

Exercise Problem Sets 2

Sept. 23, 2022

Problem 1. Complete the following.

1. Verify the Wallis's formula: if n is a non-negative integer, then

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n+1} x \, dx = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^{2n+1} x \, dx = \frac{(2^n n!)^2}{(2n+1)!}$$

and

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n} x \, dx = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^{2n} x \, dx = \frac{(2n)!}{(2^n n!)^2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

2. Let $I_n = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^n x \, dx$. Show that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{I_{2n+1}}{I_{2n}} = 1$.

3. Let $s_n = \frac{n!}{n^{n+0.5} e^{-n}}$. Show that $\{s_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is a decreasing sequence; that is, $s_n \geq s_{n+1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

4. Suppose that you know that \mathbb{R} satisfies **MSP**. Then explain why the limit $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$ exists. Find the limit of $\{s_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$.

Hint:

2. Show that $I_{2n+2} \leq I_{2n+1} \leq I_{2n}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and then apply the Sandwich lemma.

3. Consider the function $f(x) = \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^{x+0.5}$.

Proof. 1. Integrating by parts, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^n x \, dx &= -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x \Big|_{x=0}^{x=\frac{\pi}{2}} + (n-1) \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{n-2} x \cos^2 x \, dx \\ &= (n-1) \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{n-2} x (1 - \sin^2 x) \, dx \\ &= (n-1) \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{n-2} x \, dx - (n-1) \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^n x \, dx; \end{aligned}$$

thus

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^n x \, dx = \frac{n-1}{n} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{n-2} x \, dx.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n+1} x \, dx &= \frac{2n}{2n+1} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n-1} x \, dx = \frac{2n}{2n+1} \cdot \frac{2n-2}{2n-1} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n-3} x \, dx = \dots \\ &= \frac{2n}{2n+1} \cdot \frac{2n-2}{2n-1} \cdot \frac{2n-4}{2n-3} \cdots \frac{2}{3} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin x \, dx = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{5} \cdots \frac{2n}{2n+1} \\ &= \frac{2^2 4^2 \cdots (2n)^2}{(2n+1)!} = \frac{(2^n n!)^2}{(2n+1)!} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n} x \, dx &= \frac{2n-1}{2n} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n-2} x \, dx = \frac{2n-1}{2n} \cdot \frac{2n-3}{2n-2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^{2n-4} x \, dx = \dots \\ &= \frac{2n-1}{2n} \cdot \frac{2n-3}{2n-2} \cdot \frac{2n-5}{2n-4} \cdots \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^0 x \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdots \frac{2n-1}{2n} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \\ &= \frac{(2n)!}{2^2 4^2 \cdots (2n)^2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{(2n)!}{(2^n n!)^2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

2. On the interval $[0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$, $0 \leq \sin x \leq 1$; thus

$$\sin^{2n+2} x \leq \sin^{2n+1} x \leq \sin^{2n} x \quad \forall x \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}].$$

Therefore, $I_{2n+2} \leq I_{2n+1} \leq I_{2n}$ so that

$$\frac{I_{2n+2}}{I_{2n}} \leq \frac{I_{2n+1}}{I_{2n}} \leq 1 \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Since $\frac{I_{2n+2}}{I_{2n}} = \frac{2n+1}{2(n+1)}$, the Sandwich Lemma implies that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{I_{2n+1}}{I_{2n}} = 1.$$

3. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+0.5} = e$ and $\frac{s_n}{s_{n+1}} = \frac{\frac{n!}{n^{n+0.5} e^{-n}}}{\frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1)^{n+1.5} e^{-n-1}}} = \frac{1}{e} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+0.5}$, it suffices to show

that the function $f(x) \equiv \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^{x+0.5}$ is decreasing on $[1, \infty)$. Nevertheless, this is the same as proving that the function $g(x) \equiv (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{2}}$ is increasing on $(0, 1]$.

Differentiate g , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} g'(x) &= g(x) \frac{[\ln(1+x) + \frac{2+x}{1+x}]2x - 2(2+x)\ln(1+x)}{4x^2} \\ &= \frac{2x + x^2 - 2(1+x)\ln(1+x)}{2x^2(1+x)}. \end{aligned}$$

To see the sign of the denominator $h(x) = 2x + x^2 - 2(1+x)\ln(1+x)$ on $(0, 1]$, we differentiate h and find that

$$h'(x) = 2 + 2x - 2\ln(1+x) - 2 = 2[x - \ln(1+x)]$$

and one more differentiation shows that

$$h''(x) = 1 - \frac{1}{1+x} = \frac{x}{1+x} > 0 \quad \forall x \in (0, 1].$$

Therefore, h' is increasing on $(0, 1]$ which implies that $h'(x) \geq h'(0) = 0$ for all $x \in (0, 1]$. This further implies that $h(x) \geq h(0) = 0$ for all $x \in (0, 1]$; thus $g'(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in (0, 1]$.

4. Since $\{s_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is a decreasing sequence and is bounded from below. By the monotone sequence property, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s$ exists. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{I_{2n+1}}{I_{2n}} &= \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{(2^n n!)^4}{(2n)!(2n+1)!} = \frac{2^{4n+1}}{\pi} \frac{s_n^4}{s_{2n}s_{2n+1}} \frac{(n^{n+0.5}e^{-n})^4}{(2n)^{2n+0.5}e^{-2n}(2n+1)^{2n+1.5}e^{-(2n+1)}} \\ &= \frac{e}{2\pi} \frac{s_n^4}{s_{2n}s_{2n+1}} \frac{(2n)^{2n+1.5}}{(2n+1)^{2n+1.5}} = \frac{e}{2\pi} \frac{s_n^4}{s_{2n}s_{2n+1}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right)^{-2n-1.5}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, 2 implies that

$$1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{I_{2n+1}}{I_{2n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e}{2\pi} \frac{s_n^4}{s_{2n}s_{2n+1}} \frac{(2n)^{2n+1.5}}{(2n+1)^{2n+1.5}} = \frac{e}{2\pi} s^2 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right)^{-2n-1.5} = \frac{s^2}{2\pi};$$

thus $s = \sqrt{2\pi}$ (since $s_n \geq 0$). □

Problem 2. Let $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot, \leq)$ be an Archimedean ordered field, and $0 < \alpha < 1$. Show that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha^n = 0$.

Proof. Since $0 < \alpha < 1$, we have $\frac{1}{\alpha} > 1$; thus by the fact that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$ (which is from Archimedean property), there exists $p > 0$ such that

$$1 + \frac{1}{p} < \frac{1}{\alpha}.$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{1}{\alpha^p} > \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right)^p \geq 1 + C_1^p \frac{1}{p} = 2$$

which implies that

$$0 < \alpha^p < \frac{1}{2}.$$

By the fact that $2^n \geq n$ for all $n \geq \mathbb{N}$ (which can be shown by induction), we find from the Sandwich Lemma that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha^{pn} = 0.$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. The identity above shows the existence of $N_1 > 0$ such that $|\alpha^{pn}| < \varepsilon$ whenever $n \geq N_1$. Let $N = pN_1$. Then if $n \geq N$,

$$|\alpha^n| \leq |\alpha^{pN_1}| < \varepsilon.$$

Therefore, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha^n = 0$. □

Problem 3. Let $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot, \leq)$ an ordered field satisfying the monotone sequence property, and $y \in \mathbb{F}$ satisfying $y > 1$. Complete the following.

1. Define $y^{1/n}$ properly. (Hint: see how we define \sqrt{y} in the last example in class).
2. Show that $y^n - 1 > n(y - 1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$; thus $y - 1 > n(y^{1/n} - 1)$.
3. Show that if $t > 1$ and $n > (y - 1)/(t - 1)$, then $y^{1/n} < t$.
4. Show that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y^{1/n} = 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. 1. For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let N_k be the largest integer satisfying that $(\frac{N_k}{2^k})^n \leq y$ but $(\frac{N_k + 1}{2^k})^n > y$ (the existence of such an N_k requires the Archimedean property, why?) Define $x_k = \frac{N_k}{2^k}$. Then

(a) By binomial expansion, for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$x_k^n \leq y < 1 + C_1^n y + C_2^n y^2 + \cdots + C_n^n y^n = (1 + y)^n;$$

thus Problem 2 in Exercise 1 implies that $x_k < 1 + y$. Therefore, $\{x_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ is bounded from above.

(b) For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $(\frac{2N_k}{2^{k+1}})^n = (\frac{N_k}{2^k})^n \leq y$; thus $N_{k+1} \geq 2N_k$. Therefore, for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$x_k = \frac{N_k}{2^k} = \frac{2N_k}{2^{k+1}} \leq \frac{N_{k+1}}{2^{k+1}} = x_{k+1}$$

which shows that $\{x_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ is increasing.

Therefore, **MSP** implies that $\{x_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ converges. Assume that $x_k \rightarrow x$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ for some $x \in \mathbb{F}$. Then the fact that $x_k^n \leq y$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ implies that $x^n \leq y$. On the other hand,

$$\left(x_k + \frac{1}{2^k}\right)^n \geq y \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N};$$

thus **AP** (a consequence of **MSP**) implies that

$$x^n = \left(\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} x_k + \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k}\right)^n = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(x_k + \frac{1}{2^k}\right)^n \geq y.$$

Therefore, $x^n = y$. Problem 2 then shows that there is only one $x > 0$ satisfying $x^n = y$. This x will be denoted by $y^{\frac{1}{n}}$.

2. For $y > 1$, let $z = y - 1$. Then $z > 0$ so that for $n > 1$, the binomial expansion shows that

$$\begin{aligned} y^n - 1 &= (1 + z)^n - 1 = 1 + C_1^n z + C_2^n z^2 + \cdots + C_n^n z^n - 1 = C_1^n z + C_2^n z^2 + \cdots + C_n^n z^n \\ &> nz = n(y - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, replacing y by $y^{\frac{1}{n}}$ in the inequality above, we conclude that

$$y - 1 > n(y^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}.$$

3. Suppose that $y^{\frac{1}{n}} \geq t > 1$. Then 2 implies that for $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$,

$$y - 1 > n(y^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1) \geq n(t - 1).$$

Therefore, $n \leq \frac{y - 1}{t - 1}$, a contradiction.

4. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $t = 1 + \frac{1}{k}$ in 3. Then for $n > k(y - 1)$,

$$1 \leq y^{\frac{1}{n}} < 1 + \frac{1}{k}.$$

Since $n \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, by the Sandwich Lemma we conclude that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$. □

Problem 4. Let $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot, \leq)$ be an ordered field satisfying the least upper bound property, and $S \subseteq \mathbb{F}$ be non-empty.

1. Show that if S is bounded from below, then

$$\inf S = \sup \{x \in \mathbb{F} \mid x \text{ is a lower bound for } S\}$$

2. Show that if S is bounded from above, then

$$\sup S = \inf \{x \in \mathbb{F} \mid x \text{ is an upper bound for } S\}.$$

Proof. Define $A = \{x \in \mathbb{F} \mid x \text{ is a lower bound for } S\}$. Since S is non-empty, every element in S is an upper bound for A ; thus A is bounded from above. By the least upper bound property, $b = \sup A \in \mathbb{F}$ exists. Note that by the definition of A ,

$$\text{if } x \in A, \text{ then } x \leq s \text{ for all } s \in S. \quad (\star)$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. Then $b - \varepsilon$ is not an upper bound for A ; thus there exists $x \in A$ such that $b - \varepsilon < x$. Then (\star) implies that $b - \varepsilon < s$ for all $s \in S$. Since $\varepsilon > 0$ is given arbitrarily, $b \leq s$ for all $s \in S$; thus b is a lower bound for S .

Suppose that b is not the greatest lower bound for S . There exists $m > b$ such that $m \leq s$ for all $s \in S$. Therefore, $m \in A$; thus $m \leq b$, a contradiction. \square

Problem 5. Let A, B be two sets, and $f : A \times B \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ be a function, where $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot, \leq)$ is an ordered field satisfying the least upper bound property. Show that

$$\sup_{(x,y) \in A \times B} f(x, y) = \sup_{y \in B} \left(\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \right) = \sup_{x \in A} \left(\sup_{y \in B} f(x, y) \right).$$

Proof. Note that

$$f(x, y) \leq \sup_{(x,y) \in A \times B} f(x, y) \quad \forall (x, y) \in A \times B;$$

thus

$$\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \leq \sup_{(x,y) \in A \times B} f(x, y) \quad \forall y \in B.$$

The inequality above further shows that

$$\sup_{y \in B} \left(\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \right) \leq \sup_{(x,y) \in A \times B} f(x, y). \quad (\star)$$

Now we show the reverse inequality.

1. Suppose that $\sup_{(x,y) \in A \times B} f(x, y) = M < \infty$. Then for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $(x_k, y_k) \in A \times B$ such that

$$f(x_k, y_k) > M - \frac{1}{k}.$$

Therefore,

$$M - \frac{1}{k} < f(x_k, y_k) \leq \sup_{x \in A} f(x, y_k)$$

which further implies that

$$M - \frac{1}{k} < f(x_k, y_k) \leq \sup_{y \in B} \left(\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \right).$$

Since the inequality above holds for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we find that $\sup_{y \in B} \left(\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \right) \geq M$.

2. Suppose that $\sup_{(x,y) \in A \times B} f(x, y) = \infty$. Then for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $(x_k, y_k) \in A \times B$ such that

$$f(x_k, y_k) > k.$$

Therefore,

$$k < f(x_k, y_k) \leq \sup_{x \in A} f(x, y_k)$$

which further implies that

$$k < f(x_k, y_k) \leq \sup_{y \in B} \left(\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \right).$$

Since the inequality above holds for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we find that $\sup_{y \in B} \left(\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \right) = \infty$.

With the help of (\star) , we conclude that $\sup_{(x,y) \in A \times B} f(x, y) = \sup_{y \in B} \left(\sup_{x \in A} f(x, y) \right)$. □

Problem 6. Let $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot, \leq)$ be an ordered field satisfying the least upper bound property, and $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$. Define

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| \quad \text{and} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty = \max \{|x_1|, |x_2|, \dots, |x_n|\}.$$

Show that

$$1. \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \sup \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k \mid \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = 1 \right\}. \quad 2. \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = \sup \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k \mid \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = 1 \right\}.$$

Proof. Let $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}^n$ be given. Then

$$\sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k \leq \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| |y_k| \leq \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| = \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty \|\mathbf{x}\|_1.$$

Therefore,

$$\sup \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k \mid \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = 1 \right\} \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sup \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k \mid \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = 1 \right\} \leq \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty.$$

Next we show that the two inequalities are in fact equalities by showing that the right-hand side of the inequalities belongs to the sets (this is because if $b \in A$ is an upper bound for A , then b is the least upper bound for A).

1. $\sup \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k \mid \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = 1 \right\} = \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$: W.L.O.G. we can assume that $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$. For a given $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$, define $y_k \in \mathbb{F}$ by

$$y_k = \begin{cases} \frac{\overline{x_k}}{|x_k|} & \text{if } x_k \neq 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } x_k = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $\overline{x_k}$ denotes the complex conjugate of x_k . Then $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ satisfies $\|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = 1$ (since at least one component of \mathbf{x} is non-zero), and

$$\sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k = \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| = \|\mathbf{x}\|_1.$$

2. $\sup \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k \mid \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = 1 \right\} = \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty$: W.L.O.G. we can assume that $\mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$. Suppose that $\|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = |y_m| \neq 0$ for some $1 \leq m \leq n$; that is, the maximum of the absolute value of components occurs at the m -th component. Define $x_j \in \mathbb{F}$ by

$$x_j = \begin{cases} \frac{\overline{y_m}}{|y_m|} & \text{if } j = m, \\ 0 & \text{if } j \neq m, \end{cases}$$

where $\overline{y_m}$ is the complex conjugate of y_m . Then $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ satisfies $\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = 1$ (since only one component of \mathbf{x} is non-zero), and

$$\sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k = \frac{\overline{y_m}}{|y_m|} y_m = |y_m| = \|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty. \quad \square$$

Problem 7. Let $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot, \leq)$ be an ordered field satisfying the least upper bound property, and A, B be non-empty subsets of \mathbb{F} . Define $A + B = \{x + y \mid x \in A, y \in B\}$. Justify if the following statements are true or false by providing a proof for the true statement and giving a counter-example for the false ones.

1. $\sup(A + B) = \sup A + \sup B$.
2. $\inf(A + B) = \inf A + \inf B$.
3. $\sup(A \cap B) \leq \min\{\sup A, \sup B\}$.
4. $\sup(A \cap B) = \min\{\sup A, \sup B\}$.
5. $\sup(A \cup B) \geq \max\{\sup A, \sup B\}$.
6. $\sup(A \cup B) = \max\{\sup A, \sup B\}$.

Proof. 1. Let $a = \sup A$, $b = \sup B$, and $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. W.L.O.G. we can assume that $a, b \in \mathbb{F}$ for otherwise $a = \infty$ or $b = \infty$ so that $A + B$ is not bounded from above.

(a) Let $z \in A + B$. Then $z = x + y$ for some $x \in A$ and $y \in B$. By the fact that $x \leq a$ and $y \leq b$, we find that $z \leq a + b$. Therefore, $a + b$ is an upper bound for $A + B$.

(b) There exists $x \in A$ and $y \in B$ such that $x > a - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ and $y > b - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$; thus there exists $z = x + y \in A + B$ such that

$$z = x + y > a + b - \varepsilon.$$

Therefore, $a + b = \sup(A + B)$.

2. By Problem 1,

$$\begin{aligned}\inf(A + B) &= -\sup(-(A + B)) = -\sup(-A + (-B)) = -\sup(-A) - \sup(-B) \\ &= \inf(A) + \inf(B).\end{aligned}$$

3. The desired inequality hold if $A \cap B = \emptyset$ (since then $\sup A \cap B = -\infty$), so we assume that $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$. Then $A \cap B \subseteq A$ and $A \cap B \subseteq B$. Therefore,

$$\sup(A \cap B) \leq \sup A \quad \text{and} \quad \sup(A \cap B) \leq \sup B.$$

The inequalities above then implies that $\sup(A \cap B) \leq \min\{\sup A, \sup B\}$.

4. If A and B are non-empty bounded sets but $A \cap B = \emptyset$, then $\sup(A \cap B) = -\infty$ but $\sup A, \sup B \in \mathbb{F}$. In such a case $\sup(A \cap B) \neq \min\{\sup A, \sup B\}$.

5. Similar to 3, we have $A \subseteq A \cup B$ and $B \subseteq A \cup B$; thus

$$\sup A \leq \sup(A \cup B) \quad \text{and} \quad \sup B \leq \sup(A \cup B).$$

Therefore, $\max\{\sup A, \sup B\} \leq \sup(A \cup B)$.

6. If one of A and B is not bounded from above, then $\sup(A \cup B) = \max\{\sup A, \sup B\} = \infty$. Suppose that A and B are bounded from above. Then $A \cup B$ are bounded from above by $\max\{\sup A, \sup B\}$ since if $x \in A \cup B$, then $x \in A$ or $x \in B$ which implies that $x \leq \sup A$ or $x \leq \sup B$; thus $x \leq \max\{\sup A, \sup B\}$ for all $x \in A \cup B$. This shows that

$$\sup(A \cup B) \leq \max\{\sup A, \sup B\}.$$

Together with 5, we conclude that $\sup(A \cup B) = \max\{\sup A, \sup B\}$. □