


CALCULUS

Absolute value and distance

absolute value of x
Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

absolute value of x

Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$



e.g.: $|5| = 5$ ■

absolute value of x
Definition: $\boxed{x}_{-5} := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

e.g.: $|-5| = -(-5) = 5$ ■

SKILL
comp abs val

absolute value of x
 Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

e.g.: $|0| = 0$

SKILL
 comp abs val

$x \mapsto -3$
 $\sqrt{x^2} = x?$ NO

$\sqrt{(-3)^2} = -3?$ NO

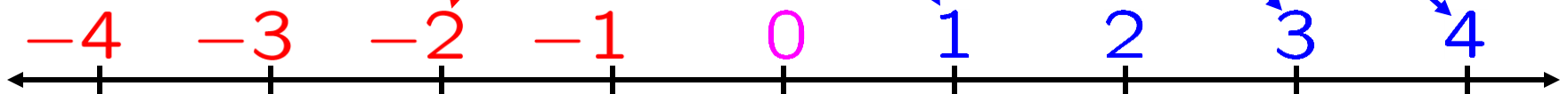
Fact: $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$

absolute value of x
 Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

distance from 1 to 4 is: $|4 - 1|$
 distance from -2 to 3 is: $|3 - (-2)|$

distance from 3 to 2 is: $|2 - 3| < 0$
 NOT ??

distance from a to b is: $|b - a|$
 $a \rightarrow 3$ $b \rightarrow 2$ NOT ??



absolute value of x
 Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

$$|x| = |x - 0| = \text{dist}(x, 0)$$

$$|x| \leq r \iff -r \leq x \leq r$$

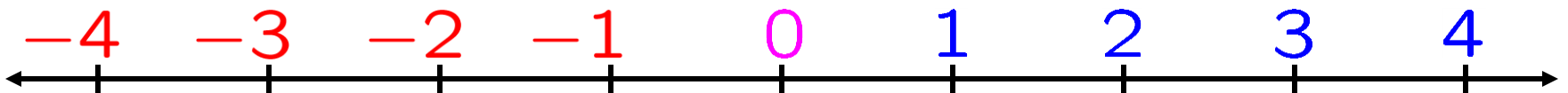
$$|x - a| = \text{dist}(x, a)$$

$$|x - a| \leq r \iff a - r \leq x \leq a + r$$

distance from a to b is: $|b - a|$

||

$$\boxed{\text{dist}(a, b)}$$



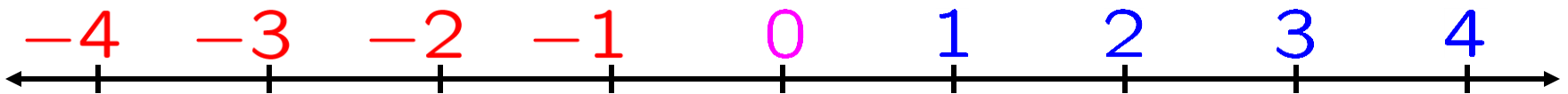
absolute value of x
 Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

strict ineq.: $|x - a| < r \iff a - r < x < a + r$
 $|x - a| \leq r \iff a - r \leq x \leq a + r$

distance from a to b is: $|b - a|$

∥

$\text{dist}(a, b)$



absolute value of x
 Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

$$|x - a| < r \iff a - r < x < a + r$$

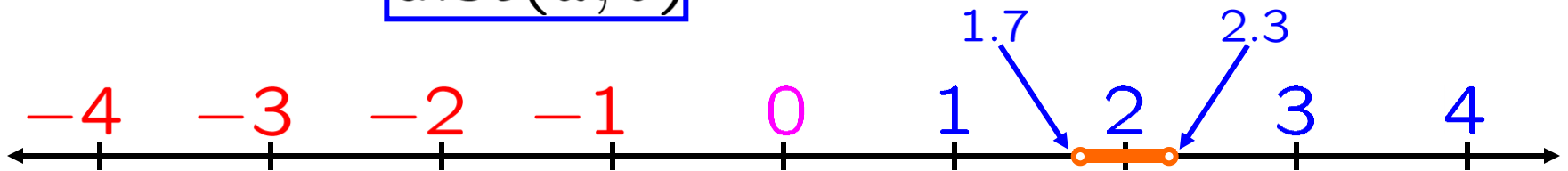
$$|x - a| \leq r \iff a - r \leq x \leq a + r$$

distance from a to b is: $|b - a|$

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$\text{dist}(a, b)$

SKILL
 graph abs val
 inequality



Exercise: Graph $|x - 2| < 0.3 \iff x \in (1.7, 2.3)$

absolute value of x
 Definition: $|x| := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

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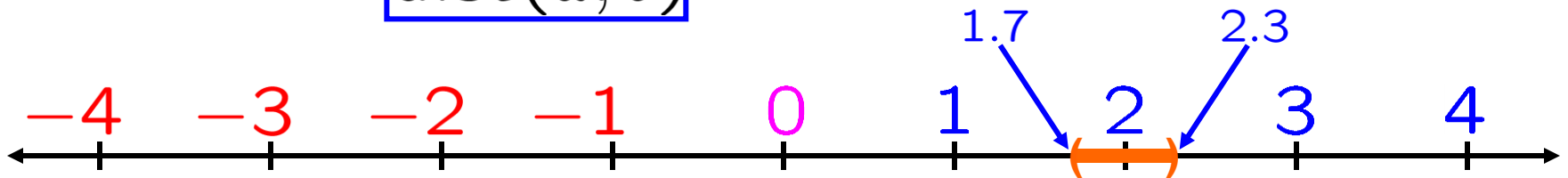
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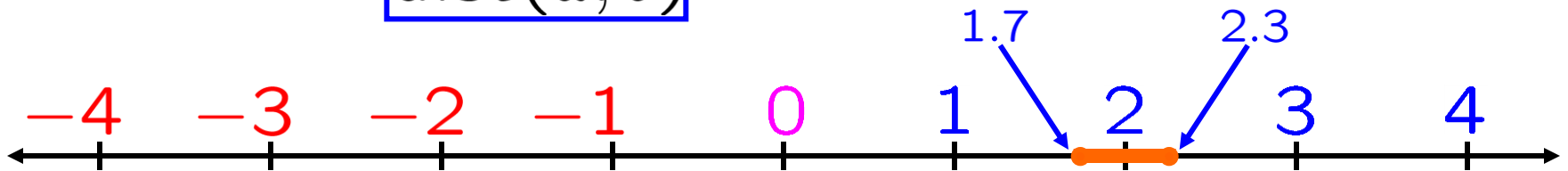
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$\text{dist}(a, b)$

SKILL
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Exercise: Graph $|x - 2| \leq 0.3 \iff x \in [1.7, 2.3]$

absolute value of x
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$$|x - a| < r \iff a - r < x < a + r$$

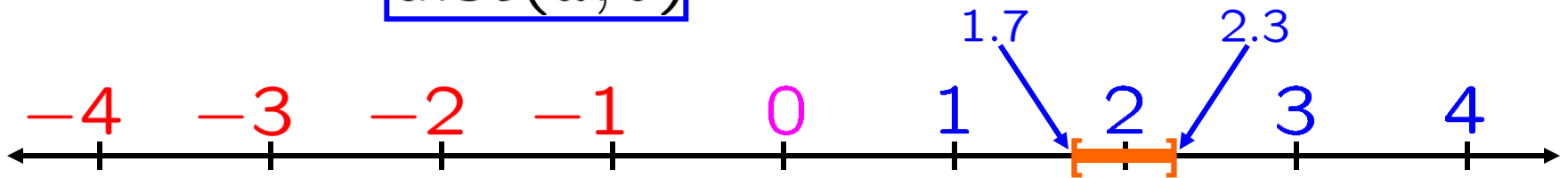
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∥

$\text{dist}(a, b)$

SKILL
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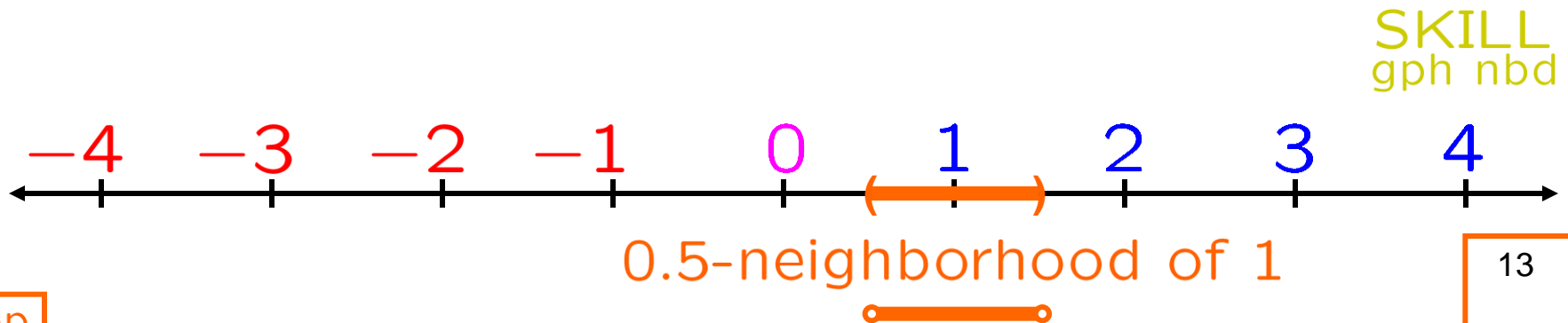
Exercise: Graph $|x - 2| \leq 0.3. \iff x \in [1.7, 2.3]$

Exercises:

Graph $|x - 1| < 0.5$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.5, 1.5)$

$$|x - a| < r \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad a - r < x < a + r$$

$$|x - a| \leq r \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad a - r \leq x \leq a + r$$



Exercises:

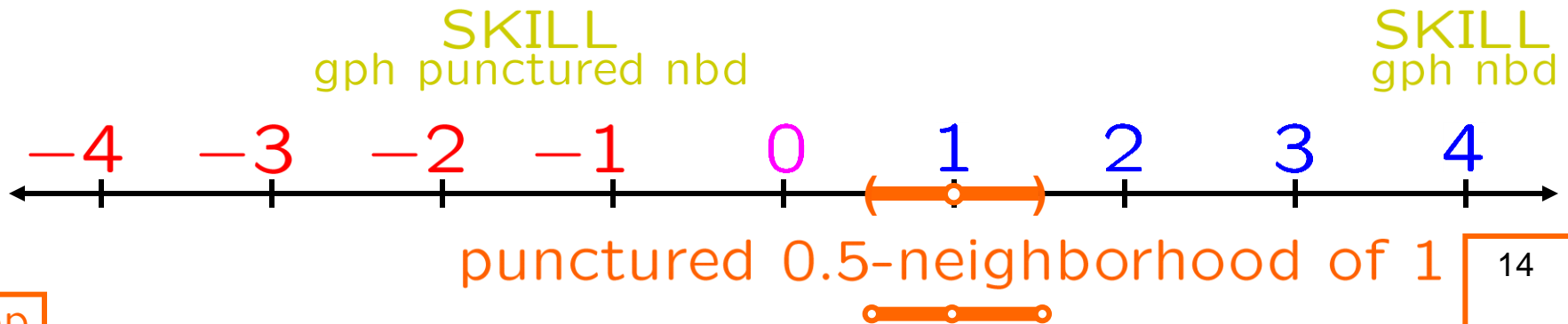
Graph $|x - 1| < 0.5$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.5, 1.5)$

Graph $0 < |x - 1| < 0.5$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.5, 1.5) \setminus \{1\}$

set-theoretic subtraction

$$|x - a| < r \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad a - r < x < a + r$$

$$|x - a| \leq r \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad a - r \leq x \leq a + r$$

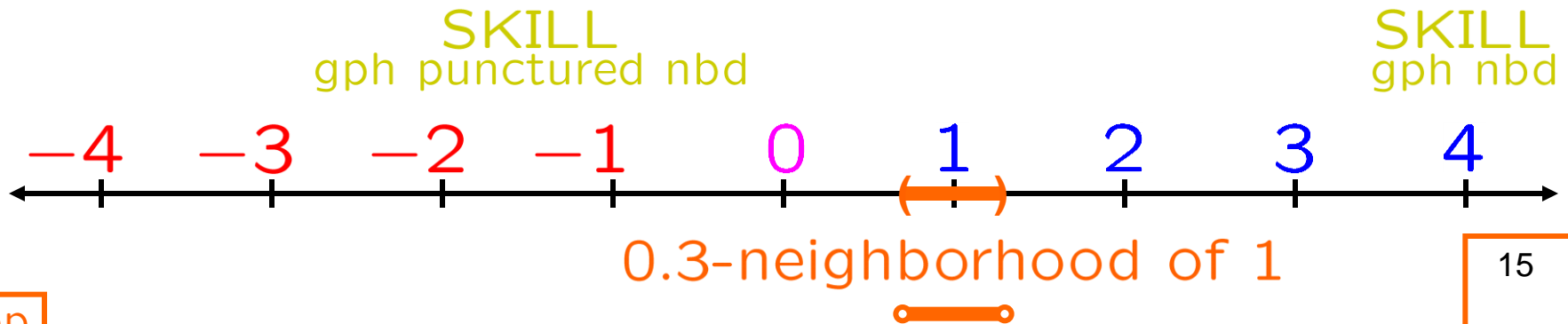


Exercises:

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Graph $|x - 1| < 0.3$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.7, 1.3)$



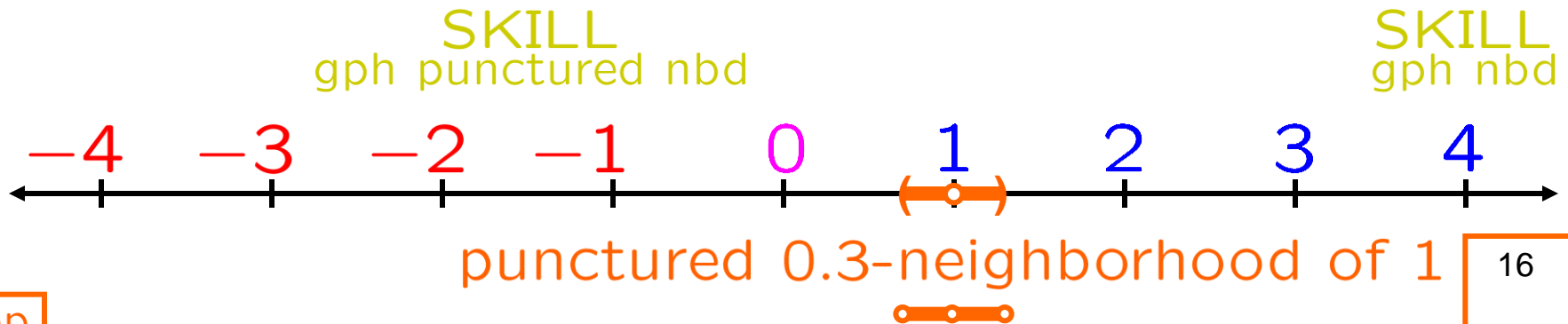
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Exercises:

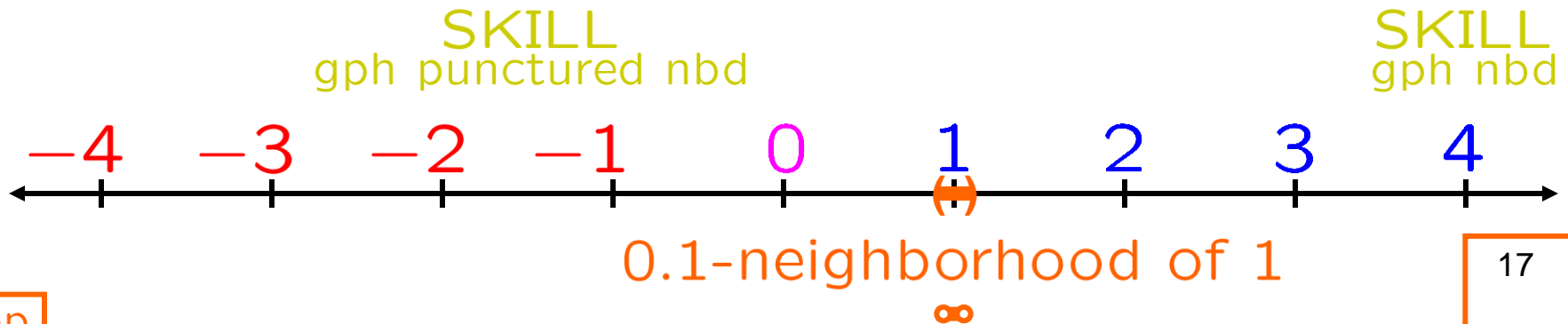
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Graph $0 < |x - 1| < 0.3$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.7, 1.3) \setminus \{1\}$

Graph $|x - 1| < 0.1$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.9, 1.1)$



Exercises:

Graph $|x - 1| < 0.5$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.5, 1.5)$

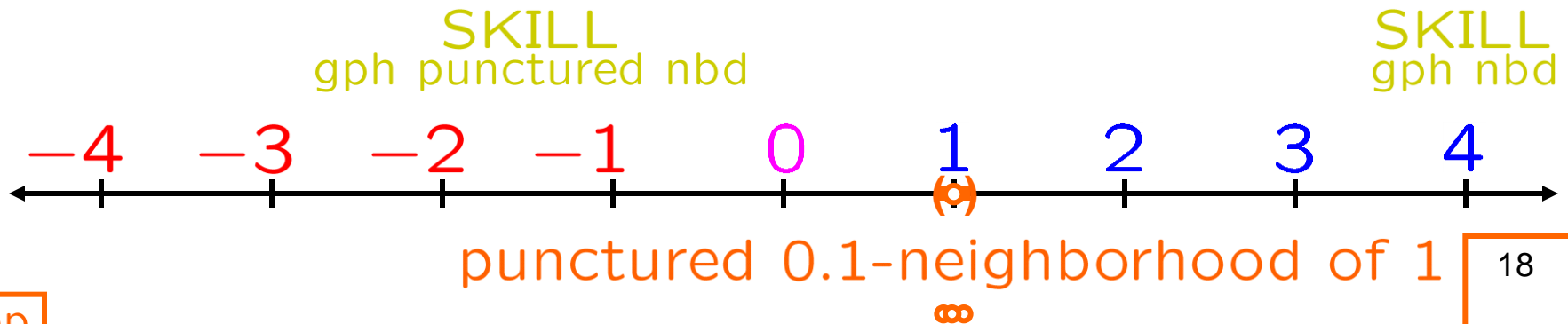
Graph $0 < |x - 1| < 0.5$. $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.5, 1.5) \setminus \{1\}$

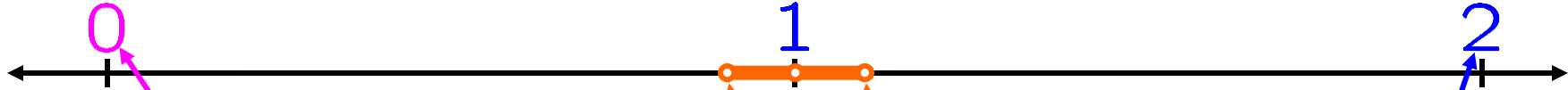
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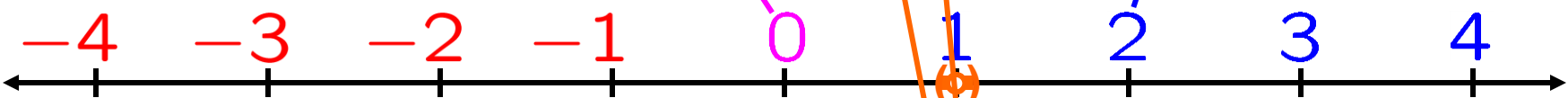
Exercises:

- Graph $|x - 1| < 0.5$ $\Leftrightarrow x \in (0.5, 1.5)$
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Next: Distance in the plane ...

SKILL
gph punctured nbd

SKILL
gph nbd



punctured 0.1-neighborhood of 1

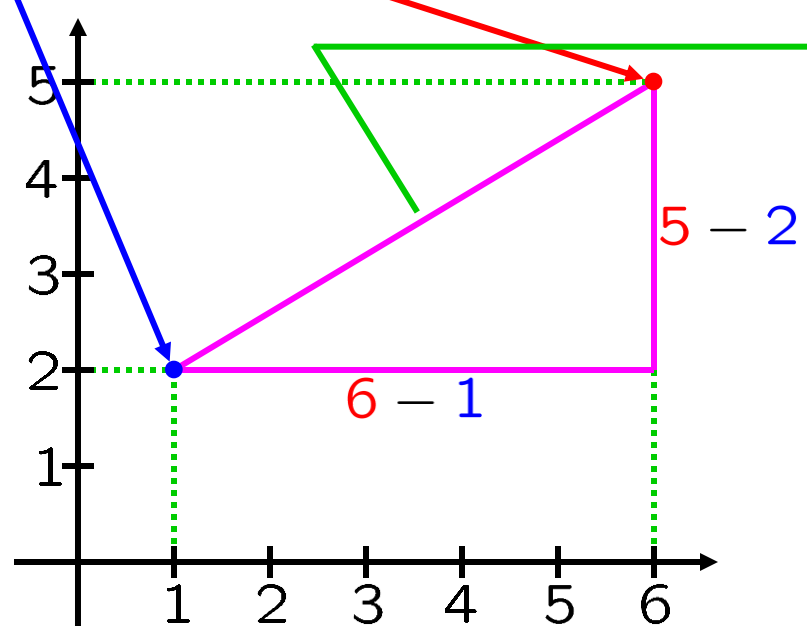
should change units, for visibility: ∞

On the line,

$$\text{dist}(a, s) = |s - a| = \sqrt{(s - a)^2}$$

In the plane,

$$\text{dist}((1, 2), (6, 5)) = \sqrt{(6 - 1)^2 + (5 - 2)^2}$$



On the line,

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In the plane,

$$\text{dist}((1, 2), (6, 5)) = \sqrt{(6 - 1)^2 + (5 - 2)^2}$$

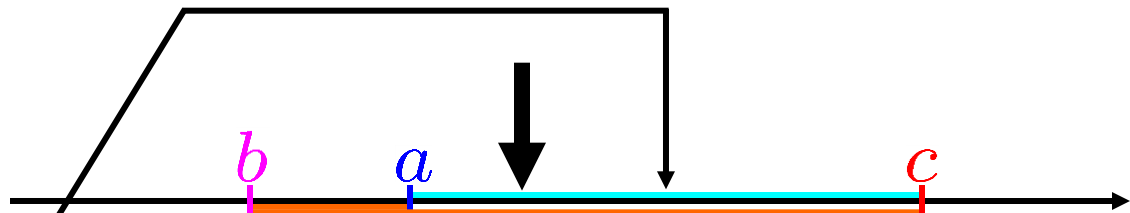
$$\text{dist}((a, b), (s, t)) = \sqrt{(s - a)^2 + (t - b)^2}$$

In the three dimensions,

$$\text{dist}((a, b, c), (s, t, u))$$

SKILL
compute distances

$$= \sqrt{(s - a)^2 + (t - b)^2 + (u - c)^2}$$



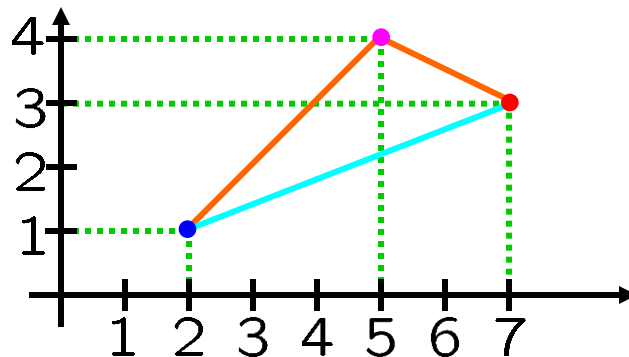
Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$\text{dist}(a, c) \leq [\text{dist}(a, b)] + [\text{dist}(b, c)]$$

Fact (triangle inequality on the plane):

$$\text{dist}((a, p), (c, r)) \leq [\text{dist}((a, p), (b, q))] + [\text{dist}((b, q), (c, r))]$$

e.g.: $\text{dist}((2, 1), (7, 3)) \leq [\text{dist}((2, 1), (5, 4))] + [\text{dist}((5, 4), (7, 3))]$



DEGENERATE
TRIANGLE



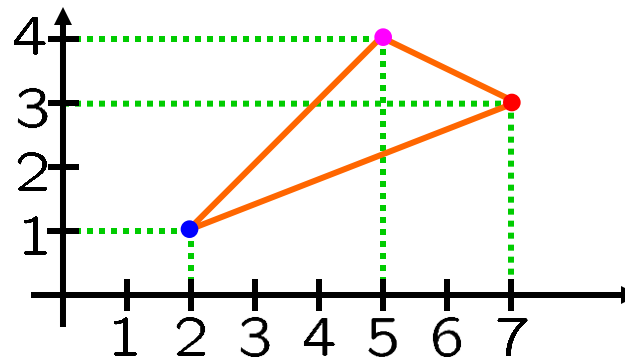
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Fact (triangle inequality on the plane):

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e.g.: $\text{dist}((2, 1), (7, 3)) \leq [\text{dist}((2, 1), (5, 4))] + [\text{dist}((5, 4), (7, 3))]$



Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$\underbrace{\text{dist}(a, c)} \leq \underbrace{[\text{dist}(a, b)]} + \underbrace{[\text{dist}(b, c)]}$$

$$|a - c| \leq |a - b| + |b - c|$$

Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$\begin{aligned} |a - c| &\leq \underbrace{|a - b|}_{u} + \underbrace{|b - c|}_{v} \\ |a - c| &\leq |a \cdot u \cdot b| + |b \cdot v \cdot c| \end{aligned}$$

Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$\underbrace{|a - c|}_{|u+v|} \leq \underbrace{|a - b|}_{|u|} + \underbrace{|b - c|}_{|v|}$$

$$|u + v| \leq |u| + |v|$$

$$a - c = \underbrace{(a - \cancel{b})}_{u} + \underbrace{(\cancel{b} - c)}_{v}$$

“Absolute value is ‘subadditive’.”

Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$|u + v| \leq |u| + |v|$$

$$|u + v| \leq |u| + |v|$$

“The absolute value of the sum is less than or equal to the sum of the absolute values.”

“Absolute value is ‘subadditive’.”

Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$|u + v| \leq |u| + |v|$$

Suppose $|x - 3| < 0.002$ and $|y - 5| < 0.007$.
How close is $x + y$ to $3 + 5$?

Intuition:

$x \approx 3$ (error < 0.002)
 $y \approx 5$ (error < 0.007)
 $x + y \approx 3 + 5$ (error < 0.009)
Pf...

“Absolute value is ‘subadditive’.”

Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$|u + v| \leq |u| + |v|$$

Suppose $|x - 3| < 0.002$ and $|y - 5| < 0.007$.

How close is $x + y$ to $3 + 5$?

$$\begin{aligned} x + y - 3 - 5 &= (x - 3) + (y - 5) \\ |(x + y) - (3 + 5)| &= |(x - 3) + (y - 5)| \\ &\leq |x - 3| + |y - 5| \\ &< 0.002 + 0.007 \\ &= 0.009 \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

“Absolute value is ‘subadditive’.”

Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$|u + v| \leq |u| + |v|$$

Suppose $|x - 3| < 0.002$ and $|y - 5| < 0.007$.

How close is $x + y$ to $3 + 5$?

$$|(x + y) - (3 + 5)| < 0.002 + 0.007$$

Using algebra and the triangle inequality, we have proved this from these.

$$< 0.002 + 0.007$$

“Absolute value is ‘subadditive’.”

Fact (triangle inequality on the line):

$$|u + v| \leq |u| + |v|$$

Suppose $|x - 3| < 0.002$ and $|y - 5| < 0.007$.

How close is $x + y$ to $3 + 5$?

$$|(x + y) - (3 + 5)| < 0.002 + 0.007$$

Fact (additivity of error):

$$|x - s| < \sigma \text{ and } |y - t| < \tau$$

$$\Rightarrow |(x + y) - (s + t)| < \sigma + \tau$$



Exercise: Using algebra and the triangle inequality, prove this from these.