



Math for the people, by the people.

## lowest upper bound

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Entry type	Definition
Classification	msc 06A05
Defines	least upper bound
Defines	greatest lower bound
Defines	supremum
Defines	infimum

Let  $S$  be a set with a partial ordering  $\leq$ , and let  $T$  be a subset of  $S$ . A *lowest upper bound*, or *supremum*, of  $T$  is an upper bound  $x$  of  $T$  with the property that  $x \leq y$  for every upper bound  $y$  of  $T$ . The lowest upper bound of  $T$ , when it exists, is denoted  $\sup(T)$ .

A lowest upper bound of  $T$ , when it exists, is unique.

Greatest lower bound is defined similarly: a *greatest lower bound*, or *infimum*, of  $T$  is a lower bound  $x$  of  $T$  with the property that  $x \geq y$  for every lower bound  $y$  of  $T$ . The greatest lower bound of  $T$ , when it exists, is denoted  $\inf(T)$ .

If  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  is a finite set, then the supremum of  $A$  is simply  $\max(A)$ , and the infimum of  $A$  is equal to  $\min(A)$ .