposition 5. Multiplication of complex numbers in polar form**

Let  $z_1 = |z_1| \cdot (\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1)$  and  $z_2 = |z_2| \cdot (\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2)$  be two complex numbers in polar form.

The product is  $z_1 \cdot z_2 = |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot (\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + i \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2))$ .

*Proof.* Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
z_1 \cdot z_2 &= [|z_1| \cdot (\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1)] \cdot [|z_2| \cdot (\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2)] \\
&= |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot (\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1) \cdot (\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2) \\
&= |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot [(\cos \theta_1)(\cos \theta_2) - (\sin \theta_1)(\sin \theta_2)] + [(\cos \theta_1) \cdot (\sin \theta_2) + (\sin \theta_1) \cdot (\cos \theta_2)]i \\
&= |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot [\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)] + [(\cos \theta_1) \cdot (\sin \theta_2) + (\sin \theta_1) \cdot (\cos \theta_2)]i \\
&= |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot [\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)] + [(\sin \theta_1) \cdot (\cos \theta_2) + (\cos \theta_1) \cdot (\sin \theta_2)]i \\
&= |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot [\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)] + [\sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)]i \\
&= |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot (\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + i \cdot \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z_1 \cdot z_2 = |z_1| \cdot |z_2| \cdot (\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + i \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2))$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 6. Multiplicative inverse of a complex number**

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $z \neq 0$ .

The multiplicative inverse of  $z$  is  $\frac{1}{z} \in \mathbb{C}^*$  and  $\frac{1}{z} = \frac{\bar{z}}{|z|^2}$  and  $z \cdot \frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{z} \cdot z = 1$ .

*Proof.* Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Thus,  $\bar{z} = x - yi$  and  $|z|^2 = x^2 + y^2$ .

Since  $z = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0 = y$ , then  $x = 0 = y$  if and only if  $z = 0$ .

Since  $x - yi = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0 = y$  and  $x = 0 = y$  if and only if  $z = 0$ , then  $x - yi = 0$  if and only if  $z = 0$ .

Hence,  $x - yi \neq 0$  if and only if  $z \neq 0$ .

Since  $z \neq 0$ , then we conclude  $x - yi \neq 0$ .

Thus,  $\frac{x-yi}{x-yi} = 1$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{z} &= \frac{1}{z} \cdot 1 \\
&= \frac{1}{x + yi} \cdot \frac{x - yi}{x - yi} \\
&= \frac{1(x - yi)}{(x + yi) \cdot (x - yi)} \\
&= \frac{x - yi}{x^2 + y^2} \\
&= \frac{\bar{z}}{|z|^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

We prove  $\frac{1}{z} \in \mathbb{C}^*$ .

Since  $|z| \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $|z| \geq 0$ .

Since  $z \neq 0$ , then  $|z| \neq 0$ , so  $|z| > 0$ .

Thus,  $|z|^2 > 0$ , so  $|z|^2 \neq 0$ .

Since  $|z|^2 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $|z|^2 = x^2 + y^2$  and  $|z|^2 \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 + y^2 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x^2 + y^2 \neq 0$ .

Since  $x - yi \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $x^2 + y^2 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x^2 + y^2 \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{x-yi}{x^2+y^2} \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Since  $\frac{x-yi}{x^2+y^2} \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $x - yi \neq 0$  and  $x^2 + y^2 \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{x-yi}{x^2+y^2} \in \mathbb{C}^*$ .

Since  $\frac{1}{z} = \frac{x-yi}{x^2+y^2}$ , then this implies  $\frac{1}{z} \in \mathbb{C}^*$ .

Since  $z \neq 0$  and  $z = x + yi$ , then  $x + yi \neq 0$ , so  $\frac{x+yi}{x+yi} = 1$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} z \cdot \frac{1}{z} &= \frac{1}{z} \cdot z \\ &= \frac{1}{x + yi} \cdot (x + yi) \\ &= \frac{1(x + yi)}{x + yi} \\ &= \frac{x + yi}{x + yi} \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z \cdot \frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{z} \cdot z = 1$ . □

**Proposition 7. Division of complex numbers in polar form**

Let  $z_1 = |z_1| \cdot (\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1)$  and  $z_2 = |z_2| \cdot (\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2)$  be two complex numbers in polar form with  $z_2 \neq 0$ .

The quotient is  $\frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot (\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + i \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2))$ .

*Proof.* Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z_1}{z_2} &= \frac{|z_1| \cdot (\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1)}{|z_2| \cdot (\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2)} \\ &= \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot \frac{\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1}{\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2} \\ &= \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot \frac{\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1}{\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2} \cdot \frac{\cos \theta_2 - i \sin \theta_2}{\cos \theta_2 - i \sin \theta_2} \\ &= \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot \frac{(\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1)(\cos \theta_2 - i \sin \theta_2)}{(\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2)(\cos \theta_2 - i \sin \theta_2)} \\ &= \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot \frac{(\cos \theta_1 \cdot \cos \theta_2 + \sin \theta_1 \cdot \sin \theta_2) + [\cos \theta_1(-\sin \theta_2) + \sin \theta_1(\cos \theta_2)]i}{(\cos \theta_2)^2 + (\sin \theta_2)^2} \\ &= \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot \frac{(\cos \theta_1 \cdot \cos \theta_2 + \sin \theta_1 \cdot \sin \theta_2) + [\sin \theta_1(\cos \theta_2) - \cos \theta_1(\sin \theta_2)]i}{(\sin \theta_2)^2 + (\cos \theta_2)^2} \\ &= \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot \frac{\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + i(\sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2))}{1} \\ &= \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot (\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + i(\sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2))). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \cdot (\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + i \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2))$ . □

**Proposition 8. Properties of complex modulus**

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then

1.  $|z| \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $|z| \geq 0$ .
2.  $|z| = 0$  iff  $z = 0$ .

3.  $|-z| = |z|$ .
4.  $|\bar{z}| = |z|$ .
5.  $|zw| = |z| \cdot |w|$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .
6.  $|\frac{z}{w}| = \frac{|z|}{|w|}$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $w \neq 0$ .
7.  $|z^n| = |z|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .
8.  $|z + w| \leq |z| + |w|$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$  (triangle inequality)
9.  $|z - w| \geq ||z| - |w||$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$  (reverse triangle inequality)

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $|z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$  and  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  is closed under addition and multiplication, then  $|z| \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $|z| \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $|z| \geq 0$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

We prove  $|z| = 0$  iff  $z = 0$ .

We prove if  $z = 0$ , then  $|z| = 0$ .

Suppose  $z = 0$ .

Then  $|z| = |0| = 0$ , so  $|z| = 0$ .

Conversely, we prove if  $|z| = 0$ , then  $z = 0$  by contrapositive.

Suppose  $z \neq 0$ .

We must prove  $|z| \neq 0$ .

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $z = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$  and  $y = 0$ , then  $z \neq 0$  if and only if either  $x \neq 0$  or  $y \neq 0$ .

Since  $z \neq 0$ , then we conclude either  $x \neq 0$  or  $y \neq 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x \neq 0$ .

Then  $x^2 > 0$ .

Since  $x^2 > 0$  and  $y^2 \geq 0$ , then  $x^2 + y^2 > 0$ , so  $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} > 0$ .

Since  $|z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ , then  $|z| > 0$ , so  $|z| \neq 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $y \neq 0$ .

Then  $y^2 > 0$ .

Since  $x^2 \geq 0$  and  $y^2 > 0$ , then  $x^2 + y^2 > 0$ , so  $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} > 0$ .

Since  $|z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ , then  $|z| > 0$ , so  $|z| \neq 0$ .

Therefore, in all cases,  $|z| \neq 0$ , as desired. □

*Proof.* We prove 3.

We prove  $|-z| = |z|$ .

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .



Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 |-z| &= |-(x+yi)| \\
 &= |-x-yi| \\
 &= |-x+(-y)i| \\
 &= \sqrt{(-x)^2+(-y)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{x^2+y^2} \\
 &= |z|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|-z| = |z|$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 4.

We prove  $|\bar{z}| = |z|$ .

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{z} &= |x-yi| \\
 &= |x+(-y)i| \\
 &= \sqrt{x^2+(-y)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{x^2+y^2} \\
 &= |z|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|\bar{z}| = |z|$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 5.

We prove  $|zw| = |z| \cdot |w|$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z = a + bi$  and  $w = c + di$  for some  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 |zw| &= |(a+bi)(c+di)| \\
 &= |(ac-bd) + (ad+bc)i| \\
 &= \sqrt{(ac-bd)^2 + (ad+bc)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{((ac)^2 - 2(ac)(bd) + (bd)^2) + ((ad)^2 + 2(ad)(bc) + (bc)^2)} \\
 &= \sqrt{(a^2c^2 - 2abcd + b^2d^2) + (a^2d^2 + 2abcd + b^2c^2)} \\
 &= \sqrt{a^2c^2 + b^2d^2 + a^2d^2 + b^2c^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{(a^2c^2 + a^2d^2) + (b^2d^2 + b^2c^2)} \\
 &= \sqrt{(a^2c^2 + a^2d^2) + (b^2c^2 + b^2d^2)} \\
 &= \sqrt{a^2(c^2 + d^2) + b^2(c^2 + d^2)} \\
 &= \sqrt{(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2)} \\
 &= \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \cdot \sqrt{c^2 + d^2} \\
 &= |z| \cdot |w|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|zw| = |z| \cdot |w|$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 6.

We prove  $|\frac{z}{w}| = \frac{|z|}{|w|}$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $w \neq 0$ .

Let  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $w \neq 0$ .

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $z = a + bi$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $w \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $w = c + di$  for some  $c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
\left|\frac{z}{w}\right| &= \left|\frac{a+bi}{c+di}\right| \\
&= \left|\frac{a+bi}{c+di} \cdot \frac{c-di}{c-di}\right| \\
&= \left|\frac{(a+bi)(c-di)}{(c+di)(c-di)}\right| \\
&= \left|\frac{(ac+bd) + (-ad+bc)i}{c^2+d^2}\right| \\
&= \left|\frac{(ac+bd) + (bc-ad)i}{c^2+d^2}\right| \\
&= \frac{1}{c^2+d^2} \cdot |(ac+bd) + (bc-ad)i| \\
&= \frac{1}{c^2+d^2} \cdot |(ac+bd) + (bc-ad)i| \\
&= \frac{1}{|c^2+d^2|} \cdot |(ac+bd) + (bc-ad)i| \\
&= \frac{1}{|c^2+d^2|} \cdot \sqrt{(ac+bd)^2 + (bc-ad)^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{|c^2+d^2|} \cdot \sqrt{[(ac)^2 + 2(ac)(bd) + (bd)^2] + [(bc)^2 - 2(bc)(ad) + (ad)^2]} \\
&= \frac{1}{|c^2+d^2|} \cdot \sqrt{(a^2c^2 + 2abcd + b^2d^2) + (b^2c^2 - 2abcd + a^2d^2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{|c^2+d^2|} \cdot \sqrt{a^2c^2 + b^2d^2 + b^2c^2 + a^2d^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{|c^2+d^2|} \cdot \sqrt{(a^2+b^2)(c^2+d^2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{|c^2+d^2|} \cdot \sqrt{(a^2+b^2)} \cdot \sqrt{c^2+d^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{(c^2+d^2)^2}} \cdot \sqrt{a^2+b^2} \cdot \sqrt{c^2+d^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{(c^2+d^2)} \cdot (c^2+d^2)} \cdot \sqrt{a^2+b^2} \cdot \sqrt{c^2+d^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{c^2+d^2} \cdot \sqrt{c^2+d^2}} \cdot \sqrt{a^2+b^2} \cdot \sqrt{c^2+d^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{c^2+d^2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{c^2+d^2}} \cdot \sqrt{a^2+b^2} \cdot \sqrt{c^2+d^2} \\
&= \frac{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}}{\sqrt{c^2+d^2}} \\
&= \frac{|a+bi|}{|c+di|} \\
&= \frac{|z|}{|w|}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|\frac{z}{w}| = \frac{|z|}{|w|}$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 7.

We prove  $|z^n| = |z|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

We prove  $|z^n| = |z|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  by induction on  $n$ .

Define predicate  $p(n) : |z^n| = |z|^n$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Basis:**

Since  $|z^1| = |z| = |z|^1$ , then  $p(1)$  is true.

**Induction:**

Let  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $p(k)$  is true.

Then  $|z^k| = |z|^k$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} |z^{k+1}| &= |z^k \cdot z| \\ &= |z^k| \cdot |z| \\ &= |z|^k \cdot |z| \\ &= |z|^{k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $|z^{k+1}| = |z|^{k+1}$ , so  $p(k+1)$  is true.

Hence,  $p(k)$  implies  $p(k+1)$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Since  $p(1)$  is true and  $p(k)$  implies  $p(k+1)$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then by induction  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Therefore,  $|z^n| = |z|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 8.

We prove  $|z+w| \leq |z| + |w|$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then

TODO □

**Proposition 9. Properties of complex conjugate**

1.  $Re(\bar{z}) = Re(z)$  and  $Im(\bar{z}) = -Im(z)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .
2.  $\bar{\bar{z}} = z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . (conjugate of a conjugate)
3.  $Re(z) = \frac{z+\bar{z}}{2}$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .
4.  $Im(z) = \frac{z-\bar{z}}{2i}$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .
5.  $z \cdot \bar{z} = |z|^2$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . (Product of complex conjugates is an absolute square.)
6.  $Re(\alpha \cdot z) = \alpha \cdot Re(z)$  and  $Im(\alpha \cdot z) = \alpha \cdot Im(z)$  for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}, z \in \mathbb{C}$ . (scalar multiple)
7.  $\overline{z+w} = \bar{z} + \bar{w}$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ . (conjugate of sum is sum of conjugates)
8.  $\overline{z-w} = \bar{z} - \bar{w}$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ . (conjugate of difference is difference of conjugates)
9.  $\overline{z \cdot w} = \bar{z} \cdot \bar{w}$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ . (conjugate of product is product of conjugates)
10.  $\frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{w}} = \overline{\frac{z}{w}}$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}, w \neq 0$ . (conjugate of quotient is quotient of conjugates)

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\bar{z} = x - yi$ .

Since  $\operatorname{Re}(\bar{z}) = x = \operatorname{Re}(z)$ , then  $\operatorname{Re}(\bar{z}) = \operatorname{Re}(z)$ .

Since  $\operatorname{Im}(\bar{z}) = -y = -\operatorname{Im}(z)$ , then  $\operatorname{Im}(\bar{z}) = -\operatorname{Im}(z)$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $z = x + yi$ , then  $\bar{z} = x - yi$ .

Since  $\bar{z} = x - yi$ , then  $\overline{\bar{z}} = x + yi = z$ .

Therefore,  $\overline{\bar{z}} = z$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} z + \bar{z} &= (x + yi) + (x - yi) \\ &= (x + x) + (y - y)i \\ &= 2x + 0i \\ &= 2x + 0 \\ &= 2x \\ &= 2 \cdot \operatorname{Re}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z + \bar{z} = 2 \cdot \operatorname{Re}(z)$ , so  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = \frac{z + \bar{z}}{2}$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 4.

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} z - \bar{z} &= (x + yi) - (x - yi) \\ &= (x - x) + (y - (-y))i \\ &= 0 + 2yi \\ &= 2yi \\ &= 2i \cdot \operatorname{Im}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z - \bar{z} = 2i \cdot \operatorname{Im}(z)$ , so  $\operatorname{Im}(z) = \frac{z - \bar{z}}{2i}$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 5.

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} z \cdot \bar{z} &= (x + yi) \cdot (x - yi) \\ &= x^2 - xyi + xyi - y^2(i^2) \\ &= x^2 - y^2(i^2) \\ &= x^2 - y^2(-1) \\ &= x^2 + y^2 \\ &= |z|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $z \cdot \bar{z} = |z|^2$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 6.

Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Since  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $z = x + yi$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re}(\alpha z) &= \operatorname{Re}(\alpha(x + yi)) \\ &= \operatorname{Re}(\alpha x + \alpha yi) \\ &= \alpha x \\ &= \alpha \cdot \operatorname{Re}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\operatorname{Re}(\alpha z) = \alpha \cdot \operatorname{Re}(z)$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Im}(\alpha z) &= \operatorname{Im}(\alpha(x + yi)) \\ &= \operatorname{Im}(\alpha x + \alpha yi) \\ &= \alpha y \\ &= \alpha \cdot \operatorname{Im}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\operatorname{Im}(\alpha z) = \alpha \cdot \operatorname{Im}(z)$ . □

*Proof.* TODO We must prove 7,8,9, and 10! □

**Theorem 10. DeMoivre formula**

For all  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , the following identity is true.

$$(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta).$$

*Proof.* Let  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ .

We prove  $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  by induction on  $n$ .

Define predicate  $p(n) : (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta)$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Basis:**

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^1 &= \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \\ &= \cos(1\theta) + i \sin(1\theta). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $p(1)$  is true.

**Induction:**

Let  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $p(k)$  is true.

Then  $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^k = \cos(k\theta) + i \sin(k\theta)$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^{k+1} &= (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^k \cdot (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \\
 &= (\cos(k\theta) + i \sin(k\theta)) \cdot (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \\
 &= [\cos(k\theta) \cdot \cos \theta - \sin(k\theta) \cdot \sin \theta] + [\cos(k\theta) \cdot \sin \theta + \sin(k\theta) \cdot \cos \theta]i \\
 &= [\cos(k\theta) \cdot \cos \theta - \sin(k\theta) \cdot \sin \theta] + [\sin(k\theta) \cdot \cos \theta + \cos(k\theta) \cdot \sin \theta]i \\
 &= \cos(k\theta + \theta) + i \sin(k\theta + \theta) \\
 &= \cos(k+1)\theta + i \sin(k+1)\theta.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^{k+1} = \cos(k+1)\theta + i \sin(k+1)\theta$ , so  $p(k+1)$  is true.

Hence,  $p(k)$  implies  $p(k+1)$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Since  $p(1)$  is true and  $p(k)$  implies  $p(k+1)$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then by induction  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Therefore,  $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 11. Arithmetic operations on complex numbers in polar form**

*Multiplication*

1.  $(r_1 e^{i\theta_1})(r_2 e^{i\theta_2}) = (r_1 r_2) e^{i(\theta_1 + \theta_2)}$ . (multiply absolute values, add angles)

*Reciprocal*

2.  $\frac{1}{r e^{i\theta}} = (\frac{1}{r}) e^{-i\theta}$ .

*Division*

3.  $\frac{r_1 e^{i\theta_1}}{r_2 e^{i\theta_2}} = (\frac{r_1}{r_2}) e^{i(\theta_1 - \theta_2)}$ . (divide absolute values, subtract angles)

*n<sup>th</sup> power*

4.  $(r e^{i\theta})^n = r^n \cdot e^{in\theta}$  for any integer  $n$ .

*Complex conjugation*

5.  $r e^{i\theta} = r e^{-i\theta}$ .

*Proof.* TODO  $\square$

**Theorem 12.**  $(\mathbb{C}, +, \cdot)$  is a field.

*Proof.* TODO  $\square$

## Complex exponential function

**Proposition 13. existence and uniqueness of complex exponential function**

There is a unique function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f'(z) = f(z)$  and  $f(0) = 1$ .

*Proof.* TODO  $\square$

**Proposition 14. Properties of complex exponential function**

The function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by  $f(z) = e^z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  has the following properties.

1. The derivative of  $e^z$  is  $e^z$ .

2.  $e^0 = 1$ .
3.  $e^{z+w} = e^z \cdot e^w$  for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .
4.  $(e^z)^n = e^{nz}$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* TODO □

**Theorem 15. Euler's formula**

The function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by  $f(z) = e^z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  has the following property:

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \text{ for all } \theta \in \mathbb{R}.$$

*Proof.* TODO □

**Corollary 16.**  $|e^{i\theta}| = 1$  for all  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} |e^{i\theta}| &= |\cos \theta + i \sin \theta| \\ &= \sqrt{(\cos \theta)^2 + (\sin \theta)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(\sin \theta)^2 + (\cos \theta)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{1} \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|e^{i\theta}| = 1$ . □

REMOVE THE UN-NEEDED ITEMS FROM BELOW TO CLEAN UP OUR complex analysis notes.

## Ordered Fields

**Proposition 17.** Positivity of  $\mathbb{Q}$  is well defined.

*Proof.* To prove positivity of  $\mathbb{Q}$  is well defined, let  $\frac{m}{n}, \frac{m'}{n'} \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Then  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n \neq 0$  and  $m', n' \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n' \neq 0$ .

We must prove if  $(m, n) \sim (m', n')$ , then  $\frac{m}{n}$  is positive iff  $\frac{m'}{n'}$  is positive.

Let  $(m, n) \sim (m', n')$ .

Then  $\frac{m}{n} = \frac{m'}{n'}$  and  $mn' = nm'$  and  $n, n' \neq 0$ .

Since  $(m, n) \sim (m', n')$ , then  $(m', n') \sim (m, n)$ , so  $\frac{m'}{n'} = \frac{m}{n}$ .

We prove if  $\frac{m}{n}$  is positive, then  $\frac{m'}{n'}$  is positive.

Suppose  $\frac{m}{n}$  is positive.

Then there exist positive integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $\frac{m}{n} = \frac{a}{b}$ .

Since  $\frac{m'}{n'} = \frac{m}{n} = \frac{a}{b}$ , then there exist positive integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that

$$\frac{m'}{n'} = \frac{a}{b}.$$

Therefore,  $\frac{m'}{n'}$  is positive.



Conversely, we prove if  $\frac{m'}{n'}$  is positive, then  $\frac{m}{n}$  is positive.

Suppose  $\frac{m'}{n'}$  is positive.

Then there exist positive integers  $c$  and  $d$  such that  $\frac{m'}{n'} = \frac{c}{d}$ .

Since  $\frac{m}{n} = \frac{m'}{n'} = \frac{c}{d}$ , then there exist positive integers  $c$  and  $d$  such that  $\frac{m}{n} = \frac{c}{d}$ .

Therefore,  $\frac{m}{n}$  is positive.  $\square$

**Proposition 18.**  $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$  is an ordered field.

*Proof.* Observe that  $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$  is a field.

Let  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  be the set of all positive rational numbers.

Then  $\mathbb{Q}^+ = \{\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}$ , so  $\mathbb{Q}^+ \subset \mathbb{Q}$ .

Since  $1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then  $\frac{1}{1} \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ , so  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  is not empty.

To prove  $\mathbb{Q}$  is an ordered field, we must prove  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  is closed under addition and multiplication of  $\mathbb{Q}$  and the trichotomy law holds.

Let  $u, v \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ .

Then there exist positive integers  $a, b, c, d$  such that  $u = \frac{a}{b}$  and  $v = \frac{c}{d}$ .

We prove  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  is closed under addition in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Since  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then  $ad, bc, bd \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , by closure of  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  under multiplication.

Thus,  $ad + bc \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , by closure of  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  under addition.

Observe that  $u + v = \frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$ .

Therefore, there exist positive integers  $ad+bc$  and  $bd$  such that  $u+v = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$ , so  $u + v$  is positive.

We prove  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  is closed under multiplication in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Since  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then  $ac \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $bd \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , by closure of  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  under multiplication.

Observe that  $uv = \frac{a}{b} \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$ .

Therefore, there exist positive integers  $ac$  and  $bd$  such that  $uv = \frac{ac}{bd}$ , so  $uv$  is positive.

To prove trichotomy, we must prove exactly one of the following holds:  $q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ ,  $q = 0$ ,  $-q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$  for every  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Let  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Then there exist integers  $a, b$  with  $b \neq 0$  such that  $q = \frac{a}{b}$ .

By trichotomy of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , either  $a > 0$  or  $a = 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a = 0$ .

Since  $b \neq 0$ , then  $q = \frac{a}{b} = \frac{0}{b} = 0$ .

Therefore,  $q = 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a > 0$ .

Then  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Since  $b \neq 0$ , then either  $b > 0$  or  $b < 0$ .

If  $b > 0$ , then  $b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Hence,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Therefore,  $\frac{a}{b} = q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ .  
 If  $b < 0$ , then  $-b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Hence,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $-b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Therefore  $\frac{a}{-b} = -\frac{a}{b} = -q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ .  
**Case 3:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .  
 Then  $-a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Since  $b \neq 0$ , then either  $b > 0$  or  $b < 0$ .  
 If  $b > 0$ , then  $b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Hence,  $-a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Therefore,  $\frac{-a}{b} = -\frac{a}{b} = -q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ .  
 If  $b < 0$ , then  $-b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Hence,  $-a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $-b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .  
 Therefore  $\frac{-a}{-b} = \frac{a}{b} = q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ .  
 Hence, either  $q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$  or  $q = 0$  or  $-q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ .  
 Therefore, the trichotomy law holds. □

**Proposition 19.** *Let  $F$  be an ordered field with positive subset  $P$ . Then*

1.  $1 \in P$ .
2. if  $x \in P$ , then  $x^{-1} \in P$ .
3. if  $x, y \in P$ , then  $\frac{x}{y} \in P$ .
4. if  $x \in F$  and  $x \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 \in P$ .
5. if  $x \in P$ , then  $nx \in P$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Since  $F$  is an ordered field, then either  $1 \in P$  or  $1 = 0$  or  $-1 \in P$ .  
 Since  $F$  is a field, then  $1 \neq 0$ .  
 Suppose  $-1 \in P$ .  
 Since  $F$  is a ring, then  $(-1)(-1) = -(-1) = 1 \in P$ .  
 Thus,  $-1 \in P$  and  $1 \in P$ , a violation of trichotomy.  
 Hence,  $-1 \notin P$ .  
 Since  $1 \neq 0$  and  $-1 \notin P$ , then we must conclude  $1 \in P$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $x \in P$ .  
 Then  $x \neq 0$ .  
 Since  $F$  is a field, then every nonzero element of  $F$  has a multiplicative inverse in  $F$ , so  $x^{-1} \in F$ .  
 Either  $x^{-1} \in P$  or  $x^{-1} = 0$  or  $-x^{-1} \in P$ .  
 Since  $F$  is a division ring and  $x \neq 0$ , then  $x^{-1} \neq 0$ .  
 Suppose  $-x^{-1} \in P$ .  
 Since  $x \in P$  and  $-x^{-1} \in P$ , then  $x(-x^{-1}) \in P$ , so  $x(-x^{-1}) = -(xx^{-1}) = -1 \in P$ .  
 Hence,  $1 \in P$  and  $-1 \in P$ , a violation of trichotomy.  
 Thus,  $-x^{-1} \notin P$ .  
 Since  $x^{-1} \neq 0$  and  $-x^{-1} \notin P$ , then we conclude  $x^{-1} \in P$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Let  $x, y \in P$ .

Since  $y \in P$ , then  $y^{-1} \in P$ .

Since  $x \in P$  and  $y^{-1} \in P$ , then  $xy^{-1} = \frac{x}{y} \in P$ , by closure of  $P$  under multiplication in  $F$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 4.

Suppose  $x \in F$  and  $x \neq 0$ .

By trichotomy, either  $x \in P$  or  $x = 0$  or  $-x \in P$ .

Since  $x \neq 0$ , then either  $x \in P$  or  $-x \in P$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x \in P$ .

Then  $x^2 = xx \in P$ , by closure of  $P$  under multiplication in  $F$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $-x \in P$ .

Then  $x^2 = xx = (-x)(-x) \in P$ , by closure of  $P$  under multiplication in  $F$ .

Therefore, in all cases,  $x^2 \in P$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 5.

Let  $x \in P$ .

Let  $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : nx \in P\}$ .

We prove  $S = \mathbb{N}$  by induction on  $n$ .

**Basis:**

Since  $1x = x \in P$ , then  $1 \in S$ .

**Induction:**

Suppose  $k \in S$ .

Then  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $kx \in P$ .

Since  $kx \in P$  and  $x \in P$ , then  $kx + x \in P$ , by closure of  $P$  under addition in  $F$ , so  $(k+1)x = kx + x \in P$ .

Since  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $k+1 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Since  $k+1 \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $(k+1)x \in P$ , then  $k+1 \in S$ , so  $k \in S$  implies  $k+1 \in S$ .

Hence, by induction,  $S = \mathbb{N}$ ,

Therefore,  $nx \in P$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 20.** Let  $F$  be an ordered field with positive subset  $P$ . Then for all  $a, b \in F$

1.  $a > 0$  iff  $a \in P$ .
2.  $a < 0$  iff  $-a \in P$ .
3.  $a < b$  iff  $b - a > 0$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $a \in F$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} a > 0 &\Leftrightarrow 0 < a \\ &\Leftrightarrow a - 0 \in P \\ &\Leftrightarrow a + (-0) \in P \\ &\Leftrightarrow a + 0 \in P \\ &\Leftrightarrow a \in P. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $a > 0$  iff  $a \in P$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $a \in F$ .

Observe that  $a < 0$  iff  $0 - a \in P$  iff  $0 + (-a) \in P$  iff  $-a \in P$ .

Therefore,  $a < 0$  iff  $-a \in P$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Let  $a \in F$ .

Observe that  $a < b$  iff  $b - a \in P$  iff  $b - a > 0$ .

Therefore,  $a < b$  iff  $b - a > 0$ . □

**Lemma 21.** *Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field with  $a, b \in F$ .*

*If  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$ , then  $ab < 0$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

Let  $P$  be the positive subset of  $F$ .

Then  $a \in P$  and  $-b \in P$ .

Hence, by closure of  $P$  under multiplication,  $a(-b) \in P$ .

Since  $F$  is a ring, then  $-(ab) = a(-b)$ , so  $-(ab) \in P$ .

Therefore,  $ab < 0$ . □

**Proposition 22. positivity of a product in an ordered field**

*Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field with  $a, b \in F$ . Then*

*1.  $ab > 0$  iff either  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .*

*2.  $ab < 0$  iff either  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$ .*

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $P$  be the positive subset of  $F$ .

Suppose either  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

Then  $a \in P$  and  $b \in P$ .

Hence, by closure of  $P$  under multiplication,  $ab \in P$ .

Therefore,  $ab > 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

Then  $-a \in P$  and  $-b \in P$ .

Hence, by closure of  $P$  under multiplication,  $(-a)(-b) \in P$ .

Since  $F$  is a ring, then  $ab = (-a)(-b)$ , so  $ab \in P$ .

Therefore,  $ab > 0$ .

Thus, in all cases,  $ab > 0$ , as desired.

Conversely, suppose  $ab > 0$ .

If  $a = 0$ , then  $ab = 0b = 0$ .

Thus,  $ab > 0$  and  $ab = 0$ , a violation of trichotomy.

Therefore,  $a \neq 0$ , so either  $a > 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a > 0$ .

Then  $a \in P$ , so  $a^{-1} \in P$ .

Hence,  $a^{-1} > 0$ .

Since  $a^{-1} > 0$  and  $ab > 0$ , then  $b = 1 \cdot b = (a^{-1} \cdot a)b = a^{-1} \cdot (ab) > 0$ .

Therefore,  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .

Then  $-a \in P$ , so  $(-a)^{-1} \in P$ .

Hence,  $\frac{1}{-a} \in P$ , so  $-\frac{1}{a} \in P$ .

Thus,  $-(a^{-1}) \in P$ , so  $a^{-1} < 0$ .

Since  $ab > 0$  and  $a^{-1} < 0$ , then by the previous lemma  $b = 1 \cdot b = (a^{-1} \cdot a)b = a^{-1} \cdot (ab) = ab \cdot a^{-1} < 0$ .

Therefore,  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

Thus, either  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose either  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

Then by the previous lemma,  $ab < 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

Then  $b > 0$  and  $a < 0$ , so by the previous lemma,  $ab = ba < 0$ .

Therefore, in all cases,  $ab < 0$ , as desired.

Conversely, suppose  $ab < 0$ .

Then  $-(ab) > 0$ .

Since  $F$  is a ring, then  $a(-b) = -(ab)$ , so  $a(-b) > 0$ .

Hence, by 1, either  $a > 0$  and  $-b > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $-b < 0$ .

Thus, either  $a > 0$  and  $-(-b) < 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $-(-b) > 0$ .

Therefore, either  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Corollary 23.** *Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field.*

*Let  $a, b \in F$ .*

*Then  $\frac{a}{b} > 0$  iff  $ab > 0$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\frac{a}{b} > 0$ .

Then  $b \neq 0$ , so  $\frac{1}{b} \neq 0$ .

Since  $\frac{a}{b} = a \cdot \frac{1}{b}$ , then  $a \cdot \frac{1}{b} > 0$ .

Thus, either  $a > 0$  and  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $\frac{1}{b} < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a > 0$  and  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$ .

Since  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{\frac{1}{b}} > 0$ , so  $b > 0$ .

Since  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $ab > 0$ .  
**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$  and  $\frac{1}{b} < 0$ .  
 Since  $\frac{1}{b} < 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{-b} > 0$ , so  $\frac{1}{-b} > 0$ .  
 Thus,  $-b > 0$ .  
 Since  $a < 0$ , then  $-a > 0$ .  
 Thus,  $ab = (-a)(-b) > 0$ , so  $ab > 0$ .  
 Therefore, in all cases,  $ab > 0$ , as desired.

Conversely, suppose  $ab > 0$ .  
 Then either  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .  
 We consider these cases separately.  
**Case 1:** Suppose  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ .  
 Since  $b > 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$ .  
 Since  $a > 0$  and  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$ , then  $\frac{a}{b} = a \cdot \frac{1}{b} > 0$ .  
**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .  
 Since  $b < 0$ , then  $-b > 0$ , so  $-\frac{1}{b} > 0$ .  
 Since  $a < 0$ , then  $-a > 0$ .  
 Hence,  $\frac{a}{b} = (-a)(-\frac{1}{b}) > 0$ .  
 Therefore, in all cases,  $\frac{a}{b} > 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 24. ordered fields satisfy transitivity and trichotomy laws**

Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field. Then

1.  $a < a$  is false for all  $a \in F$ . (Therefore,  $<$  is not reflexive.)
2. For all  $a, b, c \in F$ , if  $a < b$  and  $b < c$ , then  $a < c$ . ( $<$  is transitive)
3. For every  $a \in F$ , exactly one of the following is true (trichotomy):
  - i.  $a > 0$
  - ii.  $a = 0$
  - iii.  $a < 0$
4. For every  $a, b \in F$ , exactly one of the following is true (trichotomy):
  - i.  $a > b$
  - ii.  $a = b$
  - iii.  $a < b$

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $a \in F$ .

We must prove  $a < a$  is false.

Since  $a < a$  iff  $a - a \in P$  iff  $0 \in P$  and  $0 \notin P$ , then  $a < a$  is false.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $a, b, c \in F$  such that  $a < b$  and  $b < c$ .

Since  $a < b$ , then  $b - a \in P$ .

Since  $b < c$ , then  $c - b \in P$ .

Hence,  $(c - b) + (b - a) \in P$ , by closure of  $P$  under addition of  $F$ .

Observe that  $(c - b) + (b - a) = c + (-b + b) - a = c + 0 - a = c - a$ .

Therefore,  $c - a \in P$ , so  $a < c$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Let  $a \in F$ .

By trichotomy, exactly one of the following is true:  $a \in P$ ,  $a = 0$ ,  $-a \in P$ .

Observe that  $a \in P$  iff  $a > 0$  and  $-a \in P$  iff  $a < 0$ .

Therefore, exactly one of the following is true:  $a > 0$ ,  $a = 0$ ,  $a < 0$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 4.

Let  $a, b \in F$ .

Since  $F$  is a ring, then  $F$  is closed under subtraction, so  $a - b \in F$ .

Since  $F$  is an ordered field, then by trichotomy, exactly one of the following is true:  $a - b \in P$ ,  $a - b = 0$ ,  $-(a - b) \in P$ .

Observe that  $a - b \in P$  iff  $b < a$  iff  $a > b$ .

Observe that  $a - b = 0$  iff  $a = b$ .

Observe that  $-(a - b) \in P$  iff  $-a + b \in P$  iff  $b - a \in P$  iff  $a < b$ .

Therefore, exactly one of the following is true:  $a > b$ ,  $a = b$ ,  $a < b$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 25.** *Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field.*

*Let  $a, b \in F$ .*

*If  $0 < a < b$ , then  $0 < \frac{1}{b} < \frac{1}{a}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $0 < a < b$ .

Then  $0 < a$  and  $a < b$ , so  $0 < b$ .

Since  $b > 0$ , then  $b \in P$ , so  $\frac{1}{b} \in P$ .

Hence,  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$ .

Since  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $a \in P$  and  $b \in P$ , so  $ab \in P$ .

Since  $a < b$ , then  $b - a \in P$ .

Thus,  $\frac{b-a}{ab} \in P$ , so  $\frac{b-a}{ab} > 0$ .

Hence,  $\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b} > 0$ , so  $\frac{1}{b} < \frac{1}{a}$ .

Therefore,  $0 < \frac{1}{b} < \frac{1}{a}$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 26.** *order is preserved by the field operations in an ordered field*

*Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field.*

*Let  $a, b, c, d \in F$ .*

- 1. If  $a < b$ , then  $a + c < b + c$ . (preserves order for addition)*
- 2. If  $a < b$ , then  $a - c < b - c$ . (preserves order for subtraction)*
- 3. If  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ , then  $ac < bc$ . (preserves order for multiplication by a positive element)*
- 4. If  $a < b$  and  $c < 0$ , then  $ac > bc$ . (reverses order for multiplication by a negative element)*
- 5. If  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ , then  $\frac{a}{c} < \frac{b}{c}$ . (preserves order for division by a positive element)*

*Proof.* Let  $P$  be the positive subset of  $F$ .

We prove 1.

Suppose  $a < b$ .

Then  $b - a \in P$ .

Observe that  $b - a = (b - a) + 0 = (b - a) + (c - c) = b - a + c - c = b + c - a - c = (b + c) - (a + c)$ .

Therefore,  $(b + c) - (a + c) \in P$ , so  $a + c < b + c$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $a < b$ .

Since  $c \in F$ , then  $-c \in F$ .

Therefore,  $a + (-c) < b + (-c)$ , so  $a - c < b - c$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Suppose  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ .

Since  $a < b$ , then  $b - a \in P$ .

Since  $c > 0$ , then  $c \in P$ .

Hence,  $(b - a)c \in P$ , by closure of  $P$  under multiplication of  $F$ .

Since  $(b - a)c = bc - ac$ , then  $bc - ac \in P$ , so  $ac < bc$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 4.

Suppose  $a < b$  and  $c < 0$ .

To prove  $ac > bc$ , we must prove  $bc < ac$ , i.e.  $ac - bc \in P$ .

Since  $a < b$ , then  $b - a \in P$ .

Since  $c < 0$ , then  $-c \in P$ .

Hence,  $(b - a)(-c) \in P$ , by closure of  $P$  under multiplication of  $F$ .

Observe that  $(b - a)(-c) = b(-c) - a(-c) = -bc + ac = ac - bc$ .

Therefore,  $ac - bc \in P$ , as desired. □

*Proof.* We prove 5.

Suppose  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ .

Since  $c > 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{c} > 0$ .

Since  $a < b$  and  $\frac{1}{c} > 0$ , then  $a \cdot \frac{1}{c} < b \cdot \frac{1}{c}$ .

Therefore,  $\frac{a}{c} < \frac{b}{c}$ . □

**Proposition 27.** *Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field.*

*Let  $a, b, c, d \in F$ .*

*1. If  $a < b$  and  $c < d$ , then  $a + c < b + d$ . (adding inequalities is valid)*

*2. If  $0 < a < b$  and  $0 < c < d$ , then  $0 < ac < bd$ .*

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $a < b$  and  $c < d$ .

Since  $a < b$ , then  $a + c < b + c$ .

Since  $c < d$ , then  $c + b < d + b$ , so  $b + c < b + d$ .

Since  $a + c < b + c$  and  $b + c < b + d$ , then  $a + c < b + d$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $0 < a < b$  and  $0 < c < d$ .

We must prove  $0 < ac < bd$ .

Since  $0 < a < b$ , then  $0 < a$  and  $a < b$  and  $0 < b$ .

Since  $0 < c < d$ , then  $0 < c$  and  $c < d$ .

Since  $a > 0$  and  $c > 0$ , then  $ac > 0$ .



Since  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ , then  $ac < bc$ .  
 Since  $c < d$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $bc < bd$ .  
 Therefore,  $ac < bc$  and  $bc < bd$ , so  $ac < bd$ .  
 Hence,  $0 < ac$  and  $ac < bd$ , so  $0 < ac < bd$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 28.** *Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field.*

*Let  $\frac{a}{b}, \frac{c}{d} \in F$  with  $b, d > 0$ .  
 Then  $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d}$  iff  $ad < bc$ .*

*Proof.* We must prove  $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d}$  iff  $ad < bc$ .

We prove if  $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d}$ , then  $ad < bc$ .

Suppose  $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d}$ .

Then  $\frac{c}{d} - \frac{a}{b} \in P$ , so  $\frac{cb-da}{db} \in P$ .

Hence,  $\frac{cb-da}{db} > 0$ .

Since  $b > 0$  and  $d > 0$ , then  $db > 0$ .

We multiply by positive  $db$  to get  $cb - da > 0$ .

Thus,  $cb > da$ , so  $da < cb$ .

Therefore,  $ad < bc$ , as desired.

Conversely, we prove if  $ad < bc$ , then  $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d}$ .

Suppose  $ad < bc$ .

Since  $b > 0$ , then we divide by positive  $b$  to get  $\frac{ad}{b} < c$ .

Since  $d > 0$ , then we divide by positive  $d$  to get  $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d}$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 29. density of ordered fields**

*Between any two distinct elements of an ordered field is a third element.*

*Proof.* Let  $(F, +, \cdot, <)$  be an ordered field.

Since  $1 \in F$  and  $0 \in F$  and  $1 \neq 0$ , then  $F$  contains at least two elements.

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be distinct elements of  $F$ .

Then  $a \in F$  and  $b \in F$  and  $a \neq b$ .

We must prove there is at least one element  $c$  of  $F$  such that  $a < c < b$ .

Since  $a \neq b$ , then either  $a < b$  or  $a > b$ .

Without loss of generality, assume  $a < b$ .

Since  $a \in F$  and  $b \in F$ , then by closure of  $F$  under addition,  $a + b \in F$ .

Since  $1 \in F$ , then by closure of  $F$  under addition,  $1 + 1 \in F$ .

Define 2 to be  $1 + 1$ .

Then  $2 \in F$  and  $2 = 1 + 1$ .

Since  $1 > 0$ , then  $1 + 1 > 0$ , so  $2 > 0$ .

Let  $c = \frac{a+b}{2}$ .

Since  $a + b \in F$  and  $2 \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{a+b}{2} \in F$ , so  $c \in F$ .

Since  $a < b$ , then  $a + a < a + b$  and  $a + b < b + b$ .

Thus,  $2a < a + b$  and  $a + b < 2b$ .

Since  $2 > 0$ , we divide by 2 to get  $a < \frac{a+b}{2}$  and  $\frac{a+b}{2} < b$ , so  $a < \frac{a+b}{2} < b$ .

Therefore,  $a < c < b$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Corollary 30. ordered fields are infinite**

*An ordered field contains an infinite number of elements.*

*Proof.* Let  $F$  be an ordered field.

We prove  $F$  is infinite by contradiction.

Suppose  $F$  is not infinite.

Then  $F$  is finite, so  $F$  contains a finite number of elements.

Let  $n$  be the number of distinct elements of  $F$ .

Since  $1 \neq 0$  in every field, then every field contains at least two distinct elements.

Therefore,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \geq 2$ .

Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  be the elements of  $F$  arranged so that the  $a_i$  element is in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  position in the order defined by  $<$  over  $F$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

Then  $F = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  and  $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n$ .

Since  $a_1 \in F$  and  $a_2 \in F$  and  $a_1 < a_2$ , then  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are distinct elements of the ordered field  $F$ .

Therefore, by the density of  $F$ , there exists at least one element  $b \in F$  such that  $a_1 < b < a_2$ .

Hence,  $a_1 < b$  and  $b < a_2$ .

We prove  $b \neq a_i$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

Since  $a_1 < b$ , then  $a_1 \neq b$ , so  $b \neq a_1$ .

Since  $b < a_2$ , then  $b \neq a_2$ .

Since  $b < a_2$  and  $a_2 < a_i$  for each  $i$  such that  $2 < i \leq n$ , then  $b < a_i$  for each  $i$  such that  $2 < i \leq n$ .

Thus,  $b \neq a_i$  for each  $i$  such that  $2 < i \leq n$ .

Therefore,  $b \neq a_i$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , so  $b \notin F$ .

Hence, we have  $b \in F$  and  $b \notin F$ , a contradiction.

Therefore,  $F$  is not finite, so  $F$  is infinite. □

**Theorem 31. ordered fields are totally ordered**

Let  $(F, +, \cdot, \leq)$  be an ordered field. Then

1.  $\leq$  is a partial order over  $F$ . Therefore,  $(F, \leq)$  is a poset.

2.  $\leq$  is a total order over  $F$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $x \in F$ .

Since equality is reflexive, then  $x = x$ .

Hence,  $x = x$  or  $x < x$ , so  $x < x$  or  $x = x$ .

Therefore,  $x \leq x$ , so  $\leq$  is reflexive.

Let  $x, y \in F$  such that  $x \leq y$  and  $y \leq x$ .

Suppose  $x \neq y$ .

Since  $x \leq y$  and  $x \neq y$ , then  $x < y$ .

Since  $y \leq x$  and  $y \neq x$ , then  $y < x$ .

Thus,  $x < y$  and  $x > y$ , a violation of trichotomy.

Hence,  $x = y$ .

Therefore,  $\leq$  is antisymmetric.

Let  $x, y, z \in F$  such that  $x \leq y$  and  $y \leq z$ .

Since  $x \leq y$  and  $y \leq z$ , then  $x < y$  or  $x = y$  and  $y < z$  or  $y = z$ .

Hence, either both  $x < y$  or  $x = y$  and  $y < z$ , or both  $x < y$  or  $x = y$  and  $y = z$ .

Thus, either  $x < y$  and  $y < z$  or  $x = y$  and  $y < z$  or  $x < y$  and  $y = z$  or  $x = y$  and  $y = z$ .

Therefore, there are 4 cases to consider.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x < y$  and  $y < z$ .

Since  $<$  is transitive, then  $x < z$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x < y$  and  $y = z$ .

Then  $x < z$ .

**Case 3:** Suppose  $x = y$  and  $y < z$ .

Then  $x < z$ .

**Case 4:** Suppose  $x = y$  and  $y = z$ .

Then  $x = z$ .

Thus, in all cases, either  $x < z$  or  $x = z$ , so  $x \leq z$ .

Therefore,  $\leq$  is transitive.

Since  $\leq$  is reflexive, antisymmetric, and transitive, then  $\leq$  is a partial order over  $F$ , so  $(F, \leq)$  is a poset.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Since  $(F, \leq)$  is a poset, then  $\leq$  is a total order over  $F$  iff either  $x \leq y$  or  $y \leq x$  for all  $x, y \in F$ .

Thus, to prove  $\leq$  is a total order, we must prove either  $x \leq y$  or  $y \leq x$  for all  $x, y \in F$ .

Let  $x, y \in F$ .

To prove  $x \leq y$  or  $y \leq x$ , assume  $x \leq y$  is false.

We must prove  $y \leq x$ .

Since  $x \leq y$  is false, then  $x$  is not less than  $y$  and  $x \neq y$ .

Hence, by trichotomy,  $x > y$ .

Therefore,  $y < x$ , so  $y \leq x$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 32.** Let  $(F, +, \cdot, \leq)$  be an ordered field. Then

1.  $x^2 = 0$  iff  $x = 0$ .
2.  $x^2 > 0$  iff  $x \neq 0$ .
3.  $x^2 \geq 0$  for all  $x \in F$ .

*Proof.* Since  $F$  is an ordered field, then let  $P$  be the positive subset of  $F$ .

We prove 1.

Let  $x \in F$ .

We must prove  $x^2 = 0$  iff  $x = 0$ .

We prove if  $x = 0$ , then  $x^2 = 0$ .

Suppose  $x = 0$ .

Then  $x^2 = 0^2 = 0$ , so  $x^2 = 0$ , as desired.

Conversely, we prove if  $x^2 = 0$ , then  $x = 0$  by contrapositive.

Suppose  $x \neq 0$ .

Then  $x^2 \in P$ .

Since  $x^2 \in P$  iff  $x^2 > 0$ , then  $x^2 > 0$ .

Hence,  $x^2 \neq 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $x \in F$ .

We must prove  $x^2 > 0$  iff  $x \neq 0$ .

We prove if  $x \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 > 0$ .

Suppose  $x \neq 0$ .

Then  $x^2 \in P$ .

Since  $x^2 \in P$  iff  $x^2 > 0$ , then  $x^2 > 0$ , as desired.

Conversely, we prove if  $x^2 > 0$ , then  $x \neq 0$  by contrapositive.

Suppose  $x = 0$ .

Then  $x^2 = 0^2 = 0 \leq 0$ , so  $x^2 \leq 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Let  $x \in F$ .

Then either  $x = 0$  or  $x \neq 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x = 0$ .

Since  $x^2 = 0$  iff  $x = 0$ , then  $x^2 = 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x \neq 0$ .

Since  $x^2 > 0$  iff  $x \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 > 0$ .

Thus, in all cases, either  $x^2 > 0$  or  $x^2 = 0$ .

Therefore,  $x^2 \geq 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

## Absolute value in an ordered field

**Lemma 33.** *Let  $F$  be an ordered field. Let  $x \in F$ .*

1. *If  $x < 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{x} < 0$ .*

2. *If  $x \neq 0$ , then  $|\frac{1}{x}| = \frac{1}{|x|}$ .*

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $x \in F$ .

Suppose  $x < 0$ .

Then  $x \neq 0$ .

Since  $F$  is a field and  $x \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{x} \in F$ , so  $x \cdot \frac{1}{x} = 1$ .

Either  $\frac{1}{x} > 0$  or  $\frac{1}{x} = 0$  or  $\frac{1}{x} < 0$ .

Suppose  $\frac{1}{x} = 0$ .

Then  $1 = x \cdot \frac{1}{x} = x \cdot 0 = 0$ , so  $1 = 0$ .

But,  $1 \neq 0$  in an ordered field, so  $\frac{1}{x} \neq 0$ .

Suppose  $\frac{1}{x} > 0$ .

Since  $\frac{1}{x} > 0$  and  $x < 0$ , then  $1 = \frac{1}{x} \cdot x < 0$ , so  $1 < 0$ , a contradiction.

Hence,  $\frac{1}{x}$  cannot be greater than zero.

Therefore,  $\frac{1}{x} < 0$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $x \in F$ .

Suppose  $x \neq 0$ .

Then either  $x > 0$  or  $x < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x > 0$ .

Then  $\frac{1}{x} > 0$ .

Therefore,  $|\frac{1}{x}| = \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{|x|}$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x < 0$ .

Then  $\frac{1}{x} < 0$ .

Therefore,  $|\frac{1}{x}| = -\frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{-x} = \frac{1}{|x|}$ . □

**Theorem 34. arithmetic operations and absolute value**

Let  $F$  be an ordered field. For all  $a, b \in F$

1.  $|ab| = |a||b|$ .

2. if  $b \neq 0$ , then  $|\frac{a}{b}| = \frac{|a|}{|b|}$ .

3.  $|a|^2 = a^2$ .

4. if  $a \neq 0$ , then  $|a^n| = |a|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $a, b \in F$ .

Either  $a$  or  $b$  is zero or neither  $a$  nor  $b$  is zero.

Hence, either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$  or  $a \neq 0$  and  $b \neq 0$ .

Thus, either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ , or  $a > 0$  or  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$  or  $b < 0$ .

Hence, either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$  or both  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$  or both  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$  or both  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$  or both  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

We must prove  $|ab| = |a||b|$ .

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a = 0$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} |ab| &= |0 \cdot b| \\ &= |0| \\ &= 0 \\ &= 0 \cdot |b| \\ &= |0||b| \\ &= |a||b|. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 2:** Suppose  $b = 0$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} |ab| &= |a \cdot 0| \\ &= |0| \\ &= 0 \\ &= |a| \cdot 0 \\ &= |a||0| \\ &= |a||b|. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 3:** Suppose  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

Then  $|a| = a$  and  $|b| = b$ .

Since  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $ab > 0$ .

Hence,  $|ab| = ab$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |ab| &= ab \\ &= |a||b|. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 4:** Suppose  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

Then  $|a| = a$  and  $|b| = -b$ .

Since  $a > 0$  and  $b < 0$ , then  $ab < 0$ .

Hence,  $|ab| = -ab$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |ab| &= -ab \\ &= a(-b) \\ &= |a||b|. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 5:** Suppose  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

Then  $|a| = -a$  and  $|b| = b$ .

Since  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $ab < 0$ .

Hence,  $|ab| = -ab$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |ab| &= -ab \\ &= (-a)b \\ &= |a||b|. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 6:** Suppose  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ .

Then  $|a| = -a$  and  $|b| = -b$ .

Since  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ , then  $ab > 0$ .

Hence,  $|ab| = ab$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |ab| &= ab \\ &= (-a)(-b) \\ &= |a||b|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, in all cases,  $|ab| = |a||b|$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $a, b \in F$ .

Suppose  $b \neq 0$ .

Then  $b^{-1} = \frac{1}{b} \neq 0$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{a}{b} \right| &= |ab^{-1}| \\ &= \left| a \cdot \frac{1}{b} \right| \\ &= |a| \cdot \left| \frac{1}{b} \right| \\ &= |a| \cdot \frac{1}{|b|} \\ &= \frac{|a|}{|b|}. \end{aligned}$$

□

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Let  $a \in F$ .

We must prove  $|a|^2 = a^2$ .

Either  $a = 0$  or  $a \neq 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a = 0$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} |a|^2 &= |0|^2 \\ &= 0^2 \\ &= a^2. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a \neq 0$ .

Then  $a^2 \in F^+$ , so  $a^2 > 0$ .

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} |a|^2 &= |a||a| \\ &= |aa| \\ &= |a^2| \\ &= a^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, in all cases,  $|a|^2 = a^2$ , as desired. □

*Proof.* We prove 4.

Let  $a \in F$  with  $a \neq 0$ .

To prove  $|a^n| = |a|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we prove  $|a^n| = |a|^n$  for all positive integers  $n$  and  $|a^0| = |a|^0$  and  $|a^n| = |a|^n$  for all negative integers  $n$ .

We prove  $|a^0| = |a|^0$ .

Since  $a \neq 0$ , then  $|a^0| = |1| = 1 = |a|^0$ .

Therefore,  $|a^0| = |a|^0$ .

We prove  $|a^n| = |a|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by induction on  $n$ .

Let  $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : |a^n| = |a|^n\}$ .

**Basis:**

Since  $|a^1| = |a| = |a|^1$ , then  $1 \in S$ .

**Induction:**

Suppose  $k \in S$ .

Then  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $|a^k| = |a|^k$ .

Since  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $k + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} |a^{k+1}| &= |a^k a| \\ &= |a^k| |a| \\ &= |a|^k |a| \\ &= |a|^{k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $k + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $|a^{k+1}| = |a|^{k+1}$ , then  $k + 1 \in S$ .

Thus,  $k \in S$  implies  $k + 1 \in S$ .

Since  $1 \in S$  and  $k \in S$  implies  $k + 1 \in S$ , then by PMI,  $S = \mathbb{N}$ .

Therefore,  $|a^n| = |a|^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We prove  $|a^n| = |a|^n$  for all negative integers  $n$ .

Let  $n$  be an arbitrary negative integer.

Then  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n < 0$ .

Since  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $-n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $-n > 0$ .

Let  $k = -n$ .

Then  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $k > 0$  and  $n = -k$ .

Since  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $k > 0$ , then  $k$  is a positive integer, so  $|a^k| = |a|^k$ .

Since  $a \neq 0$ , then  $a^k \neq 0$ .



Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} |a^n| &= |a^{-k}| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{a^k} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{|a^k|} \\ &= \frac{1}{|a|^k} \\ &= \frac{1}{|a|^{-n}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\frac{1}{|a|^n}} \\ &= |a|^n. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|a^n| = |a|^n$ . □

**Theorem 35. properties of the absolute value function**

Let  $(F, +, \cdot, \leq)$  be an ordered field.

Let  $a, k \in F$  and  $k > 0$ . Then

1.  $|a| \geq 0$ .
2.  $|a| = 0$  iff  $a = 0$ .
3.  $|-a| = |a|$ .
4.  $-|a| \leq a \leq |a|$ .
5.  $|a| < k$  iff  $-k < a < k$ .
6.  $|a| > k$  iff  $a > k$  or  $a < -k$ .
7.  $|a| = k$  iff  $a = k$  or  $a = -k$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $a \in F$ .

Either  $a > 0$  or  $a = 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

We must prove either  $|a| > 0$  or  $|a| = 0$ .

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a > 0$ .

Then  $|a| = a > 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a = 0$ .

Then  $|a| = a = 0$ .

**Case 3:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .

Since  $-a > 0$  iff  $-a \in F^+$  iff  $a < 0$  and  $a < 0$ , then  $-a > 0$ .

Since  $a < 0$ , then  $|a| = -a > 0$ .

Therefore, in all cases,  $|a| \geq 0$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $a \in F$ .

We must prove  $|a| = 0$  iff  $a = 0$ .

We prove if  $a = 0$ , then  $|a| = 0$ .

Suppose  $a = 0$ .

Then  $|a| = a = 0$ .

Conversely, we prove if  $|a| = 0$ , then  $a = 0$  by contrapositive.

Suppose  $a \neq 0$ .

We must prove  $|a| \neq 0$ .

Since  $a \neq 0$ , then either  $a > 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

In either case  $|a| > 0$ .

Therefore, by trichotomy,  $|a| \neq 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Let  $a \in F$ .

We must prove  $|-a| = |a|$ .

Either  $a > 0$  or  $a = 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a > 0$ .

Then  $-a < 0$ .

Therefore,  $|-a| = -(-a) = a = |a|$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a = 0$ .

Then  $|-a| = |-0| = |0| = |a|$ .

**Case 3:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .

Then  $-a > 0$  and  $|a| = -a$ .

Therefore,  $|-a| = -a = |a|$ .

Hence, in all cases,  $|-a| = |a|$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 4.

Let  $a \in F$ .

To prove  $-|a| \leq a \leq |a|$ , we must prove  $-|a| \leq a$  and  $a \leq |a|$ .

Either  $a \geq 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a \geq 0$ .

Then  $|a| = a$  and  $-a \leq 0$ .

Since  $a \leq a$  and  $a = |a|$ , then  $a \leq |a|$ , as desired.

Since  $-a \leq 0$  and  $0 \leq a$ , then  $-a \leq a$ , so  $-|a| \leq a$ , as desired.

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .

Then  $|a| = -a$  and  $-a > 0$ .

Since  $a < 0$  and  $0 < -a$ , then  $a < -a = |a|$ , so  $a \leq |a|$ , as desired.

Since  $a \leq a$ , then  $-(-a) \leq a$ , so  $-|a| \leq a$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 5.

Let  $a, k \in F$  with  $k > 0$ .

We must prove  $|a| < k$  iff  $-k < a < k$ .

We prove if  $|a| < k$ , then  $-k < a < k$ .

Suppose  $|a| < k$ .

We must prove  $-k < a$  and  $a < k$ .

Either  $a \geq 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a \geq 0$ .

Then  $a = |a| < k$ .  
 Therefore,  $a < k$ , as desired.  
 Since  $k > 0$ , then  $-k < 0$ .  
 Since  $-k < 0$  and  $0 \leq a$ , then  $-k < a$ , as desired.  
**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .  
 Since  $a < 0$  and  $0 < k$ , then  $a < k$ , as desired.  
 Since  $|a| < k$ , then  $k > |a| = -a$ , so  $k > -a$ .  
 Therefore,  $-k < a$ , as desired.

Conversely, we prove if  $-k < a < k$ , then  $|a| < k$ .

Suppose  $-k < a < k$ .  
 Then  $-k < a$  and  $a < k$ .  
 We must prove  $|a| < k$ .  
 Either  $a \geq 0$  or  $a < 0$ .  
 We consider these cases separately.  
**Case 1:** Suppose  $a \geq 0$ .  
 Then  $|a| = a < k$ .  
 Therefore,  $|a| < k$ , as desired.  
**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .  
 Since  $-k < a$ , then  $k > -a = |a|$ , so  $k > |a|$ .  
 Therefore,  $|a| < k$ , as desired. □

*Proof.* We prove 6.

Let  $a, k \in F$  with  $k > 0$ .  
 We must prove  $|a| > k$  iff  $a > k$  or  $a < -k$ .

We prove if  $|a| > k$ , then  $a > k$  or  $a < -k$ .

Suppose  $|a| > k$ .  
 Either  $a \geq 0$  or  $a < 0$ .  
 We consider these cases separately.  
**Case 1:** Suppose  $a \geq 0$ .  
 Then  $a = |a| > k$ .  
**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .  
 Then  $-a = |a| > k$ , so  $-a > k$ .  
 Hence,  $a < -k$ .  
 Therefore, either  $a > k$  or  $a < -k$ , as desired.

Conversely, to prove if  $a > k$  or  $a < -k$ , then  $|a| > k$ , we must prove both if  $a > k$ , then  $|a| > k$  and if  $a < -k$ , then  $|a| > k$ .

We first prove if  $a > k$ , then  $|a| > k$ .

Suppose  $a > k$ .  
 Since  $a > k$  and  $k > 0$ , then  $a > 0$ .  
 Therefore,  $|a| = a > k$ .

We next prove if  $a < -k$ , then  $|a| > k$ .

Suppose  $a < -k$ .

Then  $-a > k$ .

Since  $-a > k$  and  $k > 0$ , then  $-a > 0$ .

Hence,  $a < 0$ .

Therefore,  $|a| = -a > k$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 7.

Let  $a, k \in F$  with  $k > 0$ .

We must prove  $|a| = k$  iff  $a = k$  or  $a = -k$ .

To prove if  $a = k$  or  $a = -k$ , then  $|a| = k$ , we must prove both if  $a = k$ , then  $|a| = k$  and if  $a = -k$ , then  $|a| = k$ .

We first prove if  $a = k$ , then  $|a| = k$ .

Suppose  $a = k$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then  $|k| = k$ .

Therefore,  $|a| = |k| = k$ .

We next prove if  $a = -k$ , then  $|a| = k$ .

Suppose  $a = -k$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then  $-k < 0$ , so  $a < 0$ .

Therefore,  $|a| = -a = k$ .

Conversely, we prove if  $|a| = k$ , then either  $a = k$  or  $a = -k$ .

Suppose  $|a| = k$ .

Either  $a \geq 0$  or  $a < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a \geq 0$ .

Then  $k = |a| = a$ , so  $a = k$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .

Then  $-a = |a| = k$ , so  $-a = k$ .

Hence,  $a = -k$ .

Therefore, either  $a = k$  or  $a = -k$ , as desired. □

**Theorem 36. triangle inequality**

Let  $(F, +, \cdot, \leq)$  be an ordered field.

Let  $a, b \in F$ . Then  $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in F$ .

Since  $a \in F$ , then  $-|a| \leq a \leq |a|$ .

Since  $b \in F$ , then  $-|b| \leq b \leq |b|$ .

We add these inequalities to get  $-(|a| + |b|) \leq a + b \leq |a| + |b|$ .

Therefore,  $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$ . □

**Corollary 37.** Let  $(F, +, \cdot, \leq)$  be an ordered field. Then

1.  $|a - b| \geq |a| - |b|$  and  $|a - b| \geq |b| - |a|$  for all  $a, b \in F$ .

2.  $||a| - |b|| \leq |a - b| \leq |a| + |b|$  for all  $a, b \in F$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Let  $a, b \in F$ .

Since  $|a| = |(a-b)+b| \leq |a-b|+|b|$ , then  $|a| \leq |a-b|+|b|$ , so  $|a|-|b| \leq |a-b|$ .

Hence,  $|a-b| \geq |a|-|b|$ , so  $|a-b| \geq |a|-|b|$  for all  $a, b \in F$ .

Since  $|a-b| \geq |a|-|b|$  for all  $a, b \in F$ , then in particular, if we switch roles of  $a$  and  $b$ , we have  $|b-a| \geq |b|-|a|$ .

Therefore,  $|a-b| \geq |b|-|a|$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Let  $a, b \in F$ .

We first prove  $||a|-|b|| \leq |a-b|$ .

Since  $|a-b| \geq |a|-|b|$ , then  $|a|-|b| \leq |a-b|$ .

Since  $|a-b| \geq |b|-|a|$ , then  $-|a-b| \leq |a|-|b|$ .

Thus,  $-|a-b| \leq |a|-|b|$  and  $|a|-|b| \leq |a-b|$ , so  $-|a-b| \leq |a|-|b| \leq |a-b|$ .

Therefore,  $||a|-|b|| \leq |a-b|$ .

We next prove  $|a-b| \leq |a|+|b|$ .

Since  $|a-b| = |a+(-b)| \leq |a|+|-b| = |a|+|b|$ , then  $|a-b| \leq |a|+|b|$ .

Therefore,  $||a|-|b|| \leq |a-b| \leq |a|+|b|$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 38. generalized triangle inequality**

Let  $(F, +, \cdot, \leq)$  be an ordered field.

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in F$ . Then

$$|x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n| \leq |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_n|.$$

*Proof.* Define predicate  $p(n) : |x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n| \leq |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_n|$  over  $\mathbb{N}$ .

We prove  $p(n)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by induction on  $n$ .

**Basis:** Since  $|x_1| = |x_1|$ , then  $|x_1| \leq |x_1|$ .

Therefore,  $p(1)$  is true.

**Induction:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $p(n)$  is true.

Then  $|x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n| \leq |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_n|$ .

To prove  $p(n+1)$  is true, we must prove

$$|x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{n+1}| \leq |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_{n+1}|.$$

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} |x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{n+1}| &= |(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n) + x_{n+1}| \\ &\leq |x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n| + |x_{n+1}| \\ &\leq |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_n| + |x_{n+1}|. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $p(n+1)$  is true, so  $p(n)$  implies  $p(n+1)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Hence, by induction,  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Therefore,  $|x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n| \leq |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_n|$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $\square$

## Boundedness of sets in an ordered field

**Theorem 39.** *A subset  $S$  of an ordered field  $F$  is bounded in  $F$  iff  $S$  is bounded above and below in  $F$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .

We prove if  $S$  is bounded in  $F$ , then  $S$  is bounded above and below in  $F$ .

Suppose  $S$  is bounded in  $F$ .

Then there exists  $b \in F$  such that  $|x| \leq b$  for all  $x \in S$ .

Thus,  $-b \leq x \leq b$  for all  $x \in S$ , so  $-b \leq x$  and  $x \leq b$  for all  $x \in S$ .

Hence,  $-b \leq x$  for all  $x \in S$  and  $x \leq b$  for all  $x \in S$ .

Since  $b \in F$  and  $x \leq b$  for all  $x \in S$ , then  $b$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , so  $S$  is bounded above in  $F$ .

Since  $-b \in F$  and  $-b \leq x$  for all  $x \in S$ , then  $-b$  is a lower bound of  $S$ , so  $S$  is bounded below in  $F$ .

Conversely, we prove if  $S$  is bounded above and below in  $F$ , then  $S$  is bounded in  $F$ .

Suppose  $S$  is bounded above and below in  $F$ .

Then there is at least one upper and lower bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

Let  $M$  be an upper bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

Let  $m$  be a lower bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

To prove  $S$  is bounded, we must prove there exists  $b \in F$  such that  $|x| \leq b$  for all  $x \in S$ .

Let  $b = \max\{|M|, |m|\}$ .

Then  $|m| \leq b$  and  $|M| \leq b$ .

Since  $|M|, |m| \in F$  and either  $b = |M|$  or  $b = |m|$ , then  $b \in F$ .

Let  $x \in S$ .

Since  $m$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $M$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , then  $m \leq x \leq M$ .

Since  $|m| \leq b$ , then  $-|m| \geq -b$ .

Observe that

$-b \leq -|m| \leq m \leq x \leq M \leq |M| \leq b$ .

Hence,  $-b \leq x \leq b$ , so  $|x| \leq b$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 40.** *Every element of an ordered field is an upper and lower bound of  $\emptyset$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(F, +, \cdot, \leq)$  be an ordered field.

Since  $\leq$  is a partial order over  $F$ , then  $(F, \leq)$  is a partially ordered set.

Since every element of a partially ordered set is an upper and lower bound of  $\emptyset$ , then in particular, every element of  $(F, \leq)$  is an upper and lower bound of  $\emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 41.** *A subset of a bounded set is bounded.*

Let  $A$  be a bounded subset of an ordered field  $F$ .

If  $B \subset A$ , then  $B$  is bounded in  $F$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $B \subset A$ .

Let  $x \in B$ .

Since  $B \subset A$ , then  $x \in A$ .

Since  $A$  is bounded in  $F$ , then there exists  $M \in F$  such that  $|x| \leq M$  for all  $x \in A$ .

Since  $x \in A$ , then  $|x| \leq M$ .

Since  $x$  is arbitrary, then  $|x| \leq M$  for all  $x \in B$ .

Therefore, there is  $M \in F$  such that  $|x| \leq M$  for all  $x \in B$ , so  $B$  is bounded in  $F$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 42.** *A union of bounded sets is bounded.*

*Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*If  $A$  and  $B$  are bounded, then  $A \cup B$  is bounded.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are bounded.

Either  $A = \emptyset$  or  $A \neq \emptyset$  and either  $B = \emptyset$  or  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

Hence, either  $A = \emptyset$  and  $B = \emptyset$  or  $A = \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$  or  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B = \emptyset$  or  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

Thus, we have 4 cases to consider:

**Case 1:** Suppose  $A = \emptyset$  and  $B = \emptyset$ .

Then  $A \cup B = \emptyset \cup \emptyset = \emptyset$ .

Since the empty set is bounded, then  $A \cup B$  is bounded.

**Case 2:** Suppose  $A = \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

Then  $A \cup B = \emptyset \cup B = B$ .

Since  $B$  is bounded, then  $A \cup B$  is bounded.

**Case 3:** Suppose  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B = \emptyset$ .

Then  $A \cup B = A \cup \emptyset = A$ .

Since  $A$  is bounded, then  $A \cup B$  is bounded.

**Case 4:** Suppose  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

Since  $A \neq \emptyset$ , then there exists  $a \in A$ .

Since  $A \subset A \cup B$ , then  $a \in A \cup B$ , so  $A \cup B \neq \emptyset$ .

Since  $A$  is bounded, then there exists  $\alpha \in F$  such that  $|x| \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in A$ .

Since  $B$  is bounded, then there exists  $\beta \in F$  such that  $|x| \leq \beta$  for all  $x \in B$ .

Let  $S = \{\alpha, \beta\}$ .

Let  $\gamma = \max S$ .

Let  $x \in A \cup B$  be given.

Then either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 4a:** Suppose  $x \in A$ .

Then  $|x| \leq \alpha$ .

Since  $\alpha \leq \max S$ , then  $|x| \leq \max S$ .

**Case 4b:** Suppose  $x \in B$ .

Then  $|x| \leq \beta$ .

Since  $\beta \leq \max S$ , then  $|x| \leq \max S$ .

Hence, in all cases,  $|x| \leq \max S$ .

Thus, there exists  $\max S$  such that  $|x| \leq \max S$  for all  $x \in A \cup B$ , so  $A \cup B$  is bounded.  $\square$

**Theorem 43. uniqueness of least upper bound in an ordered field**

*A least upper bound of a subset of an ordered field, if it exists, is unique.*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .

We prove if a least upper bound of  $S$  exists, then it is unique.

Suppose a least upper bound of  $S$  exists in  $F$ .

Then there is at least one least upper bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

**Uniqueness:**

To prove a least upper bound is unique, let  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  be least upper bounds of  $S$  in  $F$ .

We must prove  $L_1 = L_2$ .

Since  $L_1$  is a least upper bound of  $S$ , then  $L_1$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $L_1 \leq M$  for any upper bound  $M$  of  $S$ .

Since  $L_2$  is a least upper bound of  $S$ , then  $L_2$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $L_2 \leq M$  for any upper bound  $M$  of  $S$ .

Since  $L_1 \leq M$  for any upper bound  $M$  of  $S$  and  $L_2$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , then  $L_1 \leq L_2$ .

Since  $L_2 \leq M$  for any upper bound  $M$  of  $S$  and  $L_1$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , then  $L_2 \leq L_1$ .

Since  $L_1 \leq L_2$  and  $L_2 \leq L_1$ , then by the anti-symmetric property of  $\leq$ , we have  $L_1 = L_2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 44. uniqueness of greatest lower bound in an ordered field**

*A greatest lower bound of a subset of an ordered field, if it exists, is unique.*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .

We prove if a greatest lower bound of  $S$  exists, then it is unique.

Suppose a greatest lower bound of  $S$  exists in  $F$ .

Then there is at least one greatest lower bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

**Uniqueness:**

To prove a greatest lower bound is unique, let  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  be greatest lower bounds of  $S$  in  $F$ .

We must prove  $L_1 = L_2$ .

Since  $L_1$  is a greatest lower bound of  $S$ , then  $L_1$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $M \leq L_1$  for any lower bound  $M$  of  $S$ .

Since  $L_2$  is a greatest lower bound of  $S$ , then  $L_2$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $M \leq L_2$  for any lower bound  $M$  of  $S$ .

Since  $M \leq L_2$  for any lower bound  $M$  of  $S$  and  $L_1$  is a lower bound of  $S$ , then  $L_1 \leq L_2$ .

Since  $M \leq L_1$  for any lower bound  $M$  of  $S$  and  $L_2$  is a lower bound of  $S$ , then  $L_2 \leq L_1$ .

Since  $L_1 \leq L_2$  and  $L_2 \leq L_1$ , then by the anti-symmetric property of  $\leq$ , we have  $L_1 = L_2$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 45.** 1. *There is no least upper bound of  $\emptyset$  in an ordered field.*

2. *There is no greatest lower bound of  $\emptyset$  in an ordered field.*



*Proof.* Let  $F$  be an ordered field.

We prove 1 by contradiction.

Suppose there is a least upper bound of  $\emptyset$  in  $F$ .

Let  $b$  be the least upper bound of  $\emptyset$  in  $F$ .

Then  $b \in F$  and no element of  $F$  less than  $b$  is an upper bound of  $\emptyset$ .

Since  $b - 1 \in F$  and  $b - 1 < b$ , then this implies  $b - 1$  is not an upper bound of  $\emptyset$ .

Since every element of  $F$  is an upper bound of  $\emptyset$  and  $b - 1 \in F$ , then  $b - 1$  is an upper bound of  $\emptyset$ .

Thus, we have  $b - 1$  is an upper bound of  $\emptyset$  and  $b - 1$  is not an upper bound of  $\emptyset$ , a contradiction.

Therefore, there is no least upper bound of  $\emptyset$  in  $F$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2 by contradiction.

Suppose there is a greatest lower bound of  $\emptyset$  in  $F$ .

Let  $b$  be the greatest lower bound of  $\emptyset$  in  $F$ .

Then  $b \in F$  and no element of  $F$  greater than  $b$  is a lower bound of  $\emptyset$ .

Since  $b + 1 \in F$  and  $b + 1 > b$ , then this implies  $b + 1$  is not a lower bound of  $\emptyset$ .

Since every element of  $F$  is a lower of  $\emptyset$  and  $b + 1 \in F$ , then  $b + 1$  is a lower bound of  $\emptyset$ .

Thus, we have  $b + 1$  is a lower bound of  $\emptyset$  and  $b + 1$  is not a lower bound of  $\emptyset$ , a contradiction.

Therefore, there is no greatest lower bound of  $\emptyset$  in  $F$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 46. approximation property of suprema and infima**

Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .

1. If  $\sup S$  exists, then  $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists x \in S)(\sup S - \epsilon < x \leq \sup S)$ .

2. If  $\inf S$  exists, then  $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists x \in S)(\inf S \leq x < \inf S + \epsilon)$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $\sup S$  exists.

Then  $\sup S \in F$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given.

Then  $\sup S + \epsilon > \sup S$ , so  $\sup S > \sup S - \epsilon$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is the least upper bound of  $S$ , then  $\sup S \leq B$  for every upper bound  $B$  of  $S$ , so there is no upper bound  $B$  of  $S$  such that  $\sup S > B$ .

Since  $\sup S > \sup S - \epsilon$ , then this implies  $\sup S - \epsilon$  cannot be an upper bound of  $S$ .

Hence, there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $x > \sup S - \epsilon$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $x \in S$ , then  $x \leq \sup S$ .

Therefore,  $\sup S - \epsilon < x \leq \sup S$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $\inf S$  exists.

Then  $\inf S \in F$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given.

Then  $\inf S + \epsilon > \inf S$ .

Since  $\inf S$  is the greatest lower bound of  $S$ , then  $B \leq \inf S$  for every lower bound  $B$  of  $S$ , so there is no lower bound  $B$  of  $S$  such that  $B > \inf S$ .

Since  $\inf S + \epsilon > \inf S$ , then this implies  $\inf S + \epsilon$  cannot be a lower bound of  $S$ .

Hence, there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $x < \inf S + \epsilon$ .

Since  $\inf S$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $x \in S$ , then  $\inf S \leq x$ .

Therefore,  $\inf S \leq x < \inf S + \epsilon$ . □

**Proposition 47.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*If  $\sup S$  and  $\inf S$  exist, then  $\inf S \leq \sup S$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\sup S$  and  $\inf S$  exist.

Then  $\sup S \in F$  and  $\inf S \in F$  and  $S \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $x \in S$  be given.

Since  $\inf S$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $x \in S$ , then  $\inf S \leq x$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $x \in S$ , then  $x \leq \sup S$ .

Therefore,  $\inf S \leq x \leq \sup S$ , so  $\inf S \leq \sup S$ . □

**Proposition 48.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*Let  $-S = \{-s : s \in S\}$ .*

*1. If  $\inf S$  exists, then  $\sup(-S) = -\inf S$ .*

*2. If  $\sup S$  exists, then  $\inf(-S) = -\sup S$ .*

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $\inf S$  exists.

Then  $\inf S \in F$  and  $S \neq \emptyset$ .

Since  $S \neq \emptyset$ , then there exists  $s \in S$ , so  $-s \in -S$ .

Hence, the set  $-S$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in -S$ .

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = -s$ .

Since  $\inf S$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $s \in S$ , then  $\inf S \leq s$ , so  $-\inf S \geq -s$ .

Thus,  $-\inf S \geq x$ , so  $x \leq -\inf S$ .

Therefore,  $-\inf S$  is an upper bound of  $-S$ .

We prove  $-\inf S$  is the least upper bound of  $-S$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $\inf S$  is the greatest lower bound of  $S$  and  $\inf S + \epsilon > \inf S$ , then  $\inf S + \epsilon$  is not a lower bound of  $S$ , so there exists  $s' \in S$  such that  $s' < \inf S + \epsilon$ .

Hence, there exists  $-s' \in -S$  such that  $-s' > -\inf S - \epsilon$ .

Therefore,  $-\inf S$  is the least upper bound of  $-S$ , so  $\sup(-S) = -\inf S$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $\sup S$  exists.

Then  $\sup S \in F$  and  $S \neq \emptyset$ .

Since  $S \neq \emptyset$ , then there exists  $s \in S$ , so  $-s \in -S$ .

Hence, the set  $-S$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in -S$ .

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = -s$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $s \in S$ , then  $s \leq \sup S$ , so  $-s \geq -\sup S$ .

Thus,  $x \geq -\sup S$ , so  $-\sup S \leq x$ .

Therefore,  $-\sup S$  is a lower bound of  $-S$ .

We prove  $-\sup S$  is the greatest lower bound of  $-S$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is the least upper bound of  $S$  and  $\sup S - \epsilon < \sup S$ , then  $\sup S - \epsilon$  is not an upper bound of  $S$ , so there exists  $s' \in S$  such that  $s' > \sup S - \epsilon$ .

Hence, there exists  $-s' \in -S$  such that  $-s' < -\sup S + \epsilon$ .

Therefore,  $-\sup S$  is the greatest lower bound of  $-S$ , so  $\inf(-S) = -\sup S$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 49.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*Let  $k \in F$ .*

*Let  $K = \{k\}$ .*

*Let  $k + S = \{k + s : s \in S\}$ .*

*Let  $K + S = \{k + s : k \in K, s \in S\}$ . Then*

*1.  $\sup K = k$ .*

*2.  $\inf K = k$ .*

*3.  $k + S = K + S$ .*

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Since  $k \leq k$ , then  $k$  is an upper bound of  $K$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary upper bound of  $K$ .

Then  $k \leq M$ .

Since  $k$  is an upper bound of  $K$  and  $k \leq M$ , then  $k$  is the least upper bound of  $K$ , so  $k = \sup K$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Since  $k \leq k$ , then  $k$  is a lower bound of  $K$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary lower bound of  $K$ .

Then  $M \leq k$ .

Since  $k$  is a lower bound of  $K$  and  $M \leq k$ , then  $k$  is the greatest lower bound of  $K$ , so  $k = \inf K$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Let  $x \in k + S$ .

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = k + s$ .

Since  $k \in K$  and  $s \in S$  and  $x = k + s$ , then  $x \in K + S$ .

Therefore,  $k + S$  is a subset of  $K + S$ .

Let  $y \in K + S$ .

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $y = k + s$ , so  $y \in k + S$ .

Therefore,  $K + S$  is a subset of  $k + S$ .

Since  $k + S$  is a subset of  $K + S$  and  $K + S$  is a subset of  $k + S$ , then  $k + S = K + S$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 50. additive property of suprema and infima**

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of an ordered field  $F$ .

Let  $A + B = \{a + b : a \in A, b \in B\}$ .

1. If  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist, then  $\sup(A + B) = \sup A + \sup B$ .
2. If  $\inf A$  and  $\inf B$  exist, then  $\inf(A + B) = \inf A + \inf B$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist in  $F$ .

Since  $\sup A$  exists in  $F$ , then  $A \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists  $a \in A$ .

Since  $\sup B$  exists in  $F$ , then  $B \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists  $b \in B$ .

Thus, there exists  $a + b \in A + B$ , so the set  $A + B$  is not empty.

Let  $c \in A + B$ .

Then there exist  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  such that  $c = a + b$ .

Since  $a \in A$  and  $\sup A$  is an upper bound of  $A$ , then  $a \leq \sup A$ .

Since  $b \in B$  and  $\sup B$  is an upper bound of  $B$ , then  $b \leq \sup B$ .

Hence,  $a + b \leq \sup A + \sup B$ .

Thus,  $c \leq \sup A + \sup B$ .

Therefore,  $\sup A + \sup B$  is an upper bound of  $A + B$ .

We prove  $\sup A + \sup B$  is the least upper bound of  $A + B$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Then  $\frac{\epsilon}{2} > 0$ .

Since  $\sup A$  is the least upper bound of  $A$ , then there exists  $x \in A$  such that  $x > \sup A - \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ .

Since  $\sup B$  is the least upper bound of  $B$ , then there exists  $y \in B$  such that  $y > \sup B - \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ .

Thus,  $x + y > (\sup A - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) + (\sup B - \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ .

Hence, there exists  $x + y \in A + B$  such that  $x + y > (\sup A + \sup B) - \epsilon$ .

Therefore,  $\sup A + \sup B$  is the least upper bound of  $A + B$ , so  $\sup A + \sup B = \sup(A + B)$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $\inf A$  and  $\inf B$  exist in  $F$ .

Since  $\inf A$  exists in  $F$ , then  $A \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists  $a \in A$ .

Since  $\inf B$  exists in  $F$ , then  $B \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists  $b \in B$ .

Thus, there exists  $a + b \in A + B$ , so the set  $A + B$  is not empty.

Let  $c \in A + B$ .

Then there exist  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  such that  $c = a + b$ .

Since  $a \in A$  and  $\inf A$  is a lower bound of  $A$ , then  $\inf A \leq a$ .

Since  $b \in B$  and  $\inf B$  is a lower bound of  $B$ , then  $\inf B \leq b$ .

Hence,  $\inf A + \inf B \leq a + b$ .

Thus,  $\inf A + \inf B \leq c$ .

Therefore,  $\inf A + \inf B$  is a lower bound of  $A + B$ .

We prove  $\inf A + \inf B$  is the greatest lower bound of  $A + B$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Then  $\frac{\epsilon}{2} > 0$ .

Since  $\inf A$  is the greatest lower bound of  $A$ , then there exists  $x \in A$  such that  $x < \inf A + \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ .

Since  $\inf B$  is the greatest lower bound of  $B$ , then there exists  $y \in B$  such that  $y < \inf B + \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ .

Thus,  $x + y < (\inf A + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) + (\inf B + \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ .

Hence, there exists  $x + y \in A + B$  such that  $x + y < (\inf A + \inf B) + \epsilon$ .

Therefore,  $\inf A + \inf B$  is the greatest lower bound of  $A + B$ , so  $\inf A + \inf B = \inf(A + B)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 51.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*Let  $k \in F$ .*

*Let  $k + S = \{k + s : s \in S\}$ .*

*1. If  $\sup S$  exists, then  $\sup(k + S) = k + \sup S$ .*

*2. If  $\inf S$  exists, then  $\inf(k + S) = k + \inf S$ .*

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $\sup S$  exists.

Let  $K = \{k\}$ .

Then  $\sup K = k$ .

Let  $K + S = \{k + s : k \in K, s \in S\}$ .

Then  $k + S = K + S$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} k + \sup S &= \sup K + \sup S \\ &= \sup(K + S) \\ &= \sup(k + S). \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $\inf S$  exists.

Let  $K = \{k\}$ .

Then  $\inf K = k$ .

Let  $K + S = \{k + s : k \in K, s \in S\}$ .

Then  $k + S = K + S$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} k + \inf S &= \inf K + \inf S \\ &= \inf(K + S) \\ &= \inf(k + S). \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Corollary 52.** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of an ordered field  $F$ .

Let  $A - B = \{a - b : a \in A, b \in B\}$ .

If  $\sup A$  and  $\inf B$  exist, then  $\sup(A - B) = \sup A - \inf B$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $\sup A$  and  $\inf B$  exist.

Then  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $-B = \{-b : b \in B\}$ .

Since  $\inf B$  exists, then  $\sup(-B) = -\inf B$ .

Let  $A + (-B) = \{a + b : a \in A, b \in -B\}$ .

We first prove  $A - B \subset A + (-B)$ .

Let  $x \in A - B$ .

Then  $x = a - b$  for some  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ .

Since  $b \in B$ , then  $-b \in -B$ .

Since  $a \in A$  and  $-b \in -B$ , then  $a + (-b) = a - b = x \in A + (-B)$ .

Thus,  $A - B \subset A + (-B)$ .

Let  $y \in A + (-B)$ .

Then  $y = a + b$  for some  $a \in A$  and  $b \in -B$ .

Since  $b \in -B$ , then  $b = -b'$  for some  $b' \in B$ .

Since  $a \in A$  and  $b' \in B$ , then  $a - b' = a + b = y \in A - B$ .

Thus,  $A + (-B) \subset A - B$ .

Since  $A - B \subset A + (-B)$  and  $A + (-B) \subset A - B$ , then  $A - B = A + (-B)$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\sup(A - B) &= \sup(A + (-B)) \\ &= \sup A + \sup(-B) \\ &= \sup A - \inf B.\end{aligned}$$

□

**Proposition 53. comparison property of suprema and infima**

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of an ordered field  $F$  such that  $A \subset B$ .

1. If  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist, then  $\sup A \leq \sup B$ .

2. If  $\inf A$  and  $\inf B$  exist, then  $\inf B \leq \inf A$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist.

Since  $\sup A$  exists, then  $A$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in A$ .

Since  $A \subset B$ , then  $x \in B$ .

Since  $\sup B$  is an upper bound of  $B$ , then  $x \leq \sup B$ .

Hence,  $\sup B$  is an upper bound of  $A$ .

Since  $\sup A$  is the least upper bound of  $A$ , then  $\sup A \leq \sup B$ . □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $\inf A$  and  $\inf B$  exist.

Since  $\inf A$  exists, then  $A$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in A$ .

Since  $A \subset B$ , then  $x \in B$ .

Since  $\inf B$  is a lower bound of  $B$ , then  $\inf B \leq x$ .

Hence,  $\inf B$  is a lower bound of  $A$ .

Since  $\inf A$  is the greatest lower bound of  $A$ , then  $\inf B \leq \inf A$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 54. scalar multiple property of suprema and infima**

Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .

Let  $k \in F$ .

Let  $kS = \{ks : s \in S\}$ .

1. If  $k > 0$  and  $\sup S$  exists, then  $\sup(kS) = k \sup S$ .

2. If  $k > 0$  and  $\inf S$  exists, then  $\inf(kS) = k \inf S$ .

3. If  $k < 0$  and  $\inf S$  exists, then  $\sup(kS) = k \inf S$ .

4. If  $k < 0$  and  $\sup S$  exists, then  $\inf(kS) = k \sup S$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $k > 0$  and  $\sup S$  exists.

Since  $\sup S$  exists, then  $S \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists  $s \in S$ .

Hence,  $ks \in kS$ , so the set  $kS$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in kS$ .

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = ks$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $s \in S$ , then  $s \leq \sup S$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then  $ks \leq k \sup S$ , so  $x \leq k \sup S$ .

Therefore,  $k \sup S$  is an upper bound of  $kS$ .

We prove  $k \sup S$  is the least upper bound of  $kS$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then  $\frac{\epsilon}{k} > 0$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is the least upper bound of  $S$ , then there exists  $s' \in S$  such that  $s' > \sup S - \frac{\epsilon}{k}$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then there exists  $ks' \in kS$  such that  $ks' > k \sup S - \epsilon$ .

Therefore,  $k \sup S$  is the least upper bound of  $kS$ , so  $k \sup S = \sup(kS)$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $k > 0$  and  $\inf S$  exists.

Since  $\inf S$  exists, then  $S \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists  $s \in S$ .

Hence,  $ks \in kS$ , so the set  $kS$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in kS$ .

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = ks$ .

Since  $\inf S$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $s \in S$ , then  $\inf S \leq s$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then  $k \inf S \leq ks$ , so  $k \inf S \leq x$ .

Therefore,  $k \inf S$  is a lower bound of  $kS$ .

We prove  $k \inf S$  is the greatest lower bound of  $kS$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then  $\frac{\epsilon}{k} > 0$ .

Since  $\inf S$  is the greatest lower bound of  $S$ , then there exists  $s' \in S$  such that  $s' < \inf S + \frac{\epsilon}{k}$ .

Since  $k > 0$ , then there exists  $ks' \in kS$  such that  $ks' < k \inf S + \epsilon$ .

Therefore,  $k \inf S$  is the greatest lower bound of  $kS$ , so  $k \inf S = \inf(kS)$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 3.

Suppose  $k < 0$  and  $\inf S$  exists.

Since  $k < 0$ , then  $-k > 0$ .

Since  $-k > 0$  and  $\inf S$  exists, then  $\inf(-kS) = -k \inf S$ .

Since  $\inf(-kS)$  exists, then  $\sup(-(-kS)) = -\inf(-kS)$ .

Therefore,  $\sup(kS) = -(-k \inf S) = k \inf S$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 4.

Suppose  $k < 0$  and  $\sup S$  exists.

Since  $k < 0$ , then  $-k > 0$ .

Since  $-k > 0$  and  $\sup S$  exists, then  $\sup(-kS) = -k \sup S$ .

Since  $\sup(-kS)$  exists, then  $\inf(-(-kS)) = -\sup(-kS)$ .

Therefore,  $\inf(kS) = -(-k \sup S) = k \sup S$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 55.** *sufficient conditions for existence of supremum and infimum in an ordered field*

Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .

1. If  $\max S$  exists, then  $\sup S = \max S$ .

2. If  $\min S$  exists, then  $\inf S = \min S$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $\max S$  exists in  $F$ .

Since  $(F, \leq)$  is a partially ordered set and  $S \subset F$  and  $\max S$  exists, then  $\sup S = \max S$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $\min S$  exists in  $F$ .

Since  $(F, \leq)$  is a partially ordered set and  $S \subset F$  and  $\min S$  exists, then  $\inf S = \min S$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 56.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of an ordered field  $F$ .*

Let  $-S = \{-s : s \in S\}$ .

1. If  $\min S$  exists, then  $\max(-S) = -\min S$ .

2. If  $\max S$  exists, then  $\min(-S) = -\max S$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $\min S$  exists.

Then  $\min S \in S$ , so  $-\min S \in -S$ .

Hence, the set  $-S$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in -S$ .



Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = -s$ .  
 Since  $\min S$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $s \in S$ , then  $\min S \leq s$ .  
 Hence,  $-\min S \geq -s$ , so  $-\min S \geq x$ .  
 Thus,  $x \leq -\min S$ .  
 Therefore,  $-\min S$  is an upper bound of  $-S$ .  
 Since  $-\min S \in -S$  and  $-\min S$  is an upper bound of  $-S$ , then  $-\min S = \max(-S)$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $\max S$  exists.  
 Then  $\max S \in S$ , so  $-\max S \in -S$ .  
 Hence, the set  $-S$  is not empty.  
 Let  $x \in -S$ .  
 Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = -s$ .  
 Since  $\max S$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $s \in S$ , then  $s \leq \max S$ .  
 Hence,  $-s \geq -\max S$ , so  $x \geq -\max S$ .  
 Thus,  $-\max S \leq x$ .  
 Therefore,  $-\max S$  is a lower bound of  $-S$ .  
 Since  $-\max S \in -S$  and  $-\max S$  is a lower bound of  $-S$ , then  $-\max S = \min(-S)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 57.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty subsets of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*Then  $u \in F$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$  iff  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $B$ .*

*Proof.* We prove if  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , then  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $B$ .

Suppose  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$  in  $F$ .  
 Since  $A$  is not empty, then there is at least one element in  $A$ .  
 Let  $x \in A$ .  
 Since  $A \subset A \cup B$ , then  $x \in A \cup B$ .  
 Since  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , then  $x \leq u$ .  
 Therefore,  $x \leq u$  for all  $x \in A$ , so  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A$ .

Since  $B$  is not empty, then there is at least one element in  $B$ .

Let  $x \in B$ .  
 Since  $B \subset A \cup B$ , then  $x \in A \cup B$ .  
 Since  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , then  $x \leq u$ .  
 Therefore,  $x \leq u$  for all  $x \in B$ , so  $u$  is an upper bound of  $B$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* Conversely, we prove if  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $B$ , then  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ .

Suppose  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $B$  in  $F$ .  
 Since  $A$  is not empty, then there is at least one element in  $A$ .  
 Let  $a \in A$ .  
 Since  $A \subset A \cup B$ , then  $a \in A \cup B$ .  
 Hence,  $A \cup B$  is not empty.  
 Let  $x \in A \cup B$ .

Then either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x \in A$ .

Since  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A$ , then  $x \leq u$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x \in B$ .

Since  $u$  is an upper bound of  $B$ , then  $x \leq u$ .

Hence, in all cases,  $x \leq u$ .

Therefore,  $u$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 58.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*If  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist, then  $\sup(A \cup B) = \max\{\sup A, \sup B\}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist.

Then  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $S = \{\sup A, \sup B\}$ .

Since  $\sup A \in F$  and  $\sup B \in F$ , then  $S \subset F$ .

Since  $\sup A \in S$  and  $\sup B \in S$  and either  $\sup A \leq \sup B$  or  $\sup B \leq \sup A$ , then either  $\max S = \sup B$  or  $\max S = \sup A$ .

Hence,  $\max S \in F$  and  $\sup A \leq \max S$  and  $\sup B \leq \max S$ .

We prove  $\max S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ .

Since  $A \neq \emptyset$ , let  $a \in A$ .

Since  $A \subset A \cup B$ , then  $a \in A \cup B$ , so  $A \cup B$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in A \cup B$ .

Then either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x \in A$ .

Since  $\sup A$  is an upper bound of  $A$ , then  $x \leq \sup A$ .

Since  $\sup A \leq \max S$ , then  $x \leq \max S$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x \in B$ .

Since  $\sup B$  is an upper bound of  $B$ , then  $x \leq \sup B$ .

Since  $\sup B \leq \max S$ , then  $x \leq \max S$ .

Hence, in all cases,  $x \leq \max S$ .

Since  $x \leq \max S$  for all  $x \in A \cup B$ , then  $\max S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ .

To prove  $\max S$  is the least upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , let  $M$  be an arbitrary upper bound of  $A \cup B$ .

Since  $A \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \neq \emptyset$  and  $M$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , then  $M$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $B$ .

We must prove  $\max S \leq M$ .

Since  $M$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $\sup A$  is the least upper bound of  $A$ , then  $\sup A \leq M$ .

Since  $M$  is an upper bound of  $B$  and  $\sup B$  is the least upper bound of  $B$ , then  $\sup B \leq M$ .

Since either  $\max S = \sup A$  or  $\max S = \sup B$ , then this implies  $\max S \leq M$ .

Therefore,  $\max S$  is the least upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , so  $\max S = \sup(A \cup B)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 59.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of an ordered field  $F$ .*

*If  $\max A$  and  $\max B$  exist in  $F$ , then  $\max(A \cup B) = \max\{\max A, \max B\}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\max A$  and  $\max B$  exist in  $F$ .

Let  $S = \{\max A, \max B\}$ .

Since  $\max A \in S$  and  $\max B \in S$  and either  $\max A \leq \max B$  or  $\max B \leq \max A$ , then either  $\max B$  is the maximum of  $S$  or  $\max A$  is the maximum of  $S$ .

Hence,  $\max S$  exists.

Since either  $\max S = \max A$  or  $\max S = \max B$  and  $\max A \in A$  and  $\max B \in B$ , then either  $\max S \in A$  or  $\max S \in B$ .

Hence,  $\max S \in A \cup B$ .

Since  $\max S$  is the maximum of  $S$ , then  $\max A \leq \max S$  and  $\max B \leq \max S$ .

We prove  $\max S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ .

Since  $\max A$  is the maximum of  $A$ , then  $\max A \in A$ , so  $A$  is not empty.

Let  $a \in A$ .

Since  $A \subset A \cup B$ , then  $a \in A \cup B$ .

Hence,  $A \cup B$  is not empty.

Let  $x \in A \cup B$ .

Then either  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x \in A$ .

Since  $\max A$  is an upper bound of  $A$ , then  $x \leq \max A$ .

Thus,  $x \leq \max A$  and  $\max A \leq \max S$ , so  $x \leq \max S$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x \in B$ .

Since  $\max B$  is an upper bound of  $B$ , then  $x \leq \max B$ .

Thus,  $x \leq \max B$  and  $\max B \leq \max S$ , so  $x \leq \max S$ .

Hence, in all cases,  $x \leq \max S$ .

Therefore,  $\max S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ .

Thus,  $\max S \in A \cup B$  and  $\max S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cup B$ , so  $\max S = \max(A \cup B)$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 60.** *Every nonempty finite subset of an ordered field has a maximum.*

*Proof.* Let  $F$  be an ordered field.

Define the predicate  $p(n)$  over  $\mathbb{N}$  to be the statement:

If a subset  $S$  of  $F$  contains exactly  $n$  elements, then  $\max S$  exists.

We prove  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by induction on  $n$ .

**Basis:**

Since  $F$  is a field, then  $F$  is not empty, so there is at least one element of  $F$ .

Let  $x$  be an element of  $F$ .

Let  $S = \{x\}$ .

Since  $x \in F$ , then  $S \subset F$ .

Clearly,  $S$  contains exactly one element.

Since  $x \in S$  and  $x \leq x$ , then  $x$  is the maximum of  $S$ .

Thus,  $\max S$  exists.

Therefore,  $p(1)$  is true.

Thus, if  $S$  is any subset of  $F$  that contains exactly one element, then  $\max S$  exists.

**Induction:**

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $p(n)$  is true.

Then if a subset  $S$  of  $F$  contains exactly  $n$  elements, then  $\max S$  exists.

To prove  $p(n+1)$  follows, we must prove if a subset  $A$  of  $F$  contains exactly  $n+1$  elements, then  $\max A$  exists.

Since  $F$  is an ordered field, then  $F$  is infinite, so  $F$  contains infinitely many elements.

Hence, there exist a finite number of elements of  $F$ .

In particular, there exist exactly  $n+1$  elements of  $F$ .

Let  $A$  be a subset of  $F$  that contains exactly  $n+1$  elements.

Then there exist  $x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}$  elements of  $F$  such that  $A = \{x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}\}$  and  $A \subset F$ .

Let  $B = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $B' = \{x_{n+1}\}$ .

Then  $B \subset A$  and  $B' \subset A$  and  $A = B \cup B'$  and  $B$  contains exactly  $n$  elements and  $B'$  contains exactly one element.

Since  $B \subset A \subset F$ , then  $B \subset F$ .

Thus,  $B$  is a subset of  $F$  and contains exactly  $n$  elements, so by the induction hypothesis,  $\max B$  exists.

Since  $B' \subset A \subset F$ , then  $B' \subset F$ .

Thus,  $B'$  is a subset of  $F$  and contains exactly one element, so  $\max B'$  exists.

Since  $\max B$  and  $\max B'$  exist, then  $\max(B \cup B') = \max\{\max B, \max B'\}$ .

Thus,  $\max A = \max\{\max B, \max B'\}$ , so  $\max A$  exists.

Thus,  $p(n+1)$  is true.

Hence,  $p(n)$  implies  $p(n+1)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Since  $p(1)$  is true and  $p(n)$  implies  $p(n+1)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then by induction  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Thus, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , if a subset  $S$  of  $F$  contains exactly  $n$  elements, then  $\max S$  exists.

Hence, if  $S$  is a nonempty finite subset of  $F$ , then  $\max S$  exists.

Therefore, if  $S$  is a nonempty finite subset of  $F$ , then  $S$  has a maximum.

Thus, every nonempty finite subset of an ordered field has a maximum, as desired.  $\square$

## Complete ordered fields

**Theorem 61. *greatest lower bound property in a complete ordered field***

*Every nonempty subset of a complete ordered field  $F$  that is bounded below in  $F$  has a greatest lower bound in  $F$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of a complete ordered field  $F$  that is bounded below in  $F$ .

We must prove  $\inf S$  exists in  $F$ .

Let  $-S = \{-s : s \in S\}$ .

Since  $S \subset F$ , then  $-S \subset F$ .

Since  $S$  is not empty, then there is at least one element of  $S$ .

Let  $x \in S$ .

Then  $-x \in -S$ , so  $-S \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $t \in -S$ .

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $t = -s$ .

Since  $S$  is bounded below in  $F$ , then there is a lower bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

Let  $L$  be a lower bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

Since  $L$  is a lower bound of  $S$  and  $s \in S$ , then  $L \leq s$ , so  $-L \geq -s$ .

Hence,  $-L \geq t$ , so  $t \leq -L$  for all  $t \in -S$ .

Therefore,  $-L$  is an upper bound of  $-S$ , so  $-S$  is bounded above in  $F$ .

Thus,  $-S$  is a nonempty subset of  $F$  bounded above in  $F$ .

Since  $F$  is complete, then  $\sup(-S)$  exists in  $F$ .

Hence,  $\inf(-(-S)) = -\sup(-S)$ , so  $\inf(S) = -\sup(-S)$ .

Therefore, we conclude  $\inf(S)$  exists in  $F$ . □

**Proposition 62.** *There is no rational number  $x$  such that  $x^2 = 2$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose there is a rational number  $x$  such that  $x^2 = 2$ .

Then there exist a pair of integers  $p$  and  $q$  with  $q \neq 0$  such that  $x = \frac{p}{q}$ .

Surely, if such a pair exists, then a pair exists having no common factors greater than 1.

Therefore, assume  $p$  and  $q$  have no common factors greater than 1.

Observe that  $2 = x^2 = \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2}$ .

Thus,  $p^2 = 2q^2$ , so  $p^2$  is even.

Since an integer  $n^2$  is even if and only if  $n$  is even, then in particular,  $p^2$  is even iff  $p$  is even.

Thus,  $p$  is even.

Hence,  $p = 2m$  for some integer  $m$ .

Therefore,  $2q^2 = (2m)^2 = 4m^2$ , so  $q^2 = 2m^2$ .

Hence,  $q^2$  is even, so  $q$  is even.

Since  $p$  and  $q$  are both even, then 2 is a common factor of both  $p$  and  $q$  and is greater than 1; but this contradicts the assumption that  $p$  and  $q$  have no common factors greater than 1.

Hence, no such pair of integers exist.

Therefore, there is no rational number  $x$  such that  $x^2 = 2$ . □

**Proposition 63.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist in  $\mathbb{R}$ .*

*If  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\sup(A \cap B) \leq \min\{\sup A, \sup B\}$ .*

*Moreover, if  $A$  and  $B$  are bounded intervals such that  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\sup(A \cap B) = \min\{\sup A, \sup B\}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ .

Since  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  and  $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ , then  $A \cap B \subset \mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $S = \{\sup A, \sup B\}$ .

Since  $\sup A \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\sup B \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $\sup A \in S$  and  $\sup B \in S$  and either  $\sup A \leq \sup B$  or  $\sup B \leq \sup A$ , then either  $\sup A = \min S$  or  $\sup B = \min S$ .

Hence,  $\min S \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\min S \leq \sup A$  and  $\min S \leq \sup B$ .

We prove  $\min S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cap B$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $A \cap B$  is not empty, let  $x \in A \cap B$ .

Then  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ .

Either  $\sup A = \min S$  or  $\sup B = \min S$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $\sup A = \min S$ .

Since  $x \in A$  and  $\sup A$  is an upper bound of  $A$ , then  $x \leq \sup A$ .

Thus,  $x \leq \min S$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $\sup B = \min S$ .

Since  $x \in B$  and  $\sup B$  is an upper bound of  $B$ , then  $x \leq \sup B$ .

Thus,  $x \leq \min S$ .

Hence, in all cases,  $x \leq \min S$ .

Therefore,  $\min S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cap B$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Thus,  $A \cap B$  is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $A \cap B$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  and is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  is complete, then  $A \cap B$  has a least upper bound in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Therefore,  $\sup(A \cap B)$  is the least upper bound of  $A \cap B$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $\sup(A \cap B)$  is the least upper bound of  $A \cap B$  and  $\min S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cap B$ , then  $\sup(A \cap B) \leq \min S$ , as desired.

We prove if  $A$  and  $B$  are bounded intervals such that  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\sup(A \cap B) = \min\{\sup A, \sup B\}$ .

Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are bounded intervals such that  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ .

Since  $A$  and  $B$  are intervals, then  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  and  $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $A$  is bounded, then  $A$  is bounded above and below in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $B$  is bounded, then  $B$  is bounded above and below in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , then let  $x \in A \cap B$ .

Then  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ .

Hence,  $A$  is not empty and  $B$  is not empty.

Since  $A$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  that is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then  $A$  has a least upper bound in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Therefore,  $\sup A$  is the least upper bound of  $A$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $A$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  that is bounded below in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then  $A$  has a greatest lower bound in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Therefore,  $\inf A$  is the greatest lower bound of  $A$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $B$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  that is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then  $B$  has a least upper bound in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Therefore,  $\sup B$  is the least upper bound of  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $B$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  that is bounded below in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then  $B$  has a greatest lower bound in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Therefore,  $\inf B$  is the greatest lower bound of  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $S = \{\sup A, \sup B\}$ .

Since  $A$  and  $B$  are subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  exist in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\sup(A \cap B) \leq \min S$ .

We must prove  $\sup(A \cap B) = \min S$ .

Since  $\min S$  is an upper bound of  $A \cap B$ , then  $A \cap B$  has at least one upper bound in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $K$  be an arbitrary upper bound of  $A \cap B$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $K \in \mathbb{R}$ .

We must prove  $\min S \leq K$ .

Suppose for the sake of contradiction  $\min S > K$ .

Then  $K < \min S$ .

Since  $x \in A \cap B$  and  $K$  is an upper bound of  $A \cap B$ , then  $x \leq K$ .

Hence,  $x \leq K < \min S$ .

Since  $\min S \leq \sup A$ , then  $x \leq K < \min S \leq \sup A$ , so  $x \leq K < \sup A$ .

Since  $A$  is an interval and  $\sup A$  is the least upper bound of  $A$ , then if  $x \in A$ , then  $c \in A$  if  $x \leq c < \sup A$ .

Since  $A$  is an interval and  $x \in A$  and  $x \leq K < \sup A$ , then  $K \in A$ .

Since  $\min S \leq \sup B$ , then  $x \leq K < \min S \leq \sup B$ , so  $x \leq K < \sup B$ .

Since  $B$  is an interval and  $\sup B$  is the least upper bound of  $B$ , then if  $x \in B$ , then  $c \in B$  if  $x \leq c < \sup B$ .

Since  $B$  is an interval and  $x \in B$  and  $x \leq K < \sup B$ , then  $K \in B$ .

Either  $\sup A = \min S$  or  $\sup B = \min S$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $\min S = \sup A$ .

Since  $K \in A$  and  $K < \frac{K + \sup A}{2} < \sup A$ , then  $\frac{K + \sup A}{2} \in A$ .

Since  $\min S = \sup A$ , then  $K < \frac{K + \min S}{2} < \sup A$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in A$ .

Thus,  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in A$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} > K$ .

Since  $\min S \leq \sup B$ , then either  $\min S < \sup B$  or  $\min S = \sup B$ .

Suppose  $\min S < \sup B$ .

Since  $\min S = \sup A$ , then  $\sup A < \sup B$ .

Since  $K \in B$  and  $K < \min S < \sup B$ , then  $\min S \in B$ .

Since  $B$  is an interval and  $K \in B$  and  $\min S \in B$  and  $K < \frac{K + \min S}{2} < \min S$ , then  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in B$ .

Thus,  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in B$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} > K$ .

Suppose  $\min S = \sup B$ .

Since  $K \in B$  and  $K < \frac{K + \sup B}{2} < \sup B$ , then  $\frac{K + \sup B}{2} \in B$ .

Since  $\sup B = \min S$ , then  $K < \frac{K + \min S}{2} < \sup B$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in B$ .

Thus,  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in B$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} > K$ .

Thus, in either case  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in B$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} > K$ .

Since  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in A$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in B$ , then  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in A \cap B$ .

Hence, there exists  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in A \cap B$  such that  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} > K$ .

But, this contradicts the fact that  $K$  is an upper bound of  $A \cap B$ .

Therefore,  $\min S \neq \sup A$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $\min S = \sup B$ .

Since  $K \in B$  and  $K < \frac{K + \sup B}{2} < \sup B$ , then  $\frac{K + \sup B}{2} \in B$ .

Since  $\min S = \sup B$ , then  $K < \frac{K + \min S}{2} < \sup B$  and  $\frac{K + \min S}{2} \in B$ .

Thus,  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in B$  and  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} > K$ .  
Since  $\min S \leq \sup A$ , then either  $\min S < \sup A$  or  $\min S = \sup A$ .  
Suppose  $\min S < \sup A$ .  
Since  $\min S = \sup B$ , then  $\sup B < \sup A$ .  
Since  $K \in A$  and  $K < \min S < \sup A$ , then  $\min S \in A$ .  
Since  $A$  is an interval and  $K \in A$  and  $\min S \in A$  and  $K < \frac{K+\min S}{2} < \min S$ ,  
then  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A$ .  
Thus,  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A$  and  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} > K$ .  
Suppose  $\min S = \sup A$ .  
Since  $K \in A$  and  $K < \frac{K+\sup A}{2} < \sup A$ , then  $\frac{K+\sup A}{2} \in A$ .  
Since  $\sup A = \min S$ , then  $K < \frac{K+\min S}{2} < \sup A$  and  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A$ .  
Thus,  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A$  and  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} > K$ .  
Thus, in either case  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A$  and  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} > K$ .  
Since  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A$  and  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in B$ , then  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A \cap B$ .  
Hence, there exists  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} \in A \cap B$  such that  $\frac{K+\min S}{2} > K$ .  
But, this contradicts the fact that  $K$  is an upper bound of  $A \cap B$ .  
Therefore,  $\min S \neq \sup A$ .  
Thus, in either case,  $\min S \neq \sup A$  and  $\min S \neq \sup B$ .  
This contradicts the fact that either  $\min S = \sup A$  or  $\min S = \sup B$ .  
Hence,  $\min S$  cannot be greater than  $K$ .  
Therefore,  $\min S \leq K$ , so  $\min S$  is the least upper bound of  $A \cap B$ .  
Thus,  $\min S = \sup(A \cap B)$ , as desired.  $\square$

## Archimedean ordered fields

### Theorem 64. Archimedean property of $\mathbb{Q}$

The field  $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot, \leq)$  is Archimedean ordered.

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $b > 0$ .

We must prove there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n > \frac{a}{b}$ .

Either  $a \leq 0$  or  $a > 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a \leq 0$ .

Let  $n = 1$ .

Then  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Since  $a \leq 0$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $\frac{a}{b} \leq 0 < 1 = n$ .

Therefore, there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n > \frac{a}{b}$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a > 0$ .

Since  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $a > 0$ , then there exist  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $a = \frac{r}{s}$ .

Since  $b \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $b > 0$ , then there exist  $t, v \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $b = \frac{t}{v}$ .

Let  $n = rv(rv + 1)$ .

Since  $r, v \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  is closed under addition and multiplication, then  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , so  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Since  $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then  $s \geq 1$  and  $t \geq 1$ , so  $st \geq 1$ .

Since  $r, v \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then  $r \geq 1$  and  $v \geq 1$ , so  $rv \geq 1$ .



Since  $rv \geq 1$ , then  $rv + 1 \geq 2 > 1$ , so  $rv + 1 > 1$ .

Since  $rv + 1 > 1$  and  $st \geq 1$ , then  $(rv + 1)st > 1$ .

Since  $\frac{nb}{a} = \frac{rv(rv+1)\frac{t}{v}}{\frac{r}{s}} = \frac{r(rv+1)t}{\frac{r}{s}} = \frac{r(rv+1)st}{r} = (rv + 1)st > 1$ , then  $\frac{nb}{a} > 1$ .

Since  $a > 0$ , then  $nb > a$ .

Since  $b > 0$ , then  $n > \frac{a}{b}$ .

Therefore, there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n > \frac{a}{b}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 65. Archimedean property of  $\mathbb{R}$**

*A complete ordered field is necessarily Archimedean ordered.*

*Proof.* Let  $F$  be a complete ordered field.

To prove  $F$  is Archimedean ordered, let  $a, b \in F$  with  $b > 0$ .

We must prove there exists  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $nb > a$ .

We prove by contradiction.

Suppose there does not exist a positive integer  $n$  such that  $nb > a$ .

Then  $nb \leq a$  for all positive integers  $n$ .

Let  $S$  be the set of all positive integer multiples of  $b$ .

Then  $S = \{nb : n \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}$ .

Since  $b = 1b$  and  $1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then  $b \in S$ , so  $S$  is not empty.

Let  $s \in S$ .

Then there exists  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $s = nb$ .

Since  $b \in F^+$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $s = nb \in F^+$ .

Since  $s \in F^+$  and  $F^+ \subset F$ , then  $s \in F$ , so  $S \subset F$ .

Since  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then by hypothesis,  $nb \leq a$ , so  $s \leq a$ .

Therefore,  $a$  is an upper bound of  $S$  in  $F$ , so  $S$  is bounded above in  $F$ .

Hence,  $S$  is a nonempty subset of  $F$  that is bounded above in  $F$ .

Since  $F$  is complete, then  $S$  has a least upper bound in  $F$ .

Let  $\sup S$  be the least upper bound of  $S$  in  $F$ .

Since  $b > 0 = \sup S - \sup S$ , then  $\sup S + b > \sup S$ , so  $\sup S > \sup S - b$ .

Since  $\sup S - b < \sup S$ , then  $\sup S - b$  is not an upper bound of  $S$ , so there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $x > \sup S - b$ .

Since  $x \in S$ , then there exists  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $x = mb$ , so  $mb > \sup S - b$ .

Hence,  $(m + 1)b = mb + b > \sup S$ .

Since  $m + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then  $(m + 1)b \in S$ .

Hence, there exists  $(m + 1)b \in S$  such that  $(m + 1)b > \sup S$ .

But, this contradicts the fact that  $\sup S$  is an upper bound of  $S$ .

Therefore, there does exist a positive integer  $n$  such that  $nb > a$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 66.  $\mathbb{N}$  is unbounded in an Archimedean ordered field.**

*Let  $F$  be an Archimedean ordered field.*

*Then for every  $x \in F$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n > x$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $F$  is a field, then  $1 \in F$ , so  $F \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $x \in F$  be arbitrary.

Since  $F$  is Archimedean and  $x \in F$  and  $1 > 0$ , then there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n \cdot 1 > x$ .

Therefore, there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n > x$ . □

**Proposition 67.** *Let  $F$  be an Archimedean ordered field.  
For every positive  $\epsilon \in F$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\frac{1}{n} < \epsilon$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon$  be a positive element of  $F$ .

Then  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $F$  is Archimedean ordered and  $1 \in F$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ , then there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n\epsilon > 1$ .

Since  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $n > 0$ , so  $\epsilon > \frac{1}{n}$ .

Therefore, there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\frac{1}{n} < \epsilon$ . □

**Lemma 68.** *Each real number lies between two consecutive integers  
For each real number  $x$  there is a unique integer  $n$  such that  $n \leq x < n + 1$ .*

**Solution.** We must prove:  $(\forall x \in \mathbb{R})(\exists! n \in \mathbb{Z})(n \leq x < n + 1)$ . □

*Proof. Existence:*

Let  $x$  be an arbitrary real number.

We must prove there is an integer  $n$  such that  $n \leq x < n + 1$ .

Let  $S = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : n \leq x\}$ .

Suppose for the sake of contradiction  $S = \emptyset$ .

Then there is no integer  $n$  such that  $n \leq x$ .

Hence,  $n > x$  for every integer  $n$ , so for every integer  $n$ ,  $x < n$ .

Thus,  $x$  is a lower bound of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , so  $\mathbb{Z}$  is bounded below in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $\mathbb{Z} \neq \emptyset$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  is bounded below in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then by completeness of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\inf \mathbb{Z}$  exists.

Since  $\inf \mathbb{Z} + 1$  is not a lower bound of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , then there exists  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $t < \inf \mathbb{Z} + 1$ .

Thus,  $t - 1 < \inf \mathbb{Z}$ .

Since  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $t - 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Hence, we have  $t - 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $t - 1 < \inf \mathbb{Z}$ .

This contradicts the fact that  $\inf \mathbb{Z}$  is a lower bound of  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Therefore,  $S \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $s \in S$  be given.

Then  $s \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $s \leq x$ .

Thus,  $s \leq x$  for all  $s \in S$ , so  $x$  is an upper bound of  $S$ .

Hence,  $S$  is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $S \neq \emptyset$  and  $S$  is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then by completeness of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\sup S$  exists.

Since  $\sup S - 1$  is not an upper bound of  $S$ , then there exists  $n \in S$  such that  $n > \sup S - 1$ .

Thus,  $n + 1 > \sup S$ .

Since  $n \in S$ , then  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n \leq x$ .

Since  $\sup S$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , then if  $n \in S$ , then  $n \leq \sup S$ .

Hence, if  $n > \sup S$ , then  $n \notin S$ .

Since  $n + 1 > \sup S$ , then we conclude  $n + 1 \notin S$ .

Since  $n + 1 \in S$  iff  $n + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n + 1 \leq x$ , then  $n + 1 \notin S$  iff either  $n + 1 \notin \mathbb{Z}$  or  $n + 1 > x$ .

Thus, either  $n + 1 \notin \mathbb{Z}$  or  $n + 1 > x$ .

Since  $s \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $n + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Hence, we conclude  $n + 1 > x$ .

Therefore, there exists  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $n \leq x < n + 1$ .  $\square$

**Proof. Uniqueness:**

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

We must prove there is a unique integer  $n$  such that  $n \leq x < n + 1$ .

Suppose there exist integers  $m$  and  $n$  such that  $m \leq x < m + 1$  and  $n \leq x < n + 1$ .

To prove uniqueness, we must prove  $m = n$ .

Since  $m \leq x < m + 1$ , then  $m \leq x$  and  $x < m + 1$ .

Since  $n \leq x < n + 1$ , then  $n \leq x$  and  $x < n + 1$ .

By trichotomy, either  $m < n$  or  $m = n$  or  $m > n$ .

Suppose  $m < n$ .

Then  $n - m > 0$ .

Since  $m$  and  $n$  are integers, then  $n - m \geq 1$ .

Hence,  $n \geq m + 1$ , so  $m + 1 \leq n$ .

Since  $m + 1 \leq n \leq x$ , then  $m + 1 \leq x$ .

Thus, we have  $m + 1 \leq x$  and  $m + 1 > x$ , a violation of trichotomy.

Therefore,  $m$  cannot be less than  $n$ .

Suppose  $m > n$ .

Then  $m - n > 0$ .

Since  $m$  and  $n$  are integers, then  $m - n \geq 1$ .

Hence,  $m \geq n + 1$ , so  $n + 1 \leq m$ .

Since  $n + 1 \leq m$  and  $m \leq x$ , then  $n + 1 \leq x$ .

Thus, we have  $n + 1 \leq x$  and  $n + 1 > x$ , a violation of trichotomy.

Therefore,  $m$  cannot be greater than  $n$ .

Hence, we must conclude  $m = n$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 69.  $\mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}$**

For every  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $a < b$ , there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < q < b$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a$  and  $b$  be real numbers with  $a < b$ .

Then  $b - a > 0$ .

By the Archimedean property of  $\mathbb{R}$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $\frac{1}{n} < b - a$ .

Since  $n > 0$ , then  $1 < bn - an$ , so  $an + 1 < bn$ .

Since every real number lies between two consecutive integers, then in particular, the real number  $an$  lies between two consecutive integers.

Hence, there exists an integer  $m$  such that  $m \leq an < m + 1$ .

Thus,  $m \leq an$  and  $an < m + 1$ .

Since  $m \leq an$ , then  $m + 1 \leq an + 1$ .

Since  $m + 1 \leq an + 1$  and  $an + 1 < bn$ , then  $m + 1 < bn$ .

Hence,  $an < m + 1$  and  $m + 1 < bn$ .

Since  $n > 0$ , then  $a < \frac{m+1}{n}$  and  $\frac{m+1}{n} < b$ , so  $a < \frac{m+1}{n} < b$ .

Let  $q = \frac{m+1}{n}$ .

Since  $m + 1, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n \neq 0$ , then  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Therefore, there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < q < b$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Corollary 70.** *between any two distinct real numbers is a nonzero rational number*

*For every  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $a < b$ , there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $q \neq 0$  and  $a < q < b$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $a < b$ .

Either it is the case that  $a < 0 < b$  or not.

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a < 0 < b$ .

Then  $a < 0$  and  $0 < b$ .

Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $0 < b$ , then there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $0 < q < b$ .

Hence,  $0 < q$ , so  $q \neq 0$ .

Since  $a < 0$  and  $0 < q < b$ , then  $a < 0 < q < b$ , so  $a < q < b$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose it is not the case that  $a < 0 < b$ .

Then it is not the case that  $a < 0$  and  $0 < b$ , so either  $a \geq 0$  or  $0 \geq b$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 2a:** Suppose  $a \geq 0$ .

Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $a < b$ , then there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < q < b$ .

Hence,  $a < q$ .

Since  $0 \leq a$  and  $a < q$ , then  $0 < q$ , so  $q \neq 0$ .

**Case 2b:** Suppose  $0 \geq b$ .

Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $a < b$ , then there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < q < b$ .

Hence,  $q < b$ .

Since  $q < b$  and  $b \leq 0$ , then  $q < 0$ , so  $q \neq 0$ .

Therefore, in all cases, there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $q \neq 0$  and  $a < q < b$ , as desired.  $\square$

## Existence of square roots in $\mathbb{R}$

**Proposition 71.** *A square root of a negative real number does not exist in  $\mathbb{R}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x$  be a negative real number.

Then  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x < 0$ .

Suppose a square root of  $x$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Then there is a real number  $y$  such that  $y^2 = x$ .

Hence,  $y^2 < 0$ .

Since  $\mathbb{R}$  is an ordered field, then  $r^2 \geq 0$  for all  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ .

In particular,  $y^2 \geq 0$ .

Thus, we have  $y^2 < 0$  and  $y^2 \geq 0$ , a violation of trichotomy.  
Therefore, a square root of  $x$  does not exist in  $\mathbb{R}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 72.** *Zero is the unique square root of 0.*

*Proof.* Clearly, 0 is a real number and  $0^2 = 0$ .

Therefore, 0 is a square root of 0.

To prove 0 is a unique square root of 0, suppose there is a real number  $x$  that is a square root of 0.

Then  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x^2 = 0$ .

We must prove  $x = 0$ .

Since  $\mathbb{R}$  is an ordered field, then  $x^2 = 0$  iff  $x = 0$ .

Since  $x^2 = 0$ , then we conclude  $x = 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Lemma 73.** *Let  $F$  be an ordered field.*

*Let  $a, b \in F$ .*

*If  $0 < a < b$ , then  $0 < a^2 < ab < b^2$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $0 < a < b$ .

Then  $0 < a$  and  $a < b$ , so  $0 < b$ .

Since  $0 < a$  and  $a > 0$ , then  $a0 < aa$ , so  $0 < a^2$ .

Since  $a < b$  and  $a > 0$ , then  $aa < ab$ , so  $a^2 < ab$ .

Since  $a < b$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $ab < bb$ , so  $ab < b^2$ .

Therefore,  $0 < a^2$  and  $a^2 < ab$  and  $ab < b^2$ , so  $0 < a^2 < ab < b^2$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Lemma 74.** *Let  $F$  be an ordered field.*

*Let  $a \in F$ .*

*If  $|a| < \epsilon$  for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , then  $a = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $|a| < \epsilon$  for all  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $|a| \geq 0$ , then either  $|a| > 0$  or  $|a| = 0$ .

Suppose  $|a| > 0$ .

Then  $|a| < |a|$ , a contradiction.

Therefore,  $|a| = 0$ , so  $a = 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* We must prove  $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(|a| < \epsilon) \rightarrow (a = 0)$ .

We prove by contrapositive.

Suppose  $a \neq 0$ .

Let  $\epsilon = \frac{|a|}{2}$ .

Since  $|a| \geq 0$  and  $a \neq 0$ , then  $|a| > 0$ , so  $\frac{|a|}{2} > 0$ .

Hence,  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Since  $1 \geq 1/2$  and  $|a| > 0$ , then  $|a| \geq \frac{|a|}{2} = \epsilon$ .

Therefore, there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $|a| \geq \epsilon$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 75.** *existence and uniqueness of positive square roots*

*Let  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*A unique positive square root of  $r$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$  iff  $r > 0$ .*

*Proof.* We prove if a unique positive square root of  $r$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then  $r > 0$ .

Suppose there exists a unique positive square root of  $r$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $x$  be the unique positive square root of  $r$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x > 0$  and  $x^2 = r$ .

Since  $\mathbb{R}$  is an ordered field and  $x > 0$ , then  $x^2 > 0$ , so  $r > 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* Conversely, we prove if  $r > 0$ , then a unique positive square root of  $r$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Suppose  $r > 0$ .

To prove a unique positive square root of  $r$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ , we must prove there exists a unique  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\alpha^2 = r$ .

Thus, we must prove:

1. Existence:

There exists  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\alpha^2 = r$ .

2. Uniqueness:

If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are positive square roots of  $r$ , then  $\alpha = \beta$ .  $\square$

*Proof. Uniqueness:*

We prove if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are positive square roots of  $r$ , then  $\alpha = \beta$ .

Suppose  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are positive square roots of  $r$ .

Since  $\alpha$  is a positive square root of  $r$ , then  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\alpha^2 = r$ .

Since  $\beta$  is a positive square root of  $r$ , then  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\beta > 0$  and  $\beta^2 = r$ .

Since  $\alpha^2 = r = \beta^2$ , then  $\alpha^2 = \beta^2$ , so  $\alpha^2 - \beta^2 = 0$ .

Hence,  $(\alpha + \beta)(\alpha - \beta) = 0$ , so either  $\alpha + \beta = 0$  or  $\alpha - \beta = 0$ .

Thus, either  $\alpha = -\beta$  or  $\alpha = \beta$ .

Suppose  $\alpha = -\beta$ .

Since  $\beta > 0$ , then  $-\beta < 0$ , so  $\alpha < 0$ .

Thus, we have  $\alpha < 0$  and  $\alpha > 0$ , a violation of trichotomy.

Hence,  $\alpha \neq -\beta$ .

Therefore,  $\alpha = \beta$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof. Existence:*

We prove there exists  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\alpha^2 = r$ .

Let  $S = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x > 0, x^2 \leq r\}$ .

Clearly,  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$ .

We prove  $S$  is not empty.

Let  $A = \{1, r\}$ .

Since  $1 \in A$  and  $r \in A$  and either  $1 \leq r$  or  $r \leq 1$ , then either  $\min A = 1$  or  $\min A = r$ , so  $\min A$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $\min A$  is a lower bound of  $A$  and  $1 \in A$ , then  $\min A \leq 1$ .

Since either  $\min A = 1$  or  $\min A = r$  and  $1 > 0$  and  $r > 0$ , then  $\min A > 0$ .

Since  $\min A \leq 1$  and  $\min A > 0$ , then  $(\min A)^2 \leq \min A$ .

Since  $\min A$  is a lower bound of  $A$  and  $r \in A$ , then  $\min A \leq r$ .

Thus,  $(\min A)^2 \leq \min A \leq r$ , so  $(\min A)^2 \leq r$ .

Since  $\min A > 0$ , then  $(\min A)^2 > 0$ .

Since  $\min A \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $(\min A)^2 > 0$  and  $(\min A)^2 \leq r$ , then  $\min A \in S$ .

Therefore  $S$  is not empty.

Since  $1 \in A$  and  $r \in A$  and either  $1 \leq r$  or  $r \leq 1$ , then either  $\max A = r$  or  $\max A = 1$ , so  $\max A$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

To prove  $\max A$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , we must prove if  $x \in S$ , then  $x \leq \max A$ .

We prove by contrapositive.

Suppose  $x > \max A$ .

We must prove  $x \notin S$ .

Since  $\max A$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $1 \in A$ , then  $1 \leq \max A$ .

Thus,  $x > \max A \geq 1 > 0$ , so  $x > 1$  and  $x > 0$  and  $\max A > 0$ .

Since  $x > \max A$  and  $x > 0$ , then  $x^2 > x \max A$ .

Since  $x > 1$  and  $\max A > 0$ , then  $x \max A > \max A$ .

Thus,  $x^2 > x \max A > \max A$ , so  $x^2 > \max A$ .

Since  $\max A$  is an upper bound of  $A$  and  $r \in A$ , then  $r \leq \max A$ .

Since  $x^2 > \max A$  and  $\max A \geq r$ , then  $x^2 > r$ .

Since  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x^2 > r$ , then  $x \notin S$ , as desired.

Therefore,  $\max A$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , so  $S$  is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $S$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  and is bounded above in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  is complete, then  $S$  has a least upper bound in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $\alpha$  be the least upper bound of  $S$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\alpha$  is an upper bound of  $S$ .

We prove  $\alpha > 0$ .

Since  $\alpha$  is an upper bound of  $S$  and  $\min A \in S$ , then  $\min A \leq \alpha$ .

Since  $0 < \min A$  and  $\min A \leq \alpha$ , then  $0 < \alpha$ , so  $\alpha > 0$ , as desired.

We prove  $\alpha^2 = r$ .

Either  $\alpha^2 < r$  or  $\alpha^2 = r$  or  $\alpha^2 > r$ .

Suppose  $\alpha^2 < r$ .

Let  $\delta = \min\{1, \frac{r-\alpha^2}{2\alpha+1}\}$ .

Since  $\alpha^2 < r$ , then  $r - \alpha^2 > 0$ .

Since  $\alpha > 0$ , then  $2\alpha + 1 > 0$ , so  $\frac{r-\alpha^2}{2\alpha+1} > 0$ .

Thus,  $\delta > 0$ .

We prove  $\alpha + \delta \in S$ .

Since  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\delta > 0$ , then  $\alpha + \delta > 0$ .

Since  $\delta \leq 1$ , then  $0 < \delta \leq 1$ , so  $\delta^2 \leq \delta$ .

Since  $\delta \leq \frac{r-\alpha^2}{2\alpha+1}$  and  $2\alpha + 1 > 0$ , then  $2\alpha\delta + \delta \leq r - \alpha^2$ .

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha + \delta)^2 &= \alpha^2 + 2\alpha\delta + \delta^2 \\ &\leq \alpha^2 + 2\alpha\delta + \delta \\ &\leq \alpha^2 + r - \alpha^2 \\ &= r.\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\alpha + \delta > 0$  and  $(\alpha + \delta)^2 \leq r$ , then  $\alpha + \delta \in S$ .  
 Since  $\delta > 0$ , then  $\alpha + \delta > \alpha$ .  
 Thus, there exists  $\alpha + \delta \in S$  such that  $\alpha + \delta > \alpha$ .  
 This contradicts the fact that  $\alpha$  is an upper bound of  $S$ .  
 Therefore,  $\alpha^2$  cannot be less than  $r$ .

Suppose  $\alpha^2 > r$ .

Let  $\epsilon = \min\{\alpha, \frac{\alpha^2 - r}{2\alpha}\}$ .  
 Since  $\alpha^2 > r$ , then  $\alpha^2 - r > 0$ .  
 Since  $\alpha > 0$ , then  $\frac{\alpha^2 - r}{2\alpha} > 0$ , so  $\epsilon > 0$ .  
 We prove  $(\alpha - \epsilon)^2 > r$ .  
 Since  $\epsilon \leq \frac{\alpha^2 - r}{2\alpha}$ , then  $2\alpha\epsilon \leq \alpha^2 - r$ , so  $r \leq \alpha^2 - 2\alpha\epsilon$ .  
 Since  $\epsilon > 0$ , then  $\epsilon^2 > 0$ .  
 Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha - \epsilon)^2 &= \alpha^2 - 2\alpha\epsilon + \epsilon^2 \\ &> \alpha^2 - 2\alpha\epsilon \\ &\geq r. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $(\alpha - \epsilon)^2 > r$ .

Let  $x \in S$ .

Then  $x > 0$  and  $x^2 \leq r$ .

Suppose for the sake of contradiction  $x > \alpha - \epsilon$ .

Since  $\epsilon \leq \alpha$ , then  $0 \leq \alpha - \epsilon$ .

Thus,  $0 \leq \alpha - \epsilon < x$ , so  $(\alpha - \epsilon)^2 < x^2$ .

Since  $x^2 \leq r$ , then  $(\alpha - \epsilon)^2 < r$ .

But, this contradicts the fact  $(\alpha - \epsilon)^2 > r$ .

Therefore,  $x \leq \alpha - \epsilon$ .

Thus, there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $x \leq \alpha - \epsilon$  for each  $x \in S$ , so  $\alpha - \epsilon$  is an upper bound of  $S$ .

Since  $\alpha - \epsilon < \alpha$ , then this contradicts the fact that  $\alpha$  is the least upper bound of  $S$ .

Hence,  $\alpha^2$  cannot be greater than  $r$ .

Since  $\alpha^2$  cannot be less than  $r$  and  $\alpha^2$  cannot be greater than  $r$ , then we must conclude  $\alpha^2 = r$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 76.** Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $\sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}$  iff  $x \geq 0$ .

*Proof.* We first prove if  $x \geq 0$ , then  $\sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Suppose  $x \geq 0$ .

Then  $x > 0$  or  $x = 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x = 0$ .

Since  $\sqrt{x} = \sqrt{0} = 0$  and  $0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x > 0$ .



Then a unique positive square root of  $x$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .  
 Thus, there is a unique  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $y^2 = x$ .  
 Since  $x > 0$  and  $y$  is a positive square root of  $x$ , then  $y = \sqrt{x}$ .  
 Since  $\sqrt{x} = y$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
 Therefore, in either case,  $\sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ . □

*Proof.* Conversely, we prove if  $\sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $x \geq 0$ .

Suppose  $\sqrt{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $y = \sqrt{x}$ .

Since  $y$  is the nonnegative square root of  $x$ , then  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y^2 = x$  and  $y \geq 0$ .

Since  $y \geq 0$ , then either  $y > 0$  or  $y = 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $y = 0$ .

Then  $x = y^2 = 0^2 = 0$ , so  $x = 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $y > 0$ .

Since  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y > 0$ , then  $y^2 > 0$ .

Thus,  $x = y^2 > 0$ , so  $x > 0$ .

Therefore, in either case,  $x \geq 0$ . □

**Proposition 77.** Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $\sqrt{x} \geq 0$  iff  $x \geq 0$ .

*Proof.* We first prove if  $x \geq 0$ , then  $\sqrt{x} \geq 0$ .

Suppose  $x \geq 0$ .

Then  $x > 0$  or  $x = 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x = 0$ .

Then  $\sqrt{x} = \sqrt{0} = 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x > 0$ .

Then a unique positive square root of  $x$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Thus, there is a unique  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $y^2 = x$  and  $y > 0$ .

Since  $x > 0$  and  $y$  is a positive square root of  $x$ , then  $y = \sqrt{x}$ .

Thus,  $\sqrt{x} = y > 0$ .

Therefore, in either case,  $\sqrt{x} \geq 0$ . □

*Proof.* Conversely, we prove if  $\sqrt{x} \geq 0$ , then  $x \geq 0$ .

Suppose  $\sqrt{x} \geq 0$ .

Then  $x > 0$  or  $x = 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $\sqrt{x} = 0$ .

Let  $y = \sqrt{x}$ .

Since  $y$  is the square root of  $x$ , then  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y^2 = x$ .

Since  $y = \sqrt{x} = 0$ , then  $y = 0$ .

Thus,  $x = y^2 = y \cdot y = 0 \cdot 0 = 0$ , so  $x = 0$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $\sqrt{x} > 0$ .

Let  $y = \sqrt{x}$ .

Since  $y$  is the square root of  $x$ , then  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y^2 = x$ .

Since  $y = \sqrt{x} > 0$ , then  $y > 0$ .

Since  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y > 0$ , then  $y^2 > 0$ .

Thus,  $x = y^2 > 0$ , so  $x > 0$ .

Therefore, in either case,  $x \geq 0$ . □

**Proposition 78.** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $a \geq 0$  and  $b \geq 0$ .*

*Then  $\sqrt{a} = \sqrt{b}$  iff  $a = b$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $a \geq 0$ , then there exists a real number  $x \geq 0$  such that  $x^2 = a$  and  $x = \sqrt{a}$ .

Since  $b \geq 0$ , then there exists a real number  $y \geq 0$  such that  $y^2 = b$  and  $y = \sqrt{b}$ .

We prove if  $\sqrt{a} = \sqrt{b}$ , then  $a = b$ .

Suppose  $\sqrt{a} = \sqrt{b}$ .

Then  $x = y$ .

Hence,  $a = x^2 = xx = xy = yy = y^2 = b$ , so  $a = b$ , as desired. □

*Proof.* Conversely, we prove if  $a = b$ , then  $\sqrt{a} = \sqrt{b}$ .

Either both  $x = 0$  and  $y = 0$ , or  $x \neq 0$  or  $y \neq 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x = 0$  and  $y = 0$ .

Then  $\sqrt{a} = x = 0 = y = \sqrt{b}$ , so  $\sqrt{a} = \sqrt{b}$ .

Hence, the implication if  $a = b$ , then  $\sqrt{a} = \sqrt{b}$  is trivially true.

**Case 2:** Suppose either  $x \neq 0$  or  $y \neq 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 2a:** Suppose  $x \neq 0$ .

Since  $x \geq 0$  and  $x \neq 0$ , then  $x > 0$ .

Since  $x > 0$  and  $y \geq 0$ , then  $x + y > 0$ .

**Case 2b:** Suppose  $y \neq 0$ .

Since  $y \geq 0$  and  $y \neq 0$ , then  $y > 0$ .

Since  $x \geq 0$  and  $y > 0$ , then  $x + y > 0$ .

Thus, in either case,  $x + y > 0$ , so  $x + y \neq 0$ .

We prove if  $a = b$ , then  $\sqrt{a} = \sqrt{b}$  by contrapositive.

Suppose  $\sqrt{a} \neq \sqrt{b}$ .

Then  $x \neq y$ , so  $x - y \neq 0$ .

Since  $x - y \neq 0$  and  $x + y \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 - y^2 = (x - y)(x + y) \neq 0$ , so  $x^2 - y^2 \neq 0$ .

Therefore,  $a - b \neq 0$ , so  $a \neq b$ , as desired. □

**Proposition 79.** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*If  $a \geq 0$  and  $b \geq 0$ , then  $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a}\sqrt{b}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a \geq 0$  and  $b \geq 0$ .

Then  $ab \geq 0$ , so the square root of  $ab$  exists.

Since  $a \geq 0$ , then the square root of  $a$  exists, so  $\sqrt{a} \geq 0$  and  $\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{a} = a$ .

Since  $b \geq 0$ , then the square root of  $b$  exists, so  $\sqrt{b} \geq 0$  and  $\sqrt{b} \cdot \sqrt{b} = b$ .

Since  $\sqrt{a} \geq 0$  and  $\sqrt{b} \geq 0$ , then  $\sqrt{a}\sqrt{b} \geq 0$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b})^2 &= (\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b})(\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b}) \\ &= \sqrt{a} \cdot (\sqrt{b} \cdot \sqrt{a}) \cdot \sqrt{b} \\ &= \sqrt{a} \cdot (\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b}) \cdot \sqrt{b} \\ &= (\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{a})(\sqrt{b} \cdot \sqrt{b}) \\ &= ab. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b} \geq 0$  and  $(\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b})^2 = ab$  and the square root is unique, then  $\sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b}$  is the square root of  $ab$ .

Therefore,  $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a}\sqrt{b}$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 80.** *Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then*

1.  $\sqrt{x} = 0$  iff  $x = 0$ .
2.  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

We prove if  $x = 0$ , then  $\sqrt{x} = 0$ .

Suppose  $x = 0$ .

Then  $\sqrt{x} = \sqrt{0} = 0$ .

Conversely, we prove if  $\sqrt{x} = 0$ , then  $x = 0$ .

Suppose  $\sqrt{x} = 0$ .

Then there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $y^2 = x$  and  $y = 0$ .

Hence,  $x = y^2 = 0^2 = 0$ , so  $x = 0$ , as desired.  $\square$

*Proof.* We prove 2.

We must prove  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$ .

Either  $x \geq 0$  or  $x < 0$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $x \geq 0$ .

Then  $x^2 \geq 0$ , so the square root of  $x^2$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $|x| = x \geq 0$  and  $|x|^2 = x^2$  and the square root is unique, then  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $x < 0$ .

Then  $x^2 > 0$ , so the square root of  $x^2$  exists in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $|x| = -x > 0$  and  $|x|^2 = (-x)^2 = x^2$  and the square root is unique, then  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$ .

Therefore, in all cases,  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Lemma 81.** *Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*If  $x > 0$ , then  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $x > 0$ .

Then  $\frac{1}{x} > 0$ , so the square root of  $\frac{1}{x}$  exists.

Since  $x > 0$ , then  $\sqrt{x} > 0$ , so  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} > 0$ .

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}\right)^2 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \\ &= \frac{1 \cdot 1}{\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x \cdot x}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{|x|} \\ &= \frac{1}{x}.\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} > 0$  and  $\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{x}$  and the square root is unique, then  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$  is the square root of  $\frac{1}{x}$ .

Therefore,  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ . □

**Proposition 82.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $a \geq 0$  and  $b > 0$ , then  $\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $a \geq 0$  and  $b > 0$ .

Since  $b > 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$ .

Since  $a \geq 0$  and  $\frac{1}{b} > 0$  and  $b > 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} &= \sqrt{a \cdot \frac{1}{b}} \\ &= \sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1}{b}} \\ &= \sqrt{a} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{b}} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}}.\end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 83.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $0 < a \leq b$ , then  $0 < a^2 \leq b^2$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $0 < a \leq b$ .

Then  $0 < a$  and  $a \leq b$ .

Since  $a \leq b$ , then either  $a < b$  or  $a = b$ .

We consider these cases separately.

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a < b$ .

Since  $0 < a$  and  $a < b$ , then  $0 < a < b$ .

Therefore,  $0 < a^2 < b^2$ .

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a = b$ .

Since  $a > 0$ , then  $a^2 > 0$ .

Since  $b = a$ , then  $b^2 = a^2$ .

Therefore,  $0 < a^2$  and  $a^2 = b^2$ , so  $0 < a^2 = b^2$ . □

**Proposition 84.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $0 < a < b$  iff  $0 < \sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ .

*Proof.* We prove if  $0 < a < b$ , then  $0 < \sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ .

Suppose  $0 < a < b$ .

Then  $0 < a$  and  $a < b$ , so  $0 < b$ .

Since  $a > 0$ , then  $\sqrt{a} > 0$ .

Since  $b > 0$ , then  $\sqrt{b} > 0$ .

Suppose  $\sqrt{a} \geq \sqrt{b}$ .

Then  $0 < \sqrt{b} \leq \sqrt{a}$ .

Hence, by the previous lemma  $0 < (\sqrt{b})^2 \leq (\sqrt{a})^2$ , so  $0 < b \leq a$ .

Thus,  $b \leq a$ , so  $a \geq b$ .

Therefore, we have  $a < b$  and  $a \geq b$ , a violation of trichotomy.

Hence,  $\sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ .

Thus  $0 < \sqrt{a}$  and  $\sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ , so  $0 < \sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ , as desired. □

*Proof.* Conversely, we prove if  $0 < \sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ , then  $0 < a < b$ .

Suppose  $0 < \sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ .

Since  $0 < \sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$  and  $0 < \sqrt{a} < \sqrt{b}$ , then  $0 < (\sqrt{a})^2 < (\sqrt{b})^2$ .

Therefore,  $0 < a < b$ , as desired. □

**Corollary 85.** Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

1. If  $0 < x < 1$ , then  $0 < x^2 < x < \sqrt{x} < 1$ .

2. If  $x > 1$ , then  $1 < \sqrt{x} < x < x^2$ .

*Proof.* We prove 1.

Suppose  $0 < x < 1$ .

Then  $0 < x$  and  $x < 1$ .

Since  $0 < x$  and  $x > 0$ , then  $0 < x^2$ .

Since  $x < 1$  and  $x > 0$ , then  $x^2 < x$ .

Since  $0 < x^2$  and  $x^2 < x$ , then  $0 < x^2 < x$ .

Thus,  $0 < \sqrt{x^2} < \sqrt{x}$ .

Since  $x > 0$ , then  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x| = x$ .

Hence,  $0 < x < \sqrt{x}$ , so  $x < \sqrt{x}$ .

Since  $0 < x < 1$ , then  $0 < \sqrt{x} < \sqrt{1}$ .

Thus,  $0 < \sqrt{x} < 1$ , so  $\sqrt{x} < 1$ .

Hence,  $0 < x^2$  and  $x^2 < x$  and  $x < \sqrt{x}$  and  $\sqrt{x} < 1$ .

Therefore,  $0 < x^2 < x < \sqrt{x} < 1$ , as desired. □

*Proof.* We prove 2.

Suppose  $x > 1$ .

Then  $x > 1 > 0$ , so  $x > 0$ .

Since  $0 < 1 < x$ , then  $0 < \sqrt{1} < \sqrt{x}$ .

Hence,  $0 < 1 < \sqrt{x}$ , so  $1 < \sqrt{x}$ .

Since  $1 < x$  and  $x > 0$ , then  $x < x^2$ .

Since  $0 < x$  and  $x < x^2$ , then  $0 < x < x^2$ .

Hence,  $0 < \sqrt{x} < \sqrt{x^2} = |x| = x$ .

Thus,  $0 < \sqrt{x} < x$ , so  $\sqrt{x} < x$ .

Thus,  $1 < \sqrt{x}$  and  $\sqrt{x} < x$  and  $x < x^2$ .

Therefore,  $1 < \sqrt{x} < x < x^2$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 86.** *the additive inverse of an irrational number is irrational*

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $a$  is irrational, then  $-a$  is irrational.

*Proof.* We prove by contrapositive.

Suppose  $-a$  is rational.

Then  $-a \in \mathbb{Q}$ , so  $-(-a) \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Therefore,  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ , so  $a$  is rational, as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 87.** *the sum of a rational and irrational number is irrational*

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $a$  is rational and  $b$  is irrational, then  $a + b$  is irrational.

*Proof.* We prove by contrapositive.

Suppose  $a$  is rational and  $a + b$  is rational.

Since  $a$  is rational, then  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ , so  $-a \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Since  $a + b$  is rational, then  $a + b \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Hence, by closure of  $\mathbb{Q}$  under addition,  $-a + (a + b) = (-a + a) + b = 0 + b = b \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Therefore,  $b$  is rational, as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 88.** *the reciprocal of an irrational number is irrational*

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $a$  is irrational, then  $\frac{1}{a}$  is irrational.

*Proof.* We prove by contrapositive.

Suppose  $\frac{1}{a}$  is rational.

Then  $\frac{1}{a} \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $a \neq 0$ .

Hence,  $\frac{1}{a} \neq 0$ , so  $(\frac{1}{a})^{-1} = a \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Therefore,  $a$  is rational, as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 89.** *the product of a nonzero rational and irrational number is irrational*

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $a$  is a nonzero rational and  $b$  is irrational, then  $ab$  is irrational.

*Proof.* We prove by contrapositive.

Suppose  $a$  is a nonzero rational and  $ab$  is rational.

Since  $a$  is a nonzero rational, then  $a \neq 0$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ , so  $\frac{1}{a} \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Since  $ab$  is rational, then  $ab \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Hence, by closure of  $\mathbb{Q}$  under multiplication,  $\frac{1}{a}(ab) = (\frac{1}{a}a)b = 1b = b \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Therefore,  $b$  is rational, as desired.  $\square$

**Corollary 90.** *the quotient of a nonzero rational and irrational number is irrational*

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $a$  is a nonzero rational and  $b$  is irrational, then  $\frac{a}{b}$  is irrational.

*Proof.* Suppose  $a$  is a nonzero rational and  $b$  is irrational.

Since  $b$  is irrational, then  $\frac{1}{b}$  is irrational.

Since  $a$  is a nonzero rational and  $\frac{1}{b}$  is irrational, then  $a \cdot \frac{1}{b} = \frac{a}{b}$  is irrational, as desired.  $\square$

**Proposition 91.**  $\mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{Q}$

For every  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$  with  $a < b$ , there exists  $r \in \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < r < b$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < b$ .

Then  $a - \sqrt{2} < b - \sqrt{2}$ .

Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a - \sqrt{2} < q < b - \sqrt{2}$ .

Thus,  $a < q + \sqrt{2} < b$ .

Let  $r = q + \sqrt{2}$ .

Since  $q$  is rational and  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational, then  $q + \sqrt{2} = r$  is irrational.

Therefore,  $r \in \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$  and  $a < r < b$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Solution.** We consider the midpoint between  $a$  and  $b$ .

Since the midpoint is equidistant from  $a$  and  $b$  and the distance between  $a$  and  $b$  is  $b - a$ , then the midpoint is  $a + (b - a)/2$ .

Since  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational, we can adjust this slightly to create a potential irrational number  $a + \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2}$  between  $a$  and  $b$ .

We shall prove this number thus constructed is irrational and between  $a$  and  $b$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$  with  $a < b$ .

Then  $b - a > 0$ .

Let  $r = a + \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2}$ .

We must prove  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $r \notin \mathbb{Q}$  and  $a < r$  and  $r < b$ .

Since  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $b - a \in \mathbb{Q}$ , so  $\frac{b-a}{2} \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Thus,  $\frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R}$ , so  $a + \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2} = r \in \mathbb{R}$ .

We prove  $r \notin \mathbb{Q}$  by contradiction.

Suppose  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Since  $r = a + \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2}$ , then  $r - a = \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2}$ , so  $2(r - a) = (b - a)\sqrt{2}$ .

Since  $b - a > 0$ , then  $b - a \neq 0$ .

Thus,  $\frac{2(r-a)}{b-a} = \sqrt{2}$ .

Since  $a, b, r \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $b - a \neq 0$ , then by closure of  $\mathbb{Q}$  under subtraction and multiplication,  $\frac{2(r-a)}{b-a} \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Hence,  $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

But, this contradicts the fact that  $\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ .

Therefore,  $r \notin \mathbb{Q}$ .

We prove  $a < r$ .

Since  $r = a + \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2}$ , then  $r - a = \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2}$ .

Since  $b - a > 0$ , then  $\frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2} > 0$ , so  $r - a > 0$ .

Therefore,  $r > a$ , so  $a < r$ .

We prove  $r < b$ .

Since  $\sqrt{2} < 2$ , then  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} < 1$ .

Since  $b - a > 0$ , then we multiply by  $b - a$  to get  $\frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2} < b - a$ .

Therefore,  $a + \frac{b-a}{2}\sqrt{2} < b$ , so  $r < b$ . □

**Proposition 92.**  $\mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}$

For every  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $a < b$ , there exists  $r \in \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < r < b$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $a < b$ .

Then  $a - \sqrt{2} < b - \sqrt{2}$ .

Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}$ , then there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a - \sqrt{2} < q < b - \sqrt{2}$ .

Thus,  $a < q + \sqrt{2} < b$ .

Let  $r = q + \sqrt{2}$ .

Since  $q$  is rational and  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational, then  $q + \sqrt{2} = r$  is irrational.

Therefore,  $r \in \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$  and  $a < r < b$ , as desired. □