

Peano's Axiom or Peano's postulate

$\mathbb{N} \rightarrow$ set of natural numbers.

(P1). $1 \in \mathbb{N}$ i.e. \mathbb{N} is a non-empty set and contains an element we designate as 1.

(P2) for each element $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a unique element $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ called the successor of n .

(P3) for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n_0 \neq 1$ i.e. 1 is not the successor of any element in \mathbb{N} .

(P4) for each pair $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $n \neq m$, $n_0 \neq m_0$ i.e. distinct elements in \mathbb{N} have distinct successors.

(P5) if $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, $1 \in A$ and $p \in A$ implies $p_0 \in A$ then $A = \mathbb{N}$, where p_0 is the successor of p .

Note. (P5) is called the principle of Mathematical induction.

Well ordering principle. Every nonempty set S of nonnegative integers contains a least element, that is there is some integer a in S such that $a \leq b$ for all $b \in S$.

Theorem: Archimedean property. If a and b are any positive integers, then there exists a positive integer n such that $na > b$.

Pf. Assume that the statement of the theorem is not true, so that for some a and b , $na < b$ for every positive integer n .

Consider the set $S = \{b - na \mid n \text{ a positive integer}\}$
As $na < b$, \forall positive integer n $b - na > 0$.
Hence S consists entirely positive integers.

So by well ordering principle S contains a least element say $b - ma$ where m is ~~some~~^a positive integer.

Now m is positive integer $\Rightarrow m+1$ is also positive integer.

$\therefore b - (m+1)a \in S$ since S contains elements of the form $b - na$.

Now,

$$b - (m+1)a = (b - ma) - a < b - ma$$

$$\Rightarrow b - (m+1)a < b - ma$$

which is a contradiction because $b - ma$ is the least element of S . Hence our assumption is ~~wrong~~ that Archimedean property did not hold is wrong. Hence ~~proved~~
Hence the Archimedean property is proved.