

# Triangulating a polygon

## Computational Geometry

### Lecture 4: Triangulating a polygon

对多边形进行三角剖分

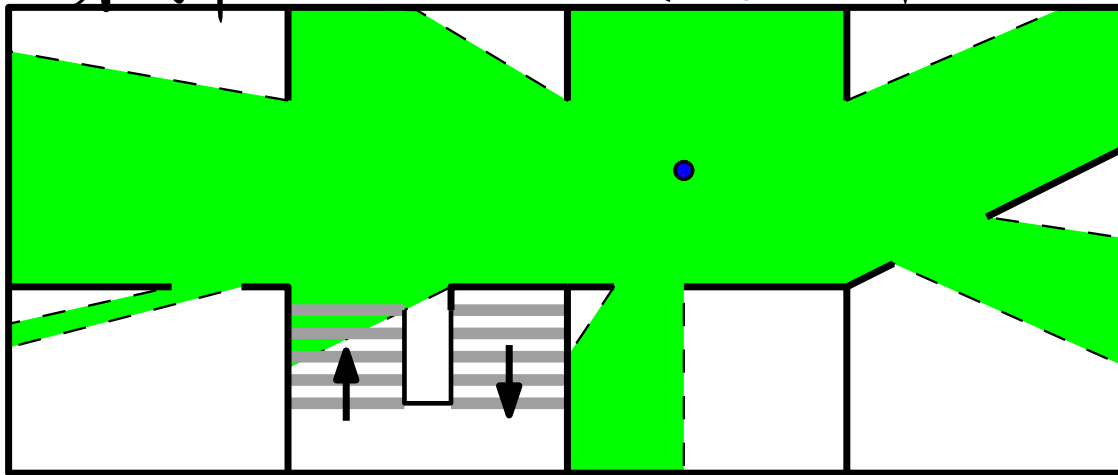
# Polygons and visibility

one of motivation

Two points in a simple polygon can **see** each other if their connecting line segment is in the polygon

如果简单多边形的两点连线在多边形中

则能看到彼此。



Art gallery

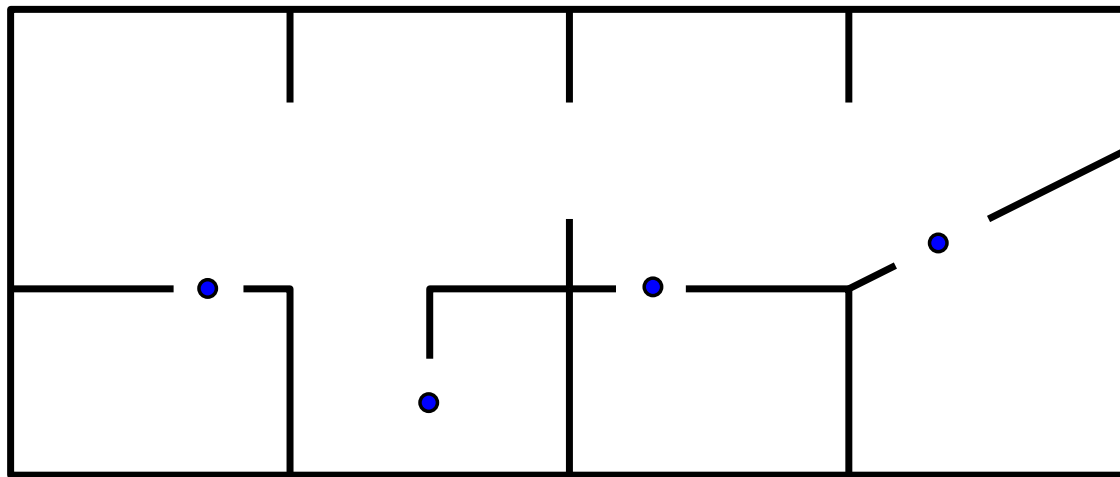
放一些摄像头  
能保护文物  
不被偷

墙会挡住视线范围。 → find a way to place a camera so that everything is protected.

# Art gallery problem

本问题 只看不作

**Art Gallery Problem:** How many cameras are needed to guard a given art gallery so that every point is seen?



把房间想成多边形，不想摄像头  
简单

# Art gallery problem

We don't want the line of visibility to be blocked  
by a wall. → 看不见 minimize. → NP-hard.

In geometry terminology: How many points are needed in a simple polygon with  $n$  vertices so that every point in the polygon is seen?

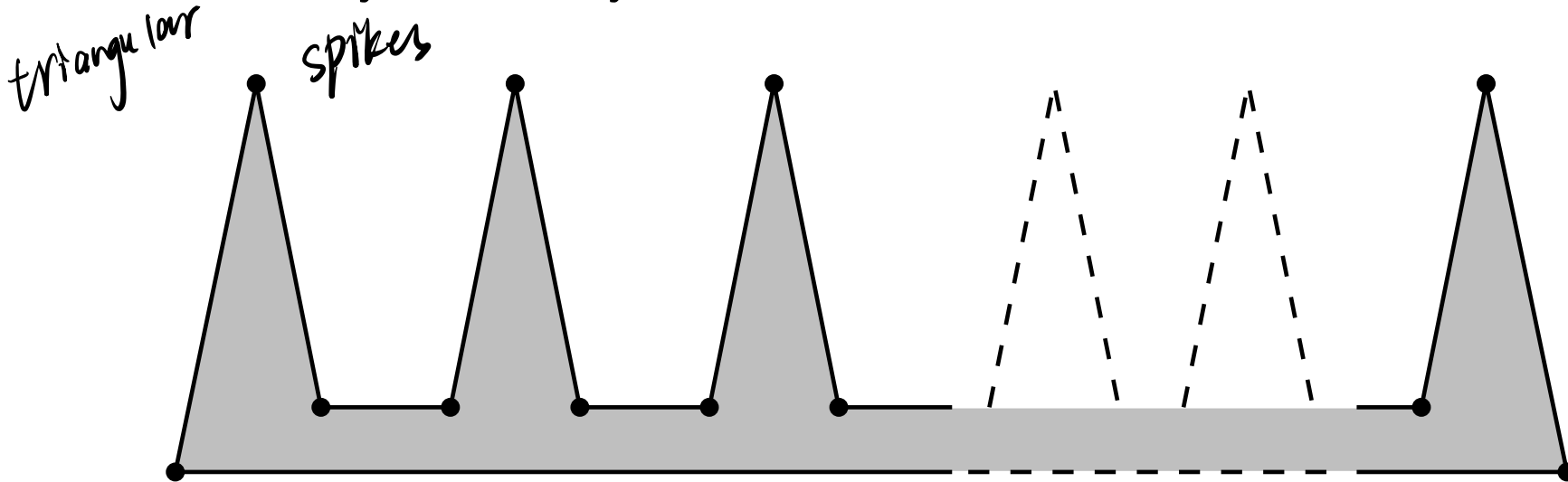
to find the minimum number of these cameras or points that can see every thing.

The **optimization problem** is computationally difficult

☆ **Art Gallery Theorem:**  $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$  cameras are occasionally necessary but always sufficient

# Art gallery problem

**Art Gallery Theorem:**  $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$  cameras are occasionally necessary but always sufficient



need one guard for each of these spikes, and each spike adds 3 corners to the polygon  $\Rightarrow$  need at least  $\frac{n}{3}$  guards.

# Triangulation, diagonal

Why are  $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$  cameras always enough?

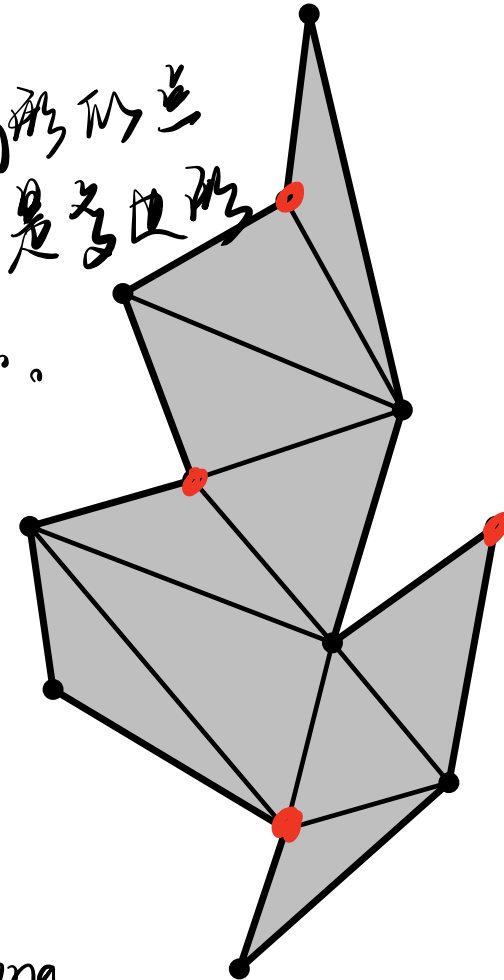
partly ~~because~~

Assume polygon  $P$  is **triangulated**: a decomposition of  $P$  into disjoint triangles by a maximal set of non-intersecting diagonals  $\rightarrow$  分解

**Diagonal of  $P$** : open line segment that connects two vertices of  $P$  and fully lies in the interior of  $P$

We have cut the polygon in pieces along diagonals.

三角形的点  
同样是多边形的点。



# A triangulation always exists

**Lemma:** A simple polygon with  $n$  vertices can always be triangulated, and always with  $n - 2$  triangles

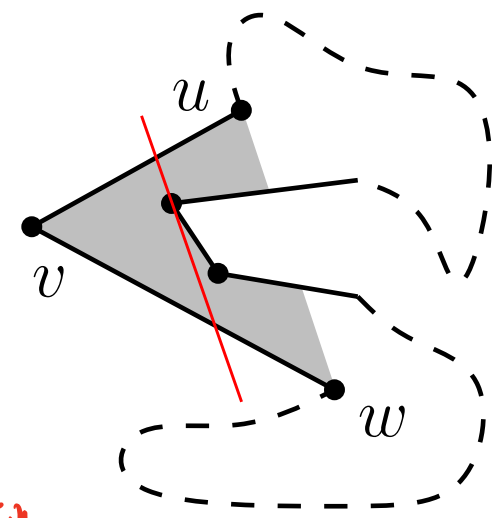
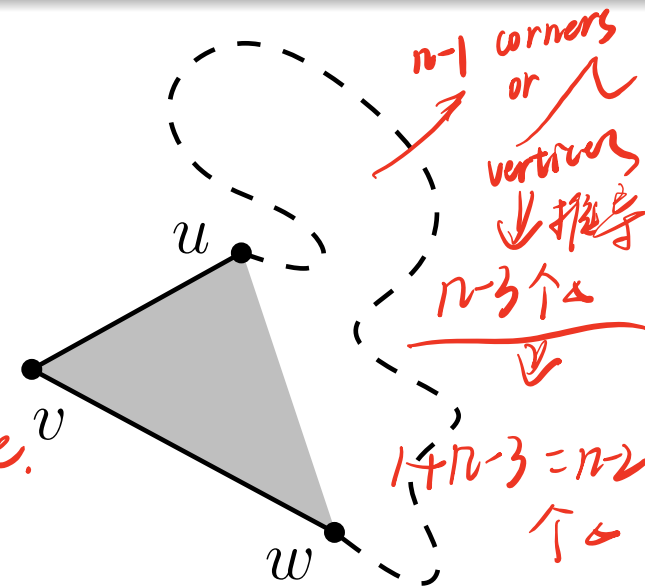
**Proof:** Induction on  $n$ . If  $n = 3$ , it is trivial  
*→ Already triangulated,  $n-2=1$  triangle.*

Assume  $n > 3$ . Consider the leftmost vertex  $v$  and its two neighbors  $u$  and  $w$ .

Either  $uw$  is a diagonal (case 1), or part of the boundary of  $P$  is in  $\triangle uvw$  (case 2)

Case 2: choose the vertex  $t$  in  $\triangle uvw$  farthest from the line through  $u$  and  $w$ , then  $\overline{vt}$  must be a diagonal

*We can use this diagonal to split the polygon into 2 pieces.  $VT \uparrow$ ,  $VT \downarrow$*



# A triangulation always exists

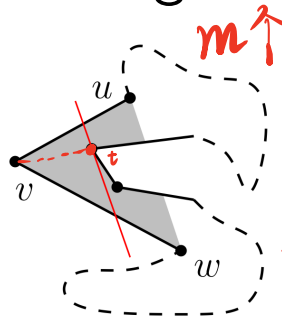
因为  $w$  不可能在上部分, 而  $u$  也  
不可能在下部分, 所以

它们中的每一个都有少于  $n$  的 vertices?  
最多  $n-1$  个

In case 1,  $\overline{uw}$  cuts the polygon into a triangle and a simple polygon with  $n - 1$  vertices, and we apply induction

In case 2,  $\overline{vt}$  cuts the polygon into two simple polygons with  $m$  and  $n - m + 2$  vertices,  $3 \leq m \leq n - 1$ , and we also apply induction

By induction, the two polygons can be triangulated using  $m - 2$  and  $n - m + 2 - 2 = n - m$  triangles. So the original polygon is triangulated using  $m - 2 + n - m = n - 2$  triangles  $\square$



$n - (m - 2) \Rightarrow n - m + 2$

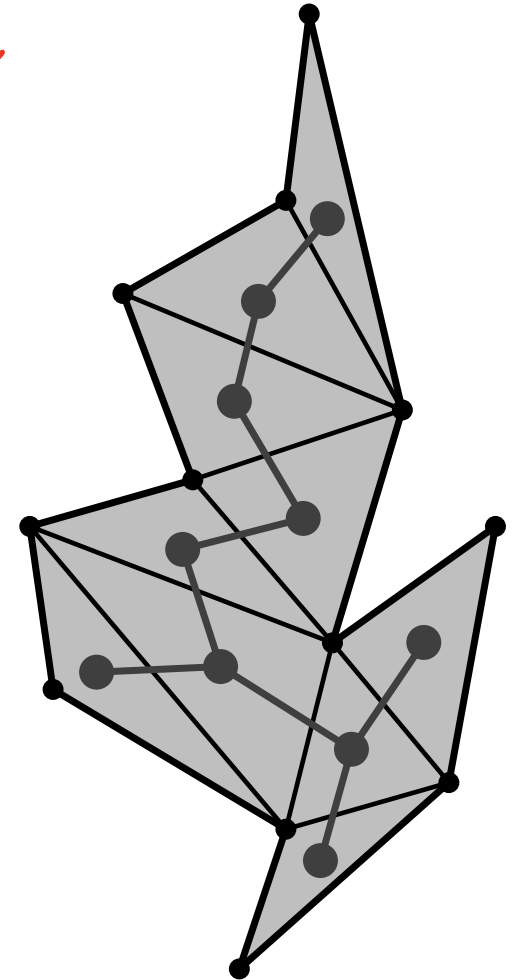


# A 3-coloring always exists

*We can always triangulate a polygon.*  
*如果你在房间里, 你总能去一些角落并且从那个角落, 你能看见另一个角落。*

Observe: the dual graph of a triangulated simple polygon is a tree

Dual graph: each face gives a node; two nodes are connected if the faces are adjacent



# A 3-coloring always exists

**Lemma:** The vertices of a triangulated simple polygon can always be 3-colored

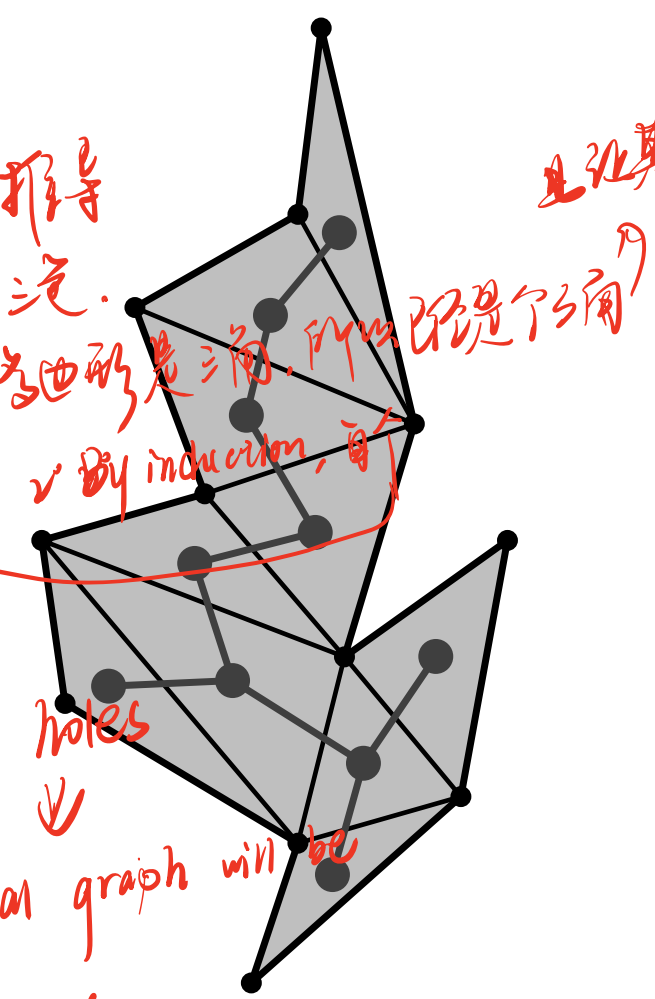
**Proof:** Induction on the number of triangles in the triangulation. Base case: True for a triangle

Every tree has a leaf, in particular the one that is the dual graph. Remove the corresponding triangle from the triangulated polygon, color its vertices, add the triangle back, and let the extra vertex have the color different from its neighbors

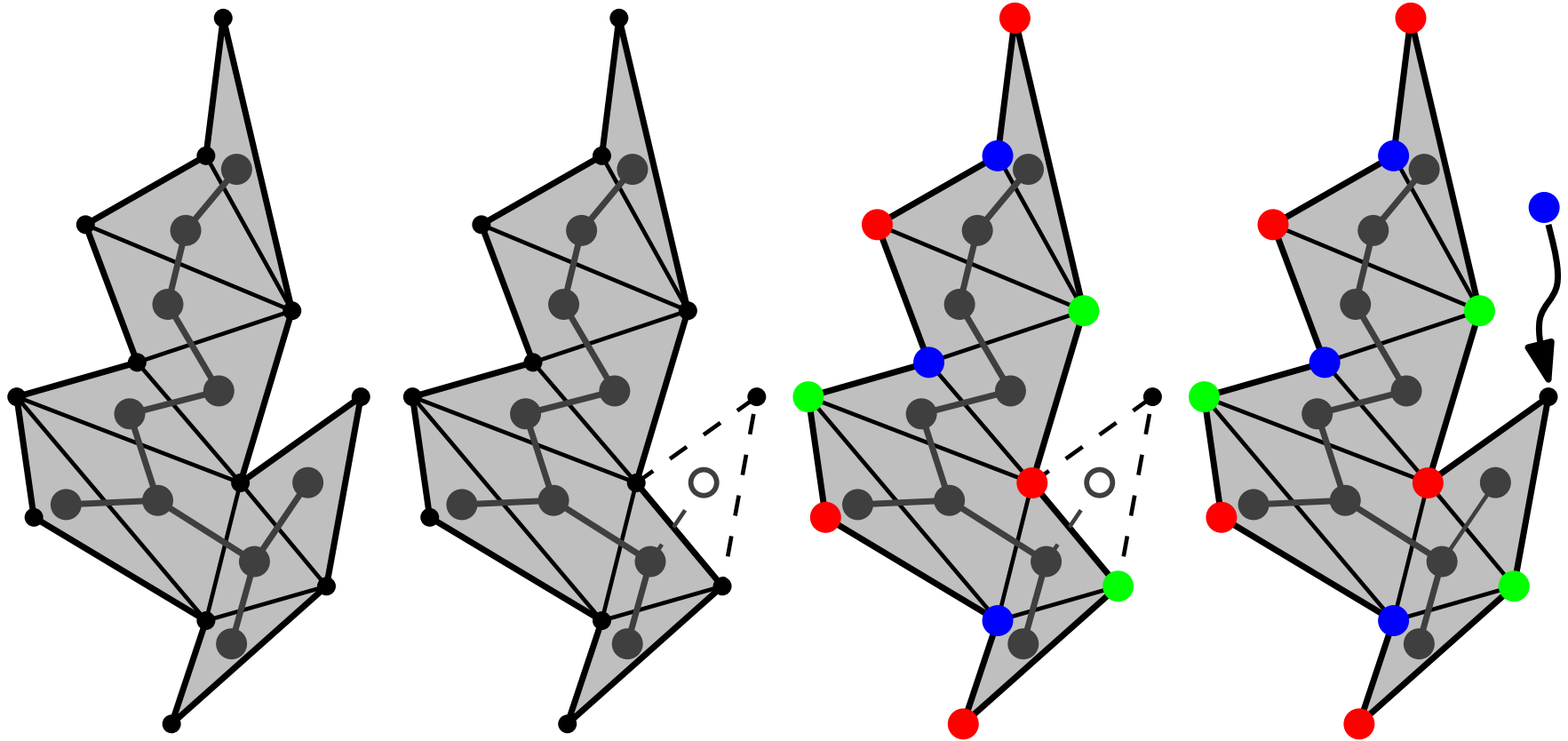
可以通过 induction 推导  
每个面都有 RGB 色。

如果为三角形，所以已经是 3 角了  
By induction, 每个

No holes  
↓  
dual graph will be  
a tree



# A 3-coloring always exists



# $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$ cameras are enough

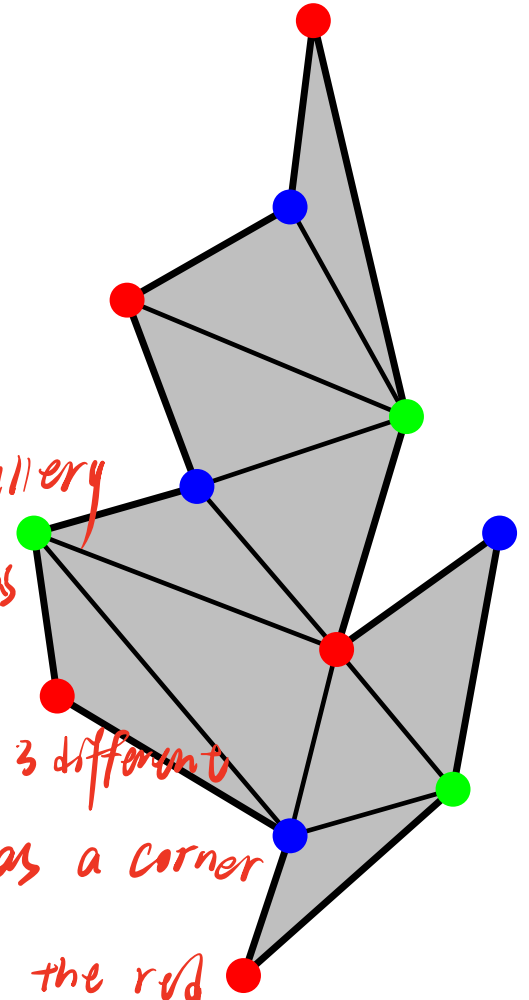
For a 3-colored, triangulated simple polygon, one of the color classes is used by at most  $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$  colors. Place the cameras at these vertices

This argument is called the pigeon-hole principle

*We can regard the art gallery problem within  $n/3$  cameras*

*we have vertices of 3 different colours and then each triangle has a corner*

*of each color  $\Rightarrow$  if we take all the red vertices, they will guard everything as each triangle will be guarded by some red point.*



$\{ |R|, |G|, |B| \}$

*min*  
*integers*

*rounded down*

Motivation  
Triangulating a polygon

Visibility in polygons  
Triangulation  
Proof of the Art gallery theorem

$\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$  cameras are enough

**Question:** Why does the proof fail when the polygon has holes?

*When we do the inductive step, we say that we pick a leaf from the tree induced by the triangulation, but if there is a hole in the polygon, then the triangulation will not induce a tree then there can be cycles and then there is no leaf we can choose. then you need more guards.*

# Two-ears for triangulation

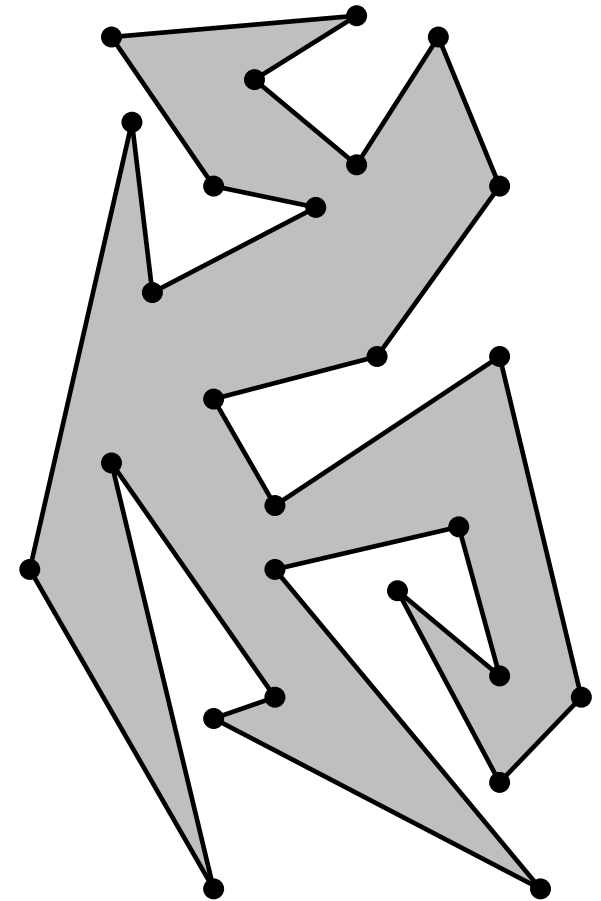
一种得到 ↑ 的方法.

Using the **two-ears theorem**:  
(an ear consists of three consecutive vertices  $u, v, w$  where  $\overline{uw}$  is a diagonal)

Find an ear, ~~cut it off with a diagonal,~~  
triangulate the rest iteratively

**Question:** Why does every simple polygon have an ear?

**Question:** How efficient is this algorithm?

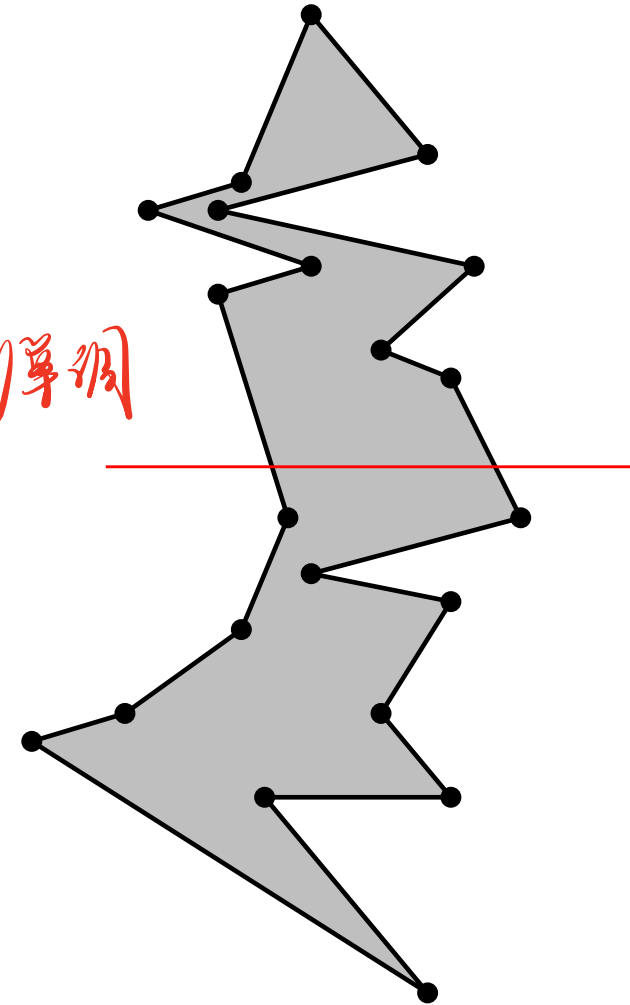


# Overview

A simple polygon is ***y*-monotone** iff any horizontal line intersects it in a connected set (or not at all) *→ 单调的*  
*↑*  
*比如一条线相交于两个点则单调*

Use plane sweep to partition the polygon into *y*-monotone polygons

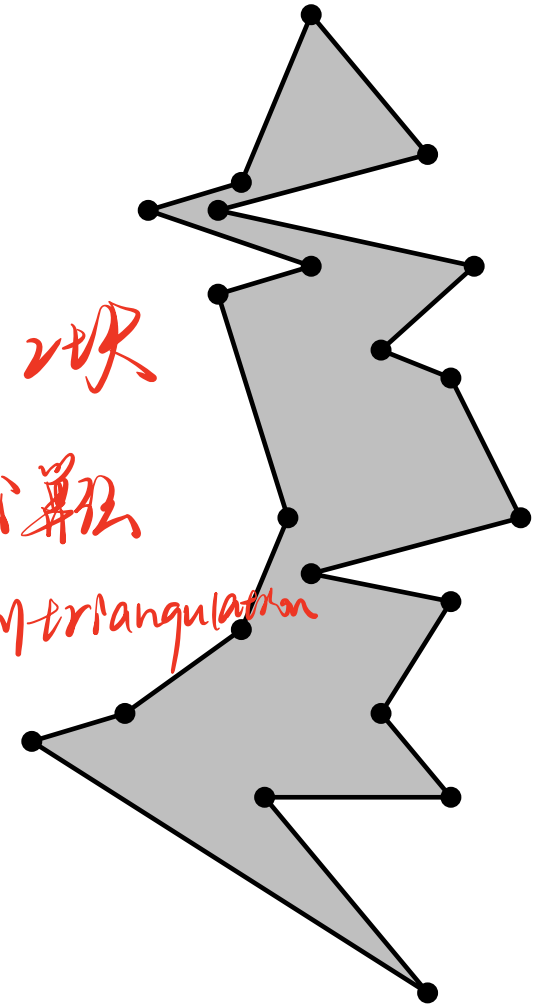
Then triangulate each *y*-monotone polygon



# Monotone polygons

A  $y$ -monotone polygon has a top vertex, a bottom vertex, and two  $y$ -monotone chains between top and bottom as its boundary

Any simple polygon with one top vertex and one bottom vertex is  $y$ -monotone



分成2块

有另一个算法

能得到 triangulation

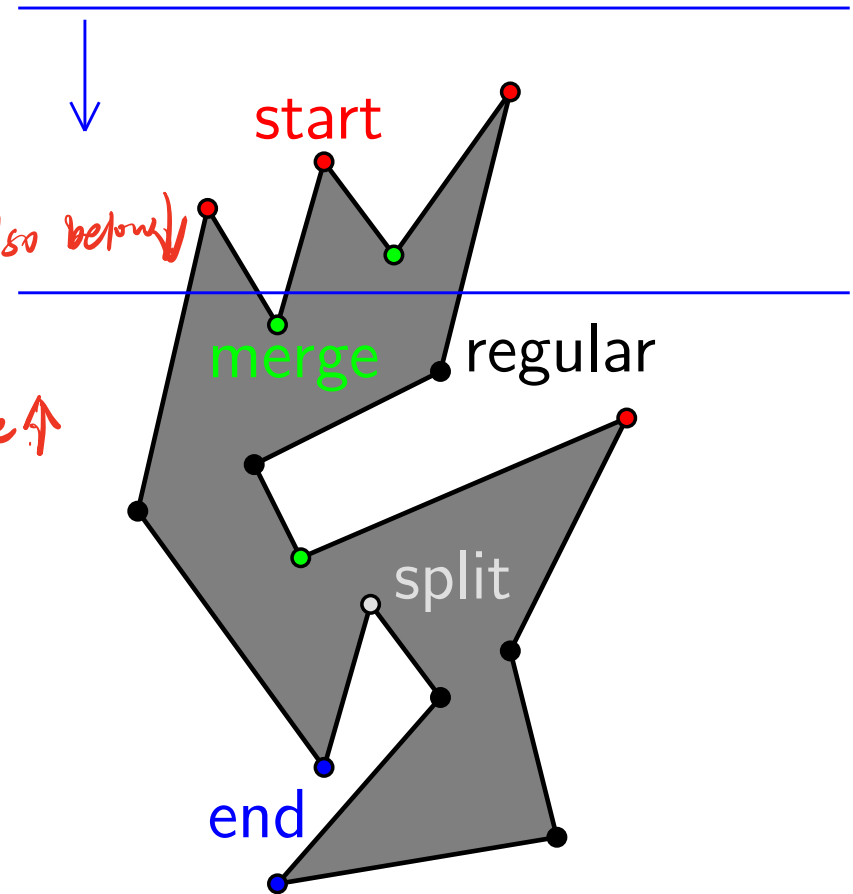


# Vertex types

What types of vertices does a simple polygon have?

- start → *g. down and the polygon is also below*
- stop → *edges go up, polygon up*
- split → *edges go down, the polygon above*
- merge → *edges go up, polygon down*
- regular → *one up, one down*

... imagining a sweep line going top to bottom

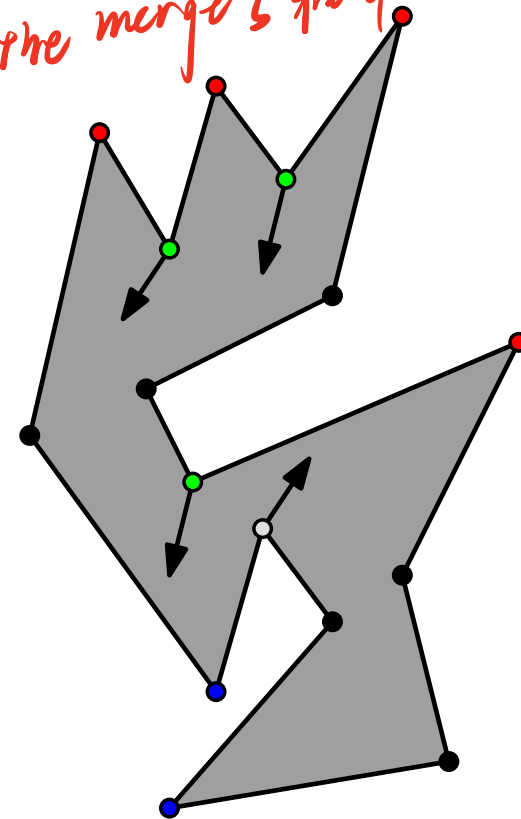


# Sweep ideas

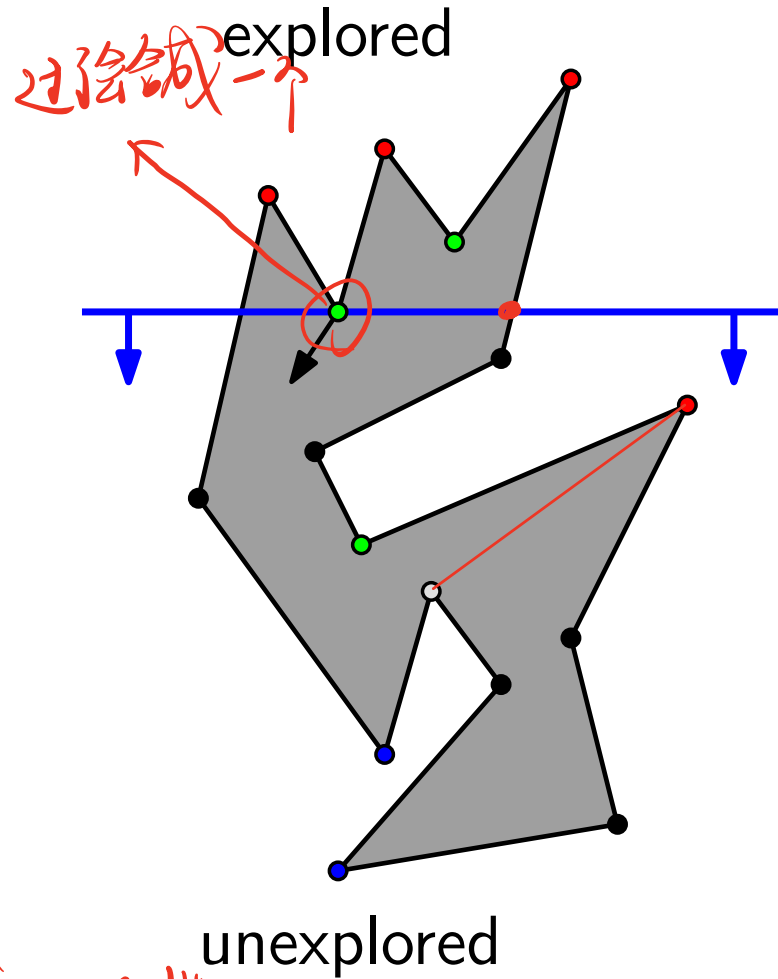
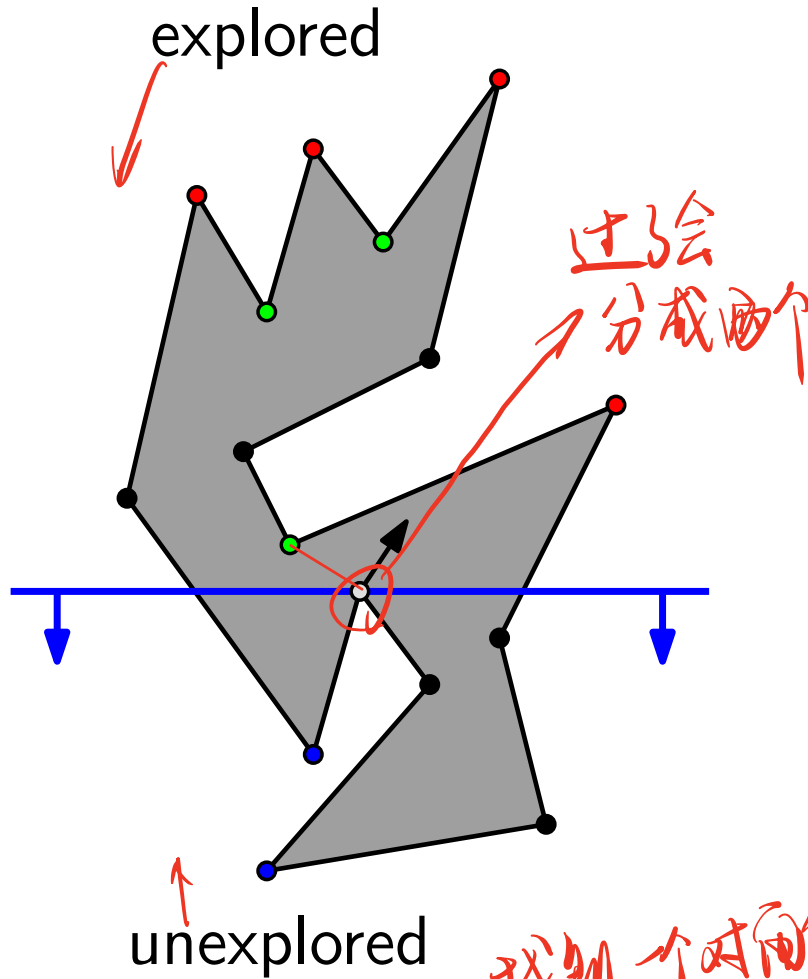
为了得到  $y$ -monotone pieces,  
我们得消除 all the merge 和 split.

Find diagonals from each merge  
vertex down, and from each split  
vertex up

A simple polygon with no split or  
merge vertices can have at most one  
start and one end vertex, so it is  
 $y$ -monotone



# Sweep ideas



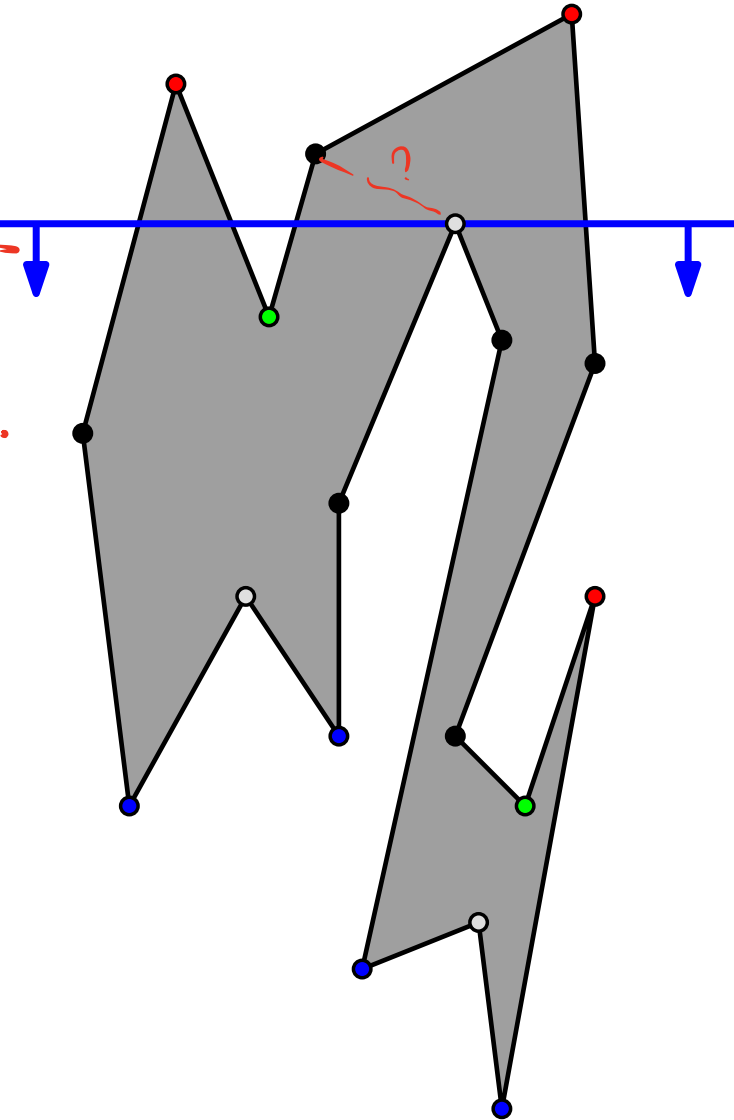
找到一个时间线  
清除 split; 成一个无 split  
的 polygon

# Sweep ideas

从上往下拆 split  
从下往上拼 merge  
因为反方向拆是 merge 就是 split.

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

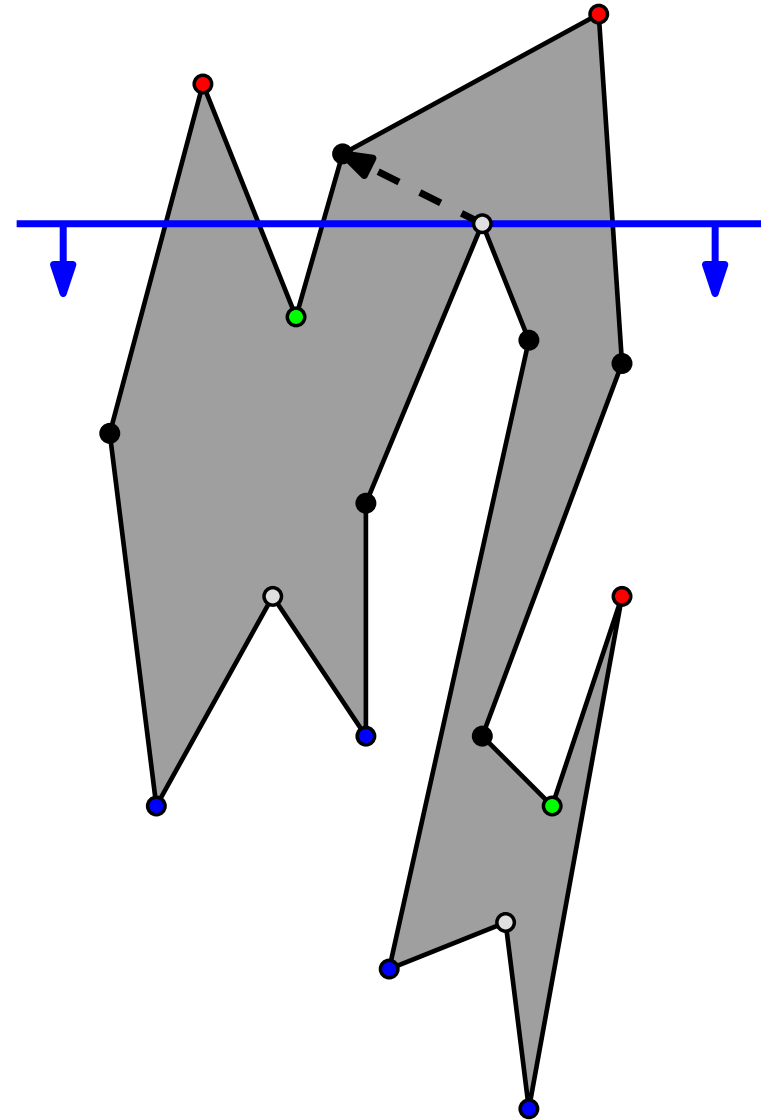
Perhaps the upper endpoint of the edge immediately left of the split vertex?



# Sweep ideas

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

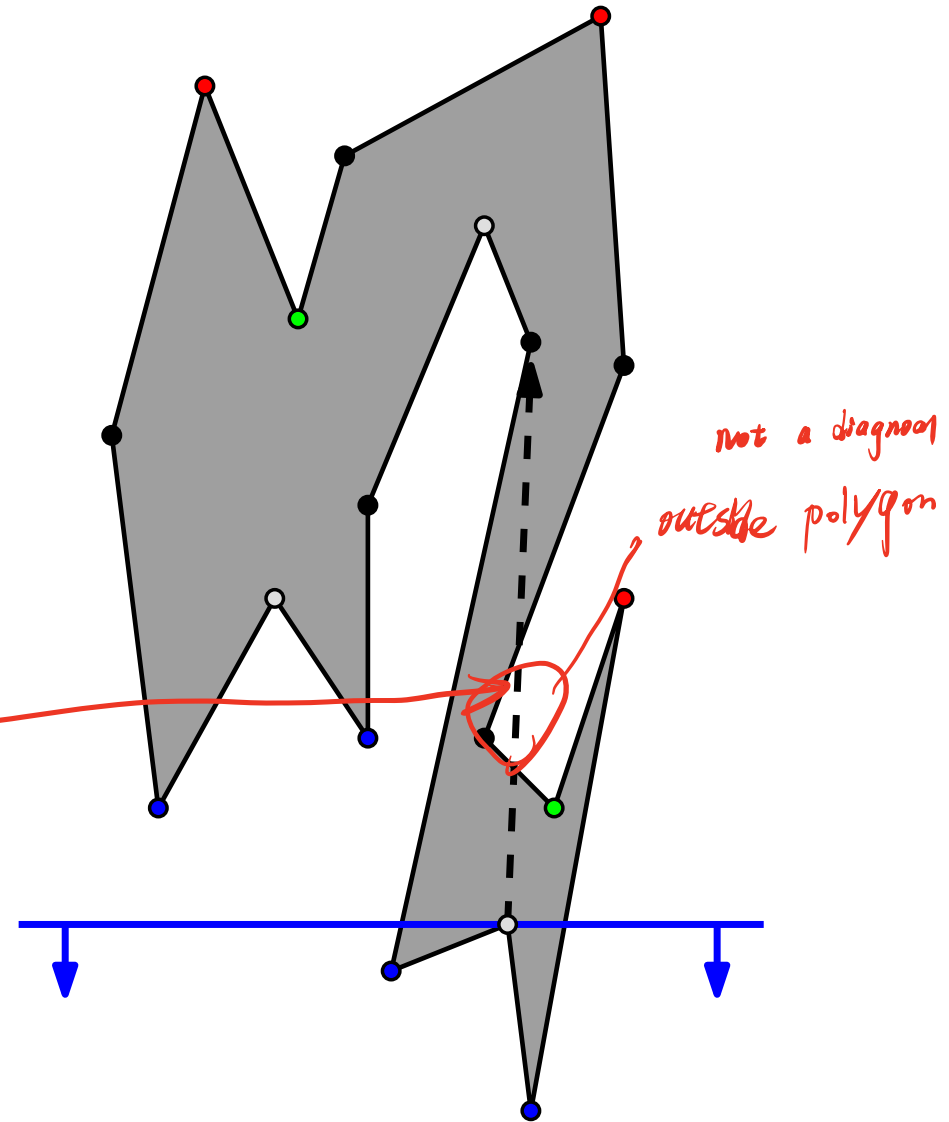
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# Sweep ideas

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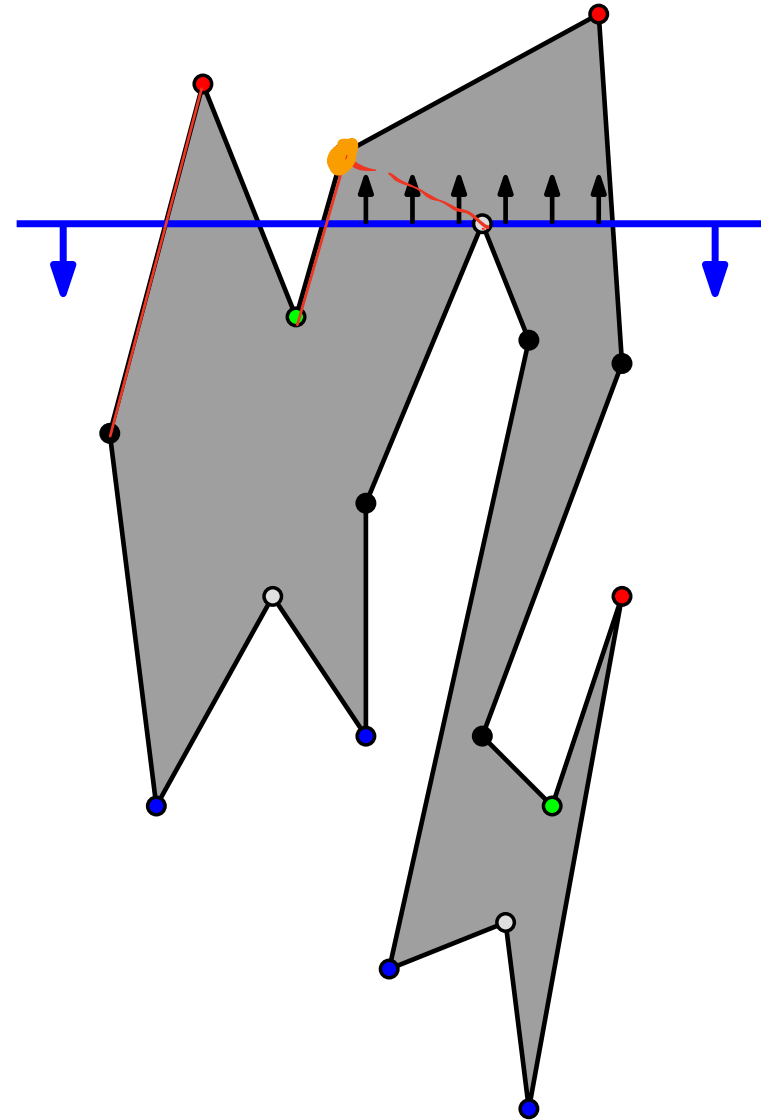
Perhaps the upper endpoint of the edge immediately left of the split vertex?



# Sweep ideas

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

Perhaps the last vertex passed in the same “component”?



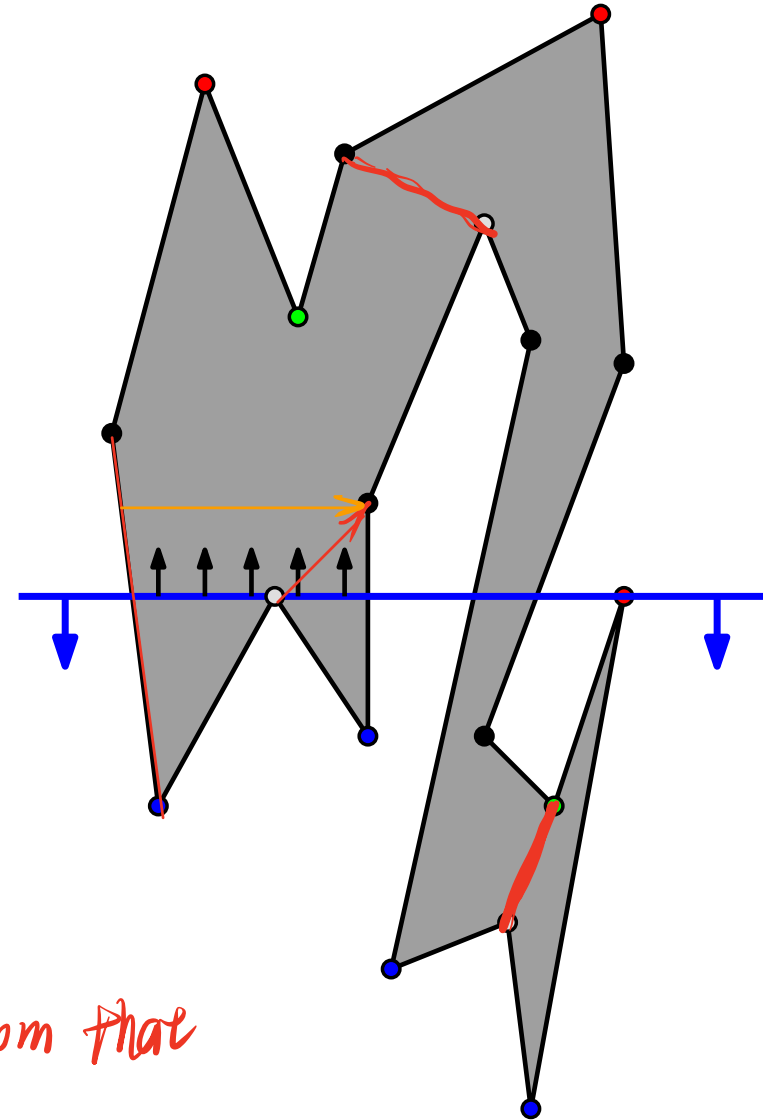
# Sweep ideas

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

Perhaps the last vertex passed in the same "component"?

*↓*  
The first vertex we need  
when we look up from there

*看到*  
→

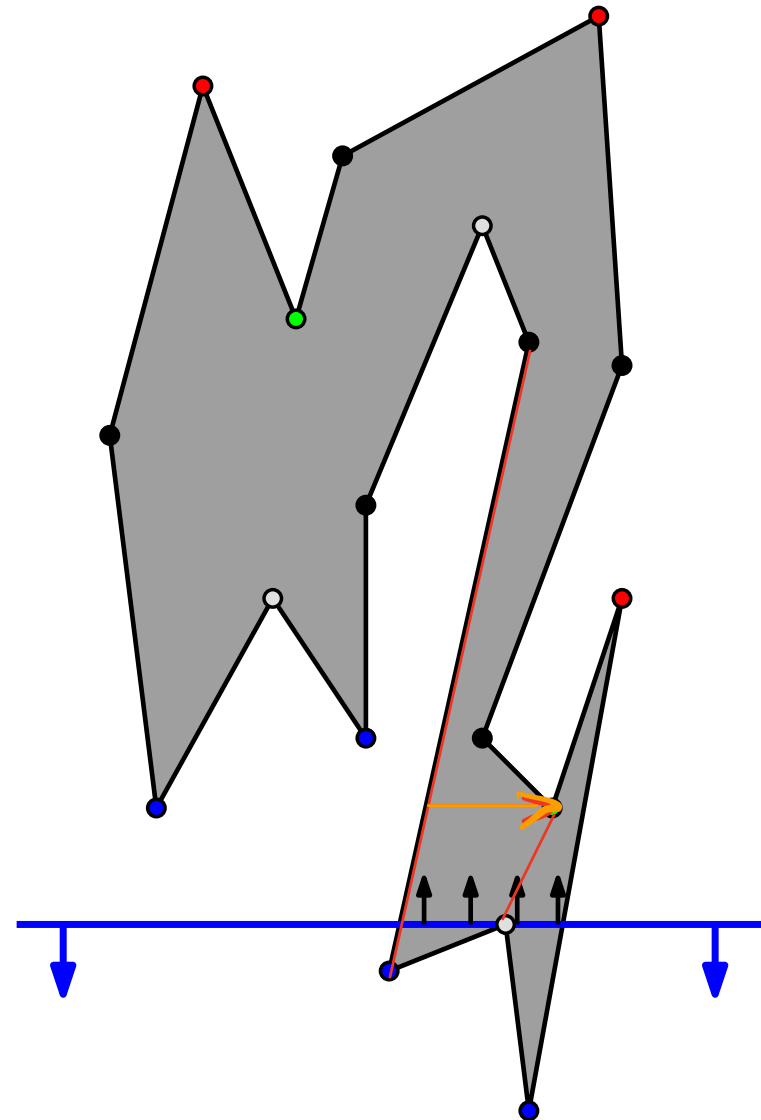




# Sweep ideas

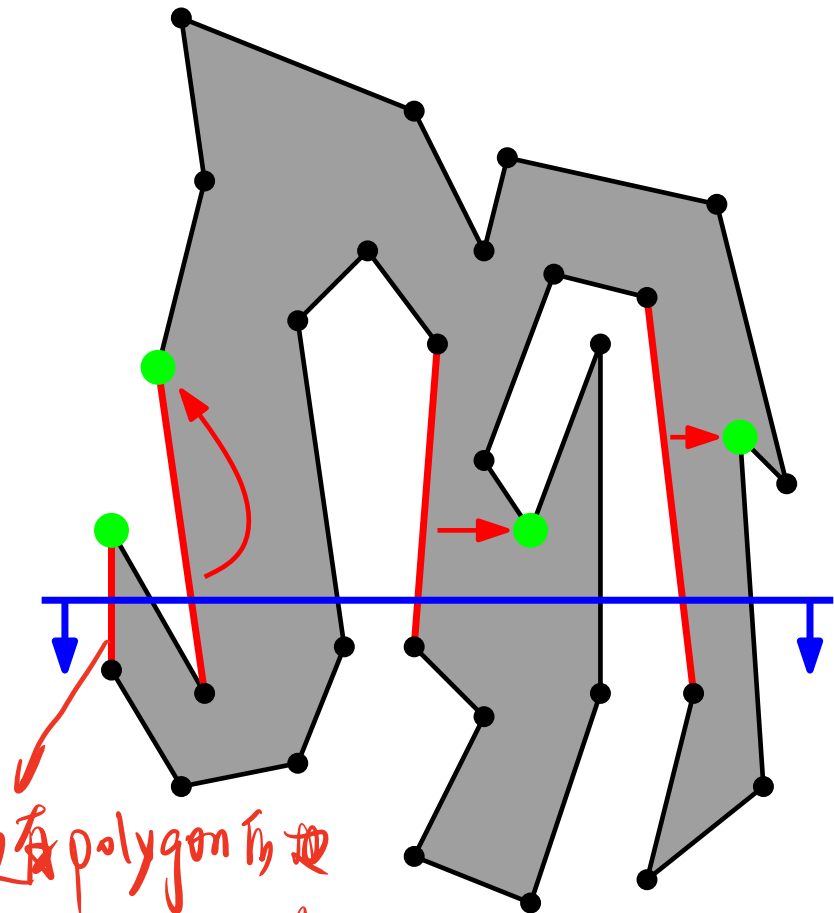
Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

Perhaps the last vertex passed in the same "component"?



# Helpers of edges

The **helper** for an edge  $e$  that has the polygon right of it, and a position of the sweep line, is the lowest vertex  $v$  above the sweep line such that the horizontal line segment connecting  $e$  and  $v$  is inside the polygon

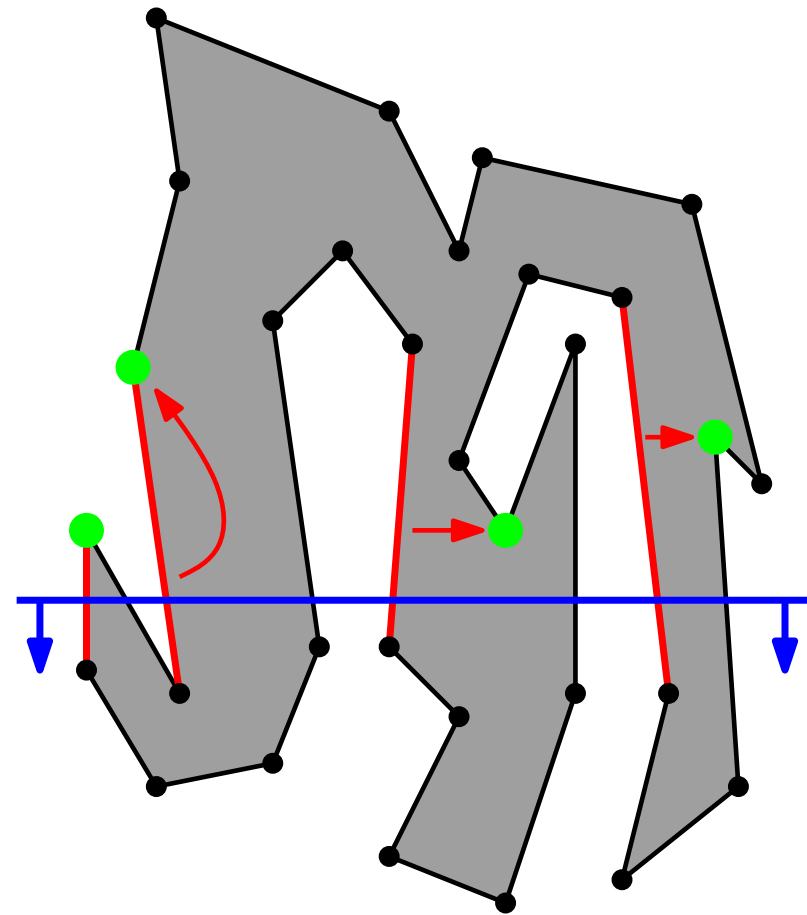


helper edges  $\uparrow$  these  
绿点是这条边能看到的最低点  
右边有polygon的边

# Status of sweep

The **status** is the set of edges intersecting the sweep line that have the polygon to their right, sorted from left to right, and each with their *helper*: the last vertex passed in that component

$n+g$   
edge + vertex



We need to update this structure as we go along.

# Status structure, event list

当我们遇到 split 时, 连接 status 中的  
那个 helper.

The **status structure** stores all edges that have the polygon to the right, with their helper, sorted from left to right in the leaves of a balanced binary search tree

事件仅发生在顶点

The events happen only at the vertices: sort them by  $y$ -coordinate and put them in a list (or array, or tree)

按  $y$  坐标排序并放入列表。

存成一个平衡二叉树。  
检索

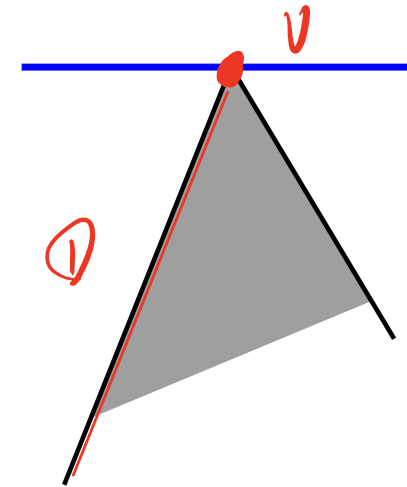
# Main algorithm

Initialize the event list (all vertices sorted by decreasing  $y$ -coordinate) and the status structure (empty)

While there are still events in the event list, remove the first (topmost) one and handle it

# Event handling

当过了这个点，将这个边和点塞进去



**Start vertex**  $v$ :

- Insert the counterclockwise incident edge in  $T$  with  $v$  as the helper

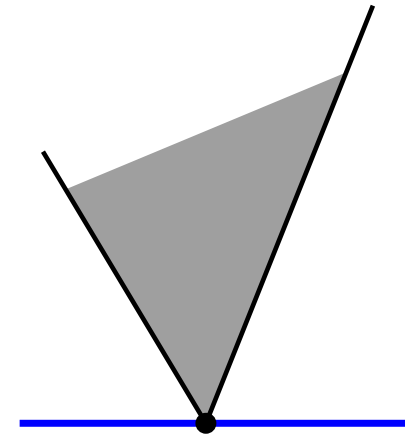
塞  $v$  是因为这个点  
是最低的 能看见这个边的

status { ①,  $v$  }

# Event handling

**End** vertex  $v$ :

- Delete the clockwise incident edge and its helper from  $T$



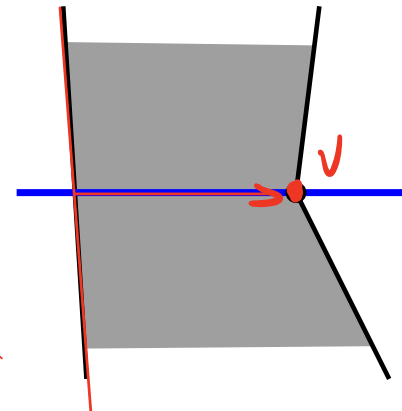
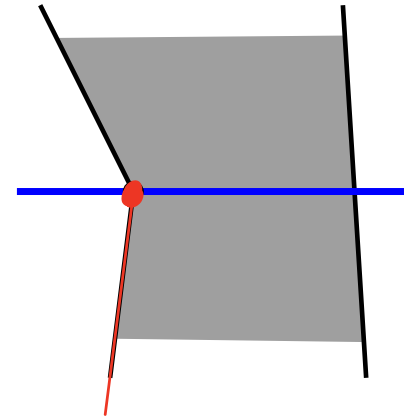
过了最低点，  
删除这个边和它的 helper。

# Event handling

## Regular vertex $v$ :

- If the polygon is right of the two incident edges, then replace the upper edge by the lower edge in  $T$ , and make  $v$  the helper
- If the polygon is left of the two incident edges, then find the edge  $e$  directly left of  $v$ , and replace its helper by  $v$

更新是 helper

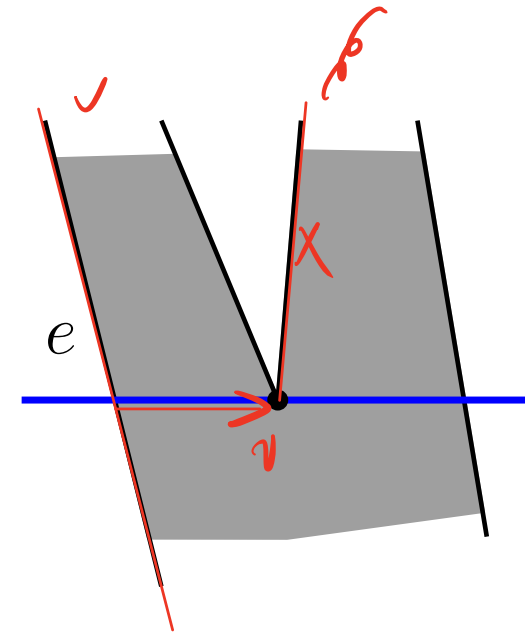




# Event handling

## Merge vertex $v$ :

- Remove the edge clockwise from  $v$  from  $T$
- Find the edge  $e$  directly left of  $v$ , and replace its helper by  $v$



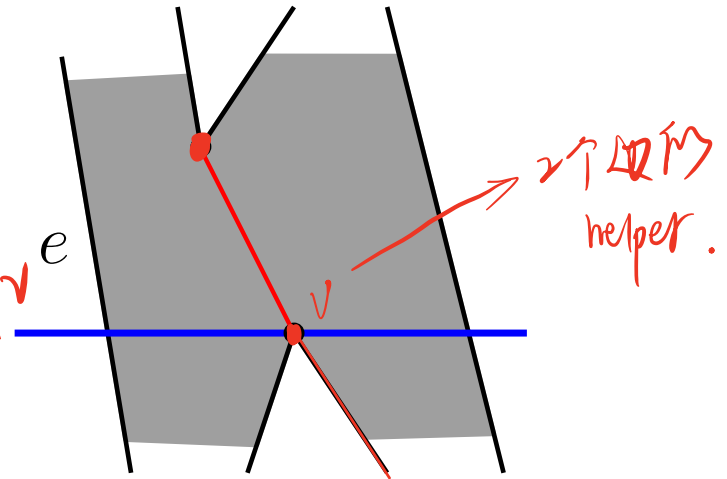
# Event handling

## Split vertex $v$ :

- Find the edge  $e$  directly left of  $v$ , and choose as a diagonal the edge between its helper and  $v$
- Replace the helper of  $e$  by  $v$
- Insert the edge counterclockwise from  $v$  in  $T$ , with  $v$  as its helper

先連

替換成  $v$



# Efficiency

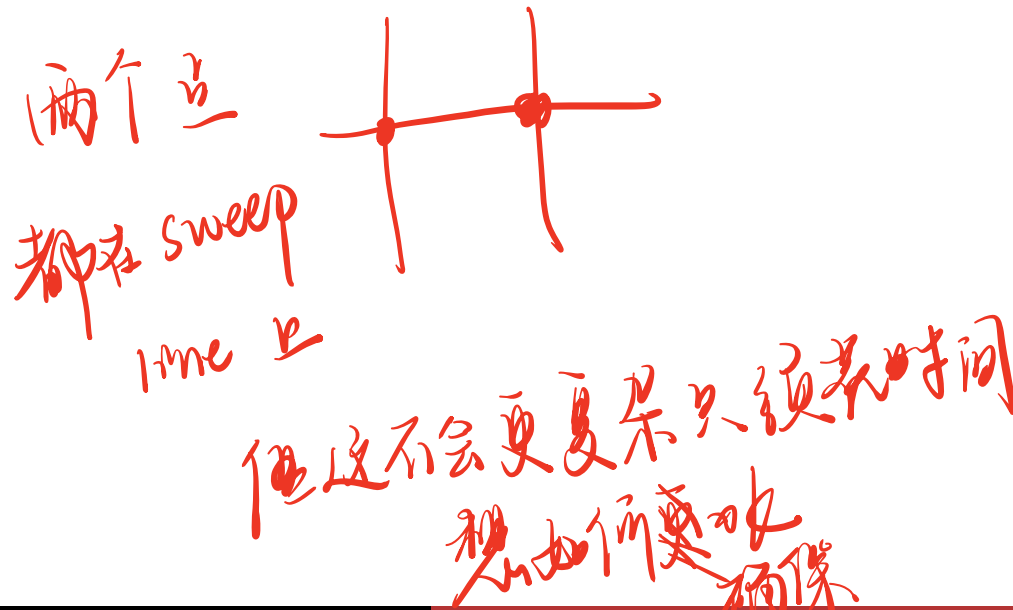
Sorting all events by  $y$ -coordinate takes  $O(n \log n)$  time

Every event takes  $O(\log n)$  time, because it only involves querying, inserting and deleting in  $T$

↓  
BST

# Degenerate cases

**Question:** Which degenerate cases arise in this algorithm?

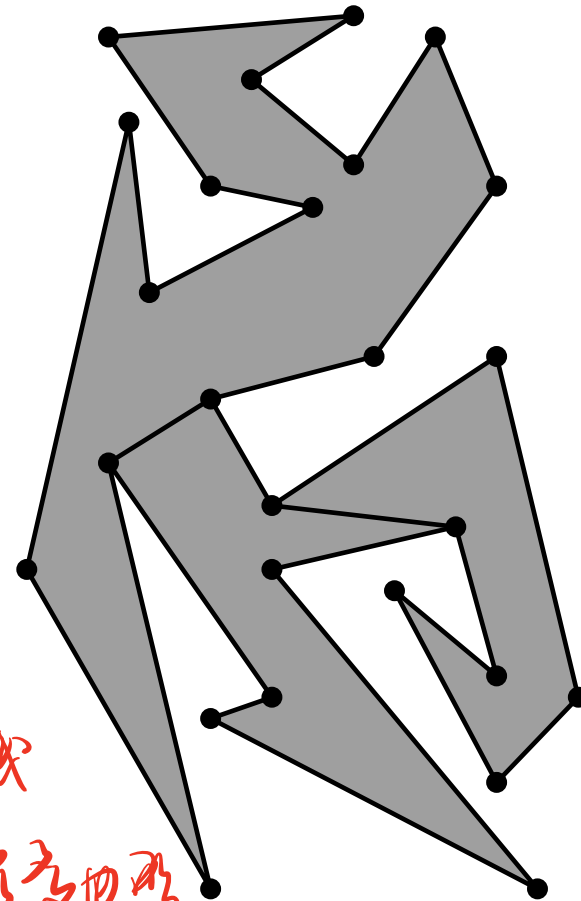


# Representation

代表性

A simple polygon with some diagonals is a subdivision  $\Rightarrow$  use a **DCEL**  $\rightarrow$  Duplicated Connected Edge List.

**Question:** How many diagonals may be chosen to the same vertex?



我们加这些对角线

然后分割成更多多边形

然后之后对这些多边形操作

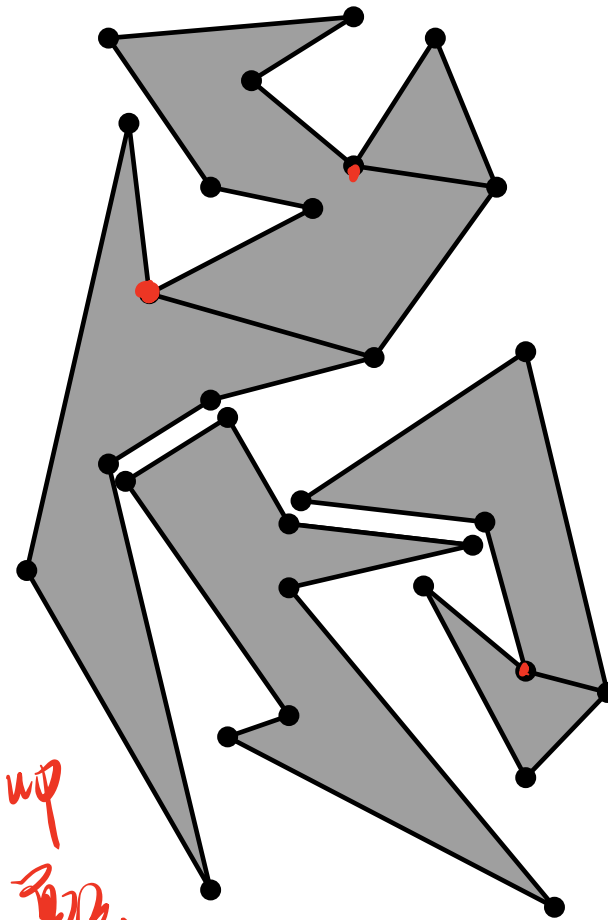
# More sweeping

With an upward sweep in each subpolygon, we can find a diagonal down from every merge vertex (which is a split vertex for an upward sweep!)

This makes all subpolygons  $y$ -monotone



但是仍有 merge  
所以需要 bottom up  
然后再统一处理



# Result

**Theorem:** A simple polygon with  $n$  vertices can be partitioned into  $y$ -monotone pieces in  $O(n \log n)$  time

因为我们用  $n \log n$  time 来 sort 点 corners

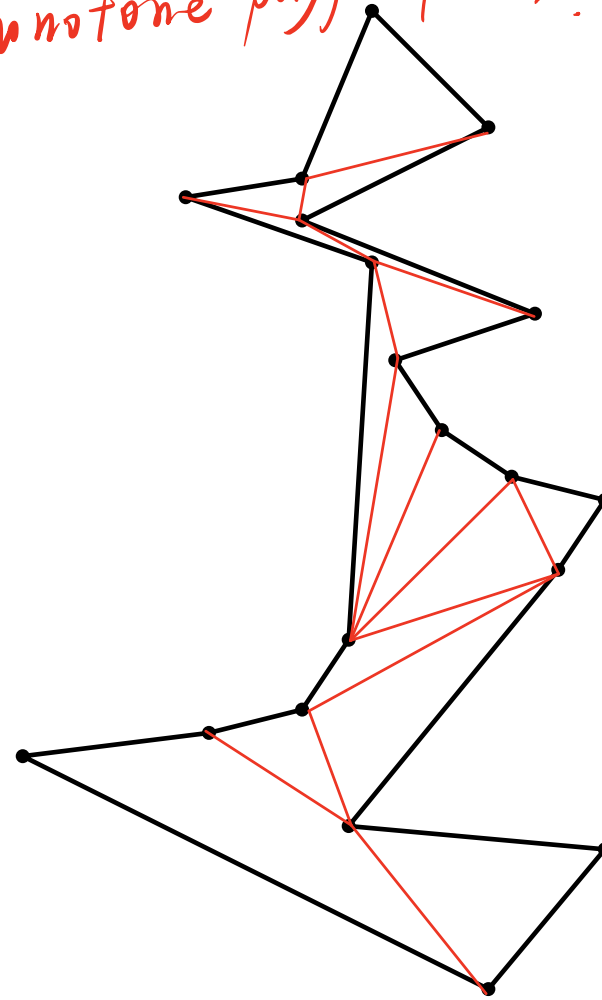
同时也用  $\log n$  时间来更新数据结构(对于每个点)

所以  $n \log n$

# Triangulating a monotone polygon

上面是如何分成  $y$ -monotone polygon pieces.

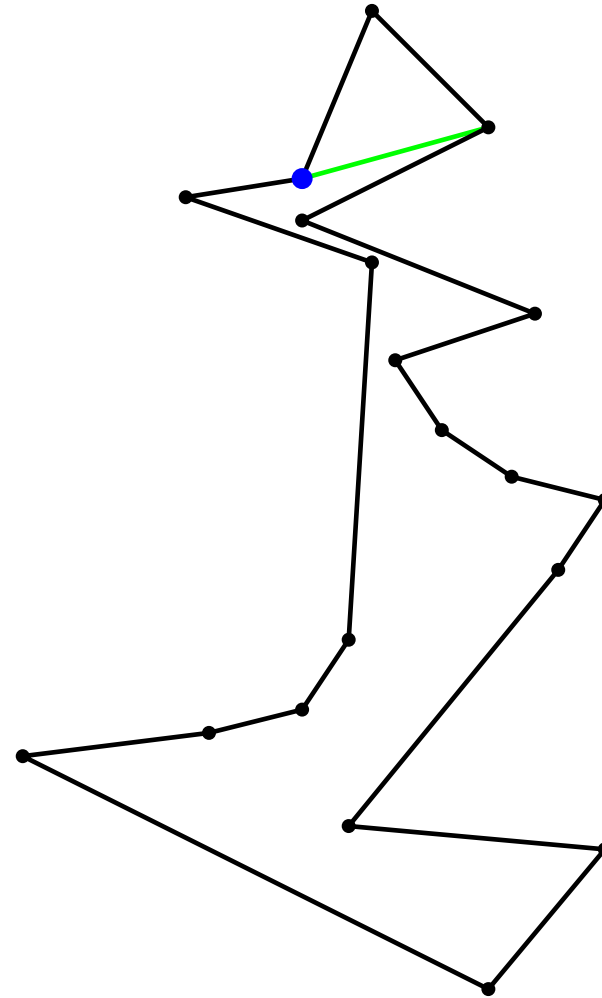
How to triangulate a  $y$ -monotone polygon?





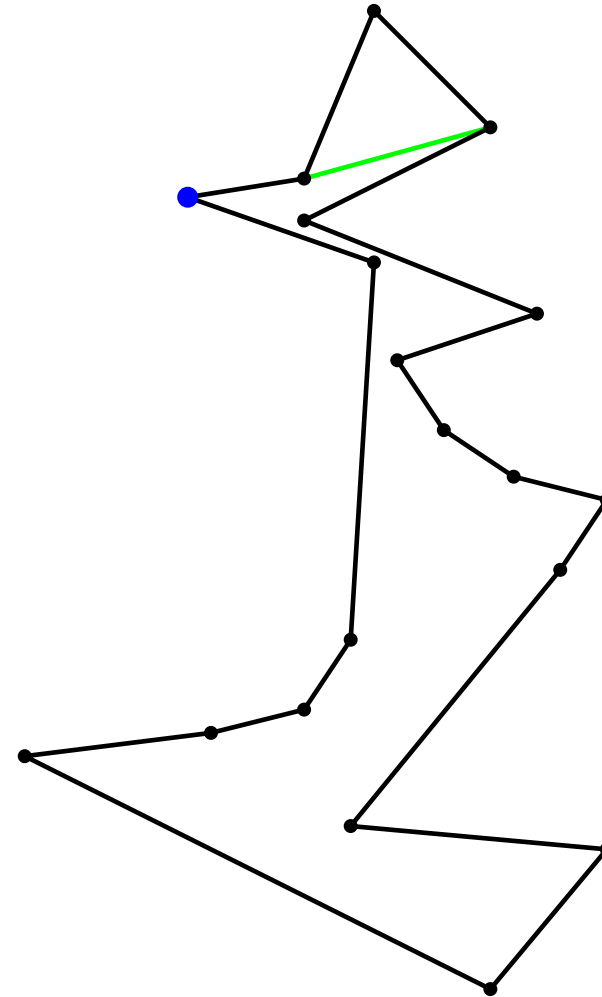
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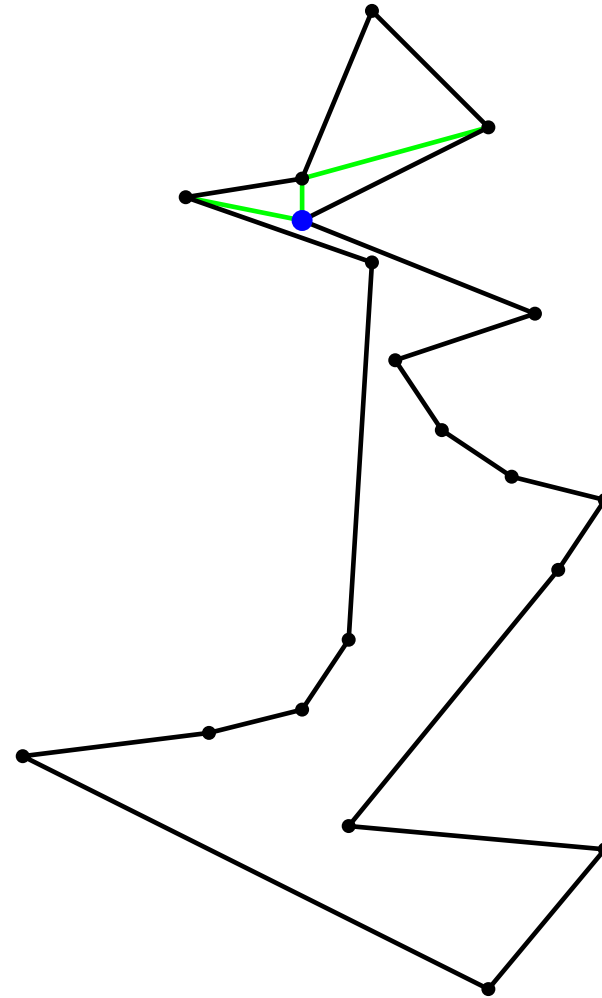
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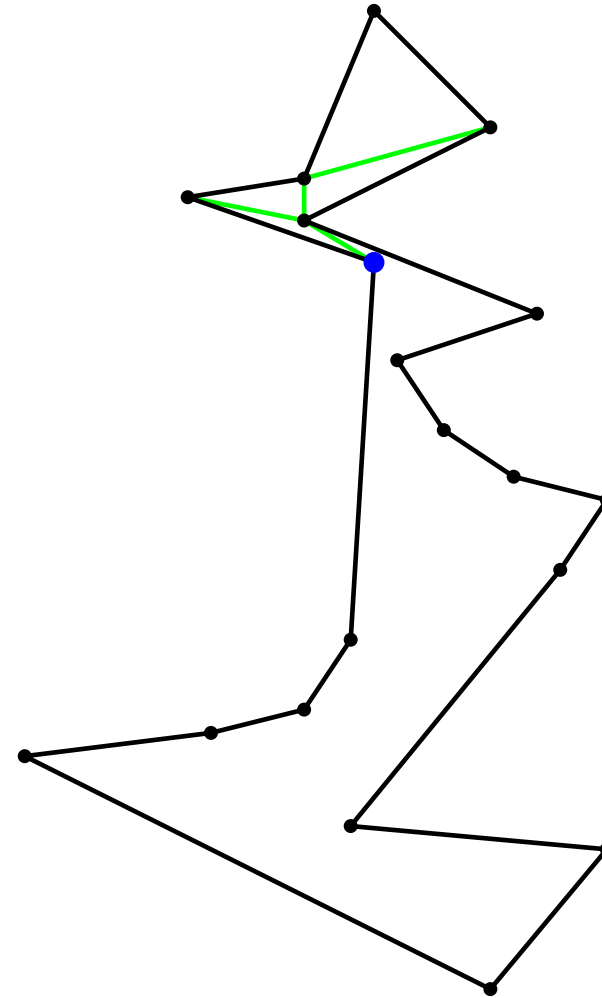
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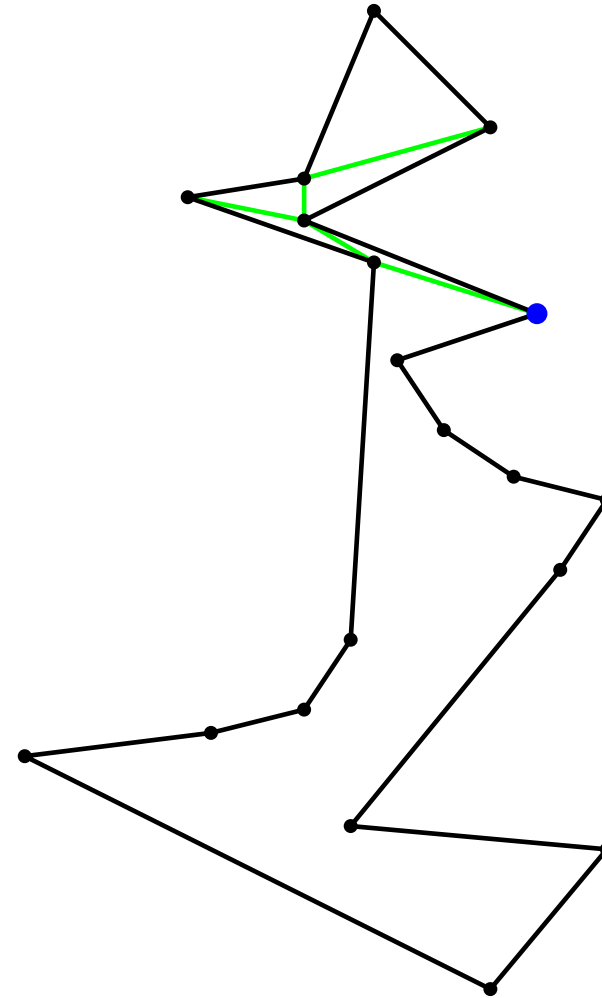
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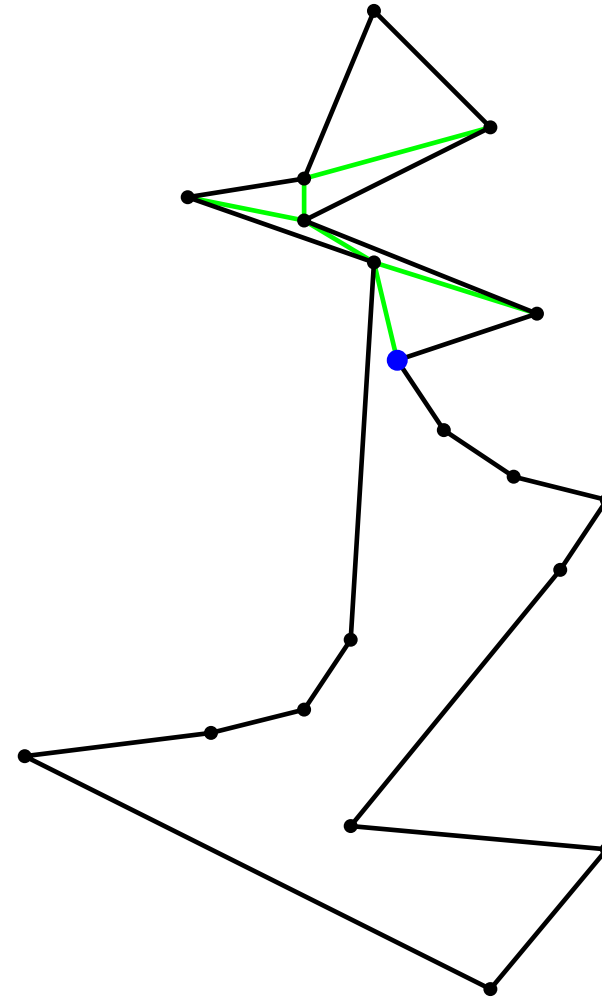
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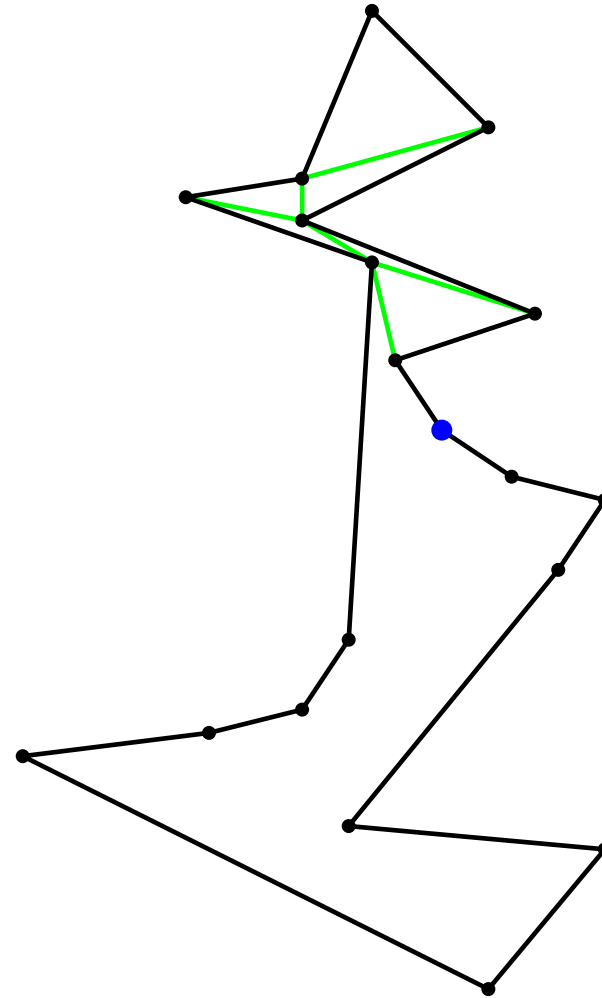
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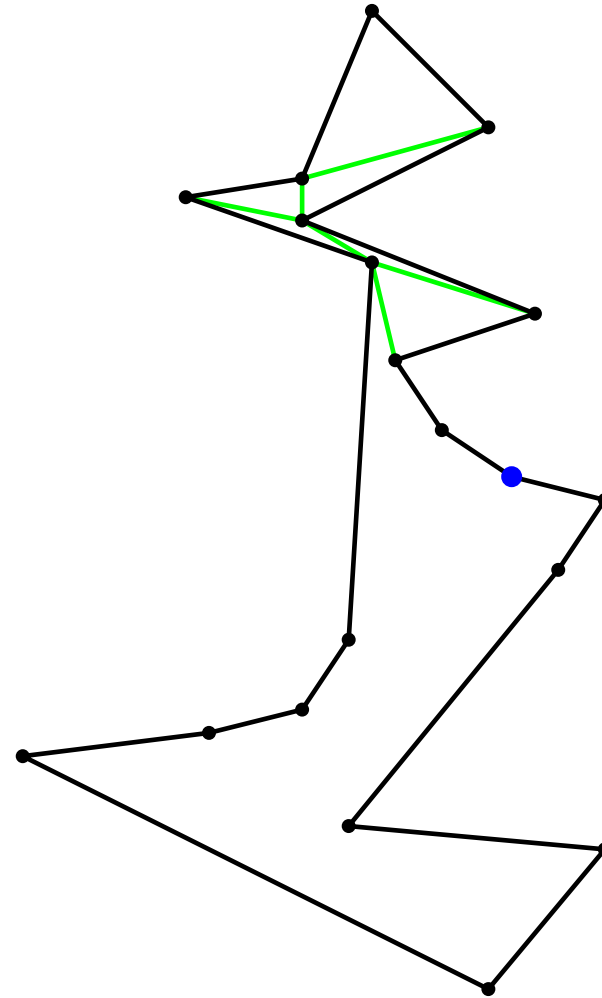
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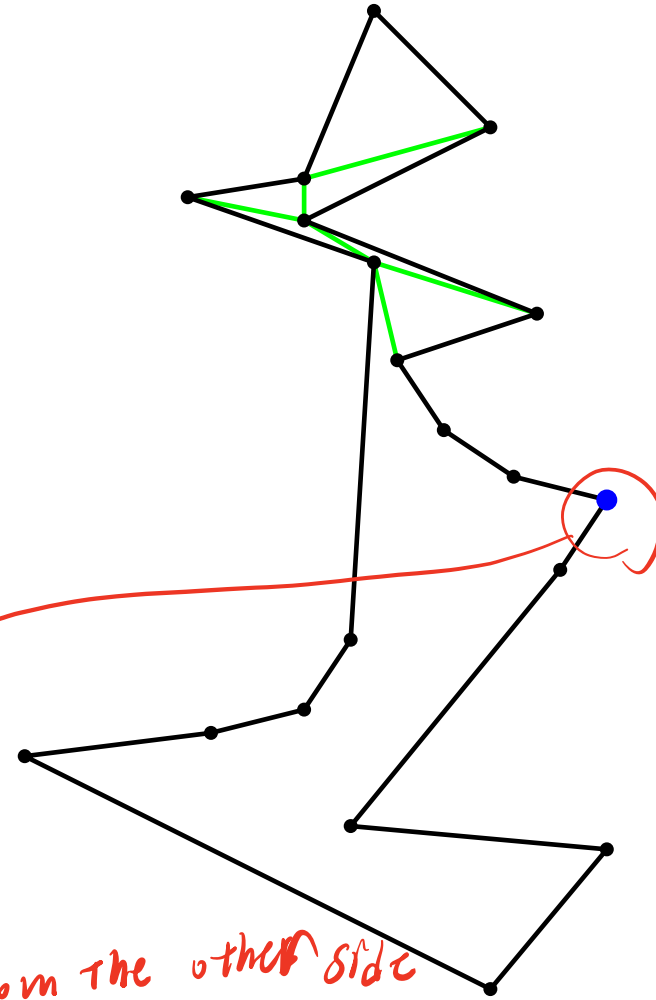




# Triangulating a monotone polygon

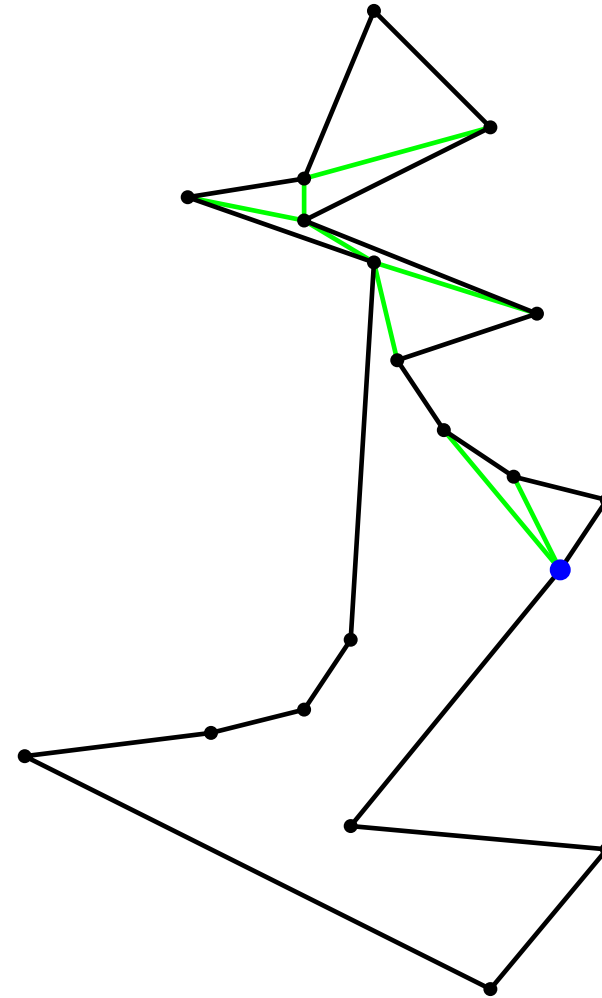
How to triangulate a  $y$ -monotone polygon?

*We name a chain of concave vertices ← from one side of the polygons and it ends in a corner from the other side of the polygon*



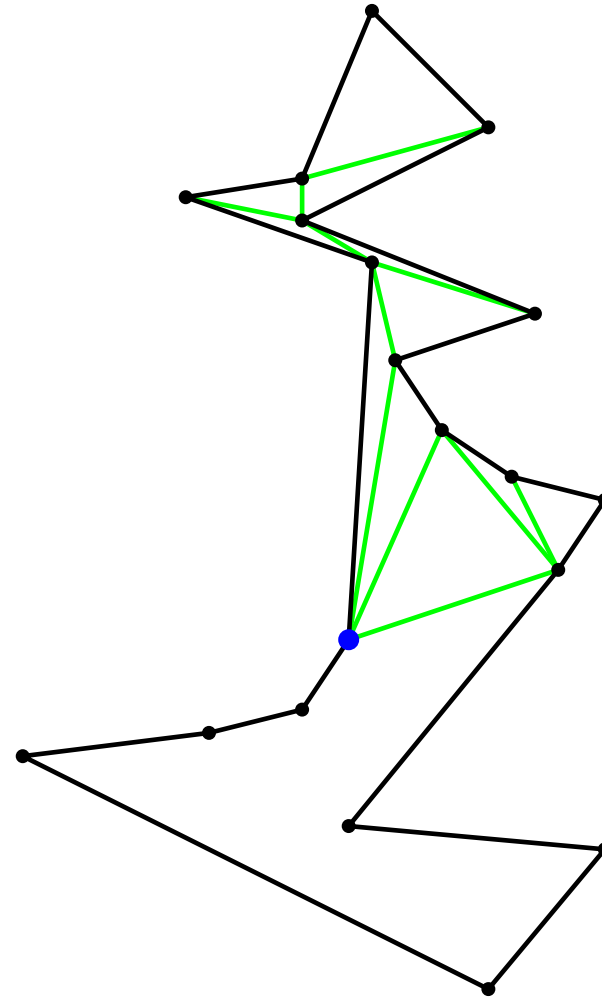
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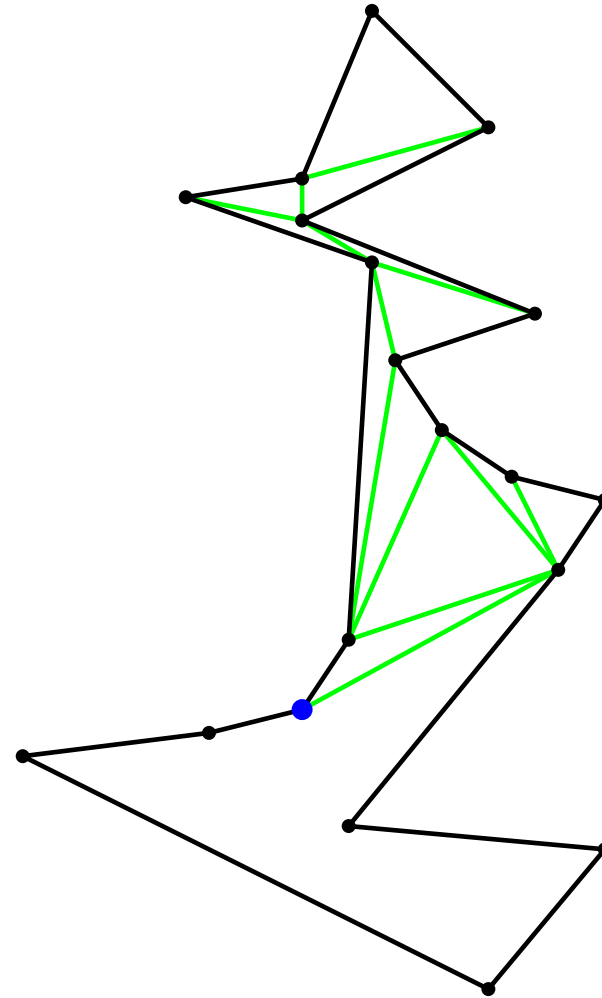
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 $y$ -monotone polygon?



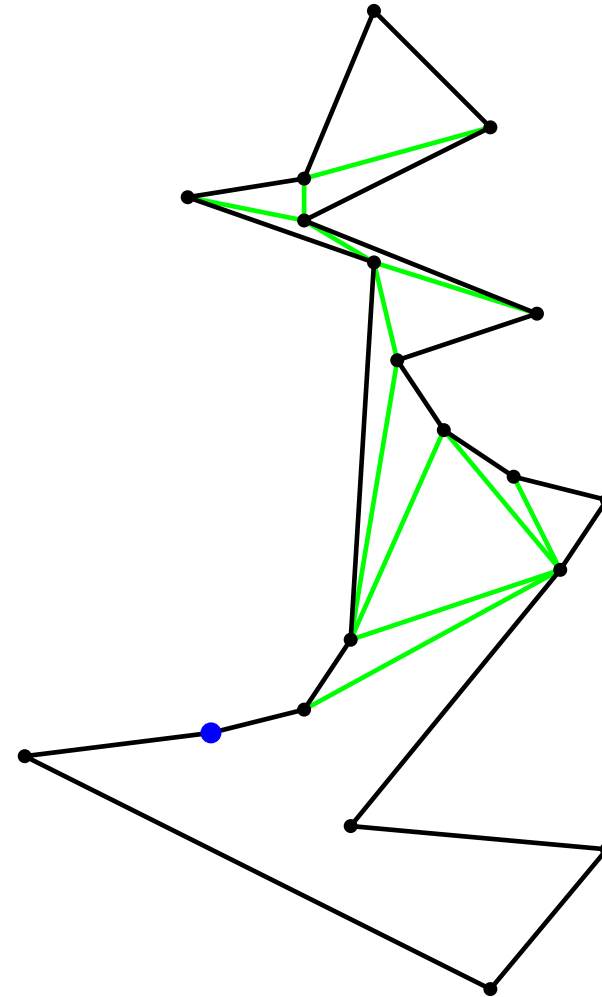
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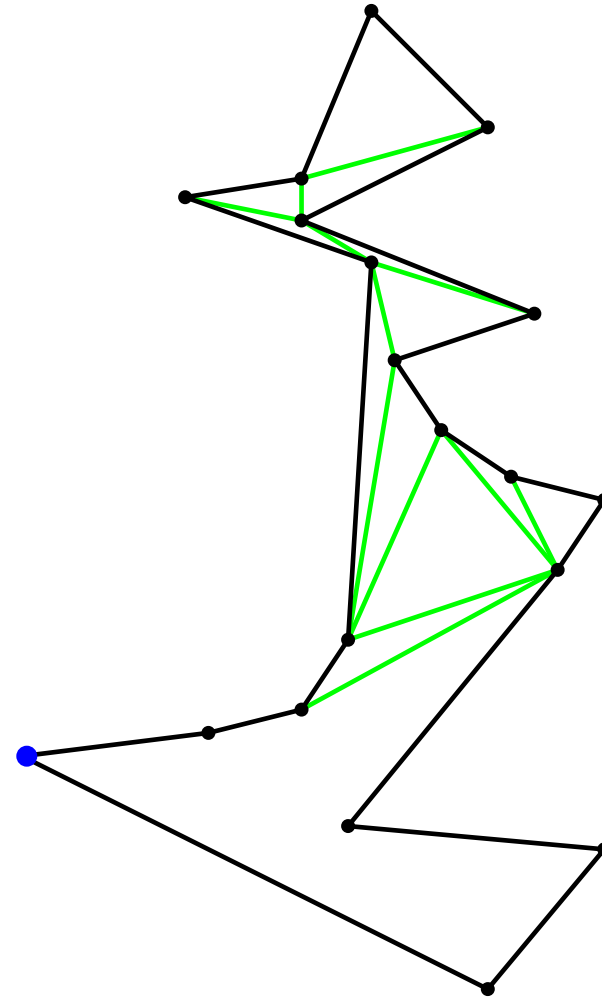
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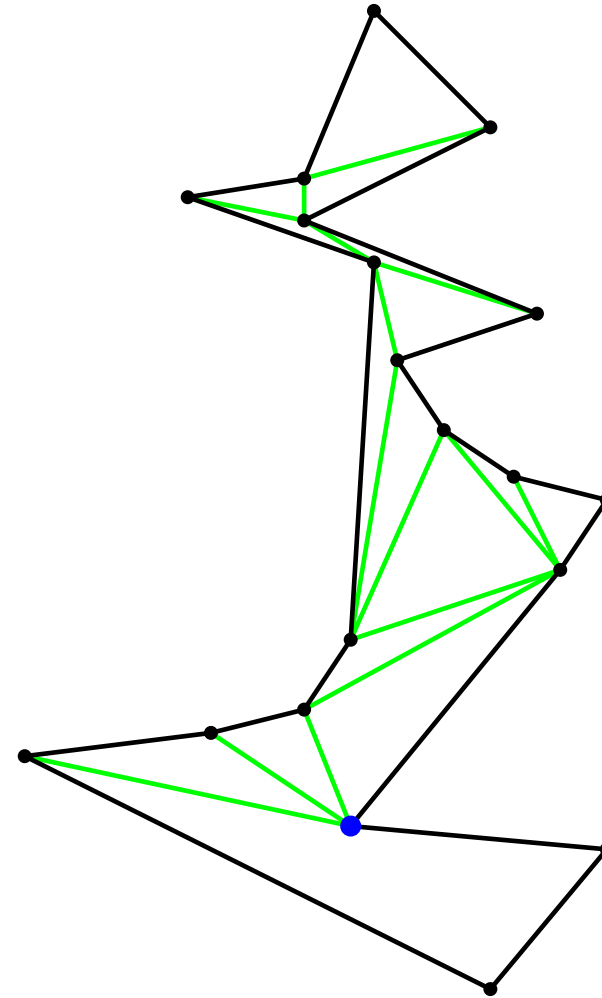
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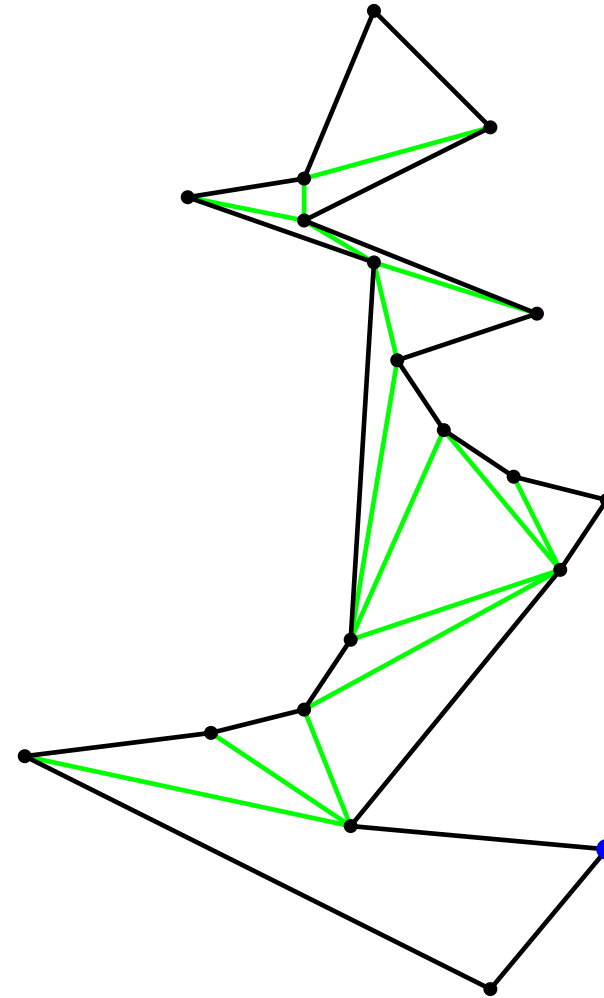
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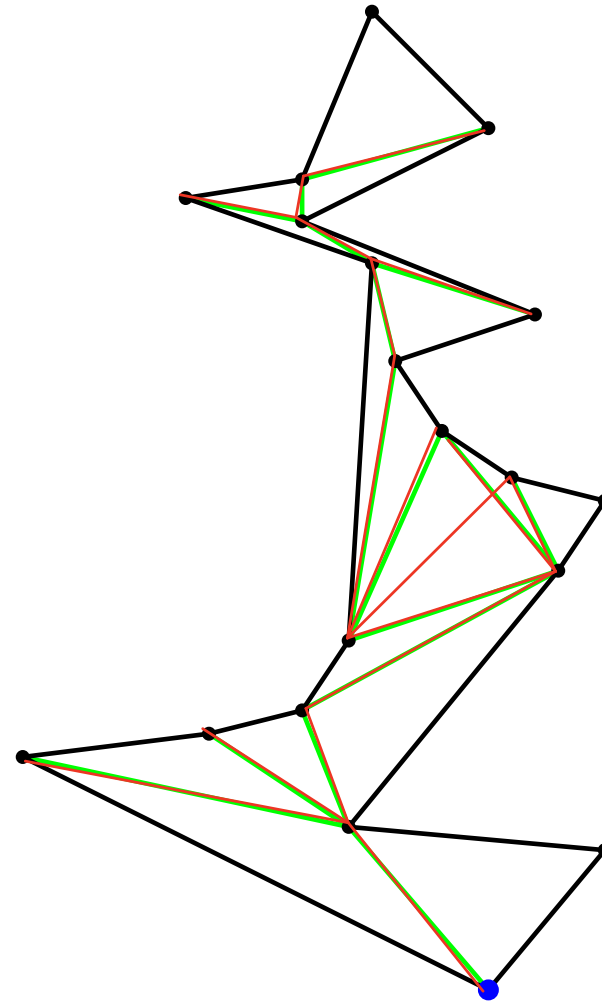
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# Triangulating a monotone polygon

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# The algorithm

- Sort the vertices top-to-bottom by a merge of the two chains
- Initialize a stack. Push the first two vertices
- Take the next vertex  $v$ , and triangulate as much as possible, top-down, while popping the stack
- Push  $v$  onto the stack

# Result

**Theorem:** A simple polygon with  $n$  vertices can be partitioned into  $y$ -monotone pieces in  $O(n \log n)$  time

**Theorem:** A monotone polygon with  $n$  vertices can be triangulated  $O(n)$  time

for each vertex will be added to the stack and remove from some point, each will be handled twice, each of those handle take constant time. so therefore all in all it will just take linear time.

Can we immediately conclude:

A simple polygon with  $n$  vertices can be triangulated  $O(n \log n)$  time ???

最后的  
不是  $n \log n$   
的吗。  
因为每一次分割有  
split 和 merge 都会加一条对角线  
以  $n$  个点出发的点，但是每次都是这样，最终点还是  
 $O(n)$  个点

## Result

We need to argue that all  $y$ -monotone polygons together that we will triangulate have  $O(n)$  vertices

Initially we had  $n$  edges. We add at most  $n - 3$  diagonals in the sweeps. These diagonals are used on both sides as edges. So all monotone polygons together have at most  $3n - 6$  edges, and therefore at most  $3n - 6$  vertices

Hence we can conclude that triangulating all monotone polygons together takes only  $O(n)$  time

**Theorem:** A simple polygon with  $n$  vertices can be triangulated  $O(n \log n)$  time