

# **A red-blue intersection problem**

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**University of Seville, Spain**

Joint work with:

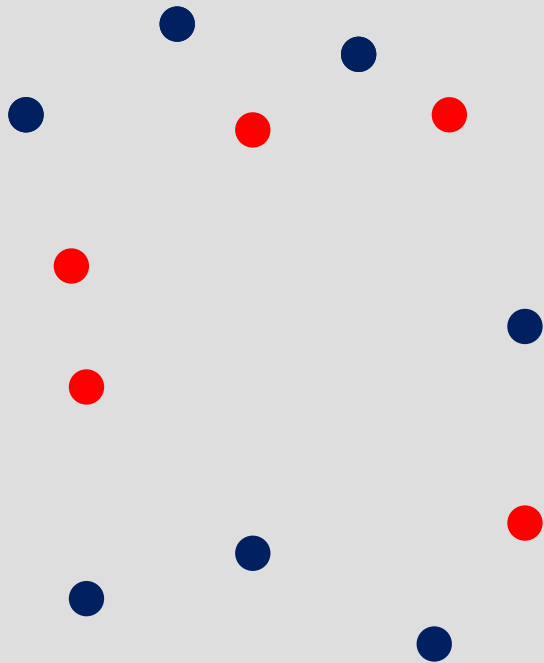
C. Cortés, M.A. Garrido, C. Grima, A. Márquez, A. Moreno, J. Valenzuela, and M.T. Villar

University of Seville, Spain

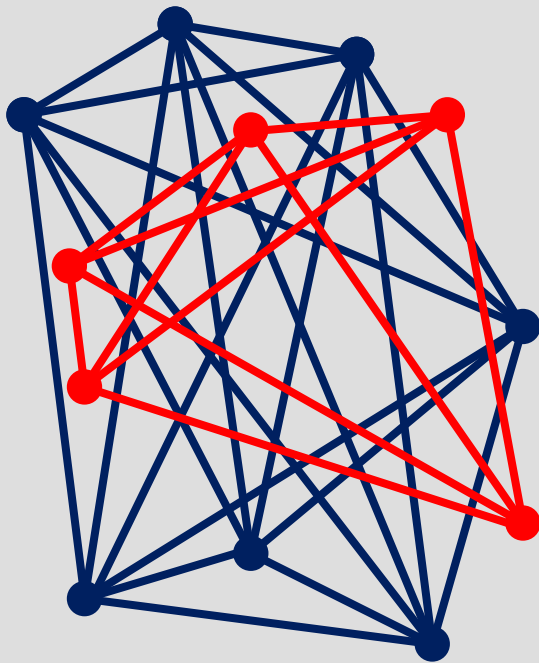
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**Midsummer Combinatorial Workshop XIX**

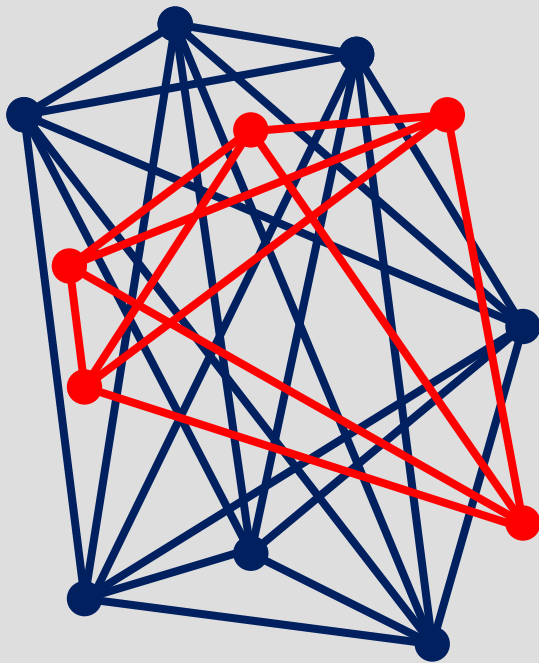
## The Problem



# The Problem

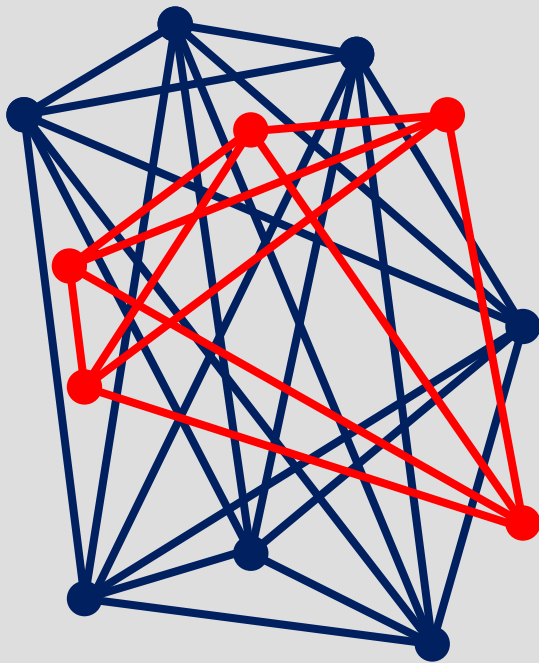


## The Problem



Report the set of segments of each colour intersected by segments of the other colour

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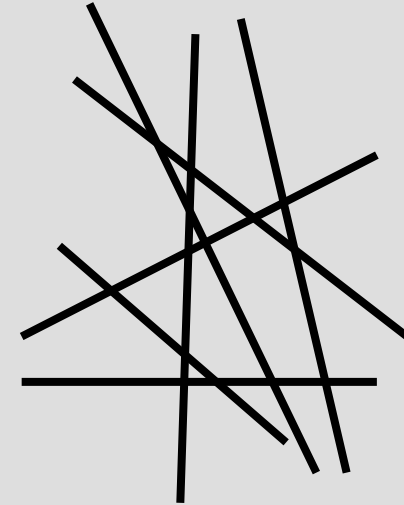
Report the set of segments of each colour intersected by segments of the other colour

**Geometric Intersection Problem**

## Geometric Intersection Problems

### Segment Intersection Problem

Report the intersections of  
 $n$  line segments in the plane



Algorithms for reporting all  $k$  intersecting pairs

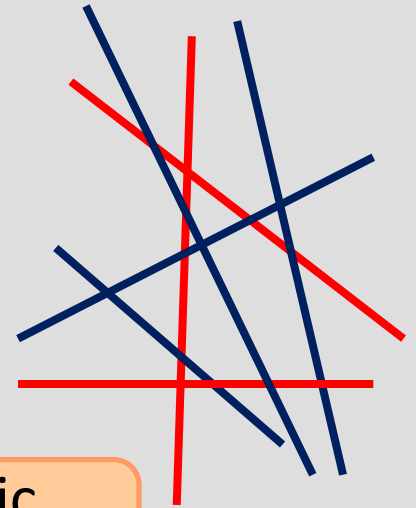
- Bentley and Ottmann (1979):  $O((k+n) \log n)$  time and  $O(n)$  space
- Chazelle and Edelsbrunner (1992):  $O(k+n \log n)$  time and  $O(k+n)$  space
- Balaban (1995):  $O(k+n \log n)$  time and  $O(n)$  space

## Geometric Intersection Problems

### Bichromatic Segment Intersection Problem

Report all intersections between  $n_r$  red segments and  $n_b$  blue segments

Bichromatic intersections

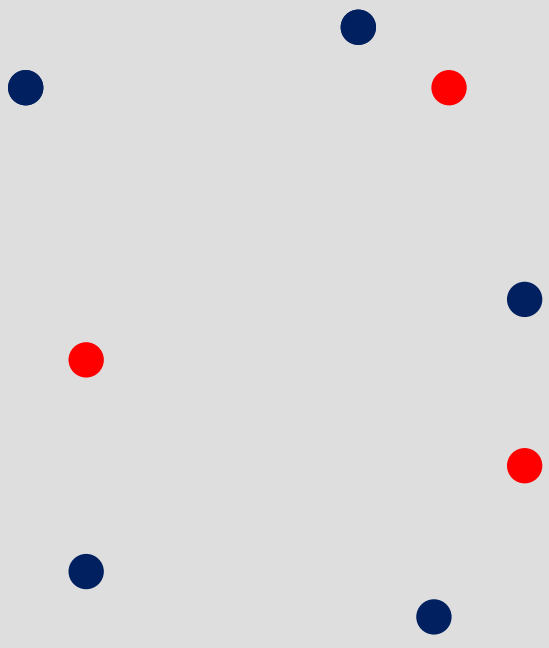


Algorithms for reporting bichromatic intersections  
(monochromatic intersections exist)

- Agarwal and Sharir (1988):  $O((n_r \sqrt{n_b} + n_b \sqrt{n_r}) \log n)$  where  $n = n_r + n_b$
- Agarwal (1990):  $O(k + n^{4/3} \log^{o(1)} n)$  where  $n = n_r + n_b$

## Our Problem

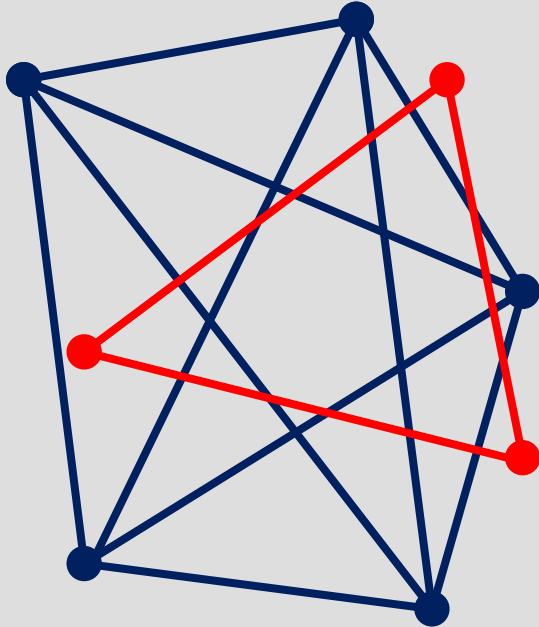
Variation of the bichromatic segment intersection problem

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- $R$ =set of  $n_r$  red points;  $B$ =set of  $n_b$  blue points  
 $n=n_r+n_b$



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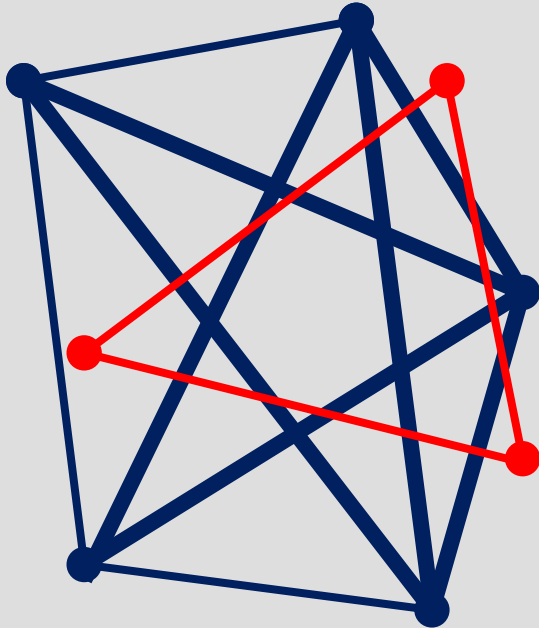
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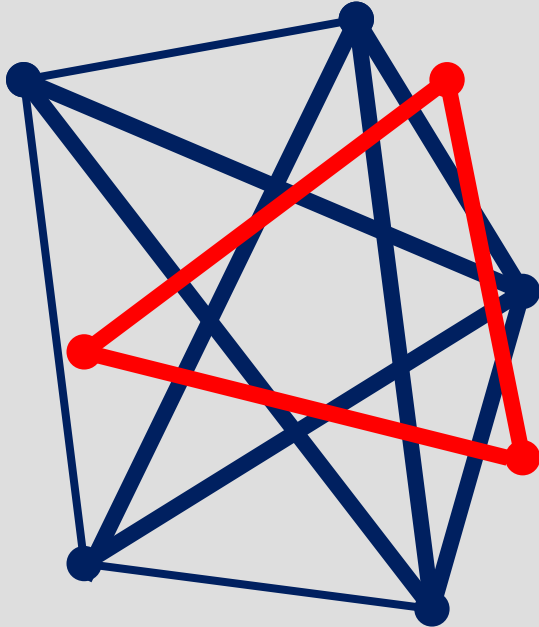
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- $S_b$ =set of blue segments that intersect at least one red segment;  $s_b=|S_b|$

## Our Problem

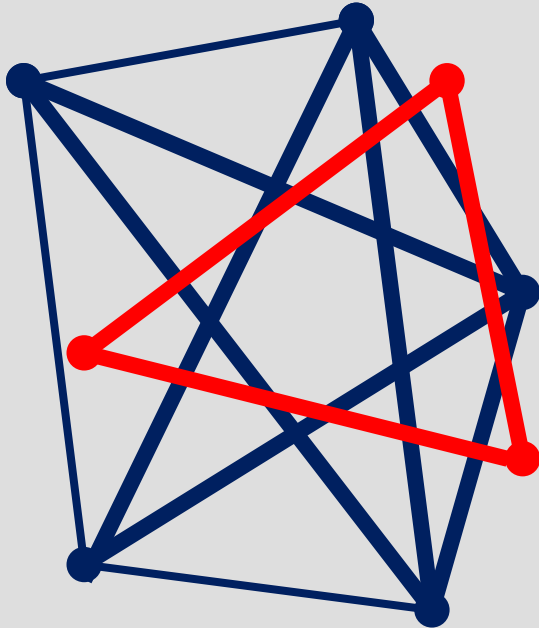
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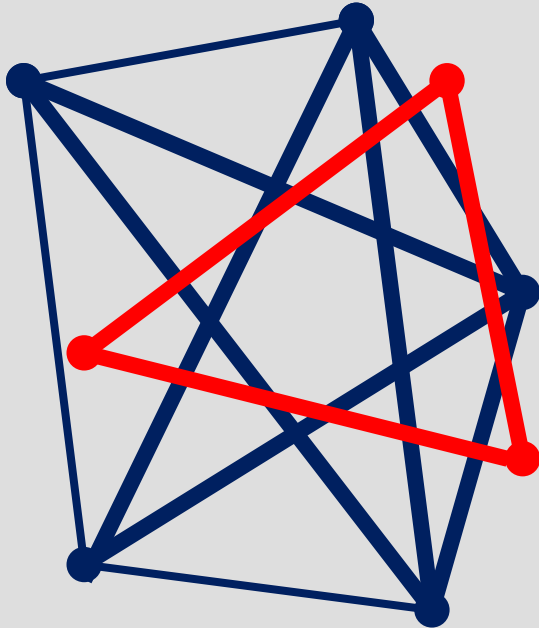
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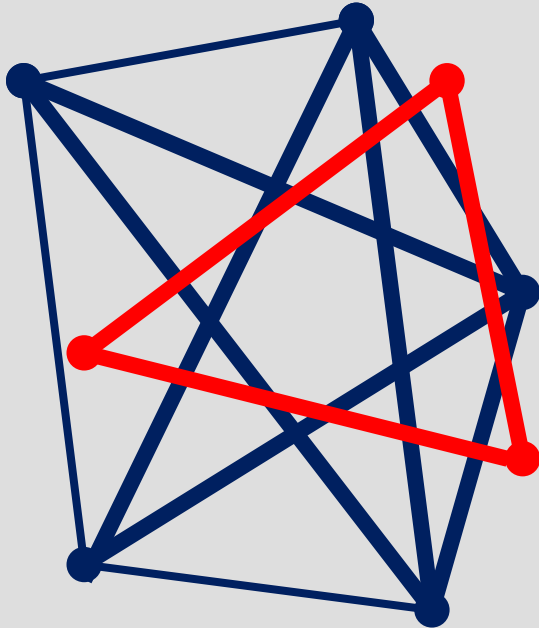
Report  $S_b$  and  $S_r$

## The Problem: Report $S_b$ and $S_r$



- We provide an  $O(n^2)$  time and space algorithm for reporting  $S_b$  and  $S_r$
- We prove that the problem is 3-Sum hard

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What is a 3-Sum hard problem?

## The Problem: Report $S_b$ and $S_r$

### 3-Sum Hard Problems

- Class of problems introduced by Gajentaan and Overmars (1995)
- All problems in the class are at least as hard as *the base problem*:  
*Given a set  $S$  of  $n$  integers, are there three elements of  $S$  that sum up to zero?*

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### 3-Sum Hard Problems

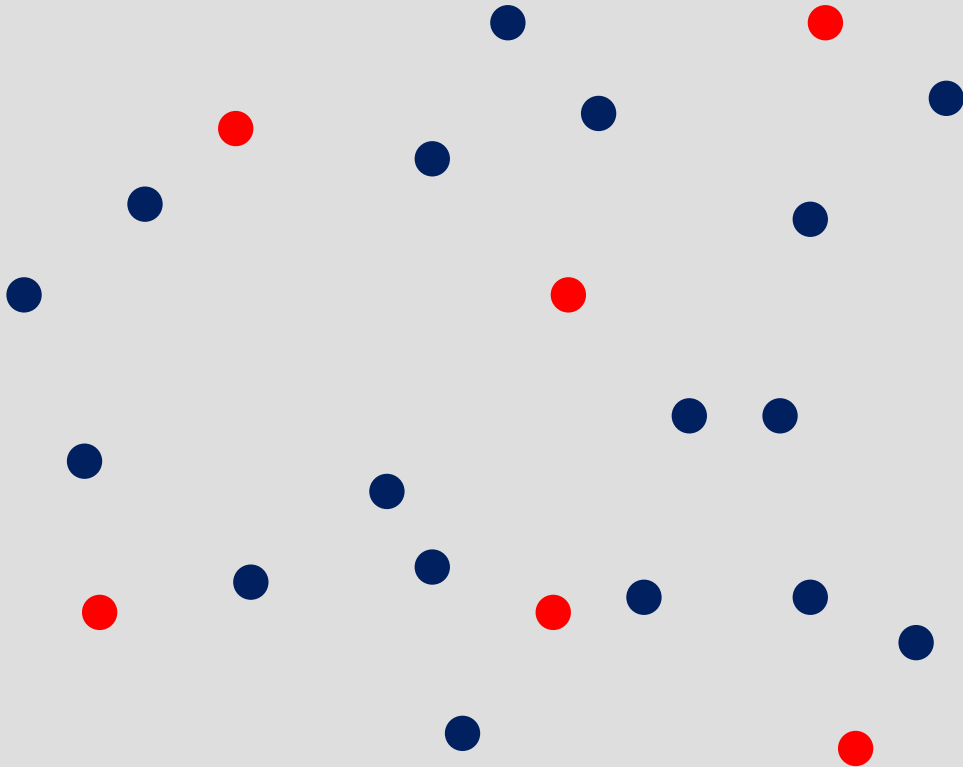
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There is an  $O(n^2)$  algorithm

Conjectured an  $\Omega(n^2)$  lower bound

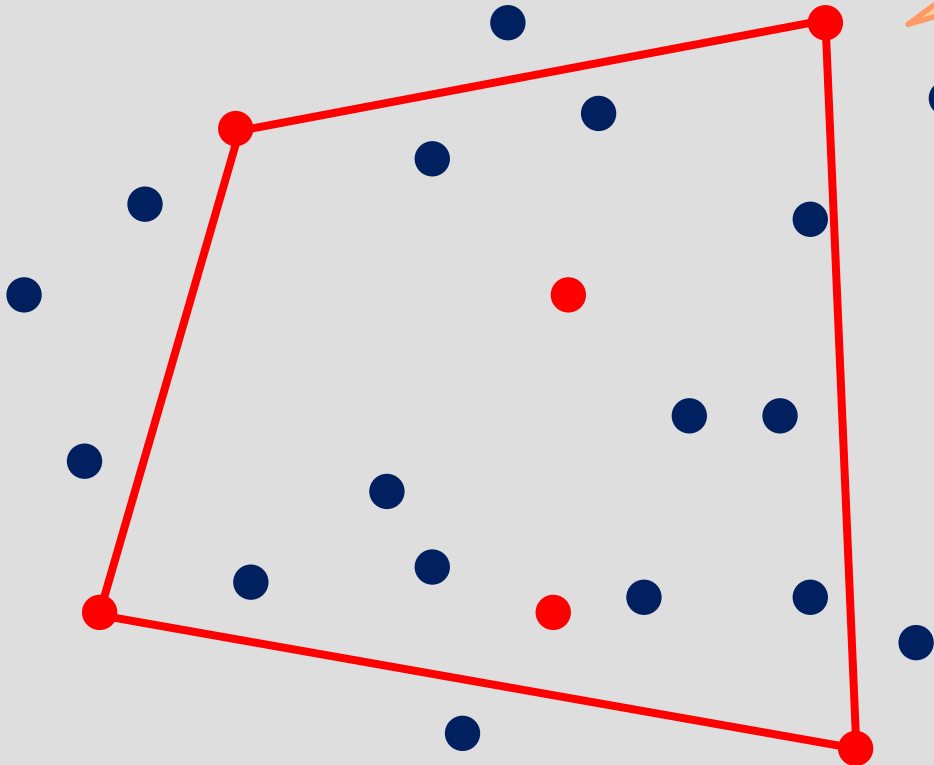


**The  $O(n^2)$  Algorithm:  
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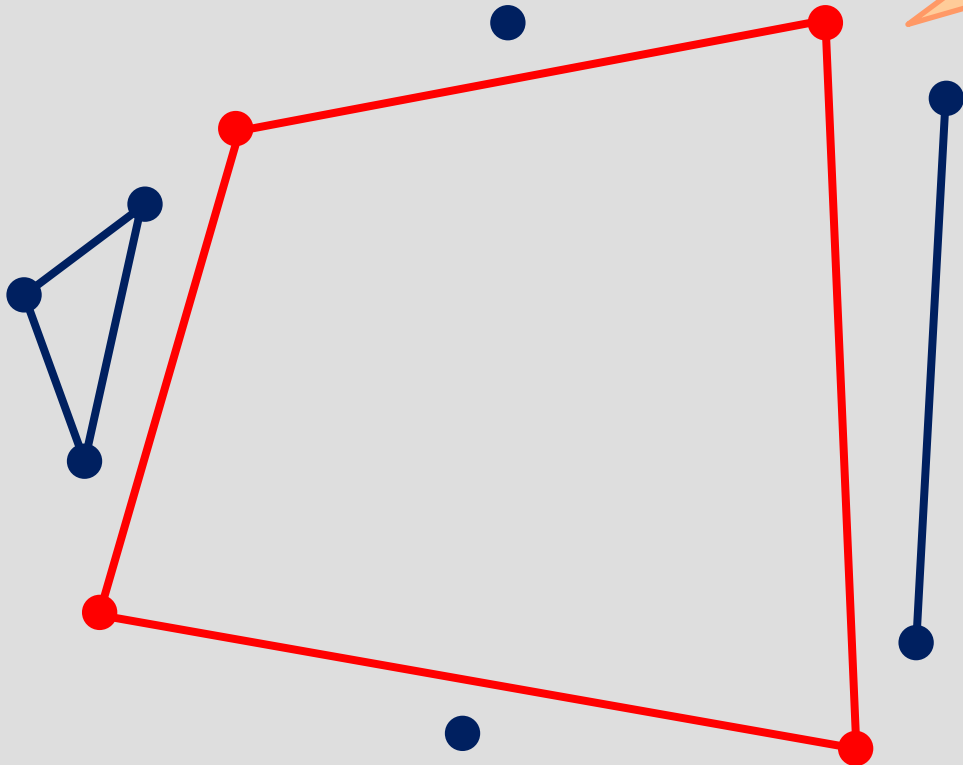
Be=blue **exterior** points to CH(R)  
Bi=blue **interior** points to CH(R)



**The  $O(n^2)$  Algorithm:  
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$B_e$ =blue **exterior** points to  $CH(R)$   
 $B_i$ =blue **interior** points to  $CH(R)$

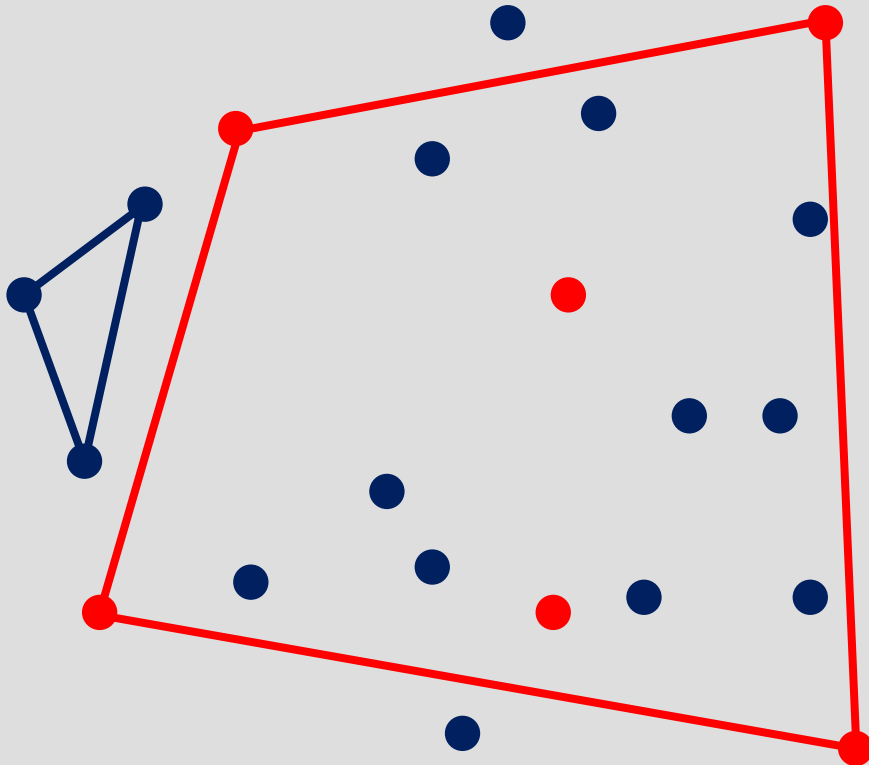
$G_e$ = exterior graph





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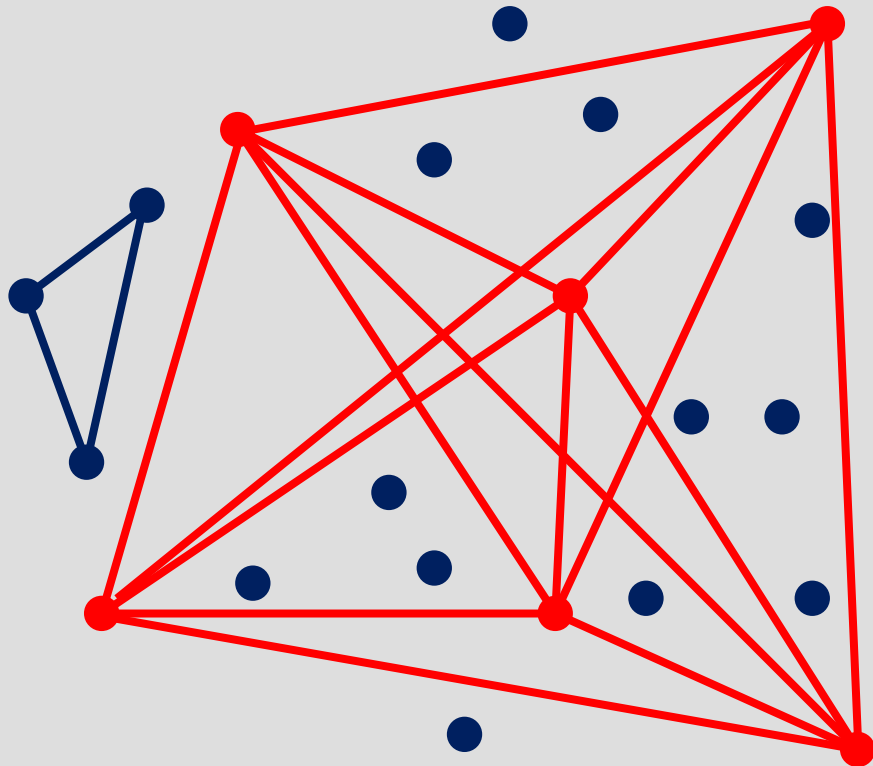
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$$S_b = \left\{ E(\overline{G_e}) \right\}$$

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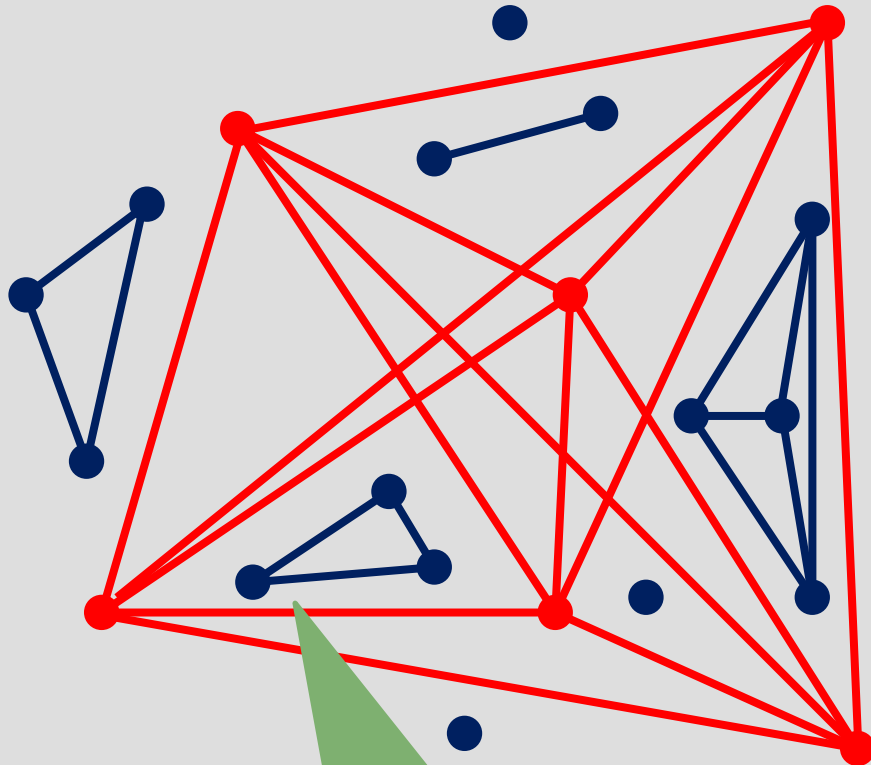


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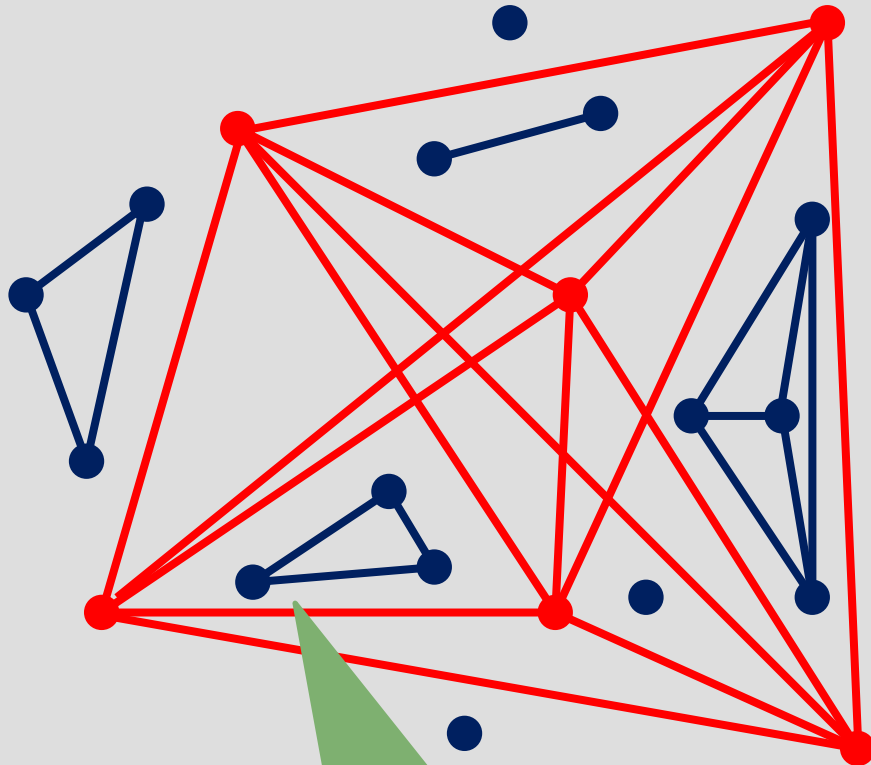
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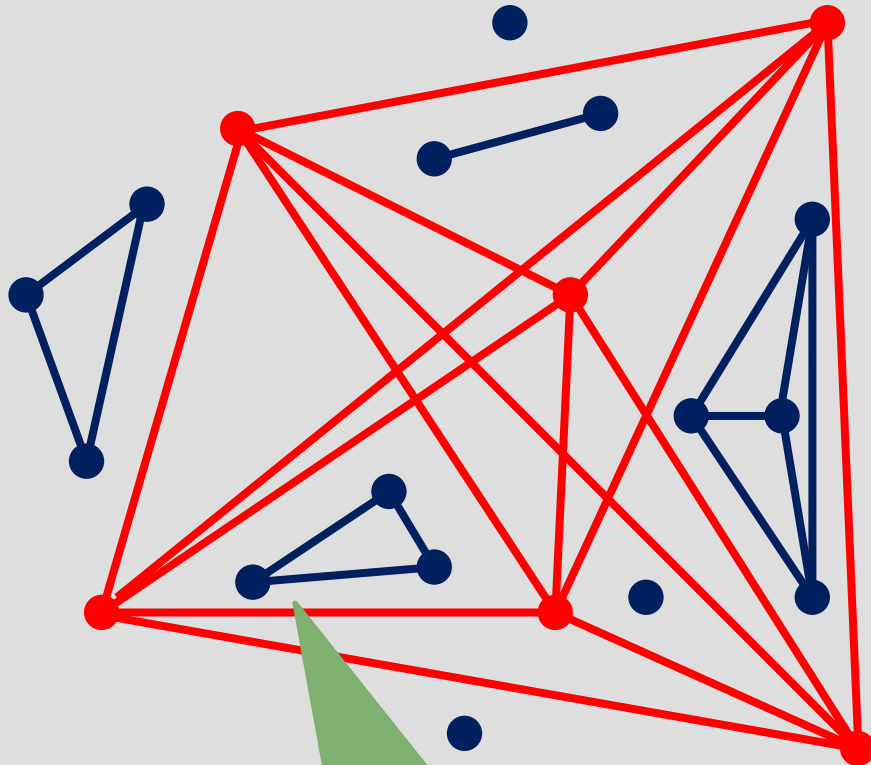
Ge= exterior graph

$$S_b = \begin{cases} E(\overline{G_e}) \\ E(\overline{G_i}) \end{cases}$$

Gi= interior graph



**The  $O(n^2)$  Algorithm:  
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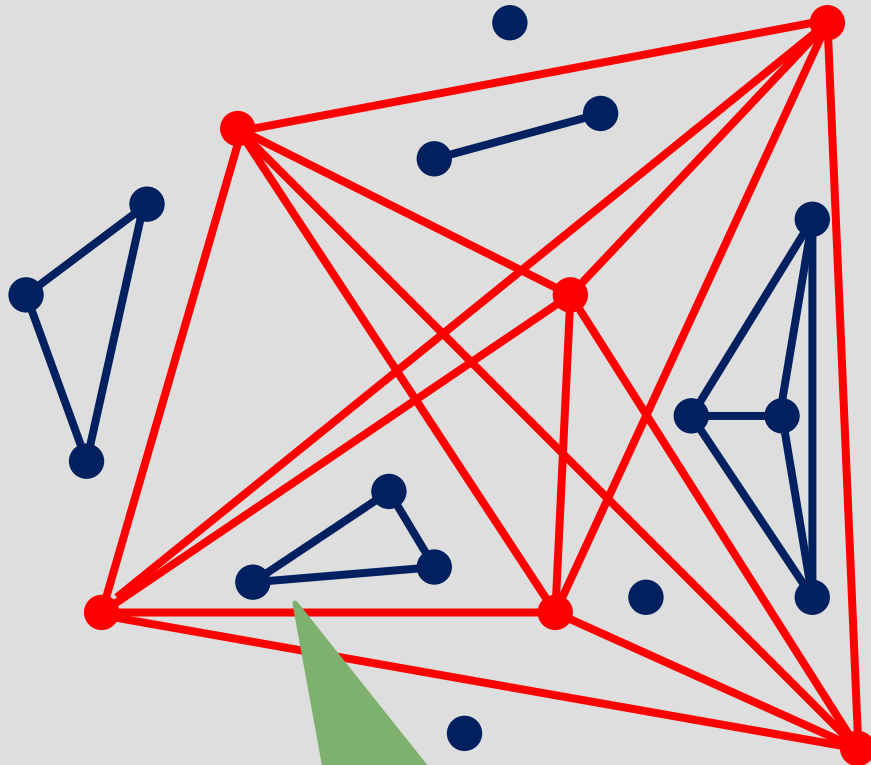
$G_i$ = interior graph

$B_e$ =blue exterior points to  $CH(R)$   
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$$S_b = \begin{cases} E(\overline{G}_e) \\ E(\overline{G}_i) \\ \{uv : u \in V(G_i), v \in V(G_e)\} \end{cases}$$

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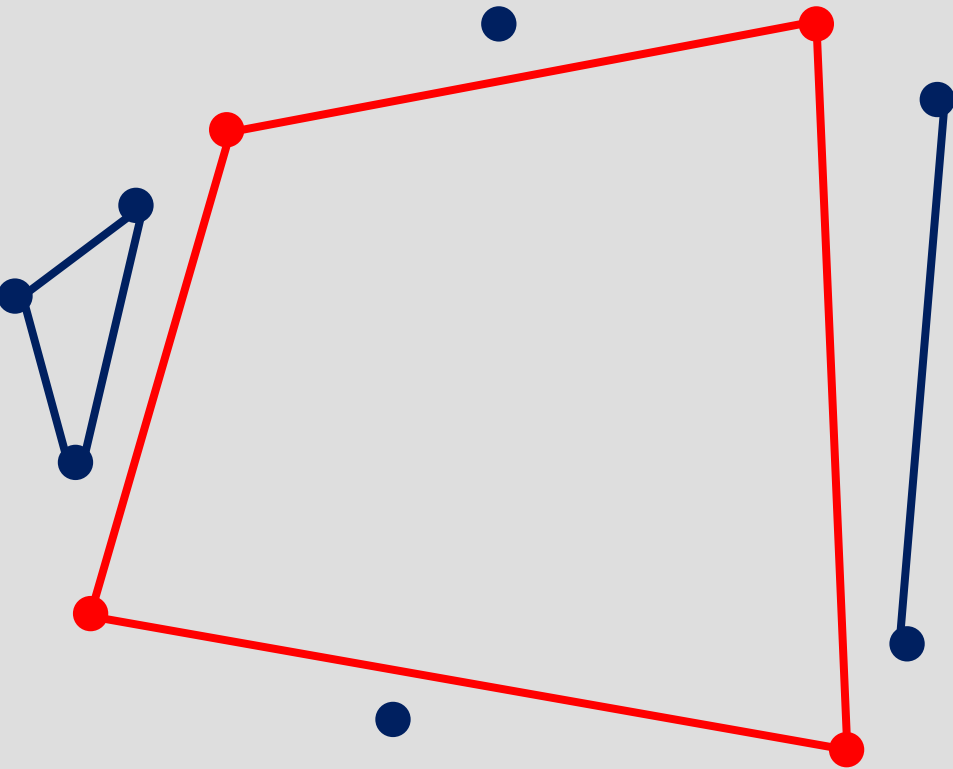
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$O(n \log n)$

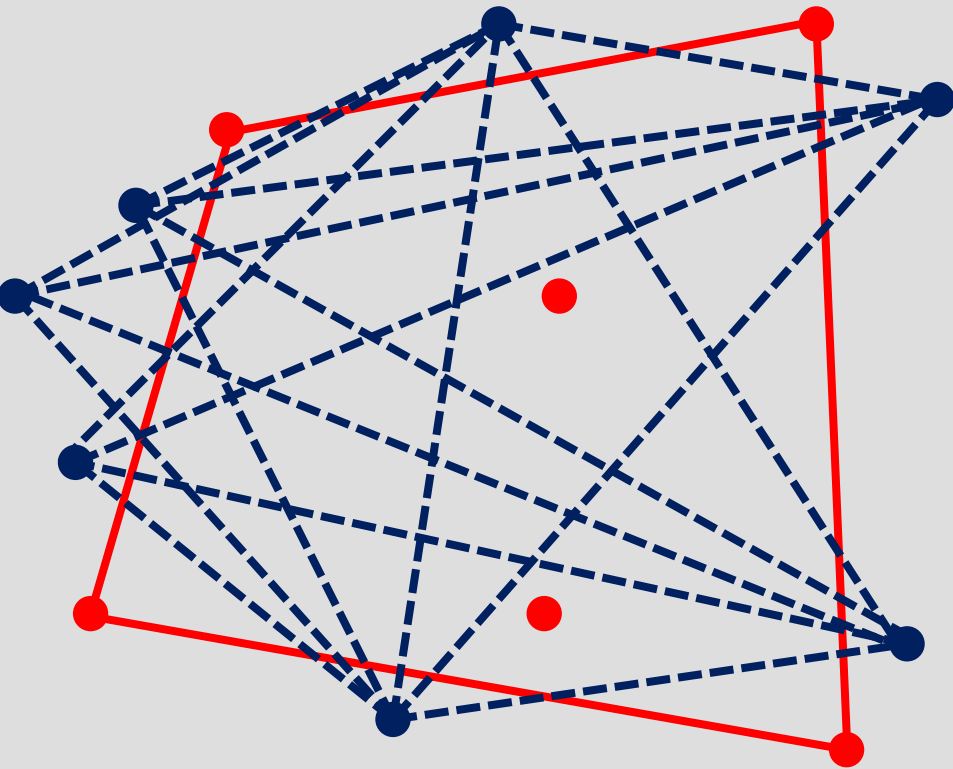
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Computing  $E(\overline{G}_e)$



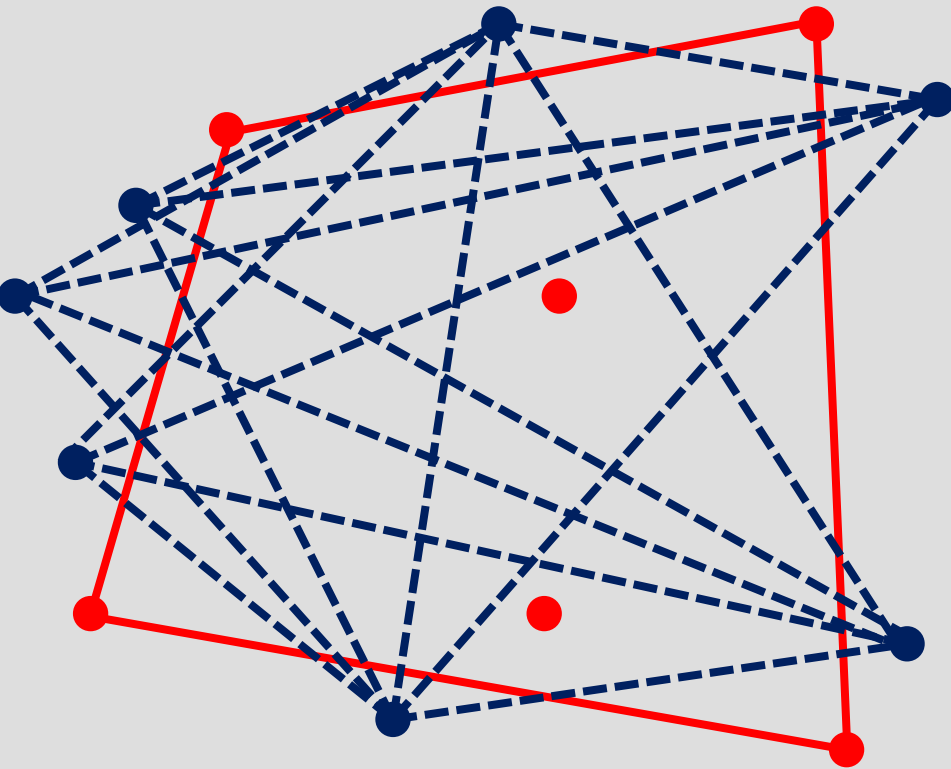
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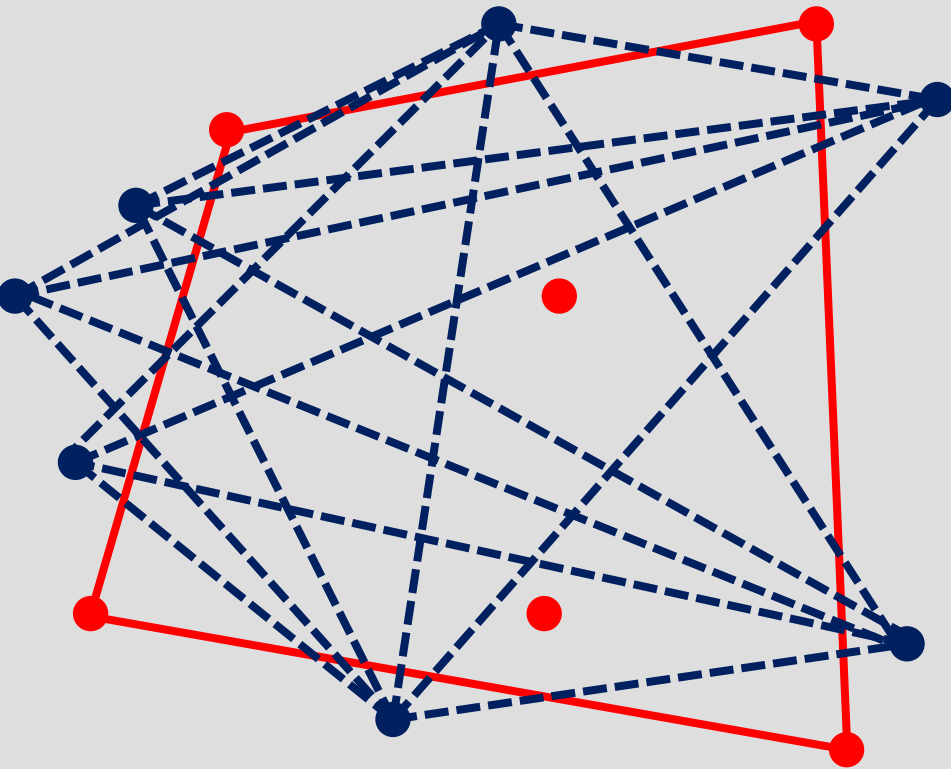


**Lemma:**  $P$  is an  $n$ -sided convex polygon,  $Q$  a set of  $n$  exterior points. To decide whether any of the segments with end points in  $Q$  intersects  $P$  can be done in:

- 1)  $O(n \log n)$  time and  $O(n)$  space.
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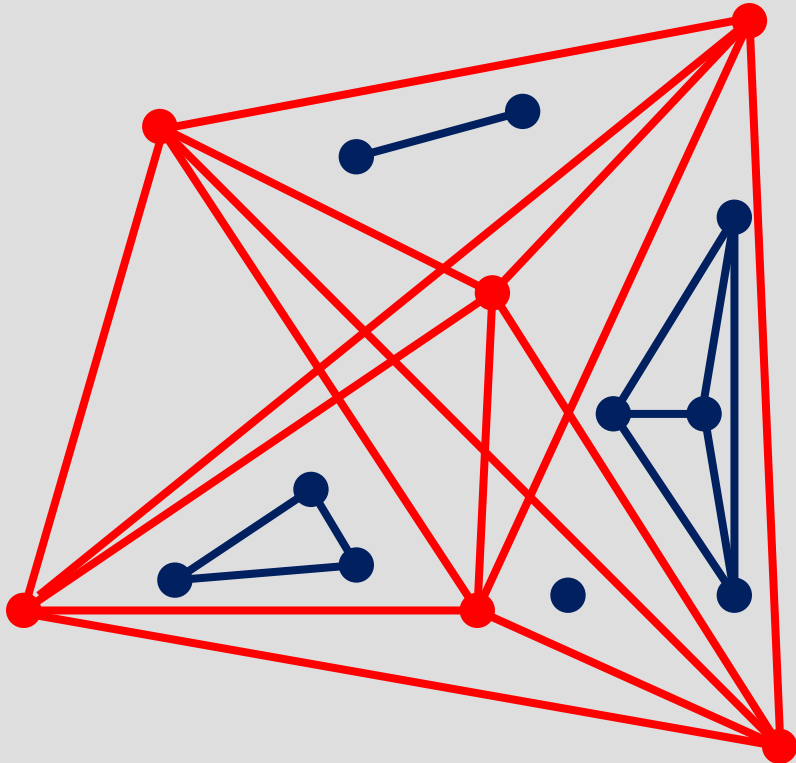
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$$O(|E(\overline{G}_e)| + n \log n)$$

which is at most  $O(n^2)$

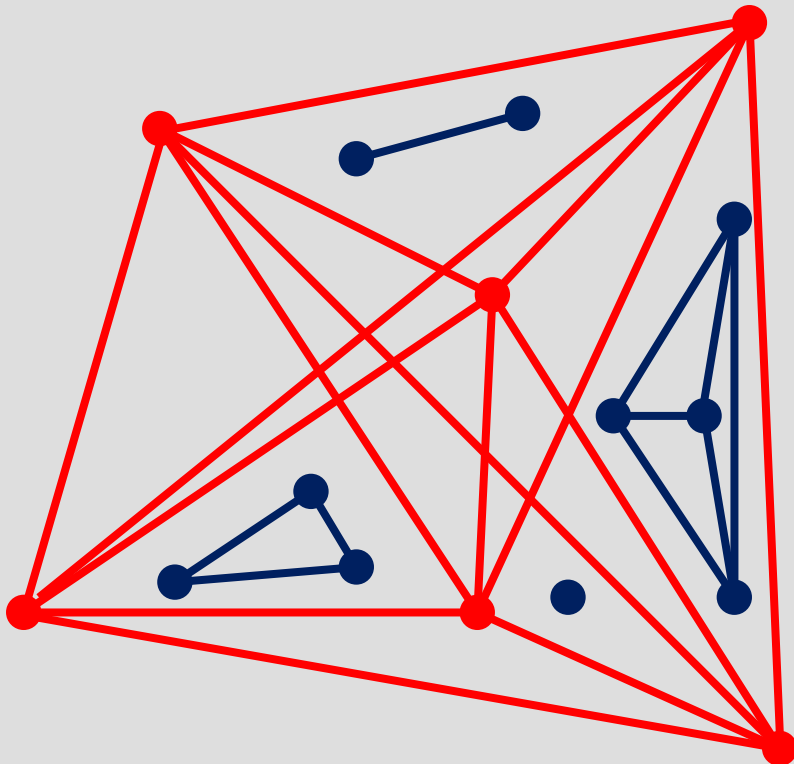
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Computing  $E(\overline{G}_i)$



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**Key tool:** a procedure to partition  $CH(R)$  into convex regions, each one is either empty or contains only blue points whose segments are not intersected by red segments



**The  $O(n^2)$  Algorithm:  
Compute  $S_b$**

Computing  $E(\overline{G}_i)$

**Equivalence relation**

$b_j \sim b_k$  if and only if  
the segment  $b_j b_k$   
crosses no red segment

$b_1$



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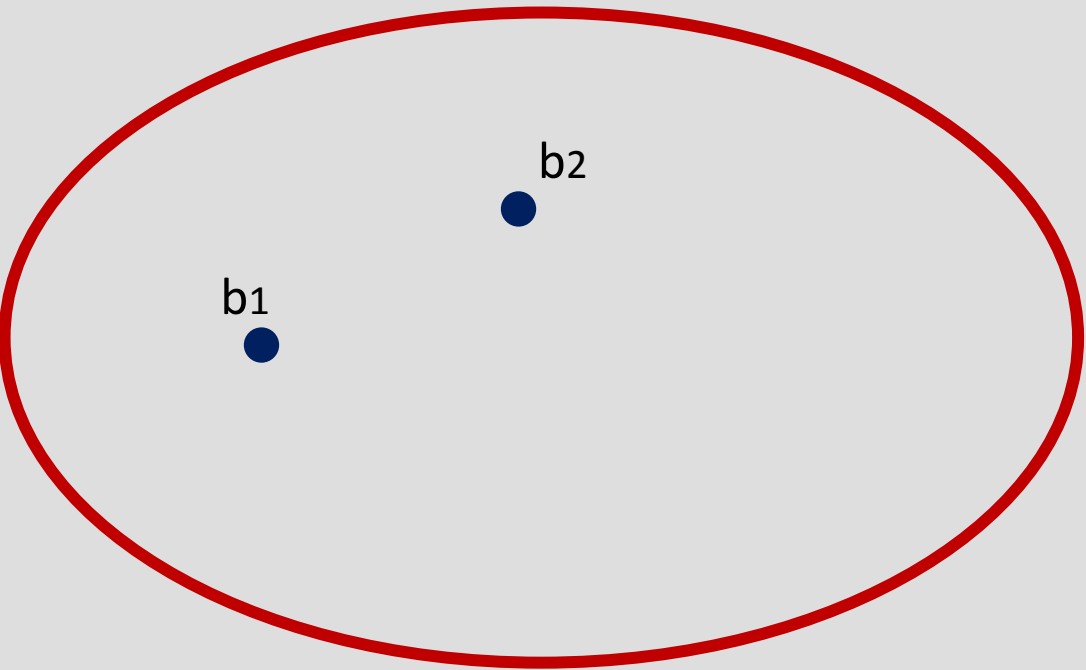
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$b_2$

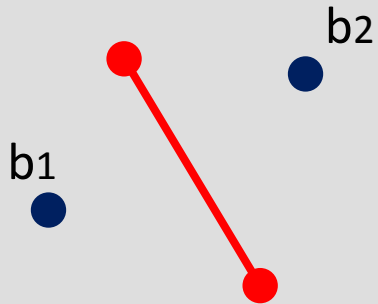


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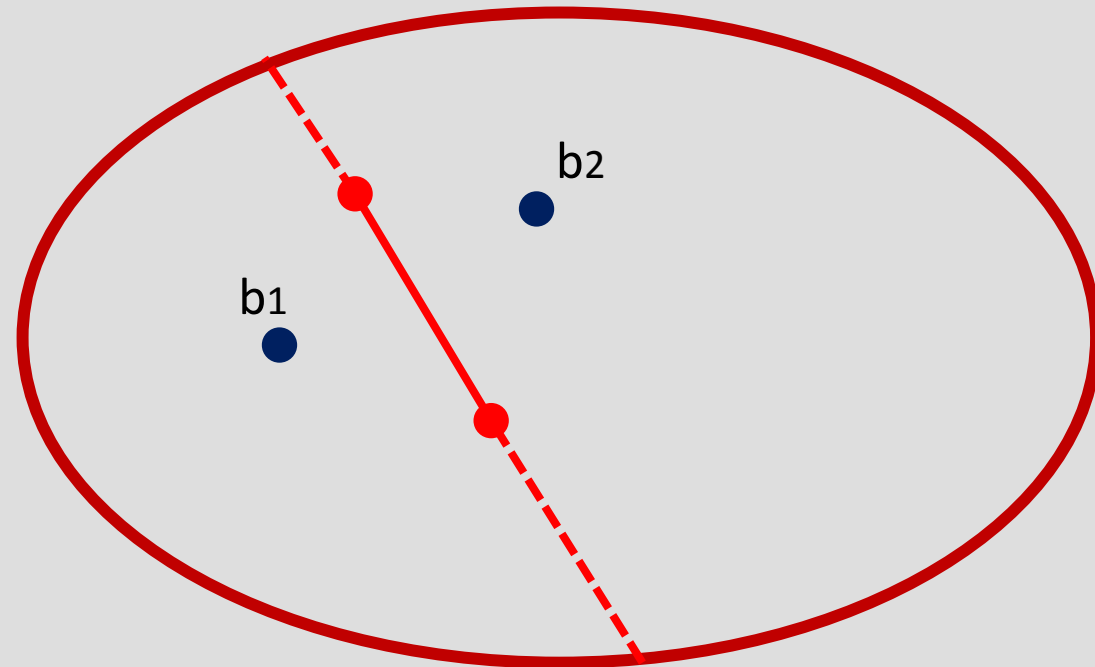


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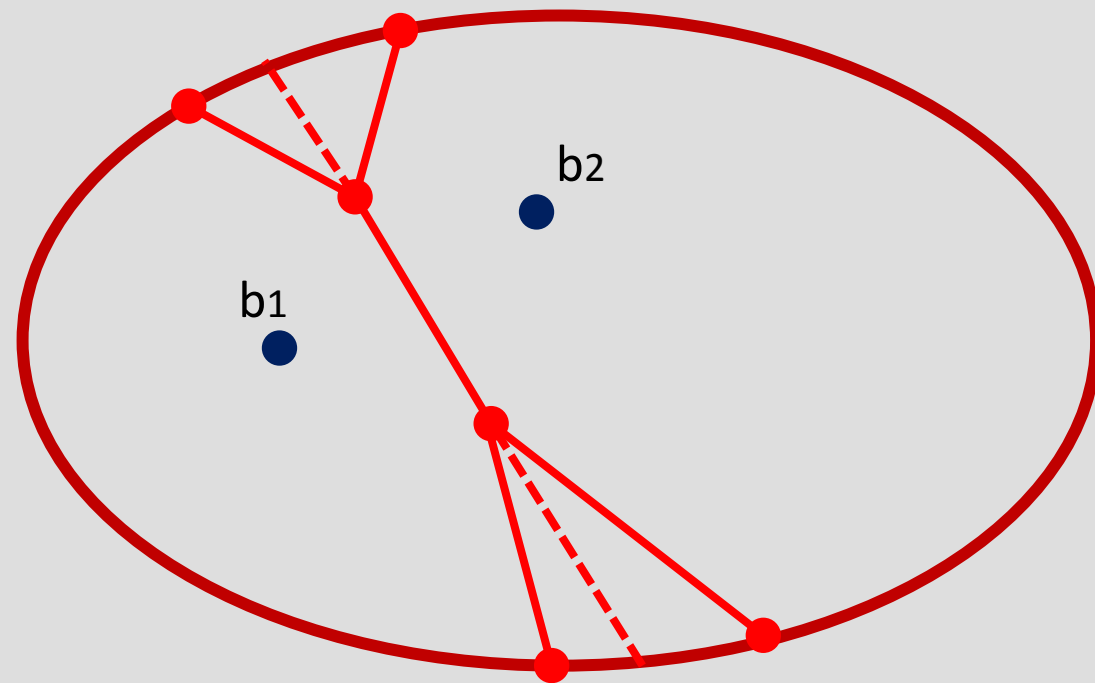


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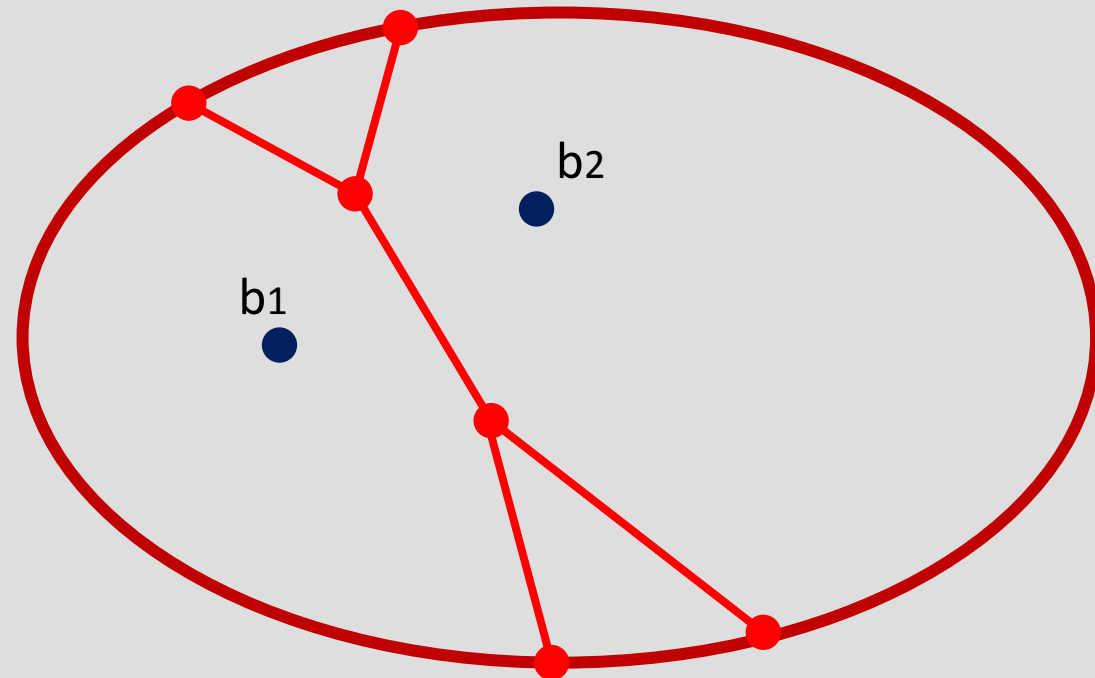


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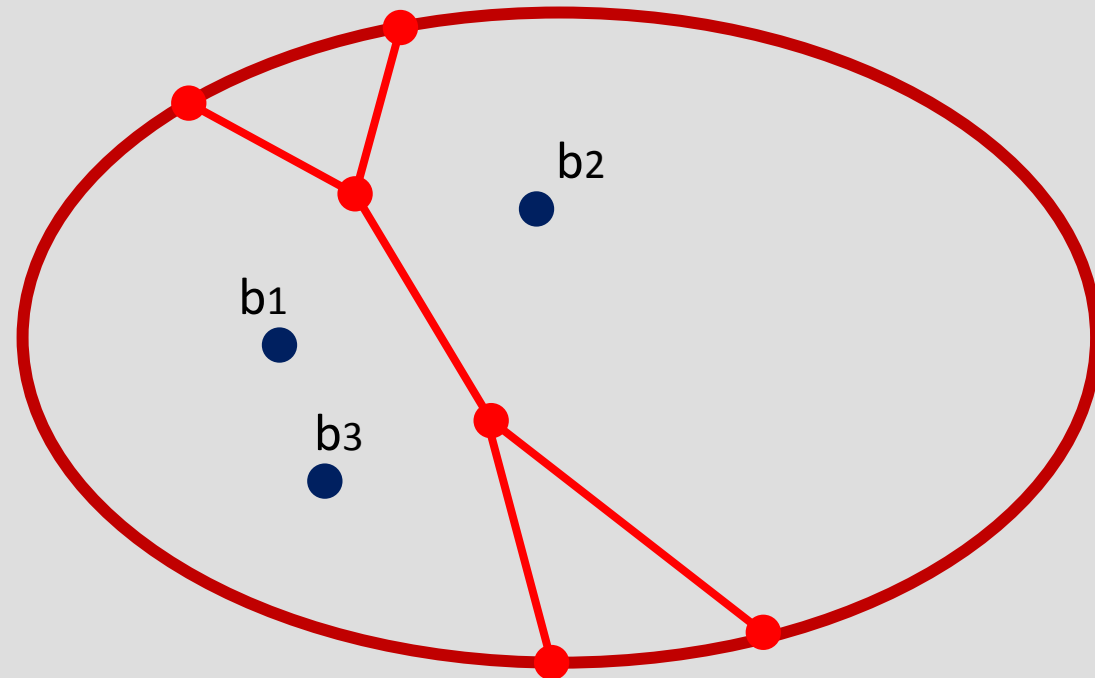


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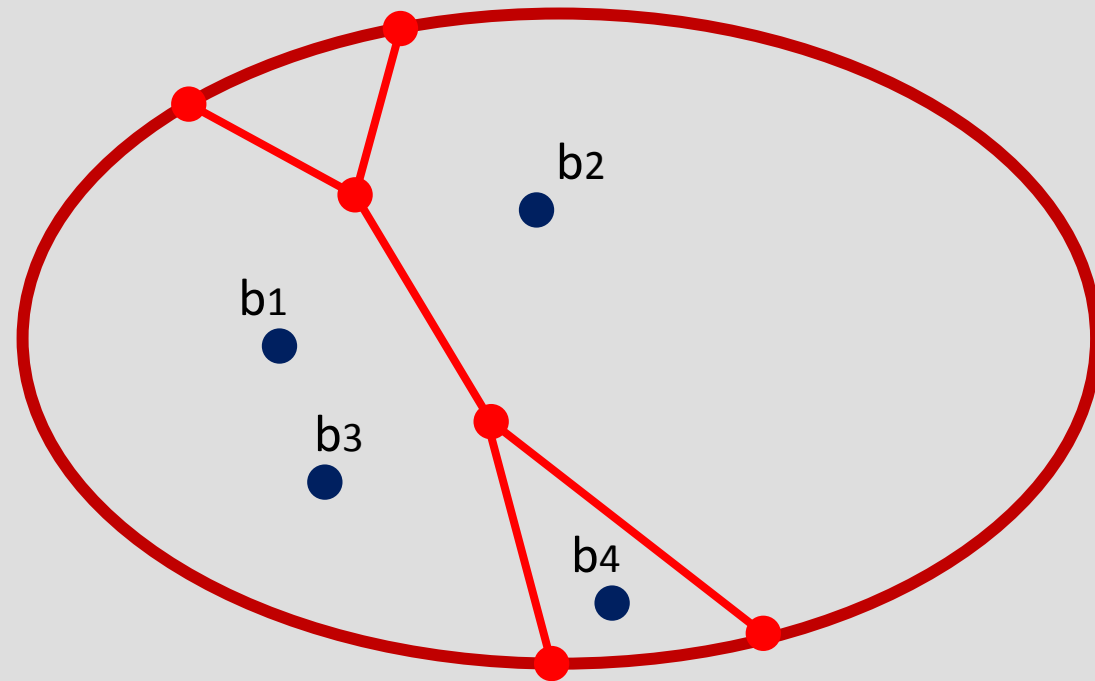


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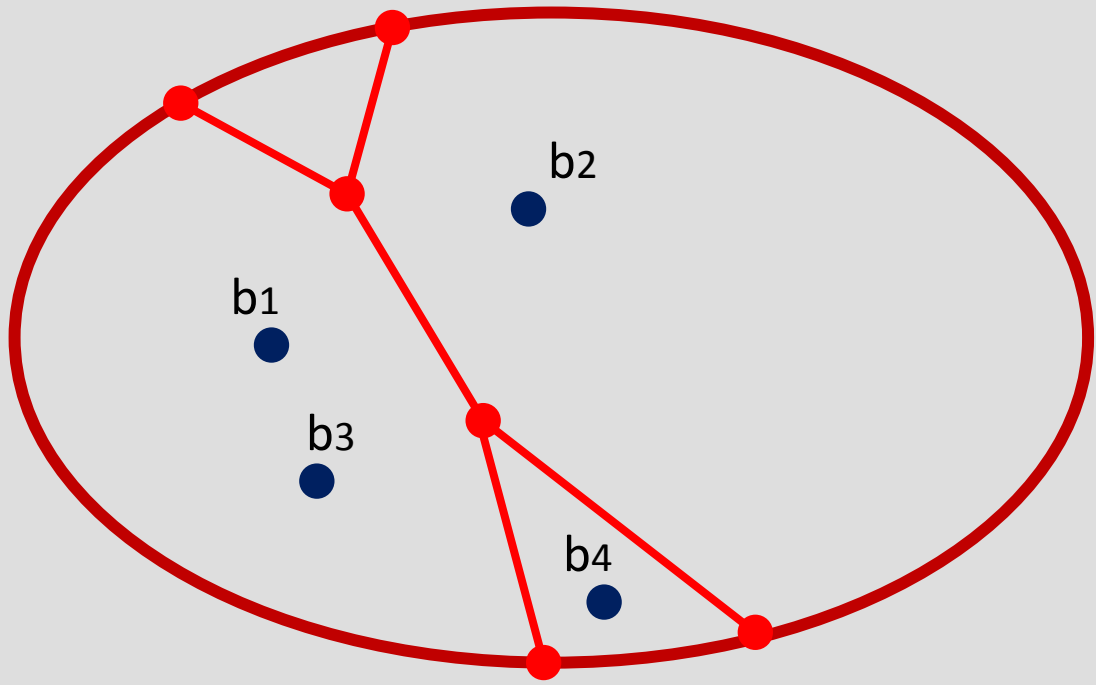
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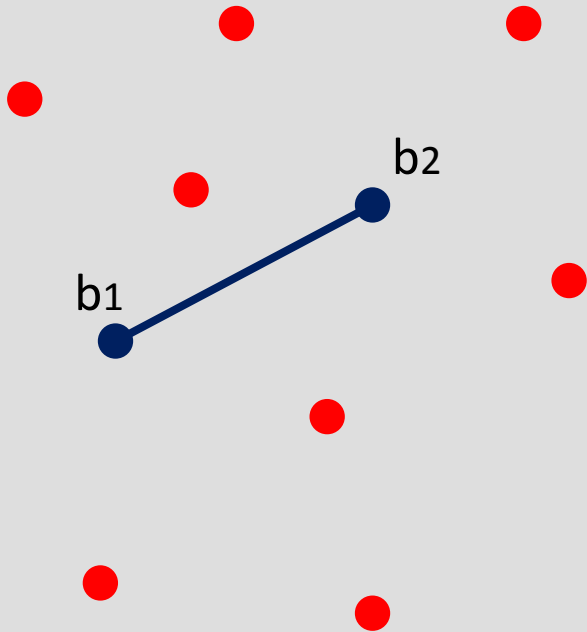
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**Theorem:** Computing the  
planar subdivision formed  
by the convex regions  
partitioning  $CH(R)$  can  
be done in  $O(n \log n)$  time  
and  $O(n)$  space.



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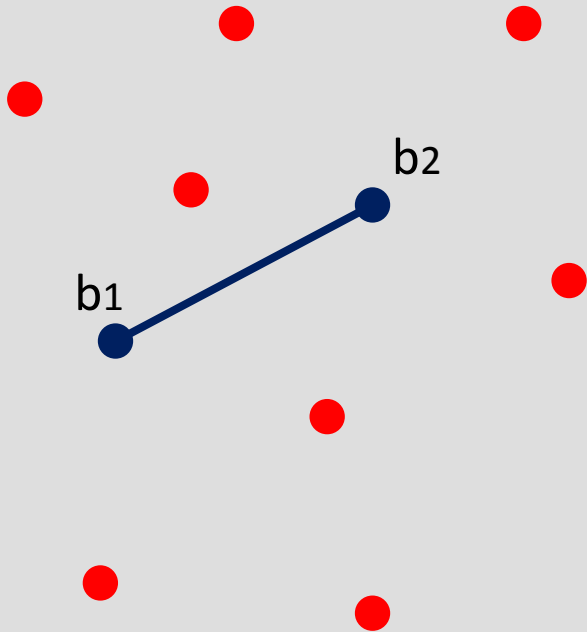


**Lemma:**  $P$  is an  $n$ -sided convex polygon,  $Q$  a set of  $n$  exterior points. To decide whether any of the segments with endpoints in  $Q$  intersects  $P$  can be done in:

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## The $O(n^2)$ Algorithm: Compute $S_b$

Computing  $E(\overline{G}_i)$



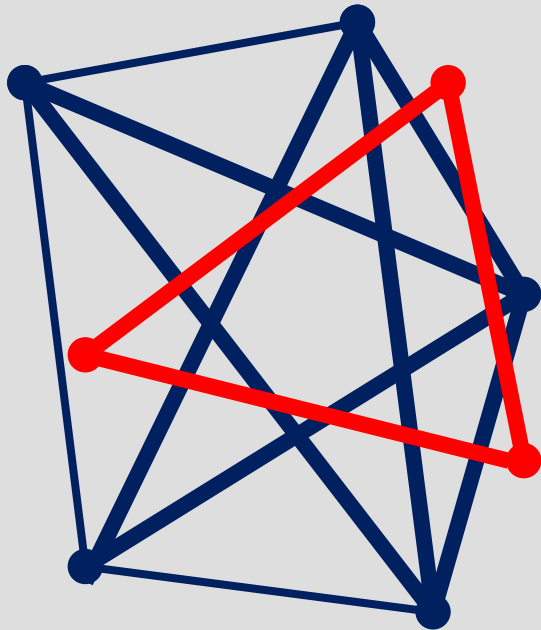
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### Go from $O(n^2 \log n)$ to $O(n^2)$

- In  $O(n^2)$ , construct the dual arrangement of lines from the points of  $RUB_i$
- In  $O(n)$  one can read the rotational ordering of the red points with respect to a blue point in the dual.

## The Problem: Report $S_b$ and $S_r$



**Theorem:** The sets  $S_b$  and  $S_r$  can be computed in  $O(n^2)$  time and space.

Is the problem 3-Sum hard?

**Hardness**

Number of blue segments crossed  
by at least one red segment

**Theorem:** Computing  $s_r$  and  $s_b$  is 3-Sum hard

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**Corollary:** Computing  $S_b$  and  $S_r$  is 3-Sum hard

## Hardness

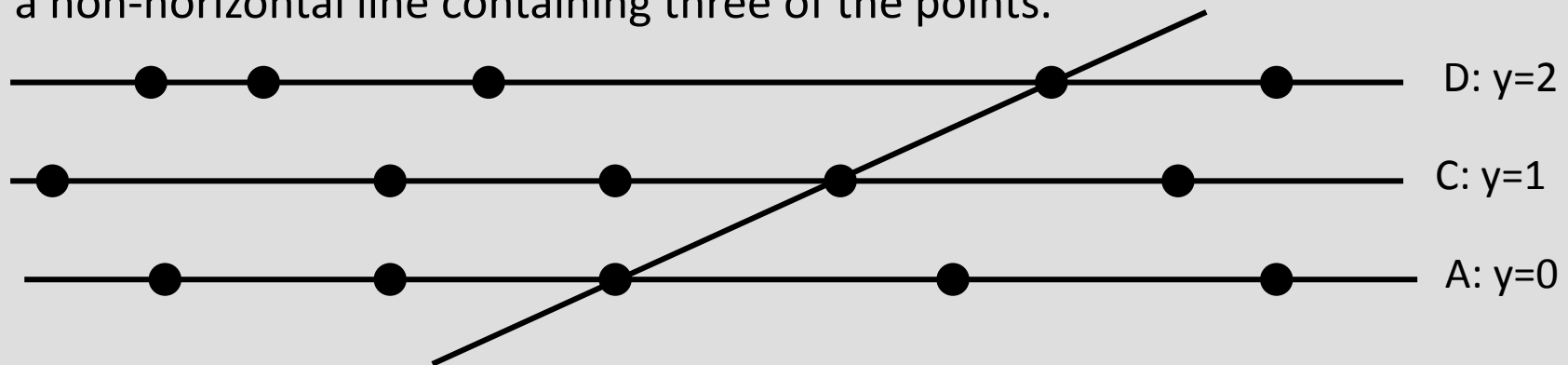
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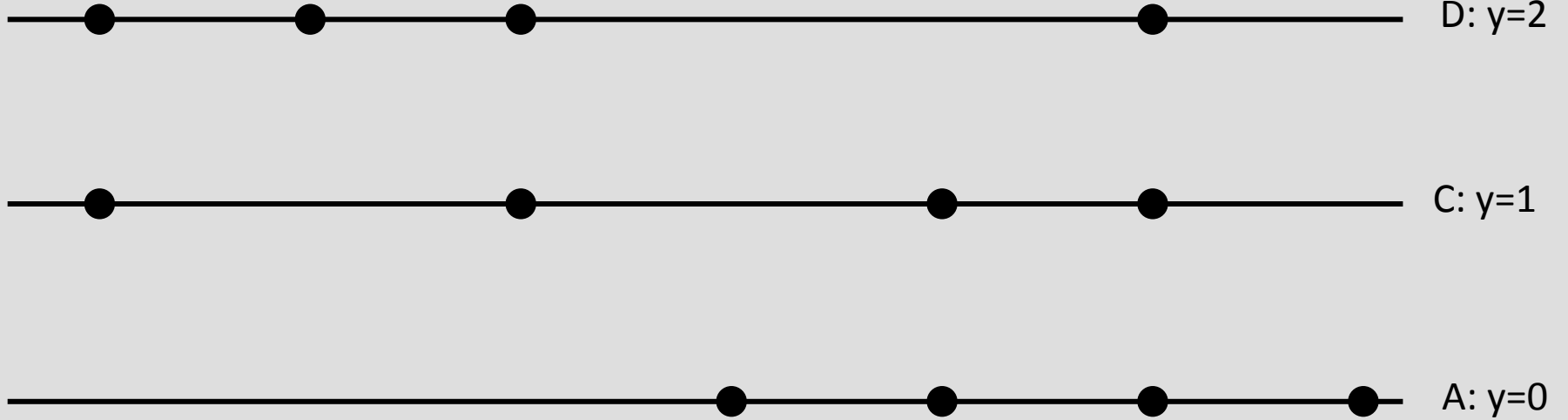
## Proof of the theorem

**3-Sum Hard problem:** Given a set of  $n$  points with integer coordinates on three horizontal lines  $y=0$ ,  $y=1$  and  $y=2$ , determine whether there exists a non-horizontal line containing three of the points.



**Hardness**

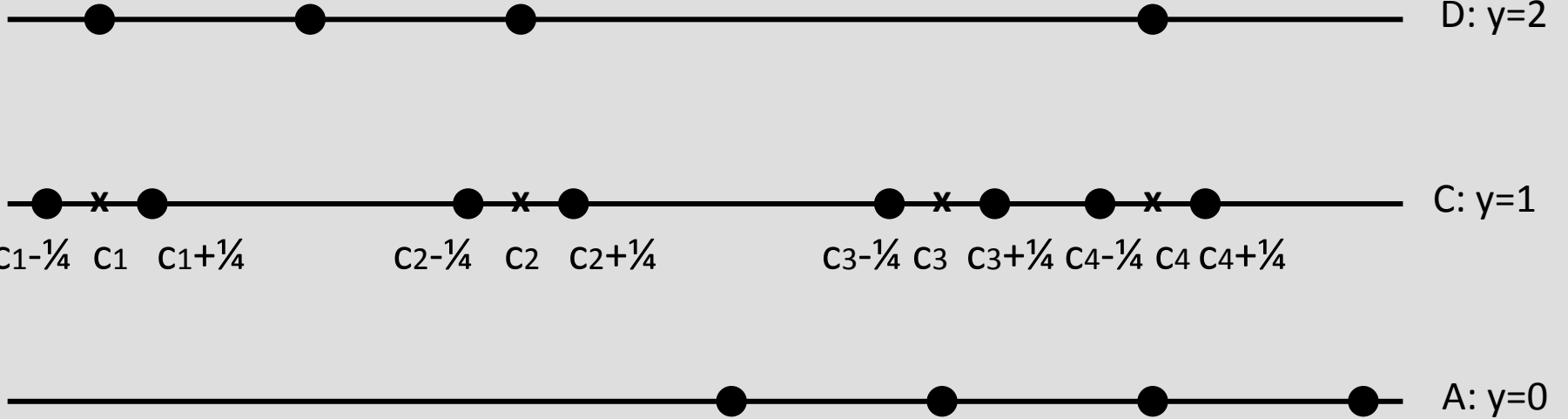
n points on each line





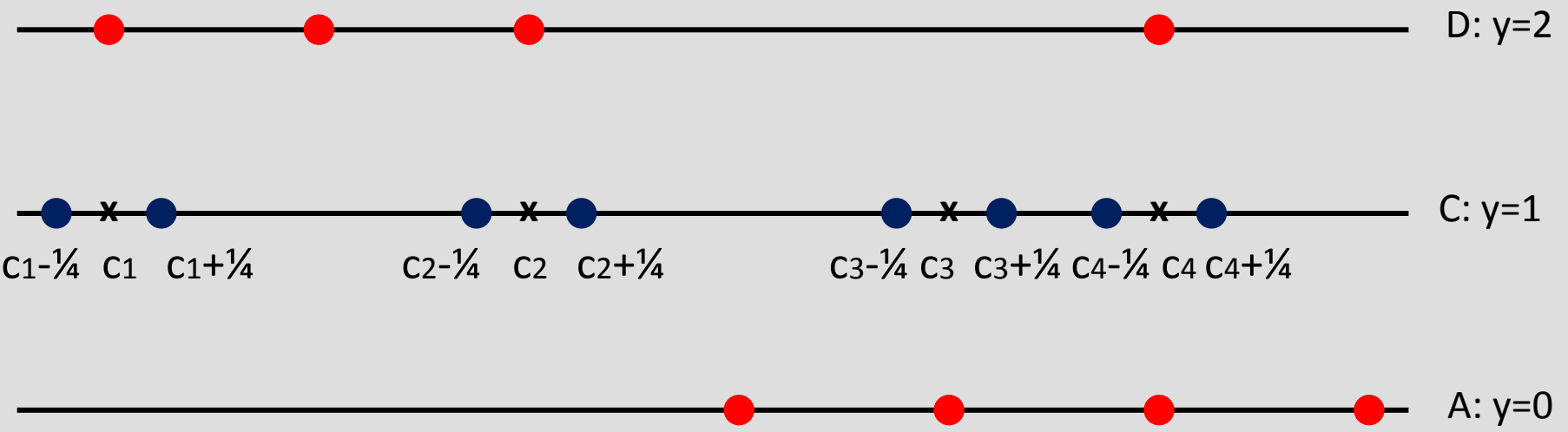
**Hardness**

n points on each line



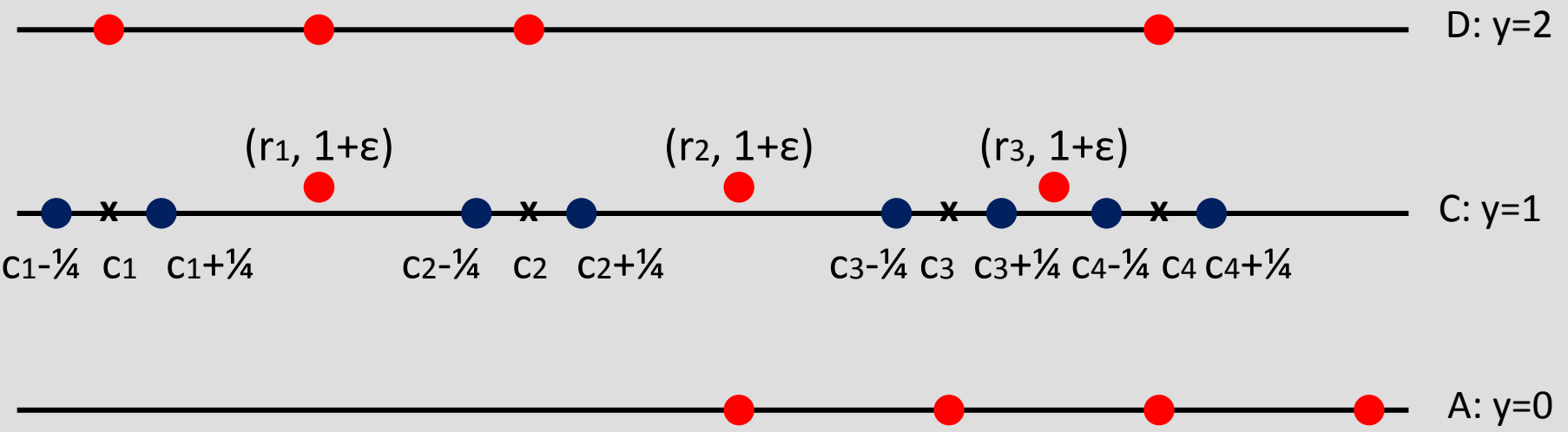
**Hardness**

n points on each line



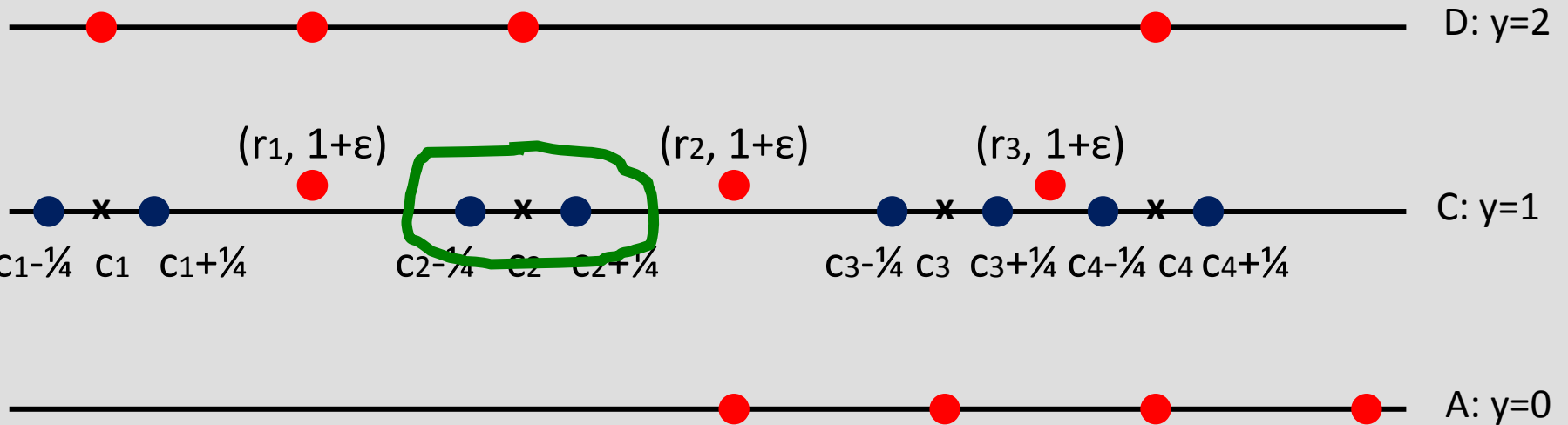
**Hardness**

n points on each line



Hardness

n points on each line

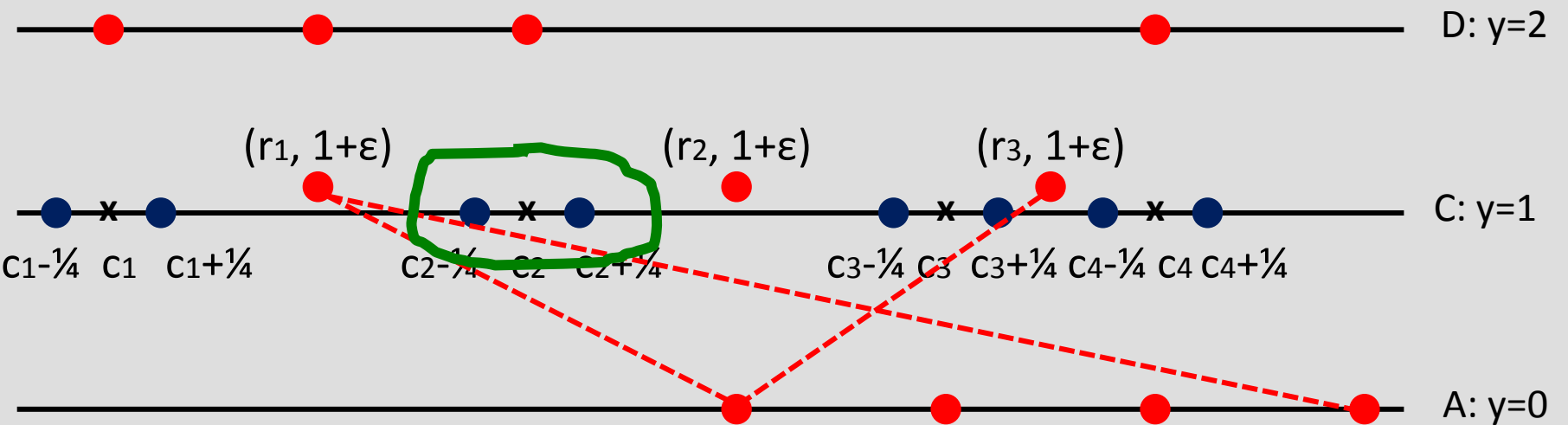


$$r_i = \frac{c_i + c_{i+1}}{2}$$

$\varepsilon$  such that no blue segment with endpoints  $c - \frac{1}{4}, c + \frac{1}{4}$  is intersected by a red segment with one endpoint of the form  $(r_i, 1 + \varepsilon)$

**Hardness**

n points on each line

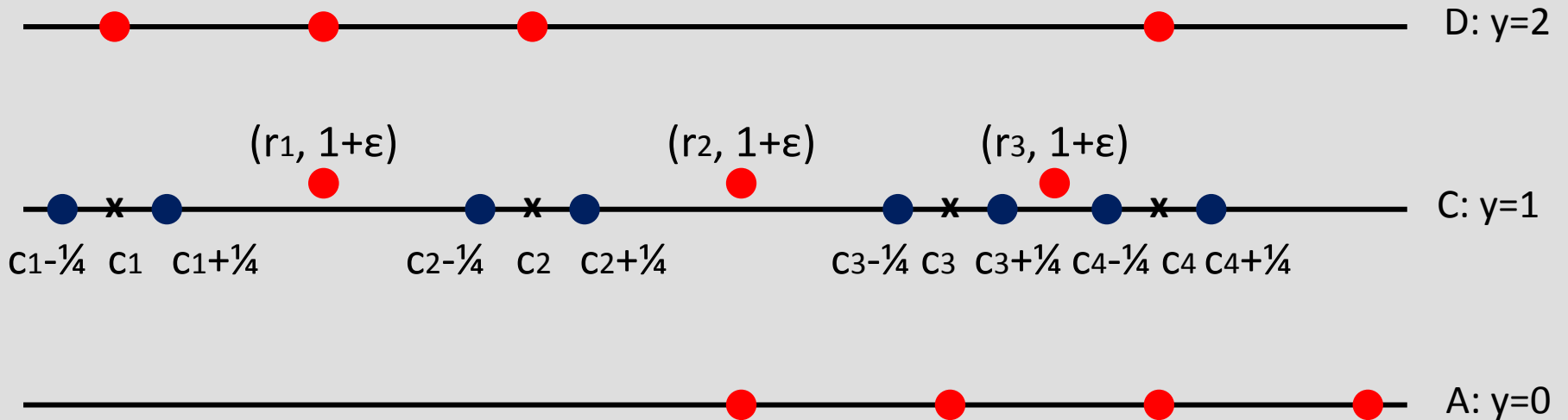


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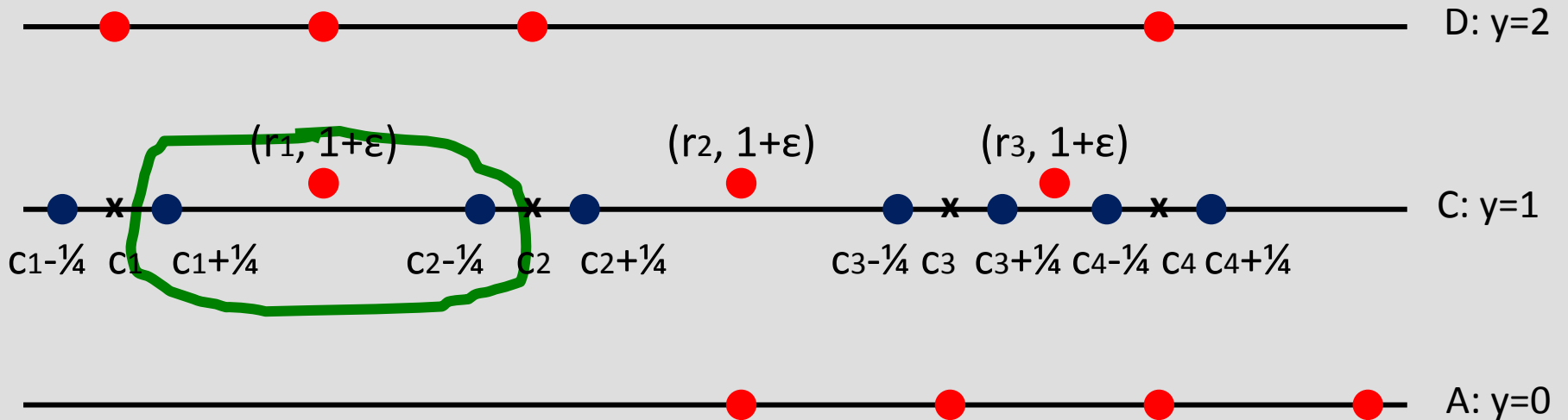
Hardness

$\exists$  line through  $a \in A$ ,  $c \in C$  and  $d \in D \Leftrightarrow s_b > 2n(n-1)$



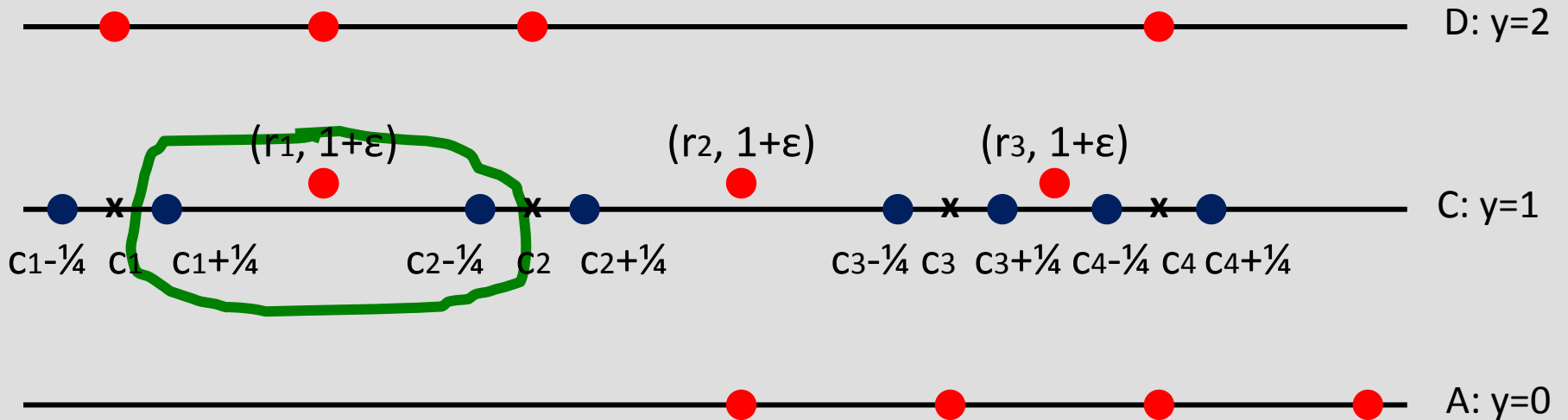
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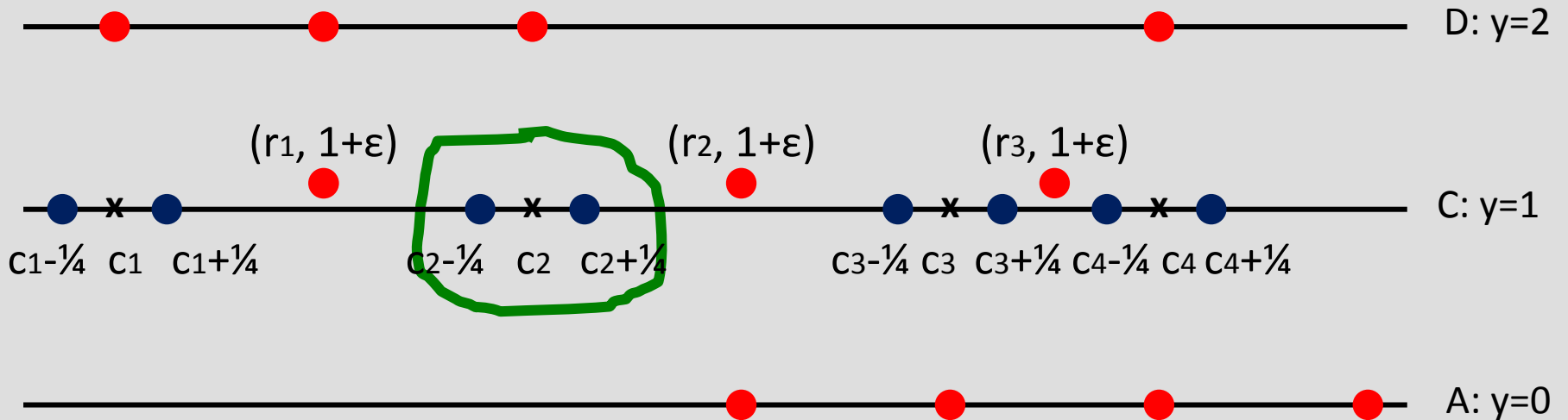
$$s_b \geq \frac{2n(2n-1)}{2} - n = 2n(n-1)$$

number of blue segments  
with endpoints  $c_{j \pm 1/4}$  and  
 $c_{k \pm 1/4}$  with  $j \neq k$



Hardness

$\exists$  line through  $a \in A$ ,  $c \in C$  and  $d \in D \Leftrightarrow s_b > 2n(n-1)$

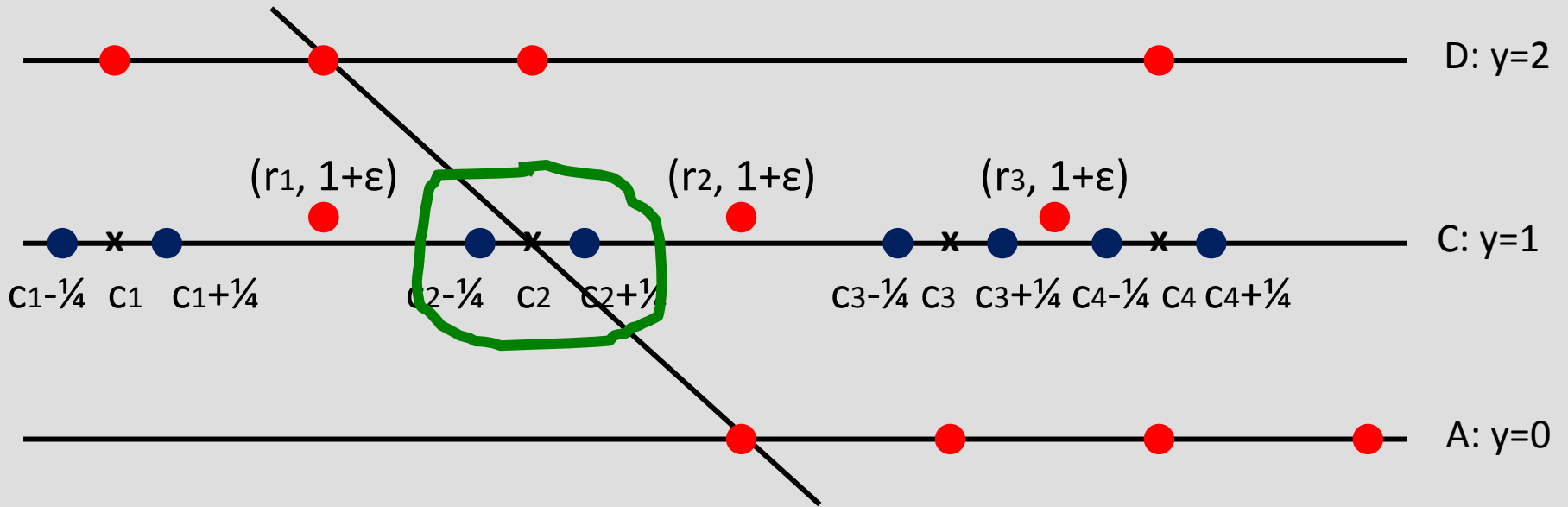


$$s_b \geq \frac{2n(2n-1)}{2} - n = 2n(n-1)$$

number of blue segments with endpoints  $c_{j \pm 1/4}$  and  $c_{k \pm 1/4}$  with  $j \neq k$

# Hardness

$\exists$  line through  $a \in A$ ,  $c \in C$  and  $d \in D \Leftrightarrow s_b > 2n(n-1)$



$$s_b \geq \frac{2n(2n-1)}{2} - n = 2n(n-1)$$

number of blue segments with endpoints  $c_{j \pm 1/4}$  and  $c_{k \pm 1/4}$  with  $j \neq k$

**Open Problem:**

Extend the problem to 3D using  
monochromatic triangles

Thank you