

# 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 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Maurice Pouzet**

Georg Cantor

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Cardinal numbers

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Cardinal numbers

Ordinal numbers

$0, 1, 2, \dots$

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Cardinal numbers

Ordinal numbers

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

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

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

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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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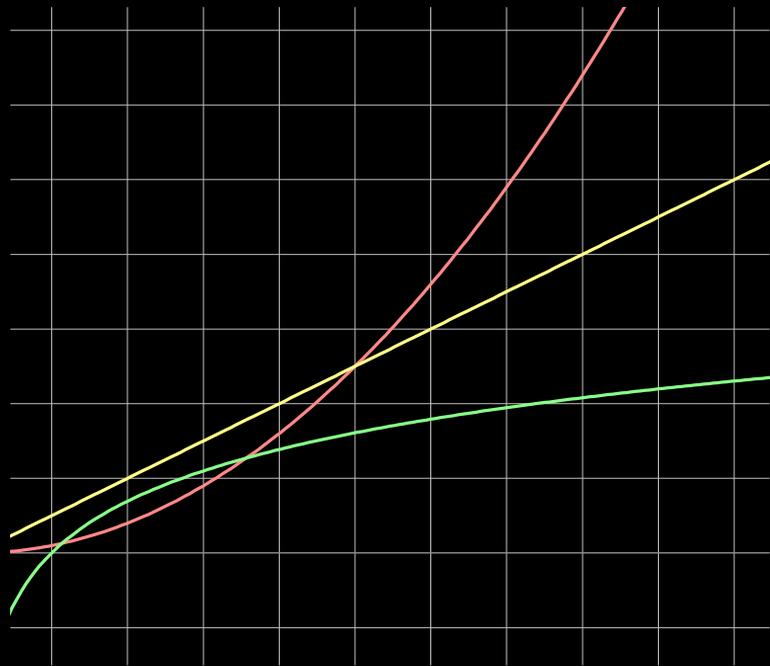
$0, 1, 2, \dots, \omega, \omega + 1, \dots, \omega \cdot 2, \omega \cdot 2 + 1, \dots, \omega^2, \dots, \omega^3, \dots, \omega^\omega, \dots, \aleph_1, \dots$

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

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

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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**

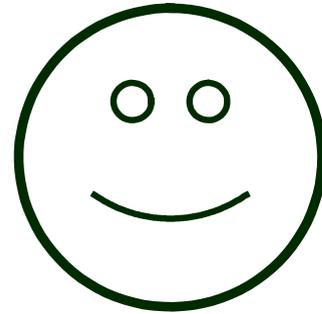
**Germs**  
(in HARDY  
fields)

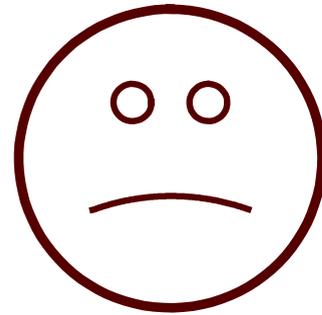
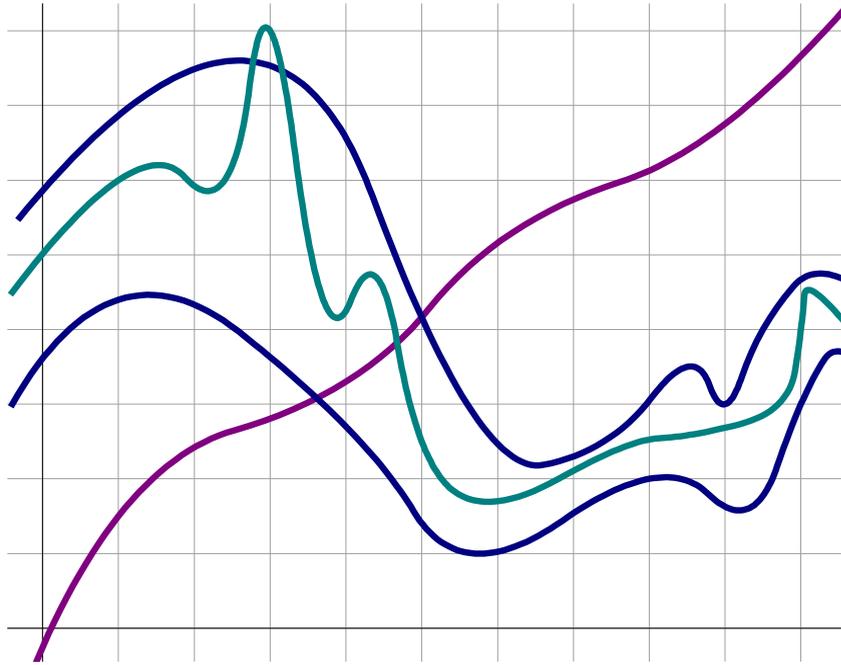
**Transseries**

**NUMBERS**

**Germs**  
(in HARDY  
fields)

**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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**Transseries**

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**Transseries**

$\mathbb{T} :=$  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  $\mathbb{T}$ :

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

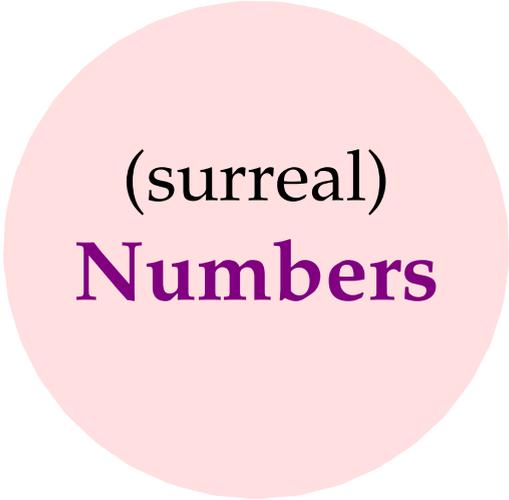
Its constant field is  $\{f \in \mathbb{T} : f' = 0\} = \mathbb{R}$ .

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

(surreal)  
**Numbers**

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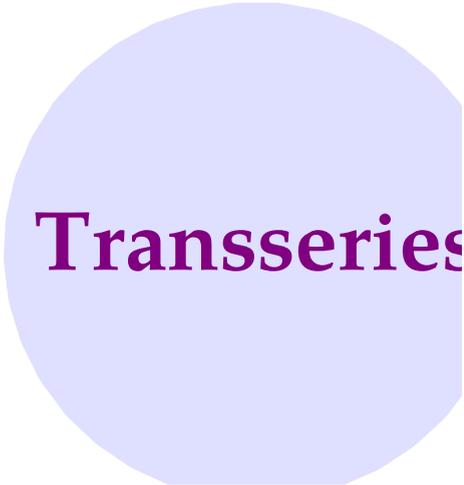
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For any set  $L$  of ordinal numbers, there is a smallest ordinal number  $\alpha > L$

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

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

$$0 = \{|\}$$

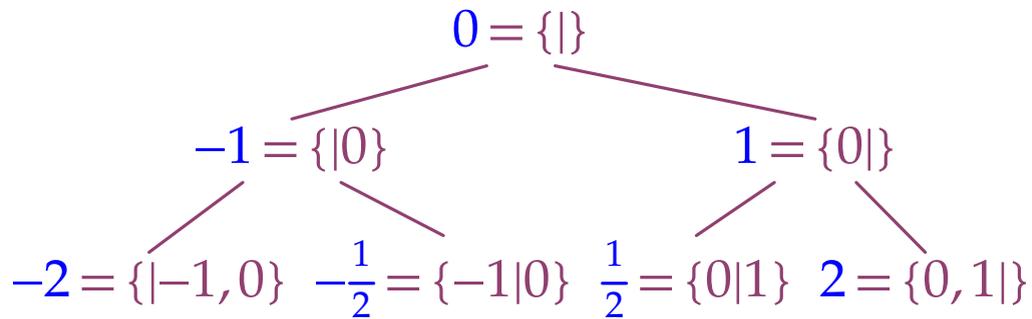
$$1 = \{0|\}$$

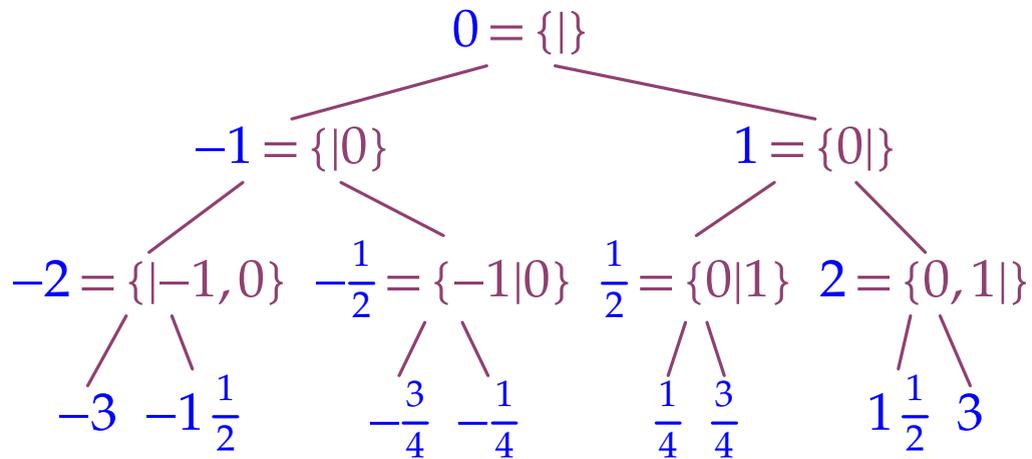
$$2 = \{0, 1|\}$$

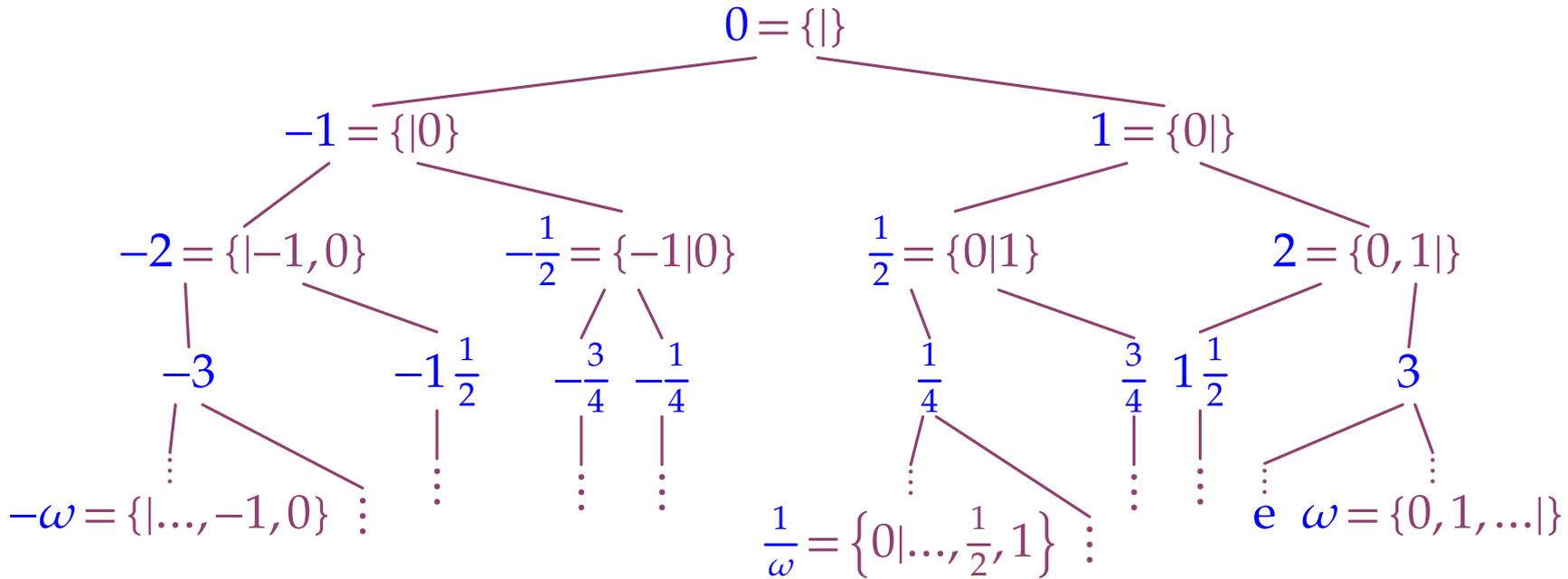
$$\omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots|\}$$

$$0 = \{\mid\}$$

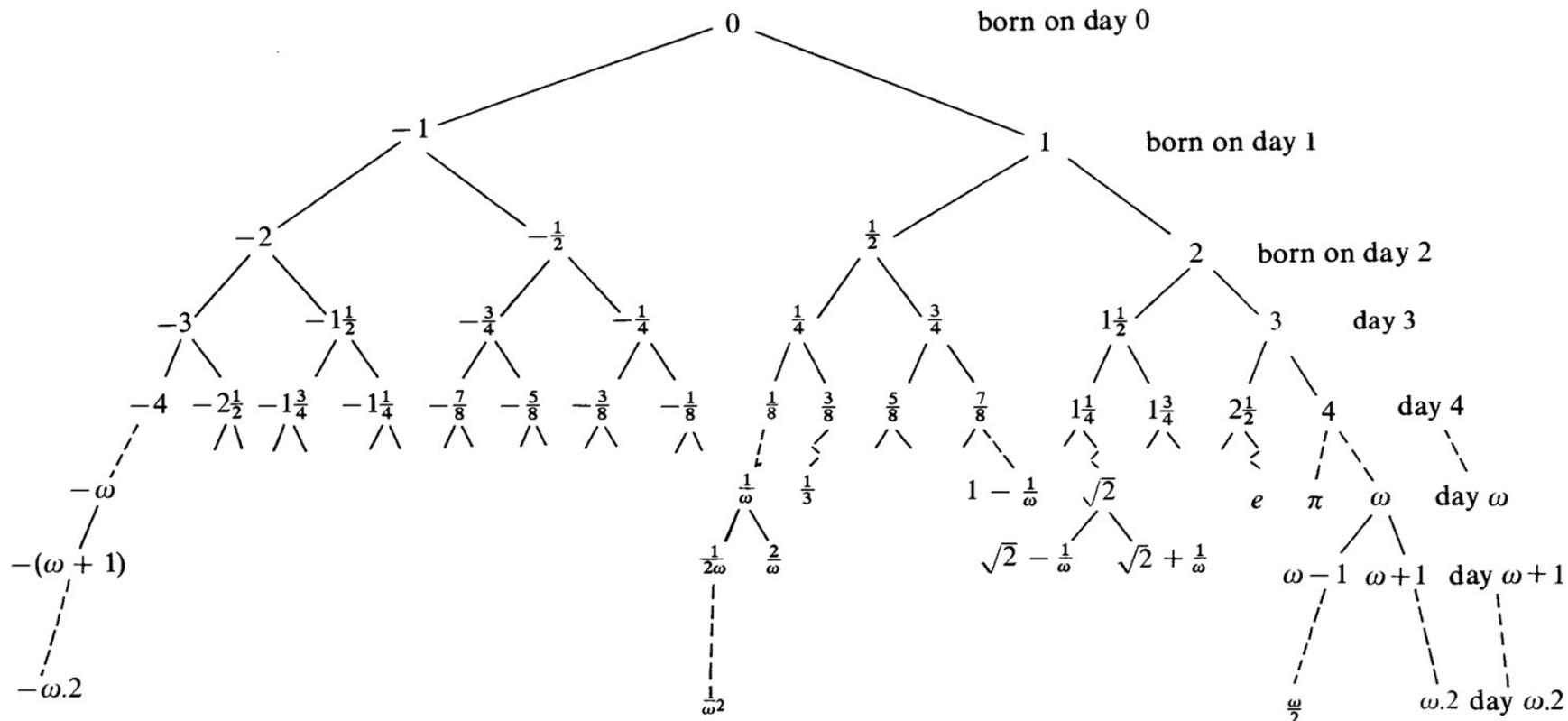
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & 0 = \{\} & \\ & \swarrow \quad \searrow & \\ -1 = \{ | 0 \} & & 1 = \{ 0 | \} \end{array}$$







# 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  $\partial_{\text{BM}}$  on  $\mathbf{No}$  with

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

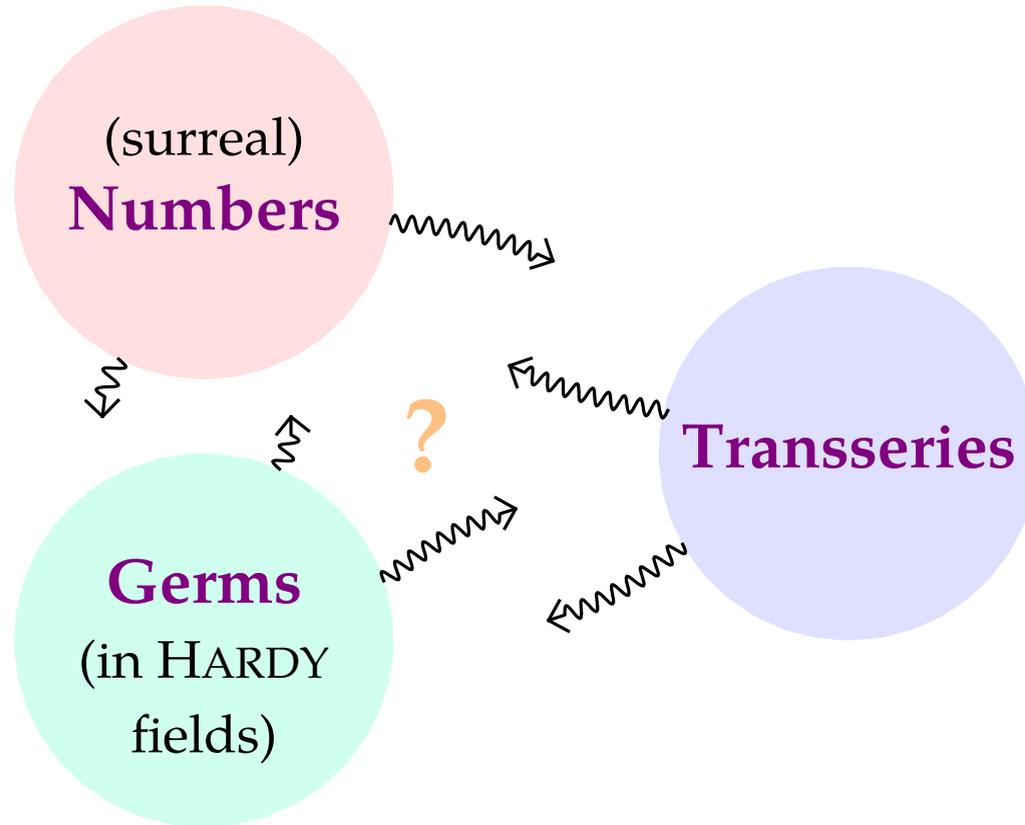
In a certain technical sense, it is the simplest such derivation that satisfies some natural further conditions.

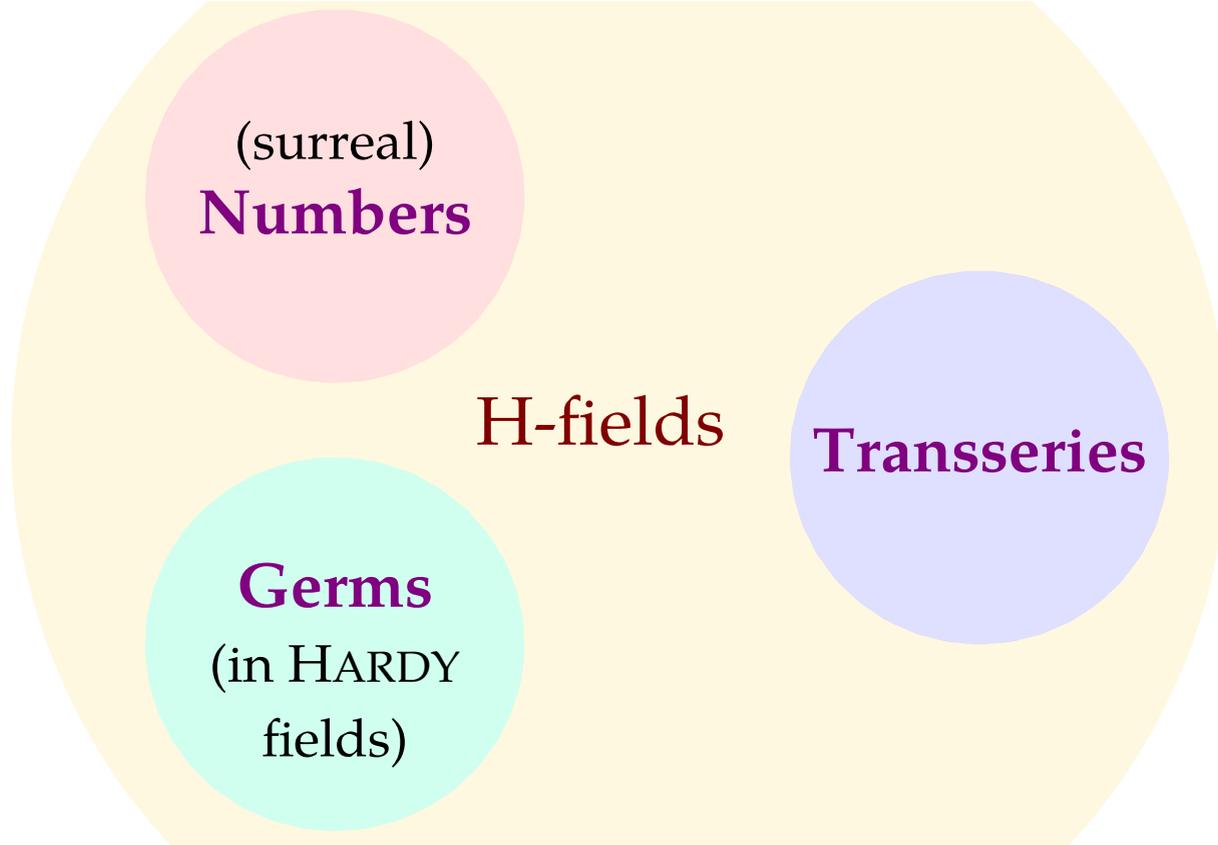
- The BM-derivation on  $\mathbf{No}$  behaves in many ways like the derivation on  $\mathbb{T}$ , with  $\omega > \mathbb{R}$  in the role of  $x > \mathbb{R}$ . For instance,  $\partial_{\text{BM}}(\log \omega) = \frac{1}{\omega}$ .

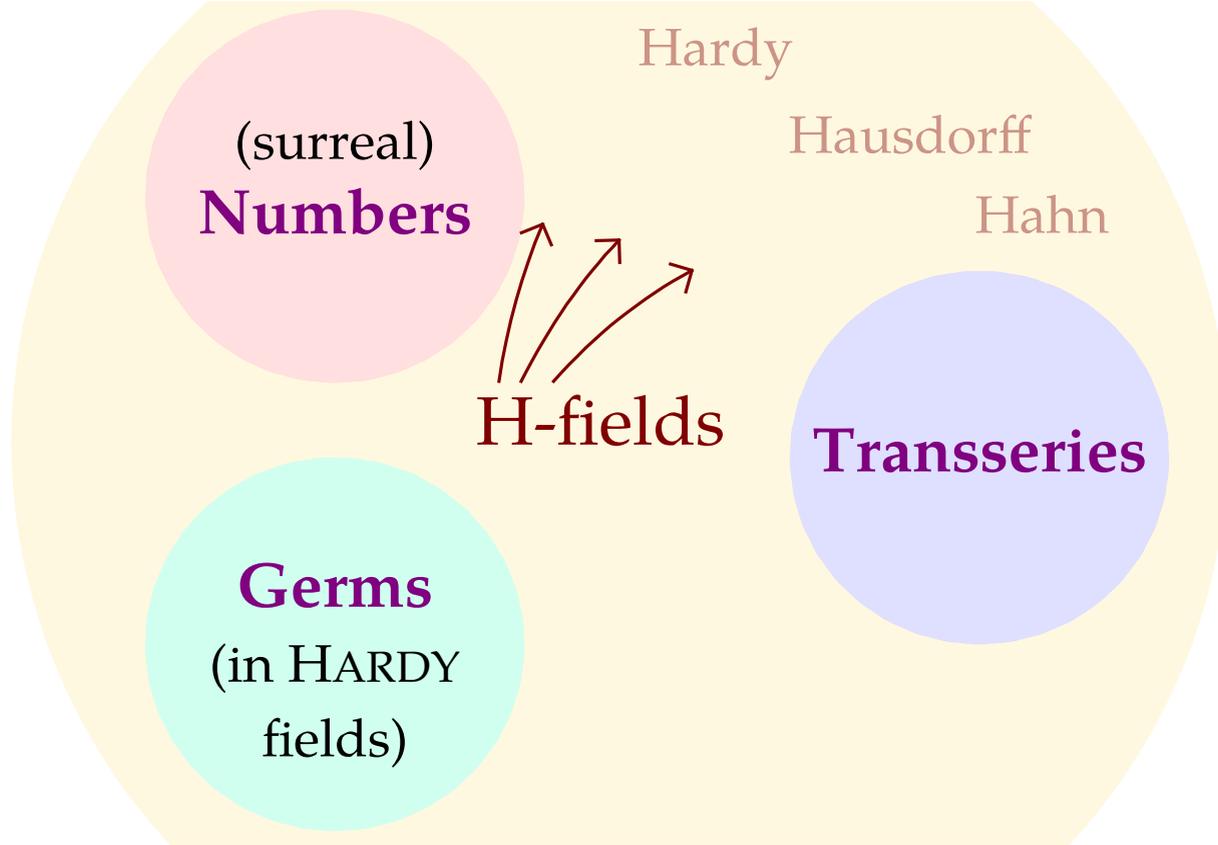
(surreal)  
**Numbers**

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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).

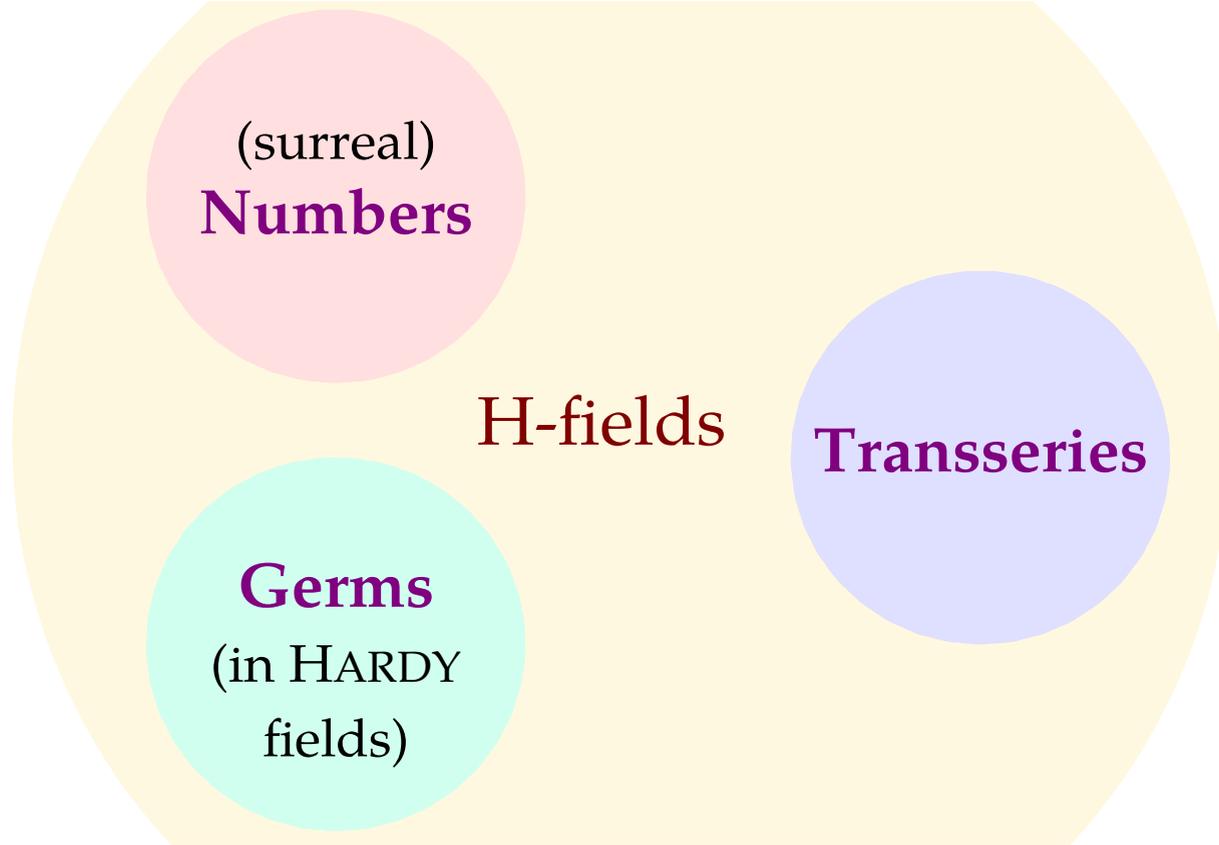
## Theorem (Ann. of Math. Stud. vol. 195 + afterthought)

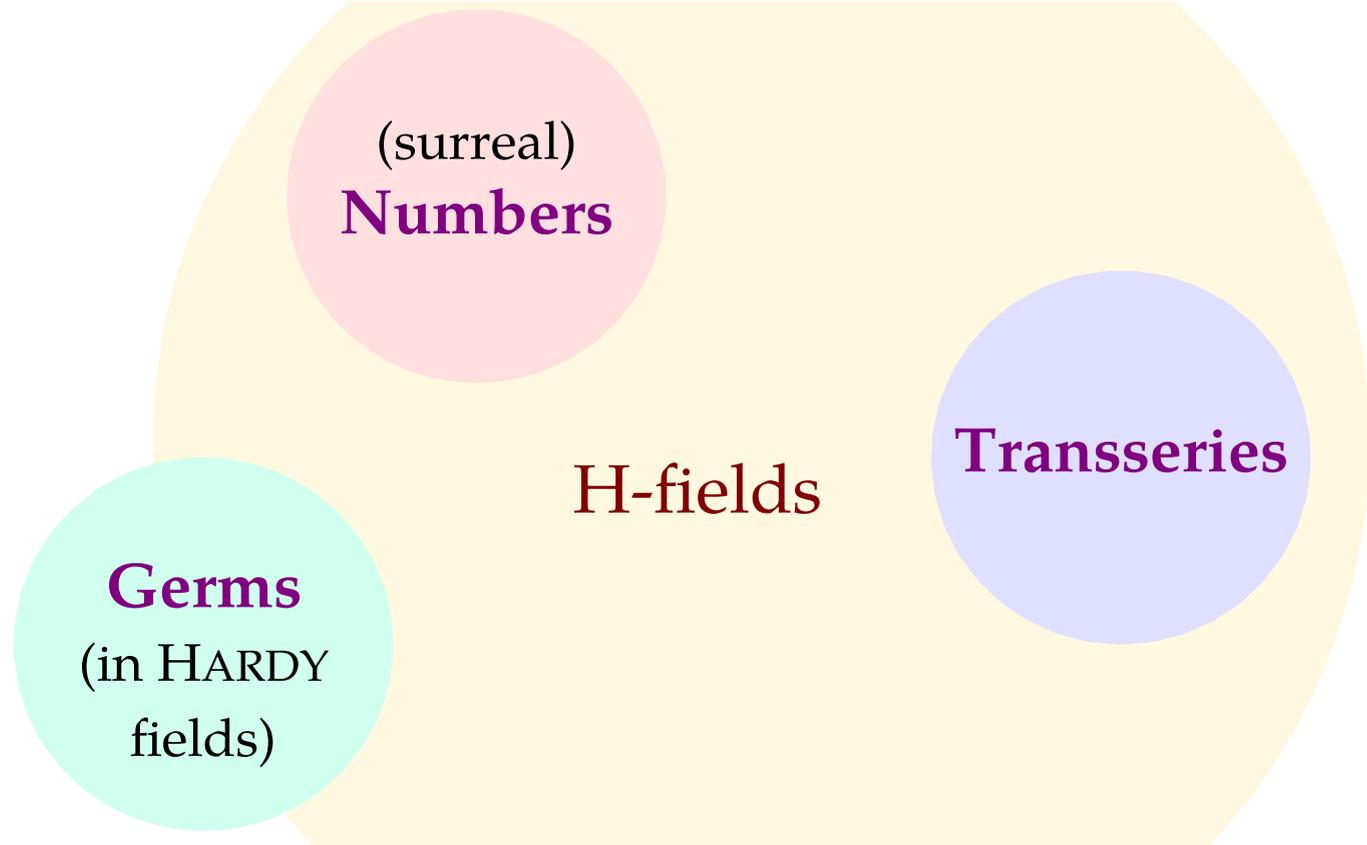
*The elementary theory of  $\mathbb{T}$  is completely axiomatized by:*

- 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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## 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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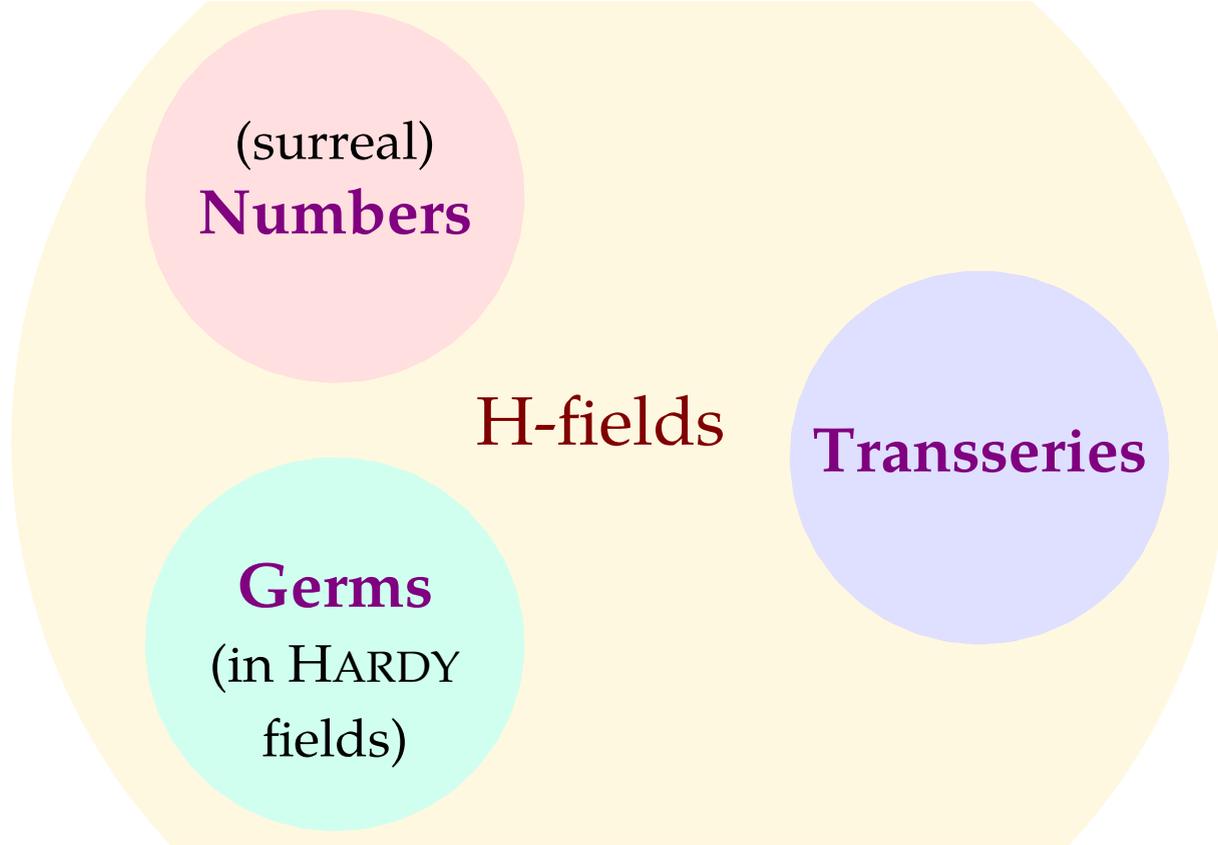
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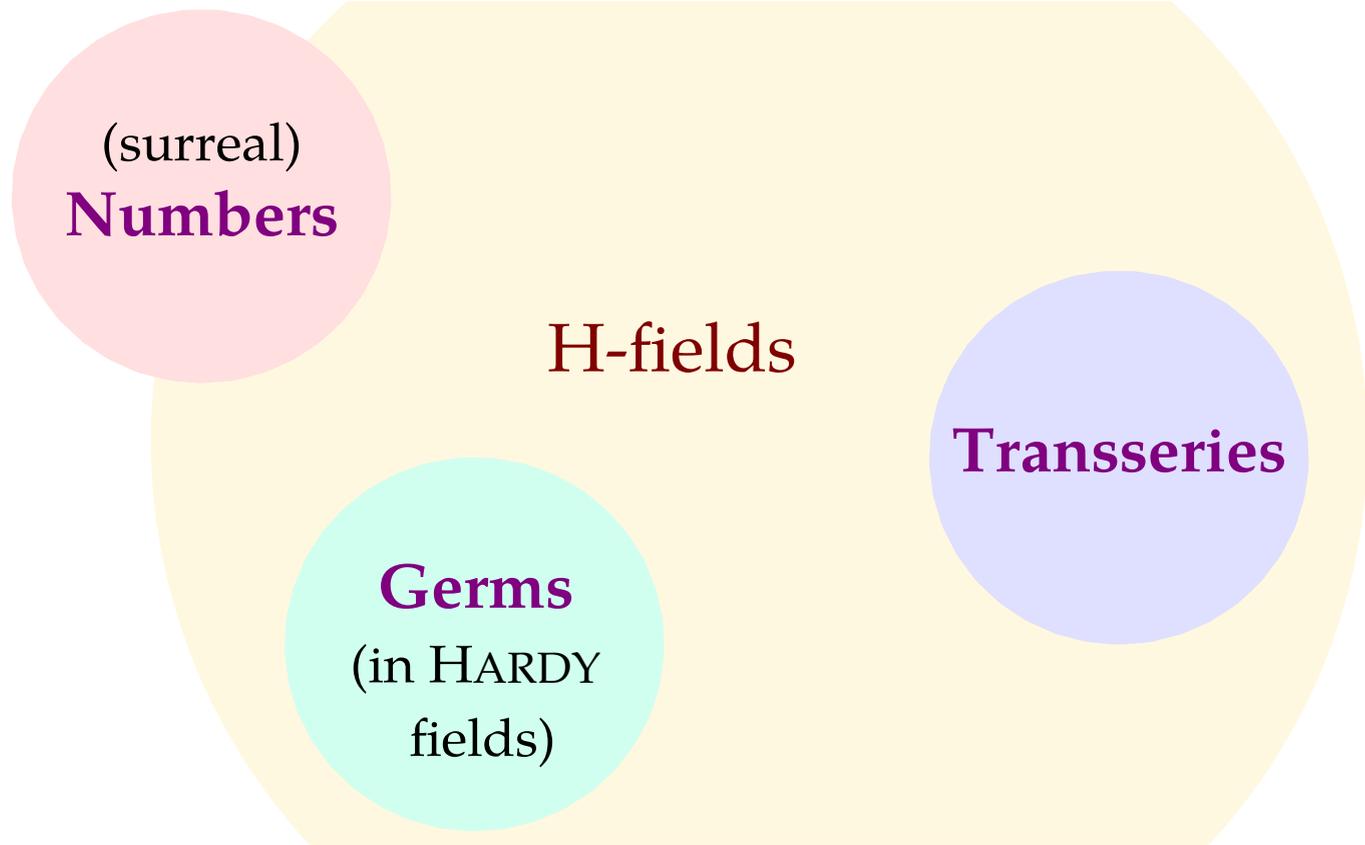
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## Corollary

- Ⓐ  $H$  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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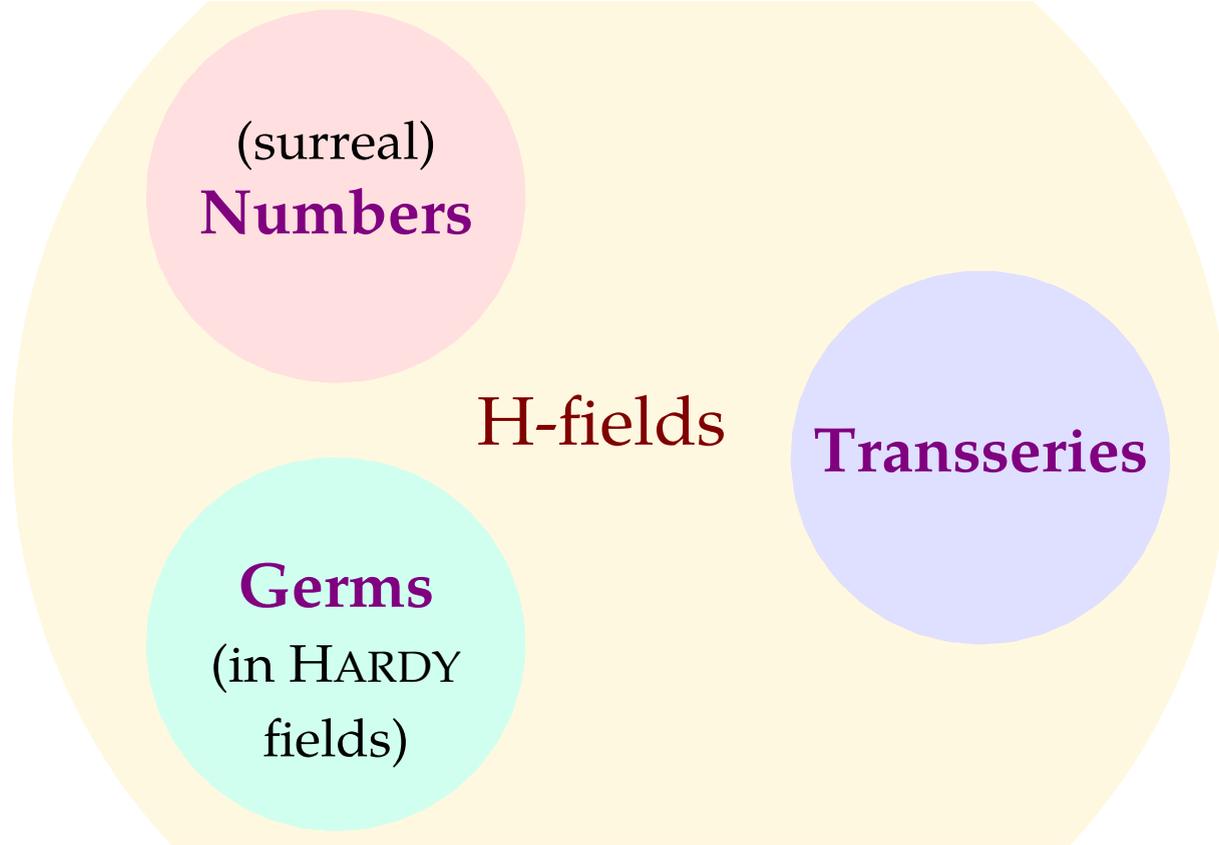
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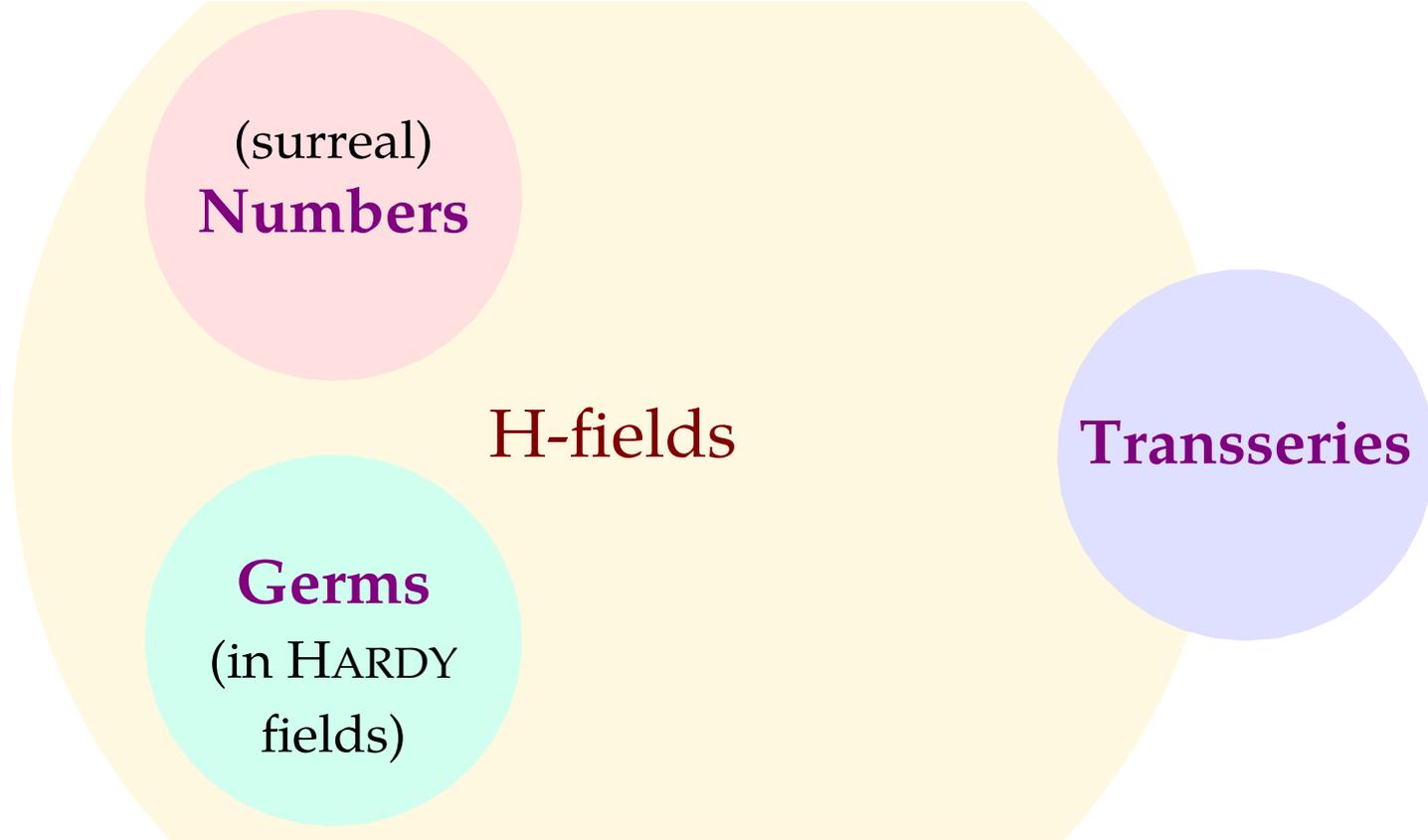
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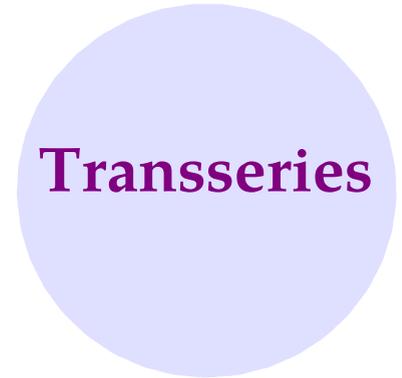
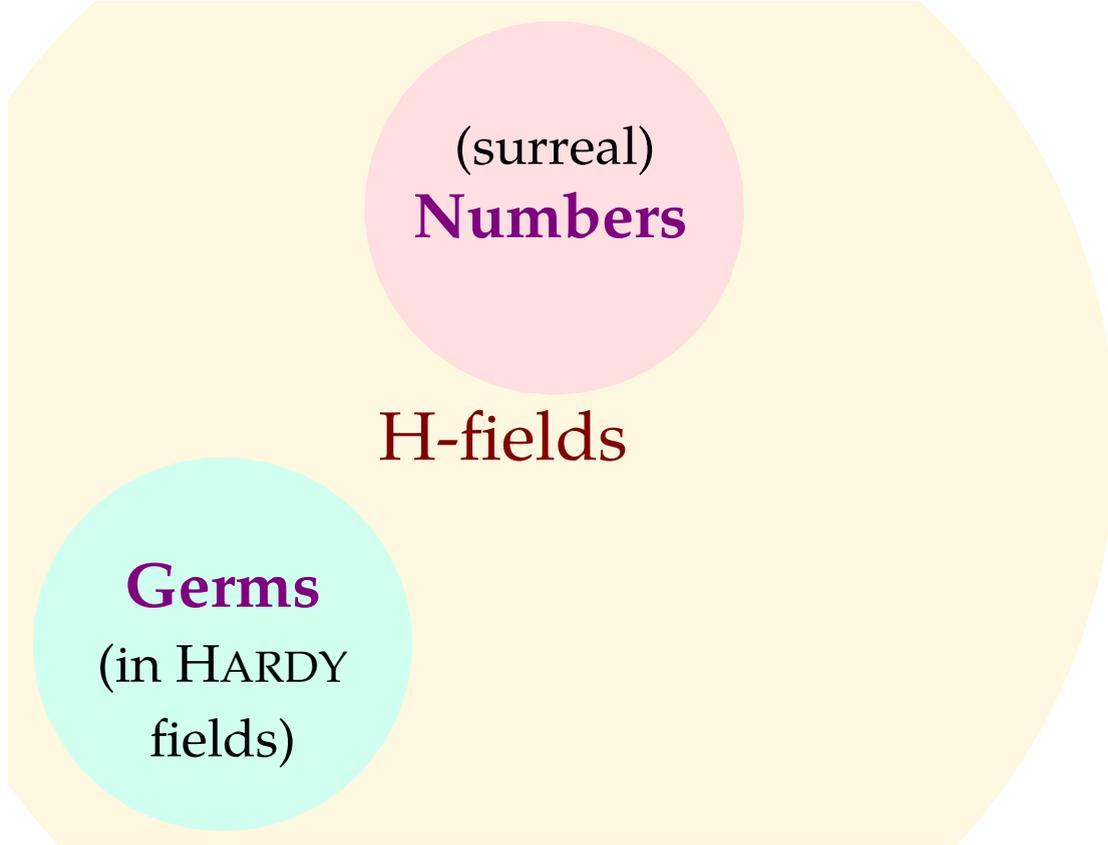
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## Corollary in progress

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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$\mathbf{No}$  is a field of transseries and  $\partial_{\text{BM}}$  is a transserial derivation.

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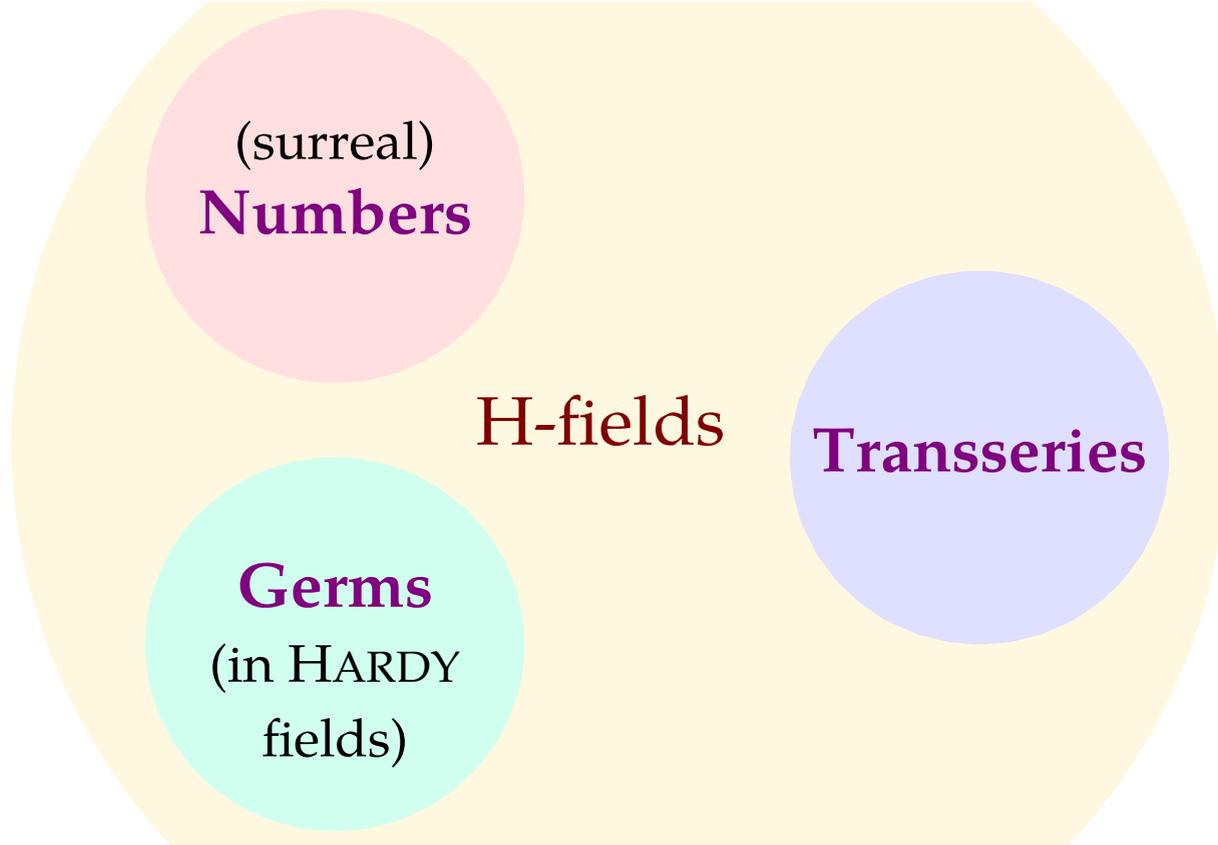
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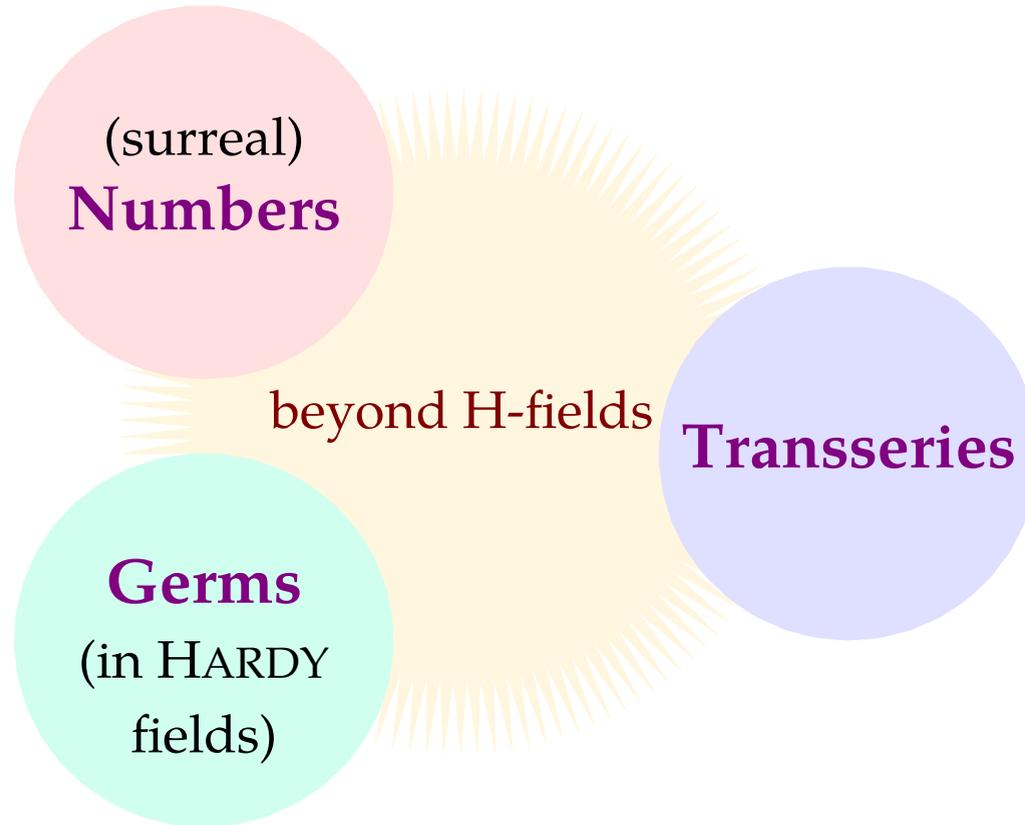
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Any  $H$ -field with constant field  $\mathbb{R}$  can be embedded in a field of transseries with a transserial derivation.





(surreal)  
**Numbers**



beyond H-fields

**Transseries**

**Germs**  
(in HARDY  
fields)

## 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

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

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## Nested hyperseries

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

$$f_0(x)$$

## Hyperlogarithms and hyperexponentials

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

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

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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

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## 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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