## Euclidian distance

AJ Smit University of the Western Cape

## 1 Definition

The Euclidean distance between points  $\mathbf{p}$  and  $\mathbf{q}$  is the length of the line segment connecting them  $(\overline{\mathbf{pq}})$ . On an Euclidean plane, the position of point  $\mathbf{p}$  is defined by the position  $(p_x, p_y)$  and the position of point  $\mathbf{q}$  is  $(q_x, q_y)$ . The shortest distance between the points is therefore given by the Pythagorean Theorem

$$d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \sqrt{(p_x - q_x)^2 + (p_y - q_y)^2}$$