

Queens College, CUNY, Department of Computer Science  
**Numerical Methods**  
**CSCI 361 / 761**  
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## 1 Homework set 1

- Please email your solution, as a file attachment, to `Sateesh.Mane@qc.cuny.edu`.
- Please submit one zip archive with all your files in it.
  1. The zip archive should have either of the names (CS361 or CS761):  
`StudentId_first_last_CS361_hw1.zip`  
`StudentId_first_last_CS761_hw1.zip`
  2. The archive should contain one “text file” named “hw1.[txt/docx/pdf]” and one cpp file per question named “Q1.cpp” and “Q2.cpp” etc.
  3. Note that not all homework assignments may require a text file.
  4. Note that not all questions may require a cpp file.

## 1.1 GCD

Euclid's algorithm to calculate the greatest common divisor (GCD) of two positive integers was presented in class. The code was given as follows

```
long gcd_euclid(long a, long b)
{
    if (a < b) {
        return gcd_euclid(b,a);
    }

    long c = (a%b);
    if (c == 0)
        return b;
    else if (c == 1)
        return 1;

    return gcd_euclid(b,c);
}
```

### 1.1.1

- **Modify the code to return 0 to guard against invalid inputs  $a < 0$  or  $b < 0$ .**
- *Excel has a function “gcd(number1, number2).” Try it.*  
Observe that Excel will complain if you enter negative inputs.  
*What if either  $a$  or  $b$  equal zero? If  $a = 10$  and  $b = 0$ , then Excel returns  $\text{gcd}(10,0) = 10$ .*
- Something to think about: if  $a > 0$  and  $b = 0$ , then  $a$  obviously divides  $a$ , and logically, it also divides zero (*the remainder is zero!*).  
**Modify the above code so that if  $a = 0$  then return  $\text{gcd} = b$ , and if  $b = 0$  then return  $\text{gcd} = a$ .** Obviously if  $a = b = 0$  then  $\text{gcd} = 0$ . You can check by comparing your function output to the Excel output, for arbitrary values of  $a$  and  $b$ .

### 1.1.2

The lowest common multiple (LCM) of two positive integers is related to the GCD via

$$LCM(a,b) \times GCD(a,b) = ab.$$

**Write a function with signature “long LCM(long a, long b)” to compute the LCM of two integers  $a$ ,  $b$ . If  $a \leq 0$  or  $b \leq 0$ , then return 0.**

## 1.2 Convert decimal to binary, decimal to hex

This function inputs a positive integer in decimal, and outputs an array (vector) with digits in any base from 2 through 16.

```
int dec_to_base(int a, int base, std::vector<char> & digits)
{
    char alphanum[16] = {'0','1','2','3','4','5','6','7','8','9','A','B','C','D','E','F'};

    digits.clear();
    if ((base < 2) || (base > 16)) return 1;    // fail
    if (a < 0) return 1;                        // fail
    if (a == 0) {
        digits.push_back(alphanum[0]);
        return 0;
    }
    while (a > 0) {
        int rem = a % base;
        char c = alphanum[rem];
        digits.push_back(c);
        a /= base;
    }
    std::reverse(digits.begin(), digits.end()); // reverse the digits
    return 0;
}
```

- Note that the output vector is ‘char’ not ‘int’ because the digits are alphanumeric.
- The function return type is ‘int’ not ‘void’ because we test for bad inputs: the function returns 0 for success and 1 for failure.
- The output elements are ordered so that if we print as follows, we get the digits in the base

```
for (int i = 0; i < (int) digits.size(); ++i) {
    std::cout << digits[i];
}
std::cout << std::endl;
```

### 1.2.1

**Try this out for sample inputs such as  $a = 106$  (you should get 6A), etc.**

*Excel has a function “dec2hex.” You can check by comparing the function output to the Excel output. If  $a = -1$ , Excel returns  $\text{dec2hex}(-1) = \text{FFFFFFFF}$  (on a 32-bit computer). Let us skip negative inputs. **The lesson is that people who write “industrial strength” commercial products need to guard against all cases.***

### 1.3 Horner's rule (nested summation) and Taylor series

- The exponential function  $\exp(x)$  can be expanded in a power series as

$$\exp(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

- It was explained in class how mathematical libraries compute  $\exp(x)$ .
- Here we shall write a simple function to compute  $\exp(x)$  to an accuracy of  $10^{-15}$  for  $|x| \leq 0.5$ .
- First we truncate the above series to a finite sum up to  $n_{\max}$  terms

$$S_{\exp} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots + \frac{x^{n_{\max}}}{n_{\max}!}.$$

- This makes the sum a Taylor series (or a Maclaurin series), and also a polynomial in  $x$ .
- Using  $n_{\max} = 30$  is sufficient for our purposes.
- **Write an efficient expression using nested sums to compute the above sum.**
- **Write a function to compute your sum.**
- The function signature is

```
double exp_sum(double x);
```

- Test your function using values of  $x$  where  $-0.5 \leq x \leq 0.5$ . (You will have to write a main program to call your function.) Compare your output to the library function value of  $\exp(x)$ . The absolute difference  $|\text{exp\_sum}(x) - \exp(x)|$  should be always less than  $10^{-15}$ .

## 1.4 Convex hull

Let us write a function to compute the convex hull of a set of  $n$  points in a plane. Instead of carrying around too many arrays, let us employ the power of C++ and use a class.

- Write the following Point class. Make everything public for simplicity.

```
class Point {
public:
    Point(double x1, double y1) : x(x1), y(y1) {
        r = sqrt(x*x + y*y);
        if (r > 0.0) {
            theta = atan2(y,x);
        }
        else {
            theta = 0;
        }
    }

    double x;
    double y;
    double r;
    double theta;
};
```

- We compute the values of  $r$  and  $\theta$  for later use in comparisons.
- This is the advantage of writing a class: we can store relevant information all in one object.
- As explained in the lectures, we shall require a comparison function. For points  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , we test if  $\theta_a < \theta_b$ . If  $\theta_a = \theta_b$ , we test if  $r_a < r_b$ .
- Write the following comparison function.

```
bool vcomp(const Point &a, const Point &b)
{
    if (a.theta < b.theta) {
        return true;
    }
    else if (a.theta > b.theta) {
        return false;
    }

    return (a.r < b.r);
}
```

**Now we write the convex hull function. This is the function signature:**

```
void convex_hull_func(int n, const std::vector<double> & x,  
                     const std::vector<double> & y,  
                     std::vector<Point> & convex_hull);
```

- The inputs are
  - (i) int `n` (number of points)
  - (ii) arrays `x` and `y` of type `double` (coordinates of points).
- The output is
  - (iii) array `convex_hull` of type `Point`.
- **We need the input `n`.**
- Do not assume the length of the input arrays `x` and `y` is exactly `n`. *They could be longer.*
- We could also make the input an array of `Point` objects.

**The following pseudocode describes the steps. You can use it as the basis to write a working function.**

1. Let us define a constant `tol = 10-14` for later use.
2. We begin by clearing `convex_hull` and testing for the trivial case  $n \leq 3$ .  
If  $n \leq 3$  we populate `convex_hull` with the input coordinates and return.  
We insert the point  $(x[0], y[0])$  at the end to close the polygon.

```
const double tol = 1.0e-14;  
convex_hull.clear();  
if (n <= 0) return; // simple safeguard  
if (n <= 3) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i) {  
        convex_hull.push_back( Point(x[i],y[i]) );  
    }  
    convex_hull.push_back( Point(x[0],y[0]) ); // close the polygon  
    return;  
}
```

3. Next, find the minimum value  $y_{\min}$  and save the partner value  $x_{\min}$ .  
Also store the index  $i_{\min}$  where the minimum is located.  
Initialize the variables `int imin=0`, `double xmin=x[0]` and `double ymin=y[0]`.
  - (a) Loop from  $i = 1$  to  $n - 1$ .
  - (b) Test if  $y_{\min} > y[i]$ . If yes, then set  $imin=i$ ,  $xmin=x[i]$  and  $ymin=y[i]$ .
  - (c) Else test if  $y_{\min} == y[i]$ . If yes, then test if  $x_{\min} > x[i]$ . If yes, then set  $imin=i$ ,  $xmin=x[i]$  and  $ymin=y[i]$ .

4. Now construct and sort the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$ . Do it as follows:

```
std::vector<Point> v;
for (int iv = 0; iv < n; ++iv) {
    double vx = x[iv] - xmin;
    double vy = y[iv] - ymin;
    if (iv == imin) { // avoid roundoff error
        vx = 0;
        vy = 0;
    }
    v.push_back( Point(vx,vy) );
}

// sort the vectors
std::sort(v.begin(), v.end(), vcomp);
```

5. Note the following important details:

- (a) The special case  $\mathbf{v}_i = (0, 0)$  for  $i = \text{imin}$  is to avoid roundoff error. This is the “starting point” of the convex hull.
- (b) In the lecture, there were only  $n - 1$  vectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$ .
- (c) Furthermore, the lecture also stated (for the starting point) “Without loss of generality, suppose this point is  $(x_1, y_1)$ .”
- (d) This is impractical for computation. Instead, the code has  $n$  vectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$ , with  $\mathbf{v}_i = (0, 0)$  for  $i = \text{imin}$ . The comparison function `vcomp` has been formulated so that the sort algorithm will move that item to the first element in the sorted array.

6. Now construct the points  $\mathbf{p}_i$ . As stated in the lecture,  $\mathbf{p}_i$  and  $\mathbf{v}_i$  can share the same memory. Note that  $\mathbf{p}_0 = (x_{\min}, y_{\min})$  automatically (from the sort).

```
// add (xmin, ymin) to sorted vectors
for (int ip = 0; ip < n; ++ip) {
    v[ip].x += xmin;
    v[ip].y += ymin;
}
std::vector<Point> &p = v; // p is reference to v, shares same memory
```

7. Initialize the stack for the convex hull.

```
convex_hull.push_back(p[0]);
convex_hull.push_back(p[1]);
```

8. Next loop through the points  $p_i$  and update the stack. The tests are described in the lecture. However, they require vector calculus. It is unrealistic to ask you to code them on your own. I will give you the code for the loop of tests. We use the const parameter “tol” in the tests.

```
int i = convex_hull.size();
while (i < n) {
    // test for direction of rotation of edges
    int last = convex_hull.size() - 1;
    int second_last = last - 1;
    double ux = convex_hull[last].x - convex_hull[second_last].x;
    double uy = convex_hull[last].y - convex_hull[second_last].y;
    double wx = p[i].x - convex_hull[last].x;
    double wy = p[i].y - convex_hull[last].y;

    double cross_product = ux*wy - uy*wx;
    if (cross_product > tol) {
        // counterclockwise rotation = add to convex hull
        convex_hull.push_back(p[i]);
        ++i;
    }
    else if (fabs(cross_product) <= tol) {
        // straight line = replace old point by new point
        convex_hull.pop_back();
        convex_hull.push_back(p[i]);
        ++i;
    }
    else {
        // clockwise rotation = erase a point in the stack
        convex_hull.pop_back();
    }
}
```

9. After the loop is over, the stack contains the points of the convex hull. Close the convex hull polygon by adding  $p_0$  to the end.

```
convex_hull.push_back(p[0]);
```

10. We are done. Exit the function.

Write a main program to call the function. Generate some points and compute the convex hull. Plot the points (in a spreadsheet?). Plot the convex hull (closed polygon). See if it works.

- **The function will work even if some of the points are not distinct.**
- **The function will work even if ALL the points coincide.**



- If you know about C++ iterators, there is a more elegant way to write the code for the tests.
- We use a `const_reverse_iterator` to access the last and second last elements in the stack.
- We use “const” because we do not change the data inside the `Point` objects.
- **You should learn how to use C++ iterators.**

```

int i = convex_hull.size();
while (i < n) {
    // test for direction of rotation of edges
    std::vector<Point>::const_reverse_iterator cit = convex_hull.crbegin();
    const Point &last_pt = *cit;
    const Point &second_last_pt = *(++cit);
    double ux = last_pt.x - second_last_pt.x;
    double uy = last_pt.y - second_last_pt.y;
    double wx = p[i].x - last_pt.x;
    double wy = p[i].y - last_pt.y;

    double cross_product = ux*wy - uy*wx;
    if (cross_product > tol) {
        // counterclockwise rotation = add to convex hull
        convex_hull.push_back(p[i]);
        ++i;
    }
    else if (fabs(cross_product) <= tol) {
        // straight line = replace old point by new point
        convex_hull.pop_back();
        convex_hull.push_back(p[i]);
        ++i;
    }
    else {
        // clockwise rotation = erase a point in the stack
        convex_hull.pop_back();
    }
}

```

## 1.5 Convex hull #2

- I was impressed by the suggestion in class by a student, for a computationally cheaper sort function.
- The suggestion is equivalent to the use of the vector cross product.
- We do not need the angle  $\theta$ , and we do not need to compute any square roots.
- Let us implement the sort using the vector cross product.
- To avoid confusion, let us define a new class `Point2`.
- You can rename the previous class `Point1` if you like.
- Write the following `Point2` class. Make everything public for simplicity.

```
class Point2 {
public:
    Point2(double x1, double y1) : x(x1), y(y1) {
        r2 = x*x + y*y;
    }

    double x;
    double y;
    double r2;
};
```

- The sort function is as follows. We are given input objects  $a$  and  $b$ .
  1. If  $a_x b_y - a_y b_x > 0$ , return `true`.
  2. If  $a_x b_y - a_y b_x < 0$ , return `false`.
  3. If  $a_x b_y - a_y b_x = 0$ , test if  $a_x^2 + a_y^2 < b_x^2 + b_y^2$ .
- Write the following comparison function.

```
bool vcomp2(const Point2 &a, const Point2 &b)
{
    double diff = a.x*b.y - b.x*a.y;
    if (diff > 0.0) {
        return true;
    }
    else if (diff < 0.0) {
        return false;
    }
    return (a.r2 < b.r2);
}
```

- **Everything else is the same as in Question 1.4.**
- Replace `Point` by `Point2` and `vcomp` by `vcomp2`.

- Here are some input points to test your code.
- I stated that the algorithm will work even if some of the points coincide.
- Let us have  $10^4$  points, each repeated 100 times, so a total of  $10^6$  points (*why not?*).

```
std::vector<double> x_vec;
std::vector<double> y_vec;

int n = 10000;
for (int i = 0; i < 100*n; ++i) {
    x = cos(i%n);
    y = sin(3*(i%n)) * (1.0 - 0.5*x*x);

    x_vec.push_back(x);
    y_vec.push_back(y);
}
```

- On my computer, the original algorithm took 0.81 sec and the new algorithm took 0.67 sec.
- A plot of the points and the convex hull, using either sort function, is shown in Fig. 1.

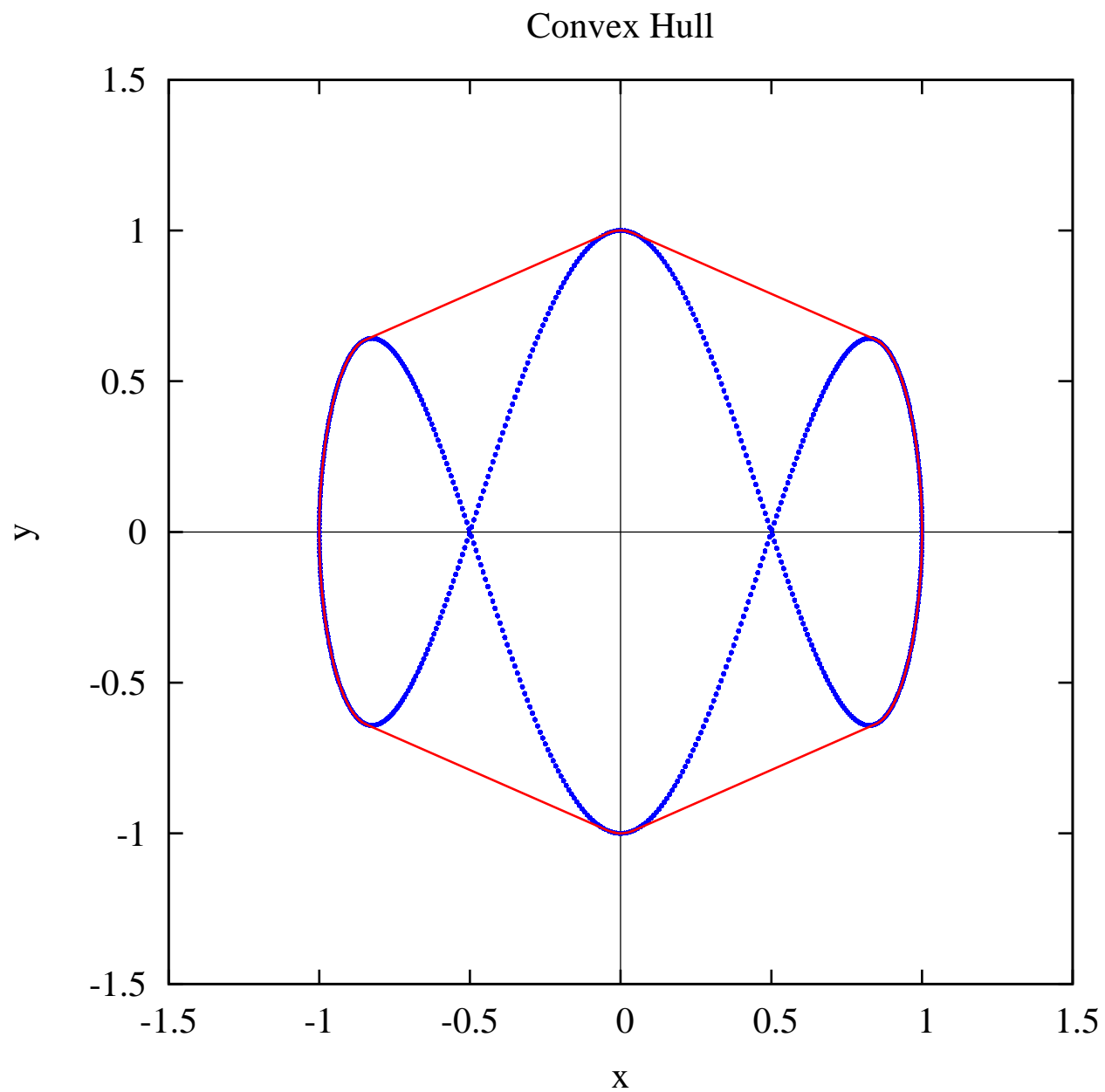


Figure 1: Plot of points in a plane and convex hull, using the algorithm in Question 1.4 or 1.5.