

Course Outline:

Based on Lectures from Winter, 2024 by Prof. Dmitry Jakobson.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Metric Spaces

↪ Definition 1.1: Metric Space

A set X is a *metric space* with distance d if

1. (symmetric) $d(x, y) = d(y, x) \geq 0$
2. $d(x, y) = 0 \iff x = y$
3. (triangle inequality) $d(x, y) + d(y, z) \geq d(x, z)$

Remark 1.1. If 1., 3. are satisfied but not 2., d can be called a “pseudo-distance”.

↪ Definition 1.2: Normed Space

Let X be a vector space over \mathbb{R} . The norm on X , denoted $\|x\| \in \mathbb{R}$, is a function that satisfies

1. $\|x\| \geq 0$
2. $\|x\| = 0 \iff x = 0$
3. $\|c \cdot x\| = |c| \cdot \|x\|$
4. $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$

If X is a normed vector space over \mathbb{R} , we can define a distance d on X by $d(x, y) = \|x - y\|$.

↪ Proposition 1.1

If X is a normed vector space over \mathbb{R} , a distance d on X by $d(x, y) = \|x - y\|$ makes (X, d) a metric space.

Proof. 1. $d(x, y) = \|x - y\| \geq 0$

$$2. d(x, y) = 0 \iff \|x - y\| = 0 \iff x - y = 0 \iff x = y$$

$$3. d(x, y) + d(y, z) = \|x - y\| + \|y - z\| \geq \|(x - y) + (y - z)\| = \|x - z\| := d(x, z)$$

■

⊗ **Example 1.1:** L^p distance in \mathbb{R}^n

Let $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$. The L^p norm is defined

$$\|x\|_p := (|x_1|^p + |x_2|^p + \dots + |x_n|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

In the case $p = 2, n = 2$, we simply have the standard Euclidean distance over \mathbb{R}^2 .

Unit Balls: consider when $\|x\|_p \leq 1$, over \mathbb{R}^2 .

- $p = 1 : |x_1| + |x_2| \leq 1$; this forms a “diamond ball” in the plane.
- $p = 2 : \sqrt{|x_1|^2 + |x_2|^2} \leq 1$; this forms a circle of radius 1. Clearly, this surrounds a larger area than in $p = 2$.

A natural question that follows is what happens as $p \rightarrow \infty$? Assuming $|x_1| \geq |x_2|$:

$$\begin{aligned} \|x\|_p &= (|x_1|^p + |x_2|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ &= \left[|x_1|^p \left(1 + \left| \frac{x_2}{x_1} \right|^p \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ &= |x_1| \left(1 + \left| \frac{x_2}{x_1} \right|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \end{aligned}$$

If $|x_1| > |x_2|$, this goes to $|x_1|$. If they are instead equal, then $\|x\|_p = |x_1| \cdot 2^{\frac{1}{p}} \rightarrow |x_1| \cdot 1$ as well. Hence, $\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \|x\|_p = \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|\}$. Thus, the unit ball will approach $\max\{|x_1|, |x_2|\} \leq 1$, that is, the unit square.

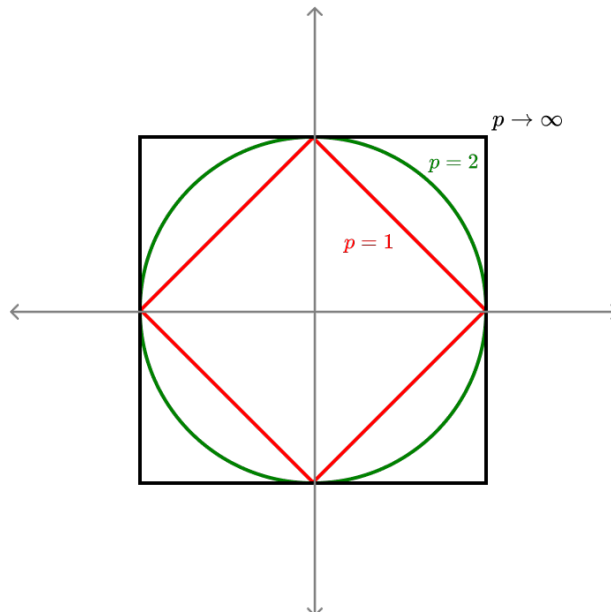


Figure 1: Regions of \mathbb{R}^2 where $\|x\|_p \leq 1$ for various values of p .

↪ **Proposition 1.2**

Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then, $\|x\|_p \rightarrow \max\{|x_1|, \dots, |x_n|\}$ as $p \rightarrow \infty$.

Remark 1.2. This is an extension of the previous example to arbitrary real space; the proof follows nearly identically.

↪ **Definition 1.3: Convex Set**

Let X be a normed space, and take $x, y \in X$. The line segment from x to y is the set

$$\{t \cdot x + (1 - t) \cdot y : 0 \leq t \leq 1\}.$$

Let $A \subseteq X$. A is *convex* $\iff \forall x, y \in A$, we have that

$$(t \cdot x + (1 - t) \cdot y) \in A \forall 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

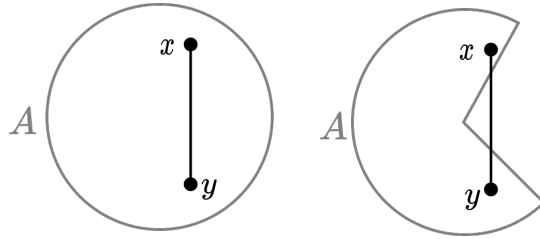


Figure 2: Convex (left) versus not convex (right) sets.

Remark 1.3. Think of this as saying “a set is convex iff every point on a line segment connected any two points is in the set”.

↪ **Definition 1.4: ℓ_p**

The space ℓ_p of sequences is defined as

$$\{x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \dots) : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |x_n|^p < +\infty\} \quad *.$$

Then, $*$ defines the ℓ^p norm on the space of sequences; that is, $\|x\|_p := (\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |x_n|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}$.

⊗ **Example 1.2: $\ell_p, x_n = \frac{1}{n}$**

. Let $x_n = \frac{1}{n}$. For which p is $x \in \ell_p$? We have, raising the norm to the power of p for ease:

$$\begin{aligned} \|x\|_p^p &= |x_1|^p + |x_2|^p + \dots + |x_n|^p + \dots \\ &= 1^p + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^p + \dots < \infty \iff p > 1. \end{aligned}$$

In the case that $p = 1$, this becomes a harmonic sum, which diverges.

⊗ **Example 1.3: L^p space of functions**

Let $f(x)$ be a continuous function. We define the norm of f over an interval $[a, b]$

$$\|f\|_p = \left[\int_a^b |f(x)|^p dx \right]^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Remark 1.4. Triangle inequality for $\|x\|_p$ or $\|f\|_p$ is called Minkowski inequality; $\|x\|_p + \|y\|_p \geq \|x + y\|_p$. This will be discussed further.

⊗ **Example 1.4: Distances between sets in \mathbb{R}^2**

Let A, B be bounded, closed, “nice” sets in \mathbb{R}^2 . We define

$$d(A, B) := \text{Area}(A \triangle B),$$

where

$$A \triangle B : (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A) = (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B).$$

It can be shown that this is a “valid” distance.

Remark 1.5. \triangle denotes the “symmetric difference” of two sets.

⊗ **Example 1.5: p -adic distance**

Let p be a prime number. Let $x = \frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q}$, and write $x = p^k \cdot \left(\frac{c}{d}\right)$, where c, d are not divisible by p . Then, the p -adic norm is defined $\|x\|_p := p^{-k}$. It can be shown that this is a norm.

Suppose $p = 2$, $x = 28 = 4 \cdot 7 = 2^2 \cdot 7$. Then, $\|28\|_2 = 2^{-2} = \frac{1}{4}$; similarly, $\|1024\|_2 = \|2^{10}\|_2 = 2^{-10}$.

More generally, we have that $\|2^k\|_2 = 2^{-k}$; conversely, $\|2^{-k}\| = 2^k$. That is, the closer to 0, the larger the distance, and vice versa, contrary to our notion of Euclidean distance.

↪ **Proposition 1.3**

$\|x\|_p$ as defined above is a well-defined norm over \mathbb{Q} .

Proof.



1.2 Topological Spaces

↪ [Definition 1.5: Topological space](#)

A set X is a topological space if we have a collection of subsets τ of X called *open sets* s.t.

1. $\emptyset \in \tau, X \in \tau$
2. Consider $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ where A_α an open set for any α ; then, $\bigcup_{\alpha \in I} A_\alpha \in \tau$, that is, it is also an open set.
3. If J is a finite set, and A_β open for all $\beta \in J$, then $\bigcap_{\beta \in J} A_\beta \in \tau$ is also open.

In other words, 2.: arbitrary unions of open sets are open, and 3.: finite intersections of open sets are open.

↪ [Definition 1.6: Closed sets](#)

Closed sets are complements of open sets; hence, axioms for closed sets follow appropriately;

- 1.* X, \emptyset closed;
- 2.* B_α closed $\forall \alpha \in I \implies \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} B_\alpha$ closed.
- 3.* B_β closed $\forall \beta \in J, J$ finite, then $\bigcup_{\beta \in J} B_\beta$ also closed.

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