

Theorem The ordered field \mathbb{Q} of rational numbers is not complete.

Proof \rightarrow We have to show that the set \mathbb{Q} doesn't satisfy completeness axioms.

For this, it suffices to produce a non-empty bounded above subset of \mathbb{Q} which does not have a supremum in \mathbb{Q} .

Let us consider, the set S of all those positive rational no's whose square is less than 2, i.e.

$$S = \{x : x \in \mathbb{Q}^+, x^2 < 2\}$$

Since $1 \in S \Rightarrow S$ is non-empty

Further, S is bounded above

2 being an upper bound of S .

We note that $2^2 = 4 > 2$ and so $x \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ and $x^2 < 2 \Rightarrow x < 2$

Thus, S is a non-empty bounded above subset of \mathbb{Q} . Let if possible, \exists a real number α be a supremum of S .

Then $\alpha \geq 1$ and so $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}^+$. Now one & only one of the following cases exists —

$$\alpha^2 > 2$$

$$\alpha^2 = 2$$

$$\alpha^2 < 2$$

The case $\alpha^2 = 2$ is not possible.

Since $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

~~Prove that α^2~~

Further, if we define, $\beta = \frac{3\alpha+4}{2\alpha+3} \in \mathbb{Q}$ then,

$$\alpha - \beta = \alpha - \frac{3\alpha+4}{2\alpha+3}$$

$$\alpha - \beta = \frac{2(\alpha^2 - 2)}{2\alpha+3} \quad \text{①}$$

and

$$2 - \beta^2 = \frac{2 - (3\alpha+4)^2}{(2\alpha+3)^2}$$

$$2 - \beta^2 = \frac{2 - \alpha^2}{(2\alpha+3)^2} \quad \text{②}$$

Now if $\alpha^2 > 2$ it follows from ① & ② that —
 $\beta < \alpha$ and $\beta^2 > 2$

This shows that $\alpha \neq \text{Sup } S$

Now if $\alpha^2 < 2$ it follows from ① & ② that —
 $\alpha < \beta$ and $\beta^2 < 2$

This shows that $\alpha \neq \text{Sup } S$

Summing up the above cases we conclude that the supremum of S does not exist in \mathbb{Q} .

Hence, \mathbb{Q} is not complete.

Proved.