

Signed Ratio.



We assign to the ratio $\frac{|AX|}{|XB|}$ positive sign if the point X is between A and B, and negative if it is outside.

It is easy to see that different points will correspond to different ratios.

If the point X is between A and B, then $0 \leq \frac{|AX|}{|XB|} \leq \infty$. For any non-negative number we can find a point that correspond to this number. ∞ corresponds to the point B.

If the point X is on the left side of A, then $-1 < \frac{|AX|}{|XB|} \leq 0$. For any negative number > -1 we can find a point to the left of A that gives this ratio.

If the point X is on the right side of B, then $-\infty < \frac{|AX|}{|XB|} < -1$. For any negative number < -1 we can find a point to the right of B that gives this ratio. We see that only -1 does not correspond to any ratio.