

Practice problems on ordered fields

You may use any of the following (please use labeling below):

Ordered Field Axioms for set  $S$  with operations  $+$ ,  $\cdot$  and relation  $<$ .

- A1. For all  $x, y \in S$ ,  $x + y \in S$  and if  $x = w$  and  $y = z$  then  $x + y = w + z$ .
- A2. For all  $x, y \in S$ ,  $x + y = y + x$ .
- A3. For all  $x, y, z \in S$ ,  $x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z$
- A4. There exists  $0 \in S$  such that  $x + 0 = x$  for all  $x \in S$ .
- A5. For each  $x \in S$ , there exists a unique  $-x \in S$  such that  $x + (-x) = 0$ .
- M1. For all  $x, y \in S$ ,  $xy \in S$  and if  $x = w$  and  $y = z$  then  $xy = wz$ .
- M2. For all  $x, y \in S$ ,  $xy = yx$ .
- M3. For all  $x, y, z \in S$ ,  $x(yz) = (xy)z$
- M4. There exists  $1 \in S$  such that  $1 \neq 0$  and  $x \cdot 1 = x$  for all  $x \in S$ .
- M5. For each  $x \in S \setminus \{0\}$ , there exists a unique  $\frac{1}{x} \in S$  such that  $x \cdot \frac{1}{x} = 1$ .
- DL. For all  $x, y, z \in S$ ,  $x(y + z) = xy + xz$ .
- O1. For all  $x, y \in S$ , exactly one of  $x < y$ ,  $x = 0$ , or  $y < x$  holds.
- O2. For all  $x, y, z \in S$ , if  $x < y$  and  $y < z$  then  $x < z$ .
- O3. For all  $x, y, z \in S$ , if  $x < y$  then  $x + z < y + z$ .
- O4. For all  $x, y, z \in S$ , if  $x < y$  and  $z > 0$  then  $xz < yz$ .

Theorem: Let  $x, y, z \in S$ . Then:

- a. If  $x + z = y + z$  then  $x = y$ .
- b.  $x \cdot 0 = 0$ .
- c.  $(-1)x = -x$ .
- d.  $xy = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$  or  $y = 0$ .
- e.  $x < y$  if and only if  $-y < -x$ .
- f. If  $x < y$  and  $z < 0$  then  $yz < xz$ .

1) If  $x \neq 0$  then  $\frac{1}{x} \neq 0$  and  $1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = x$ .

Answer: If  $x \neq 0$ , then axiom M5 says we have  $\frac{1}{x}$  such that  $x\frac{1}{x} = 1$ . By Theorem 11.1b, if  $\frac{1}{x} = 0$ , then  $x\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 0$ , but since  $0 \neq 1$ , this is a contradiction, so we must have that  $\frac{1}{x} \neq 0$ . Thus by axiom M5 again we must have an element  $1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$  that satisfies  $\frac{1}{x}\left(1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right) = 1$ . Using axiom M1 and M4, we can see that

$$x\left(\frac{1}{x}\left(1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right)\right) = x \cdot 1 = x.$$

Using associativity (M3) we have that

$$\begin{aligned} x\left(\frac{1}{x}\left(1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right)\right) &= \left(x\frac{1}{x}\right)\left(1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right) \\ &= 1\left(1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right) \\ &= 1/\left(\frac{1}{x}\right). \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that

$$1 / \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) = x.$$

2) If  $x \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 > 0$ .

Answer: By O1, if  $x \neq 0$  then either  $x > 0$  or  $x < 0$ . If  $x > 0$ , we can use O4 to see that  $x > 0$  implies  $x^2 > x(0) = 0$  (using M4). If  $x < 0$ , then by Theorem part f,  $x^2 > x \cdot 0 = 0$  (by Theorem part b).