



LEAST UPPER BOUNDS

Why

Definition

Let A be a set and let \leq be an order¹ on A .

An *upper bound* for $B \subset A$ is an element $a \in A$ so that $b \leq a$ for all $b \in B$. A set is *bounded from above* if it has a least upper bound. A *least upper bound* for B is an element $c \in A$ so that c is an upper bound and $c < a$ for all other upper bounds a .

Proposition 1. *If there is a least upper bound it is unique.*²

We call the unique least upper bound of a set (if it exists) the *supremum*.

Properties

We denote the supremum of a set $B \subset A$ by $\sup A$.

¹To be defined in future editions, but understood in the usual way.
See Natural Order or Integer Order or Rational Order etc.

²Proof in future editions.

