

CSCI 4560/6560 Computational Geometry

<https://www.cs.rpi.edu/~cutler/classes/computationalgeometry/F23/>

# Lecture 9: Point Location & Trapezoidal Maps

# Outline for Today

- Homework 4 Questions?
- Last Time: kD Trees & Range Trees
- Motivating Application: Point Location
- Motivating Application: 2D/3D Mouse “Picking” for Graphics
- Brute Force Point Location
- Point Location by Vertical Slab
- Trapezoidal Map & Adjacency Structure
- Trapezoidal Map Analysis & Construction
- Think-Outside-of-the-Box Graphics Picking Algorithm
- Next Time: Voronoi Diagram

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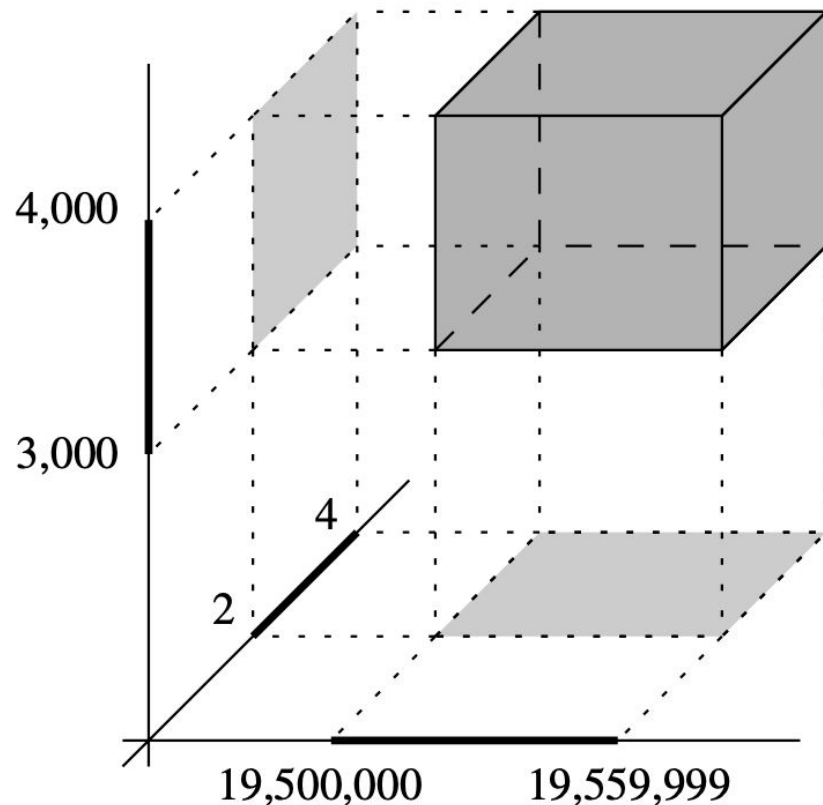
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# Higher Dimensional Database Queries

- Return all data points with  
x value in  
range  $[x_0, x_1]$   
and y value in  
range  $[y_0, y_1]$   
and z value in  
range  $[z_0, z_1]$   
and ...

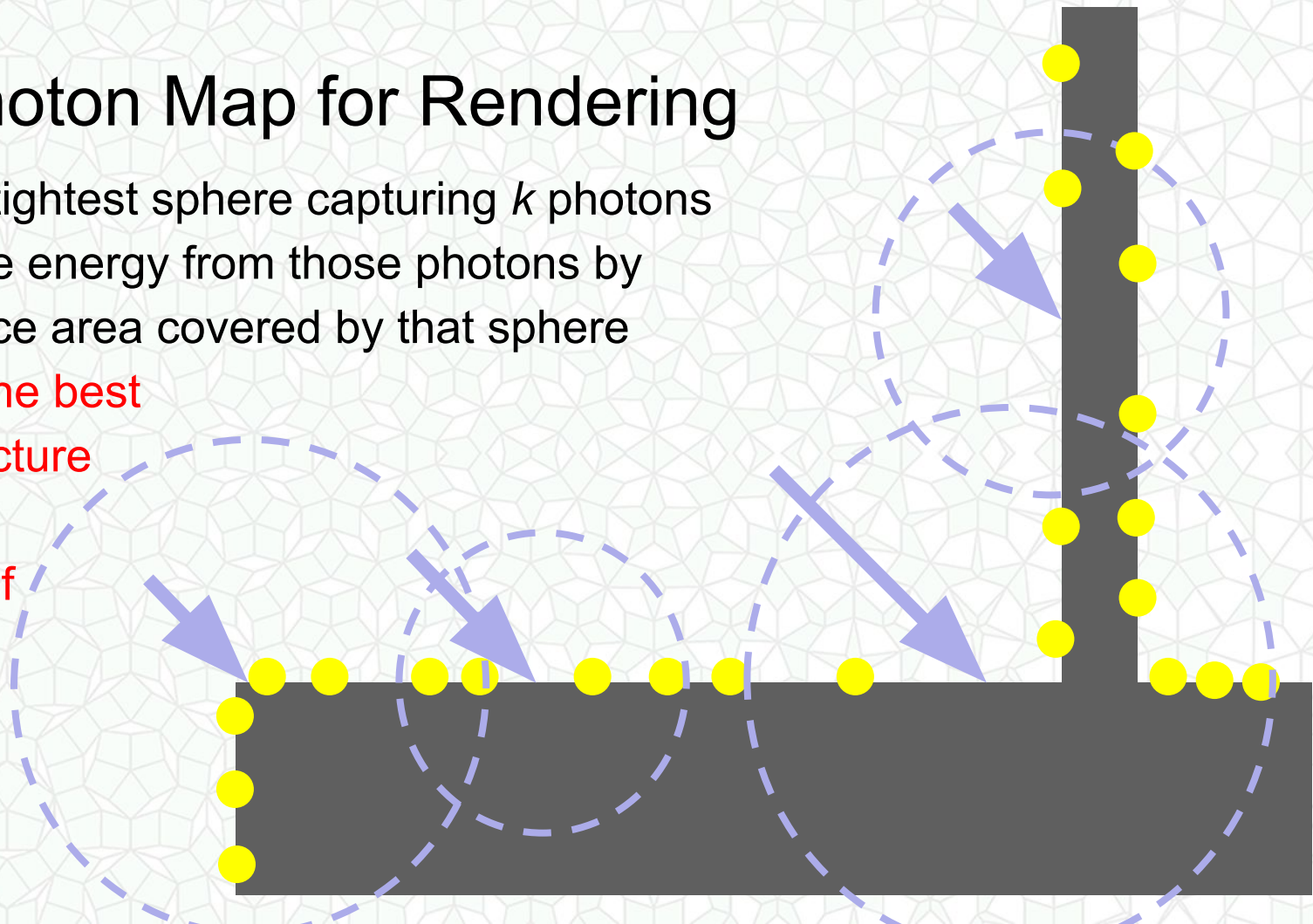
**Select all people  
born 1950-1960,  
with salary  
3,000-4,000,  
who have  
2-4 children**

Find all values in an axis parallel box:  
a “rectangular range query”  
a.k.a. “orthogonal range query”



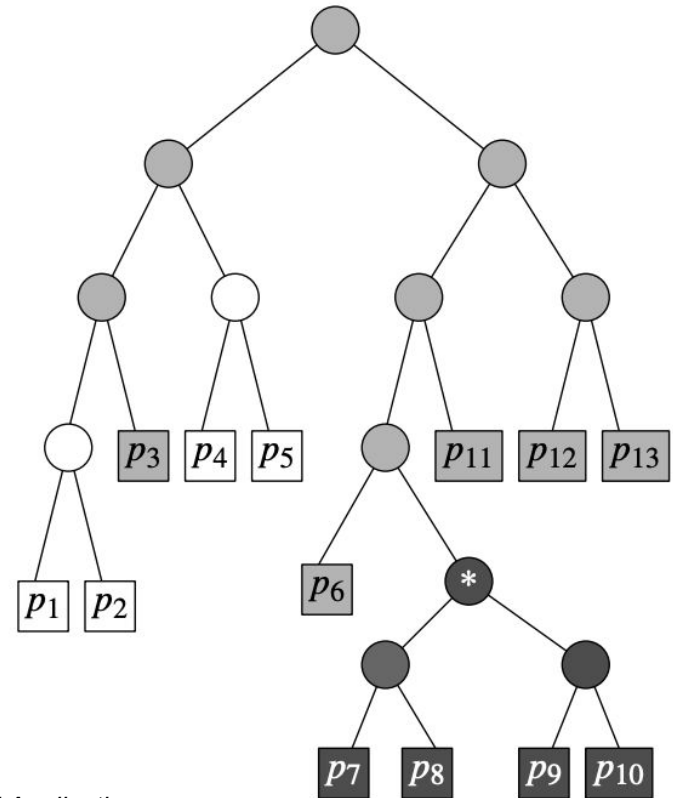
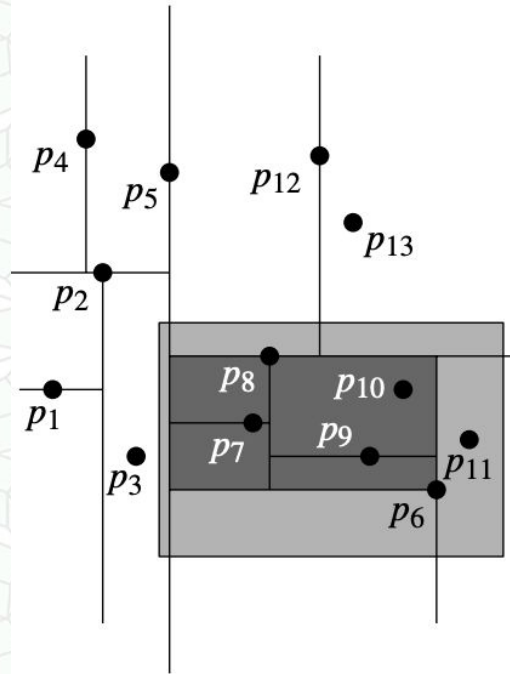
# Using Photon Map for Rendering

- Find the tightest sphere capturing  $k$  photons
- Divide the energy from those photons by the surface area covered by that sphere
- What is the best data structure to store millions of photons?



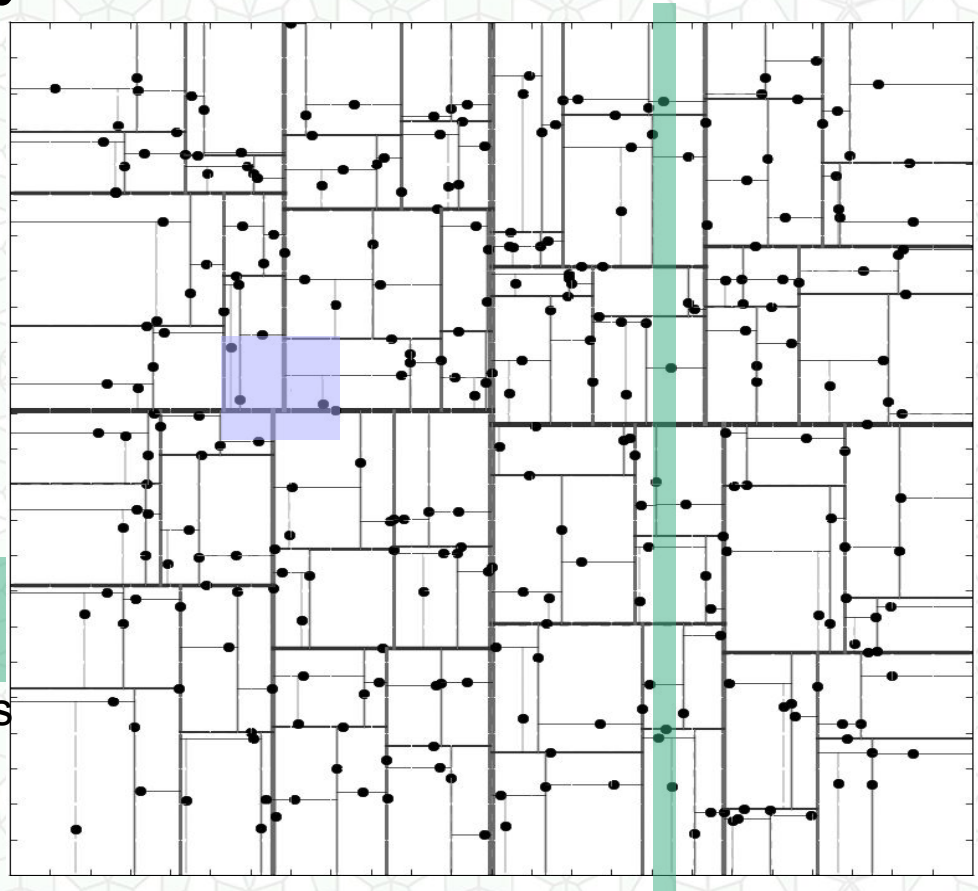
# 2D kd Tree Query Algorithm

- At each split point
- Determine if the query box overlaps the split line
- Recurse down one or both branches
- If a subtree lies complete inside the box, return all items in that subtree
- Perform filtering in the leaves as necessary



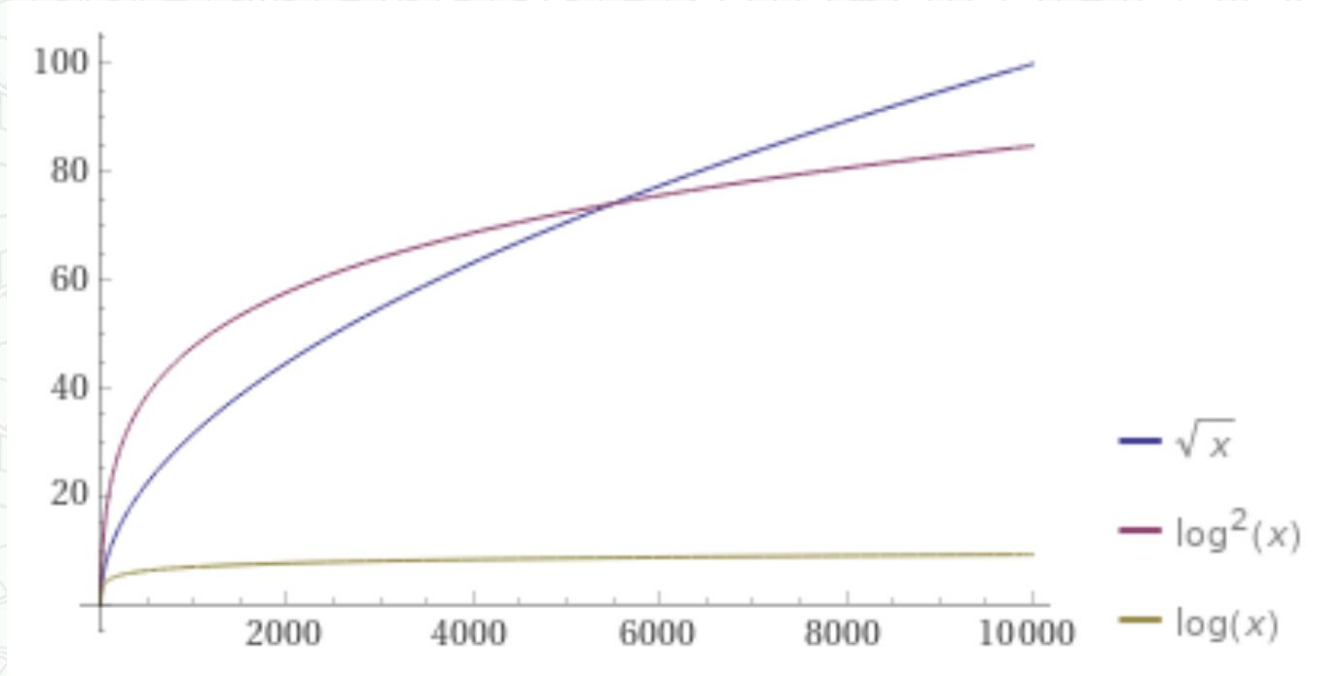
# 2D kd Tree Query Analysis

- 1 item is stored per leaf node
- For a query that will collect  $k$  items
- Best/Average(?) Case:  
An approximately square query (equal width & height)
  - touches/overlaps  $O(k)$  leaves
  - gathering leaves  $O(\log n + k)$
  - Overall  $\rightarrow O(\log n + k)$
- Worst Case Query:  
For a skinny / lopsided query box
  - touches/overlaps  $\sim \sqrt{n} + k$  leaves
  - gathering leaves  $O(\sqrt{n} + k)$
  - Overall  $\rightarrow O(\sqrt{n} + k)$



# Is Query Time = $O(\sqrt{n} + k)$ a problem?

- $O(1) < O(\log n) < O(\log^2 n) < O(\sqrt{n}) < O(n)$



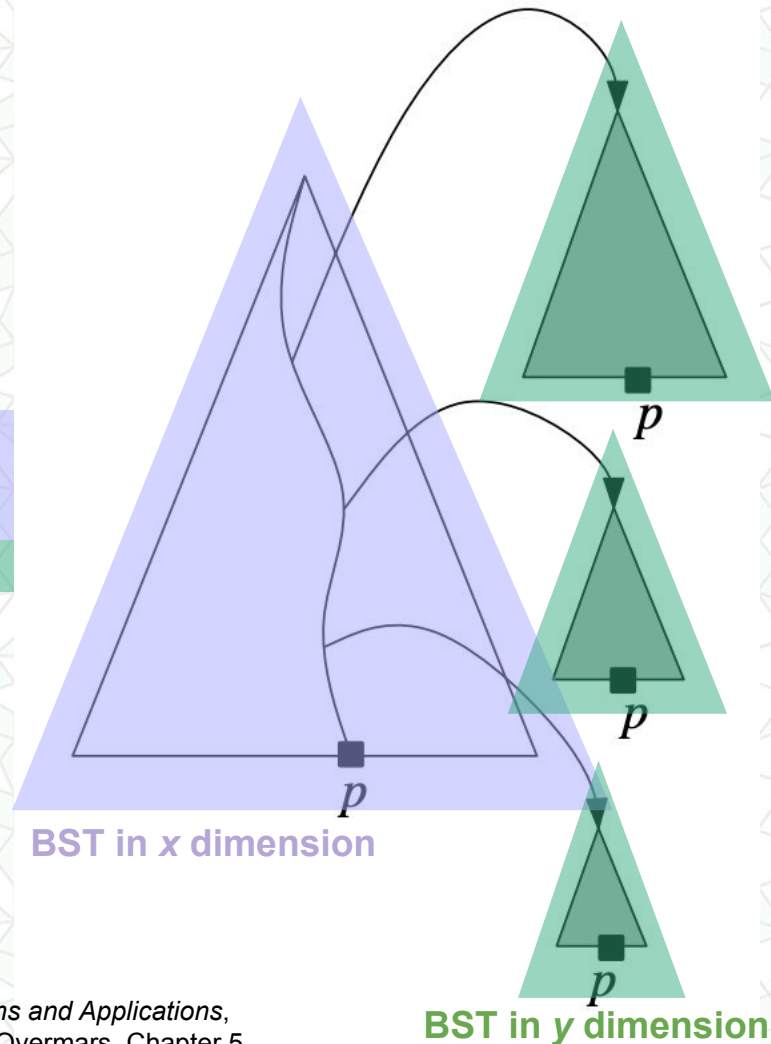


# 2D Range Tree (and higher dimension!)

How much memory does it use?


- Each point  $p$  is stored once in the level 1 (organized by  $x$ ) tree
- And many times in level 2 (organized by  $y$ ) trees
- How many level 2 trees? And how big are they?
  - 1 tree with  $n$  values
  - 2 trees with  $n/2$  values
  - 4 trees with  $n/4$  values
  - ...
  - $n$  trees with 1 values

→  $O(n \log n)$  memory



# Summary Comparison

- For  $n$  points, dimension  $d$ , with query to collect  $k$  items
- kd tree
  - Construction time:  $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$
  - Memory:  $\rightarrow O(n)$
  - Query time
    - Square(ish) box:  $\rightarrow O(\log n + k)$
    - Worst case (long, skinny box):  $\rightarrow O(n^{(1-1/d)} + k)$
- Range tree
  - Construction time  $\rightarrow O(n \log^{d-1} n)$
  - Memory  $\rightarrow O(n \log^{d-1} n)$
  - Query time  $\rightarrow O(\log^d n + k)$



**Tradeoff:**  
Use more memory  
Faster runtime

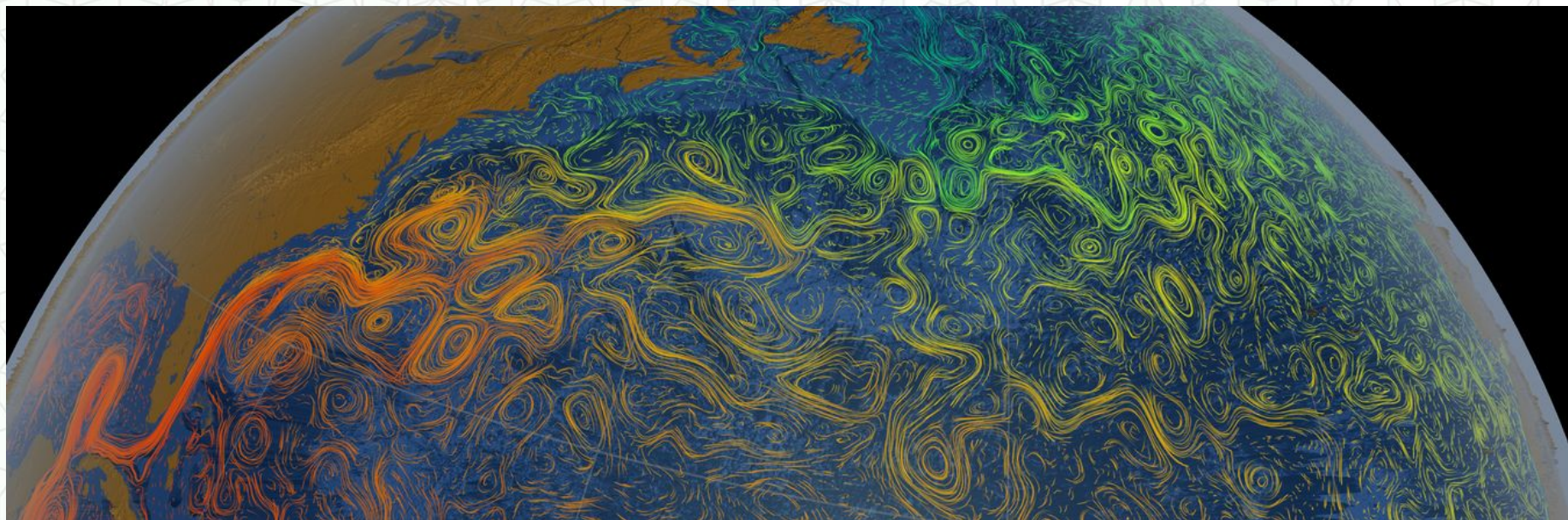
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# Motivation Application: GPS Point Localization

- Given a 2D coordinate, e.g., a latitude & longitude
- What region of the ocean contains this point?
  - Access currents, weather, etc.

NASA Scientific Visualization Studio  
<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



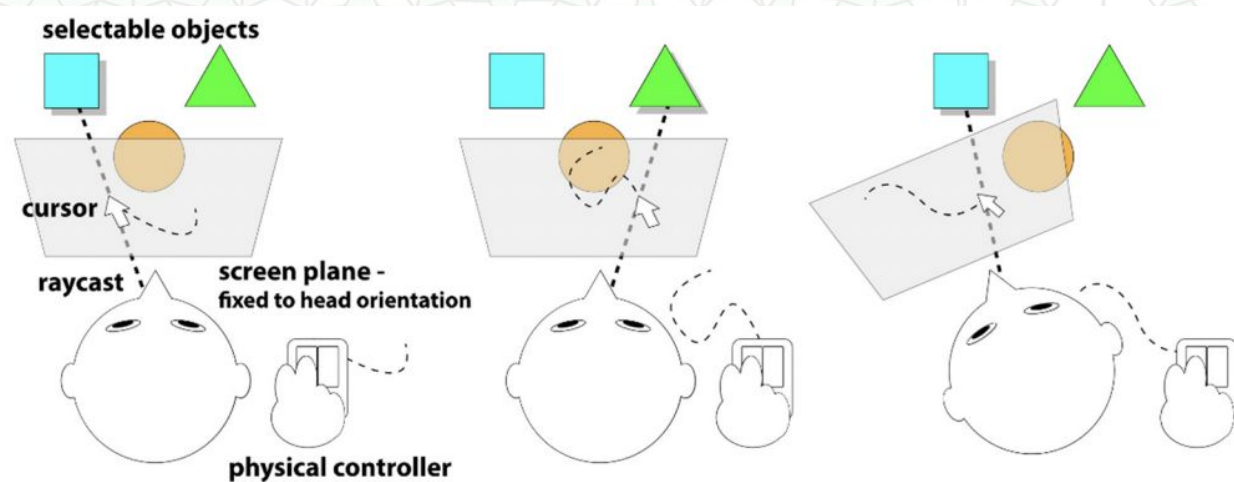
# Graphics / Virtual Reality: What is “Picking”?

- Get the (3D) world coordinates of a (2D) mouse click
- Identify which object was selected and the point on the object closest to the click

- *Do we as users take this for granted??*

- *What are the performance bottlenecks?*

- *What are the usability concerns?*



# Graphics Application: 3D Painting



<http://www-ui.is.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~takeo/gallery/chameleon.png>

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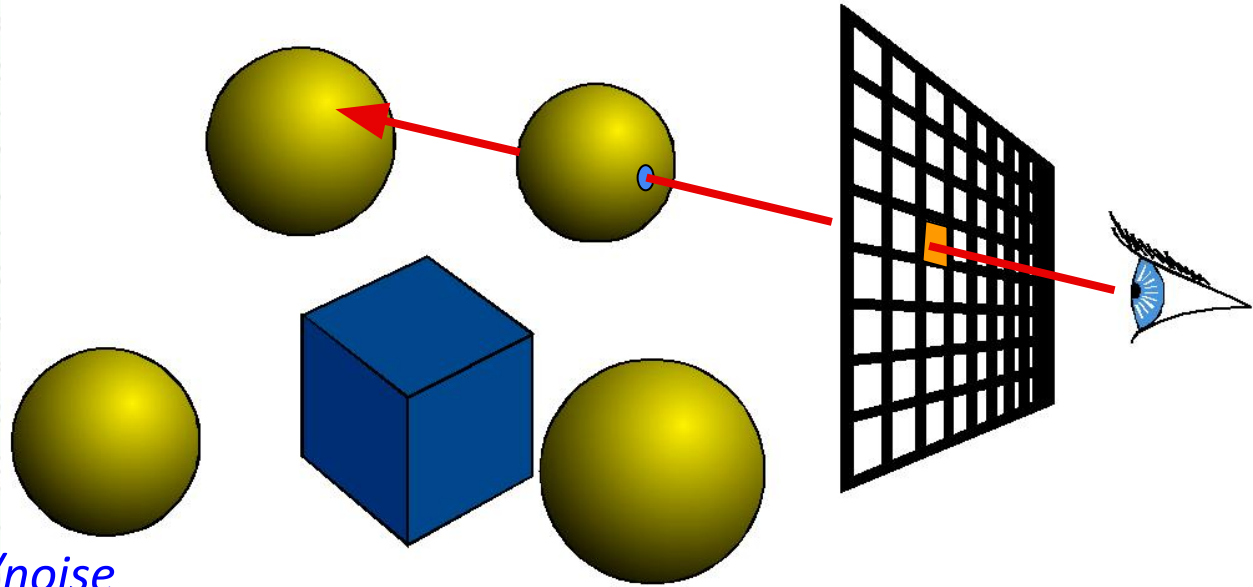
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# “Picking” by Ray Casting

- Construct a ray from the eye through the image plane into the scene
- Intersect with all objects in the scene
- Keep the closest

## Concerns:

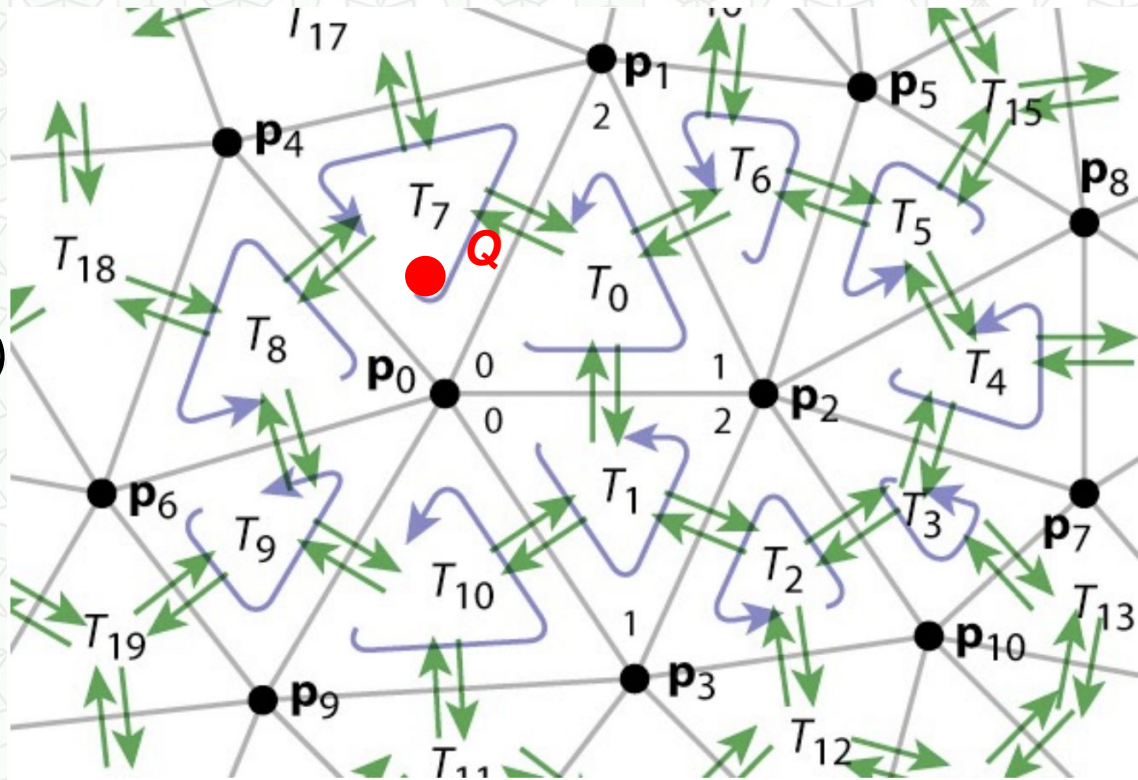
- *Cost of intersection*
- *How often are you asking?*
  - *on click*
  - *continuously*
- *Position imprecision/noise*





# Brute Force Picking Algorithm

- Given a planar subdivision
  - *E.g., a collection of non-overlapping triangles (or polygons) that cover the plane*
- And a **query point  $Q$**
- Which triangle/polygon is  $Q$  inside of?
  - *E.g.,  $T_7$*

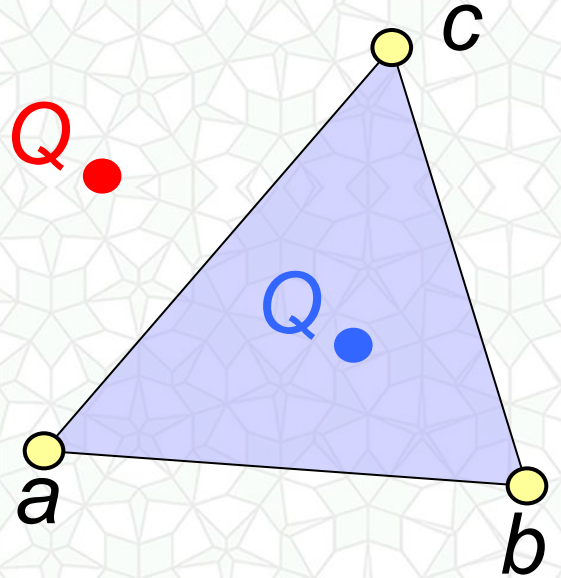


Steve Marschner

<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/cs4620>

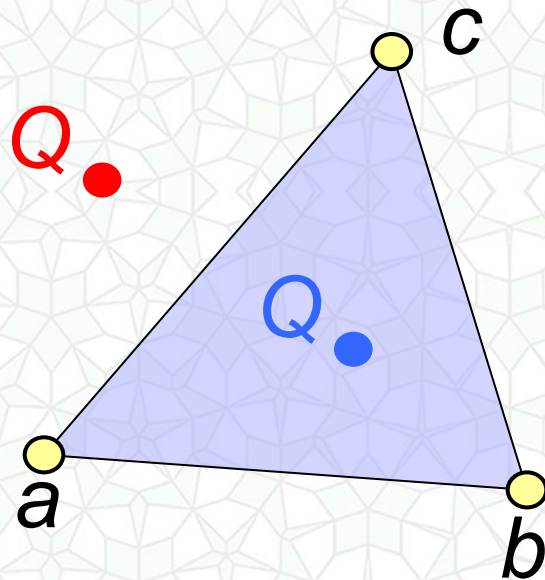
# Is Query Point *inside* a specific Triangle?

- Compare the point to each line segment
- Are you on the “right side” of all three line segments?
- Are you on the “wrong side” of one or two segments?
- Use cross product!  
(more on this later...)



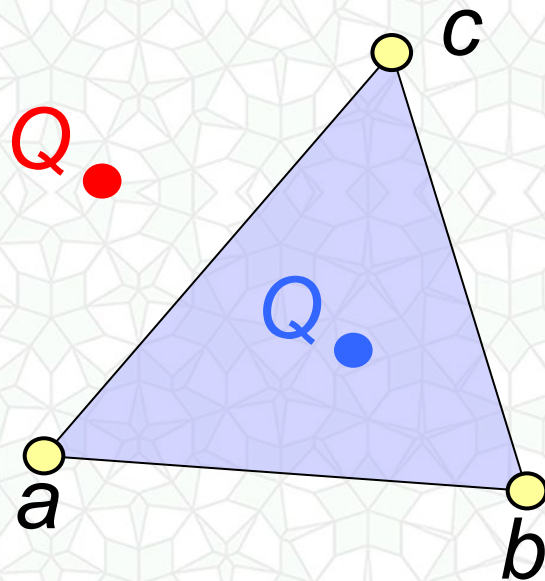
# Is Query Point *inside* a specific Triangle?

- Does the half edge adjacency data structure accelerate this query?



# Is Query Point *inside* a specific Triangle?

- Does the half edge adjacency data structure accelerate this query?
- *Unfortunately... NO!*
- *While we can navigate to the adjacent neighbors, we can NOT do better than a  $O(n)$  linear floodfill to find the correct triangle.*

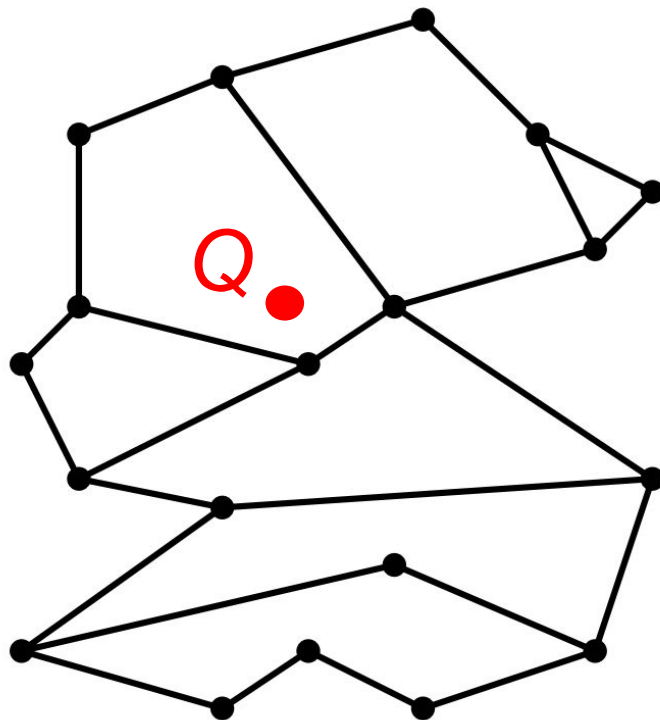


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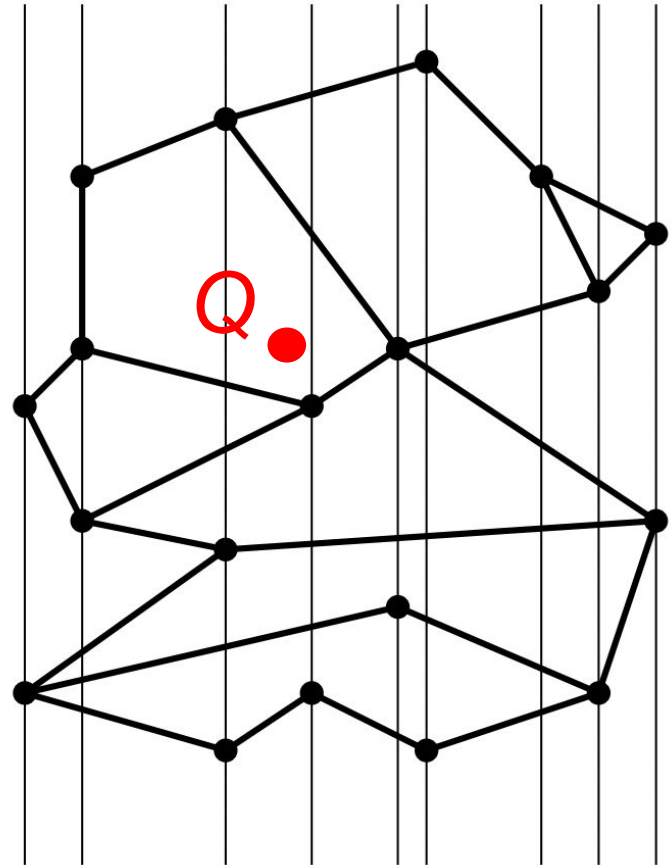
# Point Location in Planar Subdivision

- Given  $v$  vertices,  $n$  edges, and  $f$  polygonal faces
- Which polygonal region contains the query point  $Q$ ?



# Point Location in Planar Subdivision

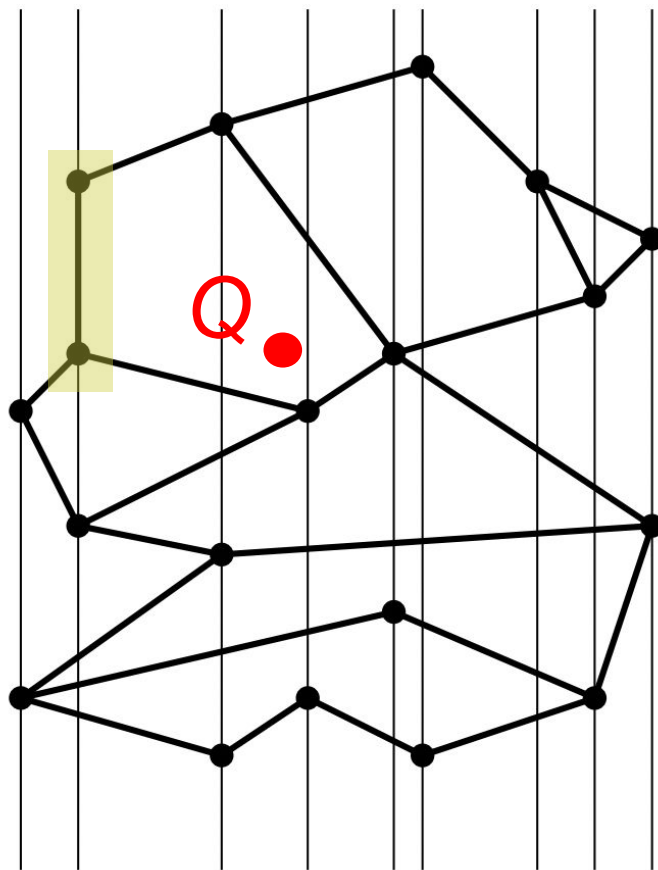
- Given  $v$  vertices,  $n$  edges, and  $f$  polygonal faces
- Which polygonal region contains the query point  $Q$ ?
- Let's slice the plane into vertical "slabs"
- Draw a vertical line through every point



# Point Location in Planar Subdivision

Let's assume "General Position":

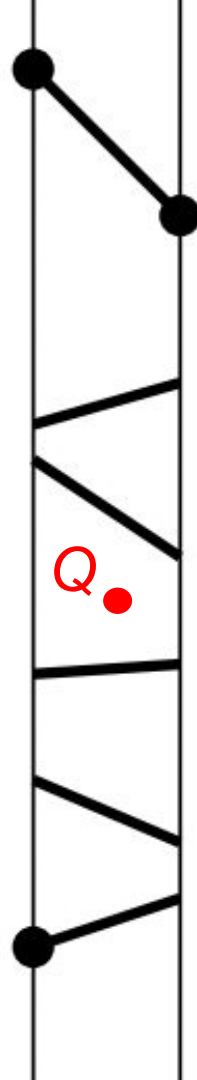
- No two points have same x coordinate
- There will be no vertical segments!
- The query point will not be on a vertical segment or on a vertex.
- *Workaround is to have a tie breaker, rotate/shear the diagram a tiny amount*





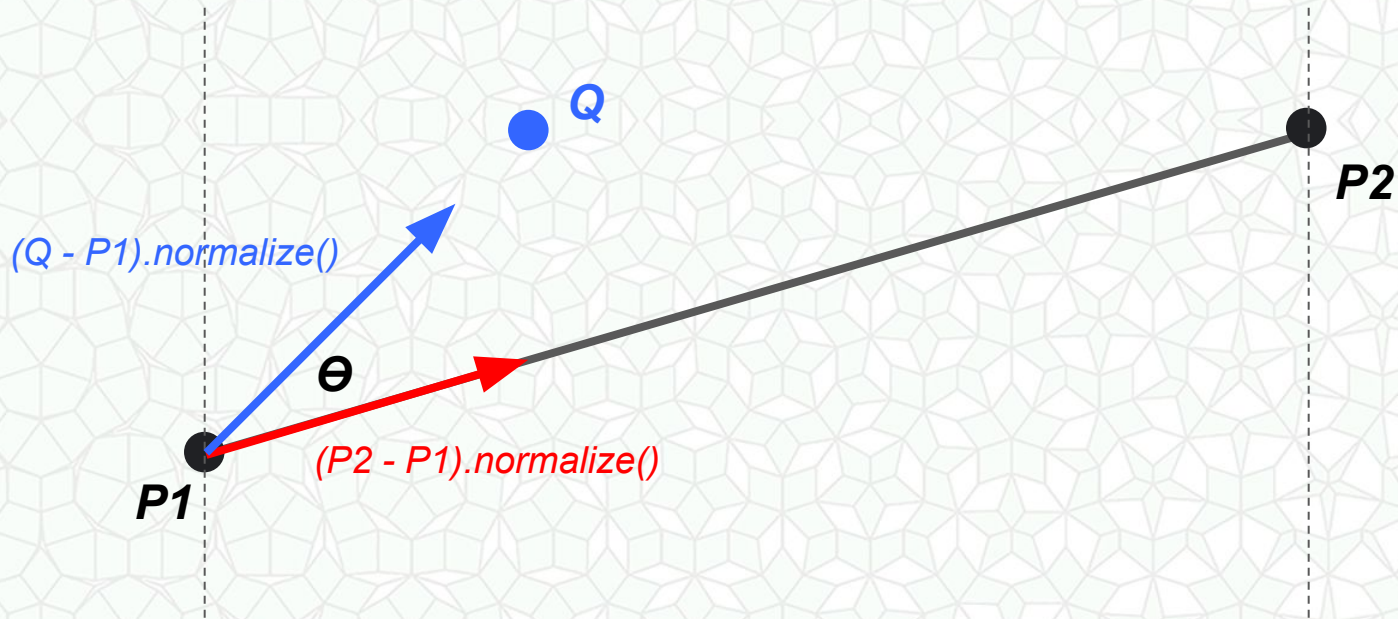
# Point Location in a Vertical Slab?

- Within this slab, the line segments:
  - Do not cross  
(guaranteed by planar subdivision construction)
  - Do not start or stop  
(we've split at every vertex)
- We can sort the line segments vertically  
(by left endpoint's  $y$  coordinate)
- Which trapezoid is  $Q$  located within?
  - Each trapezoid is mapped back to the original polygonal face



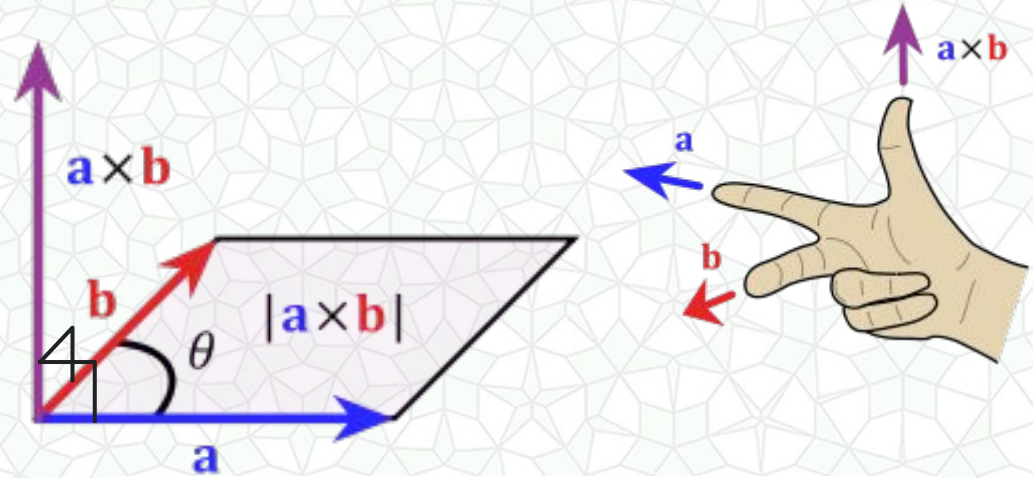
# Is Query Point above (or below) Line Segment?

- $P1_x < Q_x < P2_x$
- Is  $0^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$



# Cross Product

- If the  $\theta > 0^\circ$  &  $\theta < 180^\circ$ , then  $a \times b$  will be positive in the z axis.
- If the  $\theta > 180^\circ$  &  $\theta < 360^\circ$ , then  $a \times b$  will be negative in the z axis.
- If  $a$  is parallel to  $b$  ( $\theta = 0^\circ$  or  $\theta = 180^\circ$ ), then  $a \times b$  will have zero magnitude.
- $|a \times b| = \sin \theta$

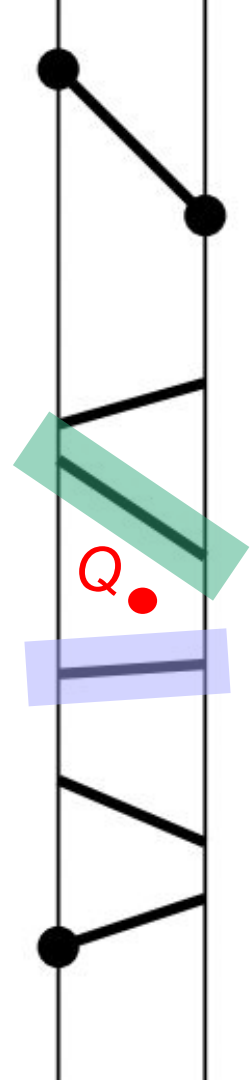


$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (a_2 b_3 - a_3 b_2) \mathbf{i} - (a_1 b_3 - a_3 b_1) \mathbf{j} + (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1) \mathbf{k}$$

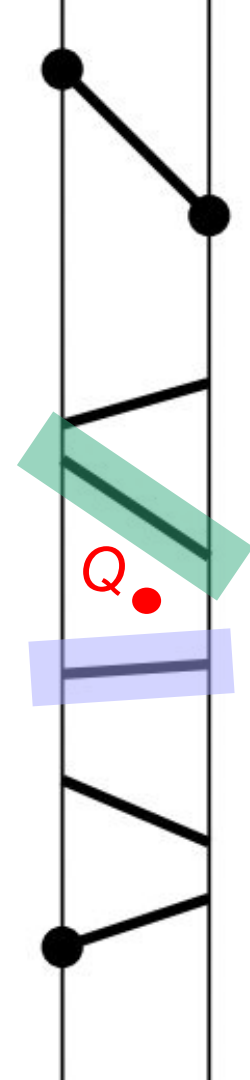
# Analysis: Running Time

- Algorithm Preprocess
- Point Location Algorithm



# Analysis: Running Time

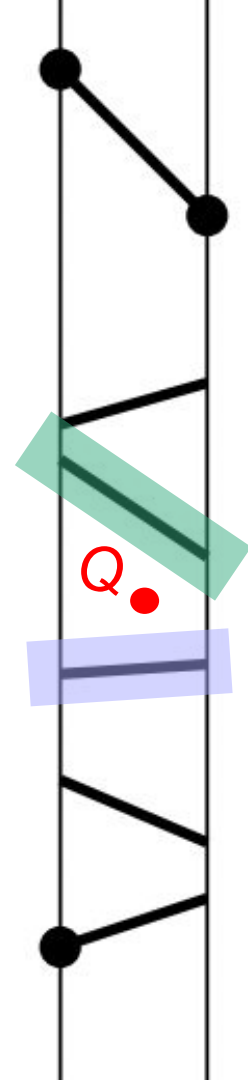
- Algorithm Preprocess
  - Sort slabs left to right
  - Within each slab, sort trapezoids from top to bottom
- Point Location Algorithm
  - Binary search to locate the correct slab between two points
    - Left vertical  $x < Q_x < \text{right vertical } x$
  - Binary search to locate correct trapezoid
    - $Q$  is below the upper segment and above the lower segment



# Analysis: Running Time

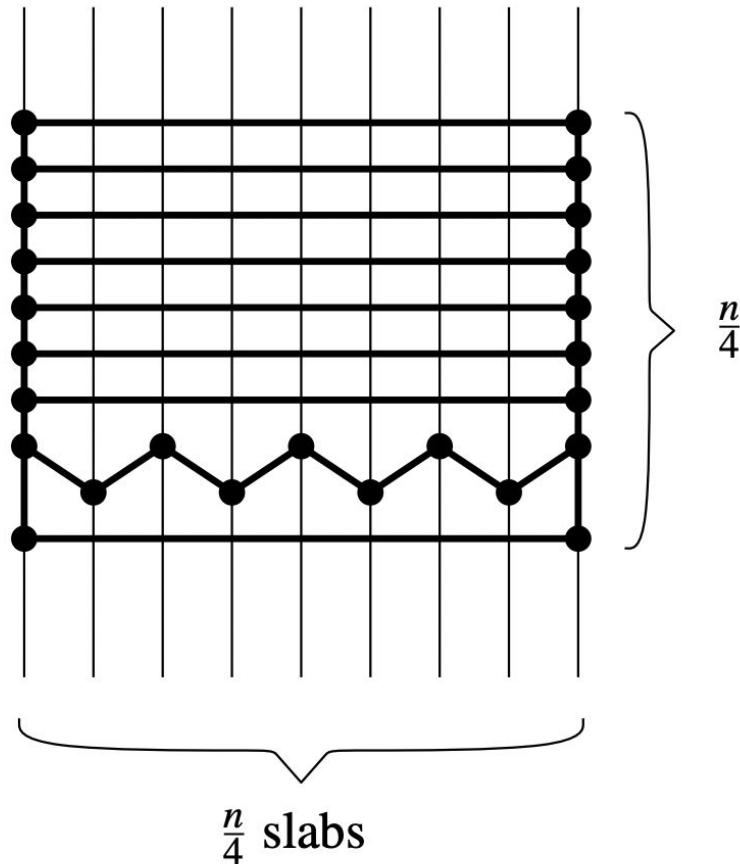
- Algorithm Preprocess
  - Sort slabs left to right  $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$
  - Within each slab, sort trapezoids from top to bottom  $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$
- Point Location Algorithm Overall:  $\rightarrow O(\log n)$ 
  - Binary search to locate the correct slab between two points
    - Left vertical  $x < Q_x < \text{right vertical } x \rightarrow O(\log n)$
  - Binary search to locate correct trapezoid
    - Q is below the upper segment and above the lower segment  $\rightarrow O(\log n)$

Where  $n$  is the # of edges



# Analysis: Memory Usage

- Unfortunately, this representation is very costly
- It is redundantly storing many faces in many slabs
- In the worst case:



Where  $n$  is the # of edges

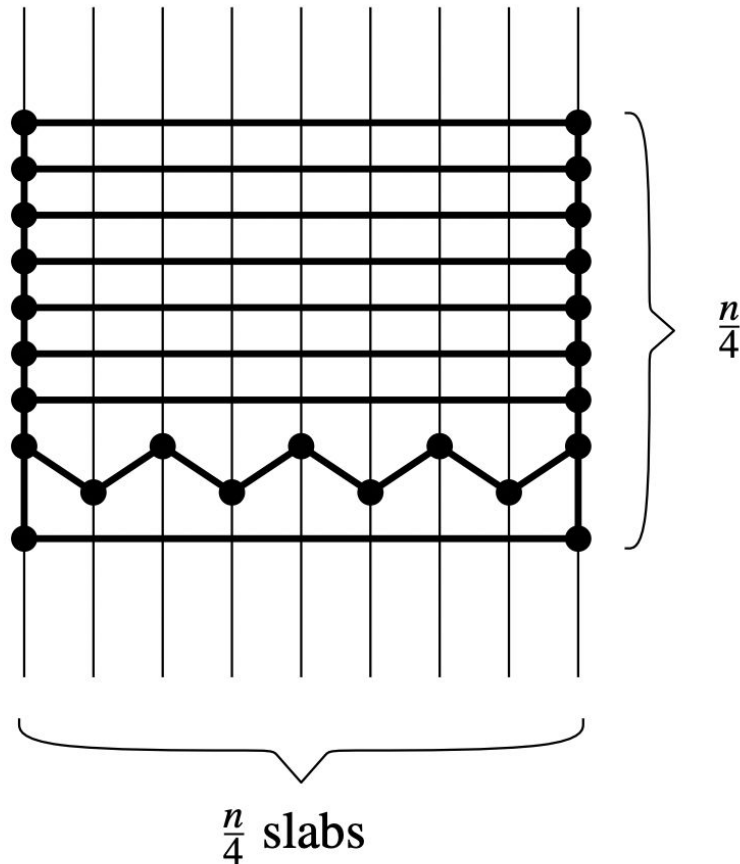
# Analysis: Memory Usage

- Unfortunately, this representation is very costly
- It is redundantly storing many faces in many slabs
- In the worst case:

*Euler: faces + vertices - edges = 2*  
*9 faces + 25 vertices - 32 edges = 2*

*Created  $10 * 8 = 80$  trapezoids!!*

*Where  $n$  is the # of edges*

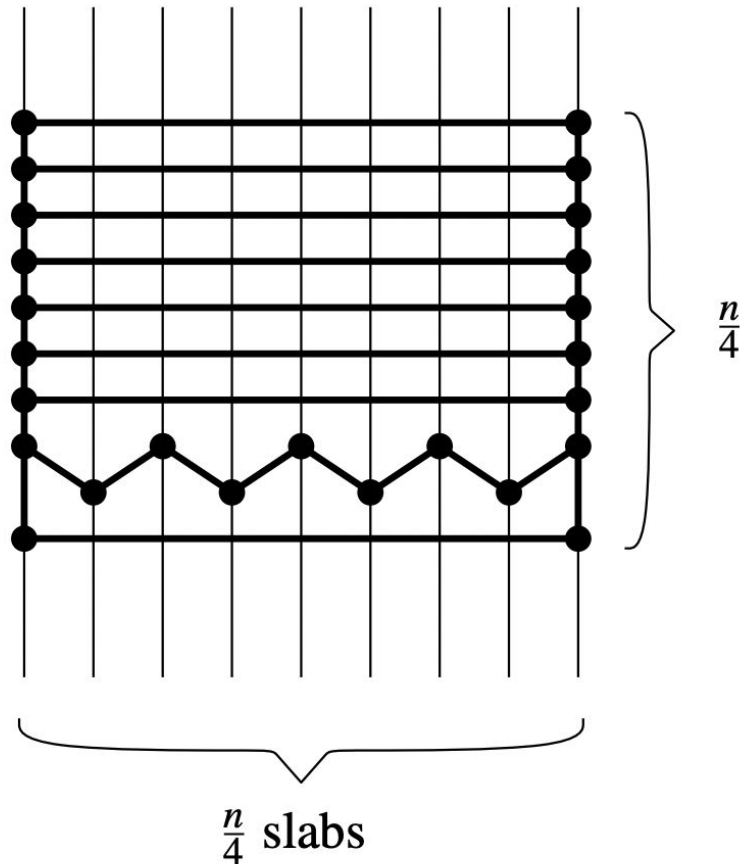




# Analysis: Memory Usage

- Unfortunately, this representation is very costly
  - It is redundantly storing many faces in many slabs
  - In the worst case:
    - Every polygon appears in nearly every slab!
- $\rightarrow O(n^2)$
- Even average/expected case is unacceptable:  $\rightarrow O(n \sqrt{n})$

Where  $n$  is the # of edges

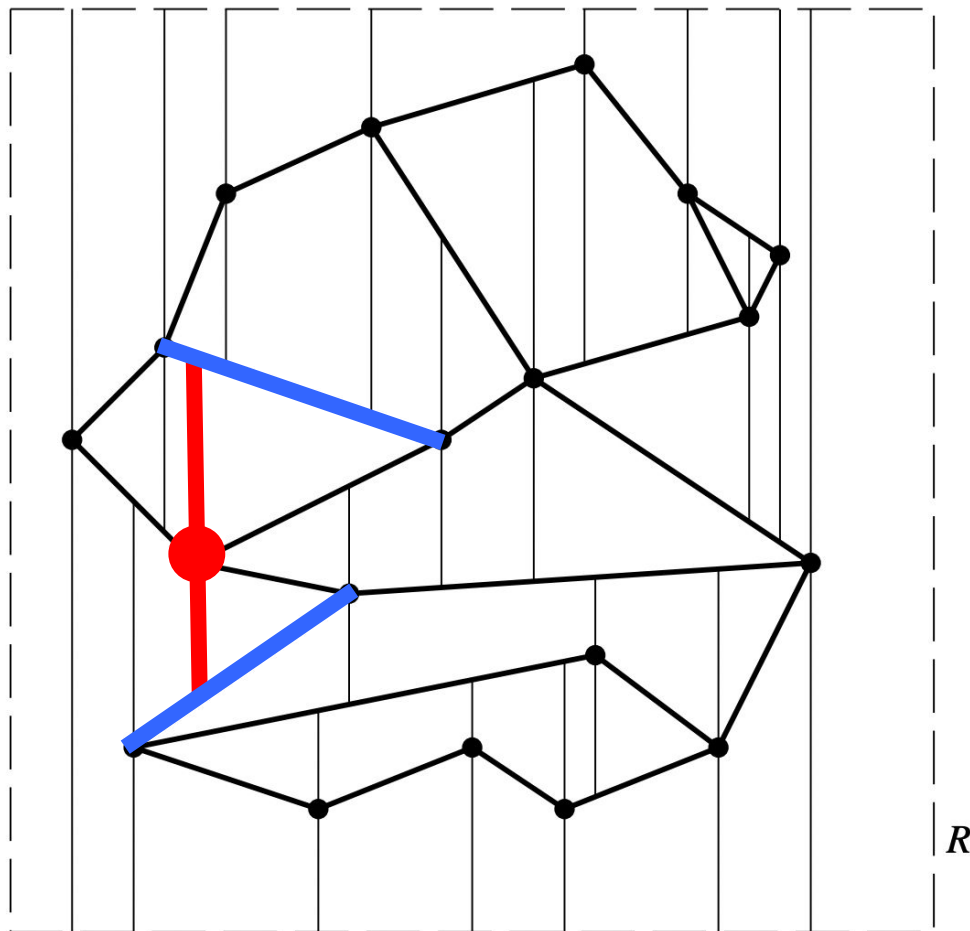


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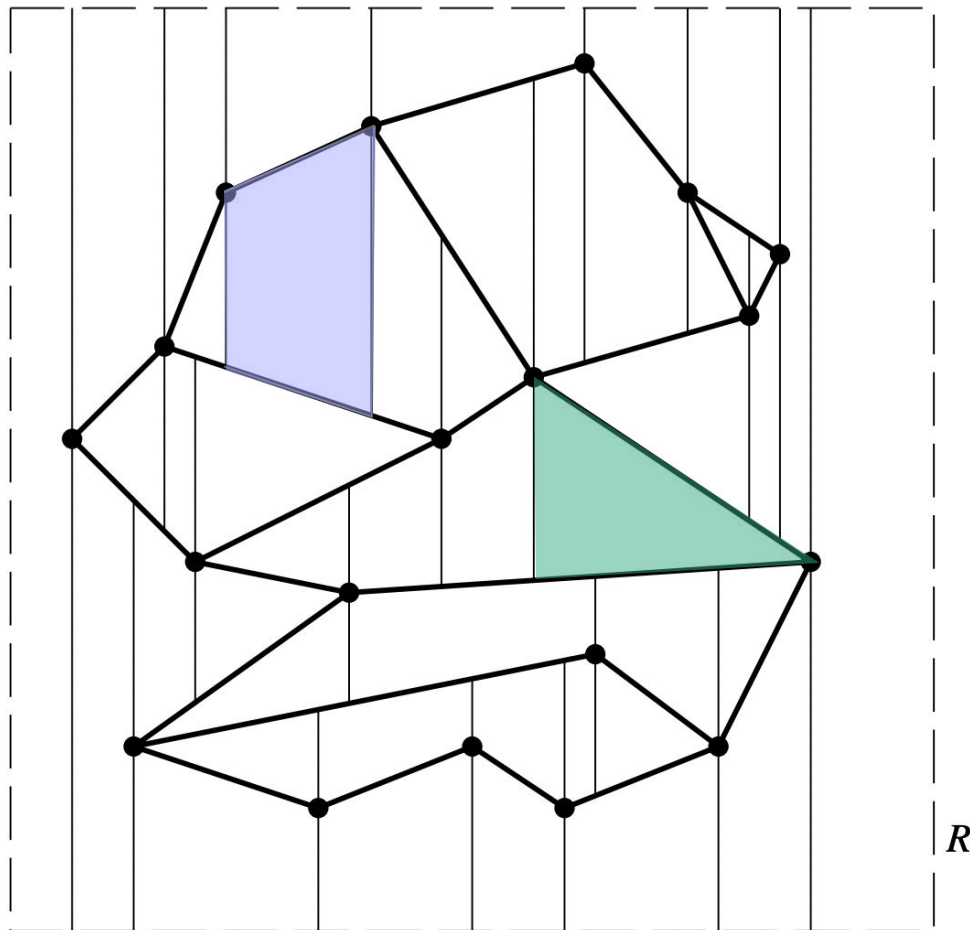
# Idea: Reduce Redundant Storage

- Horizontally merge some of these cells
- Split **vertically at every vertex**
- But stop splitting when you reach the **closest line segment** above & below



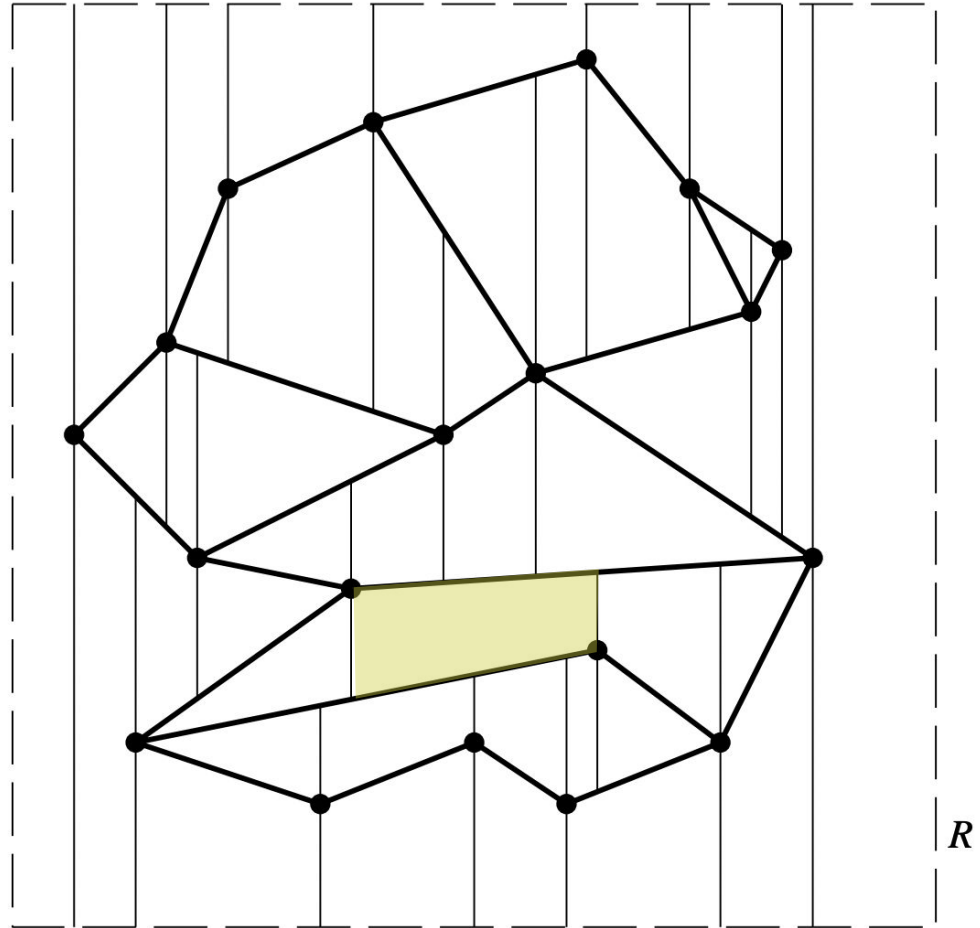
# Create Convex Trapezoids & Triangles

- This defines a planar subdivision with full coverage of the plane by non-overlapping
  - **convex trapezoids**
  - and
  - degenerate trapezoids:  
**triangles**



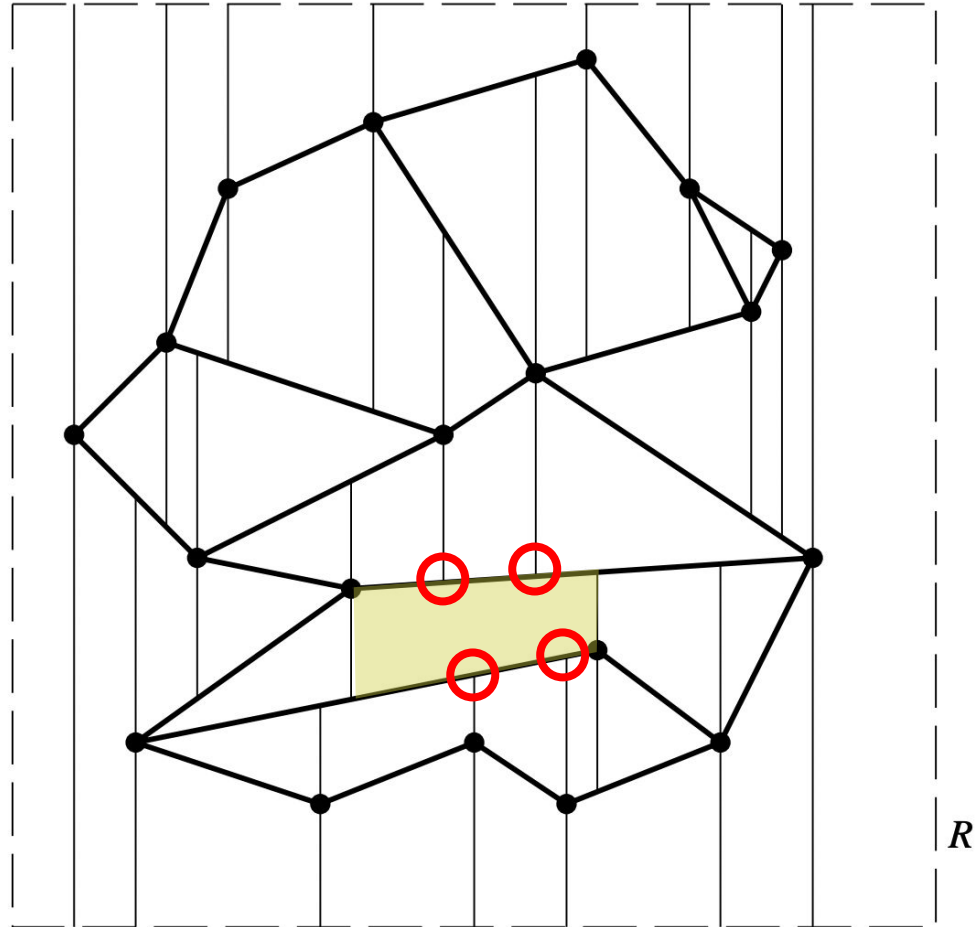
# Adjacency Structure

- Can we connect these triangles and trapezoids with a classic half-edge adjacency data structure?



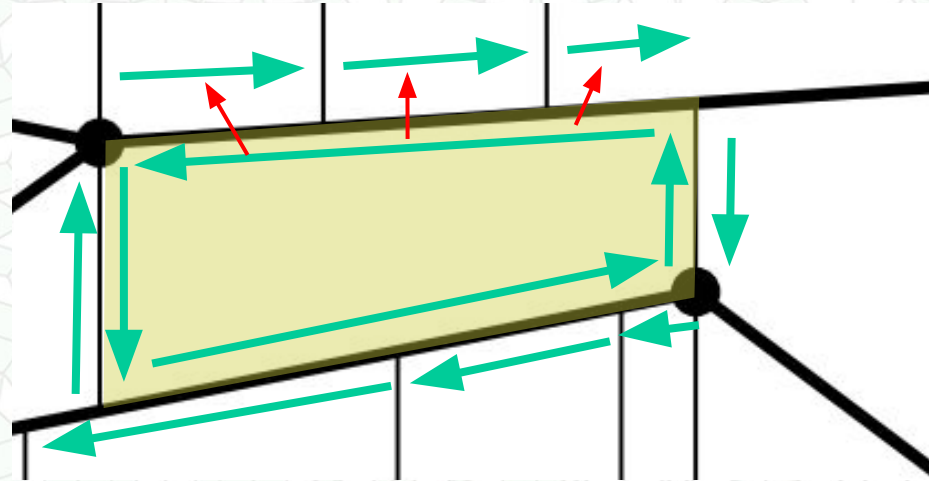
# Adjacency Structure

- Can we connect these triangles and trapezoids with a classic half-edge adjacency data structure?
- *No!*
- Many of the faces have one or more “T junctions” on their top and/or bottom edges.
  - This is NOT ALLOWED with a traditional polygonal planar subdivision / halfedge data structure



# Classic Half-Edge Adjacency Structure

- Each face points to a half edge
- Each vertex points to a half edge
- Each half edge points:
  - Its opposite edge – only 1!
  - Its next edge
  - Its face
  - Its vertex
- A hacked modification would require an **array of unknown size to point at all “opposite” edges**  
*This would be inefficient and an implementation nightmare!*

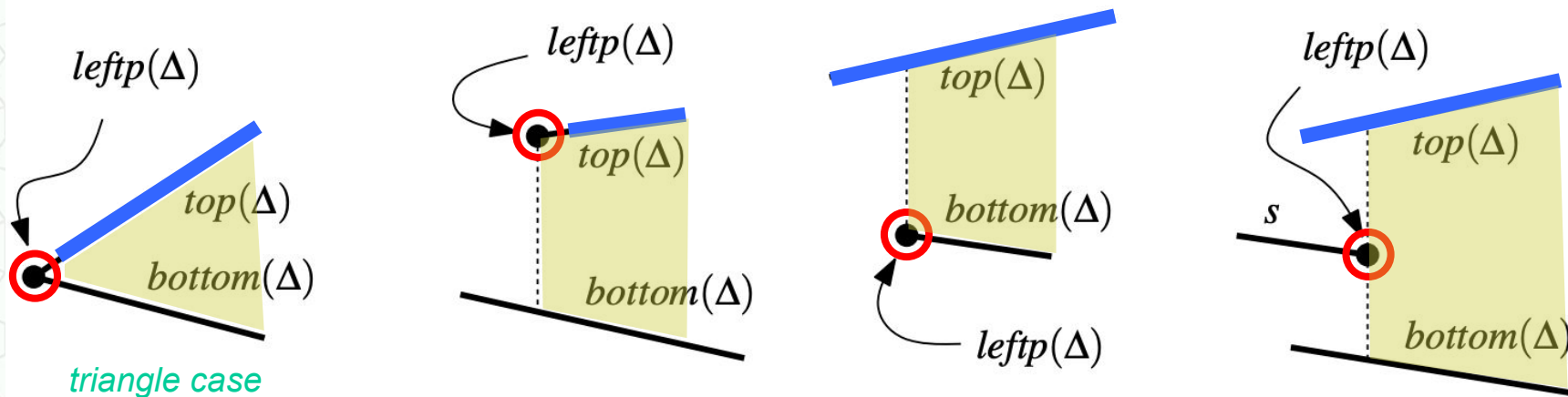


# Trapezoid Map Adjacency Structure

Instead... each trapezoid (or **triangle**) points to:

- line segment **top**, makes upper boundary
- line segment **bottom**, makes lower boundary
- vertex **leftp**, defines left vertical boundary
- vertex **rightp**, defines right vertical boundary

*Computational Geometry  
Algorithms and Applications,  
de Berg, Cheong, van Kreveld  
and Overmars, Chapter 6*





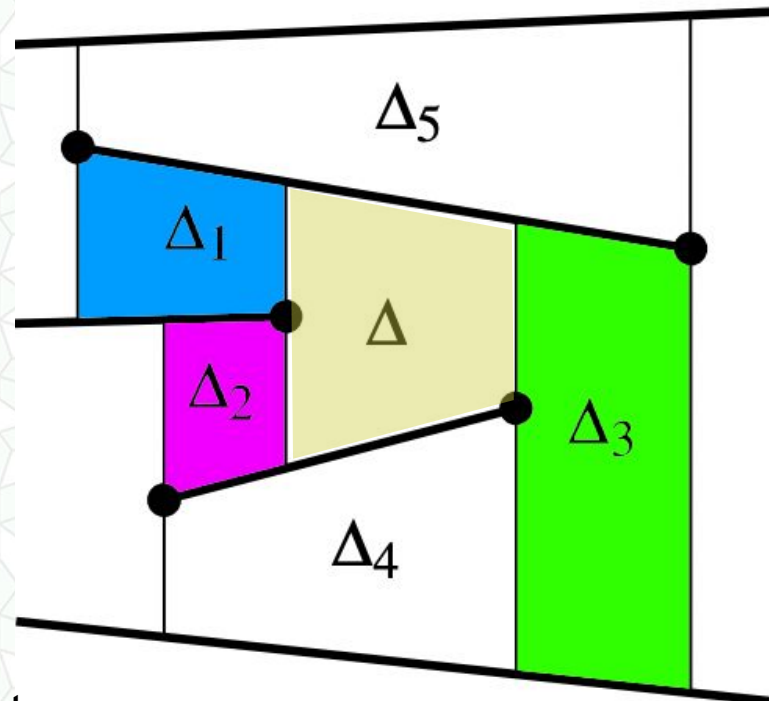
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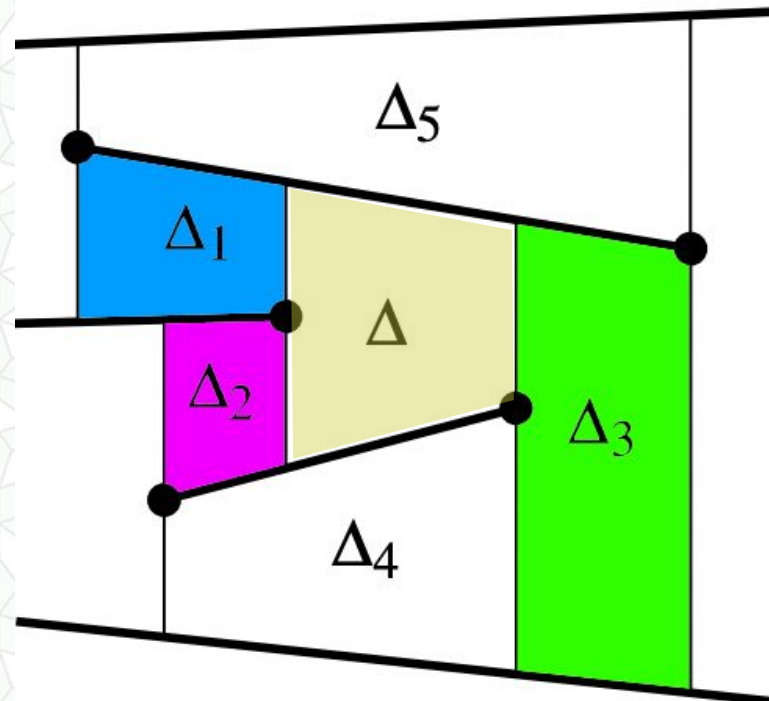
Additionally... each trapezoid  $\Delta$  may have up to 4 adjacent neighbors (or NULL if they do not exist)

- **upper left neighbor**, shares top and leftp
- **lower left neighbor**, shares bottom and leftp
- **upper right neighbor**, shares top and rightp
- **lower right neighbor**, shares bottom and rightp



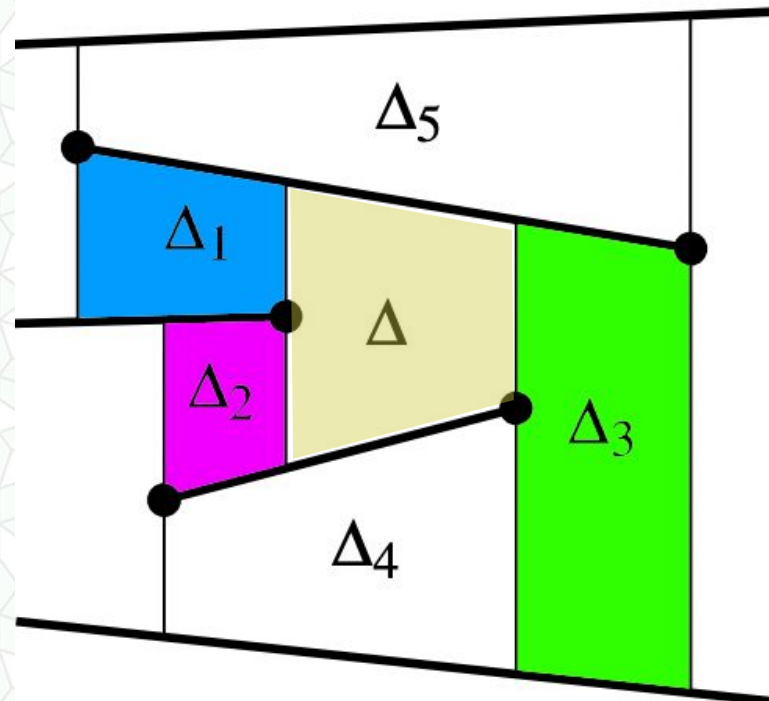
# Trapezoid Map Adjacency Structure

- Does this new adjacency structure allow us to navigate through the structure more efficiently, faster than a  $O(n)$  floodfill for the classic polygon adjacency structure?



# Trapezoid Map Adjacency Structure

- Does this new adjacency structure allow us to navigate through the structure more efficiently, faster than a  $O(n)$  floodfill for the classic polygon adjacency structure?
- *Unfortunately, no...*
- *But we can build a binary tree (actually a DAG) for this structure to perform these queries!*

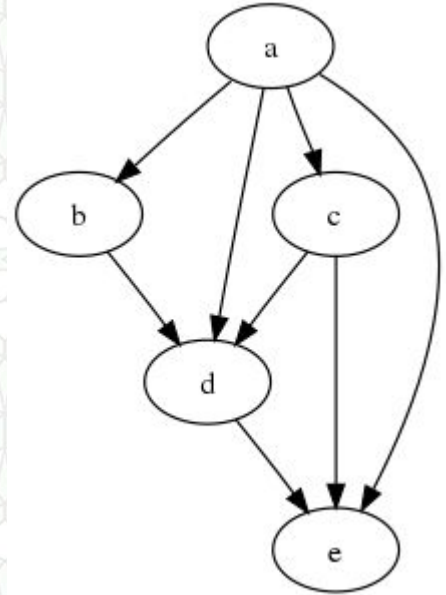


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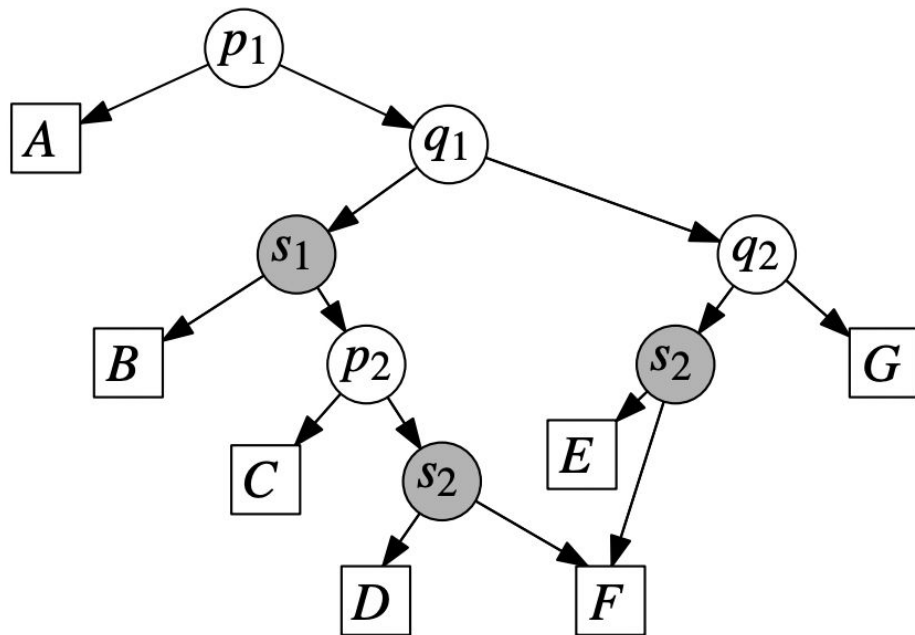
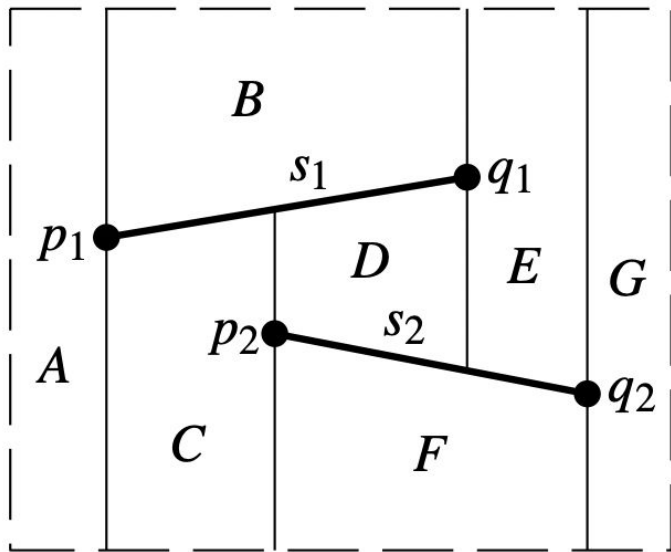
# What is a “Directed Acyclic Graph” (DAG)?

- A graph (collection of nodes & edges)
  - with *directed edges*, and
  - with *no directed cycles*
- A graph is a DAG if and only if
  - it can be topologically-ordered to arrange the vertices in a linear sequence such that all edges are oriented consistently (e.g., flowing from top to bottom)



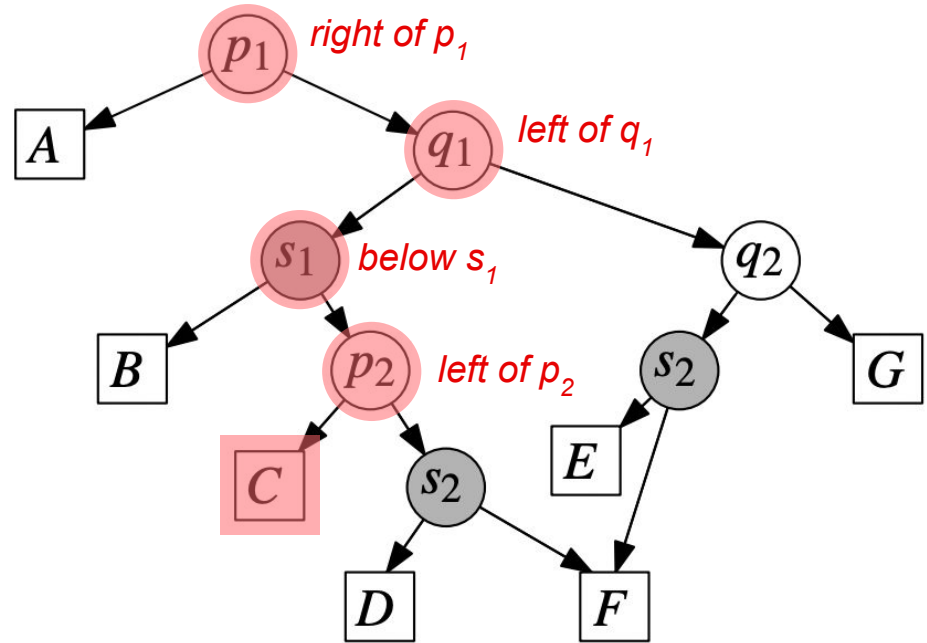
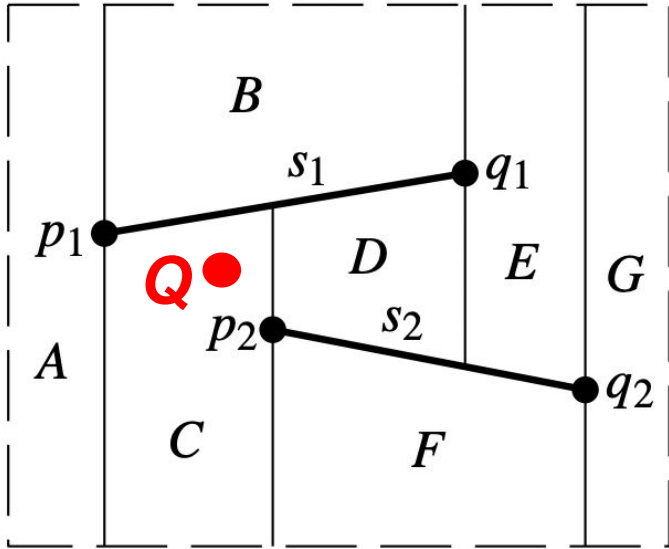
# Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

- Intermediate nodes are vertices (vertical lines) and line segments
- The leaves are the trapezoidal regions (which map back to original polygons)



# Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

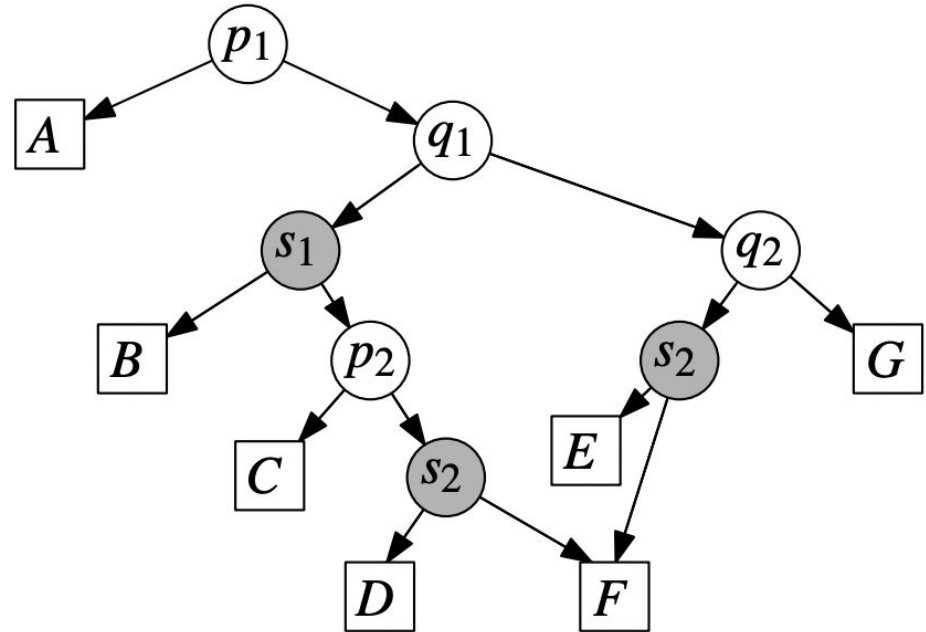
- Intermediate nodes are vertices (vertical lines) and line segments
- The leaves are the trapezoidal regions (which map back to original polygons)



# Analysis: Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

Size of the DAG?

- # of leaves = # of trapezoids
- # of intermediate nodes  
= # of vertices + # of line segments
- Height of DAG

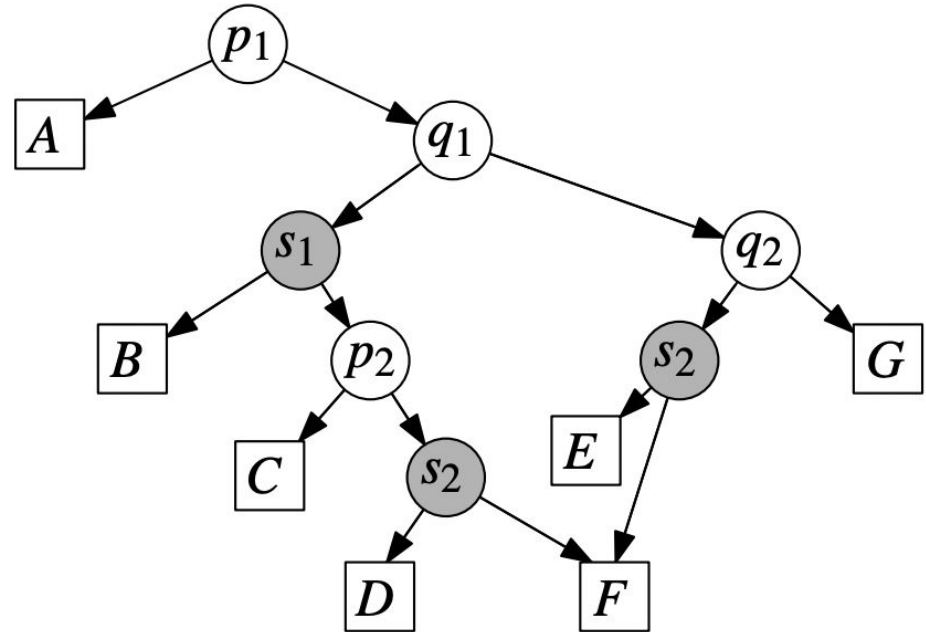




# Analysis: Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

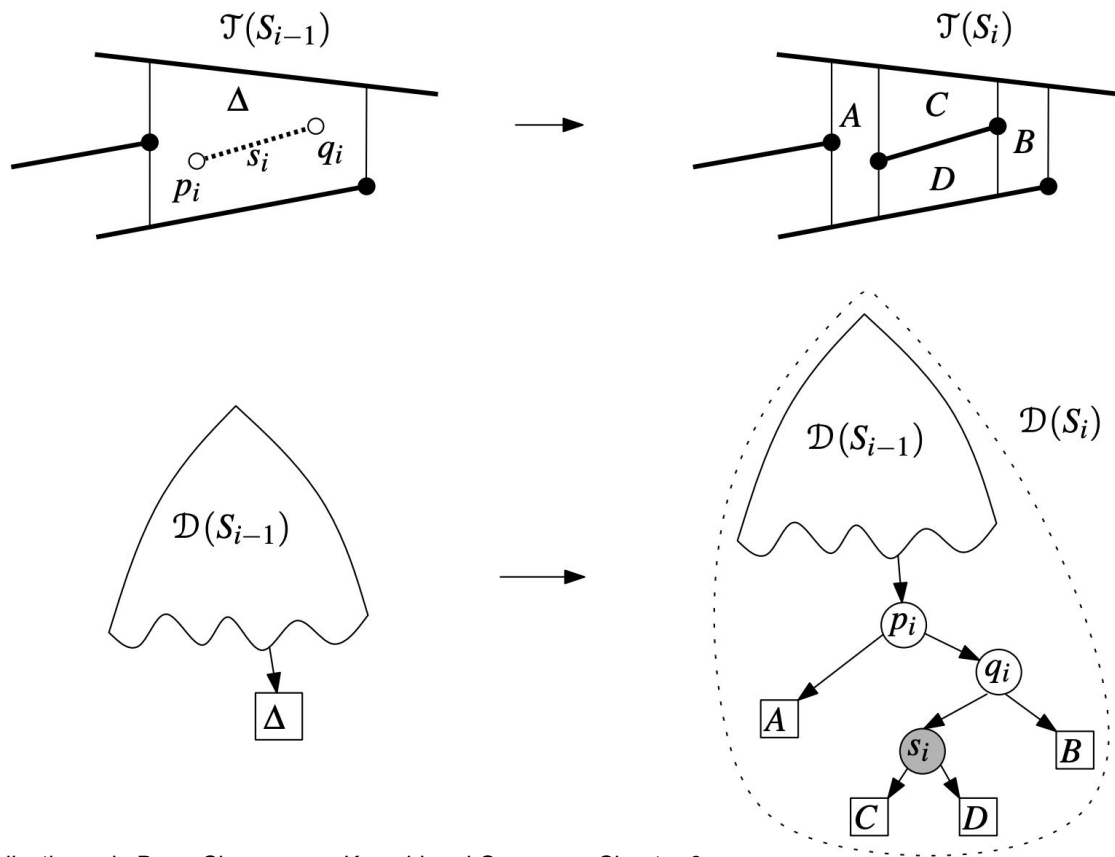
Size of the DAG?

- # of leaves = # of trapezoids  
→  $O(n)$
- # of intermediate nodes  
= # of vertices + # of line segments  
→  $O(n)$
- Height of DAG  
→  $O(\log n)$  *best case*  
→  $O(n)$  *worst case*
- Use **Randomized Incremental Construction** to achieve height  
→  $O(\log n)$  *expected case!*



# Randomized Incremental Construction

- Randomize the order of the line segments
- Inserting the segments one at a time
- Handle all of the cases



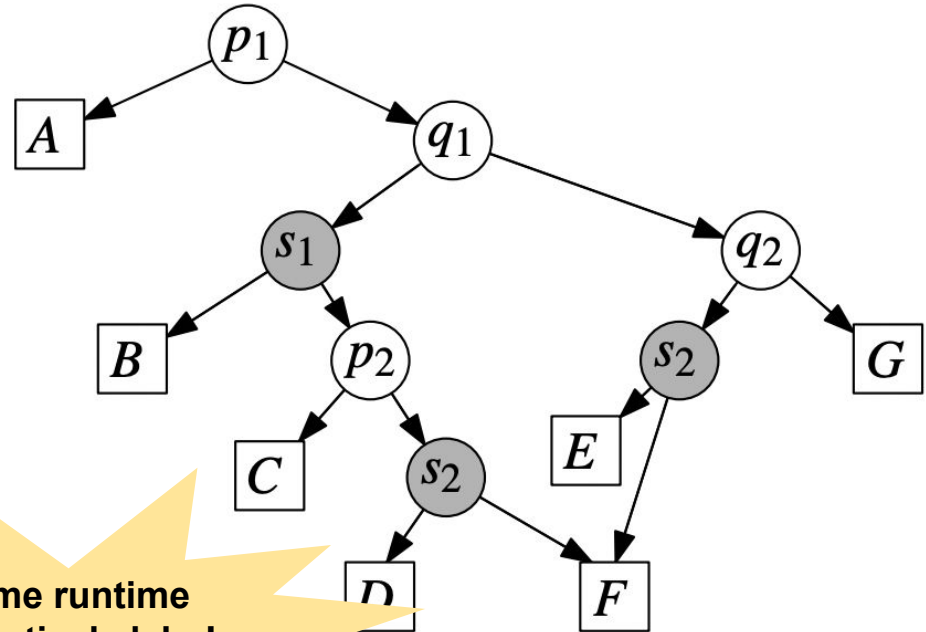
*Book has lengthy description  
of the full algorithm & proof!*

# Analysis: Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

- Memory to store DAG?  
→  $O(n)$
- Height of the DAG?  
→  $O(\log n)$  expected
- Query time to locate the trapezoid/polygon containing point  $Q$ ?  
→  $O(\log n)$  expected
- Cost to construct?  
→  $O(n \log n)$  expected

*Book has lengthy description  
of the full algorithm & proof!*

**Same runtime  
as vertical slabs!  
Linear memory usage!**

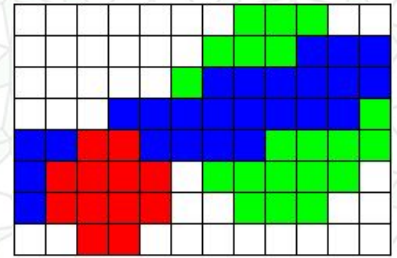


# Outline for Today

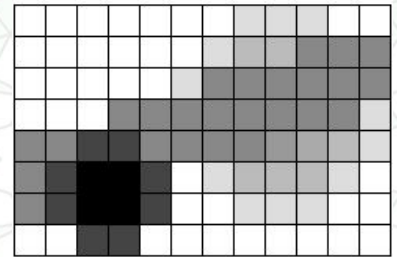
- Homework 4 Questions?
- Last Time: kD Trees & Range Trees
- Motivating Application: Point Location
- Motivating Application: 2D/3D Mouse “Picking” for Graphics
- Brute Force Point Location
- Point Location by Vertical Slab
- Trapezoidal Map & Adjacency Structure
- Trapezoidal Map Analysis & Construction
- **Think-Outside-of-the-Box Graphics Picking Algorithm**
- Next Time: Voronoi Diagram

# “Picking” by the Framebuffer

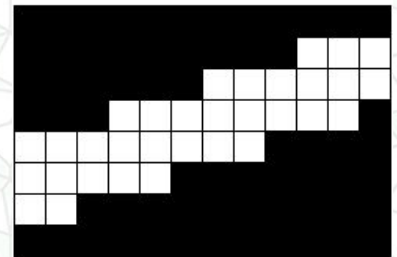
- Graphics “Hack”
- Take advantage of fast GPU hardware rendering
- Color each object a different, unique color (no lighting/shading)
- Grab the color of the pixel from the framebuffer (object id)
- Grab the z-value (depth) from the depth buffer



**frame buffer**



**depth buffer**



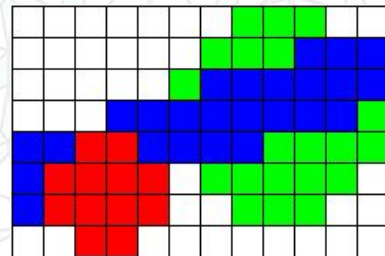
**stencil buffer**

“Capturing and Animating Occluded Cloth”  
White, Crane, & Forsyth, SIGGRAPH 2007

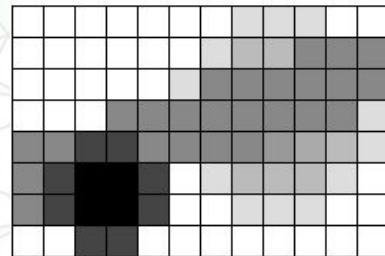
# “Picking” by the Framebuffer

- Are there enough colors?

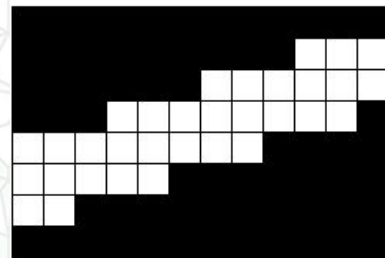
- Screen Resolution



frame buffer



depth buffer

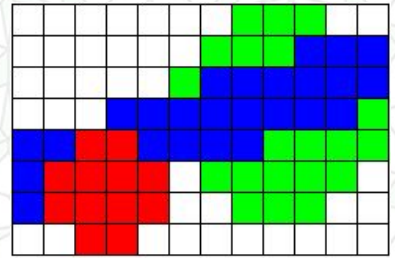


stencil buffer

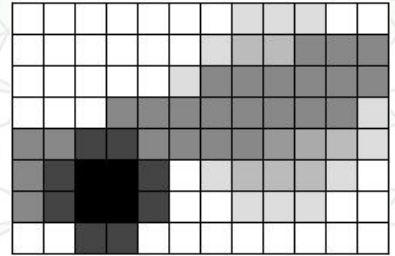
"Capturing and Animating Occluded Cloth"  
White, Crane, & Forsyth, SIGGRAPH 2007

# “Picking” by the Framebuffer

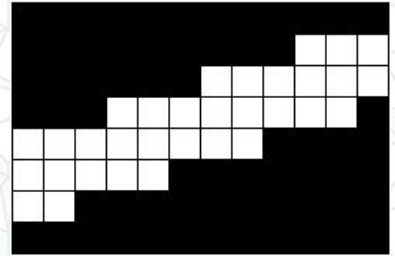
- Are there enough colors?
  - *3 colors (RGB)*  
*w/ 8 bits each*
  - $2^8 2^8 2^8 = 2^{24} =$   
*16 million*
- Screen Resolution
  - *“4k” = 4096 x 2160*  
*= 9 million pixels*
  - *“8k” = 7680 x 4320*  
*= 33 million pixels*



frame buffer



depth buffer



stencil buffer

“Capturing and Animating Occluded Cloth”  
White, Crane, & Forsyth, SIGGRAPH 2007

# Painting by “Picking” a Picket Fence?

2D → 3D & Usability:

- You “click” on a picket to start painting
- Move up and down, you stay on the picket
- Move left or right, you fall between the pickets.
  - Do you hover in the air between pickets?
  - Does your mouse z coordinate change? Do you start painting the ground?



<https://www.fencenashville.net/>



# Outline for Today

- Homework 4 Questions?
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- **Next Time: Voronoi Diagram**

# Voronoi Diagram - Social Geography

*actually these are the  
capitals of each province  
in the Netherlands*

- There are a bunch of grocery stores spread across a large city.
- You're planning to open another grocery store at **a specific location**.
- How many customers can you expect at the new store location?

*Customers will choose the new store if it is closer to their home than their current store.*

- a.k.a. The “Post Office Problem”

