

The triangle inequality is that for all $\vec{v}, \vec{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\| \leq \|\vec{u}\| + \|\vec{v}\|$ must be true. We can start with the left side of the inequality. Since $\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}}$ we can rewrite left side as:

$$\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\| = \sqrt{(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) \cdot (\vec{u} + \vec{v})}$$

This can be expanded, and both sides can be squared to get:

$$\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\|^2 = \|\vec{u}\|^2 + 2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} + \|\vec{v}\|^2$$

Since $2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$ can be either a negative number or a positive number, we know that adding the absolute value of that term instead will result in a number that is either equal (in the positive case) or greater than (in the negative case) than the original equation. So, we can write this equality as an inequality.

$$\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\|^2 \leq \|\vec{u}\|^2 + 2|\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}| + \|\vec{v}\|^2$$

Using the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, we can further alter this part of the right side into terms of lengths.

$$\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\|^2 \leq \|\vec{u}\|^2 + 2\|\vec{u}\|\|\vec{v}\| + \|\vec{v}\|^2$$

This is just an expanded form of a squared term, so it can be factored as follows.

$$\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\|^2 \leq (\|\vec{u}\| + \|\vec{v}\|)^2$$

We can then apply a square root to both sides to get our inequality. This holds because we know that both terms must result in positive numbers since they are additions of lengths.

$$\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\| \leq \|\vec{u}\| + \|\vec{v}\|$$

To show that