

1 Ultrafilters, Ultrapowers, ${}^*\mathbb{R}$

Our goal is to formulate a set of numbers, the hyperreals, denoted ${}^*\mathbb{R}$. We want this set to include both the real numbers \mathbb{R} and some number of infinitesimal elements, elements that are “infinitely close to” a given real number r but still not *equal* to r . To do this, we will take an *ultrapower* of \mathbb{R} . This ultrapower will be a quotient ring of $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$, the ring of sequences of real numbers, divided by an equivalence relation. With our equivalence relation we hope to capture the idea that two sequences have the same values “almost everywhere.” And to do this, we will need an *ultrafilter* on \mathbb{N} .

1.1 The Ultrafilter

The idea is that we will define an *ultrafilter* $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ that includes all of the “very large” subsets of \mathbb{N} , and then we will write $\langle r_n \rangle \equiv \langle s_n \rangle$ when $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid r_n = s_n\} \in \mathcal{F}$. Here are the criteria we will use:

Definition ([1, p. 18]). $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ is a (non-principal) ultrafilter on \mathbb{N} if:

- whenever $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$, we have $A \cap B \in \mathcal{F}$, and
- whenever $A \in \mathcal{F}$ and $A \subseteq B$, we have $B \in \mathcal{F}$, and
- for any $A \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$, either A or $A^c = \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}) - A$ are in \mathcal{F} , and
- no finite set is in \mathcal{F} .

A subset of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ that satisfies the first two bullets is a *filter*. For instance, $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ is a filter on \mathbb{N} , as is \emptyset . A *proper* filter is one that does not contain \emptyset (as if $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$, then $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}) = \mathcal{F}$ by the second bullet point). Stricly speaking, any proper filter that satisfies the third bullet point is an ultrafilter, but we will henceforth use “ultrafilter” to refer only to filters that satisfy all four bullets.

Call a set *cofinite* if its complement is finite. Every cofinite subset of \mathbb{N} is in \mathcal{F} , by the second and third bullets.

If we think of \mathcal{F} as being the subsets of \mathbb{N} that include “almost all” of the natural numbers, then these make intuitive sense. If A and B both include “almost all” of the natural numbers, then surely $A \cap B$ does too—“basically no” elements are in $A - B$ or $B - A$ since “basically no” elements are outside A or B . If A includes “almost all” of \mathbb{N} , and $A \subseteq B$, then surely B includes “almost all” of \mathbb{N} too. Etc.

Of course, there are some unintuitive things about \mathcal{F} : it contains either the set of even numbers $2\mathbb{N}$ or the set of odd numbers $2\mathbb{N} + 1$, but not both, by the third bullet point, for example.

Theorem 1.1 ([1, Corollary 2.6.2]). *There is at least one ultrafilter \mathcal{F} on \mathbb{N} .*

Proof adapted from [1, pp. 20–21]. Let $\mathcal{F}^{co} \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ denote the collection of cofinite subsets of \mathbb{N} . Let P denote the collection of all proper filters on \mathbb{N} that include \mathcal{F}^{co} . Since \mathcal{F}^{co} is itself a filter, $P \neq \emptyset$.

P is partially ordered by \subseteq : our approach is to apply Zorn’s Lemma. Let $T \subset P$ be totally ordered by \subseteq . Then $\cup T$ is clearly an upper bound of T , but we need to show that $\cup T$ is a filter (this is [1, Example 2.4(4)], but is not proven). If $A, B \in \cup T$, then $A \in T_1$ and $B \in T_2$ for some $T_1, T_2 \in T$. Since T is totally ordered by \subseteq , either $T_1 \subseteq T_2$ or $T_2 \subseteq T_1$. If $T_1 \subseteq T_2$, then $A \in T_2$, and so since T_2 is a filter $A \cap B \in T_2$ and thus $A \cap B \in \cup T$. The proof is similar if $T_2 \subseteq T_1$. Similarly, if $A \in \cup T$ and $A \subseteq B$, then $A \in T_1 \in T$ and so $B \in T_1$ since T_1 is filter, and so $B \in \cup T$.

So, by Zorn’s Lemma, P has a maximal element—call it \mathcal{F} . We want to show \mathcal{F} is an ultrafilter (this is [1, Exercise 2.5(6)]). By the definition of P , \mathcal{F} is a proper filter. Since $\mathcal{F}^{co} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$, if we can show that for every $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ either A or A^c is in \mathcal{F} we will be done.

Take $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$. We cannot have $A \in \mathcal{F}$ and $A^c \in \mathcal{F}$, for then we’d have $A \cap A^c = \emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$, which is impossible since \mathcal{F} is proper. Now, assume for a contradiciton that $A \notin \mathcal{F}$ and $A^c \notin \mathcal{F}$. We will show that \mathcal{F} can be extended by adding A or A^c , showing that \mathcal{F} is not a maximal element of P and obtaining our contradiction.

Let \mathcal{F}' be the filter obtained by adding to \mathcal{F} the the intersection $A \cap B$ for any $B \in \mathcal{F}$, and any superset of $A \cap B$ (this technique adapted from [2, Appendix A]). Note that $A = A \cap \mathbb{N}$ and $\mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{F}$, so $A \in \mathcal{F}'$. We will show that $\mathcal{F}' \in P$. First, for any $B \in \mathcal{F}$, we have $B \not\subseteq A^c$ (as $A^c \notin \mathcal{F}$) and so $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$, showing \mathcal{F}' is proper. Next, if $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}' - \mathcal{F}$, where $A \cap B \subseteq X$ and $A \cap C \subseteq Y$, then $(A \cap B) \cap (A \cap C) = A \cap (B \cap C) \subseteq X \cap Y$, with $B \cap C \in \mathcal{F}$, so $X \cap Y \in \mathcal{F}'$. A similar proof shows that for any $X \in \mathcal{F}$ and $Y \in \mathcal{F}' - \mathcal{F}$, $X \cap Y = Y \cap X \in \mathcal{F}'$. Similarly, if $X \in \mathcal{F}' - \mathcal{F}$ and $X \subseteq Y$, where $A \cap B \subseteq X$, then $A \cap B \subseteq Y$ and so $Y \in \mathcal{F}'$. So \mathcal{F}' is a proper filter, hence $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{F}' \in P$, violating our assumption that \mathcal{F} is maximal in (P, \subseteq) . Hence, our assumption that $A \notin \mathcal{F}$ and $A^c \notin \mathcal{F}$ is incorrect. Since we know from earlier that we can’t have $A, A^c \in \mathcal{F}$, we conclude that either A or A^c is in \mathcal{F} . Since this holds for any $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, we conclude \mathcal{F} is an ultrafilter on \mathbb{N} . \square

Theorem 1.2 ([1, Exercise 2.5(4)]). *Let \mathcal{F} be an ultrafilter and $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}$ a finite collection of pairwise disjoint sets such that*

$$A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n \in \mathcal{F}$$

Then $A_i \in \mathcal{F}$ for exactly one i such that $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Proof. At most one of the A_i 's can be in \mathcal{F} , since if $A_i, A_j \in \mathcal{F}$ when $i \neq j$ then we'd have $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$, a contradiction.

Assume for a contradiction that $A_i \notin \mathcal{F}$ for each i . Then $A_i^c \in \mathcal{F}$ for each i , and so since \mathcal{F} is closed under finite intersections we find

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i^c \in \mathcal{F}.$$

But then we find

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = \left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i^c \right)^c \notin \mathcal{F},$$

a contradiction. □

1.2 The Ultrapower

Let $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ denote the set of sequences in \mathbb{R} . We will denote a member $r = \langle r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots \rangle$ of $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ by $\langle r_n \rangle$. We can define operations termwise addition \oplus and termwise multiplication \odot on $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ by $\langle r_n \rangle \oplus \langle s_n \rangle = \langle r_n + s_n \rangle$ and $\langle r_n \rangle \odot \langle s_n \rangle = \langle r_n \cdot s_n \rangle$, giving us a commutative ring $(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}, \oplus, \odot)$.

Now, let \equiv denote the relation such that $\langle r_n \rangle \equiv \langle s_n \rangle$ iff $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid r_n = s_n\} \in \mathcal{F}$. We will write $[[r_n = s_n]]$ to denote $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid r_n = s_n\}$. When $\langle r_n \rangle = \langle s_n \rangle$, we will write that $r_n = s_n$ \mathcal{F} -almost everywhere.

Theorem 1.3 ([1, Exercise 3.3(1)]). *\equiv is an equivalence relation on $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$*

Proof. Clearly \equiv is reflexive, since $[[r_n = r_n]] = \mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{F}$ so $\langle r_n \rangle \equiv \langle r_n \rangle$.

Similarly, \equiv is symmetric because $[[r_n = s_n]] = [[s_n = r_n]]$, and so $[[r_n = s_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[s_n = r_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$, and so $\langle r_n \rangle \equiv \langle s_n \rangle$ iff $\langle s_n \rangle \equiv \langle r_n \rangle$.

Finally, \equiv is transitive. Say $\langle r_n \rangle \equiv \langle s_n \rangle \equiv \langle t_n \rangle$. Then $[[r_n = s_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$ and $[[s_n = t_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$. Whenever $r_n = s_n$ and $s_n = t_n$, we have $r_n = t_n$, and so $[[r_n = s_n]] \cap [[s_n = t_n]] \subseteq [[r_n = t_n]]$. Since \mathcal{F} is a filter, this implies $[[r_n = t_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$, and so $\langle r_n \rangle \equiv \langle t_n \rangle$. □

Now, we will form equivalence classes in $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ based on this equivalence relation. Note that $[[r_n = s_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[r_n - s_n = 0]] \in \mathcal{F}$, and so if $I = \{\langle r_n \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} \mid [[r_n = 0]] \in \mathcal{F}\}$ then $\langle r_n \rangle \equiv \langle s_n \rangle$ iff $\langle r_n \rangle \ominus \langle s_n \rangle \in I$. I is an ideal, because it is closed under subtraction— $[[r_n - s_n = 0]] \supseteq [[r_n = 0]] \cap [[s_n = 0]]$, so if the latter two are in \mathcal{F} so is the former—and for any $\langle r_n \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ and $\langle s_n \rangle \in I$, we have $[[r_n \cdot s_n = 0]] \supseteq [[s_n = 0]] \in \mathcal{F}$ and so $[[r_n \cdot s_n = 0]] \in \mathcal{F}$ and $\langle r_n \rangle \cdot \langle s_n \rangle \in I$. Then, we define the *hyperreals*

$${}^*\mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} / I.$$

We denote the equivalence class of an element $r = \langle r_n \rangle$ by $[r]$, $[\langle r_n \rangle]$, or just $[r_n]$ (omitting the angled brackets).

One might reasonably worry that we chose no particular ultrafilter \mathcal{F} on \mathbb{N} , and so ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ might not be unique. We can prove that ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ is unique if we assume the continuum hypothesis—otherwise, the uniqueness of ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ is indeterminate in ZFC [1, p. 33].

1.3 Extensions

For any function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we define ${}^*f : {}^*\mathbb{R} \rightarrow {}^*\mathbb{R}$ by ${}^*f([r_n]) = [f(r_n)]$. For example, if $f(x) = x^2$, then $f([1, 2, 3, \dots]) = [1, 4, 9, 16, \dots]$. *f is well defined, as if $[r_n] = [s_n]$ then $[[r_n = s_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$, and so we have $[[r_n = s_n]] \subseteq [[f(r_n) = f(s_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$ and so $\langle f(r_n) \rangle \equiv \langle f(s_n) \rangle$, i.e. ${}^*f([r_n]) = [f(r_n)] = [f(s_n)] = {}^*f([s_n])$.

Similarly, for any k -ary relation on the reals $R_k \subseteq \mathbb{R}^k$, we define ${}^*R_k \subseteq {}^*\mathbb{R}^k$ by setting ${}^*R_k([r_n^1], [r_n^2], \dots, [r_n^k])$ if $[[R_k(r_n^1, r_n^2, \dots, r_n^k)]] \in \mathcal{F}$. This is well defined because if $[s_n^i] = [r_n^i]$ for any $1 \leq i \leq k$, then $[[s_n^i = r_n^i]] \in \mathcal{F}$ for any i , and so we find

$$\left([[R_k(r_n^1, \dots, r_n^k)]] \cap \bigcap_{i=1}^k [[r_n^i = s_n^i]] \right) \subseteq [[R_k(s_n^1, \dots, s_n^k)]] \in \mathcal{F}$$

since the right side is a finite intersection.

1-ary relations are subsets, and for them we will use $x \in {}^*R$ in place of $R(x)$. For instance, $[r_n] \in {}^*\mathbb{N}$ iff $[[r_n \in \mathbb{N}]] \in \mathcal{F}$. The set ${}^*\mathbb{N}$ is the set of *hypernaturals*.

We will use symbols such as $<$, \leq , $+$, \cdot , etc. to refer to their own extensions in the hyperreals. For instance, $[r_n] \leq [s_n]$ iff $[[r_n \leq s_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$, and $[r_n] + [s_n] = [r_n + s_n]$.

A technique we will use frequently is choosing a representative of an equivalence class to meet certain conditions. Say, for instance, we know $[r_n] \in {}^*\mathbb{N}$. Then $[[r_n \in \mathbb{N}]] \in \mathcal{F}$. Now, let $s_n = r_n$ for all $n \in [[r_n \in \mathbb{N}]]$, and $s_n = 0$ elsewhere. Then $[[r_n \in \mathbb{N}]] \subseteq [[r_n = s_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$, so $[r_n] = [s_n]$, and we have $s_n \in \mathbb{N}$ for *all* n . In other words, whenever a condition is true \mathcal{F} -almost everywhere for every member of an equivalence class, we can (usually) pick a member where it is true *actually* everywhere. In proofs, we will say something like “ $[r_n] \in {}^*\mathbb{N}$, and so we can assume $r_n \in \mathbb{N}$ for all n .”

1.4 \mathbb{R} in ${}^*\mathbb{R}$

For any real number $b \in \mathbb{R}$, we have $[b] = [\langle b, b, b, \dots \rangle] \in {}^*\mathbb{R}$. If $b, c \in \mathbb{R}$, then $[b] + [c] = [b + c]$, $[b] \leq [c]$ iff $b \leq c$, etc. In these cases we will usually drop the parenthesis and just write $b \in {}^*\mathbb{R}$. For instance, we might write $[r_n] < 5$ to indicate $[r_n] < [5]$.

1.5 Internal Sets & Functions

Not every subset of or function on ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ is represented by the extension of a subset of or function on \mathbb{R} .

Theorem 1.4 ([1, Theorem 3.9.1]). *Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Then ${}^*S - \mathbb{R} \neq \emptyset$.*

Proof by Goldblatt. The theorem here is relying a bit on an abuse of notation, using \mathbb{R} in the first case to mean the real numbers and in the second case to mean the “copy” of the real numbers in ${}^*\mathbb{R}$.

Let $s_1, s_2, \dots \in S$ be a pairwise distinct sequence of elements of S . Then clearly $[s_n] \in {}^*S$ as $[[s_n \in S]] = \mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{F}$. But for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, we find $[[s_n = x]]$ is either \emptyset or a singleton, since the s_n are pairwise distinct. So $[[s_n = x]] \notin \mathcal{F}$, i.e. $[s_n] \neq x$. \square

Theorem 1.5 ([1, Exercise 3.10(1)]). *If A is finite, then ${}^*A = A$.*

Proof. Let $[r_n] \in {}^*A$. Then $[[r_n \in A]] \in \mathcal{F}$, and we have

$$\bigcup_{b \in A} [[r_n = b]] = [[r_n \in A]] \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Note that the $[[r_n = b]]$ ’s are pairwise disjoint. Then, by Theorem 1.2, we know that $[[r_n = b]] \in \mathcal{F}$ for *exactly one* b , and so we conclude $[r_n] = b$. So every element of *A is an element of A . Furthermore, for any $b \in A$, we have $[[b \in A]] = \mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{F}$, and so $b \in {}^*A$. So by double inclusion, ${}^*A = A$. \square

So the extension of any finite subset of \mathbb{R} is finite, and the extension of any infinite subset contains “nonstandard” elements. So if we consider \mathbb{N} as a subset of ${}^*\mathbb{R}$, we find that it isn’t the extension of anything: it’s infinite, but it doesn’t contain any nonreal elements.

So we can’t use extensions to work with every possible subset of (or function on) ${}^*\mathbb{R}$. What we can do, though, is find “well-behaved” subsets or functions that we can extend our methods to. These subsets and functions are called *internal*.

Definition. If A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots is a sequence of subsets of \mathbb{R} , we define the *internal subset* $A \subseteq {}^*\mathbb{R}$, denoted $A = [A_n]$, by

$$[r_n] \in [A_n] \text{ iff } [[r_n \in A_n]] \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Internal set membership is well-defined, as $[r_n] \in [A_n]$ implies $[[r_n \in A_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$, so if $[r_n] = [s_n]$ then $[[r_n \in A_n]] \cap [[r_n = s_n]] \subseteq [[s_n \in A_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$ and so $[s_n] \in [A_n]$. Any finite set of hyperreals is internal, as if $X = \{[r_n^1], \dots, [r_n^k]\}$ then $X = [\{r_n^1, \dots, r_n^k\}]$ [1, p. 126]. A finite set of hyperreals is only the extension of a set of reals if it is itself also a set of reals, so any finite set of hyperreals that contains non-real elements is internal but not the extension of a set of reals. Internal functions are defined similarly to internal sets:

Definition. If f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots is a sequence of functions $f_i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we define the *internal function* $f : {}^*\mathbb{R} \rightarrow {}^*\mathbb{R}$, denoted $f = [f_n]$, by

$$[f_n]([r_n]) = [f_n(r_n)].$$

2 First Order Logic & Transfer

2.1 The Idea

Here is the basic idea behind our project in this chapter. We will define a formal mathematical language, a language of *first-order logic*, that lets us talk about the reals. That language will use the logical symbols \forall (for all), \exists (there exists), \wedge (and), \vee (or), \rightarrow (if-then), and \neg (not), along with a host of symbols used to name the elements of, subsets of, and functions on \mathbb{R} . This language will not be nearly as powerful as English, but the upshot is we will show that any sentence we can write of this language is true in \mathbb{R} if and only if an analogous sentence is true in ${}^*\mathbb{R}$. This is the *transfer principle*, and it is the engine that powers infinitesimal calculus. This notably not true of English: “every natural number is finite” is true in \mathbb{R} , but “every hypernatural number is finite” is *not* true in ${}^*\mathbb{R}$. Our method, once we have transfer, will be to write down some useful property of \mathbb{R} , transfer it to ${}^*\mathbb{R}$, prove that something is true about ${}^*\mathbb{R}$, and then transfer our result back to \mathbb{R} . In this way, we hope to prove things about \mathbb{R} by going “through” ${}^*\mathbb{R}$.

2.2 Our language \mathcal{L}_S

We will define our mathematical language \mathcal{L}_S on an arbitrary set S . In practice, we will mostly be using $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{R}}$, our language on the real numbers \mathbb{R} , and $\mathcal{L}_{{}^*\mathbb{R}}$, our language on the hyperreal numbers ${}^*\mathbb{R}$.

2.3 Symbols

Our language will, formally, contain the following symbols:

- The logical connectives \wedge , \vee , and \neg .
- Parentheses (and).
- The universal quantifier symbol \forall .
- The set membership symbol \in .
- A constant symbol \dot{x} for each $x \in S$.
- A countable number of variables v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots .
- A relation symbol \dot{R}_n for any n -ary relation R_n on S , that is, any $R_n \subseteq S^n$. A 1-ary relation symbol is also called a *set symbol*.
- A function symbol \dot{f}_n for any n -place function f_n on S , that is, any $f_n : S^n \rightarrow S$.

2.4 Terms

The *terms* of our language will be the symbols or sequences that refer to an element of S . They are defined recursively:

- Any single constant symbol \dot{x} is a term.
- Any single variable v_n is a term.
- If \dot{f}_n is an n -place function symbol, and t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n are terms, then $\dot{f}_n(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$ is a term.

A *closed* term is a term that contains no variables— $\dot{f}_1(v_1)$ is a term, and $\dot{f}_1(5)$ is a closed term. The former refers to some element of S , the same way that in common mathematical parlance x might refer to an element of \mathbb{R} , but the latter refers to a *specific* moment of S , the same way π refers to a *specific* element of \mathbb{R} .

2.5 Well-Formed Formulae

Strictly speaking, a *formula* is just a sequence of symbols. Here’s a formula: $\dot{f}_5(\wedge, \forall, 17) \rightarrow \rightarrow \wedge(())(($. That formula doesn’t mean anything. The formulae that *do* mean something are called *well-formed formulae*, or wffs (sometimes pronounced ‘wiffs’) for short. The wffs of our language are defined recursively, as follows:

- If \dot{R}_n is an n -ary relation symbol, and t_1, \dots, t_n are terms, then $\dot{R}_n(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ is a wff. This type of wff is called an *atomic formula*.

- If φ and ψ are wffs, then so are $(\varphi \wedge \psi)$, $(\varphi \vee \psi)$, and $\neg\varphi$.
- If φ is a wff and v_n is a variable, then $(\forall v_n)\varphi$ is a wff.

Examples of wffs include “ $\dot{f}(5) = \dot{7}$ ”, “ $\dot{\leq}(\dot{2}, \dot{3})$ ”, and “ $\dot{\geq}(v_1, \dot{+}(\dot{2}, \dot{v}_{54}))$ ”. Note here that we are writing $\dot{\leq}(a, b)$ in place of $a \leq b$ because our language doesn’t allow for infix notation.

2.6 Bound and Free Variables

Consider the wff $(\forall v_1)P(v_1, v_2)$. Is this *true*? Well we can’t rightly say—we don’t know what v_2 is! We need to know what v_2 means before we determine whether it’s true. We *don’t* need any more information what v_1 is, because we know it’s a stand-in for “any element” due to the quantifier $\forall v_1$. Variables like v_1 we call “bound” (by the quantifier), and variables like v_2 we call *free*.

Formally, an *occurrence* of a variable v_n that occurs in a wff φ is called bound if it is in the scope of a quantifier $\forall v_n$, and free otherwise. As another example, in the wff $(P(v_1) \vee (\forall v_1)(Q(v_1) \wedge Q(v_2)))$, the first occurrence of v_1 is free, while the second is bound. The occurrence of v_2 is also free, since it’s not in the scope of $(\forall v_2)$. A wff with no free variables is called a *sentence*—and since a sentence has no free variables, then we can determine whether it is true false, as will be discussed in subsection 2.9.

2.7 Replacement Notation

If φ is a wff that is not a sentence, we write $\varphi(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$ to indicate that v_1, \dots, v_n are all the variables that occur freely in φ . Then $\varphi(\dot{x}_1, \dots, \dot{x}_n)$ is the sentence we get by replacing each free occurrence of v_i by the constant symbol \dot{x}_i . Similarly, if t is a term, we write $t(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ to indicate t and $t(\dot{x}_1, \dots, \dot{x}_n)$ to indicate the term you get by replacing each occurrence of v_i with \dot{x}_i .

Similarly, we write $\varphi(v_1, \dots, v_n, \dot{A}_1, \dots, \dot{A}_m)$ to indicate that v_1, \dots, v_n are all the variables that occur freely in φ , and A_1, \dots, A_m are all the set symbols that occur in φ . We then write $\varphi(\dot{x}_1, \dots, \dot{x}_n, \dot{B}_1, \dots, \dot{B}_m)$ to mean the sentence we get by replacing v_i by \dot{x}_i and \dot{A}_i by \dot{B}_i .

So if $\varphi(v_1, v_2, \dot{A}_1) = \dot{P}(v_1) \wedge (\forall v_1 \in \dot{A}_1)(v_1 < v_2)$, then $\varphi(\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{T}) = \dot{P}(\dot{x}) \wedge (\forall v_1 \in T)(v_1 < \dot{y})$.

2.8 An Aside: Abbreviations

While we will treat this language, rigorously defined, exactly as it is for the purposes of proofs and the like, when actually writing down sentence of \mathcal{L}_s we will make use of a number of handy abbreviations and shortcuts:

- We will omit outer parentheses and other parentheses not necessary to understand a wff, as in $\dot{P}(v_1) \vee \dot{Q}(v_1)$. We will also sometimes use $[$ and $]$ in place of $($ and $)$, respectively.
- We will write $x \in \dot{A}$ to mean $\dot{A}(x)$.
- We will write $\varphi \rightarrow \psi$ to mean $\neg\varphi \vee \psi$. Intuitively, this *means* the same thing: if φ implies ψ , then either φ is false or ψ , and thus ψ , are true. Similarly, if $\neg\varphi \vee \psi$, and φ is true, then ψ must be true.
- We will write $\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi$ to mean $(\varphi \rightarrow \psi) \wedge (\psi \rightarrow \varphi)$.
- We will write $(\exists v_i)\varphi$ to mean $\neg(\forall v_i)\neg\varphi$. An example for why this makes sense: there exists a number greater than 5 iff it’s *not* true that *every* number is no greater than 5. If it’s not the case that $\neg\varphi$ for every v_i , then there must exist some counterexample for which φ .
- We will write $(\forall v_i \in \dot{A})\varphi$ to mean $(\forall x)(x \in \dot{A} \rightarrow \varphi)$, and similarly for \exists .
- We will use infix notation for common relations and functions that usually do so, e.g. $\leq, \geq, =, +, \cdot$, etc.
- We will usually use a symbol other than v_i as a variable, for instance in $(\forall r \in \mathbb{N})(0 \dot{\leq} r)$.
- We will frequently omit the dots from constant, function, relation, and set symbols, e.g. using x to denote the constant symbol associated with $x \in S$.

Here’s an example of a sentence of \mathcal{L}_s expressing the *Archimedian property* of \mathbb{R} , that for any real number r there is a natural number N such that r is less than N .

$$(\forall r)(\exists N \in \mathbb{N})(r < N)$$

This can be read in English as follows.

$$\underbrace{(\forall r)}_{\text{for any real number } r}, \underbrace{(\exists N \in \mathbb{N})}_{\text{there is a natural number } N}, \underbrace{r < N}_{\text{(such that } r \text{ is less than } N)}$$

Without abbreviations, this reads

$$(\forall v_1) \neg (\forall v_2) \neg (\dot{N}(v_2) \wedge \dot{<}(v_1, v_2)),$$

which means the same thing but is much harder to parse.

2.9 Truth in \mathcal{L}_S

Intuitively, it's very easy to see how a sentence might be true or false. A sentence is true just in case it accurately describes the things it is referring to. In order to prove transfer, though, we need a rigorous *mathematical* description of what makes a sentence true or false.

Here's our basic approach. We'll define an s function to be an assignment of all the variables v_1, v_2, \dots to elements of S . We'll then recursively construct a function \bar{s} that takes any term as its input and outputs what that term corresponds to in S . So if $s(v_1) = 2$ and $s(v_2) = 3$, then $\bar{s}(\dot{v_1 + v_2 + 4}) = 9$. We'll then say that an s function *satisfies* a wff if that wff correctly describes S when you interpret the terms using \bar{s} . So if $s_1(v_1) = 2$ and $s_2(v_1) = 100$, then s_1 satisfies the wff " $v_1 < \dot{50}$ " but s_2 does not. A sentence, since it doesn't have any free variables for s to assign, is either satisfied by *every* s or by *no* s , in which case we say it is true or false, respectively.

Now, let's do this rigorously. Let $s : V \rightarrow S$, where V is the set of variables. Such a function is called an s function. We then recursively define $\bar{s} : T \rightarrow S$, where T is the set of terms, by:

- $\bar{s}(v_n) = s(v_n)$ for any variable v_n .
- $\bar{s}(\dot{x}) = x$ for any constant symbol \dot{x} .
- $\bar{s}(\dot{f}_n(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = f_n(\bar{s}(t_1), \dots, \bar{s}(t_n))$.

So if $s(v_1) = 3$ and $f(x) = x^2$, then $\bar{s}(\dot{f}(v_1 + \dot{2})) = 25$. Note that \bar{s} outputs 25 the number, not " $\dot{25}$ " the symbol. We say that $s : V \rightarrow S$ either satisfies or doesn't satisfy any wff φ , defined recursively by:

- s satisfies an atomic formula $\dot{R}_n(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ if $(\bar{s}(t_1), \dots, \bar{s}(t_n)) \in R_n$.
- s satisfies $\neg\varphi$ if it doesn't satisfy φ .
- s satisfies $\varphi \vee \psi$ if it satisfies φ or ψ .
- s satisfies $\varphi \wedge \psi$ if it satisfies φ and ψ .
- s satisfies $(\forall v_n)\varphi$ if every $t : V \rightarrow S$ such that $t(v_i) = s(v_i)$ for all $i \neq n$ satisfies φ .

So in our example above where $s(v_1) = 3$, s satisfies the wff " $\dot{f}(v_1 + \dot{2}) \dot{\geq} \dot{20}$ ", but if $s'(v_1) = -2$ then s' does not satisfy that wff.

That last bullet deserves some attention. What we're saying is that s satisfies $(\forall v_n)\varphi$ if you can change $s(v_n)$ to be whatever you'd like in S and still satisfy φ no matter what. In other words, s satisfies $(\forall v_n)\varphi$ if for every $x \in S$, you can send v_n to x and still have s satisfy φ .

If φ is a sentence, it is either satisfied by every $s : V \rightarrow S$ or not satisfied by every s . Intuitively, this is because every variable v_i in φ is bound by a quantifier, and so the satisfaction or not of φ will depend on whether it is satisfied when v_i takes *any* value—the "original" value of $s(v_i)$ won't matter. We'll skip the details of the proof, which is by induction on wffs. If a sentence φ is satisfied by every s , we say that it is *true*, and otherwise we say it is *false*.

2.10 The Transfer Principle

Let $\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ denote our language as defined on \mathbb{R} , with a constant symbol for every real number, a relation symbol for every k -ary relation in \mathbb{R}^k , and a function symbol for every k -place function $f : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Let $\mathcal{L}_{*\mathfrak{R}}$ likewise indicate our language as defined on $^*\mathbb{R}$.

Our goal is to show that for any sentence φ of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{R}}$, the "corresponding" sentence of $\mathcal{L}_{*\mathfrak{R}}$ has the same truth value. First, we need to define the idea of "corresponding" sentence.

Let $*$ be a function from the set of terms in $\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{R}}$ to the set of terms in $\mathcal{L}_{*\mathfrak{R}}$ —the hope being that $*(t)$ will be the term "corresponding" to t . We will denote $*(t)$ by $*t$. We define $*$ recursively on terms by:

- If v_n is a variable, $*v_n = v_n$.
- If x is a constant symbol, $*x = [(x, x, x, \dots)]$.
- $*(f_k(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k)) = *f_k(*t_1, *t_2, \dots, *t_k)$, where $*f_k$ is the extension of f_k .

Now, for any sentence φ of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{R}}$, the corresponding sentence $*\varphi$ of $\mathcal{L}^*\mathfrak{R}$ is obtained by replacing every term t in φ by $*t$ and every relation symbol R_k in φ by $*R_k$ (the symbol corresponding to the extension of the relation R_k). For instance, if $\varphi = (\forall r \in \mathbb{R})(\exists N \in \mathbb{N})(f(r) < N)$, then $*\varphi = (\forall r \in *\mathbb{R})(\exists N \in *\mathbb{N})(*f(r) < N)$.

We can now state and prove the theorem that will imply the transfer principle.

Theorem 2.1 (Łoś's Theorem). *Let $\varphi(v_1, \dots, v_k, A_1, \dots, A_m)$ be a wff of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{R}}$. Then*

$$*\varphi([x_n^1], [x_n^2], \dots, [x_n^k], [A_n^1], \dots, [A_n^m]) \iff [[\varphi(x_n^1, \dots, x_n^k, A_n^1, \dots, A_n^m)]] \in \mathcal{F}$$

Where $[[P(n)]] = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid P(n)\}$.

Proof heavily adapted from [2, Appendix B]. Every closed term in $*\varphi([x_n^1], [x_n^2], \dots, [x_n^k], [A_n^1], \dots, [A_n^m])$ takes the form $*t([x_n^1], \dots, [x_n^k])$ for some term $t(v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_k})$ in φ . We will show by induction on terms that $*t([x_n^1], \dots, [x_n^k]) = [t(x_n^1, x_n^2, \dots, x_n^k)]$.

- If t is a constant term x , then $*t = x = [x, x, \dots]$.
- If t is a variable v_i , then $t(c) = c$ for any constant symbol c , and so $*t([x_n^1]) = [x_n^1] = [t(x_n^1)]$.
- If t is of the form $f_j(t_1, \dots, t_j)$, then $*t([x_n^1], \dots, [x_n^k]) = *f_j(*t_1([x_n^1], \dots, [x_n^k]), \dots, *t_j([x_n^1], \dots, [x_n^k])) = *f_j([t_1(x_n^1, \dots, x_n^k)], \dots, [t_j(x_n^1, \dots, x_n^k)]) = [f_j(t_1(x_n^1, \dots, x_n^k), \dots, t_j(x_n^1, \dots, x_n^k))] = [t(x_n^1, \dots, x_n^k)]$.

We will simplify this by writing $*t = [t_n]$ for any closed term $*t$ of $*\varphi$, omitting the plugging in of constant symbols. Similarly, we will write $\varphi_n = \varphi(x_n^1, \dots, x_n^k, A_n^1, \dots, A_n^m)$ and $*\varphi = *\varphi([x_n^1], [x_n^2], \dots, [x_n^k], [A_n^1], \dots, [A_n^m])$. Now we proceed to prove the theorem, that $*\varphi$ iff $[[\varphi_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$, by induction on wffs.

- In the case of atomic formulas involving internal sets, $*t \in [A_n]$ iff $[t_n] \in [A_n]$ iff $[[t_n \in A_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$ by the definition of $[A_n]$.
- In the case of other atomic formulas, $*R_k(*t^1, \dots, *t^k)$ iff $(*t^1, \dots, *t^k) \in *R_k$ iff $[[t_n^1], \dots, [t_n^k]] \in *R_k$ (by our result about $*t$) iff $[[t_n^1, \dots, t_n^k] \in R_k]] \in \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[R_k(t_n^1, \dots, t_n^k)]] \in \mathcal{F}$.
- If φ_n is of the form $\psi_n^1 \wedge \psi_n^2$, then $*\varphi = *\psi^1 \wedge *\psi^2$. Then $*\varphi$ iff $*\psi^1 \wedge *\psi^2$ iff $[[\psi_n^1]] \in \mathcal{F}$ and $[[\psi_n^2]] \in \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[\psi_n^1]] \cap [[\psi_n^2]] \in \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[\psi_n^1 \wedge \psi_n^2]] = [[\varphi_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$.
- Similarly, if φ_n is of the form $\psi_n^1 \vee \psi_n^2$, then $*\varphi = *\psi^1 \vee *\psi^2$. Hence $*\varphi$ iff $*\psi^1 \vee *\psi^2$ iff $[[\psi_n^1]] \in \mathcal{F}$ or $[[\psi_n^2]] \in \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[\psi_n^1]] \cup [[\psi_n^2]] \in \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[\psi_n^1 \vee \psi_n^2]] = [[\varphi_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$. Note $[[\psi_n^1]] \cup [[\psi_n^2]] \in \mathcal{F}$ implies $[[\psi_n^1]]$ or $[[\psi_n^2]] \in \mathcal{F}$ because, in general, if $A \cup B \in \mathcal{F}$ and $A \notin \mathcal{F}$ then $A^c \in \mathcal{F}$ so $A^c \cap (A \cup B) \subseteq B \in \mathcal{F}$.
- If $\varphi_n = \neg \psi_n$ then $*\varphi = \neg *\psi$. So $*\varphi$ iff $\neg *\psi$ iff $[[\psi_n]] \notin \mathcal{F}$ iff $[[\psi_n]]^c = [[\varphi_n]] \in \mathcal{F}$.
- If $\varphi_n = (\forall v_i) \psi_n(v_i)$, then $*\varphi = (\forall v_i) *\psi(v_i)$. Then $*\varphi$ iff $(\forall v_i) *\psi(v_i)$ iff $*\psi([x_n])$ for every $[x_n]$ iff $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$ for every sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$ (by the inductive hypothesis). We want to show that this is true iff $[[\varphi_n]] = [[(\forall v_i) \psi_n(v_i)]] \in \mathcal{F}$. First, if $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$ for every sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$ we have $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \subseteq [[\psi_n(x_n)]]$ and so $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$. Conversely, if $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \notin \mathcal{F}$, then for each $n \notin [[(\forall v_i) \psi_n(v_i)]]$ we can find x_n such that $\neg \psi_n(x_n)$. If we make a sequence out of these x_n , letting x_n take an arbitrary value for $n \in [[(\forall v_i) \psi_n(v_i)]]$, then for any $n \notin [[(\forall v_i) \psi_n(v_i)]]$ we have $\neg \psi_n(x_n)$. So, we get $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] = [[(\forall v_i) \psi_n(v_i)]]$ and so $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \notin \mathcal{F}$ for some sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$. So $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$ for every sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$ iff $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$. We conclude $*\varphi = (\forall v_i) *\psi(v_i)$ iff $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$ for every sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$ iff $[[\psi_n(x_n)]] \in \mathcal{F}$.

□

Corollary 2.2 (Transfer Principle). *If φ is a sentence of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{R}}$, then*

$$\varphi \iff *\varphi.$$

Łoś's theorem is, in actuality, quite a bit more general than 2.1, applying to any ultrapower rather than just $*\mathbb{R}$.

3 Structure of ${}^*\mathbb{R}$

The goal of this section is to explore what ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ is “like.” To do this, we will use both work directly with the ultrapower definition of ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ and use the transfer principle.

To start with, all of the field axioms can be written down in our language $\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{R}}$. For instance, the fact that addition is commutative is

$$(\forall x)(\forall y)(x + y = y + x),$$

and the fact that multiplicative inverses exist is

$$(\forall x)(x \neq 0 \rightarrow (\exists y)(x \cdot y = 1)).$$

So, we transfer all of the field axioms to ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ and conclude ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ is a field. Throughout this paper we will make use of high-school-level algebraic properties to rearrange equations and such, even beyond the field axioms—unless otherwise noted, the relevant properties of ${}^*\mathbb{R}$ can be justified by a simple use of transfer.

3.1 Infinitesimal and Unlimited Hyperreals

Definition. A hyperreal $x \in {}^*\mathbb{R}$ is called

- *infinitesimal* if $|x| < b$ for any $b \in \mathbb{R}^+$.
- *unlimited* if $b < |x|$ for any $b \in \mathbb{R}^+$, and *limited* otherwise.
- *appreciable* if it is both limited and non-infinitesimal, i.e. if there are $b, c \in \mathbb{R}^+$ such that $b \leq |x| \leq c$.

There is exactly one real infinitesimal, 0. In ${}^*\mathbb{R}$, there are many more. Consider for a start $\delta = [\delta_n] = [(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots)]$. For any $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$, there is some $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\frac{1}{m} < r$. So the cofinite set $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n \geq m\}$ is a subset of $[\delta_n < r]$, so $[[\delta_n < r]] \in \mathcal{F}$, and so $\delta < r$. However, $[[0 < \delta_n]] = \mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{F}$, and so $0 < \delta$. So $0 < \delta < r$ for any $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$, and δ is infinitesimal.

Let $b \in \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$. Now, in \mathbb{R} , it's true that

$$(\forall x)(\forall r)(|x| < \frac{r}{|b|} \rightarrow |b \cdot x| < r).$$

We can then transfer this to ${}^*\mathbb{R}$. With our abbreviations, we would write the sentence the exact same way, so we can say that this sentence is also true in ${}^*\mathbb{R}$. Now, if it's true for all x , then it must be true for δ .

$$(\forall r)(|\delta| < \frac{r}{|b|} \rightarrow |b \cdot \delta| < r)$$

Let r be any positive real number. Then $\frac{r}{|b|} \in \mathbb{R}^+$, so $|\delta| < \frac{r}{|b|}$ (because δ is infinitesimal). Then, by applying our sentence, we know that $|b \cdot \delta| < r$. And this holds for any $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$! So $b \cdot \delta$ is infinitesimal. Similarly, we know that

$$(\forall x)(0 \neq x \rightarrow 0 \neq (b \cdot x))$$

in \mathbb{R} . So we transfer this to ${}^*\mathbb{R}$, plug in δ for x , and since $0 \neq \delta$ we find $0 \neq (b \cdot \delta)$. Throughout this reasoning, we used the fact that δ was infinitesimal, but nothing else about it, so we conclude that if δ is any nonzero infinitesimal and $b \in \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$, then $b \cdot \delta$ is a nonzero infinitesimal. Generalizing, we can conclude (with a little bit more work) that for any limited hyperreal b and any infinitesimal δ , we have $b \cdot \delta$ infinitesimal.

Now consider unlimited hyperreals. There are no unlimited reals. The hyperreal $H = [n] = [1, 2, 3, 4, \dots]$ is unlimited, however. For any $r \in {}^*\mathbb{R}$, there is $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $r < n$ for all $n > m$, and so the cofinite set $[[r < n]] \in \mathcal{F}$ meaning $r < [n] = H$. This is true for every $r \in {}^*\mathbb{R}$.

Theorem 3.1 ([1, Chapter 5.2]). *If ϵ, δ are infinitesimal, b, c are appreciable, and H, K are unlimited, we have:*

- $-\epsilon, \epsilon + \delta, \epsilon \cdot \delta, \epsilon \cdot b$, and $\frac{1}{H}$ *infinitesimal*.
- $-b, b + \epsilon, b \cdot c$, and $\frac{1}{b}$ *appreciable*.
- $b + c$ *limited* (possibly infinitesimal, as in $(1 + \delta) + (-1)$).
- $-H, H + \epsilon, H + b, b \cdot H, H \cdot K$, and $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$ (if $\epsilon \neq 0$) *unlimited*.

4 Infinite Closeness & Standard Parts

Definition. We say that two hyperreals x, y are *infinitely close*, and write $x \simeq y$, if $x - y$ is infinitesimal.

Note that \simeq is an equivalence relation. $x - x = 0$ is infinitesimal, $x - y$ is infinitesimal iff $-(x - y) = y - x$ is, and whenever $x - y$ and $y - z$ are infinitesimal their sum $(x - y) + (y - z) = x - z$ is as well. Note also that x is infinitesimal iff $x \simeq 0$, and $x \simeq y$ iff $|x - y| < r$ for any $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$.

Theorem 4.1 ([1, Theorem 5.6.1]). *Every limited hyperreal b is infinitely close to exactly one real number, called the standard part of b , denoted by $\text{st}(b)$.*

So the limited hyperreals are broken up into disjoint “halos” around each real number. The standard part function also has the nice property of respecting most arithmetic functions. For instance, $\text{st}(b + c) \simeq b + c$ (by definition), and $b + c - (\text{st}(b) + \text{st}(c)) = (b - \text{st}(b)) + (c - \text{st}(c))$, which is infinitesimal (as the sum of two infinitesimals). So $b + c \simeq \text{st}(b) + \text{st}(c)$, and so by transitivity of \simeq we have $\text{st}(b + c) \simeq \text{st}(b) + \text{st}(c)$. Since both $\text{st}(b + c)$ and $\text{st}(b) + \text{st}(c)$ are real, their difference $\text{st}(b + c) - (\text{st}(b) + \text{st}(c))$ must be real, and since they are infinitely close, their difference must be infinitesimal. Since the only real infinitesimal is 0, that means $\text{st}(b + c) = \text{st}(b) + \text{st}(c)$.

That last move will be used frequently enough that it is worth stating as a theorem.

Theorem 4.2. *If $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, and $a \simeq b$, then $a = b$.*

Also, since \simeq is transitive, if $x, y \in {}^*\mathbb{R}$ are limited and $x \simeq y$, we have $\text{st}x \simeq x \simeq y \simeq \text{st}(y)$ and therefore $\text{st}(x) = \text{st}(y)$. Similarly, if $\text{st}(x) = \text{st}(y)$, then $x \simeq \text{st}(x) = \text{st}(y) \simeq y$ and so $x \simeq y$.

Corollary 4.3. *If $x, y \in {}^*\mathbb{R}$ are both limited, then $x \simeq y$ if and only if $\text{st}(x) = \text{st}(y)$.*

We can write similar proofs that st distributes over subtraction, multiplication, division, even absolute value ($\text{st}(|x|) = |\text{st}(x)|$) for limited values [1, Theorem 5.6.2].

Theorem 4.4 ([1, Exercise 5.7(4)]). *Let \mathbb{L} denote the ring of limited hyperreals, and \mathbb{I} the ring of infinitesimals. Show that \mathbb{R} is isomorphic to the ring of limited hyperreals ${}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{L}$ factored by its ideal ${}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{I}$.*

Proof. Consider $\text{st} : {}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. We want to use the first isomorphism theorem on rings, so we need to show that st is a ring homomorphism, its kernel is ${}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{I}$, and its image is \mathbb{R} . That st is a ring homomorphism follows from the facts that $\text{st}(a \pm b) = \text{st}(a) \pm \text{st}(b)$ and $\text{st}(a \cdot b) = \text{st}(a) \cdot \text{st}(b)$ for any $a, b \in {}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{L}$ because such a, b are limited. $\text{st}(a) = 0$ iff $a \simeq 0$ iff a is infinitesimal iff $a \in {}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{I}$, so we conclude the kernel of st is ${}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{I}$.

Finally, take any $x \in \mathbb{R}$. We have

$$(\forall r \in \mathbb{R}^+)(\exists q \in \mathbb{Q})(|x - q| < r).$$

If we transfer this, we get

$$(\forall r \in {}^*\mathbb{R}^+)(\exists q \in {}^*\mathbb{Q})(|x - q| < r).$$

What is ${}^*\mathbb{R}^+$? Well $(\forall y)(y \in \mathbb{R}^+ \leftrightarrow 0 < y)$, so by transfer $(\forall y)(y \in {}^*\mathbb{R}^+ \leftrightarrow 0 < y)$. So ${}^*\mathbb{R}^+$ is the set of positive hyperreals. Take that sentence and plug in some positive infinitesimal δ for r . Then we have

$$(\exists q \in {}^*\mathbb{Q})(|x - q| < \delta).$$

But if $|x - q| < \delta$, then $|x - q| < r$ for any $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$, and so $x \simeq q$. Since $x \in \mathbb{R}$, this implies $\text{st}(q) = x$, and thus that x is in the image of st .

This is true for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, so the image of st must be all of \mathbb{R} . Thus, we can use the first isomorphism theorem on rings to conclude ${}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{L} / {}^*\mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{I} \cong \mathbb{R}$. \square

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