

## Why

We want to measure the size of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ .<sup>1</sup>

### **Definition**

The norm (Euclidean norm) of  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is

$$\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2}.$$

#### Notation

We denote the norm of x by ||x||. In other words,  $||\cdot|| : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  is a function from vectors to real numbers. The notation follows the notation of absolute value, the *magnitude* of a real number, and the double verticals remind us that x is a vector. A warning: some authors write |x| for the norm of x when it is understood that  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We understand the norm of x by comparison with the distance function  $d: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ . On one hand, the norm of x is d(x,0). So ||x|| measures the length of the vector x from the origin 0. On the other hand, d(x,y) = ||x-y||. So ||x-y|| measures the distance between x and y.

## **Properties**

The norm has several important properties

 $<sup>^{1}\</sup>mathrm{Future}$  editions may expand. They will certainly include images of the plane.

- 1.  $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha| \|x\|$ , called (absolute) homogeneity,
- 2.  $||x + y|| \le ||x|| + ||y||$ , called the triangle inequality,
- 3.  $||x|| \ge 0$ , called *non-negativity*, and
- 4.  $||x|| = 0 \longleftrightarrow x = 0$ , called definiteness.

# Visualization



