

**MATH 210**  
**RULES FOR HYPERREALS**

EXTENDING THE REALS TO THE HYPERREALS

(1) **The Extension Principle**

- The reals are a subset of the hyperreals, and the order  $x < y$  on the reals is a suborder of the order on the hyperreals;
- There is a nonzero infinitesimal;
- Any function  $f$  on the reals has a *natural extension* to a function  $f^*$  on the hyperreals, with the same number of variables.

(2) **The Transfer Principle.** Any *real statement* about functions  $f, g, \dots$  on the reals holds for their natural extensions  $f^*, g^*, \dots$  on the hyperreals.

Notation: We drop the \*s to make it easier to read.

A *real statement* is a combination of equalities, inequalities, or statements about whether a function is defined or undefined.

Examples:

- (Commutativity of addition)  $x + y = y + x$ ;
- (Rules for  $<$ ) if  $0 < x < y$  then  $0 < 1/y < 1/x$ ;
- (Domains) the cube root function is defined everywhere;
- (No division by 0)  $x/0$  is never defined;
- (Algebraic identities)  $x^2 - y^2 = (x + y)(x - y)$ ;
- (Trig identities)  $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$ .

Counterexamples:

- There are no nonzero infinitesimals.
- The domain of  $\sin$  only consists of real numbers;
- Every input to the exponential function is finite.

## THE ALGEBRA OF INFINITESIMAL, FINITE, AND INFINITE NUMBERS

For these,  $\varepsilon$  and  $\delta$  (epsilon and delta) are infinitesimal,  $b$  and  $c$  are finite but non-infinitesimal, and  $H$  and  $K$  are infinite. And  $n$  is a natural number.

(1) **Real Numbers**

- (a) 0 is the only infinitesimal real number;
- (b) Every real number is finite.

(2) **Negatives**

- (a)  $-\varepsilon$  is infinitesimal;
- (b)  $-b$  is finite and non-infinitesimal;
- (c)  $-H$  is infinite.

(3) **Reciprocals**

- (a)  $1/\varepsilon$  is infinite (if  $\varepsilon \neq 0$ );
- (b)  $1/b$  is finite;
- (c)  $1/H$  is infinitesimal.

(4) **Sums**

- (a)  $\varepsilon + \delta$  is infinitesimal;
- (b)  $b + \varepsilon$  is finite and non-infinitesimal;
- (c)  $b + c$  is finite (possibly infinitesimal);
- (d)  $H + \varepsilon$  and  $H + b$  are infinite.

(5) **Products**

- (a)  $\varepsilon \cdot \delta$  and  $\varepsilon \cdot b$  are infinitesimal;
- (b)  $b \cdot c$  is finite and non-infinitesimal;
- (c)  $b \cdot H$  and  $H \cdot K$  are infinite.

(6) **Quotients**

- (a)  $\varepsilon/b$ ,  $\varepsilon/H$ , and  $b/H$  are infinitesimal;
- (b)  $b/c$  is finite and non-infinitesimal;
- (c)  $b/\varepsilon$ ,  $H/\varepsilon$ , and  $H/B$  are infinite.

(7) **Powers**

- (a)  $\varepsilon^n$  is infinitesimal;
- (b)  $b^n$  is finite and non-infinitesimal;
- (c)  $H^n$  is infinite.

(8) **Roots**

- (a)  $\sqrt[n]{\varepsilon}$  is infinitesimal (if  $\varepsilon$  is positive);
- (b)  $\sqrt[n]{b}$  is finite and non-infinitesimal (if  $b$  is positive);
- (c)  $\sqrt[n]{H}$  is infinite (if  $H$  is positive).

(9) **Indeterminate forms**

- (a)  $\varepsilon/\delta$ ,  $H/K$ ,  $\varepsilon \cdot H$  and  $H + K$  could all be either infinitesimal, finite but non-infinitesimal, or infinite. It depends on the specific values.