

Completeness in the set of Real numbers.

The property of Completeness (or Order-Completeness) which is possessed by \mathbb{R} and not by \mathbb{Q} . Together with ordered field property, it characterises \mathbb{R} i.e. the set of real numbers is the only set which is a Complete Ordered Field.

Order-Completeness in \mathbb{R} .

Every non-empty set of real numbers which is bounded above has the supremum (or the least upper bound) in \mathbb{R} .

In other words. The set of upper bounds of a non-empty set of real numbers bounded above has the smallest number member.

If S is a set of real numbers which is bounded above, then by considering the set $T = \{x \mid -x \in S\}$

We can state completeness property in the alternate form as:

Every non-empty set of real numbers which is bounded above below has the infimum (or g.l.b.) in \mathbb{R}

Archimedean Property of Real numbers.

Theorem 1. The real number field is Archimedean, i.e. if a and b be any two positive real numbers then there exists a positive integer n such that $na > b$

Proof Let a, b be any two positive real numbers. Let us suppose if possible that for all positive integers $n (\in \mathbb{I}^+)$, $na \leq b$

Thus the set $S = \{na : n \in \mathbb{I}^+\}$ is bounded above, b being an upper bound. By the completeness property of the ordered field of real numbers, set S must have the supremum M

$$na \leq M \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{I}^+$$

$$\Rightarrow (n+1)a \leq M, \forall n \in \mathbb{I}^+$$

$$\Rightarrow na \leq M - a, \forall n \in \mathbb{I}^+$$

i.e. $M - a$ is an upper bound of S .

Thus a number, $M - a$ less than the supremum M (l.u.b) is an upper bound of S ; which is a contradiction and hence our supposition is wrong.
Hence the theorem.