Let S be a bounded above subset of \mathbb{R} , then there exists $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, denoted by sup(S) satisfying one of the following equivalent conditions:

- 1. if $\gamma < \alpha$, then γ is not an upper bound
- 2. if γ is an upper bound of S, then $\gamma \geq \alpha$
- 3. if $\delta < \alpha$, then there exists $s \in S$, such that $\delta < S \le \alpha$
- 4. for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $s \in S$ such that $x \epsilon < S \le \alpha$

Similar for bounded below and inf(S).