

Lecture 1. What are real numbers?

We will denote by \mathbb{Z} the set of integers:

$$\{ \dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \}$$

Denote by \mathbb{Q} the set of rational numbers:

$$\left\{ \frac{p}{q} : p \in \mathbb{Z}, q \text{ non-zero integer} \right\}$$

The rational number is not inadequate for the purpose of analysis.

- There is no rational number r such that $r^2 = 2$. \Rightarrow have to introduce irrational numbers (can be expressed as infinite decimal expansions)

- The solution can be "approximated" by the sequence of finite decimals

$$1, 1.4, 1.41, 1.414,$$

why is there a number whose square is 2?

But what is the meaning of "approximate"? \Rightarrow have to define $\sqrt{2}$.

\Rightarrow Construction of "Real number system".

- Define $A = \{p \in \mathbb{Q} : p^2 < 2\}$, $B = \{p \in \mathbb{Q} : p^2 > 2\}$.

A is bounded above but contains no largest number

B is bounded below but contains no smallest number. \Rightarrow The "rational number system" has gaps.

Thm There exists an ordered field \mathbb{R} contains \mathbb{Q} as a subfield, satisfying the least-upper-bound property

Ordered sets (A necessary notion)

Def: $S = \text{set}$. An order on S is a relation " $<$ " such that ^{Read as less than}

① If $x \in S$ and $y \in S$, the one and only one of the following

$$x < y \quad x = y \quad y < x$$

holds.

② If $x, y, z \in S$, if $x < y$, $y < z$, then $x < z$.

Rmk (Remark) $y > x \Leftrightarrow x < y$, $x \leq y \Leftrightarrow x < y$ or $x = y$ etc.

The pair $(S, <)$ is called an ordered set. Example: $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ $x < y$ iff $y - x$ is positive.

Def. $E \subset S$ a subset of ordered set. If $\exists \beta \in S$ s.t. $x \leq \beta$ for all $x \in E$, we say ^{There exists} ^{such that}

E is bounded above, and β is an upper bound of E .

Replace \leq by \geq to define lower bound.

Def Suppose S is an ordered set, $E \subset S$ bounded above. We say α is a least upper bound

or supremum of E if ① α is an upper bound of E ② if $\gamma < \alpha$ then γ is not an upper bound of E .
denote by $\sup E$

Given a lower bound can be defined similarly. $\inf E$

Example: $E = \{p \in \mathbb{Q} : p = \frac{1}{n}\}$ $\inf E = 0 \notin E$

Def An ordered set S is said to have the least-upper-bound property if for any non-empty $E \subset S$ bounded above, the $\sup E$ exists in S .

Thm Suppose S is an ordered set w/ the least-upper-bound property, B is a non-empty subset which is bounded below. Let L be the set of all lower bounds of B . Then

$$\alpha = \sup L$$

exists in S and $\alpha = \inf B$. / Proof If $\gamma \in L$, $\gamma \leq x \in B$

$\sup L \leq x \Rightarrow \sup L$ is a lower bound of B . $\sup L < x \Rightarrow \gamma < x \forall \gamma \in L$
 x is not a lower bound.