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Practical definability in the model theory of operator algebras

One issue in applied model theory of any kind is the ability to recognize abstractly given sets as definable sets. This problem extends to the recognition of imaginaries as well. Using Beth's definability and conceptual completeness, I will give examples in the continuous setting of how these tools are used to identify definable sets. In particular, I will give several instances of the use of practical definability in the service of the model theoretic study of operator algebras.