

Duality Transformation and its Application to Computational Geometry

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Definition and Properties
- 3 Convex Hull
- 4 Arrangement of Lines
- 5 Smallest Area Triangle
- 6 Nearest Neighbor of a Line

Introduction

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- In this lecture we explore how geometric duality can be used to design efficient algorithms by considering a number of problems in computational geometry.
- For simplicity, we consider duality in two dimensions only. However, the concept generalizes to higher dimensions also.

Introduction

- In the Cartesian plane, a point has two parameters (x - and y -coordinates) and a (non-vertical) line also has two parameters (slope and y -intercept). We can thus **map** a set of points to a set of lines, and vice versa, in an one-to-one manner.

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- This natural **duality** between points and lines in the Cartesian plane has long been known to geometers.

Introduction

- There are many different point-line duality mappings possible, depending on the conventions of the standard representations of a line.

Introduction

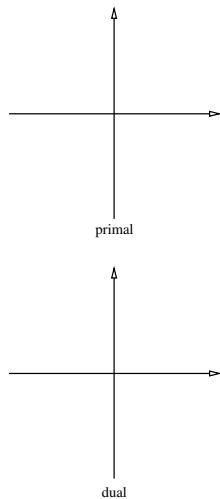
- There are many different point-line duality mappings possible, depending on the conventions of the standard representations of a line.
- Each such mapping has its advantages and disadvantages in particular contexts.

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Definition

Let D be the **duality transformation**.

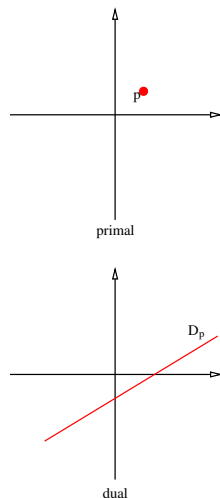


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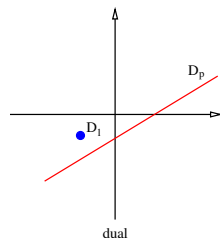
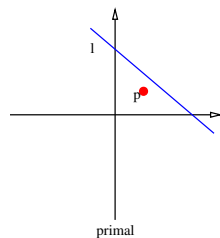
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A point $p(a, b)$ is transformed to the line $D_p(y = ax - b)$.

Definition

A line $l(y = cx + d)$ is transformed to the point $D_l(c, -d)$.



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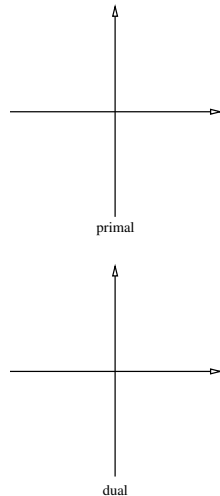
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D is not defined for **vertical lines** since vertical lines can not be represented in the form $y = mx + c$.

However this is not a problem in general. Because we can always rotate the problem space slightly so that no line is vertical. Sometimes, vertical lines are taken as special cases and treated separately.

Properties

Incidence is preserved

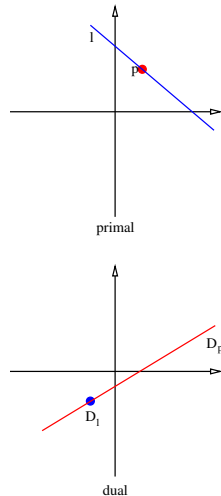


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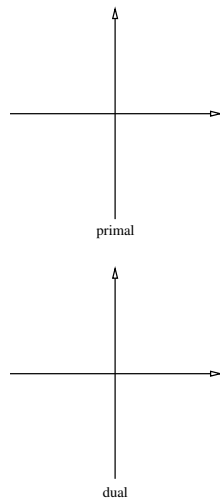
Lemma

A point $p(a, b)$ is incident to the line $l(y = cx + d)$ in the primal plane *iff* point $D_l(c, -d)$ is incident to the line $D_p(y = ax - b)$ in the dual plane.



Properties

But order is reversed

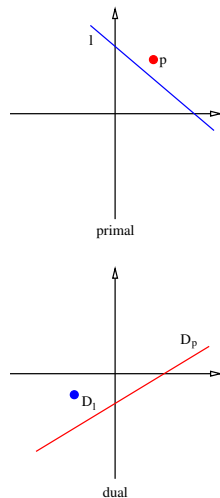


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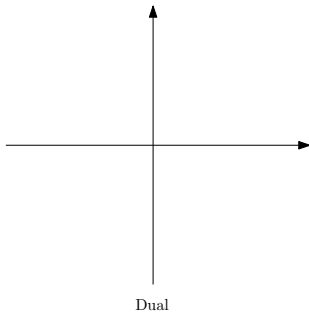
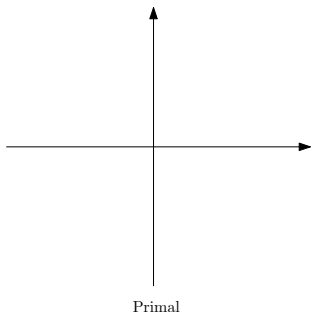
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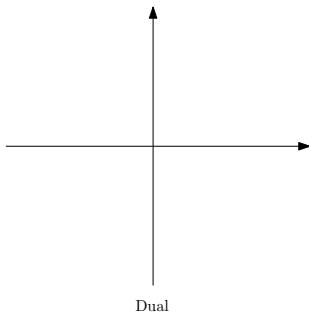
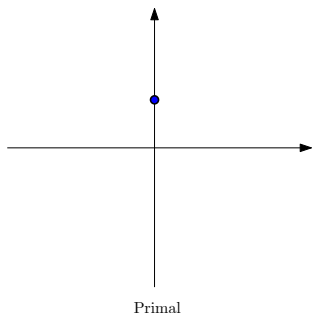
A point $p(a, b)$ is above (below) the line $l(y = cx + d)$ in the primal plane iff line $D_p(y = ax - b)$ is below (above) the point $D_l(c, -d)$ in the dual plane.



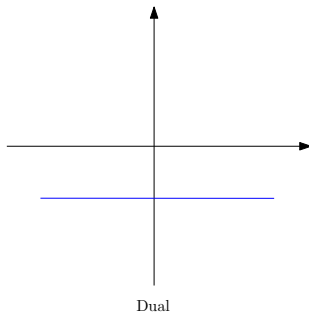
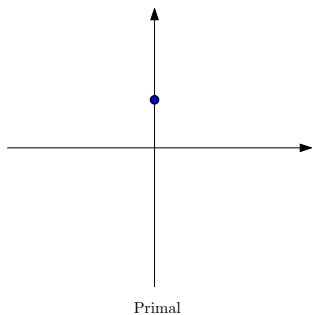
Example1



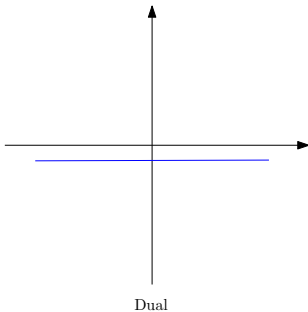
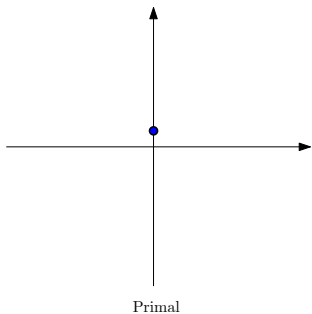
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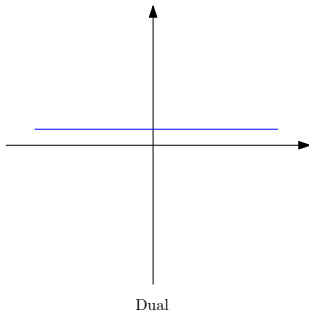
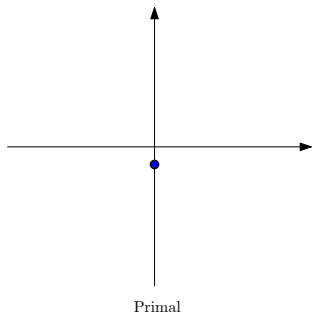
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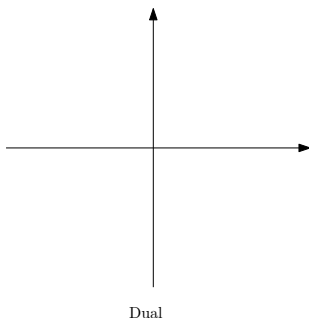
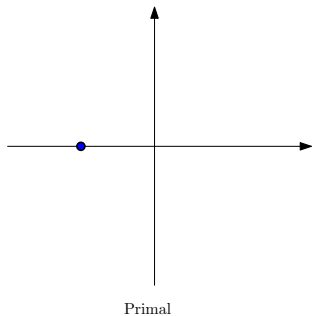
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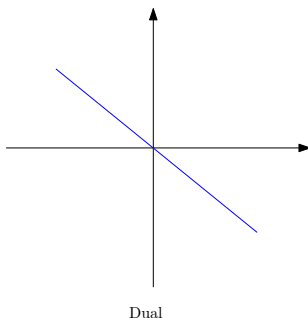
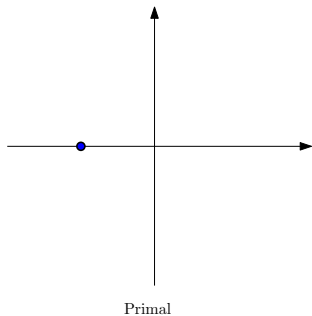
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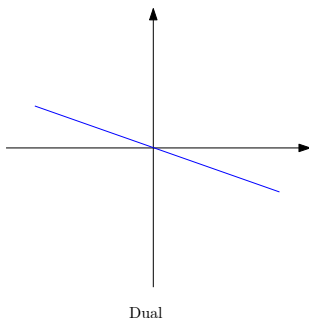
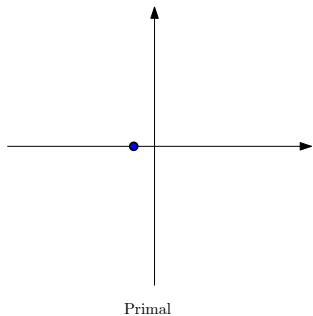
Example2



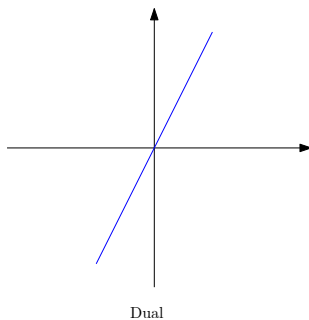
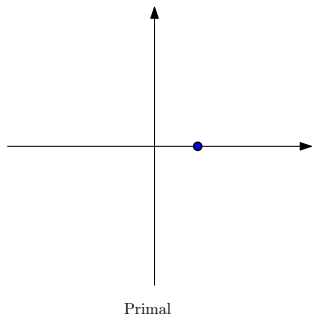
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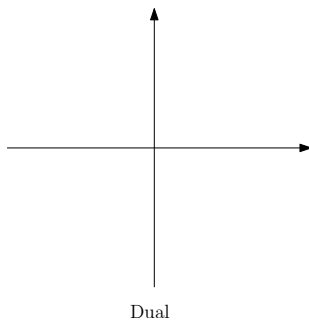
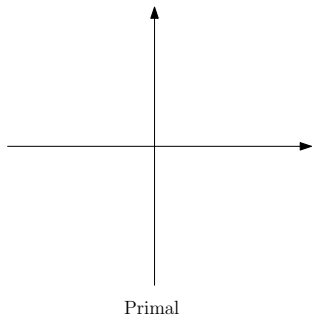
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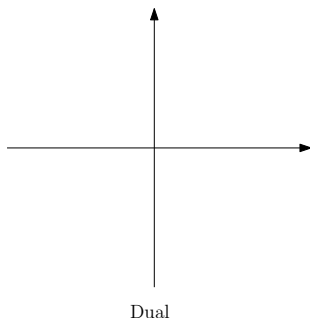
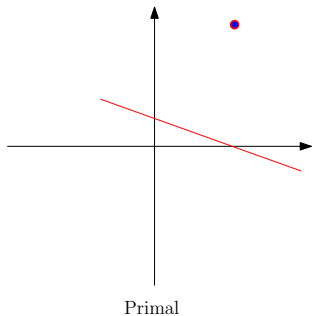
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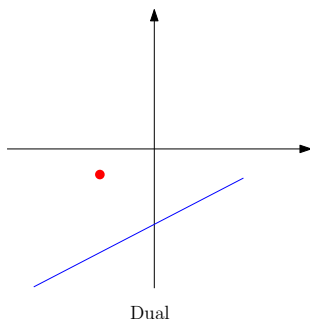
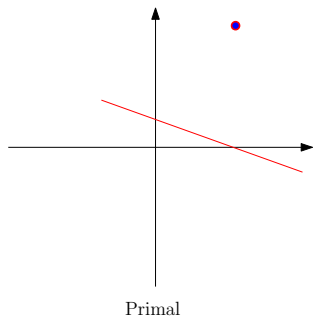
Example3



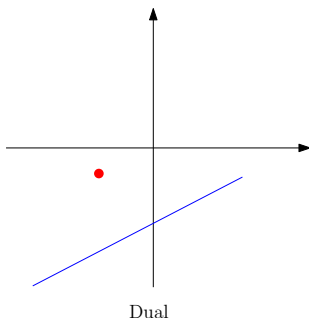
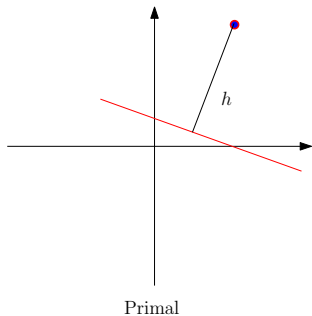
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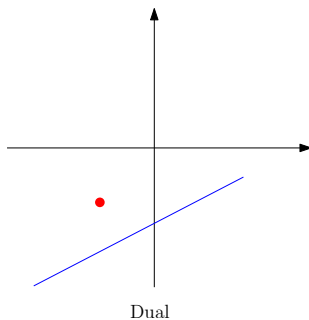
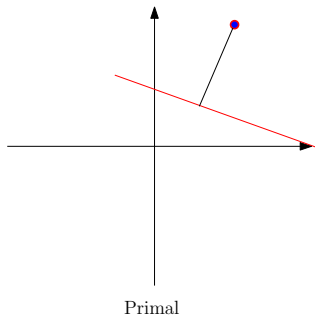
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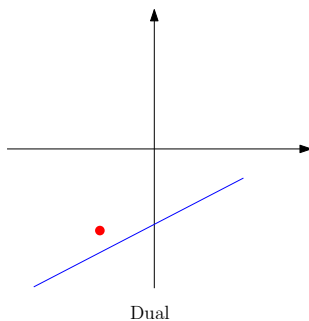
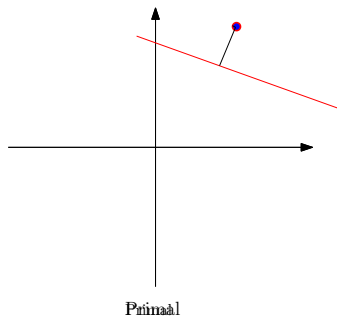
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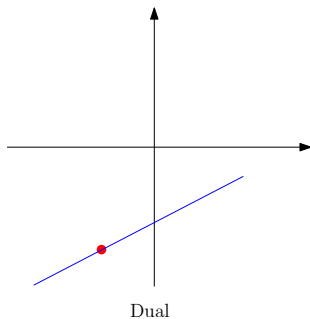
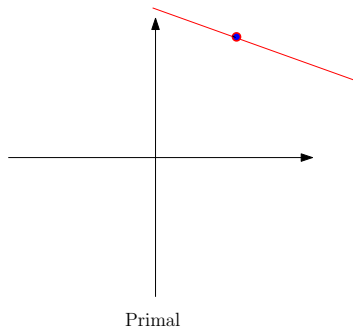
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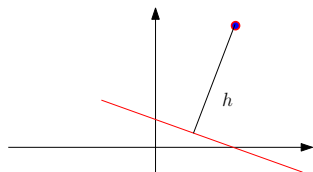
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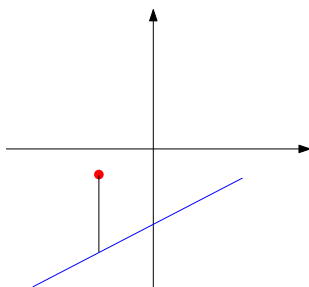
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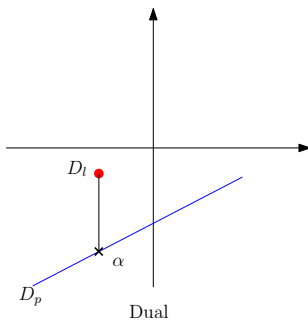
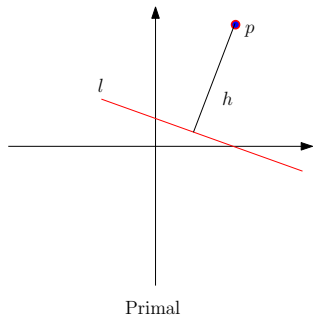


Primal

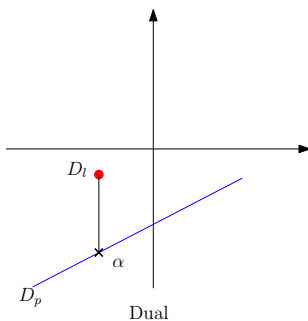
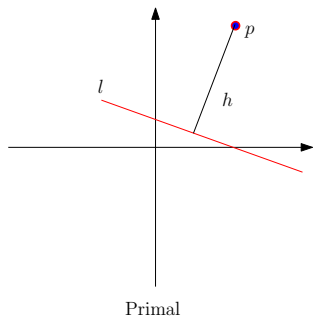


Dual

Example3



Example3



$$h = \frac{d(D_l, \alpha)}{\sqrt{1 + (x(D_l))^2}}$$

Here $d(.,.)$ is distance between two points.

And $x(.)$ is x -coordinate of a point.

Alternative Definition

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- An alternative definition, called **polar duality**, is also used.

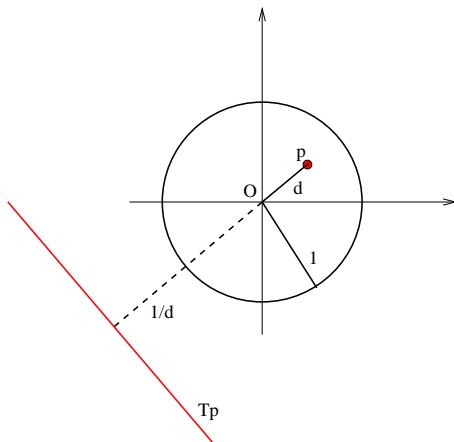
Polar Duality

Definition

A point p with coordinates (a, b) in the primal plane corresponds to a line T_p with equation $ax + by + 1 = 0$ in the dual plane and vice versa.

Polar Duality

- Geometrically this means that if d is the distance from the origin (O) to the point p , the dual T_p of p is the line perpendicular to Op at distance $1/d$ from O and placed on the other side of O .



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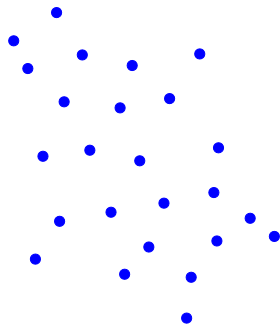
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Let \mathcal{P} be a set of points in the plane.

Definition

Convex hull of \mathcal{P} , denoted by $CH(\mathcal{P})$, is the **smallest** convex set containing \mathcal{P} .



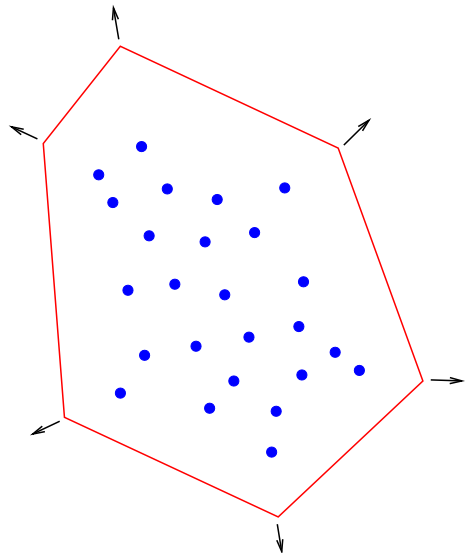
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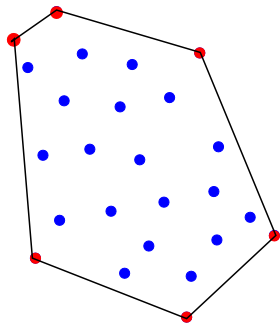
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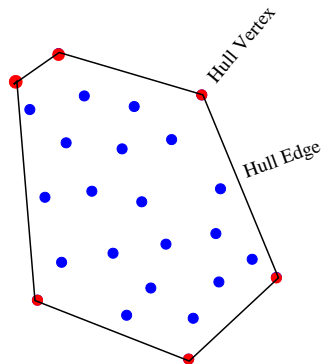
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To compute the convex hull of a point set is a well known and fundamental problem in computational geometry.

Optimal Algorithms

- By **reducing** the sorting problem to the convex hull problem, it can be shown that the worst case computational complexity of the convex hull problem is $O(n \log n)$, where n is the size of the given point set.

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- By **reducing** the sorting problem to the convex hull problem, it can be shown that the worst case computational complexity of the convex hull problem is $O(n \log n)$, where n is the size of the given point set.
- A number of optimal algorithms have been devised for the convex hull problem.

Optimal Algorithms

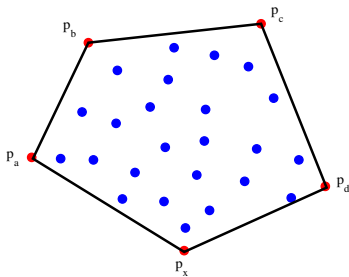
- **Grahams scan**, time complexity $O(n \log n)$.
(Graham, R.L., 1972)
- **Divide and conquer algorithm**, time complexity $O(n \log n)$.
(Preparata, F. P. and Hong, S. J., 1977)
- **Jarvis's march** or **gift wrapping algorithm**, time complexity $O(nh)$ where h number of vertices of the convex hull.
(Jarvis, R. A., 1973)
- Most efficient algorithm to date is based on the idea of Jarvis's march, time complexity $O(n \log h)$.
T. M. Chan (1996)

An Optimal Algorithm using Duality

- We now develop an optimal algorithm for computing convex hull using the concept of duality.

Definitions

Let \mathcal{P} be the given set of n points in the plane. Let $p_a \in \mathcal{P}$ be the point having smallest x -coordinate and $p_d \in \mathcal{P}$ be the point with largest x -coordinate. Obviously, both p_a and p_d belongs to $CH(\mathcal{P})$.

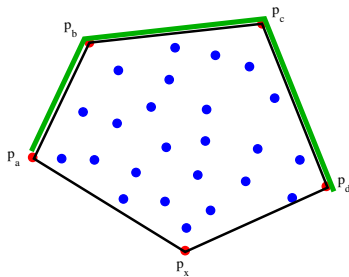


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Definition

The c-wise polygonal chain p_a, \dots, p_d along the hull is called the **upper hull**.



Definitions

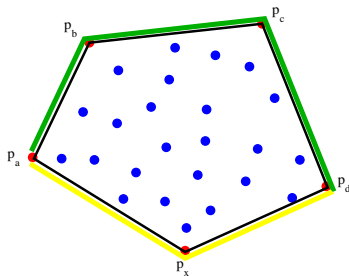
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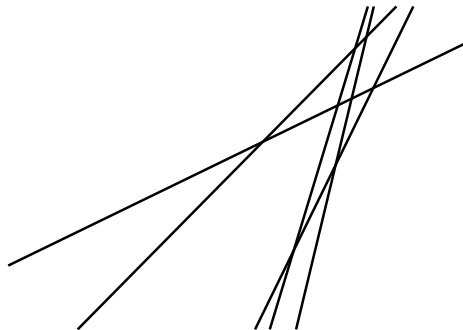
Definition

The cc-wise polygonal chain p_a, \dots, p_d along the hull is called the **lower hull**.



Definitions

Let \mathcal{L} be a set of lines in the plane.

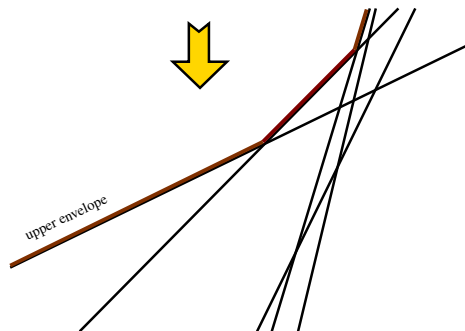


Definitions

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The upper envelope is a polygonal chain E_u such that no line $l \in \mathcal{L}$ is above E_u .



Definitions

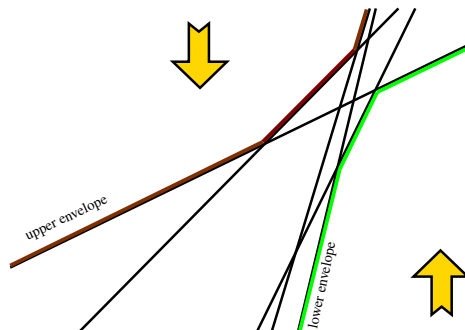
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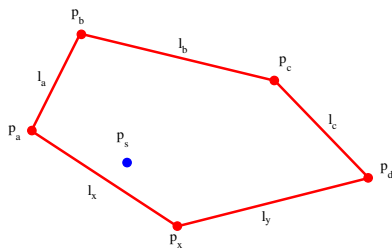
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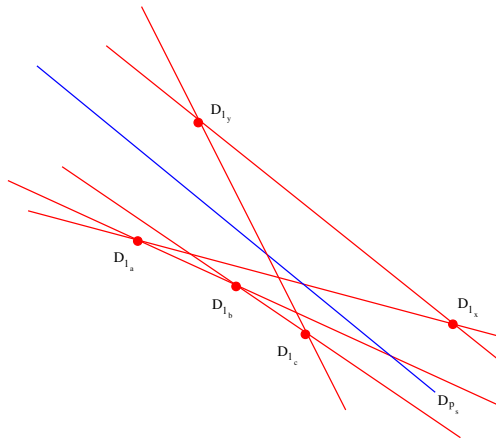
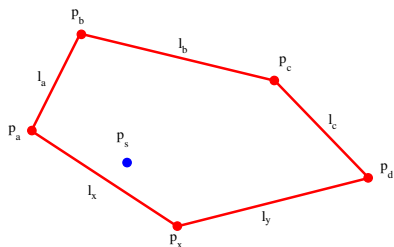
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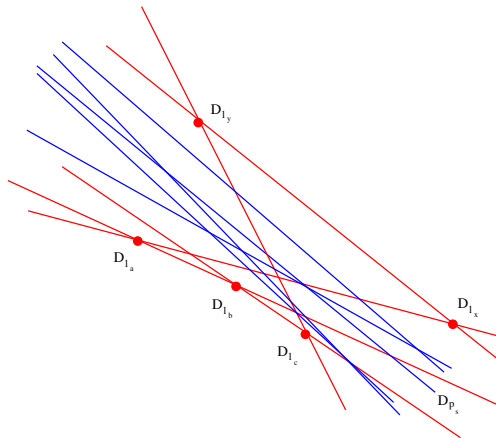
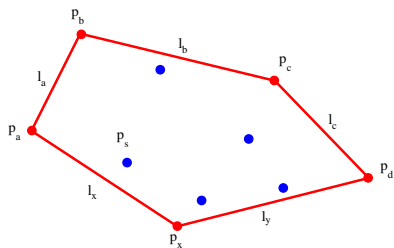
Connection Between Hull and Envelope



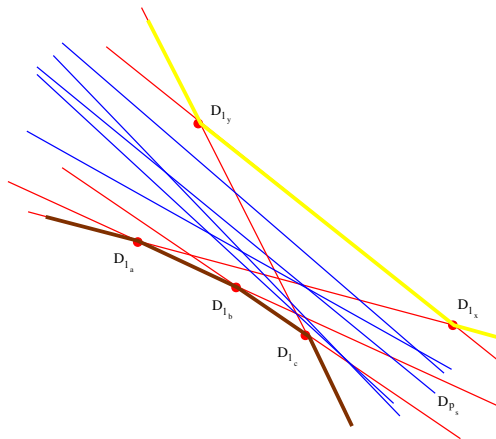
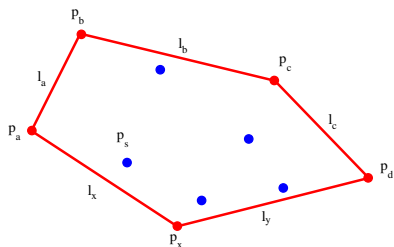
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Conclusion

Upper hull (lower hull) in primal plane corresponds to the lower envelope (upper envelope) in the dual plane.

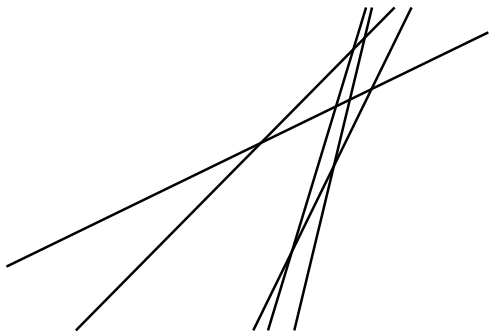
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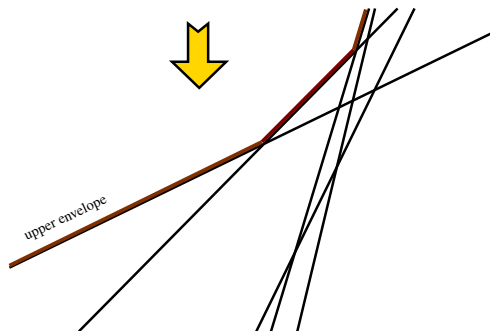
Upper hull (lower hull) in primal plane corresponds to the lower envelope (upper envelope) in the dual plane.

Thus the problem of computing convex hull of a point set in the primal plane reduces to the problem of computing upper and lower envelopes of the line set in the dual plane.

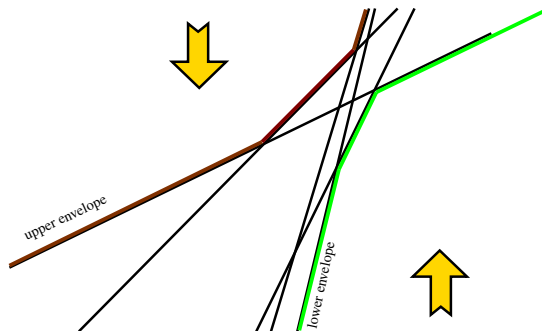
Outline of the algorithm



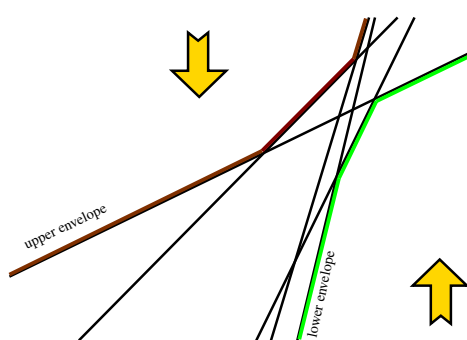
Outline of the algorithm



Outline of the algorithm

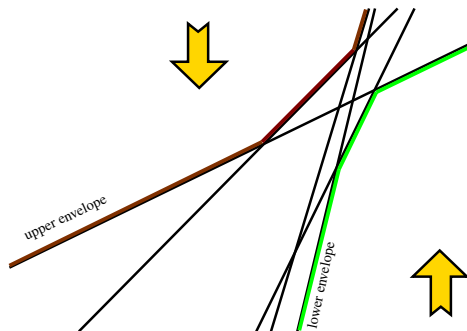


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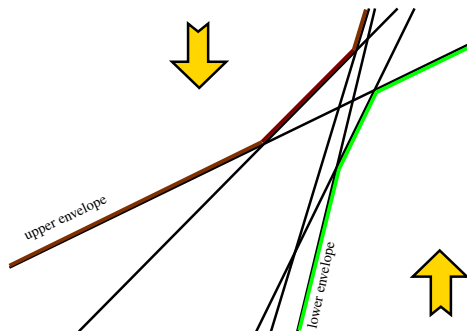
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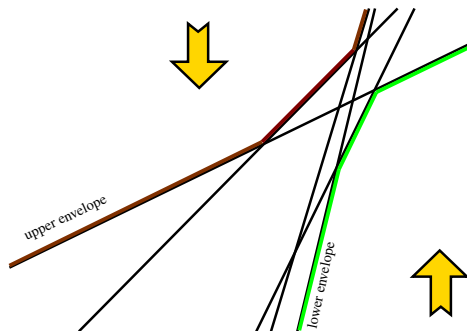
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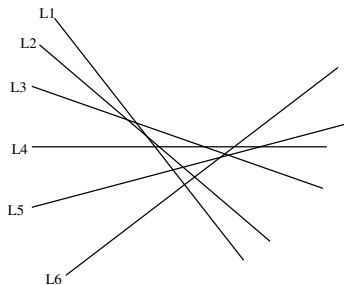
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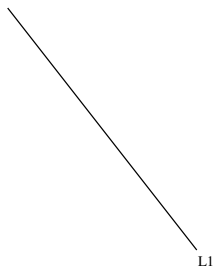
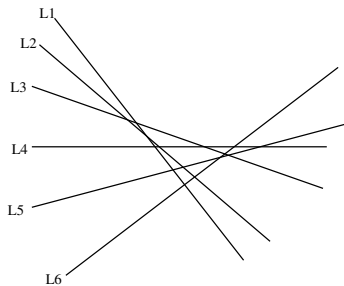


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 - Slopes of the members are in increasing order.

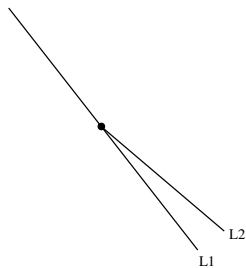
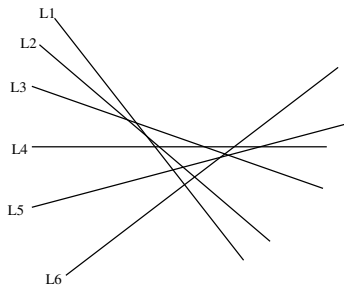
Example



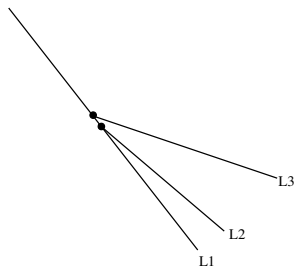
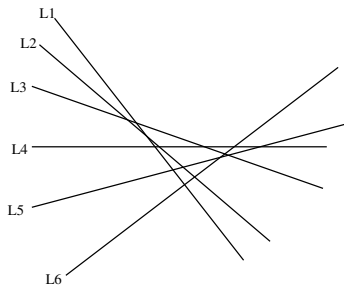
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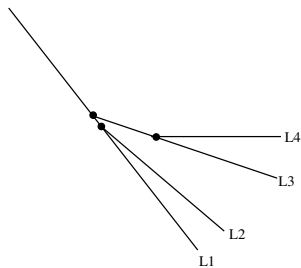
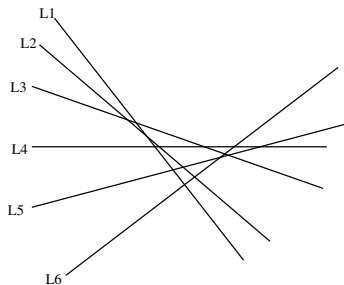
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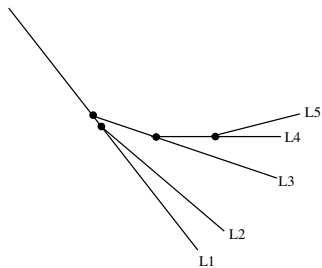
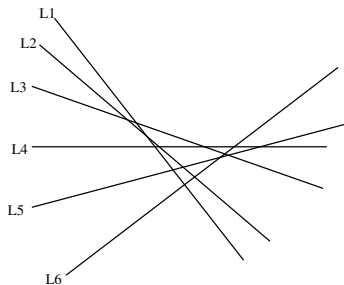
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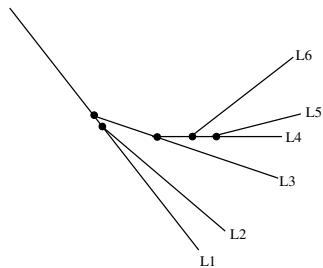
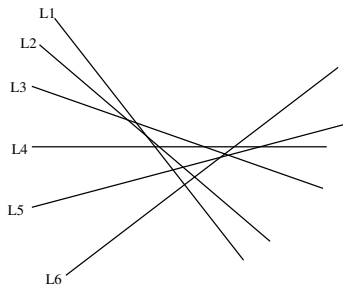
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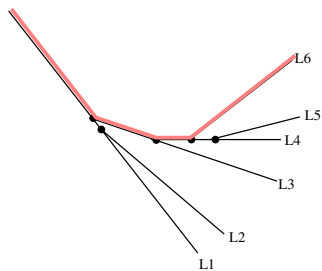
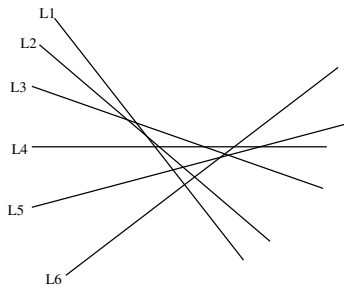
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        remove  $L$  from  $O$  and replace  $L$  with its predecessor;
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```
    insert the line segment  $L_i$  at the tail of the list  $O$ ;
```

```
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Result

Lemma

After sorting n lines by their slopes in $O(n \log n)$ time, the upper envelope can be obtained in $O(n)$ time.

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Proof.

It may check more than one line segment when inserting a new line, but those ones checked are all removed except the last one. ☐

Result

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Given a set \mathcal{P} of n points in the plane, $CH(\mathcal{P})$ can be computed in $O(n \log n)$ time using n space.

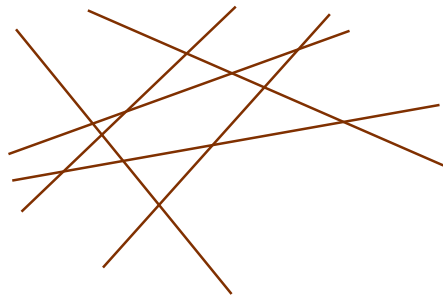
Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Definition and Properties
- 3 Convex Hull
- 4 Arrangement of Lines**
- 5 Smallest Area Triangle
- 6 Nearest Neighbor of a Line

Definition

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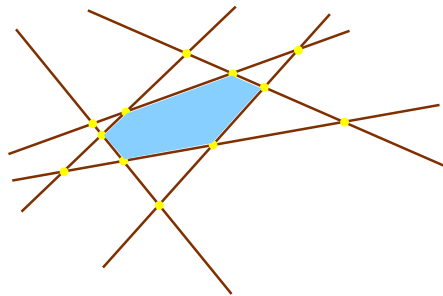
Let \mathcal{L} be a set of n lines in the plane. The embedding of \mathcal{L} in the plane induces a planar subdivision that consists of **vertices**, **edges**, and **faces** where some of the edges and faces are unbounded. This subdivision is referred to as **arrangement** induced by \mathcal{L} , and is denoted by $A(\mathcal{L})$.



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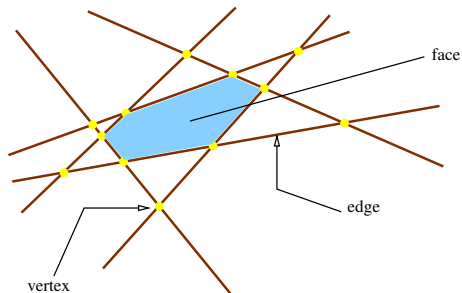
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The **(combinatorial) complexity** of an arrangement is the total number of vertices, edges, and faces.

Observation

Worst case complexity occurs when an arrangement is simple.

Result

Theorem

Let \mathcal{L} be the set of n lines in the plane, and let $A(\mathcal{L})$ be the arrangement induced by \mathcal{L} .

- (i) The number of vertices of $A(\mathcal{L})$ is at most $n(n-1)/2$.*
- (ii) The number of edges of $A(\mathcal{L})$ is at most n^2 .*
- (iii) The number of faces of $A(\mathcal{L})$ is at most $n^2/2 + n/2 + 1$.*

Equality holds in these three statements iff $A(\mathcal{L})$ is simple.

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Can be proved easily by using Euler's formula:

For any connected planar embedded graph with m_v vertices, m_e edges, and m_f faces the following relation holds

$$m_v - m_e + m_f = 2.$$

Computation of Arrangement

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- Algorithms for a surprising number of problems are based on constructing and analyzing the arrangement of a specific set of lines.
- A variety of data structures have been proposed for this purpose.

Result

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Given a set \mathcal{L} of n lines in the plane, the arrangement $A(\mathcal{L})$ induced by \mathcal{L} can be constructed in $O(n^2)$ time.

Levels

- We consider an alternative concept, called **levels**, for structuring an arrangement of lines.

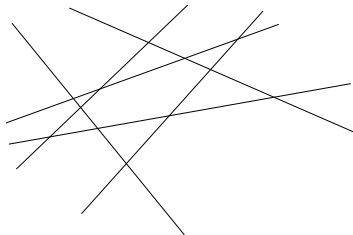
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- It is simple both from understanding and implementations point of view.

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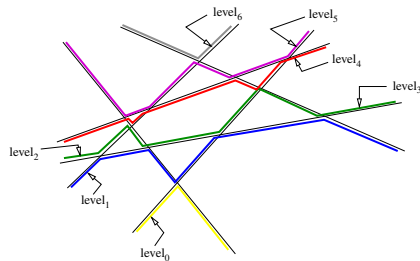
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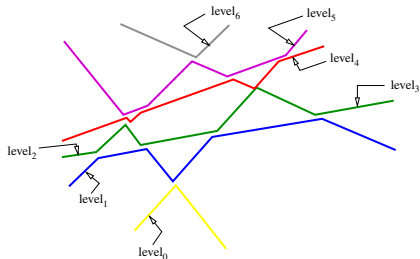
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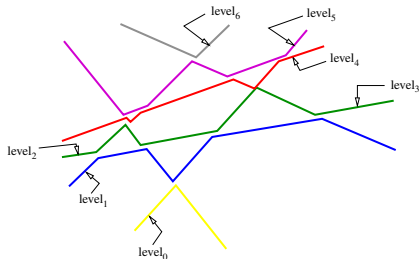
Observations

- Clearly, the edges of λ_θ form a monotone polychain from $x = -\infty$ to $x = \infty$. Each vertex of the arrangement $A(\mathcal{L})$ appears in two consecutive levels, and each edge of $A(\mathcal{L})$ appears in exactly one level.



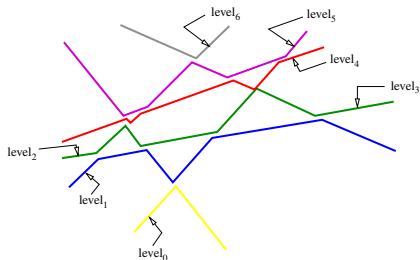
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- We can thus store each level simply as an array of segments.
- Observe that the upper and the lower envelopes mentioned earlier, are simply the 0-th and $(n - 1)$ -th levels respectively.



Computing Levels

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- Here we consider an alternative method using **plane sweep** paradigm.
- The method was first introduced by Bentley and Ottmann (1979) in the context of solving the problem of line segment intersections.

Plane Sweep Method

Basic method consists of:

- A vertical line l , called the **sweep line**, sweeps over the arrangement from $x = -\infty$ to $x = \infty$. Observe that, at every instant, the sweep line intersects each element of \mathcal{L} .

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- The algorithm performs some computational steps when the sweep line reaches event points.

Data structure

- Apart from storing the events, we also need to insert new events and extract the event nearest to the sweep line on its right. Clearly, a heap is a suitable data structure for this.

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- We order the lines from **bottom to top** according to their intersections with the sweep line. Data structure we use for maintaining the sweep line status are arrays storing the levels. At an instant, portion of the line at the i -th position, $0 \leq i < n$, is part of the i -th level.

Processing

- Let the next event be the intersection point of the lines currently at i -th and $(i + 1)$ -th positions respectively. Processing steps to be performed at this event point are as follows.

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- If the line at the $(i + 1)$ -th position after the event point intersect the line at the $(i + 2)$ -th position on the right of the sweep line, then we insert the intersection point in the heap as a future event point. Similarly, if the line at the i -th position after the event point intersect the line at the $(i - 1)$ -th position on the right of the sweep line, then we insert this intersection point also as a future event point.

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- We then initialize the level arrays with the lines according to their position on the sweep line. This step needs $O(n)$ time.
- Finally, we check each pair of lines from bottom to top if they intersect on the right of the sweep line. If yes, insert these intersection points in the heap as an event point. This step needs $O(n)$ time.

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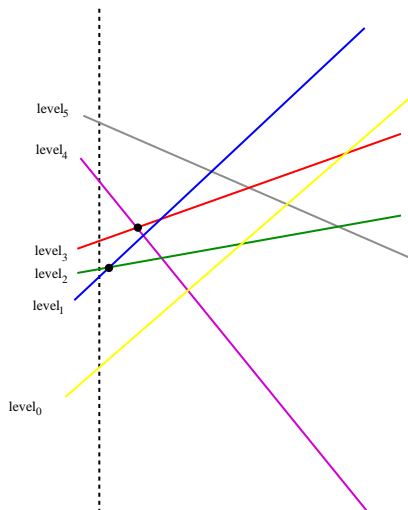
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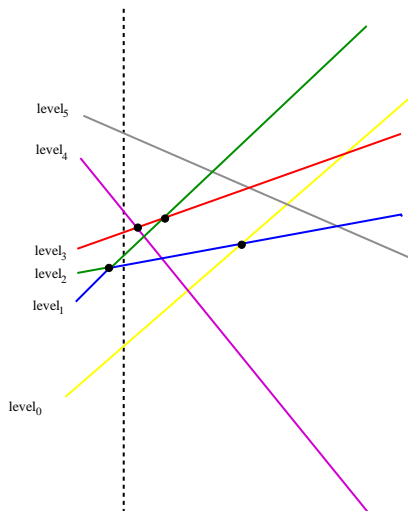
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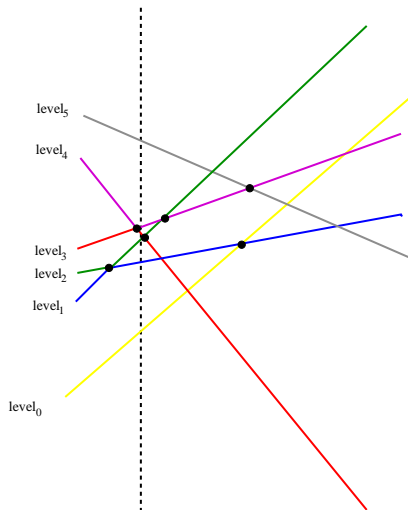
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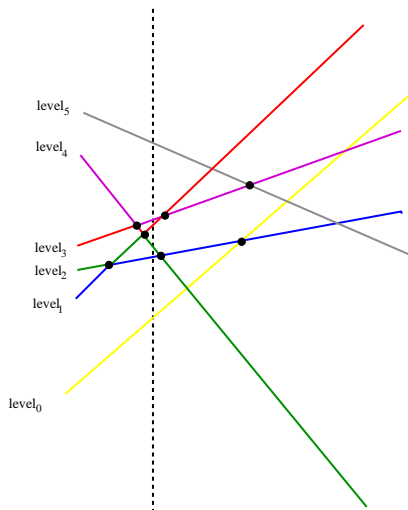
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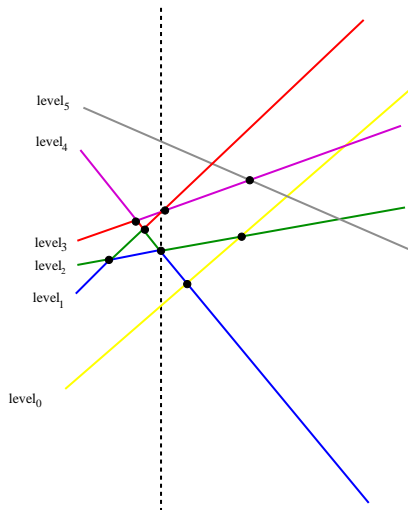
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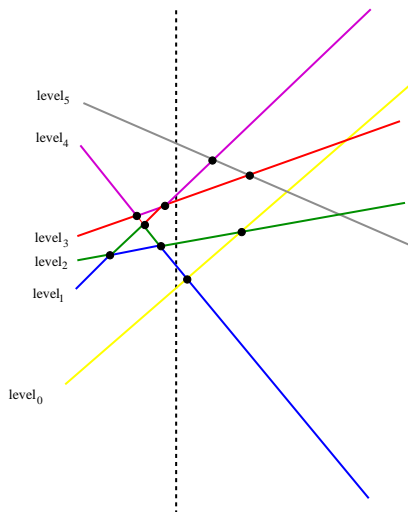
Example



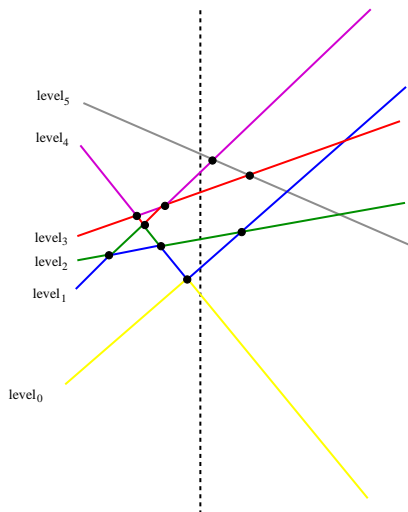
Example



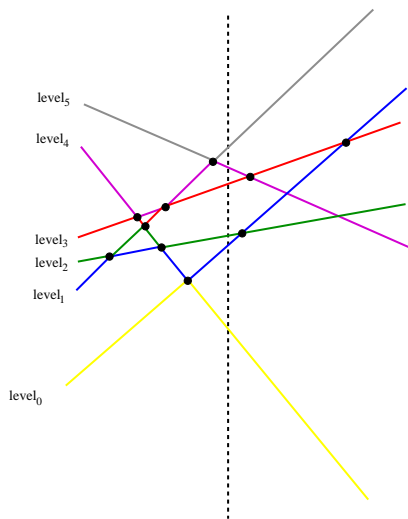
Example



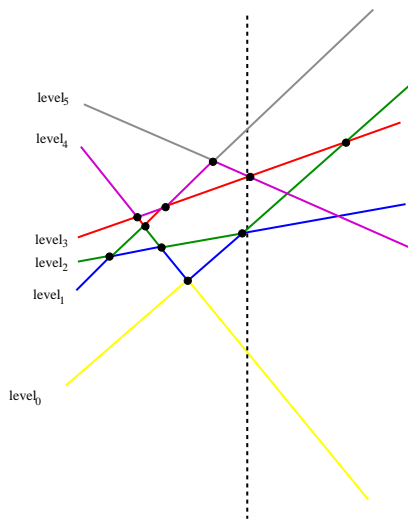
Example



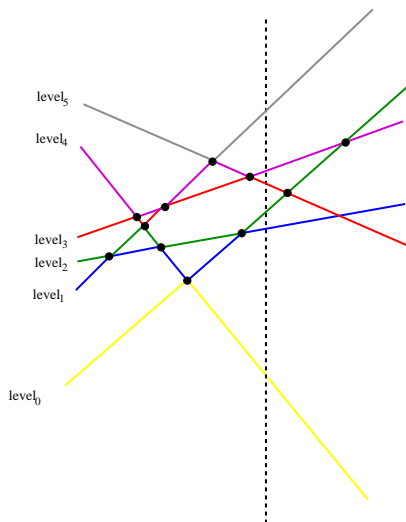
Example



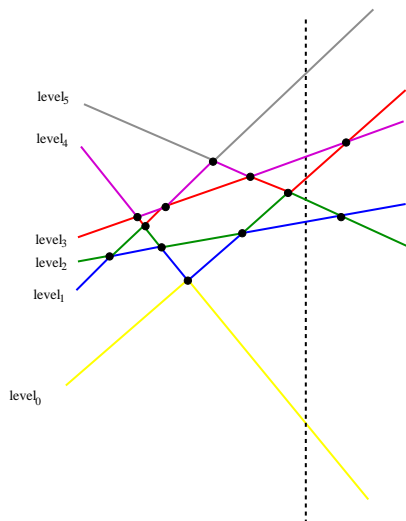
Example



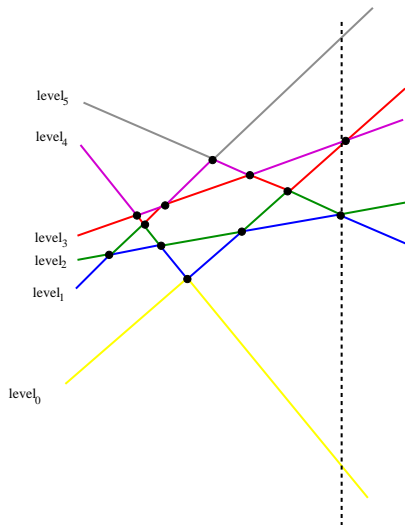
Example



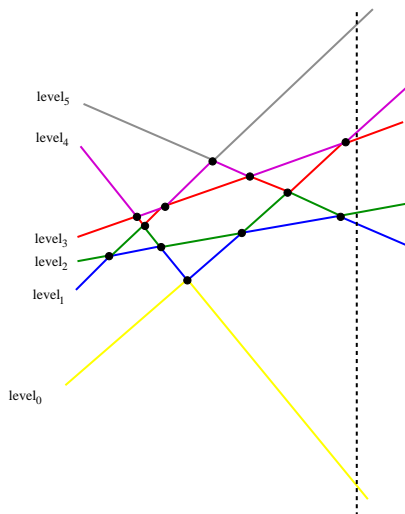
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Result

Theorem

Using plane sweep, levels of an arrangement of n lines can be computed in $O(n^2 \log n)$ time using $O(n^2)$ space.

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Definition and Properties
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Smallest Area Triangle Problem

Problem

Let \mathcal{P} be a set of n points in the plane. The problem is to determine which of the $\binom{n}{3}$ triangles with vertices in \mathcal{P} has the smallest area.

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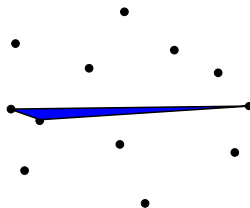
The solution of the above problem allows us to solve the following problem also.

Problem

Let \mathcal{P} be a set of n points in the plane. The problem is to determine whether three points in \mathcal{P} are collinear.

Smallest Area Triangle Problem

- The difficulty of the problem arises from the fact that the vertices of the smallest triangle can be arbitrarily apart (i.e., absence of locality).



Result

- The best known algorithm, without using duality, for this problem has time and space complexities $O(n^2 \log n)$ and $O(n)$ respectively.
(Edelsbrunner and Welzl, 1982).

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- The best known algorithm, without using duality, for this problem has time and space complexities $O(n^2 \log n)$ and $O(n)$ respectively.
(Edelsbrunner and Welzl, 1982).
- Using duality, it is possible to improve upon the complexity.

Assumption

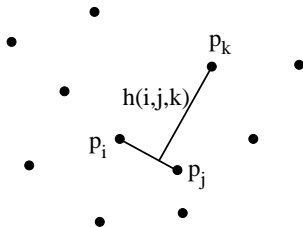
- The definition of duality implies that if two points p_i and p_j in the primal plane have same x -coordinate values, then corresponding duals D_{p_i} and D_{p_j} are parallel in the dual plane.

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- The definition of duality implies that if two points p_i and p_j in the primal plane have same x -coordinate values, then corresponding duals D_{p_i} and D_{p_j} are parallel in the dual plane.
- To avoid this we assume that no two points in \mathcal{P} have same x -coordinates. This may possibly require rotating the axes by a small angle which can be determined in $O(n \log n)$ time.

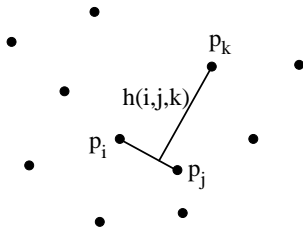
Sketch of the Solution

- Let $h(i, j, k)$ be the perpendicular distance from the point p_k to the segment $p_i p_j$.



Sketch of the Solution

- Let $h(i, j, k)$ be the perpendicular distance from the point p_k to the segment $p_i p_j$.
- Smallest area triangle with $p_i p_j$ as an edge minimizes $h(i, j, k)$ for all $k \neq i, j$;
 $1 \leq k \leq n$.



Sketch of the Solution

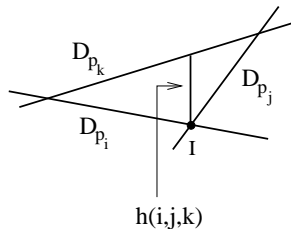
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Sketch of the Solution

- Straight forward use of this scheme leads to an $O(n^3)$ time algorithm.
- However, when taken to dual plane, this leads to efficient algorithm.

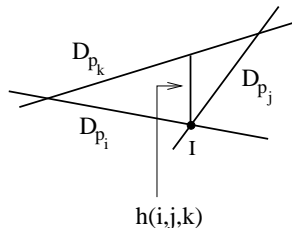
Dualization

- In the dual plane, the edge $p_i p_j$ becomes the intersection point I of D_{p_i} and D_{p_j} .



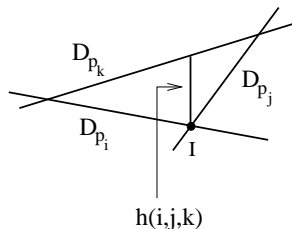
Dualization

- In the dual plane, the edge $p_i p_j$ becomes the intersection point I of D_{p_i} and D_{p_j} .
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- The perpendicular from p_k on the edge $p_i p_j$ becomes vertical line segment from I to D_{p_k} .
- Knowing this vertical distance in the dual plane, the perpendicular distance in the primal plane can be computed.



Algorithm

- We use the plane sweep method. Basic steps are as follows.

Algorithm

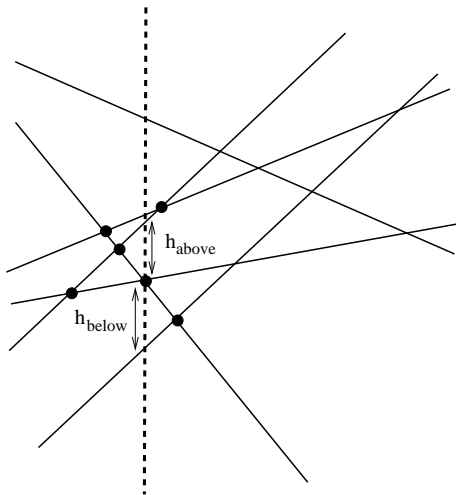
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- Sweep a vertical line over the arrangement of n lines in the dual plane.
- Here event points are the intersection points between pairs of lines.

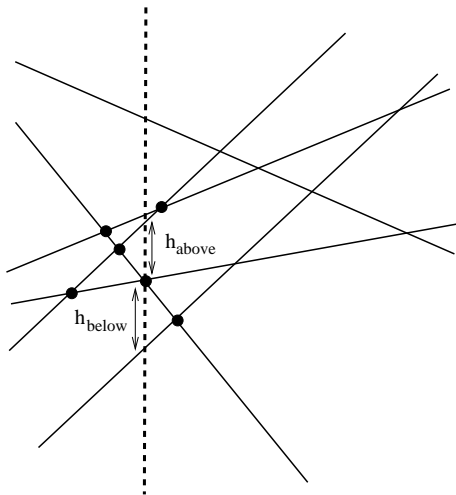
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- When sweep line reaches an event point, the intersection point between D_{p_i} and D_{p_j} say, compute the vertical distances, along the sweep line, between the event point and the lines just above and below it.



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- Let the minimum distance occurs for the line D_{p_k} . Compute the minimum area of the triangle with $p_i p_j$ as base.



Complexity

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- Hence space complexity of the algorithm is $O(n)$.
- Time complexity of the algorithm is, clearly, $O(n^2 \log n)$.
- The $\log n$ factor in the time complexity can be avoided by using **topological line sweep**.
(Edelsbrunner, H. and Guibas, L. J., 1989)

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Problem

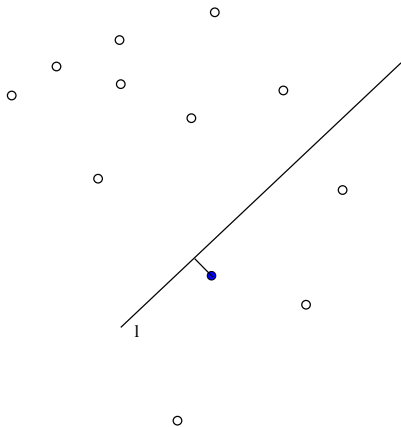
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Given a set \mathcal{P} of n points in the plane and a query line l , compute the nearest neighbor (in the perpendicular distance sense) of the query line l .

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- We are interested in **multi-shot** query version.
- Here we are allowed to preprocess the point set so that each query can be answered efficiently.

Strategy

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- Since our definition of duality does not allow vertical line, we need to have separate algorithm for handling vertical query lines.

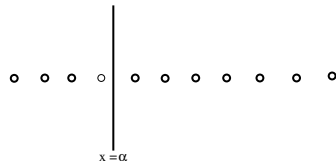
Nearest Neighbor Query Vertical Line

- Sort the points of the given set \mathcal{P} on their x -coordinates. This can be done in $O(n \log n)$ time using $O(n)$ space.



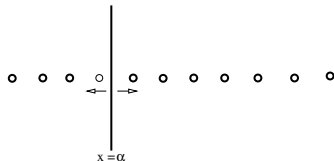
Nearest Neighbor Query Vertical Line

- Sort the points of the given set \mathcal{P} on their x -coordinates. This can be done in $O(n \log n)$ time using $O(n)$ space.
- Using binary search find the position of the query vertical line $x = \alpha$ in the sorted array. This will take $O(\log n)$ time.



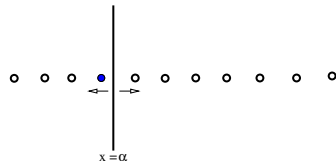
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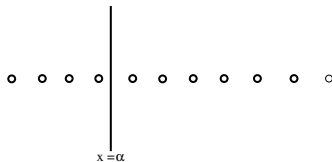
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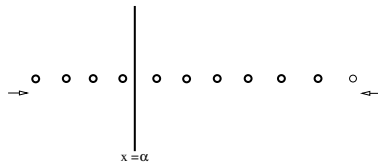
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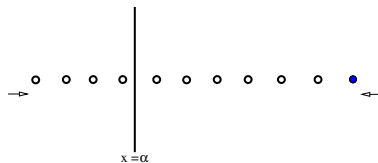
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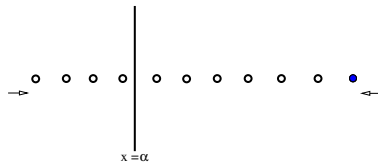
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Result

Lemma

With $O(n \log n)$ preprocessing time using $O(n)$ space, nearest and farthest neighbors of a query vertical line can be found in $O(\log n)$ time.

Farthest Neighbor of a Non-Vertical Query Line

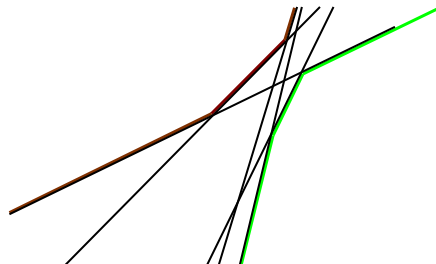
- Suppose the problem is to report the farthest neighbor of a given query line which is non-vertical.

Farthest Neighbor of a Non-Vertical Query Line

- Suppose the problem is to report the farthest neighbor of a given query line which is non-vertical.
- As the preprocessing step, compute the upper envelope and the lower envelope of the set of lines dual to the given set of points \mathcal{P} . This can be done in in $O(n \log n)$ time using $O(n)$ space as mentioned previously.

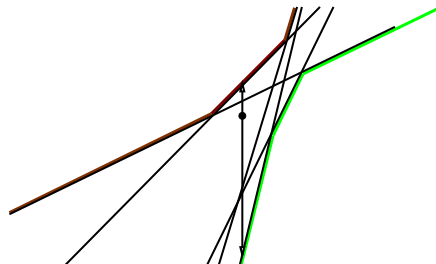
Farthest Neighbor of a Non-Vertical Query Line

- Let E_u and E_l are the arrays storing the upper and the lower envelopes respectively.



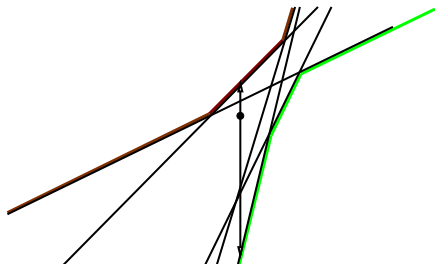
Farthest Neighbor of a Non-Vertical Query Line

- Let E_u and E_l are the arrays storing the upper and the lower envelopes respectively.
- Given a query line l , shoot a vertical ray from the point D_l in upward and downward direction and find the intersection points with the upper and the lower envelope respectively.



Farthest Neighbor of a Non-Vertical Query Line

- Let E_u and E_l be the arrays storing the upper and the lower envelopes respectively.
- Given a query line l , shoot a vertical ray from the point D_l in upward and downward direction and find the intersection points with the upper and the lower envelope respectively.
- This can be done in $O(\log n)$ time by using two binary searches on the arrays E_u and E_l holding the envelopes.



Result

Lemma

With $O(n \log n)$ preprocessing time using $O(n)$ space, farthest neighbors of a query non-vertical line can be found in $O(\log n)$ time.

Nearest Neighbor of a Query Non-vertical Line

- Let \mathcal{L} be the set of lines which are dual to the points of the given set \mathcal{P} . Also let D_l be the point dual to the query non-vertical line l .

Nearest Neighbor of a Query Non-vertical Line

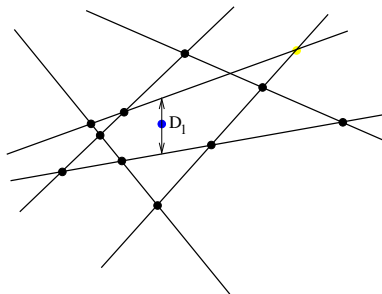
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Nearest Neighbor of a Query Non-vertical Line

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- Let $A(\mathcal{L})$ be the arrangement of lines of the set \mathcal{L} .
- Let f be the cell of the arrangement $A(\mathcal{L})$ containing D_l .
- Then one of the points corresponding to the lines just above D_l is the nearest neighbor of l in the primal plane.



Point Location Problem

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- So with standard data structure, nearest neighbors of a non-vertical query line can be determined in $O(\log n)$ time. The required preprocessing time and space is $O(n^2)$.
- Here we describe an algorithm for point location using levels of arrangement.

Point Location Using Level Structure

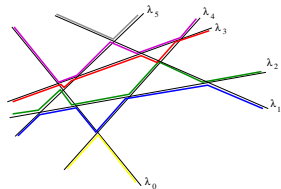
- First compute the levels of the arrangement $A(\mathcal{L})$ in $O(n^2 \log n)$ time using $O(n^2)$ space.

Point Location Using Level Structure

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- Let λ_θ be the linear array containing vertices and edges of level θ , $\theta = 0, 1, \dots, (n-1)$, of the arrangement $A(\mathcal{L})$.

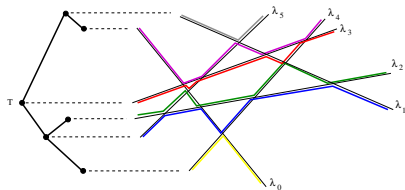
Point Location Using Level Structure

- Create a balanced binary search tree T , called the primary structure, whose nodes correspond to the levels θ , $0 \leq \theta < n$. Each node of T , representing a level θ , is attached with the corresponding array λ_θ , called the secondary structure. This requires $O(n \log n)$ time and $O(n)$ space.



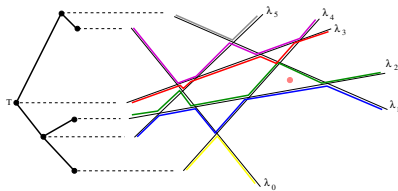
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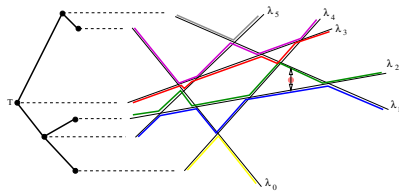
Point Location Using Level Structure

- Given the query line l , we perform two level binary search on the tree T with the point D_l .



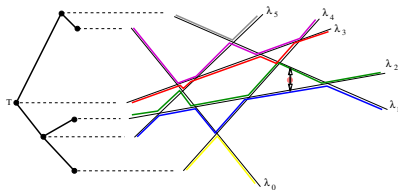
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Point Location Using Level Structure

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- This will enable us to locate the two edges just above and below D_l .
- Time complexity for performing this point location is $O(\log^2 n)$.



Complexity

Lemma

With $O(n^2 \log n)$ preprocessing time and $O(n^2)$ space, nearest neighbor of a non-vertical query line can be determined in $O(\log^2 n)$ time.

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With $O(n^2 \log n)$ preprocessing time and $O(n^2)$ space, nearest neighbor of a non-vertical query line can be determined in $O(\log^2 n)$ time.

- It may be mentioned that the query time complexity can be reduced to $O(\log n)$, by using a data structuring technique, called **fractional cascading**.
(Lueker, G. S., 1978)

Thank you!