

# Tensors

“ML generalization of vectors and matrices to any number of dimensions”

scalar

$x$

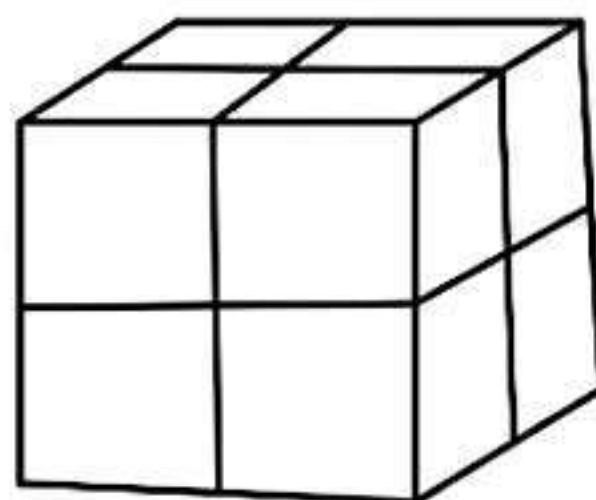
vector

$[x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3]$

matrix

$\begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} \\ x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$

3-tensor



Dimensions

Mathematical Name

Description

0

scalar

magnitude only

1

vector

array

2

matrix

flat table, e.g., square

3

3-tensor

3D table, e.g., cube

$n$

$n$ -tensor

higher dimensional

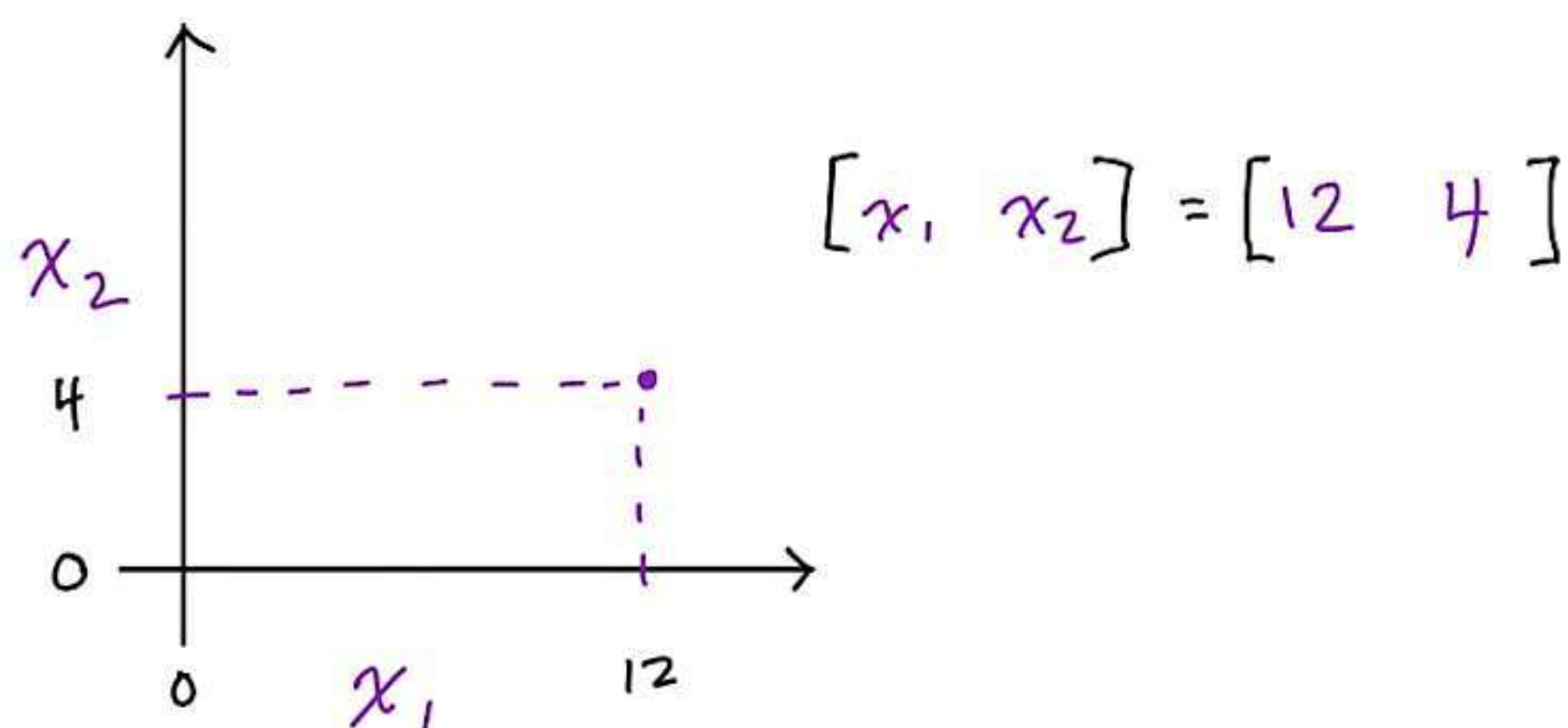
# Scalars

- No dimensions
- Single number
- Denoted in lowercase, italics, e.g.:  $x$
- Should be *typed*, like all other tensors: e.g., int, float32



# Vectors

- One-dimensional array of numbers
- Denoted in lowercase, italics, bold, e.g.:  $\mathbf{x}$
- Arranged in an order, so element can be accessed by its index
  - Elements are scalars so *not* bold, e.g., second element of  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $x_2$
- Representing a point in space:
  - Vector of length two represents location in 2D matrix (shown)
  - Length of three represents location in 3D cube
  - Length of  $n$  represents location in  $n$ -dimensional tensor



# Vector Transposition

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

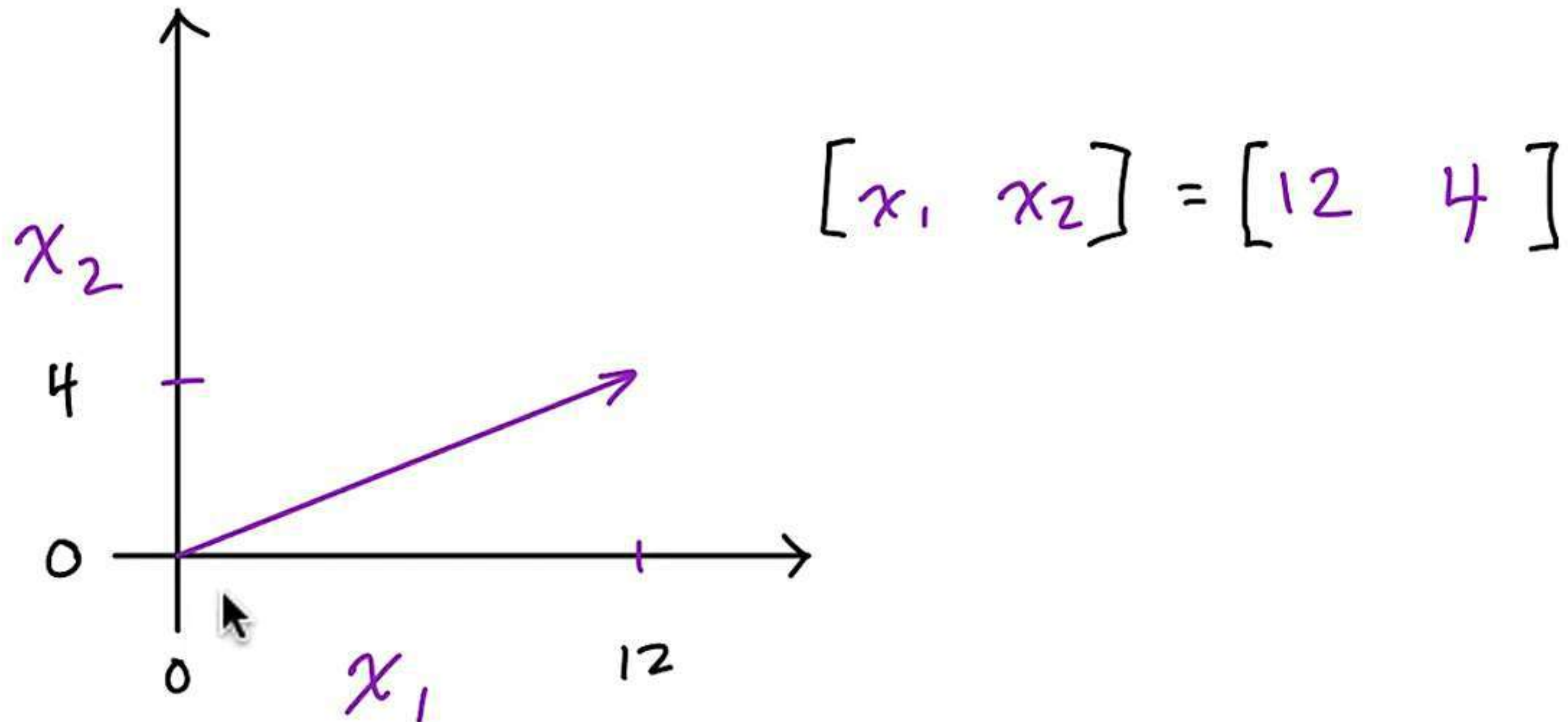
row vector                      column vector

shape is (1, 3)                      (3, 1)



# Norms

Vectors represent a magnitude and direction from origin:



**Norms** are functions that quantify vector magnitude.

# $L^2$ Norm

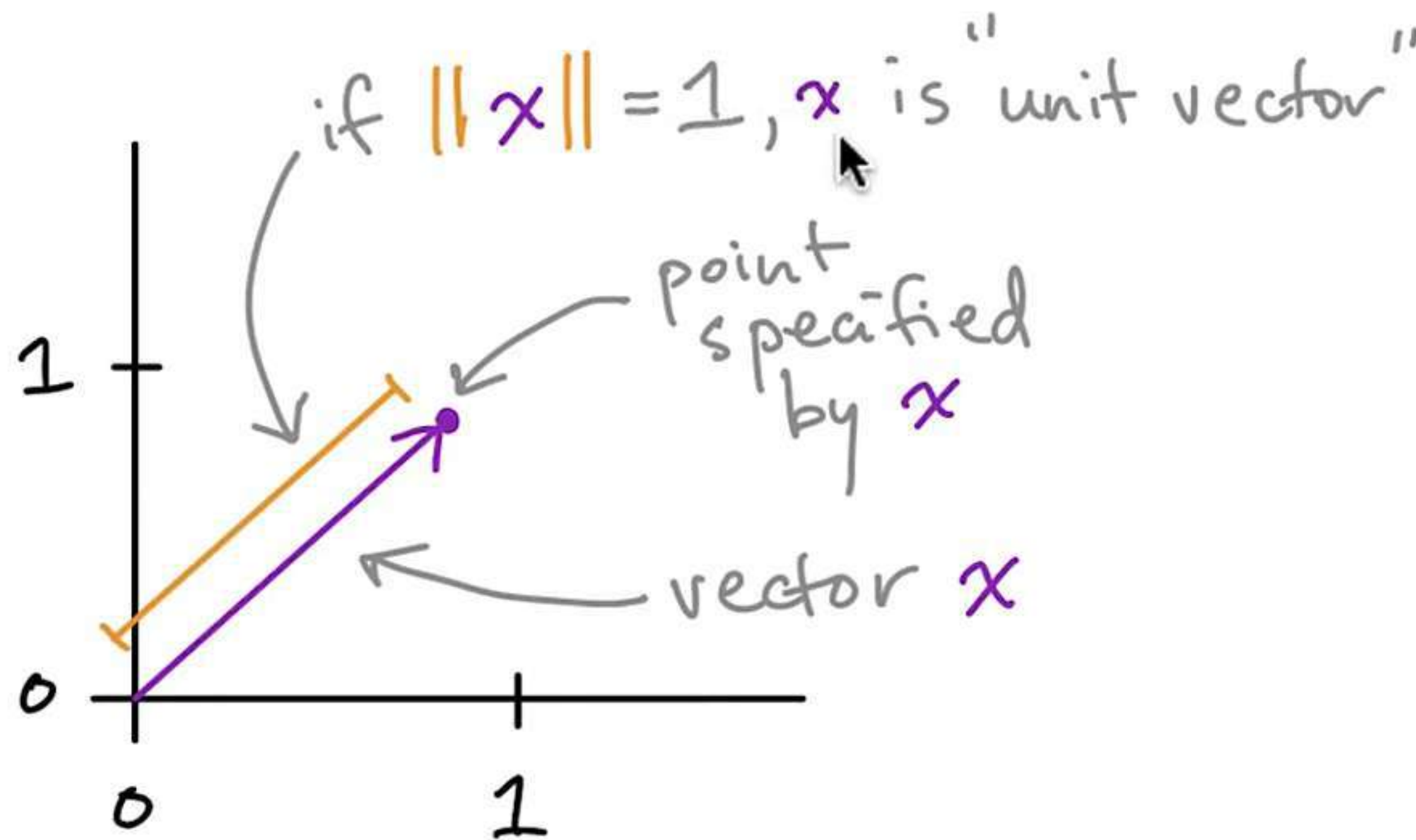
- Described by:

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2}$$

- Measures simple (Euclidean) distance from origin
- Most common norm in machine learning
  - Instead of  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2$ , it can be denoted as  $\|\mathbf{x}\|$

# Unit Vectors

- Special case of vector where its length is equal to one
- Technically,  $\mathbf{x}$  is a unit vector with "unit norm", i.e.:  $||\mathbf{x}|| = 1$





# $L^1$ Norm

- Described by:

$$\|x\|_1 = \sum_i |x_i|$$

- Another common norm in ML
- Varies linearly at all locations whether near or far from origin
- Used whenever difference between zero and non-zero is key



# Squared $L^2$ Norm

- Described by: 
$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = \sum_i x_i^2$$
- Computationally cheaper to use than  $L^2$  norm because:
  - Squared  $L^2$  norm equals simply  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}$
  - Derivative (used to train many ML algorithms) of element  $x$  requires that element alone, whereas  $L^2$  norm requires  $\mathbf{x}$  vector
- Downside is it grows slowly near origin so can't be used if distinguishing between zero and near-zero is important



# Max Norm (or $L^\infty$ Norm)

- Described by:

$$\|x\|_\infty = \max_i |x_i|$$

- Final norm we'll discuss; also occurs frequently in ML
- Returns the absolute value of the largest-magnitude element



# Generalized $L^p$ Norm

- Described by:

$$\| \mathbf{x} \|_p = \left( \sum_i |\mathbf{x}_i|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

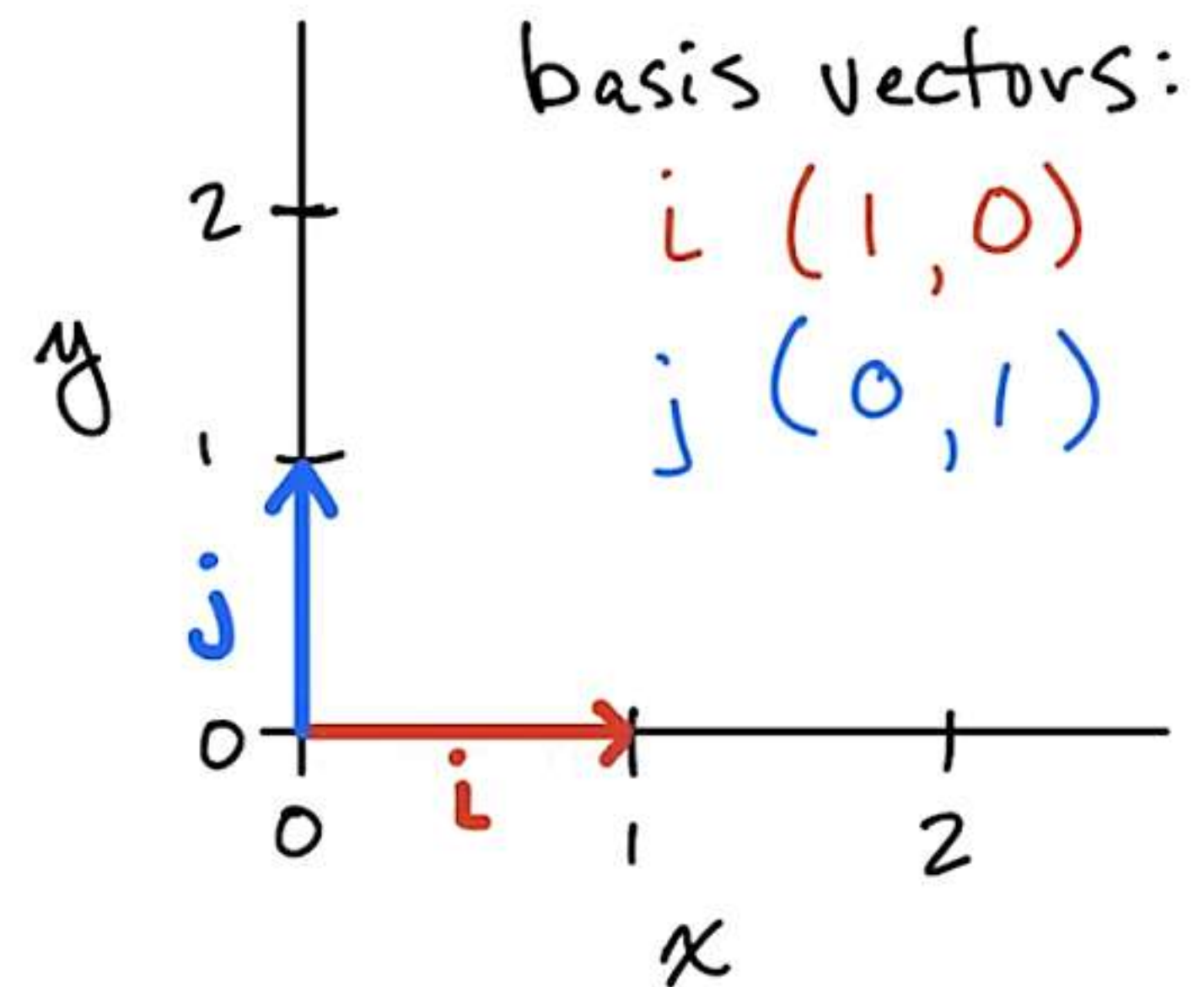
- $p$  must be:
  - A real number
  - Greater than or equal to one
- Can derive  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$ , and  $L^\infty$  norm formulae by substituting for  $p$
- Norms, particularly  $L^1$  and  $L^2$ , used to regularize objective functions



# Orthogonal Vectors

- $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are orthogonal vectors if  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{y} = 0$
- Are at  $90^\circ$  angle to each other (assuming non-zero norms)
- $n$ -dimensional space has max  $n$  mutually orthogonal vectors (again, assuming non-zero norms)
- **Orthonormal** vectors are orthogonal *and* all have unit norm
  - Basis vectors are an example

*Hands-on code demo*



# Basis Vectors

- Can be scaled to represent *any* vector in a given vector space
- Typically use unit vectors along axes of vector space (shown)

