

WEIGHTED NORMS

Definition

Proposition 1. Let W be a positive semidefinite n by n matrix. Then $g: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by $g(x) = \sqrt{x^\top W x}$ is a norm on \mathbb{R}^n .

Notation

Let $W \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n}$, positive semidefinite. Then we denote the norm corresponding to W by $\|\cdot\|_W$. So then, the norm of a vector $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ is $\|x\|_w$. Notice that $\|x\|_W = \|W^{1/2}x\|_2$.

Visualization

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We can compare the Euclidean norm on ${\sf R}^2$ with the weighted norm given by

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 2\&1\\1\&4 \end{pmatrix}$$

¹Future editions will visualize these norms as function on \mathbb{R}^2 , via contour plots.

