

Figure 9.6: The unit closed unit ball $\{(u_1, u_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid ||(u_1, u_2)|| \leq 1\}$, where $||(u_1, u_2)|| = ((u_1 + u_2)^2 + u_1^2)^{1/2}$.

is known as Hölder's inequality. For p = 2, it is the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality.

Actually, if we define the *Hermitian inner product* $\langle -, - \rangle$ on \mathbb{C}^n by

$$\langle u, v \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{n} u_i \overline{v}_i,$$

where $u = (u_1, \ldots, u_n)$ and $v = (v_1, \ldots, v_n)$, then

$$|\langle u, v \rangle| \le \sum_{i=1}^{n} |u_i \overline{v}_i| = \sum_{i=1}^{n} |u_i v_i|,$$

so Hölder's inequality implies the following inequalities.

Corollary 9.2. (Hölder's inequalities) For any real numbers p, q, such that $p, q \ge 1$ and

$$\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1,$$

(with $q = +\infty$ if p = 1 and $p = +\infty$ if q = 1), we have the inequalities

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |u_i v_i| \le \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} |u_i|^p\right)^{1/p} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} |v_i|^q\right)^{1/q}$$

and

$$|\langle u, v \rangle| \le ||u||_p ||v||_q, \qquad u, v \in \mathbb{C}^n.$$