

By the least upper bound axiom, the  $\sup$  exists since the given set has  $b$  as an upper bound, and is nonempty since  $a$  belongs to it. Now by continuity of  $f$ ,  $f(\sup(\{x \in [a, b] : f(x) \leq \gamma\}))$  cannot be  $< \gamma$ , otherwise you can find  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $f(\sup(\{x \in [a, b] : f(x) \leq \gamma\}) + \epsilon) \leq \gamma$ , which contradicts the definition of the  $\sup$ . It cannot be  $> \gamma$  either (why?). This solves the question.

Remember that usually the previous theorem is proved by saying that the continuous image of a connected space is connected.