

CSCI 4560/6560 Computational Geometry

<https://www.cs.rpi.edu/~cutler/classes/computationalgeometry/S22/>

# Lecture 7: Randomized Incremental Construction

# Outline for Today

- Homework 1 Grades Returned & Homework 2 Questions
- Last Time: Half-Space Intersections & Randomized Incremental Construction
- A Sample Quiz Problem?
- Motivation/Application: Smallest Bounding Sphere
  - Collision Detection, Ray Tracing, Robot Placement
- Brute Force Minimal Smallest Bounding Circle
- Bounding Circle by Center of Mass
- Incremental Construction of Smallest Bounding Circle
- Randomized Incremental Construction
- Next Time: Point Location & Orthogonal Range Searching

# Homework 1 Grades Returned

- Read the book problem (even more) carefully
- Sometimes necessary to get into the nitty gritty math details
  - “Pseudocode” = similar to code, not just high level comments within code
  - How do you compute the angle between two vectors/lines? *Good to know/learn*
  - How do you “sort” points in 2D? *Increasing dimension can make a problem more expensive, unclear, undefined, or even impossible!*
- Sometimes degeneracies can be ignored – *State your assumptions clearly*
- Sometimes degeneracies cannot be ignored:
  - *Convex hull does not include points on a boundary edge between 2 other vertices*
- Proof Writing: “Proof by contradiction”, “Proof by induction”, etc.
  - What are you actually trying to prove? Have a clear plan.

# Homework 1 Grades Returned

- Try not to stress about the homework score
- Semester grades will be generously curved :)
- Remember that sometimes theory is about figuring out the insight (sometimes it even feels like a “trick”) that allows you to contradict an assumption, or simplify/reduce the problem, etc.
  - Try not to stress if you can't figure it out quickly
  - Try not to stress if you can't figure it out on your own
  - Ask for a hint or help if you're stuck

*Even expert theorists rely on co-authors/colleagues/reviewers to proofread their proofs and point out typos & counter-examples/bugs*

# Homework Autograding

- Assignments are new & autograding prep is time consuming
- If you submit early, your autograde score may change
  - Autograder may initially be too strict on output format, output ordering, floating point precision, pixel perfect output, CPU/memory resources, etc.
- If it is unclear why you aren't getting full credit, please ask
- Some errors:
  - Specific string keywords/spaces expected
  - Clockwise vs. counter-clockwise winding order
- Qt drawing windows are "blocking"
  - Don't launch before you have written your output files

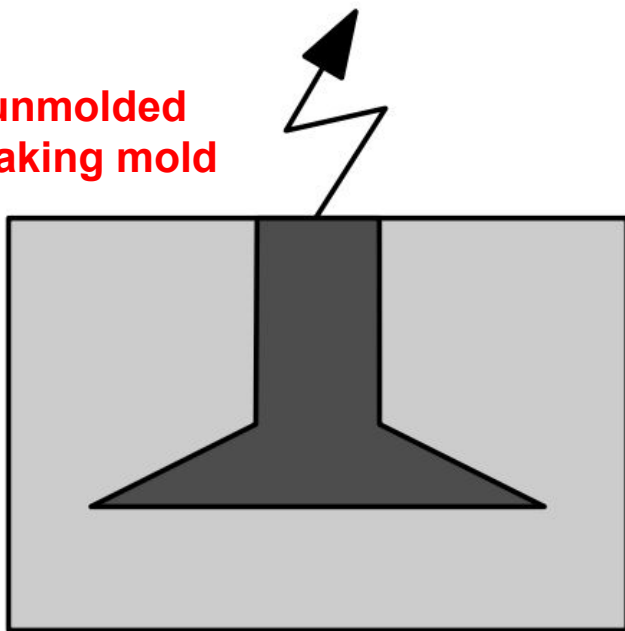
*Submittity isn't attempting to close these windows,  
your program is just force killed after a 10 second timeout*

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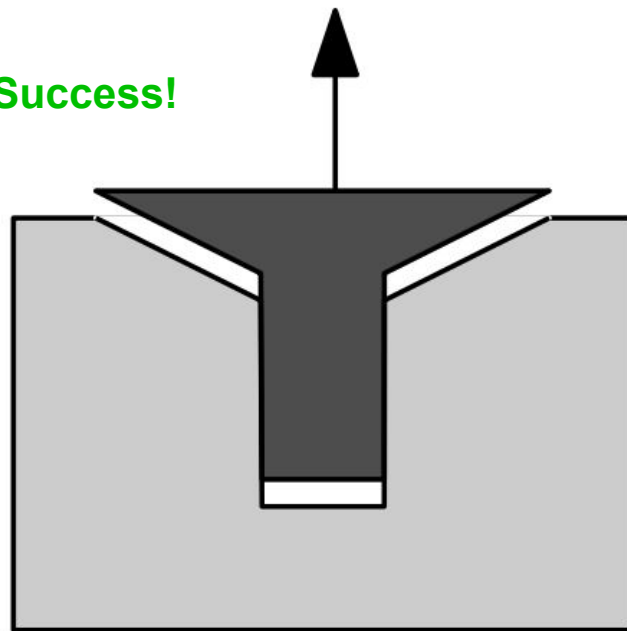
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# Motivation: Manufacturing by Mold Casting

**Failure!**  
Cannot be unmolded  
without breaking mold



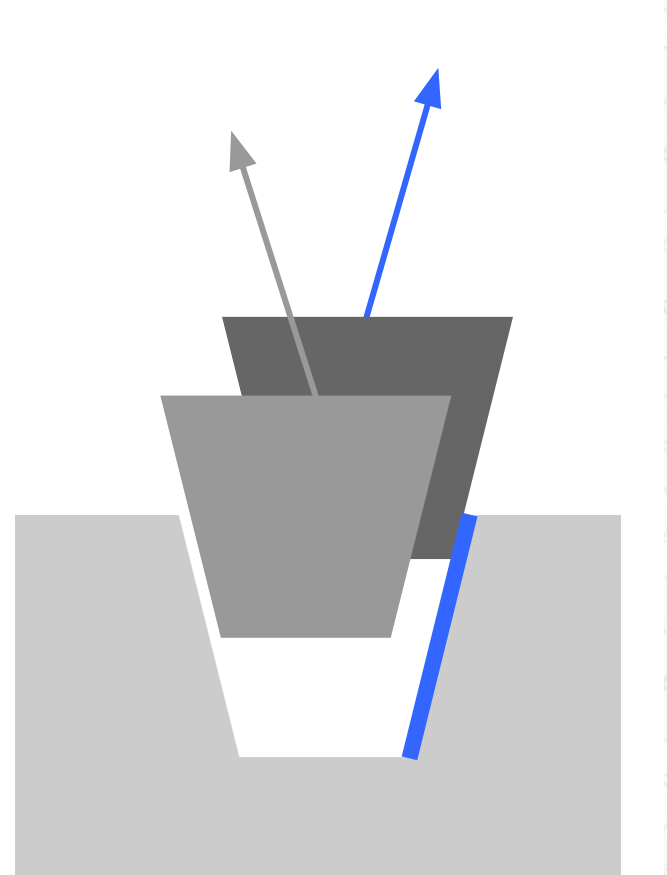
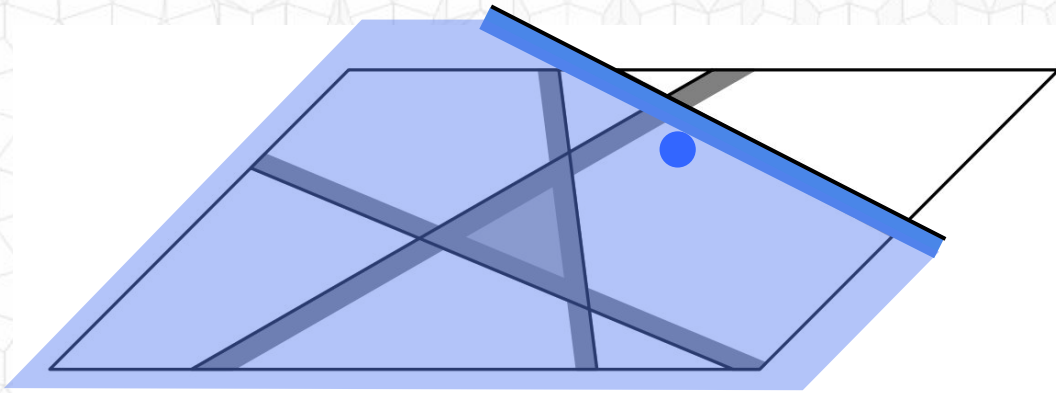
**Success!**



- Each facet places a *linear constraint* on the valid unmolding directions

$$n_x d_x + n_y d_y + n_z \leq 0$$

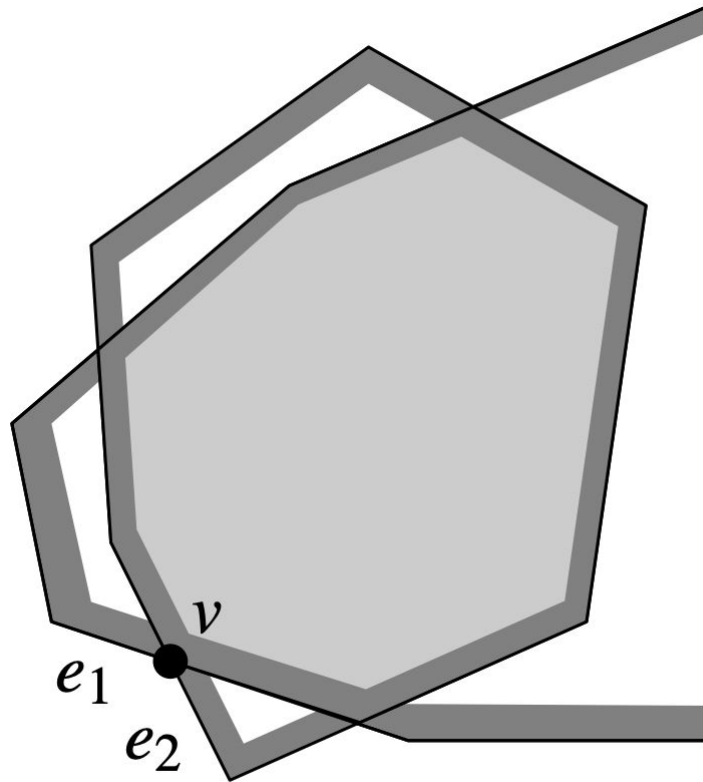
- This half-plane / half-space space can be visualized on our dual representation  $z=1$





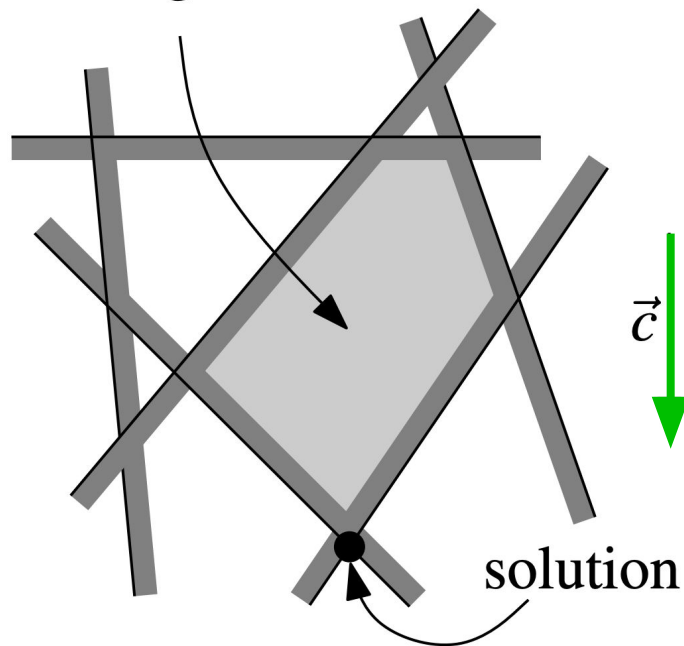
# Half Space Intersection

- Compute Feasible Region  
(a Convex Polygon)  
by Divide & Conquer:
  - Convex Overlay of 2  
Convex Polygons  $\rightarrow O(n)$
  - Full recursive solution:  
 $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$
- *Computing **the region** is expensive & unnecessary if we only need **one valid point** inside the feasible region*



# Linear Optimization, a.k.a. Linear Programming

feasible region



Maximize  $c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \cdots + c_dx_d$

Subject to  $a_{1,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{1,d}x_d \leq b_1$   
 $a_{2,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{2,d}x_d \leq b_2$   
 $\vdots$   
 $a_{n,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{n,d}x_d \leq b_n$

constraints

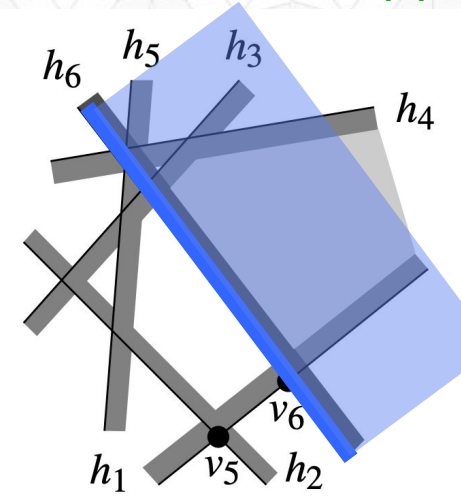
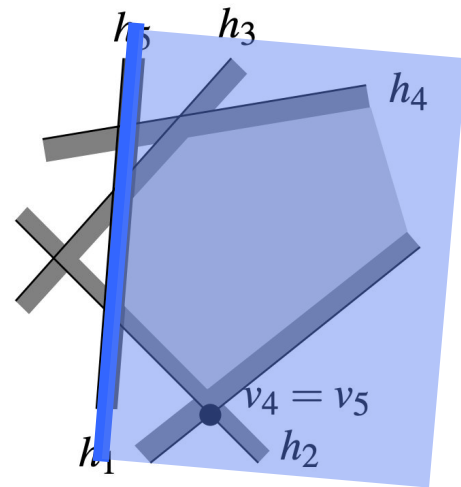
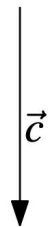
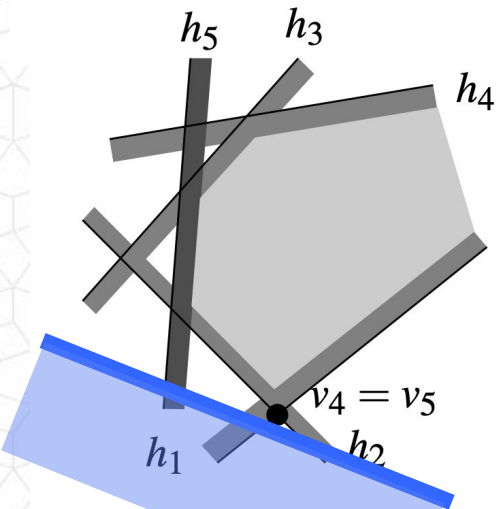
# Incremental Solution - Analysis

- At each step, we will add in the next halfspace constraint  $h_{i+1}$

**Infeasible - no solution**

**Satisfied:  $v_1 = v_{i+1}$**

**Compute new  $v_{i+1}$**



$\rightarrow O(1)$   
short circuit exit!

$\rightarrow O(1)$

$\rightarrow O(n)$

# Incremental Solution - Analysis

- Order the half-space constraints in some order:  $h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_n$
- We will solve incremental versions of the problem:  $C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots, C_n$

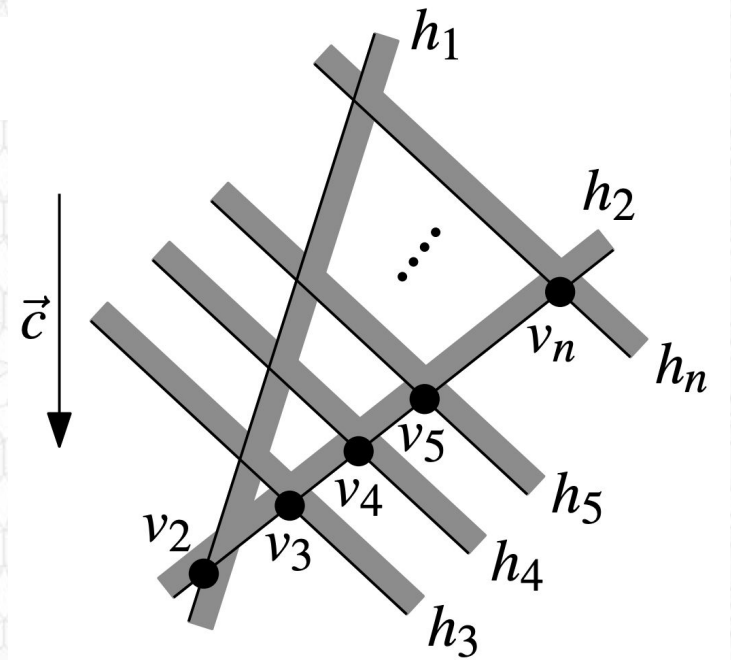
→  $O(n)$

- Which have optimal solutions:

$v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n$

- $C_i$  has with half-space constraints  $\{h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_i\}$  with solution  $v_i$

**Overall:**  
→  $O(n^2)$  worst case



# Randomized Linear Programming

randomize the order  
of the halfspaces

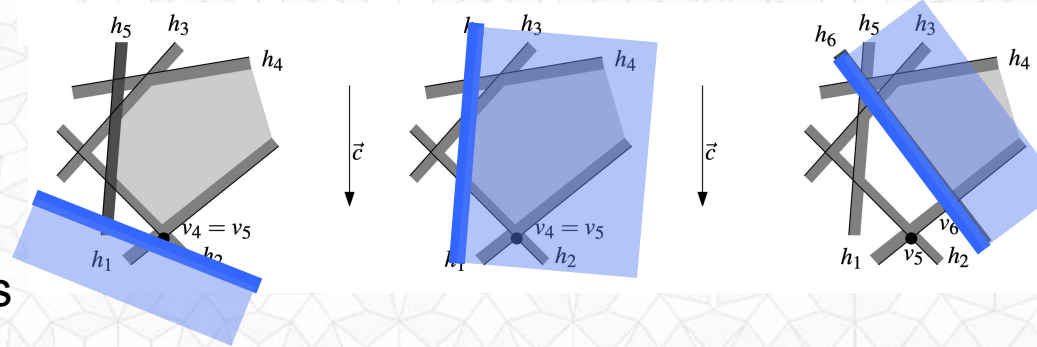
- Order the half-space constraints in some order:  $h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_n$
- We will solve incremental versions of the problem:  $C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots, C_n$

→  $O(n)$

- Which have optimal solutions:

$v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n$

- $C_i$  has with half-space constraints  $\{h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_i\}$  with solution  $v_i$



→  $O(1)$   
short circuit  
exit!

→  $O(1)$

→  $O(n)$

**Overall:**

→  $O(n)$  expected case

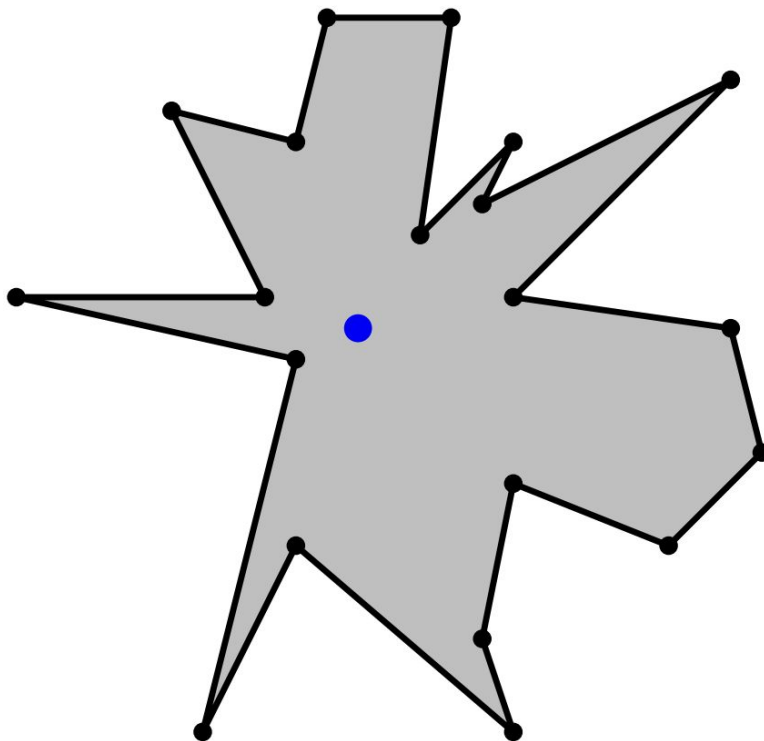
Can be shown that the case to  
recompute the solution is rare...

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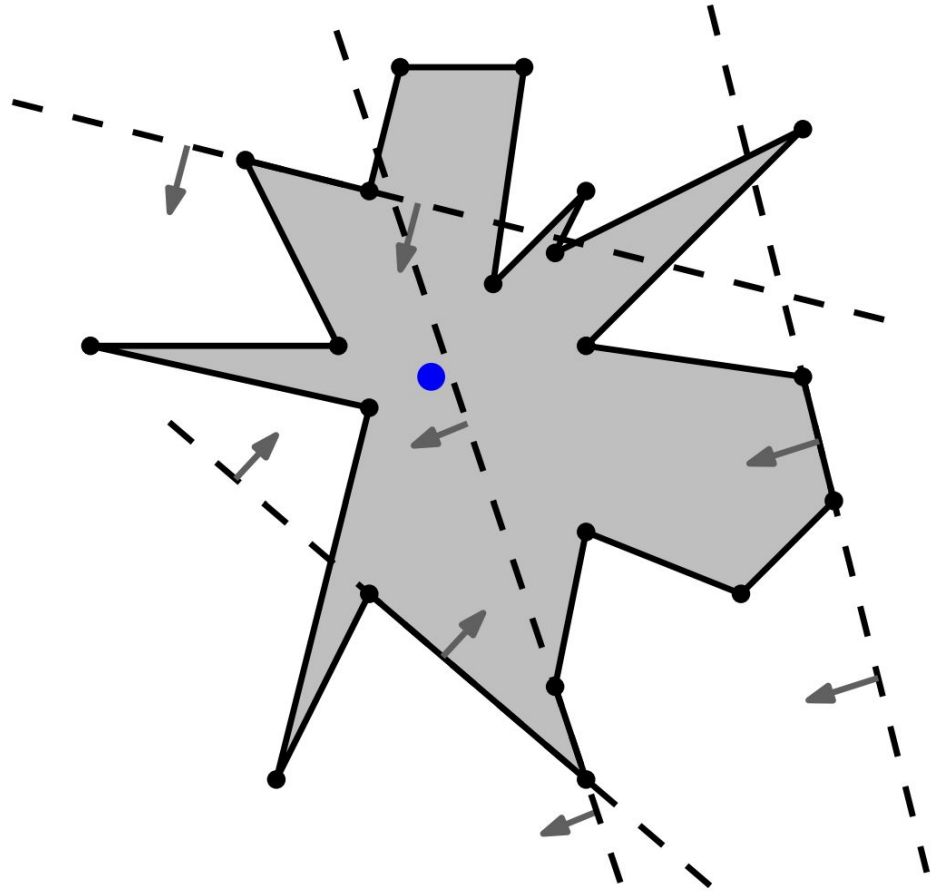
# One Guardable Polygons

Problem: Given a simple polygon with  $n$  vertices, can we decide efficiently if one guard is enough?



# One Guardable Polygons

Frank Staals,  
<http://www.cs.uu.nl/docs/vakken/ga/2021/>



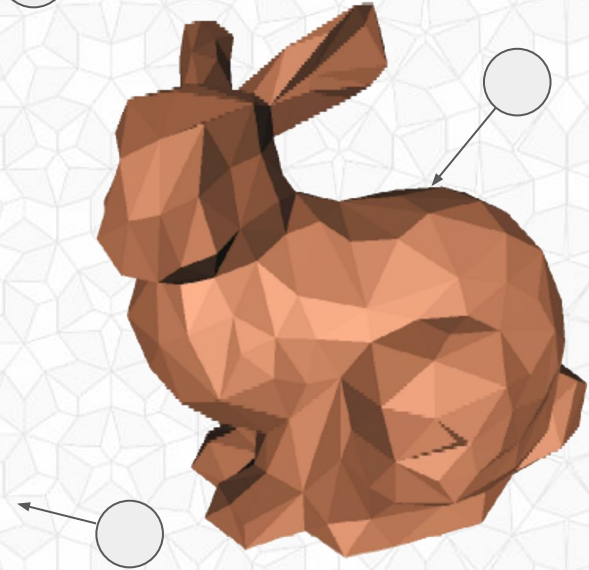
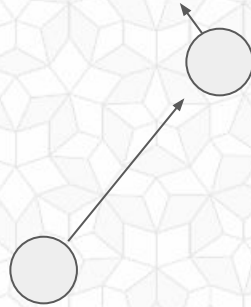


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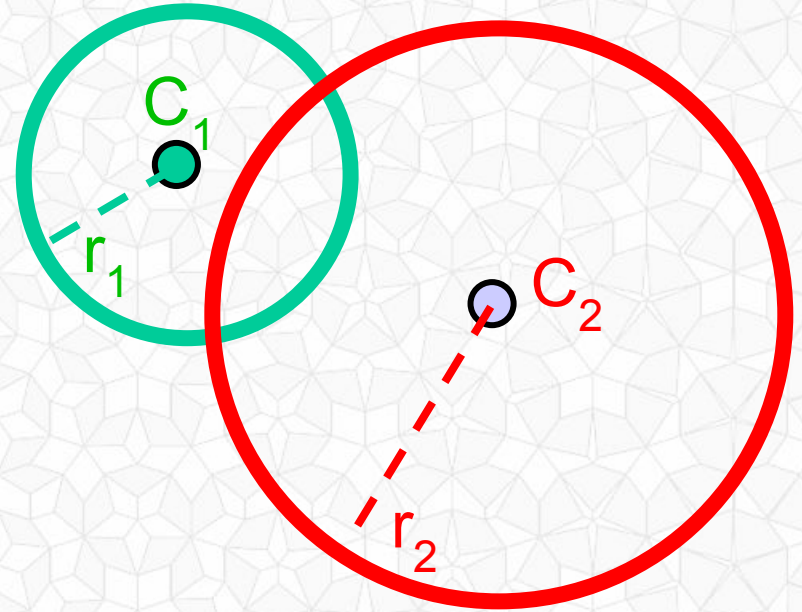
# Application: Collision Detection

- Virtual Reality / Video Games
- Robotics
- Scientific Simulations
  
- Simulation over *time*
- *Detect* collisions
- Compute response:
  - Force of impact
  - Damage (deformation or fracture)
  - Bouncing / change of direction



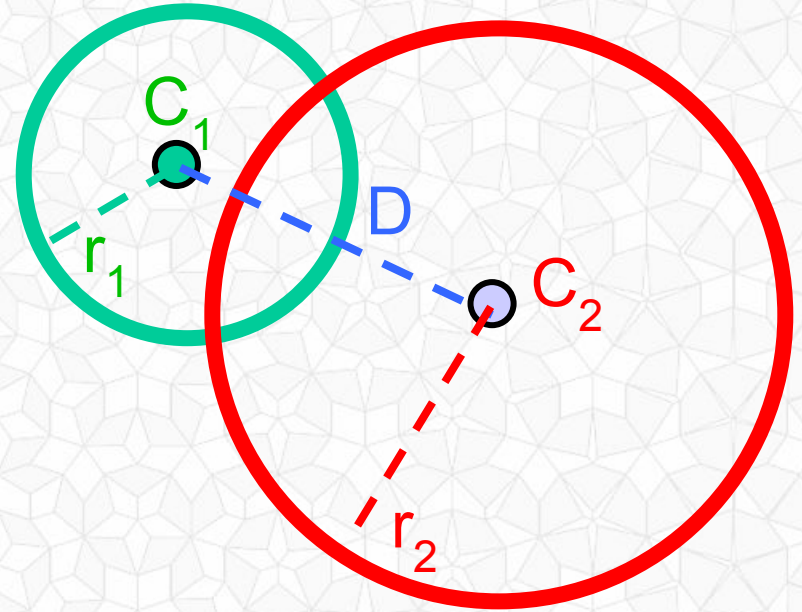
# Intersect Two Spheres

- Collision Detection /  
Overlap test between  
two spheres?



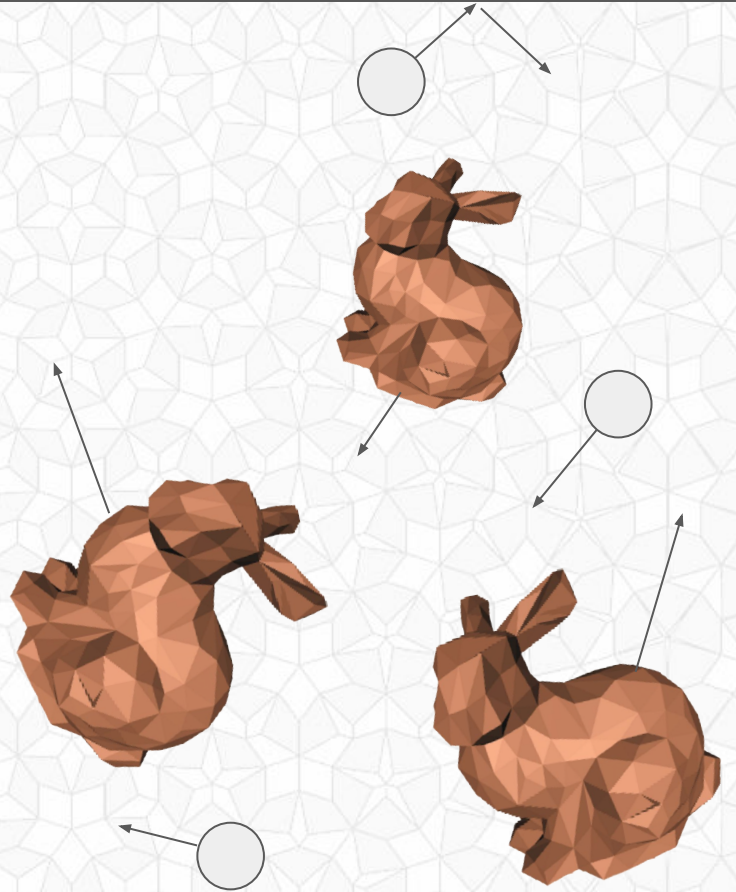
# Intersect Two Spheres

- Collision Detection /  
Overlap test between  
two spheres?
- Compute  $D$ , the  
distance between centers
- $D(C_1, C_2) < r_1 + r_2$



# Cost of Collision Detection?

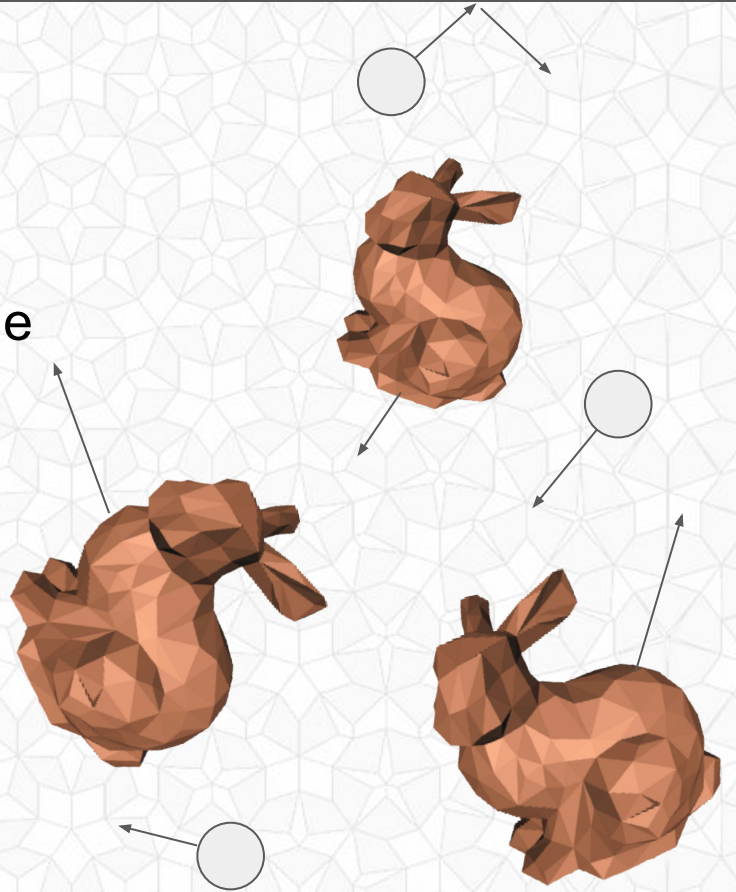
- If we have  $n$  bouncing ping pong balls inside of a box (6 quads)?
- If we add a stationary bunny statue (w/  $f=60,000$  faces) inside the box?
- What if we add  $b$  bunny statues bouncing around inside the box?



# Naive Collision Detection

- Every frame of animation/simulation, intersect every sphere/triangle in motion with every other sphere/triangle (both stationary and in motion)

$$\rightarrow O( (n + b*f + 6) * (n + b*f) )$$



# Application: Ray Tracing

- Cast  $g = 1$  gazillion rays to simulate photons bouncing off of objects (& through objects!)
- Naive: Intersect every ray with every triangle



Laura Lediae

<http://www.omnigraphica.com/classes/cs6620/index.html>

# Application: Ray Tracing

- Cast  $g = 1$  gazillion rays to simulate photons bouncing off of objects (& through objects!)
- Naive: Intersect every ray with every triangle

→  $O(g * f)$



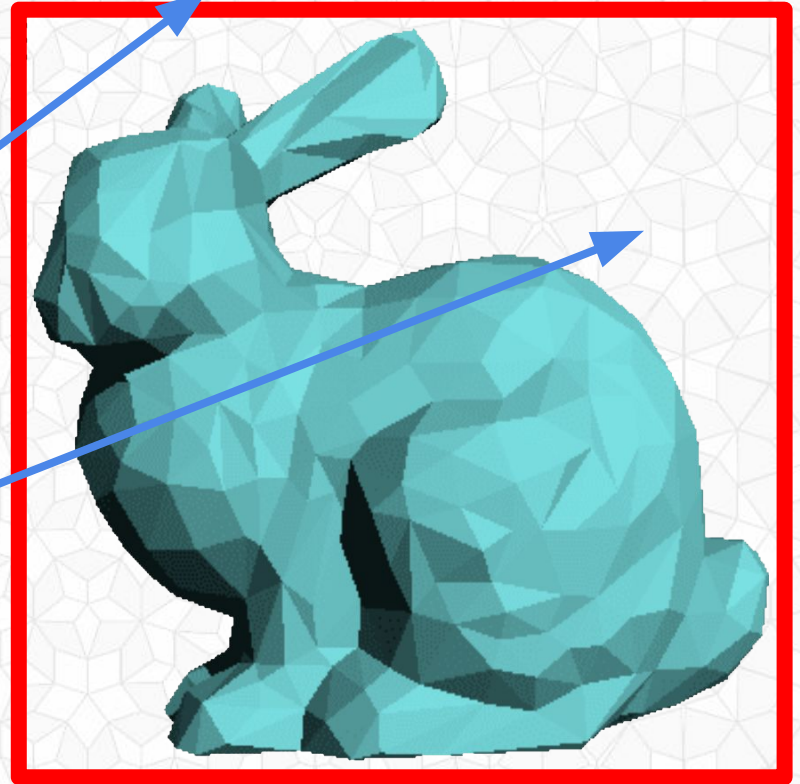
Laura Lediaeve

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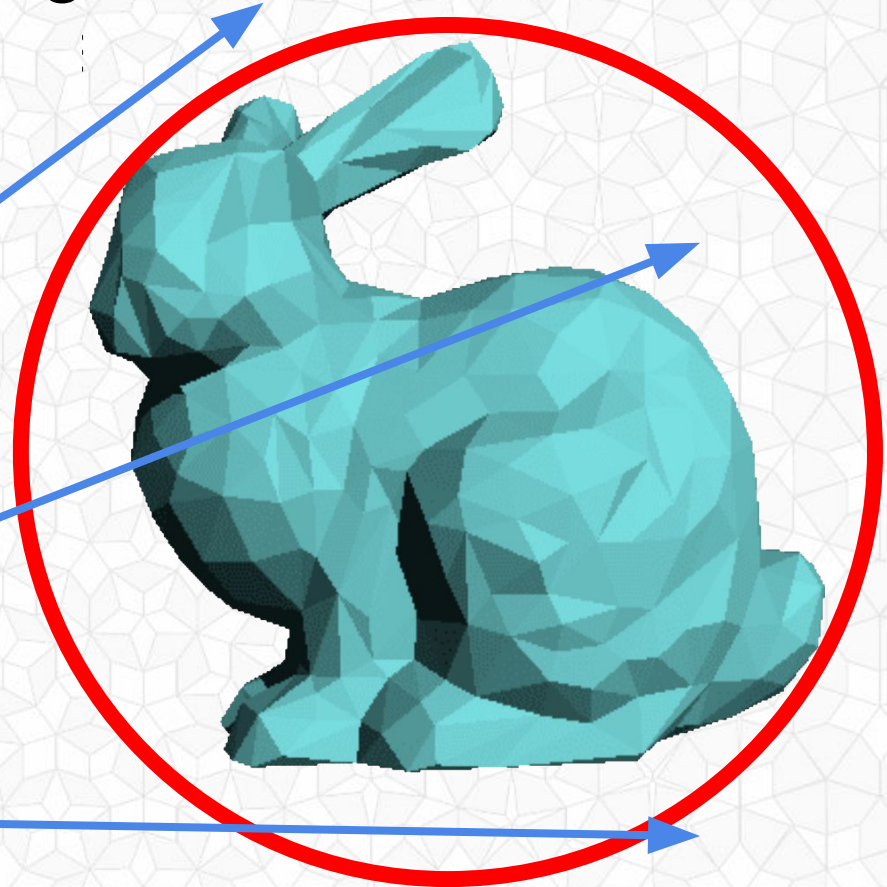
# Conservative Bounding Region

- Check for a ray intersection with a conservative bounding region
- If it doesn't intersect the bounding shape, then we don't need to check against every triangle!



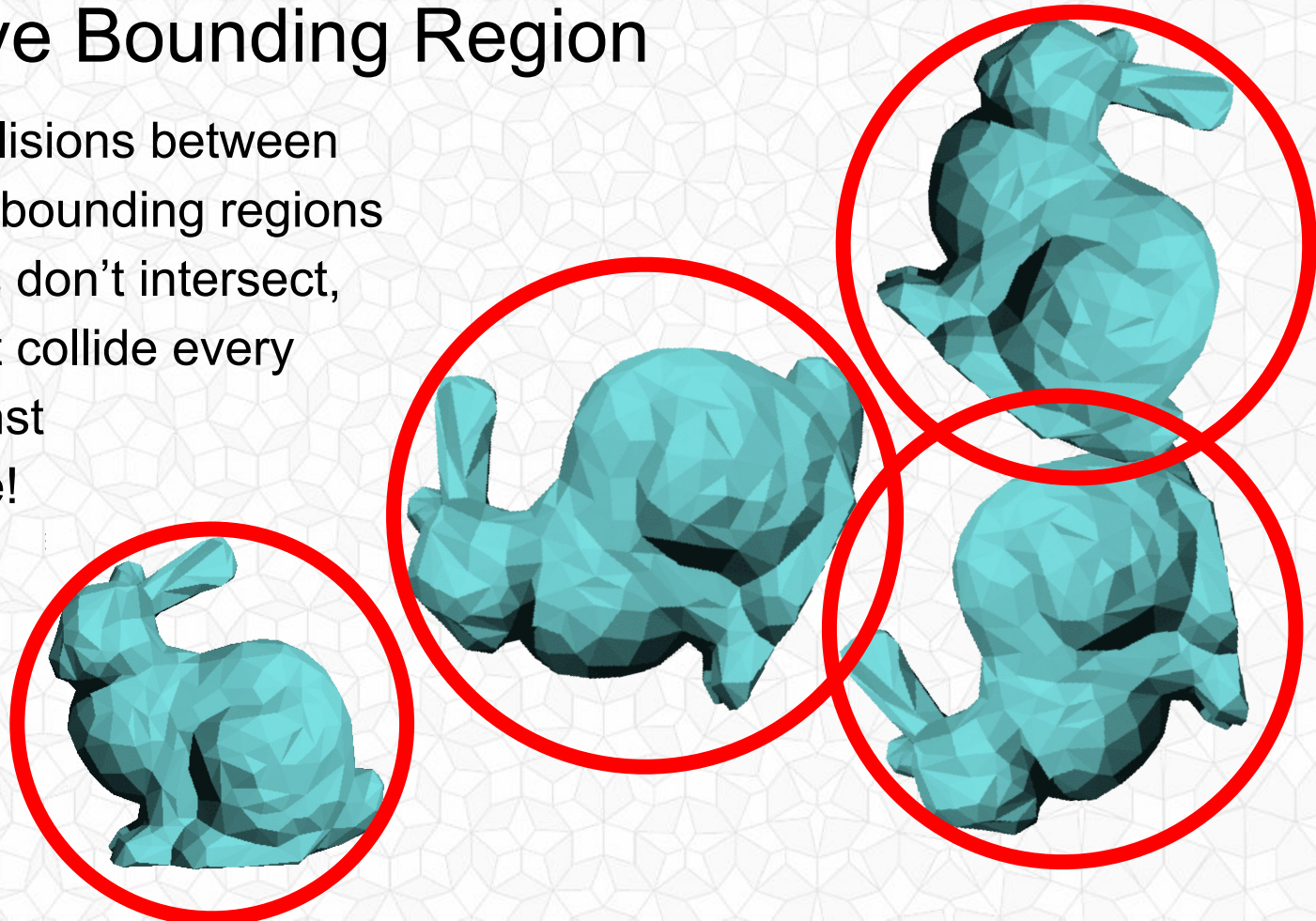
# Conservative Bounding Region

- Check for a ray intersection with a conservative bounding region
- If it doesn't intersect the bounding shape, then we don't need to check against every triangle!



# Conservative Bounding Region

- Check for collisions between conservative bounding regions
- If two regions don't intersect, then we don't collide every triangle against every triangle!

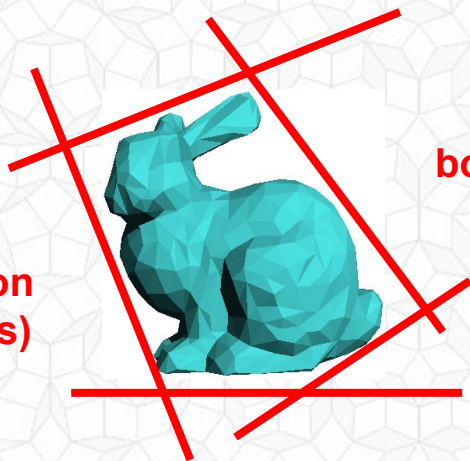


# Conservative Bounding Regions

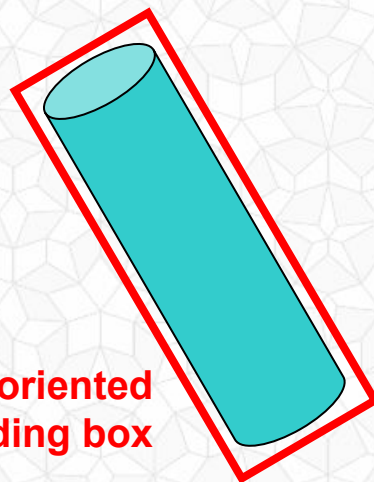
Requirements:

- tight → avoid false positives
- fast to intersect
- easy/fast/perfect construction  
(*less important*)

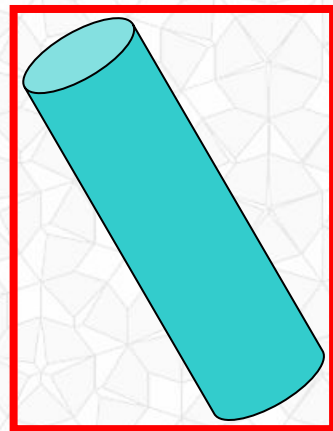
arbitrary convex region  
(bounding half-spaces)



oriented  
bounding box



axis-aligned  
bounding box

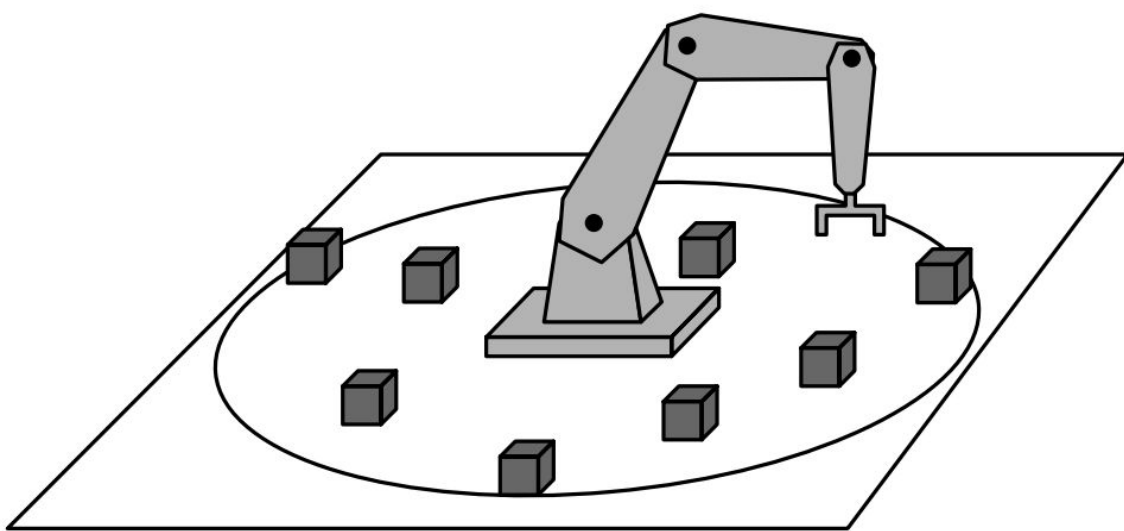


bounding  
sphere



# Another Application: Robot Placement

- We need a fixed-base robot to reach a bunch of objects from a set of  $n$  known positions
- What is the smallest robot necessary (minimum arm length)?
- Where should the robot base be located?



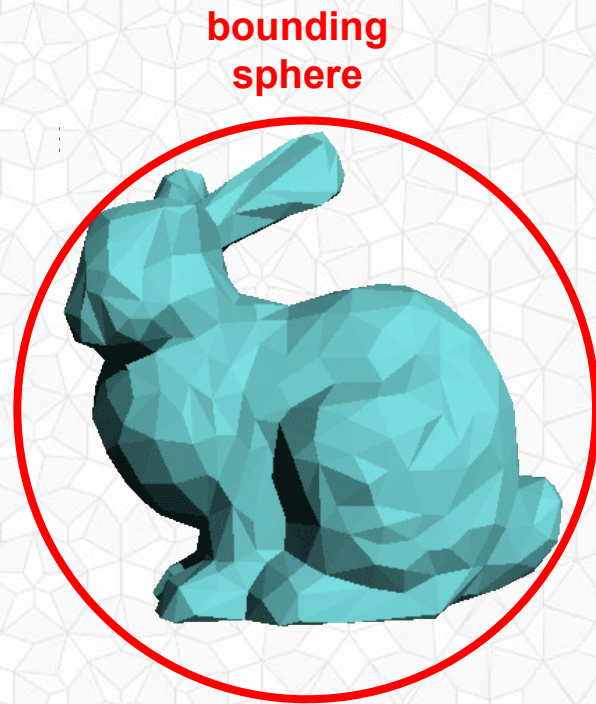
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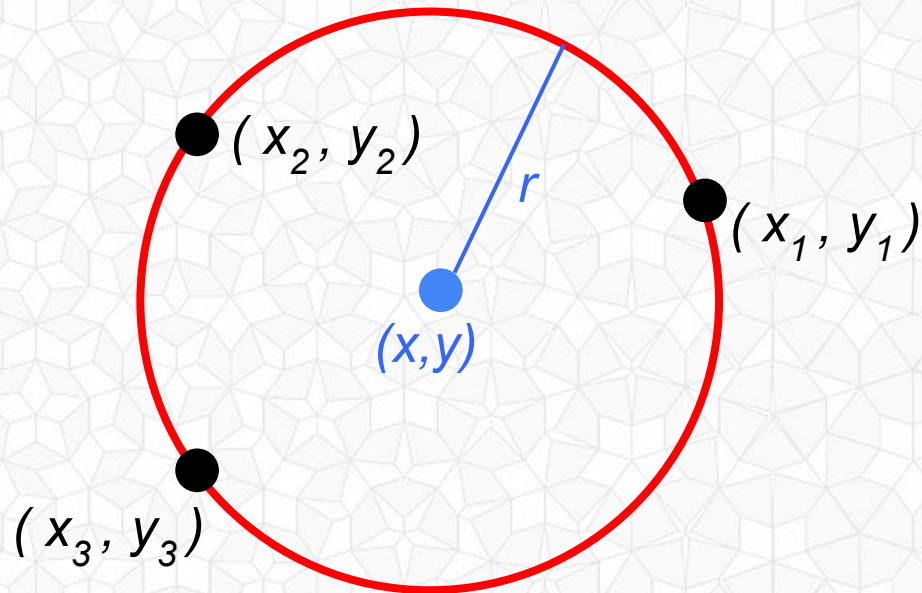
# Problem: Minimal Bounding ~~Sphere~~ Circle

- Input:  $n$  vertices in ~~3D~~ 2D
- Assume (for convenience):
  - “General Position”
    - No 3 points are collinear
    - No 4 points lie on the same circle
- Output: 3 of those vertices uniquely define a circle such that all other points lie inside of that circle

*Note: In 3D, we would output 4 vertices  
(4 vertices uniquely define a sphere)*



# How to Fit a Circle to 3 Points? (*not collinear*)





# How to Fit a Circle to 3 Points? *(not collinear)*

Points:  $(x_1, y_1)$   $(x_2, y_2)$   $(x_3, y_3)$

Solve for center =  $(x, y)$  and radius =  $r$

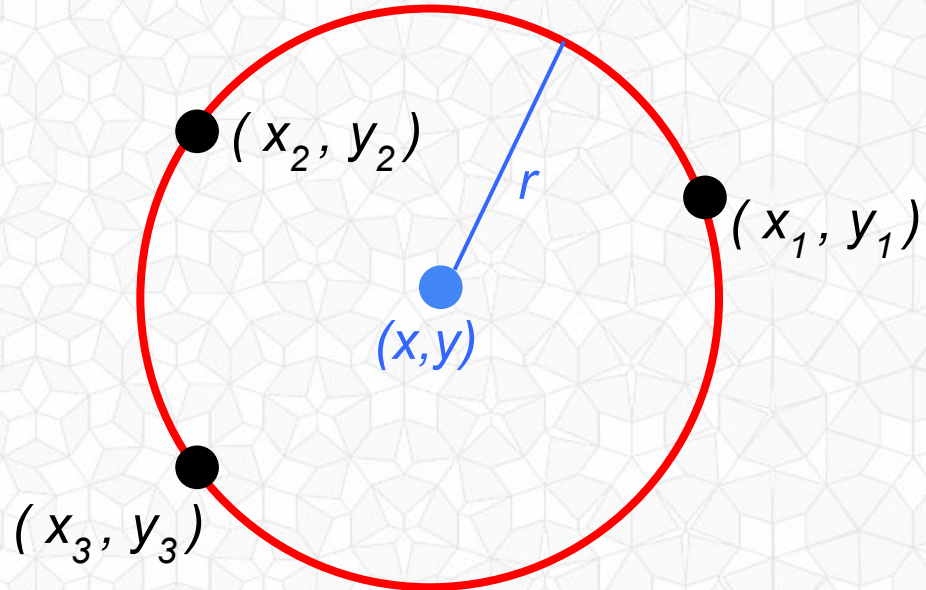
Solve system of equations:

3 equations, 3 unknowns

$$(x_1 - x)^2 + (y_1 - y)^2 = r^2$$

$$(x_2 - x)^2 + (y_2 - y)^2 = r^2$$

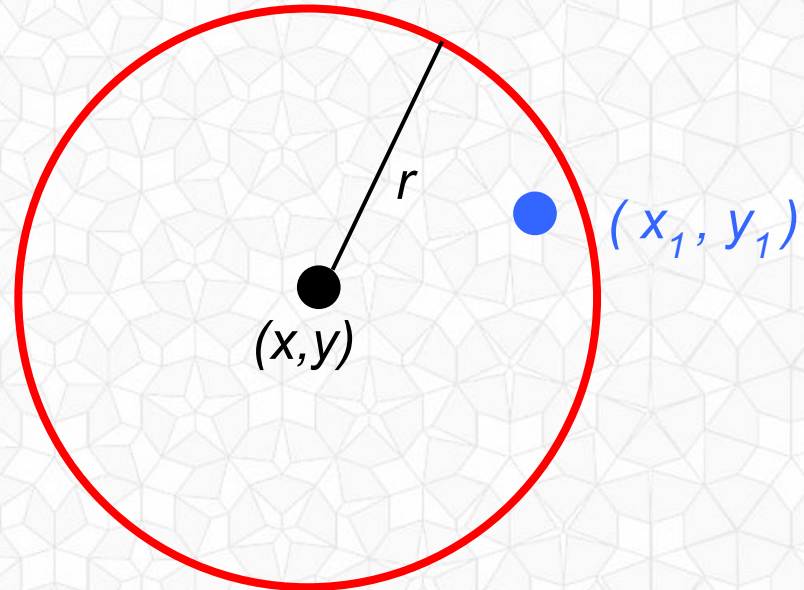
$$(x_3 - x)^2 + (y_3 - y)^2 = r^2$$



# How to Test if Point is Inside/Outside Circle?

Point:  $(x_1, y_1)$

Circle: center =  $(x, y)$  and radius =  $r$



# How to Test if Point is Inside/Outside Circle?

Point:  $(x_1, y_1)$

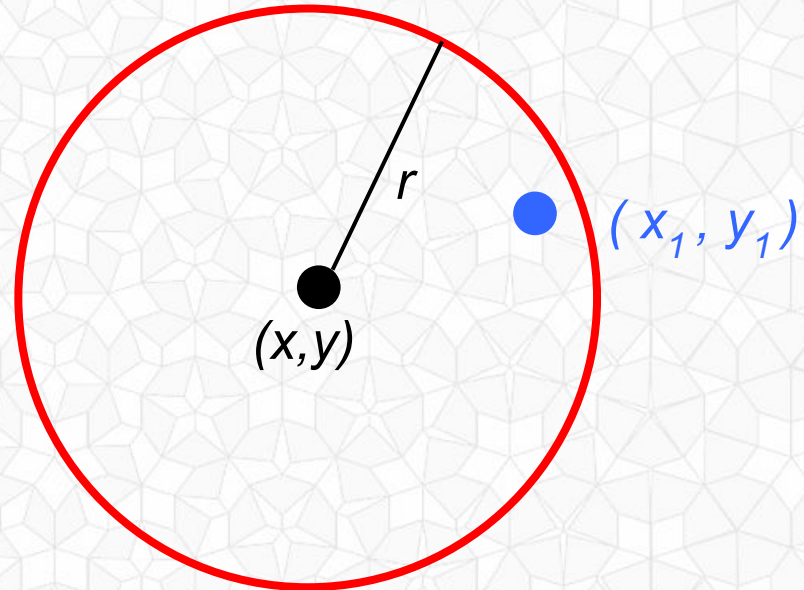
Circle: center =  $(x, y)$  and radius =  $r$

Evaluate:

$(x_1-x)^2 + (y_1-y)^2 > r^2 \rightarrow$  *outside circle*

$(x_1-x)^2 + (y_1-y)^2 = r^2 \rightarrow$  *on edge of circle*

$(x_1-x)^2 + (y_1-y)^2 < r^2 \rightarrow$  *inside circle*



# Brute Force Minimal Bounding Circle

- Input:  $n$  vertices in 2D



# Brute Force Minimal Bounding Circle

- Input:  $n$  vertices in 2D
- For every triplet of those points
  - Compute circle
  - Check against all other points
    - Reject if any are outside circle



Overall Analysis:

# Brute Force Minimal Bounding Circle

- Input:  $n$  vertices in 2D
- For every triplet of those points
  - “ $n$  chose 3” triplets =  $n! / (3! * (n-3)!)$   
=  $n*(n-1)*(n-2)/6 = O(n^3)$
  - Compute circle →  $O(1)$
  - Check against all other points
    - $O(n)$
    - Reject if any are outside circle



Overall Analysis: →  $O(n^4)$  *can we do better?*

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# Bounding Circle *by Center of Mass*

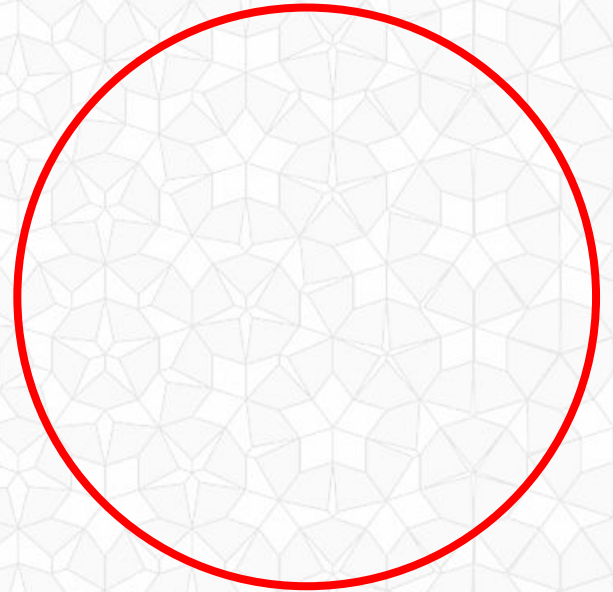
- Let the center = average of all of the vertices





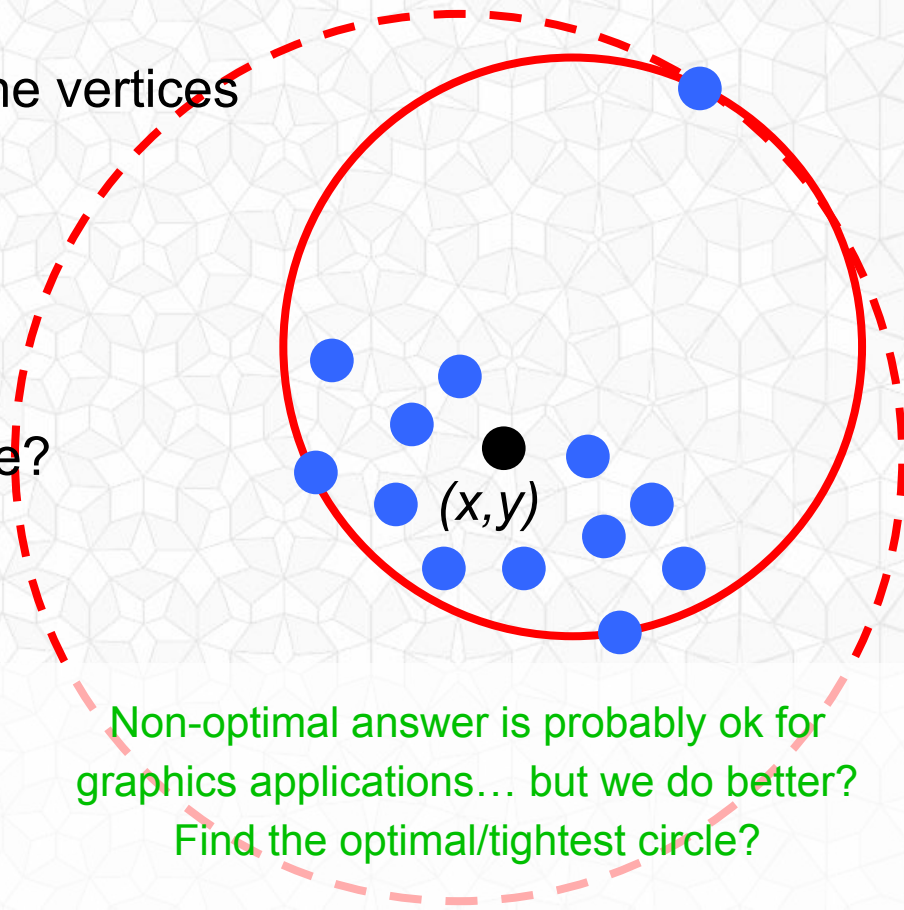
# Bounding Circle *by Center of Mass*

- Let the center = average of all of the vertices
- Find point furthest from center, use that to set the radius
- Are all points on or inside this circle?
- Overall running time?
- Is this optimal/tightest circle?



# Bounding Circle *by Center of Mass*

- Let the center = average of all of the vertices  
→  $O(n)$
- Find point furthest from center,  
use that to set the radius  
→  $O(n)$
- Are all points on or inside this circle?  
→ *yes!*
- Overall running time? →  $O(n)$
- Is this optimal/tightest circle?  
*Probably not, maybe only 1 point on circle*



Non-optimal answer is probably ok for graphics applications... but we do better?  
Find the optimal/tightest circle?

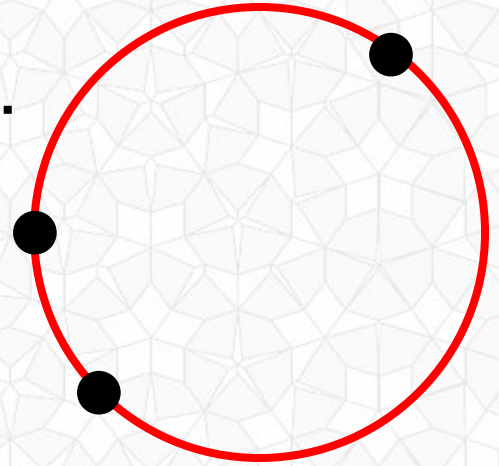
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# Let's Try Incremental Construction...

- Make a circle with the first 3 points  $p_1, p_2, p_3$
- Loop over all of the remaining points

For  $i = 4 \dots n$



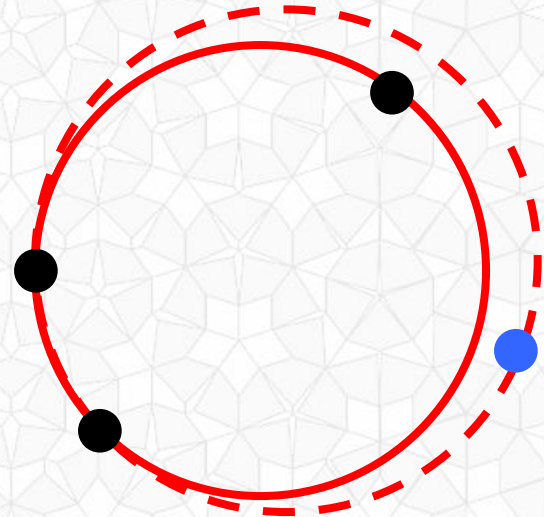
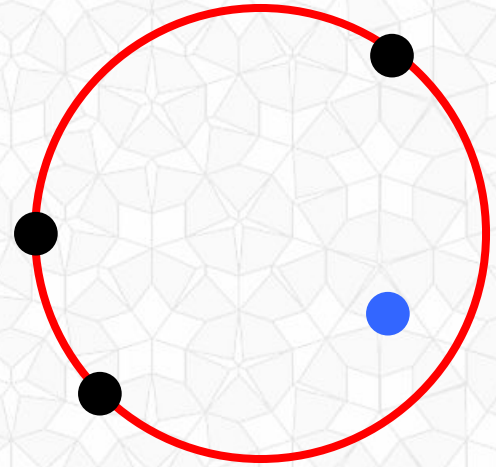
# Incremental Construction

- Make a circle with the first 3 points  $p_1, p_2, p_3$
- Loop over all of the remaining points

For  $i = 4 \dots n$

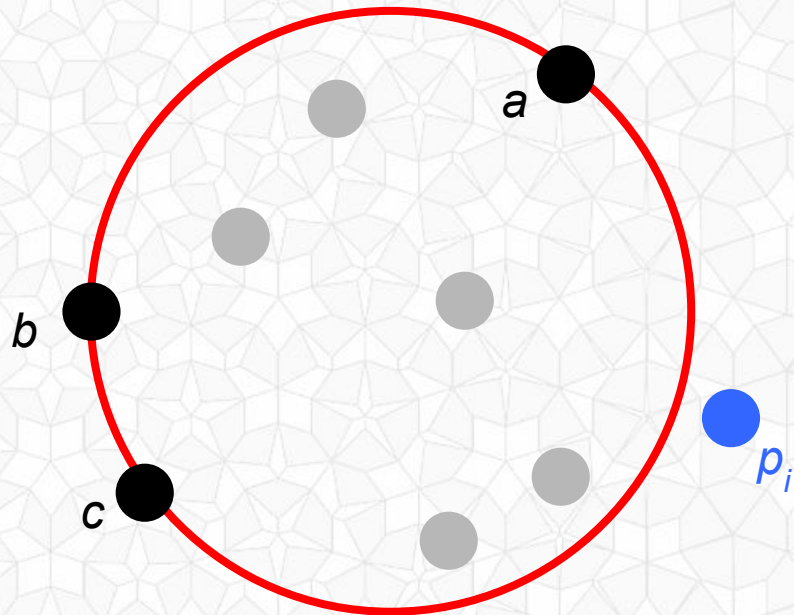
- If the  $p_i$  is inside the circle, then the solution for points  $\{p_1 \rightarrow p_{i-1}\}$  is also the solution for points  $\{p_1 \rightarrow p_i\}$
- If  $p_i$  is outside the circle, then **solve for the new circle**

*NOTE:  $p_i$  is definitely ON the circle solution for  $\{p_1 \rightarrow p_i\}$*



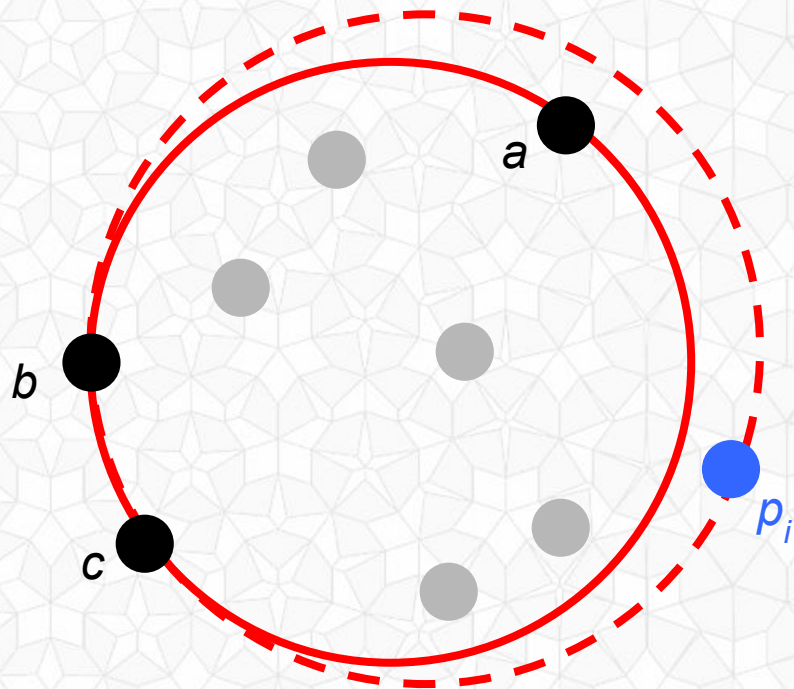
# Complexity of Incremental Construction?

- If the current circle is fit to points  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ...



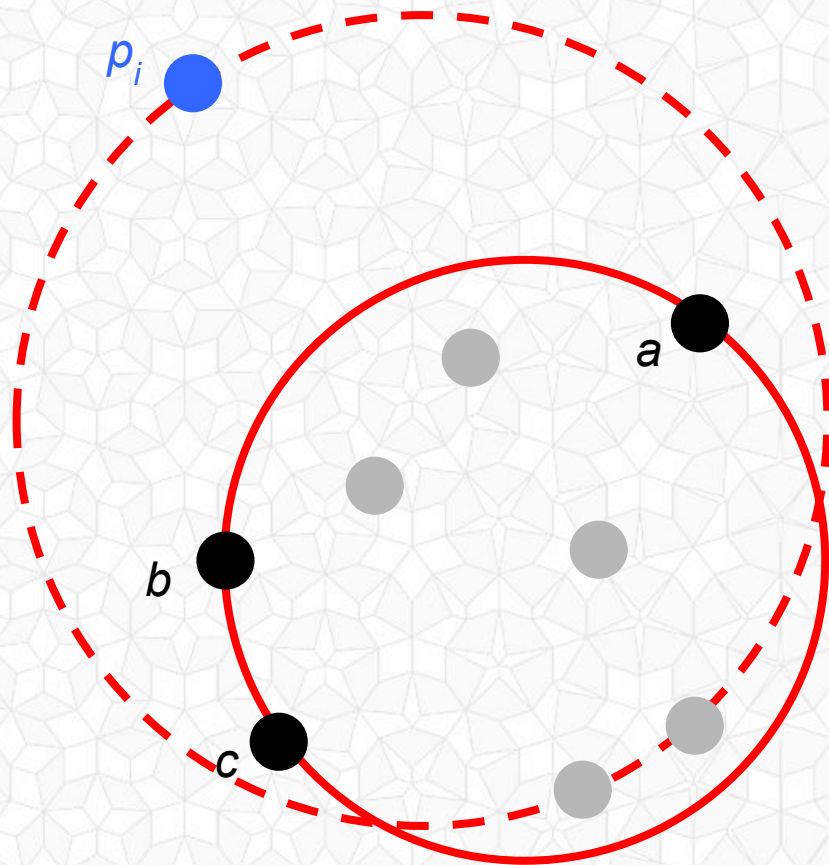
# Complexity of Incremental Construction?

- If the current circle is fit to points  $a, b, c, \dots$
- Can we prove/disprove that adding  $p_i$  will be a circle fit to
  - $a, b, p_i$  OR
  - $b, c, p_i$  OR
  - $a, c, p_i$



# Complexity of Incremental Construction?

- If the current circle is fit to points  $a, b, c, \dots$
- Can we prove/disprove that adding  $p_i$  will be a circle fit to
  - $a, b, p_i$  OR
  - $a, c, p_i$  OR
  - $b, c, p_i$
- *Do we need to consider all other points? YES!!!*





# Complexity of Incremental Construction?

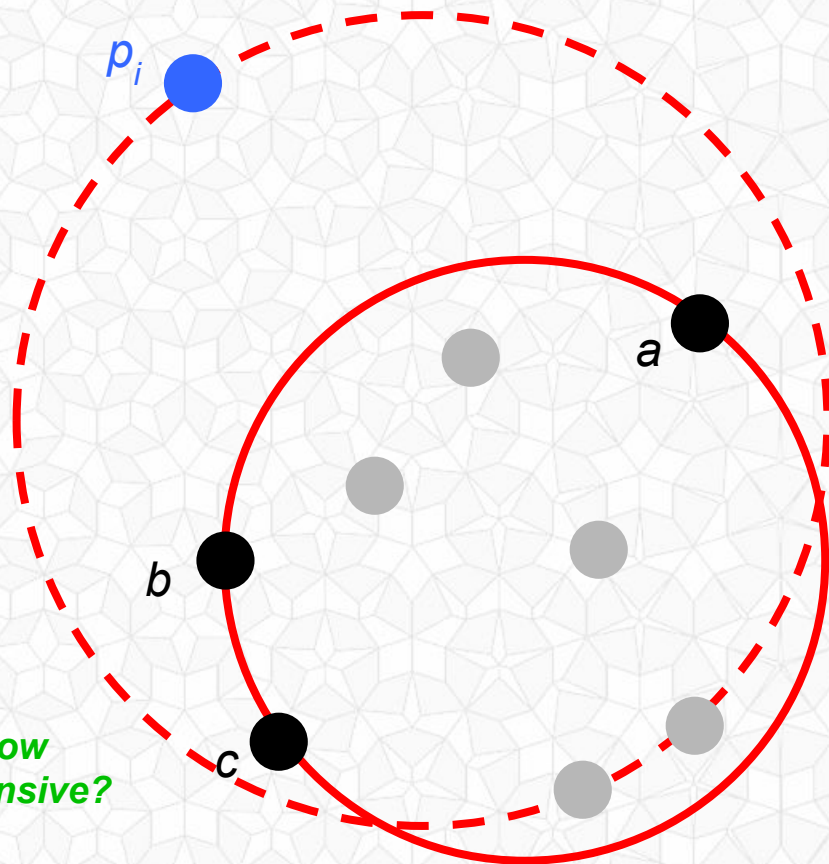
- If the current circle is fit to points  $a, b, c, \dots$
- Can we prove/disprove that adding  $p_i$  will be a circle fit to

- $a, b, p_i$  OR
- $a, c, p_i$  OR
- $b, c, p_i$

would be  
constant time

- *Do we need to consider all other points? YES!!!*

how  
expensive?



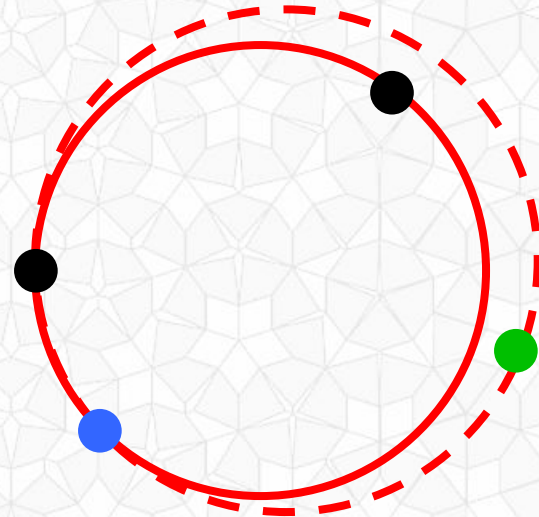
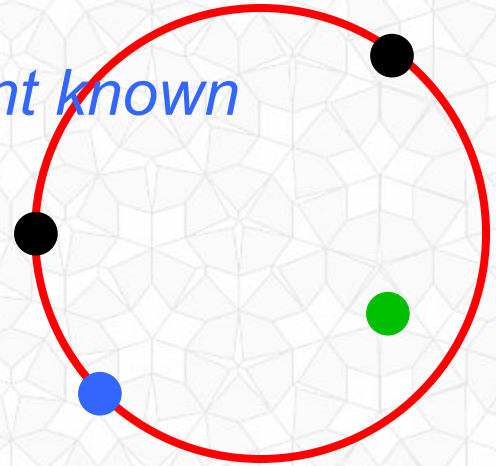
# Incremental Construction *with one point known*

- Make a circle with the points  $p_i, p_1, p_2$
- Loop over all of the remaining points

For  $j = 3 \dots i-1$

- If the  $p_j$  is inside the circle, then the solution for points  $\{p_i, p_1 \rightarrow p_{j-1}\}$  is also the solution for points  $\{p_i, p_1 \rightarrow p_j\}$
- If the  $p_j$  is outside the circle, then **solve for the new circle**

*NOTE:  $p_j$  is definitely ON the circle solution for  $\{p_i, p_1 \rightarrow p_j\}$*

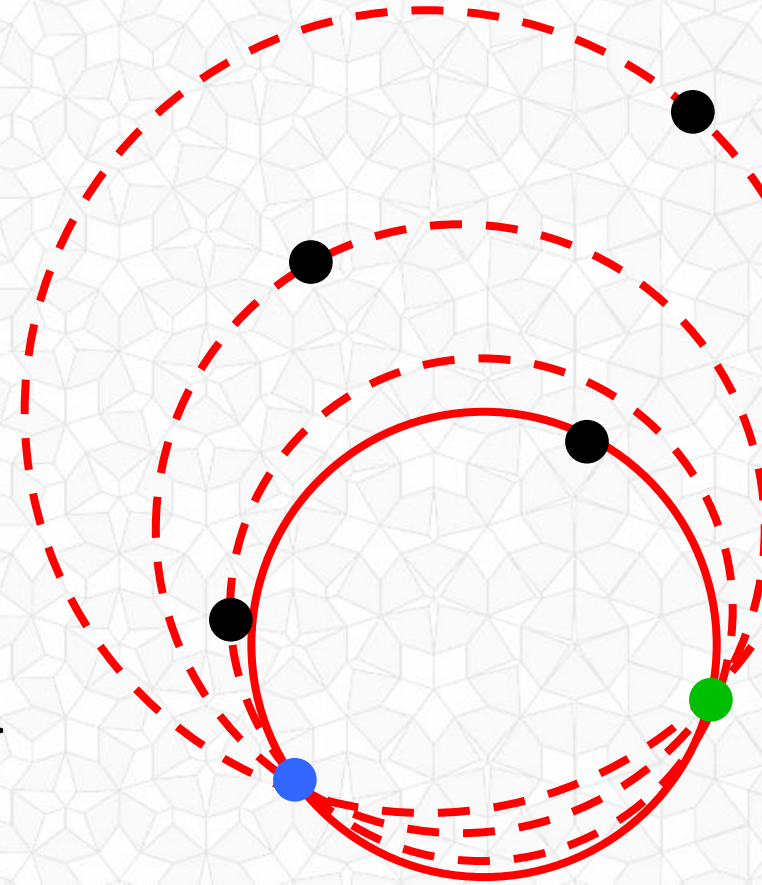


# Incremental Construction *with two points known*

- Make a circle with the points  $p_i, p_j, p_1$
- Loop over all of the remaining points

For  $k = 2 \dots j-1$

- If the  $p_k$  is inside the circle, then the solution for points  $\{p_i, p_j, p_1 \rightarrow p_{k-1}\}$  is also the solution for points  $\{p_i, p_j, p_1 \rightarrow p_k\}$
- If the  $p_k$  is outside the circle, then the solution for  $\{p_i, p_j, p_1 \rightarrow p_k\}$  is the circle fit to  $p_i, p_j, p_k$



# Analysis of Incremental Construction

- Incremental Construction with two known points is  $O(n)$ 
  - 
  -
- Incremental Construction with one known point is:
  - Worst case =
  - Best case =
- Overall, Incremental Construction is:
  - Worst case =
  - Best case =

# Analysis of Incremental Construction

- Incremental Construction **with two known points** is  $O(n)$ 
  - We have to check  $O(1)$  each of the  $n$  points
  - Computing a new circle  $O(1)$  will be done at most  $n$  times
- Incremental Construction **with one known point** is:
  - Worst case =  $O(n^2)$  – if we compute a new circle, calling **two known points** function,  $n$  times
  - Best case =  $O(n)$  – never or rarely call the **two known points** function
- Overall, Incremental Construction is:
  - Worst case =  $O(n^3)$  – if we compute a new circle, calling the **one known point** function,  $n$  times
  - Best case =  $O(n)$  – never or rarely call the **one known point** function

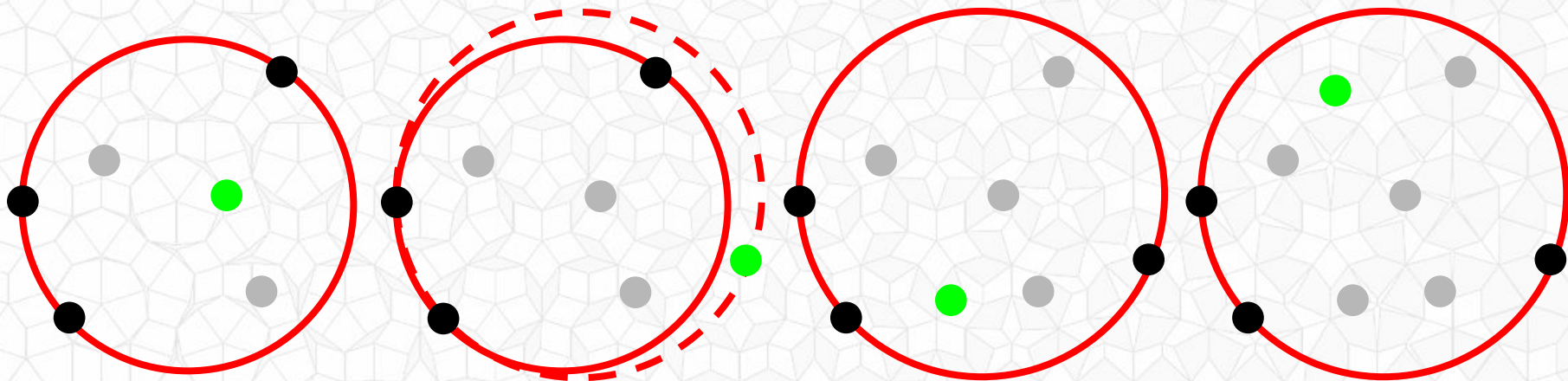
# Outline for Today

- Homework 1 Grades Returned & Homework 2 Questions
- Last Time: Half-Space Intersections & Randomized Incremental Construction
- A Sample Quiz Problem?
- Motivation/Application: Smallest Bounding Sphere
  - Collision Detection, Ray Tracing, Robot Placement
- Brute Force Minimal Smallest Bounding Circle
- Bounding Circle by Center of Mass
- Incremental Construction of Smallest Bounding Circle
- **Randomized Incremental Construction**
- Next Time: Point Location & Orthogonal Range Searching

# Randomized Incremental Construction

- If we randomize the initial order of the points, we will *RARELY* need to call the helper functions to compute the circles... Why???
- Let's think backwards... about removing points one at a time.

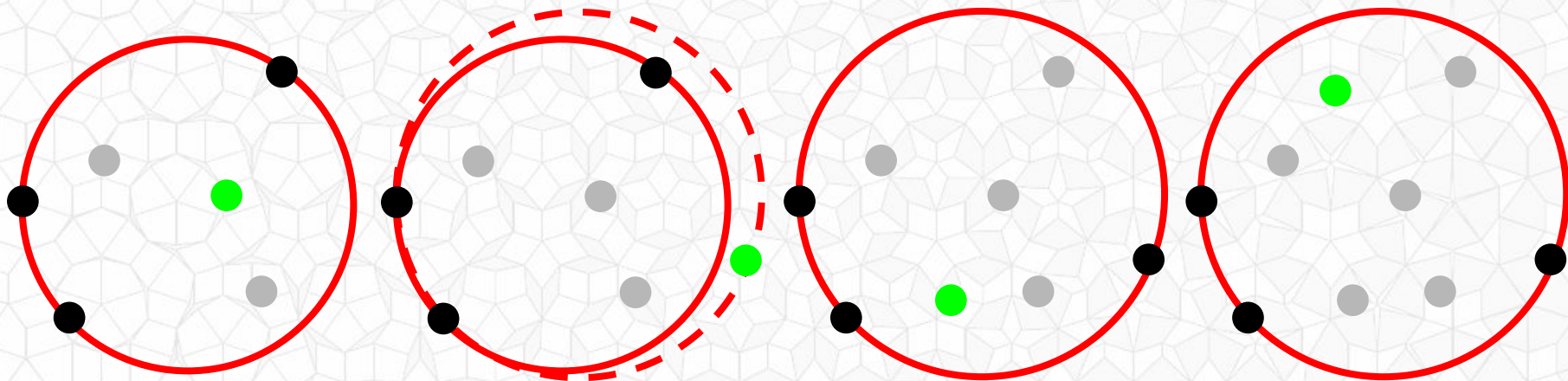
← *think backwards*



# Randomized Incremental Construction

- We start with all  $n$  points and the optimal minimal bounding circle, which is defined by 3 of those points.
- Each step, we randomly choose one of  $n$  points to remove.

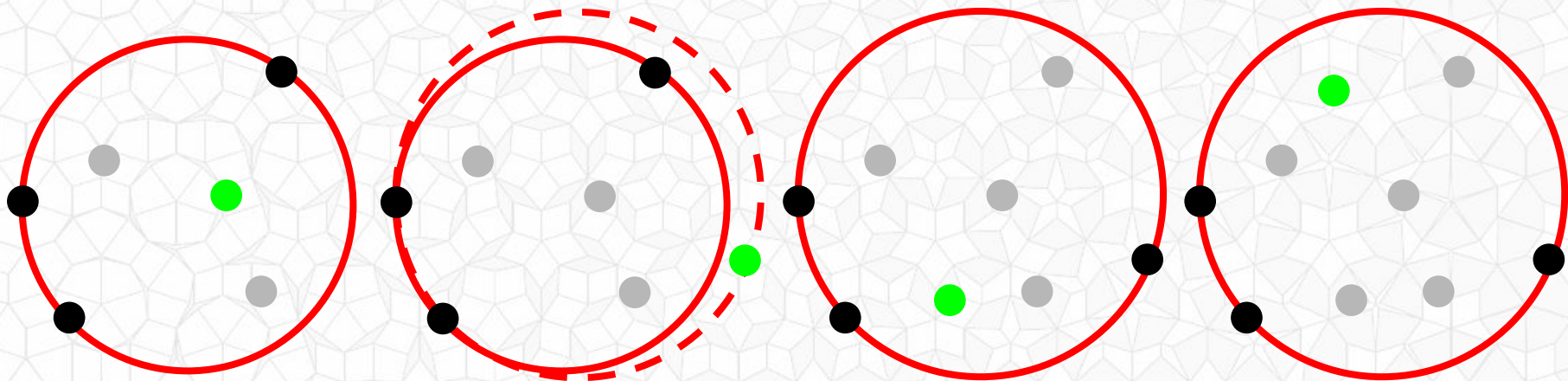
← *think backwards*





# Randomized Incremental Construction

- Do we need to tighten & recompute the minimal bounding circle?  
Only *when / if* we remove one of the 3 circle-defining points.
- Expected chance we pick a point *on the circle*:  $3/n$  each step:
- Expected:  $O(1)$  circle recomputes \*  $O(n)$  per recompute  $\rightarrow O(n)$

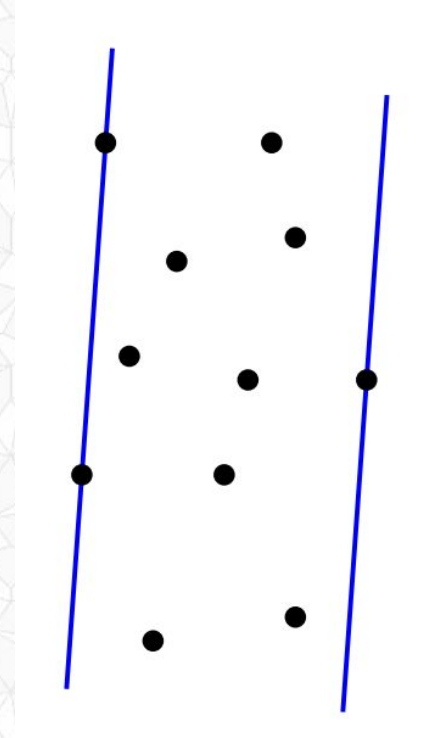


# Is Randomized Incremental Construction Magic?

- Can we use it for every problem? **No!**
- It only works if:
  - **Fast to test if new item works** with the current optimal solution
  - When new item does not work,
    - Current solution can be used to compute the new optimal
    - And it will be *faster than starting over from scratch*

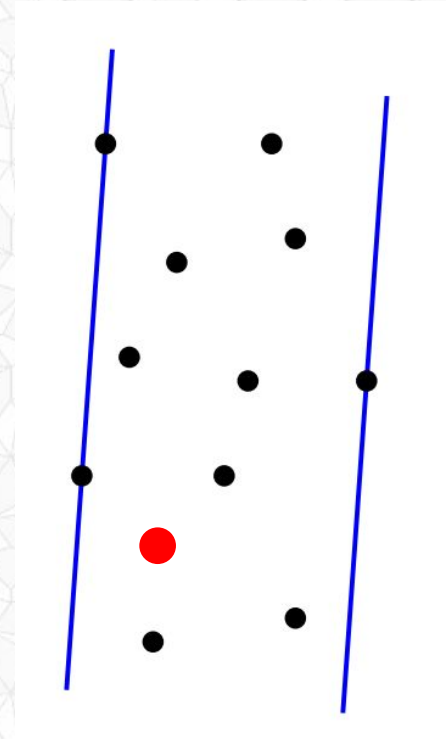
# Another Example: Minimum Strip Width

- Input: A set of 2D points
- Output: Two parallel lines that define the narrowest strip that contains all of the input points.



# Another Example: Minimum Strip Width

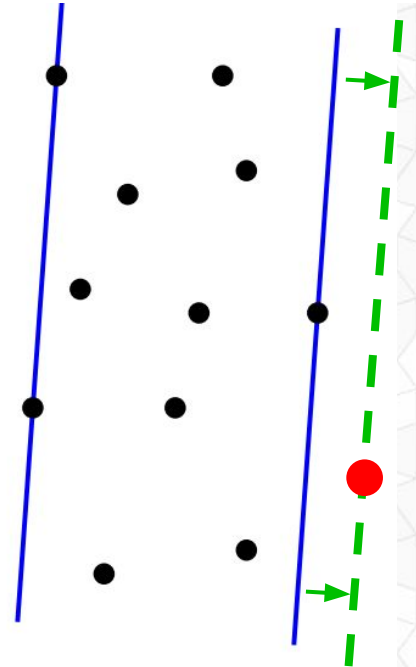
- Input: A set of 2D points
- Output: Two parallel lines that define the narrowest strip that contains all of the input points.
- *It is fast to test if a new point is contained in the strip*



# Another Example: Minimum Strip Width

- Input: A set of 2D points
- Output: Two parallel lines that define the narrowest strip that contains all of the input points.
- *It is fast to test if a new point is contained in the strip*

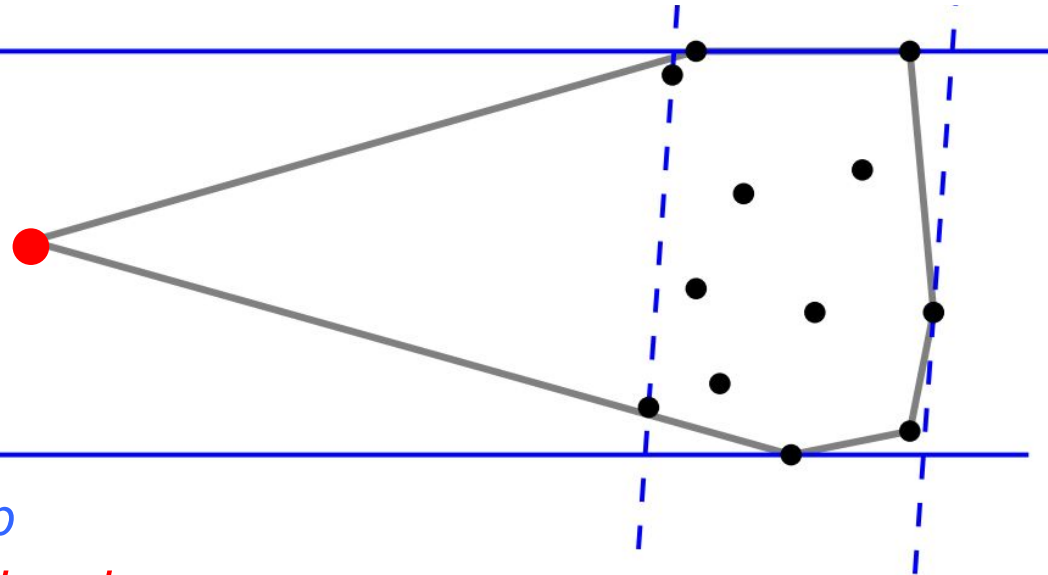
*Is this new point definitely on one of the parallel lines?*



# Another Example: Minimum Strip Width

*Is this new point definitely on one of the parallel lines?*

- Input: A set of 2D points
- Output: Two parallel lines that define the narrowest strip that contains all of the input points.



- *It is fast to test if a new point is contained in the strip*
- *However, the previous solution does not help us find a new optimal solution*

# Outline for Today

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