

Axioms for \mathbf{R}

Field Axioms: There are operations $+$ (addition) and \cdot (multiplication) on \mathbf{R} with the following properties.

- $+$ and \cdot are commutative:

$$x + y = y + x, \quad x \cdot y = y \cdot x.$$

- $+$ and \cdot are associative:

$$x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z, \quad x \cdot (y \cdot z) = (x \cdot y) \cdot z.$$

- There is an additive identity $0 \in \mathbf{R}$ and a multiplicative identity $1 \in \mathbf{R}$:

$$x + 0 = x, \quad x \cdot 1 = x.$$

- For each $x \in \mathbf{R}$ there is $y \in \mathbf{R}$ such that $x + y = 0$. If $x \neq 0$, then there is $z \in \mathbf{R}$ such that $xz = 1$. (We write $y = -x$ and $z = 1/x$.)
- Multiplication is distributive over addition:

$$x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z.$$

Order Axioms: There is a relation $<$ on \mathbf{R} with the following properties

- (Trichotomy) For each $x, y \in \mathbf{R}$ exactly one of the following is true: $x < y$, $y < x$, or $x = y$.
- (Transitivity) If $x < y$ and $y < z$, then $x < z$.

Axioms combining arithmetic and order:

- If $x < y$ then $x + z < y + z$.
- If $x, y > 0$ then $x \cdot y > 0$.