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# Computational Geometry

## Chapter 5: Polygon Triangulation

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- 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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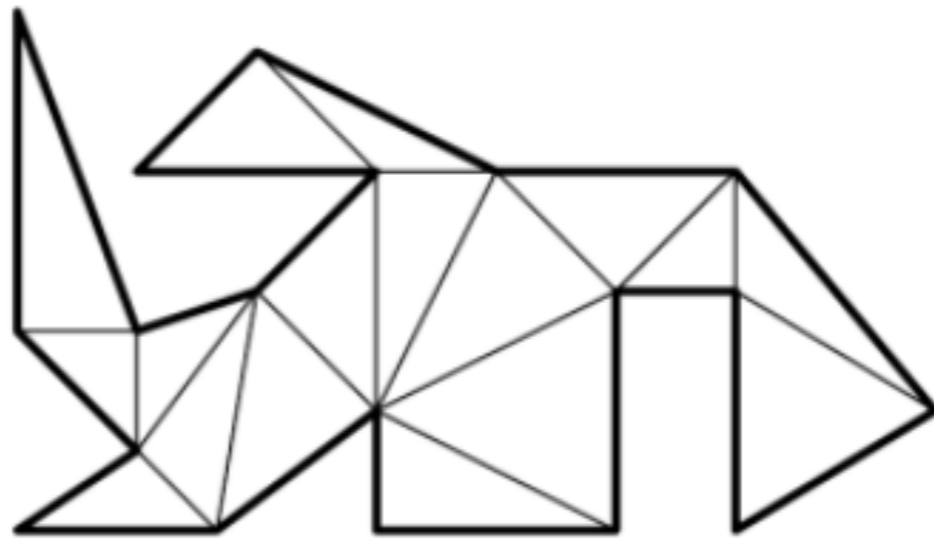




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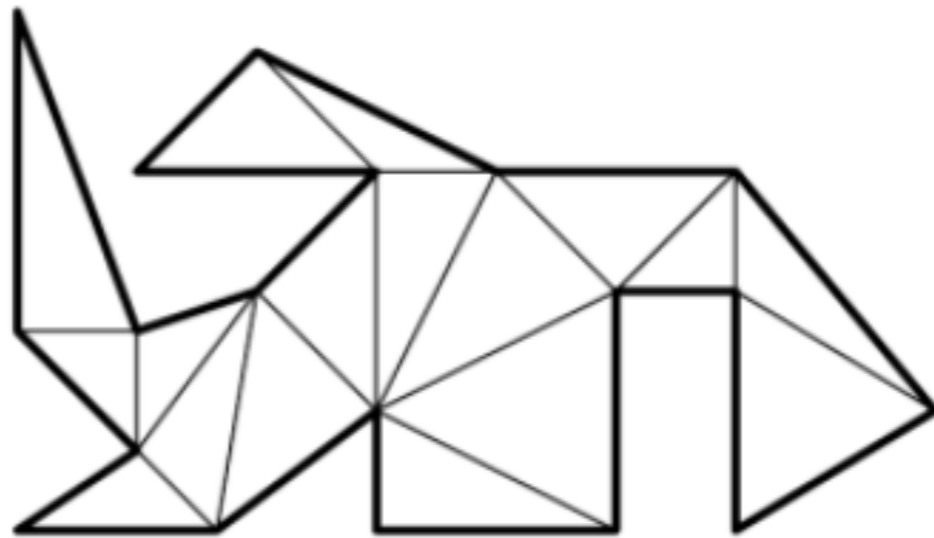
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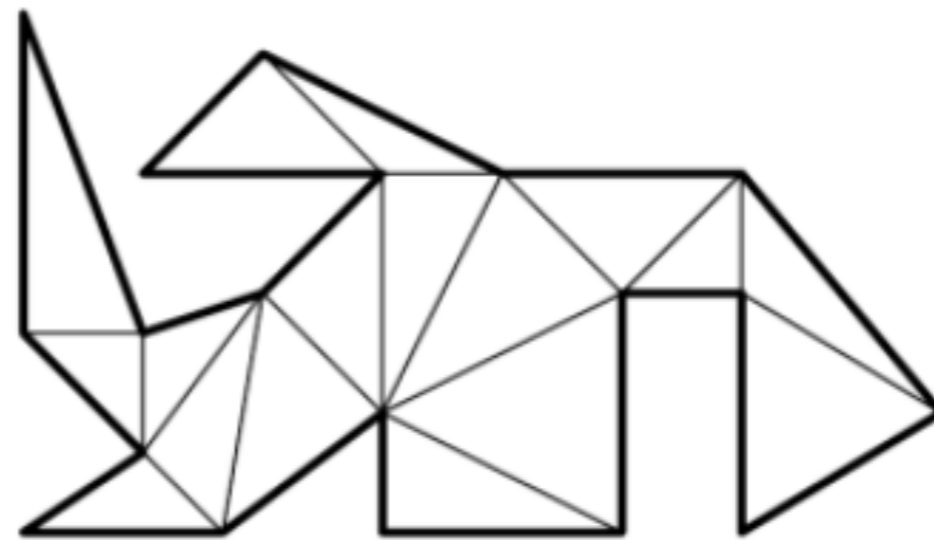
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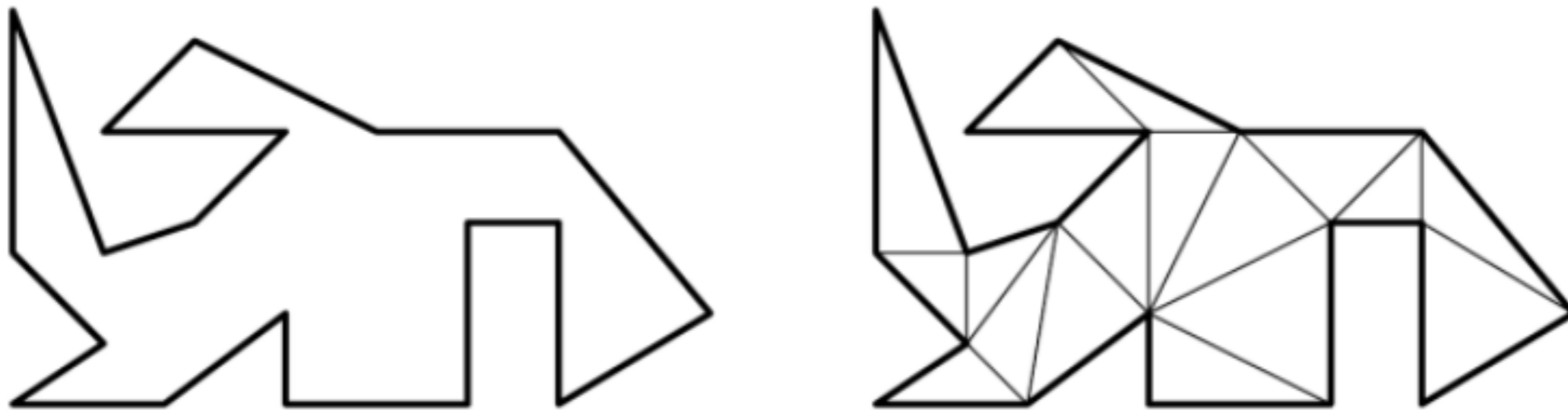
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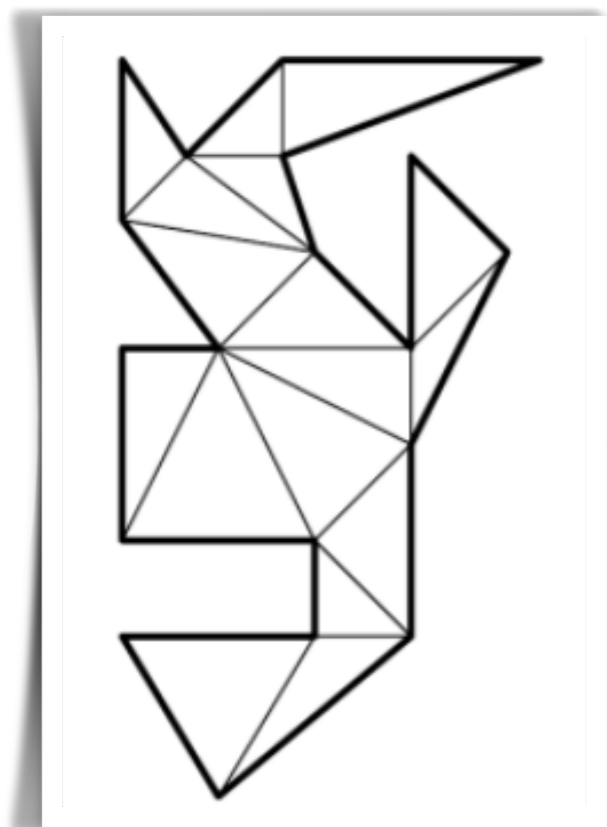
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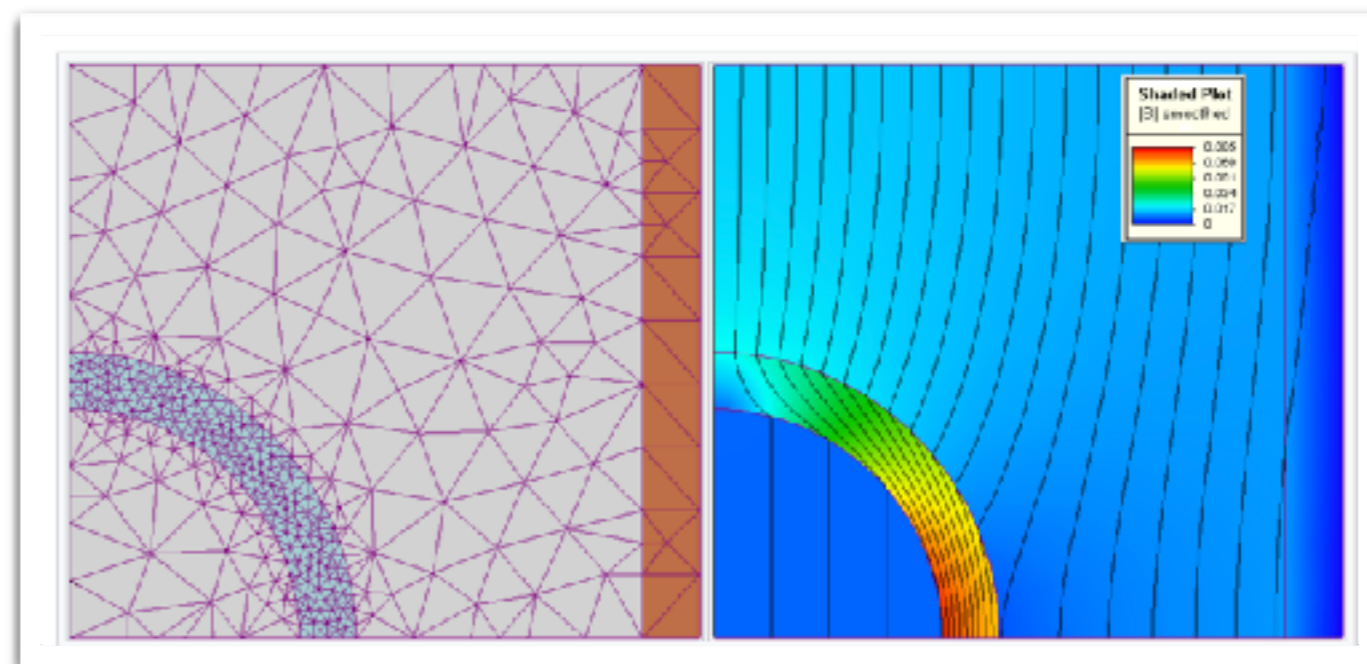
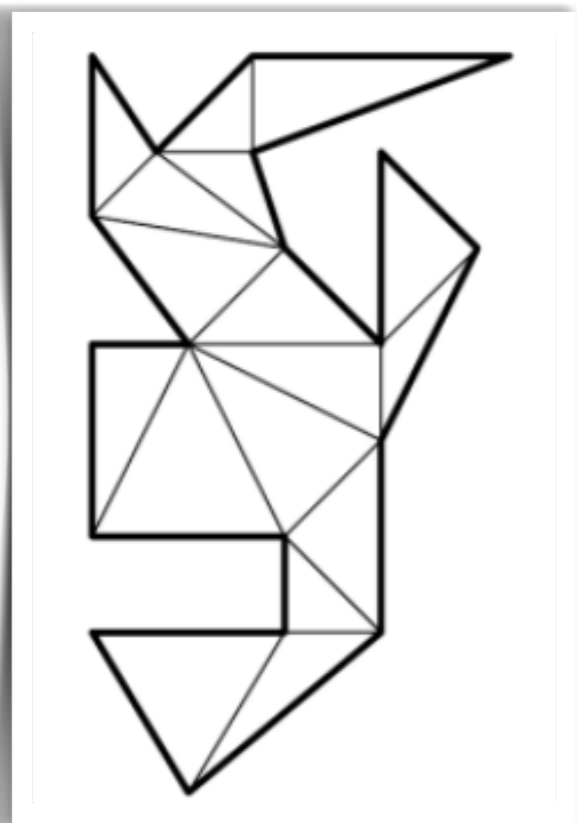


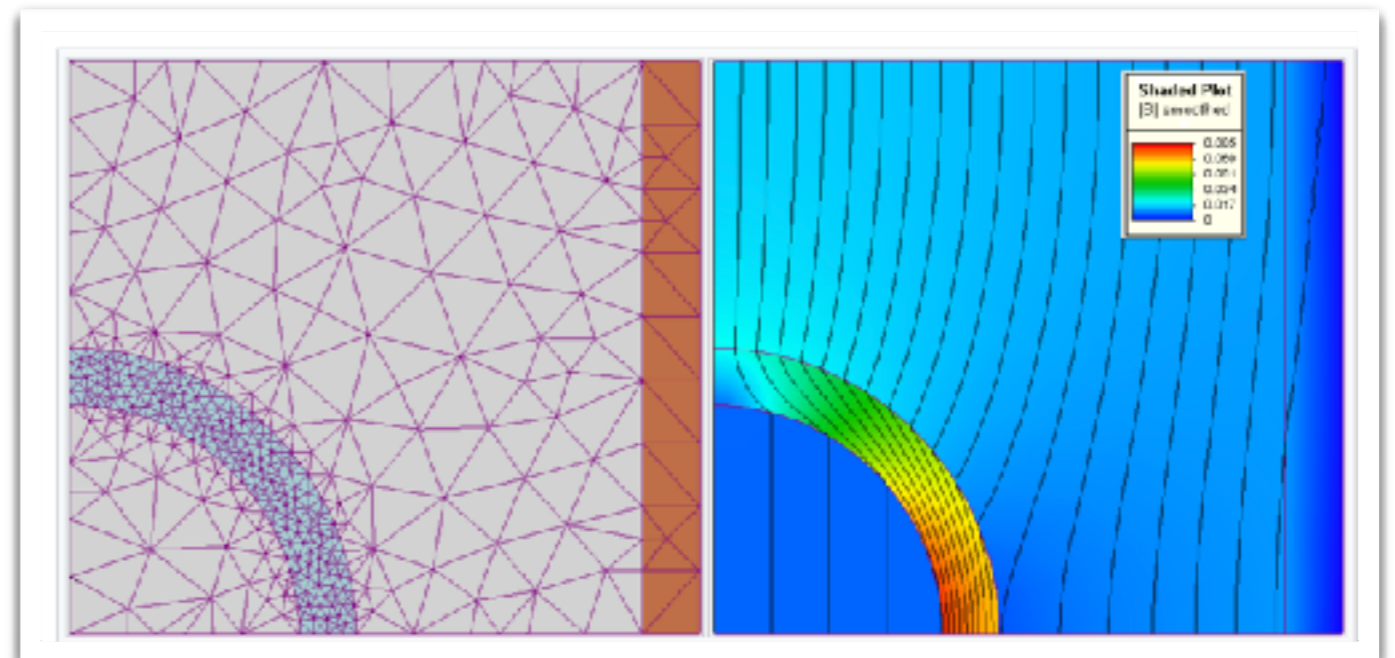
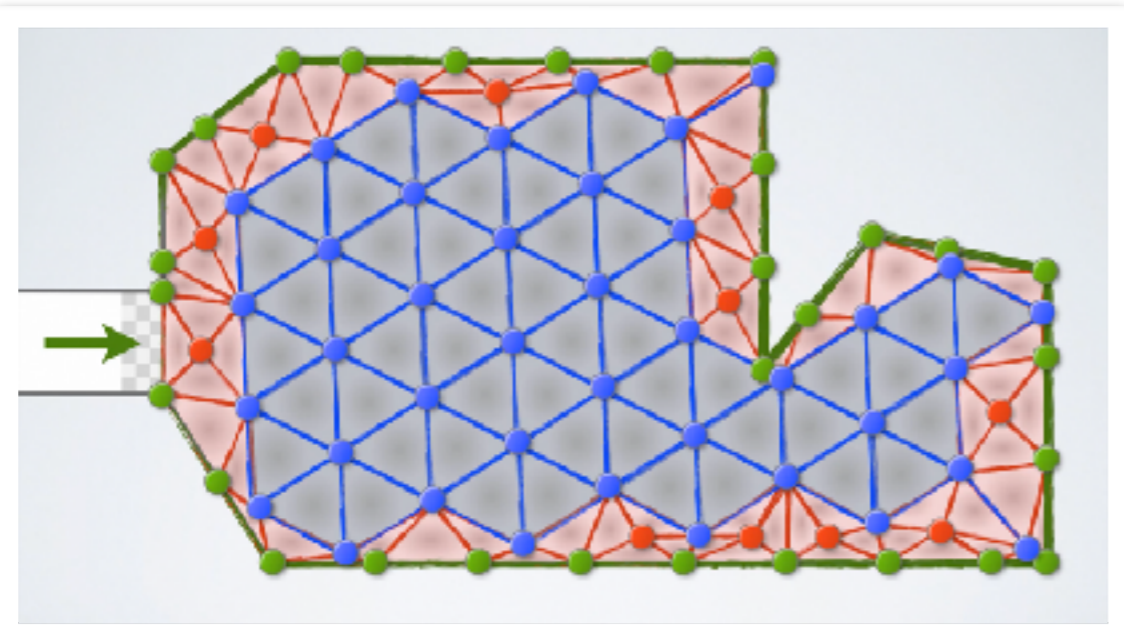
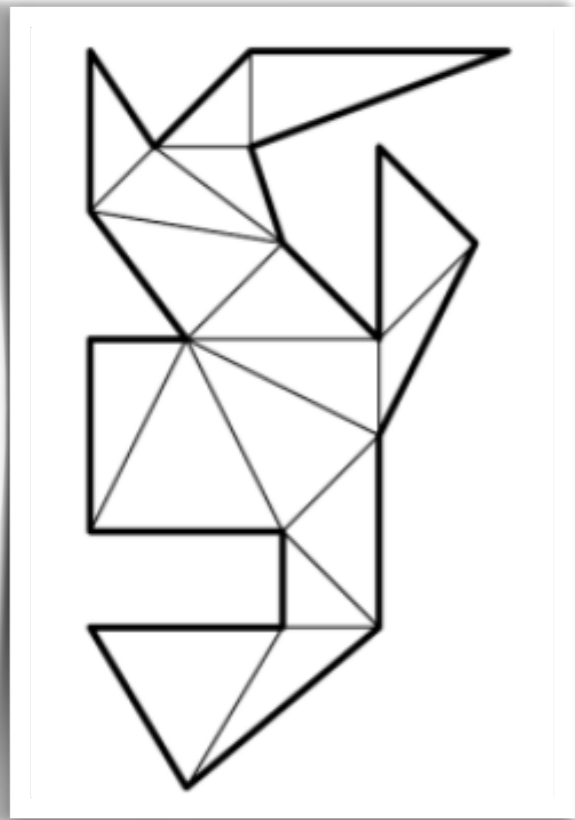
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- A *diagonal* in a polygon connects two distinct vertices; its interior lies inside the polygon.
- Two different diagonals in a triangulation may share end points, but nothing else.

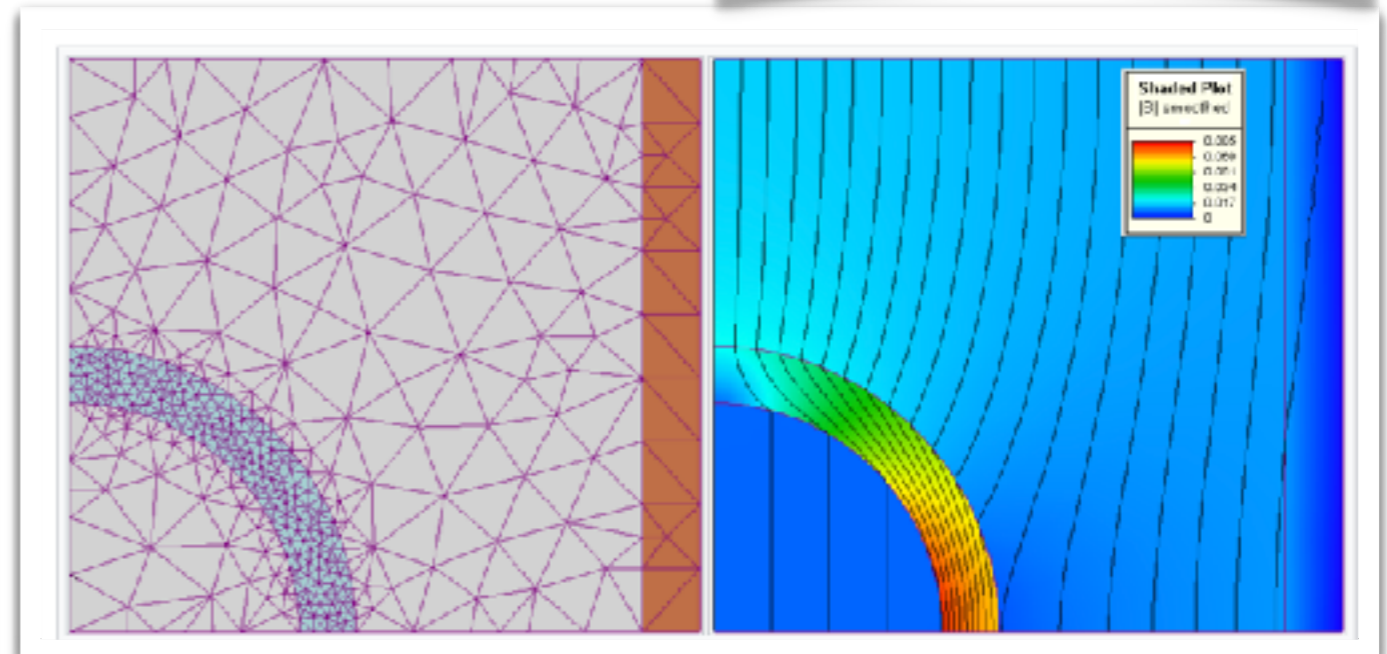
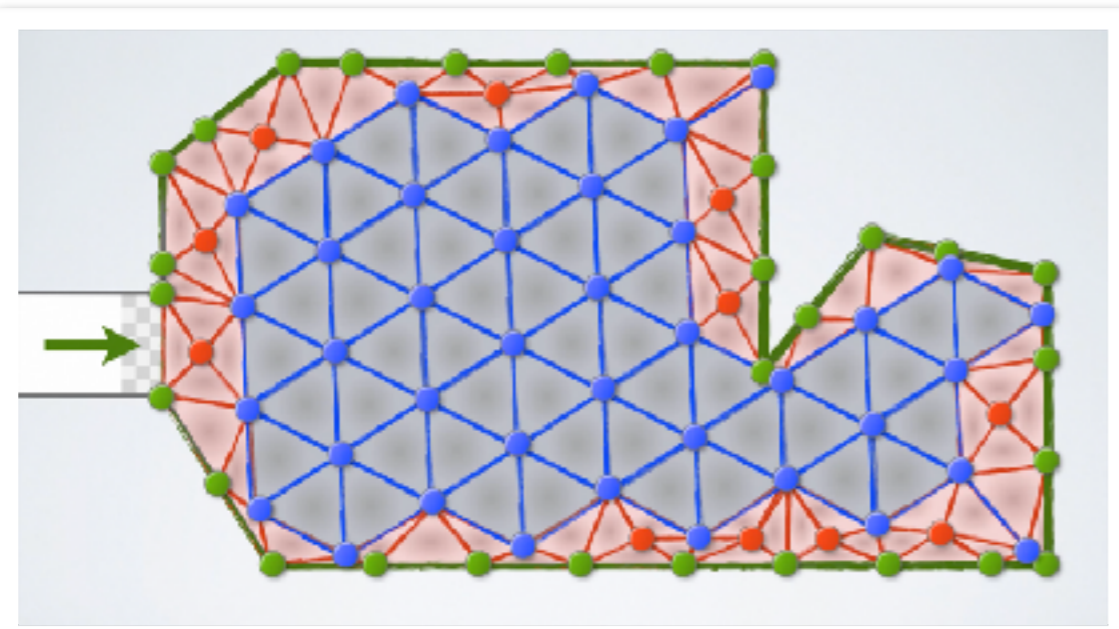
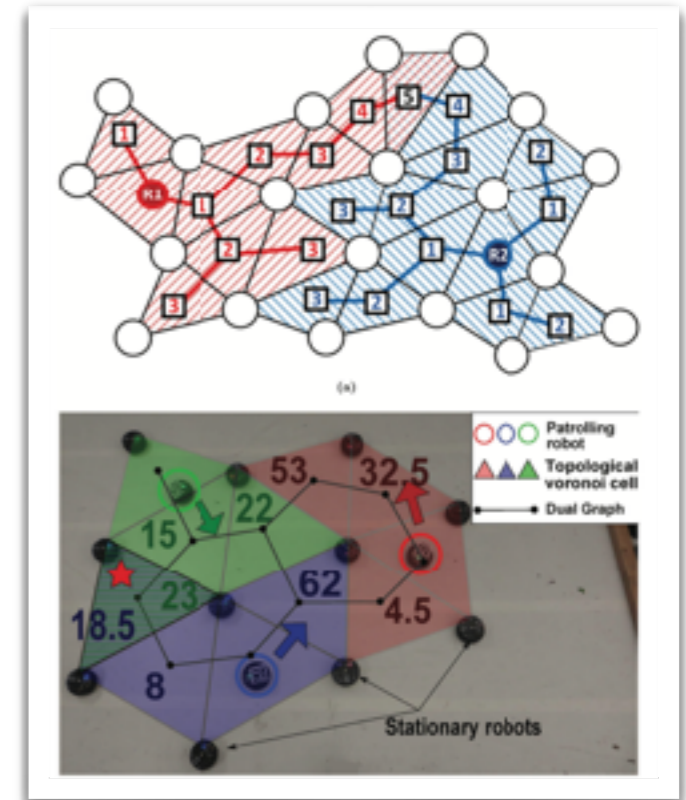
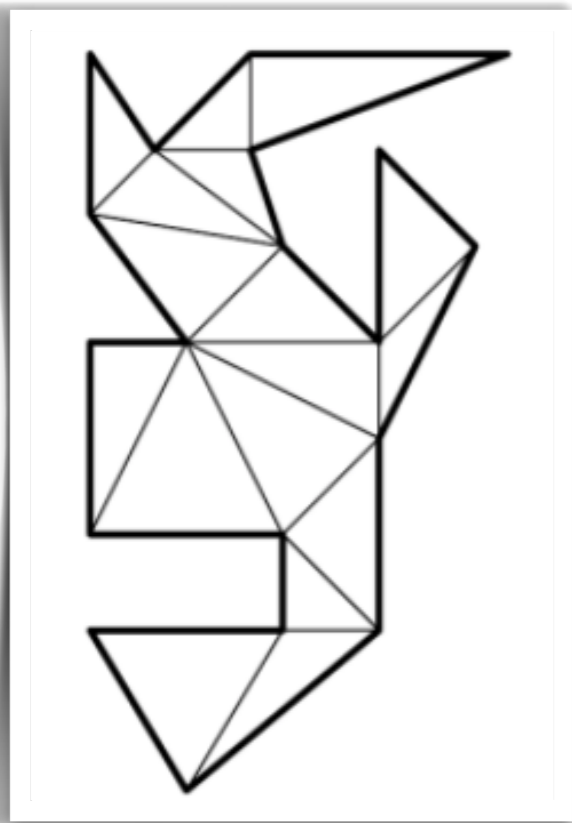




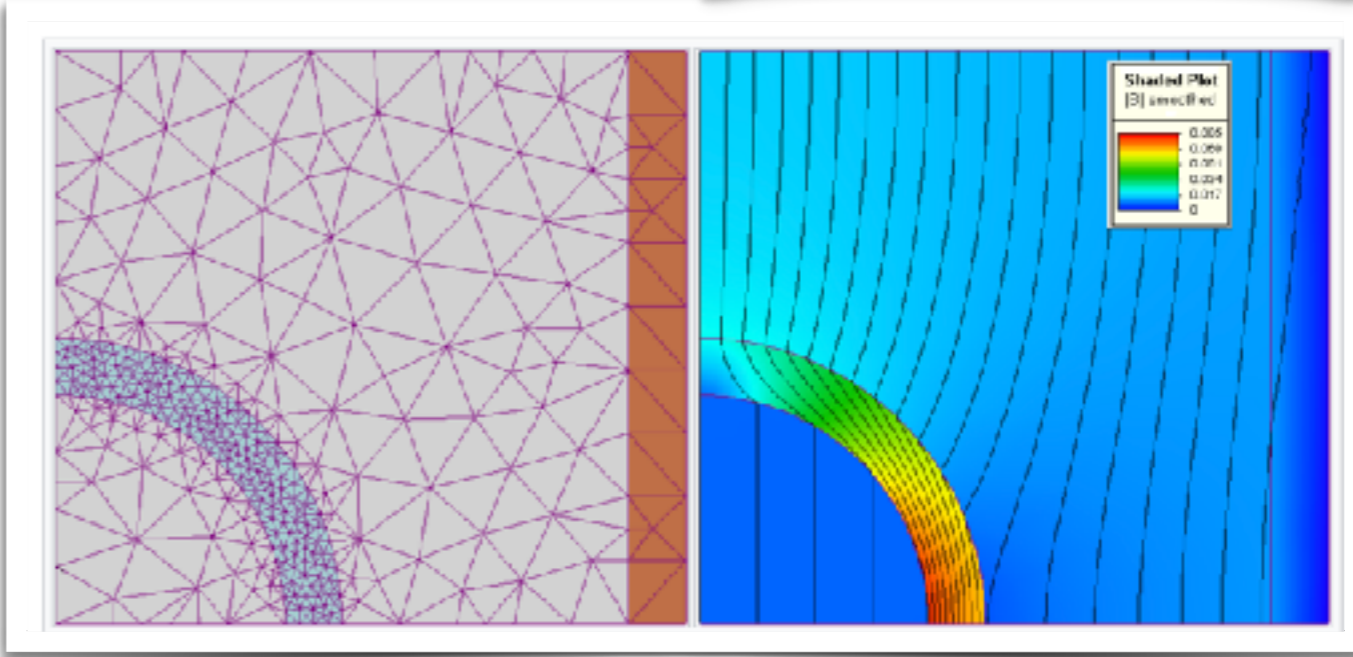
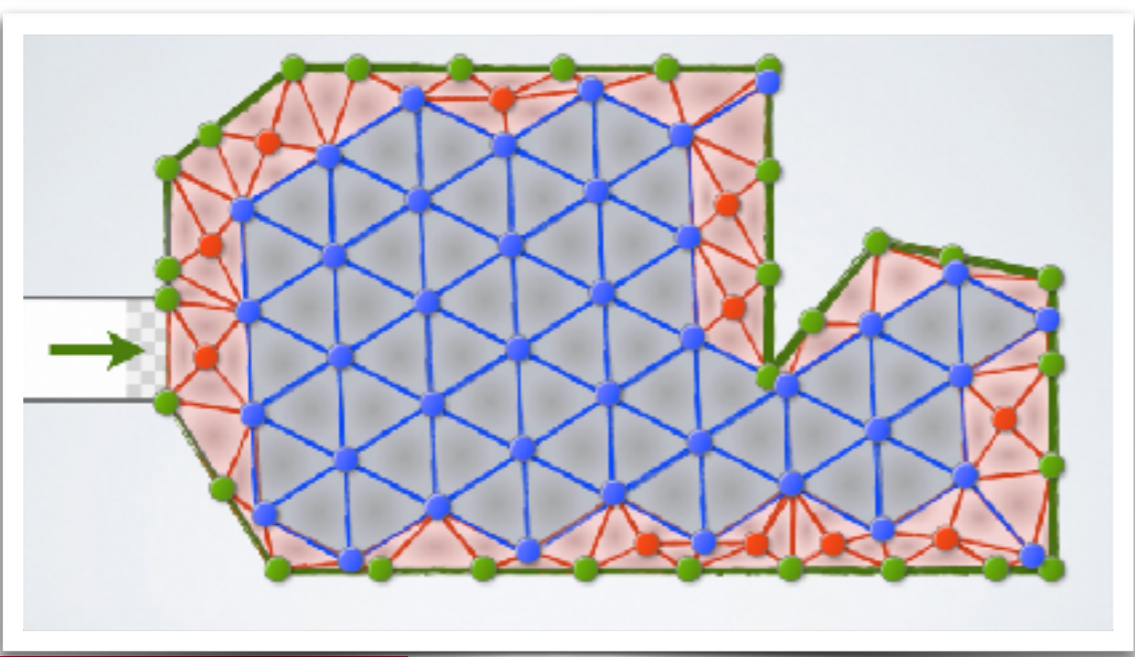
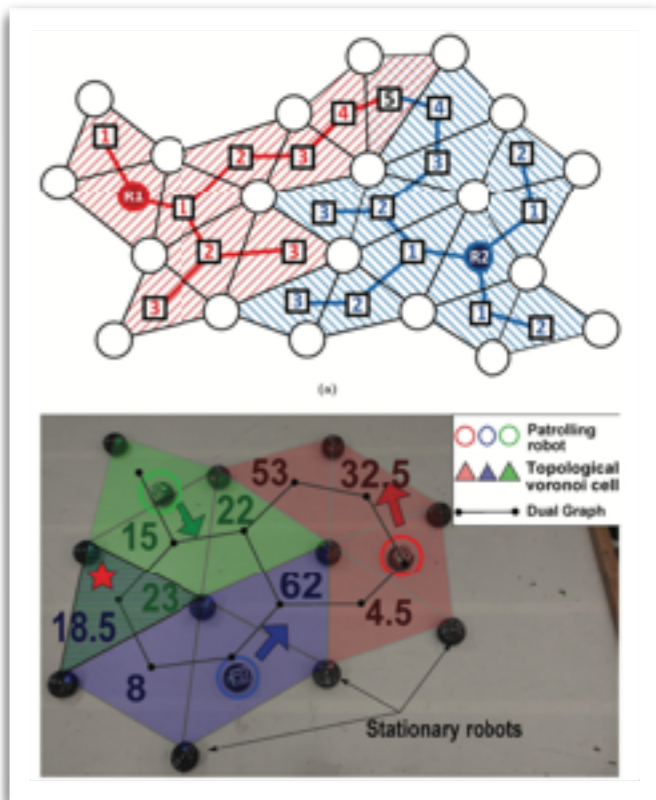
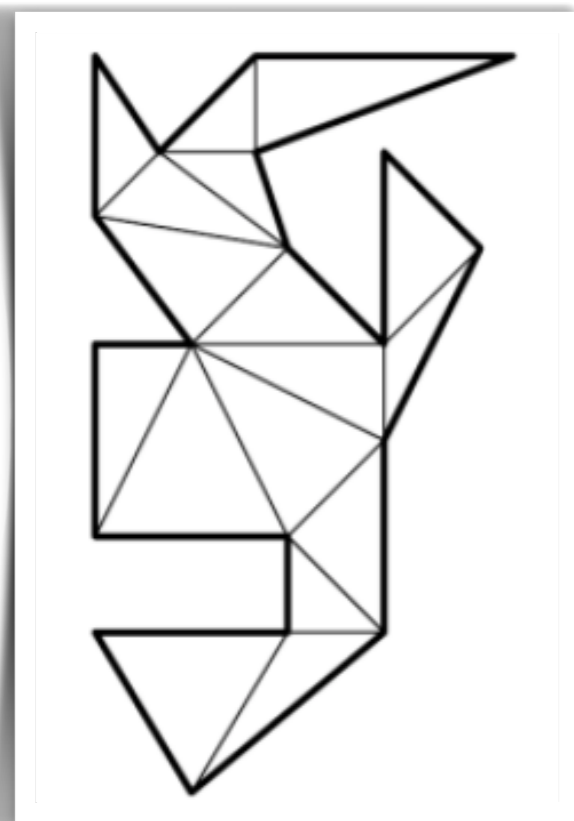


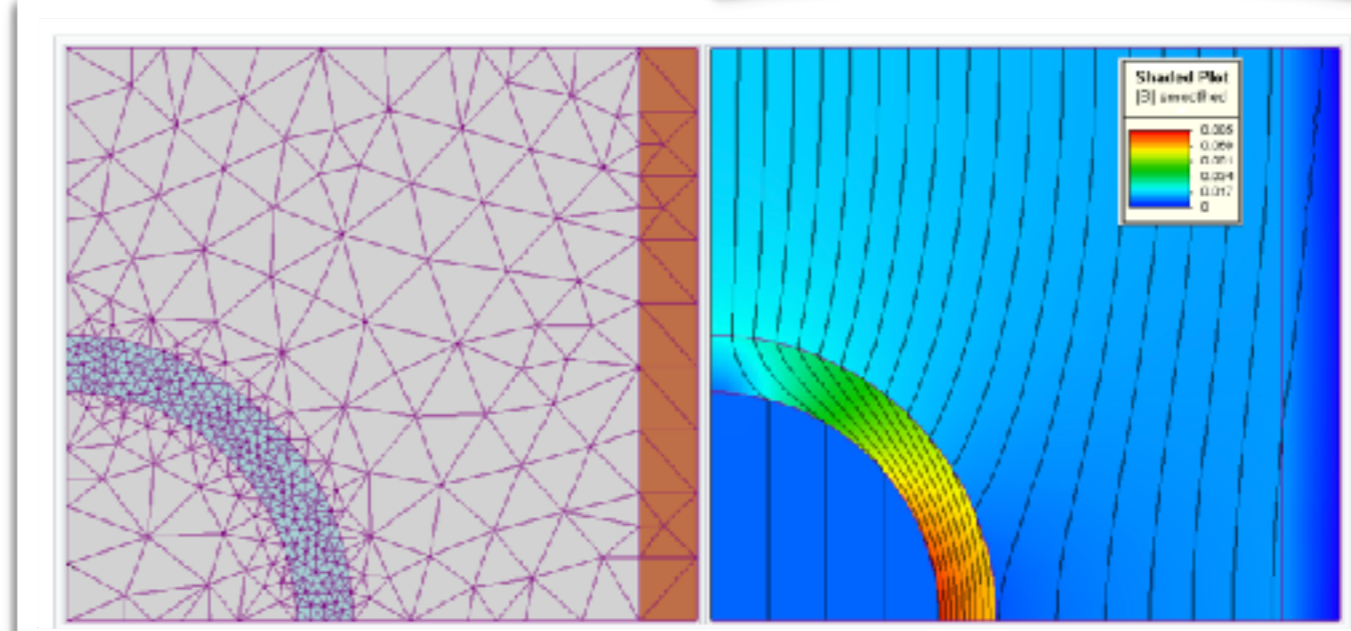
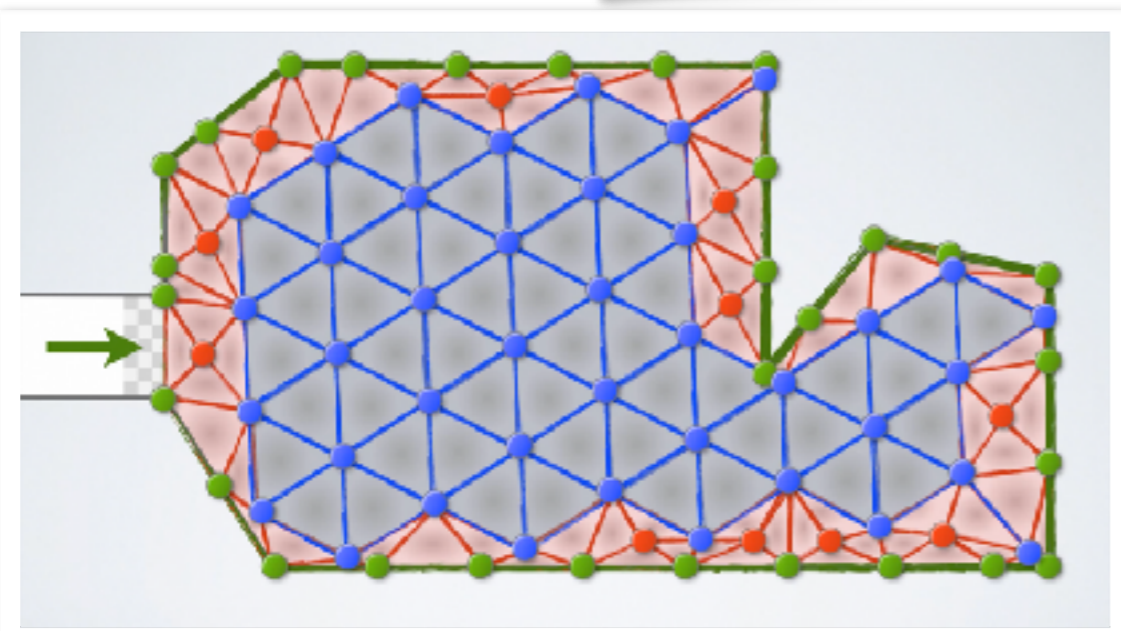
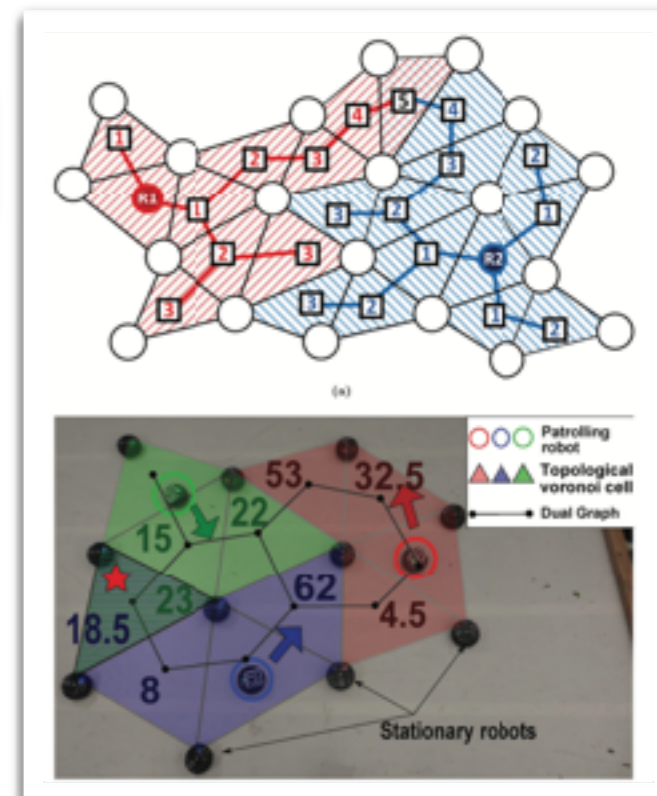
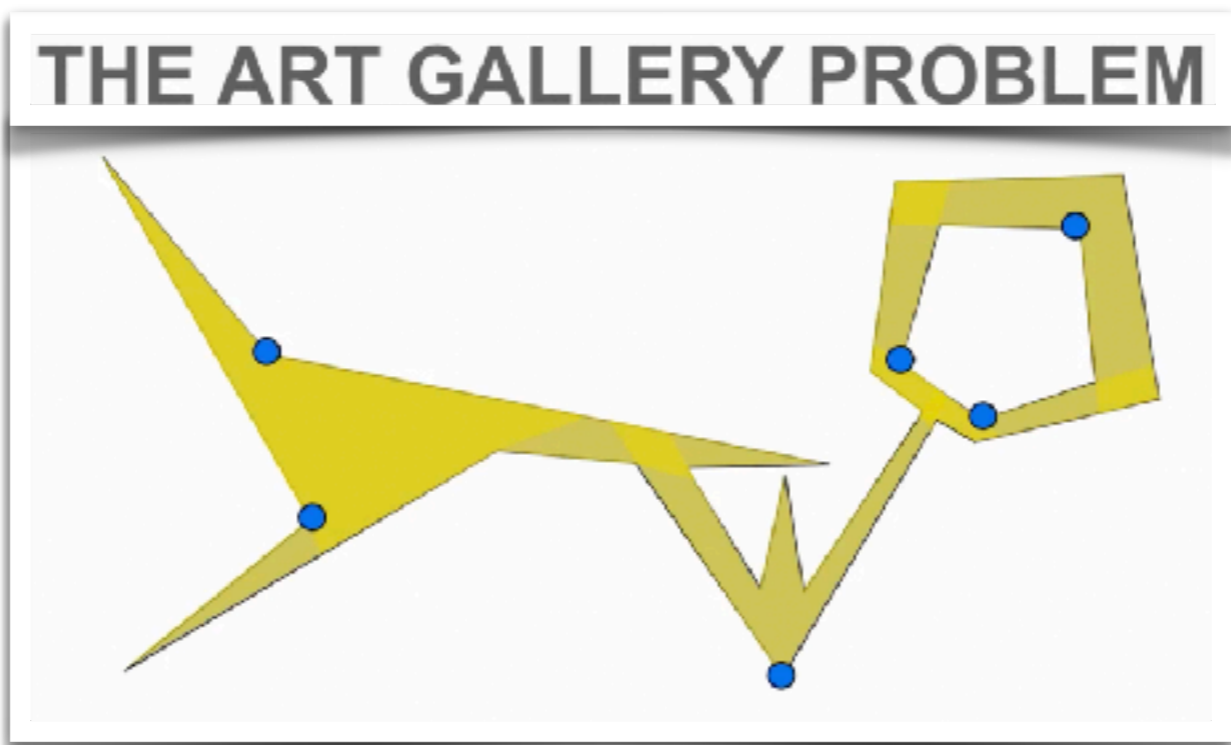
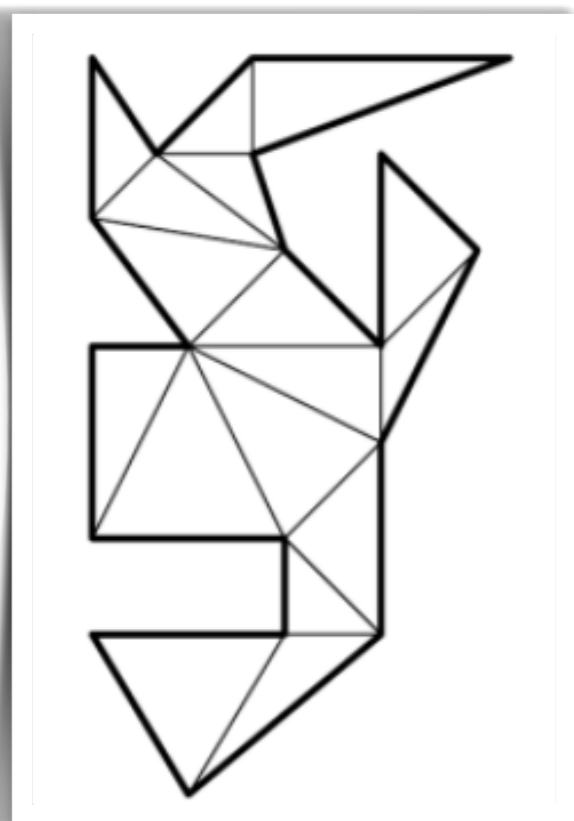






## THE ART GALLERY PROBLEM









@eimnihellas





CAPTAIN  
TRIANGULAR

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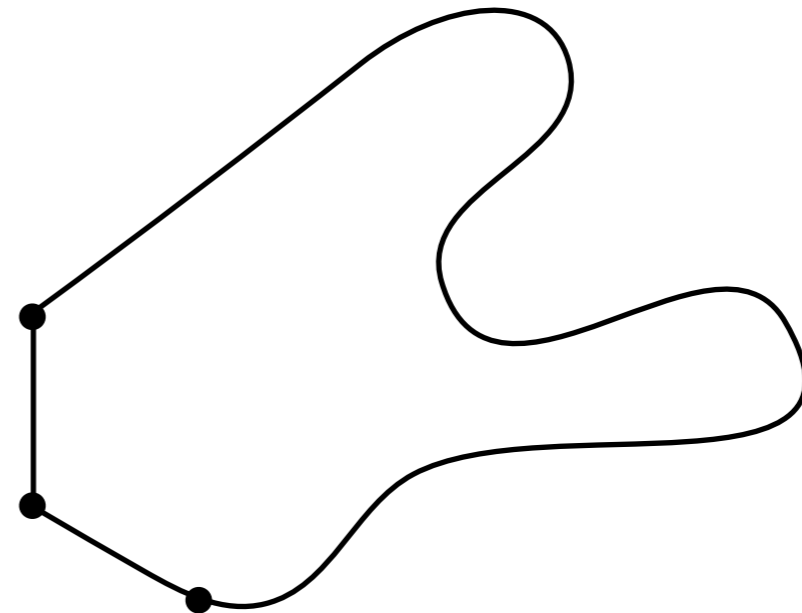
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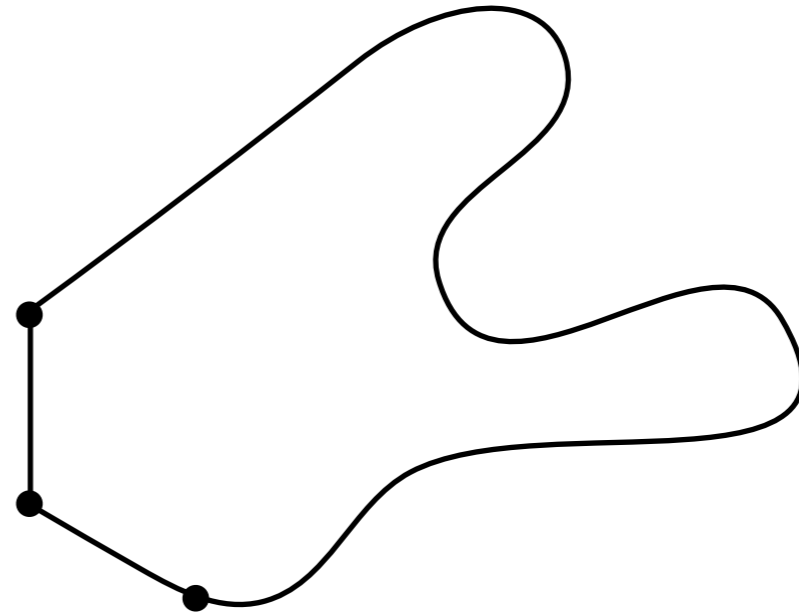
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Consider the bottommost of all leftmost vertices.



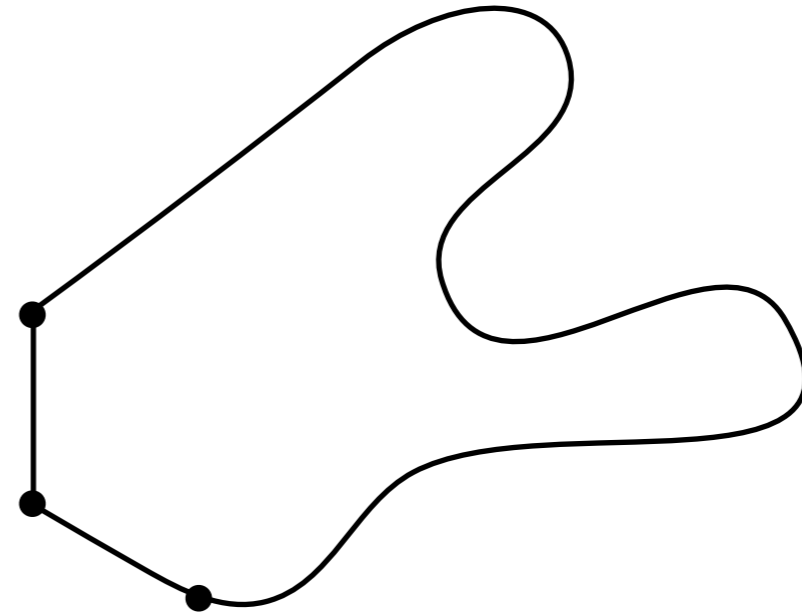
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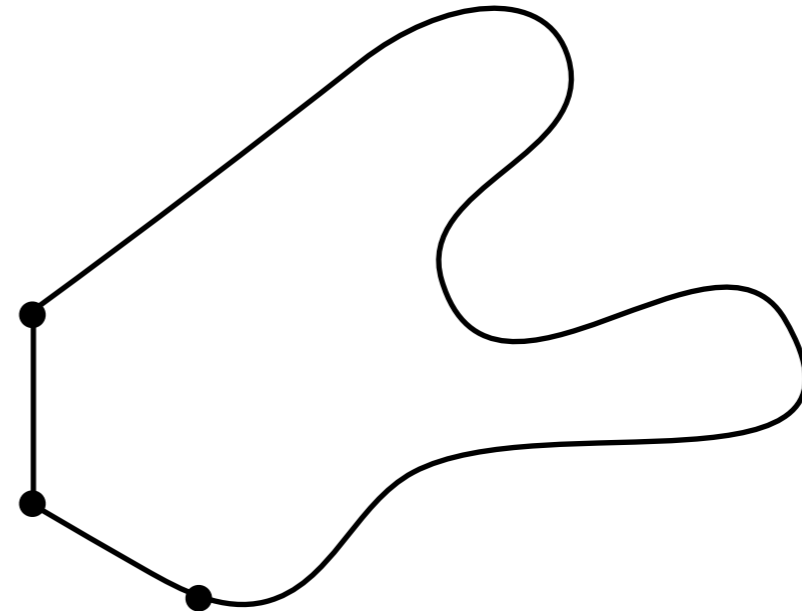
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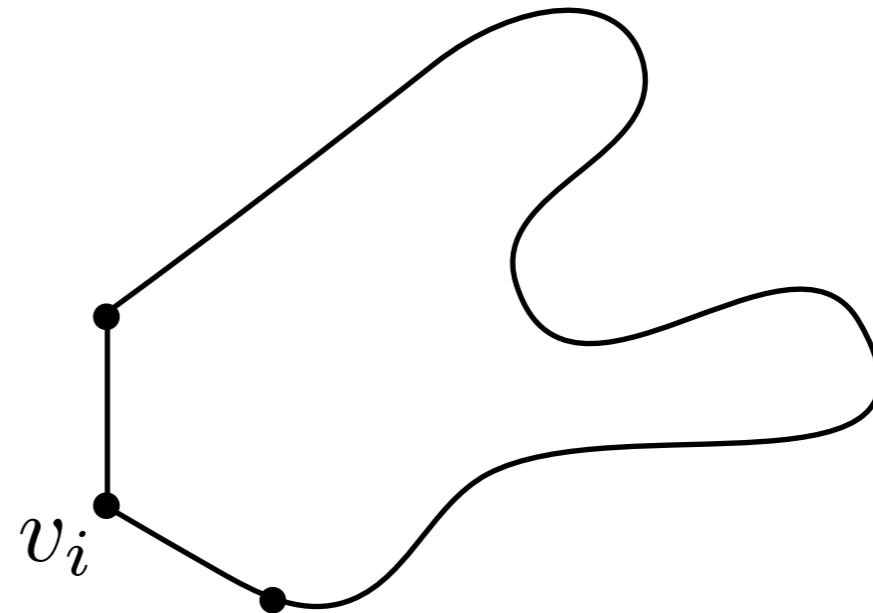
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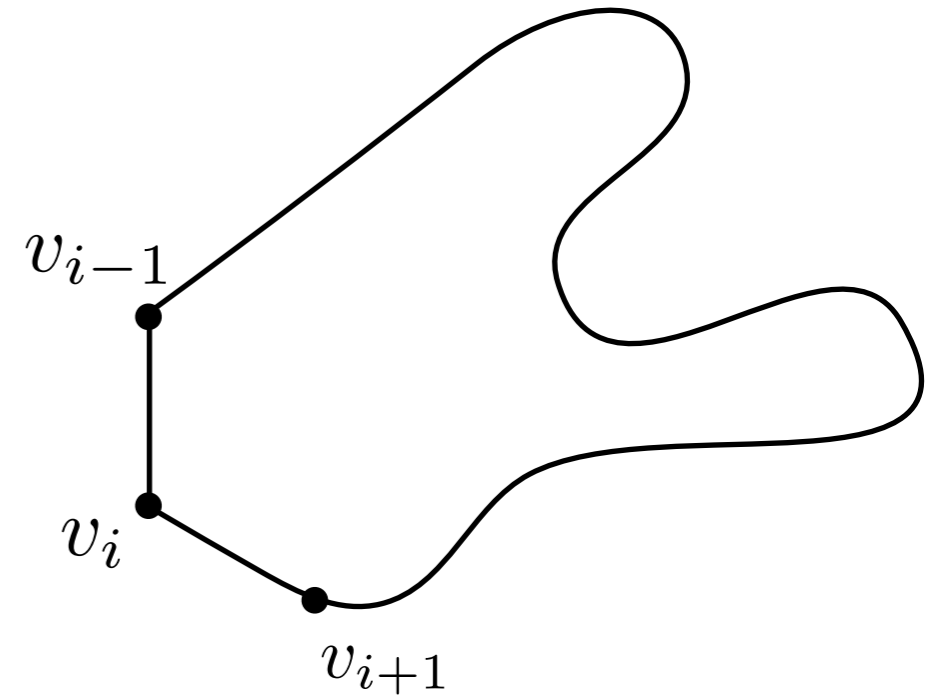


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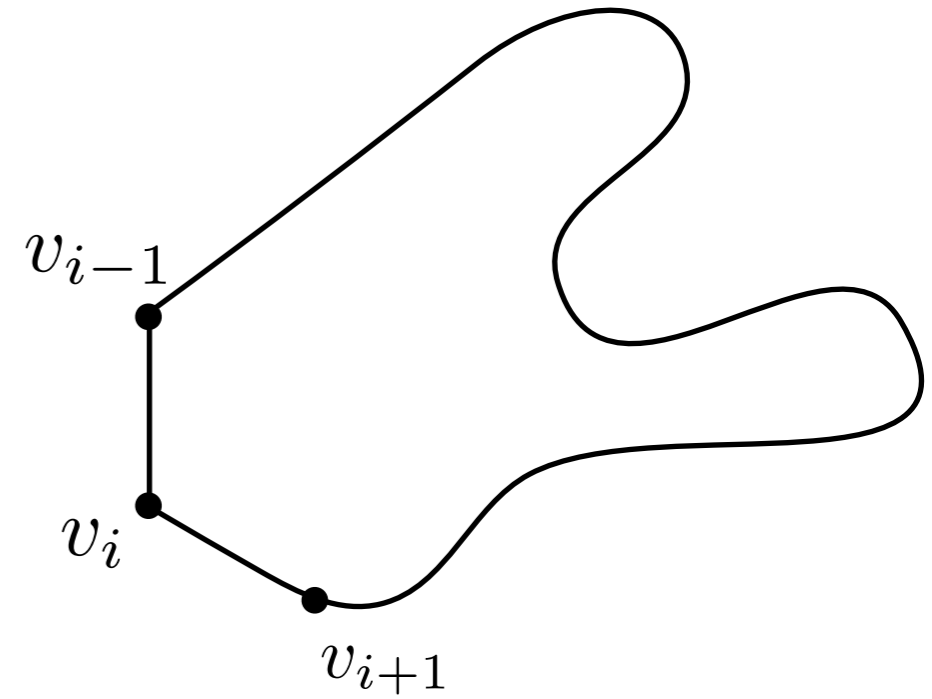
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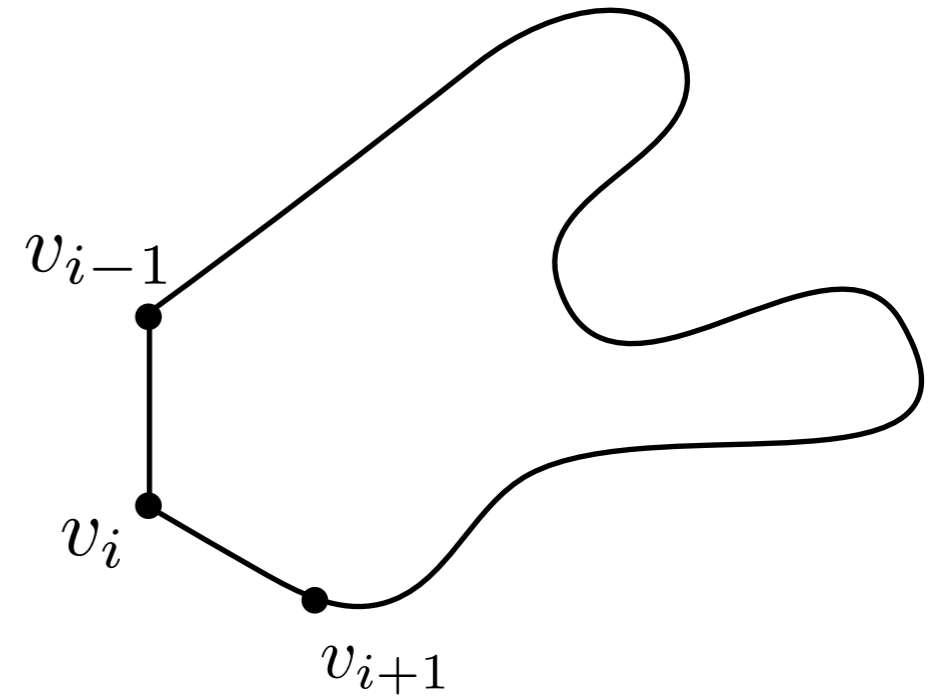
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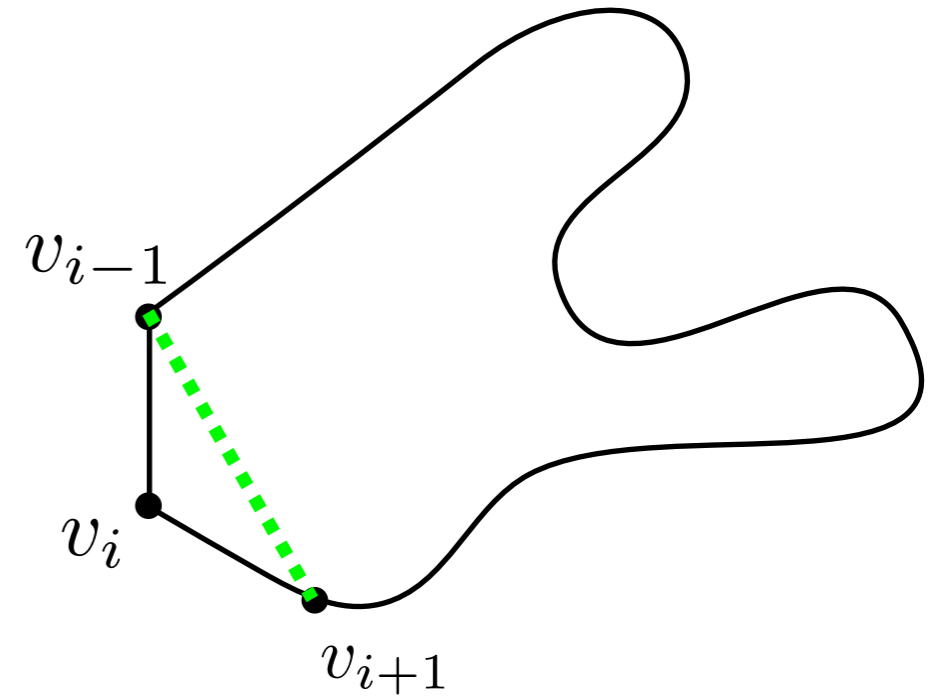


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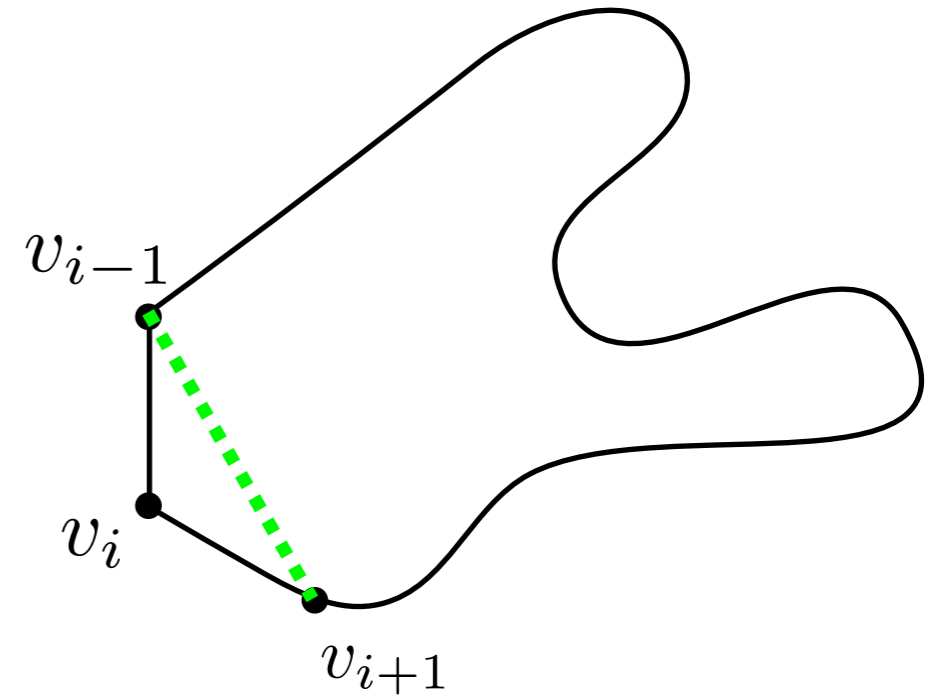
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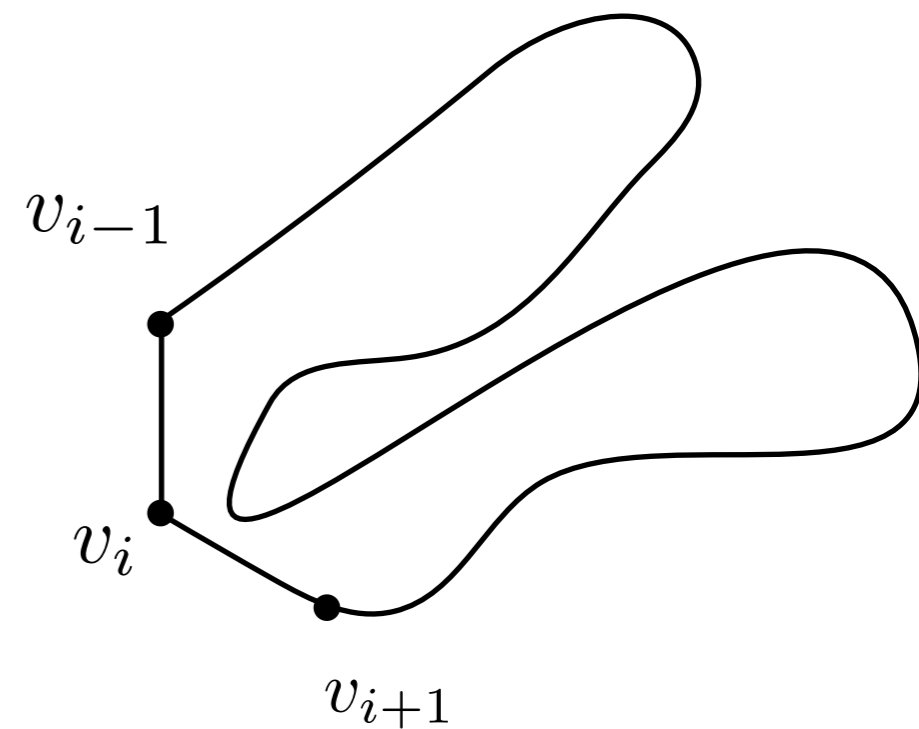
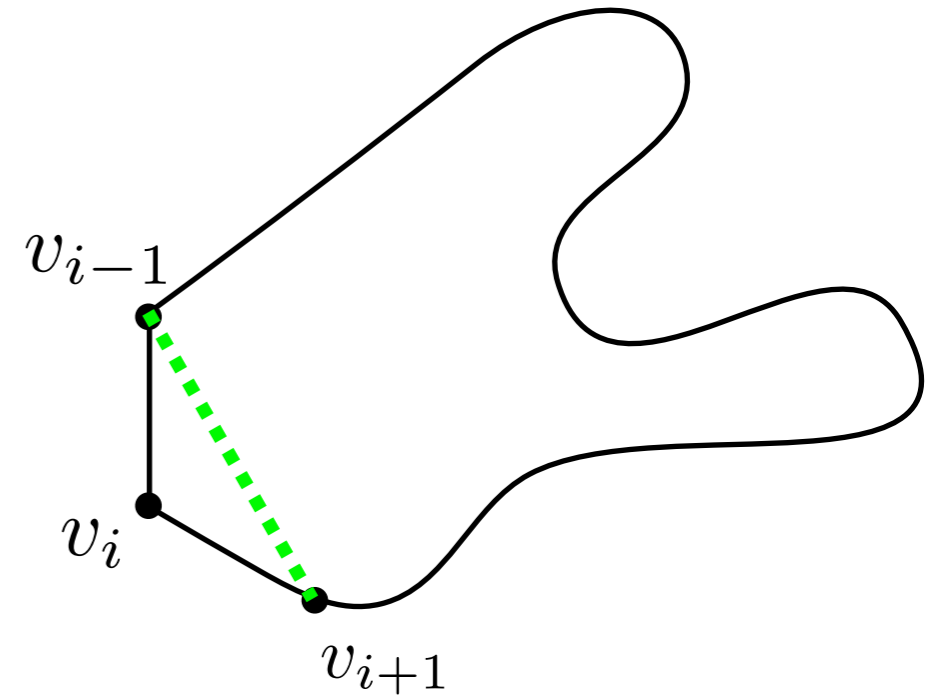
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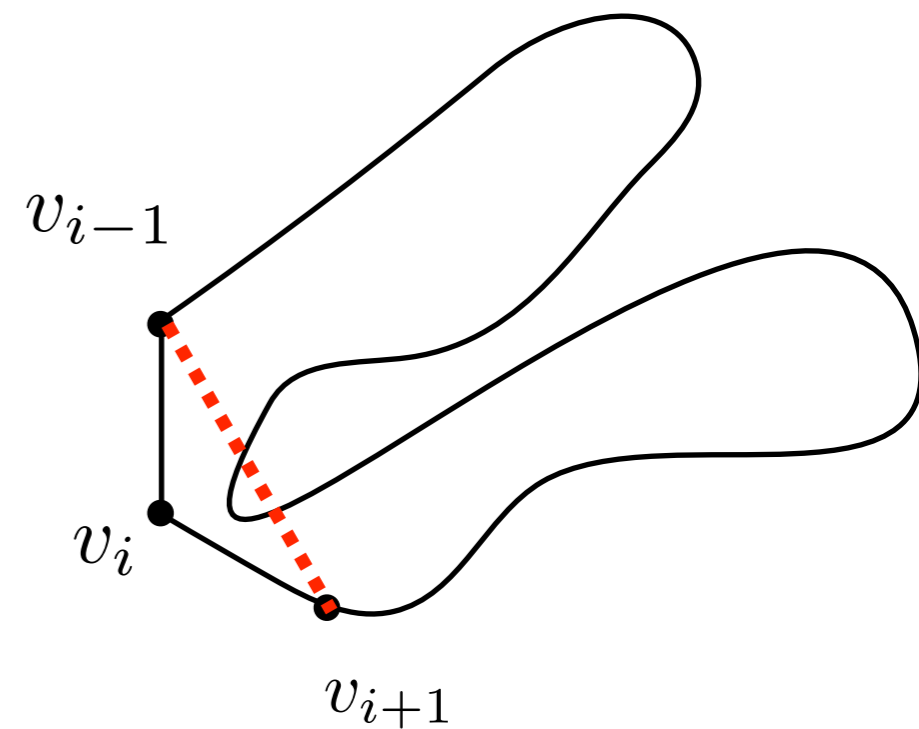
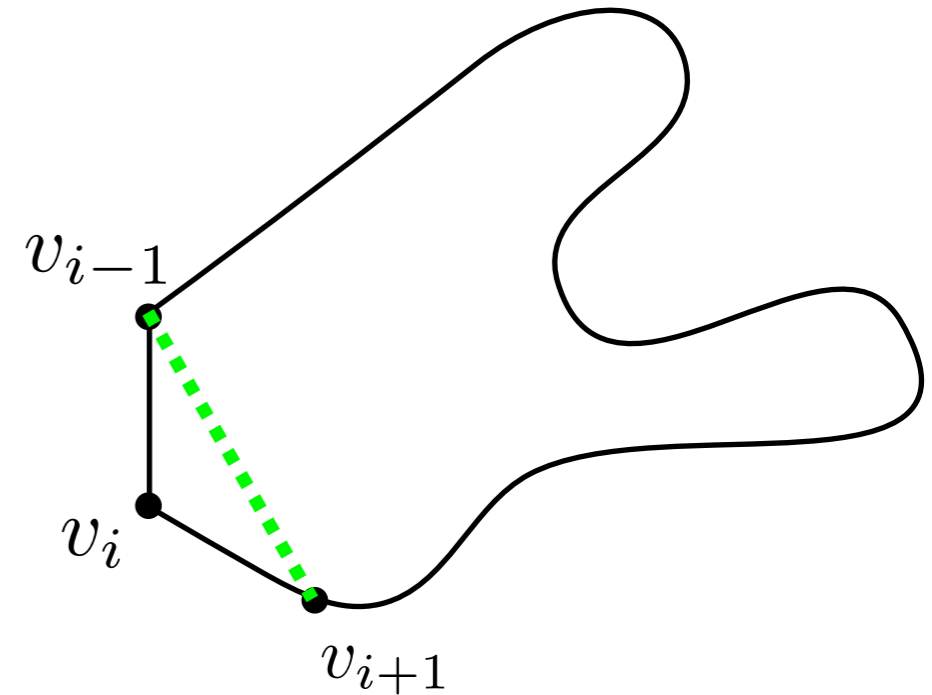
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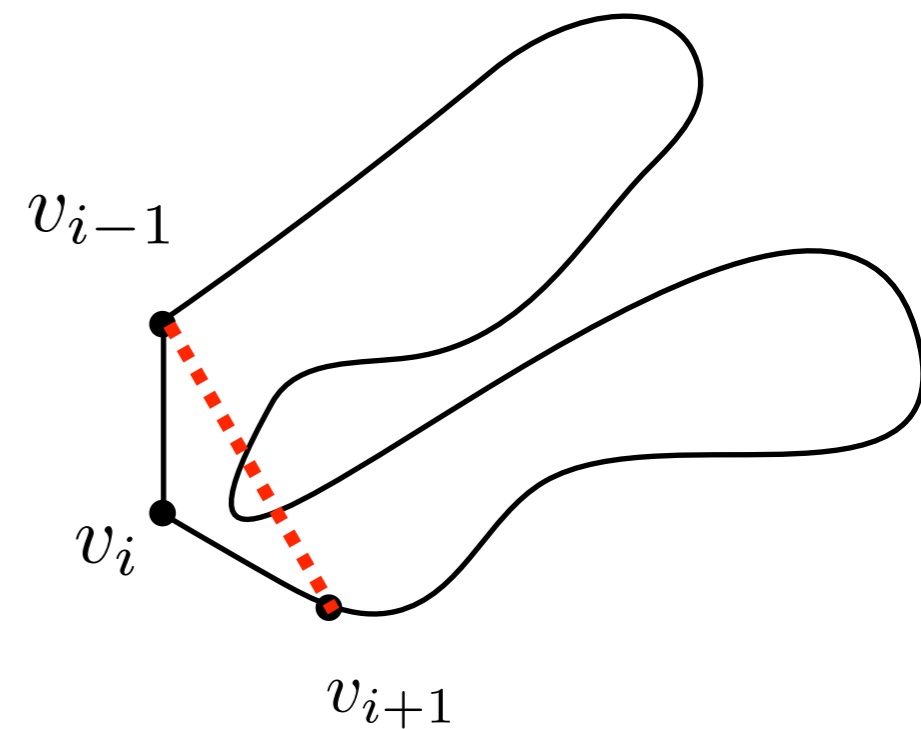
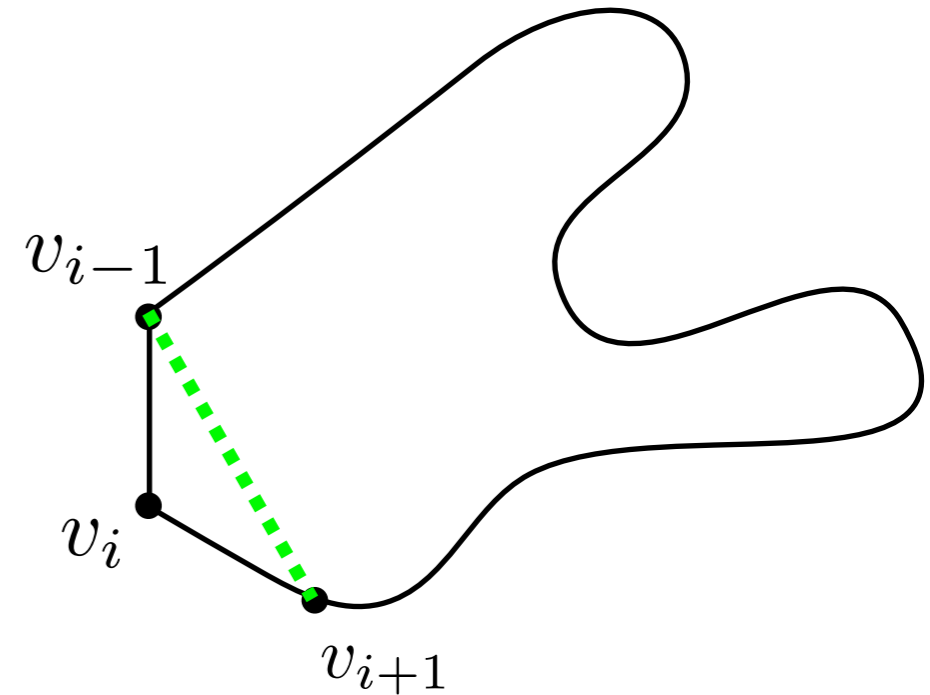
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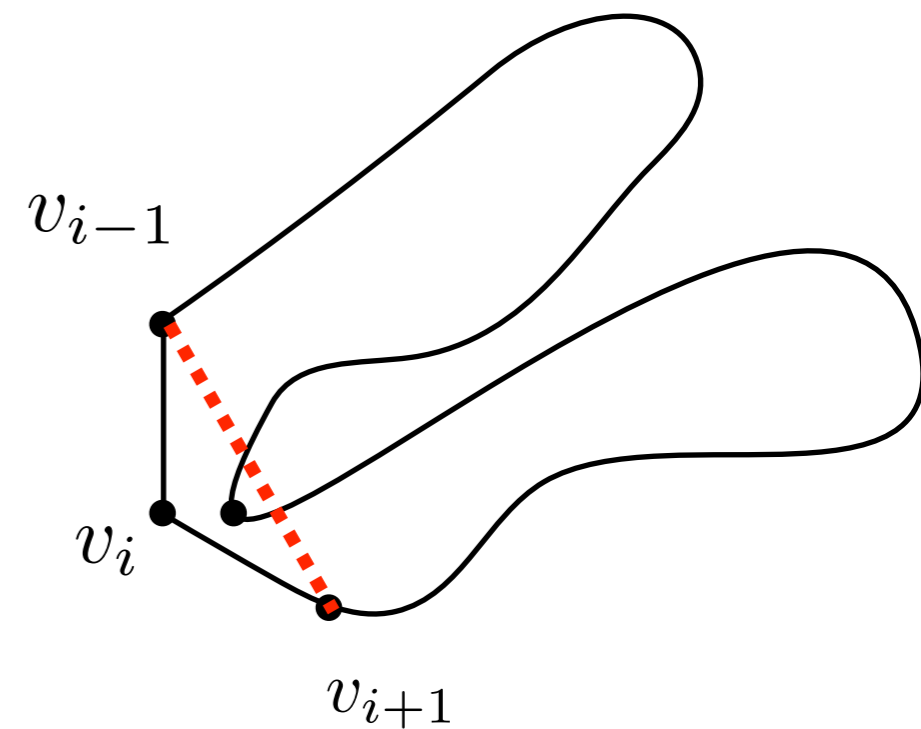
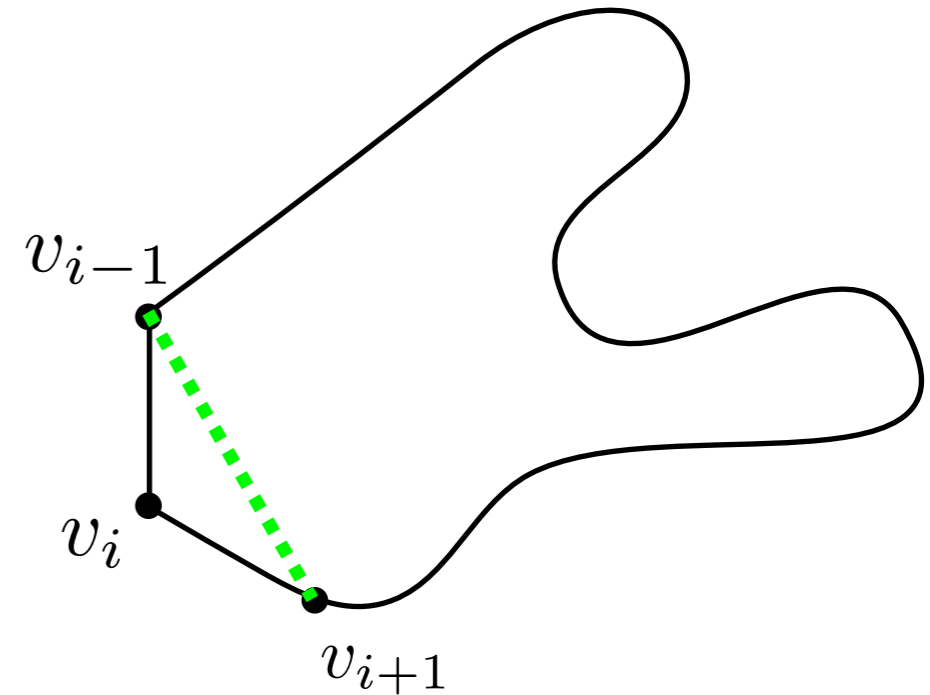
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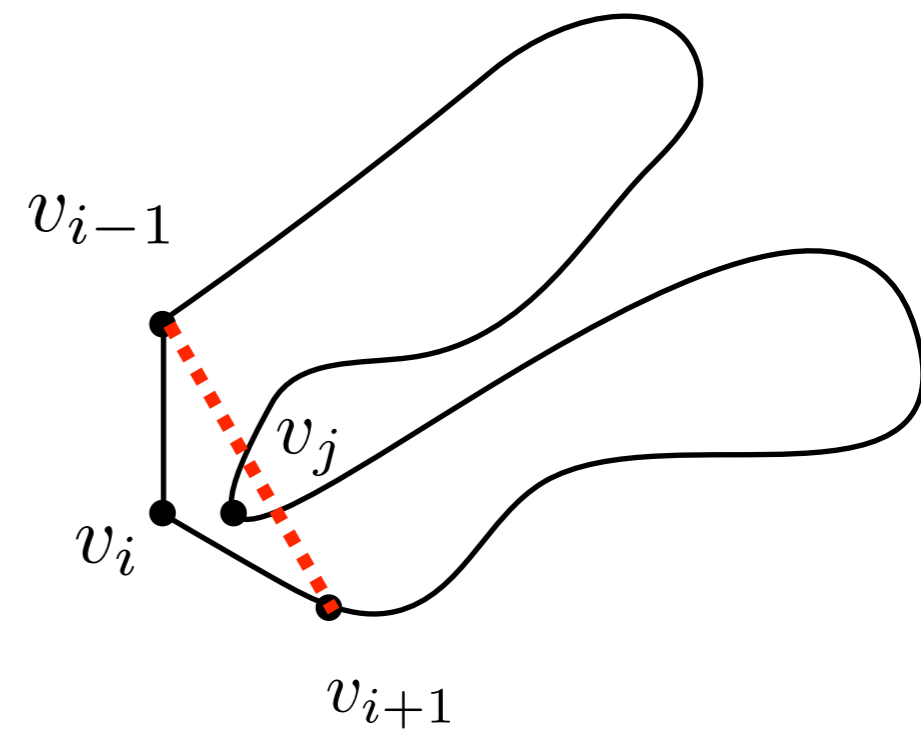
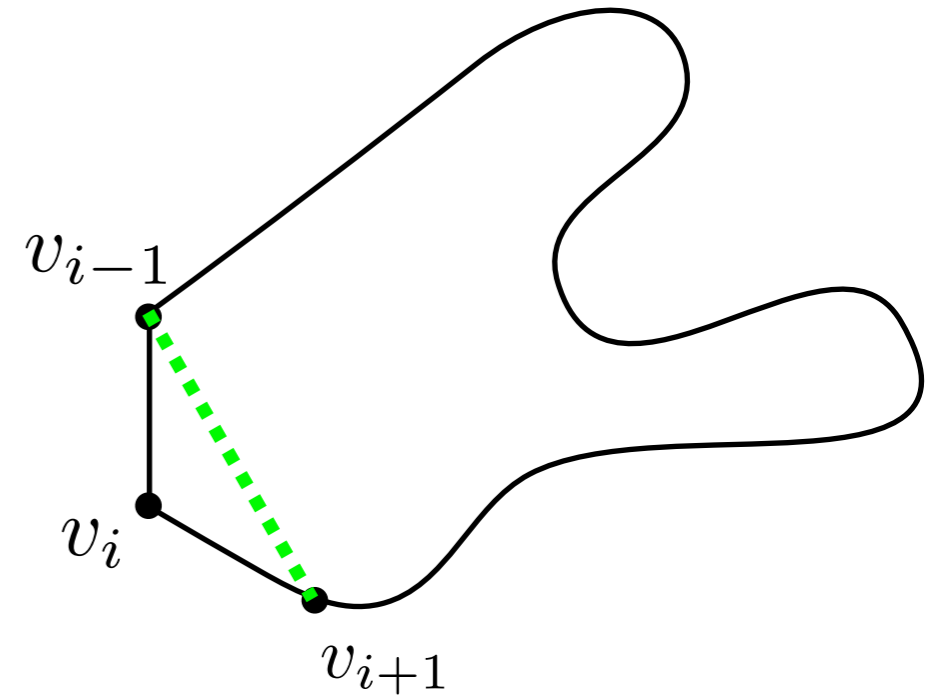
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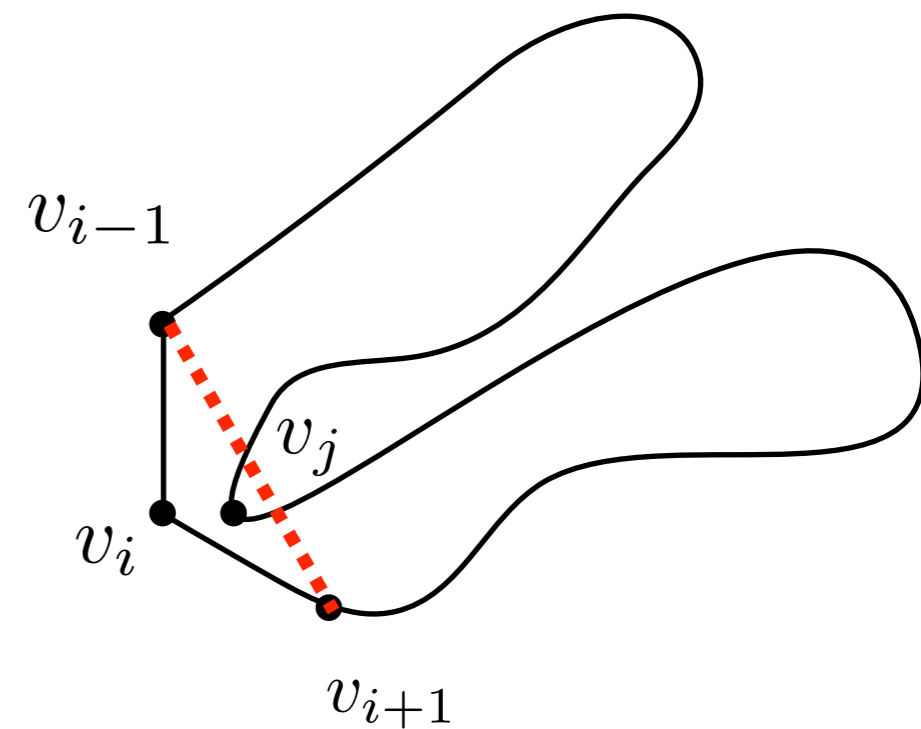
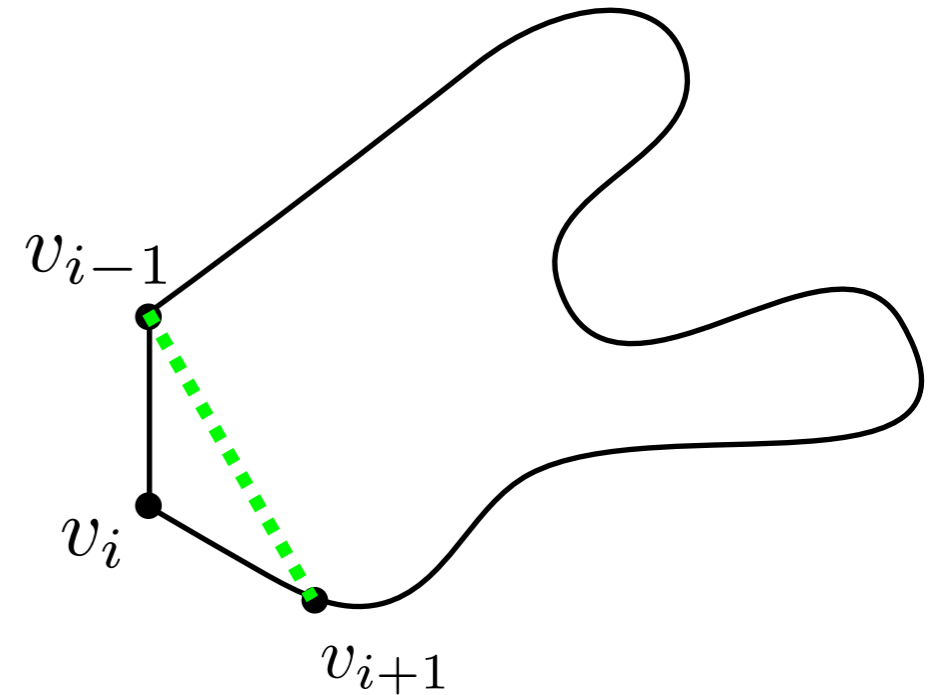
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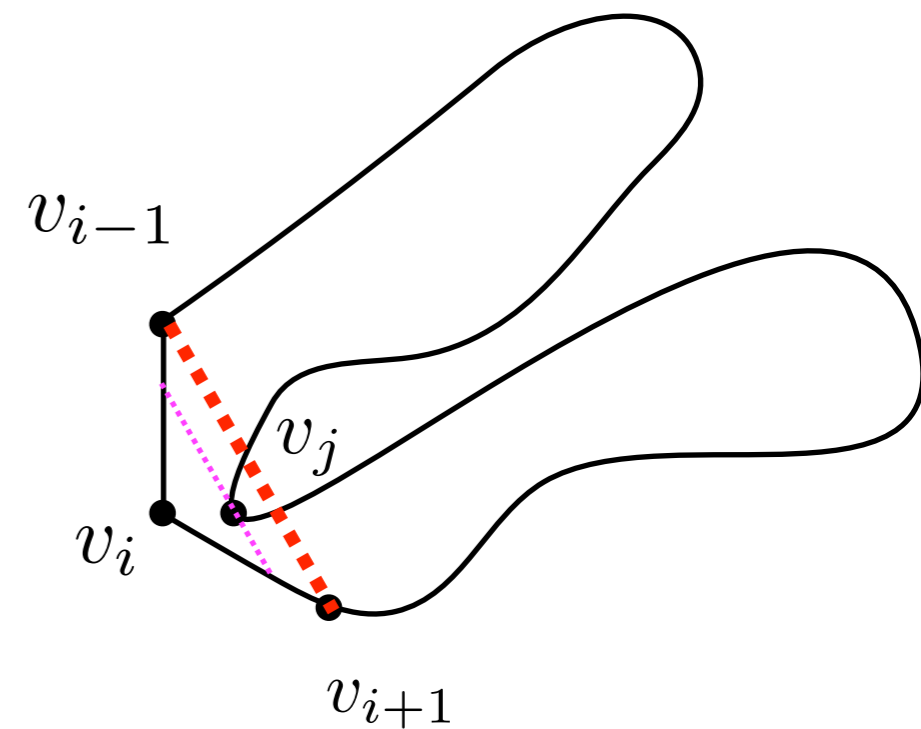
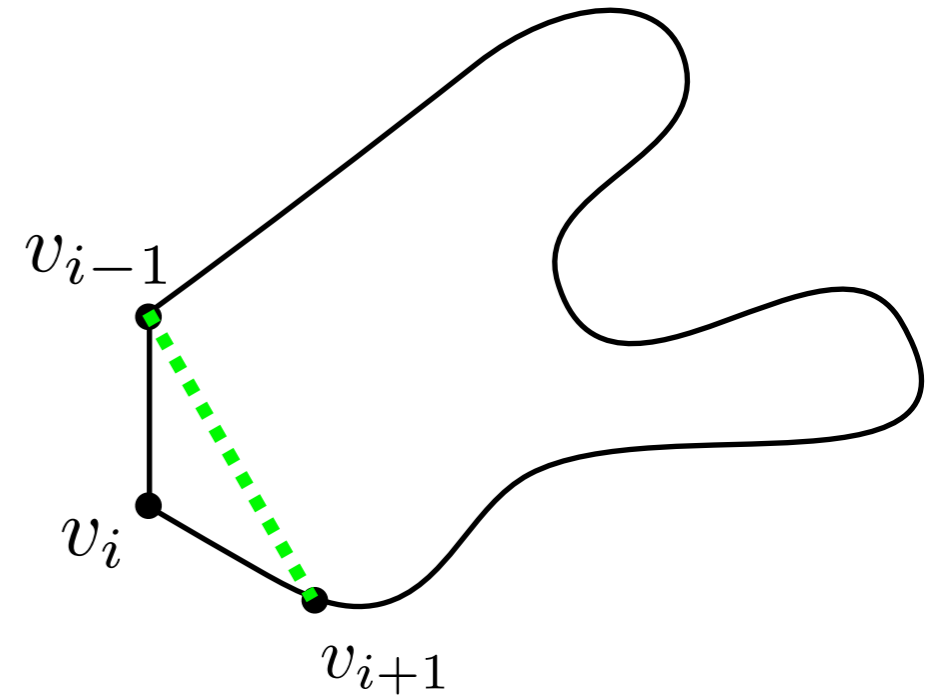
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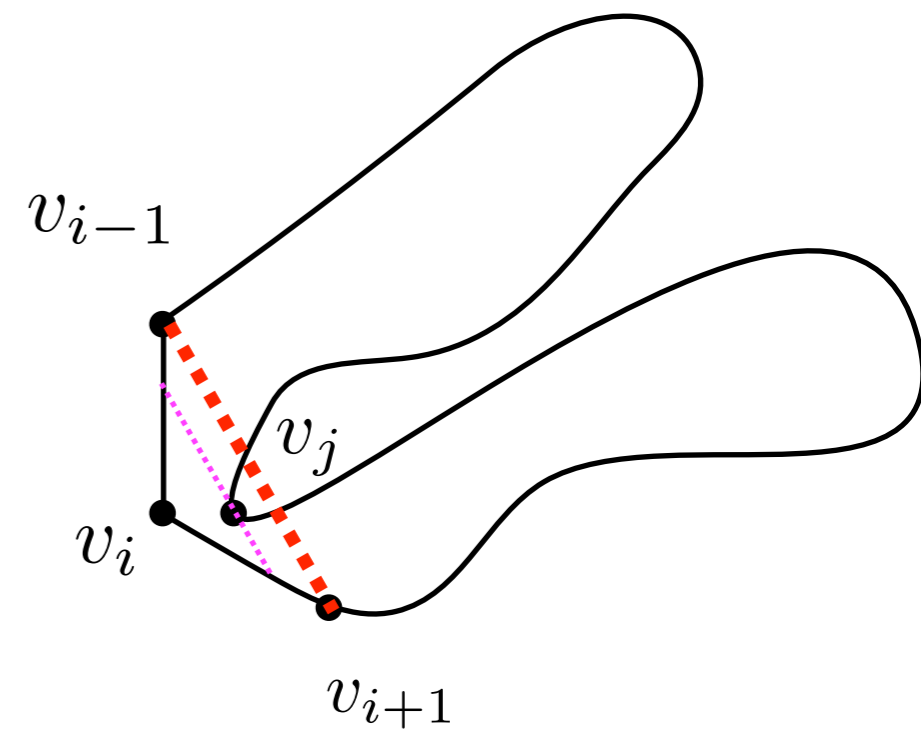
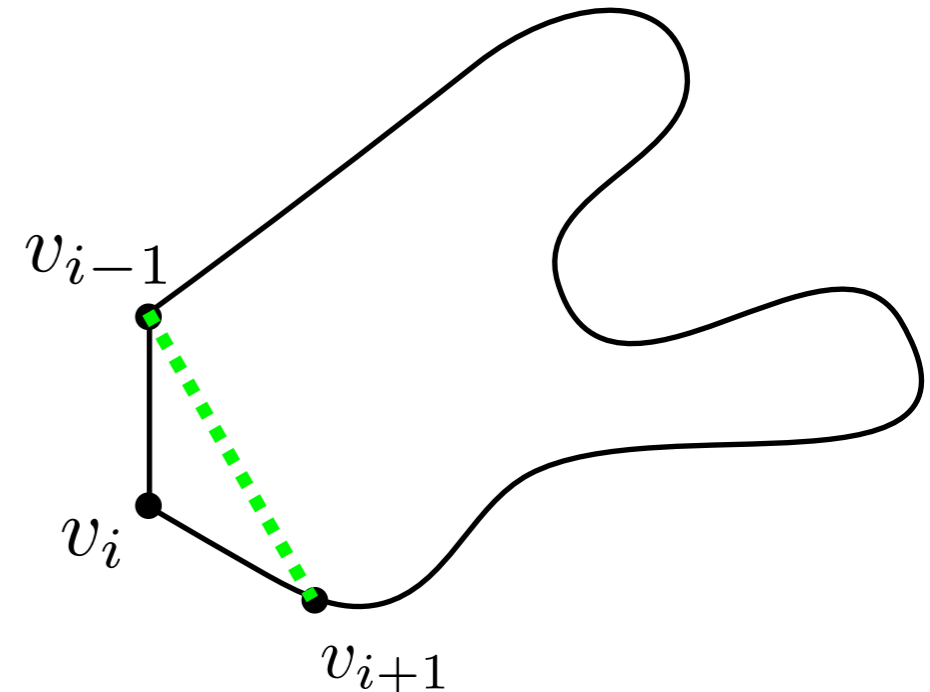
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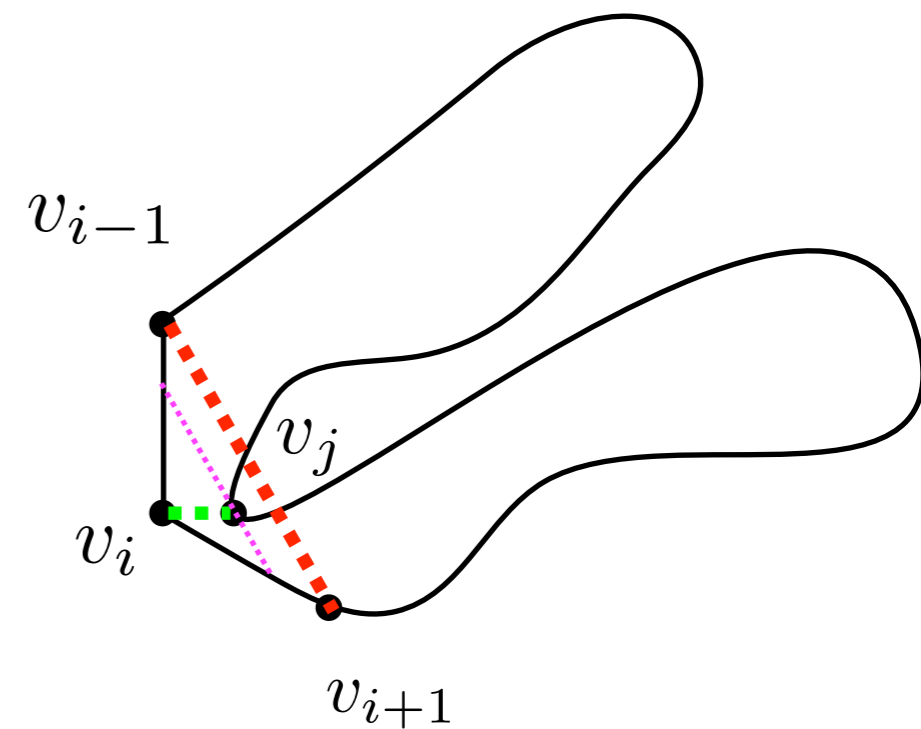
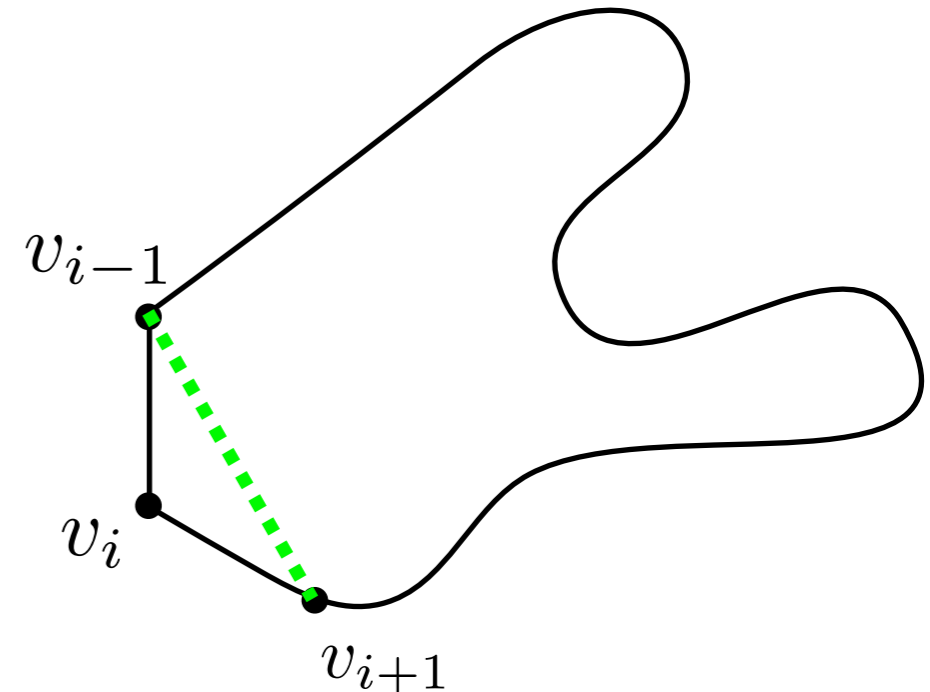
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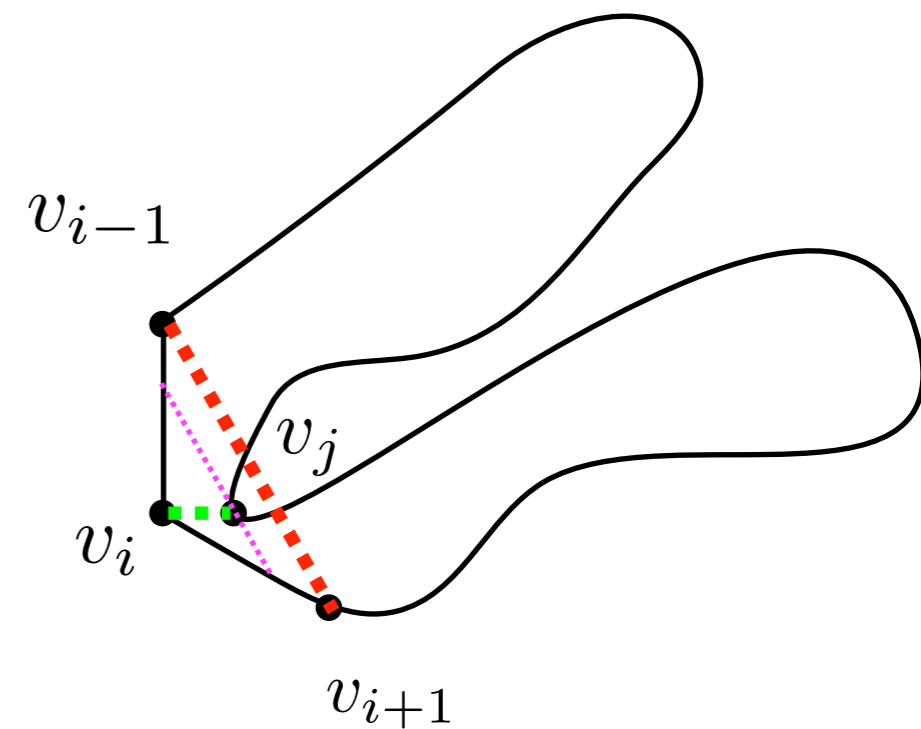
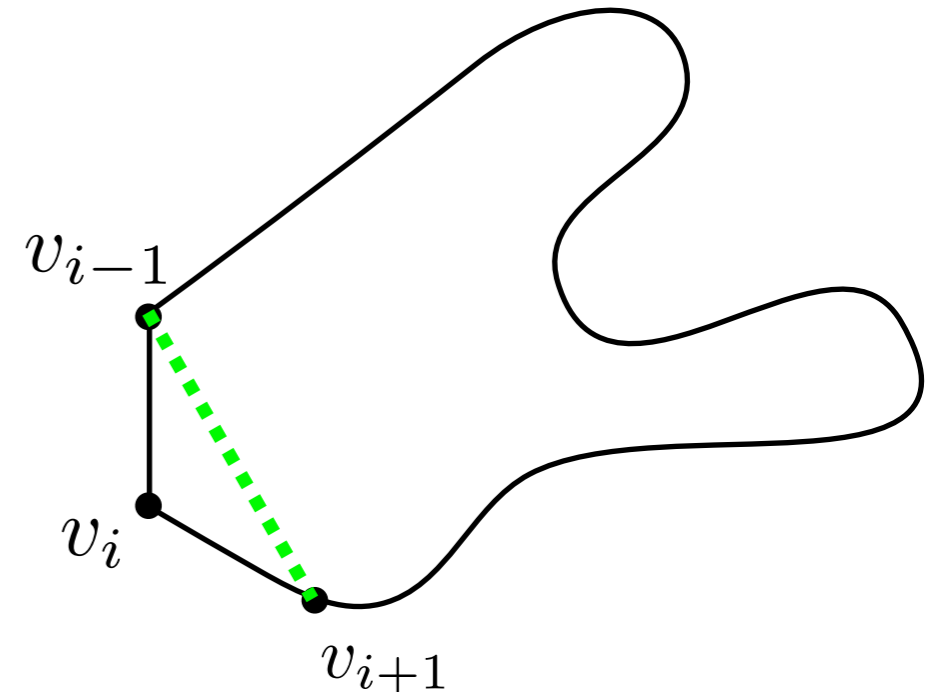
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**Theorem 5.6**

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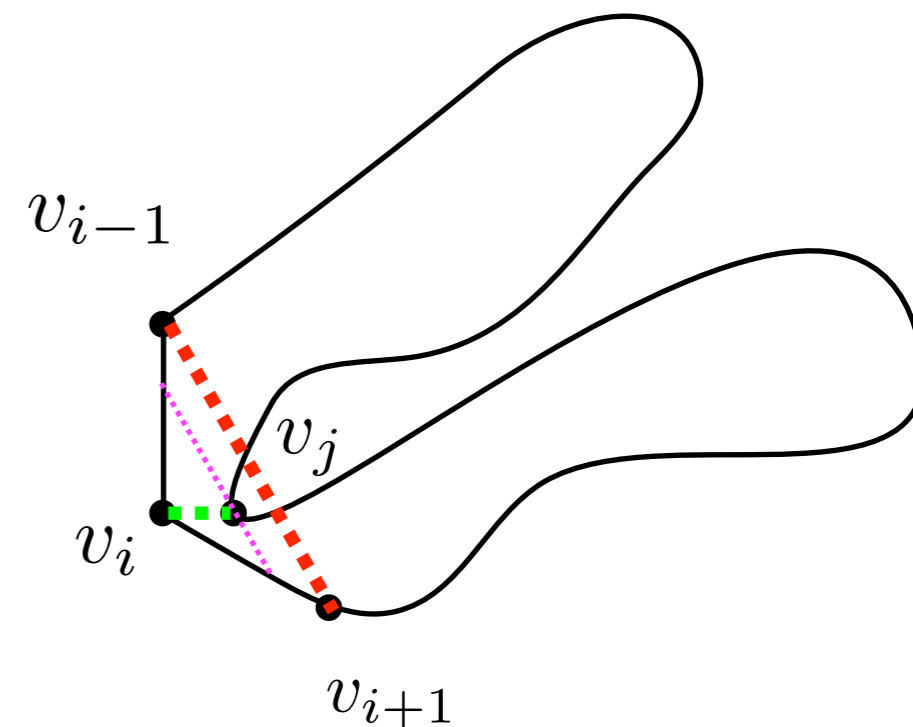
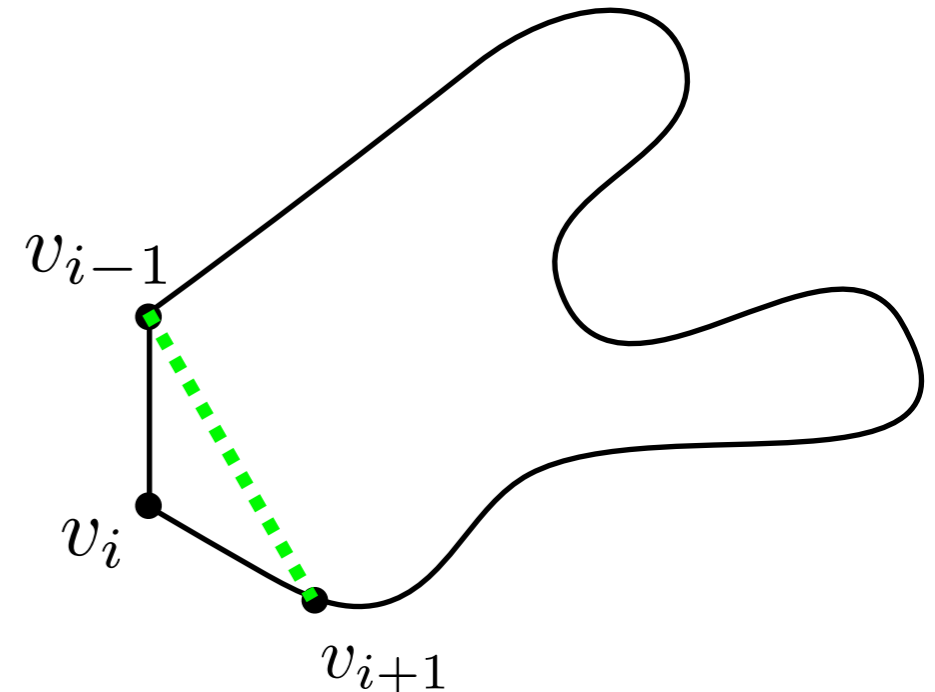
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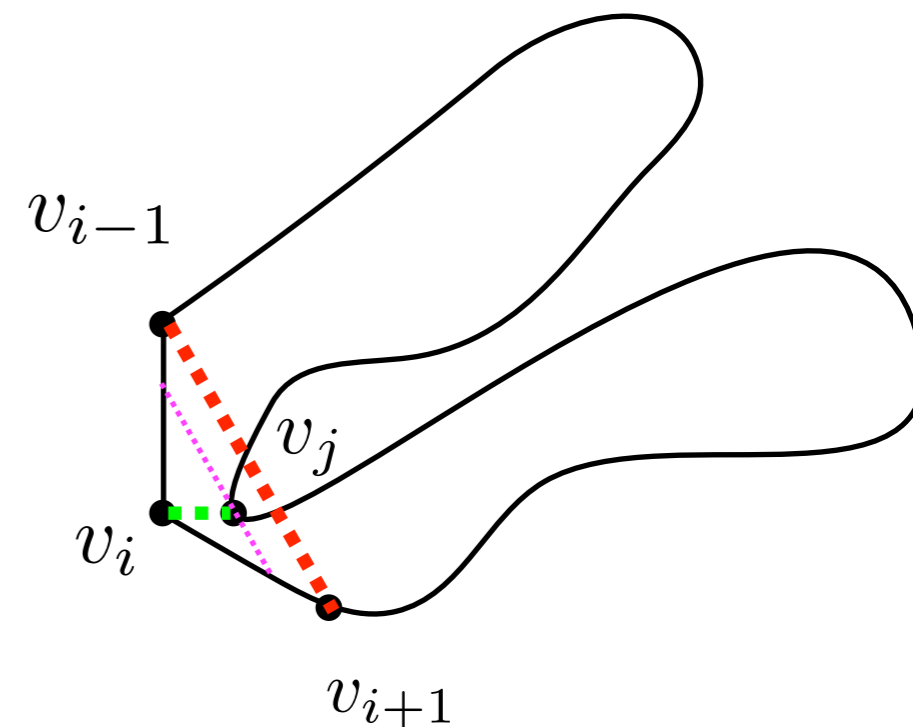
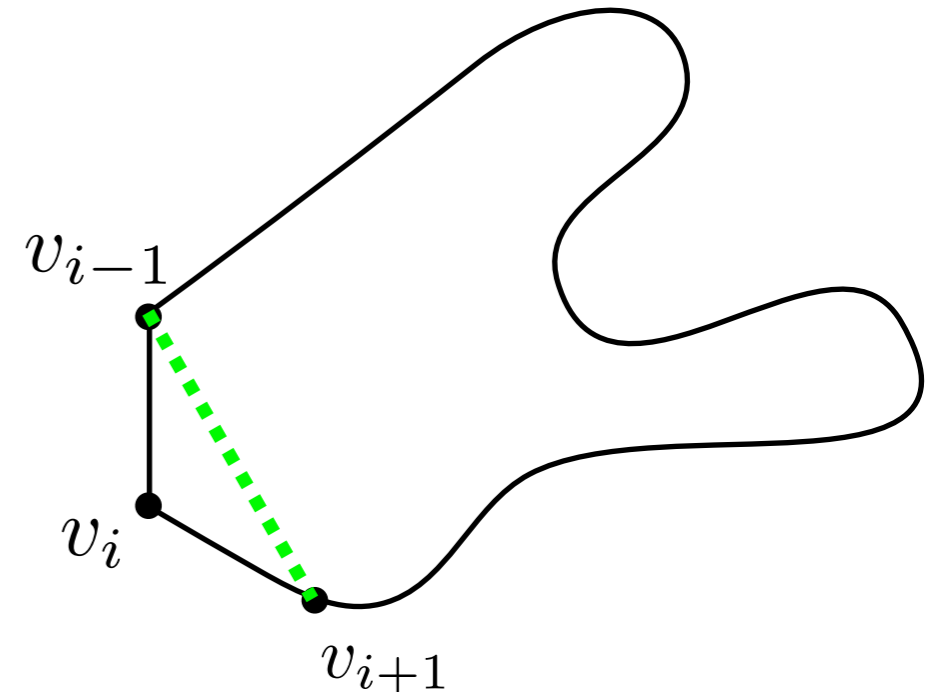
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**Proof:** Induction.



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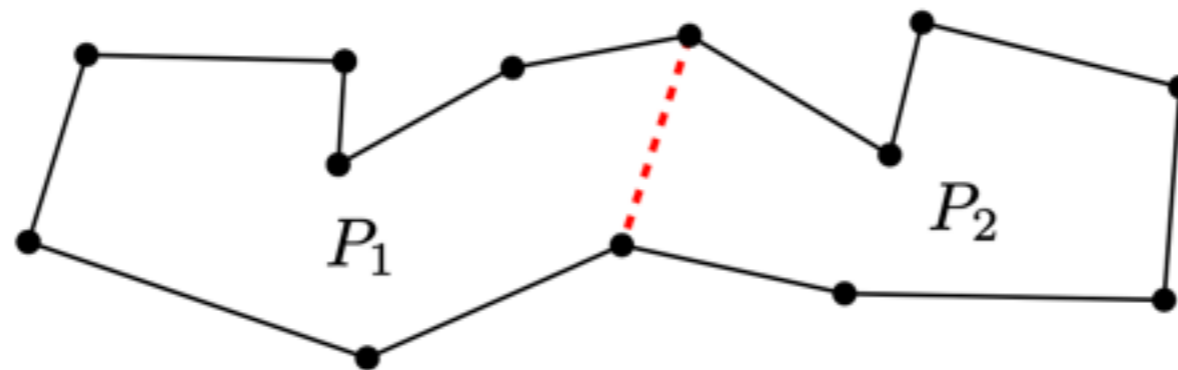
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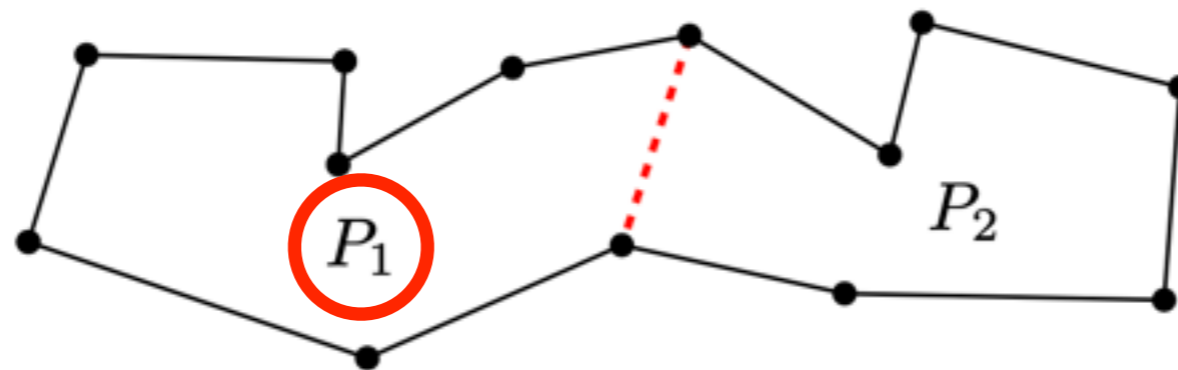
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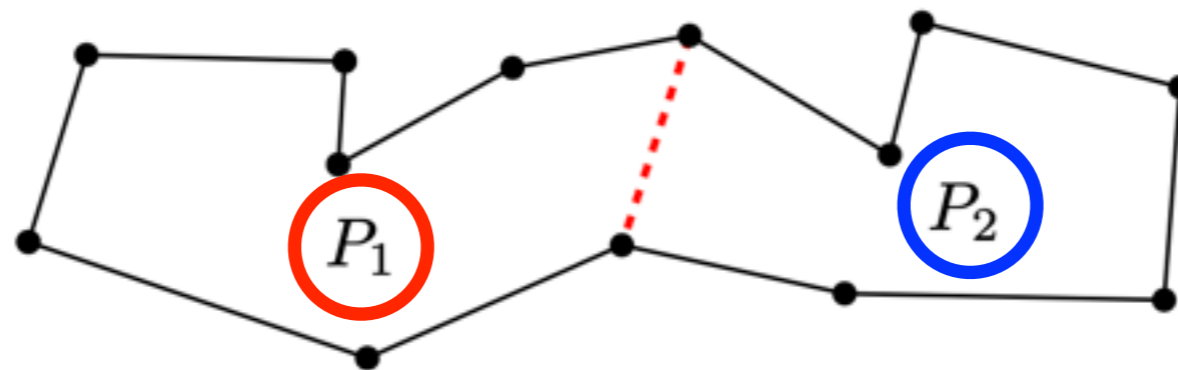
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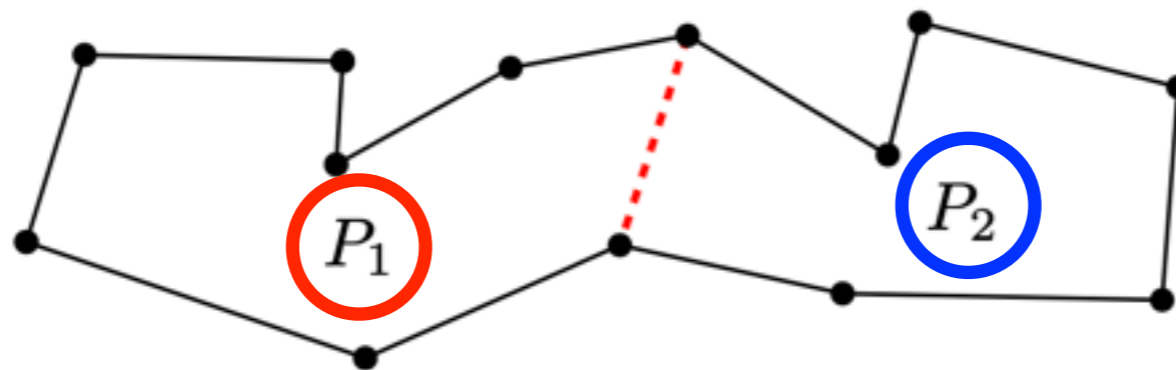
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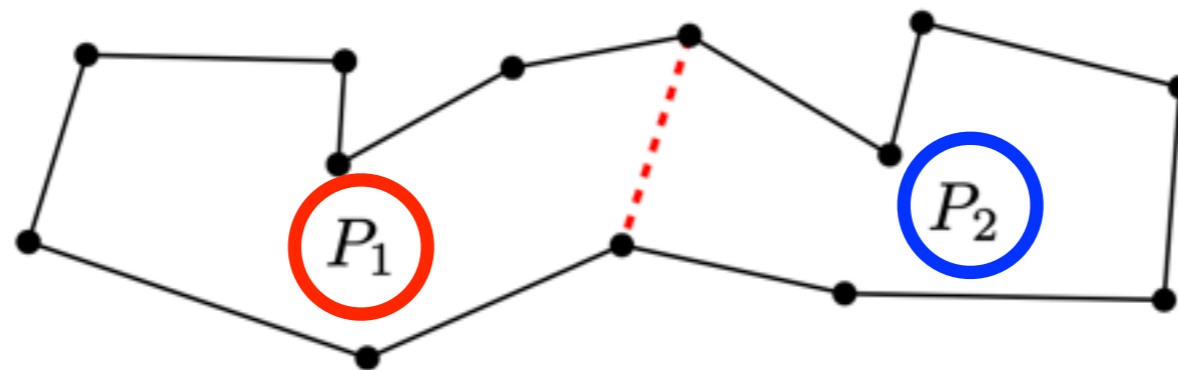
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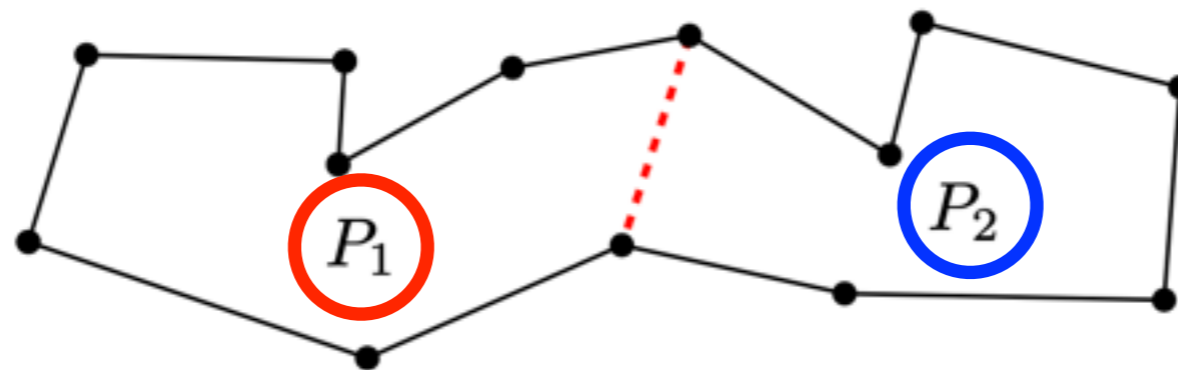
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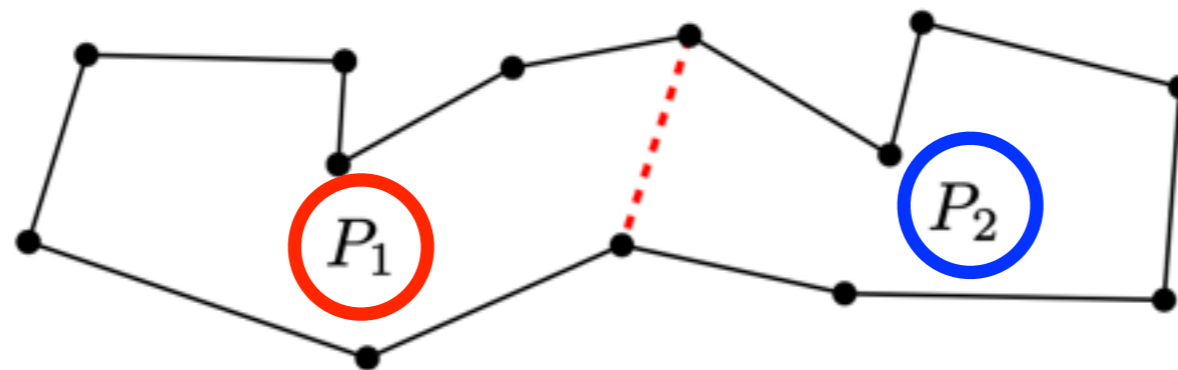
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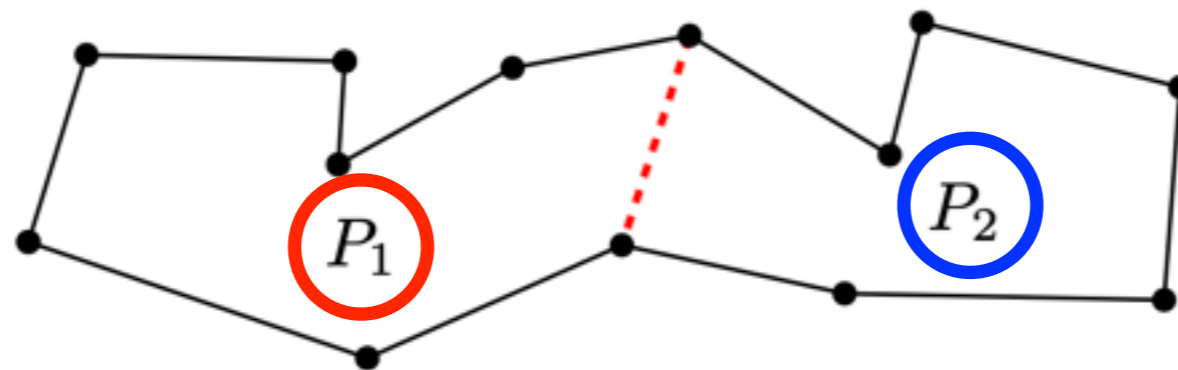
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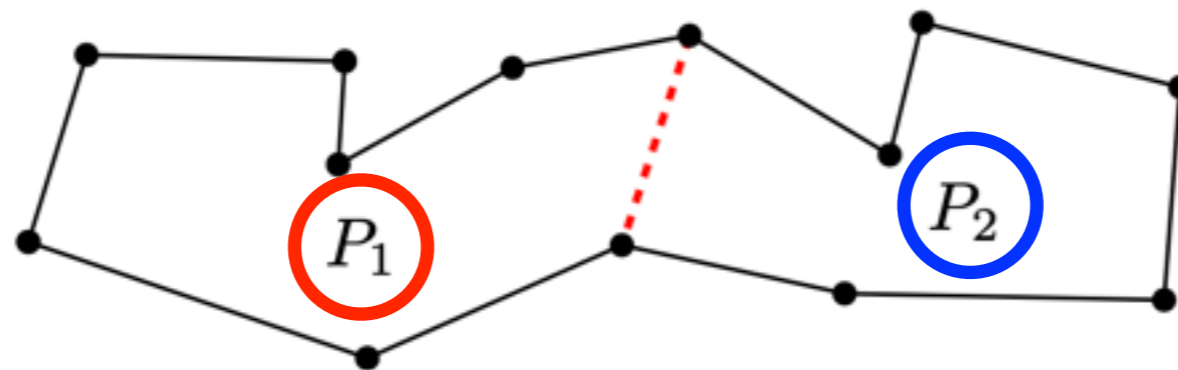
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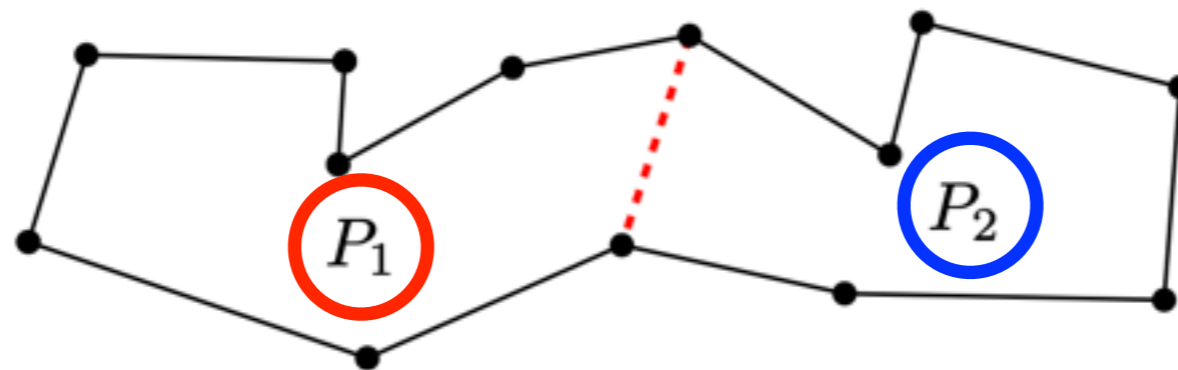
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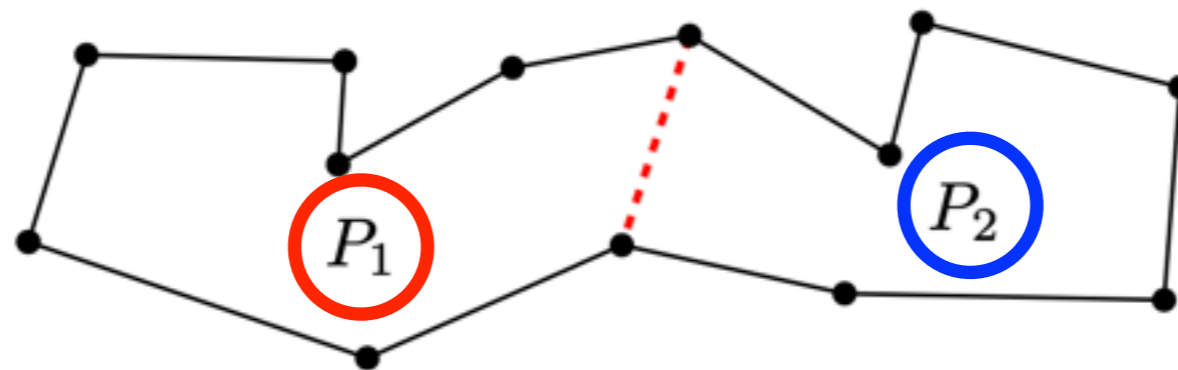
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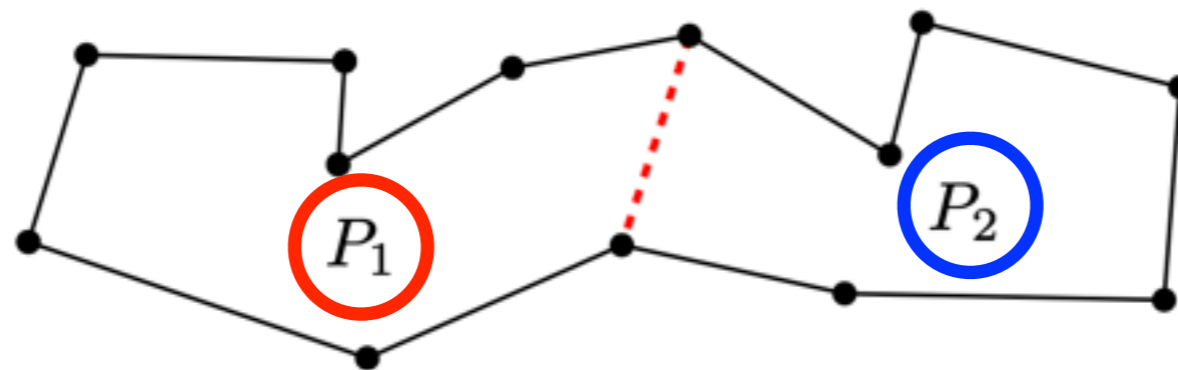
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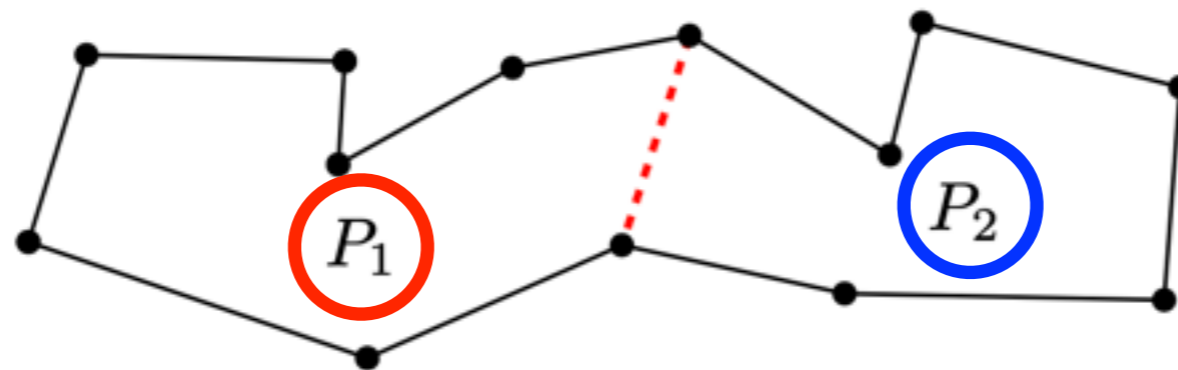
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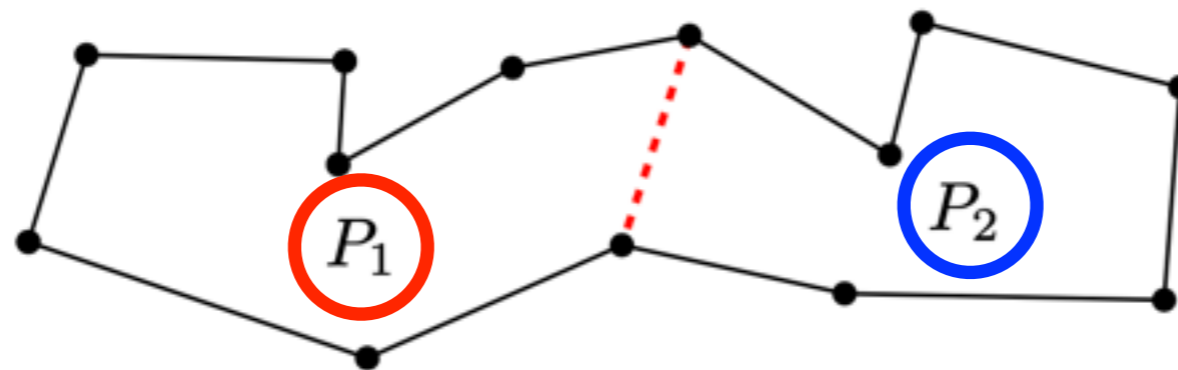
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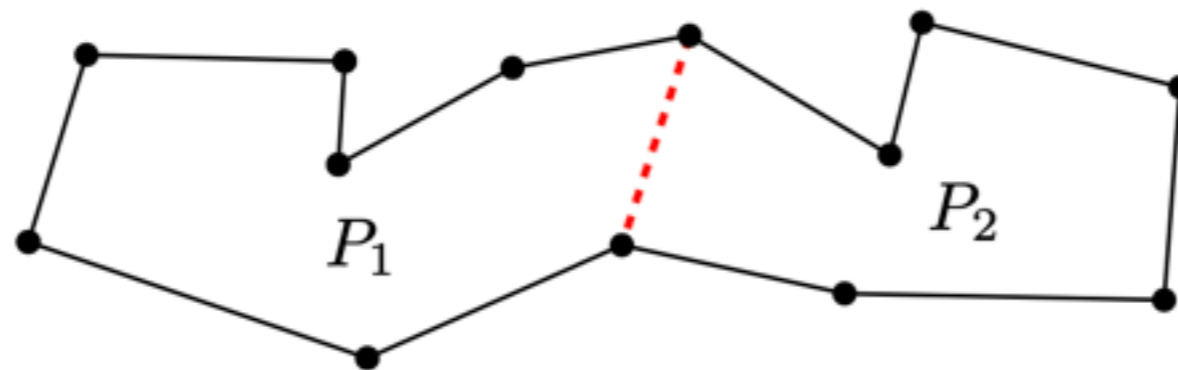
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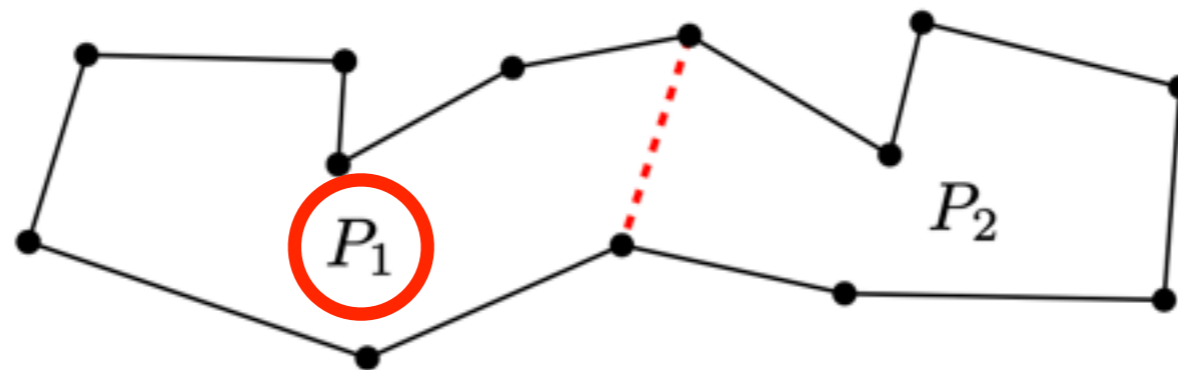
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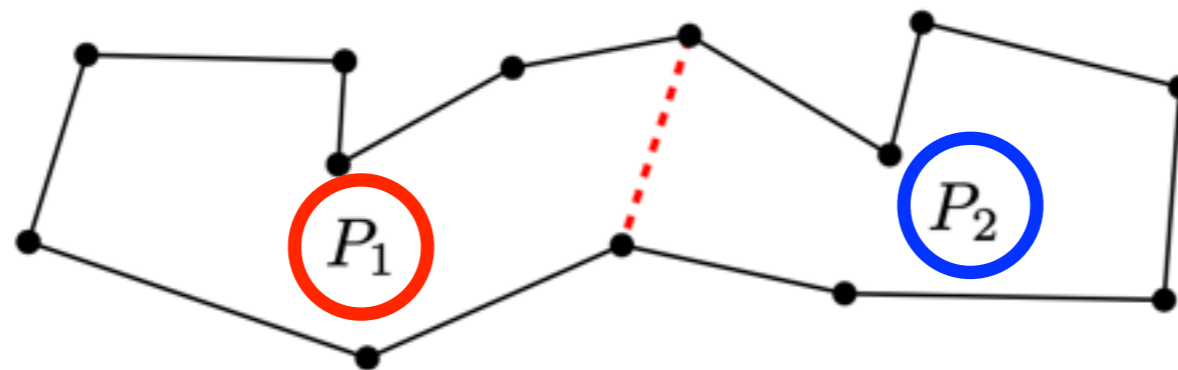
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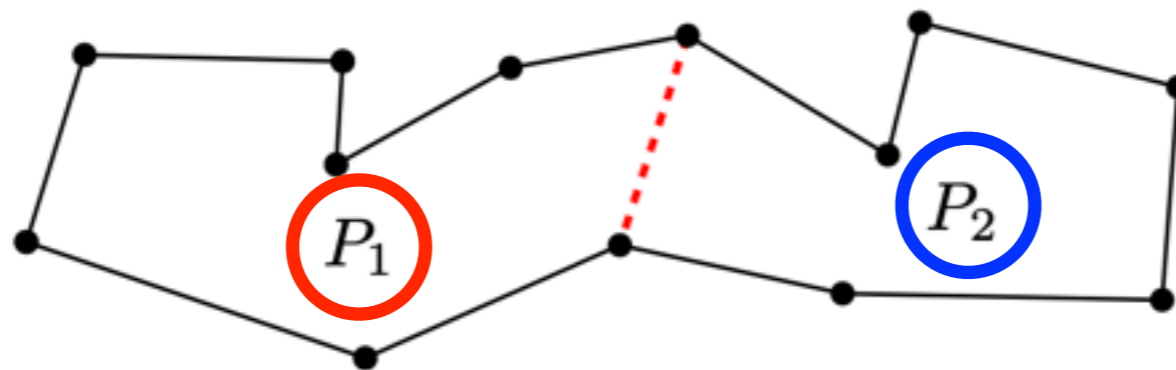
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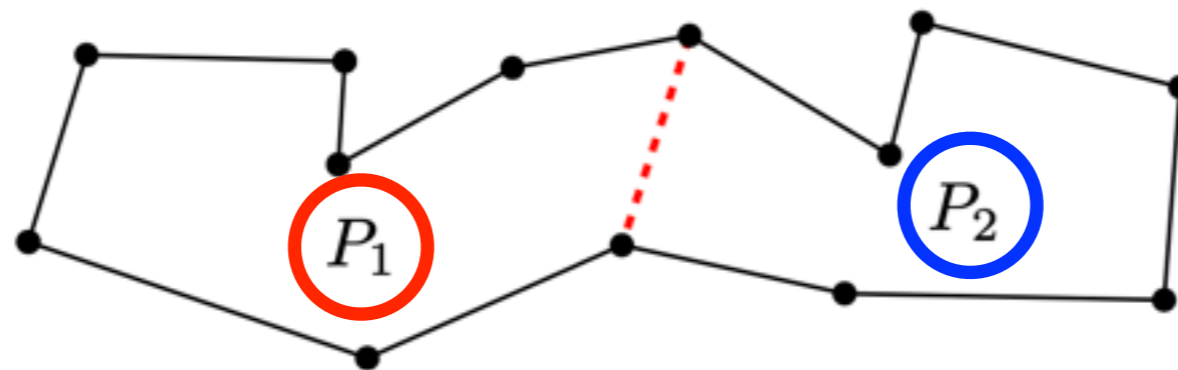
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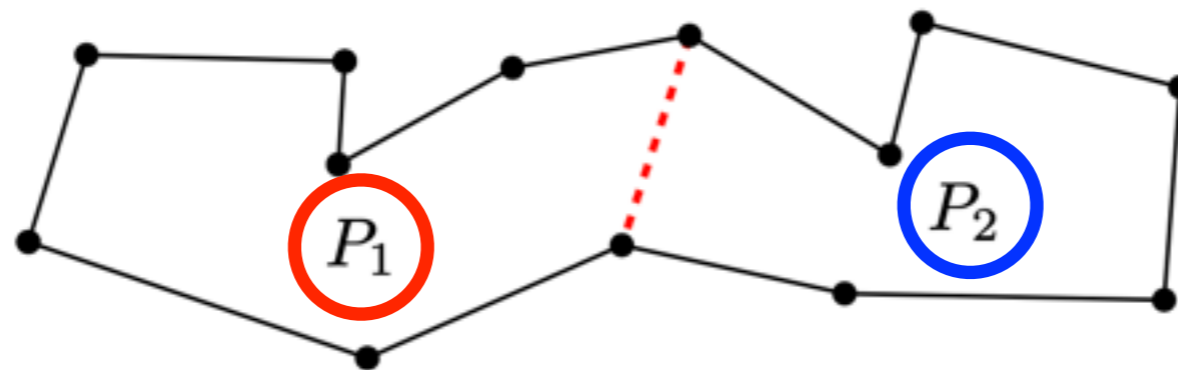
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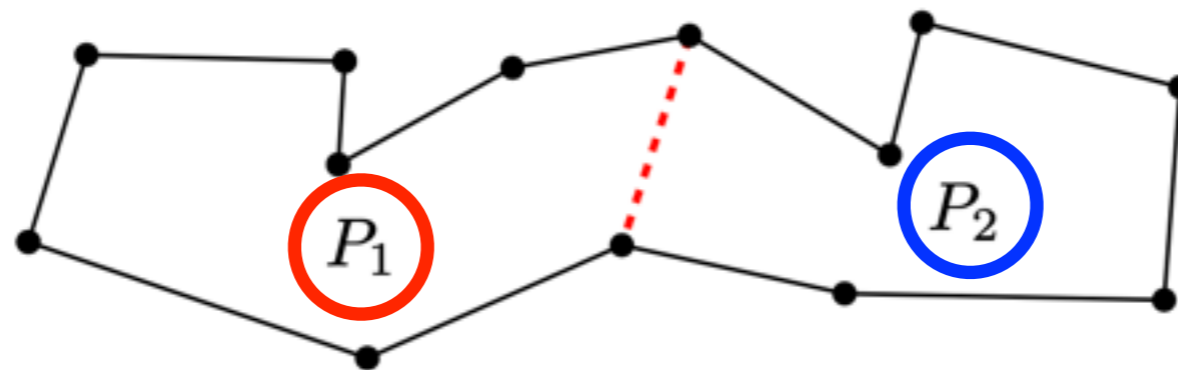
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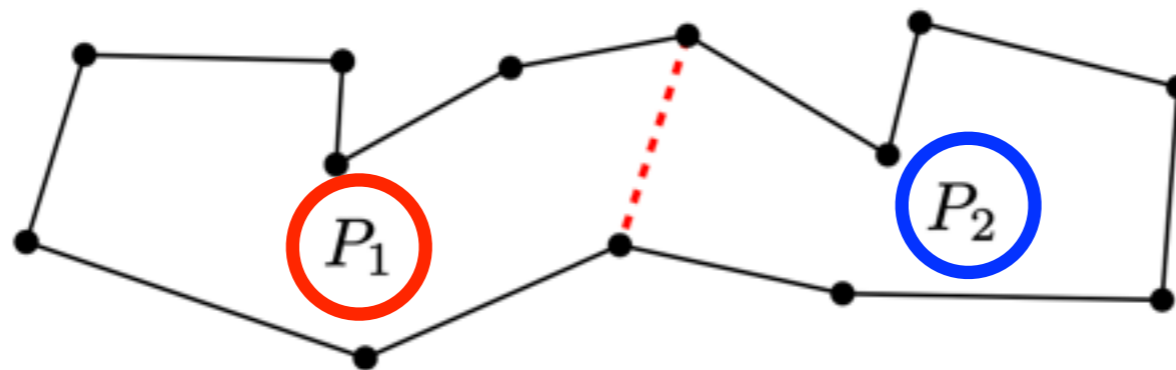
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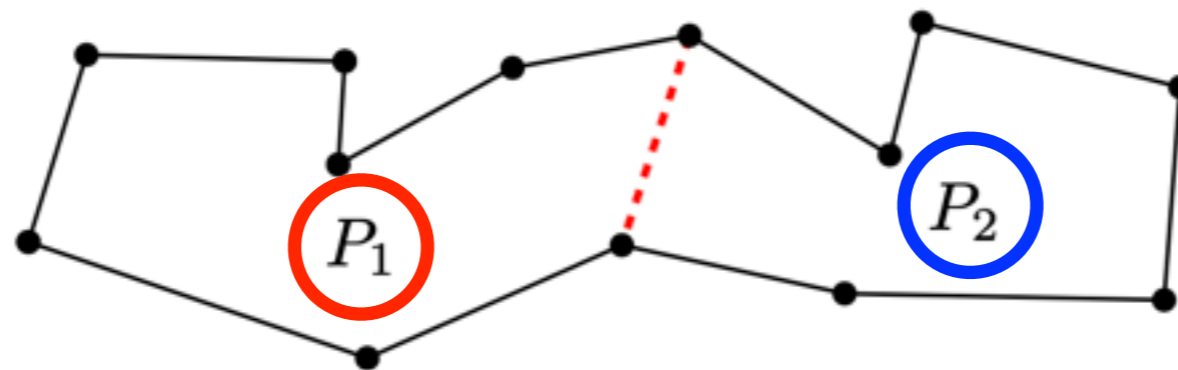
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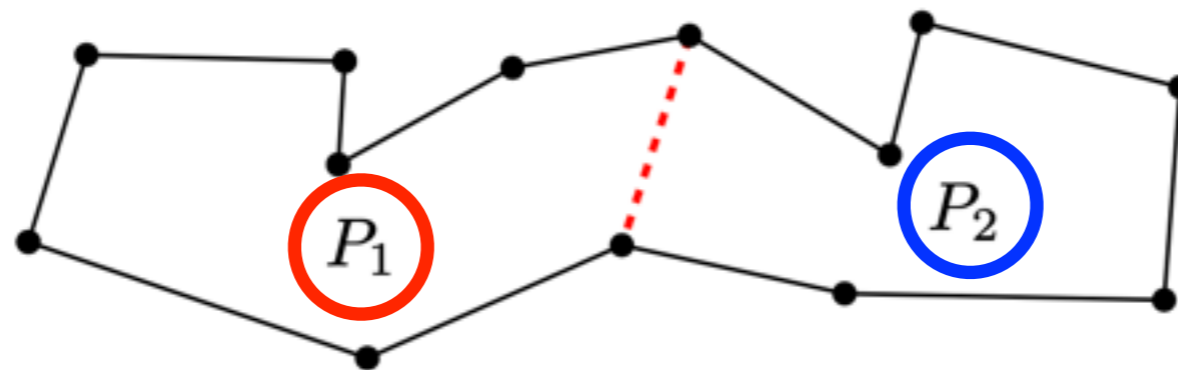
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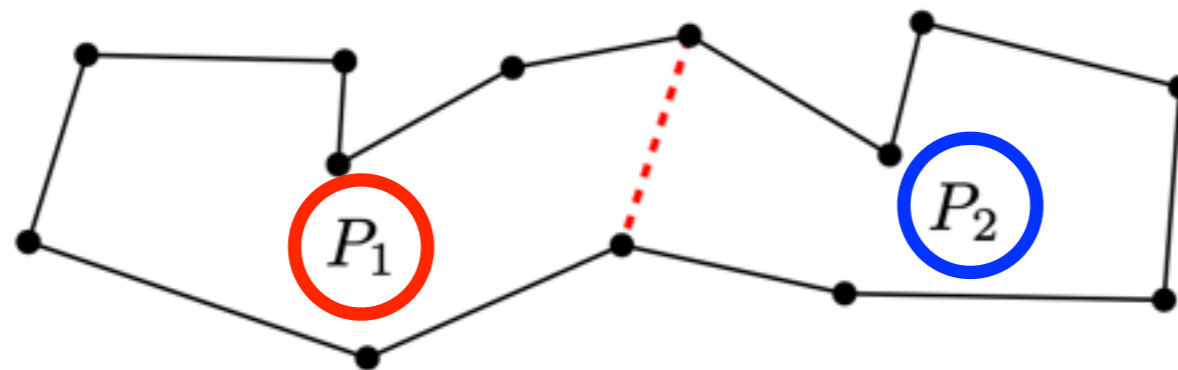
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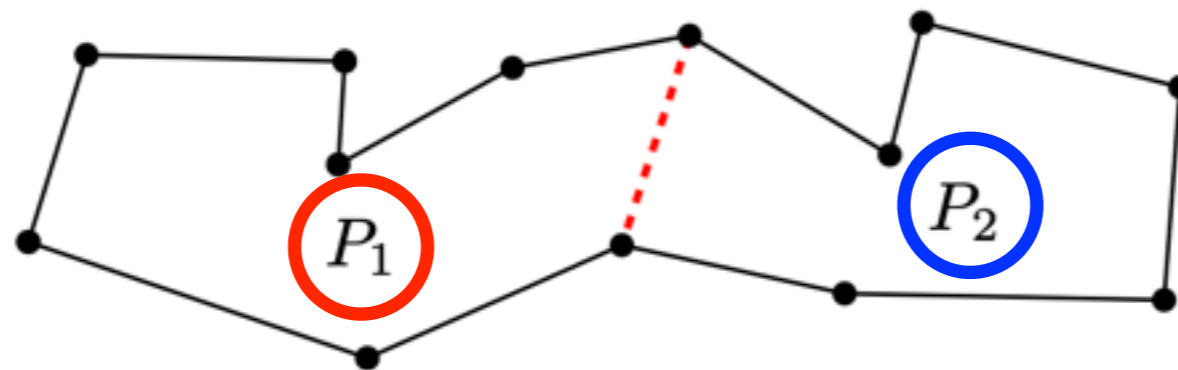
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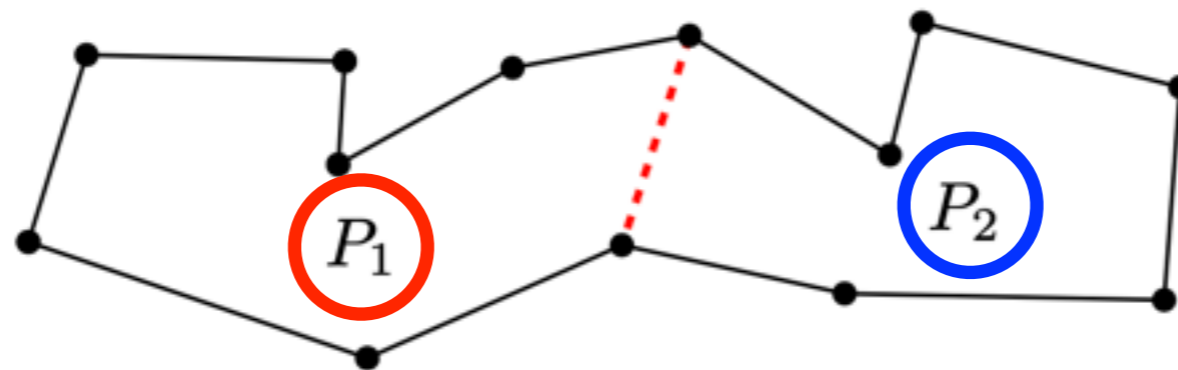
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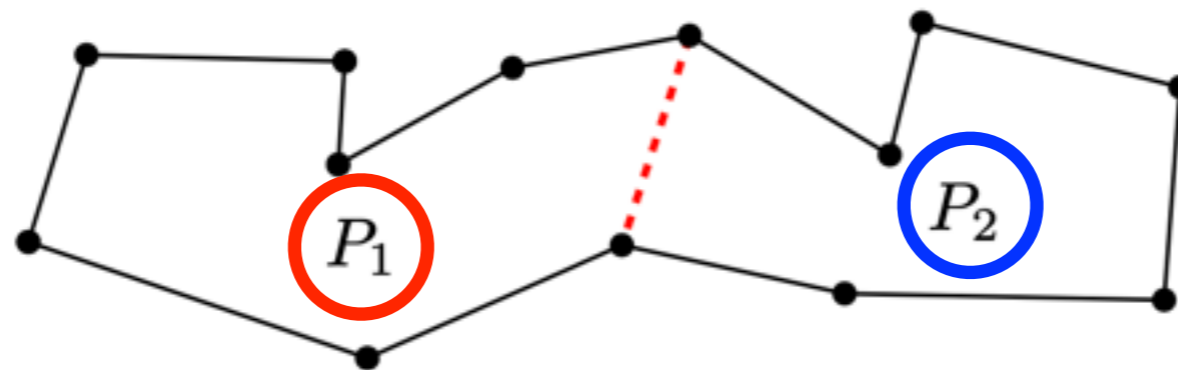
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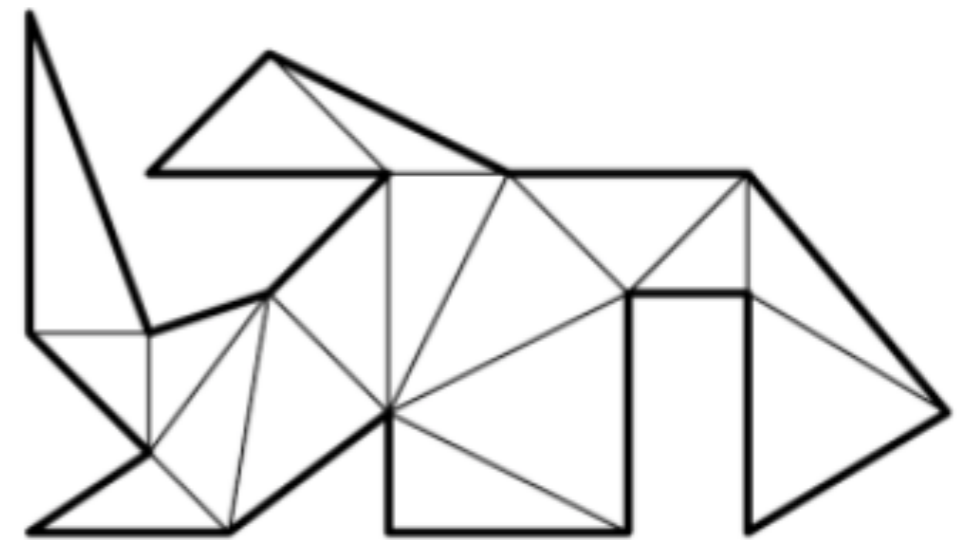
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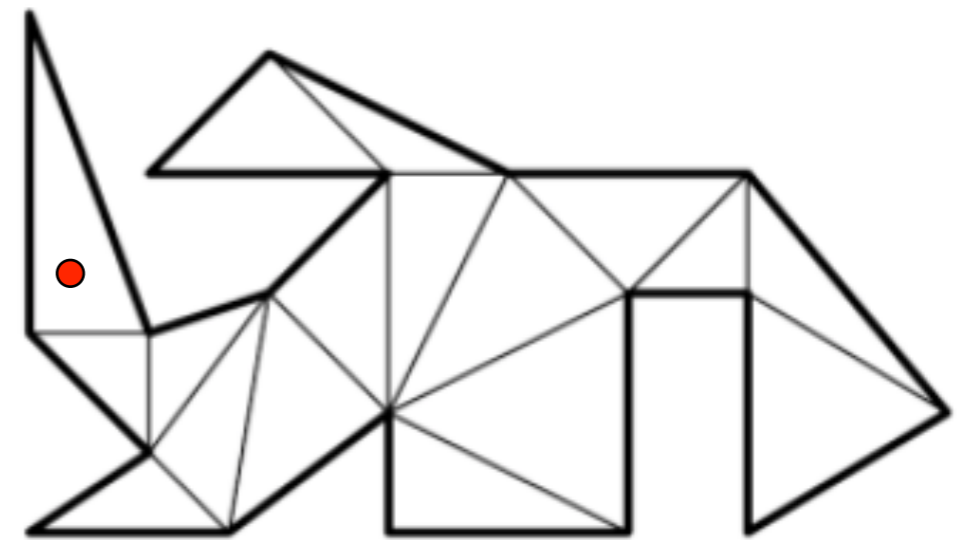
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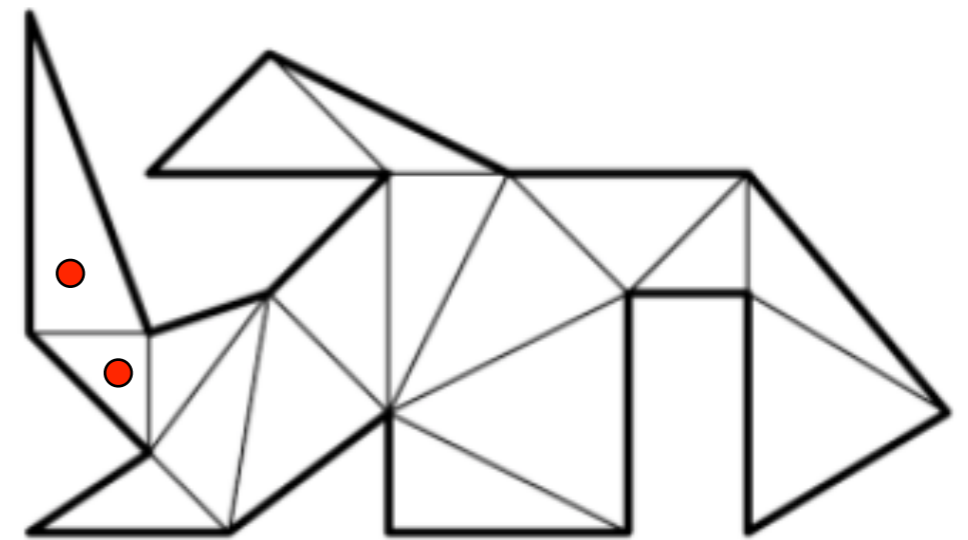
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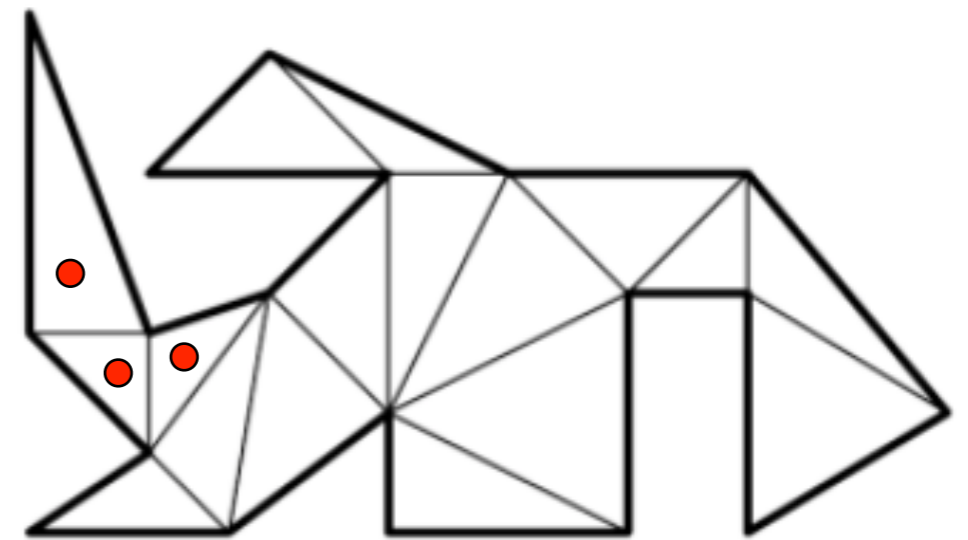
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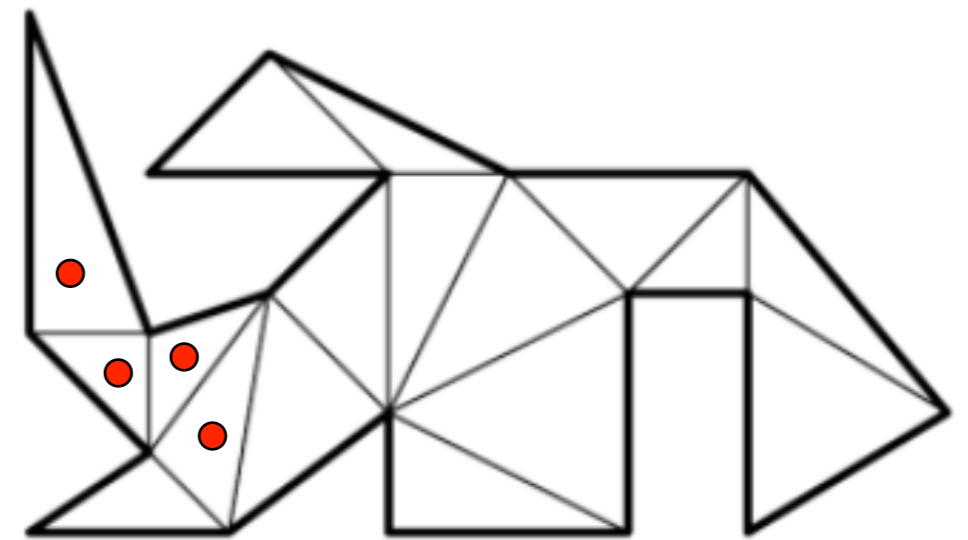
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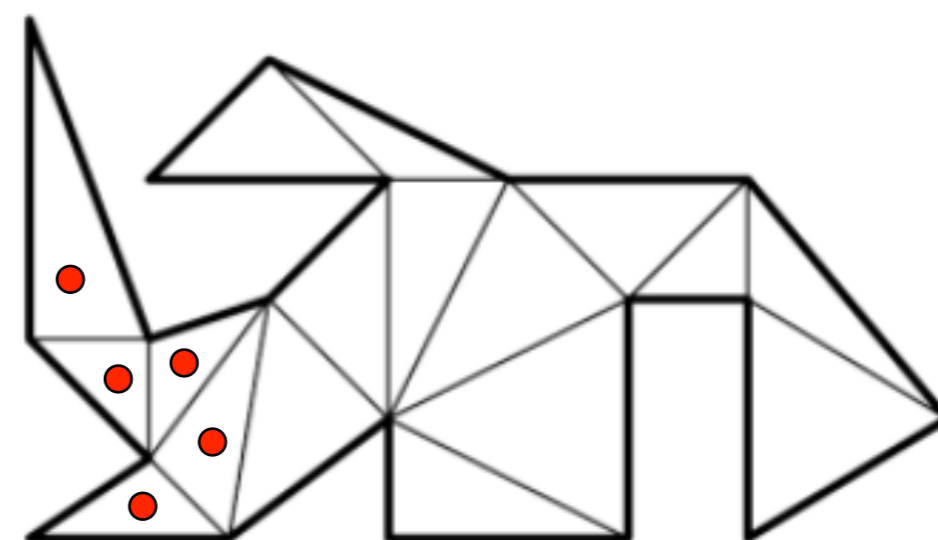
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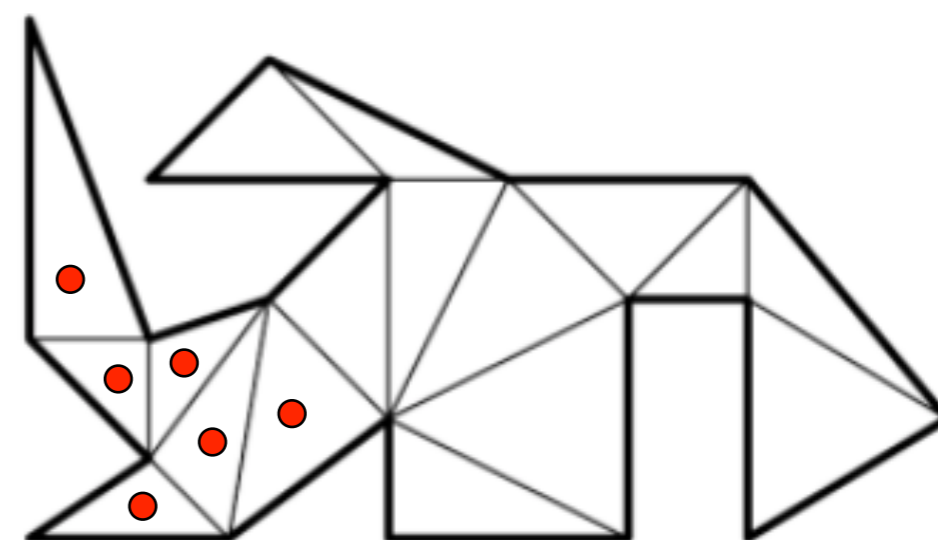
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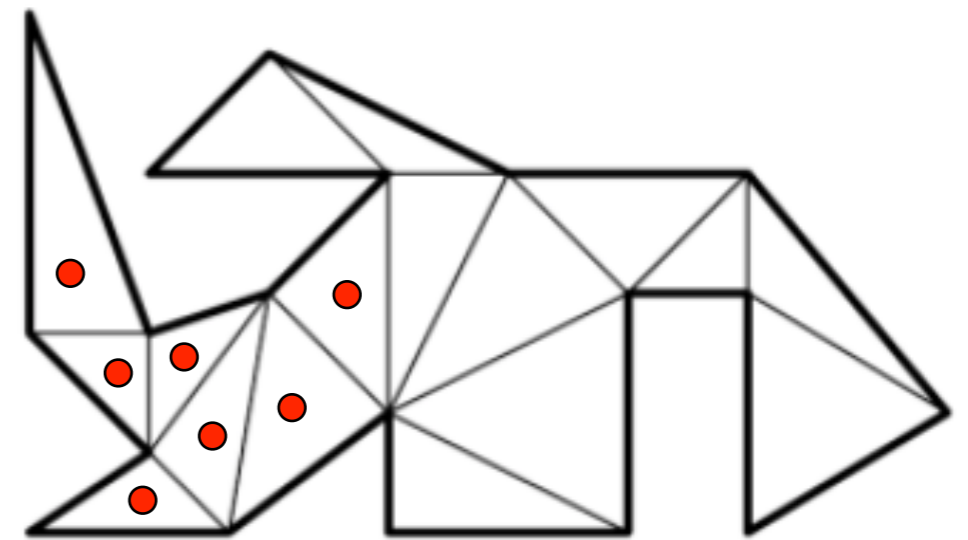
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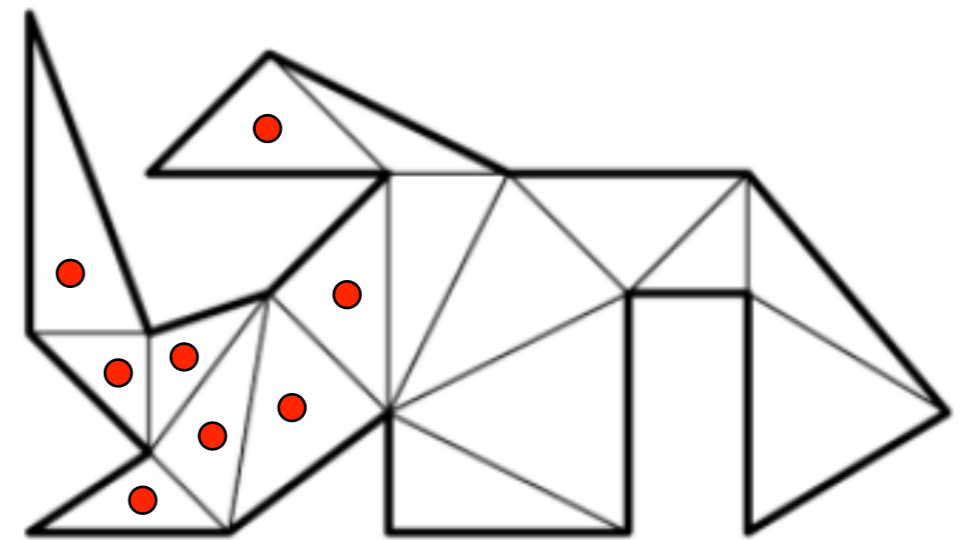
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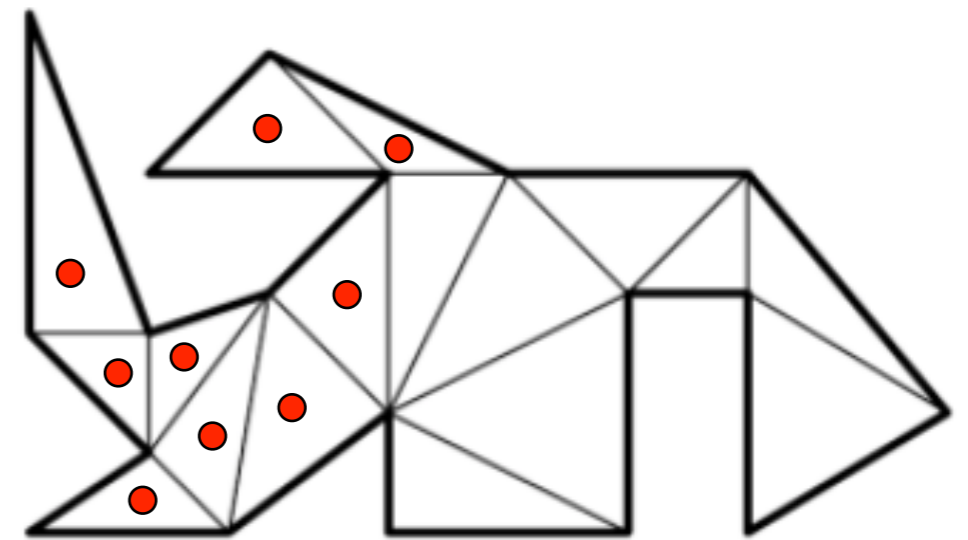
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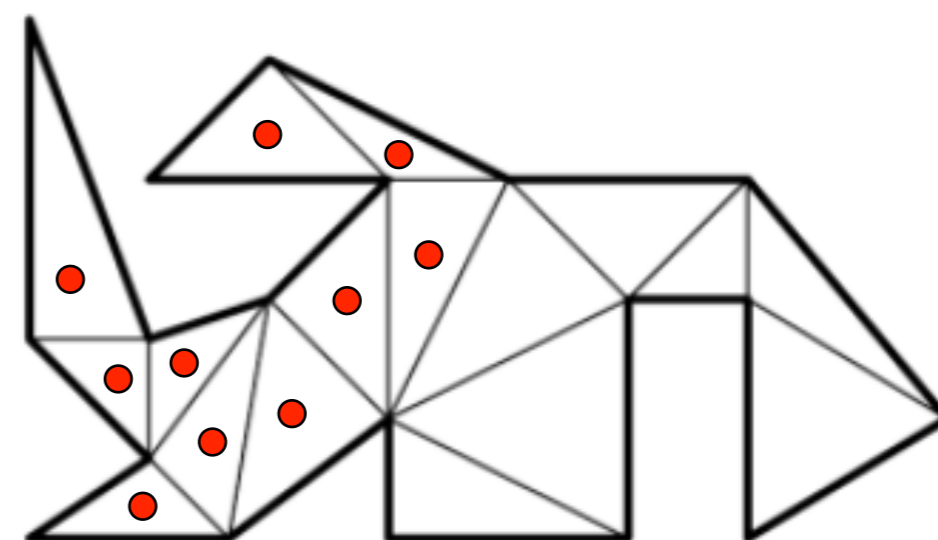
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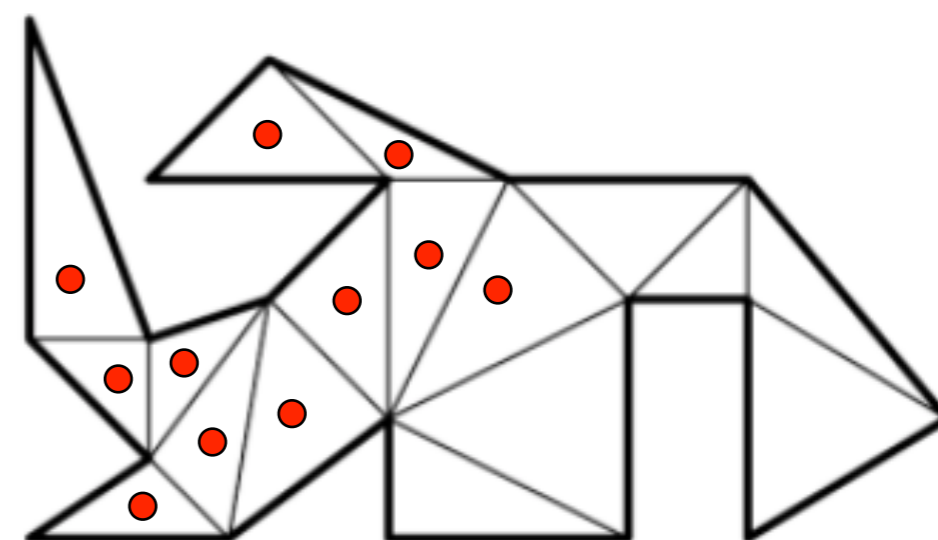
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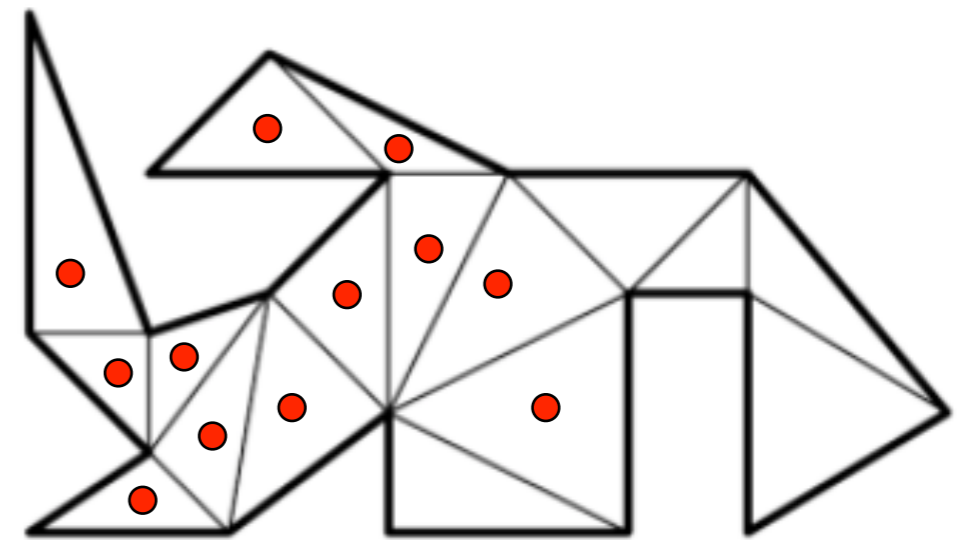
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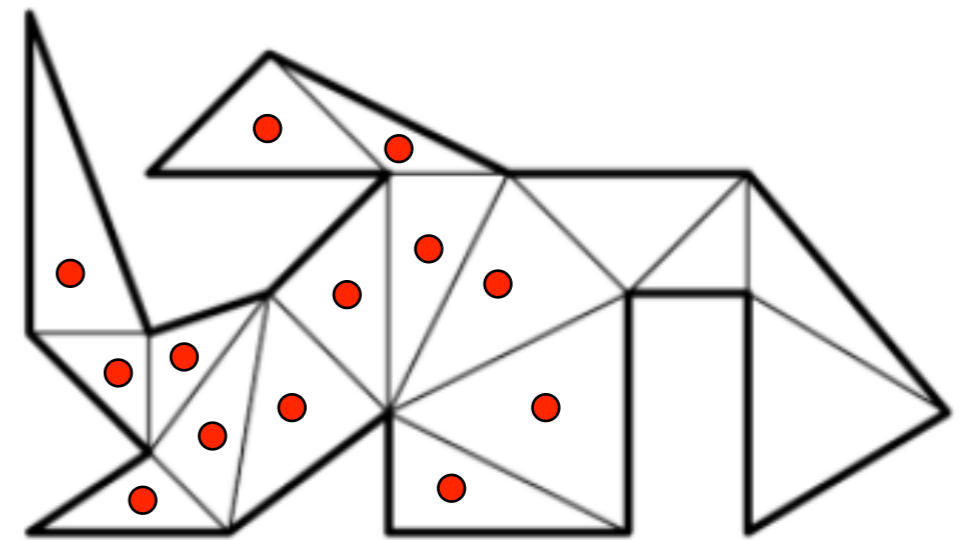
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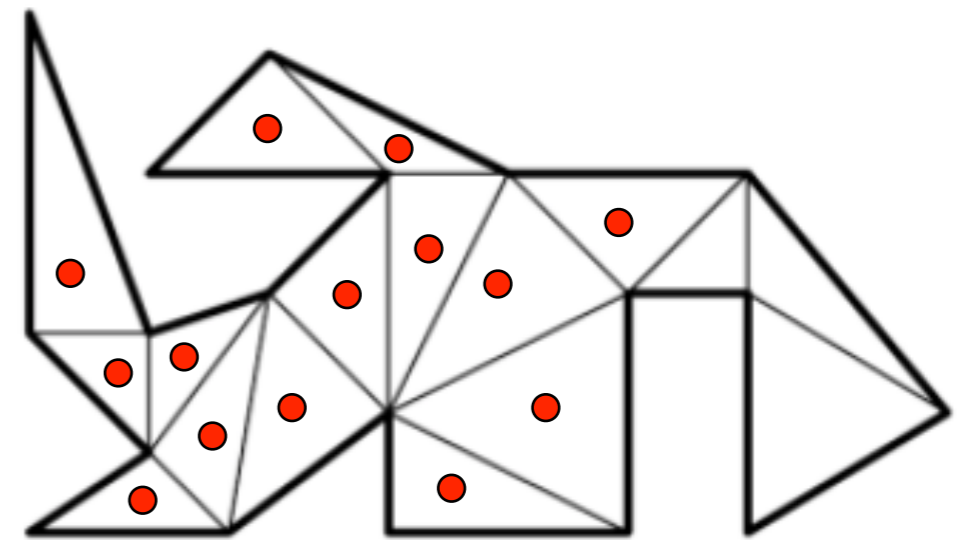
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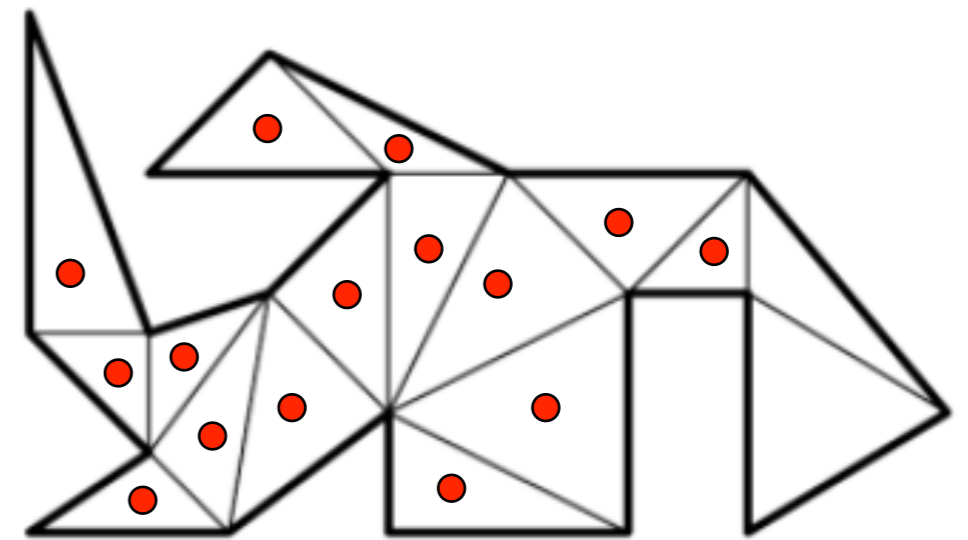
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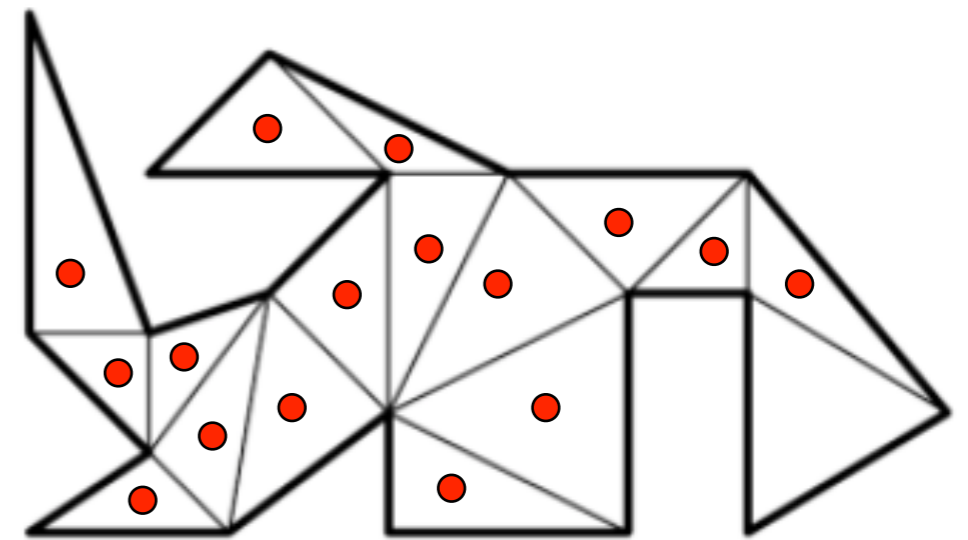
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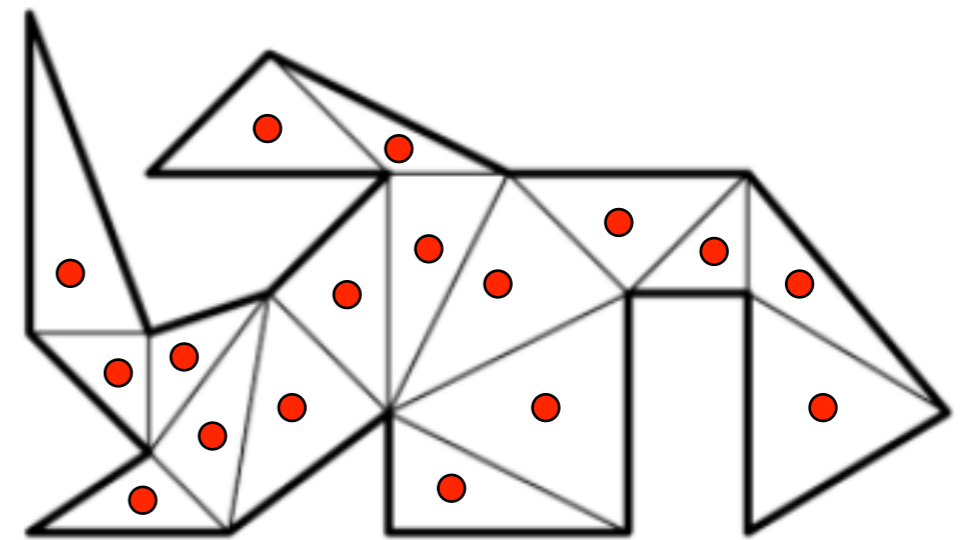
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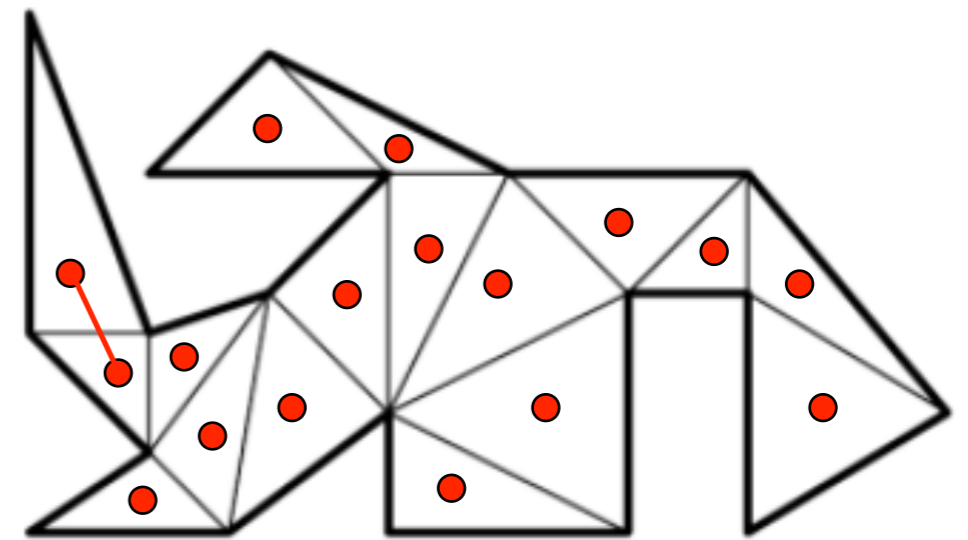
## Theorem 5.9

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



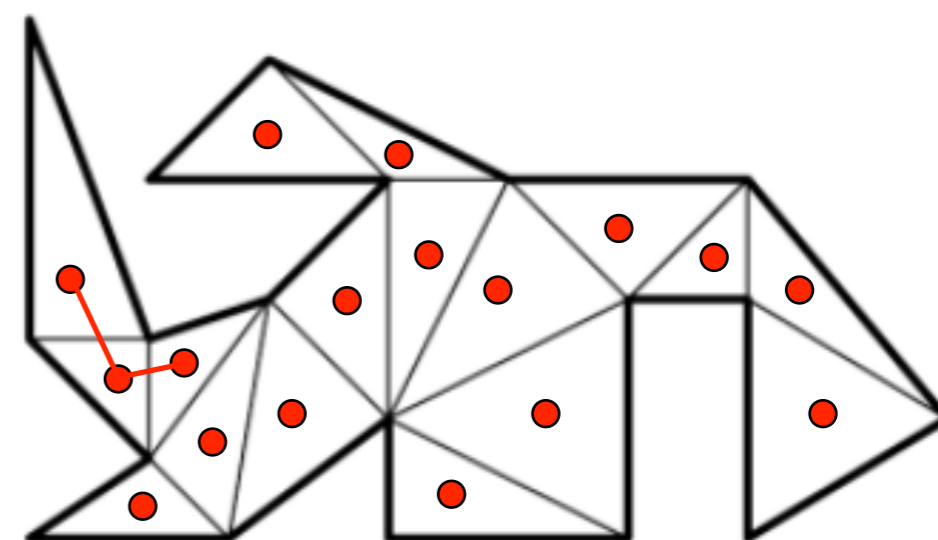
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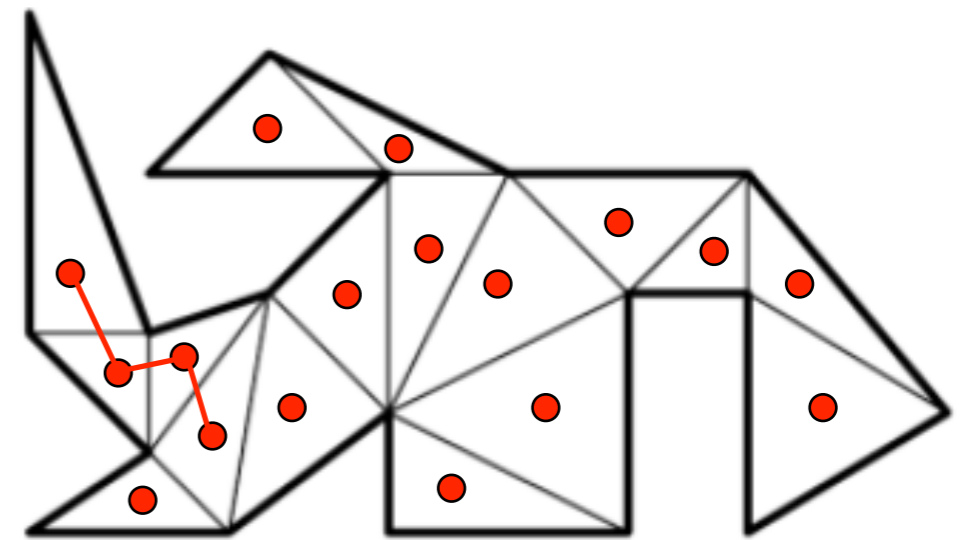
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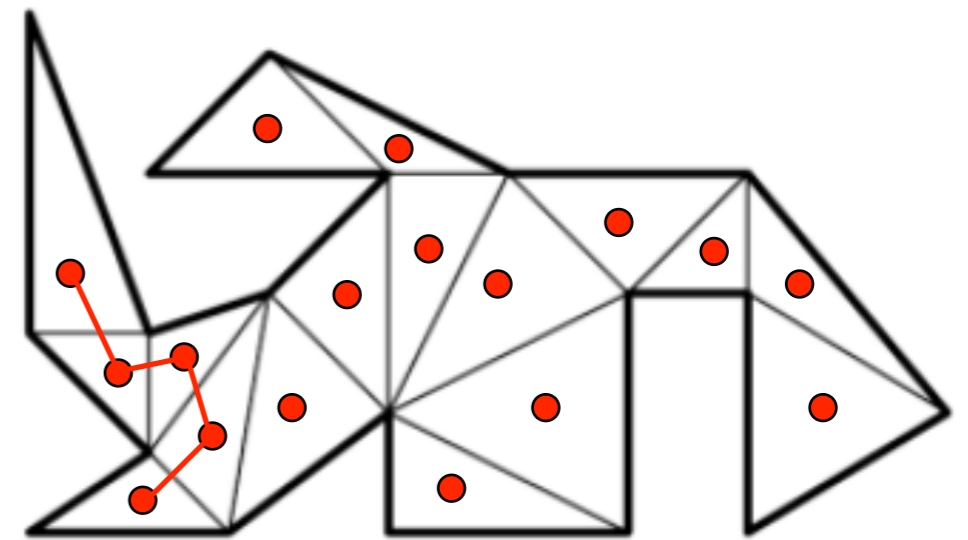
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## Theorem 5.9

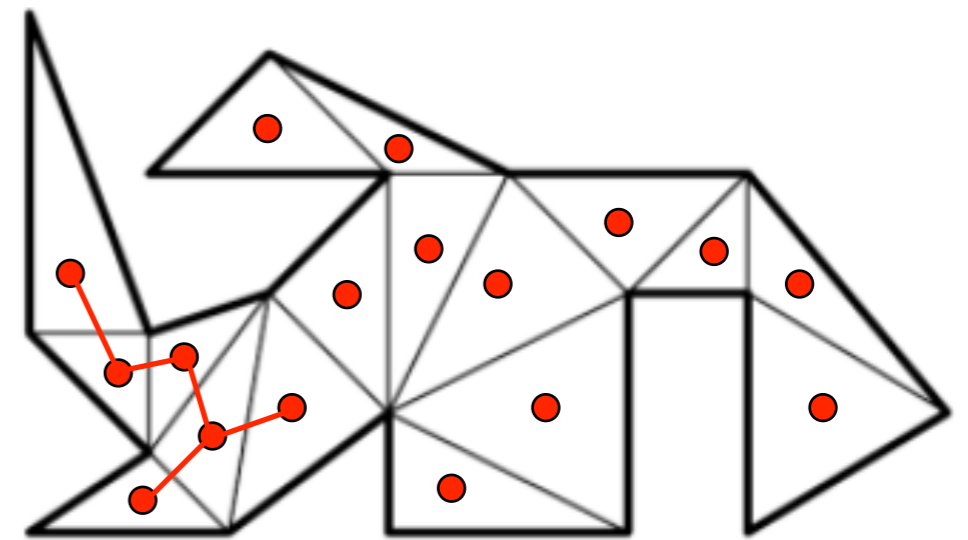
The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.





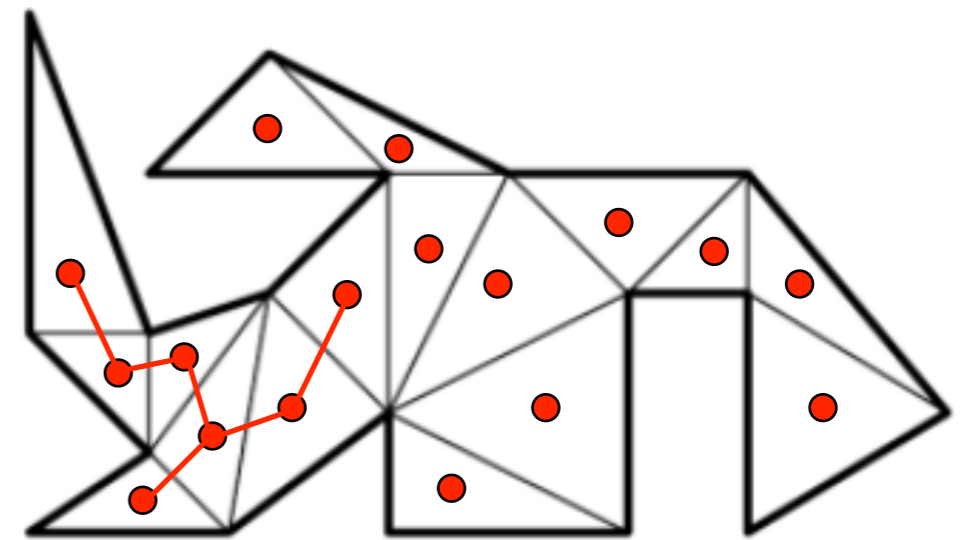
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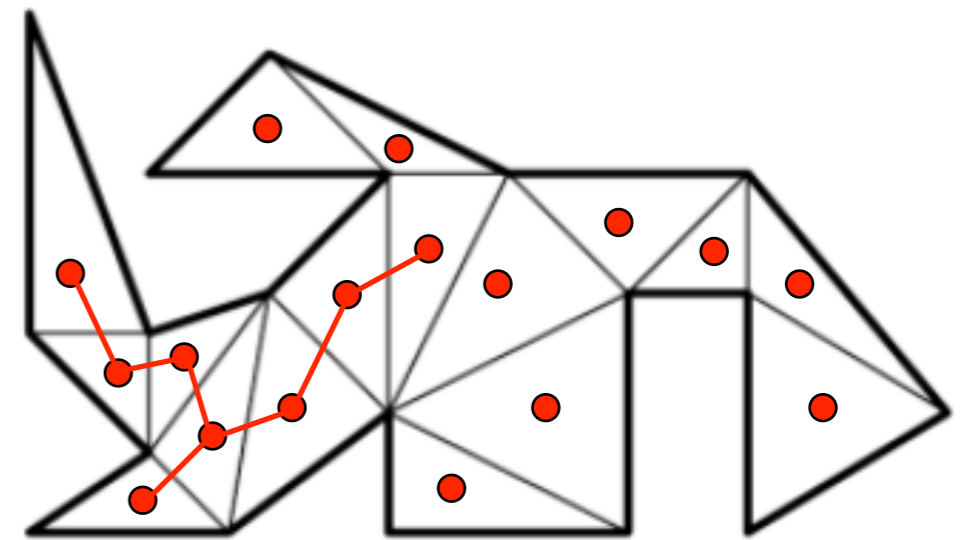
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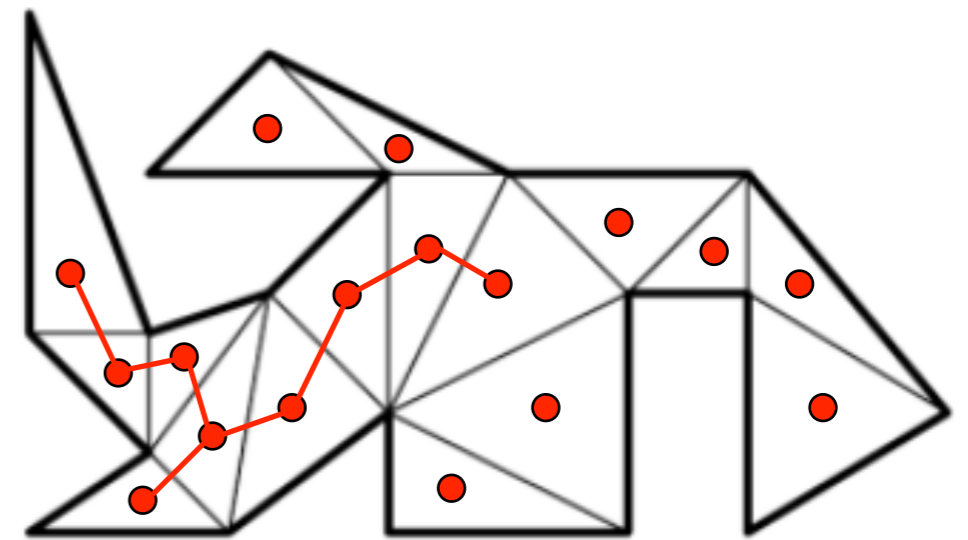
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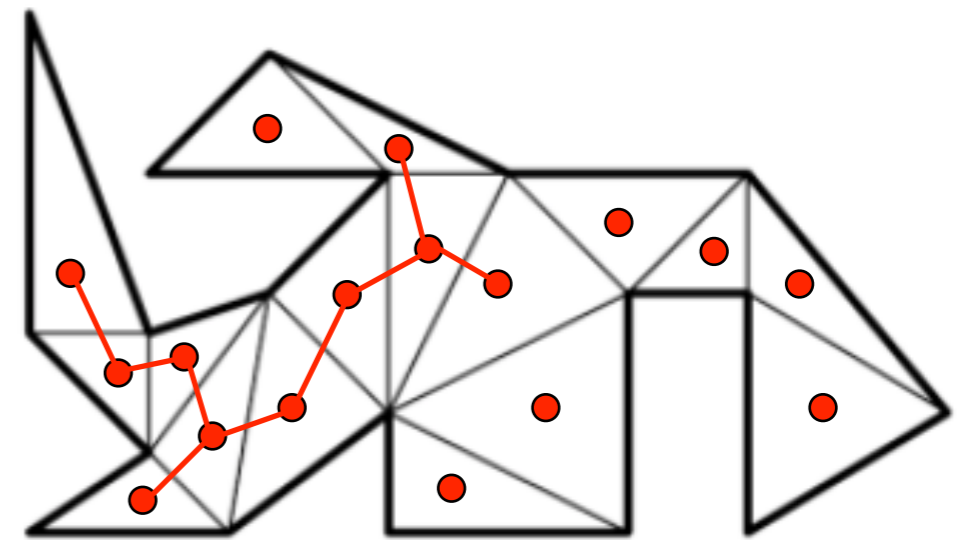
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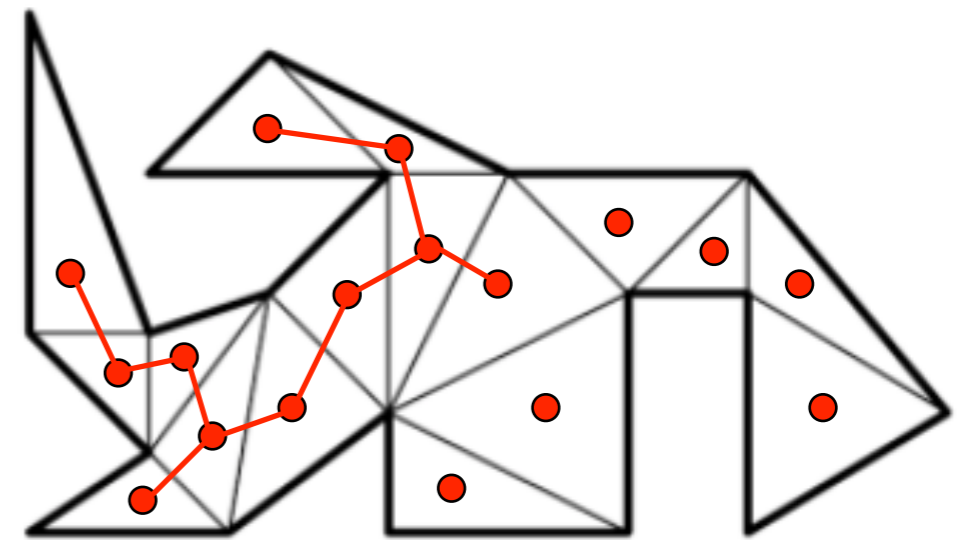
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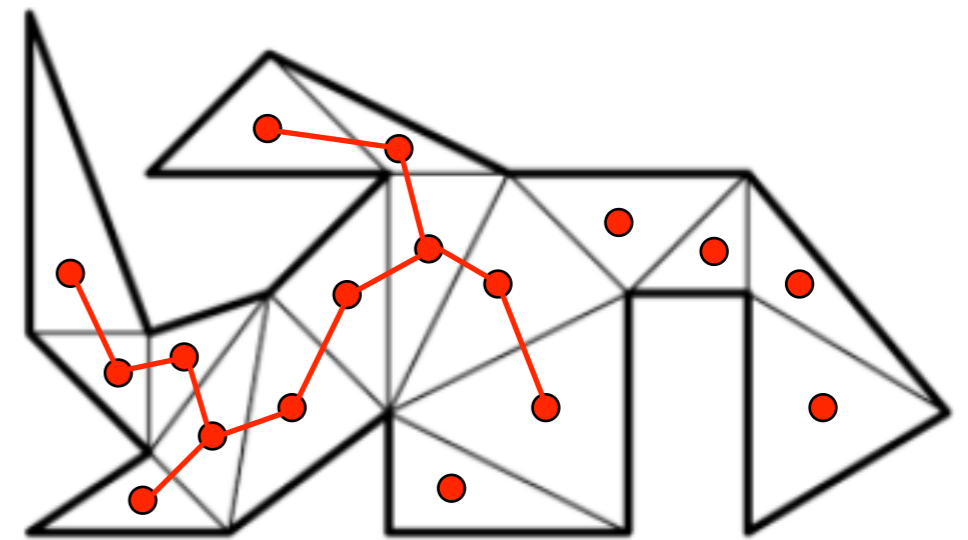
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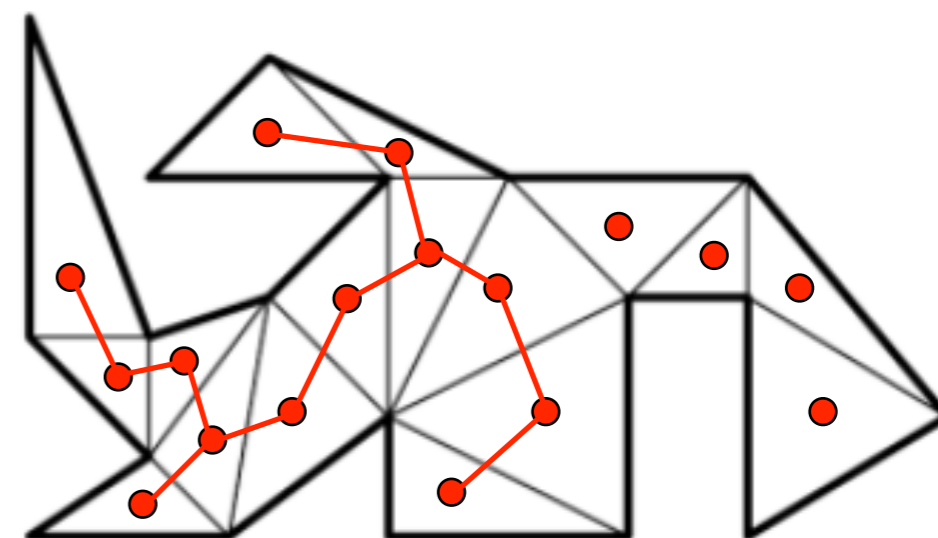
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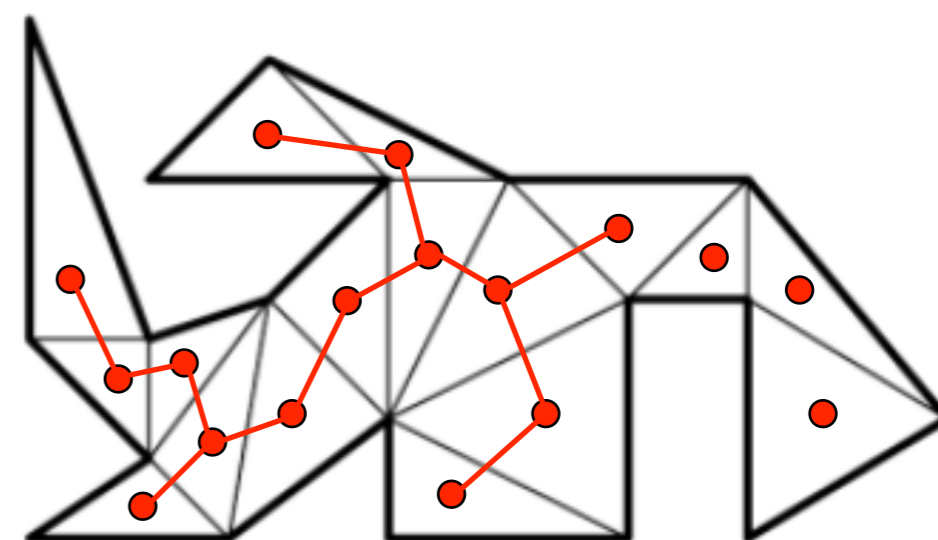
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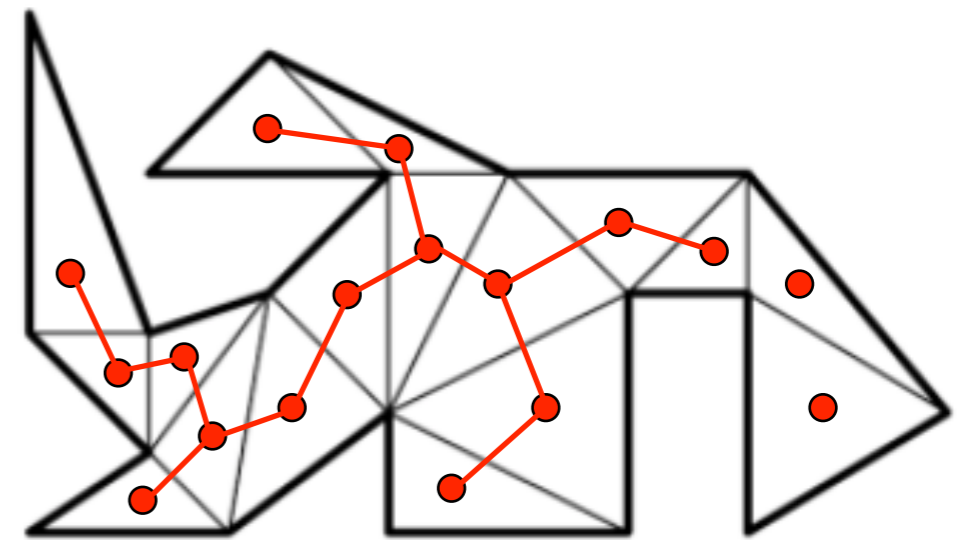
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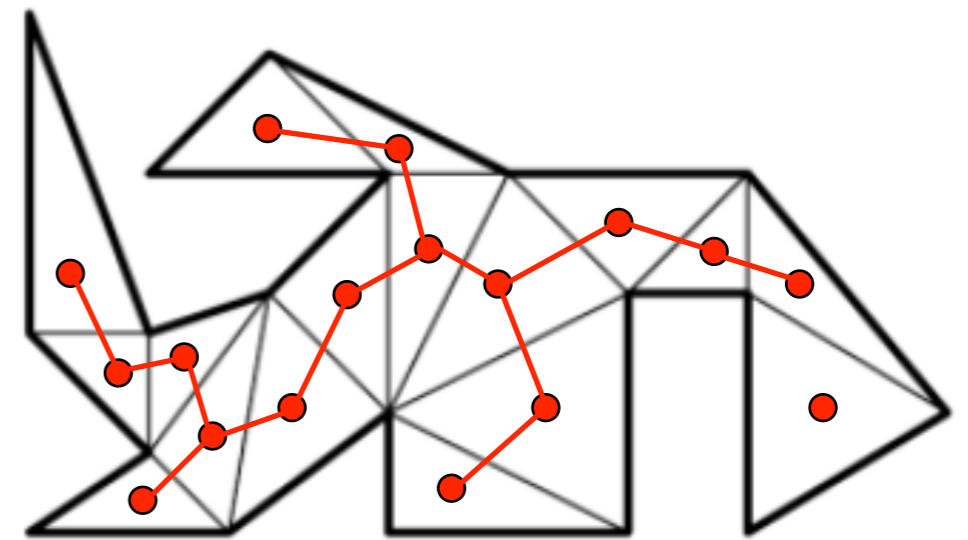
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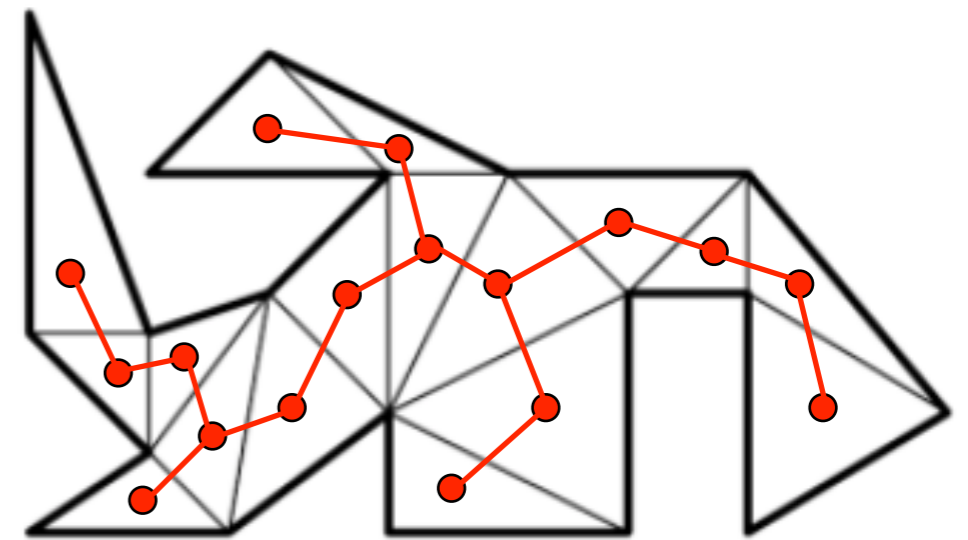
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## Theorem 5.9

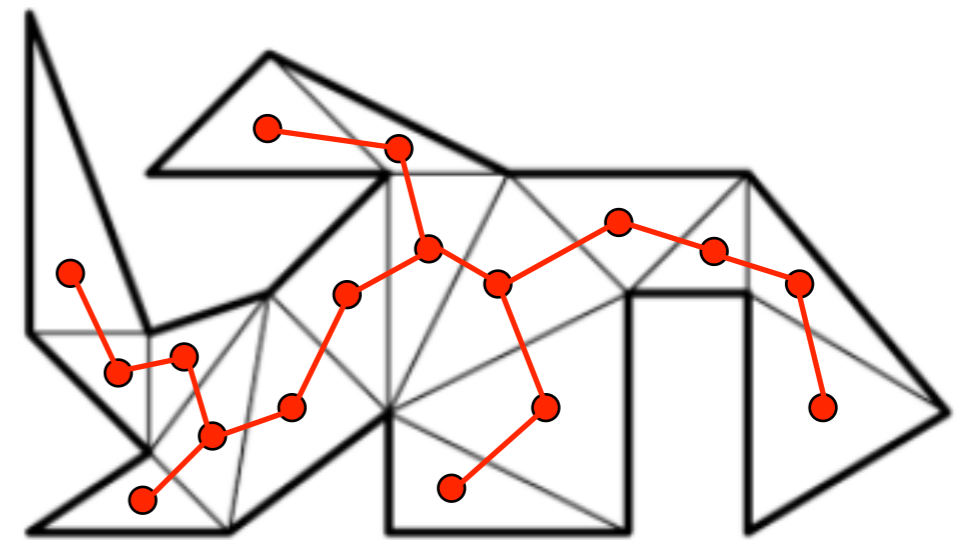
The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.



## Theorem 5.9

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

### Proof:

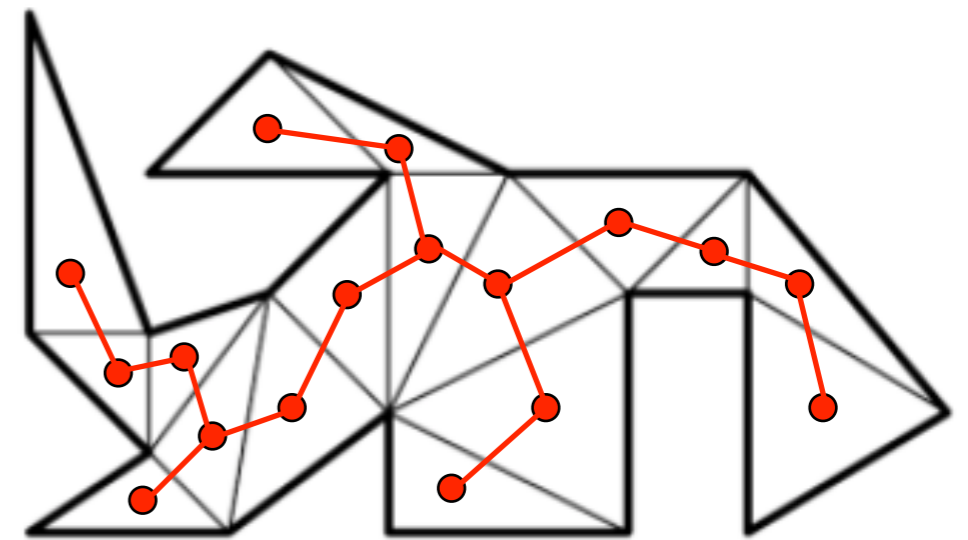


## Theorem 5.9

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

### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.



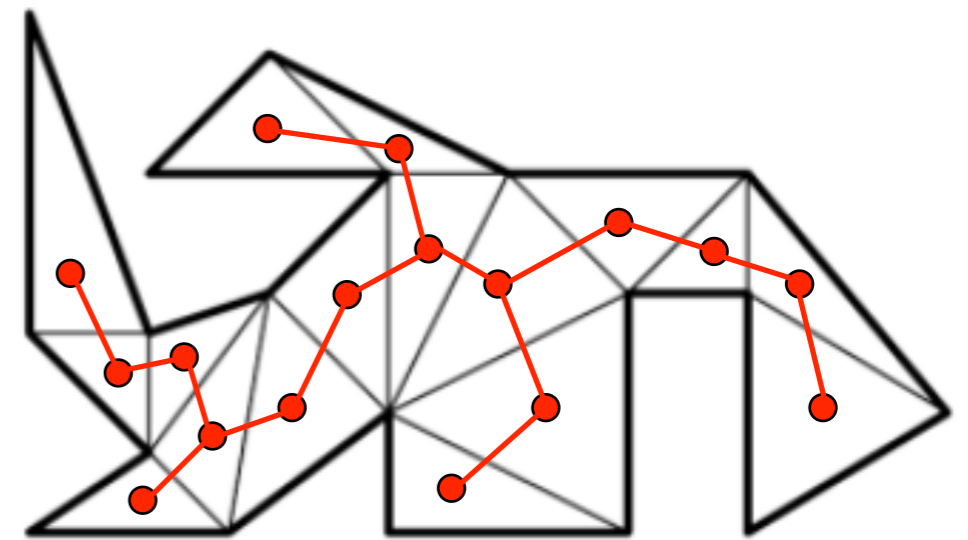
## Theorem 5.9

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.



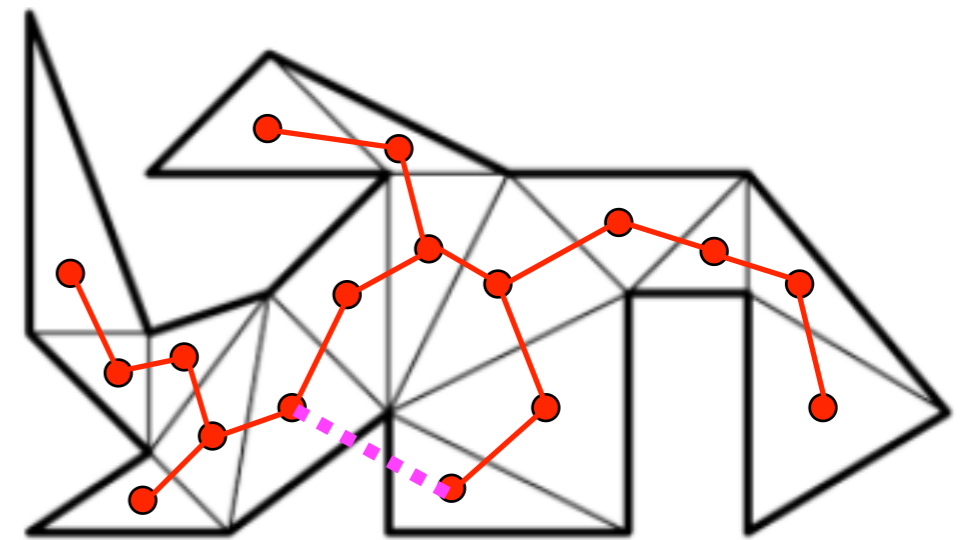
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## Theorem 5.9

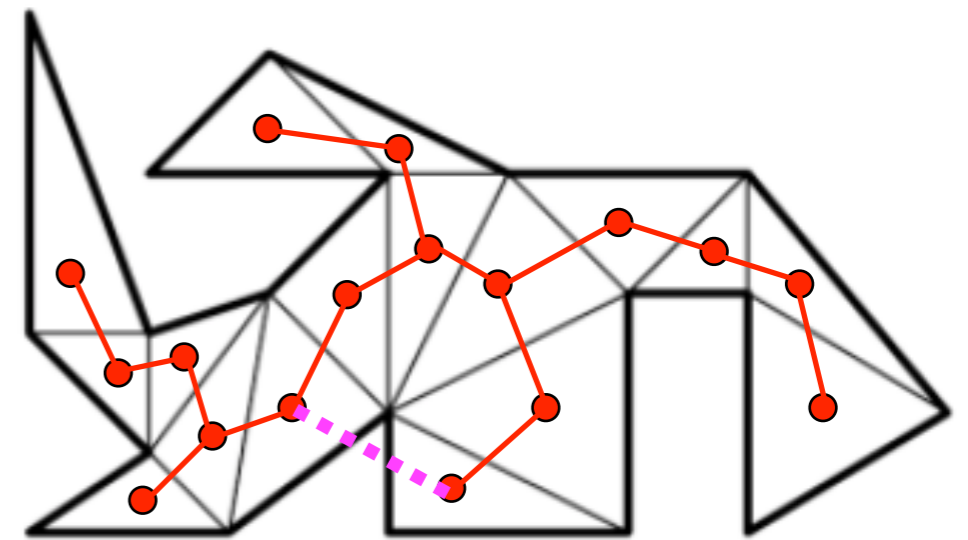
The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.

### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.

Assume it contains a cycle.

Note that each dual edge corresponds to



## Theorem 5.9

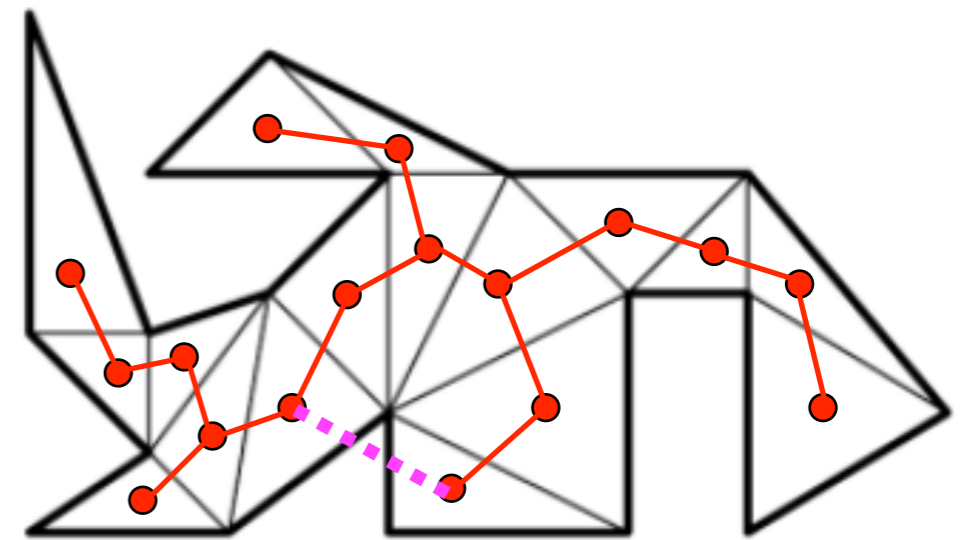
The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.

### 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

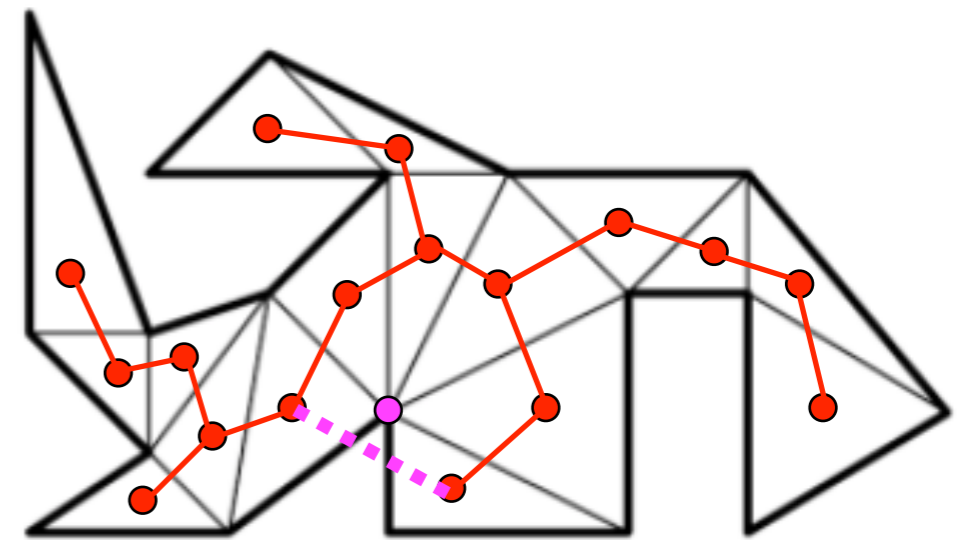
The dual graph of a triangulation of a simple polygon is a tree.

### Proof:

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## Theorem 5.9

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

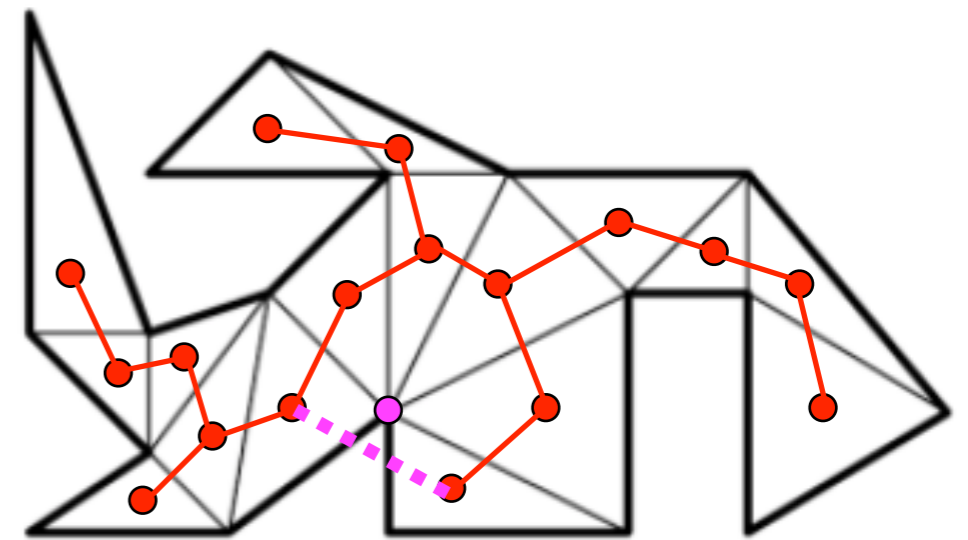
### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.

Assume it contains a cycle.

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.

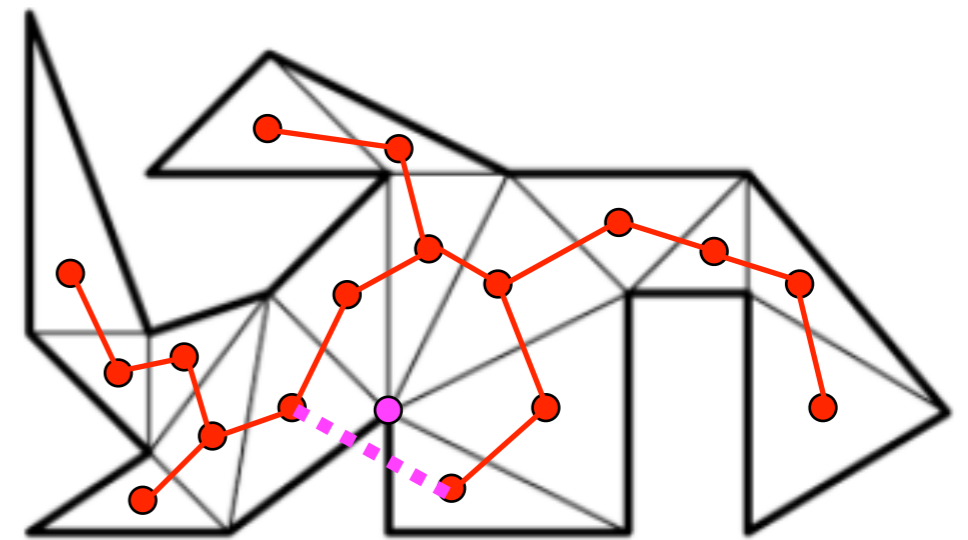
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The dual graph is trivially connected.

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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.



## Corollary 5.10

### Theorem 5.9

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

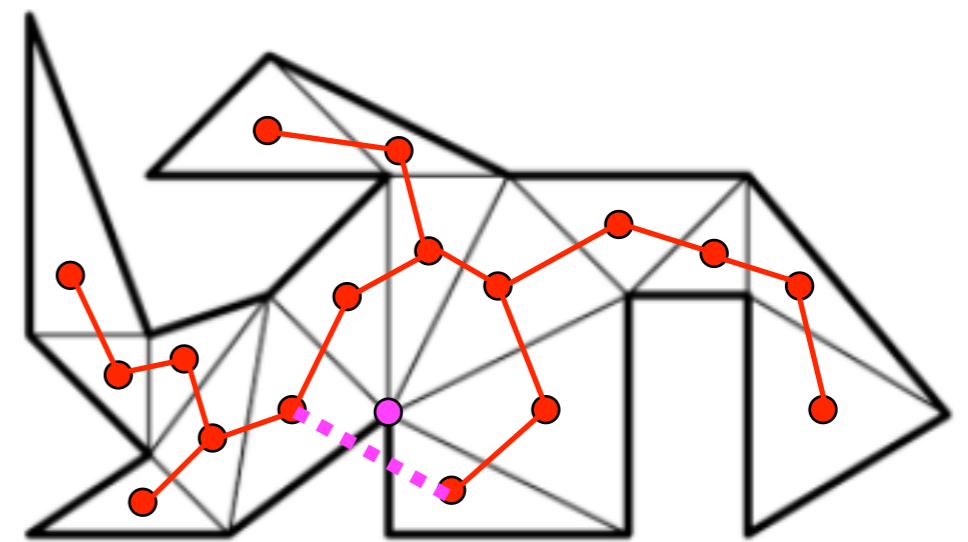
### Proof:

The dual graph is trivially connected.

Assume it contains a cycle.

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

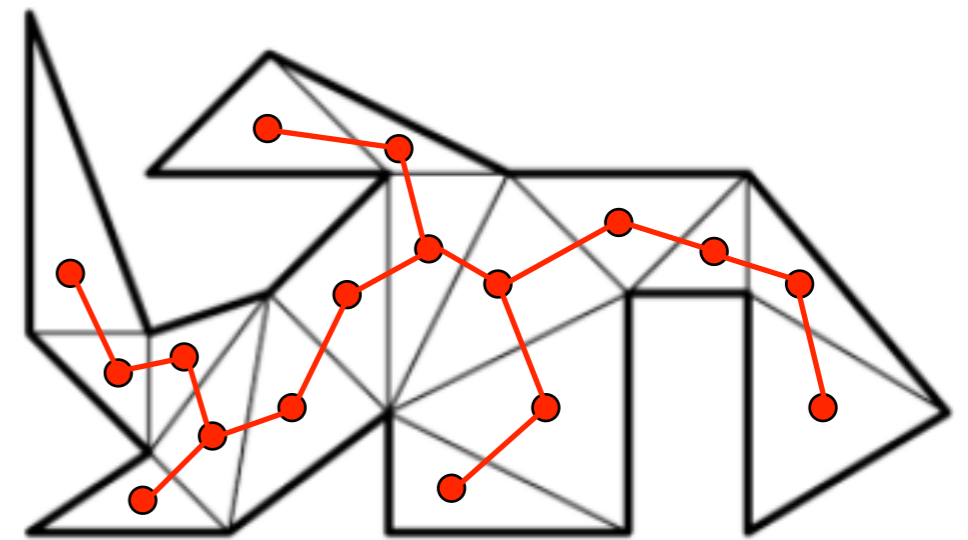
Therefore, a cycle corresponds to a closed path of interior points that surrounds a boundary vertex - a contradiction to a simple polygon having a connected boundary.



### Corollary 5.10

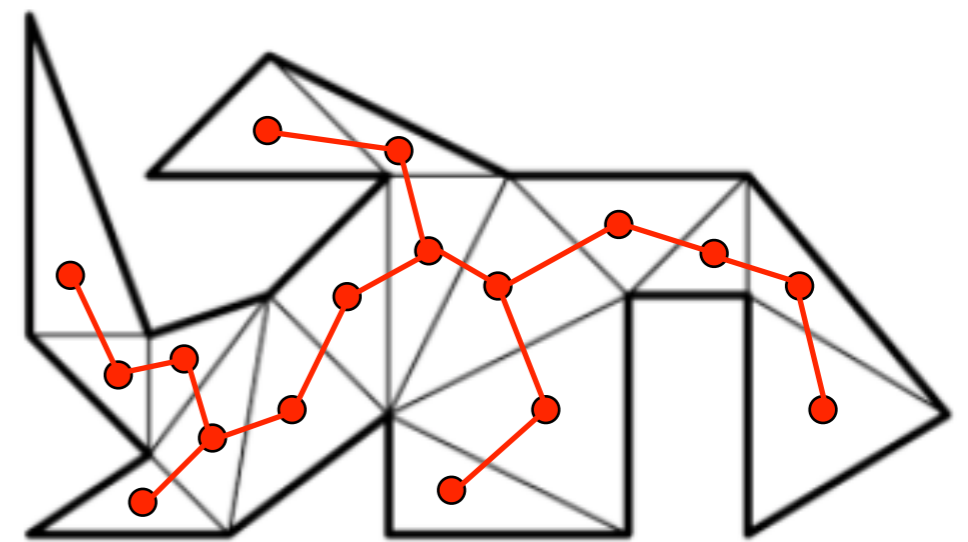
Every triangulation of a simple polygon has two „ears“ - leaves in the dual.

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

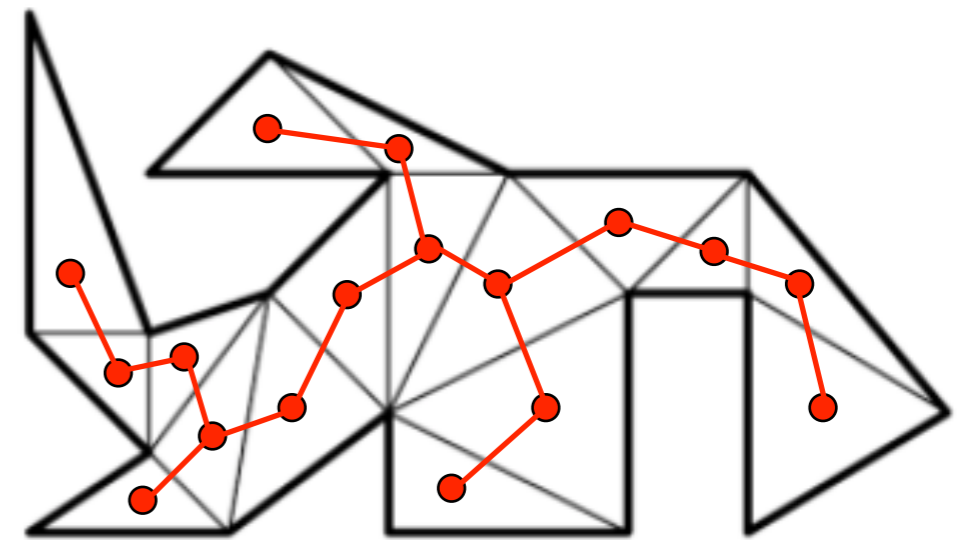




Input:

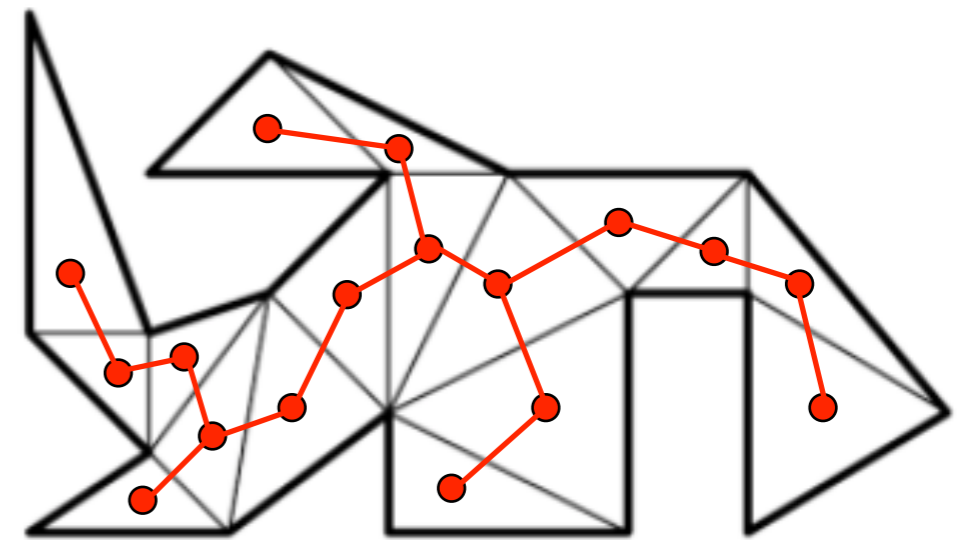


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .



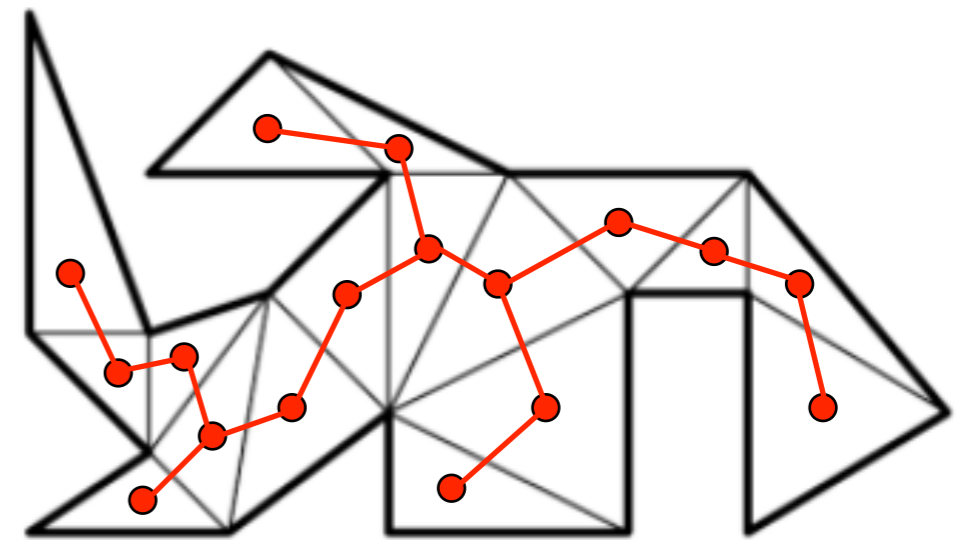
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**Output:**



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

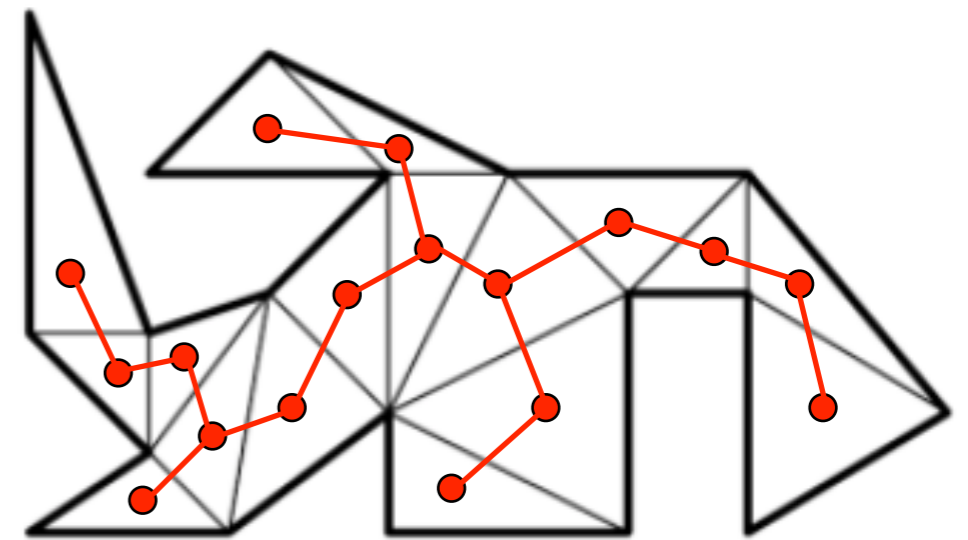
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .



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

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

**Idea:**

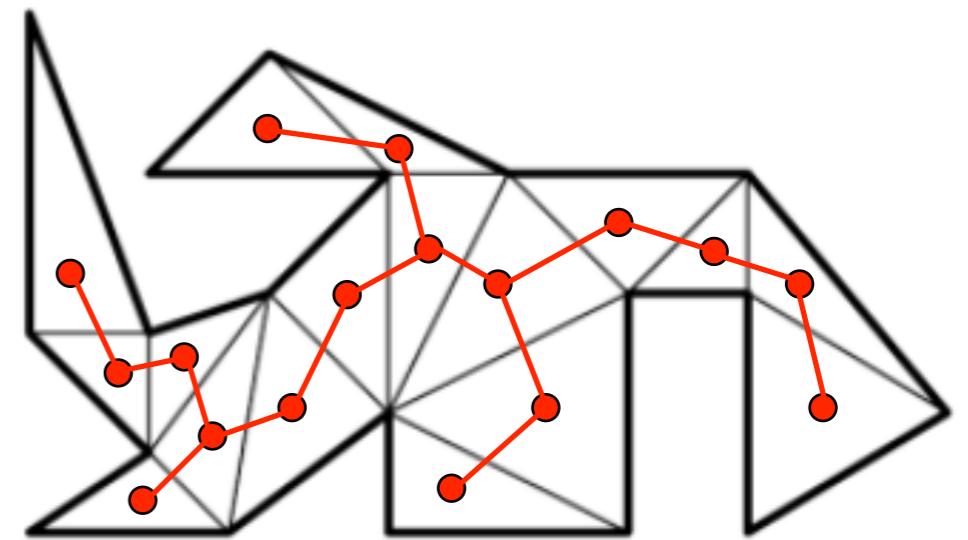


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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

**Idea:**

- Find an ear.

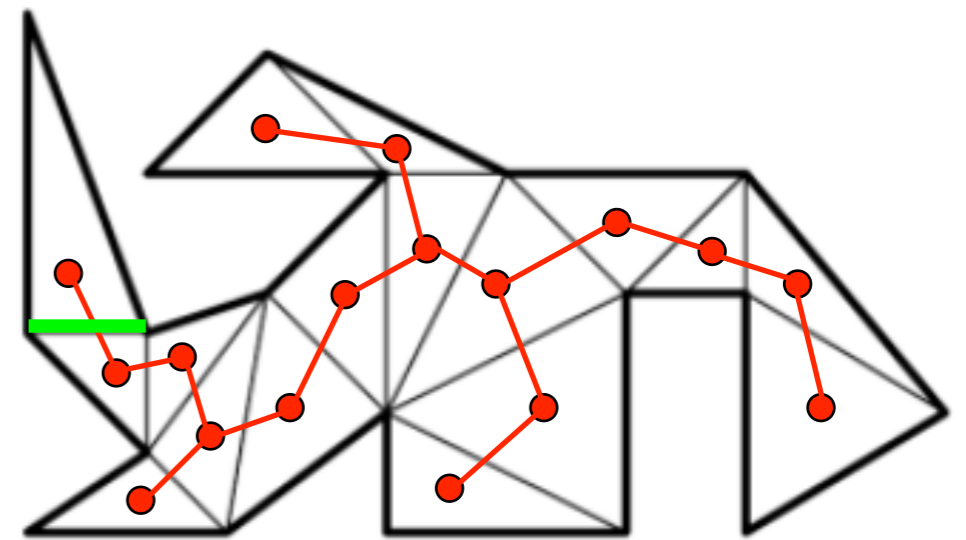


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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

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- Find an ear.

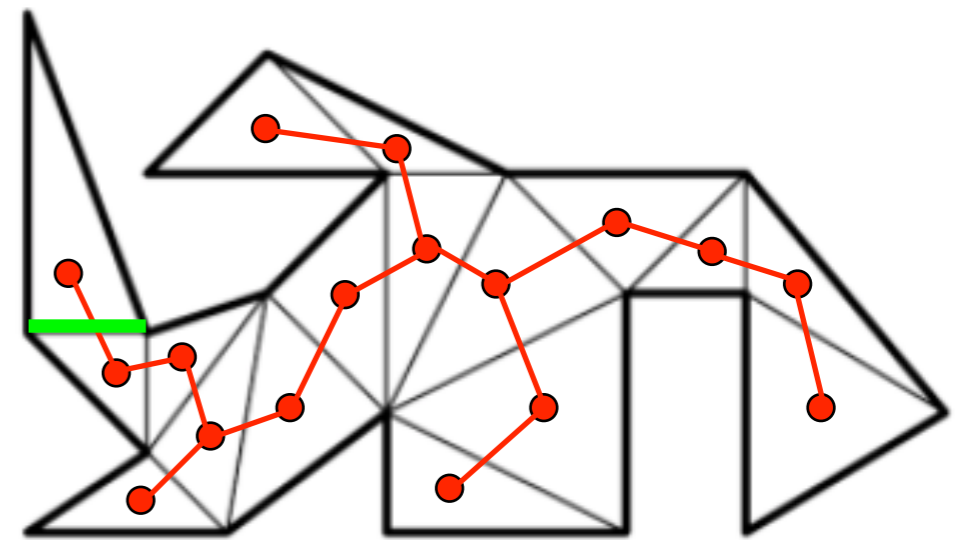


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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

## Idea:

- Find an ear.
- Remove it.



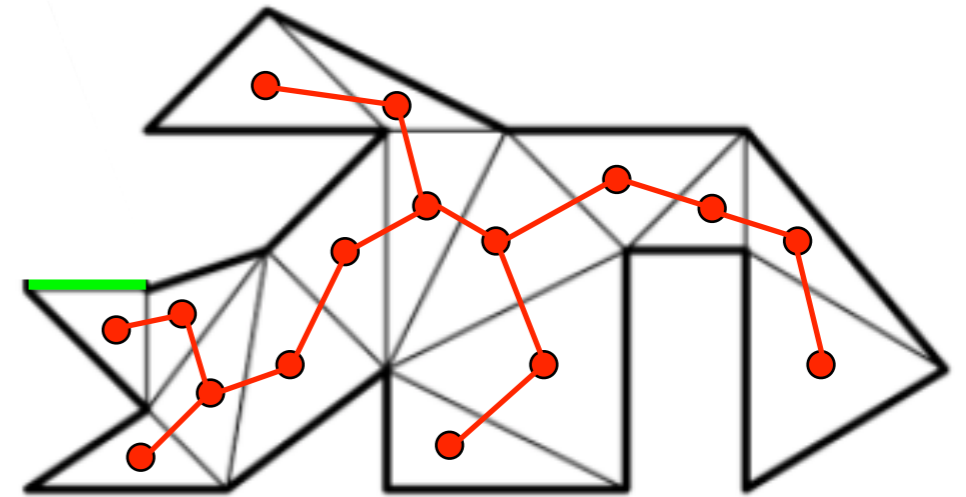


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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

**Idea:**

- Find an ear.
- Remove it.

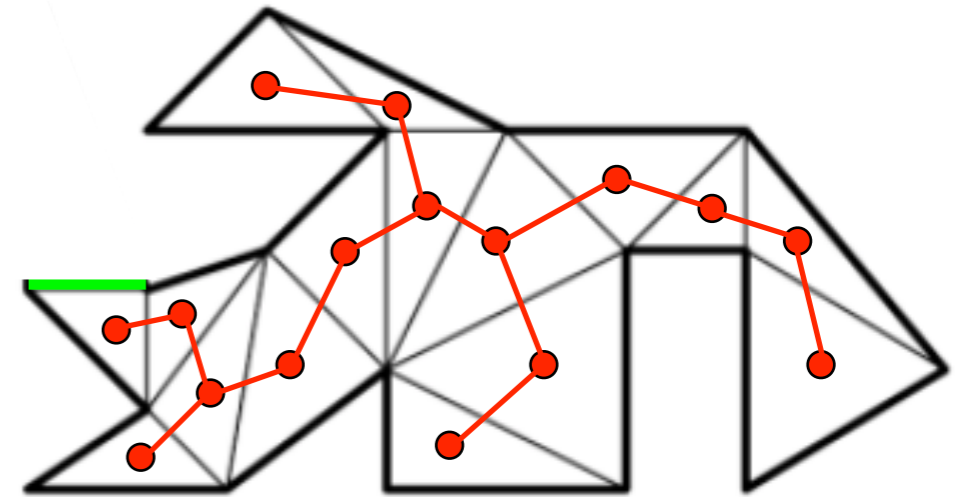


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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

## Idea:

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



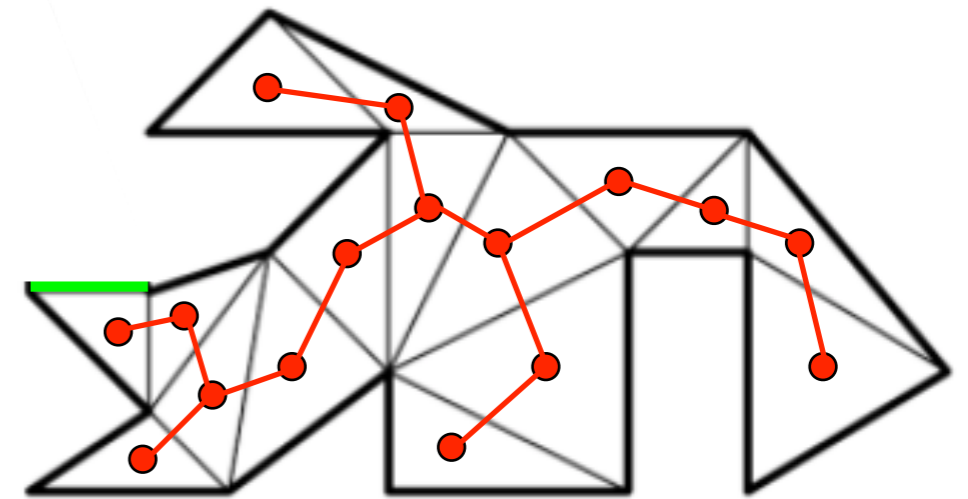
**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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

## Idea:

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

## Runtime:



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

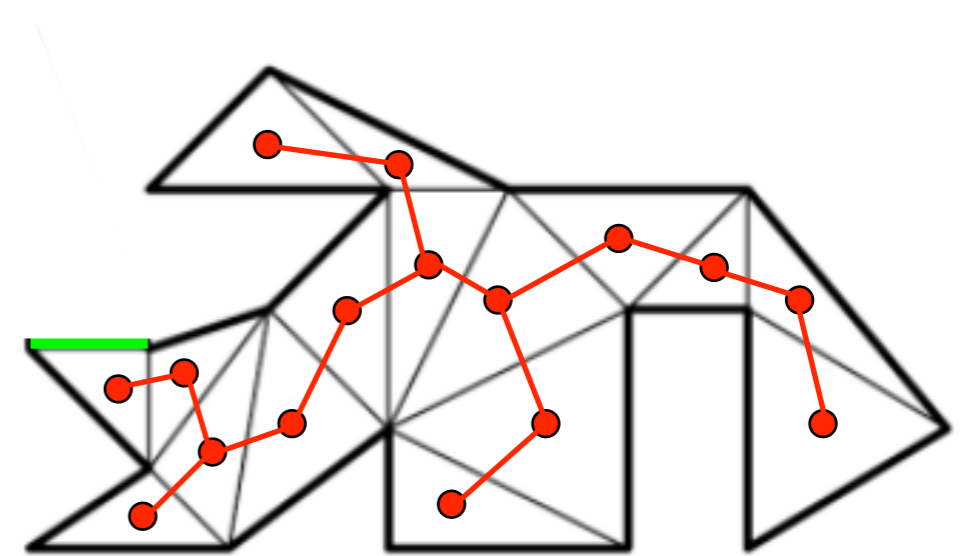
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

- Checking convexity:



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

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

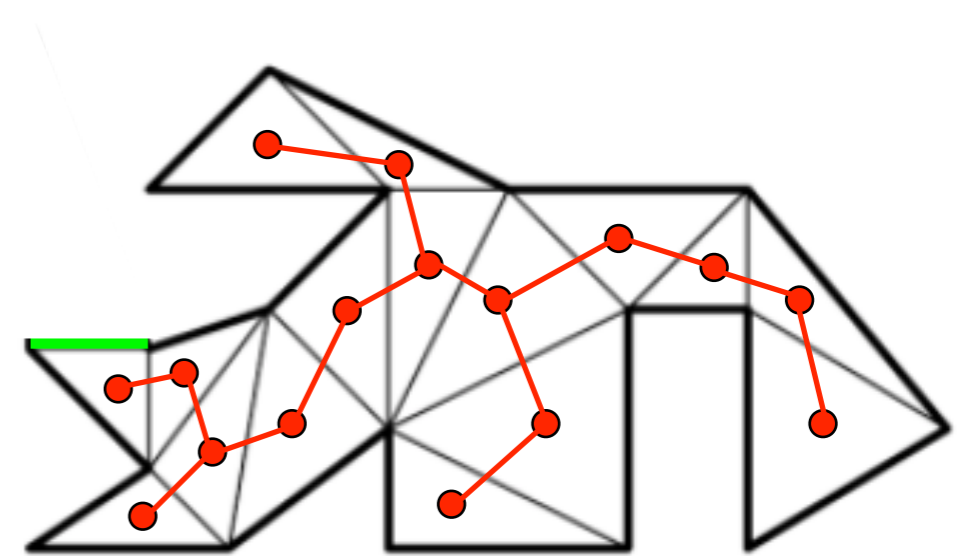
**Idea:**

- 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  $P$ .

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

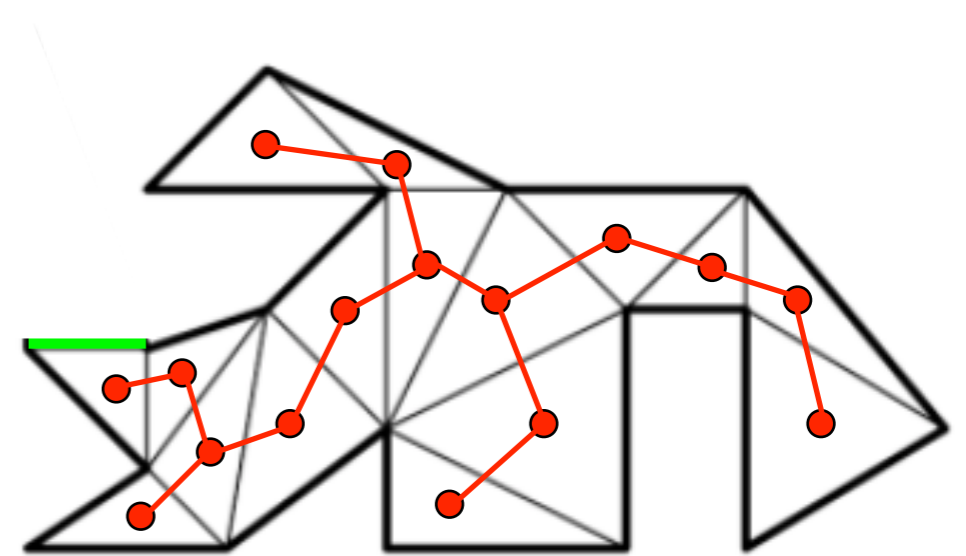
**Idea:**

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

**Runtime:**

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

$O(1)$



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

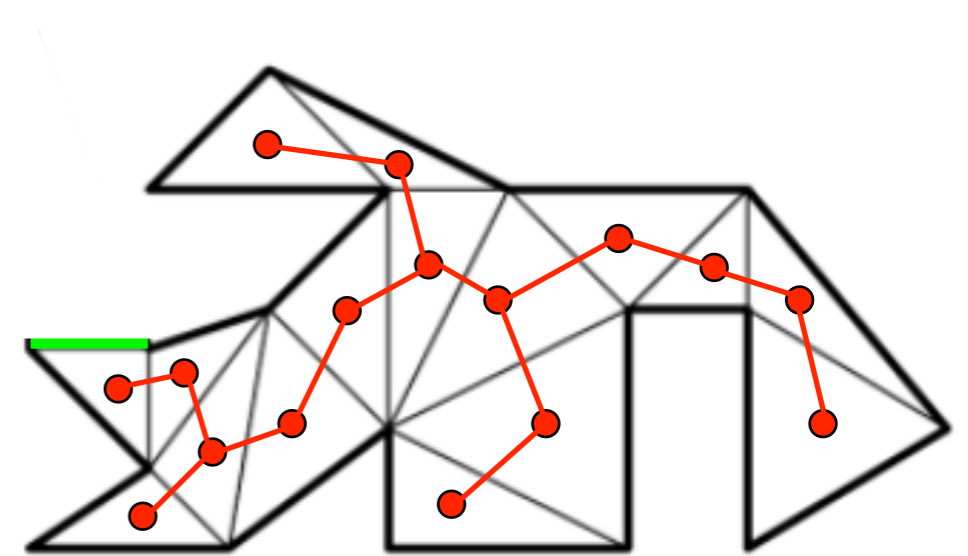
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

- Checking convexity:  $O(1)$
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:  $O(n)$



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

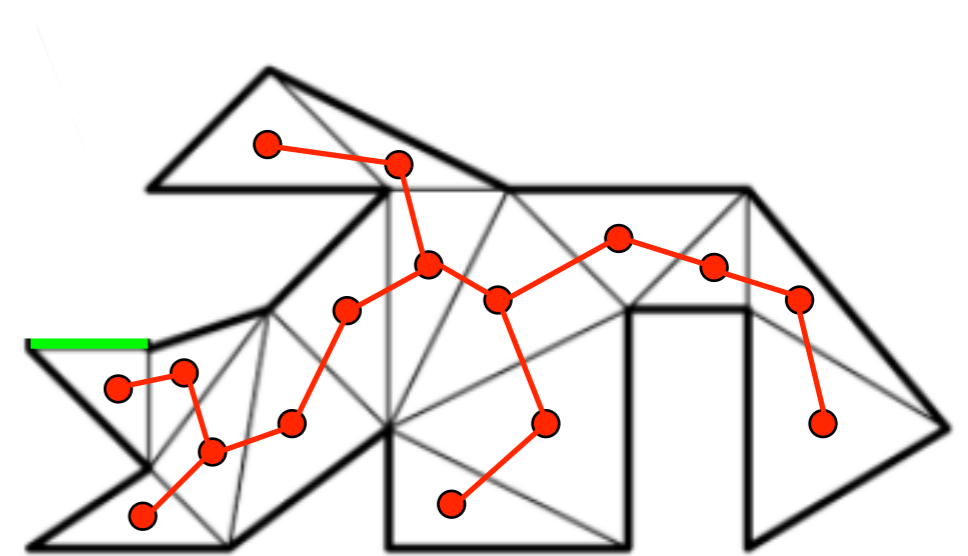
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

- Checking convexity:  $O(1)$
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:  $O(n)$
- Finding an ear:





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

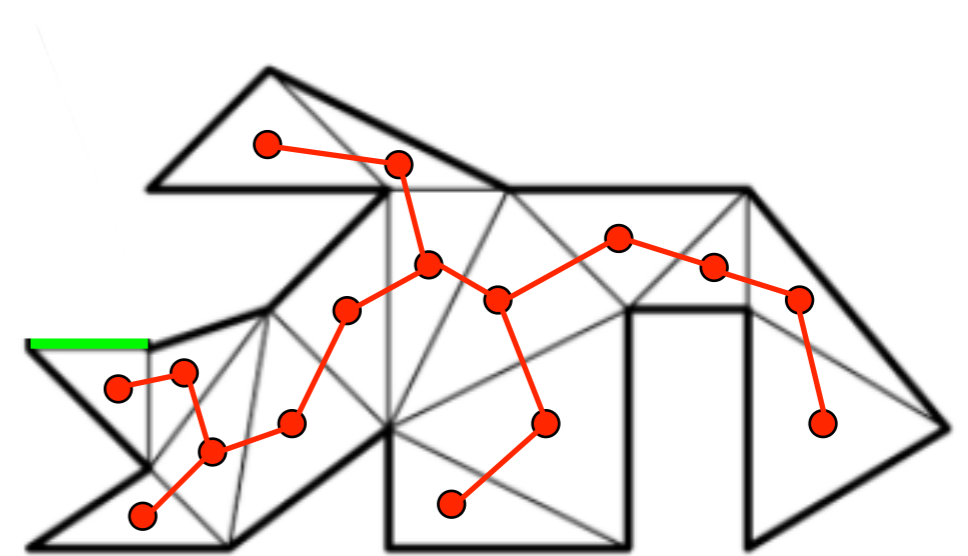
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

- Checking convexity:  $O(1)$
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:  $O(n)$
- Finding an ear:  $O(n^2)$



**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  $P$ .

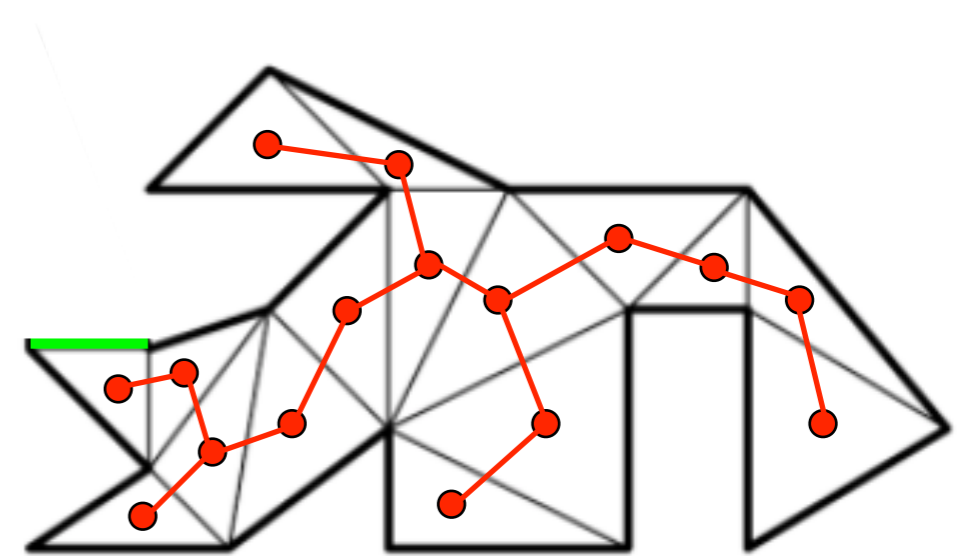
## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

- Checking convexity:  $O(1)$
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:  $O(n)$
- Finding an ear:  $O(n^2)$

## Total:



**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  $P$ .

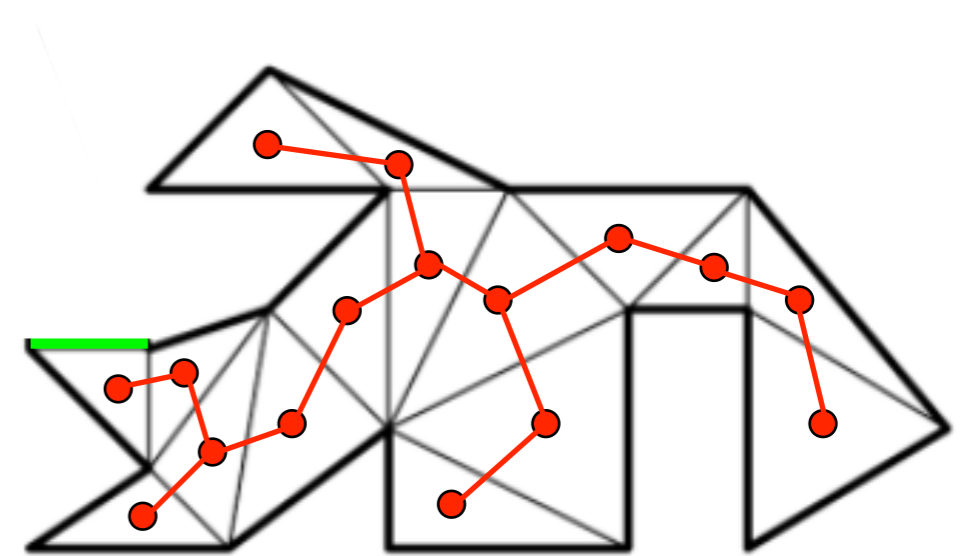
**Idea:**

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

**Runtime:**

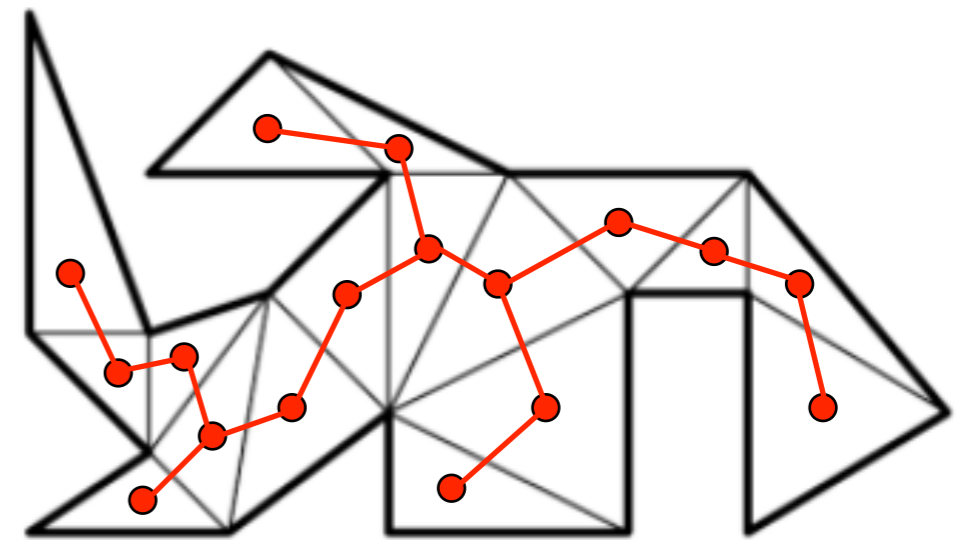
- Checking convexity:  $O(1)$
- Checking whether vertex is and ear:  $O(n)$
- Finding an ear:  $O(n^2)$

**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

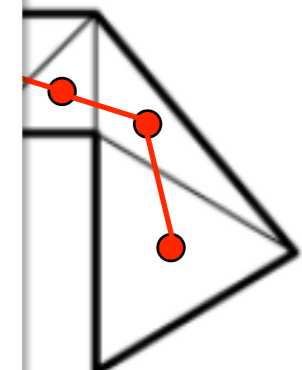
**Output:** List of internal diagonals



The screenshot shows the abstract of a paper titled "Slicing an ear using prune-and-search" published in Pattern Recognition Letters, Volume 14, Issue 9, September 1993, Pages 719-722. The authors are Hossam ElGindy, Hazel Everett, and Godfried Toussaint. The abstract text is as follows:

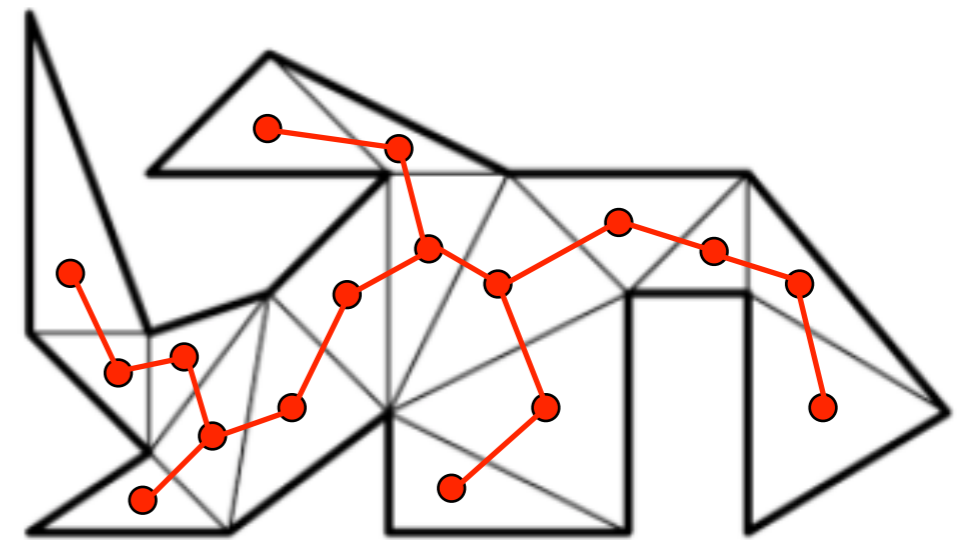
**Abstract**

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  $P$ .

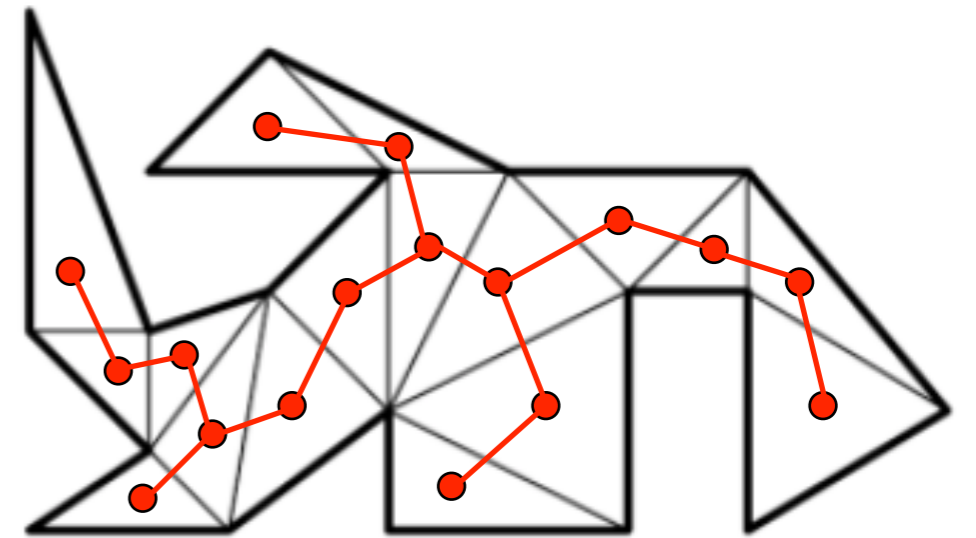
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .



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

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

## Algorithm 5.11

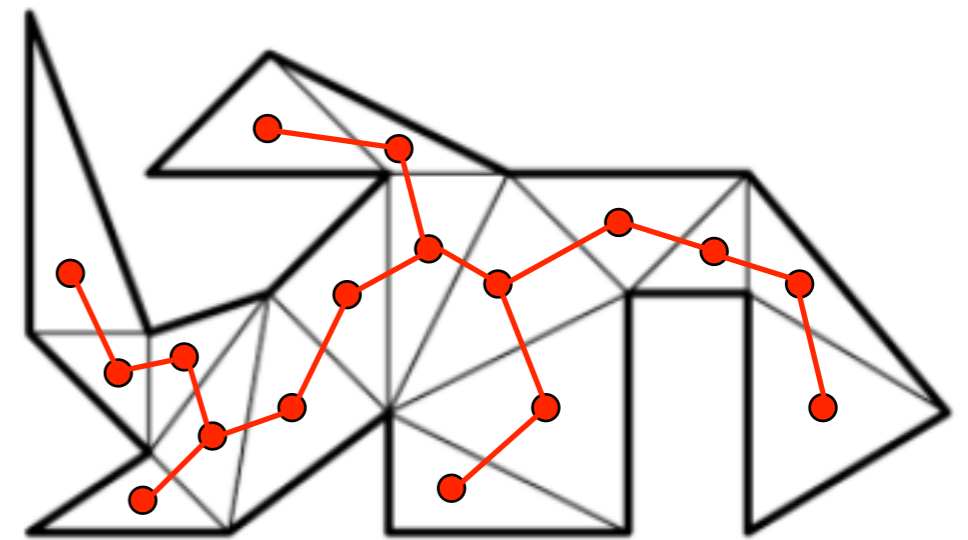


**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

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

## Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)





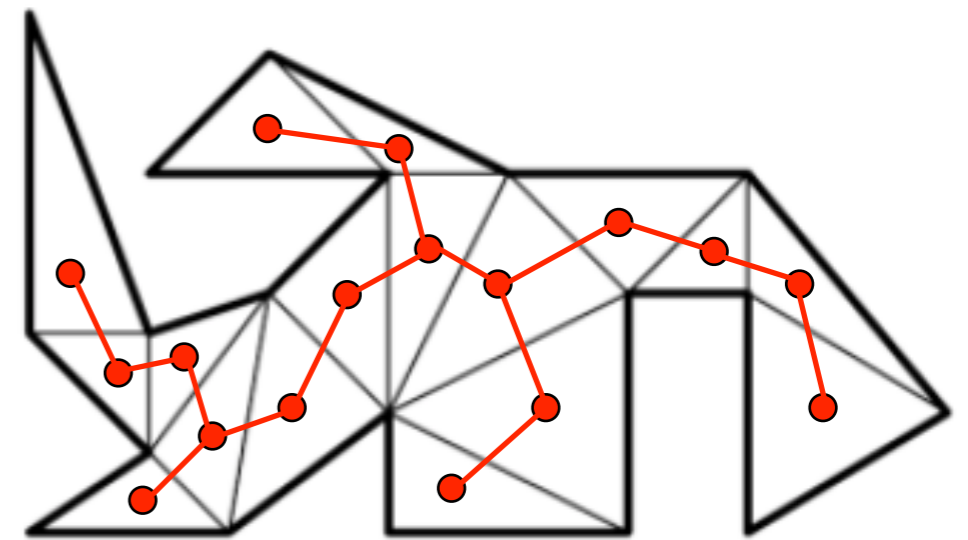
**Input:**  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , sorted list of the vertices of a simple polygon  $P$ .

**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.



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

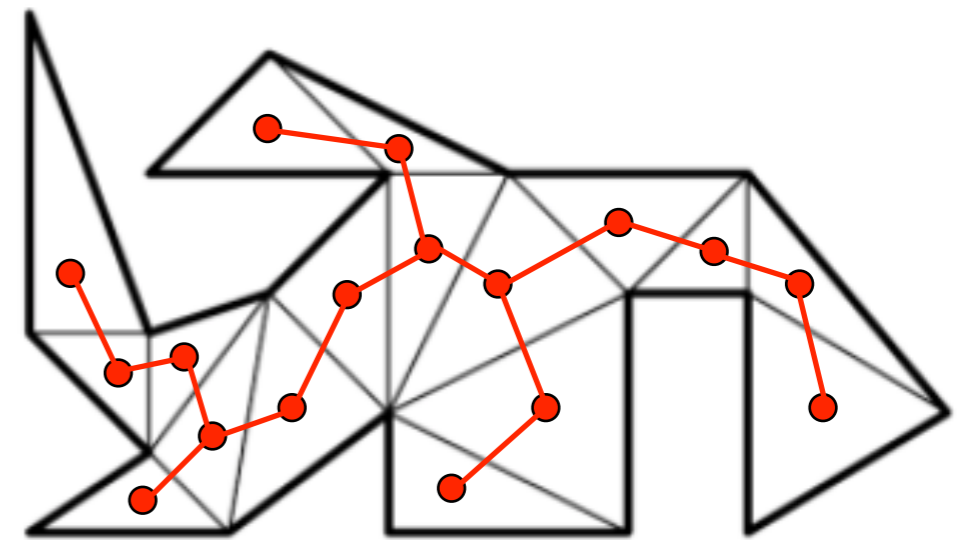
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.

$O(n)$



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

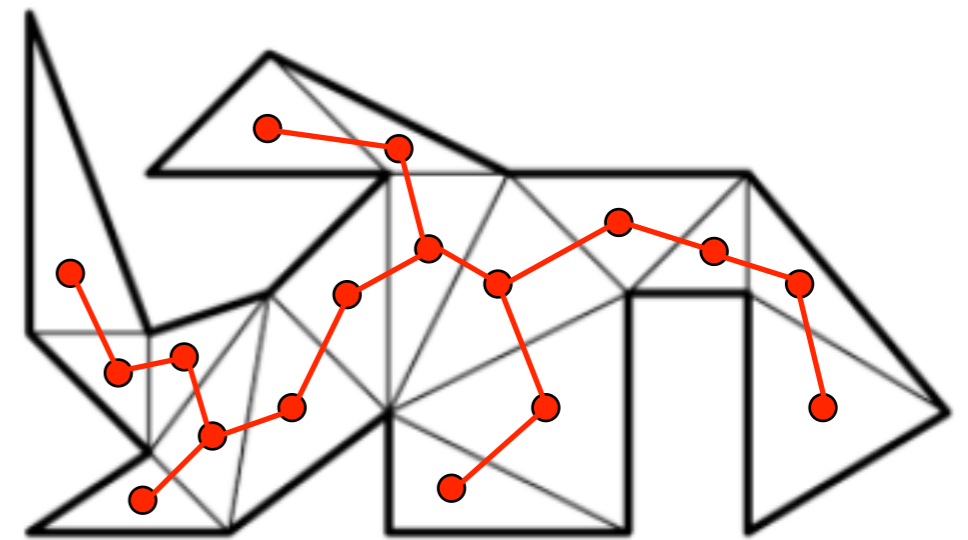
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## 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  $P$ .

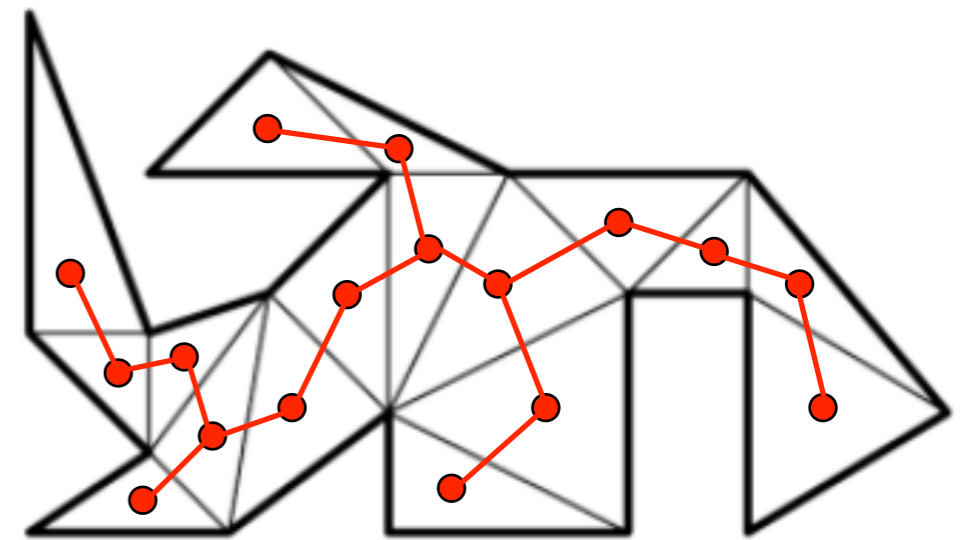
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## Algorithm 5.11

**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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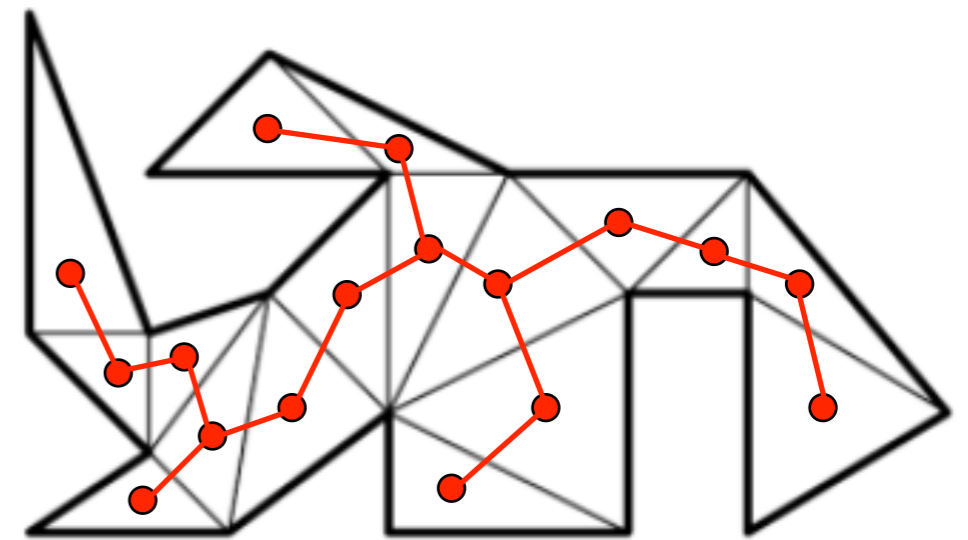
## Algorithm 5.11

**Initialize:** (once)

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- Identify all ears.

**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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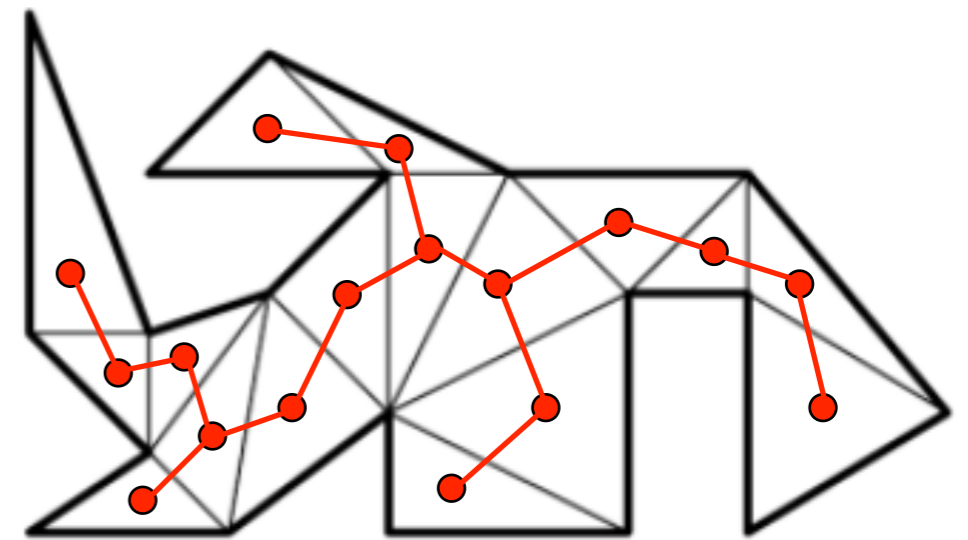
**Initialize:** (once)

- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

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

- Remove ear.

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



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

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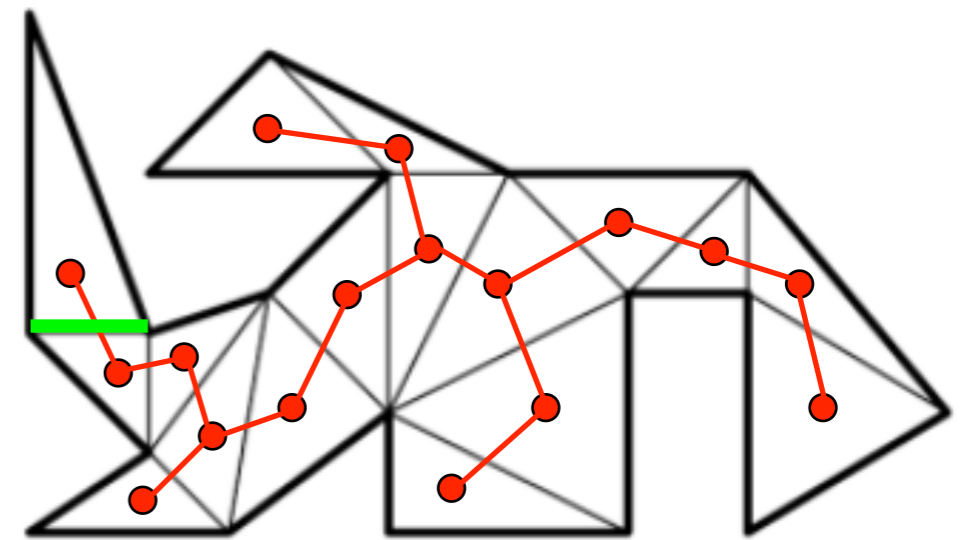
**Initialize:** (once)

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



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

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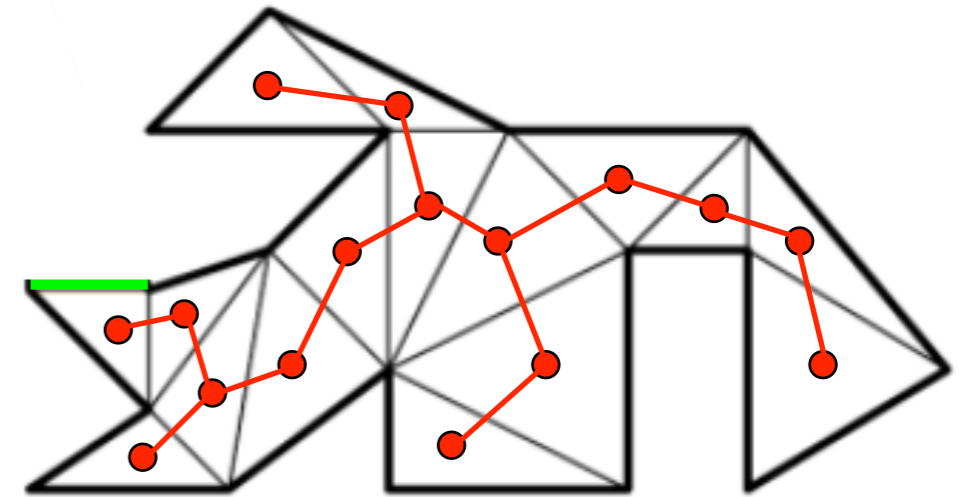
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$O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$





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

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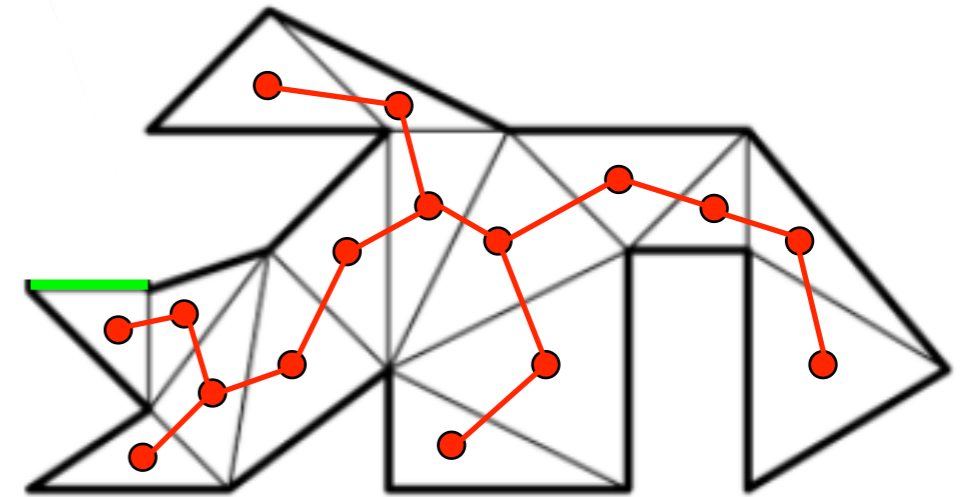
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- Remove ear.

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

$O(1)$



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

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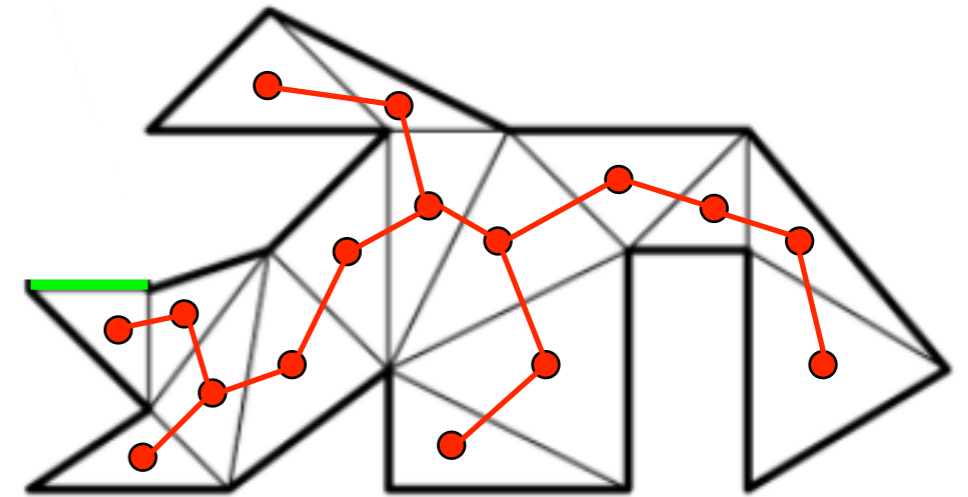
- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

**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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**Initialize:** (once)

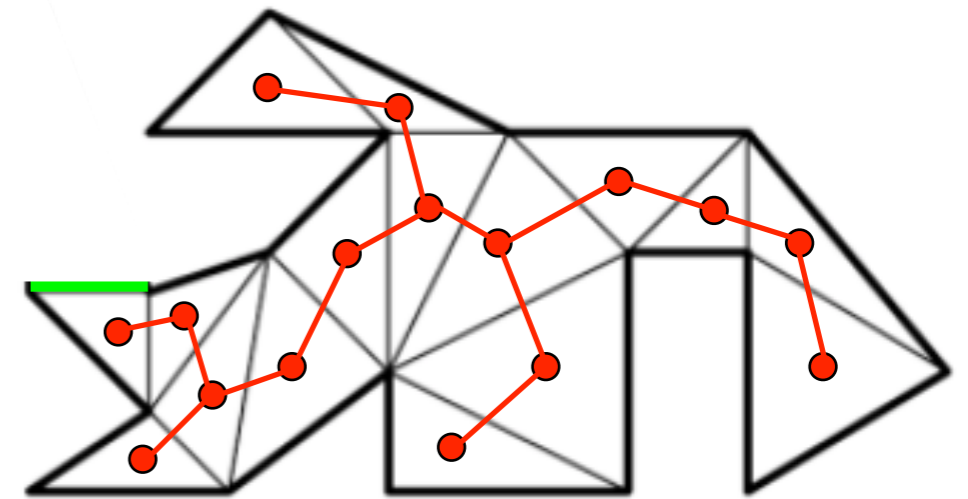
- Find all convex vertices.
- Identify all ears.

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

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- Update convexity.

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

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



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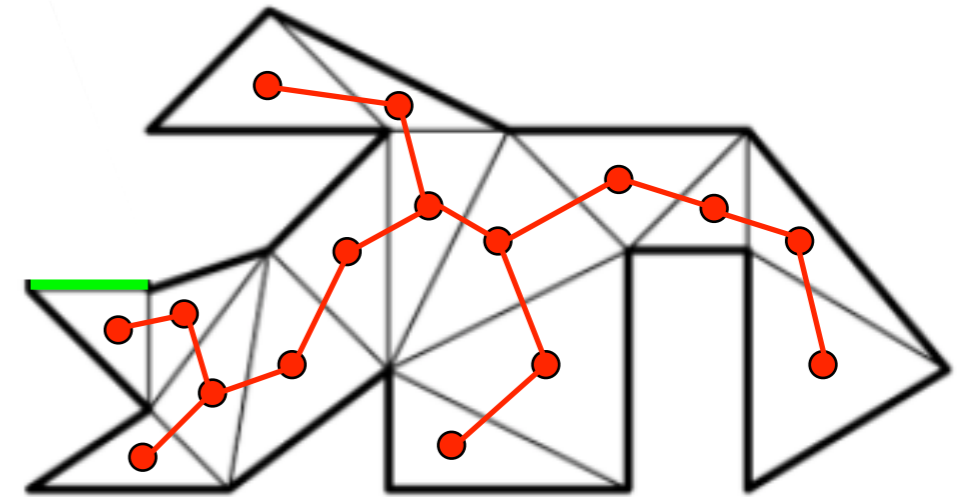
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- Update ears.

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

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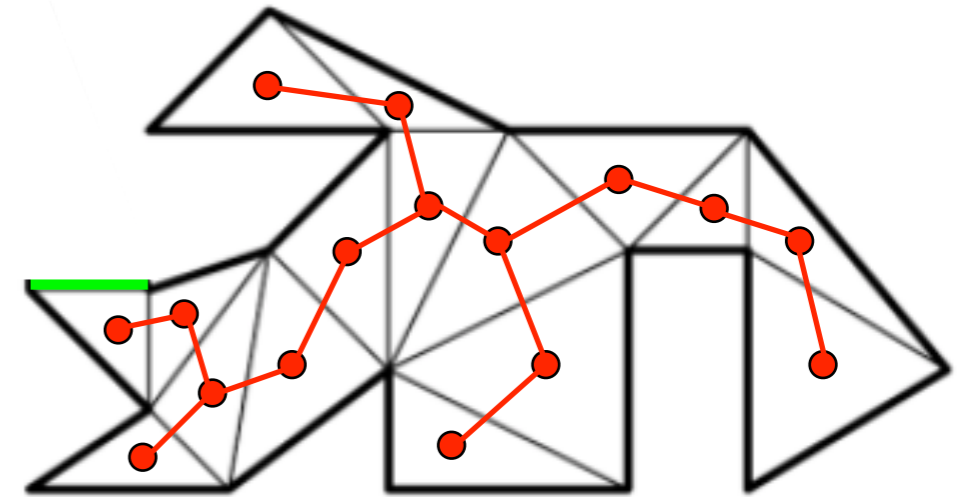
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$O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$

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



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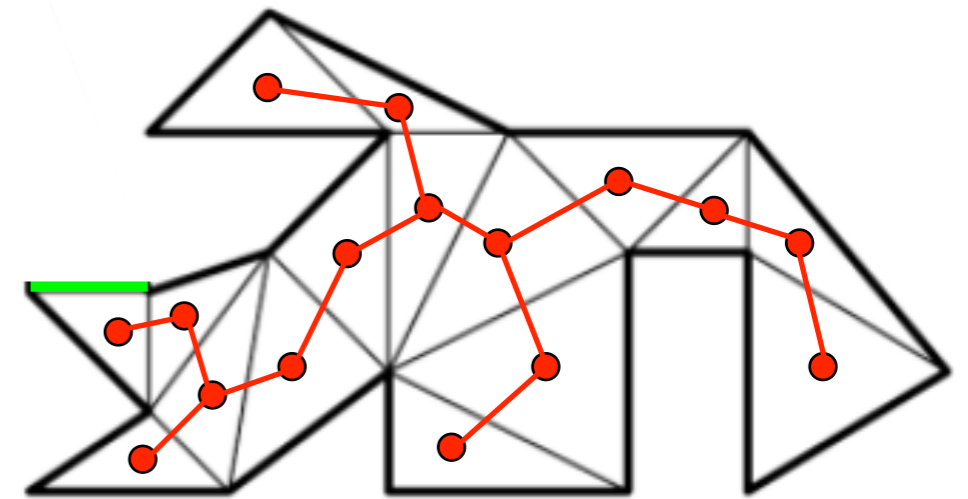
- Find all convex vertices.
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- Update convexity.
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$O(n)$   
 $O(n^2)$

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



**Total:**

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

**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.

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

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

$$O(n)$$

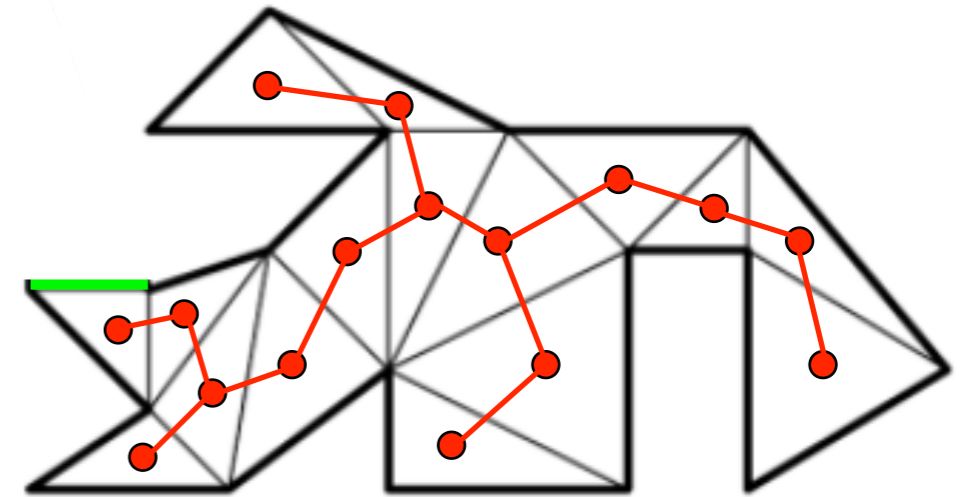
$$O(n^2)$$

$$O(1)$$

$$O(1)$$

$$O(n)$$

$$O(n^2)$$



**Total:**

1. Introduction
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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  $P$ .

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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.

$$O(n^4)$$

**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.
- Insert it.

$$O(n^4)$$



**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.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

$$O(n^4)$$

**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:**

$$O(n^4)$$

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## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

- Testing a chord:

$$O(n^4)$$

**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.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

## Runtime:

- Testing a chord:
- Checking all chords:

$$O(n^4)$$

**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.
- Insert it.
- Recurse over subpolygons.

## Runtime:

• Testing a chord:  $O(n)$

• Checking all chords:

$$O(n^4)$$

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

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## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

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

**Total:**  $O(n^4)$

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

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## Idea:

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

## Runtime:

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

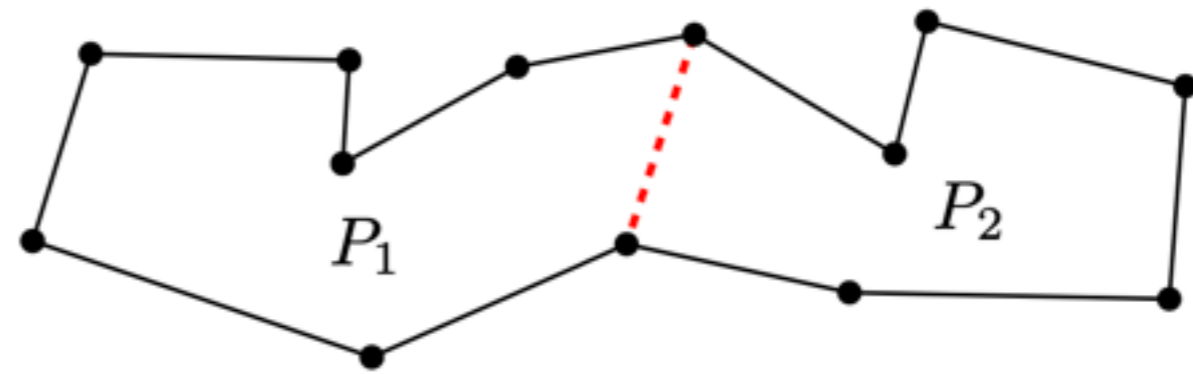
**Total:**  $O(n^4)$

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

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**Idea:**

- Find a diagonal.
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**Runtime:**

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

**Total:**  $O(n^4)$



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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  $P$ .

**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:

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

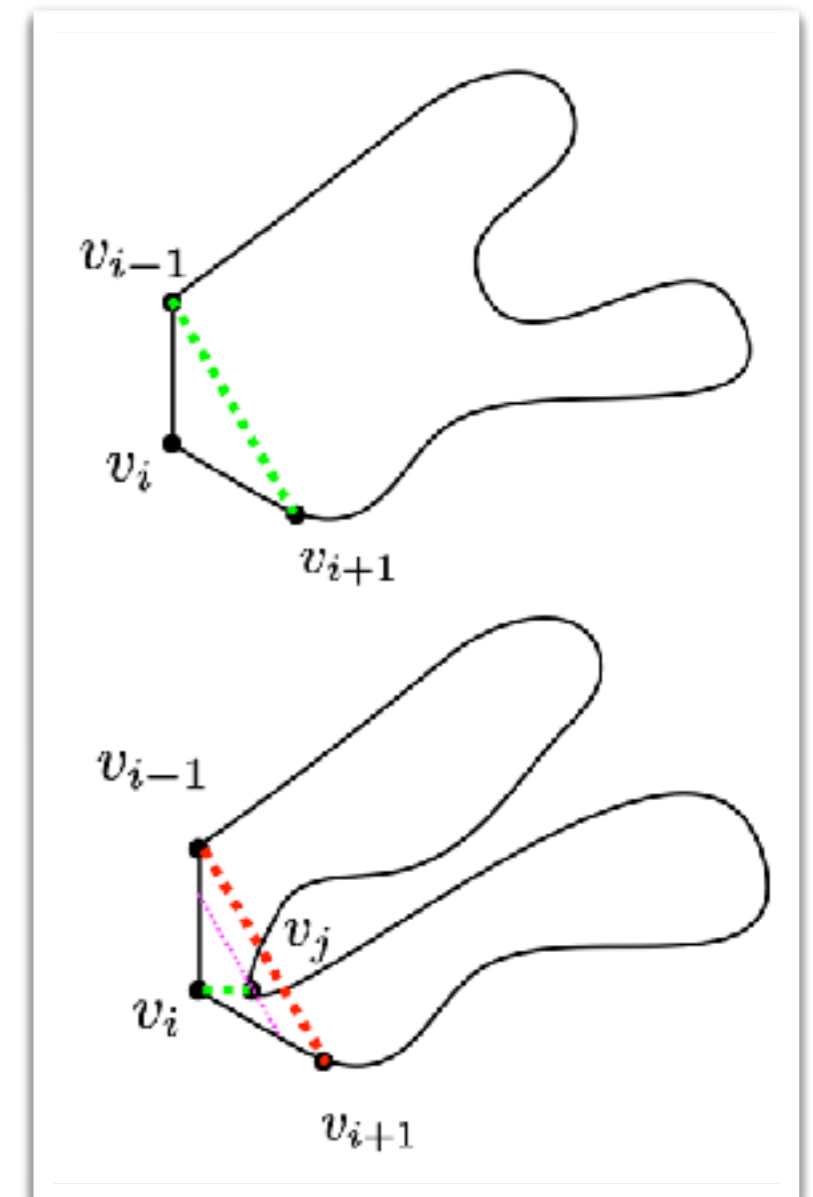
**Output:** List of internal diagonals of  $P$ ,  $v_i v_j$ , determining a triangulation of  $P$ .

## Algorithm 5.12:

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

## Runtime:

- Consider a convex edge:



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

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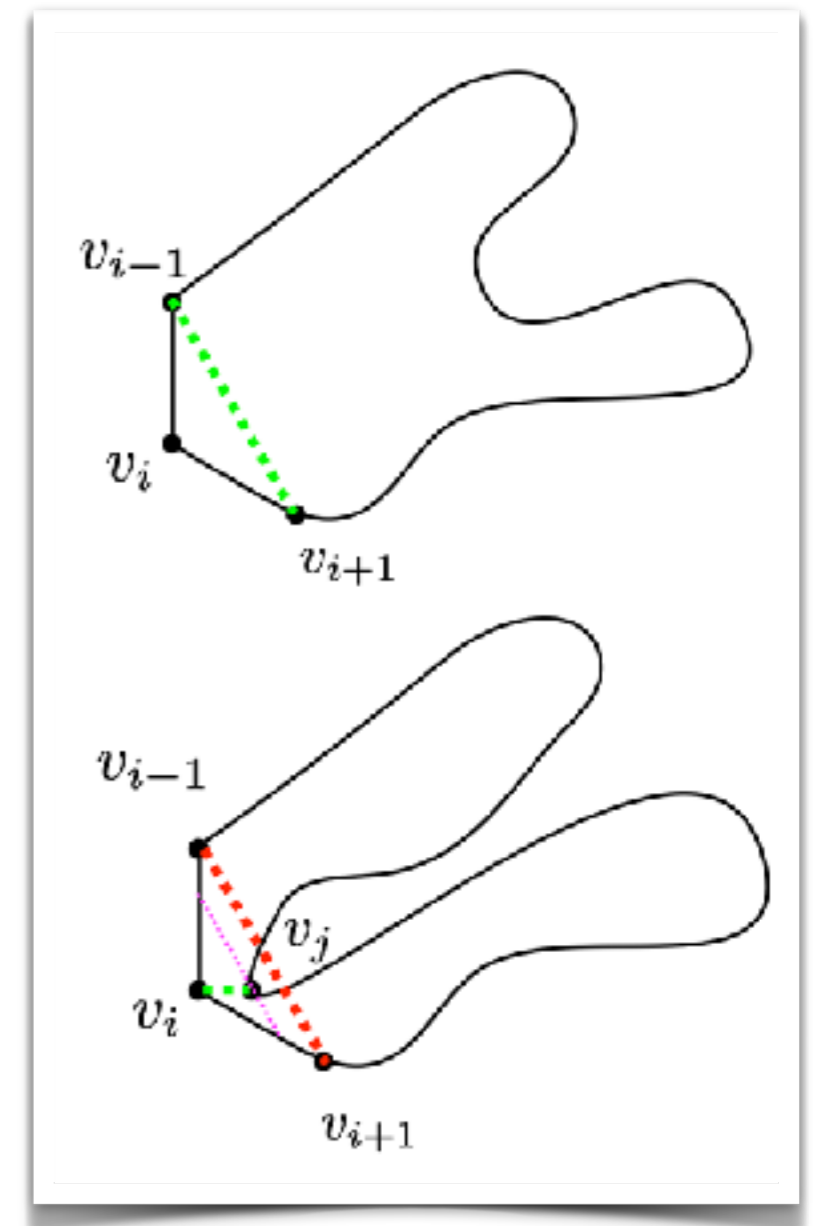
## Algorithm 5.12:

- 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  $P$ .

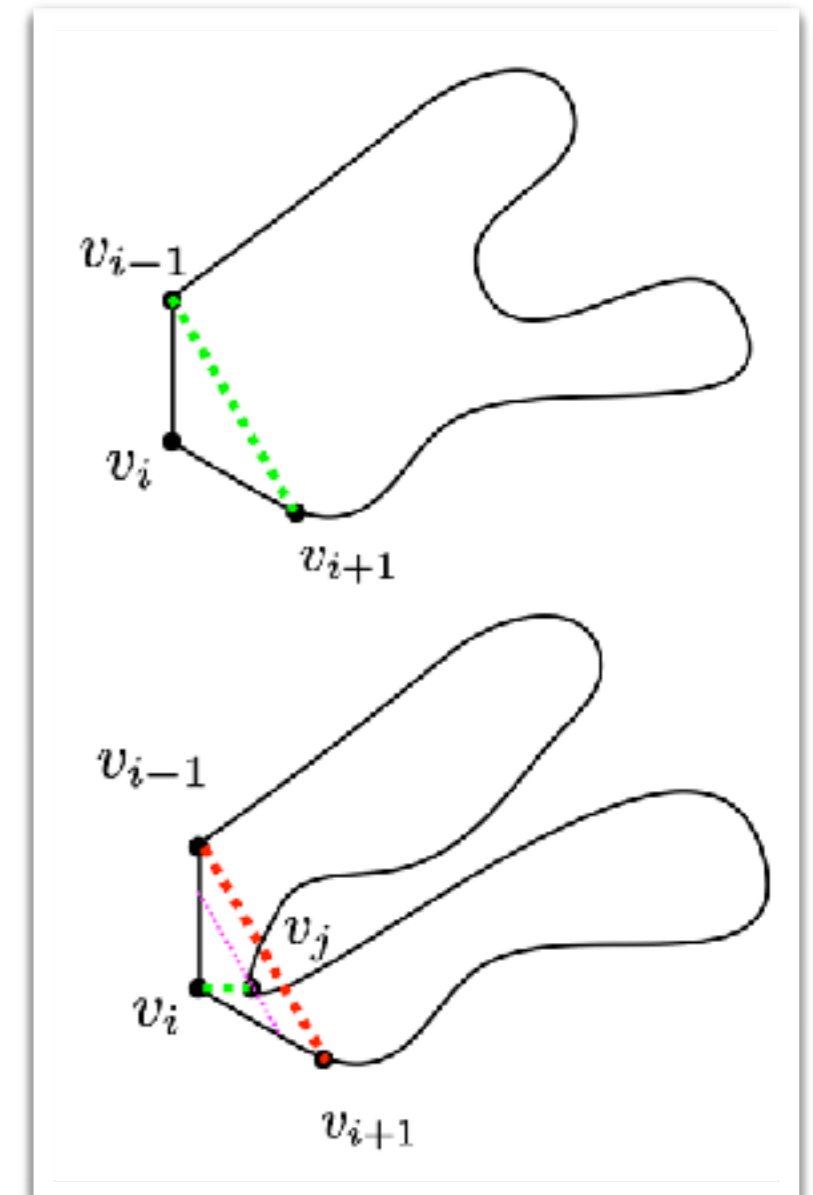
## Algorithm 5.12:

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

## Runtime:

- Consider a convex edge:
- Check connection:

$O(1)$



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

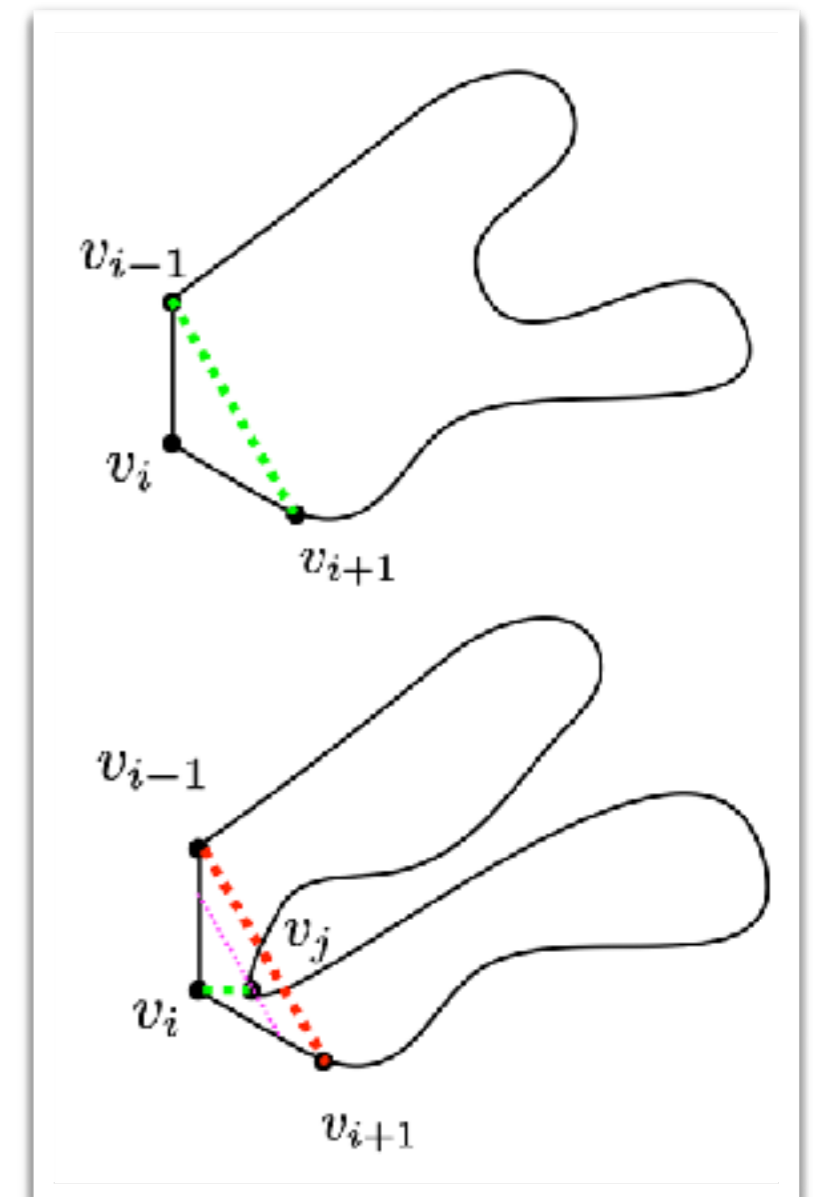
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## Algorithm 5.12:

- Find a diagonal.
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## Runtime:

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



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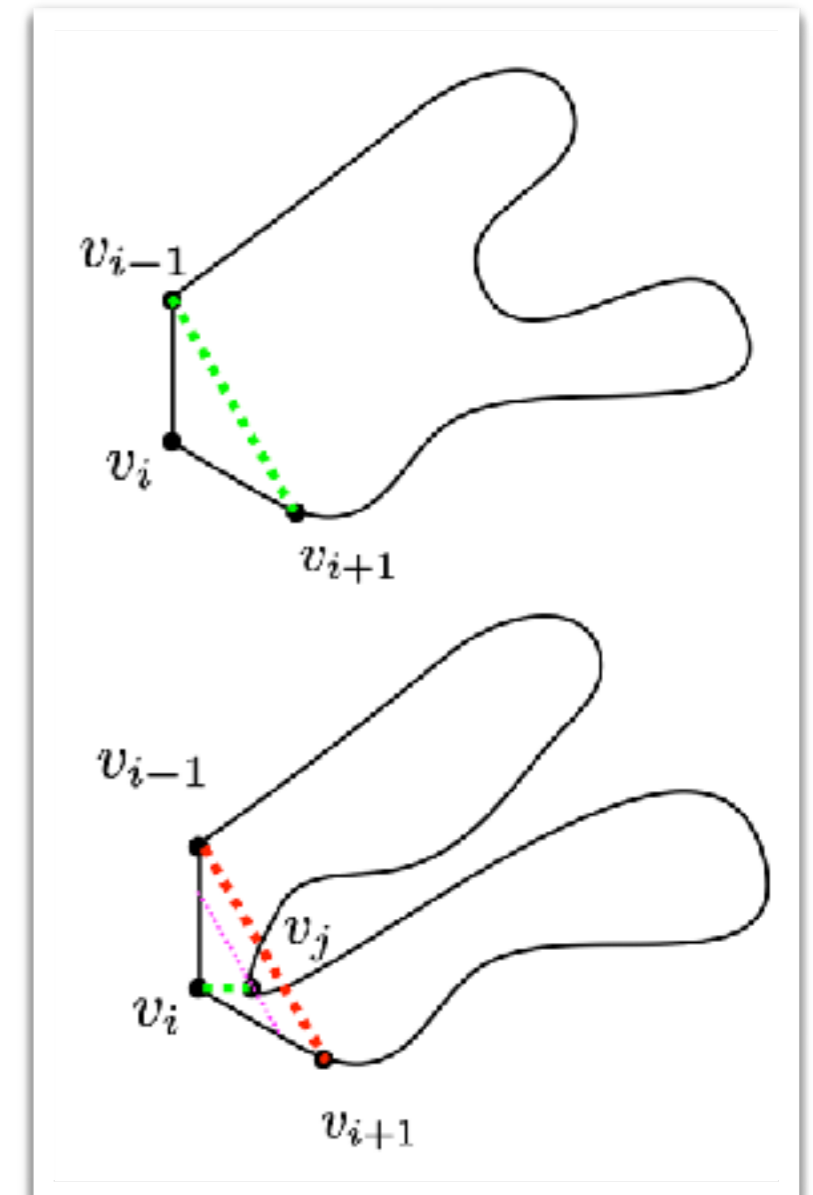
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- Find a diagonal.
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## Runtime:

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

## Total:



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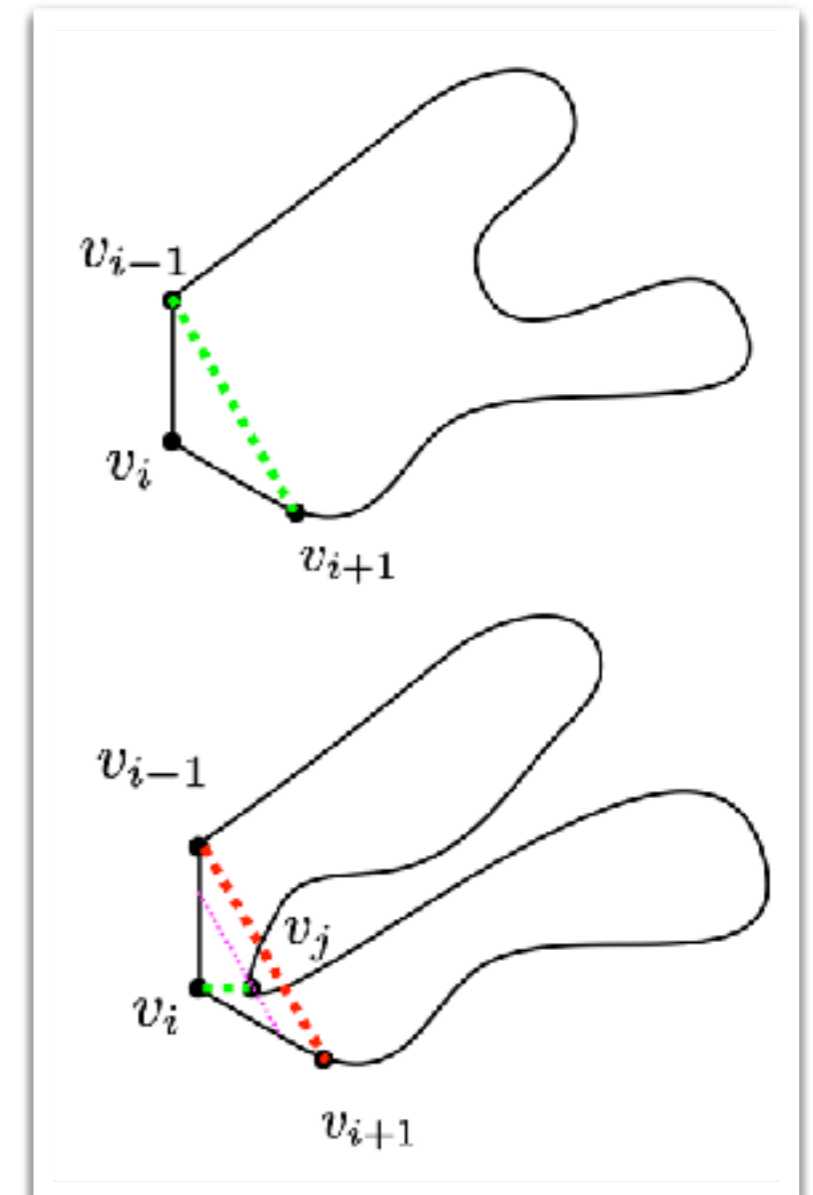
## Algorithm 5.12:

- Find a diagonal.
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## Runtime:

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

**Total:**  $O(n^2)$





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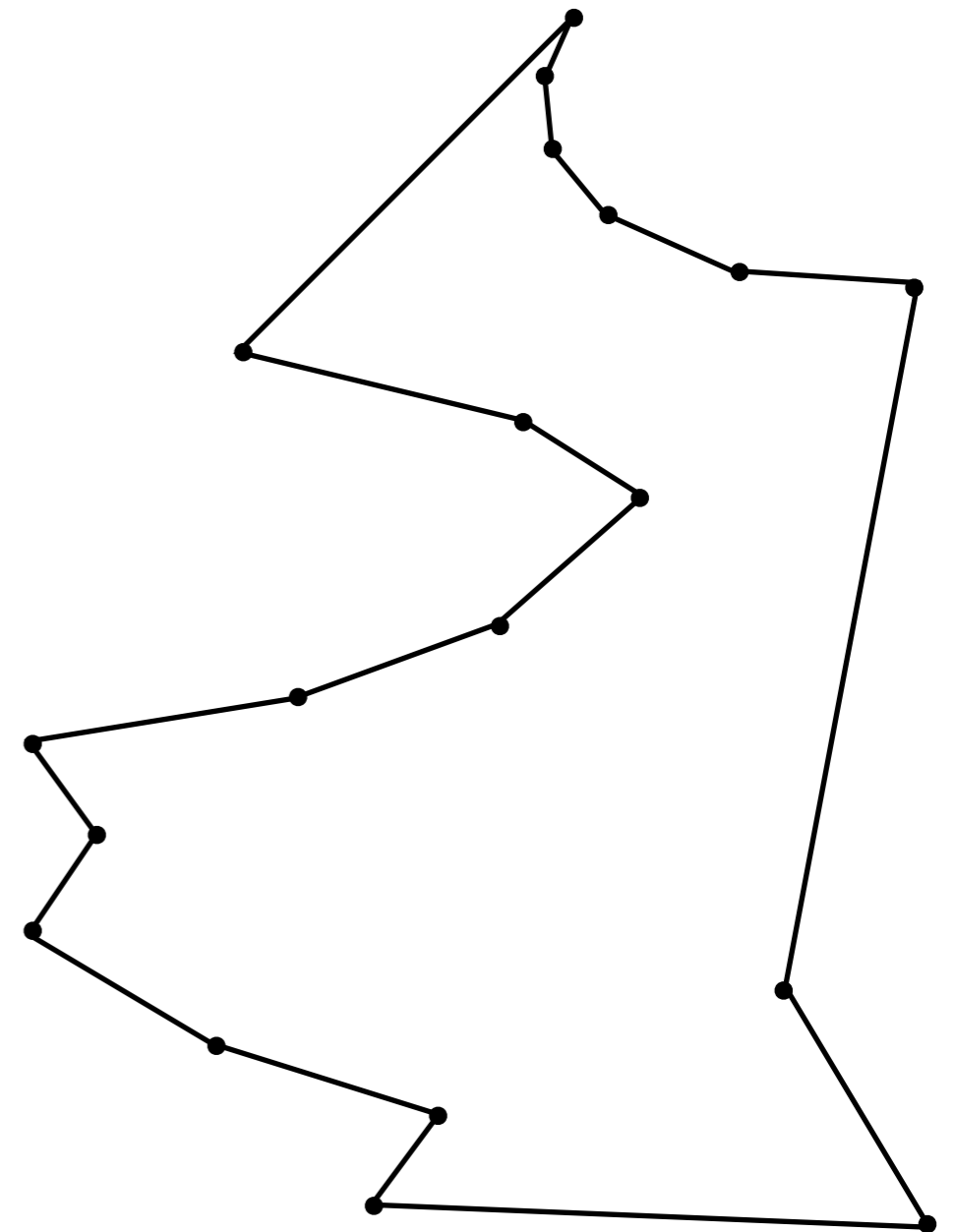
## Definition 5.13

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

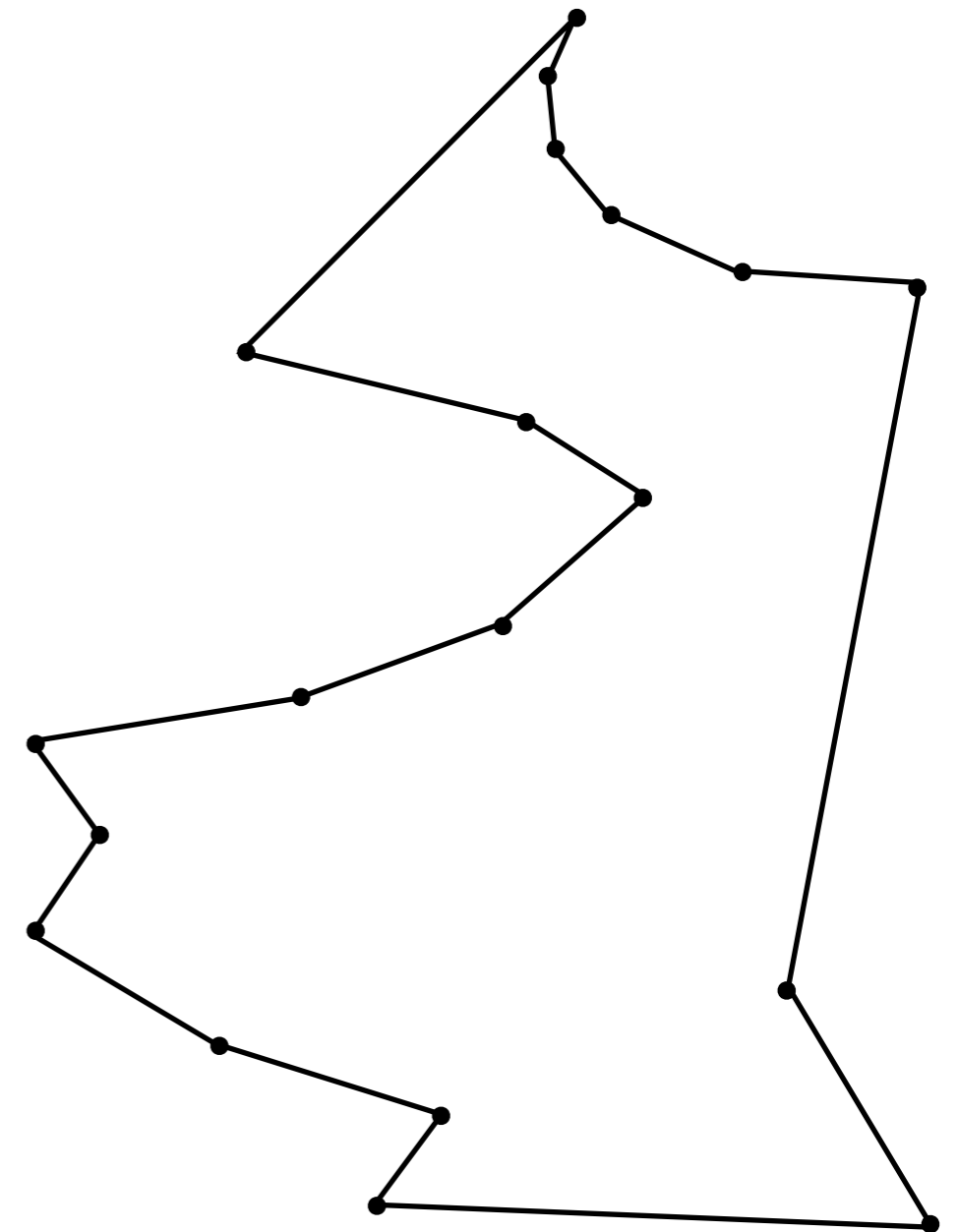
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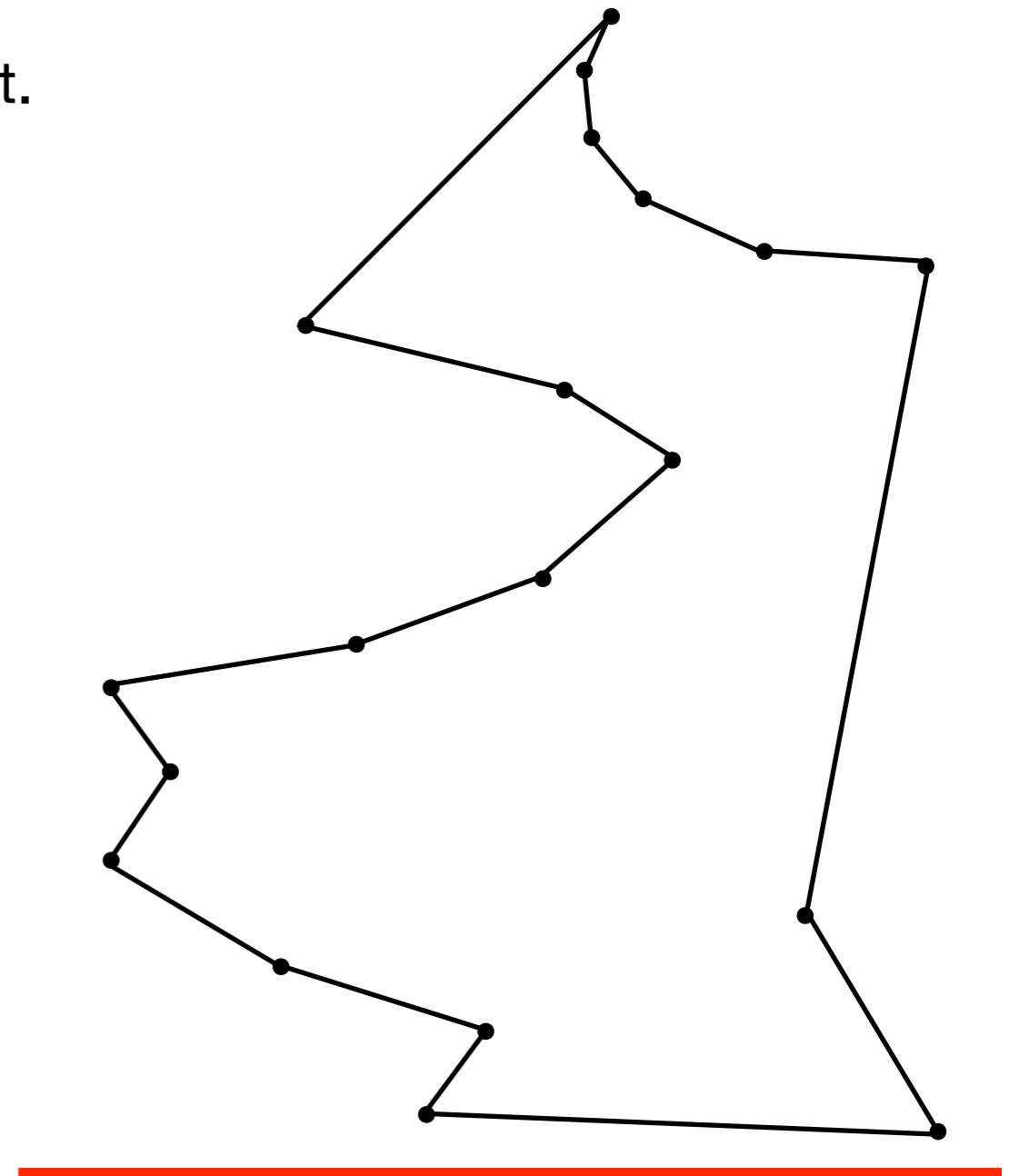
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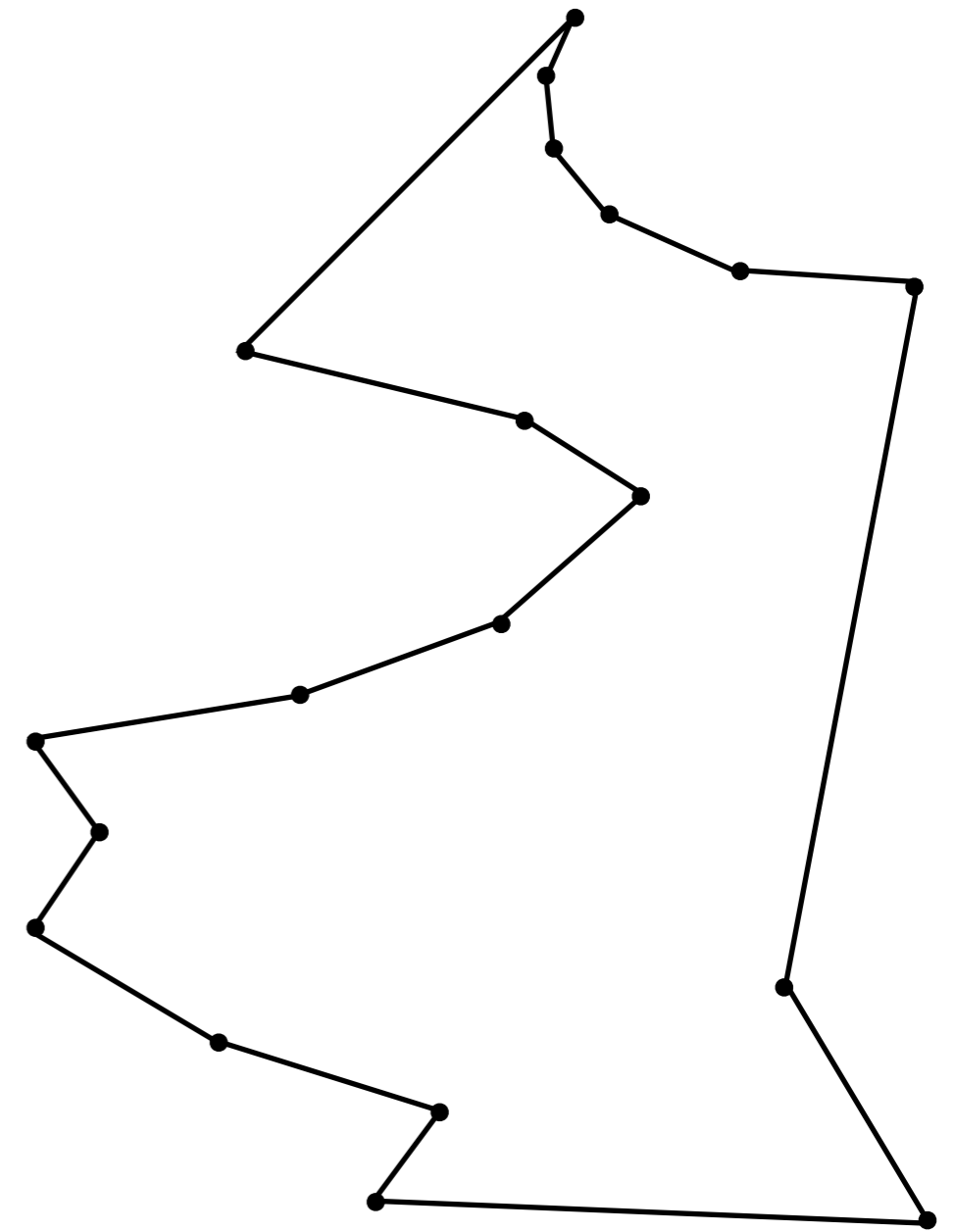
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## Definition 5.13

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

## Observation 5.14



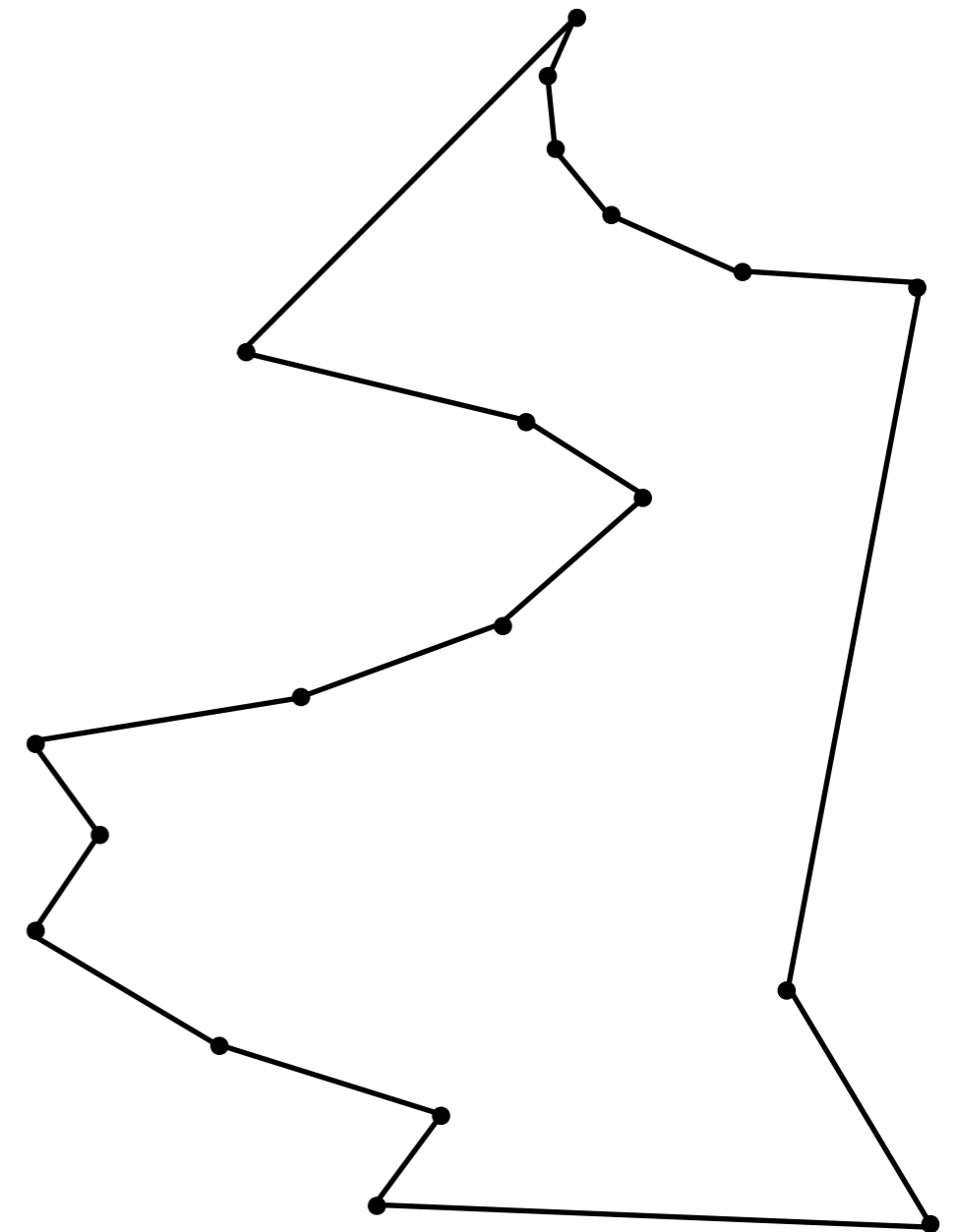


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A polygon  $P$  is *monotone (in  $y$ -direction)*, if every  $x$ -parallel line intersects it in a connected segment.

## 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  $v$ .

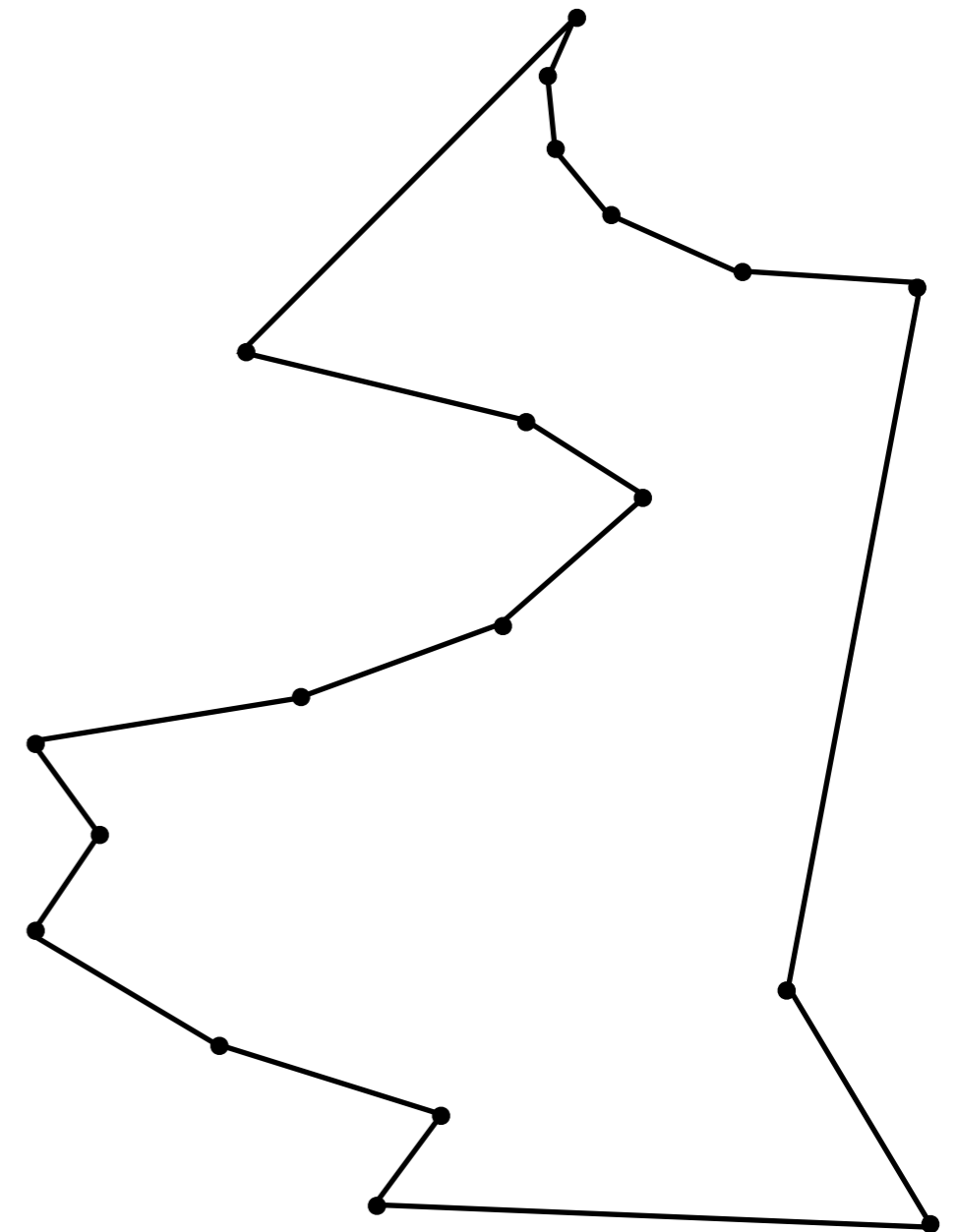
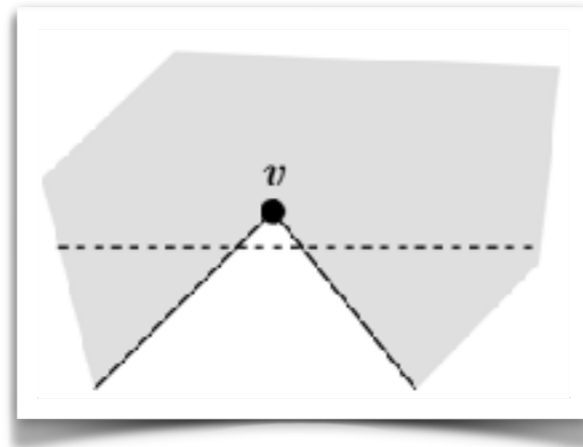


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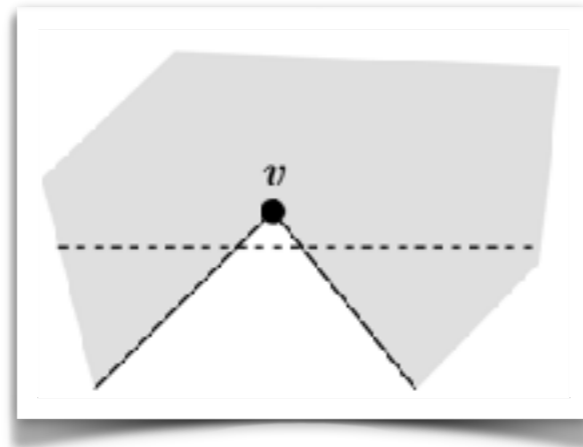


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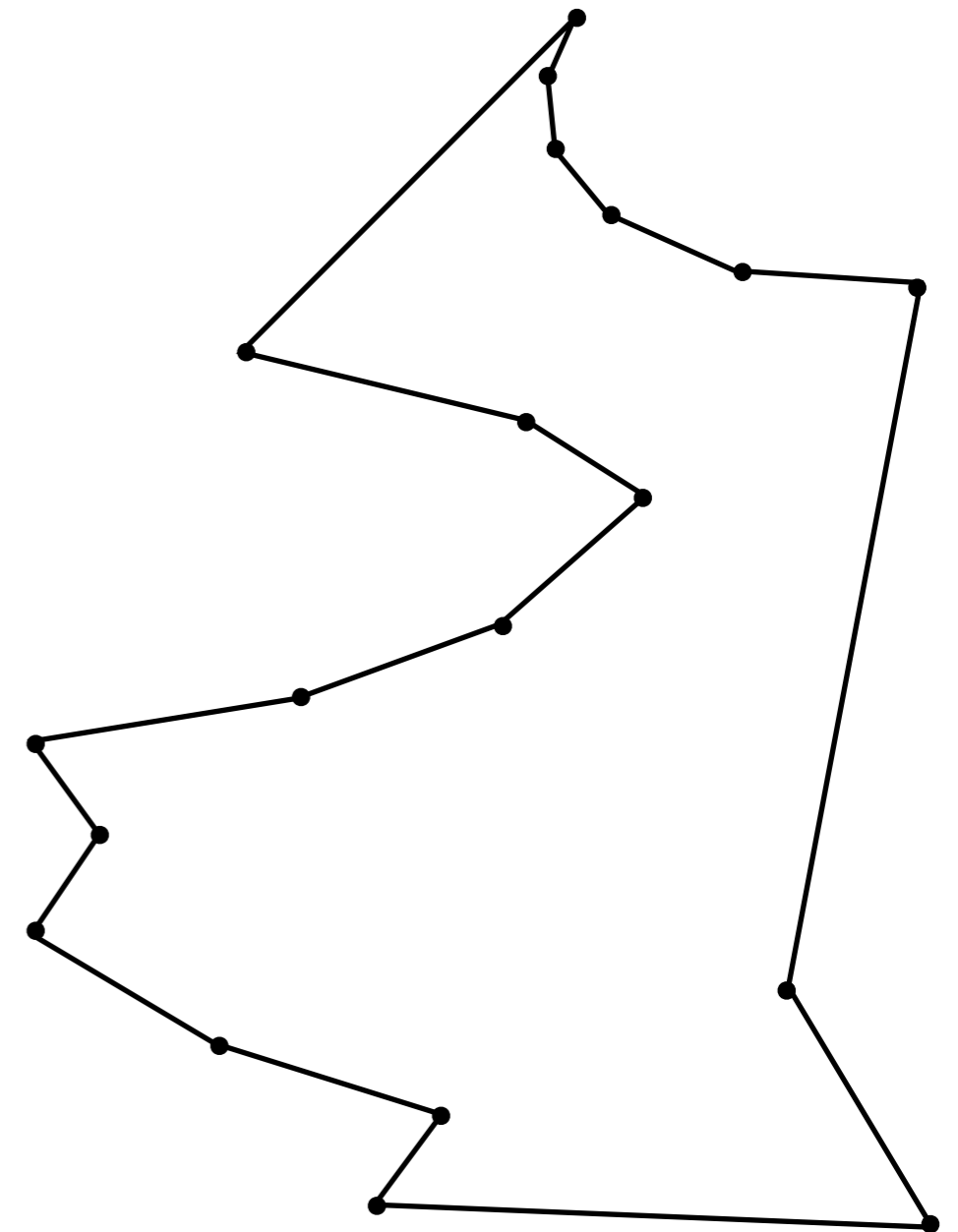
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## Corollary 5.15

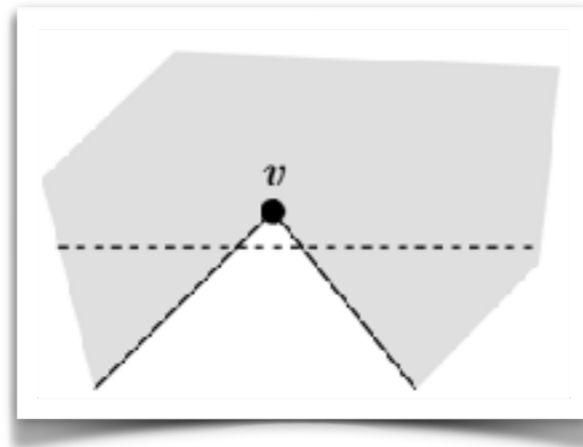


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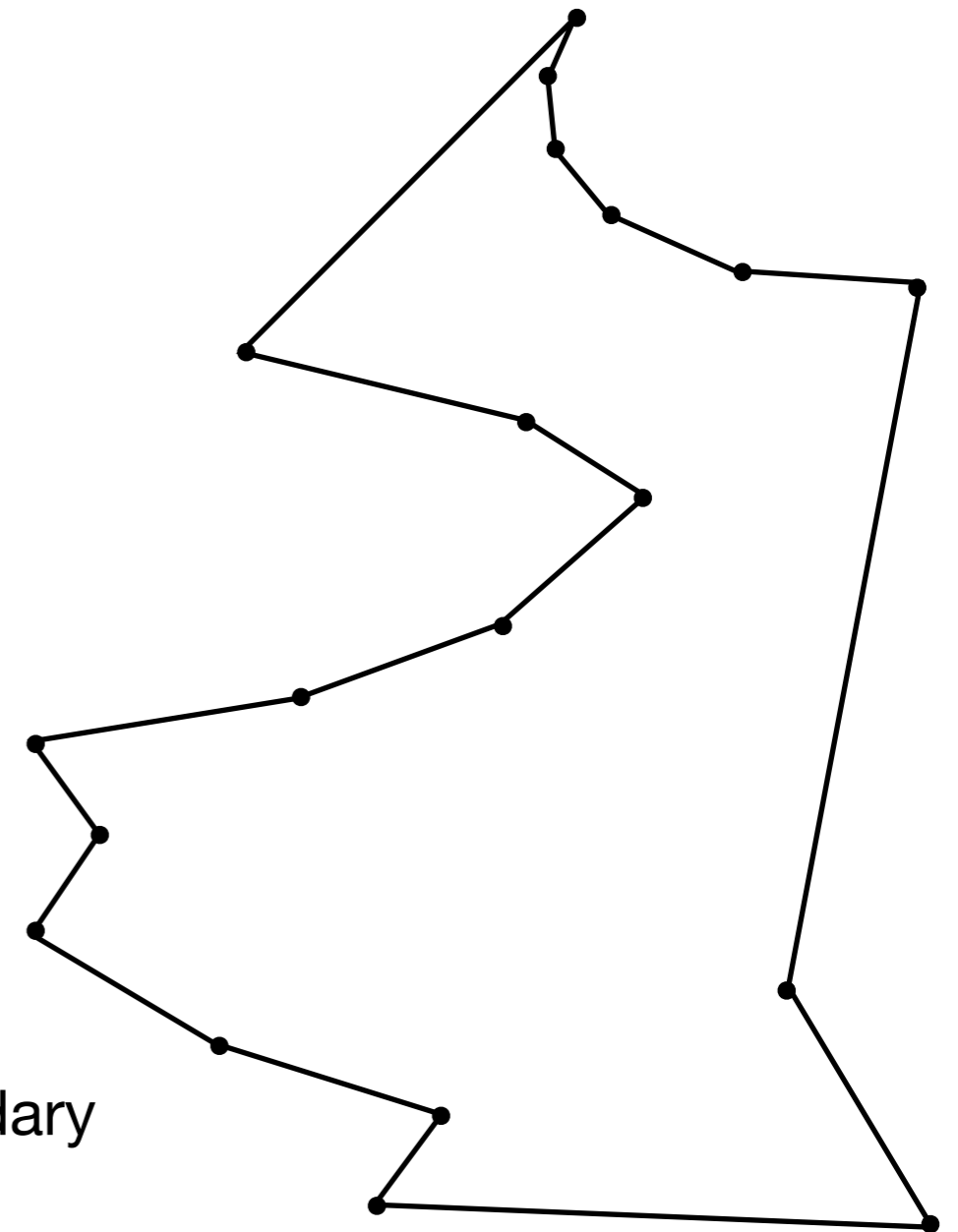
## Observation 5.14

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  $v$ .



## 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]



## Algorithm 5.16

## Algorithm 5.16

**Input:**

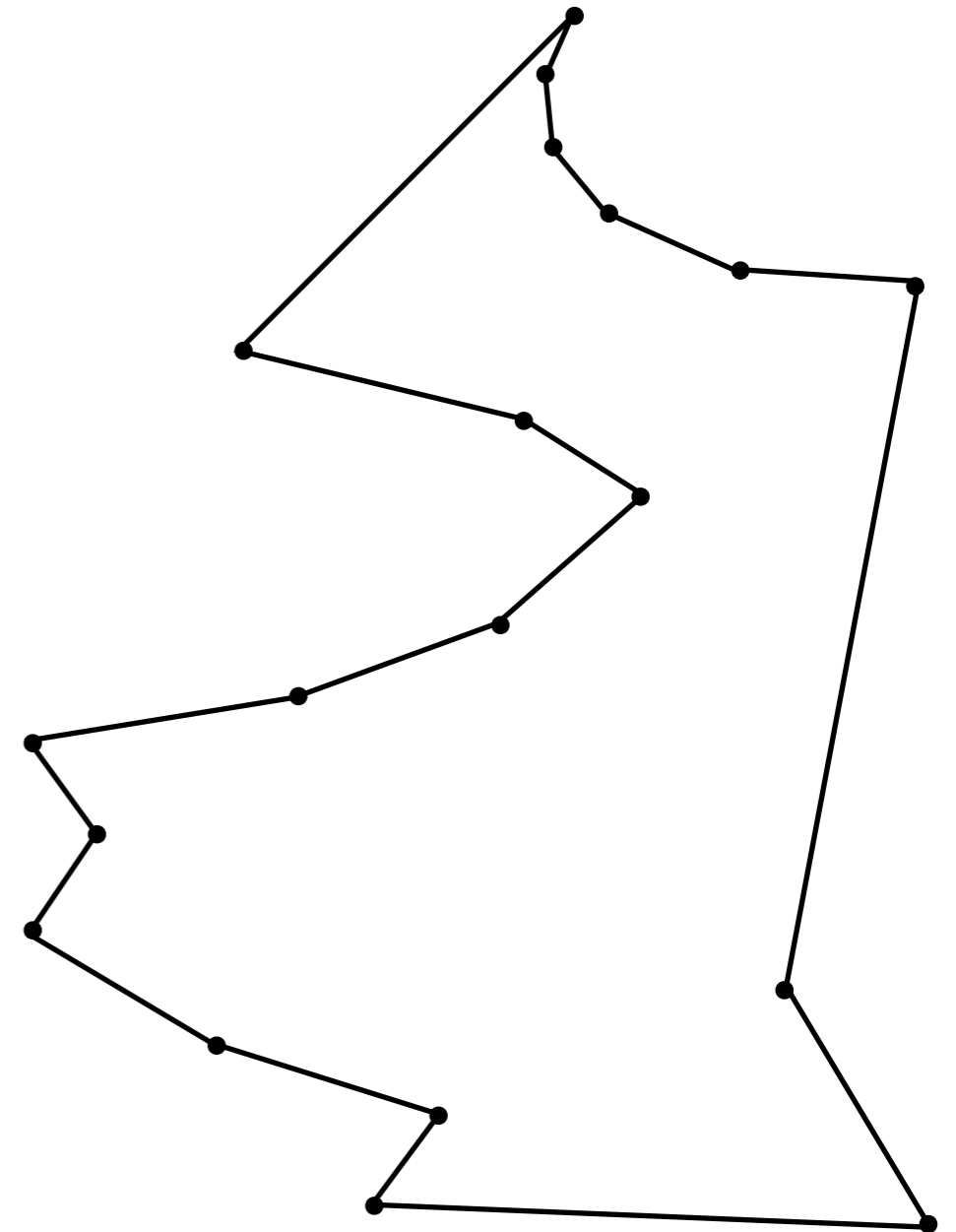
## Algorithm 5.16

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



## Algorithm 5.16

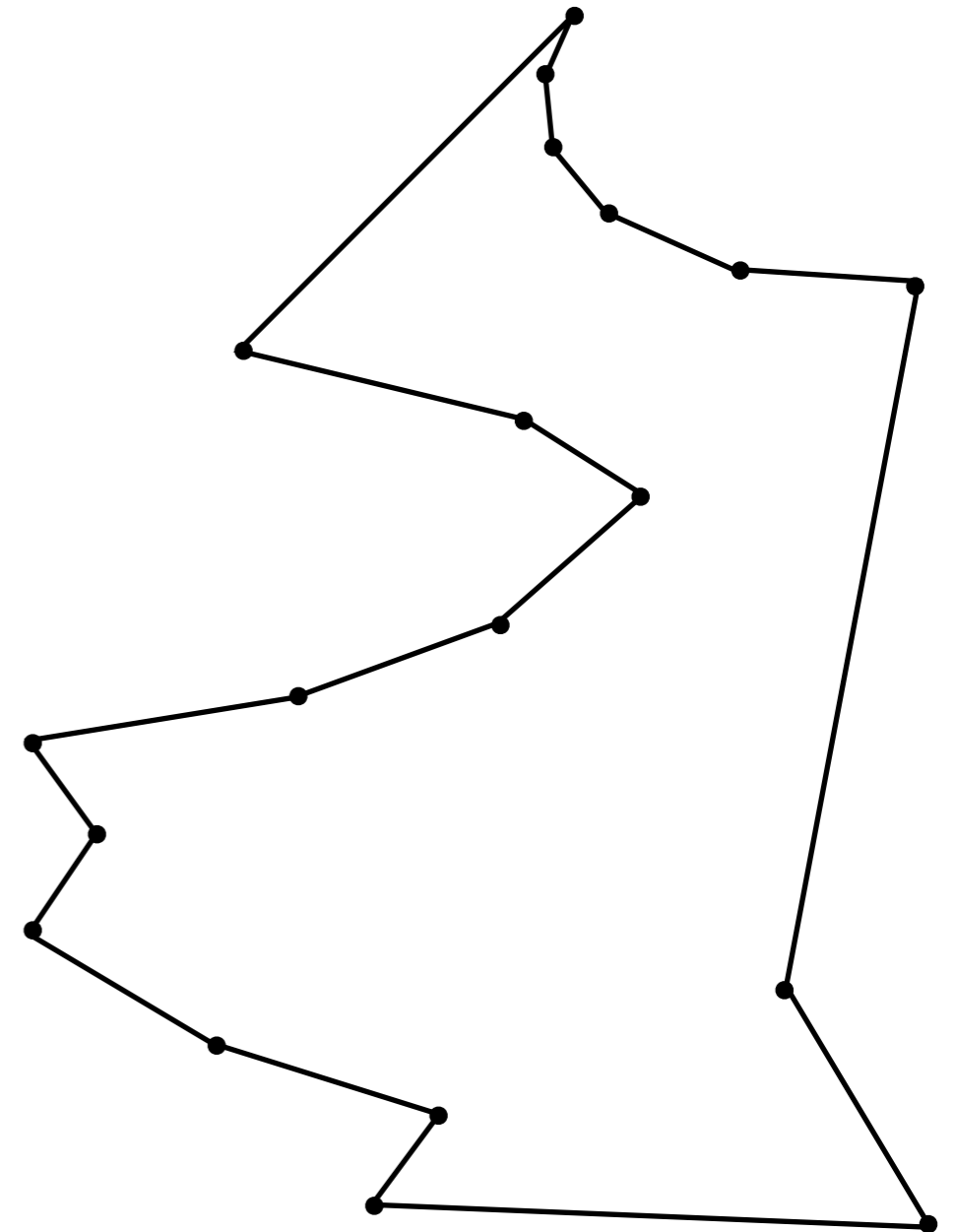
**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$



## Algorithm 5.16

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

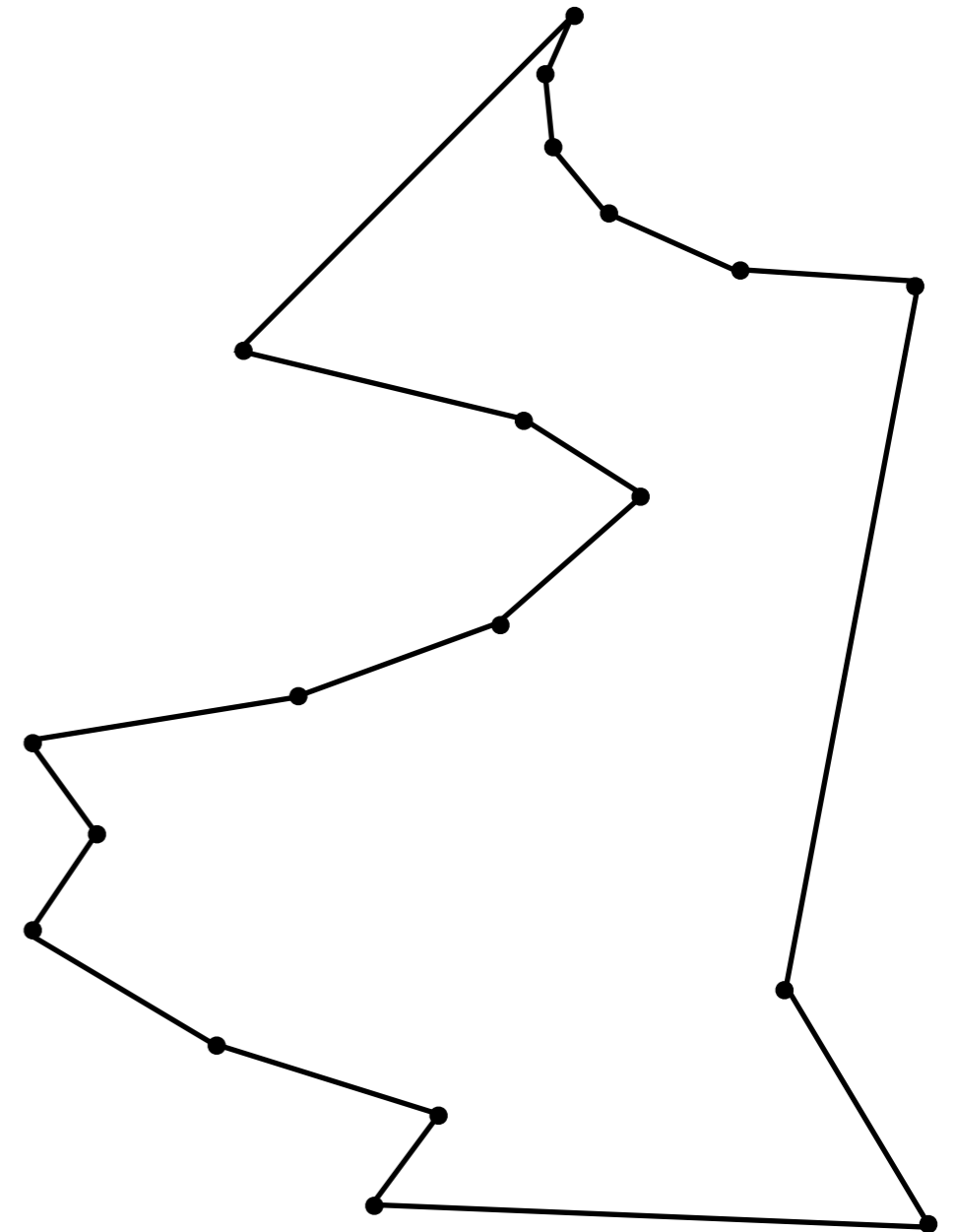
**Output:**



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

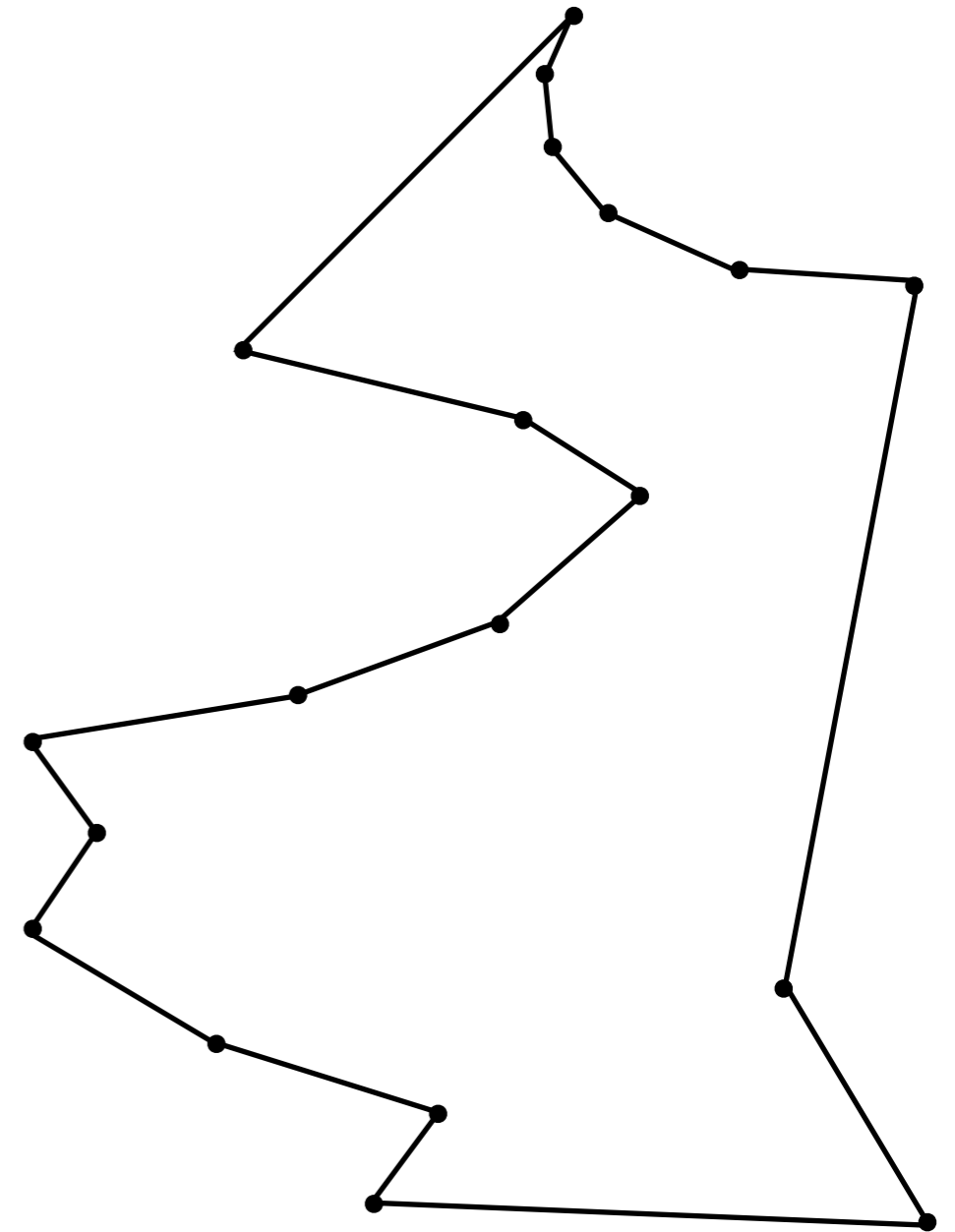


## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate

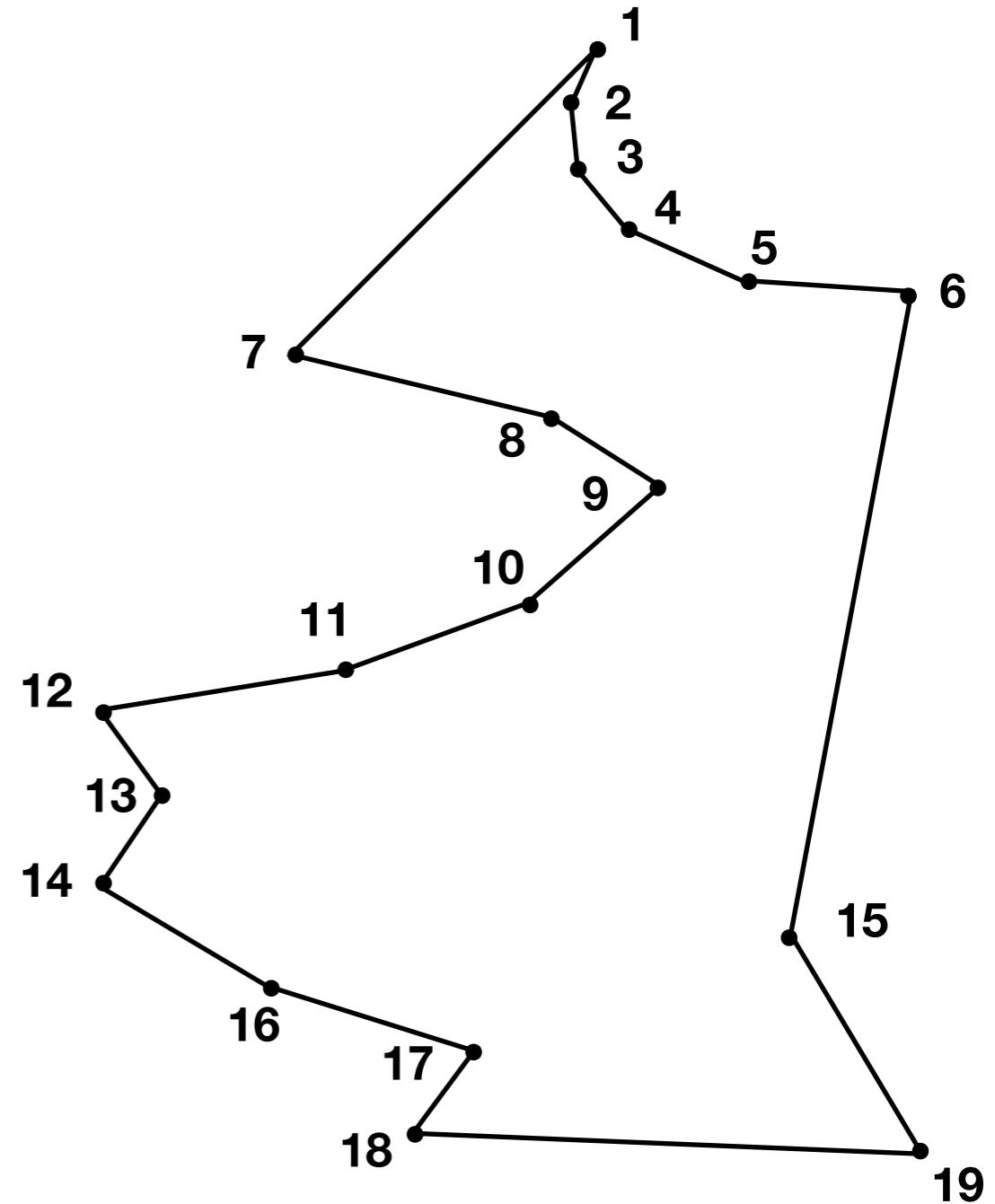


## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate

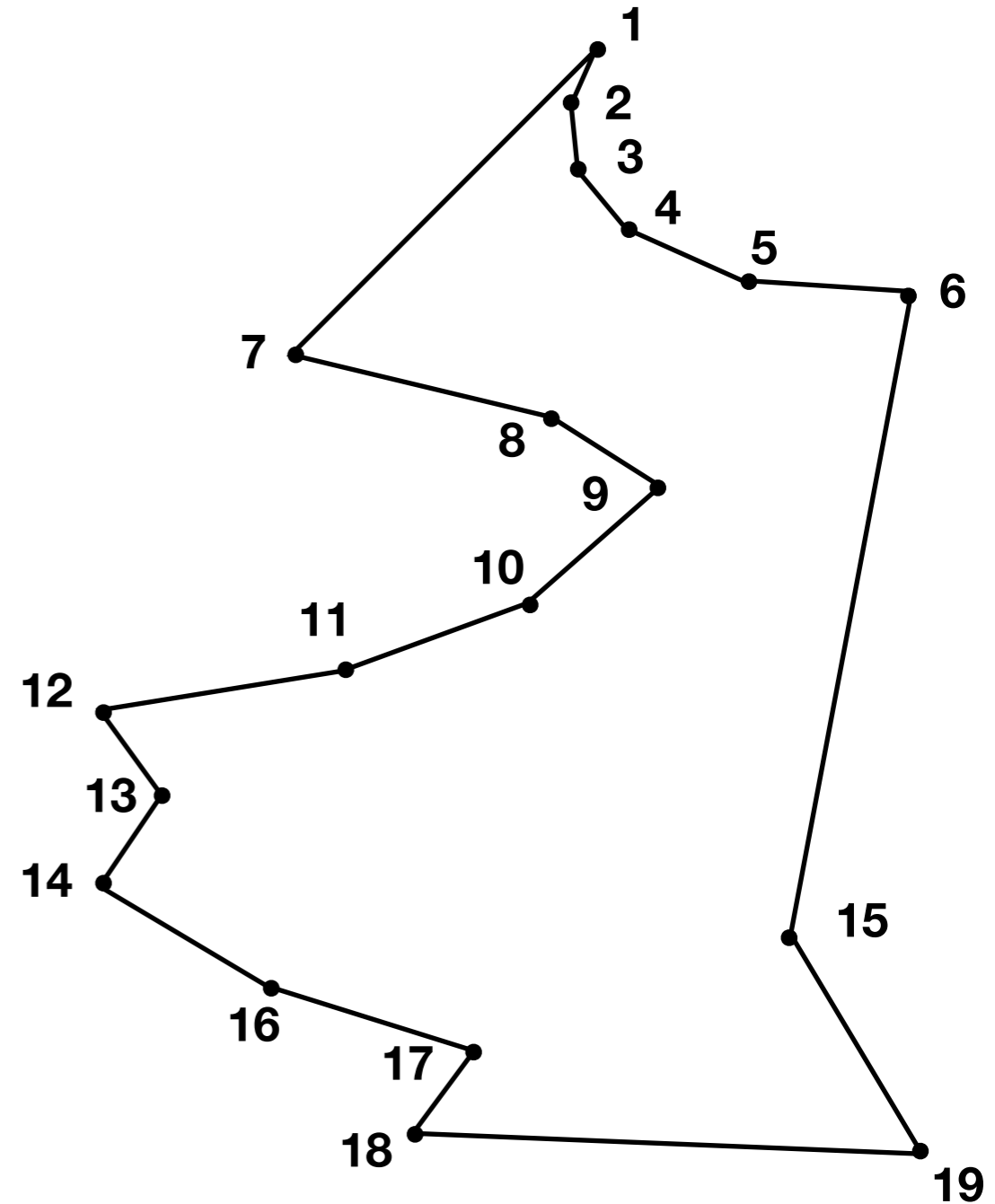


## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

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

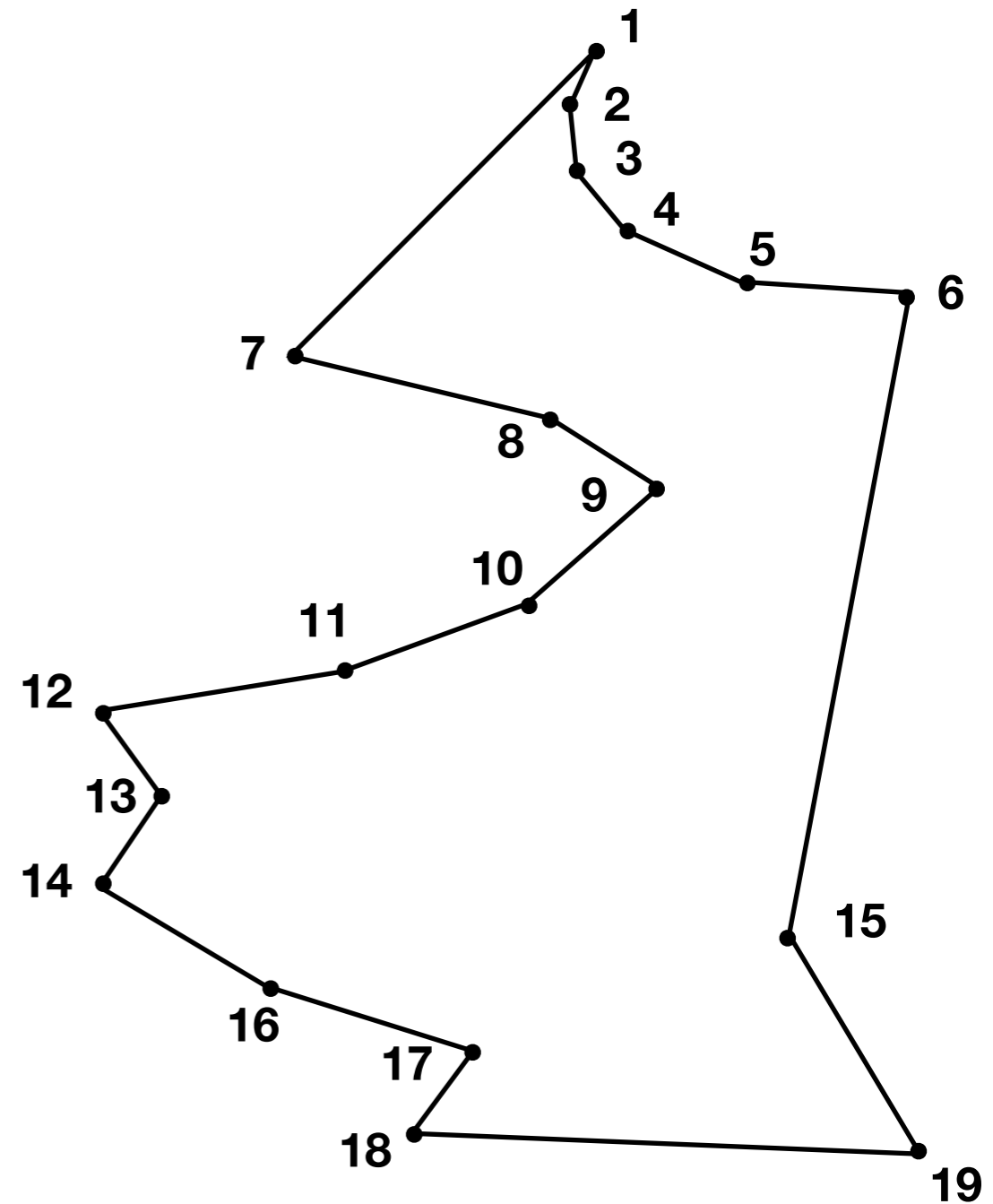


## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon



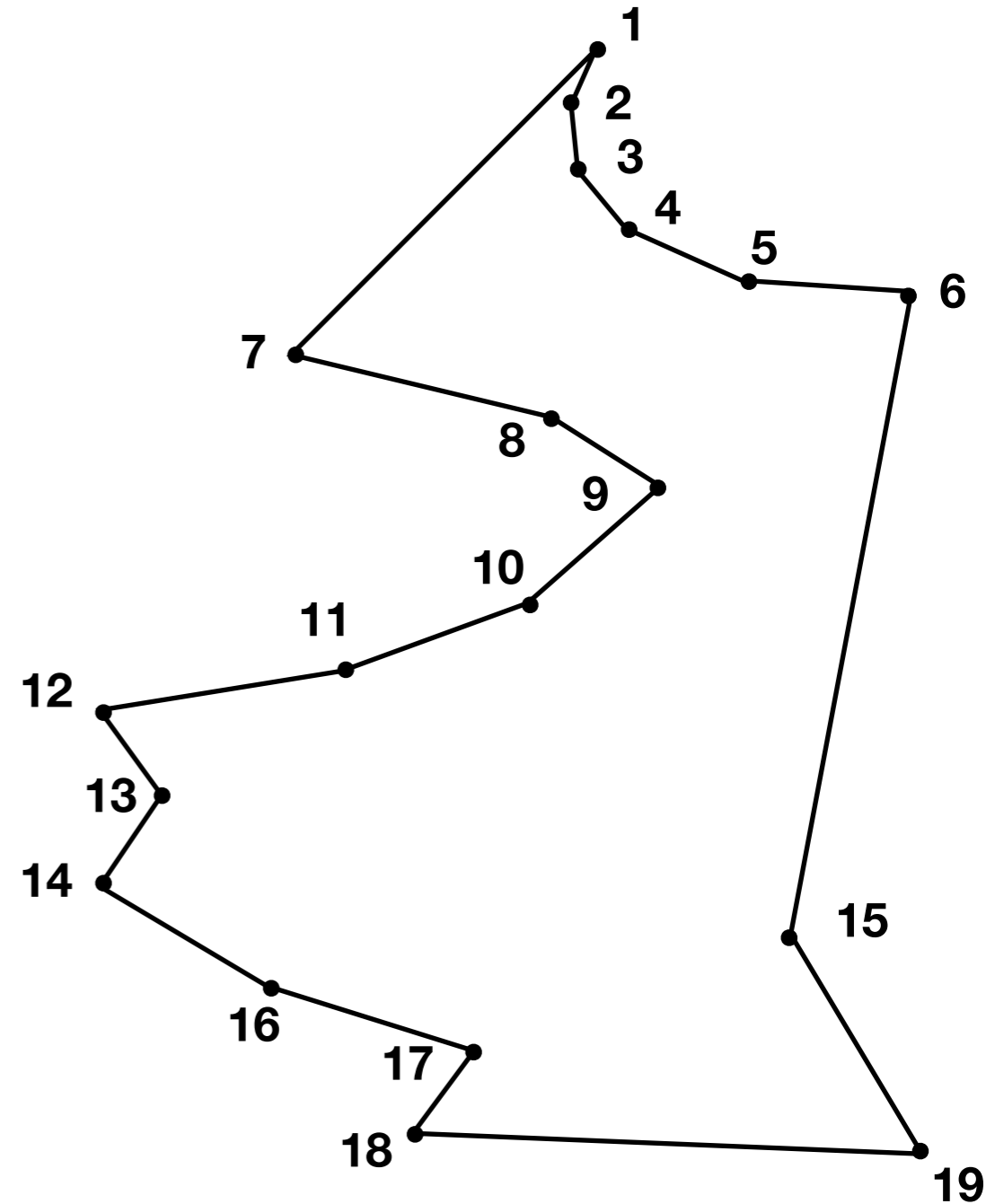
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**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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

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  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon

Queue:





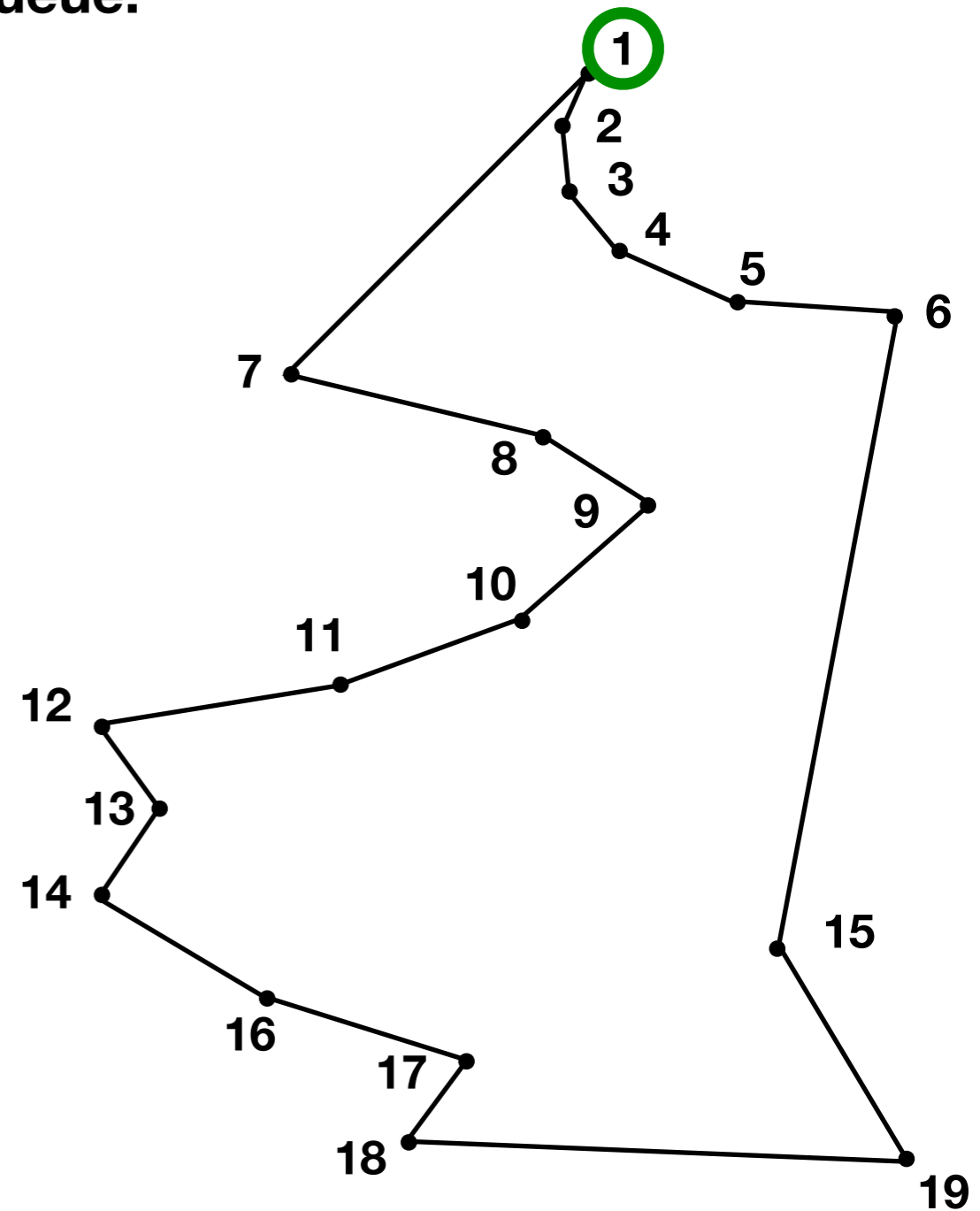
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**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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

1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
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  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon

Queue:



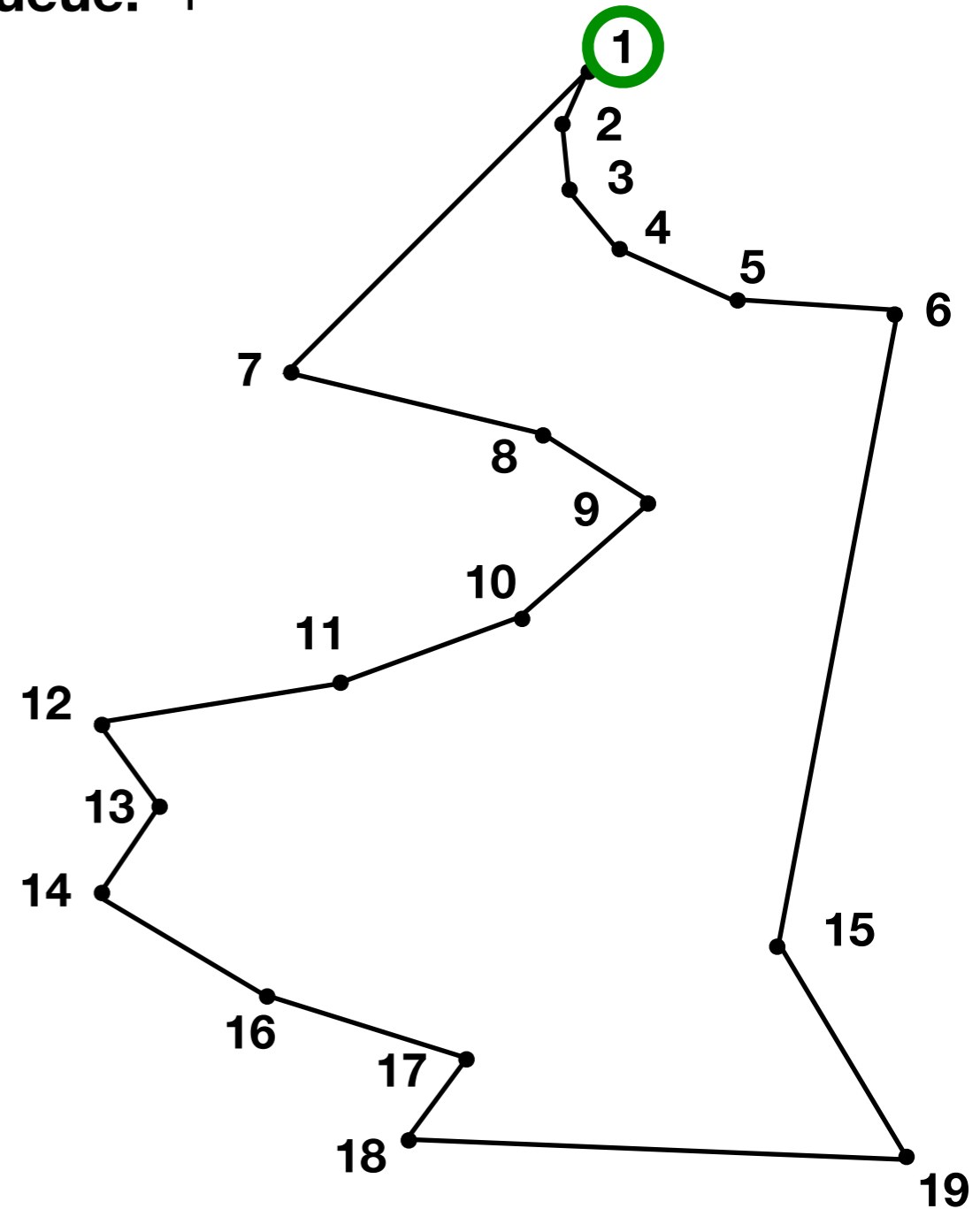
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**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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

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2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon

Queue: 1



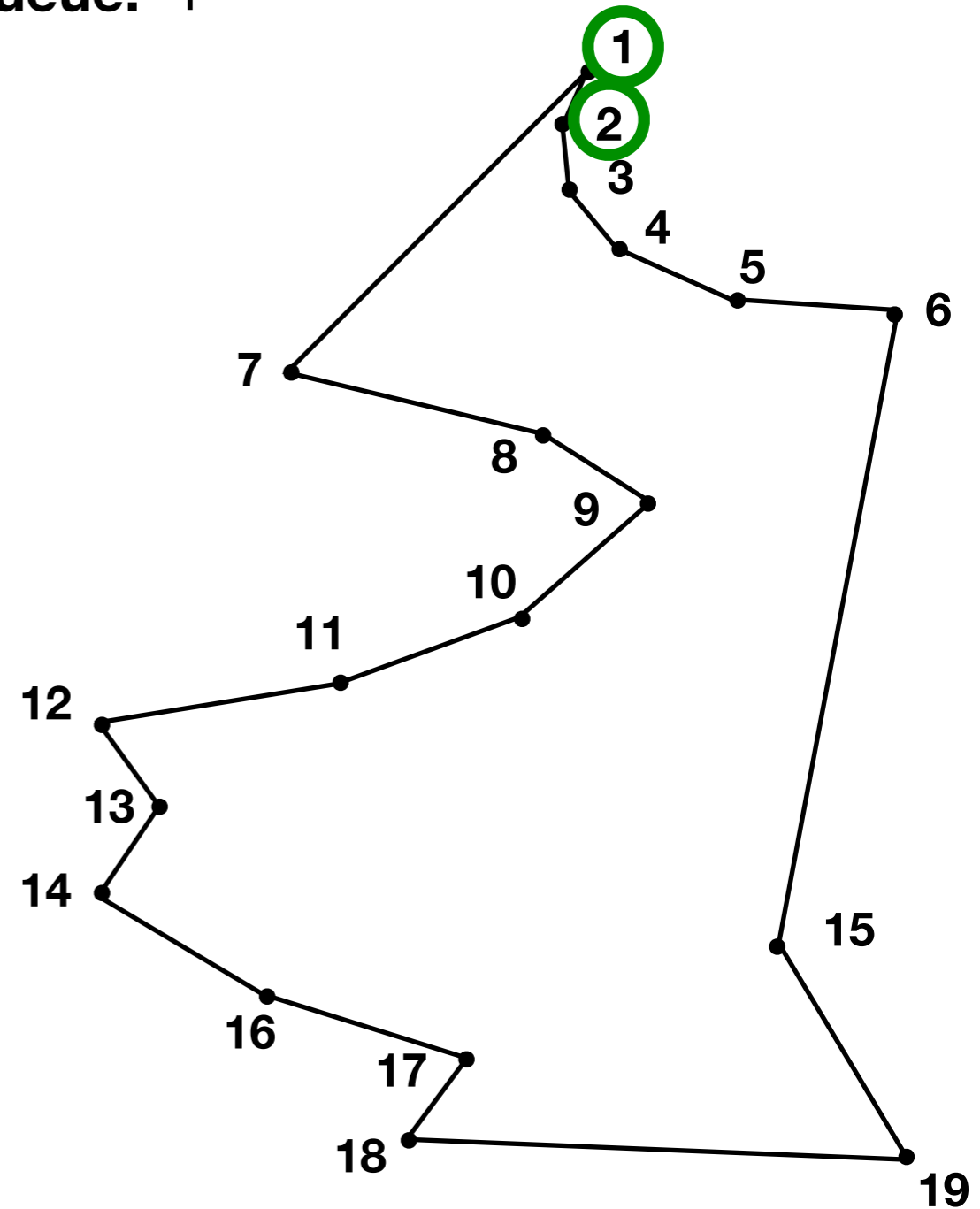
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon

Queue: 1



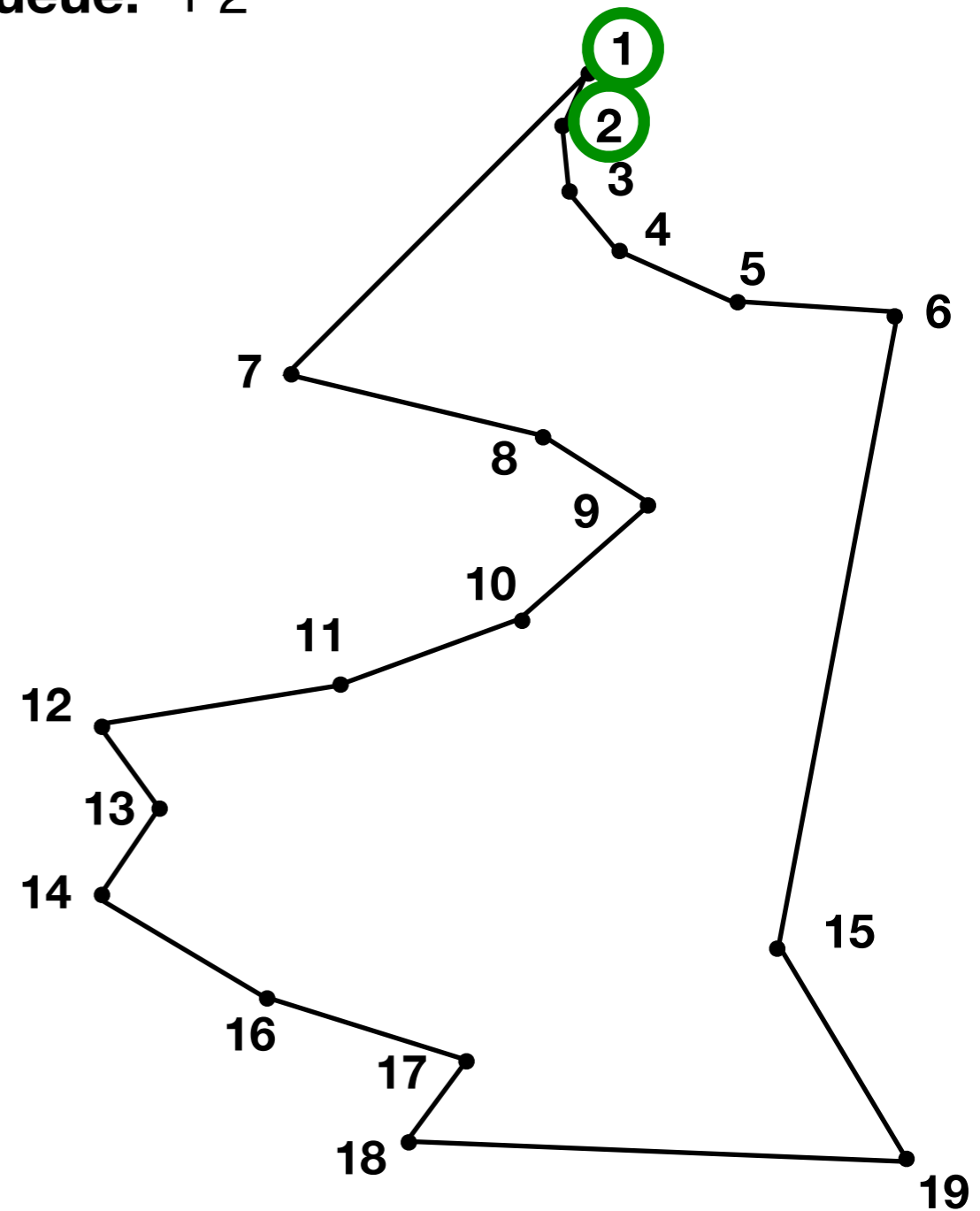
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon

Queue: 1 2



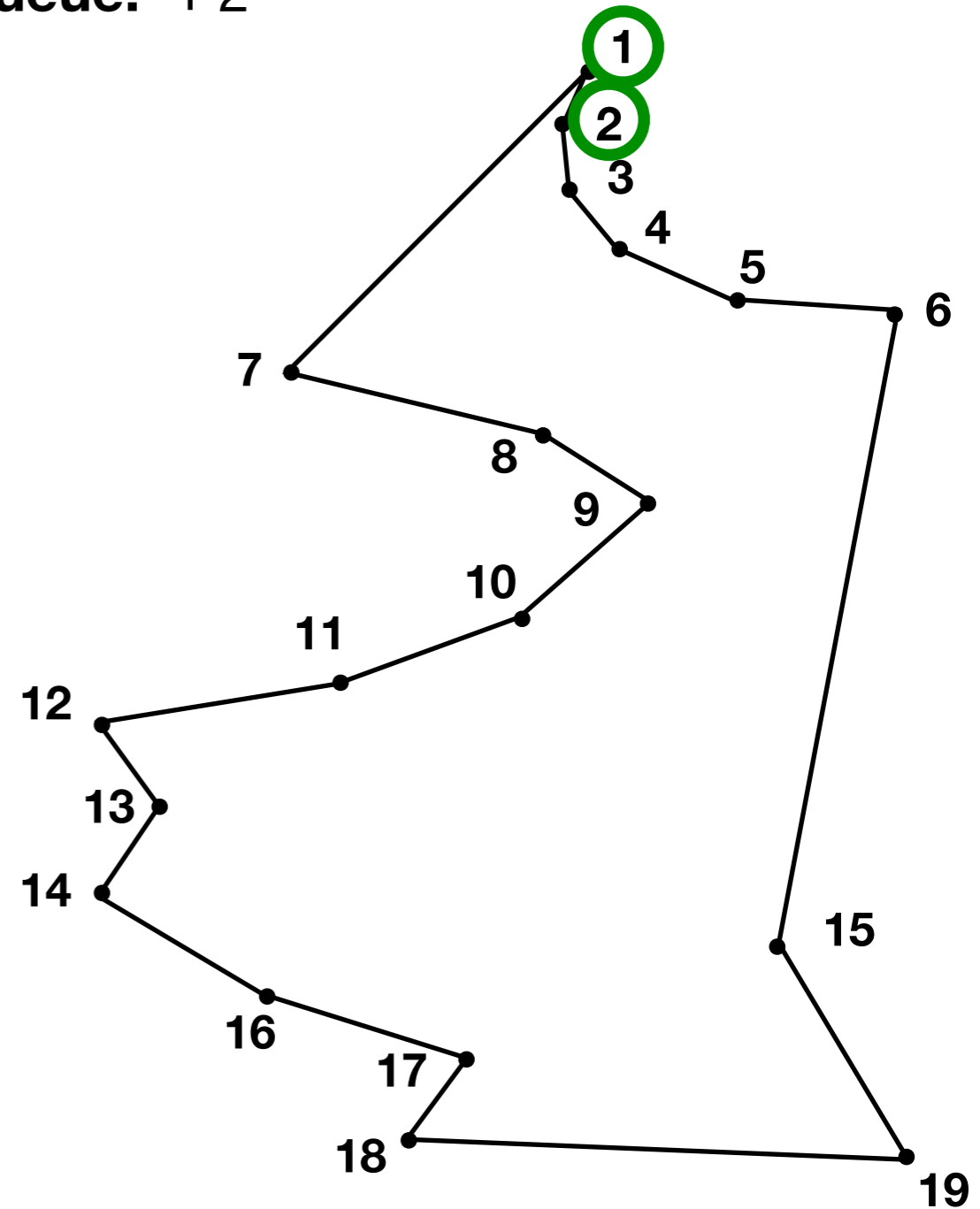
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**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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

1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon
  - Further vertices in same chain if predecessor reflex

Queue: 1 2



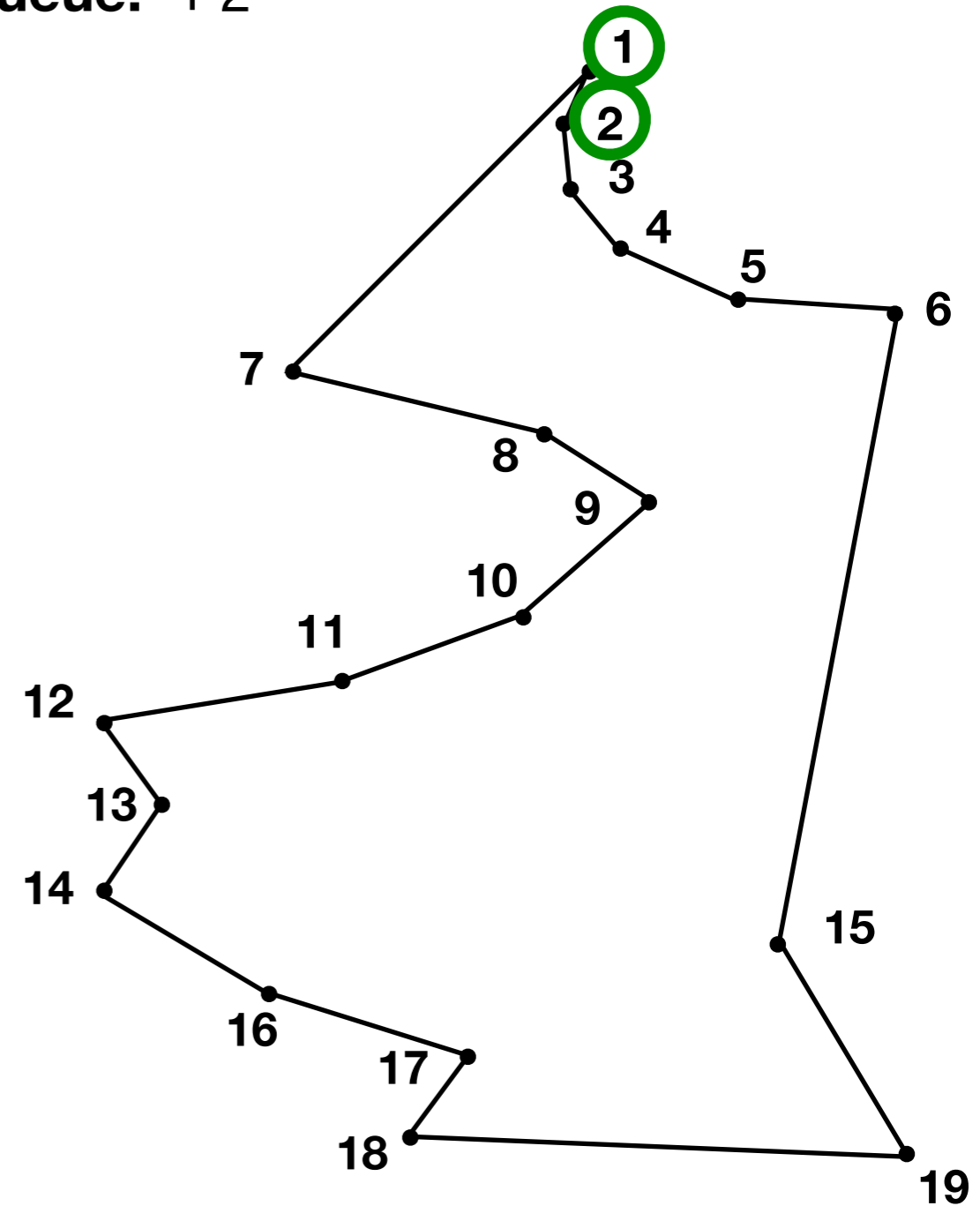
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  - Further vertices in same chain if predecessor reflex
3. Processing vertices in sorted order:

Queue: 1 2



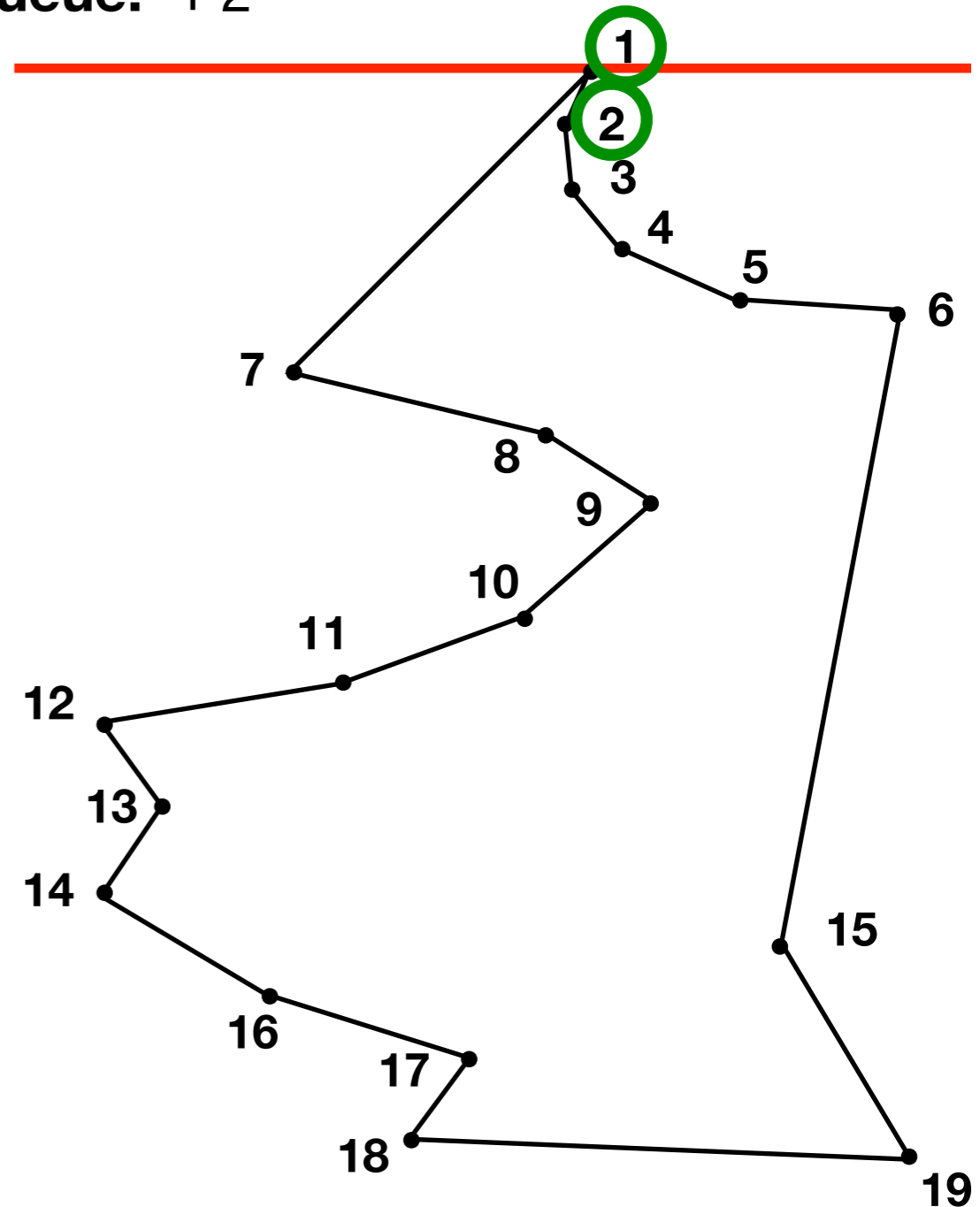
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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Queue: 1 2



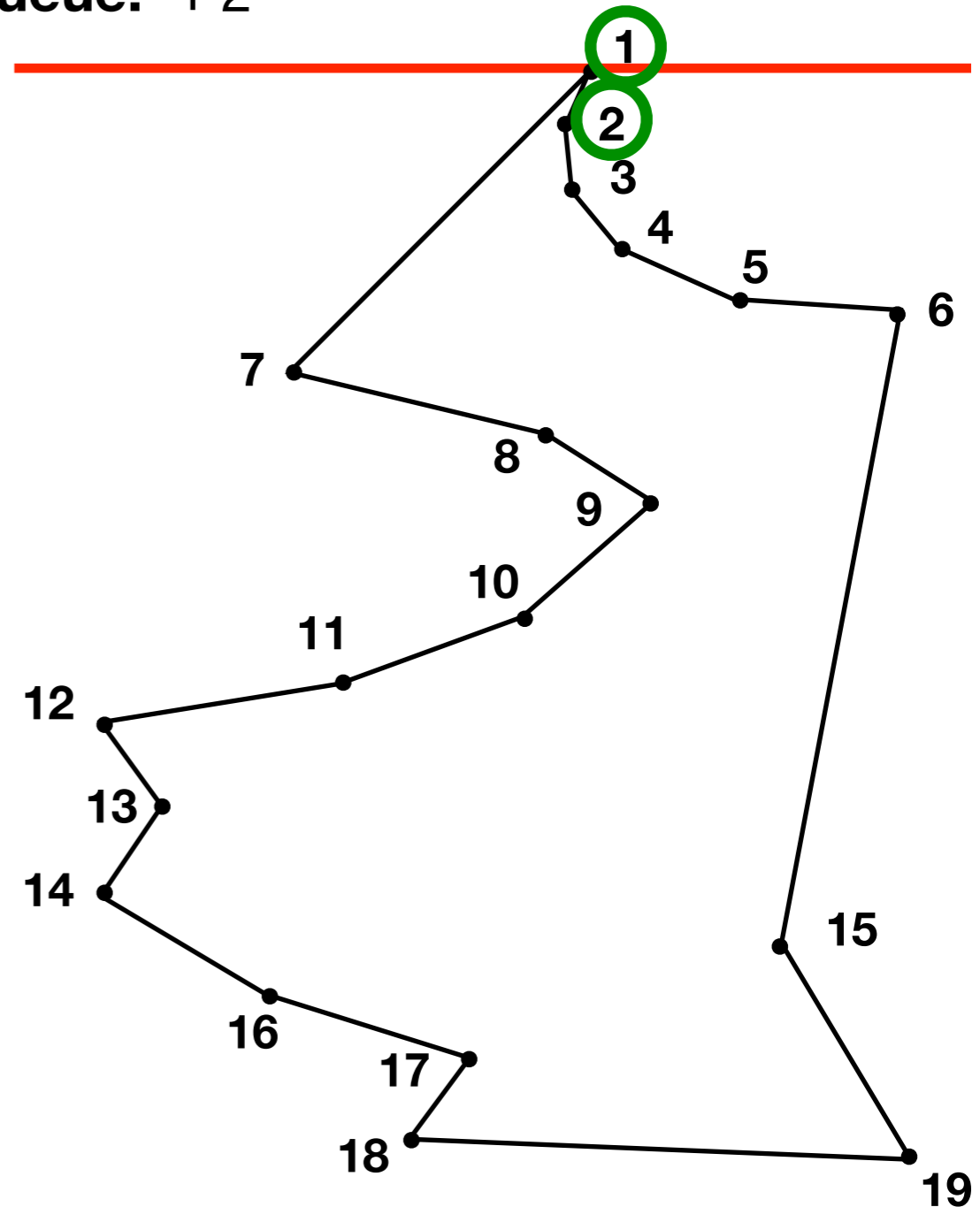
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Queue: 1 2





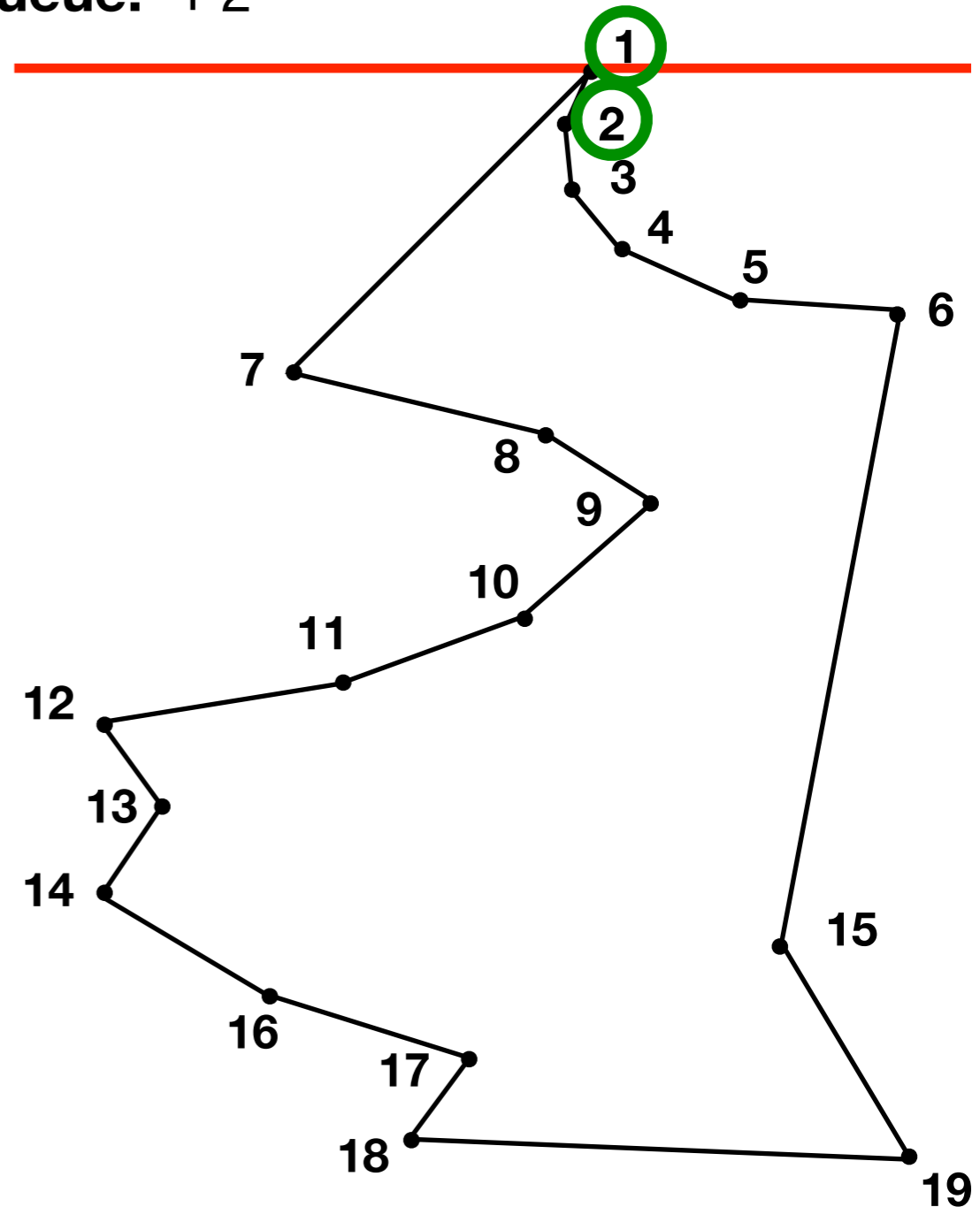
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    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue

Queue: 1 2



## Algorithm 5.16

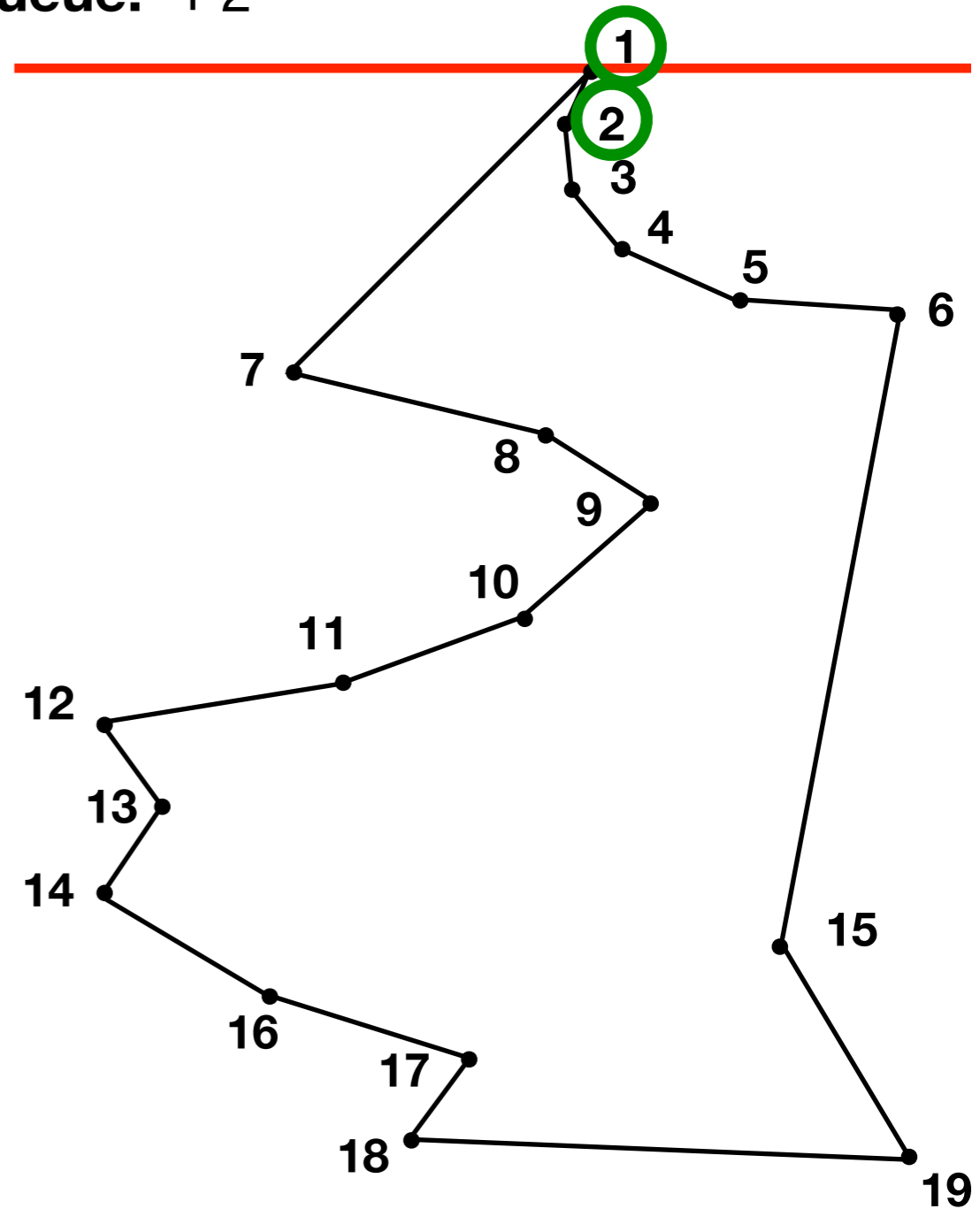
**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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

1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
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3. Processing vertices in sorted order:
  - 3.1 If opposite chain:
    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue

**Chain**

Queue: 1 2



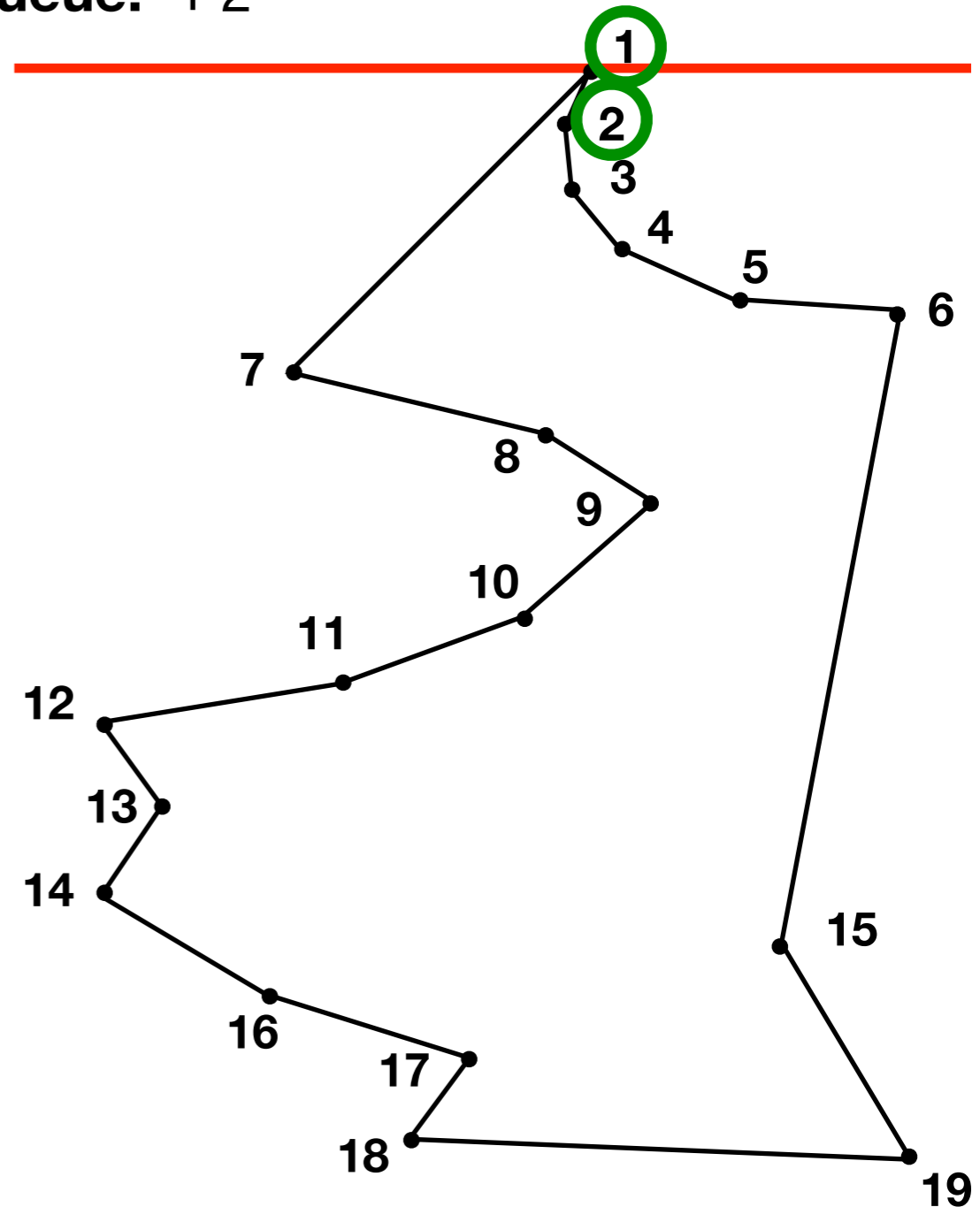
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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  - Further vertices in same chain if predecessor reflex
3. Processing vertices in sorted order:
  - 3.1 If opposite chain:
    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue
  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:

Queue: 1 2



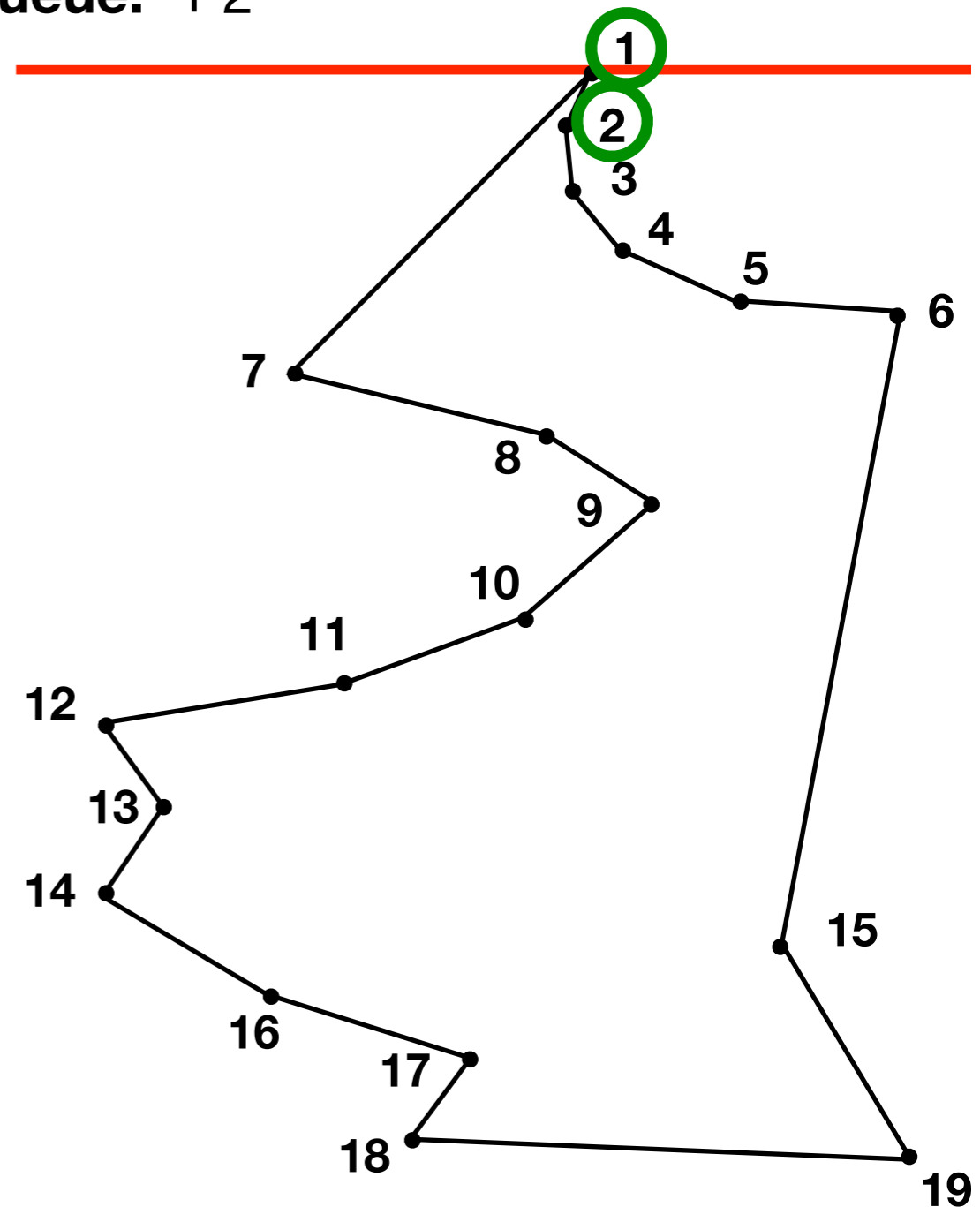
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:
    - Add to queue

Queue: 1 2



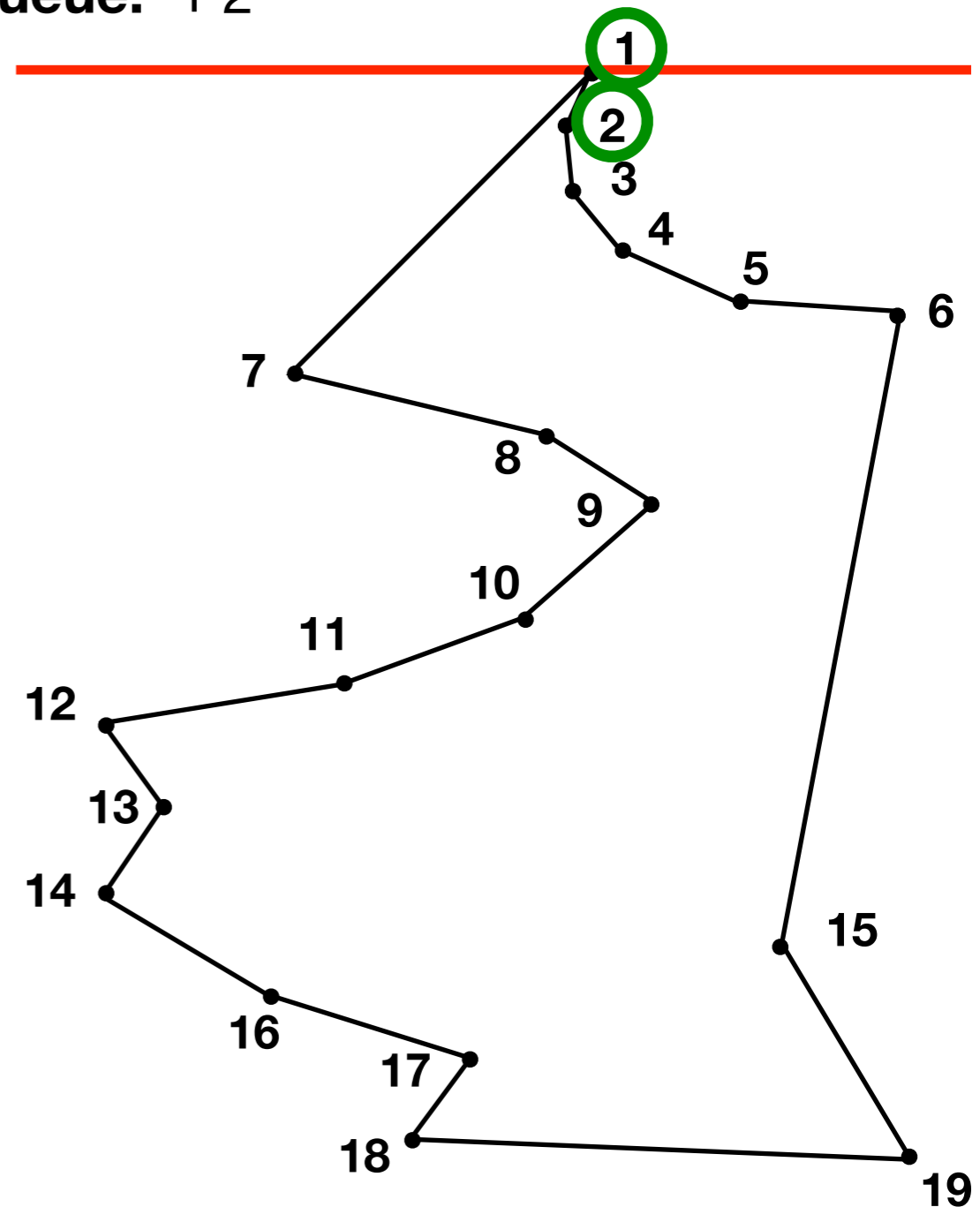
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    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue
  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:
    - Add to queue

Queue: 1 2



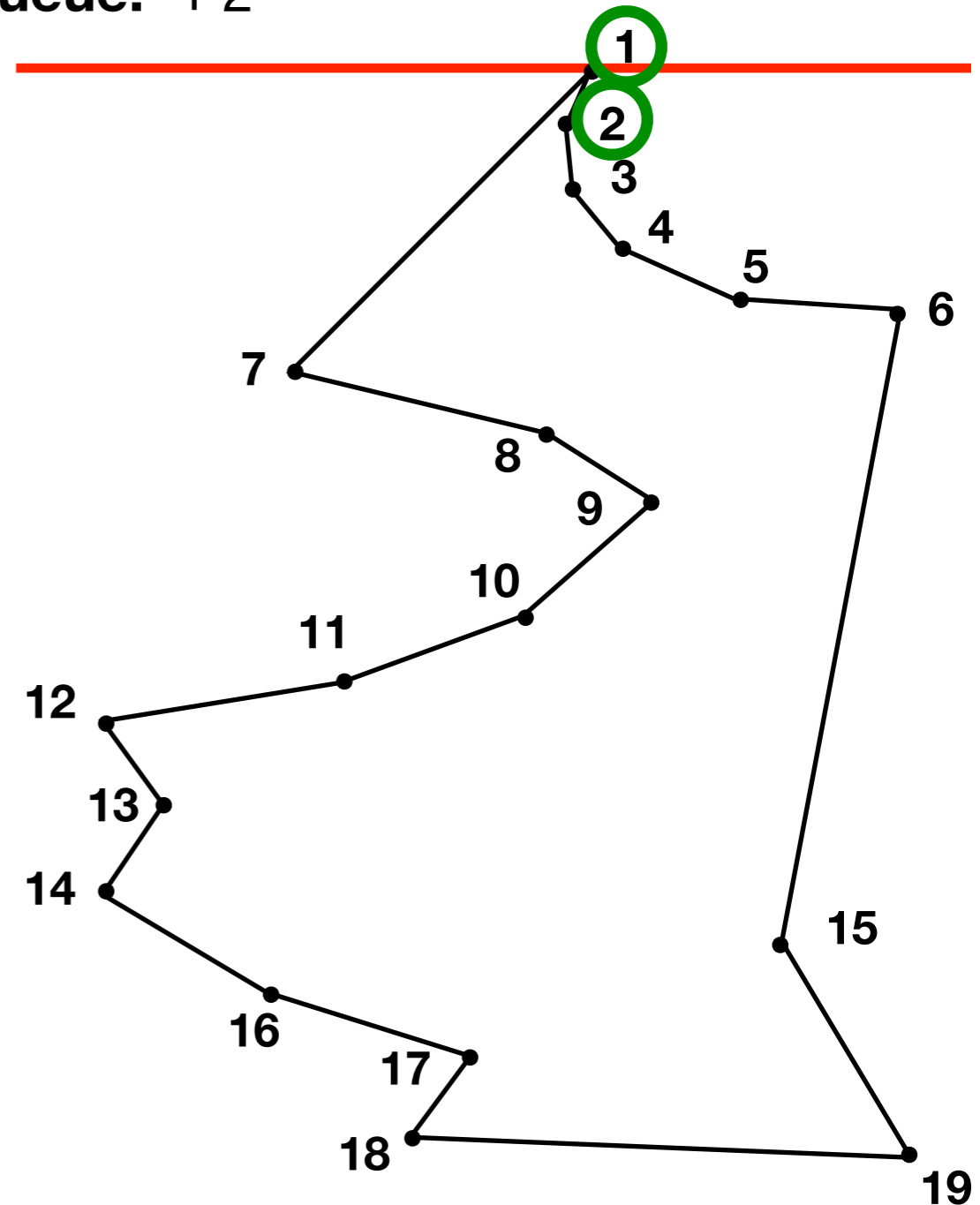
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    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue
  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:
    - Add to queue
  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:

Queue: 1 2



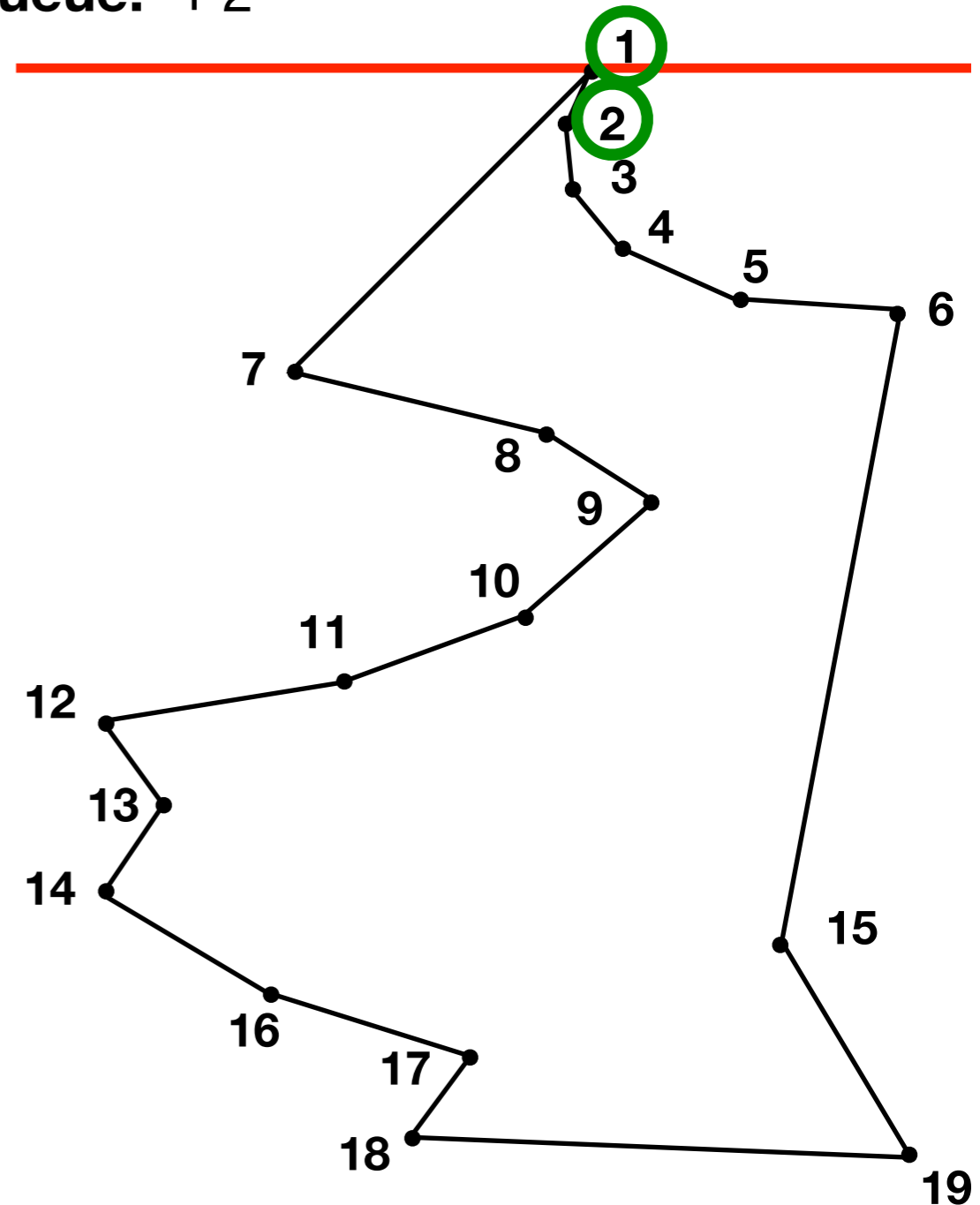
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  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:
    - Add to queue
  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:
    - Ear! Connect and update

Queue: 1 2



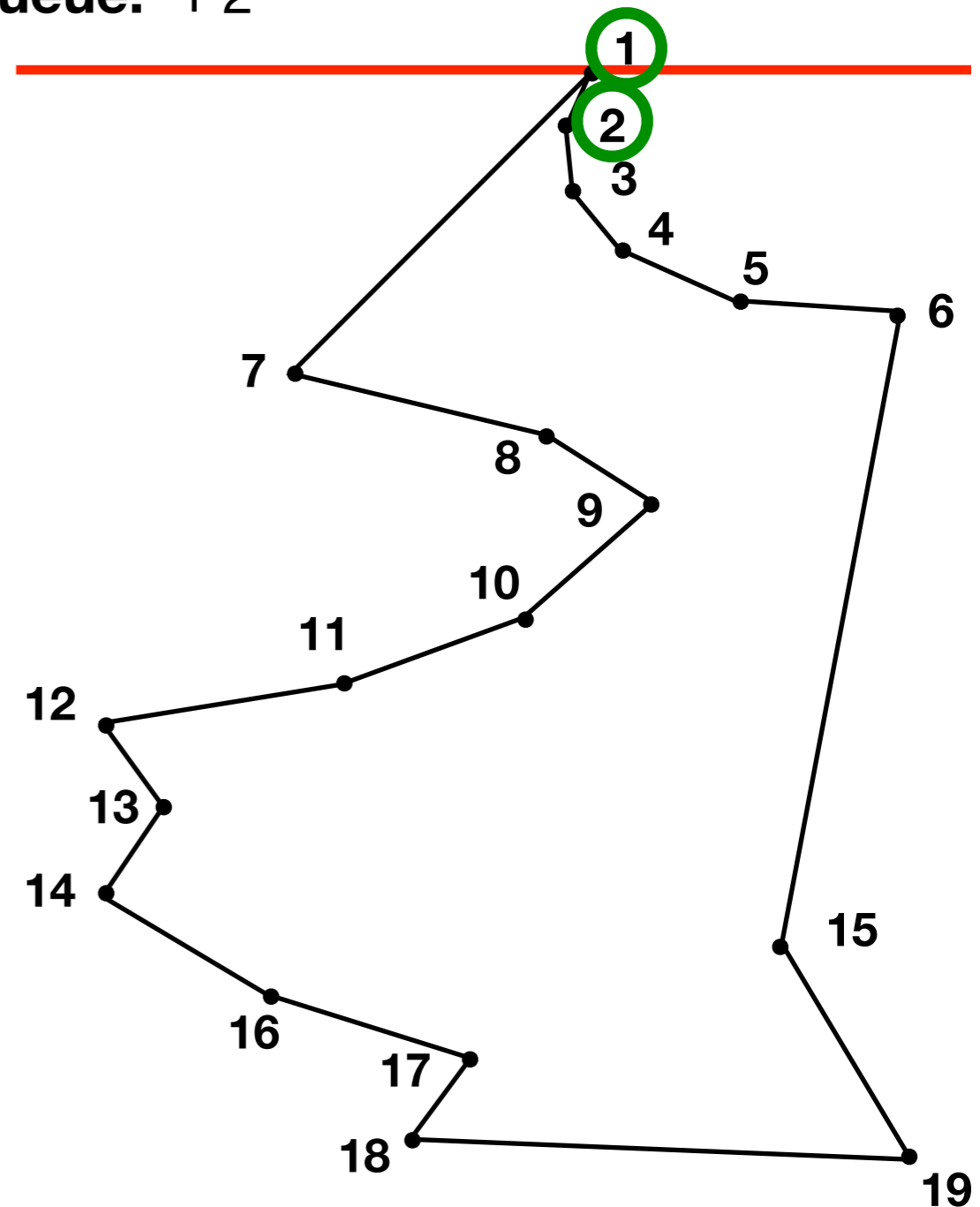
## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
  - First two vertices of unfinished subpolygon
  - Further vertices in same chain if predecessor reflex
3. Processing vertices in sorted order:
  - 3.1 If opposite chain:
    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue **Chain**
  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:
    - Add to queue **Add**
  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:
    - Ear! Connect and update **Ear**

Queue: 1 2





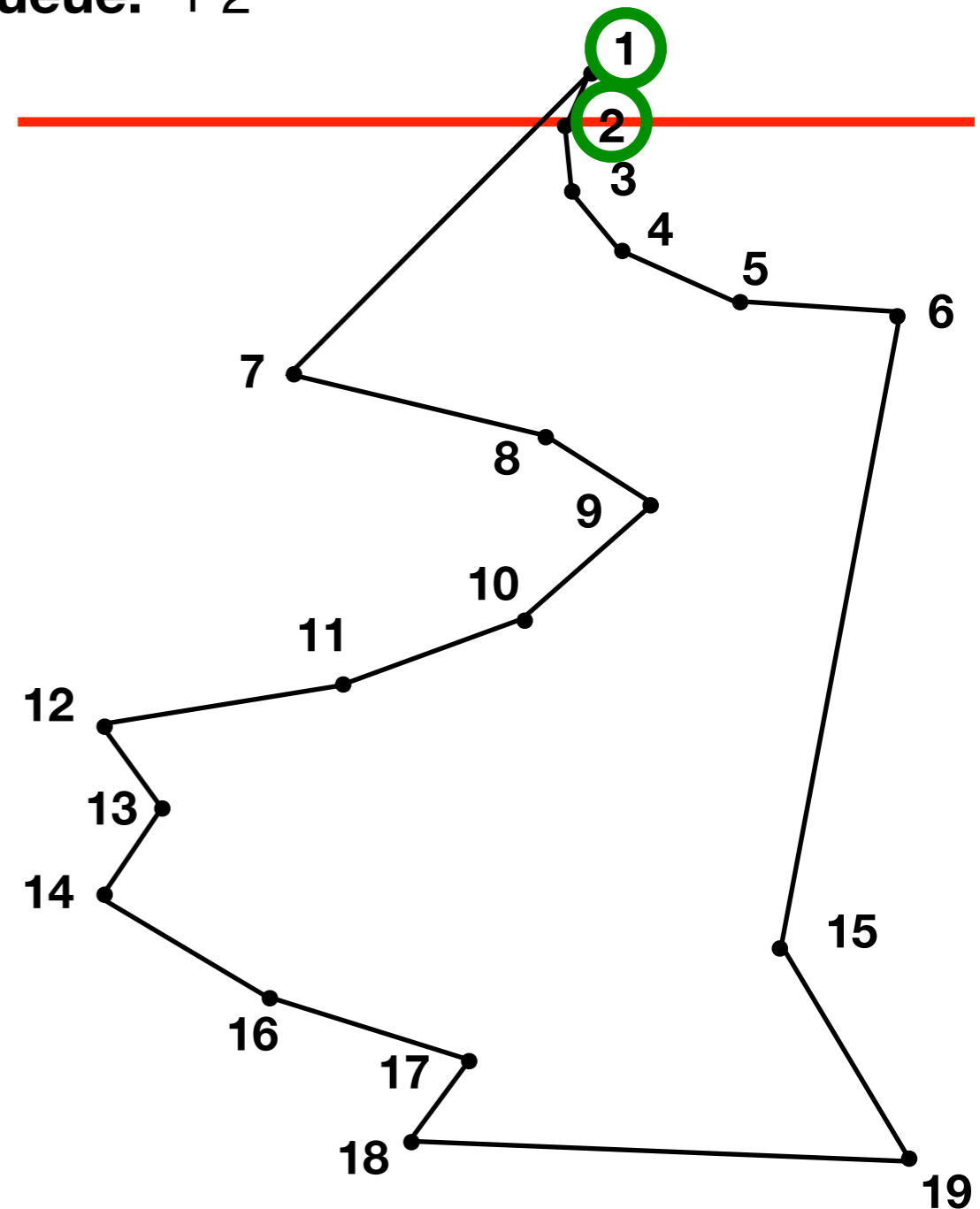
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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    - Add to queue
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    - Ear! Connect and update

Queue: 1 2



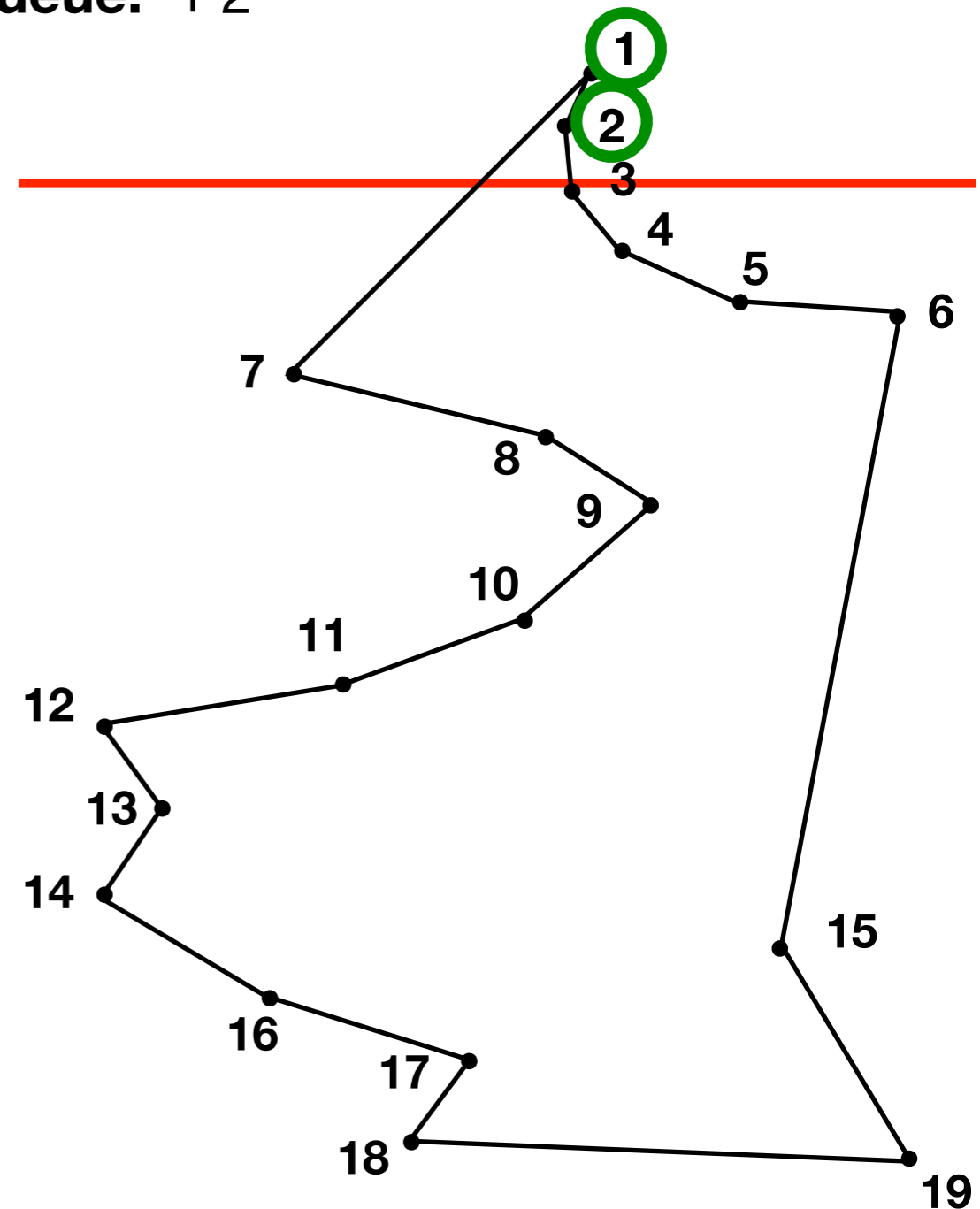
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Queue: 1 2



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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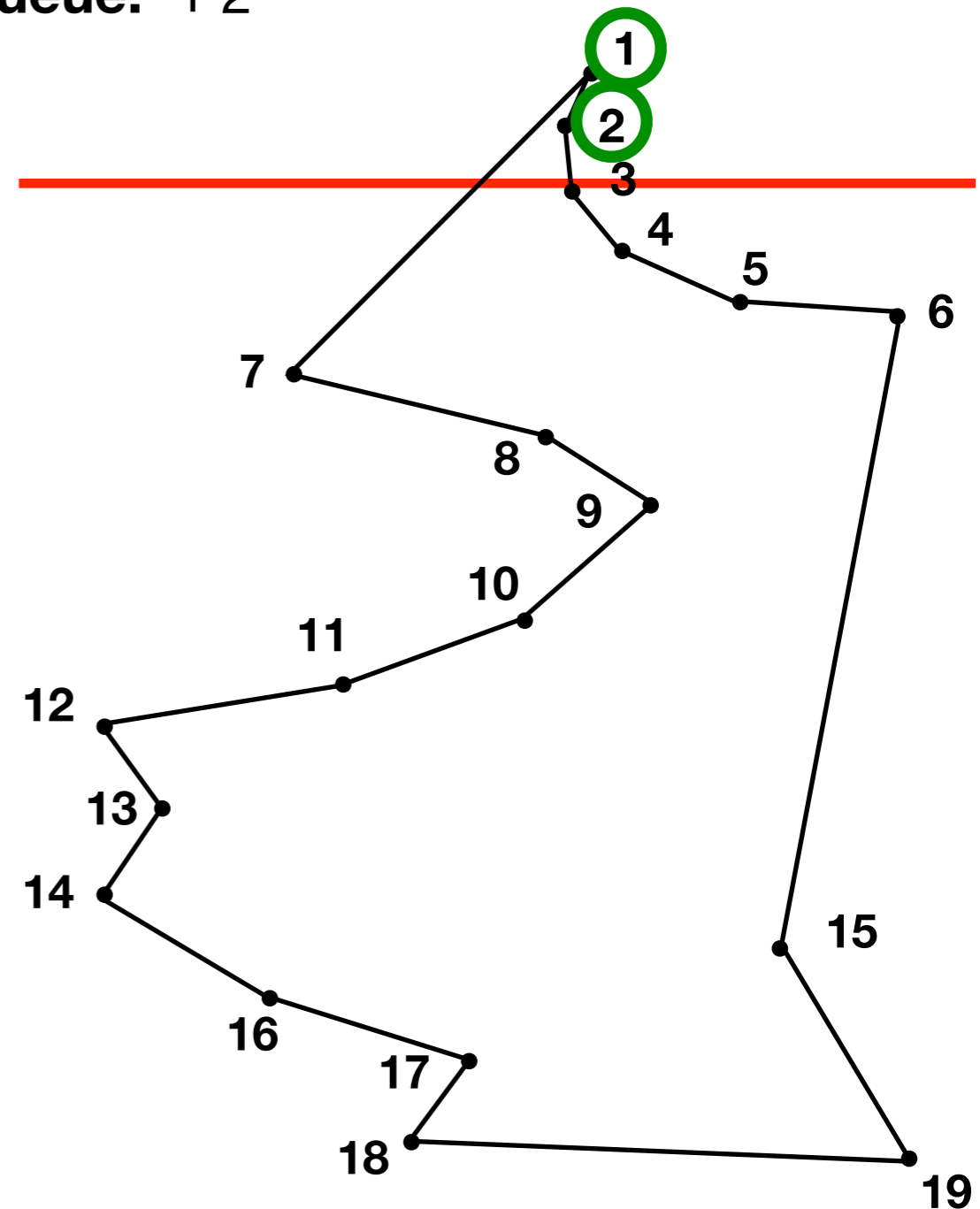
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 1 2



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

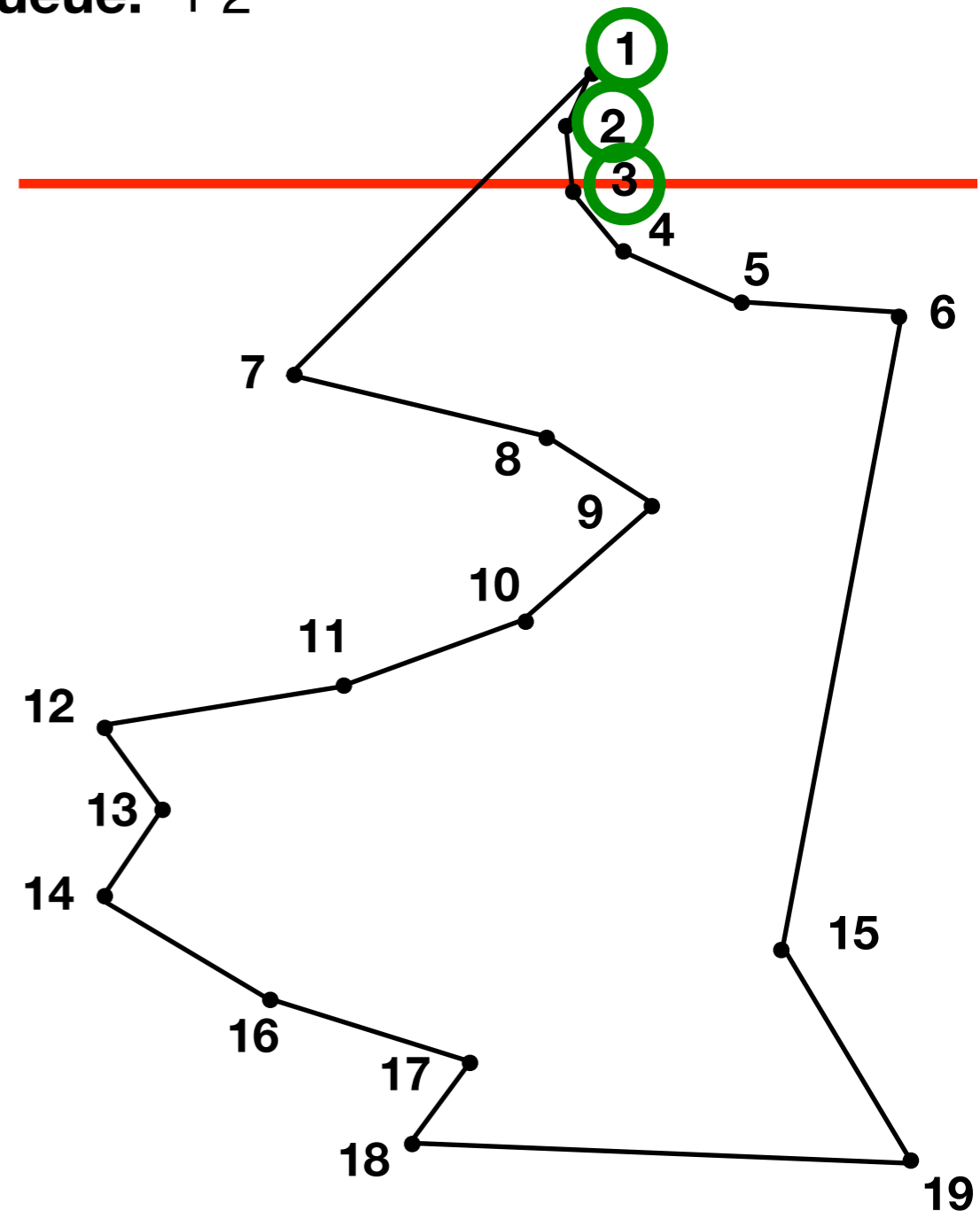
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 1 2



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

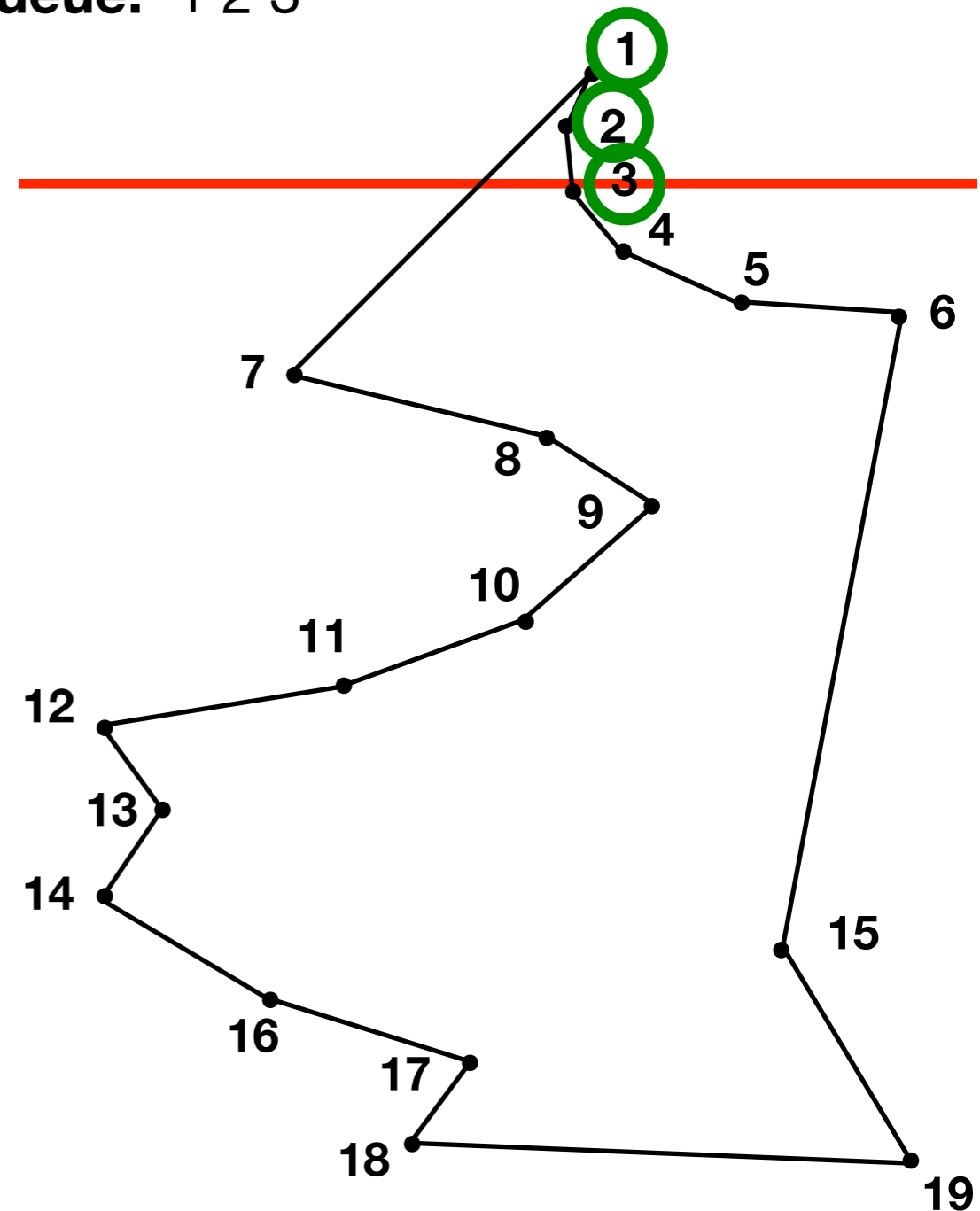
1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 1 2 3



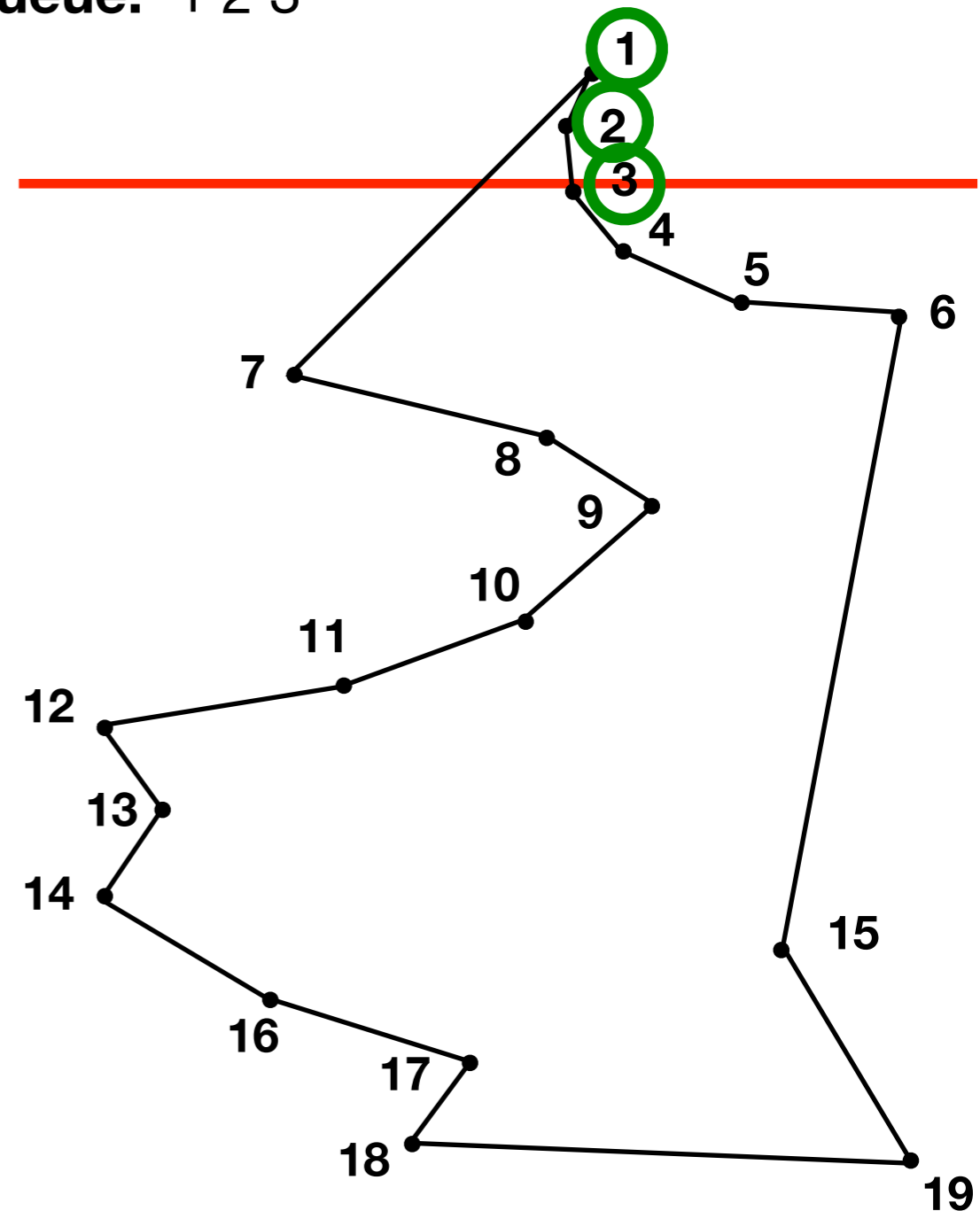
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**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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Queue: 1 2 3



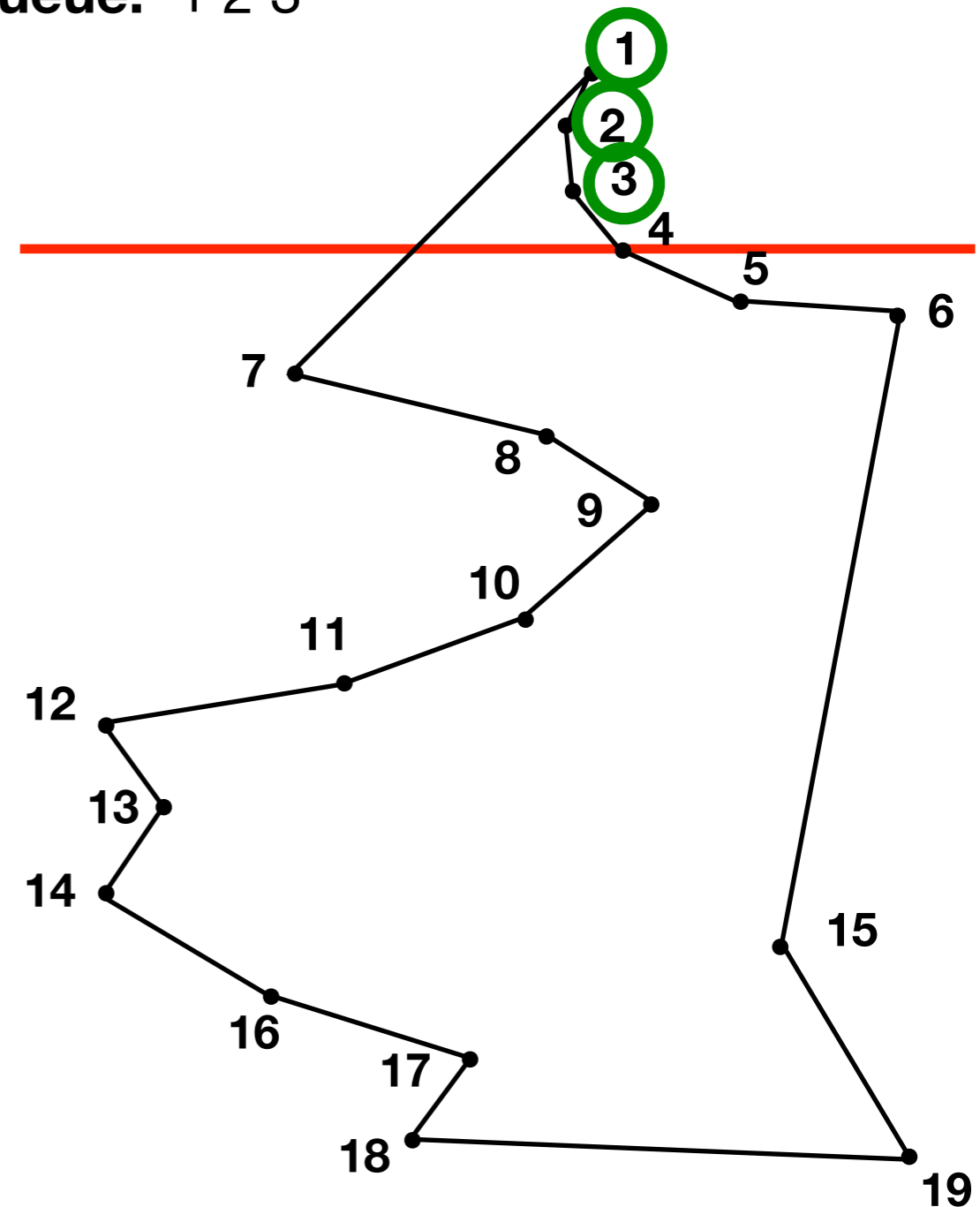
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Queue: 1 2 3



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

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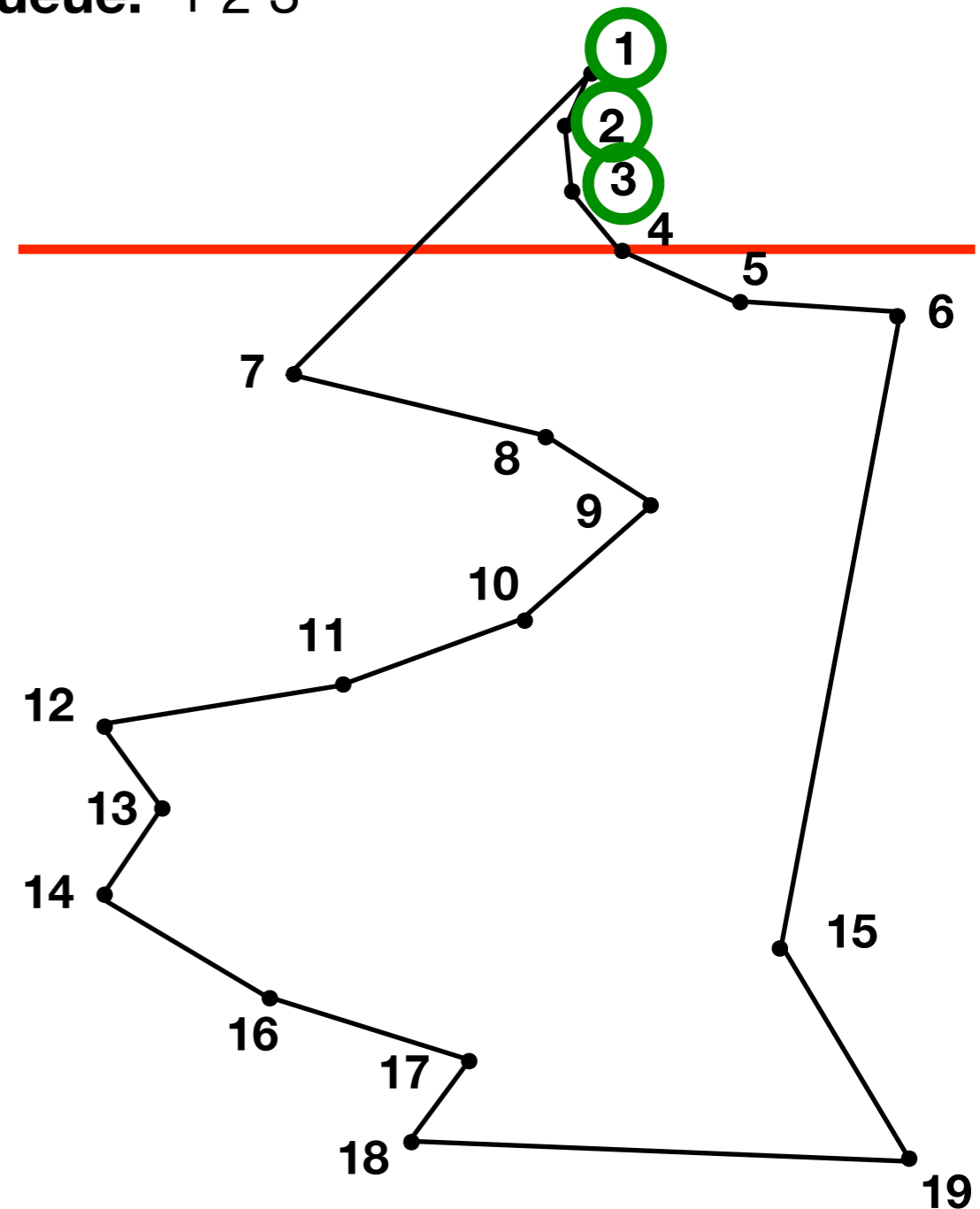
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Queue: 1 2 3





## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

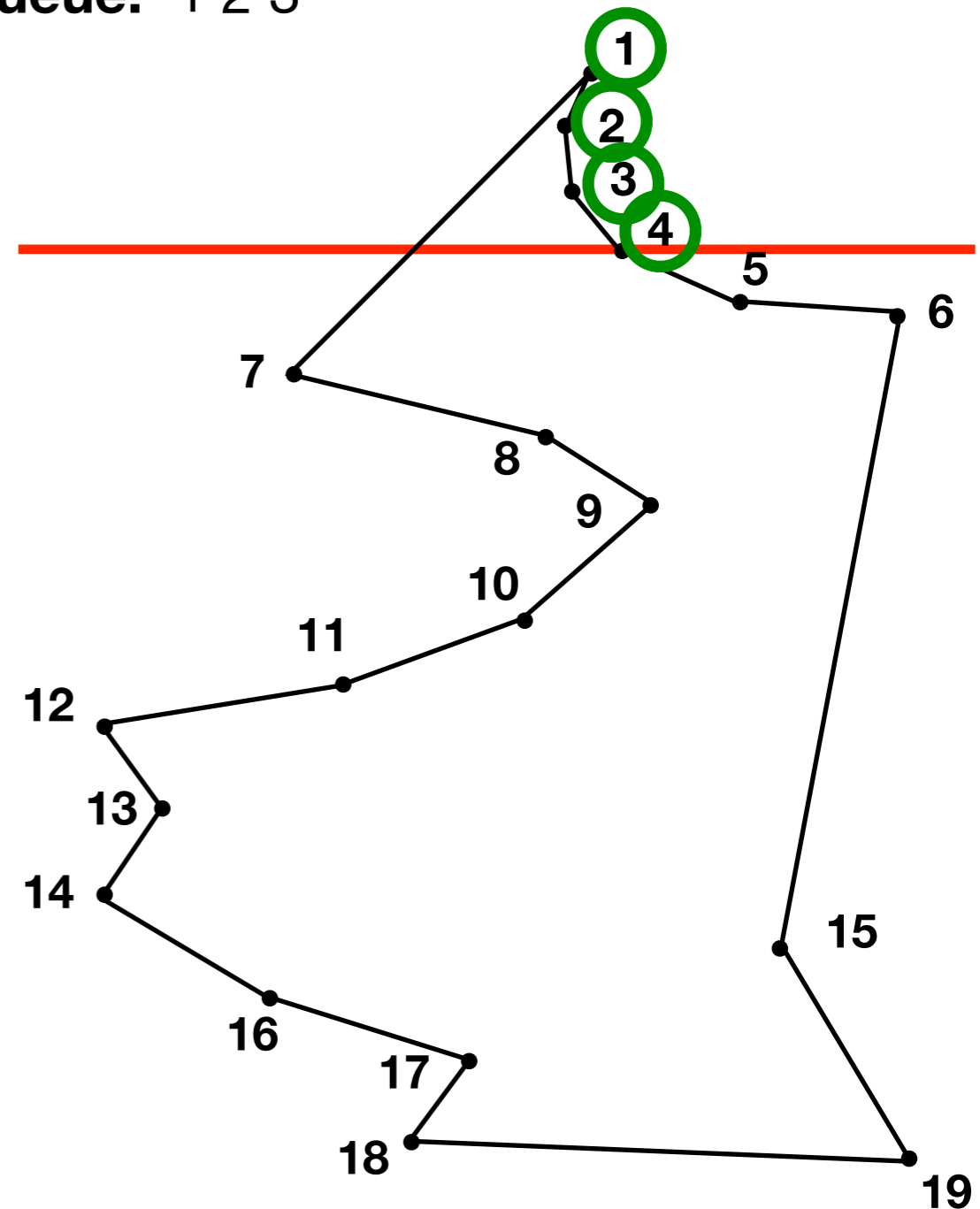
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Chain

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Ear

Queue: 1 2 3



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

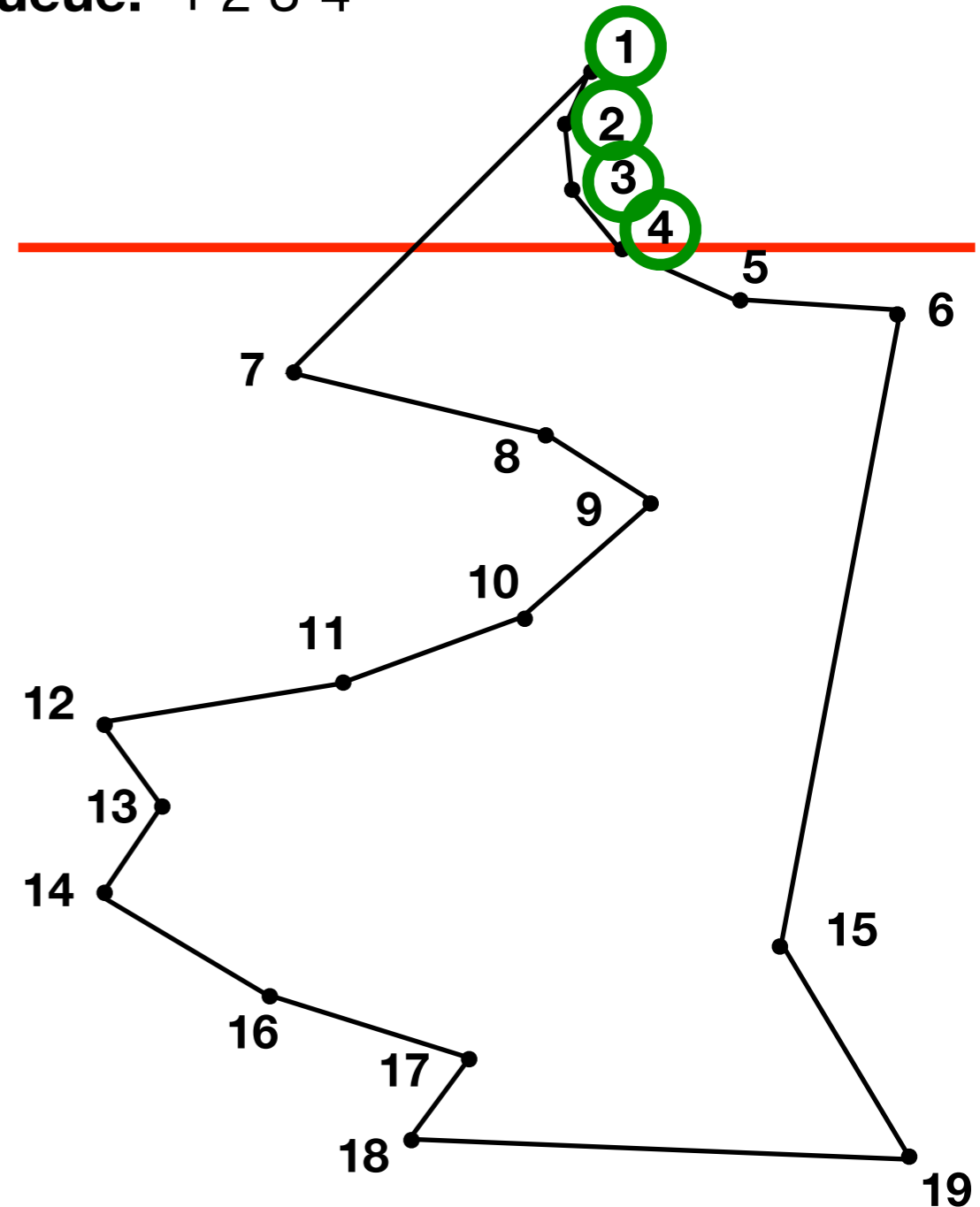
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 1 2 3 4



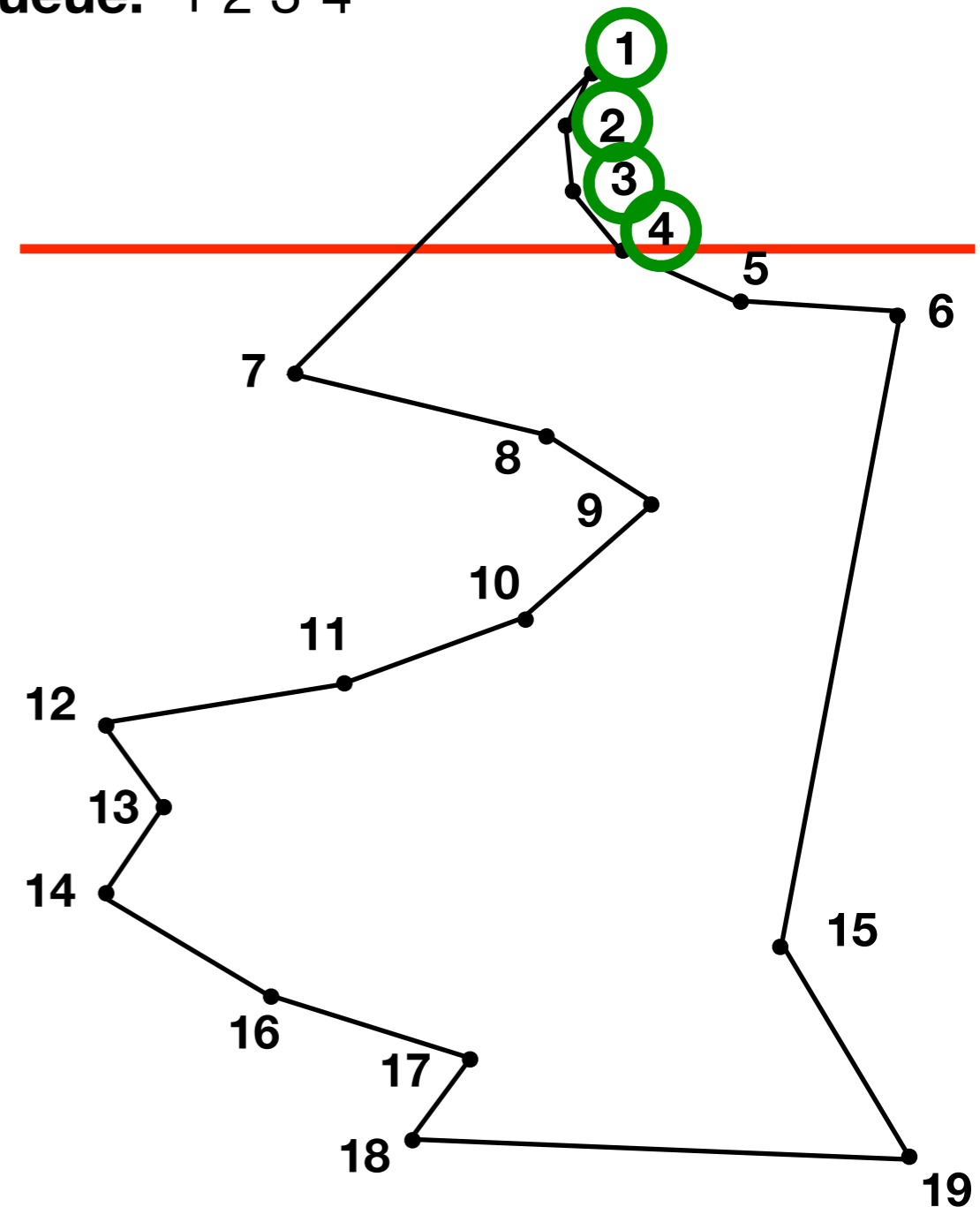
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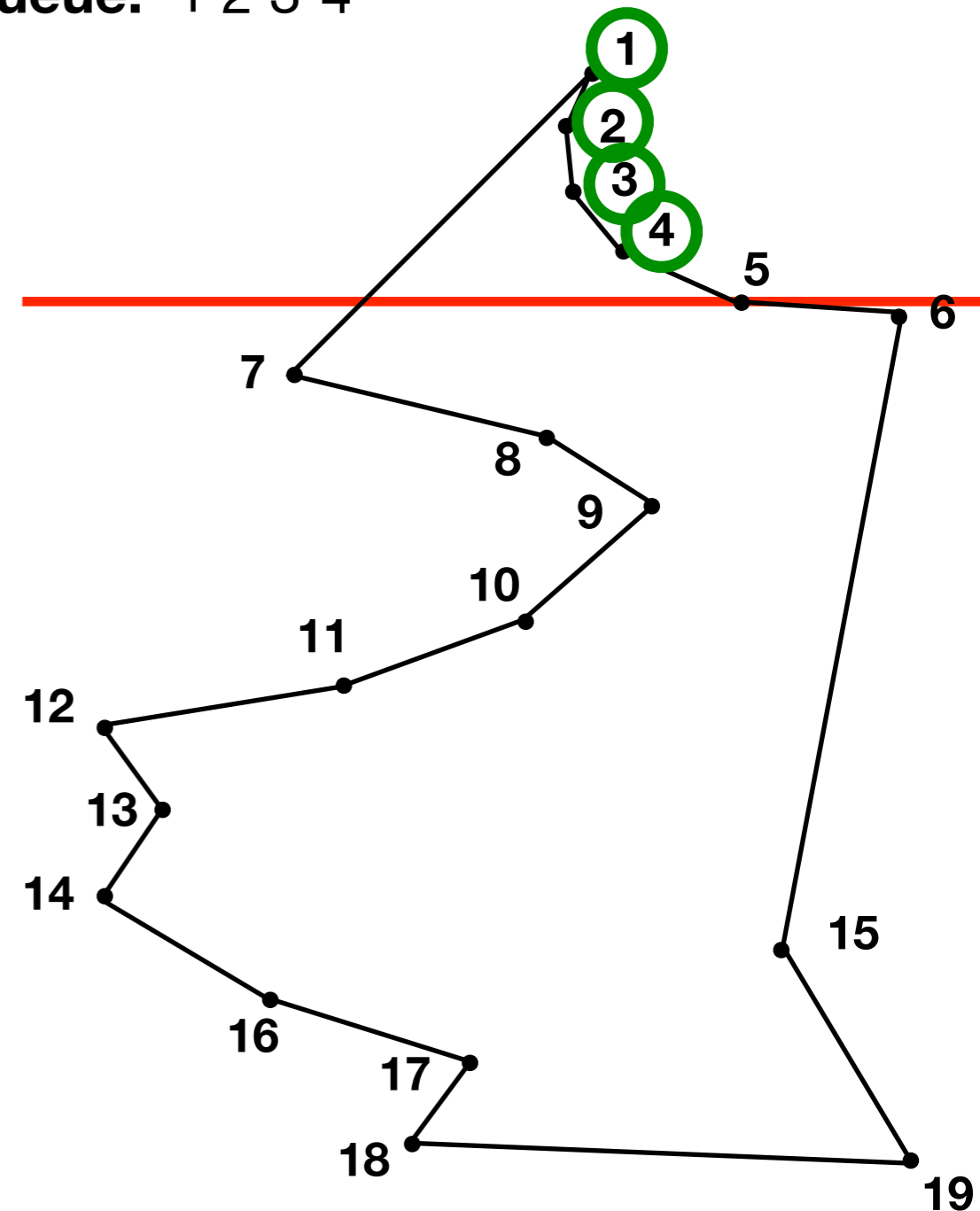
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

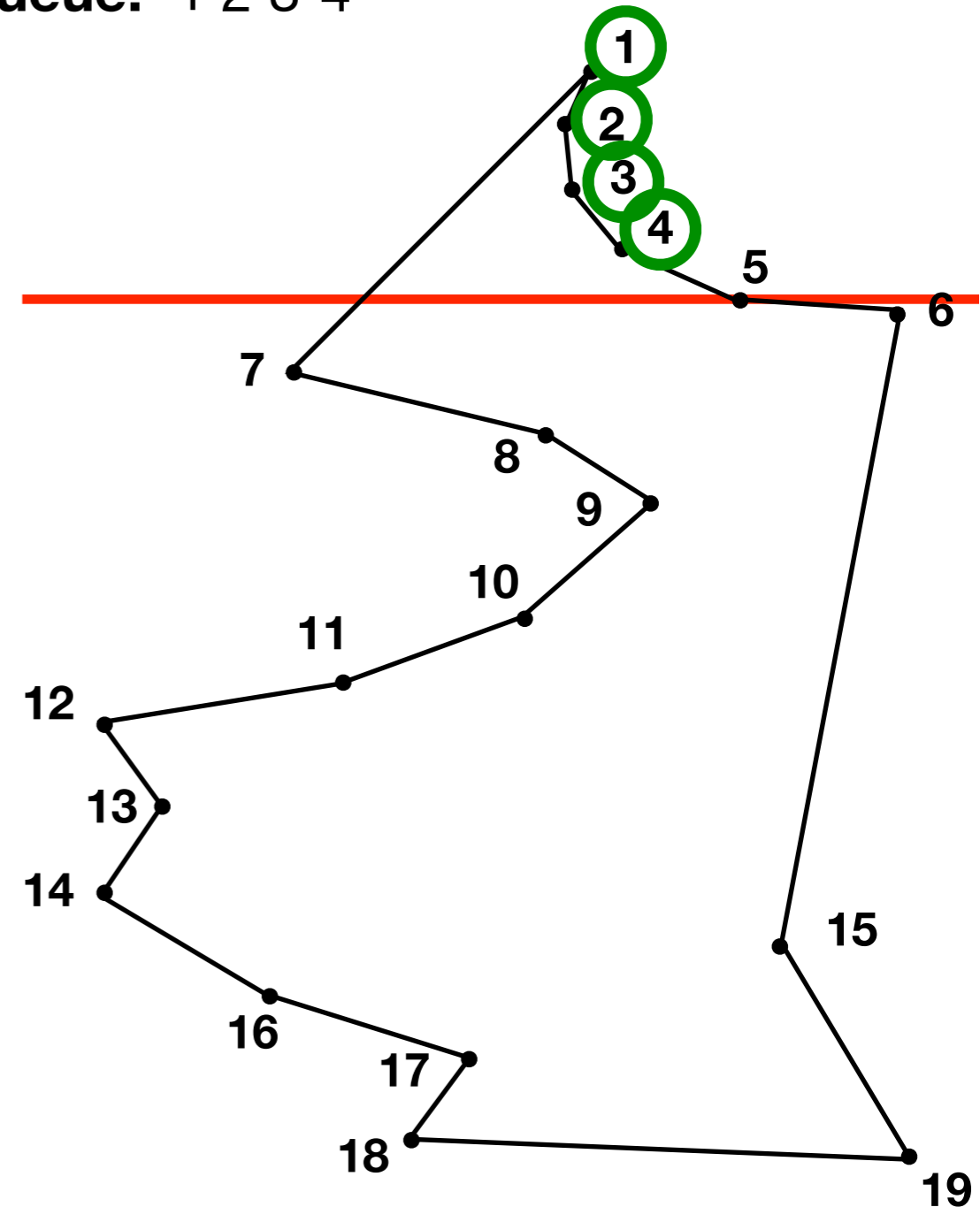
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Queue: 1 2 3 4



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

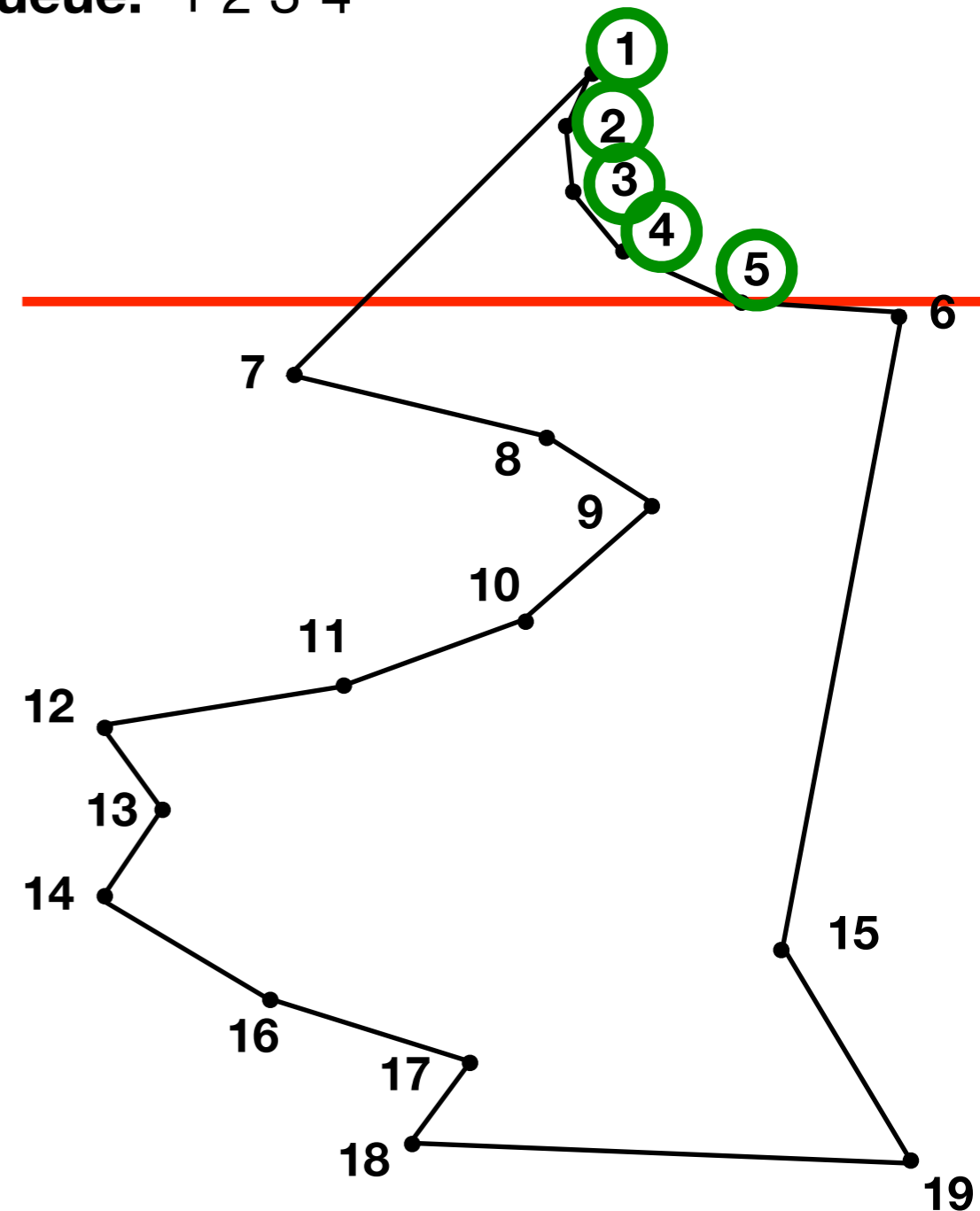
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Queue: 1 2 3 4



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

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

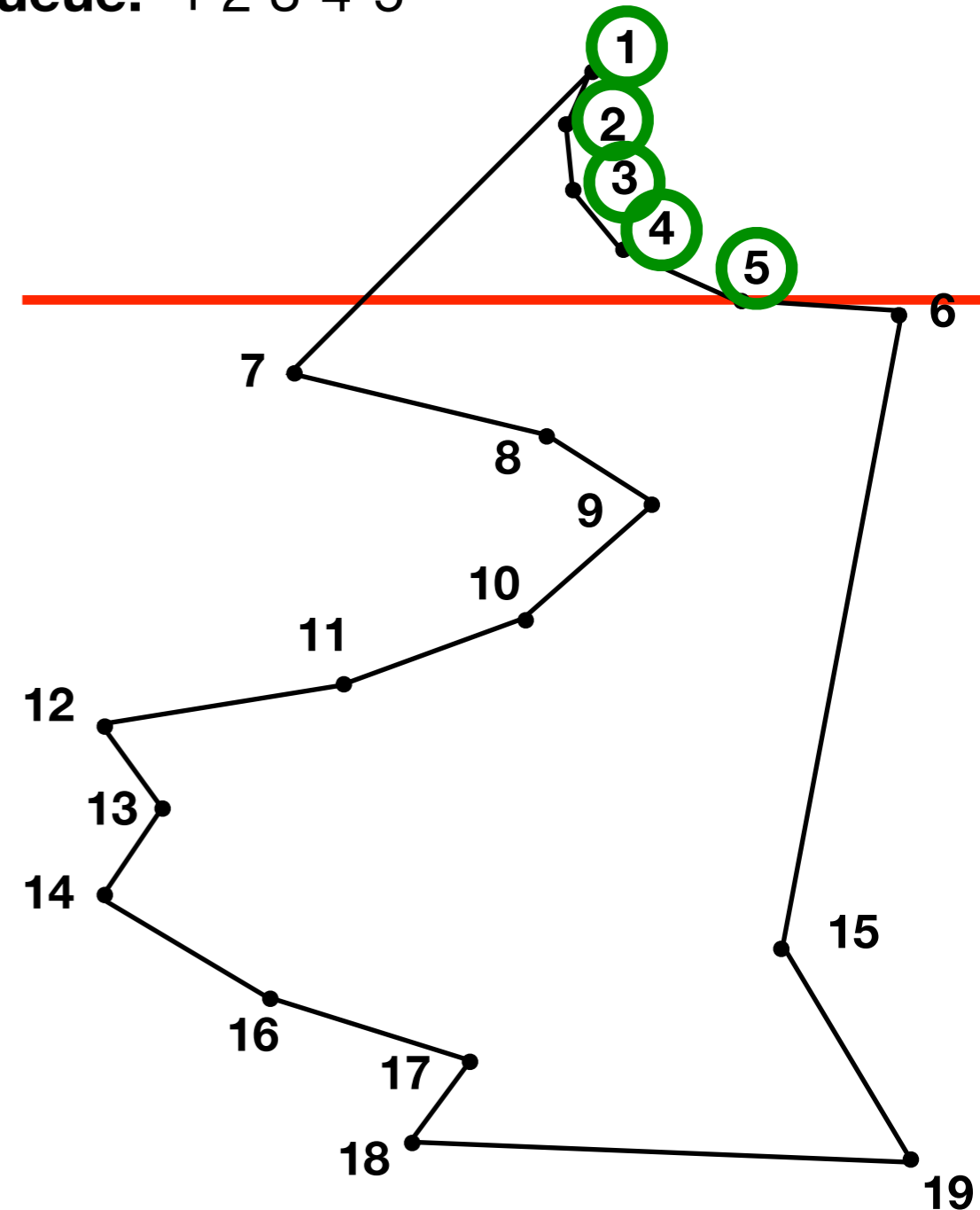
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    - Add to queue
  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:
    - Ear! Connect and update

Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 1 2 3 4 5



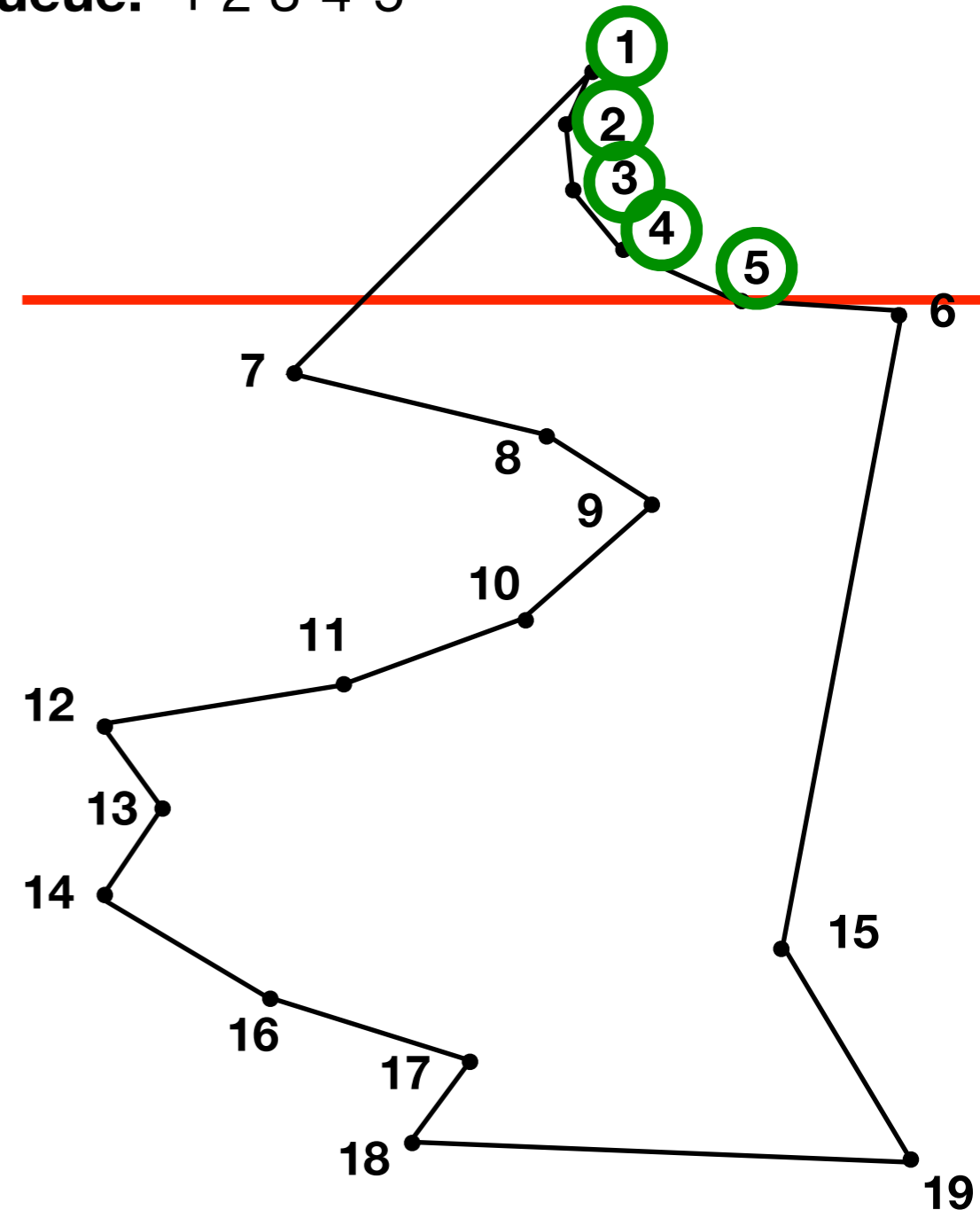
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Queue: 1 2 3 4 5





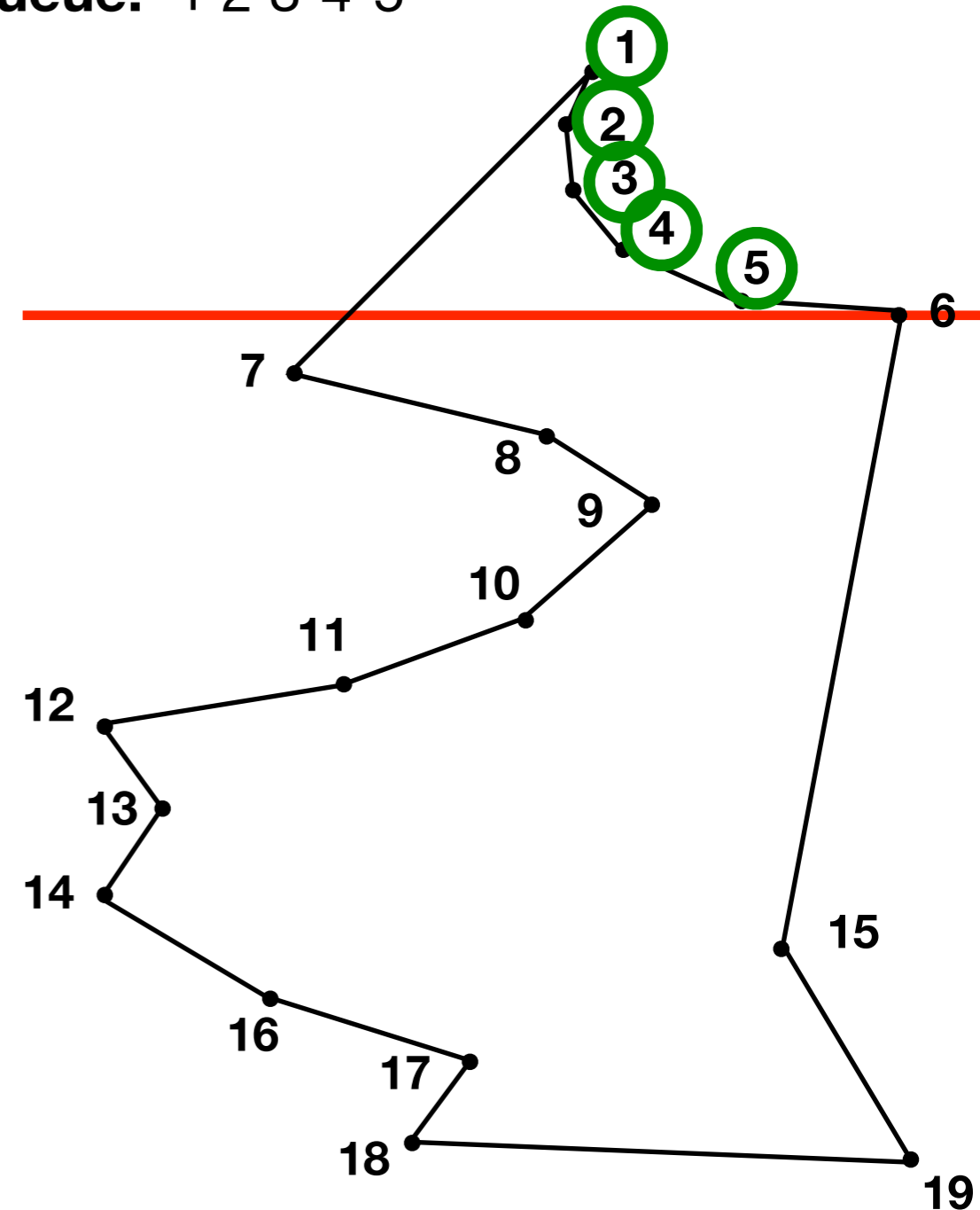
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Queue: 1 2 3 4 5



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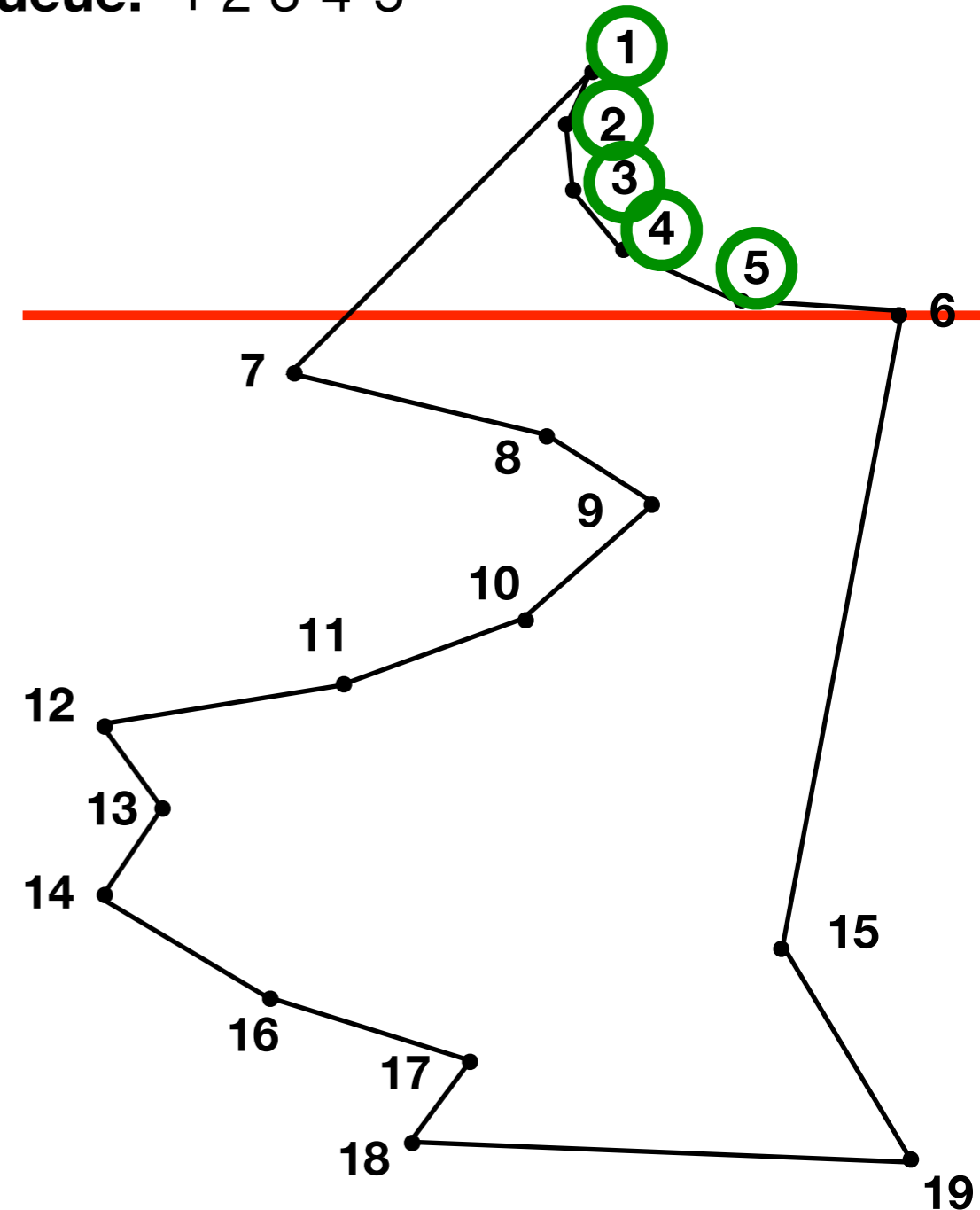
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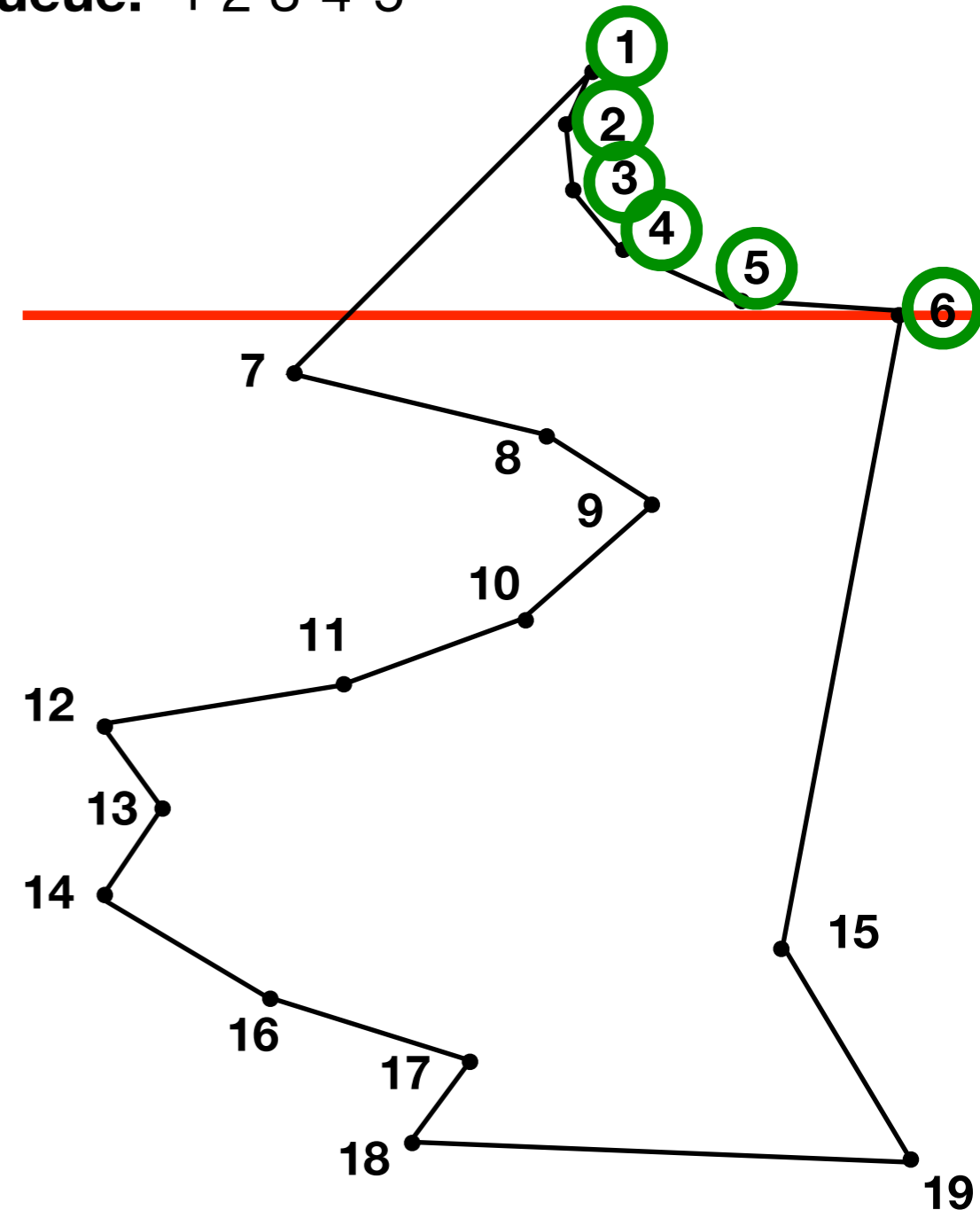
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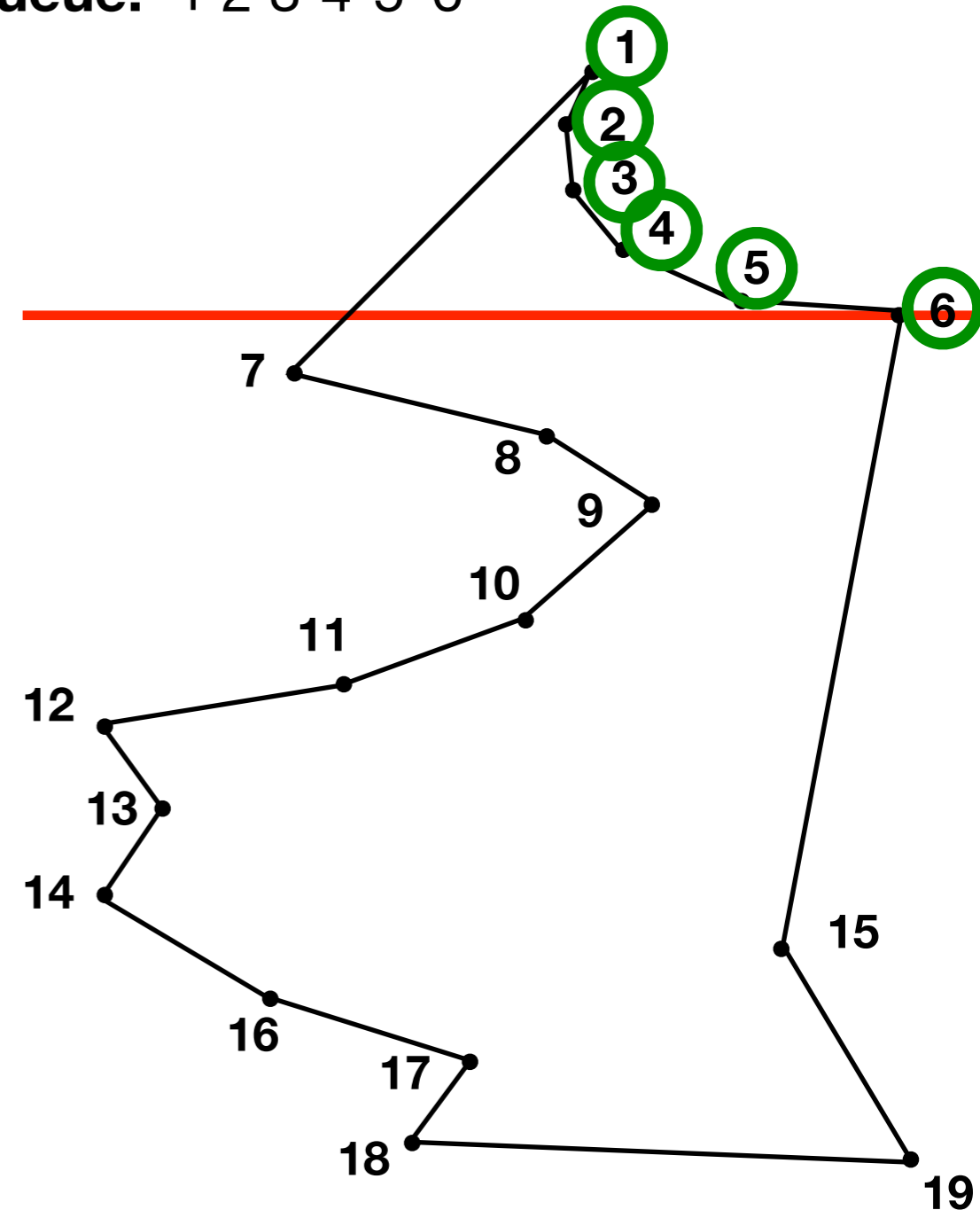
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Ear

Queue: 1 2 3 4 5 6



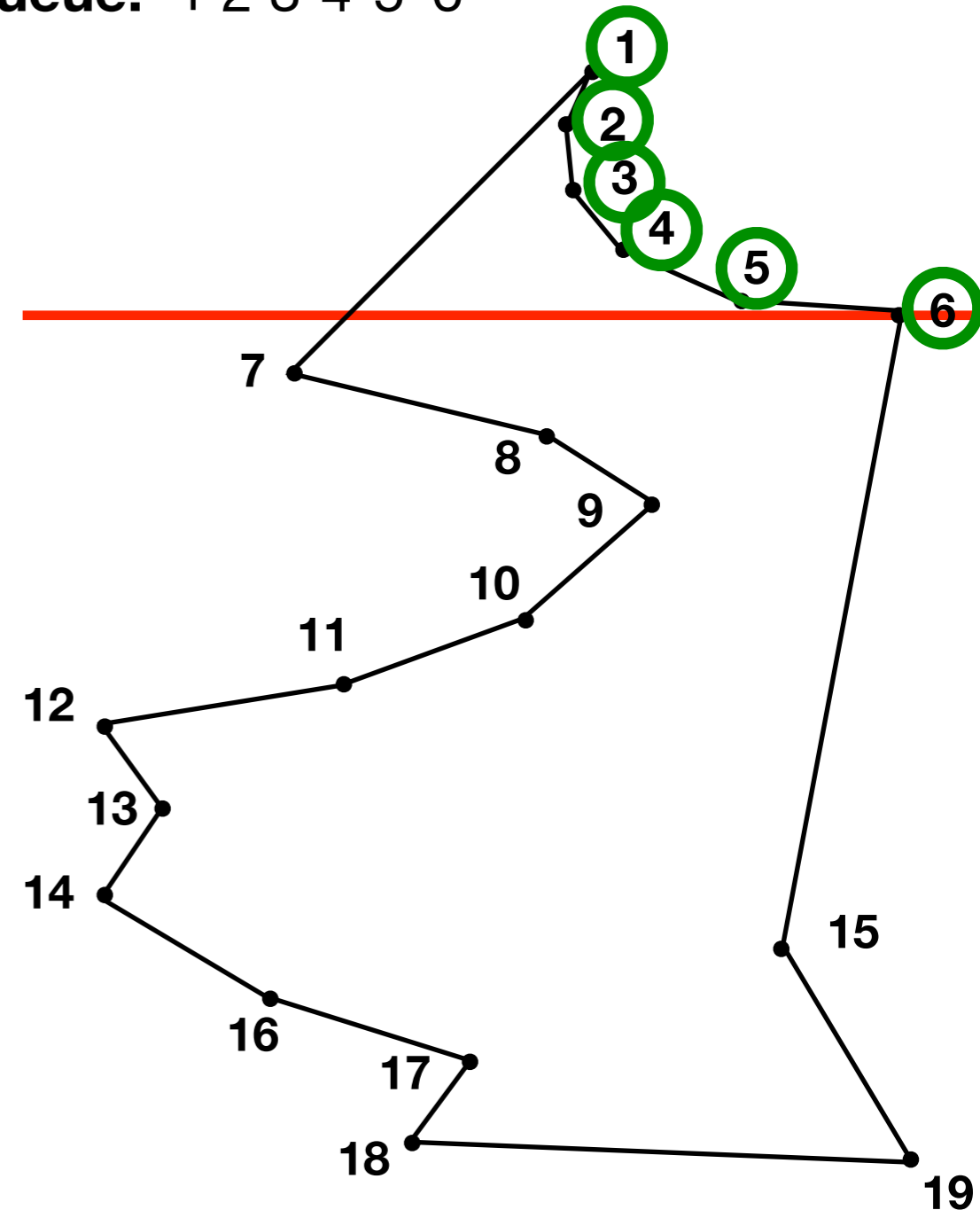
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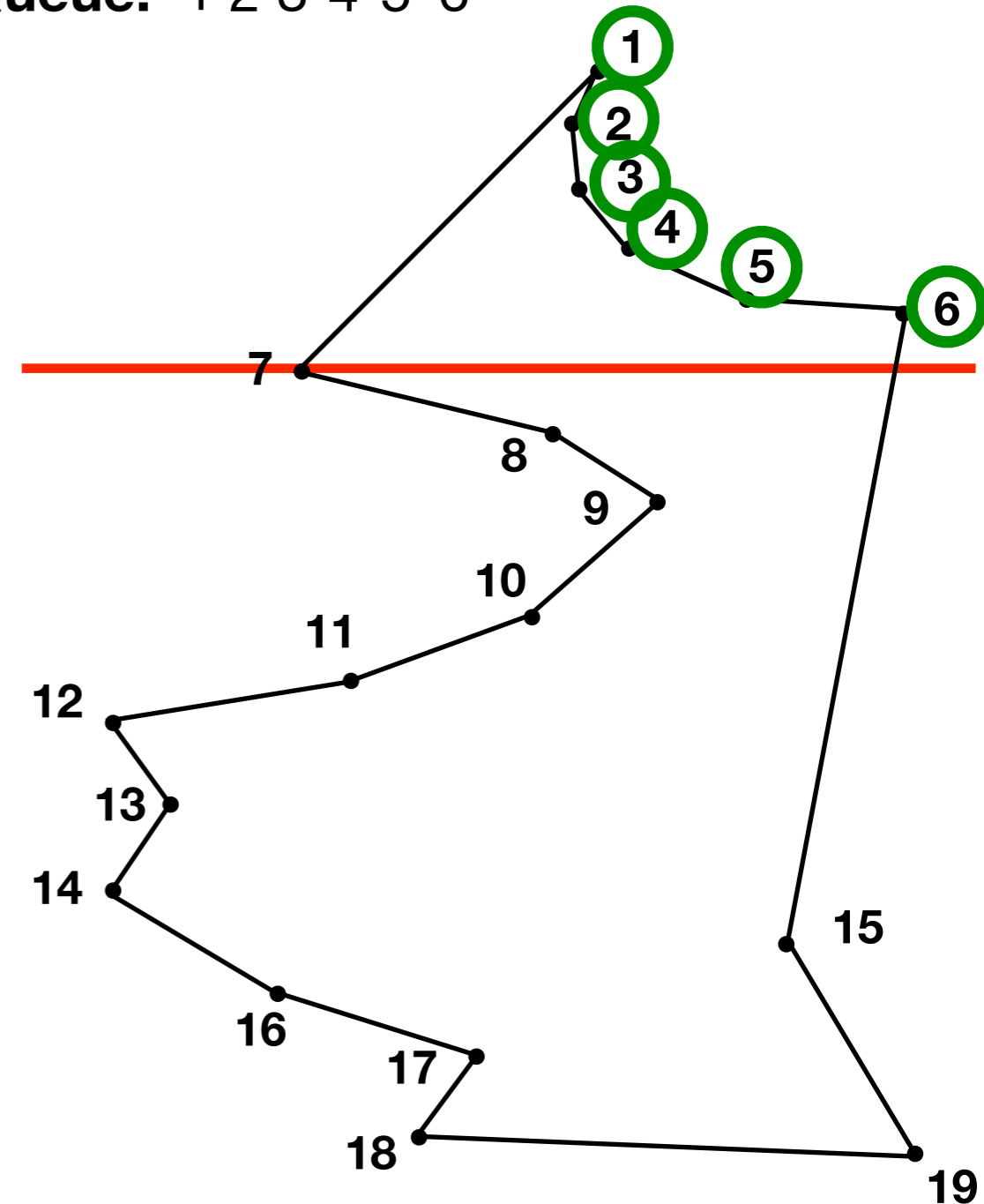
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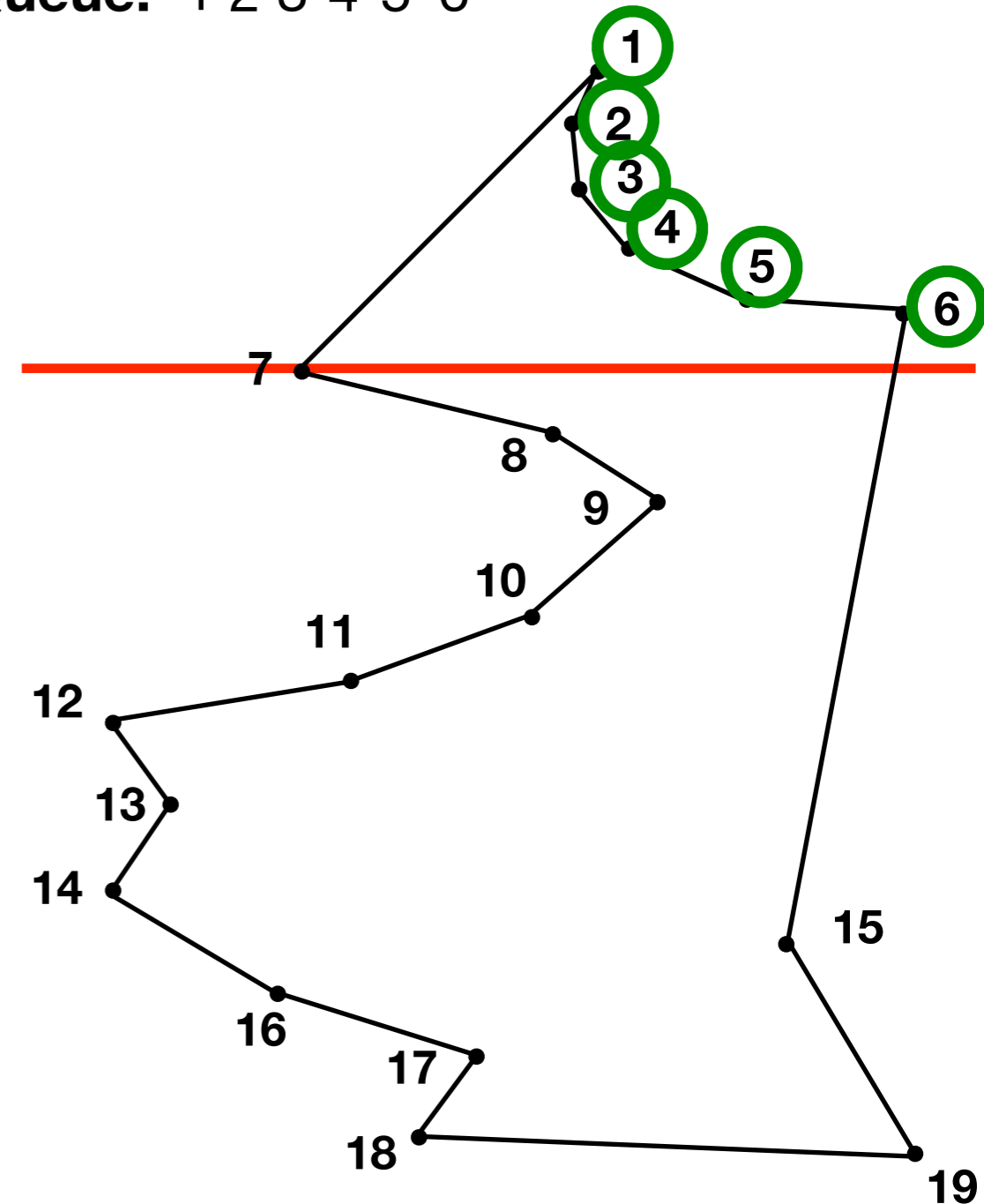
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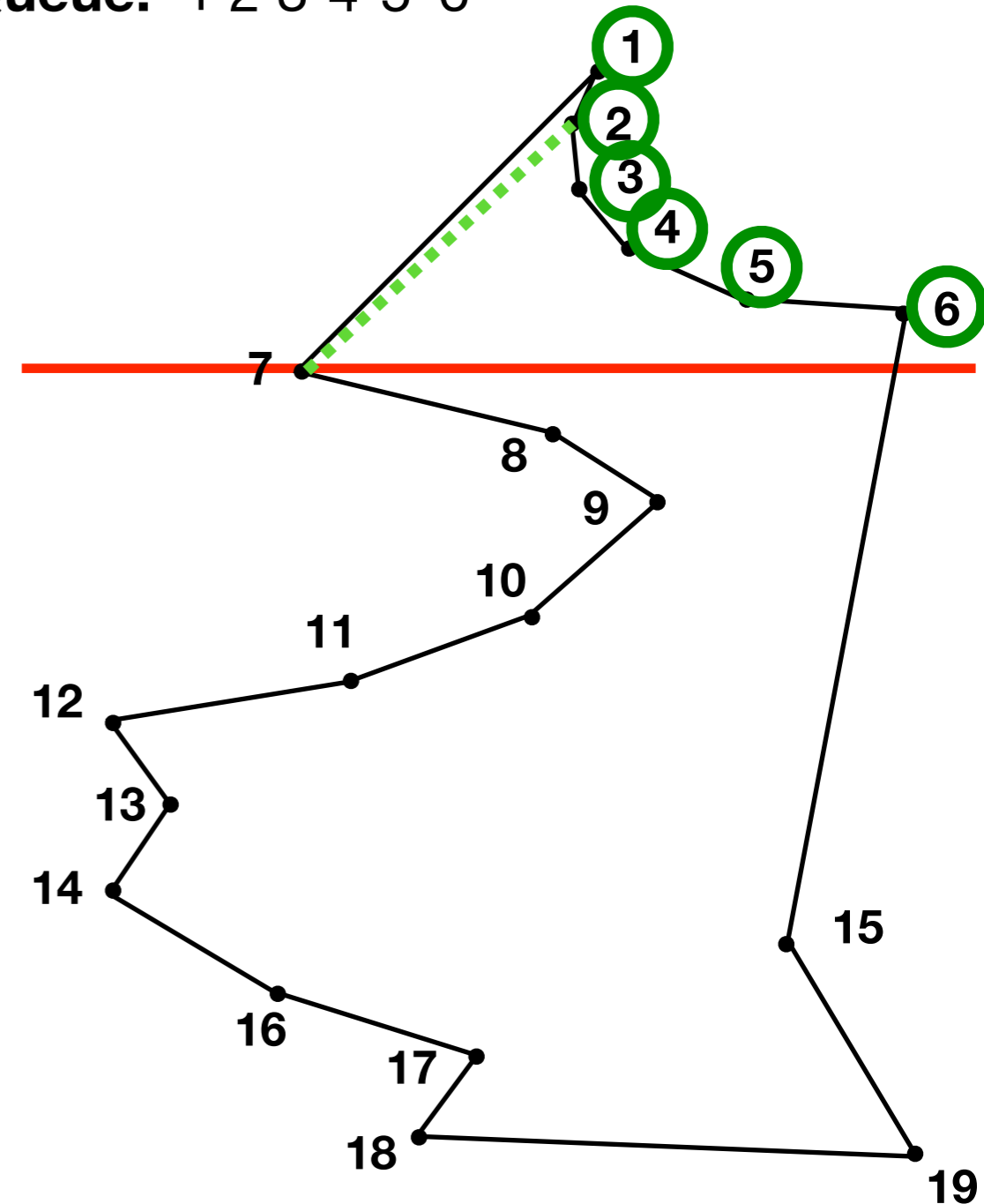
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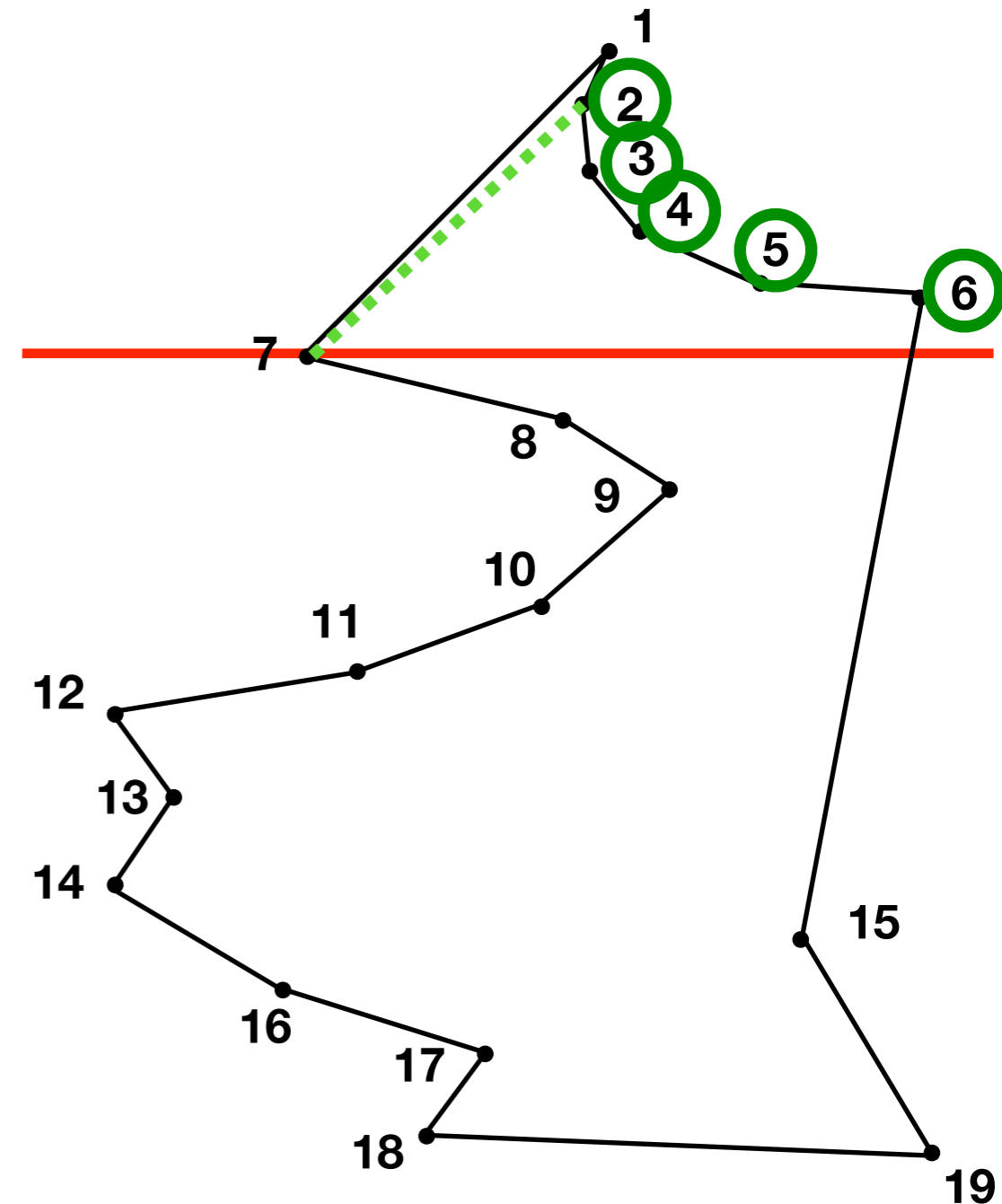
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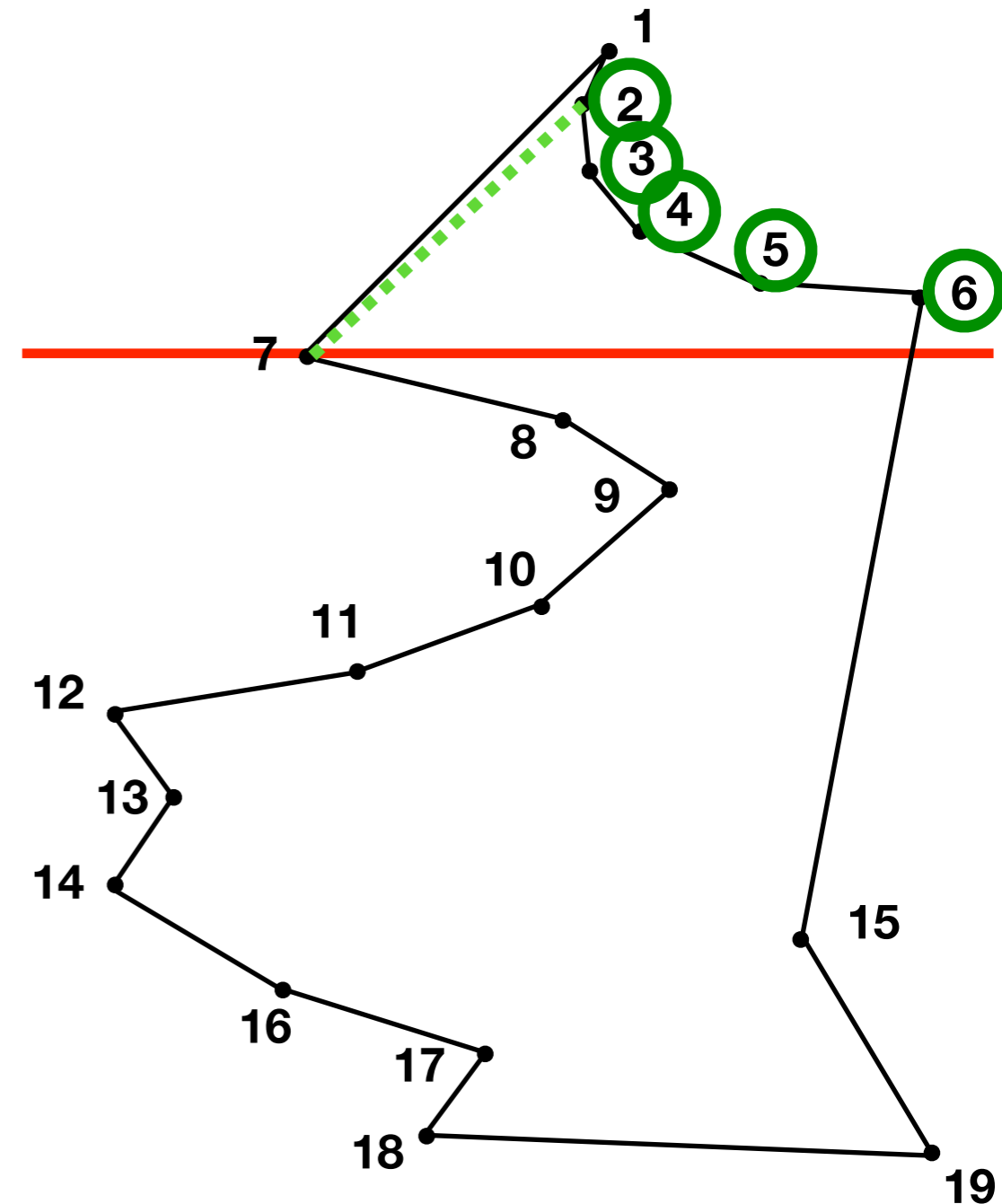
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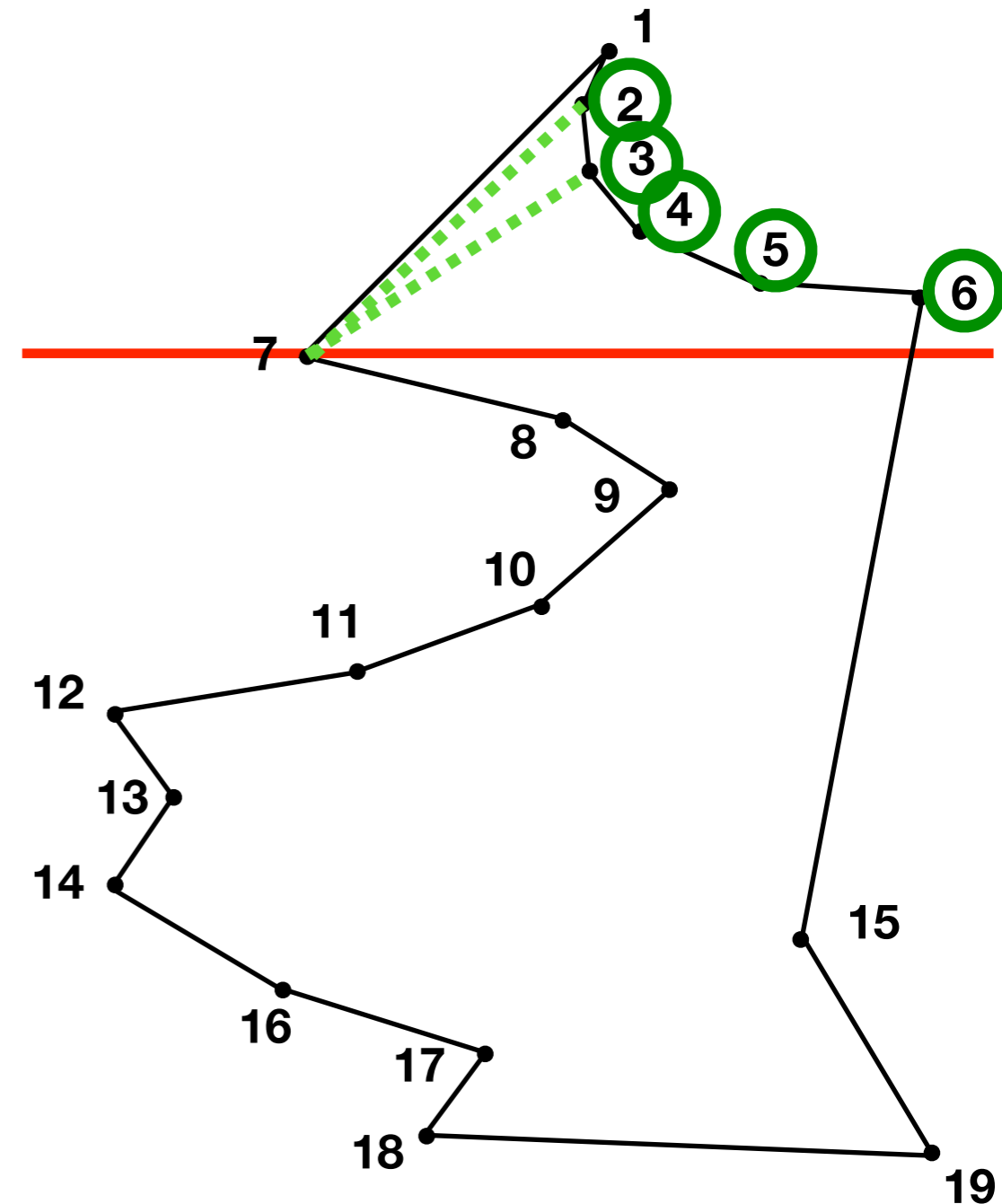
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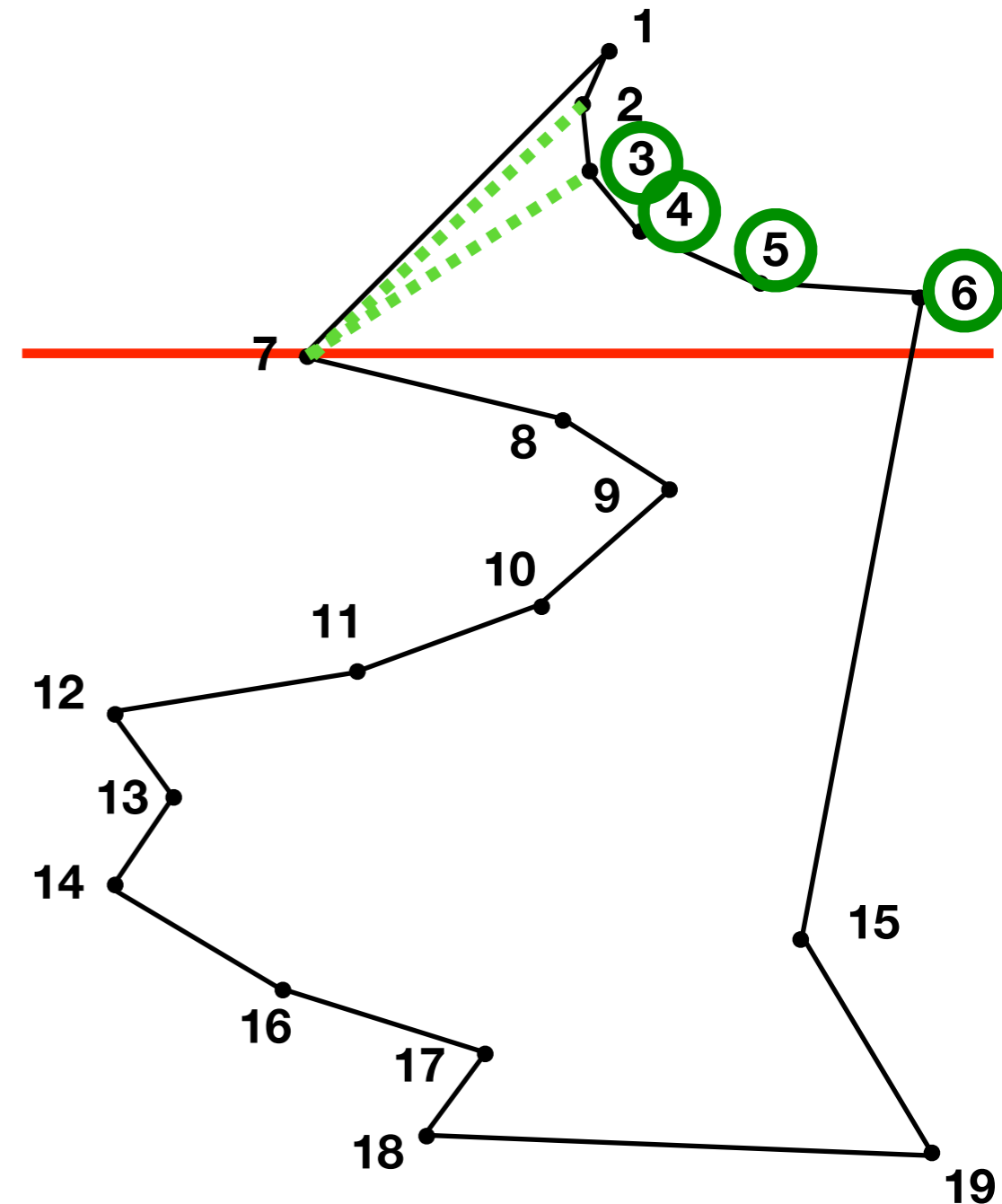
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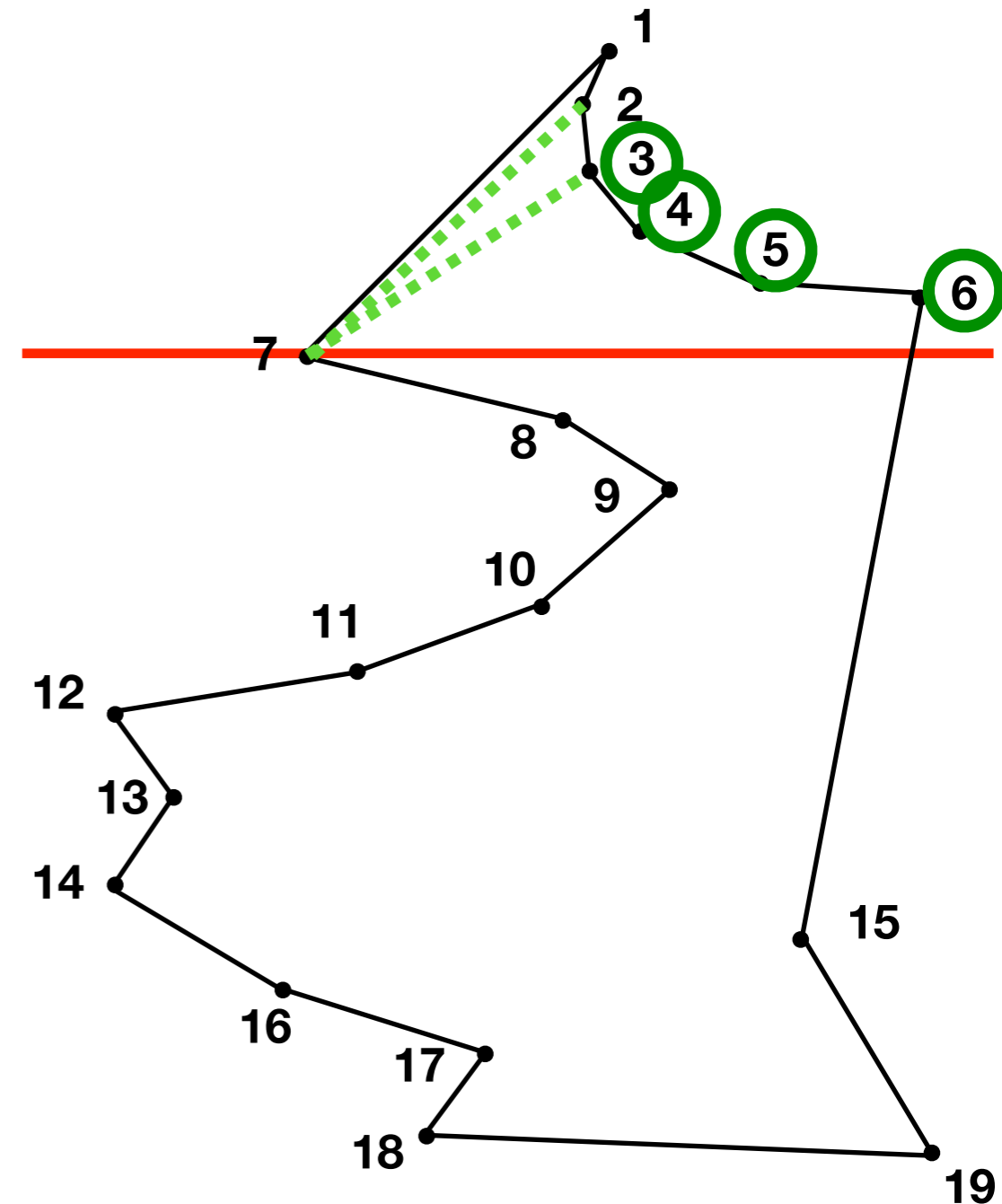
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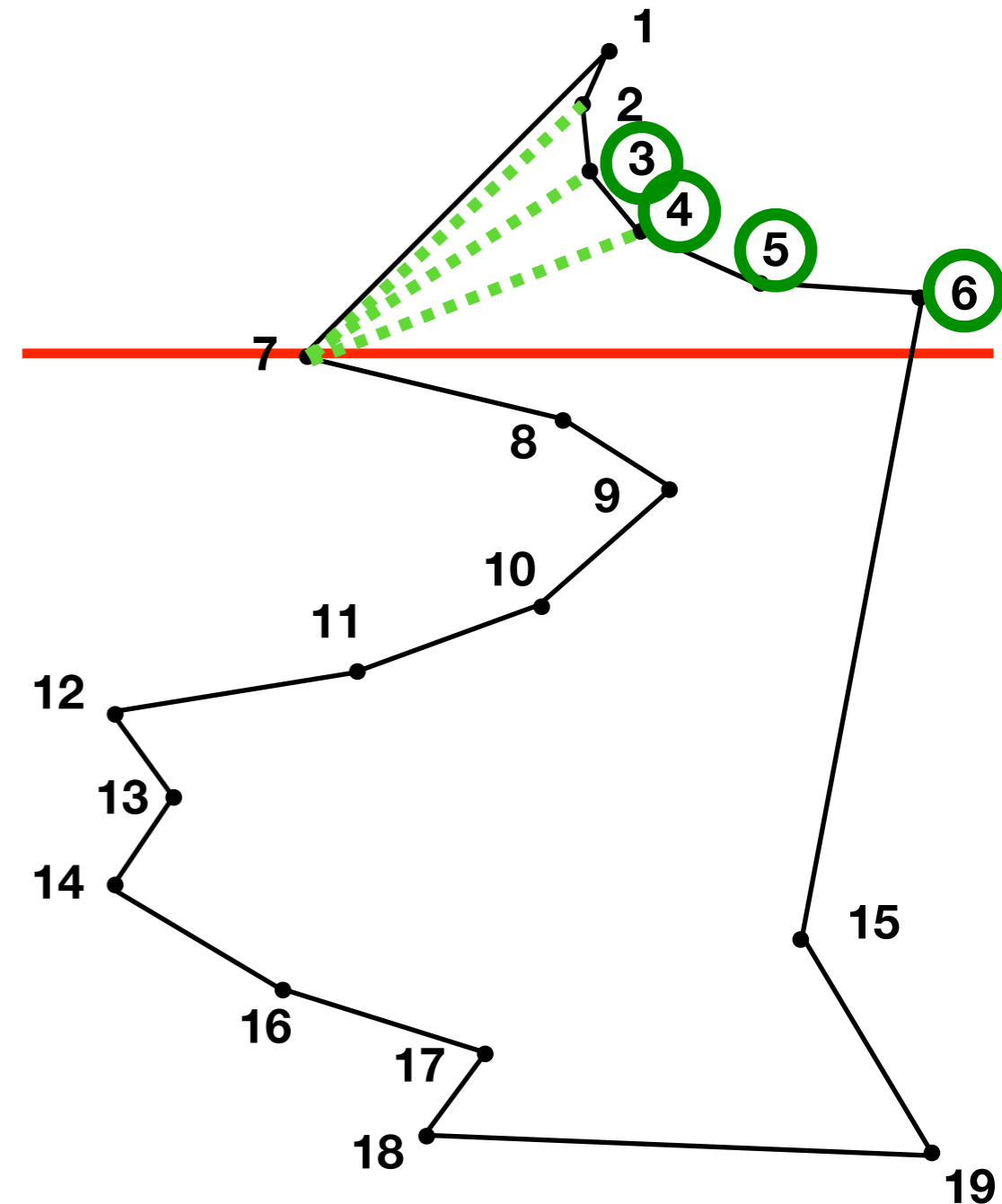
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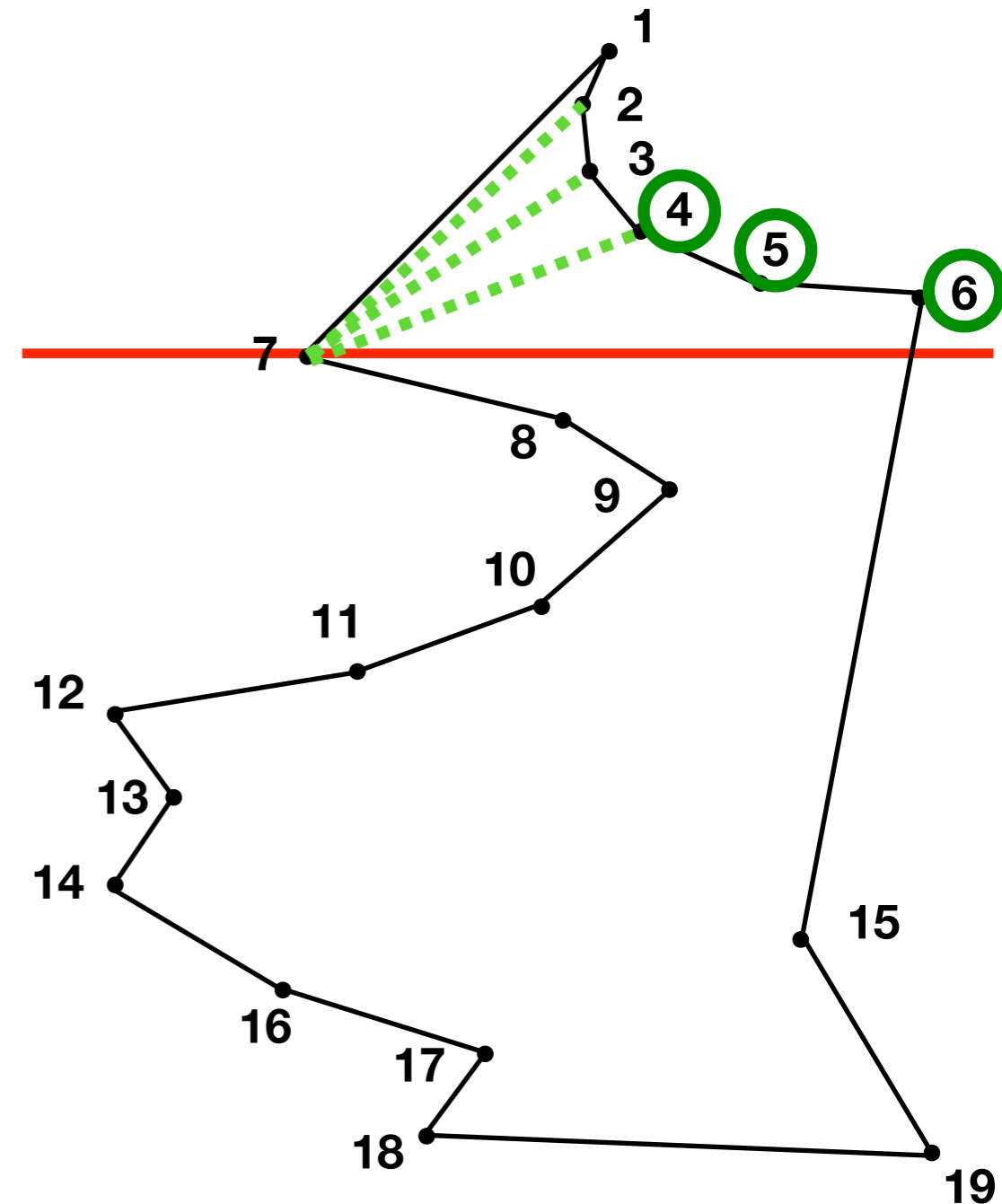
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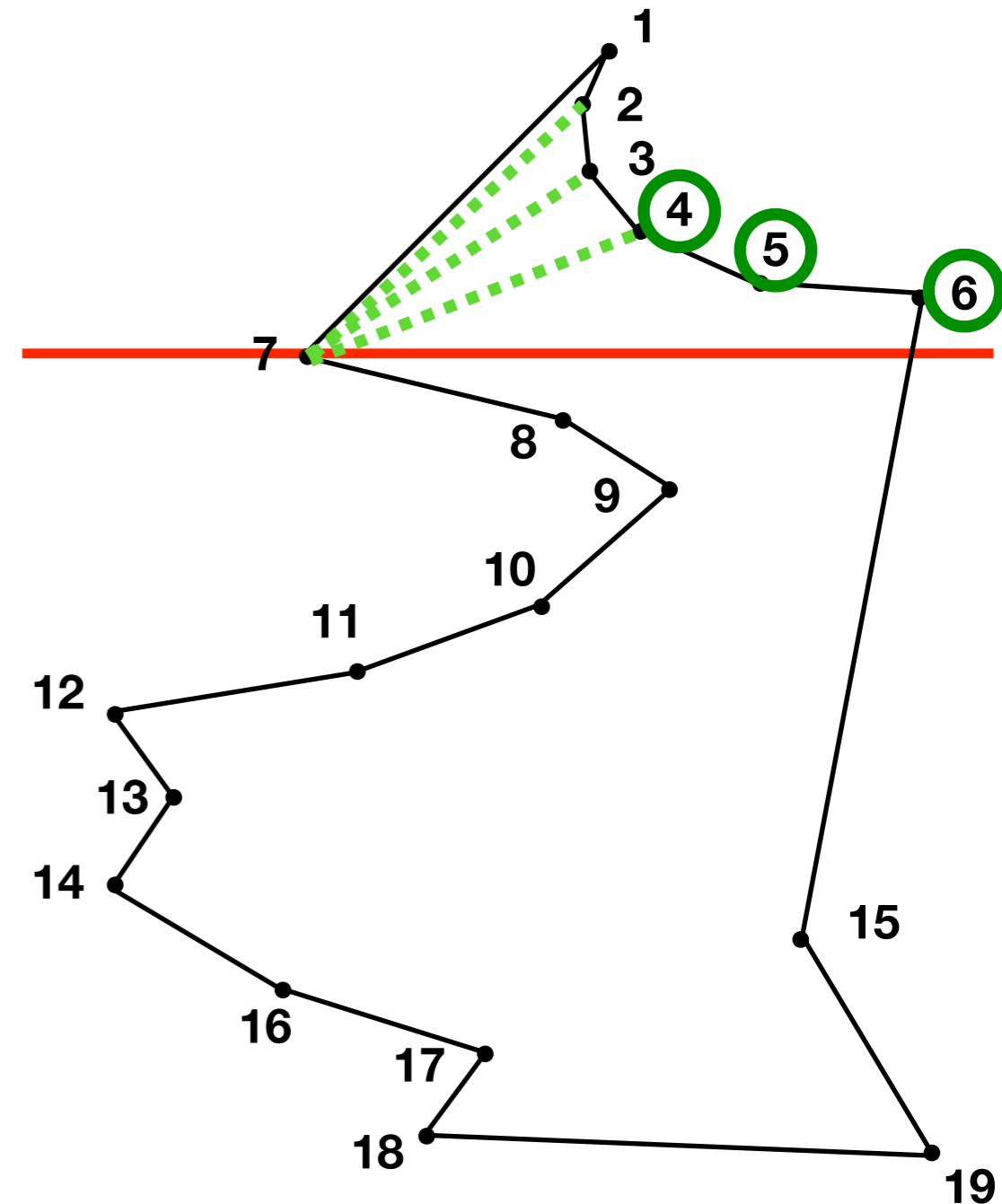
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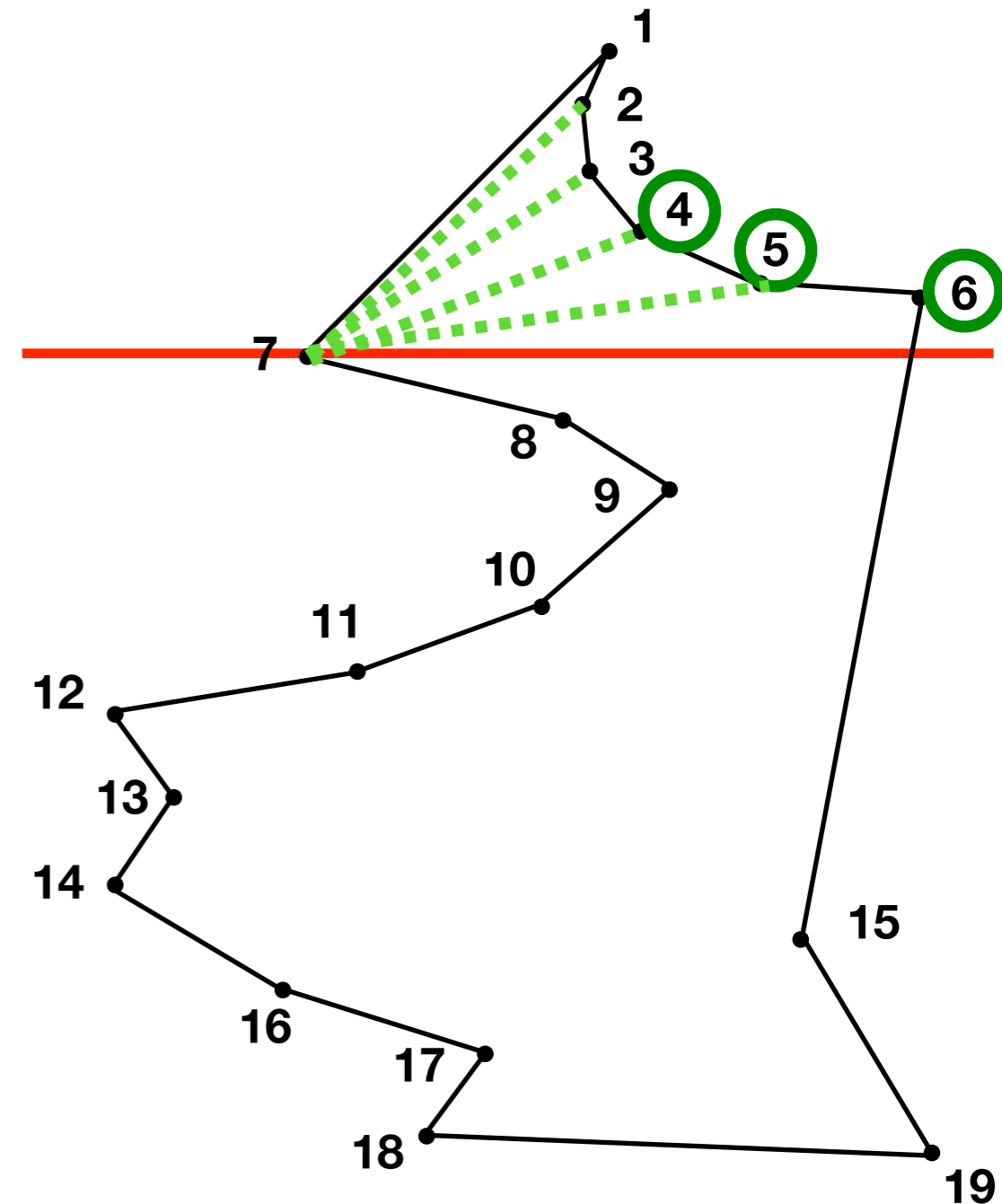
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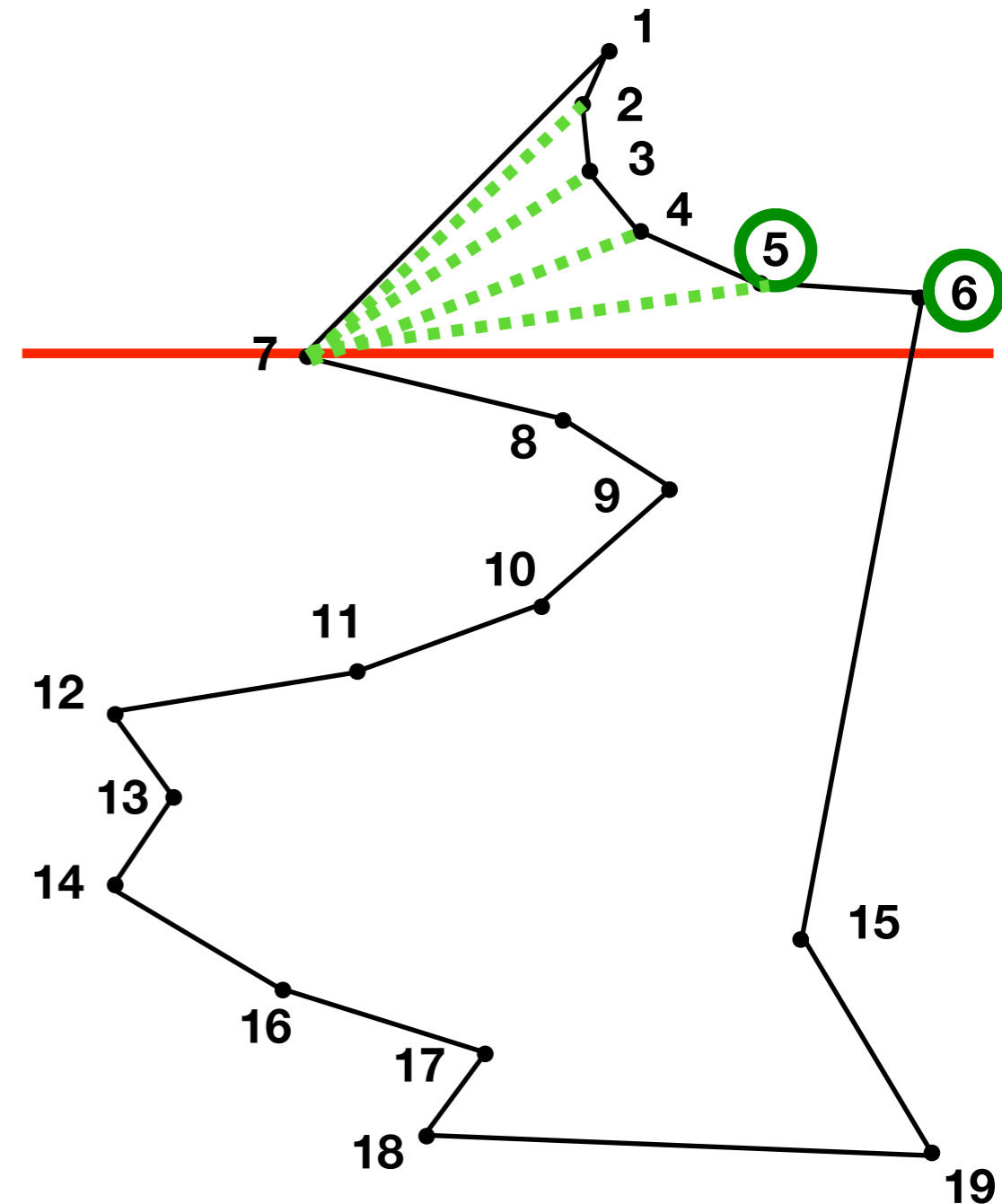
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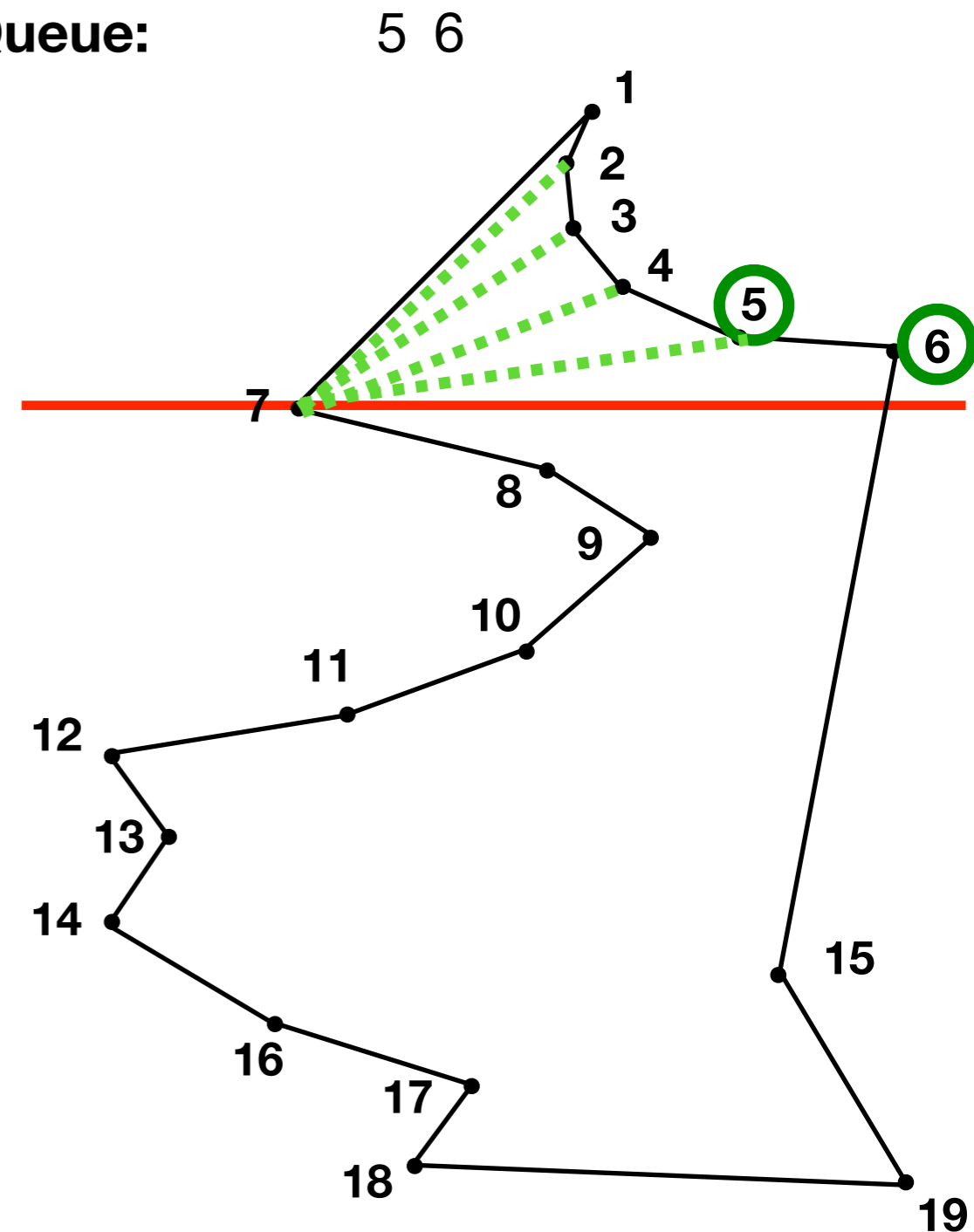
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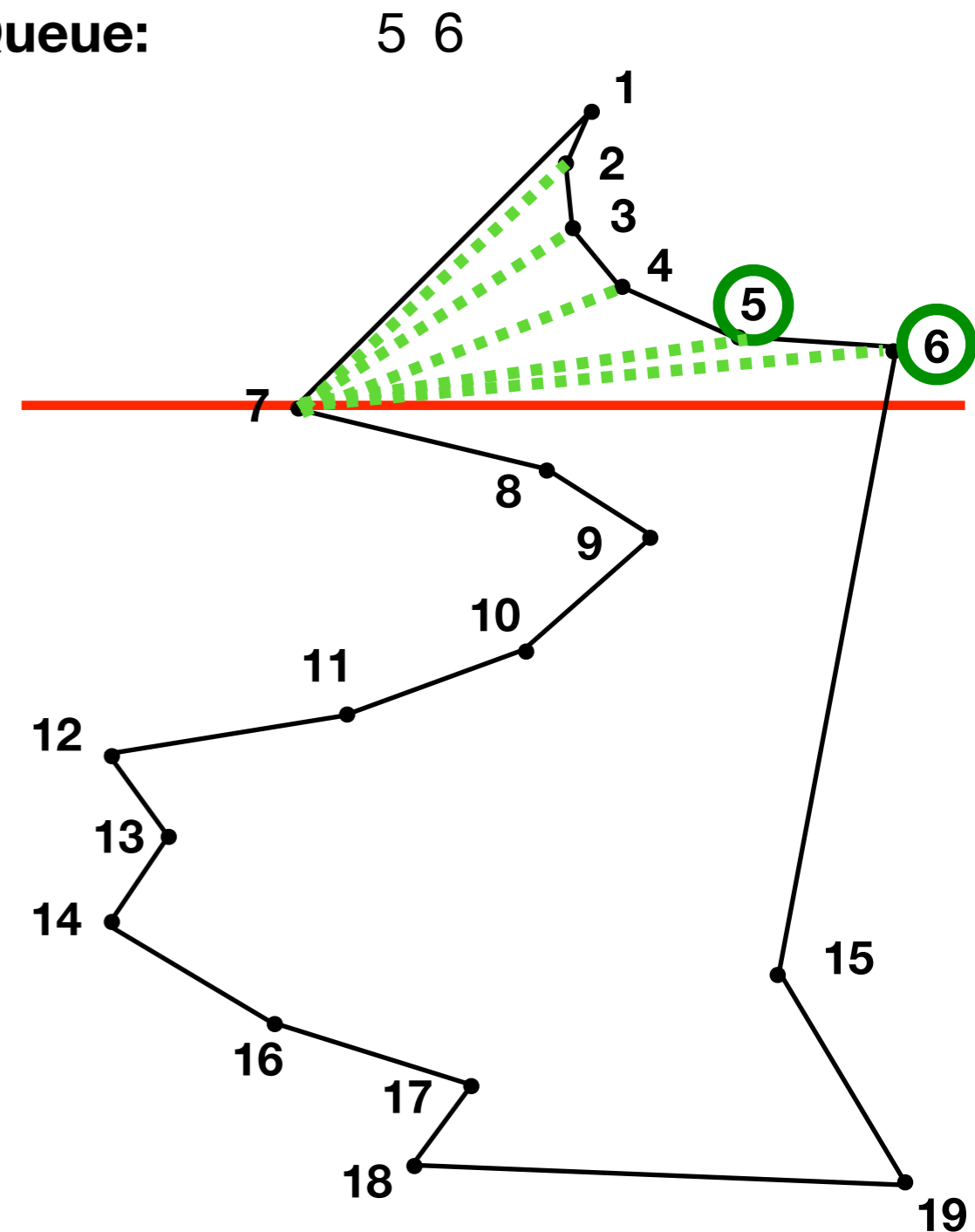
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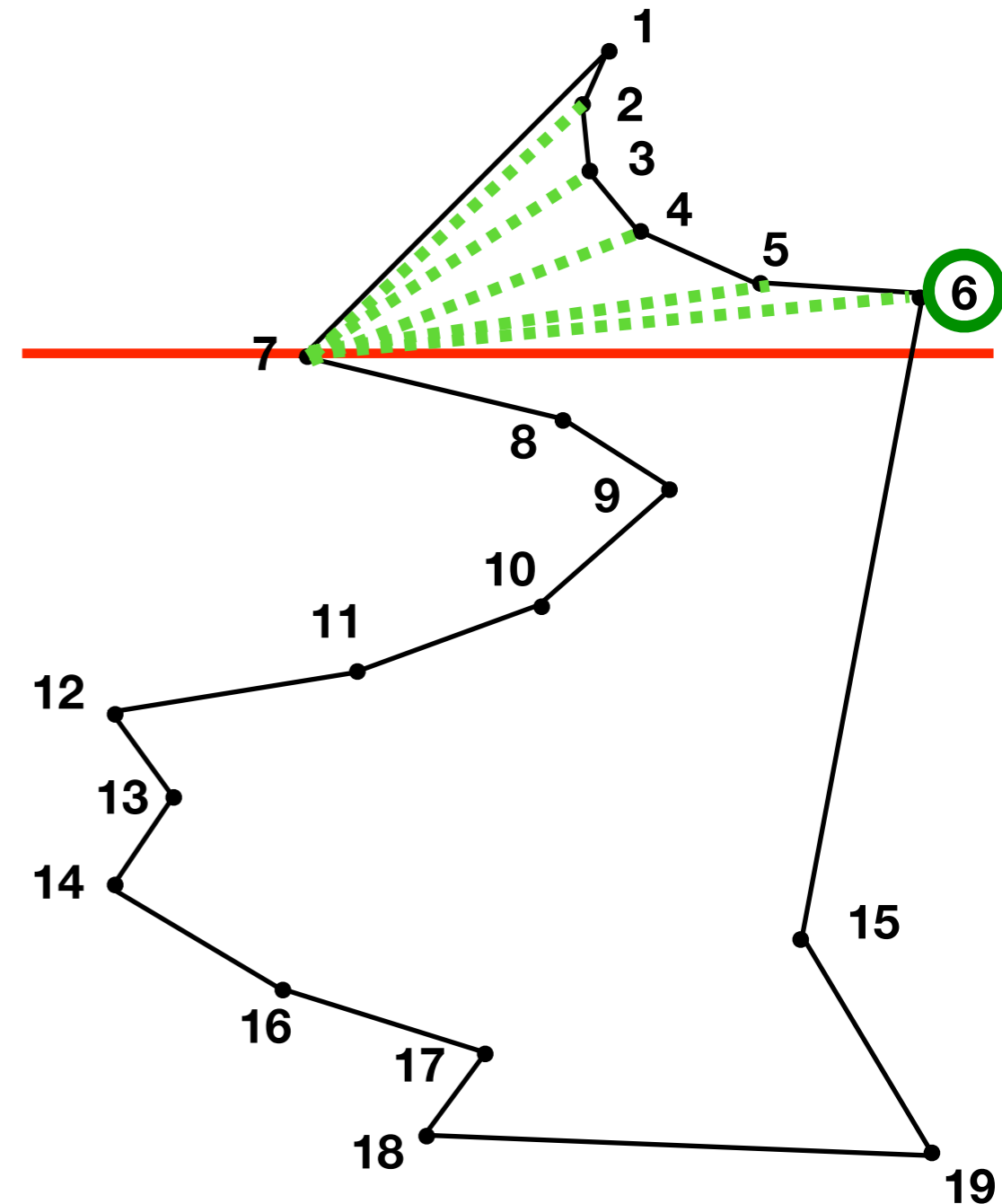
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5 6



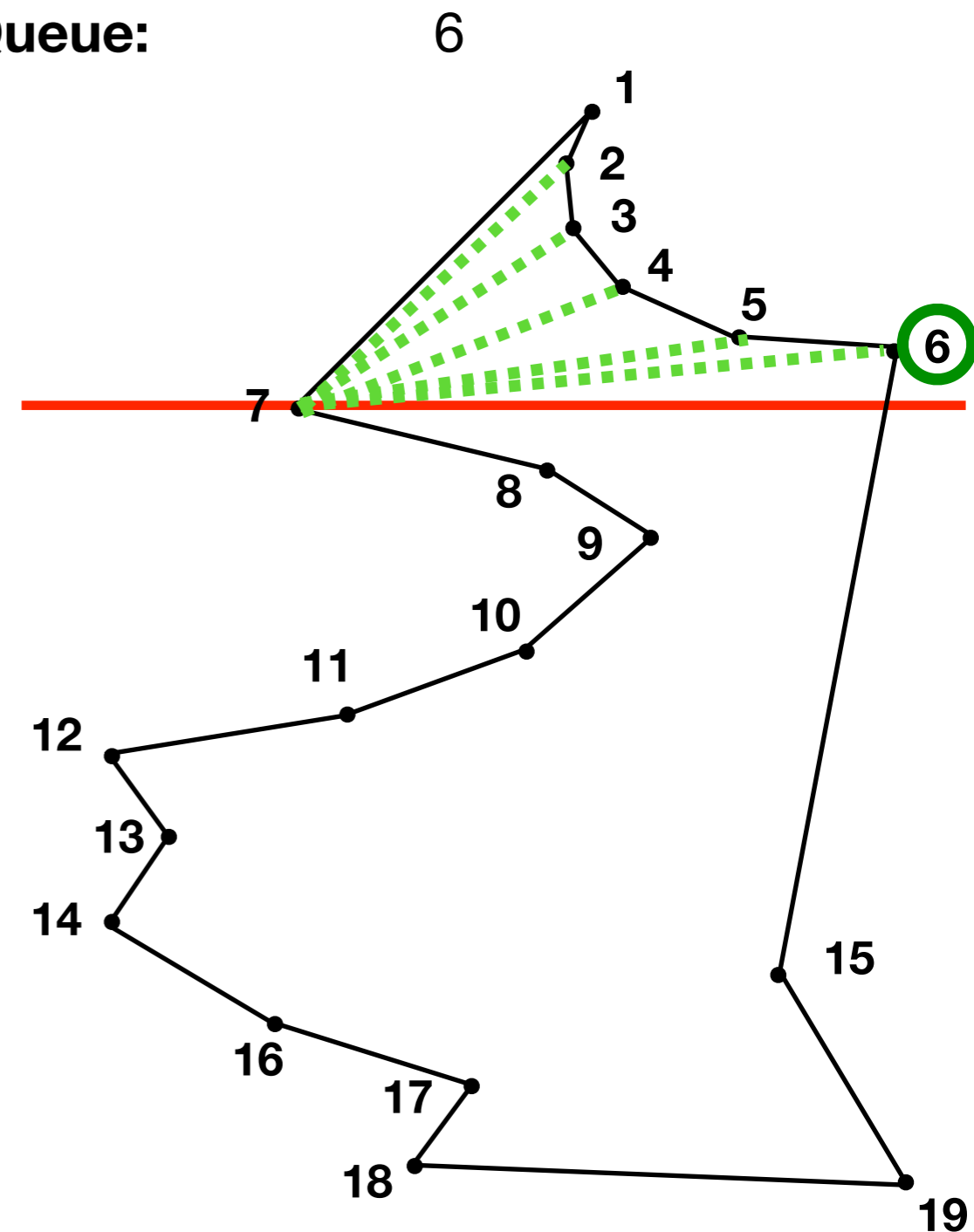
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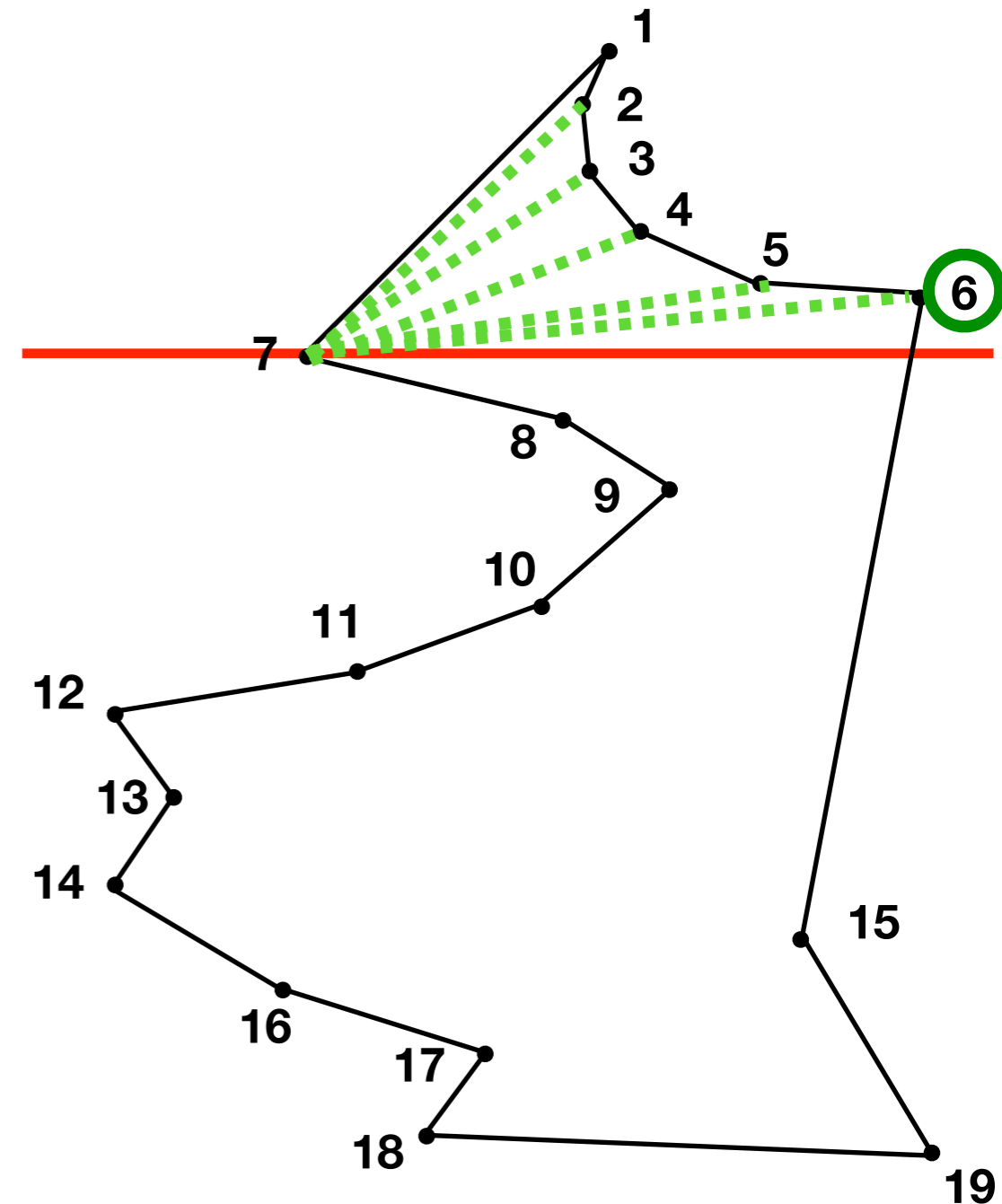
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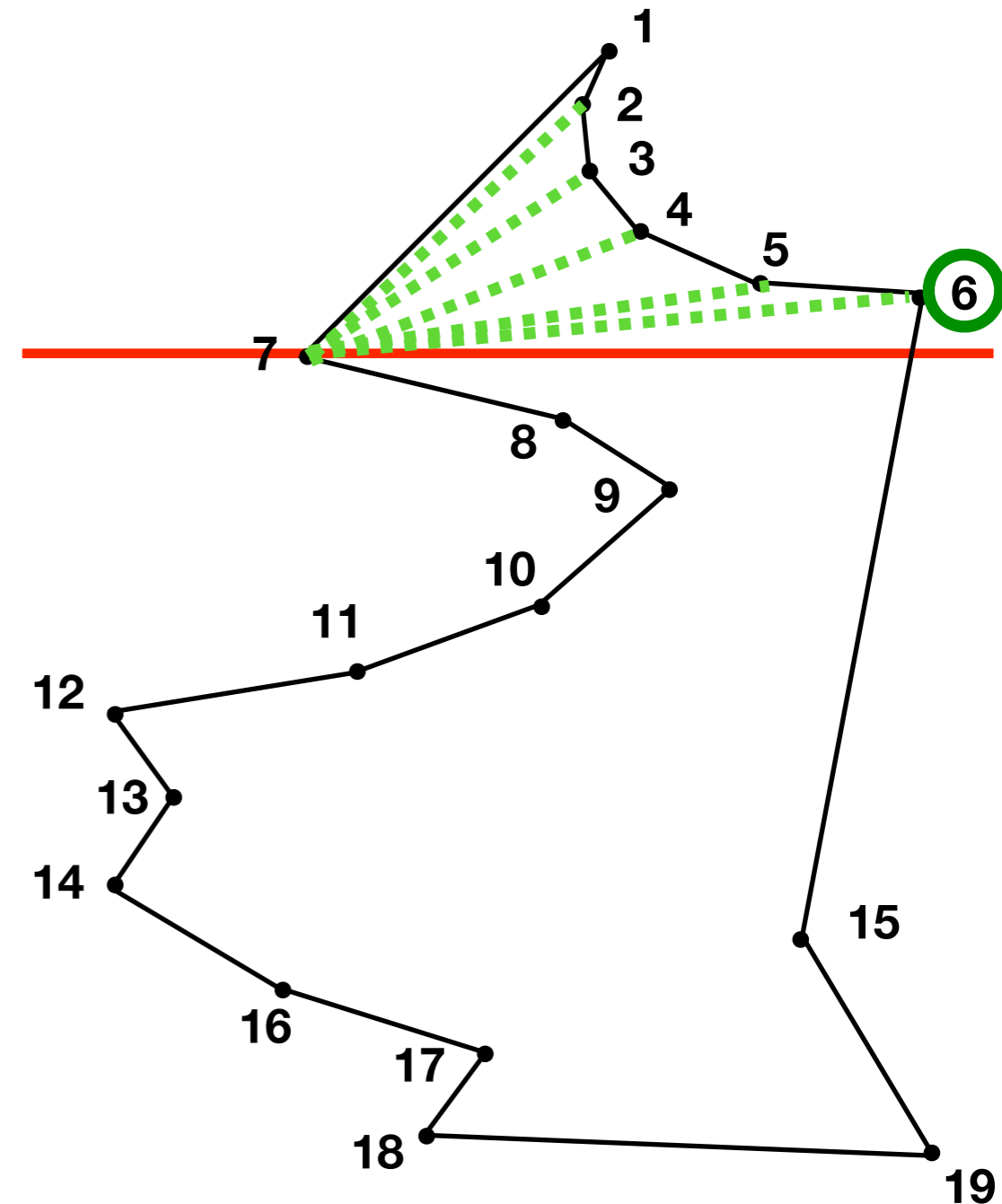
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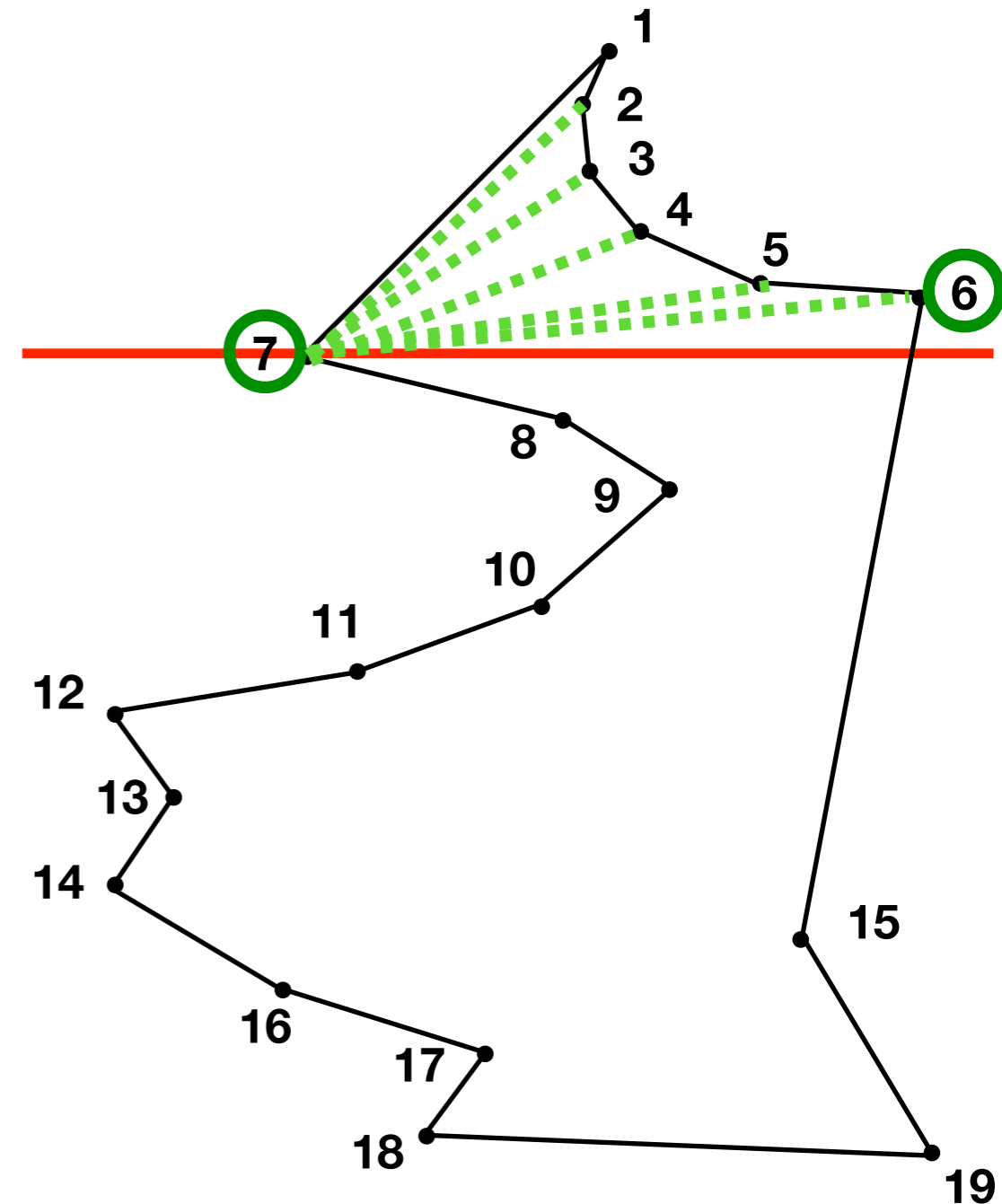
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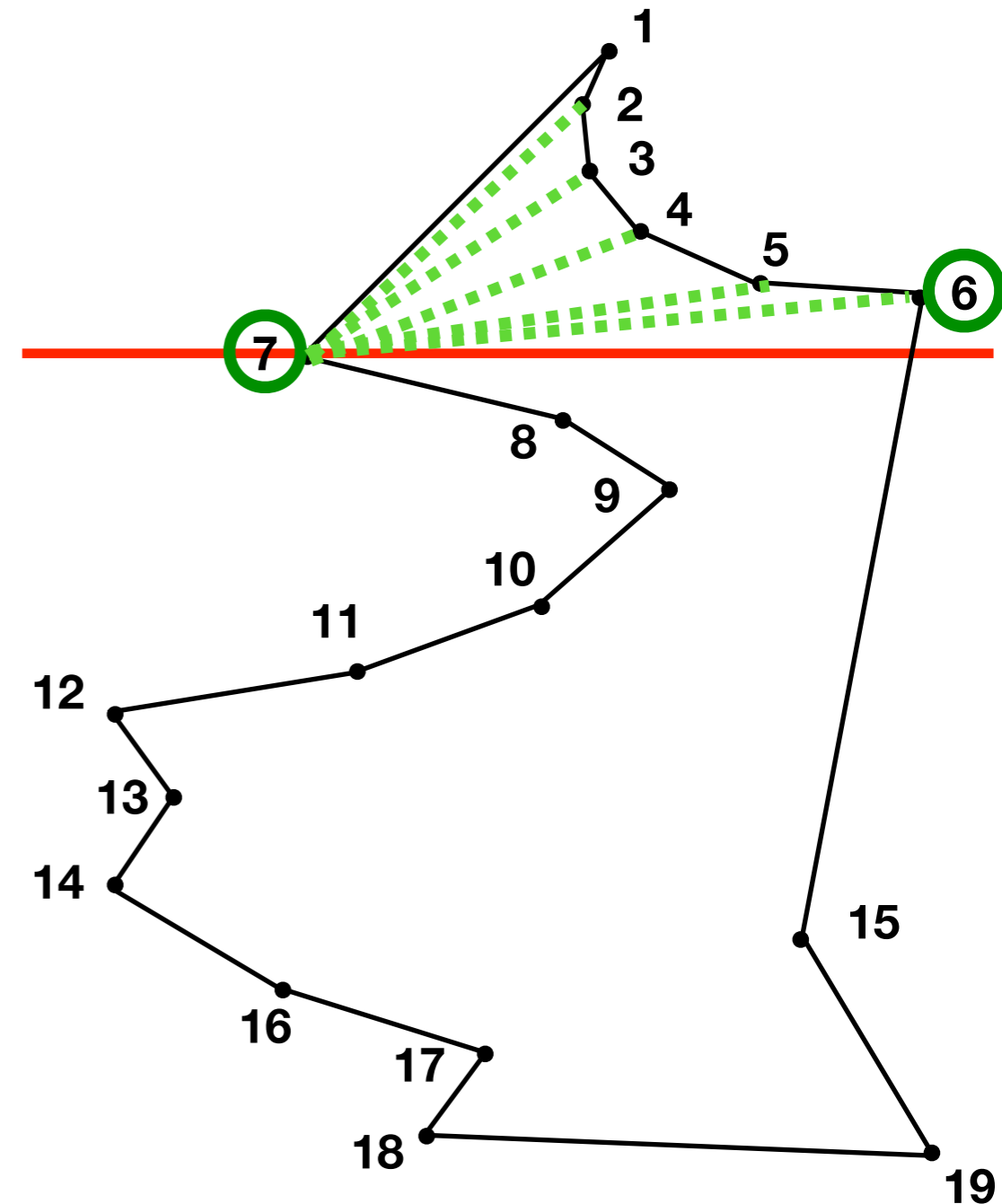
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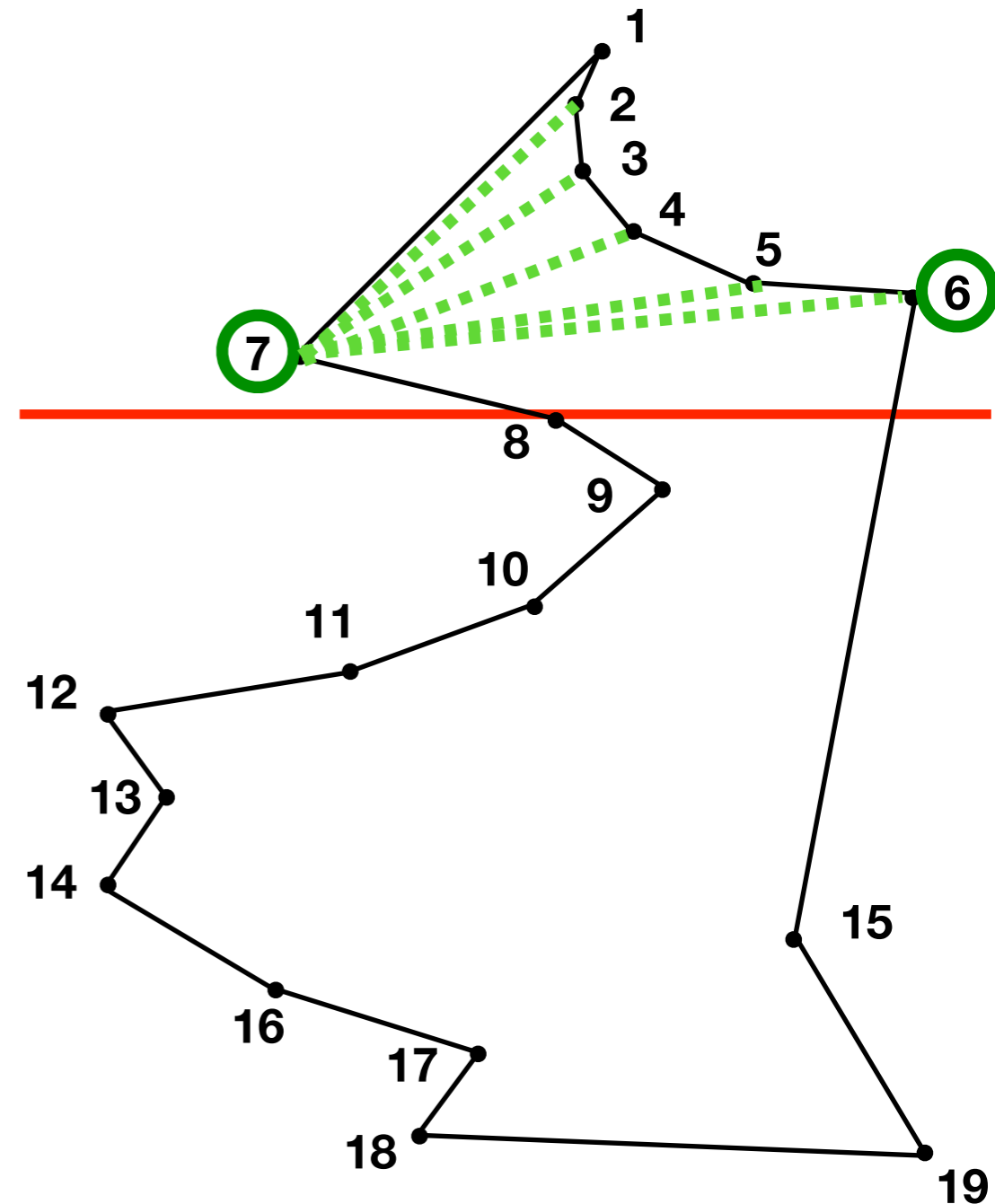
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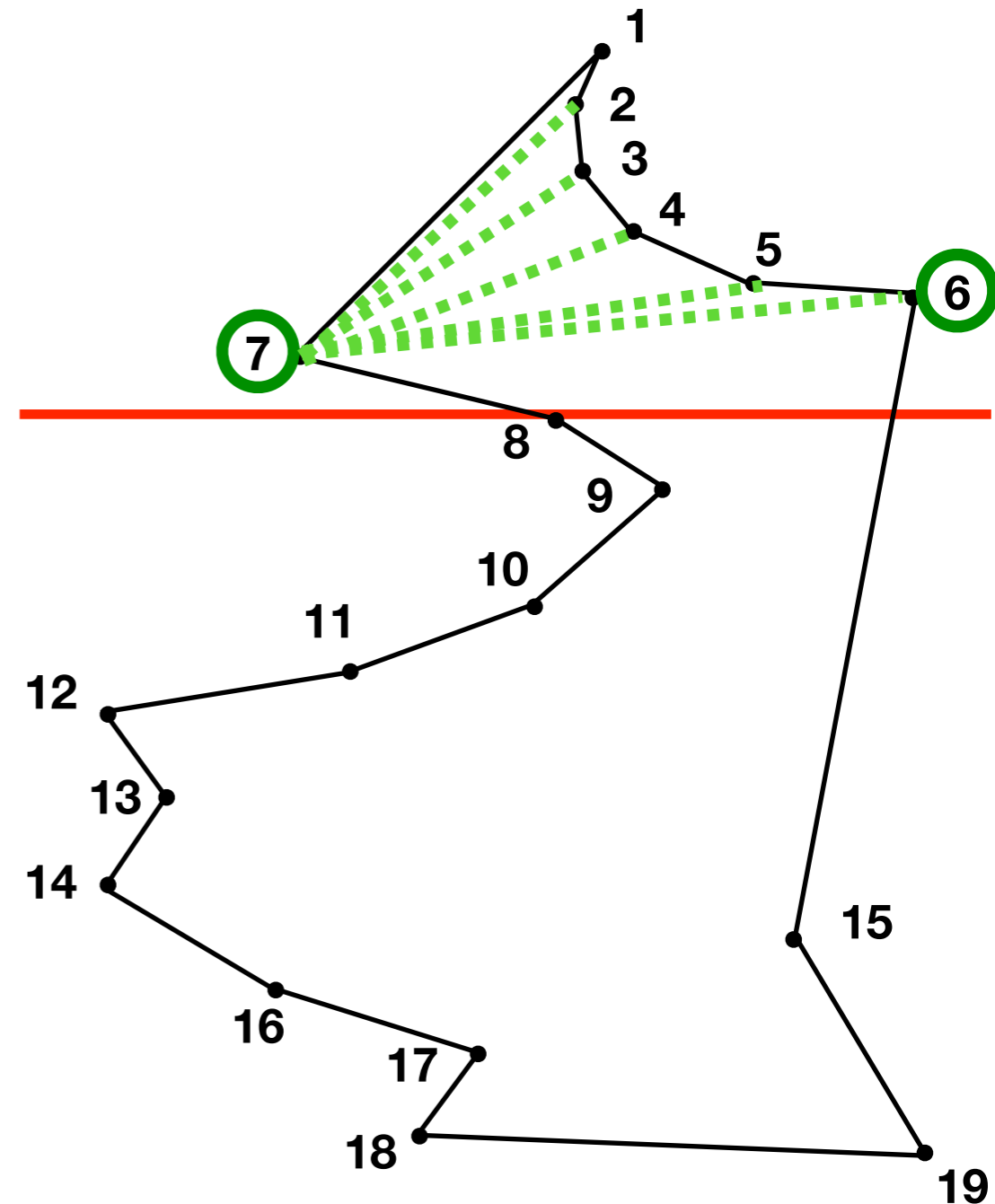
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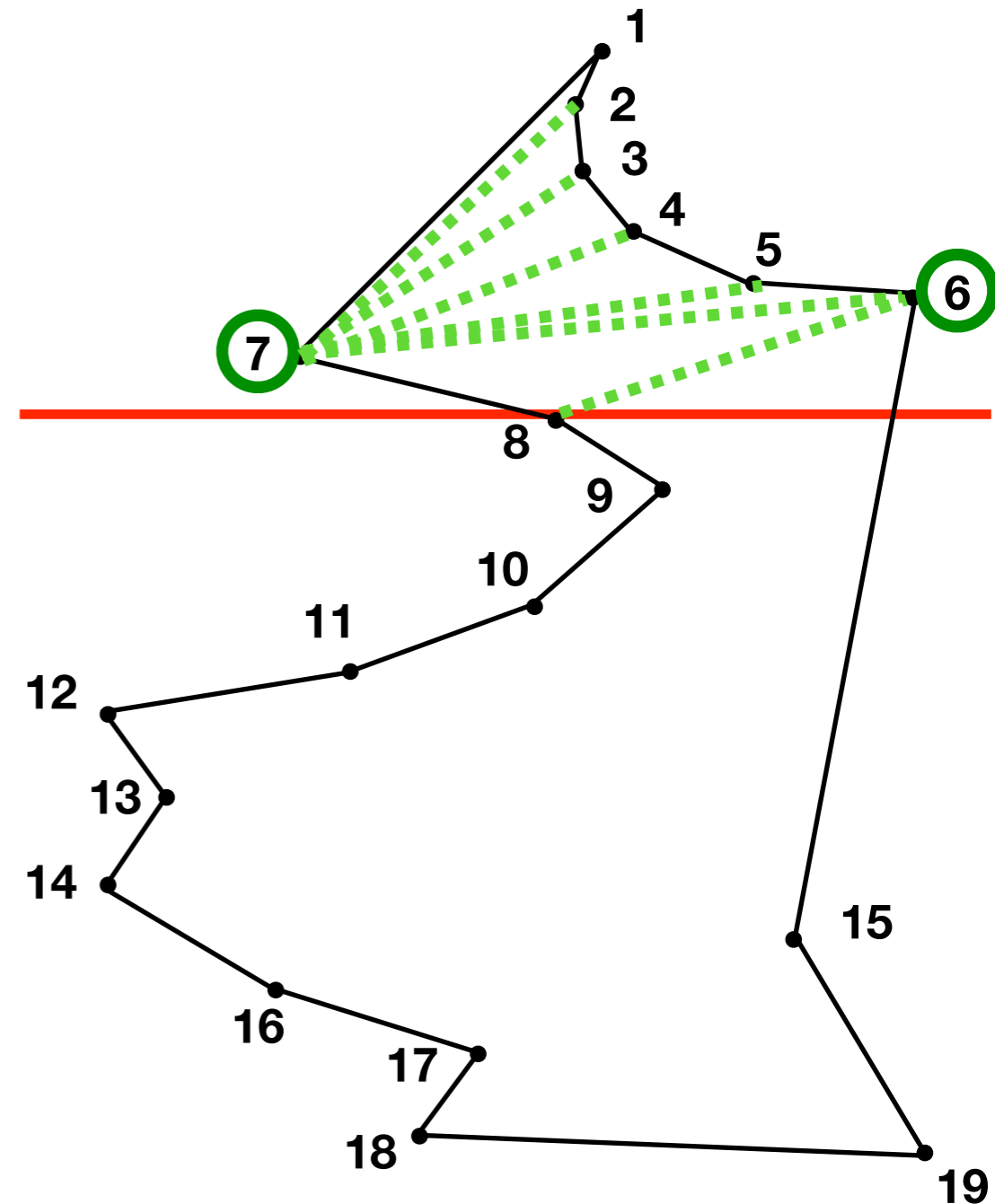
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

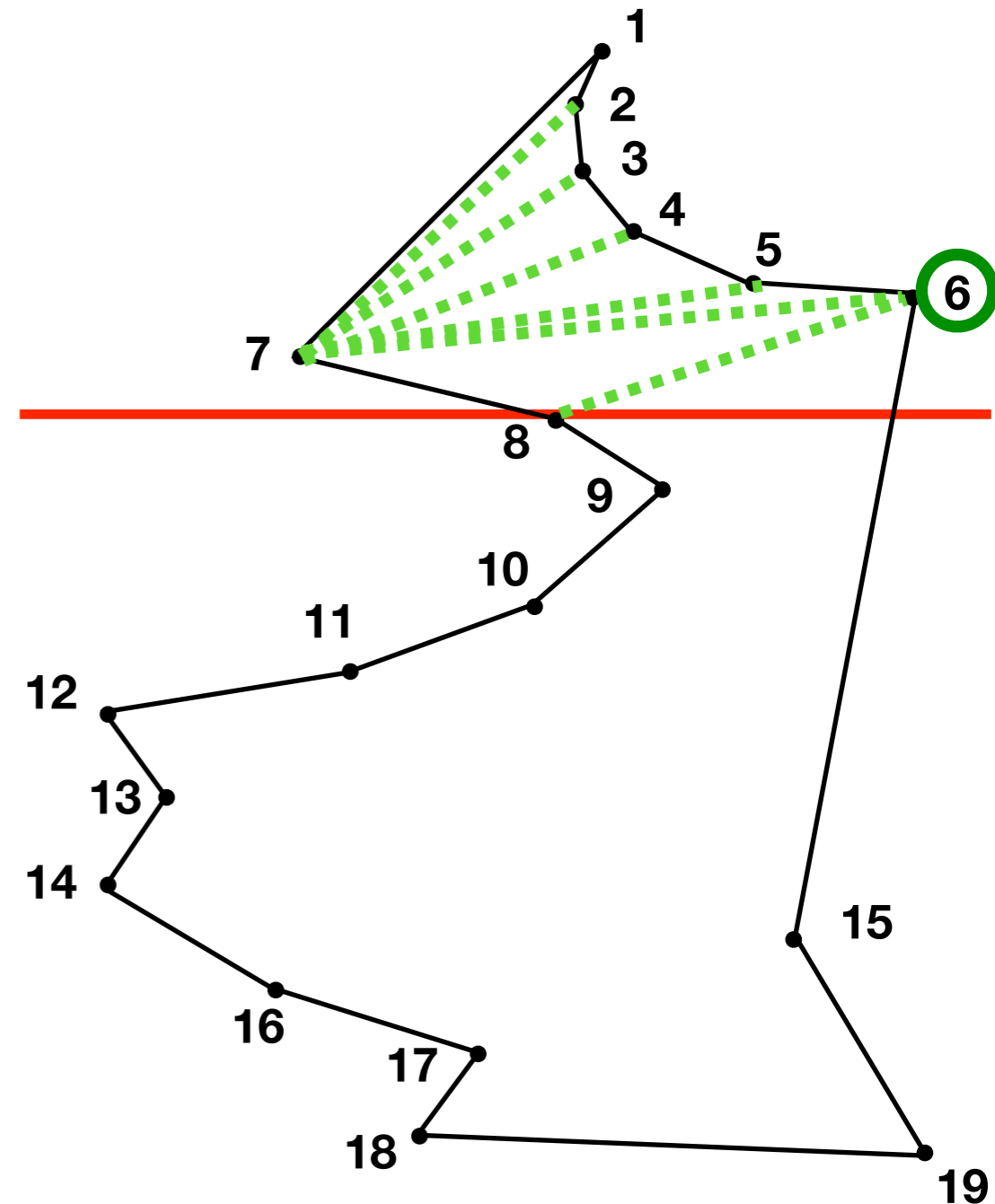
1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
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  - Further vertices in same chain if predecessor reflex
3. Processing vertices in sorted order:
  - 3.1 If opposite chain:
    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue
  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:
    - Add to queue
  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:
    - Ear! Connect and update

Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 7



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

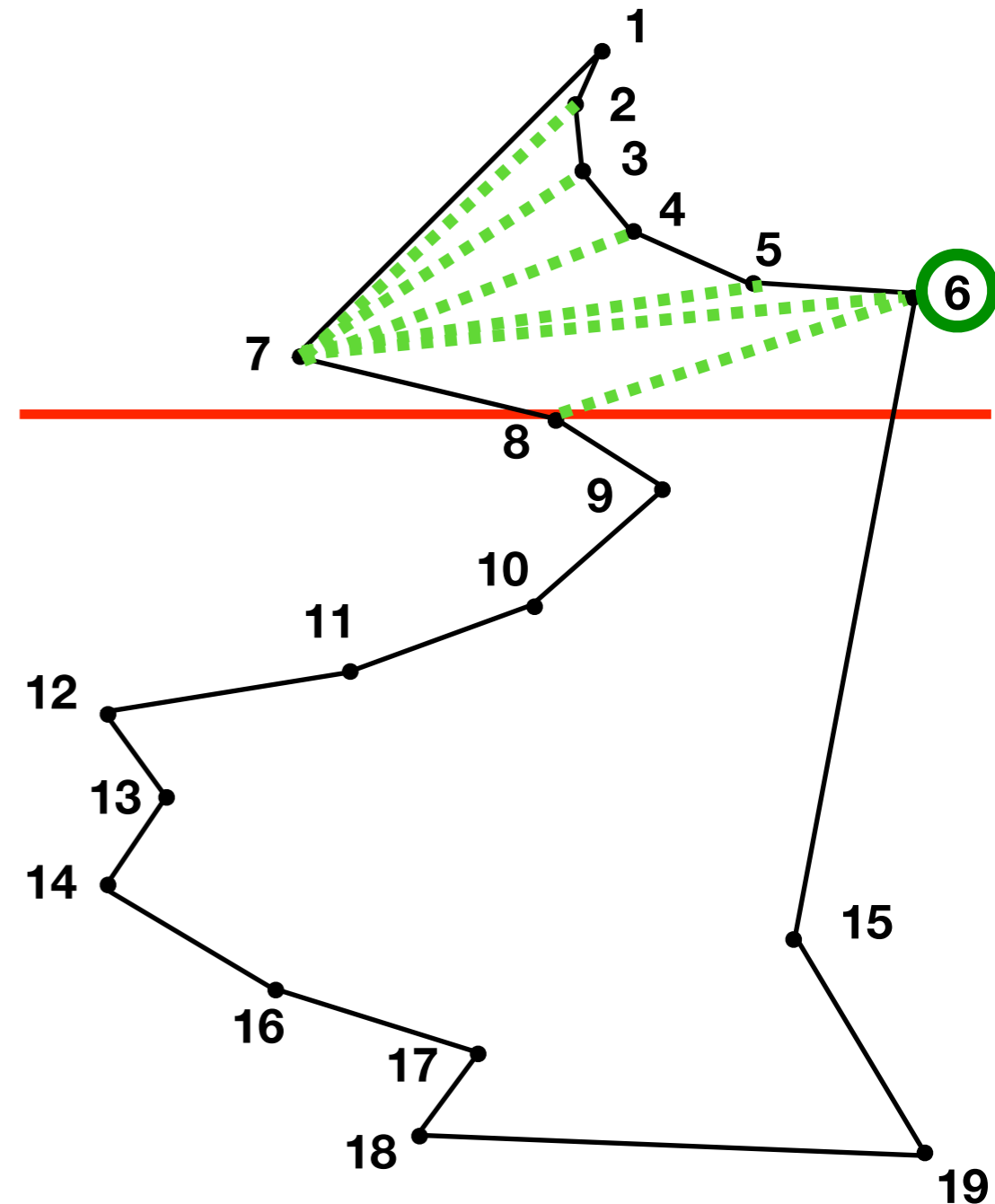
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

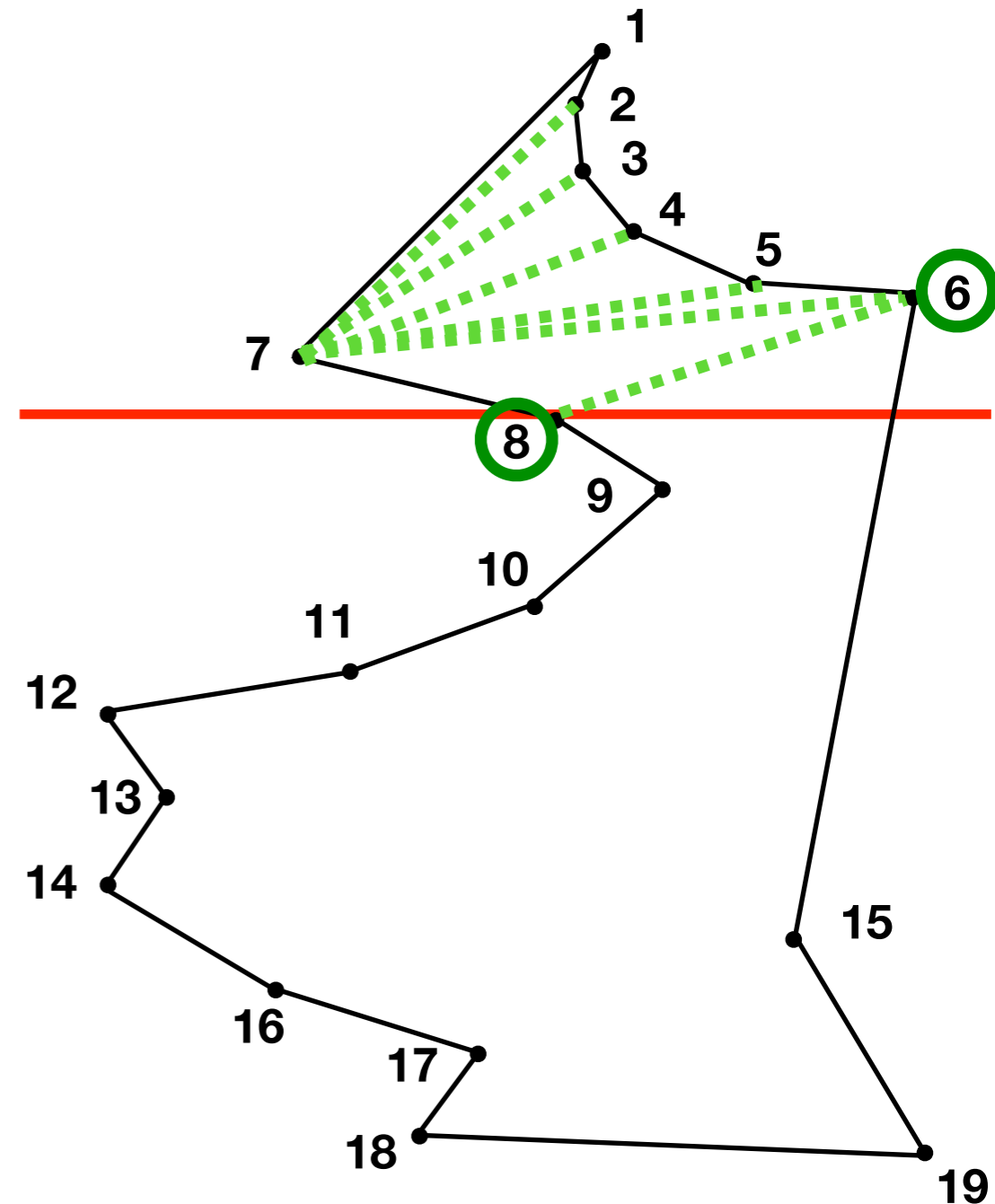
1. Sort vertices by  $y$ -coordinate
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    - Add to queue
  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:
    - Ear! Connect and update

Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6





## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

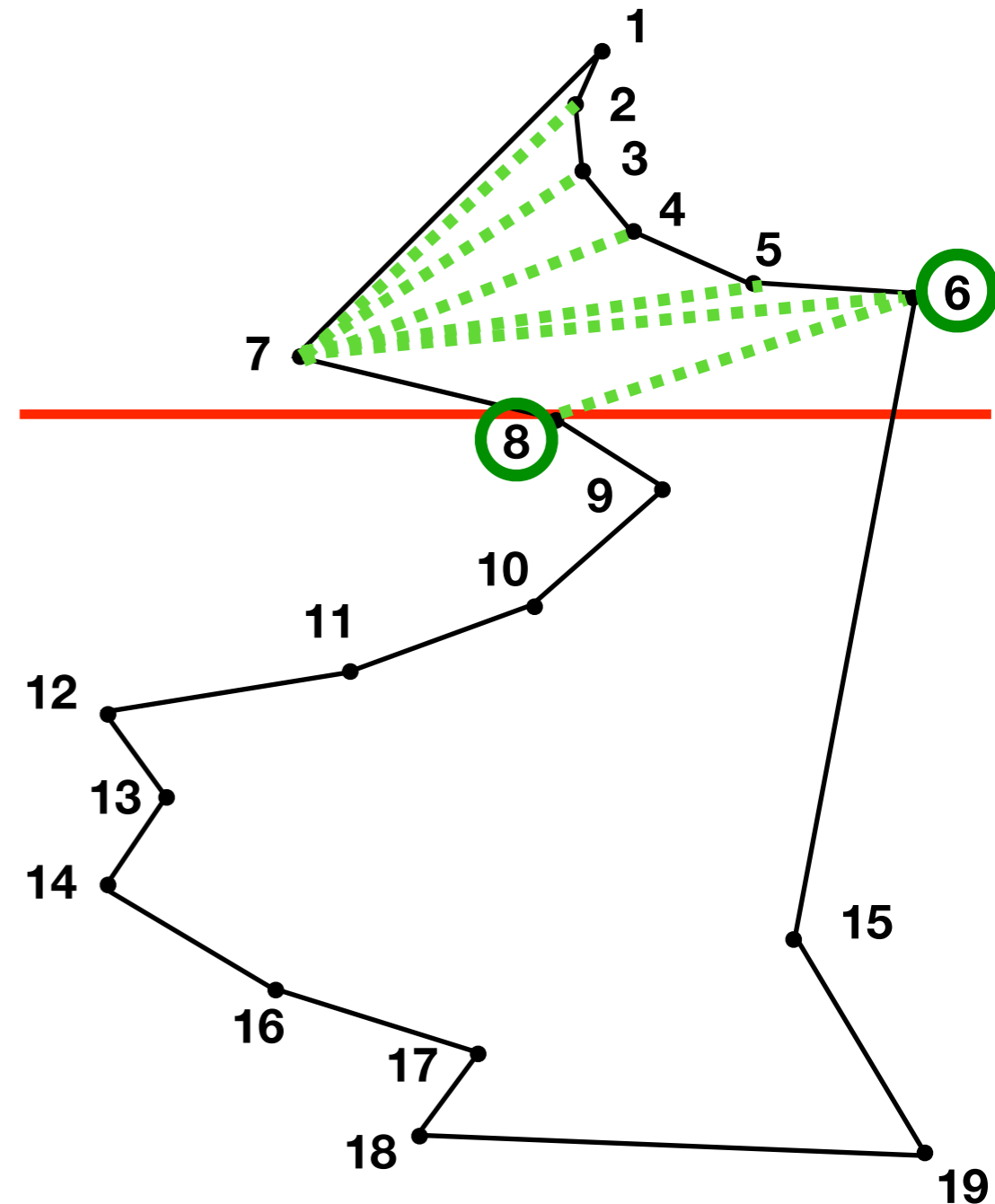
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  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:
    - Ear! Connect and update

Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 8



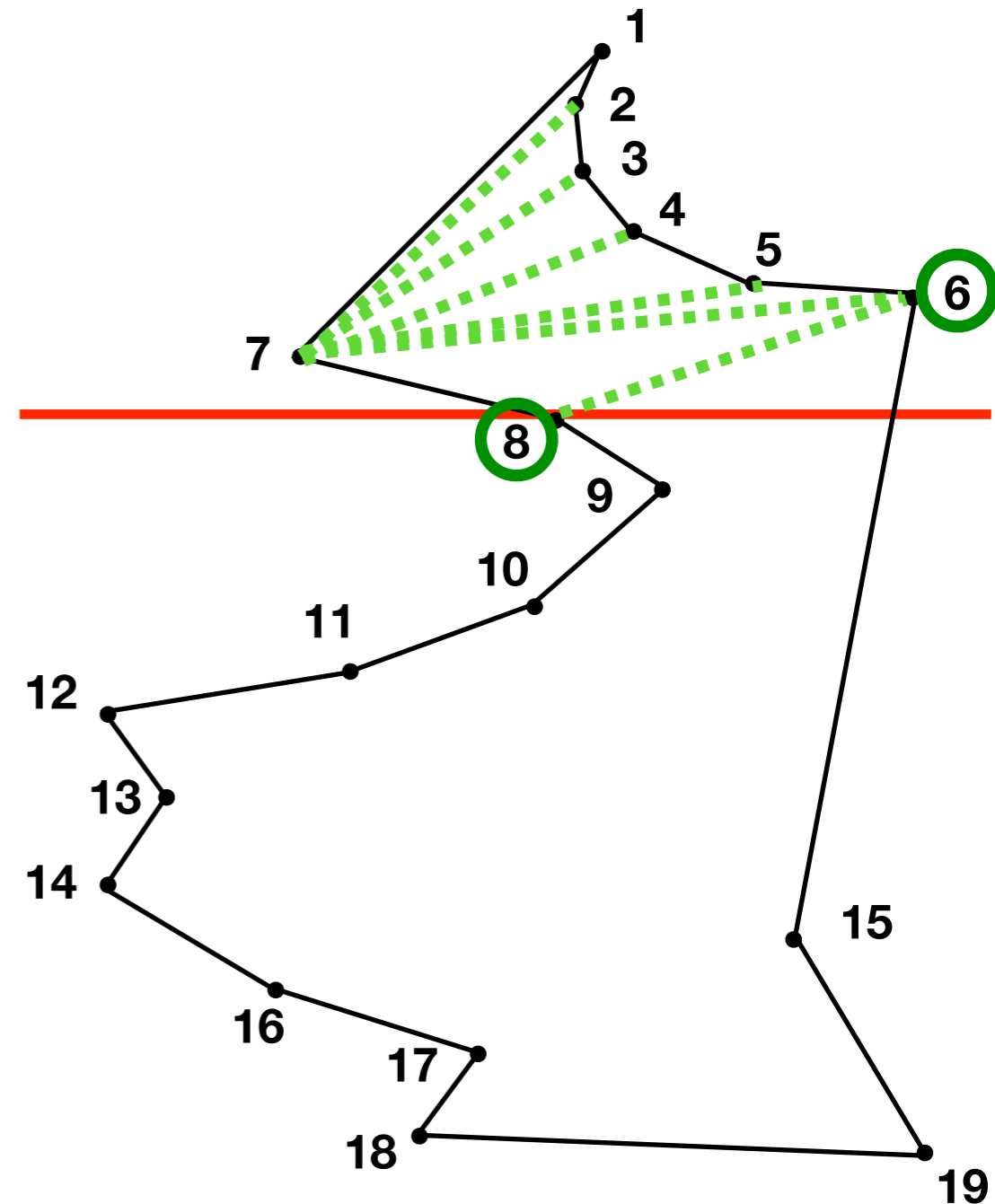
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**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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

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2. Maintain queue of vertices still to be processed
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  - Further vertices in same chain if predecessor reflex
3. Processing vertices in sorted order:
  - 3.1 If opposite chain:
    - Connect to all vertices in chain, leave in queue **Chain**
  - 3.2 If same chain, predecessor reflex:
    - Add to queue **Add**
  - 3.3 If same chain, predecessor convex:
    - Ear! Connect and update **Ear**

Queue: 6 8



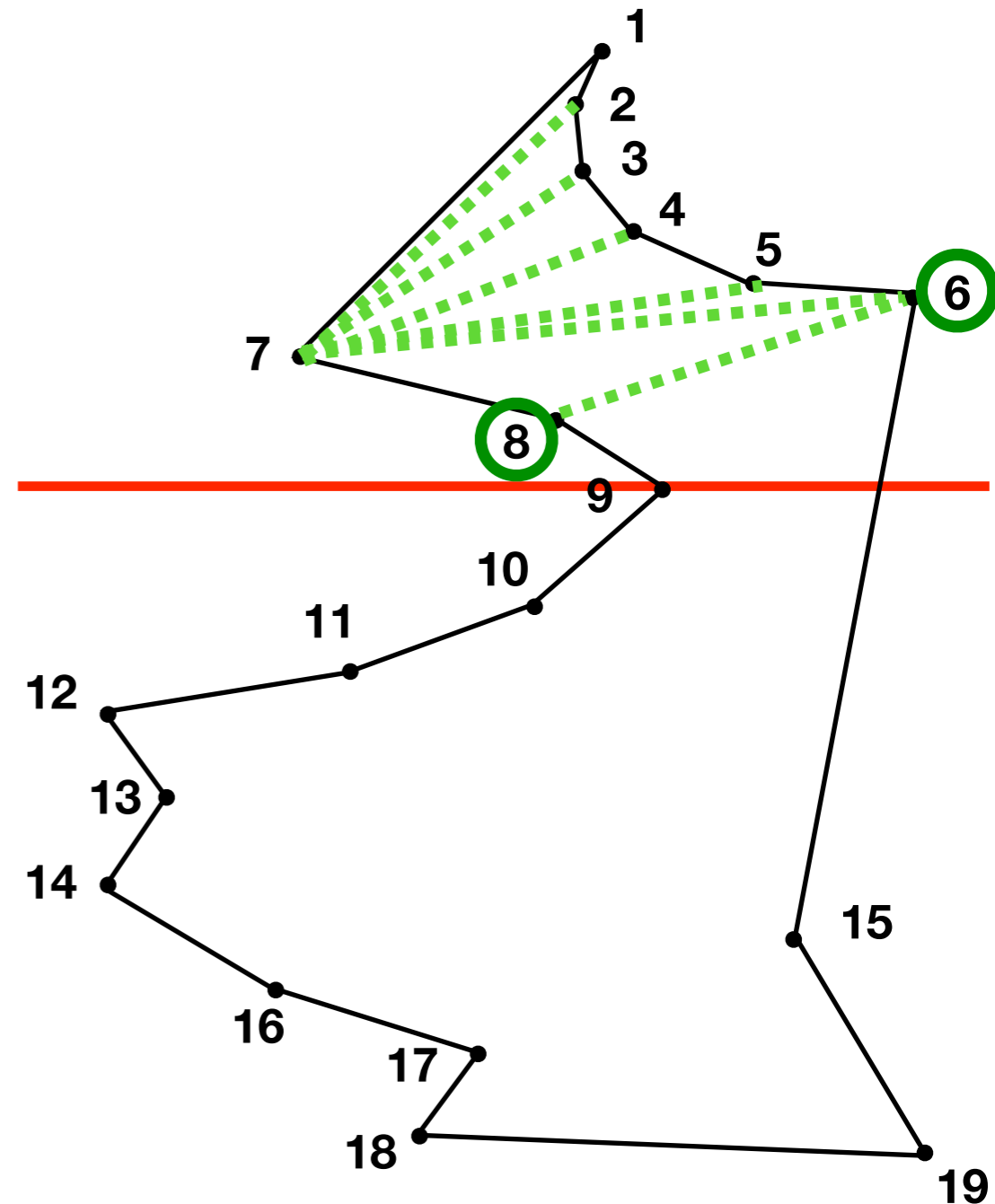
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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Queue: 6 8



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

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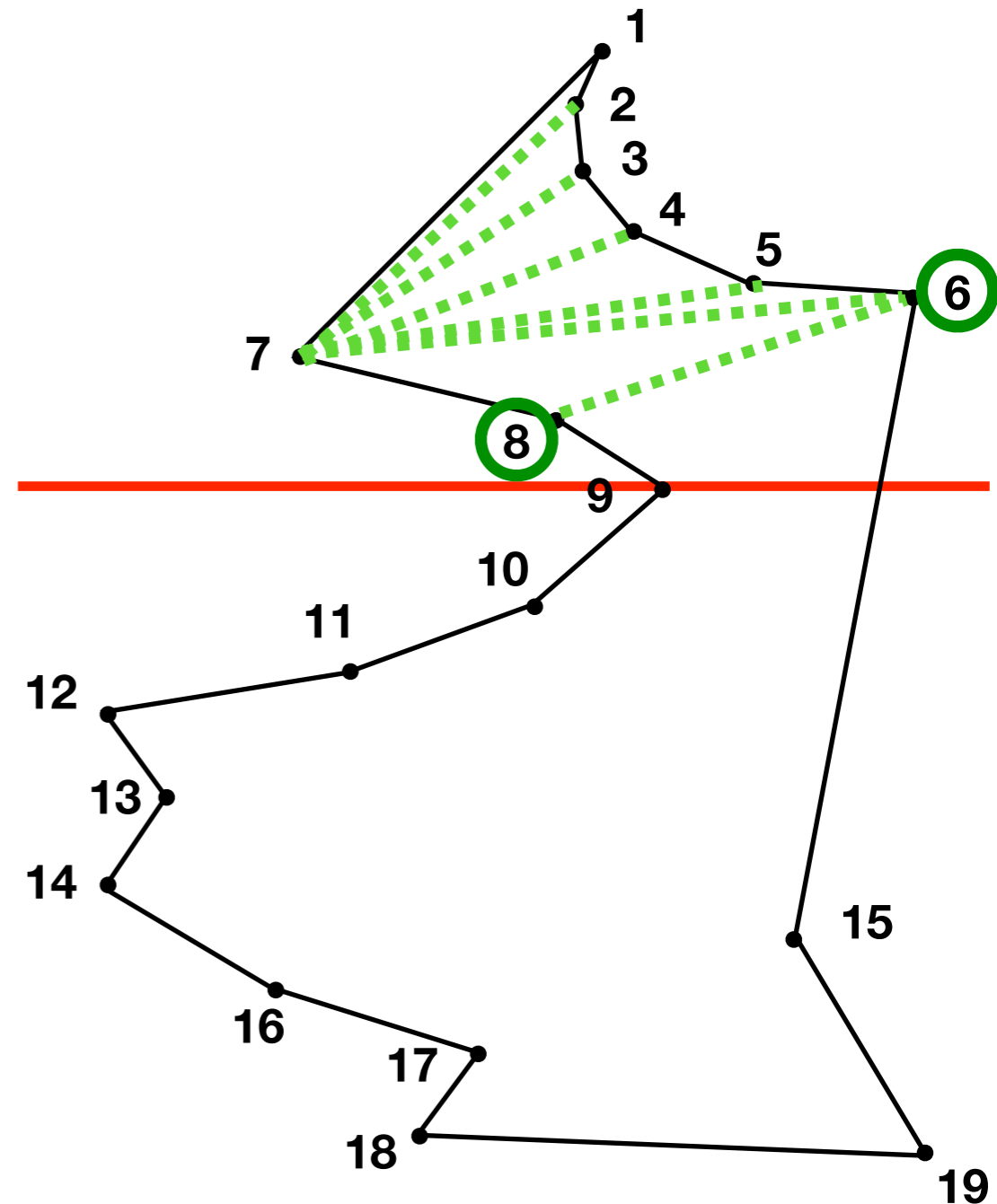
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 8



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

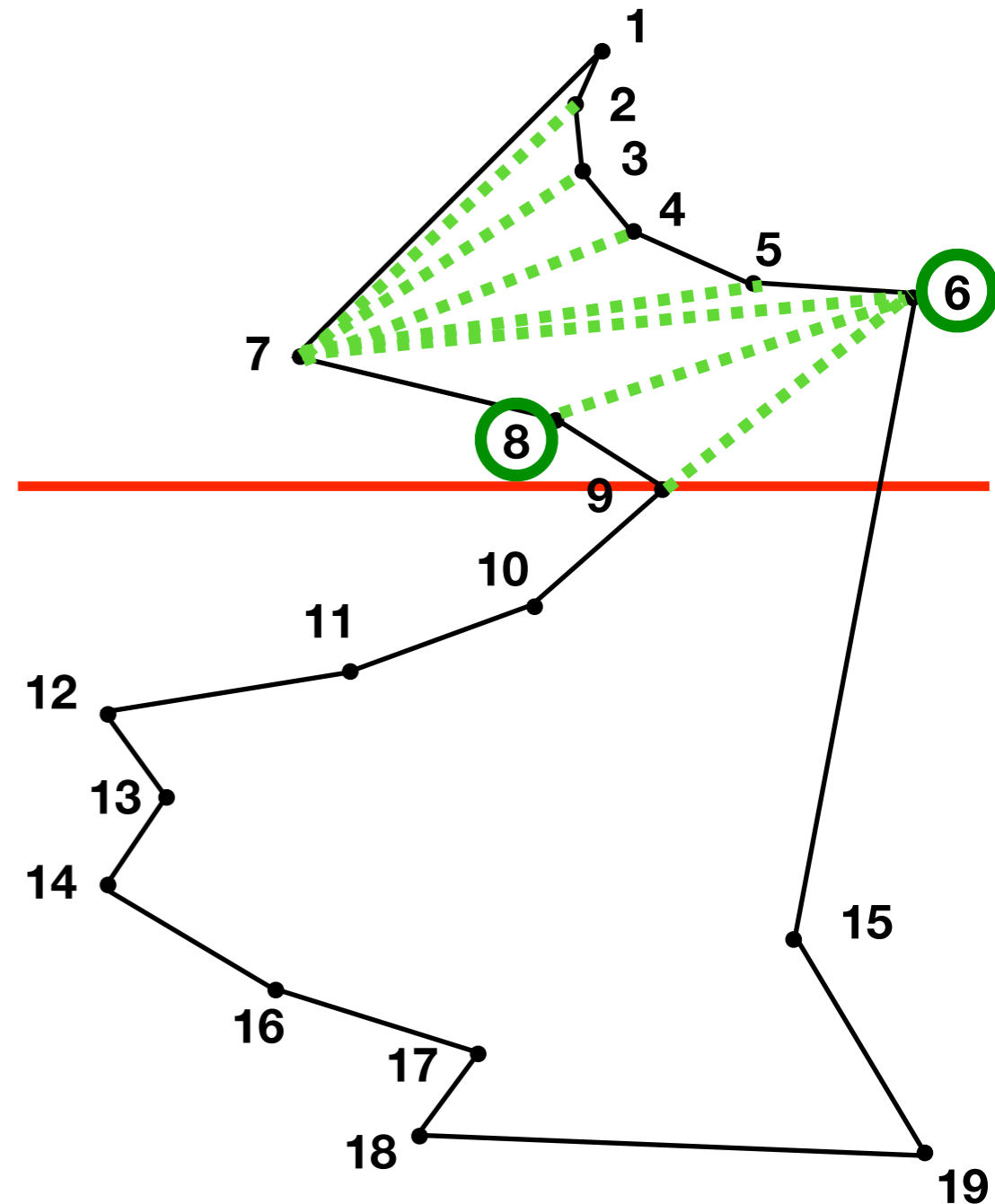
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 8



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

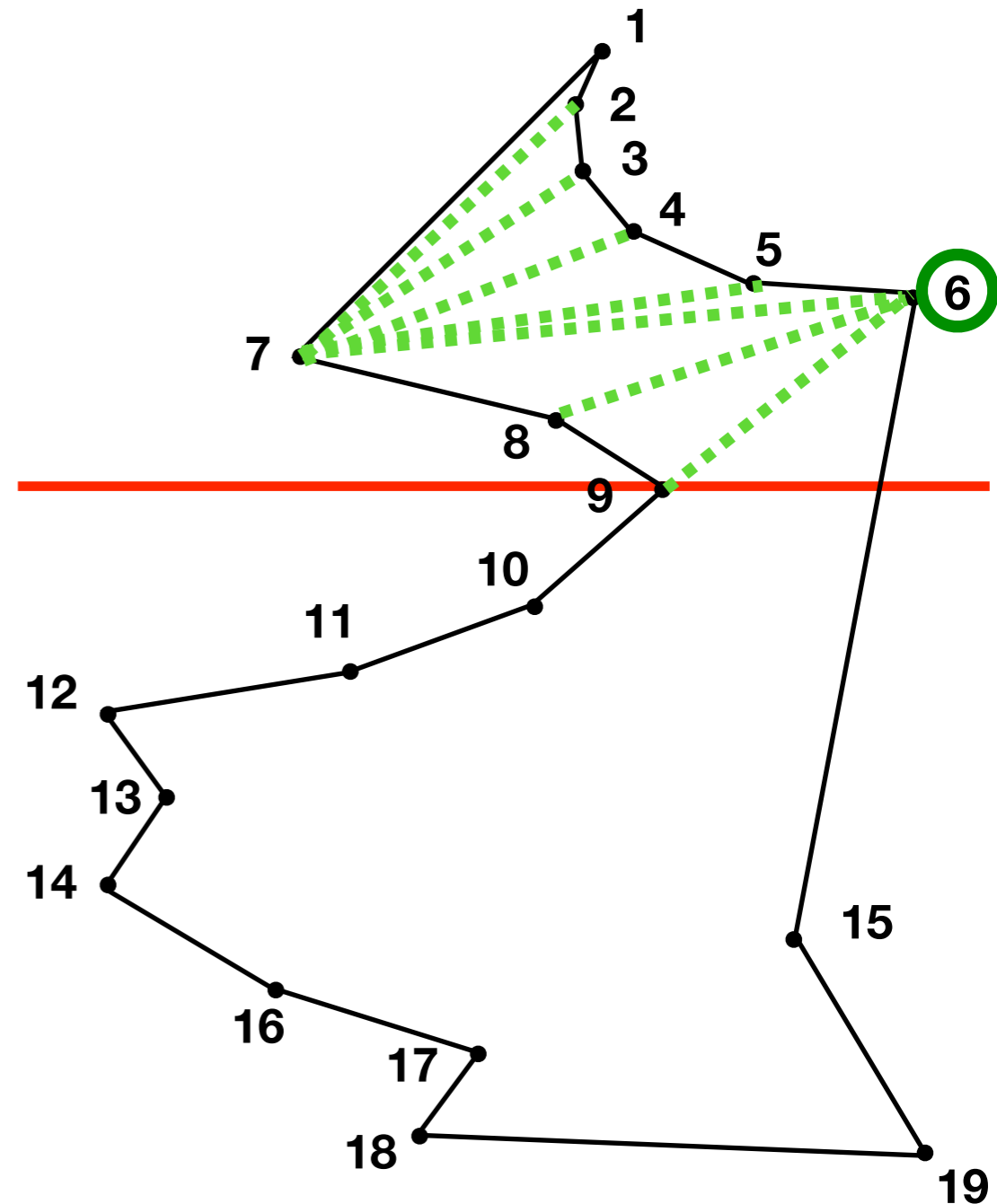
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 8



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

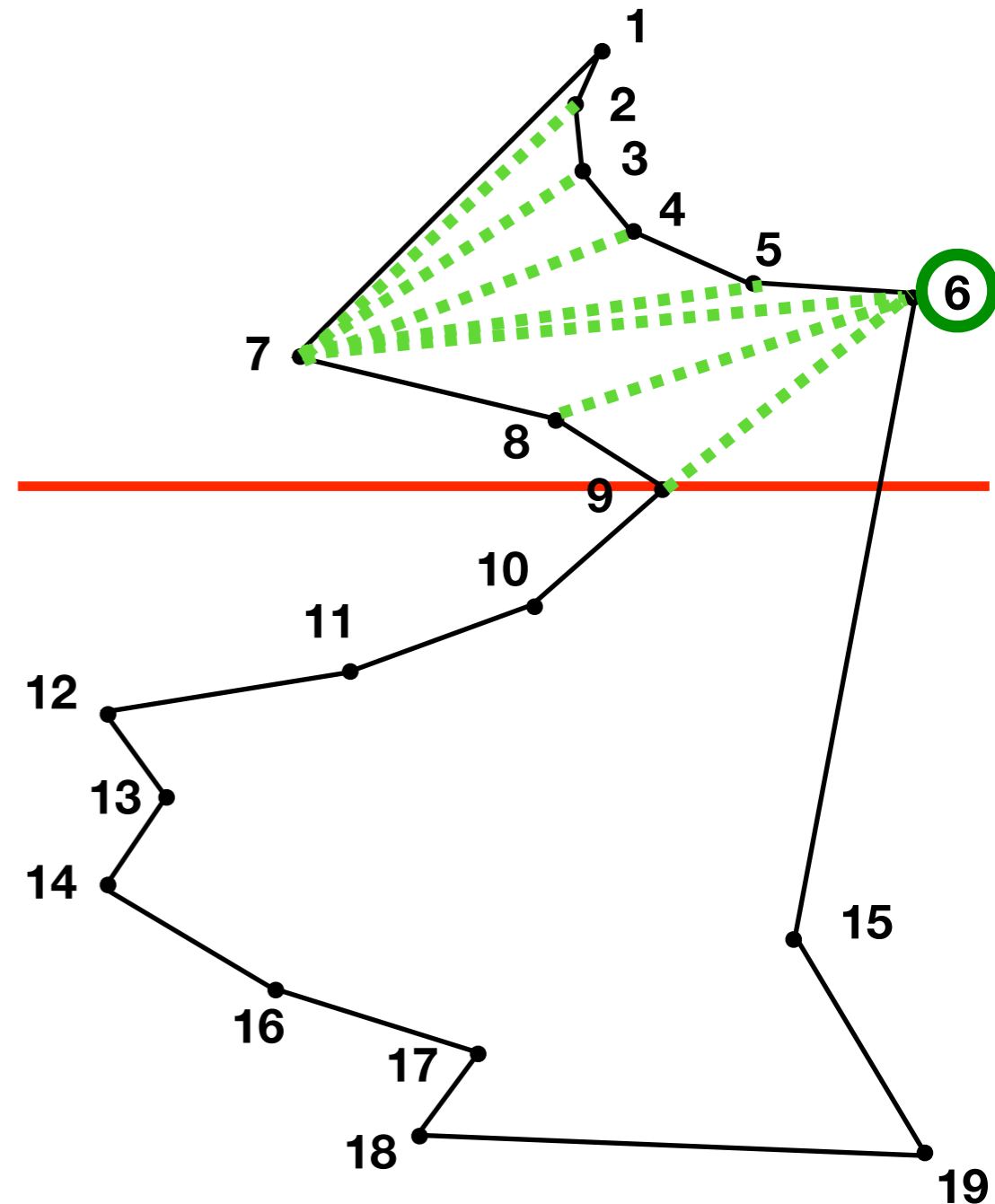
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

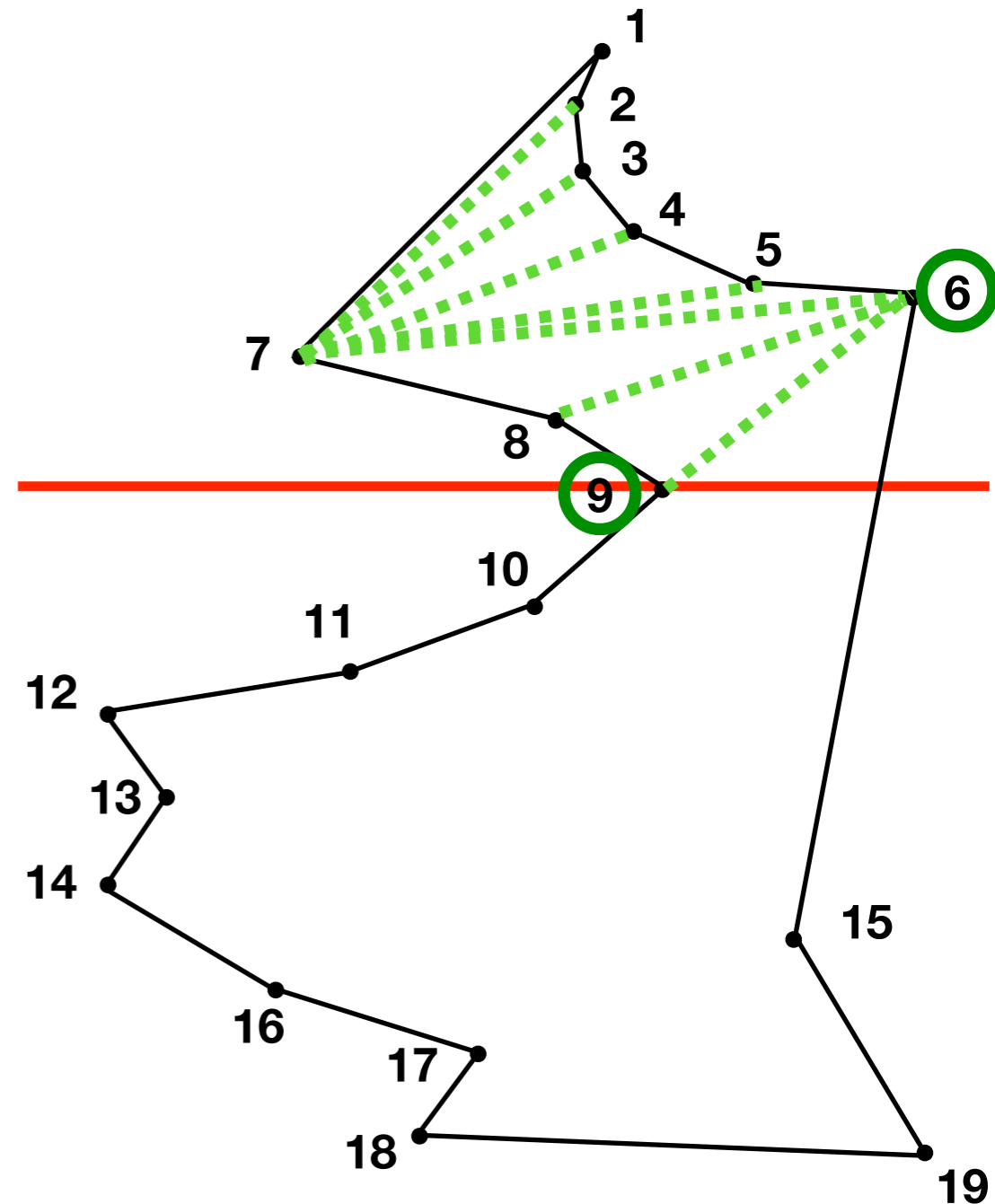
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6





## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

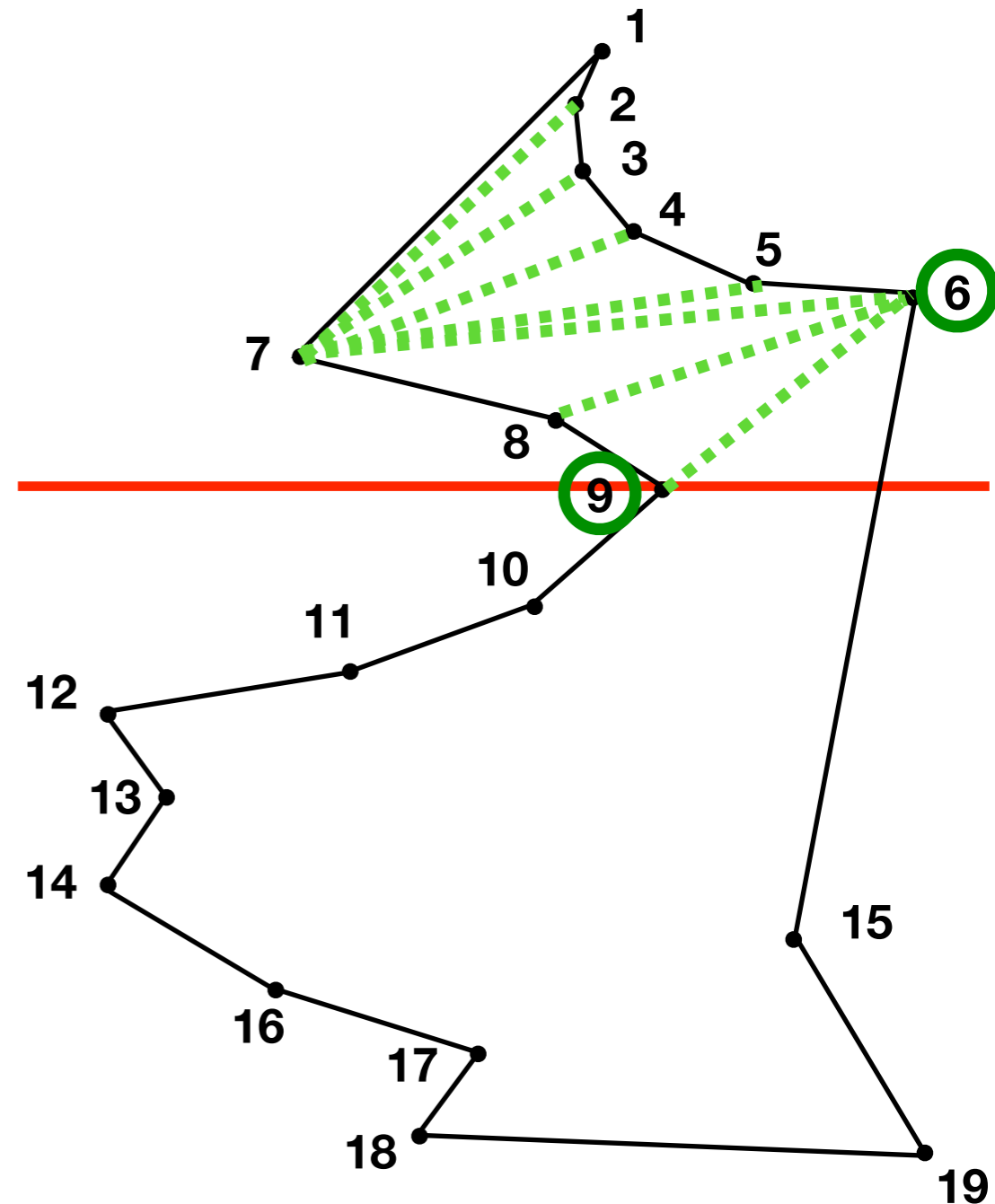
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 9



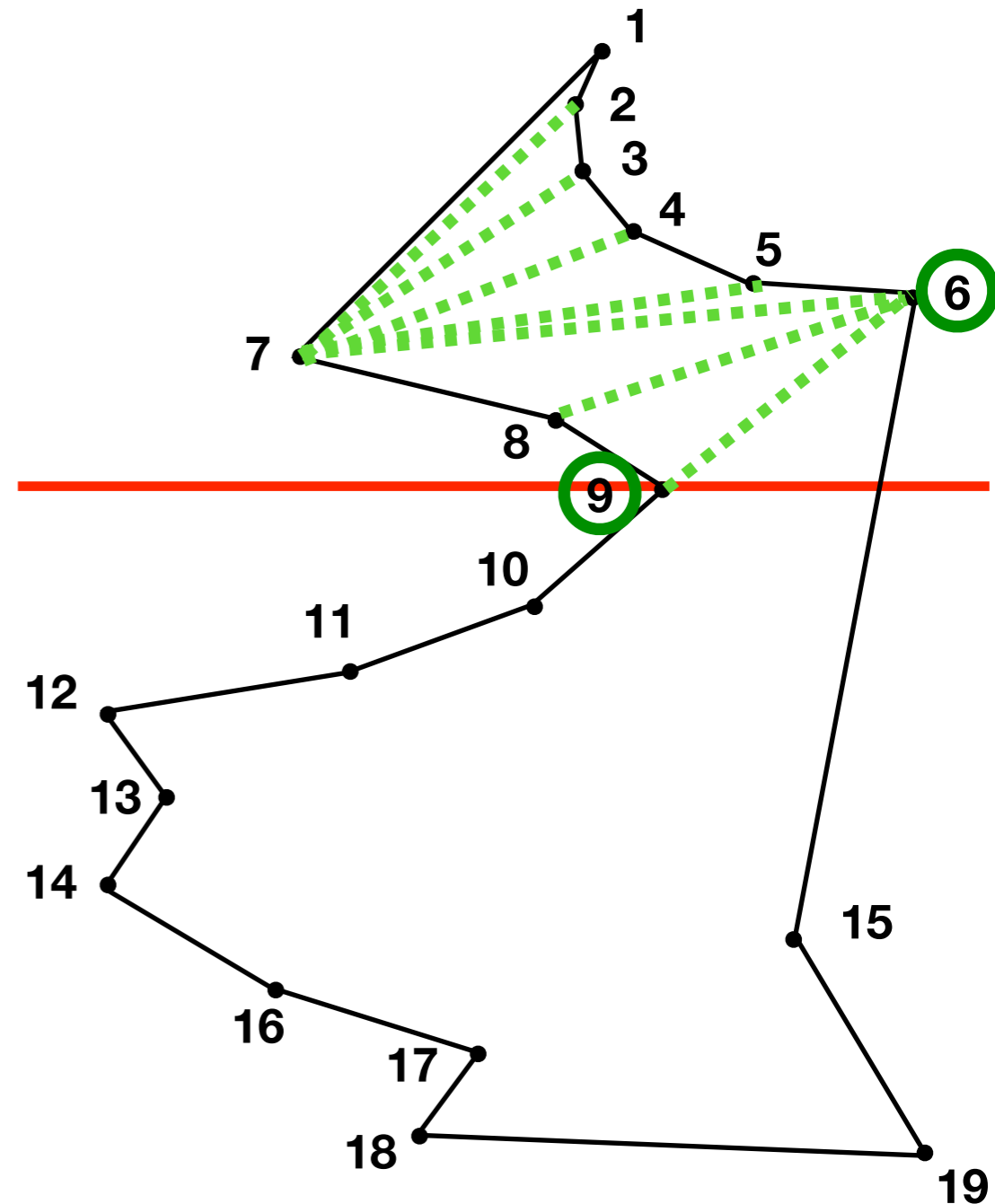
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**Output:** A triangulation of  $P$

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Queue: 6 9



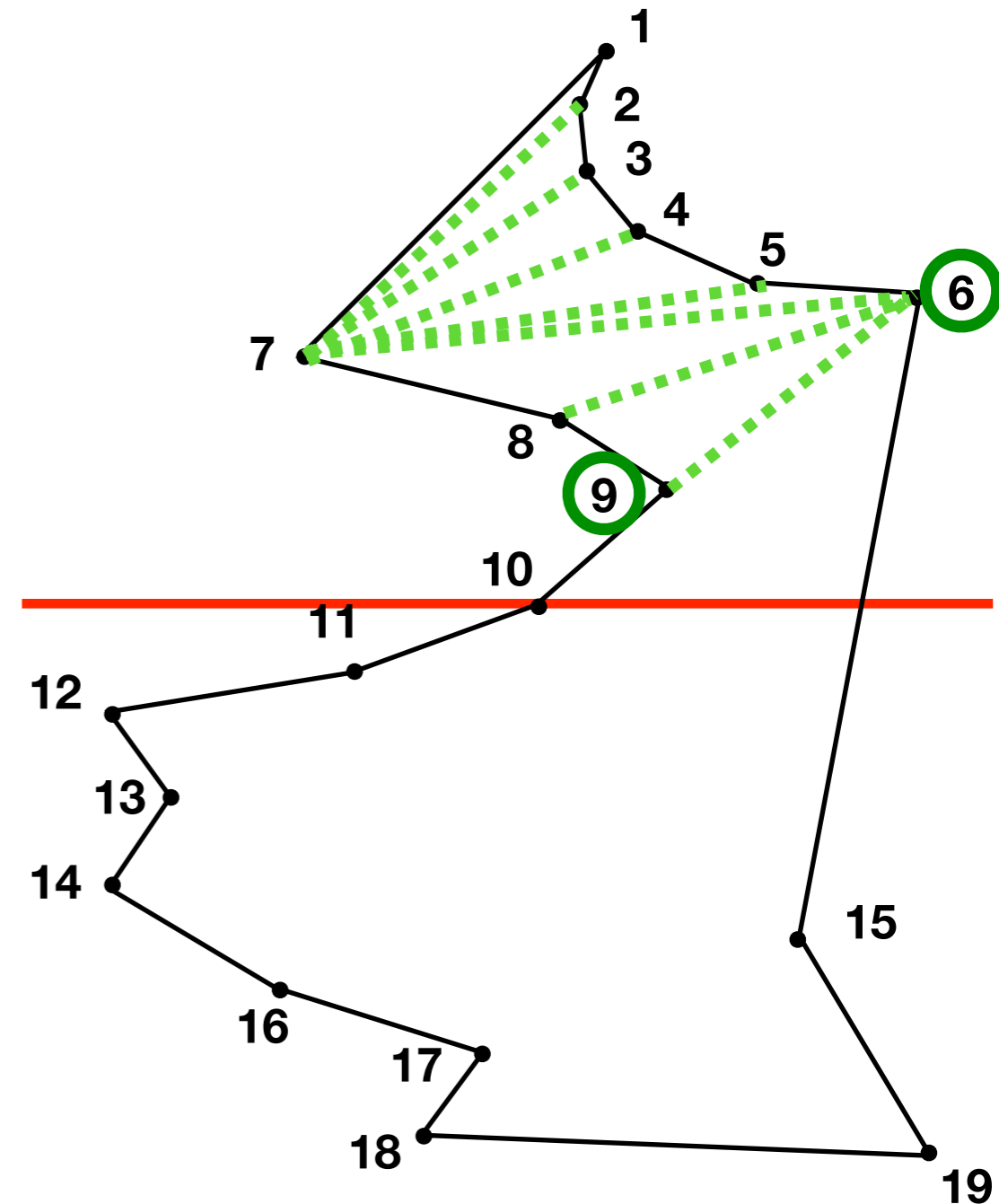
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**Input:** A  $y$ -monotone polygon  $P$

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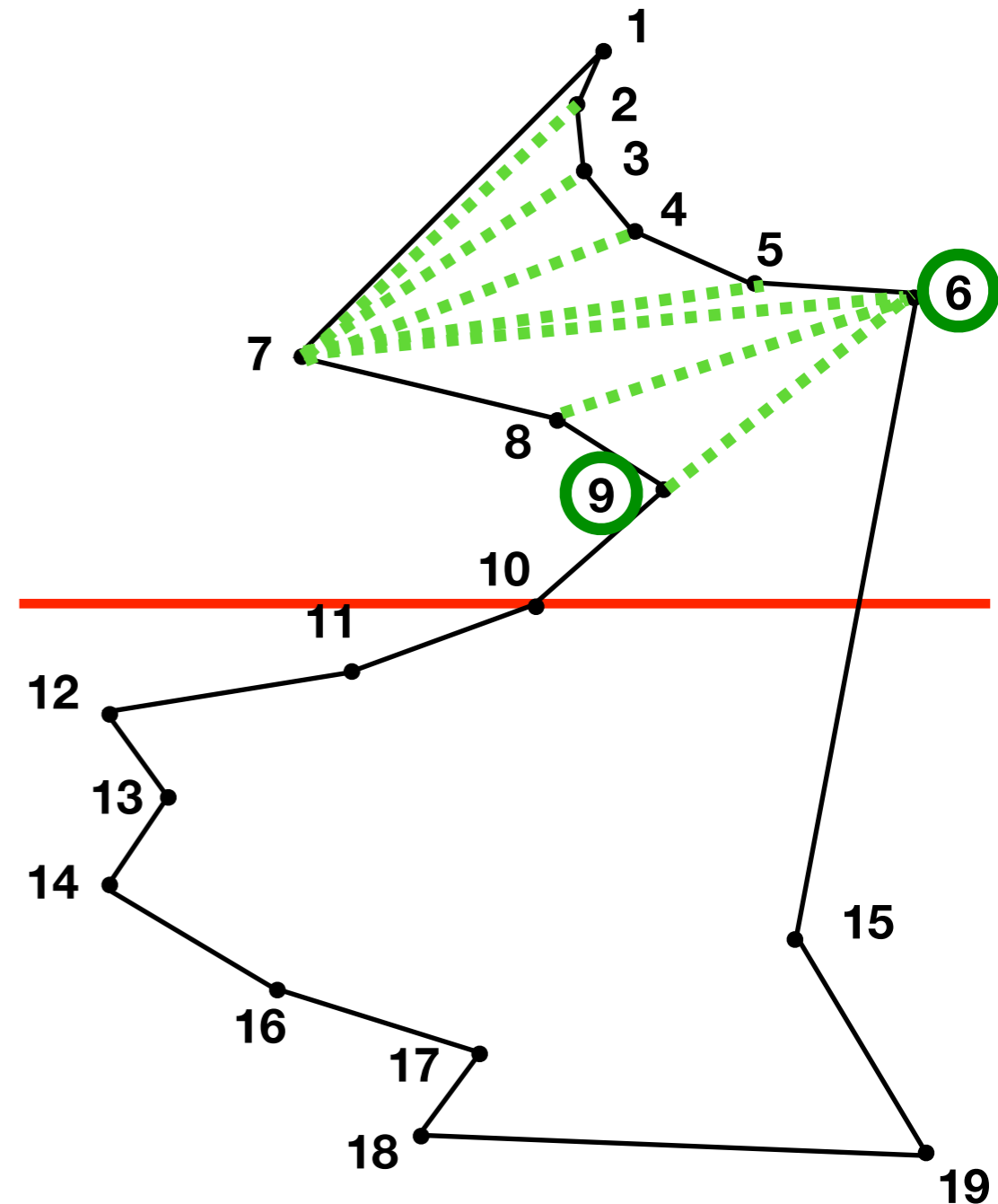
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Queue: 6 9



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

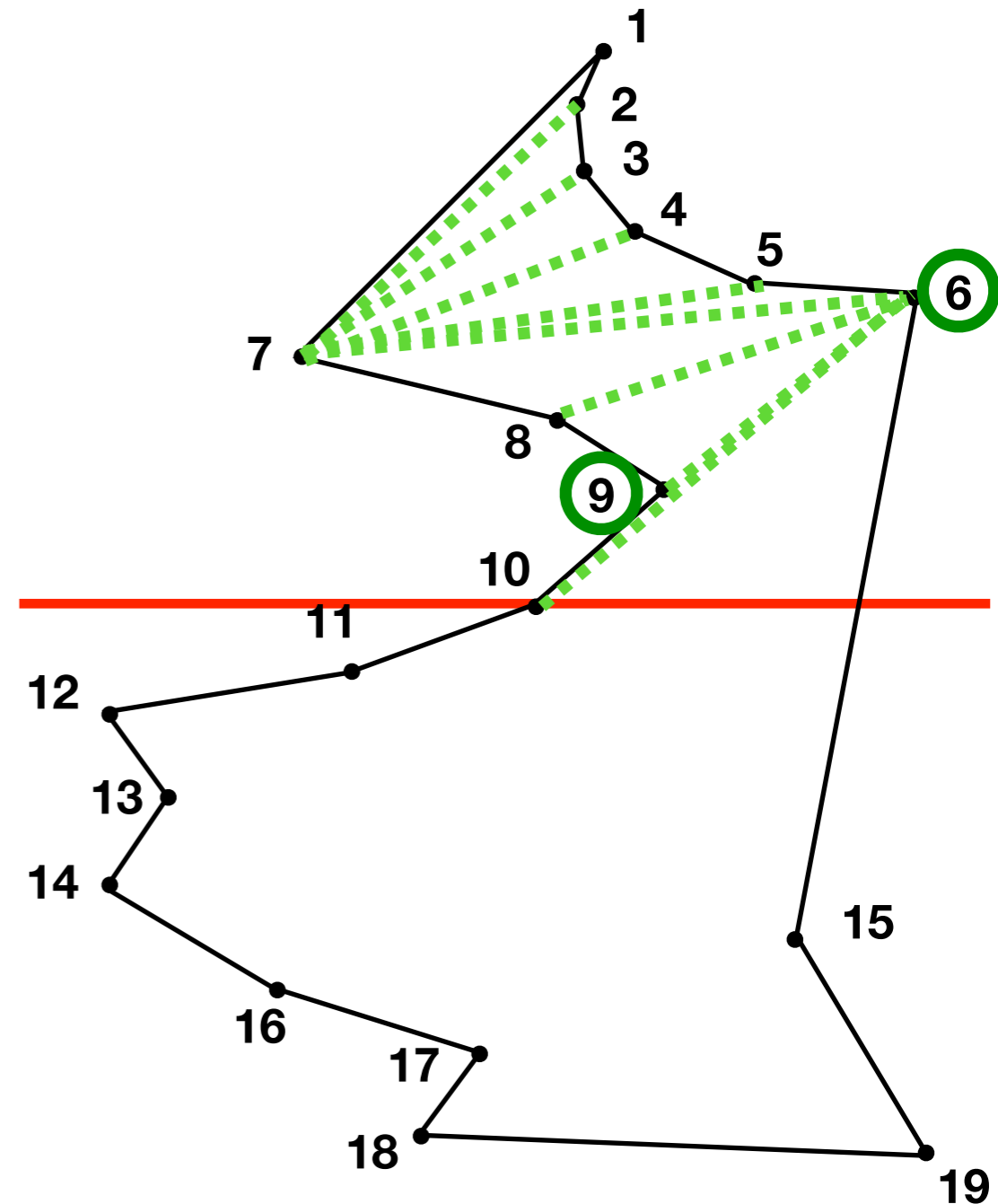
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 9



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

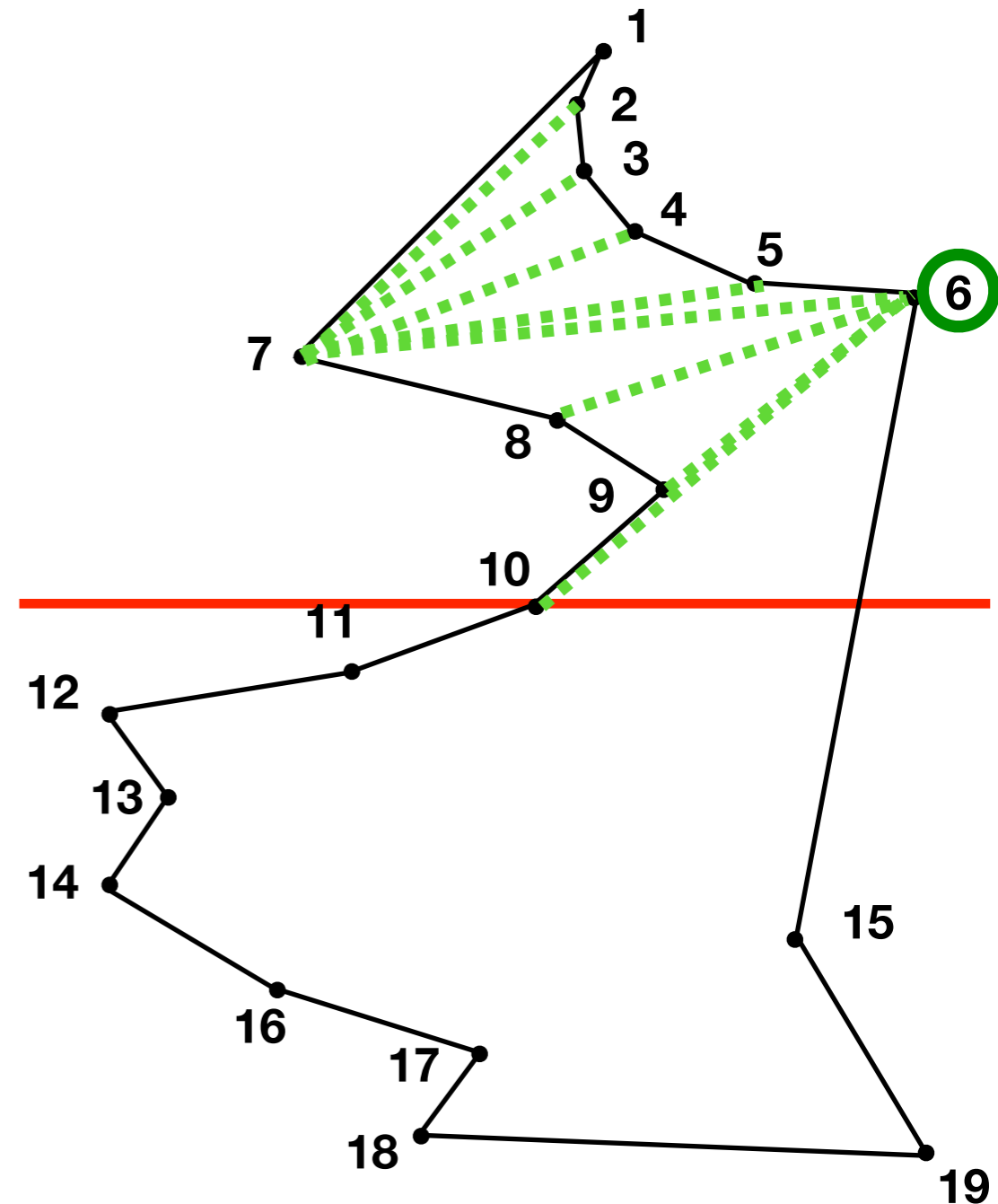
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 9



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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

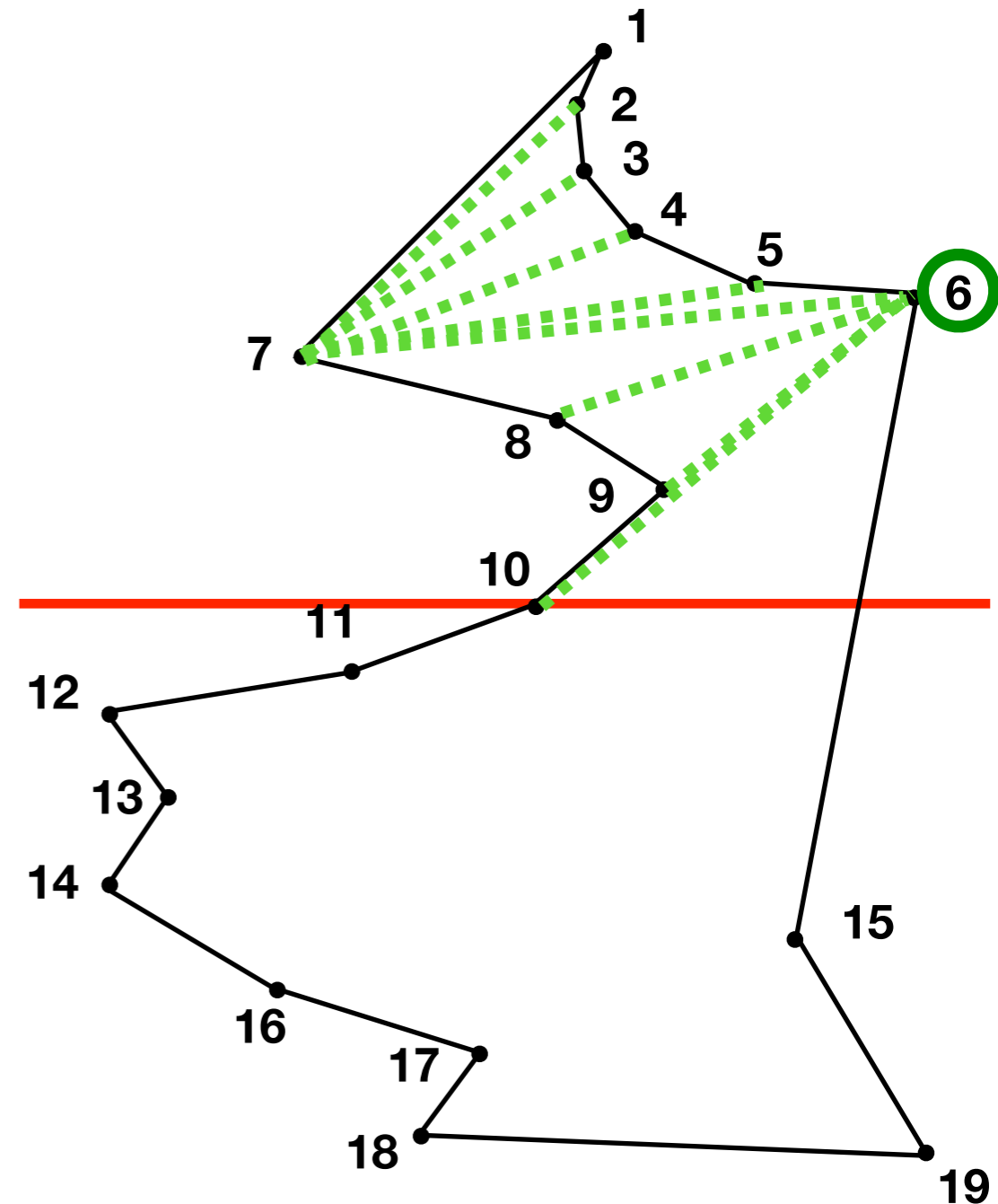
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6



## Algorithm 5.16

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

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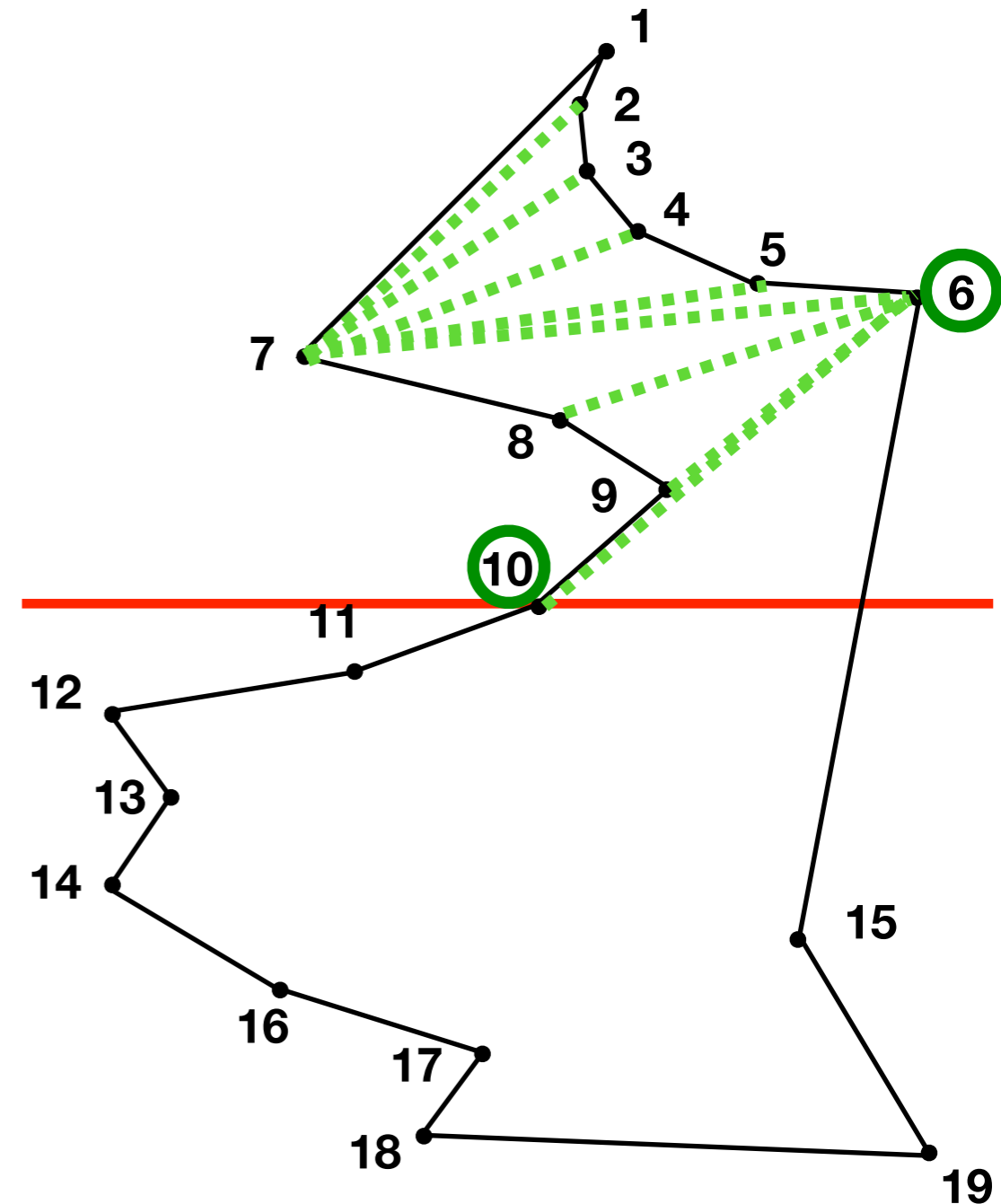
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Ear

Queue: 6





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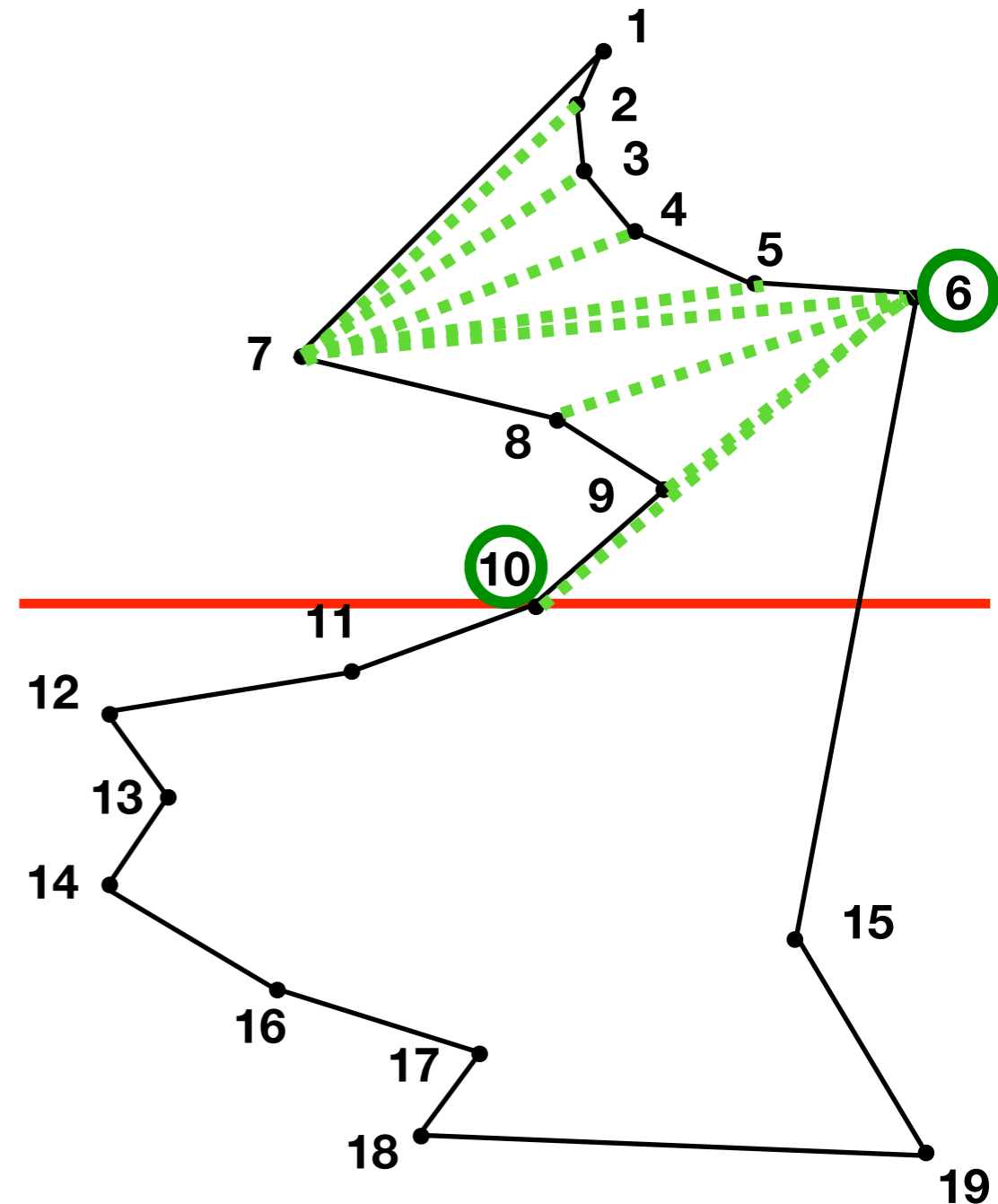
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 10



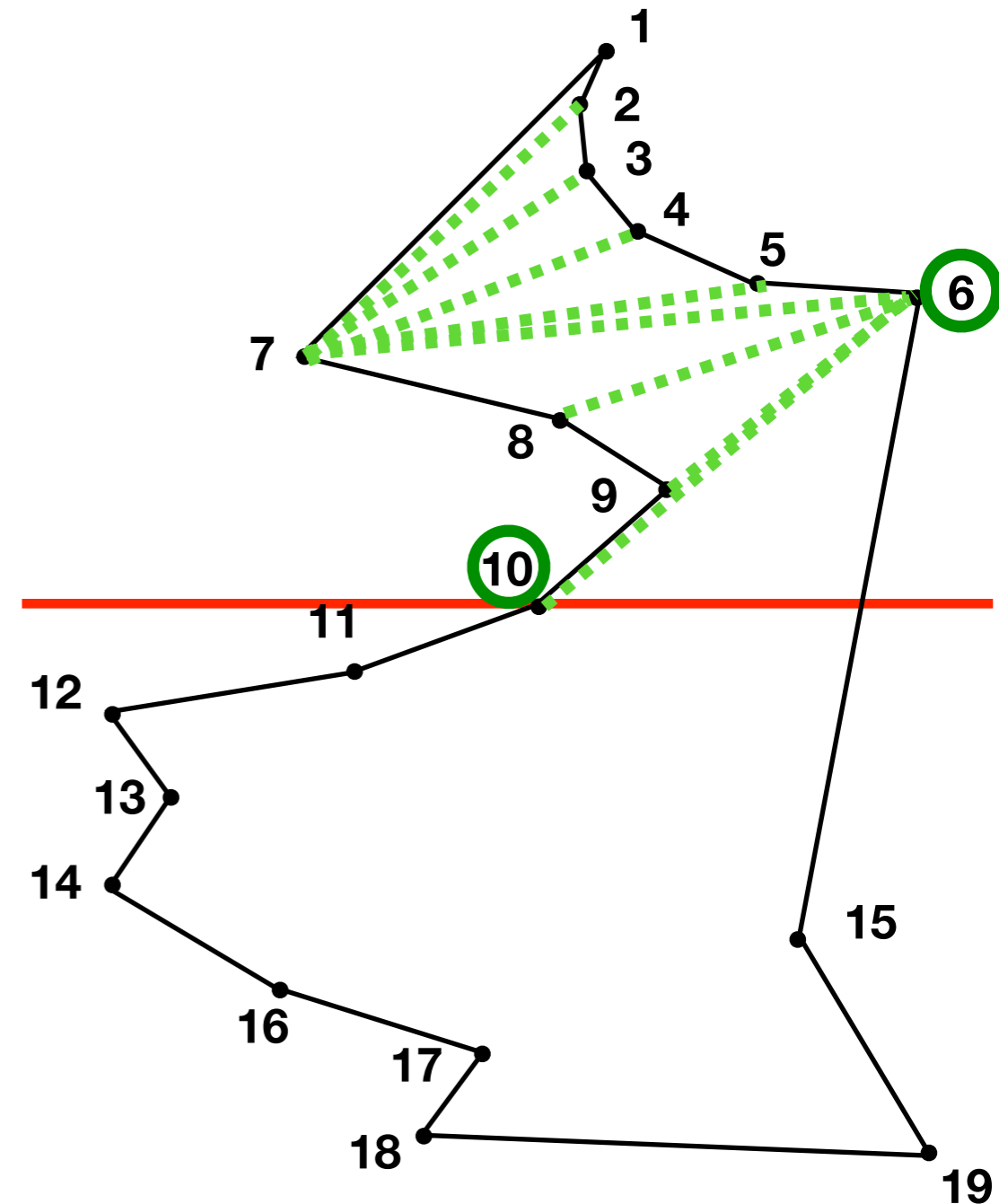
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Queue: 6 10



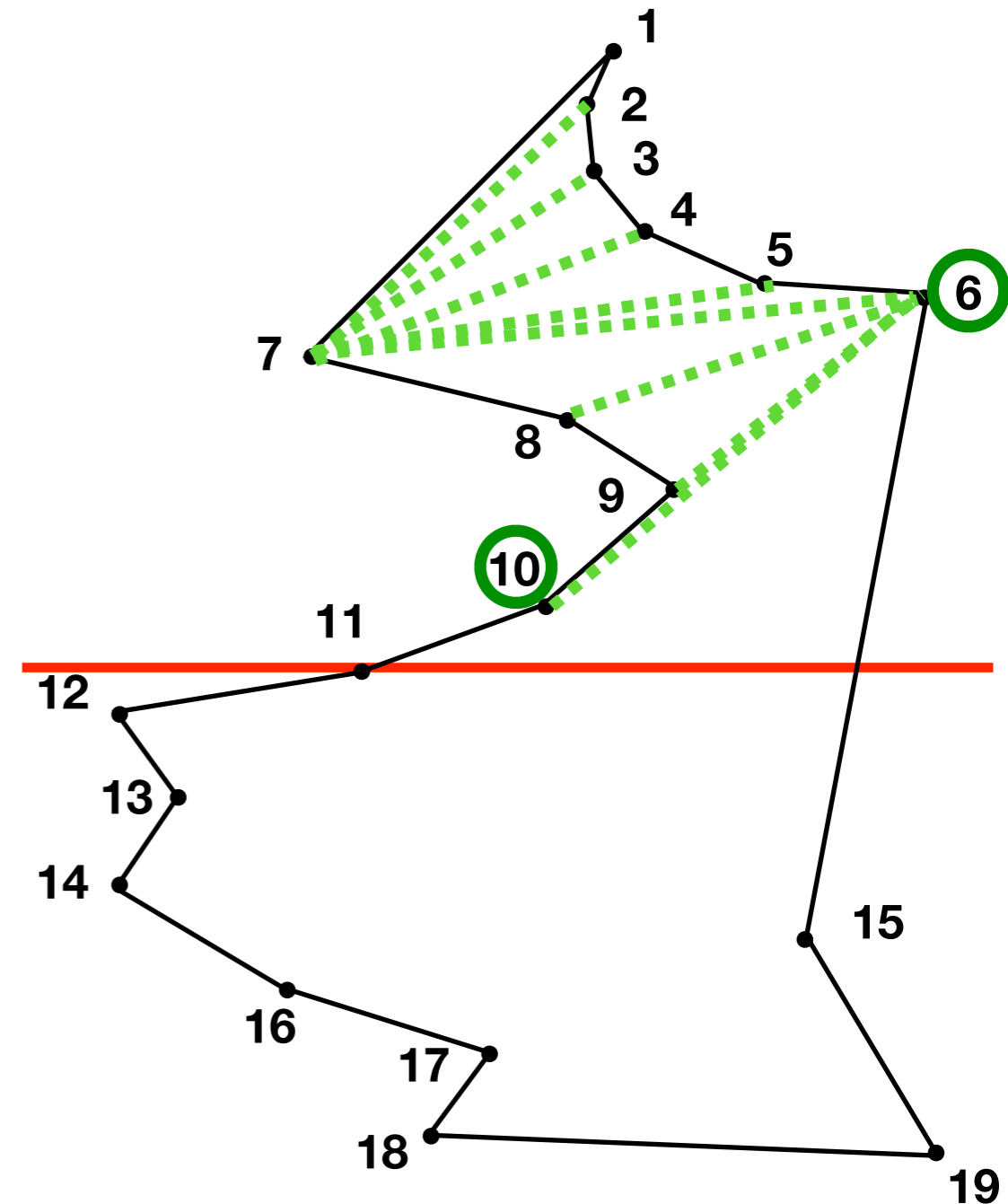
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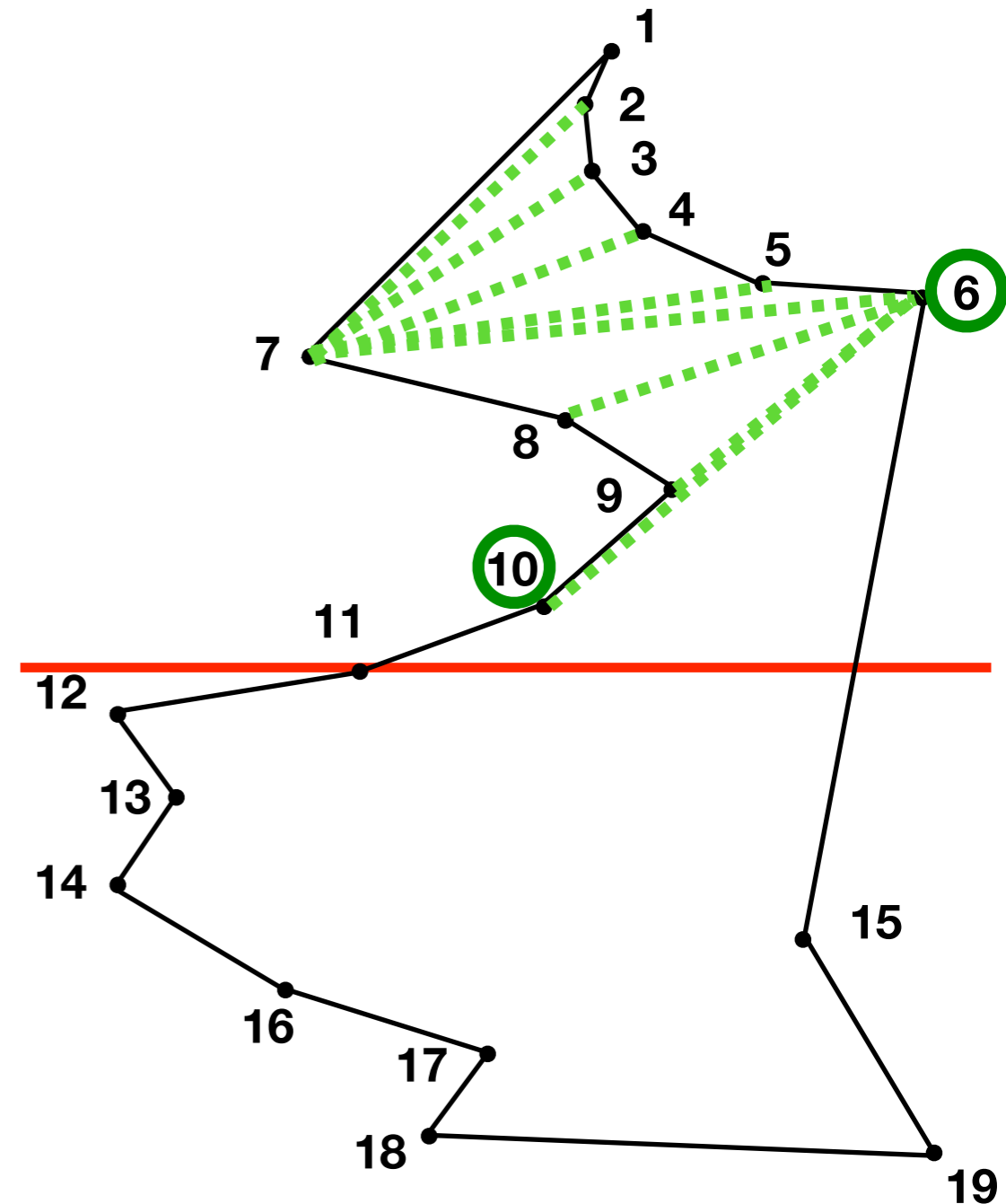
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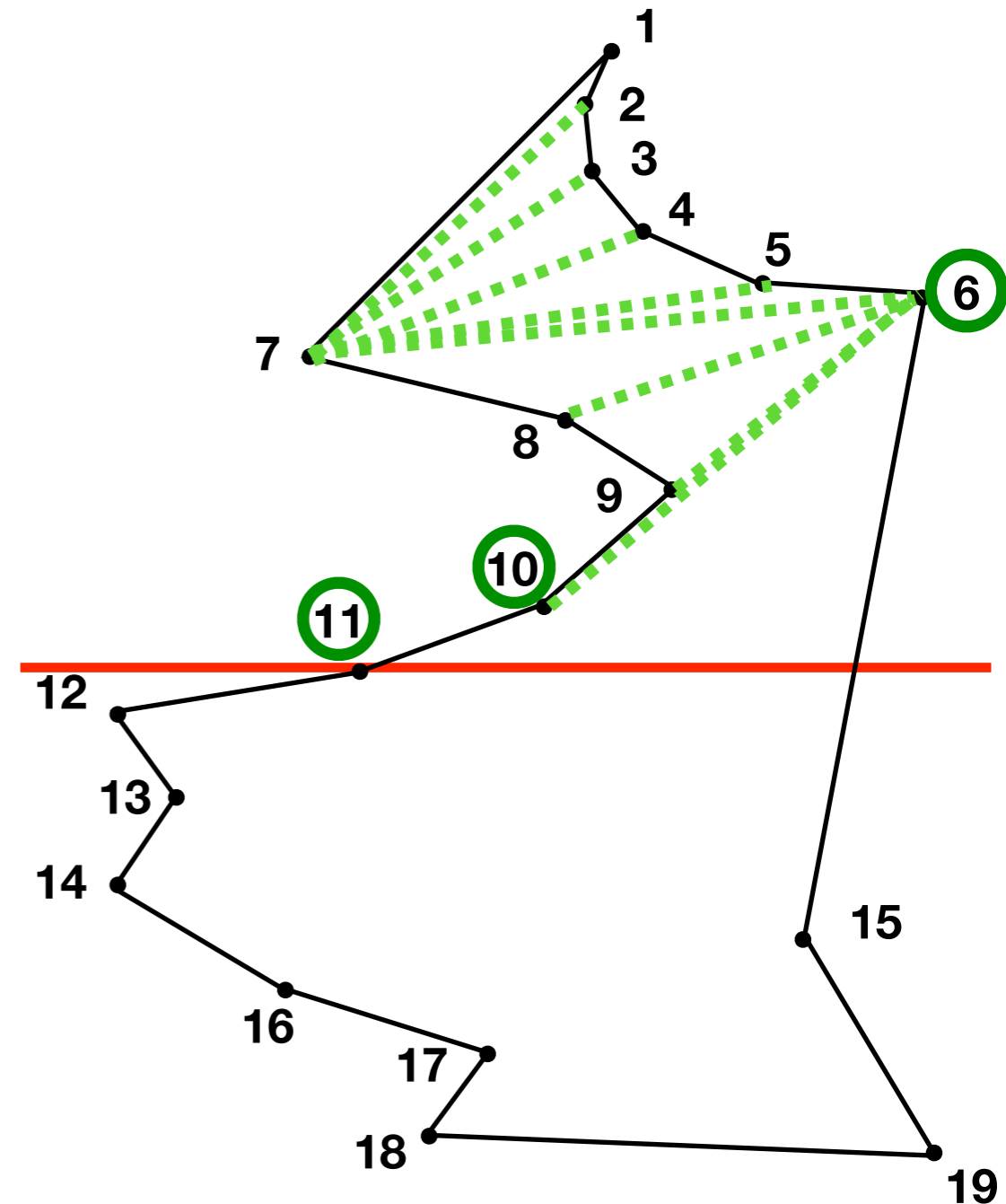
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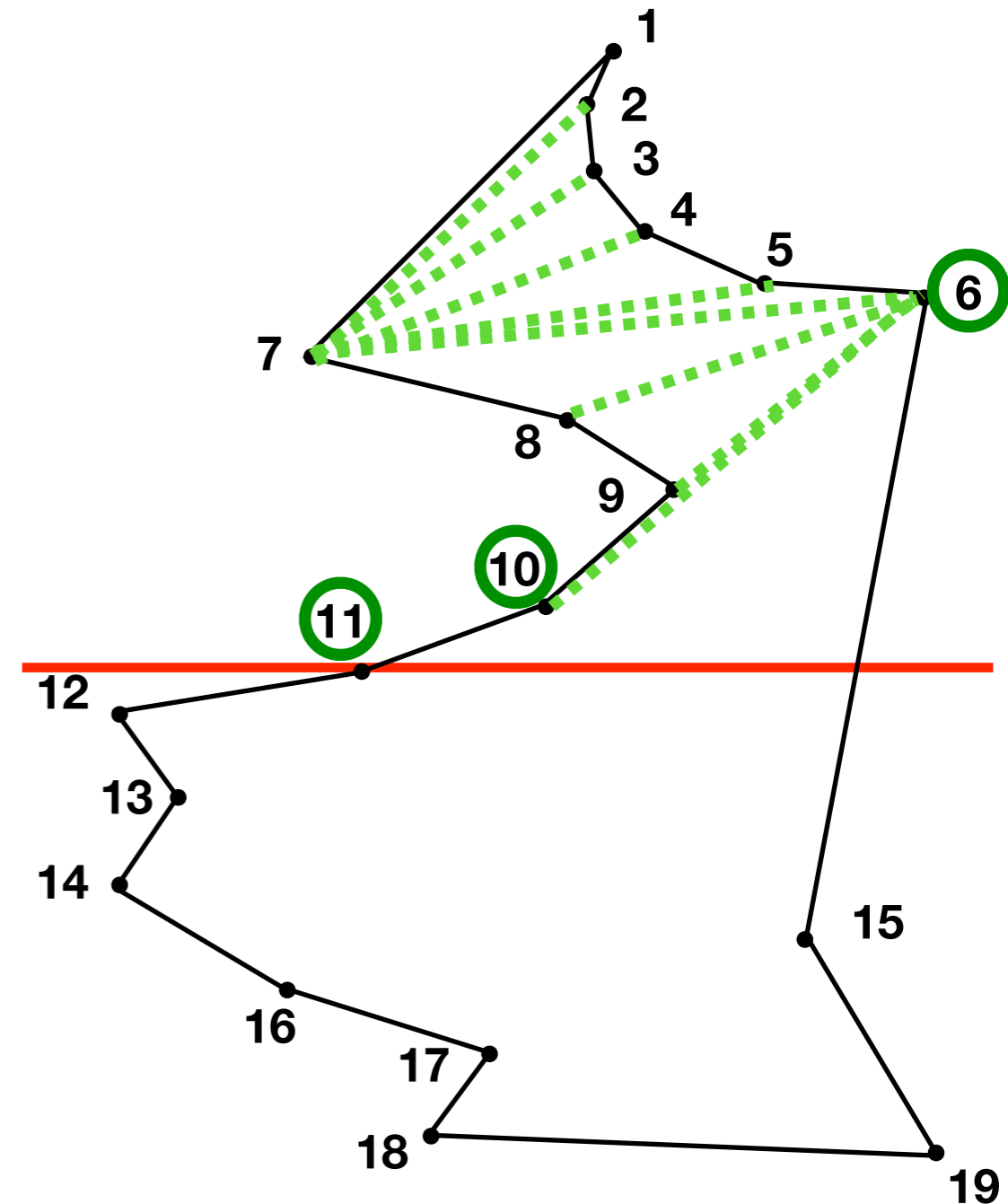
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Add

Ear

Queue: 6 10 11



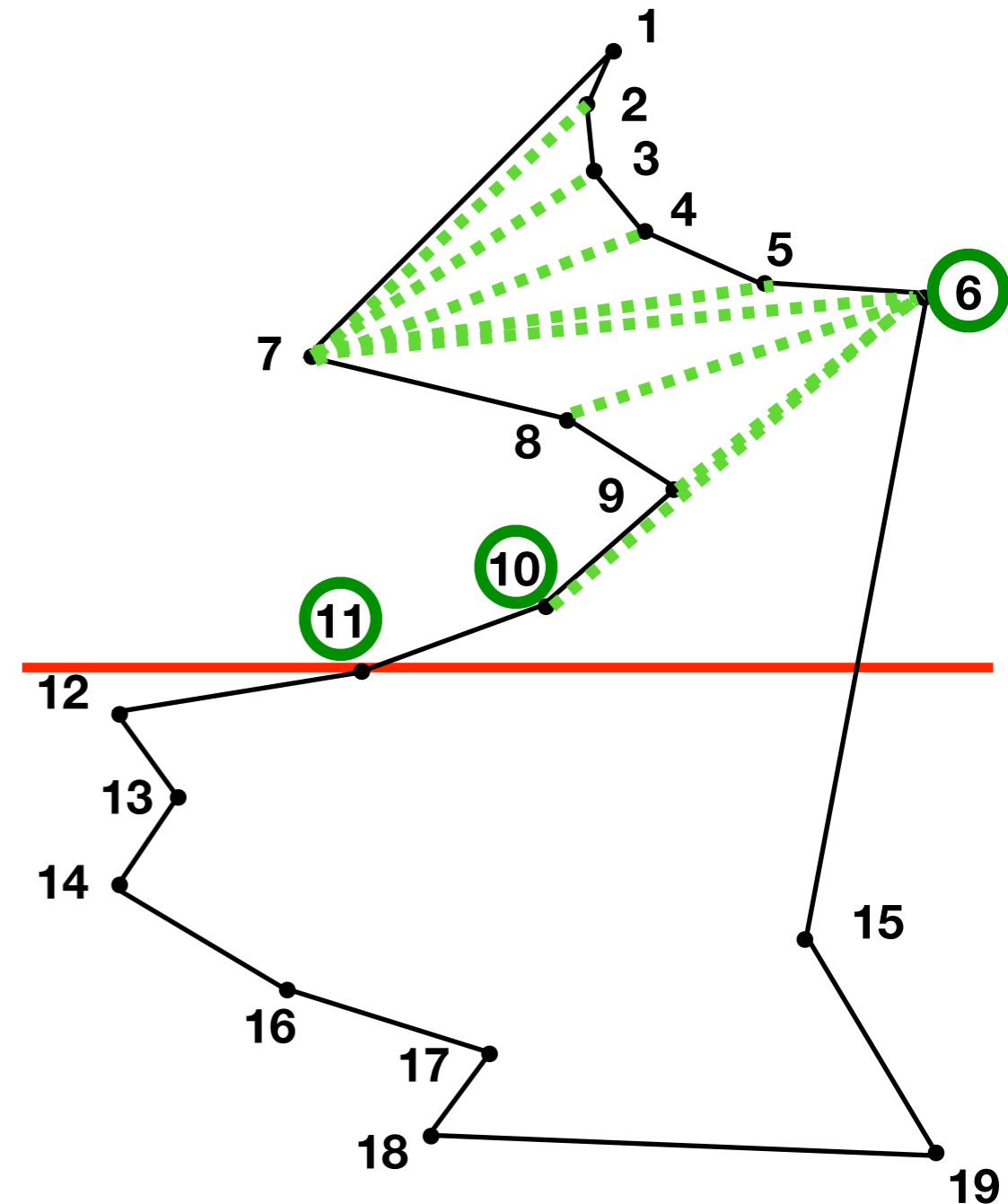
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Queue: 6 10 11



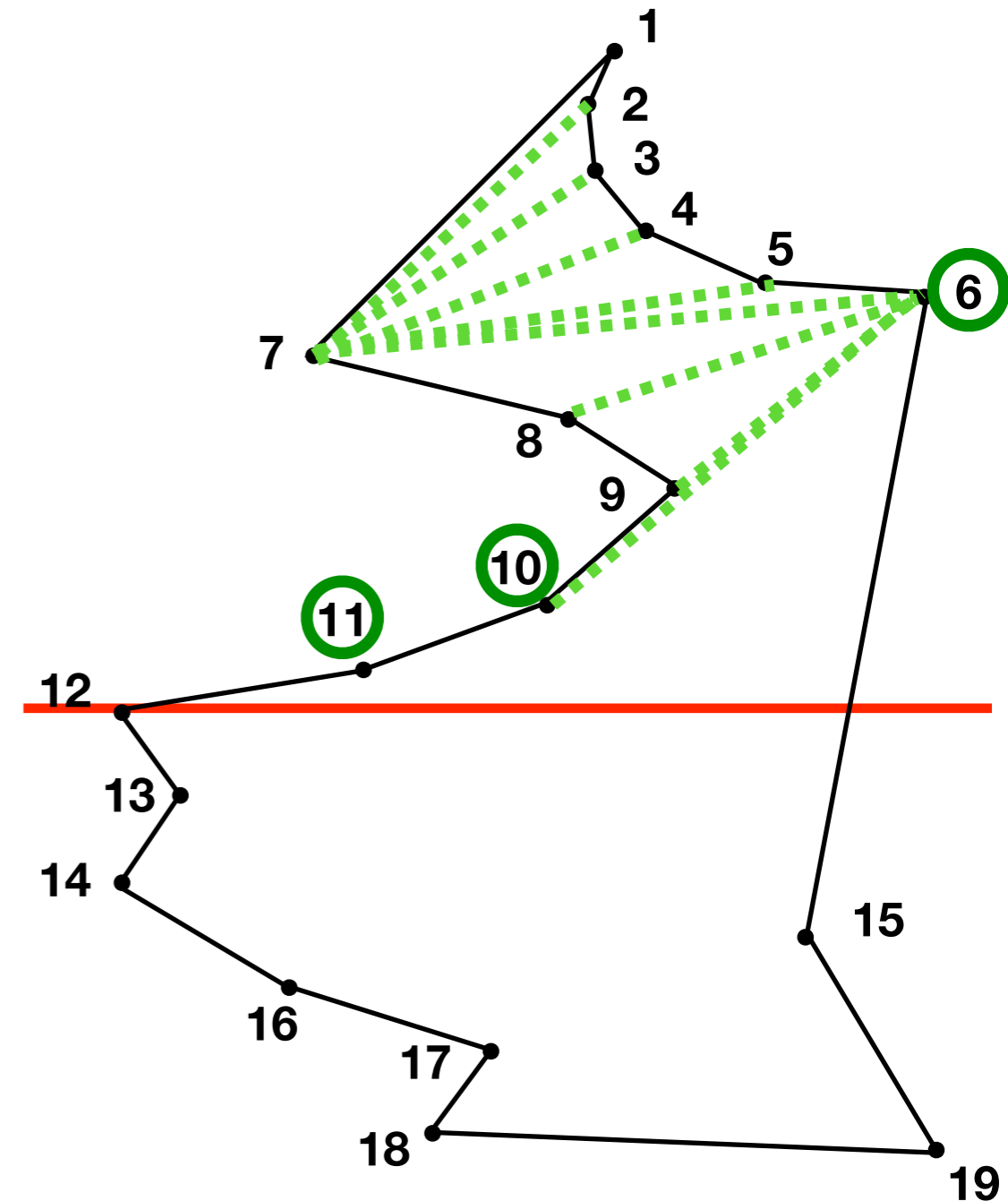
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Queue: 6 10 11





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

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

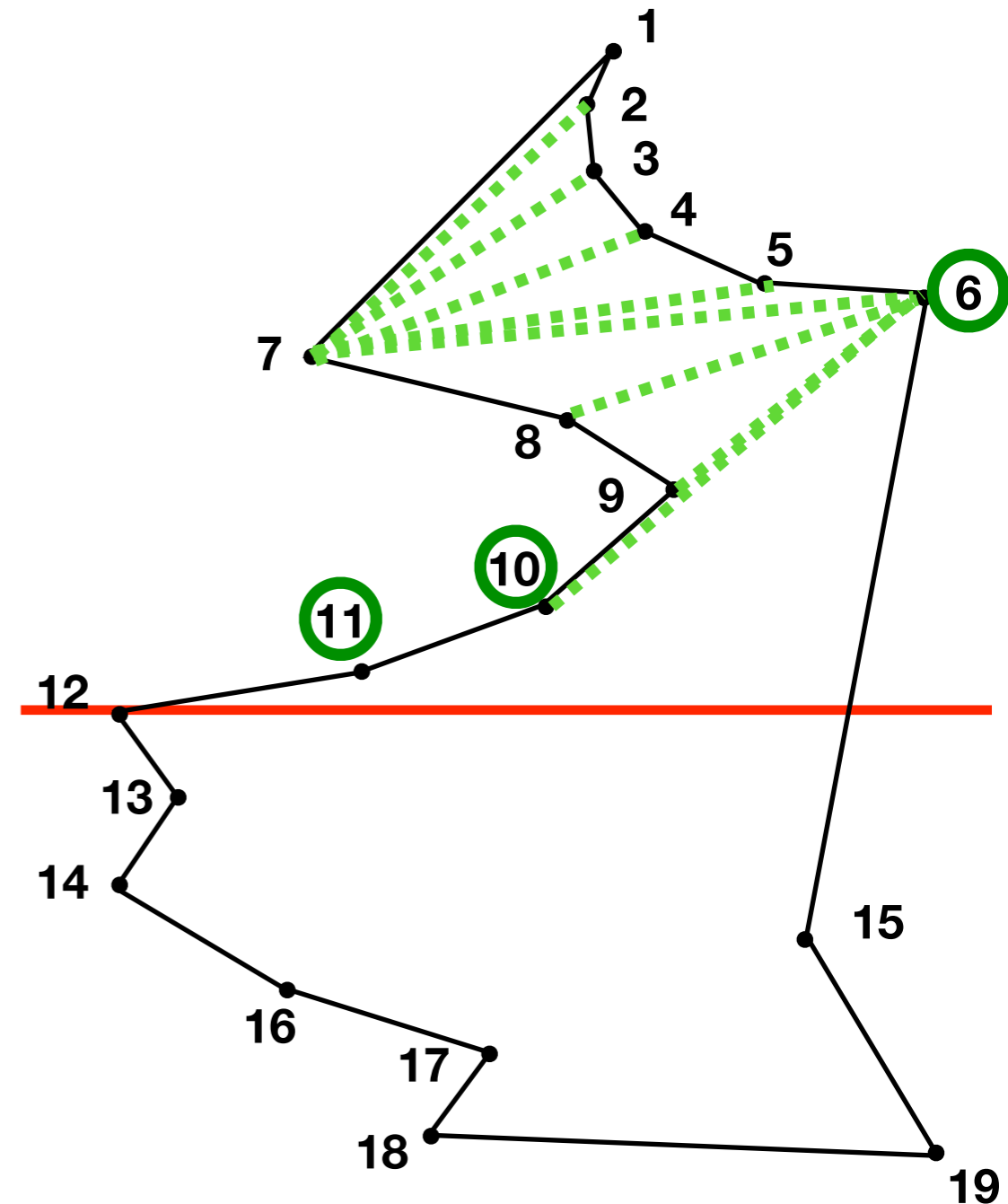
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Ear

Queue: 6 10 11



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

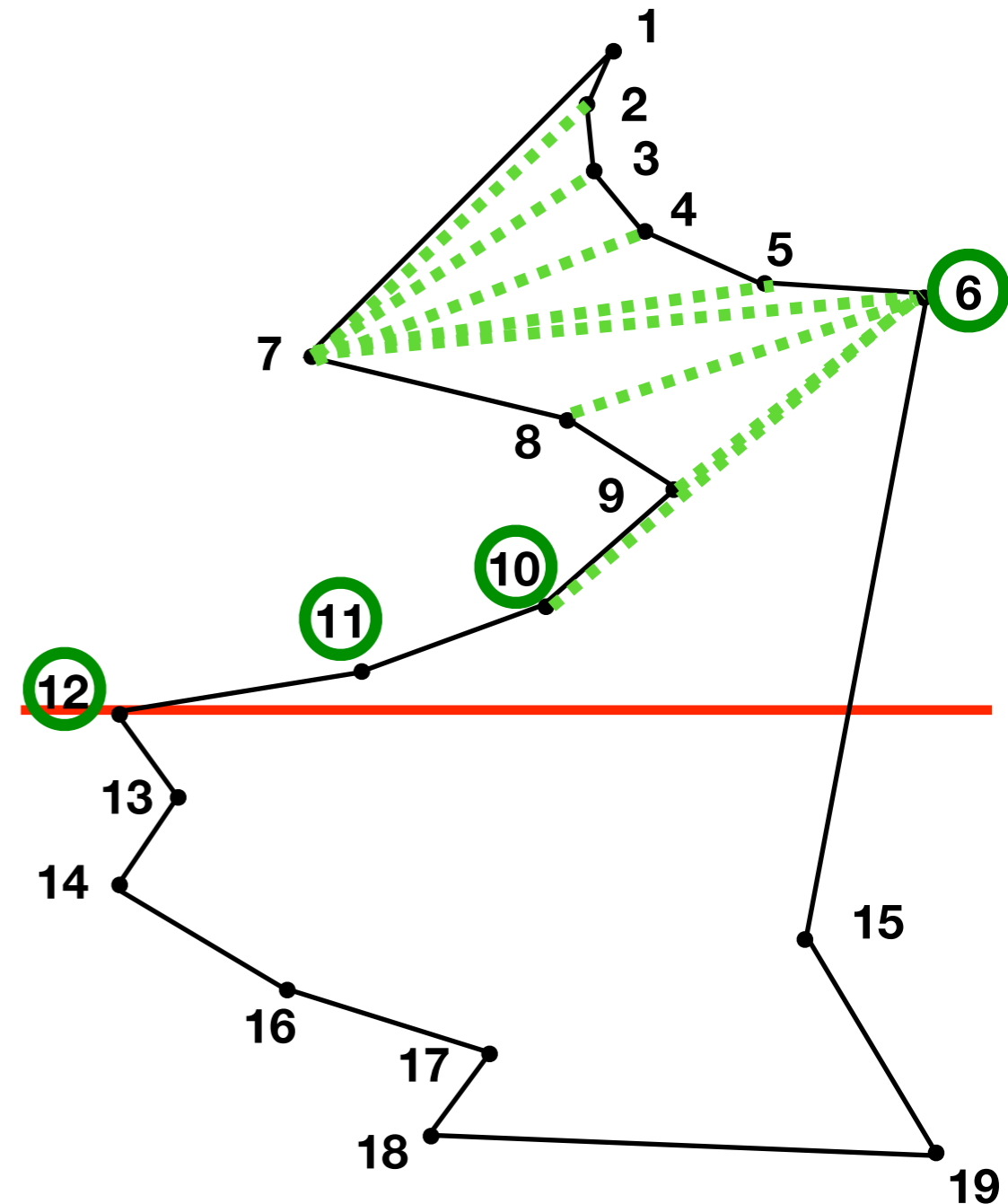
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Queue: 6 10 11



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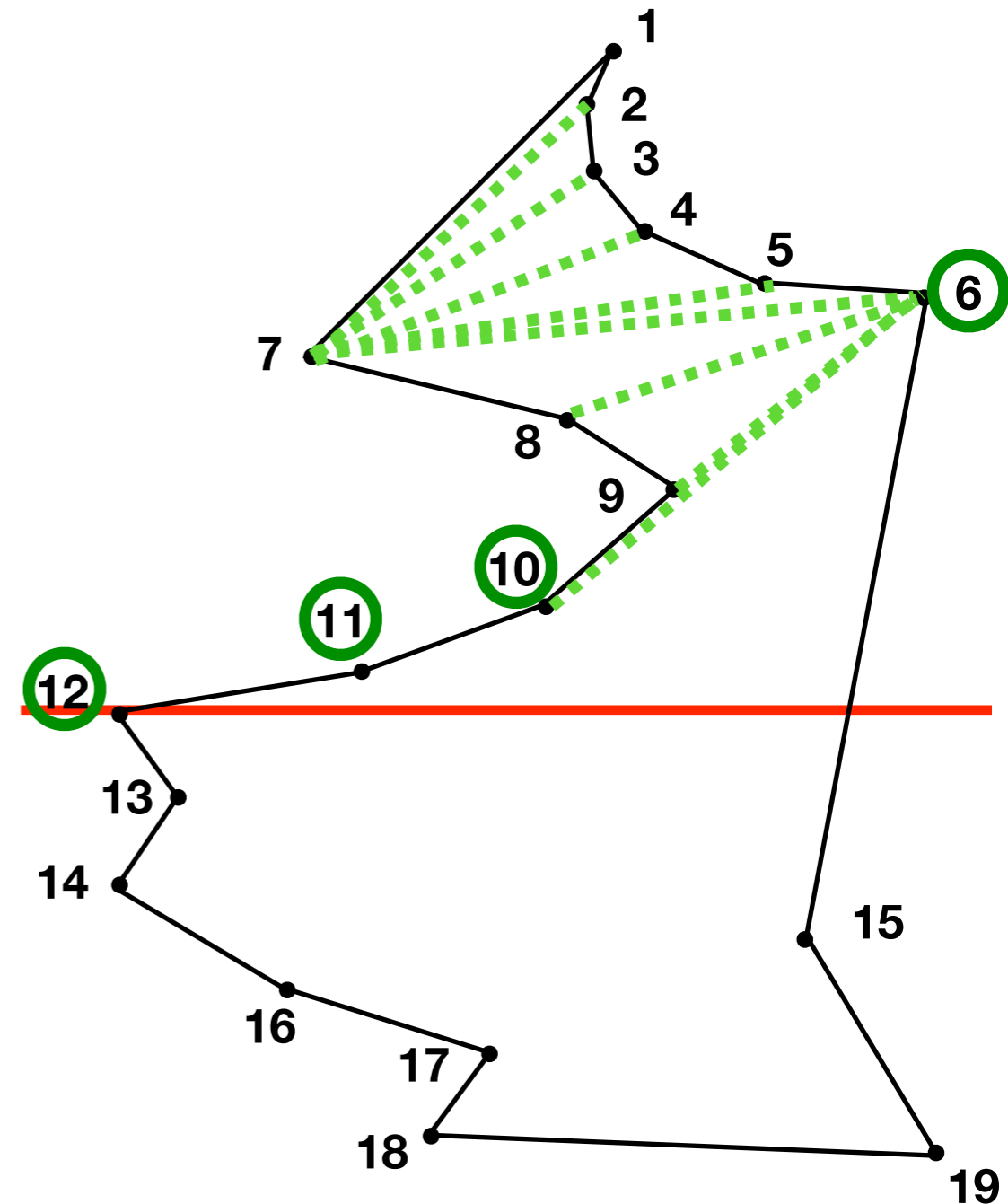
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Ear

Queue: 6 10 11 12



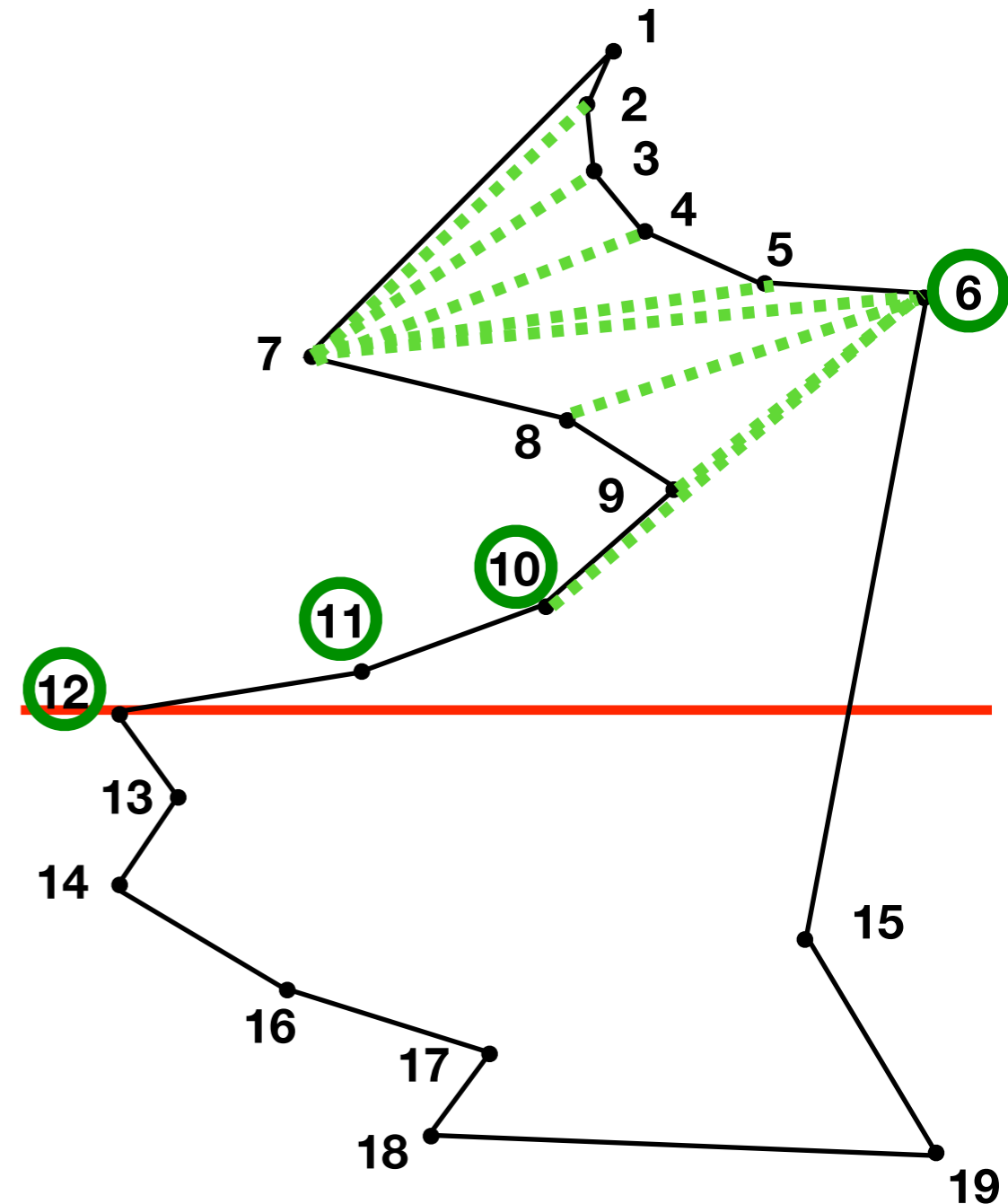
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Queue: 6 10 11 12



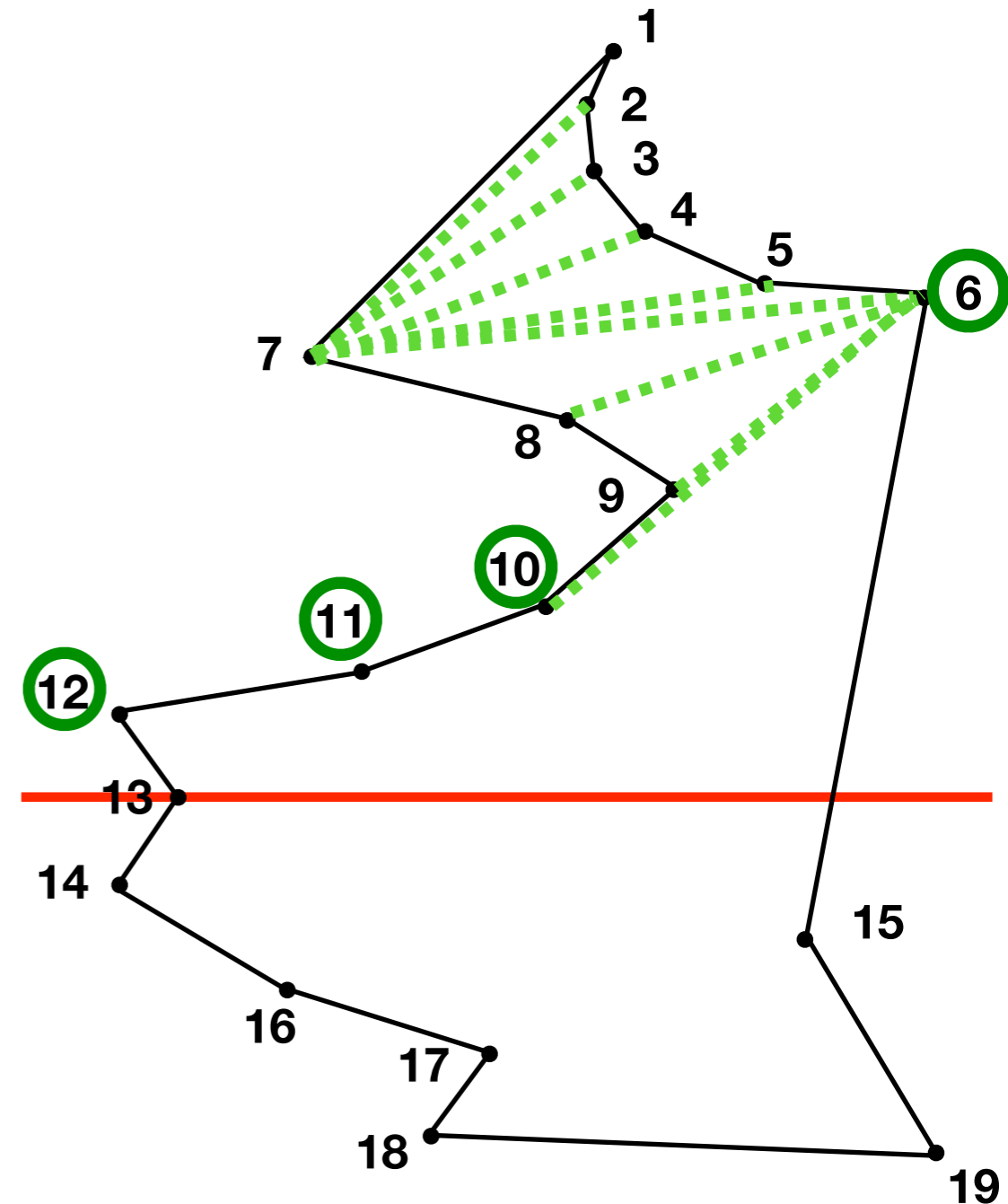
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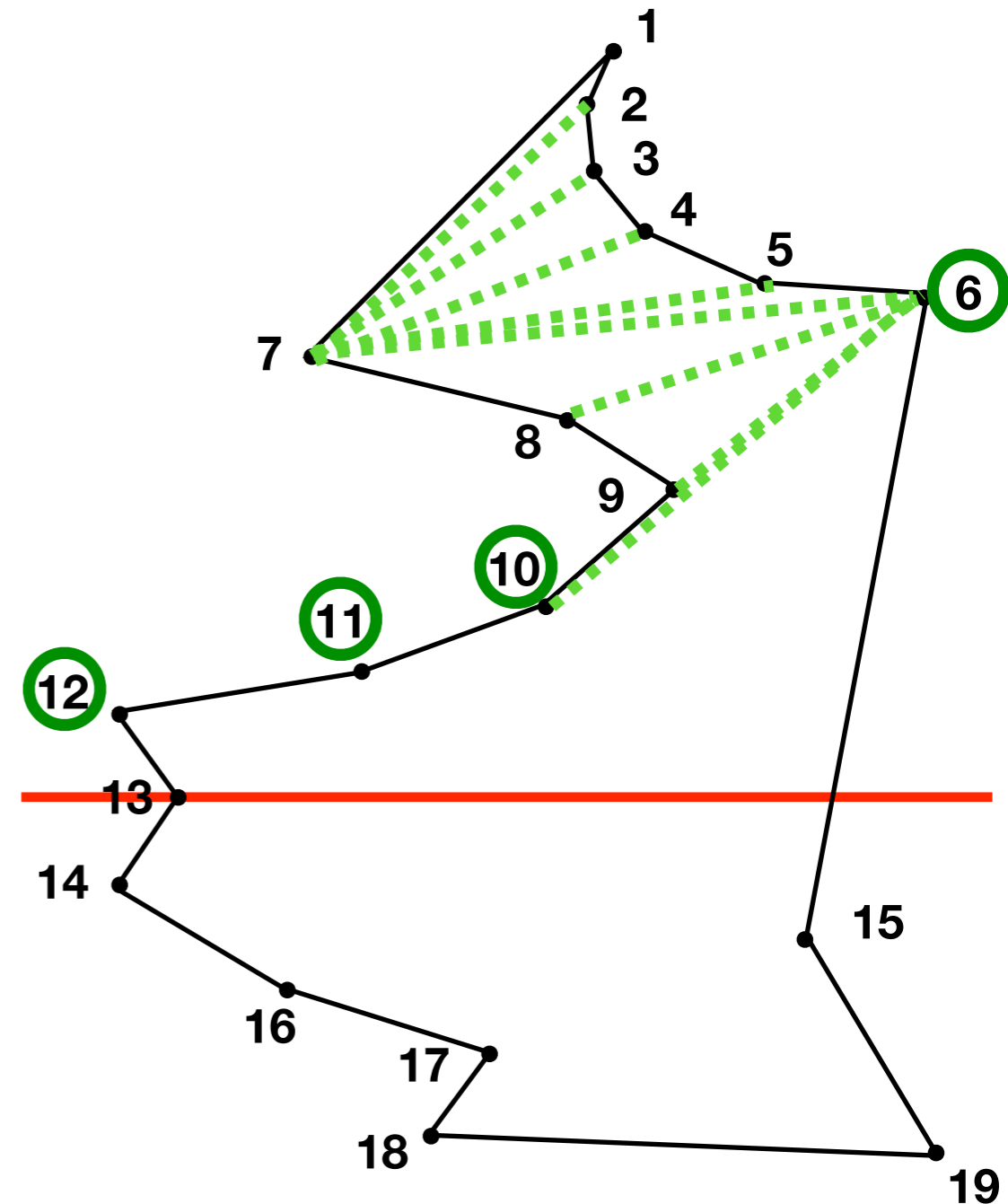
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Chain

Add

Ear

Queue: 6 10 11 12



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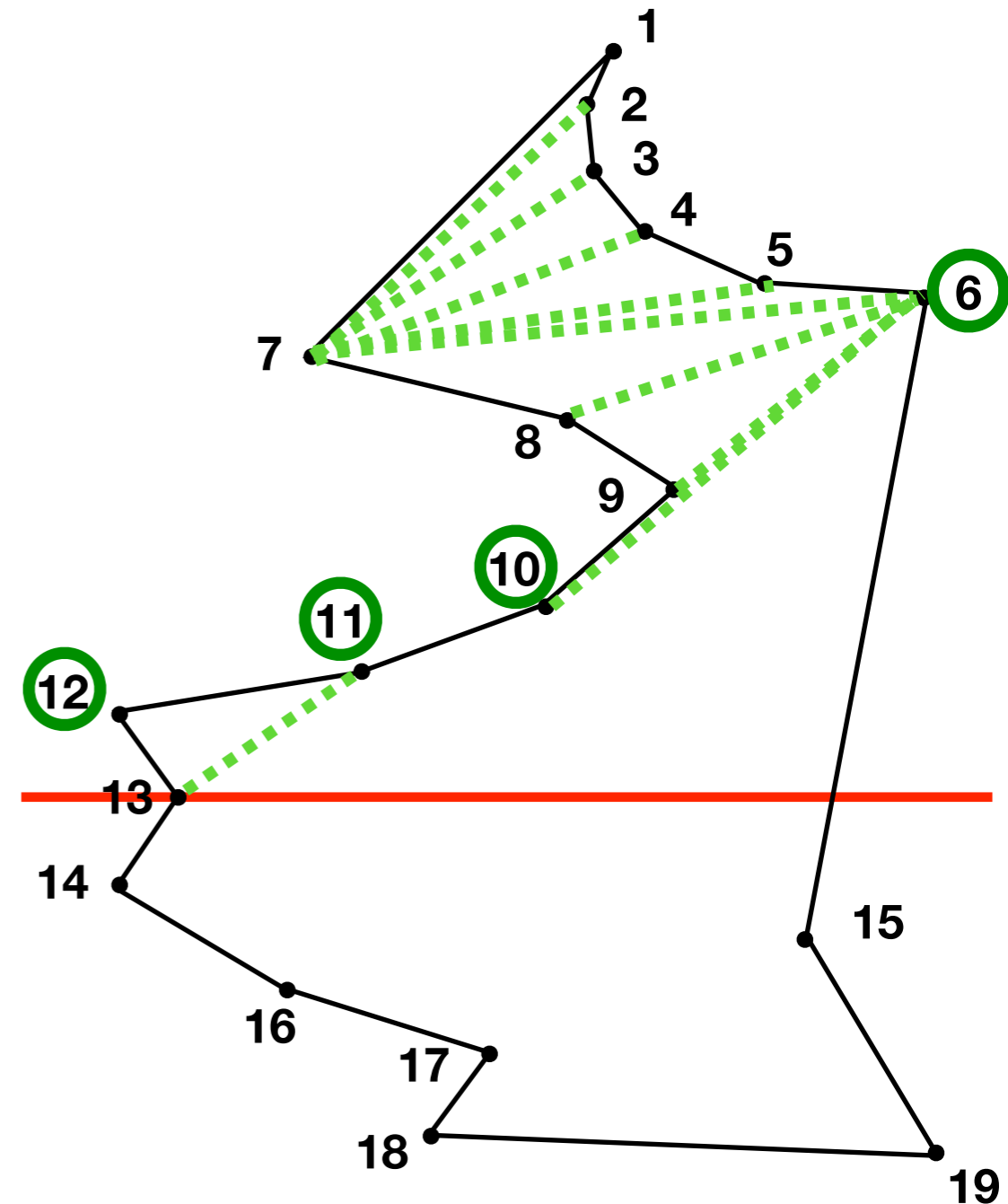
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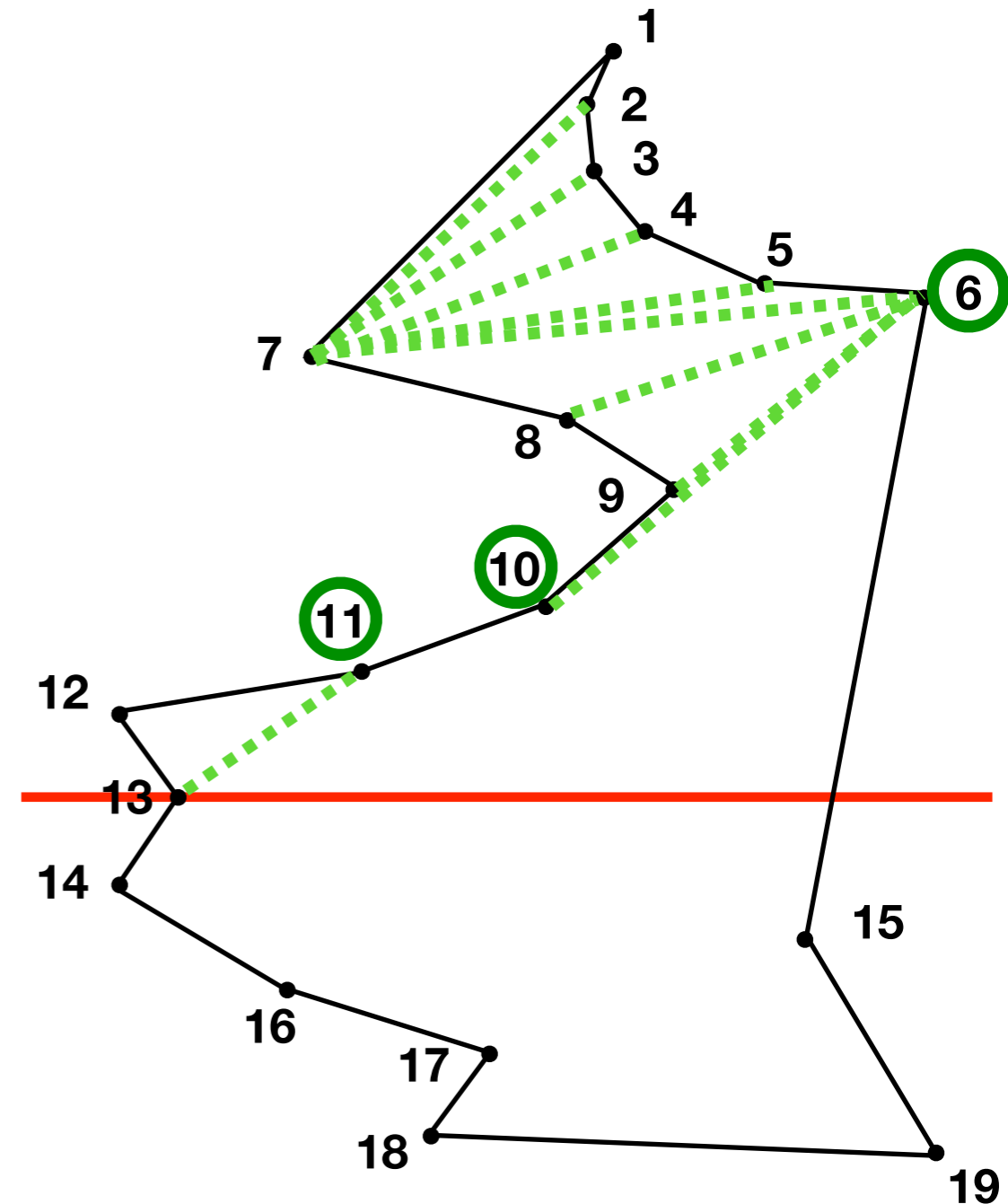
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Queue: 6 10 11 12





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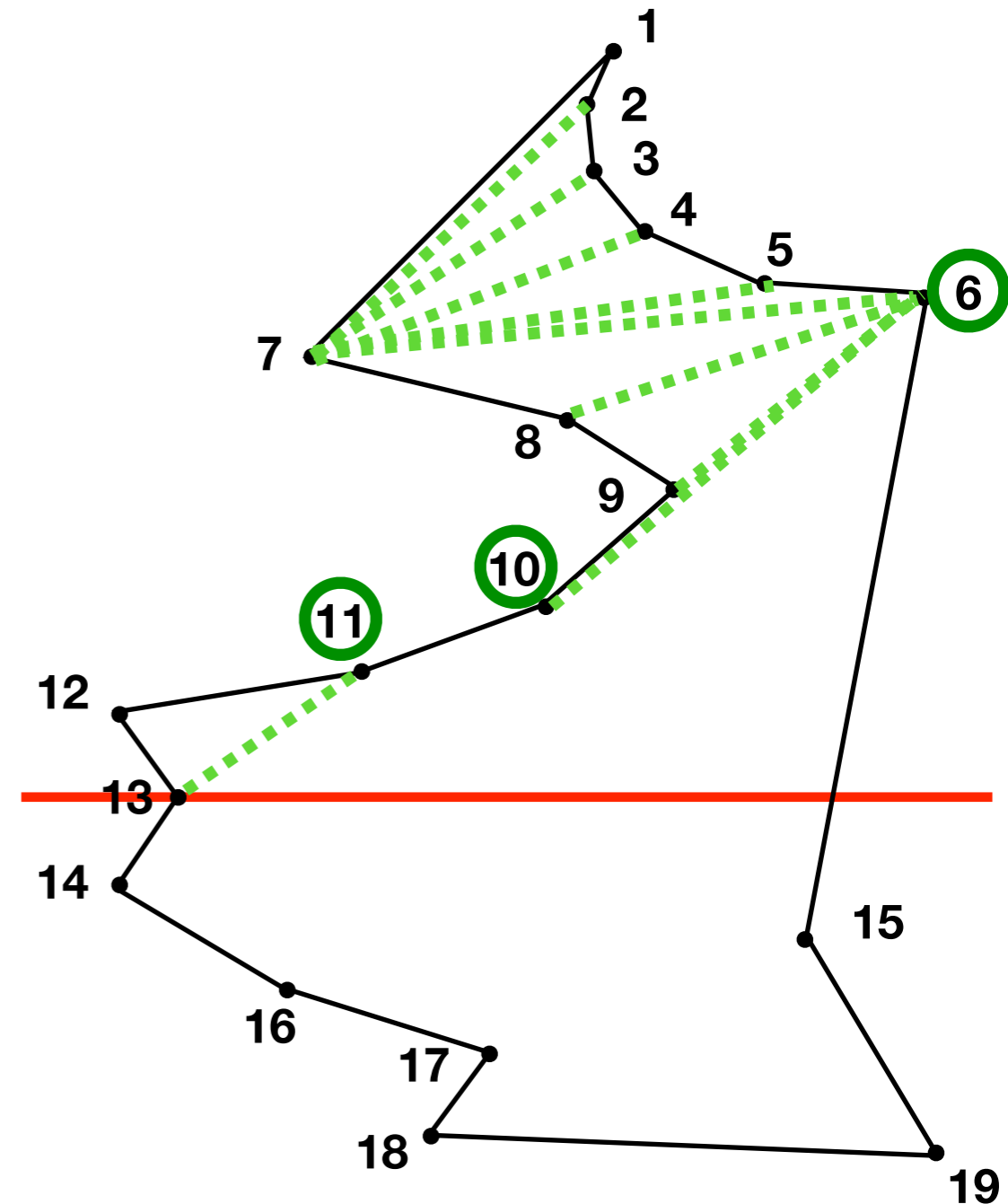
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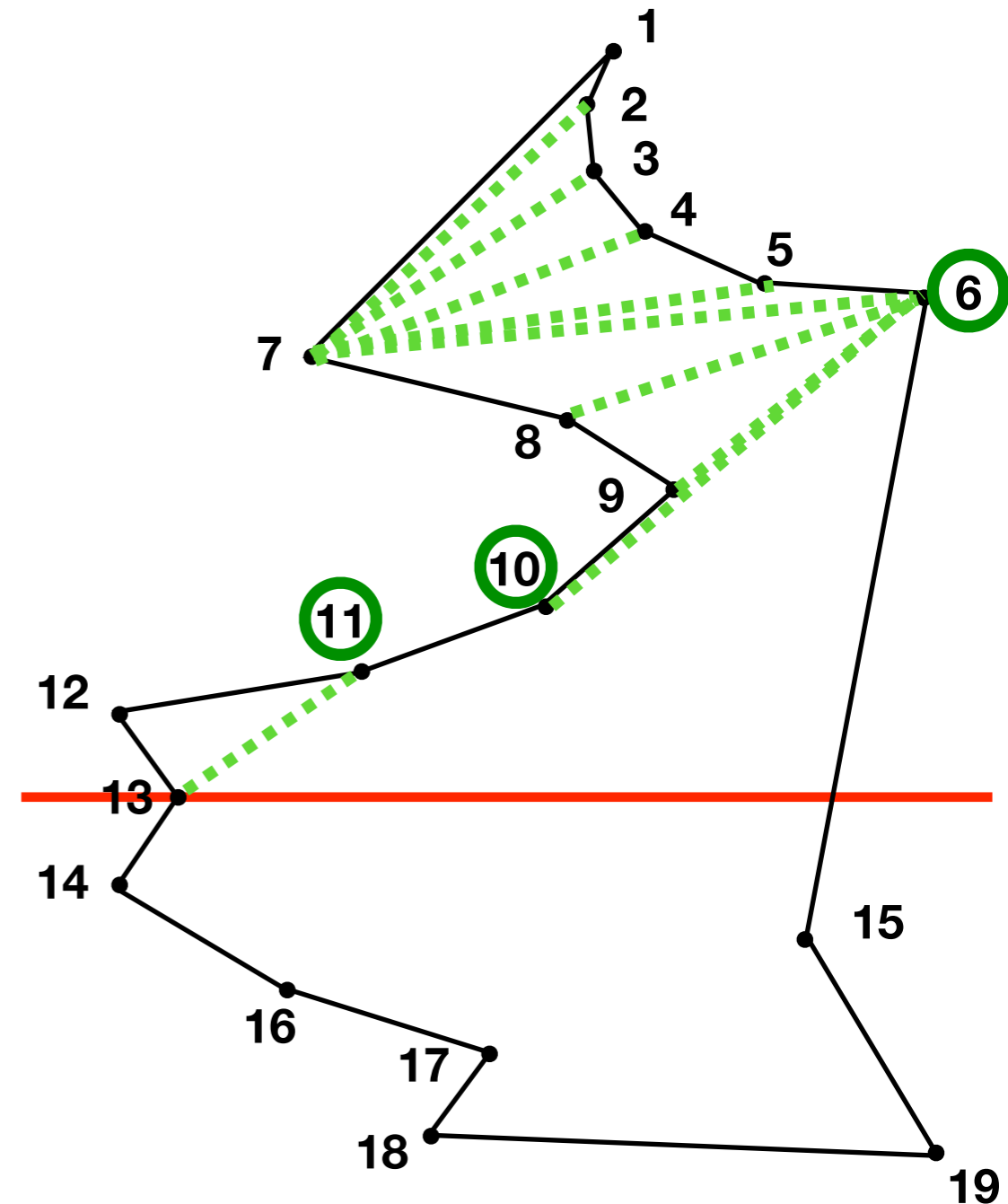
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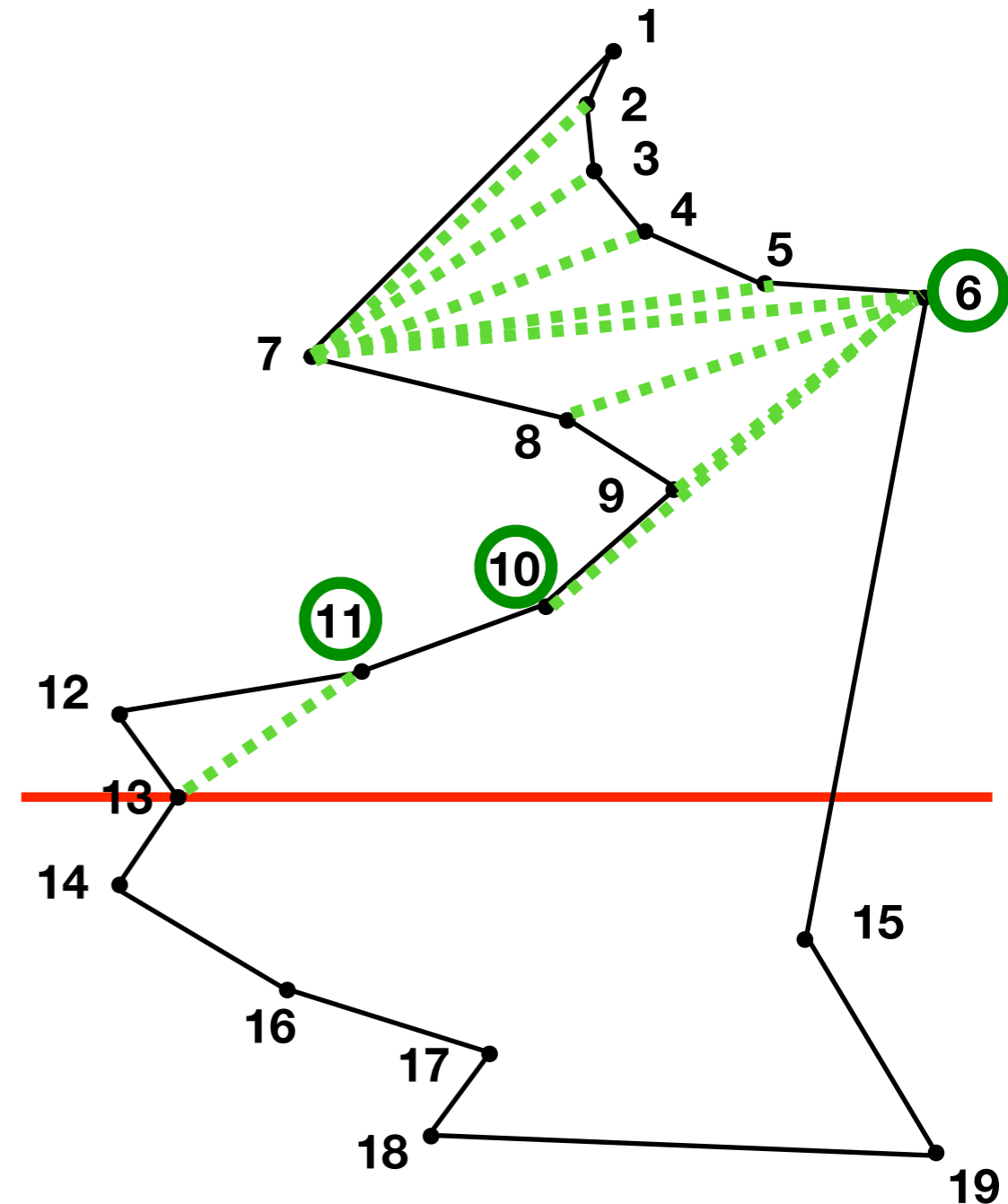
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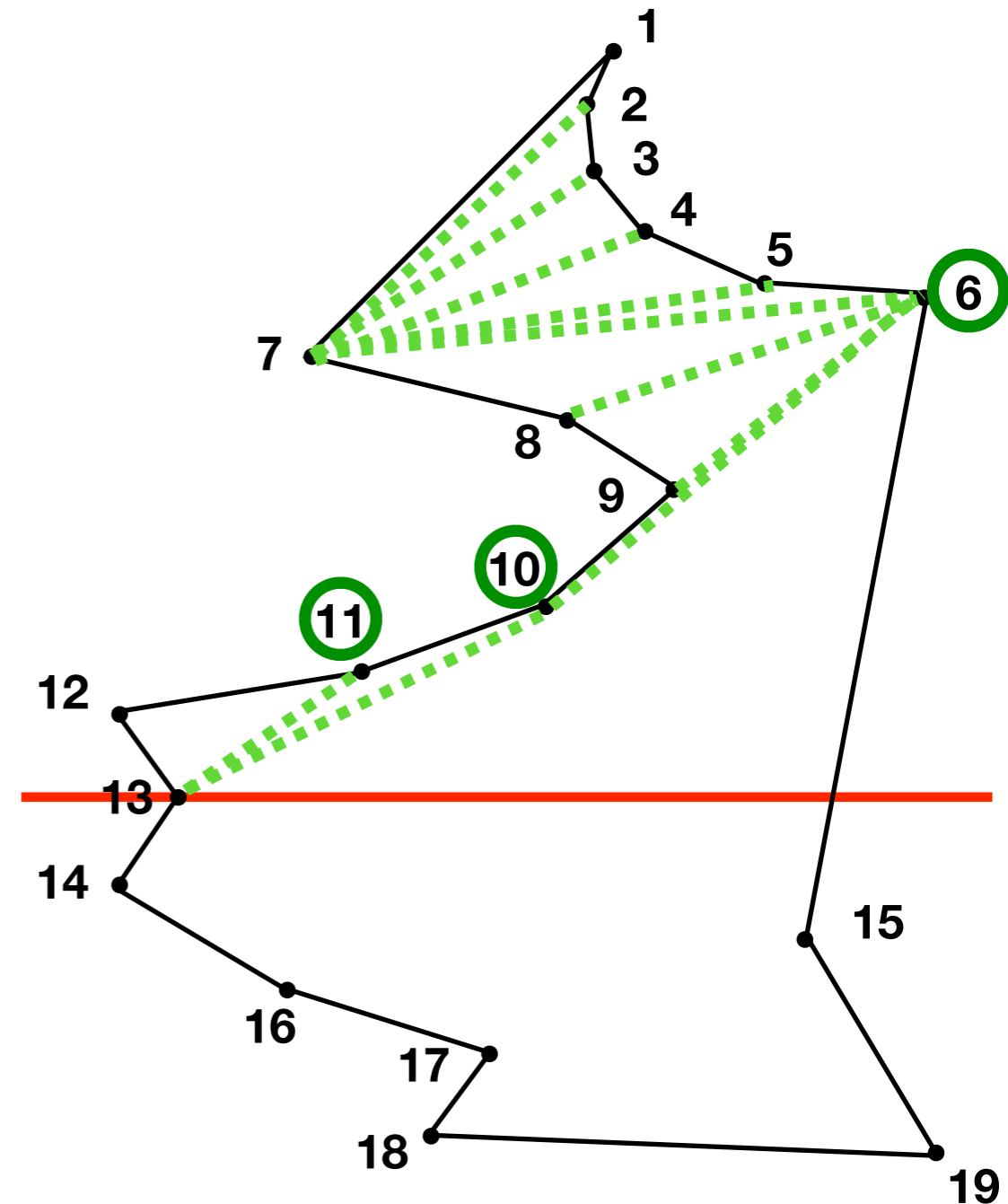
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Queue: 6 10 11



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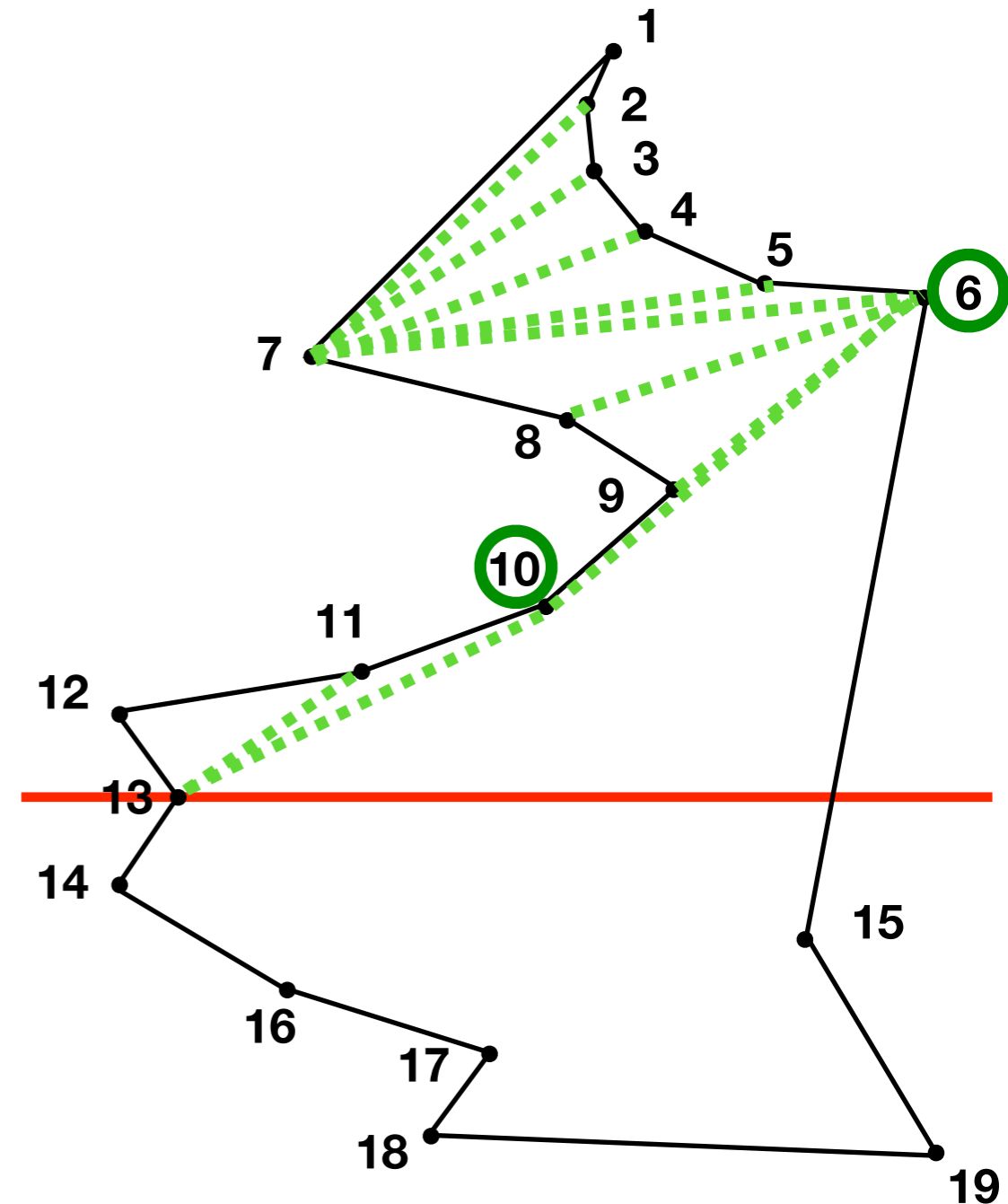
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Queue: 6 10 11



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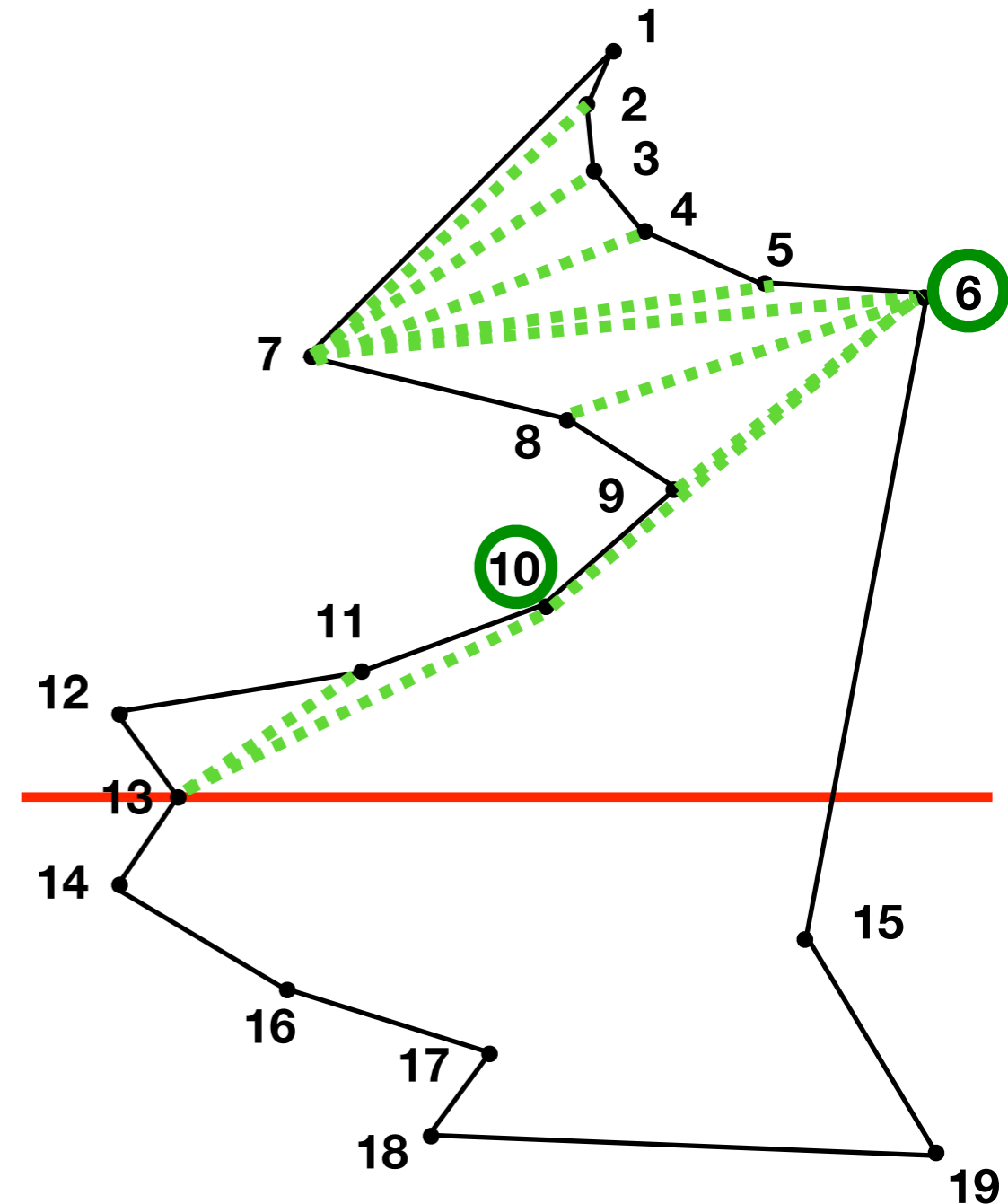
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Queue: 6 10



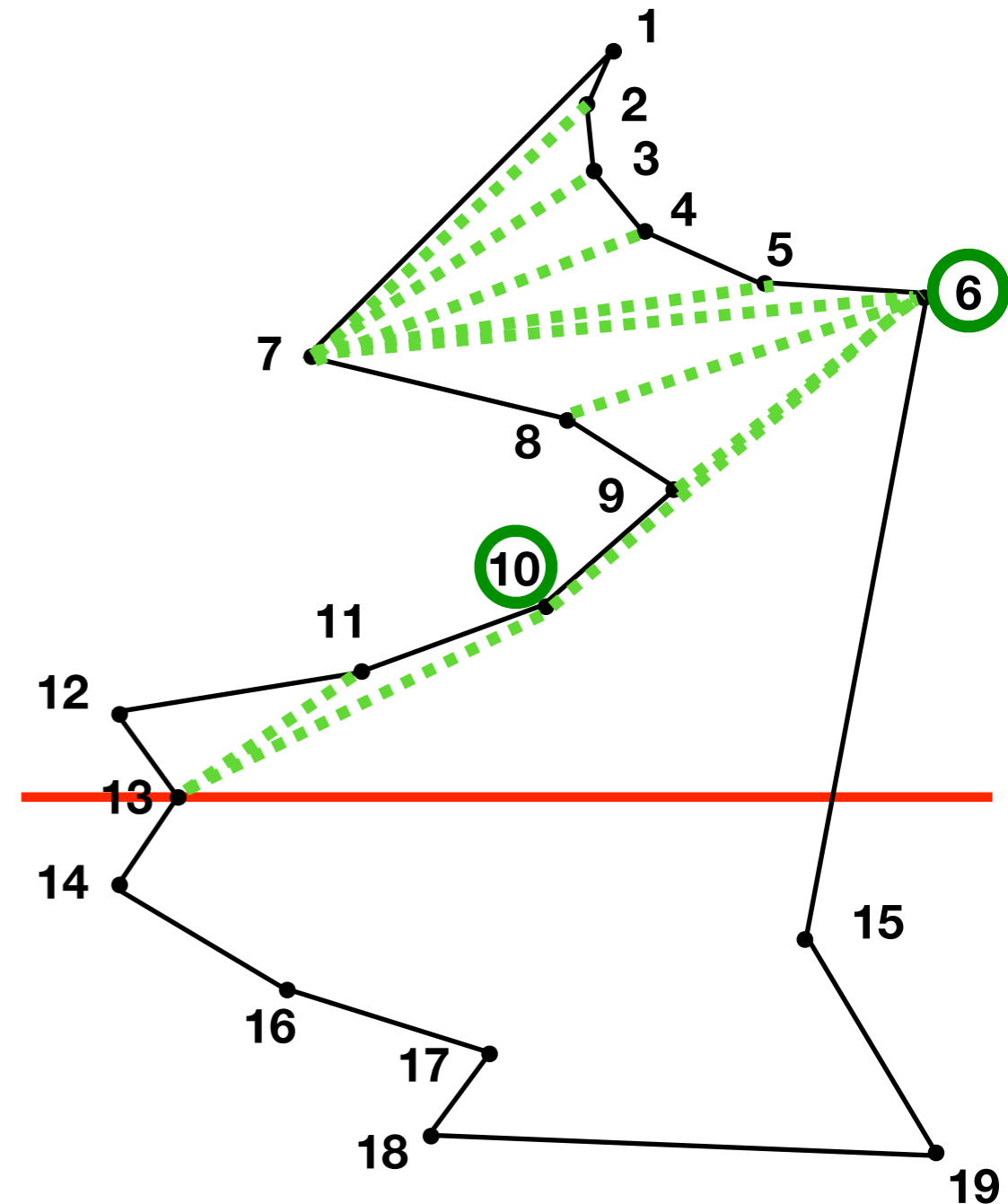
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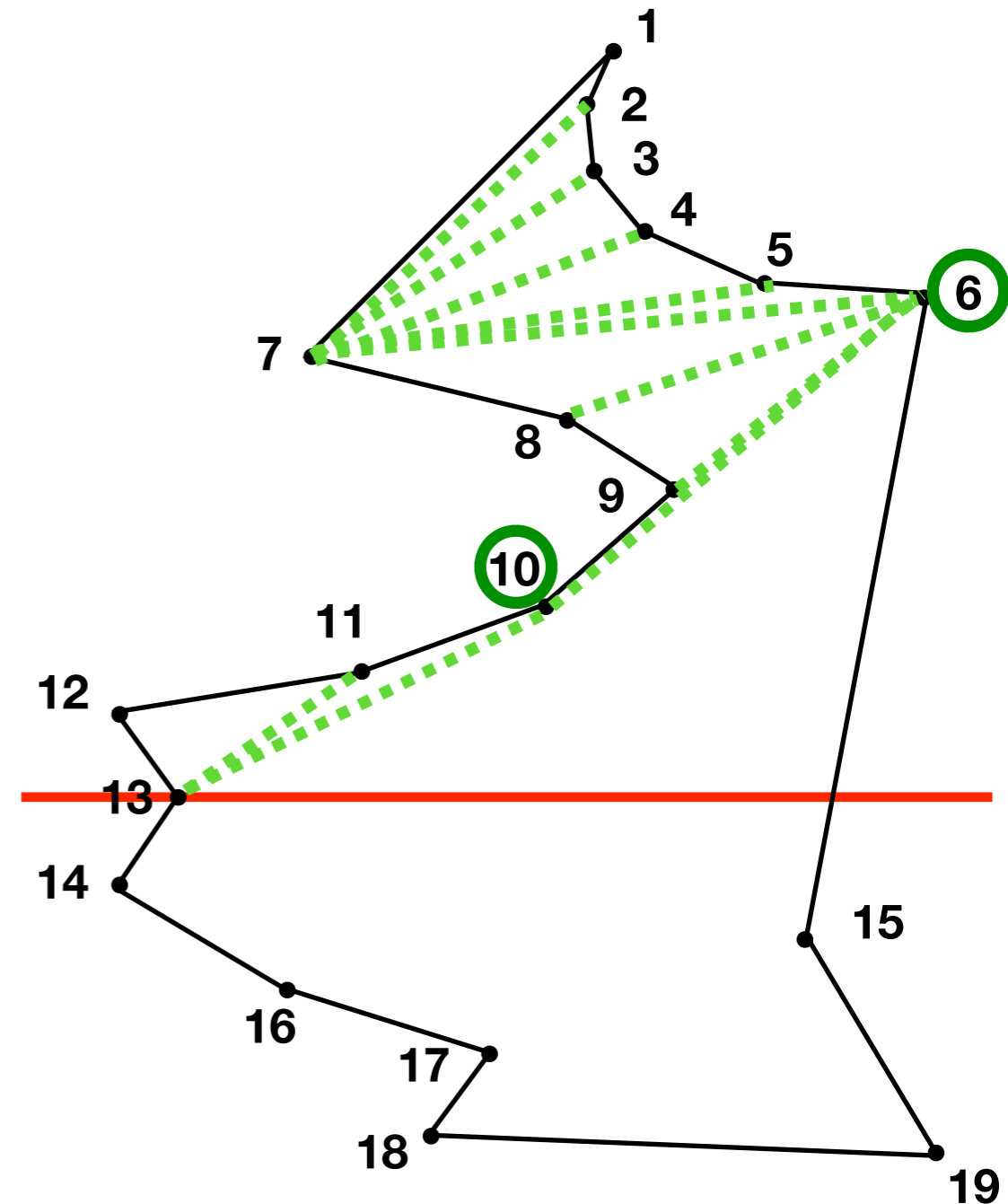
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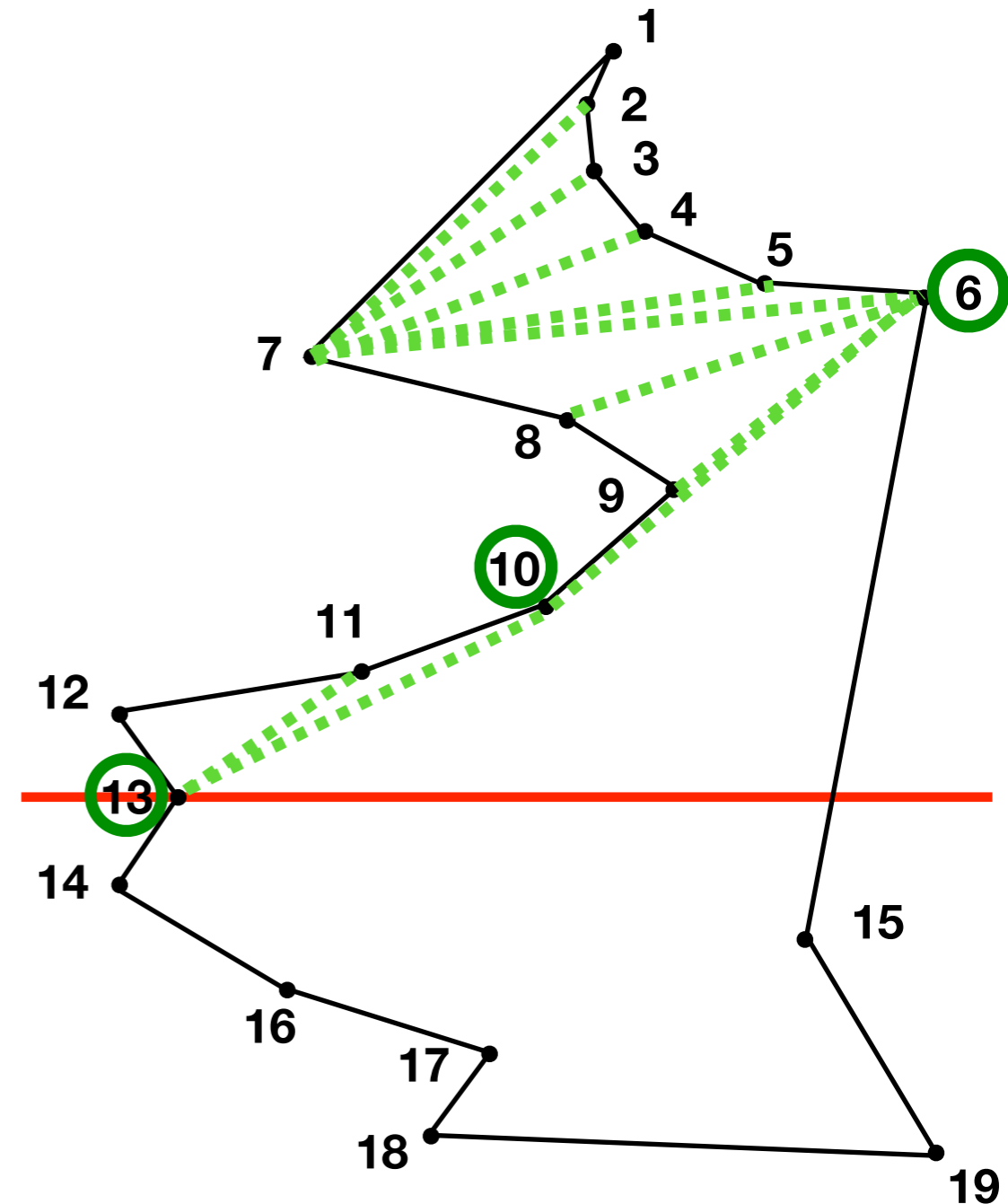
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Queue: 6 10



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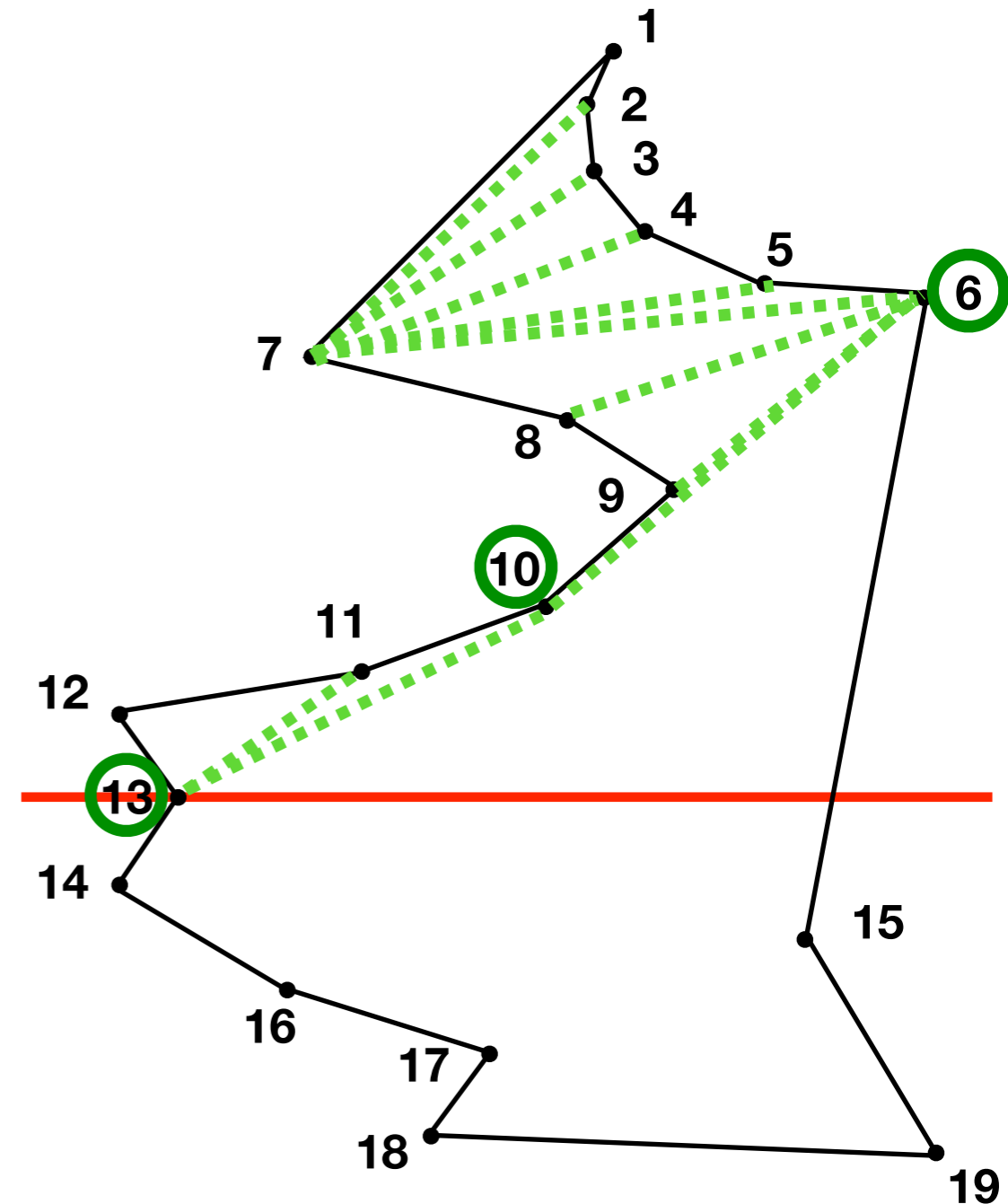
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Queue: 6 10 13



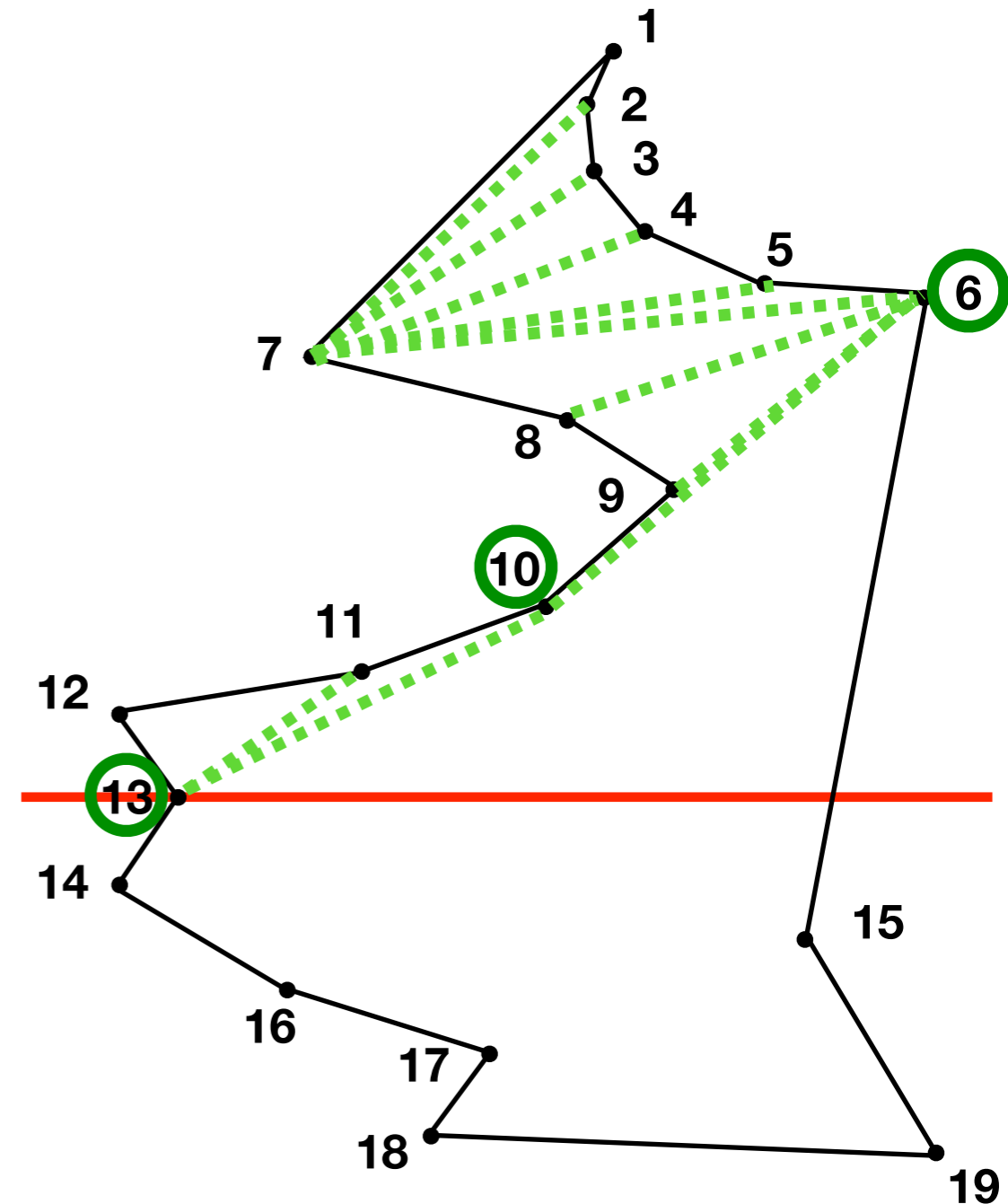
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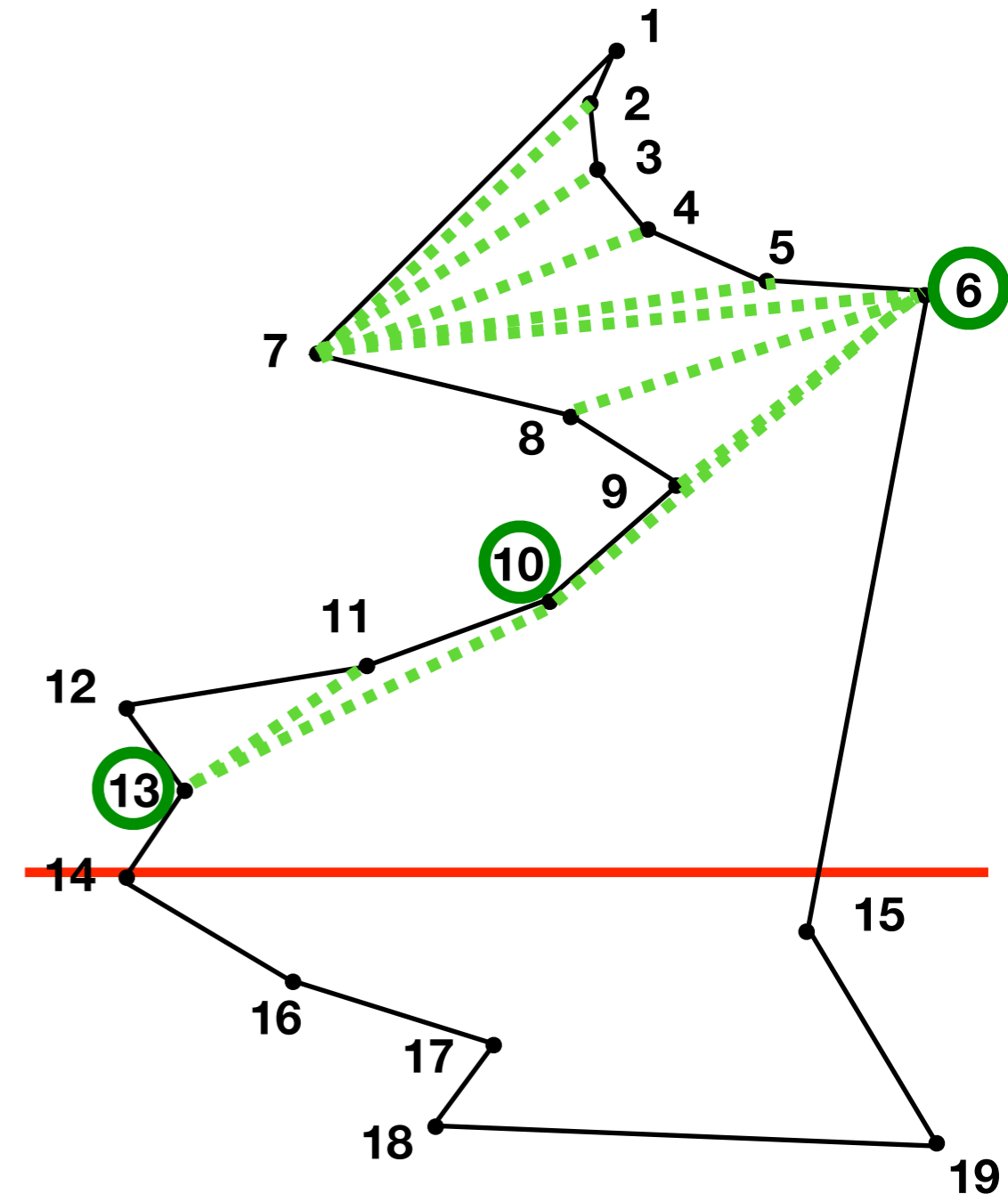
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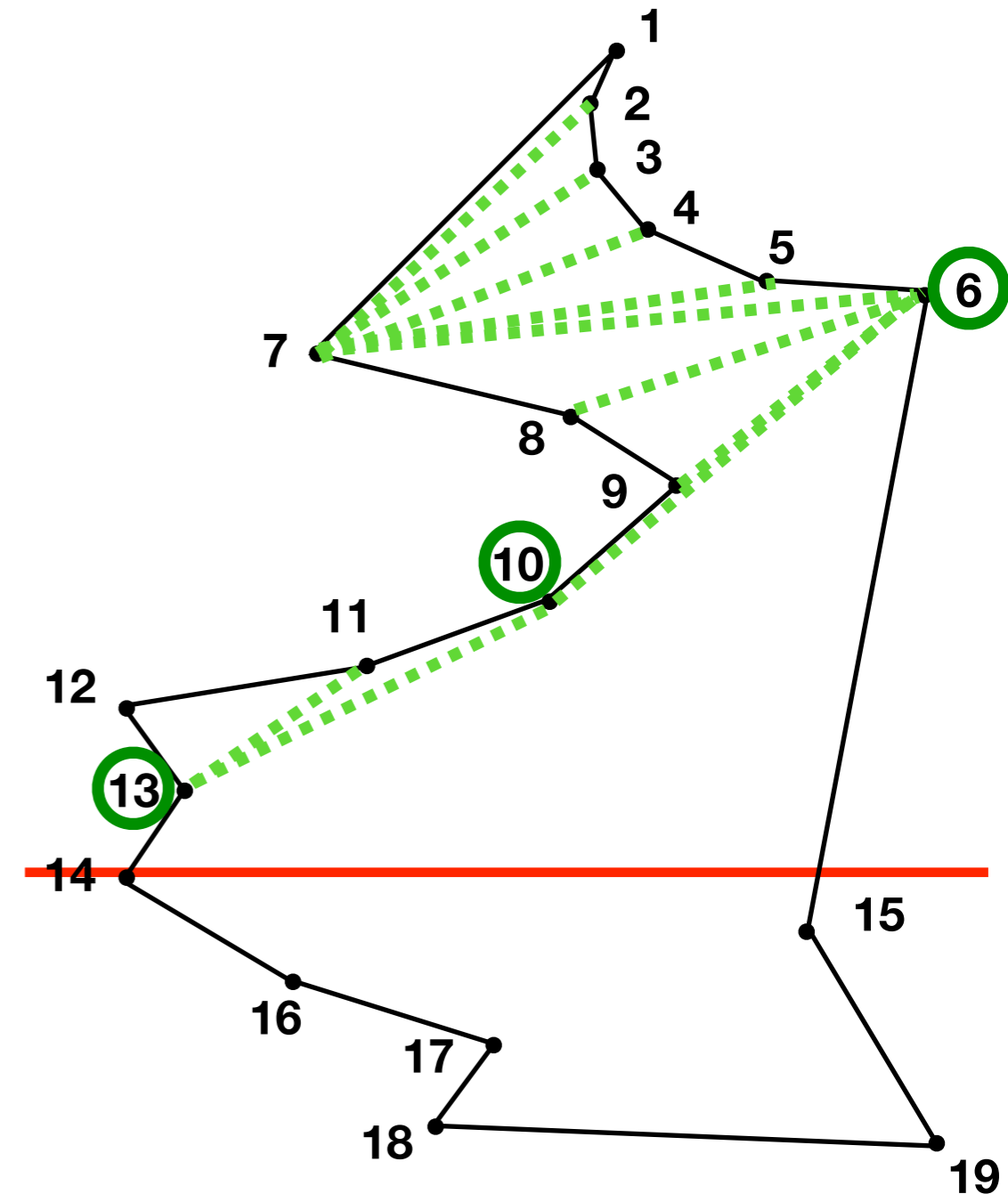
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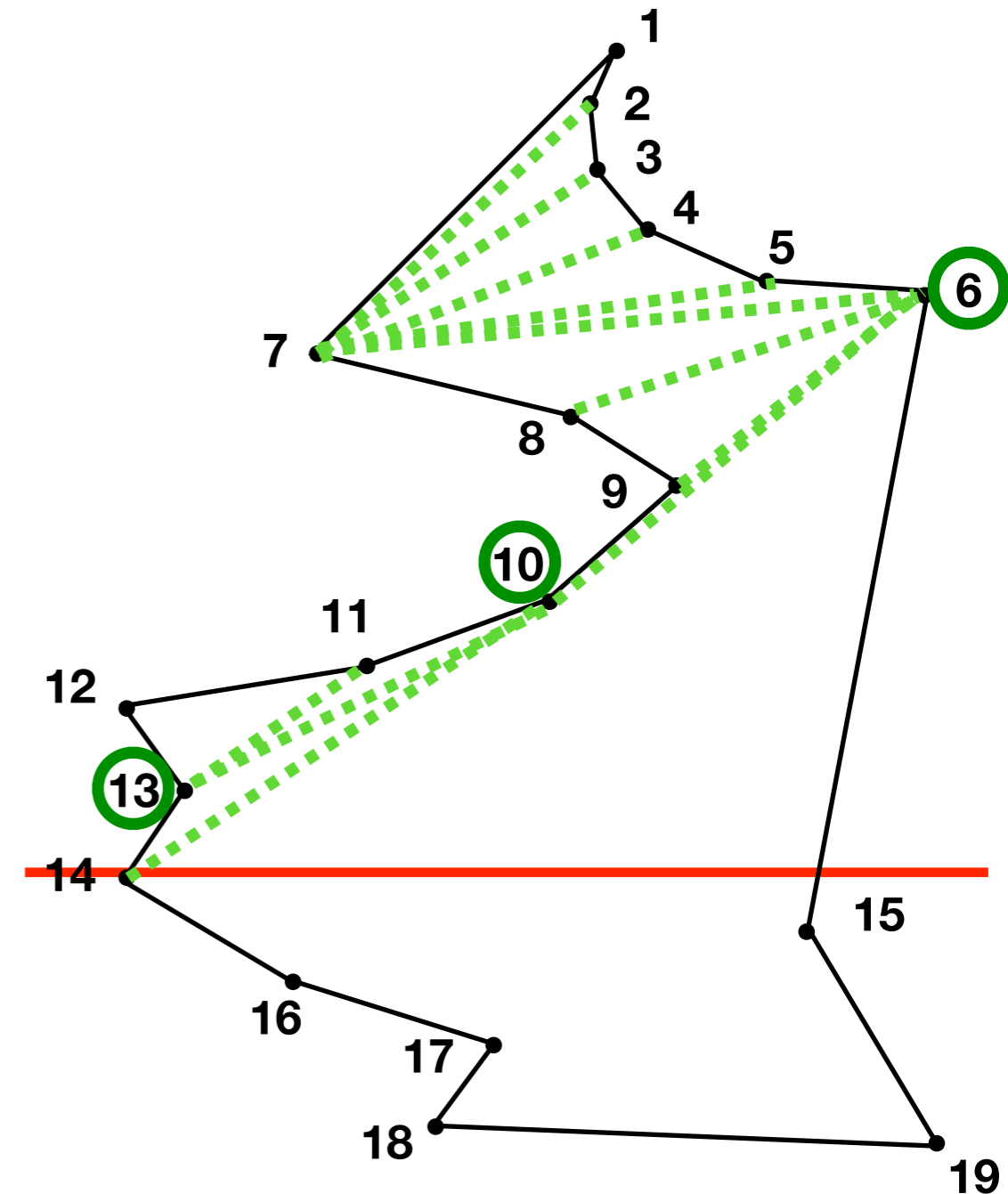
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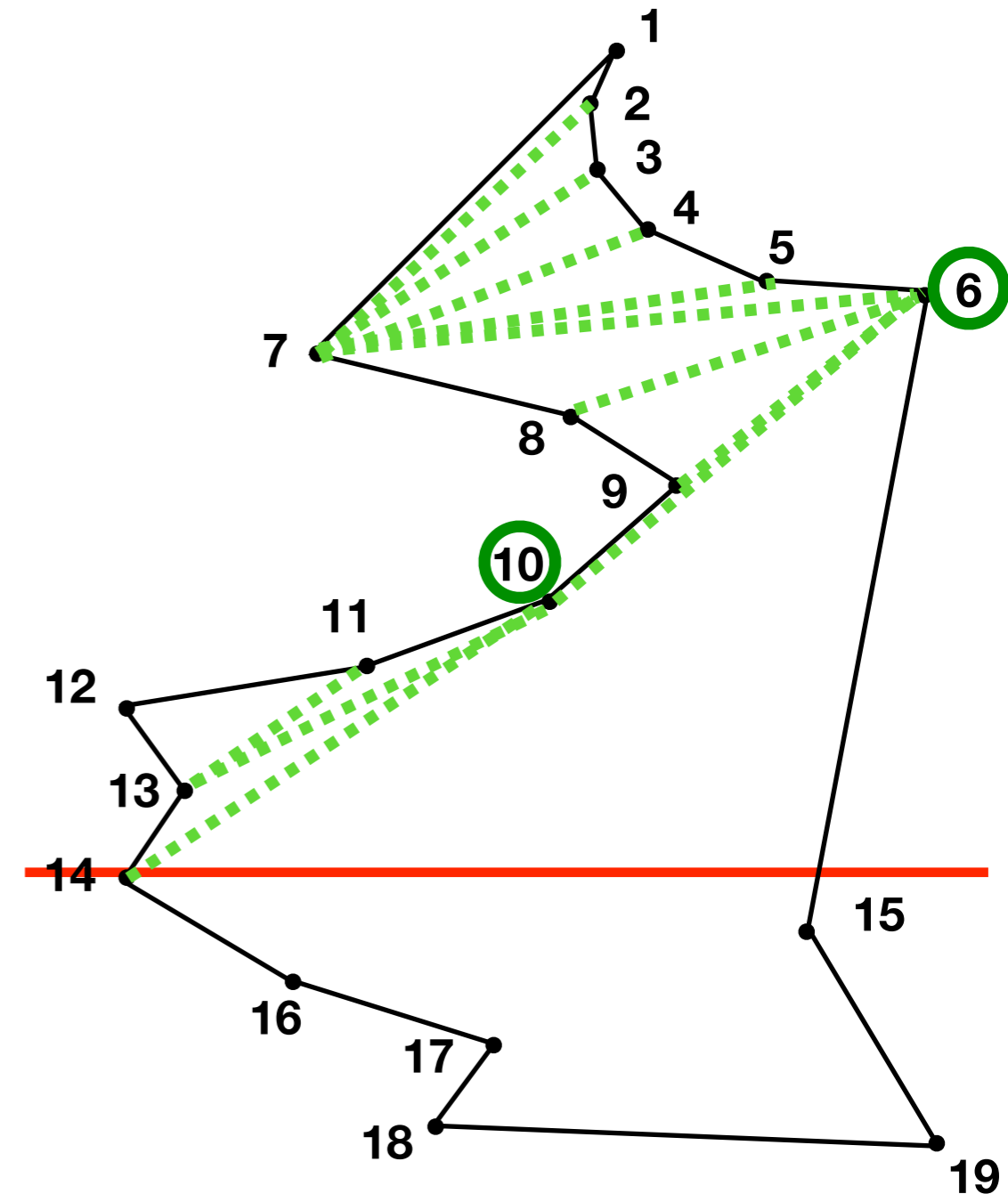
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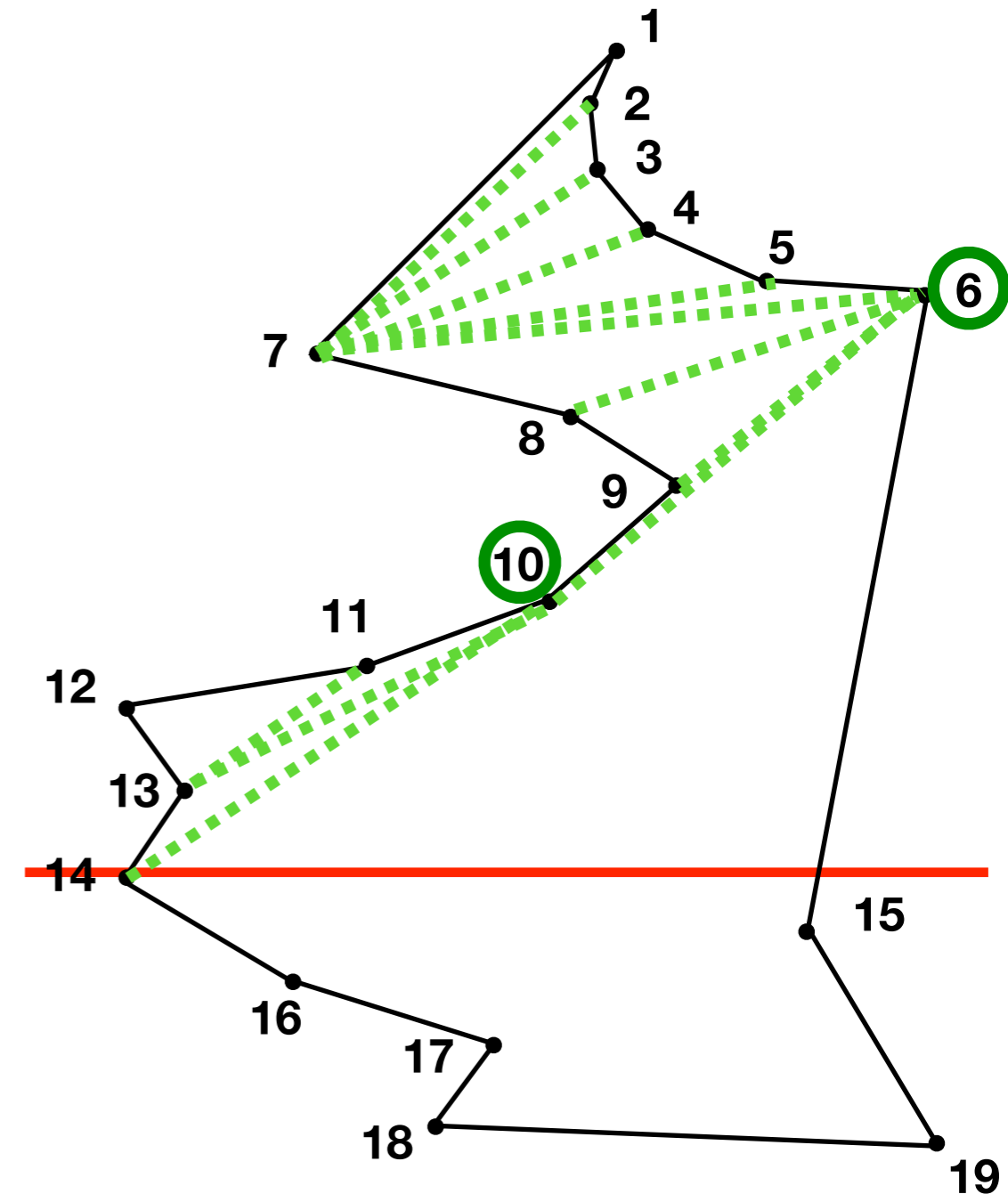
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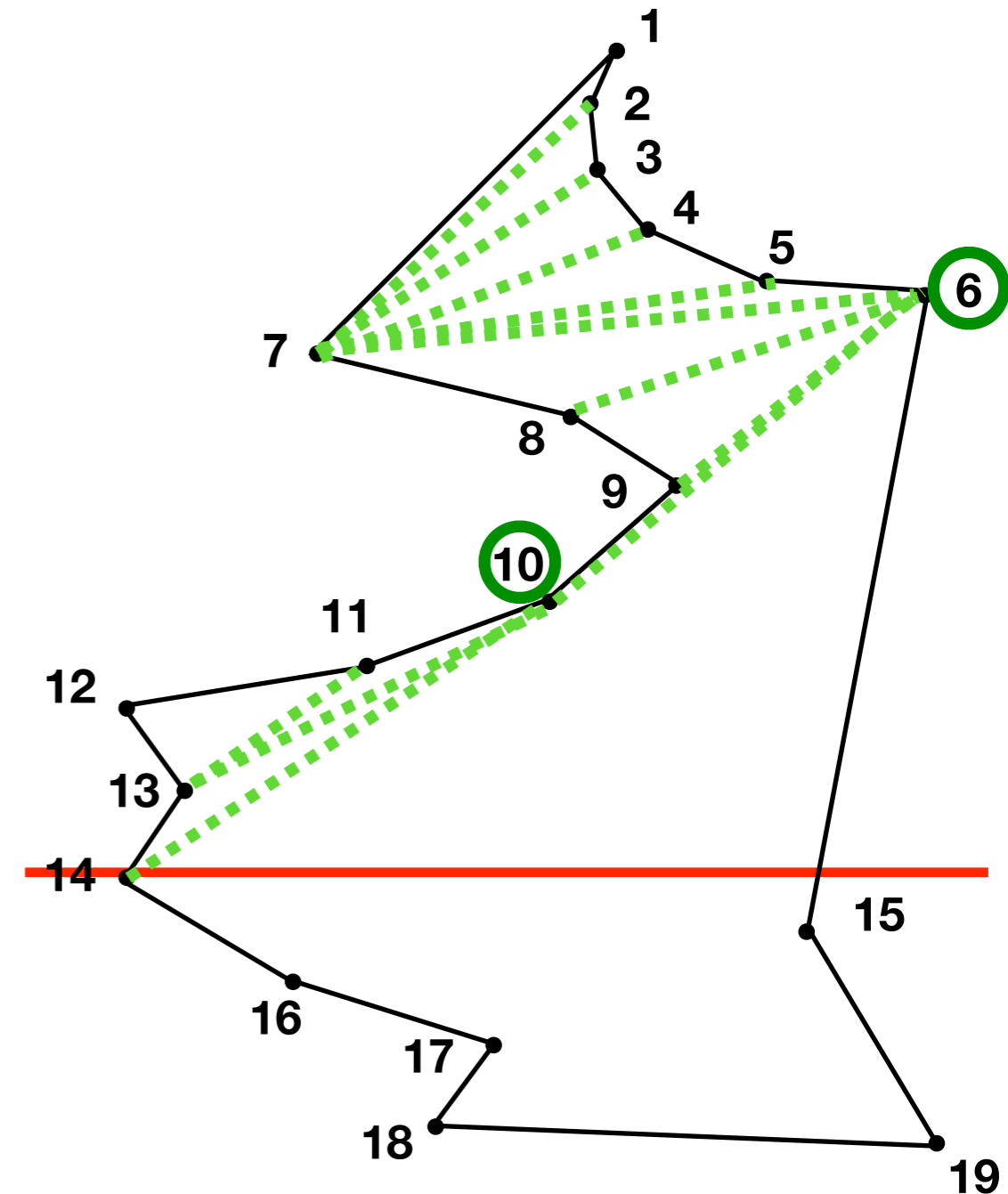
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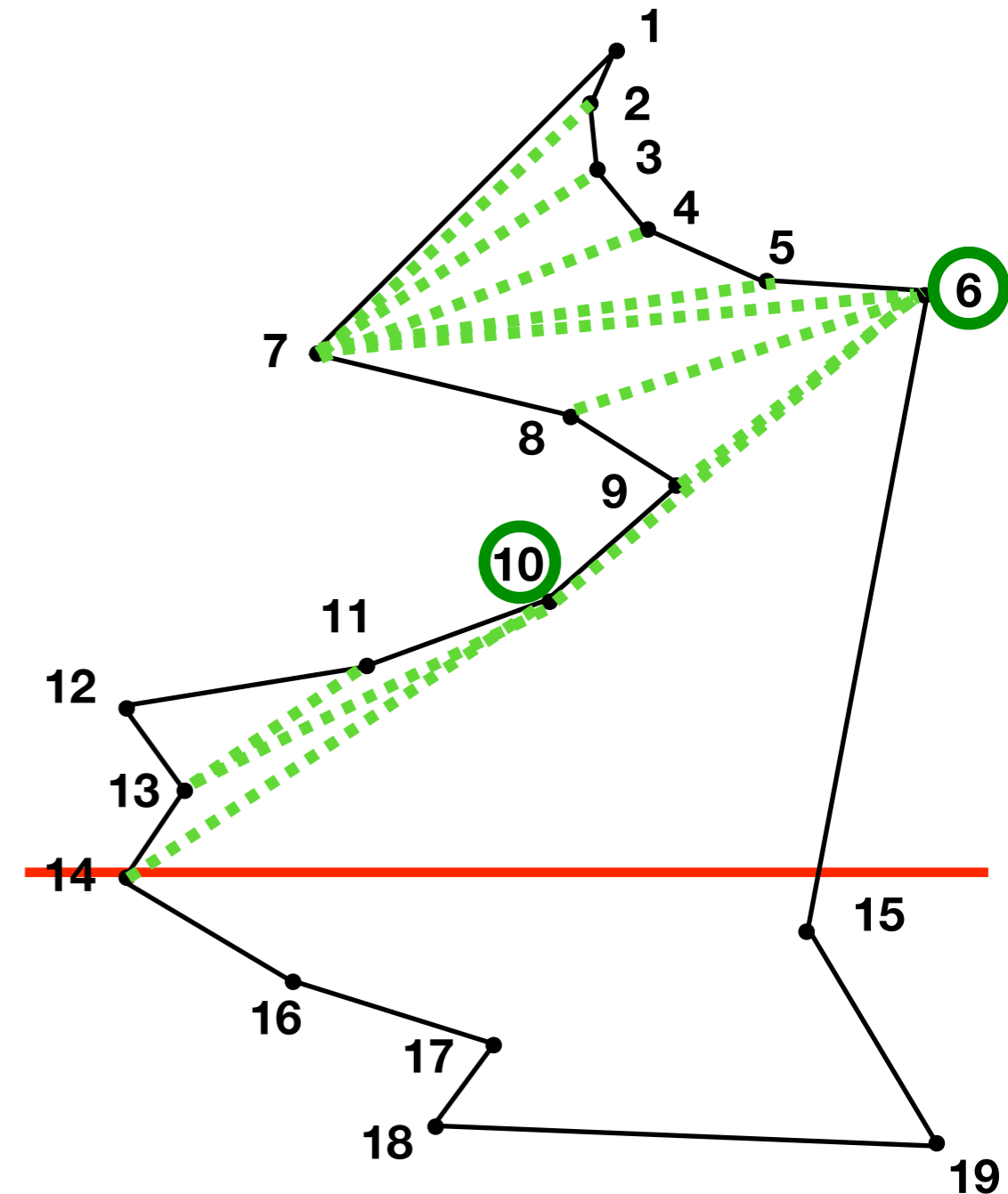
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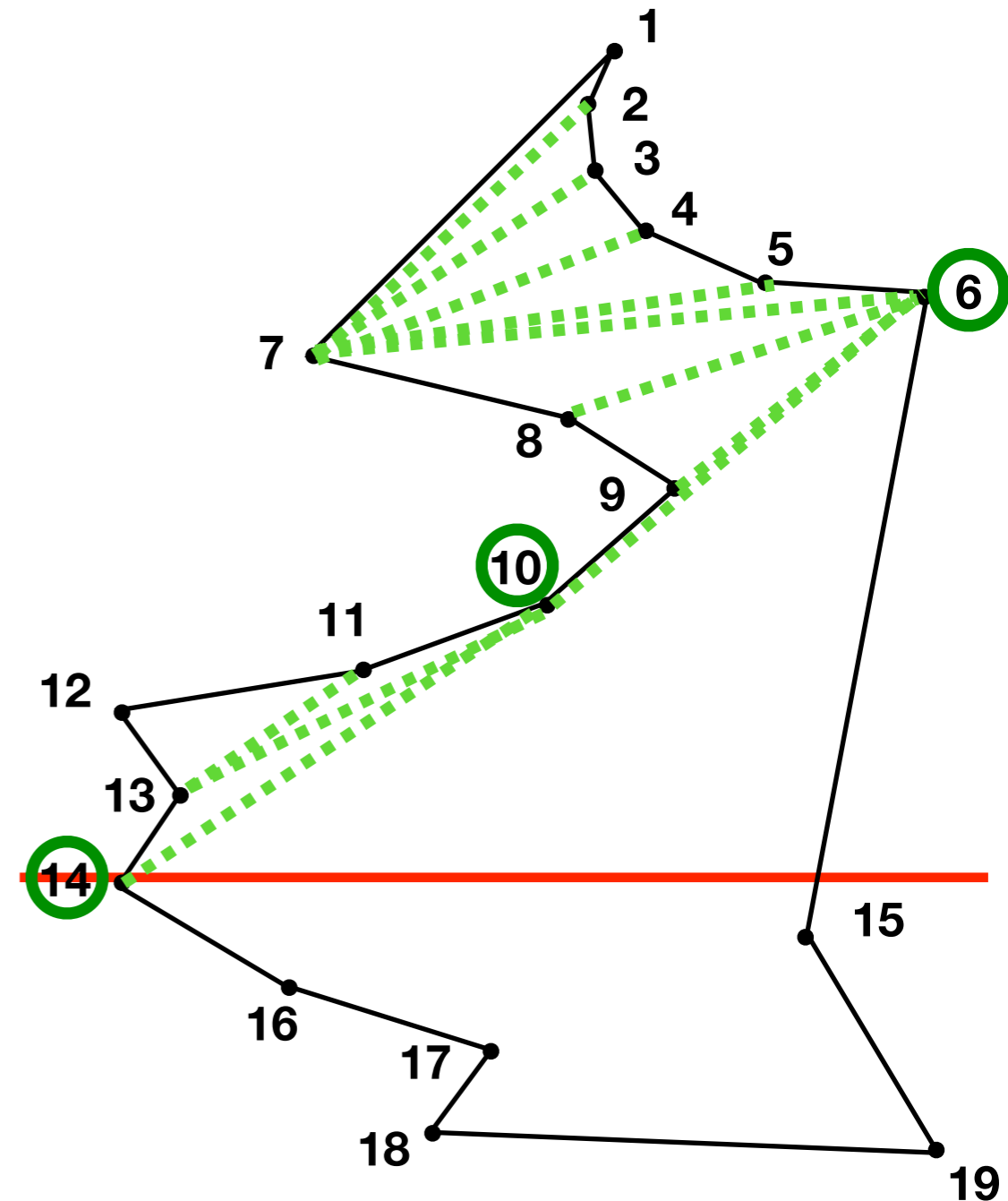
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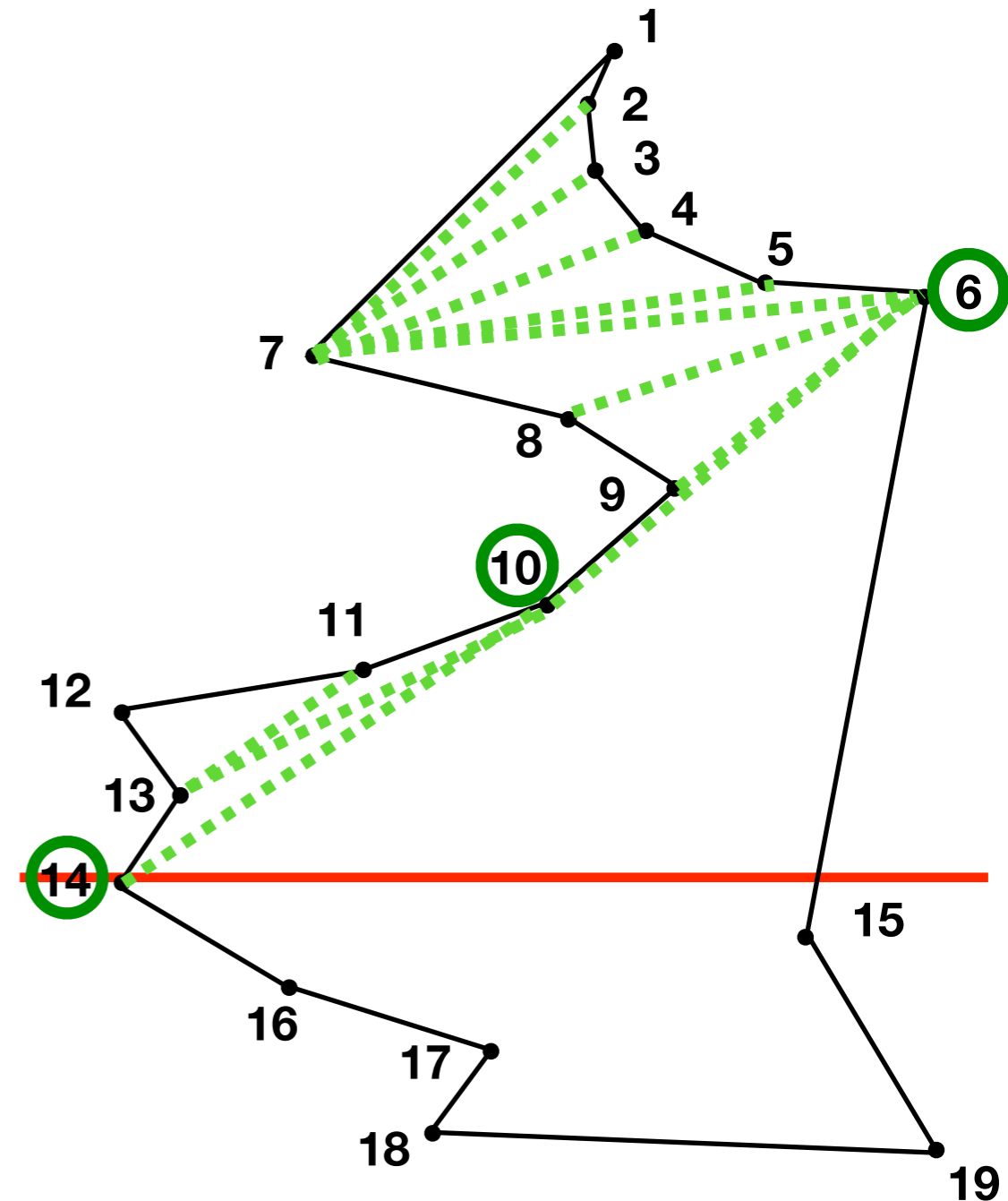
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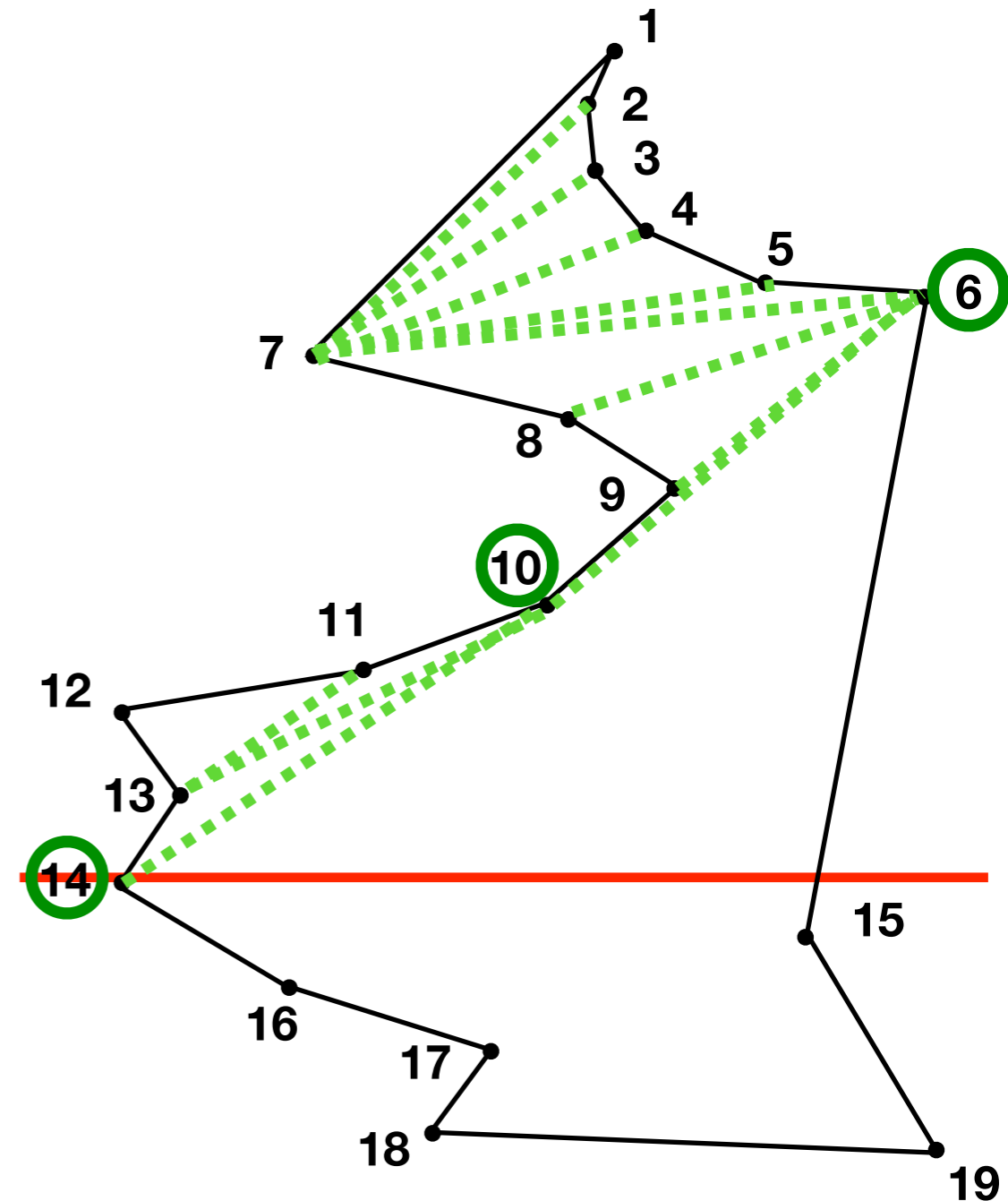
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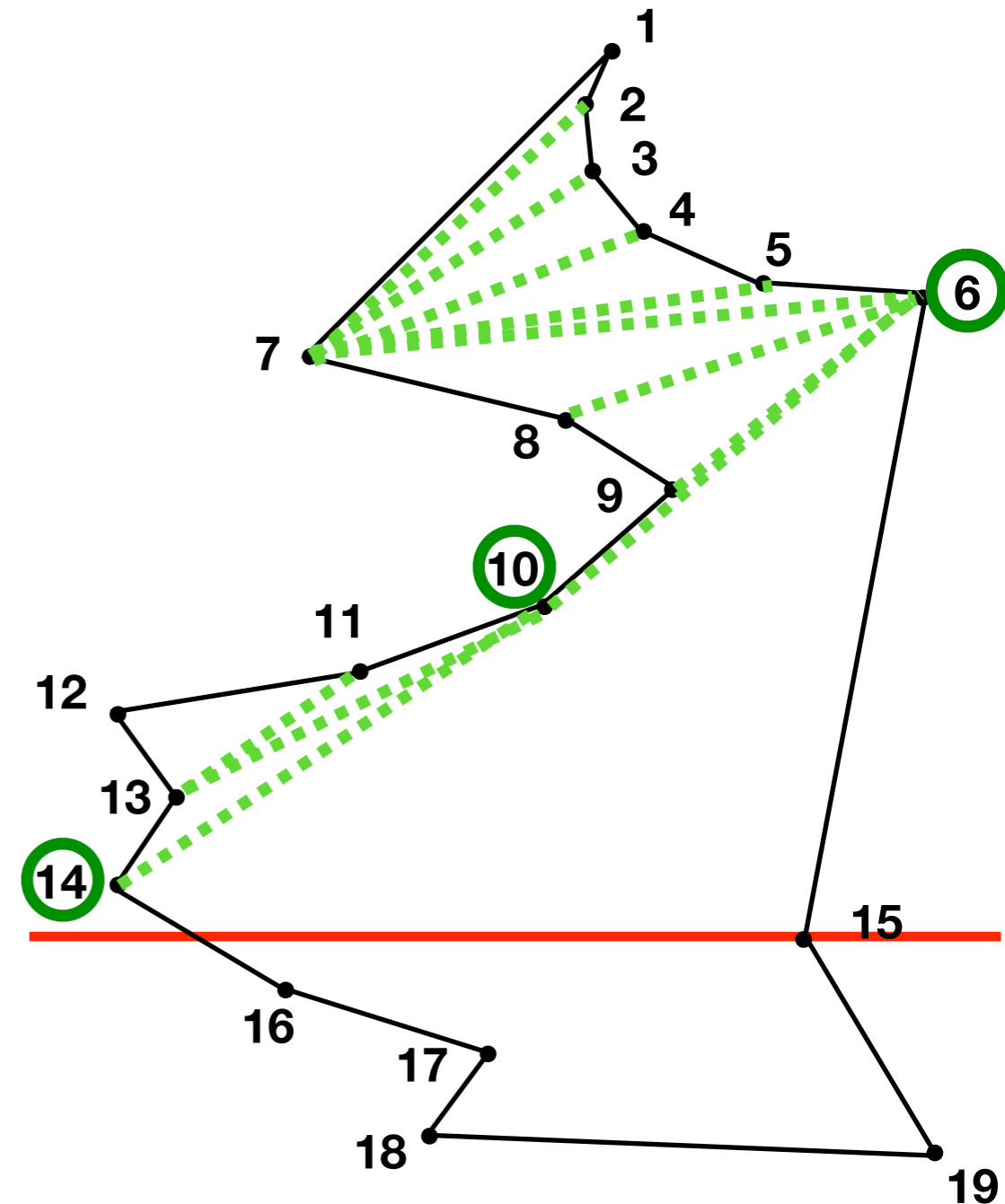
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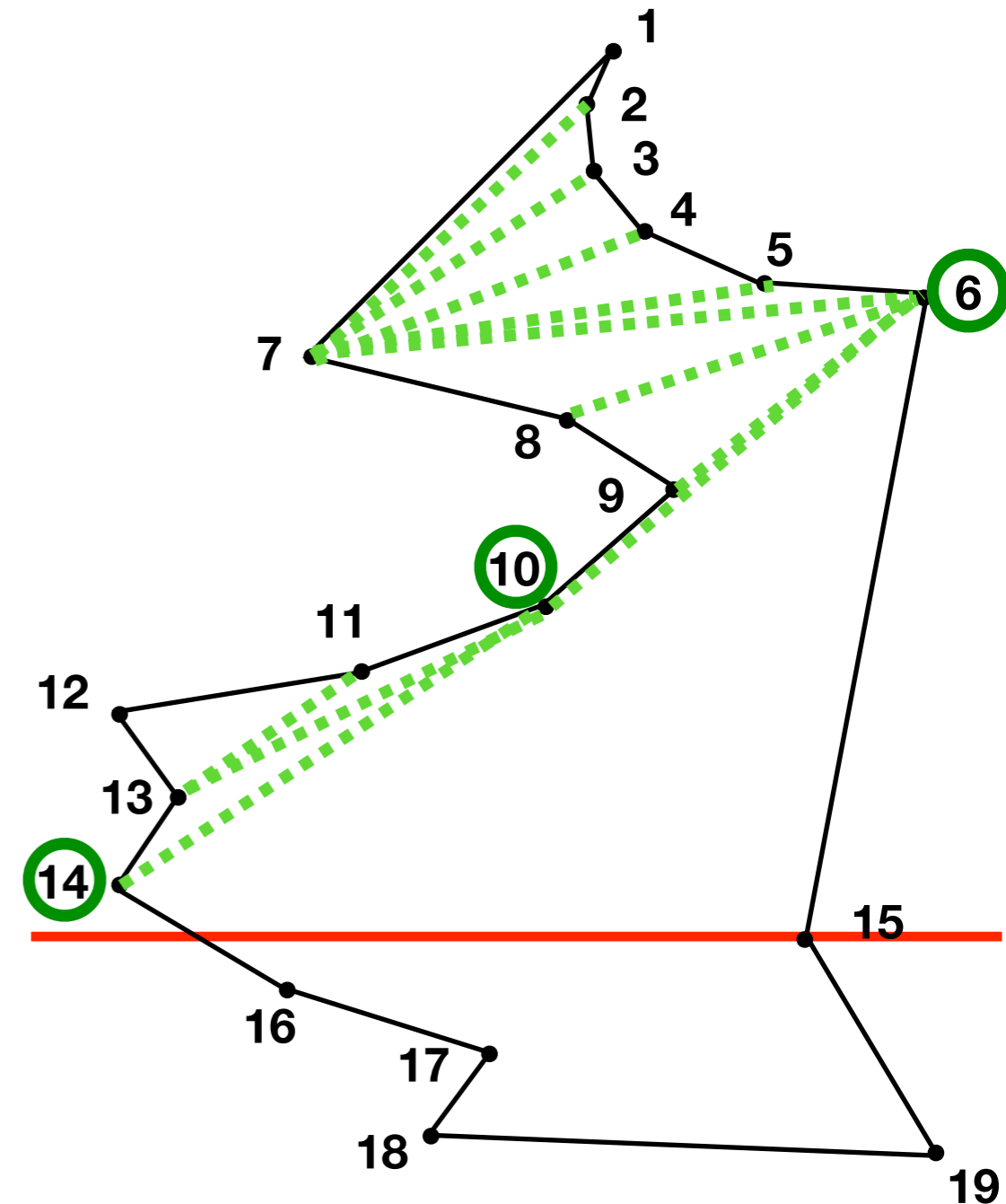
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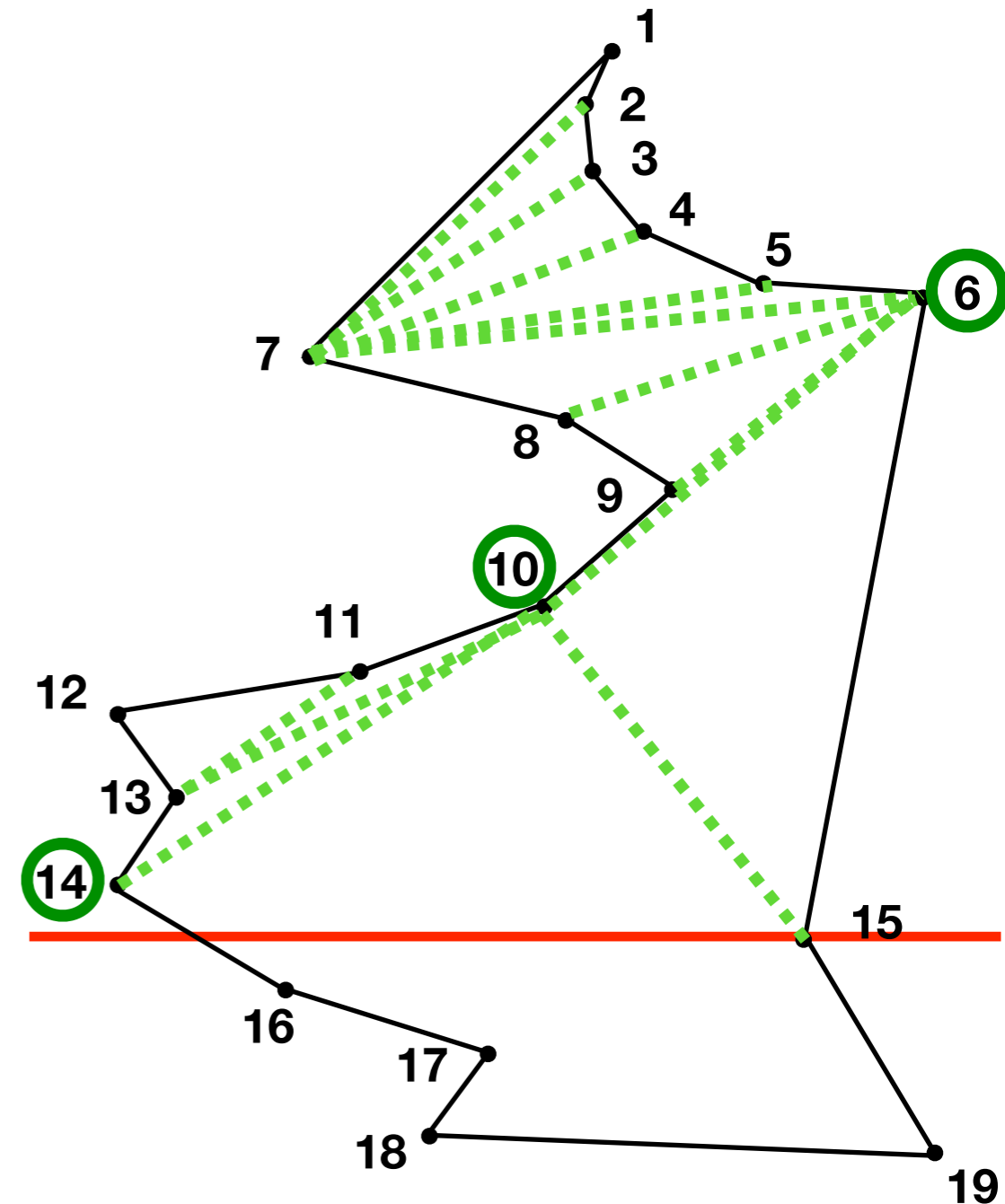
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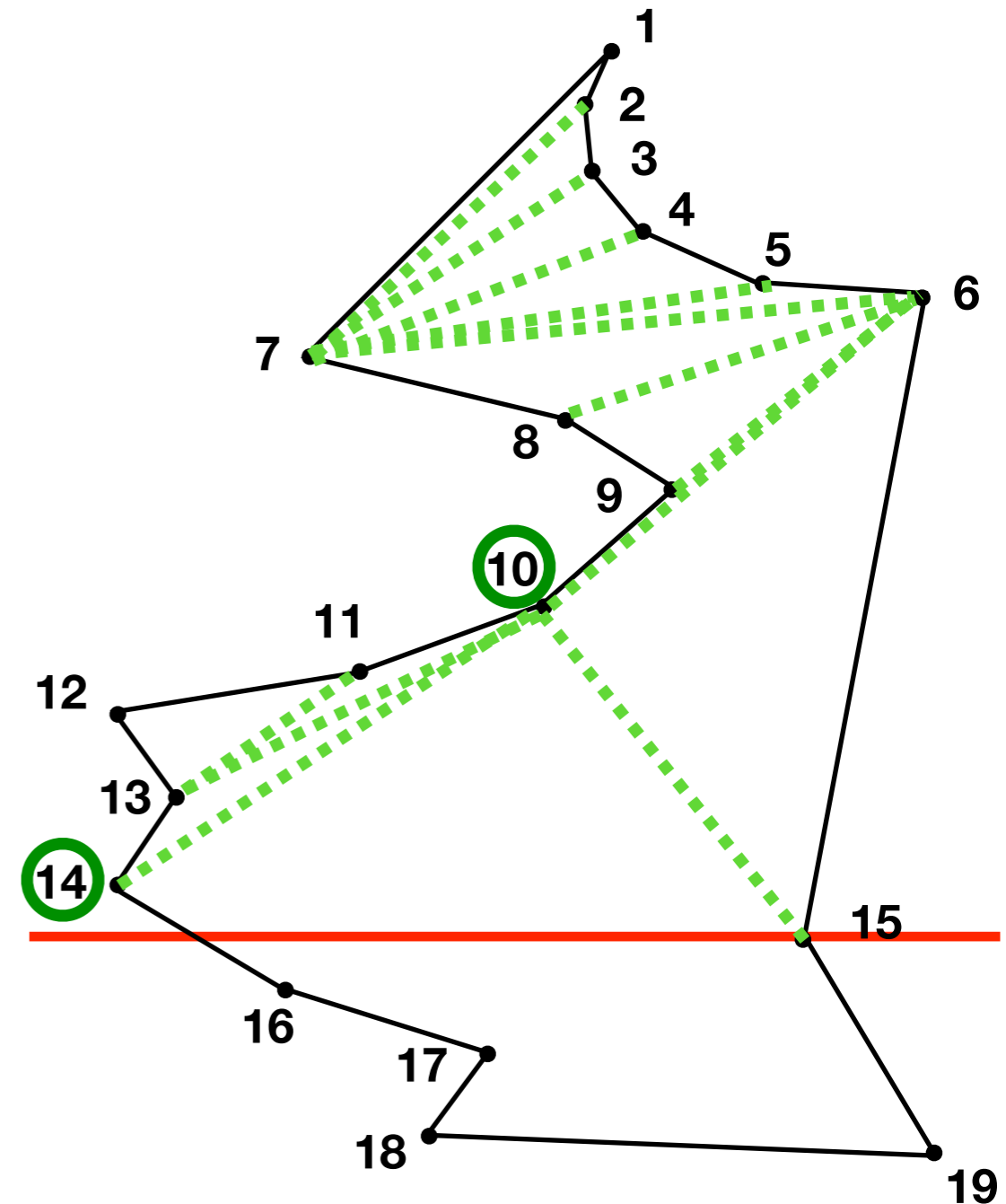
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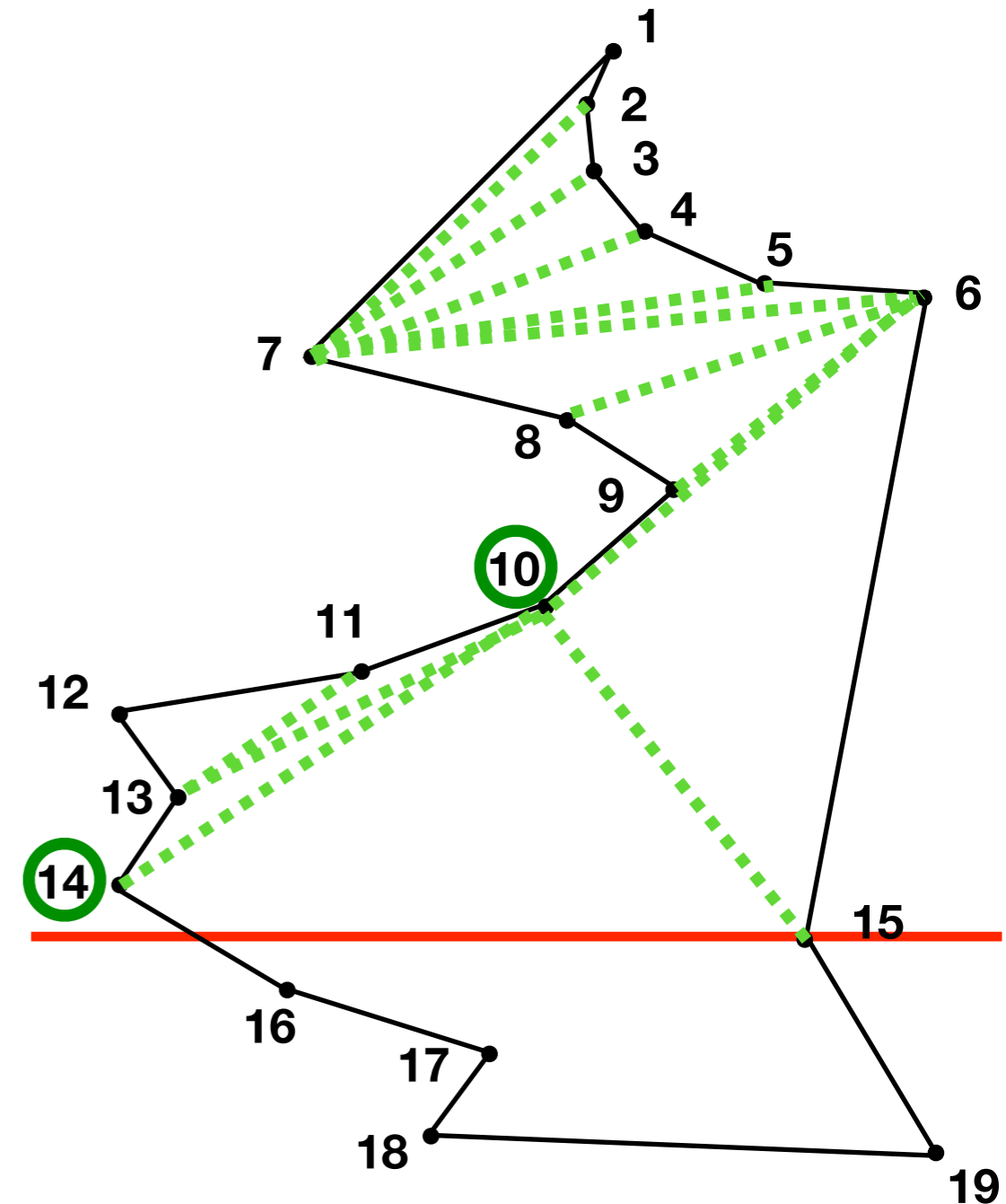
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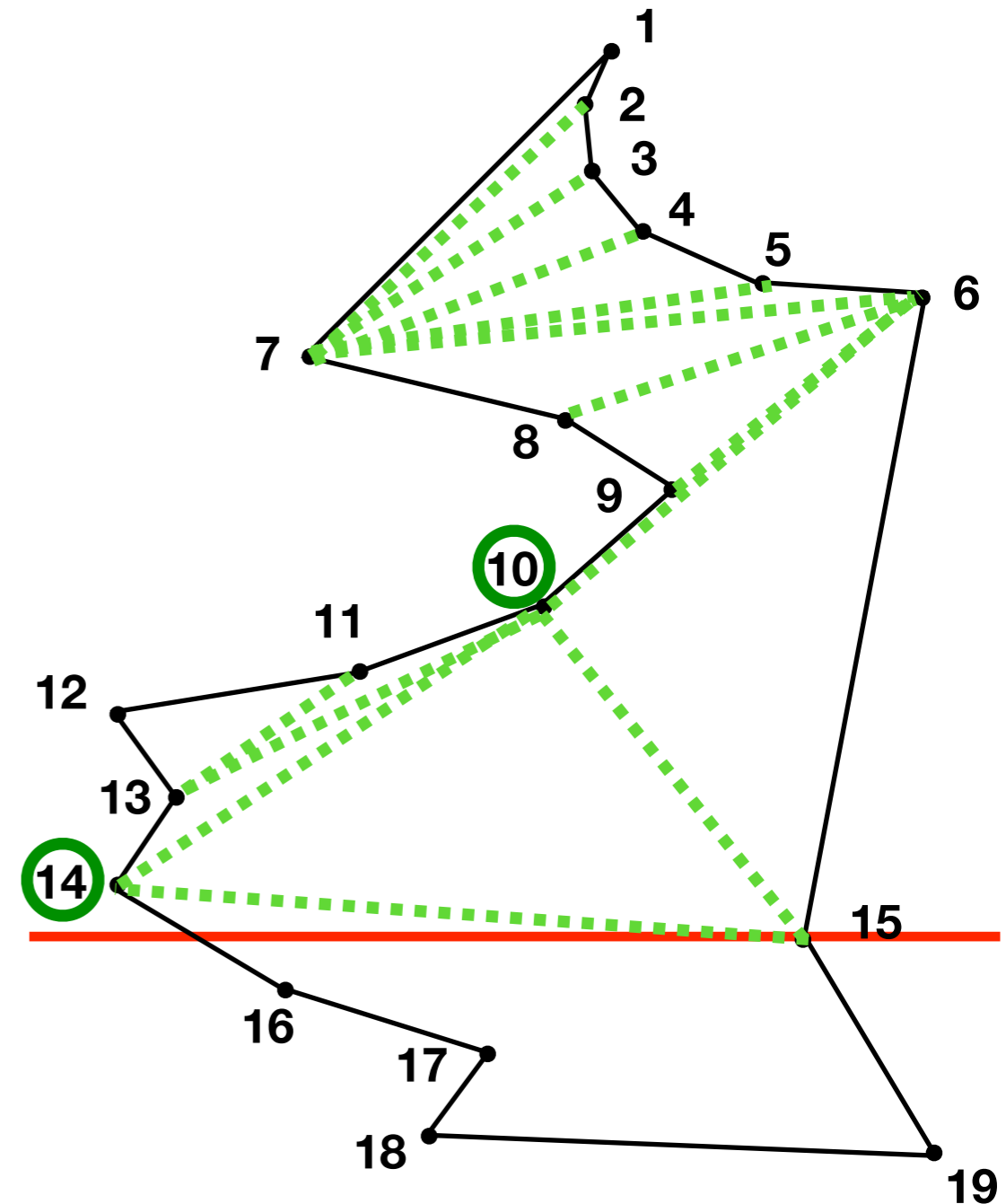
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    - Ear! Connect and update

**Chain**

**Add**

**Ear**

Queue: 10 14



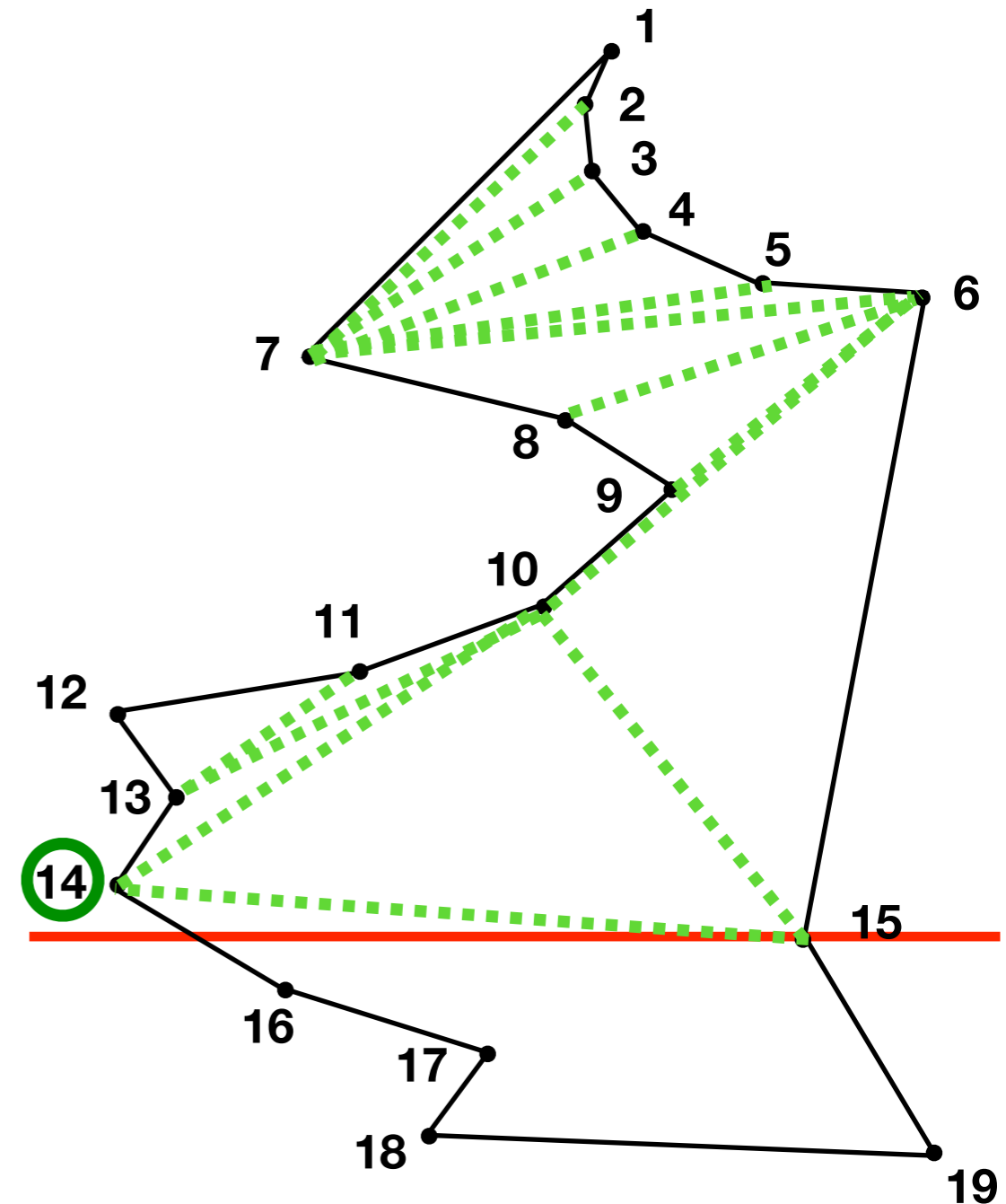
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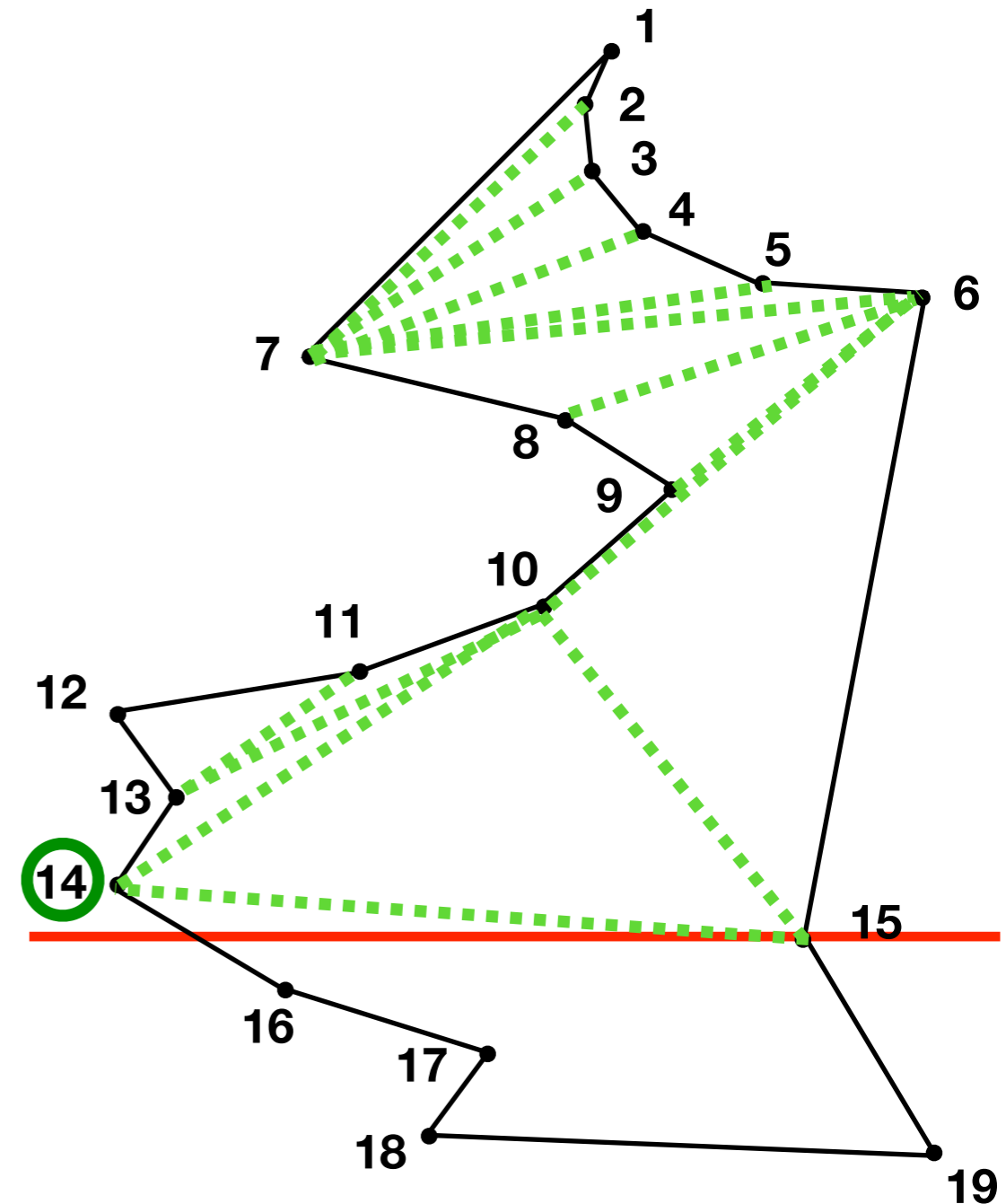
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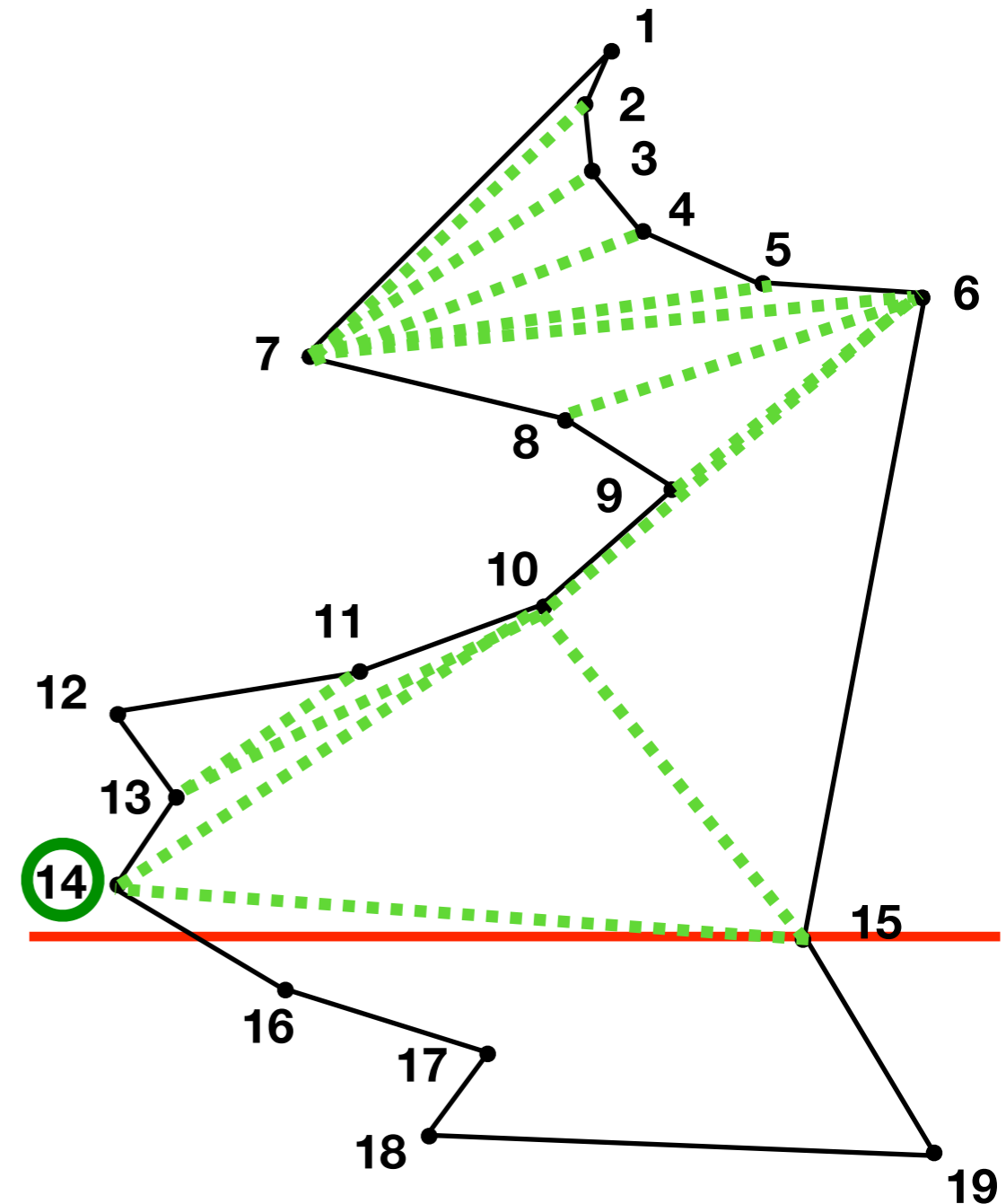
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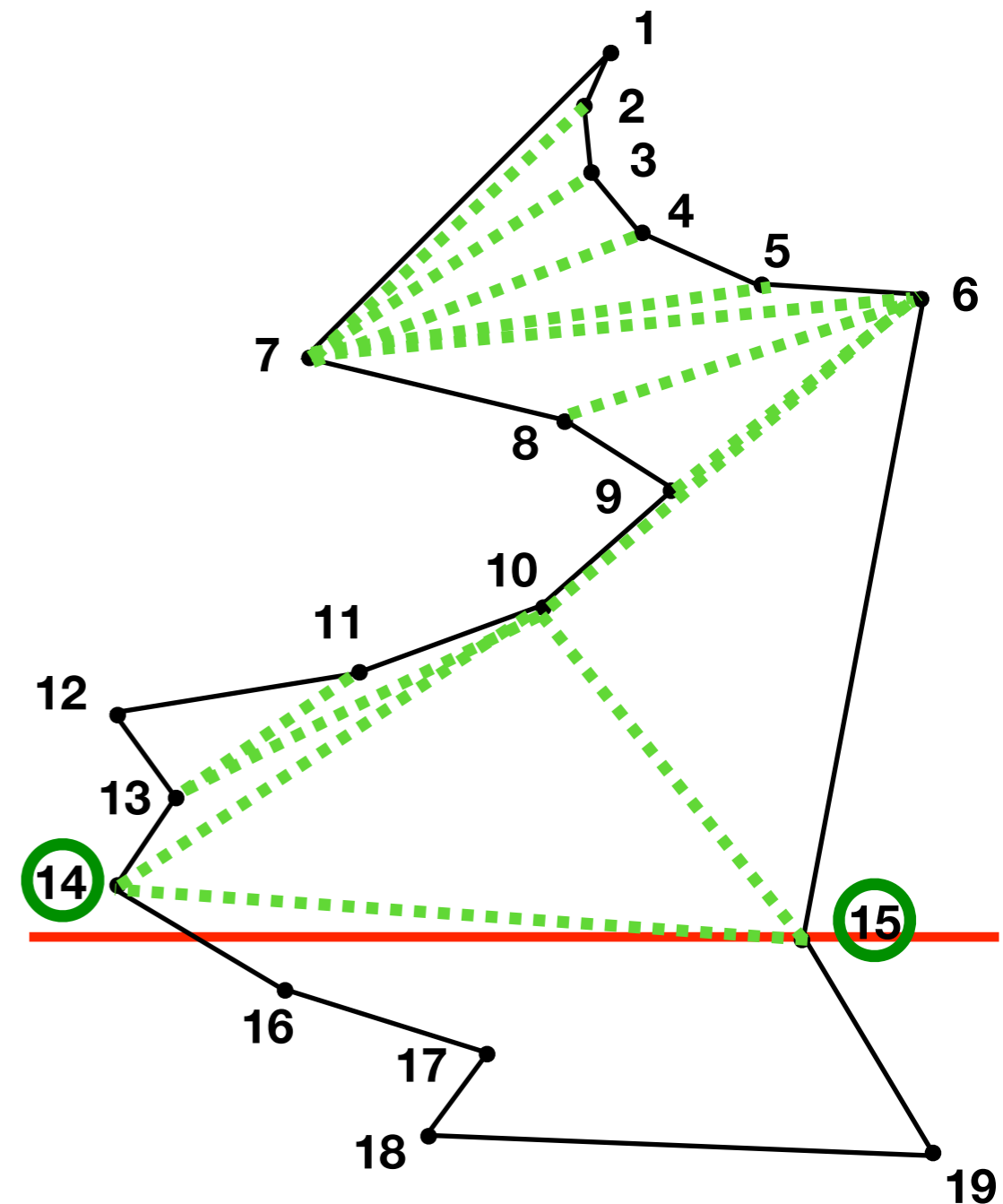
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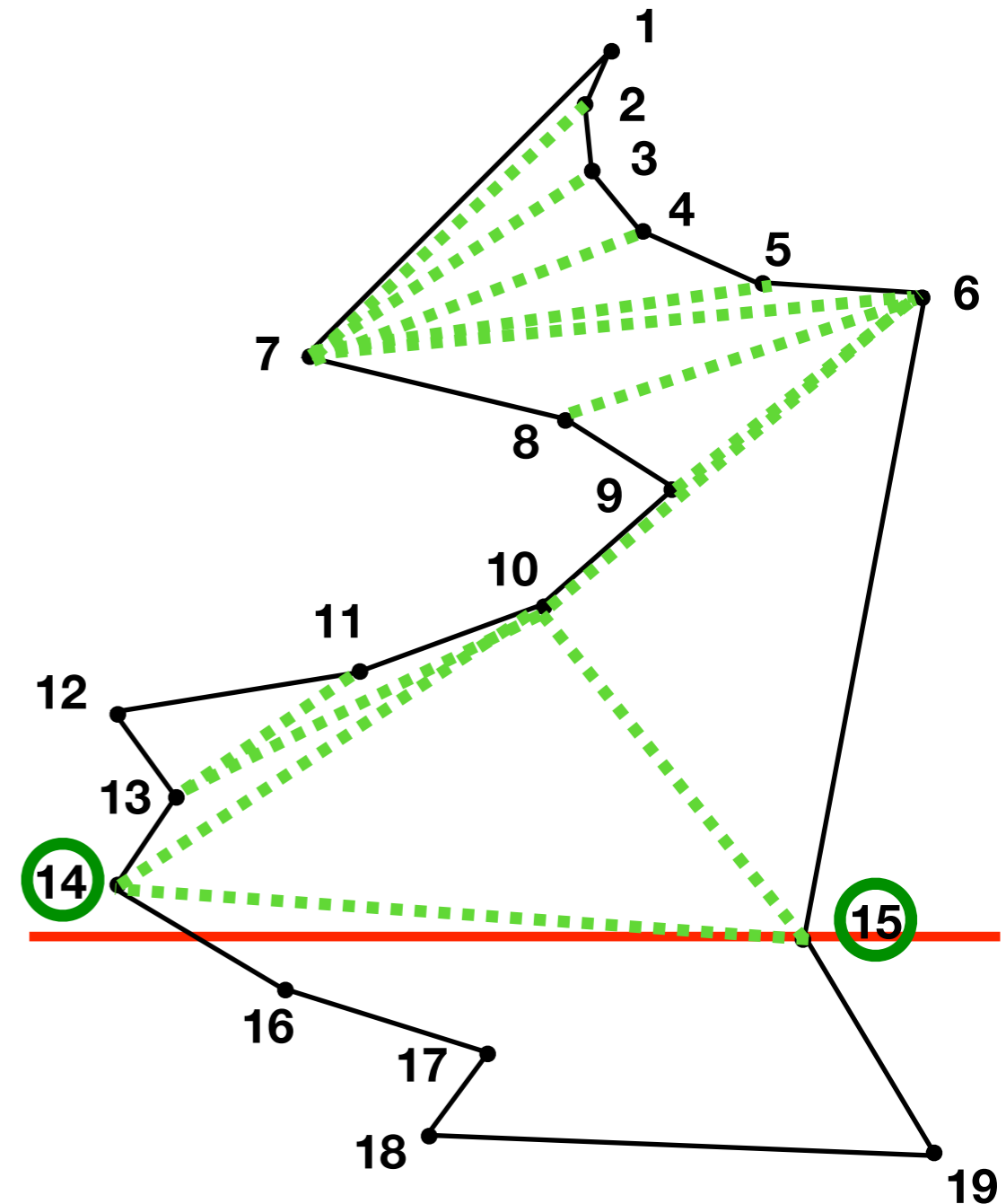
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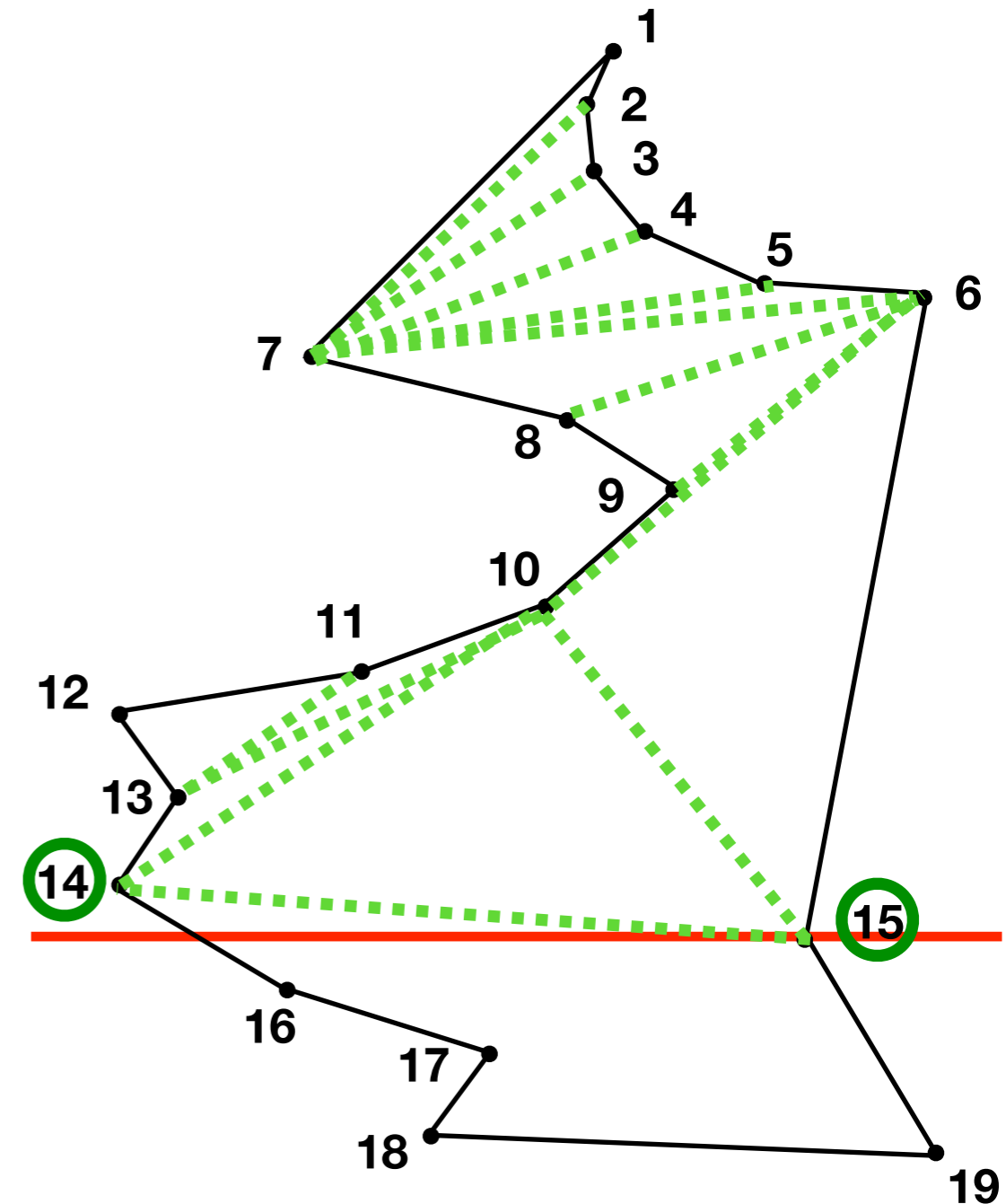
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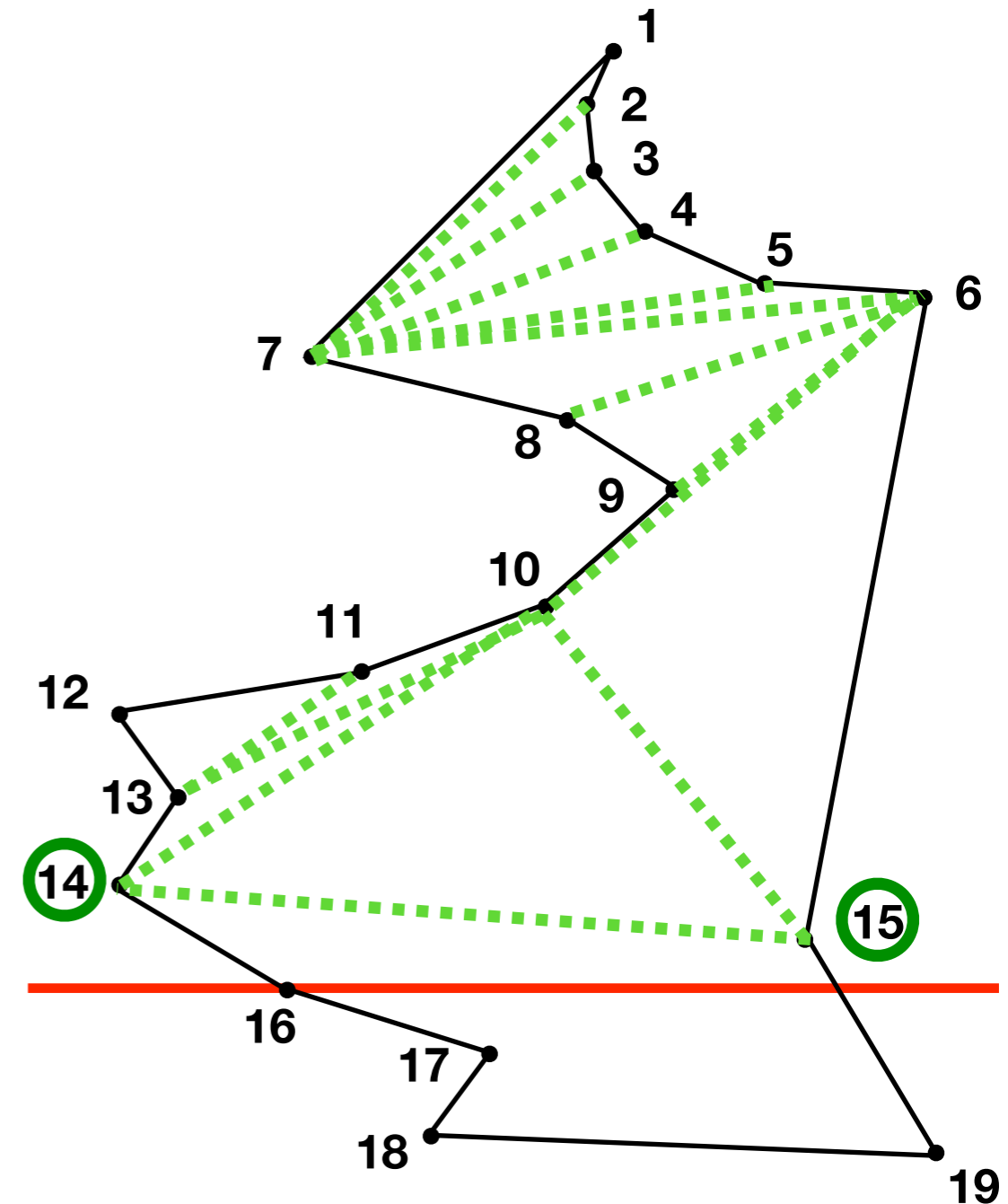
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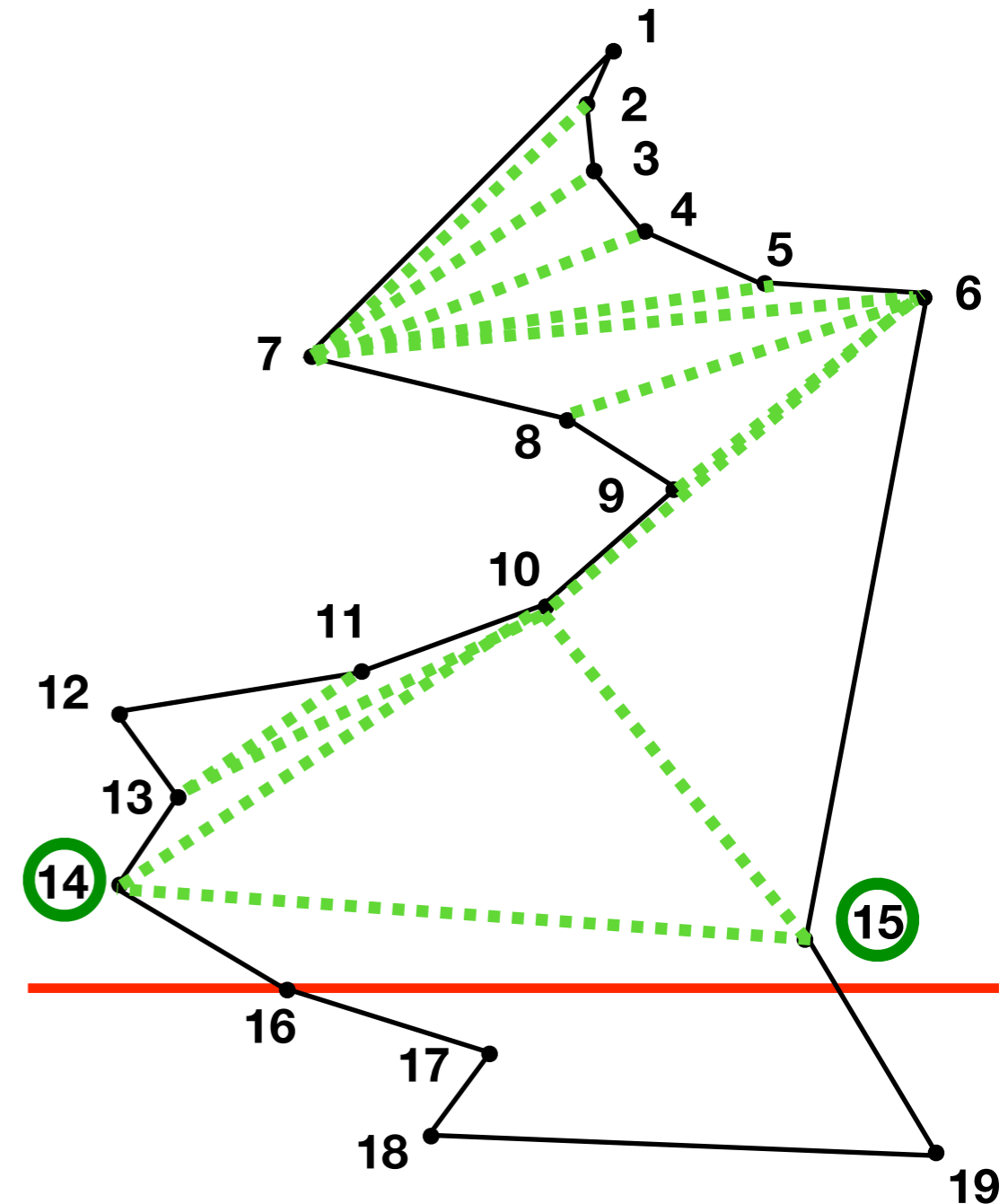
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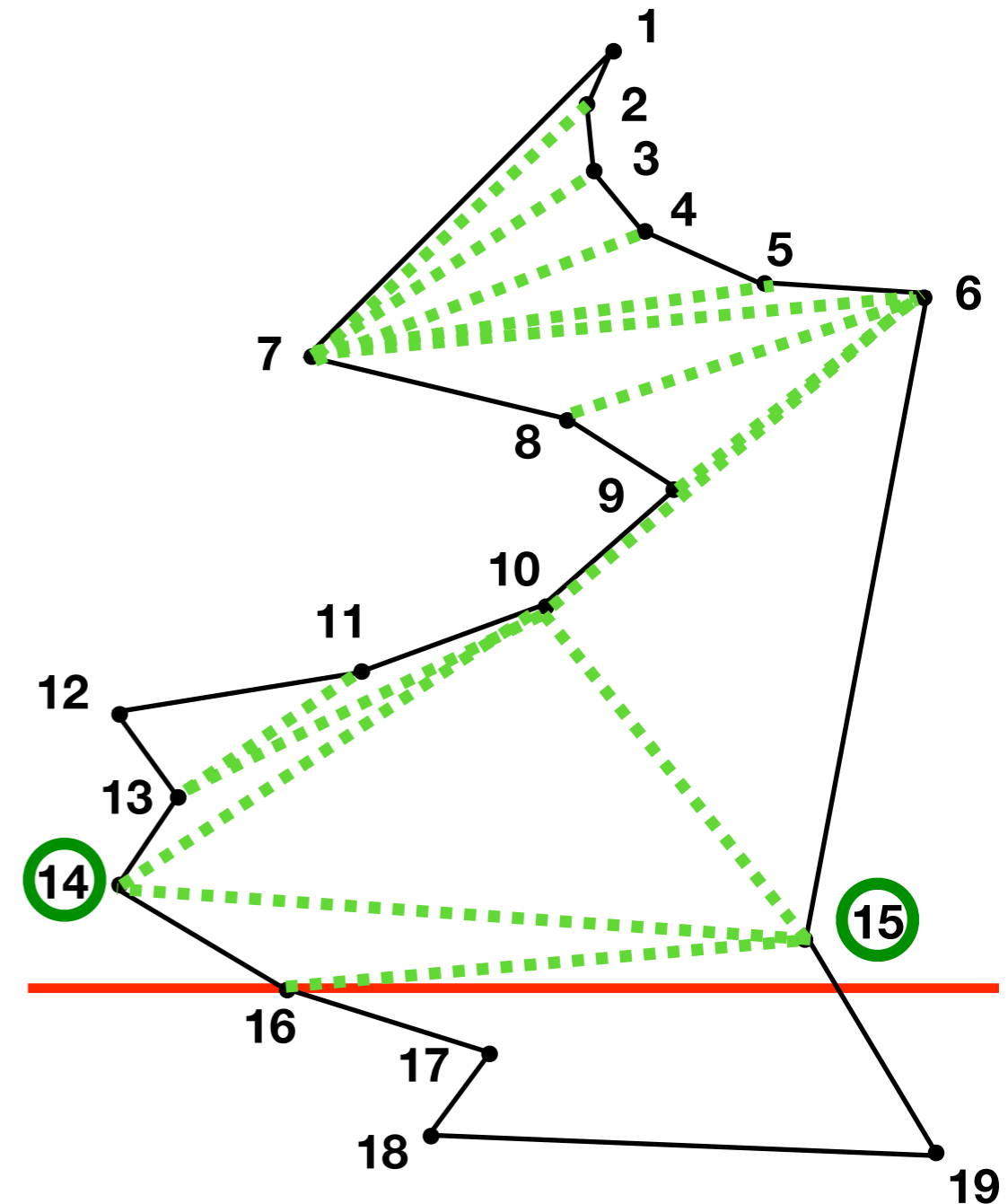
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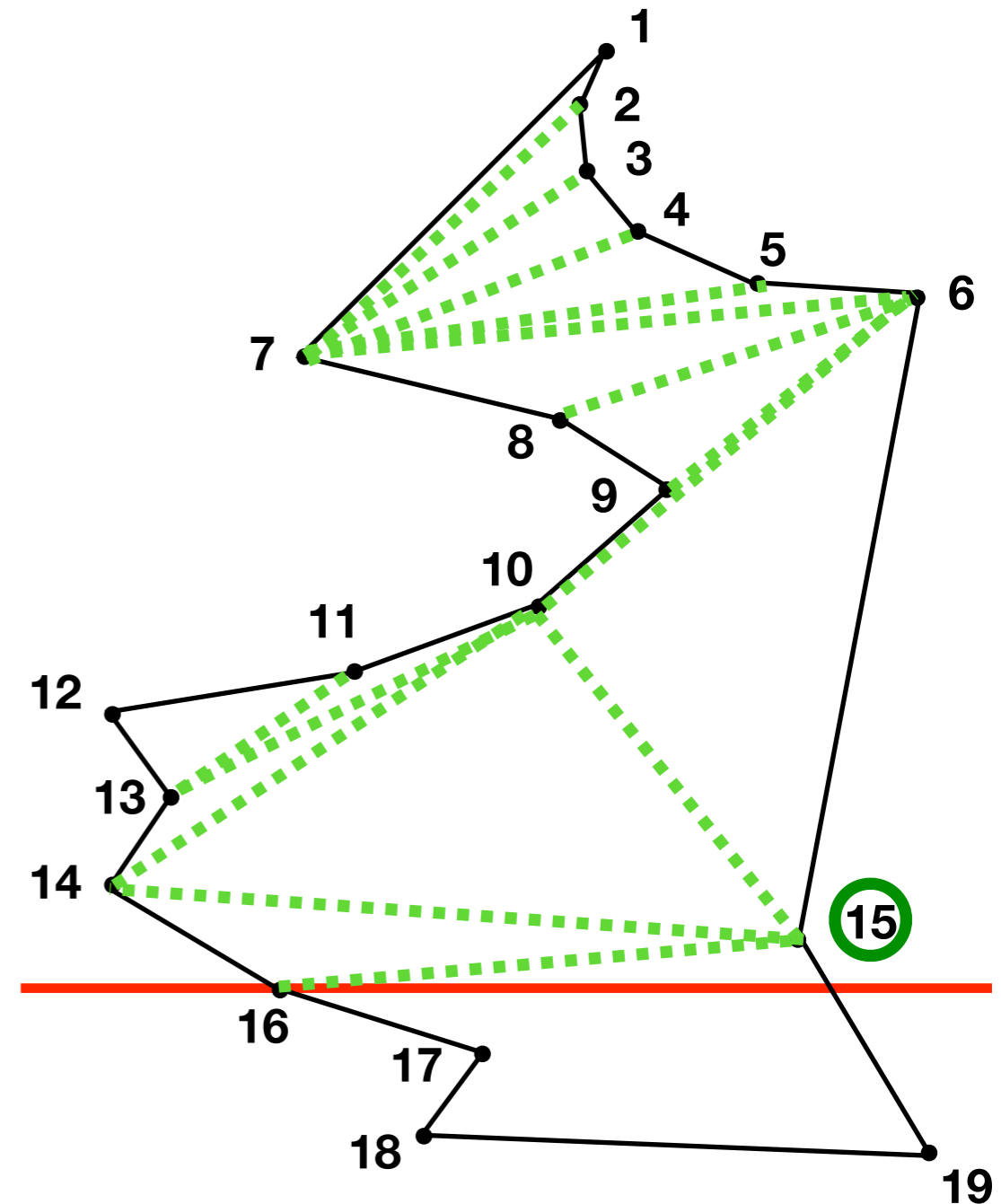
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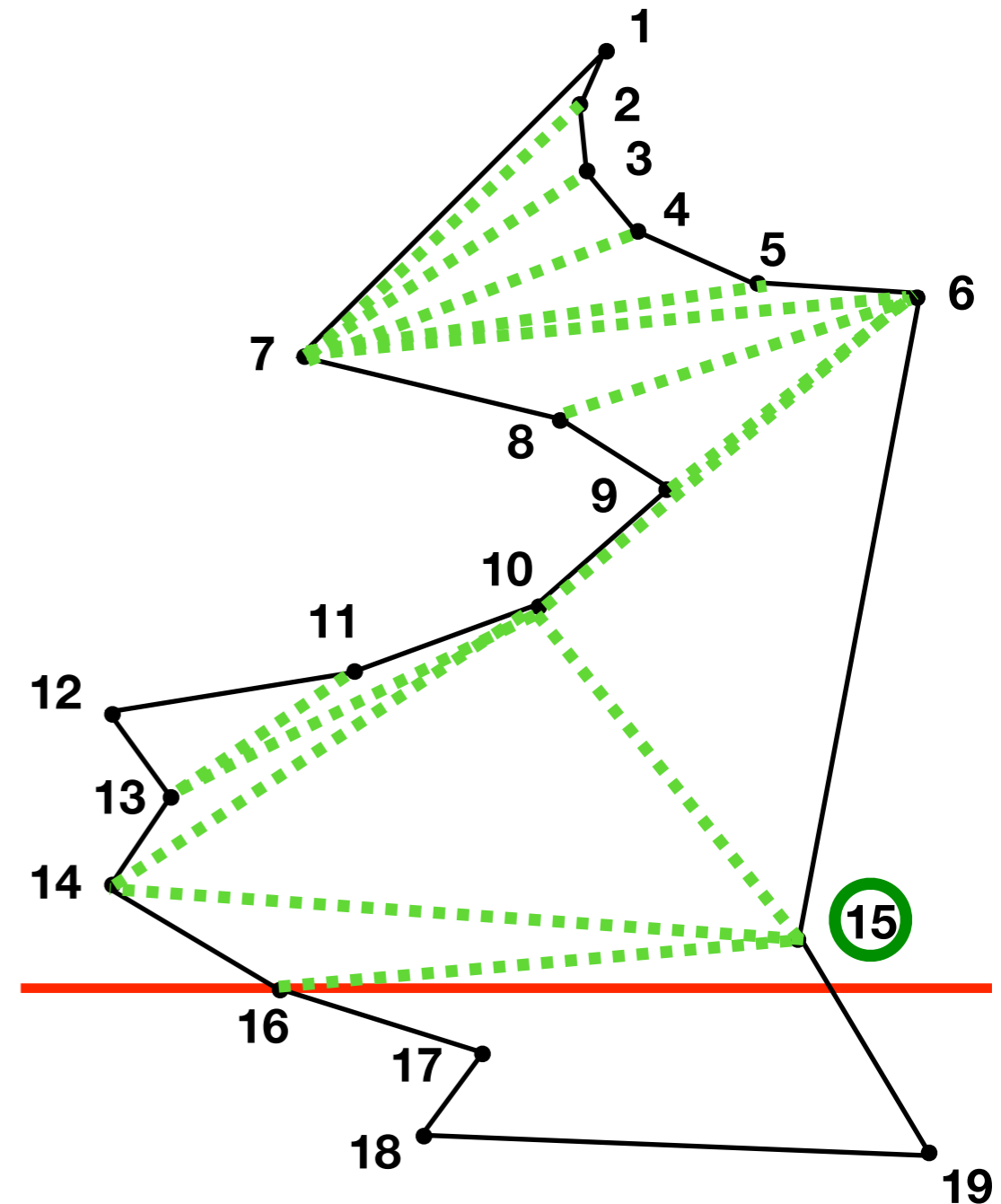
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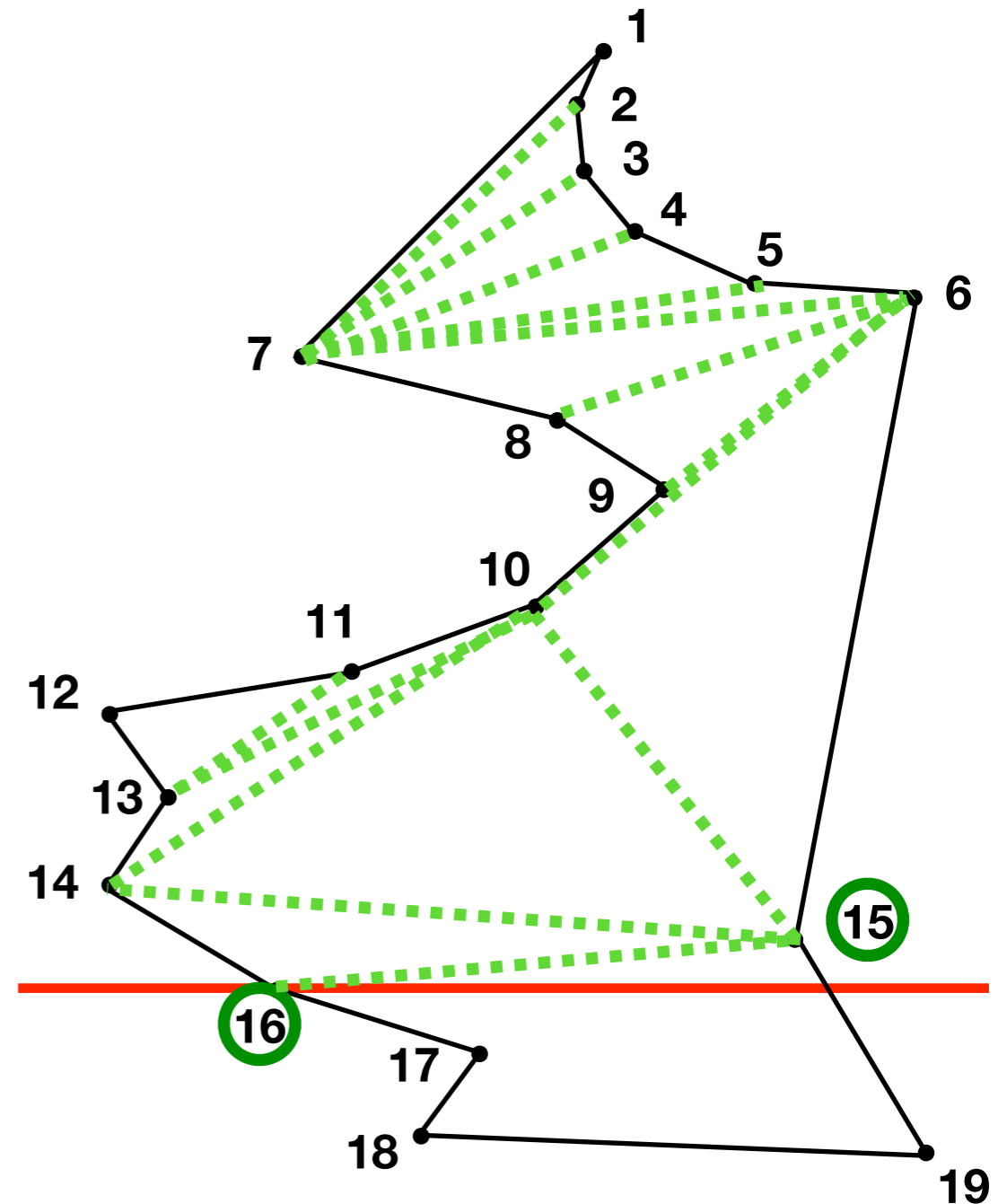
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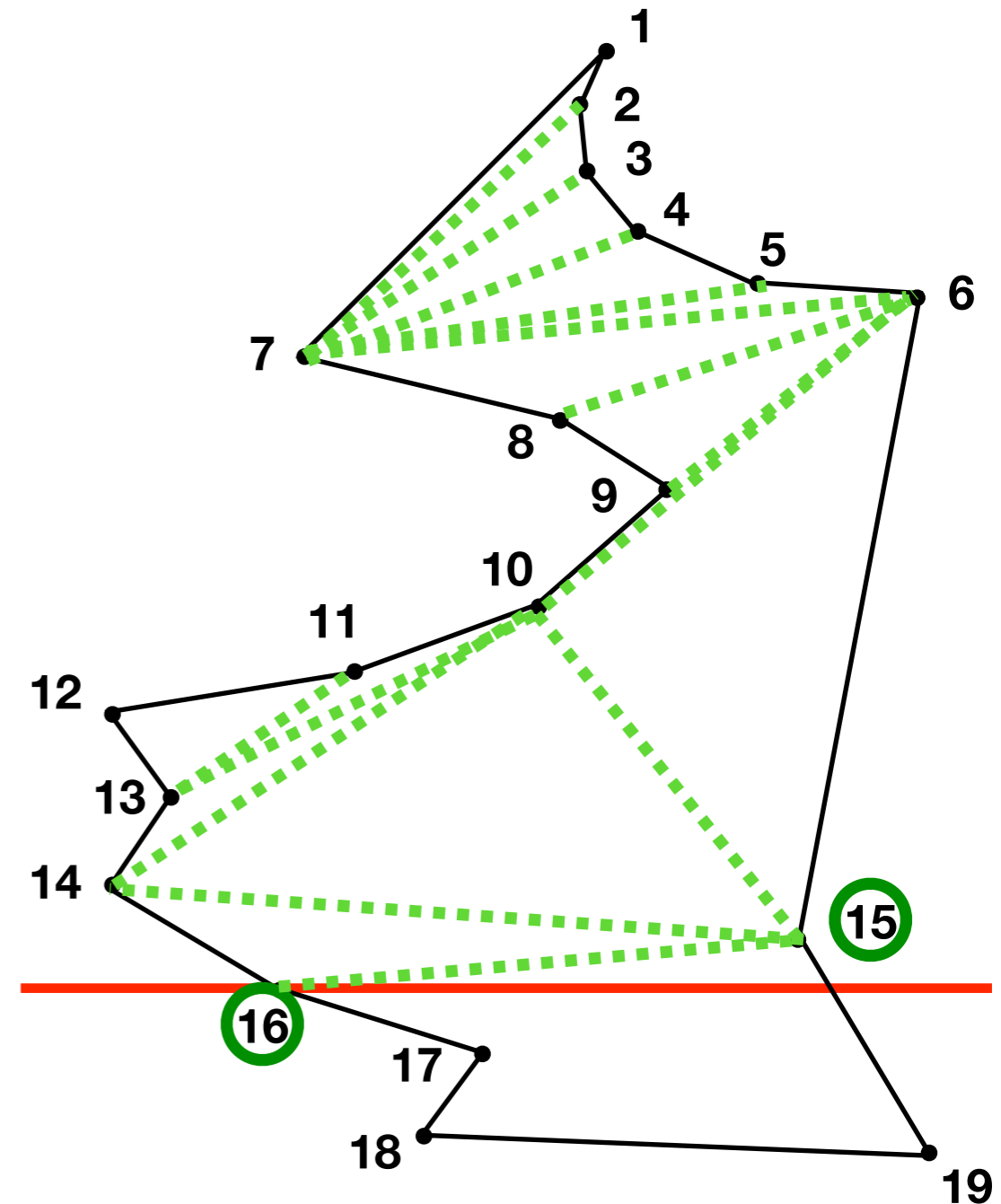
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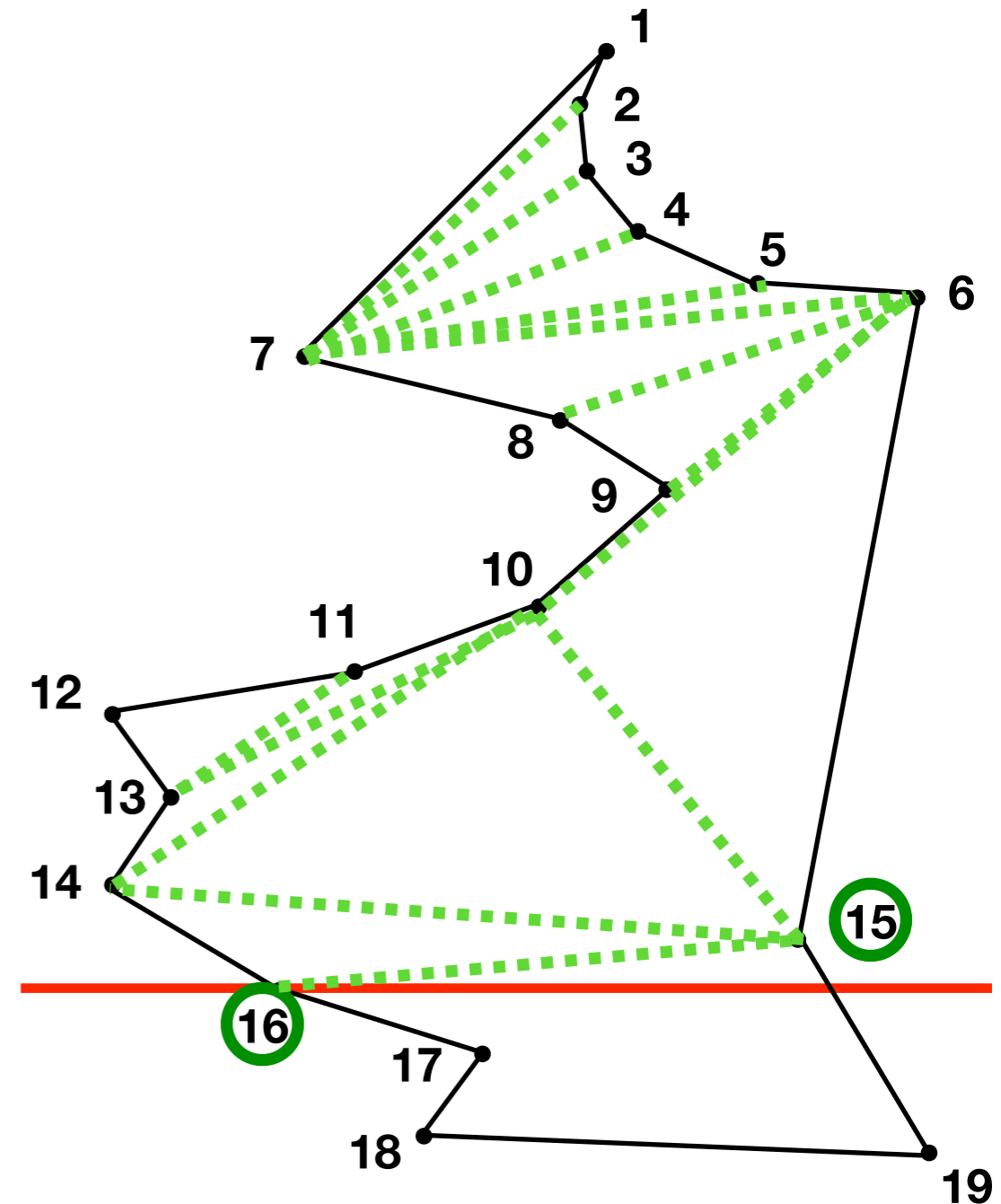
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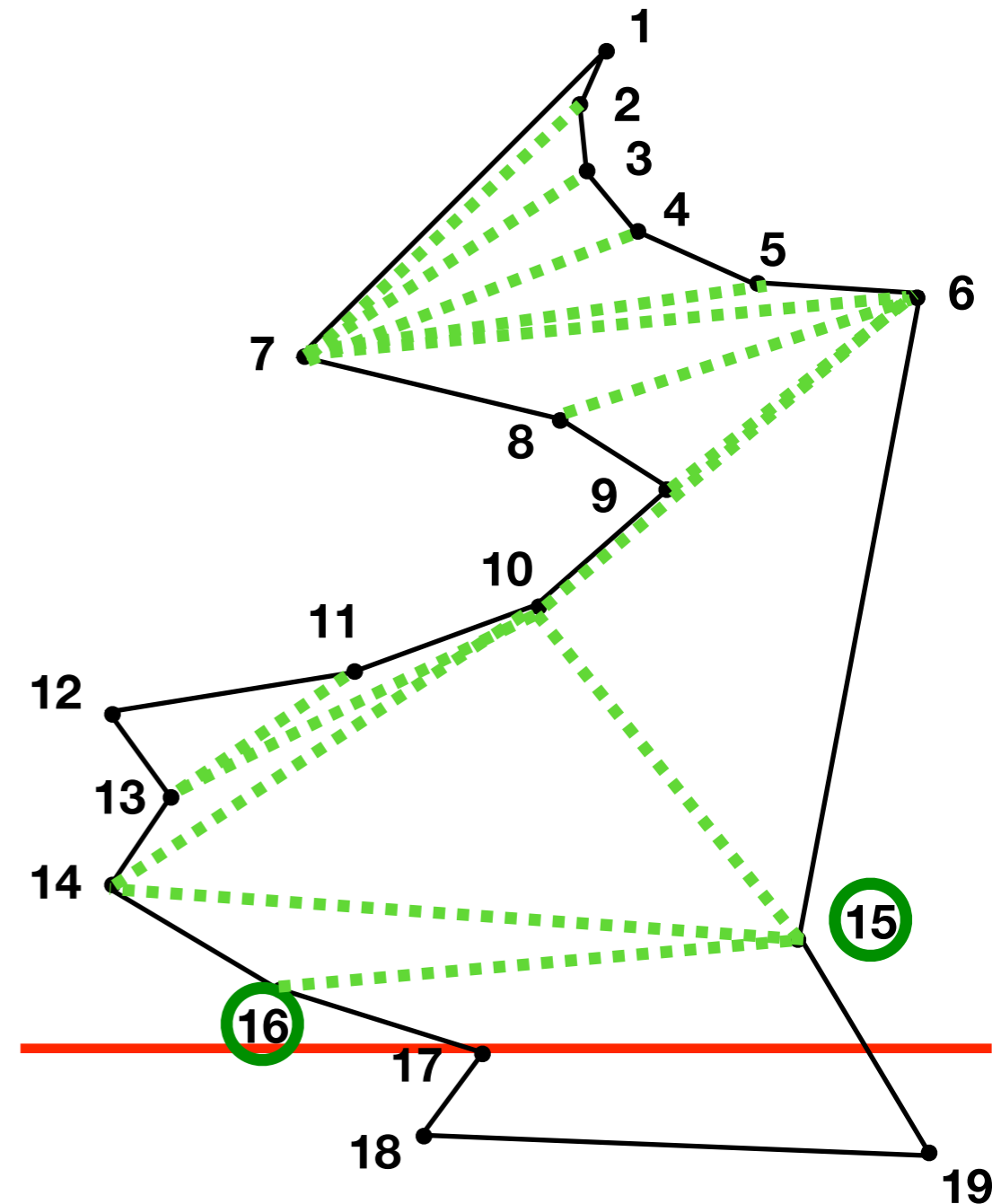
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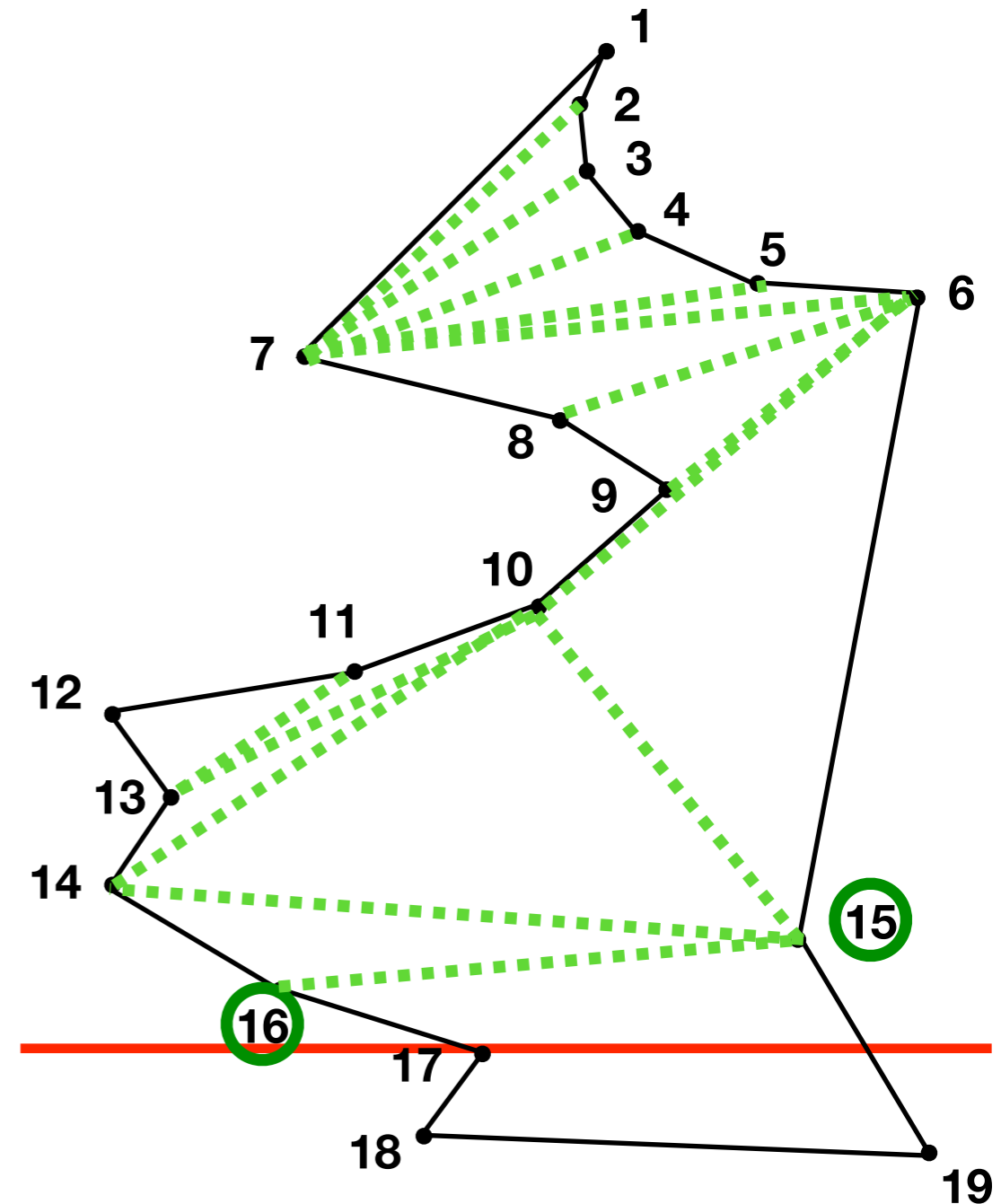
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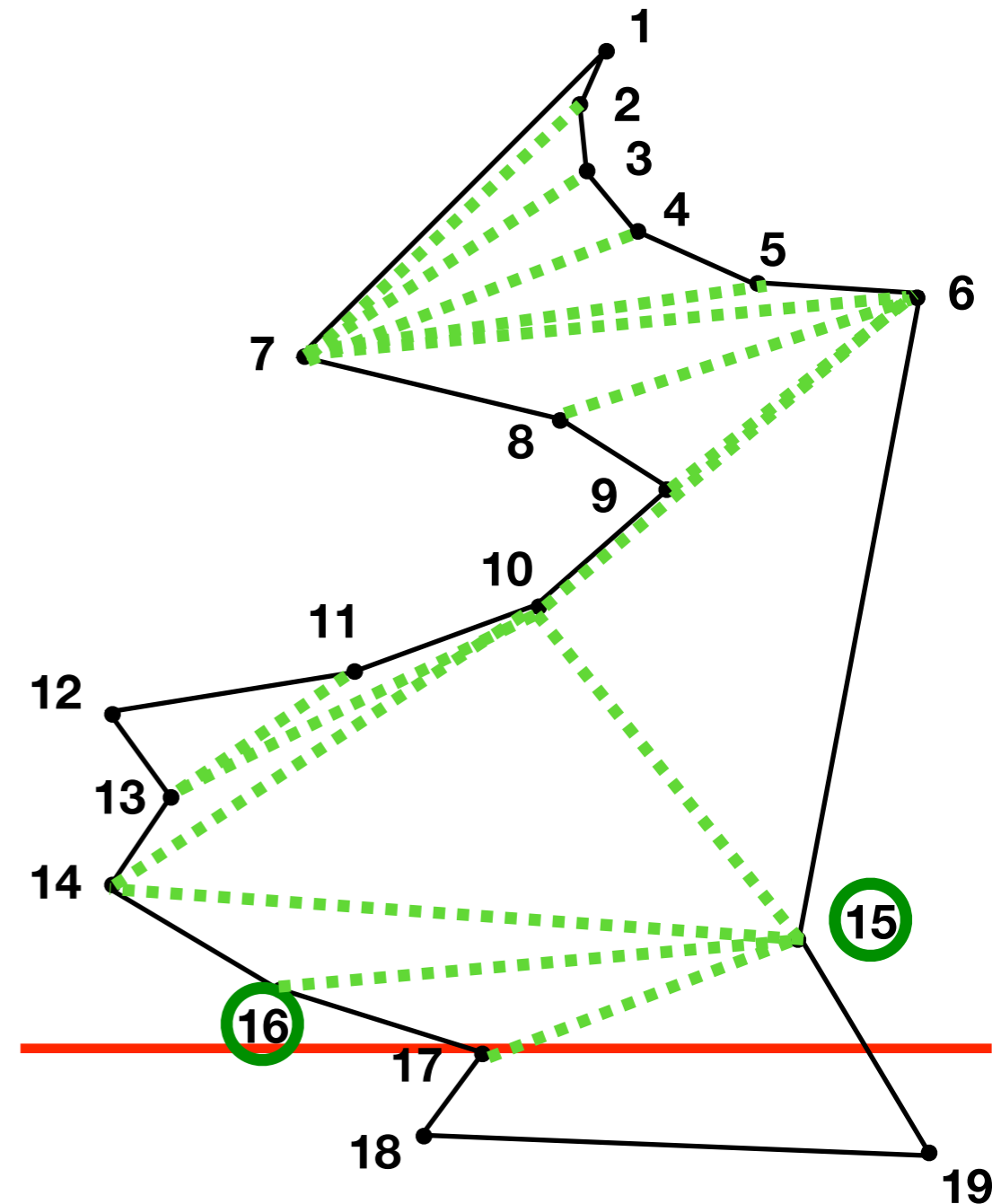
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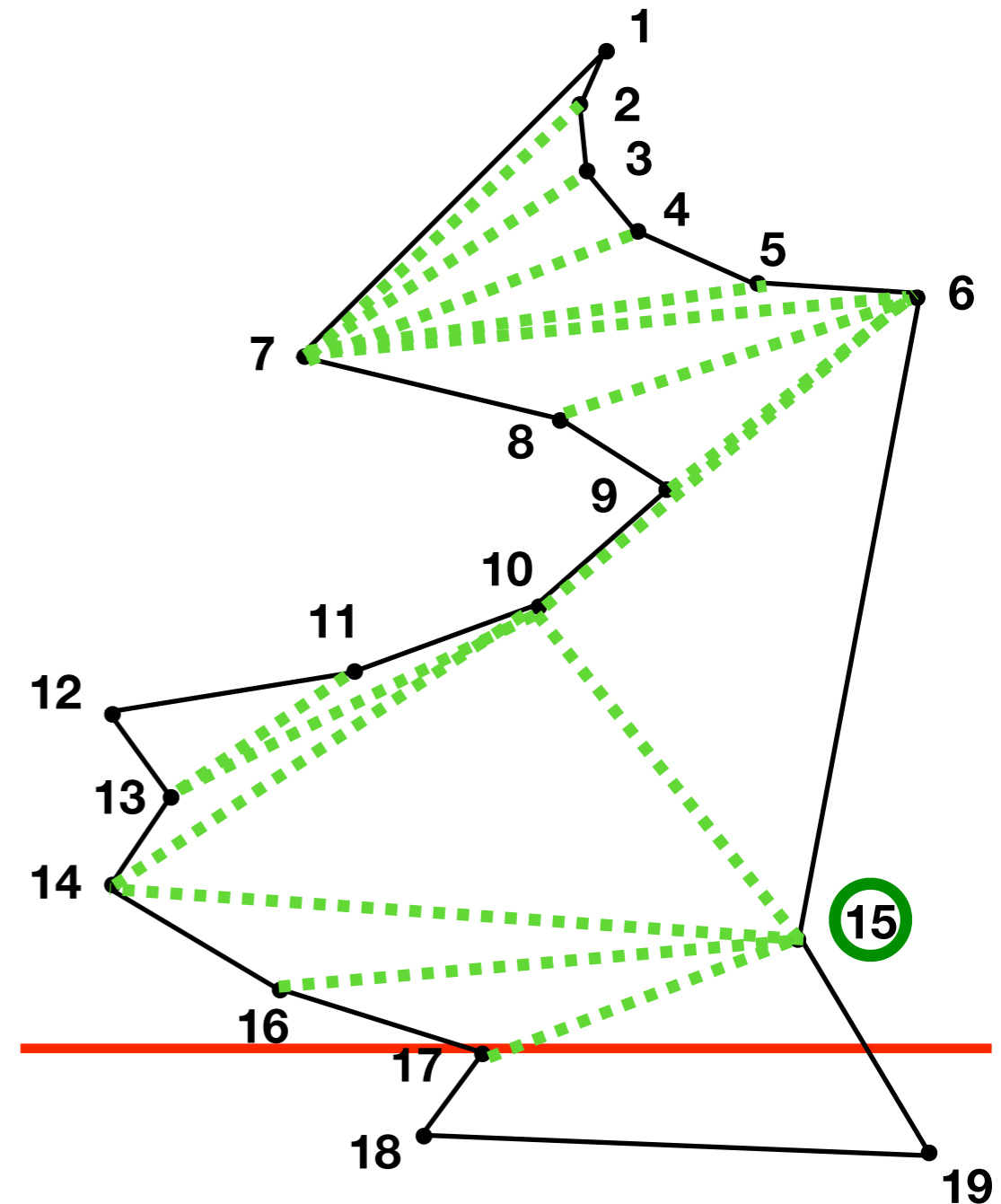
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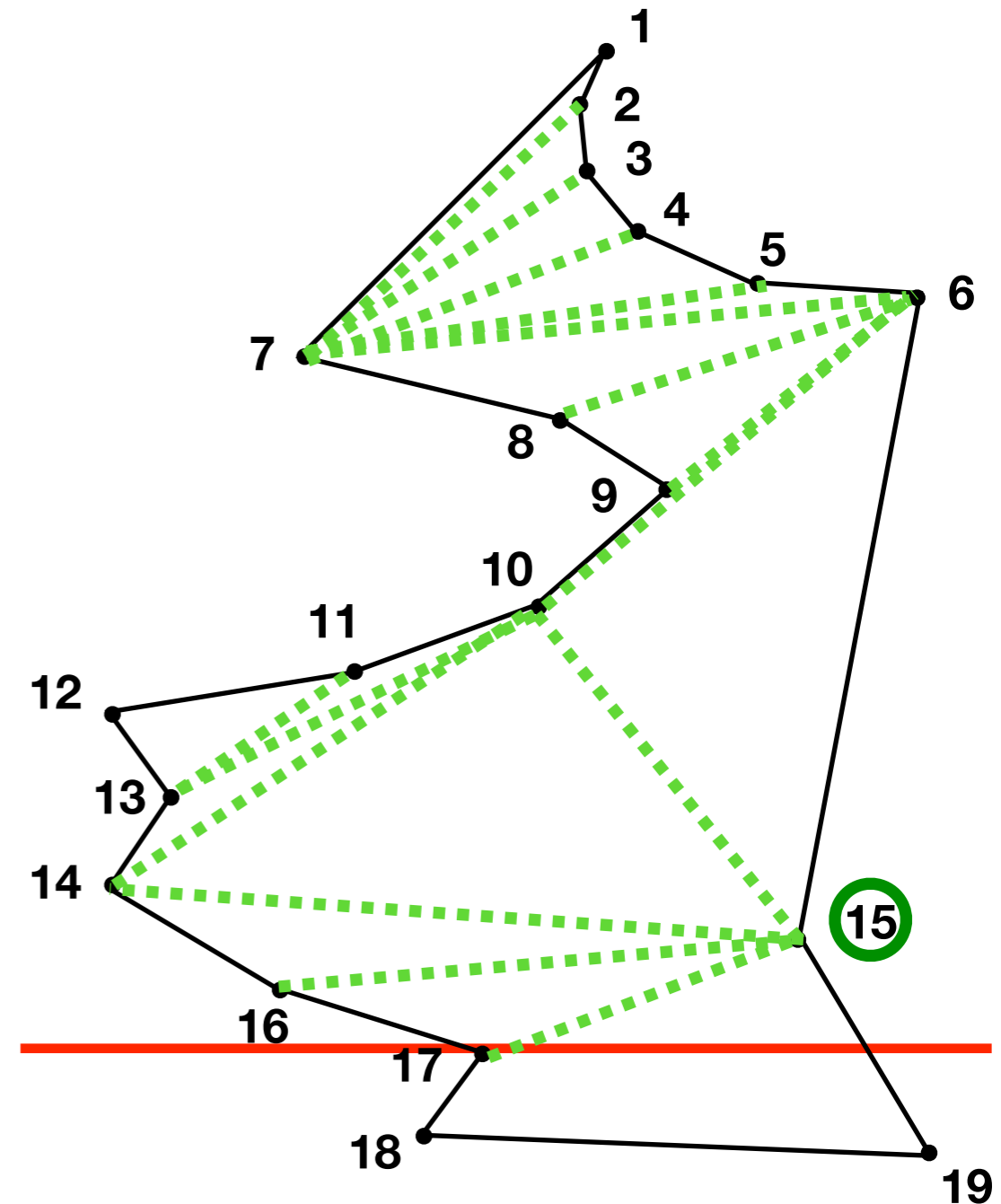
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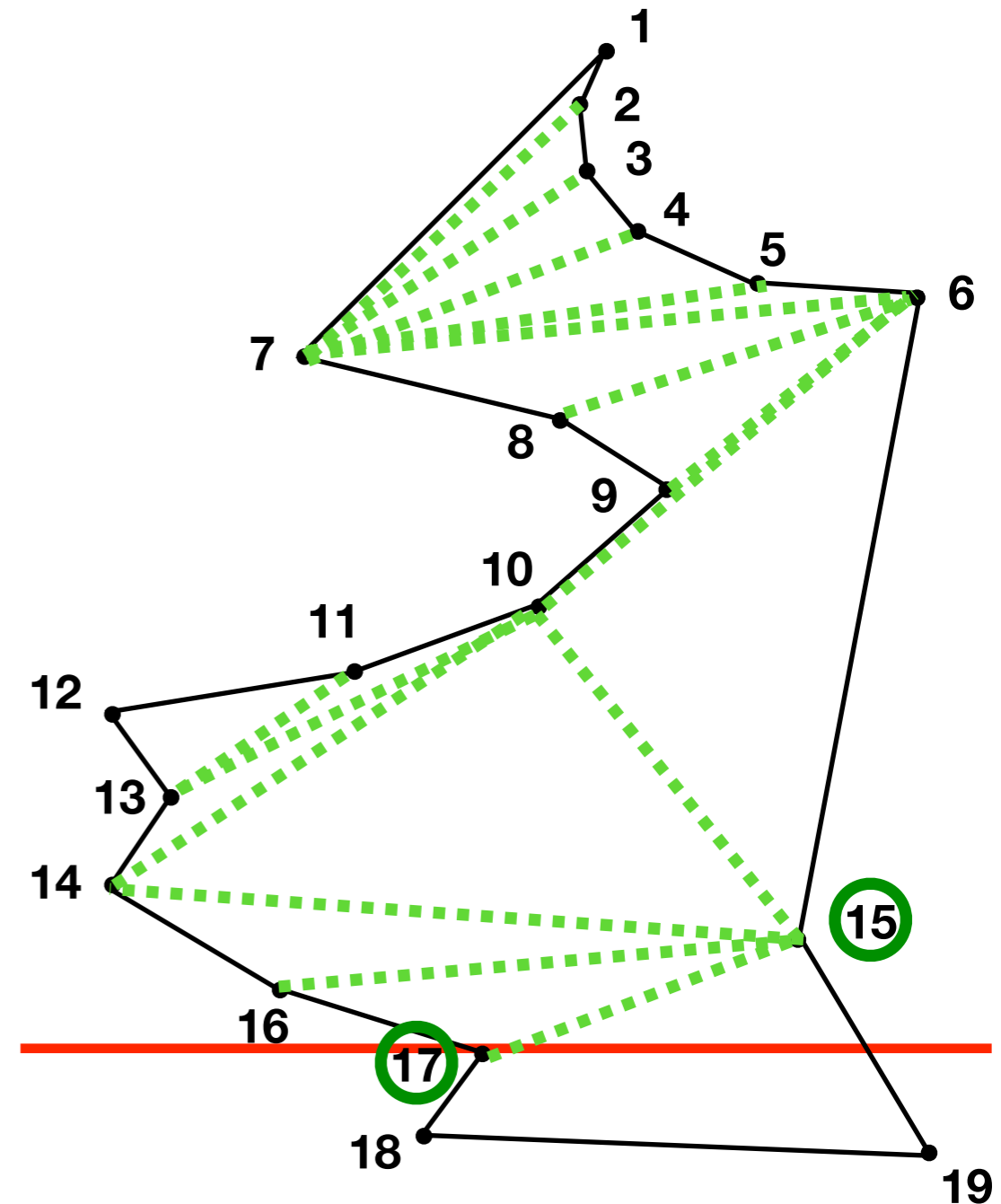
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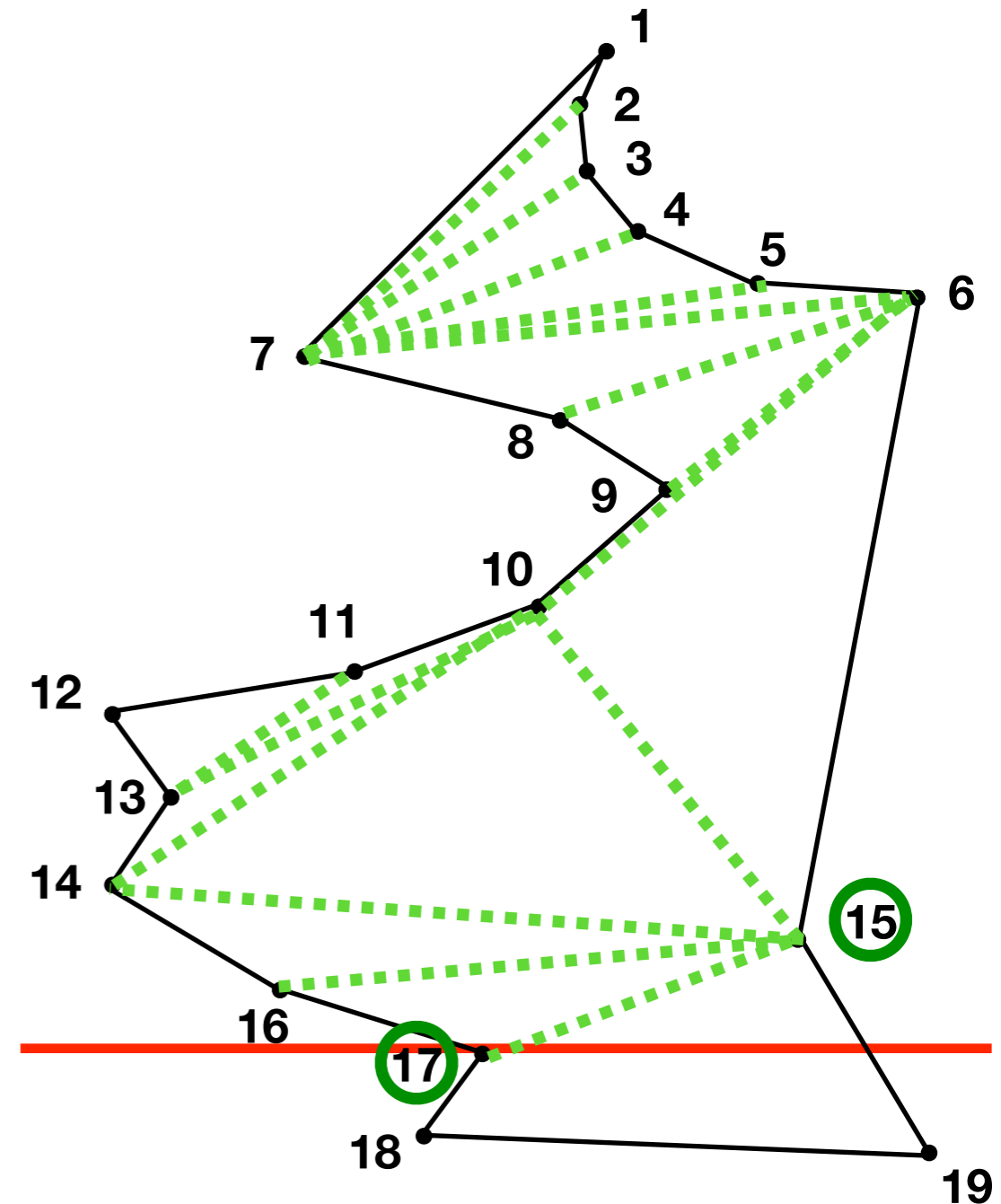
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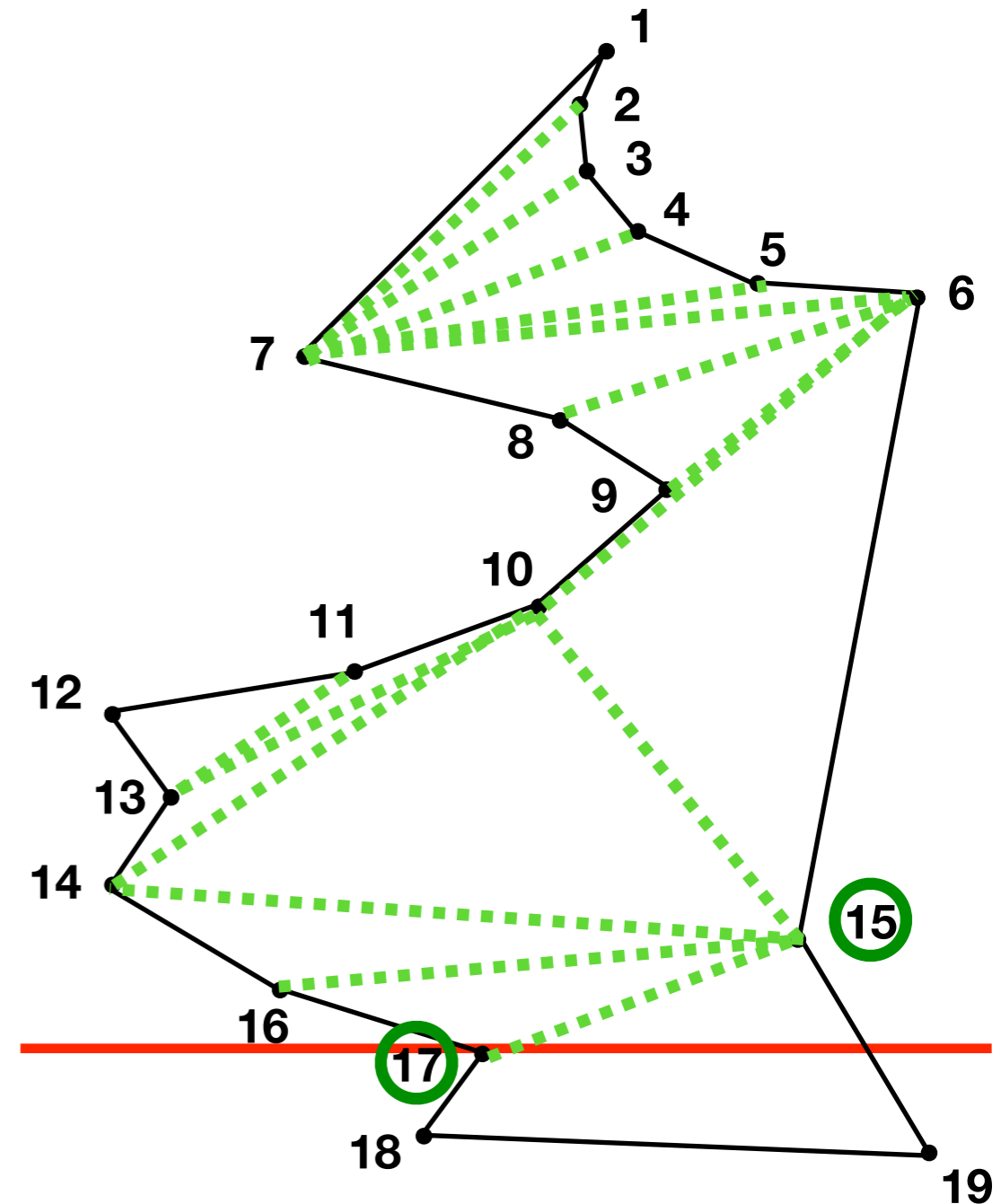
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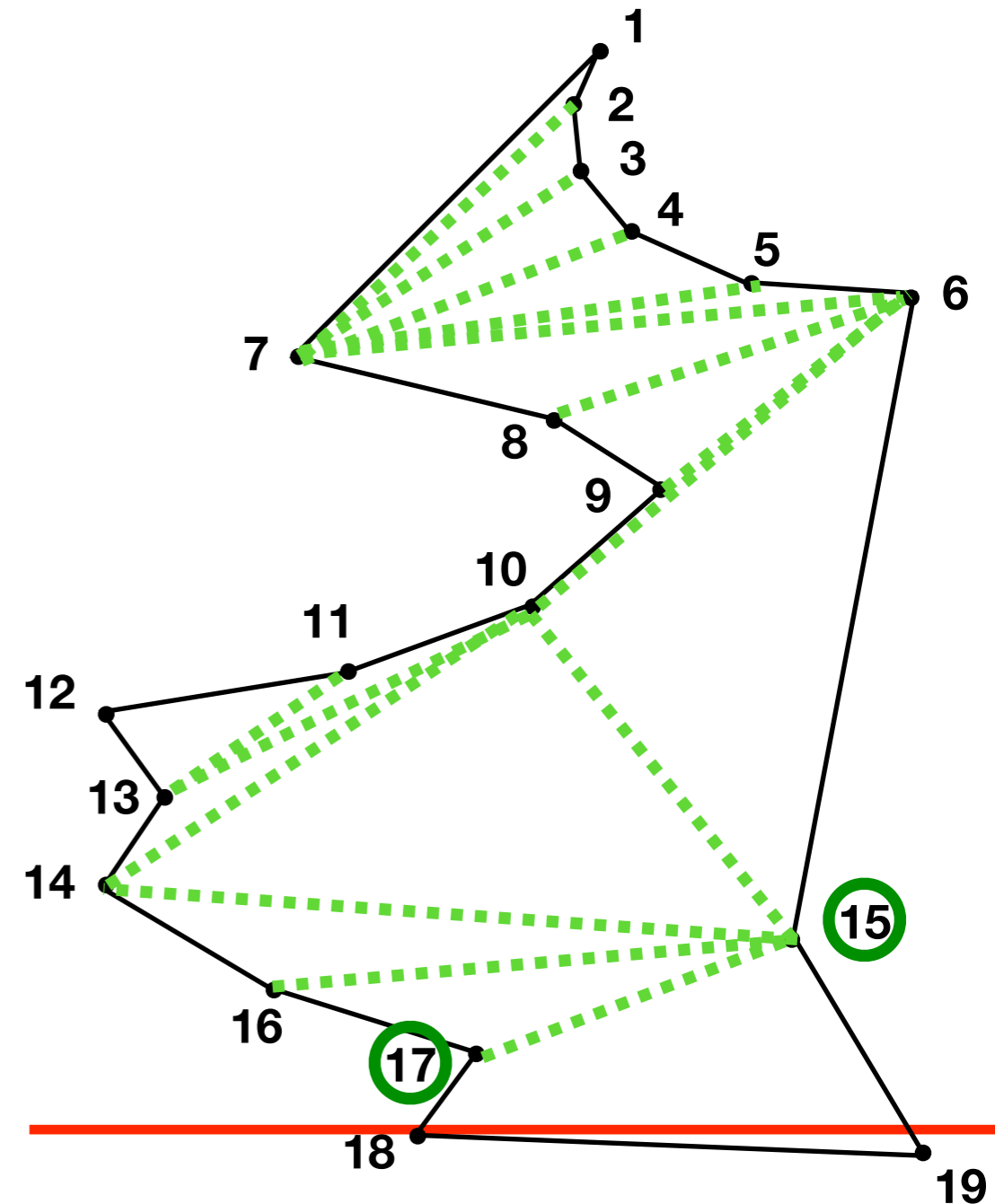
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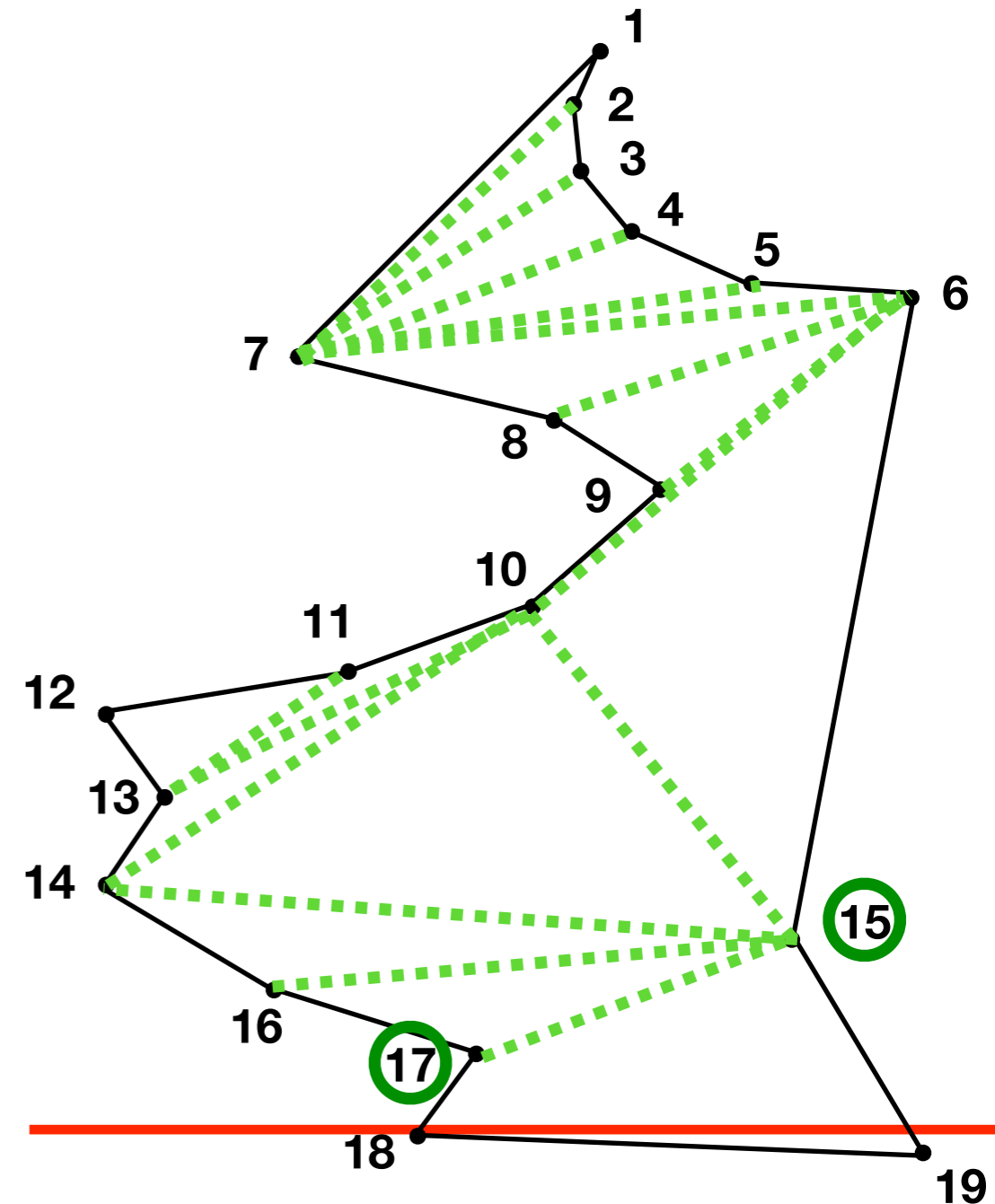
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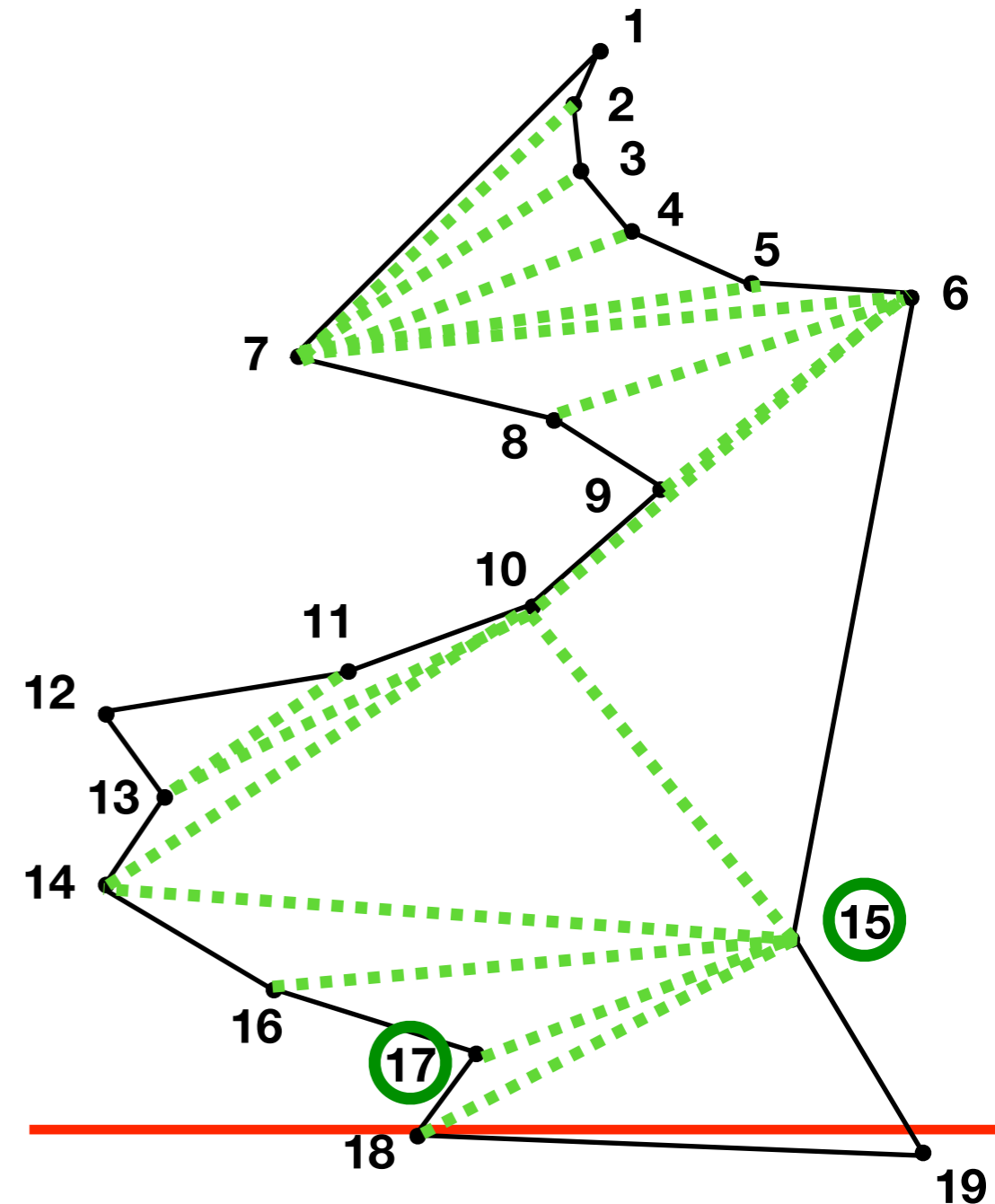
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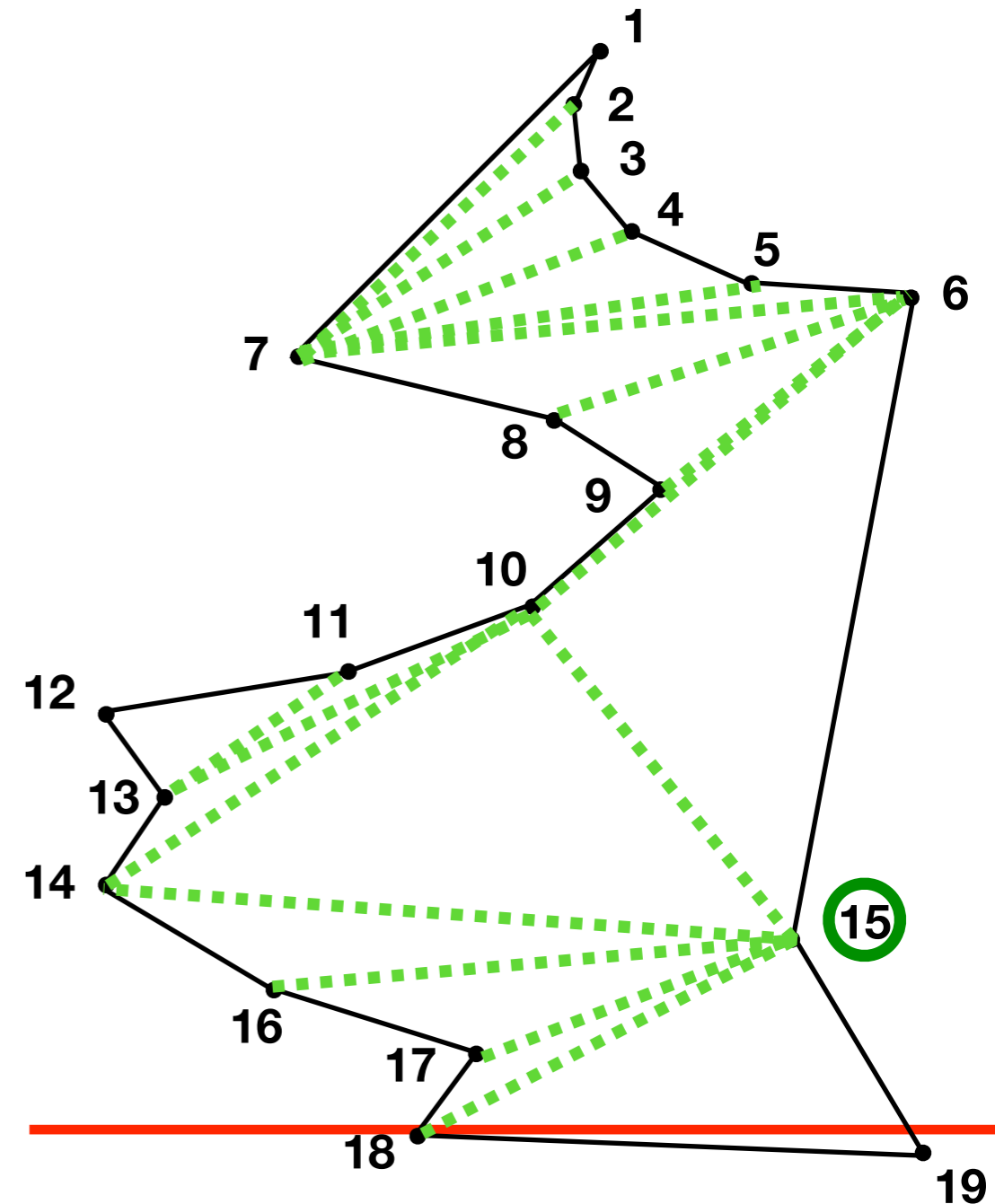
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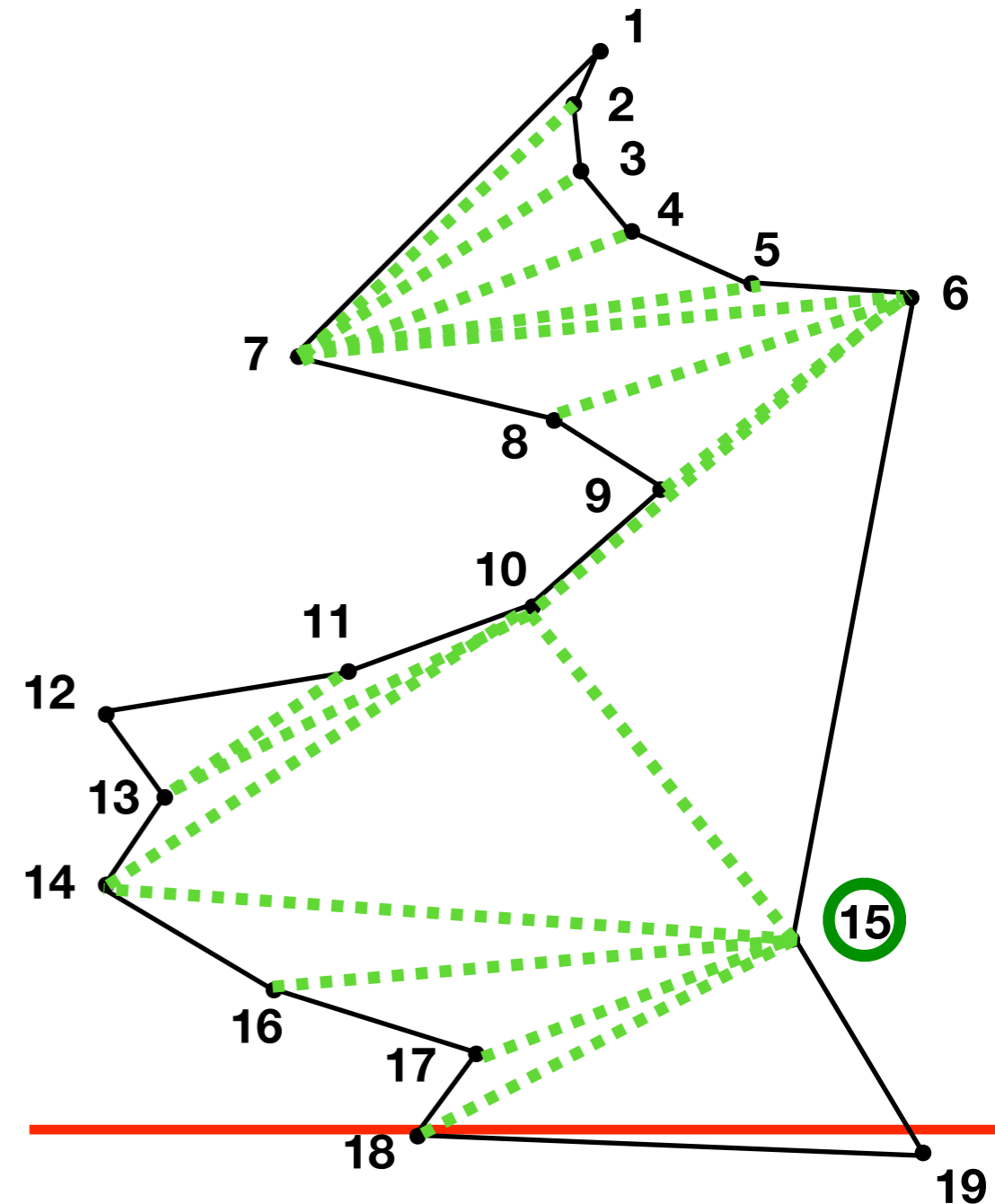
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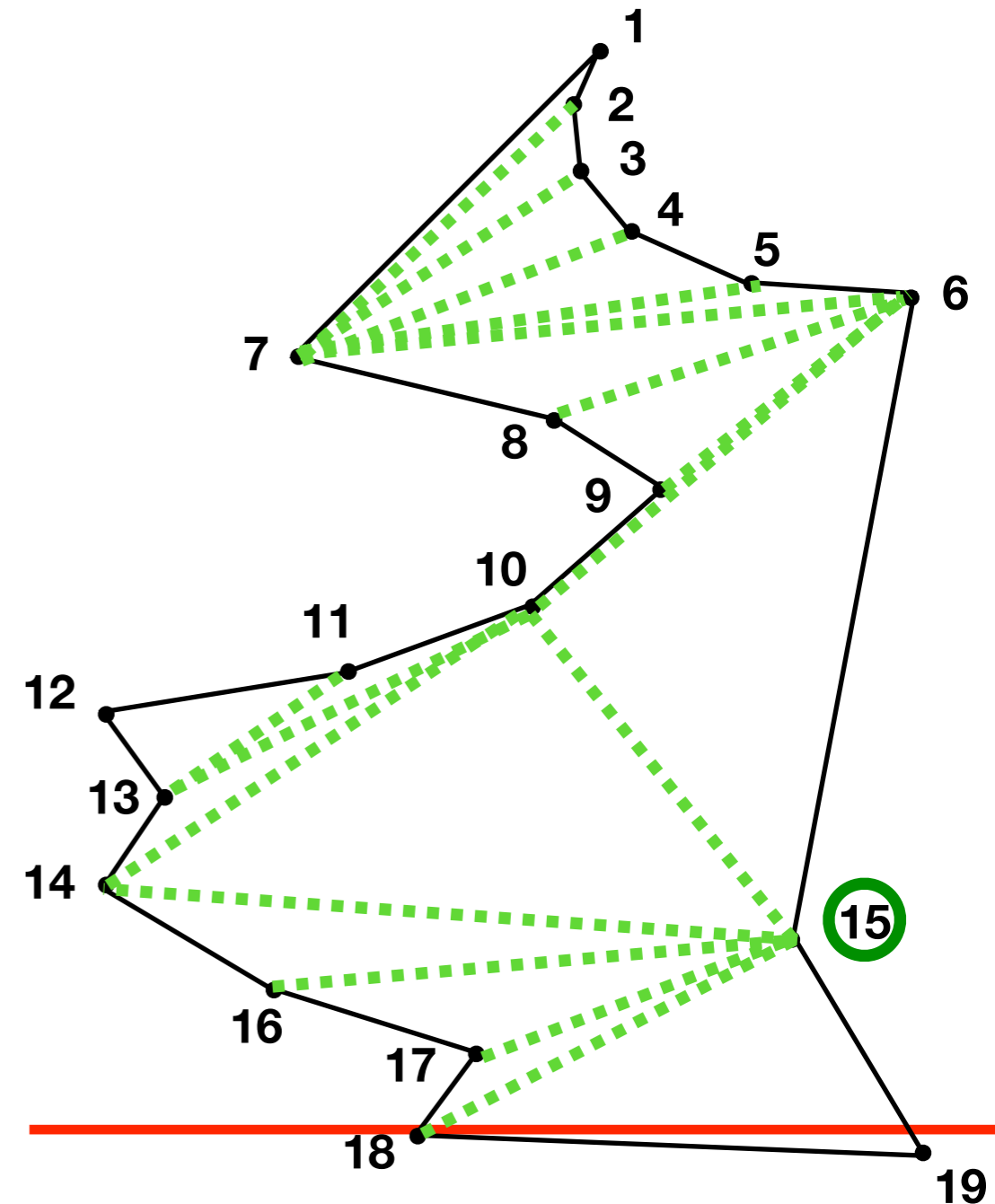
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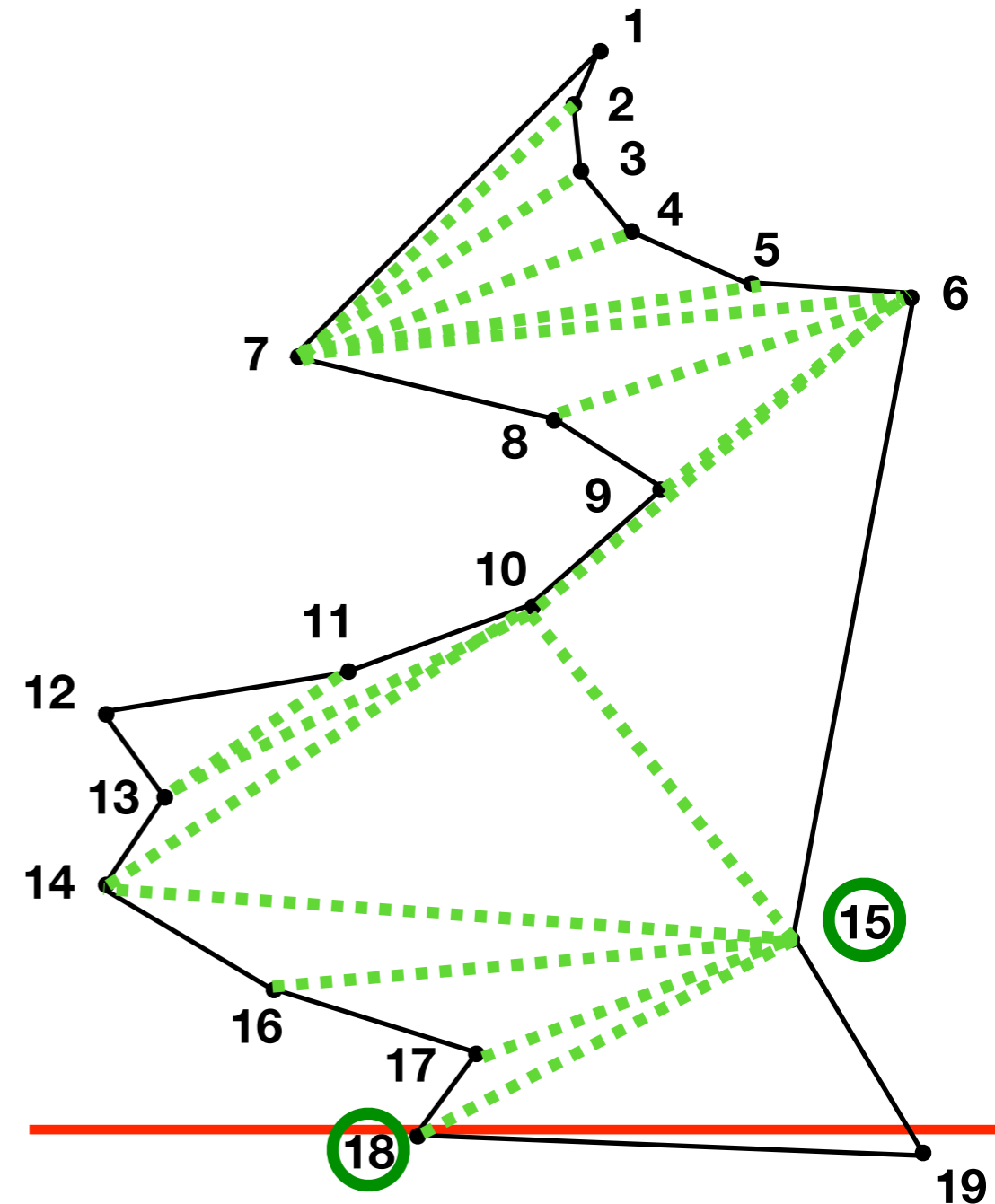
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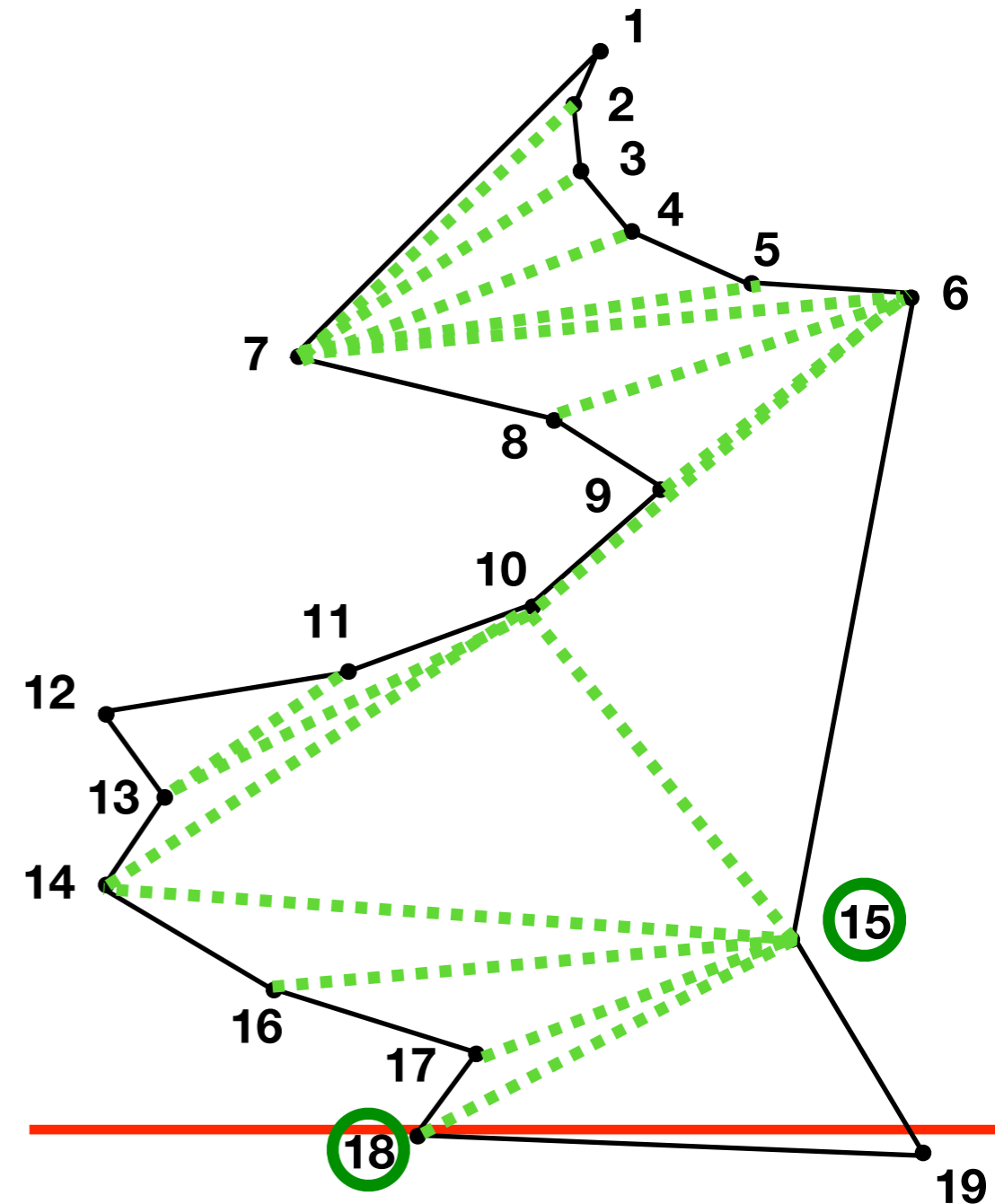
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Queue: 15 18



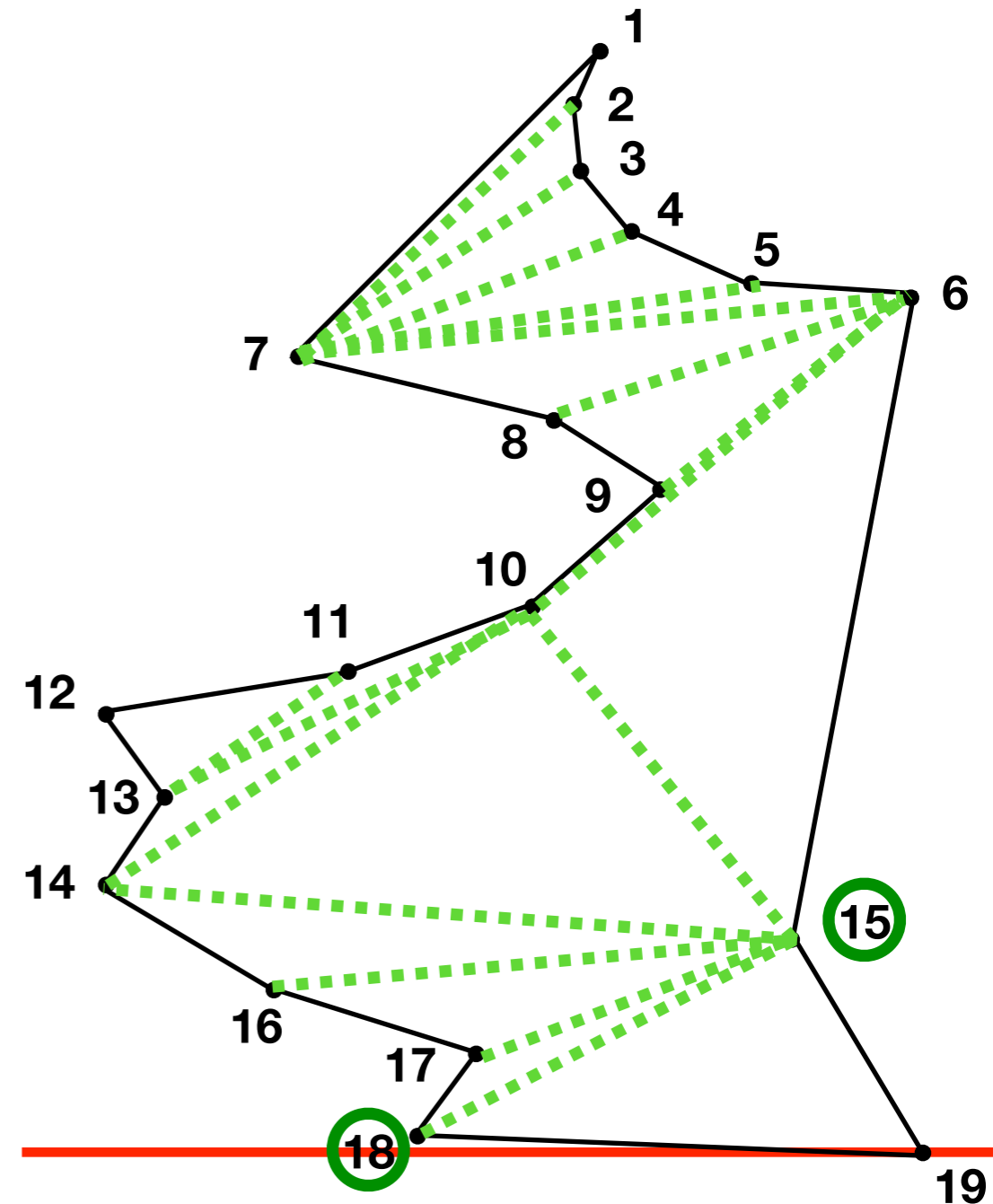
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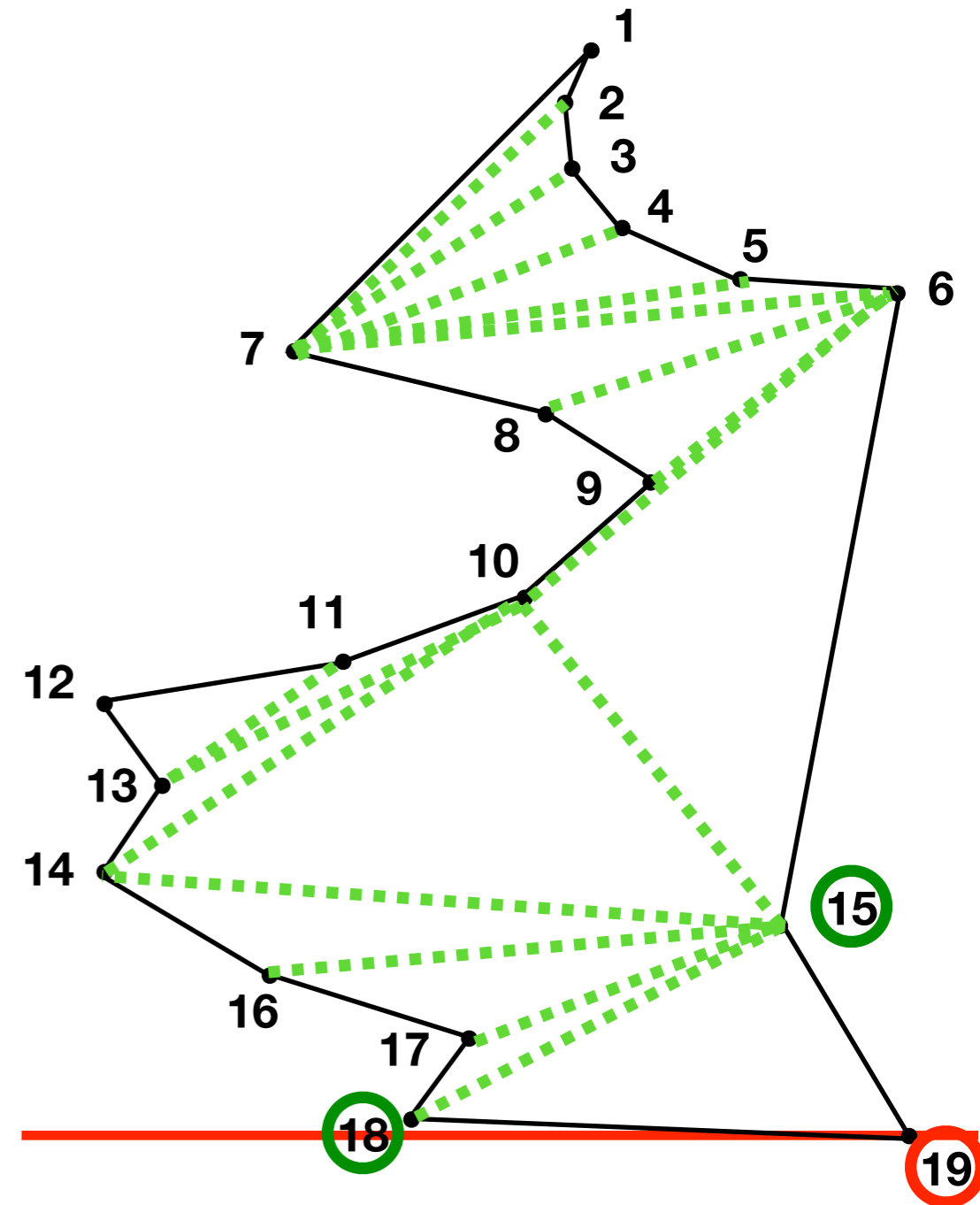
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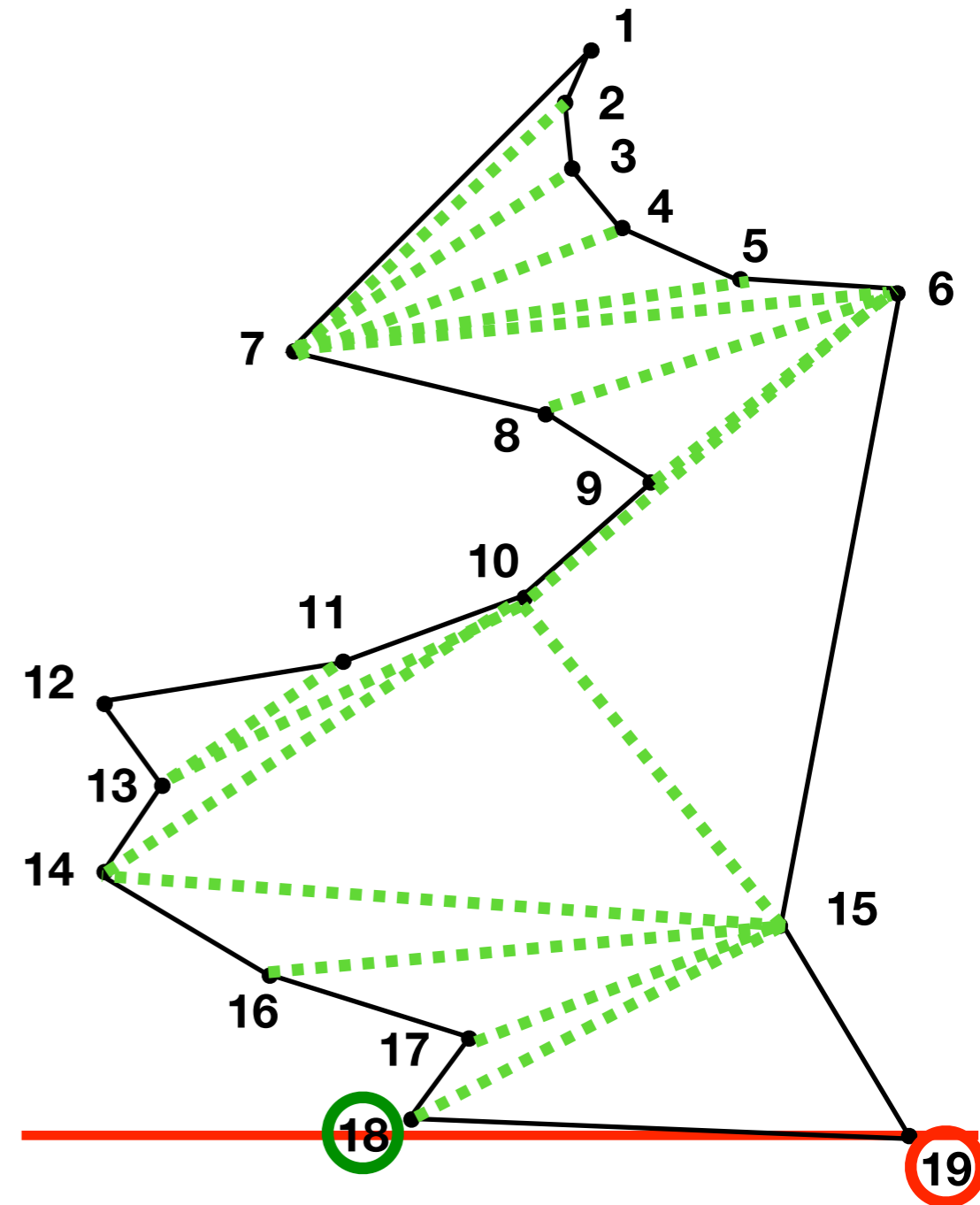
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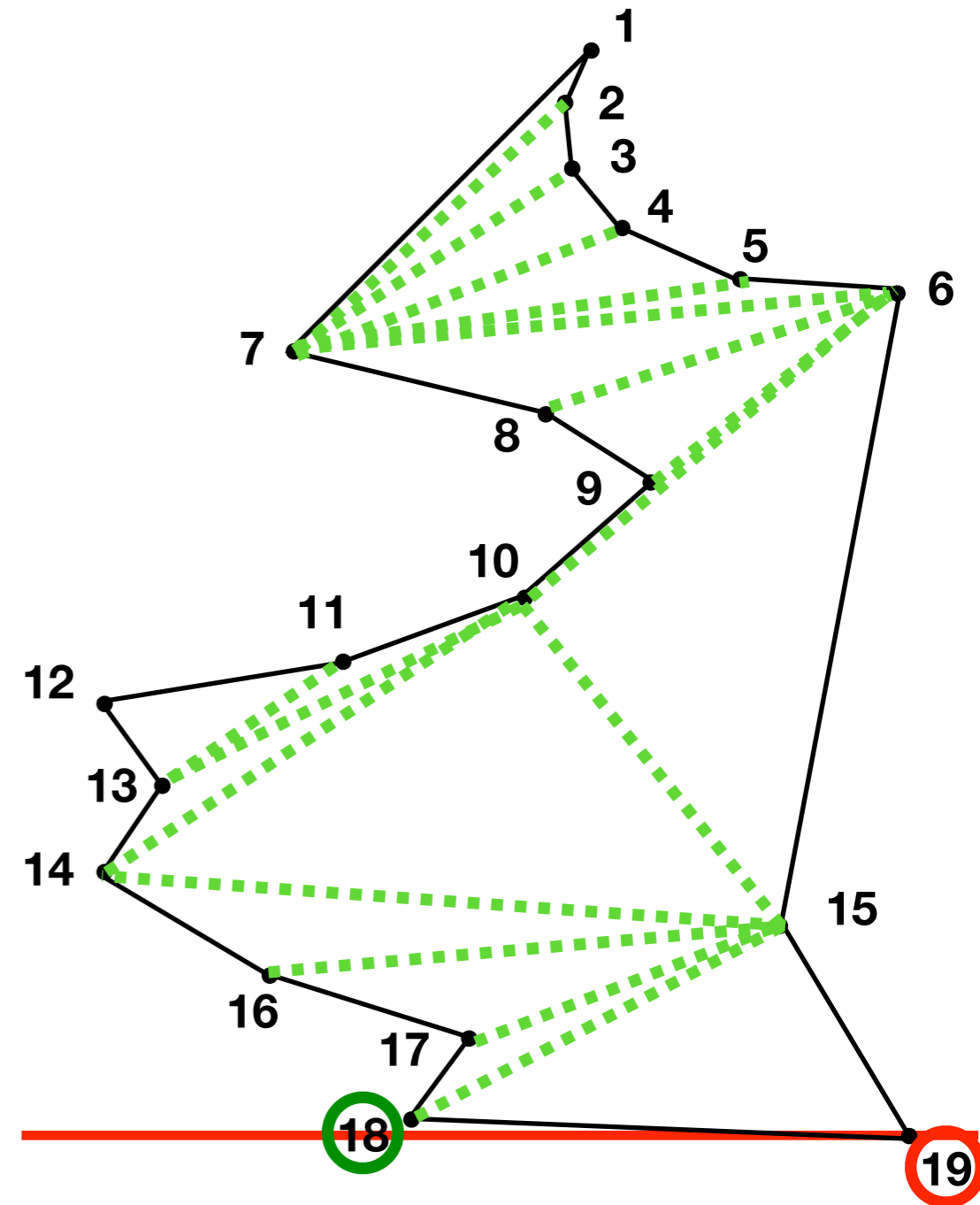
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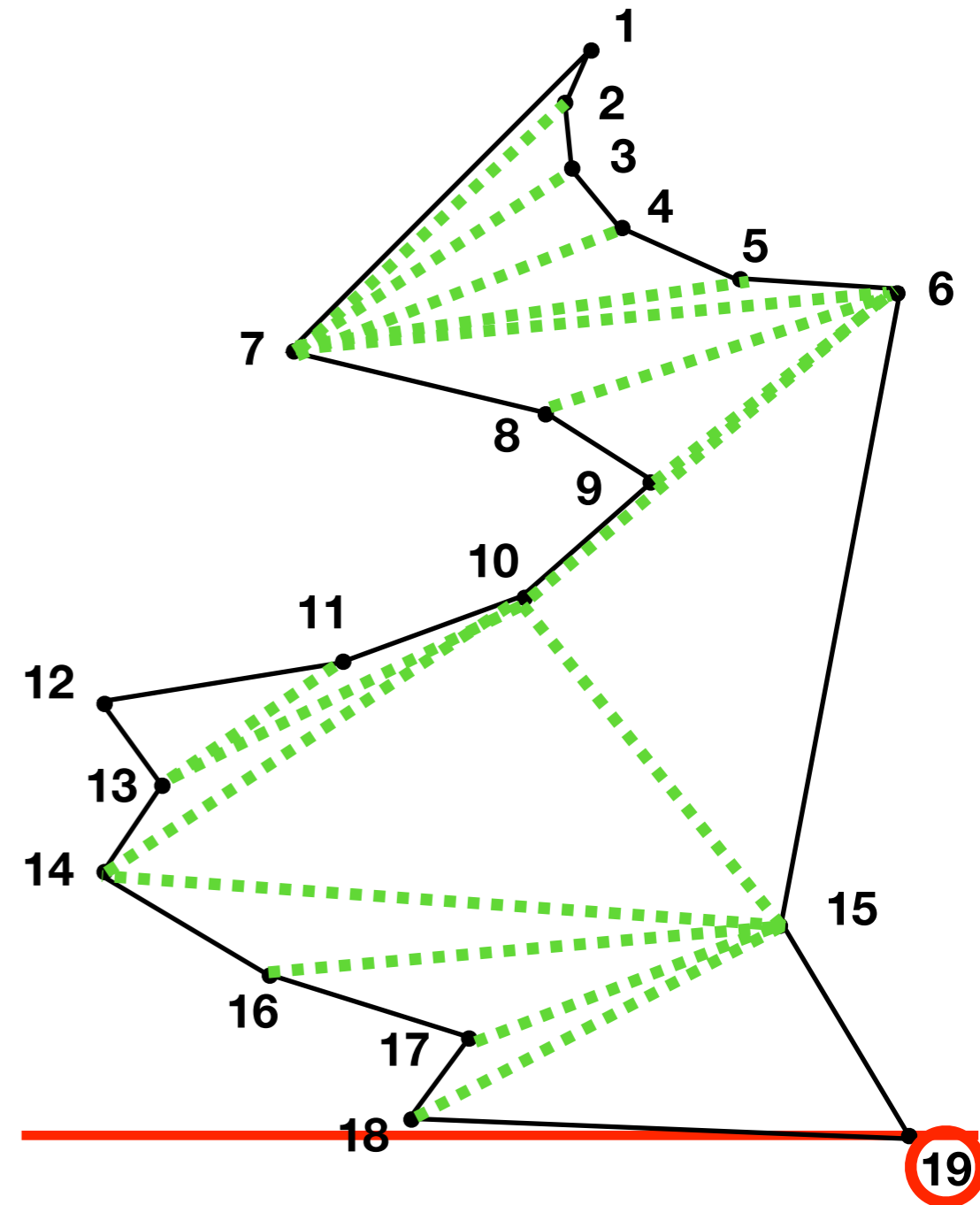
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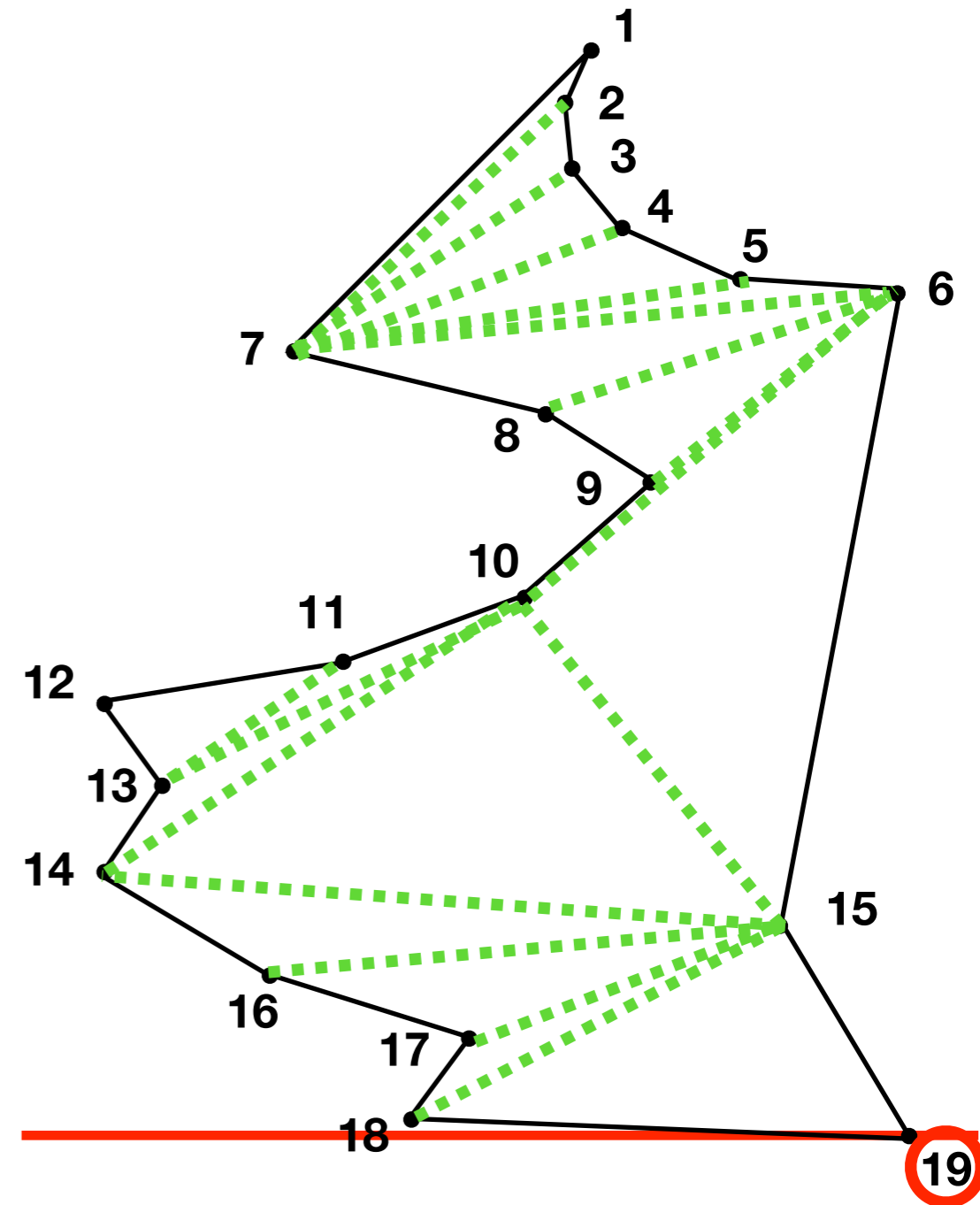
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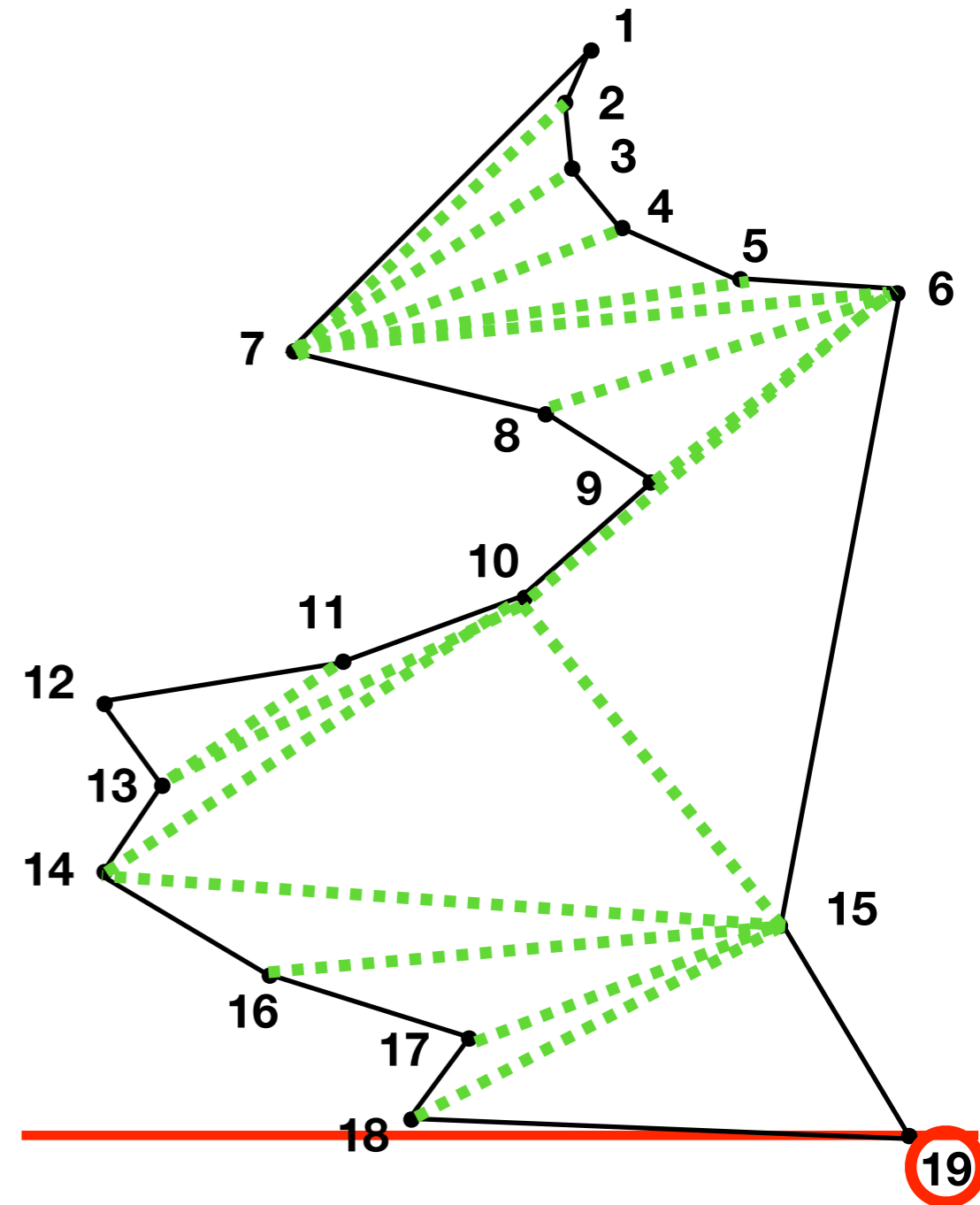
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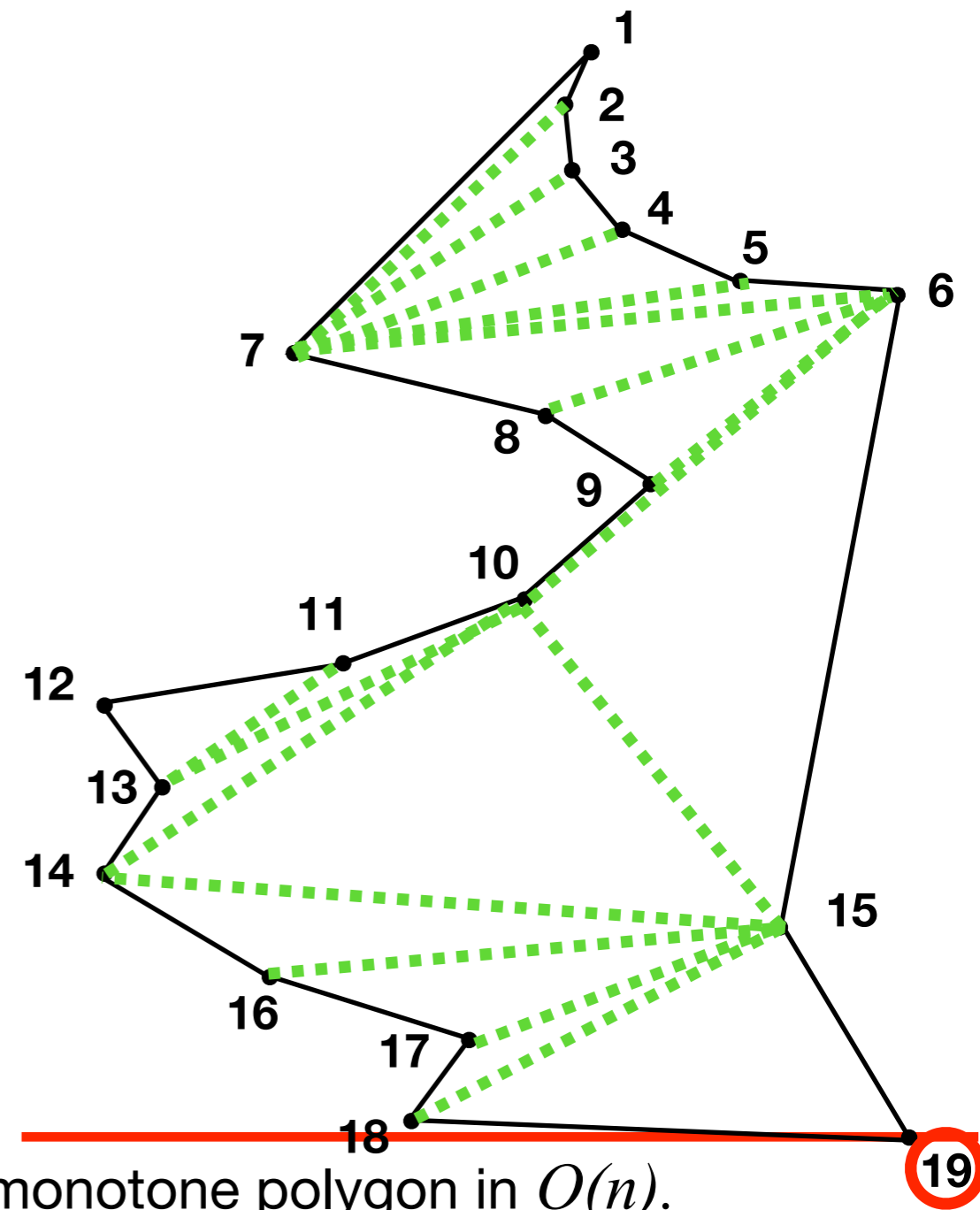
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**Theorem 5.17** Algorithm 5.16 can triangulate a  $y$ -monotone polygon in  $O(n)$ .

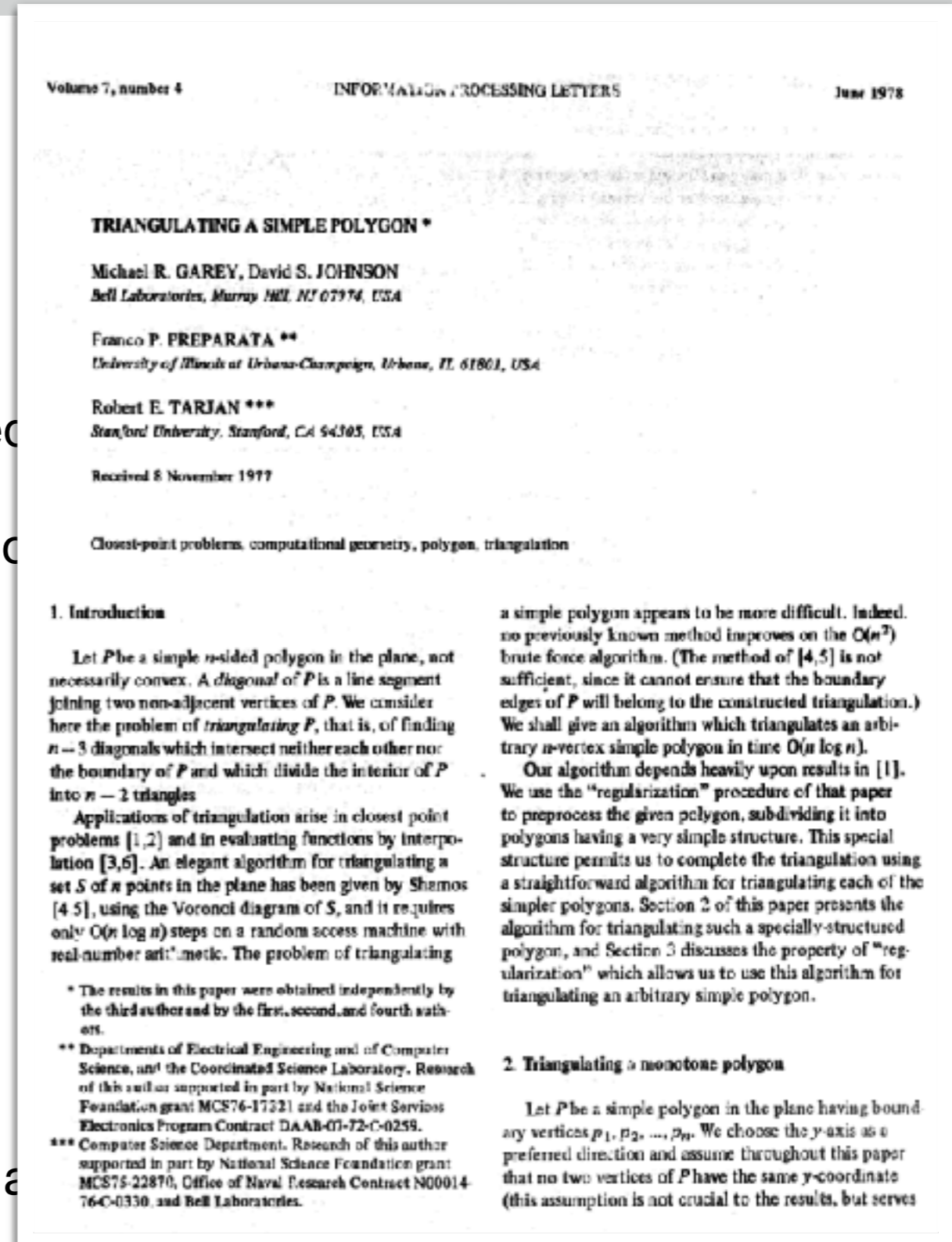
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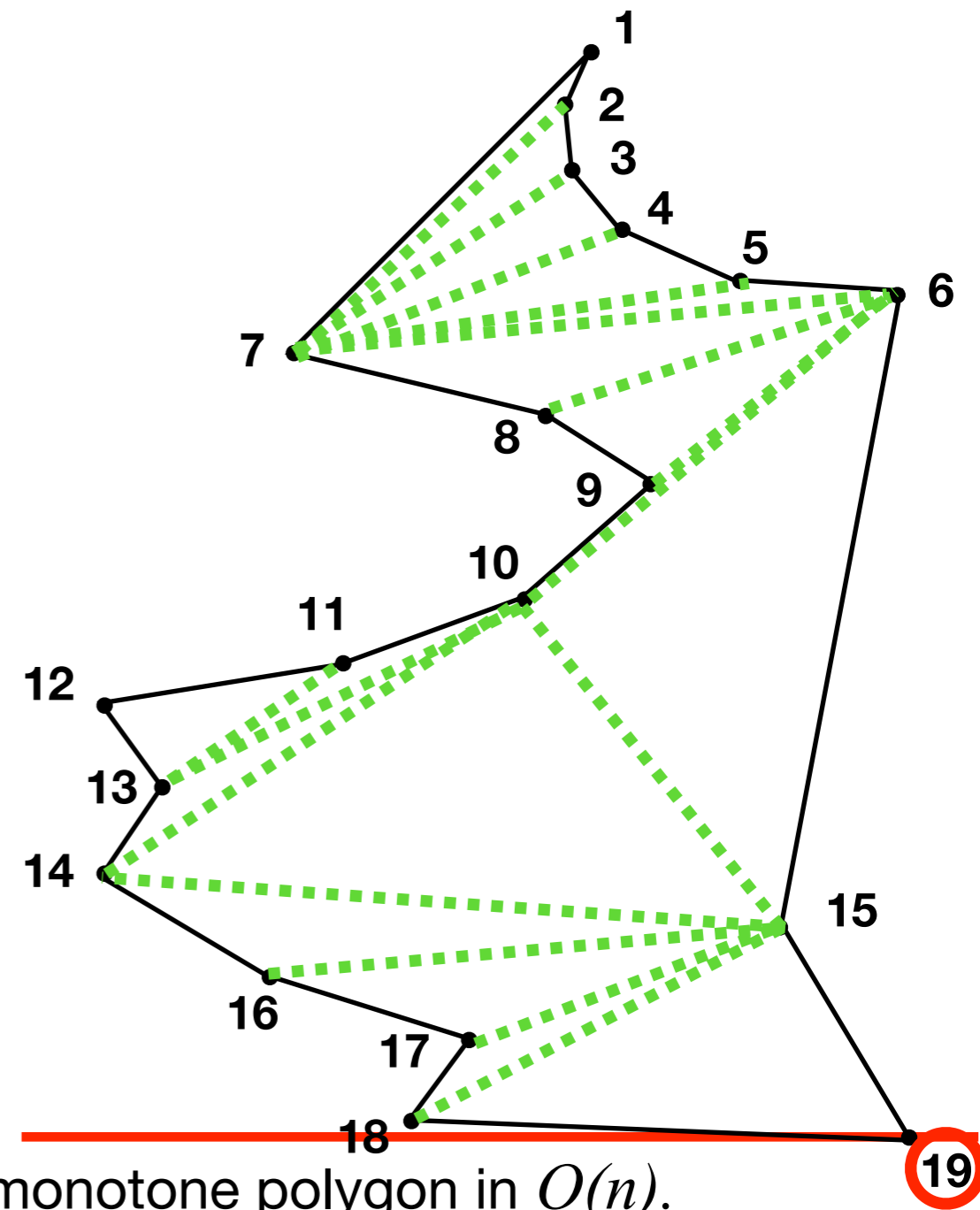
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2. Existence
3. Properties
4. Algorithms: Removing ears
5. Algorithms: Finding diagonals
6. Algorithms: Monotone polygons
7. Algorithms: Monotone decompositions
8. Faster algorithms
9. Application: Art Gallery problems
10. Application: Online triangulation

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



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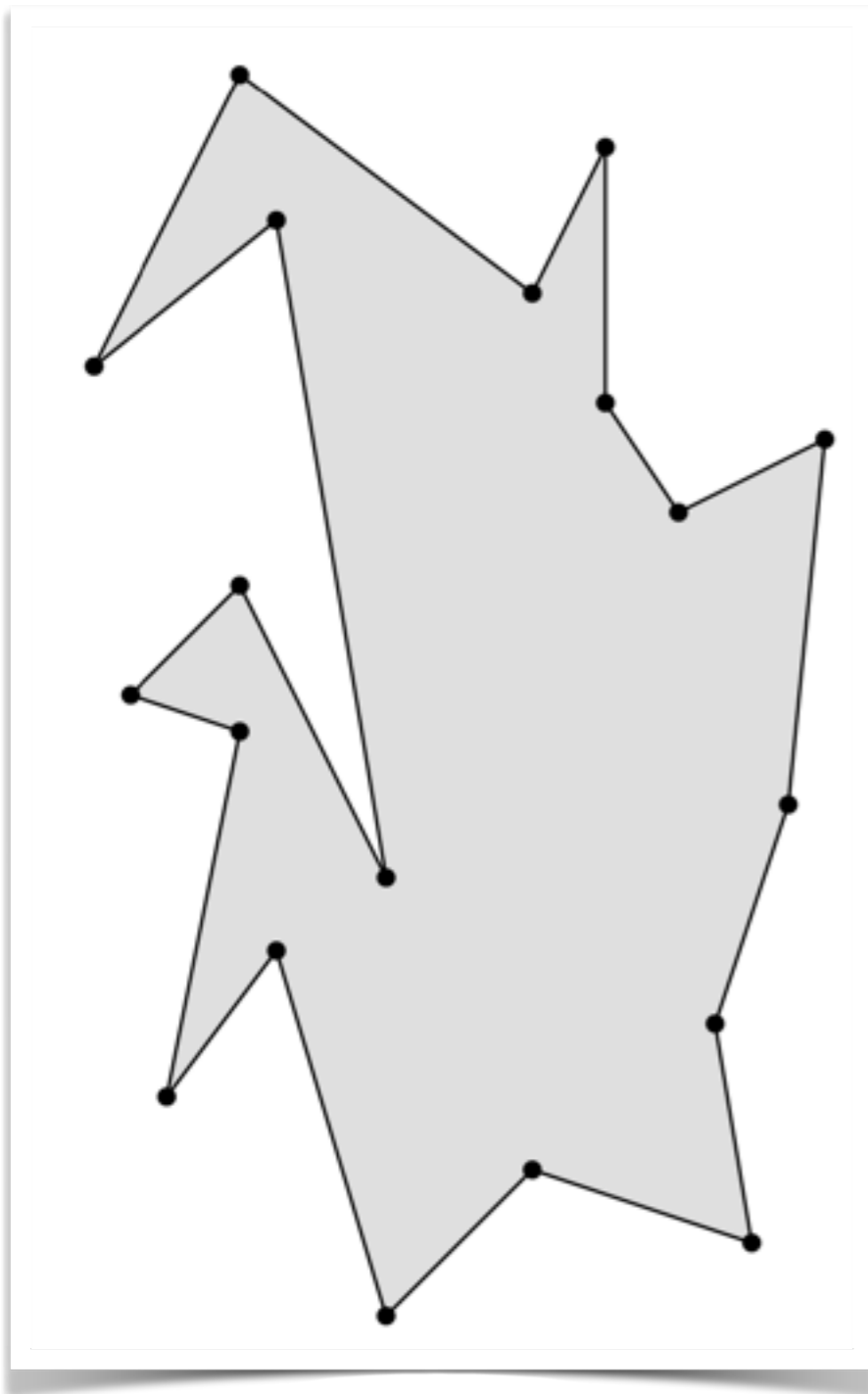
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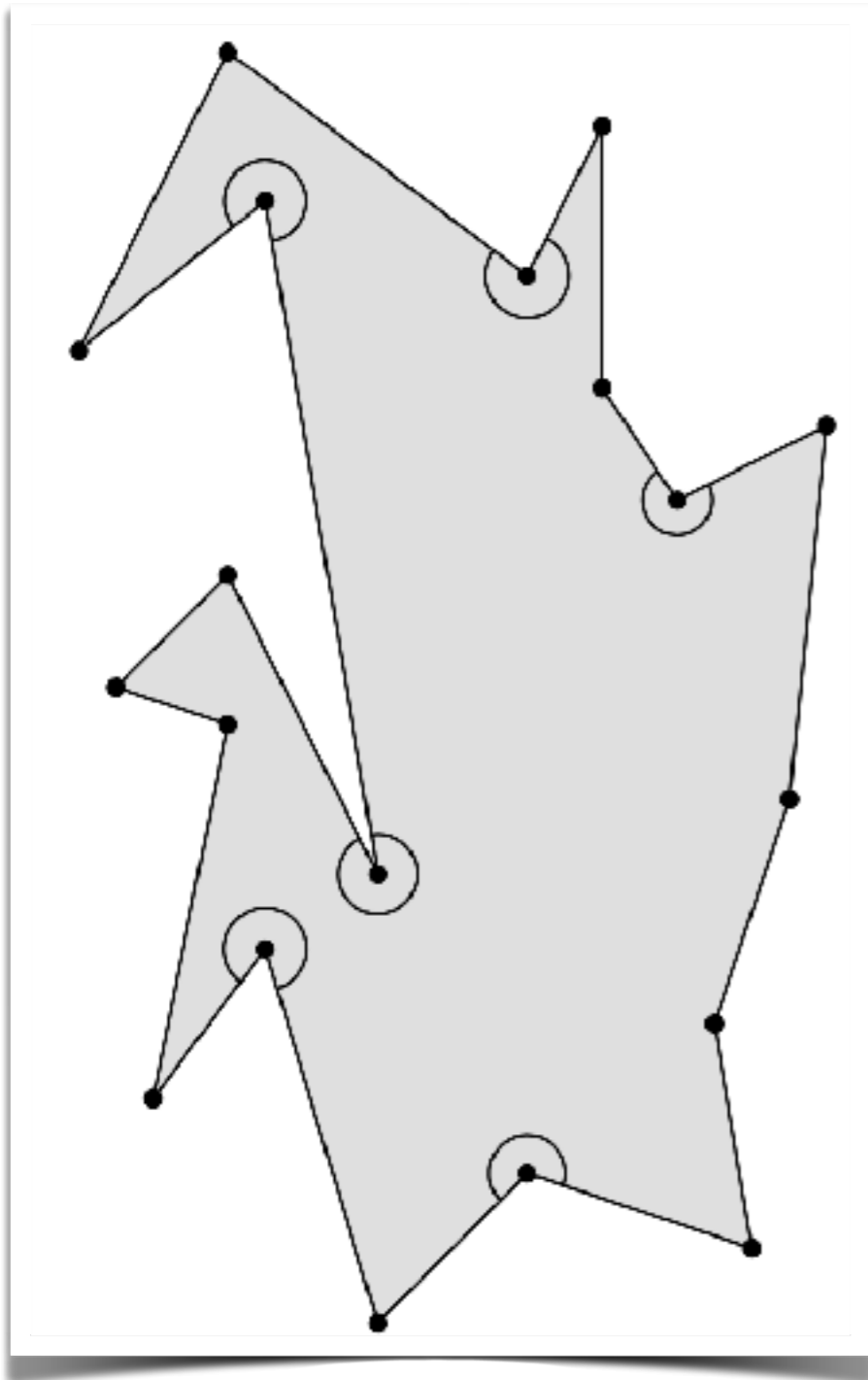
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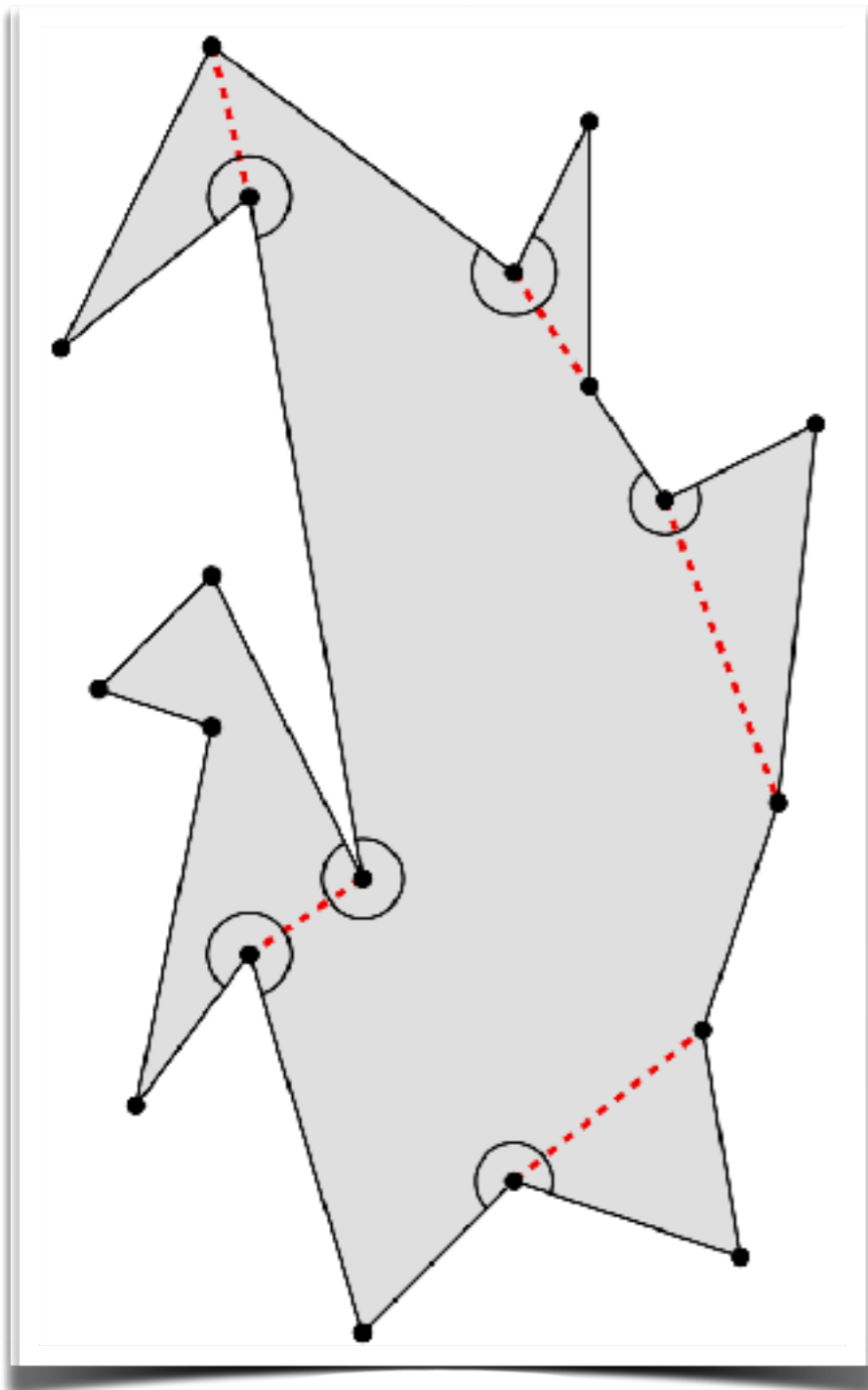
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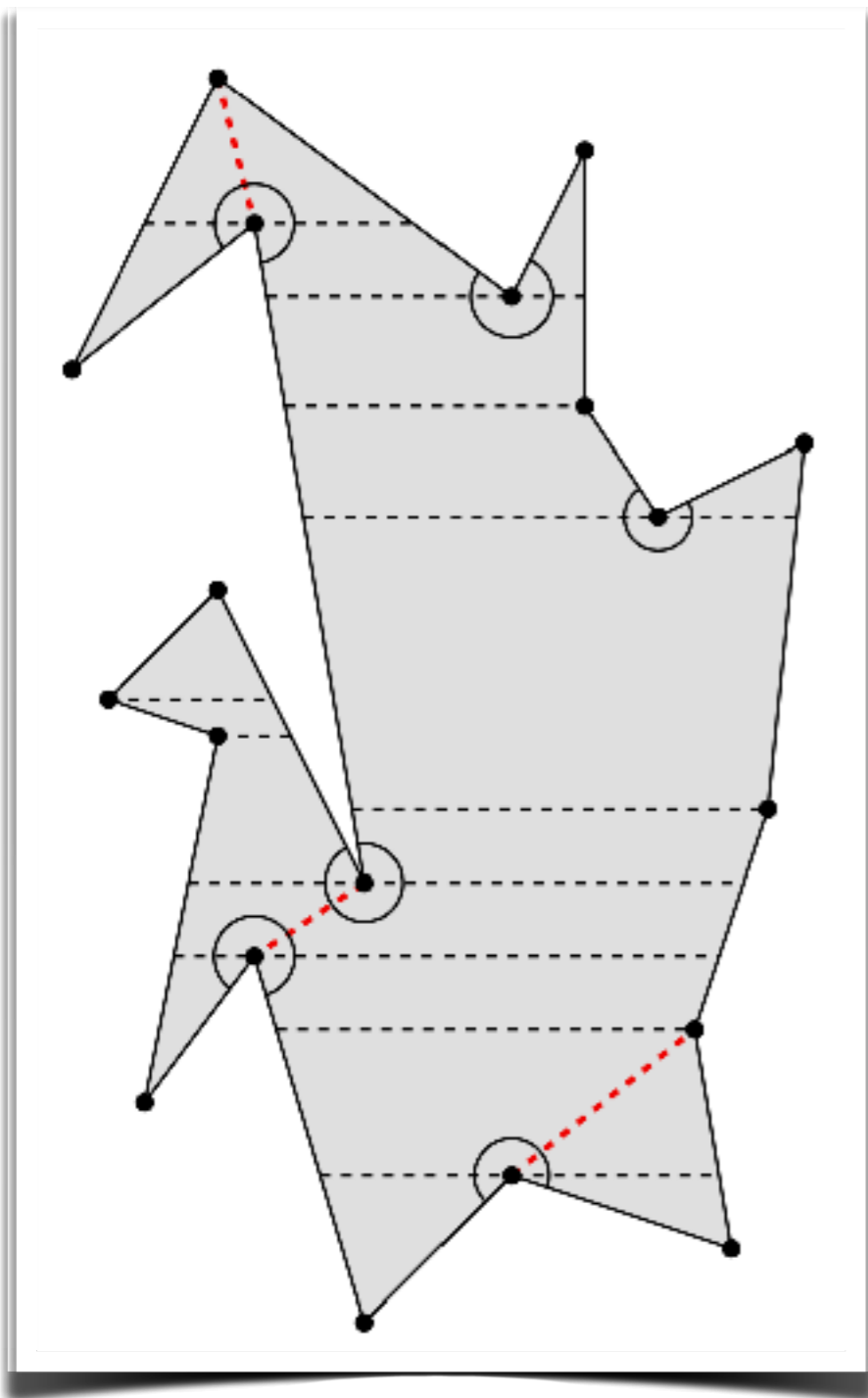
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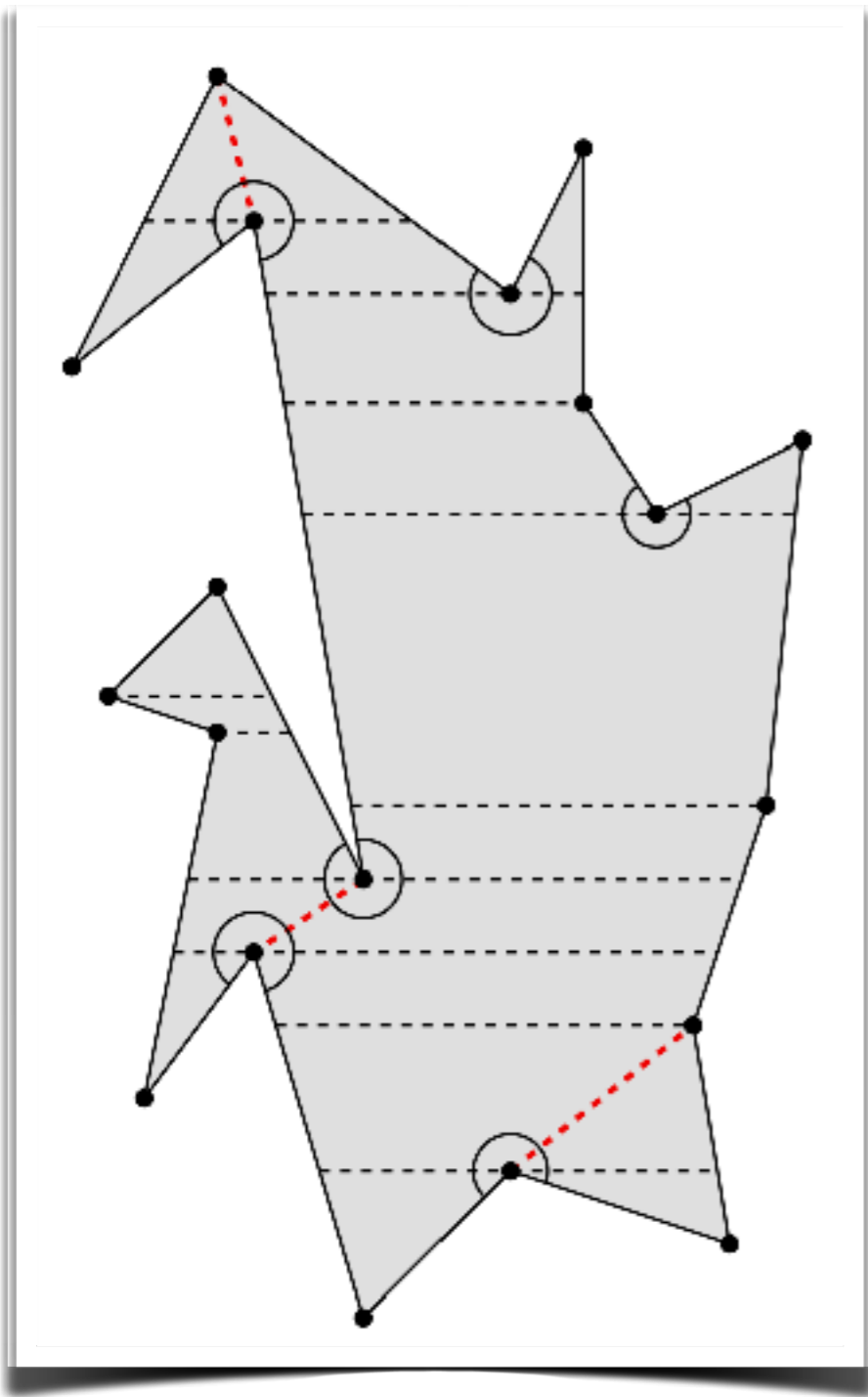
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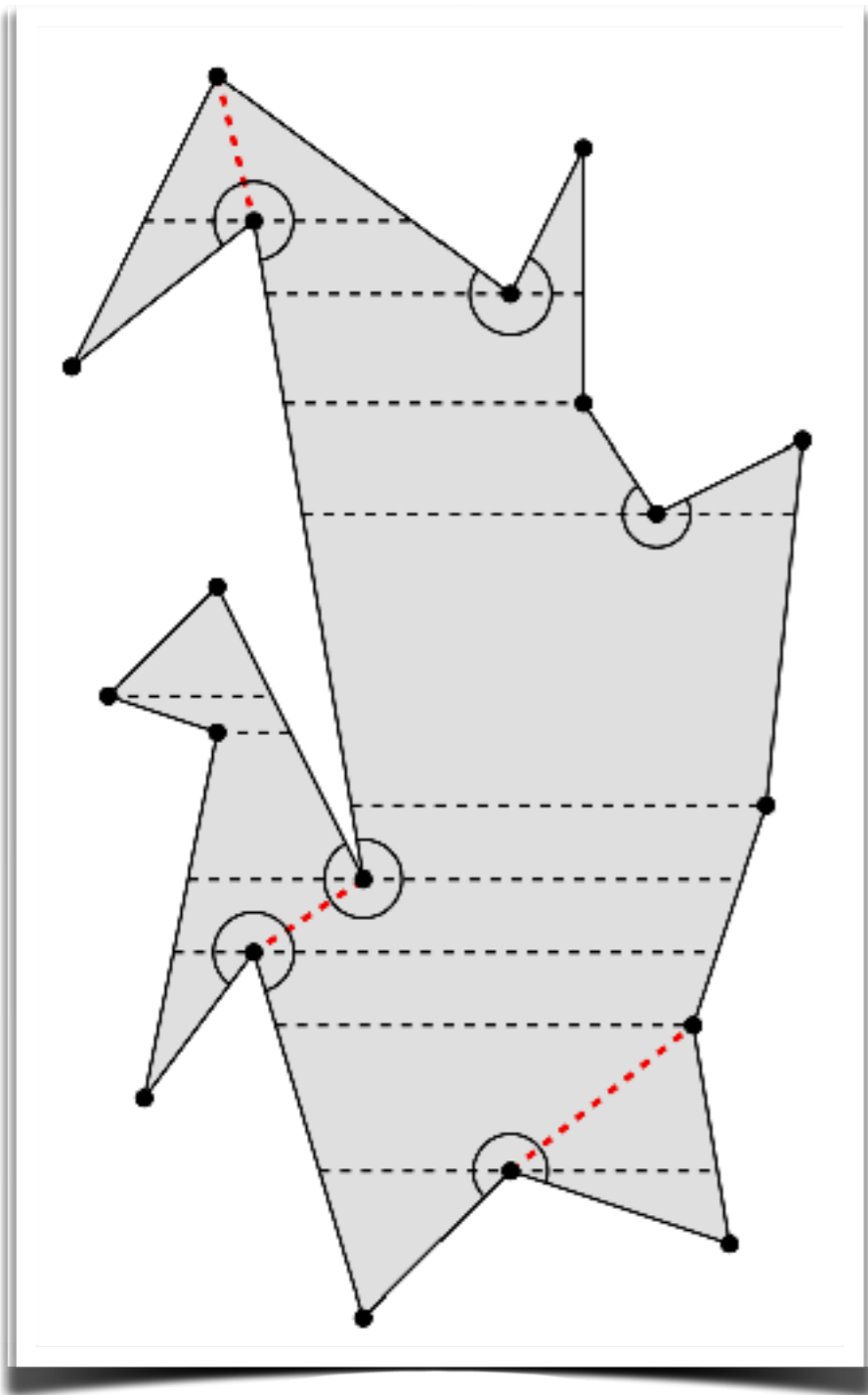
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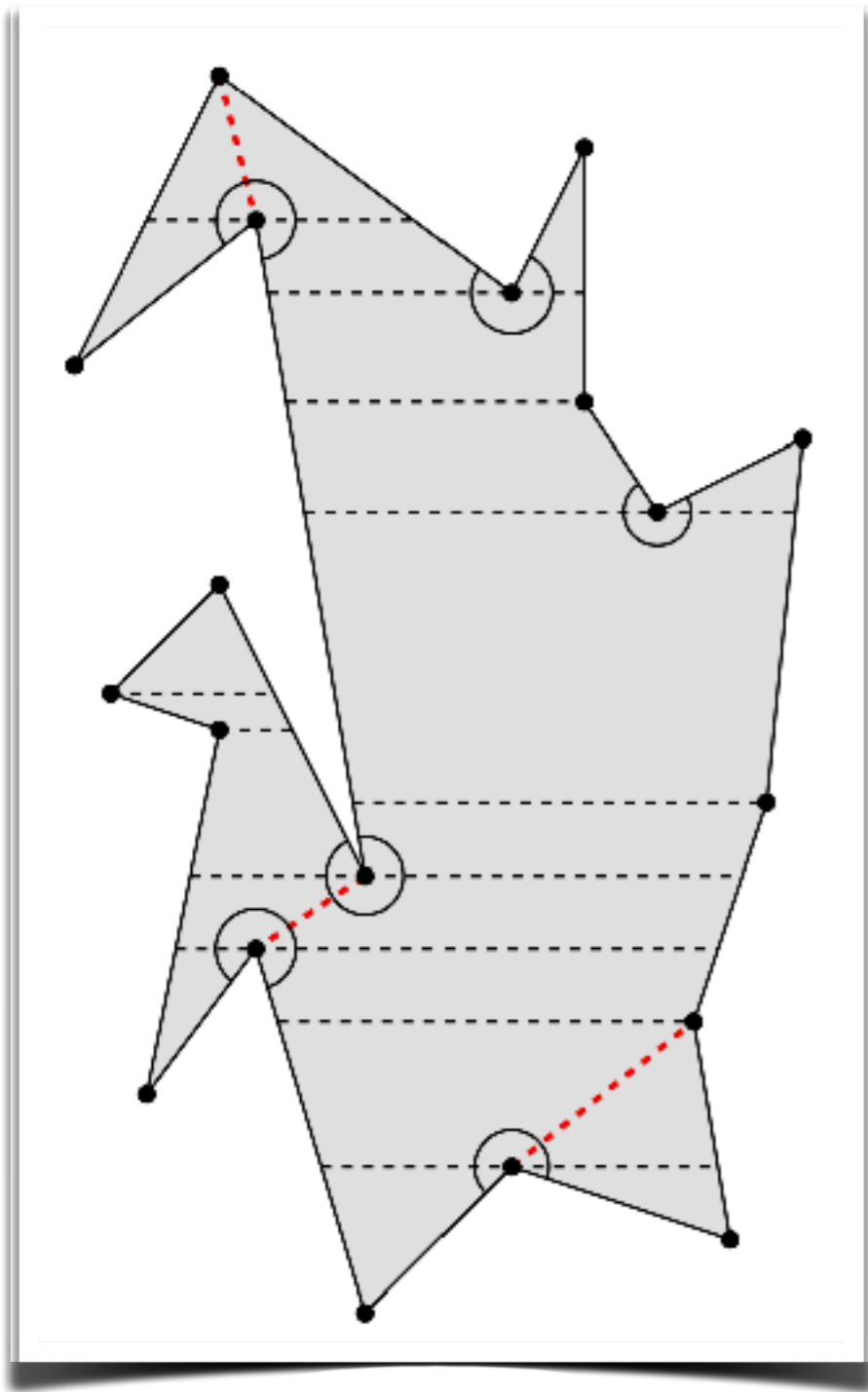
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Partitioning into monotone subpolygons



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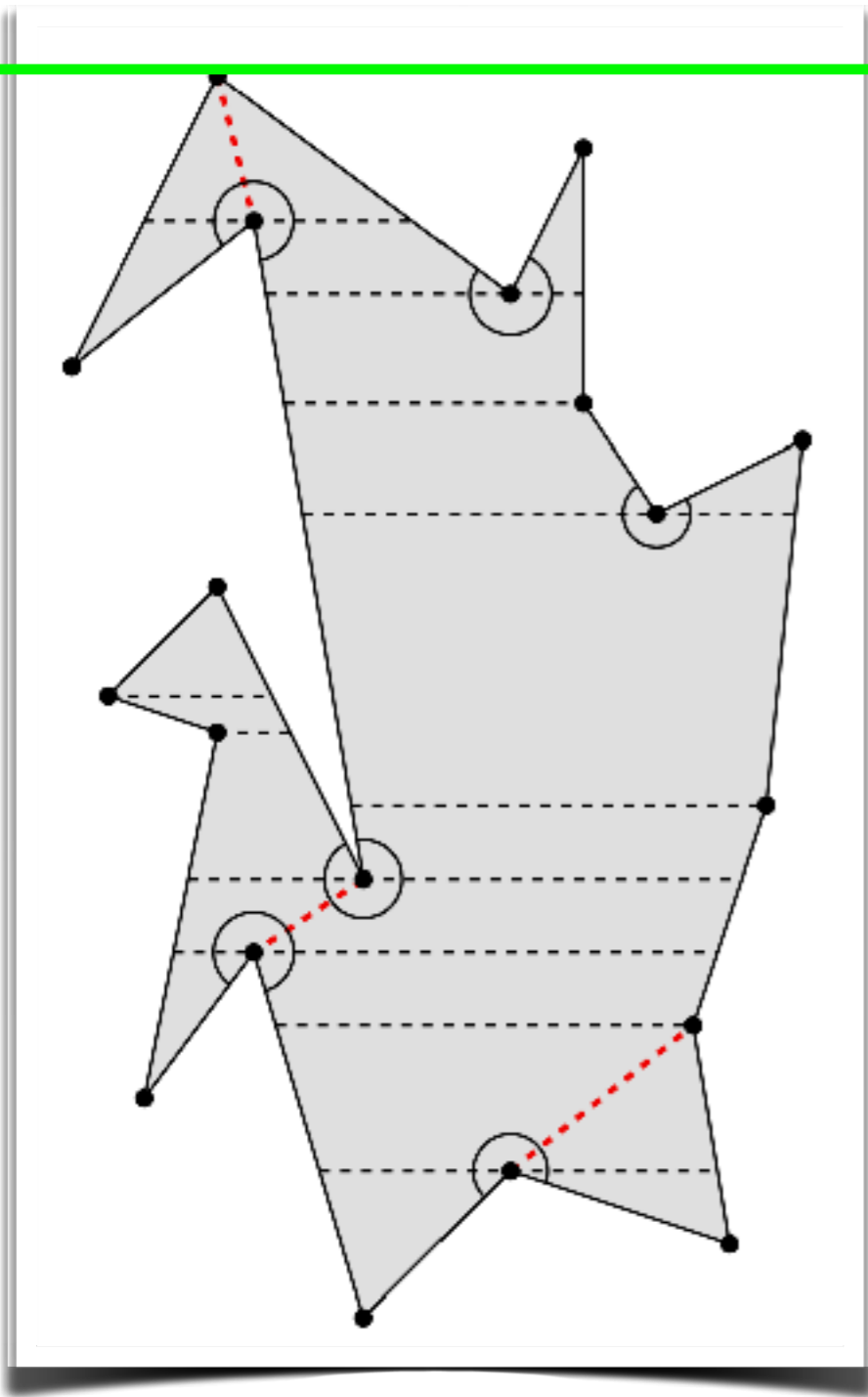
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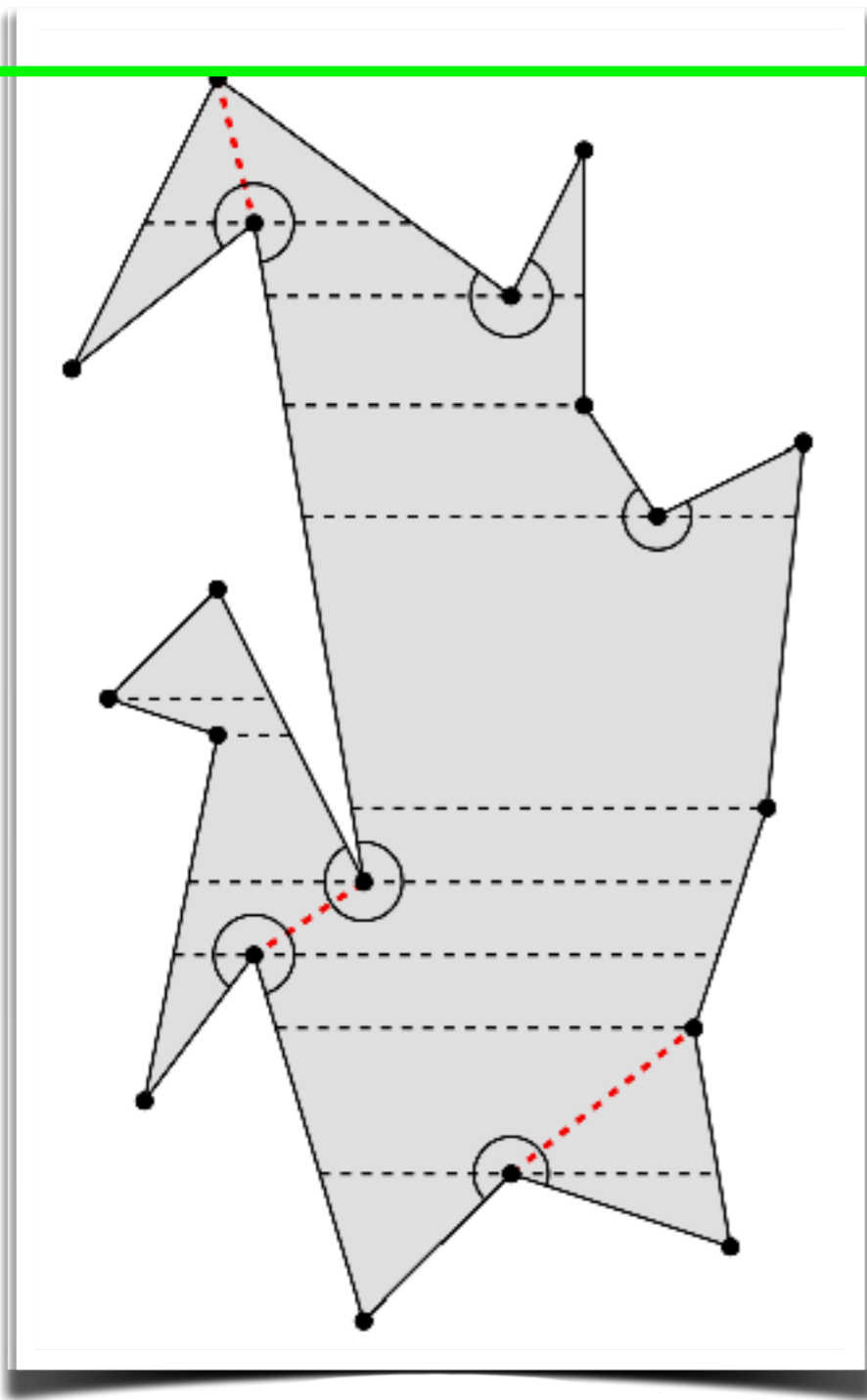
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### Ideas:

- Vertical plane sweep through vertices



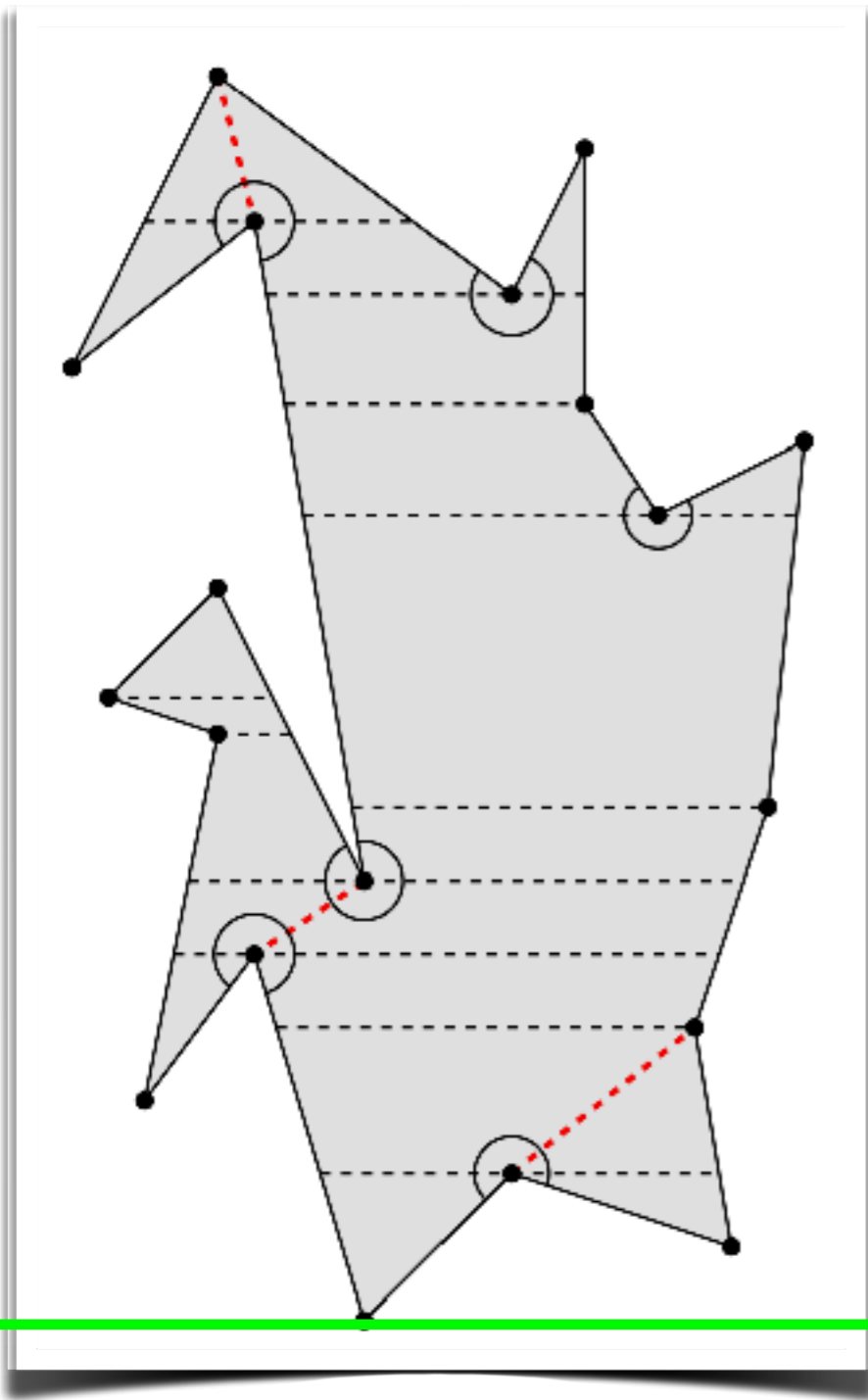
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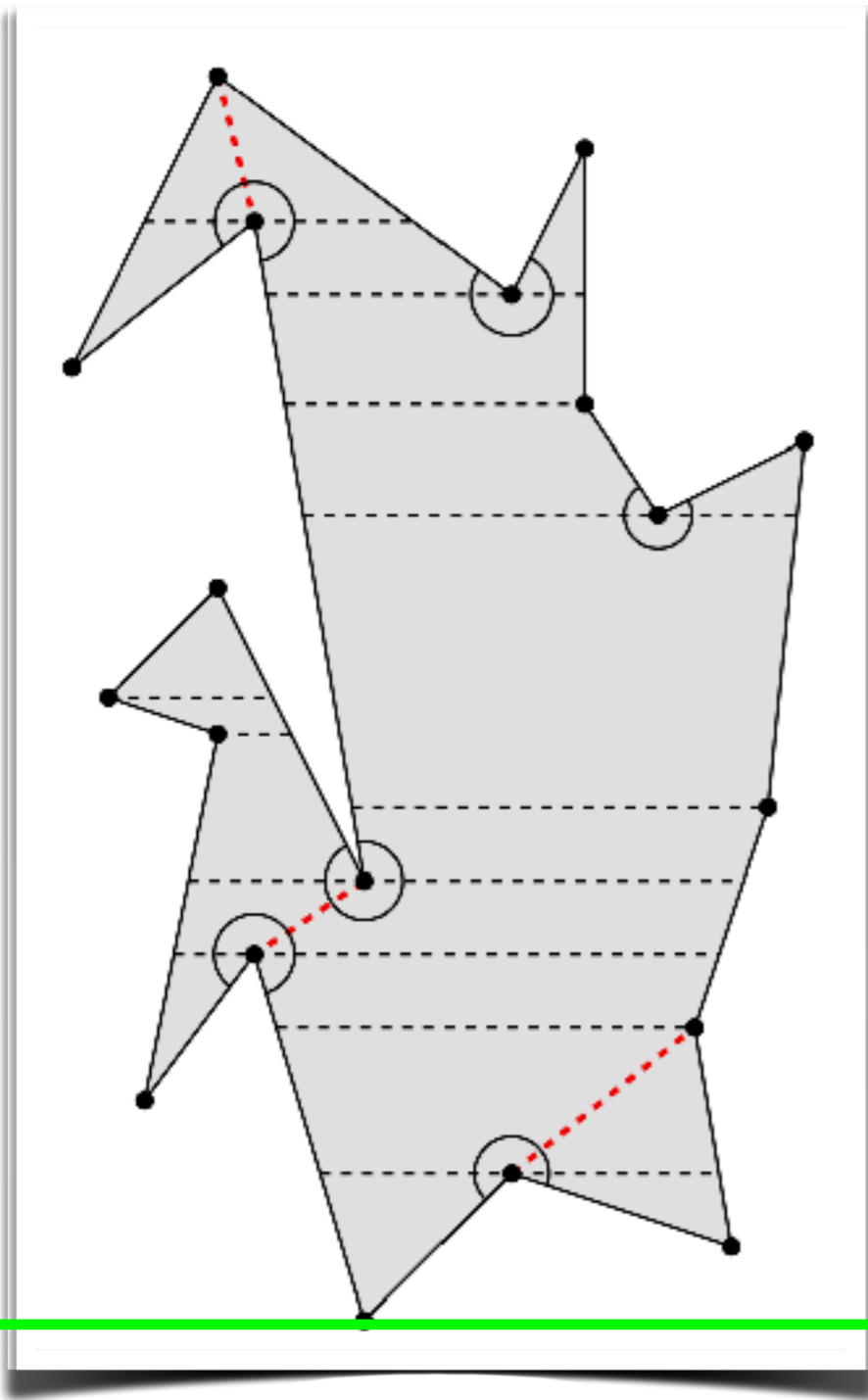
# Partitioning into Monotone Polygons [Garey, Johnson, Preparata, Tarjan 1978]

## Algorithm 5.18:

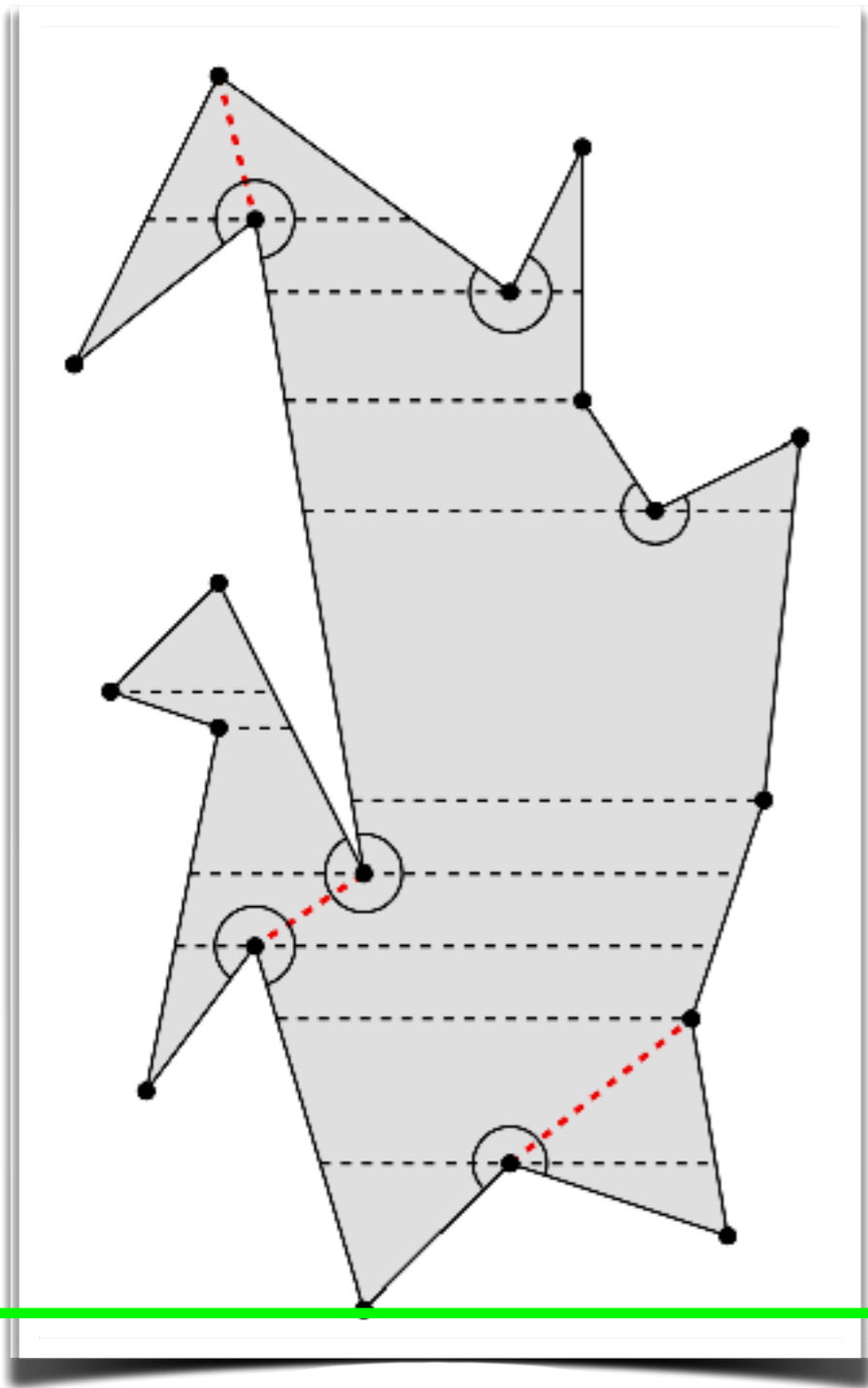
Partitioning into monotone subpolygons

### Ideas:

- Vertical plane sweep through vertices
- Maintain horizontal sequence of edges



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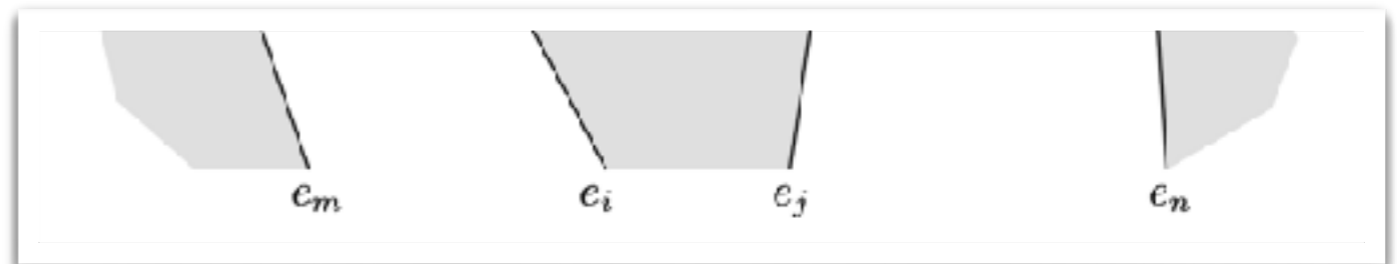


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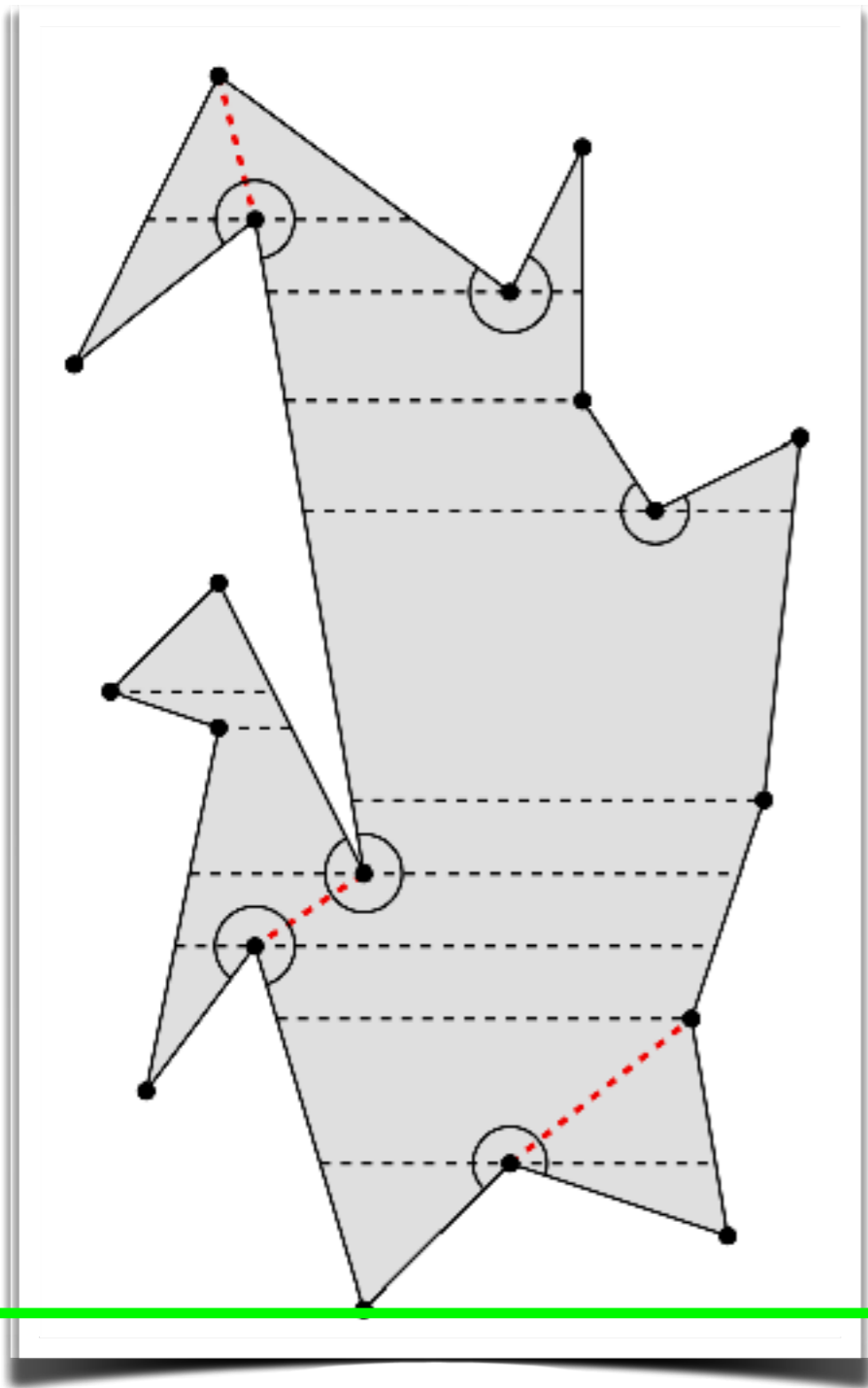
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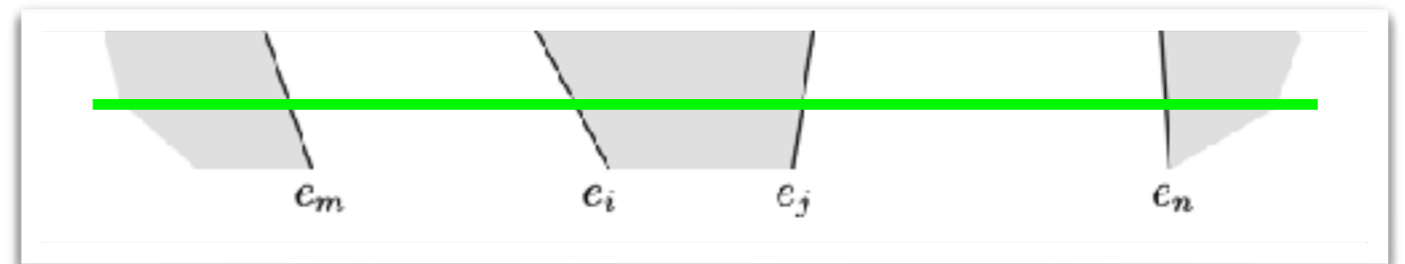


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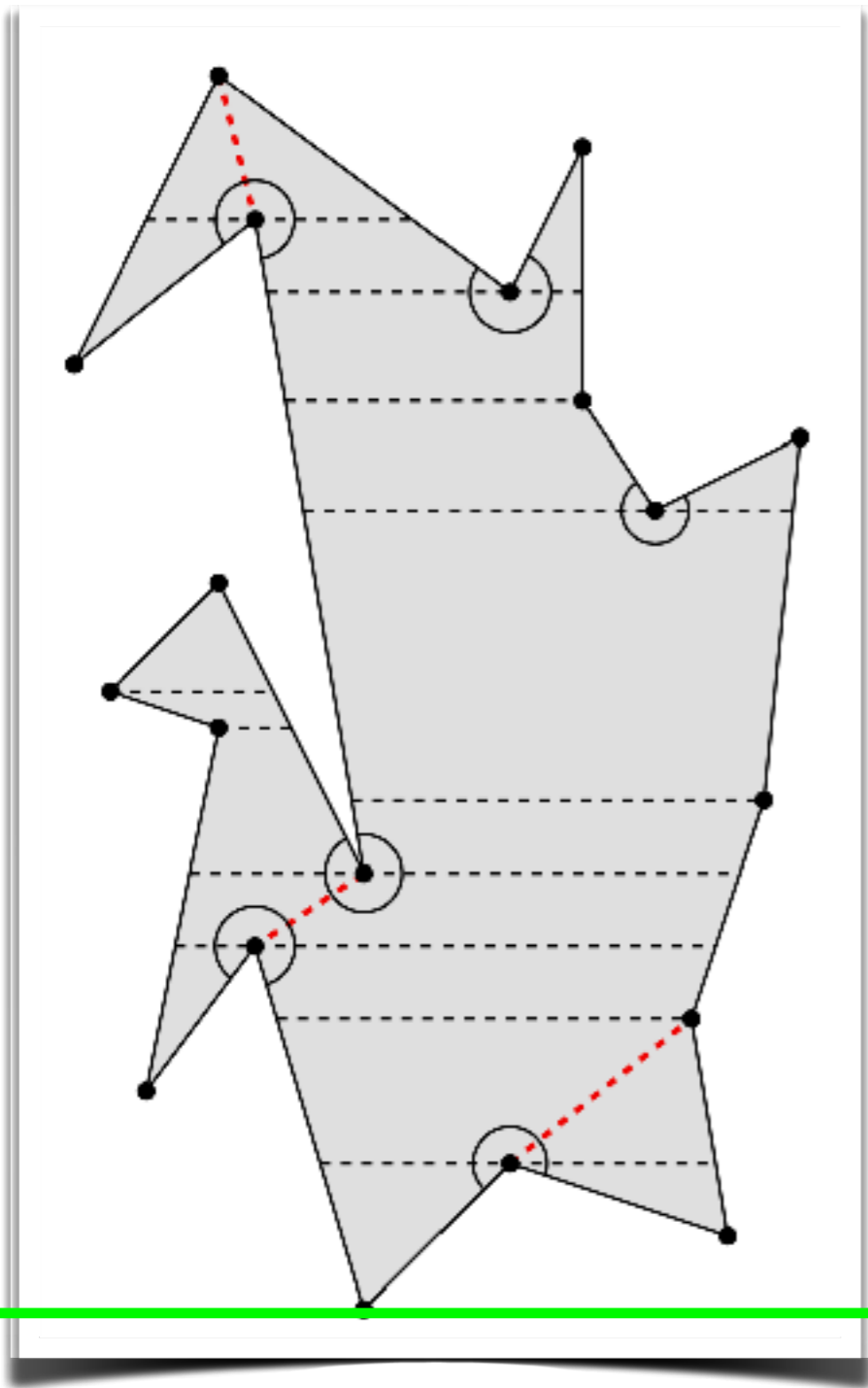
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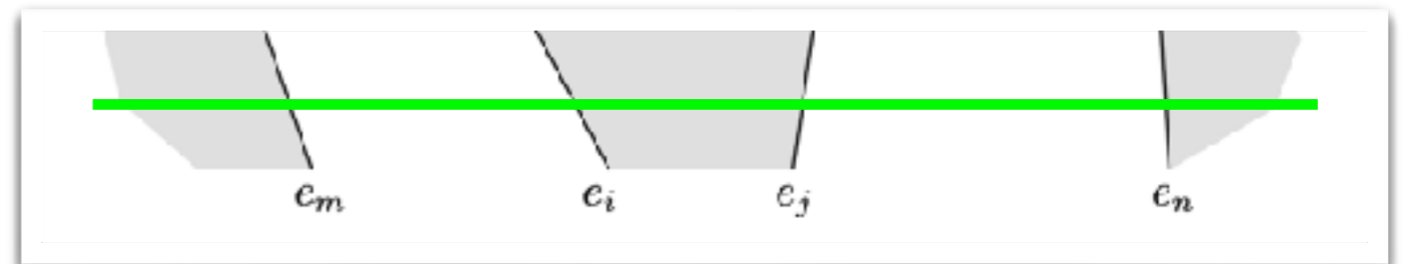


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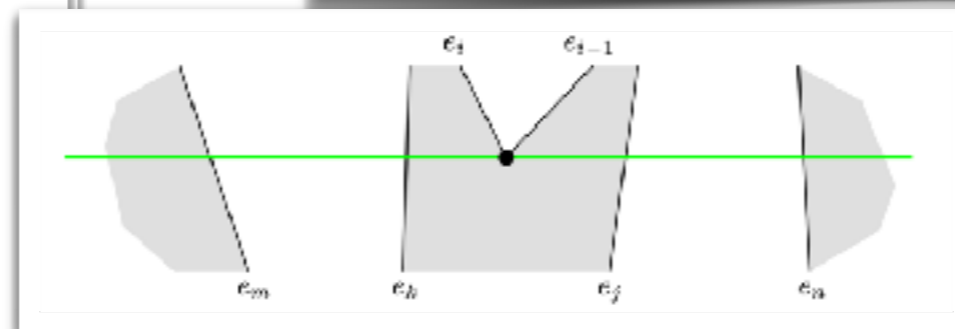
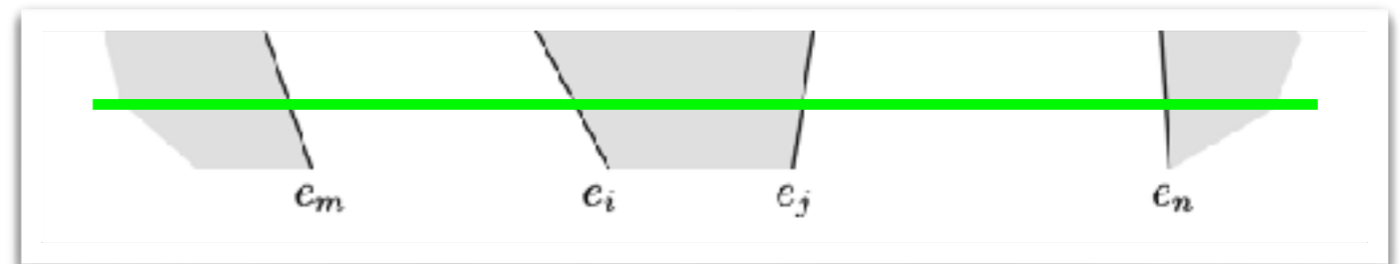
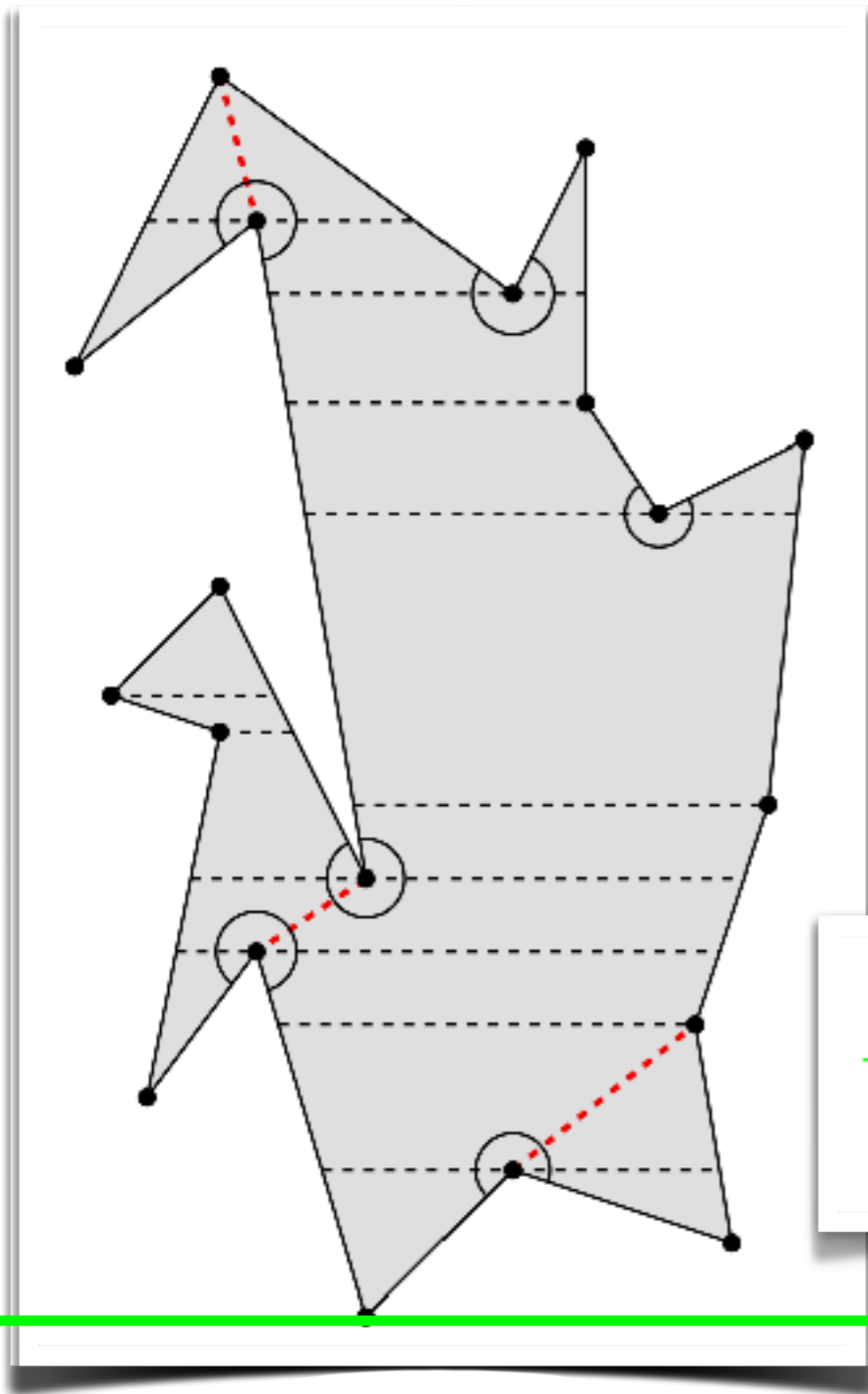
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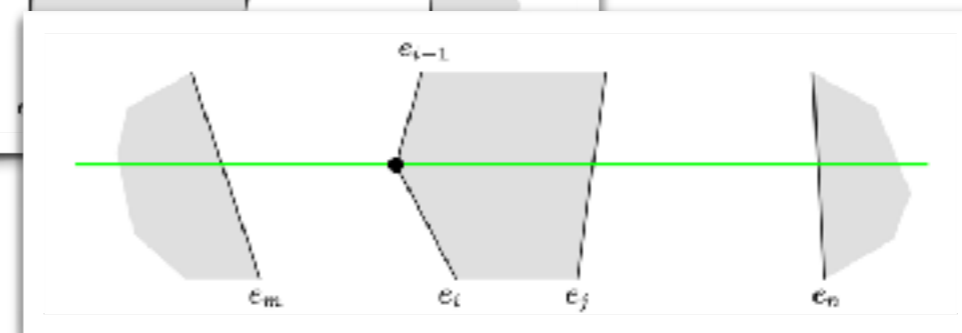
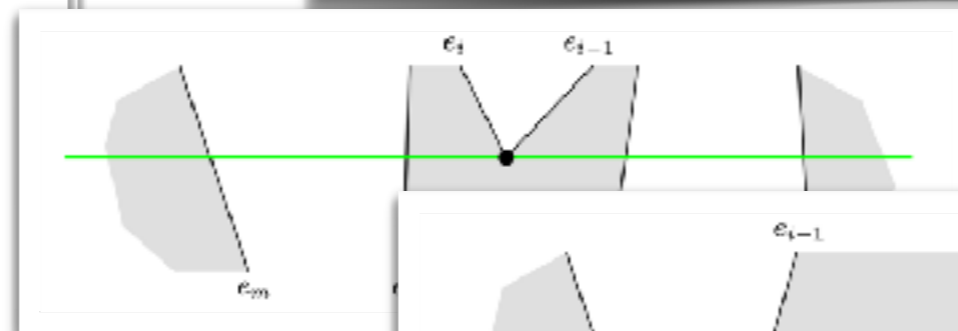
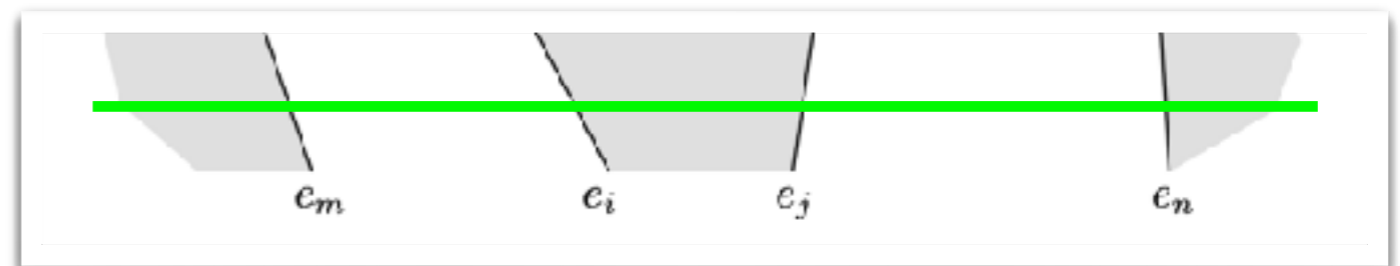
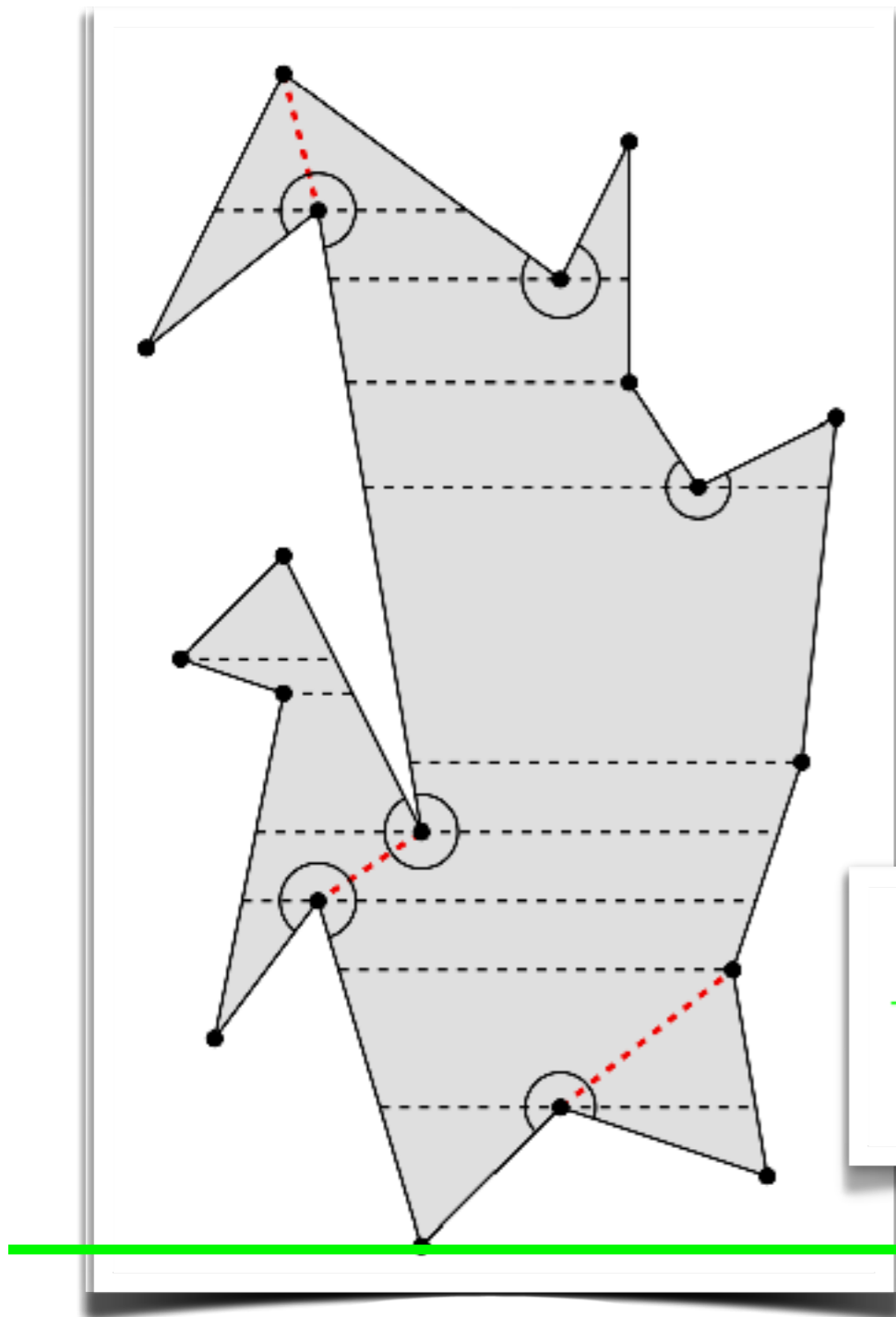
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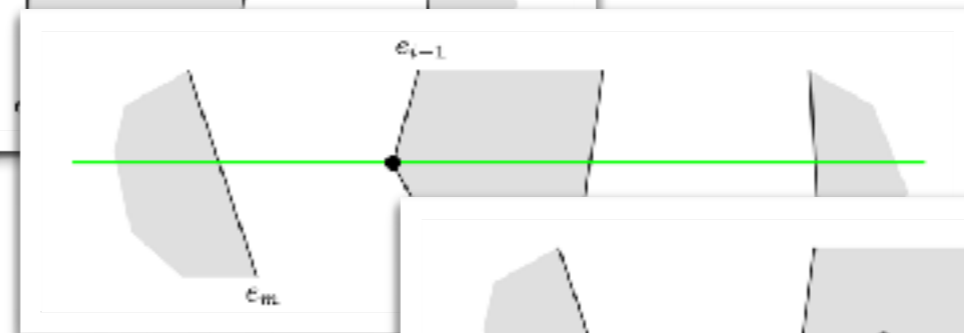
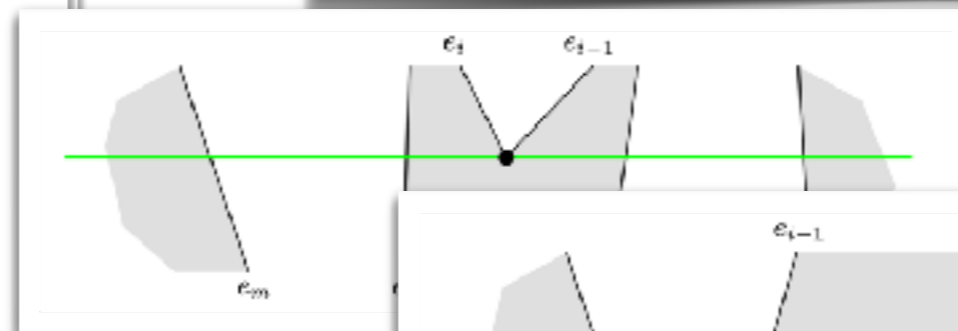
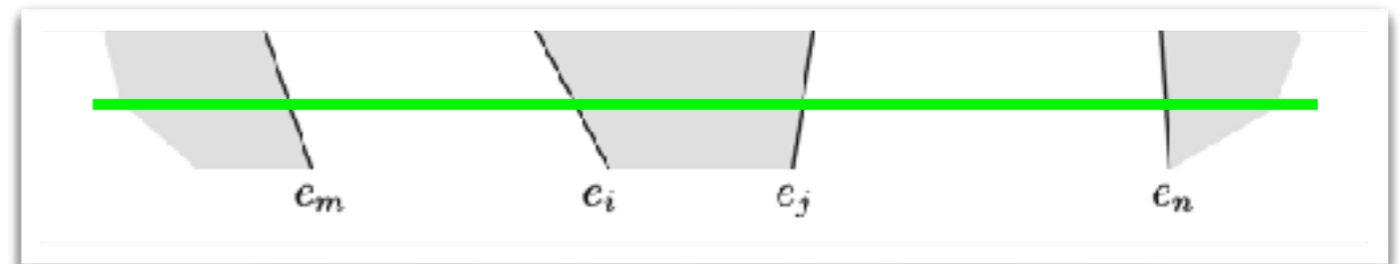
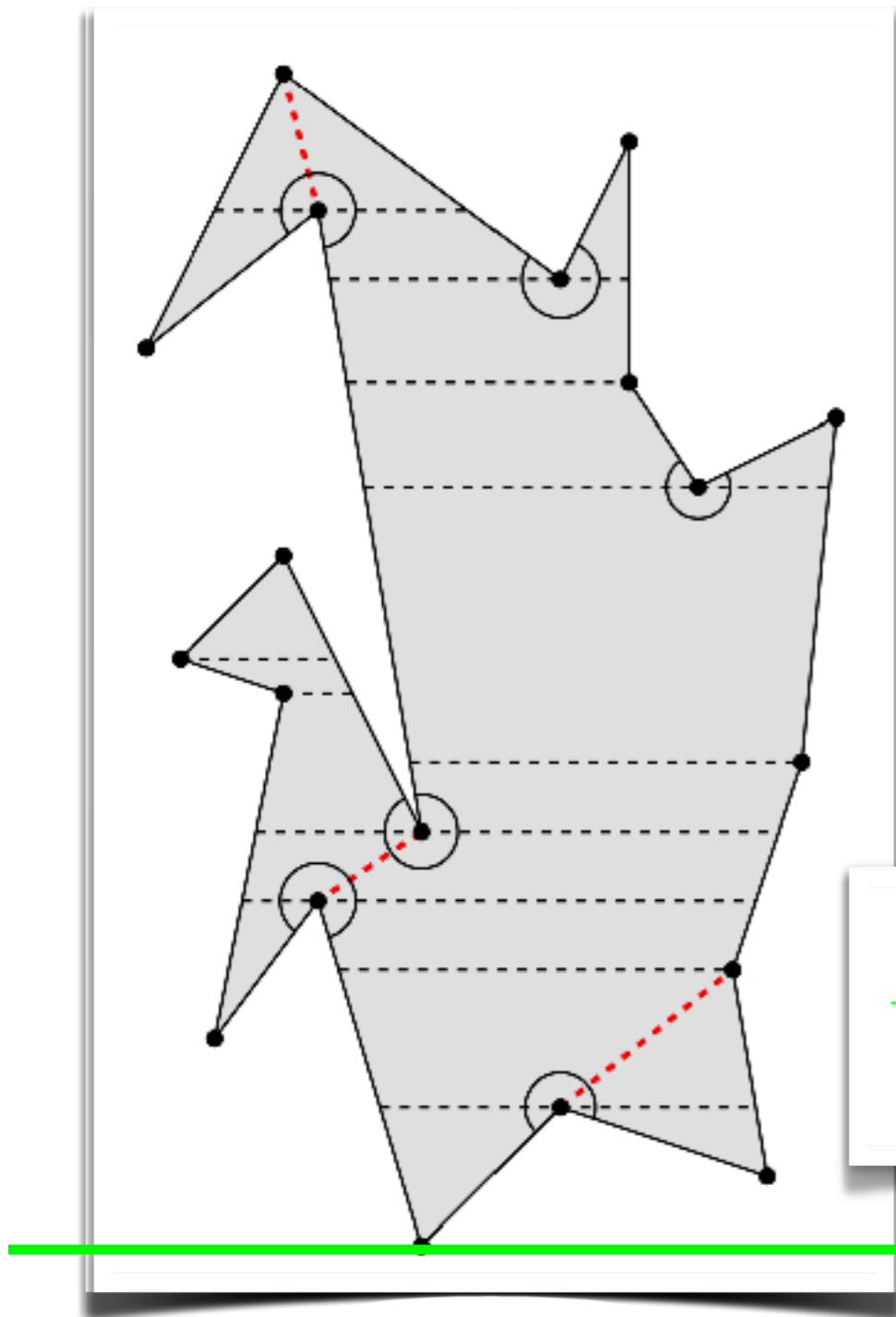
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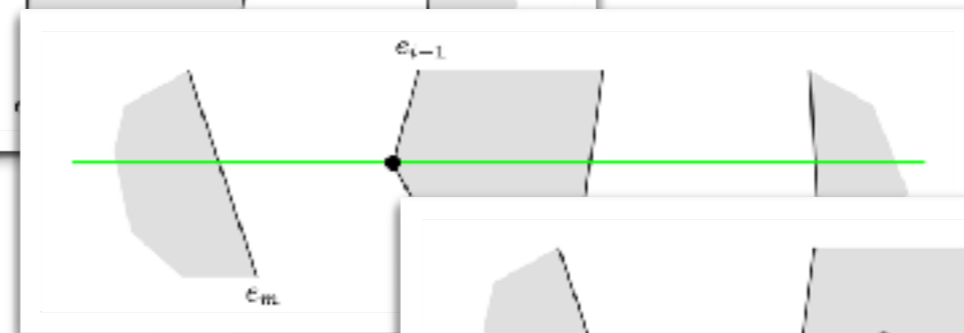
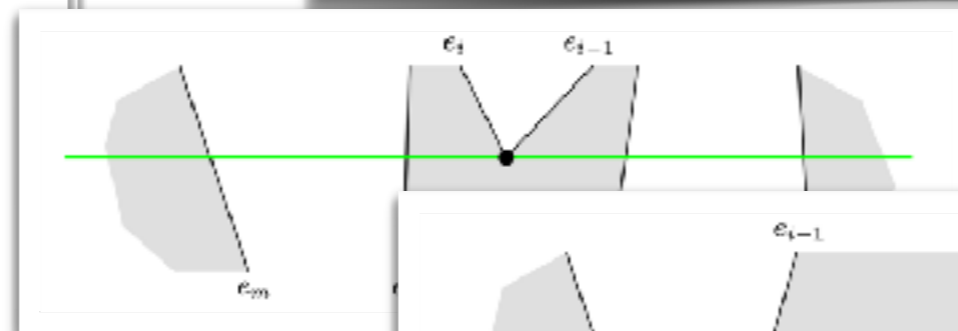
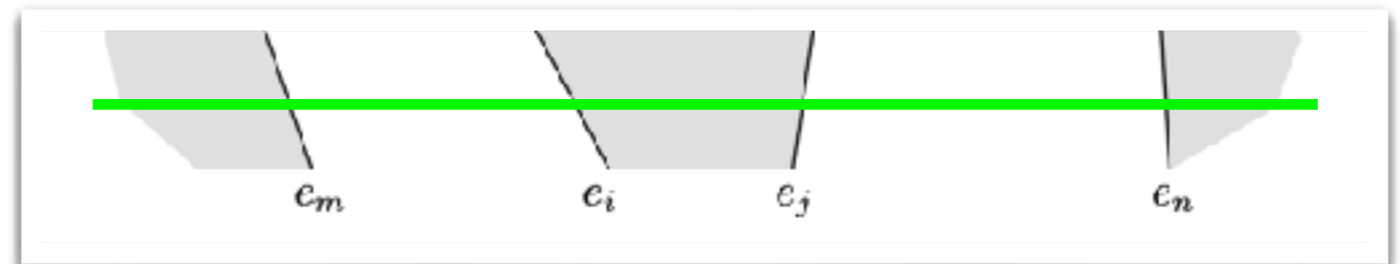
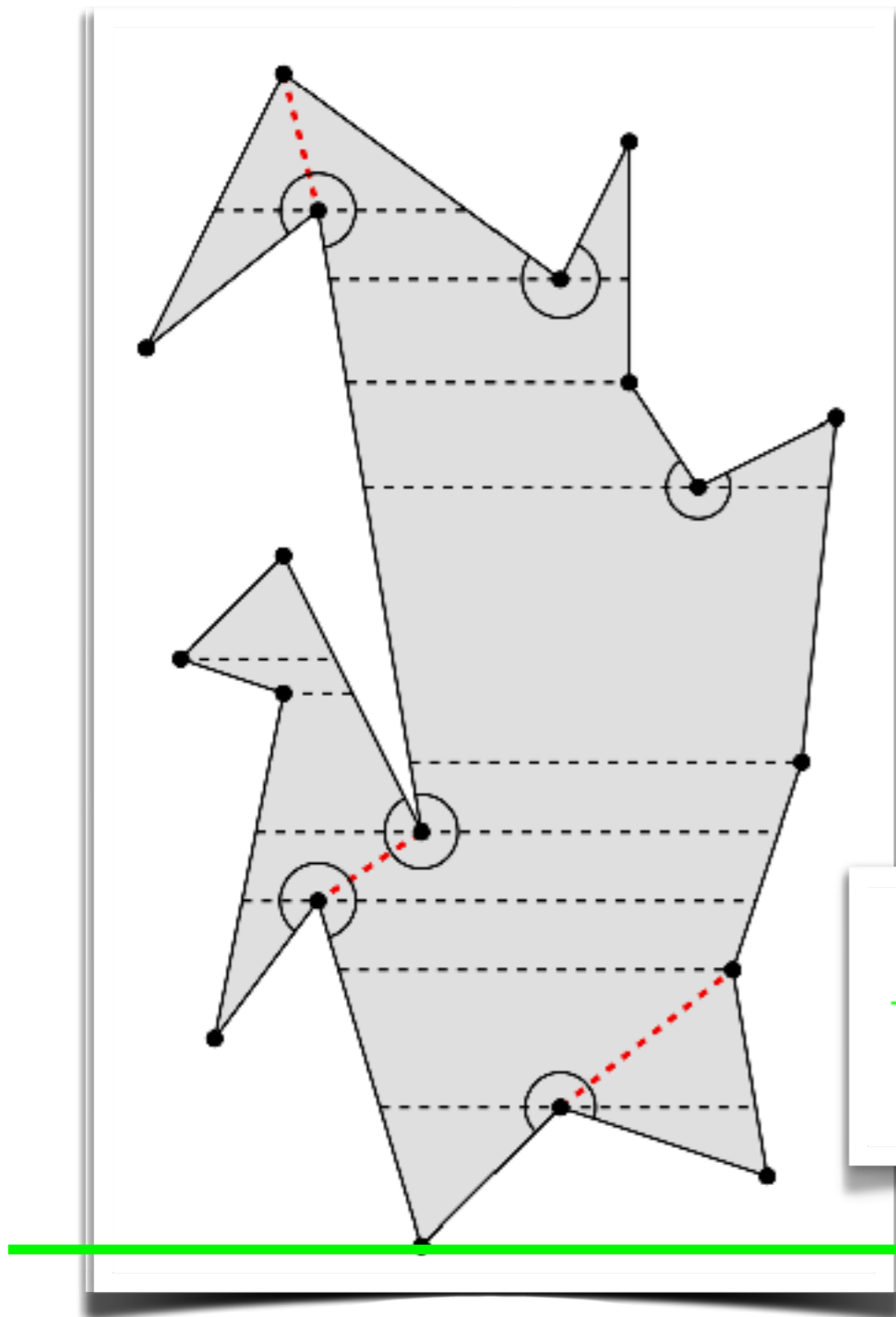
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### Ideas:

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- Insert or delete in  $O(\log n)$





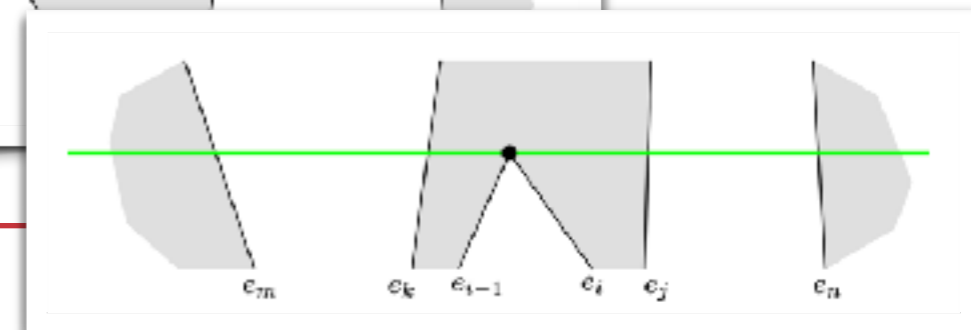
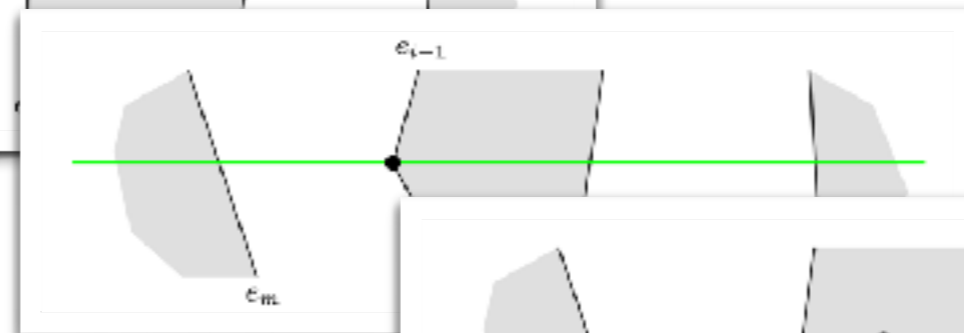
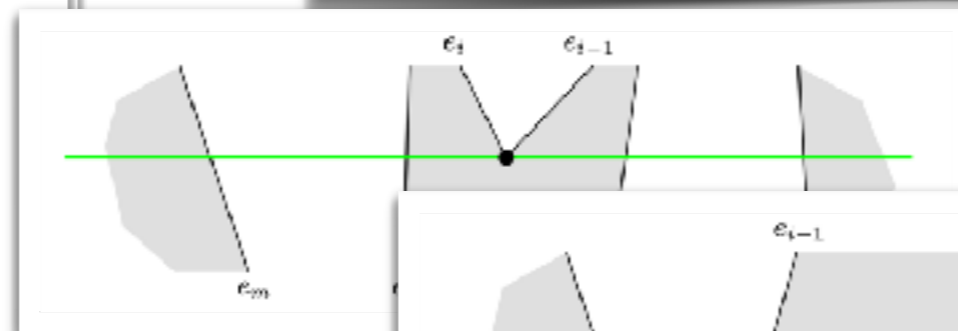
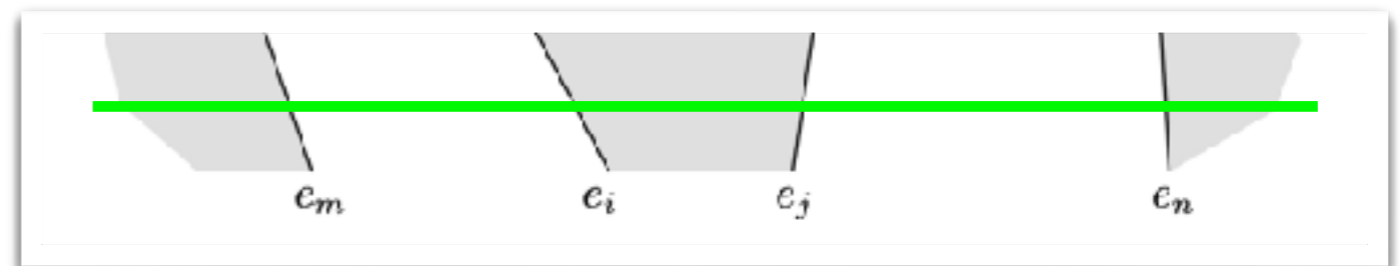
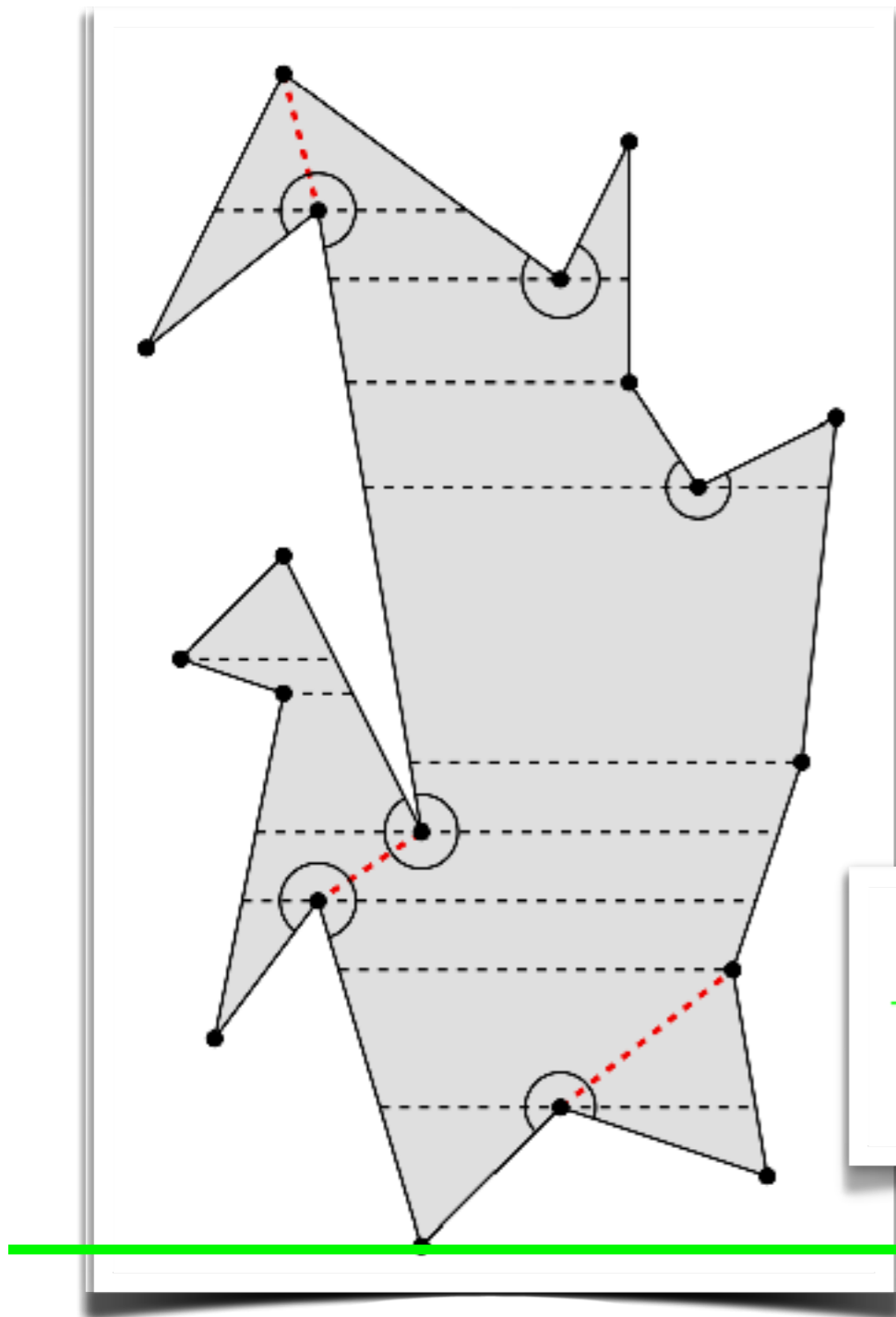
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### Ideas:

- Vertical plane sweep through vertices
- Maintain horizontal sequence of edges
- Perform updates at events
- Insert or delete in  $O(\log n)$
- Connect cusps up or down



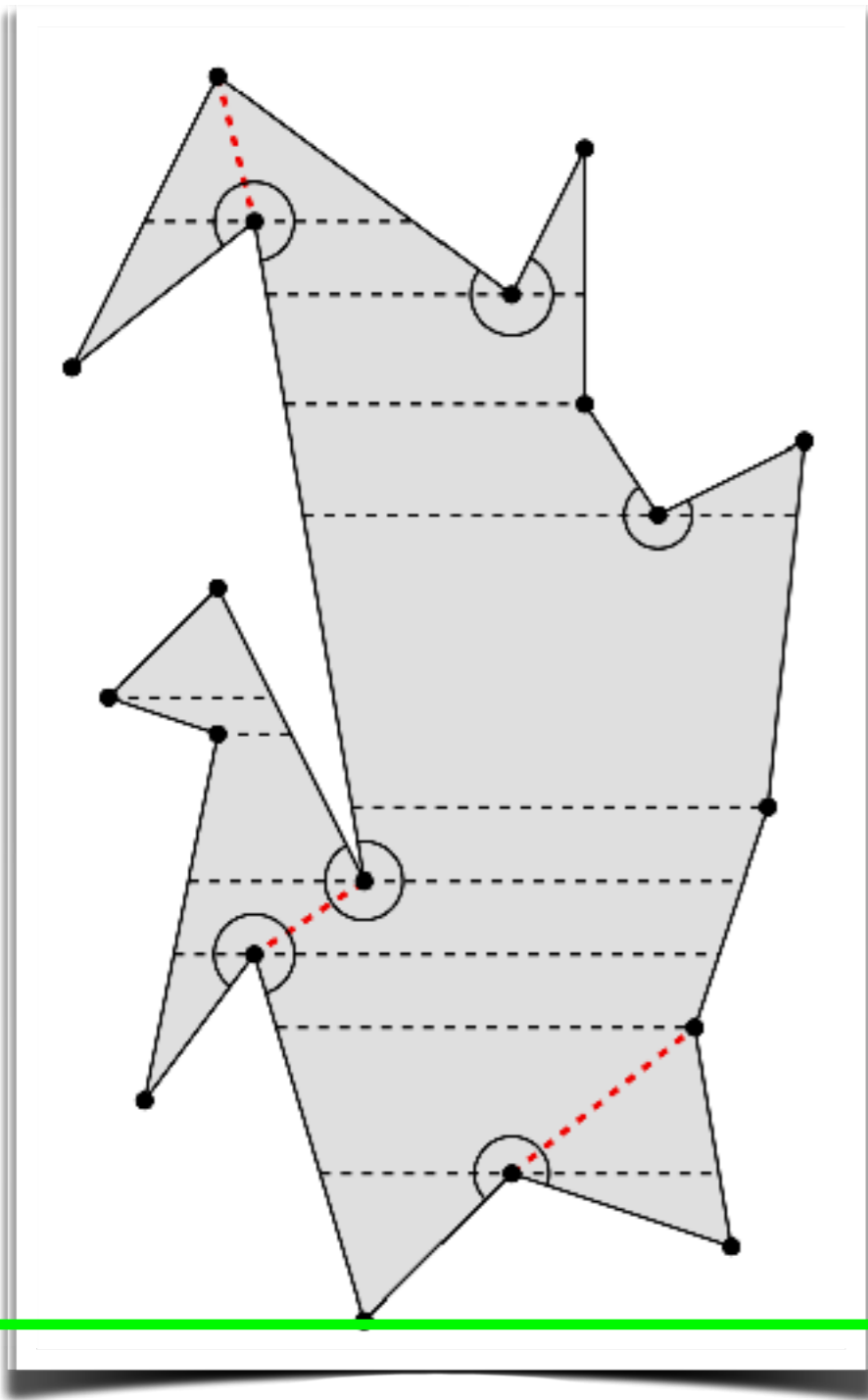
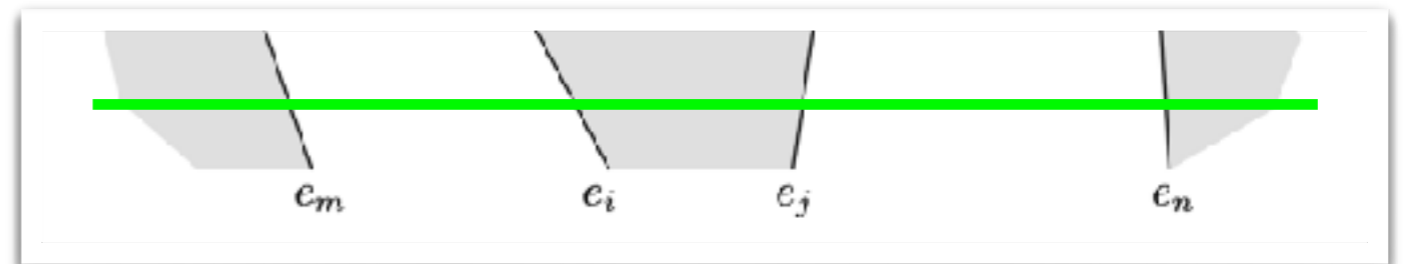
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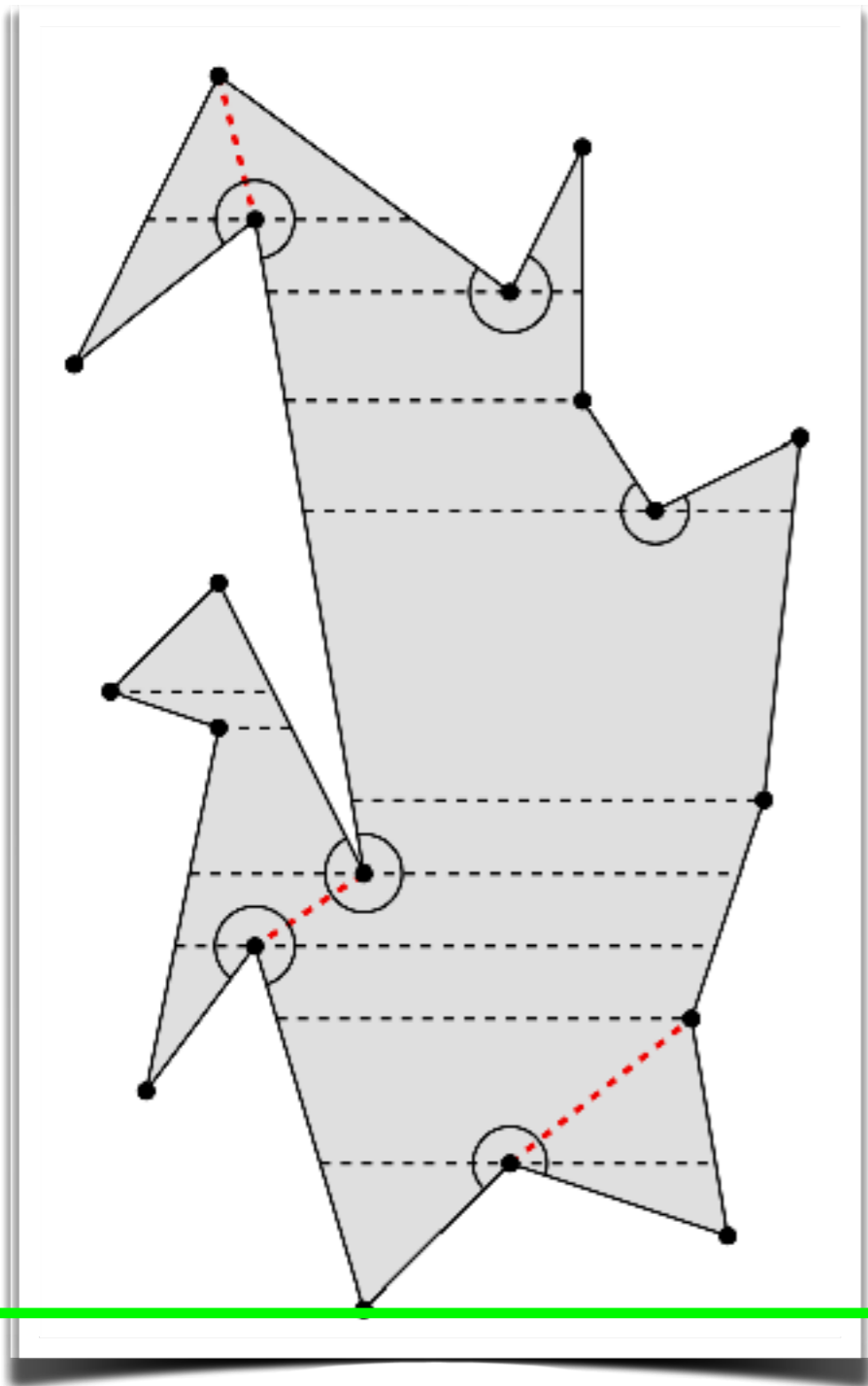
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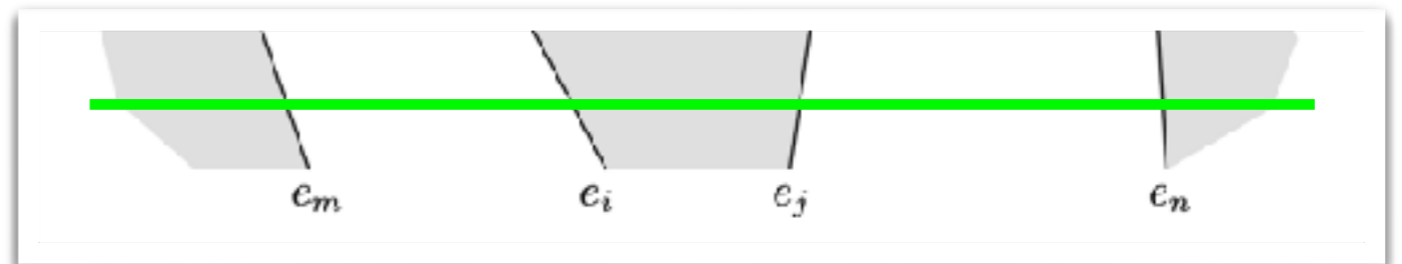


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## Theorem 5.19:

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

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8. **Faster algorithms**
9. Application: Art Gallery problems
10. Application: Online triangulation



**Note:**

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

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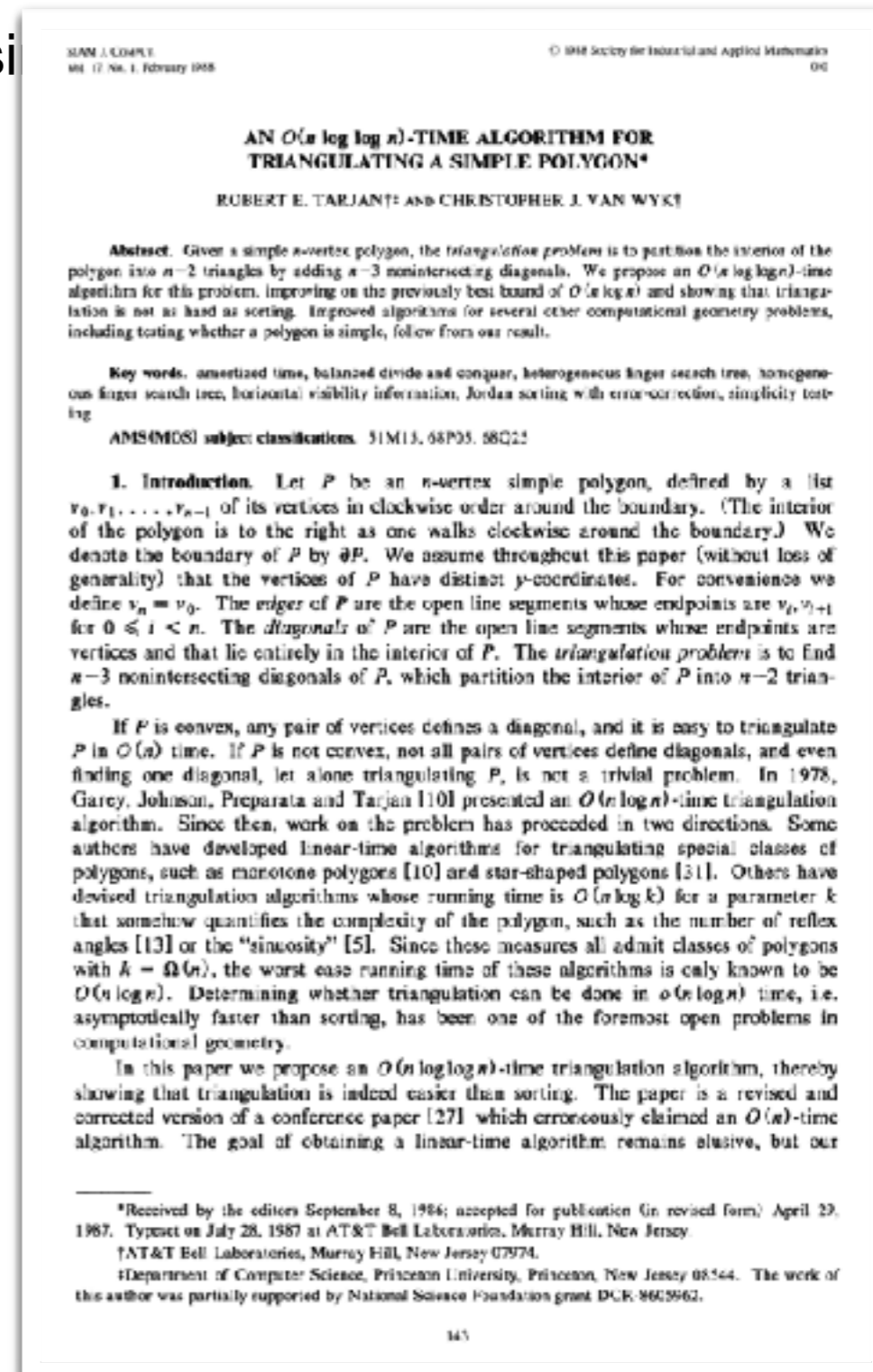
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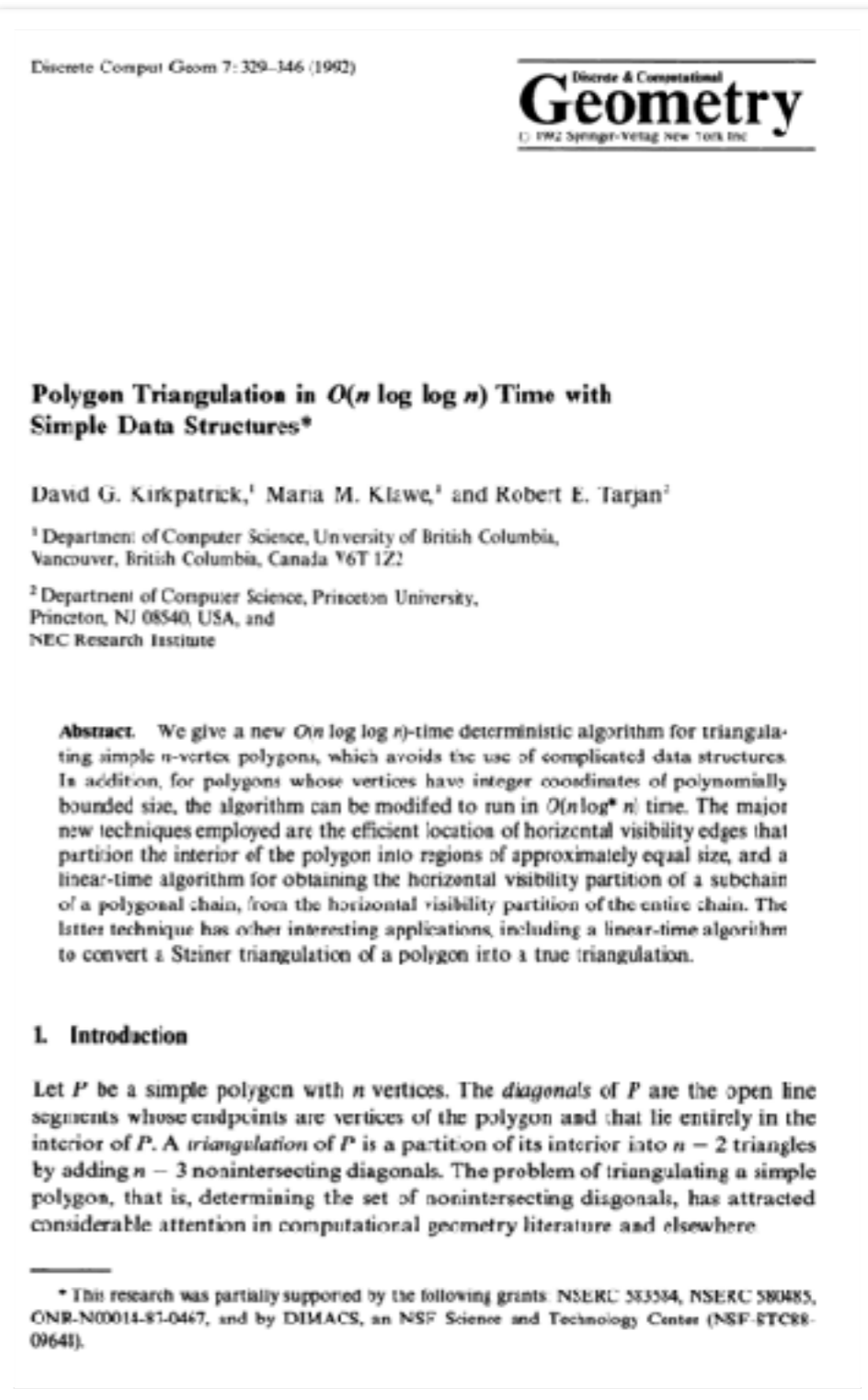
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Discrete Comput Geom 4:423-432 (1989)

Theory & Computational  
**Geometry**  
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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 polygon.

#### 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-860562.

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

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Chazelle (1991):  $O(n)$

Discrete Comput Geom 5:485-524 (1991)

Discrete & Computational  
**Geometry**  
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### Triangulating a Simple Polygon in Linear Time\*

Bernard Chazelle

Department of Computer Science, Princeton University,  
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 theorem, 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.

#### 1. 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-8700917.

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## Progress:

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

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JOURNAL OF COMBINATORIAL THEORY, Series B 24, 374 (1978)

## Note

### A Short Proof of Chvátal's Watchman Theorem

STEVIE FISK

Department of Mathematics, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine 04011

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.

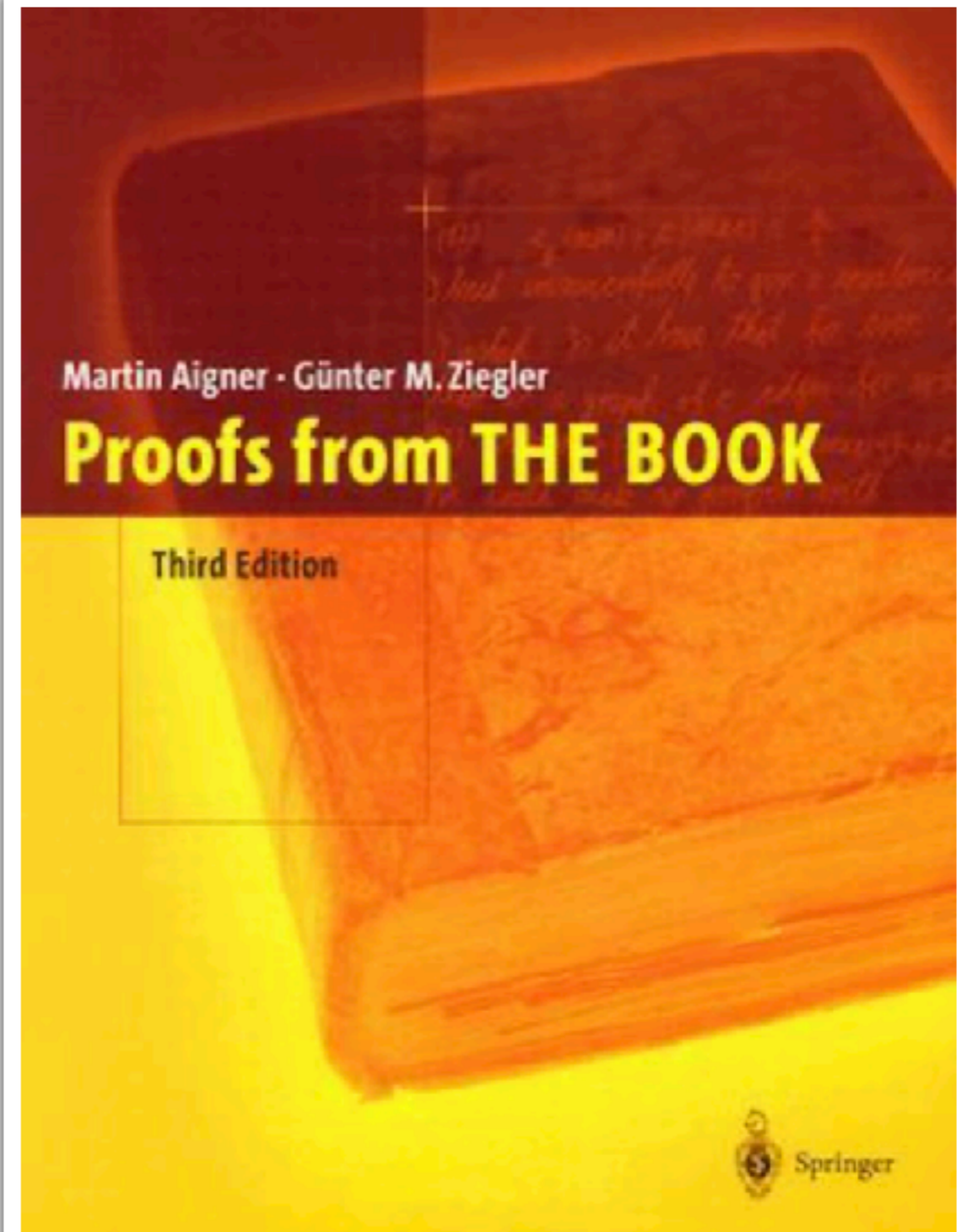
*Proof.* Triangulate  $S$  so that no new vertices are added. Every such triangulation has a coloring with three colors  $a, b, c$ . Let  $T_a$  be the set of vertices colored  $a$ , and assume that  $|T_a| \leq |T_b| \leq |T_c|$ . Choosing  $T = T_a$  implies  $|T| \leq n/3$ . Finally, every point  $q$  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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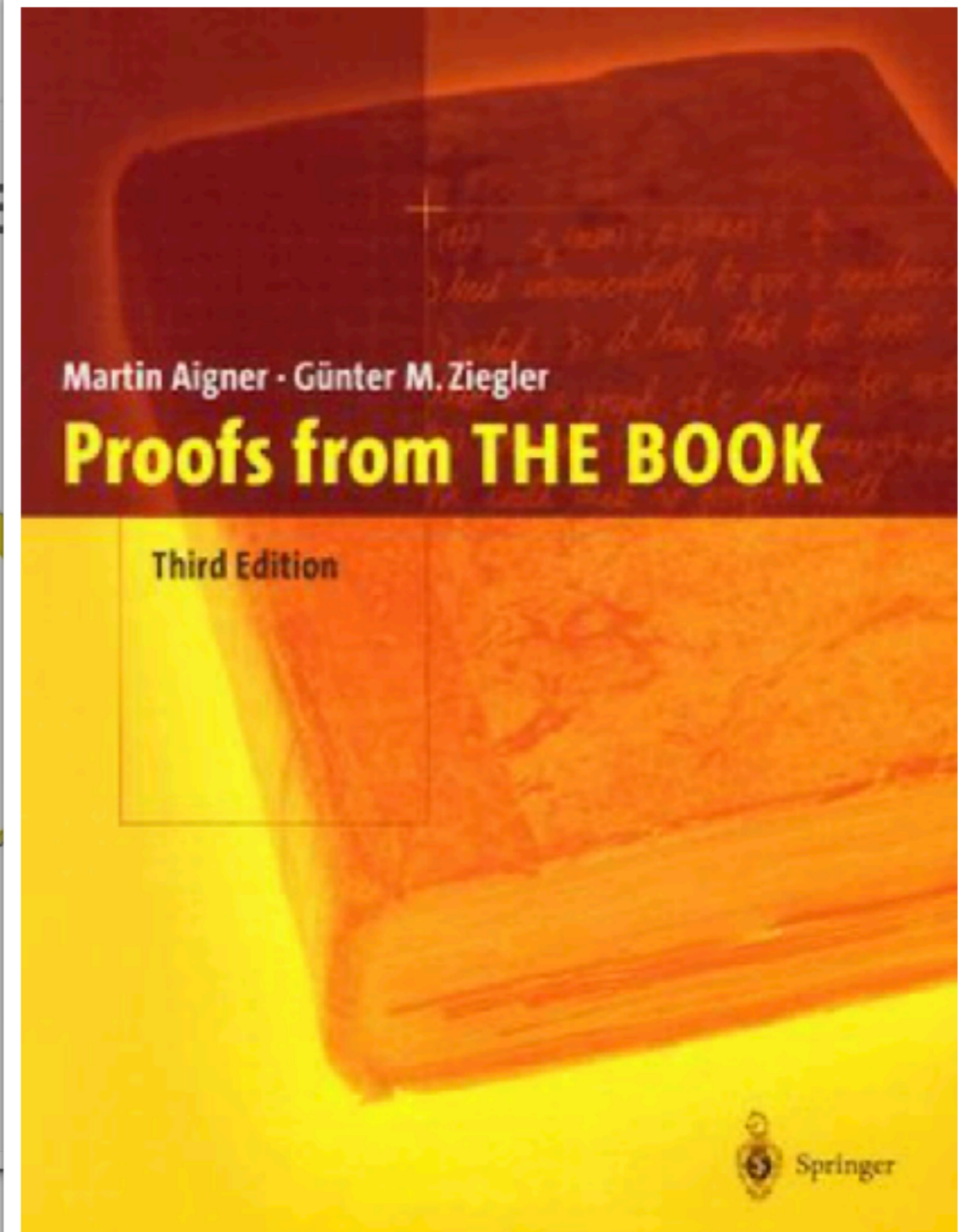
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# POINT GUARDS AND POINT CLOUDS

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# Triangulating Unknown Environments using Robot Swarms

Aaron Becker  
James McLurkin  
SeoungKyou Lee



Sándor P. Fekete  
Alexander Kröller  
Christiane Schmidt





**Thank you for today!**

