

Archimedean ordered fields.

Let \mathbb{F} be an ordered field. For $a, b \in \mathbb{F}$, the *interval* $[a, b]$ is the set $\{x \in \mathbb{F} \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$.

Theorem 1. *The following are equivalent for an ordered field \mathbb{F} .*

- (1) $F = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} [-n, n]$
- (2) *There is no element $t \in F$ such that $n < t$ for every positive integer n .*
- (3) *There is no $u \in F$ such that $0 < u < 1/n$ holds for every positive integer n .* \square

\mathbb{F} is *Archimedean* if it satisfies these properties, otherwise it is *non-Archimedean*. An element t satisfying the condition in Item (2) is called an *infinitely large element*. An element u satisfying the condition in Item (3) is called an *infinitely small element*.

A non-Archimedean field.

Let's define an order on the set of rational functions over \mathbb{R} :

$$\mathbb{R}(t) = \left\{ \frac{p(t)}{q(t)} \mid p, q \text{ are polynomials over } \mathbb{R} \text{ in the variable } t, q \neq 0 \right\}.$$

By adjusting the signs in the numerator and denominator of a fraction we can write a typical element of $\mathbb{R}(t)$

$$\frac{p(t)}{q(t)} = \frac{a_m t^m + \cdots + a_1 t + a_0}{b_n t^n + \cdots + b_1 t + b_0}$$

with $b_n > 0$.

- (1) $0(t)$ is the zero function.
- (2) $1(t)$ is the constant function with value 1.
- (3) $\frac{p(t)}{q(t)} + \frac{r(t)}{s(t)} = \frac{p(t)s(t) + q(t)r(t)}{q(t)s(t)}.$
- (4) $-\frac{p(t)}{q(t)} = \frac{-p(t)}{q(t)}.$
- (5) $\frac{p(t)}{q(t)} \cdot \frac{r(t)}{s(t)} = \frac{p(t)r(t)}{q(t)s(t)}.$
- (6) If $\frac{p(t)}{q(t)} \neq 0(t)$ (so $p(t) \neq 0(t)$), then $\left(\frac{p(t)}{q(t)}\right)^{-1} = \frac{q(t)}{p(t)}$. (Might have to adjust the sign of the denominator.)
- (7) $\frac{p(t)}{q(t)}$ is positive if the leading coefficient of $p(t)$ is positive.
- (8) $\frac{p(t)}{q(t)} < \frac{r(t)}{s(t)}$ iff $\frac{r(t)}{s(t)} - \frac{p(t)}{q(t)}$ is positive.

By checking the axioms, one can show that $\mathbb{R}(t)$, with this ordering, is an ordered field. The element t is infinitely large in $\mathbb{R}(t)$. The element $1/t$ is infinitely small but positive in $\mathbb{R}(t)$.

Answer Yes or No.

- (1) Is the Nested Interval Property true in $\mathbb{R}(t)$?
- (2) Is \mathbb{Q} dense in $\mathbb{R}(t)$?
- (3) Does every positive number in $\mathbb{R}(t)$ have a square root?