

Lemma 3.5.4 If S is a nonempty closed and bounded subset of $\mathbb{R}$, then S has a maximum and a minimum element.
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Proof Let S be a bounded subset of $\mathbb{R}$. Then, S is both bounded above and bounded below. ~~Let~~ First assume that S is bounded above. Since S is nonempty and bounded above by completeness axiom (see page 126) $\sup(S)$ exists in $\mathbb{R}$. Let $m = \sup(S)$. If m is an accumulation point of S , then since S is closed, we have $m \in S$ i.e. $m = \max(S)$. Suppose that m is not an accumulation point of S . We will still show that $m = \max(S)$. ~~Assume~~ ~~we will show it by contradiction.~~ ~~Since~~ Assume that $m \notin S$. Again, m is not an accumulation point of S , and so $\exists$ an $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$N(m; \varepsilon) \cap S = \emptyset \quad [\text{as } N^*(m; \varepsilon) \cap S = \emptyset \text{ and } m \notin S]$$
$$\Rightarrow (m - \varepsilon, m + \varepsilon) \cap S = \emptyset$$

i.e. ~~$m \notin S$~~ i.e. there does not exist any $y \in S$ such that $m - \varepsilon < y \leq m + \varepsilon$ i.e. all $y \in S$, we have $y \leq m - \varepsilon$ i.e. $m - \varepsilon$ is an upper bound of S which contradicts the fact that $m = \sup(S)$.

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Hence, we can assume that

$m \in S$, ~~ie. $m = \sup(S)$~~ Since $m = \sup(S)$

and $m \in S$, we have $m = \max(S)$,
ie. S has a maximum element.

Similarly, we can show that ~~S is~~ as
 S is also bounded below, if

$m = \inf(S)$, then $m = \min \in S$

~~and m~~ ie. m is the minimum
element in S .

Thus, the proof is complete.
