

SUPREMA AND CONSEQUENCES §1.9

DEFINITION: Let S be a set of real numbers. A number ℓ is the **supremum** of S provided

- ℓ is an upper bound of S and
- if b is any upper bound of S , then $\ell \leq b$.

THEOREM 6.3: For every real number r , there is a natural number n such that $n > r$.

COROLLARY 6.4 (ARCHIMEDEAN PRINCIPLE): For every positive real number a and every real number b , there is some natural number n such that $na > b$.

THEOREM 6.5 (DENSITY OF RATIONAL NUMBERS): For any real numbers x, y with $x < y$, there is some rational number q such that $x < q < y$.

- (1) Use the Archimedean Principle to show that for any positive number $\varepsilon > 0$, there is a natural number n such that $\frac{1}{n} < \varepsilon$.
- (2) Prove that the supremum of the set $S = \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$ is 1.
- (3) Prove the following:

COROLLARY 7.1 (DENSITY OF IRRATIONAL NUMBERS): For any real numbers x, y with $x < y$, there is some irrational number z such that $x < z < y$.

- (4) Let S be a set of real numbers, and suppose that $\sup(S) = \ell$. Let $T = \{s + 7 \mid s \in S\}$. Prove that $\sup(T) = \ell + 7$.