Math 140A Lecture Notes (Professor: Brandon Seward)

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January 8, 2024

Lecture 1: 1/8/2024

An order on a set S, typically denoted as $<$, is a binary relation satisfying:

1. $\forall x, y \in S$, exactly one of the following is true:
   - $x < y$
   - $x = y$
   - $y < x$
2. given $x, y, z \in S$, we have that $x < y < z \Rightarrow x < z$

As a shorthand, we will specify that

- $x > y \Leftrightarrow y < x$
- $x \leq y \Leftrightarrow x < y$ or $x = y$
- $x \geq y \Leftrightarrow x > y$ or $x = y$

An ordered set is a set with a specified ordering. Let S be an ordered set and E be a nonempty subset of S. If $b \in S$ has the property that $\forall x \in E,\ x \leq b$, then we call b an upperbound to E and say that E is bounded above by b. Similarly, if b has the property that $\forall x \in E,\ x \geq b$, then we call b an lower bound to E and say that E is bounded below by b.

We call $\beta \in S$ the least upperbound to E if β is an upper bound to E and β is the least of all upperbounds to E. In this case, we also commonly call β the supremum of E and denote it as $\sup E$.