

**Theorem (2.3.44).** *Let  $x$  be a real number.  $\lceil x \rceil - \lfloor x \rfloor = 1$ , if  $x \notin \mathbb{Z}$ .  
 $\lceil x \rceil - \lfloor x \rfloor = 0$ , if  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .*

*Proof.* By cases.

(i) Suppose  $x \notin \mathbb{Z}$ .  $\lceil x \rceil = \lfloor x \rfloor + 1$ . Thus,  $\lceil x \rceil - \lfloor x \rfloor = (\lfloor x \rfloor + 1) - \lfloor x \rfloor = 1$ .

(ii) Suppose  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .  $\lceil x \rceil = \lfloor x \rfloor = x$ . Thus,  $\lceil x \rceil - \lfloor x \rfloor = x - x = 0$ . ■