

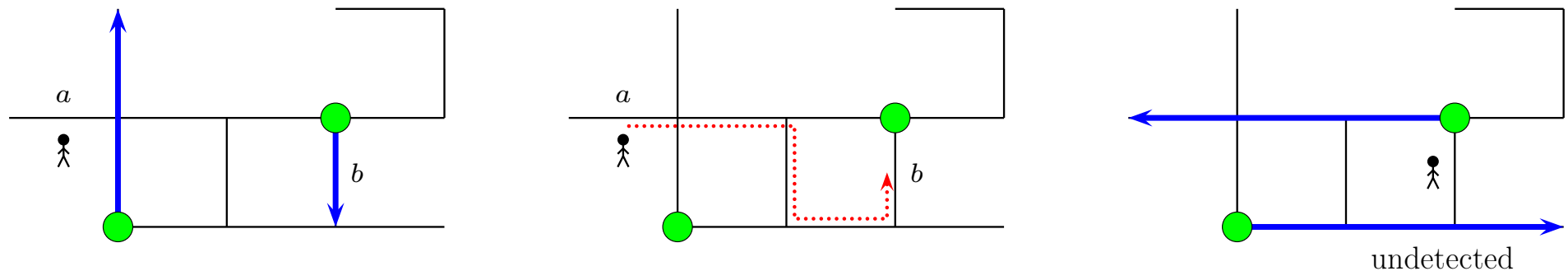
# THE SEARCHLIGHT PROBLEM FOR ROAD NETWORKS

Dariusz Dereniowski  
Hirotaka Ono  
Ichiro Suzuki  
Łukasz Wrona  
Masafumi Yamashita  
Paweł Żyliński

## The searchlight problem in a road network

What is the worst-case number  $s(n, g)$  of searchlights, each placed at one of the  $g$  guard positions, required to successfully search a given road network of  $n$  lines/line segments?

- A mobile intruder capable of moving continuously and arbitrarily fast is hiding.
- The objective of the guards is to detect the intruder using the rays.
- The intruder is considered detected at the moment he is illuminated by one of the rays or he reaches a position where a guard is located.

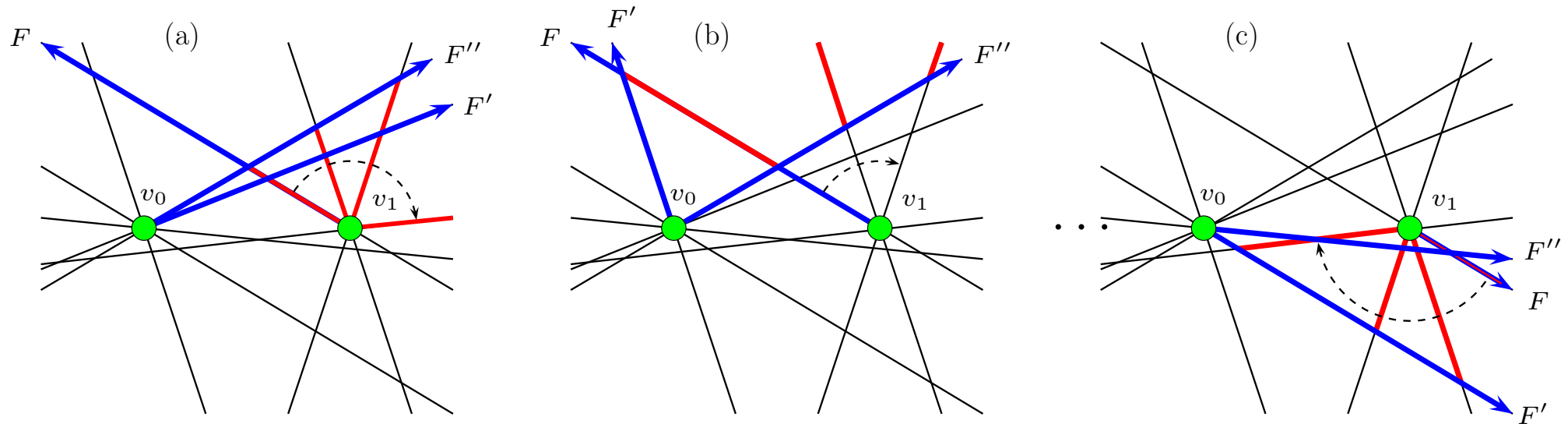


- ▶ Sugihara, Suzuki and Yamashita. (1990): The searchlight scheduling problem
- ▶ Yen and Tang (1995): The searchlight guarding problem on weighted trees

## The searchlight problem in a road network

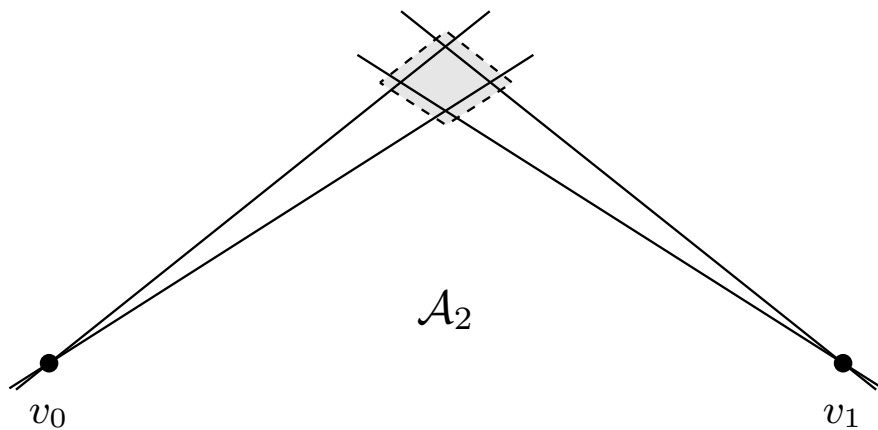
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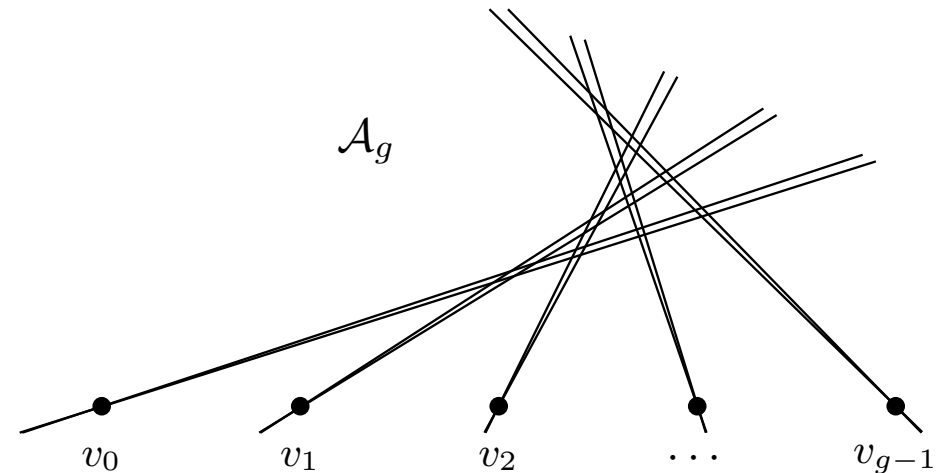


A sample search strategy for an  $(n, 2)$ -arrangement,  $n \geq 4$ .

Arrangements of lines: a lower bound of  $2g - 1$



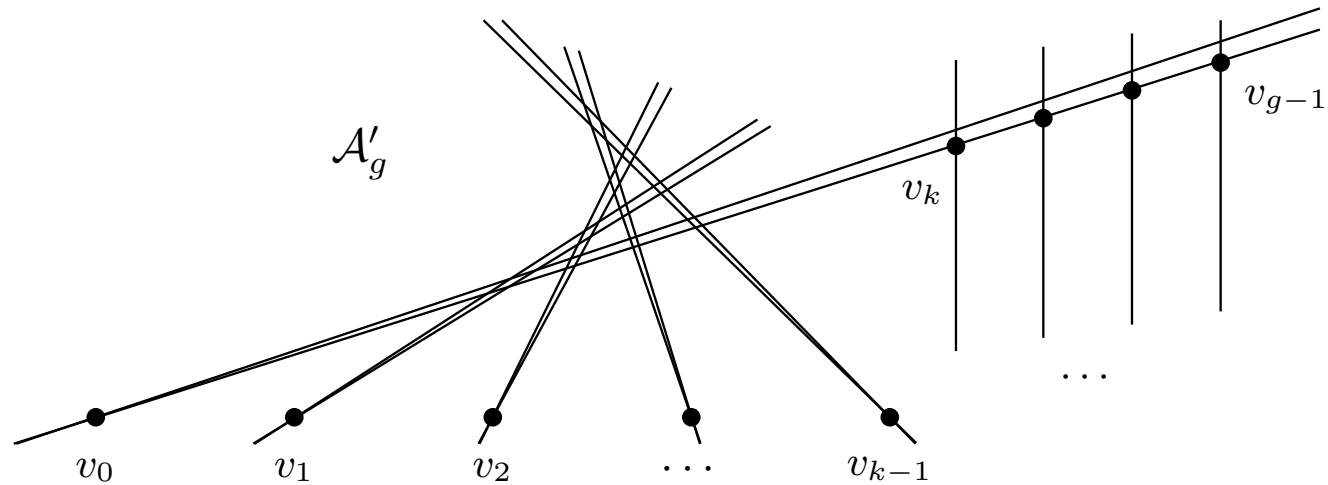
$(4, 2)$ -arrangement  $\mathcal{A}_2 = (\mathcal{L}_2, \{v_0, v_1\})$   
that requires at least three searchlights



$(2g, g)$ -arrangement  $\mathcal{A}_g = (\mathcal{L}_g, \{v_0, \dots, v_{g-1}\})$ ,  $g \geq 2$

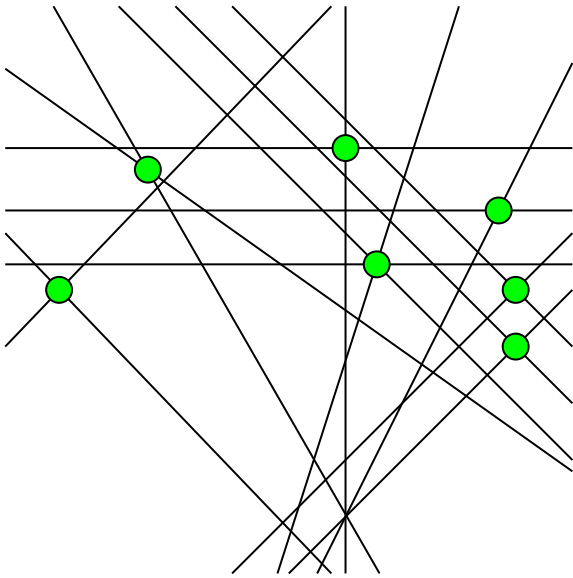
$$s(n, g) \geq 2g - 1$$

Arrangements of lines: a lower bound of  $2g - 1$

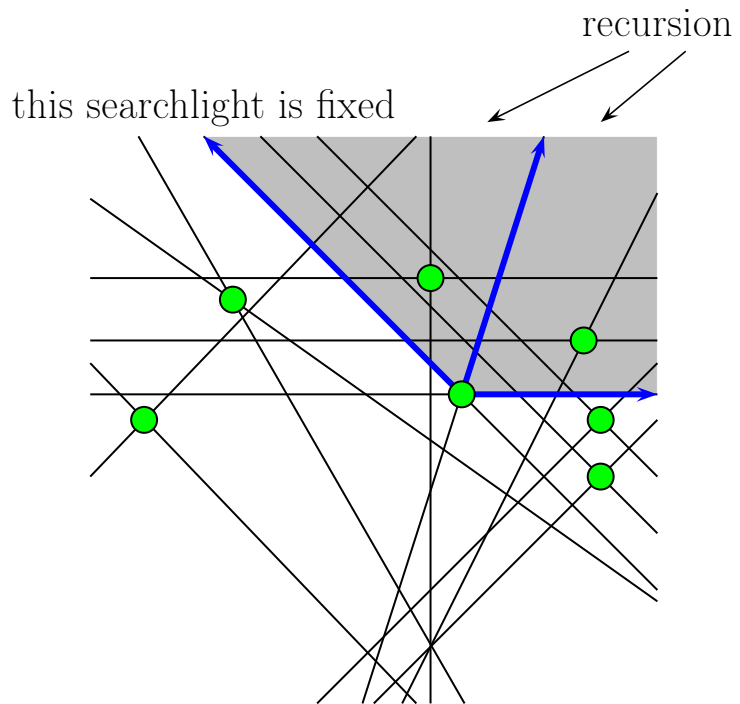


$$\text{For } 1 \leq g \leq n - 1, s(n, g) \geq \begin{cases} 2g - 1 & \text{if } 1 \leq g \leq \frac{n}{2}; \\ n - 2 & \text{if } \frac{n}{2} < g \leq n - 2; \\ n - 1 & \text{if } g = n - 1. \end{cases}$$

Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$

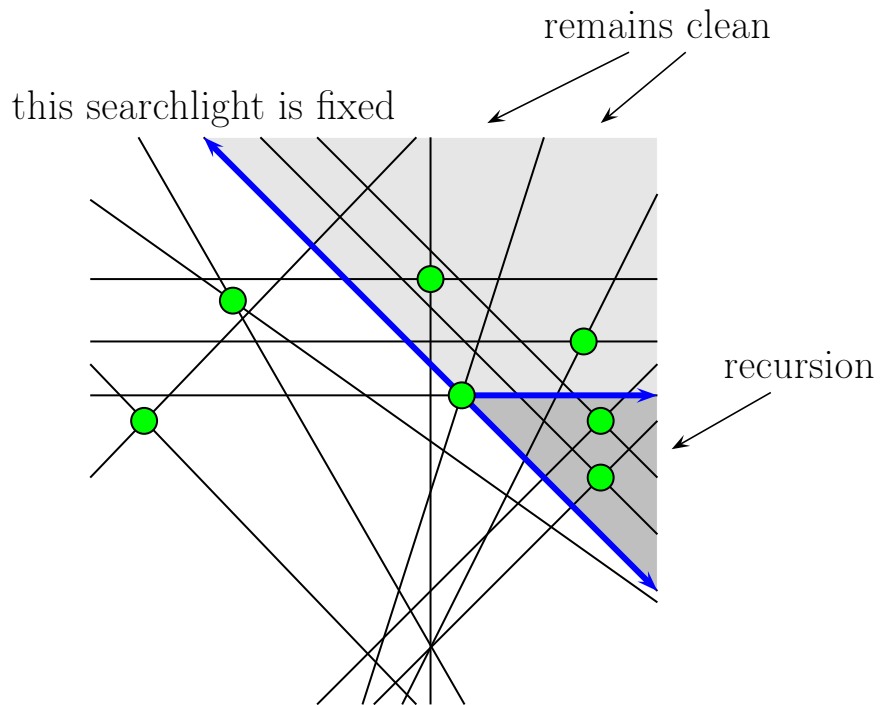


Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$



$$s(n, g) \leq 3g$$

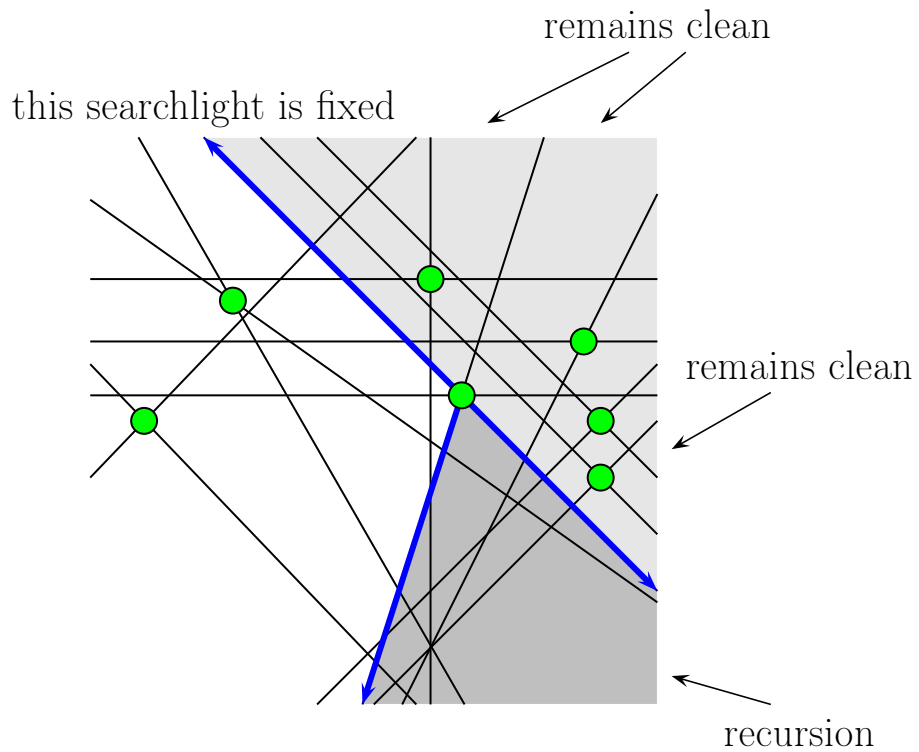
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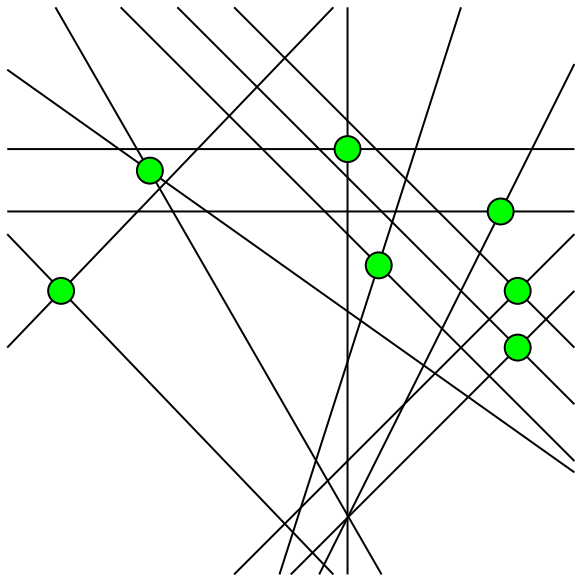


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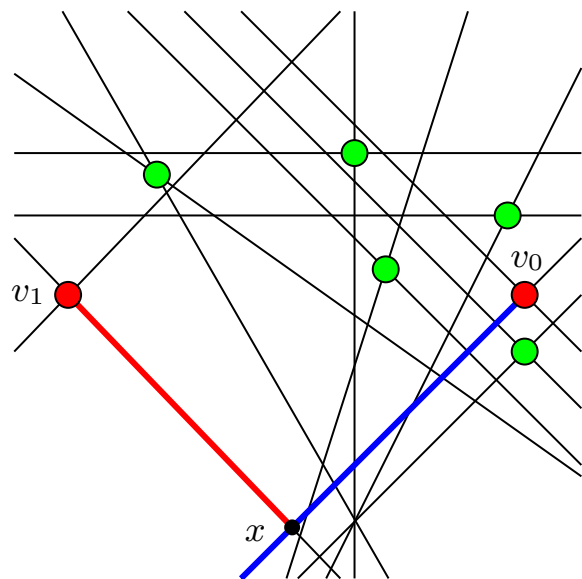


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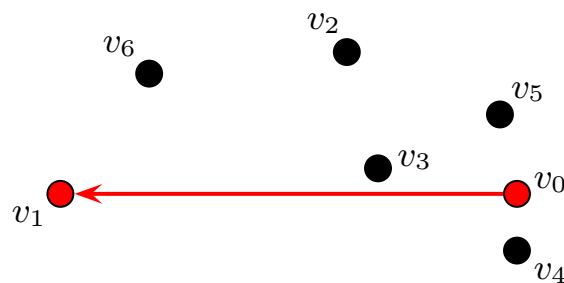
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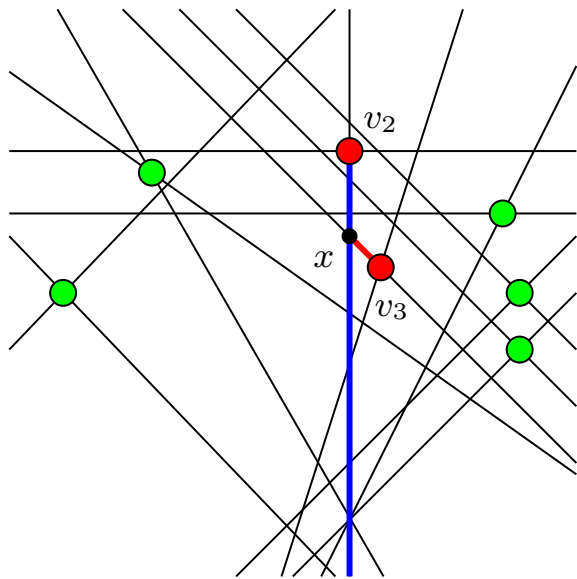


no intersection points between  $v_1$  and  $x$

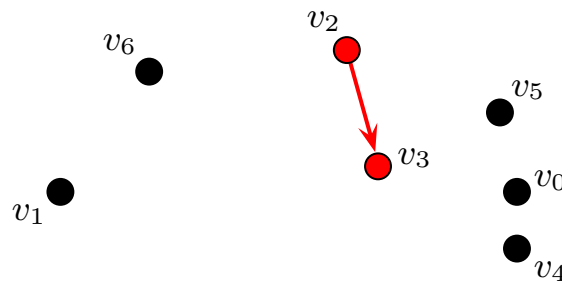


$v_0$  is incident to  $v_1$

Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$

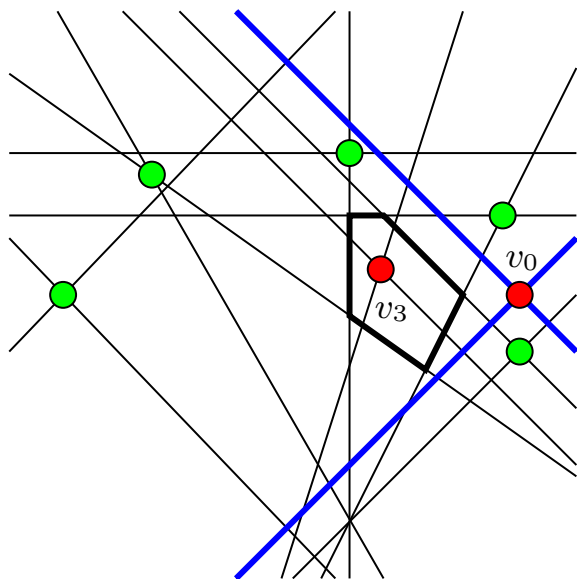


no intersection points between  $v_3$  and  $x$

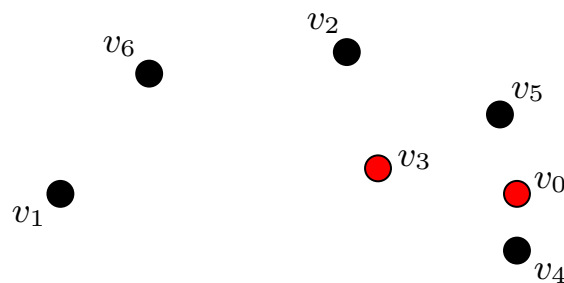


$v_2$  is incident to  $v_3$

Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$

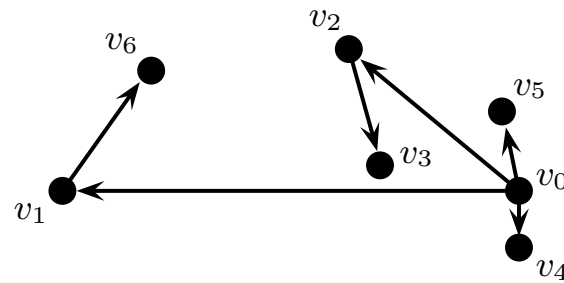
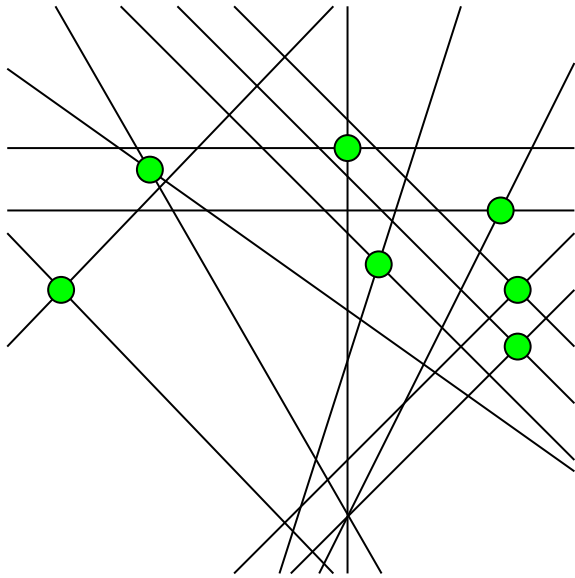


there is a 'free' cycle around  $v_3$



$v_0$  is not incident to  $v_3$

Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$



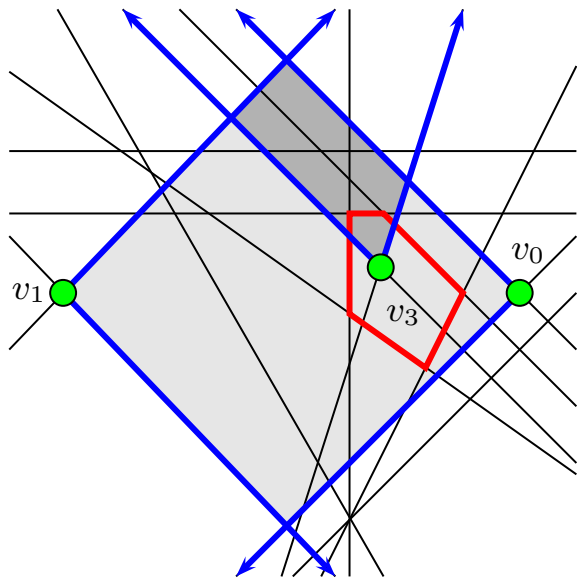
**any arborescence:**

3 searchlights at the root  $v_0$

2 searchlights at any other vertex

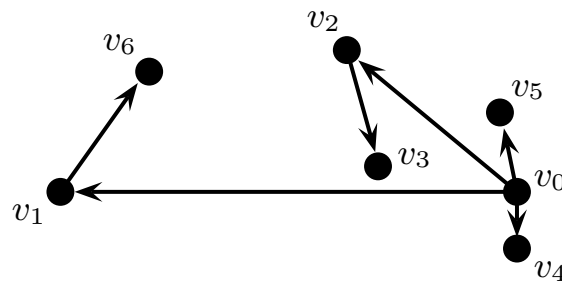
**ordering:**  $v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6$

Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$



wrong order:

$v_3$  is handled before handling  $v_2$

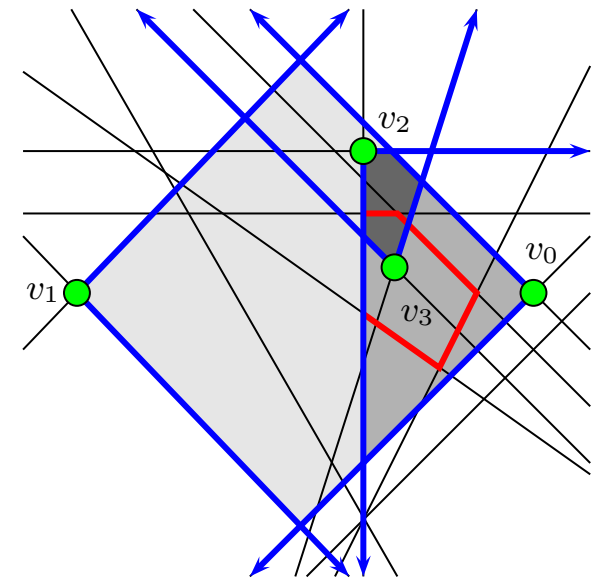


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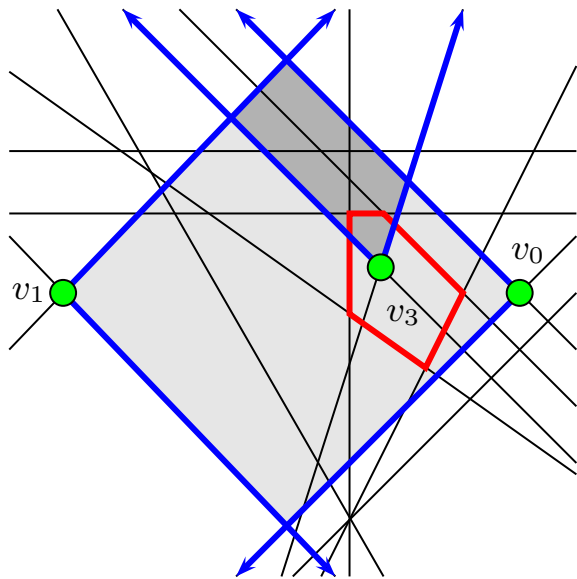
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correct order:

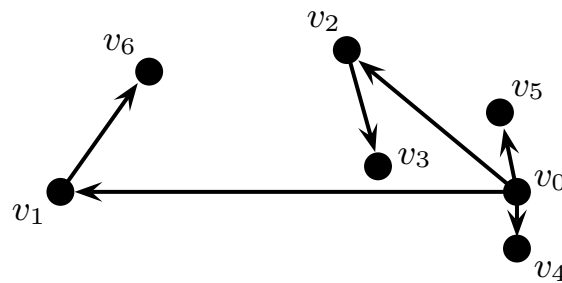
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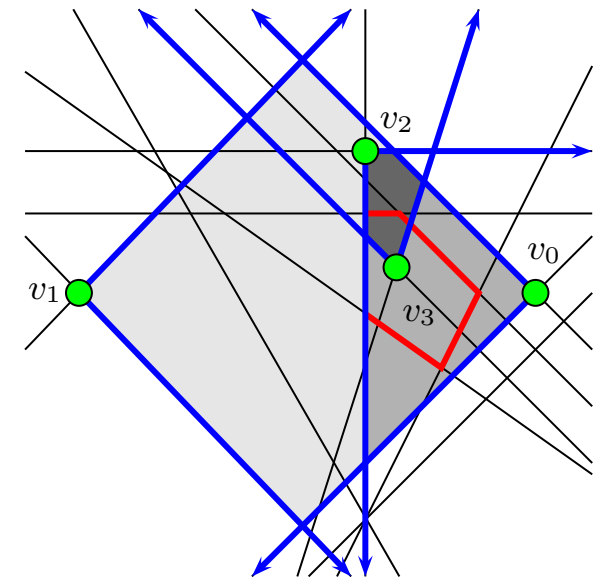


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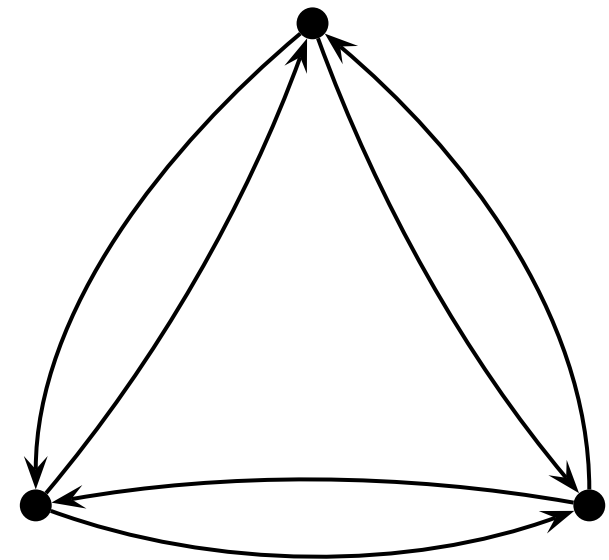
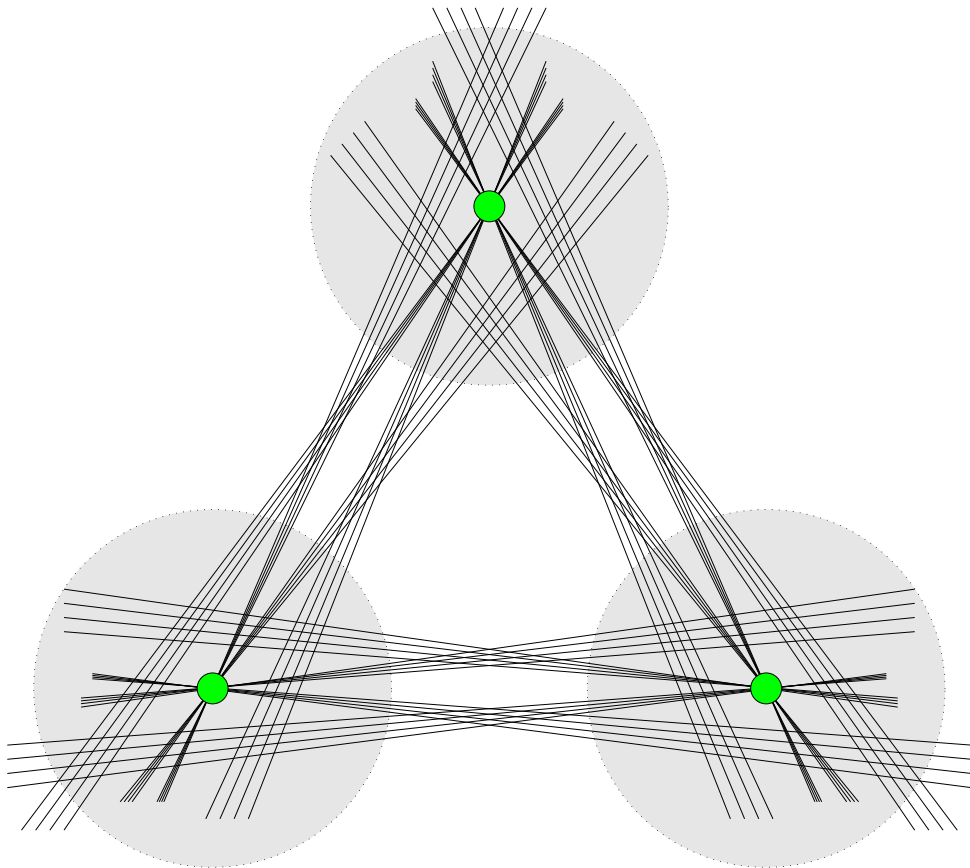
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$$s(\mathcal{A}) \leq 2g + (h - 1).$$

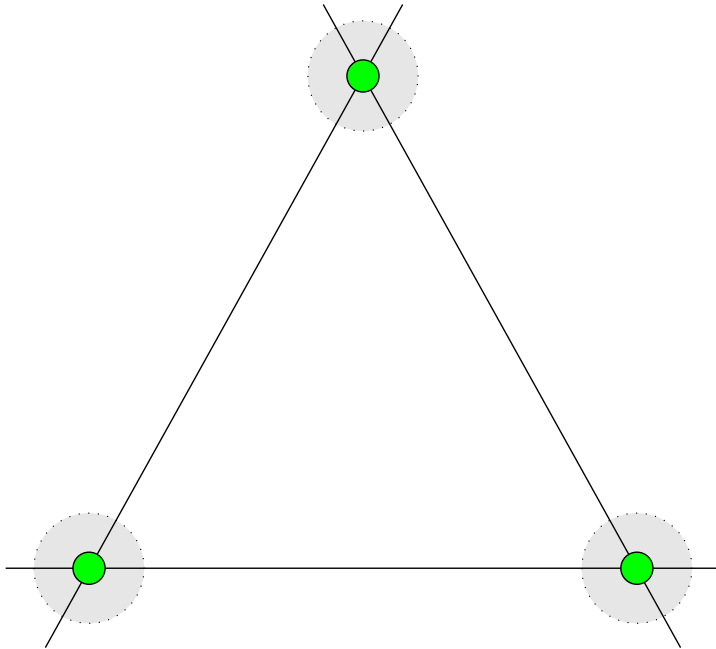


Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$



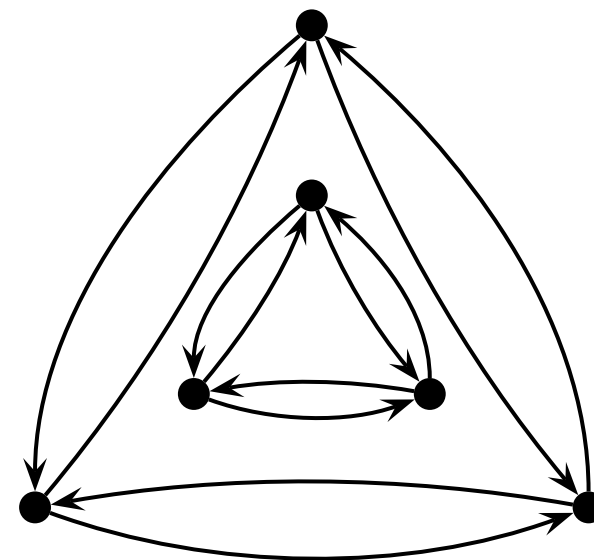
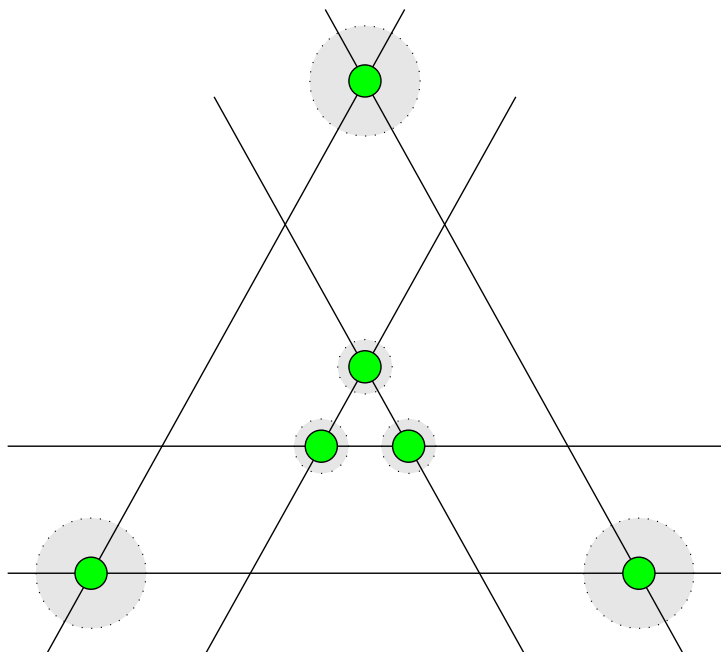
$$s(n, g) \leq \frac{7g}{3} - 1$$

Arrangements of lines: an upper bound of  $\frac{7g}{3} - 1$



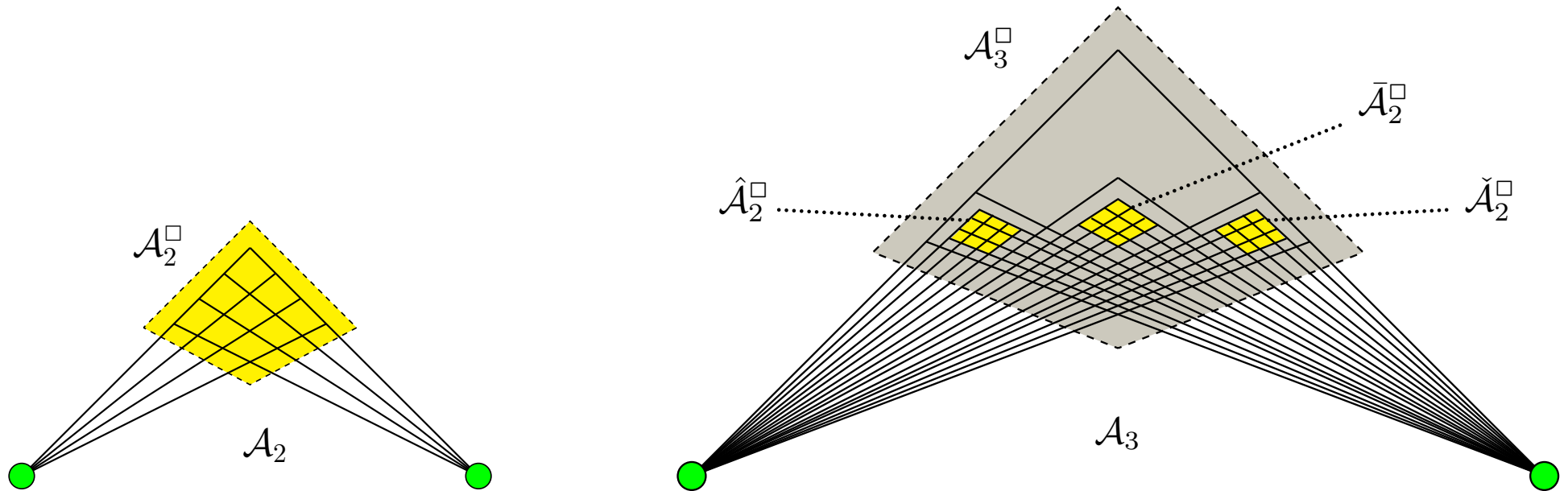
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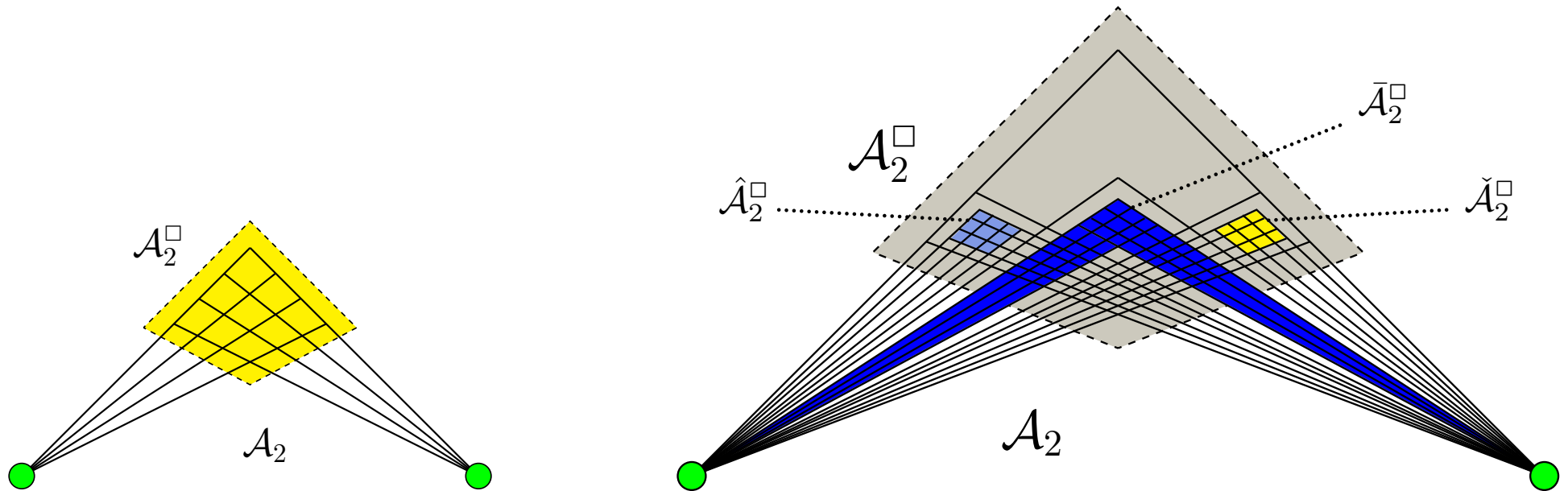
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Arrangements of line segments: a lower bound of  $\Omega(g \log \frac{n}{g})$



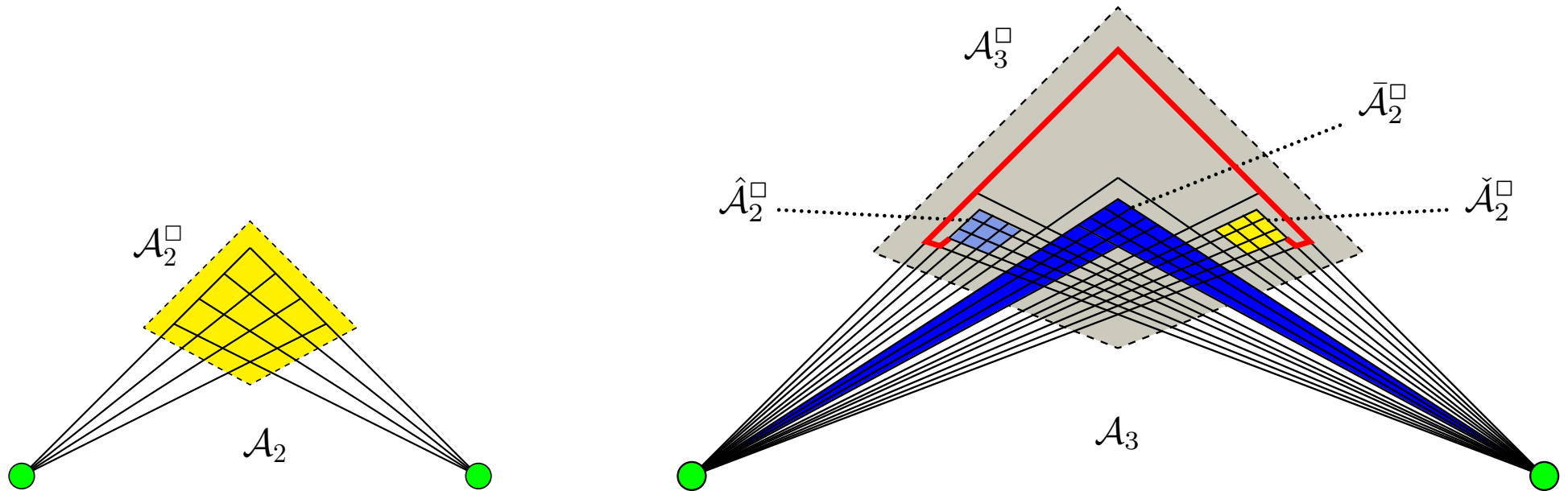
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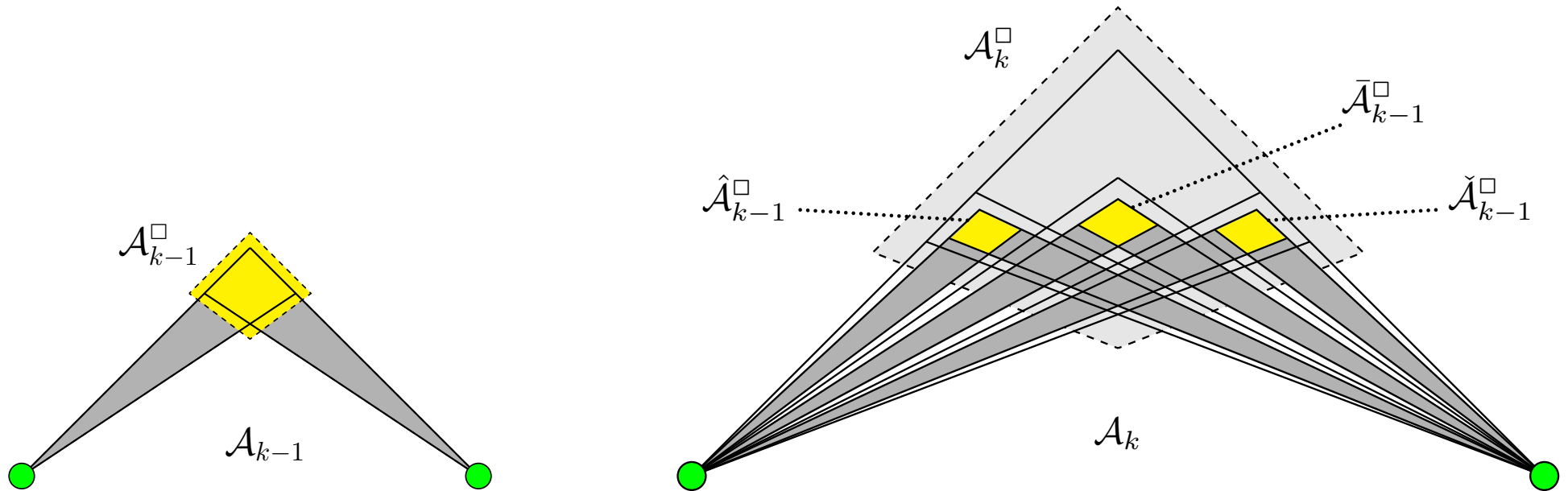
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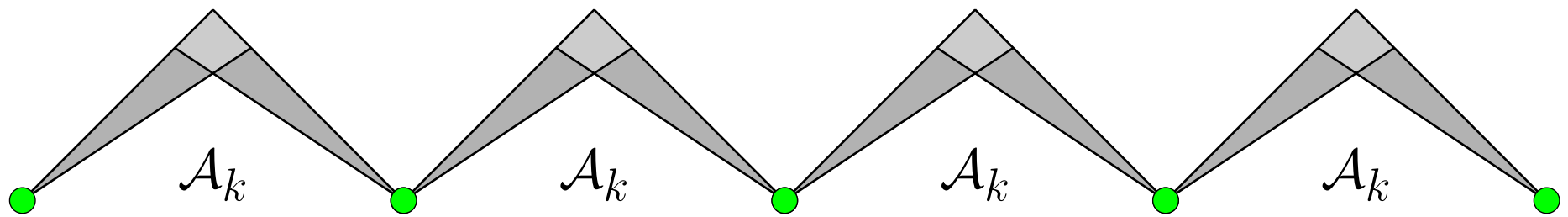
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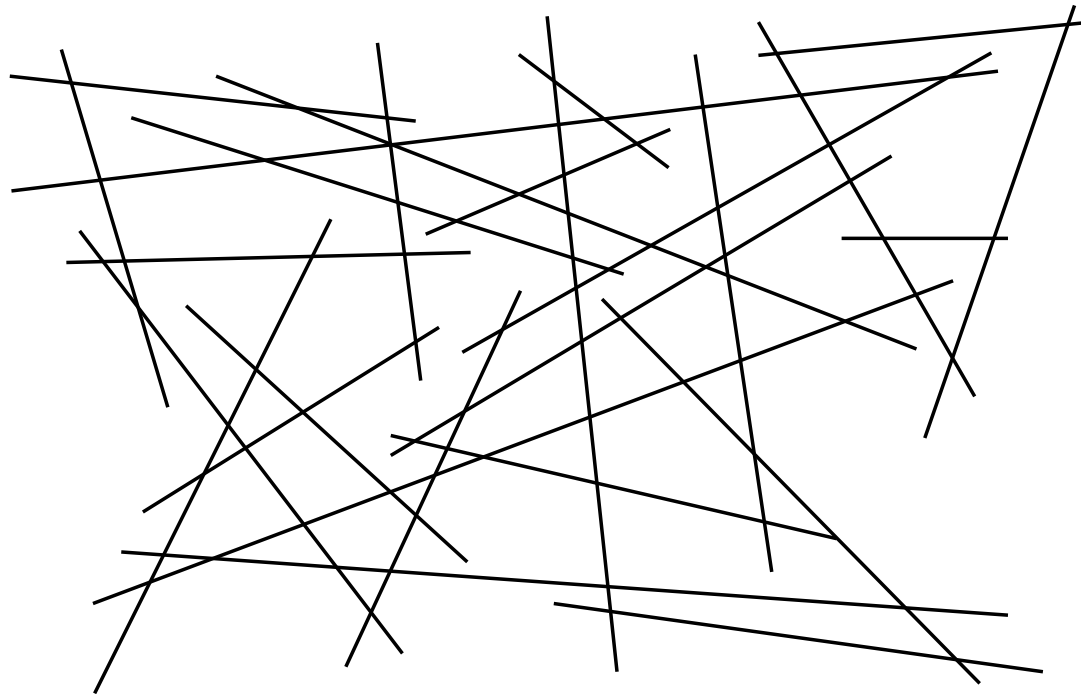


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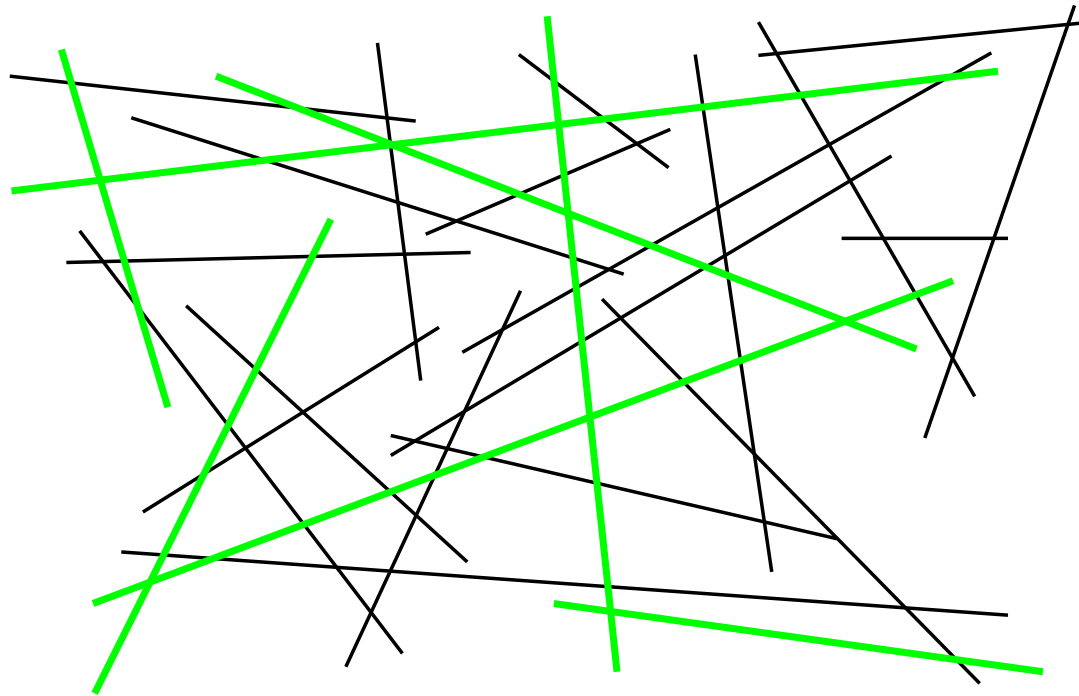
**Arrangements of line segments:** an upper bound of  $O(g^2 \log n)$

- ▶ partitioning into nice arrangements:  $O(g)$  searchlights (remain fixed)
- ▶ recursive searching of nice arrangements (divide-and-conquer)
  - depth of the recursion with respect to a guard  $v$ :  $O(\log n)$
  - divide-and-conquer:  $O(1)$  searchlights per each guard
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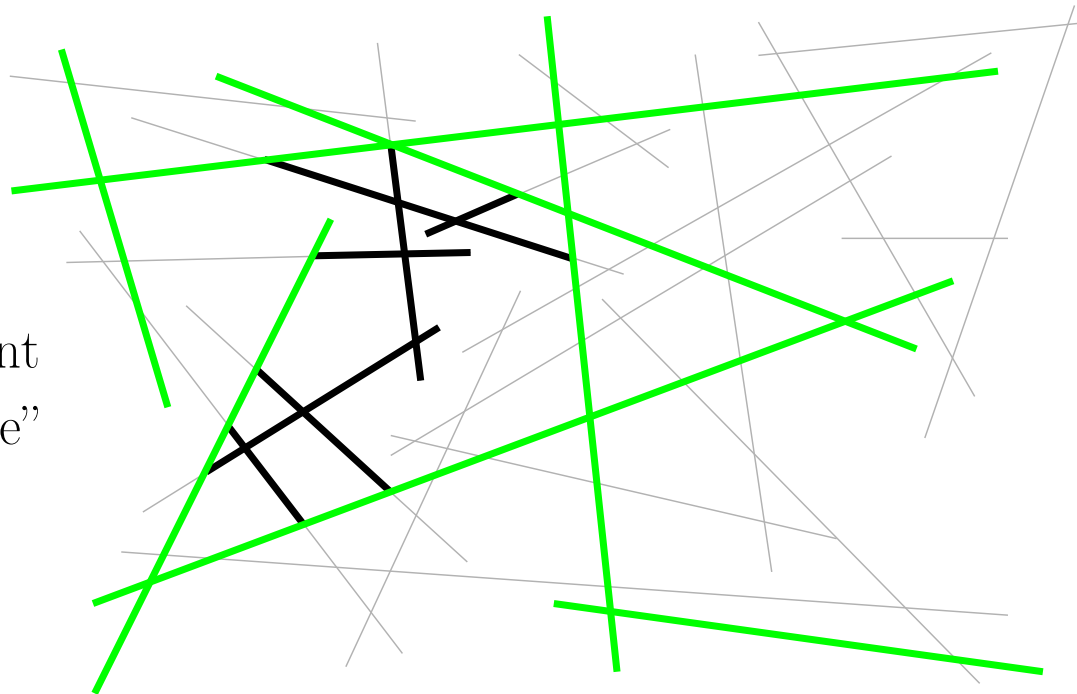
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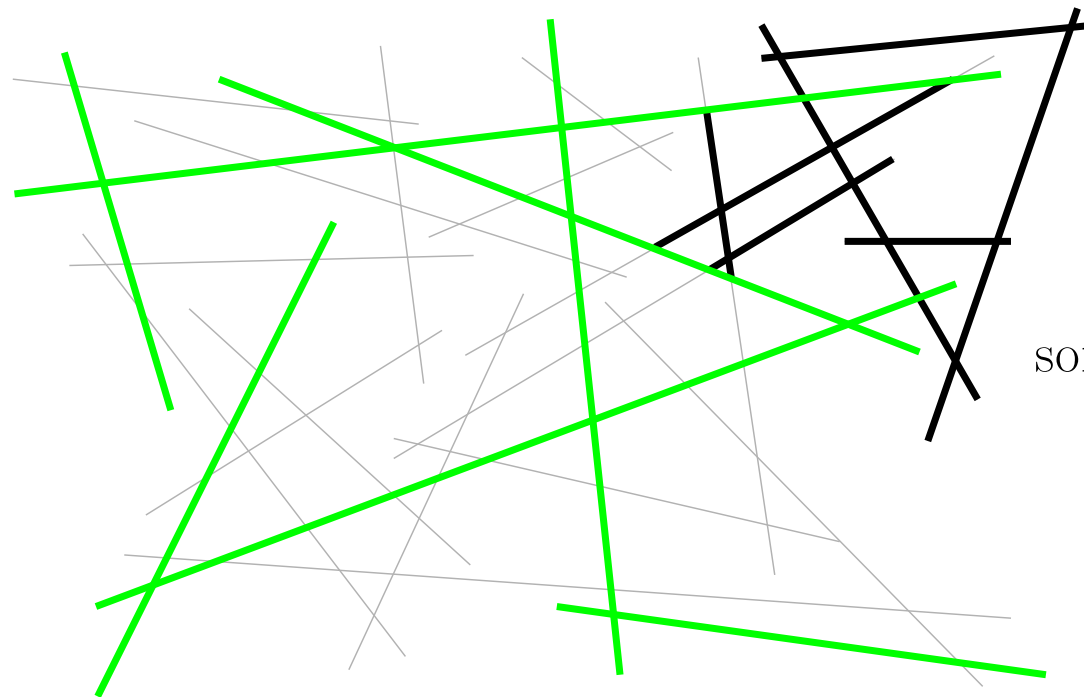
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nice arrangement  
all guards are “outside”



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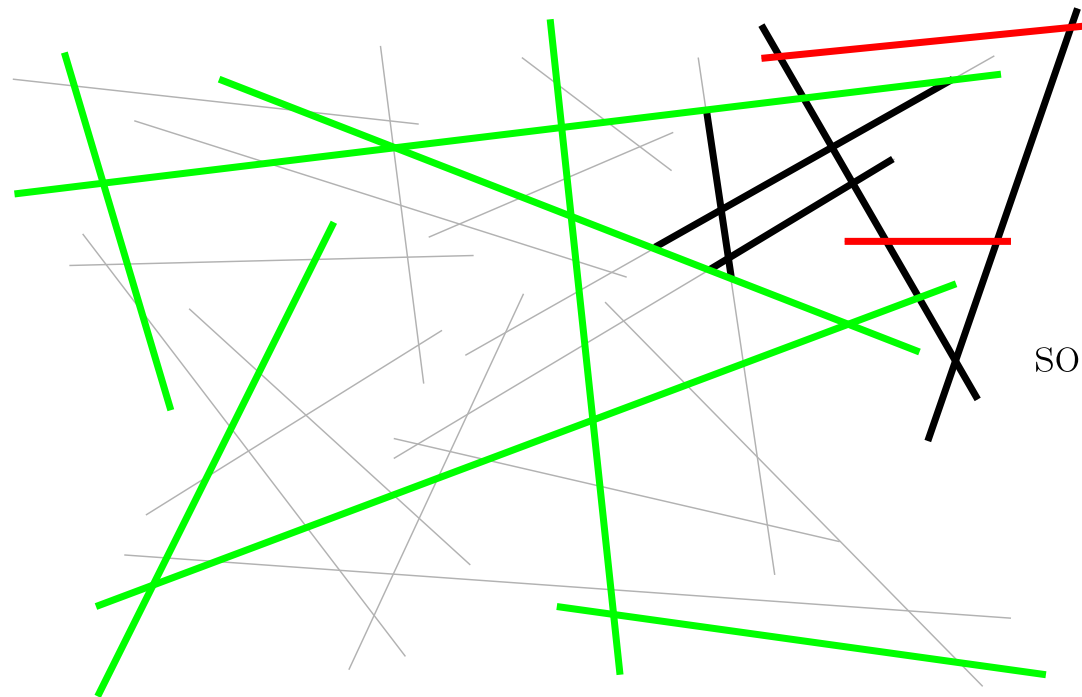
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not nice arrangement  
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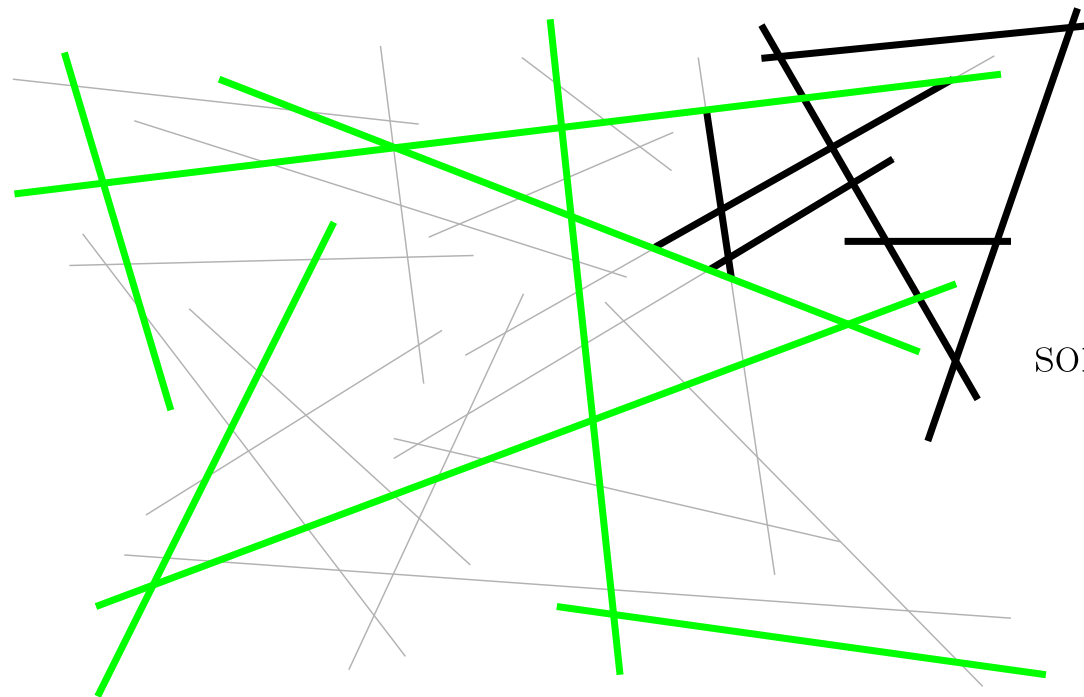
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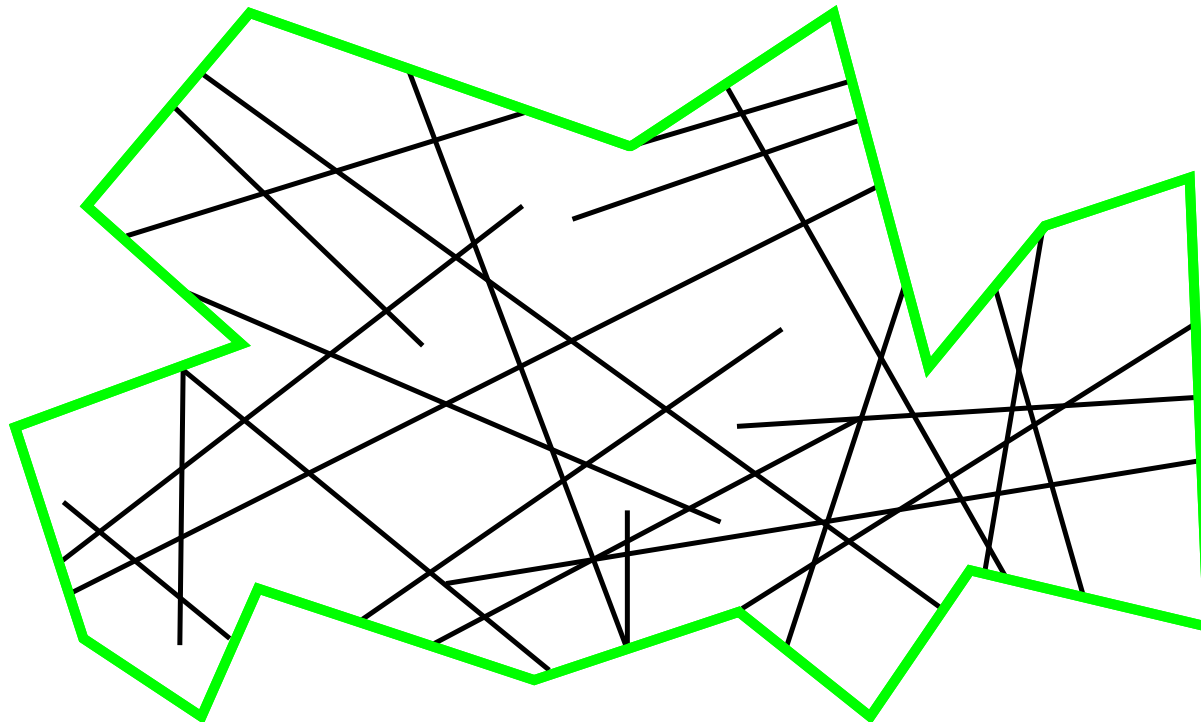
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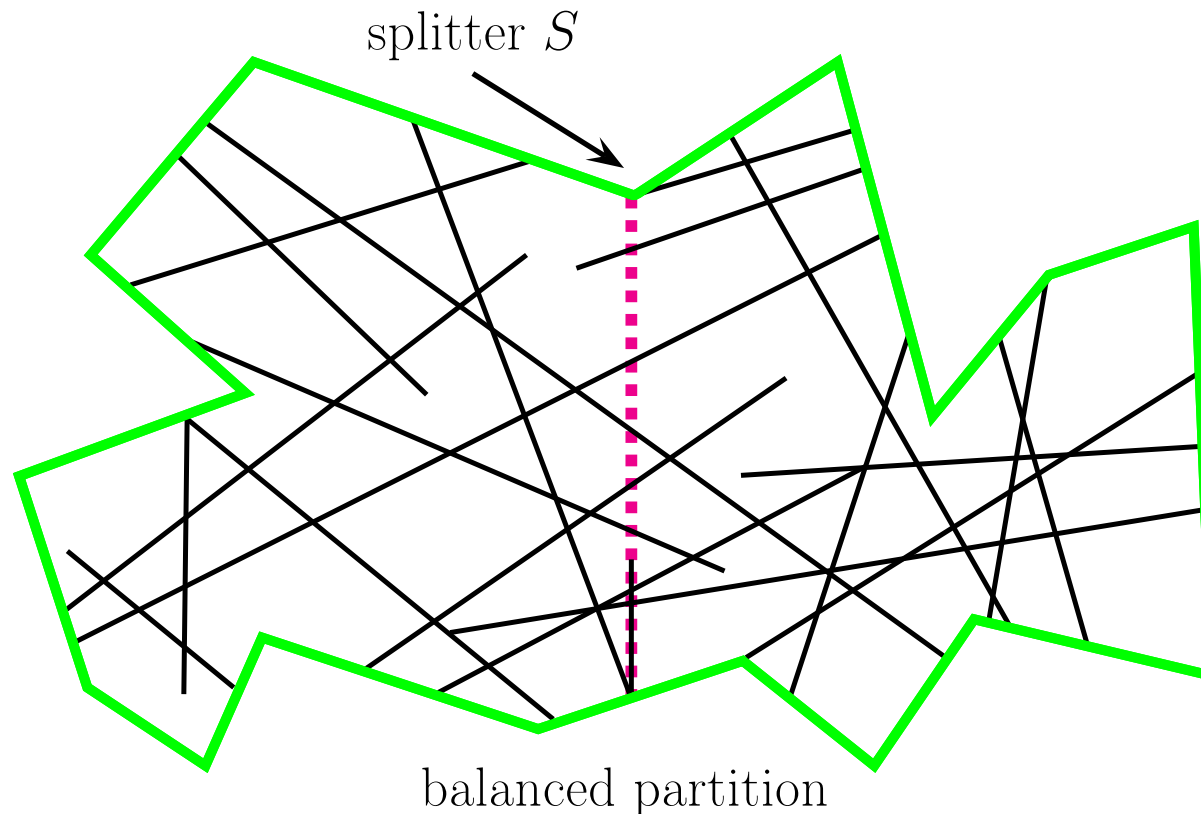
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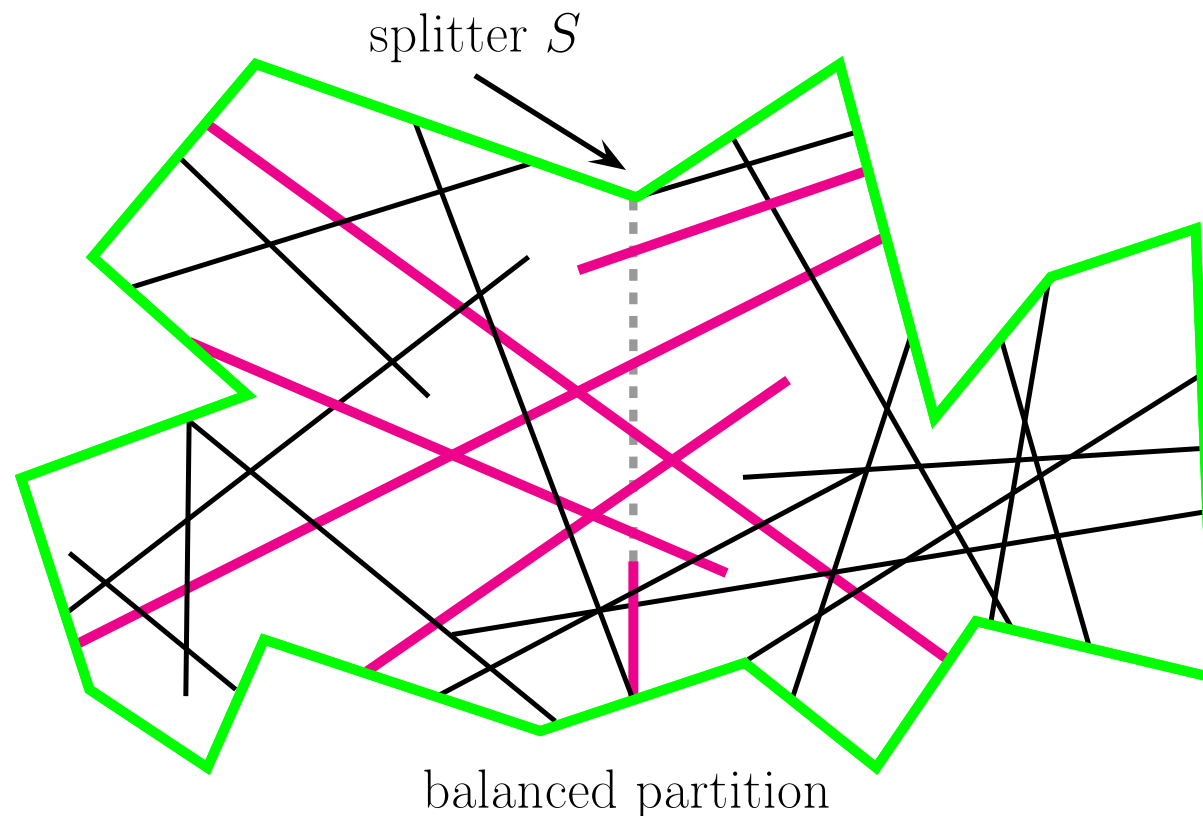
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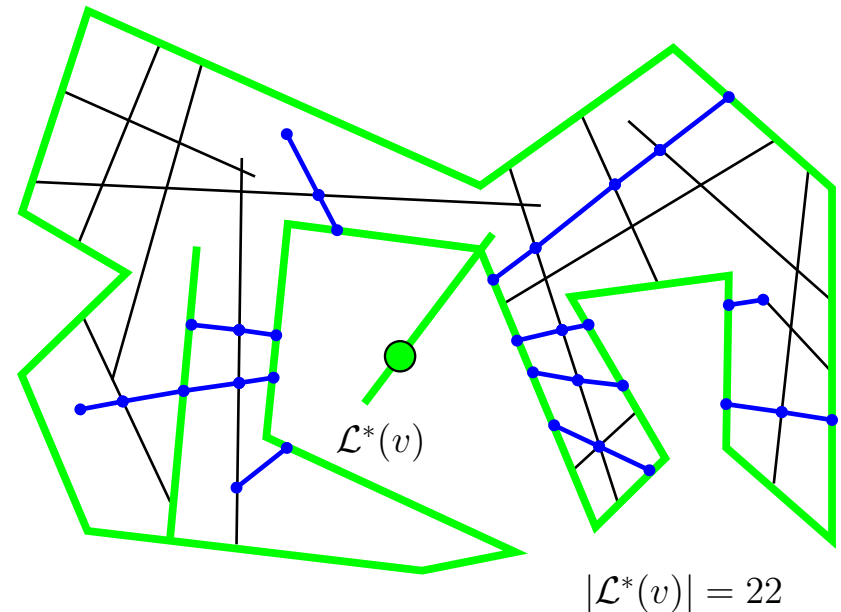
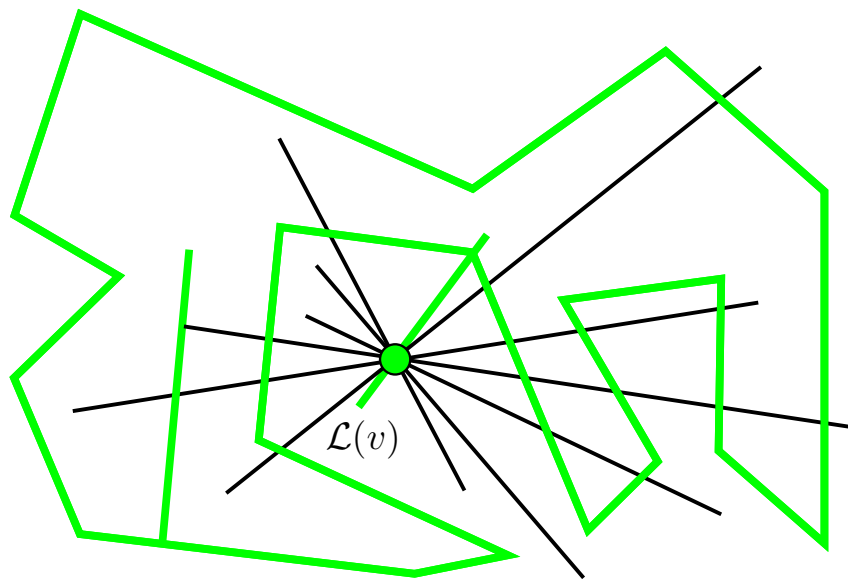
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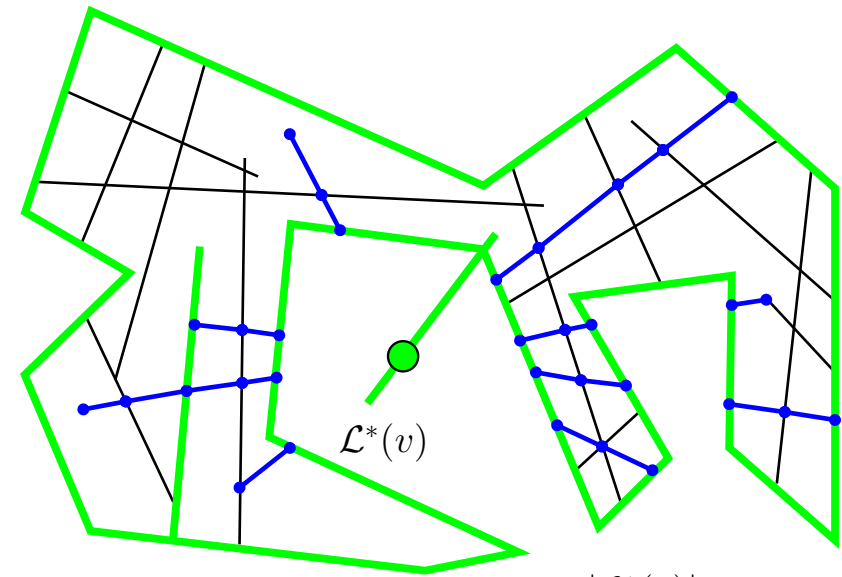
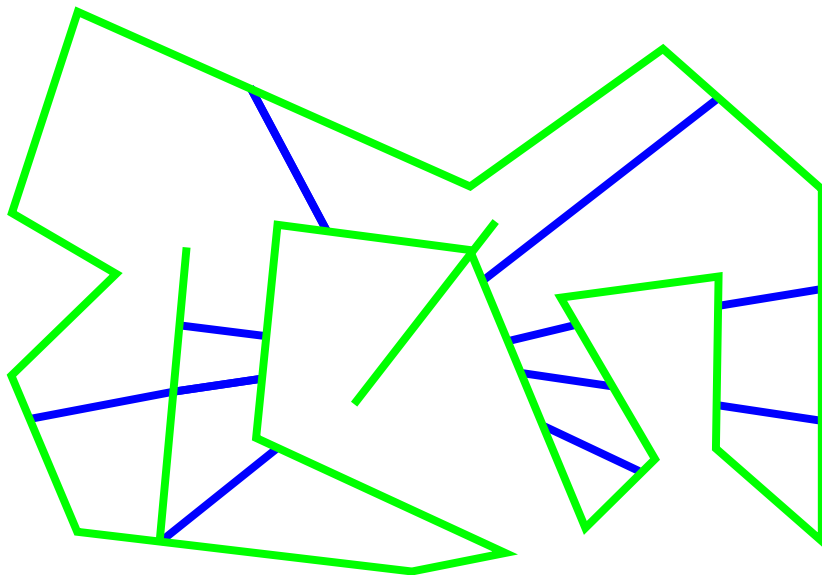
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finding a balanced splitter with respect to  $v$

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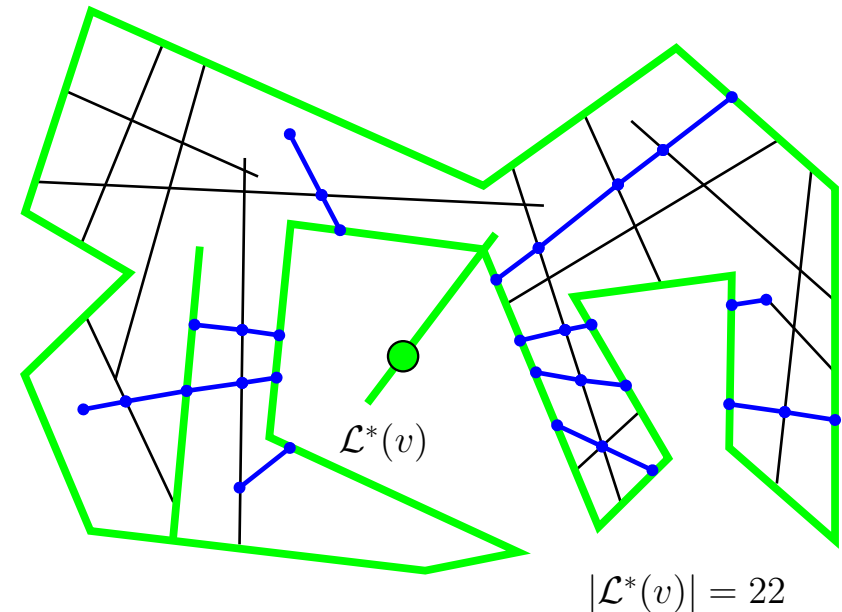
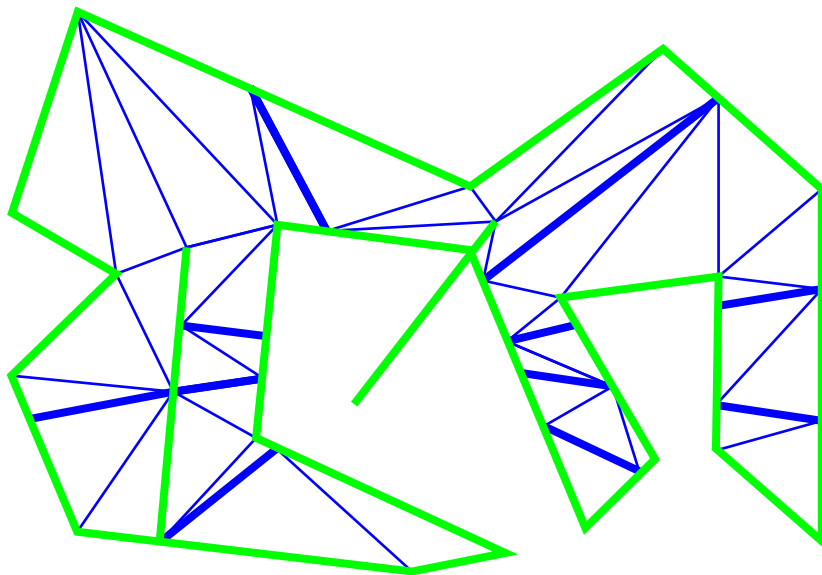


$$|\mathcal{L}^*(v)| = 22$$

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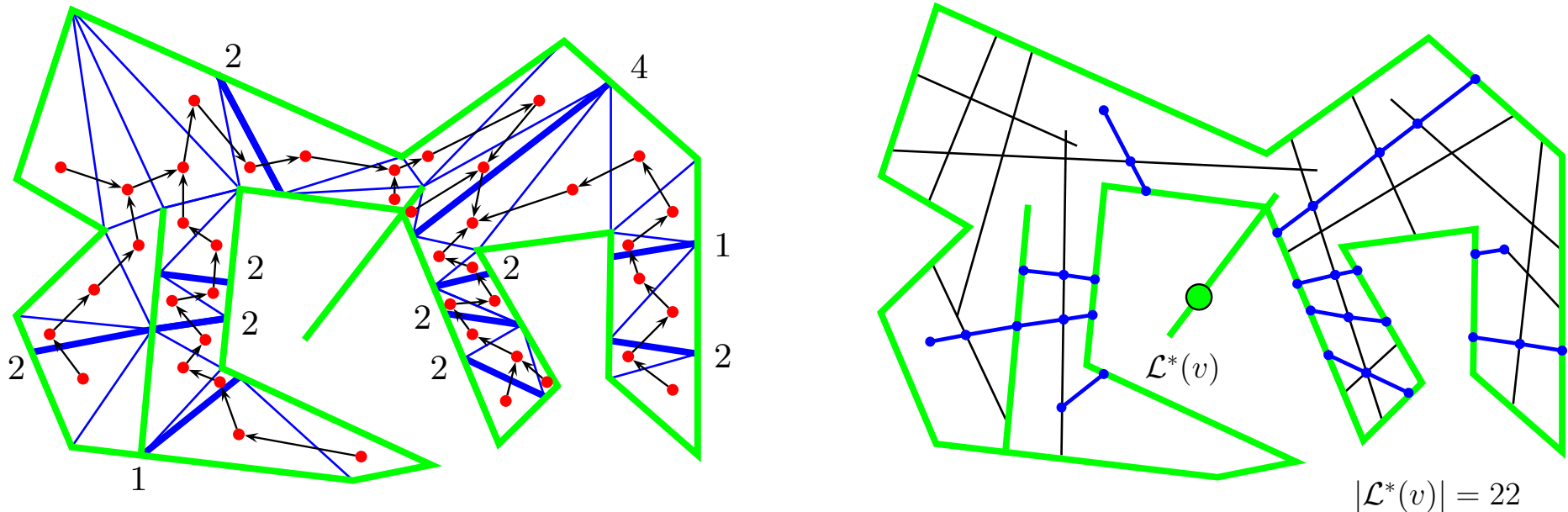
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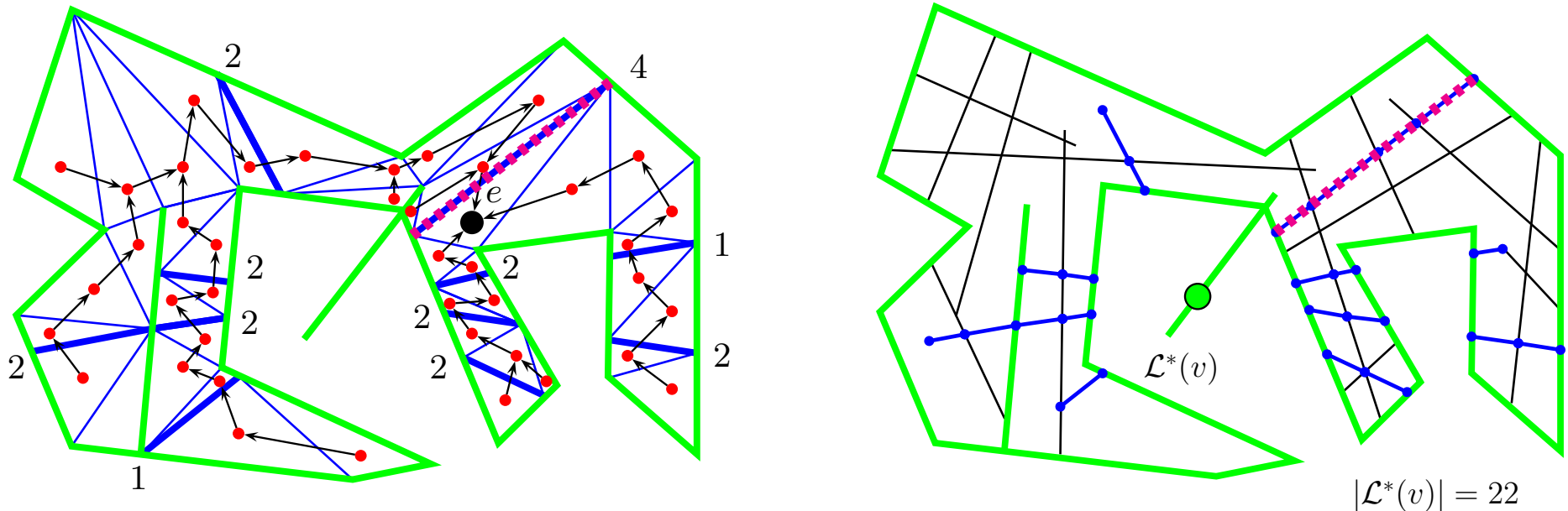
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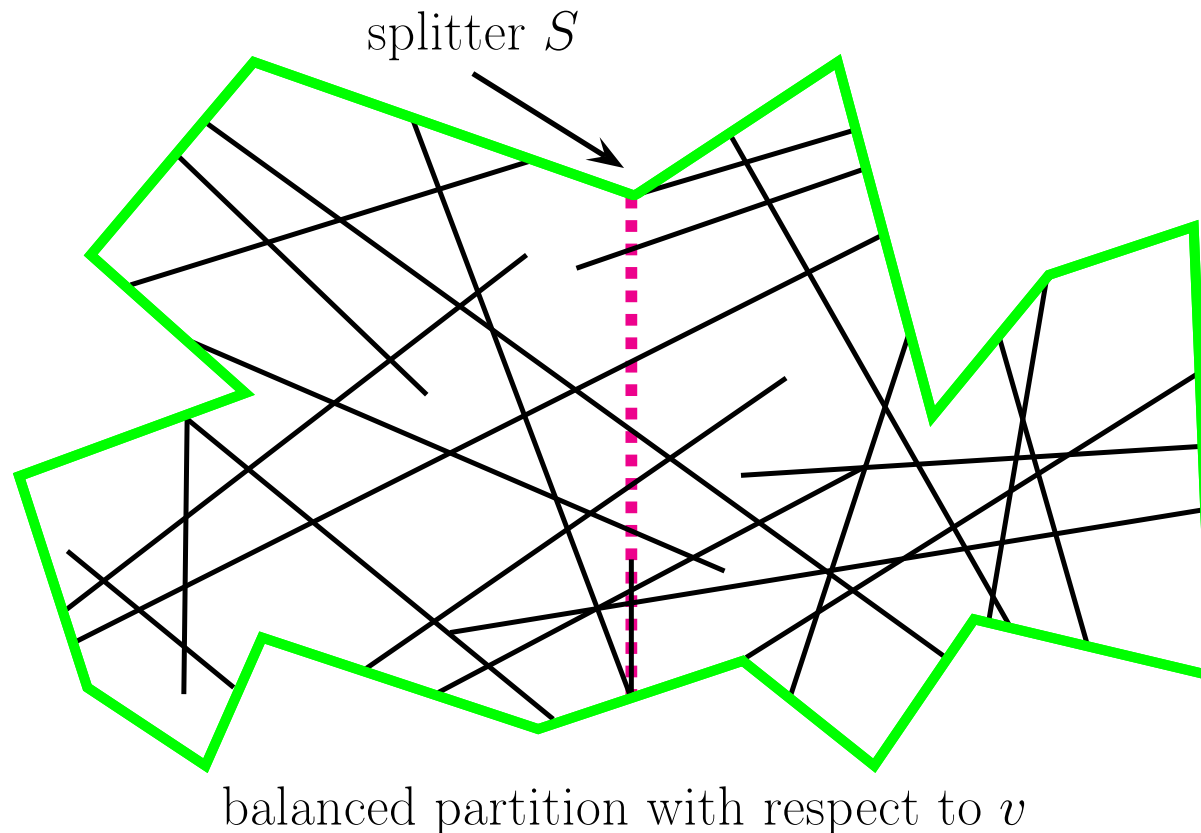
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finding a **balanced splitter** with respect to  $v$

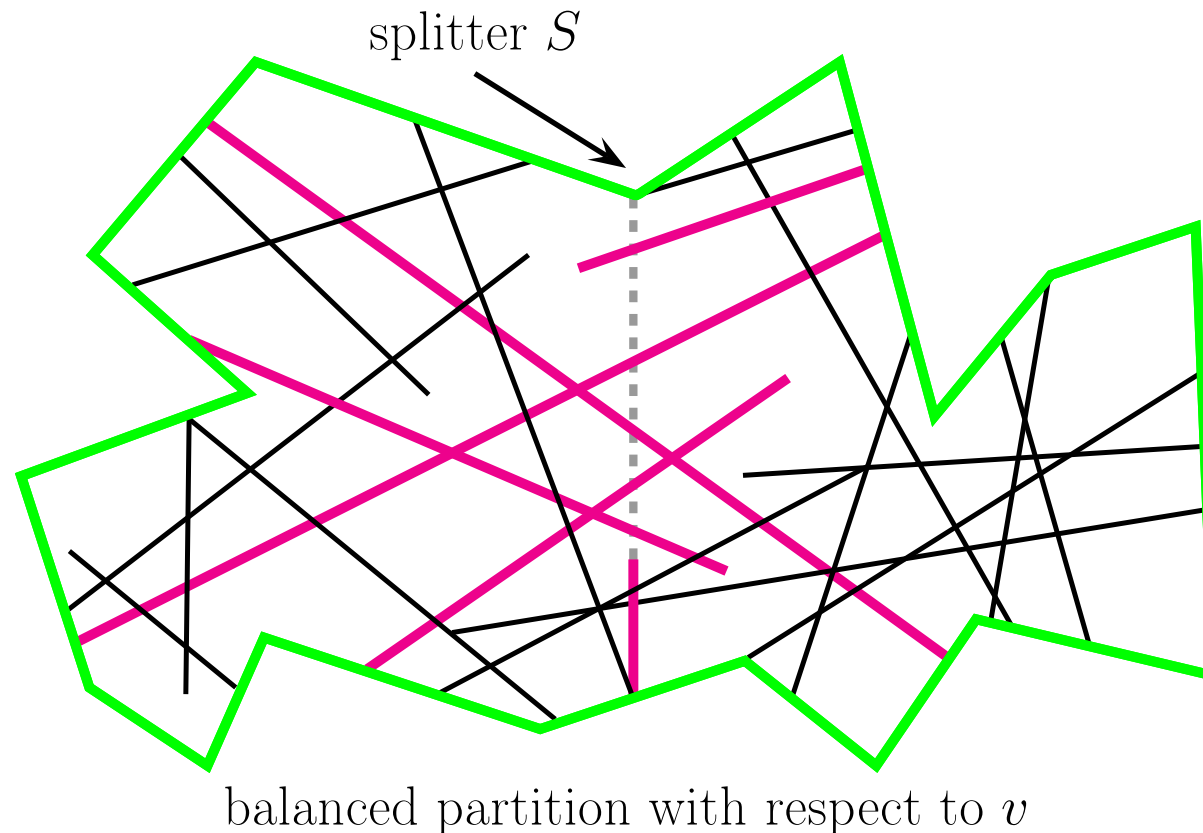
**Arrangements of line segments:** an upper bound of  $O(g^2 \log n)$

- ▶ partitioning into nice arrangements:  $O(g)$  searchlights (remain fixed)
- ▶ recursive searching of nice arrangements (divide-and-conquer)
  - depth of the recursion with respect to a guard  $v$ :  $O(\log n)$
  - divide-and-conquer:  $O(1)$  searchlights per each guard
  - the total number of  $O(g^2 \log n)$  searchlights



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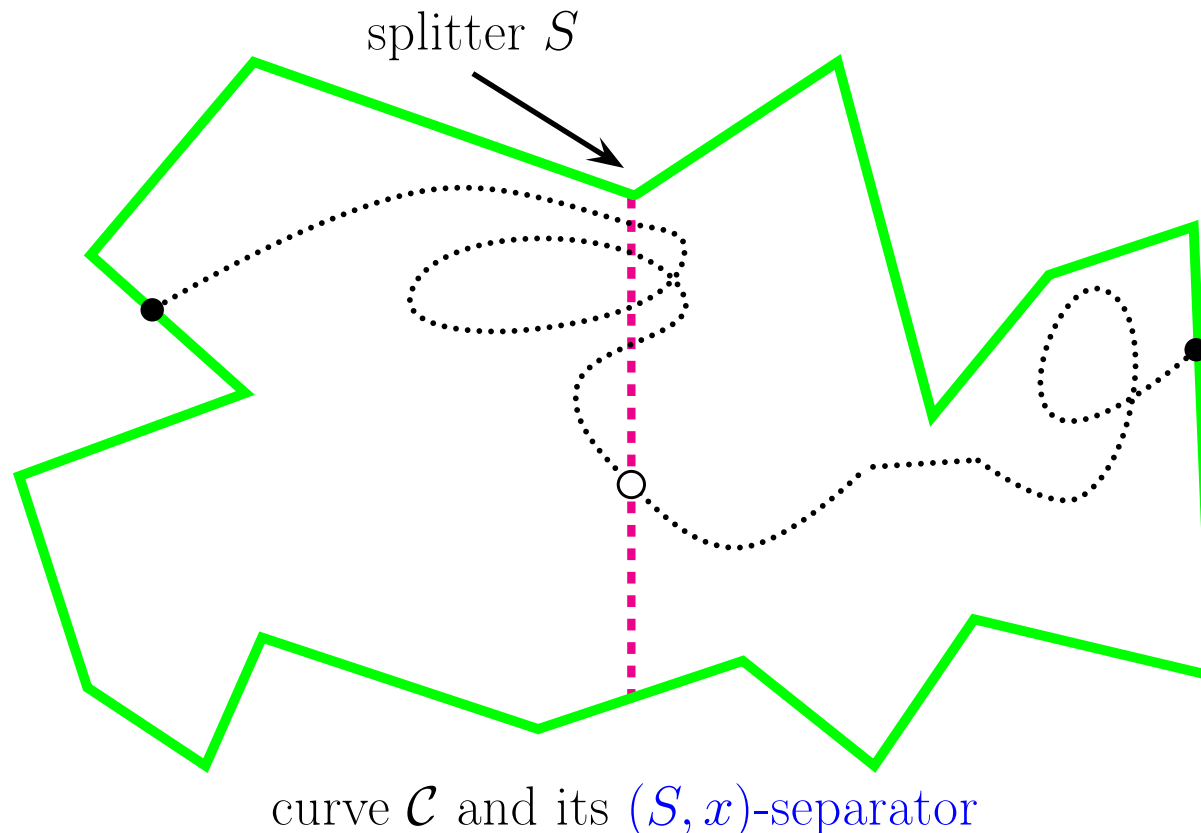
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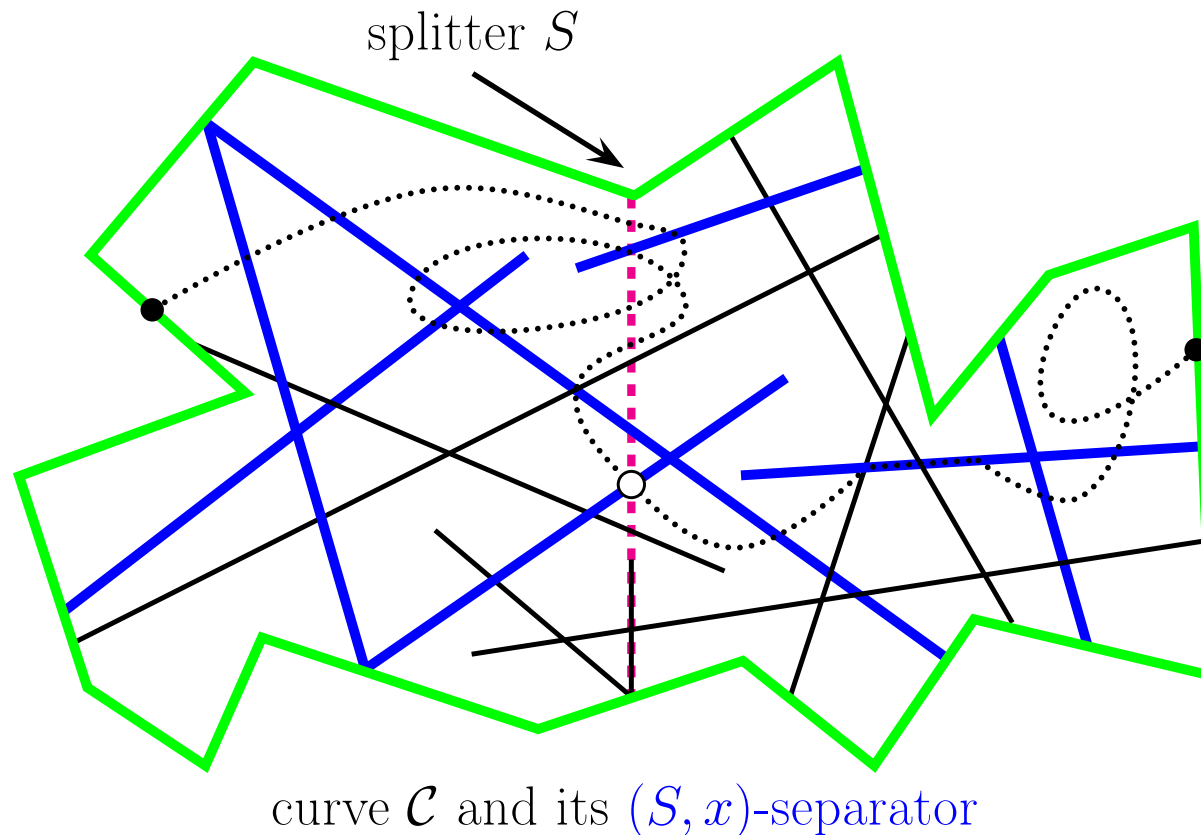
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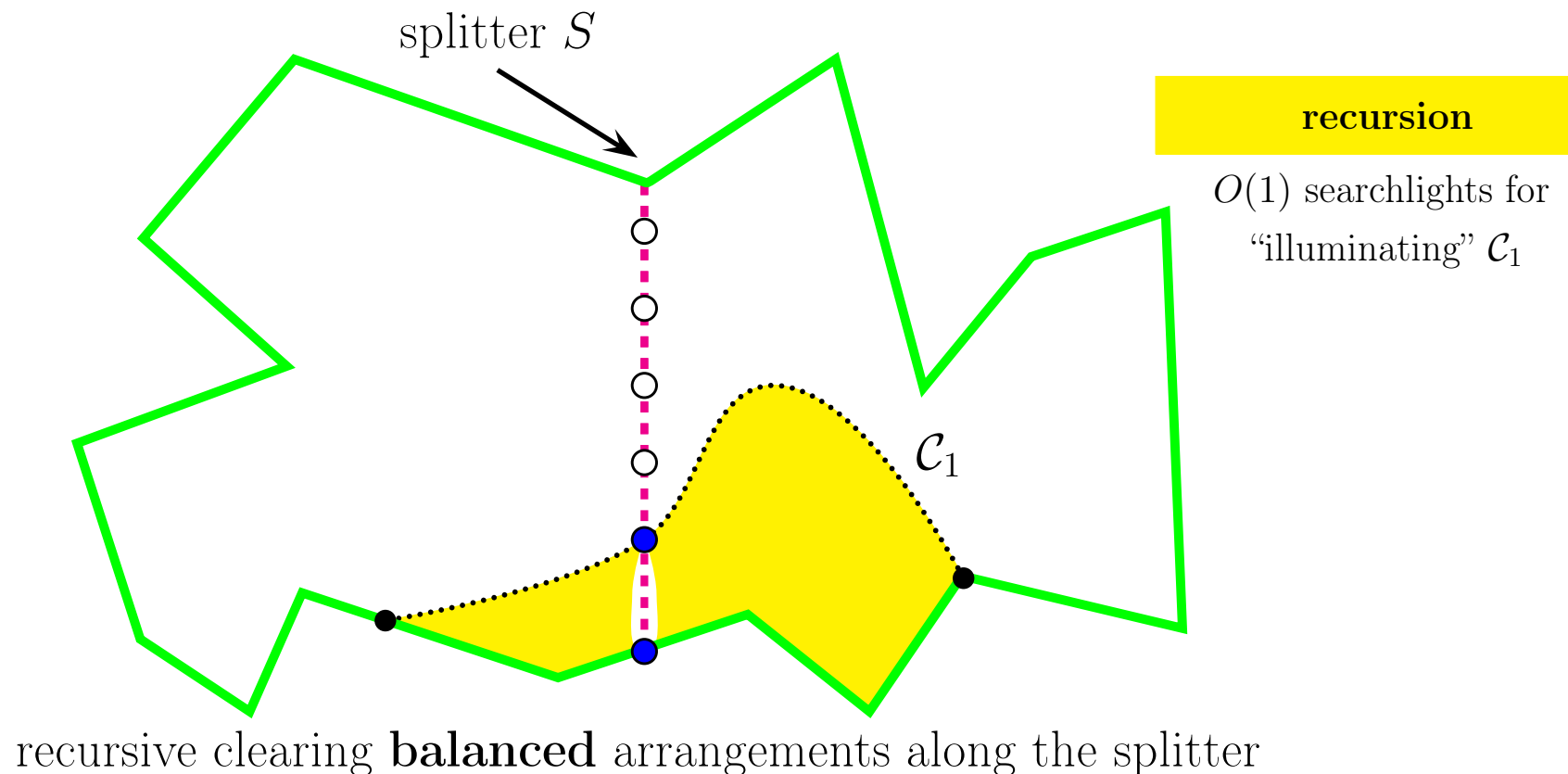
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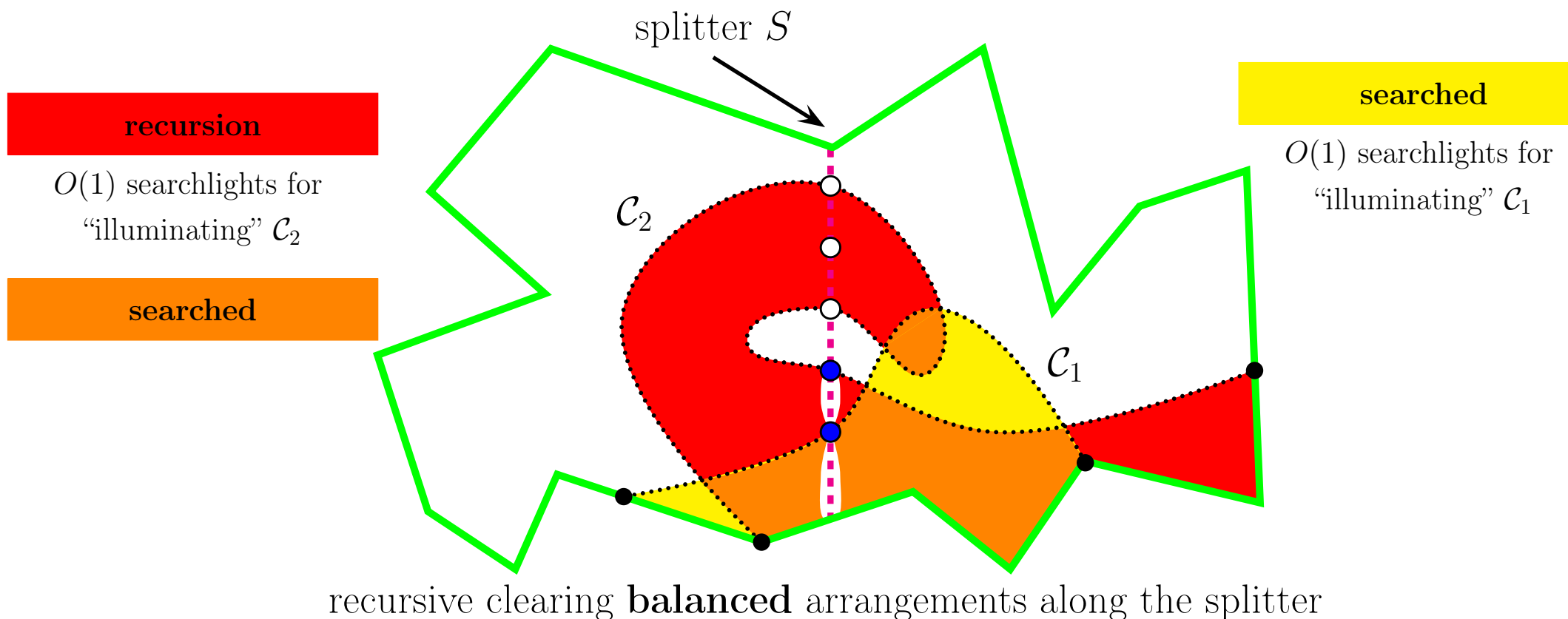
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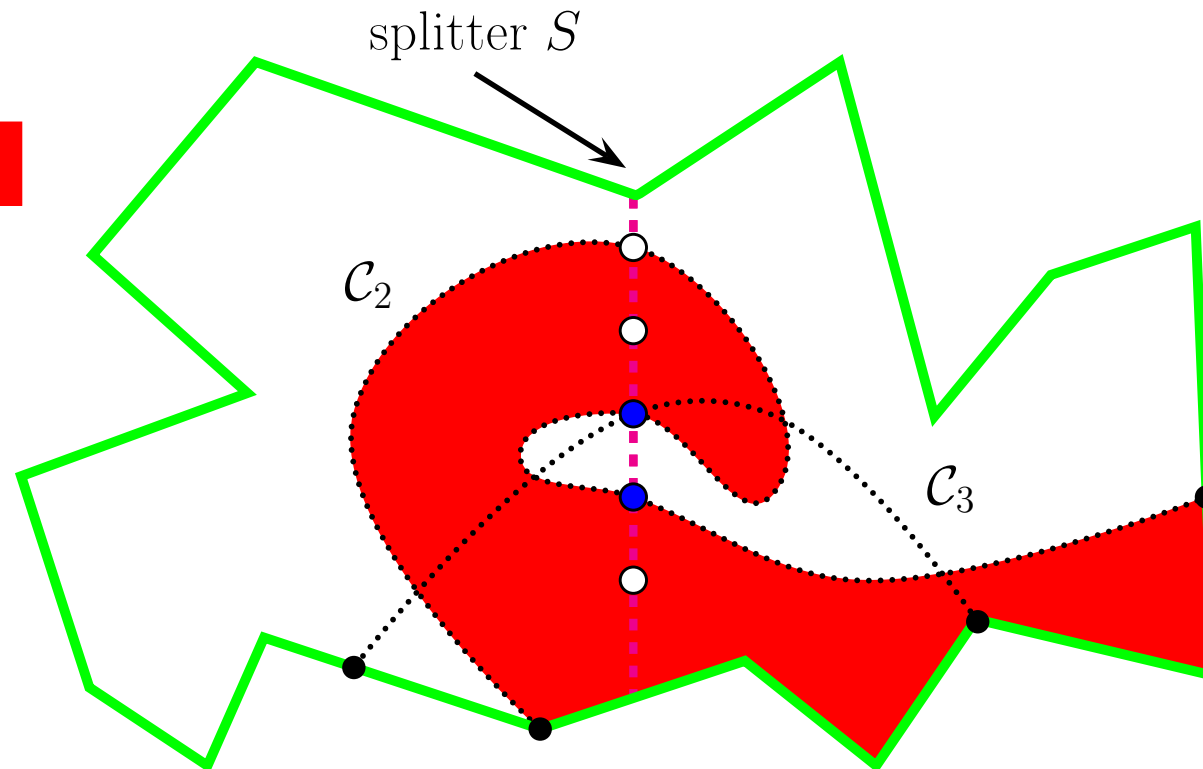


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searched

$O(1)$  searchlights for  
“illuminating”  $\mathcal{C}_2$



recursive clearing **balanced** arrangements along the splitter

**Problem 1.** Provide better estimates on  $s(n, g)$  in the case of  $(n, g)$ -arrangements of lines. In particular, prove or disprove that  $s(n, g) \leq 2g$ .

$$2g - 1 \leq s(n, g) \leq \frac{7g}{3} - 1$$

**Problem 2.** Provide better estimates on  $s(n, g)$  in the general case of  $(n, g)$ -arrangements of line segments.

Without any strong evidence, we conjecture that the upper bound on  $s(n, g)$  can be improved up to  $O(g \log \Delta)$ , where  $\Delta$  is the maximum number of maximal line segments of an arrangement having a point in common.

$$s(n, g) = \Omega(g \log \Delta) \quad \text{and} \quad s(n, g) = O(g^2 \log n)$$

**Problem 3.** The time and space complexity of deciding whether the given arrangement (of lines/line segments) can be searched using  $k \geq 1$  searchlights.