

**Definition 1** (Supremum / Least Upper Bound). Let  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  be a non-empty set that is bounded above. A real number  $u$  is called the *supremum* (least upper bound) of  $S$ , denoted by  $\sup S$ , if

1.  $u$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , i.e.,  $s \leq u$  for all  $s \in S$ ;
2. for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $s > u - \epsilon$ .

**Definition 2** (Infimum / Greatest Lower Bound). Let  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  be a non-empty set that is bounded below. A real number  $l$  is called the *infimum* (greatest lower bound) of  $S$ , denoted by  $\inf S$ , if

1.  $l$  is a lower bound of  $S$ , i.e.,  $s \geq l$  for all  $s \in S$ ;
2. for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $s < l + \epsilon$ .

By convention,

1.  $\sup S = \infty$  (resp.  $\inf S = -\infty$ ) whenever  $S$  has no upper (resp. lower) bound.
2.  $S$  is bounded above (resp. below)  $\iff S$  has a upper (resp. lower) bound.

**Remark 1.** Every  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  is a upper bound and lower bound of  $\emptyset$ .

**Definition 3** (Dedekind cut). Let  $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . We say that  $(A, B)$  is a *Dedekind cut* of  $\mathbb{R}$  if following conditions hold:

1.  $A \neq \emptyset \neq B$ ;
2.  $A \cup B = \mathbb{R}$ ;
3.  $\forall a \in A, \forall b \in B, a < b$ .

**Property 1** (Dedekind's gapless property). If  $(A, B)$  is a Dedekind cut, then exactly one of the following happens:

1.  $\max A$  exists but  $\min B$  doesn't;
2.  $\min B$  exists but  $\max A$  doesn't.

**Exercise 1.** We may define Dedekind cuts of  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  similarly. Does the **Property 1** hold for  $\mathbb{Q}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}$ ?

**Property 2** (Least upper bound property). If  $S$  has a upper bound, then  $\sup S$  exists.

*Proof.* Let  $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $B := \{b \in \mathbb{R} \mid b \text{ is upper bound of } S\}$  and  $A := \mathbb{R} \setminus B$ . We need to show that  $\min B$  exists. First, we prove that  $(A, B)$  forms a *Dedekind cut* of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

1.  $S \neq \emptyset \implies A \neq \emptyset$ , and  $S$  has an upper bound  $\iff B \neq \emptyset$
2.  $A = \mathbb{R} \setminus B \implies A \cup B = \mathbb{R}$

3. For  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ , we need to show that  $a < b$ . Assume the contrary, that  $a \geq b$ . Hence  $a$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , i.e.,  $a \in B$  and  $a \in A \cap B = \emptyset$ . Therefore, our assumption is false, and  $a < b$ .

Hence  $(A, B)$  is a *Dedekind cut* of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Next we prove that  $\min B$  exists. Again, we assume the contrary, that  $\max A$  exists, denoted by  $a_0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 \in A &\iff a_0 \notin B \iff a_0 \text{ is not an upper bound of } S \\ &\iff \exists s_0 \in S \text{ such that } a_0 < s_0 \end{aligned}$$

Choose  $x$  such that  $a_0 < x < s_0$ . Then  $a_0 < x \iff x \in B$ , hence  $x$  is an upper bound of  $S$ , but  $x < s_0$ . Therefore, our assumption is false, and  $\min B$  exists. (Property 1)  $\square$

**Property 3** (Greatest lower bound property). If  $S$  has a lower bound, then  $\inf S$  exists.

**Exercise 2** (Archimedean property). Prove that

$$\forall r \in \mathbb{R}, r > 0 \implies \exists n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \frac{1}{n} < r$$

**Hint:** Rephrase this statement in terms of the set  $S = \mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and consider its upper bounds.

**Definition 4** (Limit of a Sequence). Let  $(a_n)$  be a sequence. We say that  $(a_n)$  *converges* to a real number  $L$ , or that  $L$  is the *limit* of  $(a_n)$ , if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a positive integer  $N$  such that  $\forall n > N$ ,

$$|a_n - L| < \varepsilon.$$

In this case, we write

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L.$$

**Exercise 3.** Prove that

1.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = M \implies L = M$
2.  $a_n$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) is convergent  $\implies \{a_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is bounded.
3. If  $a_n \leq b_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = M$ , then  $L \leq M$ .  
What if " $\leq$ " is replaced by " $<$ "?

**Remark 2.** Modifying or removing *finitely many terms* of a sequence  $(a_n)$  does not affect its convergence or divergence, nor the value of its limit if it exists.

**Proposition 1.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = M$ , then

1.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n \pm b_n) = L \pm M$ ;

$$2. \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n b_n = L \cdot M;$$

$$3. \text{ If } M \neq 0, \text{ then } b_n \neq 0 \text{ for all but finitely many } n, \text{ and } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{L}{M}.$$

*Proof.*

1. Consider  $|(a_n \pm b_n) - (L \pm M)|$ .

$$|(a_n \pm b_n) - (L \pm M)| = |(a_n - L) \pm (b_n - M)| \leq |a_n - L| + |b_n - M|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N_1, N_2 \in \mathbb{N} [n \geq N_1 \implies |a_n - L| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}] \\ \text{and } [n \geq N_2 \implies |b_n - M| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}] \end{aligned}$$

Let  $N = \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ . Then

$$n \geq N \implies |(a_n \pm b_n) - (L \pm M)| \leq |a_n - L| + |b_n - M| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon$$

□

2. Consider  $|a_n b_n - LM|$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |a_n b_n - LM| &= |a_n b_n - L b_n + L b_n - LM| \\ &\leq |a_n - L| |b_n| + |L| |b_n - M|. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $b_n \rightarrow M$ , the sequence  $(b_n)$  is bounded (By **Exercise 3**). Thus, there exists  $c > 0$  such that  $|b_n| \leq c$  and  $|L| \leq c$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Therefore,

$$|a_n b_n - LM| \leq c |a_n - L| + c |b_n - M|.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{N} [n \geq N \implies |a_n - L| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2c} \text{ and } |b_n - M| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2c}] \\ \implies |a_n b_n - LM| < c \frac{\varepsilon}{2c} + c \frac{\varepsilon}{2c} = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

□

**Exercise 4.** Prove 3. in **Proposition 1**.