

# Programming Assignment 3: Collinear Points

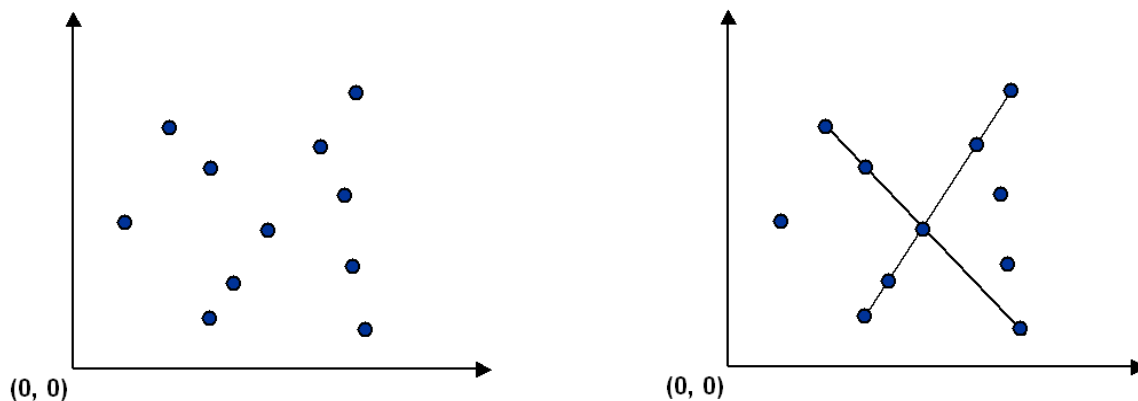
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## Programming Assignment 3

Write a program to recognize line patterns in a given set of points.

Computer vision involves analyzing patterns in visual images and reconstructing the real-world objects that produced them. The process is often broken up into two phases: *feature detection* and *pattern recognition*. Feature detection involves selecting important features of the image; pattern recognition involves discovering patterns in the features. We will investigate a particularly clean pattern recognition problem involving points and line segments. This kind of pattern recognition arises in many other applications such as statistical data analysis.

**The problem.** Given a set of  $n$  distinct points in the plane, find every (maximal) line segment that connects a subset of 4 or more of the points.



**Point data type.** Create an immutable data type `Point` that represents a point in the plane by implementing the following API:

```
public class Point implements Comparable<Point> {
    public Point(int x, int y)                // constructs the point
    (x, y)

    public void draw()                        // draws this point
}
```

```

    public void drawTo(Point that)           // draws the line segment
    from this point to that point
    public String toString()                 // string representation

    public int compareTo(Point that)         // compare two points by y-
    coordinates, breaking ties by x-coordinates
    public double slopeTo(Point that)        // the slope between this
    point and that point
    public Comparator<Point> slopeOrder()    // compare two points by
    slopes they make with this point
}

```

To get started, use the data type [Point.java](#), which implements the constructor and the `draw()`, `drawTo()`, and `toString()` methods. Your job is to add the following components.

- The `compareTo()` method should compare points by their  $y$ -coordinates, breaking ties by their  $x$ -coordinates. Formally, the invoking point  $(x_0, y_0)$  is *less than* the argument point  $(x_1, y_1)$  if and only if either  $y_0 < y_1$  or if  $y_0 = y_1$  and  $x_0 < x_1$ .
- The `slopeTo()` method should return the slope between the invoking point  $(x_0, y_0)$  and the argument point  $(x_1, y_1)$ , which is given by the formula  $(y_1 - y_0) / (x_1 - x_0)$ . Treat the slope of a horizontal line segment as positive zero; treat the slope of a vertical line segment as positive infinity; treat the slope of a degenerate line segment (between a point and itself) as negative infinity.
- The `slopeOrder()` method should return a comparator that compares its two argument points by the slopes they make with the invoking point  $(x_0, y_0)$ . Formally, the point  $(x_1, y_1)$  is *less than* the point  $(x_2, y_2)$  if and only if the slope  $(y_1 - y_0) / (x_1 - x_0)$  is less than the slope  $(y_2 - y_0) / (x_2 - x_0)$ . Treat horizontal, vertical, and degenerate line segments as in the `slopeTo()` method.
- Do *not* override the `equals()` or `hashCode()` methods.

**Corner cases.** To avoid potential complications with integer overflow or floating-point precision, you may assume that the constructor arguments  $x$  and  $y$  are each between 0 and 32,767.

**Line segment data type.** To represent line segments in the plane, use the data type [LineSegment.java](#), which has the following API:

```

public class LineSegment {
    public LineSegment(Point p, Point q)           // constructs the line segment
    between points p and q
    public void draw()                             // draws this line segment
    public String toString()                        // string representation
}

```

**Brute force.** Write a program `BruteCollinearPoints.java` that examines 4 points at a time and checks whether they all lie on the same line segment, returning all such line segments. To check whether the 4 points  $p$ ,  $q$ ,  $r$ , and  $s$  are collinear, check whether the three slopes between  $p$  and  $q$ , between  $p$  and  $r$ , and between  $p$  and  $s$  are all equal.

```

public class BruteCollinearPoints {
    public BruteCollinearPoints(Point[] points)    // finds all line segments
    containing 4 points
    public int numberOfSegments()                  // the number of line segments
    public LineSegment[] segments()                // the line segments
}

```

The method `segments()` should include each line segment containing 4 points exactly once. If 4 points appear on a line segment in the order  $p \rightarrow q \rightarrow r \rightarrow s$ , then you should include either the line segment  $p \rightarrow s$  or  $s \rightarrow p$  (but not both) and you should not include *subsegments* such as  $p \rightarrow r$  or  $q \rightarrow r$ . For simplicity, we will not supply any input to `BruteCollinearPoints` that has 5 or more collinear points.

*Corner cases.* Throw an `IllegalArgumentException` if the argument to the constructor is null, if any point in the array is null, or if the argument to the constructor contains a repeated point.

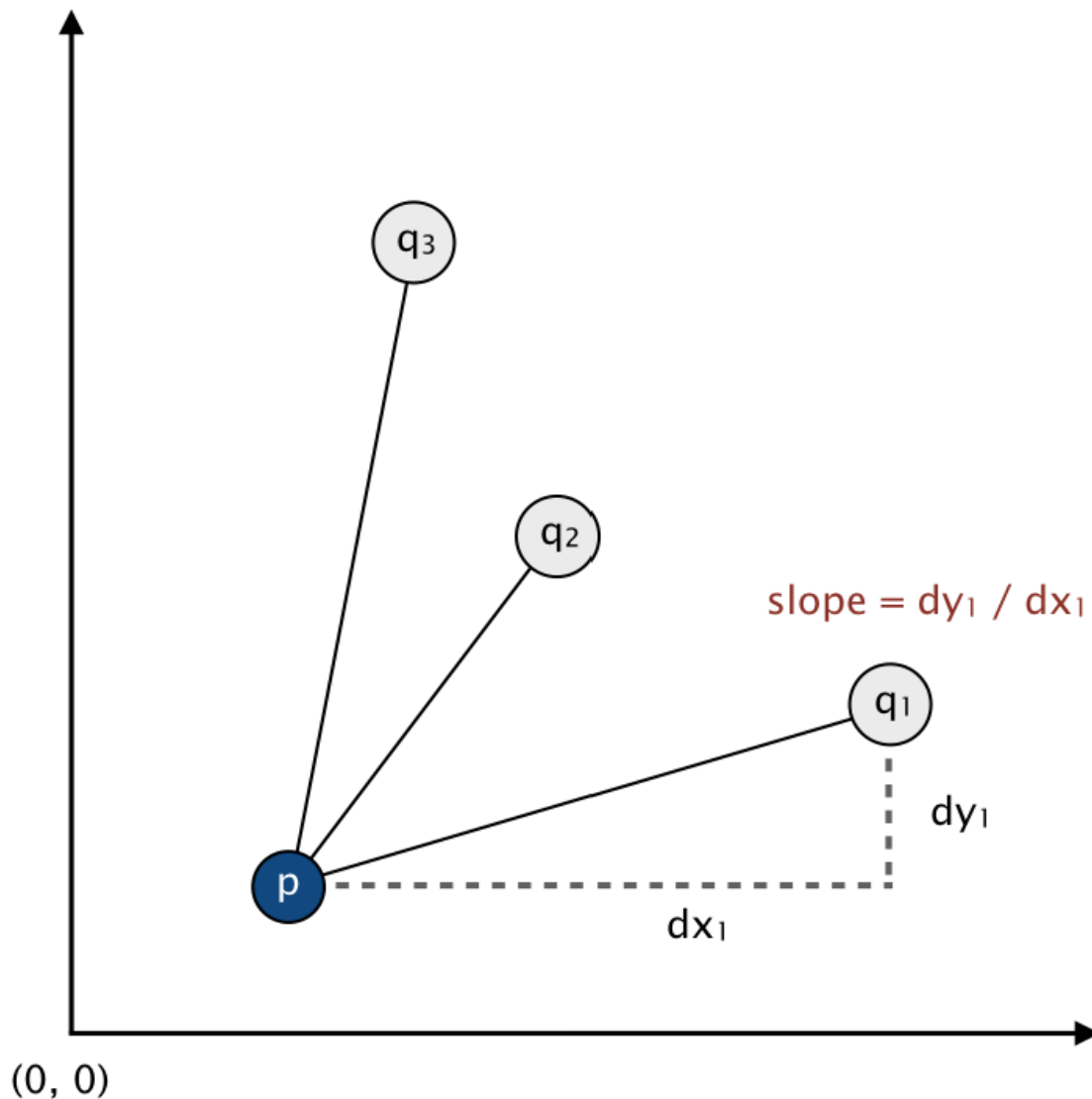
*Performance requirement.* The order of growth of the running time of your program should be  $n^4$  in the worst case and it should use space proportional to  $n$  plus the number of line segments returned.

**A faster, sorting-based solution.** Remarkably, it is possible to solve the problem much faster than the brute-force solution described above. Given a point  $p$ , the

following method determines whether  $p$  participates in a set of 4 or more collinear points.

- Think of  $p$  as the origin.
- For each other point  $q$ , determine the slope it makes with  $p$ .
- Sort the points according to the slopes they make with  $p$ .
- Check if any 3 (or more) adjacent points in the sorted order have equal slopes with respect to  $p$ . If so, these points, together with  $p$ , are collinear.

Applying this method for each of the  $n$  points in turn yields an efficient algorithm to the problem. The algorithm solves the problem because points that have equal slopes with respect to  $p$  are collinear, and sorting brings such points together. The algorithm is fast because the bottleneck operation is sorting.



Write a program `FastCollinearPoints.java` that implements this algorithm.

```

public class FastCollinearPoints {
    public FastCollinearPoints(Point[] points)    // finds all line segments
    containing 4 or more points
    public int numberOfSegments()                // the number of line segments
    public LineSegment[] segments()              // the line segments
}

```

The method `segments()` should include each *maximal* line segment containing 4 (or more) points exactly once. For example, if 5 points appear on a line segment in the order  $p \rightarrow q \rightarrow r \rightarrow s \rightarrow t$ , then do not include the subsegments  $p \rightarrow s$  or  $q \rightarrow t$ .

*Corner cases.* Throw an `IllegalArgumentException` if the argument to the constructor is null, if any point in the array is null, or if the argument to the constructor contains a repeated point.

*Performance requirement.* The order of growth of the running time of your program should be  $n^2 \log n$  in the worst case and it should use space proportional to  $n$  plus the number of line segments returned. `FastCollinearPoints` should work properly even if the input has 5 or more collinear points.

**Sample client.** This client program takes the name of an input file as a command-line argument; read the input file (in the format specified below); prints to standard output the line segments that your program discovers, one per line; and draws to standard draw the line segments.

```

public static void main(String[] args) {

    // read the n points from a file
    In in = new In(args[0]);
    int n = in.readInt();
    Point[] points = new Point[n];
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        int x = in.readInt();
        int y = in.readInt();
        points[i] = new Point(x, y);
    }

    // draw the points
    StdDraw.enableDoubleBuffering();
}

```

```

StdDraw.setXscale(0, 32768);
StdDraw.setYscale(0, 32768);
for (Point p : points) {
    p.draw();
}
StdDraw.show();

// print and draw the line segments
FastCollinearPoints collinear = new FastCollinearPoints(points);
for (LineSegment segment : collinear.segments()) {
    StdOut.println(segment);
    segment.draw();
}
StdDraw.show();
}

```

**Input format.** We supply several sample input files (suitable for use with the test client above) in the following format: An integer  $n$ , followed by  $n$  pairs of integers  $(x, y)$ , each between 0 and 32,767. Below are two examples.

% cat input6.txt	% cat input8.txt
6	8
19000 10000	10000 0
18000 10000	0 10000
32000 10000	3000 7000
21000 10000	7000 3000
1234 5678	20000 21000
14000 10000	3000 4000
	14000 15000
	6000 7000

```

% java-algs4 BruteCollinearPoints input8.txt
(10000, 0) -> (0, 10000)
(3000, 4000) -> (20000, 21000)

% java-algs4 FastCollinearPoints input8.txt
(3000, 4000) -> (20000, 21000)
(0, 10000) -> (10000, 0)

% java-algs4 FastCollinearPoints input6.txt
(14000, 10000) -> (32000, 10000)

```

**Web submission.** Submit a .zip file containing only BruteCollinearPoints.java, FastCollinearPoints.java, and Point.java. We will supply LineSegment.java and algs4.jar. You may not call any library functions except those in java.lang, java.util, and algs4.jar. You may use library functions in java.util only if they have already been introduced in the course. For example, you may use Arrays.sort(), but not java.util.HashSet.

This assignment was developed by Bob Sedgewick and Kevin Wayne.  
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