

Definition 1.5.1.

Let A be a nonempty set of real numbers.

- (a) M is the maximum of A if M is in A and $x \leq M$ for all x in A .
- (b) m is the minimum of A if m is in A and $m \leq x$ for all x in A .

Definition 1.5.2

Let A be a set of real numbers.

- (a) A number M is an upper bound for A if $x \leq M$ for all x in A . We say that A is bounded above if it has an upper bound.
- (b) A number m is a lower bound for A if $x \geq m$ for all x in A . We say that A is bounded below if it has a lower bound.
- (c) A is bounded if it is bounded both above and below.

Definition 1.5.3

Let A be a nonempty set of real numbers.

- (a) α in \mathbb{R} is a least upper bound for A if α is an upper bound for A and $\alpha \leq M$ for any upper bound M of A .
- (b) B in \mathbb{R} is a greatest lower bound for A if B is a lower bound for A and $B \geq m$ for any lower bound m of A .

Theorem 1.5.4 If the set $A \neq \emptyset$ has a least upper bound, it is unique, and similarly, if A has a greatest lower bound, it is unique.

Notation: We denote the least upper bound of a set A by $\text{lub } A$, and the greatest lower bound by $\text{glb } A$, whenever they exist. we will also use lub and glb as abbreviations for the phrases "least upper bound" and "greatest lower bound" respectively.

Theorem 1.5.8. For $A \neq \emptyset$, $\text{glb } A \leq \text{lub } A$ if they both exist.

Theorem 1.5.9 If $B \subset A$, then $\text{glb } A \leq \text{glb } B \leq \text{lub } B \leq \text{lub } A$, provided all four exist.

Theorem 1.5.10.

- (a) Let α be an upper bound for A . Then $\alpha = \text{lub } A$ if and only if for any $u < \alpha$, there is an x in A with $u \leq x < \alpha$.
- (b) Let β be a lower bound for A . Then $\beta = \text{glb } A$ if and only if for any $\gamma > \beta$, there is an x in A with $\beta \leq x < \gamma$.

Least Upper Bound Axiom. Every nonempty set of real numbers that is bounded above has a least upper bound.

Corollary 1.5.11 Every nonempty set of real numbers that is bounded below has a greatest lower bound.

Theorem 1.5.12 \mathbb{N} is not bounded above.

Corollary 1.5.13 For every $\varepsilon > 0$, there is an n in \mathbb{N} with $1/n < \varepsilon$.

An equivalent result, provable in a similar way, states that if x and y are arbitrary real numbers With $x > 0$, then there is an n from \mathbb{N} With $y < nx$. This is called the Archimedean property of the real numbers. we will not need this result; its proof is left for the exercises (Problem 15).

Theorem 1.5.14 For every pair of numbers a and b with $a < b$, there is a rational number r such that $a < r < b$.

Corollary 1.5.15 Every open interval (a, b) contains infinitely many rationals.

Theorem 1.5.16 For every non-negative number a , there is a unique non-negative number b for which $b^2 = a$. (This justifies the definition of a in Section 1.3.)

Theorem 1.5.17 $\sqrt{2}$ is not rational.

Corollary 1.5.18 Every open interval (a, b) contains infinitely many irrationals.

Definition 1.5.19 Let $A \subset \mathbb{R}$

- (a) If A has no upper bound, then We say that $\text{lub } A = \infty$.
- (b) If A has no lower bound, then we say that $\text{glb } A = -\infty$
- (c) We define $\text{lub } \emptyset = -\infty$ and $\text{glb } \emptyset = \infty$.