

1. Let A and B be bounded subsets of real numbers. Suppose that $A + B = \{a + b : a \in A, b \in B\}$.
(i) Prove that $\sup(A + B) = \sup(A) + \sup(B)$. (ii) If $C = \{a + b : a^2 < 2, b < 5\}$, then find $\sup(C)$.

Solution: (i) The proof is easy. Note that $a + b \leq \sup(A) + \sup(B)$ for all $a \in A, b \in B$. Hence, $\sup(A + B) \leq \sup(A) + \sup(B)$. To get the other inequality, we have that $a + b \leq \sup(A + B)$. Keep a fixed. Then $a + \sup(B) \leq \sup(A + B)$. Now, vary a . We get the result. (ii) The above works for unbounded sets too. Take A to be the interval $(-\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2})$ and $B = (-\infty, 5)$. Hence the required result is $\sqrt{2} + 5$.

□

2. Consider the sequence (y_n) given by $y_{n+1} = \sqrt{1 + 2y_n}$ with $y_1 = 1$. Prove that (y_n) converges and find the limit.

Solution: Note that the given sequence is strictly positive. Also, $y_n \geq 1$ for all n , and $y_n \leq 1 + \sqrt{2}$ which can be seen by induction on n . Moreover, by induction again on n , we see that the sequence is monotonically increasing. Thus the limit exists and is given by the positive root of $x^2 = 1 + 2x$.

□

3. Decide with justification whether the following are true. (i) Let (x_n) be a bounded sequence of real numbers M be the supremum of (x_n) . Then there exists a subsequence (x_{n_k}) converging to M . (ii) There is no ordering of the complex field \mathbb{C} such that it becomes an ordered complex field. (iii) Let (x_n) and (y_n) be Cauchy sequences and $y_n > 0$ for all n . Then (x_n/y_n) is Cauchy.

Solution: (i) This is not true; e.g. $1, 1/2, 1/3, \dots$. Every subsequence goes to 0, whereas the supremum is 1. (ii) The ordering should be compatible with the field operations. So, assume that $i > 0$. Then $i^2 > 0$, ie. $-1 > 0$. This together with $i > 0$ gives $-i > 0$. This is a contradiction. (iii) This is not true, eg, $x_n = 1, y_n = 1/n, n \geq 1$. Then $x_n/y_n = n$ goes to ∞ . Hence it cannot be Cauchy.

□