

Ordered Fields

Definition: A field is a set F with two operations $+$, \cdot such that.

1) F with operation $+$ is an abelian group:

- \exists identity 0 s.t. $0+x=x+0=x$ for $x \in F$.

- \exists inverses so for each $x \in F \exists (-x) \in F$ s.t. $x+(-x)=0$ $(-x)+x=0$

- $+$ is associative $\forall x, y, z \in F$ $(x+y)+z=x+(y+z)$

- $\forall x, y \in F$ $x+y=y+x$.

2) $\{x \in F: x \neq 0\}$ is an abelian group with operations

- \exists identity 1 s.t. $1 \cdot x = x \cdot 1 = x$ $\forall x \in F$

- \exists inverses x^{-1} for each $x \in F$ s.t. $x x^{-1} = x^{-1} x = 1$

- \cdot is associative $\forall x, y, z$ $(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$

- \cdot is commutative $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$ $\forall x, y \in F$.

3) distributive law $\forall x, y, z \in F$ $x \cdot (y+z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$.

Examples \mathbb{Q} (rational numbers), \mathbb{R} (real numbers), and \mathbb{C} (complex numbers) are all fields.

\mathbb{N} (natural numbers) and \mathbb{Z} (integers) are NOT fields.

Example $\forall x \in F$ a field $x \cdot 0 = 0$.

proof look at $x \cdot 0$ write $0 = 0 + 0$ (identity for $+$)

$x \cdot 0 = x \cdot (0 + 0) = x \cdot 0 + x \cdot 0$ (distributive law).

$x \cdot 0 + (-(x \cdot 0)) = (x \cdot 0 + x \cdot 0) + (-(x \cdot 0)) = x \cdot 0 + (x \cdot 0 + (-(x \cdot 0)))$ (associativity)

$0 = x \cdot 0 + 0$ (inverse) $0 = x \cdot 0$ (identity).

Definition An order on a set X is a relation $<$ such that.

1) trichotomy: $\forall x, y \in X$ exactly one of three things occurs:

i) $x < y$ ii) $x = y$ iii) $y < x$.

2) transitive: If $x, y, z \in X$ and $x < y$ and $y < z$ then $x < z$.

Definition An ordered field is a field F with an order $<$ such that

$\forall x, y, z \in F$ if $x < y$ then $x + z < y + z$

$\forall x, y, z \in F$ if $x < y$ and $z > 0$ then $x \cdot z < y \cdot z$

Definition for $x \in F$ ordered field. let $|x| = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } 0 \leq x \\ 0 & \text{if } 0 = x \\ -x & \text{if } 0 > x \end{cases}$ ($x < 0$).

Notes: $|x| \geq 0$ for all x ($x < 0 \Rightarrow x + (-x) < 0 + (-x) \Rightarrow 0 < -x$).

for all $x \in F$ $-|x| \leq x \leq |x|$

Proposition: 1) $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{F} \quad |xy| = |x||y|$ 2) $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{F} \quad |x+y| \leq |x|+|y|$ (Triangle inequality)
3) $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{F} \quad ||x|-|y|| \leq |x-y|$. (reverse triangle inequality).

Proof 1). If $x=0$ or $y=0$ then $|x||y| = |xy| = 0$.

Otherwise we have four cases

If $x > 0$ and $y > 0$ then $x \cdot y > 0$ so $|x||y| = xy = |xy|$.

If $x < 0$ and $y < 0$ then $|x| = -x$ $|y| = -y$ these are positive so
 $|x||y| = (-x)(-y) = xy$ is positive so $|xy| = xy = |x||y|$.

If $x < 0$ and $y > 0$ then $|x| = -x$ $|y| = y$ $|x||y| = (-x)y = -xy$
 $|x|, |y|$ are positive so $-xy$ is positive so $xy < 0$ and $|xy| = -xy = |x||y|$

Last case $x > 0$ and $y < 0$ is similar.

2) We know $x \leq |x|$ and $y \leq |y|$ so $x+y \leq |x|+|y|$.

Also $x \geq -|x|$ so $-x \leq |x|$ and likewise $-y \leq |y|$ so

$$-(x+y) = (-x) + (-y) \leq |x| + |y|.$$

Since $|x+y|$ is either $x+y$ or $-(x+y)$ or 0 we get $|x+y| \leq |x|+|y|$

3) Write $x = y + (x-y)$ then $|x| = |y + (x-y)| \leq |y| + |x-y|$ by 2).

$$\text{so } |x| - |y| \leq |x-y|$$

$$\text{Now we also have } |y| = |x + (y-x)| \leq |x| + |y-x| = |x| + |x-y|.$$

$$\text{so } |y| - |x| \leq |x-y|$$

Finally $||x|-|y||$ is one of $|x|-|y|$, $|y|-|x|$, or 0
each of which is $\leq |x-y|$.