Definitions

Term	Notation Example(s)	We say in English ...
sequence	$x_1, \ldots, x_n$	A sequence x_1 to x_n
summation	$\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$ or $\displaystyle\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$	The sum of the terms of the sequence x_1 to x_n
all reals	$\mathbb{R}$	The (set of all) real numbers (numbers on the number line)
all integers	$\mathbb{Z}$	The (set of all) integers (whole numbers including negatives, zero, and positives)
all positive integers	$\mathbb{Z}^+$	The (set of all) strictly positive integers
all natural numbers	$\mathbb{N}$	The (set of all) natural numbers. **Note**: we use the convention that 0 is a natural number.
piecewise rule definition	$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$	Define f of x to be x when x is nonnegative and to be $-x$ when x is negative
function application	$f(7)$ $f(z)$ $f(g(z))$	f of 7 **or** f applied to 7 **or** the image of 7 under f f of z **or** f applied to z **or** the image of z under f f of g of z **or** f applied to the result of g applied to z
absolute value	$\lvert -3 \rvert$	The absolute value of -3
square root	$\sqrt{9}$	The non-negative square root of 9

Defining functions ratings

Recall our representation of Netflix users' ratings of movies as n-tuples, where n is the number of movies in the database. Each component of the n-tuple is -1 (didn't like the movie), 0 (neutral rating or didn't watch the movie), or 1 (liked the movie).

Consider the ratings $P_1 = (-1, 0, 1)$, $P_2 = (1, 1, -1)$, $P_3 = (1, 1, 1)$, $P_4 = (0, -1, 1)$

Which of P_1, P_2, P_3 has movie preferences most similar to P_4?

One approach to answer this question: use **functions** to define distance between user preferences.

For example, consider the function d_0 : $\rightarrow$
given by

$$d_0(\ (\ (x_1, x_2, x_3), (y_1, y_2, y_3)\ )\ ) = \sqrt{(x_1 - y_1)^2 + (x_2 - y_2)^2 + (x_3 - y_3)^2}$$

Extra example: A new movie is released, and P_1 and P_2 watch it before P_3, and give it ratings; P_1 gives ✓ and P_2 gives ✗. Should this movie be recommended to P_3? Why or why not?

Extra example: Define a new function that could be used to compare the 4-tuples of ratings encoding movie preferences now that there are four movies in the database.