## Script 7

## The Field Axioms

## 7.1 Journal

1/28: **Definition 7.1.** A binary operation on a set X is a function

$$f: X \times X \to X$$

We say that f is **associative** if

$$f(f(x,y),z) = f(x,f(y,z))$$
 for all  $x,y,z \in X$ 

We say that f is **commutative** if

$$f(x,y) = f(y,x)$$
 for all  $x, y \in X$ 

An **identity element** of a binary operation f is an element  $e \in X$  such that

$$f(x,e) = f(e,x) = x$$
 for all  $x \in X$ 

**Remark 7.2.** Frequently, we denote a binary operation differently. If  $*: X \times X \to X$  is the binary operation, we often write a \* b in place of \*(a,b). We sometimes indicate this same operation by writing  $(a,b) \mapsto a * b$ .

Exercise 7.3. Rewrite Definition 7.1 using the notation of Remark 7.2.

Answer. A binary operation on a set X is a function

$$*: X \times X \to X$$

We say that \* is **associative** if

$$(x*y)*z = x*(y*z)$$
 for all  $x, y, z \in X$ 

We say that \* is **commutative** if

$$x * y = y * x$$
 for all  $x, y \in X$ 

An **identity element** of a binary operation \* is an element  $e \in X$  such that

$$x * e = e * x = x$$
 for all  $x \in X$ 

Examples 7.4.

1. The function  $+: \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}$  which sends a pair of integers (m,n) to +(m,n) = m+n is a binary operation on the integers, called addition. Addition is associative, commutative, and has identity element 0.

Labalme 1

2. The maximum of m and n, denoted  $\max(m,n)$ , is an associative and commutative binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Is there an identity element for  $\max$ ?

*Proof.* Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists an identity element e for max. But  $\max(e-1,e)=e\neq e-1$ , a contradiction. Therefore, no identity element exists for max.

3. Let  $\wp(Y)$  be the power set of a set Y. Recall that the power set consists of all subsets of Y. Then the intersection of sets,  $(A, B) \mapsto A \cap B$ , defines an associative and commutative binary operation on  $\wp(Y)$ . Is there an identity element for  $\cap$ ?

*Proof.* Clearly,  $Y \in \wp(Y)$ . By Script 1,  $Y \cap A = A \cap Y = A$  where  $A \subset Y$ . Therefore, Y is an identity element for  $\cap$ .

Exercise 7.5. Find a binary operation on a set that is not commutative. Find a binary operation on a set that is not associative.

*Proof.* We will prove that the subtraction operation on the integers  $(-: \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z})$  is not commutative or associative. To prove that it's not commutative, Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that  $x-y\neq y-x$  for some  $x,y\in\mathbb{Z}$ . Since 2-1=1 but 1-2=-1, we can see that  $1,2\in\mathbb{Z}$  clearly meet this requirement. To prove that it's not associative, Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that  $(x-y)-z\neq x-(y-z)$  for some  $x,y,z\in\mathbb{Z}$ . Since (3-2)-1=0 but 3-(2-1)=2, we can see that  $1,2,3\in\mathbb{Z}$  clearly meet this requirement.

**Exercise 7.6.** Let X be a finite set, and let  $Y = \{f : X \to X \mid f \text{ is bijective}\}$ . Consider the binary operation of composition of functions, denoted  $\circ : Y \times Y \to Y$  and defined by  $(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$  as seen in Definition 1.25. Decide whether or not composition is commutative and/or associative and whether or not it has an identity.

Proof. To prove that composition is not commutative, Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to find a finite set X paired with two bijections in Y that do not commute. Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and consider the bijections  $f: X \to X$  (defined by f(1) = 2, f(2) = 3, f(3) = 1) and  $g: X \to X$  (defined by g(1) = 1, g(2) = 3, g(3) = 2). In this case,  $f \circ g$  would be defined by f(g(1)) = 2, f(g(2)) = 1, and f(g(3)) = 3, but  $g \circ f$  would be defined by g(f(1)) = 3, g(f(2)) = 2, and g(f(3)) = 1.

To prove that composition is associative, Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that  $((f \circ g) \circ h)(x) = (f \circ (g \circ h))(x)$ . We may do this with the following algebra.

$$((f \circ g) \circ h)(x) = (f \circ g)(h(x))$$

$$= f(g(h(x)))$$

$$= f((g \circ h)(x))$$

$$= (f \circ (g \circ h))(x)$$

With respect to any finite set X, there will always be a bijection  $i: X \to X$  defined by i(x) = x. To prove that i is an identity element, Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that for all  $f \in Y$ ,  $f \circ i = i \circ f = f$ . We may do this with the following algebra.

$$(f \circ i)(x) = f(i(x))$$

$$= f(x)$$

$$= i(f(x))$$

$$= (i \circ f)(x)$$

**Theorem 7.7.** Identity elements are unique. That is, suppose that f is a binary operation on a set X that has two identity elements e and e'. Then e = e'.

Labalme 2

*Proof.* Let  $f: X \times X \to X$  be a binary operation on a set X with two identity elements e, e'. By Definition 7.1, we know that f(e, e') = e and f(e, e') = e'. Since f is a well-defined function by definition, it must be that e = f(e, e') = e'.

**Definition 7.8.** A field is a set F with two binary operations on F called addition, denoted +, and multiplication, denoted  $\cdot$ , satisfying the following field axioms:

- FA1 (Commutativity of Addition) For all  $x, y \in F$ , x + y = y + x.
- FA2 (Associativity of Addition) For all  $x, y, z \in F$ , (x + y) + z = x + (y + z).
- FA3 (Additive Identity) There exists an element  $0 \in F$  such that x + 0 = 0 + x = x for all  $x \in F$ .
- FA4 (Additive Inverses) For any  $x \in F$ , there exists  $y \in F$  such that x + y = y + x = 0, called an additive inverse of x.
- FA5 (Commutativity of Multiplication) For all  $x, y \in F$ ,  $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$ .
- FA6 (Associativity of Multiplication) For all  $x, y, z \in F$ ,  $(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$ .
- FA7 (Multiplicative Identity) There exists an element  $1 \in F$  such that  $x \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot x = x$  for all  $x \in F$ .
- FA8 (Multiplicative Inverses) For any  $x \in F$  such that  $x \neq 0$ , there exists  $y \in F$  such that  $x \cdot y = y \cdot x = 1$ , called a multiplicative inverse of x.
- FA9 (Distributivity of Multiplication over Addition) For all  $x, y, z \in F$ ,  $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$ .
- FA10 (Distinct Additive and Multiplicative Identities)  $1 \neq 0$ .

**Exercise 7.9.** Consider the set  $\mathbb{F}_2 = \{0,1\}$ , and define binary operations + and  $\cdot$  on  $\mathbb{F}_2$  by

$$0+0=0$$
  $0+1=1$   $1+0=1$   $1+1=0$   $0\cdot 0=0$   $0\cdot 1=0$   $1\cdot 1=1$ 

Show that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  is a field.

*Proof.* To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA1 from Definition 7.8, it will suffice to show that 0+0=0+0, 0+1=1+0, and 1+1=1+1. The first and third of these are evidently true. For the second, we have 0+1=1=1+0, so it is good, too.

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA2 from Definition 7.8, the following casework will suffice.

$$(0+0)+0=0=0+(0+0) \qquad \qquad (0+0)+1=1=0+(0+1) \\ (0+1)+0=1=0+(1+0) \qquad \qquad (1+0)+0=1=1+(0+0) \\ (0+1)+1=0=0+(1+1) \qquad \qquad (1+1)+0=0=1+(1+0) \\ (1+0)+1=0=1+(0+1) \qquad \qquad (1+1)+1=1=1+(1+1)$$

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA3 from Definition 7.8, it will suffice to find an element  $0 \in \mathbb{F}_2$  such that x + 0 = 0 + x = x. Since 0 + 0 = 0, 1 + 0 = 0, and with commutativity, it is clear that 0 is an additive identity in  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA4 from Definition 7.8, it will suffice to show that for all  $x \in \mathbb{F}_2$ , there exists a  $y \in \mathbb{F}_2$  such that x + y = y + x = 0. For 0, this object is 0 (since 0 + 0 = 0 + 0 = 0), and for 1, this object is 1 (since 1 + 1 = 1 + 1 = 0).

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA5 from Definition 7.8, it will suffice to show that  $0 \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot 0$ ,  $0 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 0$ , and  $1 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 1$ . The first and third of these are evidently true. For the second, we have  $0 \cdot 1 = 0 = 1 \cdot 0$ , so it is good, too.

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA6 from Definition 7.8, the following casework will suffice.

$(0 \cdot 0) \cdot 0 = 0 = 0 \cdot (0 \cdot 0)$	$(0\cdot 0)\cdot 1=0=0\cdot (0\cdot 1)$
$(0\cdot 1)\cdot 0=0=0\cdot (1\cdot 0)$	$(1\cdot 0)\cdot 0 = 0 = 1\cdot (0\cdot 0)$
$(0\cdot 1)\cdot 1=0=0\cdot (1\cdot 1)$	$(1\cdot 1)\cdot 0=0=1\cdot (1\cdot 0)$
$(1\cdot 0)\cdot 1=0=1\cdot (0\cdot 1)$	$(1\cdot 1)\cdot 1=1=1\cdot (1\cdot 1)$

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA7 from Definition 7.8, it will suffice to find an element  $1 \in \mathbb{F}_2$  such that  $x \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot x = x$ . Since  $0 \cdot 1 = 0$ ,  $1 \cdot 1 = 1$ , and with commutativity, it is clear that 1 is a multiplicative identity in  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA8 from Definition 7.8, it will suffice to show that for all  $x \in \mathbb{F}_2$  such that  $x \neq 0$ , there exists a  $y \in \mathbb{F}_2$  such that  $x \cdot y = y \cdot x = 1$ . For 1, this object is 1 (since  $1 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$ ).

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA9 from Definition 7.8, the following casework will suffice.

$$0 \cdot (0+0) = 0 = 0 \cdot 0 + 0 \cdot 0$$

$$0 \cdot (0+1) = 0 = 0 \cdot 0 + 0 \cdot 1$$

$$0 \cdot (1+0) = 0 = 0 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 0$$

$$1 \cdot (0+0) = 0 = 1 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 0$$

$$1 \cdot (1+0) = 1 = 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 0$$

$$1 \cdot (1+1) = 0 = 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1$$

To prove that  $\mathbb{F}_2$  obeys FA10 from Definition 7.8, it will suffice to show that  $0 \neq 1$ . Clearly this is true.  $\square$ 

**Theorem 7.10.** Suppose that F is a field. Then additive inverses are unique. This means: Let  $x \in F$ . If  $y, y' \in F$  satisfy x + y = 0 and x + y' = 0, then y = y'.

*Proof.* Let  $x, y, y' \in F$  be such that x + y = 0 and x + y' = 0. From Definition 7.8, we have

$$y' + (x + y) = (y' + x) + y$$

$$y' + 0 = 0 + y$$

$$y' = y$$
FA2
FA3

We usually write -x for the additive inverse of x.

Corollary 7.11. If  $x \in F$ , then -(-x) = x.

*Proof.* Let  $x \in F$ . Then by consecutive applications of FA4 from Definition 7.8, -x + (-(-x)) = 0 and -x + x = 0. Therefore, by Theorem 7.10, we have that -(-x) = x.

**Theorem 7.12.** Let F be a field, and let  $a, b, c \in F$ . If a + b = a + c, then b = c.

*Proof.* Let  $a, b, c \in F$  be such that a + b = a + c. By FA4 from Definition 7.8, there exists  $-a \in F$  such that -a + a = a + (-a) = 0. Having established that -a exists, we can prove from Definition 7.8 that

$$-a + (a + b) = -a + (a + c)$$
  
 $(-a + a) + b = (-a + a) + c$  FA2  
 $0 + b = 0 + c$  FA4  
 $b = c$  FA3

**Theorem 7.13.** Let F be a field. If  $a \in F$ , then  $a \cdot 0 = 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a \in F$ . From Definition 7.8, we have

$$a=a\cdot 1$$
 FA7  
 $=a\cdot (1+0)$  FA3  
 $=a\cdot 1+a\cdot 0$  FA9  
 $=a+a\cdot 0$  FA7  
 $0=a\cdot 0$  Theorem 7.12

2/2: **Theorem 7.14.** Suppose that F is a field. Then multiplicative inverses are unique. This means: Let  $x \in F$ . If  $y, y' \in F$  satisfy  $x \cdot y = 1$  and  $x \cdot y' = 1$ , then y = y'.

*Proof.* Let  $x, y, y' \in F$  be such that  $x \cdot y = 1$  and  $x \cdot y' = 1$ . From Definition 7.8, we have

$$(y \cdot x) \cdot y' = y \cdot (x \cdot y')$$
 FA6  
 $1 \cdot y' = y \cdot 1$  FA8  
 $y' = y$  FA7

We usually write  $x^{-1}$  or  $\frac{1}{x}$  for the multiplicative inverse of x.

**Corollary 7.15.** *If*  $x \in F$  *and*  $x \neq 0$ *, then*  $(x^{-1})^{-1} = x$ .

Proof. Let  $x \in F \setminus \{0\}$ . Then by FA8 from Definition 7.8, there exists  $x^{-1} \in F$  such that  $x \cdot x^{-1} = x^{-1} \cdot x = 1$ . It follows from Theorem 7.13 that  $x^{-1} \neq 0$  (if  $x^{-1} = 0$ , then Theorem 7.13 would imply that  $x \cdot x^{-1} = 0$ , a contradiction). Thus, by FA8 from Definition 7.8 again, there exists  $(x^{-1})^{-1} \in F$  such that  $x^{-1} \cdot (x^{-1})^{-1} = (x^{-1})^{-1} \cdot x^{-1} = 1$ . Having established that  $(x^{-1})^{-1}$  exists,  $x^{-1} \cdot (x^{-1})^{-1} = 1$ , and  $x^{-1} \cdot x = 1$ , we have by Theorem 7.14 that  $(x^{-1})^{-1} = x$ .

**Theorem 7.16.** Let F be a field, and let  $a, b, c \in F$ . If  $a \cdot b = a \cdot c$  and  $a \neq 0$ , then b = c.

*Proof.* Let  $a,b,c \in F$  be such that  $a \cdot b = a \cdot c$  and  $a \neq 0$ . By FA8 from Definition 7.8, there exists  $a^{-1} \in F$  such that  $a \cdot a^{-1} = a^{-1} \cdot a = 1$ . Having established that  $a^{-1}$  exists, we can prove from Definition 7.8 that

$$a^{-1} \cdot (a \cdot b) = a^{-1} \cdot (a \cdot c)$$

$$(a^{-1} \cdot a) \cdot b = (a^{-1} \cdot a) \cdot c$$

$$1 \cdot b = 1 \cdot c$$

$$b = c$$
FA6
FA8
FA7

**Theorem 7.17.** Let F be a field, and let  $a, b \in F$ . If  $a \cdot b = 0$ , then a = 0 or b = 0.

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in F$  be such that  $a \cdot b = 0$ , and suppose for the sake of contradiction that  $a \neq 0$  and  $b \neq 0$ . It follows from the supposition by consecutive applications of FA8 from Definition 7.8 that  $a^{-1}$  and  $b^{-1}$  exist. Thus, from Definition 7.8, we have

$$1 = 1 \cdot 1$$
 FA7  

$$= (a \cdot a^{-1}) \cdot (b \cdot b^{-1})$$
 FA8  

$$= (a \cdot b) \cdot (a^{-1} \cdot b^{-1})$$
 FA6 and FA7  

$$= 0 \cdot (a^{-1} \cdot b^{-1})$$
 Substitution  

$$= 0$$
 Theorem 7.13

But this contradicts FA10 from Definition 7.8.

**Lemma 7.18.** Let F be a field. If  $a \in F$ , then -a = (-1)a.

*Proof.* Let  $a \in F$ . From Definition 7.8, we have

$$0 = 0 \cdot a$$
 Theorem 7.13  
 $a + (-a) = (1 + (-1)) \cdot a$  FA4  
 $a + (-a) = 1 \cdot a + (-1) \cdot a$  FA9  
 $a + (-a) = a + (-1)a$  FA7  
 $-a = (-1)a$  Theorem 7.12

**Lemma 7.19.** Let F be a field. If  $a, b \in F$ , then  $a \cdot (-b) = -(a \cdot b) = (-a) \cdot b$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in F$ . From Definition 7.8, we have

$$a \cdot (-b) = a \cdot ((-1) \cdot b)$$
 Lemma 7.18  

$$= a \cdot (b \cdot (-1))$$
 FA5  

$$= (a \cdot b) \cdot (-1)$$
 FA6  

$$= (-1) \cdot (a \cdot b)$$
 Earma 7.18  

$$= (-1) \cdot (a \cdot b)$$
 Lemma 7.18  

$$= ((-1) \cdot a) \cdot b$$
 FA6  

$$= (-a) \cdot b$$
 Lemma 7.18

**Lemma 7.20.** Let F be a field. If  $a, b \in F$ , then  $a \cdot b = (-a) \cdot (-b)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in F$ . Thus, we have

$$(-a) \cdot (-b) = -(-a) \cdot b$$
 Lemma 7.19  
=  $a \cdot b$  Corollary 7.11

**Definition 7.21.** An **ordered field** is a field F equipped with an ordering < (satisfying Definition 3.1) such that also:

- (a) Addition respects the ordering: if x < y, then x + z < y + z for all  $z \in F$ .
- (b) Multiplication respects the ordering: if 0 < x and 0 < y, then  $0 < x \cdot y$ .

**Definition 7.22.** Suppose F is an ordered field and  $x \in F$ . If 0 < x, we say that x is **positive**. If x < 0, we say that x is **negative**.

**Lemma 7.23.** Let F be an ordered field, and let  $x \in F$ . If 0 < x, then -x < 0. Similarly, if x < 0, then 0 < -x.

*Proof.* Let  $x \in F$  be such that 0 < x. Then by Definition 7.21a, 0 + (-x) < x + (-x). Consequently, from Definition 7.8, we have

$$-x < x + (-x)$$
 FA3  
$$-x < 0$$
 FA4

The proof is symmetric if x < 0.

**Lemma 7.24.** Let F be an ordered field, and let  $x, y, z \in F$ .

- (a) If x > 0 and y < z, then  $x \cdot y < x \cdot z$ .
- (b) If x < 0 and y < z, then  $x \cdot z < x \cdot y$ .

Proof of a. Let  $x, y, z \in F$  be such that x > 0 and y < z. It follows from the latter condition by Definition 7.21a that y + (-y) < z + (-y). Thus, by FA4 from Definition 7.8, we have 0 < z + (-y). This combined

with the fact that 0 < x implies by Definition 7.21b that  $0 < x \cdot (z + (-y))$ . Consequently, from Definition 7.8, we have

*Proof of b.* Let  $x, y, z \in F$  be such that x < 0 and y < z. It follows from the former condition by Lemma 7.23 that 0 < -x. Thus, by Lemma 7.24a,  $(-x) \cdot y < (-x) \cdot z$ . Consequently, from Definition 7.8, we have

$$-(x \cdot y) < -(x \cdot z)$$
 Lemma 7.19
$$-(x \cdot y) + (x \cdot y + x \cdot z) < -(x \cdot z) + (x \cdot y + x \cdot z)$$
 Definition 7.21a
$$-(x \cdot y) + (x \cdot y + x \cdot z) < -(x \cdot z) + (x \cdot z + x \cdot y)$$
 FA1
$$(-(x \cdot y) + x \cdot y) + x \cdot z < (-(x \cdot z) + x \cdot z) + x \cdot y$$
 FA2
$$0 + x \cdot z < 0 + x \cdot y$$
 FA3

**Remark 7.25.** An immediate consequence of this lemma is the fact that if x and y are both positive or both negative, their product is positive.

**Lemma 7.26.** Let F be an ordered field, and let  $x \in F$ . Then  $0 \le x^2$ . Moreover, if  $x \ne 0$ , then  $0 < x^2$ .

Proof. We divide into two cases  $(x=0 \text{ and } x \neq 0)$ . Suppose first that x=0. Then by Theorem 7.13,  $0 \leq 0 = 0 \cdot 0 = 0^2 = x^2$ , as desired. Now suppose that  $x \neq 0$ . We divide into two cases again (x>0 and x < 0). If x>0, then by Lemma 7.24a, x>0 and 0 < x imply that  $x \cdot 0 < x \cdot x$ , from which it follows by Theorem 7.13 that  $0 < x^2$ , as desired. On the other hand, if x < 0, then by Lemma 7.24b, x < 0 and x < 0 imply that  $x \cdot 0 < x \cdot x$ , from which it follows for the same reason as before that  $0 < x^2$ , as desired. Both cases together prove the first statement, while the second case alone proves the second statement.

Corollary 7.27. Let F be an ordered field. Then 0 < 1.

*Proof.* By FA10 from Definition 7.8,  $1 \neq 0$ . Thus, by Lemma 7.26,  $0 < 1^2 = 1$ , as desired.

**Theorem 7.28.** If F is an ordered field, then F has no first or last point.

*Proof.* Suppose for the sake of contradiction that F has a first point a. By Corollary 7.27, we have that 0 < 1, which implies by Lemma 7.23 that -1 < 0. It follows by Definition 7.21a that -1 + a < 0 + a. Thus, by FA3 from Definition 7.8, -1 + a < a. Since there exists an object in F (namely -1 + a) that is less than a, Definition 3.3 tells us that a is not the first point of F, a contradiction.

The proof is symmetric in the other case.

**Theorem 7.29.** The rational numbers  $\mathbb{Q}$  form an ordered field.

*Proof.* To prove that  $\mathbb{Q}$  forms an ordered field, Definition 7.21 tells us that it will suffice to show that  $\mathbb{Q}$  forms a field; has an ordering <; satisfies x + z < y + z if x < y for all  $z \in \mathbb{Q}$ ; and satisfies  $0 < x \cdot y$  if 0 < x and 0 < y. We will take this one constraint at a time.

To show that  $\mathbb{Q}$  forms a field, Definition 7.8 tells us that it will suffice to verify that  $\mathbb{Q}$  has two binary operations (+ and ·), and satisfies field axioms 1-10. Define + and · as in Definition 2.7. Under these definitions, parts a-i of Theorem 2.10 guarantee that  $\mathbb{Q}$  satisfies FA1-FA9, respectively. As to FA10, to

verify that  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , Exercise 2.6 tells us that it will suffice to confirm that  $(1,1) \nsim (1,0)$ . But since  $1 \cdot 0 = 0 \neq 1 = 1 \cdot 1$ , Exercise 2.2e confirms that  $(1,1) \nsim (1,0)$ , as desired.

Q has an ordering by Exercise 3.9d, as desired.

To show that x + z < y + z if x < y for all  $z \in \mathbb{Q}$ , let  $\left[\frac{a}{b}\right]$ ,  $\left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$ ,  $\left[\frac{x}{z}\right]$  be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb{Q}$  with positive denominators (we can choose these WLOG by Exercise 3.9b) and the first two satisfying  $\left[\frac{a}{b}\right] < \left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$ ; we seek to verify that  $\left[\frac{a}{b}\right] + \left[\frac{x}{z}\right] < \left[\frac{c}{d}\right] + \left[\frac{x}{z}\right]$ . Since  $\left[\frac{a}{b}\right] < \left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$ , we have by Exercise 3.9c that ad < bc. It follows by Script 0 that

$$ad < bc$$

$$adzz < bczz$$

$$adzz + bdxz < bczz + bdxz$$

$$azdz + bxdz < bzcz + bzdx$$

$$(az + bx)(dz) < (bz)(cz + dx)$$

Thus, by Exercise 3.9c,  $\left[\frac{az+bx}{bz}\right] < \left[\frac{cz+dx}{dz}\right]$ . Therefore, by Definition 2.7,  $\left[\frac{a}{b}\right] + \left[\frac{x}{z}\right] < \left[\frac{c}{d}\right] + \left[\frac{x}{z}\right]$ , as desired. To show that  $0 < x \cdot y$  if 0 < x and 0 < y, let  $\left[\frac{a}{b}\right]$ ,  $\left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$  be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb Q$  with positive denominators (which we can choose for the same reason as before) such that  $\left[\frac{0}{1}\right] < \left[\frac{a}{b}\right]$  and  $\left[\frac{0}{1}\right] < \left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$ ; we seek to verify that  $\left[\frac{0}{1}\right] < \left[\frac{a}{b}\right] \cdot \left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$ . Since  $\left[\frac{0}{1}\right] < \left[\frac{a}{b}\right]$  and  $\left[\frac{0}{1}\right] < \left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$ , we have by Exercise 3.9c that  $0 \cdot b < 1 \cdot a$  and  $0 \cdot d < 1 \cdot c$ . It follows by Script 0 that  $0 \cdot bd < 1 \cdot ac$ . Thus, by Exercise 3.9c,  $\left[\frac{0}{1}\right] < \left[\frac{ac}{bd}\right]$ . Therefore, by Definition 2.7,  $\left[\frac{0}{1}\right] < \left[\frac{a}{b}\right] \cdot \left[\frac{c}{d}\right]$ , as desired.

2/4: **Definition 7.31.** We define  $\oplus$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  as follows. Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$  be Dedekind cuts. Define

$$A \oplus B = \{a + b \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}$$

## Exercise 7.32.

- (a) Prove that  $A \oplus B$  is a Dedekind cut.
- (b) Prove that  $\oplus$  is commutative and associative.
- (c) Prove that if  $A \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $A = \mathbf{0} \oplus A$ .

Proof of a. To prove that  $A \oplus B$  is a Dedekind cut, Definition 6.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that  $A \oplus B \neq \emptyset$ ;  $A \oplus B \neq \mathbb{Q}$ ; if  $r \in A \oplus B$  and  $s \in \mathbb{Q}$  satisfy s < r, then  $s \in A \oplus B$ ; and if  $r \in A \oplus B$ , then there is some  $s \in A \oplus B$  with s > r. We will take this one claim at a time.

To show that  $A \oplus B \neq \emptyset$ , Definition 1.8 tells us that it will suffice to find an element of  $A \oplus B$ . Since A, B are Dedekind cuts, Definition 6.1 asserts that they are nonempty. Thus, there exist rational numbers  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ . Therefore, by the definition of  $A \oplus B$ , the sum  $x + y \in A \oplus B$ , as desired.

To show that  $A \oplus B \neq \mathbb{Q}$ , Definition 1.2 tells us that it will suffice to find an element of  $\mathbb{Q}$  that is not an element of  $A \oplus B$ . For an analogous reason to before, we can choose  $x,y \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $x \notin A$  and  $y \notin B$ . It follows by Lemma 6.2 and Definition 5.6 that  $x \geq a$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $y \geq b$  for all  $b \in B$ . Additionally, since  $x \notin A$ , we have that  $x \neq a$  for any  $a \in A$ ; thus, x > a for all  $a \in A$ . Similarly, y > b for all  $b \in B$ . Consequently, by Script 2, x + y > a + b for all  $a + b \in A \oplus B$ . Therefore,  $x + y \notin A \oplus B$ , as desired.

To show that if  $r \in A \oplus B$  and  $s \in \mathbb{Q}$  satisfy s < r, then  $s \in A \oplus B$ , we let  $r \in A \oplus B$  and  $s \in \mathbb{Q}$  be arbitrary elements of their respective sets that satisfy s < r and seek to verify that  $s \in A \oplus B$ . Since  $r \in A \oplus B$ , r = x + y for some  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ . Additionally, it follows from the fact that s < r that s = r - q = x + y - q for some  $q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ . Since  $y \in B$  and  $y - q \in \mathbb{Q}$  satisfy y - q < y, we have by Definition 6.1b that  $y - q \in B$ . Therefore, s = (x) + (y - q) is an element of  $A \oplus B$ , as desired.

To show that if  $r \in A \oplus B$ , then there is some  $s \in A \oplus B$  with s > r, we let  $r \in A \oplus B$  and seek to find such an s. Since  $r \in A \oplus B$ , r = x + y for some  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ . It follows from the fact that  $x \in A$  by Definition 6.1c that there exists a  $z \in A$  with z > x. Consequently, by Script 0, z + y > x + y is the desired element of  $A \oplus B$ .

*Proof of b.* To prove that  $\oplus$  is commutative, Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that for all  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $A \oplus B = B \oplus A$ . Let A, B be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then by Definition 7.31, we clearly have

$$A \oplus B = \{a + b \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}$$
$$= \{b + a \mid b \in B \text{ and } a \in A\}$$
$$= B \oplus A$$

To prove that  $\oplus$  is associative, Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that for all  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $(A \oplus B) \oplus C = A \oplus (B \oplus C)$ . Let A, B, C be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then by Definition 7.31, we clearly have

$$(A \oplus B) \oplus C = \{a+b \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\} \oplus C$$

$$= \{d+c \mid d \in \{a+b \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\} \text{ and } c \in C\}$$

$$= \{d+c \mid d=a+b \text{ for some } a \in A \text{ and } b \in B, \text{ and } c \in C\}$$

$$= \{a+b+c \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B \text{ and } c \in C\}$$

$$= \{a+e \mid a \in A, \text{ and } e=b+c \text{ for some } b \in B \text{ and } c \in C\}$$

$$= \{a+e \mid c \in C \text{ and } e \in \{b+c \mid b \in B \text{ and } c \in C\}\}$$

$$= A \oplus \{b+c \mid b \in B \text{ and } c \in C\}$$

$$= A \oplus \{B \oplus C\}$$

Note that we also make use of Exercise 7.32a to guarantee  $A \oplus B \in \mathbb{R}$ , so that we can apply  $\oplus$  to  $A \oplus B$  and C. We similarly invoke Exercise 7.32a to take the sum of A and  $B \oplus C$ .

Proof of c. To prove that for all  $A \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $A = \mathbf{0} \oplus A$ , we will show for an arbitrary  $A \in \mathbb{R}$  that every element of A is an element of  $\mathbf{0} \oplus A$  and vice versa. Let A be an arbitrary element of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Suppose first that  $x \in A$ . Then by Definition 6.1c, there exists  $y \in A$  such that y > x. Let z = x - y. Clearly,  $z \in \mathbb{Q}$  and z < 0, so we know that  $z \in \mathbf{0}$ . Additionally, since x - z = y, we know that  $x - z \in A$ . Therefore, since x = (z) + (x - z), we have by Definition 7.31 that  $x \in \mathbf{0} \oplus A$ . Now suppose that  $z \in \mathbf{0} \oplus A$ . Then by Definition 7.31, z = x + y for some  $x \in \mathbf{0}$  and  $y \in A$ . Since  $x \in \mathbf{0}$ , we know that x < 0, which means that y > z. This combined with the fact that  $y \in A$  and  $z \in \mathbb{Q}$  implies by Definition 6.1b that  $z \in A$ .

2/9: **Theorem 7.35.** Every  $A \in \mathbb{R}$  has an additive inverse -A such that  $A \oplus (-A) = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Exercise 7.36.** Show that  $A < \mathbf{0} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{0} < -A$ .

**Definition 7.39.** For  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ , 0 < A, 0 < B, we define

$$A \otimes B = \{ r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0 \} \cup \{ ab \mid a \in A, b \in B, a > 0, b > 0 \}$$

If  $A = \mathbf{0}$  or  $B = \mathbf{0}$ , we define  $A \otimes B = \mathbf{0}$ . If  $A < \mathbf{0}$  but  $\mathbf{0} < B$ , we replace A with -A and use the definition of multiplication of positive elements. Hence, in this case,

$$A \otimes B = -[(-A) \otimes B]$$

Similarly, if 0 < A but B < 0, then

$$A \otimes B = -[A \otimes (-B)]$$

and if  $A < \mathbf{0}$ ,  $B < \mathbf{0}$ , then

$$A \otimes B = (-A) \otimes (-B)$$

Exercise 7.40. [1]

(a) Show that if  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $A \otimes B \in \mathbb{R}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Note that the proofs given here only address the case where  $\mathbf{0} < A$  and  $\mathbf{0} < B$ .

- (b) Show that  $\otimes$  is commutative and associative.
- (c) Show that if  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{0} < A$ , and  $\mathbf{0} < B$ , then  $\mathbf{0} < A \otimes B$ .
- (d) Let  $\mathbf{1} = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} \mid x < 1\}$ . Show that if  $A \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\mathbf{1} \otimes A = A$ .

*Proof of a.* To prove that  $A \otimes B$  where  $\mathbf{0} < A, \mathbf{0} < B$  are Dedekind cuts, Definition 6.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that  $A \otimes B \neq \emptyset$ ;  $A \otimes B \neq \mathbb{Q}$ ; if  $r \in A \otimes B$  and  $s \in \mathbb{Q}$  satisfy s < r, then  $s \in A \otimes B$ ; and if  $r \in A \otimes B$ , then there is some  $s \in A \otimes B$  with s > r. We will take this one claim at a time.

To show that  $A \otimes B \neq \emptyset$ , Definition 1.8 tells us that it will suffice to find an element of  $A \otimes B$ . Since  $0 \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $0 \le 0$ ,  $0 \in \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0\}$ . It follows by Definition 1.5 that  $0 \in \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0\} \cup \{ab \mid a \in A, b \in B, a > 0, b > 0\}$ . Therefore, by Definition 7.39,  $0 \in A \otimes B$ , as desired.

To show that  $A \otimes B \neq \mathbb{Q}$ , Definition 1.2 tells us that it will suffice to find an element of  $\mathbb{Q}$  that is not an element of  $A \otimes B$ . Since  $\mathbf{0} < A$  and  $\mathbf{0} < B$ , Definitions 6.4 and 1.3 assert that there exist points  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  such that  $a, b \notin \mathbf{0}$ , i.e.,  $a, b \geq 0$ . Furthermore, since a, b are not the last points of A, B, respectively, by Definition 6.1c, there exist points  $c \in A$  and  $d \in B$  such that c > 0 and d > 0. Now, for an analogous reason to before, we can choose  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $x \notin A$  and  $y \notin B$ . It follows by Lemma 6.2 and Definition 5.6 that  $x \geq e$  for all  $e \in A$  and  $y \geq f$  for all  $f \in B$ , meaning (when combined with the last result) that x > 0 and y > 0. Thus, xy > 0, so  $xy \notin \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \leq 0\}$ . Additionally, we have by Script 2 that xy > ef for all ef formed from the product of positive elements of A and B. Thus,  $xy \notin \{ab \mid a \in A, b \in B, a > 0, b > 0\}$ . Therefore, by Definitions 1.5 and 7.39,  $xy \notin A \otimes B$ , as desired.

To show that if  $r \in A \otimes B$  and  $s \in \mathbb{Q}$  satisfy s < r, then  $s \in A \otimes B$ , we let  $r \in A \otimes B$  and  $s \in \mathbb{Q}$  be arbitrary elements of their respective sets that satisfy s < r and seek to verify that  $s \in A \otimes B$ . We divide into two cases  $(s \le 0 \text{ and } s > 0)$ . Suppose first that  $s \le 0$ . Then  $s \in \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0\}$ . It follows by Definition 1.5 that  $0 \in \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0\} \cup \{ab \mid a \in A, b \in B, a > 0, b > 0\}$ . Therefore, by Definition 7.39,  $0 \in A \otimes B$ . Now suppose that s > 0. Then r > 0. Since  $r \in A \otimes B$  and r > 0, r = xy where  $x \in A, y \in B, x > 0, y > 0$ . Additionally, it follows from the fact that s < r that  $s = r - q = xy - q = (x - \frac{q}{y})y$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ . Since  $x - \frac{q}{y} \in \mathbb{Q}$  and  $x - \frac{q}{y} < x$ , we have by Definition 6.1b that  $x - \frac{q}{y} \in A$ . Therefore,  $s = (x - \frac{q}{y})(y)$  is an element of  $\{ab \mid a \in A, b \in B, a > 0, b > 0\}$ , and hence by Definition 7.39,  $A \otimes B$ .

To show that if  $r \in A \otimes B$ , then there is some  $s \in A \otimes B$  with s > r, we let  $r \in A \otimes B$  and seek to find such an s. We divide into two cases  $(r \le 0 \text{ and } r > 0)$ . Suppose first that  $r \le 0$ . Then for the same reasons outlined in the proof of the second condition, there exist positive elements of  $A \otimes B$  that are greater than r. Now suppose that r > 0. This implies that r = xy for some  $x \in A, y \in B, x > 0, y > 0$ . It follows from the fact that  $x \in A$  by Definition 6.1c that there exists a  $z \in A$  with z > x. Consequently, by Lemma 7.24<sup>[2]</sup>, zy > xy is the desired element of  $A \otimes B$ .

*Proof of b.* To prove that  $\otimes$  is commutative for  $\mathbf{0} < A, \mathbf{0} < B$ , Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that for all such  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $A \otimes B = B \otimes A$ . Let A, B be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb{R}$  where  $\mathbf{0} < A, \mathbf{0} < B$ . Then by Definition 7.39, we clearly have

$$A \otimes B = \{ r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0 \} \cup \{ ab \mid a \in A, b \in B, a > 0, b > 0 \}$$
$$= \{ r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0 \} \cup \{ ba \mid b \in B, a \in A, b > 0, a > 0 \}$$
$$= B \oplus A$$

To prove that  $\otimes$  is associative for  $\mathbf{0} < A, \mathbf{0} < B, \mathbf{0} < C$ , Definition 7.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that for all such  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $(A \otimes B) \otimes C = A \otimes (B \otimes C)$ . Let A, B, C be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb{R}$  where  $\mathbf{0} < A, \mathbf{0} < B, \mathbf{0} < C$ . To show that  $(A \otimes B) \otimes C = A \otimes (B \otimes C)$ , Definition 1.2 tells us that it will suffice to verify that every element of  $(A \otimes B) \otimes C$  is an element of  $A \otimes (B \otimes C)$  and vice versa. Suppose first that  $x \in (A \otimes B) \otimes C$ . Then by Definition 7.39,  $x \leq 0$  or x = dc where  $d \in A \otimes B, c \in C, d > 0, c > 0$ . If  $x \leq 0$ , then by Definition 7.39,  $x \in A \otimes (B \otimes C)$  since it's an element of  $\{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \leq 0\}$ , as desired. On the other hand, if x = dc where  $d \in A \otimes B, c \in C, d > 0, c > 0$ , we continue. Now  $d \in A \otimes B$  implies that  $d \leq 0$  or d = ab where  $a \in A, b \in B, a > 0, b > 0$ . However, the prior constraint that d > 0 guarantees that  $d \not\leq 0$ , so we know that d = ab where a, b satisfy the above conditions. Combining the last two results, we have x = (ab)(c) where  $a \in A, b \in B, c \in C, a > 0, b > 0, c > 0$ . It follows that we also have x = (a)(bc) under the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>And, technically, Theorem 7.29.

same conditions. If we let e = bc where  $b \in B, c \in C, b > 0, c > 0$ , then  $e \in \{bc \mid b \in B, c \in C, b > 0, c > 0\}$ . Consequently, by Definition 7.31,  $e \in B \otimes C$ . Additionally, b > 0, c > 0 imply by Definition 7.21 that e > 0. To recap, at this point we have x = ae where  $a \in A, e \in B \otimes C, a > 0, e > 0$ . It follows by a similar process to before that  $x \in A \otimes (B \otimes C)$ . The proof is symmetric in the other direction.

Proof of c. To prove that  $\mathbf{0} < A \otimes B$ , Definitions 6.4 and 1.3 tell us that it will suffice to show that every  $x \in \mathbf{0}$  is an element of  $A \otimes B$  and find an  $x \in A \otimes B$  such that  $x \notin \mathbf{0}$ . Let x be an arbitrary element of  $\mathbf{0}$ . Then  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$  and x < 0. But it follows that  $x \in \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \leq 0\}$ , which implies by Definition 7.39 that  $x \in A \otimes B$ . As to the other stipulation, clearly  $0 \in \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \leq 0\}$  but since  $0 \not< 0$ ,  $0 \not\in \mathbf{0}$ . Therefore, by Definition 7.39,  $0 \in A \otimes B$ , but  $0 \notin \mathbf{0}$ , as desired.

*Proof of d.* To prove that  $\mathbf{1} \otimes A = A$ , Definition 1.2 tells us that it will suffice to show that every  $x \in \mathbf{1} \otimes A$  is an element of A and vice versa.

Let x be an arbitrary element of  $\mathbf{1} \otimes A$ . Then by Definition 7.39,  $x \leq 0$  or x = da where  $d \in \mathbf{1}, a \in A, d > 0, a > 0$ . We now divide into two cases. Suppose first that  $x \leq 0$ . We divide into two cases again (x < 0 and x = 0). If x < 0, then  $x \in \mathbf{0}$ , which implies by Definitions 6.4, 1.3, and the fact that  $\mathbf{0} < A$  that  $x \in A$ , as desired. On the other hand, if x = 0, suppose for the sake of contradiction that  $x \notin A$ . Then by Lemma 6.2 and Definition 5.6,  $a \leq x$  for all  $a \in A$ . This combined with the fact that  $x \notin A$  implies that a < x for all  $a \in A$ . Consequently, since  $\mathbf{0} = \{q \in \mathbb{Q} \mid q < 0\}$ , it follows that  $A \subset \mathbf{0}$ . But by Definition 6.4, this implies  $A \leq \mathbf{0}$ , contradicting the fact that  $\mathbf{0} < A$ , as desired. Now suppose that x = da where  $d \in \mathbf{1}, a \in A, d > 0, a > 0$ . Then by Script 2, d < 1 implies that x = da < a. Therefore, by Definition 6.1b,  $x \in A$ , as desired.

Let x be an arbitrary element of A. We divide into two cases  $(x \le 0 \text{ and } x > 0)$ . If  $x \le 0$ , then  $x \in \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r \le 0\}$ , which implies by Definition 7.39 that  $x \in \underline{1} \otimes A$ . On the other hand, suppose x > 0. Then by Definition 6.1c, there is some  $y \in A$  with y > x. It follows by Script 2 that  $1 > \frac{x}{y} > 0$ , so we have that  $\frac{x}{y} \in \mathbf{1}$ . Thus, since  $x = \frac{x}{y} \cdot y$ , we know that x is the product of a positive element of  $\mathbf{1}$  and a positive element of A (since y > x > 0). Therefore,  $x \in \{da \mid d \in \mathbf{1}, a \in A, d > 0, a > 0\}$ , which implies by Definition 7.39 that  $x \in \mathbf{1} \otimes A$ .