

Chapter 1

The real and complex number systems

In problems 1-20 are the questions in chapter 1 of Principles of mathematical analysis

Problem 1.1. If r is rational ($r \neq 0$) and x is irrational, prove that $r+x$ and rx are irrational.

Problem 1.2. Prove that there is no rational number whose square is 12.

Problem 1.3. Let E be a nonempty subset of an ordered set; suppose α is a lower bound of E and β is an upper bound of E . Prove that $\alpha \leq \beta$.

Problem 1.4. Let A be a nonempty set of real numbers which is bounded below. Let $-A$ be the set of all numbers $-x$, where $x \in A$. Prove that

$$\inf A = -\sup(-A)$$

Problem 1.5. Fix $b > 1$

(a) If m, n, p, q are integers, $n > 0$, $q > 0$, and $r = m/n = p/q$, prove that

$$(b^m)^{1/n} = (b^p)^{1/q}$$

Hence it makes sense to define $b^r = (b^m)^{1/n}$.

(b) Prove that $b^{r+s} = b^r b^s$ if r and s are rational.

(c) If x is real, define $B(x)$ to be the set of all numbers b^t , where t is rational and $t \leq x$. Prove that

$$b^x = \sup B(x)$$

when r is rational. Hence it makes sense to define

$$b^x = \sup B(x)$$

for every real x

(d) Prove that $b^{x+y} = b^x b^y$ for all real x and y .

Problem 1.6. Fix $b > 1, y > 0$, and prove that there is a unique real x such that $b^x = y$, by completing the following outline.

(a) For any positive integer n , $b^n - 1 \leq n(b - 1)$.

(b) Hence $b - 1 \leq n(b^{1/n} - 1)$.

(c) If $t > 1$ and $n > (b-1)/(t-1)$, then $b^{1/n} < t$.

(d) If w is such that $b^w < y$, then $b^{w+1/n} > y$ for sufficiently large n ; to see this, apply part (c) with $t = yB^{-w}$.

(e) If $b^w > y$, then $b^{w-1/n} < y$ for sufficiently large n .

(f) Let A be the set of all w such that $b^w < y$, and show that $x = \sup A$ satisfies $b^x = y$.

(g) Prove that this x is unique.