ALGORITHMS FOR CONSTRUCTING VORONOI DIAGRAMS

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Naive algorithm

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The fact that each Voronoi region, $Vor(p_i)$, is built in optimal $\Theta(n \log n)$ time does not implie that the construction of the entire diagram, Vor(P), requires $\Omega(n^2 \log n)$ time, as we will see.

incremental algorithm

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Starting with the Voronoi diagram of $\{p_1, \ldots, p_i\}$...

 \dots add point p_{i+1}

Explore all candidates to find the site p_j $(1 \le j \le i)$ closest to p_{i+1} .

... compute its region

Build its boundary starting from bisector $b_{i+1,j}$.

... and prune the initial diagram.

While building the Voronoi region of p_{i+1} , update the DCEL.



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Each time an edge e, generated by p_{i+1} and p_j , intersects a preexistent edge, e', a new vertex v is created and a new edge starts, e + 1. Then, these are the tasks to perform:

- Assign $v_E(e) = v$, $e_N(e) = e'$, $f_L(e) = i + 1$, $f_R(e) = j$
- Create e + 1 and assign $v_B(e + 1) = v$, $e_P(e + 1) = e$
- Delete all edges of the region of p_j , that lie between $v_B(e)$ and $v_E(e)$ in clockwise order
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Running time: Each step runs in O(i) time, therefore the total running time of the algorithm is $O(n^2)$.

divide and conquer algorithm

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Definition. Let b(R, B) be the set of all edges and vertices of Vor(P) belonging to the common boundary of the regions of some $p_i \in R$ and $p_j \in B$.

Observation 1. The bisector b(R, B) contains two half-lines, belonging to the bisectors b_{ij} of the two "bridges" connecting the convex hulls of R and B.

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Proof. The vertical separation of R and B guarantees the existence of the "bridges", which are the edges of ch(P) connecting a $p_i \in R$ to a $p_j \in B$.

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Proof. Every edge e_{ij} of b(R, B) must be non-horizontal, and leave $p_i \in R$ to its left and $p_j \in B$ to its right.

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Observation 3. Let π_R and π_B respectively be the regions of the plane located to the left and to the right of b(R, B). Then Vor(P) consists of $Vor(R) \cap \pi_R$, $Vor(B) \cap \pi_B$ and b(R, B).

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Proof. Let e be an edge of Vor(P):

- If e separates two points of R in Vor(P), then it is (a portion of) the edge separating them in Vor(R). Due to Obs. 2, e cannot belong to π_B .

- If e separates two points of $B\xspace$, the case is analogous.
- If e separates one point of R from one of B, then $e \in b(R, B)$.

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Advance

Starting with one of the halflines, and until getting to the other one, do:

Each time an edge $e \in b(R, B)$ begins, such that $e \subset b_{ij}$, $p_i \in R$ and $p_j \in B$, do:

- Detect its intersection with $Vor_R(p_i)$
- Detect its intersection with $Vor_B(p_j)$
- Choose the first of the two intersection points
- Detect the site p_k corresponding to the new starting region
- Replace p_i or p_j (as required) by p_k
- Restart with the new edge



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Starting with one of the halflines, and until getting to the other one, do:

- Detect its intersection with $Vor_R(p_i)$
- Detect its intersection with $Vor_B(p_j)$
- Choose the first of the two intersection points
- Detect the site p_k corresponding to the new starting region
- Replace p_i or p_j (as required) by p_k
- Restart with the new edge

How to compute the chain?

Initialization

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From Vor(R) and Vor(B).



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Initialization running time: O(n)

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If e is an edge of b(R, B) that entered $Vor_R(p_i)$ through some vertex $v \in Vor(P)$, then the exit point of b(R, B) is found clockwise along the boundary of $Vor_R(p_i)$.



How to do the merging?

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Each time a face $Vor_B(p_i)$ is left through an edge $e' \in b_{ij}$, while staying in the same face $Vor_R(p_k)$, a new vertex v is created, an edge e ends and another edge e + 1 begins:

- Create e+1 and assign to it $v_B = v$ and $e_P = e'$
- Assign to $e: v_E = v$, $e_N = e + 1$, $f_L = i$ and $f_R = k$
- Modify for e': $v_* = v$, $e_* = e + 1$
- Delete all edges of $Vor_B(p_k)$ found in counterclockwise order between the entry and exit points
- Update $e(p_i) = e$
- Create the new vertex v and assign e(v)=e

The procedure is analogous when exiting a face $Vor_R(p_i)$.



DIVIDE AND CONQUER ALGORITHM

1. Sort the points of P by abscissa (only once) and vertically partition P into two subsets R and B, of approximately the same size.

2. Recursively compute Vor(R) and Vor(B).

3. Compute the separating chain.

4. Prune the portion of Vor(R) lying to the right of the chain and the portion of Vor(B) lying to its left.

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OTHER ALGORITHMS

There exist other algorithms with the same running time:

- Fortune's Algorithm (sweep)
- 3D projection algorithm