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2 Properties of  $\mathbb{R}$

3 Properties of  $\mathbb{R}$  II



Mathematics  
and Statistics

$$\int_M d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega$$

# Mathematics 3A03 Real Analysis I

Instructor: David Earn

Lecture 1  
Introduction  
Monday 7 January 2019

# Where to find course information

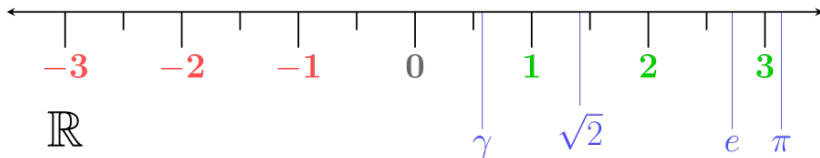
- The course web site:  
<http://www.math.mcmaster.ca/earn/3A03>
- Click on [Course information](#) to download course information as pdf file. *You are expected to read and pay attention to every word of this file.*
- Let's have a look now. . .

# What is a “real” number?



# What is a “real” number?

- The “Reals” ( $\mathbb{R}$ ) are all the numbers that are needed to fill in the “number line” (so it has no “gaps” or “holes”).
- Why aren’t the rational numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ ) sufficient?



- How do we know that  $\sqrt{2}$  is not rational?
- How can we *prove* this?  
Approach: “Proof by contradiction.”

# $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational

## Theorem

$$\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}.$$

## Proof.

Suppose  $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Then there exist two positive integers  $m$  and  $n$  with  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$  such that  $m/n = \sqrt{2}$ .

$$\therefore \left(\frac{m}{n}\right)^2 = (\sqrt{2})^2 \implies \frac{m^2}{n^2} = 2 \implies m^2 = 2n^2.$$

$\therefore m^2$  is even  $\implies m$  is even ( $\because$  odd numbers have odd squares).

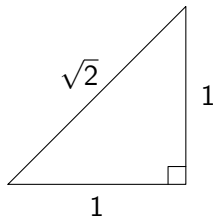
$\therefore m = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$$\therefore 4k^2 = m^2 = 2n^2 \implies 2k^2 = n^2 \implies n \text{ is even.}$$

$\therefore 2$  is a factor of both  $m$  and  $n$ . **Contradiction!**  $\therefore \sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ .  $\square$

# Does $\sqrt{2}$ exist?

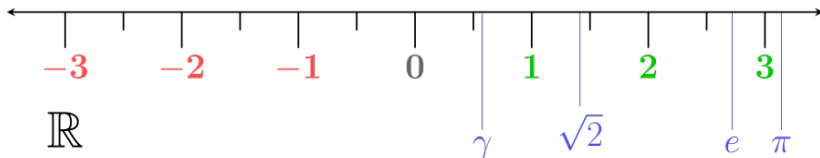
- We have established that  $\sqrt{2}$  is not rational.
- But do we really know it exists?
- Can we do without it?
- No. Objects with side length  $\sqrt{2}$  exist!



- So irrational numbers are “real”.

# What exactly *are* non-rational real numbers?

- We have solid intuition for what rational numbers are. (Ratios of integers.)
- The number line contains numbers that are not rational.



- Can we *construct* irrational numbers? (Just as we construct rationals as ratios of integers?)
- Do we need to *construct* integers first?
- Maybe we should start with 0, 1, 2, ...
- But what exactly are we supposed to *construct* numbers from?



# Informal introduction to construction of numbers ( $\mathbb{N}$ )

- Assume we know what a **set** is.
- Define  $0 \equiv \emptyset = \{\}$  (the empty set)
- Define  $1 \equiv \{0\} = \{\emptyset\} = \{\{\}\}$
- Define  $2 \equiv \{0, 1\} = \{\{\}, \{\{\}\}\}$
- Define  $n + 1 \equiv n \cup \{n\}$  (successor function)
- Define **natural numbers**  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ 
  - Some books define  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  and  $\mathbb{N}^+ = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ .
  - It is more common to define  $\mathbb{N}$  to start with 1.
- Thus,  $n$  is defined to be a set containing  $n$  elements.

# Informal introduction to construction of numbers ( $\mathbb{N}$ )

## Historical note:

- We have defined  $n$  to be a set containing  $n$  elements.
- Logicians first tried to define  $n$  as “the set of all sets containing  $n$  elements”.
- The earlier definition possibly better captures our intuitive notion of what  $n$  “really is”, but such “sets” are unweildy and create serious challenges for development of mathematical foundations.

# Informal introduction to construction of numbers ( $\mathbb{N}$ )

## Order of natural numbers:

- Natural numbers defined as above have the right order:

$$m \leq n \iff m \subseteq n$$

Note: we define " $\leq$ " on natural numbers via " $\subseteq$ " on sets.

## Addition and multiplication of natural numbers:

- Still possible to define in terms of sets, but trickier.
- We'll defer this for later, after gaining more experience with rigorous mathematical concepts.
- If you can't wait, see this free e-book:

*"Transition to Higher Mathematics"*  
<http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/books/10/>.

# Informal introduction to construction of numbers ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )

## Integers:

- Need additive inverses for all natural numbers.
  - Need to define  $\cdot, +, -$ , for all pairs of integers.
  - Again, possible to define everything via set theory.
  - Again, we'll defer this for later.
- 
- For now, we'll assume we “know” what the naturals  $\mathbb{N}$  and the integers  $\mathbb{Z}$  “are”.
  - We can then *construct* the rationals  $\mathbb{Q}$ ...



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# Mathematics 3A03 Real Analysis I

Instructor: David Earn

Lecture 2  
Properties of  $\mathbb{R}$   
Wednesday 9 January 2019

# Where to find course information

- The course web site:  
<http://www.math.mcmaster.ca/earn/3A03>
- Click on [Course information](#) to download pdf file.
  - **Read it!!**
- Check the course web site regularly!

# What we did last class

- The “Reals” ( $\mathbb{R}$ ) are all the numbers that are needed to fill in the “number line” (so it has no “gaps” or “holes”).
- The rationals ( $\mathbb{Q}$ ) have “holes”, e.g.,  $\sqrt{2}$ .
- Numbers can be constructed using sets. We will discuss this *informally*. A more formal approach is taken in Math 4L03 (Mathematical Logic) or in [this online e-book](#).
  - The naturals ( $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ) can be constructed from  $\emptyset$ :  $0 = \emptyset$ ,  $1 = \{0\}$ ,  $2 = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $n + 1 = n \cup \{n\}$ .
  - The integers ( $\mathbb{Z}$ ), and operations on them ( $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\cdot$ ), can also be constructed from sets and set operations (but we deferred that for later).
  - Given  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$ , we can construct  $\mathbb{Q}$ ...

# Informal introduction to construction of numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )

## Rationals:

- *Idea:* Associate  $\mathbb{Q}$  with  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$
- Use notation  $\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q}$  if  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$ .
- Define equivalence of rational numbers:

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \cdot d = b \cdot c$$

- Define order for rational numbers:

$$\frac{a}{b} \leq \frac{c}{d} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \cdot d \leq b \cdot c$$



# Informal introduction to construction of numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )

## Rationals, continued:

- Define operations on rational numbers:

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{ad + bc}{bd}$$

$$\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{a \cdot c}{b \cdot d}$$

- Constructed in this way (ultimately from the empty set),  $\mathbb{Q}$  satisfies all the standard properties we associate with the rational numbers.
- Formally,  $\mathbb{Q}$  is a set of **equivalence classes** of  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$ .  
**Extra Challenge Problem:** Are “+” and “.” well-defined on  $\mathbb{Q}$ ?

# Properties of the rational numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )

## Addition:

**A1** *Closed and commutative under addition.* For any  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$  there is a number  $x + y \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $x + y = y + x$ .

**A2** *Associative under addition.* For any  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Q}$  the identity

$$(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$$

is true.

**A3** *Existence and uniqueness of additive identity.* There is a unique number  $0 \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that, for all  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,

$$x + 0 = 0 + x = x.$$

**A4** *Existence of additive inverses.* For any number  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$  there is a corresponding number denoted by  $-x$  with the property that

$$x + (-x) = 0.$$

# Properties of the rational numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )

## Multiplication:

- M1** *Closed and commutative under multiplication.* For any  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$  there is a number  $xy \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $xy = yx$ .
- M2** *Associative under multiplication.* For any  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Q}$  the identity  $(xy)z = x(yz)$  is true.
- M3** *Existence and uniqueness of multiplicative identity.* There is a unique number  $1 \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}$  such that, for all  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $x1 = 1x = x$ .
- M4** *Existence of multiplicative inverses.* For any non-zero number  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$  there is a corresponding number denoted by  $x^{-1}$  with the property that  $xx^{-1} = 1$ .

# Properties of the rational numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )

## Addition and multiplication together:

*AM1 Distributive law.* For any  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Q}$  the identity

$$(x + y)z = xz + yz$$

is true.

The 9 properties (A1–A4, M1–M4, AM1) make the rational numbers  $\mathbb{Q}$  a **field**.

Note: M3 ensures  $0 \neq 1$  to exclude the uninteresting case of a field with only one element.

# Standard Mathematical Shorthand

## Quantifiers

$\forall$	for all
$\exists$	there exists
$\nexists$	there does not exist
$\exists!$	there exists a unique

## Logical operands

$\wedge$	logical and
$\vee$	logical or
$\neg$	logical not
$\underline{\vee}$	logical exclusive or

Note:  $A \underline{\vee} B \equiv (A \vee B) \wedge (\neg A \vee \neg B)$

## Other shorthand

$\therefore$	therefore	$\because$	because
$\})$	such that	$\iff$	if and only if
$\equiv$	equivalent	$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$	contradiction

# The field axioms (in mathematical shorthand) for field $\mathbb{F}$

## Addition axioms

**A1** *Closed, commutative.*  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{F},$   
 $\exists (x+y) \in \mathbb{F} \wedge (x+y) = (y+x).$

**A2** *Associative.*  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{F},$   
 $(x+y) + z = x + (y+z).$

**A3** *Identity.*  $\exists! 0 \in \mathbb{F} \nmid \forall x \in \mathbb{F},$   
 $x + 0 = 0 + x = x.$

**A4** *Inverses.*  $\forall x \in \mathbb{F}, \exists (-x) \in \mathbb{F} \nmid$   
 $x + (-x) = 0.$

## Multiplication axioms

**M1** *Closed, commutative.*  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{F},$   
 $\exists (xy) \in \mathbb{F} \wedge (xy) = (yx).$

**M2** *Associative.*  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{F},$   
 $(xy)z = x(yz).$

**M3** *Identity.*  $\exists! 1 \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\} \nmid$   
 $\forall x \in \mathbb{F}, x1 = 1x = x.$

**M4** *Inverses.*  $\forall x \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\},$   
 $\exists x^{-1} \in \mathbb{F} \nmid xx^{-1} = 1.$

## Distribution axiom

**AM1** *Distribution.*  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}, (x+y)z = xz + yz.$

Any collection  $\mathbb{F}$  of mathematical objects is called a *field* if it satisfies these 9 algebraic properties.

# Examples of fields

Set	Field?	Why?
rational numbers ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )	YES	
integers ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	NO	no multiplicative inverses
reals ( $\mathbb{R}$ )	YES	
complexes ( $\mathbb{C}$ )	YES	
integers modulo 3 ( $\mathbb{Z}_3$ )	YES	$2^{-1} = 2$

# The integers modulo 3 ( $\mathbb{Z}_3$ )

Imagine a clock that repeats after 3 hours rather than 12 hours.

$\mathbb{Z}_3$  contains the three elements  $\{0, 1, 2\}$ , with addition and multiplication defined as follows:

+	0	1	2
0	0	1	2
1	1	2	0
2	2	0	1

·	0	1	2
0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2
2	0	2	1



# Ordered fields

A field  $\mathbb{F}$  is said to be **ordered** if the following properties hold:

## Order axioms

- O1** For any  $x, y \in \mathbb{F}$ , exactly one of the statements  $x = y$ ,  $x < y$  or  $y < x$  is true (“**trichotomy**”), *i.e.*,  
 $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{F}, ((x = y) \wedge \neg(x < y) \wedge \neg(y < x)) \vee ((x < y) \wedge \neg(x = y) \wedge \neg(y < x)) \vee ((y < x) \wedge \neg(x = y) \wedge \neg(x < y))$
- O2** For any  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}$ , if  $x < y$  is true and  $y < z$  is true, then  $x < z$  is true, *i.e.*,  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}, (x < y) \wedge (y < z) \implies (x < z)$
- O3** For any  $x, y \in \mathbb{F}$ , if  $x < y$  is true, then  $x + z < y + z$  is also true for any  $z \in \mathbb{F}$ , *i.e.*,  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{F}, (x < y) \implies x + z < y + z, \forall z \in \mathbb{F}$
- O4** For any  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}$ , if  $x < y$  is true and  $z > 0$  is true, then  $xz < yz$  is also true,  
*i.e.*,  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}, (x < y) \wedge (0 < z) \implies (xz < yz)$

# Examples of ordered fields

Field	Ordered?	Why?
rationals ( $\mathbb{Q}$ )	YES	
reals ( $\mathbb{R}$ )	YES	
integers modulo 3 ( $\mathbb{Z}_3$ )	NO	Next slide. . .
complexes ( $\mathbb{C}$ )	NO	<b>Extra Challenge Problem:</b> <i>Prove the field <math>\mathbb{C}</math> cannot be ordered.</i>

# The field of integers modulo 3 cannot be ordered

## Proposition

$\mathbb{Z}_3$  is not an *ordered field*.

## Proof.

Approach: proof by contradiction.

If  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  is ordered, then O1 (trichotomy) implies that either  $0 < 1$  or  $1 < 0$  (and not both).

Suppose  $0 < 1$  and  $1 \not< 0$ . Then O3  $\implies 0 + 1 < 1 + 1$ ,  
i.e.,  $1 < 2$ .  $\therefore$  O2 (transitivity)  $\implies 0 < 2$ .

Using O3 again, we have  $0 + 1 < 2 + 1$ , i.e.,  $1 < 0$ .  $\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

Now suppose  $1 < 0$ . Similarly reach a contradiction (check!).  
 $\therefore \mathbb{Z}_3$  cannot be ordered. □

*Food for thought: Is it possible for any finite field be ordered?*

# What other properties does $\mathbb{R}$ have?

- $\mathbb{R}$  is an **ordered field**.
- $\mathbb{R}$  includes numbers that are not in  $\mathbb{Q}$ , e.g.,  $\sqrt{2}$ .
- What additional properties does  $\mathbb{R}$  have?
- Only one more property is required to fully characterize  $\mathbb{R}$ . . .  
It is related to *upper and lower bounds*. . .



Mathematics  
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$$\int_M d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega$$

# Mathematics 3A03 Real Analysis I

Instructor: David Earn

Lecture 3  
Properties of  $\mathbb{R}$  II  
Friday 11 January 2019

# Announcements and comments arising from Lecture 2

- My office hours will be Mondays 1:30pm–2:20pm going forward. (Or by appointment.)
- Questions for next week's tutorials and some “Logic Notes” are posted on the [Tutorials page](#) of the course web site.
- Field Axiom [M3](#) was corrected before posting slides for Lecture 2.
- No claim is being made that the [field axioms](#) as stated are absolutely minimal (*i.e.*, that there are no redundancies). In fact, we don't need to assume:
  - Identities are unique.
  - Inverses are unique.
  - Commutivity under addition (!).

Usually a slightly redundant set of axioms is stated to emphasize all the key properties.

## An additional online resource

A sequence of 15 short (3–7 minute) videos covering the very basics of mathematical logic and theorem proving has been posted associated with a course at the University of Toronto:

- Go to <http://uoft.me/MAT137>, click on the **Videos** tab and then on **Playlist 1**.

These videos go at a slower pace than we do, and may be very helpful to you to get your head around the idea of a rigorous mathematical proof.

## More comments arising from Lecture 2

- The property that completes the specification of  $\mathbb{R}$  has to somehow fill in all the “holes” in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
- It is true that if  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$  then  $\exists r \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$  with  $x < r < y$ . But this property is not sufficient to characterize  $\mathbb{R}$ , because it is satisfied by subsets of  $\mathbb{R}$ .



# Bounds

## Definition (Upper Bound)

Let  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . A number  $M$  is said to be an **upper bound** for  $E$  if  $x \leq M$  for all  $x \in E$ .

A set that has an upper bound is said to be **bounded above**.

## Definition (Lower Bound)

Let  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . A number  $m$  is said to be a **lower bound** for  $E$  if  $m \leq x$  for all  $x \in E$ .

A set that has a lower bound is said to be **bounded below**.

A set that is bounded above and below is said to be **bounded**.

# Maxima and Minima

## Definition (Maximum)

Let  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . A number  $M$  is said to be **the maximum** of  $E$  if  $M$  is an **upper bound** for  $E$  and  $M \in E$ . If such an  $M$  exists we write  $M = \max E$ .

## Definition (Minimum)

Let  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . A number  $m$  is said to be **the minimum** of  $E$  if  $m$  is a **lower bound** for  $E$  and  $m \in E$ . If such an  $m$  exists we write  $m = \min E$ .

We refer to “the” maximum and “the” minimum of  $E$  because there cannot be more than one of each. (*Proof?*)

# Bounds, maxima and minima

## Example

Set	bounded below	bounded above	bounded	min	max
$[-1, 1]$	YES	YES	YES	-1	1
$[-1, 1)$	YES	YES	YES	-1	$\nexists$
$[-1, \infty)$	YES	NO	NO	-1	$\nexists$
$[-1, -\frac{1}{4}) \cup (\frac{1}{2}, 1]$	YES	YES	YES	-1	1
$\mathbb{N}$	YES	NO	NO	1	$\nexists$
$\mathbb{R}$	NO	NO	NO	$\nexists$	$\nexists$
$\emptyset$	YES	YES	YES	$\nexists$	$\nexists$

# Least upper bounds

## Definition (Least Upper Bound/Supremum)

A number  $M$  is said to be the **least upper bound** or **supremum** of a set  $E$  if

- (i)  $M$  is an upper bound of  $E$ , and
- (ii) if  $\tilde{M}$  is an upper bound of  $E$  then  $M \leq \tilde{M}$ .

If  $M$  is the least upper bound of  $E$  then we write  $M = \sup E$ .

Note: We can refer to “the” least upper bound of  $E$  because there cannot be more than one. (Proof?)

*What sets have least upper bounds?*

# Least upper bounds

## Example

Set	bounded above	sup
$[-1, 1]$	<b>YES</b>	1
$[-1, 1)$	<b>YES</b>	1
$\emptyset$	<b>YES</b>	$\nexists$
$\{x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 < 2\}$	<b>YES</b>	$\sqrt{2}$
$\{x \in \mathbb{Q} : x^2 < 2\}$	<b>YES</b>	$\nexists \in \mathbb{Q}$

# Least upper bounds

The property that any set that is bounded above has a least upper bound is what distinguishes the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$  from the rational numbers  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

*Does this realization allow us to finish constructing  $\mathbb{R}$ ?*

**YES**, but we will delay the construction until later in the course.

For now, we will simply annoint the least upper bound property as an axiom:

## Completeness Axiom

If  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $E \neq \emptyset$ , and  $E$  is bounded above, then  $E$  has a **least upper bound** (i.e.,  $\sup E$  exists and  $\sup E \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

# $\mathbb{R}$ is a complete ordered field

- Any field  $\mathbb{F}$  that satisfies the order axioms and the completeness axiom is said to be a **complete ordered field**.
- $\mathbb{R}$  is a complete ordered field.
- Are there any other complete ordered fields?
- **Extra Challenge Problem:**  
*Prove that  $\mathbb{R}$  is the only complete ordered field.*

# Greatest lower bounds

## Definition (Greatest Lower Bound/Infimum)

A number  $m$  is said to be the **greatest lower bound** or **infimum** of a set  $E$  if

- (i)  $m$  is a lower bound of  $E$ , and
- (ii) if  $\tilde{m}$  is a lower bound of  $E$  then  $\tilde{m} \leq m$ .

If  $m$  is the greatest lower bound of  $E$  then we write  $m = \inf E$ .



# Greatest lower bounds

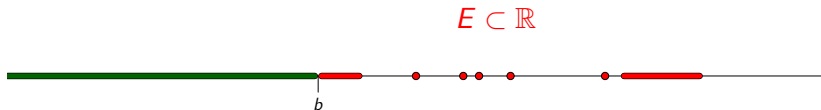
- The existence of **least upper bounds** was taken as an axiom.
- The existence of **greatest lower bounds** then follows.

## Theorem

If  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $E \neq \emptyset$ , and  $E$  is bounded below, then  $E$  has a **greatest lower bound** (i.e.,  $\inf E$  exists and  $\inf E \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

*Proof?*

*Idea of proof:*



$$L = \{\ell \in \mathbb{R} : \ell \text{ is a lower bound of } E\}$$

# Greatest lower bounds

## Theorem

If  $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $E \neq \emptyset$ , and  $E$  is bounded below, then  $E$  has a *greatest lower bound* (i.e.,  $\inf E$  exists and  $\inf E \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

## Proof.

*Recall graphical idea of proof.*

Let  $L = \{\ell \in \mathbb{R} : \ell \text{ is a lower bound of } E\}$ . Then:

- $L \neq \emptyset$  ( $\because E$  is *bounded below*).
- $L$  is *bounded above* ( $\because x \in E \implies x$  an *upper bound* for  $L$ ).
- $\therefore L$  has a *least upper bound*, say  $b = \sup L$ .

Now show  $b = \inf E$ . First show  $b \in L$  (i.e.,  $x \in E \implies b \leq x$ ). Suppose  $x \in E$  and  $b \not\leq x$ ; then by **O1 (trichotomy)**, we must have  $b > x$ . Now  $b = \sup L$  and  $x < b$ , so  $x$  is not an upper bound of  $L$ , i.e., there is some  $\ell \in L$  such that  $x < \ell$ . But then  $\ell$  is not a lower bound of  $E$ .  $\Rightarrow \Leftarrow \therefore b \in L$  and  $b$  is also  $\max L$ , i.e.,  $b = \inf E$ .  $\square$

# Comment on least upper bounds and greatest lower bounds

- The proof above shows that:

$$\inf E = \sup\{x \in \mathbb{R} : x \text{ is a lower bound of } E\}$$

- Similarly:

$$\sup E = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R} : x \text{ is an upper bound of } E\}$$

# Some notational abuse concerning sup and inf

By convention, for convenience, we (and your textbook) sometimes write:

$$\begin{aligned}\inf \mathbb{R} &= -\infty \\ \sup \mathbb{R} &= \infty \\ \inf \emptyset &= \infty \\ \sup \emptyset &= -\infty\end{aligned}$$

This is an **abuse of notation**, since  $\emptyset$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  do not have **least upper** or **greatest lower** bounds in  $\mathbb{R}$ .  $\infty$  *is not a real number*.

If you are asked “What is the **least upper bound** of  $\mathbb{R}$ ?” how should you answer?

Correct answer: “ $\mathbb{R}$  is not bounded above so it does not have a least upper bound.”

# Consequences of the real number axioms (§§1.7–1.9)

## Theorem (Archimedean property)

*The set of natural numbers  $\mathbb{N}$  has no upper bound.*

### Proof.

Suppose  $\mathbb{N}$  is bounded above. Then it has a least upper bound, say  $B = \sup \mathbb{N}$ . Thus, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \leq B$ . But if  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  then  $n + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ , hence  $n + 1 \leq B$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , i.e.,  $n \leq B - 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus,  $B - 1$  is an upper bound for  $\mathbb{N}$ , contradicting  $B$  being the least upper bound. □

# Consequences of the real number axioms (§§1.7–1.9)

## Theorem (Equivalences of the Archimedean property)

**1** *The set of natural numbers  $\mathbb{N}$  has no upper bound.*

**2** *Given any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n > x$ .*

*i.e., No matter how large a real number  $x$  is, there is always a natural number  $n$  that is larger.*

**3** *Given any  $x > 0$  and  $y > 0$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $nx > y$ .*

*i.e., Given any positive number  $y$ , no matter how large, and any positive number  $x$ , no matter how small, one can add  $x$  to itself sufficiently many times so that the result exceeds  $y$  (i.e.,  $nx > y$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ).*

**4** *Given any  $x > 0$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\frac{1}{n} < x$ .*

*i.e., Given any positive number  $x$ , no matter how small, one can always find a fraction  $1/n$  that is smaller than  $x$ .*