

MTH 447: Lecture 4

Cliff Sun

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\mathbb{Q} has holes. Completeness axiom for \mathbb{R} .

Definition 0.1. Let S be a non-empty set of numbers. If $\exists M \in S$ s.t. for any $x \in S$, if

$$x \leq M \tag{1}$$

Then we say that M is the maximum of S . Similarly, $\exists m \in S$ s.t.

$$m \leq x \tag{2}$$

Then m is the minimum of S . Note that m, M must be in S .

Definition 0.2. Let S be a set of numbers. Then if $\exists M \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$x \leq M \tag{3}$$

For all $x \in S$, we say that M is an upper bound for S . If S has an upper bound, then we say that S is bounded above.

Definition 0.3. S is bounded if bounded above and bounded below.

We want to define a minimum of out of all upper bounds.

Definition 0.4. Let S be bounded above. If there is a least upper bound, then we call this the supremum of S .

Given S bounded above:

$$U = \{ \text{all upper bounds of } S \} \tag{4}$$

Then

$$\sup S = \min U \tag{5}$$

Definition 0.5. Let S be bounded below, then if there is a greatest lower bound, then we call that the infimum of S . Denoted as $\inf S$.

Definition 0.6. BIG AXIOM (Completeness axiom of real numbers): If S is a set of real numbers, bounded above. Then $\sup S$ exists and is a real number.

Let's say that S is not bounded above, then we say that $\sup S = +\infty$.