

Convex Hull

Chan's Algorithm

“它不是不灵啦。您没明白，我说十万块钱哪，您是应当买一套。”

“什么叫一套哇？”

“一套。一套是两张：一张打着伞的，一张夹着伞的。下雨的时候，您看这张；不下雨您再看那张啊！”

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Output Sensitivity

- ❖ The $\log n$ factor of the CH algorithm complexity arises from the fact that you need to sort the up to n points on the hull
- ❖ Suppose that you were told (e.g., by an oracle) that there would be only h points on the hull and $h \ll n$
- ❖ Then the reasonable running time should be $O(n \log h)$ instead of $O(n \log n)$

// We will see later that $O(n \log h)$ is optimal
- ❖ Possible to get such an output sensitive CH algorithm?

How to?

The Ultimate Algorithm

- ❖ Based on a clever pruning method,
Kirkpatrick & Seidel discovered an $O(n \log h)$ -time algorithm in 1986
// D. G. Kirkpatrick & R. Seidel, The Ultimate Planar Convex Hull Algorithm?
// SIAM Journal on Computing, vol. 15, No. 1, February 1986, pp. 287-299
The convex hull of a set of n points in the plane can be constructed
in $O(n \log h)$ time, where h is the number of points on the hull
- ❖ However, this algorithm is relatively complicated and
is almost impossible for practical implementation
- ❖ Though, this problem had been considered closed
until around 10 years later when T. M. Chan came up with
a much simpler algorithm with the same running time

Graham Scan + Jarvis March

❖ By combining two slower algorithms together,
Chan got an algorithm that is faster than either one

- 1) The problem with **GS** is that it
has to **sort** first all the points, and hence
is doomed to have an $\Omega(n \log n)$ running time,
irrespective of the hull size
- 2) On the other hand, if you have **few** vertices on the hull,
JM can perform better but
it takes $\Omega(n)$ time for each EE

Chan's Idea

- 1) Partition the points into $\lceil r \rceil$ groups of equal size $\lceil m \rceil$

$$r = \lceil n/m \rceil$$

- 2) For each group, construct its hull using **GS**

Each subhull costs

$$O(m * \log m)$$

time, and hence subhulls for all groups can be obtained in time of

$$\lceil r \rceil \times O(m * \log m) = O(n * \log m)$$

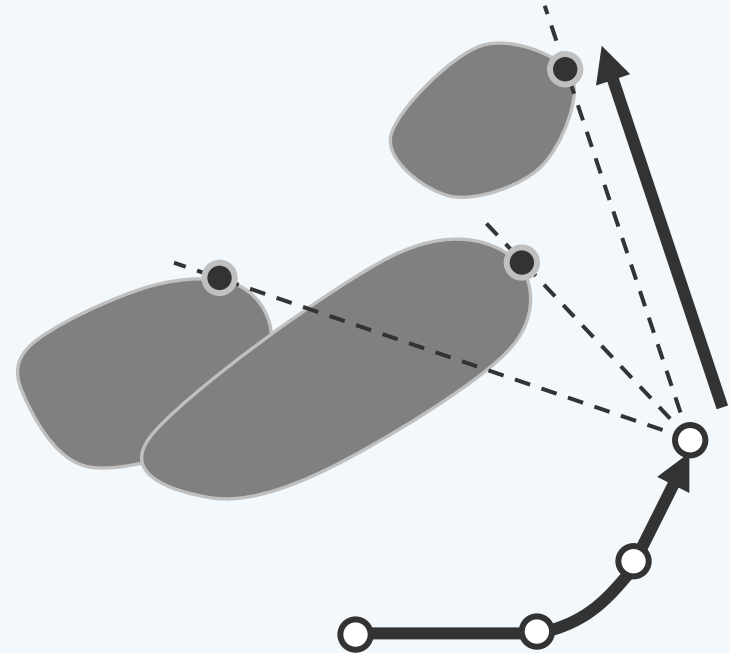
❖ How to **merge** the $\lceil r \rceil$ subhulls?

//And more important ...

How fast can it be done?

Merging Subhulls by Jarvis March

- ❖ During **JM**, we take advantage of the fact that the tangent between a point and a subhull of size **m** can be found in **$O(\log m)$** time
- ❖ To achieve this, for example, we can
 - 1) store the vertices of the subhull in a **linear array** and
 - 2) compute the tangent in a **binary search** manner
- ❖ Hence during each of the **h** iterations
 - 1) **r** tangents can be found in **$O(r * \log m)$** time and
 - 2) an EE can be found in **$O(r)$** additional time



Complexity

- ❖ As a whole, the final hull can be constructed from r subhulls in time of $h \times \mathcal{O}(r * \log m) = \mathcal{O}(h * r * \log m) = \mathcal{O}(\boxed{hn/m} \times \log m)$
- ❖ Combining the 2 steps ($\boxed{\text{GS} + \text{JM}}$) above, we get that for any $1 < m < n$, the convex hull of n points in the plane can be constructed in $\mathcal{O}(\boxed{(n + hn/m)} \times \log m)$ time
- ❖ You might have noticed that one thing is ignored here ...
- ❖ Before running JM, can we find the $\boxed{\text{first}}$ vertex on the final hull in, say, $\boxed{\mathcal{O}(\log m)}$ time?
- ❖ Convince yourself that, although the answer is $\boxed{\text{no}}$, it does $\boxed{\text{not}}$ affect the complexity of the algorithm as a whole

$$(n + hn/m) \times \log m$$

1) If $m = n$, the total running time will be $O(n \log n)$

It is not surprising, because we were actually running GS on a **single** group

2) If $m = 2$, the total running time will be $O(nh)$

It doesn't surprise us either, since, in fact

we're running JM on $n/2$ groups, each of which consists of only 2 points

3) If $m = h$, the total running time will be $O(n \log h)$! //just as expected

❖ But, the key problem here is that

how could we **know h in advance** so that

we can choose an $m = \Theta(h)$ **before** starting the algorithm?

//can an oracle help here?

Partial Convex Hull

❖ PartialHull (P, n, m)

//m = #points in each group

Partition the n points in P into $r = \lceil n/m \rceil$ groups

Compute r subhulls using GS and

store the vertices of each subhull in an ordered array reps.

Run JM on the r subhulls for no more than m steps

Once the hull becomes closed, stop march and return successfully

If the hull doesn't become closed yet after m steps we

know that m is too small and

may try a bigger m later //next m = ? & later = when?

Partial Convex Hull

1) Chan's partial convex hull algorithm constructs the hull as long as

$$m \geq h$$

2) If $m < h$, it returns a special error status `M_NOT_BIG_ENOUGH`

3) In both cases, the algorithm will terminate after $O(m)$ iterations of `JM`

❖ Therefore,

each call (with an argument m) for Chan's partial CH algorithm
will return in time of

$$O(n \log m) + O(m) * O(r \log m) = O(n \log m)$$

Guessing m

- ❖ Just as stated above, the key problem here is that
how could we call the partial CH algorithm
with an appropriate m ?
- ❖ Chan suggests that
 - 1) we start with a m , and
 - 2) each time the partial CH algorithm returns failure,
 m before trying it again
- ❖ How to increase m ?
- ❖ How much should it be increased each time?

Exponential Search

❖ Sequential search: keep trying with $m = 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$, until $m \geq h$

$$n \times (\log 2 + \log 3 + \log 4 + \dots + \log h) = n * \log(h!) = O(n * h \log h)$$

❖ Binary search: $m = 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots$, until $m \geq h$ //arithmetic progression

$$n \times (\log 2 + \log 4 + \log 8 + \dots + \log h) = n * \log^2 h$$

❖ Exponential search: $m_i = m_{i-1}^c, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, until $m \geq h$

For example, if constant $c = 2$, then $m = 2, 4, 16, 256, \dots$

$$n \times (\log 2 + \log 4 + \log 16 + \log 256 + \dots + \log h) \text{ //geometric progression}$$

$$n \times (1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + \dots + \log h) = n * \log h$$

Lower Bound

- ❖ We'll first give such a lower bound on the following "`simpler`" decision problem
- ❖ `Convex Hull Size Verification`
Given a point set P and an integer h , does $CH(P)$ have h distinct vertices?
- ❖ Based on the `algebra decision tree` model, we can prove that CHSV requires $\Omega(n \log h)$ time to solve
- ❖ This problem is `not harder than` the convex hull problem because
$$CHSV \leq_N CH$$
- ❖ Hence, $\Omega(n \log h)$ is `also` an lower bound for CH and Chan's algorithm is `optimal`