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Line Segment Addition Postulate: A Complete Guide to Understanding and Applying

Understanding the fundamental concepts in geometry is essential for students and professionals alike. One such crucial concept is the line segment addition postulate. This postulate forms the foundation for many geometric proofs and calculations involving line segments. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what the line segment addition postulate is, how it is used, its importance in geometry, and practical examples to solidify understanding.

What is the Line Segment Addition Postulate?

Definition of the Line Segment Addition Postulate

The line segment addition postulate states that:

> If a point B lies on the line segment AC, then the length of AC is equal to the sum of the lengths of AB and BC.

Mathematically, this can be expressed as:

$$\text{If } B \text{ is between } A \text{ and } C, \text{ then } AB + BC = AC$$

This postulate assumes that points A, B, and C are collinear, meaning they all lie on the same straight line.

Why is it Important?

The line segment addition postulate is fundamental because:

- It allows us to divide and conquer complex line segments into smaller, manageable parts.
- It aids in establishing relationships between different segments in geometric figures.
- It is instrumental in proofs involving segment congruence and bisectors.
- It helps in coordinate geometry for calculating distances between points.

Key Concepts Related to the Line Segment Addition Postulate

Collinearity of Points

For the line segment addition postulate to apply, the points involved must be collinear. This means:

- Points A, B, and C lie on the same straight line.
- The point B lies somewhere between A and C, not outside the segment.

Betweeness of Points

The postulate specifically requires that B is between A and C. This is often written as:

$$ A - B - C $$

or

$$ B \text{ is between } A \text{ and } C $$

which implies:

$$ AB + BC = AC $$

Notation and Terminology

- Segment: The straight path connecting two points, denoted as AB, BC, etc.
- Distance/Length: The measure of a segment, often represented as |AB|, |BC|, etc.
- Betweeness: The positional relationship where point B lies on the segment AC such that A, B, and C are collinear, and B is between A and C.

Applying the Line Segment Addition Postulate

Basic Application

Given three collinear points A, B, and C, with known segment lengths, the postulate allows you to find missing lengths:

Example 1:

Suppose:

- AB = 5 units

- BC = 7 units
- A, B, C are collinear with B between A and C

Find AC.

Solution:

Using the postulate:

$$ AC = AB + BC = 5 + 7 = 12 \text{ units} $$

Reverse Application

If AC and AB are known, and A, B, C are collinear with B between A and C, then:

$$ BC = AC - AB $$

Example 2:

Given:

- AC = 15 units
- AB = 9 units

Find BC.

Solution:

$$ BC = AC - AB = 15 - 9 = 6 \text{ units} $$

Visual Representation of the Postulate

Diagram of Points on a Line

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A -------- B -------- C

| | |
```

0 5 12 (segment lengths)

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- AB = 5 units
- BC = 7 units
- AC = 12 units

The diagram shows that B lies between A and C, satisfying the line segment addition postulate.

The Role of the Postulate in Geometric Proofs

Proving Segment Congruence

The line segment addition postulate is often used to prove that two segments are congruent (equal in length):

Example:

Suppose AB ? DE, and B lies between A and C, while E lies between D and F. If AB + BC = AC and DE + EF = DF, then under certain conditions, segments can be proven congruent.

Coordinate Geometry Applications

In coordinate geometry, the postulate helps in computing the distances between points:

\[

|AB| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}

\]

which aligns with the idea of dividing a segment into parts and summing their lengths.

Related Theorems and Postulates

Segment Bisectors and the Postulate

- A segment bisector divides a segment into two equal parts.
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- Using the line segment addition postulate, we can prove that the bisected segments are congruent.

The Segment Subtraction Postulate

- It is a direct consequence of the line segment addition postulate.
- States that if B is between A and C, then:

$$ AC - AB = BC $$

Practical Examples and Problem-Solving Strategies

Problem 1: Find an Unknown Segment

Given:

- AB = 8 units
- AC = 15 units
- B lies between A and C

Find:

- BC

Solution:

Apply the postulate:

$$ BC = AC - AB = 15 - 8 = 7 \text{ units} $$

Problem 2: Verify Point Placement

Given:

- AB = 4 units
- BC = 6 units
- AC = 10 units

Question:

Is point B between A and C?

Answer:

Yes, because:

$$ AB + BC = 4 + 6 = 10 = AC $$

which satisfies the line segment addition postulate.

Common Mistakes and Clarifications

- Assuming Points Are Between Without Verification: Always verify that B lies between A and C before applying the postulate.
- Applying the Postulate to Non-Collinear Points: The postulate only applies to collinear points.
- Using the Postulate Out of Context: It only relates lengths on the same straight line; it does not apply to non-collinear points or in 3D space unless the points are coplanar and collinear.

Conclusion

The line segment addition postulate is a fundamental concept in geometry that simplifies the understanding of how segments relate to each other when points are collinear. It provides a straightforward way to divide, combine, and compare segments, making it indispensable for geometric proofs, coordinate geometry, and problem-solving.

By mastering this postulate, students and professionals can develop a stronger grasp of spatial relationships, leading to more advanced geometric reasoning and applications. Remember to always verify the collinearity and the position of the points to correctly apply the line segment addition postulate in your geometric endeavors.

Keywords for SEO Optimization

- Line segment addition postulate
- Geometry fundamentals
- Segment length calculation
- Collinear points
- Segment congruence

- Coordinate geometry
- Geometric proofs
- Segment bisectors
- Distance formula
- Geometry problem solving

Understanding the Line Segment Addition Postulate: A Comprehensive Guide

In the realm of geometry, understanding how to precisely measure and relate different parts of a figure is fundamental. One of the key principles that aids in this understanding is the line segment addition postulate. This postulate provides a straightforward yet powerful rule for understanding how the lengths of smaller segments relate to the length of a larger segment when they are collinear?that is, when they lie on the same straight line. Whether you are a student just beginning to explore geometric concepts or a teacher preparing instructional materials, grasping the line segment addition postulate is essential for building a strong foundation in geometric reasoning.

What Is the Line Segment Addition Postulate?

At its core, the line segment addition postulate states that if a point lies on a line segment between two other points, then the sum of the lengths of the smaller segments is equal to the length of the entire segment.

Formal Definition:

If point B lies on segment AC, then:

AB + BC = AC

This simple equation encapsulates a fundamental idea: the total length of a segment can be broken down into smaller, adjacent segments. Conversely, if the sum of two segments equals a third segment, then the point dividing them lies on that segment.

Visualizing the Postulate: An Intuitive Approach

Imagine you have a straight piece of string labeled points A, B, and C, arranged so that B is somewhere between A and C. If you measure the length from A to B and from B to C, the sum of these two measurements will exactly match the length of the entire string from A to C. This intuitive understanding is what the postulate formalizes mathematically.

Why Is the Line Segment Addition Postulate Important?

The line segment addition postulate is a foundational building block in geometry because it allows us to:

- Break down complex segments into manageable parts: By understanding how segments add up, we can analyze complex figures more easily.
- Establish relationships between parts of a figure: It aids in proofs and problem-solving where segment lengths are involved.
- Find missing lengths: Given some segment lengths, you can determine unknown segments by simple addition or subtraction.
- Support coordinate geometry: When working with points in the coordinate plane, this postulate helps in deriving coordinate formulas and distances.

Applying the Line Segment Addition Postulate

Basic Example:

Suppose you know:

- Segment AB measures 3 units
- Segment BC measures 5 units

If point B lies between points A and C, then the length of segment AC is:

AC = AB + BC = 3 + 5 = 8 units

This straightforward addition exemplifies the postulate's direct application.

Conditions for the Postulate to Hold

The line segment addition postulate relies on specific conditions:

- The points involved (A, B, C) must be collinear?that is, all on the same straight line.
- Point B must be between points A and C. If B were outside the segment, the postulate would not directly apply.

Understanding these conditions is crucial because applying the postulate outside of these constraints can lead to incorrect conclusions.

Formal Statement and Notation

Let points A, B, and C be on a line. If B lies between A and C (denoted as B is between A and C), then:

AB + BC = AC

In notation:

- If B ? segment AC, then AB + BC = AC

This notation emphasizes the importance of the point's position relative to the segment.

Using the Postulate in Geometric Proofs

The line segment addition postulate is a critical tool in geometric proofs, especially when dealing with:

- Congruence of segments
- Midpoints and bisectors
- Coordinate geometry calculations

Example:

Prove that if B is the midpoint of segment AC, then:

AB = BC

Using the postulate:

- Since B is the midpoint, by definition, AB = BC.
- From the postulate, AB + BC = AC.
- Because AB = BC, then 2 AB = AC.

This reasoning helps in establishing equal segment lengths and midpoint properties.

Common Mistakes and Misconceptions

- Applying the postulate when points are not collinear: The postulate only holds when the points are on the same straight line.
- Misidentifying the point's position: Remember that B must be between A and C for the sum to be valid.
- Assuming the sum of segments equals the whole without verifying the position: Always confirm that the points are aligned properly.

Practical Tips for Students and Educators

- Draw diagrams: Visualize points clearly to understand their positions.
- Label segments carefully: Clearly mark points and segment lengths.
- Use coordinate geometry: Assign coordinates to points to compute lengths precisely, which reinforces the postulate mathematically.
- Work through examples: Practice with different configurations to master the concept.

Advanced Applications

Once comfortable with the basic concept, the line segment addition postulate extends into more advanced topics:

- Coordinate Geometry: Using the distance formula to verify segment lengths and their sums.
- Segment Bisectors: Establishing when a segment is divided into two equal parts.
- Coordinate proofs: Demonstrating properties of geometric figures algebraically.
- Proofs involving congruent segments: Showing segments are equal based on their parts.

Summary

The line segment addition postulate is a simple yet powerful principle that allows us to understand and manipulate the lengths of segments on a straight line. It forms the basis for many geometric proofs, problem-solving strategies, and coordinate geometry calculations. Remember, the key conditions are collinearity and the point lying between the endpoints. Mastering this postulate enhances your geometric reasoning and lays the groundwork for more complex concepts in mathematics.

Final Thoughts

Whether you're measuring segments in a construction project, solving a geometry problem, or proving a theorem, the line segment addition postulate is an essential tool. Its simplicity belies its importance in understanding the structure of geometric figures and relationships. By practicing its

application and recognizing its conditions, you'll develop a solid foundation for exploring the fascinating world of geometry.

QuestionAnswer What is the line segment addition postulate? The line segment addition postulate states that if a point lies on a line segment between two other points, then the length of the entire segment is the sum of the lengths of the two smaller segments. How do you apply the line segment addition postulate in geometry problems? To apply the postulate, identify a point on a segment between two endpoints and then set the total segment length equal to the sum of the lengths of the parts, allowing you to find missing segment lengths. Can the line segment addition postulate be used with coordinate geometry? Yes, in coordinate geometry, you can use the distance formula to find segment lengths and verify the postulate by checking if the sum of parts equals the whole. What are common mistakes when using the line segment addition postulate? Common mistakes include assuming the postulate applies when the point is not between the two endpoints or misidentifying the segments, leading to incorrect calculations. Is the line segment addition postulate applicable to all types of segments? It applies specifically to line segments where the point lies between the endpoints; it does not apply if the point is outside the segment or creates a different geometric configuration. How is the line segment addition postulate related to the concept of congruence? While the postulate deals with lengths and addition of segments, congruence relates to segments having equal lengths; the postulate often helps in proving congruence or parts of segments. Can the line segment addition postulate be extended to three or more points? Yes, it can be applied iteratively to find the lengths of multiple segments along a straight line, summing individual parts to find the total length.

Related keywords: segment addition, collinear points, endpoint, point on line, collinearity, segment, geometry postulate, points on line, segment length, linearity

Segment addition postulate proof practice problems

Segment Addition Postulate Proof Practice Problems

The **segment addition postulate proof practice problems** serve as an essential tool for students and educators aiming to deepen their understanding of basic geometric principles. The segment addition postulate is fundamental in geometry, providing a logical framework for understanding how segments on a line relate to each other. Mastering these problems not only reinforces comprehension of the postulate itself but also enhances problem-solving skills critical for more advanced geometric proofs. Whether you are a student preparing for exams or an instructor designing practice exercises, engaging with a variety of problems can significantly improve your ability to apply the postulate in different contexts.

Understanding the Segment Addition Postulate

What Is the Segment Addition Postulate?

The segment addition postulate states that if point B lies on the segment AC, then the length of segment AB plus the length of segment BC equals the length of segment AC. Symbolically, this is expressed as:

- If B is between A and C, then **AB + BC = AC**.

This postulate is fundamental because it allows us to partition a segment into smaller parts and then relate those parts to the whole. It is often used in proofs to establish equalities or inequalities involving segments.

Why Practice Proofs with the Segment Addition Postulate?

- Strengthen understanding of segment relationships.
- Develop logical reasoning and proof skills.
- Prepare for more complex geometric proofs involving congruence and similarity.
- Build confidence in applying postulates and theorems in various contexts.

Types of Practice Problems

Basic Segment Addition Problems

These problems typically involve given points on a line, with the task to find missing segment lengths or to verify the segment addition postulate holds true.

Problems Involving Coordinates

Using coordinate geometry to verify segment relationships by calculating distances between points.

Proof-Oriented Problems

These require students to construct formal proofs demonstrating the validity of segment relationships using the segment addition postulate along with other theorems or postulates.

Sample Practice Problems and Solutions

Problem 1: Basic Segment Addition

Points A, B, and C are collinear, with B between A and C. Given that AB = 5 units and BC = 7 units, find the length of AC.

Solution:

- Identify that B lies between A and C.
- Apply the segment addition postulate: AB + BC = AC.
- Calculate: 5 + 7 = 12 units.
- Answer: AC = 12 units.

Problem 2: Coordinate Geometry Application

Points A(2, 3), B(5, 3), and C(9, 3) are collinear. Verify whether B lies between A and C using the segment addition postulate.

Solution:

- Calculate the distances:

- AB = |5 - 2| = 3 units
- BC = |9 - 5| = 4 units
- AC = |9 - 2| = 7 units

- Check if AB + BC equals AC: 3 + 4 = 7.
- Since 7 = 7, B lies between A and C, satisfying the segment addition postulate.

Problem 3: Proof-Based

Given that points D, E, and F are collinear with E between D and F. If DE = 6 units, EF = 9 units, and DF = 15 units, prove that the segment addition postulate holds.

Solution:

- State the given: D, E, F are collinear, and E is between D and F.
- Apply the segment addition postulate: DE + EF = DF.
- Calculate: 6 + 9 = 15.

- Since the sum matches DF, the postulate holds, confirming the points are collinear with E between D and F.

Strategies for Solving Segment Addition Proof Problems

Step-by-Step Approach

- **Identify the points:** Determine which points are collinear and which point lies between the others.
- **Use given information:** Note any known lengths or coordinate points.
- **Apply the segment addition postulate:** Write the equation AB + BC = AC or similar based on the problem.
- **Solve for unknowns:** Algebraically find missing lengths or verify relationships.
- **Verify the result:** Check if the sum of parts equals the whole, confirming the postulate's validity.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Misidentifying which points are between others.
- Incorrectly applying the postulate when points are not collinear.
- Mixing up segment lengths or using the wrong points in calculations.
- Forgetting to verify collinearity before applying the postulate.

Additional Practice Problems for Mastery

Problem 4: Multiple Segments

Points G, H, I, and J are collinear with H between G and I, and J between I and K. Given GH = 4 units, HI = 6 units, and JK = 3 units, find the length of GJ, assuming G, J, and K are all on the same line in order G - H - I - J - K.

Solution:

- Apply the segment addition postulate stepwise:

- GH + HI = GI ? 4 + 6 = 10 units.
- GI + JK = GJ (assuming J is after I, and total length GJ includes G to J).

- Without the total length GJ provided, if J is beyond I, then G to J length = GI + J-K segment if J

is beyond K.

- Further information needed to compute GJ precisely; however, understanding the process is essential.

Problem 5: Proof with Congruent Segments

Given that segments AB and CD are congruent, and B lies between A and C, while D lies between C and E on the same line, prove that segments AB and DE are congruent using the segment addition postulate.

Solution:

- Given AB ? CD, and points are collinear with B between A and C, D between C and E.
- Express segment lengths: AB and CD are equal by given.
- Using the segment addition postulate, write:

- AC = AB + BC
- CE = CD + DE

- Since AB ? CD, and BC and DE are congruent segments (if given or deduced), then AB ? DE.
- Complete the proof by establishing the congruences and applying the postulate.

Conclusion

Practicing **segment addition postulate proof problems** is an effective way to develop fundamental geometric reasoning skills. By engaging with a variety of problem types?from straightforward calculations to formal proofs?students can build confidence in applying the postulate accurately and efficiently. Remember to carefully analyze the problem, verify collinearity, and systematically apply the postulate to arrive at logical conclusions. With consistent practice, mastering these problems will become an integral part of your geometry toolkit, paving the way for success in more advanced topics and proofs.

Segment Addition Postulate Proof Practice Problems: An In-Depth Analytical Review

Understanding the foundational principles of geometry is essential for students seeking mastery in mathematical proofs and logical reasoning. One such fundamental concept is the segment addition postulate, a key tool used in geometric proofs involving line segments. This article provides an in-depth exploration of segment addition postulate proof practice problems, examining their significance, strategies for solving, and common pitfalls, all aimed at fostering a comprehensive understanding for learners and educators alike.

Introduction to the Segment Addition Postulate

The segment addition postulate states that if point B lies on segment AC, then the length of AC equals the sum of the lengths of AB and BC. Formally:

If B is between A and C, then

AB + BC = AC

This postulate is fundamental in geometric proofs because it allows mathematicians to relate segments and establish equalities or inequalities that facilitate more complex arguments. Its simplicity belies its utility, making it an essential component in the toolkit of anyone studying geometry.

Why Practice with Proof Problems?

Engaging with segment addition postulate proof practice problems serves several educational purposes:

- Reinforces understanding of basic geometric concepts.
- Develops logical reasoning and deductive skills.
- Prepares students for standardized tests and higher-level math courses.
- Enhances problem-solving flexibility and critical thinking.

Through systematic practice, students learn to identify when and how to apply the postulate effectively, translating geometric diagrams into algebraic expressions that lead to valid proofs.

Core Components of Segment Addition Proofs

Before tackling practice problems, it is crucial to understand the typical structure and components involved:

- Given information: Known segment lengths, points, or relationships.
- To prove: The relationship or equality involving segments.
- Diagram analysis: Visual representation to identify points and segments.
- Logical steps: Application of postulates, theorems, and definitions.

Common strategies include:

- Marking known segment lengths.
- Using the segment addition postulate to split or combine segments.
- Applying algebraic methods to express segment lengths.
- Using congruence or similarity when applicable.

Sample Practice Problems and Solutions

Below are carefully selected problems designed to reinforce mastery of the segment addition postulate through proof exercises.

Problem 1: Basic Segment Addition

Given: In triangle ABC, point D lies on segment AB such that AD = 3x and DB = 5x. The entire segment AB measures 8x.

Prove: That point D lies between A and B, and verify the segment addition postulate for segments AD and DB.

Solution:

- Recognize that D lies on AB, so by the segment addition postulate,

AD + DB = AB.

- Substitute the given lengths:

3x + 5x = 8x.

- Simplify:

8x = 8x.

- Since the sum of parts equals the whole, and all segments are positive, D lies between A and B, confirming the postulate.

Key takeaway: When the sum of sub-segments equals the entire segment, the point is between the endpoints, satisfying the postulate.

Problem 2: Proving Segment Equality

Given: Points P, Q, R, S are collinear, with P between Q and R, and S between R and T. It is given that:

- PQ ? RS
- QR ? ST
- PT ? QS

Prove: The segments PQ + QR + RS + ST = PT.

Approach and Solution:

- Apply the segment addition postulate to segments:

- Since P is between Q and R:

QR = QP + PR.

- Since S is between R and T:

RT = RS + ST.

- Recognize that PT = PQ + QR + RS + ST because of the collinearity and the points lying in sequence.

- Using the given congruences, establish equalities:

- PQ ? RS ? PQ = RS

- QR ? ST ? QR = ST

- Sum the segments:

PQ + QR + RS + ST = PQ + QR + PQ + QR (since PQ=RS and QR=ST)

= 2(PQ + QR)

- Since PQ + QR = PR, then:

PT = PR + RT (by the line segment addition).

- Given the congruences and the structure, conclude:

PQ + QR + RS + ST = PT

This problem demonstrates how the segment addition postulate underpins more complex proofs involving congruence and equality.

Strategies for Mastering Segment Addition Proofs

Effective practice involves not only solving individual problems but also adopting strategic approaches:

- Diagram annotation: Mark known lengths, congruences, and points of interest.
- Identify between-ness: Confirm which points lie between others to justify the use of the postulate.
- Express segments algebraically: Use variables to set up equations.
- Check for congruence and equality: Use given information to establish relationships.
- Work backward: From what you need to prove, determine what segment relationships are necessary.
- Practice with diverse problems: Include those involving algebra, congruence, and coordinate geometry.

Common Pitfalls and Misconceptions

While the segment addition postulate seems straightforward, students often encounter challenges:

- Assuming points are between others without proof: Always verify the "between" condition.

- Misapplying the postulate to non-collinear points: The postulate applies only to points lying on the same line.
- Ignoring the order of points: The order affects whether the segments add up as expected.
- Forgetting to verify segment lengths: When using algebra, ensure all expressions are consistent.

Awareness of these pitfalls helps refine problem-solving skills and prevents logical errors.

Advanced Practice Problems

For students seeking greater challenge, here are more complex problems:

- Incorporate coordinate geometry to verify segment relationships.
- Use the postulate in proofs involving parallel lines and transversals.
- Combine with theorems such as the Triangle Inequality or Midpoint Theorem.

These problems deepen understanding and demonstrate the wide applicability of the segment addition postulate in geometric proofs.

Conclusion

Mastering segment addition postulate proof practice problems is vital for developing a robust understanding of geometric reasoning. By systematically analyzing diagrams, applying the postulate correctly, and avoiding common pitfalls, students can build confidence in their proof-writing abilities. Whether engaging with basic exercises or tackling advanced applications, consistent practice fosters a thorough comprehension of how segments relate within geometric figures, laying a solid foundation for future mathematical endeavors.

References

- Geometry textbook chapters on segments and proofs.
- Common core standards for high school geometry.
- Online resources with interactive proof exercises.

About the Author

[Author Name] is a mathematics educator specializing in geometry instruction and curriculum development. With extensive experience designing practice problems and proof exercises, [Author Name] aims to make advanced mathematical concepts accessible and engaging for learners at all

levels.

QuestionAnswer What is the Segment Addition Postulate and how is it used in proof problems? The Segment Addition Postulate states that if point B lies on segment AC, then AB + BC = AC. In proof problems, it helps establish relationships between segment lengths to find unknown segments or prove collinearity. How can I approach practice problems involving the Segment Addition Postulate? Start by identifying the given segments and any points on the line. Use the postulate to set up equations relating segment lengths, then solve for unknowns. Drawing diagrams and marking known lengths can also aid in understanding. What are common mistakes to avoid when applying the Segment Addition Postulate in proofs? Common mistakes include assuming segments are equal without proof, mislabeling points, or applying the postulate when points are not collinear. Always verify that the points lie on the same line before using the postulate. Can the Segment Addition Postulate be used in coordinate geometry problems? Yes. In coordinate geometry, you can express segment lengths using distance formulas and then set up equations based on the postulate to solve for unknown coordinates or lengths. What are some practice problems I can try to master the Segment Addition Postulate? Practice problems include proving that a point divides a segment into two parts, finding missing segment lengths given certain points, and using the postulate to prove that three points are collinear. Look for problems with diagrams and labeled segments. How does the proof process involve the Segment Addition Postulate in geometric proofs? The proof process involves applying the postulate to relate known and unknown segments, often combined with other postulates or theorems like congruence or similarity, to establish equalities or collinearity. Are there any tips for visualizing problems involving the Segment Addition Postulate? Yes. Drawing clear diagrams, marking known segment lengths, and labeling points carefully can help visualize relationships. Using different colors for segments or points can also clarify the setup and steps in the proof.

Related keywords: segment addition postulate, proof practice, geometry problems, segment congruence, proof exercises, geometric reasoning, segment bisectors, angle addition postulate, proof worksheet, geometric proofs

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