

Absolute Value (or Modulus) of a real number

The absolute value (or modulus) of a real number x is denoted by $|x|$ and defined by —

$$|x| = \begin{cases} x, & x \geq 0 \\ -x, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

Properties of absolute value of real numbers

If $x, y \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow$

- ① $|x| \geq 0$; $|x|^2 = x^2$
- ② $|-x| = |x|$
- ③ $|x| = \max\{x, -x\}$
- ④ $-|x| = \min\{x, -x\}$
- ⑤ $|x \cdot y| = |x| \cdot |y|$
- ⑥ $\left| \frac{x}{y} \right| = \frac{|x|}{|y|}$ provided $y \neq 0$
- ⑦ $|x + y| \leq |x| + |y|$
- ⑧ $|x - y| \leq |x| + |y|$
- ⑨ $|x - y| \geq |x| - |y|$
- ⑩ $|x - y| \geq | |x| - |y| |$
- ⑪ $|x| < \epsilon \Leftrightarrow -\epsilon < x < \epsilon$
 $\Leftrightarrow x \in (-\epsilon, \epsilon)$
- ⑫ $|x - a| < \epsilon \Leftrightarrow a - \epsilon < x < a + \epsilon$
 $\Leftrightarrow x \in (a - \epsilon, a + \epsilon)$
- ⑬ If $x = y \Rightarrow |x| = |y|$
but converse need not be true.
Ex $\rightarrow |2| = |3|$ but $-3 \neq 2$

Bounded and Unbounded Set:-

A subset 'S' of \mathbb{R} is said to be bounded above if \exists a real number 'K' such that every element of S is less than or equal to K i.e.

$$x \leq K \quad \forall x \in S$$

The number 'K' in this case is called an upper bound of S.

A subset 'S' of \mathbb{R} is said to be bounded below if \exists a real number 'k' such that every element of S is greater than or equal to k i.e.

$$x \geq k \quad \forall x \in S$$

The number 'k' in this case is called a lower bound of S.

A subset S of \mathbb{R} is said to be bounded if it is bounded above as well as bounded below. Thus, S is bounded if \exists real numbers k & K s.t. —

$$k \leq x \leq K \quad \forall x \in S$$

Equivalently, a subset S of \mathbb{R} is bounded if \exists a real number $K \geq 0$ s.t. —

$$|x| \leq K \quad \forall x \in S$$

A subset S of \mathbb{R} is said to be unbounded if it is not bounded.