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# **Computational Geometry**

## **Chapter 5: Polygon Triangulation**

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Algorithms Division  
Department of Computer Science  
TU Braunschweig



- Ch 1: Introduction
- Ch 2: Convex hulls
- Ch 3: Closest pairs
- Ch 4: Voronoi diagrams
- Ch 5: Polygon triangulation
- Ch 6: Point triangulation
- Ch 7: Location problems
- Ch 8: Minimum area polygons



- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Existence**
- 3. Properties**
- 4. Algorithms: Removing ears**
- 5. Algorithms: Finding diagonals**
- 6. Algorithms: Monotone polygons**
- 7. Algorithms: Monotone decompositions**
- 8. Faster algorithms**
- 9. Application: Art Gallery problems**
- 10. Application: Online triangulation**





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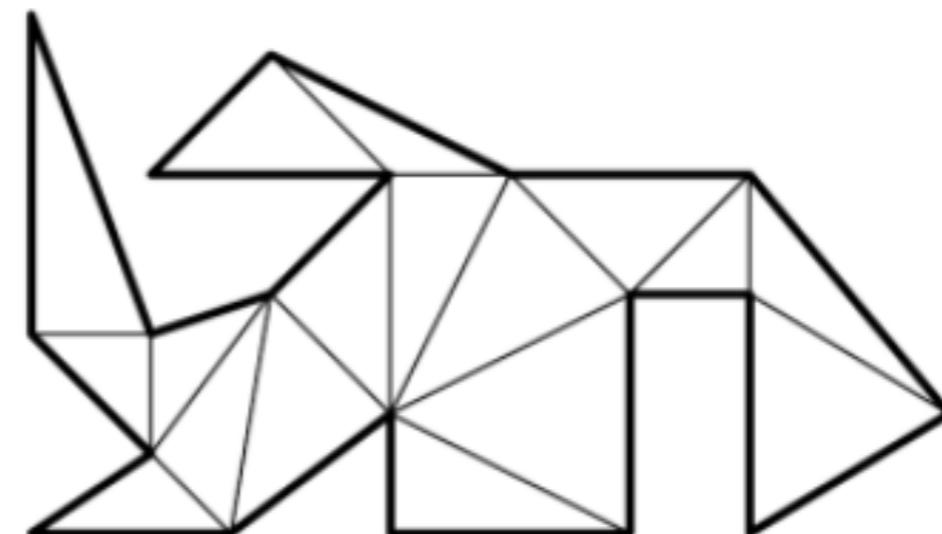
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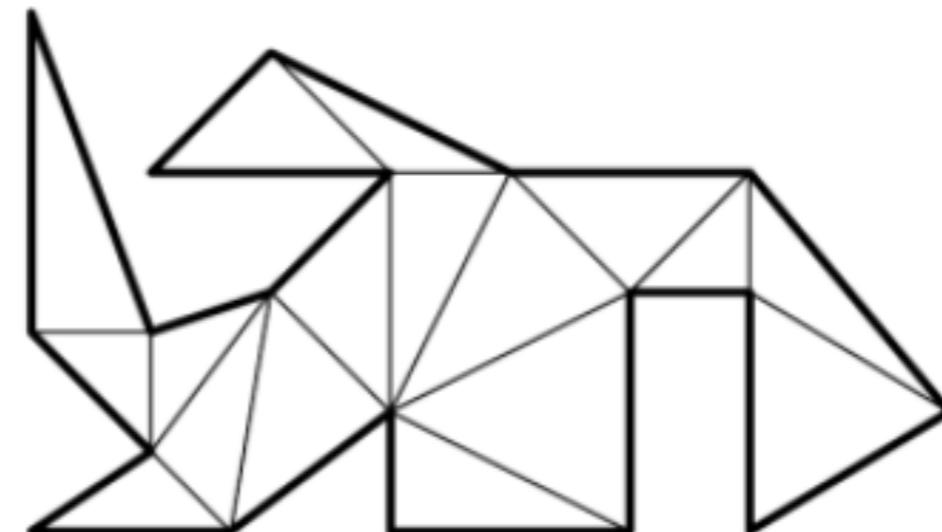
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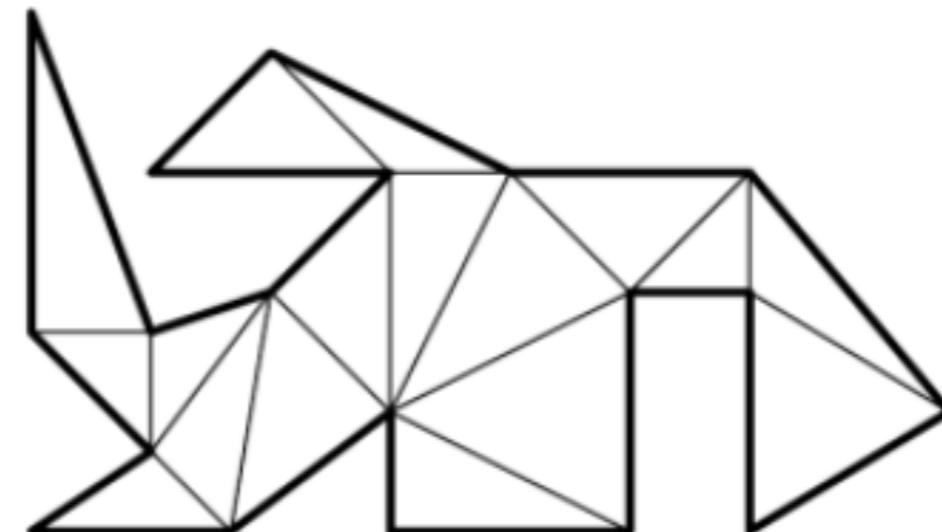
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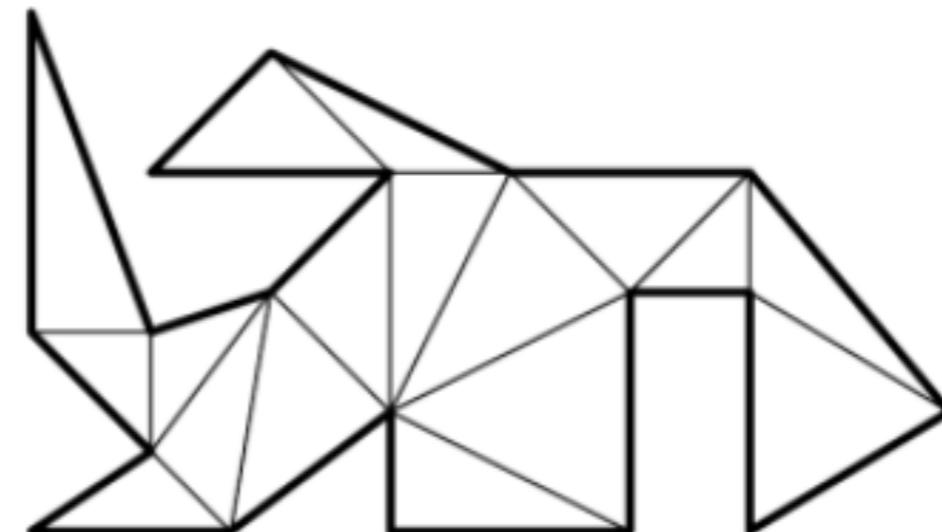
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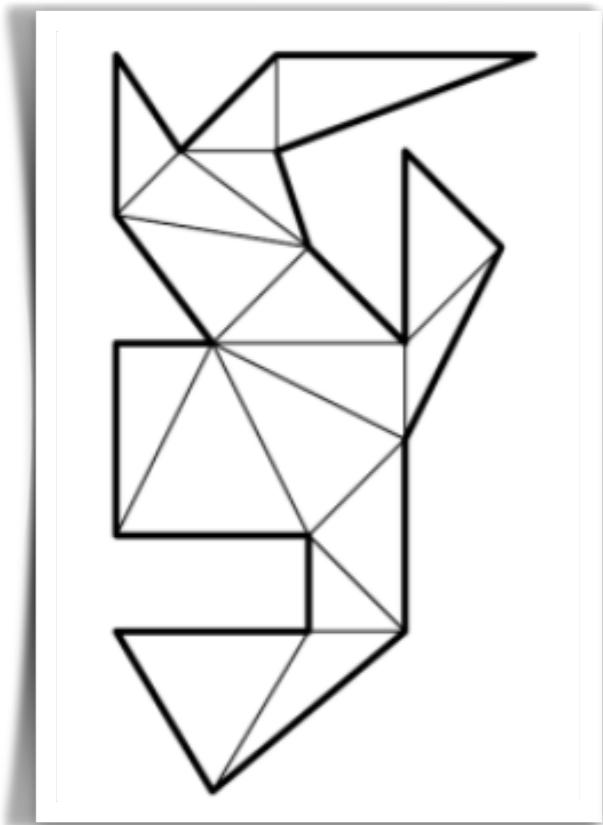
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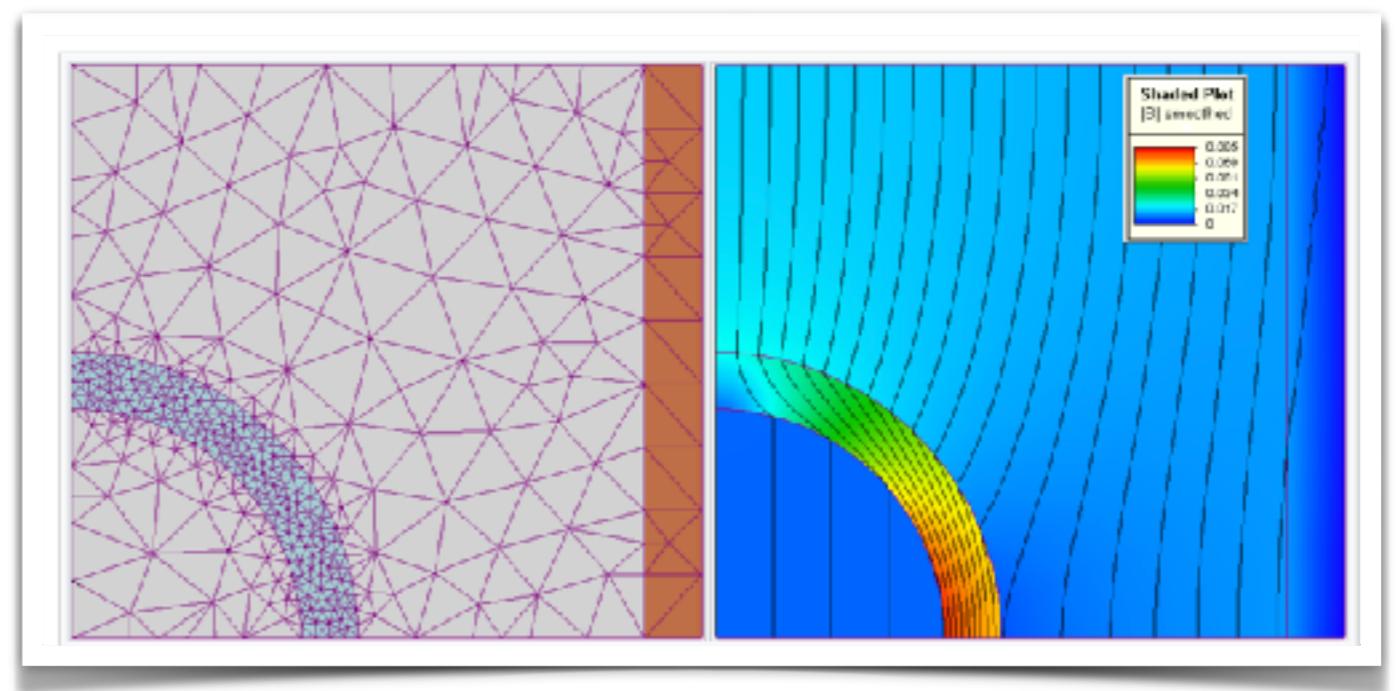
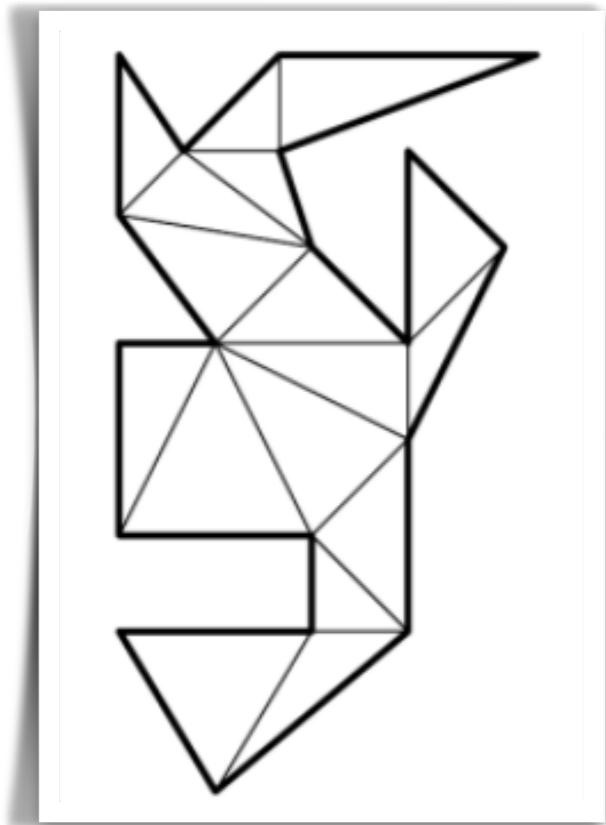


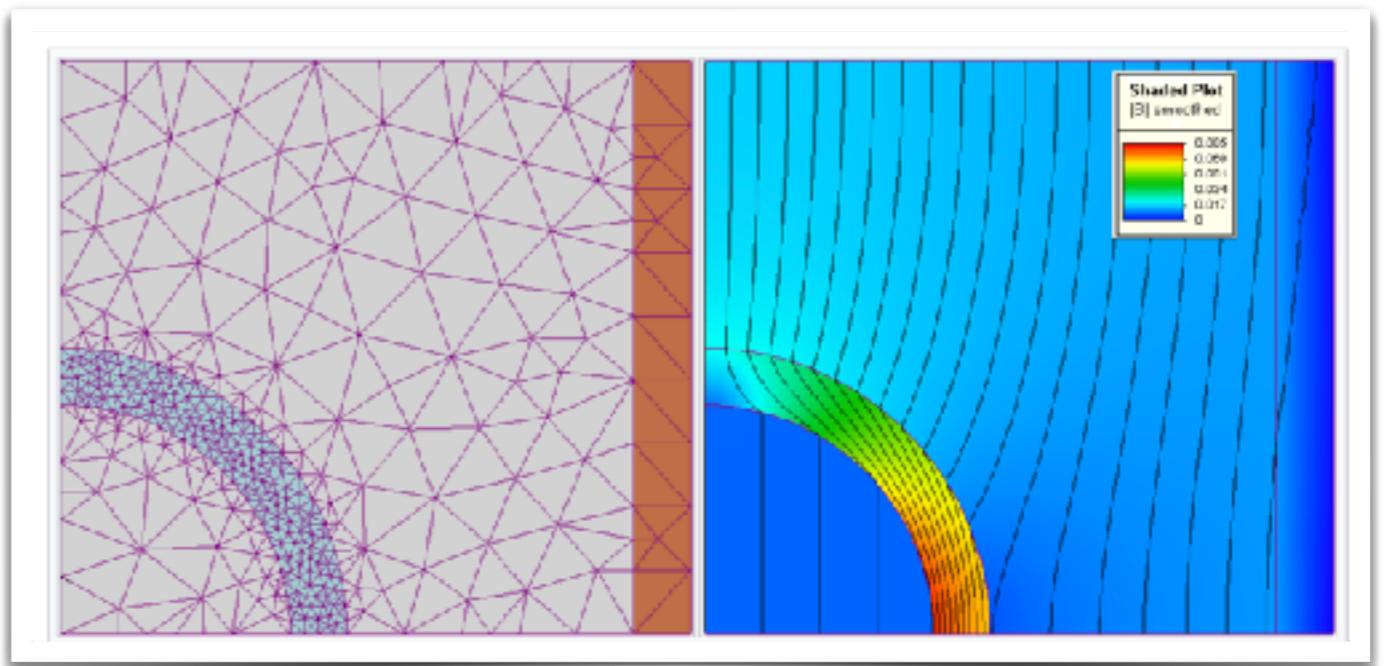
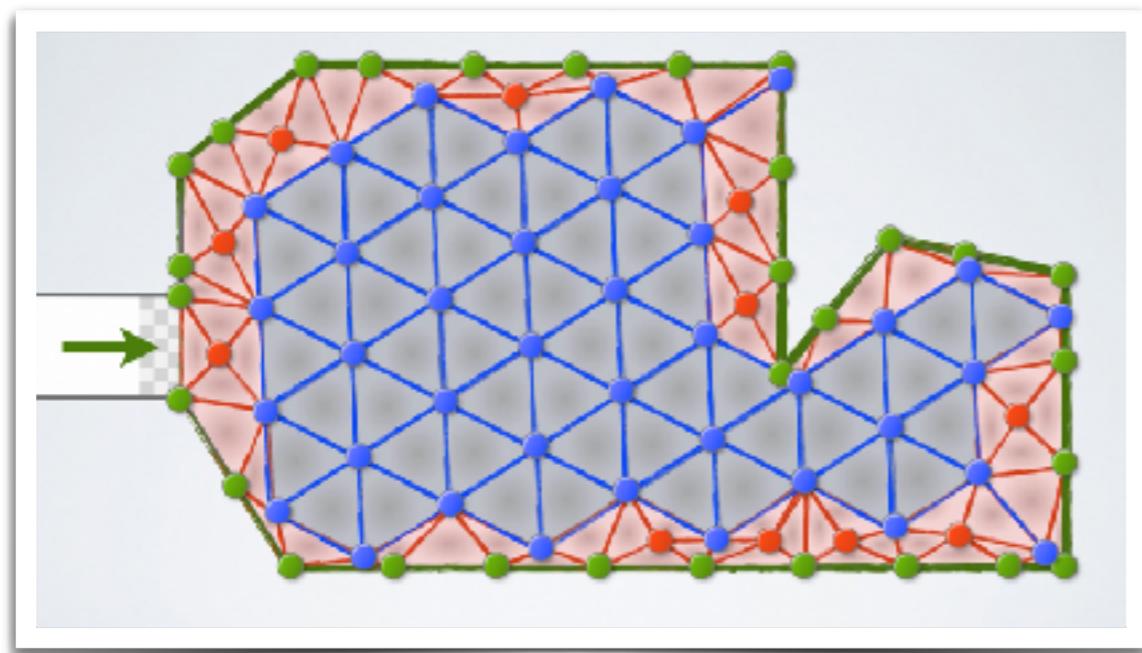
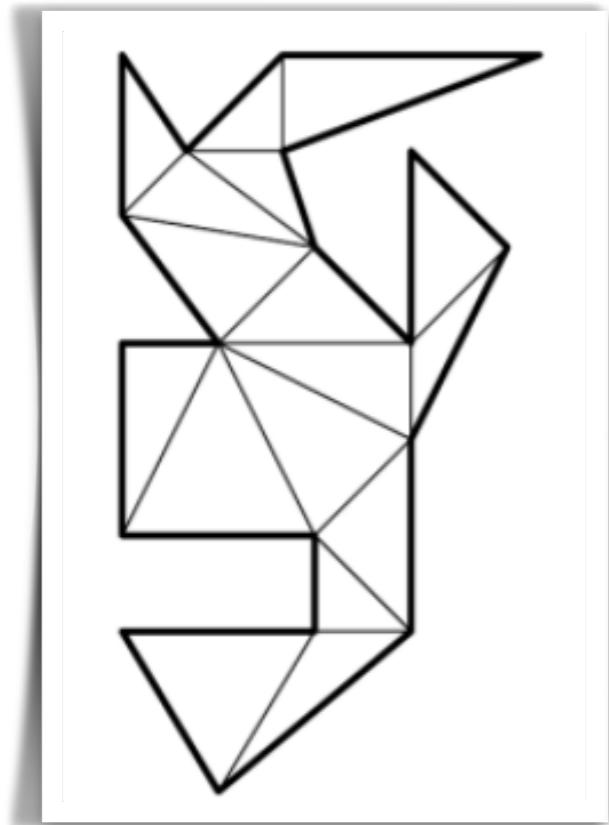
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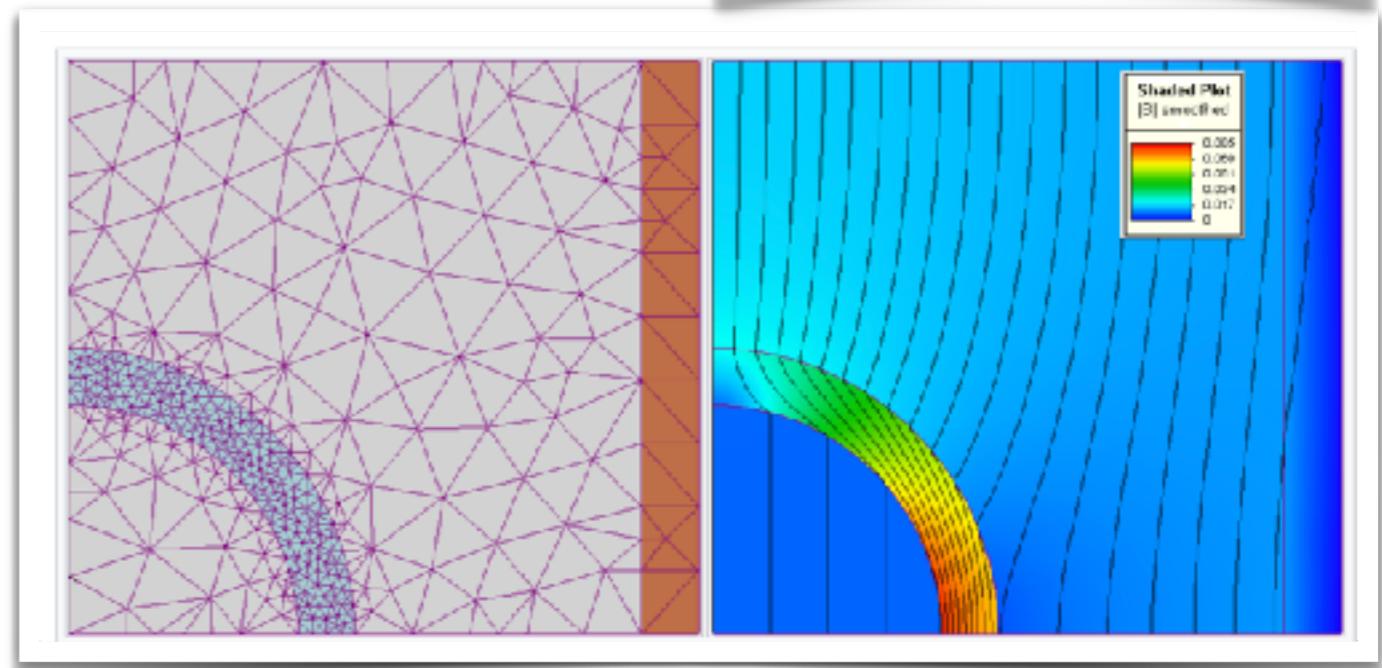
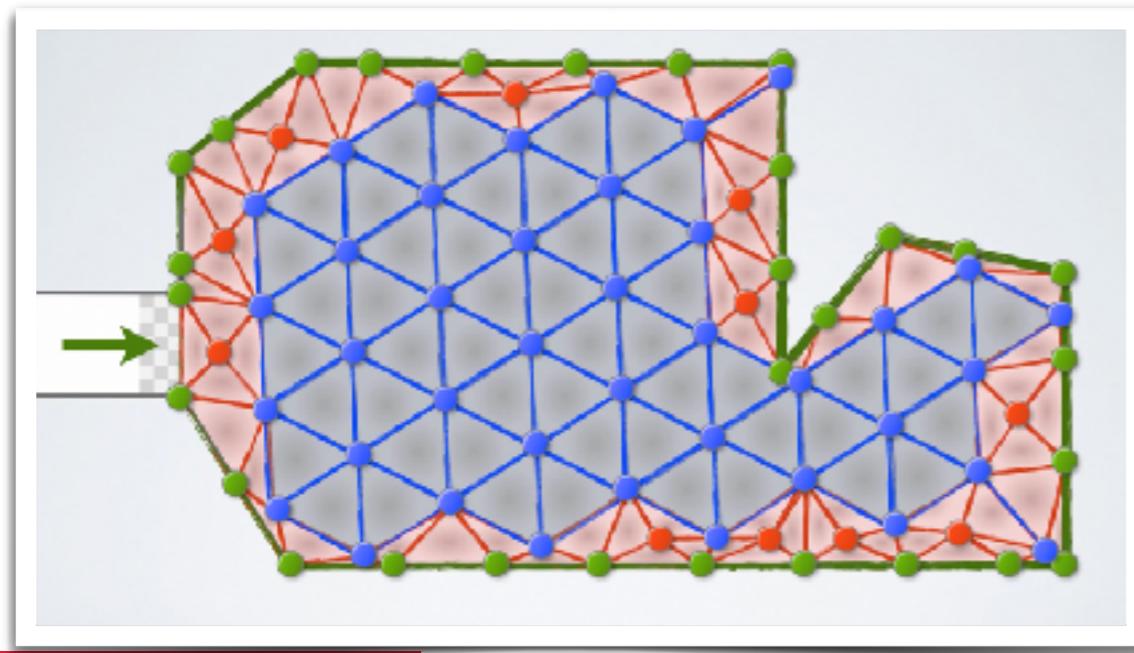
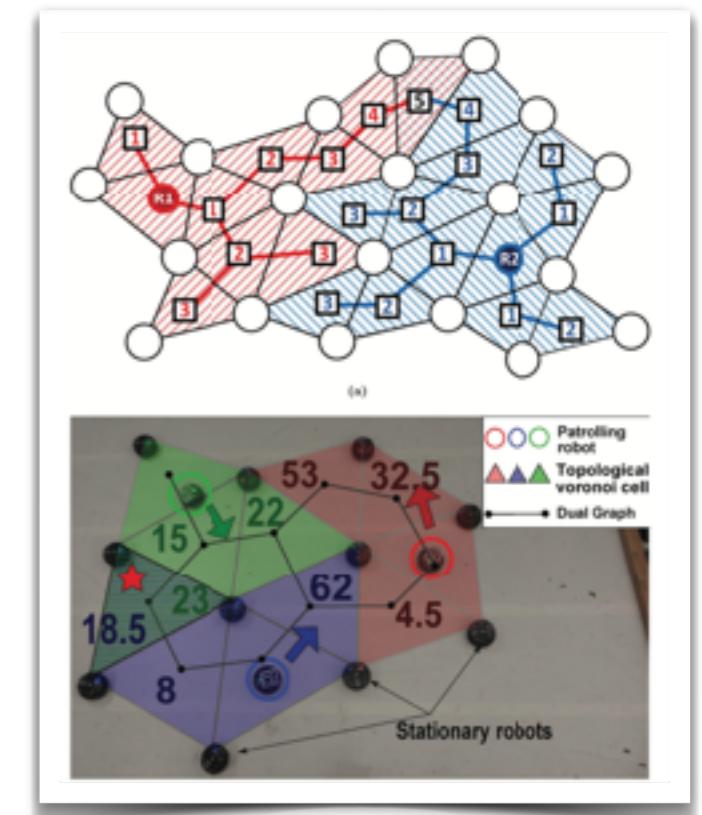
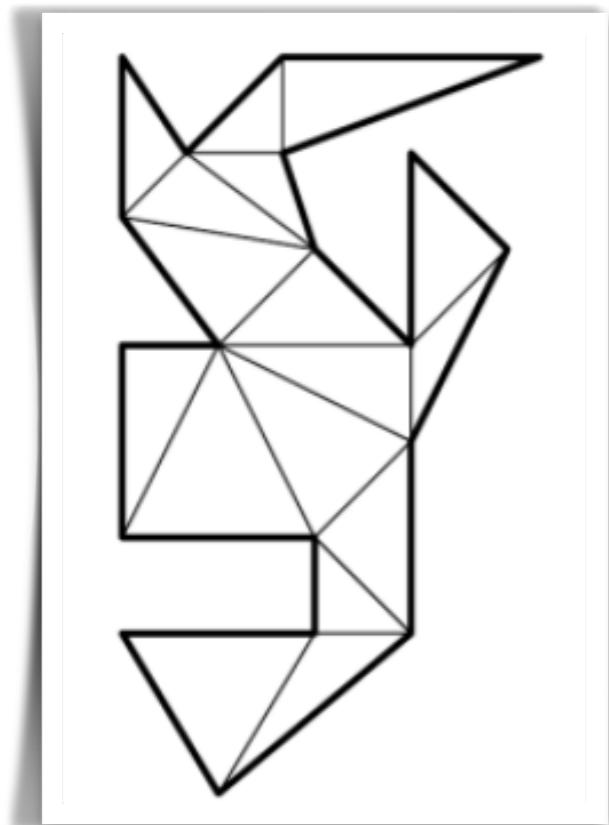
- A *diagonal* in a polygon connects two distinct vertices; its interior lies inside the polygon.
- Two different diagonals in a triangulation may share end points, but nothing else.

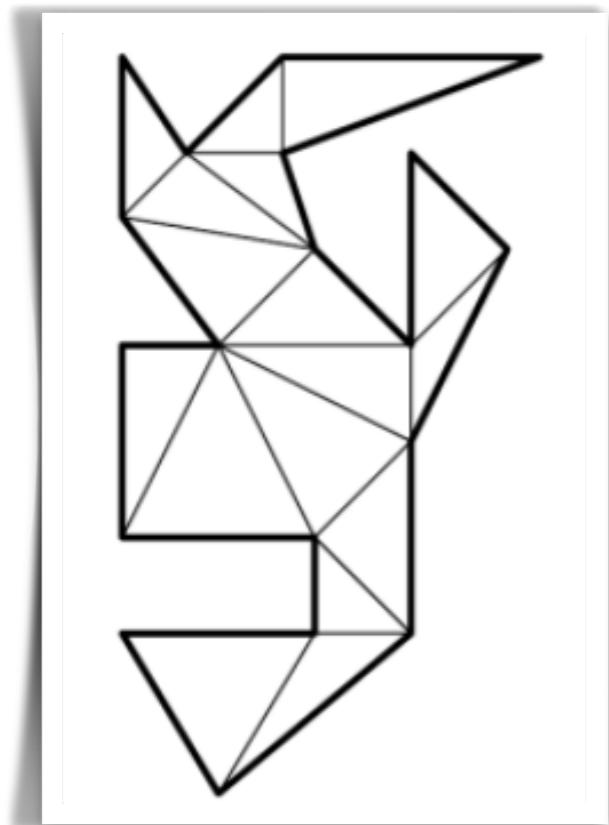




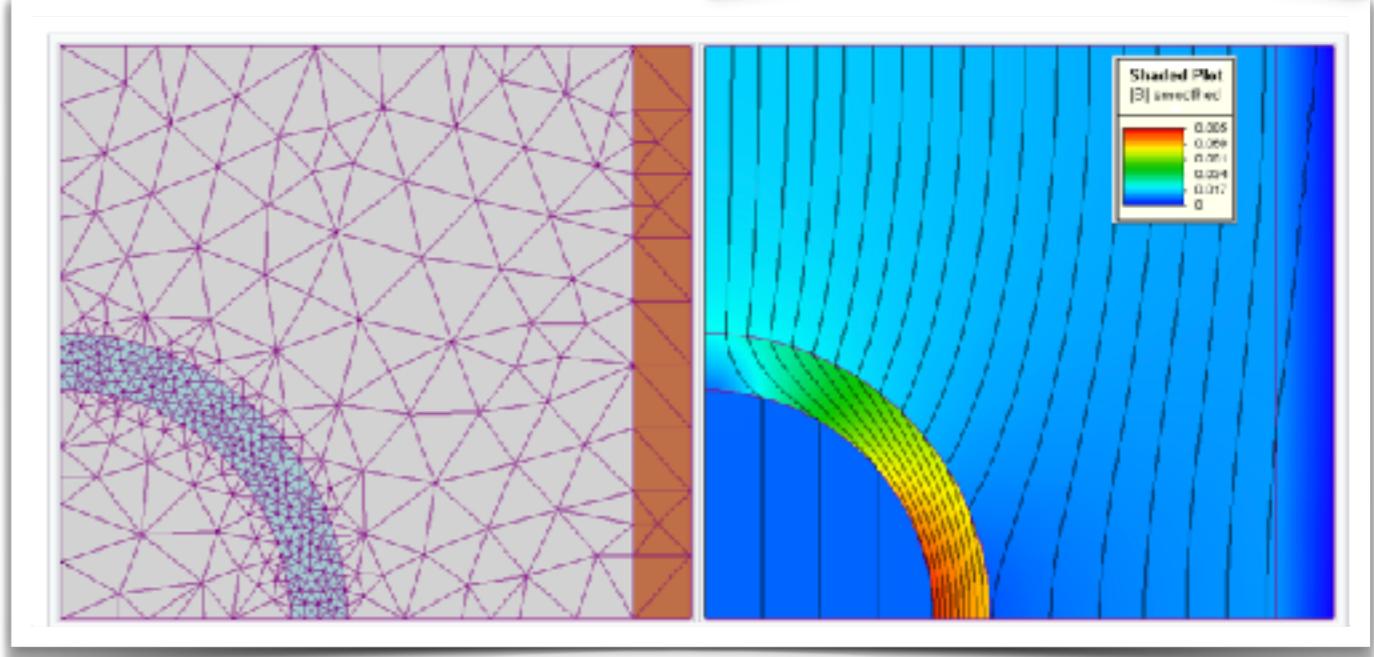
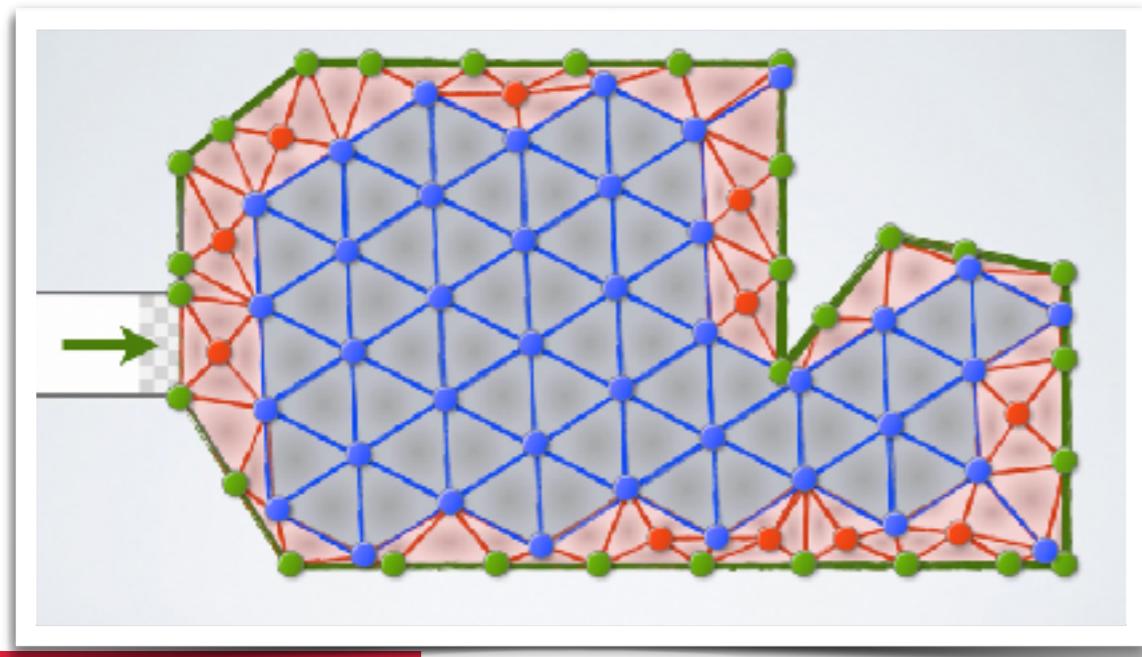
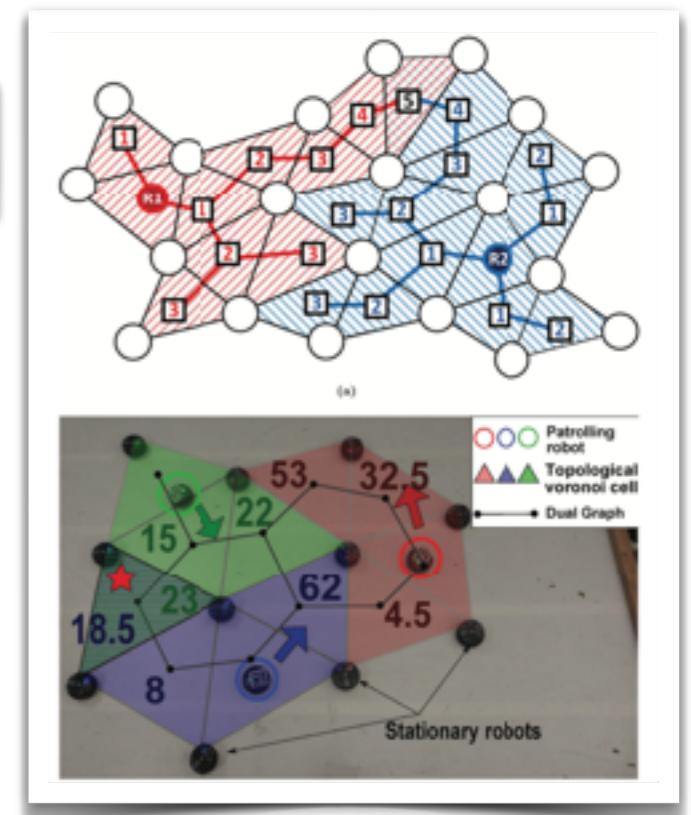


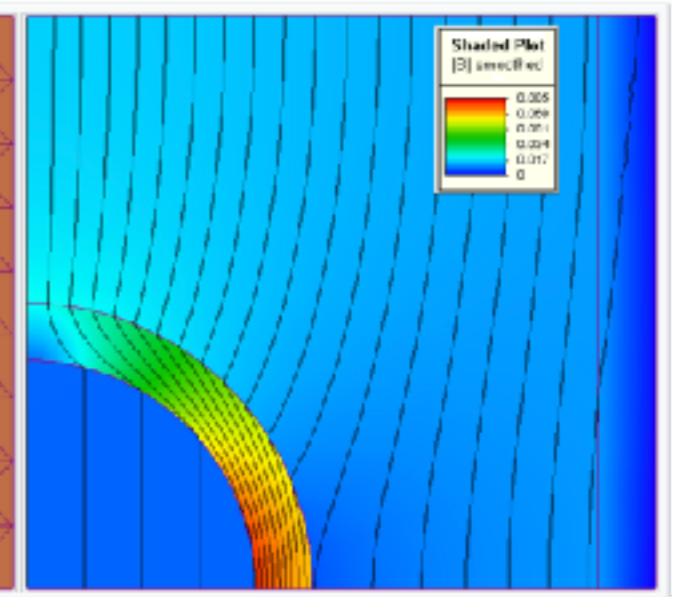
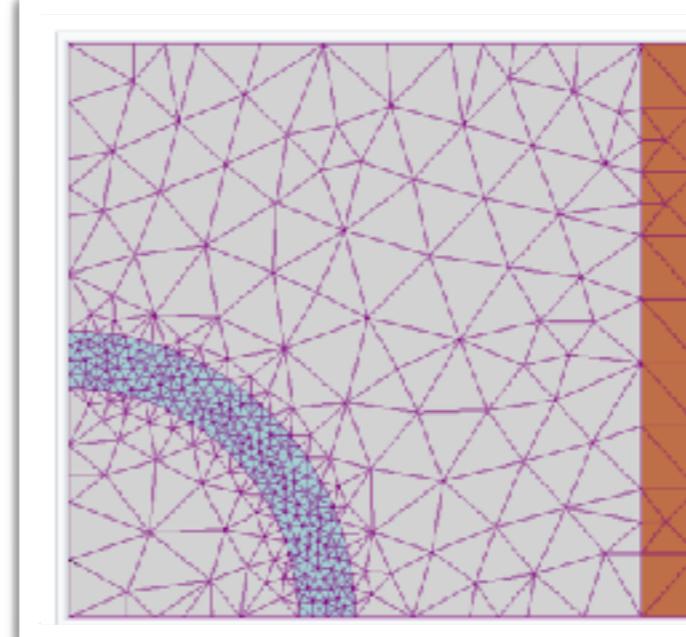
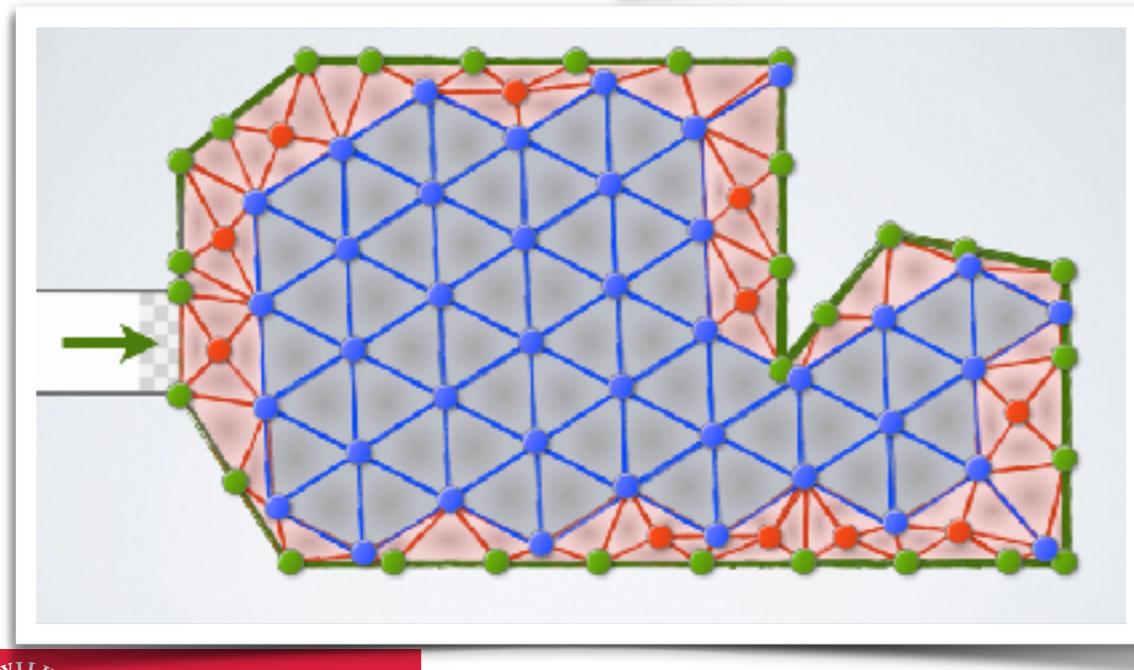
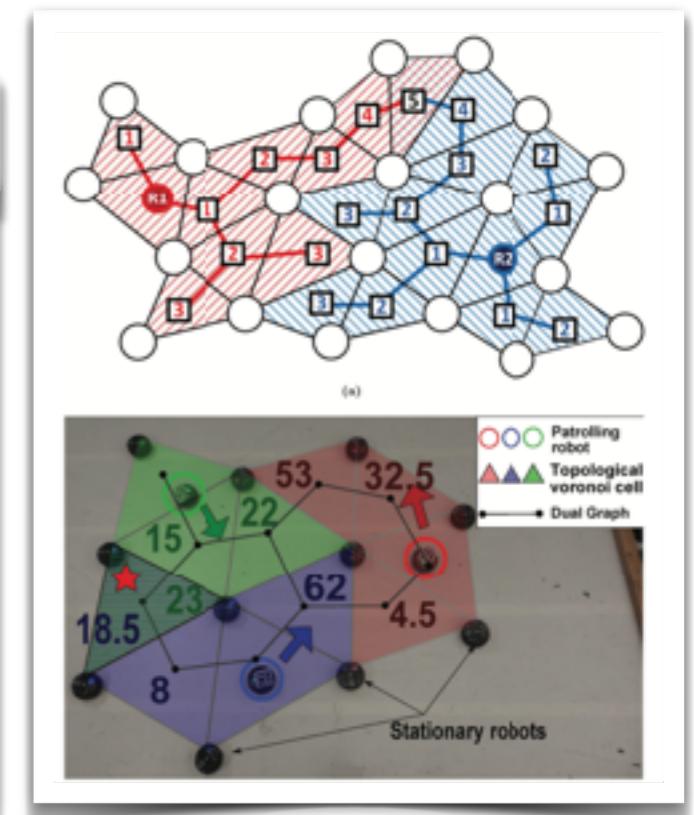
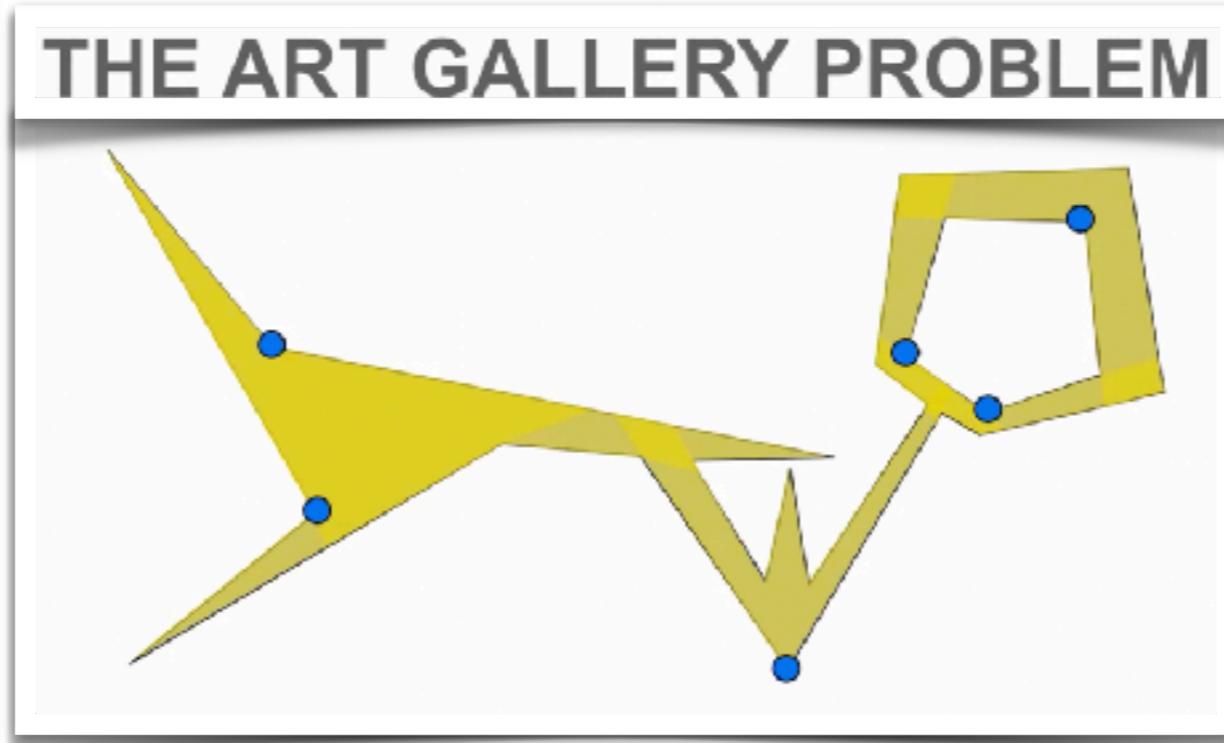
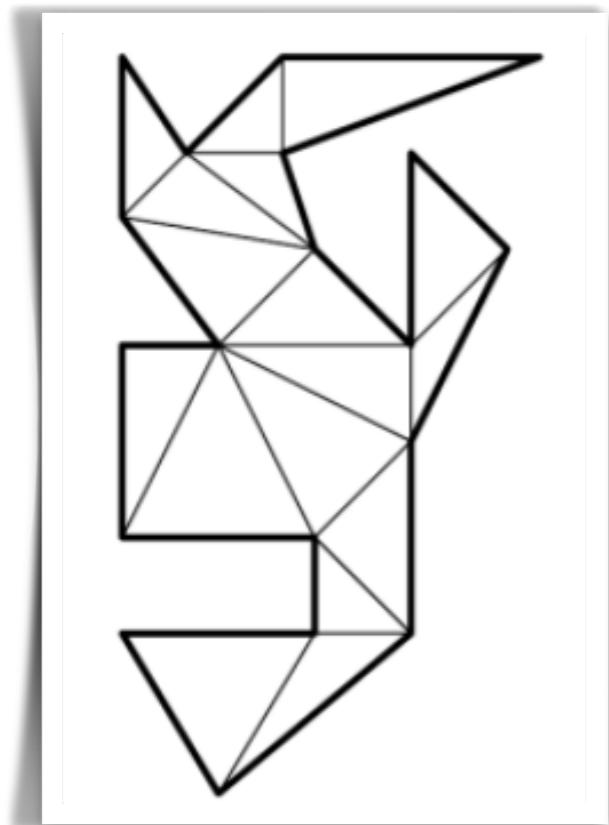






## THE ART GALLERY PROBLEM





**Superhero!**



**Superhero!**



@eimnihellas



Technische  
Universität  
Braunschweig

**Superhero!**



**Superhero!**



## CAPTAIN TRIANGULAR



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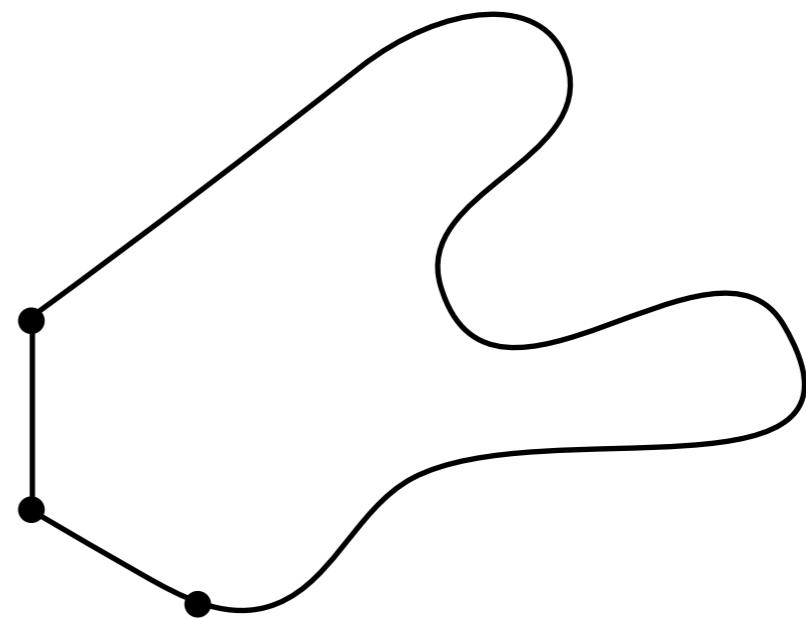
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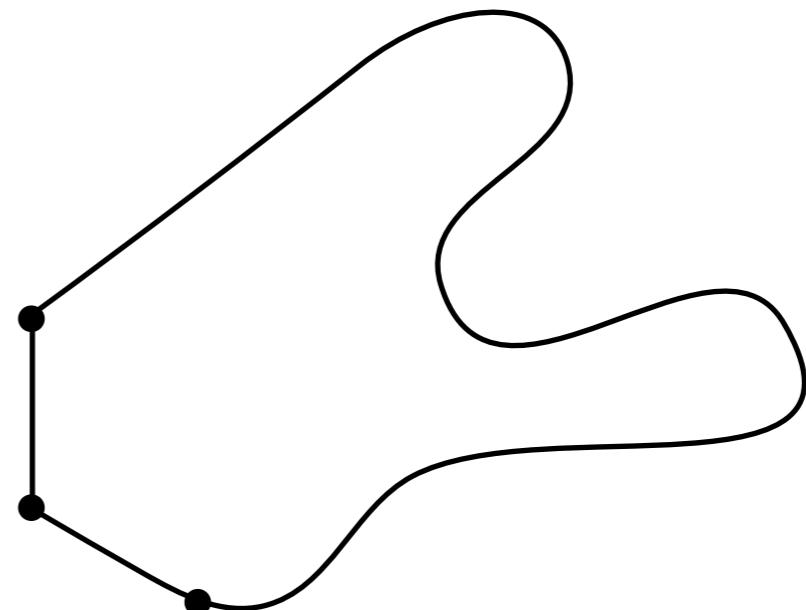
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Consider the bottommost  
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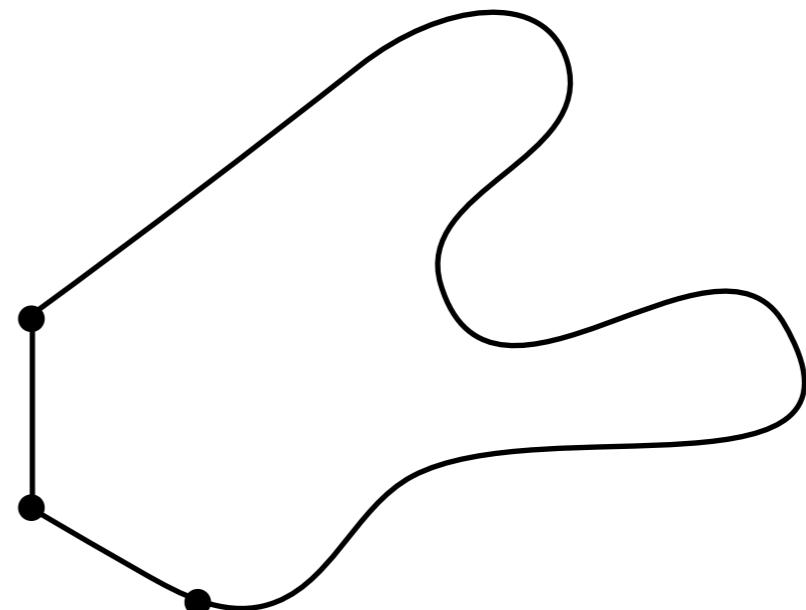
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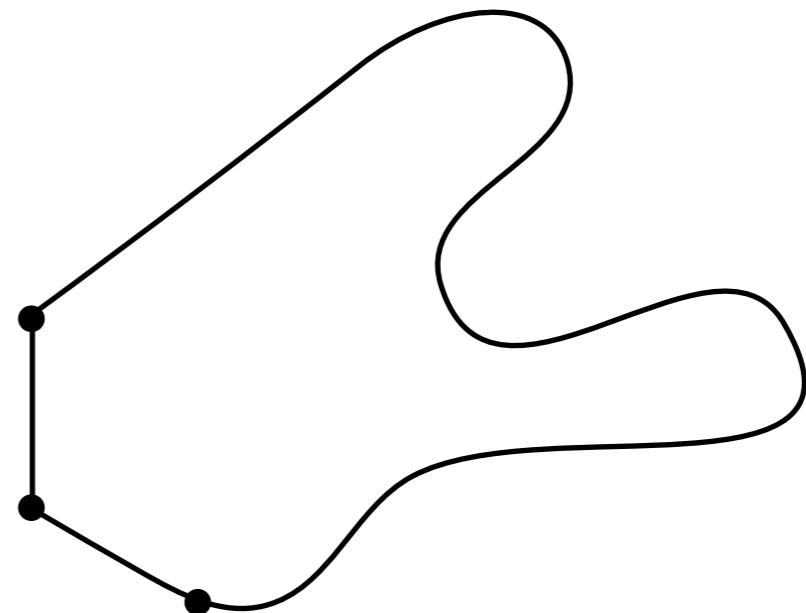
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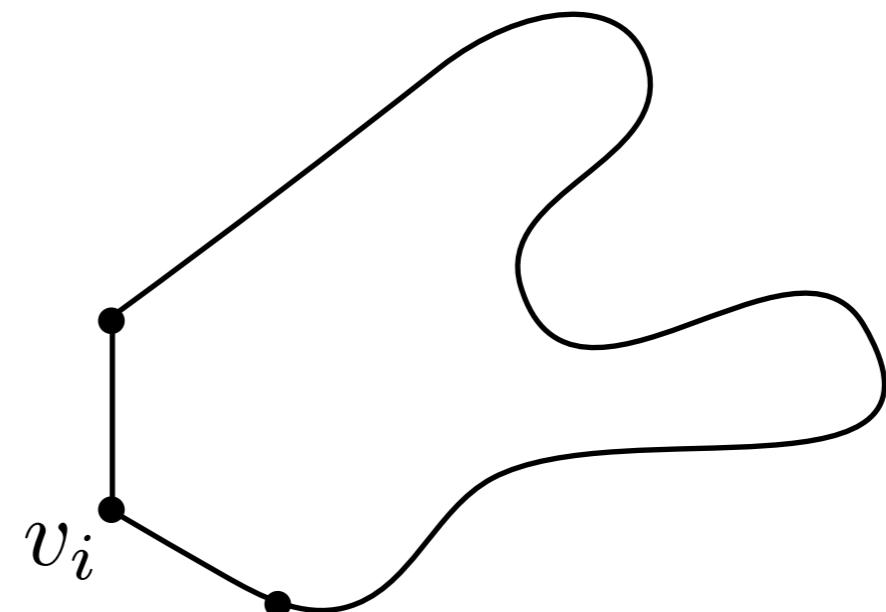
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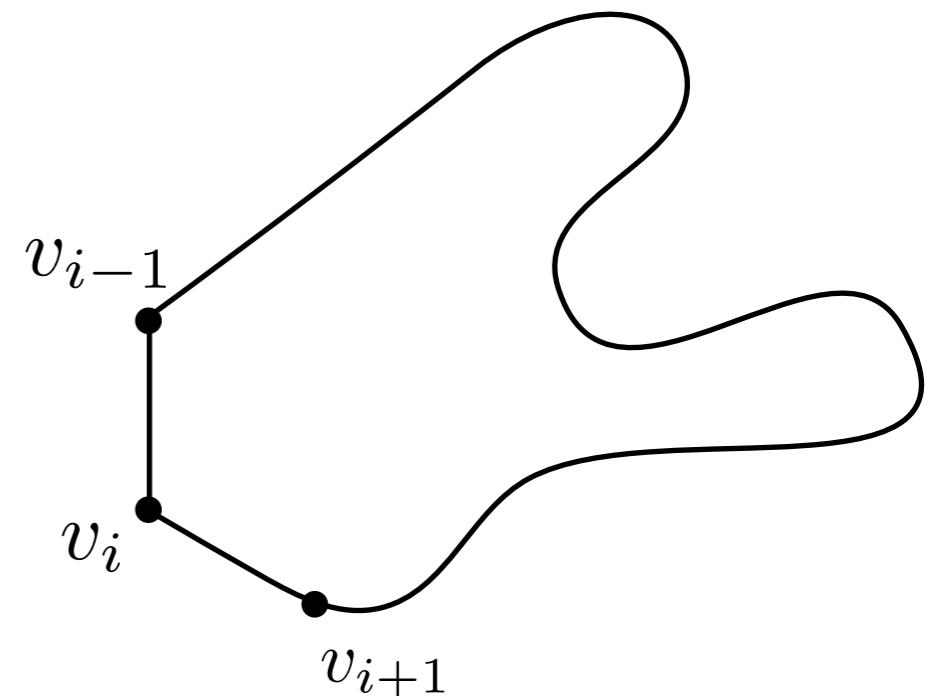
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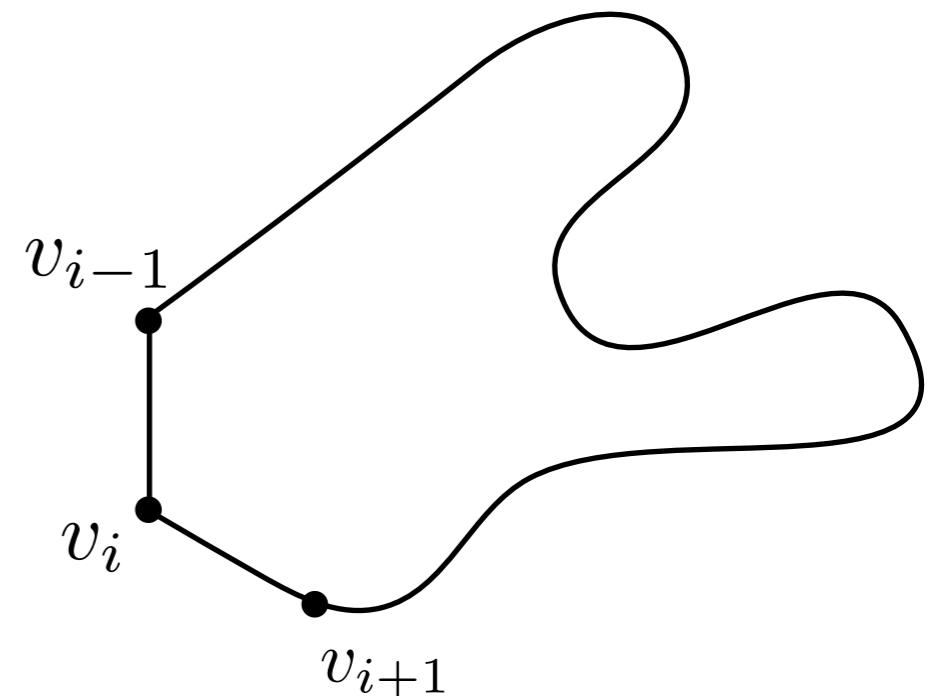
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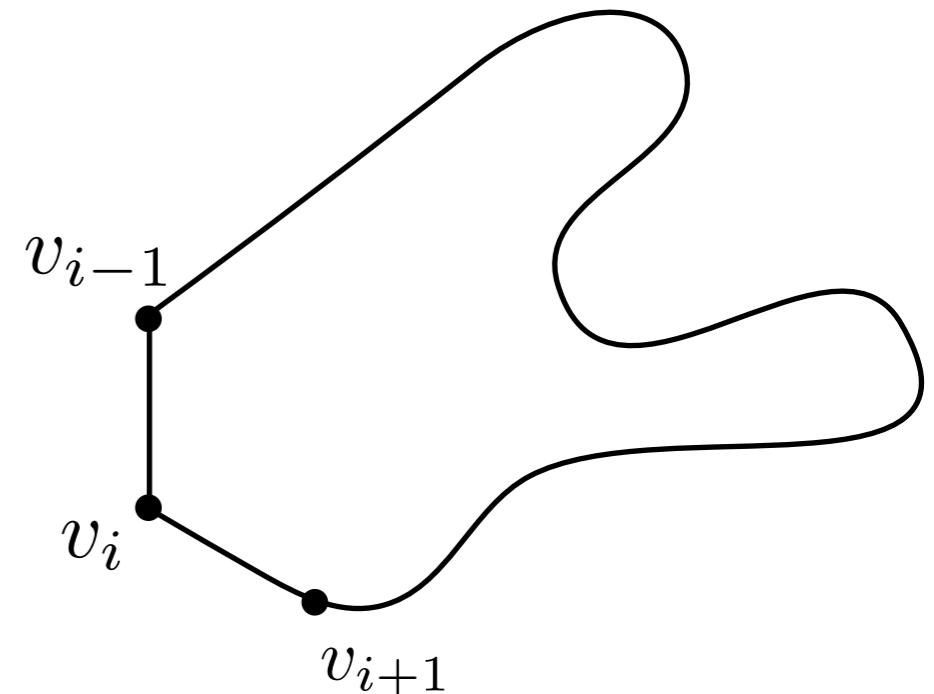


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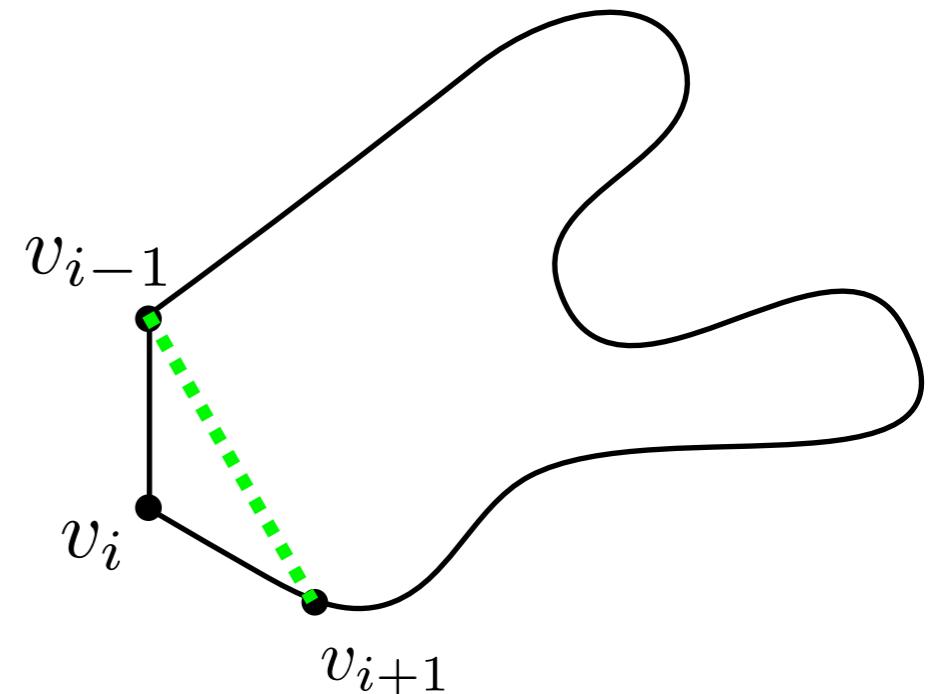


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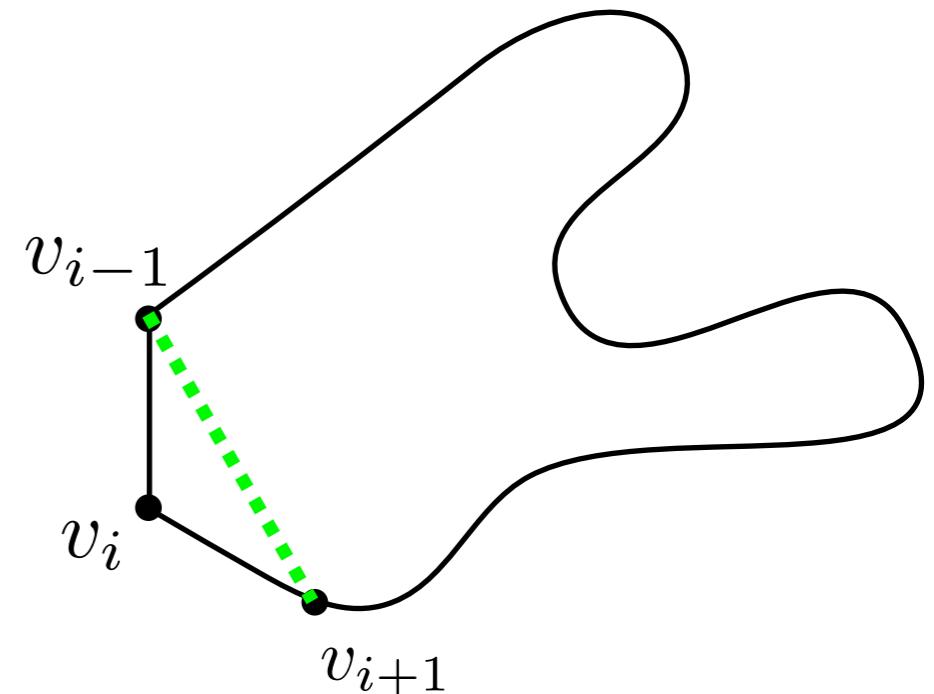
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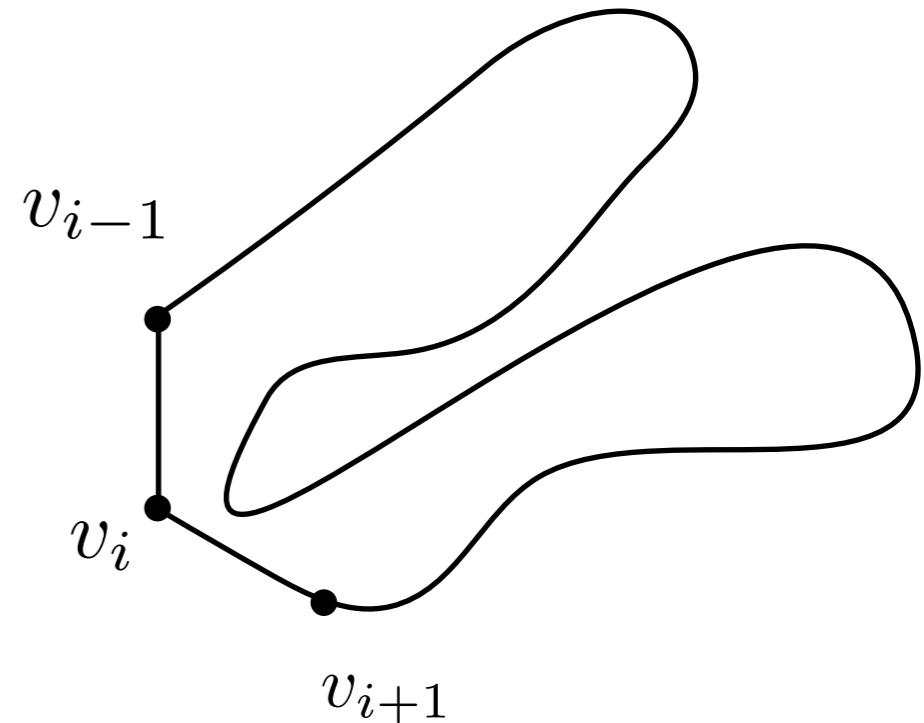
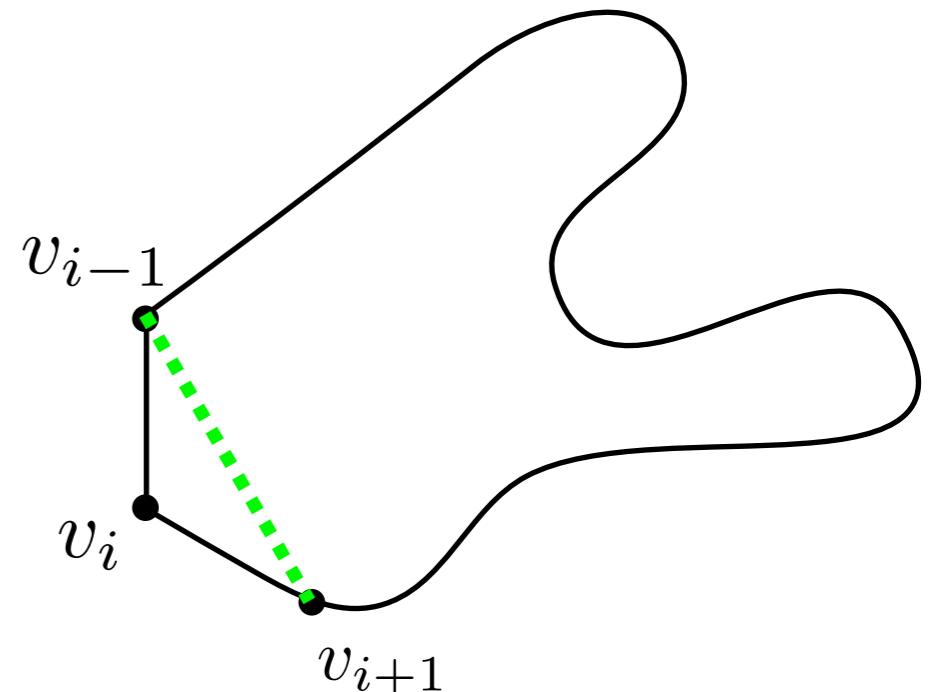
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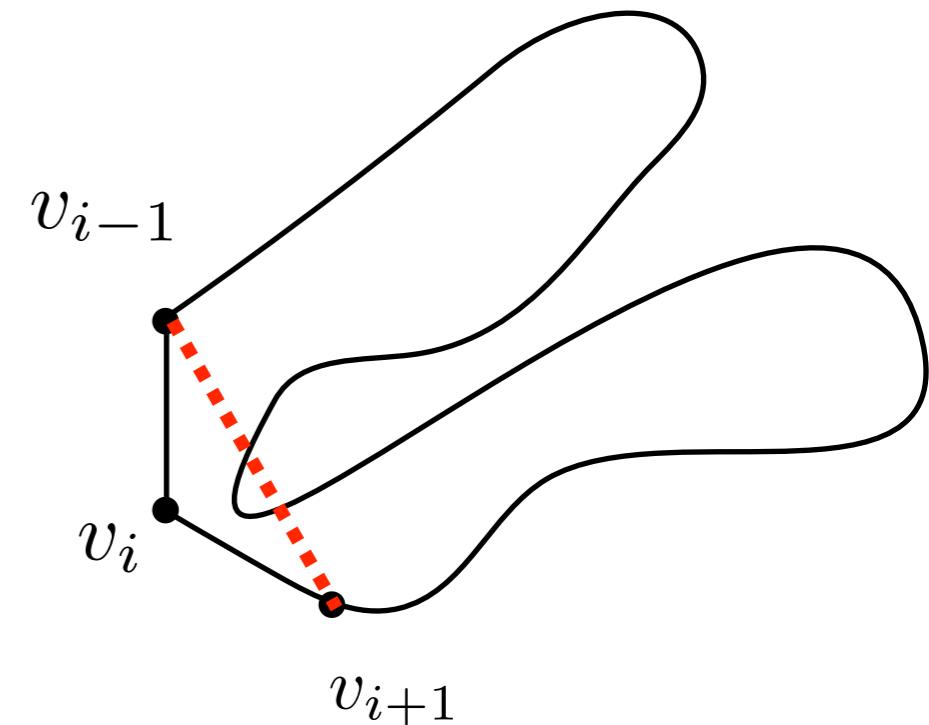
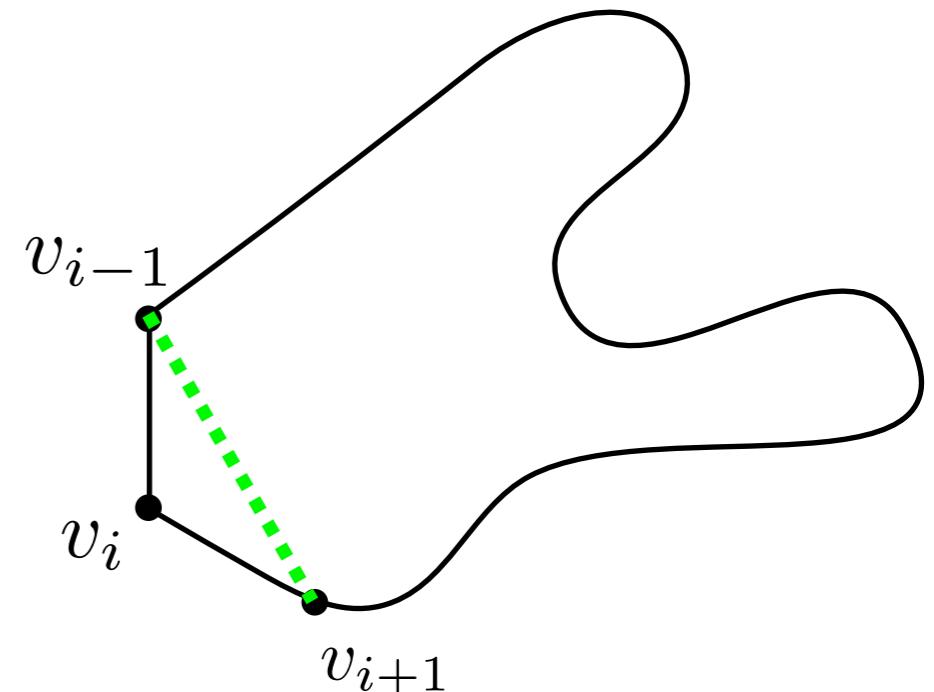
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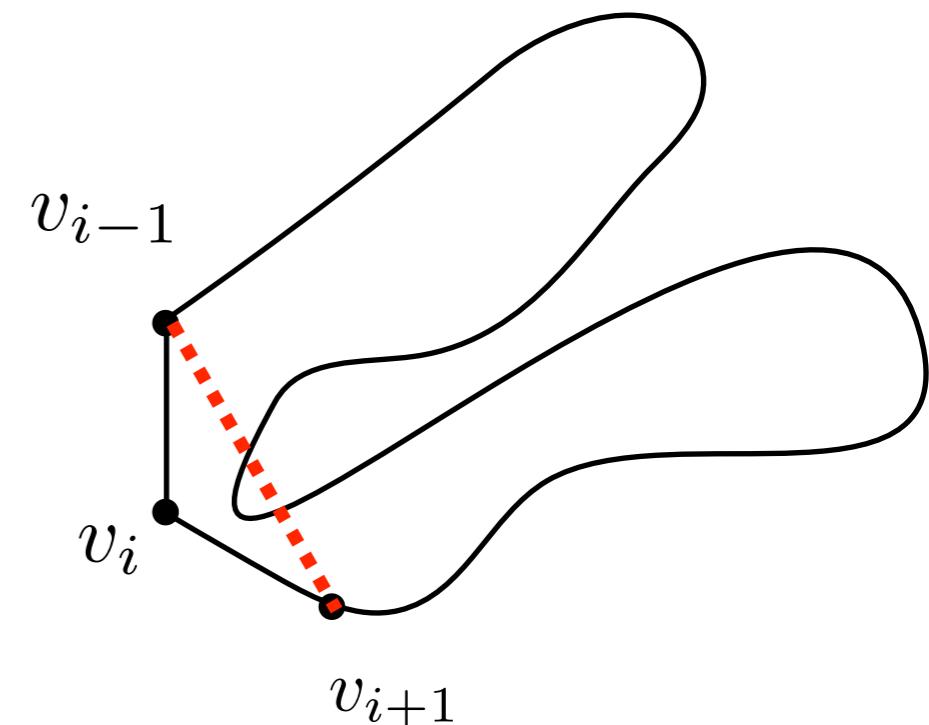
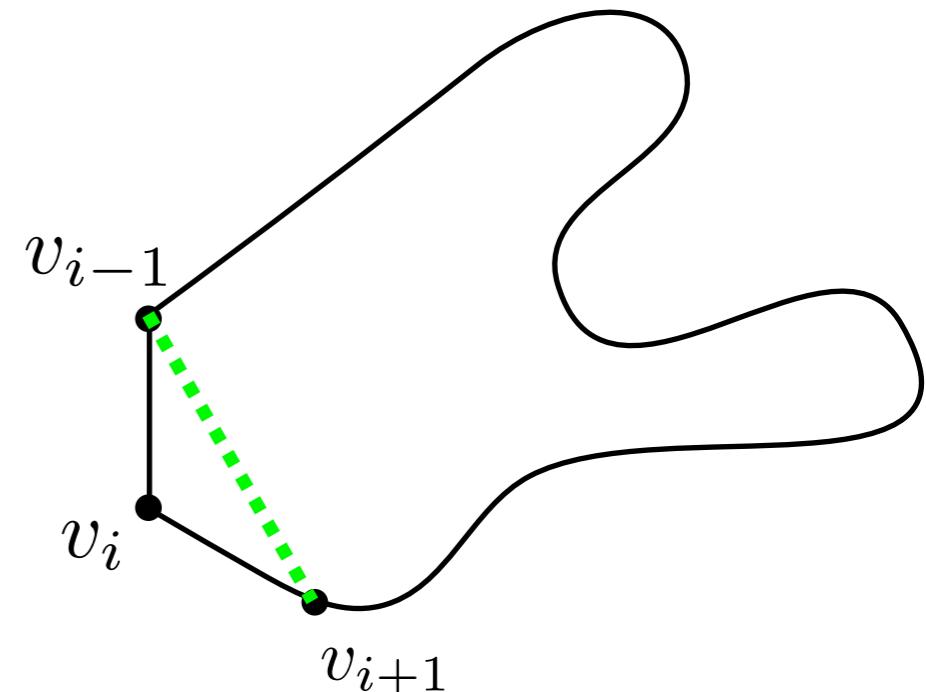
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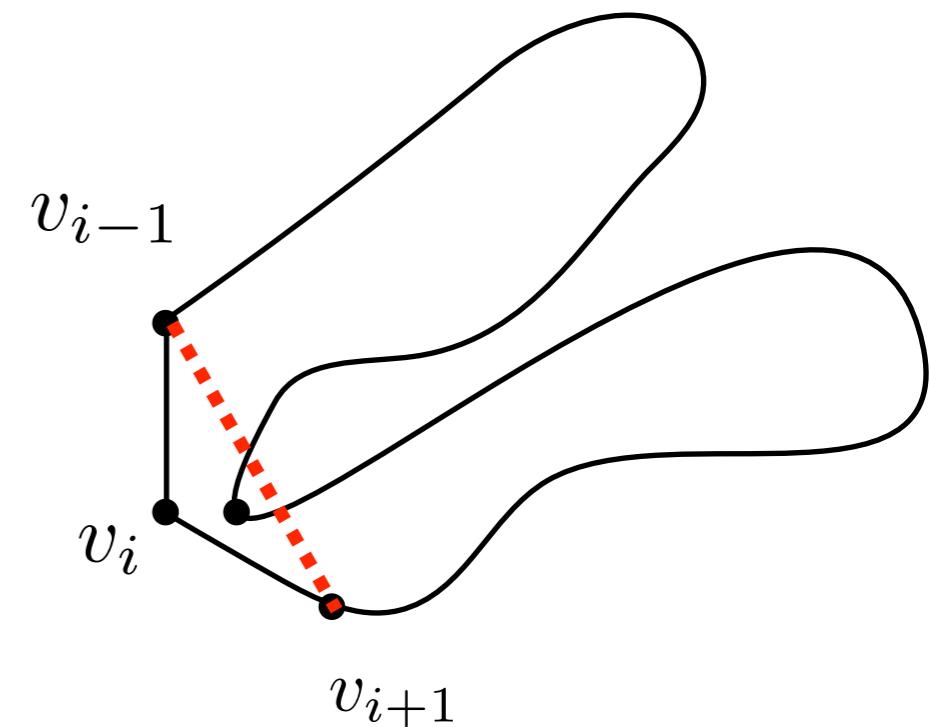
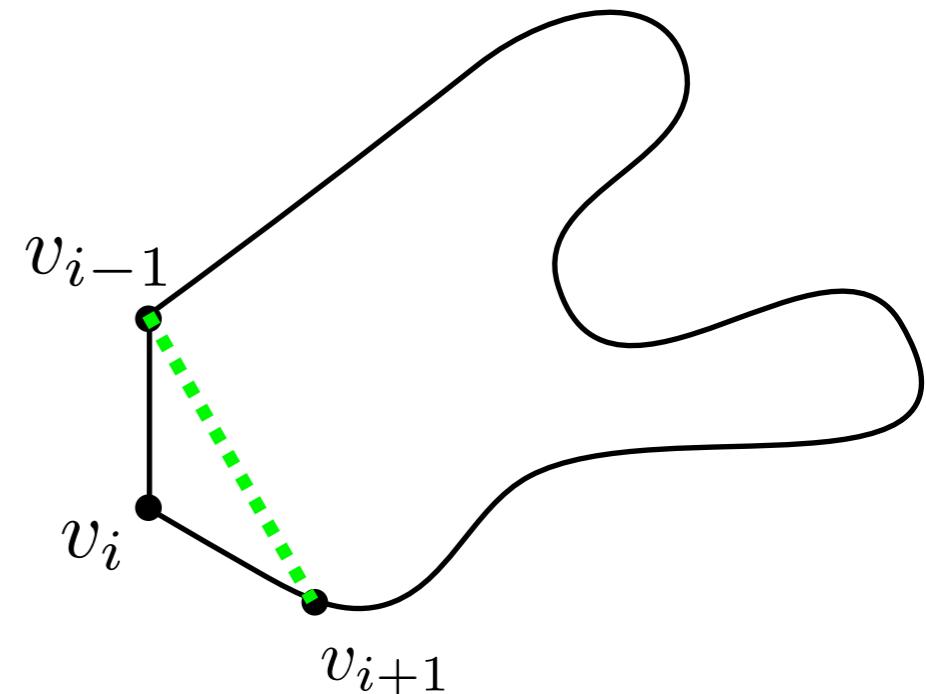
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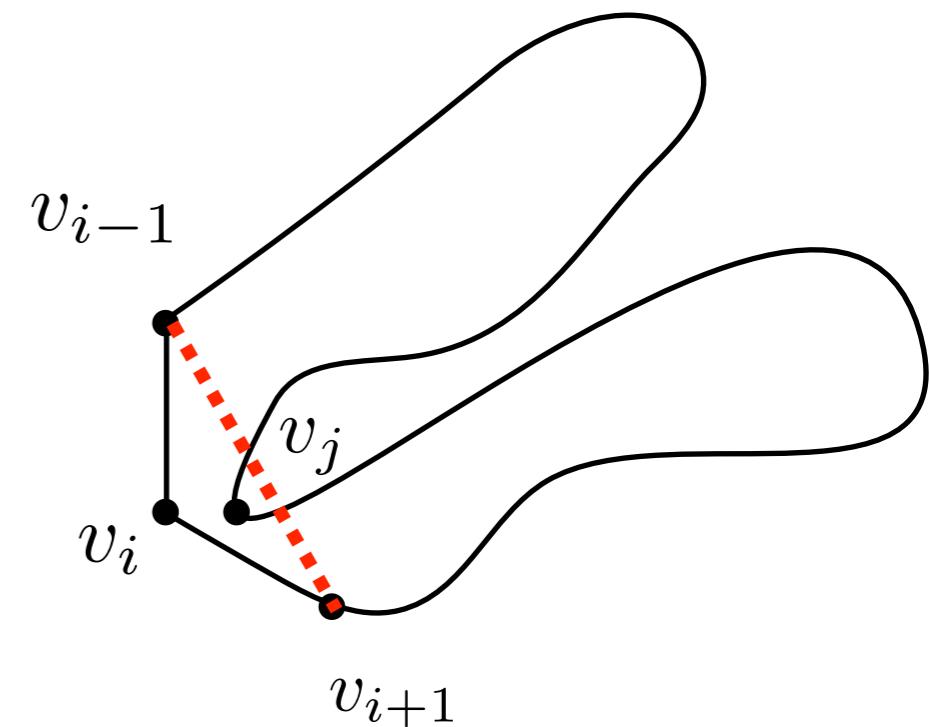
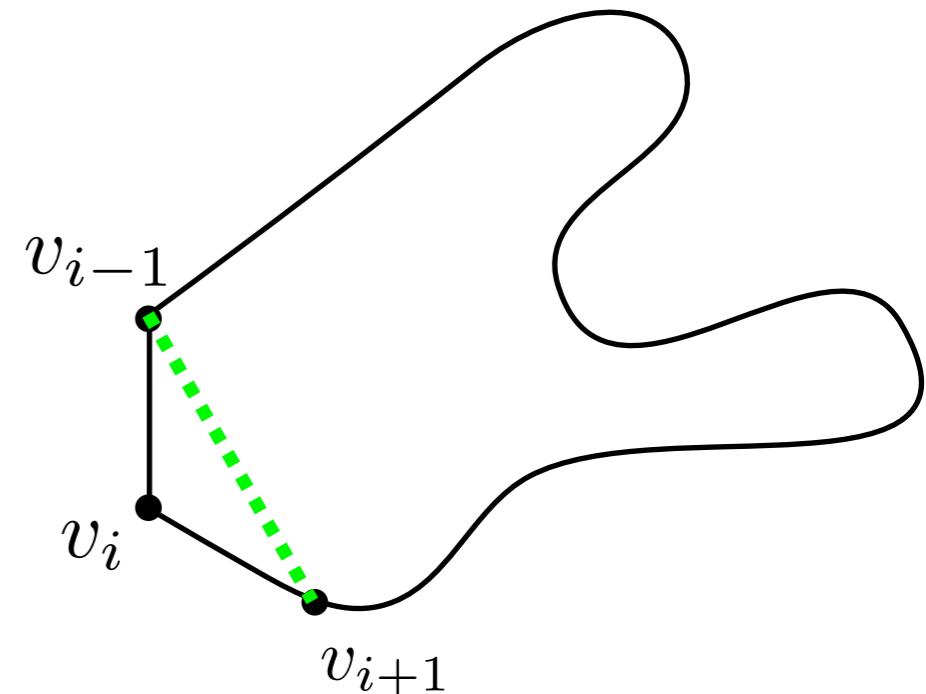
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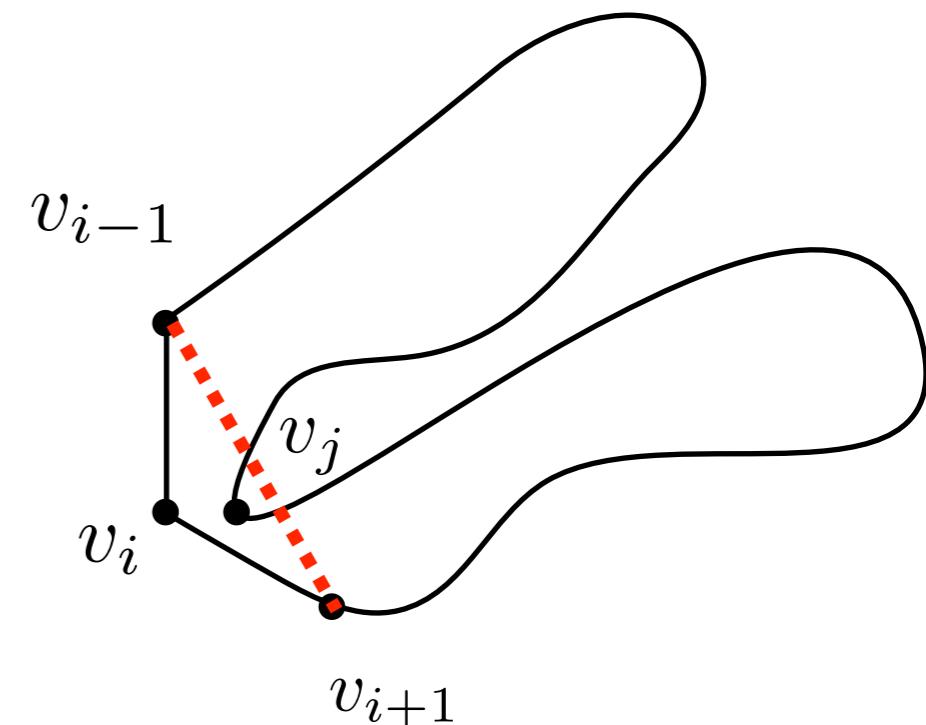
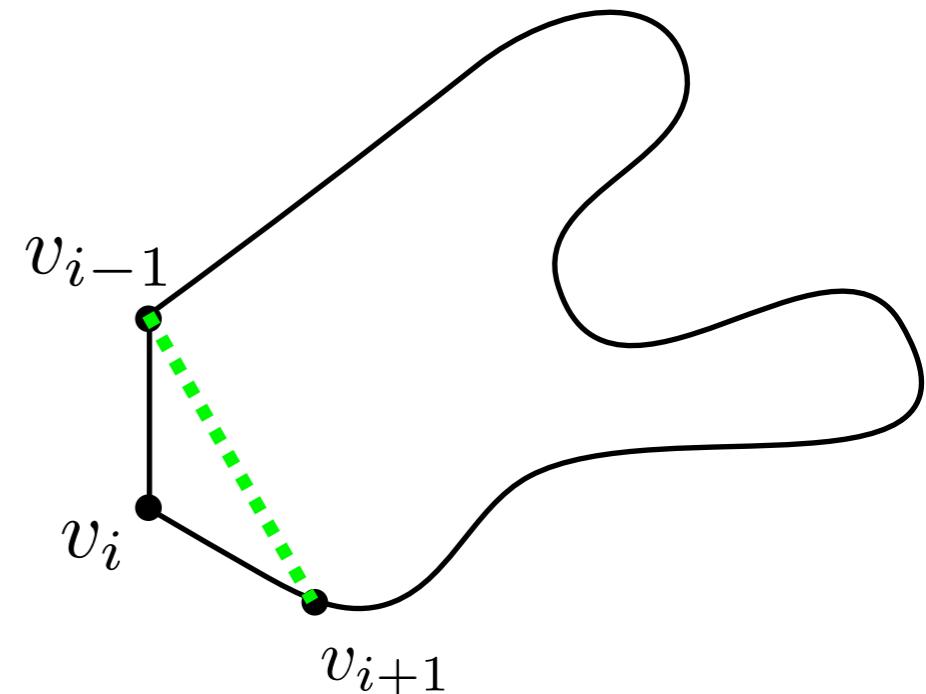
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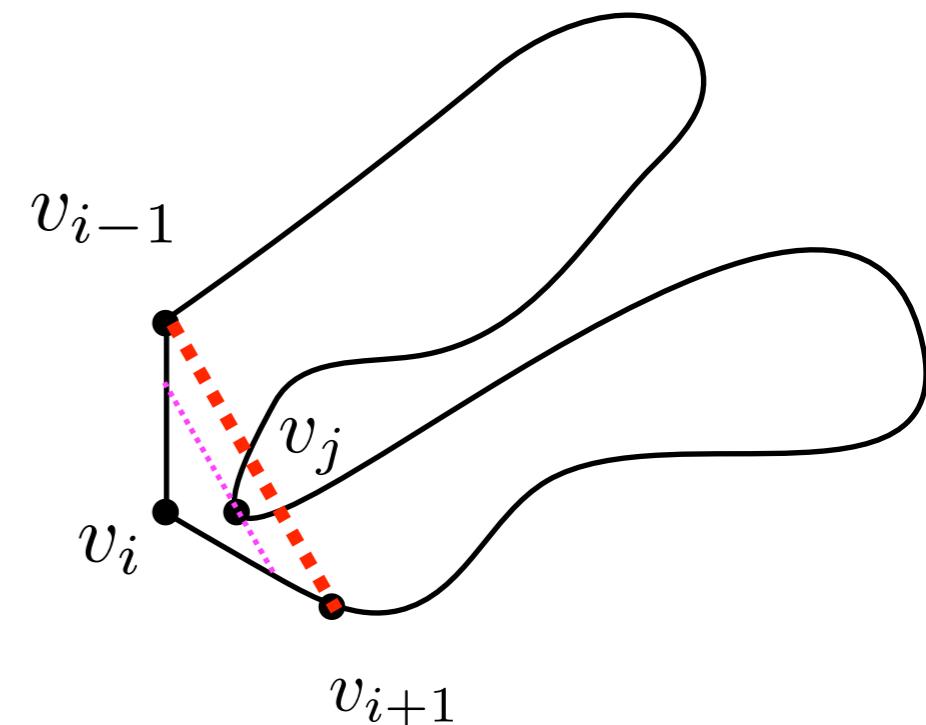
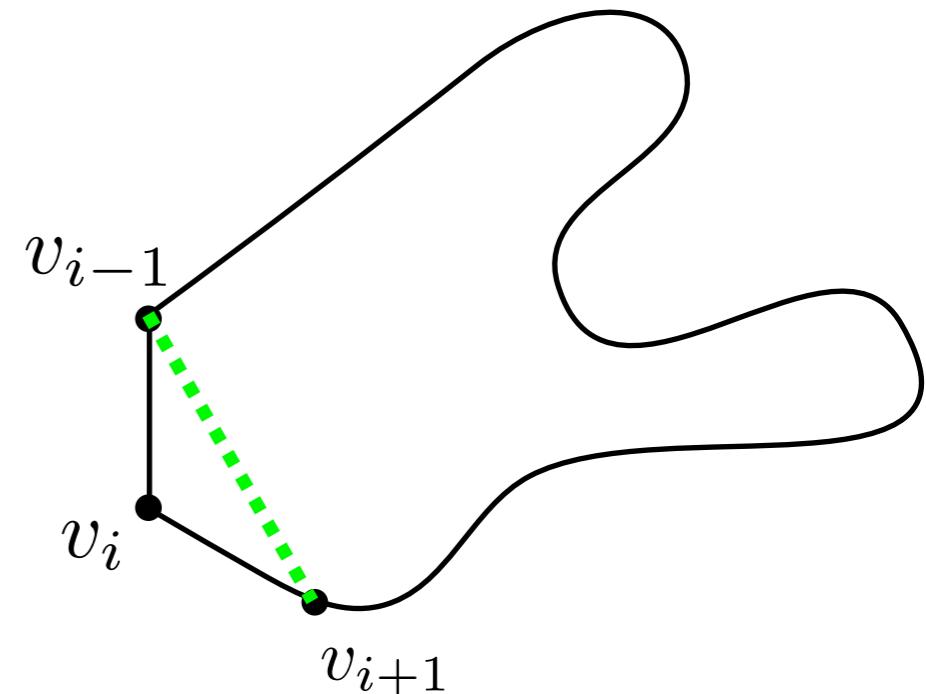
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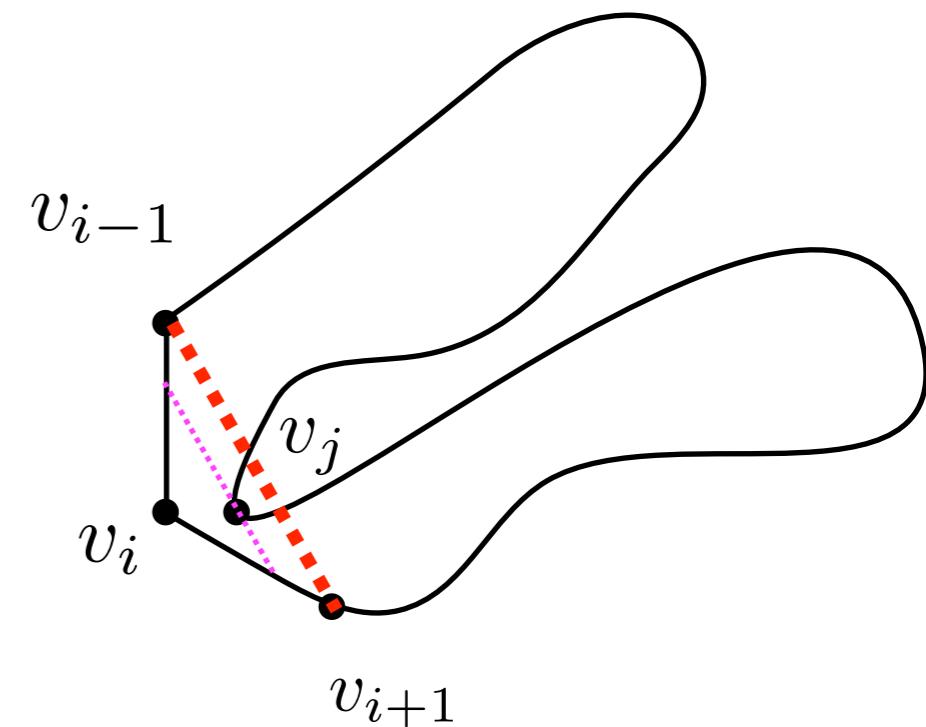
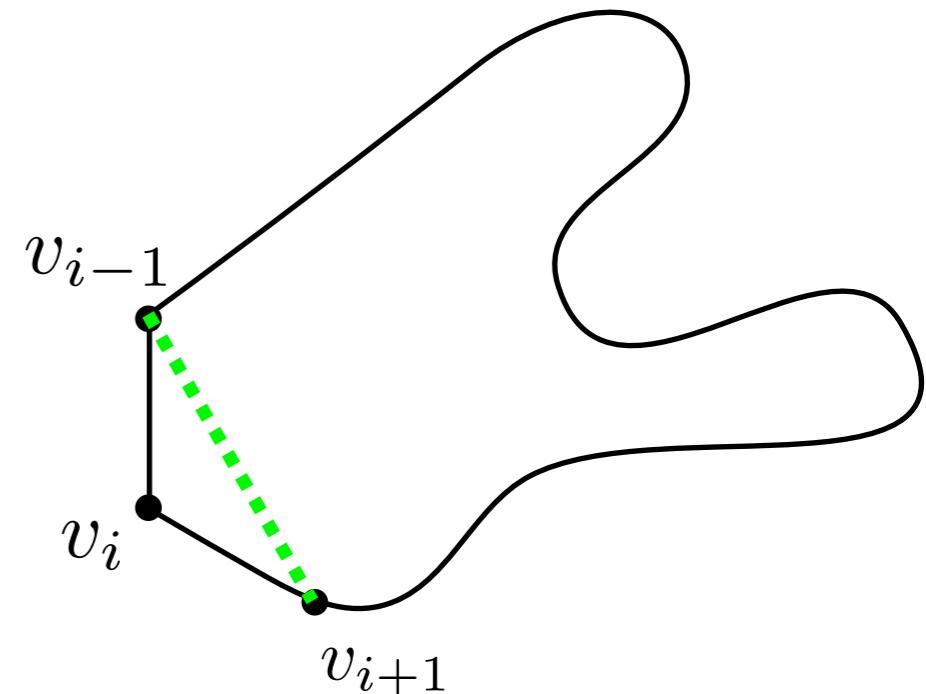
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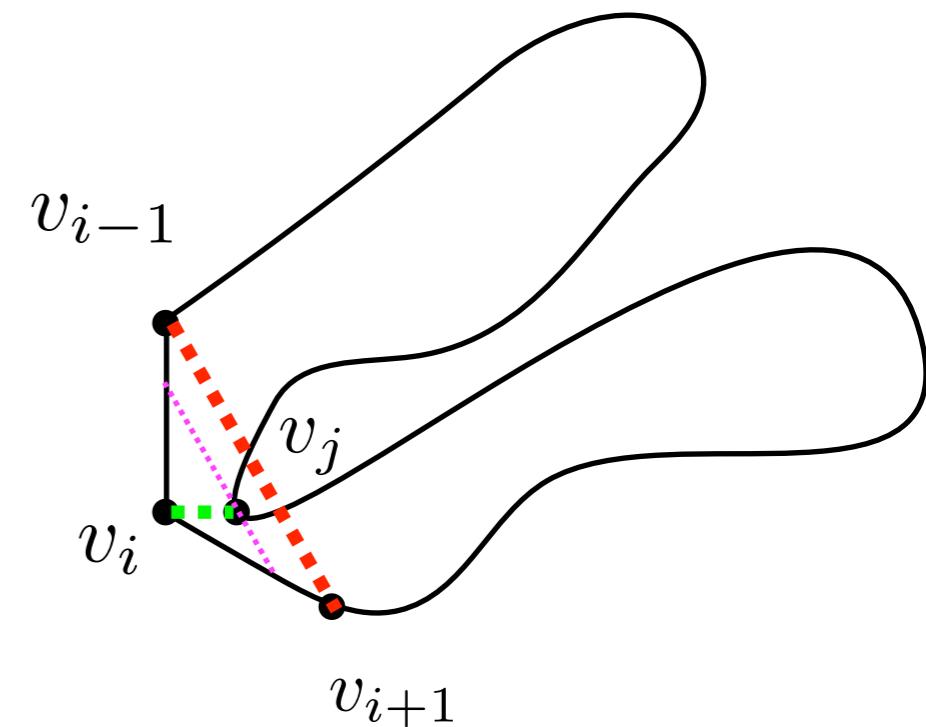
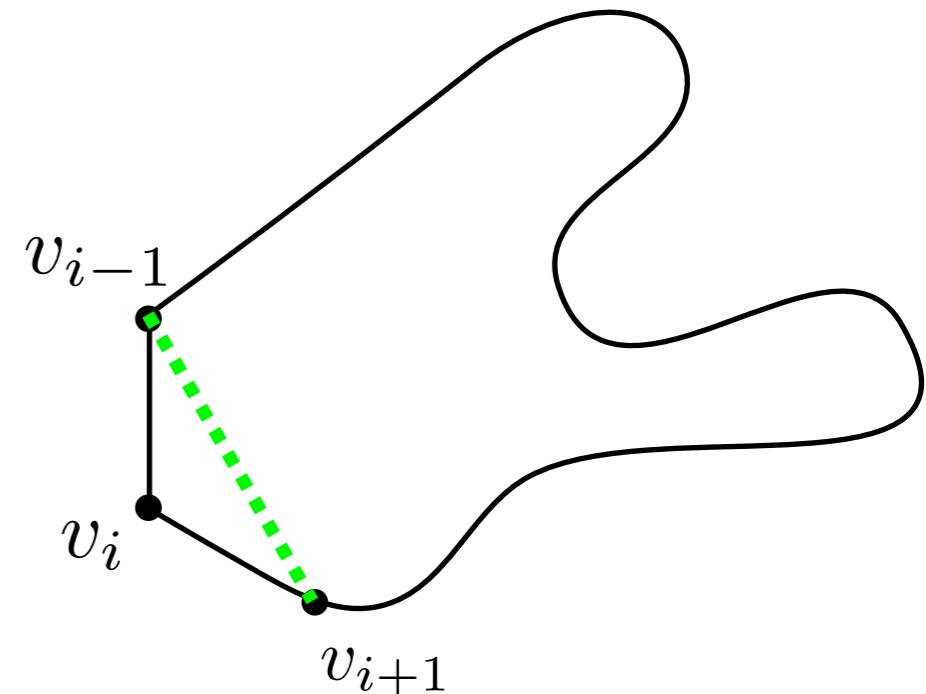
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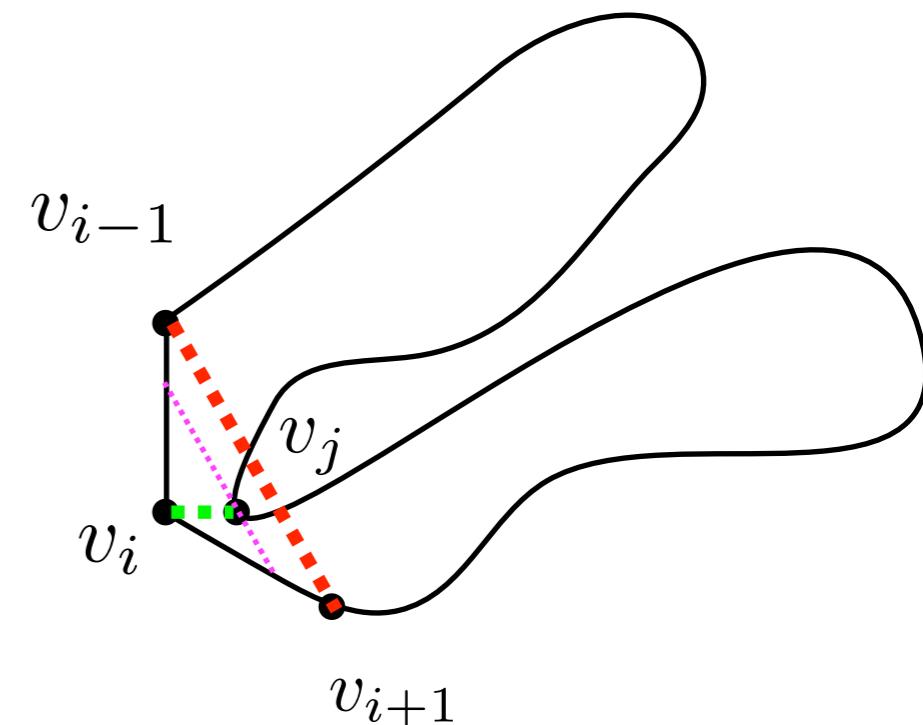
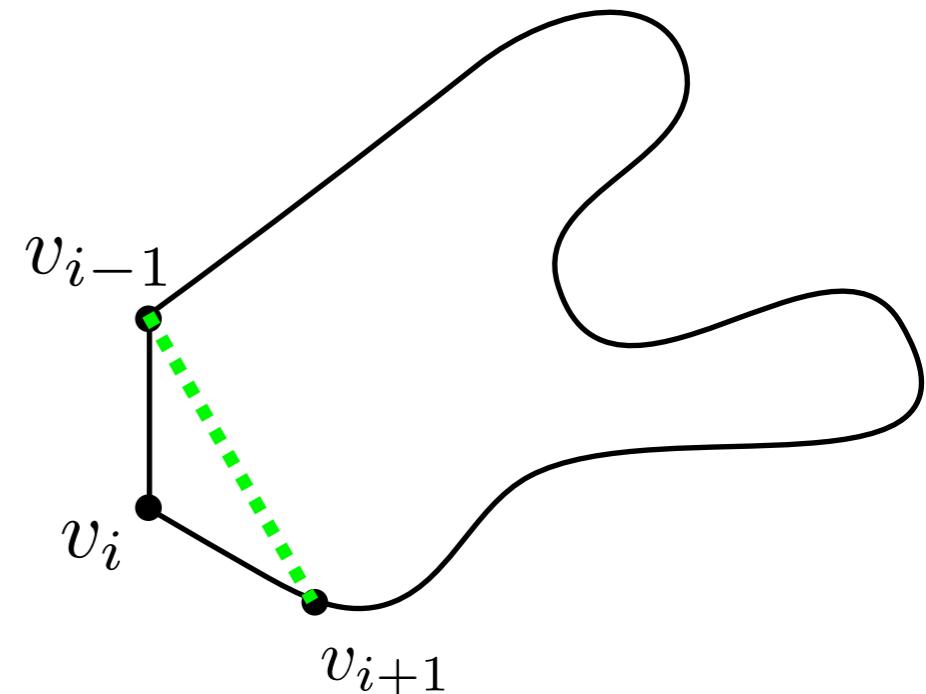
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**Theorem 5.6**

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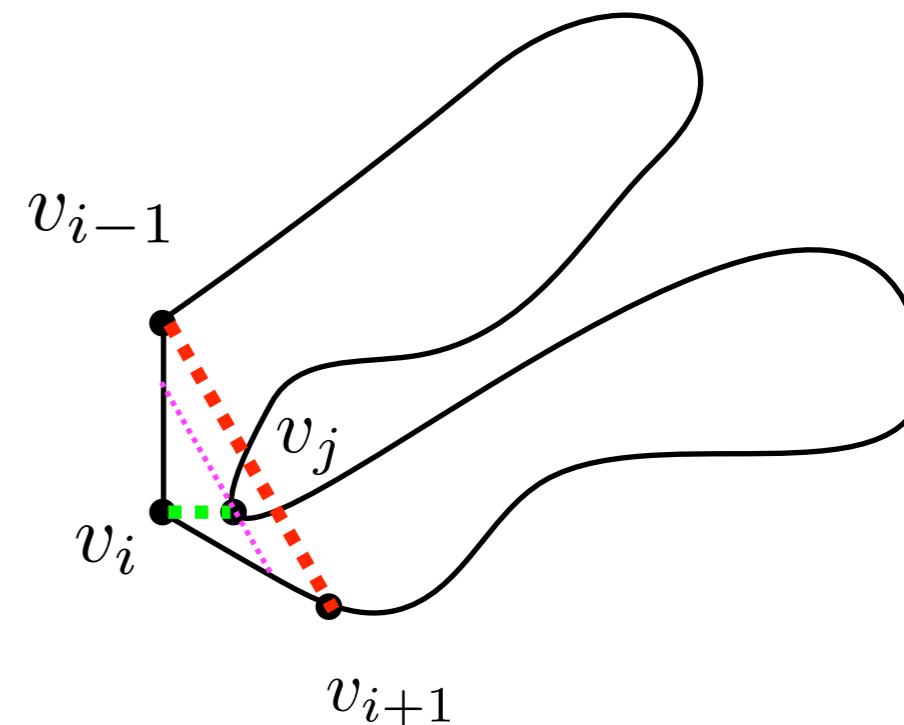
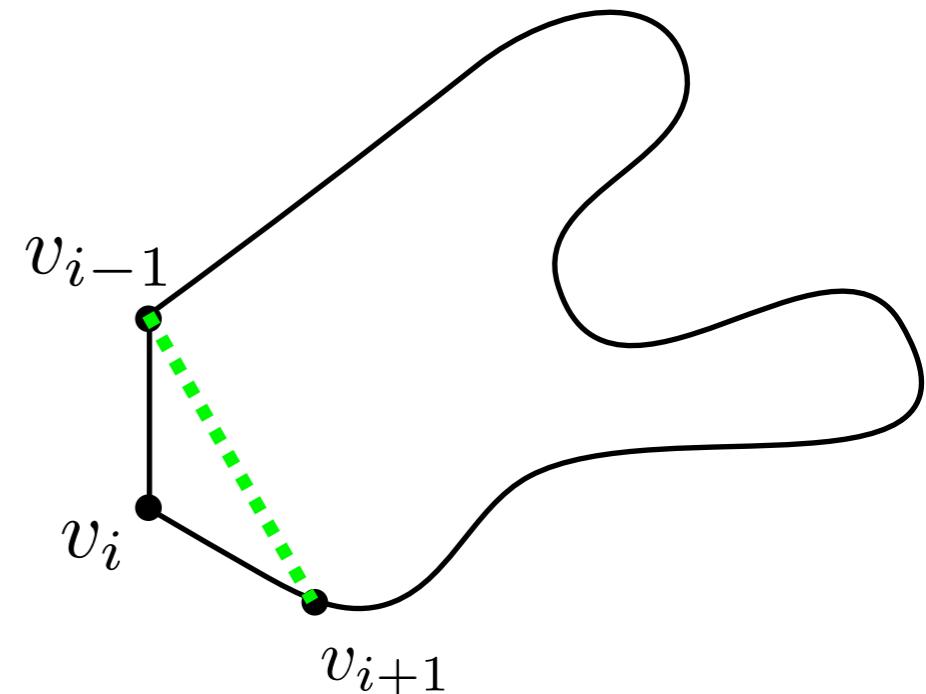
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**Theorem 5.6**

Every polygon can be triangulated.

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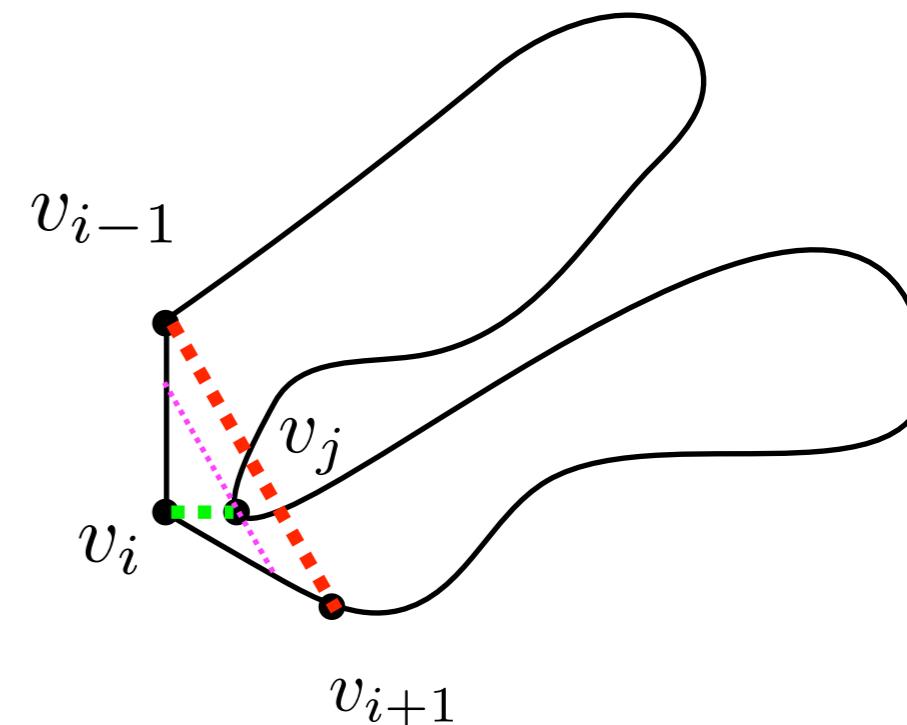
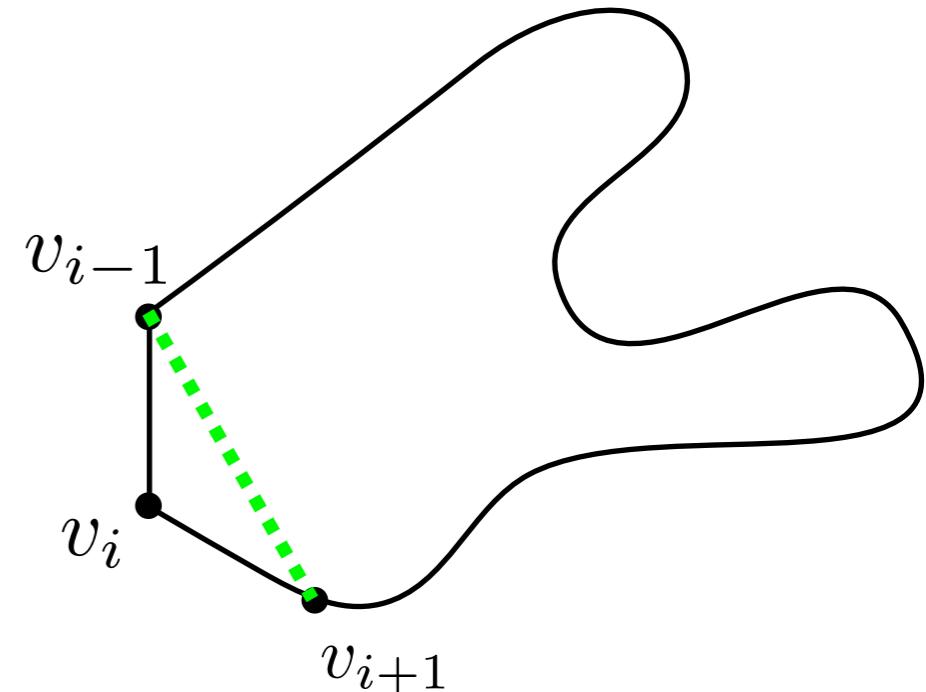
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**Proof:** Induction.

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### Proof:

Induction over  $n$ : The claim is clear for  $n=3$ .



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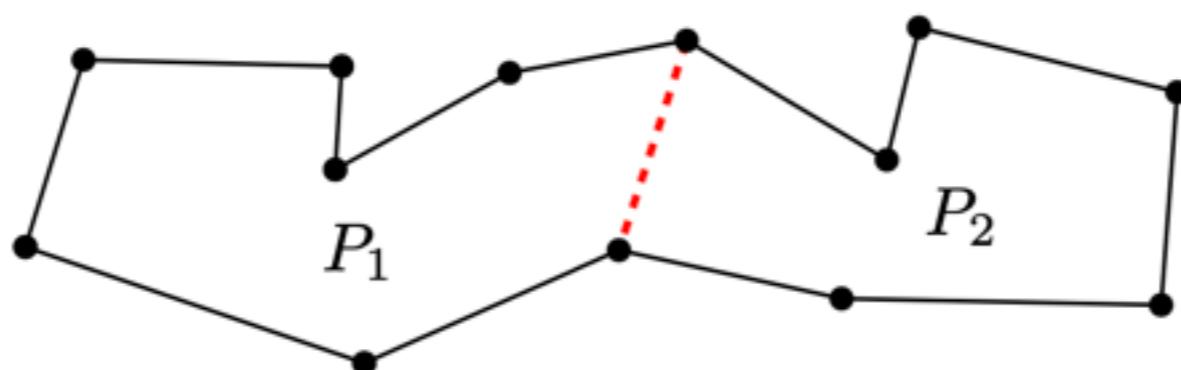
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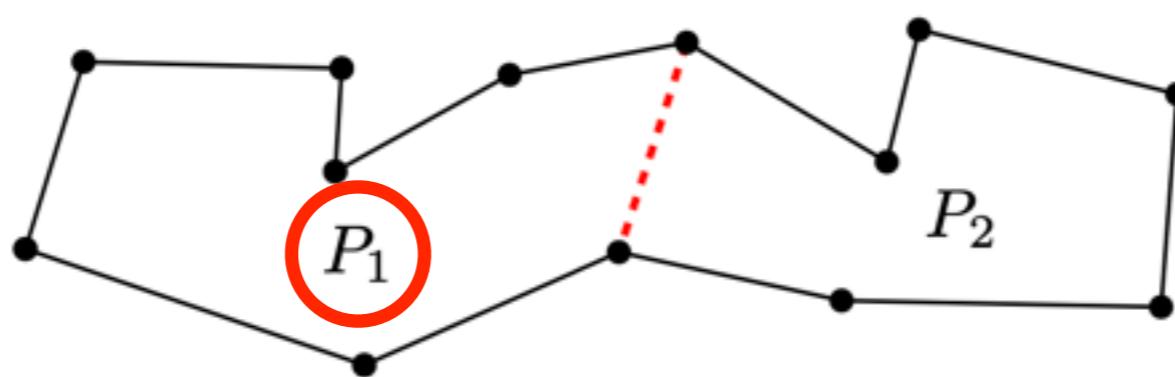
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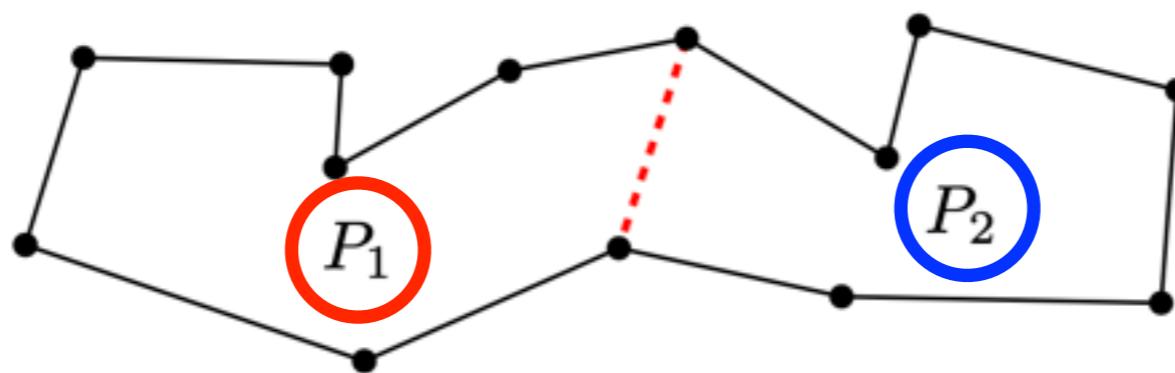
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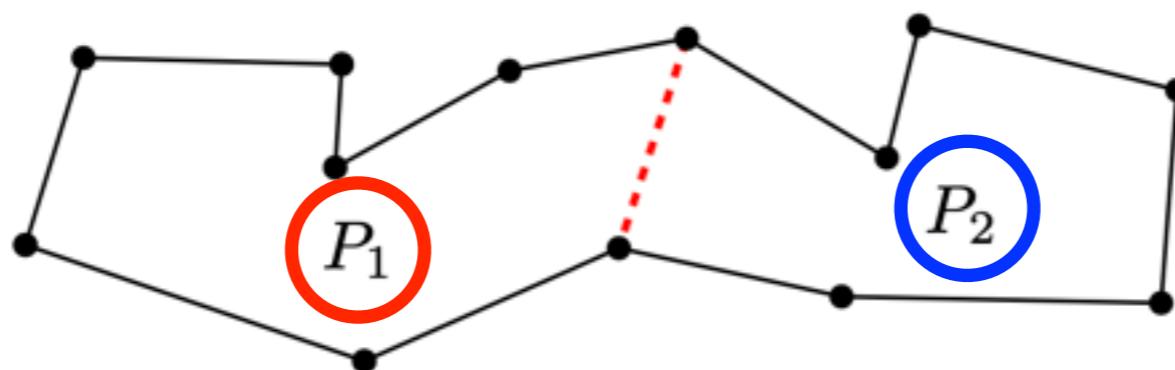
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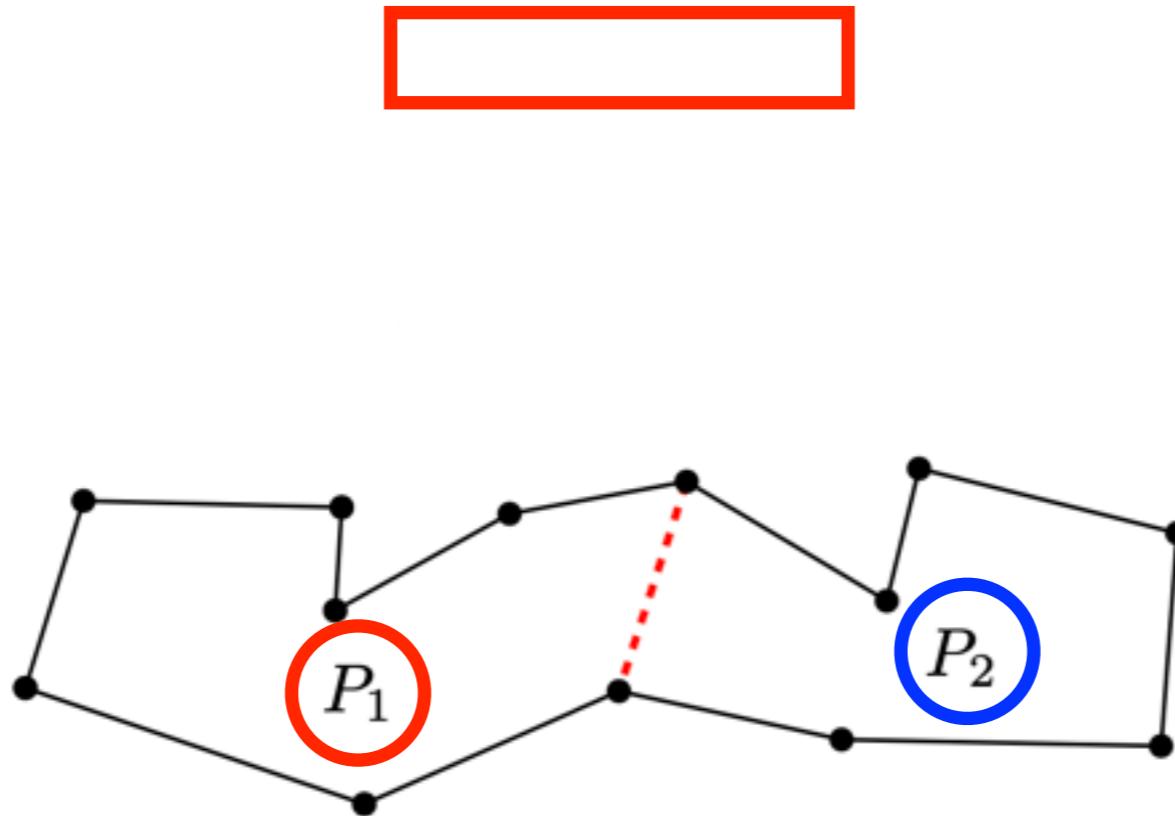
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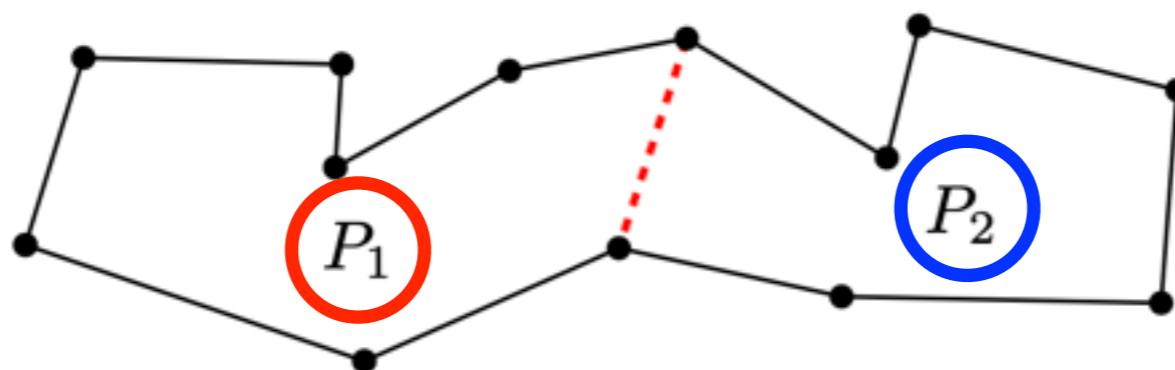
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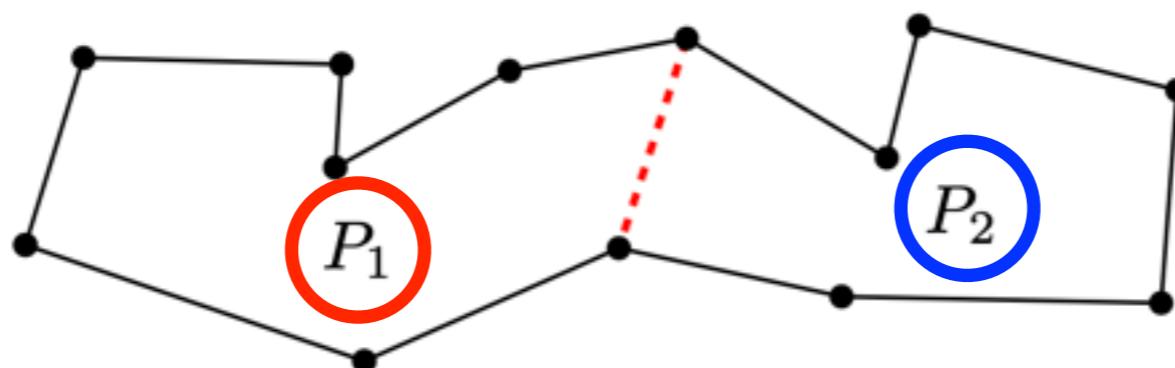
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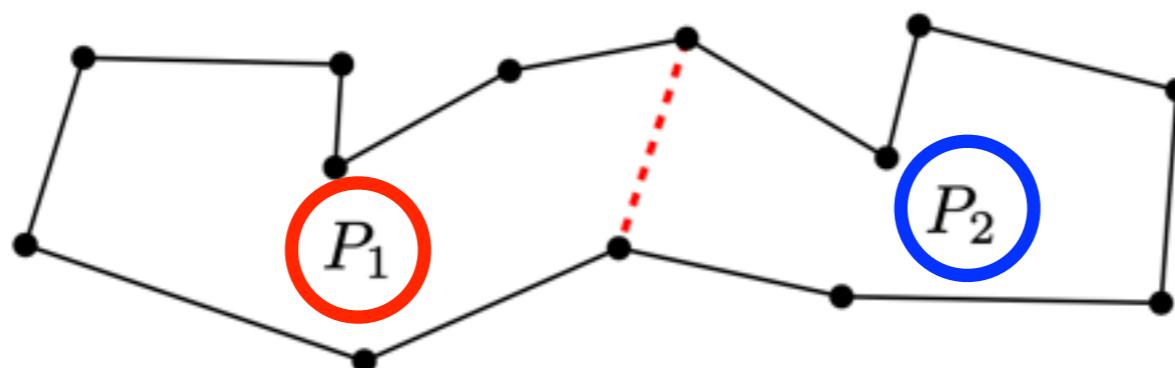
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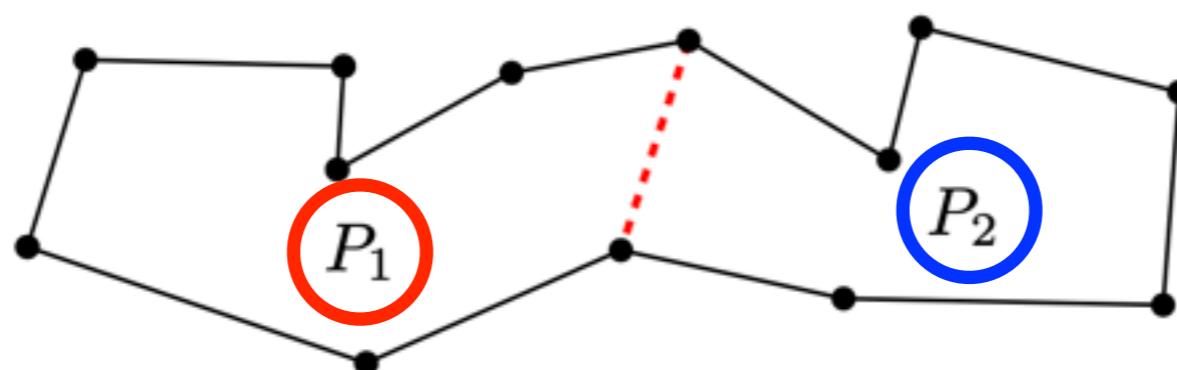
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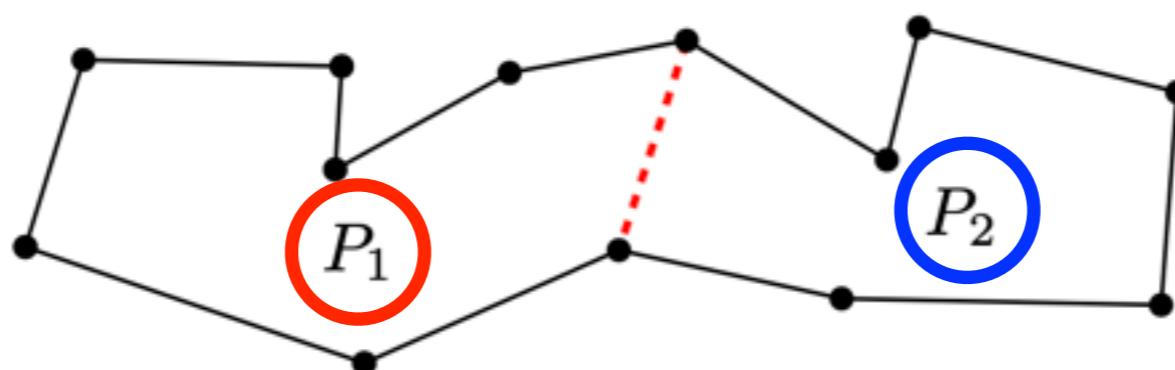
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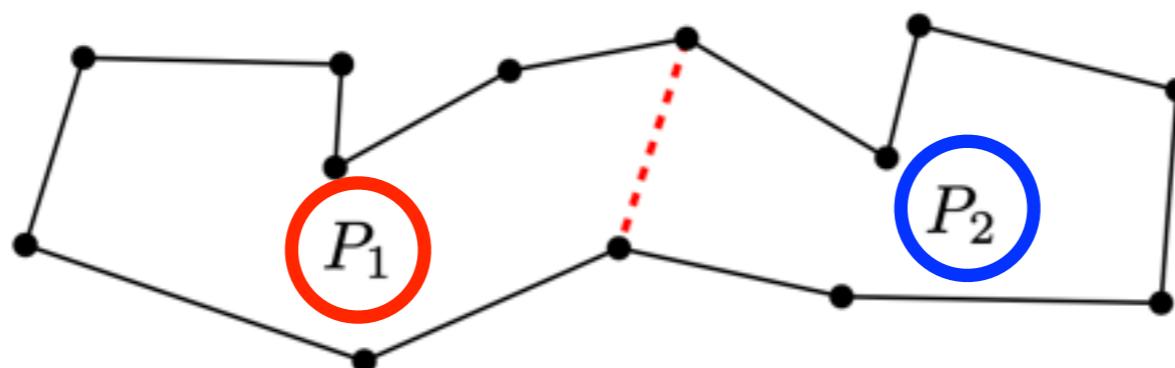
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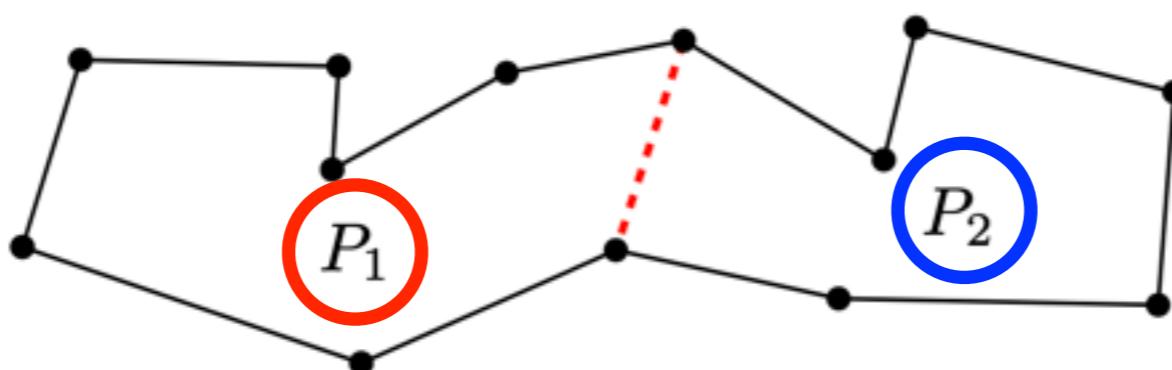
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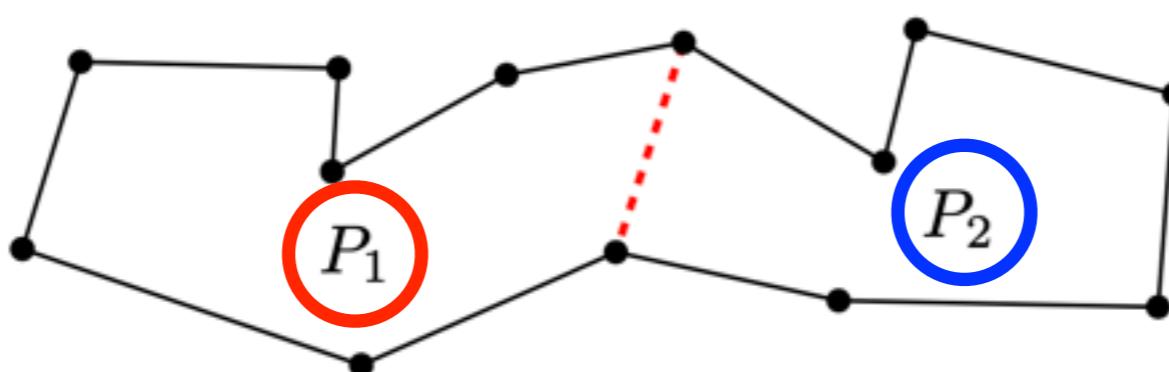
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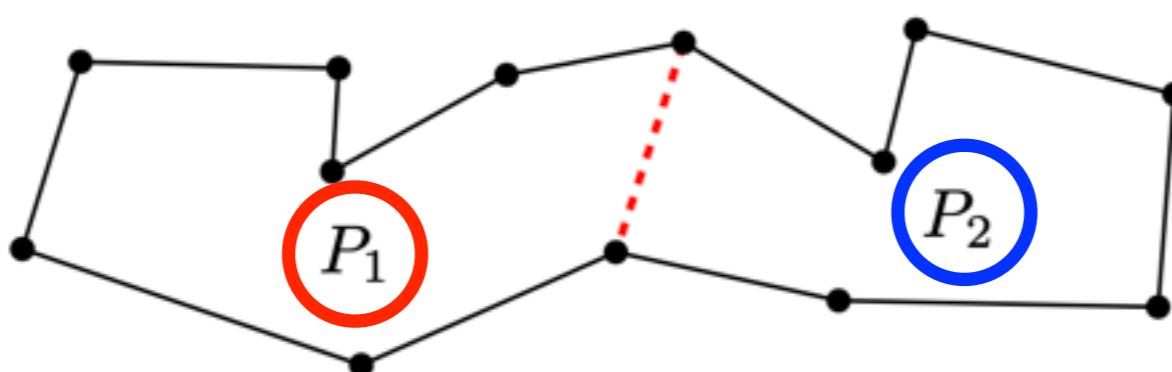
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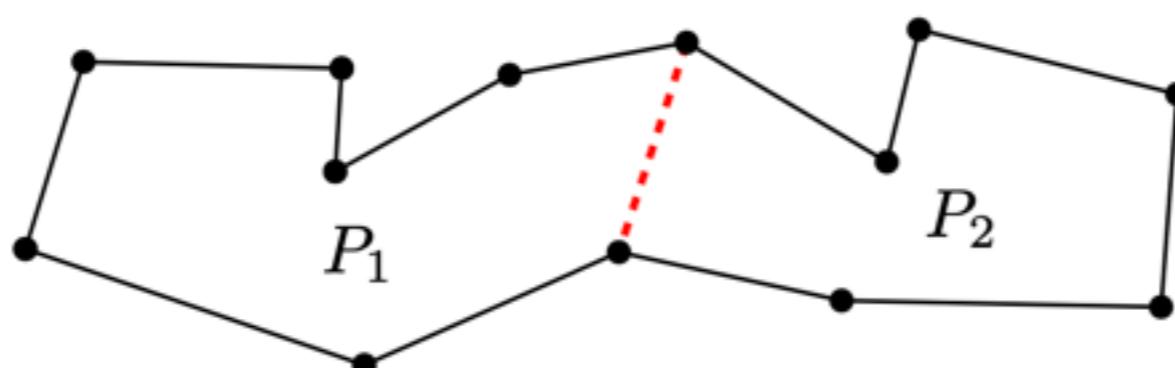
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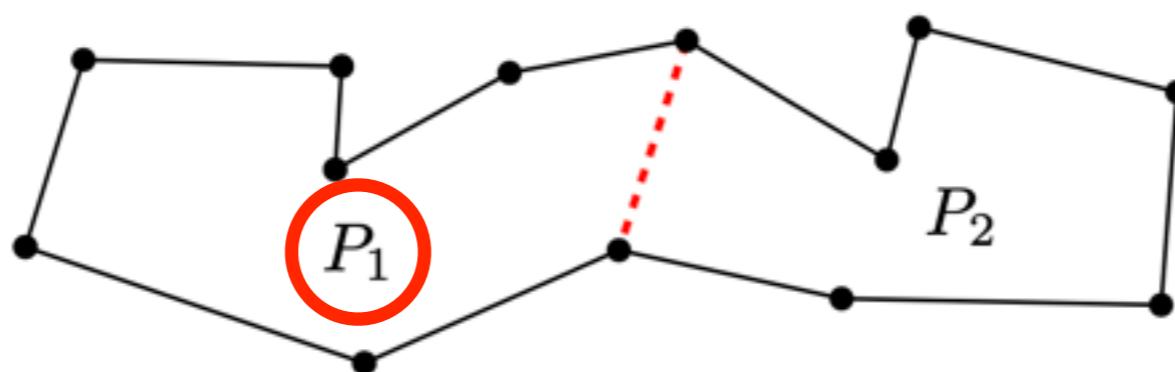
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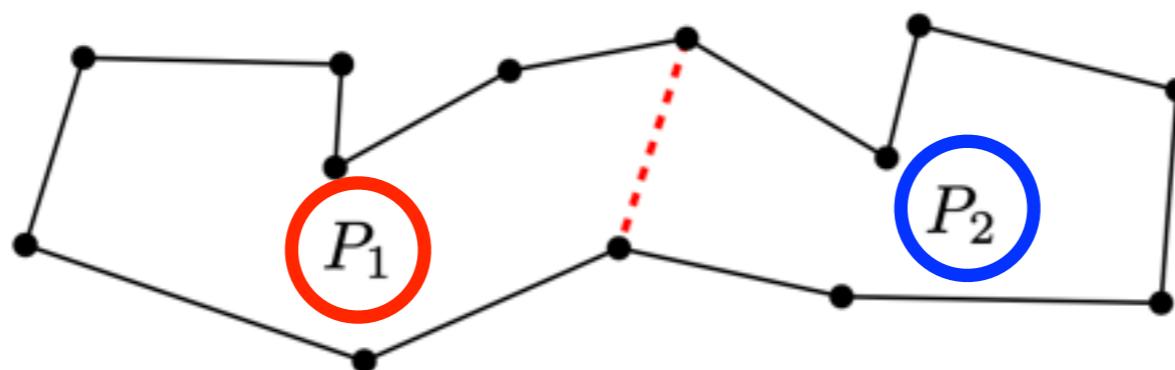
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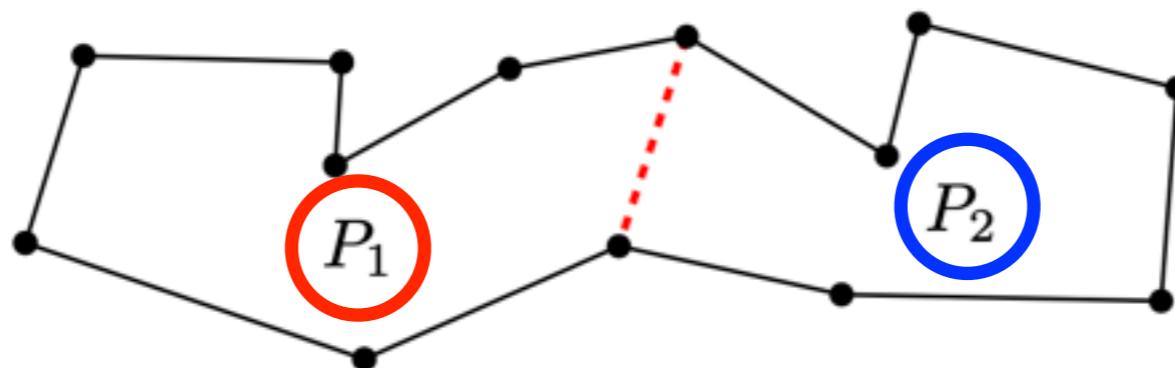
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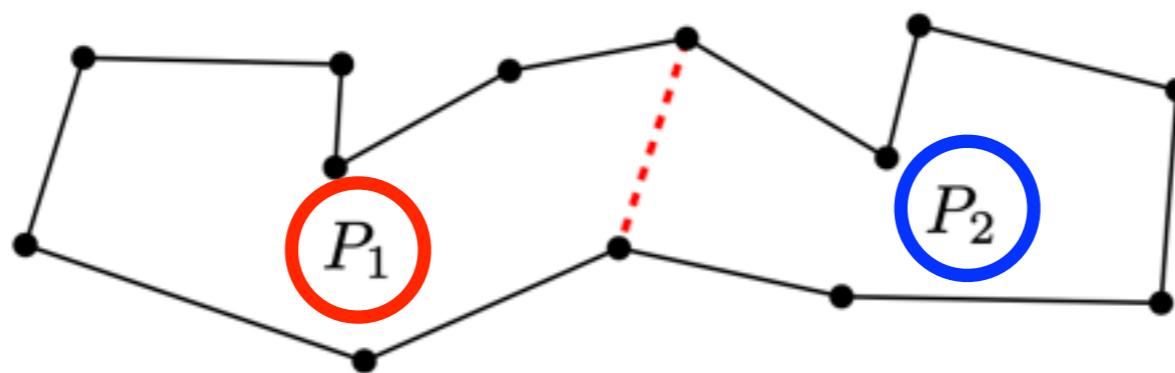
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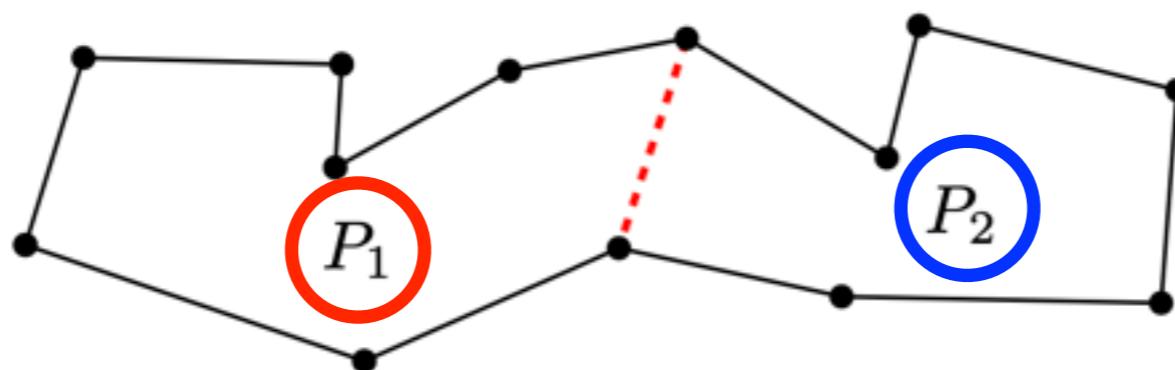
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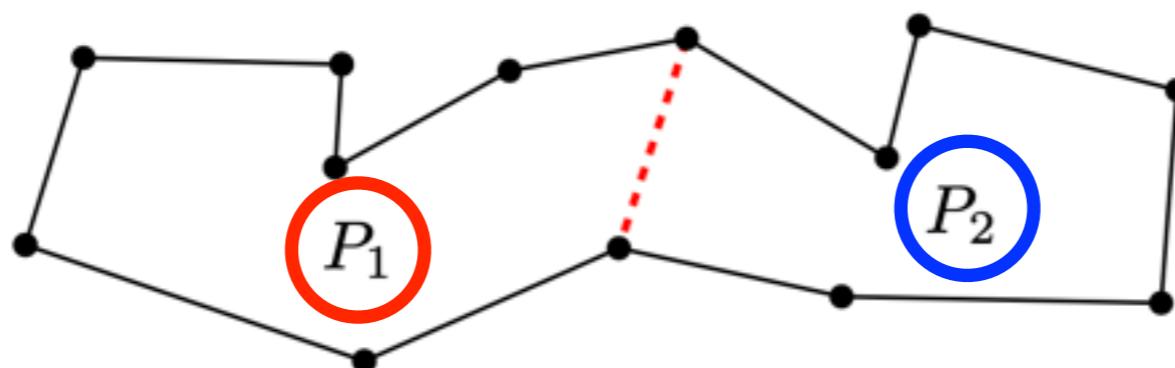
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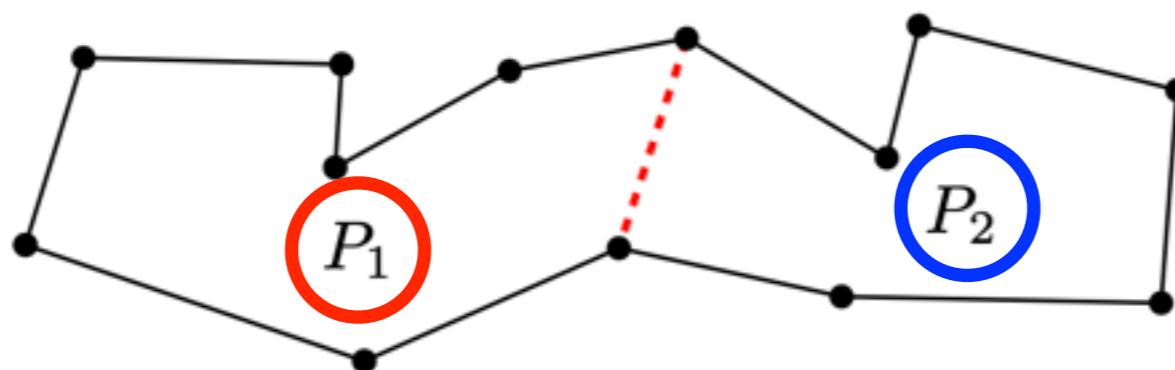
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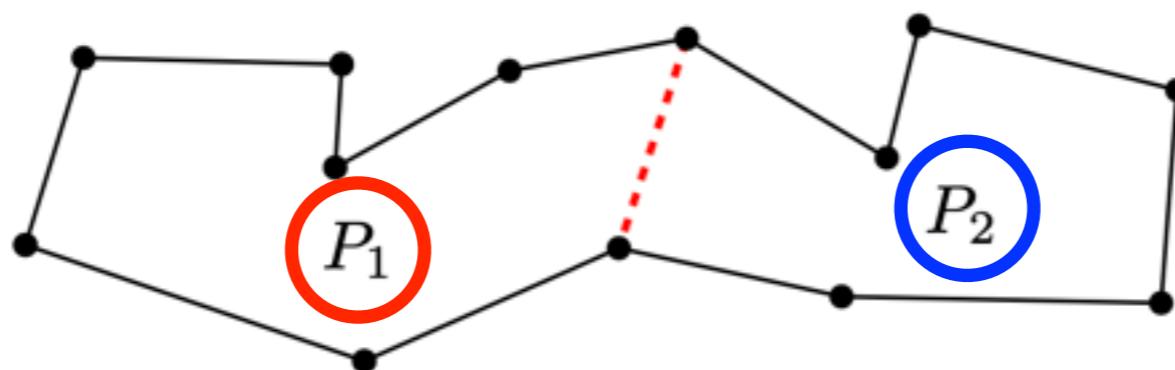
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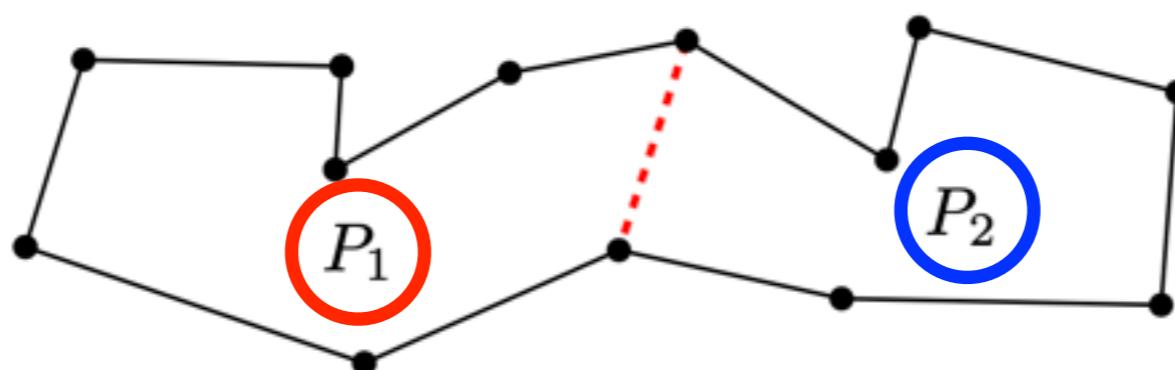
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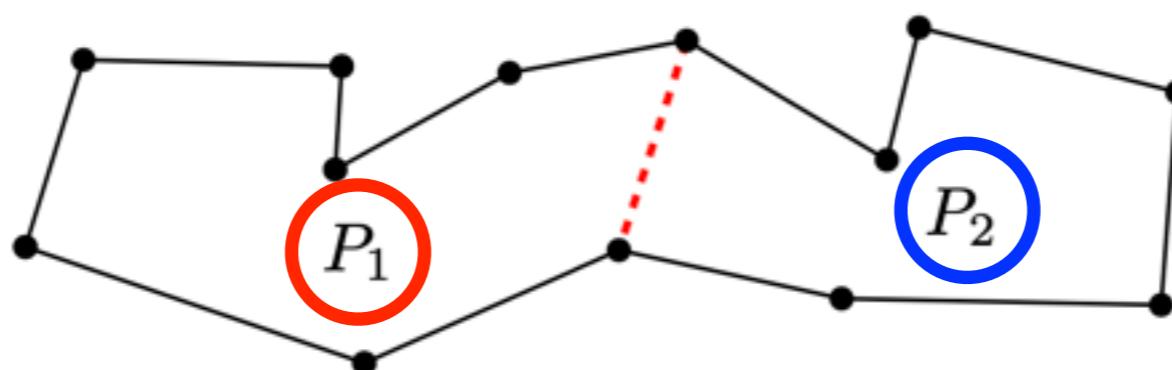
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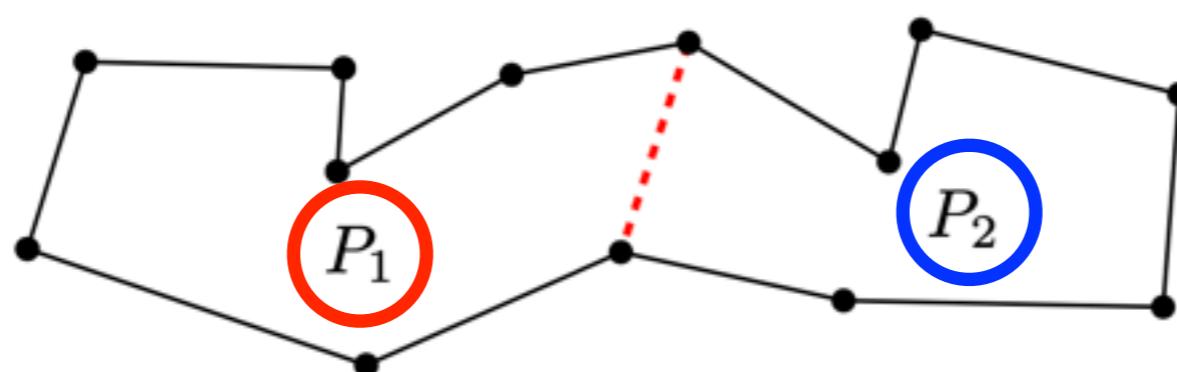
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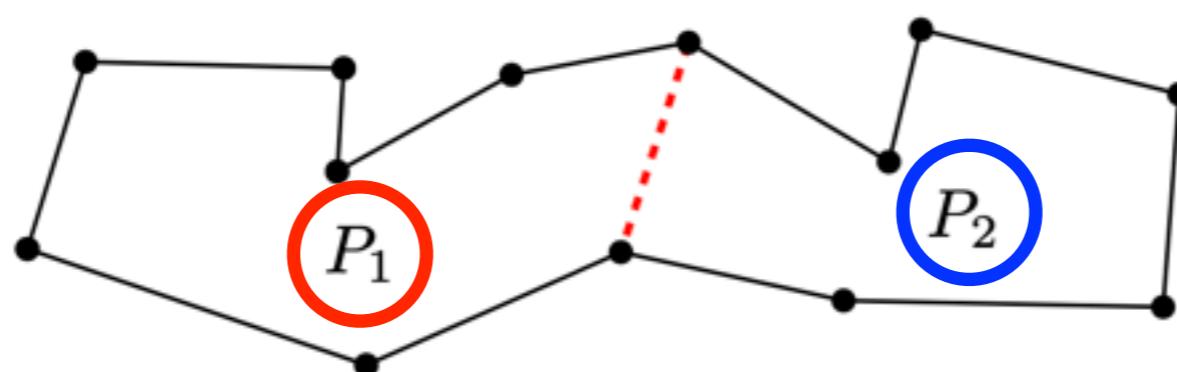
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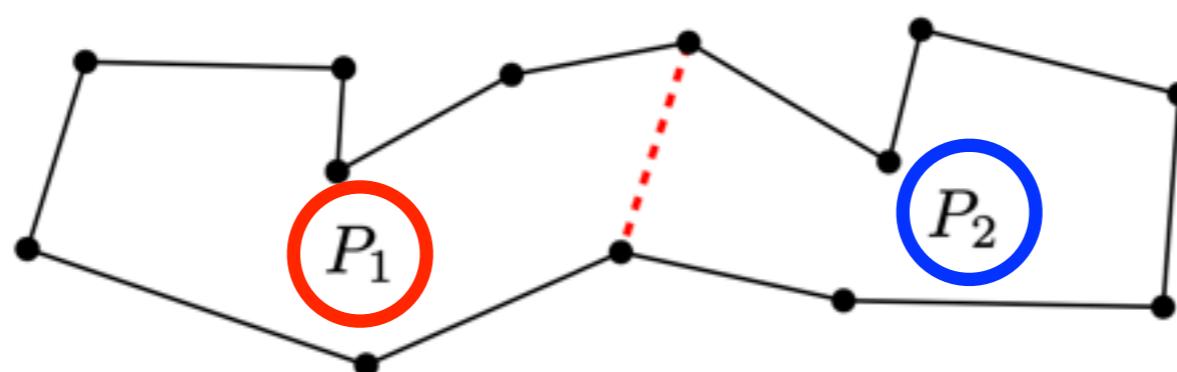
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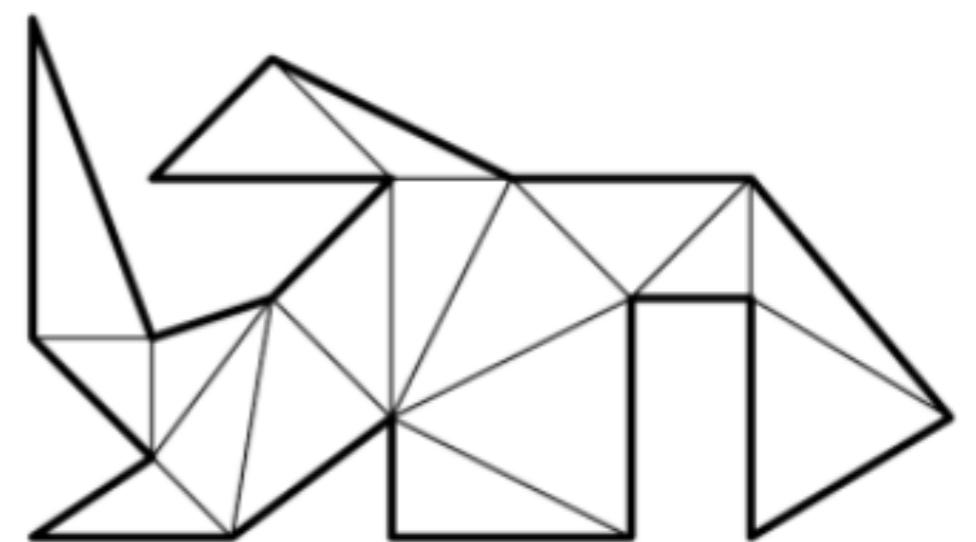
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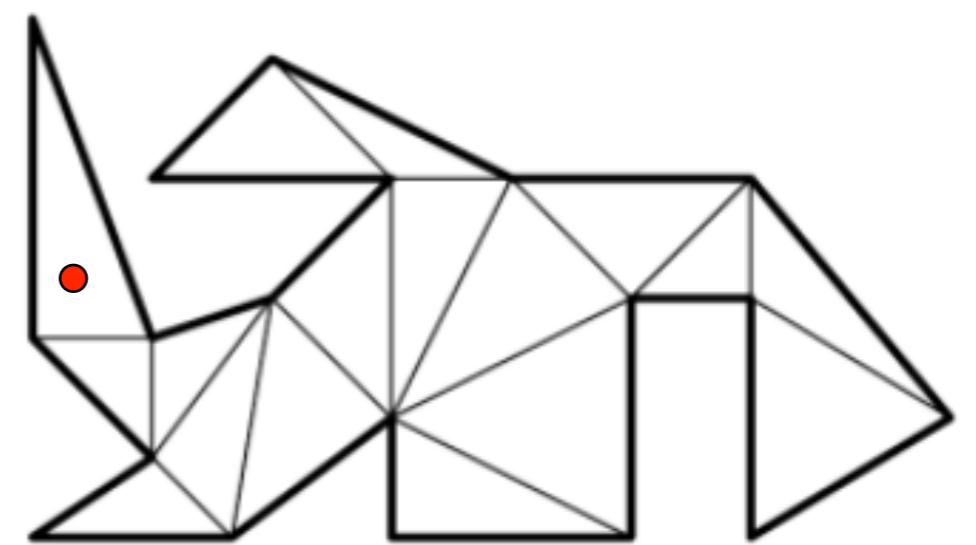
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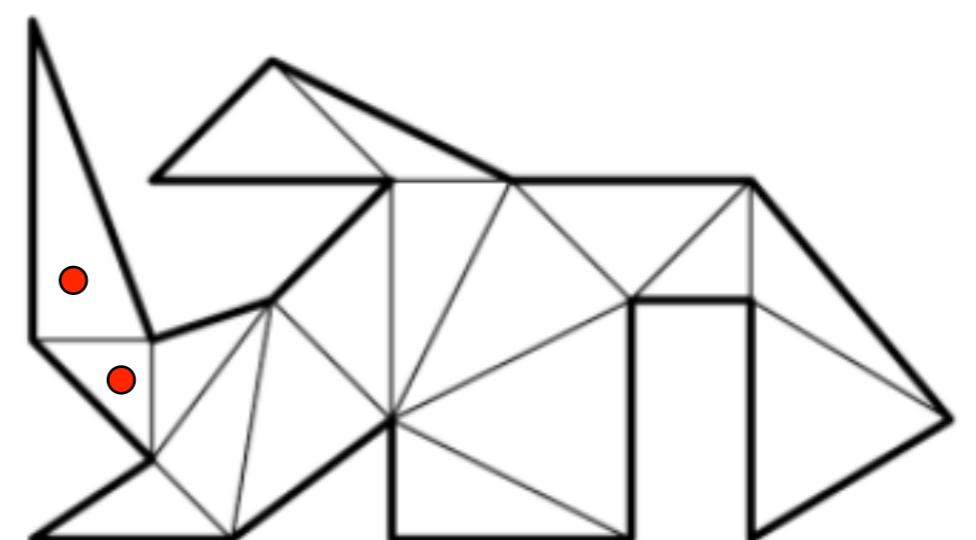
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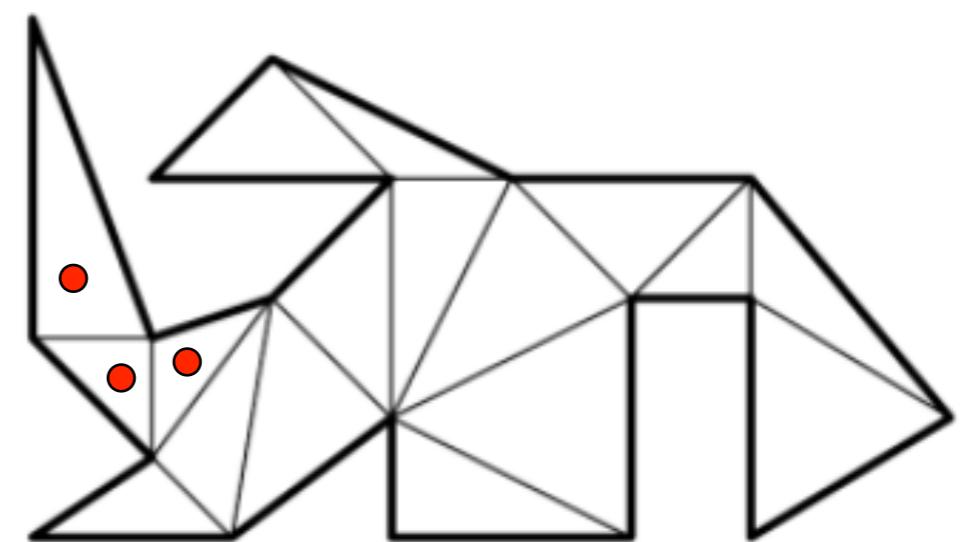
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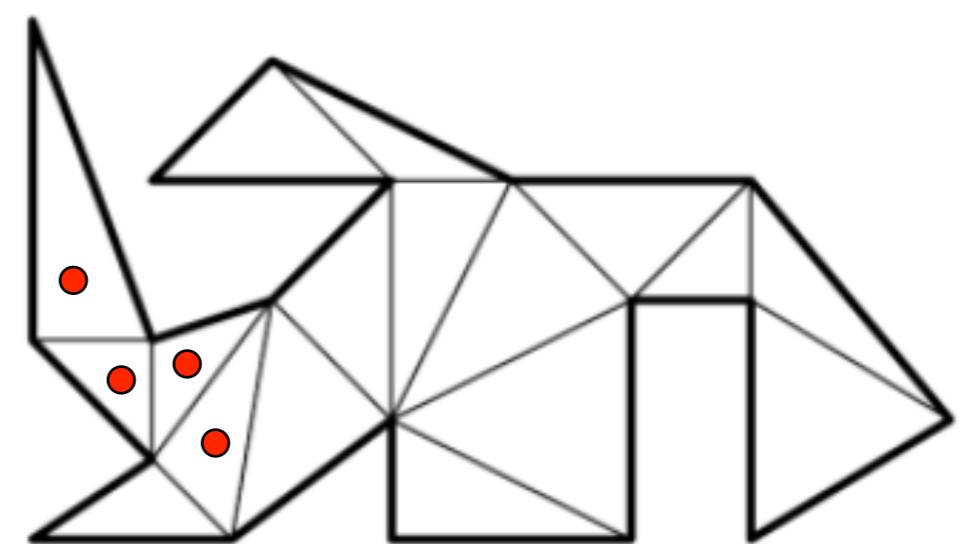
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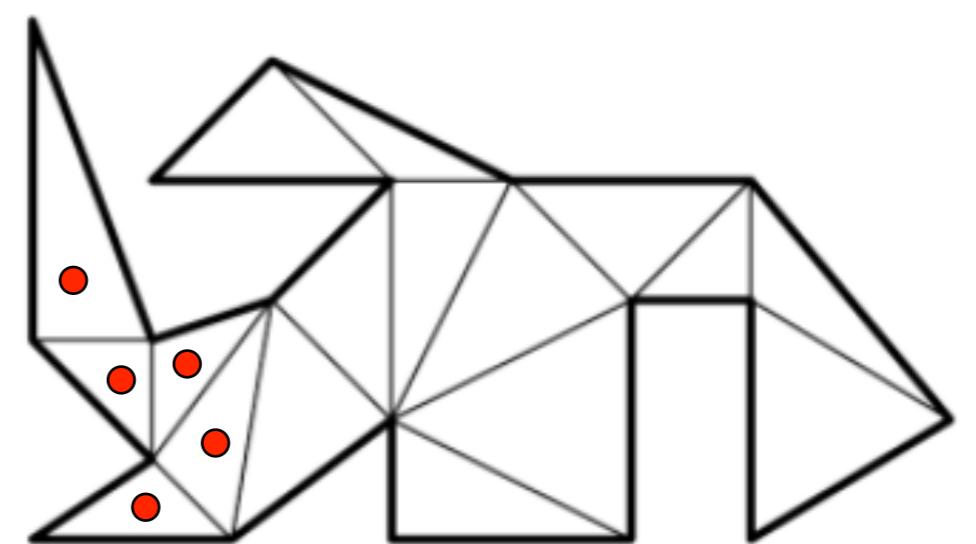
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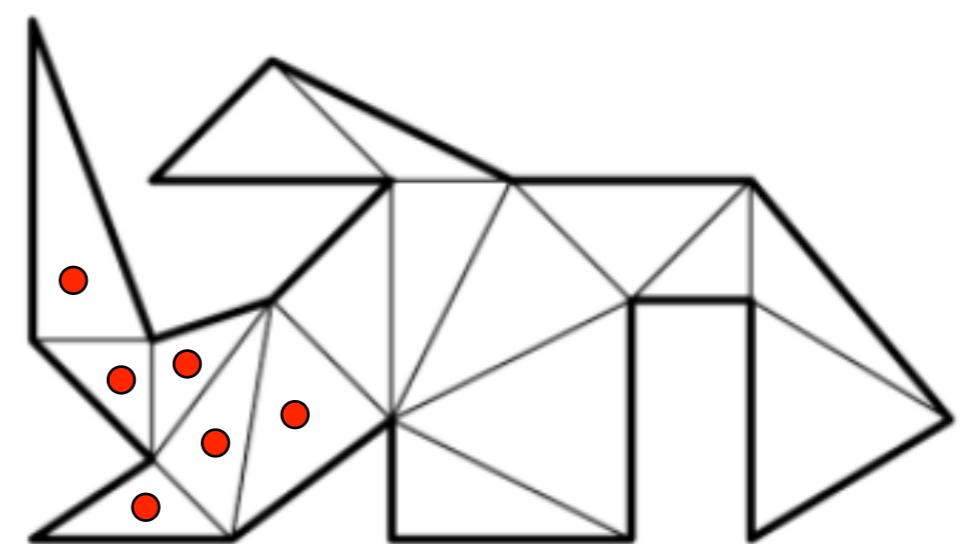
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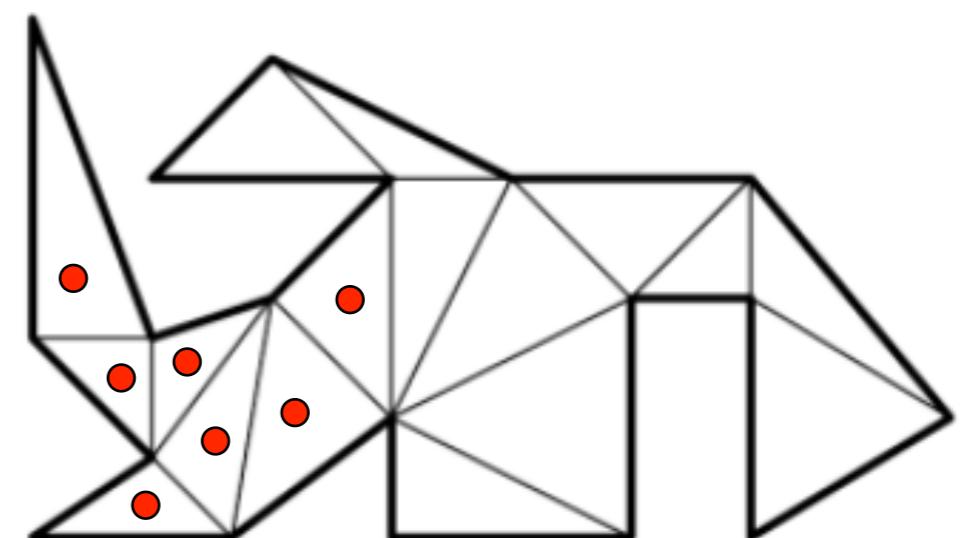
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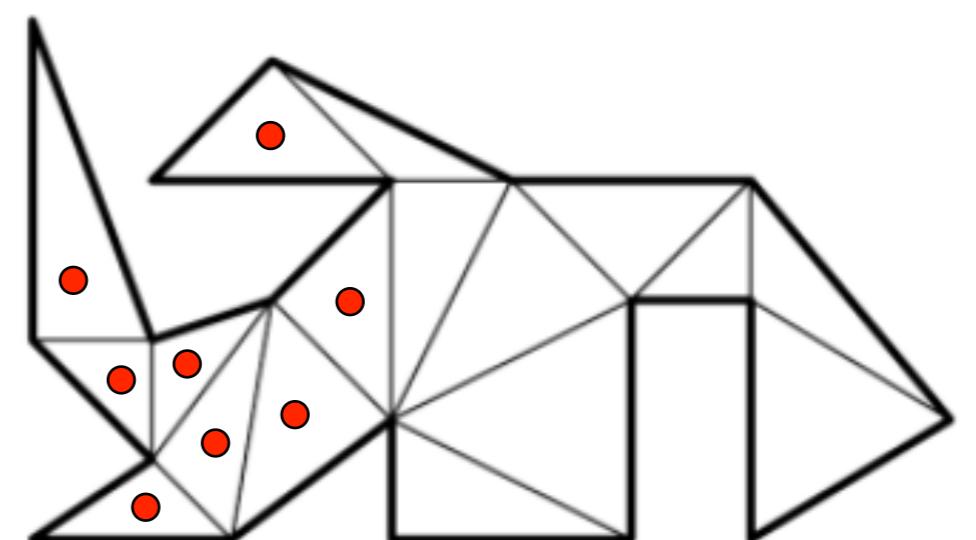
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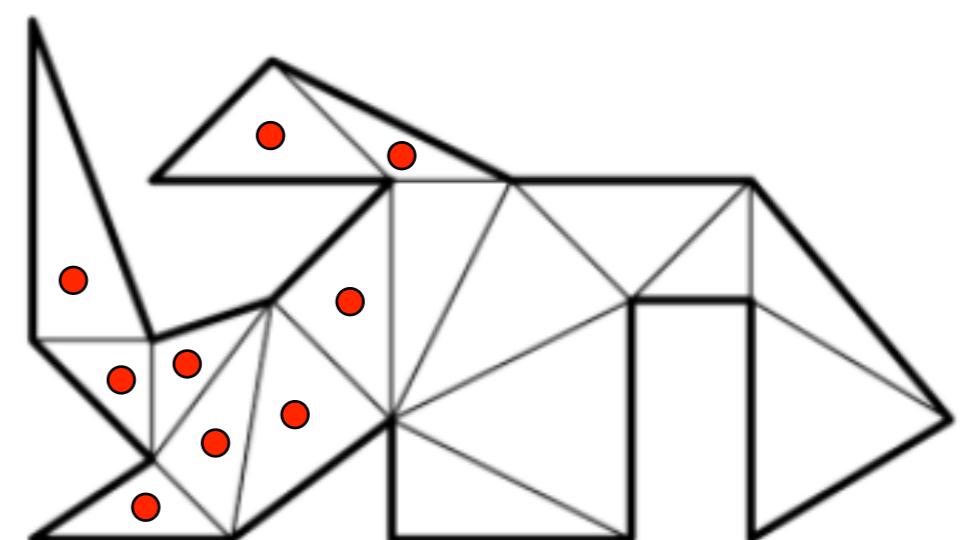
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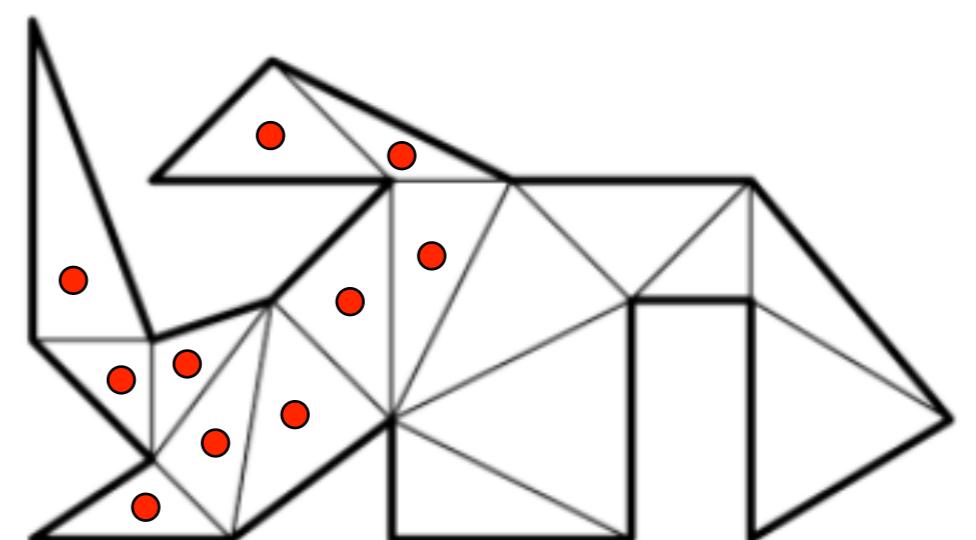
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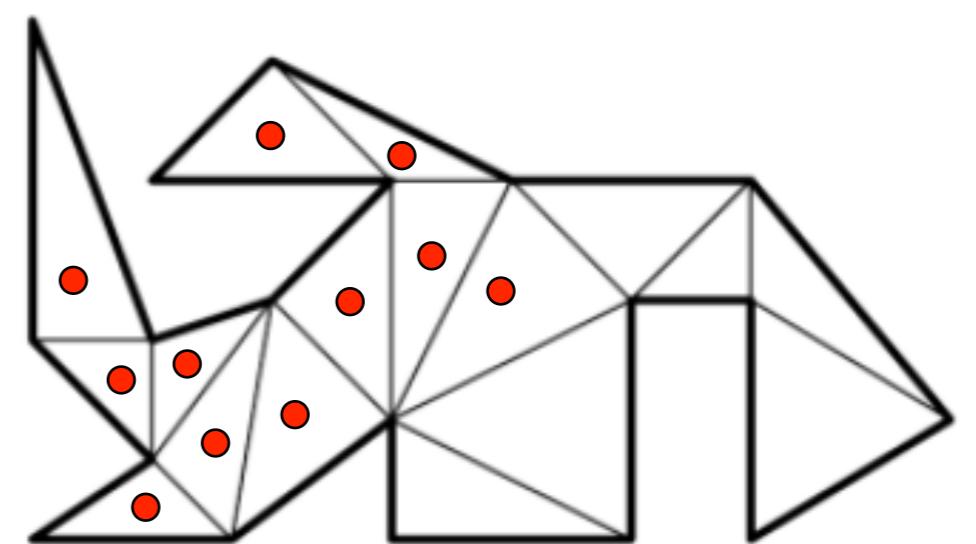
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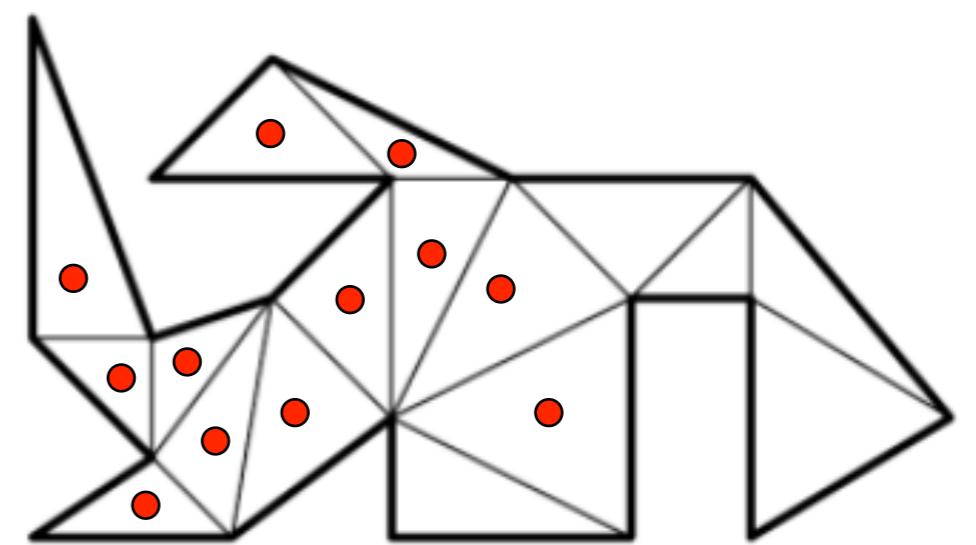
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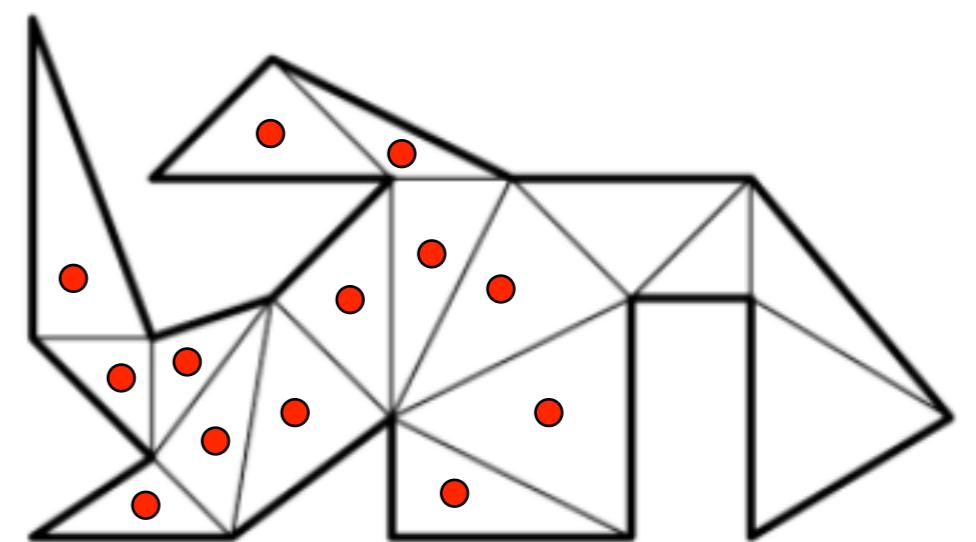
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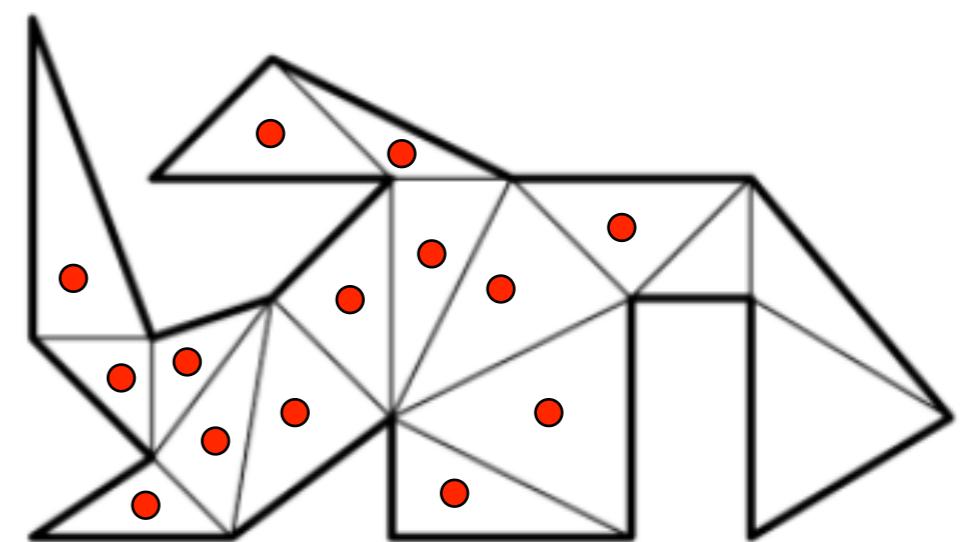
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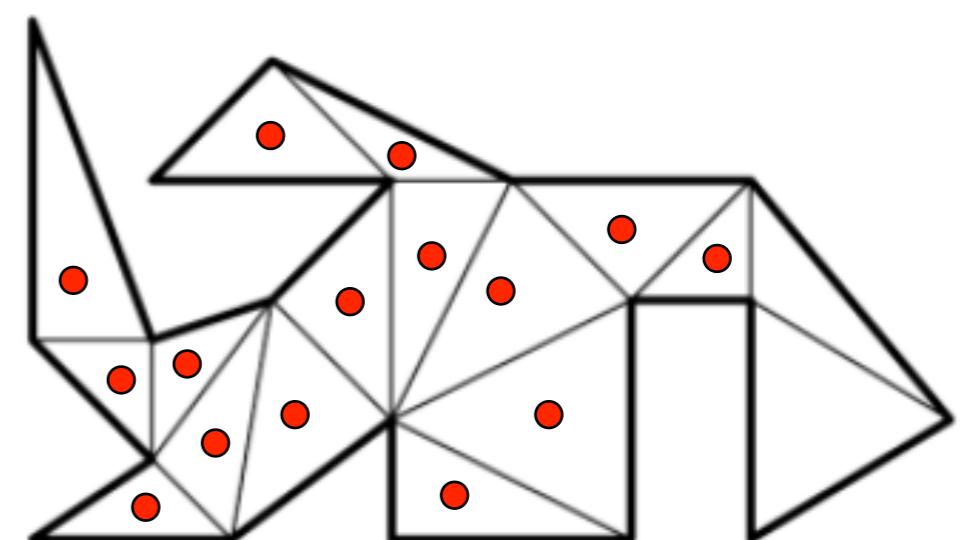
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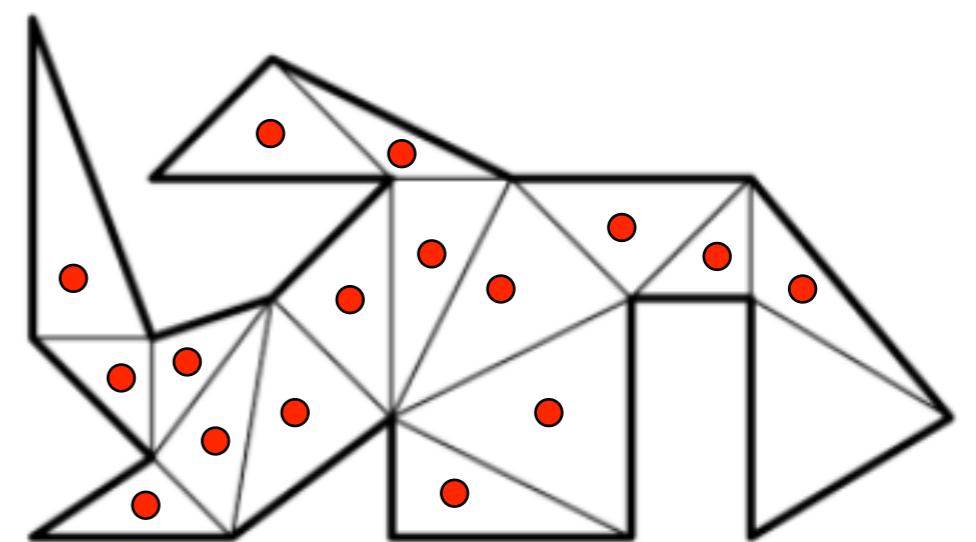
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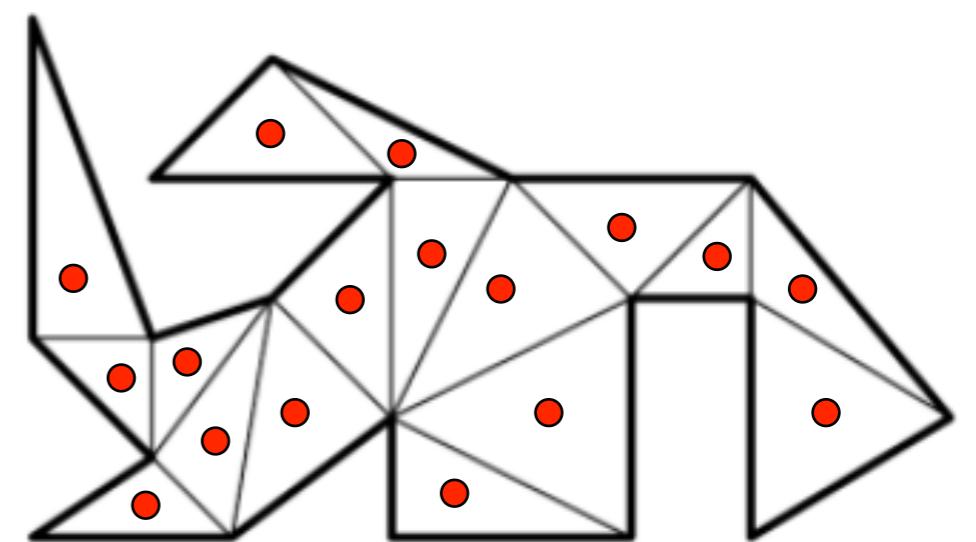
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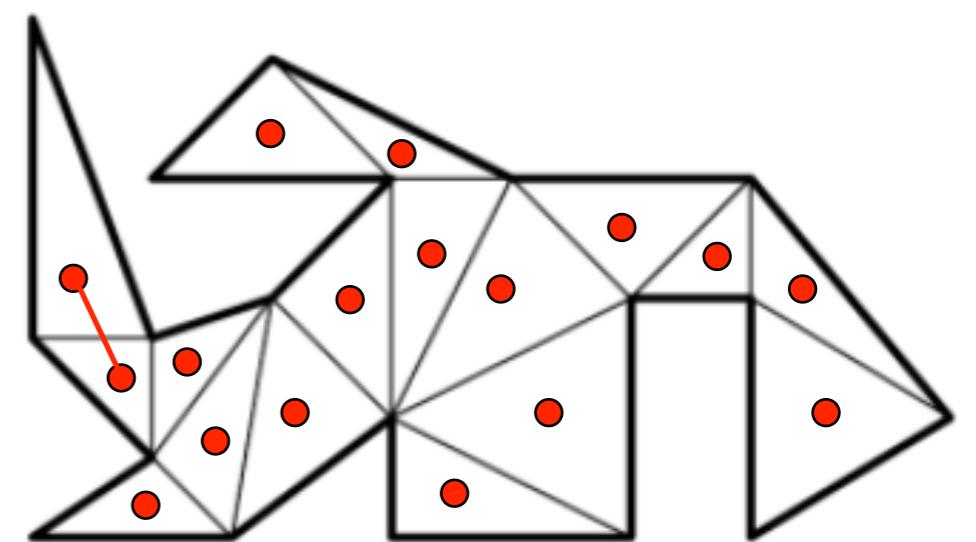
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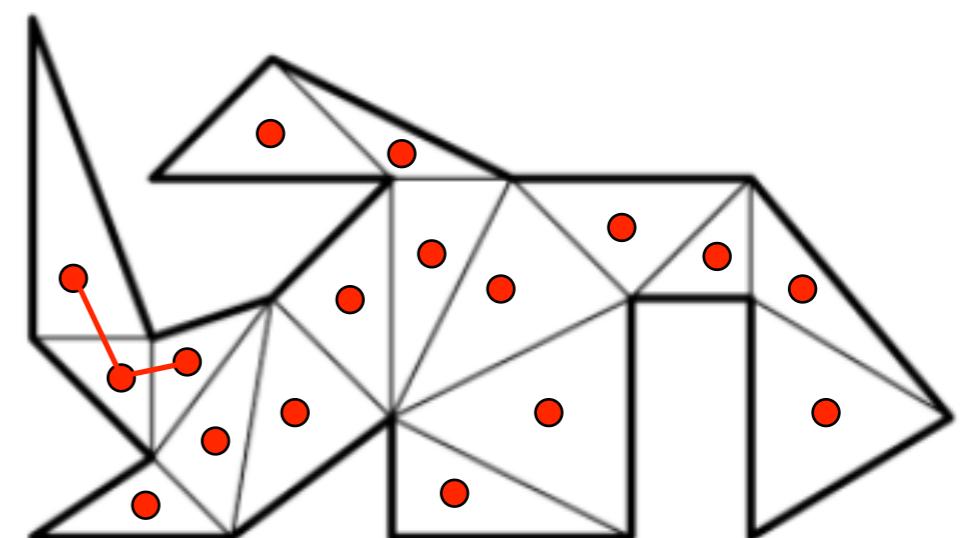
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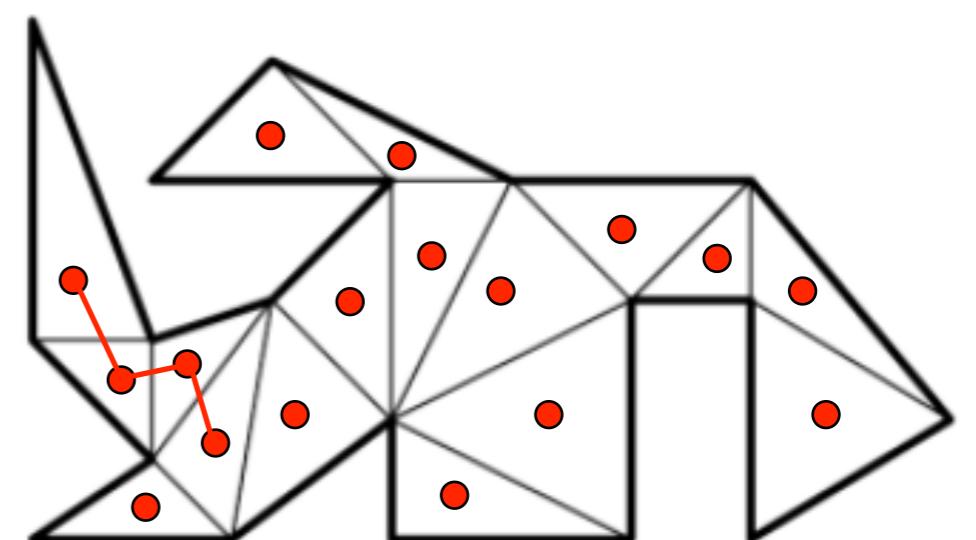
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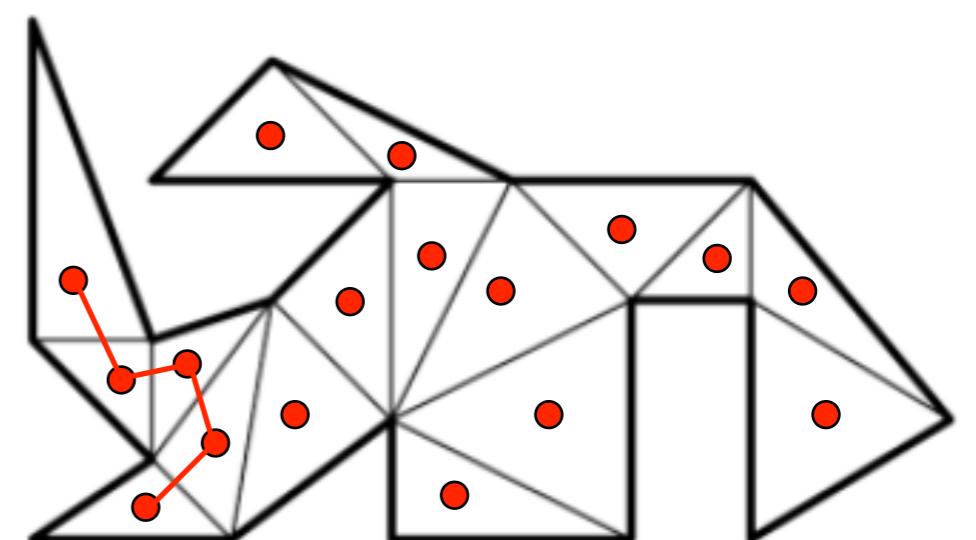
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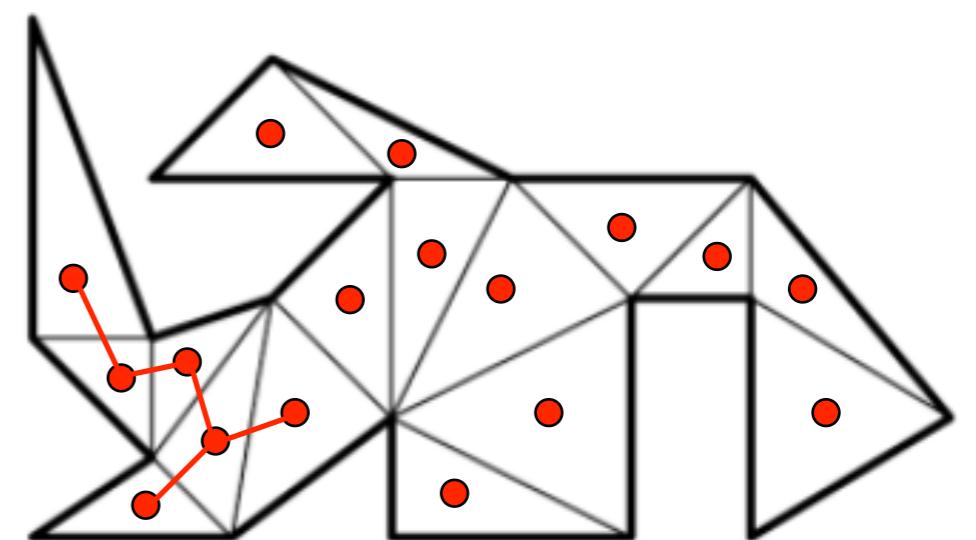
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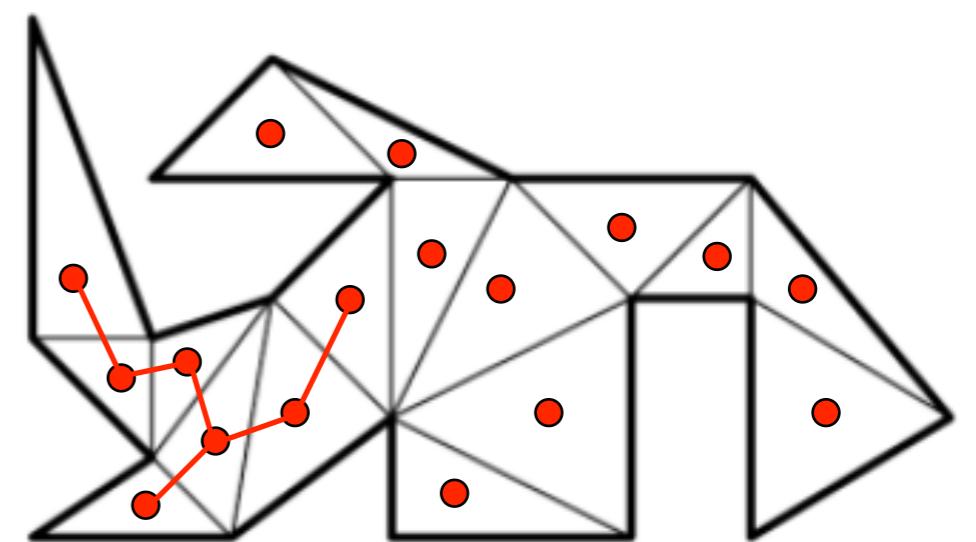
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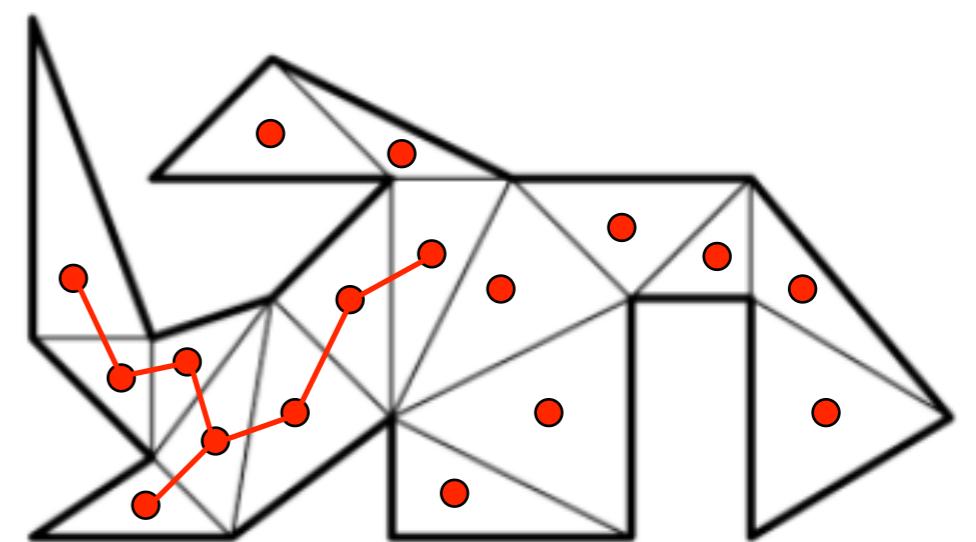
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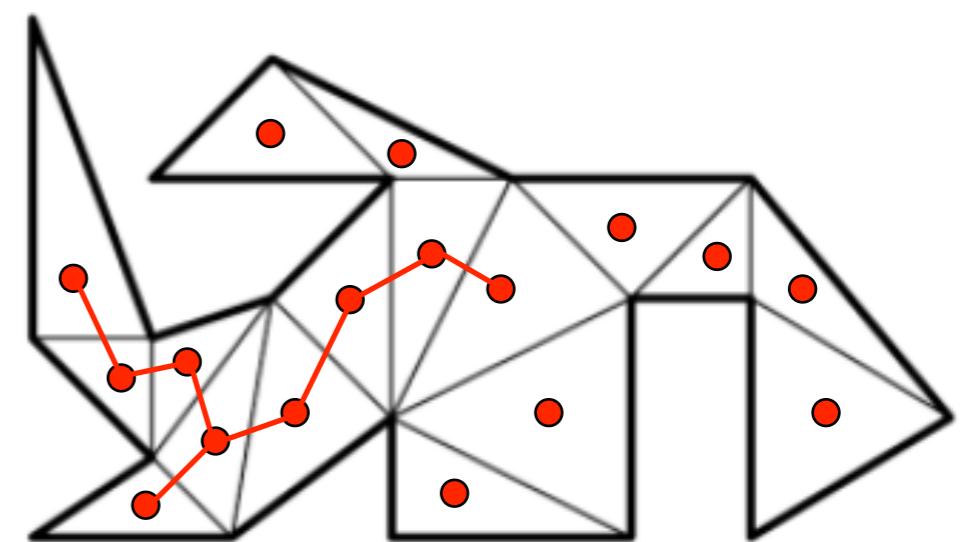
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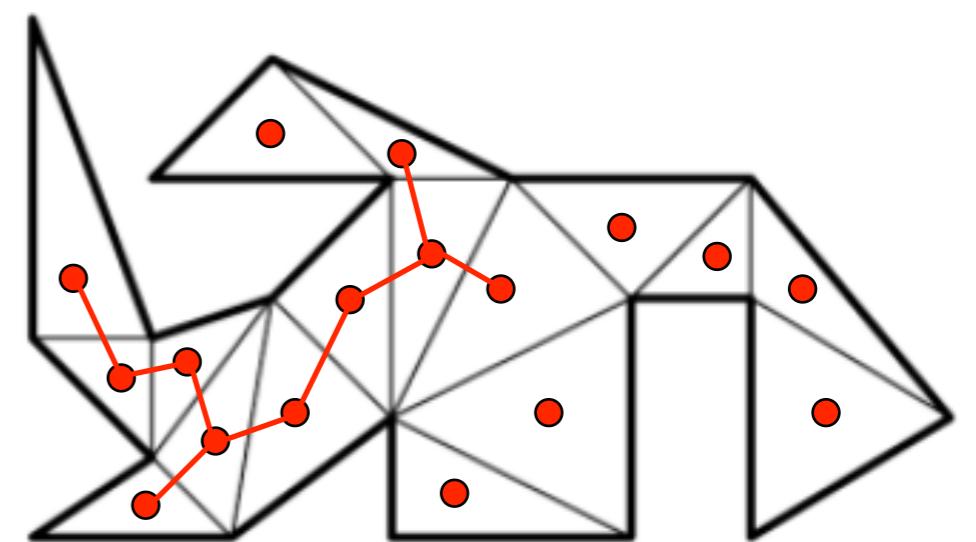
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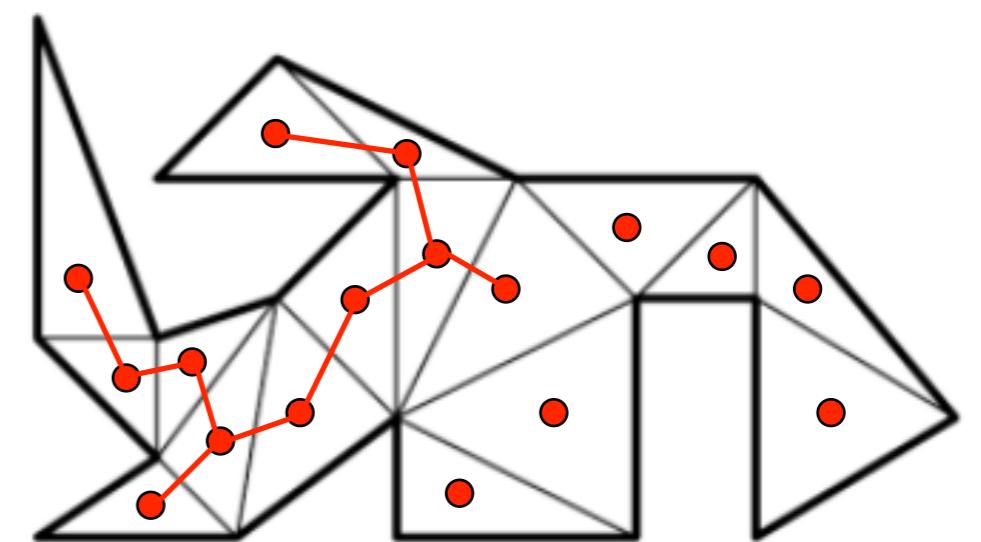
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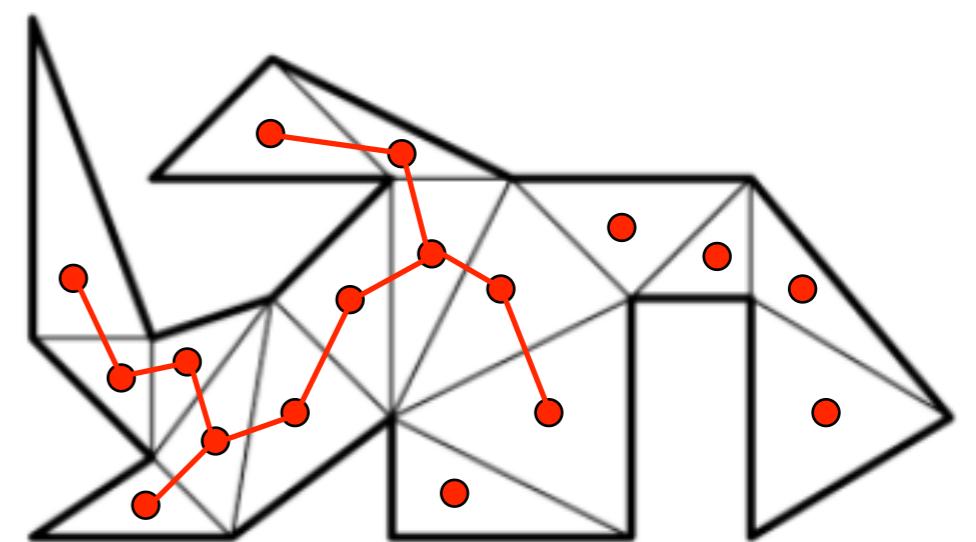
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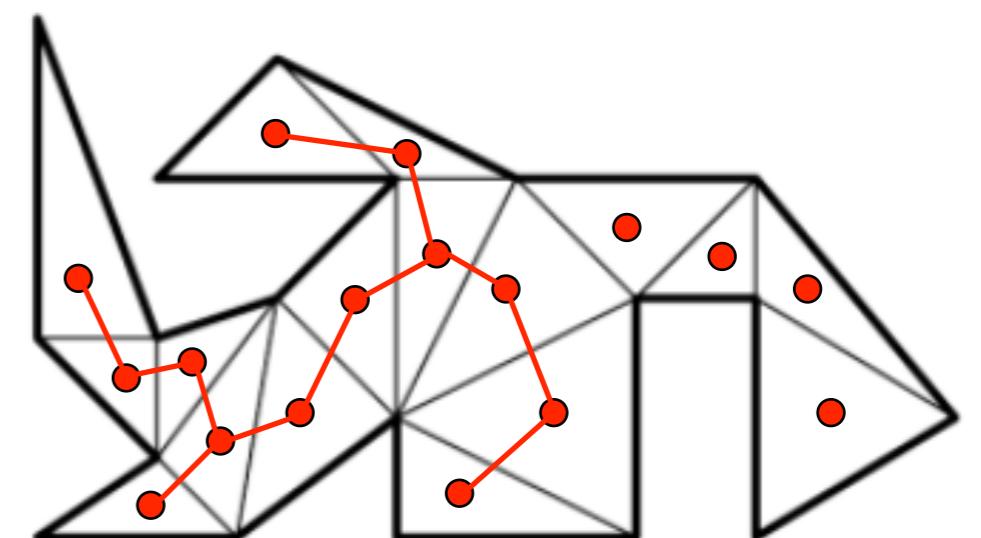
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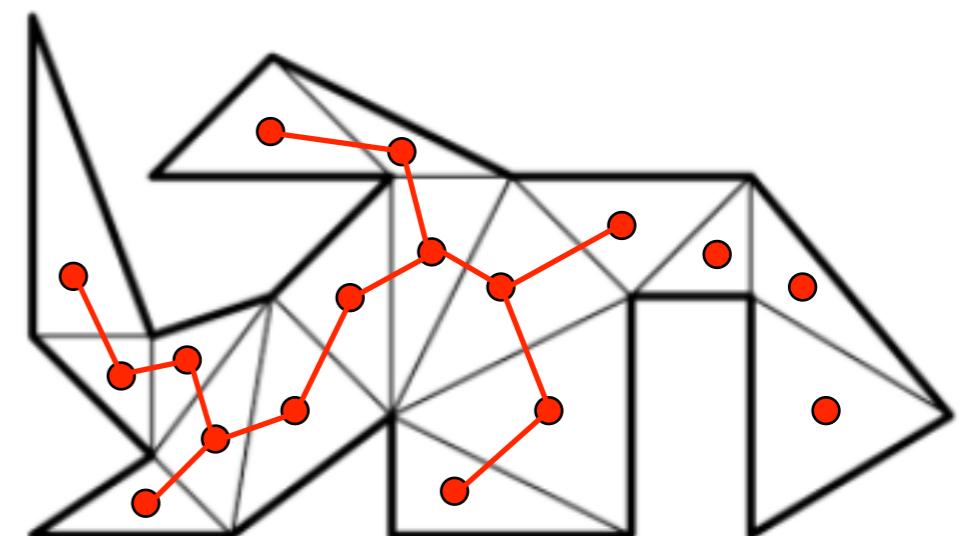
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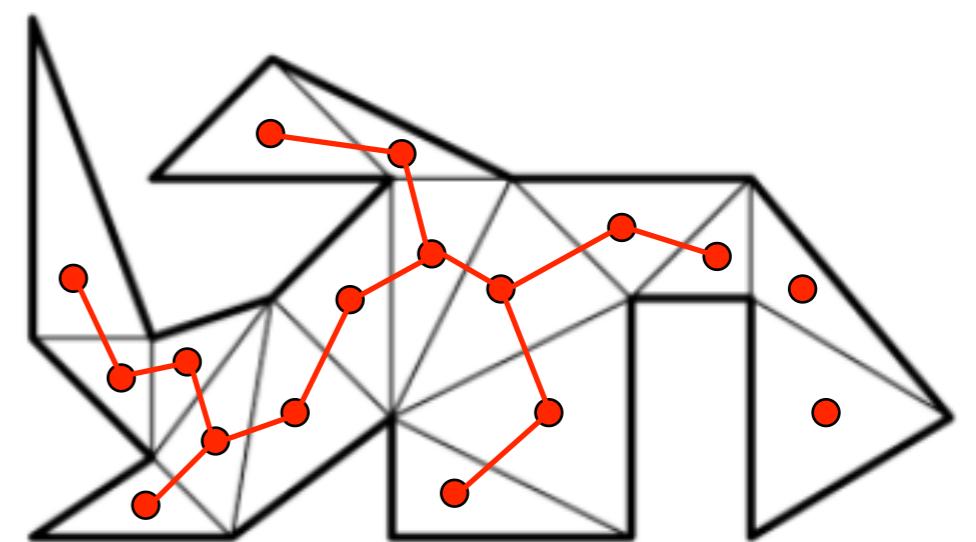
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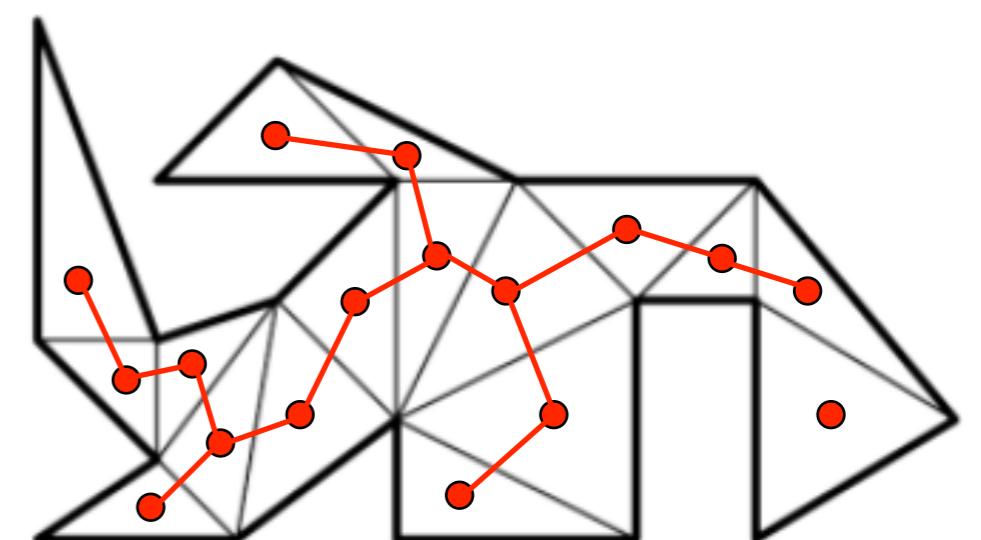
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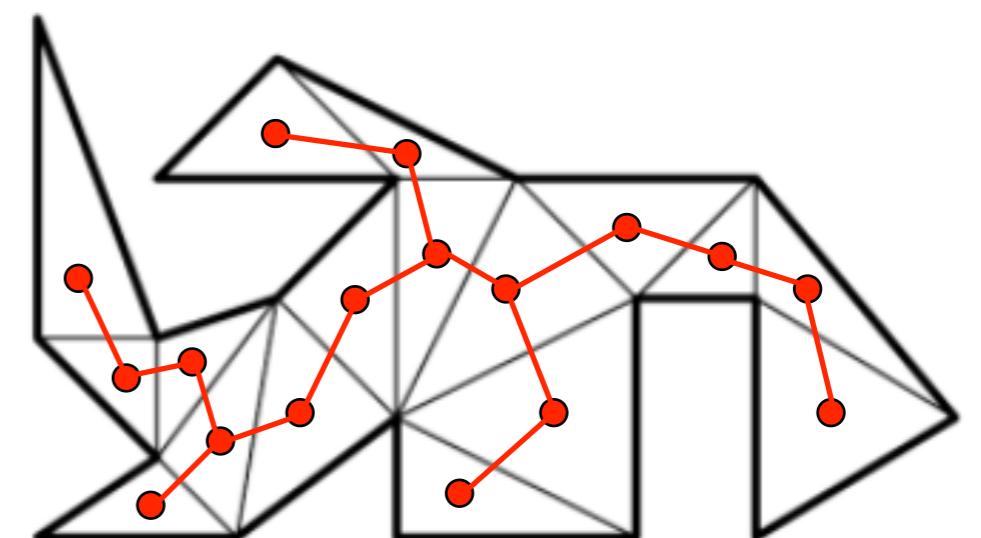
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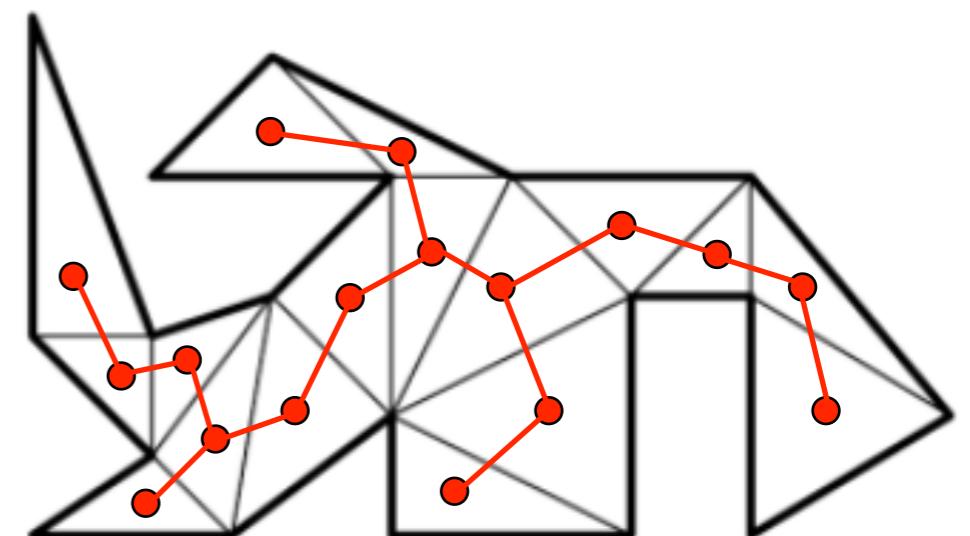
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## Theorem 5.9

The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.

**Proof:**

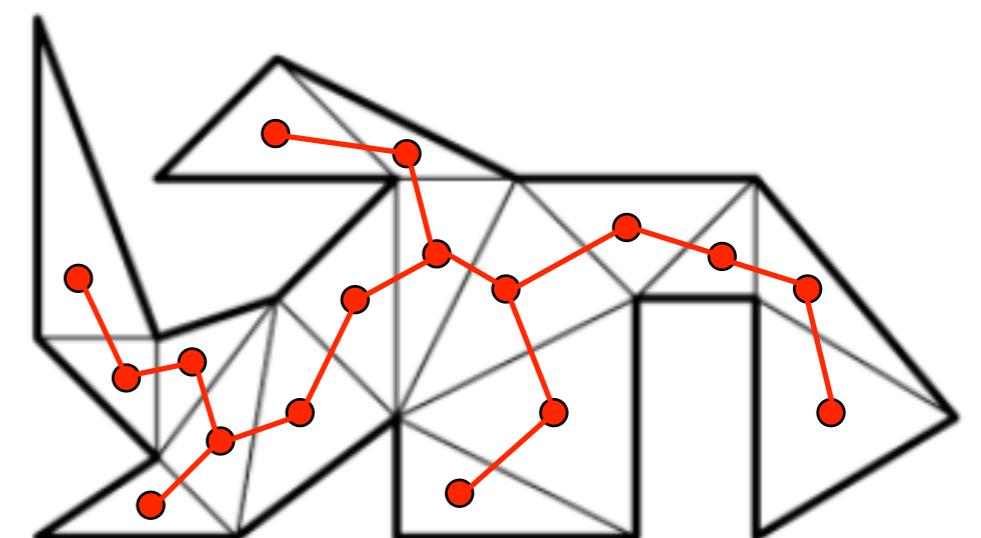


## Theorem 5.9

The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.

### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.



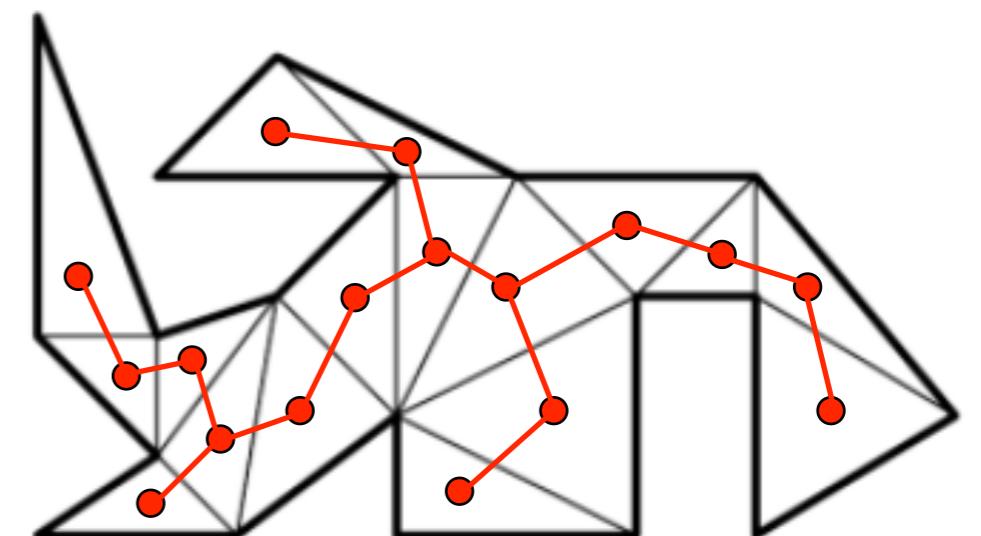
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### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.

Assume it contains a cycle.



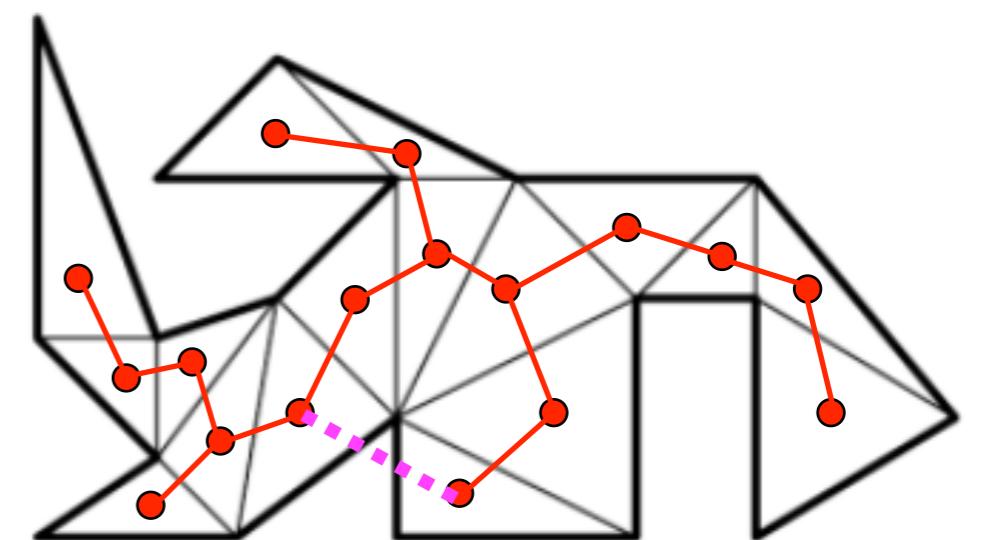
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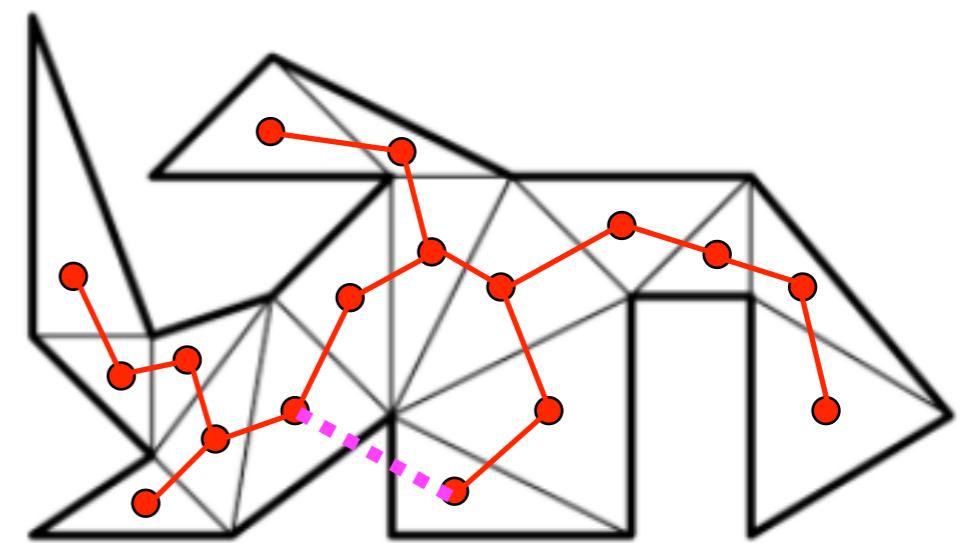
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Note that each dual edge corresponds to



## Theorem 5.9

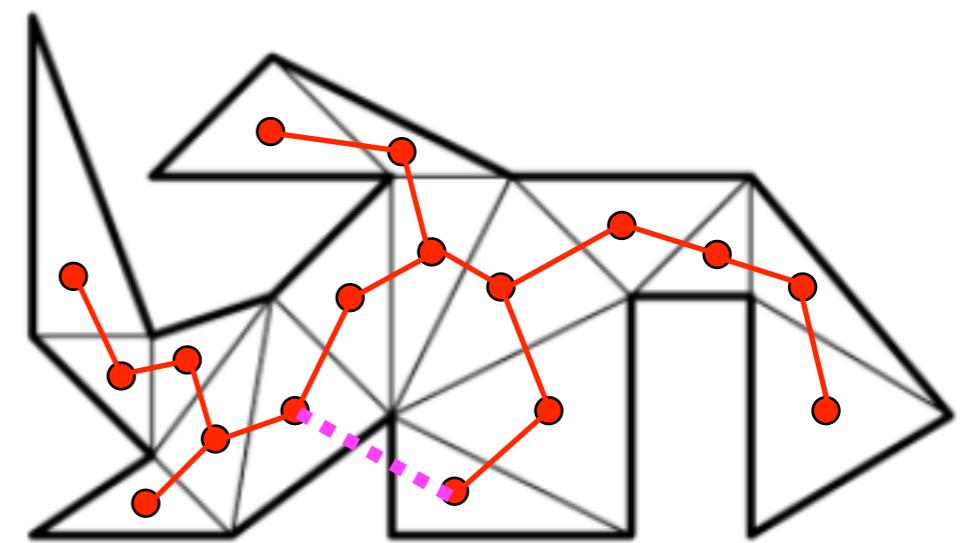
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### Proof:

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Assume it contains a cycle.

Note that each dual edge corresponds to a path of interior polygon points.



## Theorem 5.9

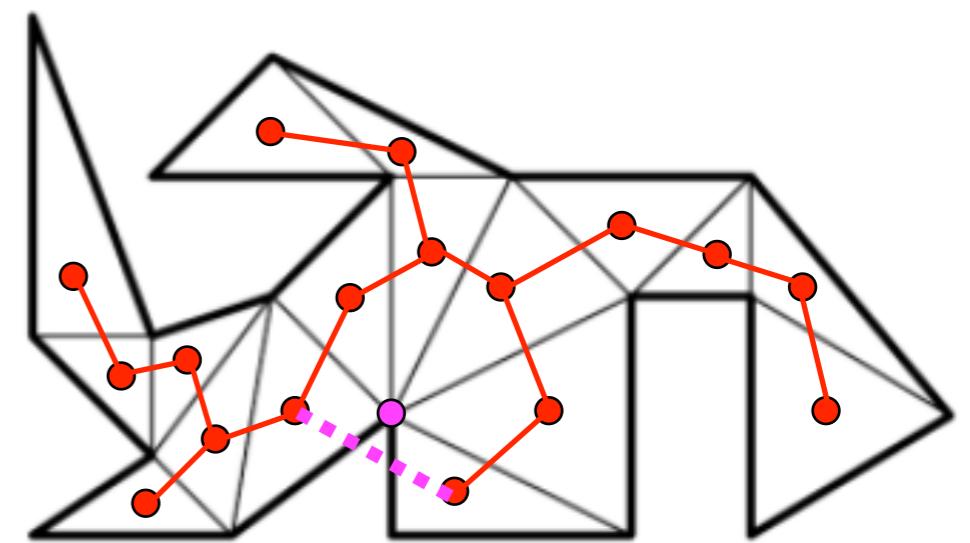
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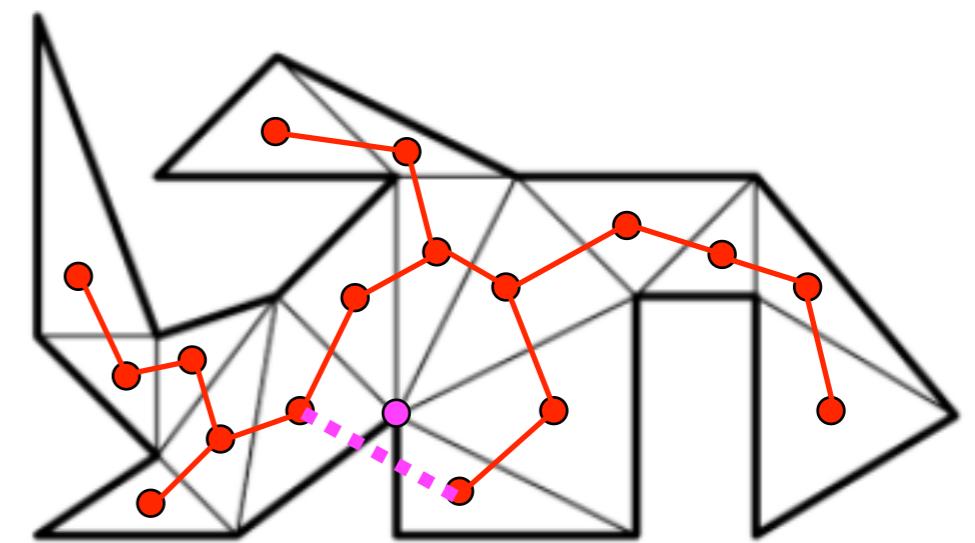
### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.

Assume it contains a cycle.

Note that each dual edge corresponds to a path of interior polygon points.

Therefore, a cycle corresponds to a closed path of interior points that surrounds a boundary vertex  
- a contradiction to a simple polygon having a connected boundary.



## Theorem 5.9

The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.

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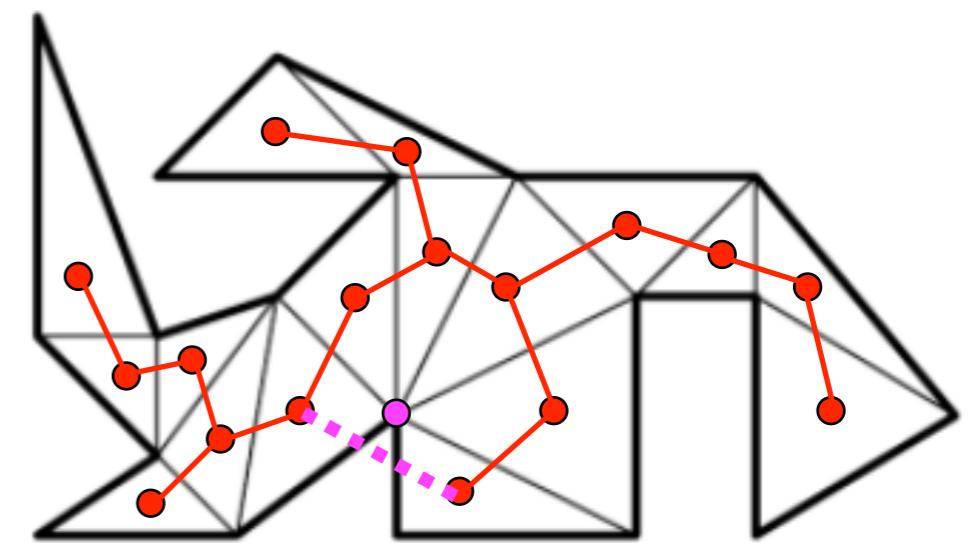
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## Corollary 5.10



## Theorem 5.9

The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.

### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.

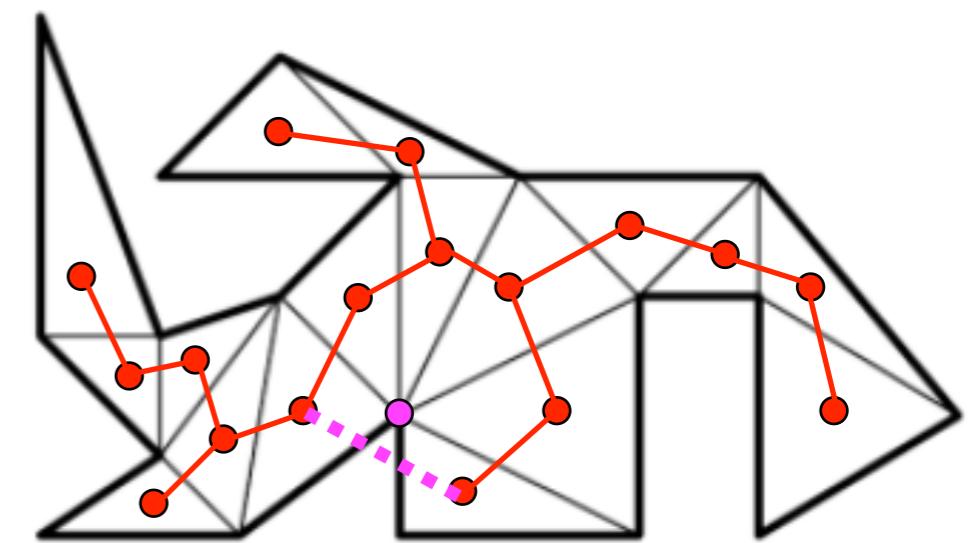
Assume it contains a cycle.

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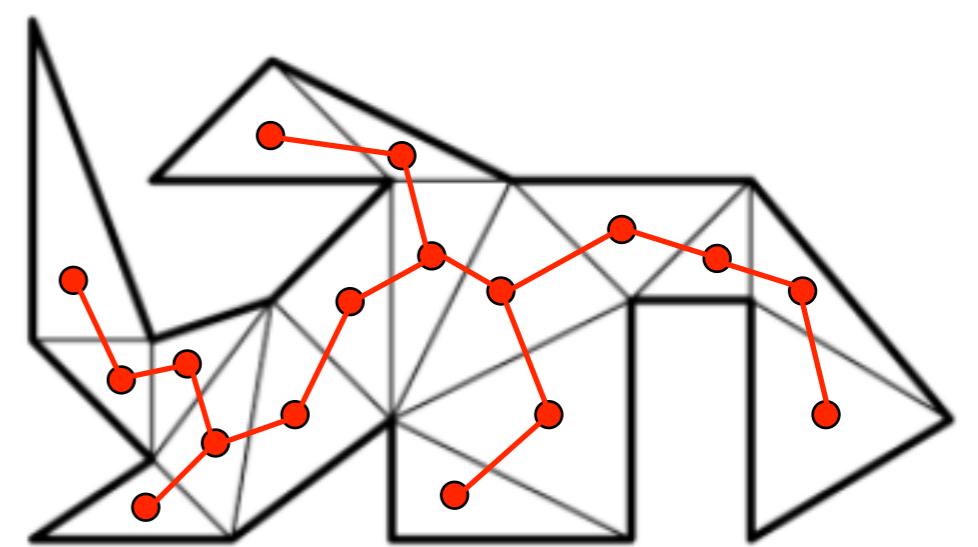
## Corollary 5.10

Every triangulation of a simple polygon has two „ears“ - leaves in the dual.

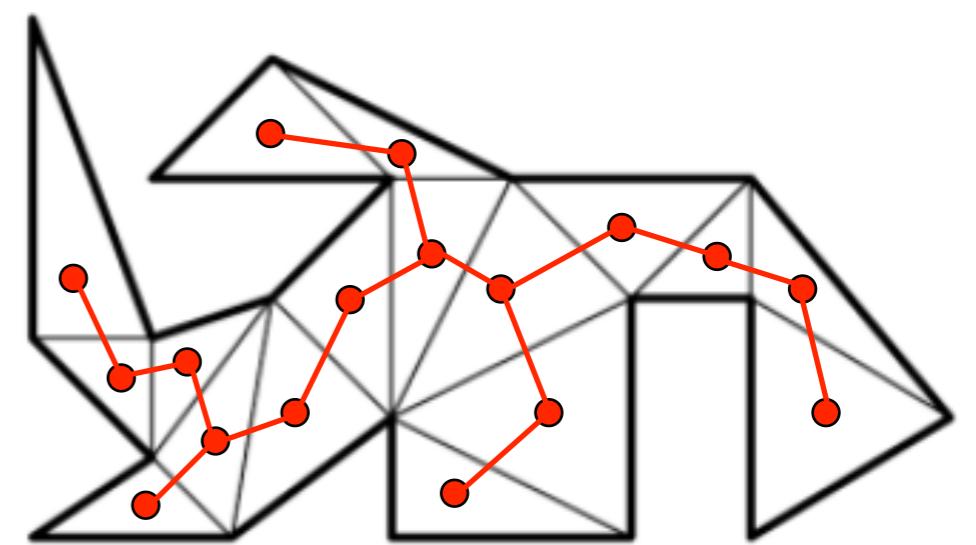


- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Existence**
- 3. Properties**
- 4. Algorithms: Removing ears**
- 5. Algorithms: Finding diagonals**
- 6. Algorithms: Monotone polygons**
- 7. Algorithms: Monotone decompositions**
- 8. Faster algorithms**
- 9. Application: Art Gallery problems**
- 10. Application: Online triangulation**

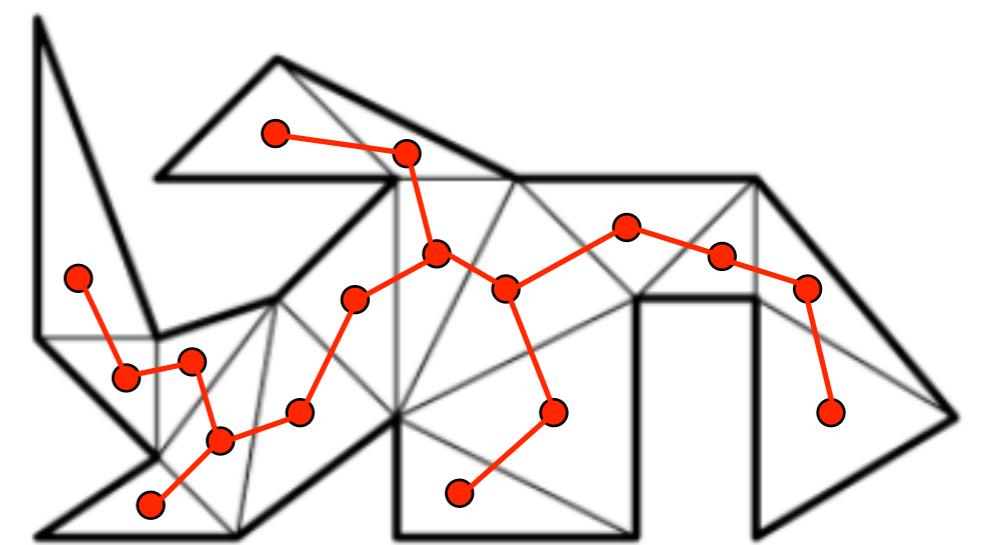




**Input:**

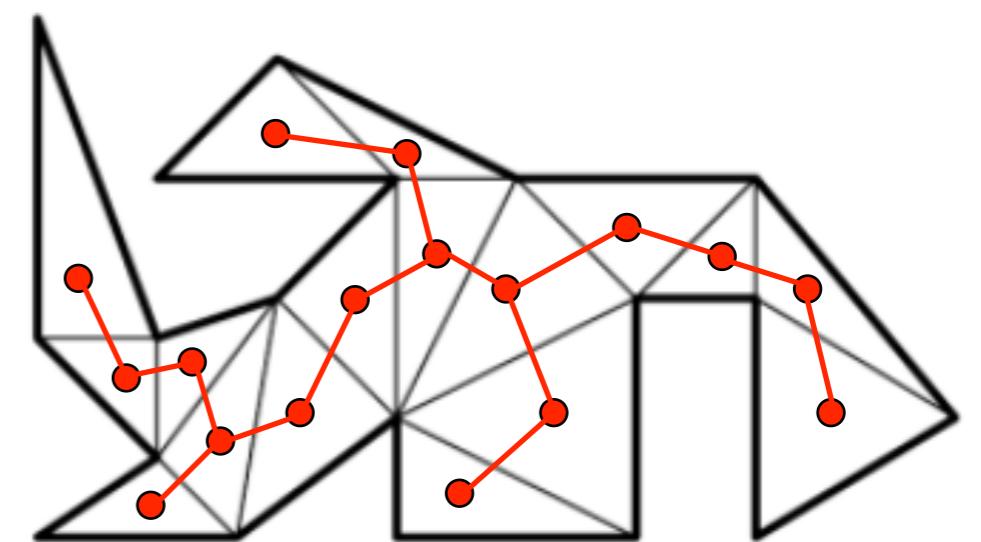


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .



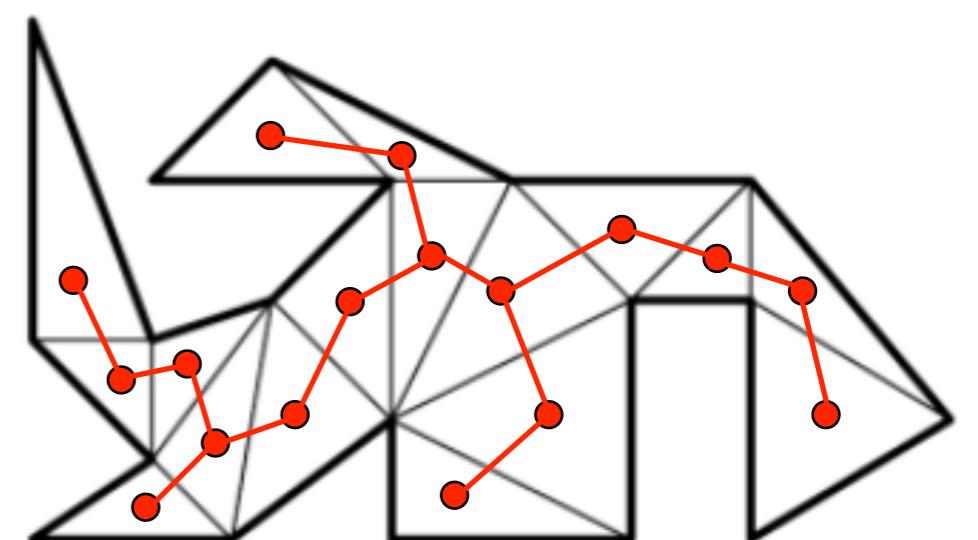
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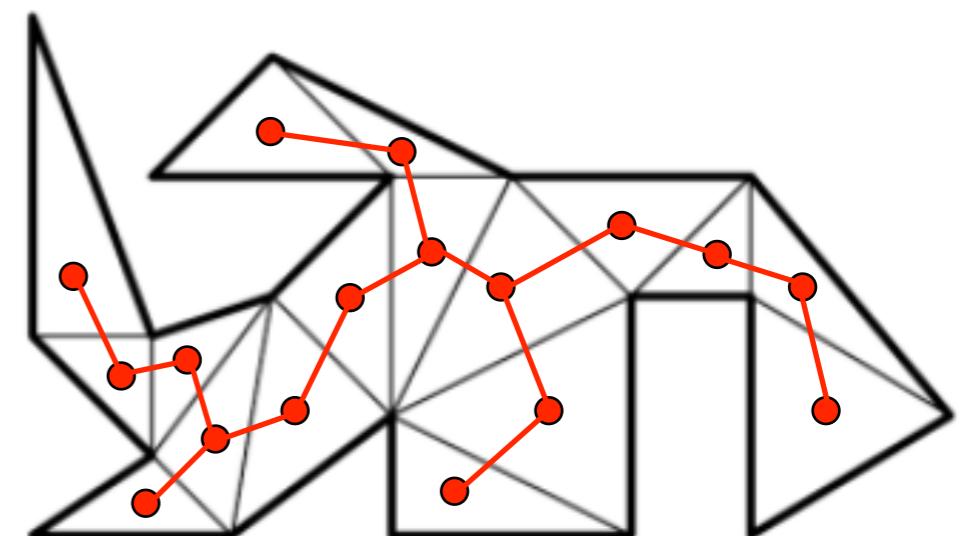
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**Idea:**

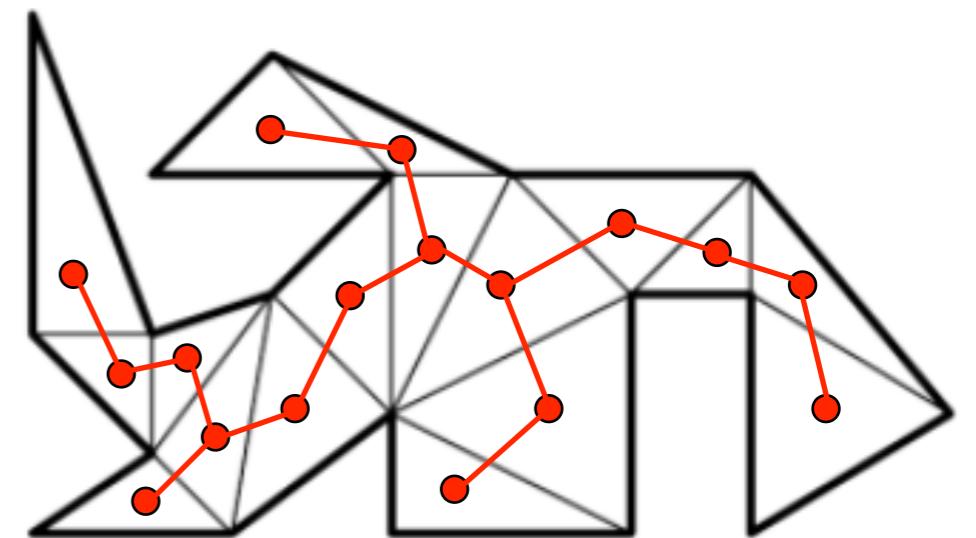


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**Idea:**

- Find an ear.

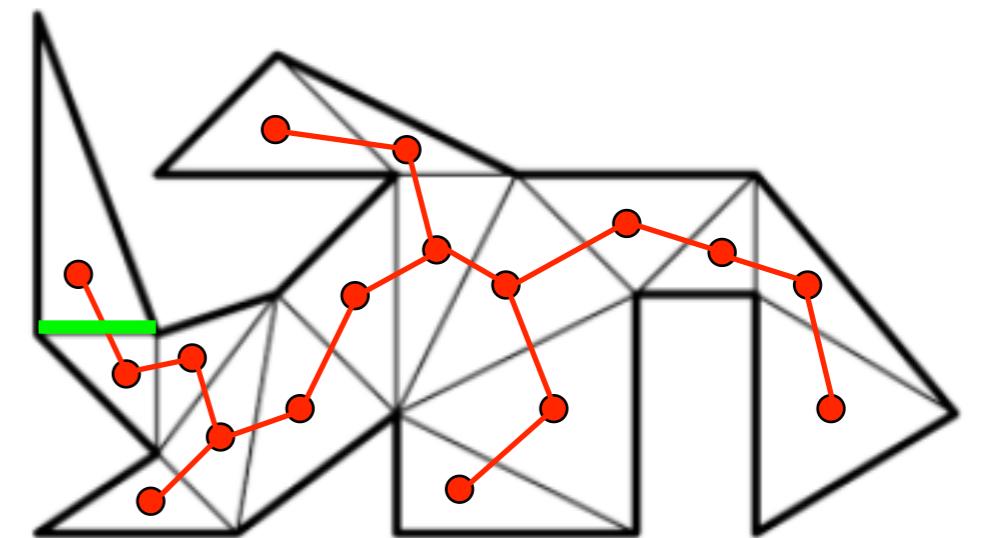


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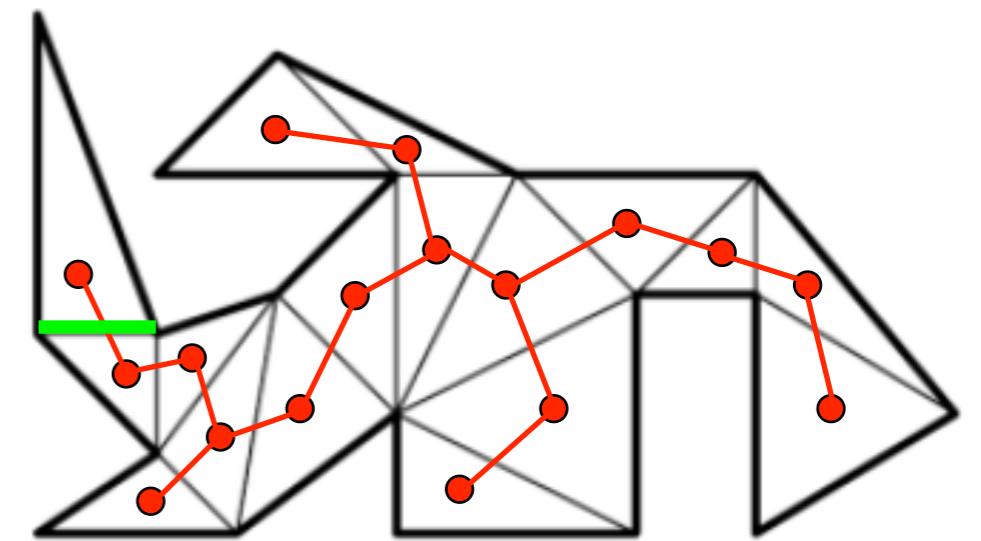


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- Remove it.

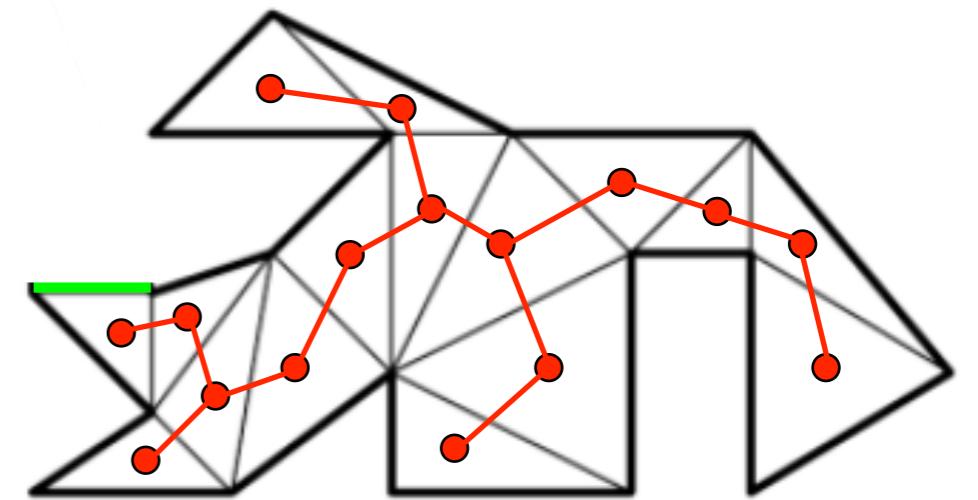


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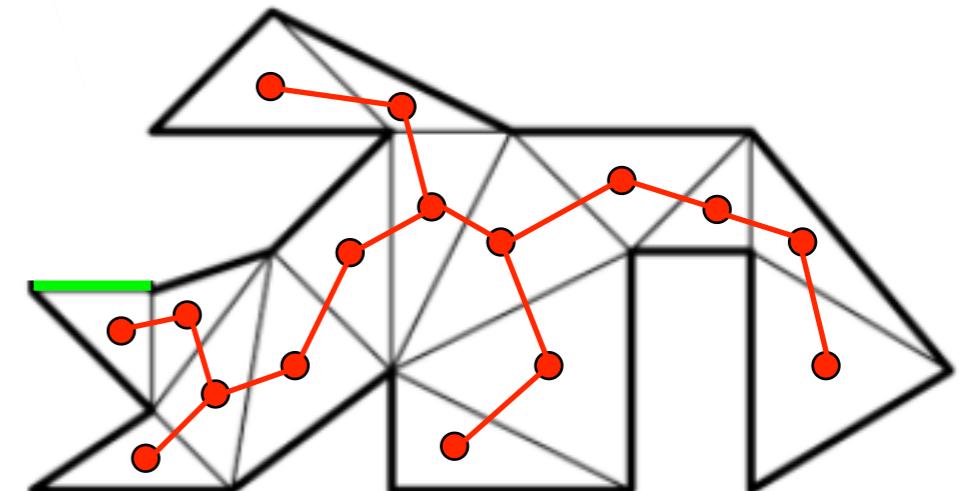


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**Idea:**

- Find an ear.
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- Update polygon.



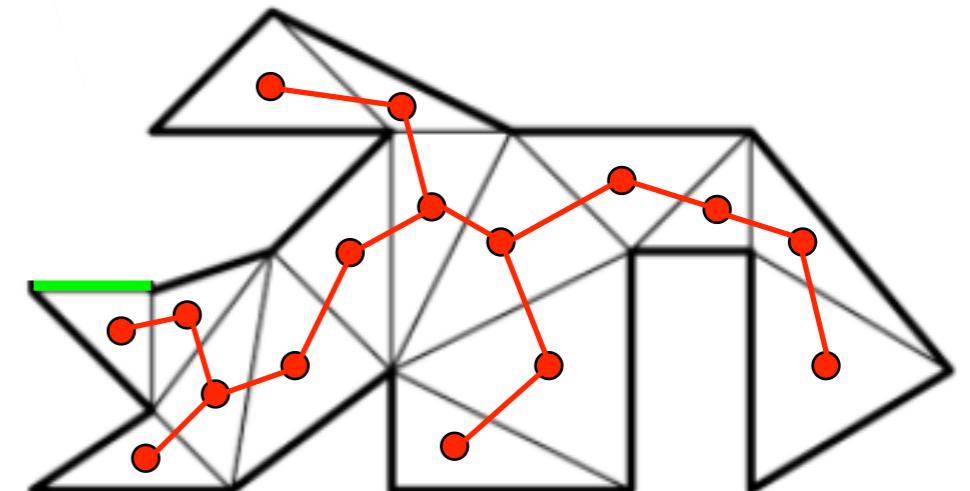
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**Idea:**

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- Remove it.
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**Runtime:**



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

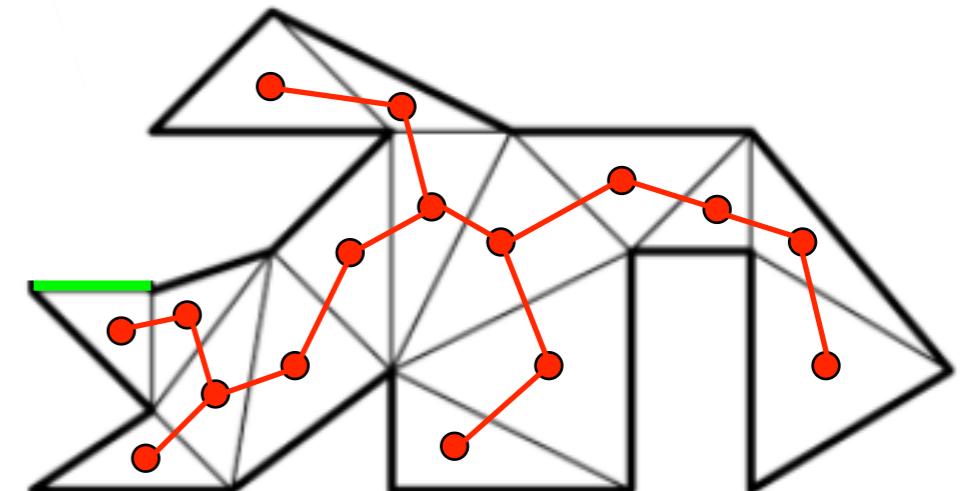
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**Idea:**

- Find an ear.
- Remove it.
- Update polygon.

**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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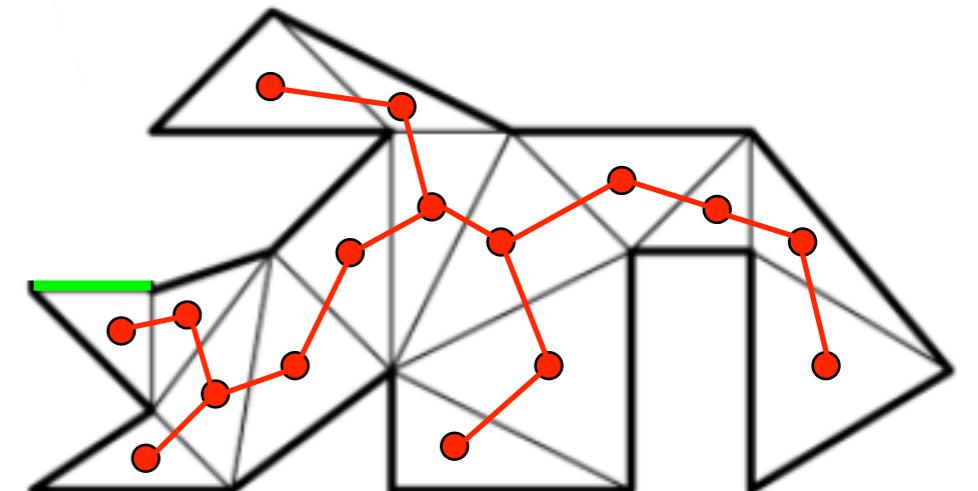
**Idea:**

- Find an ear.
- Remove it.
- Update polygon.

**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:

$O(1)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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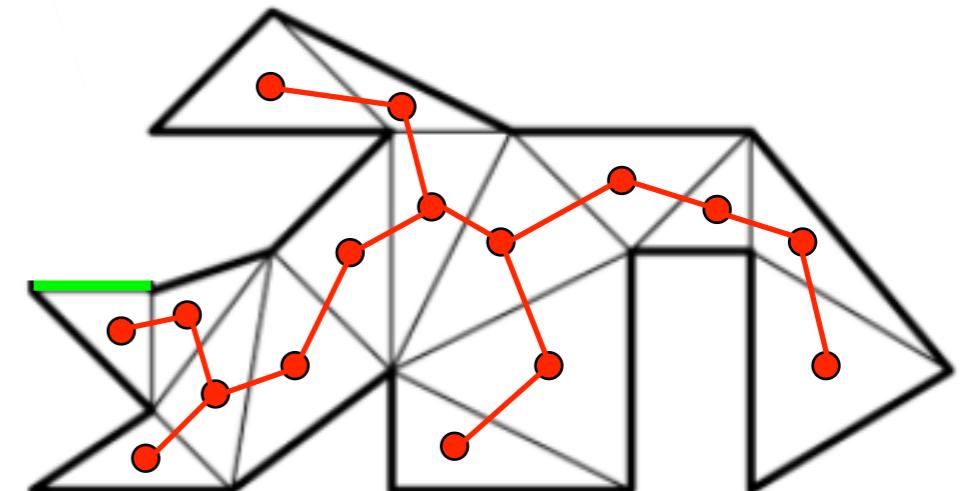
**Idea:**

- Find an ear.
- Remove it.
- Update polygon.

**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:
- Checking whether vertex is an ear:

$O(1)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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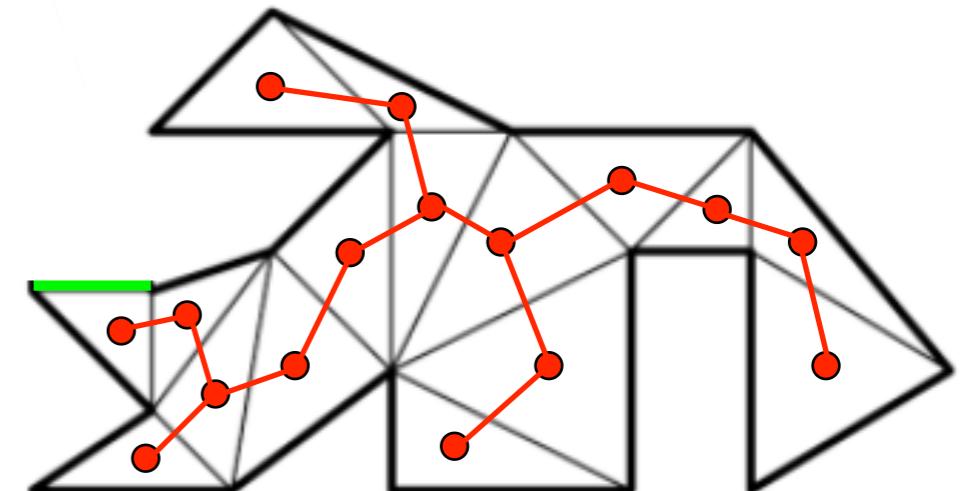
- Find an ear.
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**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:
- Checking whether vertex is an ear:

$O(1)$

$O(n)$



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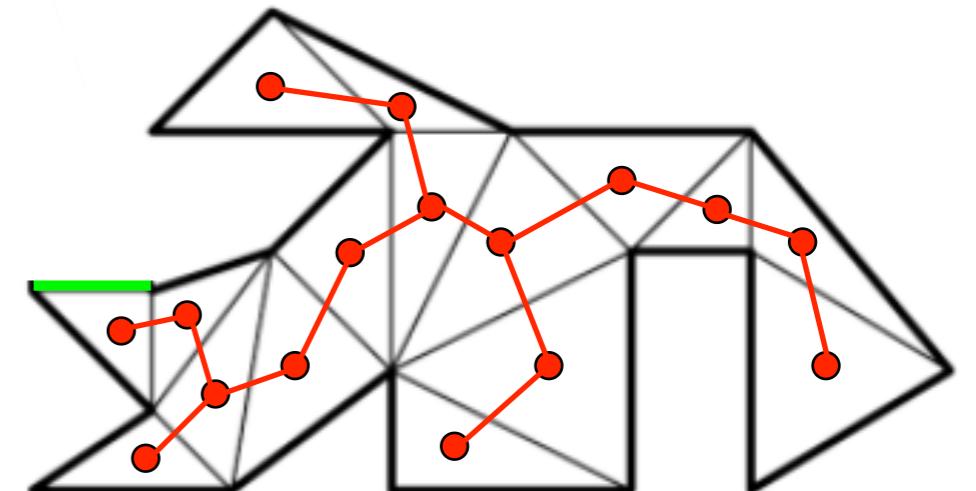
- Find an ear.
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**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:
- Finding an ear:

$O(1)$

$O(n)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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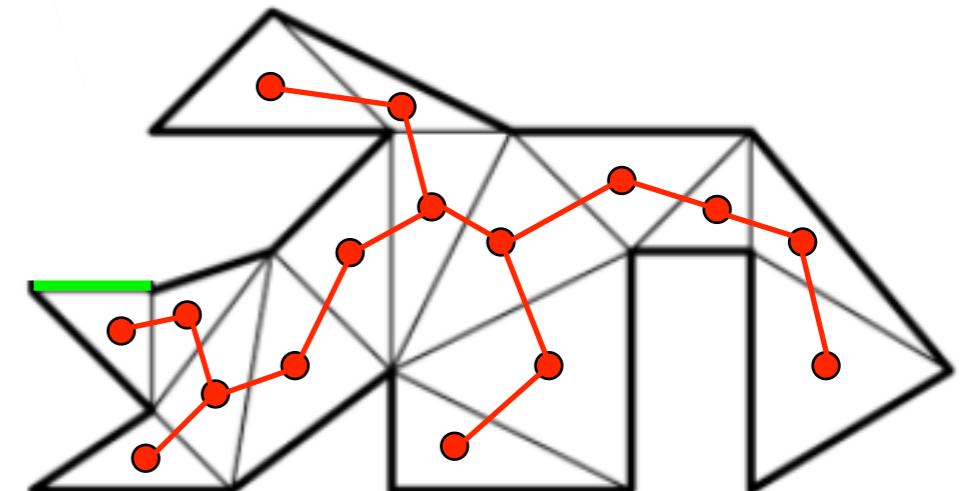
**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:
- Finding an ear:

$O(1)$

$O(n)$

$O(n^2)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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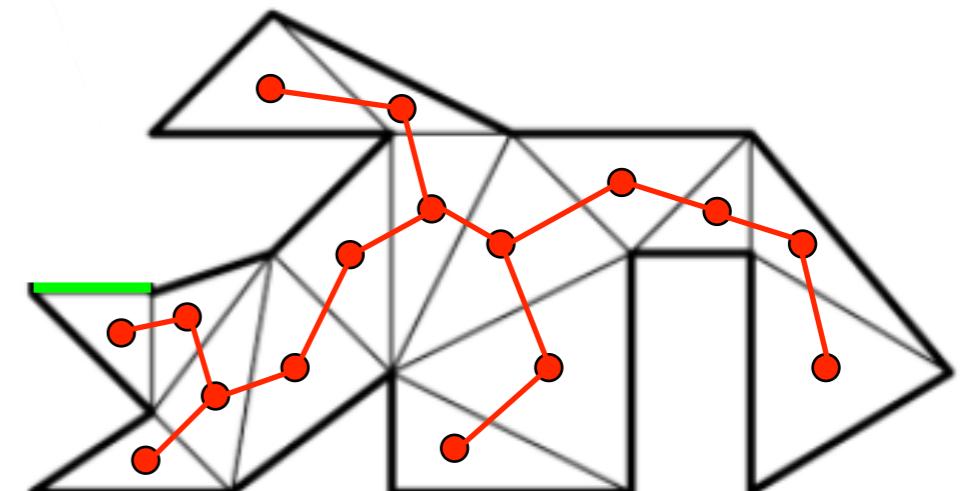
**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:
- Finding an ear:

$O(1)$

$O(n)$

$O(n^2)$



**Total:**



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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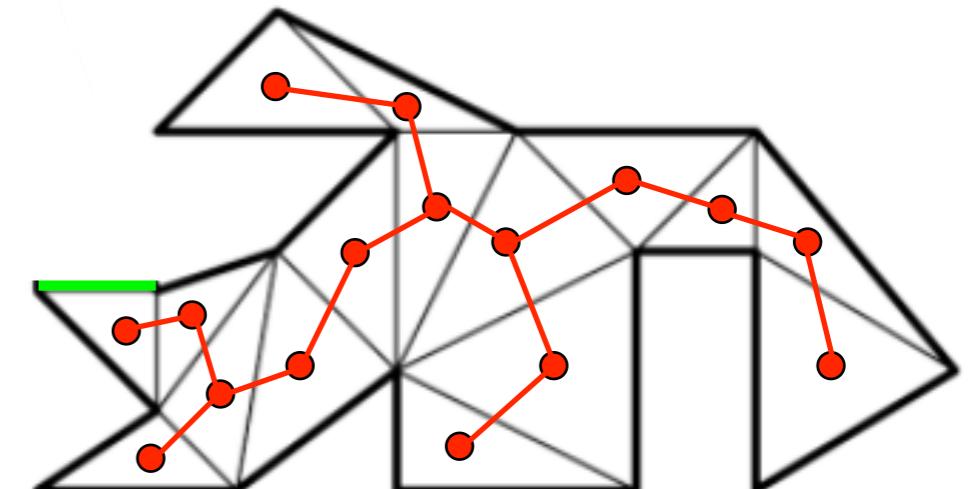
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**Runtime:**

- Checking convexity:
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:
- Finding an ear:

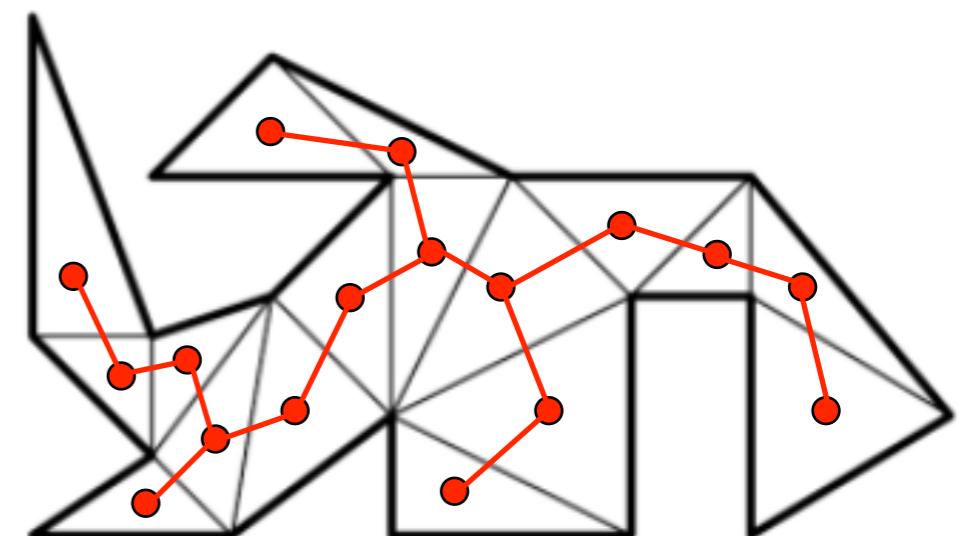
 $O(1)$ 
 $O(n)$ 
 $O(n^2)$ 

**Total:**

 $O(n^3)$ 


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of vertices

**Output:** List of internal diagonals



The screenshot shows a research paper titled "Slicing an ear using prune-and-search" published in the journal "Pattern Recognition Letters". The paper is from Volume 14, Issue 9, September 1993, pages 719-722. The Elsevier logo is visible at the top left. The abstract discusses an algorithm for finding an "ear" of a simple polygon  $P$  in linear time, which is a triangle where one edge is a diagonal of the polygon and the other two are edges of the polygon. The algorithm does not require pre-triangulation.

Pattern Recognition Letters  
Volume 14, Issue 9, September 1993, Pages 719-722

Slicing an ear using prune-and-search

Hossam ElGindy, Hazel Everett, Godfried Toussaint

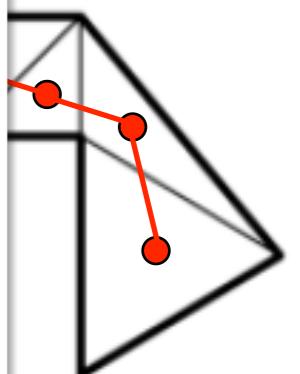
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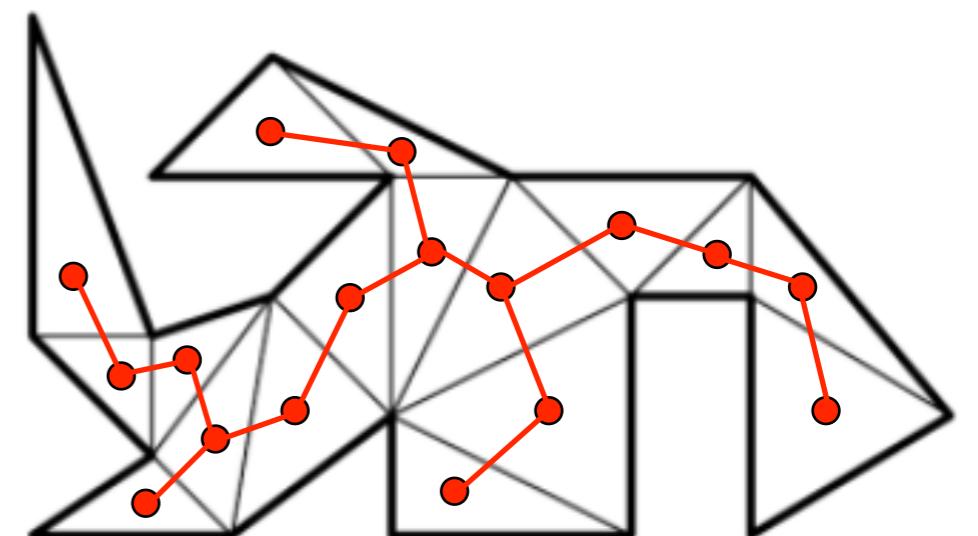
**Abstract**

It is well known that a *diagonal* of a simple polygon  $P$  can be found in linear time with a simple and practically efficient algorithm. An *ear* of  $P$  is a triangle such that one of its edges is a diagonal of  $P$  and the remaining two edges are edges of  $P$ . An ear of  $P$  can easily be found by first triangulating  $P$  and subsequently searching the triangulation. However, although a polygon can be triangulated in linear time, such a procedure is conceptually difficult and not practically efficient. In this note we show that an *ear* of  $P$  can be found in linear time with a simple, practically efficient algorithm that does not require pre-triangulating  $P$ .



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

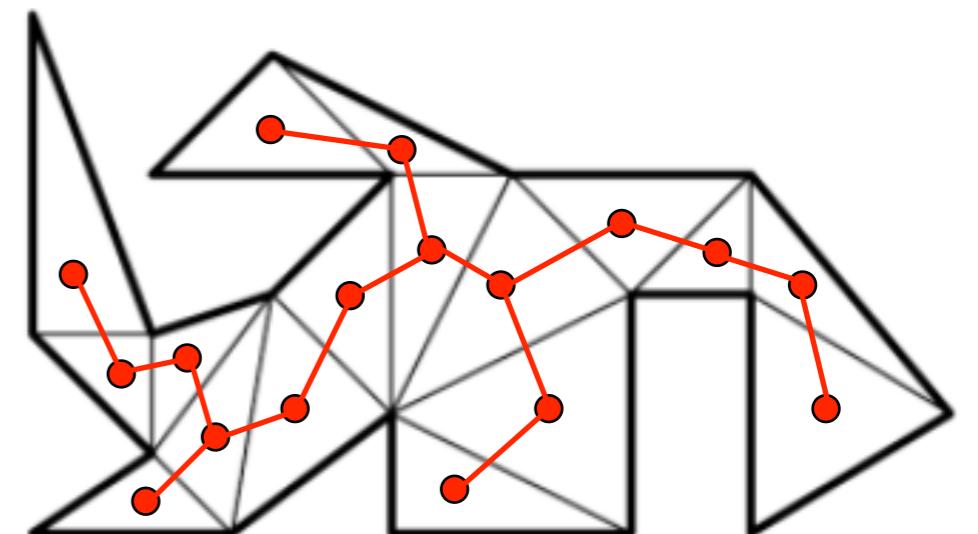
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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## Algorithm 5.11

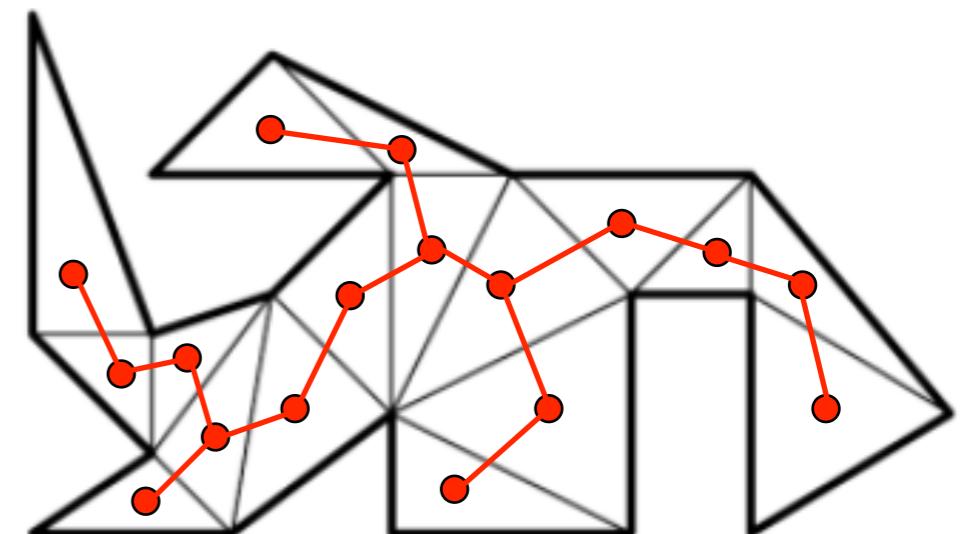


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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## Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)



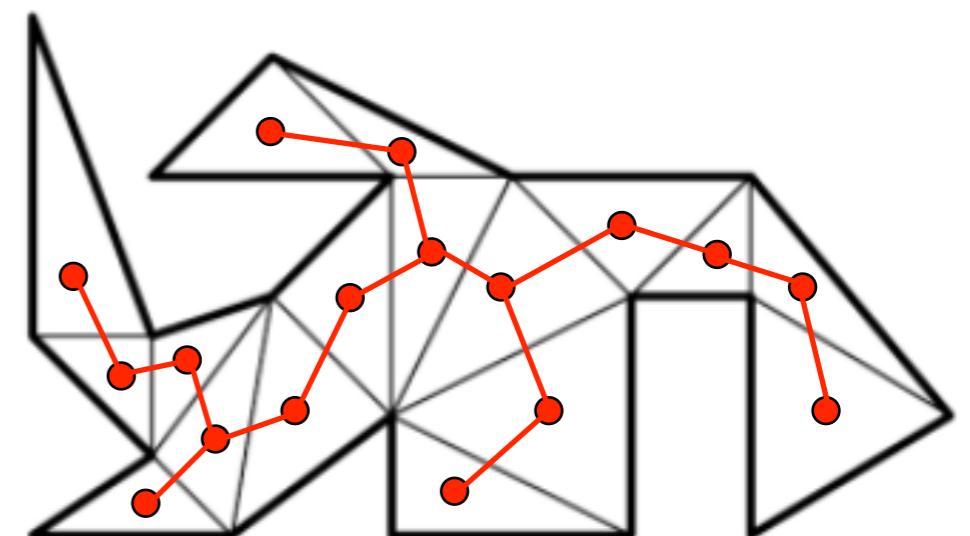
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**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

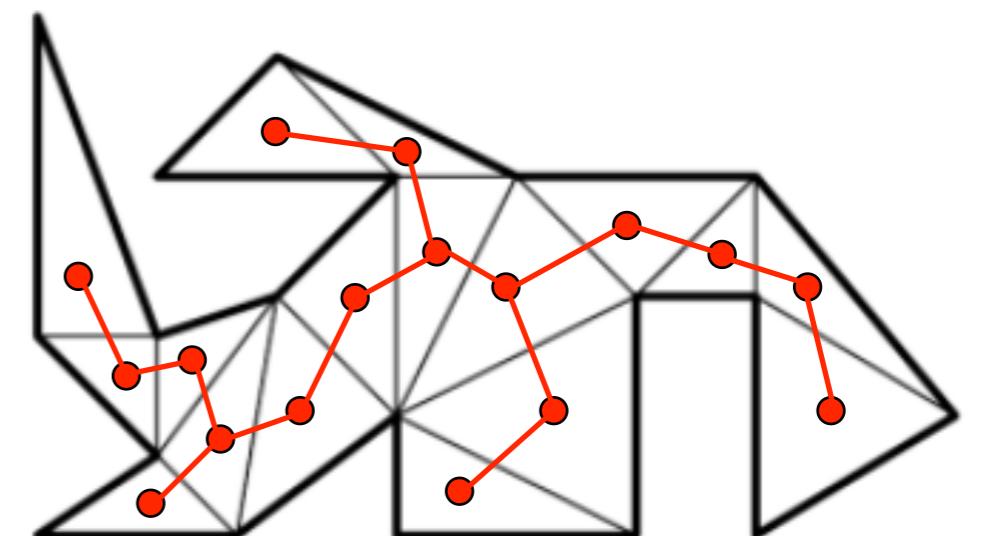
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### Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.

$O(n)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

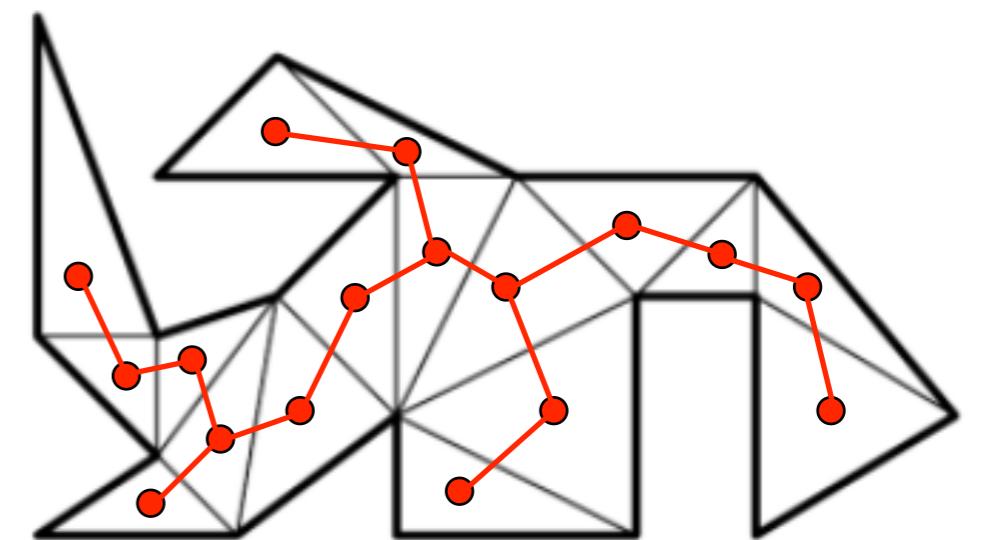
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

### Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

$O(n)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

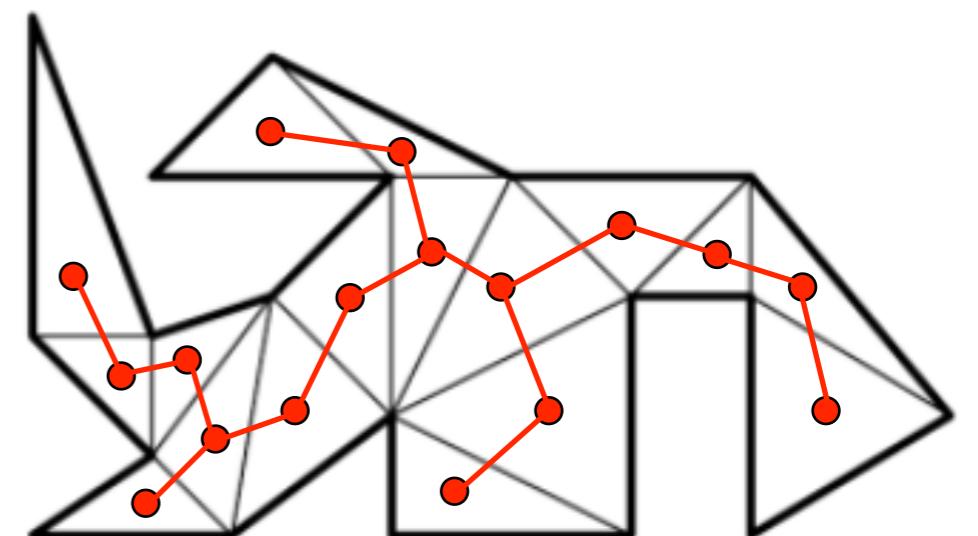
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

### Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

$O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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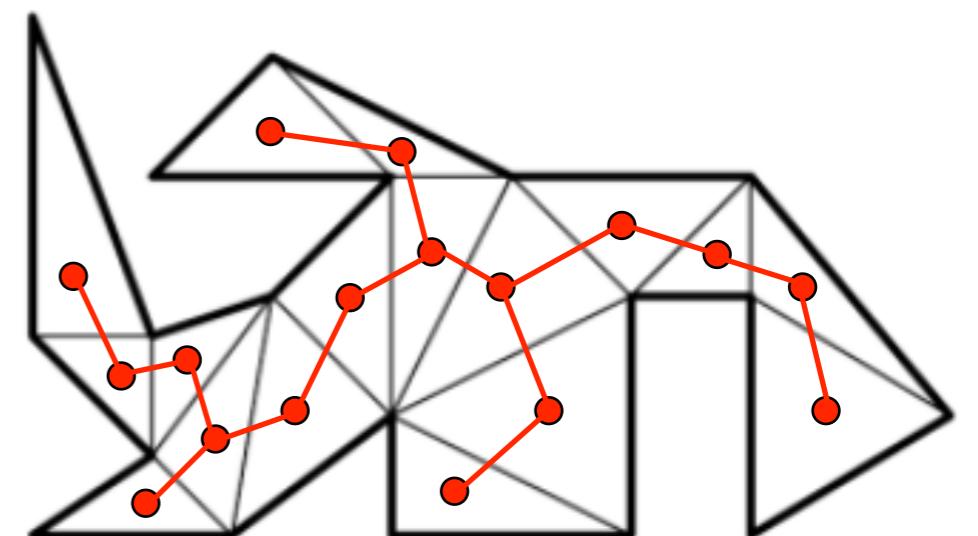
### Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
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**Update:** ( $n$  times)

$O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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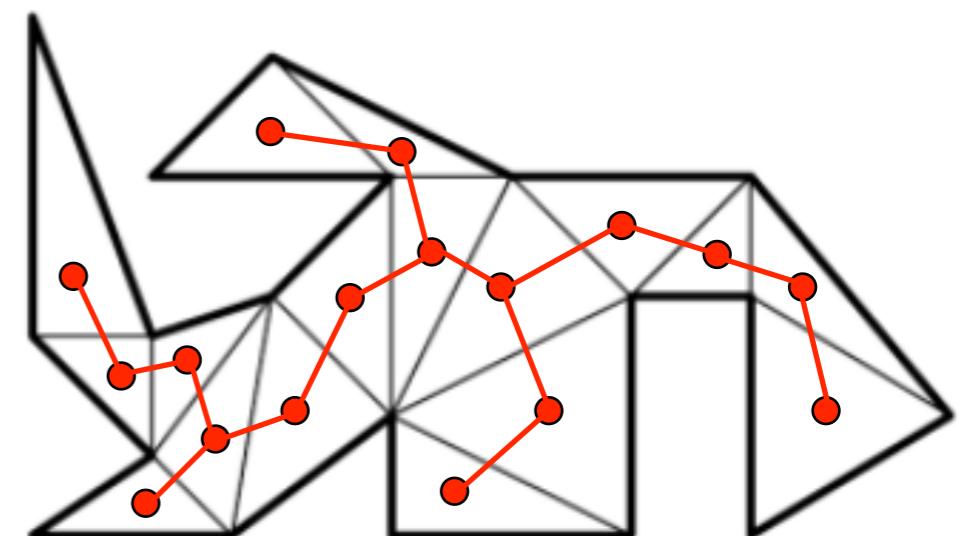
#### Initialize: (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

#### Update: ( $n$ times)

- Remove ear.

$$\begin{array}{l} O(n) \\ O(n^2) \end{array}$$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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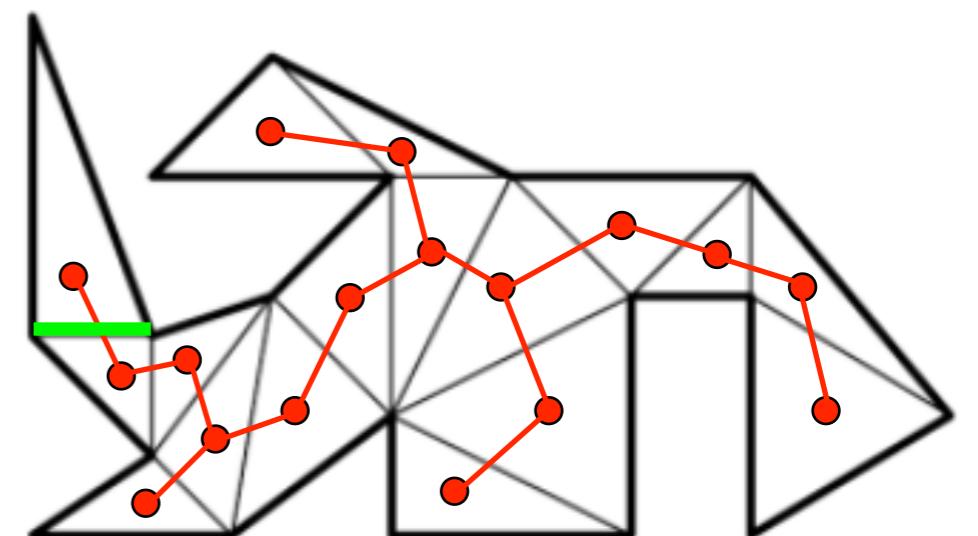
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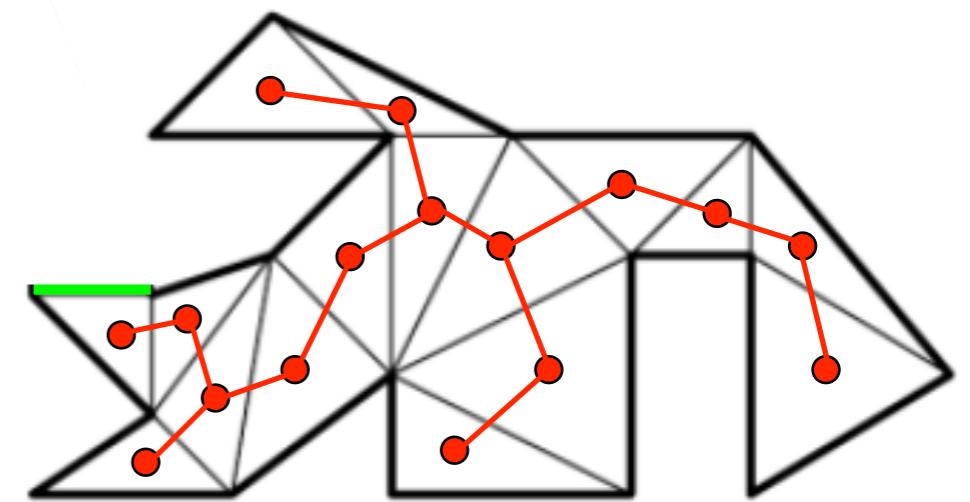
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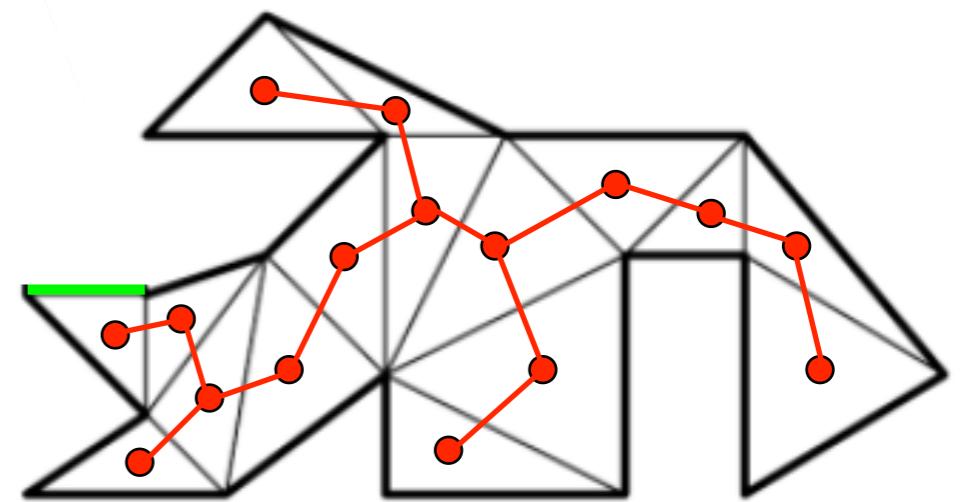
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**Initialize:** (once)

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- Identify all ears.

**Update:** ( $n$  times)

- Remove ear.

 $O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$ 
 $O(1)$ 


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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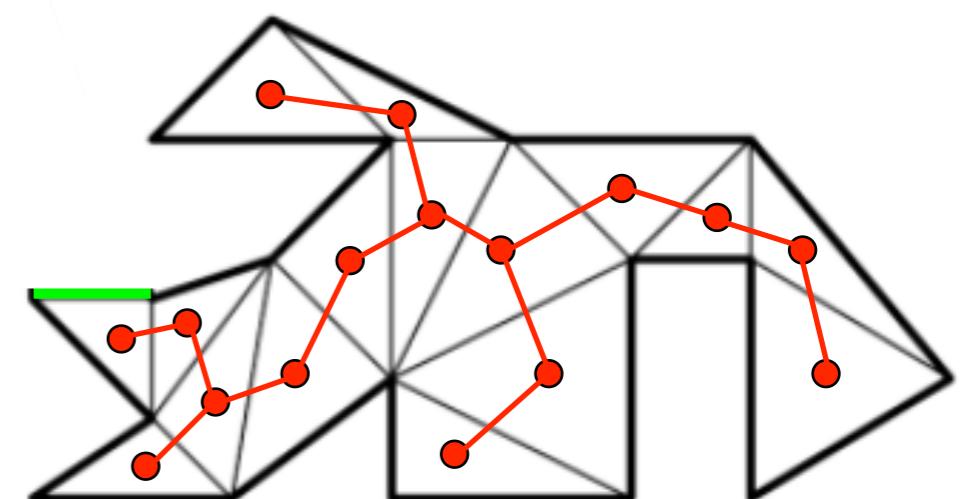
### Algorithm 5.11

#### Initialize: (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

#### Update: ( $n$ times)

- Remove ear.
- Update convexity.

 $O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$ 
 $O(1)$ 


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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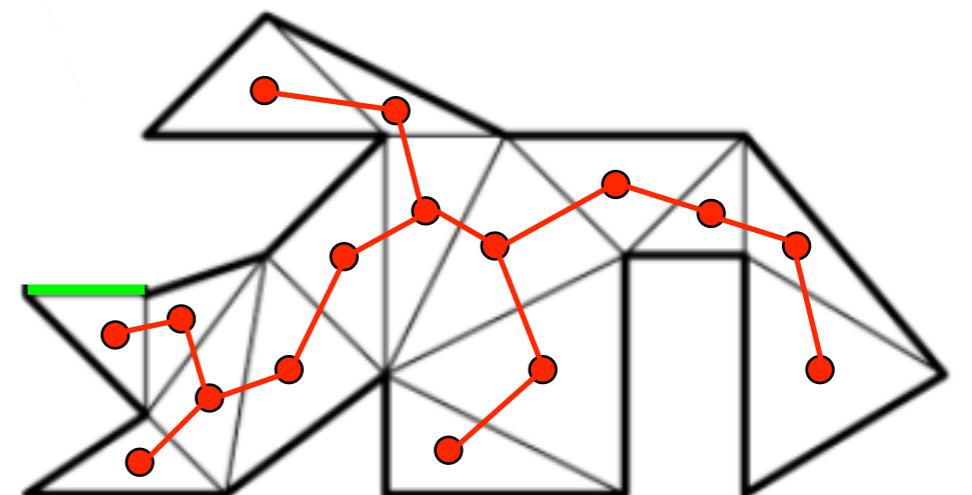
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- Identify all ears.

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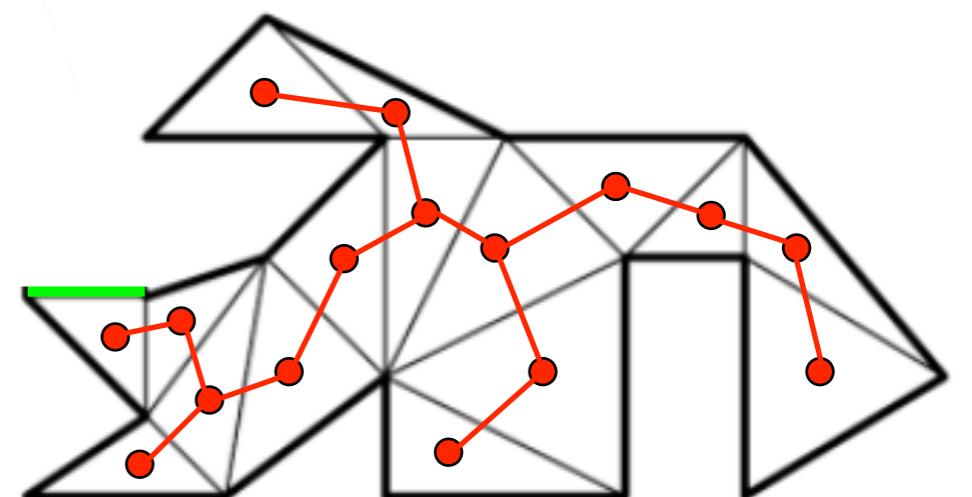
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#### Initialize: (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

#### Update: ( $n$ times)

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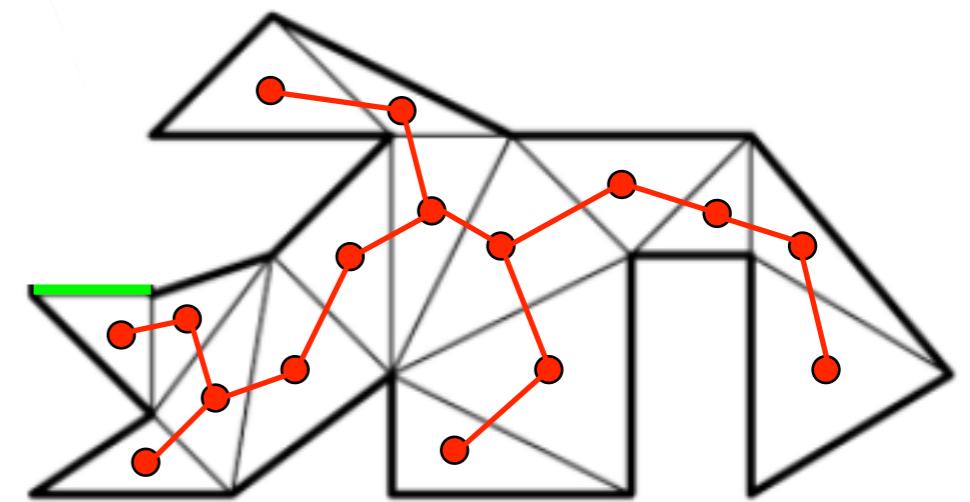
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#### Update: ( $n$ times)

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- Update ears.

 $O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$ 
 $O(1)$   
 $O(1)$   
 $O(n)$ 


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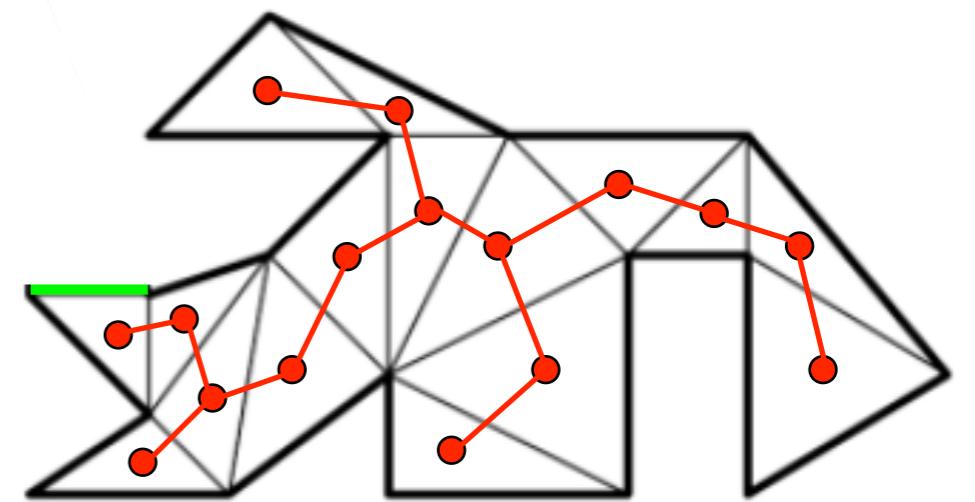
### Algorithm 5.11

#### Initialize: (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

#### Update: ( $n$ times)

- Remove ear.
- Update convexity.
- Update ears.

 $O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$ 
 $O(1)$   
 $O(1)$   
 $O(n)$ 


#### Total:



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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### Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

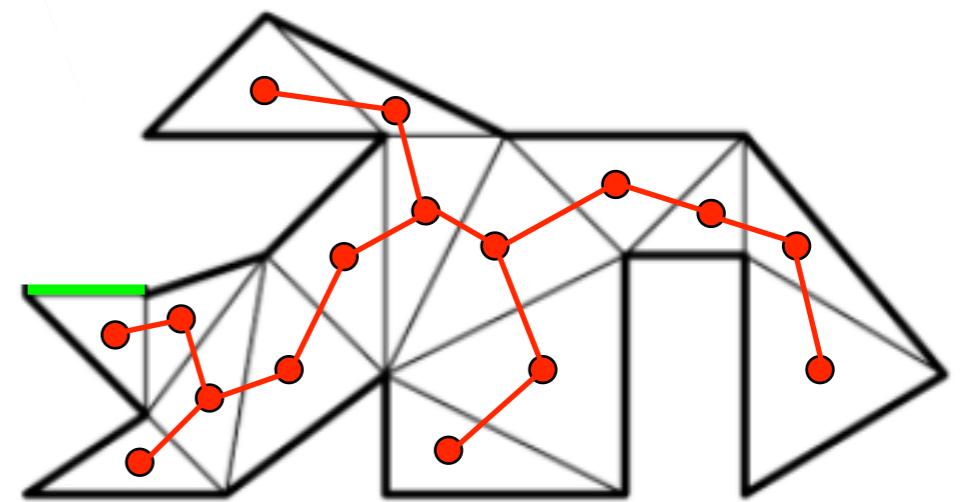
**Update:** ( $n$  times)

- Remove ear.
- Update convexity.
- Update ears.

$O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$

$O(1)$   
 $O(1)$   
 $O(n)$

$O(n^2)$



**Total:**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Existence**
- 3. Properties**
- 4. Algorithms: Removing ears**
- 5. Algorithms: Finding diagonals**
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- 7. Algorithms: Monotone decompositions**
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- 9. Application: Art Gallery problems**
- 10. Application: Online triangulation**



$$O(n^4)$$



**Input:**

$$O(n^4)$$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

$$O(n^4)$$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

**Output:**

$$O(n^4)$$



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$$O(n^4)$$



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**Idea:**

$$O(n^4)$$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
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**Runtime:**

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
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**Runtime:**

- Testing a chord:

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

**Runtime:**

- Testing a chord:
- Checking all chords:

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

**Runtime:**

• Testing a chord:  $O(n)$

• Checking all chords:

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

**Runtime:**

- Testing a chord:  $O(n)$
- Checking all chords:

**Total:**

$$O(n^4)$$



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**Runtime:**

- Testing a chord:  $O(n)$
- Checking all chords:  $O(n^3)$

**Total:**

$$O(n^4)$$

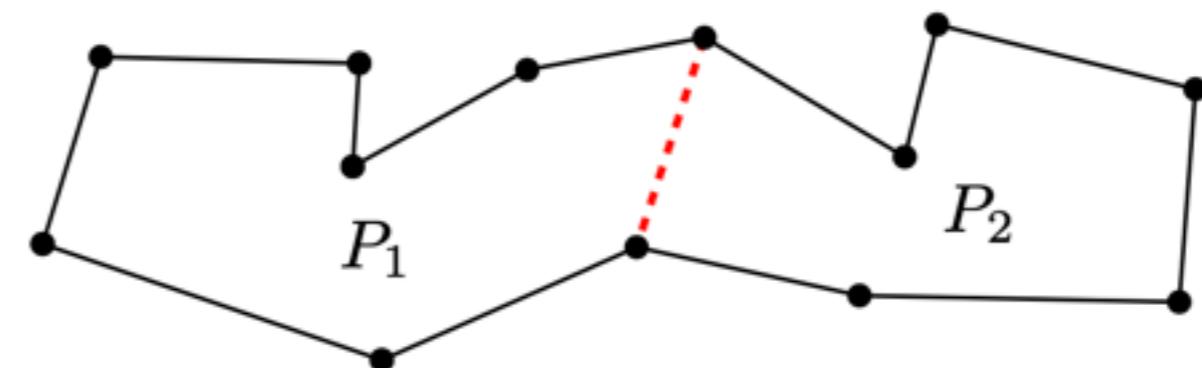


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**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
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**Runtime:**

- Testing a chord:  $O(n)$
- Checking all chords:  $O(n^3)$

**Total:**

$$O(n^4)$$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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## Algorithm 5.12:

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

## Runtime:



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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## Algorithm 5.12:

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

## Runtime:

- Consider a convex edge:



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

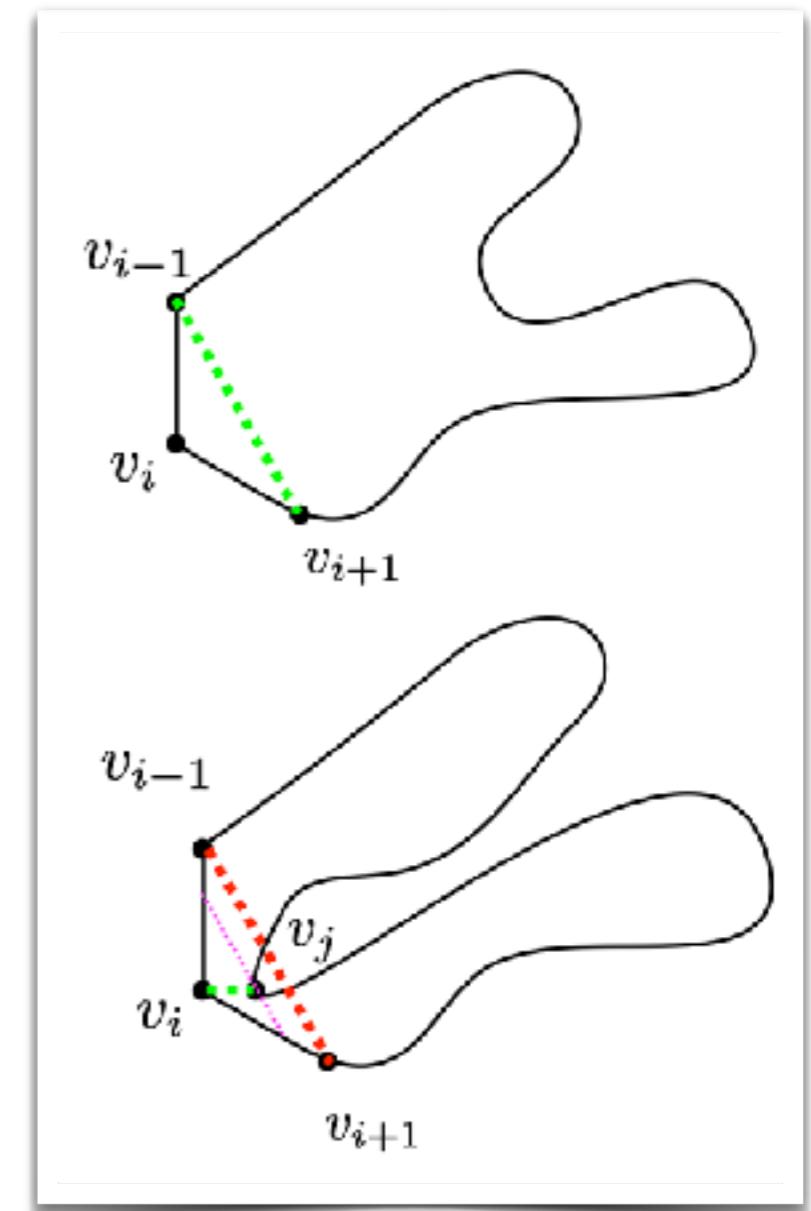
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

**Algorithm 5.12:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
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- Consider a convex edge:



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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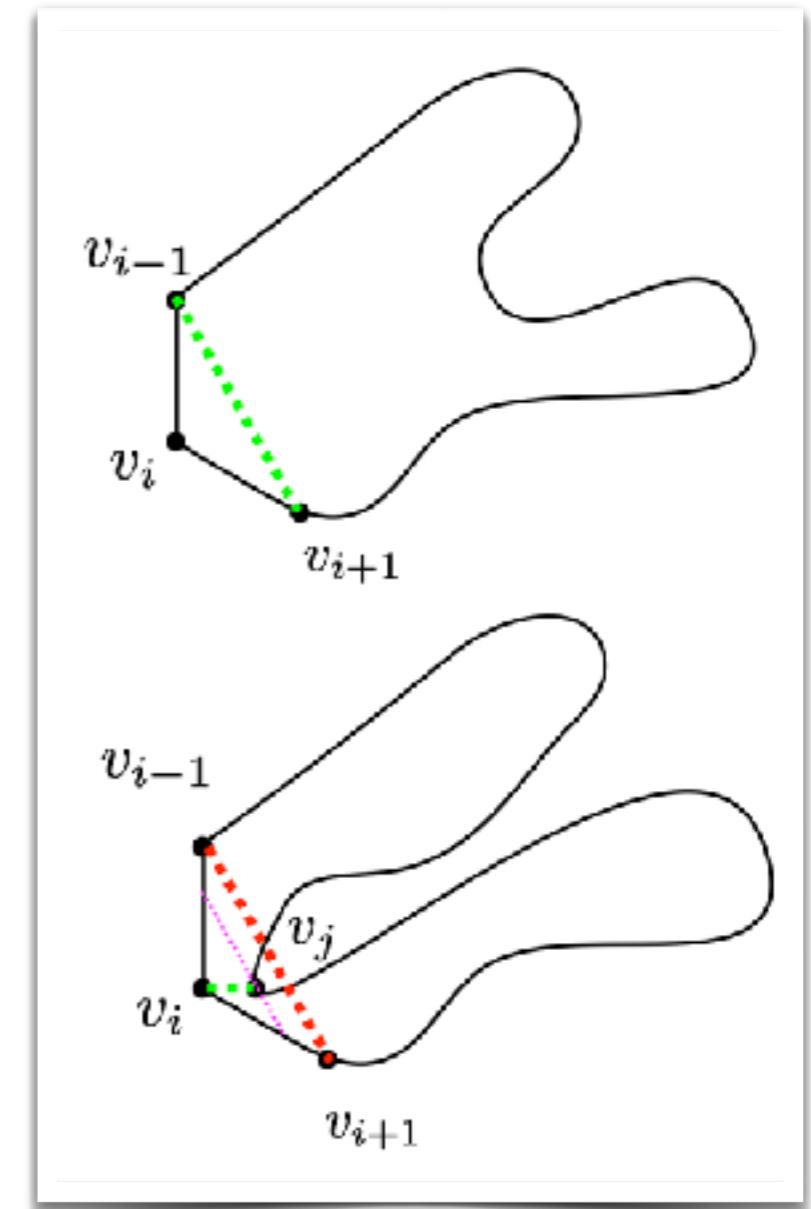
**Algorithm 5.12:**

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

**Runtime:**

- Consider a convex edge:

$$O(1)$$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

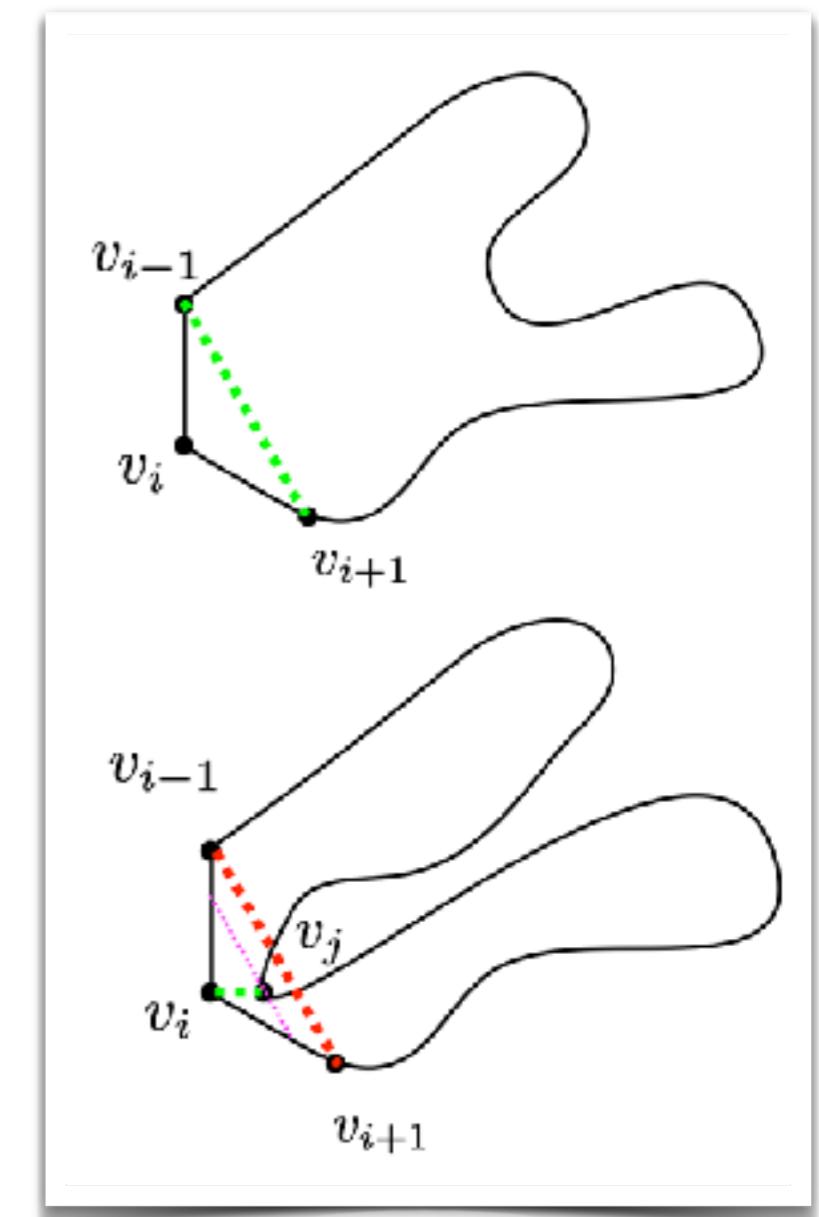
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

### Algorithm 5.12:

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

### Runtime:

- Consider a convex edge:  $O(1)$
- Check connection:



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

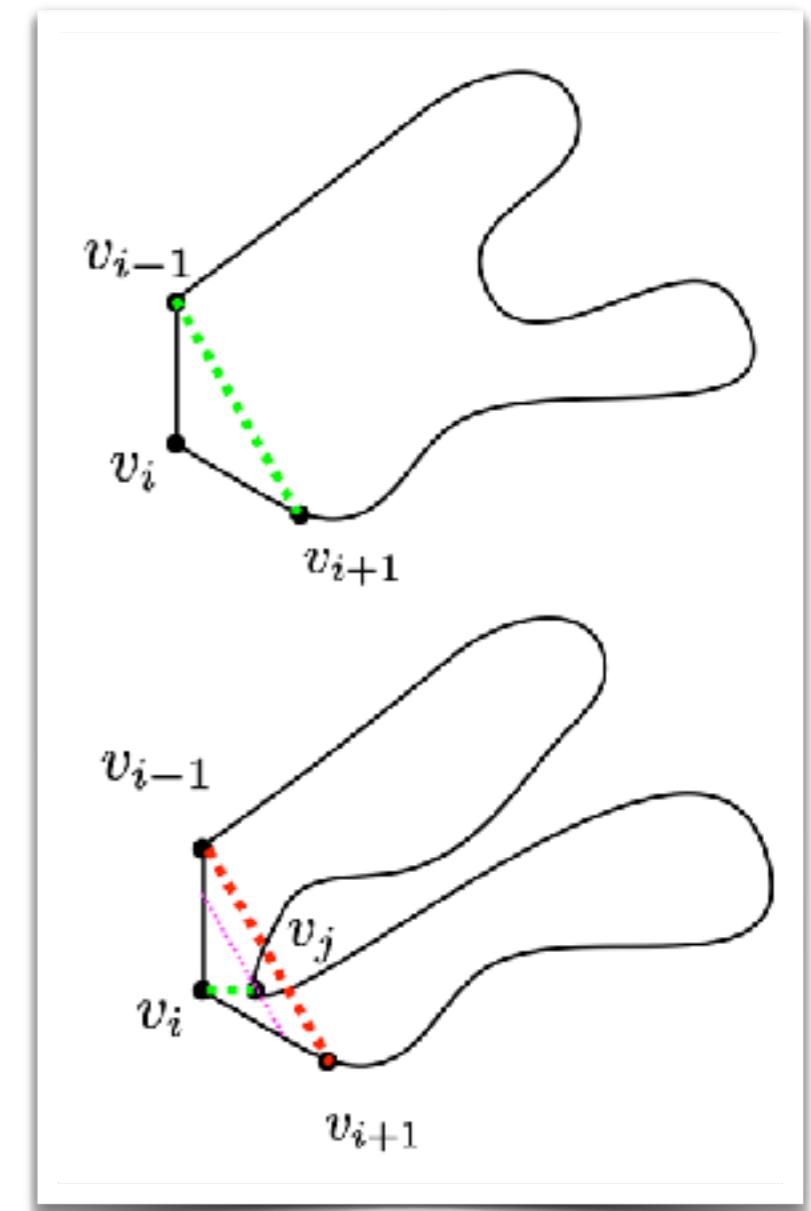
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### Algorithm 5.12:

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

### Runtime:

- Consider a convex edge:  $O(1)$
- Check connection:  $O(n)$



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

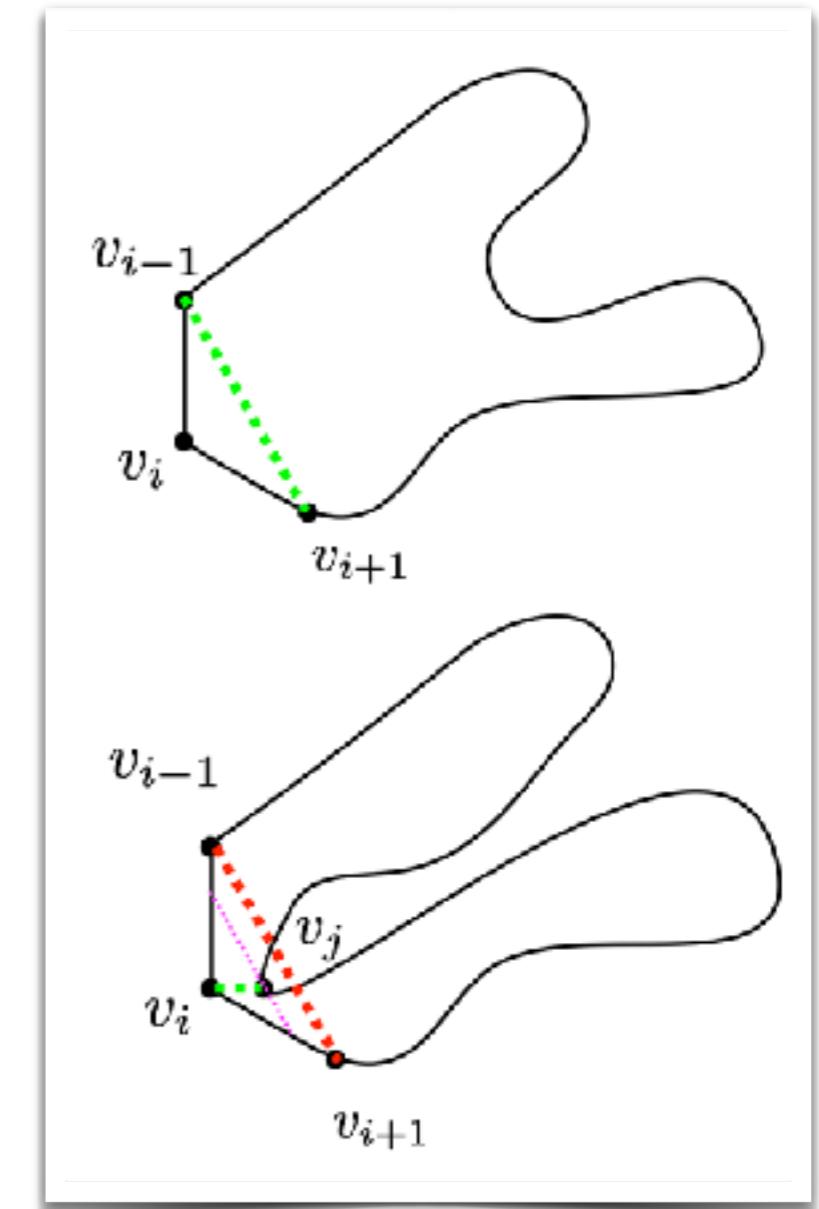
### Algorithm 5.12:

- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

### Runtime:

- Consider a convex edge:  $O(1)$
- Check connection:  $O(n)$

### Total:



**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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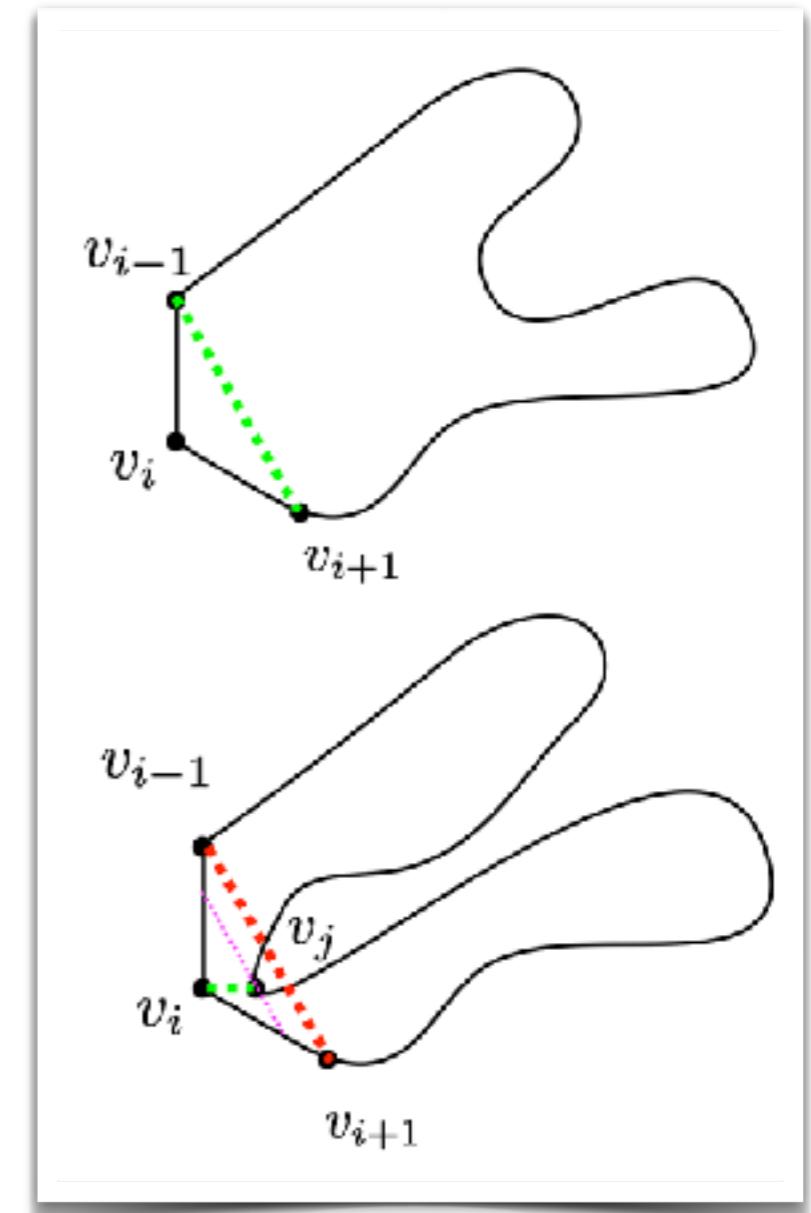
- Find a diagonal.
- Insert it.
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### Runtime:

- Consider a convex edge:  $O(1)$
- Check connection:  $O(n)$

### Total:

$$O(n^2)$$



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## Definition 5.13



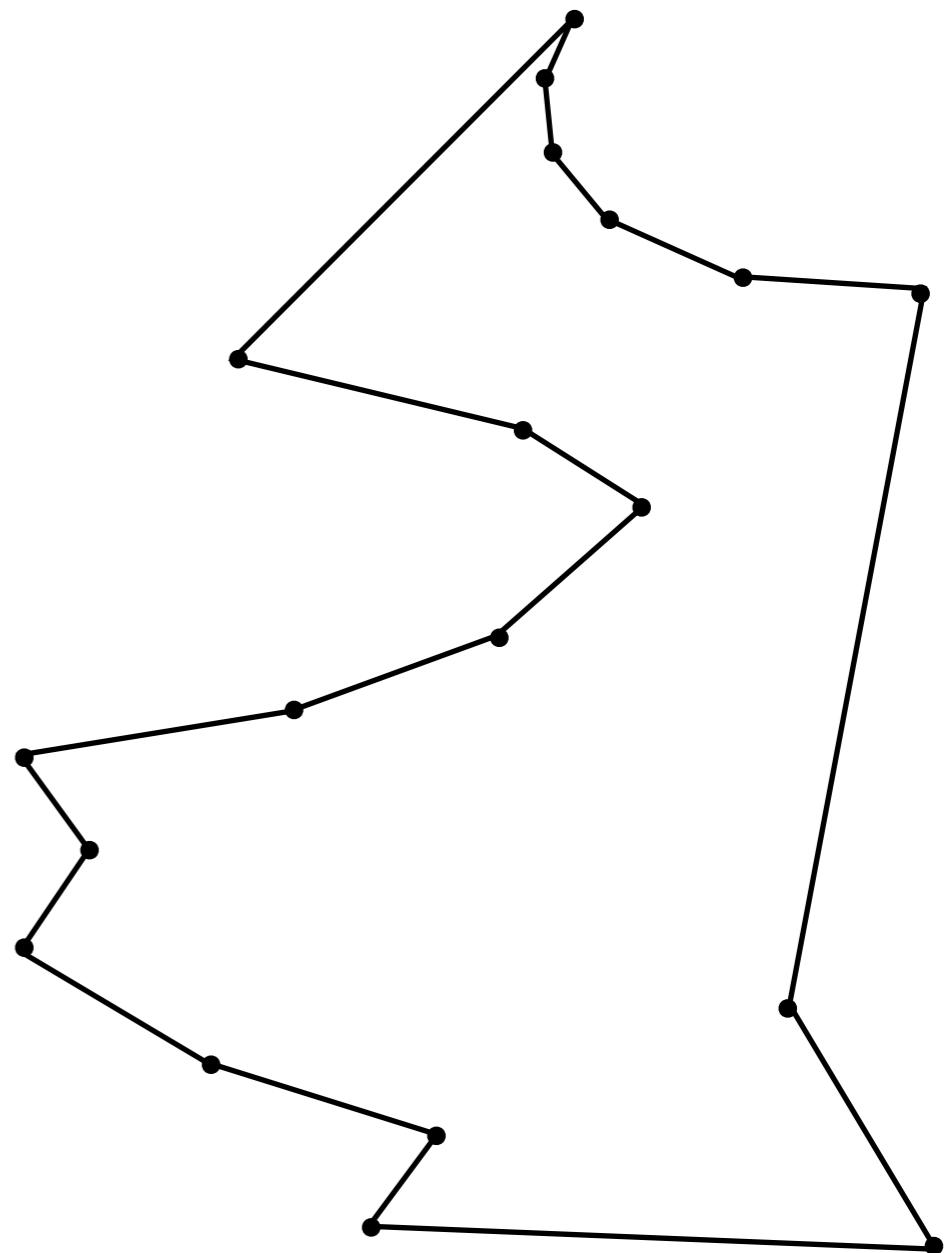
## Definition 5.13

A polygon  $P$  is *monotone (in y-direction)*, if every x-parallel line intersects it in a connected segment.



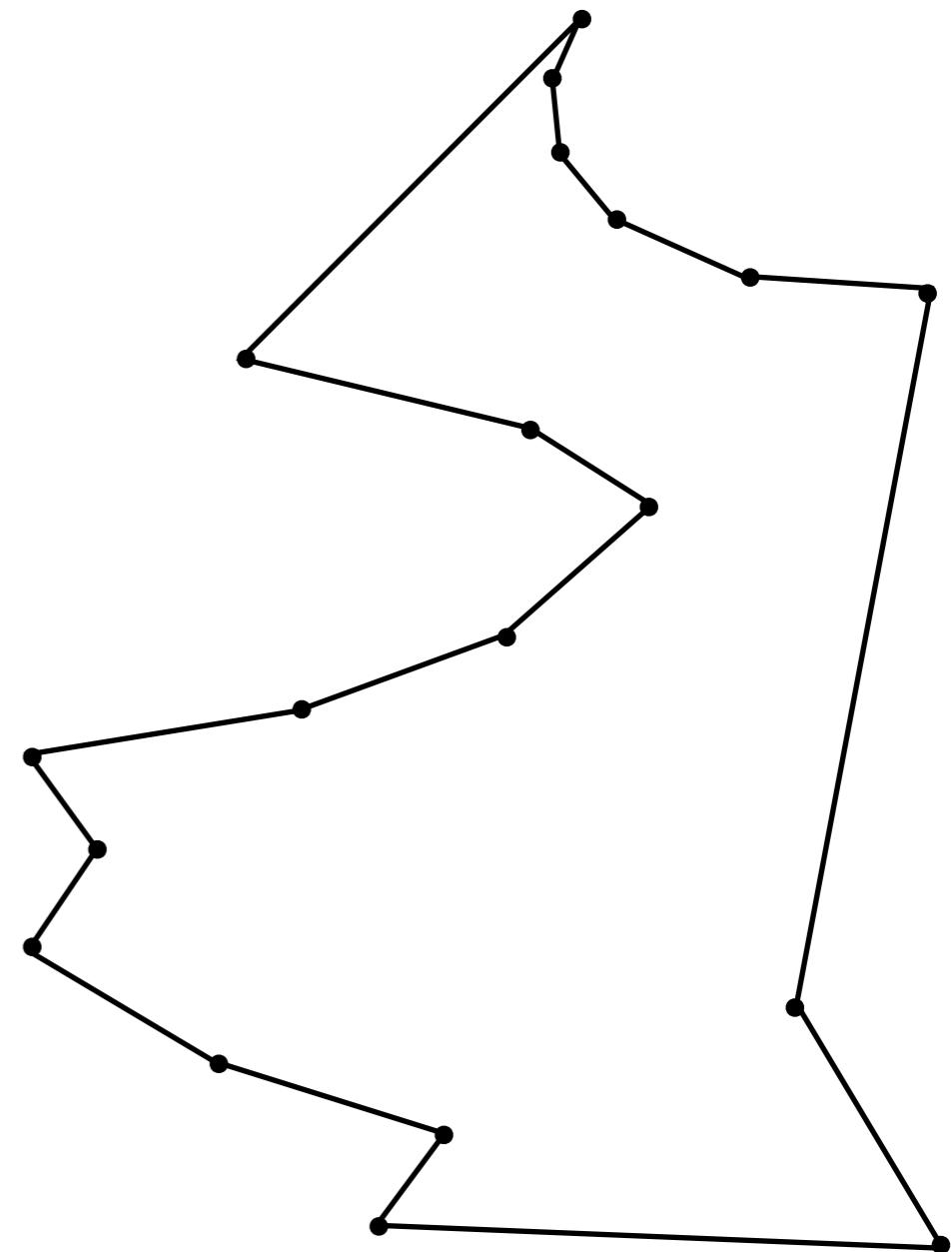
## Definition 5.13

A polygon  $P$  is *monotone (in y-direction)*, if every x-parallel line intersects it in a connected segment.



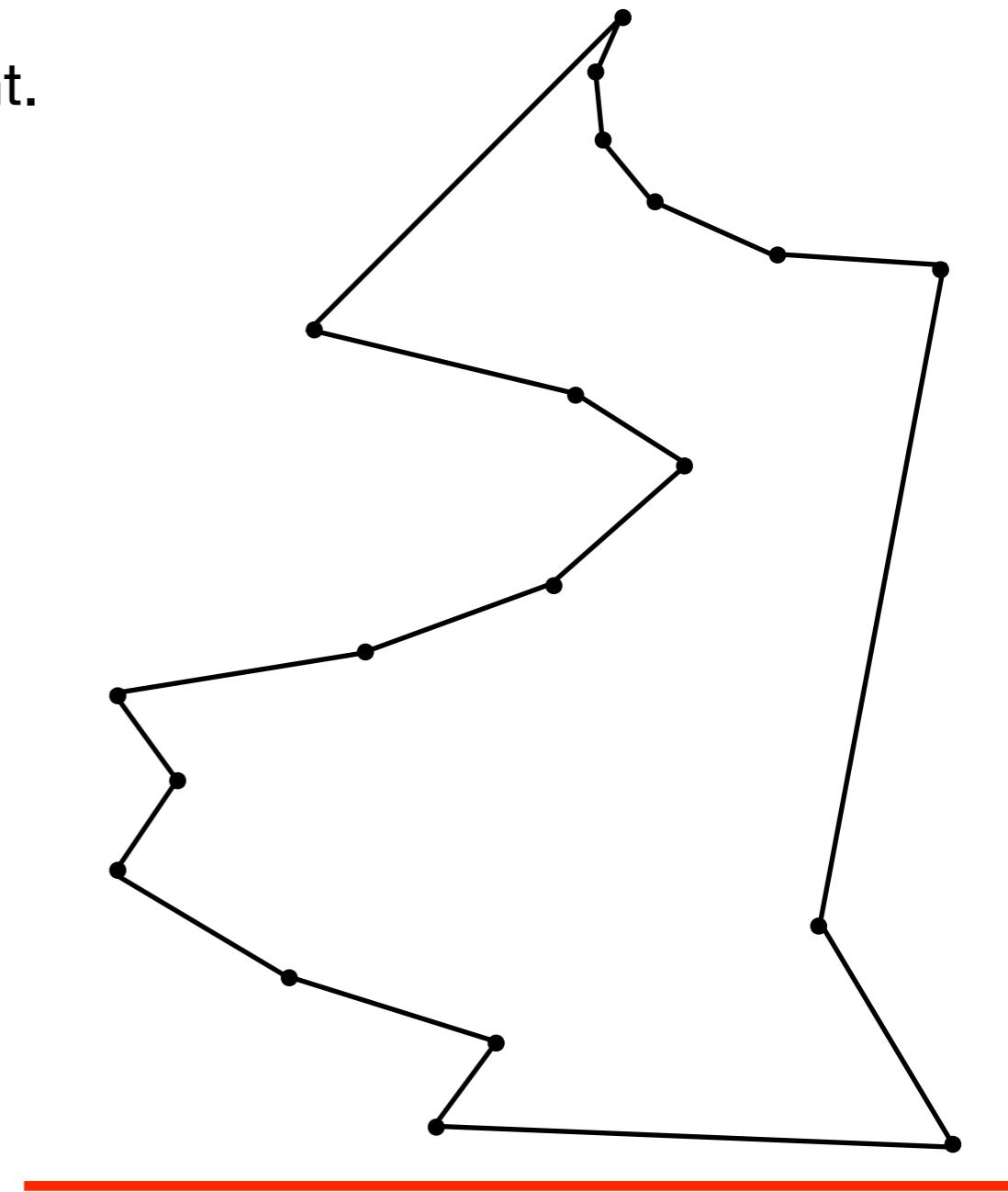
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## Definition 5.13

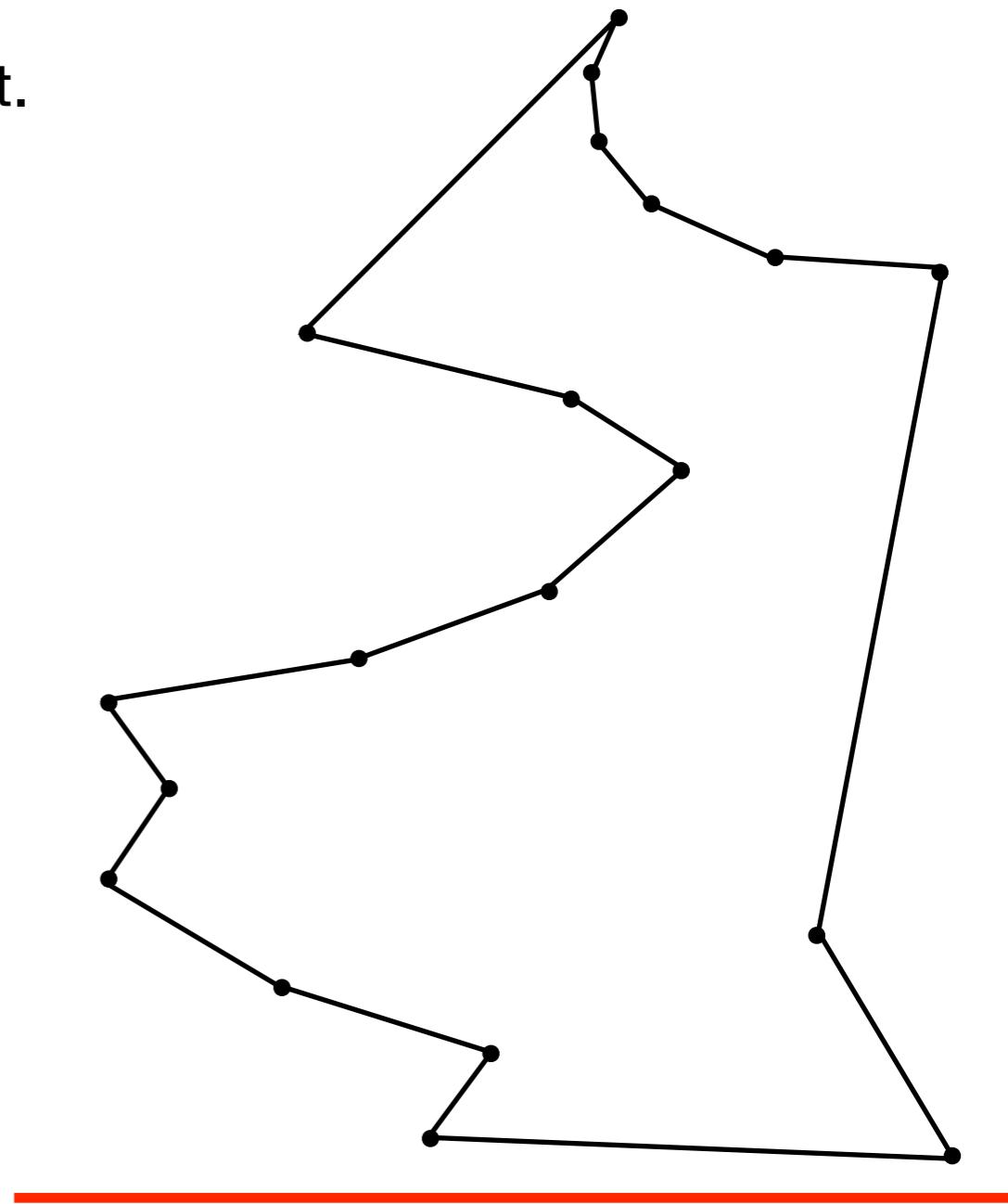
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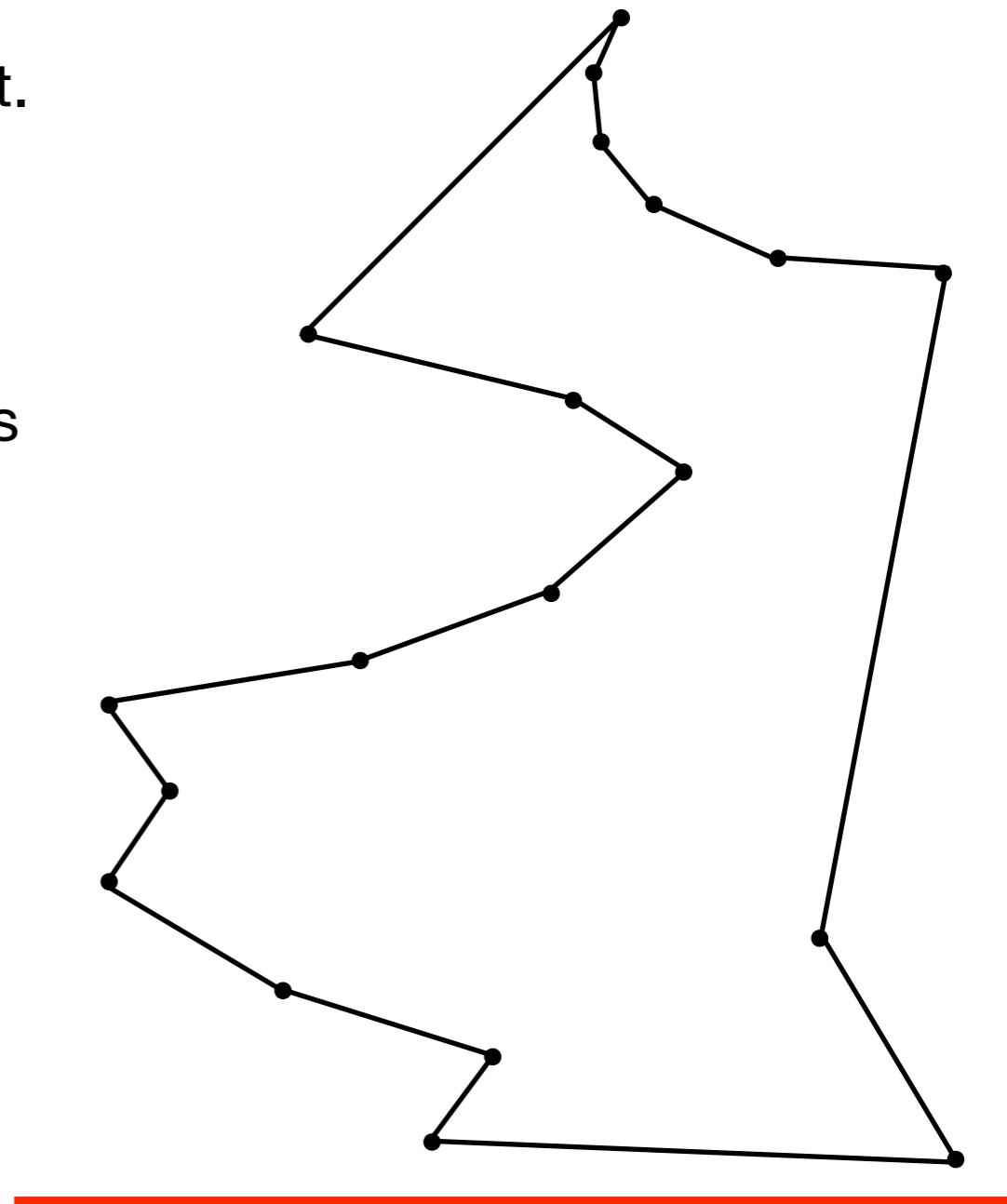


**Definition 5.13**

A polygon  $P$  is *monotone (in y-direction)*, if every x-parallel line intersects it in a connected segment.

**Observation 5.14**

A polygon  $P$  is monotone, if and only if it does not have a *cusp*: a reflex vertex  $v$  such that the vertices before and after are both above or both below  $v$ .

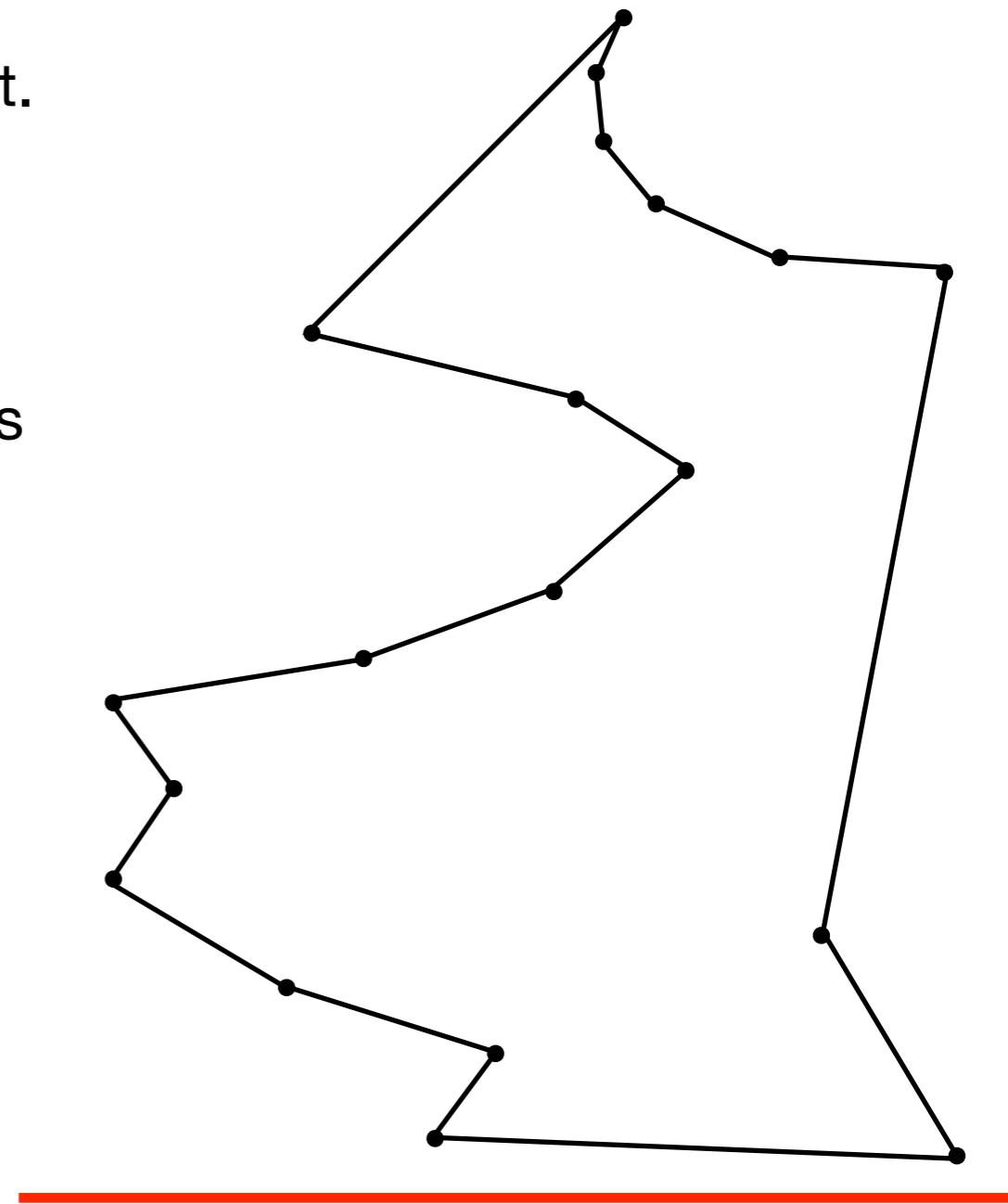
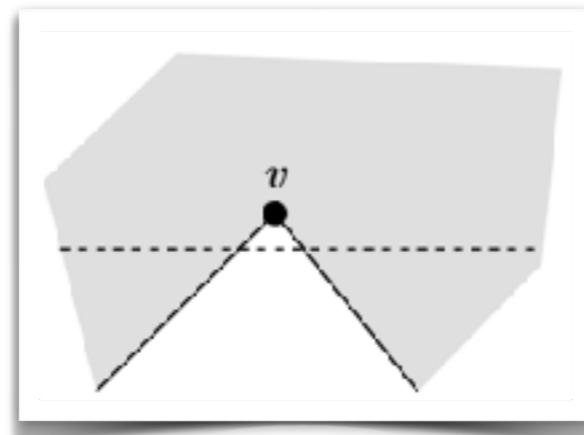


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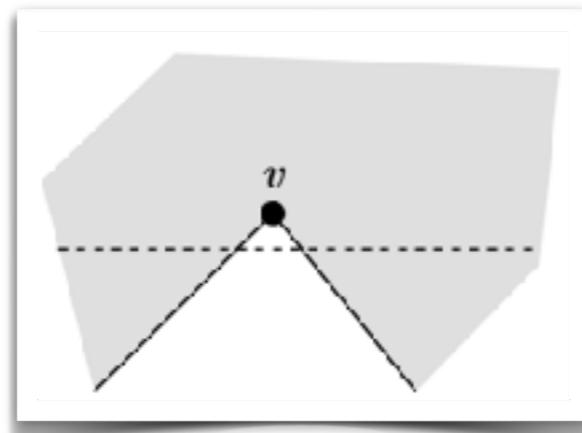
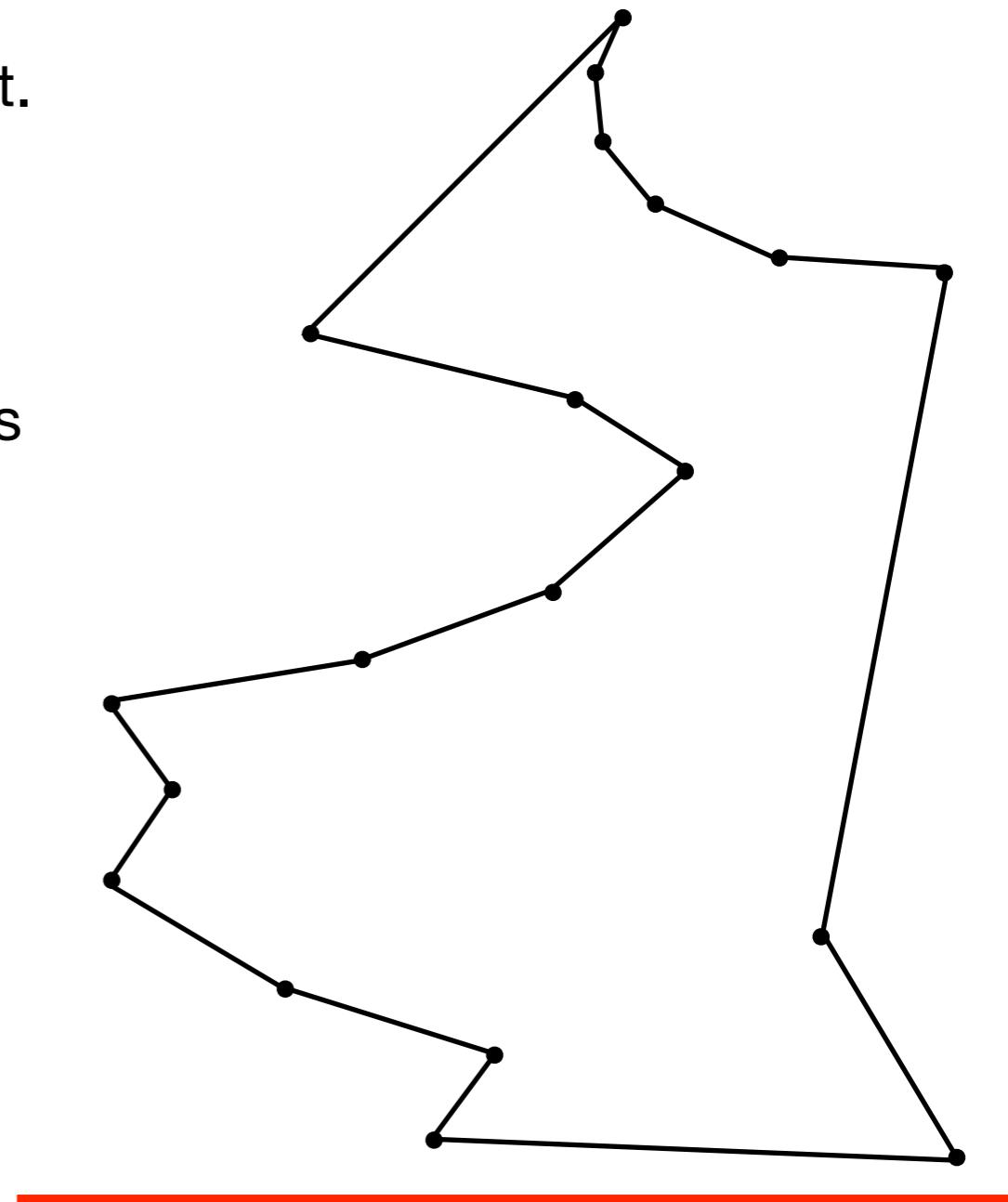


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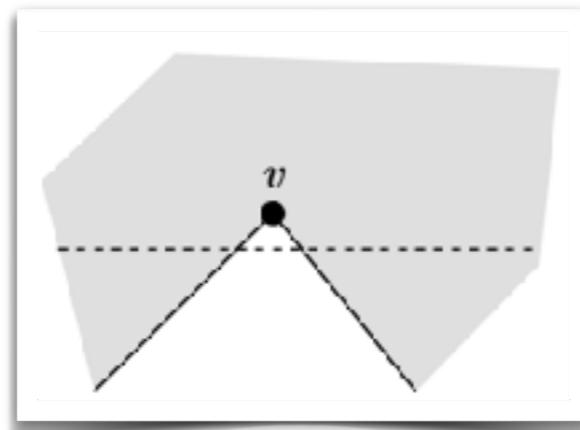
**Corollary 5.15**

**Definition 5.13**

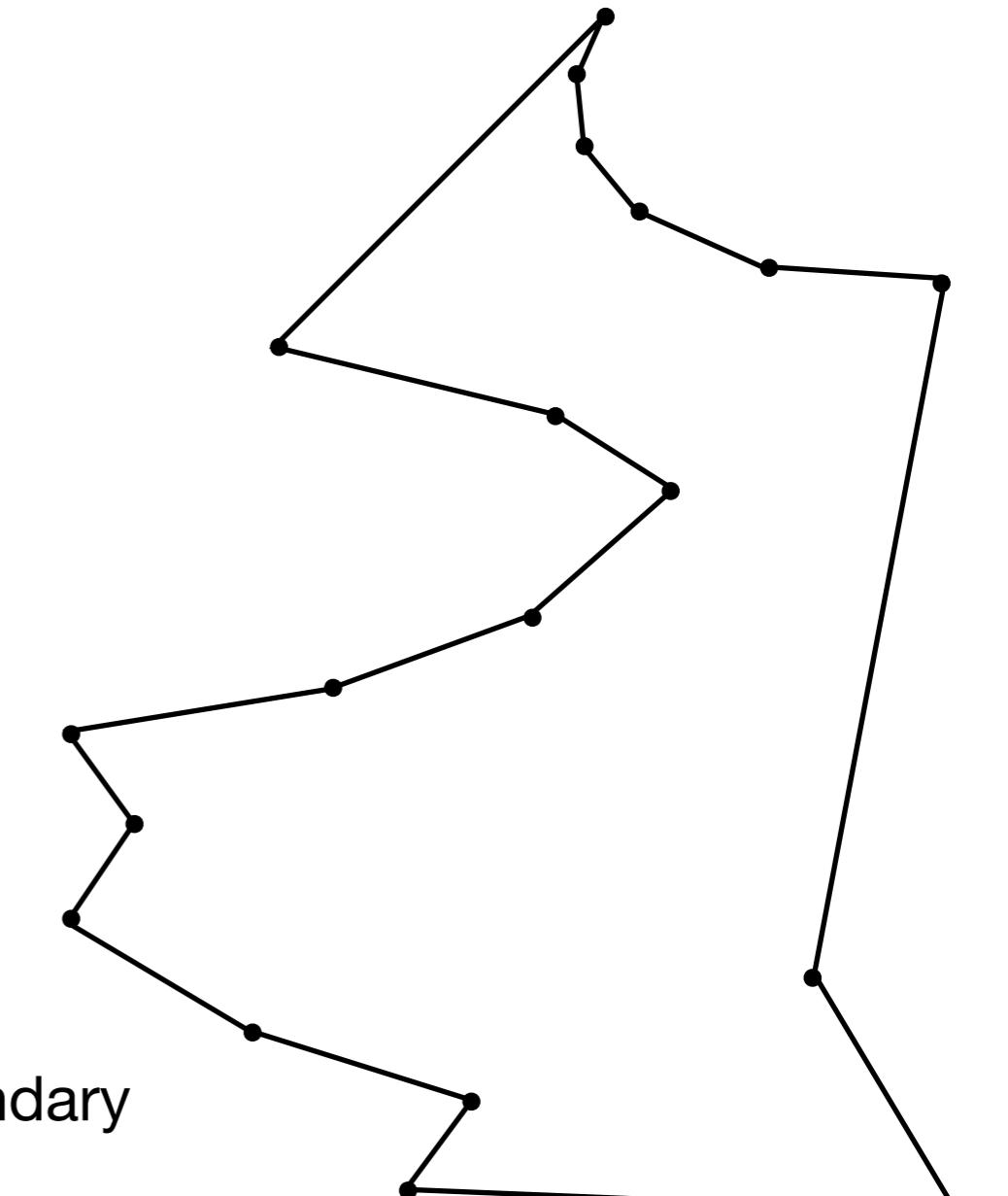
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**Corollary 5.15**

A polygon  $P$  is *monotone (in y-direction)*, iff its boundary consists of two y-monotone chains.



# Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]



# Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

## Algorithm 5.16



# Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

## Algorithm 5.16

**Input:**



# Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

## Algorithm 5.16

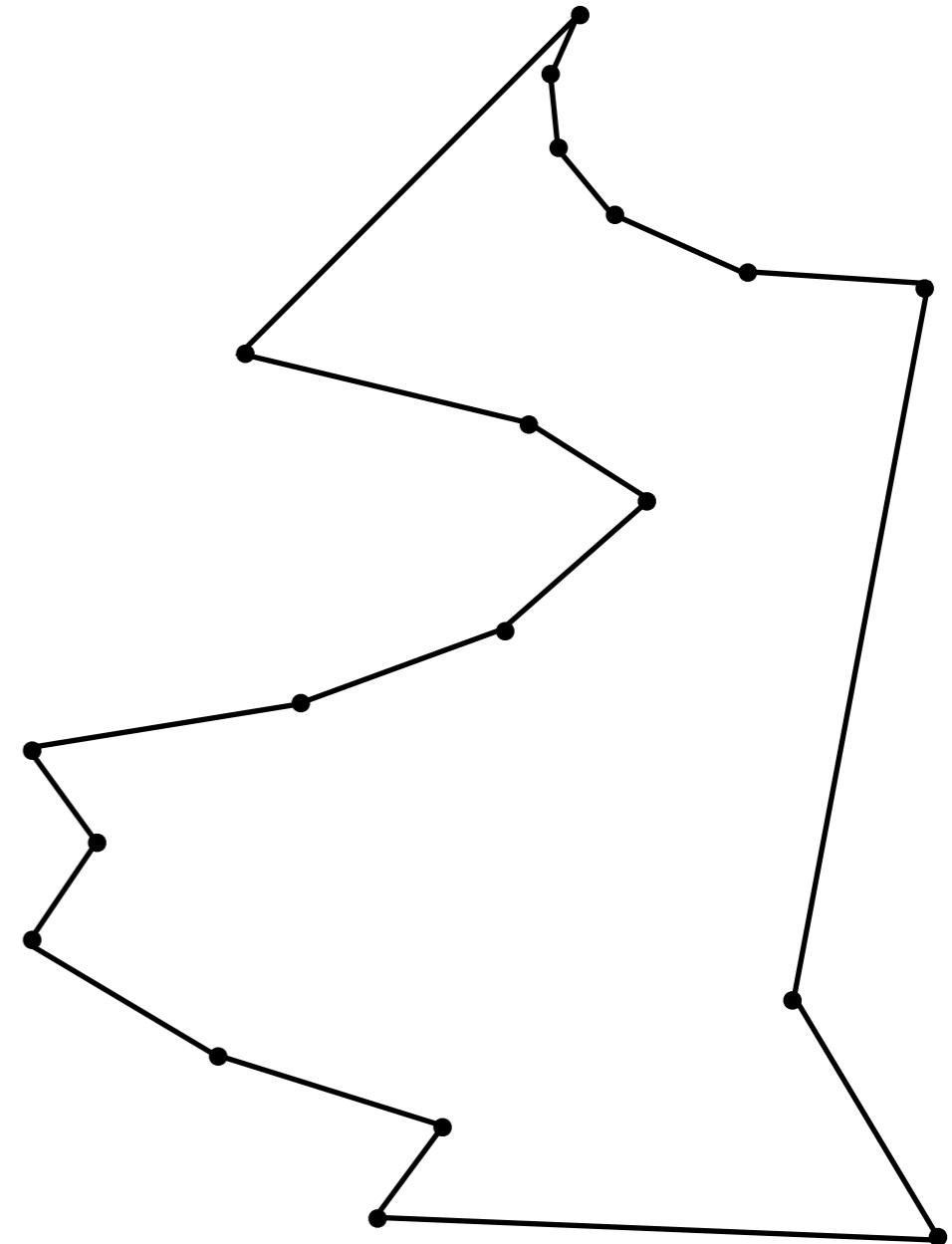
**Input:** A y-monotone polygon  $P$



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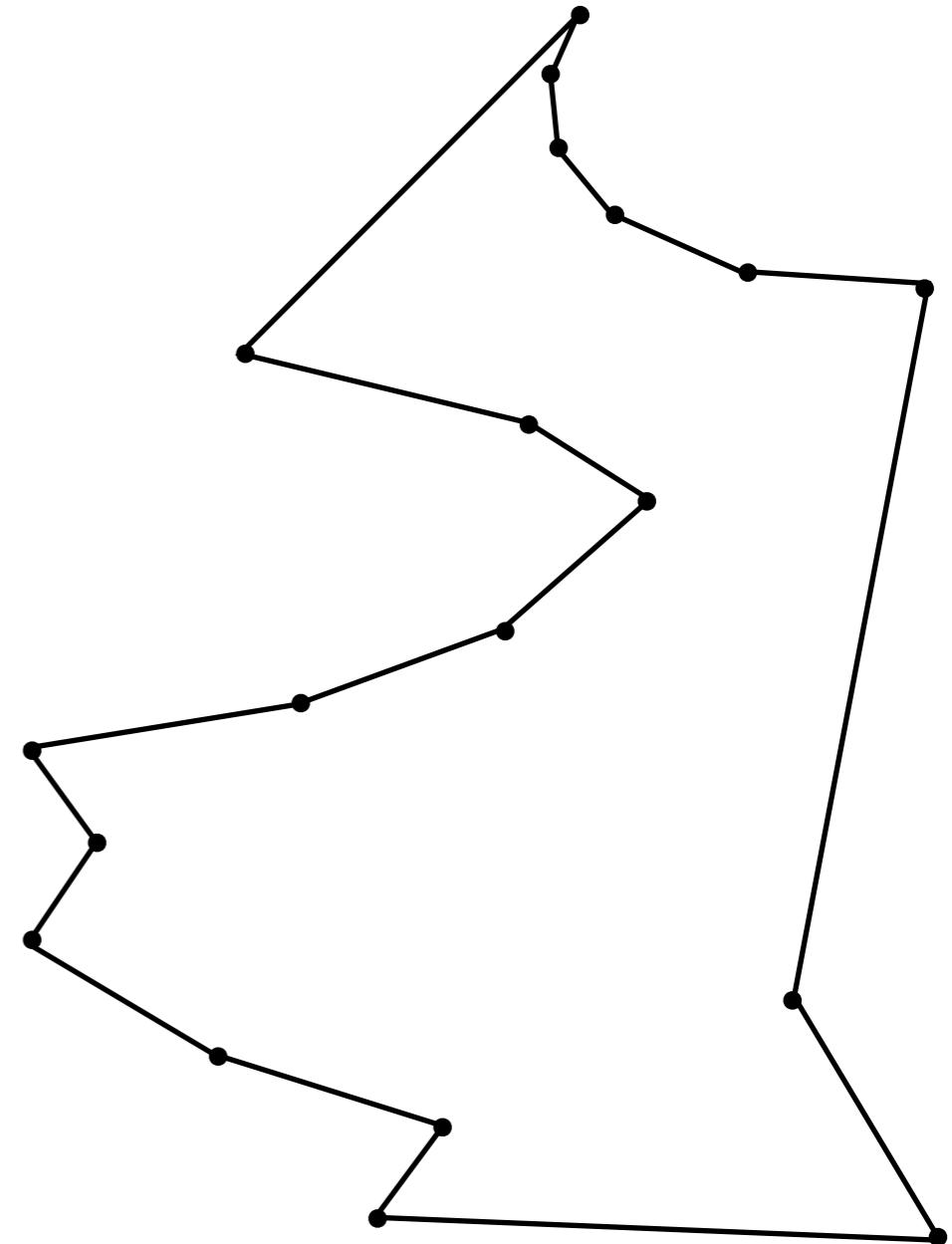


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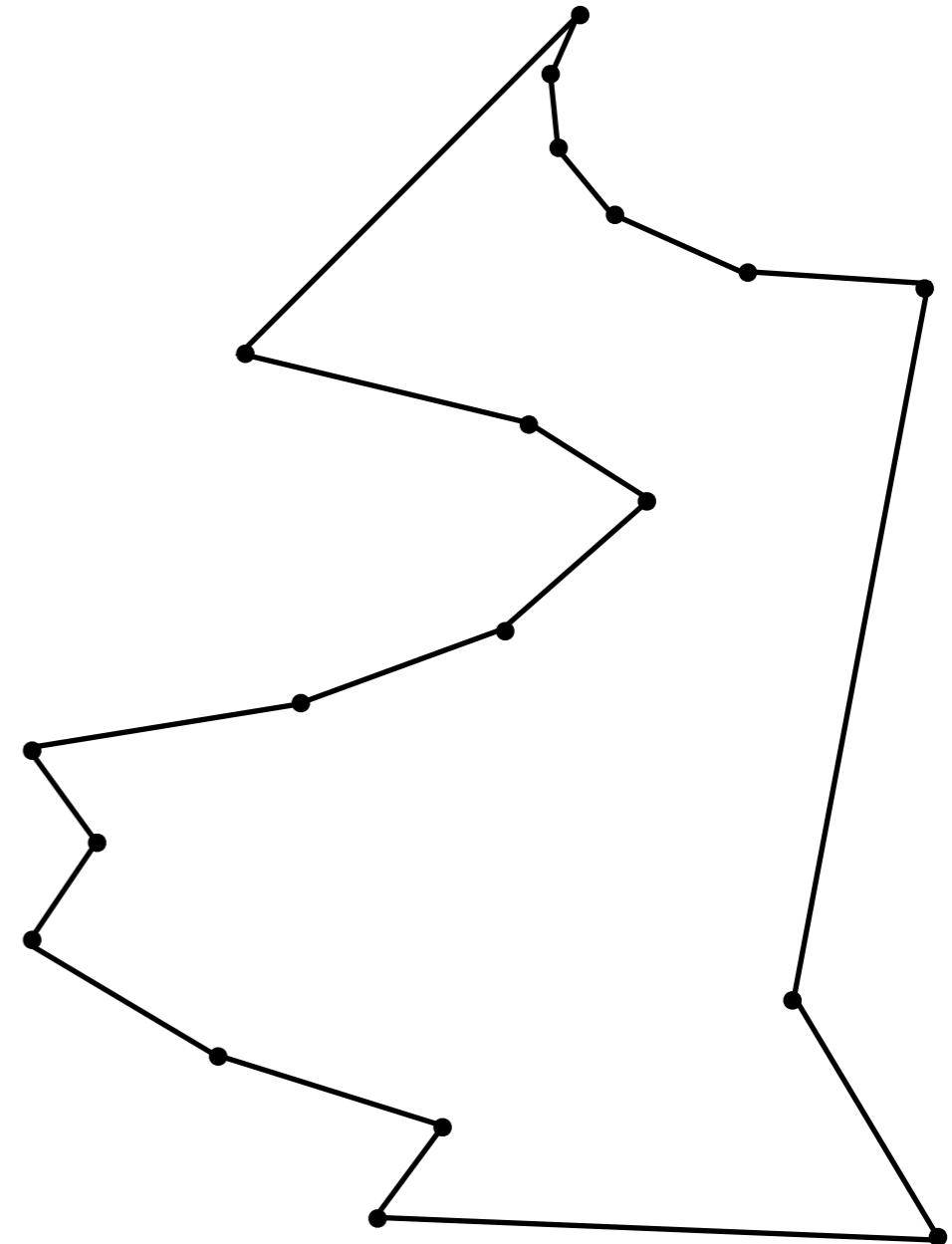
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## Algorithm 5.16

**Input:** A y-monotone polygon  $P$

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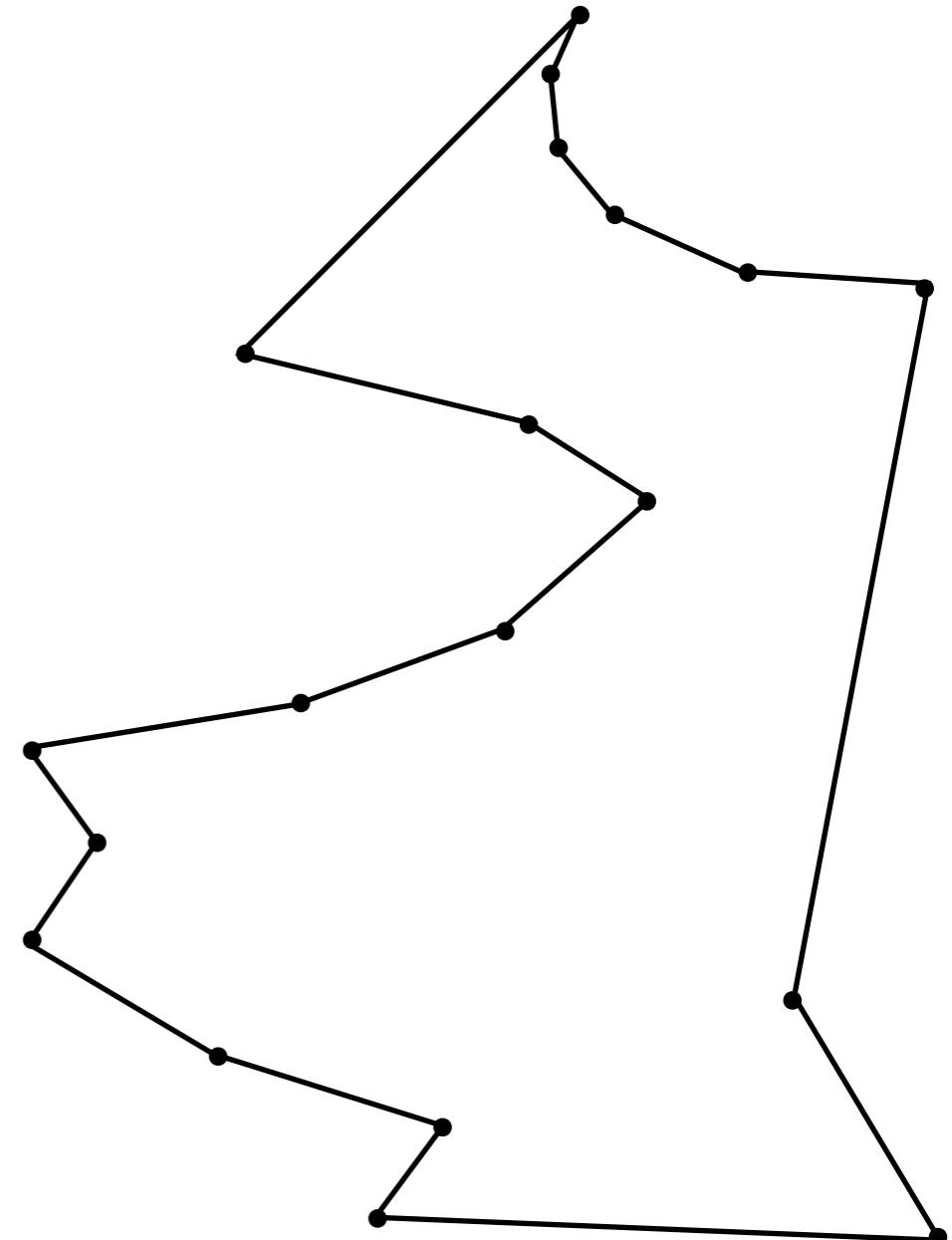


## Algorithm 5.16

**Input:** A y-monotone polygon  $P$

**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

1. Sort vertices by y-coordinate

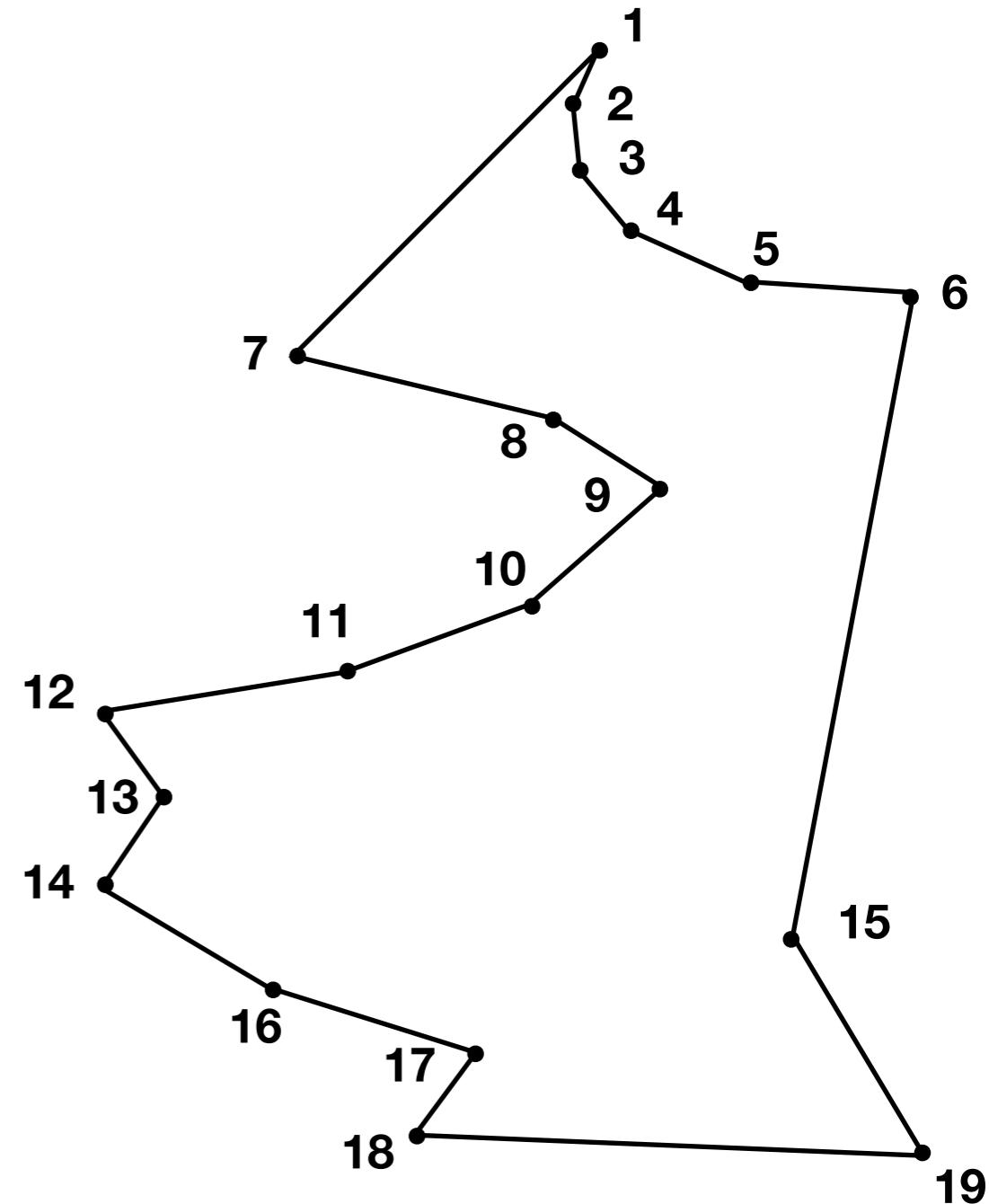


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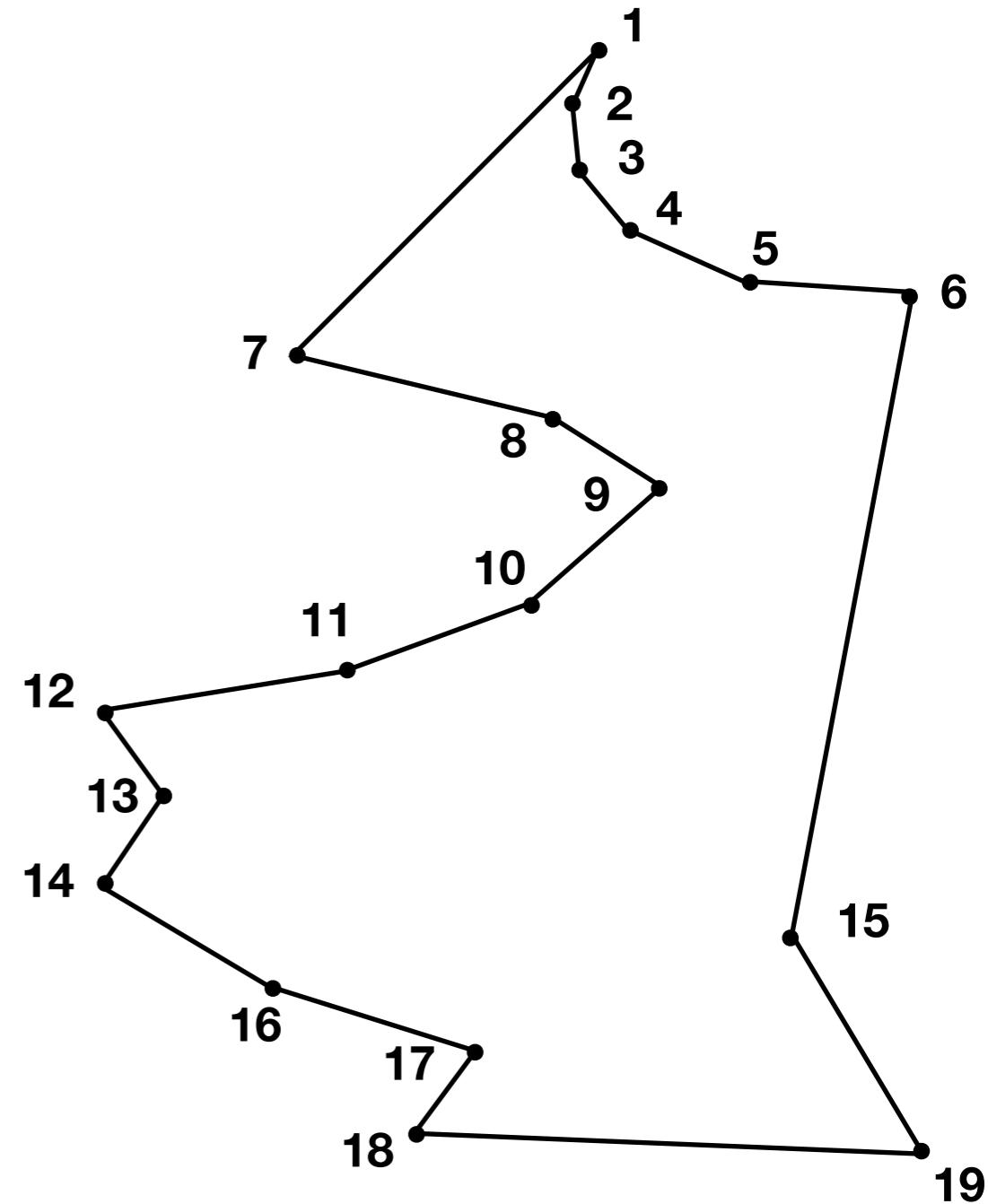


## Algorithm 5.16

**Input:** A y-monotone polygon  $P$

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1. Sort vertices by y-coordinate
2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed

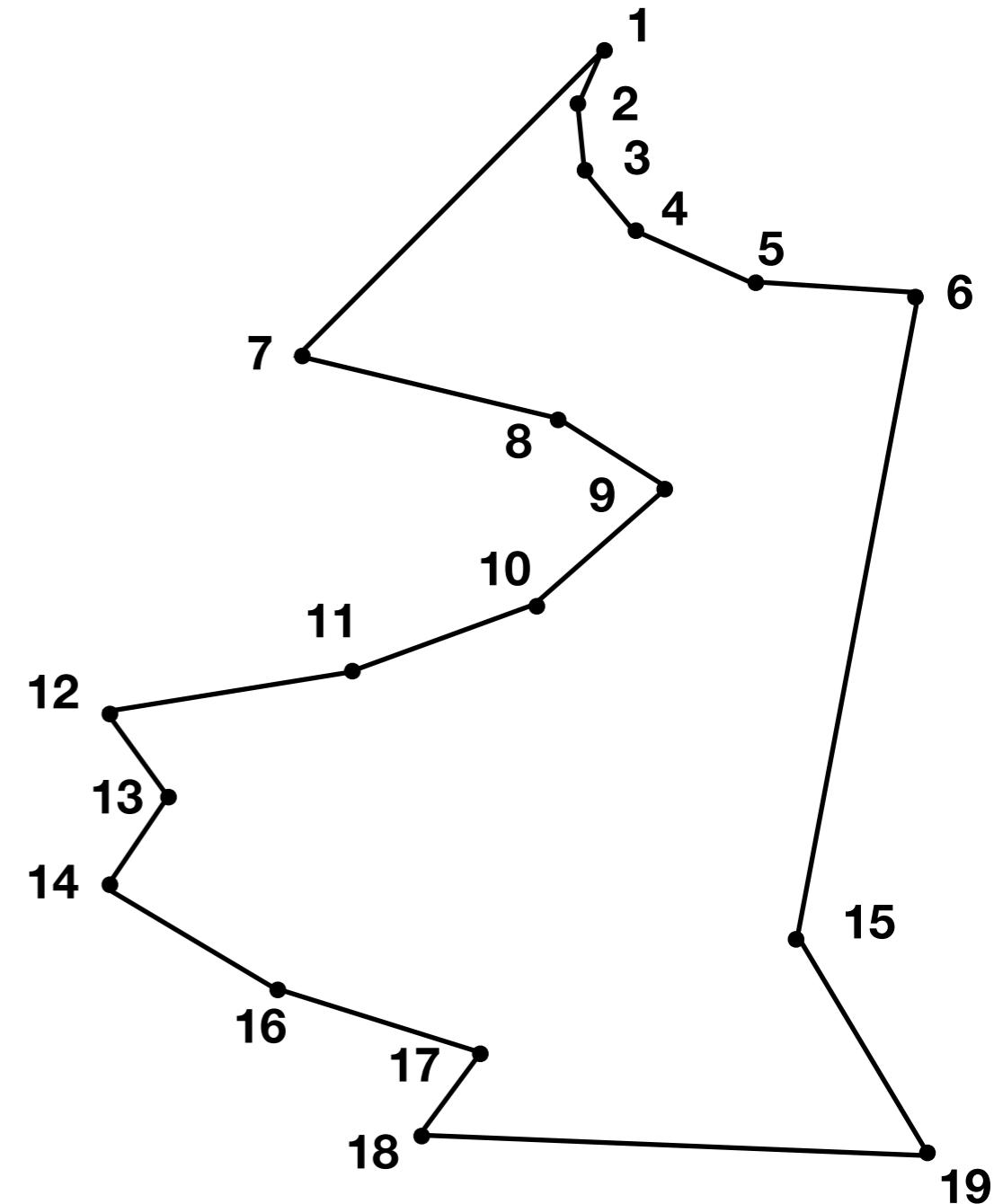


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**Input:** A y-monotone polygon  $P$

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1. Sort vertices by y-coordinate
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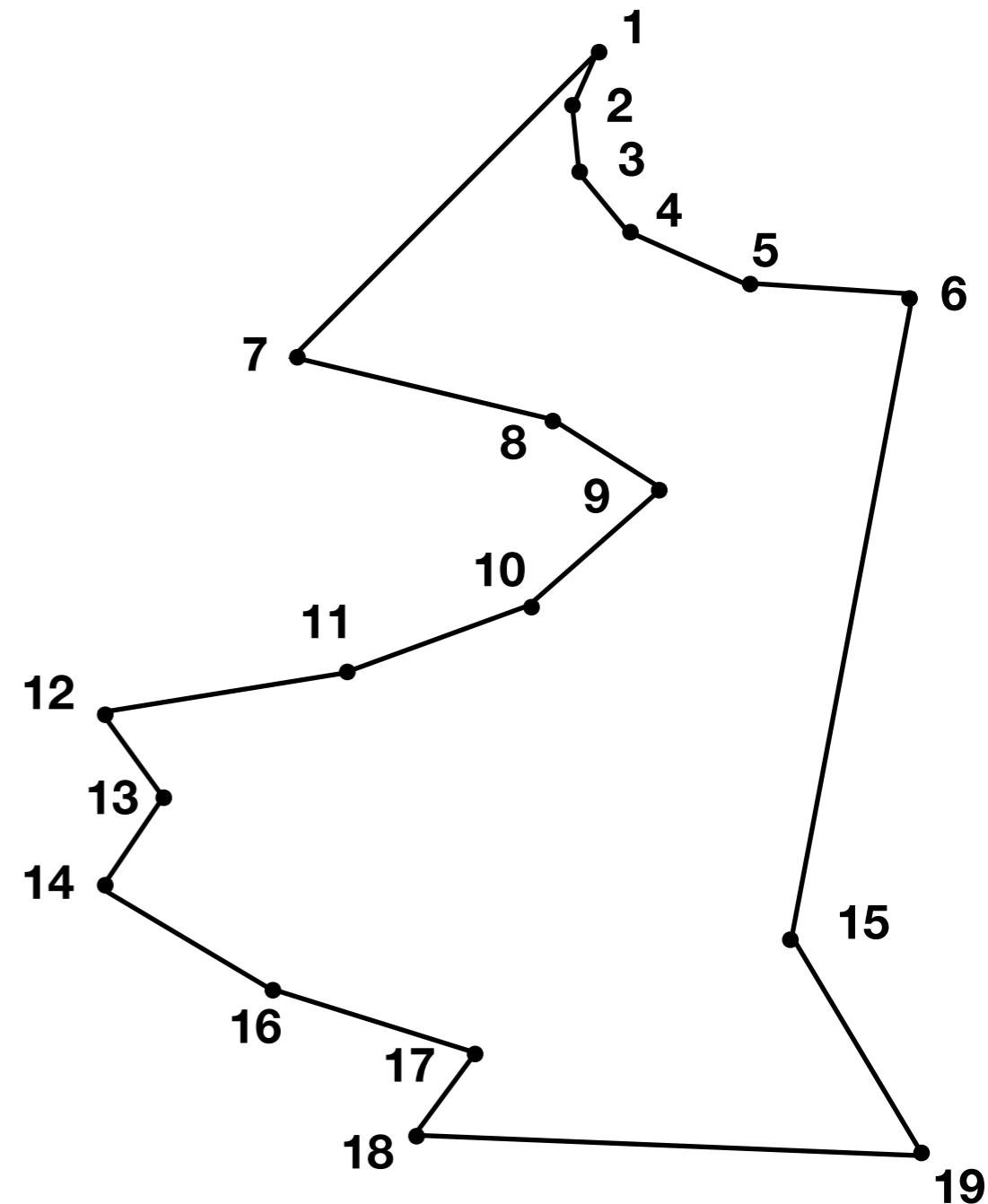
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## Queue:



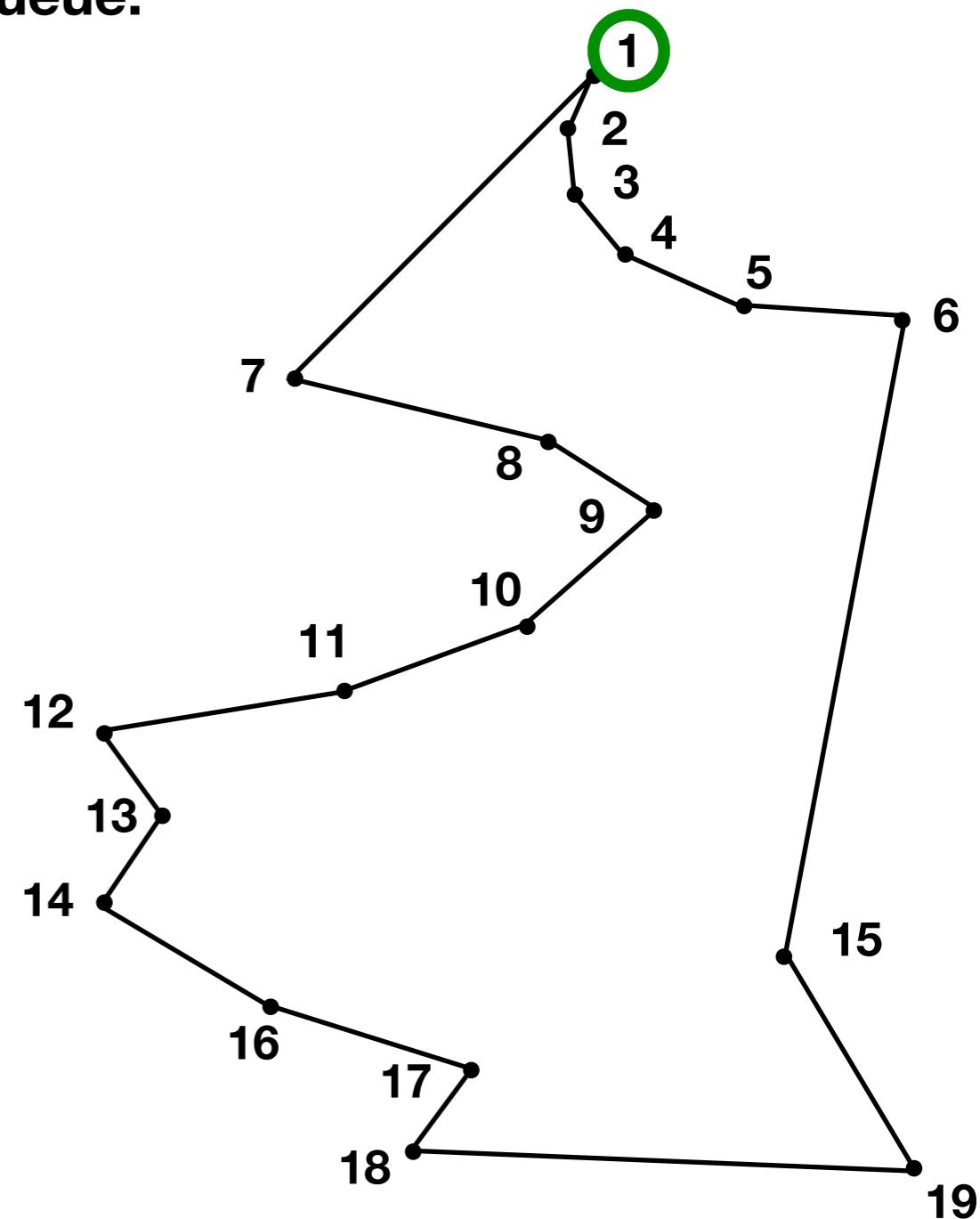
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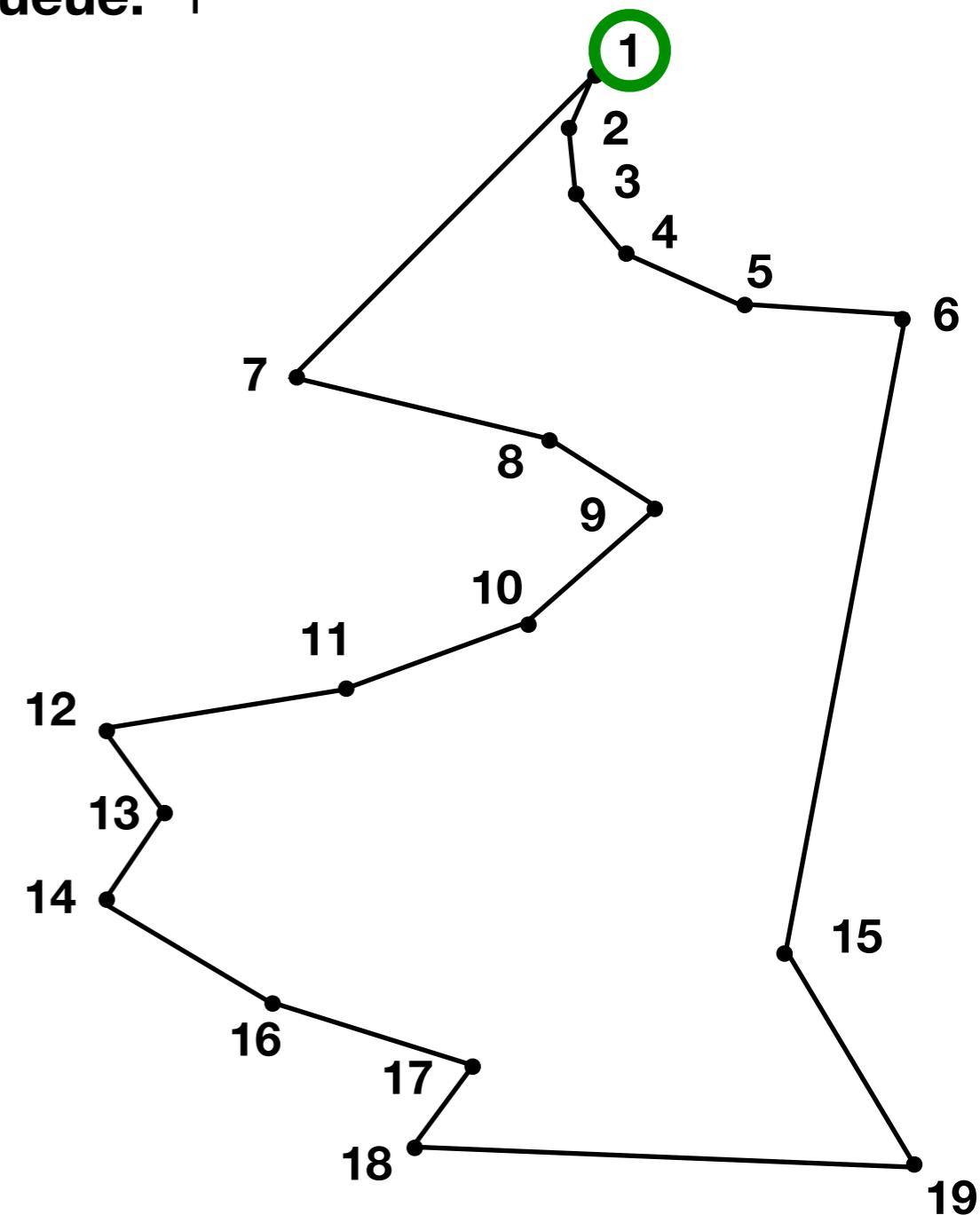
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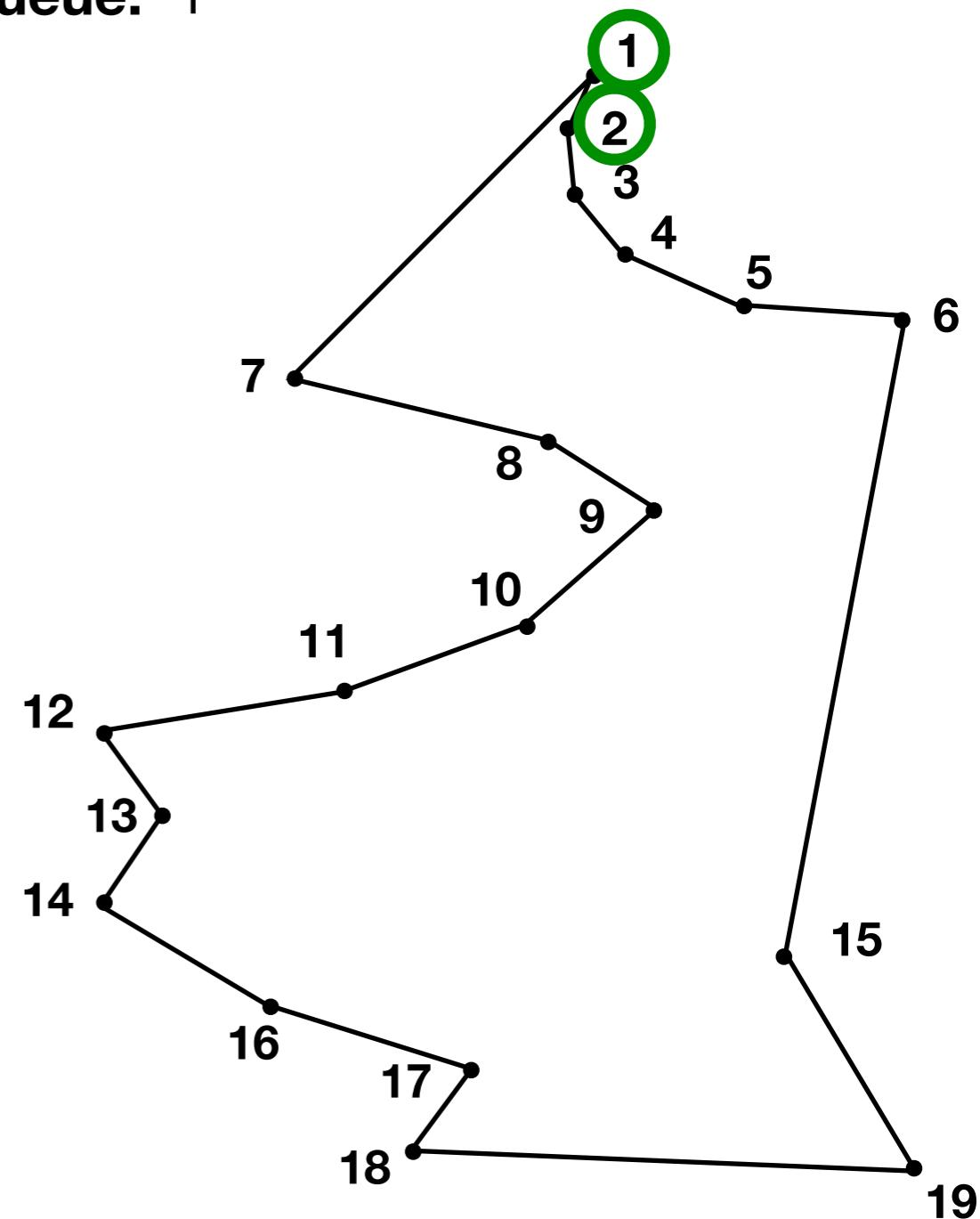
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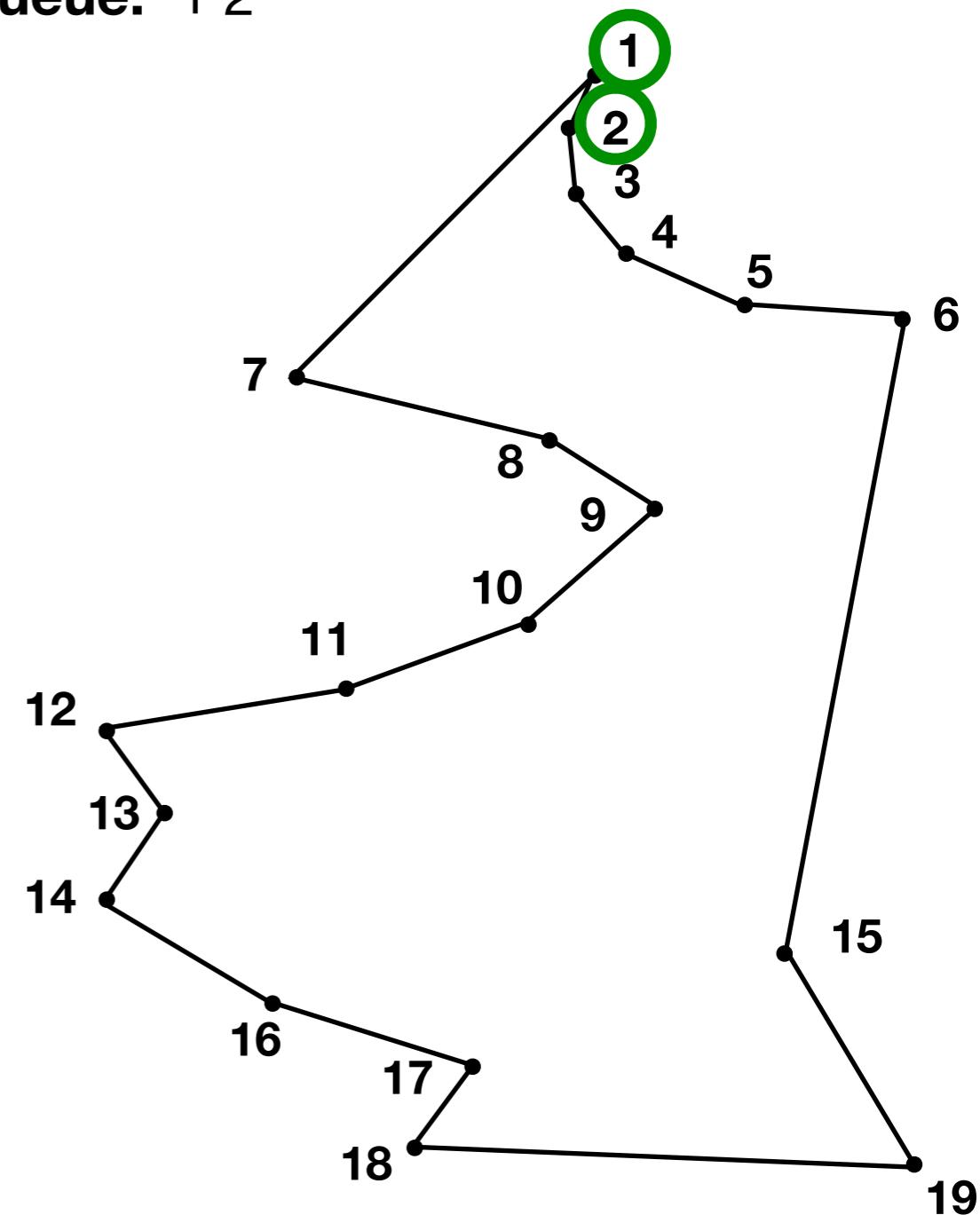
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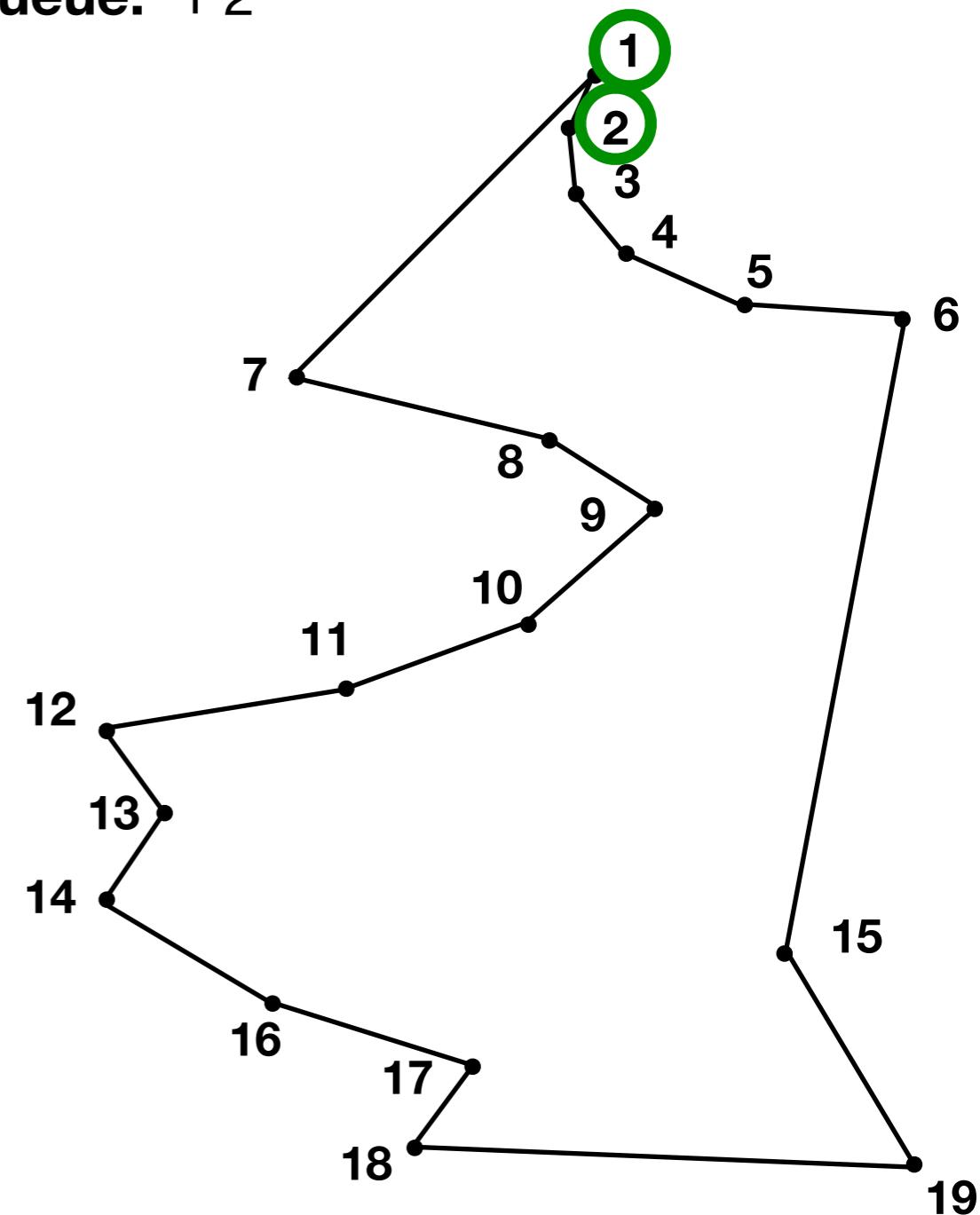
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**Queue:** 1 2



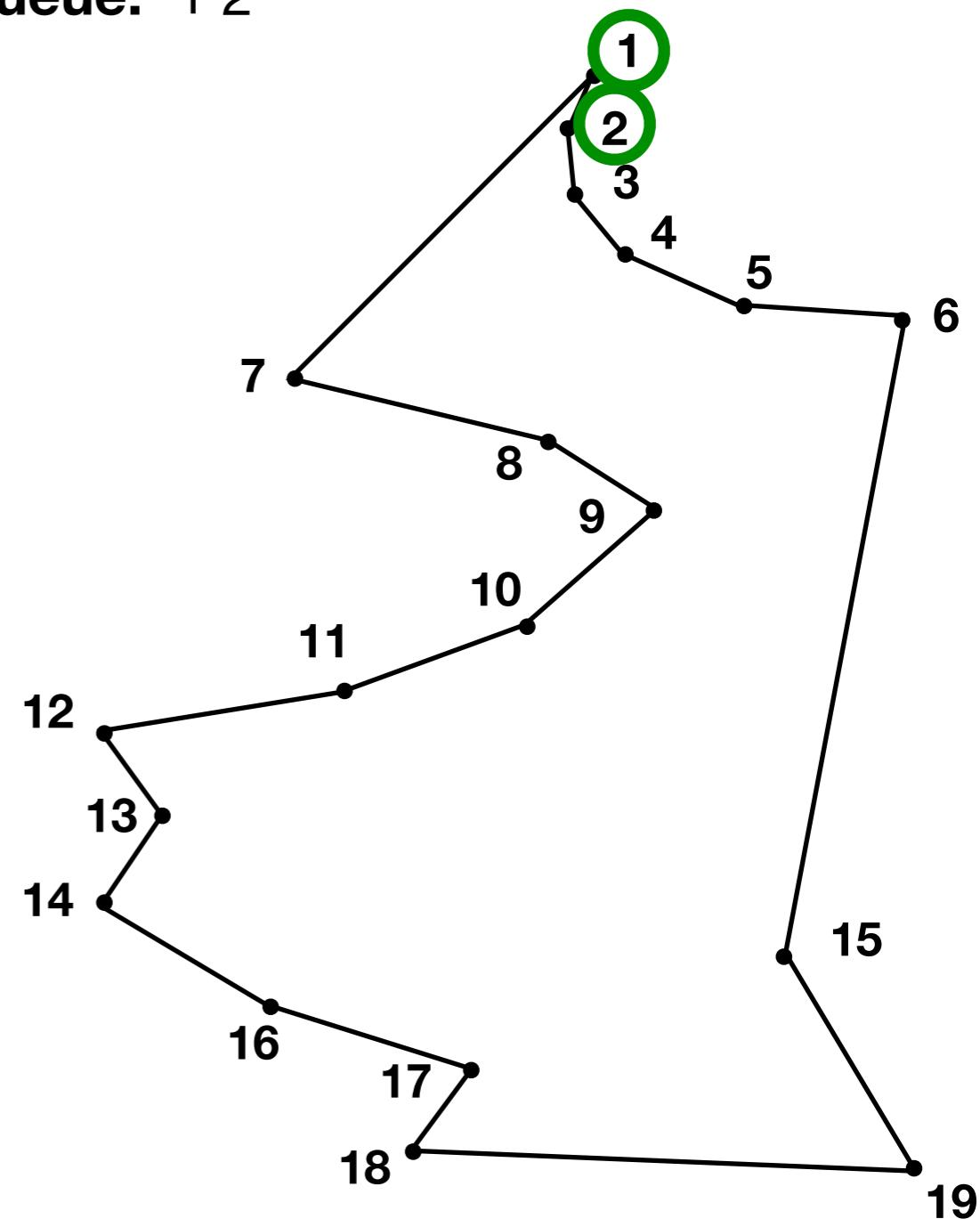
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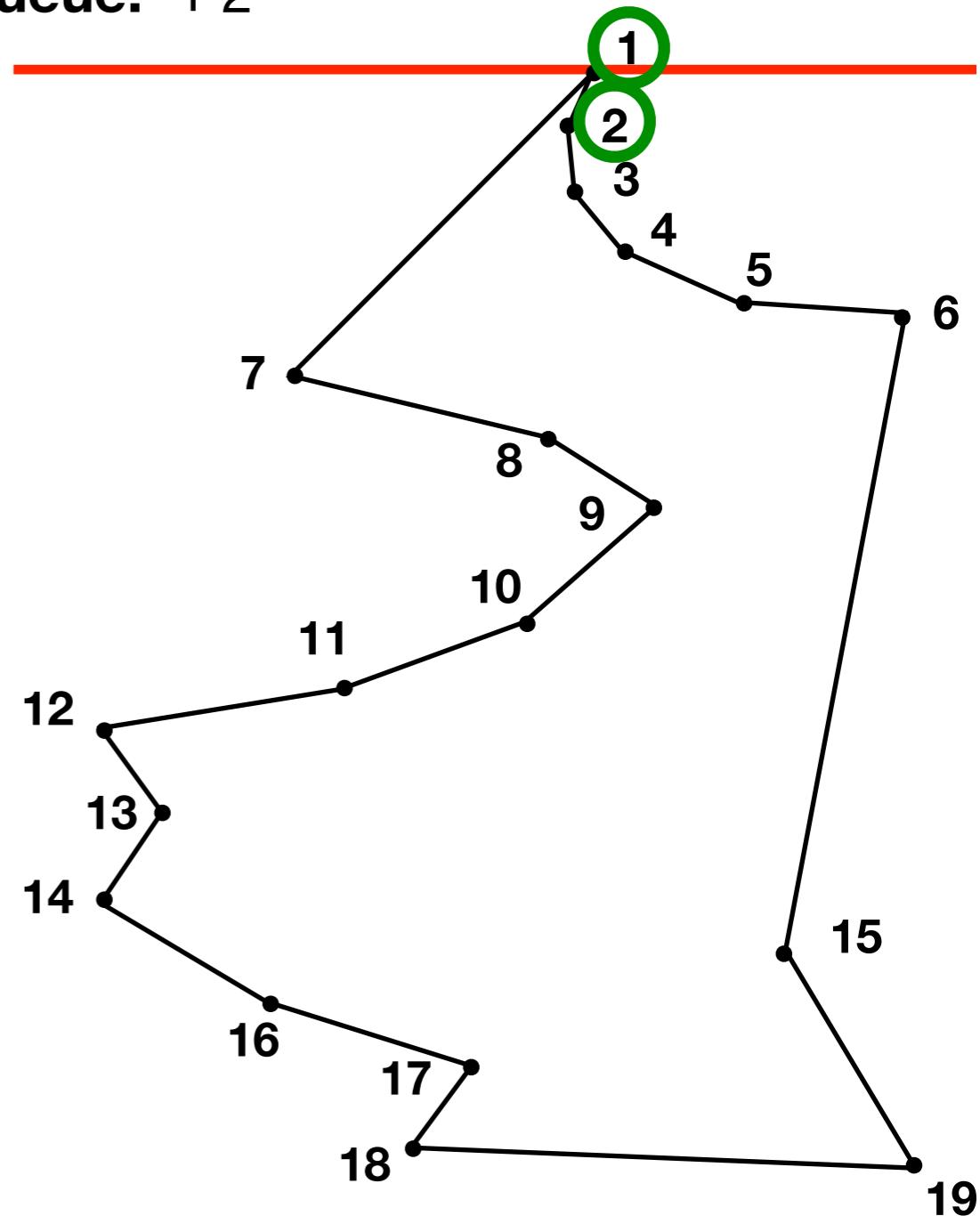
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

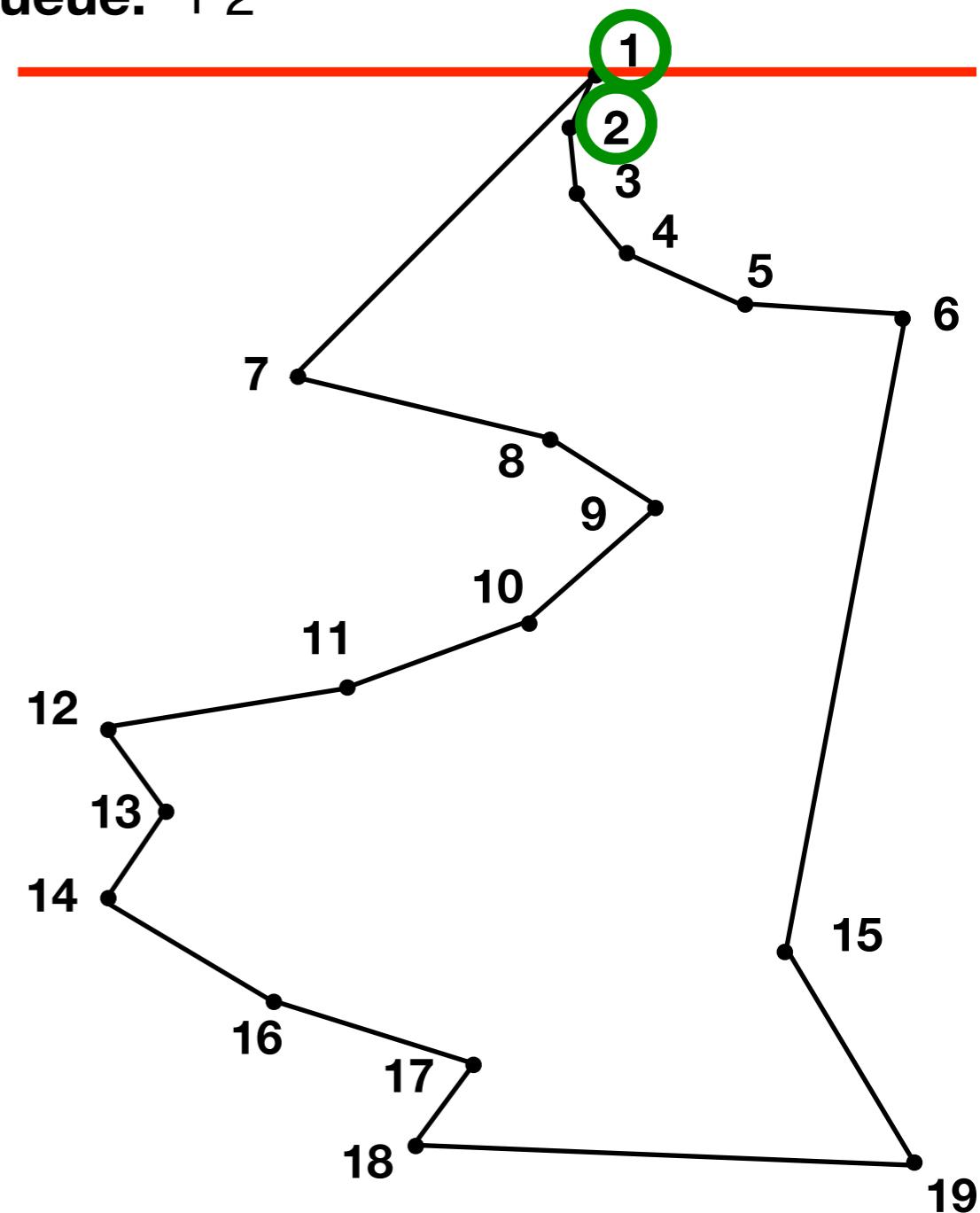
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**Queue:** 1 2



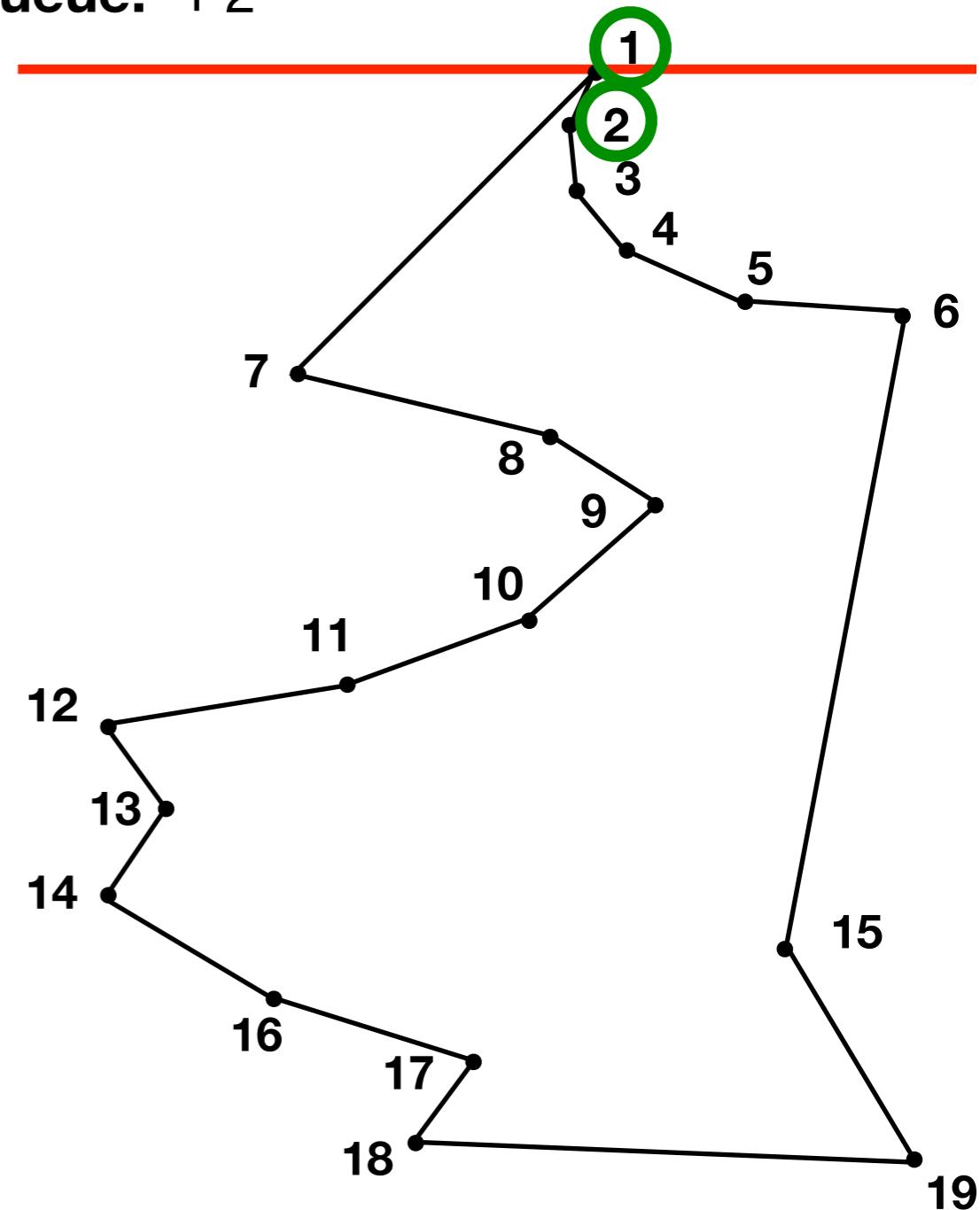
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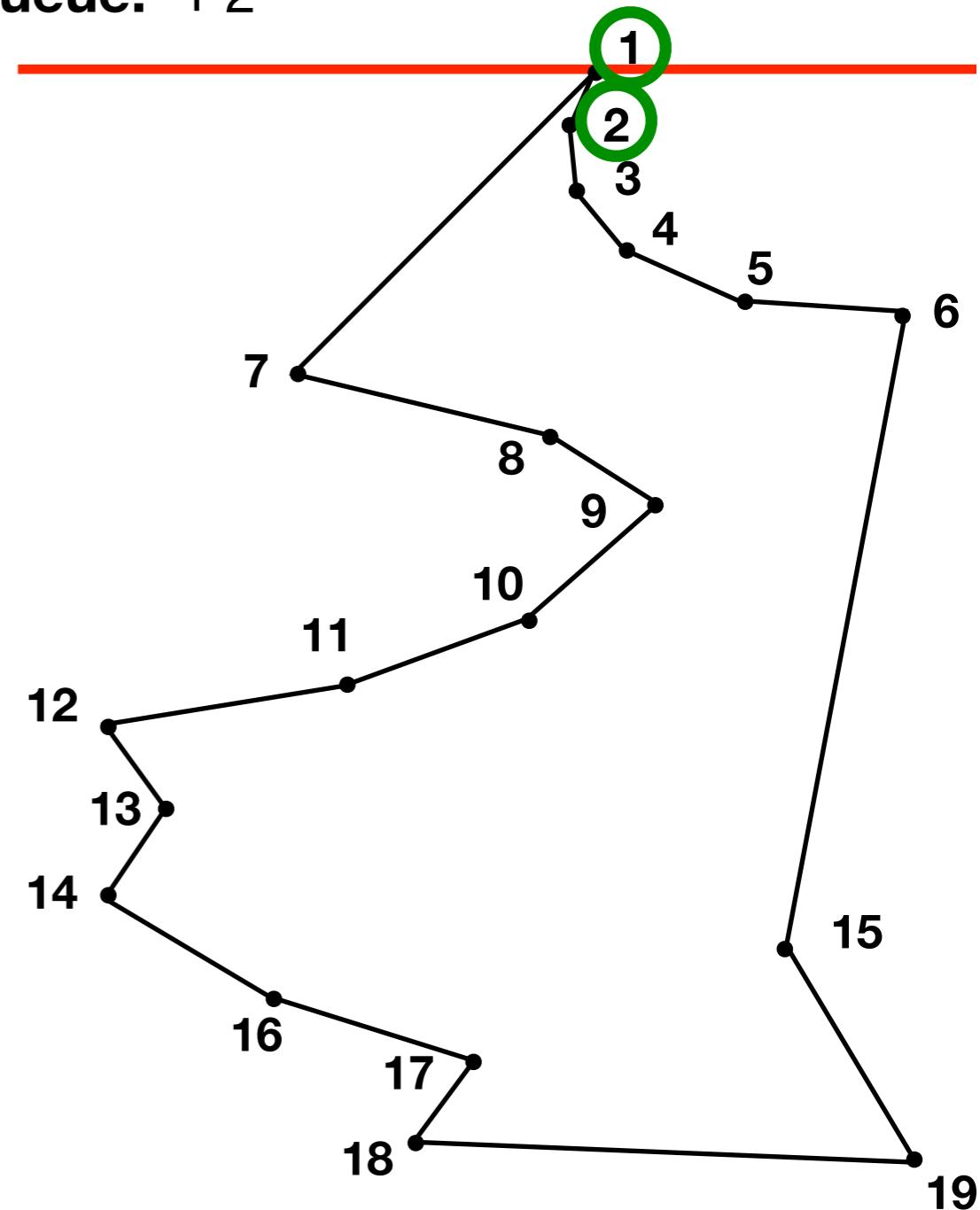
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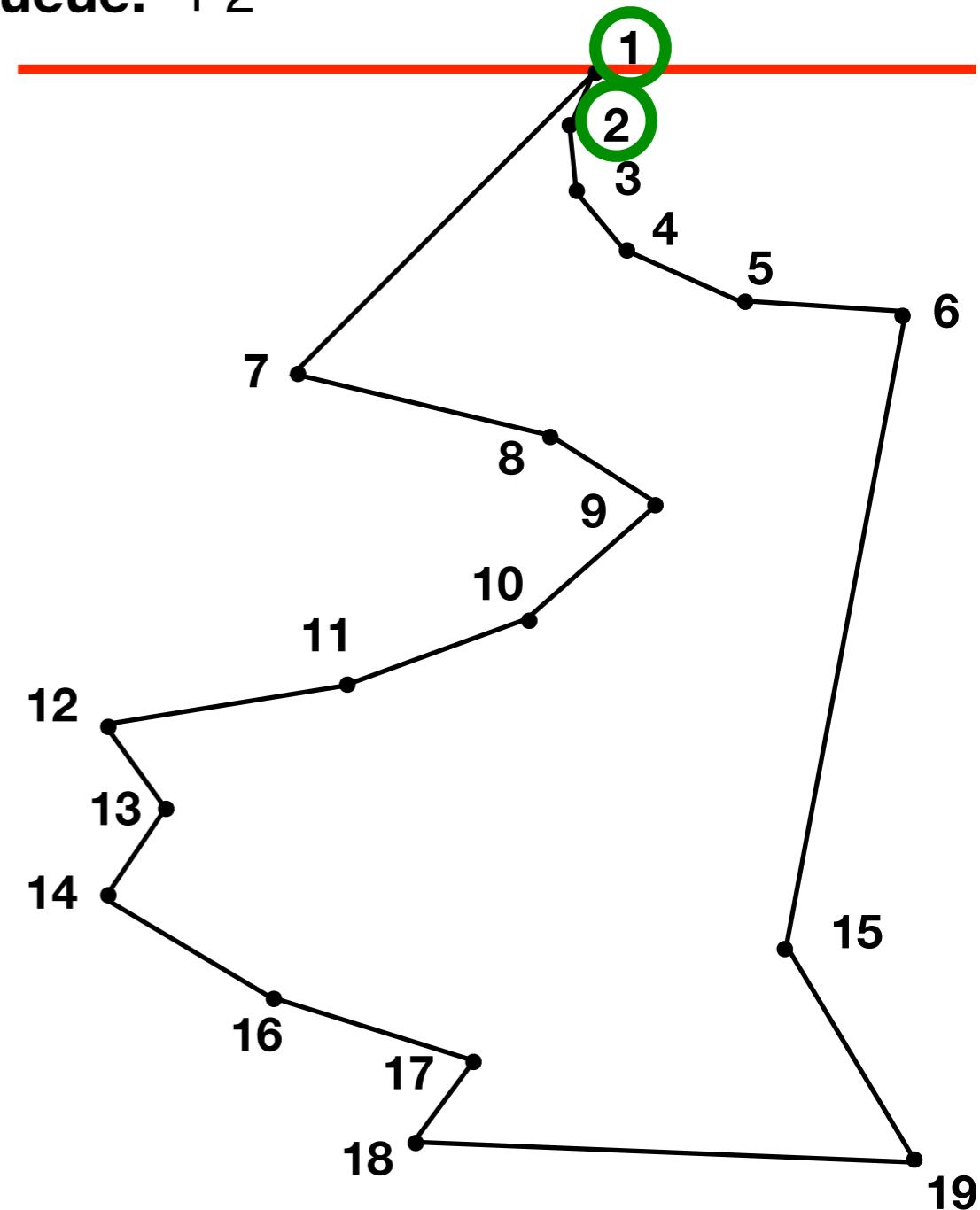
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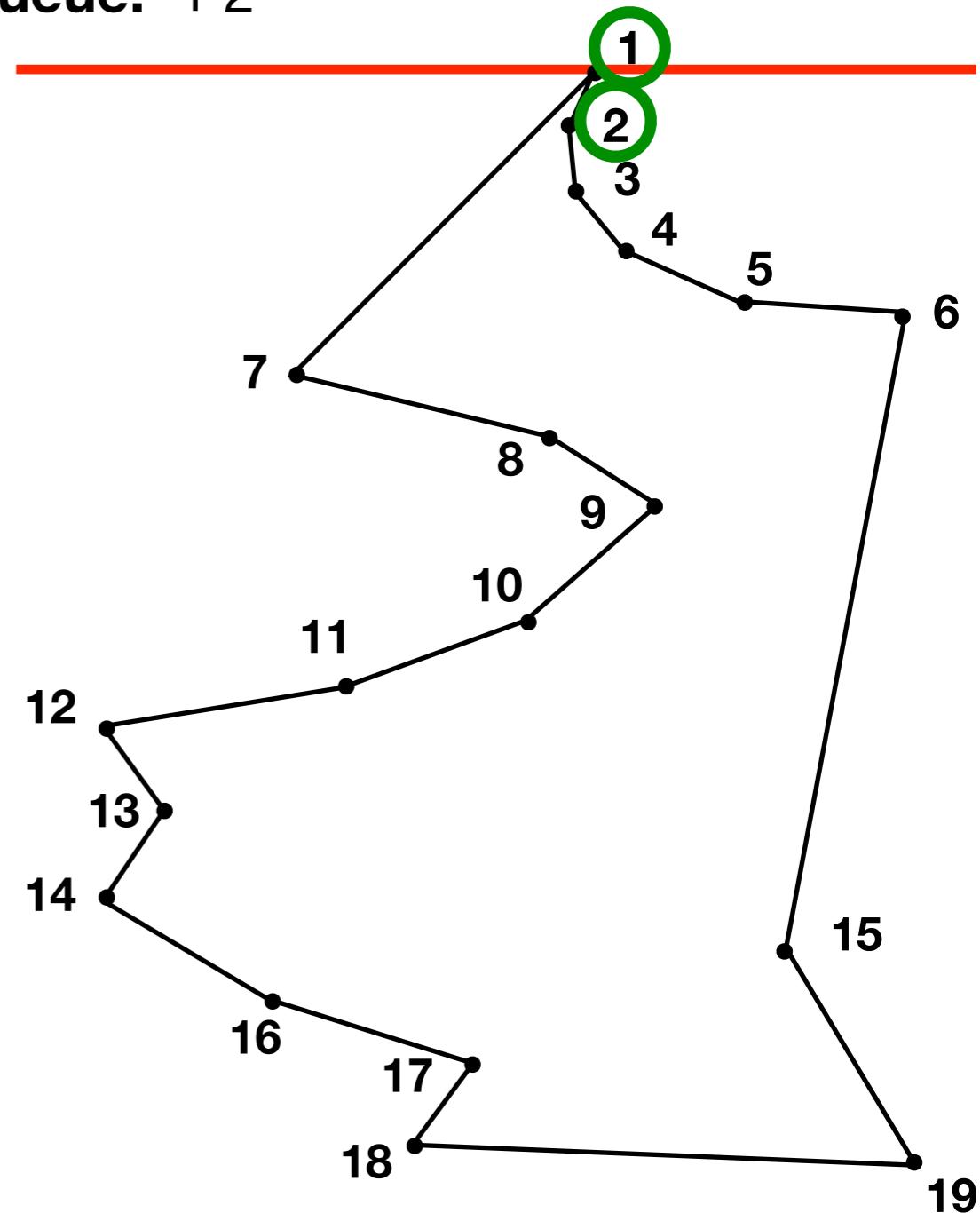
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**Queue:** 1 2



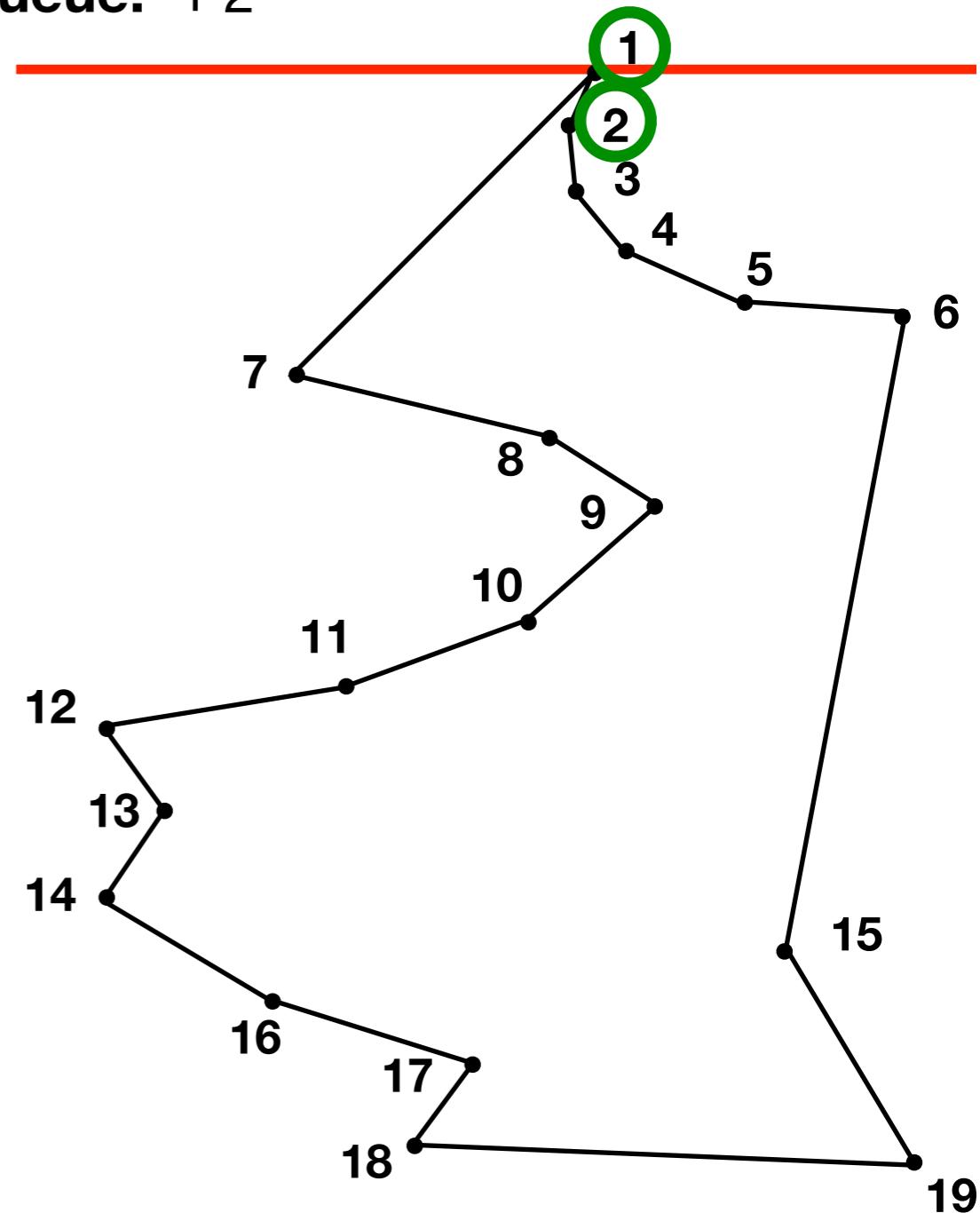
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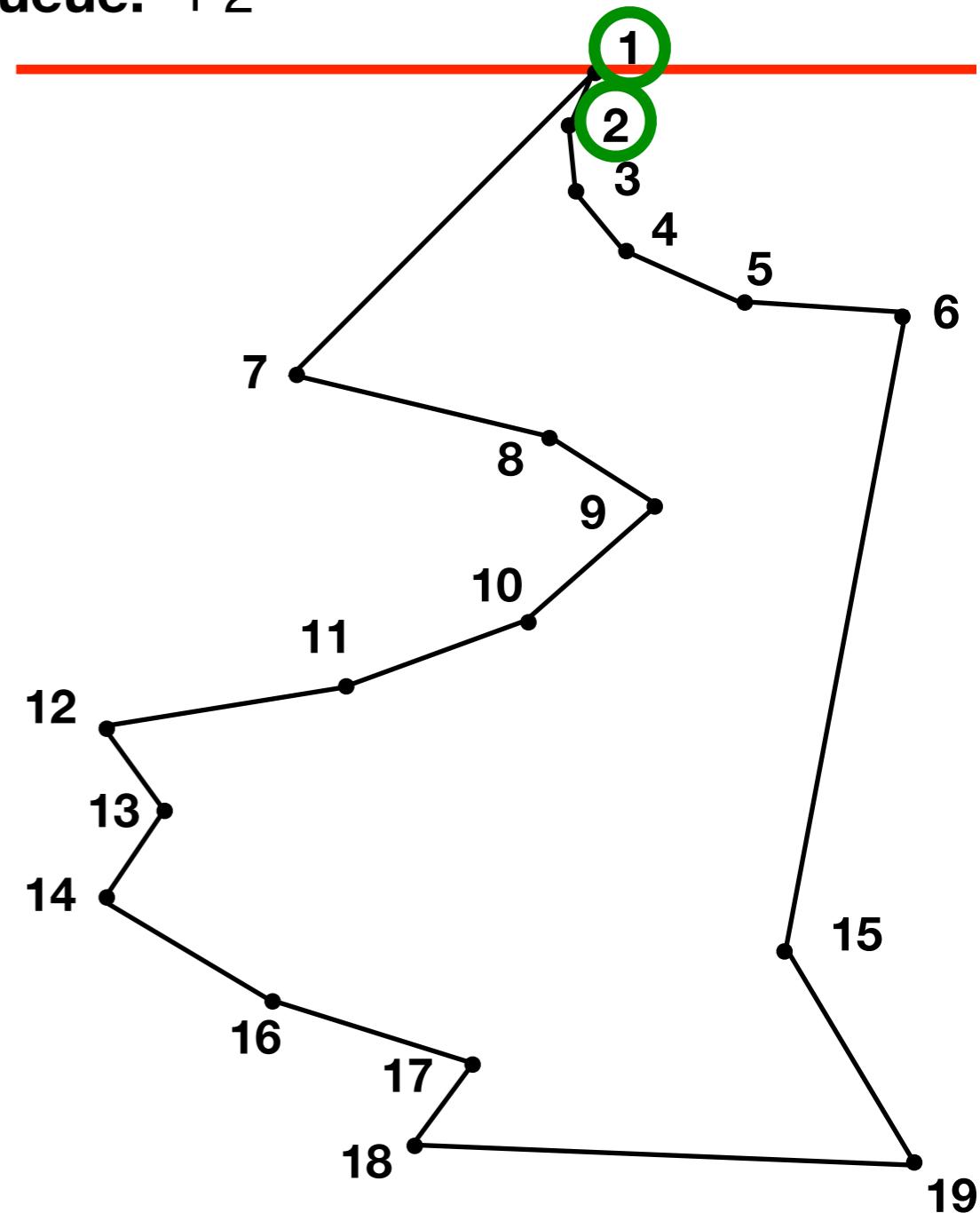
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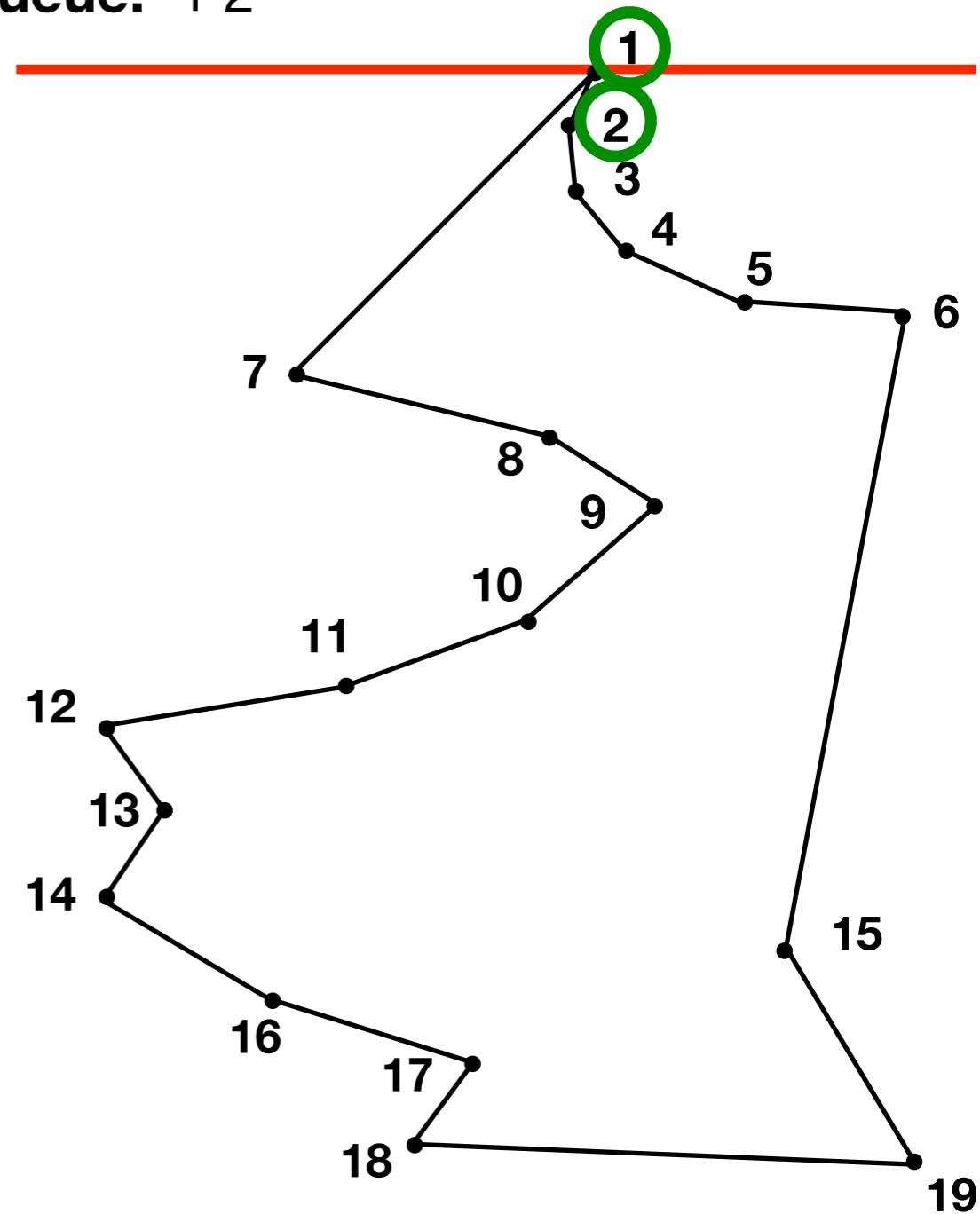
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**Queue:** 1 2



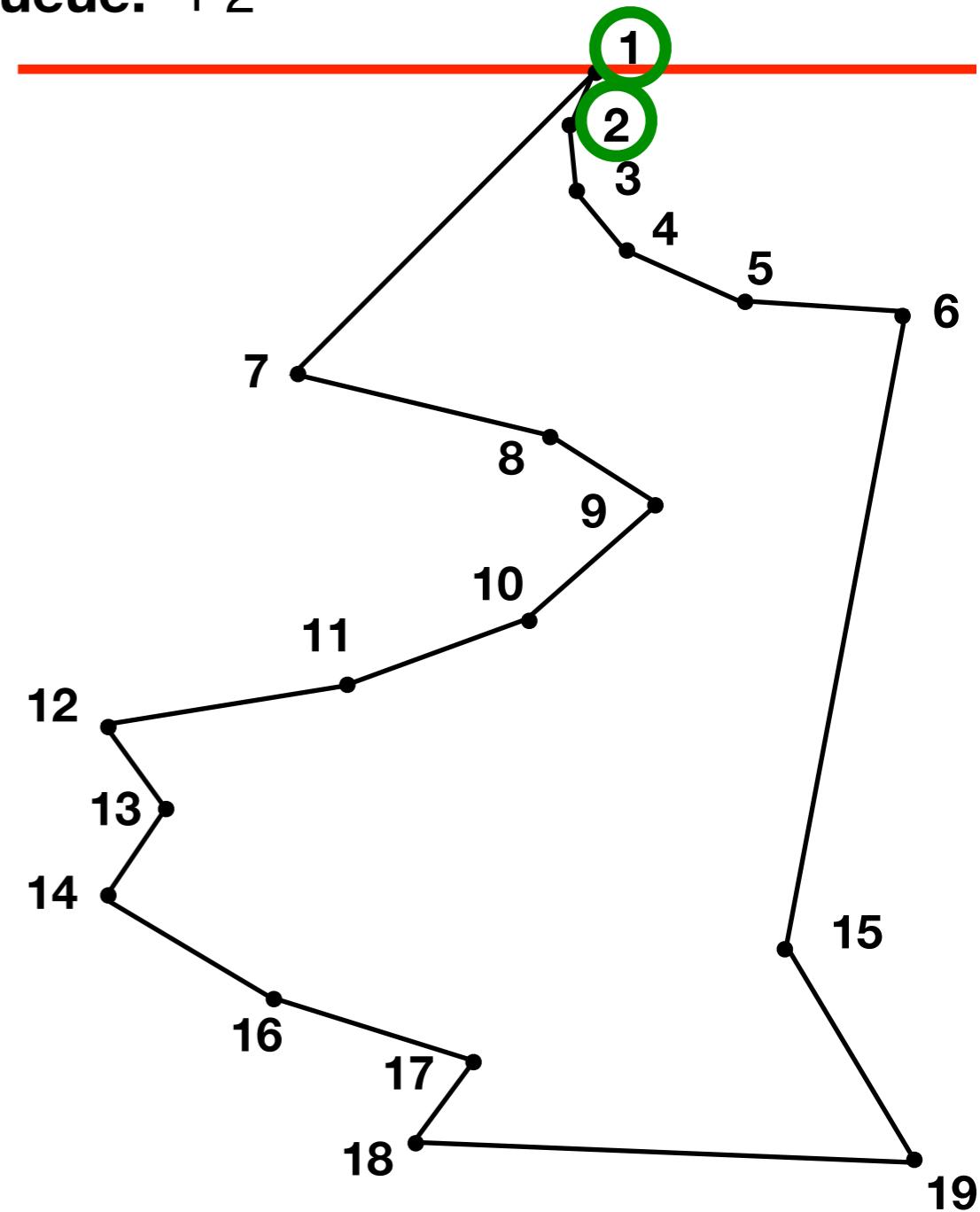
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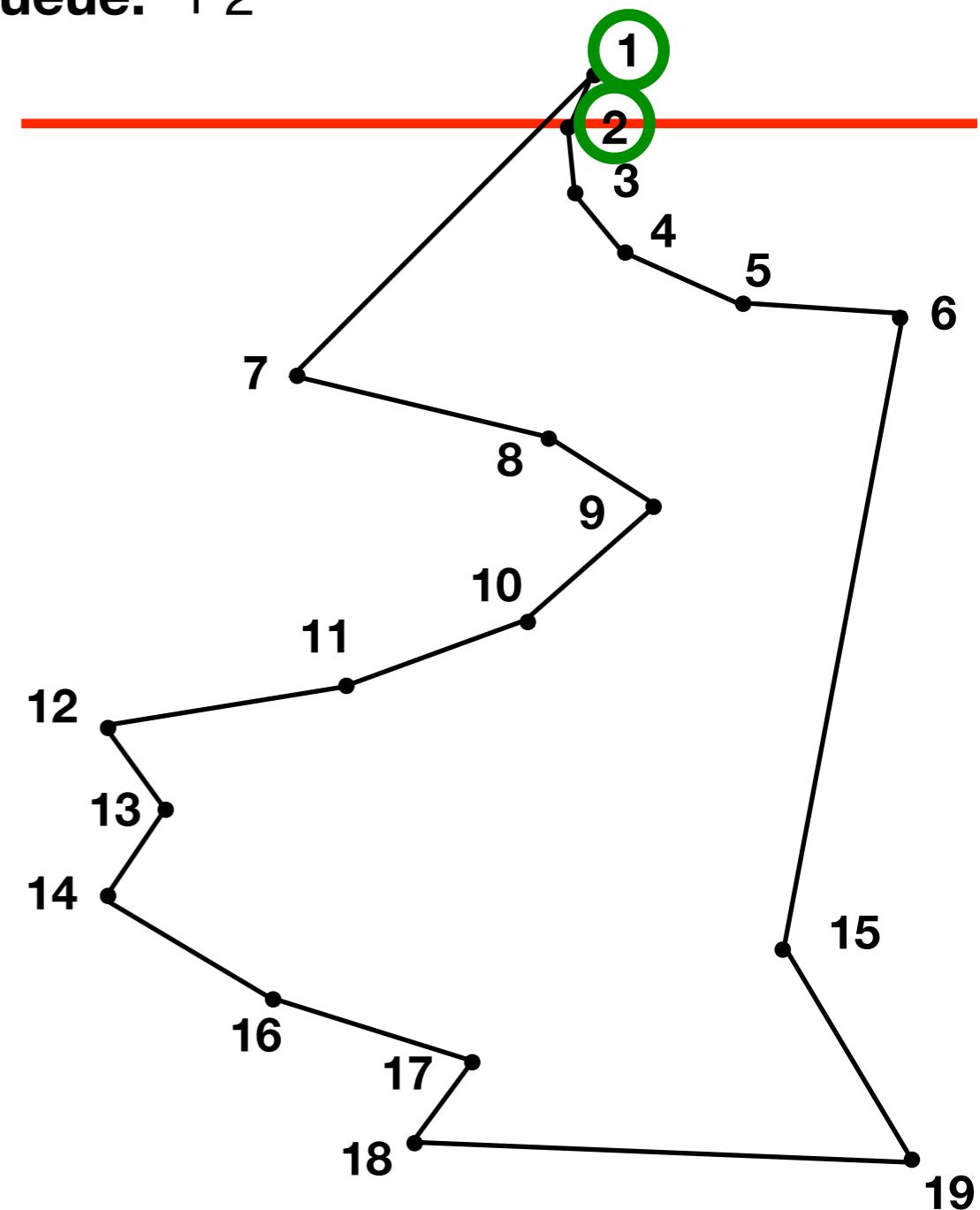
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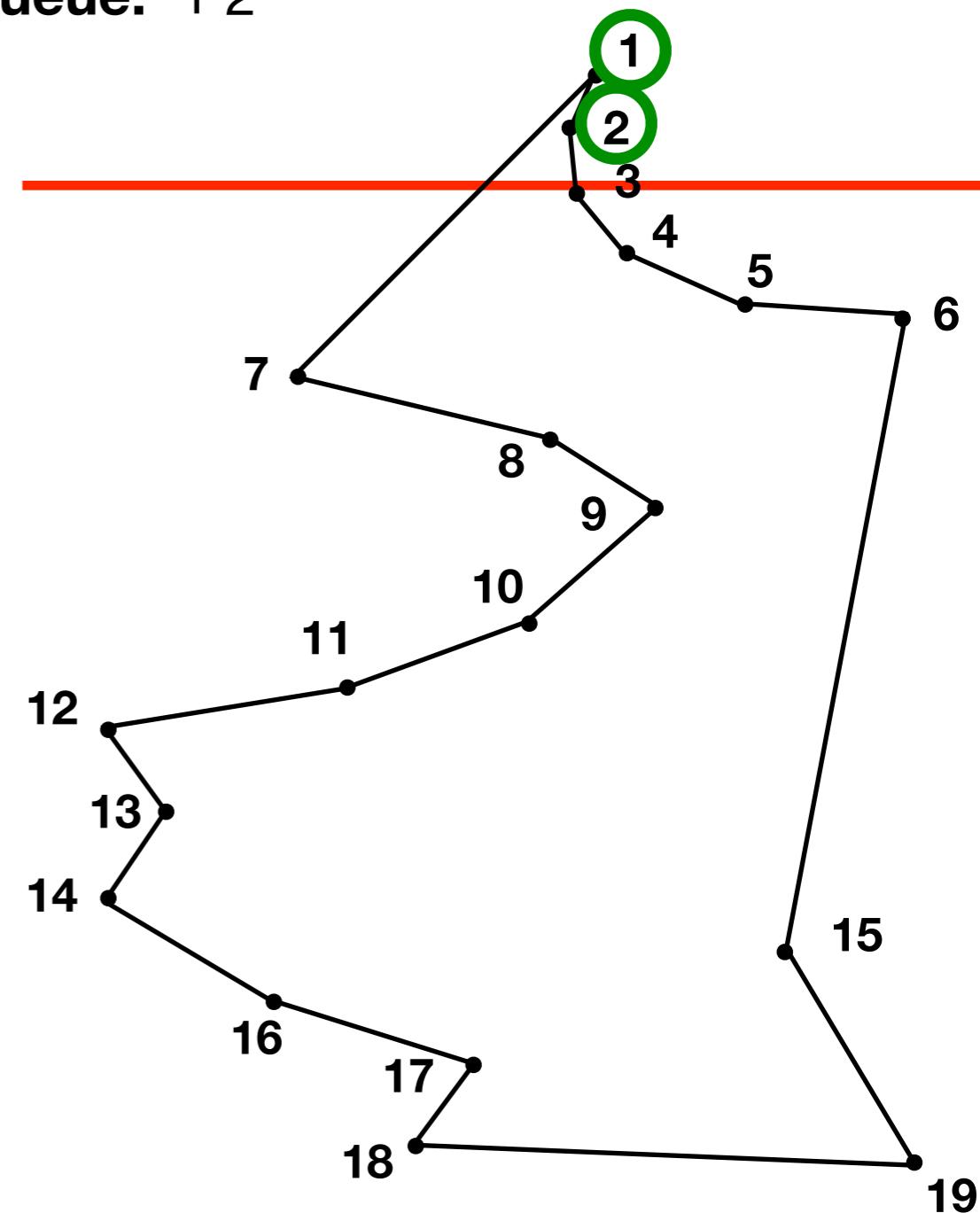
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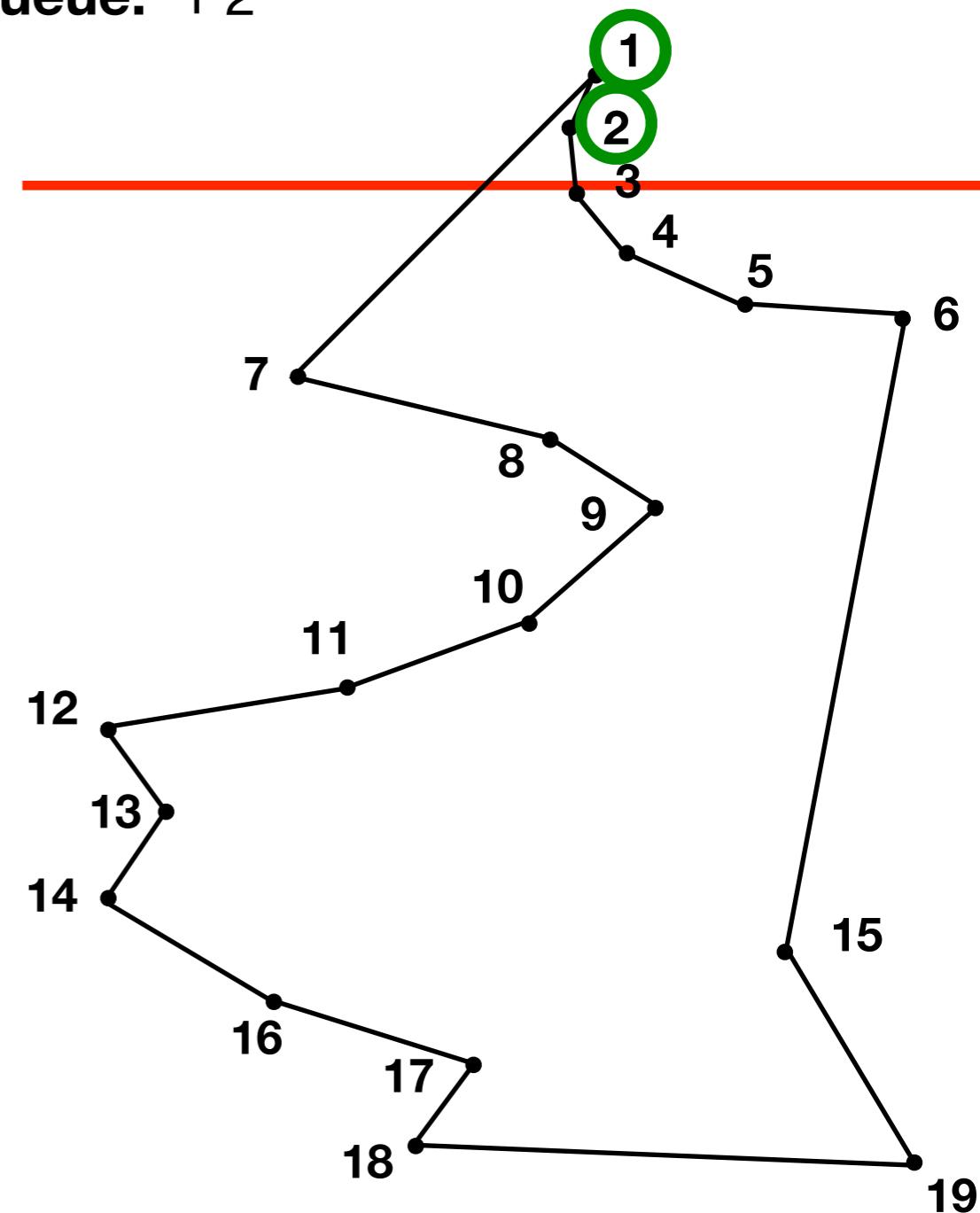
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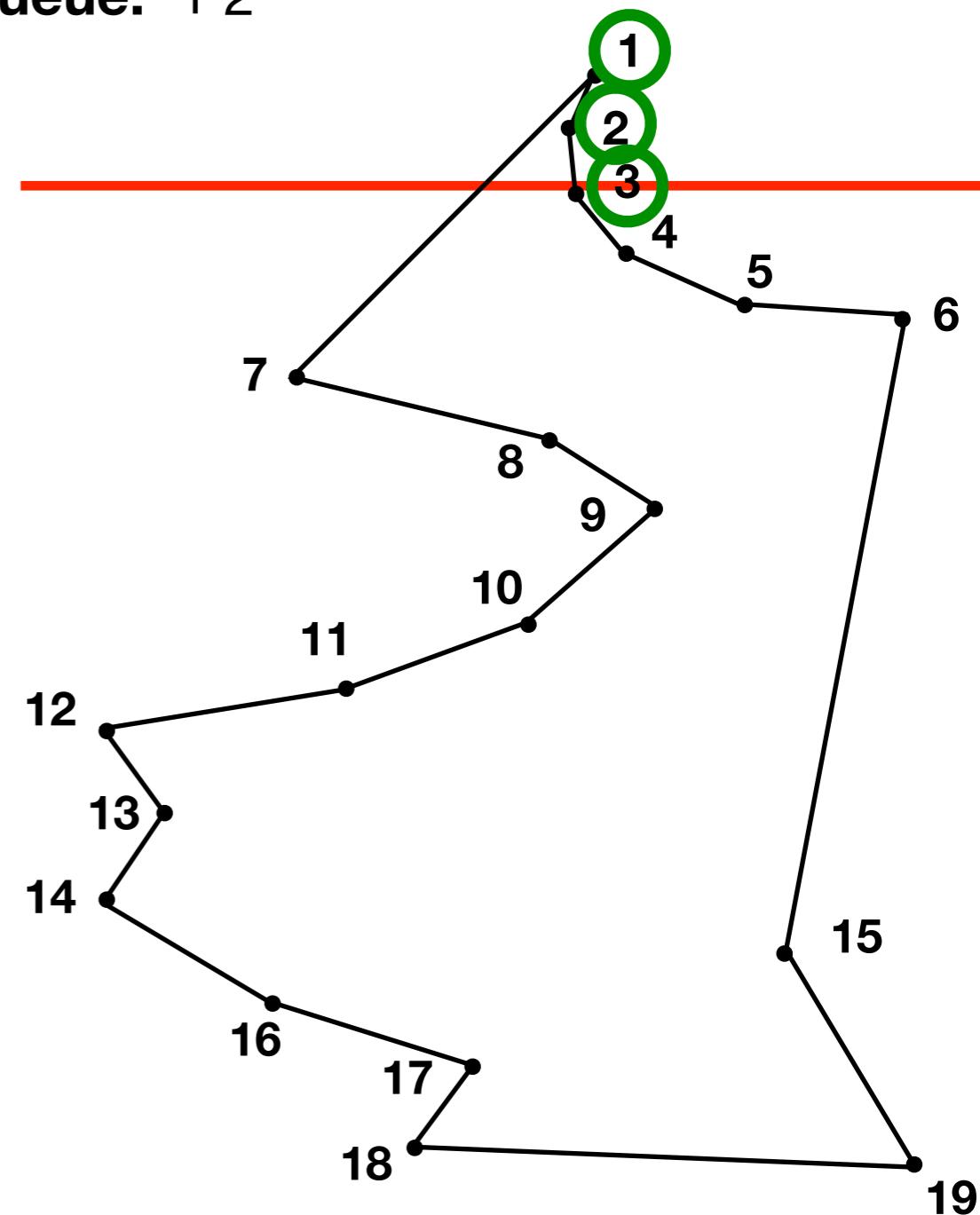
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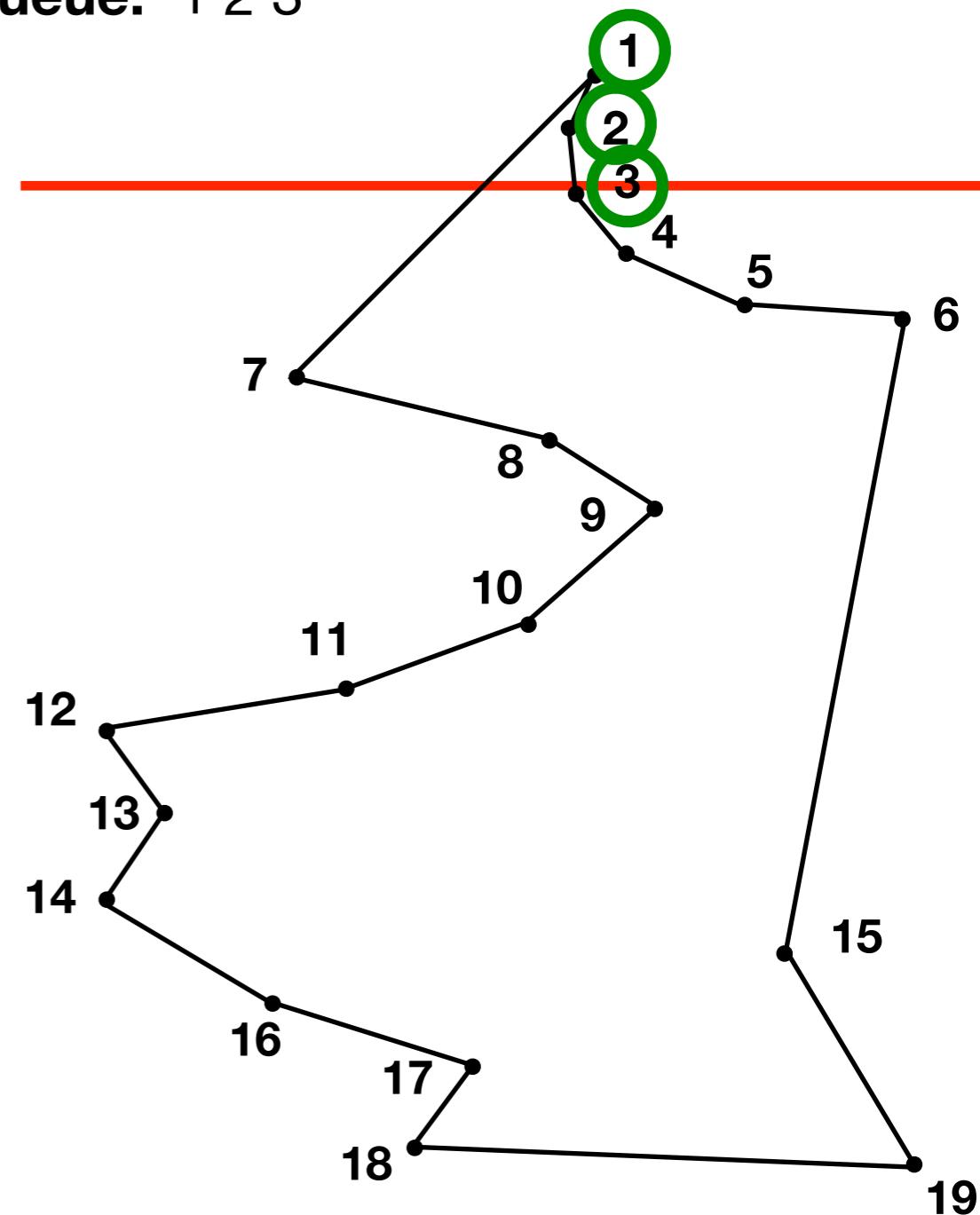
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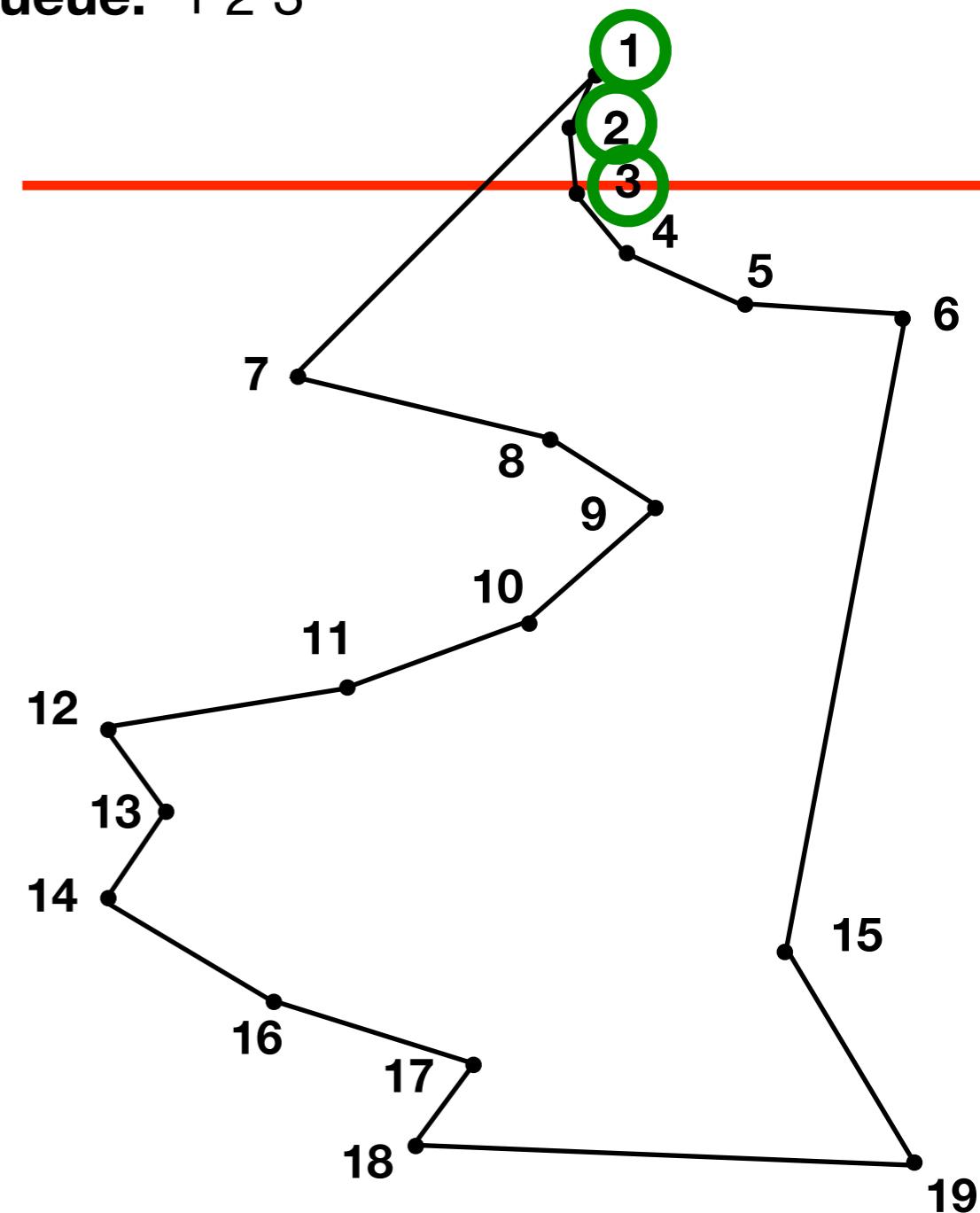
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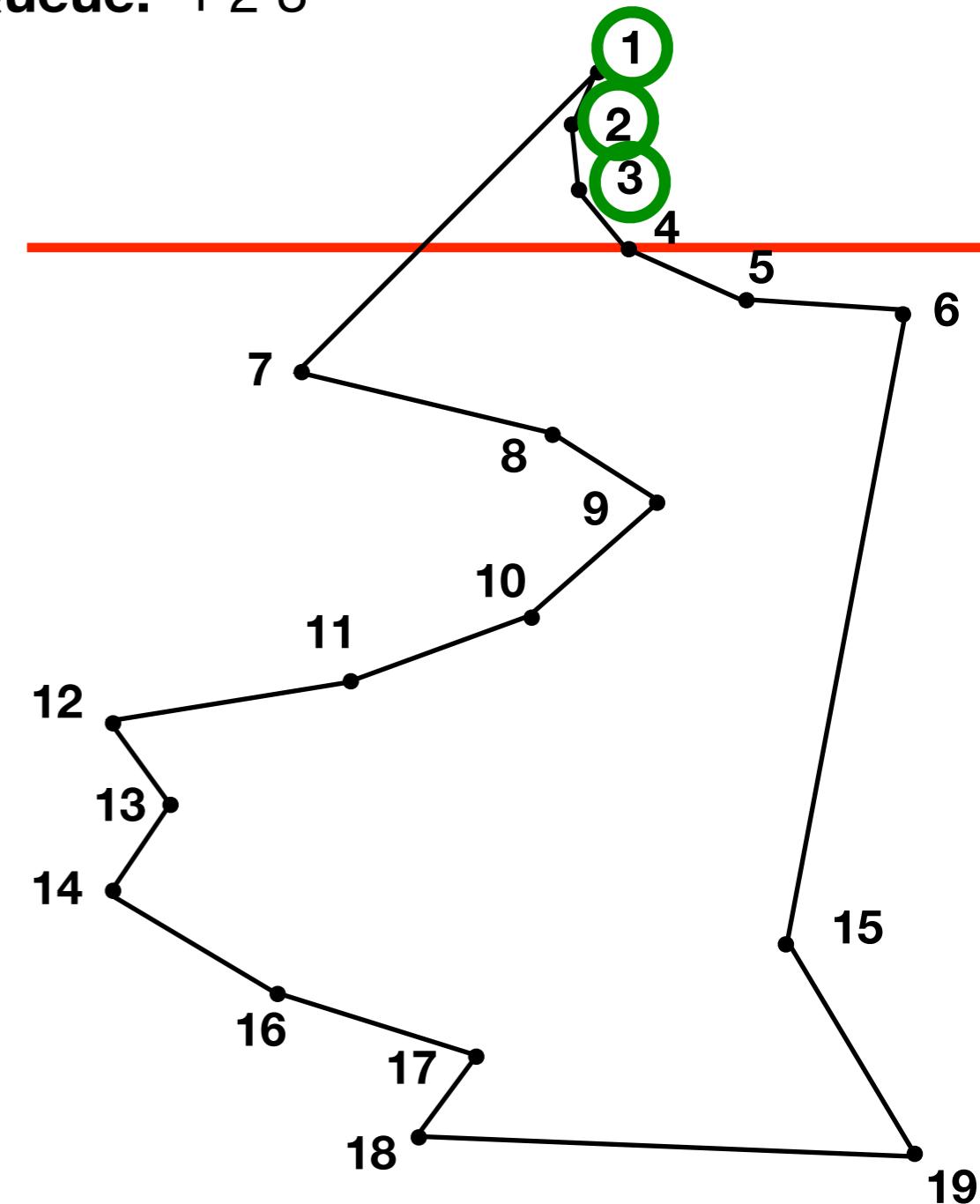
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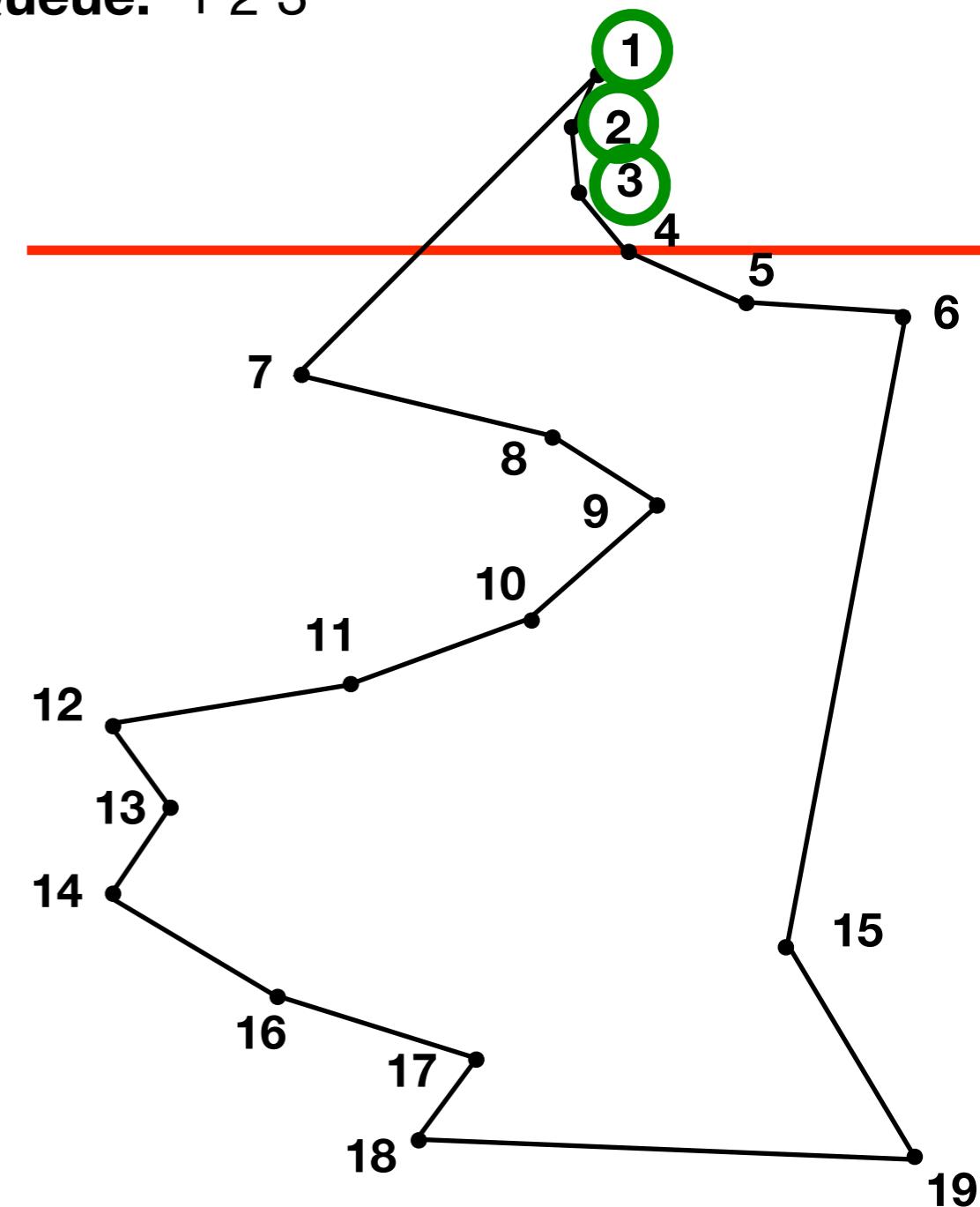
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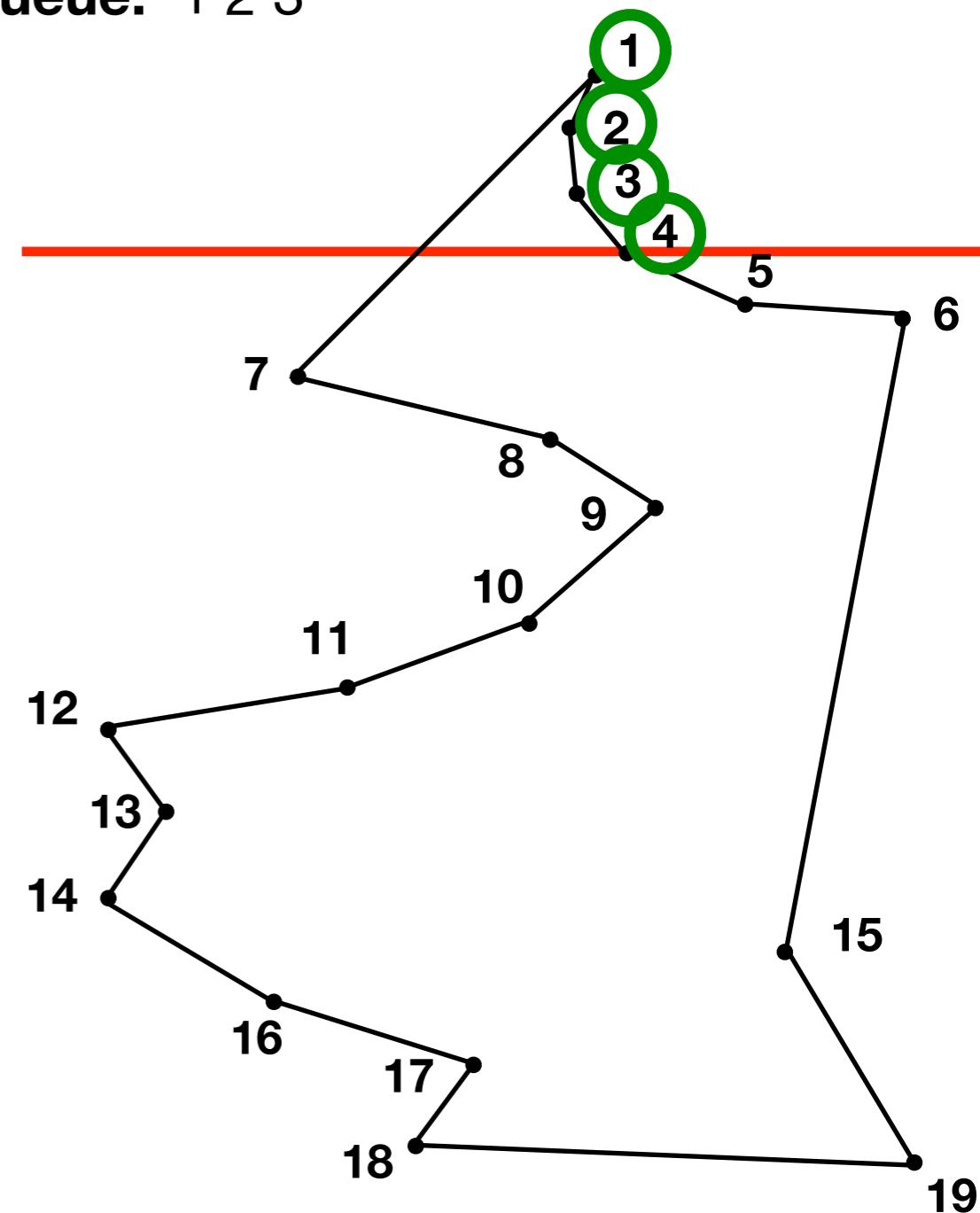
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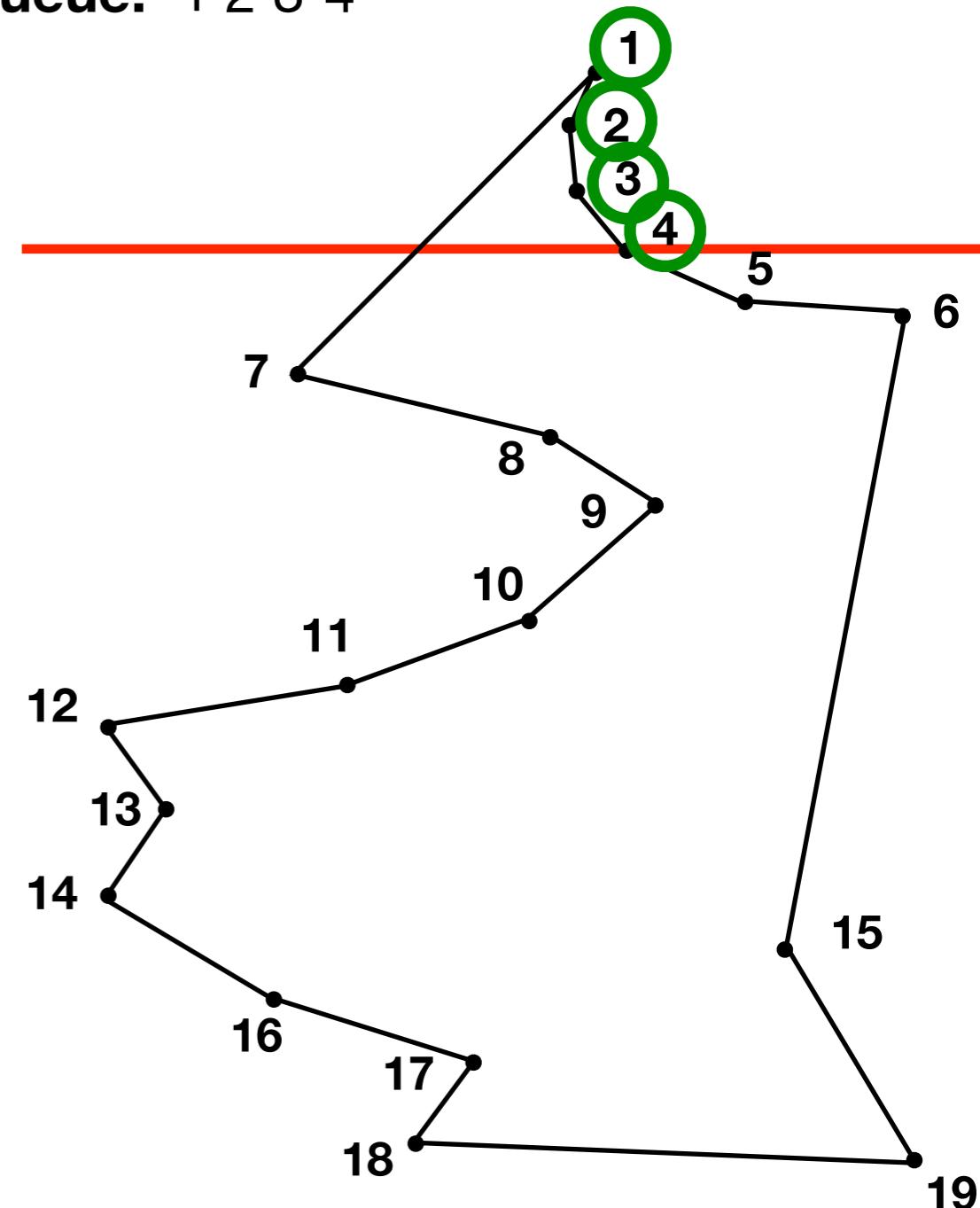
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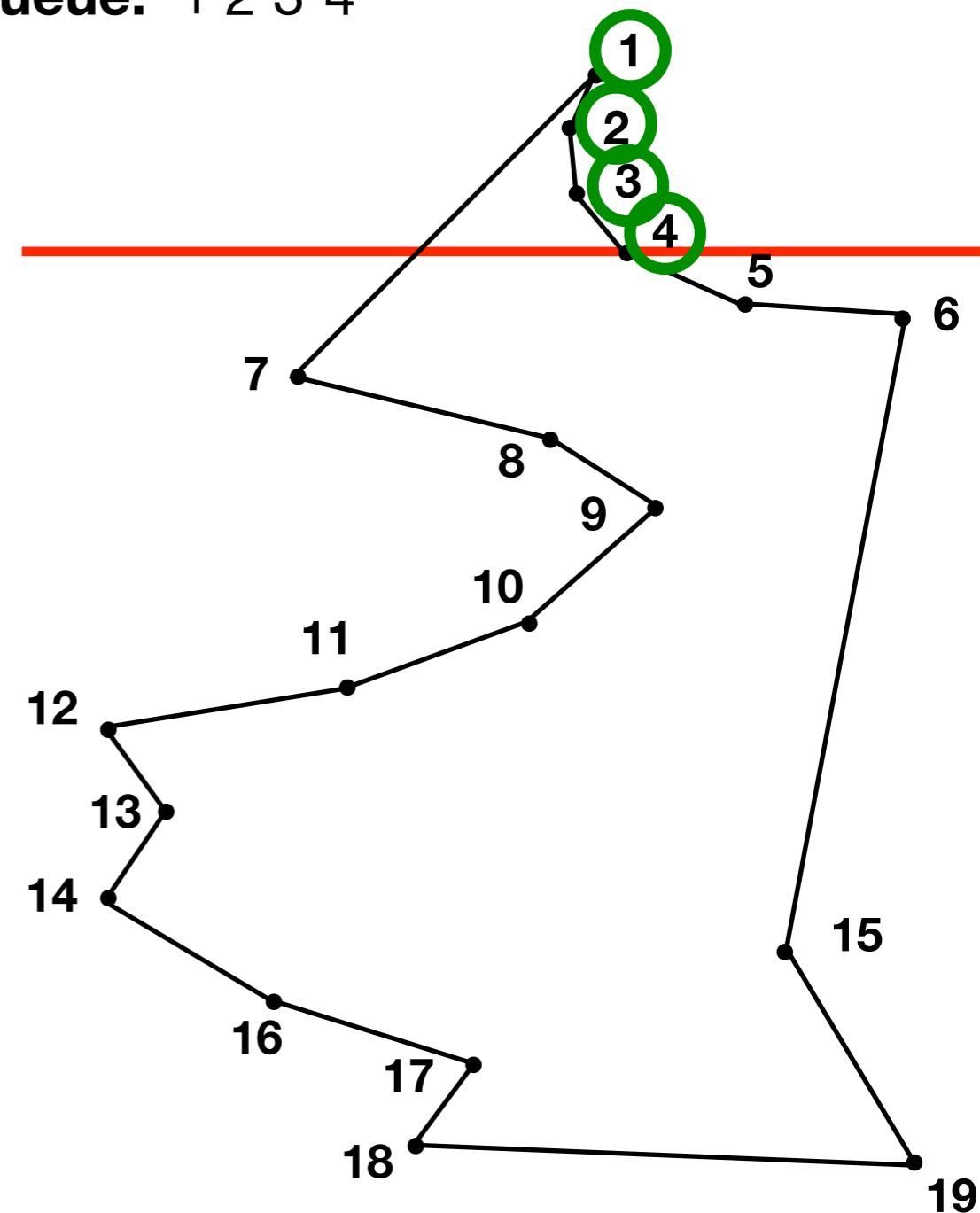
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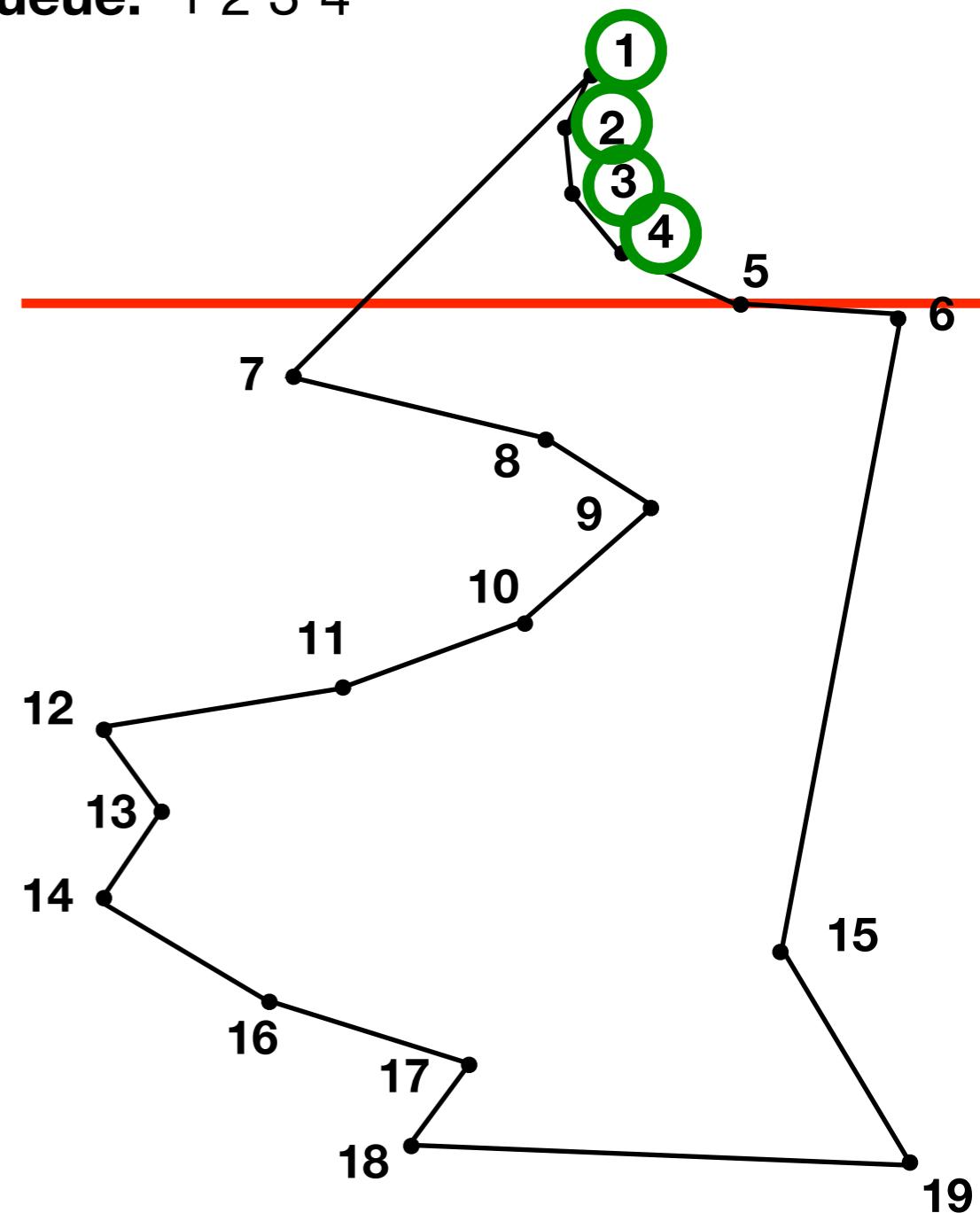
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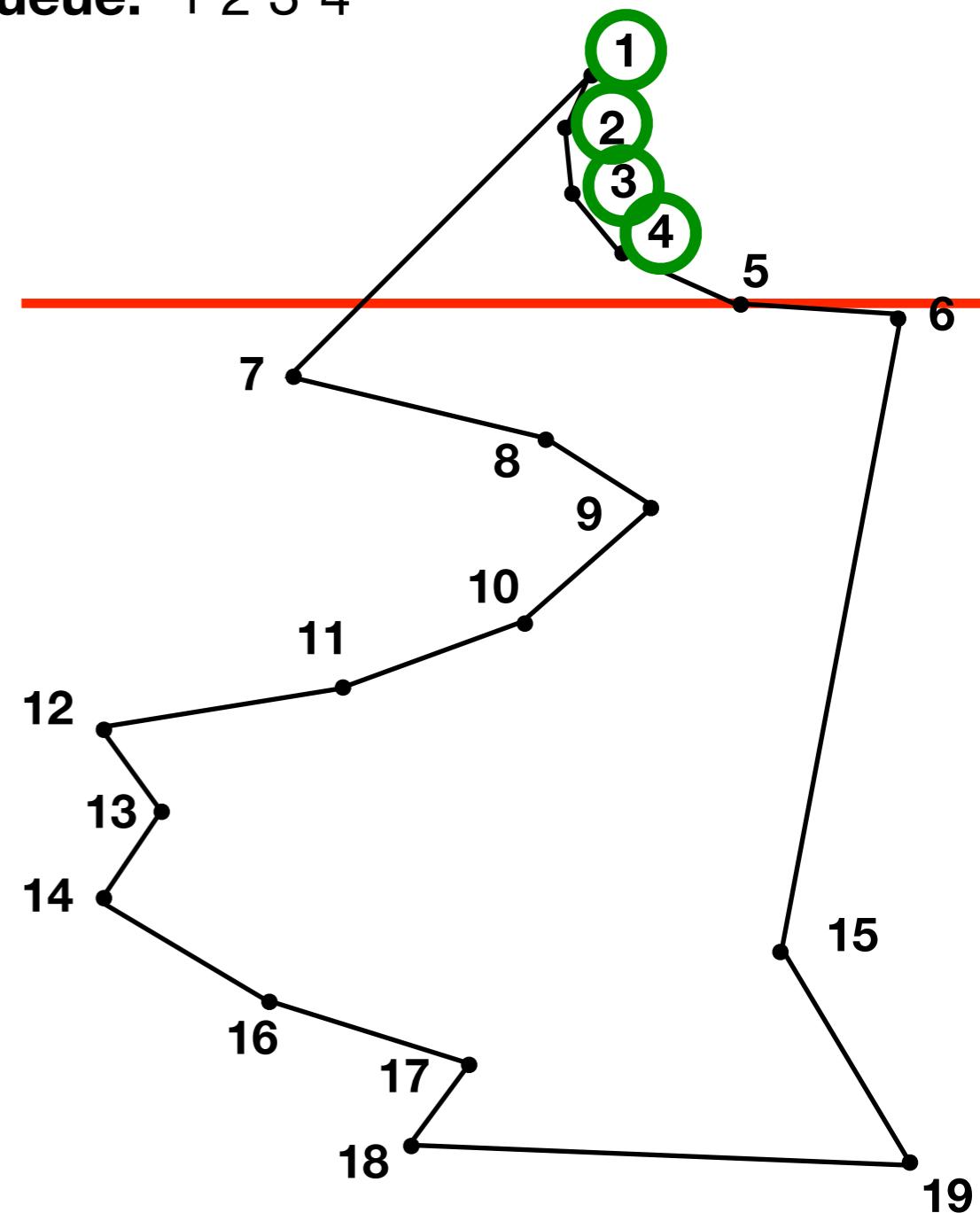
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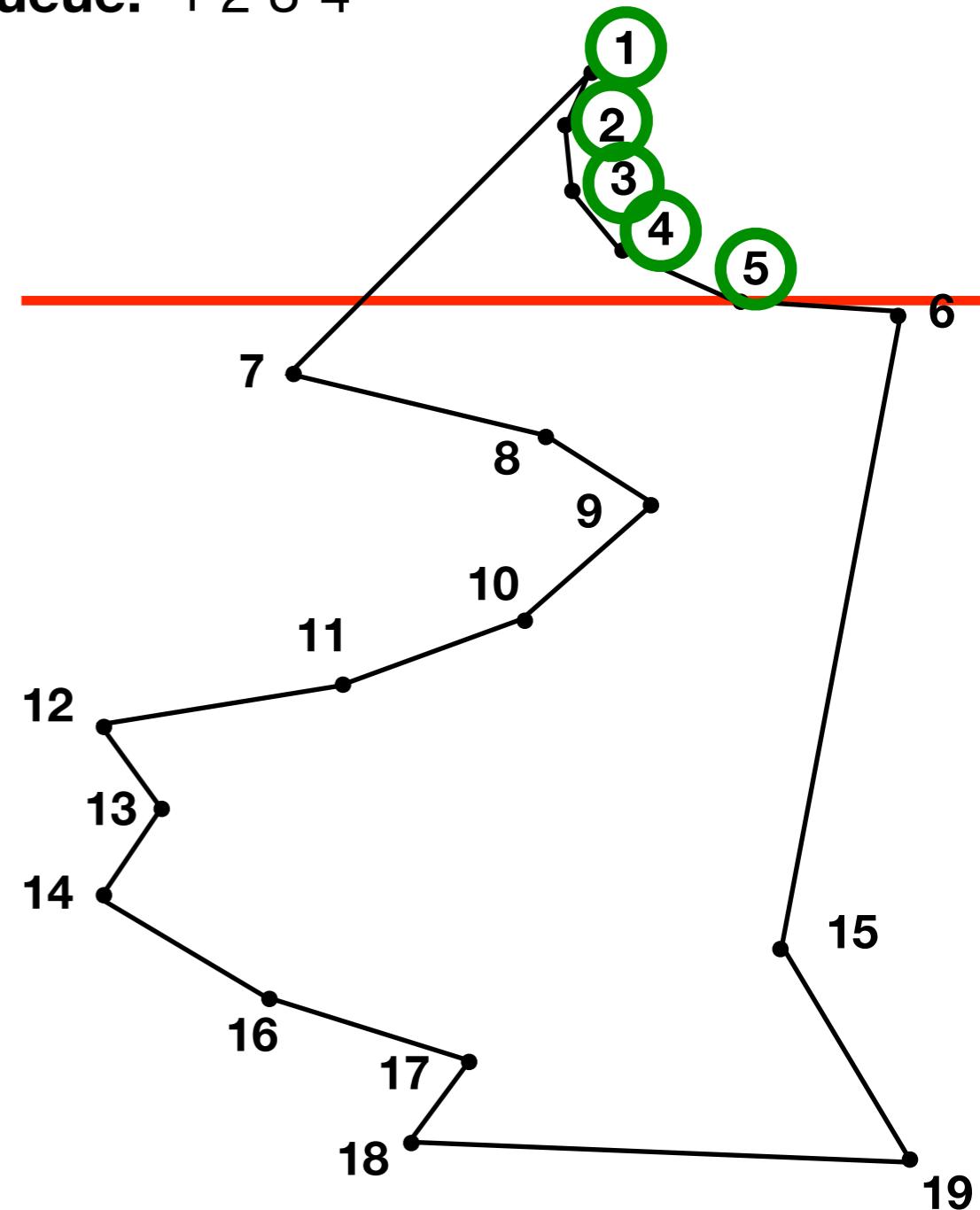
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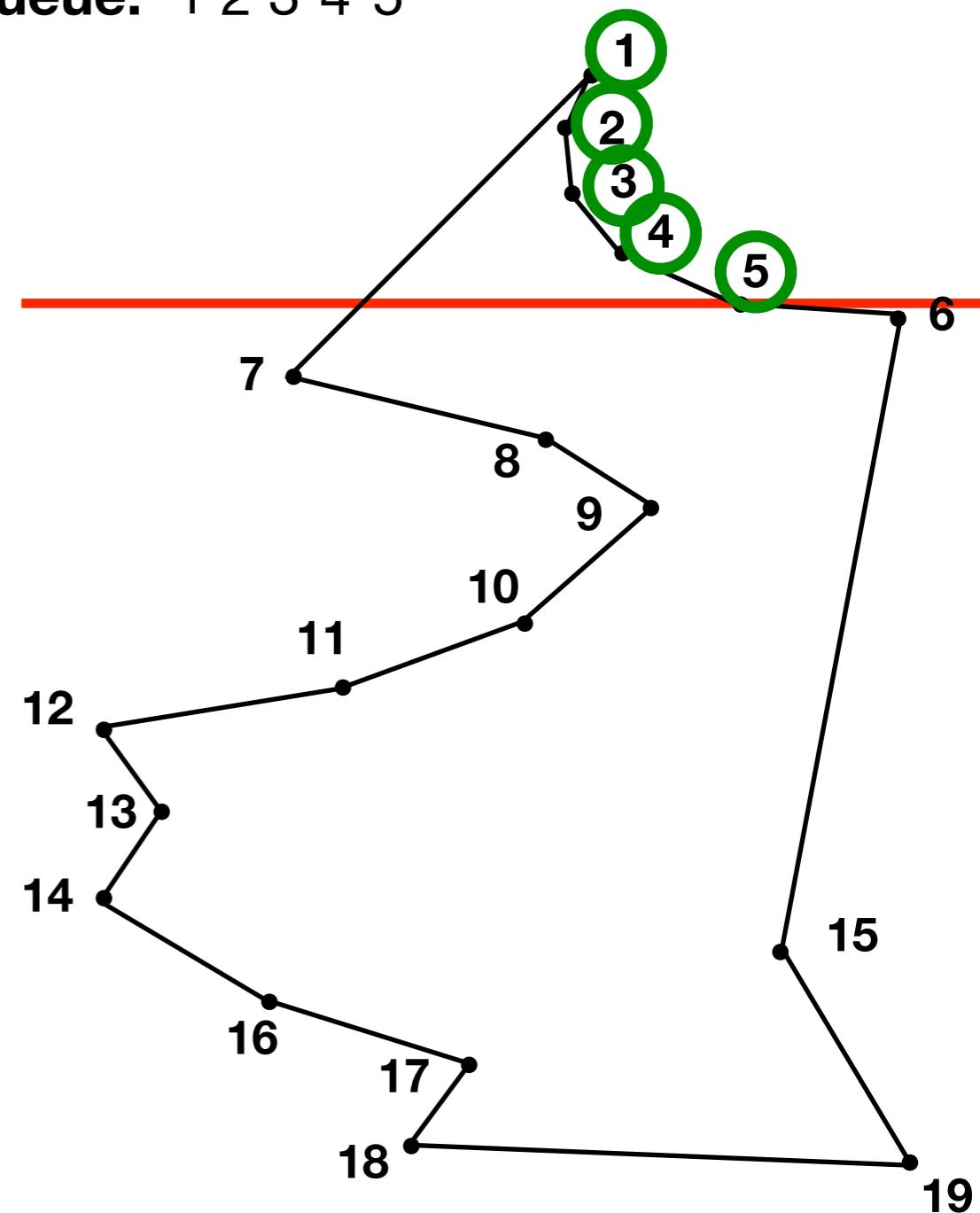
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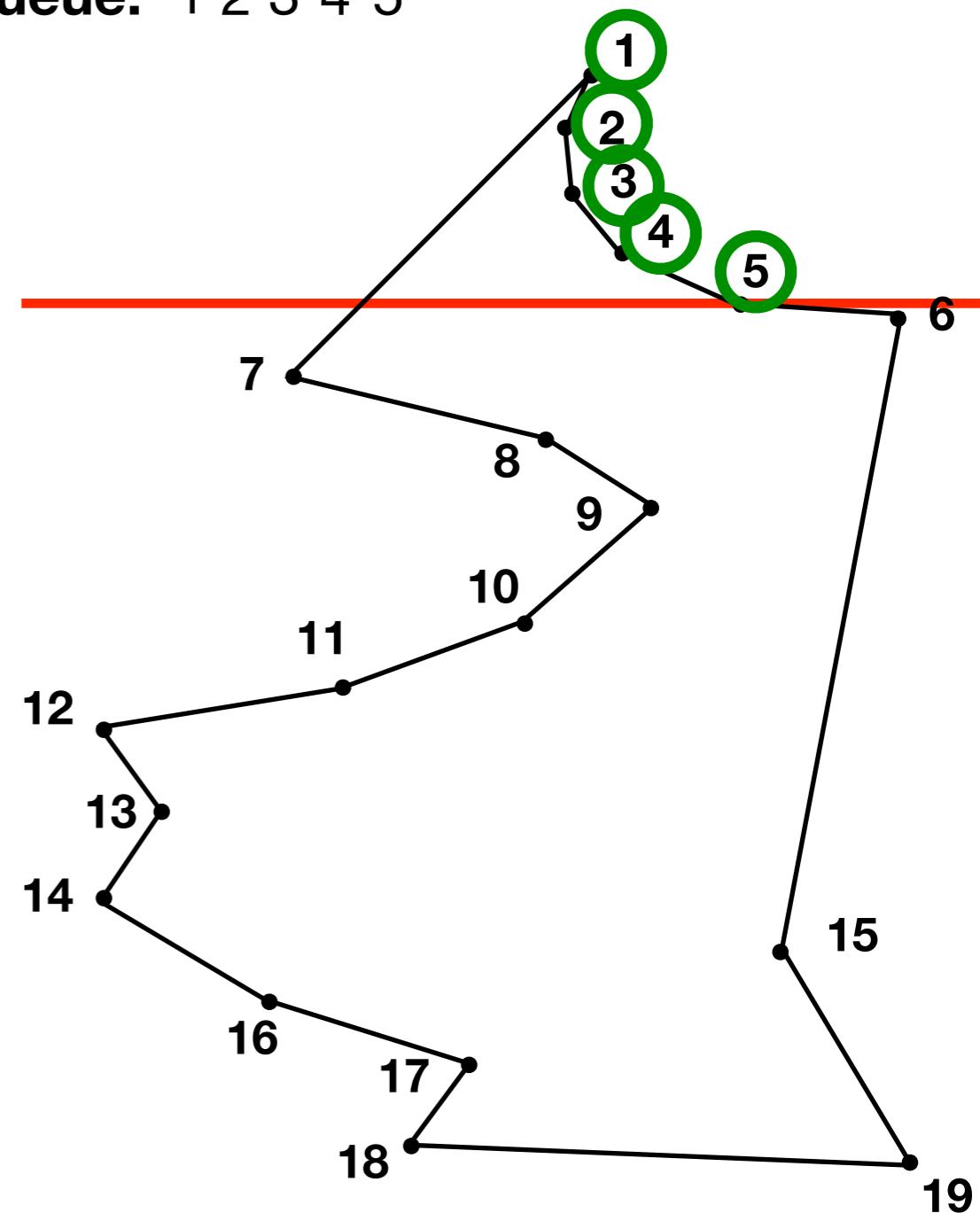
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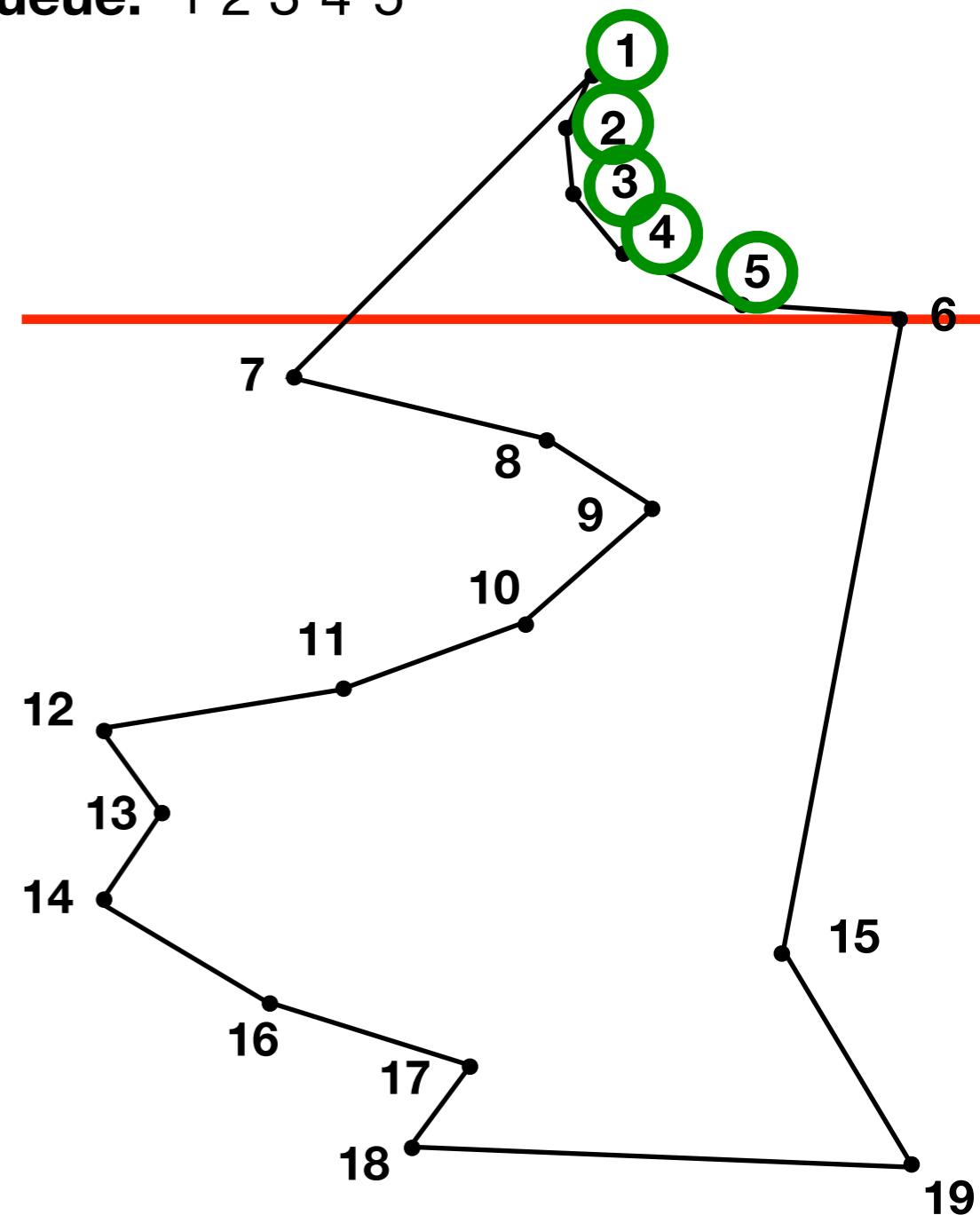
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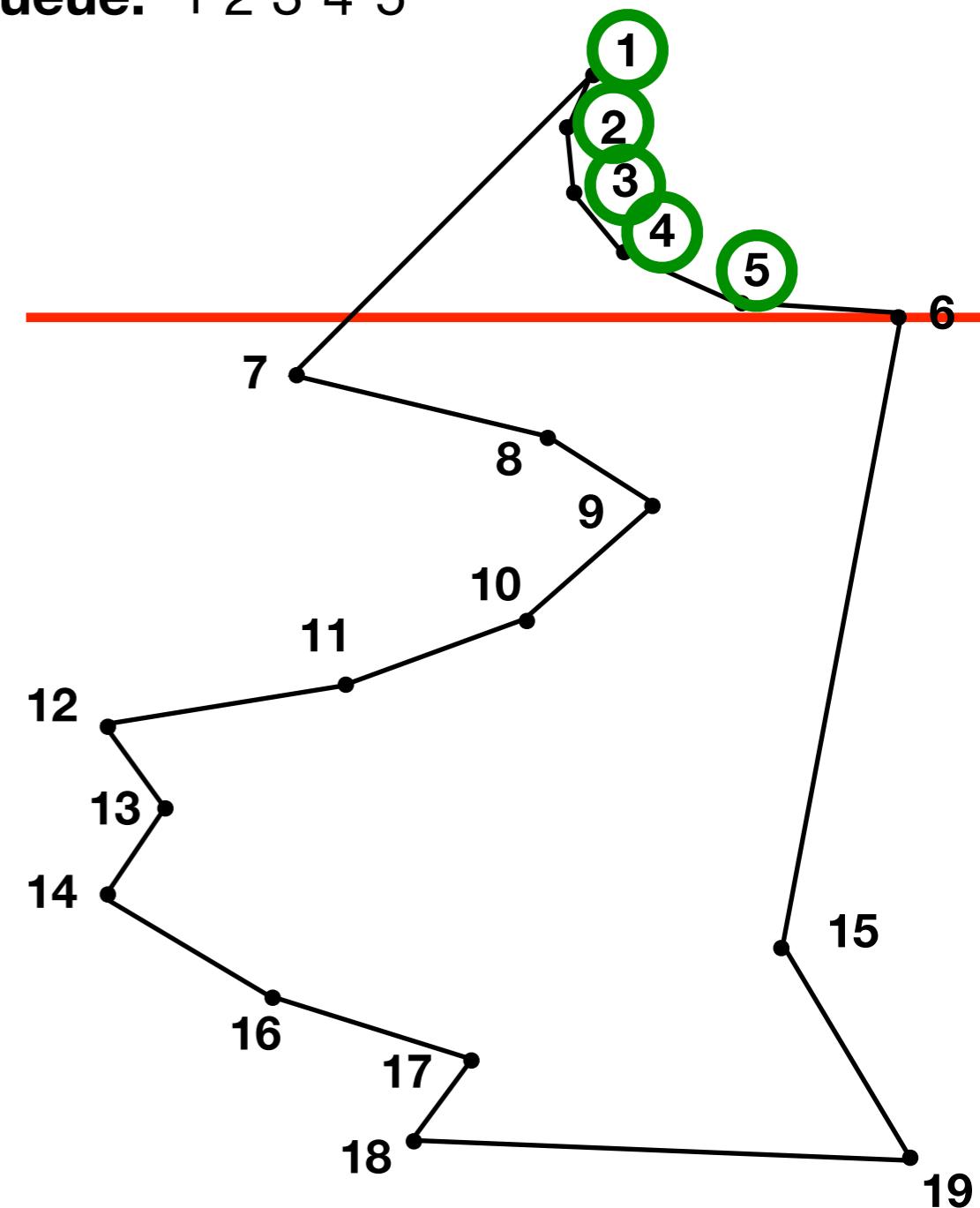
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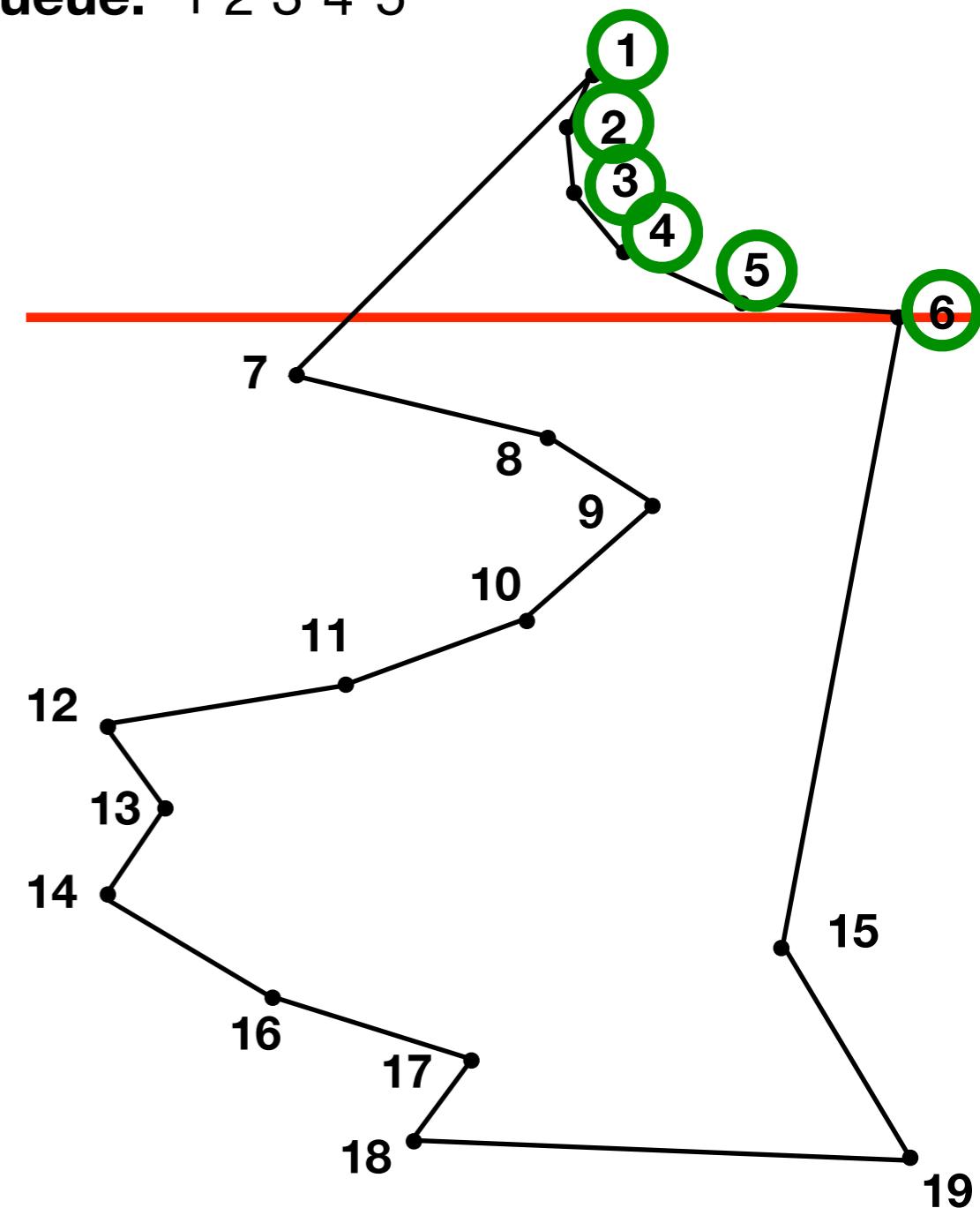
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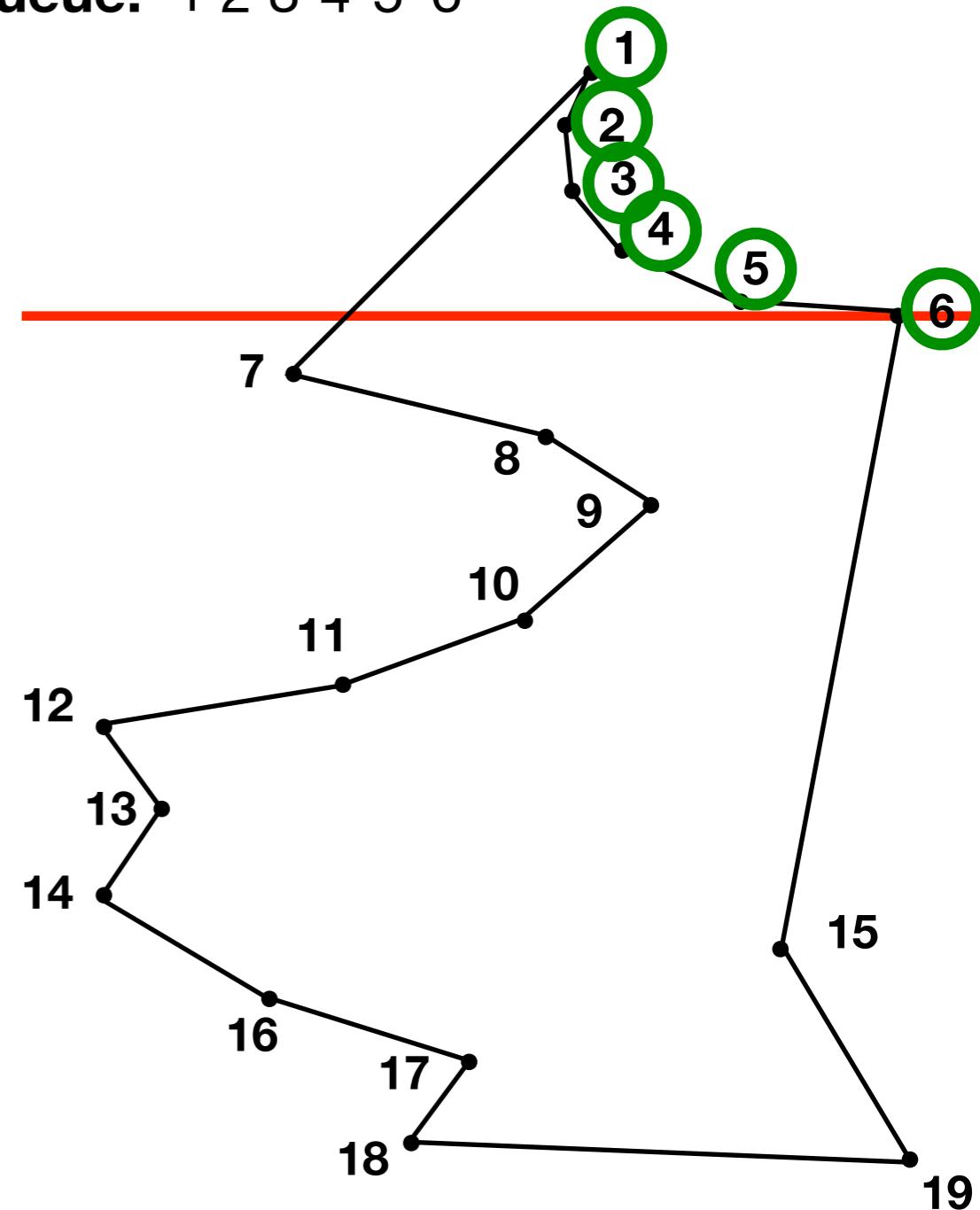
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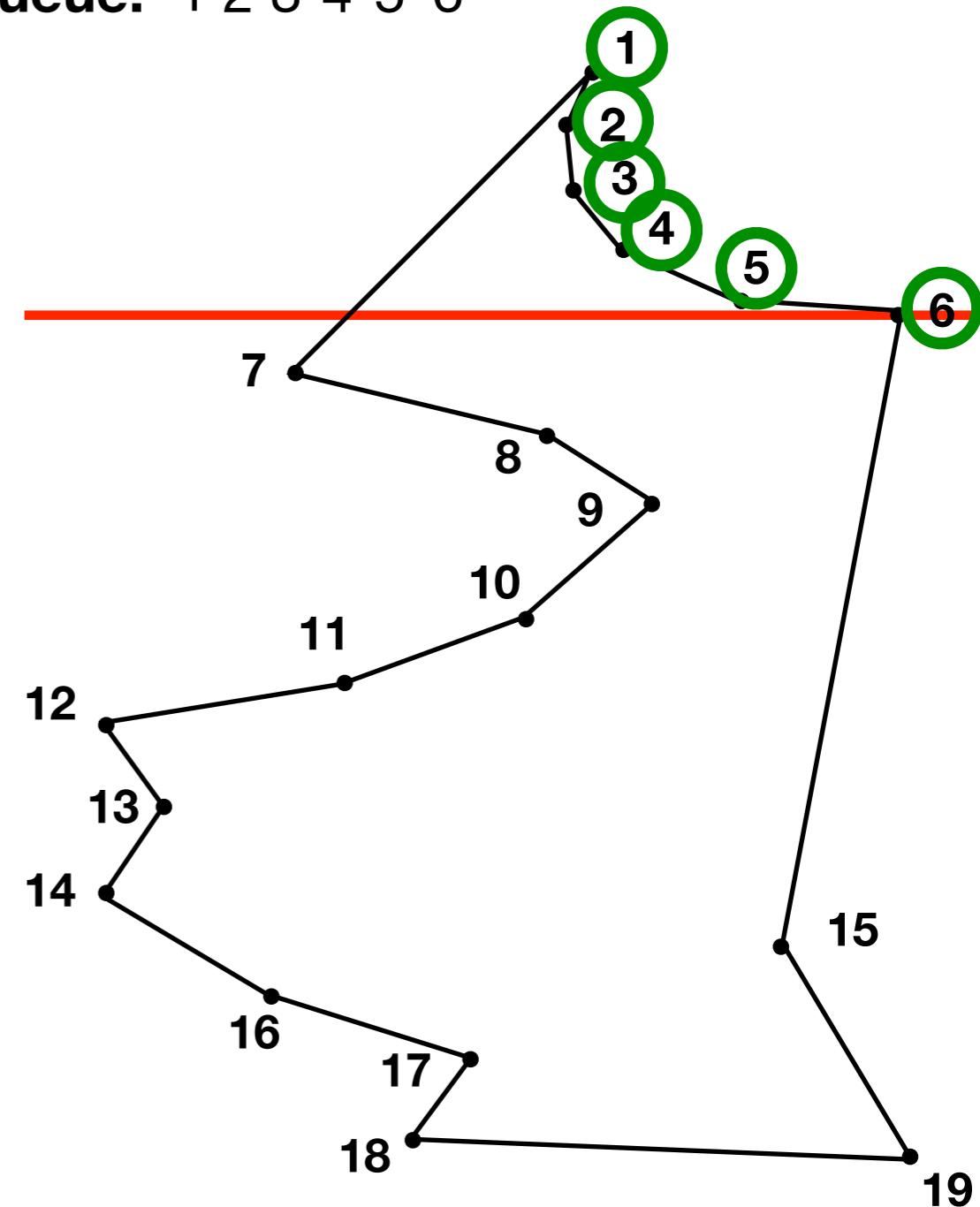
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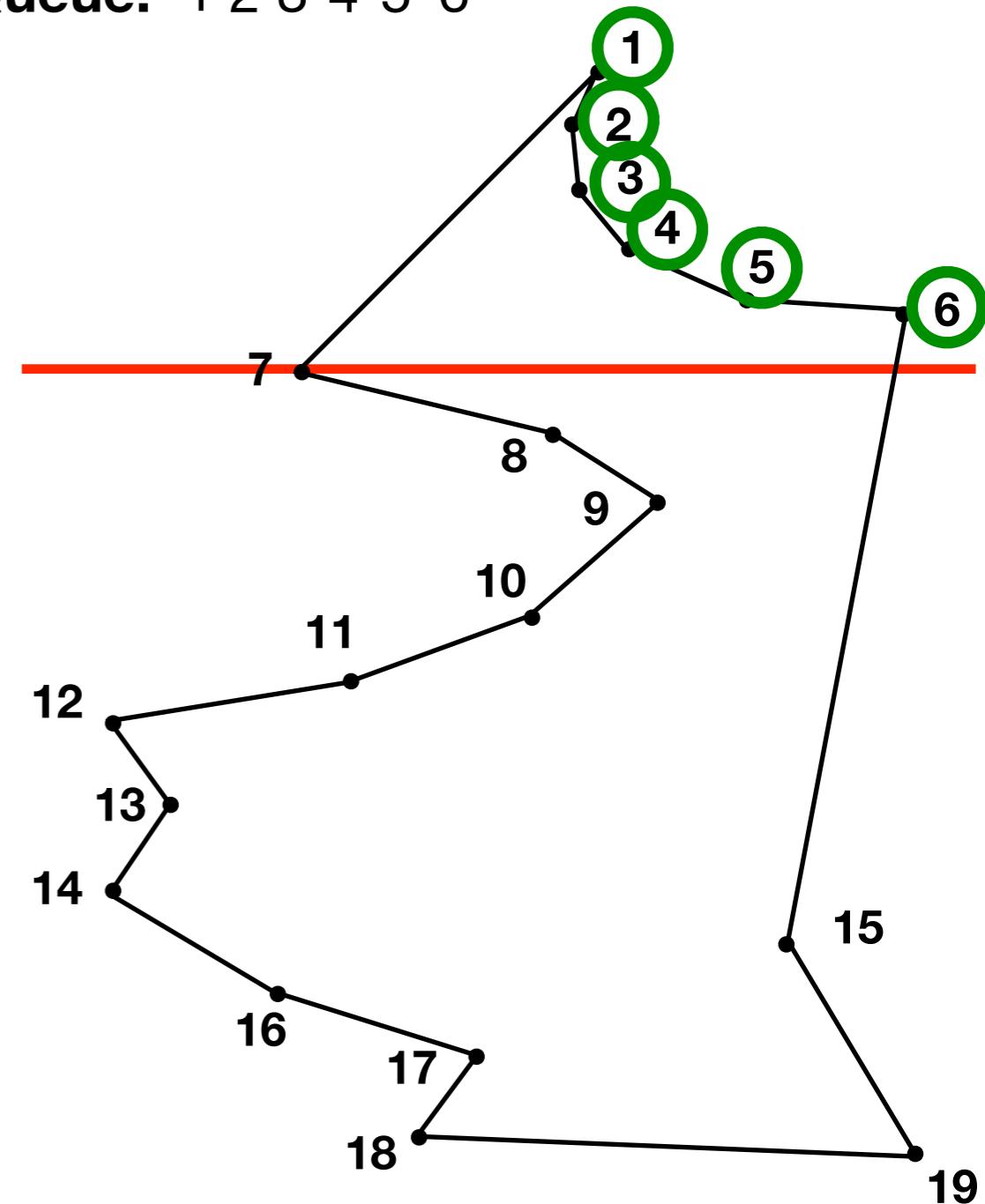
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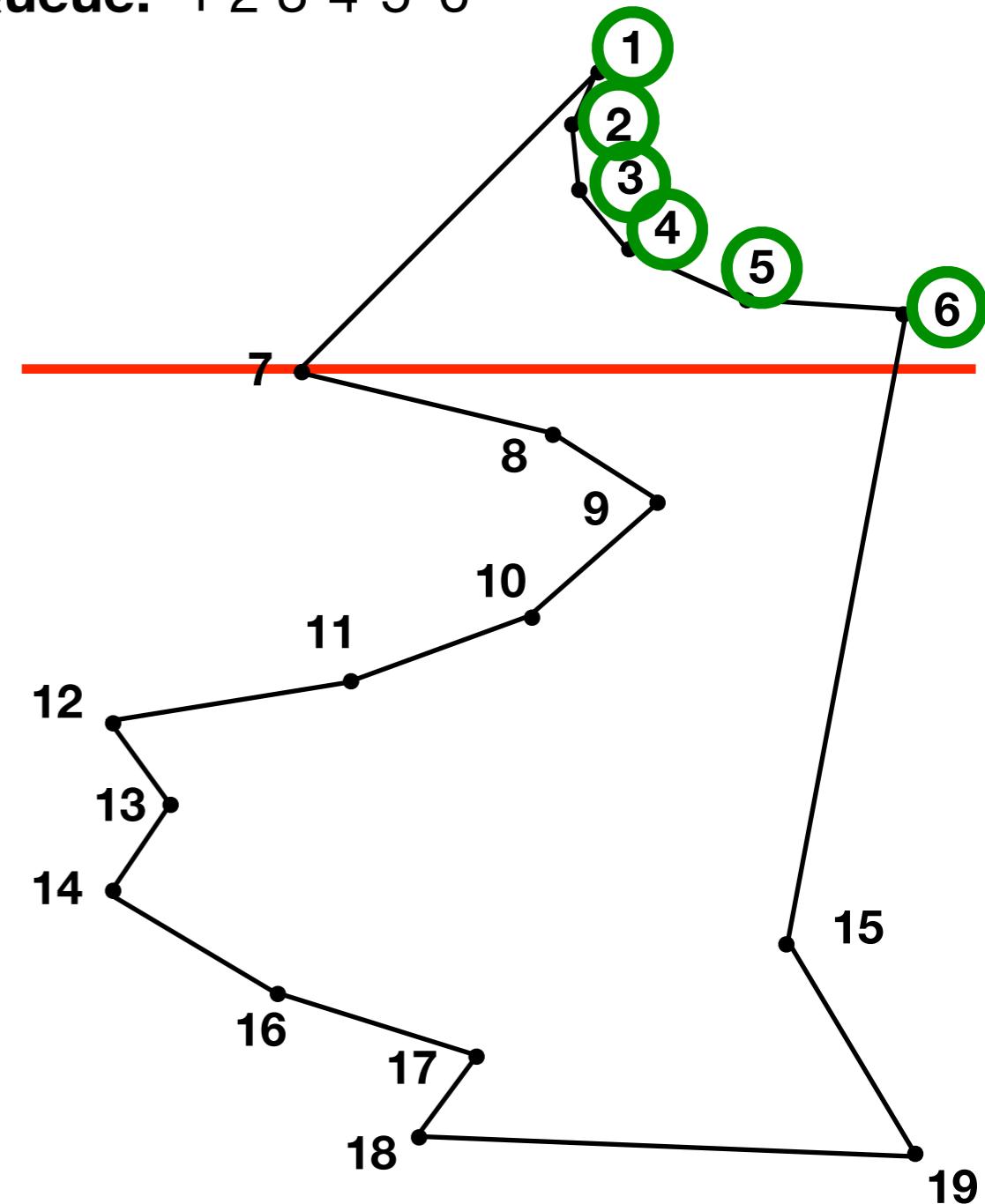
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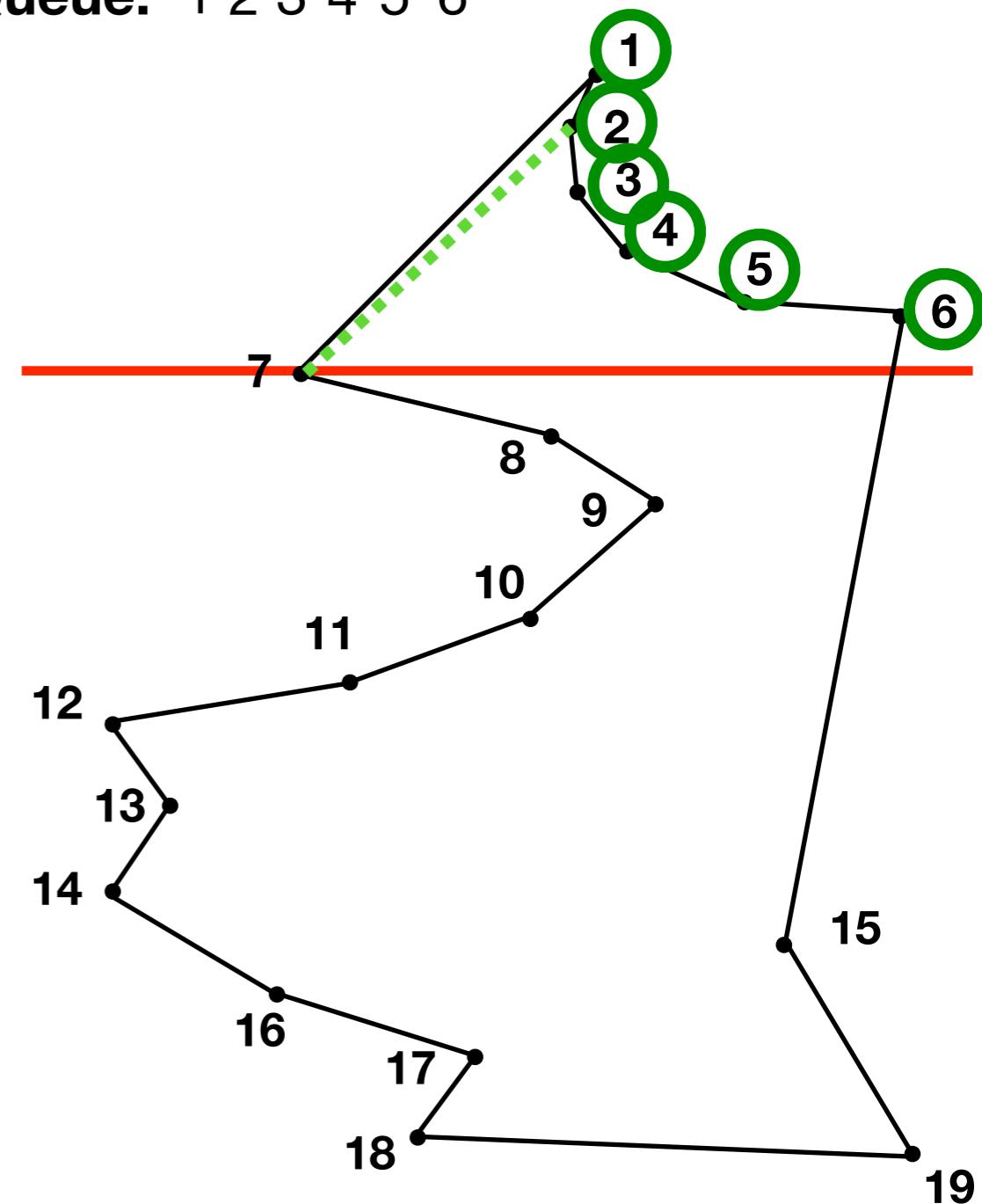
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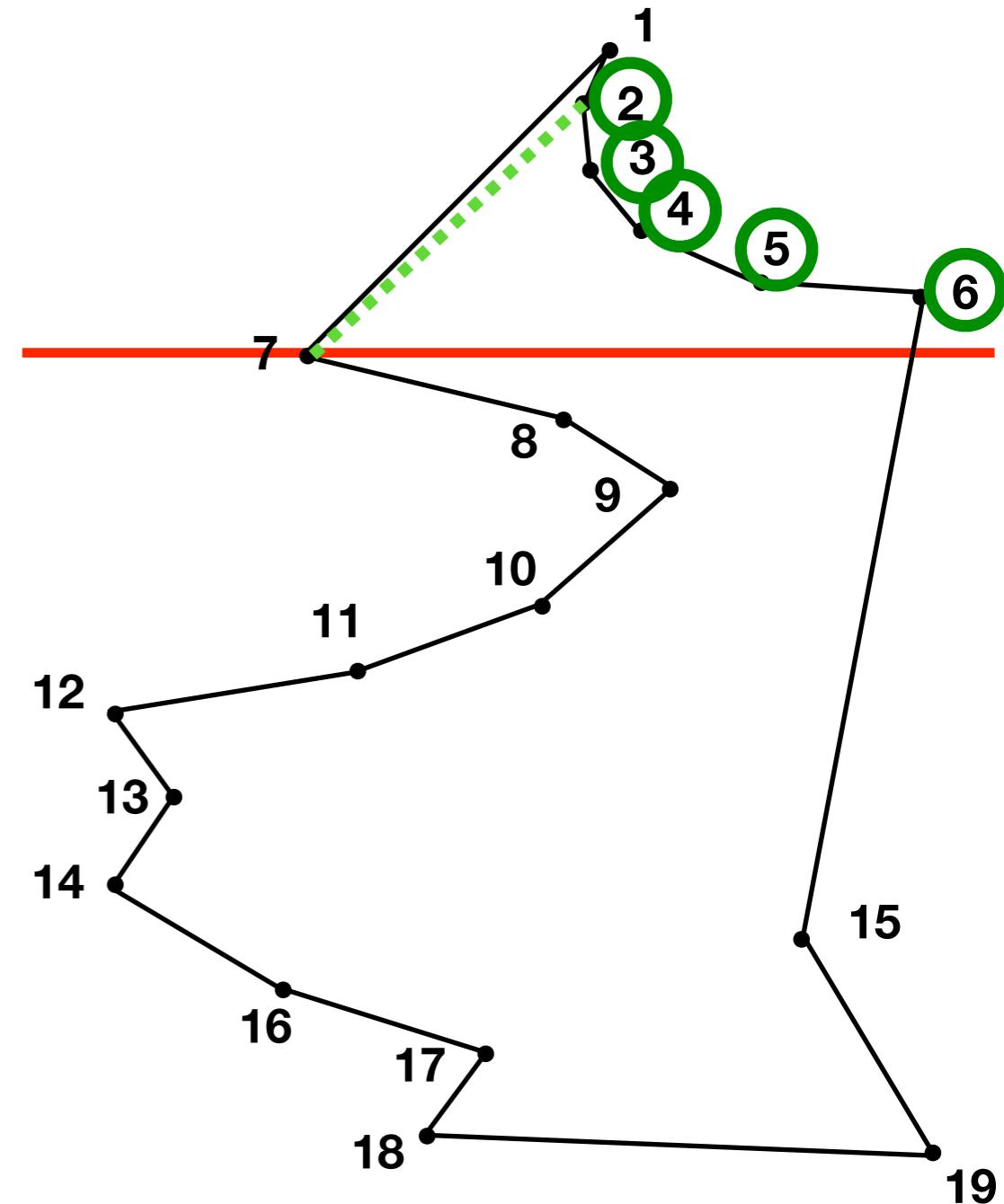
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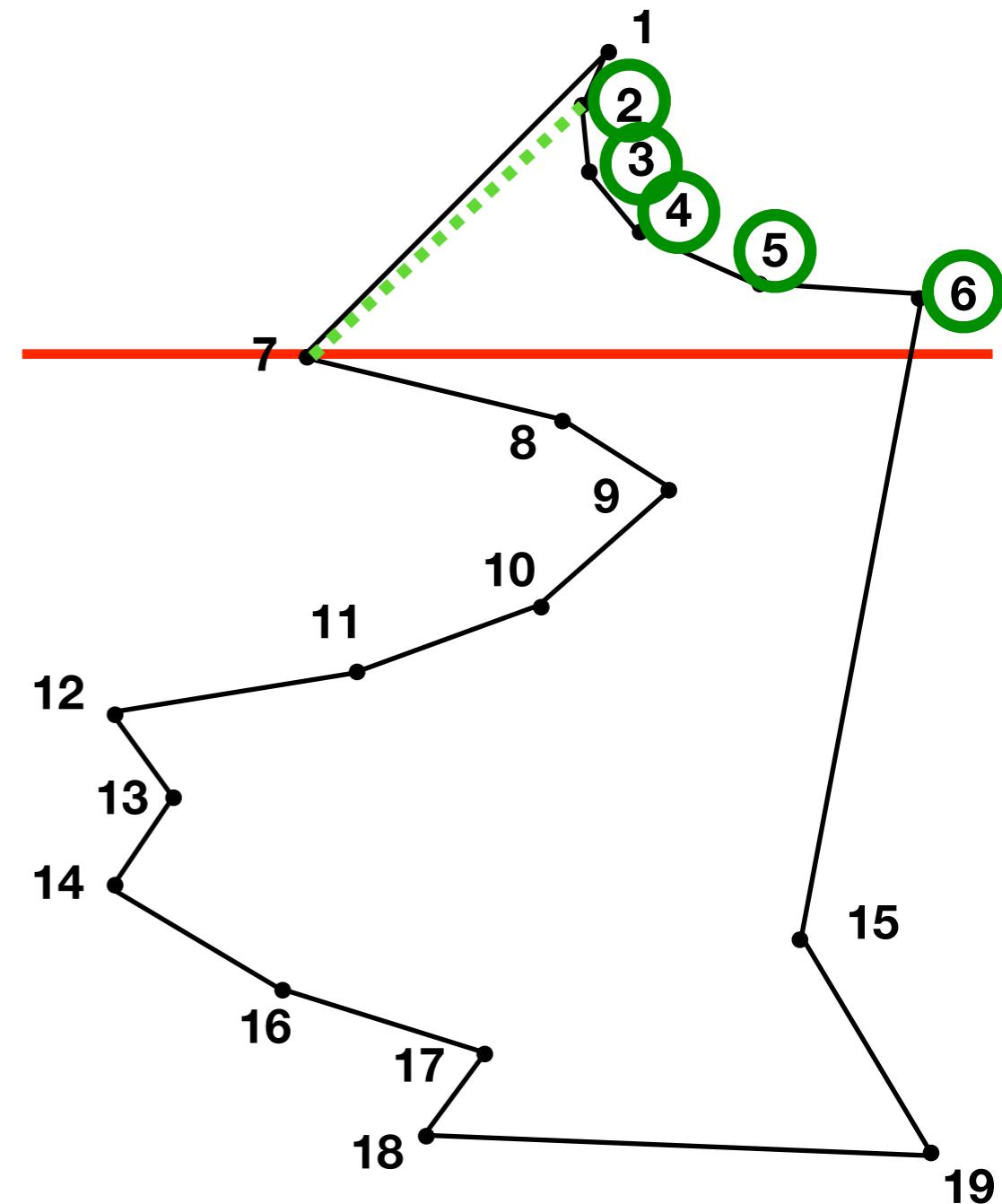
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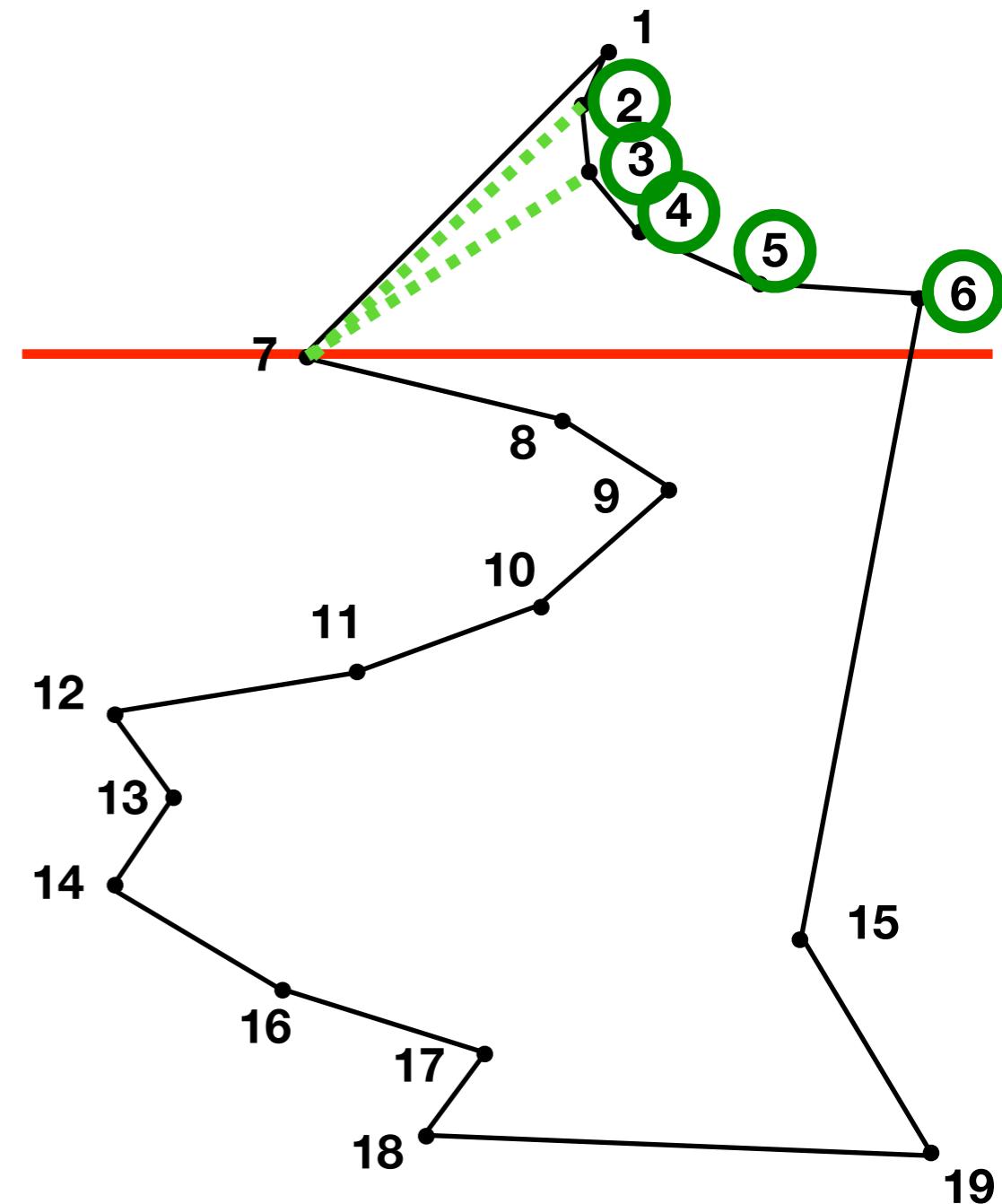
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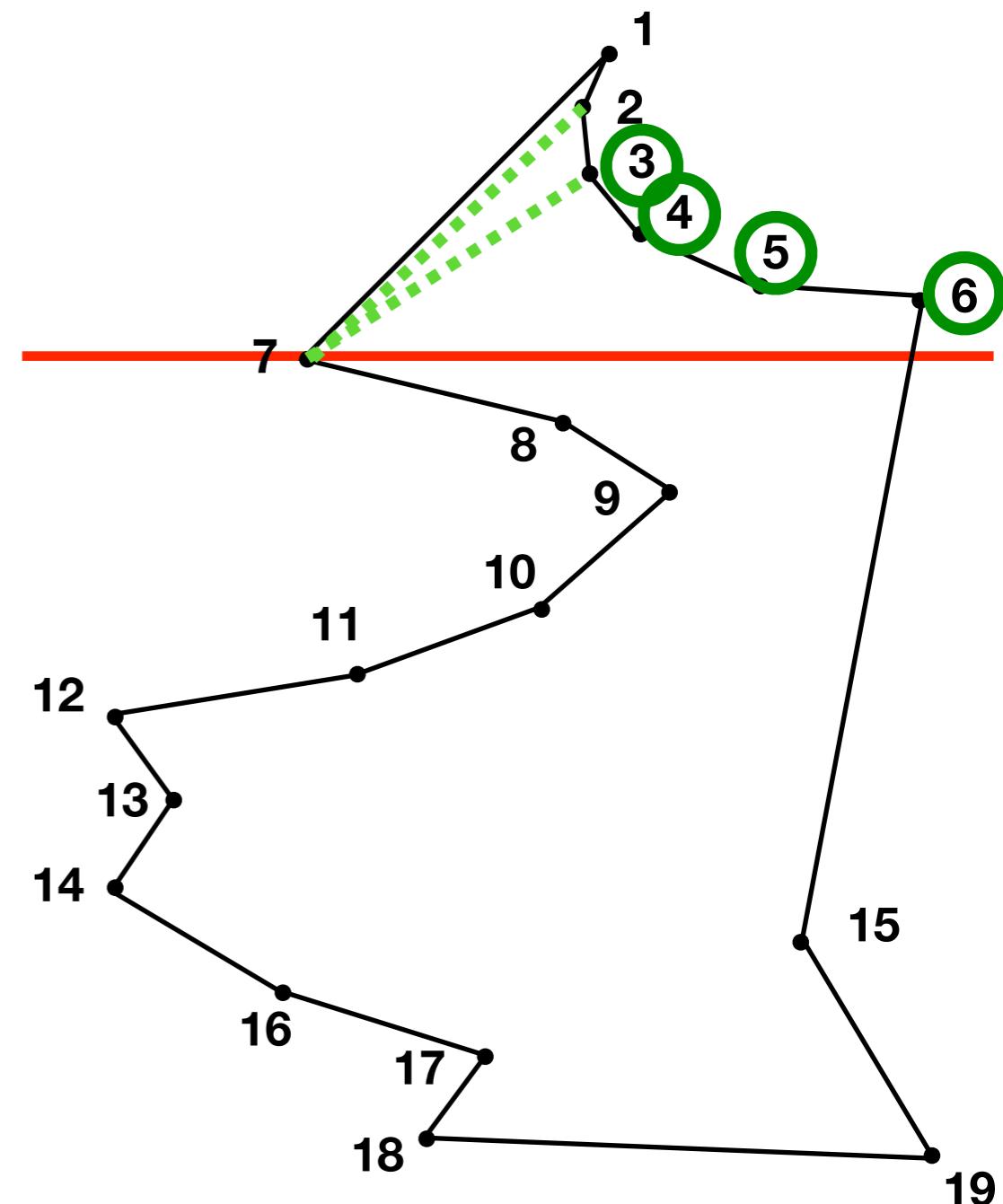
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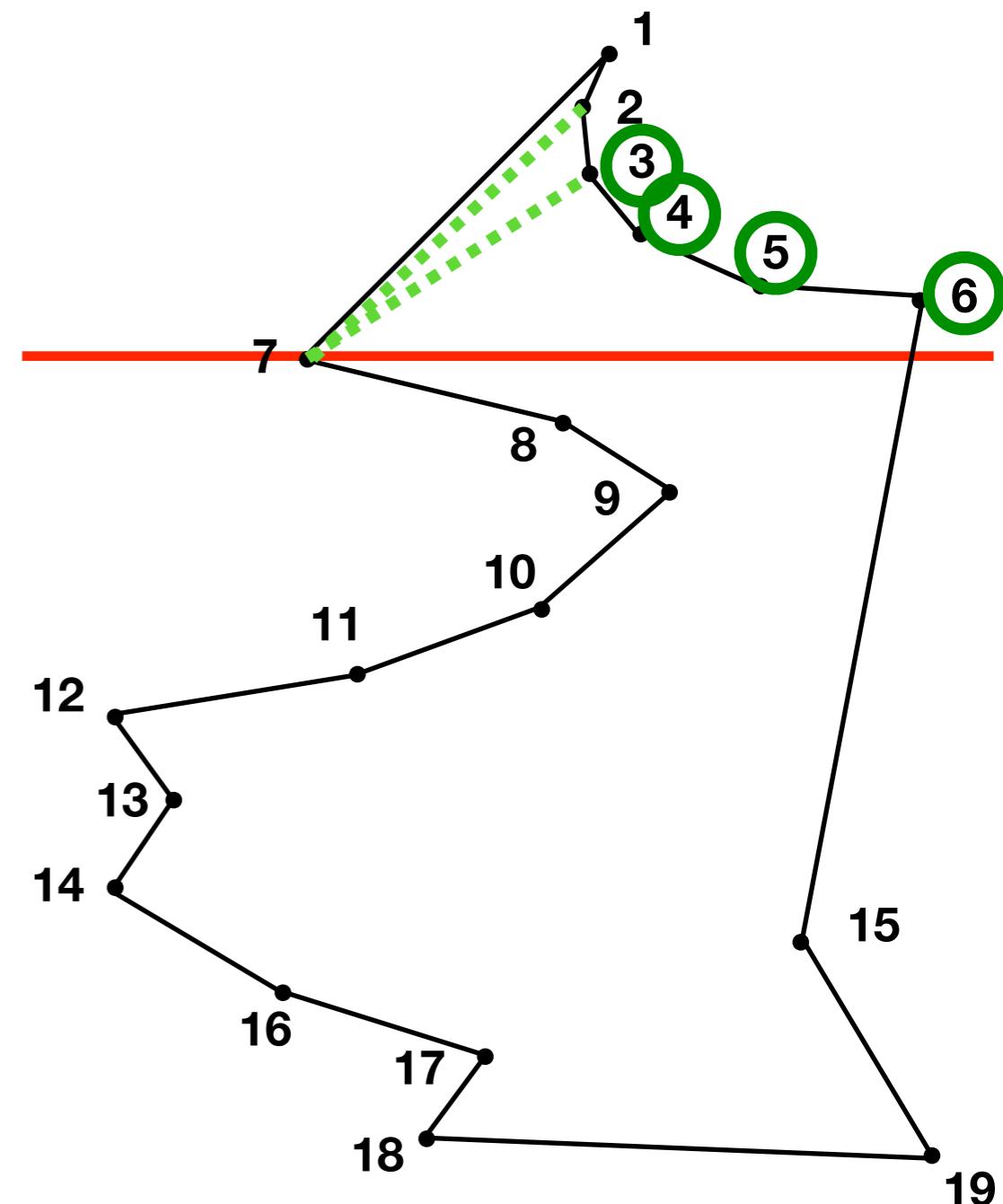
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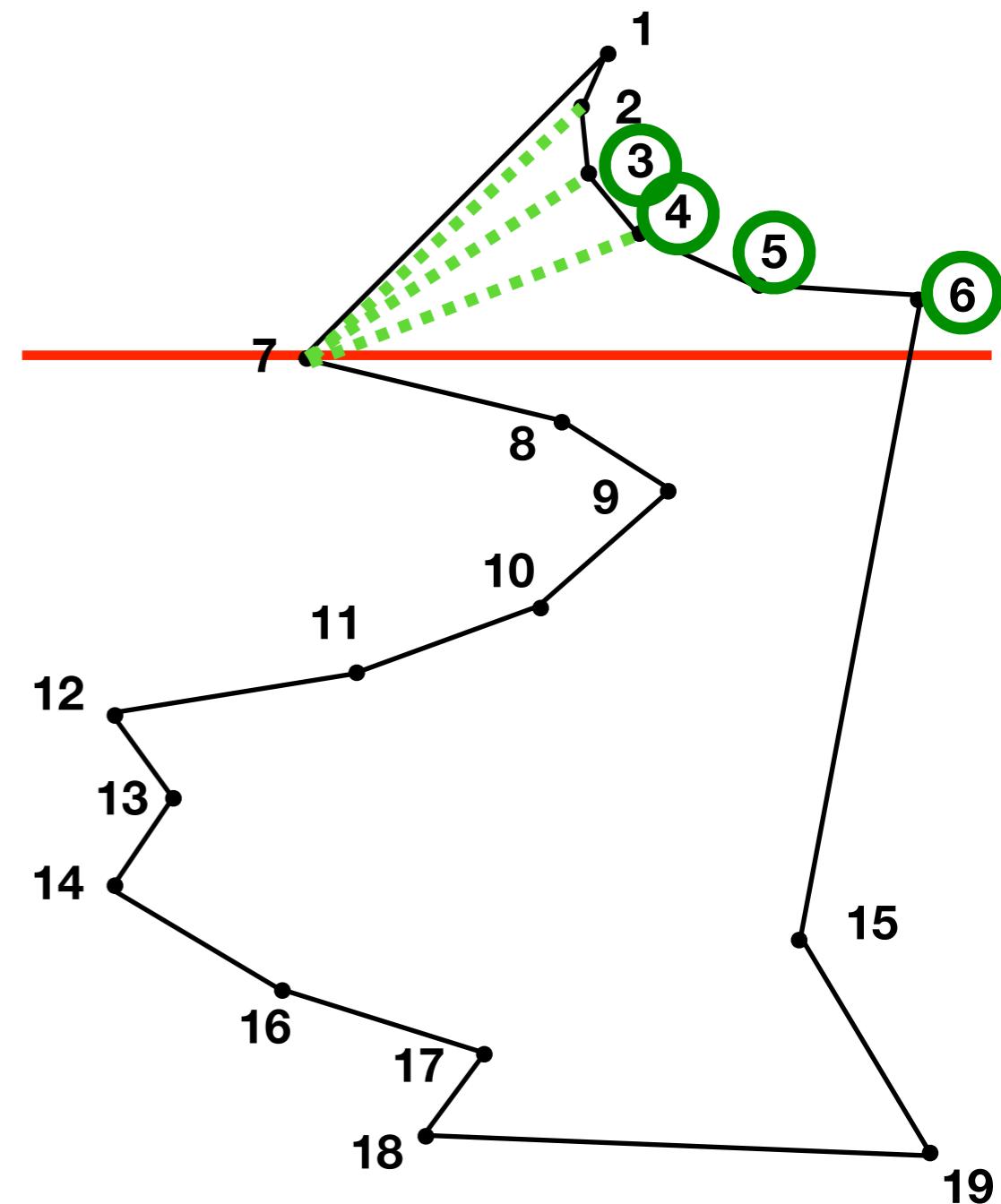
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

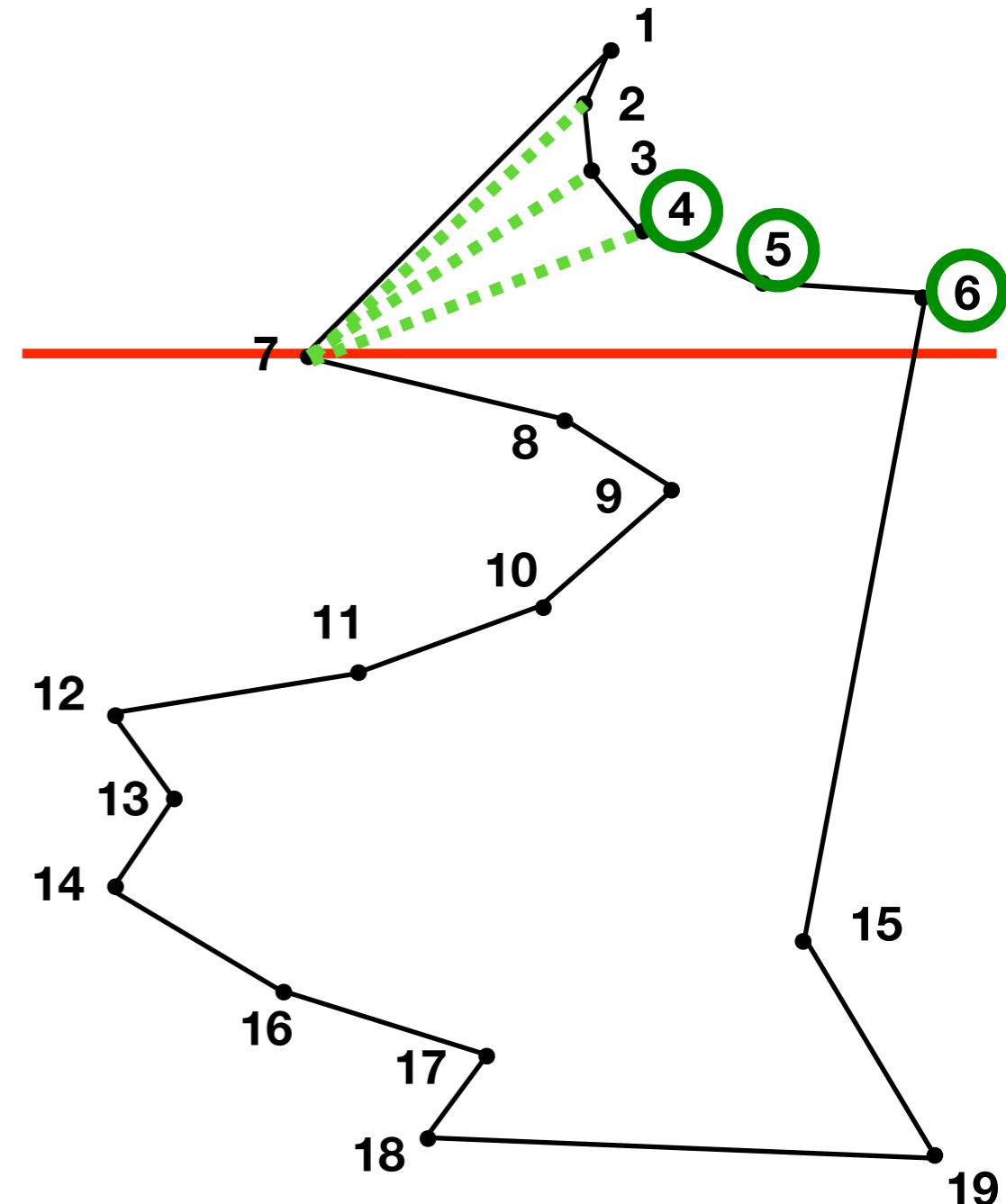
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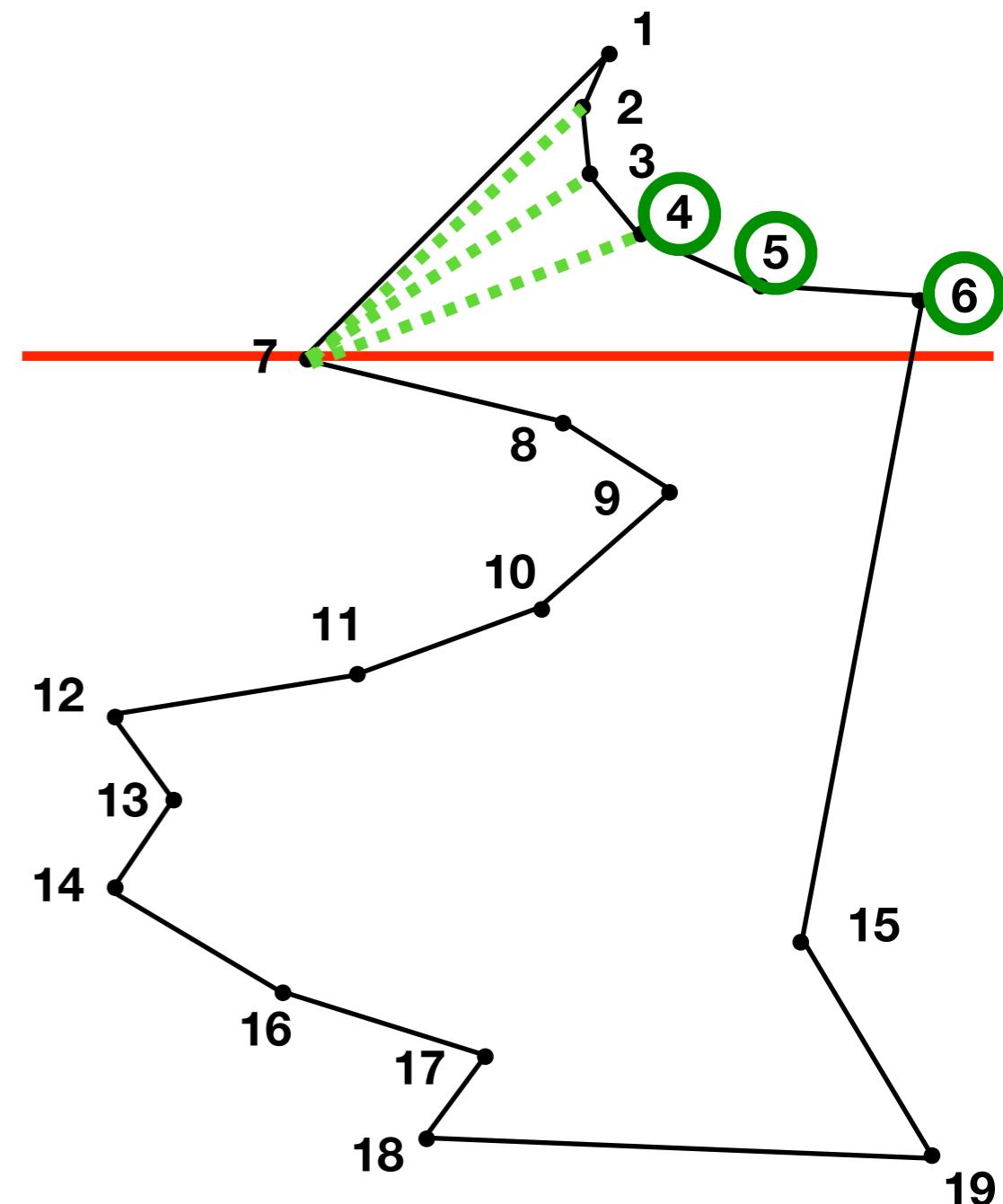
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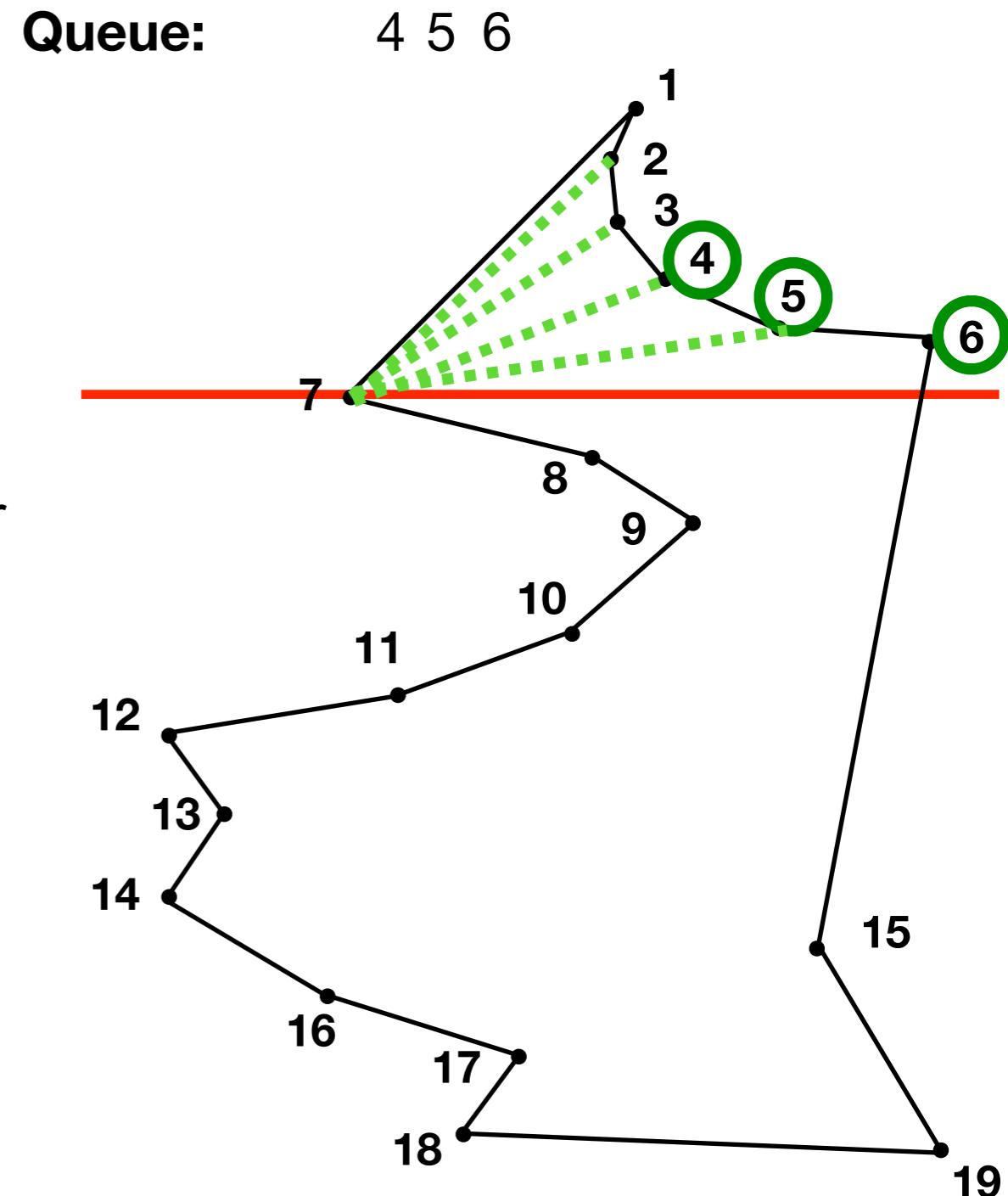


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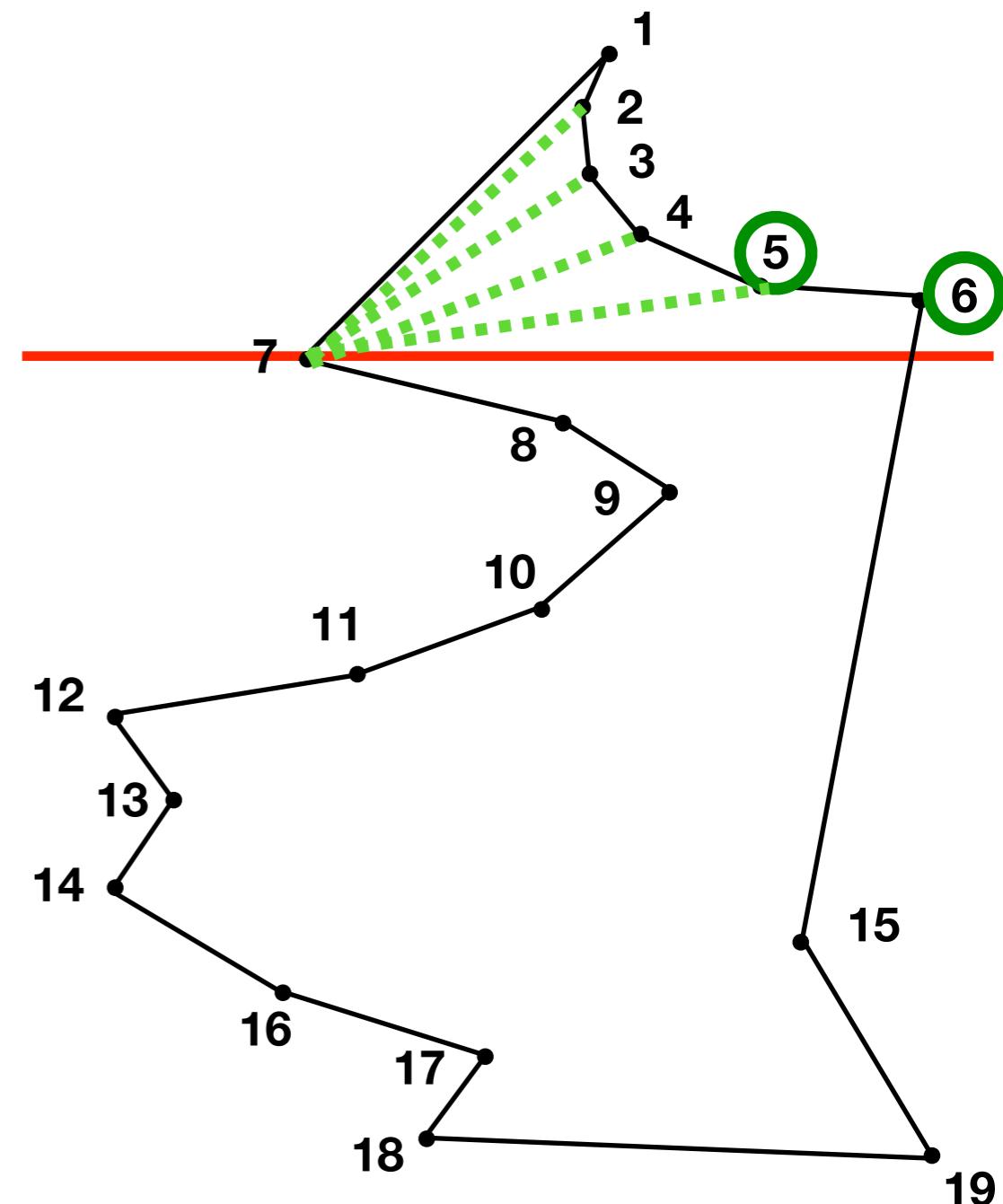
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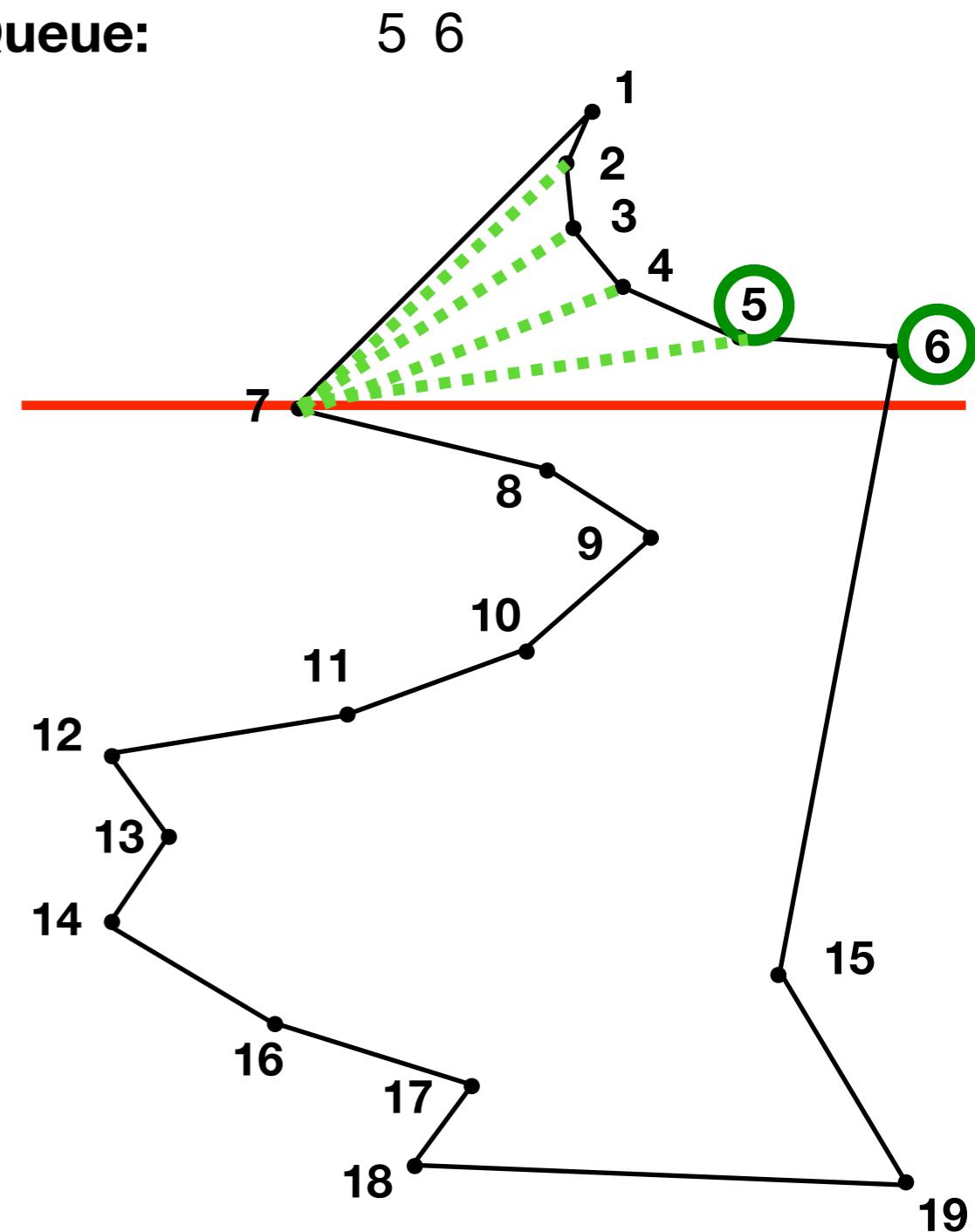
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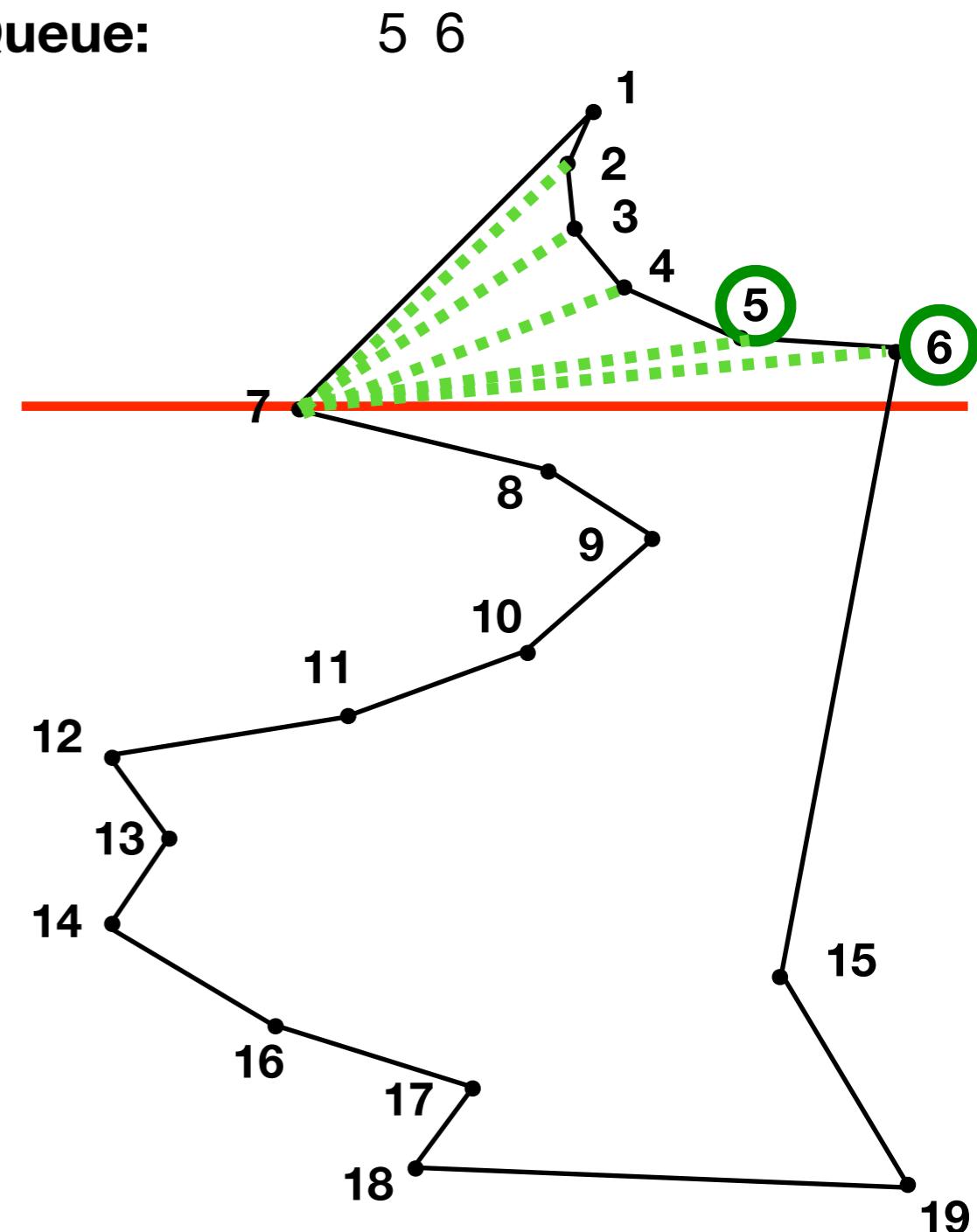
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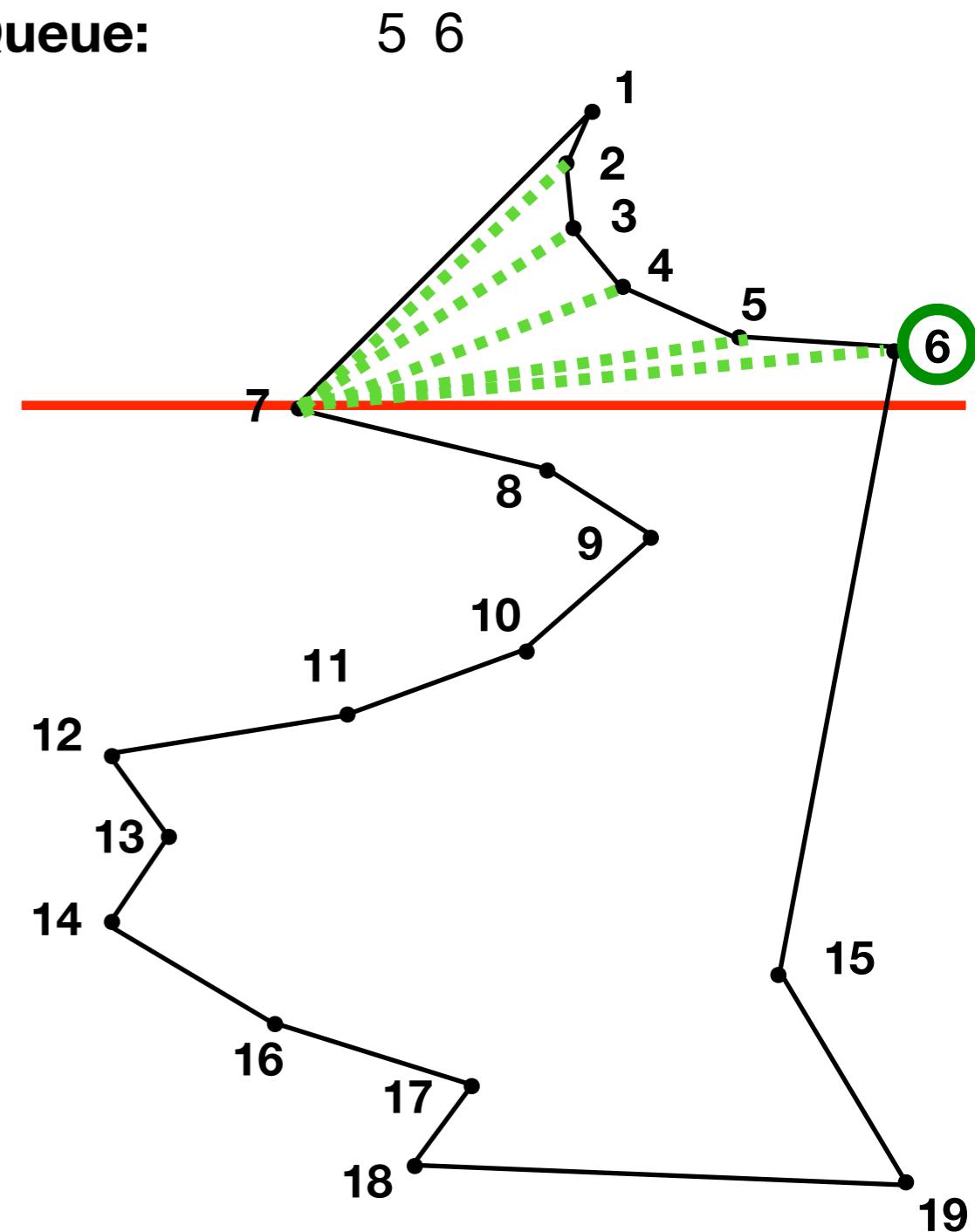
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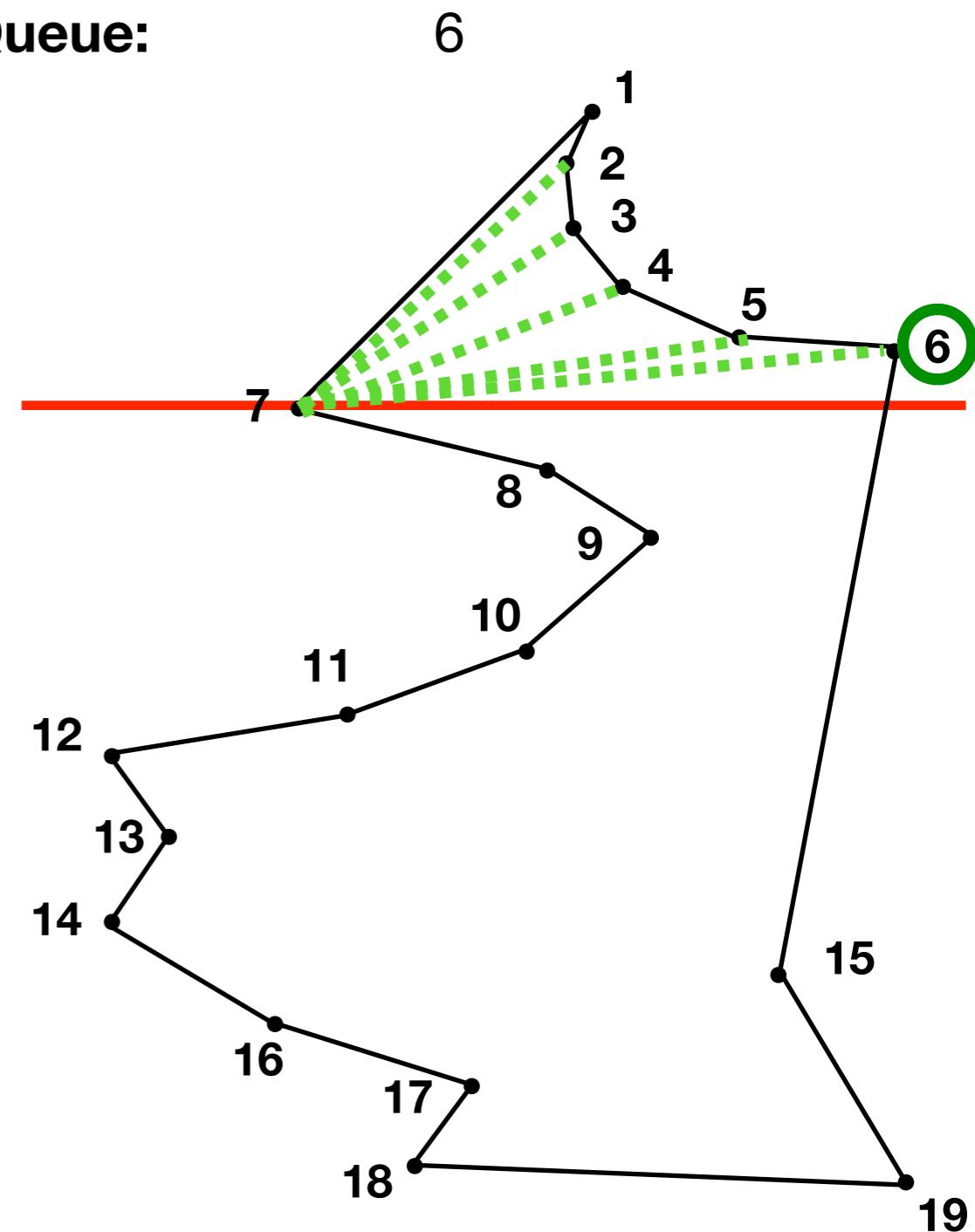
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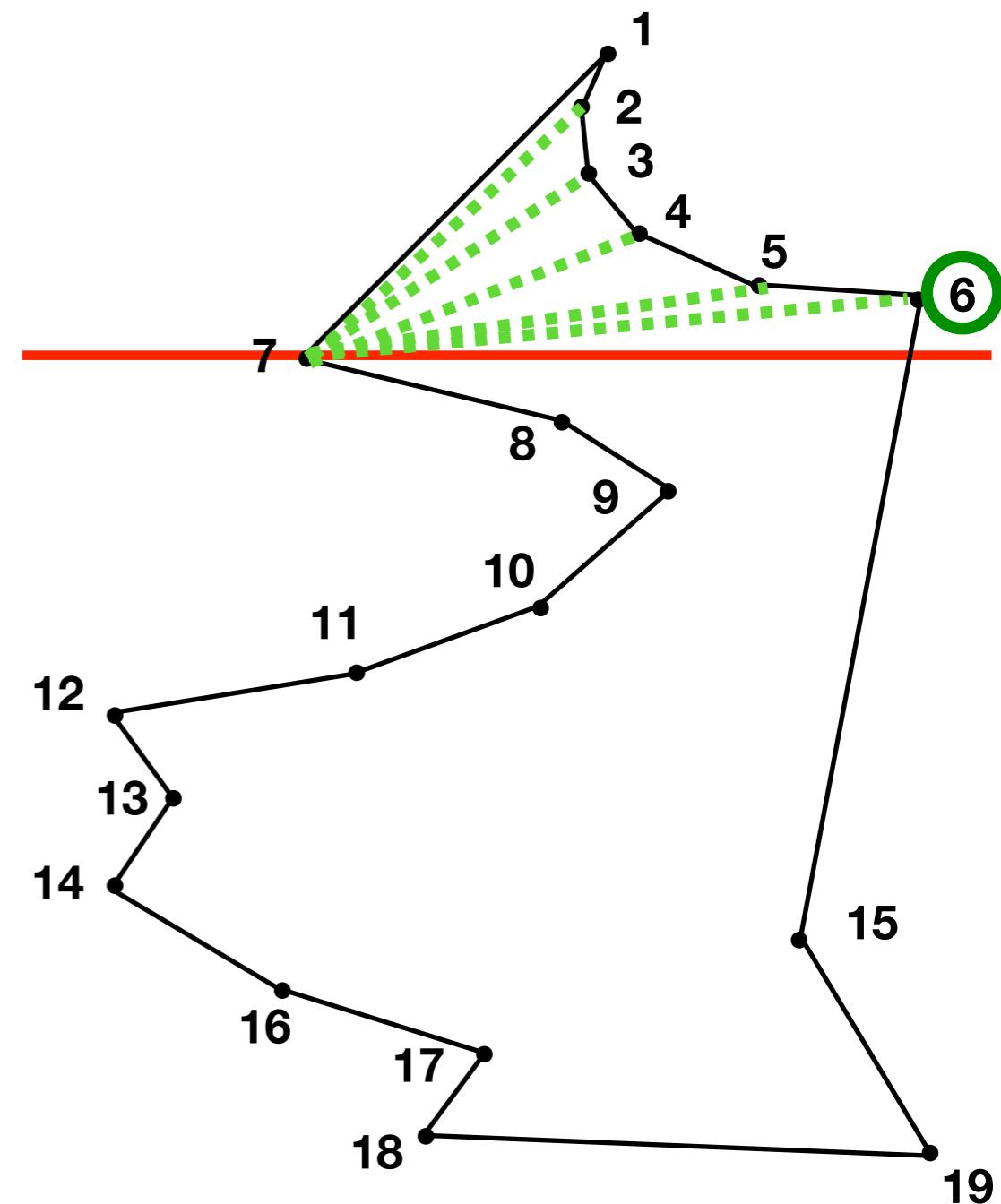
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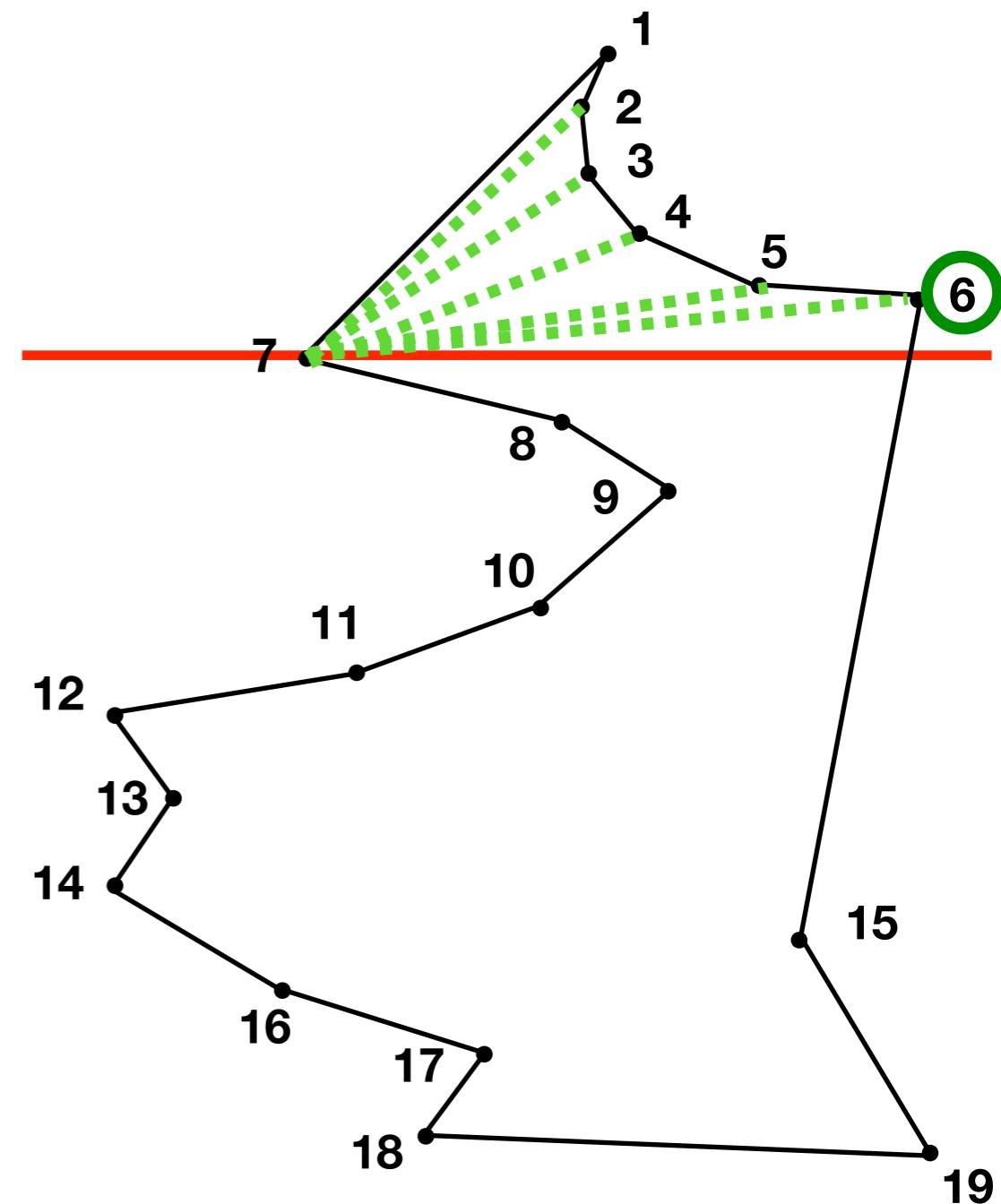
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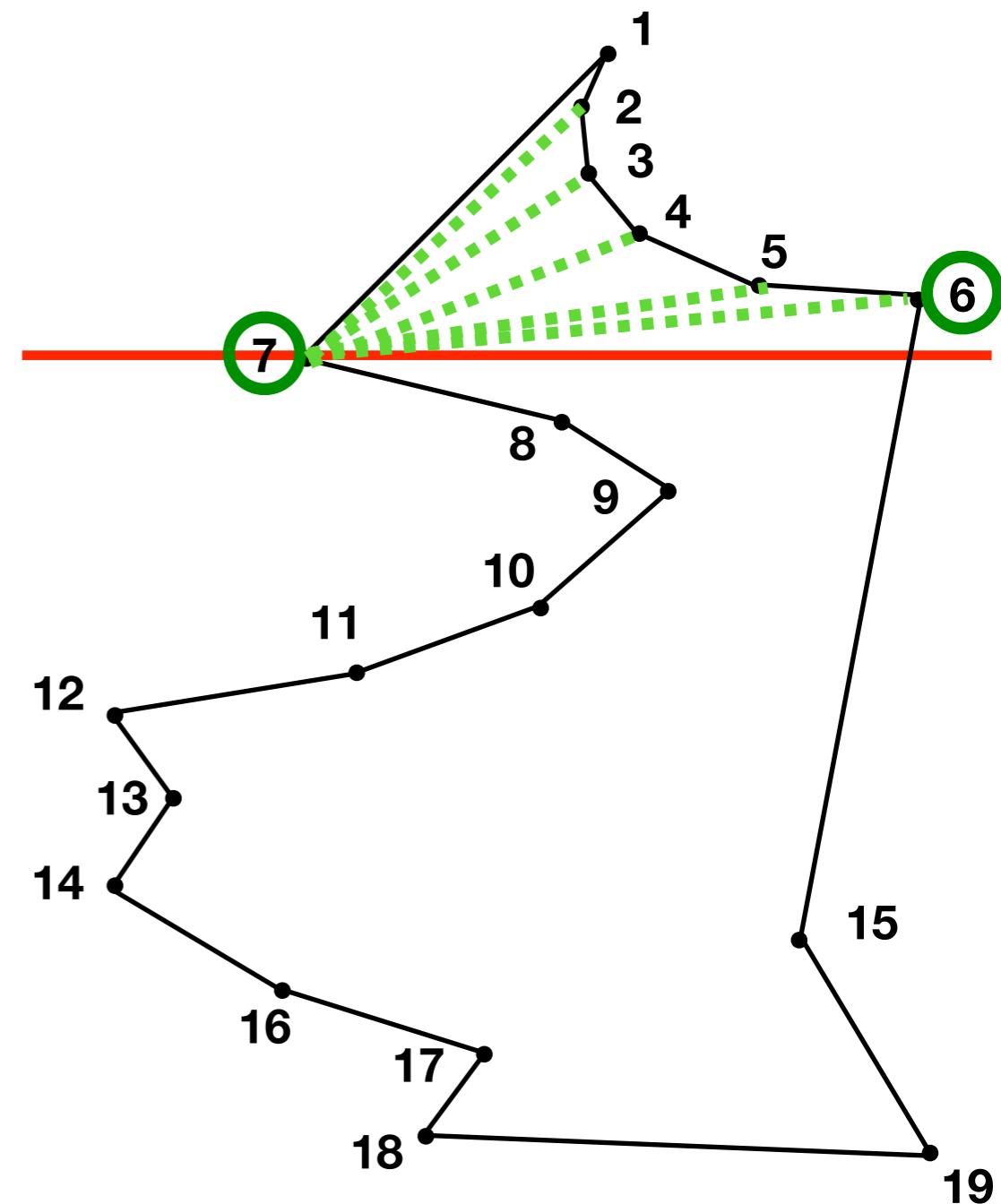
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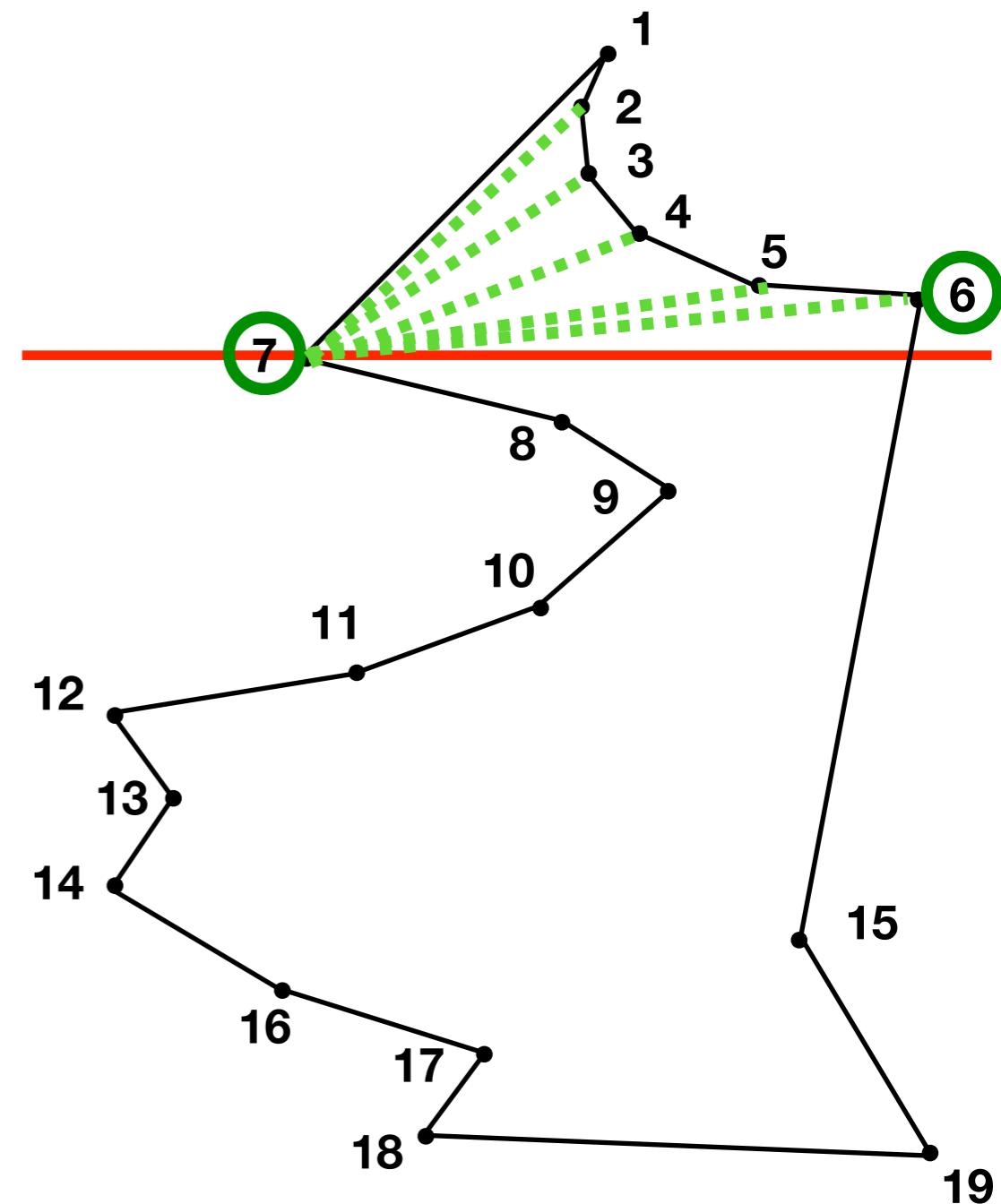
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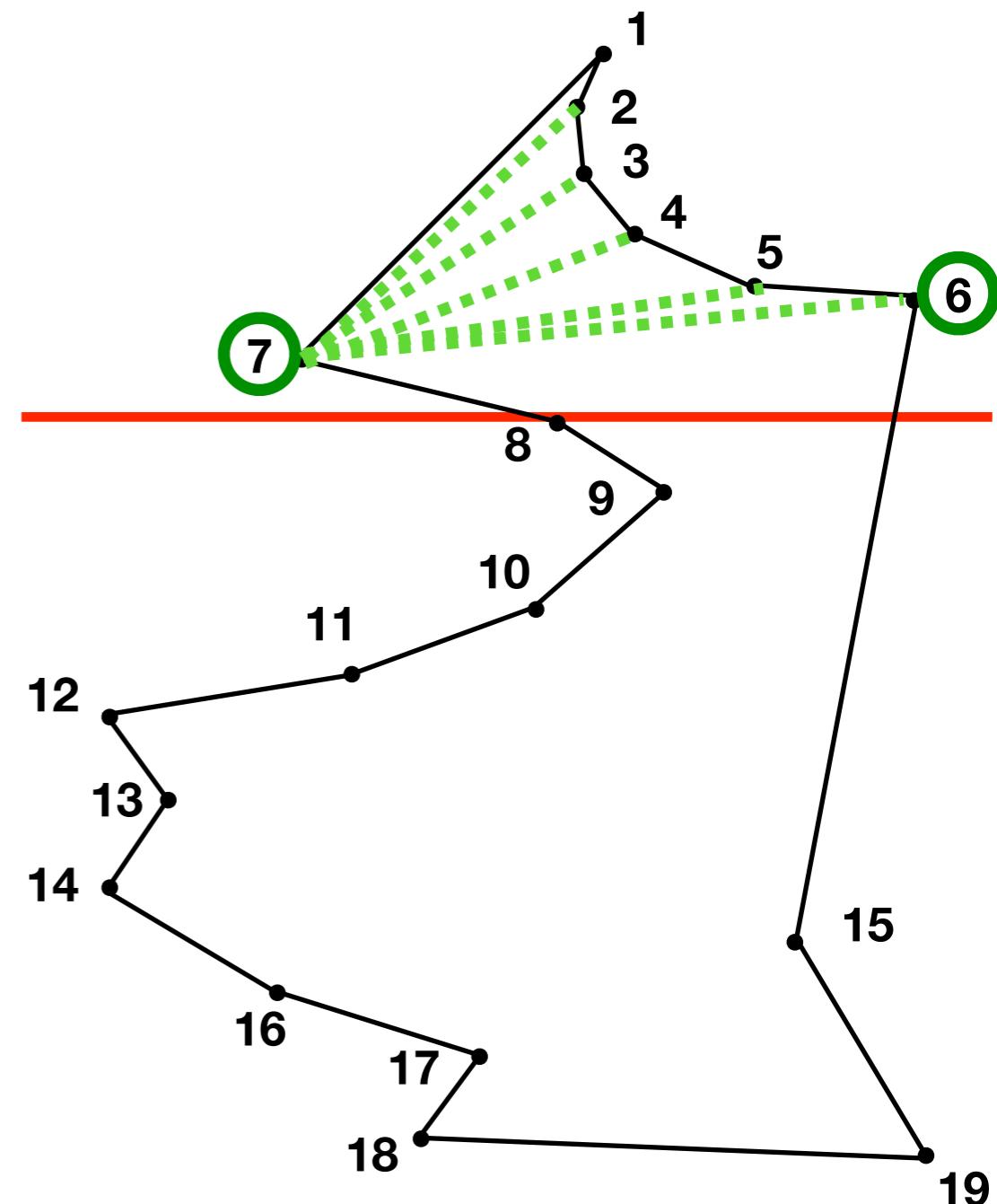
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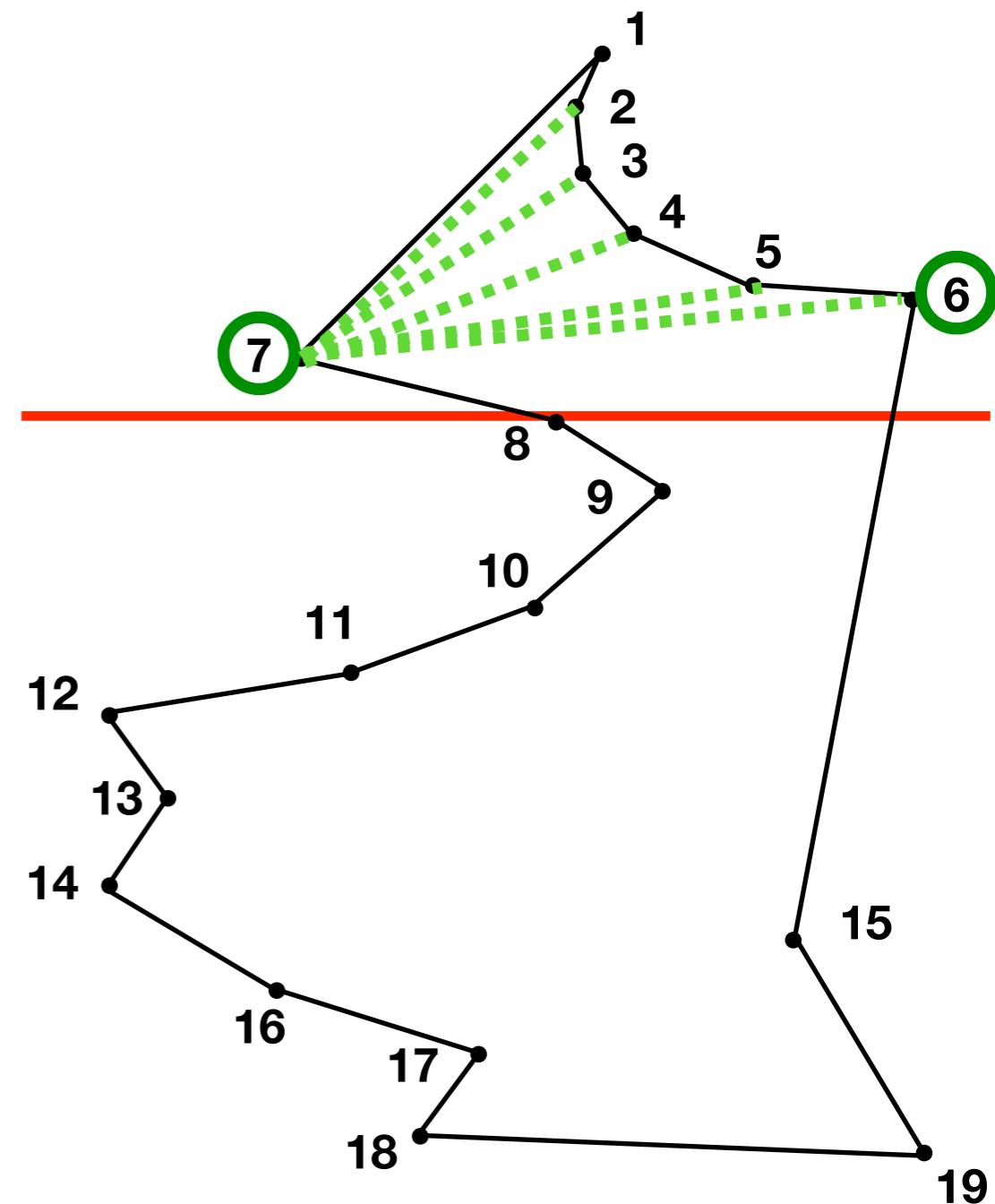
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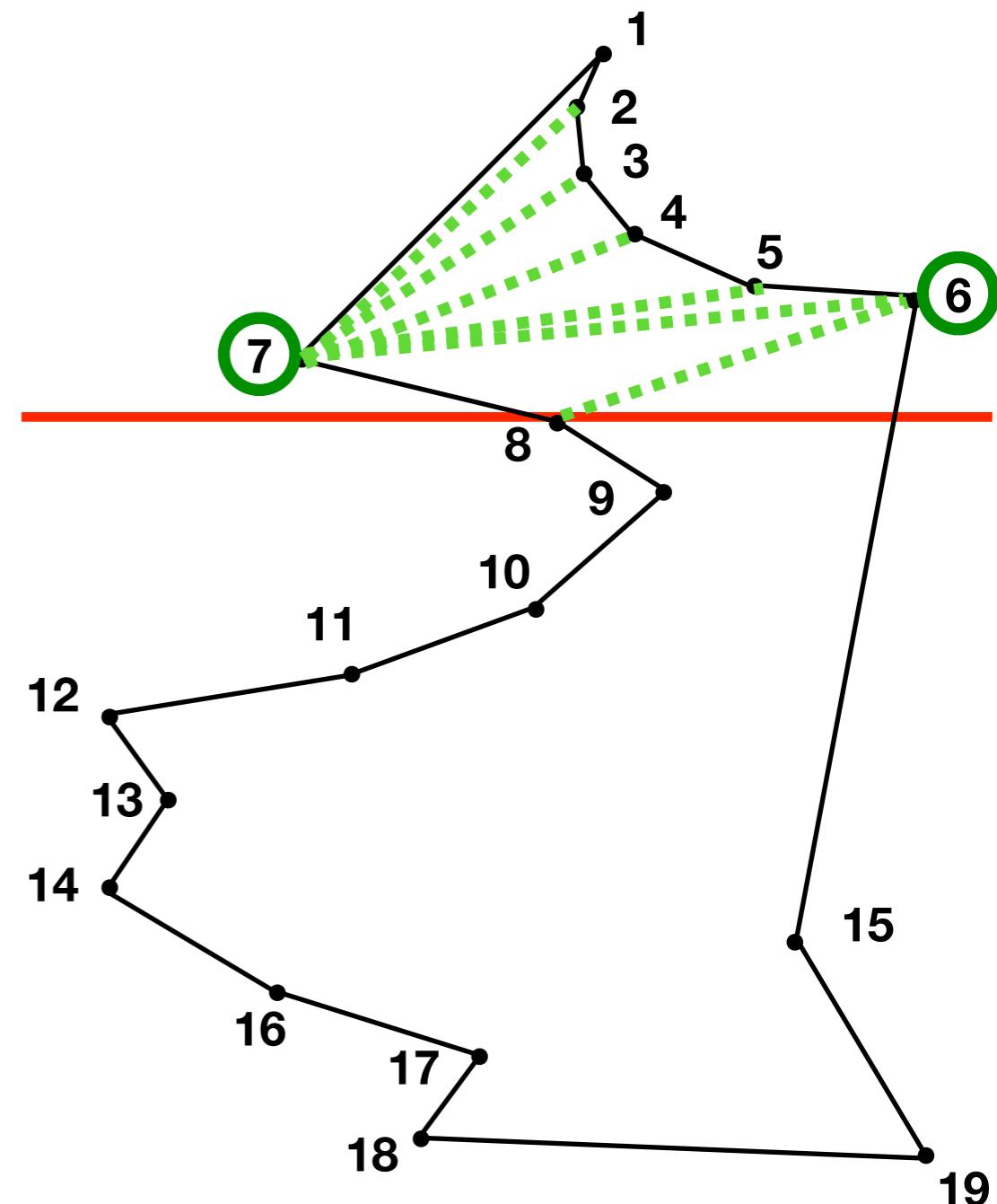
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

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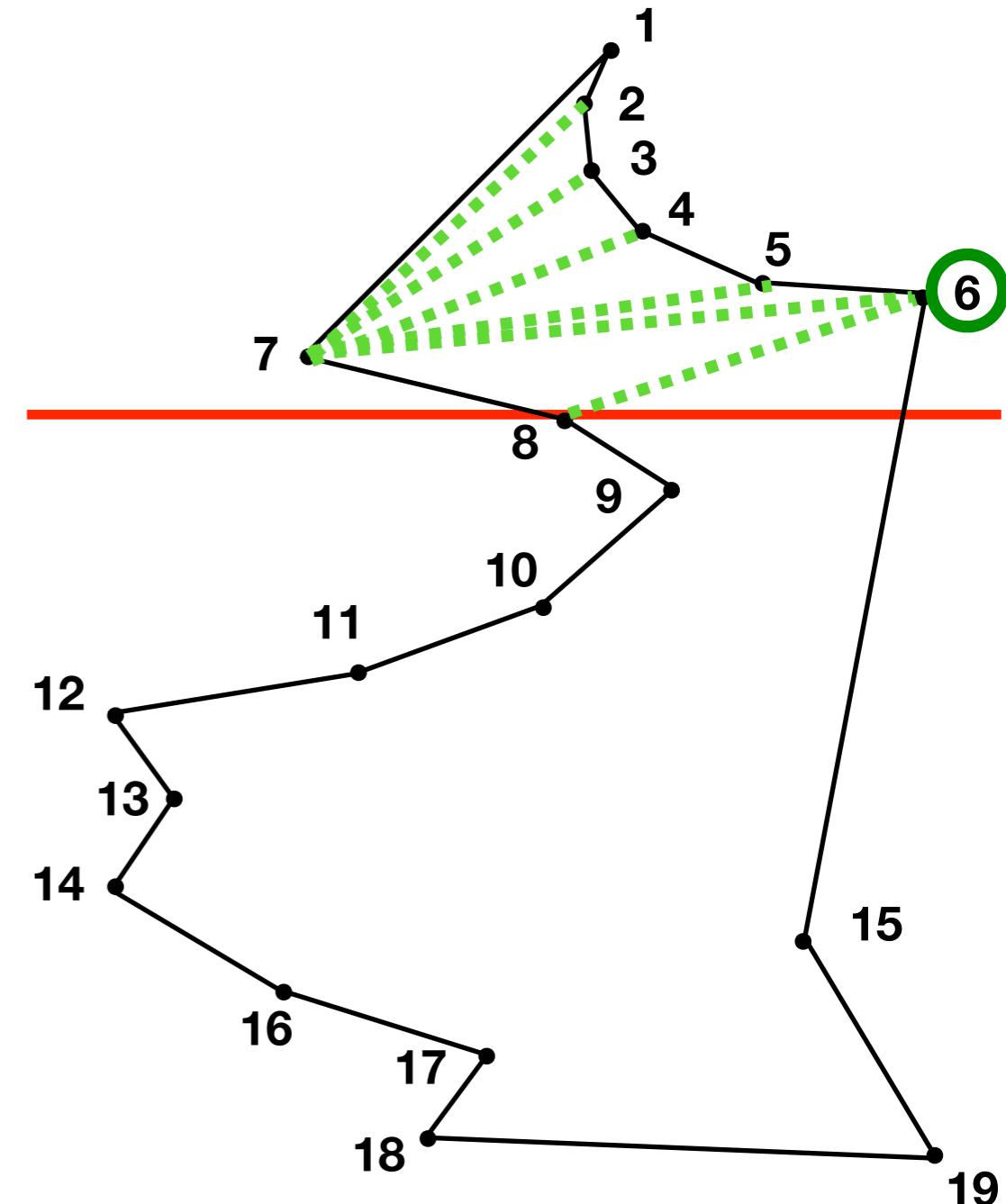
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# Chain

Add

Far

**Queue:** 6 7



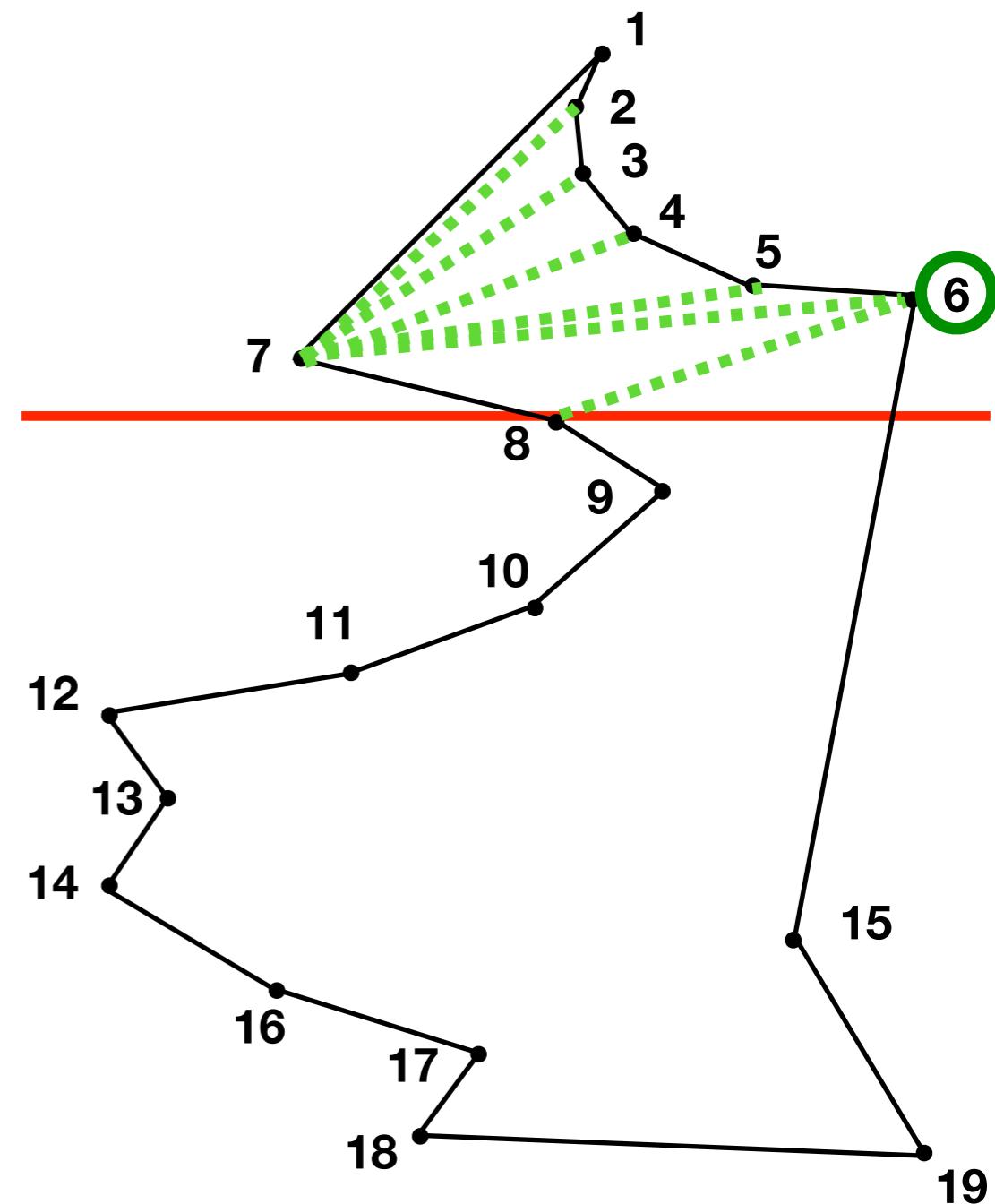
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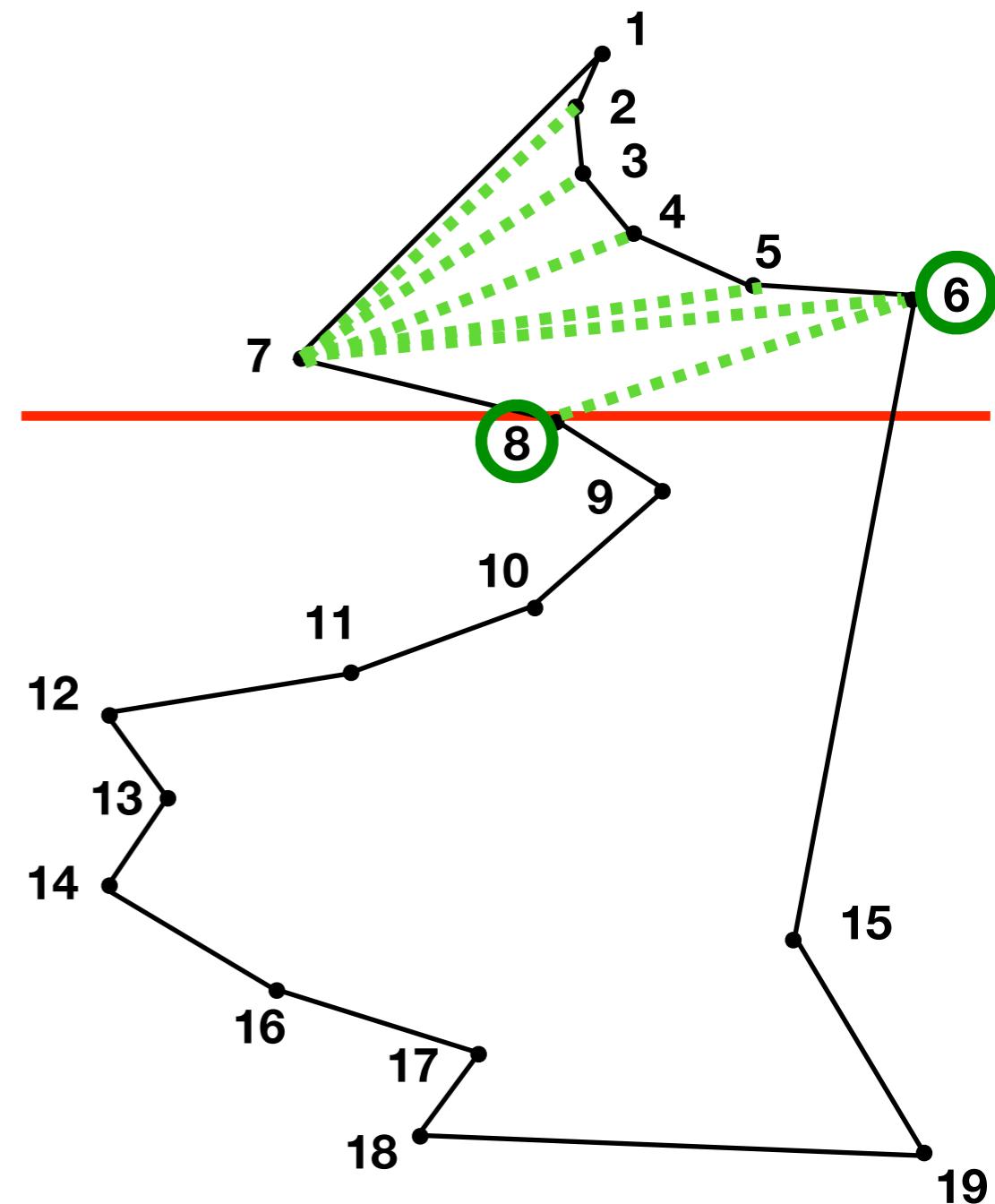
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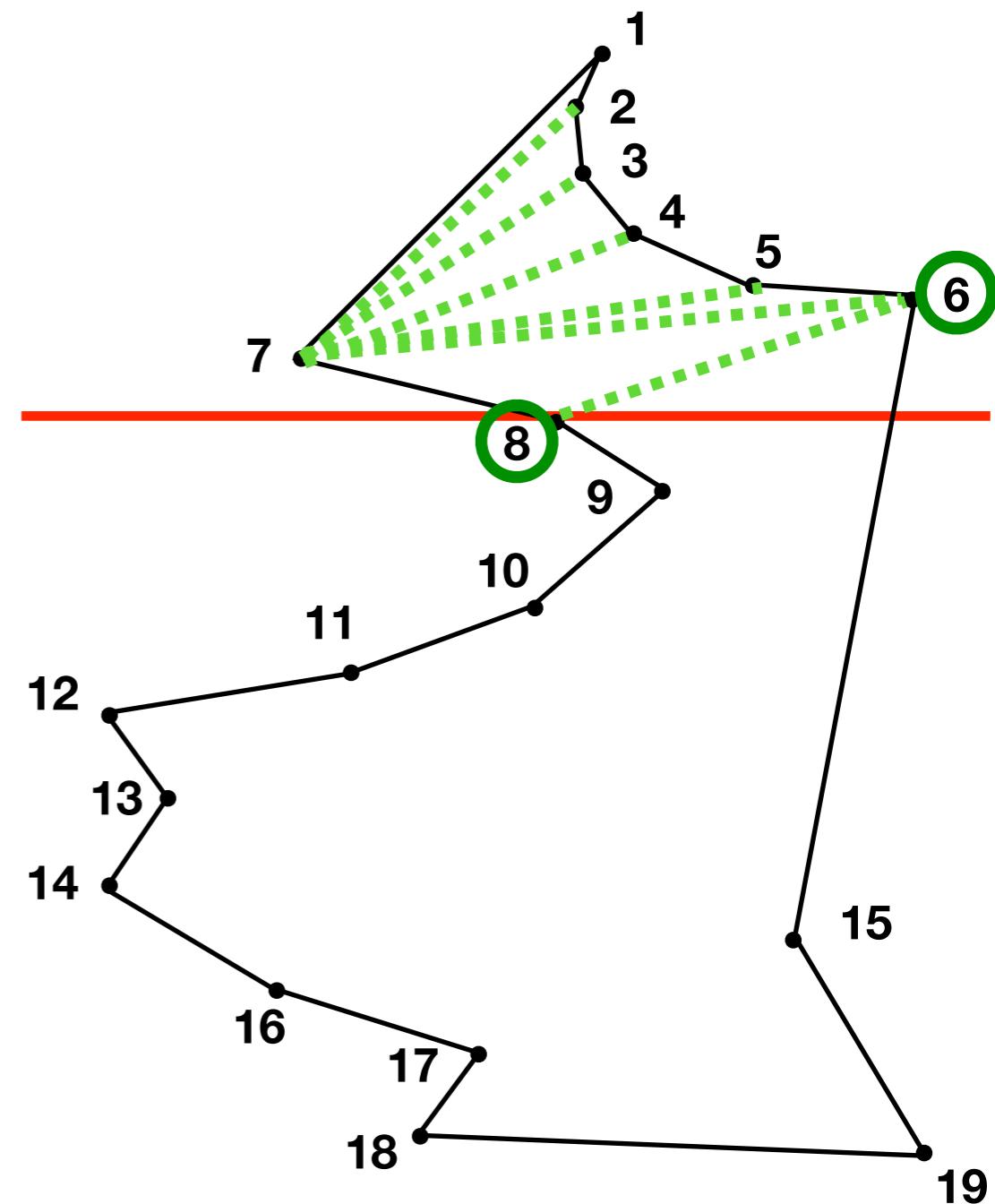
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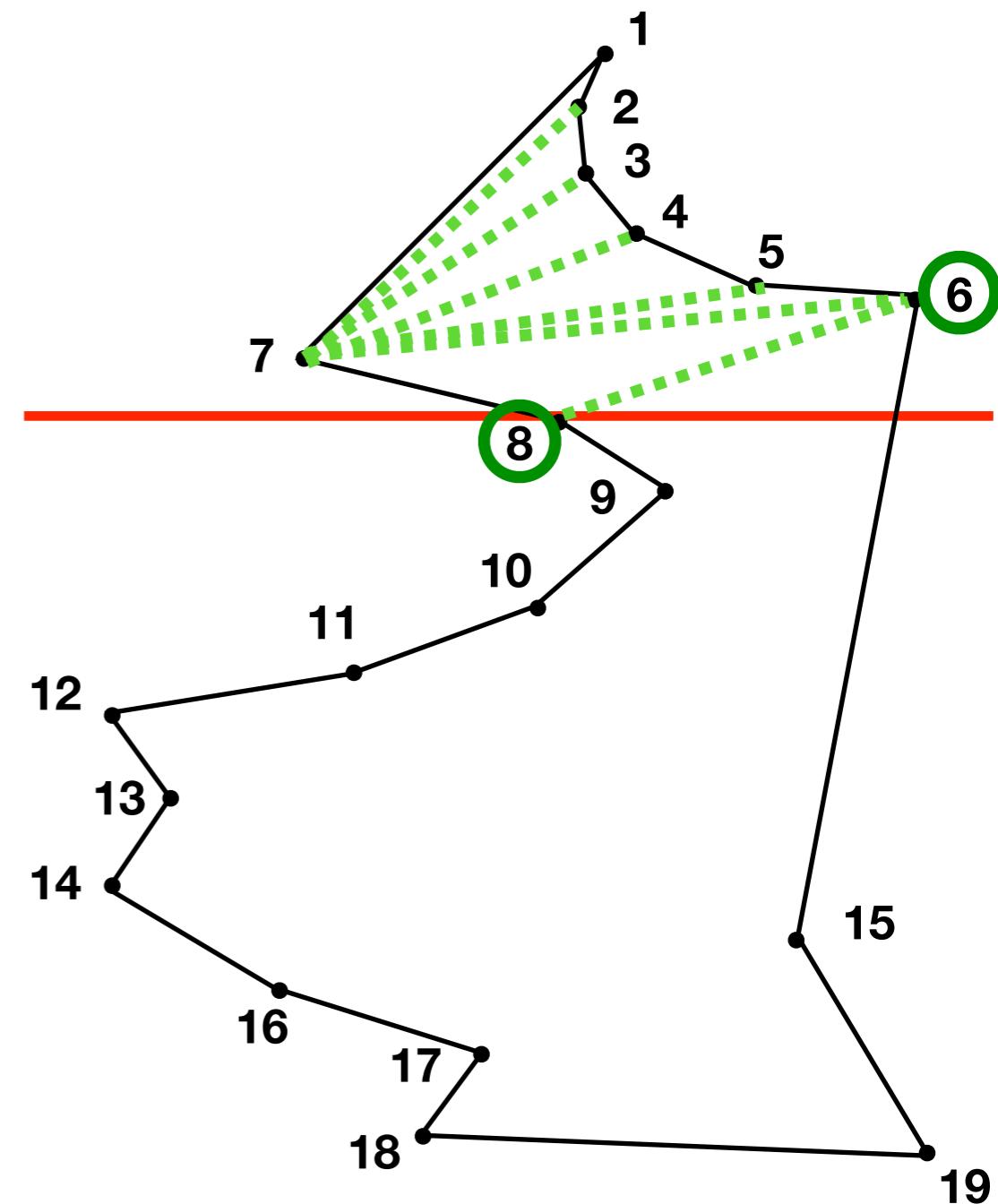
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

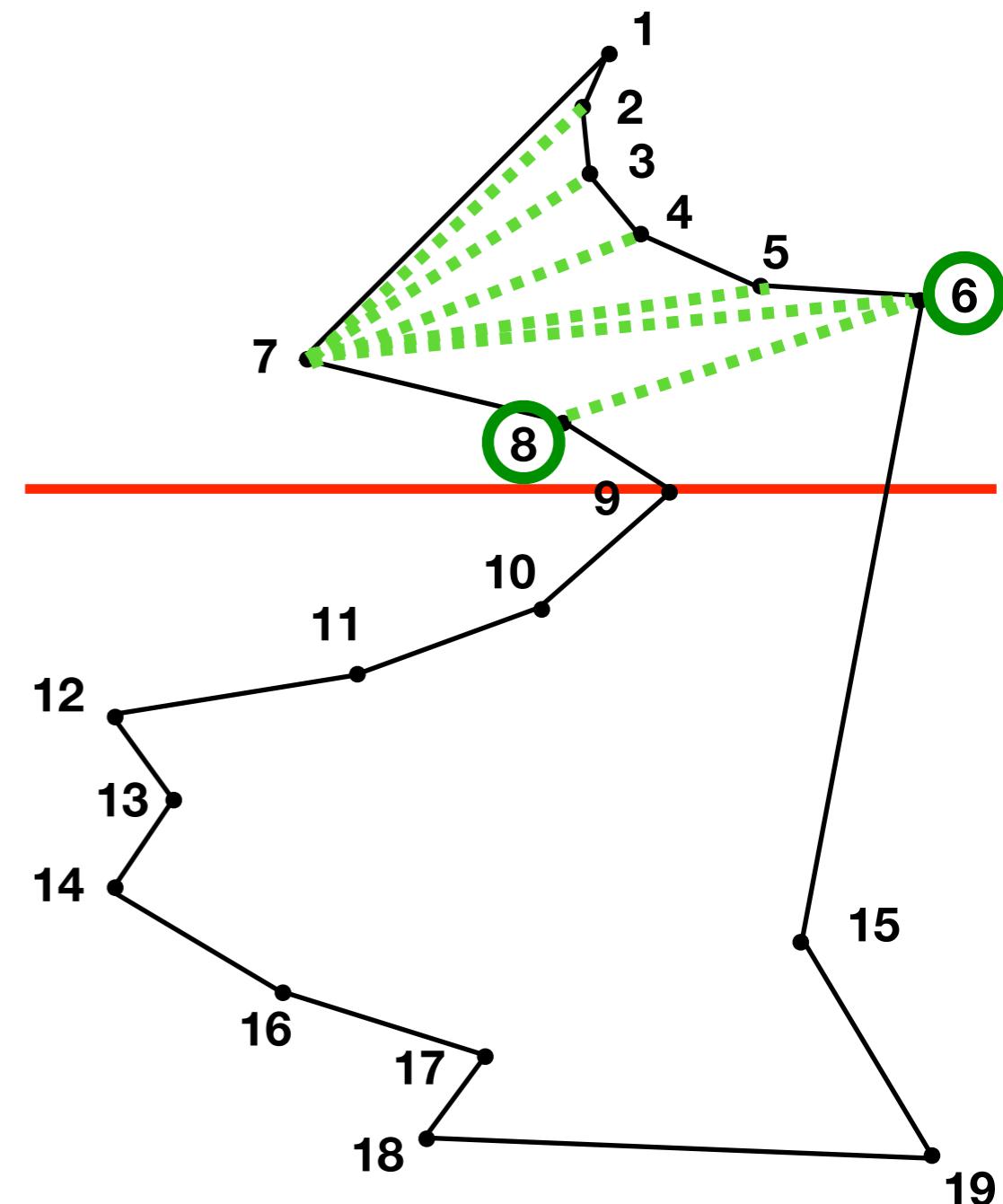
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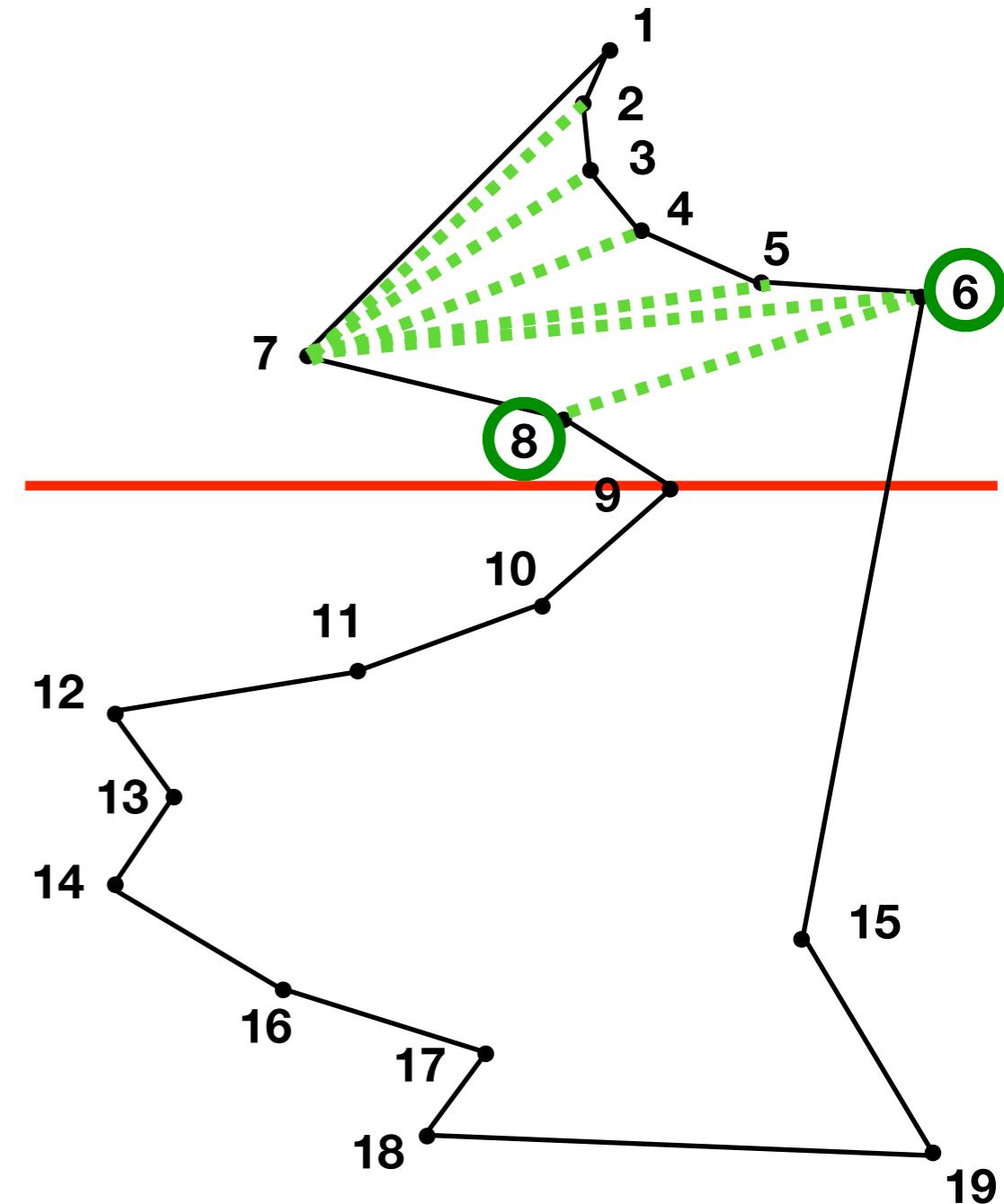
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# Chain

Add

Ear

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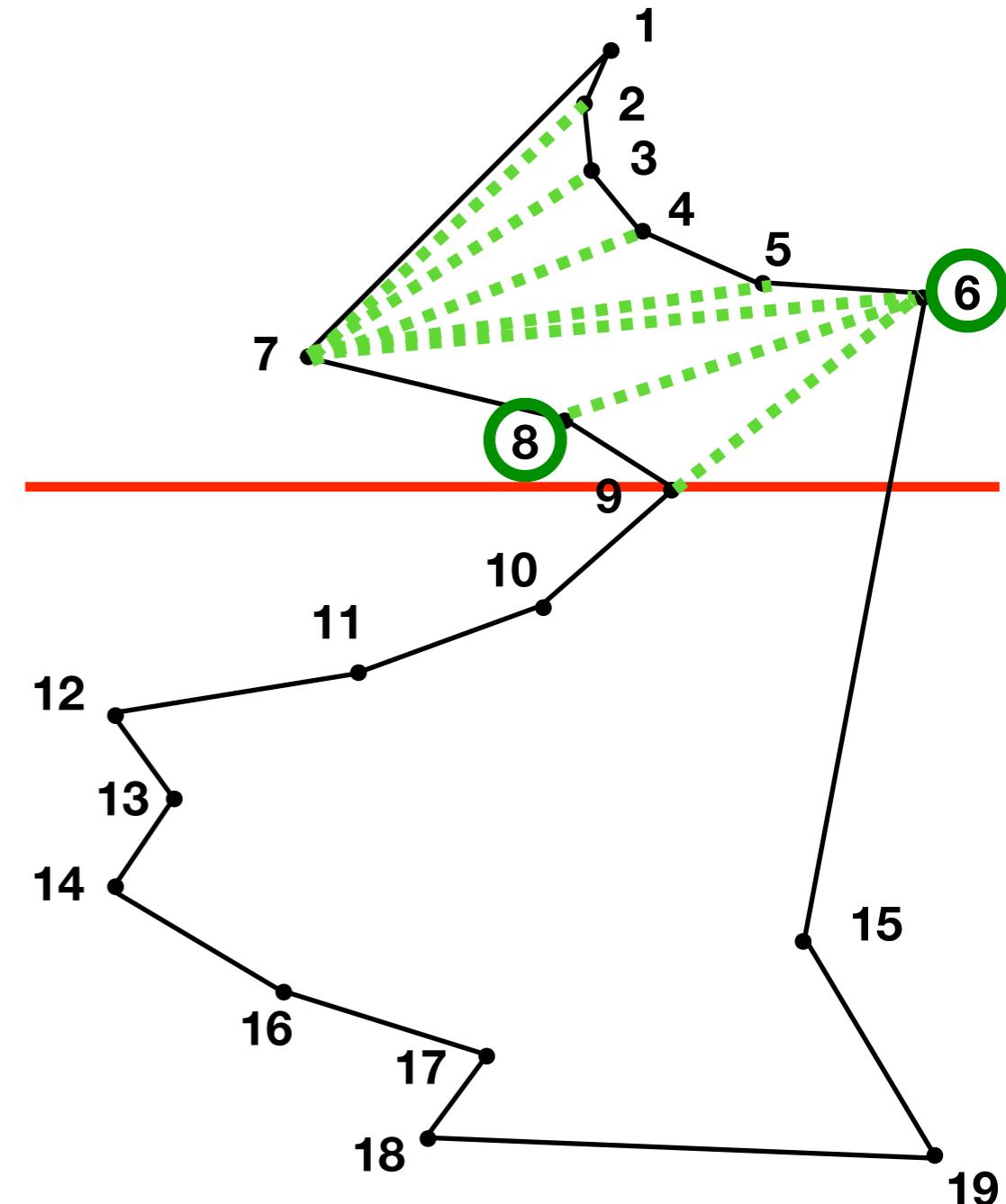
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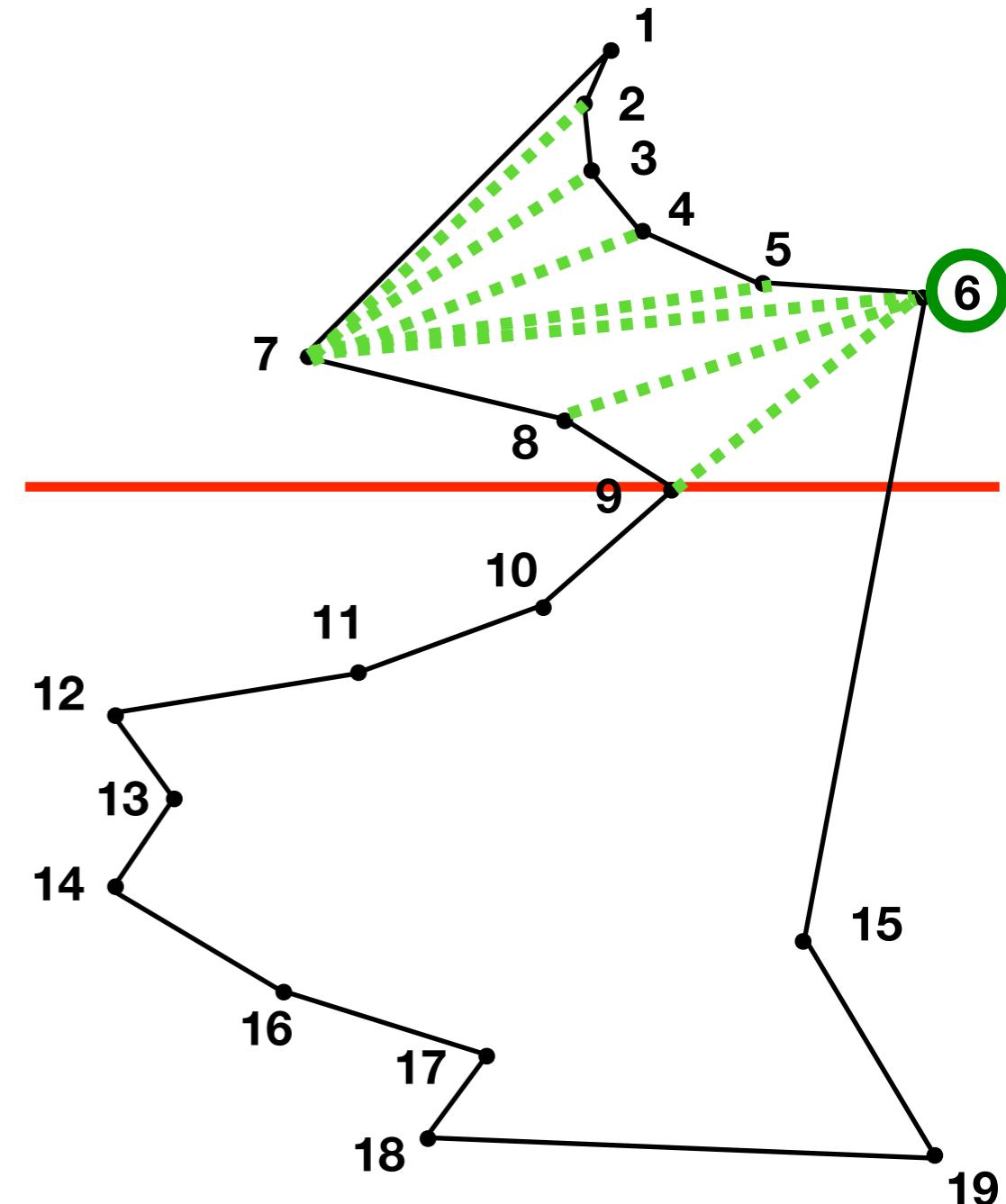
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# Chain

## Add

Ear

**Queue:** 6 8



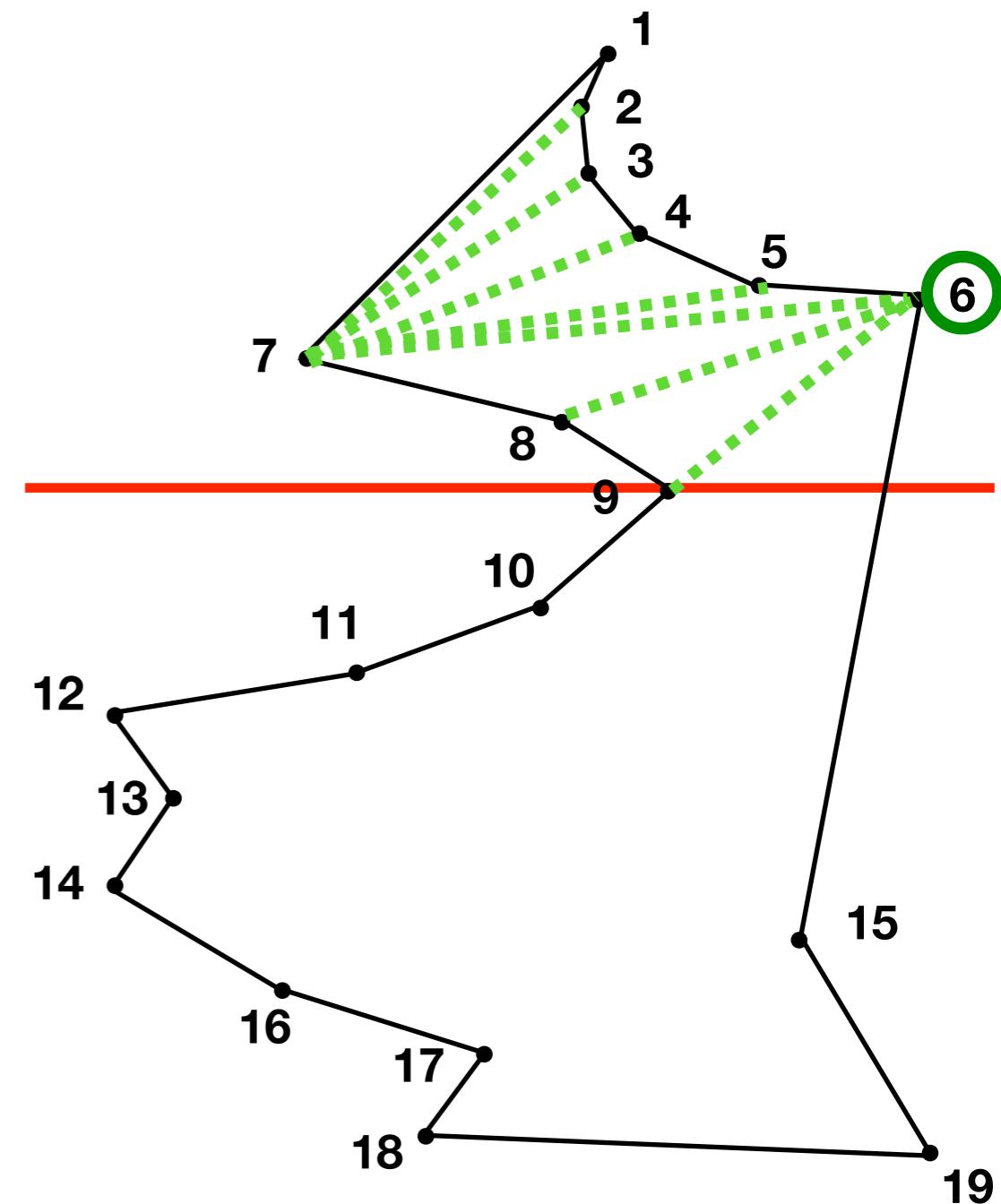
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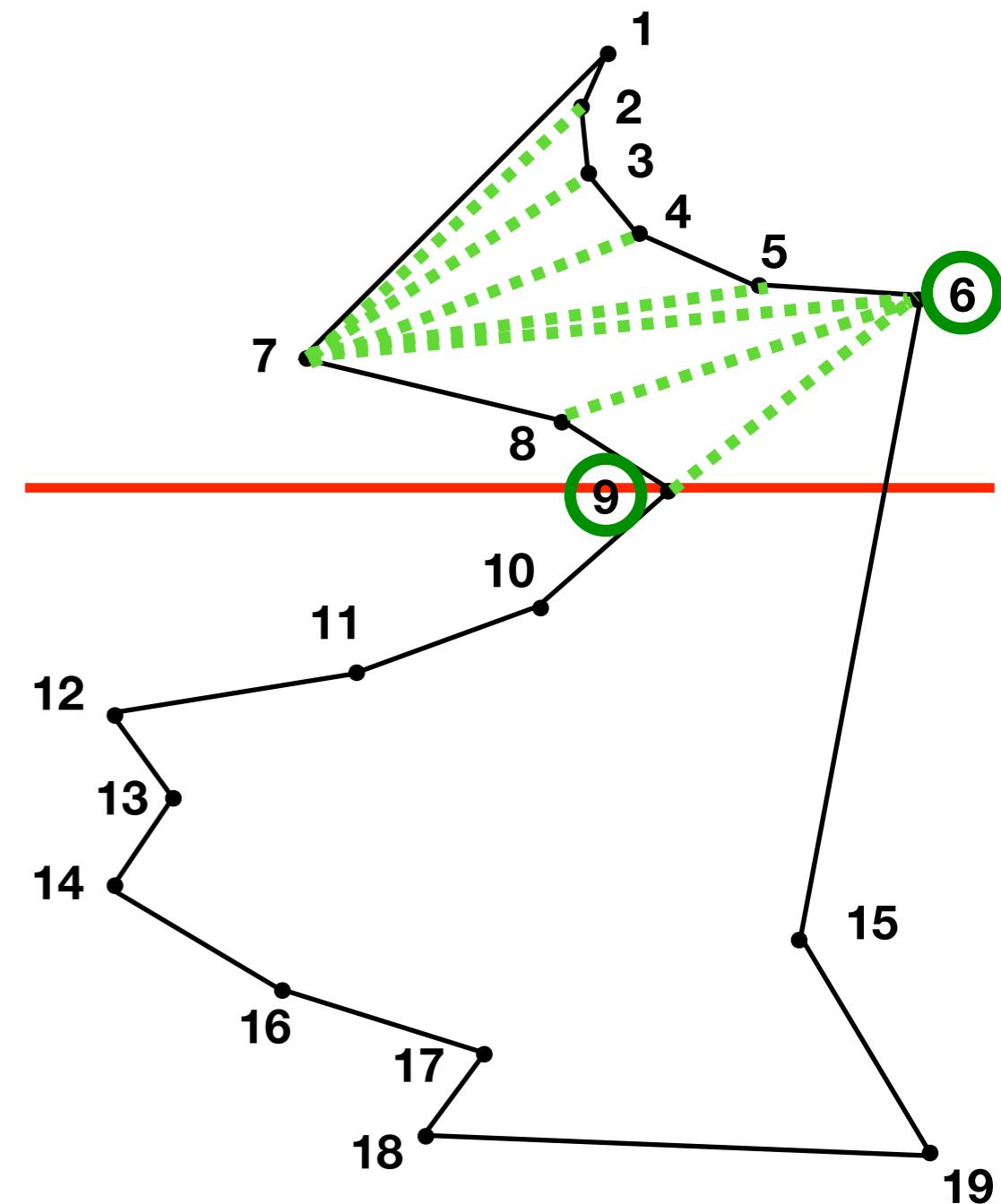
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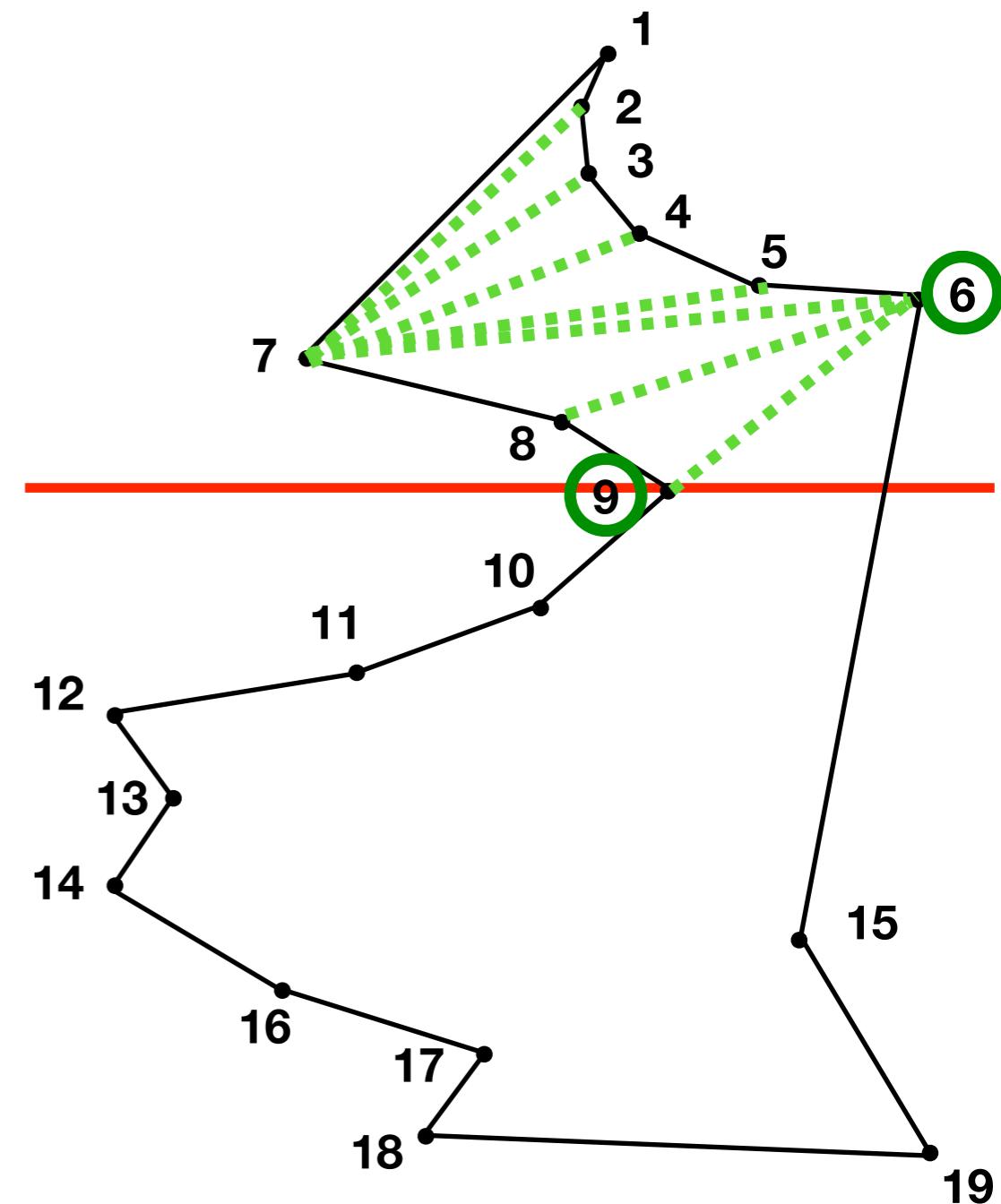
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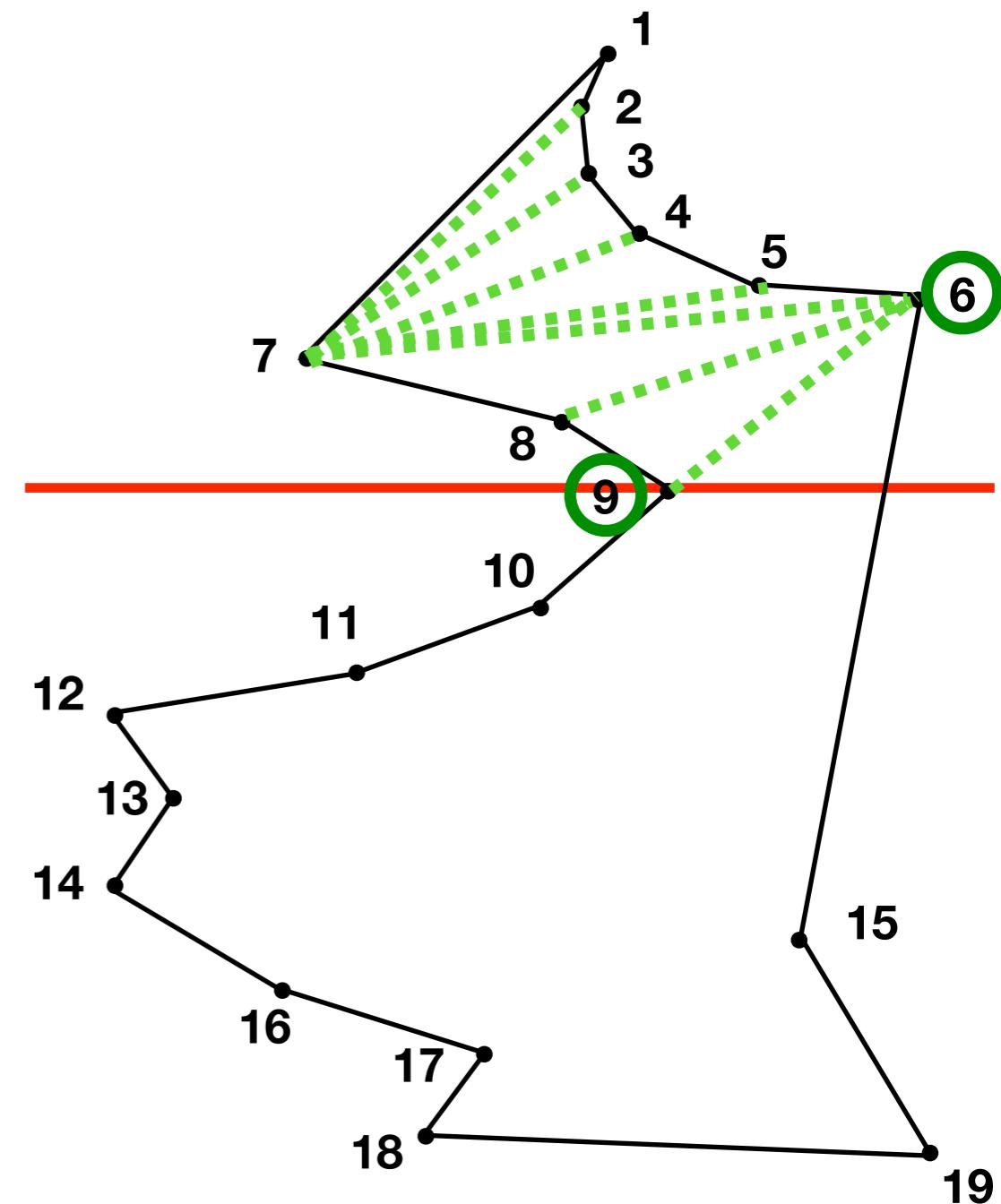
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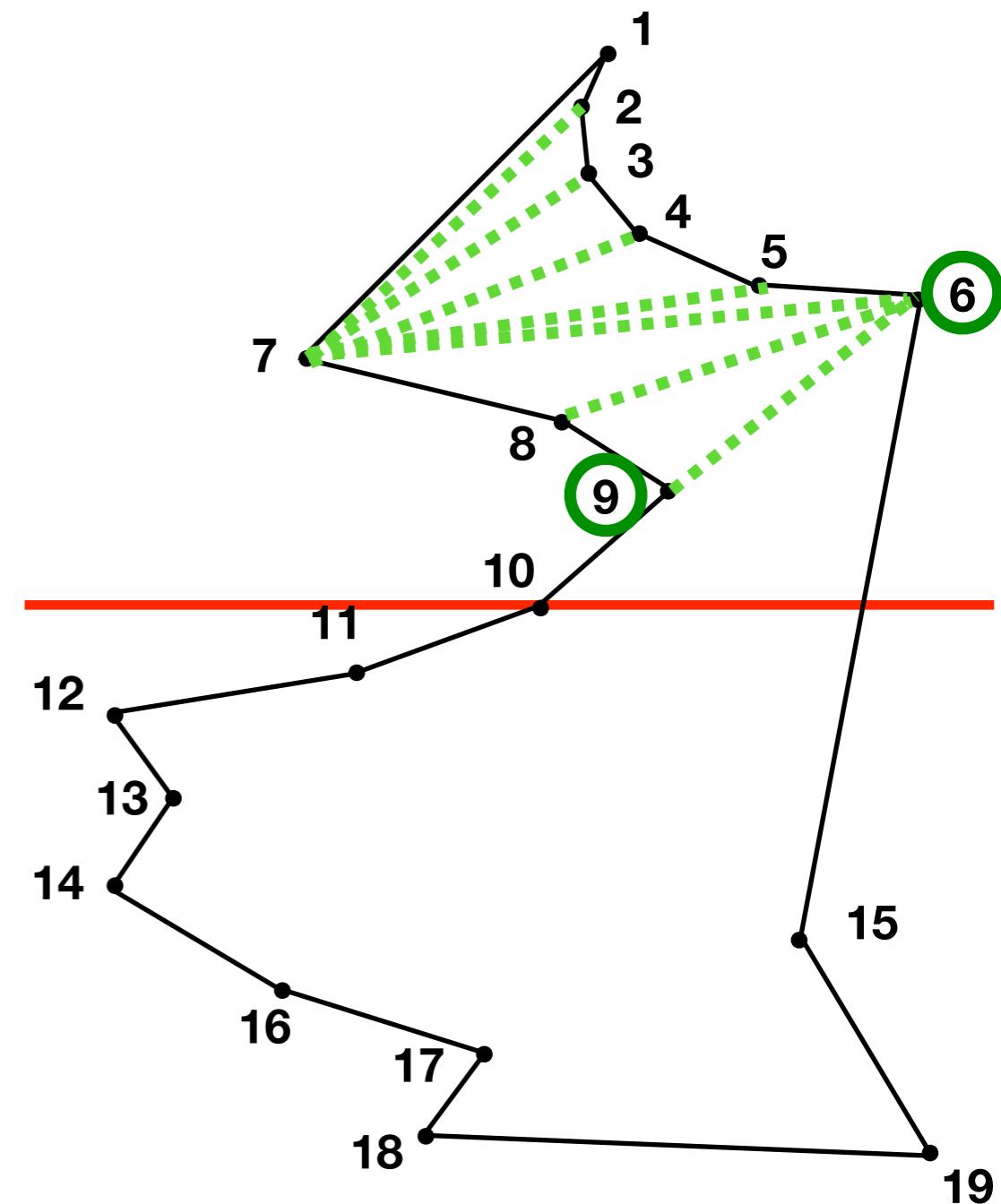
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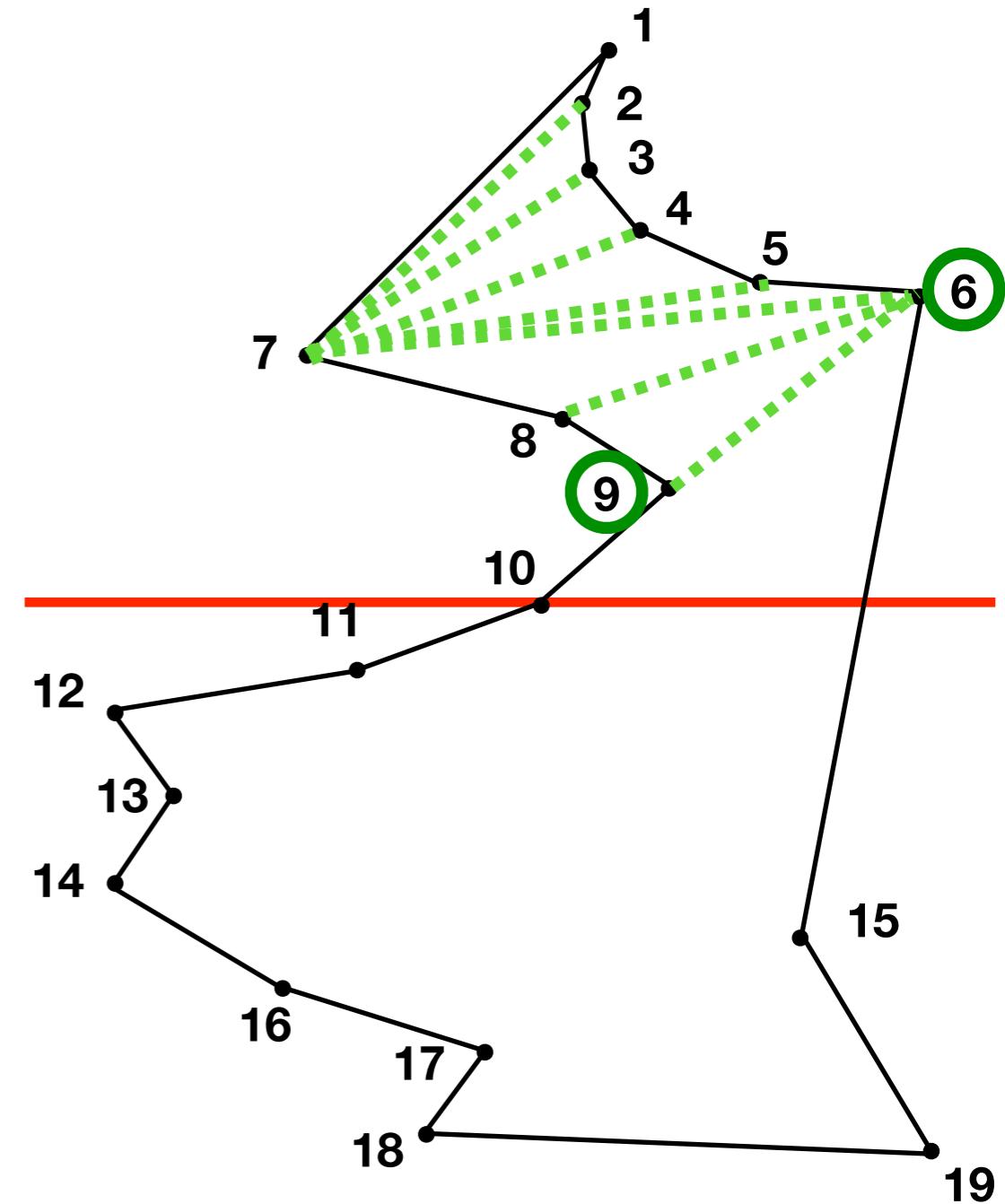
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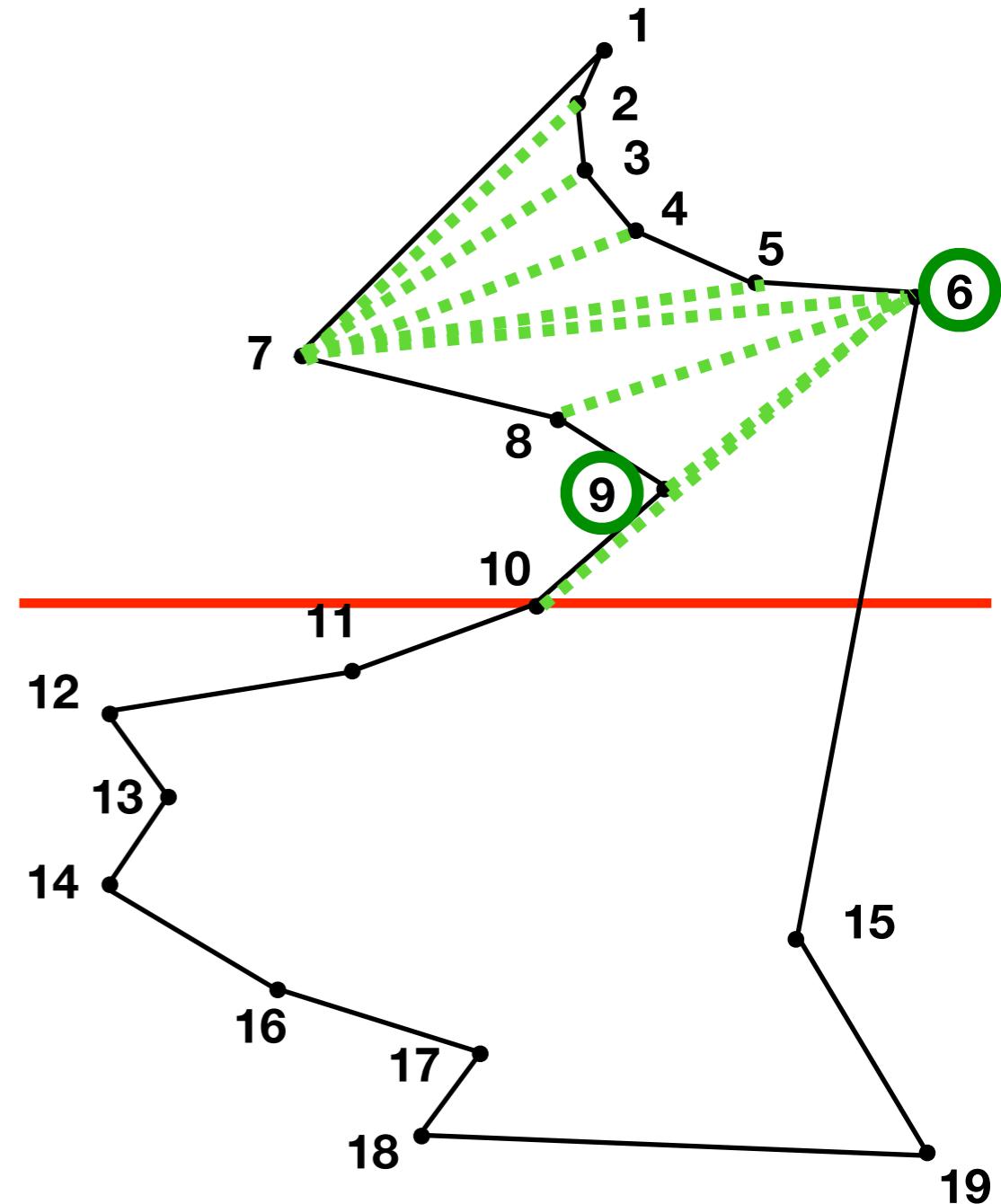
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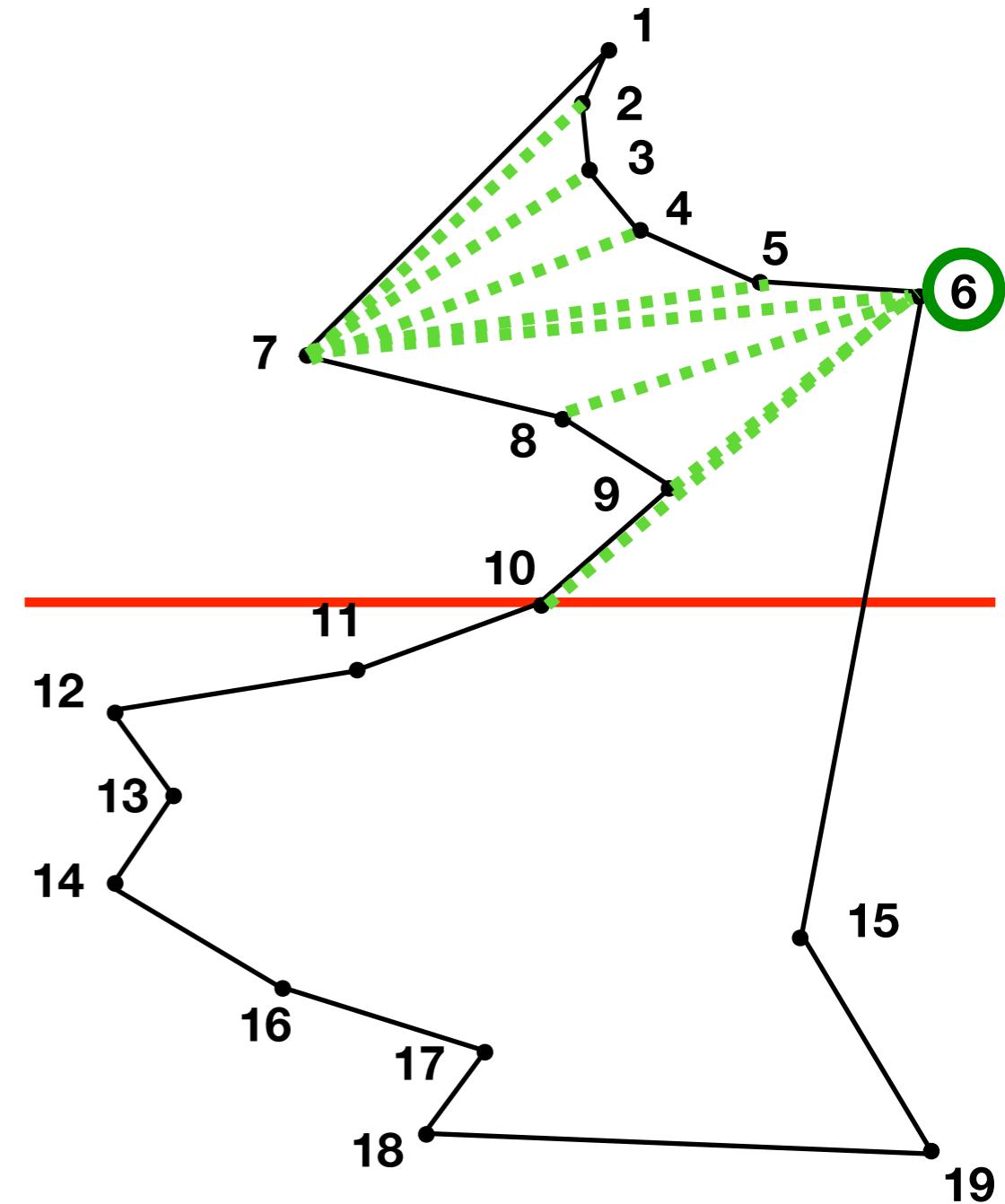
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

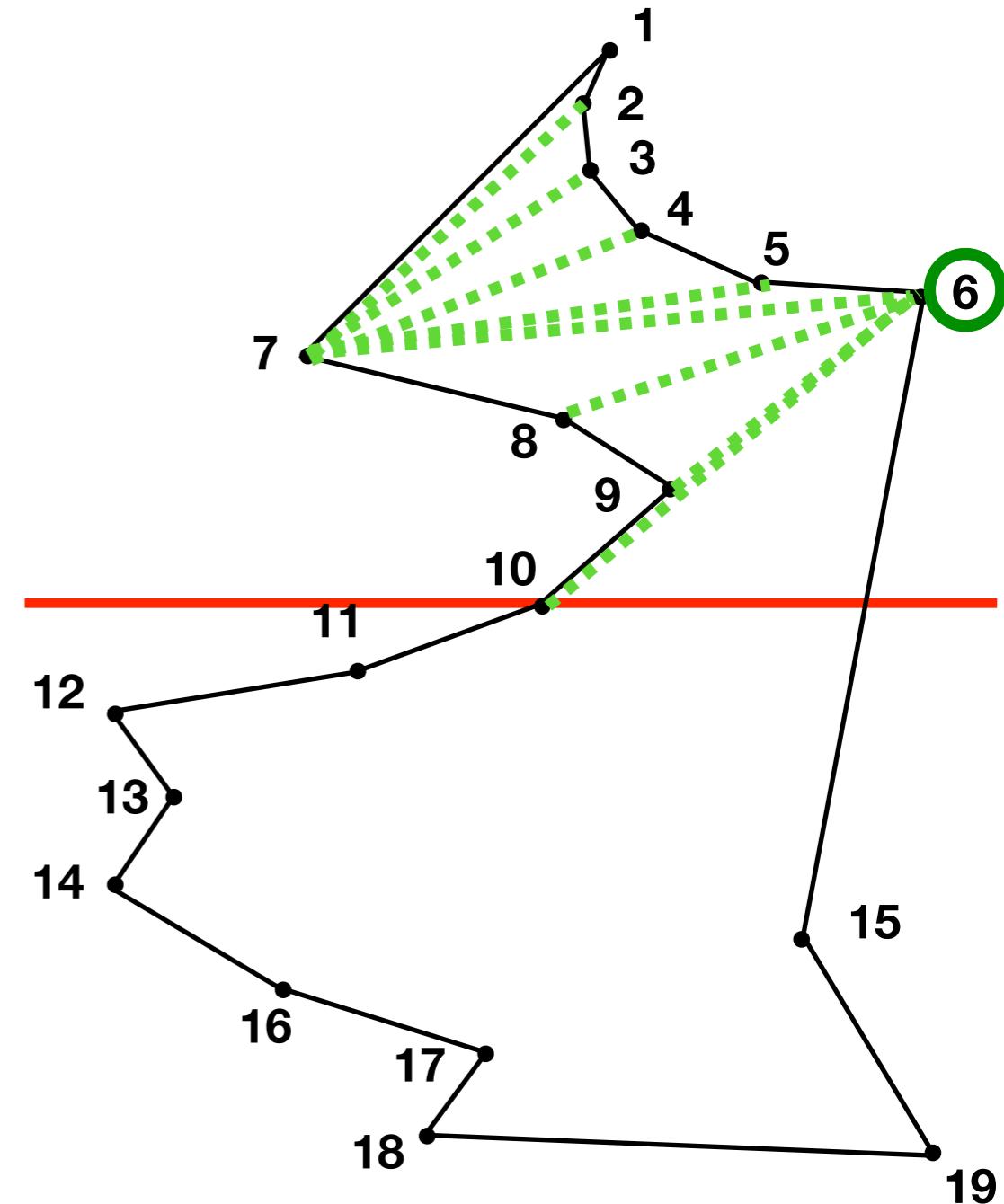
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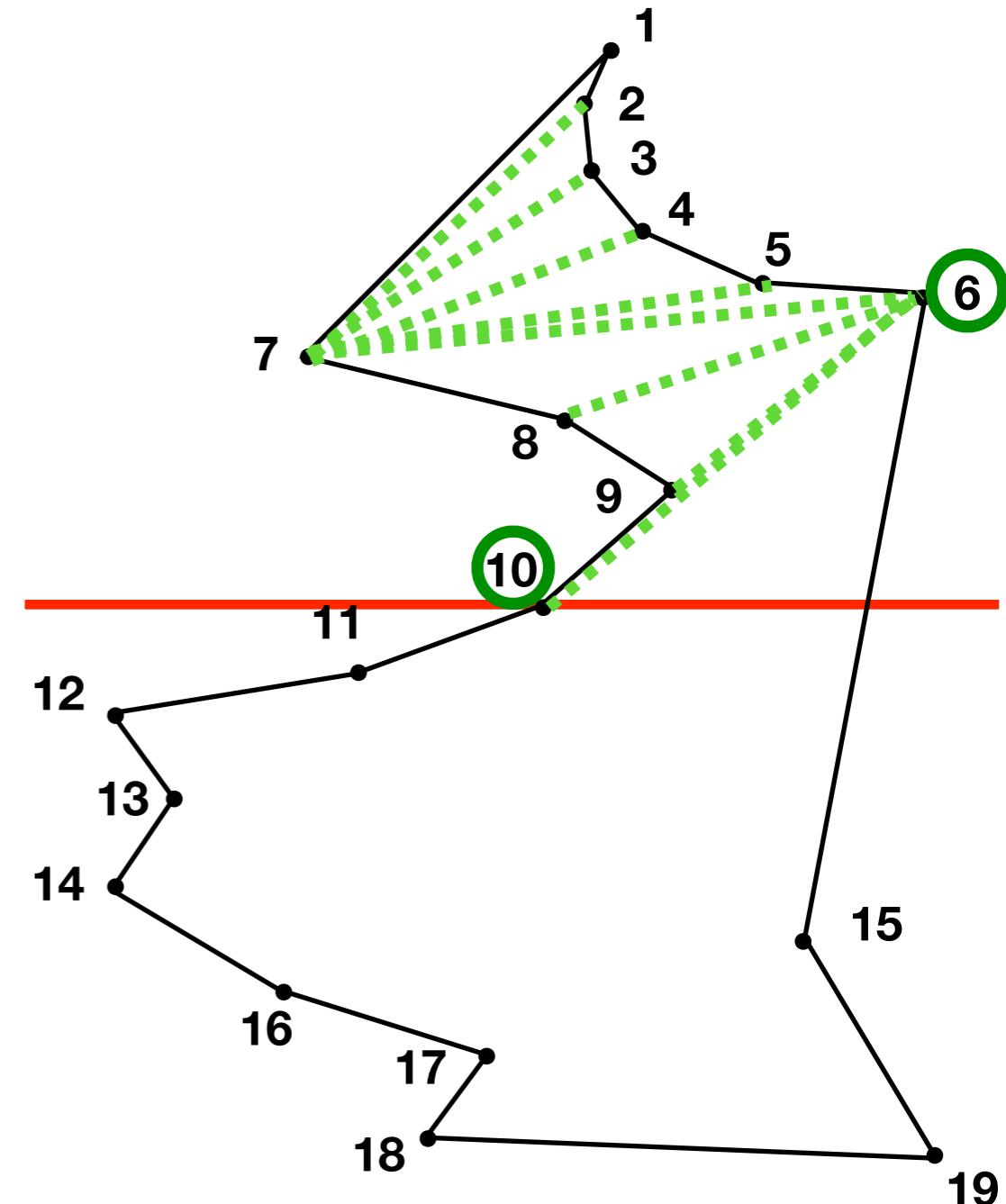
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# Chain

Add

Ear

# Queue: 6



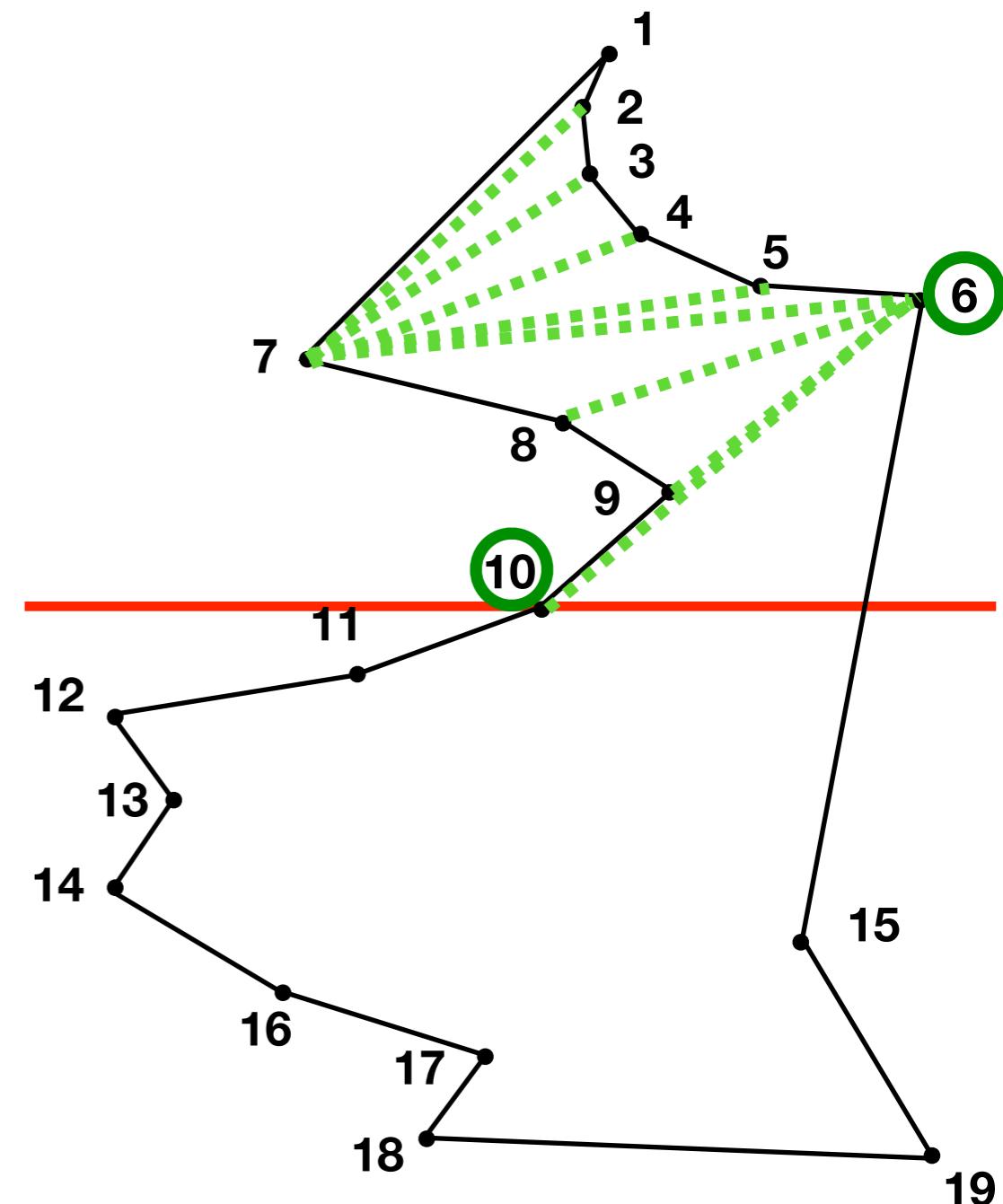
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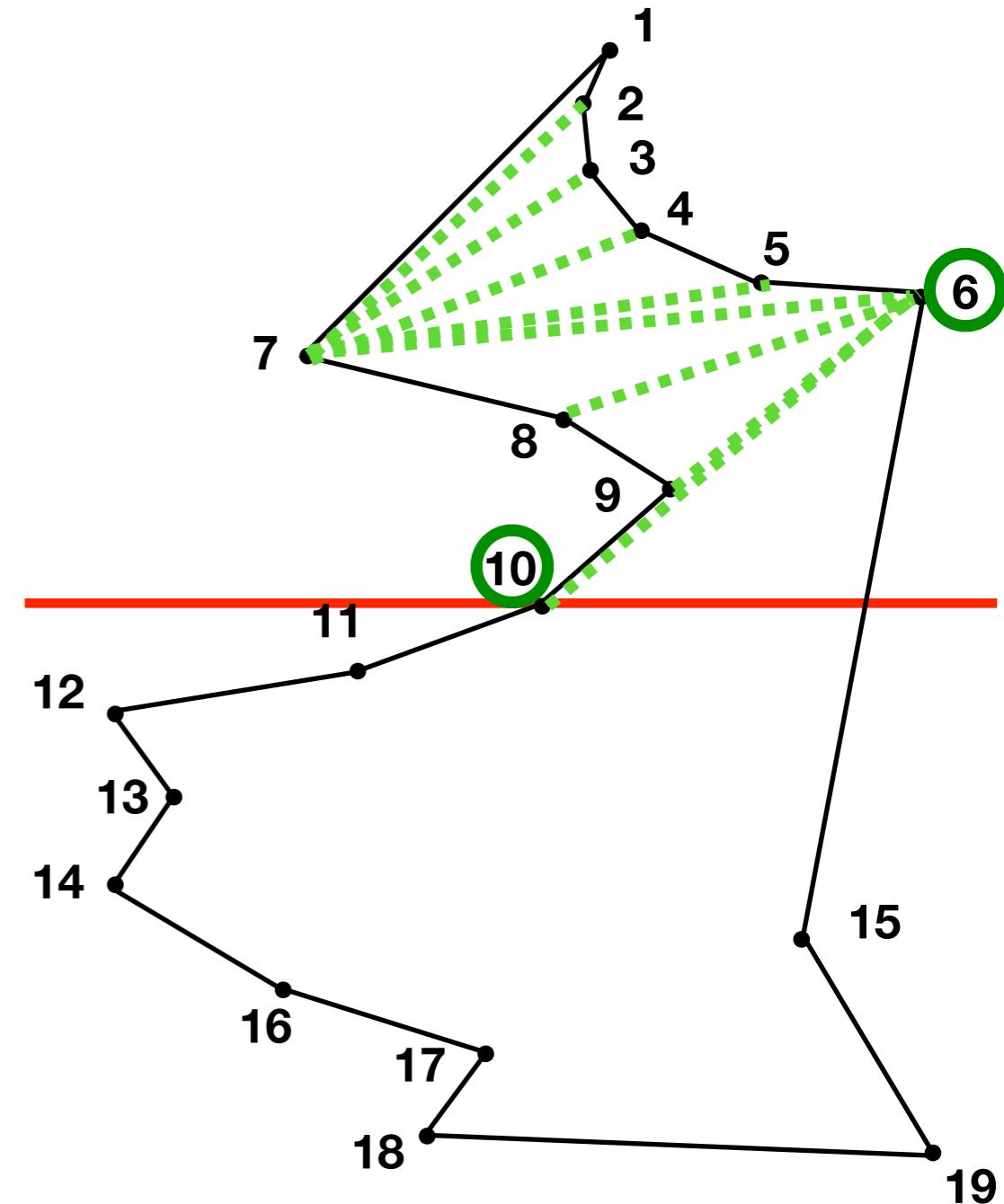
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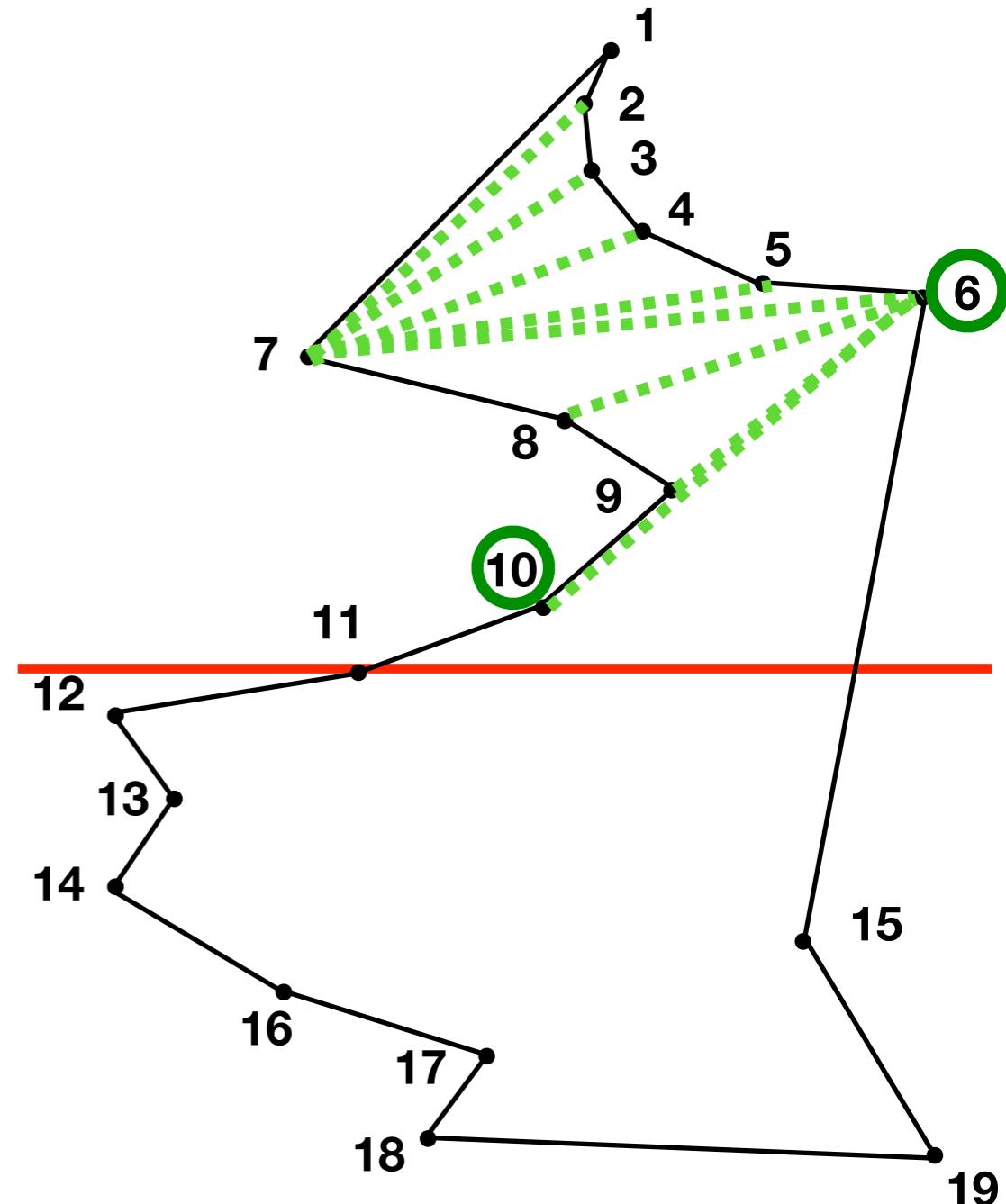
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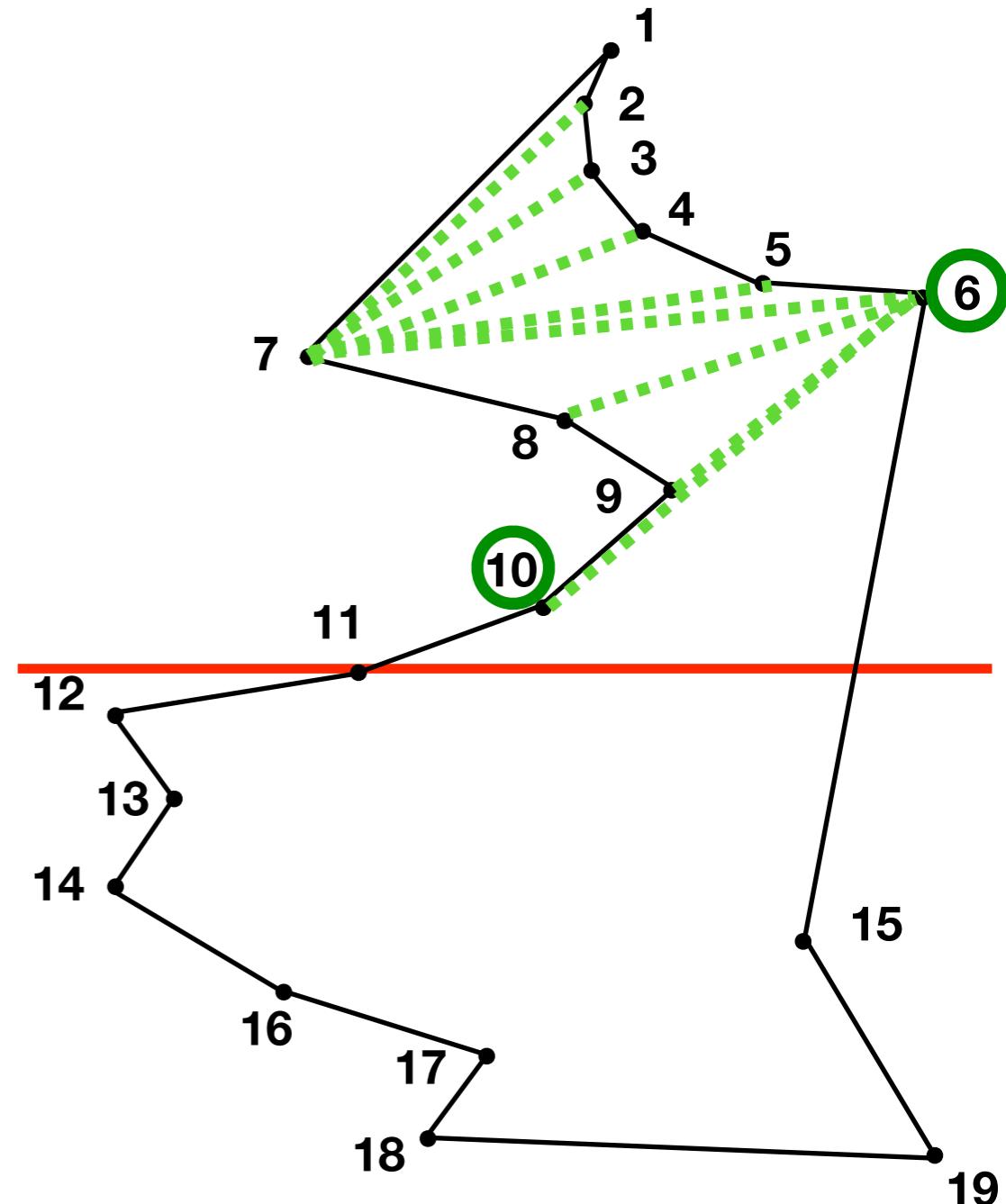
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# Chain

## Add

Ear

**Queue:** 6 10



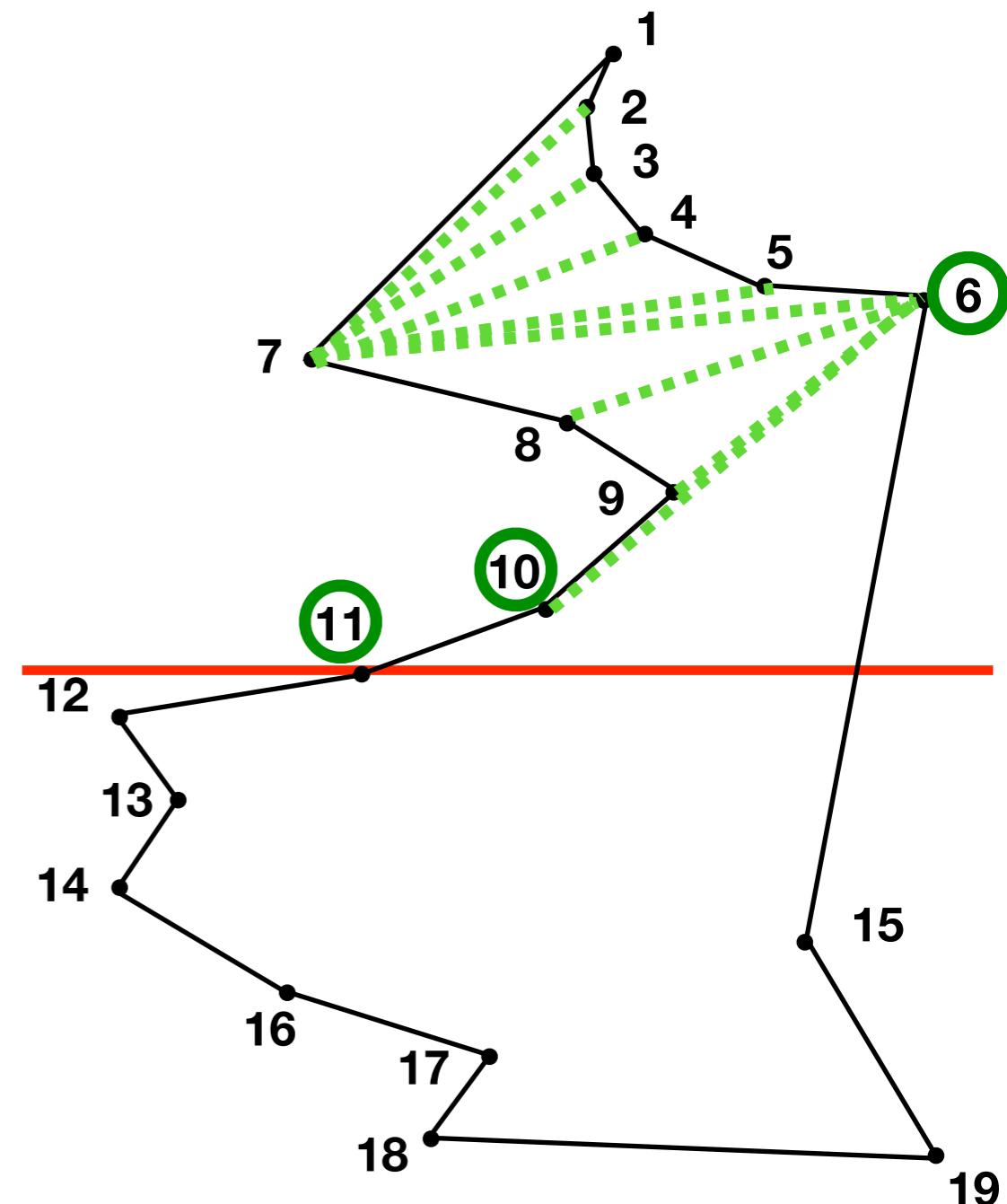
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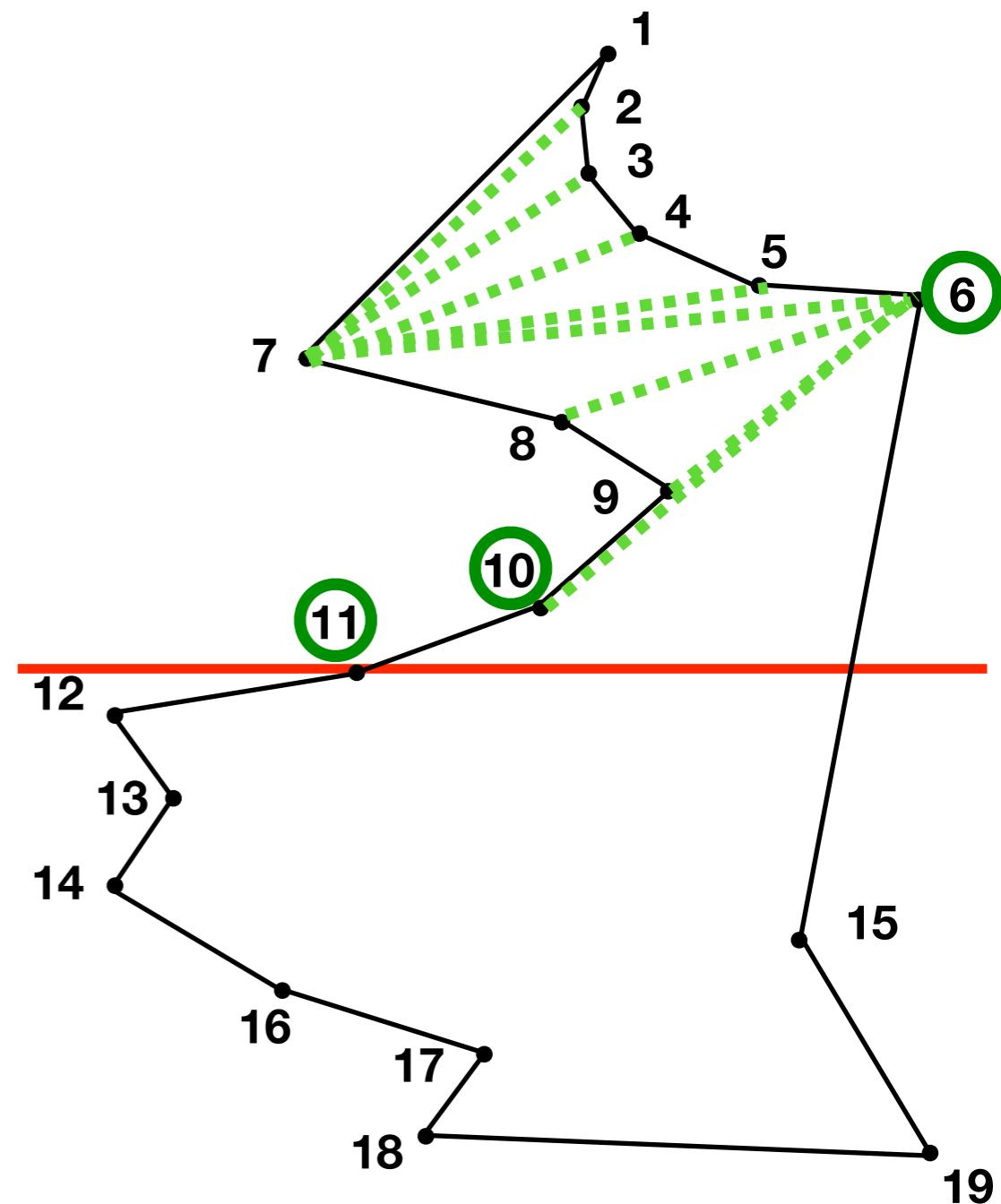
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**Queue:** 6 10 11



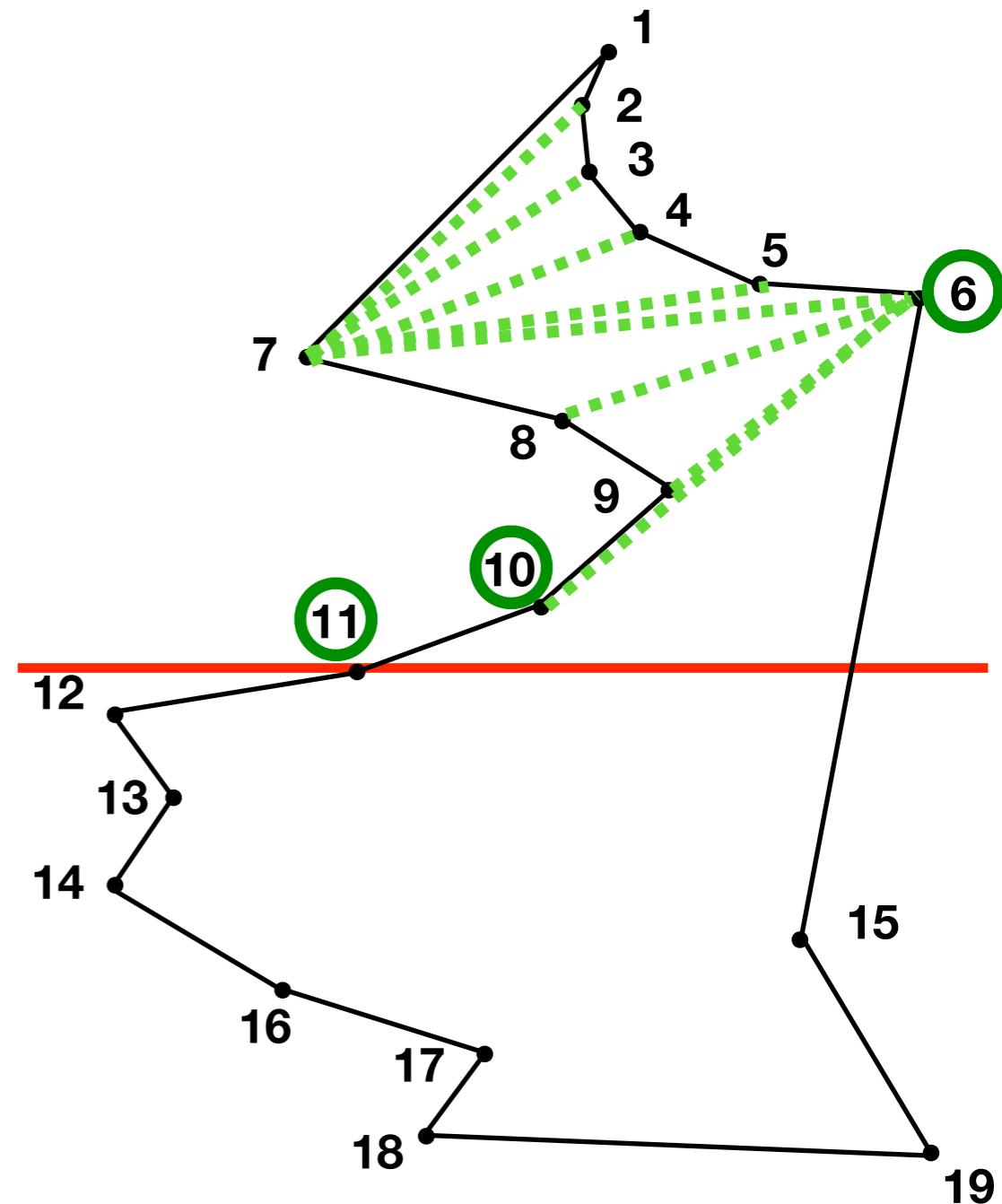
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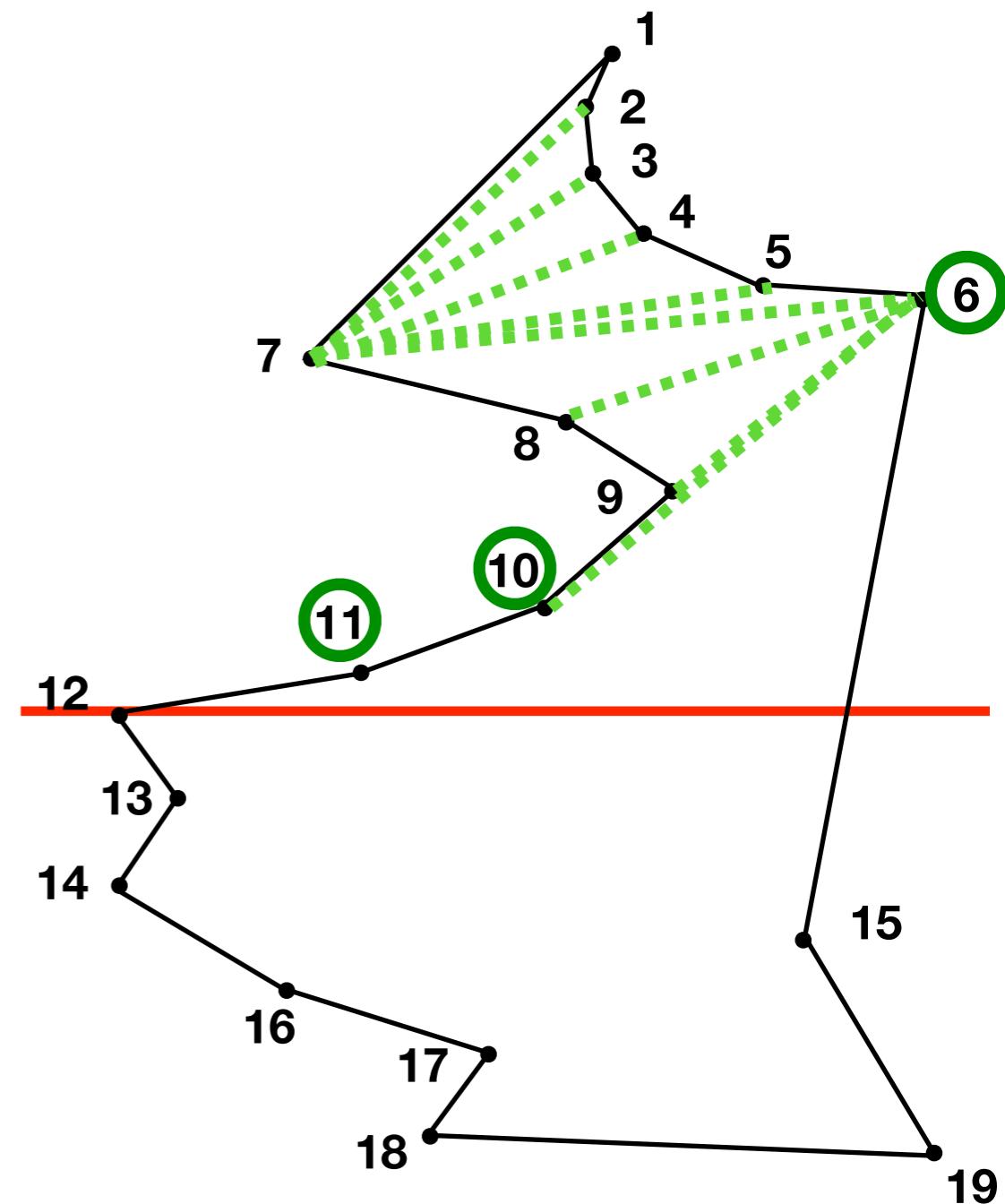
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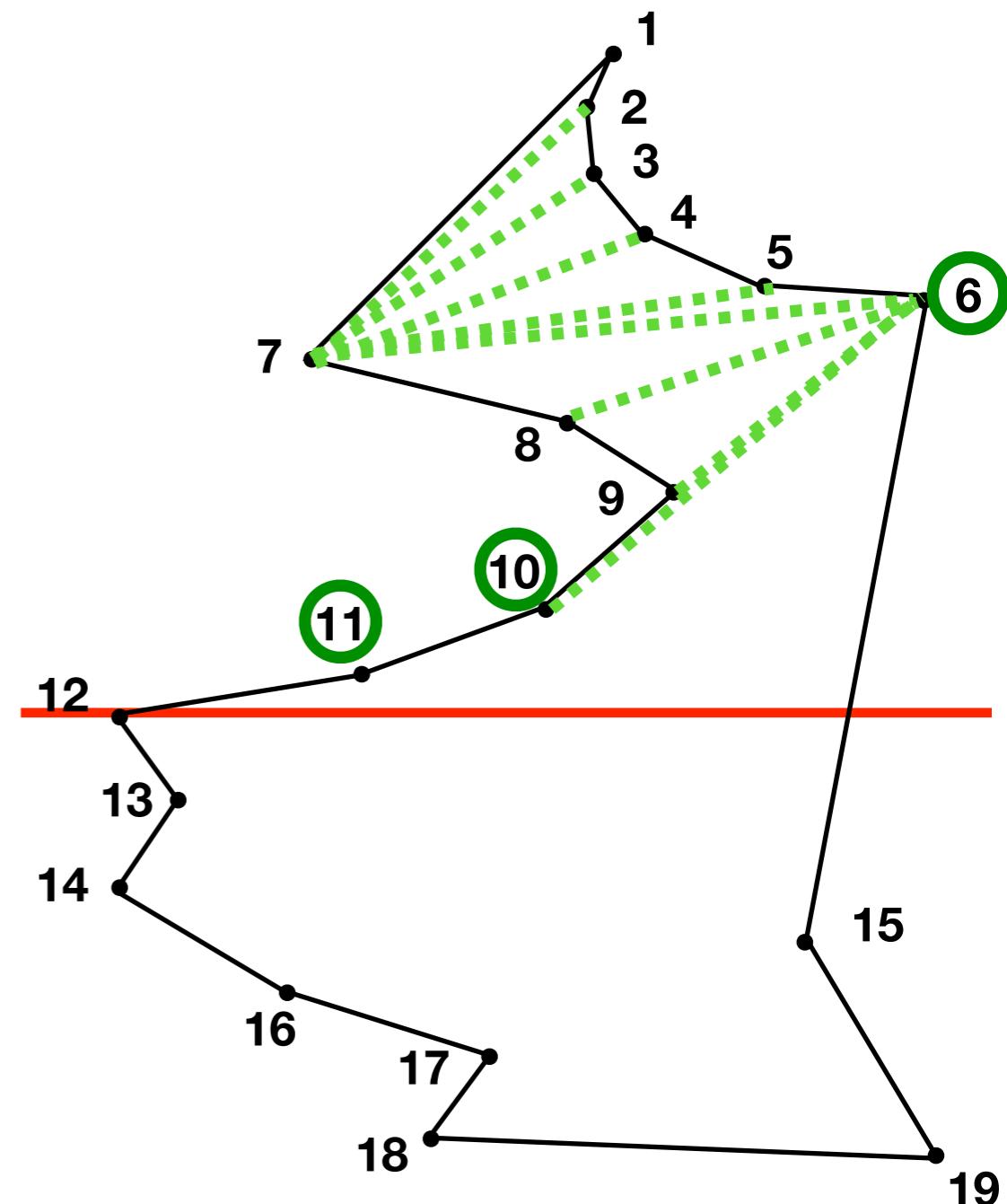
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

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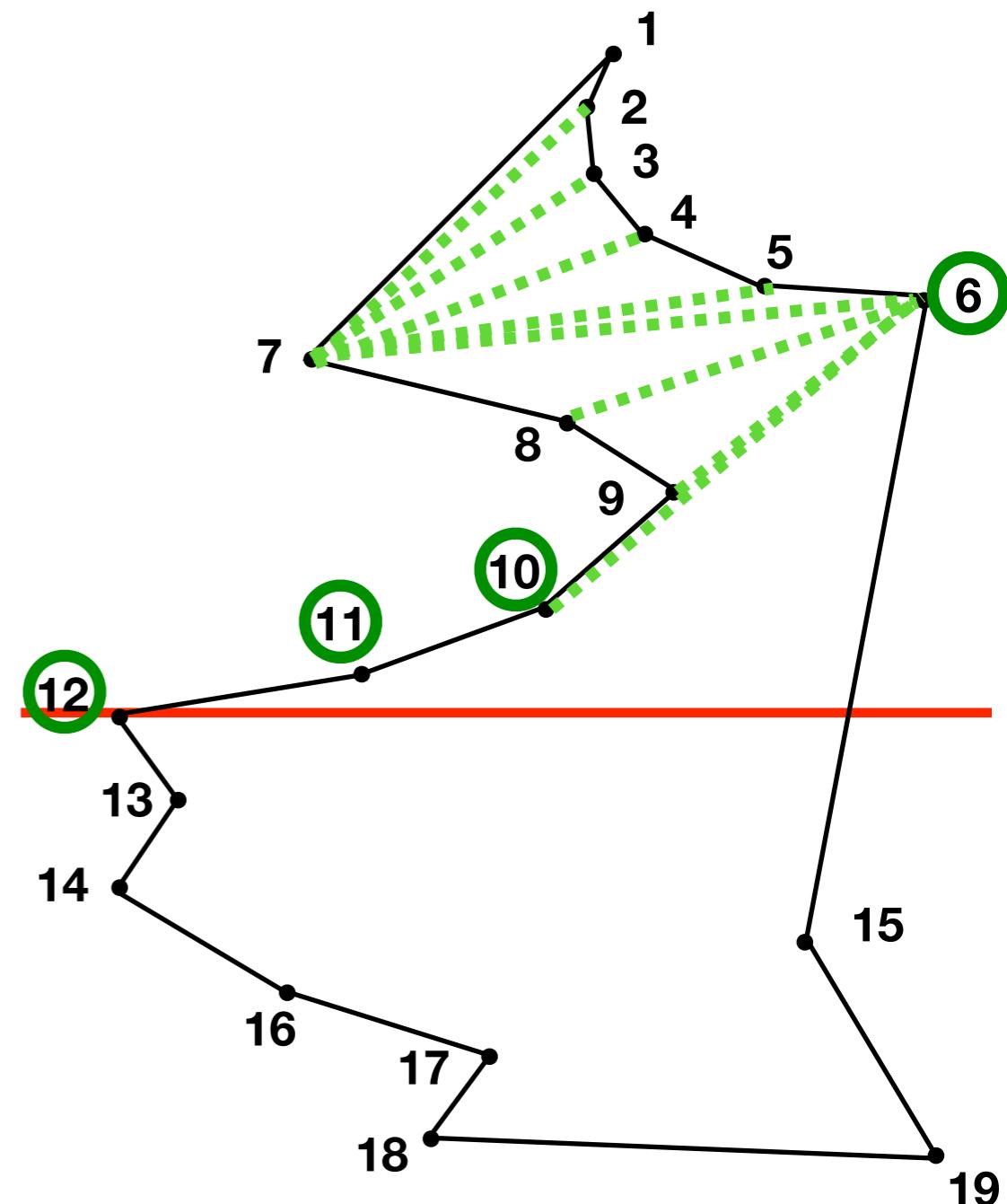
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# Chain

Add

Ear

**Queue:** 6 10 11



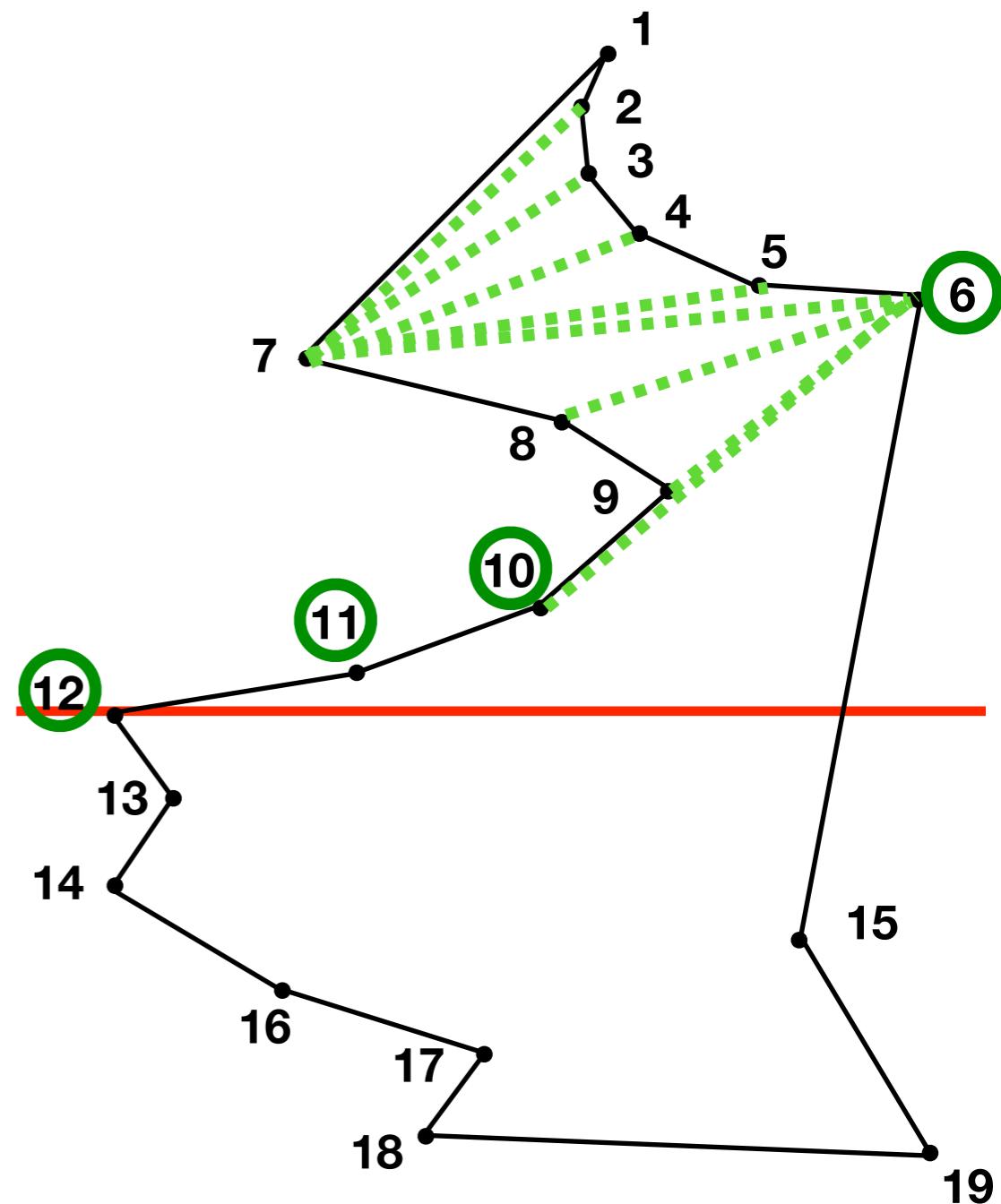
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**Queue:** 6 10 11 12



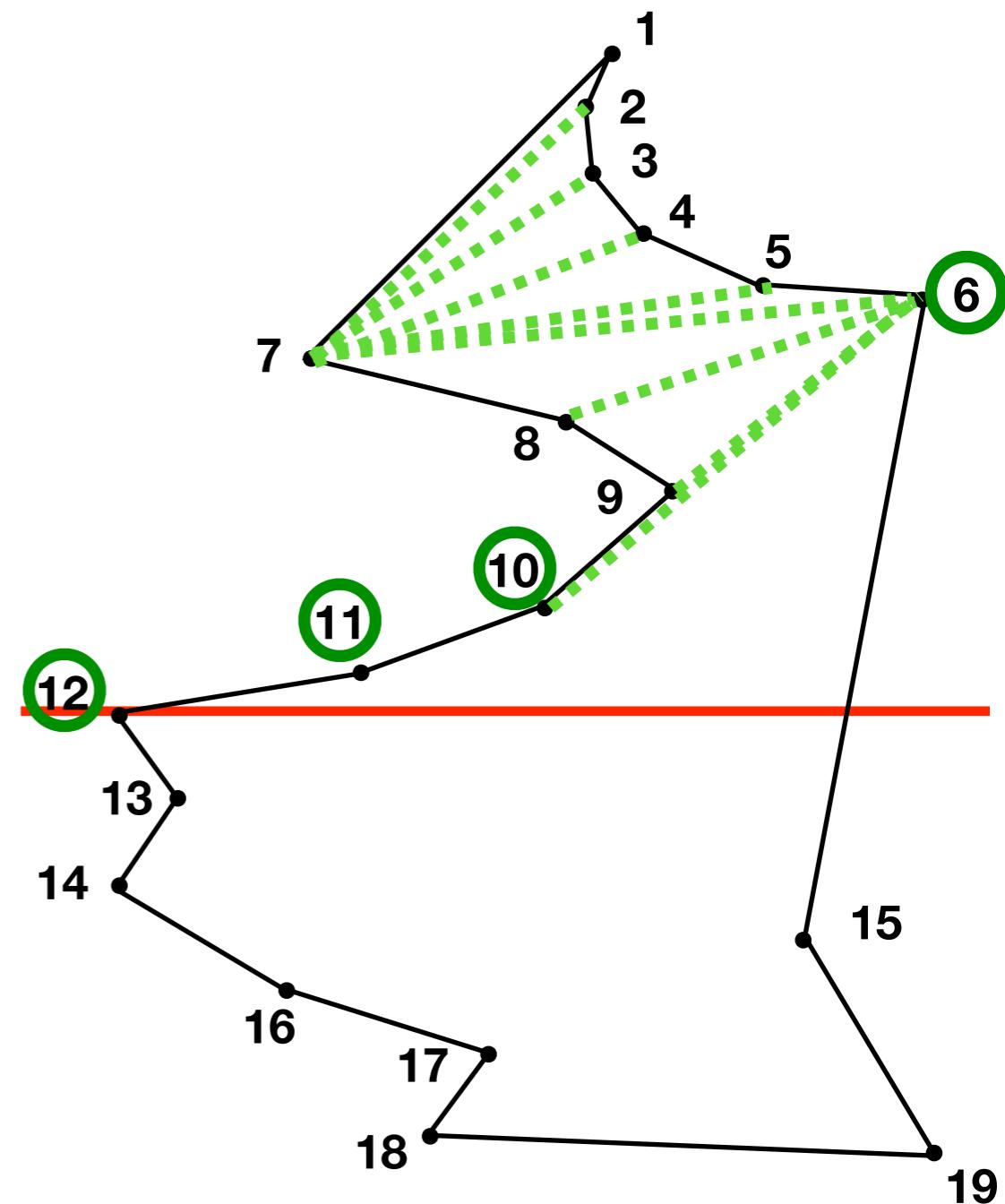
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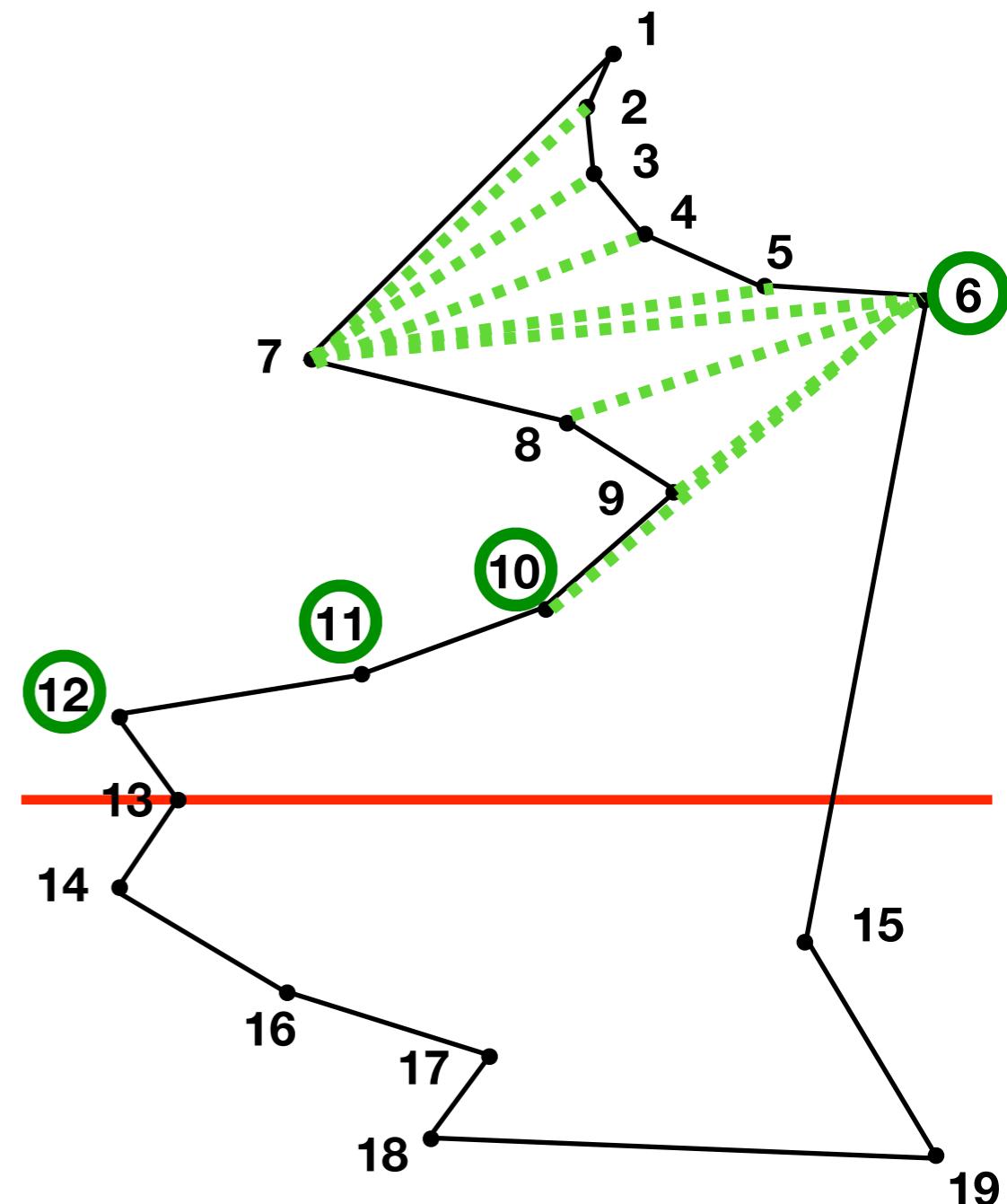
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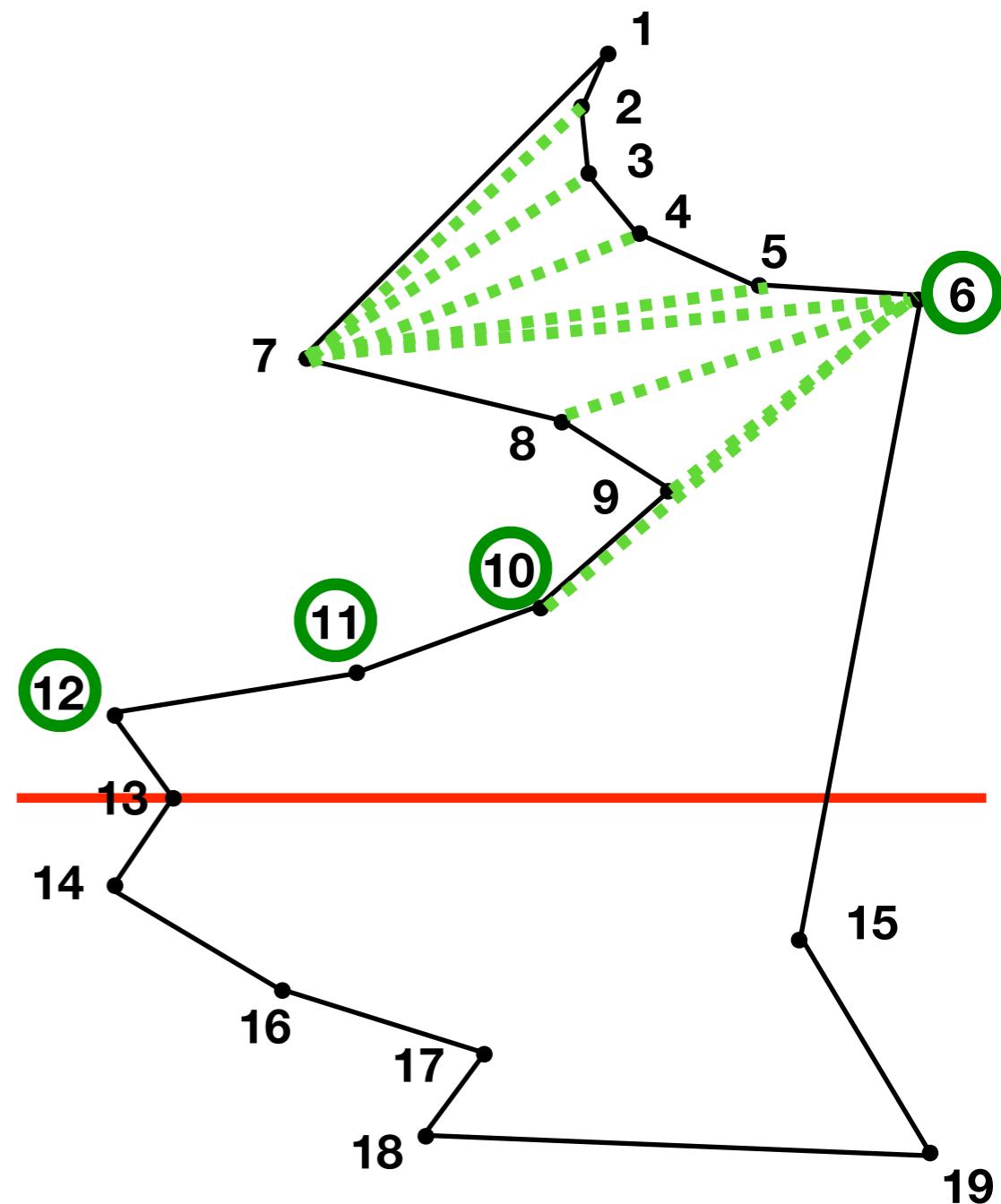
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

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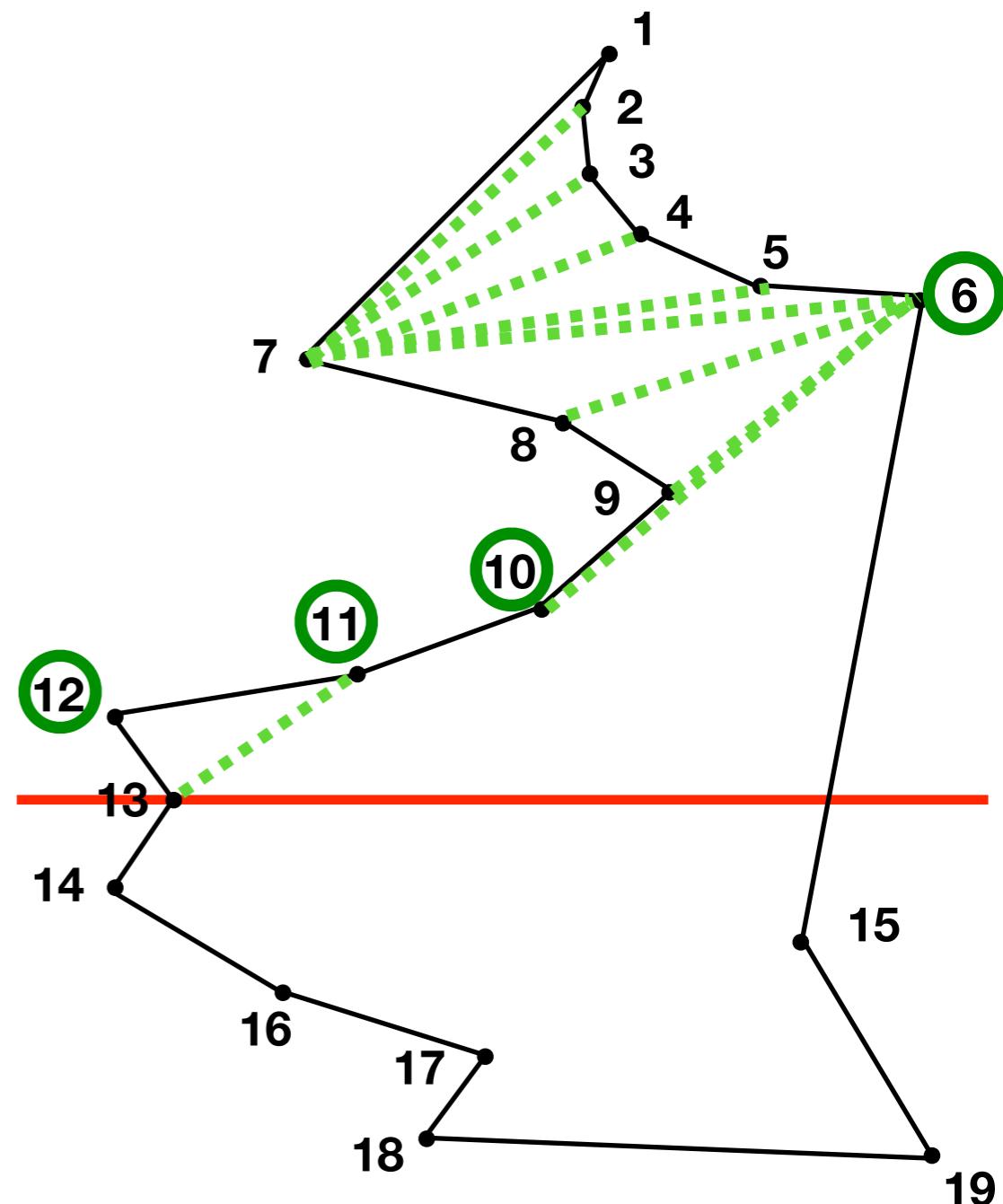
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# Chain

Add

Far

**Queue:** 6 10 11 12



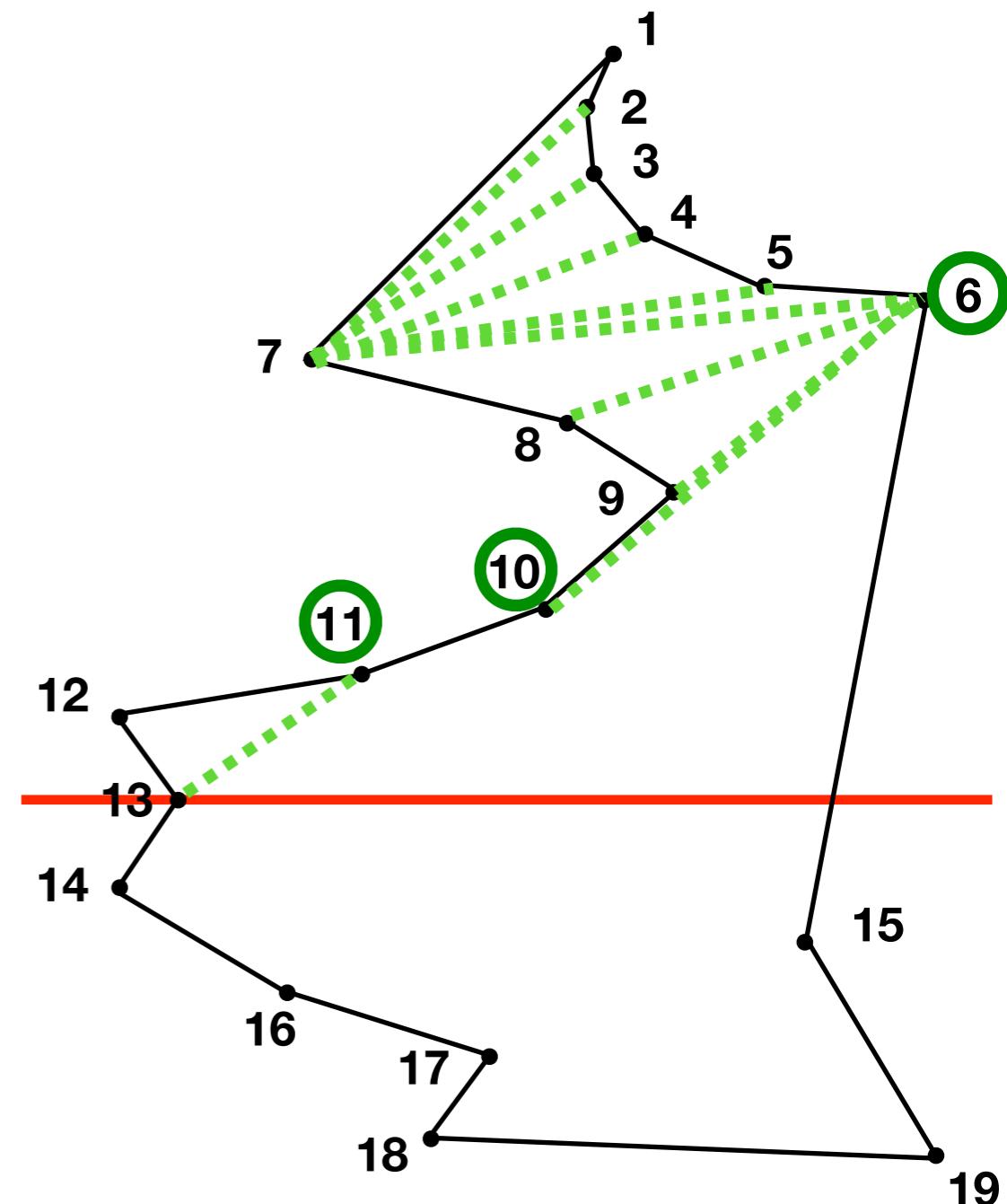
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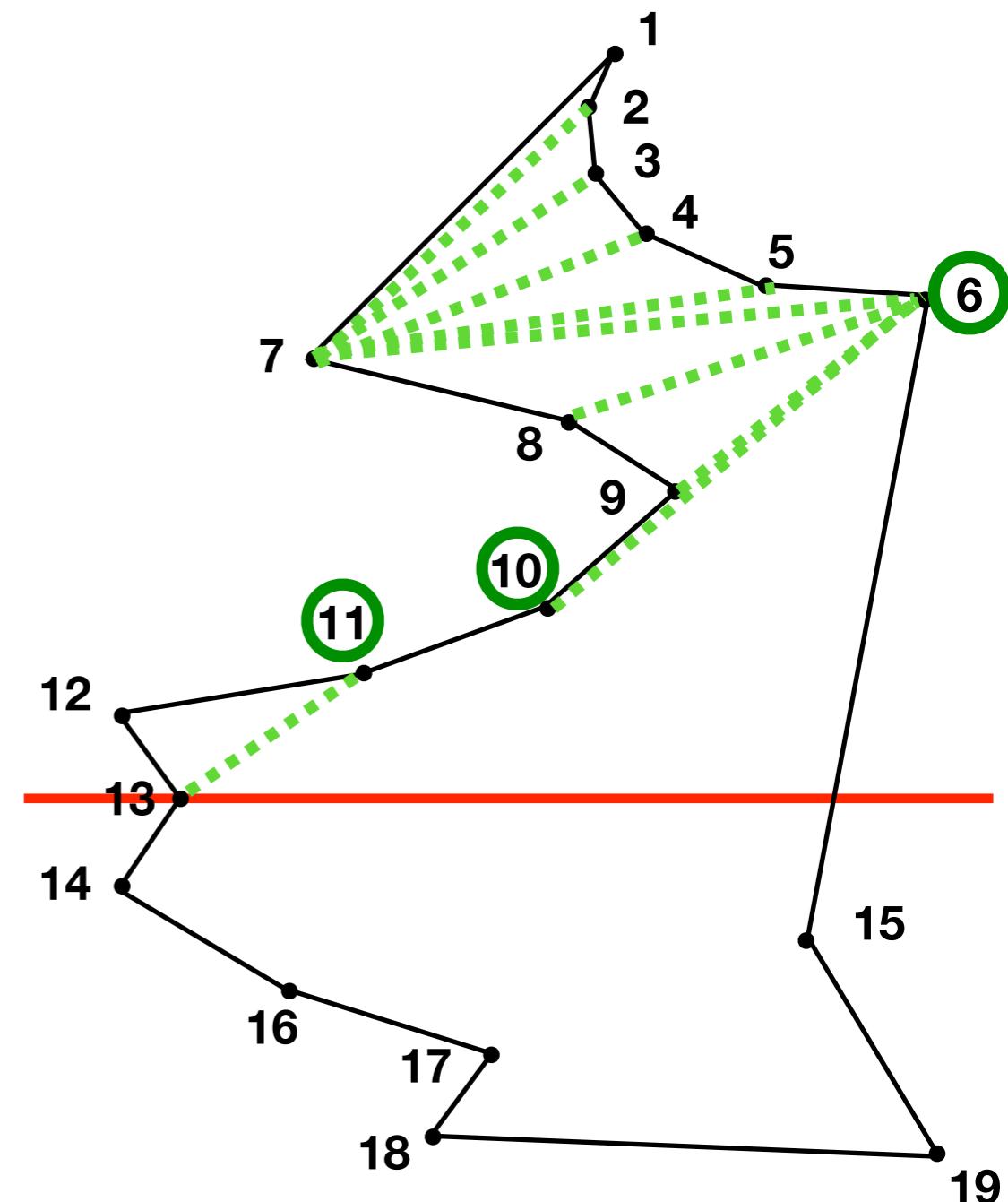
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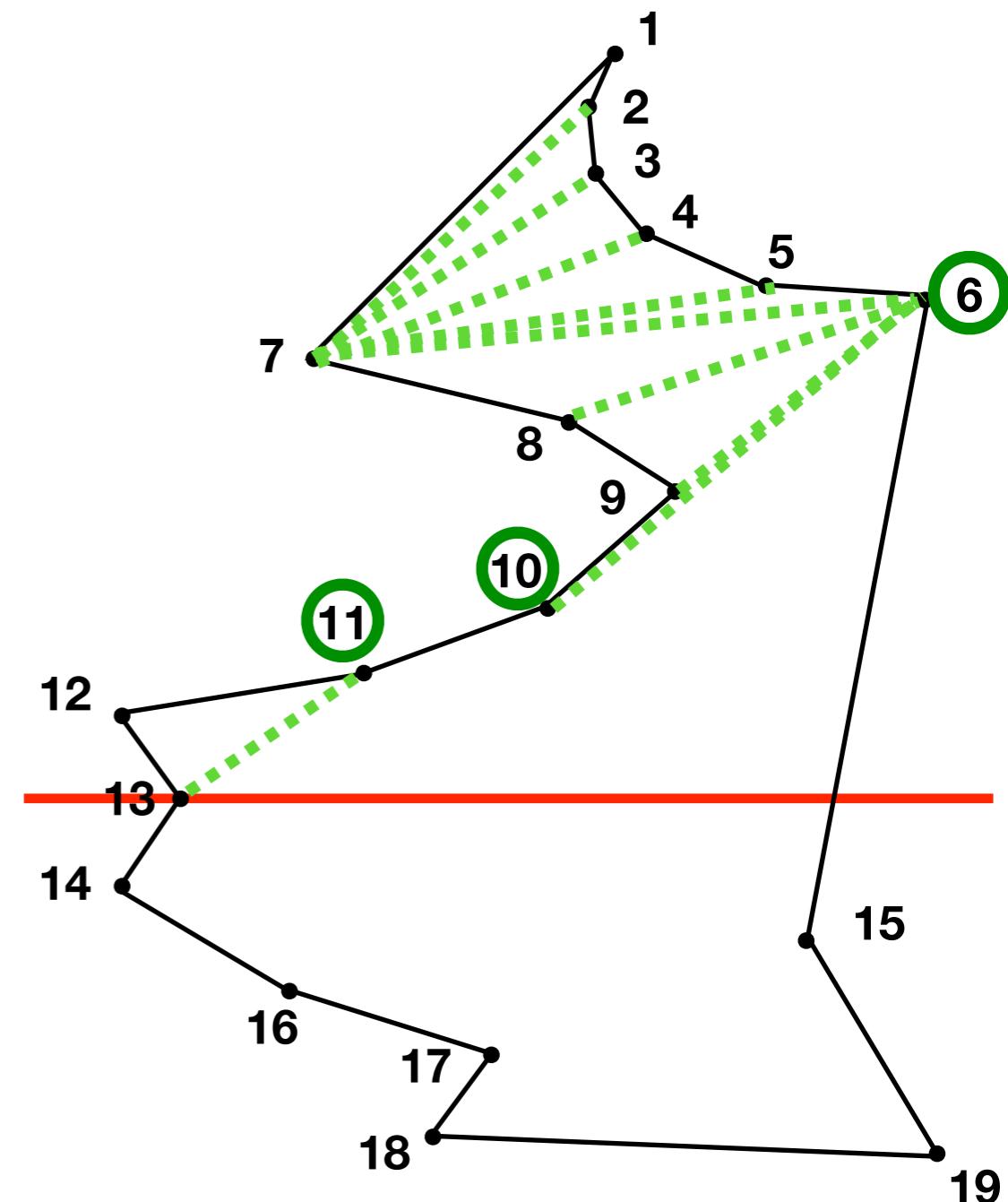
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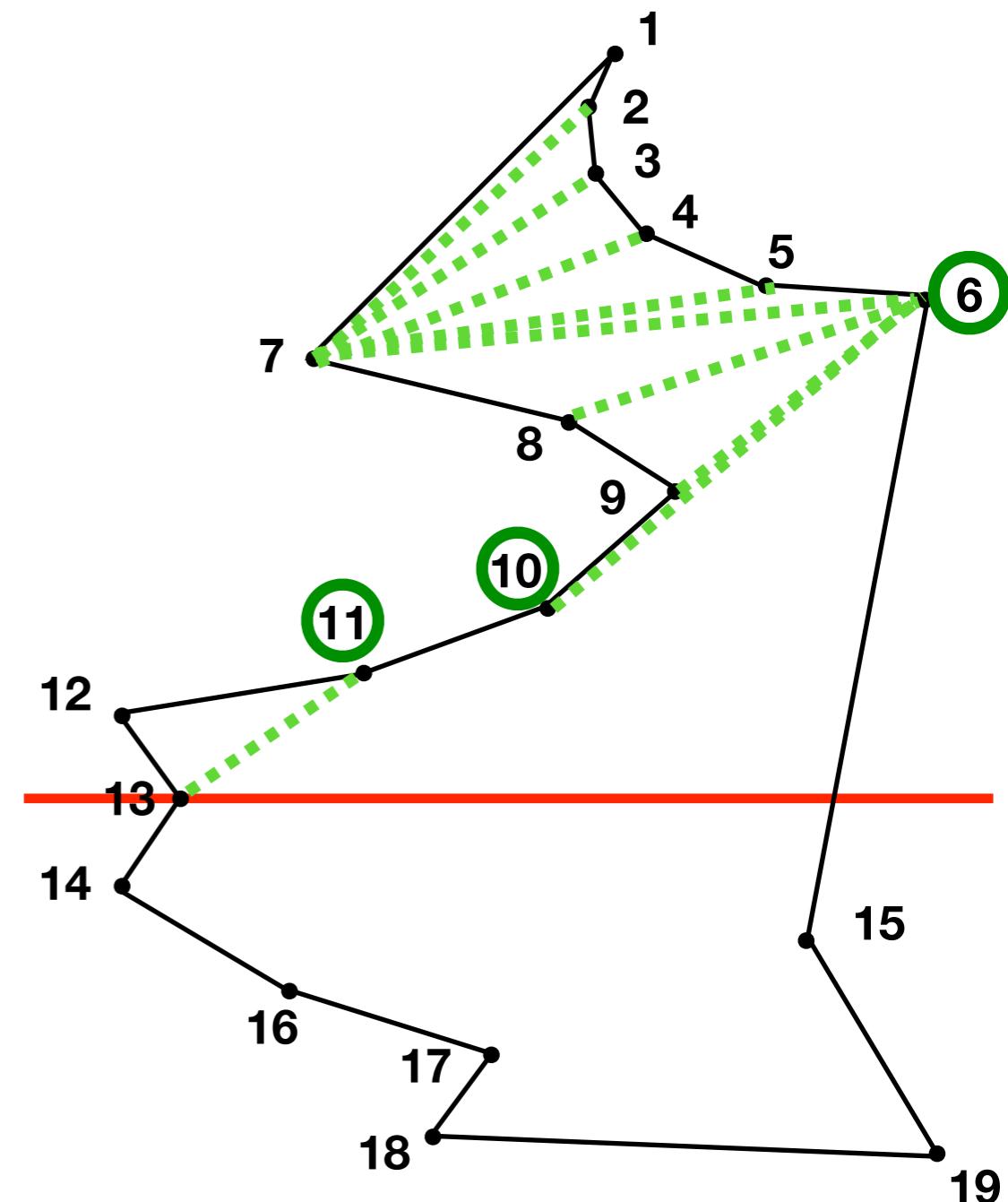
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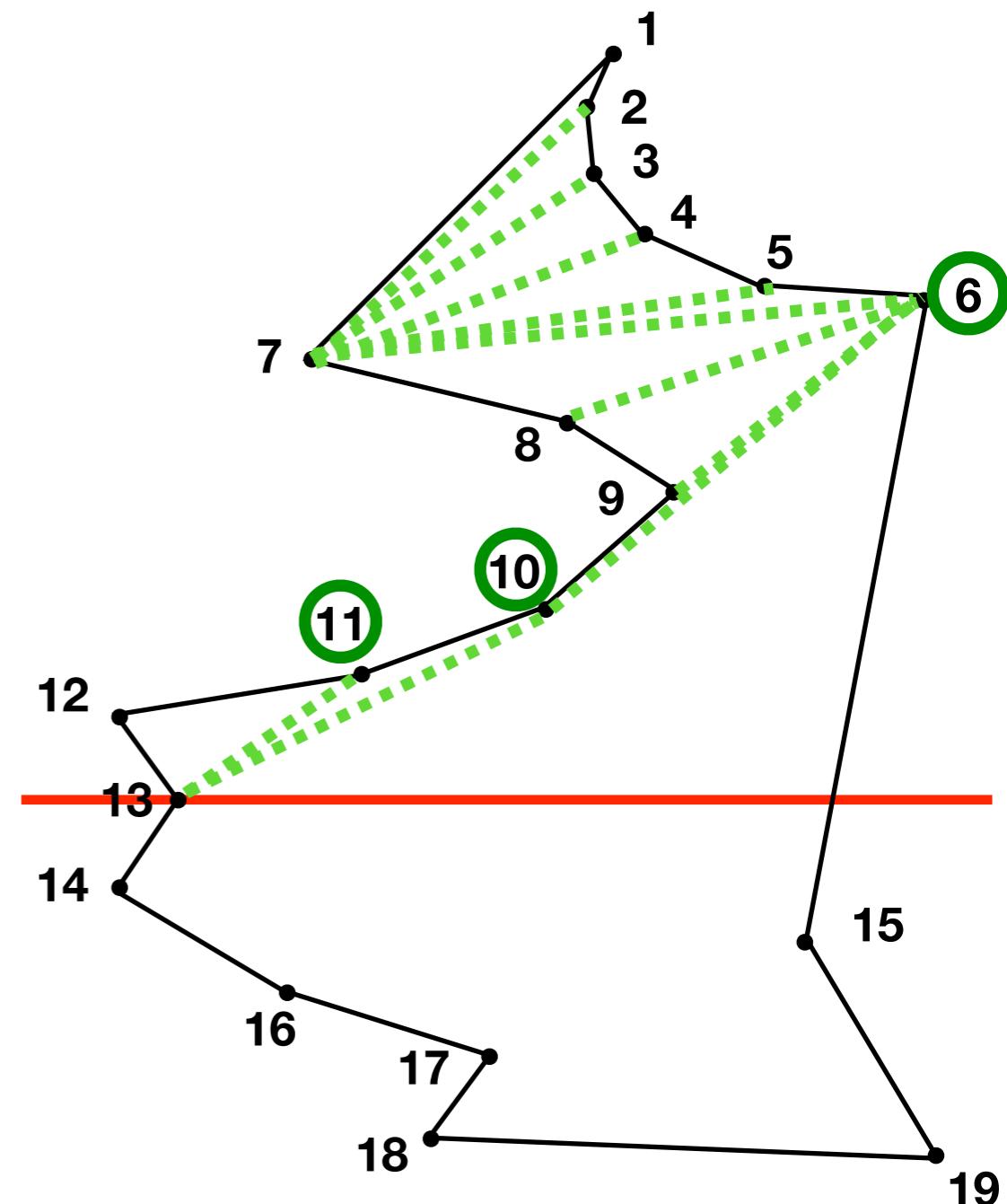
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

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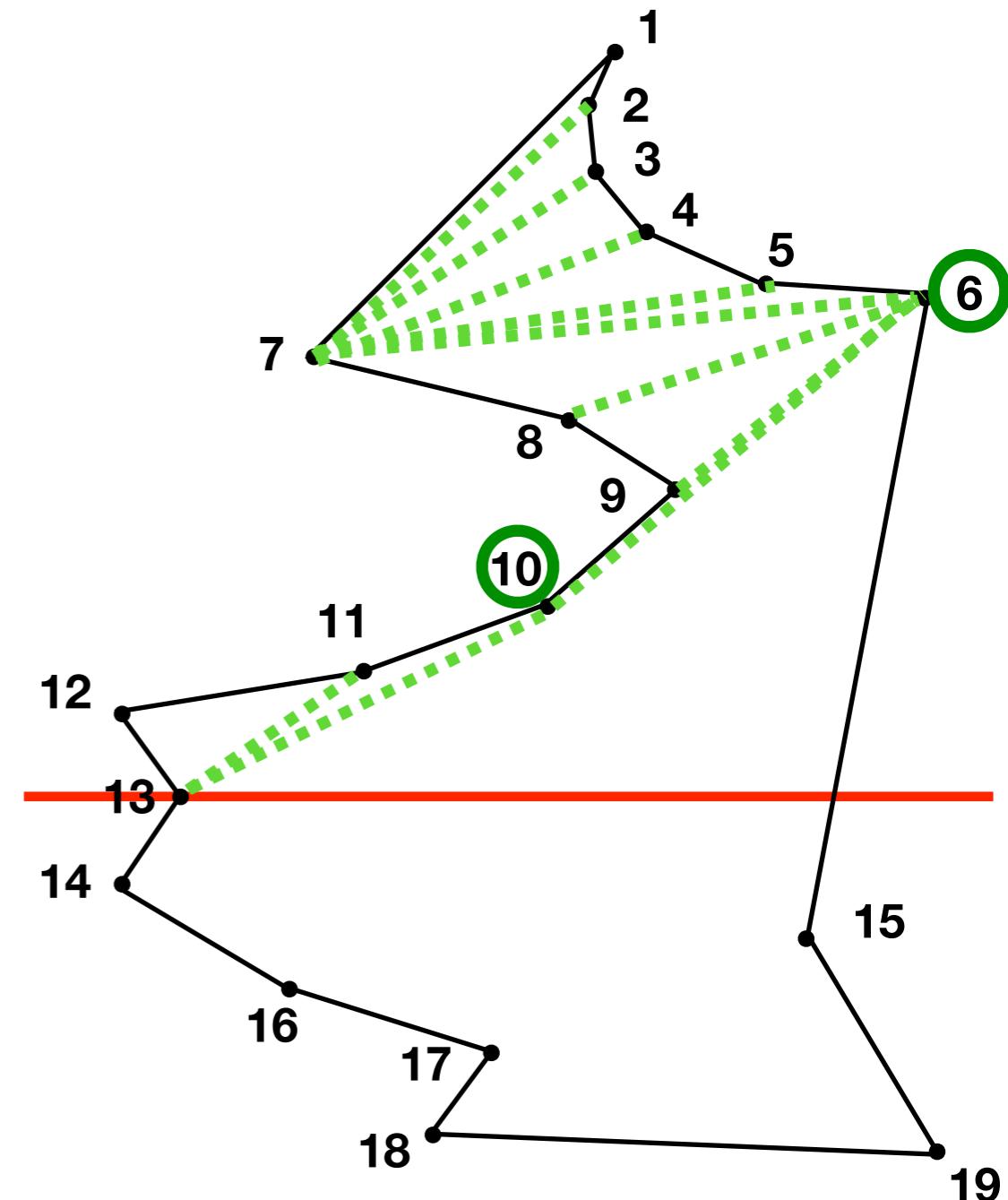
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# Chain

Add

Ear

# Queue: 6 10 11



# Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

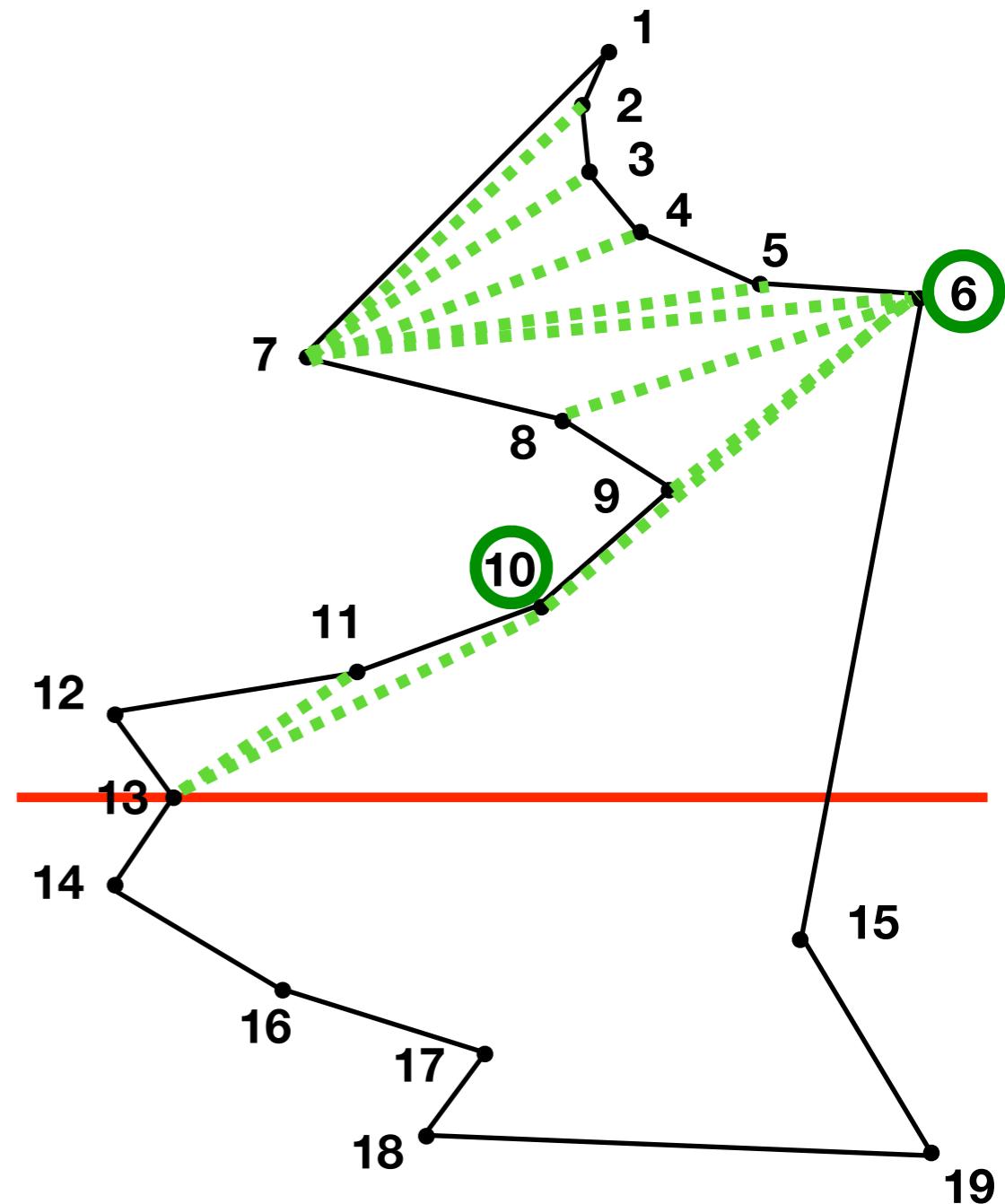
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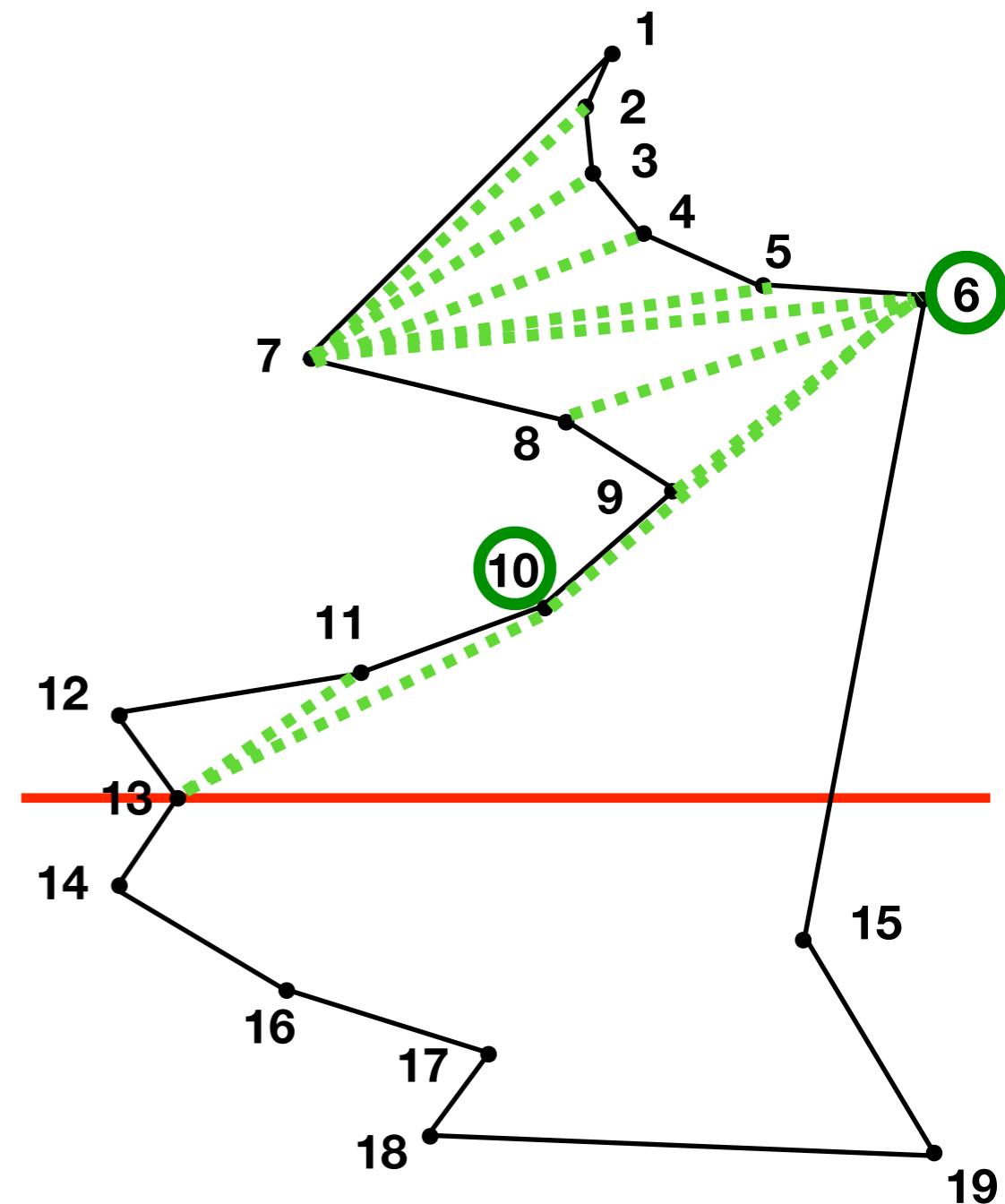
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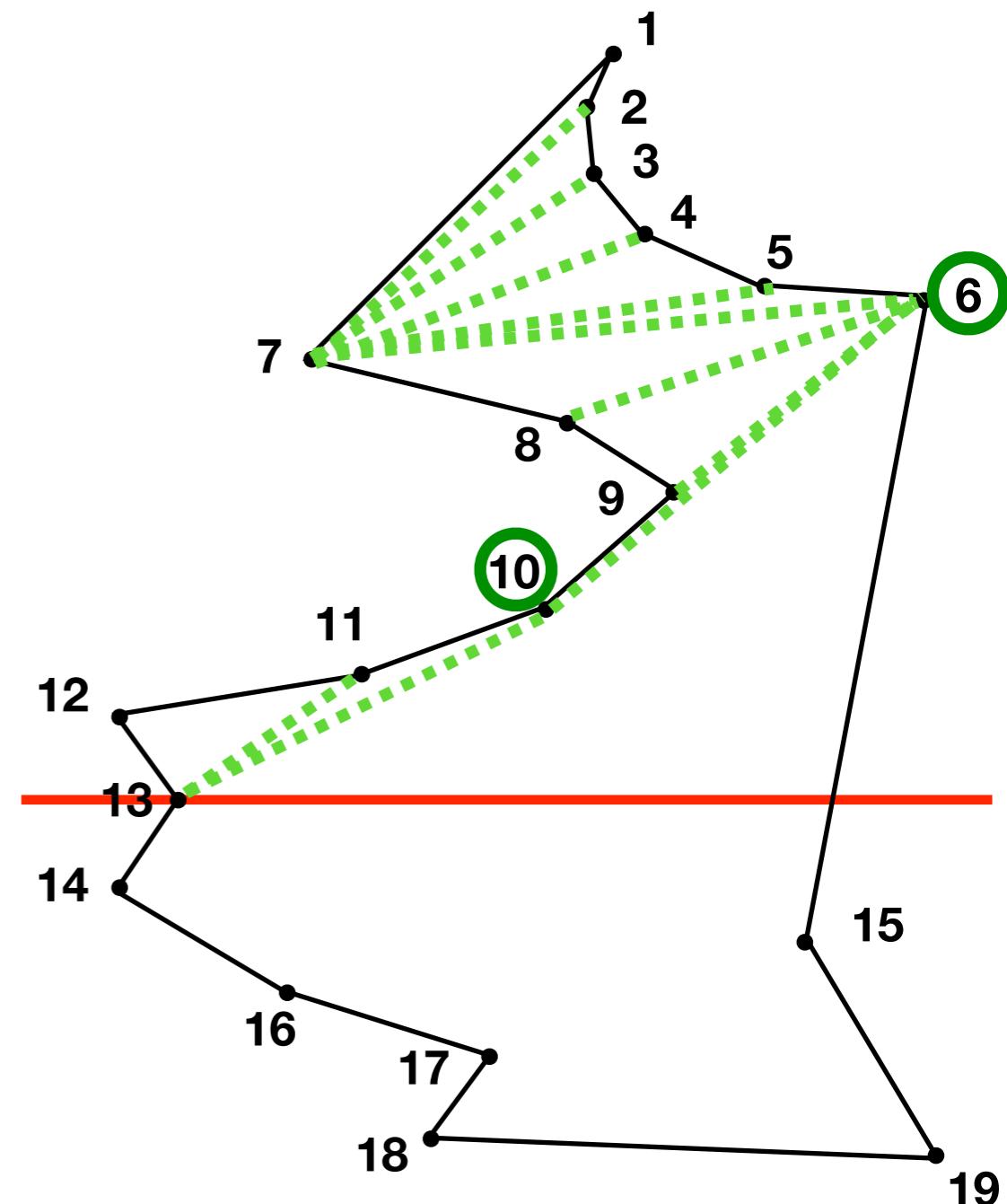
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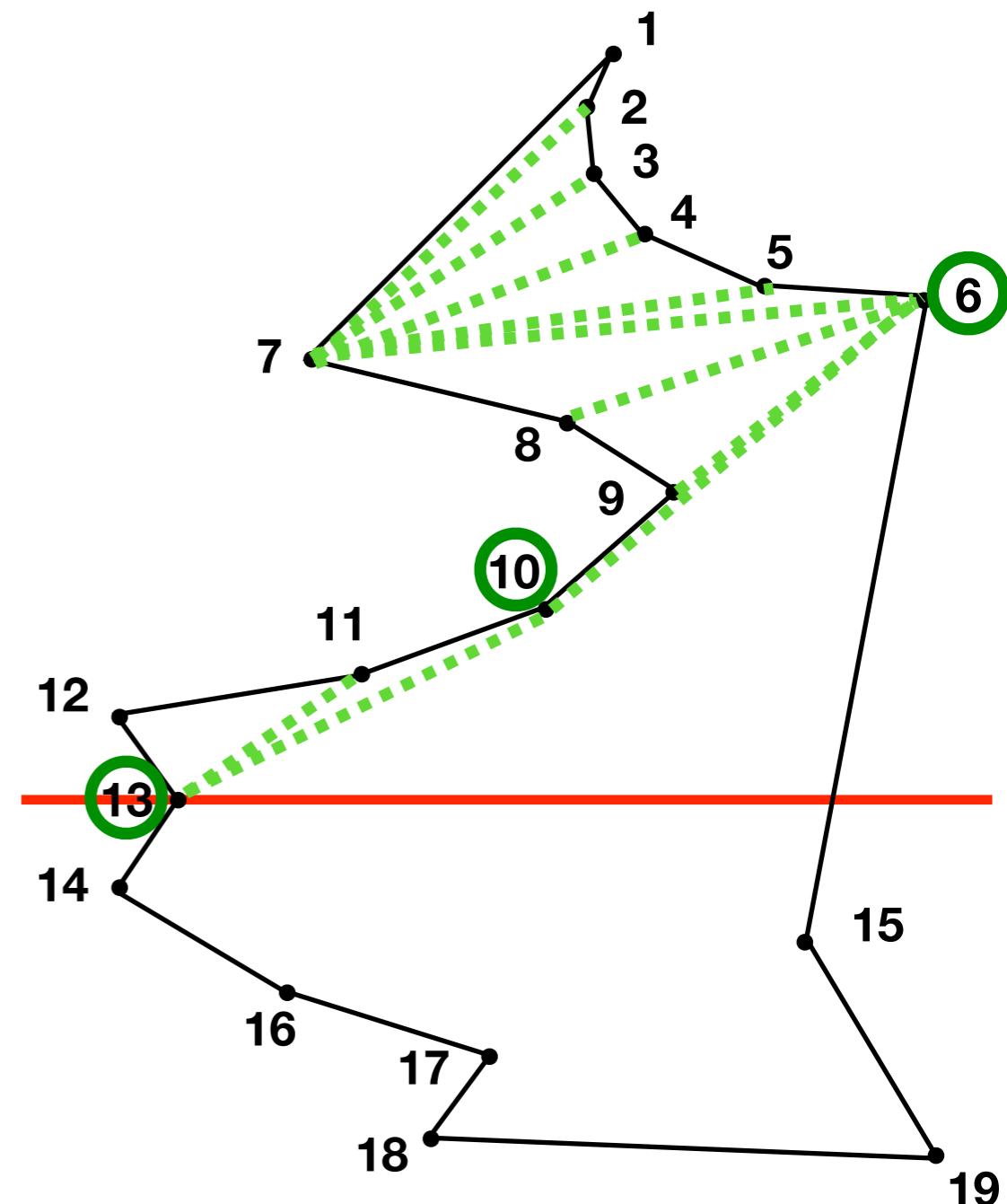
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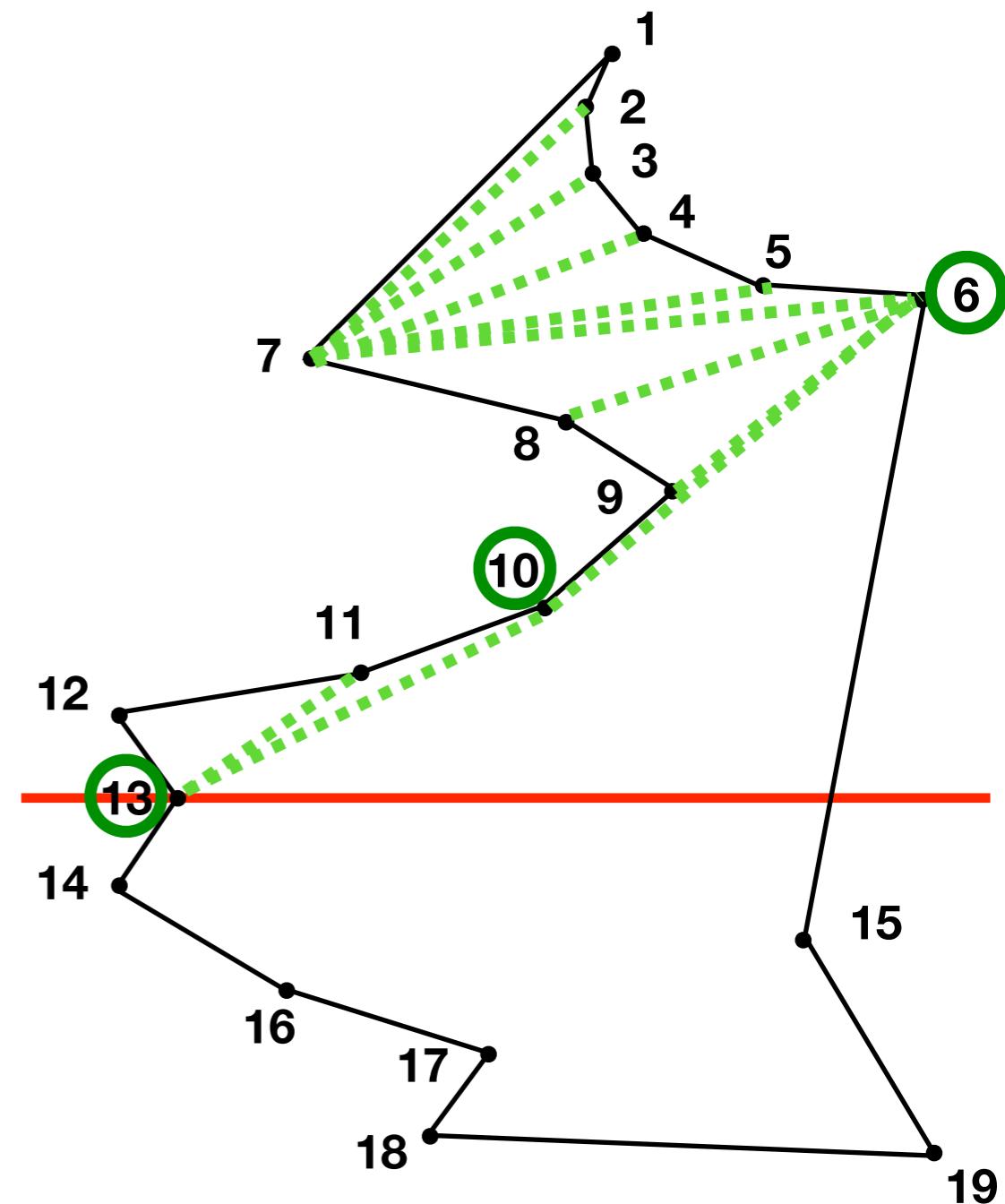
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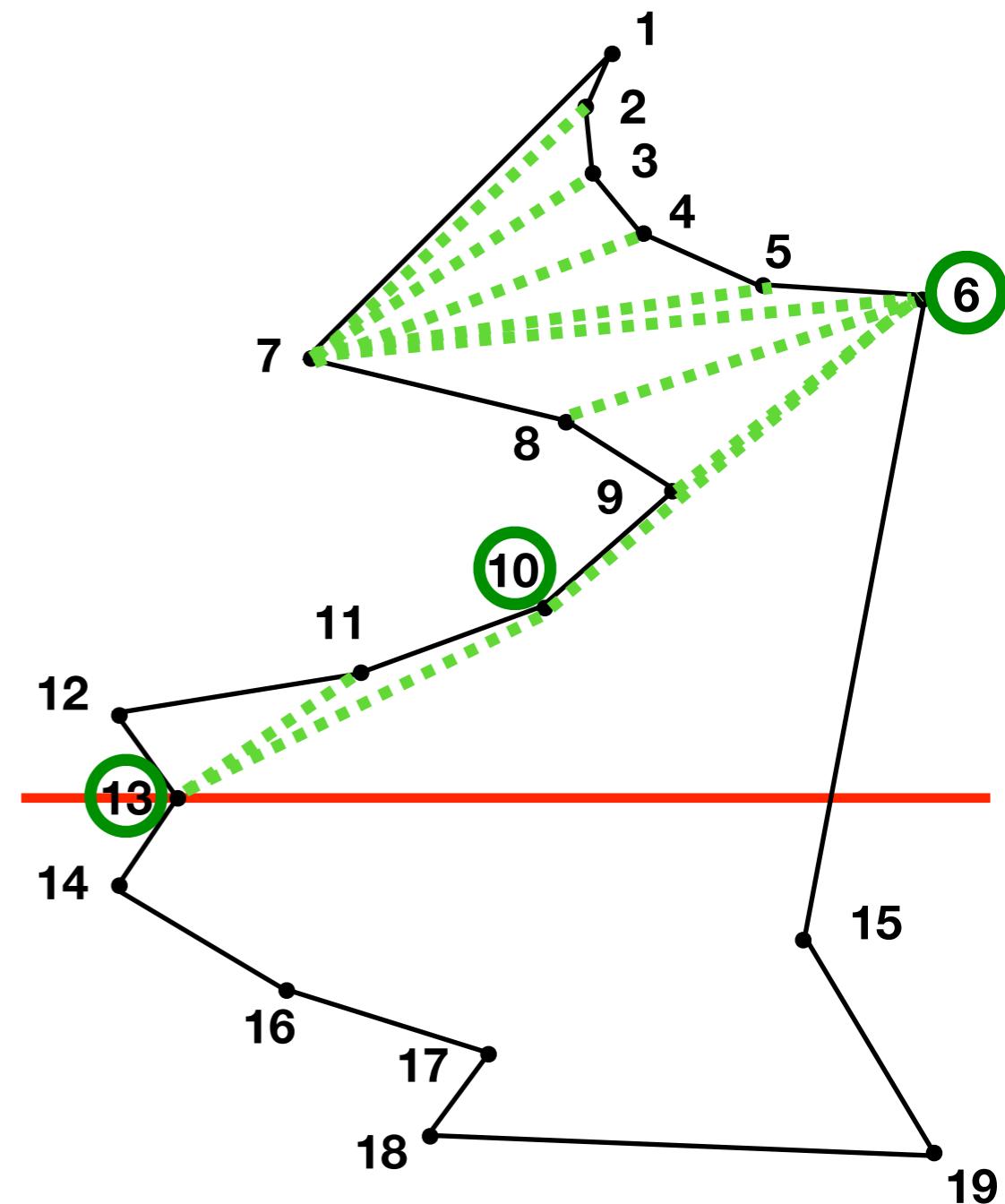
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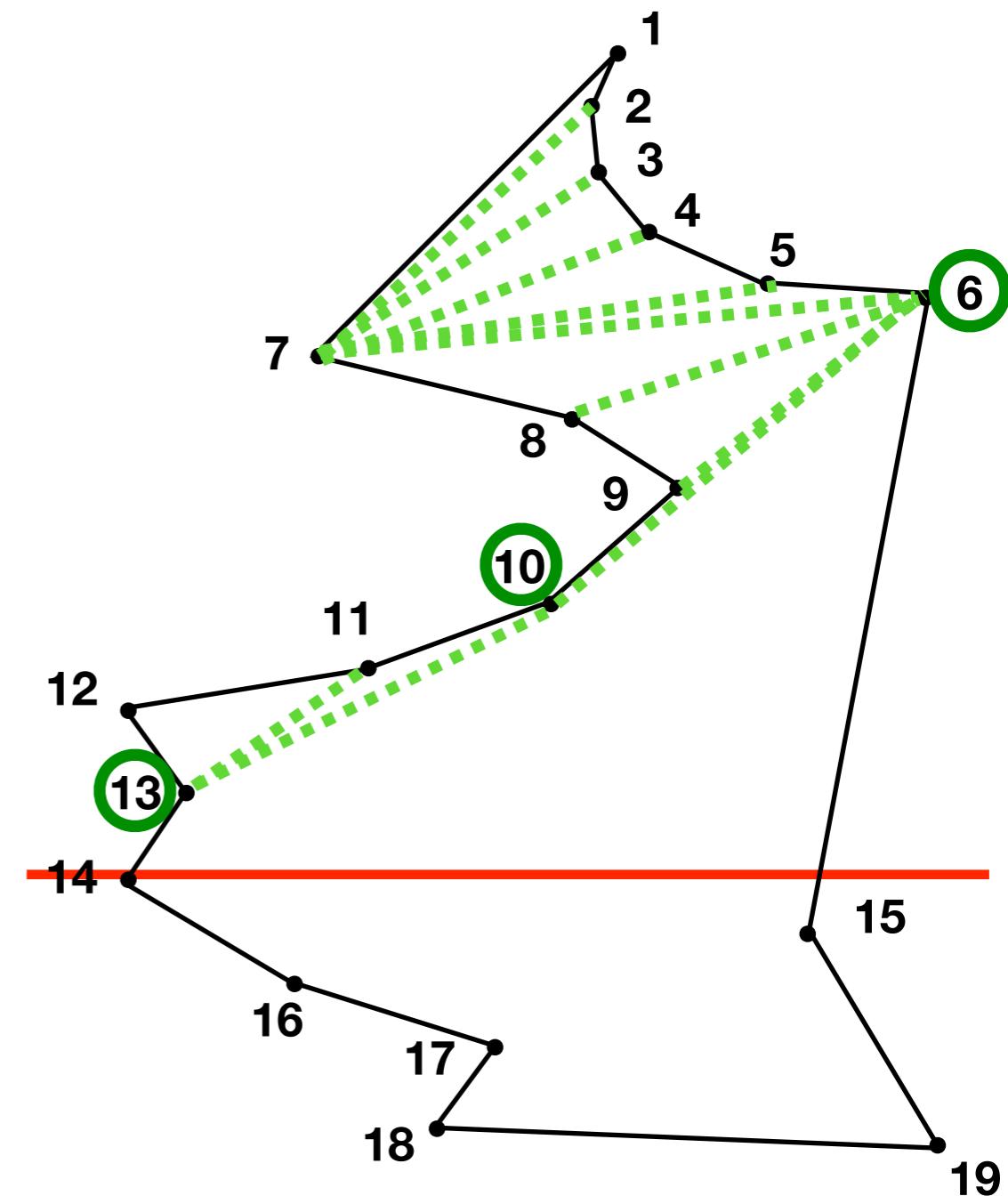
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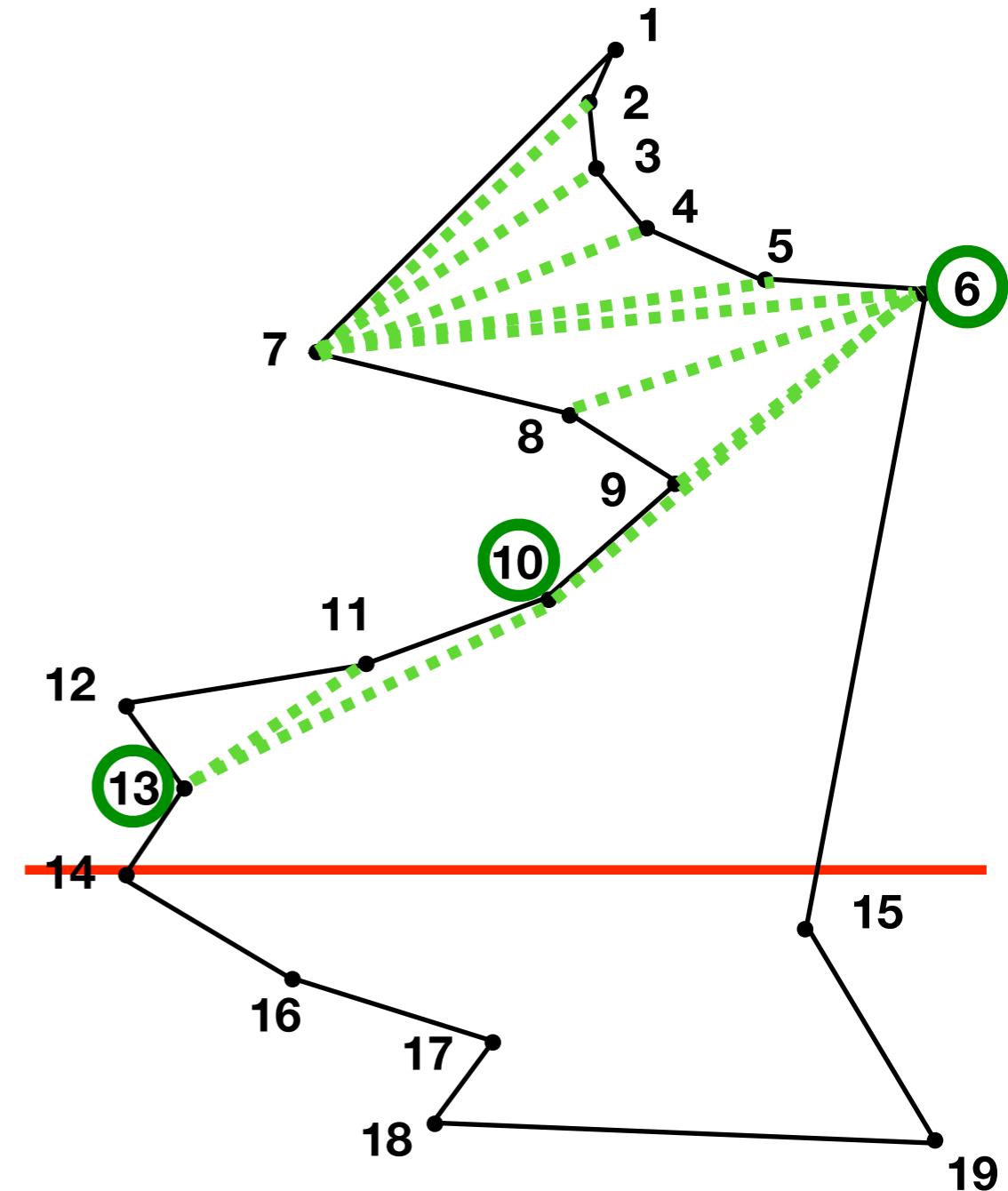
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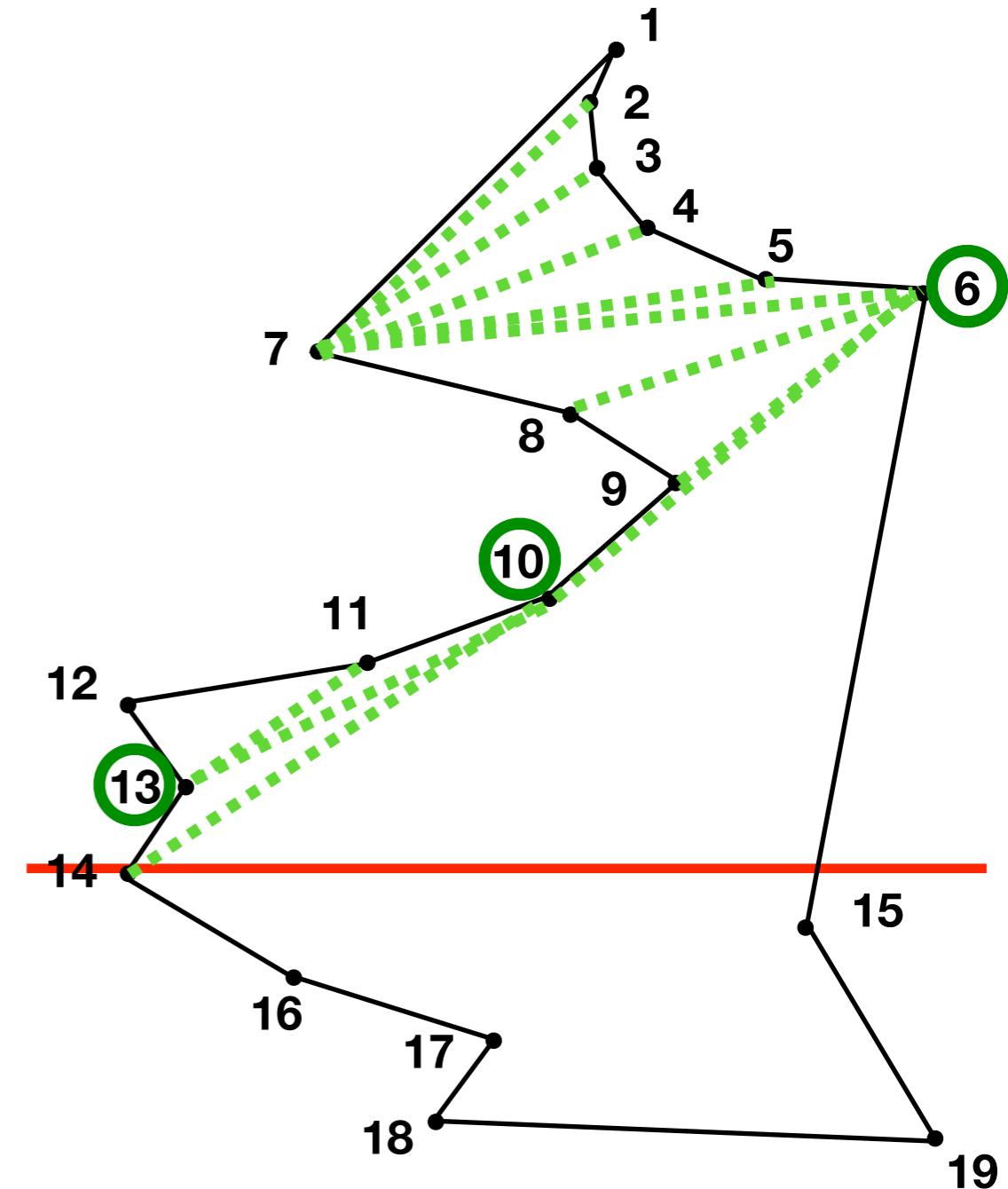
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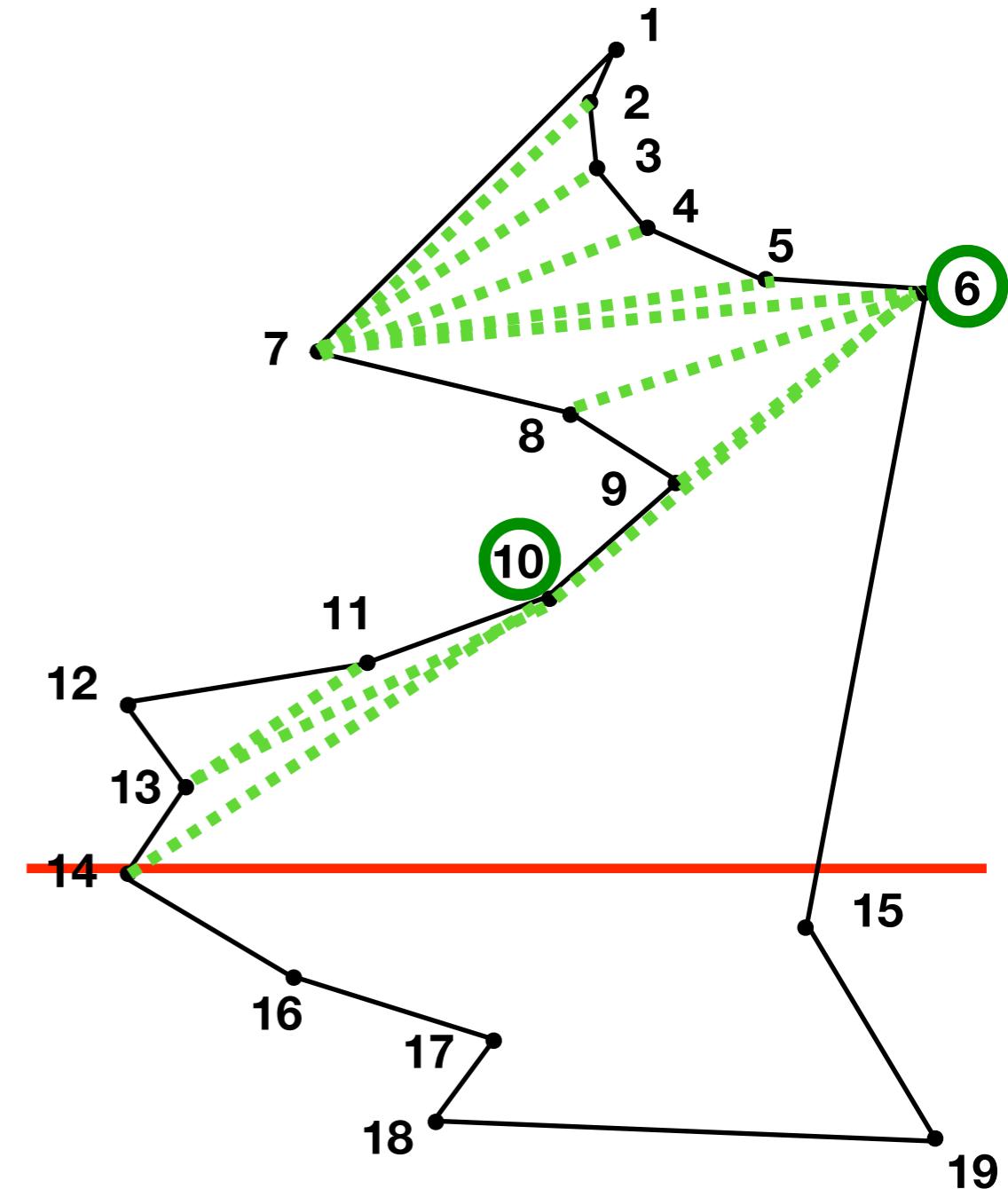
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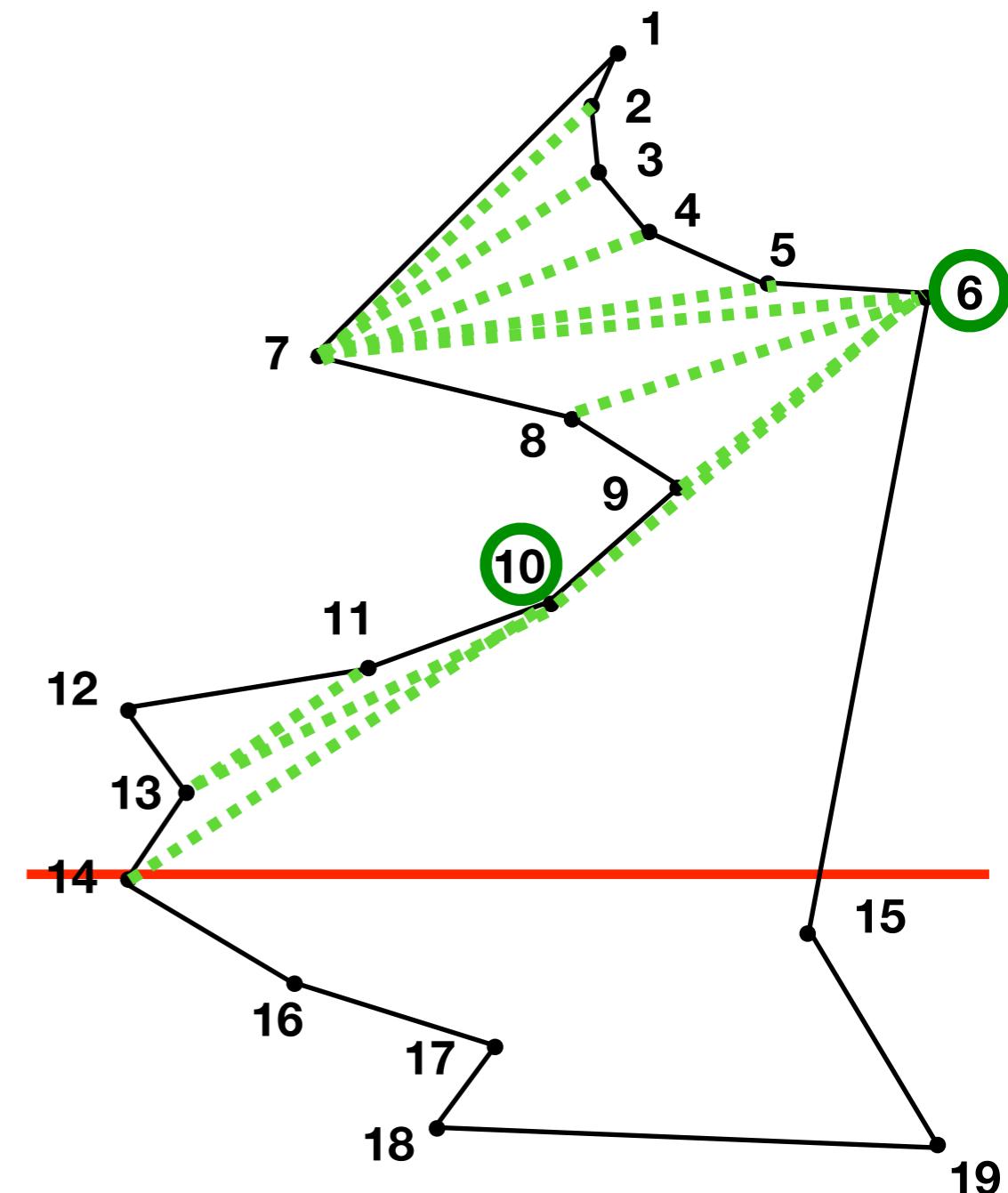
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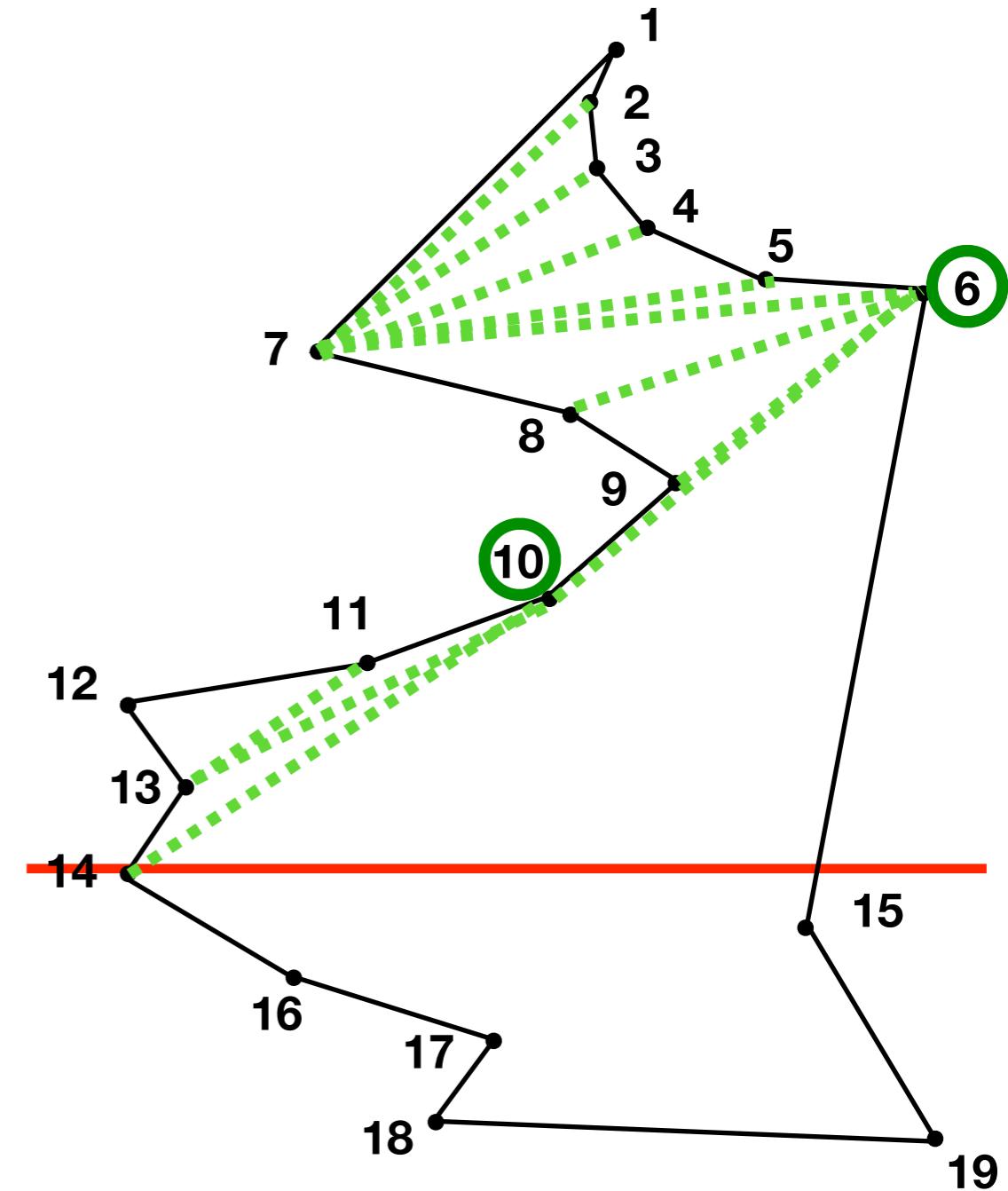
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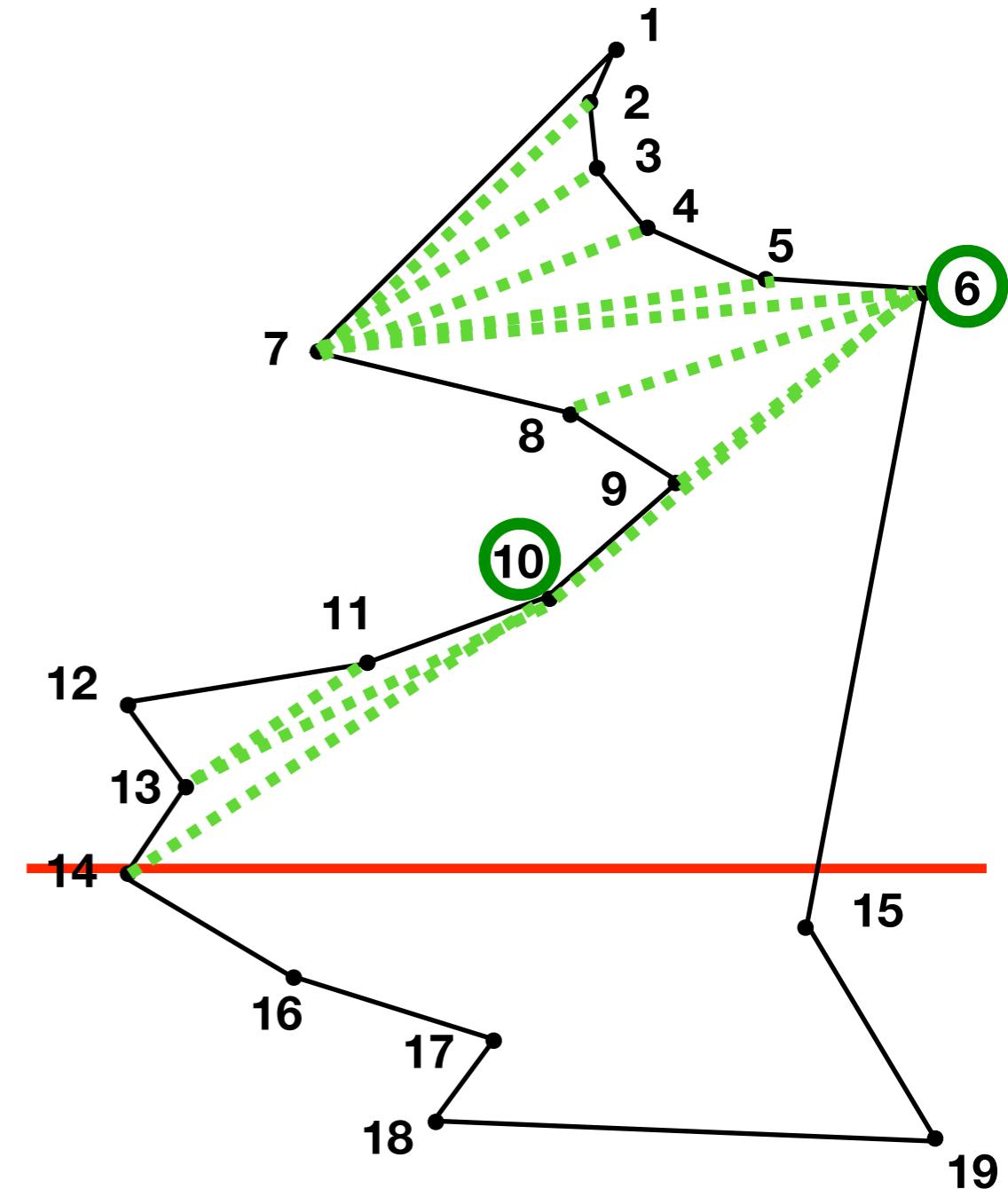
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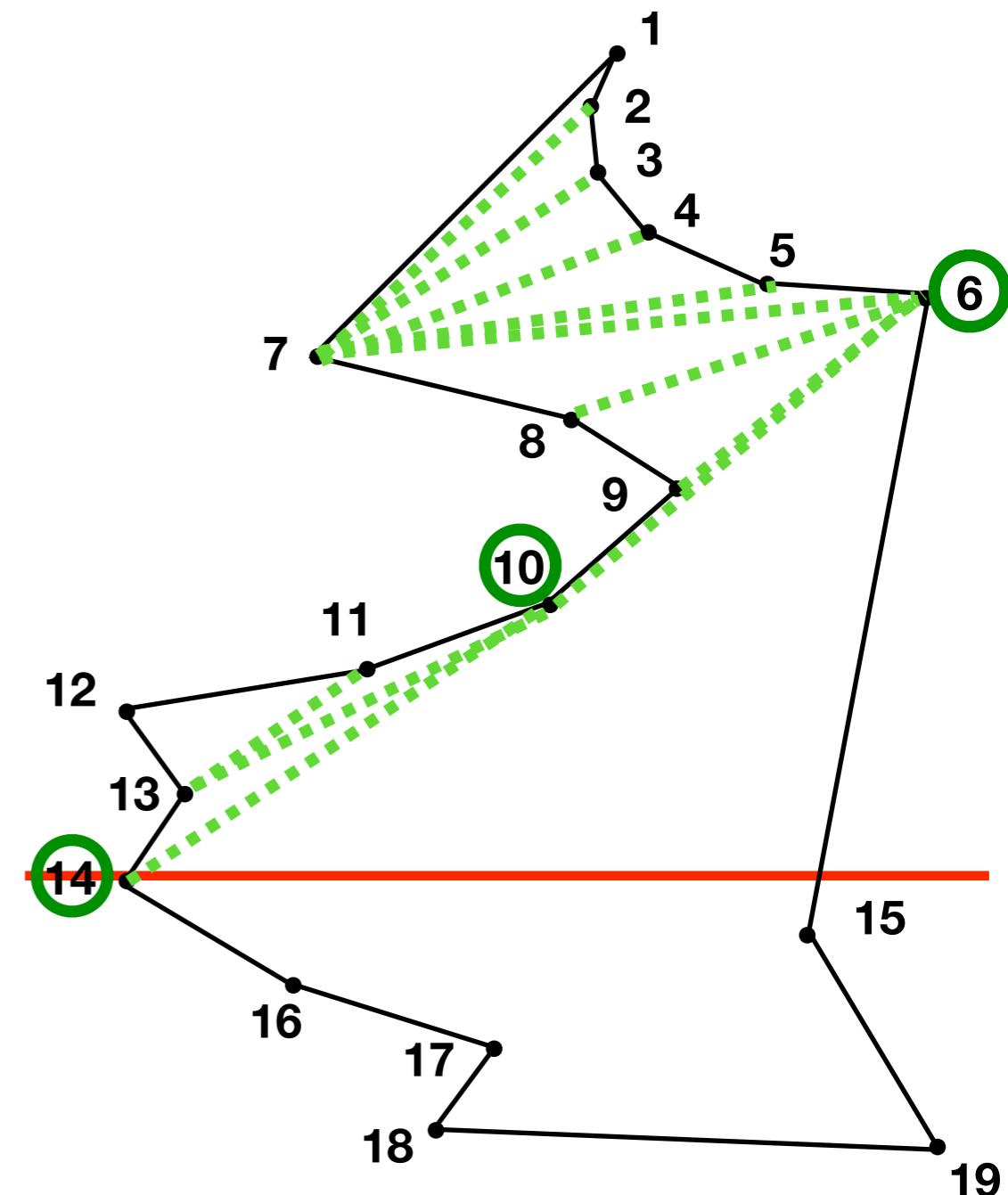
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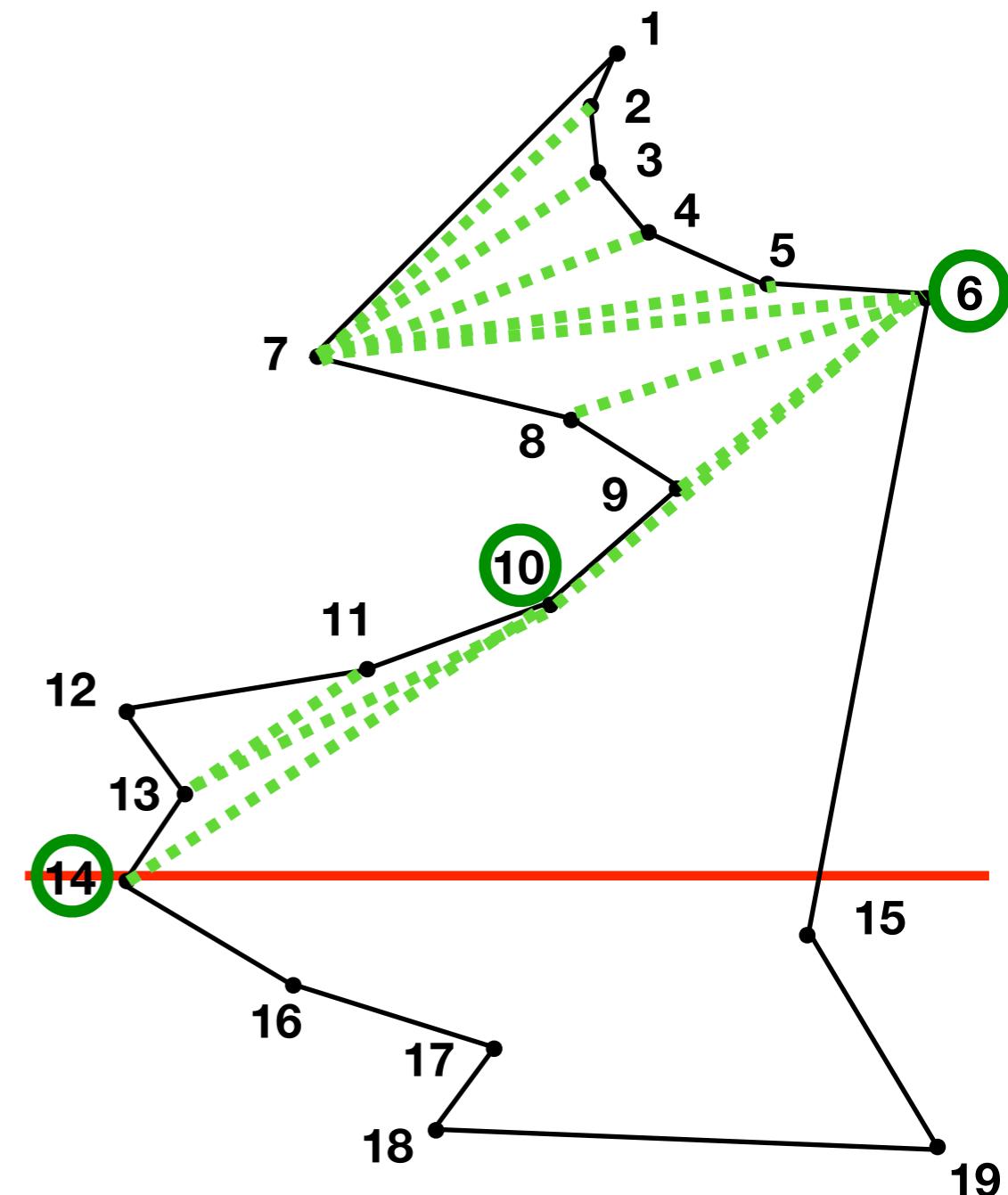
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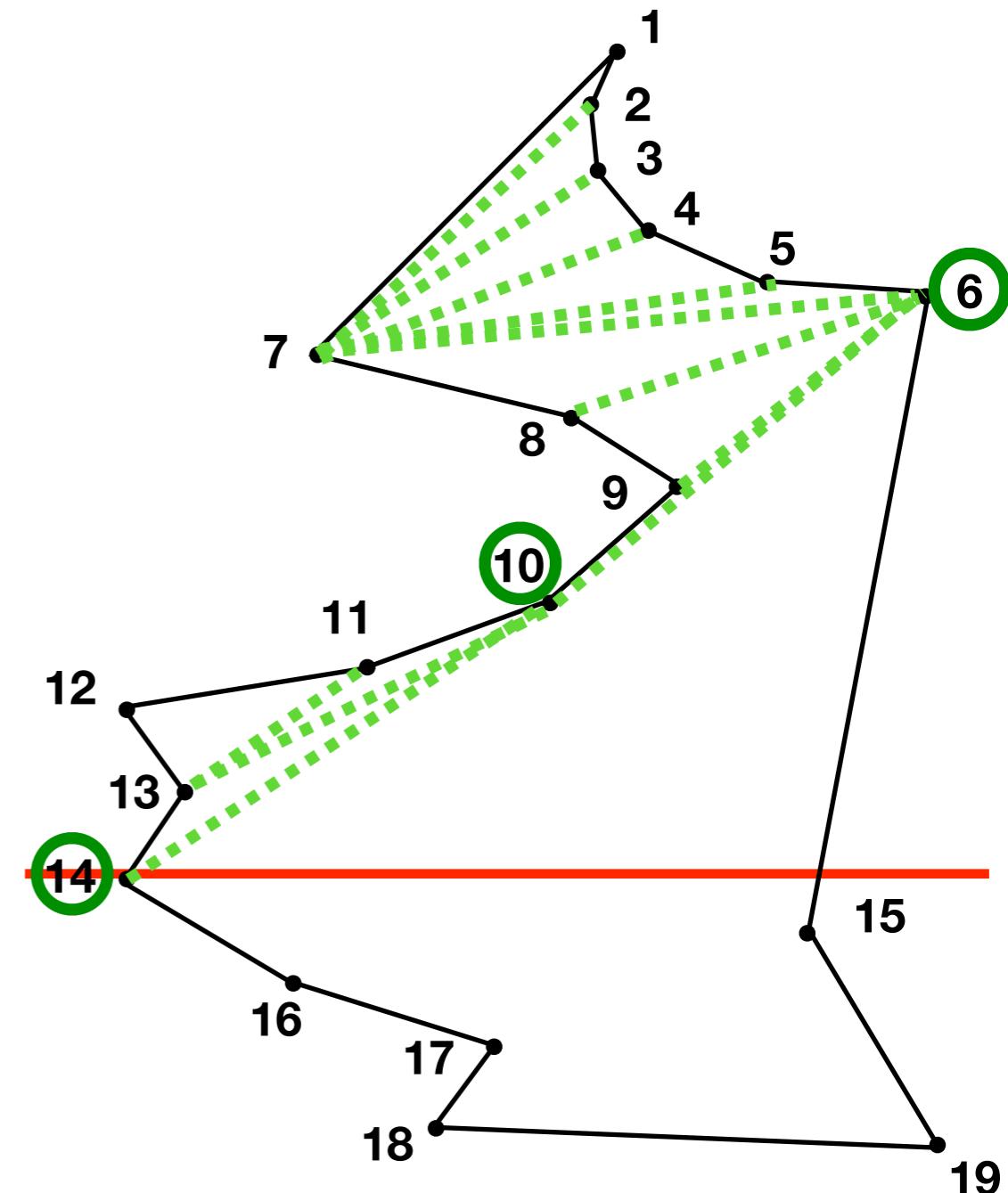
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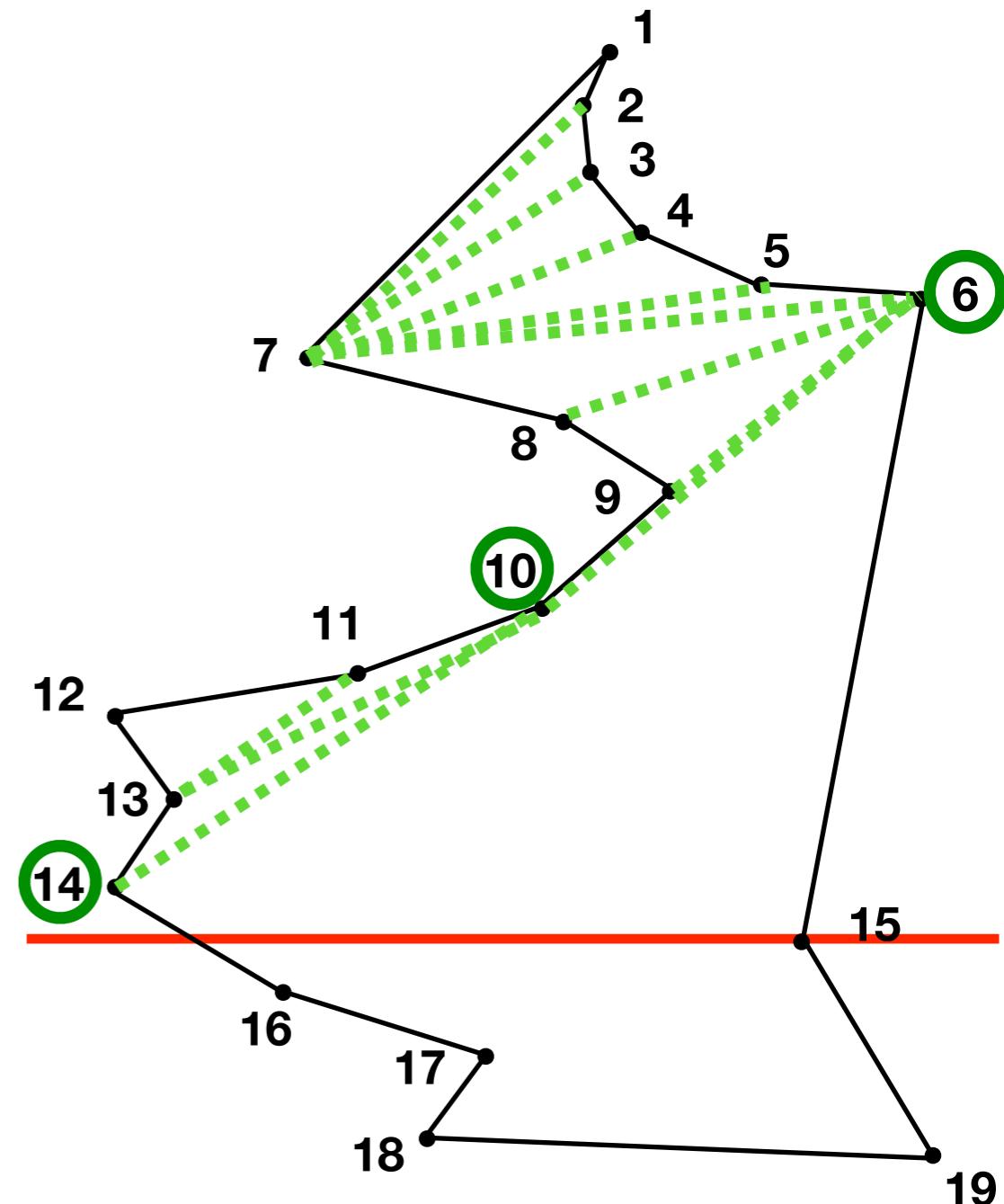
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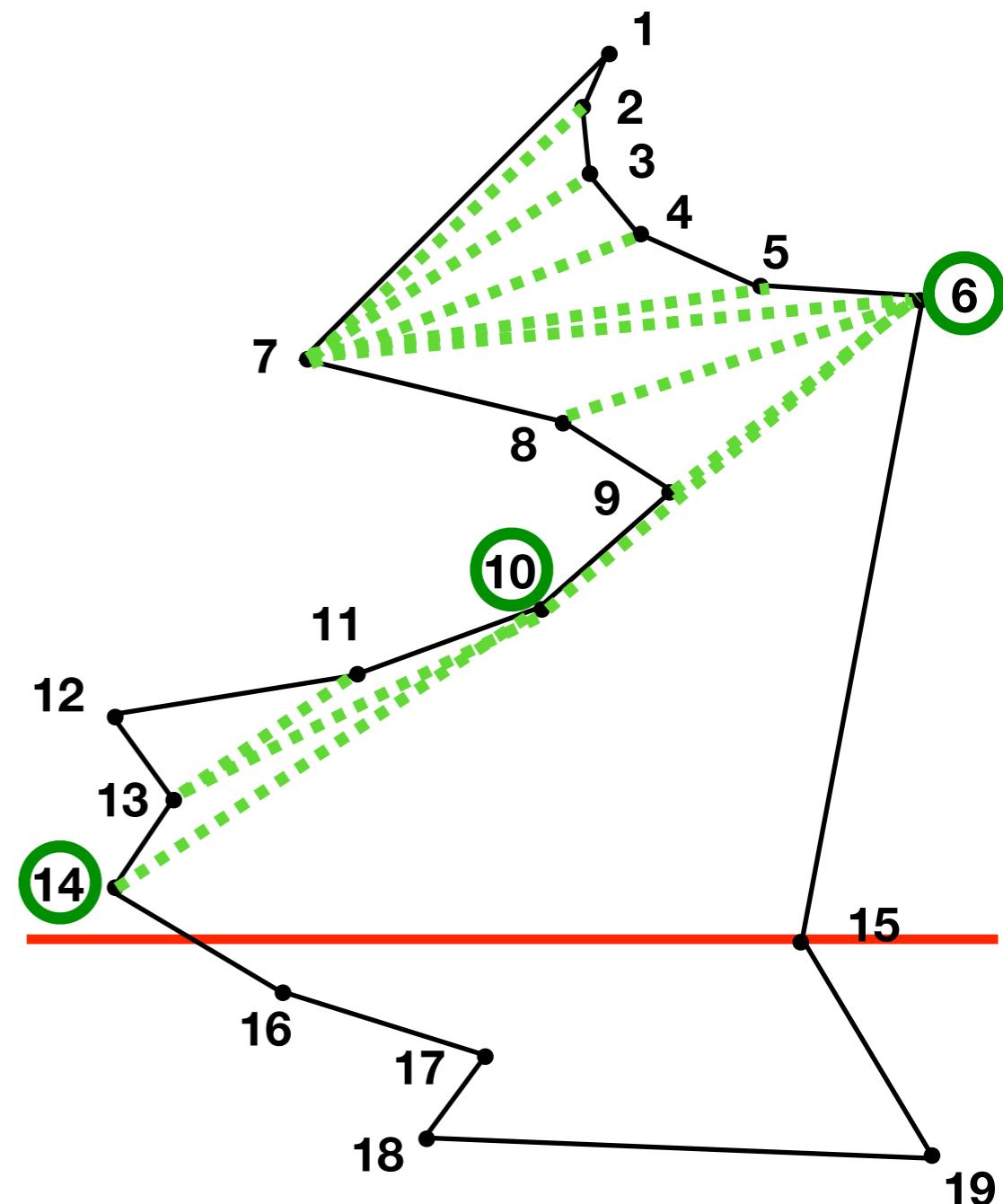
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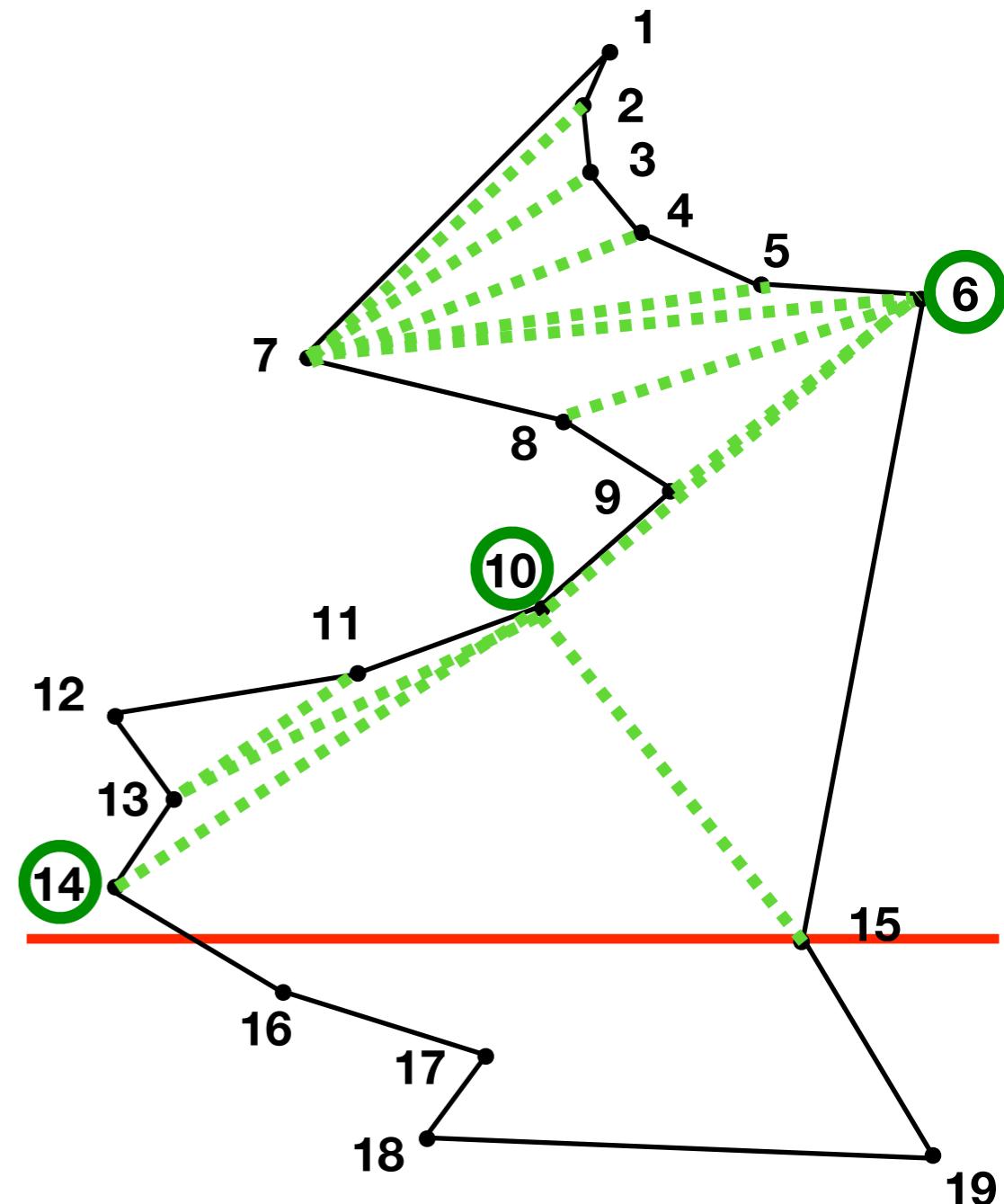
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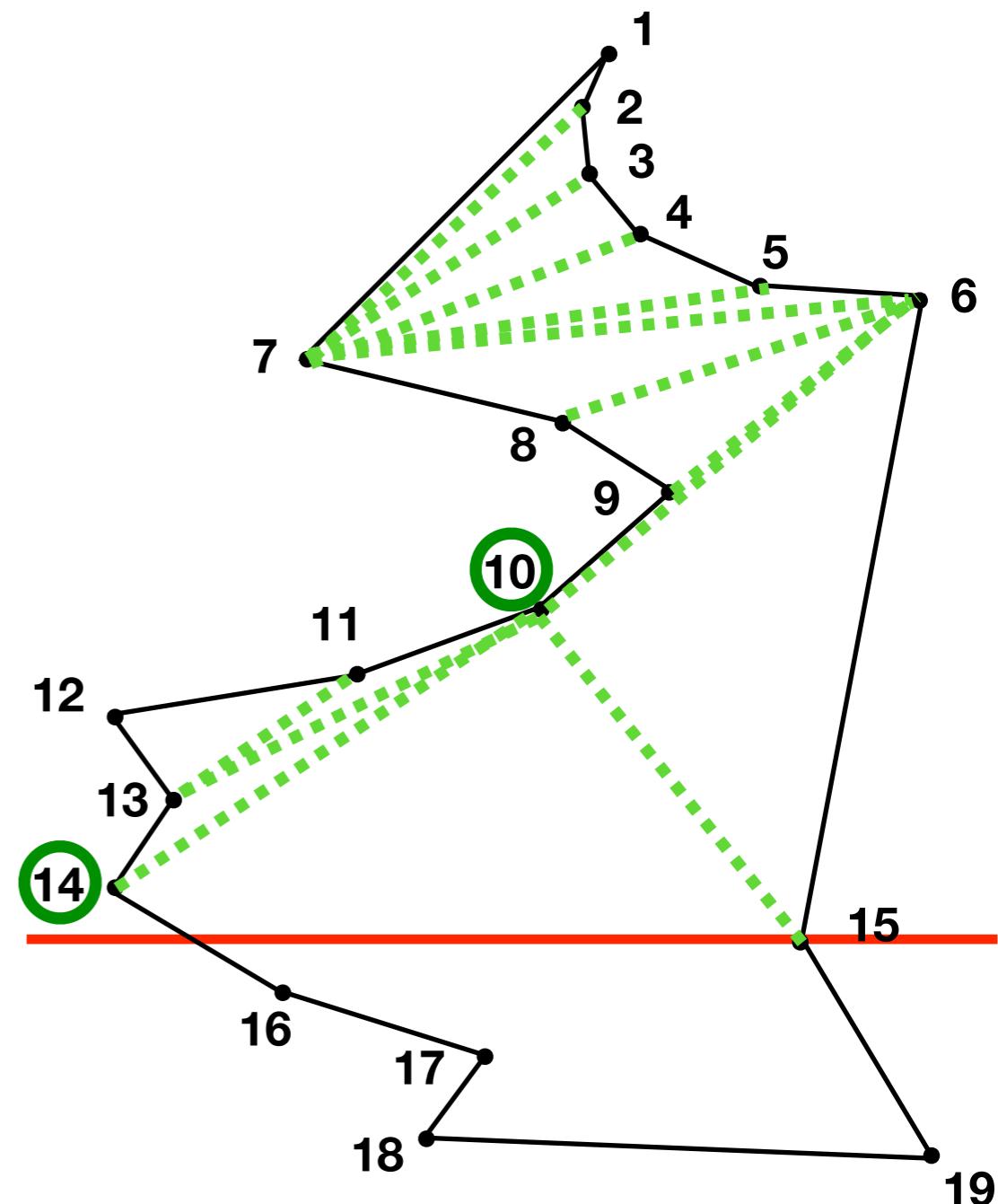
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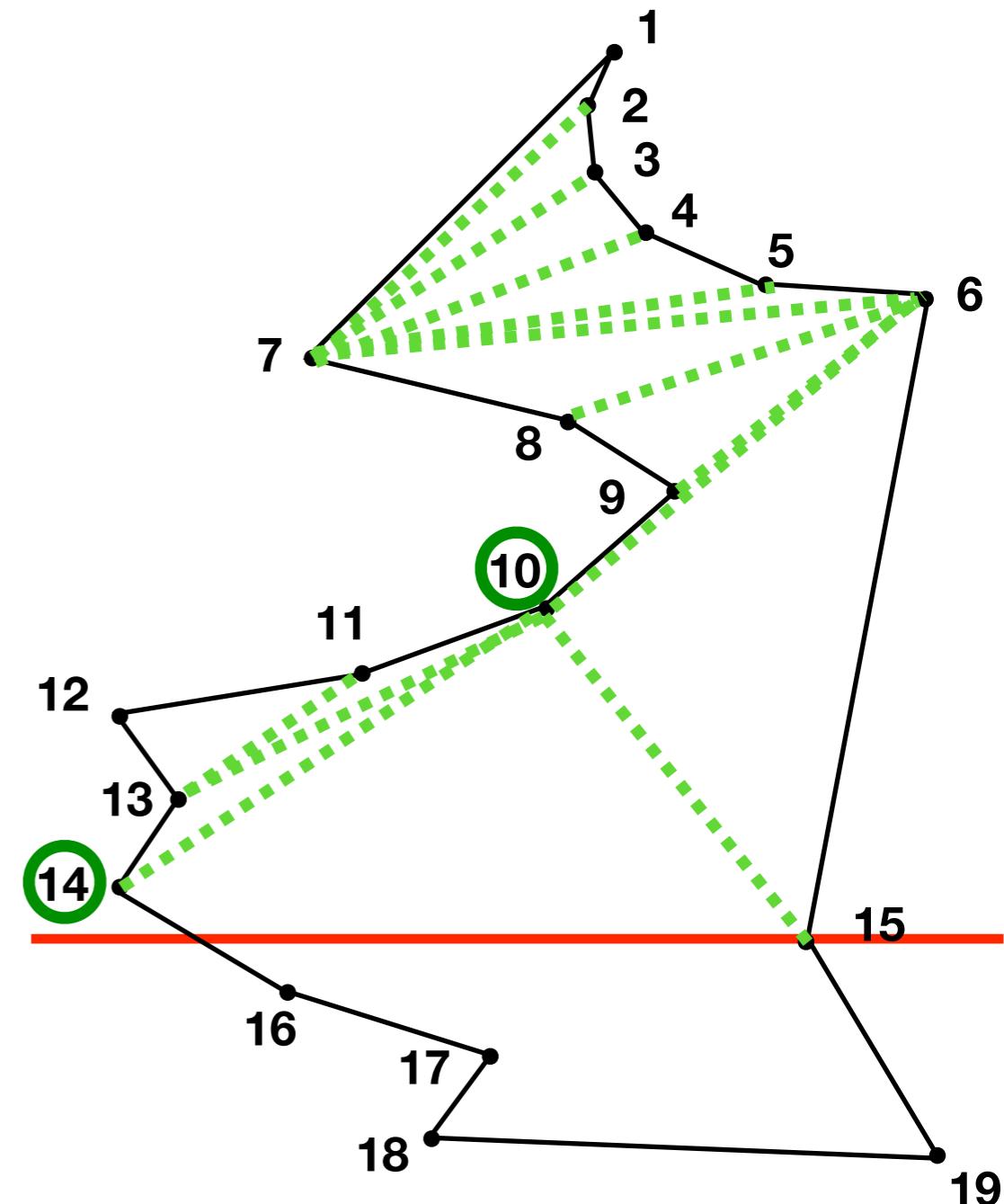
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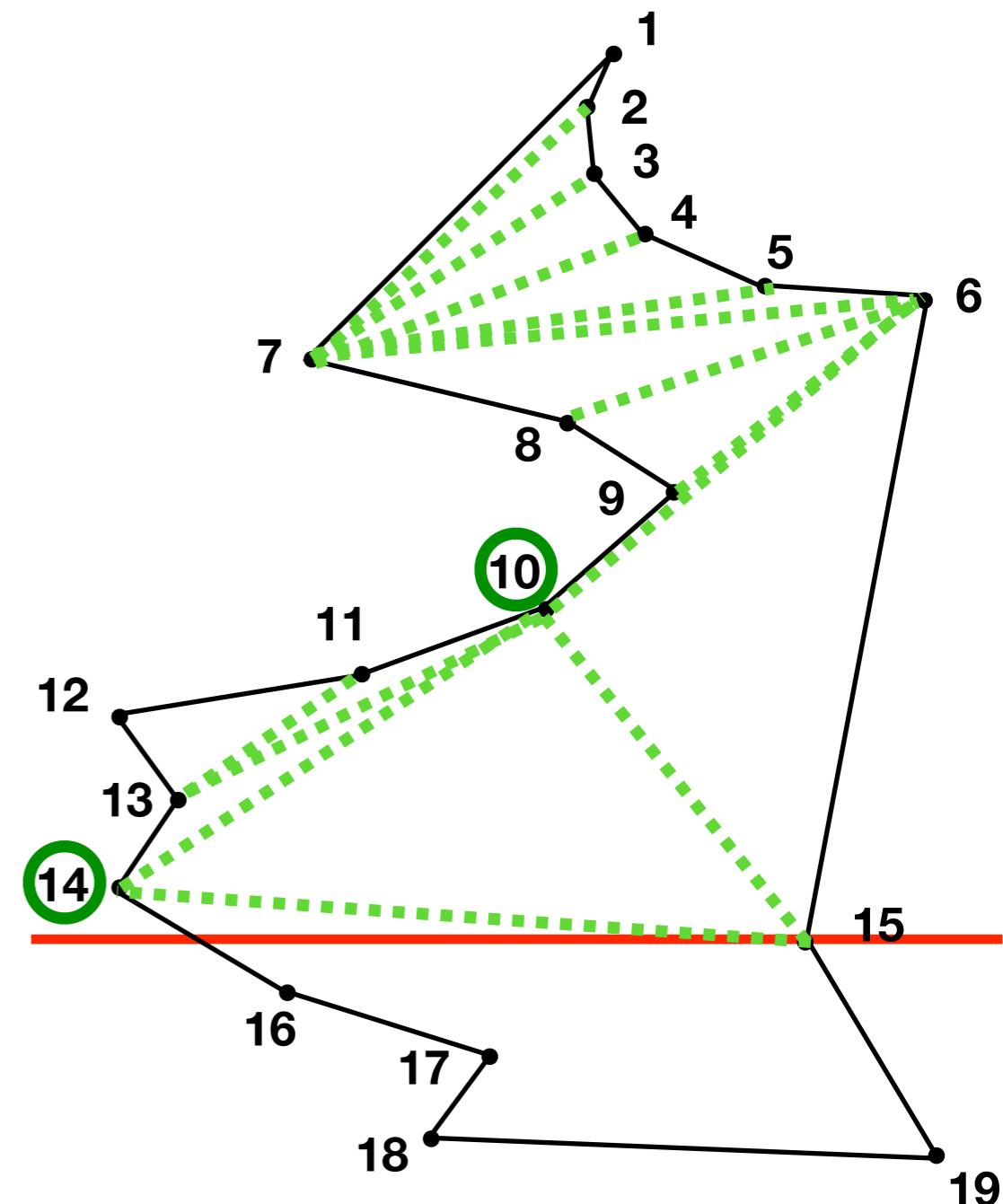
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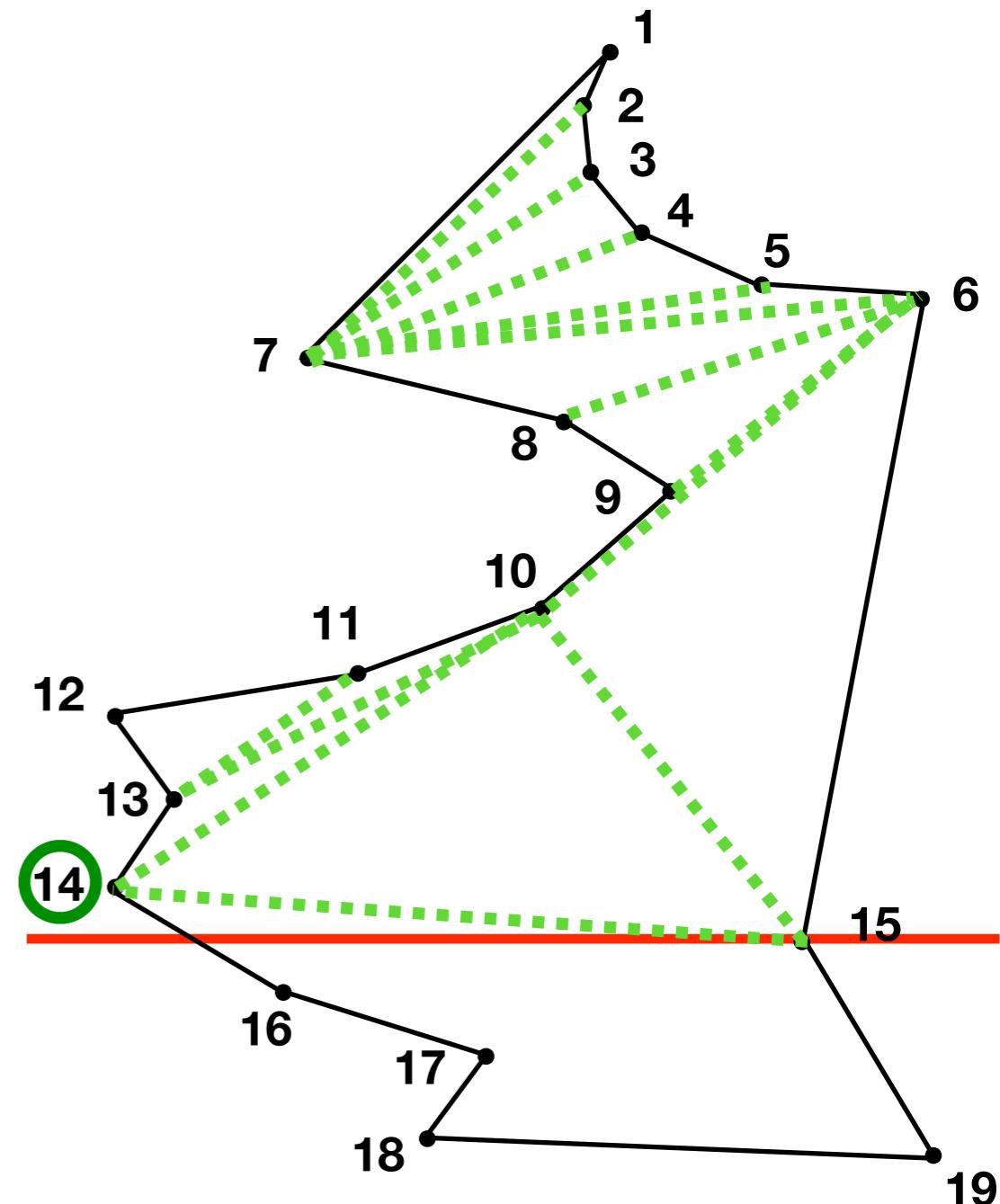
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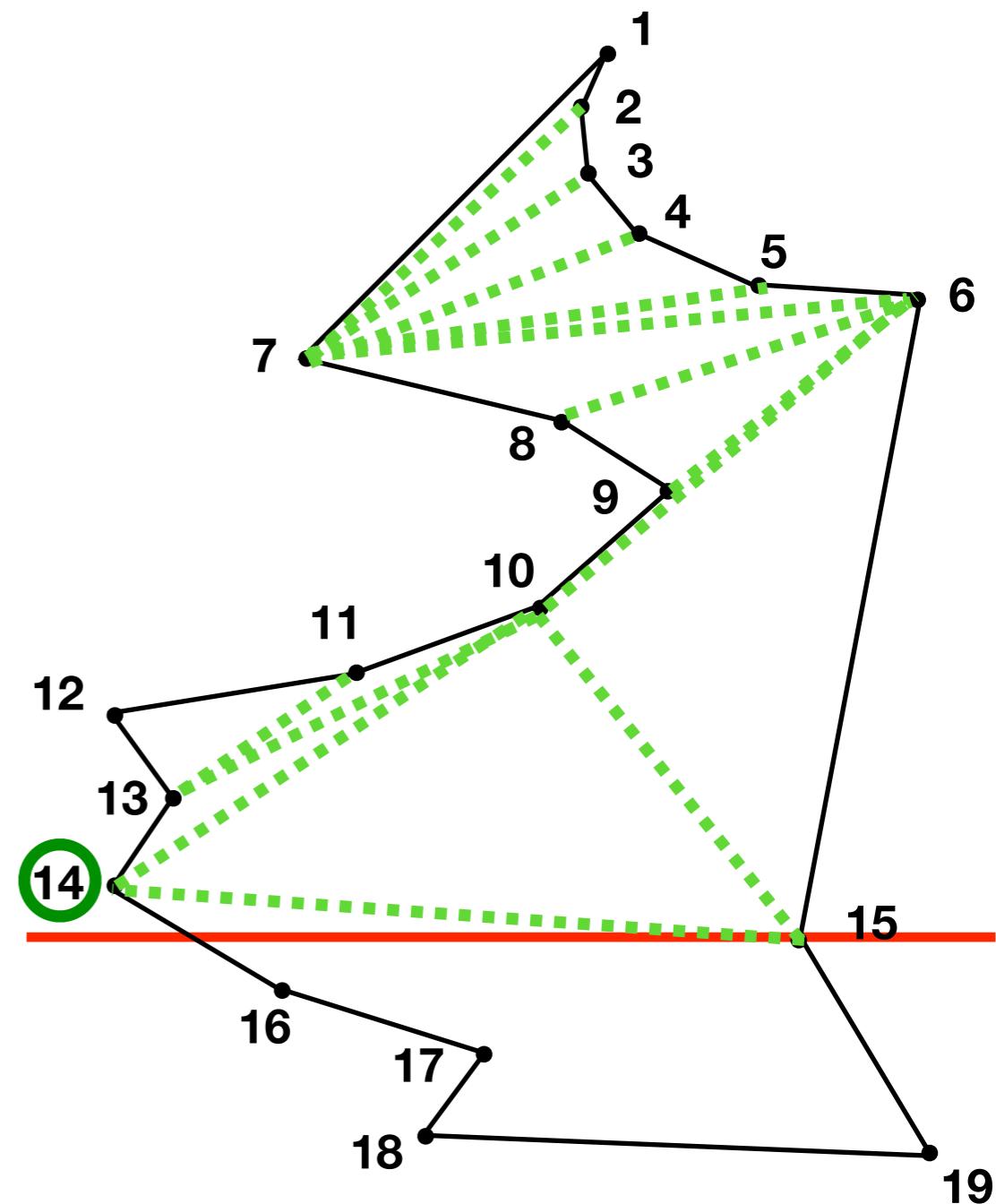
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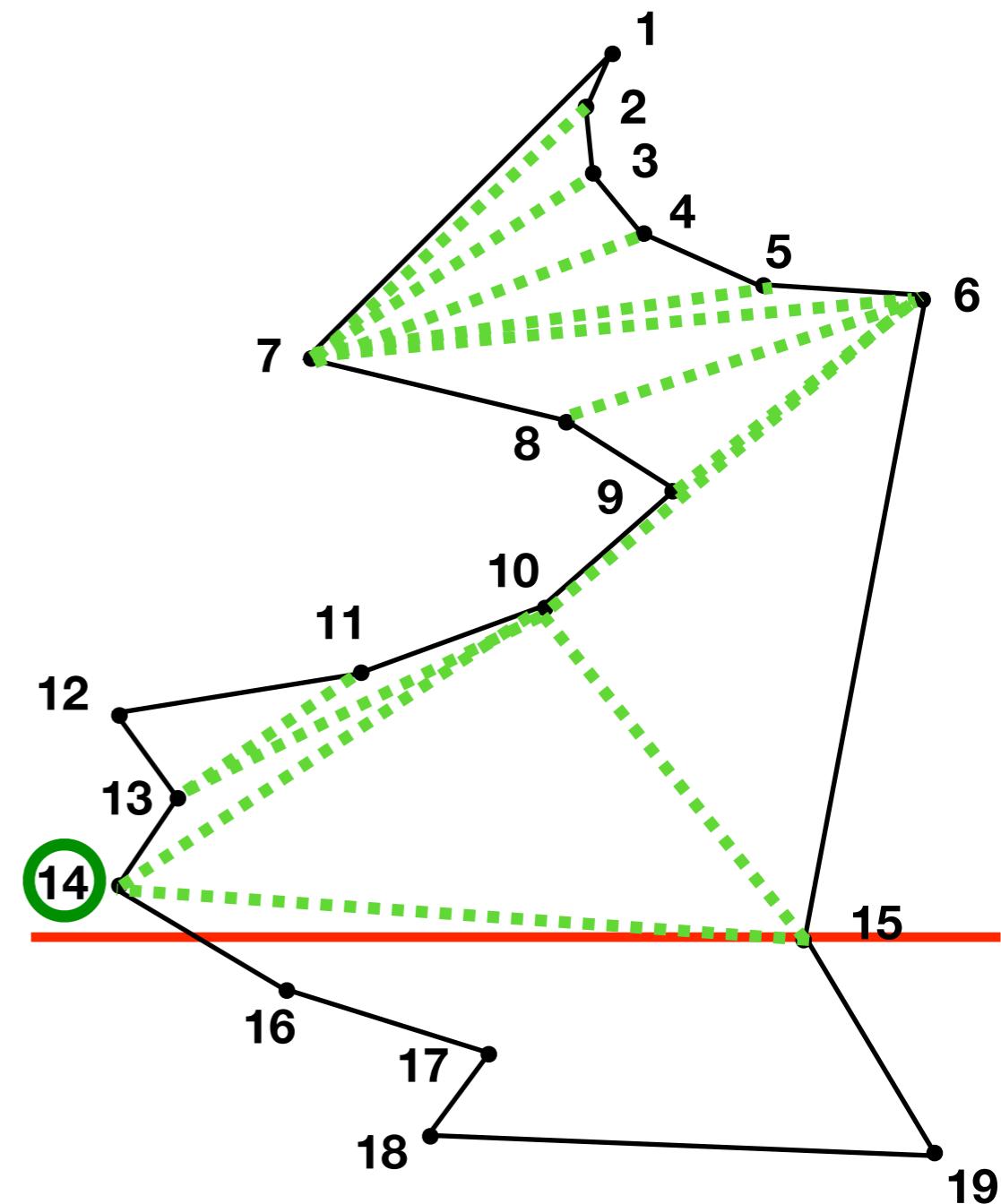
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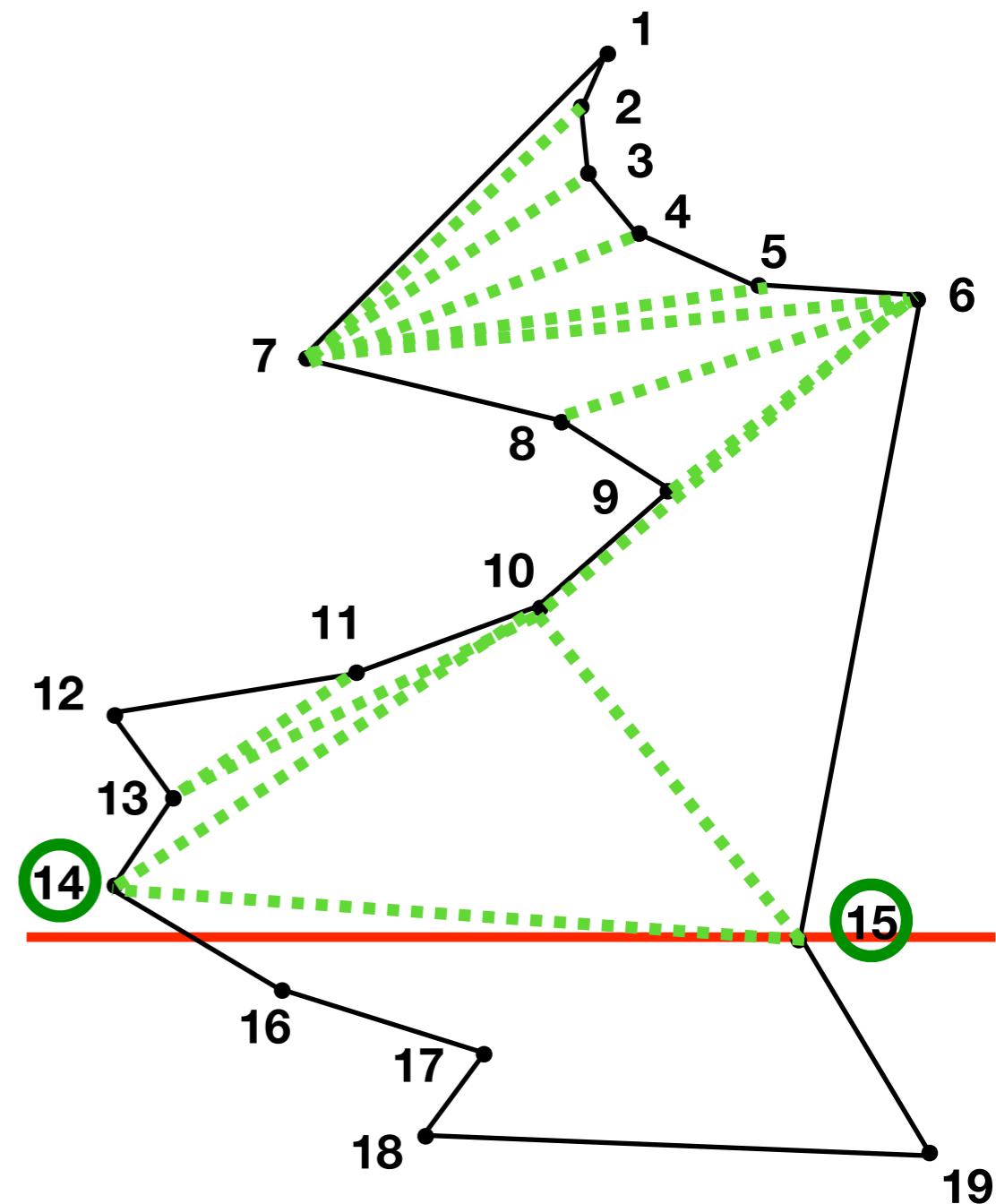
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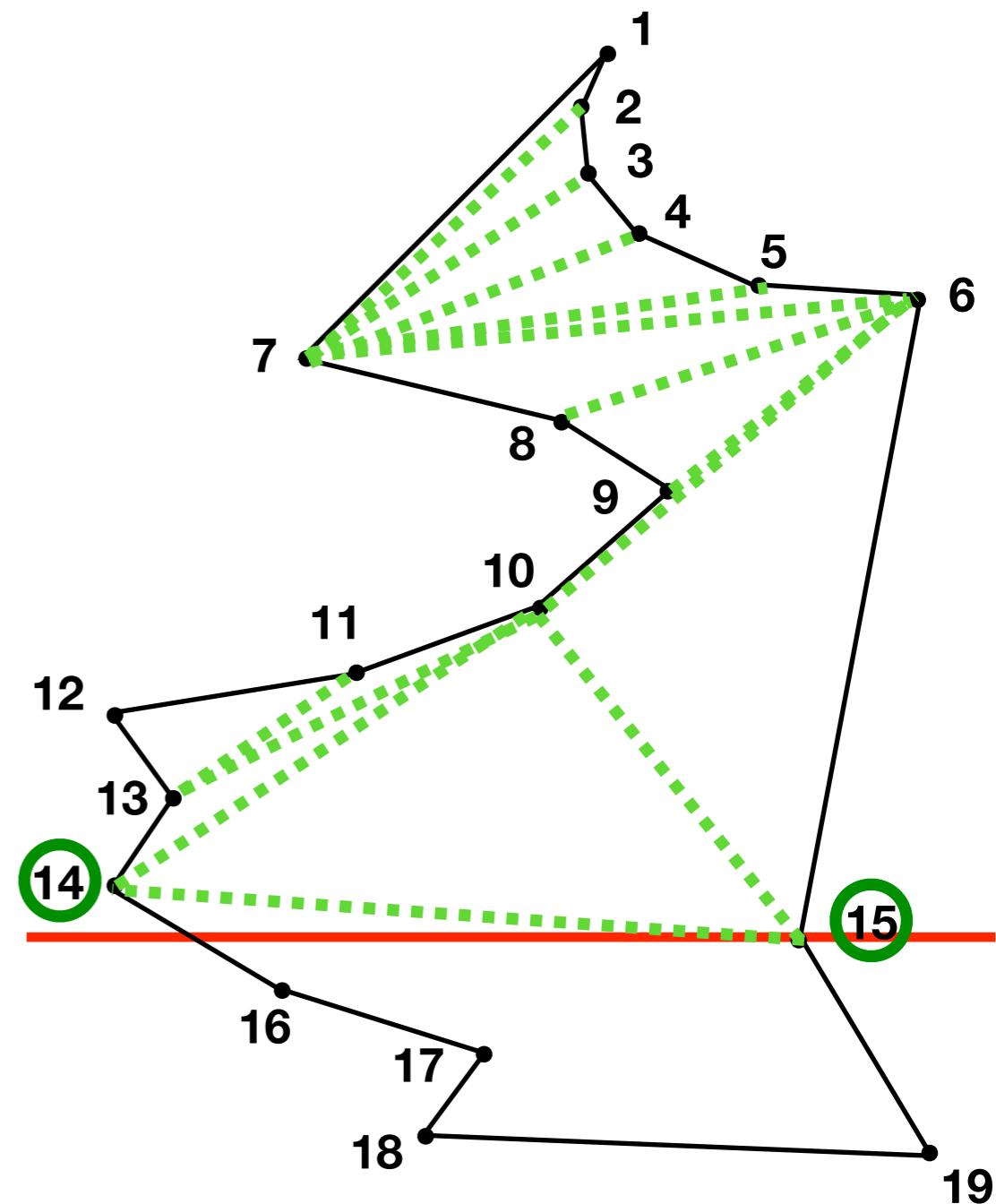
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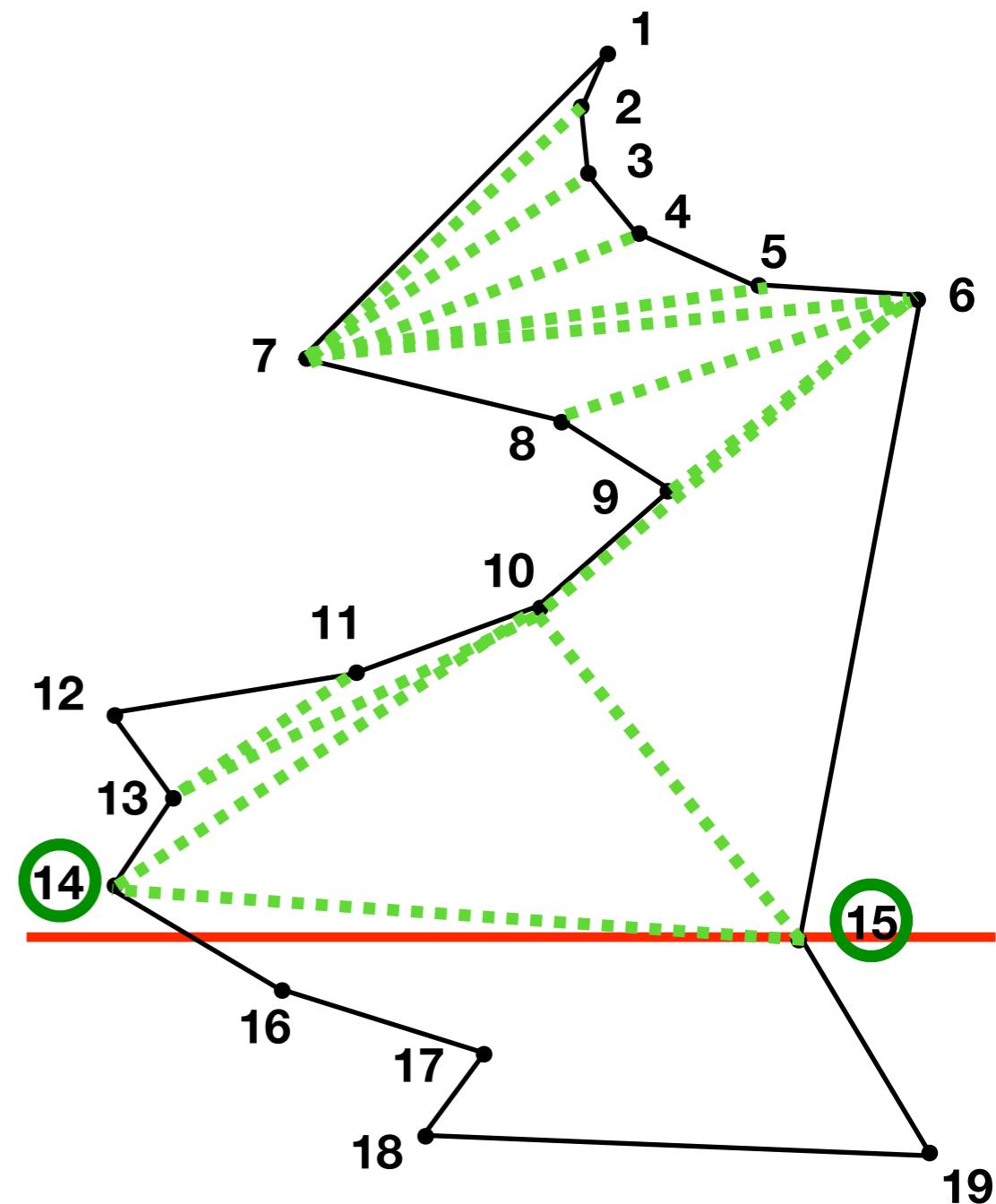
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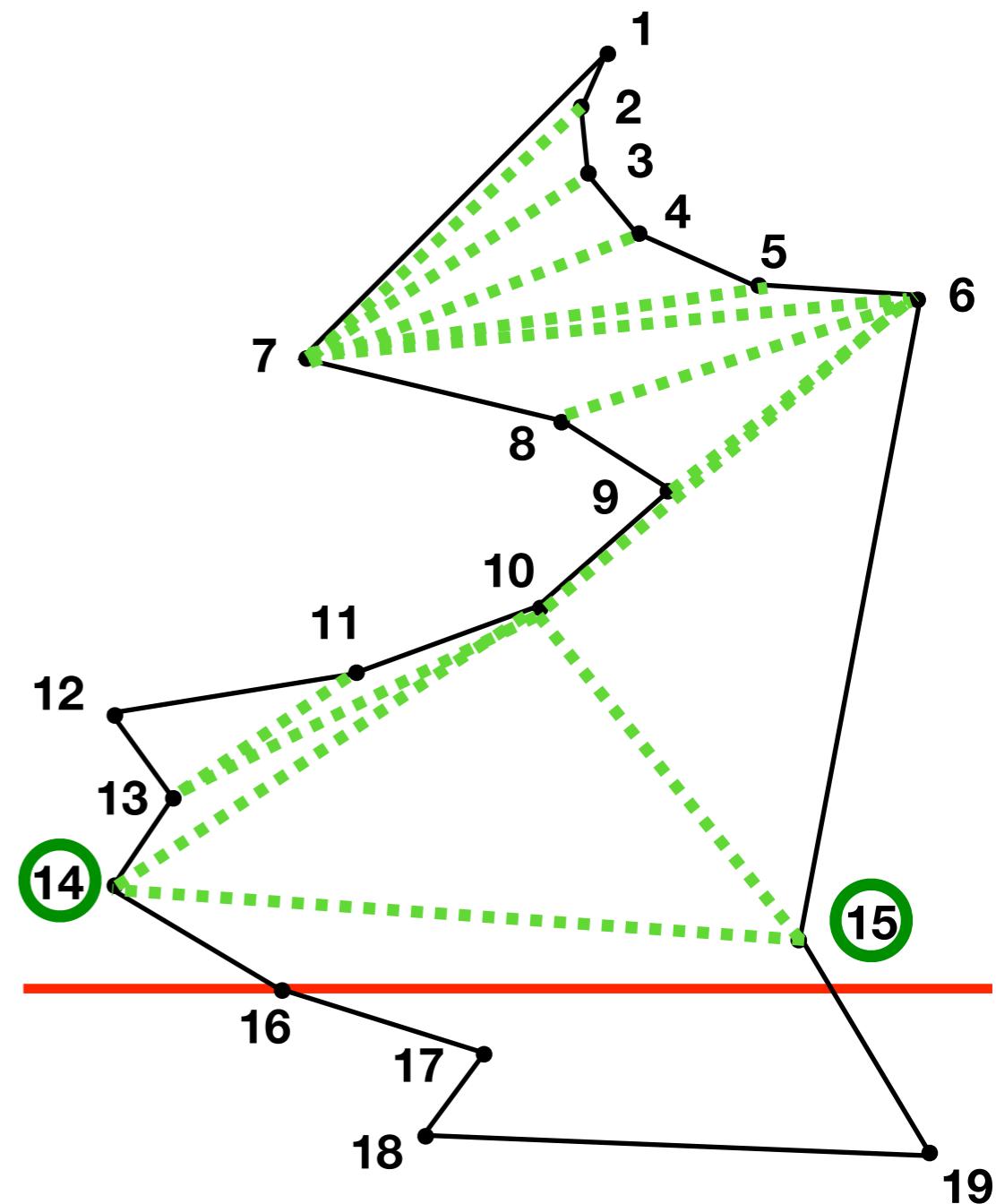
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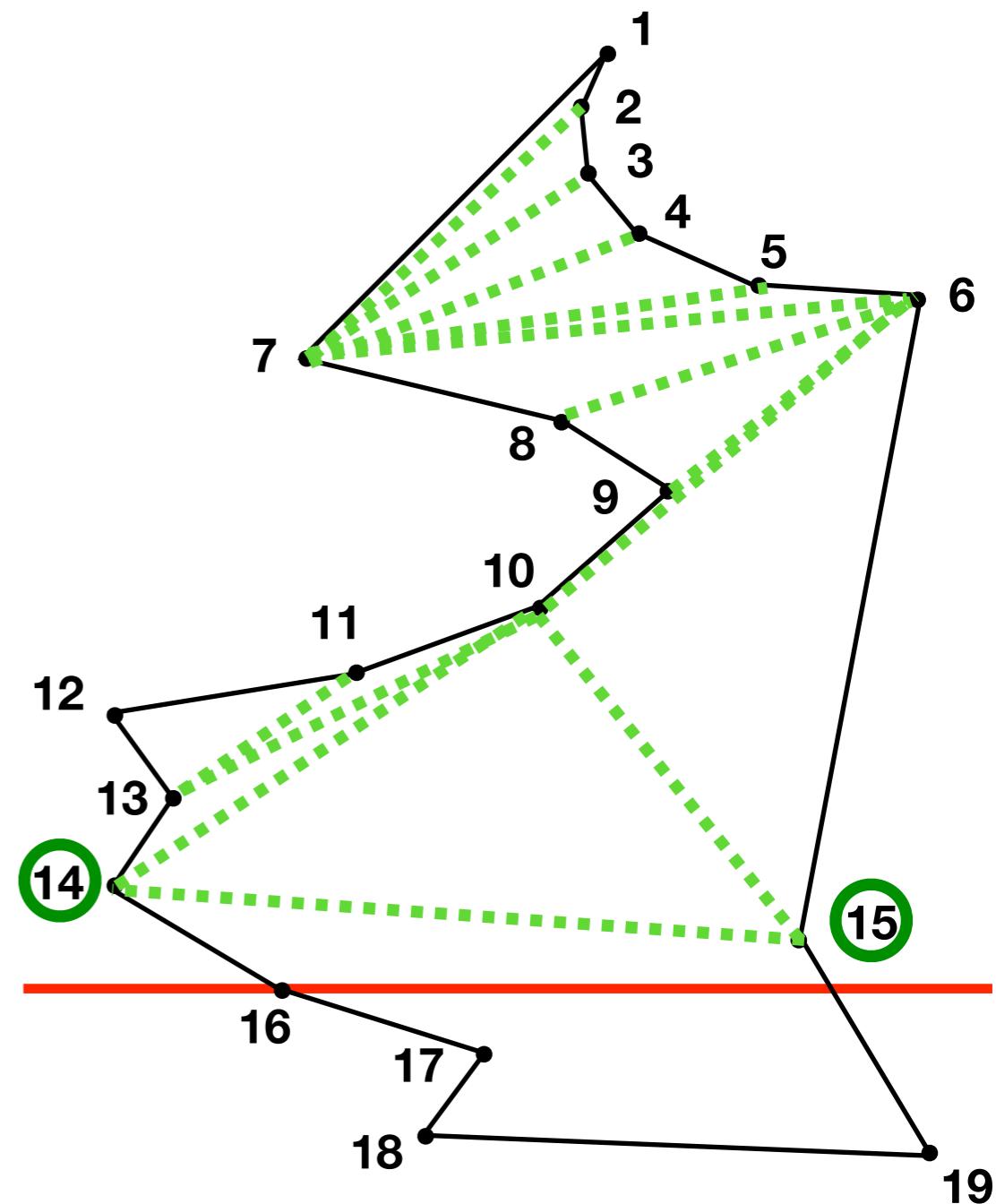
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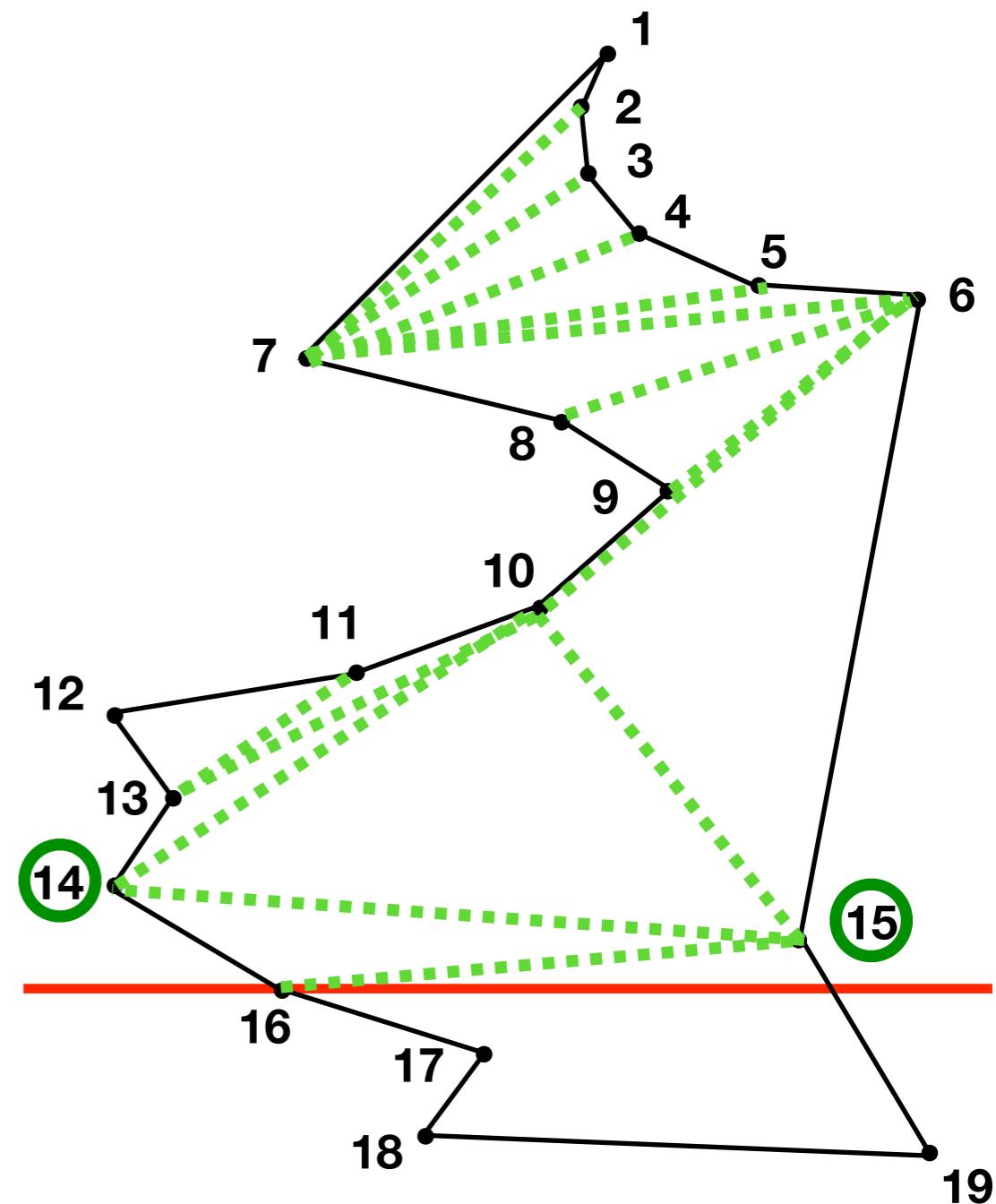
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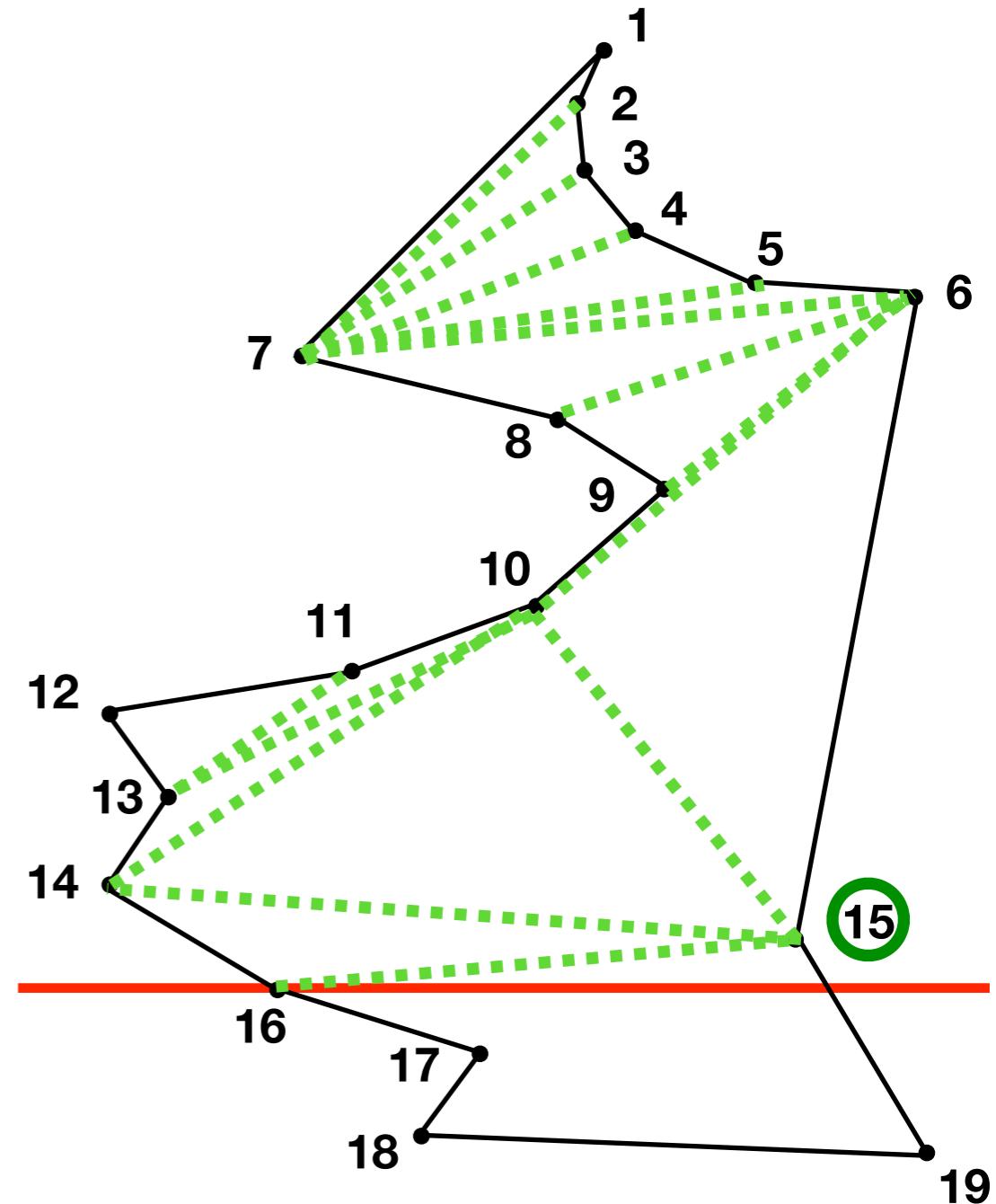
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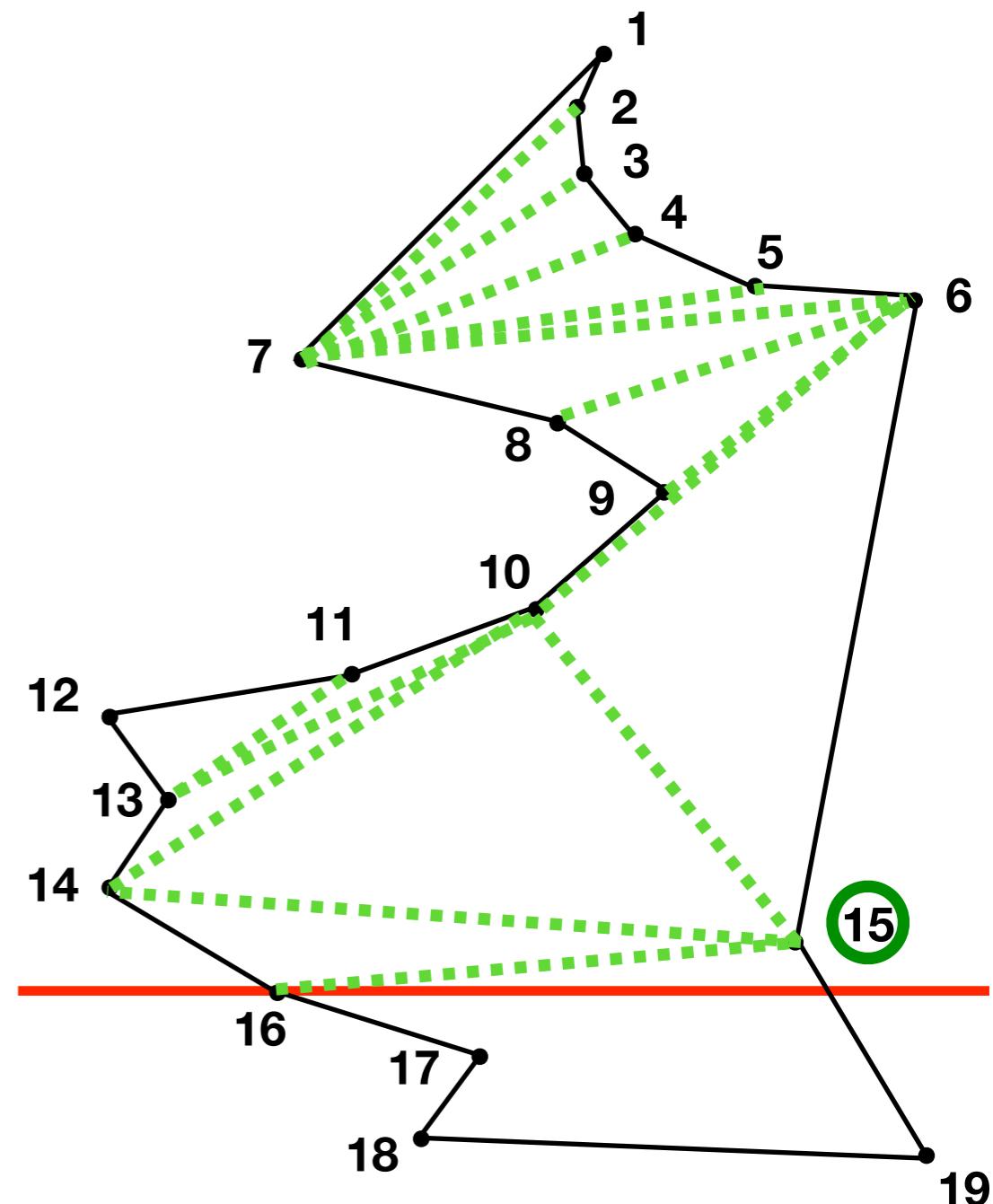
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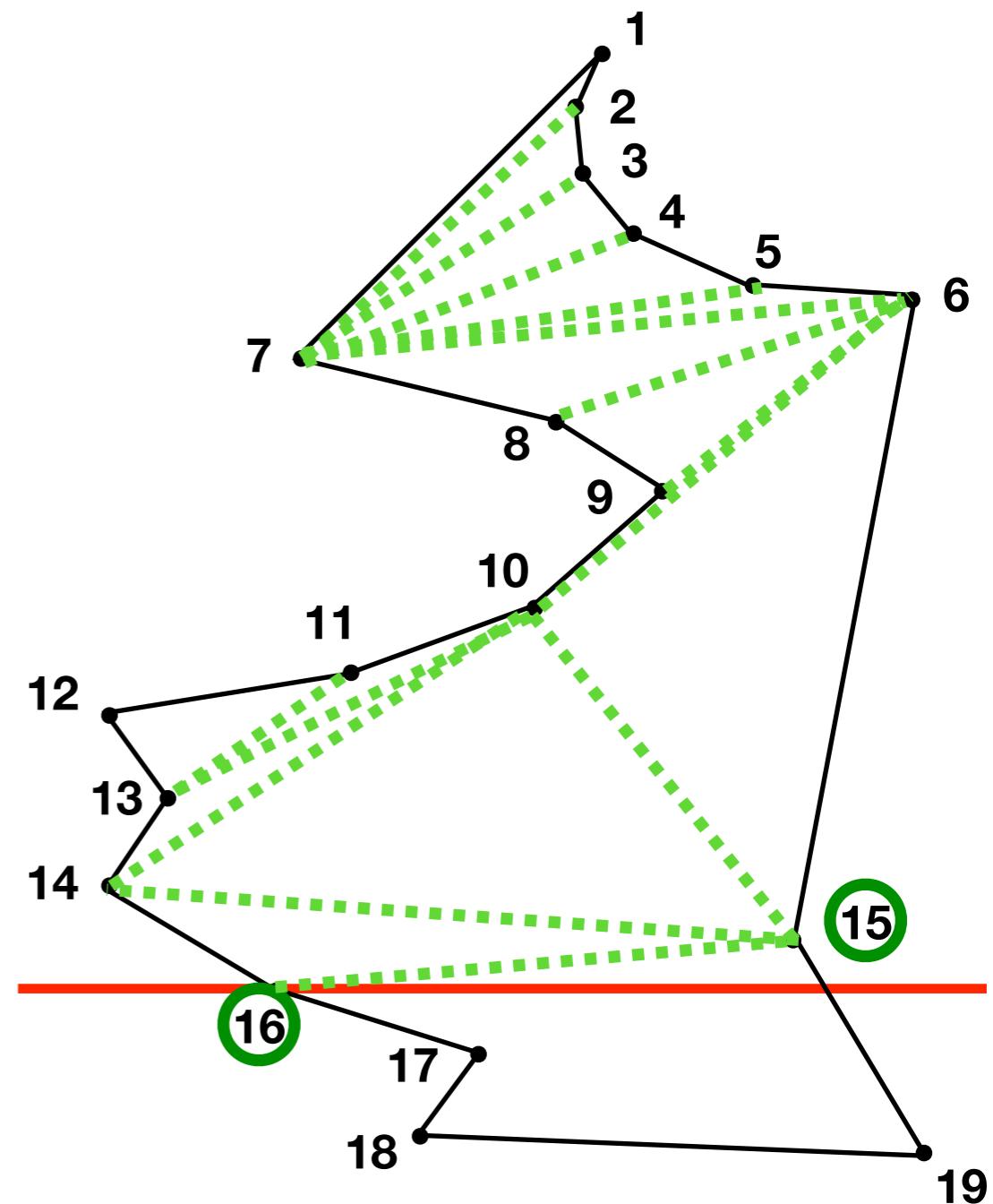
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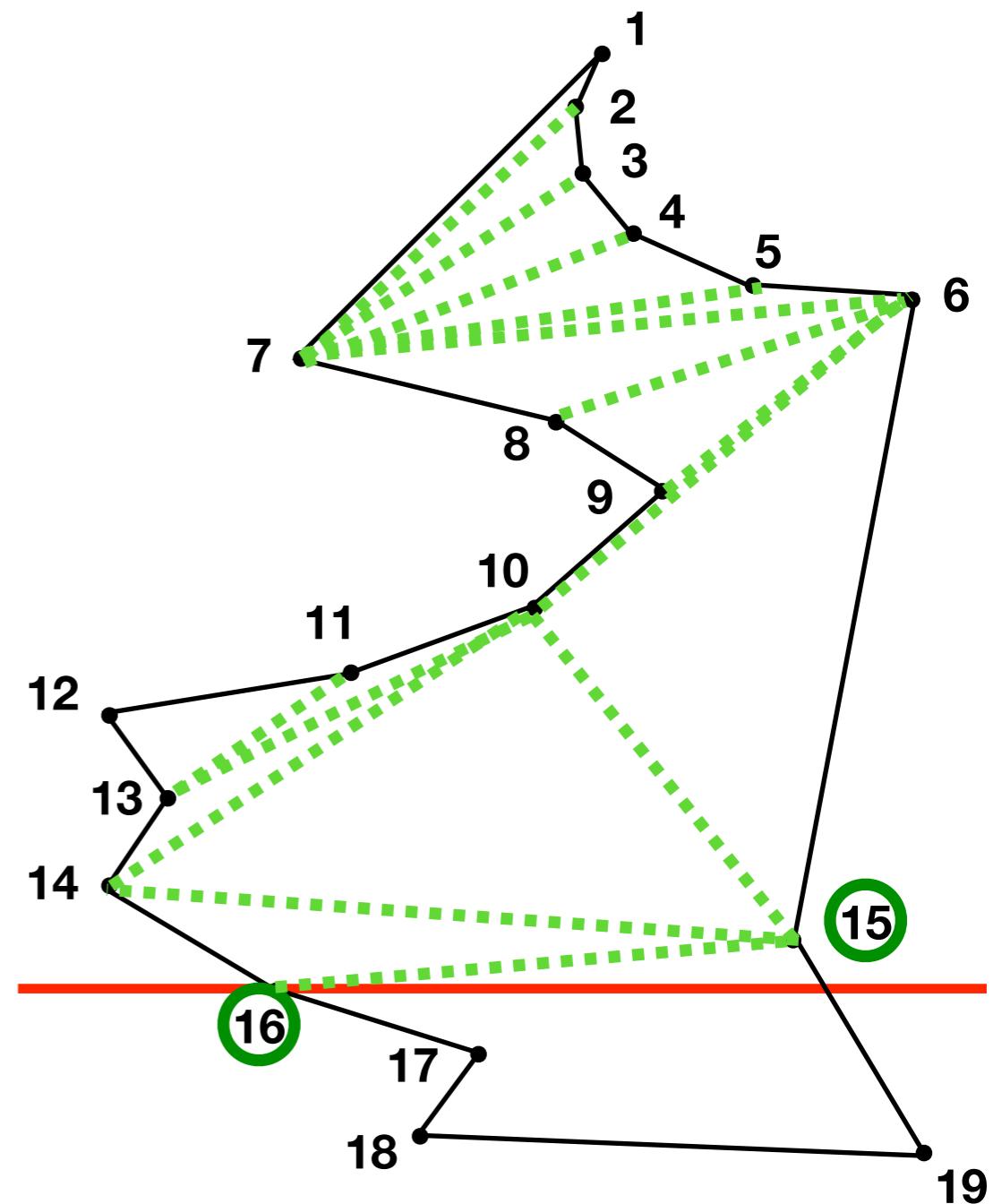
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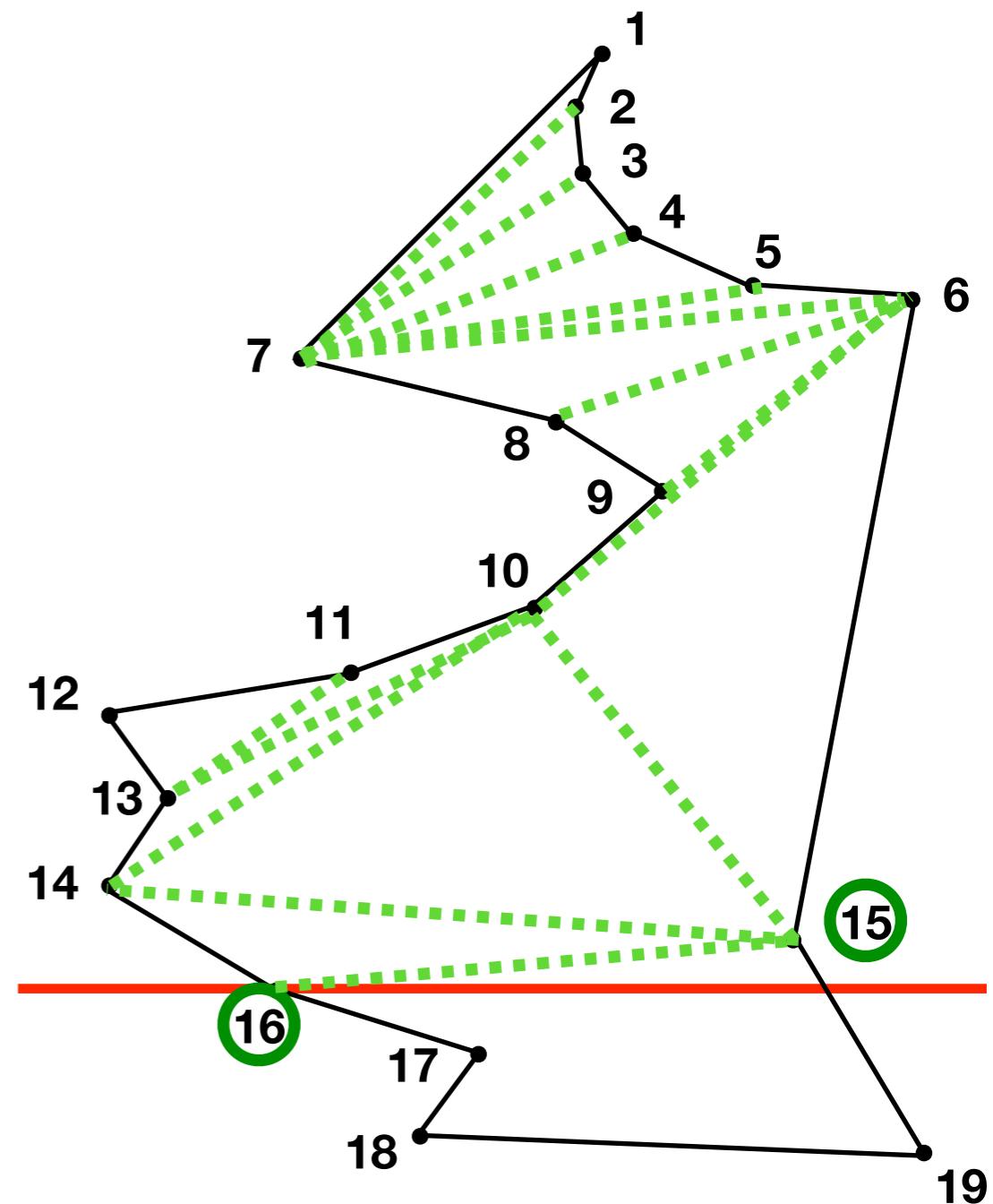
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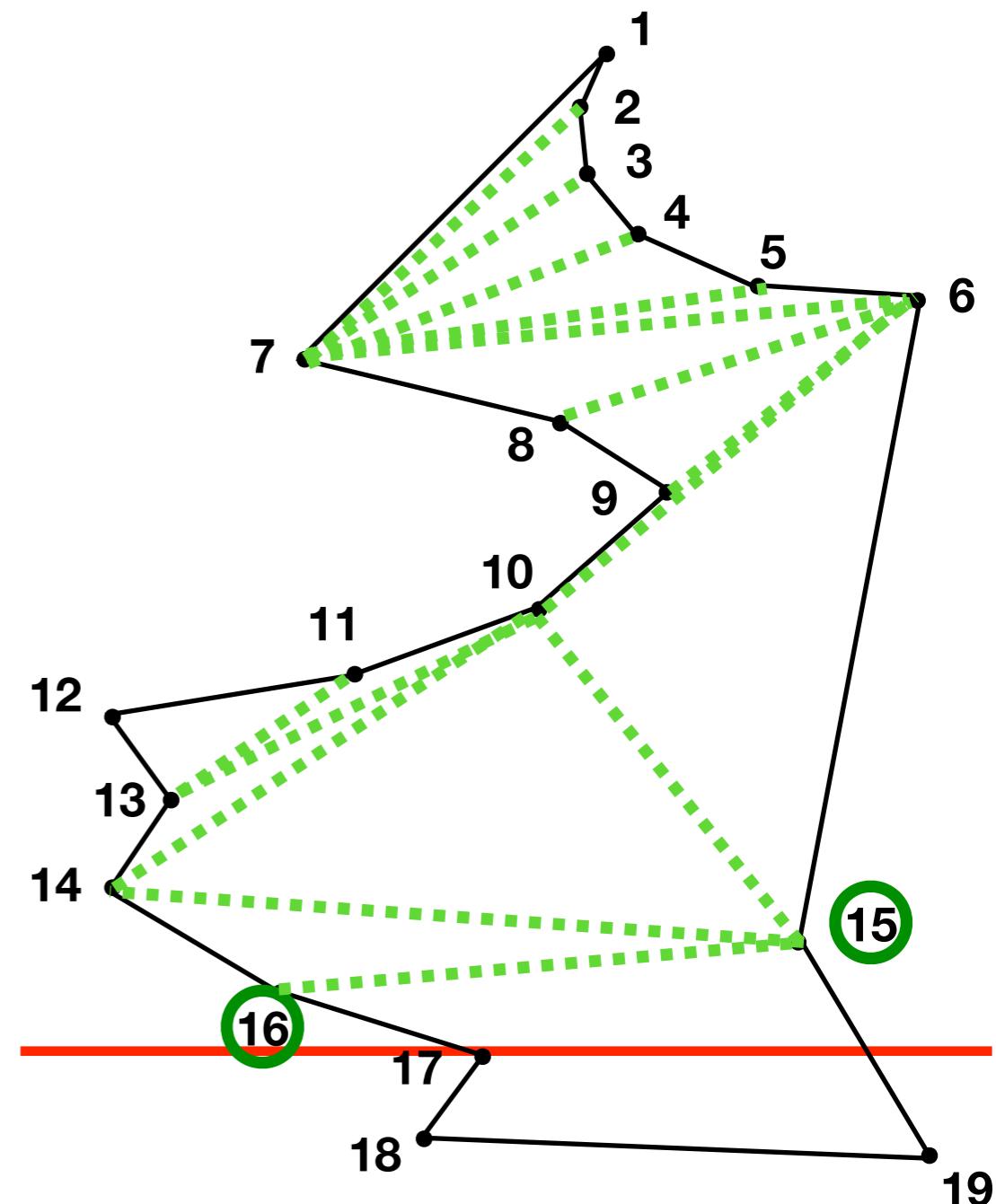
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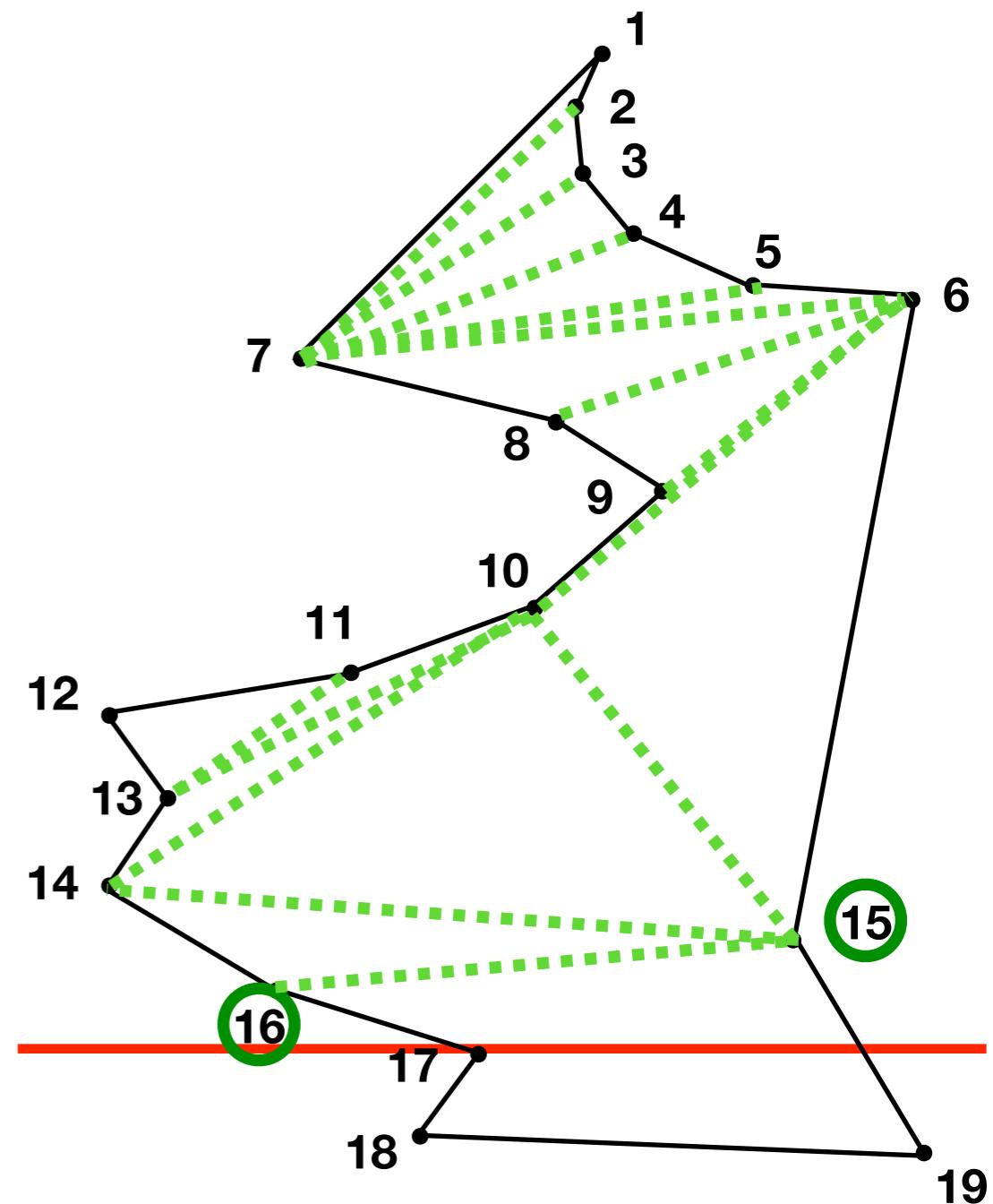
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## Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

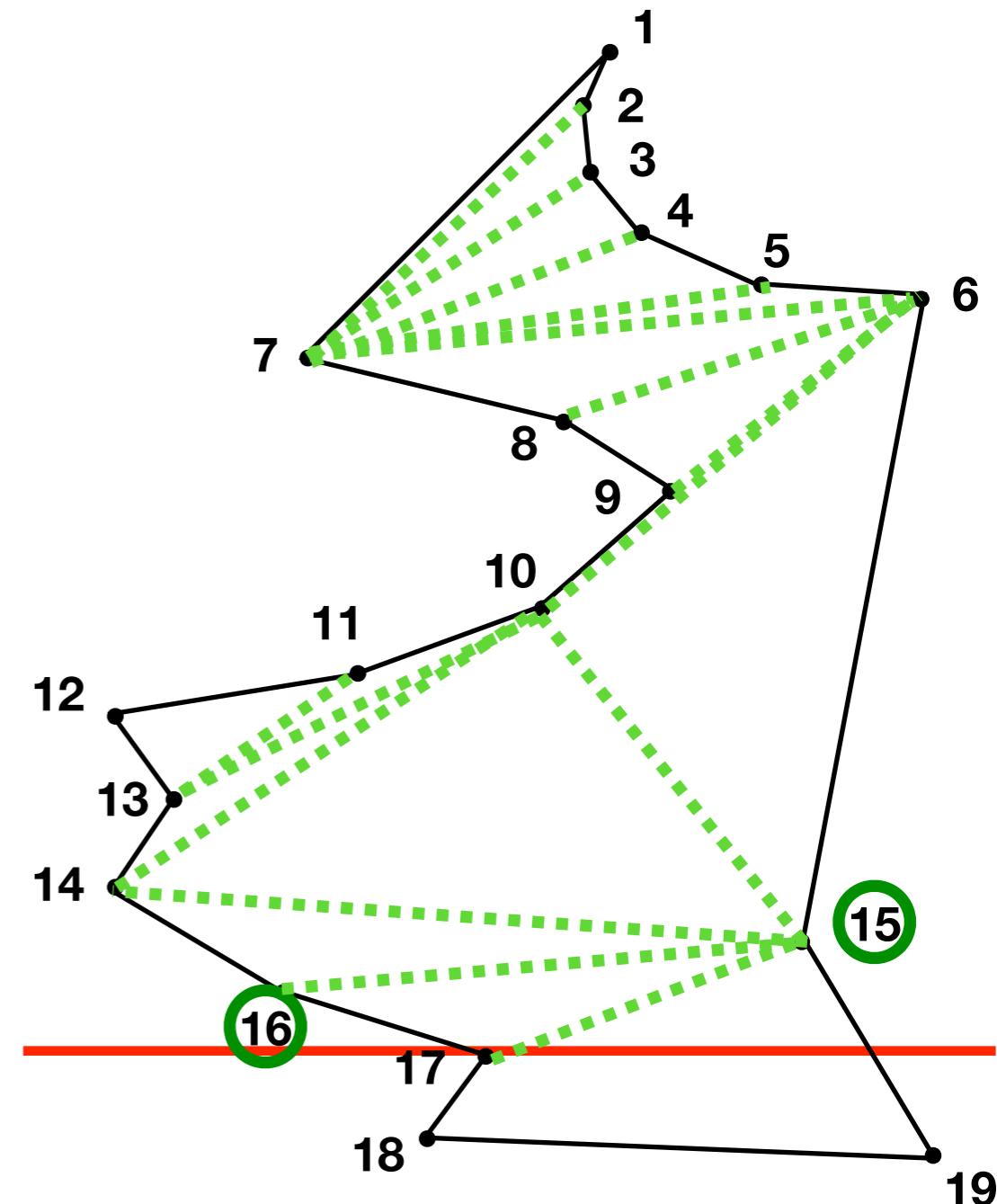
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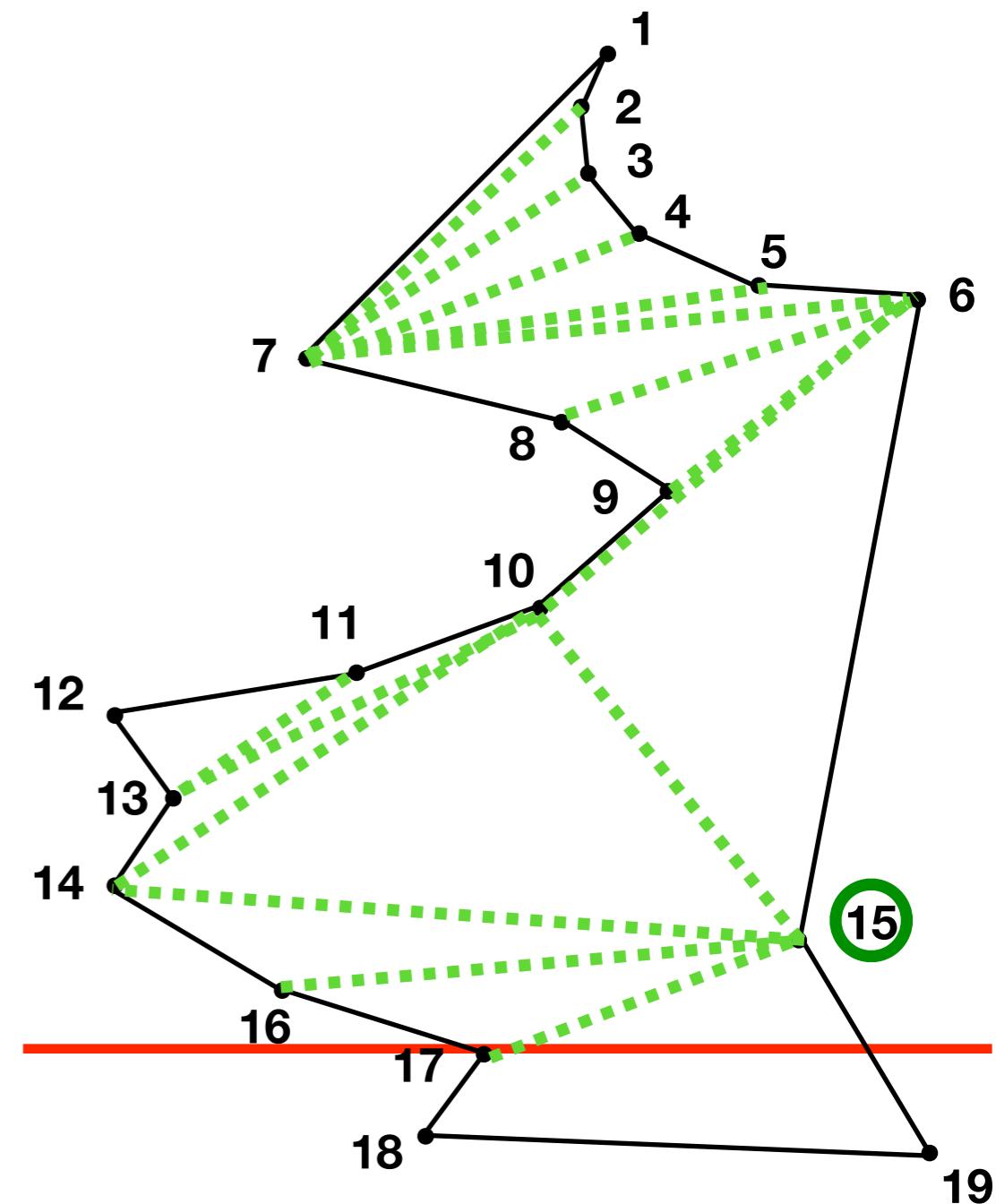
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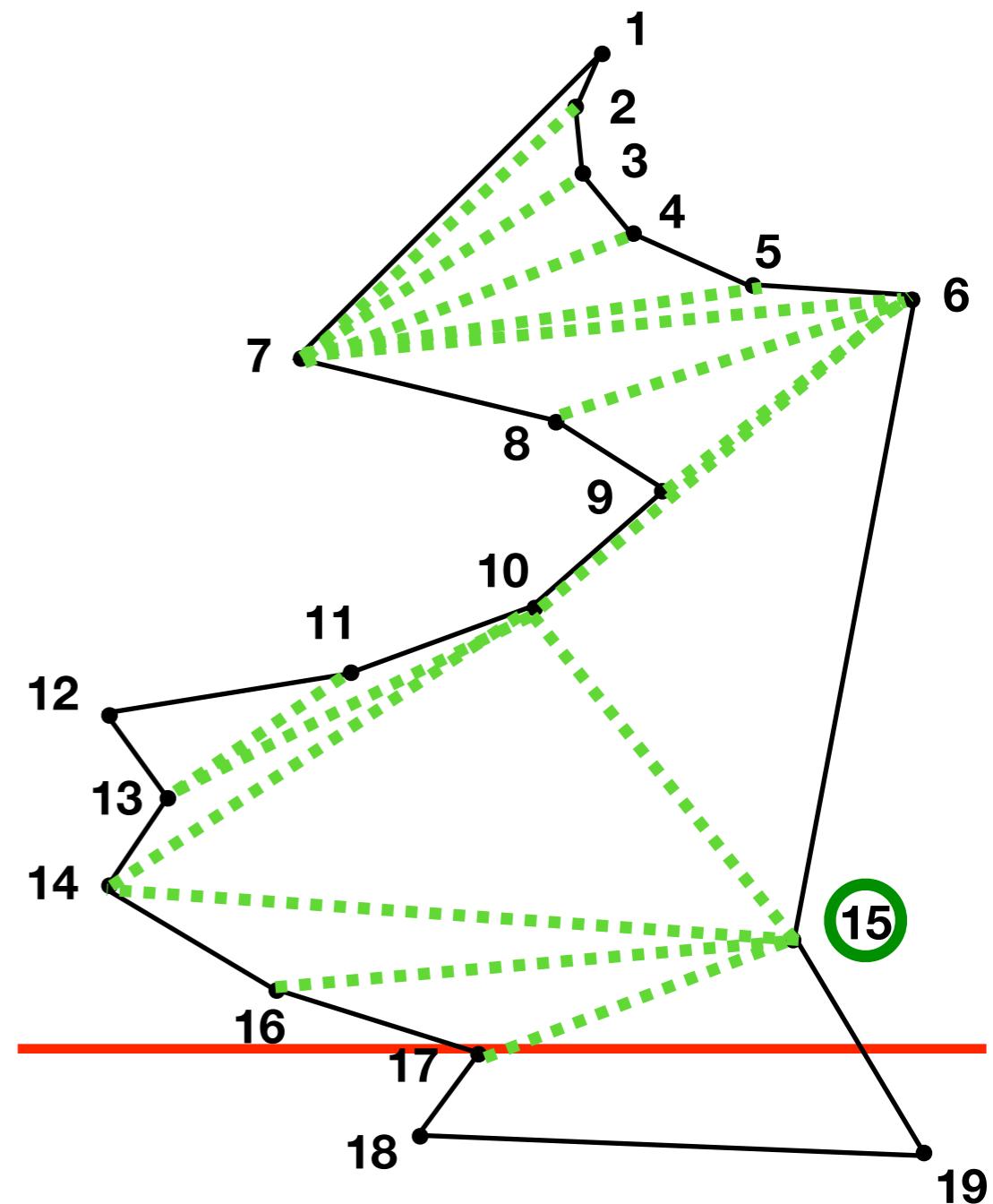
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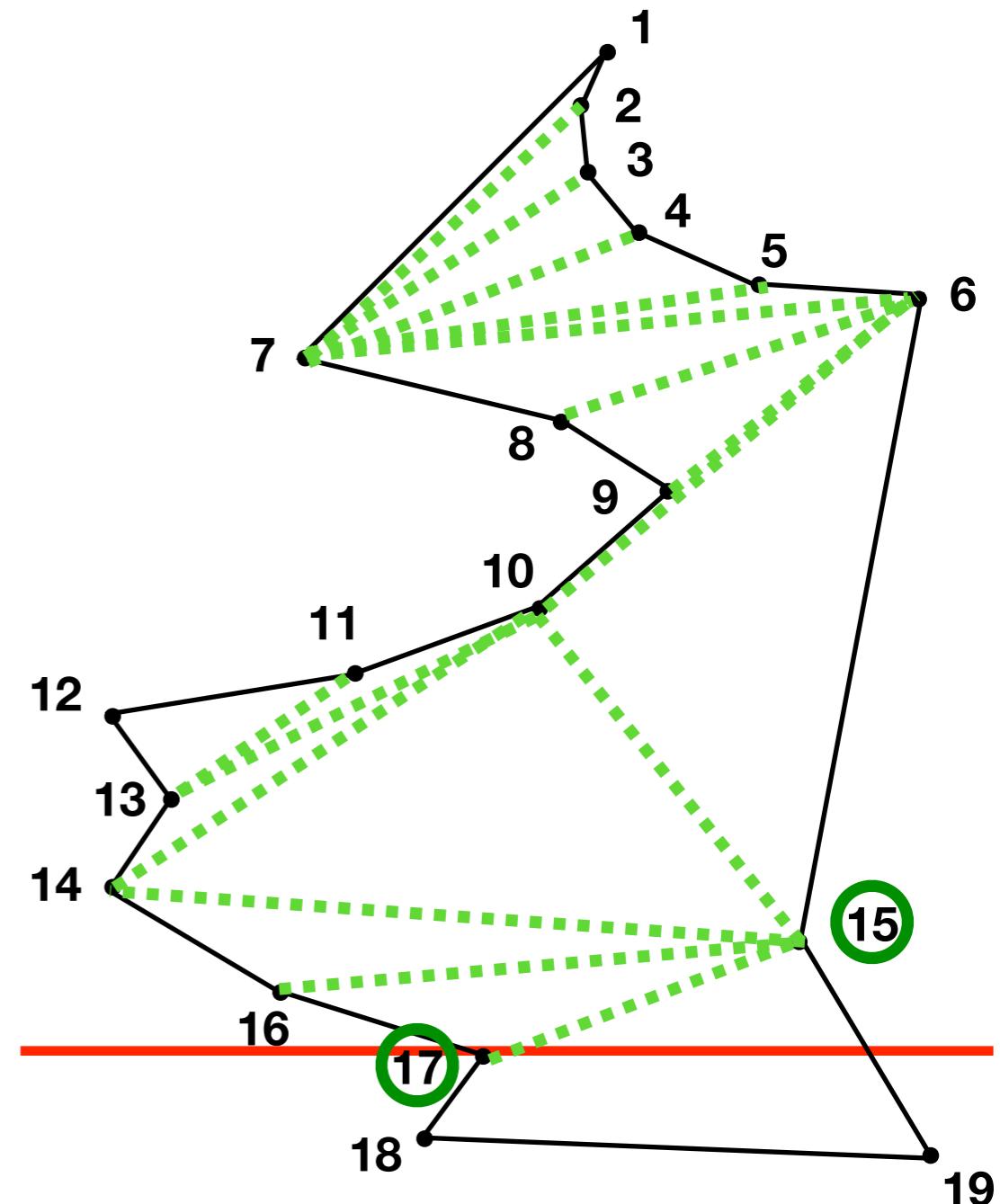
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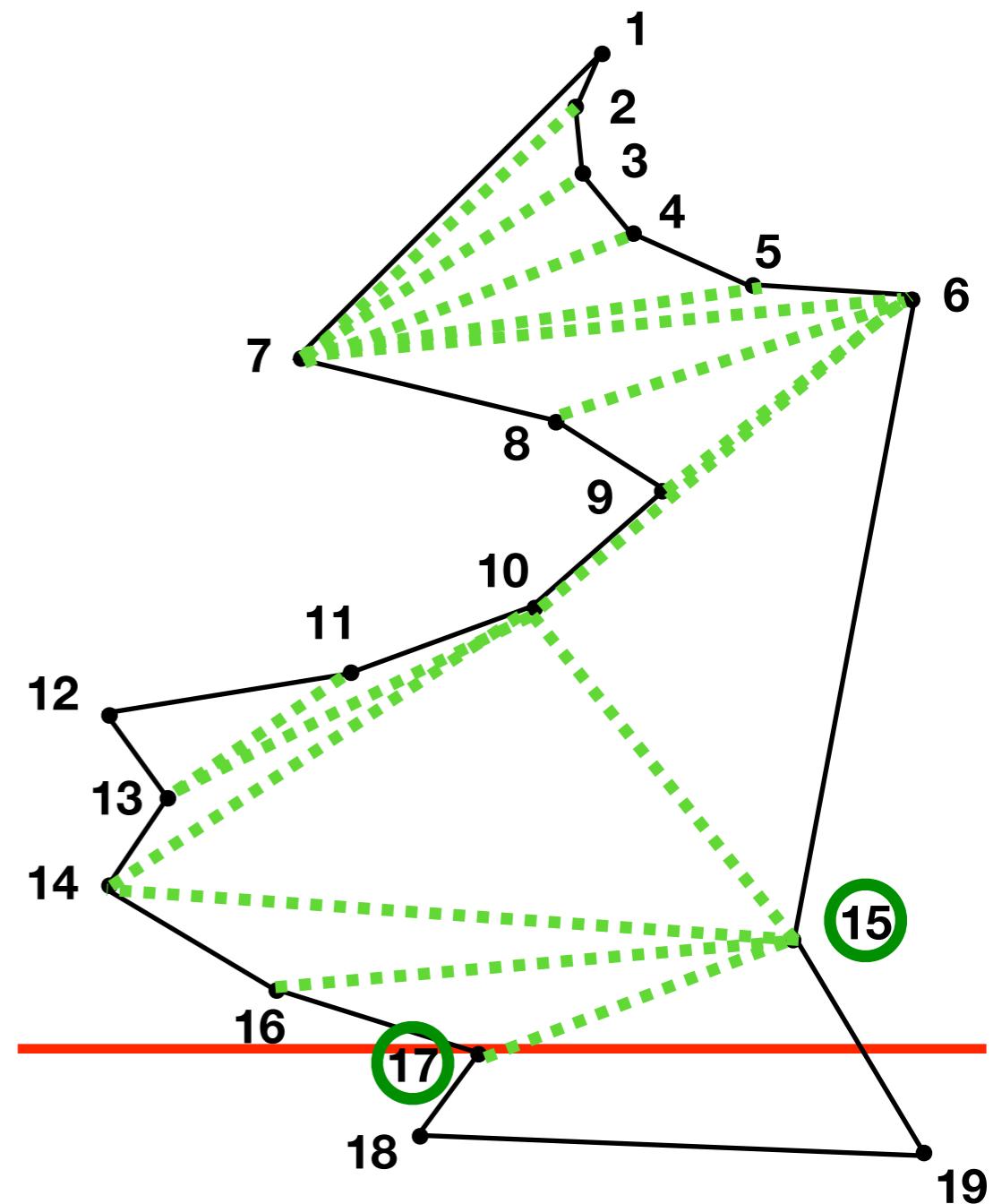
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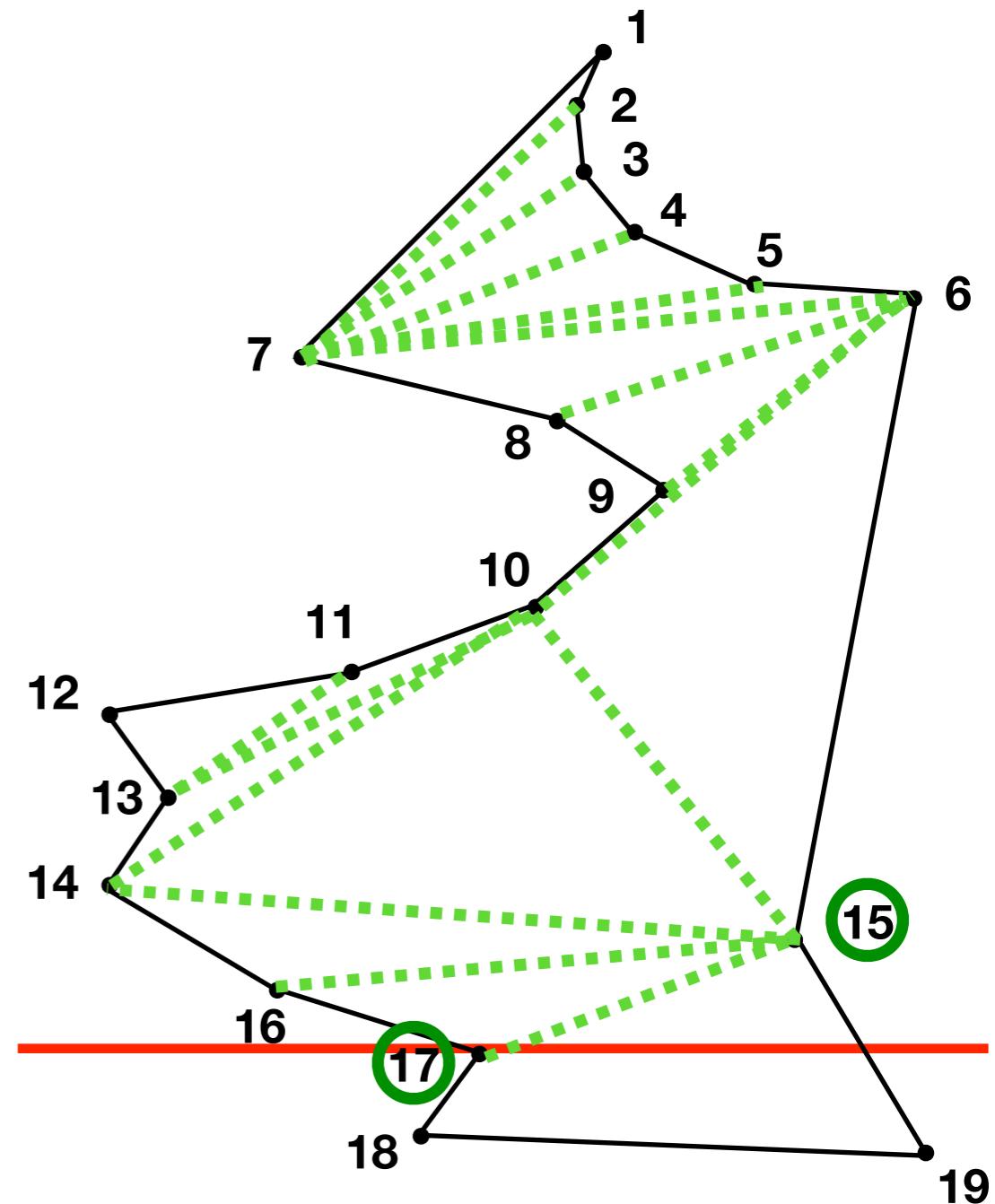
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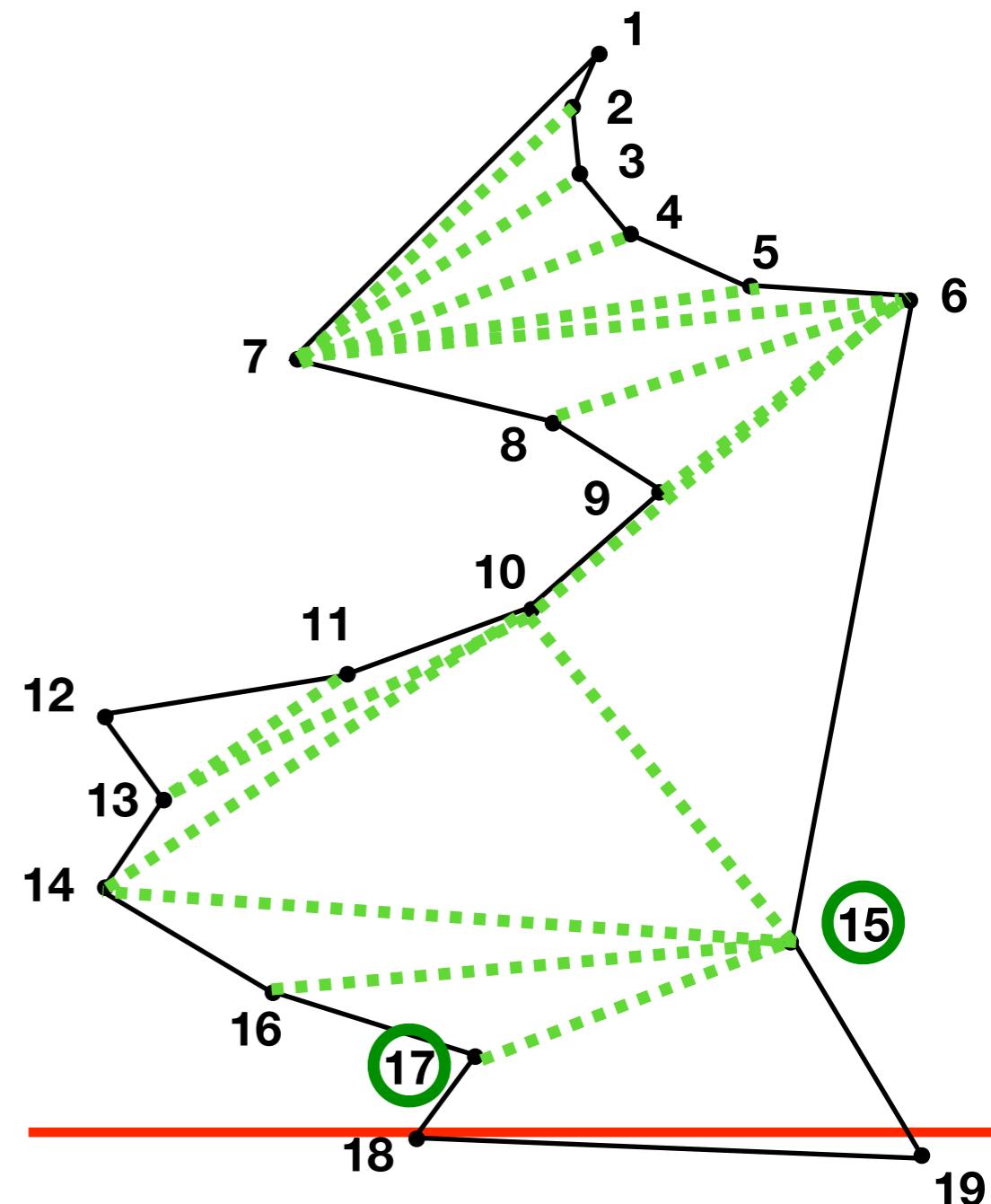
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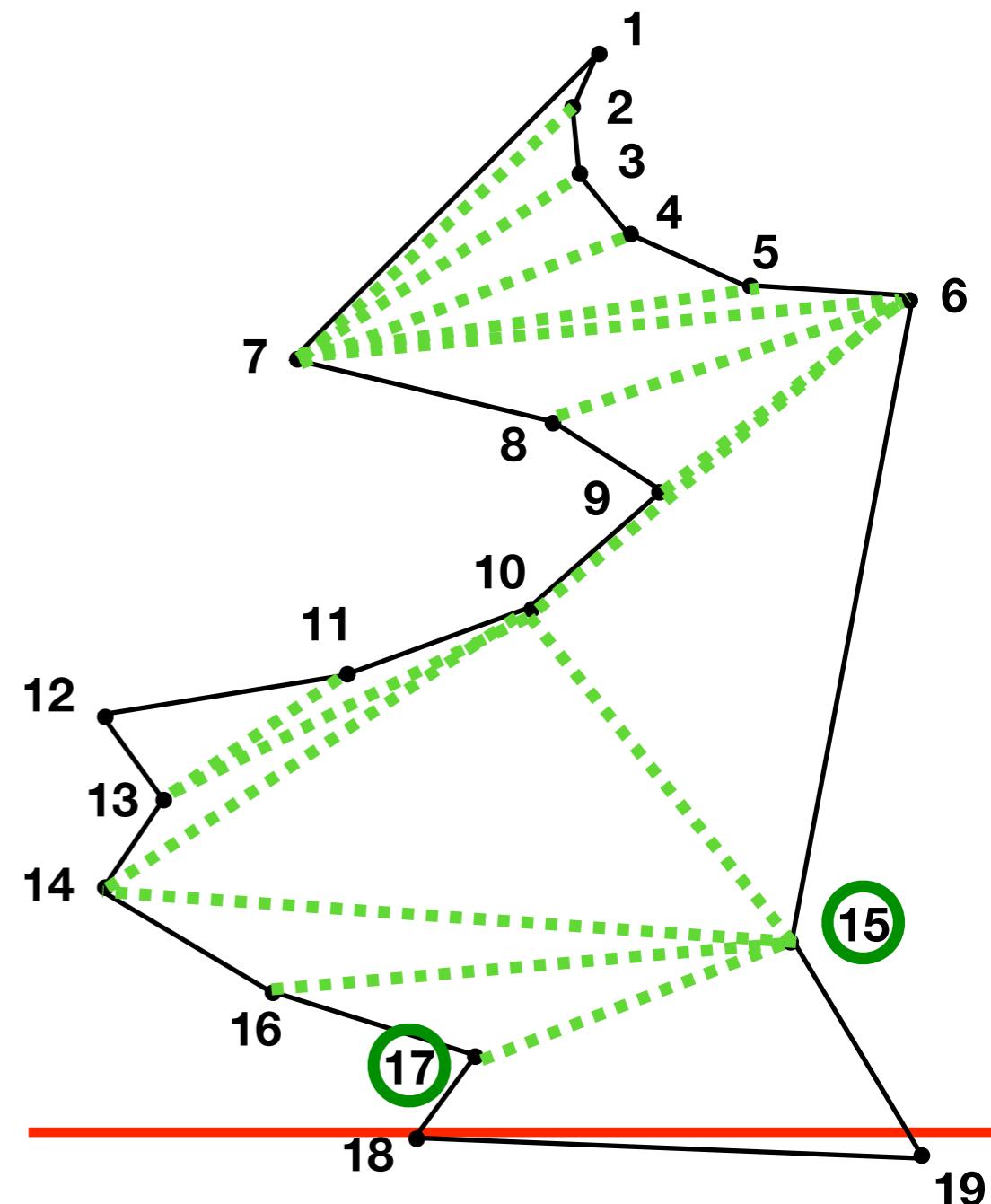
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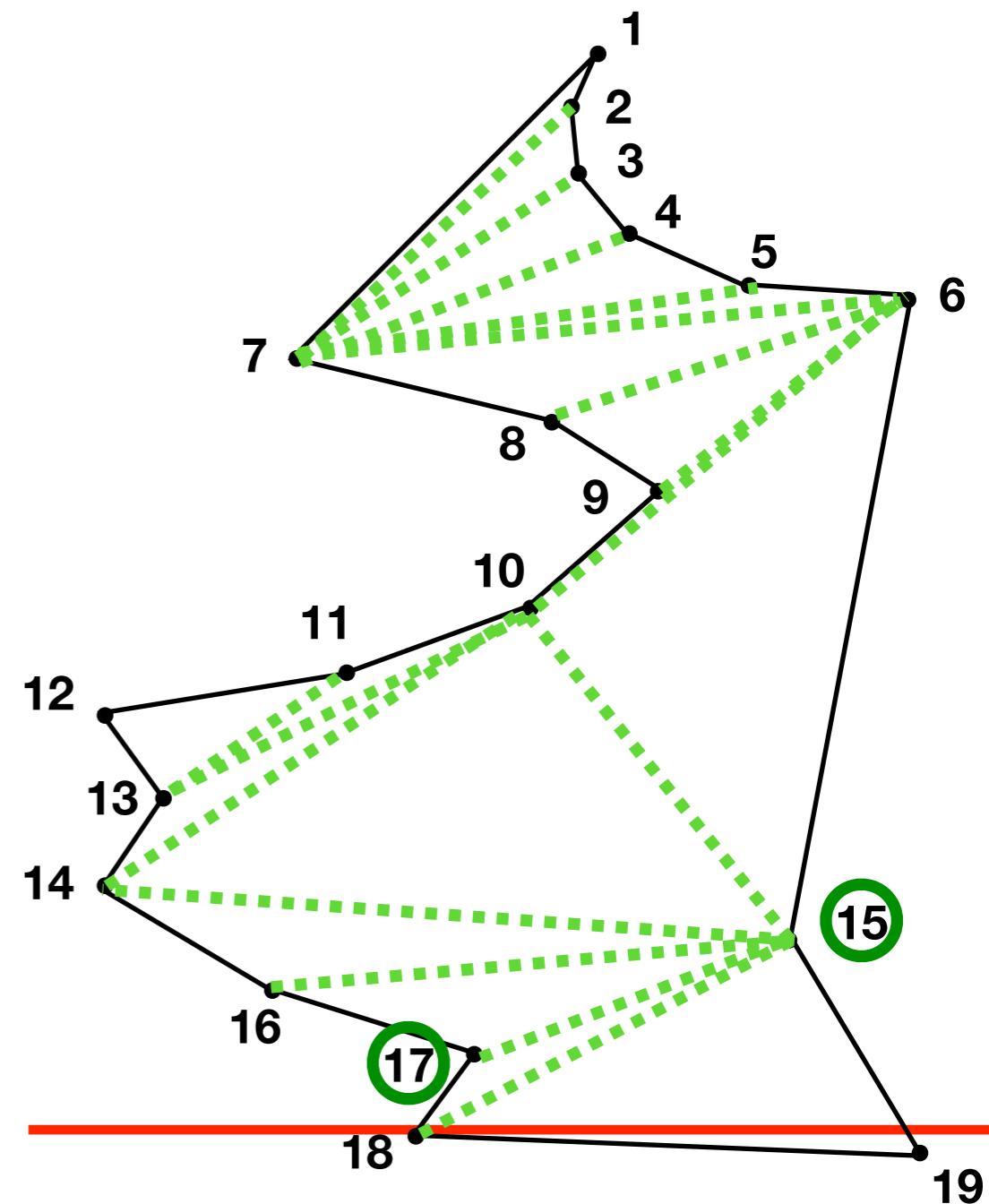
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# Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

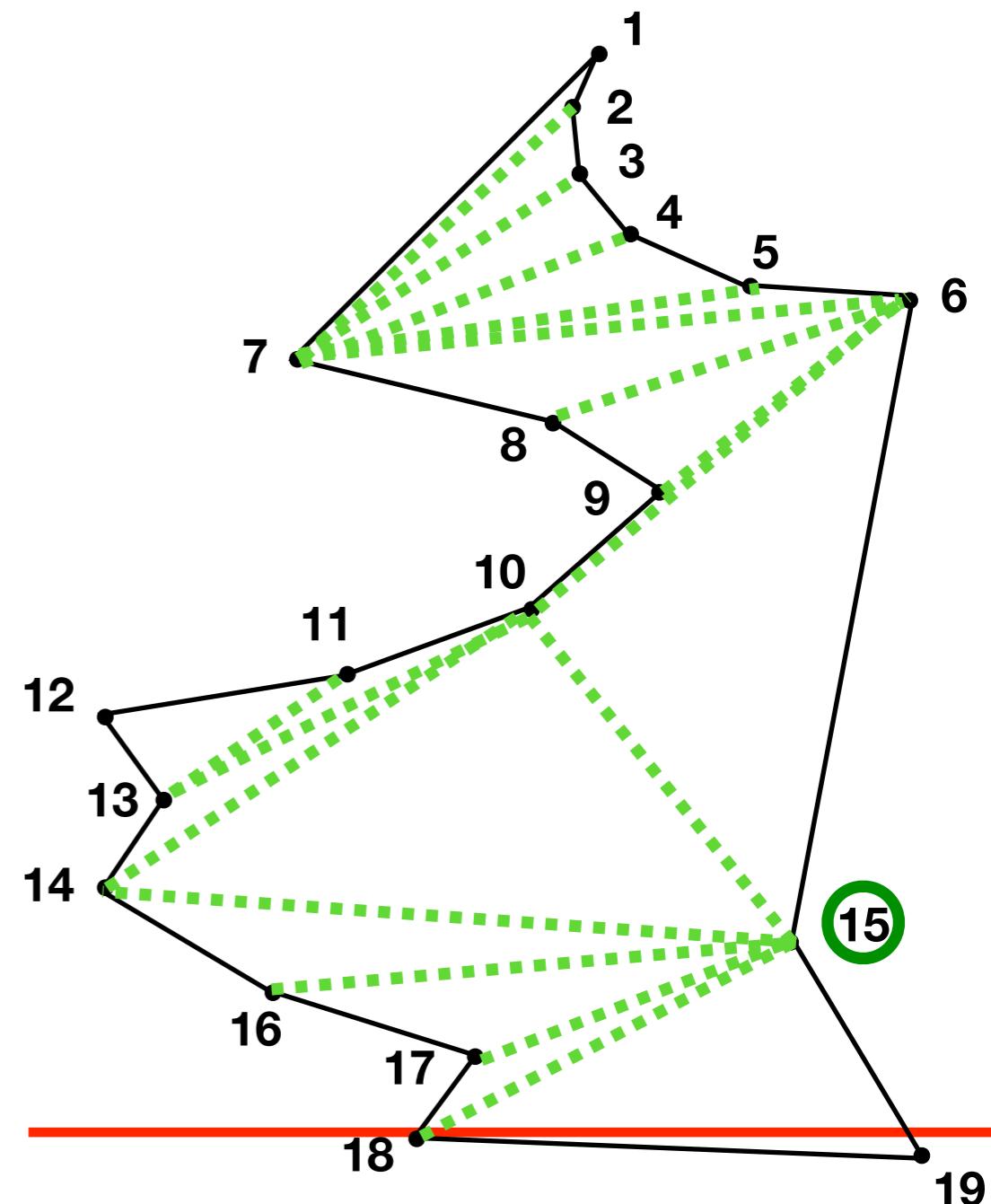
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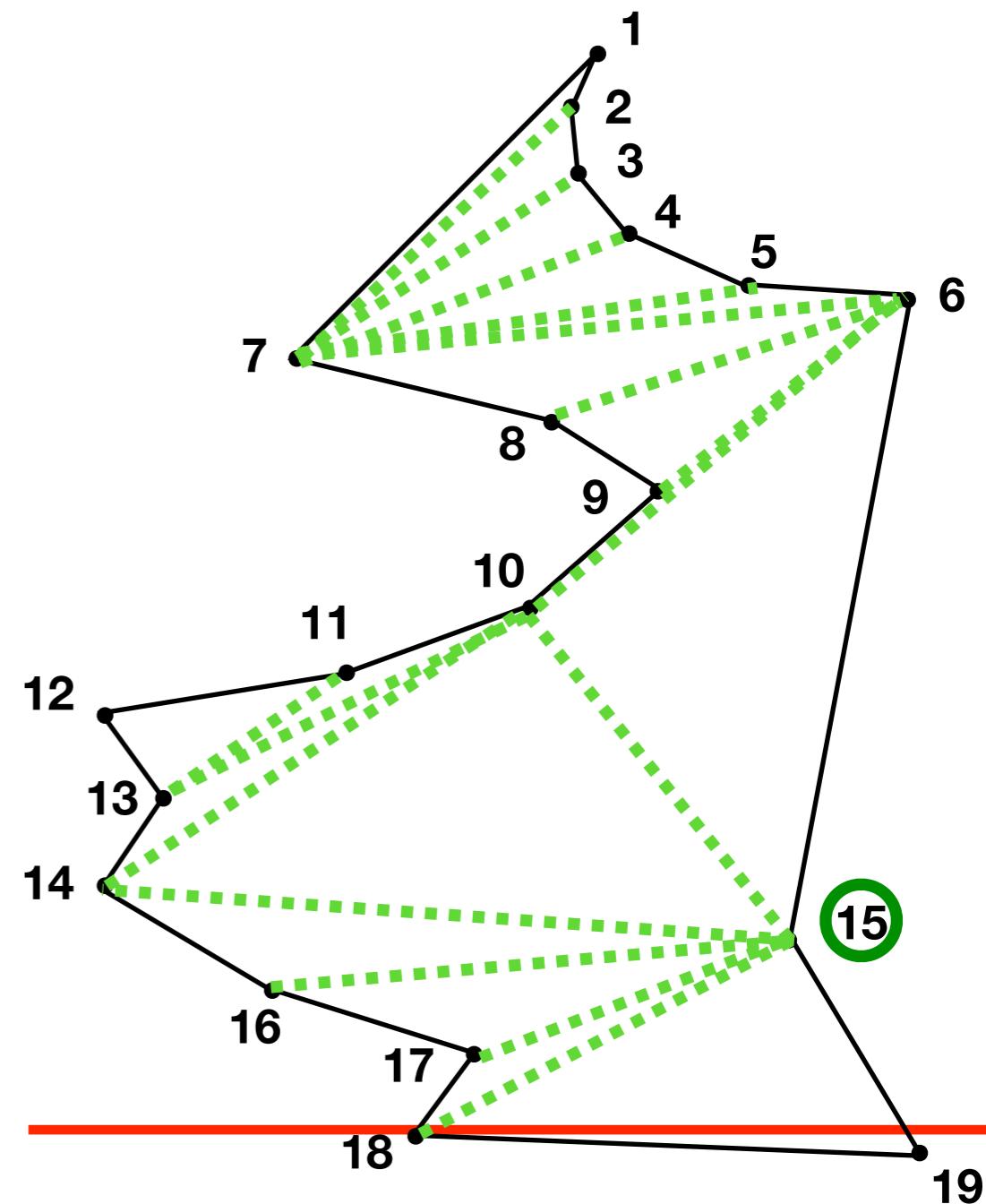
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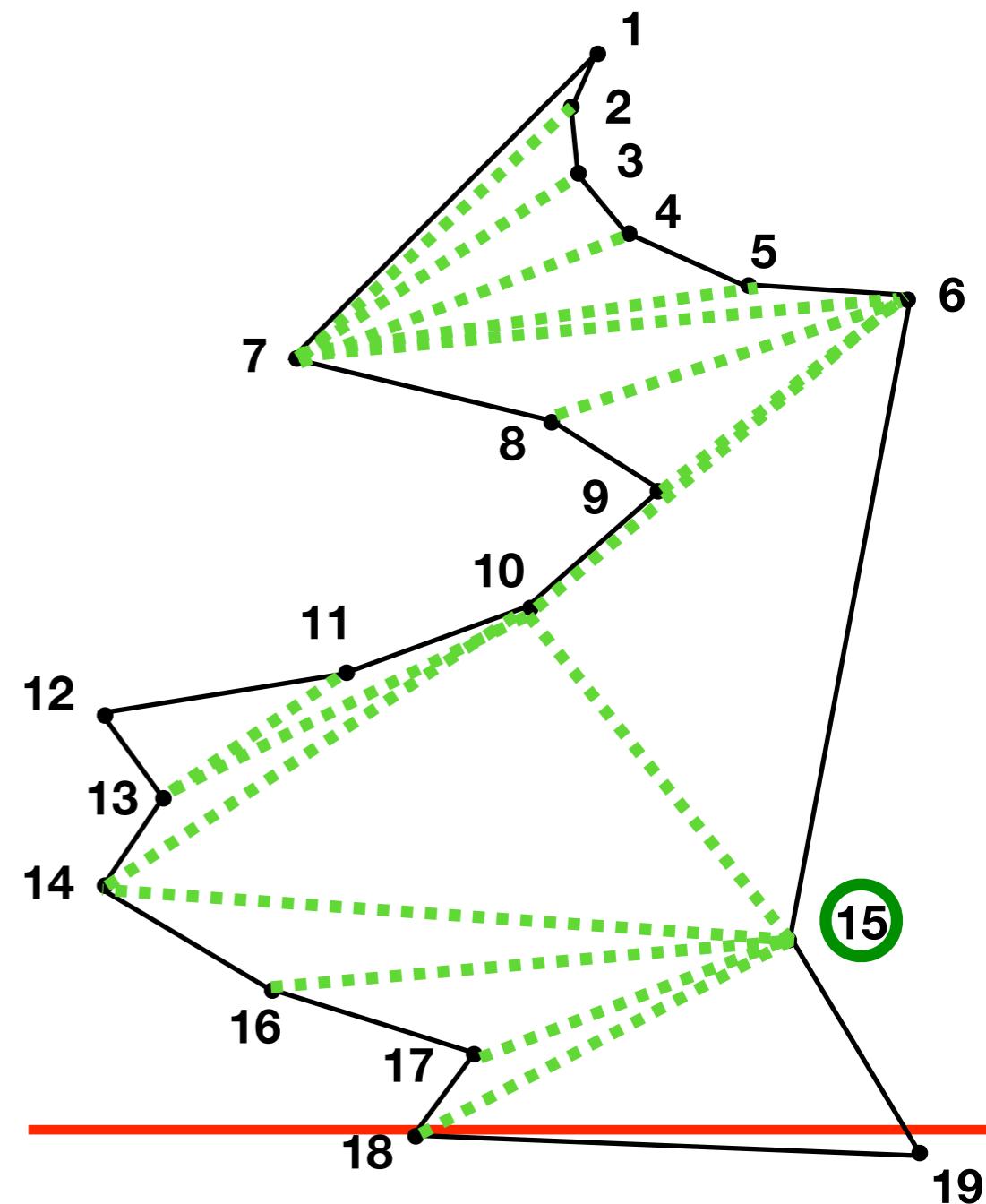
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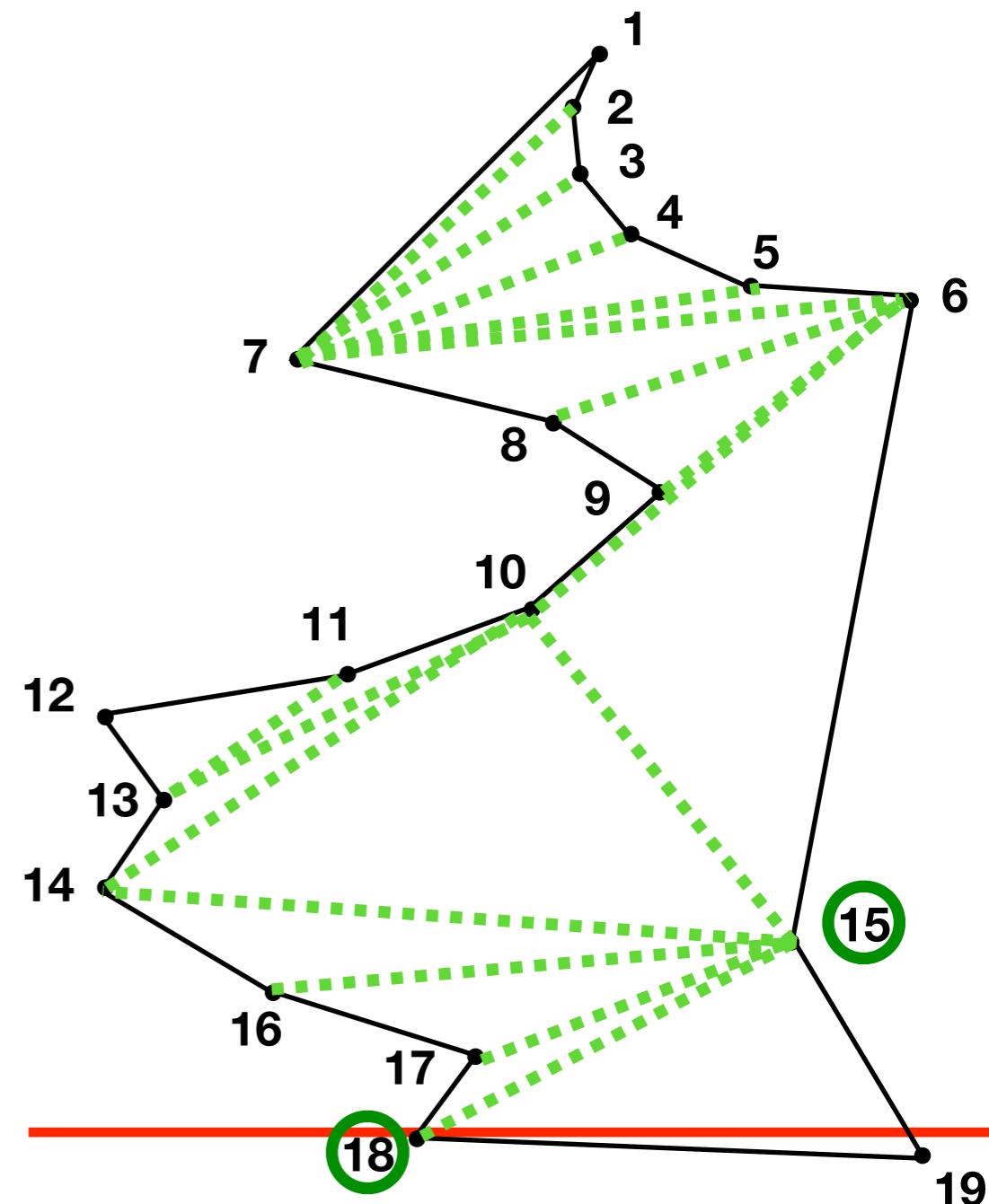
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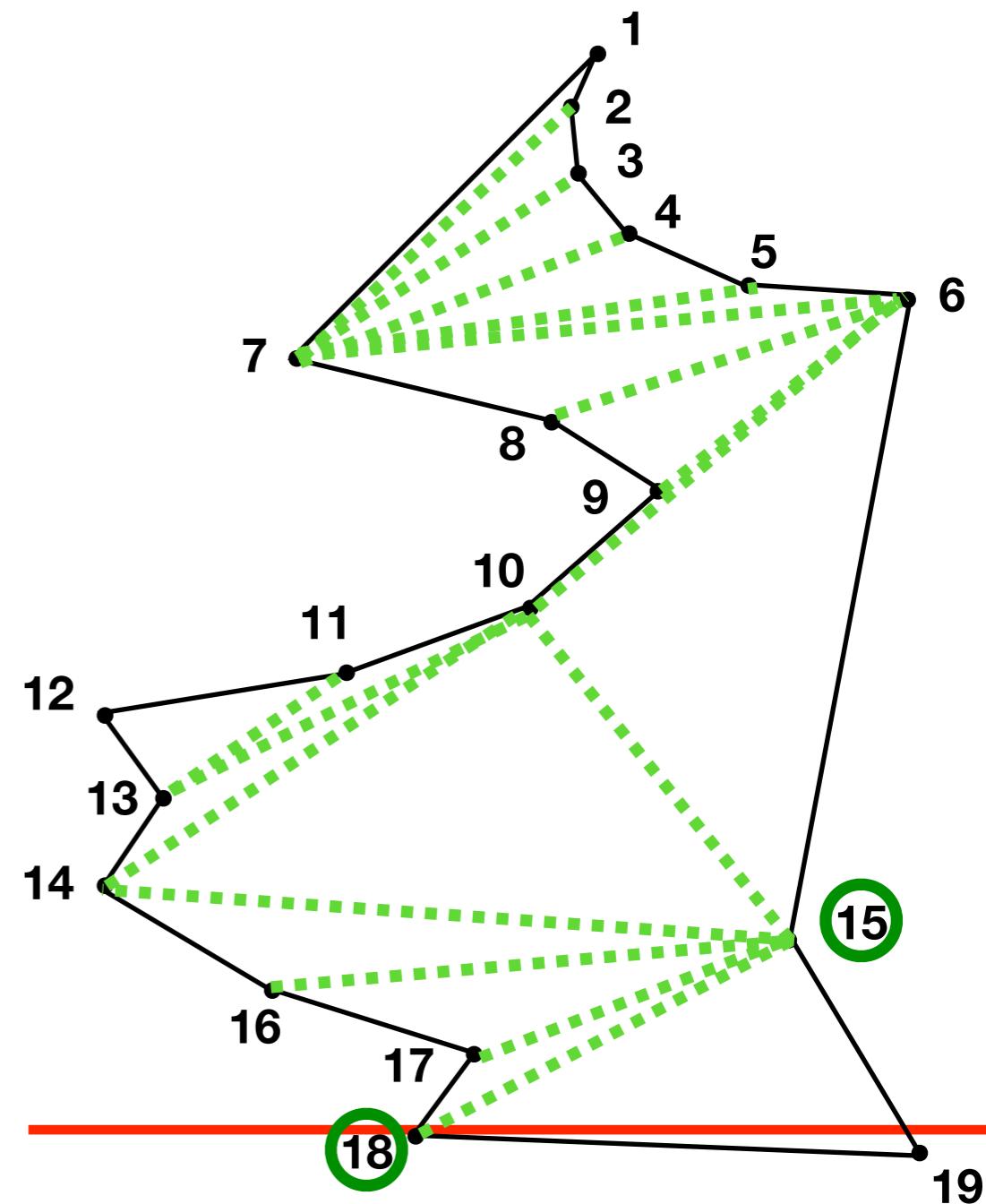
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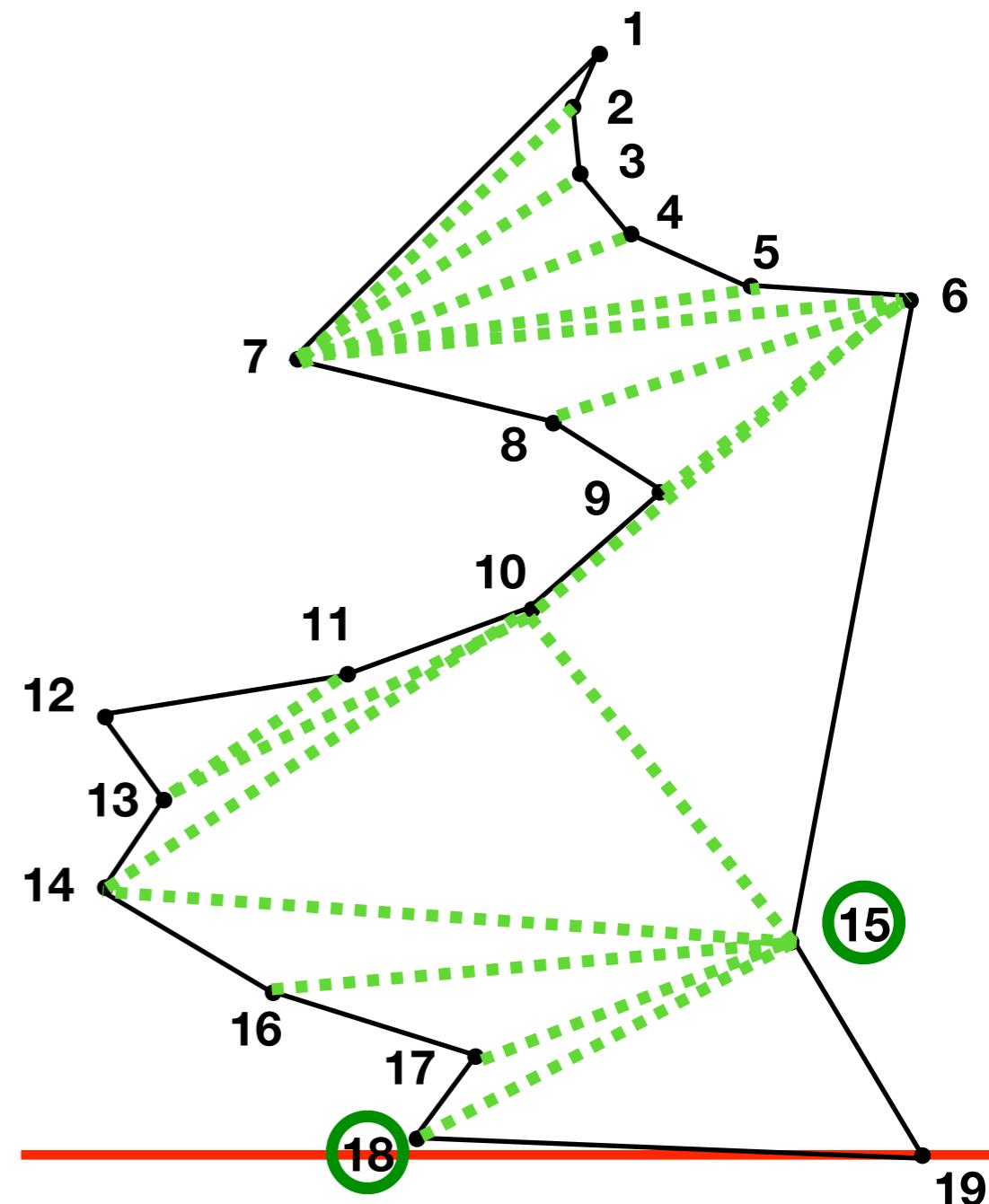
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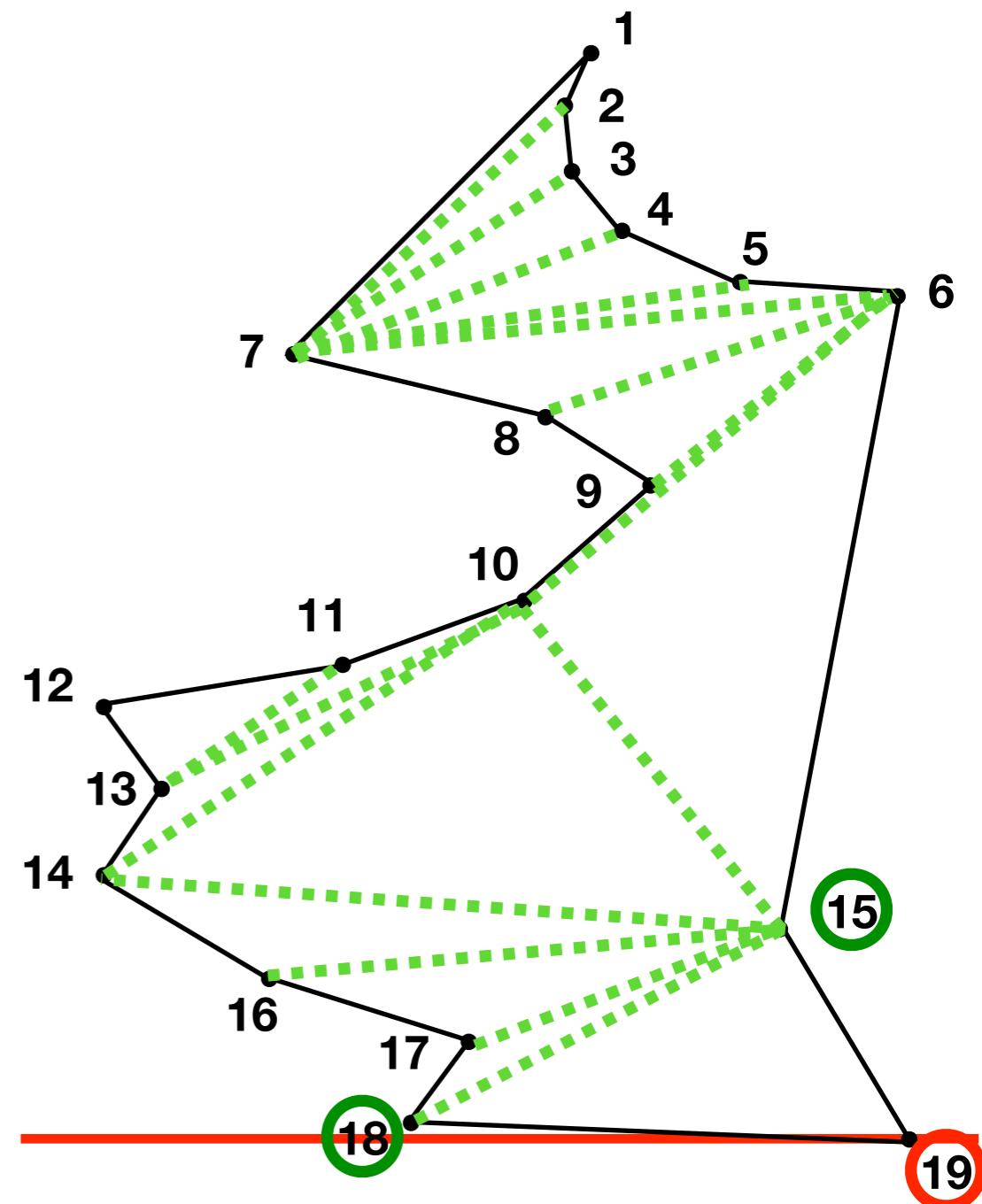
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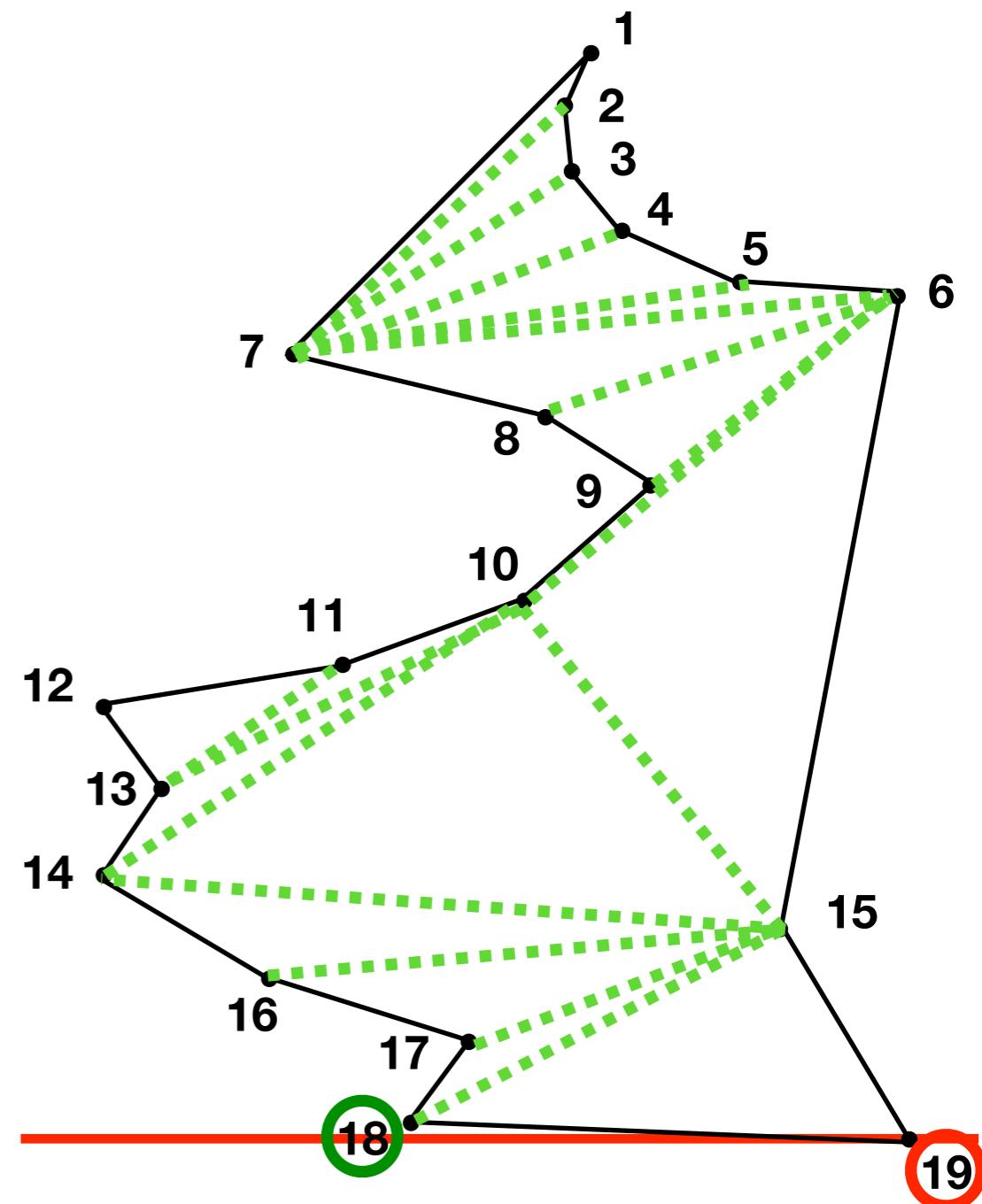
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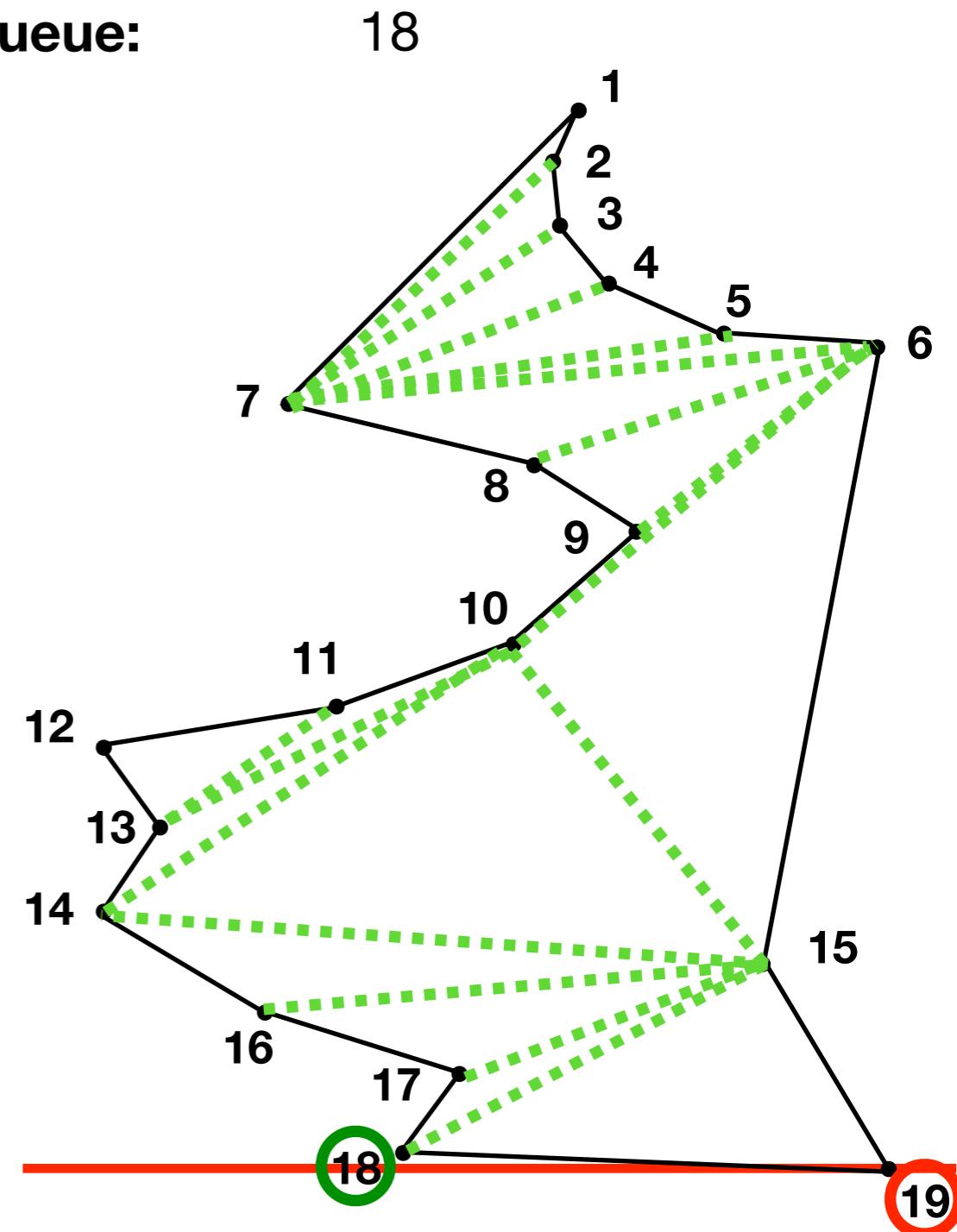
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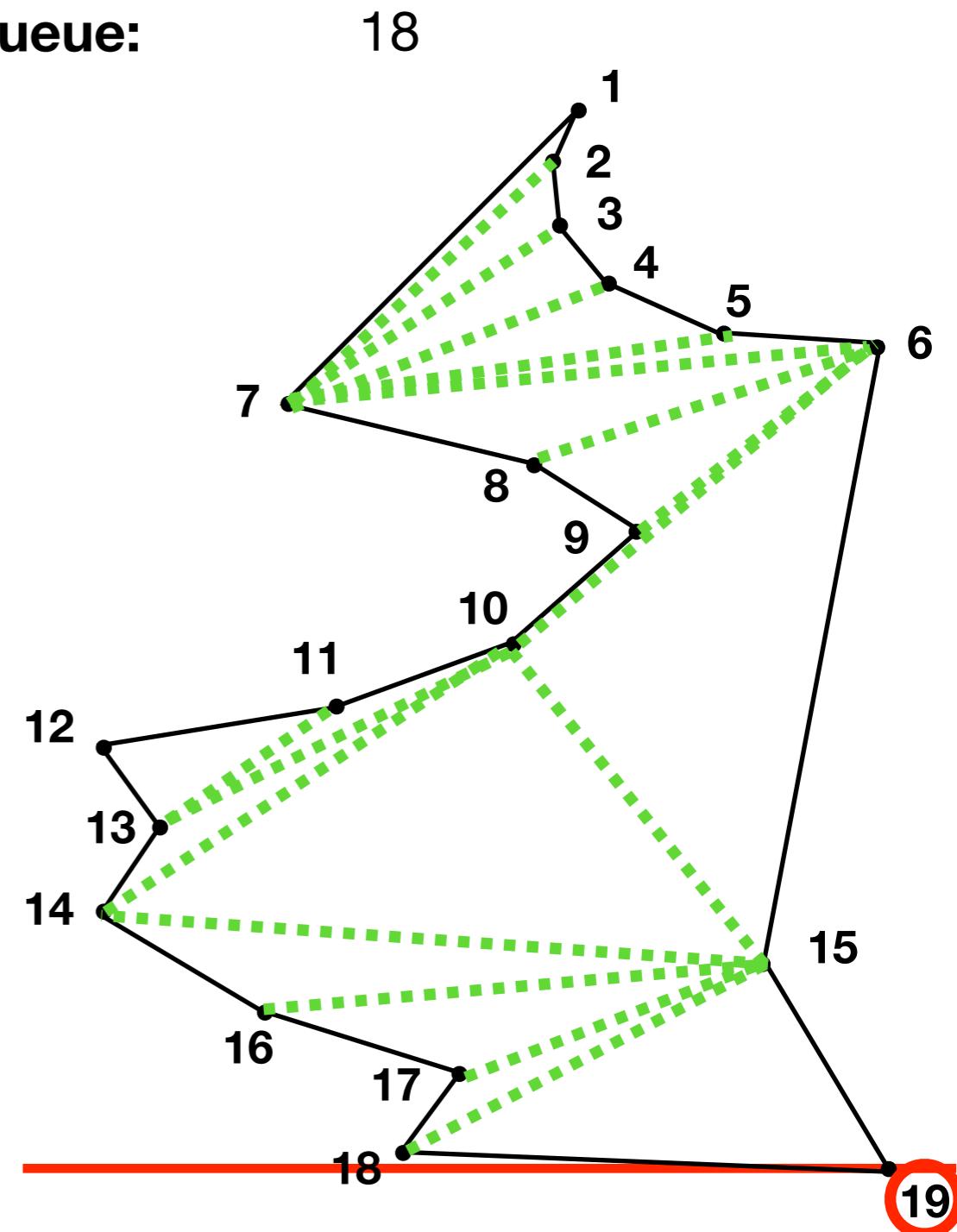
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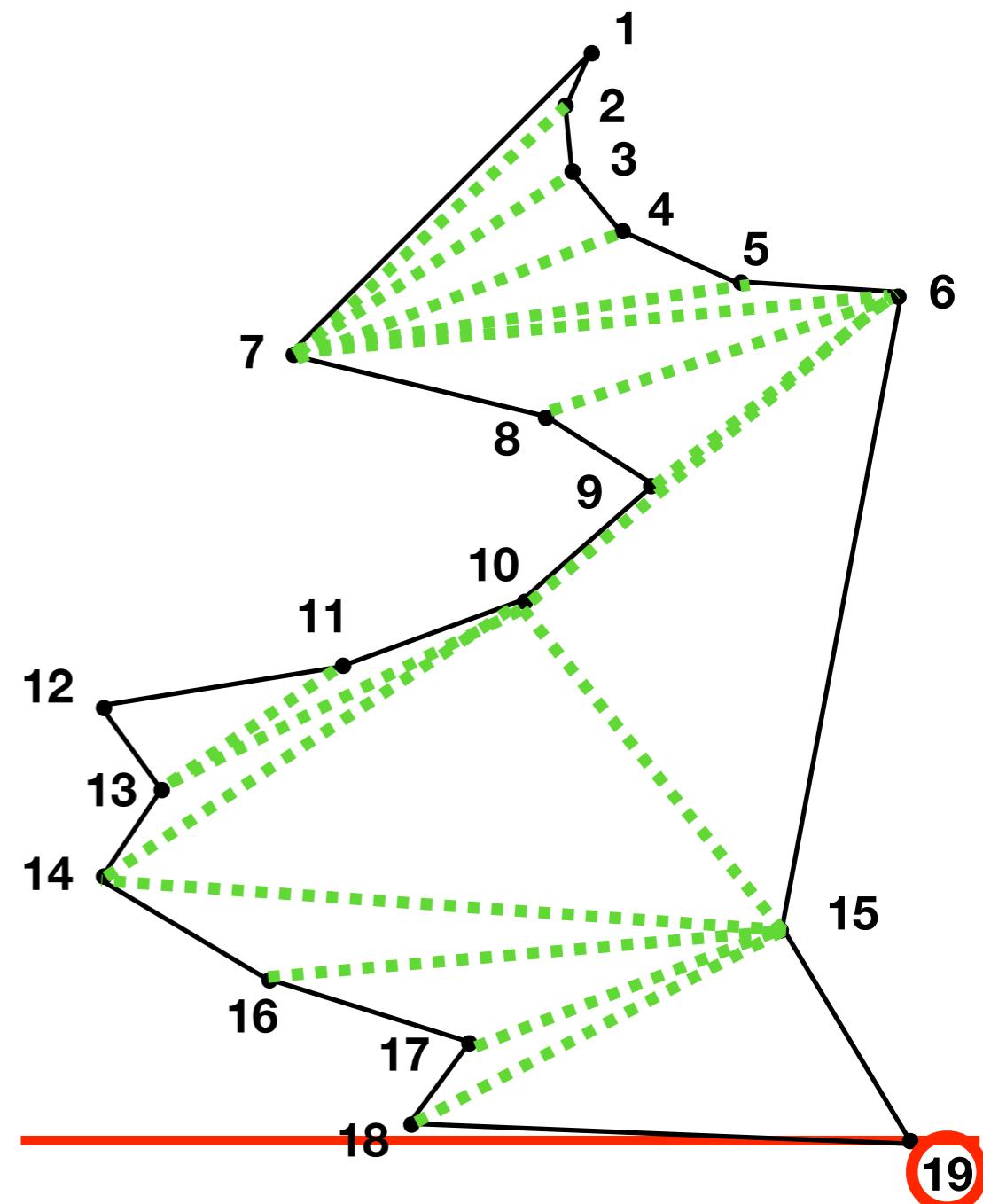
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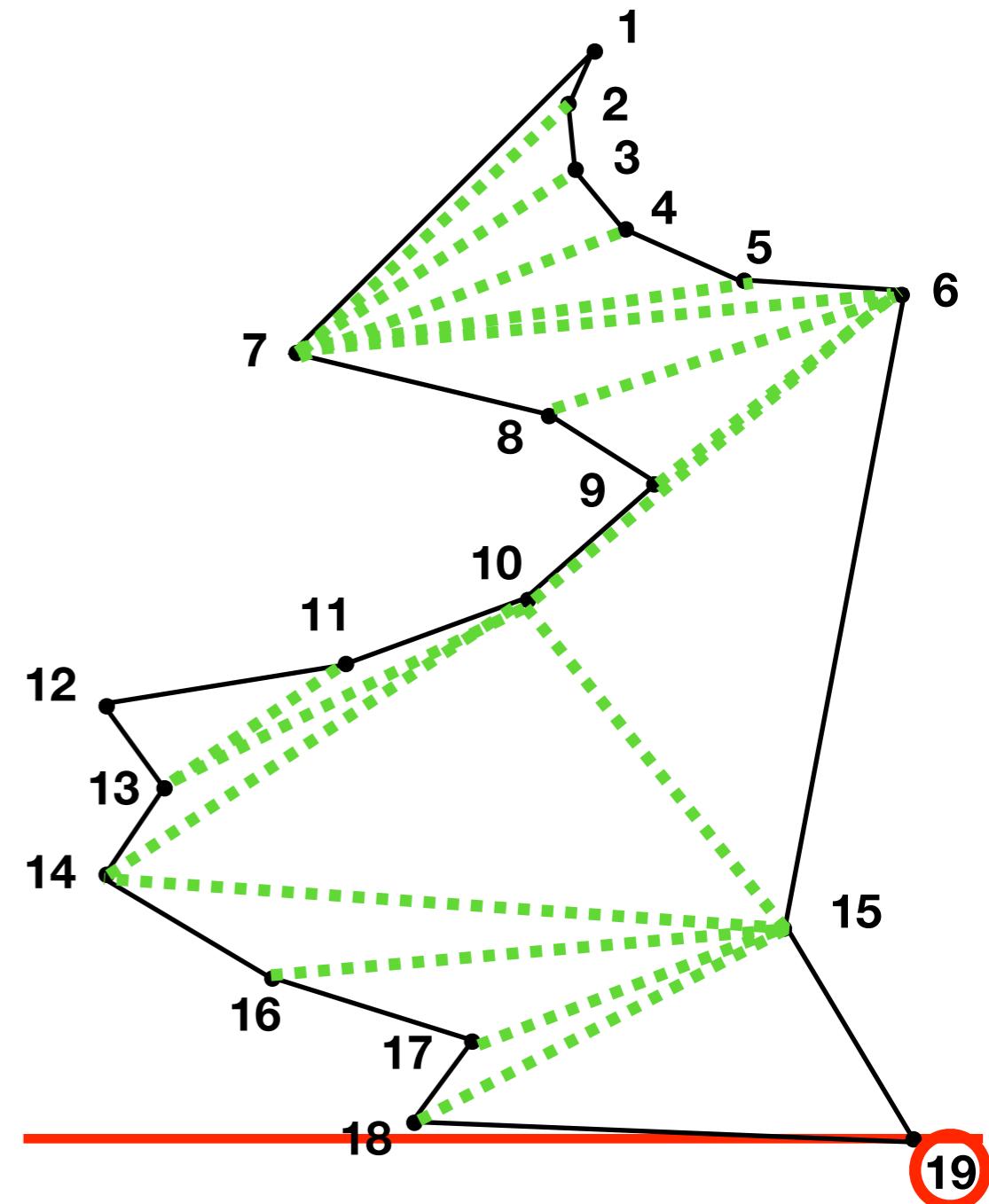
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## Theorem 5.17



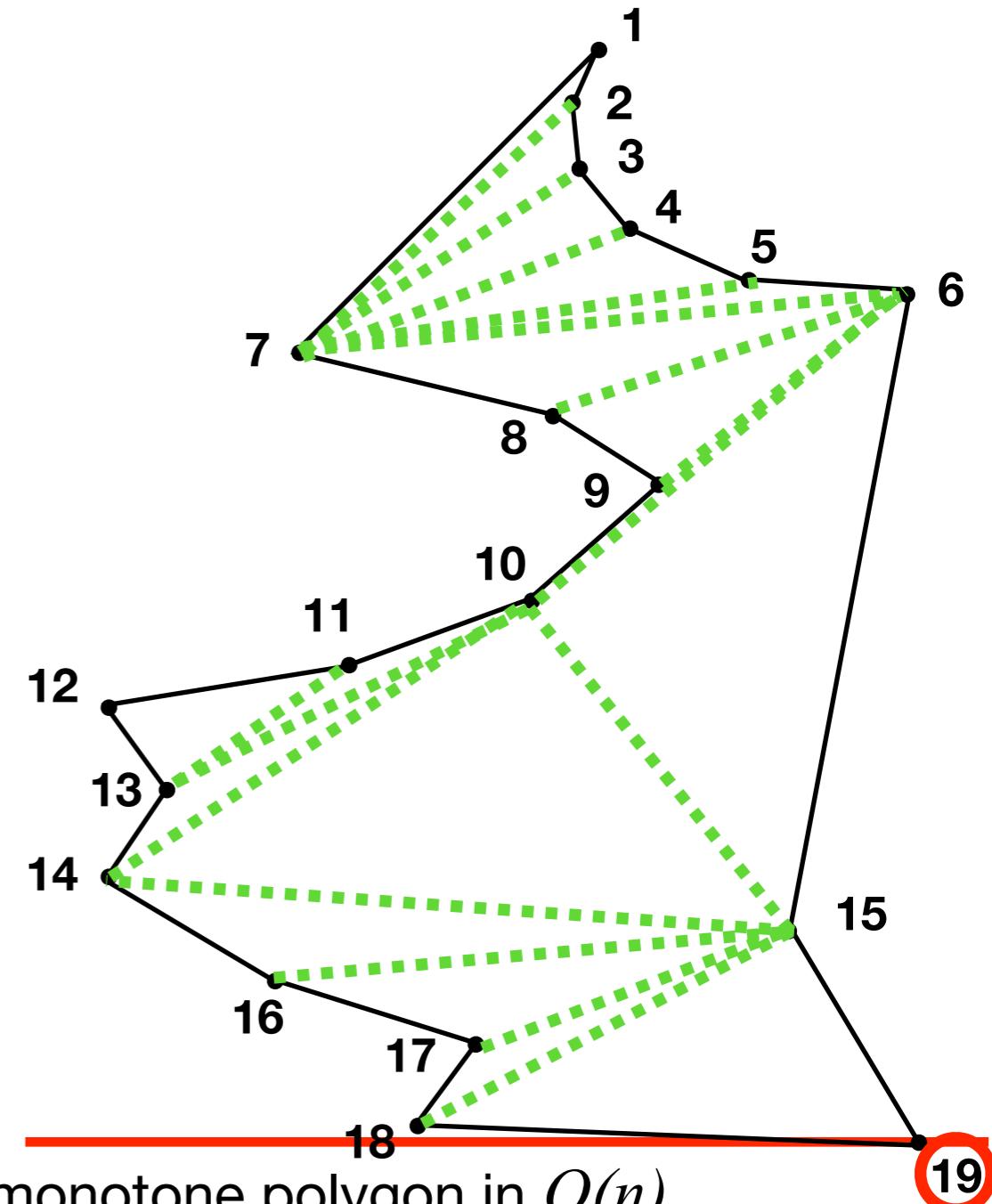
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**Theorem 5.17** Algorithm 5.16 can triangulate a y-monotone polygon in  $O(n)$ .

# Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

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## TRIANGULATING A SIMPLE POLYGON \*

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Franco P. PREPARATA \*\*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 61801, USA

Robert E. TARJAN \*\*\*

Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

Received 8 November 1977

Closest-point problems, computational geometry, polygon, triangulation

### 1. Introduction

Let  $P$  be a simple  $n$ -sided polygon in the plane, not necessarily convex. A *diagonal* of  $P$  is a line segment joining two non-adjacent vertices of  $P$ . We consider here the problem of *triangulating*  $P$ , that is, of finding  $n - 3$  diagonals which intersect neither each other nor the boundary of  $P$  and which divide the interior of  $P$  into  $n - 2$  triangles.

Applications of triangulation arise in closest point problems [1,2] and in evaluating functions by interpolation [3,6]. An elegant algorithm for triangulating a set  $S$  of  $n$  points in the plane has been given by Shamos [4,5], using the Voronoi diagram of  $S$ , and it requires only  $O(n \log n)$  steps on a random access machine with real-number arithmetic. The problem of triangulating

\* The results in this paper were obtained independently by the third author and by the first, second, and fourth authors.

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### 2. Triangulating a monotone polygon

Let  $P$  be a simple polygon in the plane having boundary vertices  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$ . We choose the  $y$ -axis as a preferred direction and assume throughout this paper that no two vertices of  $P$  have the same  $y$ -coordinate (this assumption is not crucial to the results, but serves



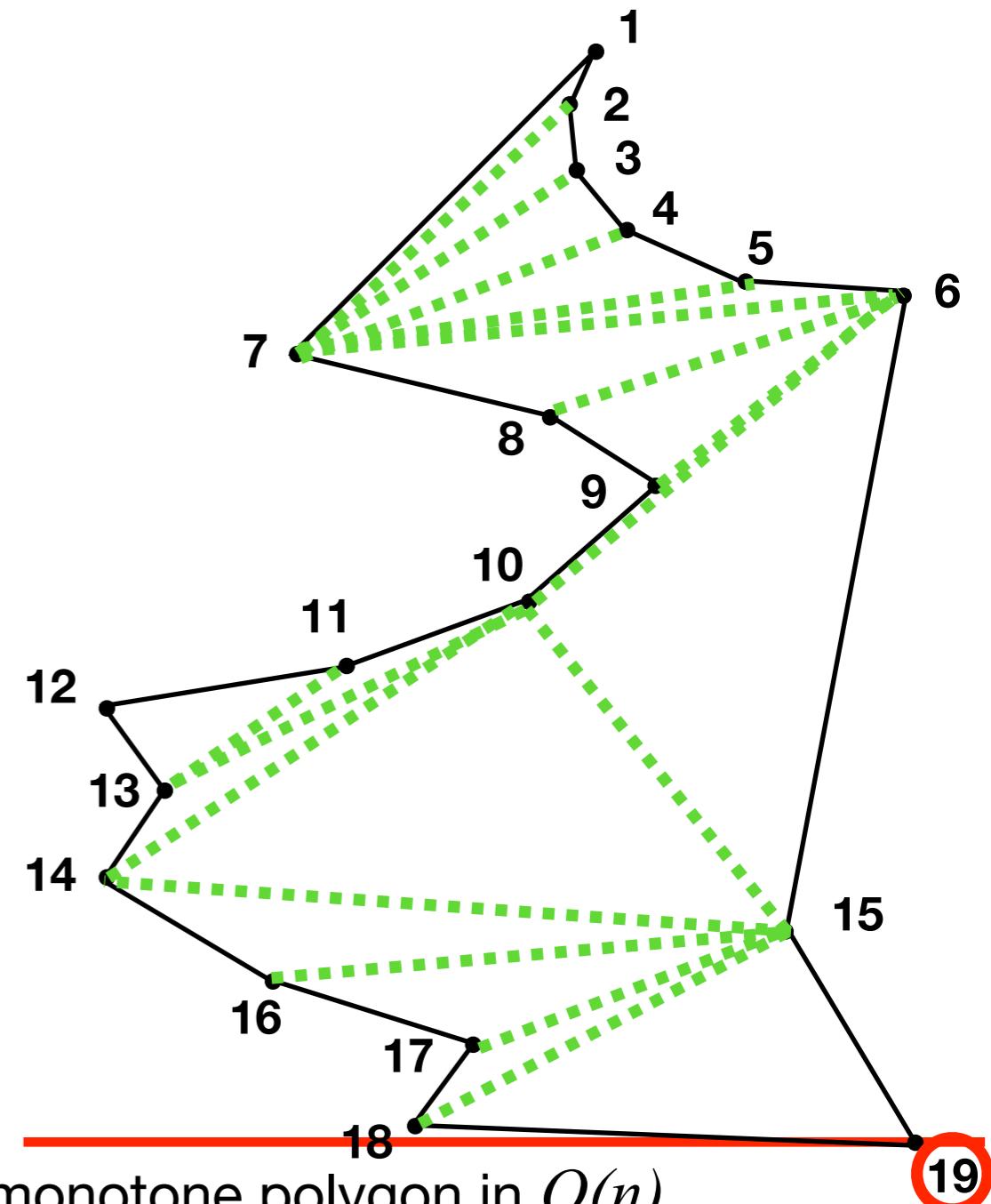
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- 3. Properties**
- 4. Algorithms: Removing ears**
- 5. Algorithms: Finding diagonals**
- 6. Algorithms: Monotone polygons**
- 7. Algorithms: Monotone decompositions**
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# Partitioning into Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]



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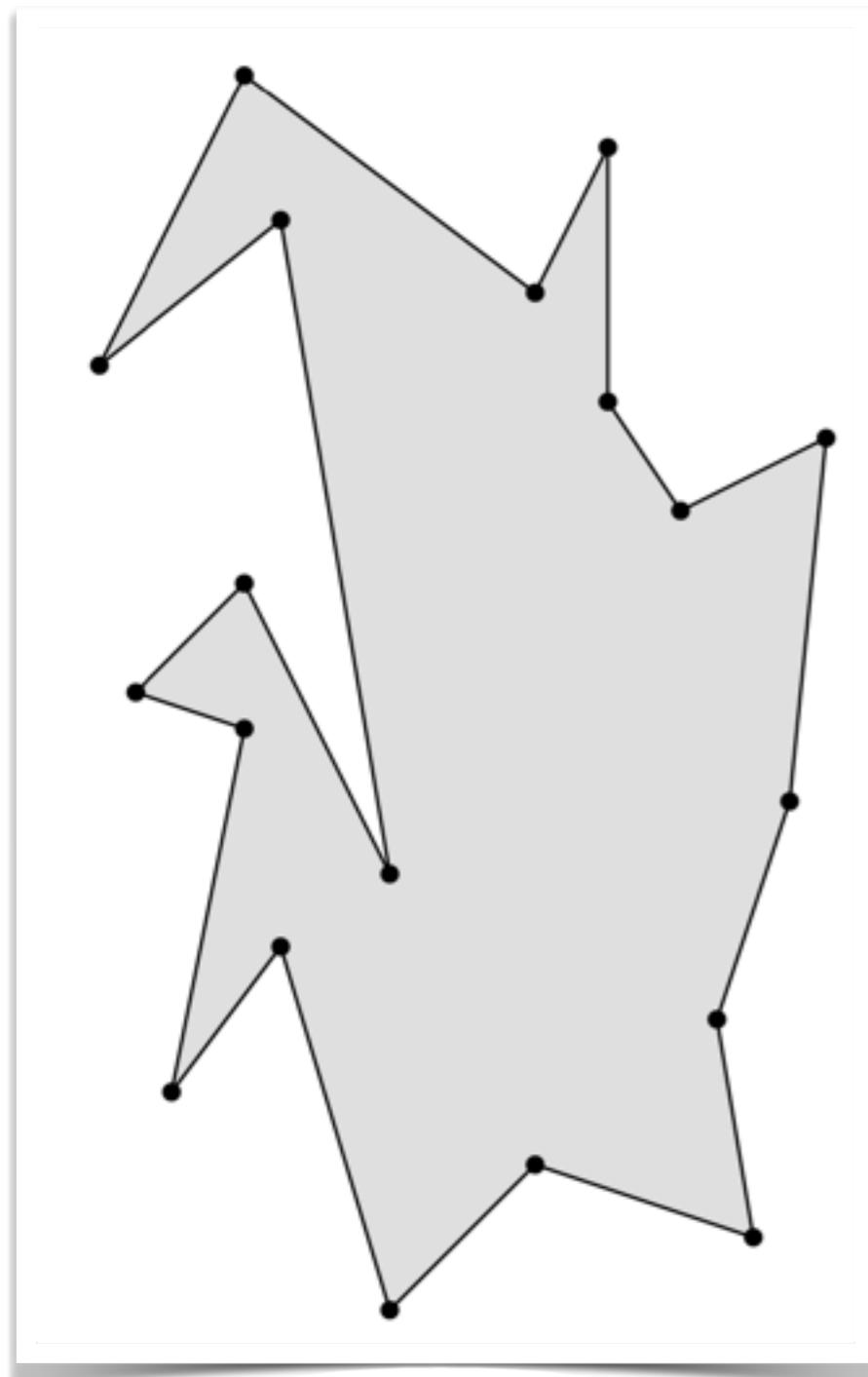
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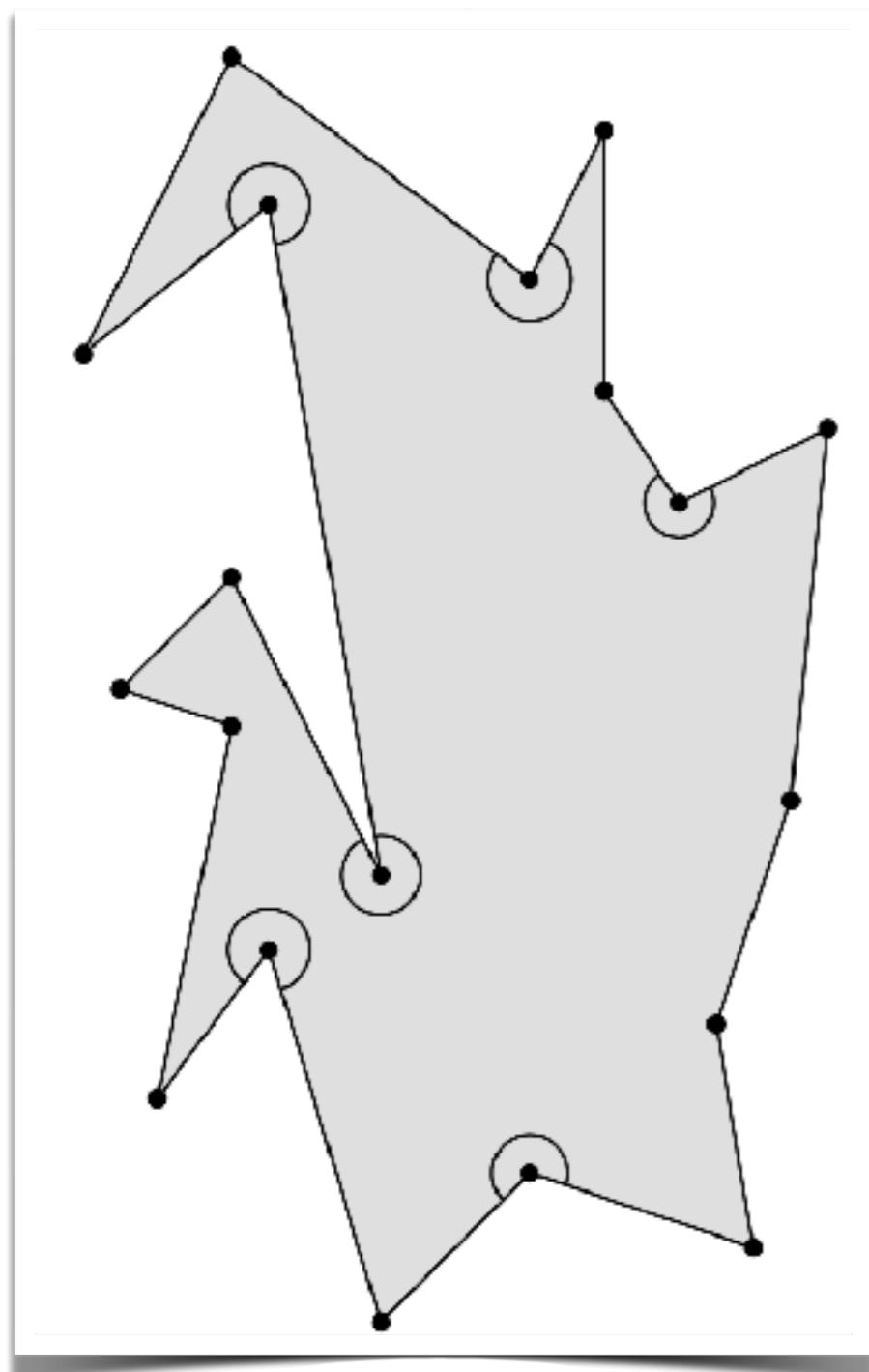
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# Partitioning into Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]



Volume 7, number 4

INFORMATION PROCESSING LETTERS

June 1978

## TRIANGULATING A SIMPLE POLYGON \*

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Received 8 November 1977

Closest-point problems, computational geometry, polygon, triangulation

### 1. Introduction

Let  $P$  be a simple  $n$ -sided polygon in the plane, not necessarily convex. A diagonal of  $P$  is a line segment joining two non-adjacent vertices of  $P$ . We consider here the problem of *triangulating*  $P$ , that is, of finding  $n - 3$  diagonals which intersect neither each other nor the boundary of  $P$  and which divide the interior of  $P$  into  $n - 2$  triangles.

Applications of triangulation arise in closest point problems [1,2] and in evaluating functions by interpolation [3,6]. An elegant algorithm for triangulating a set  $S$  of  $n$  points in the plane has been given by Shamos [4,5], using the Voronoi diagram of  $S$ , and it requires only  $O(n \log n)$  steps on a random access machine with real-number arithmetic. The problem of triangulating

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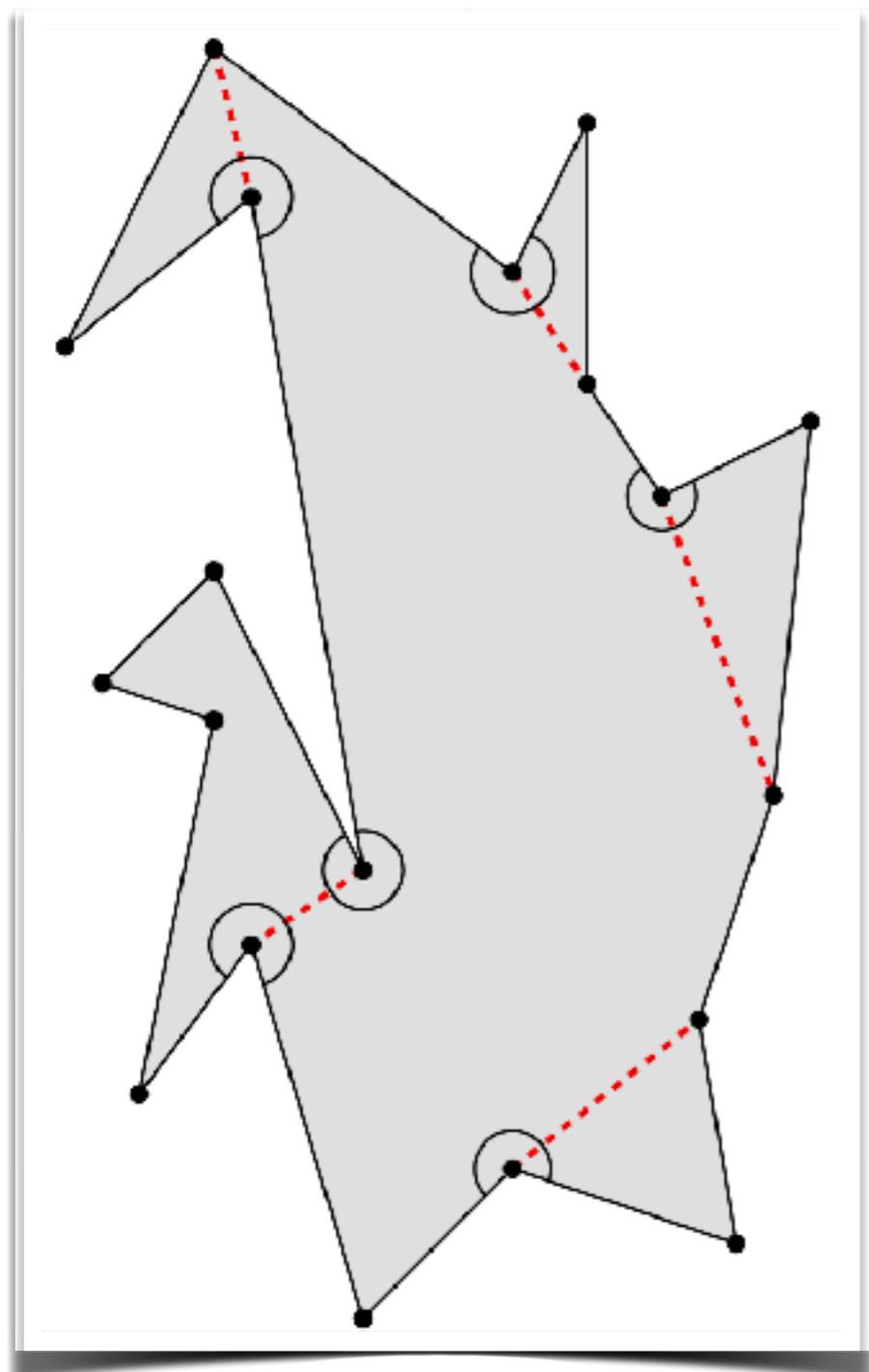
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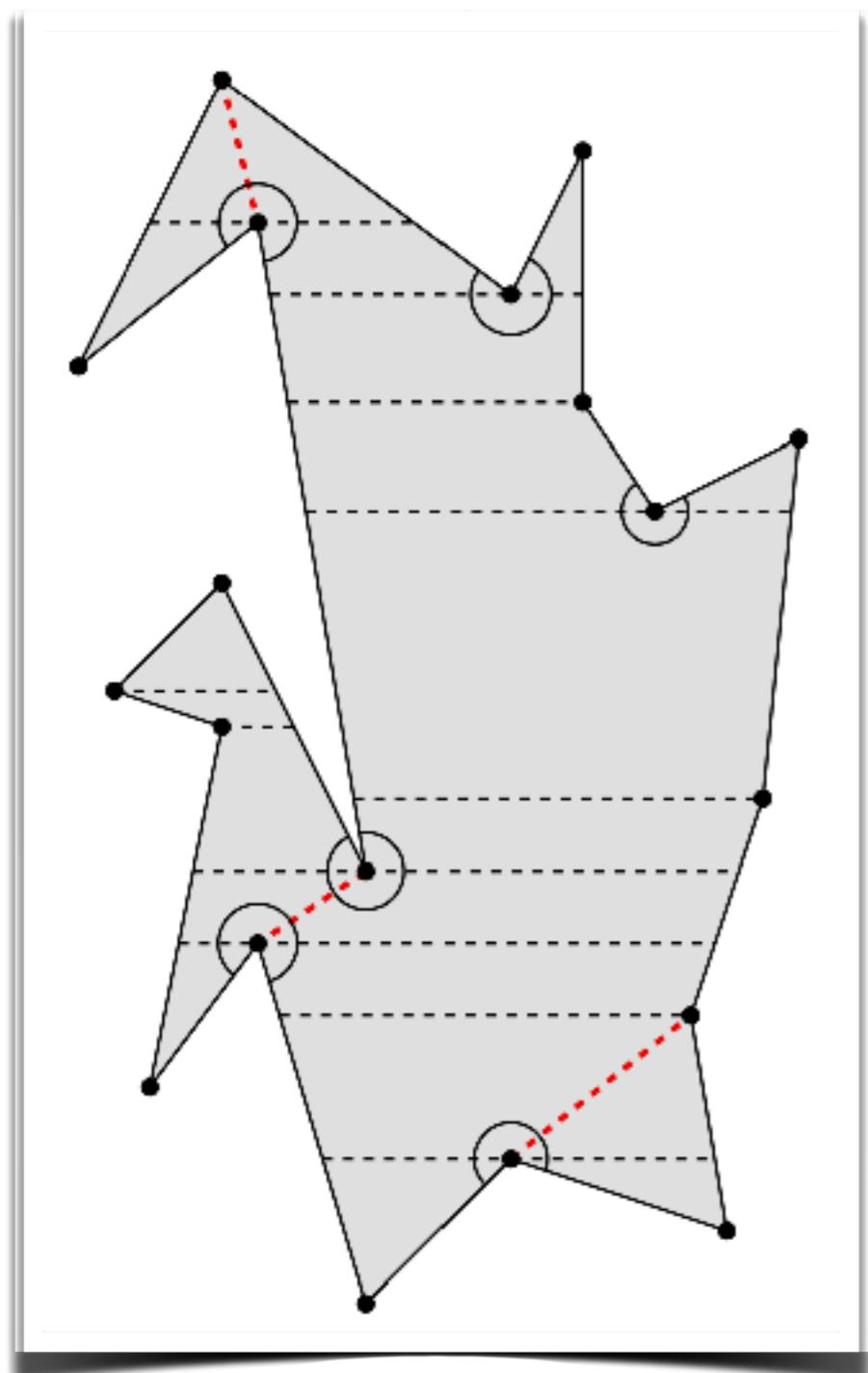
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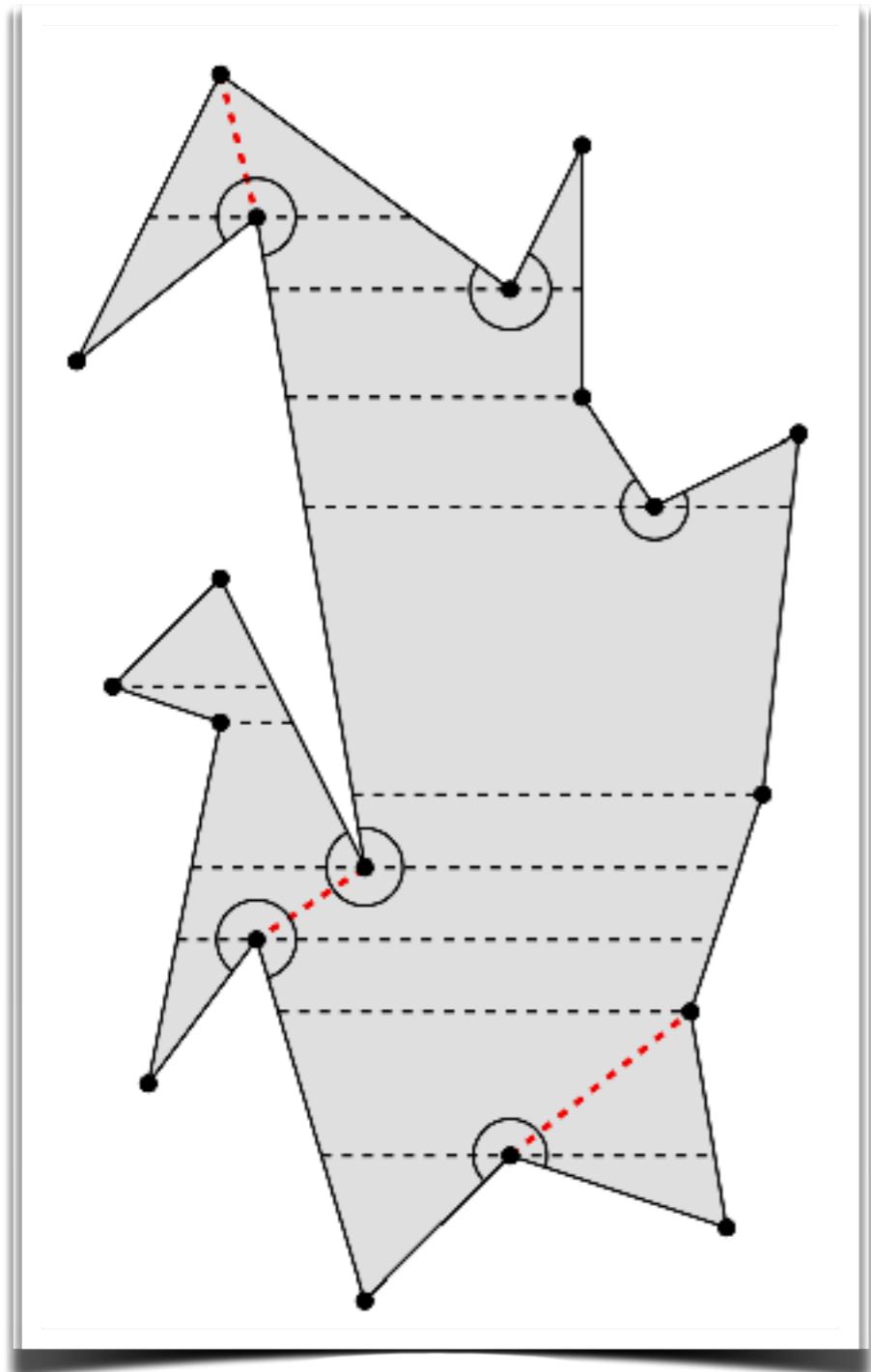
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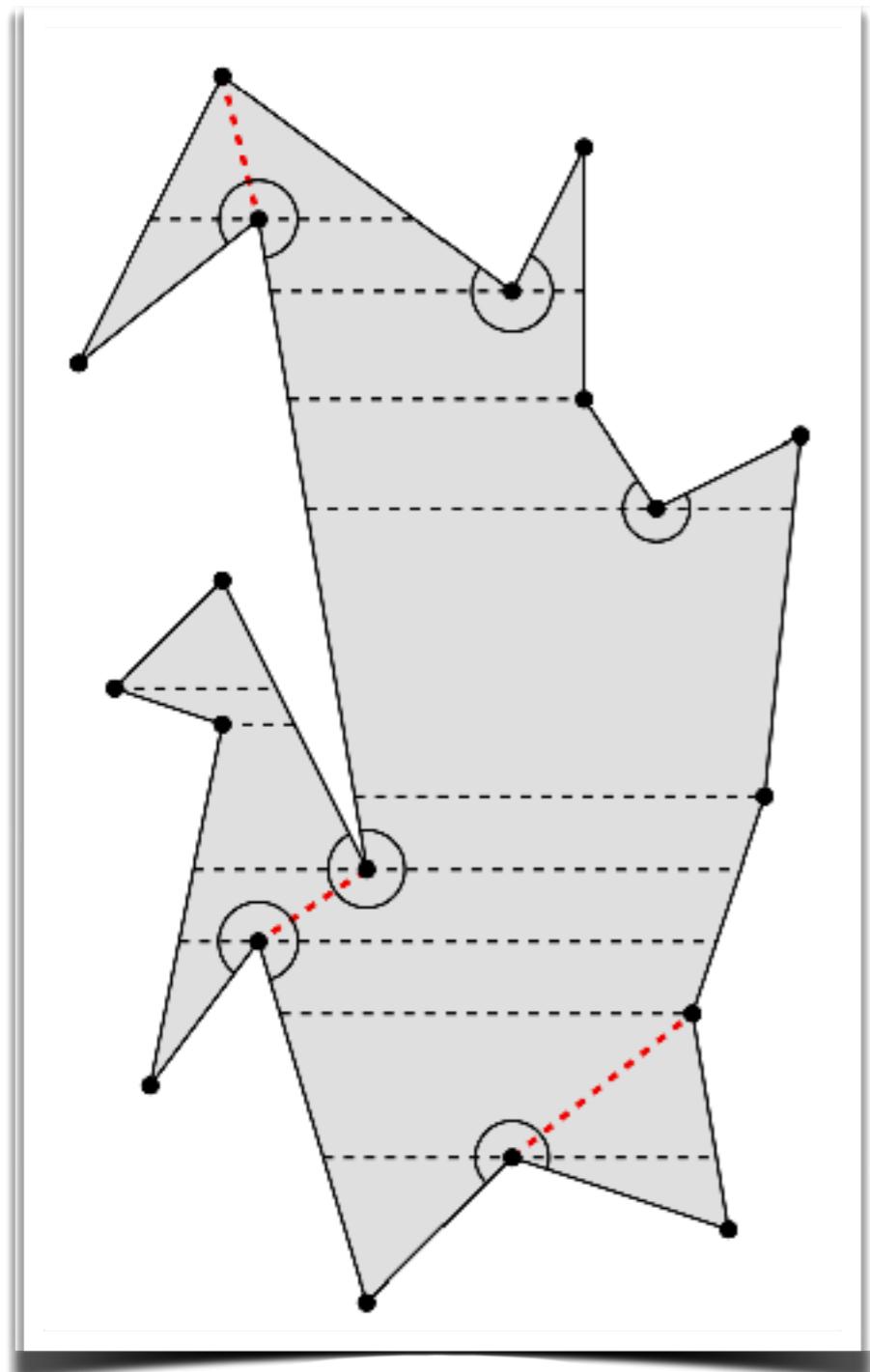
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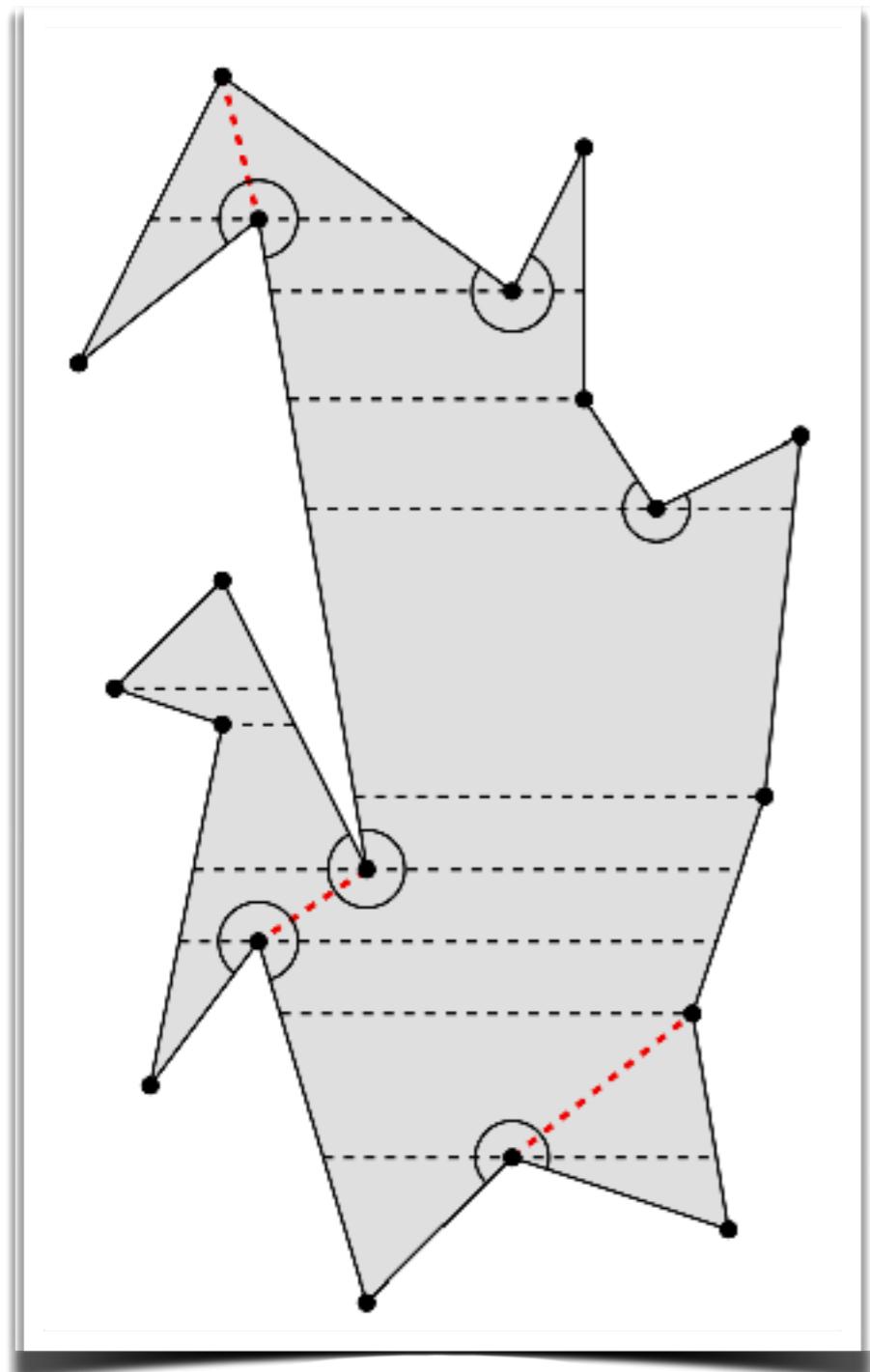


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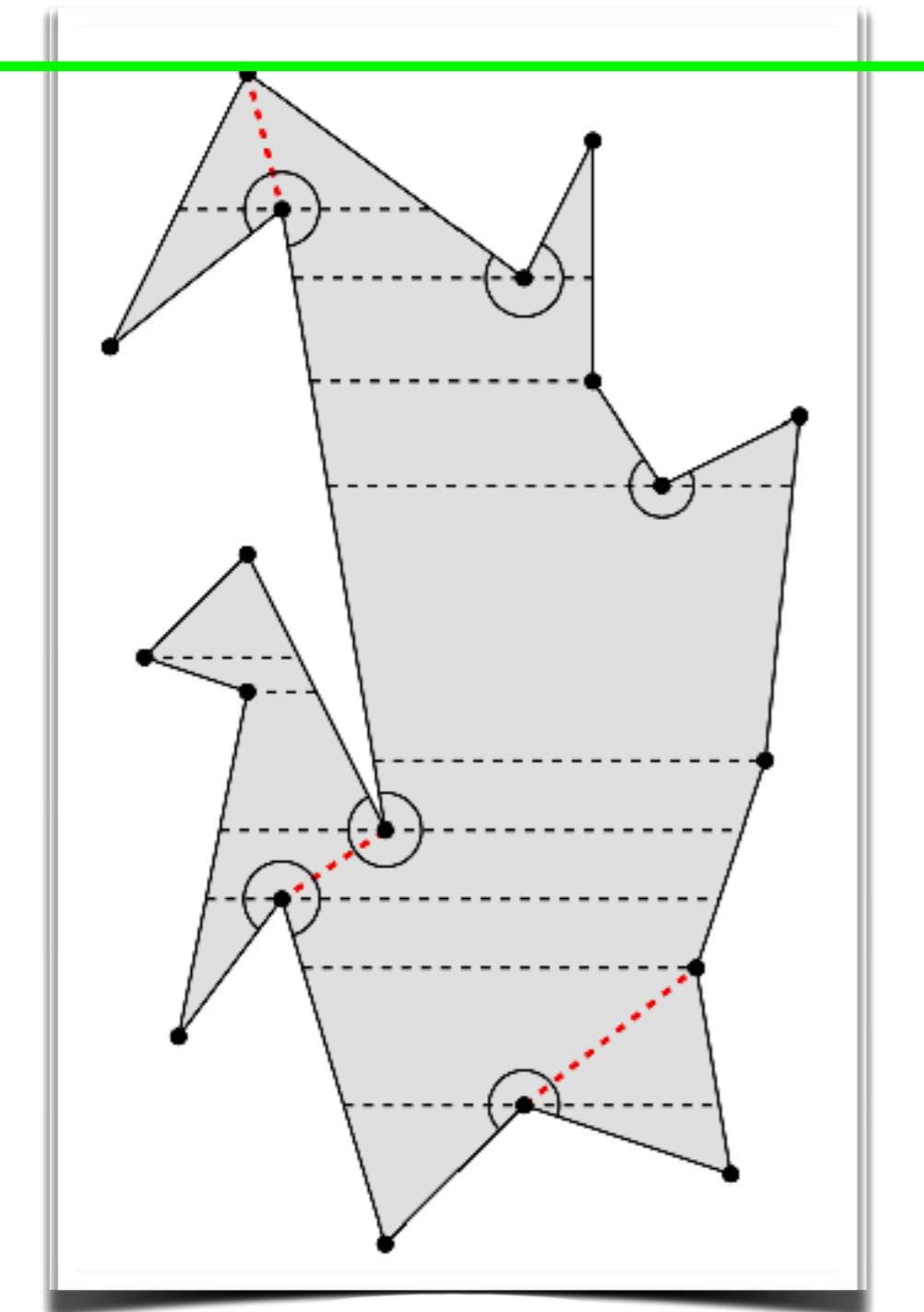


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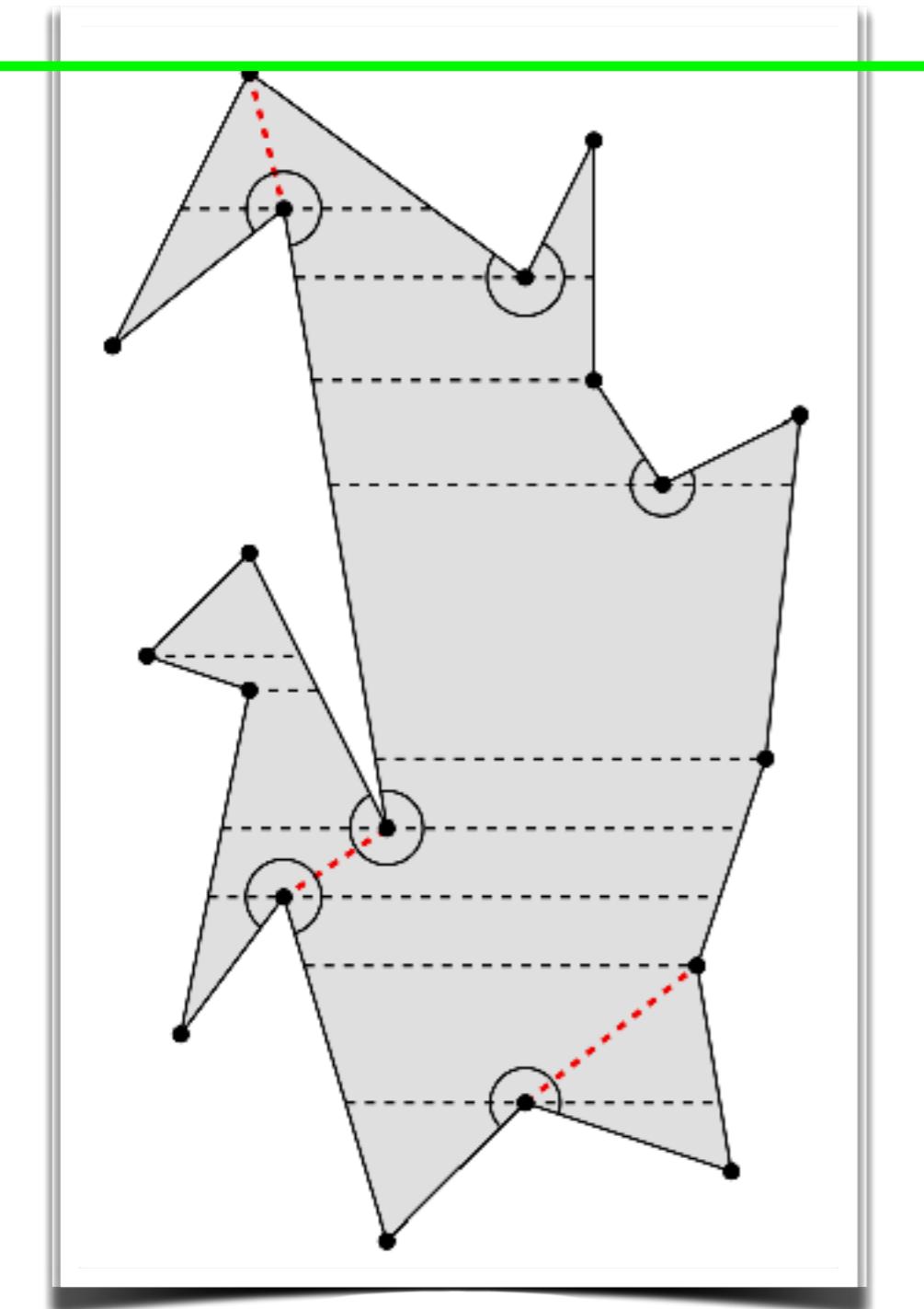


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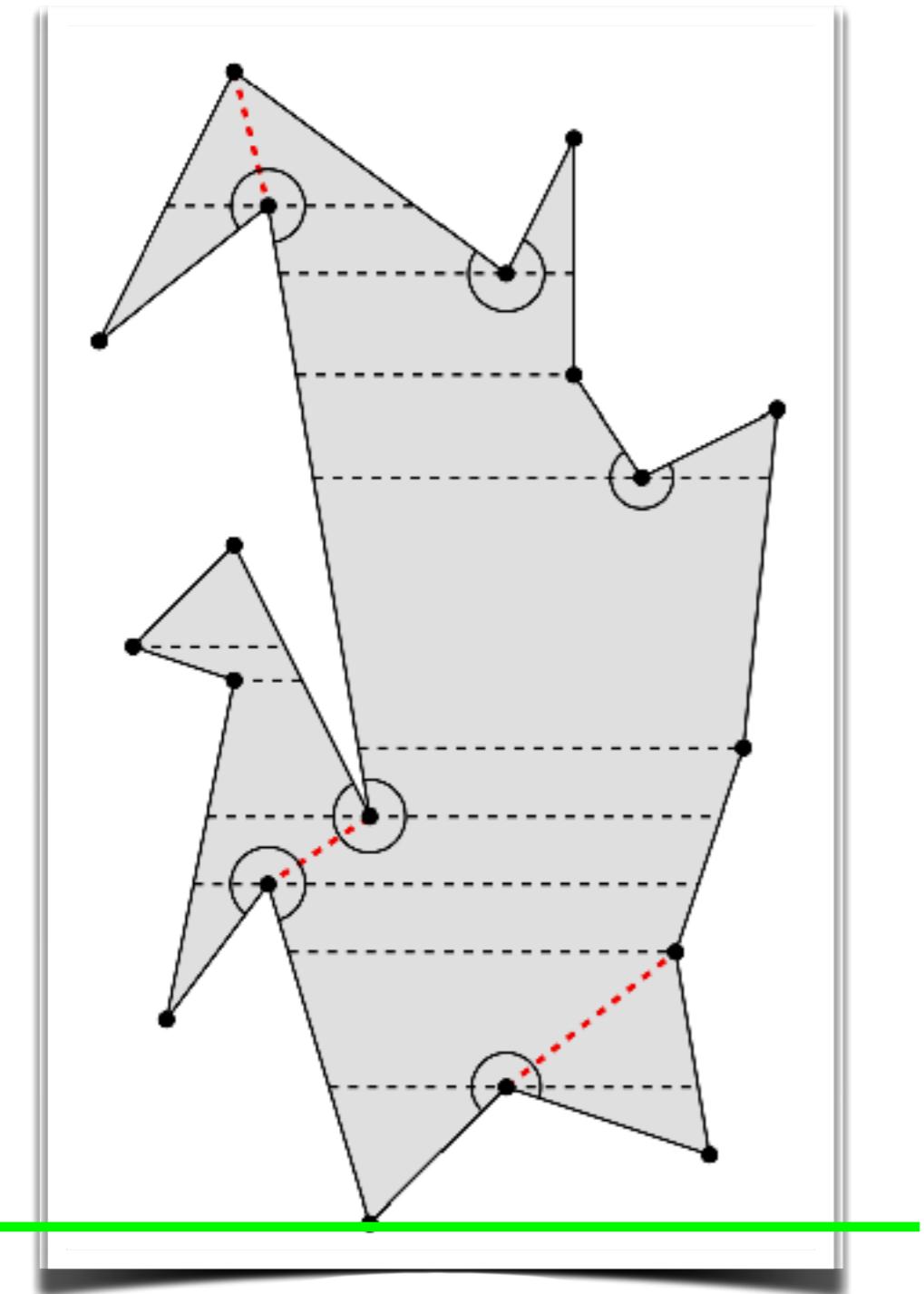
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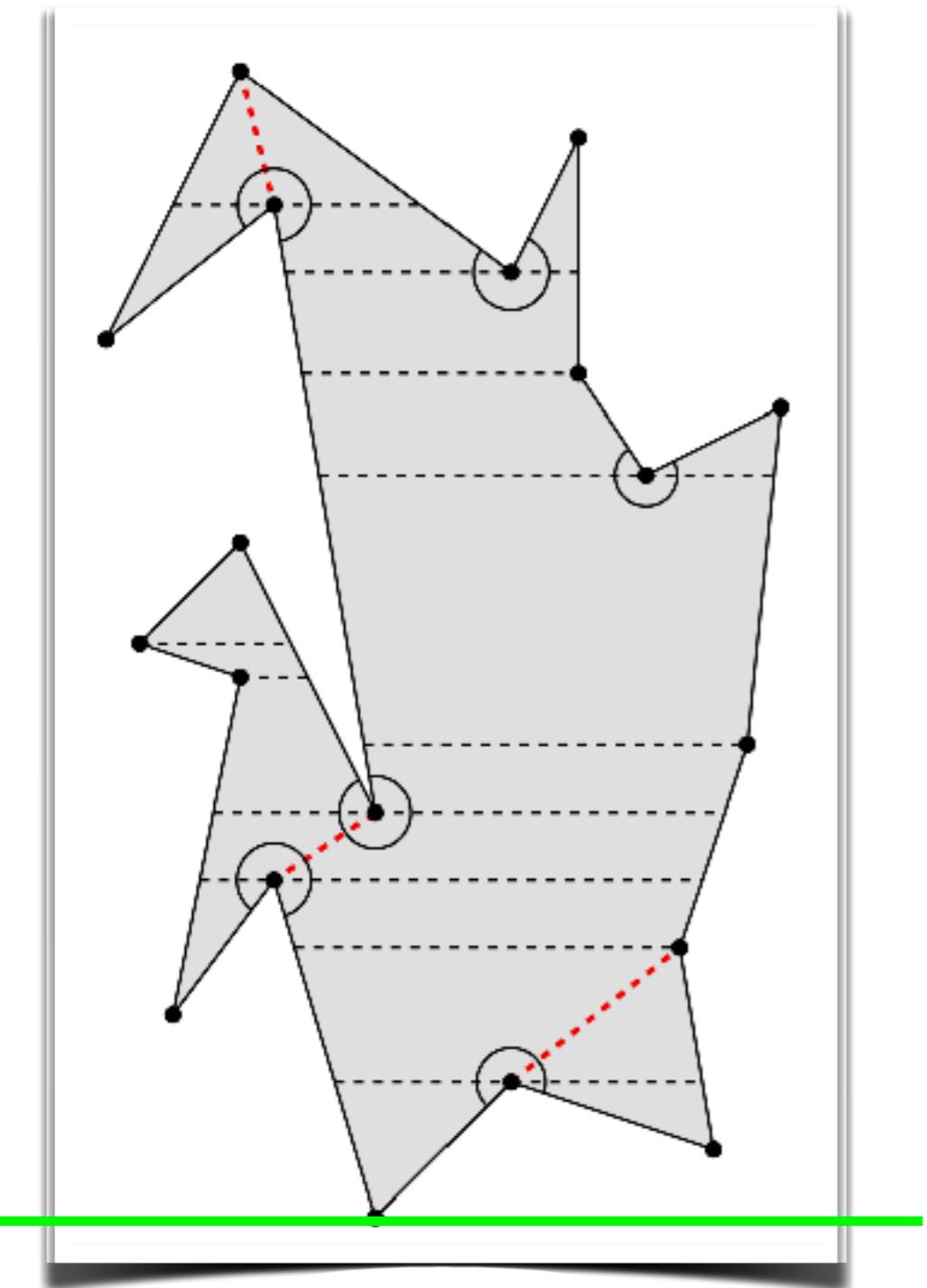
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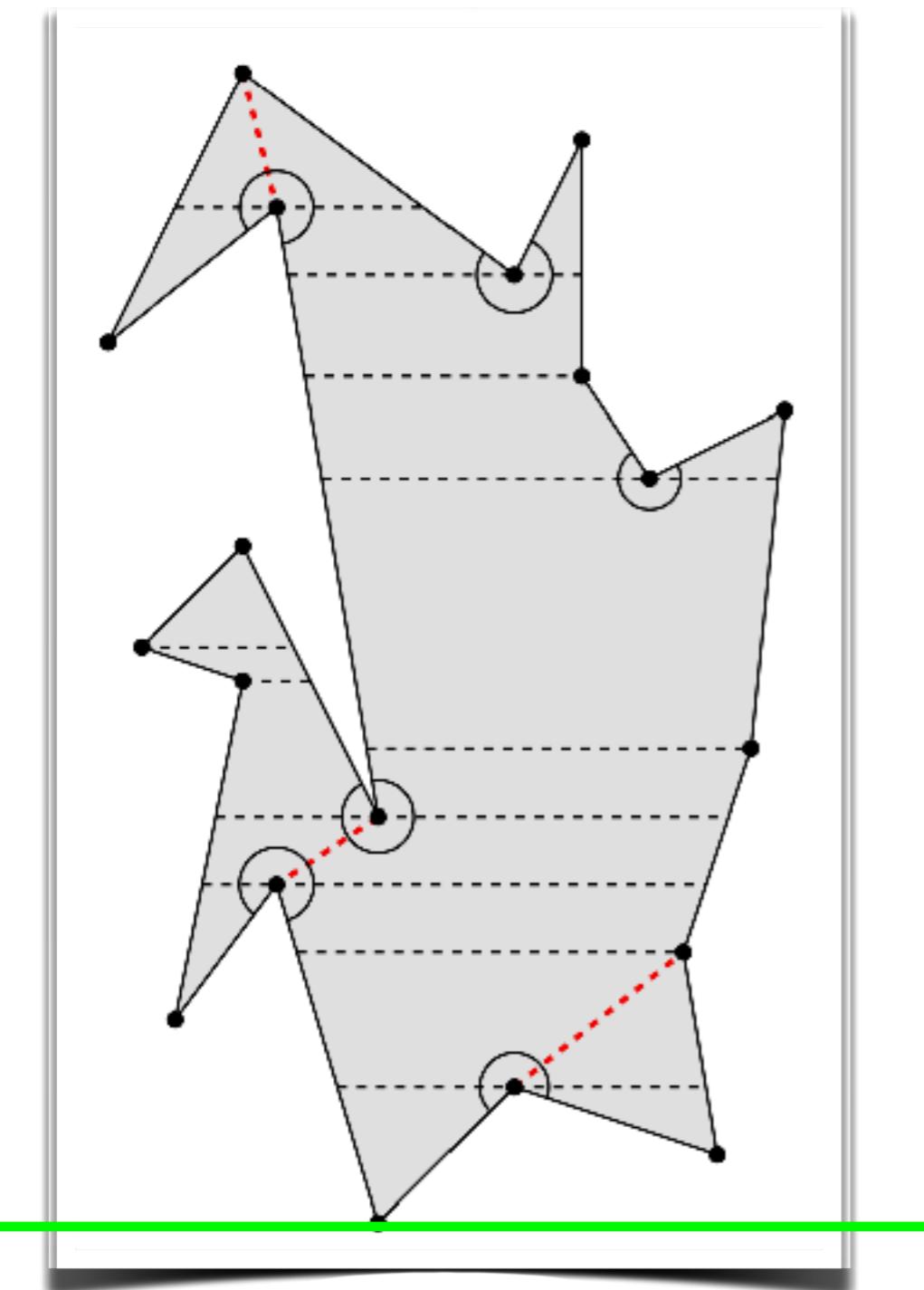
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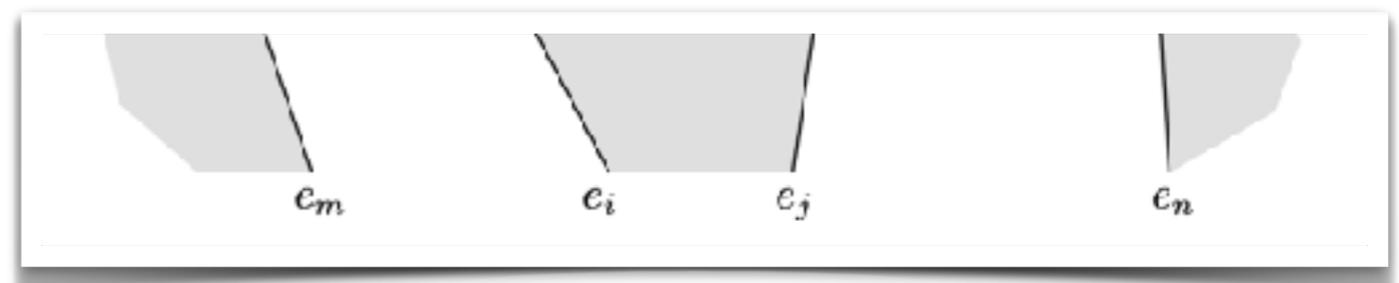


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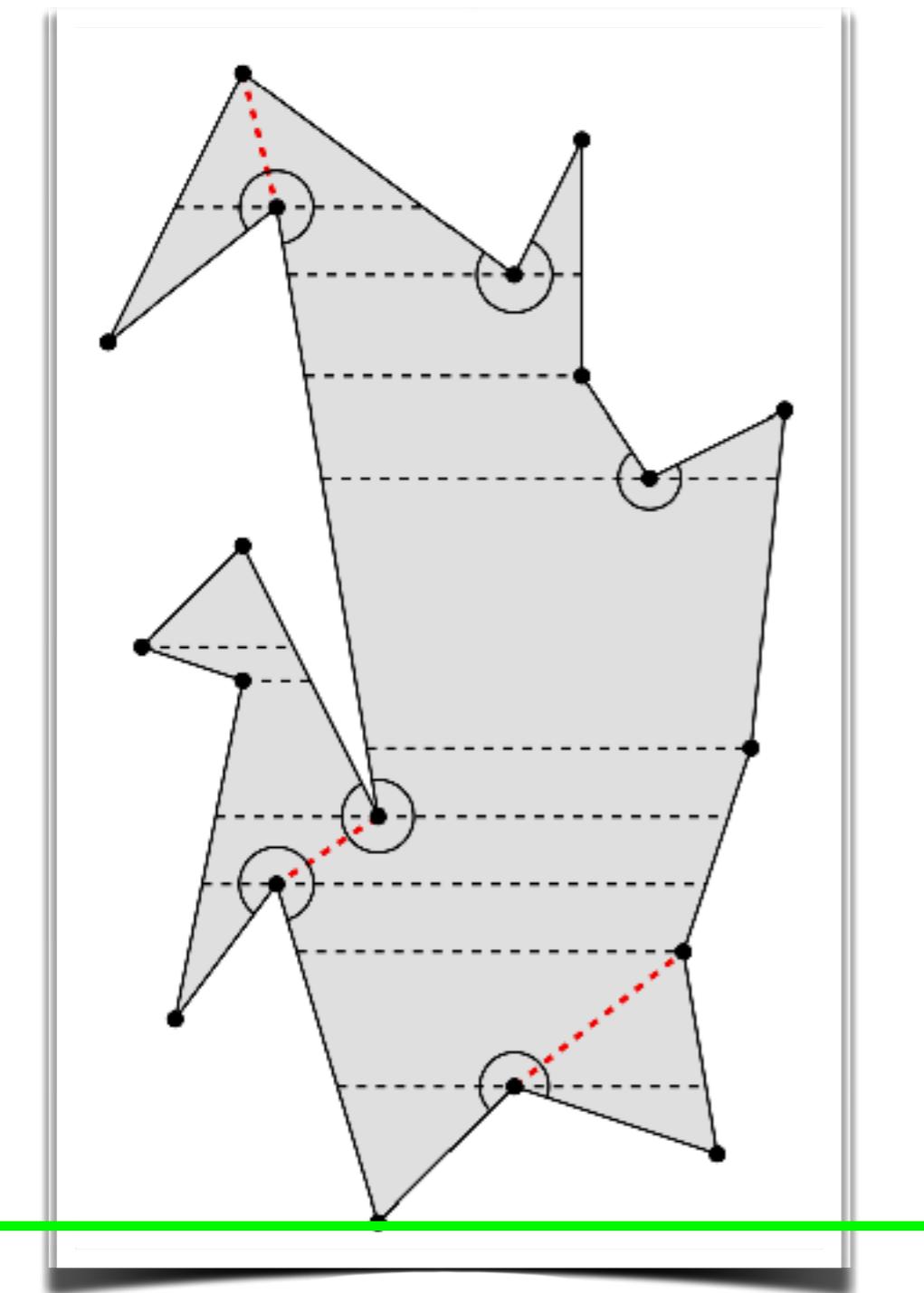
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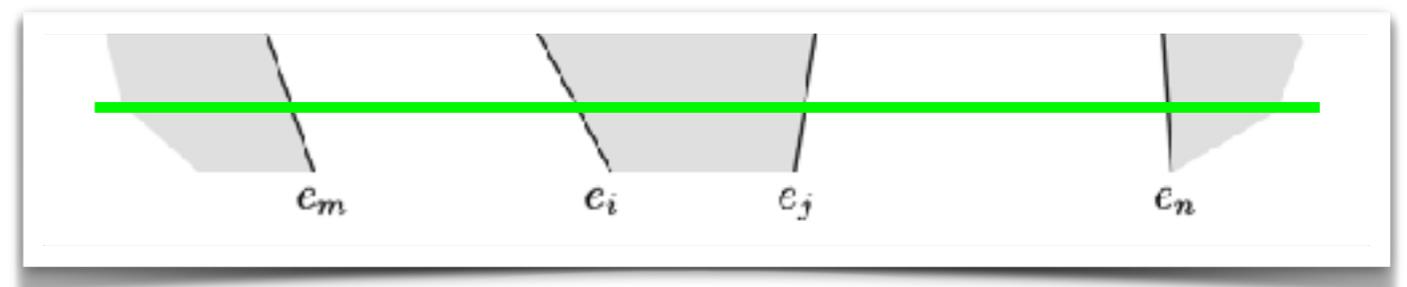


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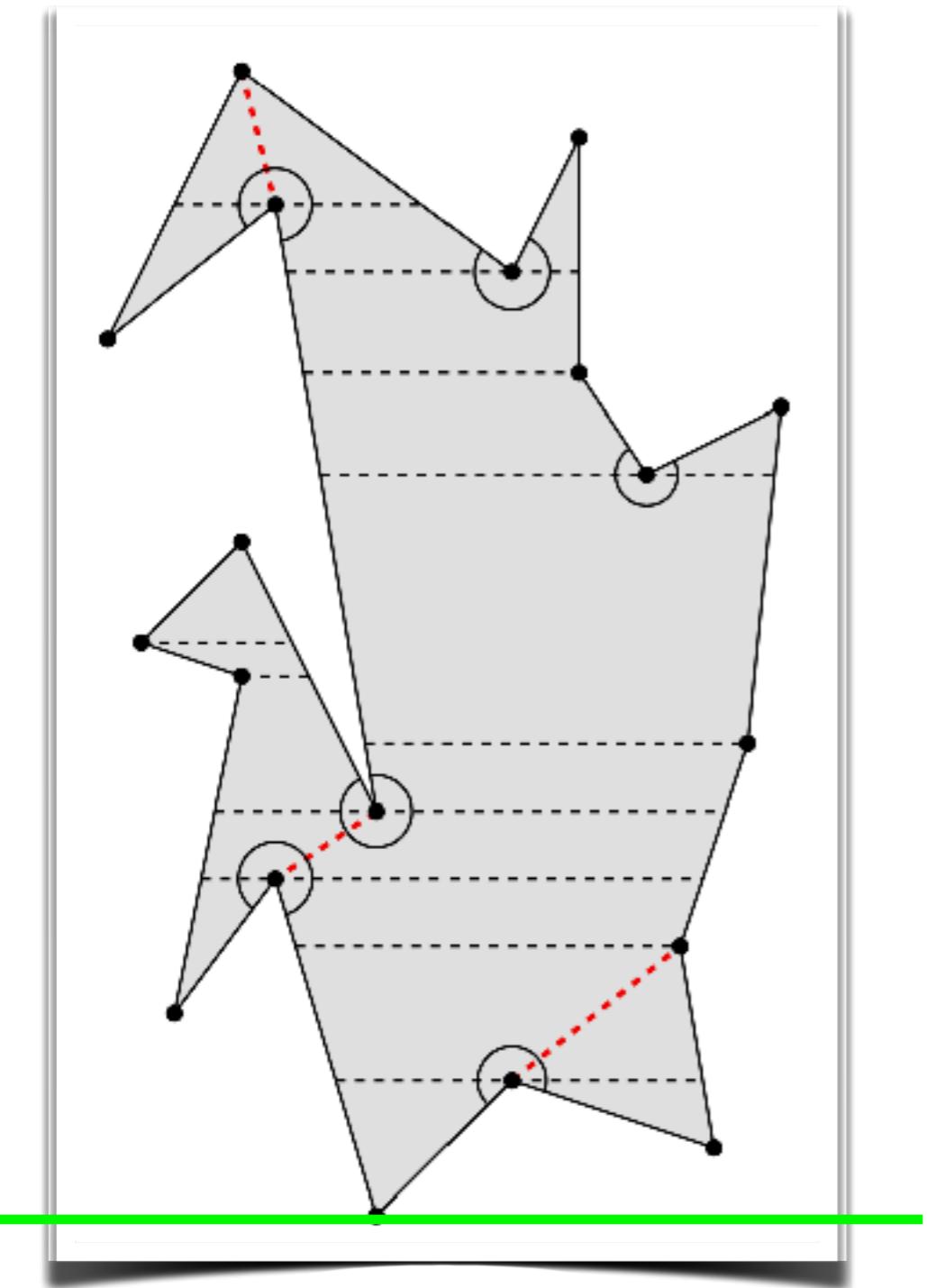
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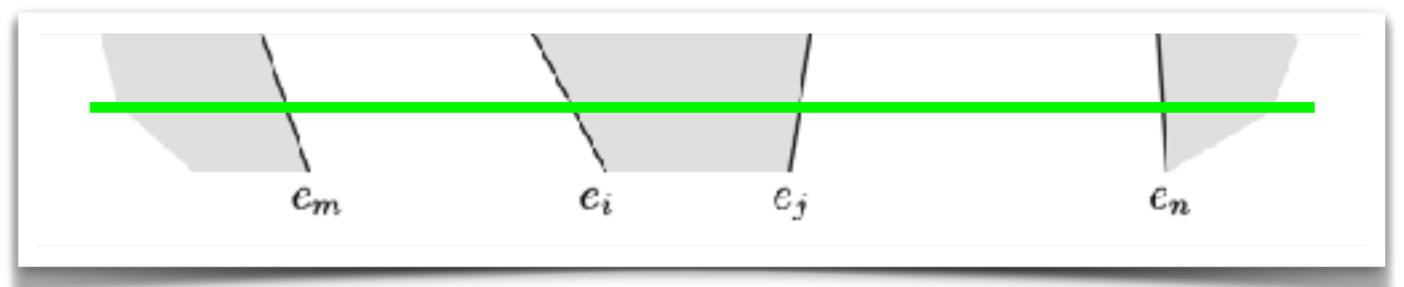


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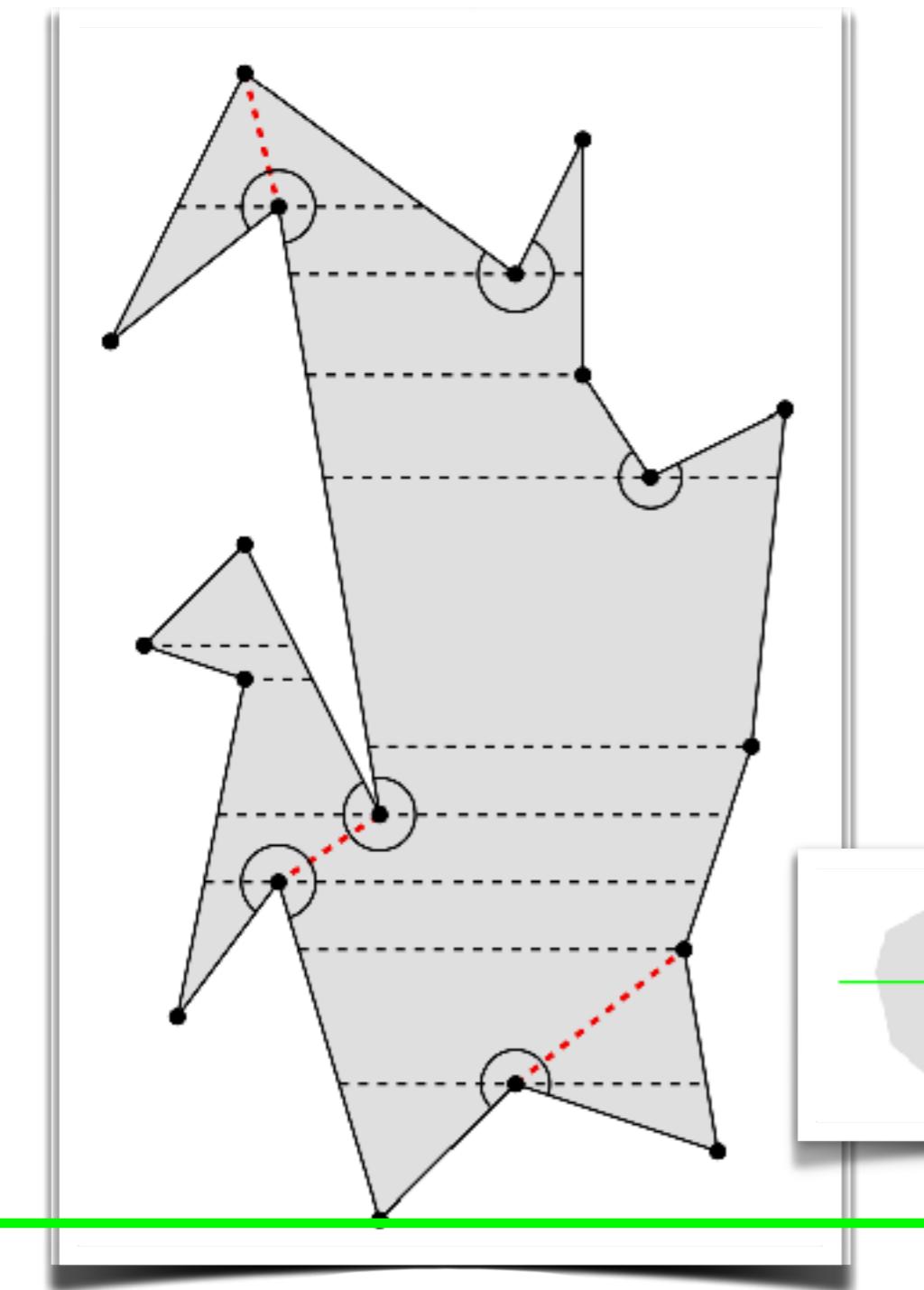
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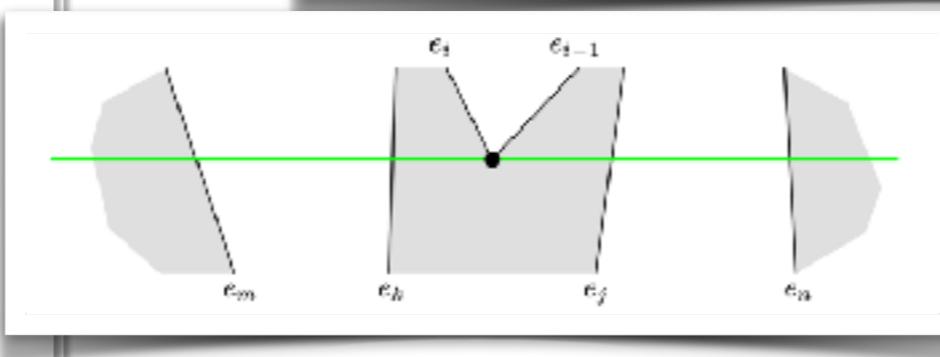
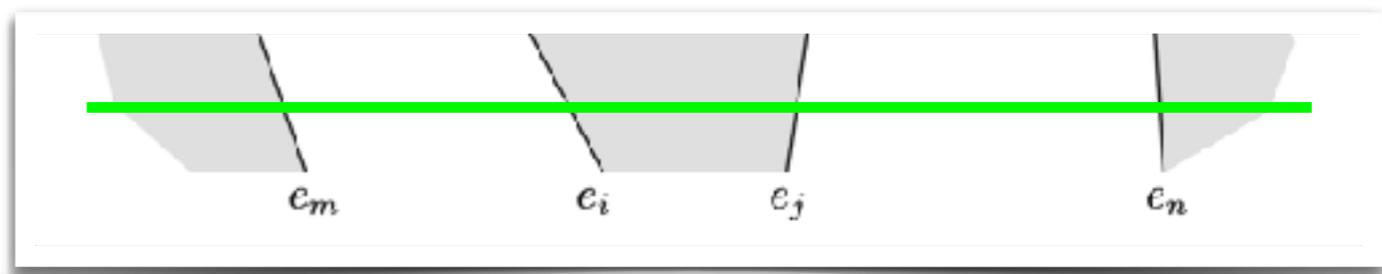


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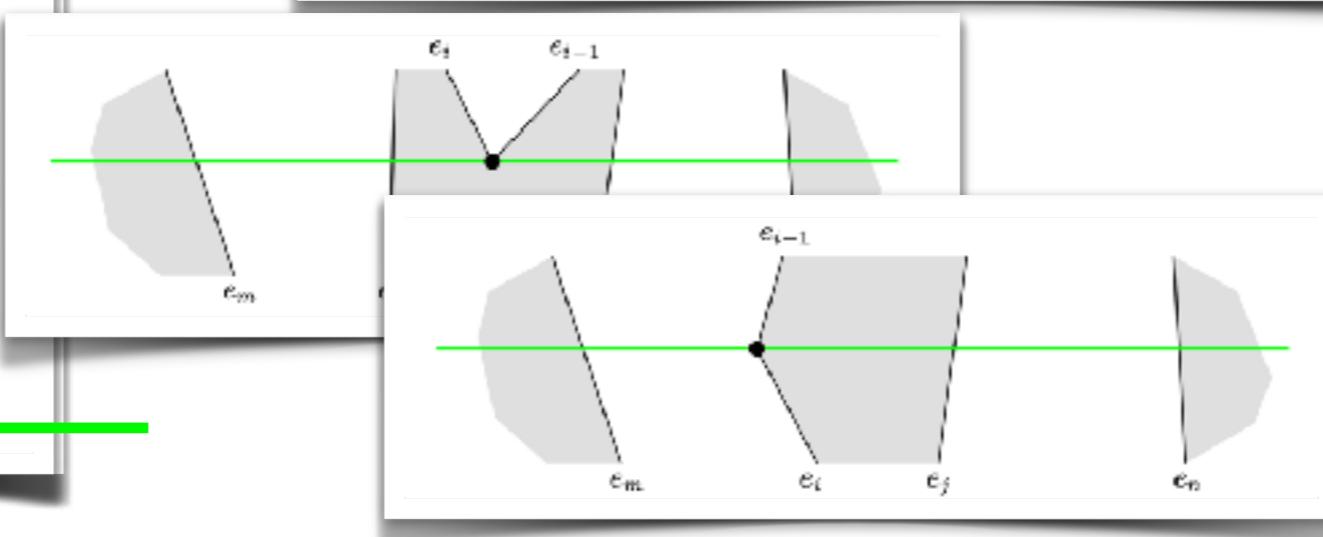
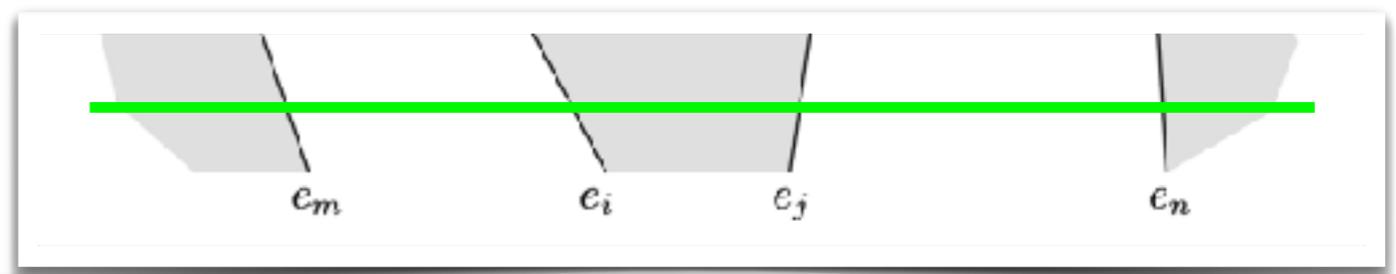
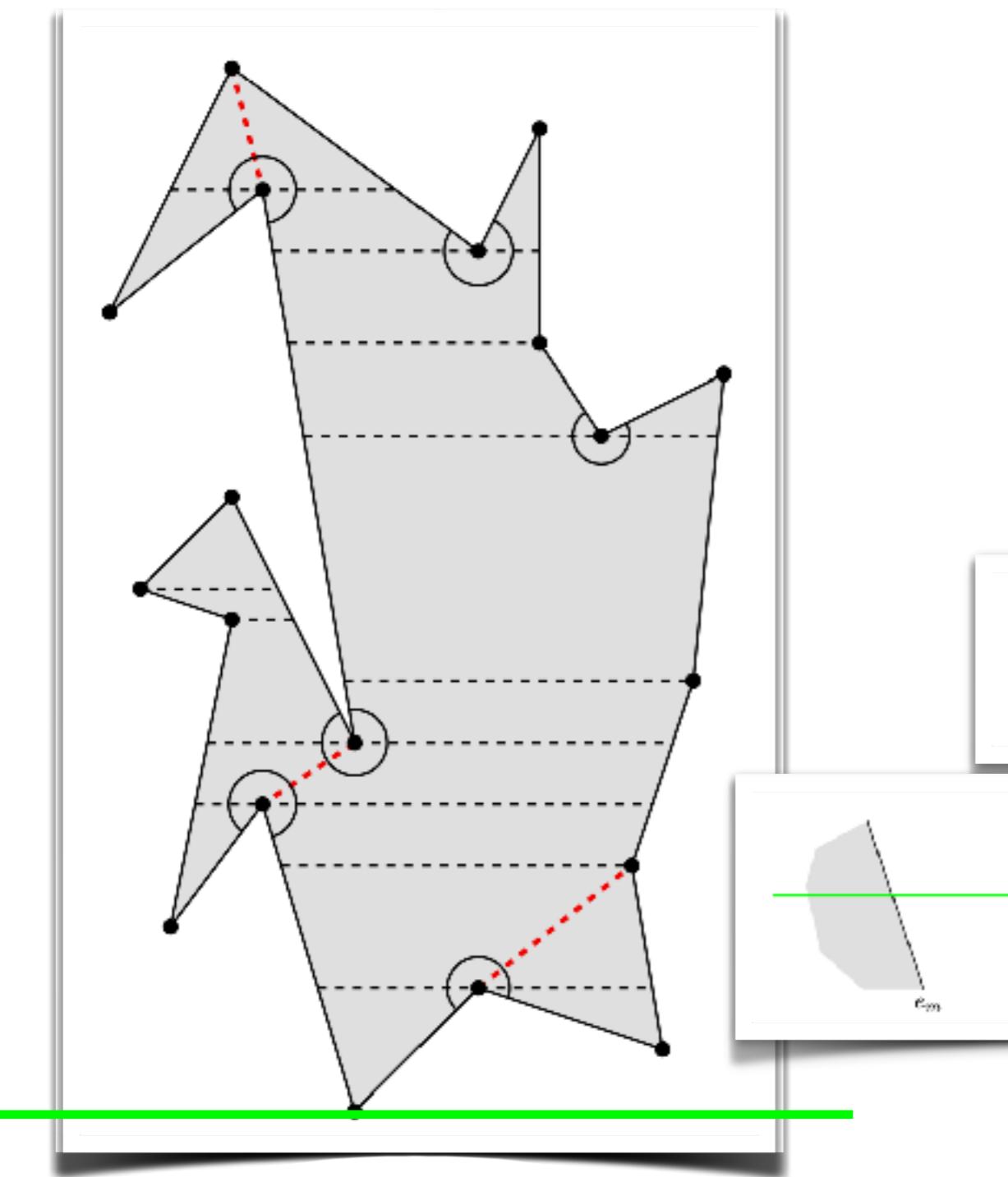
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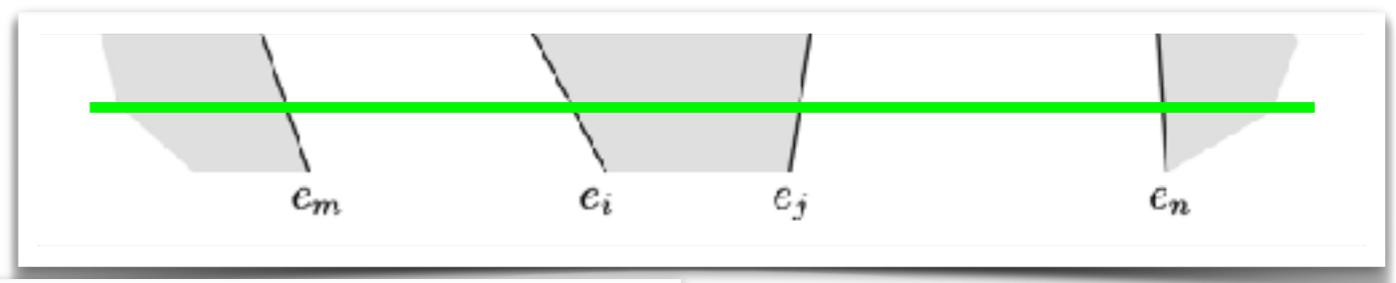
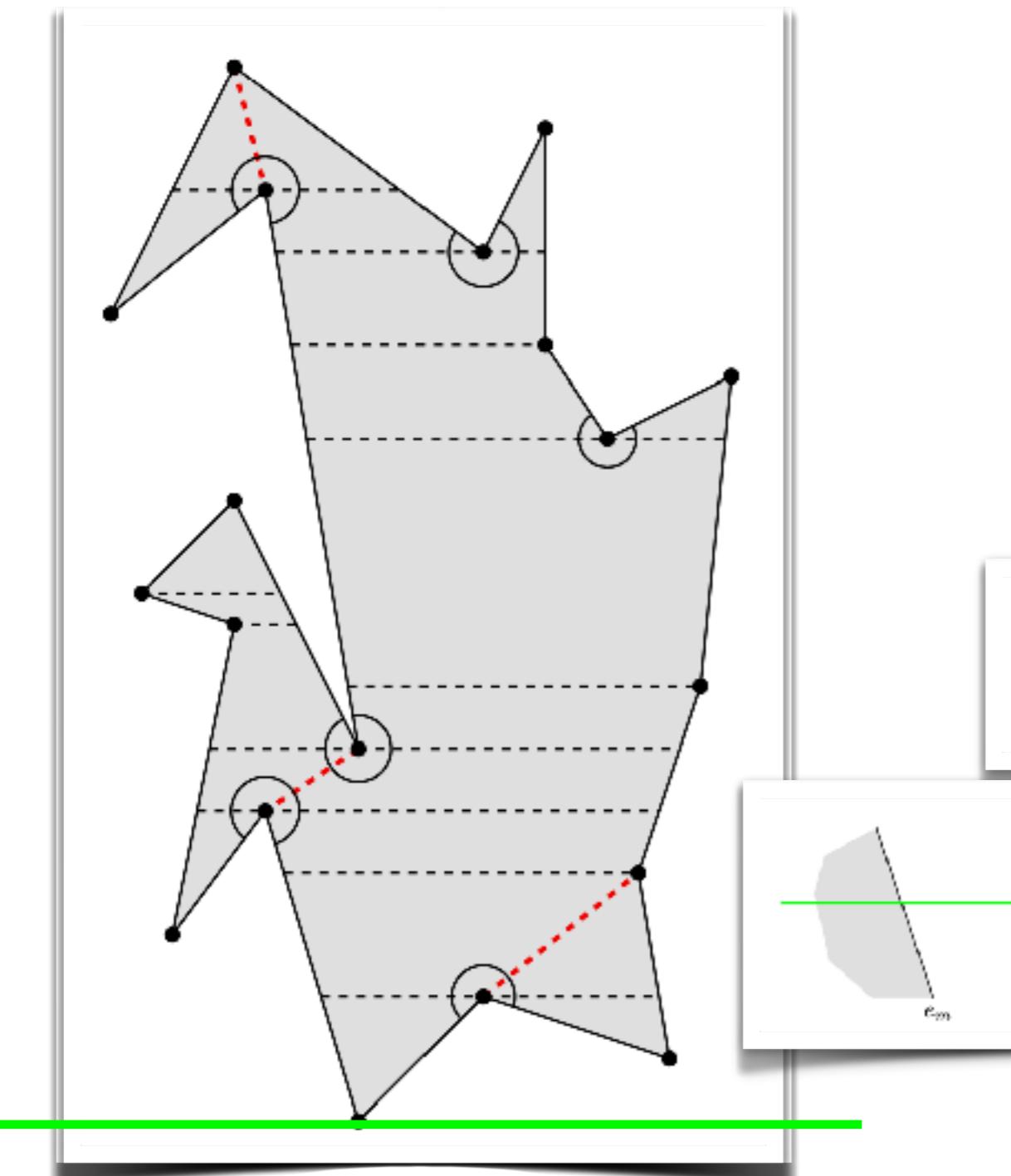
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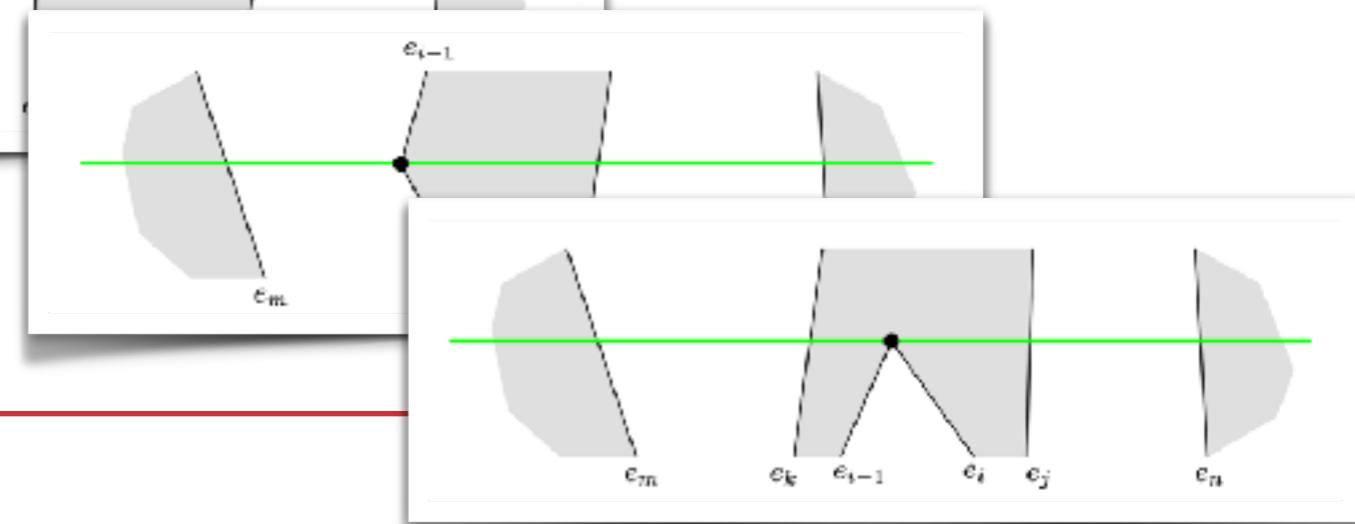
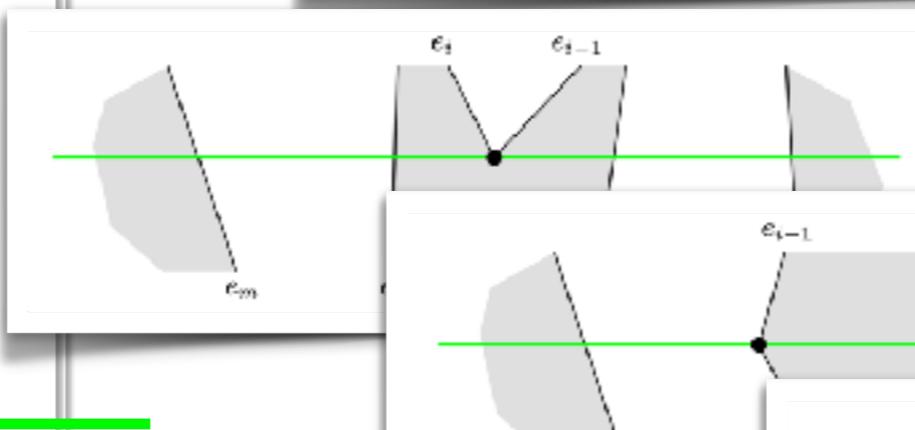
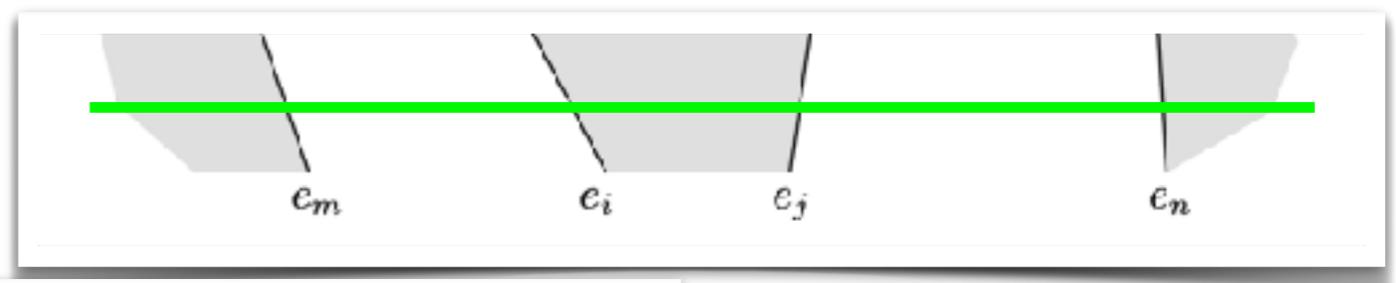
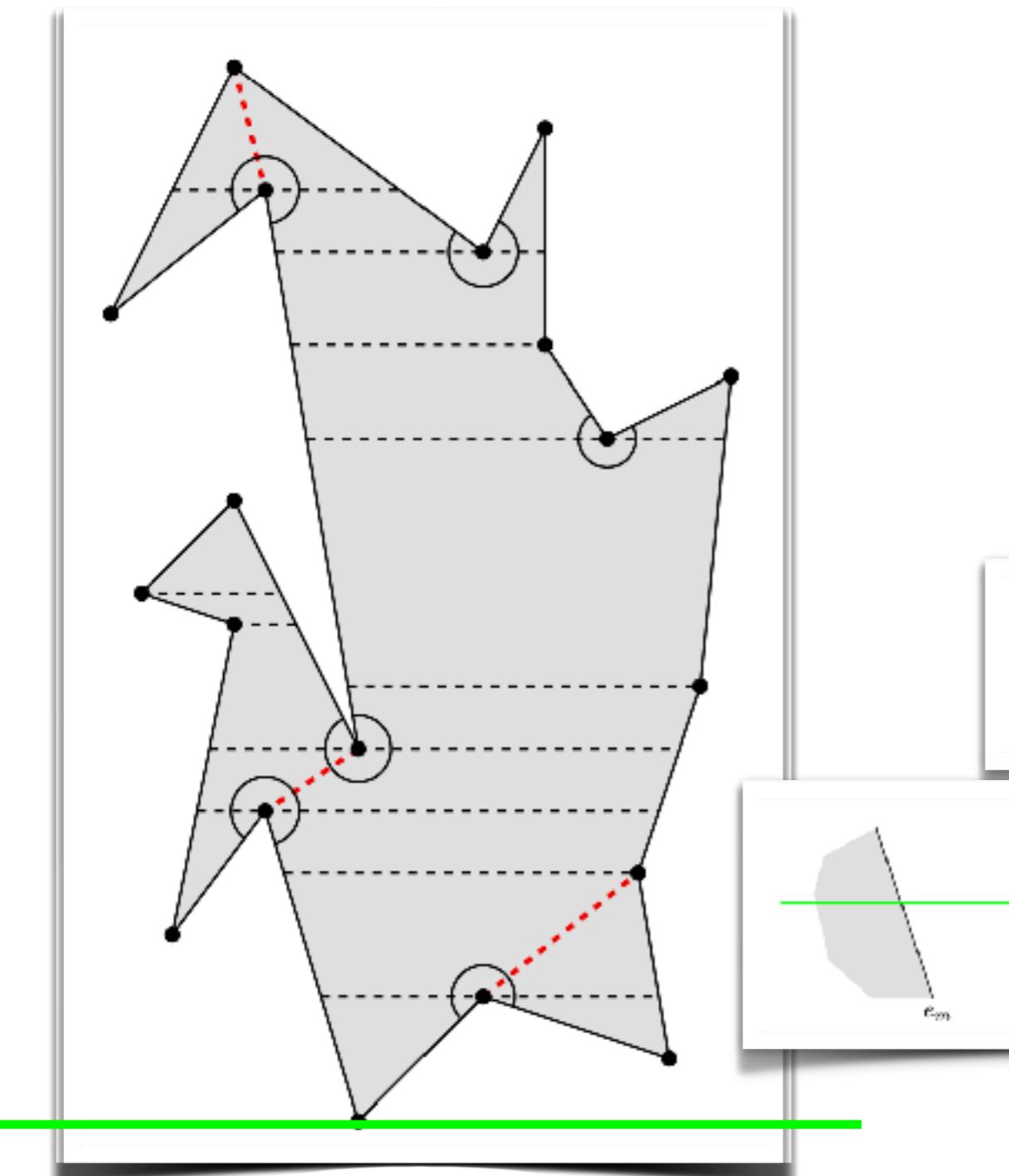
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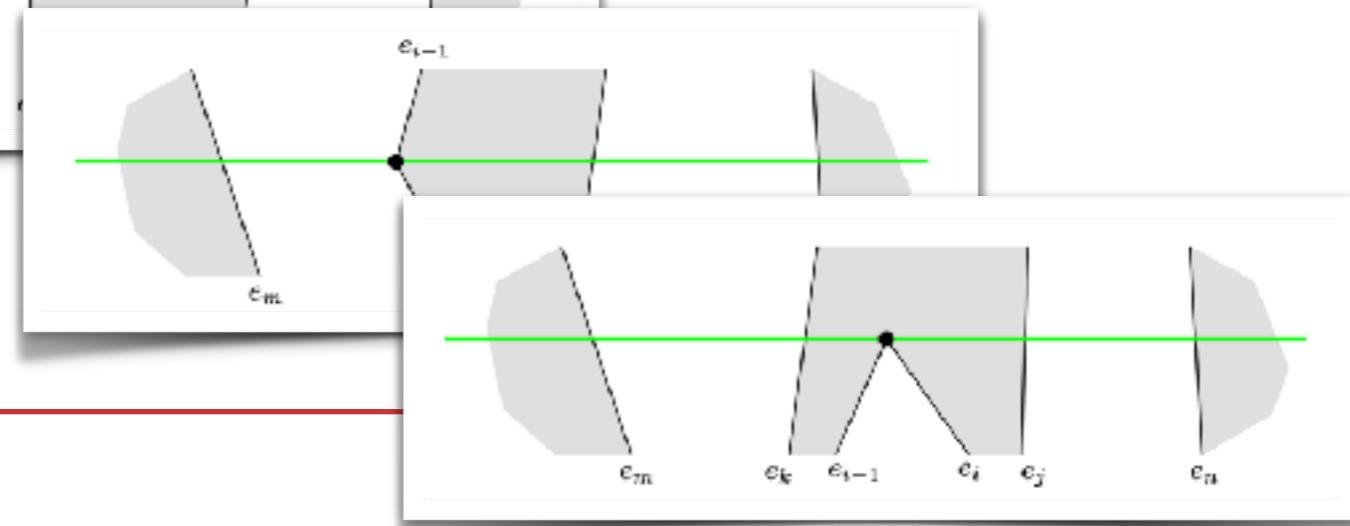
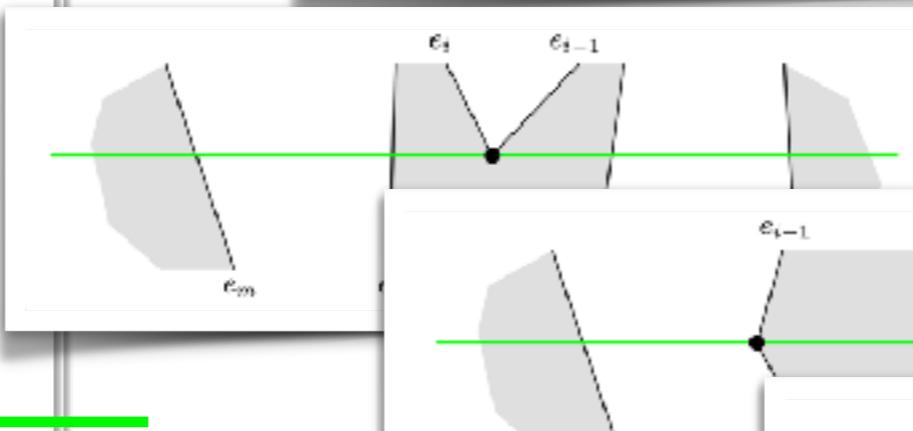
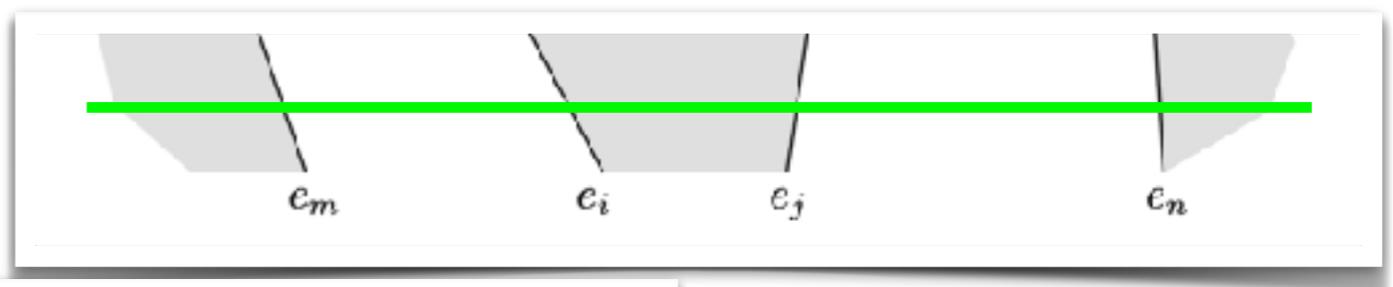
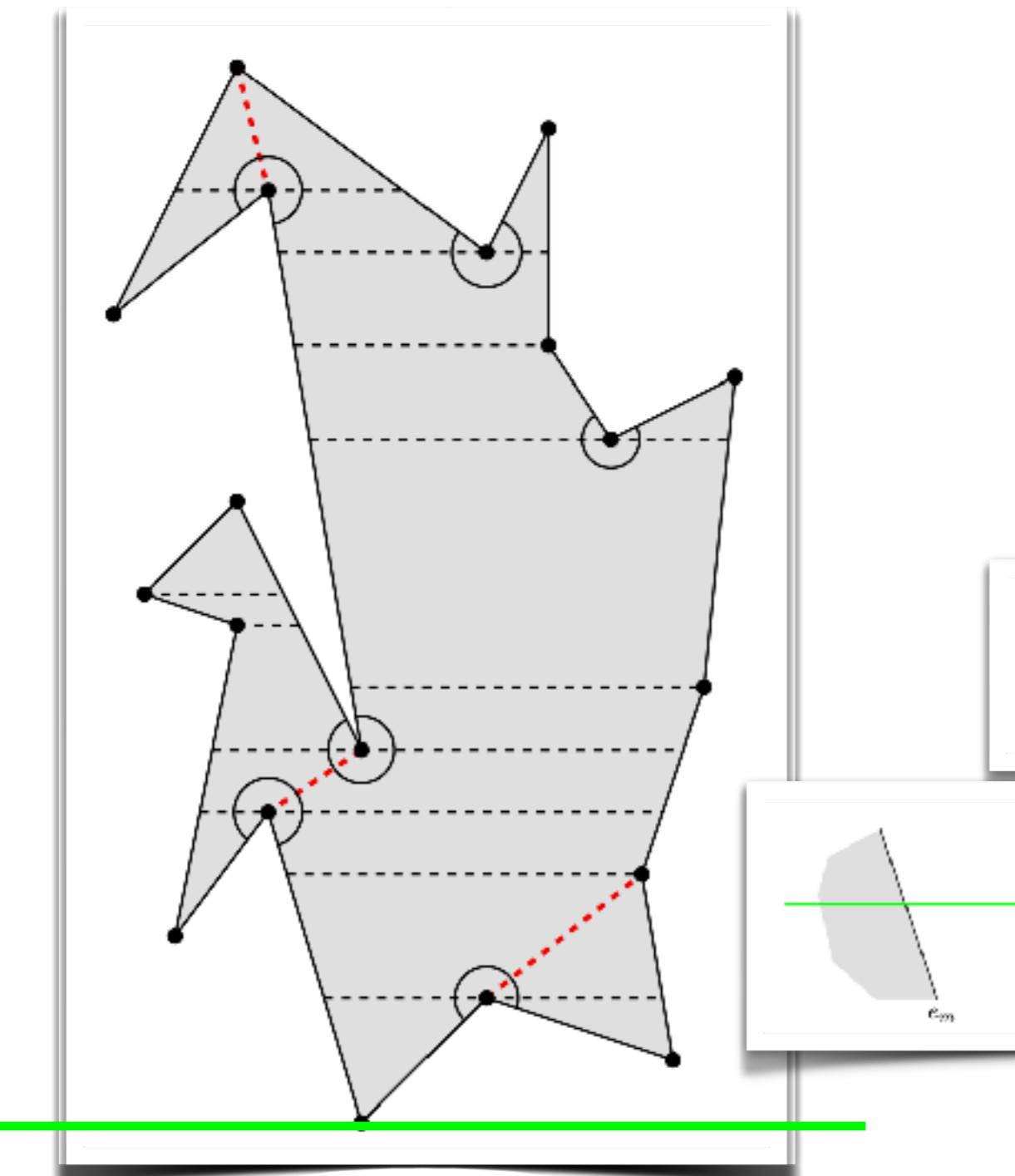
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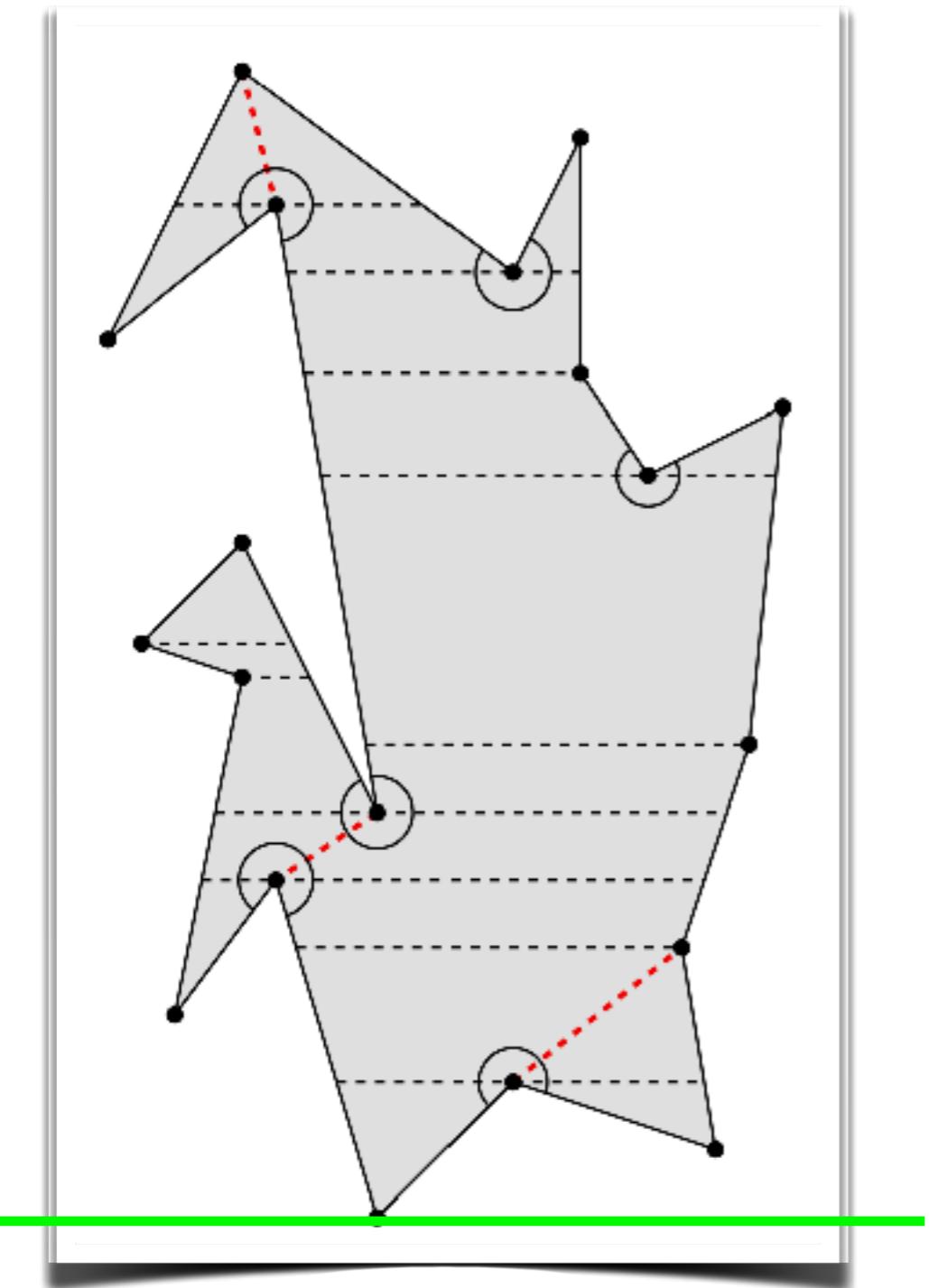
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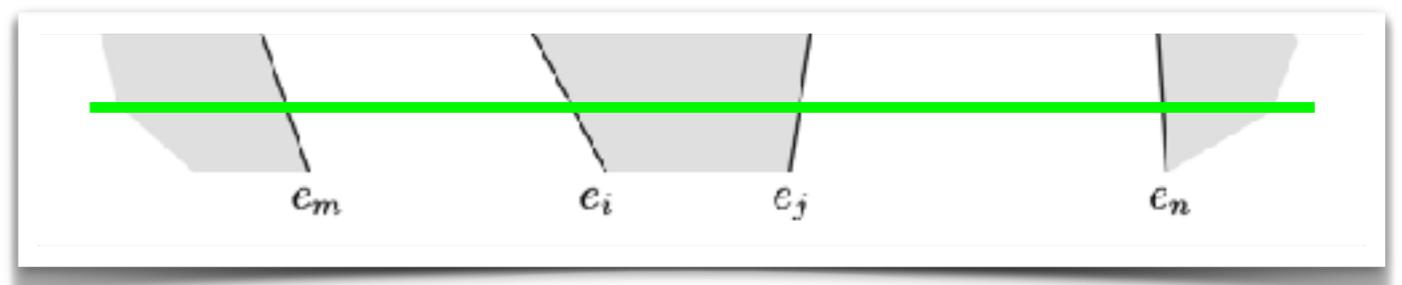


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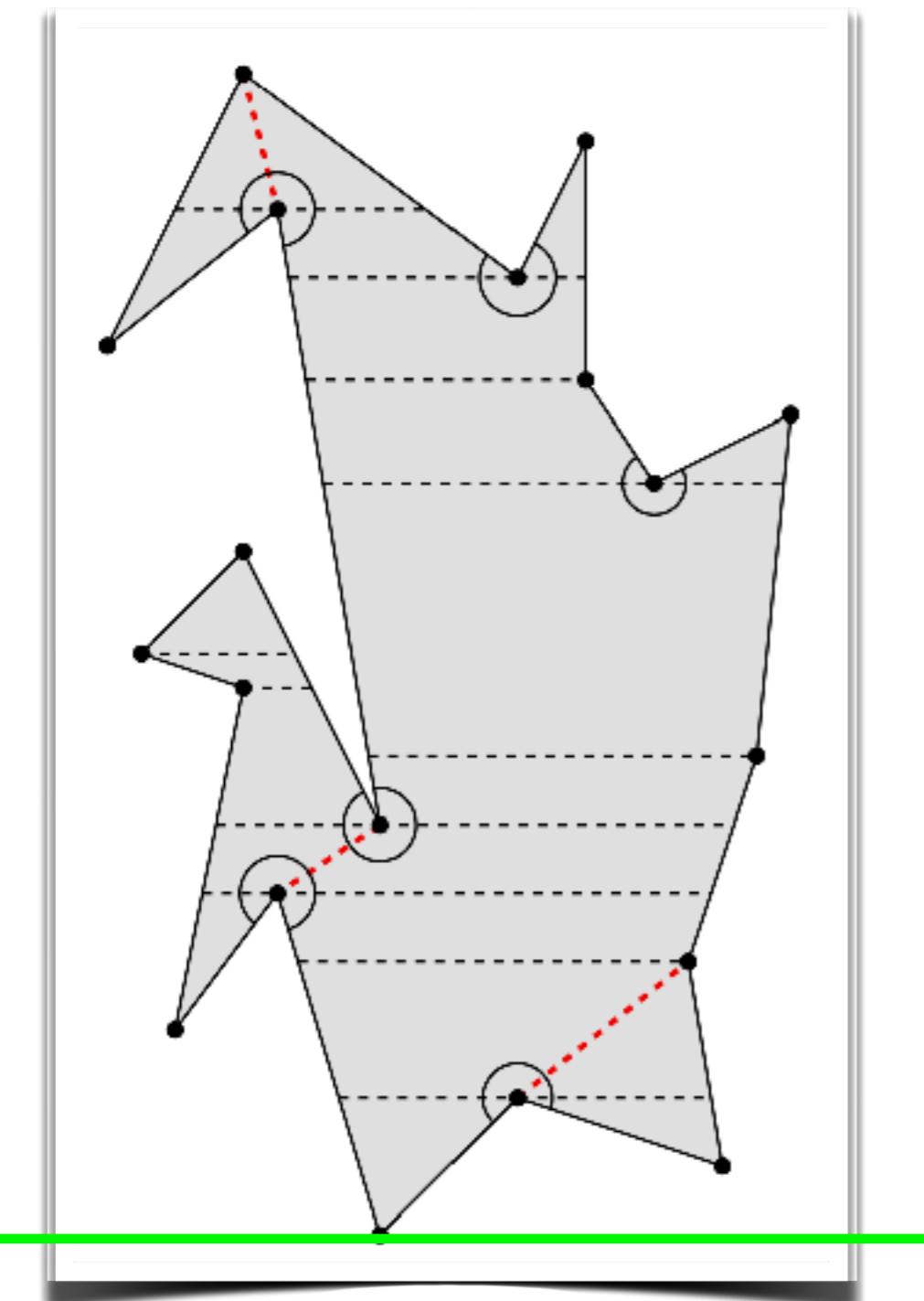
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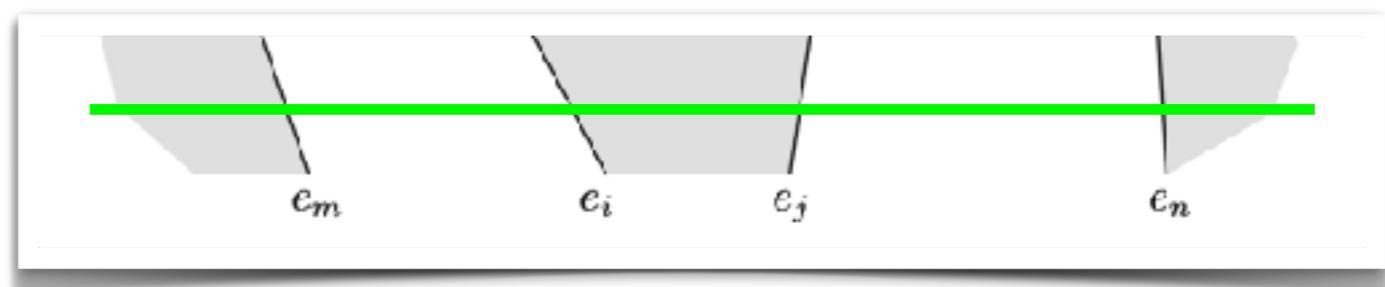


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## Theorem 5.19:

Triangulating a simple polygon can be done in  $O(n \log n)$ .

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- 3. Properties**
- 4. Algorithms: Removing ears**
- 5. Algorithms: Finding diagonals**
- 6. Algorithms: Monotone polygons**
- 7. Algorithms: Monotone decompositions**
- 8. Faster algorithms**
- 9. Application: Art Gallery problems**
- 10. Application: Online triangulation**



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**AN  $O(n \log \log n)$ -TIME ALGORITHM FOR TRIANGULATING A SIMPLE POLYGON\***

ROBERT E. TARJAN† AND CHRISTOPHER J. VAN WYK‡

**Abstract.** Given a simple  $n$ -vertex polygon, the triangulation problem is to partition the interior of the polygon into  $n-2$  triangles by adding  $n-3$  nonintersecting diagonals. We propose an  $O(n \log \log n)$ -time algorithm for this problem, improving on the previously best bound of  $O(n \log n)$  and showing that triangulation is not as hard as sorting. Improved algorithms for several other computational geometry problems, including testing whether a polygon is simple, follow from our result.

**Key words.** amortized time, balanced divide and conquer, heterogeneous finger search tree, homogeneous finger search tree, horizontal visibility information, Jordan sorting with error-correction, simplicity testing

**AMS(MOS) subject classifications.** 51M15, 68P05, 58C22

**1. Introduction.** Let  $P$  be an  $n$ -vertex simple polygon, defined by a list  $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}$  of its vertices in clockwise order around the boundary. (The interior of the polygon is to the right as one walks clockwise around the boundary.) We denote the boundary of  $P$  by  $\partial P$ . We assume throughout this paper (without loss of generality) that the vertices of  $P$  have distinct  $y$ -coordinates. For convenience we define  $v_n = v_0$ . The edges of  $P$  are the open line segments whose endpoints are  $v_i, v_{i+1}$  for  $0 \leq i < n$ . The diagonals of  $P$  are the open line segments whose endpoints are vertices and that lie entirely in the interior of  $P$ . The *triangulation problem* is to find  $n-3$  nonintersecting diagonals of  $P$ , which partition the interior of  $P$  into  $n-2$  triangles.

If  $P$  is convex, any pair of vertices defines a diagonal, and it is easy to triangulate  $P$  in  $O(n)$  time. If  $P$  is not convex, not all pairs of vertices define diagonals, and even finding one diagonal, let alone triangulating  $P$ , is not a trivial problem. In 1978, Garey, Johnson, Preparata and Tarjan [10] presented an  $O(n \log n)$ -time triangulation algorithm. Since then, work on the problem has proceeded in two directions. Some authors have developed linear-time algorithms for triangulating special classes of polygons, such as monotone polygons [10] and star-shaped polygons [31]. Others have devised triangulation algorithms whose running time is  $O(n \log k)$  for a parameter  $k$  that somehow quantifies the complexity of the polygon, such as the number of reflex angles [13] or the "sinuosity" [5]. Since these measures all admit classes of polygons with  $k = \Omega(n)$ , the worst case running time of these algorithms is only known to be  $O(n \log n)$ . Determining whether triangulation can be done in  $O(n \log n)$  time, i.e., asymptotically faster than sorting, has been one of the foremost open problems in computational geometry.

In this paper we propose an  $O(n \log \log n)$ -time triangulation algorithm, thereby showing that triangulation is indeed easier than sorting. The paper is a revised and corrected version of a conference paper [27] which erroneously claimed an  $O(n)$ -time algorithm. The goal of obtaining a linear-time algorithm remains elusive, but our

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‡Department of Computer Science, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544. The work of this author was partially supported by National Science Foundation grant DCR-8603962.

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**Note:** Lower bound of  $\Omega(n \log n)$  only applies to non-simple polygons.

## Progress:

Tarjan and van Wyk (1988):  $O(n \log \log n)$



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## Progress:

Tarjan and van Wyk (1988):  $O(n \log \log n)$

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Tarjan and van Wyk (1988):  $O(n \log \log n)$

Kirkpatrick, Klawe, Tarjan (1992):  $O(n \log \log n)$

Discrete Comput Geom 7: 329–346 (1992)



### Polygon Triangulation in $O(n \log \log n)$ Time with Simple Data Structures\*

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Computer Science, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540, USA, and NEC Research Institute

**Abstract.** We give a new  $O(n \log \log n)$ -time deterministic algorithm for triangulating simple  $n$ -vertex polygons, which avoids the use of complicated data structures. In addition, for polygons whose vertices have integer coordinates of polynomially bounded size, the algorithm can be modified to run in  $O(n \log^* n)$  time. The major new techniques employed are the efficient location of horizontal visibility edges that partition the interior of the polygon into regions of approximately equal size, and a linear-time algorithm for obtaining the horizontal visibility partition of a subchain of a polygonal chain, from the horizontal visibility partition of the entire chain. The latter technique has other interesting applications, including a linear-time algorithm to convert a Steiner triangulation of a polygon into a true triangulation.

#### 1. Introduction

Let  $P$  be a simple polygon with  $n$  vertices. The *diagonals* of  $P$  are the open line segments whose endpoints are vertices of the polygon and that lie entirely in the interior of  $P$ . A *triangulation* of  $P$  is a partition of its interior into  $n - 2$  triangles by adding  $n - 3$  nonintersecting diagonals. The problem of triangulating a simple polygon, that is, determining the set of nonintersecting diagonals, has attracted considerable attention in computational geometry literature and elsewhere.

\* This research was partially supported by the following grants: NSERC 5X3584, NSERC 580485, ONR-N00014-81-0467, and by DIMACS, an NSF Science and Technology Center (NSF-STC88-0964).



**Note:** Lower bound of  $\Omega(n \log n)$  only applies to non-simple polygons.

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Tarjan and van Wyk (1988):  $O(n \log \log n)$

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Tarjan and van Wyk (1988):  $O(n \log \log n)$

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**Note:** Lower bound of  $\Omega(n \log n)$  only applies to non-simple polygons.

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Clarkson, Tarjan, van Wyk (1989):  $O(n \log^* n)$

Discrete Comput Geom 4:423–432 (1989)

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### A Fast Las Vegas Algorithm for Triangulating a Simple Polygon

Kenneth L. Clarkson,<sup>1</sup> Robert E. Tarjan,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> and Christopher J. Van Wyk<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ 07974, USA

<sup>2</sup> Department of Computer Science, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA

**Abstract.** We present a randomized algorithm that triangulates a simple polygon on  $n$  vertices in  $O(n \log^* n)$  expected time. The averaging in the analysis of running time is over the possible choices made by the algorithm; the bound holds for any input polygons.

#### 1. Introduction

To *triangulate* a simple polygon on  $n$  vertices, we add to it  $n-3$  line segments between vertices (diagonals) that partition its interior into triangles. Determining the complexity of triangulating a simple polygon is an outstanding open problem in computational geometry.

Previous work on the triangulation problem has concentrated on finding fast deterministic algorithms to solve it. Garey *et al.* gave an algorithm to triangulate an  $n$ -gon in  $O(n \log n)$  time [GJPT]. Tarjan and Van Wyk devised a much more complicated algorithm that runs in  $O(n \log \log n)$  time [TV].

In this revised and expanded version of our conference paper [CTV], we present a randomized algorithm that triangulates a simple polygon on  $n$  vertices in  $O(n \log^* n)$  expected time. Our algorithm uses the following key ideas:

- divide and conquer;
- the “random sampling” paradigm [C1], [CS], [ES], [HW];
- the vertical visibility decomposition determined by a set of noncrossing line segments in the plane; each endpoint of a line segment defines the vertical boundaries of two generalized trapezoids, generated by vertical rays that

\* Research partially supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DCR-8605962.



**Note:** Lower bound of  $\Omega(n \log n)$  only applies to non-simple polygons.

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Chazelle (1991):



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Chazelle (1991):  $O(n)$

Discrete Comput Geom 5:485–524 (1991)



### Triangulating a Simple Polygon in Linear Time\*

Bernard Chazelle

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Princeton, NJ 08544, USA

**Abstract.** We give a deterministic algorithm for triangulating a simple polygon in linear time. The basic strategy is to build a coarse approximation of a triangulation in a bottom-up phase and then use the information computed along the way to refine the triangulation in a top-down phase. The main tools used are the polygon-cutting theorems, which provides us with a balancing scheme, and the planar separator theorem, whose role is essential in the discovery of new diagonals. Only elementary data structures are required by the algorithm. In particular, no dynamic search trees, finger trees, or point-location structures are needed. We mention a few applications of our algorithm.

#### L Introduction

Triangulating a simple polygon has been one of the most outstanding open problems in two-dimensional computational geometry. It is a basic primitive in computer graphics and, generally, seems the natural preprocessing step for most nontrivial operations on simple polygons [5], [14]. Recall that to triangulate a polygon is to subdivide it into triangles without adding any new vertices. Despite its apparent simplicity, however, the triangulation problem has remained elusive. In 1978 Garey et al. [12] gave an  $O(n \log n)$ -time algorithm for triangulating a simple  $n$ -gon. While it was widely believed that triangulating should be easier than sorting, no proof was to be found until 1986, when Tarjan and Van Wyk [27] discovered an  $O(n \log \log n)$ -time algorithm. Following this breakthrough, Clarkson et al. [7] discovered a Las Vegas algorithm, recently simplified by Seidel [25], with  $O(n \log^* n)$  expected time. In 1989 Kirkpatrick et al. [20] gave a new,

\* The author wishes to acknowledge the National Science Foundation for supporting this research in part under Grant CCR-8700017.



**Note:** Lower bound of  $\Omega(n \log n)$  only applies to non-simple polygons.

## Progress:

Tarjan and van Wyk (1988):  $O(n \log \log n)$

Kirkpatrick, Klawe, Tarjan (1992):  $O(n \log \log n)$

Clarkson, Tarjan, van Wyk (1989):  $O(n \log^* n)$

Chazelle (1991):  $O(n)$



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- 8. Faster algorithms**
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- 10. Application: Online triangulation**



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**Note**

A Short Proof of Chvátal's Watchman Theorem

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Communicated by the Editors

Received October 27, 1977

This note contains a short proof of Chvátal's Watchman Theorem using the existence of a three-coloring of a triangulated polygon.

In 1975 Chvátal [1] proved the following result:

**Theorem.** *If  $S$  is a polygon with  $n$  vertices, then there is a set  $T$  of at most  $n/3$  points of  $S$  such that for any point  $p$  of  $S$  there is a point  $q$  of  $T$  with the segment  $pq$  lying entirely in  $S$ .*

If we think of  $S$  as a museum, with paintings on the walls, then the theorem gives a bound on the number of stationary watchmen required to guard every part of the museum. We present a simple proof.

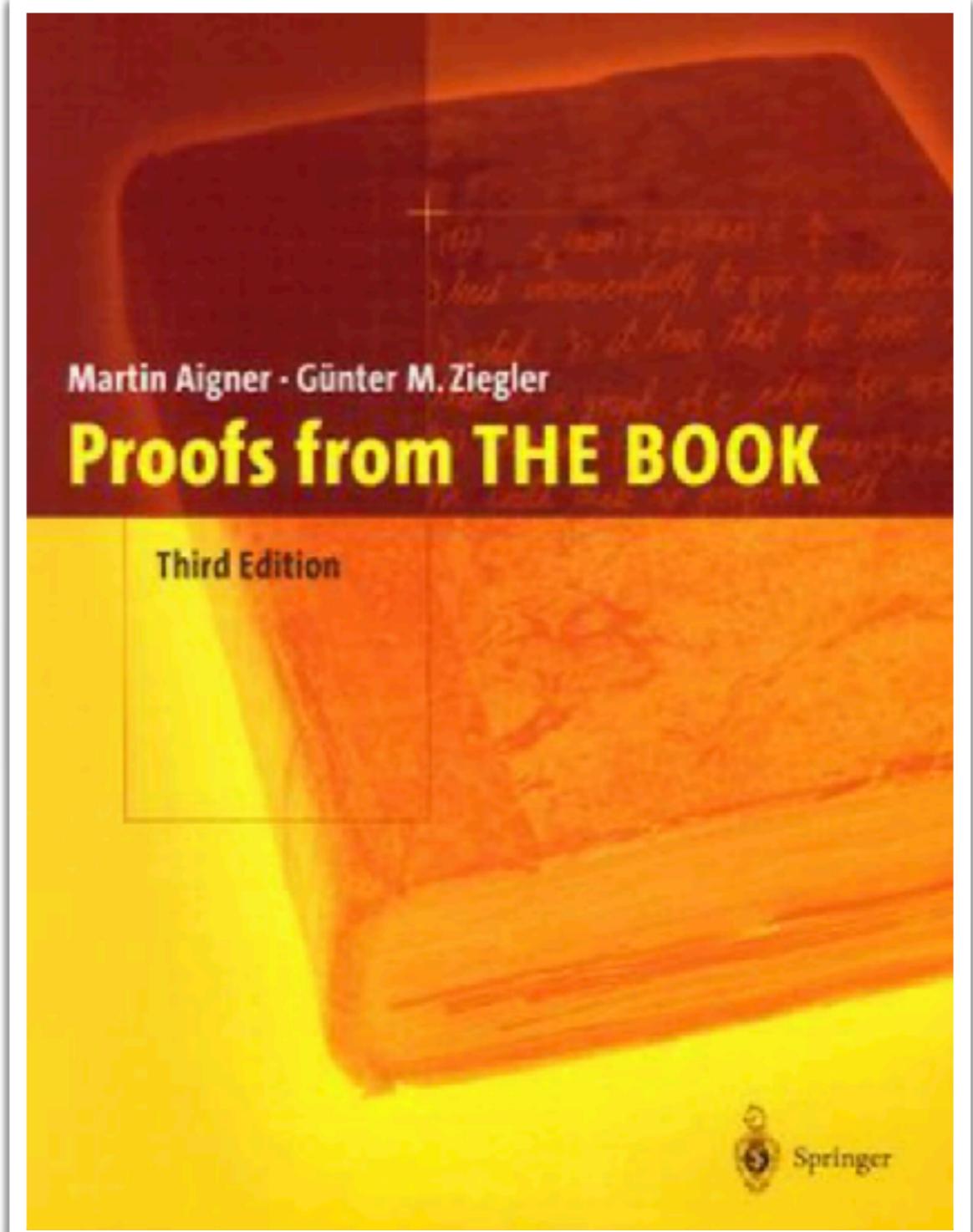
*Proof.* Triangulate  $S$  so that no new vertices are added. Every such triangulation has a coloring with three colors  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ . Let  $T_a$  be the set of vertices colored  $a$ , and assume that  $|T_a| \leq |T_b| \leq |T_c|$ . Choosing  $T = T_a$  implies  $|T| \leq n/3$ . Finally, every point  $q$  of  $S$  lies in some triangle of  $S$ , and every triangle of  $S$  has a point  $p$  of  $T$  on it. Since triangles are convex, we have  $pq \subset S$ .

**REFERENCE**

1. V. Chvátal, A combinatorial theorem in plane geometry, *J. Combinatorial Theory B* 18 (1975), 39–41.

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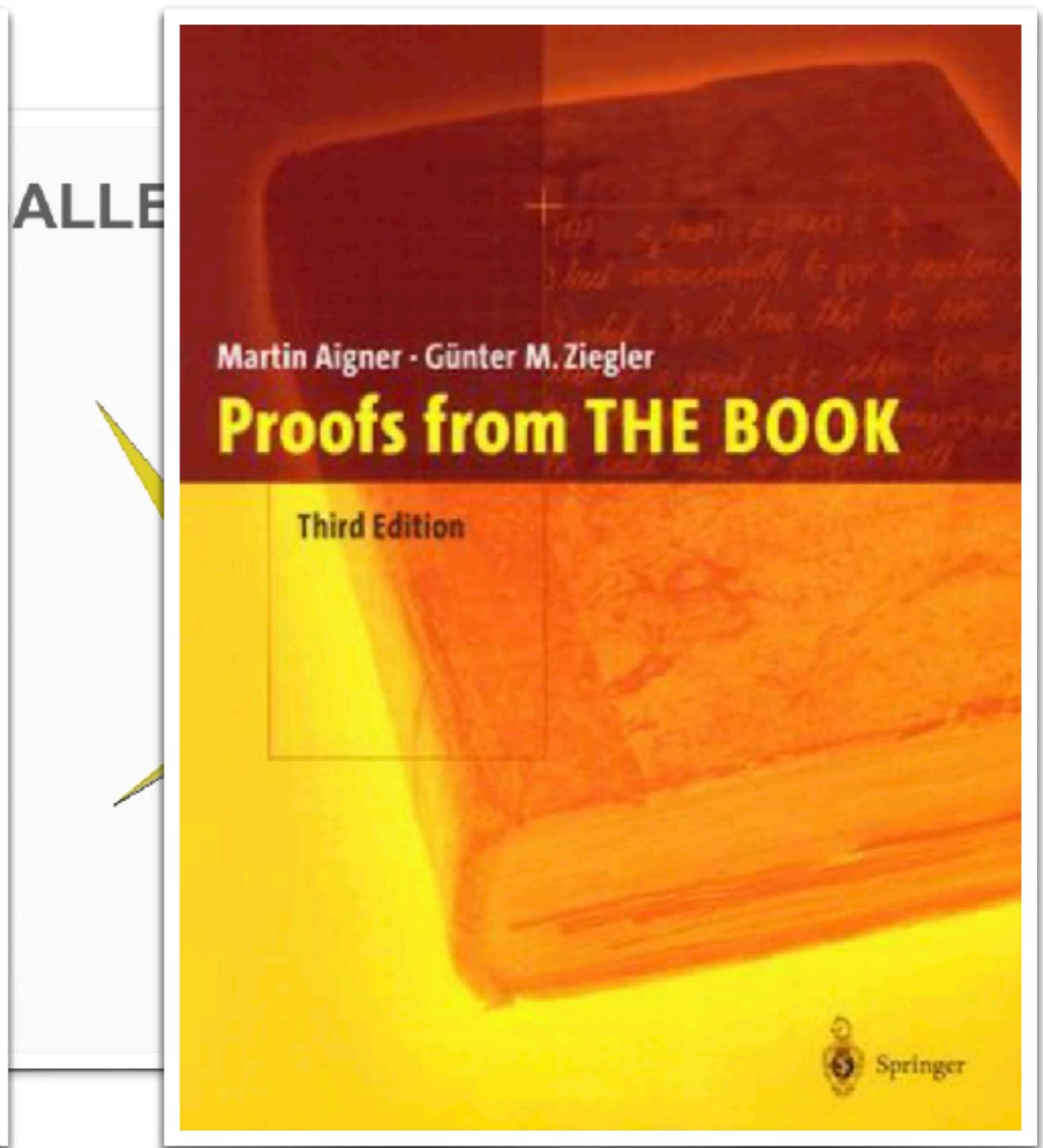
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# **POINT GUARDS AND POINT CLOUDS**



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# Triangulating Unknown Environments using Robot Swarms

Aaron Becker  
James McLurkin  
SeoungKyou Lee



Sándor P. Fekete  
Alexander Kröller  
Christiane Schmidt



Technische  
Universität  
Braunschweig

# Thank you for today!

