

Let S be a set of real numbers.

- A number b is an **upper bound** for S provided for all $x \in S$ we have $b \geq x$.
- The set S is **bounded above** provided there exists at least one upper bound for S .
- A number m is the **maximum** of S provided
 - (1) $m \in S$, and
 - (2) m is an upper bound of S .
- A number ℓ is a **supremum** of S provided
 - (1) ℓ is an upper bound of S , and
 - (2) for any upper bound b for S , we have $\ell \leq b$.

- (1) Write, in simplified form, the negation of the statement “ b is an upper bound for S ”.
- (2) Write, in simplified form, the negation of the statement “ S is bounded above”.
- (3) Let S be a set of real numbers and suppose that $\ell = \sup(S)$.
 - (a) If $x > \ell$, what is the most concrete thing you can say about x and S ?
 - (b) If $x < \ell$, what is the most concrete thing¹ you can say about x and S ?
- (4) Let $S = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x^3 + x < 5\}$. Use the definition of supremum to answer the following:
 - (a) Is 1 the supremum of S ? Why or why not?
 - (b) Is 2 the supremum of S ? Why or why not?
- (5) Consider the open interval $(0, 1) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid 0 < x < 1\}$.
 - (a) Prove² that $(0, 1)$ has no maximum element.
 - (b) Prove that $\sup((0, 1)) = 1$.
- (6) Let S be a set of real numbers, and let³ $T = \{2s \mid s \in S\}$. Prove⁴ that if S is bounded above, then T is bounded above.
- (7) Let S be a set of real numbers. Show that if S has a supremum, then it is unique.

¹Hint: Use one of the previous problems.

²Hint: Try a proof by contradiction!

³For example, if $S = \{-1, 1, 2\}$, then $T = \{-2, 2, 4\}$.

⁴First, before all else, this is an if then statement: start by assuming the “if” part. We now need to show the “then” part, which is about the existence of an upper bound. Use your assumption about S to find an upper bound for T (and prove that it is indeed an upper bound for T).

WELL-ORDERING AXIOM: Every nonempty subset of \mathbb{N} has a minimum.

COMPLETENESS AXIOM: Every nonempty bounded above set of real numbers has a supremum.

(1) Prove the following:

THEOREM: For every⁵ real number r , there exists a unique integer n such that $n - 1 \leq r < n$.

(2) Prove the following:

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

⁵Hint: First deal with the case $r \geq 0$.