Homework 5, MATH 4061

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Unless the contrary is explicitly stated, all numbers that are mentioned in these exercises are understood to be real.

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

2. Prove that there is no rational number whose square is 12.

3. Prove Proposition 1.15.

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

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

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

6. Fix $b > 1$.

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

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

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

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

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

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

when r is rational. Hence it makes sense to define

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

for every real x.

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

7. Fix $b > 1$, $y > 0$, and prove that there is a unique real x such that $b^x = y$, by completing the following outline. (This x is called the *logarithm of y to the base b*.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) Prove that this x is unique.

8. Prove that no order can be defined in the complex field that turns it into an ordered field. *Hint:* -1 is a square.

9. Suppose $z = a + bi$, $w = c + di$. Define $z < w$ if $a < c$, and also if $a = c$ but $b < d$. Prove that this turns the set of all complex numbers into an ordered set. (This type of order relation is called a *dictionary order*, or *lexicographic order*, for obvious reasons.) Does this ordered set have the least-upper-bound property?

10. Suppose $z = a + bi$, $w = u + iv$, and

$$a = \left(\frac{|w| + u}{2}\right)^{1/2}, \qquad b = \left(\frac{|w| - u}{2}\right)^{1/2}.$$

Prove that $z^2 = w$ if $v \geq 0$ and that $(\bar{z})^2 = w$ if $v \leq 0$. Conclude that every complex number (with one exception!) has two complex square roots.

11. If z is a complex number, prove that there exists an $r \geq 0$ and a complex number w with $|w| = 1$ such that $z = rw$. Are w and r always uniquely determined by z?

12. If $z_1, \ldots, z_n$ are complex, prove that

$$|z_1 + z_2 + \cdots + z_n| \leq |z_1| + |z_2| + \cdots + |z_n|.$$

13. If x, y are complex, prove that

$$\big||x| - |y|\big| \leq |x - y|.$$

14. If z is a complex number such that $|z| = 1$, that is, such that $z\bar{z} = 1$, compute

$$|1 + z|^2 + |1 - z|^2.$$

15. Under what conditions does equality hold in the Schwarz inequality?

16. Suppose $k \geq 3$, $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^k$, $|x - y| = d > 0$, and $r > 0$. Prove:

(a) If $2r > d$, there are infinitely many $z \in \mathbb{R}^k$ such that

$$|z - x| = |z - y| = r.$$

(b) If $2r = d$, there is exactly one such z.

(c) If $2r < d$, there is no such z.

How must these statements be modified if k is 2 or 1?

17. Prove that

$$|x + y|^2 + |x - y|^2 = 2|x|^2 + 2|y|^2$$

if $x \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Interpret this geometrically, as a statement about parallelograms.

18. If $k \geq 2$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^k$, prove that there exists $y \in \mathbb{R}^k$ such that $y \neq 0$ but $x \cdot y = 0$. Is this also true if $k = 1$?

19. Suppose $a \in \mathbb{R}^k$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Find $c \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and $r > 0$ such that

$$|x - a| = 2|x - b|$$

if and only if

$$|x - c| = r.$$

(Solution: $3c = 4b - a,\ 3r = 2|b - a|$.)

20. With reference to the Appendix, suppose that property (III) were omitted from the definition of a cut. Keep the same definitions of order and addition. Show that the resulting ordered set has the least-upper-bound property, that addition satisfies axioms (A1) to (A4) (with a slightly different zero-element!) but that (A5) fails.