

## I.II] Norms of Vectors and Functions and Matrices

A norm is a function  $\|\cdot\|: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that satisfies:

- (1)  $\|v\| > 0$  if  $v \neq 0$ ,
- (2)  $\|cv\| = |c| \|v\|$  for  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ ,
- (3)  $\|v+w\| \leq \|v\| + \|w\|$  (Triangle inequality).

Note that (2) implies that  $\|0\| = 0$ .

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Examples:

2-norm (aka Euclidean norm):

$$\|v\|_2 = \sqrt{|v_1|^2 + \cdots + |v_n|^2} = \sqrt{v^* v}.$$

1-norm:

$$\|v\|_1 = |v_1| + \cdots + |v_n|.$$

p-norm:

$$\|v\|_p = (|v_1|^p + \cdots + |v_n|^p)^{1/p}.$$

Here  $1 \leq p < \infty$ . If  $0 < p < 1$ , then  $\|\cdot\|_p$  is not a norm (triangle inequality fails).

If we let  $p \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\|v\|_\infty = \max_{i=1,\dots,n} |v_i|.$$

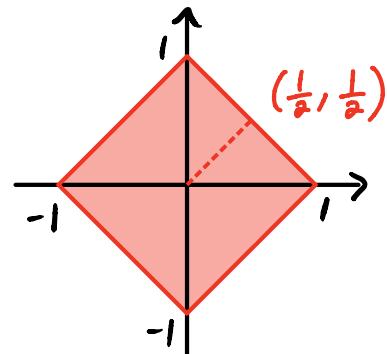
$\infty$ -norm:

$$\|v\|_\infty = \max_{i=1,\dots,n} |v_i|.$$

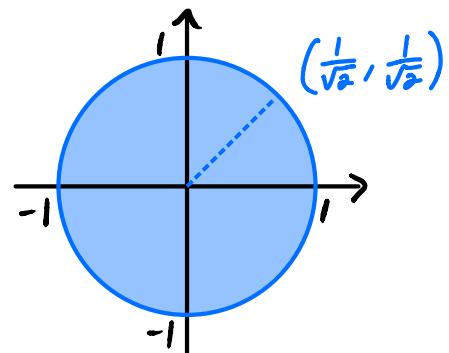
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The set of vectors with  $\|v\|_p \leq 1$  is different for different  $p$ .

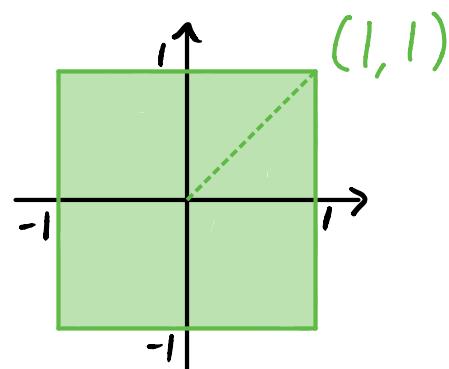
1-norm:  $|v_1| + |v_2| \leq 1$



2-norm:  $v_1^2 + v_2^2 \leq 1$



$\infty$ -norm:  $|v_1| \leq 1, |v_2| \leq 1$

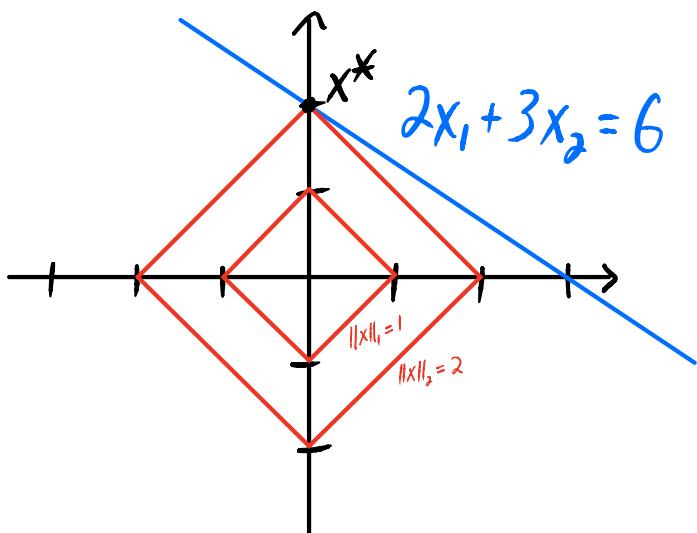


The  $l$ -norm has a very important property that the optimization problem

$$\min \|x\|_1 \text{ s.t. } Ax = b$$

always has an optimal sol'n  $x^*$  having at least one entry 0 (ie  $x_i^* = 0$  for some  $i$ ), and often  $x^*$  has many zero entries (ie  $x^*$  is sparse).

We can easily see why this is in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Suppose  $A = [2 \ 3]$  and  $b = [6]$ .



$$\begin{aligned} & \min \|x\|_1 \\ \text{s.t. } & 2x_1 + 3x_2 = 6 \end{aligned}$$

$$x^* = (0, 2)$$

$$\|x^*\|_1 = 2$$

Grow the  $l$ -norm ball until it touches the line.

Clearly the  $l$ -norm ball will always touch any line at some point  $x^*$  where  $x^* = (a, 0)$  or  $x^* = (0, b)$ .

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## Inner Products and Norms

The  $2$ -norm is defined by the inner product  $\langle v, w \rangle = v^T w = v_1 w_1 + \dots + v_n w_n$  :

$$\|v\| = \sqrt{v^T v}. \quad (\text{no subscript means } 2\text{-norm})$$

We can prove the triangle inequality

$$\|v+w\| \leq \|v\| + \|w\|$$

using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$|v^T w| \leq \|v\| \|w\|$$

[Recall that  $v^T w = \|v\| \|w\| \cos\theta$ , where  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$  is the angle between  $v$  and  $w$ .]

Pf of the triangle inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}\|v+w\|^2 &= (v+w)^T(v+w) \\&= v^Tv + v^Tw + w^Tv + w^Tw \\&= \|v\|^2 + 2v^Tw + \|w\|^2 \\&\leq \|v\|^2 + 2\|v\|\|w\| + \|w\|^2 \\&= (\|v\| + \|w\|)^2\end{aligned}$$

Another inner product is the  $S$  inner product,

$$\langle v, w \rangle_S = v^T S w,$$

where  $S$  is a symmetric positive definite matrix. We then get the

$S$ -norm,

$$\|v\|_S = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle_S} = \sqrt{v^T S v}.$$

We can use  $S$ -norms to do weighted least-squares.

## Norms of Matrices

A matrix norm must satisfy

- (1)  $\|A\| > 0$  if  $A \neq 0$
- (2)  $\|cA\| = |c|\|A\|$  for scalars  $c$
- (3)  $\|A+B\| \leq \|A\| + \|B\|$
- (4)  $\|AB\| \leq \|A\| \|B\|$

new property

The Frobenius norm of  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is

$$\|A\|_F = \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\text{tr}(A^T A)}$$

$$= \sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \dots + \sigma_r^2}.$$

The corresponding inner product is

$$\langle A, B \rangle = \text{tr}(A^T B) = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} b_{ij}.$$

Then  $\|A\|_F = \sqrt{\langle A, A \rangle}.$

## Induced Matrix Norms

If  $\|\cdot\|$  is a vector norm, the corresponding induced matrix norm is

$$\|A\| = \max_{v \neq 0} \frac{\|Av\|}{\|v\|}.$$

Then  $\|Av\| \leq \|A\| \|v\|$ .

### Examples:

2-norm:  $\|A\|_2 = \sigma_1$

1-norm:  $\|A\|_1 = \text{largest 1-norm of the columns of } A$

$\infty$ -norm:  $\|A\|_\infty = \text{largest 1-norm of the rows of } A$

## Matrix Norms and Singular Values

Define  $\sigma(A) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \vdots \\ \sigma_r \end{bmatrix}$  where  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$

are the singular values of  $A$ .

Then  $\|A\|_F = \|\sigma(A)\|_2$ ,

and  $\|A\|_2 = \|\sigma(A)\|_\infty$ .

What about  $\|\sigma(A)\|_1$ ? This is the  
nuclear norm of  $A$ :

$$\|A\|_N = \sigma_1 + \dots + \sigma_r.$$

Just as minimizing the 1-norm of a vector gives us a sparse vector,  
minimizing the nuclear norm gives us a low rank matrix.

## Example: The Netflix Problem

$$X = \begin{array}{c|cccc} & \text{Movie 1} & \dots & \text{Movie } n \\ \hline \text{Person 1} & 4 & \dots & 2 \\ \text{Person 2} & 1 & \dots & 5 \\ \vdots & & & \\ \text{Person } m & 3 & \dots & 1 \end{array}$$

We do not have ratings from all people for all movies. We want to fill in the missing ratings so we can give movie recommendations.

Since there are only a small number of different types of people and movies, we expect the rating matrix  $X$  to have low rank.

$$\min \|X\|_F \text{ s.t. } X_{ij} = r_{ij}, (i,j) \in I$$

Here  $I$  is the set of  $(i, j)$  where person  $i$  has rated movie  $j$ , and that rating is denoted  $r_{ij}$ .

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