

# Norm & Distances

**Norm:** Euclidean norm of an  $n$ -vector  $x$  is  $\|x\|$  is square root of sum of squares.

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2} \quad \text{or} \quad \|x\| = \sqrt{x^T x}$$

• When  $x$  is scalar, (1-vector) Euclidean norm =  $|x|$  (absolute value of  $x$ )

Norm of a vector - numerical measure of its magnitude.

Small vector  $\rightarrow$  vector with norm at smaller number. large vector. vice versa.

**Properties of Norm:**  $x, y \rightarrow$  vectors of same size ;  $\beta \rightarrow$  scalar.

1) Non negative homogeneity:  $\|\beta x\| = \|\beta\| |x| = |\beta| \|x\|$

• multiplying vector by a scalar multiplies the norm by abs. value of scalar.

2) Triangle inequality:  $\|x+y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$

3) Non negativity:  $\|x\| \geq 0$

} +ve definiteness

4) Definiteness:  $\|x\| = 0$  iff  $x = 0$

**General Norm:** any real valued function of an  $n$ -vector that satisfies above 4.

$$\text{rms}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2}{n}} = \frac{\|x\|}{\sqrt{n}}$$

• RMS value of a vector is a way to measure the "typical" size of its entries.

**Norm of a sum:**

$$\|x\| + \|y\| = \sqrt{\|x\|^2 + 2x^T y + \|y\|^2}$$

**Norm of block vectors:** These are basically vectors inside vectors.

$$\|d\|^2 = d^T d = a^T a + b^T b + c^T c = \|a\|^2 + \|b\|^2 + \|c\|^2$$

The norm of a stacked vector is the norm of the vector formed from the norms of the subvectors.

**Chebyshev Inequality:**  $x = n$ -vector ;  $a > 0$ .

' $k$ ' entries of  $x$  satisfy  $|x_i| \geq a$

Then  $k$  of its entries follows  $x_i^2 \geq a^2$

This follows that,  $\|x\|^2 = x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2 \geq Ka^2$

since  $K$  of the numbers in the sum are atleast  $a^2$  and  $n-K$  are non negative.

$$\text{chebyshev inequality} = K \leq \frac{\|x\|^2}{a^2}$$

- This inequality basically helps us understand how many entries in a vector can be 'large' compared to the rest.
  - $K$  no. of entries that are larger than a certain value  $a$ .
  - if  $a$  is bigger than vector size; then no entry can be larger than the norm.
  - if we pick  $a$  that is bigger than typical size of no. in vectors, then the inequality says,  $K$ , the no. of large entries, will be small or even 0.

### Euclidean Distance:

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

$\text{rms}(a-b)$  is the RMS deviation between  $a$  and  $b$ .

- This is basically saying how far apart they are, on average.

Triangle inequality: triangle with vertices at positions  $a, b, c$

→ edge lengths are  $\|a-b\|, \|b-c\|, \|c-a\|$

by the triangle inequality:  $\|a-c\| = \|(a-b) + (b-c)\| \leq \|a-b\| + \|b-c\|$   
i.e., third edge length is no longer than sum of other 2.



- Feature distance:  $x$  &  $y$  → feature vectors, then:  $\|x-y\|$  = feature distance.
  - This gives measure of how diff the obj are (in terms of fea. values)

- RMS prediction error:  $y$  → time series of some quantity.

$\hat{y}$  → estimation or prediction of time series  $y$ . smaller the value the better.

Then  $y - \hat{y}$  = prediction error &  $\text{rms}(y - \hat{y})$  = rms prediction error.

- Nearest neighbour:  $z_1, \dots, z_m$  = a collection of  $m$   $n$ -vectors;  $x$  = another  $n$ -vec.

if  $\|x - z_j\| \leq \|x - z_i\|, i = 1, \dots, m$ .

then we can say  $z_j$  is the nearest neighbour (closest vector) to  $x$ .

### Heterogenous Vector Entries:

square of distance between 2  $n$ -vectors  $x$  &  $y$  is given by:

$$\|x - y\|^2 = (x_1 - y_1)^2 + \dots + (x_n - y_n)^2$$

- This gives equal importance to every feature in the vector.

Ex: if you are comparing 2 objects, diff in 1 feature (weight) is treated just as important as diff in another feature (height) when calc overall distance.

- **Same units for features:** This method works well when all the features (entries in vector) represent the same type of quantity in the same units.

Ex: if you are counting comparing word count in doc, where each entry is a count of how often a word appears, it makes sense to treat each word count equally.

- **different units for features:** if you are comparing house size in sqm & bedrooms no. you have to be careful because 1 feature has big values (size) & than the other, it can distort the distance calculation.

- **choose units carefully:** # scale the units.

Ex: if you are comparing houses: house size (given in 1000's) (so 1600 becomes 1.6)  
no. of bedrooms will remain an integer.

→ by doing so, both features have similar magnitude making it easy for comparison.

House 1: (1.6, 2) } small difference % similar

House 2: (1.5, 2) } large diff in bedrooms % Not similar.

House 3: (1.6, 4)

- without this scaling, we will get errors saying 1 & 2 are far & 2 & 3 are close.

## Standard Deviation:

Associated De-meaned vector:  $\tilde{x} = x - \text{avg}(x) \mathbf{1}$

(Here we subtract the  $\text{avg}(x)$  from every entry of  $x$ )

- This is useful in understanding how the entries in the original vector, deviate from  $\bar{x}$

$$\text{std}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{(x_1 - \text{avg}(x))^2 + \dots + (x_n - \text{avg}(x))^2}{n}} = \frac{\|x - (\mathbf{1}^T x / n) \mathbf{1}\|}{\sqrt{n}}$$

- std is 0 only if all entries are equal.

- std is small, when the entries of the vector are nearly same.

avg, rms & std:  $\text{rms}(x)^2 = \text{avg}(x)^2 + \text{std}(x)^2$



Ex: Return time series:  $n$ -vector : represents returns (as %) of invest over  $n$  Time periods.

- mean return  $\rightarrow$  avg of the vector. (simply called the return)
- risk  $\rightarrow$  std of the vector measures how much the returns vary from  $\mu$  to  $\mu$ .
- risk-return plot  $\rightarrow$  multiple invest can be compared by plotting  
y-axis (mean return) & x-axis (risk)
- desirable investments have  $\uparrow$  return & low risk.

Chebyshev inequality for standard deviation:

$\rightarrow$  This inequality is a mathematical tool that helps estimate how many entries in a set of data can deviate significantly from the avg. value.

fraction of entries in the dataset that deviate  $\bar{x}$  by more than 'a'

$$\frac{k}{n} \leq \left[ \frac{\text{std}(x)}{a} \right]^2$$

Ex: let's take a dataset with returns on an investment.  $\text{avg } \bar{x} = 8\%$  & risk =  $3\%$ .  
By using the chebyshev inequality, we can estimate how many periods might result in a loss (return  $\leq 0\%$ )

$\rightarrow$  Here, we set  $a = 8\%$ , because we are interested in how far returns can dev from the mean.

$$\therefore \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^2 = \frac{9}{64} = 0.141 = \approx 14.1\%$$

This means that at most, 14.1% of periods can have a return either below 0% or above 16%.

properties of Standard Deviation:

1. Adding a constant:  $\text{std}(x + a) = \text{std}(x)$

2. multiplying by a scalar:  $\text{std}(ax) = |a| \text{std}(x)$

Standardization: standardized version of  $x$ :

$$Z = \frac{1}{\text{std}(x)} (x - \text{avg}(x))$$

$\leftarrow$  This has mean value as 0 & std value as 1.

$\rightarrow$  these entries are called the  $z$ -scores.

$x_4 = 1.4$  (means that  $x_4$  is 1.4 stds away from the mean of entries of  $x$ )

Ex:  $x \rightarrow$  gives values of some medical test of  $n$  patients admitted to the hospital, the standardized values of  $z$ -scores tells us how low or high.

Ex:  $x_{32} = -3.2$ , very low measurement.

$x_{22} = 0.3$ , quite close to the avg value.

**Angle:** The Cauchy-Schwarz inequality:  $|a^T b| \leq \|a\| \|b\|$ , expanded, it is:

$$|a_1 b_1 + \dots + a_n b_n| \leq (a_1^2 + \dots + a_n^2)^{1/2} (b_1^2 + \dots + b_n^2)^{1/2}$$

(1) Zero case: If either vector  $a/b$  is '0', then both sides of inequality are 0.  
 $\therefore$  The inequality trivially holds.

(2) Non-zero case:  $\alpha = \|a\|$ ;  $\beta = \|b\|$  (represent magnitudes of  $a$  &  $b$ )

observation:  $\| \beta a - \alpha b \|^2 \geq 0$  always,  $\because$  norm of any vector is non-negative

$$\Rightarrow \beta^2 \|a\|^2 + \alpha^2 \|b\|^2 - 2\alpha\beta a^T b \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta^2 \|a\|^2 + \alpha^2 \|b\|^2 - 2\|a\|\|b\| a^T b \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\|a\|\|b\|^2 - 2\|a\|\|b\| a^T b \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\|a\|\|b\| (\|b\| - a^T b)$$

$$\Rightarrow \|a\|\|b\| \geq a^T b \Rightarrow |a^T b| \leq \|a\|\|b\| \quad \text{Cauchy Schwarz}$$

**Angle between 2 vectors:** Angle between 2 non-zero vectors  $a, b$ :

$$\angle(a, b) = \theta \quad \boxed{\cos \theta = \frac{a^T b}{\|a\| \|b\|}} \quad \arccos \theta \in [0, \pi]$$

- This is a symmetric function:  $\angle(a, b) = \angle(b, a)$
- Scaling with +ve value has no effect:  $\angle(\alpha a, \beta b) = \angle(a, b)$

**Acute & obtuse Angles:**

- orthogonal vectors:  $a^T b = 0$ ; which means  $\theta = \pi/2 = 90^\circ$ .
- aligned vectors:  $a^T b = \|a\|\|b\|$ , which means  $\theta = 0$ .
- anti-aligned vectors:  $a^T b = -\|a\|\|b\|$ , which means  $\theta = 180^\circ$ .
- acute angle:  $\angle(a, b) < 90^\circ$  (inner product is +ve value)
- obtuse angle:  $\angle(a, b) > 90^\circ$  (inner product is -ve value)
- document dissimilarity via angles: If  $n$ -vectors  $x$  &  $y$  represent word counts for 2 documents,  $\angle(x, y)$  can be used as measure of dissimilarity.

$\rightarrow$  either word counts / histograms can be used.

$$\left[ \begin{aligned} \|x+y\|^2 &= \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 + 2x^T y \\ &= \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 + 2\|x\|\|y\|\cos\theta \end{aligned} \right. \begin{aligned} \theta = 0^\circ \quad \|x+y\| &= \|x\| + \|y\| \\ \theta = 90^\circ \quad \|x+y\| &= \sqrt{\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2} \end{aligned} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Pythagorean} \\ \text{Theorem} \end{array}$$

**Correlation coefficient:** (measures how closely 2 sets of data vary together.)

Step 1: Demeaning the vectors  $\rightarrow \tilde{a} = a - \text{avg}(a) \mathbf{1}$   
 $\tilde{b} = b - \text{avg}(b) \mathbf{1}$  } this step centers them around 0.

Step 2: correlation coefficient:

$$\rho = \frac{\tilde{a}^T \tilde{b}}{\|\tilde{a}\| \|\tilde{b}\|}$$

dot product of the vectors, which measures how closely their entires align.

product of lengths which normalizes the result.

This is equivalent to  $\cos \theta$ ;  $\theta$  is small  $\Rightarrow$  correlation is high.

Step 3: You can also express the correlation using standardized vectors:  
(vectors divided by their standard deviation)

$$u = \frac{\tilde{a}}{\text{std}(a)}, \quad v = \frac{\tilde{b}}{\text{std}(b)} \quad \rho = \frac{u^T v}{n} \leftarrow \text{length of vectors.}$$

Range of  $\rho$ : Cauchy-Swarz ensures that the value lies between  $-1$  &  $1$ .

$\rho = 1$ , when vectors are perfectly aligned (+ve multiples of each other)

$\rho = -1$ , vectors are anti-aligned (-ve multiples of each other)

$\rho = 0$ , vectors are uncorrelated. (don't show linear relationship)

Ex: **Standard Deviation of Sum of 2 vectors:**

The formula for the above is:  $\text{std}(a+b) = \sqrt{\text{std}(a)^2 + 2\rho \cdot \text{std}(a) \text{std}(b) + \text{std}(b)^2}$

when  $\rho = 1$ :  $\text{std}(a+b) = \text{std}(a) + \text{std}(b)$  (vectors clearly correlated)

when  $\rho = 0$ :  $\text{std}(a+b) = \sqrt{\text{std}(a)^2 + \text{std}(b)^2}$  (vectors are uncorrelated)

when  $\rho = -1$ :  $\text{std}(a+b) = |\text{std}(a) - \text{std}(b)|$  (vectors perfectly negatively correlated)

**Hedging Investments:**

• Applied in finance where 2 assets  $a$  &  $b$  are considered, both having same return (avg)  $\mu$  average ~~to~~ return ( $\mu$ ) & risk ( $\sigma$ ). The correlation is denoted by  $\rho$ .

① Blended investment: 50% of each asset has return time series:  $C = \frac{a+b}{2}$

② Average return:  $\text{avg}(C) = \text{avg}\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) = \frac{\text{avg}(a) + \text{avg}(b)}{2} = \mu$

③ Risk (std):  $\text{std}(C) = \sigma \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1+\rho}{2}}$

Units for Heterogenous Vector Entries:

\* choose units such that the typical values of different entries in the vector are of similar magnitude.

$\rightarrow$  This ensures each entry contributes fairly to metrics like correlation or std.



## Complexity:

- Norm of a vector:
    1.  $n$  multiplications to square each entry.
    2.  $n-1$  additions to sum the squared entries.
    3. One square root (computationally expensive) % Total:  $2n$  flops.
  - RMS value: same as computing norm (except div by  $\sqrt{n}$  which takes 2 additional " )
  - Distance betw. vectors: subtracting corresponding elements + squaring differences + summing them & taking square root. %  $3n$  flops.
  - Angle between 2 vectors:  $6n$  flops • Demeaning  $n$ -vector:  $2n$  flops
  - Standard Deviation:
    1. Demeaning the vector ( $2n$  flops)
    2. computing RMS of demeaned vector ( $2n$  flops) }  $4n$  flops.
- To ↑ efficiency to  $3n$  flops we can use formula:  $\text{std}(x) = \sqrt{\text{rms}(x)^2 - \text{avg}(x)^2}$
- Standardizing  $n$ -vector:  $5n$  flops • correlation coefficient:  $10n$  flops.
  - Nearest neighbour search:
    1. compute the distance between 2 vectors ( $3n$  flops)
    2. % computing distance between  $x$  & all  $K$  vectors is  $3Kn$  flops.