

Time Complexity Analysis

1) Brute force

Algorithm SLOWCONVEXHULL(P)

Input. A set P of points in the plane.

Output. A list L containing the vertices of CH(P) in clockwise order.

1. $E \leftarrow \emptyset$.
2. for all ordered pairs $(p; q) \in P \times P$ with p not equal to q
3. do valid \leftarrow true
4. for all points $r \in P$ not equal to p or q
5. do if r lies to the left of the directed line from p to q
6. then valid \leftarrow false.
7. if valid then Add the directed edge \overrightarrow{pq} to E .
8. From the set E of edges construct a list L of vertices of CH(P), sorted in clockwise order.

1. $\rightarrow O(1)$

2. ~ 7 . $\rightarrow O(n^3)$;

8. $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$ since I use graham scan to get extreme points in clockwise order. n itself is $O(2n) = O(n)$ since every extreme points at most appear twice at this point, one is the endpoint of one edge of convex hull, the other is the one of another edge.

So $O(n^3)$ overall for brute force.

2) Graham Scan

Algorithm CONVEXHULL(P)

Input. A set P of points in the plane.

Output. A list containing the vertices of CH(P) in clockwise order.

1. Sort the points by x-coordinate, resulting in a sequence $p_1; \dots; p_n$.

2. Put the points p_1 and p_2 in a list L_{upper} , with p_1 as the first point.
3. for $i = 3$ to n
4. do Append p_i to L_{upper} .
5. while L_{upper} contains more than two points and the last three points in L_{upper} do not make a right turn
6. do Delete the middle of the last three points from L_{upper} .
7. Put the points p_n and p_{n-1} in a list L_{lower} , with p_n as the first point.
8. for $i = n-2$ downto 1
9. do Append p_i to L_{lower} .
10. while L_{lower} contains more than 2 points and the last three points in L_{lower} do not make a right turn
11. do Delete the middle of the last three points from L_{lower} .
12. Remove the first and the last point from L_{lower} to avoid duplication of the points where the upper and lower hull meet.
13. Append L_{lower} to L_{upper} , and call the resulting list L .
14. return L

1. $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$;

2. $\rightarrow O(1)$;

3. ~ 6. $\rightarrow O(n)$;

7. ~ 11. $\rightarrow O(n)$;

12. $\rightarrow O(1)$

13. $\rightarrow O(n)$;

So $O(n \log n)$ overall for graham scan.

Comparison table between graham scan and brute force with different input size

Input Size	Brute Force	Graham Scan
N = 10	0 ms = 0 s	0 ms = 0 s
N = 100	0 ms = 0 s	0 ms = 0 s
N = 1000	3019 ms = 3.019 s	31 ms = 0.031 s
N = 10000	253352 ms = 253.352 s = 4.2 mins	95 ms = 0.095 s
N = 100000	more than 5 mins	1890 ms = 1.89 s

As we can see, the running time required by brute force grows much faster than graham scan, especially the time is extremely large when $n = 10000$ or 100000 . Furthermore, if we see n as in terms of brute force, n^3 , and we will get $n = 15$ for $N = 1000$, $n = 65$ for $N = 10000$ roughly, and then this n to calculate asymptotic running time for graham scan, which is that 17 for $N = 1000$ and 117 for $N = 10000$. In this way, we can have an intuitive understanding of difference in efficiency between two algorithms.