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Computational
Geometry

Polygon Triangulation

1390-2



Motivation:

The Art Gallery Problem



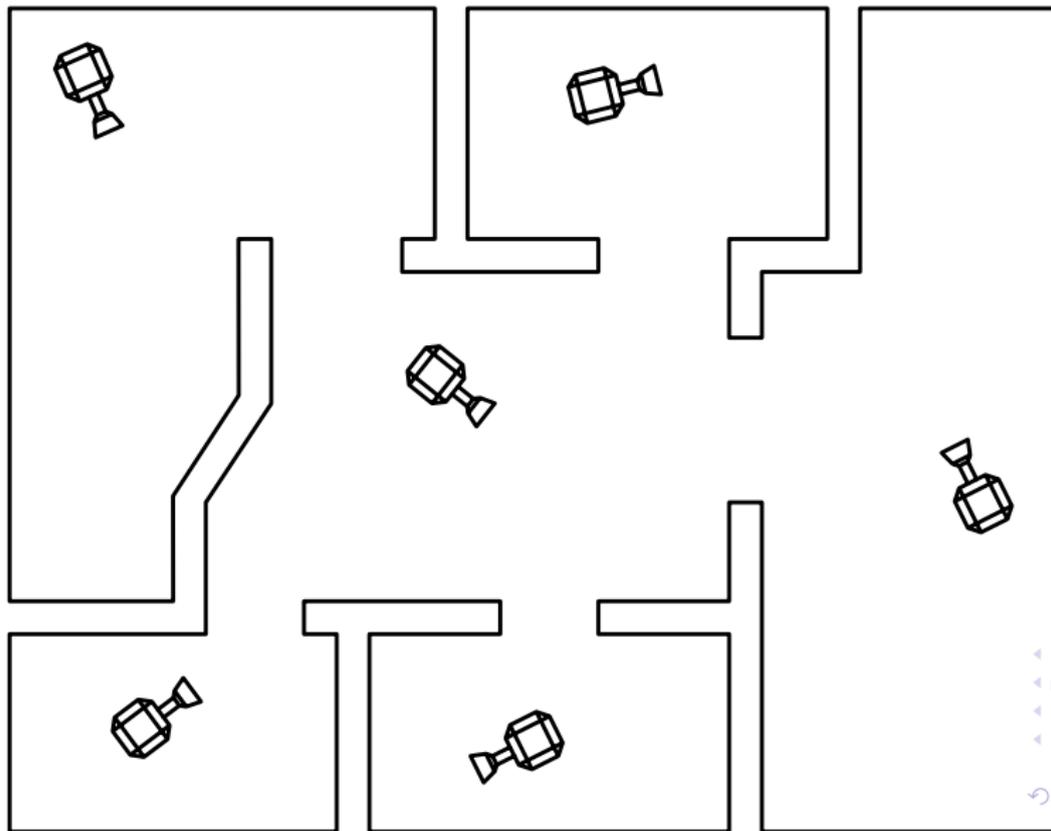
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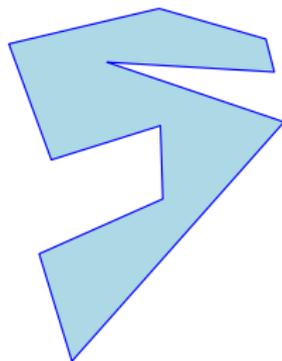
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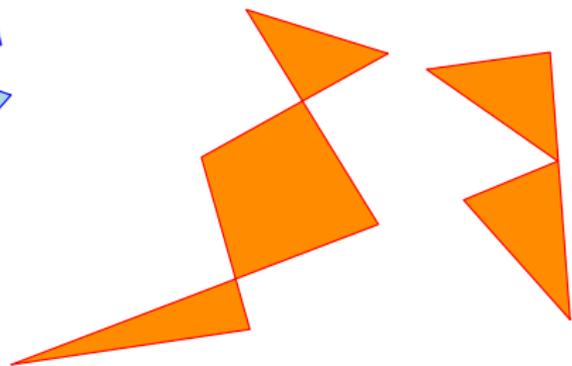
Triangulating Polygons

Definitions

- Simple polygon: Regions enclosed by a single closed polygonal chain that does not intersect itself.
- Question: How many cameras do we need to guard a simple polygon?
Answer: Depends on the polygon.
- One solution: Decompose the polygon to parts which are simple to guard.



Simple Polygon



Non-Simple Polygons



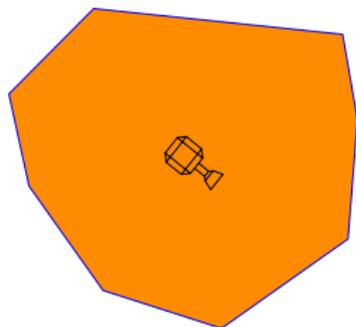
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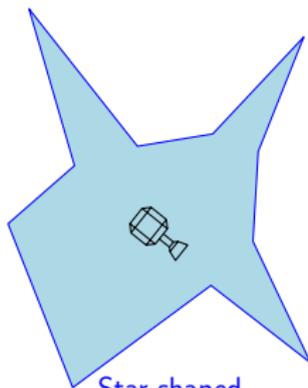
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Convex



Star-shaped



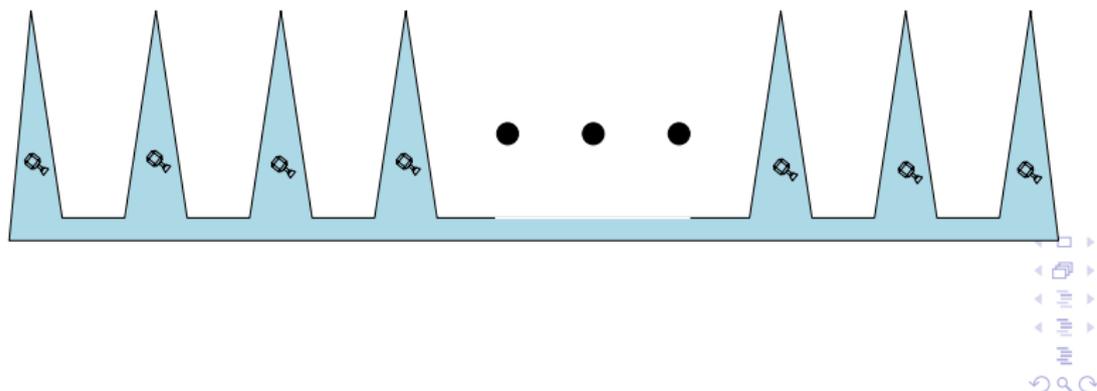
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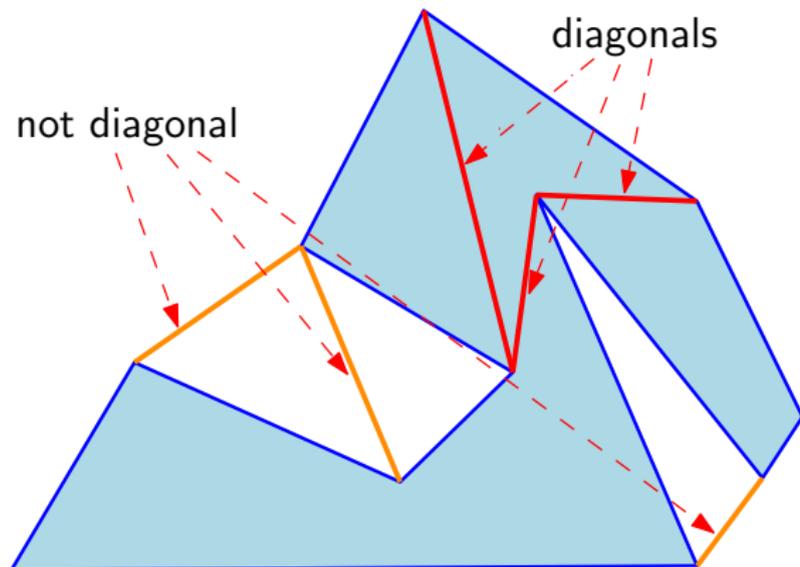
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- diagonals:
- Triangulation: A decomposition of a polygon into triangles by a maximal set of non-intersecting diagonals.



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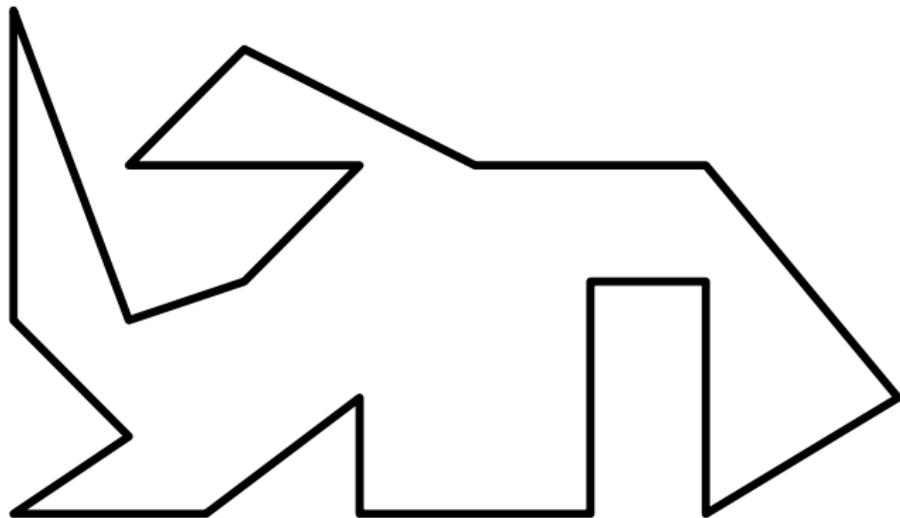
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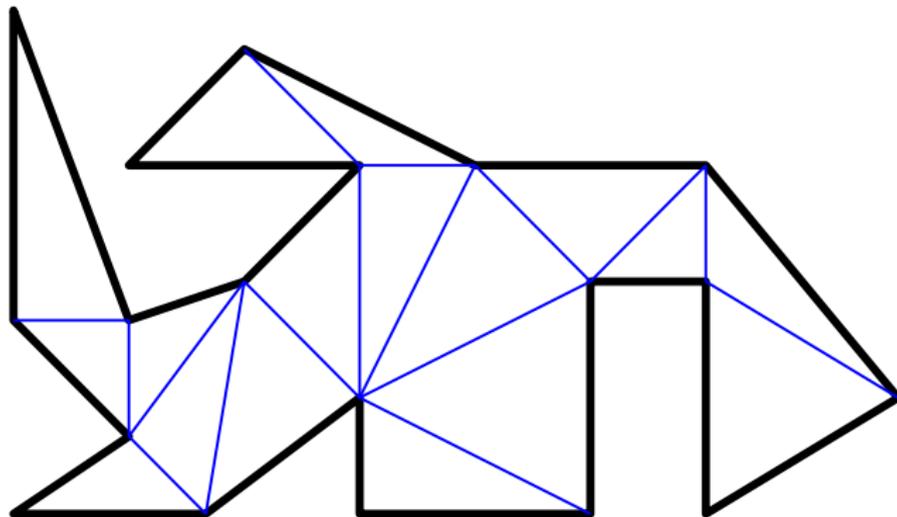
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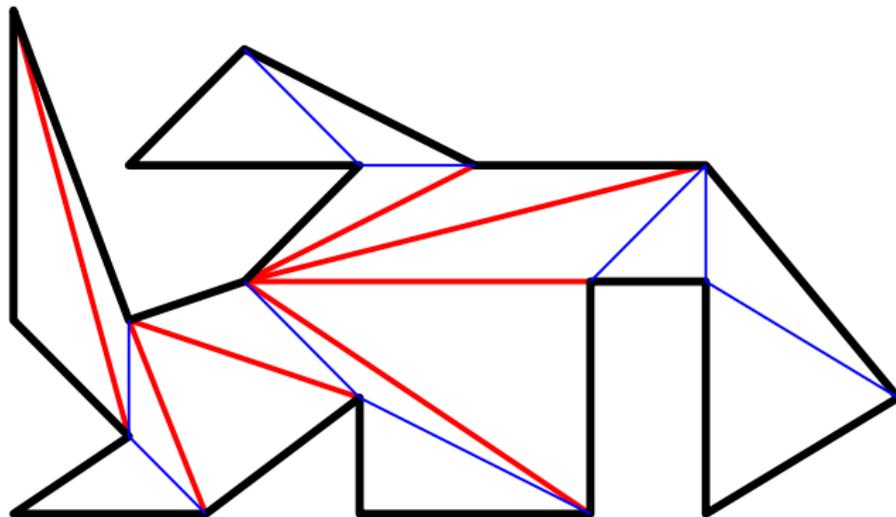
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Triangulating Polygons

Definitions

- Guarding after triangulation:



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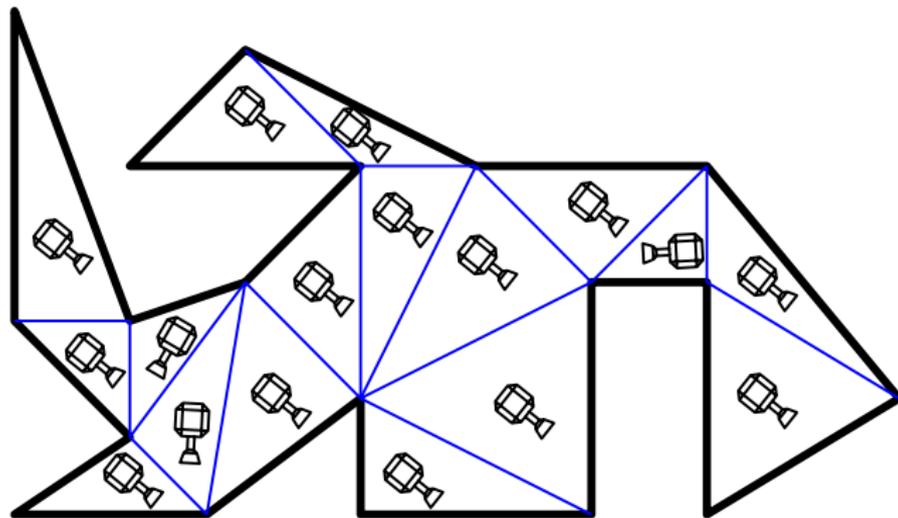
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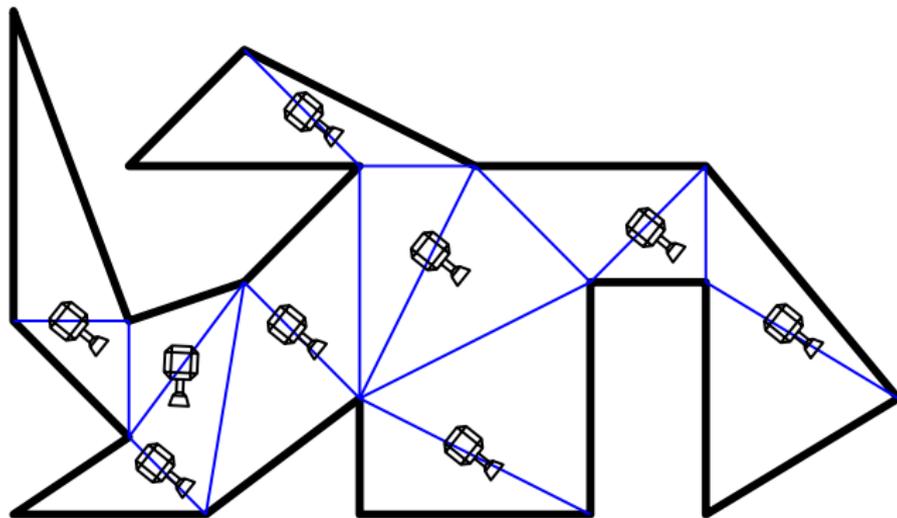
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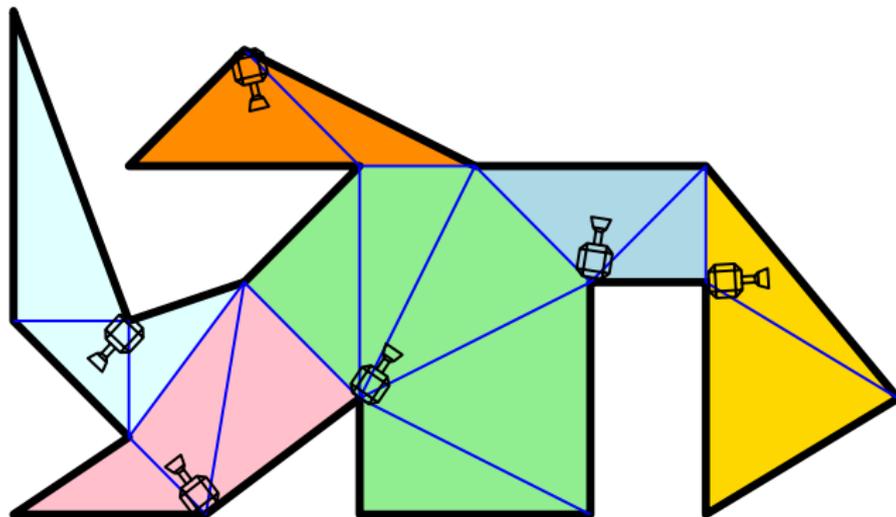
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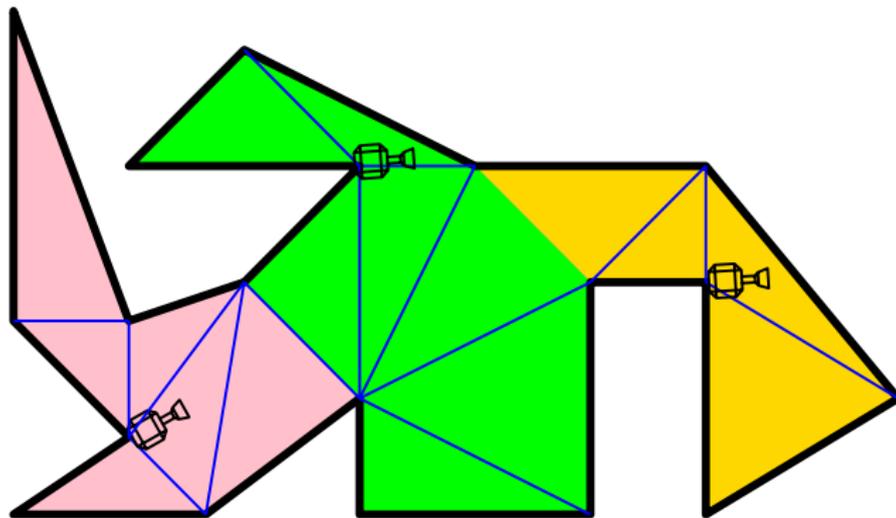
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Triangulating Polygons

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Questions:

- Does a triangulation always exist?
- How many triangles can there be in a triangulation?

Theorem 3.1

Every simple polygon admits a triangulation, and any triangulation of a simple polygon with n vertices consists of exactly $n - 2$ triangles.

Proof. By induction.





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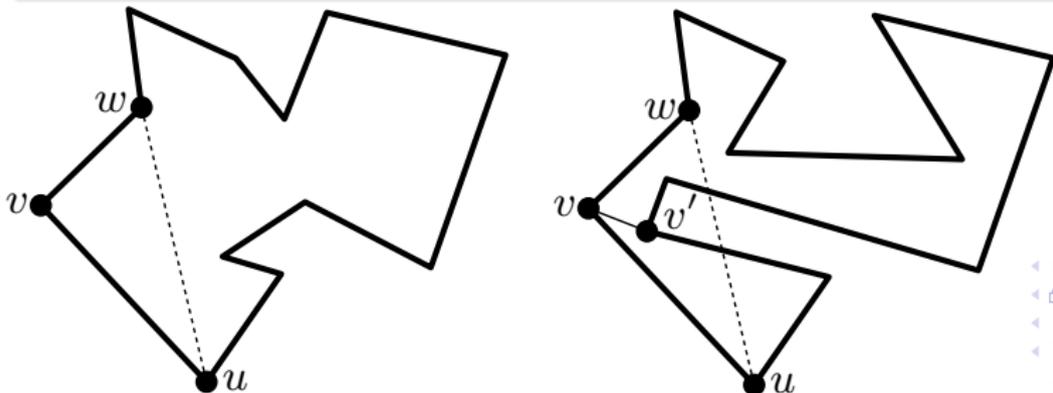
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Guarding a triangulated polygon

- \mathcal{T}_P : A triangulation of a simple polygon P .
- Select $S \subseteq$ the vertices of P , such that any triangle in \mathcal{T}_P has at least one vertex in S , and place the cameras at vertices in S .
- To find such a subset: find a 3-coloring of a triangulated polygon.
- In a 3-coloring of \mathcal{T}_P , every triangle has a blue, a red, and a black vertex. Hence, if we place cameras at all red vertices, we have guarded the whole polygon.
- By choosing the smallest color class to place the cameras, we can guard P using at most $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$ cameras.



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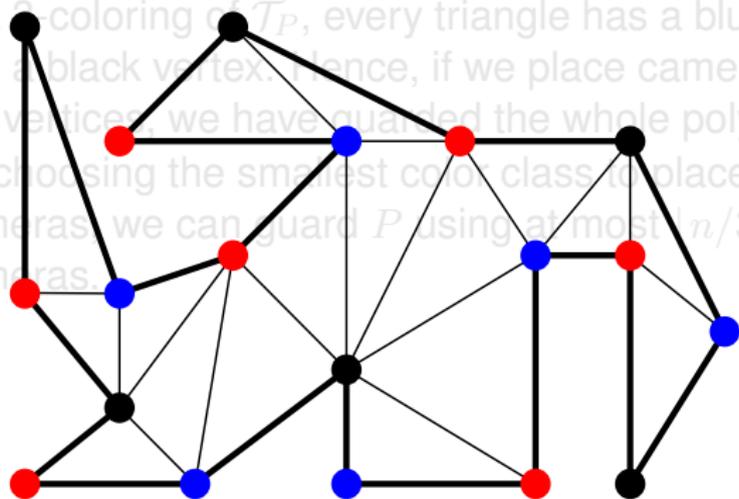


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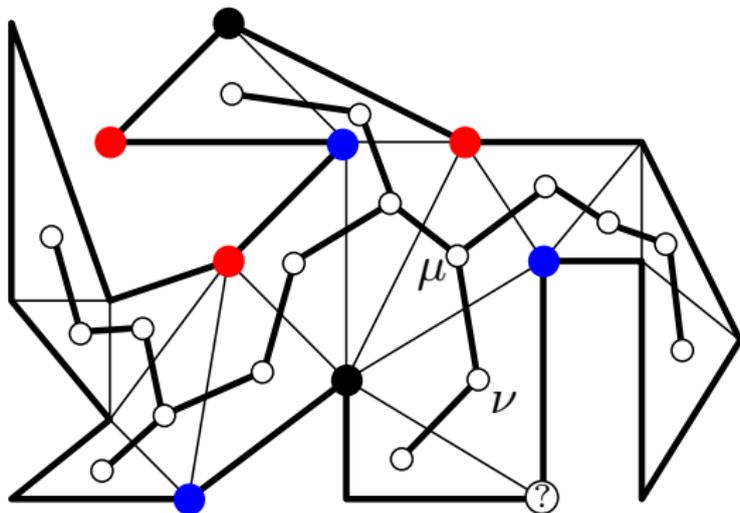
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Does a 3-coloring always exist?

Dual graph:

- This graph $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{T}_P)$ has a node for every triangle in \mathcal{T}_P .
- There is an arc between two nodes ν and μ if $t(\nu)$ and $t(\mu)$ share a diagonal.
- $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{T}_P)$ is a tree.



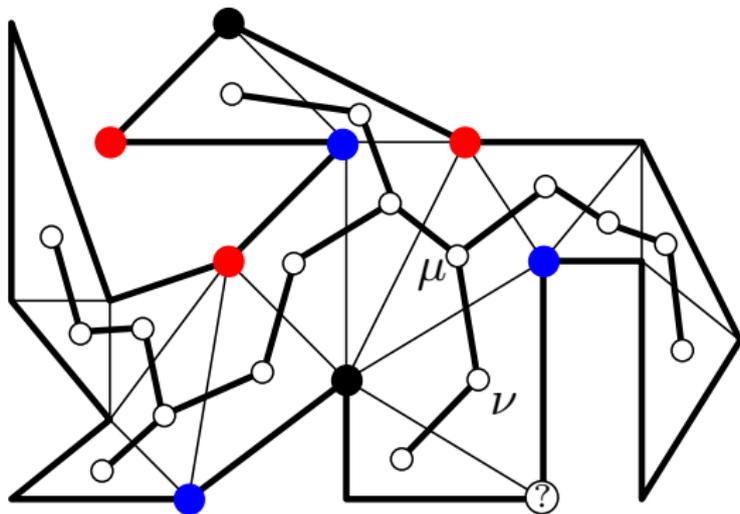
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Does a 3-coloring always exist?

For 3-coloring:

- Traverse the dual graph (DFS).
- Invariant: so far everything is nice.
- Start from any node of $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{T}_P)$; color the vertices.
- When we reach a node ν in \mathcal{G} , coming from node μ . Only one vertex of $t(\nu)$ remains to be colored.



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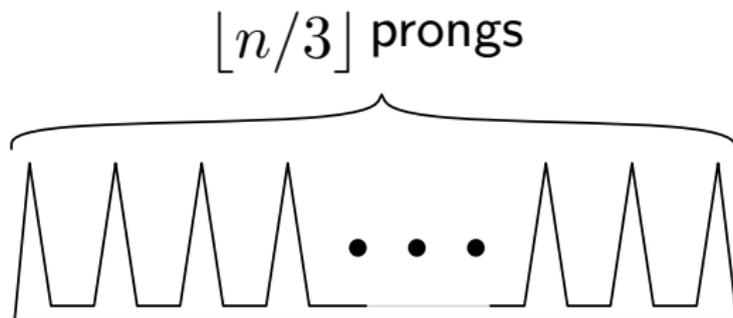
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Theorem 3.2 (Art Gallery Theorem)

For a simple polygon with n vertices, $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$ cameras are occasionally necessary and always sufficient to have every point in the polygon visible from at least one of the cameras.





We will show:

How to compute a triangulation in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ time.

Therefore:

Theorem 3.3

Let P be a simple polygon with n vertices. A set of $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$ camera positions in P such that any point inside P is visible from at least one of the cameras can be computed in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ time.





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How can we compute a triangulation of a given polygon?



Triangulation algorithms

- A really naive algorithm: check all $\binom{n}{2}$ choices for a diagonal, each takes $\mathcal{O}(n)$ time. Time complexity: $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$.
- A better naive algorithm: find an ear in $\mathcal{O}(n)$ time, then recurse. Total time: $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$.
- First non-trivial algorithm: $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ (1978).
- A long series of papers and algorithms in 80s until Chazelle produced an optimal $\mathcal{O}(n)$ algorithm in 1991.
- Linear time algorithm insanely complicated; there are randomized, expected linear time that are more accessible.
- Here we present a $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ algorithm.



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Algorithm Outline

- 1 Partition polygon into monotone polygons.
- 2 Triangulate each monotone piece.





ℓ -monotone polygon

P is called monotone w. r. t. ℓ if $\forall \ell'$ perpendicular to ℓ the intersection of P with ℓ' is connected (a line segment, a point, or empty).

Definition:

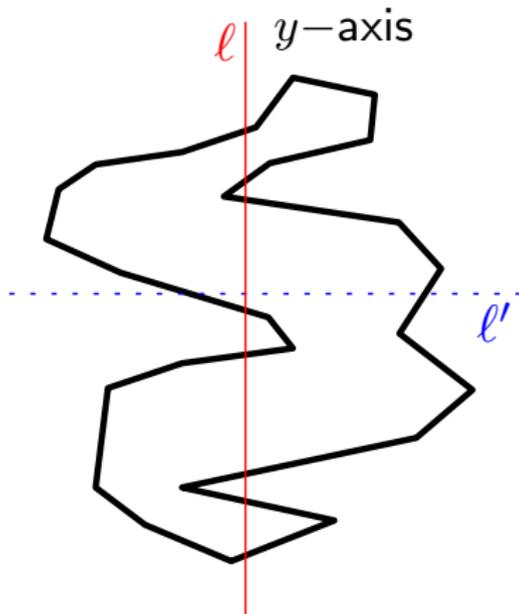
- A point p is **below** another point q if $p_y < q_y$ or $p_y = q_y$ and $p_x > q_x$.
- p is **above** q if $p_y > q_y$ or $p_y = q_y$ and $p_x < q_x$.



Monotone polygon

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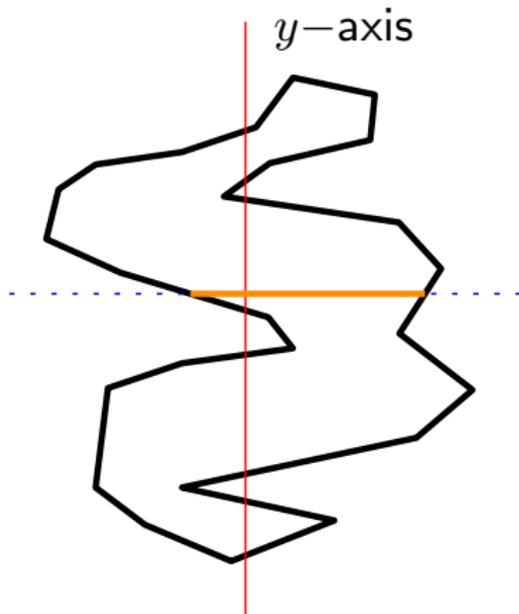
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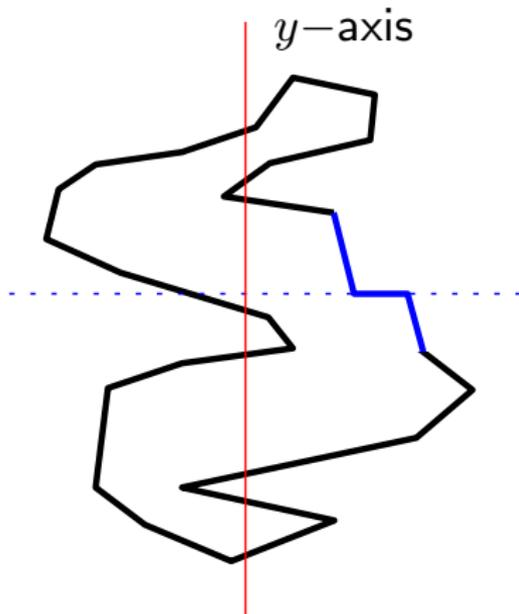
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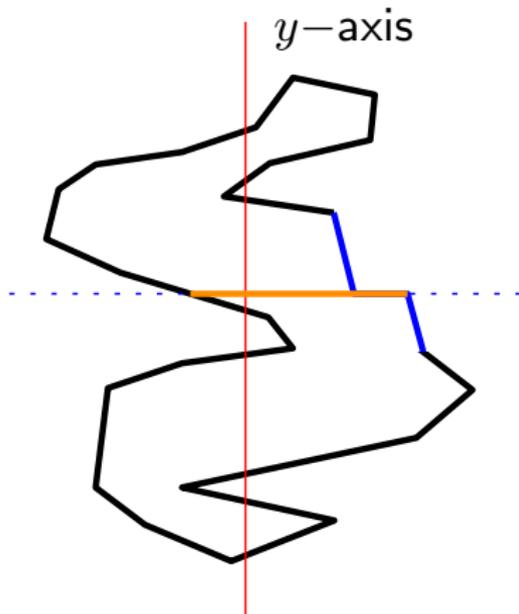
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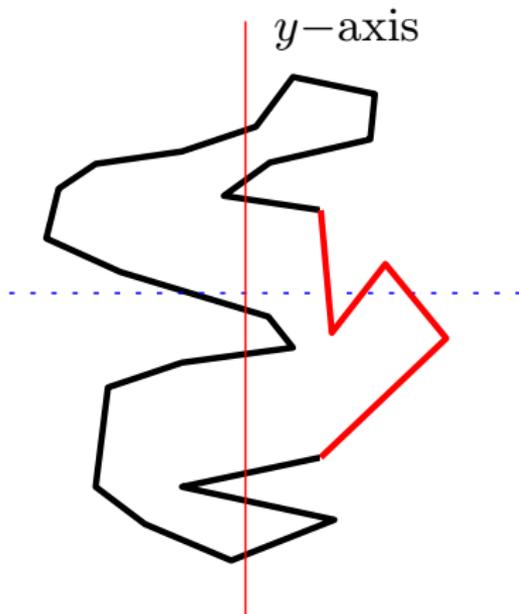
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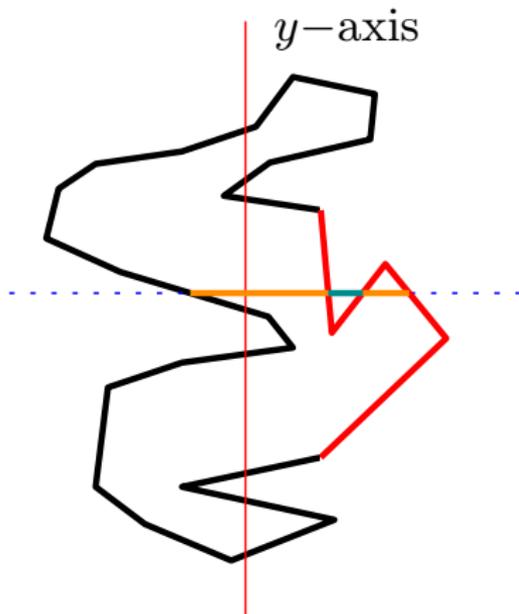
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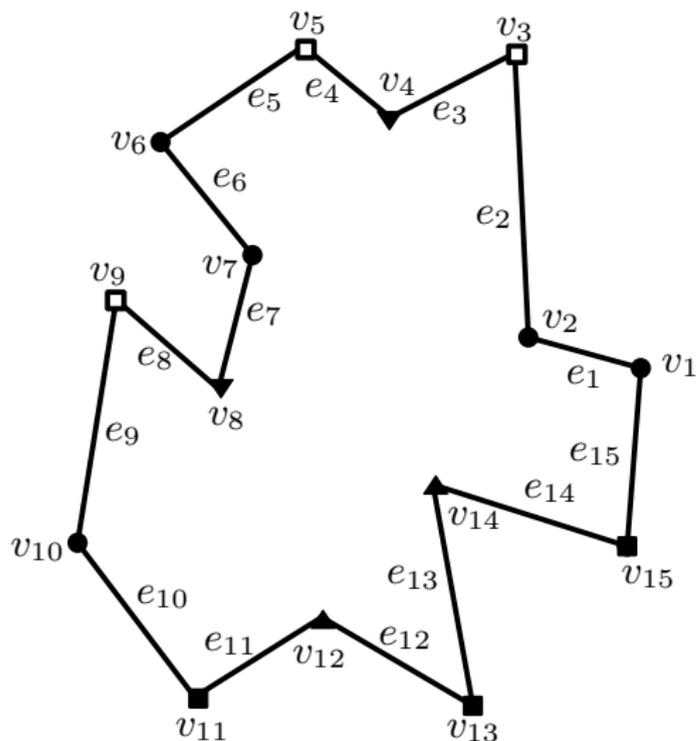


Partition P into monotone pieces



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□ =start vertex

■ =end vertex

● =regular vertex

▲ =split vertex

▼ =merge vertex



Partition \mathcal{P} into monotone pieces

Lemma 3.4

P is y -monotone if it has no split or merge vertices.

Proof. Assume \mathcal{P} is not y -monotone.

P has been partitioned into y -monotone pieces once we get rid of its split and merge vertices.



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Partition \mathcal{P} into monotone pieces

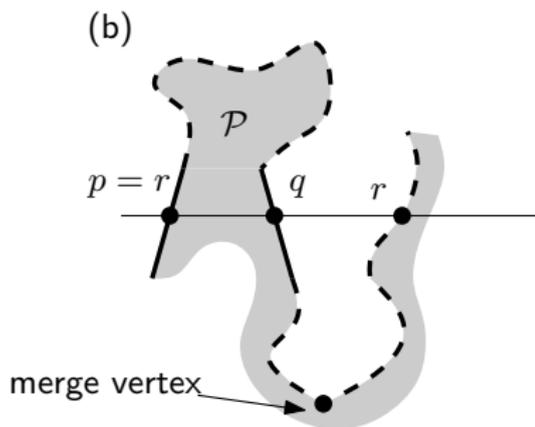
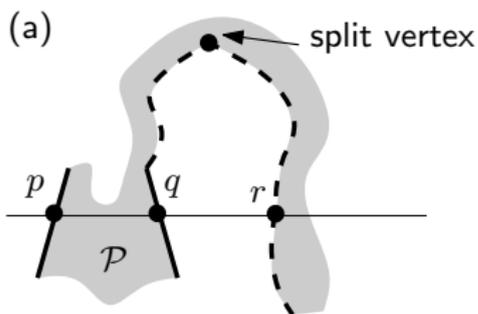


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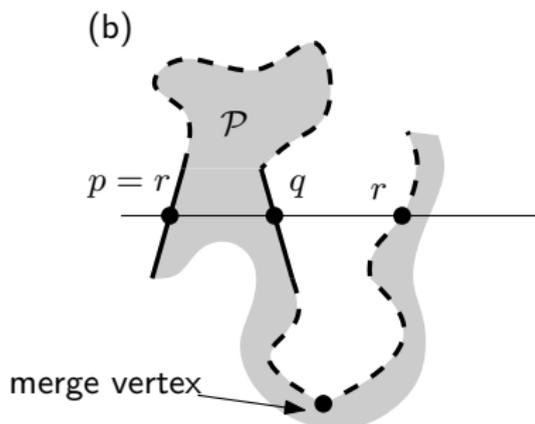
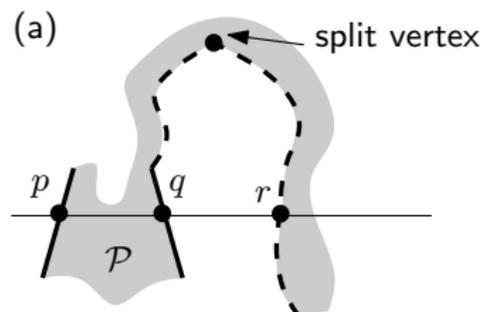


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Removing split/merge vertices:

Removing split vertices:

- A sweep line algorithm. Events: all the points
- Goal: To add diagonals from each split vertex to a vertex lying above it.
- $helper(e_j)$: The lowest vertex above the sweep line such that the horizontal segment connecting the vertex to e_j lies inside P .



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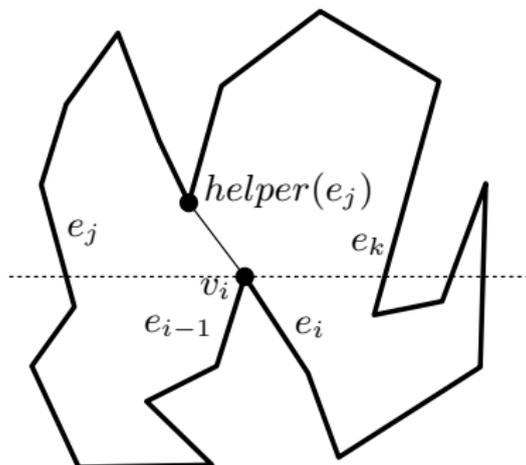
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Removing split/merge vertices:

Removing merge vertices:

- Connect each merge vertex to the highest vertex below the sweep line in between e_j and e_k .
- But we do not know the point.
- When we reach a vertex v_m that replaces the helper of e_j , then this is the vertex we are looking for.



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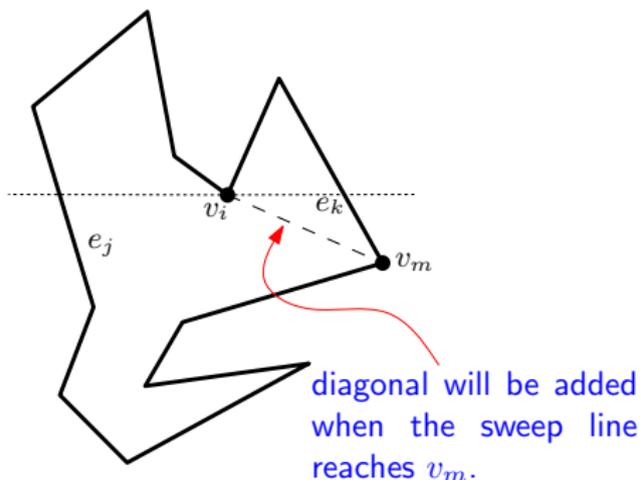
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Data Structure:

For this approach, we need to find the edge to the left of each vertex. To do that:

- 1 We store the edges of P intersecting the sweep line in the leaves of a dynamic binary search tree \mathcal{T} .
- 2 Because we are only interested in edges to the left of split and merge vertices we only need to store edges in \mathcal{T} that have the interior of P to their right.
- 3 With each edge in \mathcal{T} we store its helper.
- 4 We store P in DCEL form and make changes such that it remains valid.



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Make Monotone Algorithm:

Algorithm MAKEMONOTONE(P)

Input: A simple polygon P stored in a DCEL \mathcal{D} .

Output: A partitioning of P into monotone subpolygons, stored in \mathcal{D} .

1. Construct a priority queue Q on the vertices of P , using their y -coordinates as priority. If two points have the same y -coordinate, the one with smaller x -coordinate has higher priority.
2. Initialize an empty binary search tree \mathcal{T} .
3. **while** Q is not empty
4. Remove the vertex v_i with the highest priority from Q .
5. Call the appropriate procedure to handle the vertex, depending on its type.



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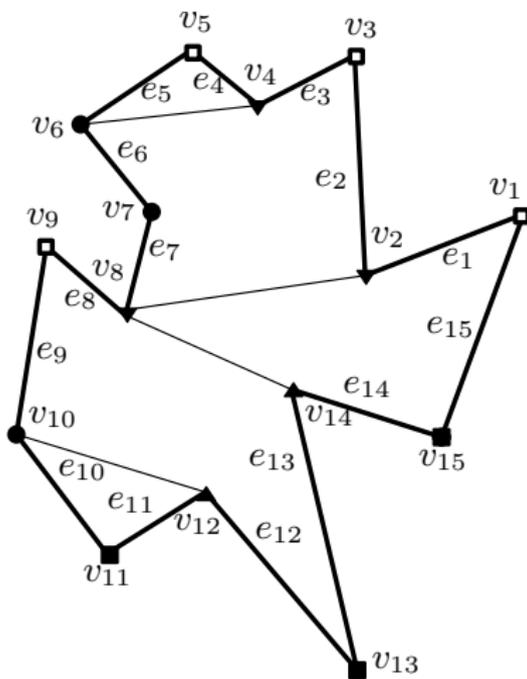
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Make Monotone Algorithm:

Algorithm HANDLESTARTVERTEX(v_i)

1. Insert e_i in \mathcal{T} and set $helper(e_i)$ to v_i .



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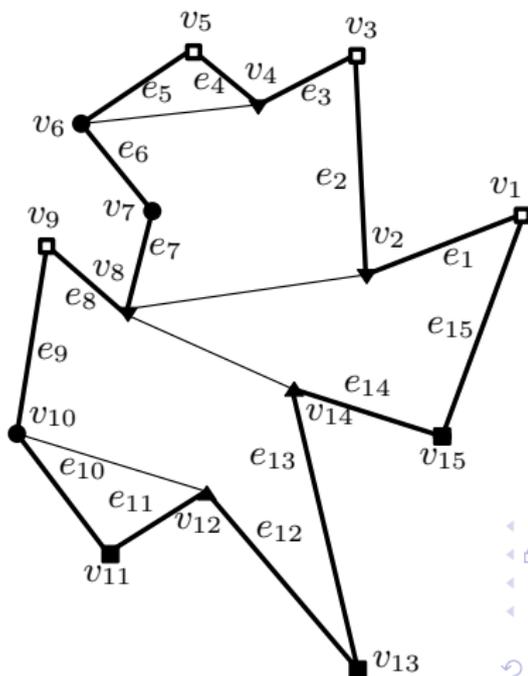
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Make Monotone Algorithm:

Algorithm HANDLEENDVERTEX(v_i)

1. **if** $helper(e_{i-1})$ is a merge vertex
2. **then** Insert the diagonal connecting v_i to $helper(e_{i-1})$ in \mathcal{D} .
3. Delete e_{i-1} from \mathcal{T} .



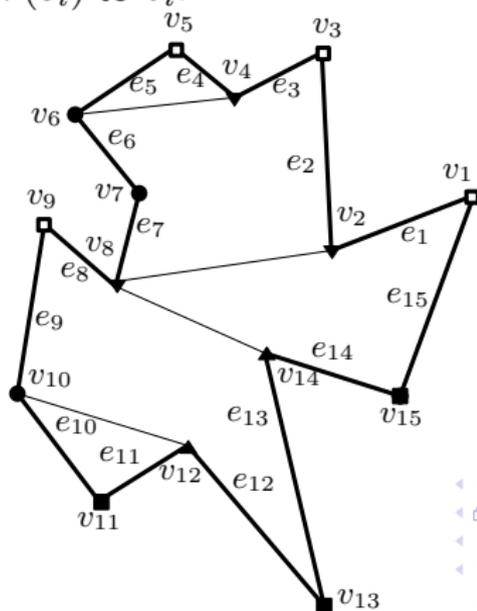
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Make Monotone Algorithm:

Algorithm HANDLE_SPLIT_VERTEX(v_i)

1. Search in \mathcal{T} to find the edge e_j directly left of v_i .
2. Insert the diagonal connecting v_i to $helper(e_j)$ in \mathcal{D} .
3. $helper(e_j) \leftarrow v_i$.
4. Insert e_i in \mathcal{T} and set $helper(e_i)$ to v_i .



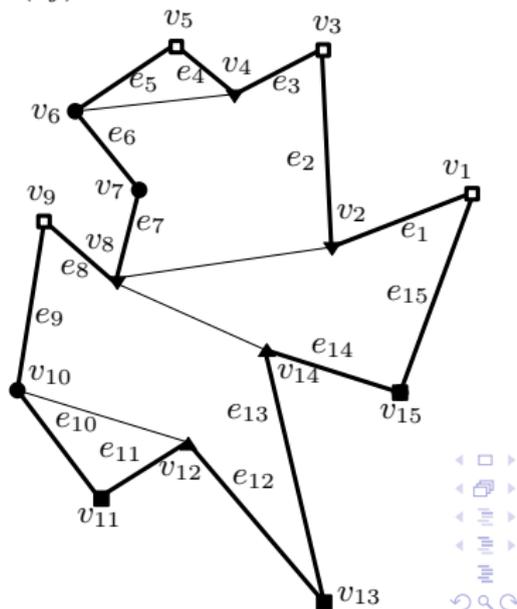
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Make Monotone Algorithm:

Algorithm HANDLEMERGEVERTEX(v_i)

1. **if** $helper(e_{i-1})$ is a merge vertex
2. **then** Insert the diag. v_i to $helper(e_{i-1})$ in \mathcal{D} .
3. Delete e_{i-1} from \mathcal{T} .
4. Search in \mathcal{T} to find e_j directly left of v_i .
5. **if** $helper(e_j)$ is a merge vertex
6. **then** Insert the diag. v_i to $helper(e_j)$ in \mathcal{D} .
7. $helper(e_j) \leftarrow v_i$.



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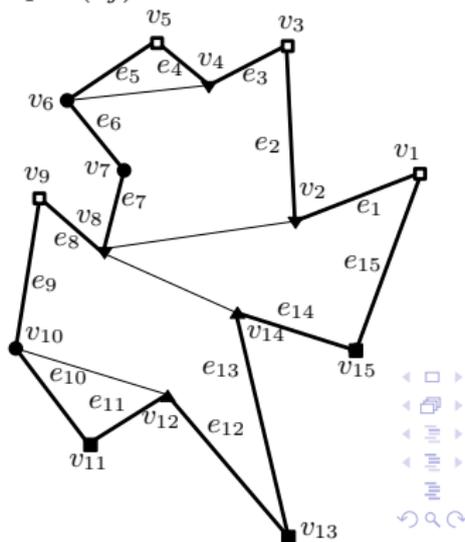
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Make Monotone Algorithm:

Algorithm HANDLEREGULARVERTEX(v_i)

1. **if** the interior of P lies to the right of v_i
2. **then if** $helper(e_{i-1})$ is a merge vertex
3. **then** Insert the diag. v_i to $helper(e_{i-1})$ in \mathcal{D} .
4. Delete e_{i-1} from \mathcal{T} .
5. Insert e_i in \mathcal{T} and set $helper(e_i)$ to v_i .
6. **else** Search in \mathcal{T} to find e_j directly left of v_i .
7. **if** $helper(e_j)$ is a merge vertex
8. **then** Insert the diag. v_i to $helper(e_j)$ in \mathcal{D} .
9. $helper(e_j) \leftarrow v_i$



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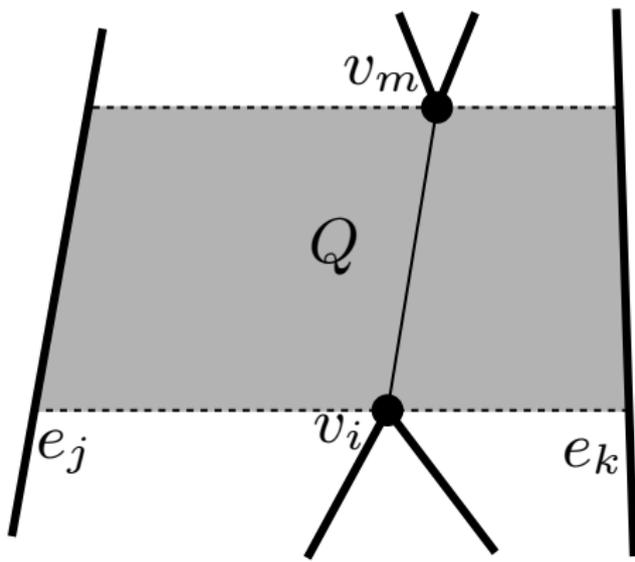
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Lemma 3.5

Algorithm MAKEMONOTONE adds a set of non-intersecting diagonals that partitions P into monotone subpolygons.

Proof. (For split vertices) (other cases are similar)

- No intersection between $v_i v_m$ and edges of P .
- No intersection between $v_i v_m$ and previous edges.



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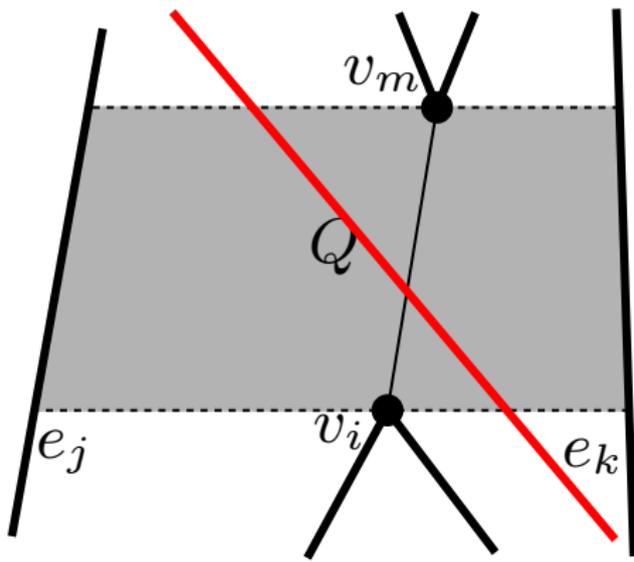
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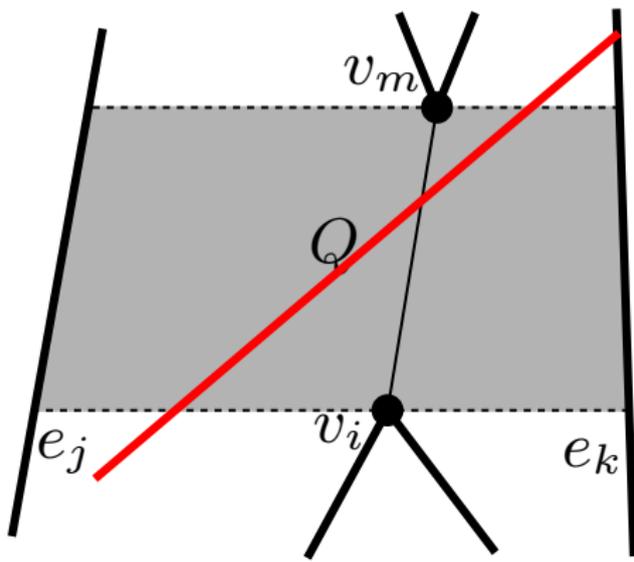


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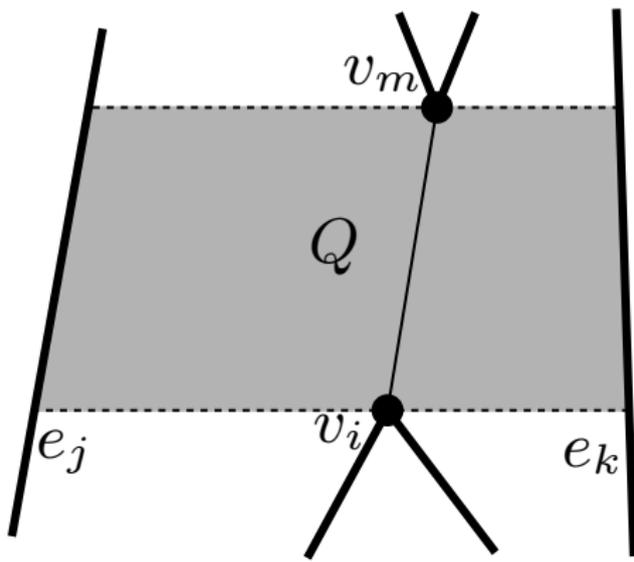


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Running time:

- Constructing the priority queue Q : $\mathcal{O}(n)$ time.
- Initializing \mathcal{T} : $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time.
- To handle an event, we perform:
 - 1 one operation on Q : $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ time.
 - 2 at most one query on \mathcal{T} : $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ time.
 - 3 one insertion, and one deletion on \mathcal{T} : $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ time.
 - 4 we insert at most two diagonals into \mathcal{D} : $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time.

Space Complexity:

The amount of storage used by the algorithm is clearly linear: every vertex is stored at most once in Q , and every edge is stored at most once in \mathcal{T} .





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Theorem 3.6

A simple polygon with n vertices can be partitioned into y -monotone polygons in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ time with an algorithm that uses $\mathcal{O}(n)$ storage.





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Triangulating a Monotone Polygon



Triangulating a Monotone Polygon



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Triangulation Algorithm:

- 1 The algorithm handles the vertices in order of decreasing y -coordinate. (Left to right for points with same y -coordinate).
- 2 The algorithm requires a stack \mathcal{S} as auxiliary data structure. It keeps the points that handled but might need more diagonals.
- 3 When we handle a vertex we add as many diagonals from this vertex to vertices on the stack as possible.
- 4 Algorithm invariant: the part of P that still needs to be triangulated, and lies above the last vertex that has been encountered so far, looks like a funnel turned upside down.



Triangulating a Monotone Polygon



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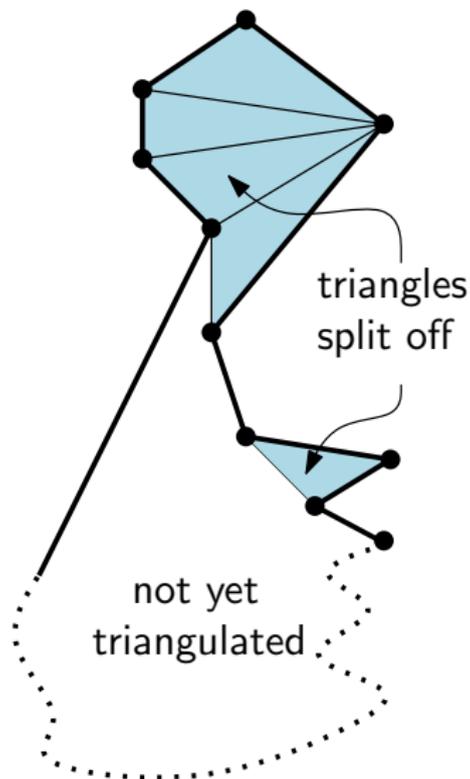
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Triangulating a Monotone Polygon



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Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

Case 1: v_j and top of stack on different chains



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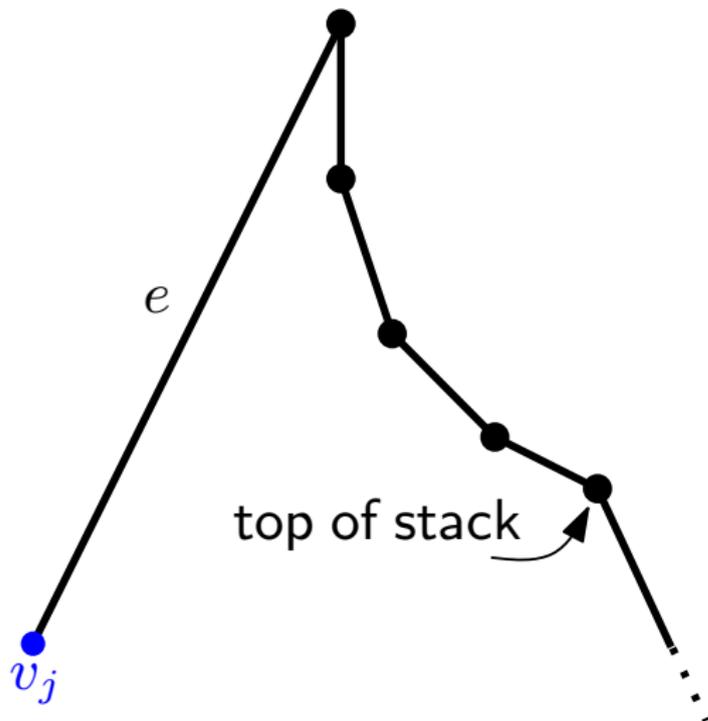
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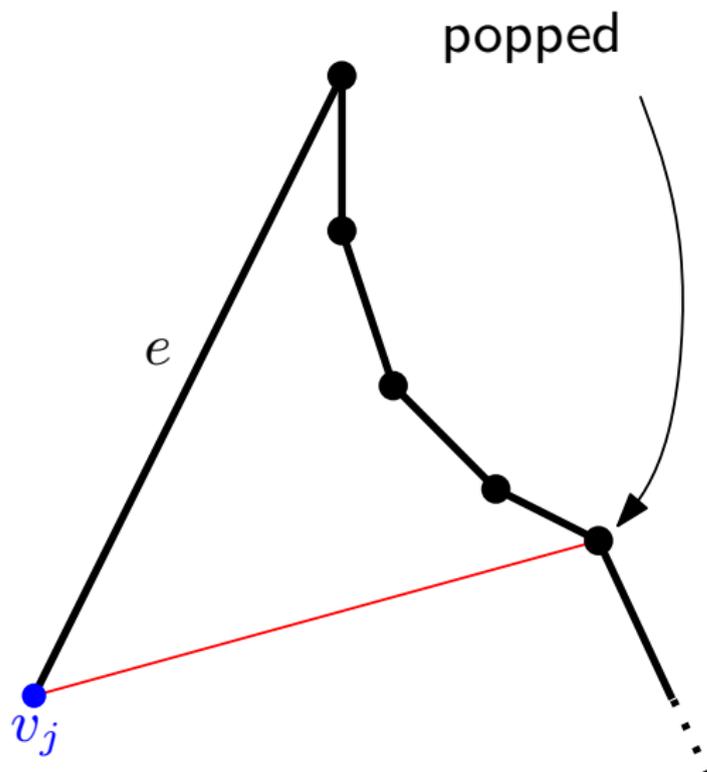
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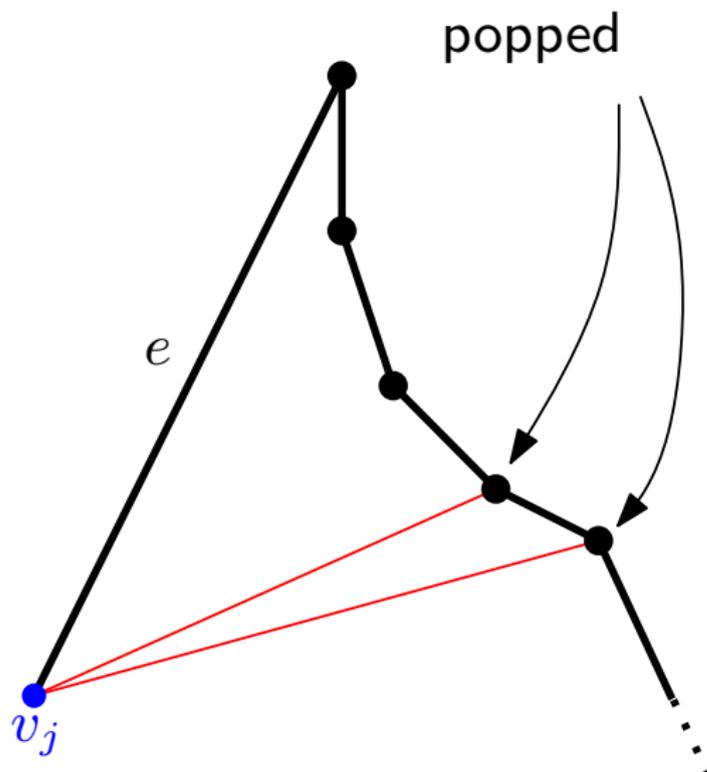
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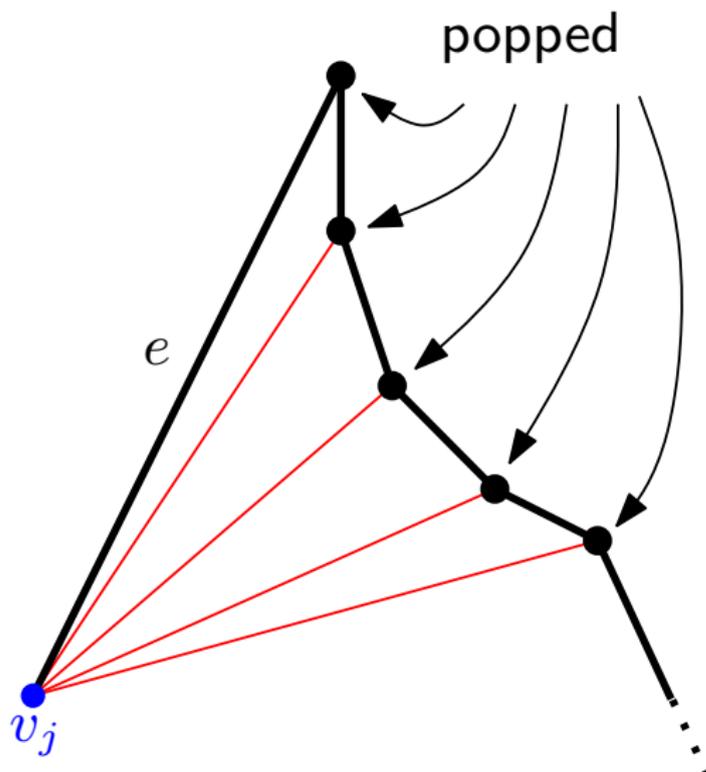
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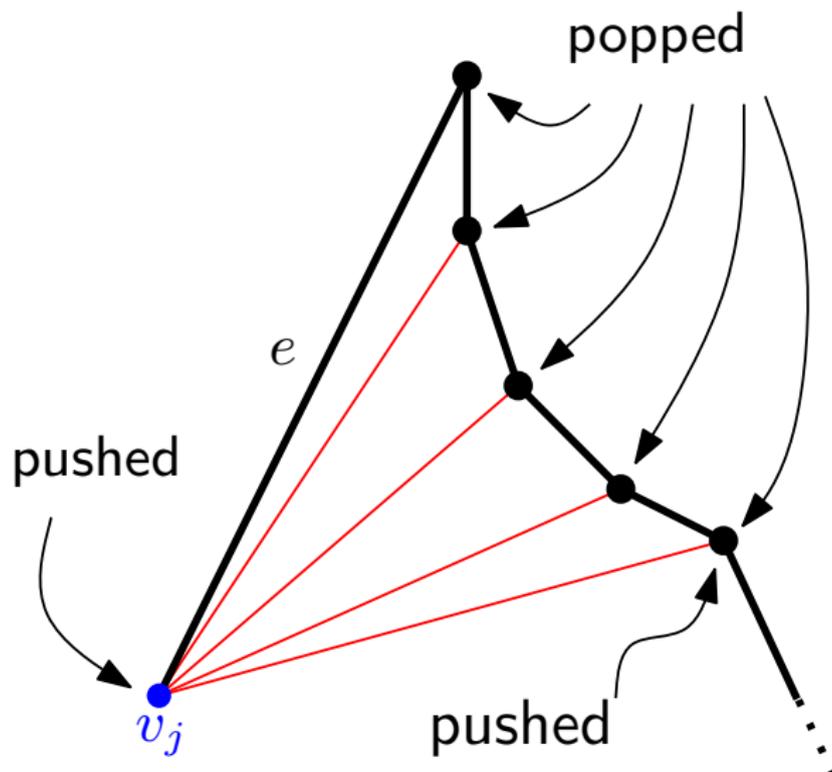
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Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

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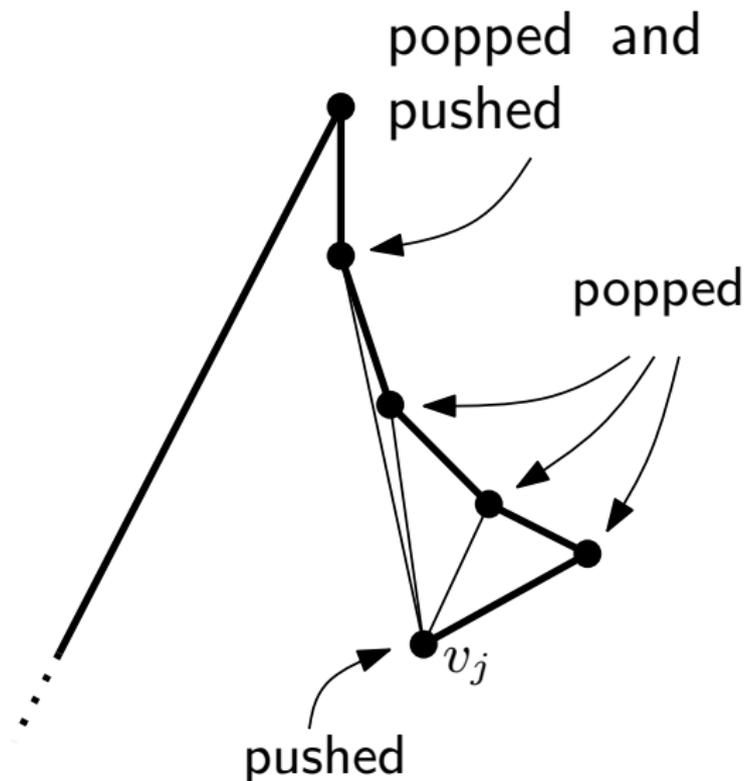
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Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

Case 2: v_j and top of stack on same chain



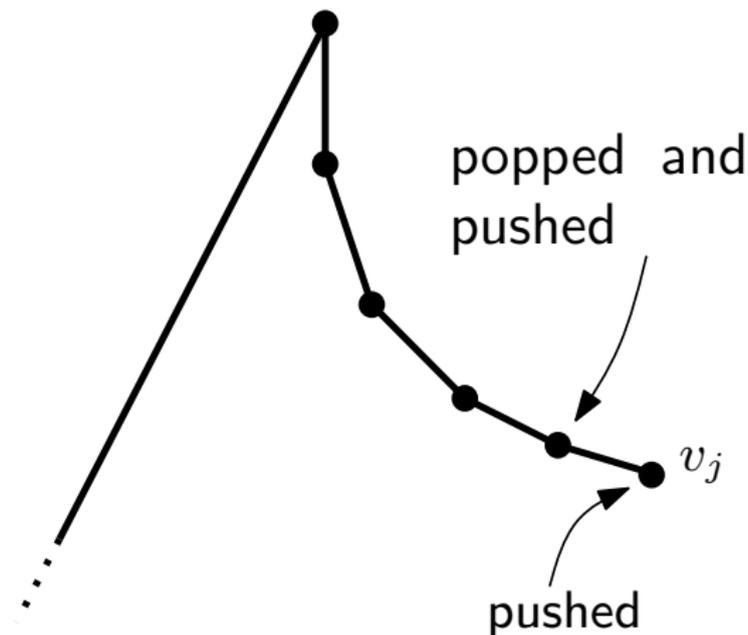
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Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

Case 2: v_j and top of stack on same chain



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Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

Algorithm TRIANGULATEMONOTONEPOLYGON(P)

Input: A strictly y -monotone polygon P stored in \mathcal{D} .

Output: A triangulation of P stored in \mathcal{D} .

1. Merge the vertices on the left chain and the vertices on the right chain of P into one sequence, sorted on decreasing y -coordinate. Let u_1, \dots, u_n denote the sorted sequence.
2. Initialize an empty stack \mathcal{S} , and push u_1 and u_2 onto it.
3. **for** $j \leftarrow 3$ **to** $n - 1$
4. **if** u_j and the vertex on top of \mathcal{S} are on different chains
5. **then** Pop all vertices from \mathcal{S} .
6. Insert into \mathcal{D} a diagonal from u_j to each popped vertex, except the last one.
7. Push u_{j-1} and u_j onto \mathcal{S} .
8. **else** Pop one vertex from \mathcal{S} .
9. Pop the other vertices from \mathcal{S} as long as the diagonals from u_j to them are inside P . Insert these diagonals into \mathcal{D} . Push the last vertex that has been popped back onto \mathcal{S} .
10. Push u_j onto \mathcal{S} .
11. Add diagonals from u_n to all stack vertices except the first and the last one.



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Polygon Triangulation

Theorem 3.8

A simple polygon with n vertices can be triangulated in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ time with an algorithm that uses $\mathcal{O}(n)$ storage.

Theorem 3.9

A planar subdivision with n vertices in total can be triangulated in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ time with an algorithm that uses $\mathcal{O}(n)$ storage.



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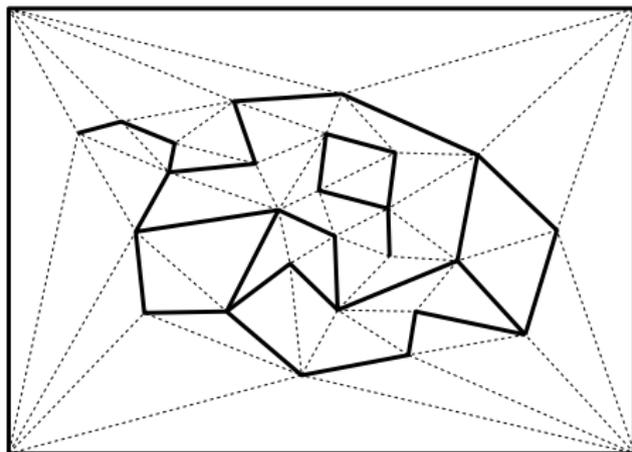
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END.

