

Triangle Inequality: If  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , then

$$|a+b| \leq |a|+|b|$$

Pf:- For all  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , we know

$$-|a| \leq a \leq |a|$$

Similarly,  $-|b| \leq b \leq |b|$

Adding these inequalities, we obtain

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

$$\Rightarrow -(|a|+|b|) \leq a+b \leq |a|+|b|$$

$$\Rightarrow |a+b| \leq |a|+|b|$$

Corollary. If  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , then

(a)  $||a|-|b|| \leq |a-b|$

(b)  $|a-b| \leq |a|+|b|$

Pf:-  $a = a - b + b$

$$\Rightarrow |a| = |(a-b)+b| \leq |a-b|+|b|$$

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

$$\Rightarrow |a|-|b| \leq |a-b| \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

Similarly,  $b = b - a + a$

$$\Rightarrow |b| = |(b-a)+a| \leq |b-a|+|a|$$

$$\Rightarrow -|b-a| \leq |a|-|b| \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

But  $|a-b| = |-(a-b)| \quad [ \because |a| = |-a| \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{R} ]$   
 $= |b-a|$

$$\Rightarrow -|a-b| = -|b-a|$$

$$\Rightarrow -|a-b| = -|b-a| \leq |a|-|b|$$
$$\Rightarrow -|a-b| \leq |a|-|b| \quad \text{--- (iii)}$$

Combining (i) and (ii), we get

$$-|a-b| \leq |a|-|b| \leq |a-b|$$

$$\Rightarrow ||a|-|b|| \leq |a-b|$$

(b) From triangle inequality, we get

$|a+b| \leq |a|+|b|$ , for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
Replacing  $b$  by  $-b$ , we get

$$|a+(-b)| \leq |a|+|-b|$$

$$\Rightarrow |a-b| \leq |a|+|b| \quad [|-b|=|b|]$$

Corollary of (a)  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$

$$|p-q| \leq |p|+|q| \quad (a)$$