

# Completeness

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October 24th 2017

**Problem.** 1.  $\{\frac{1}{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$

*Give 3 upper bounds for this set: 1, 2, 3*

*Give 3 lower bounds for this set: 0, -1, -2*

*Maximum: 1*

*Minimum: No Minimum*

*Supremum: 1*

*Infimum: 0*

**Problem.** 2. If  $A, B \subset \mathbb{R}$  and we define  $C = A+B = \{a+b \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$  then if  $A$  and  $B$  have suprema, then  $C$  has a supremum and  $\sup C = \sup A + \sup B$

*Proof.* let  $a_0$  and  $b_0$  denote  $\sup A$  and  $\sup B$  Then for all  $a \in A$ ,  $a \leq a_0$  and for all  $b \in B$ ,  $b \leq b_0$ . An arbitrary element in  $C$  can be written  $a+b$  for some  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ . Since  $a \leq a_0$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $b \leq b_0$  for all  $b \in B$ ,  $a+b \leq a_0+b_0$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  and  $a_0+b_0$  is an upper bound for the set  $C$ .

To show that  $a_0+b_0$  is the least upper bound for  $C$ , recall that if  $a_0+b_0$  is the least upper bound for  $C$  then for all  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists an element  $c \in C$  such that  $a_0+b_0-\epsilon < c$ , that is for some  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ ,  $a_0+b_0 < a+b+\epsilon$ , for all  $\epsilon > 0$ . Fix  $\epsilon > 0$  and rewrite as  $a_0+b_0 < (a+\frac{\epsilon}{2})+(b+\frac{\epsilon}{2})$ . It must be shown that there exist  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  for which this is true. Since  $a_0 = \sup A$  then for all  $\epsilon_1 > 0$  there exists an  $a \in A$  such that  $a+\epsilon_1 > a_0$ . Take  $\epsilon_1 = \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ , which is justified since if  $\epsilon > 0$  then  $\frac{\epsilon}{2} > 0$ . Then there exists an  $a \in A$  such that  $a+\frac{\epsilon}{2} > a_0$ . Also since  $b_0 = \sup B$ , for all  $\epsilon_2 > 0$  there exists a  $b \in B$  such that  $b+\epsilon_2 > b_0$ . Take  $\epsilon_2 = \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ , then there exists a  $b \in B$  such that  $b+\frac{\epsilon}{2} > b_0$ . Taking  $a$  and  $b$  to be these values it is clear that there exist an  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  such that  $a_0+b_0 < (a+\frac{\epsilon}{2})+(b+\frac{\epsilon}{2})$ . Rewriting the right side and recalling that  $a+b$  was an element  $c \in C$ , we see that  $a_0+b_0 < c+\epsilon$  for some  $c \in C$ . Since  $\epsilon$  was arbitrary the result holds for all  $\epsilon > 0$  proving that  $a_0+b_0 = \sup C$ , that is  $\sup A + \sup B = \sup C$ . QED

**Problem.** 3. Let  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  be a lower bound for a set  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $m$  is the greatest lower bound if and only if for all  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists an  $s \in S$  such that  $m+\epsilon > s$ .

*Proof.* First to show that if  $m$  is a lower bound for  $S$  and for all  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists an  $s \in S$  such that  $m + \epsilon > s$ , then  $m$  is the greatest lower bound for  $S$ , let  $m$  be a lower bound for  $S$  with that property. Now let  $n$  be another lower bound for  $S$  and assume for contradiction that  $n > m$ . Chose  $\epsilon = n - m$ . Since  $n > m$ ,  $n - m > 0$  and there exists an  $s \in S$  such that  $n > s$ . Then  $n$  cannot be a lower bound for  $S$  which contradicts our assumption that it was. Then if  $n$  is another lower bound for  $S$ ,  $n$  must be less than or equal to  $m$ , that is,  $m$  is the greatest lower bound for  $S$ .

To prove the other direction it must be shown that if  $m$  is the greatest lower bound for  $S$  then for all  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists an  $s \in S$  such that  $m + \epsilon > s$ . Let  $m$  be the greatest lower bound for  $S$  and fix  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $m$  is the greatest lower bound for  $S$ ,  $m + \epsilon$  cannot be a lower bound for  $S$ . Then it is false that for all  $s \in S$ ,  $s \geq m + \epsilon$ , so there exists an  $s \in S$  such that  $m + \epsilon > s$ . Since  $\epsilon$  was arbitrary that result holds for all  $\epsilon > 0$ . QED

**Problem. 4.** The statements "For all  $r \in R$  there exists an  $n \in N$  such that  $n > r$ " and "For all  $a > 0$  in  $R$  and  $b \in R$ , there exists an  $n \in N$  such that  $na > b$ " are equivalent.

*Proof.* To show that the first statement implies the second observe that any real number  $r$  can be written as  $r \cdot a \cdot \frac{1}{a}$  for any  $a > 0$ . Then for all  $r \in R$  and  $a > 0$  there exists an  $n \in N$  such that  $na > ra$ . Since the product of two real numbers is a real number and every real number can be expressed as the product of two real numbers, in other words  $ra$  is a real number whenever  $r$  is real and  $a$  is real and greater than 0, and there is no real number which cannot be expressed in this form. Then it is justifiable to let  $b = ra$  and say for all  $b \in R$  and  $a > 0$  in  $R$  there exists an  $n \in N$  such that  $na > b$  as required.

To prove the other direction fix  $a > 0$  and  $b \in R$ . Since there exists an  $n \in N$  such that  $na > b$ , let  $n$  be that particular  $n$ . Then  $n > \frac{b}{a}$ . The sets  $\{\frac{b}{a} \mid b \in R, a > 0\}$  and  $\{r \mid r \in R\}$  are exactly equal so every  $\frac{b}{a}$  corresponds to exactly one  $r$  and there are no  $r \in R$  that cannot be written  $\frac{b}{a}$  for some  $b \in R$  and  $a > 0$ . So for all  $r \in R$  there exists an  $n \in N$  such that  $n > r$ . QED