

### 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?