

## Ordered Fields.

**Definition 1.** A **field** is an algebraic structure  $\mathbb{F} = \langle F; +, -, 0, \cdot, 1 \rangle$  which satisfies the following

- (1) Additive laws<sup>1</sup>:
  - (a) (Associative law)  $\forall x \forall y \forall z ((x + (y + z)) = ((x + y) + z))$ .
  - (b) (Commutative law)  $\forall x \forall y (x + y = y + x)$ .
  - (c) (Unit law)  $\forall x (x + 0 = x)$
  - (d) (Inverse law)  $\forall x (x + (-x) = 0)$
- (2) Multiplicative laws:
  - (a) (Associative law)  $\forall x \forall y \forall z ((x(yz)) = ((xy)z))$ .
  - (b) (Commutative law)  $\forall x \forall y (xy = yx)$ .
  - (c) (Unit law)  $\forall x (x1 = x)$
- (3) Law linking addition to multiplication:
  - (a) (Distributive law):  $\forall x \forall y \forall z (x(y + z) = xy + xz)$ .
- (4) Other defining properties that are not laws:
  - (a)  $0 \neq 1$ .
  - (b)  $\forall x ((x \neq 0) \rightarrow \exists y (xy = 1))$ .

If you know the definition of “abelian group”, the axioms for fields say that  $\mathbb{F}$  is additively an abelian group,  $\mathbb{F} - \{0\}$  is multiplicatively an abelian group, and the additive and multiplicative structures are linked by the distributive law.

Examples.  $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  ( $p$  prime).

Nonexamples.  $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  ( $n$  not a prime).

**Definition 2.** An **ordered field** is a structure  $\mathbb{F} = \langle F; +, -, 0, \cdot, 1, \leq \rangle$  where

- (1)  $\langle F; +, -, 0, \cdot, 1 \rangle$  is a field,
- (2)  $\langle F; \leq \rangle$  is a totally ordered set (which means that  $\leq$  is a reflexive, antisymmetric, transitive relation satisfying  $a \leq b, a = b$ , or  $b \leq a$  for all  $a, b$ ),
- (3) (Order structure is linked to field structure):
  - (a) (Additive compatibility)  $\forall x \forall y \forall z ((y \leq z) \rightarrow (x + y \leq x + z))$
  - (b) (Multiplicative compatibility)  $\forall x \forall y \forall z (((y \leq z) \wedge (0 \leq x)) \rightarrow (xy \leq xz))$

Examples.  $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}$ .

Nonexamples.  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  for any  $n$ .

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<sup>1</sup>A **law** or **identity** is a universally quantified equation.