Outline

Norm

Distance

Standard deviation

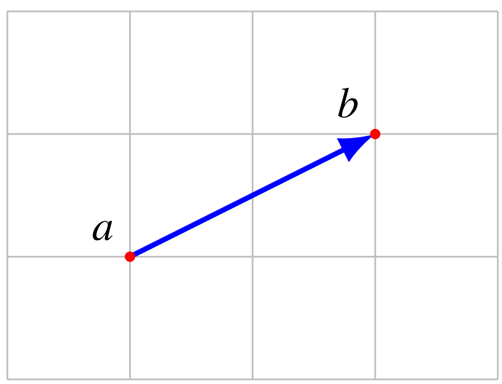
Angle

Distance

- (Euclidean) *distance* between n-vectors a and b is

$$\mathbf{dist}(a, b) = \|a - b\|$$

- agrees with ordinary distance for $n = 1, 2, 3$



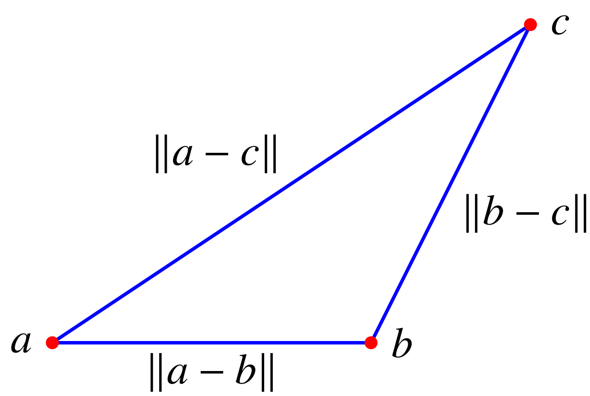
- $\mathbf{rms}(a - b)$ is the *RMS deviation* between a and b

Triangle inequality

- triangle with vertices at positions a, b, c
- edge lengths are $\|a-b\|$, $\|b-c\|$, $\|a-c\|$
- by triangle inequality

$$\|a-c\| = \|(a-b)+(b-c)\| \le \|a-b\| + \|b-c\|$$

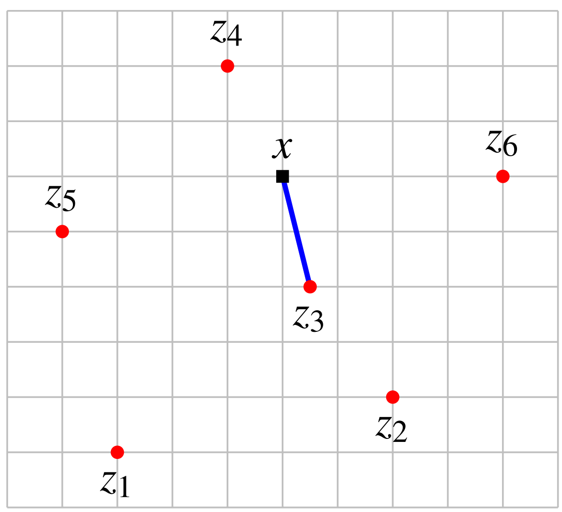
i.e., third edge length is no longer than sum of other two



Feature distance and nearest neighbors

- if x and y are feature vectors for two entities, $\|x - y\|$ is the *feature distance*
- if $z_1, \ldots, z_m$ is a list of vectors, z_j is the *nearest neighbor* of x if

$$\|x - z_j\| \leq \|x - z_i\|, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m$$



- these simple ideas are very widely used

Document dissimilarity

- 5 Wikipedia articles: 'Veterans Day', 'Memorial Day', 'Academy Awards', 'Golden Globe Awards', 'Super Bowl'
- word count histograms, dictionary of 4423 words
- pairwise distances shown below

	Veterans Day	Memorial Day	Academy Awards	Golden Globe Awards	Super Bowl
Veterans Day	0	0.095	0.130	0.153	0.170
Memorial Day	0.095	0	0.122	0.147	0.164
Academy A.	0.130	0.122	0	0.108	0.164
Golden Globe A.	0.153	0.147	0.108	0	0.181
Super Bowl	0.170	0.164	0.164	0.181	0

Outline

Norm

Distance

Standard deviation

Angle

Standard deviation

- for n-vector x, $\mathbf{avg}(x) = \mathbf{1}^T x/n$
- *de-meaned vector* is $\tilde{x} = x - \mathbf{avg}(x)\mathbf{1}$ $\quad$ (so $\mathbf{avg}(\tilde{x}) = 0$)
- *standard deviation* of x is

$$\mathbf{std}(x) = \mathbf{rms}(\tilde{x}) = \frac{\|x - (\mathbf{1}^T x/n)\mathbf{1}\|}{\sqrt{n}}$$

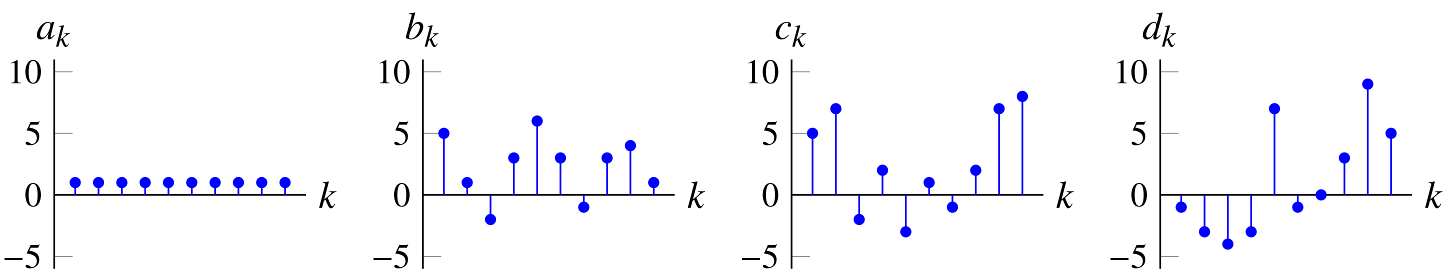
- $\mathbf{std}(x)$ gives 'typical' amount x_i vary from $\mathbf{avg}(x)$
- $\mathbf{std}(x) = 0$ only if $x = \alpha\mathbf{1}$ for some α
- greek letters μ, σ commonly used for mean, standard deviation
- a basic formula:

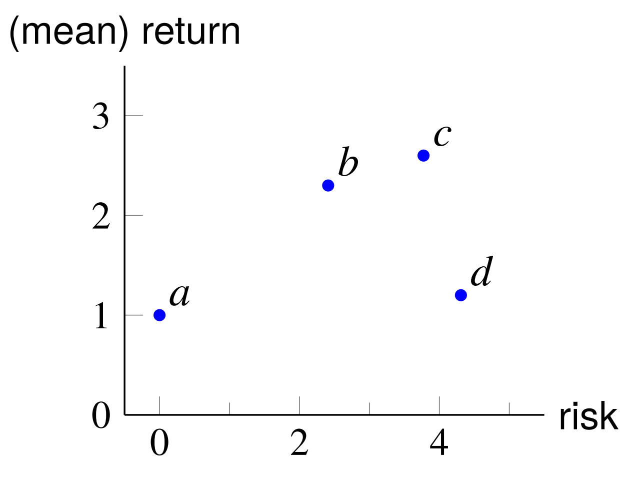
$$\mathbf{rms}(x)^2 = \mathbf{avg}(x)^2 + \mathbf{std}(x)^2$$

Mean return and risk

- x is time series of returns (say, in %) on some investment or asset over some period
- $\mathbf{avg}(x)$ is the mean return over the period, usually just called *return*
- $\mathbf{std}(x)$ measures how variable the return is over the period, and is called the *risk*
- multiple investments (with different return time series) are often compared in terms of return and risk
- often plotted on a *risk-return plot*

Risk-return example





Chebyshev inequality for standard deviation

- x is an n-vector with mean $\mathbf{avg}(x)$, standard deviation $\mathbf{std}(x)$
- rough idea: most entries of x are not too far from the mean
- by Chebyshev inequality, fraction of entries of x with

$$|x_i - \mathbf{avg}(x)| \geq \alpha\ \mathbf{std}(x)$$

  is no more than $1/\alpha^2$ (for $\alpha > 1$)
- for return time series with mean 8% and standard deviation 3%, loss ($x_i \leq 0$) can occur in no more than $(3/8)^2 = 14.1\%$ of periods

Outline

Cauchy–Schwarz inequality

- for two n-vectors a and b, $|a^T b| \leq \|a\| \|b\|$
- written out,

$$|a_1 b_1 + \cdots + a_n b_n| \leq \left(a_1^2 + \cdots + a_n^2\right)^{1/2} \left(b_1^2 + \cdots + b_n^2\right)^{1/2}$$

- now we can show triangle inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} \|a+b\|^2 &= \|a\|^2 + 2a^T b + \|b\|^2 \\ &\leq \|a\|^2 + 2\|a\| \|b\| + \|b\|^2 \\ &= (\|a\| + \|b\|)^2 \end{aligned}$$