

Ordering infinities

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Based on joint work with M. Aschenbrenner, L. van den Dries, V. Bagayoko, E. Kaplan



August 27, 2020

In honour of the 75th birthday of **Maurice Pouzet**

Georg Cantor

Georg Cantor

Cardinal numbers

Georg Cantor

Cardinal numbers

Ordinal numbers

$0, 1, 2, \dots$

Georg Cantor

Cardinal numbers

Ordinal numbers

$0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega$

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Cardinal numbers

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$0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega, \omega + 1, \dots$

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$$0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega, \omega + 1, \dots, \omega \cdot 2, \omega \cdot 2 + 1, \dots, \omega^2$$

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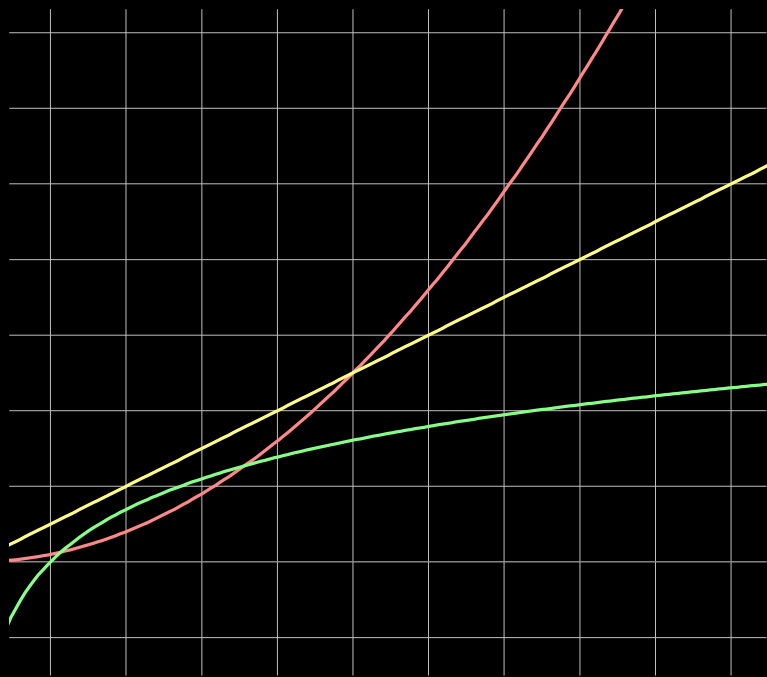
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Cantor normal form

$$\omega^{\omega^{\omega+2} \cdot 3 + \omega^8 \cdot 7 + \omega \cdot 3 + 2} \cdot 9 + \omega^{\omega^{\omega+1}} \cdot 3 + \omega^{\omega \cdot 7} \cdot 5 + \omega^8 + \omega^2 \cdot 111 + 2020$$

Paul du Bois-Reymond

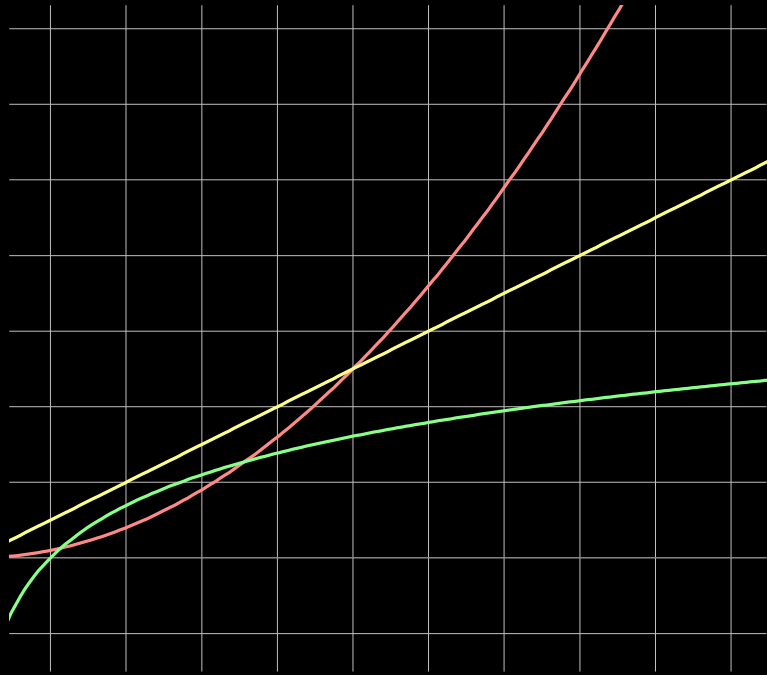
Paul du Bois-Reymond



Precursor of asymptotic calculus

$$\log x < \frac{x}{2} < \frac{x^2}{10} \quad (x \rightarrow \infty)$$

Paul du Bois-Reymond



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Diagonal argument

$$\exists f, \quad x < e^x < e^{e^x} < e^{e^{e^x}} < \dots < f$$

Three intimately related topics...

(surreal)
Numbers

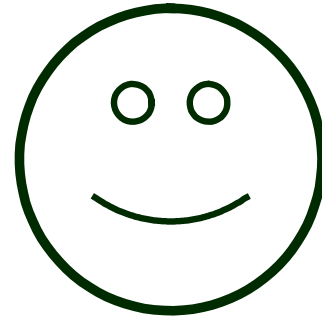
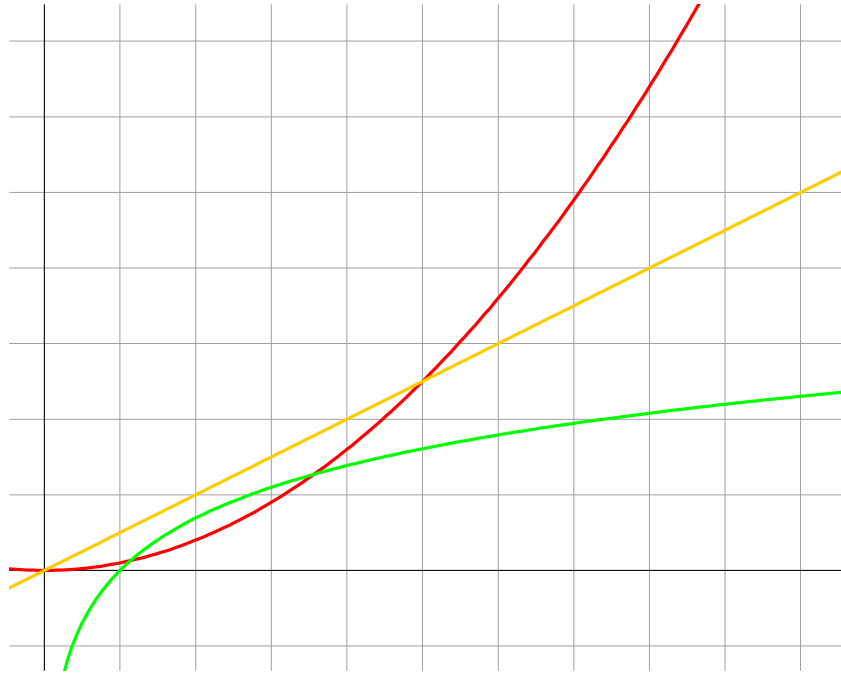
Germs
(in HARDY
fields)

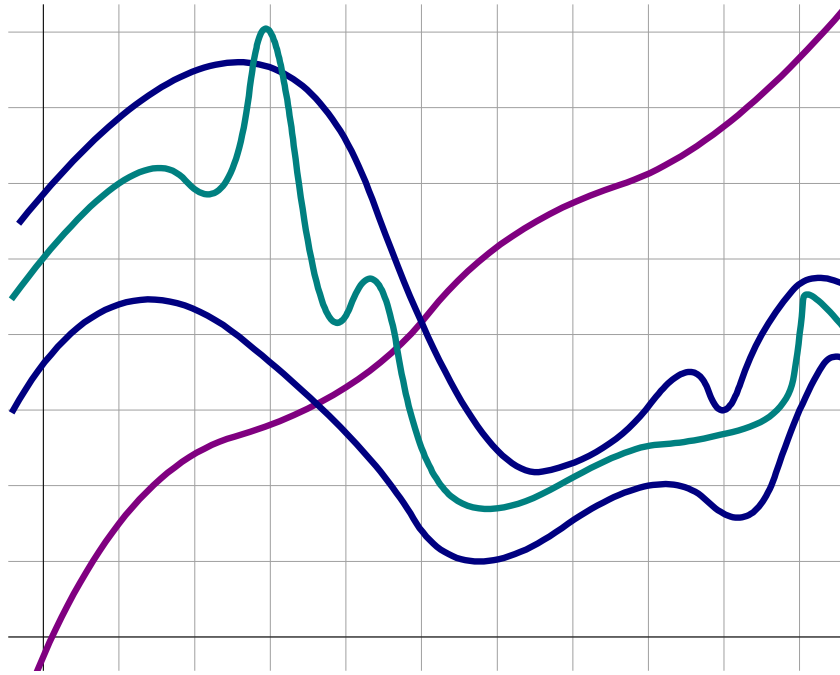
Transseries

NUMBERS

Germs
(in HARDY
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Transseries





Let \mathcal{C}^1 be the ring of germs at $+\infty$ of continuously differentiable functions $(a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ($a \in \mathbb{R}$).

We denote the germ at $+\infty$ of a function f also by f , relying on context.

Definition

A **HARDY field** is a subring of \mathcal{C}^1 which is a field that contains with each germ of a function f also the germ of its derivative f' (where f' might be defined on a smaller interval than f).

Examples. \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} , $\mathbb{R}(x)$, $\mathbb{R}(x, e^x)$, $\mathbb{R}(x, e^x, \log x)$, $\mathbb{R}(x, e^{x^2}, \operatorname{erf} x)$

HARDY fields capture the somewhat vague notion of functions with “**regular growth**” at infinity (BOREL, DU BOIS-REYMOND, ...):

Let H be a HARDY field and $f \in H$. Then

$$f \neq 0 \implies \frac{1}{f} \in H \implies \begin{cases} f(x) > 0, \text{ eventually, or} \\ f(x) < 0, \text{ eventually.} \end{cases}$$

Consequently,

- H carries an ordering making H an **ordered field**:

$$f > 0 \iff f(x) > 0 \text{ eventually;}$$

- f is **eventually monotonic**, and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}.$$

(surreal)
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$\mathbb{T} :=$ closure of $\mathbb{R} \cup \{x\}$ under **exp**, **log** and infinite summation

$$e^{e^x + e^{x/2} + e^{x/3} + \dots} - 3e^{x^2} + 5(\log x)^\pi + 42 + x^{-1} + 2x^{-2} + 6x^{-3} + \dots + e^{-x}$$

$\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}[[\mathfrak{M}]] :=$ closure of $\mathbb{R} \cup \{x\}$ under \exp , \log and infinite summation

$$\sum_{\mathfrak{m}} f_{\mathfrak{m}} \mathfrak{m} = e^{e^x + e^{x/2} + \dots} - 3e^{x^2} + 5(\log x)^\pi + 42 + x^{-1} + 2x^{-2} + 6x^{-3} + \dots + e^{-x}$$

x : positive infinite indeterminate $f_{\mathfrak{m}}$: coefficient \mathfrak{m} : transmonomial

$\text{supp } f$: well-based subset of \mathfrak{M}

disallow $x + \log x + \log \log x + \dots$ and $e^{-x} + e^{-e^x} + e^{-e^{e^x}} + \dots$

- With the natural ordering of transseries (via the leading coefficient), \mathbb{T} is a *real closed ordered field* extension of \mathbb{R} .
- Each $f \in \mathbb{T}$ can be *differentiated* term by term (with $x' = 1$):

$$\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! \frac{e^x}{x^n} \right)' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! \left(\frac{e^x}{x^n} \right)' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! \left(\frac{e^x}{x^n} - n \frac{e^x}{x^{n+1}} \right) = \frac{e^x}{x}$$

- This yields a *derivation* $f \mapsto f'$ on the field \mathbb{T} :

$$(f + g)' = f' + g', \quad (f \cdot g)' = f' \cdot g + f \cdot g'$$

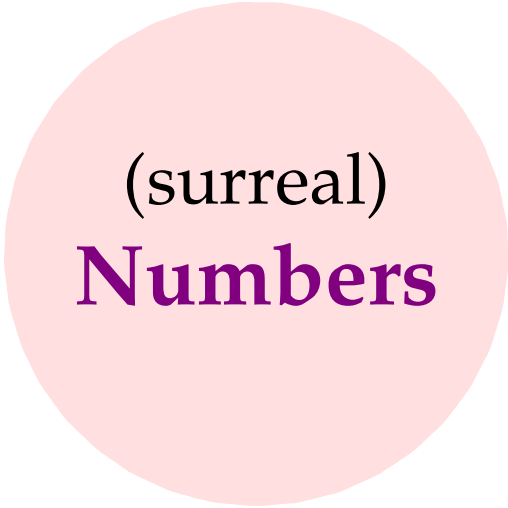
Its constant field is $\{f \in \mathbb{T} : f' = 0\} = \mathbb{R}$.

- Given $f, g \in \mathbb{T}$, the equation $y' + fy = g$ admits a solution $y \neq 0$ in \mathbb{T} .

(surreal)
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Class On of ordinal numbers

For any set L of ordinal numbers, there is a smallest ordinal number $\alpha > L$

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Class No of surreal numbers (CONWAY)

For any sets $L < R$ of surreal numbers, there is a **simplest** surreal number $\{L|R\}$ such that $L < \{L|R\} < R$.

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For any sets $L < R$ of surreal numbers, there is a **simplest** surreal number $\{L|R\}$ such that $L < \{L|R\} < R$.

We have $\mathbf{On} \subseteq \mathbf{No}$ by taking $R = \emptyset$:

$$0 = \{|\}$$

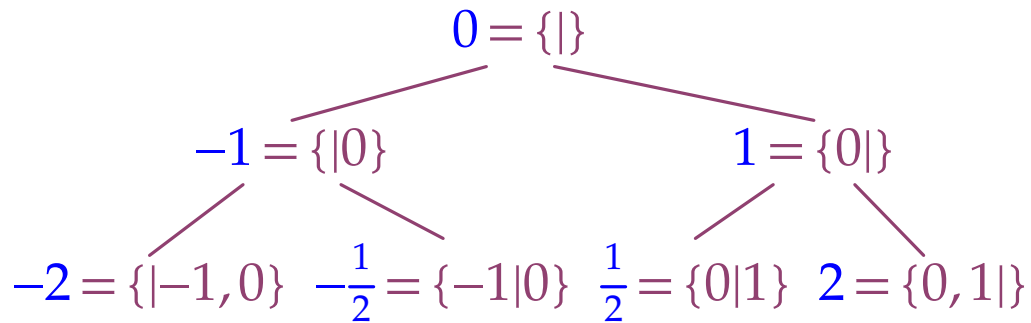
$$1 = \{0|\}$$

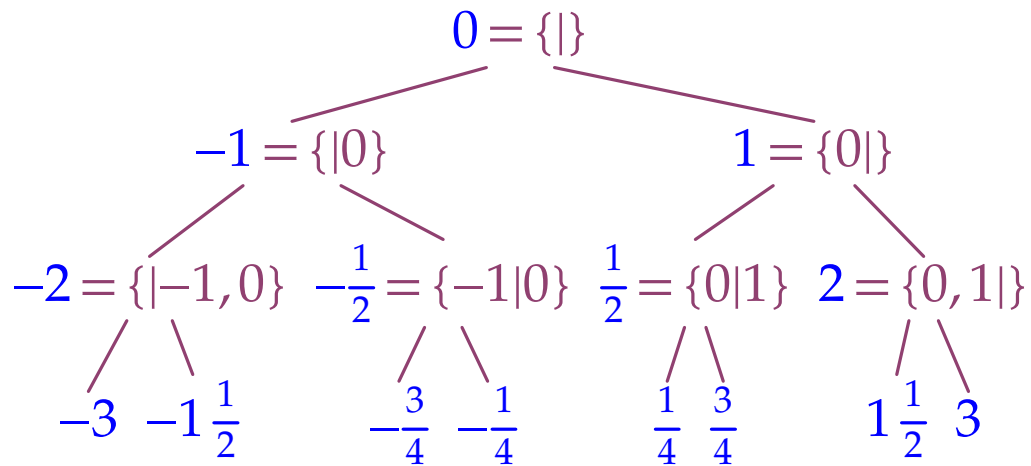
$$2 = \{0, 1|\}$$

$$\omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots|\}$$

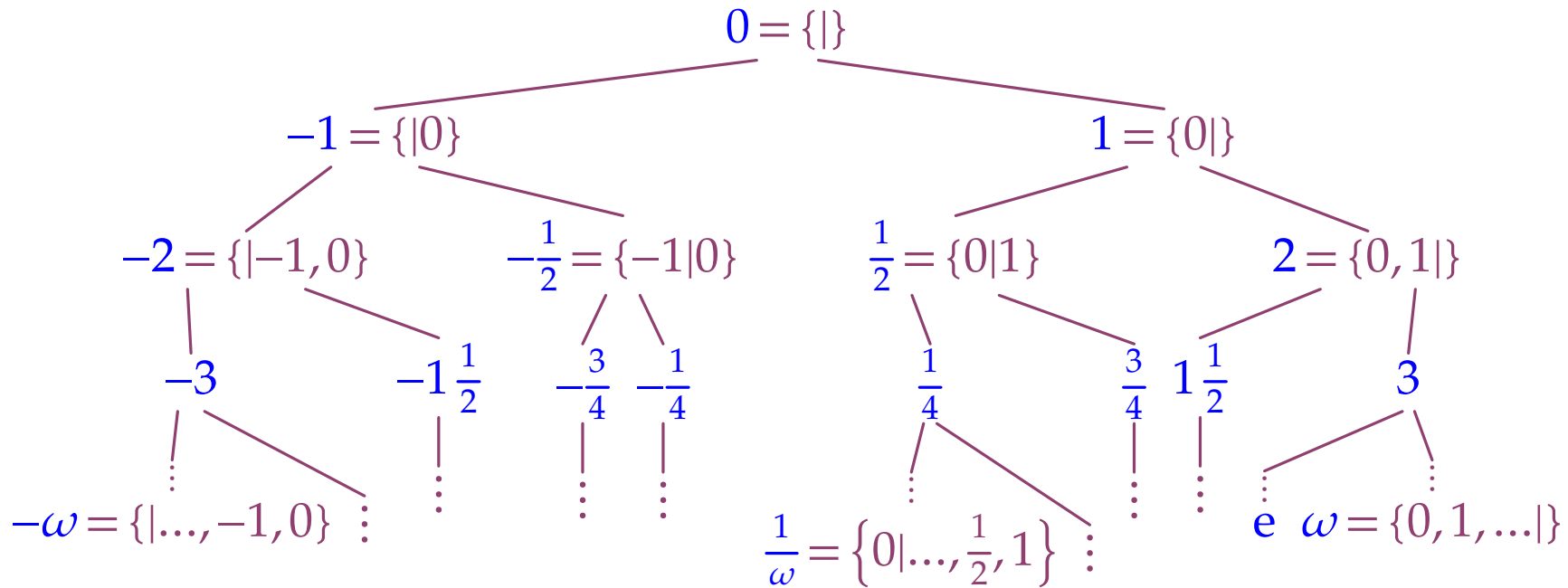
$$0 = \{\emptyset\}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 0 = \{\} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ -1 = \{ | 0 \} \quad 1 = \{ 0 | \} \end{array}$$





Surreal numbers



Definition

If $x = \{x^L | x^R\}$ and $y = \{y^L | y^R\}$, then

$$x + y := \{x^L + y, x + y^L | x^R + y, x + y^R\}$$

(Idea: we want $x^L + y < x + y < x^R + y, \dots$)

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where $x' \in x_L, x'' \in x_R, y' \in y_L, y'' \in y_R$

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where $x' \in x_L, x'' \in x_R, y' \in y_L, y'' \in y_R$

Theorem (CONWAY)

No is a real closed field.

- In the 1980s, GONSHOR (based on ideas of KRUSKAL) defined an exponential function $\exp: \mathbf{No} \rightarrow \mathbf{No}^{>0}$ that extends $x \mapsto e^x$ on \mathbb{R} .
- In 2006, BERARDUCCI and MANTOVA (using ideas of VDH and SCHMELING) defined a derivation ∂_{BM} on \mathbf{No} with

$$\ker \partial_{\text{BM}} = \mathbb{R}, \quad \partial_{\text{BM}}(\omega) = 1, \quad \partial_{\text{BM}}(\exp(f)) = \partial_{\text{BM}}(f) \cdot \exp(f) \text{ for } f \in \mathbf{No}.$$

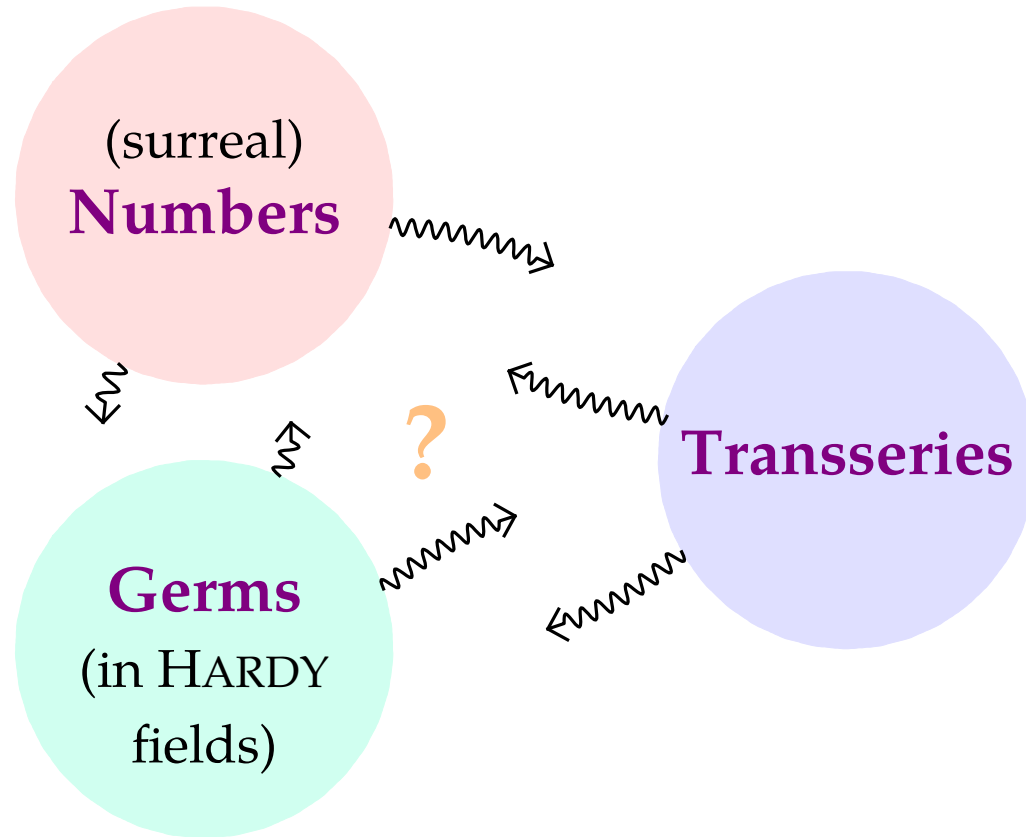
In a certain technical sense, it is the simplest such derivation that satisfies some natural further conditions.

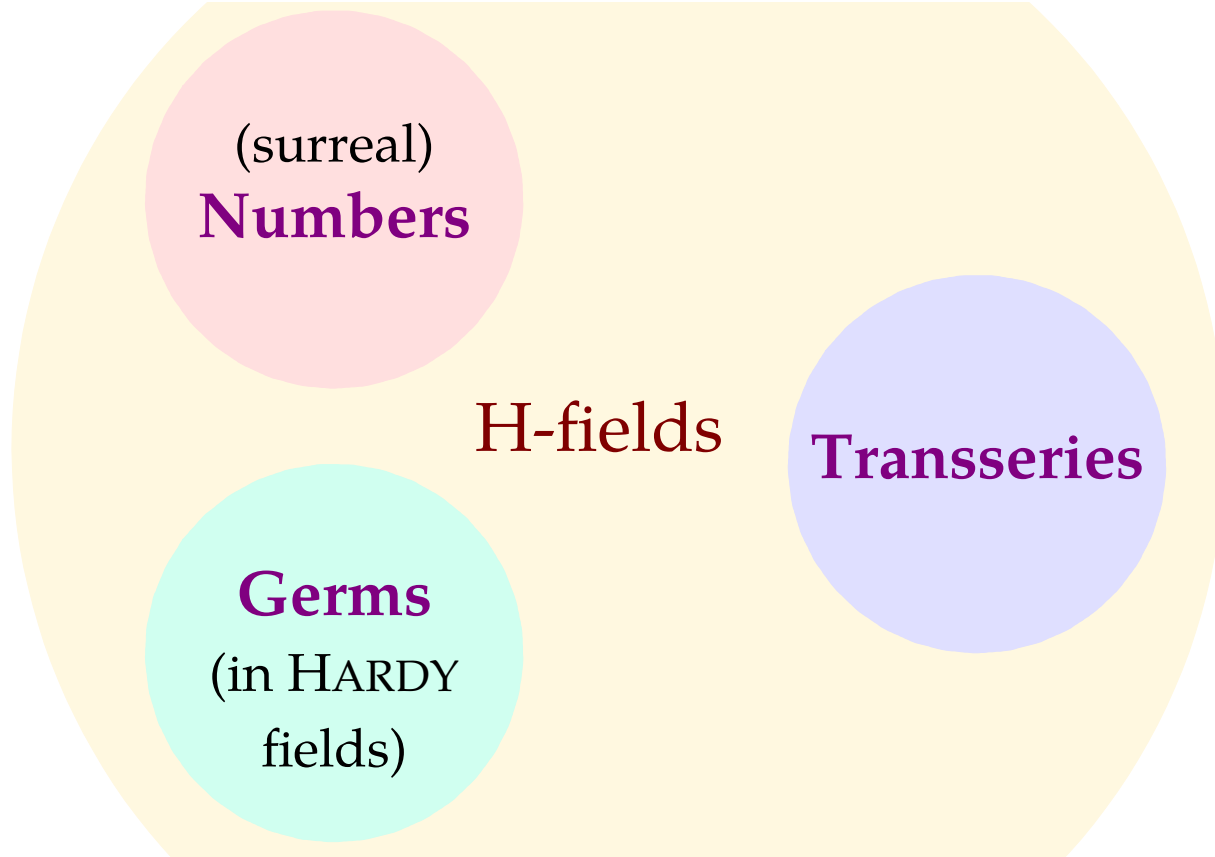
- The BM-derivation on \mathbf{No} behaves in many ways like the derivation on \mathbb{T} , with $\omega > \mathbb{R}$ in the role of $x > \mathbb{R}$. For instance, $\partial_{\text{BM}}(\log \omega) = \frac{1}{\omega}$.

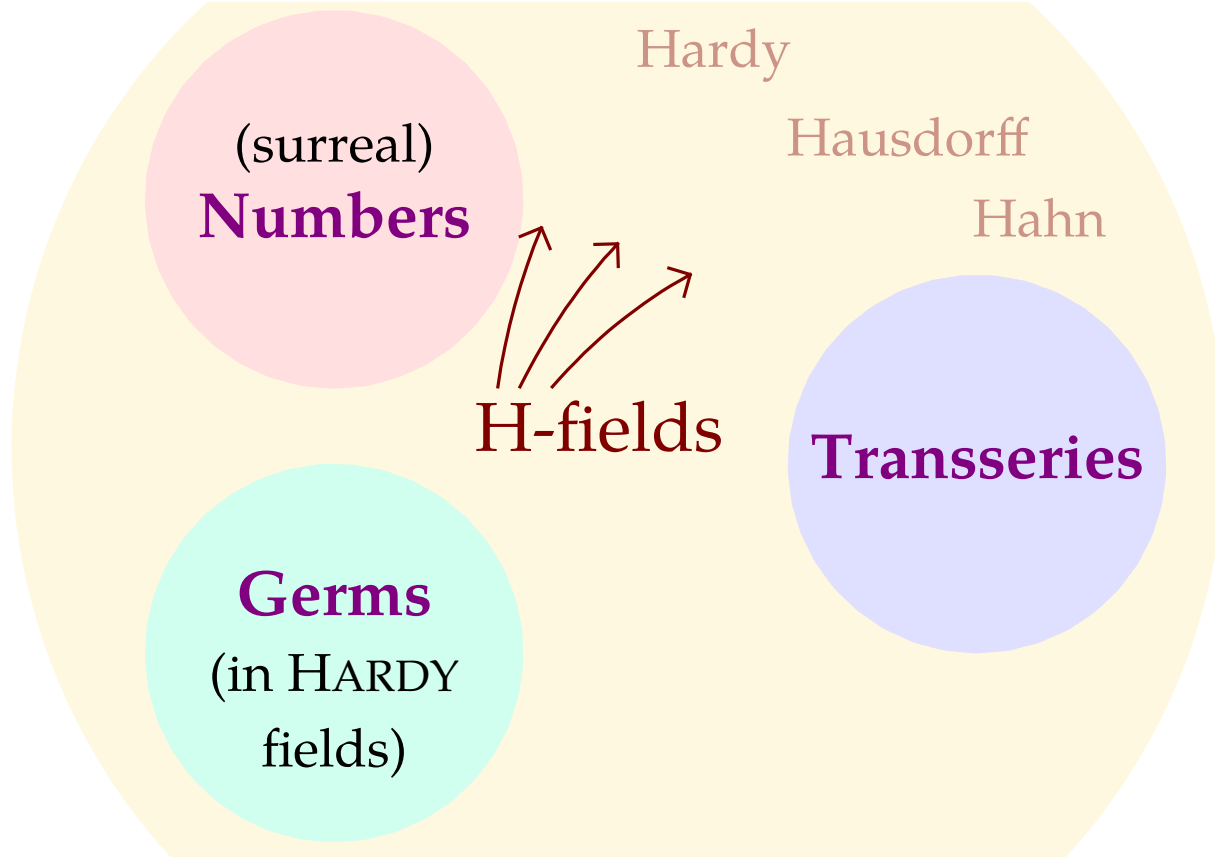
(surreal)
Numbers

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Transseries







Let K be an ordered differential field with constant field

$$C = \{f \in K : f' = 0\}.$$

We define

$$f \preceq g : \Leftrightarrow |f| \leq c|g| \text{ for some } c \in C^{>0} \quad (f \text{ is dominated by } g)$$

$$f \prec g : \Leftrightarrow |f| \leq c|g| \text{ for all } c \in C^{>0} \quad (f \text{ is negligible w.r.t. } g)$$

$$f \asymp g : \Leftrightarrow f \preceq g \preceq f \quad (f \text{ is asymptotic to } g)$$

$$f \sim g : \Leftrightarrow f - g \prec g \quad (f \text{ is equivalent to } g)$$

Example. In \mathbb{T} : $0 \prec e^{-x} \prec x^{-10} \prec 1 \asymp 100 \prec \log x \prec x^{1/10} \prec e^x \sim e^x + x \prec e^{e^x}$

Definition

We call K an **H-field** if

H1. $f > C \implies f' > 0$;

H2. $f \asymp 1 \implies f \sim c$ for some $c \in C$.

Examples. HARDY fields containing \mathbb{R} ; ordered differential subfields of \mathbb{T} or **No** that contain \mathbb{R} .

\mathbb{T} admits further elementary properties in addition to being an H-field. It

- has **small derivation**, that is, $f < 1 \implies f' < 1$; and
- is **LIOUVILLE closed**, that is, it is real closed and for all f, g , there is some $y \neq 0$ with $y' + fy = g$.

We view \mathbb{T} model-theoretically as a structure with the primitives

$0, 1, +, \times, \partial$ (derivation), \leq (ordering).

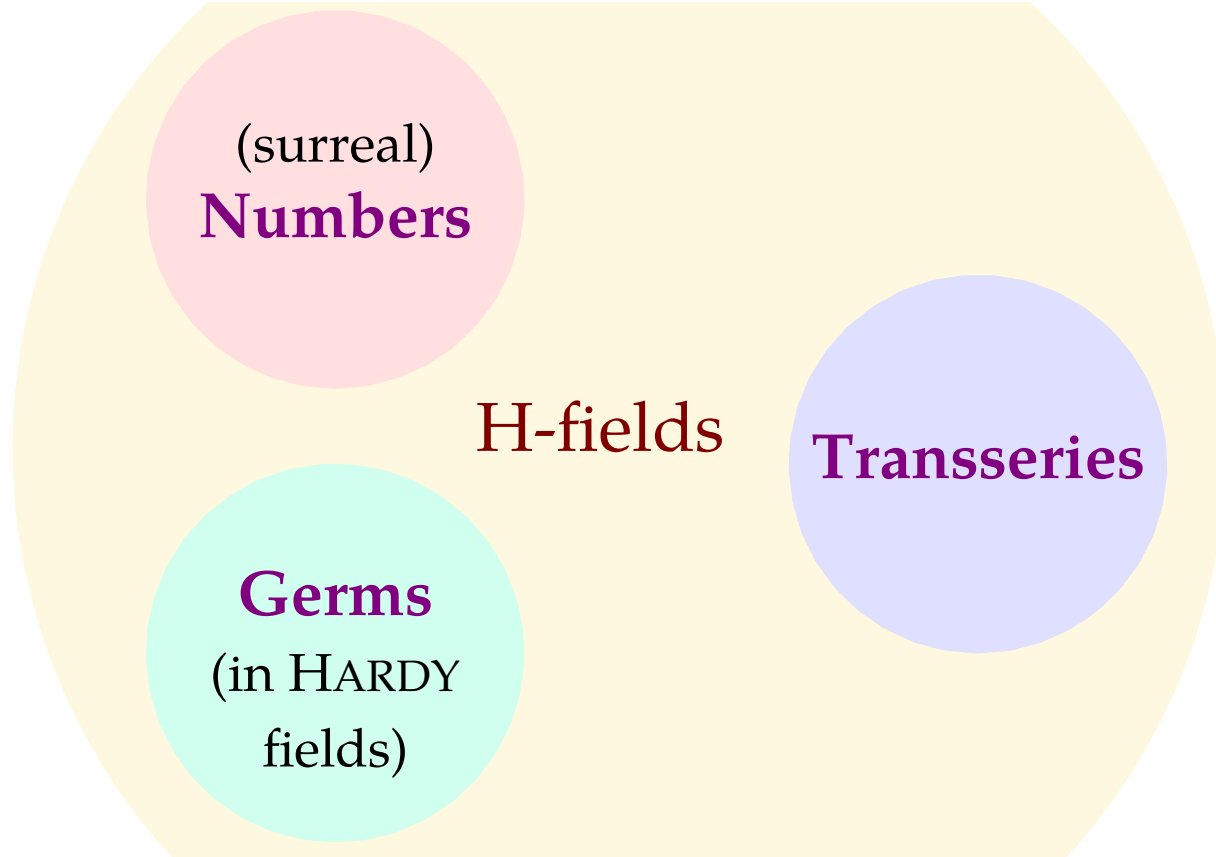
Theorem (Ann. of Math. Stud. vol. 195 + afterthought)

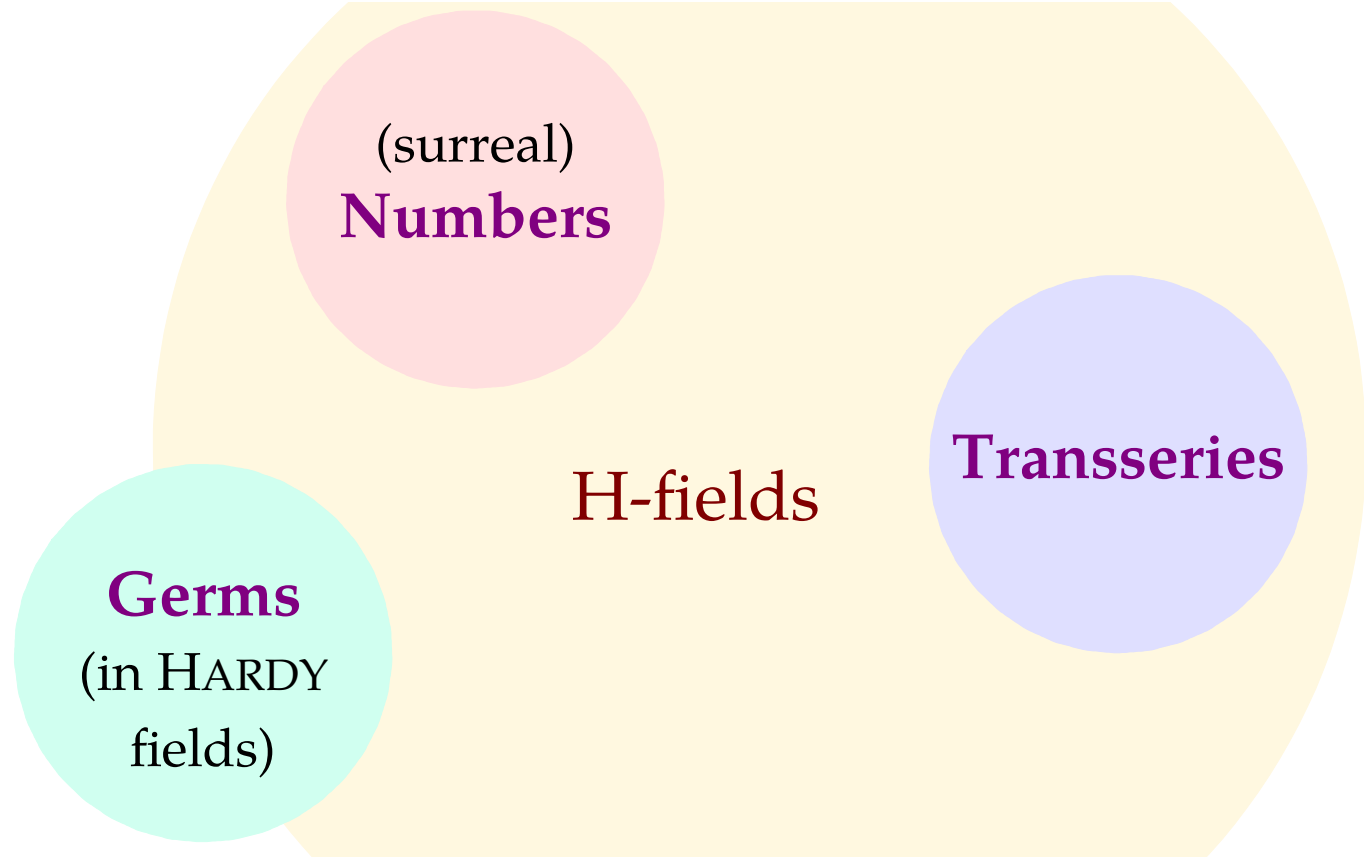
The elementary theory of \mathbb{T} is completely axiomatized by:

- ① \mathbb{T} is a LIOUVILLE closed H-field with small derivation;
- ② \mathbb{T} satisfies the intermediate value property for differential polynomials:
Given $P \in \mathbb{T}[Y, Y', \dots, Y^{(r)}]$ and $u < v$ in \mathbb{T} with $P(u)P(v) < 0$, there exists a $y \in \mathbb{T}$ with $u < y < v$ and $P(y) = 0$

In particular: the theory of \mathbb{T} is decidable.

We also prove a quantifier elimination result for \mathbb{T} in a natural expansion of the above language.





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Any HARDY field has a smallest LIOUVILLE closed HARDY field extension.

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Conjecture

Let H be a maximal HARDY field. Then

- Ⓐ H satisfies the differential intermediate value property.*
- Ⓑ For countable subsets $L < R$ of H , there exists an $h \in H$ with $L < h < R$.*

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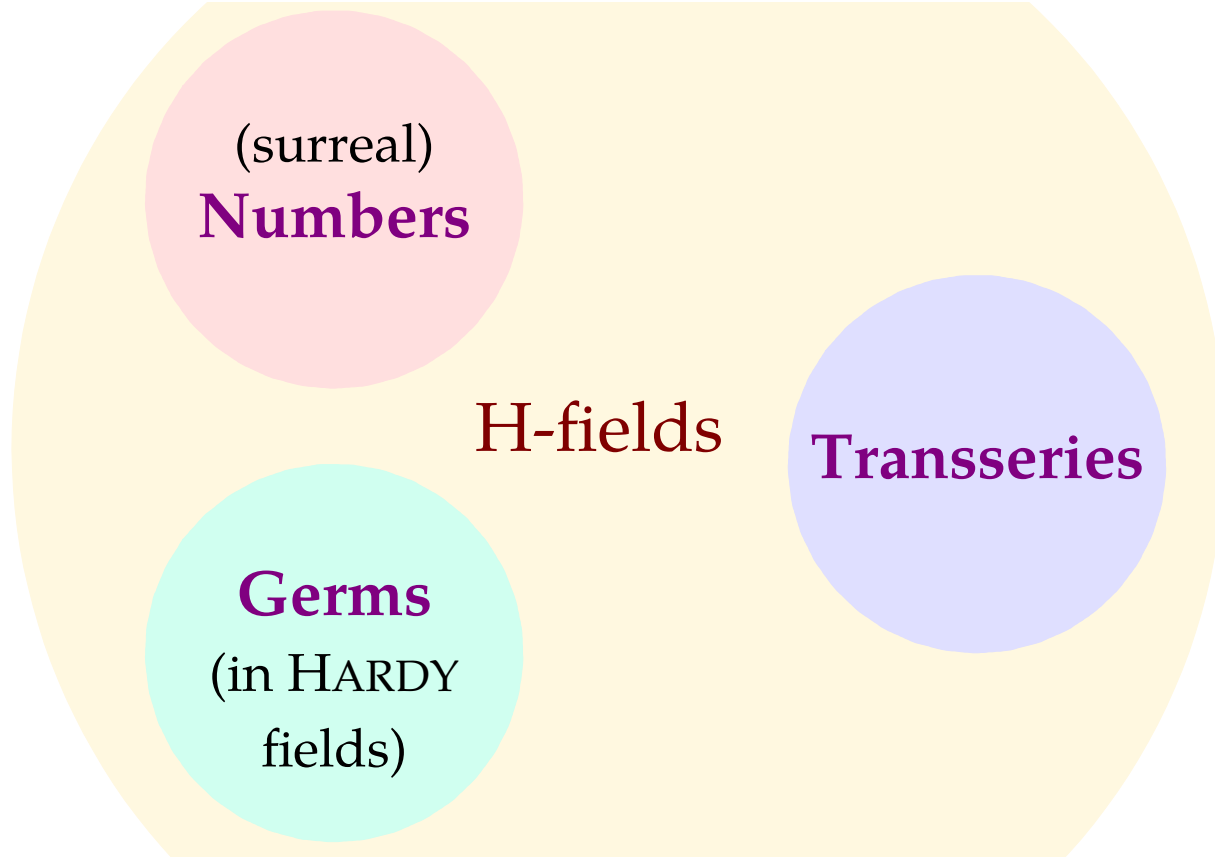
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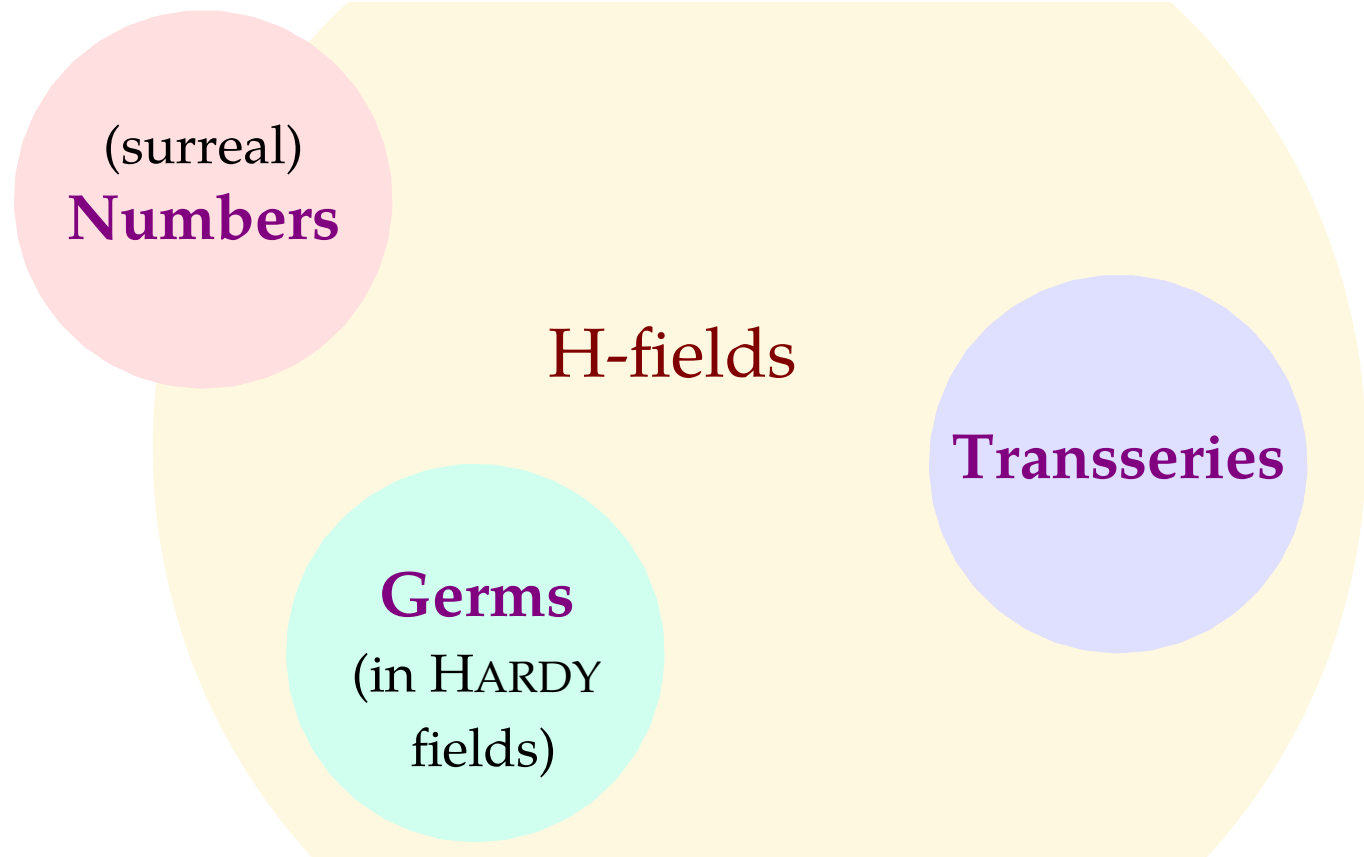
Let H be a maximal HARDY field. Then

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Corollary

- Ⓐ H is elementarily equivalent to \mathbb{T} as an ordered differential field.*
- Ⓑ Under CH, all maximal HARDY fields are isomorphic.*





Theorem (JEMS 2019)

*Every H-field with small derivation and constant field \mathbb{R} can be embedded as an ordered differential field into **No**.*

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Let κ be an uncountable cardinal. The field $\mathbf{No}(\kappa)$ of surreal numbers of length $< \kappa$ is an elementary submodel of \mathbf{No} .

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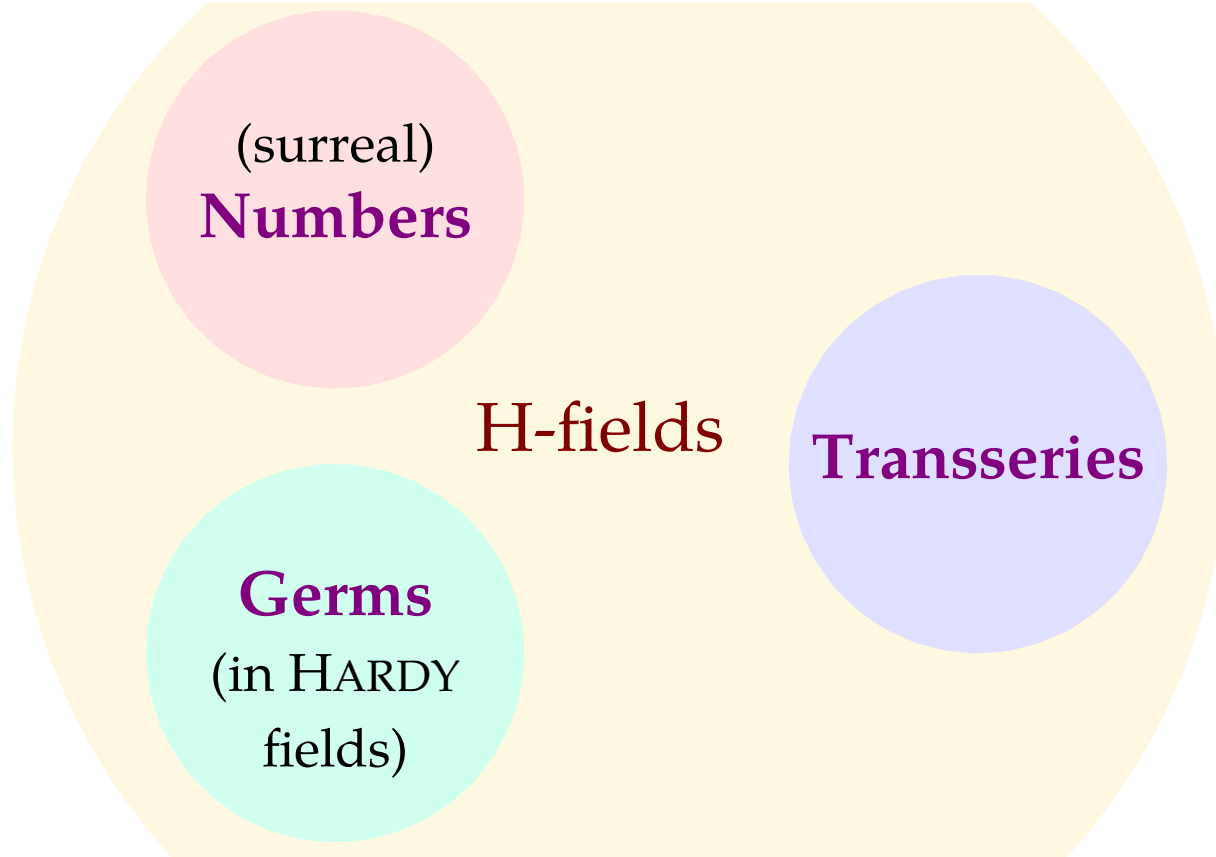
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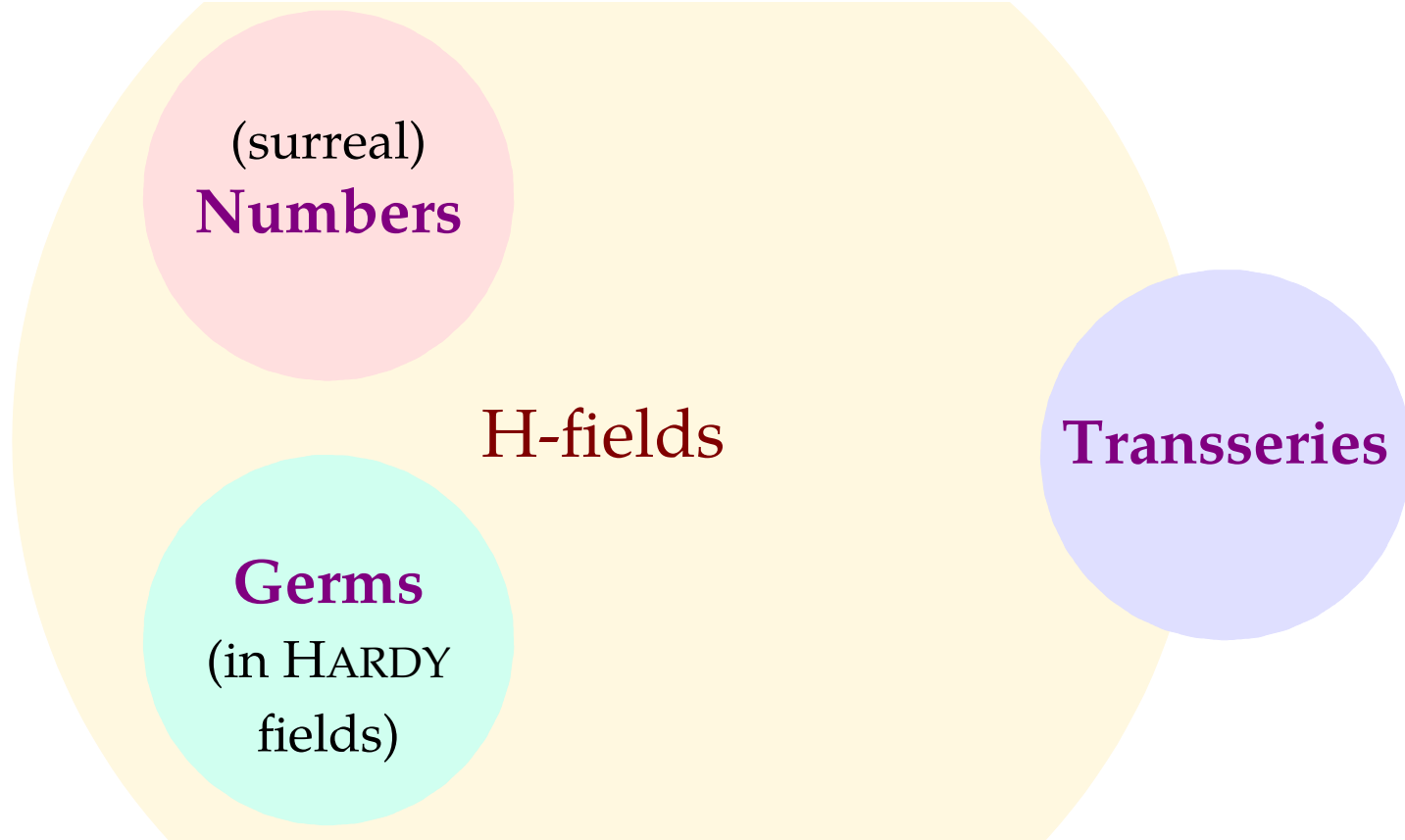
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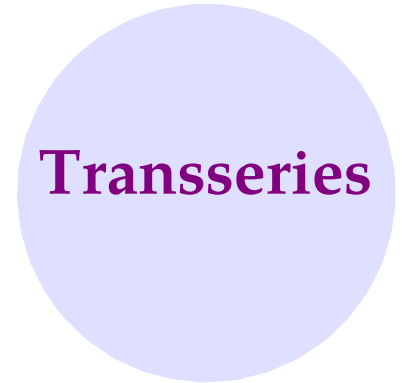
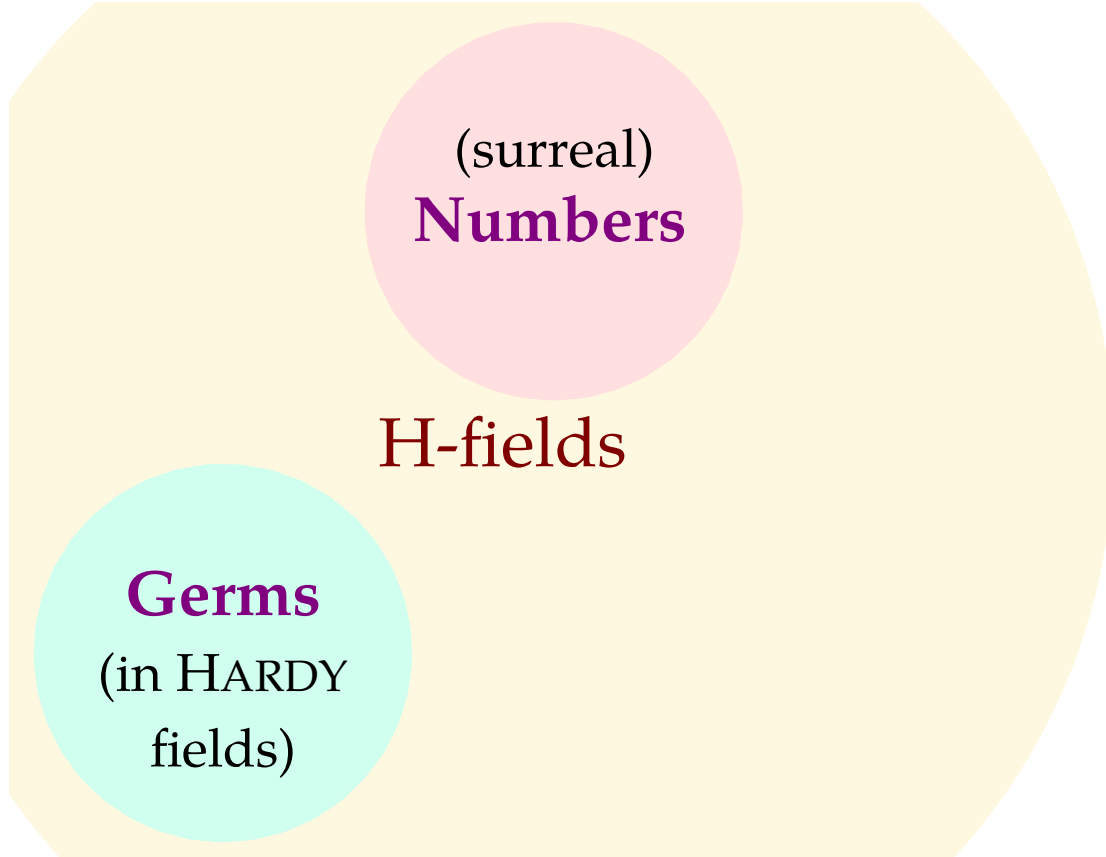
Let κ be an uncountable cardinal. The field $\mathbf{No}(\kappa)$ of surreal numbers of length $< \kappa$ is an elementary submodel of \mathbf{No} .

Corollary in progress

Under CH all maximal HARDY fields are isomorphic to $\mathbf{No}(\omega_1)$.







Definition (VAN DER HOEVEN 2000, SCHMELING 2001)

A field $\mathbf{T} = \mathbb{R}[[\mathfrak{M}]]$ with $\log: \mathbf{T}^> \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ is a *field of transseries* if ...

A *transserial derivation* on \mathbf{T} is a derivation $\partial: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ such that ...

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Theorem (BERARDUCCI–MANTOVA, 2015)

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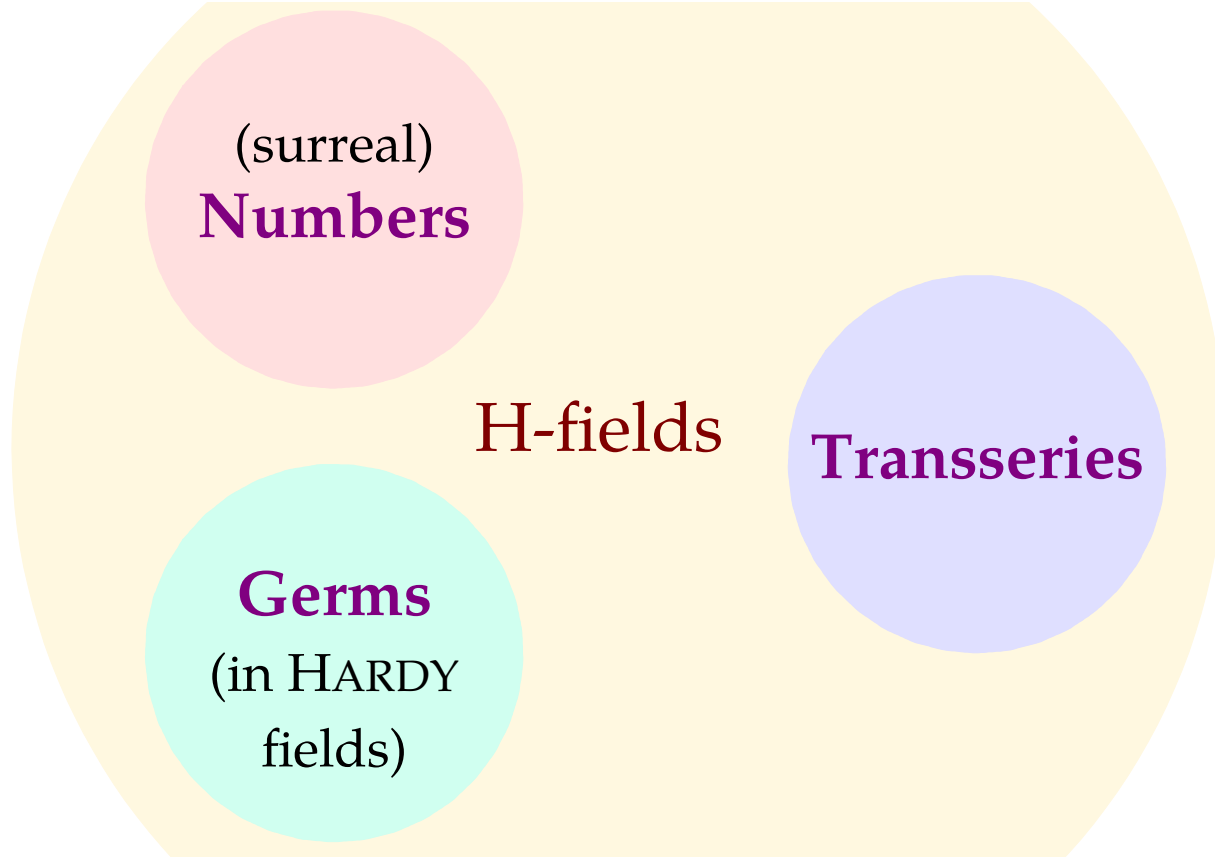
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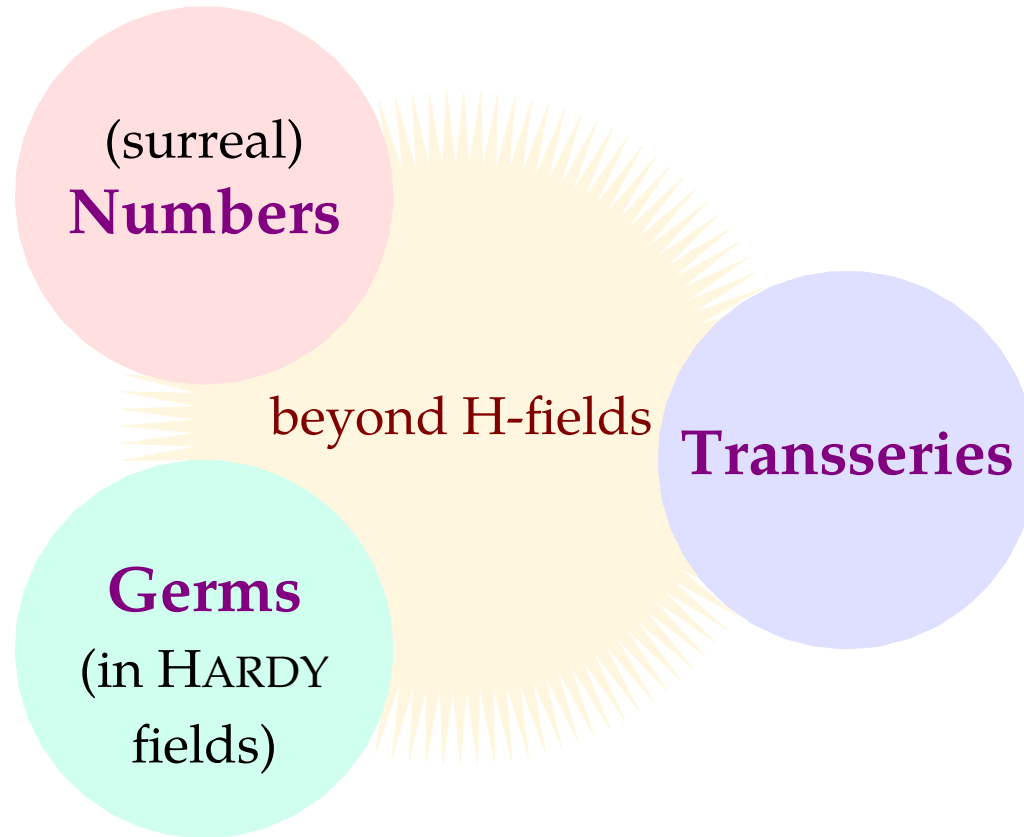
Theorem (BERARDUCCI–MANTOVA, 2015)

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Corollary

Any H -field with constant field \mathbb{R} can be embedded in a field of transseries with a transserial derivation.





(surreal)
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beyond H-fields

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Iterated exponentials and logarithms

$$\exp_{\omega}(x+1) = \exp \exp_{\omega} x$$

$$\exp_{\omega^2}(x+1) = \exp_{\omega} \exp_{\omega^2} x$$

...

→ stronger growth than $e^x, e^{e^x}, \dots, \exp_{\omega} x, e^{\exp_{\omega} x}, \dots, \exp_{\omega} \exp_{\omega} x, \dots$

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Functional equations

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x} + e^{f(\log x)} = \sqrt{x} + e^{\sqrt{\log x} + e^{\sqrt{\log \log x} + \dots}}$$

Hyperlogarithms and hyperexponentials

$$\begin{aligned}\exp_{\omega}(x+1) &= \exp \exp_{\omega} x \\ \exp_{\omega^2}(x+1) &= \exp_{\omega} \exp_{\omega^2} x \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\log_{\omega} \log x &= \log_{\omega} x - 1 \\ \log_{\omega^2} \log_{\omega} x &= \log_{\omega^2} x - 1 \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

Hyperlogarithms and hyperexponentials

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$$\log_{\omega} x = \int \frac{1}{x \log x \log \log x \dots}$$

$$\log_{\alpha} x = \int \prod_{\beta < \alpha} \frac{1}{\log_{\beta} x}$$

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Nested hyperseries

Solutions de $f(x) = \sqrt{x} + e^{f(\log x)}$:

$$f_0(x)$$

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$$f_{-1}(x) < f_0(x) < f_1(x)$$

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Nested hyperseries

Solutions de $f(x) = \sqrt{x} + e^{f(\log x)}$:

$$f_{-2}(x) < f_{-1}(x) < f_{-1/2}(x) < f_0(x) < f_{1/2}(x) < f_1(x) < f_2(x)$$

Hyperlogarithms and hyperexponentials

$$\begin{aligned}\exp_{\omega}(x+1) &= \exp \exp_{\omega} x \\ \exp_{\omega^2}(x+1) &= \exp_{\omega} \exp_{\omega^2} x \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\log_{\omega} \log x &= \log_{\omega} x - 1 \\ \log_{\omega^2} \log_{\omega} x &= \log_{\omega^2} x - 1 \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

$$\log_{\omega} x = \int \frac{1}{x \log x \log \log x \dots}$$

$$\log_{\alpha} x = \int \prod_{\beta < \alpha} \frac{1}{\log_{\beta} x}$$

Nested hyperseries

Solutions de $f(x) = \sqrt{x} + e^{f(\log x)}$: $\rightarrow f_{\mathbf{No}}(x)$

$$\dots < f_{-2}(x) < \dots < f_{-1}(x) < \dots < f_0(x) < \dots < f_{1/2}(x) < \dots < f_1(x) < \dots < f_2(x) < \dots$$

Conjecture (vdH 2006)

For an appropriate definition of the class **Hy** of hyperseries, we have $\mathbf{No} \cong \mathbf{Hy}$ for the map $\phi: \mathbf{Hy} \rightarrow \mathbf{No}; f \mapsto f(\omega)$.

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Examples :

$$\begin{aligned} \{x, e^x, e^{e^x}, \dots|\} &= \exp_{\omega} x \\ \{\sqrt{x}, \sqrt{x} + e^{\sqrt{\log x}}, \dots|\dots, \sqrt{x} + e^{2\sqrt{\log x}}, 2\sqrt{x}\} &= f_0(x) \\ \{x^2, e^{\log^2 x}, e^{e^{\log^2 \log x}}, \dots|\dots, e^{e^{e^{\sqrt{\log \log x}}}}, e^{e^{\sqrt{\log x}}}, e^{\sqrt{x}}\} &= \exp_{\omega}(\log_{\omega} x + \frac{1}{2}) \end{aligned}$$

Thank you!



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