

Morphing Planar Graph Drawings Through 3D

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Maarten Löffler Tim Ophelders *Alexander Wolff*

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Morphing...



We Morph Drawings of Graphs

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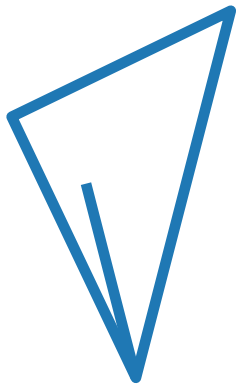
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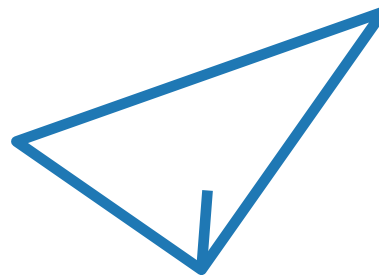
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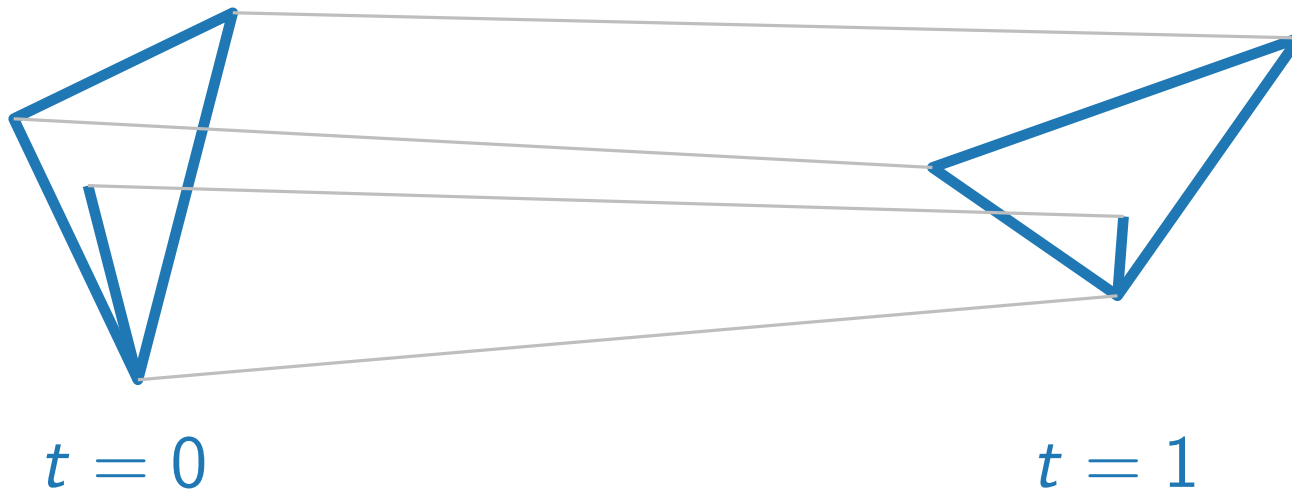
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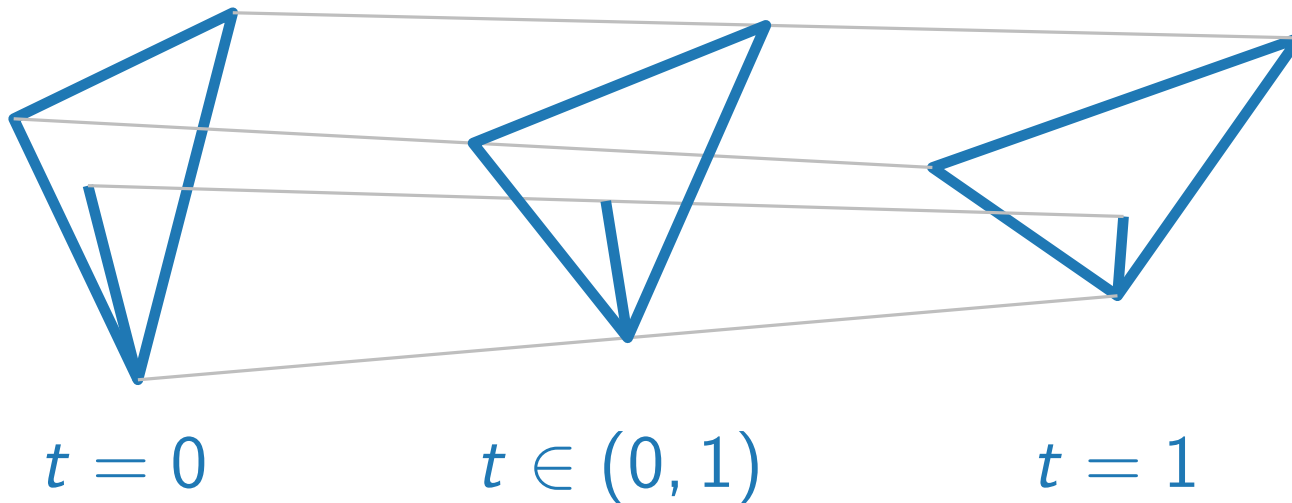


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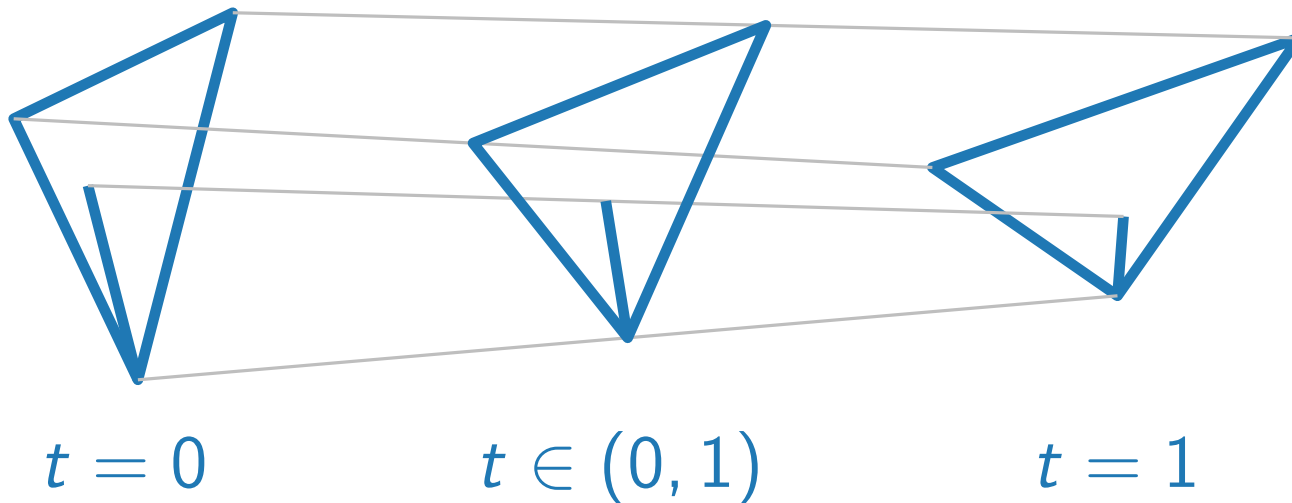


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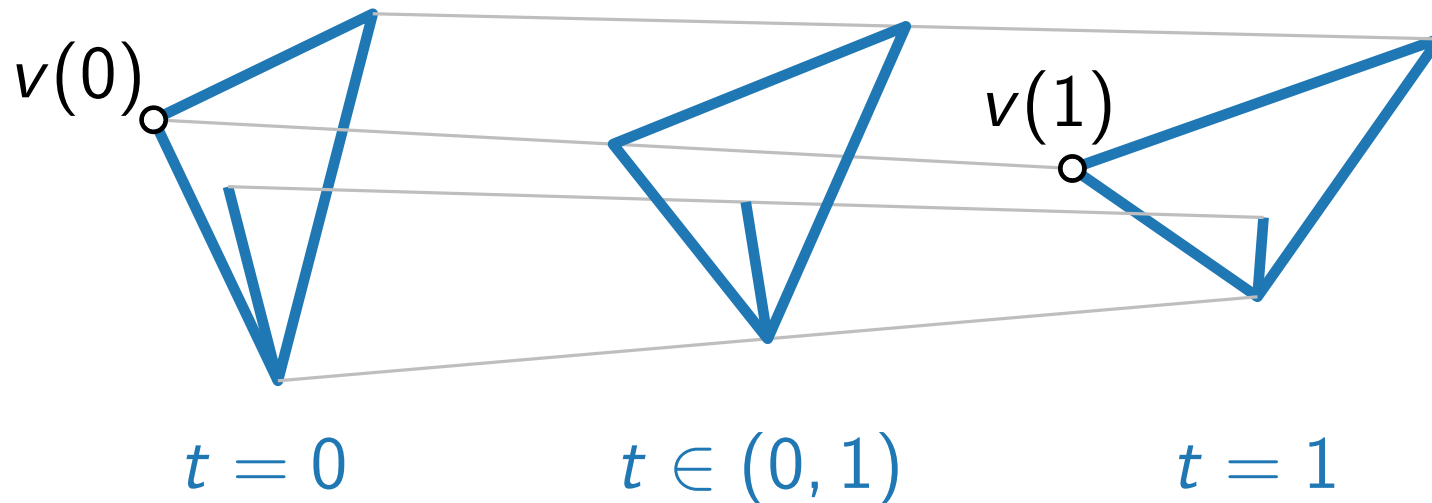
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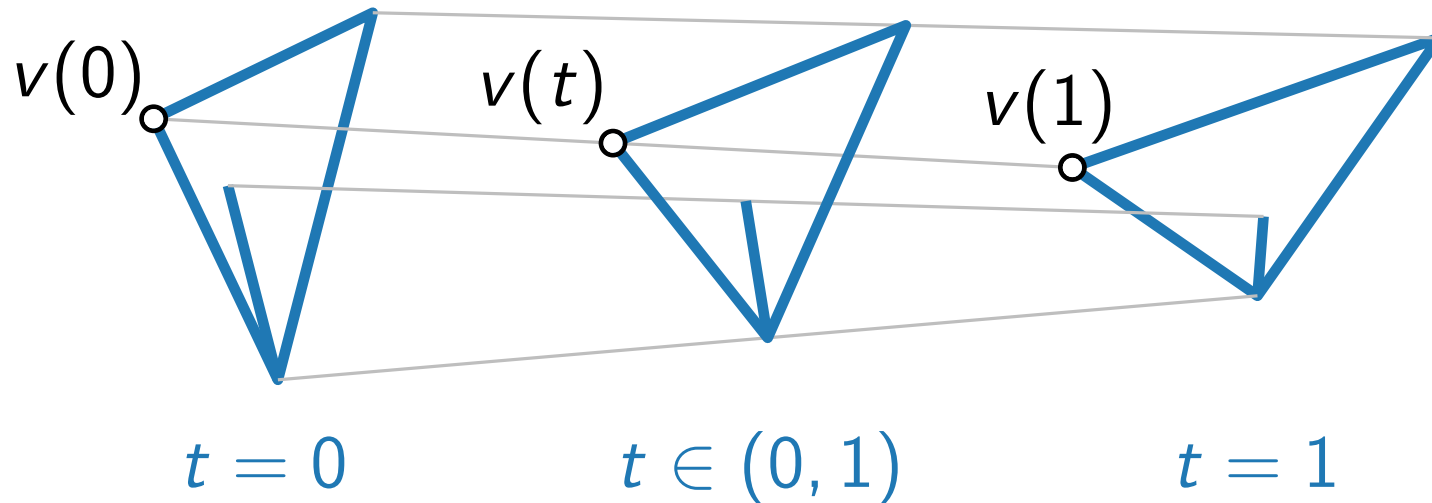
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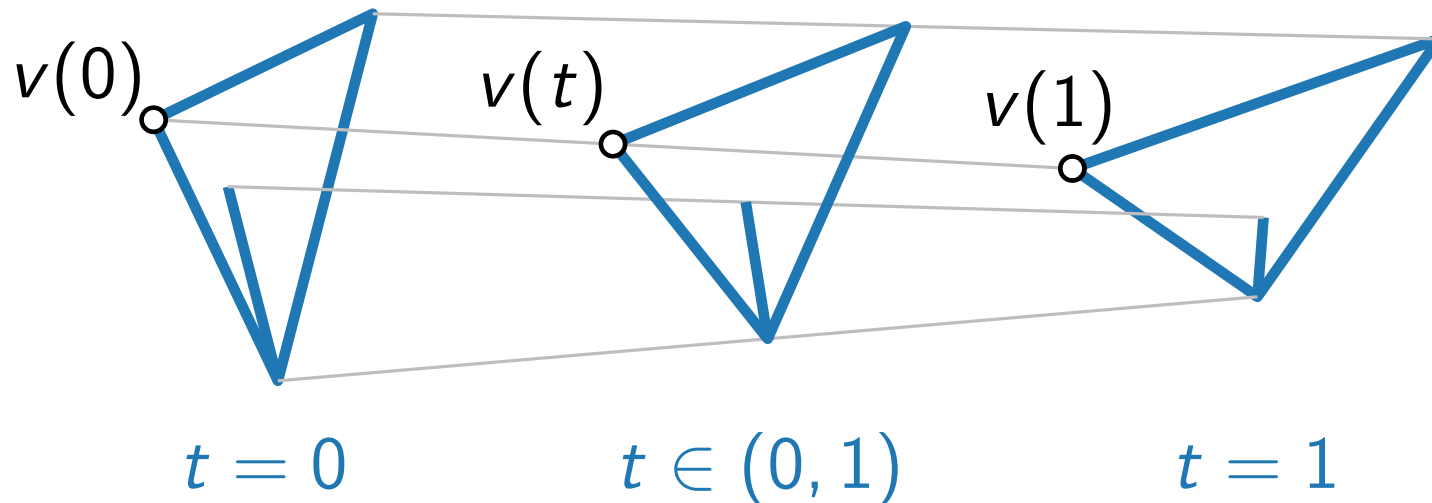
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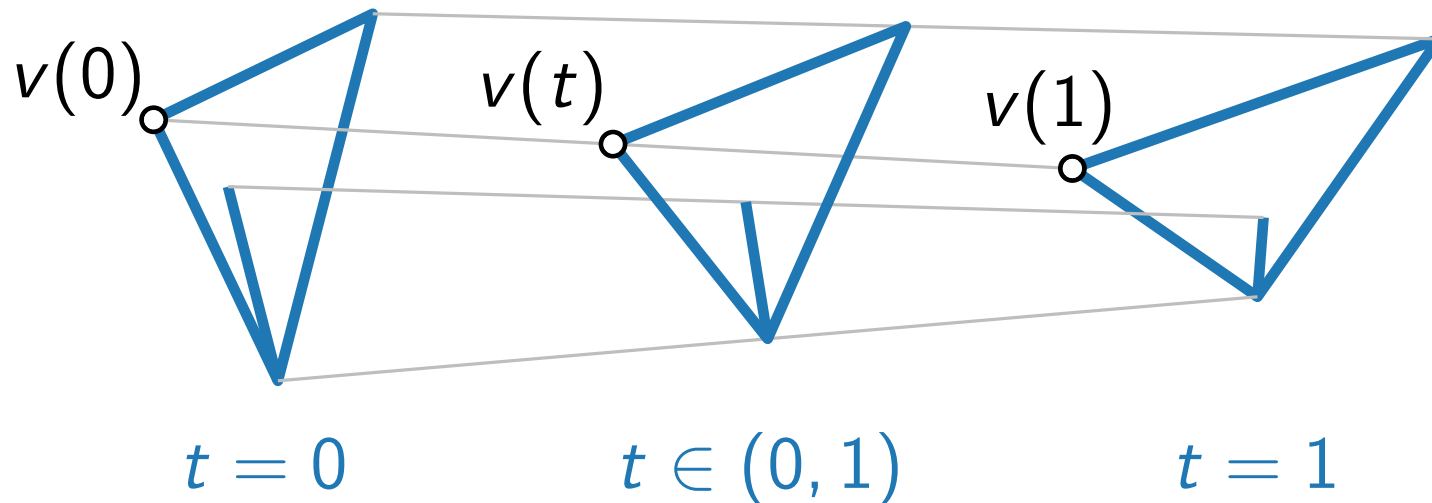
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- straight-line trajectories
- uniform (but possibly different) speed along each trajectory

Piecewise-Linear Morphs

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Theorem. For two planar straight-line drawings of the same n -vertex *plane graph*, there exists a k -step morph between the drawings such that $k \in O(n)$. The bound is optimal in the worst case.
[Alamdari, Angelini, Barrera-Cruz, Chan, Da Lozzo, Di Battista, Frati, Haxell, Lubiw, Patrignani, Roselli, Singla, Wilkinson: SIAM J. Comp. '17]

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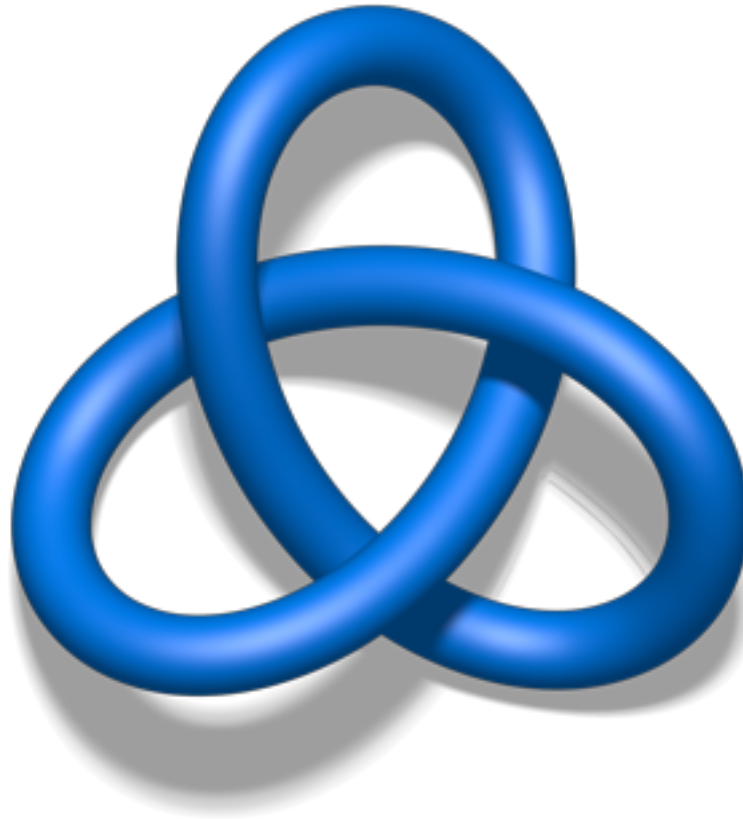
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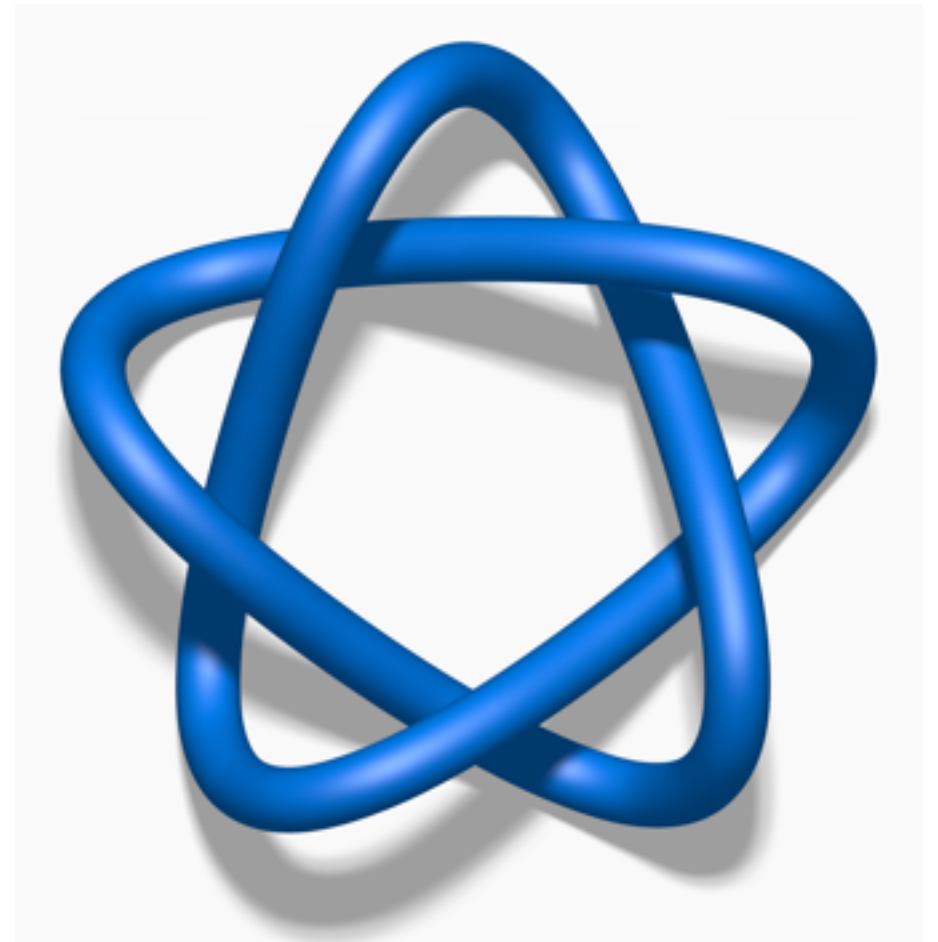
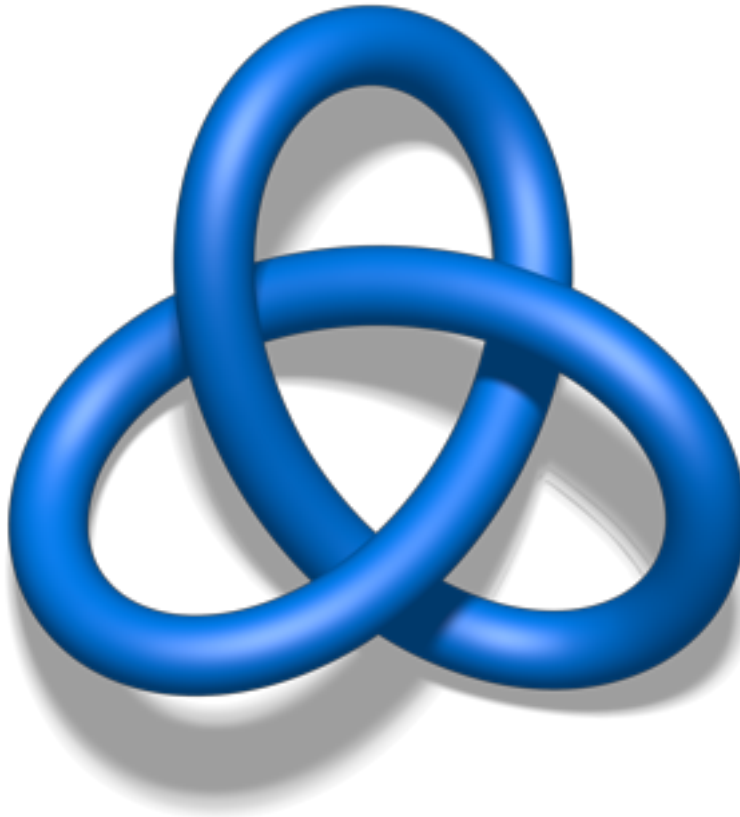
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3D – cont'd

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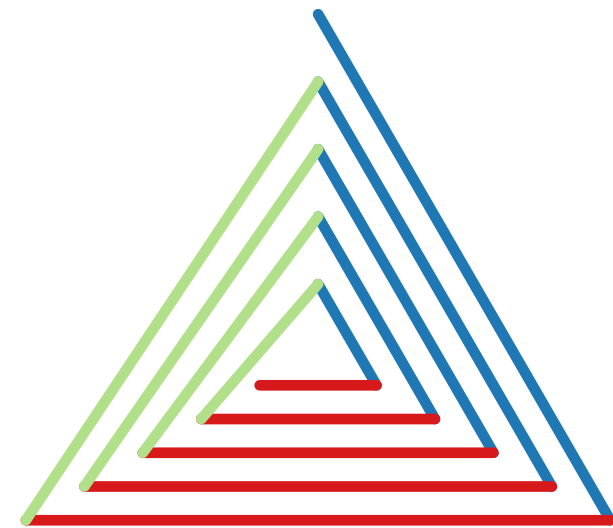
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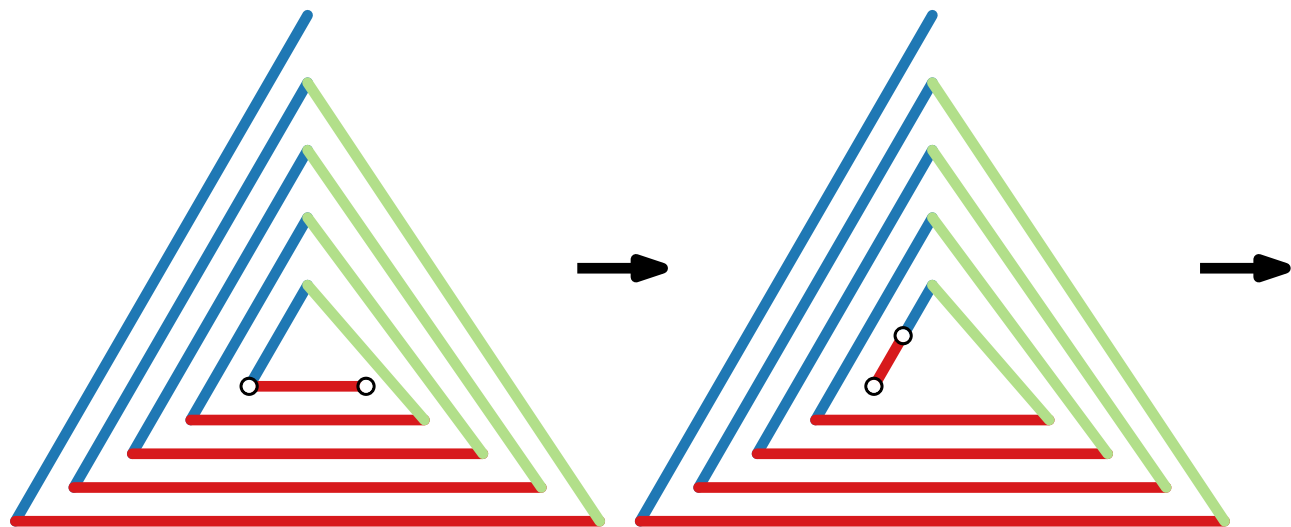
Knot theory!

- Problem known to be in NP and in co-NP (hence most likely not NP-hard).
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- Until solved, not much hope to design algorithms that can morph between crossing-free straight-line drawings of the same graph in *3D*.

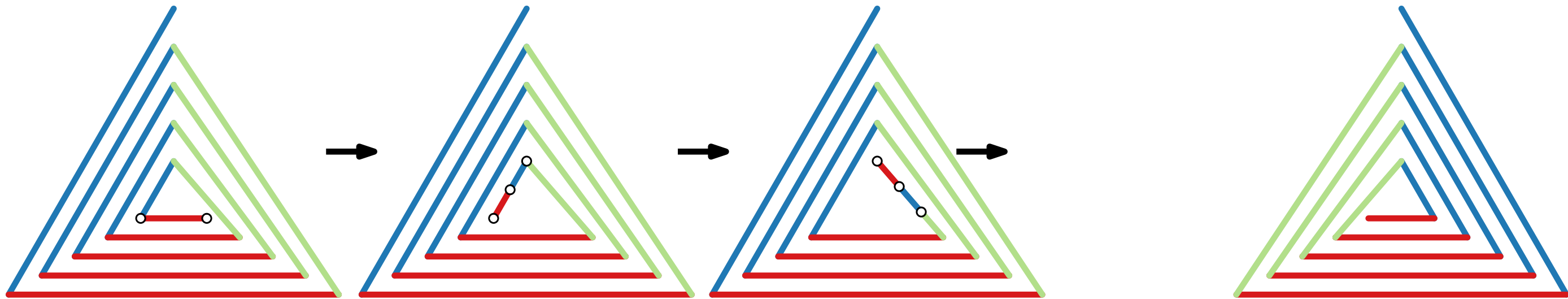
2D



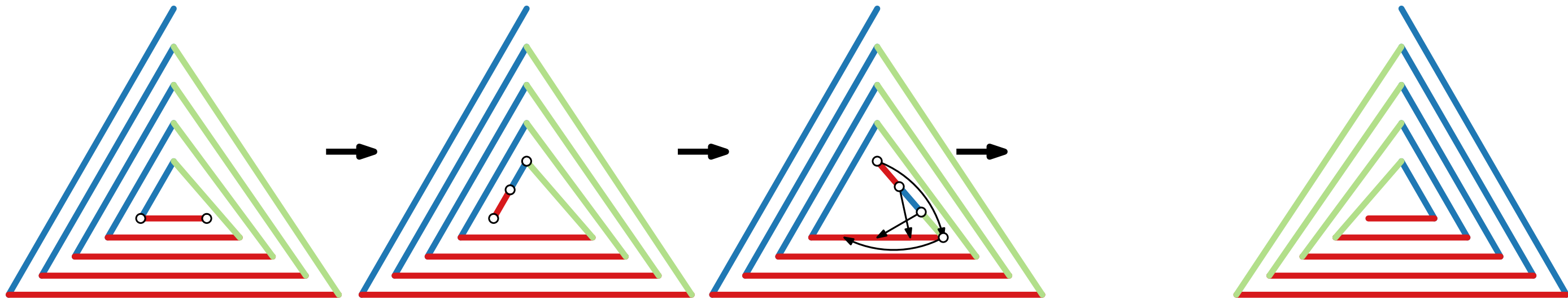
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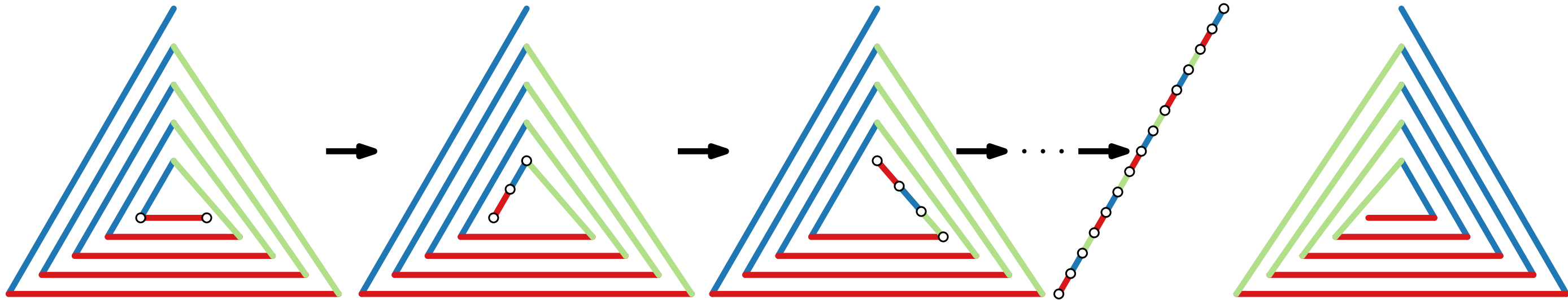
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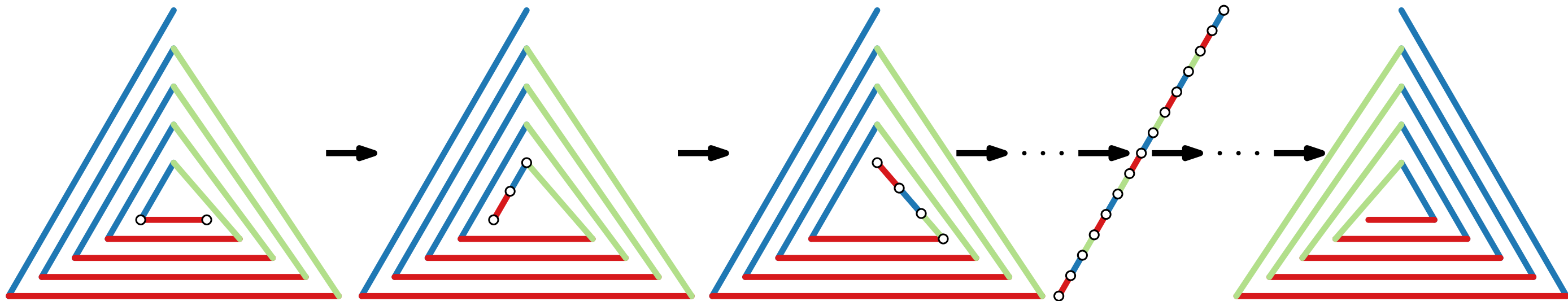
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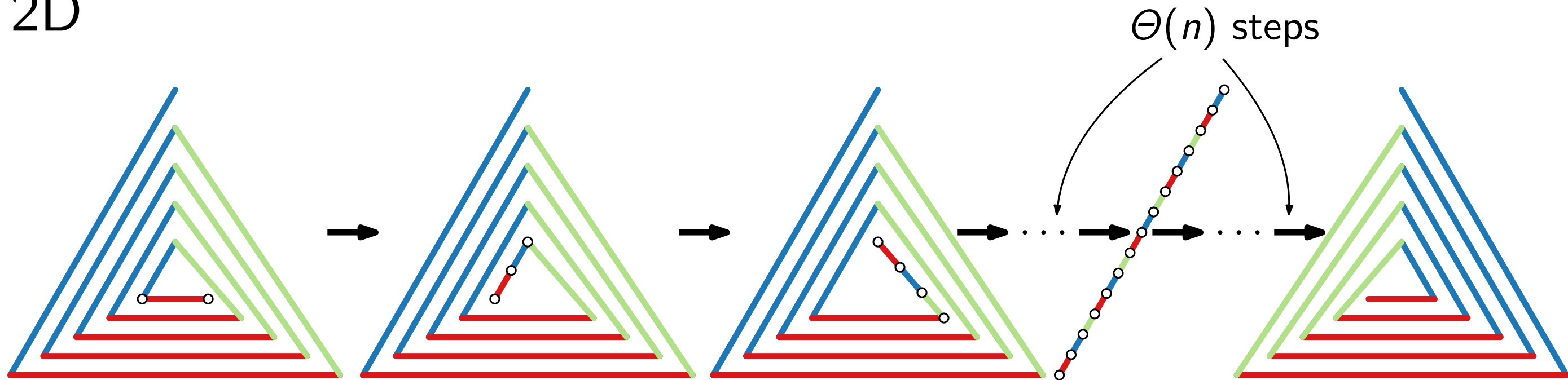
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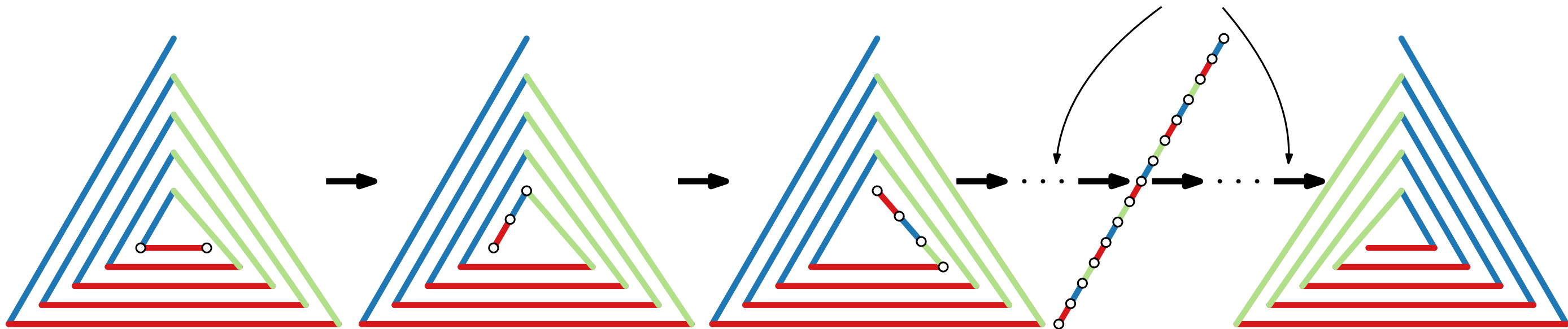
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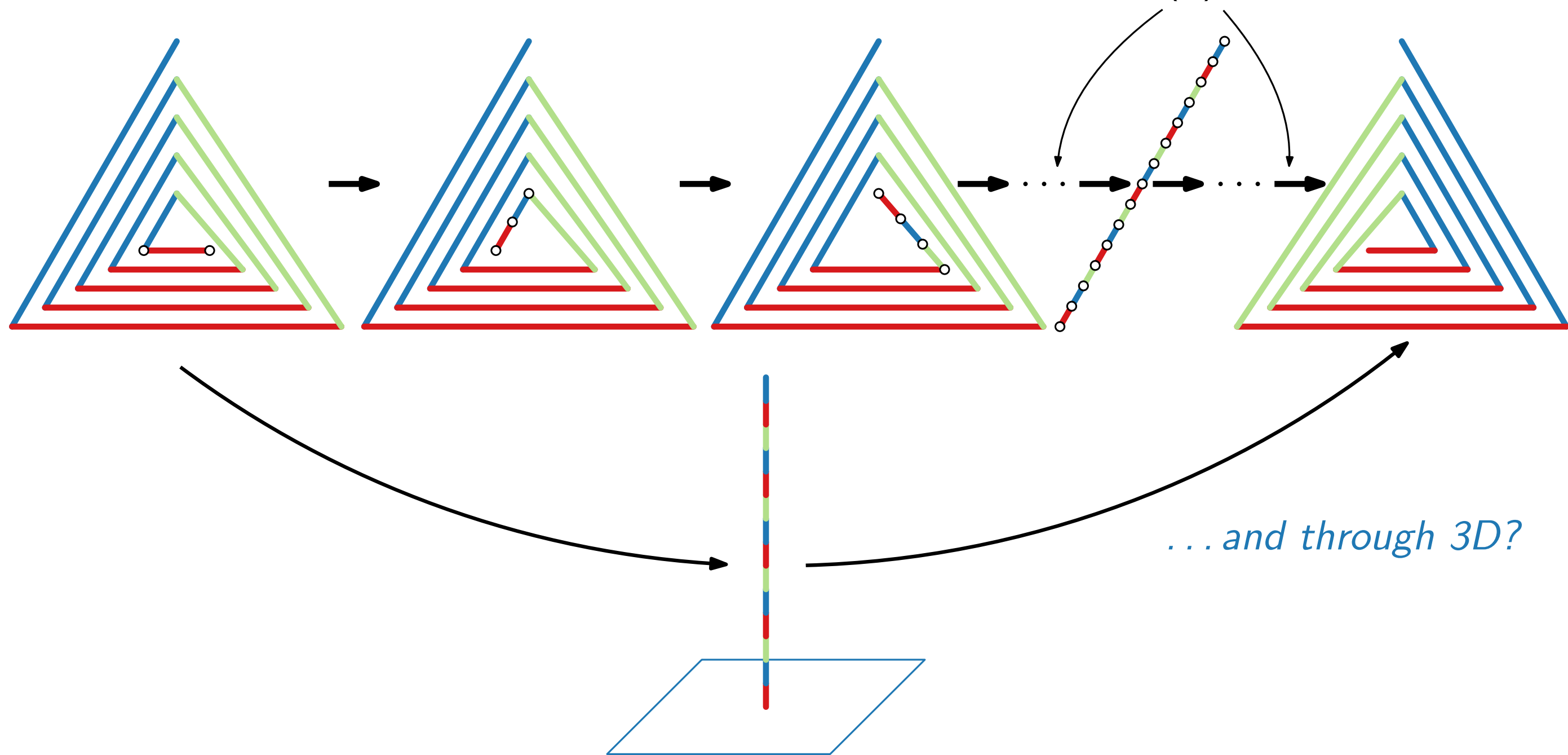


2D \rightarrow 3D \rightarrow 2D

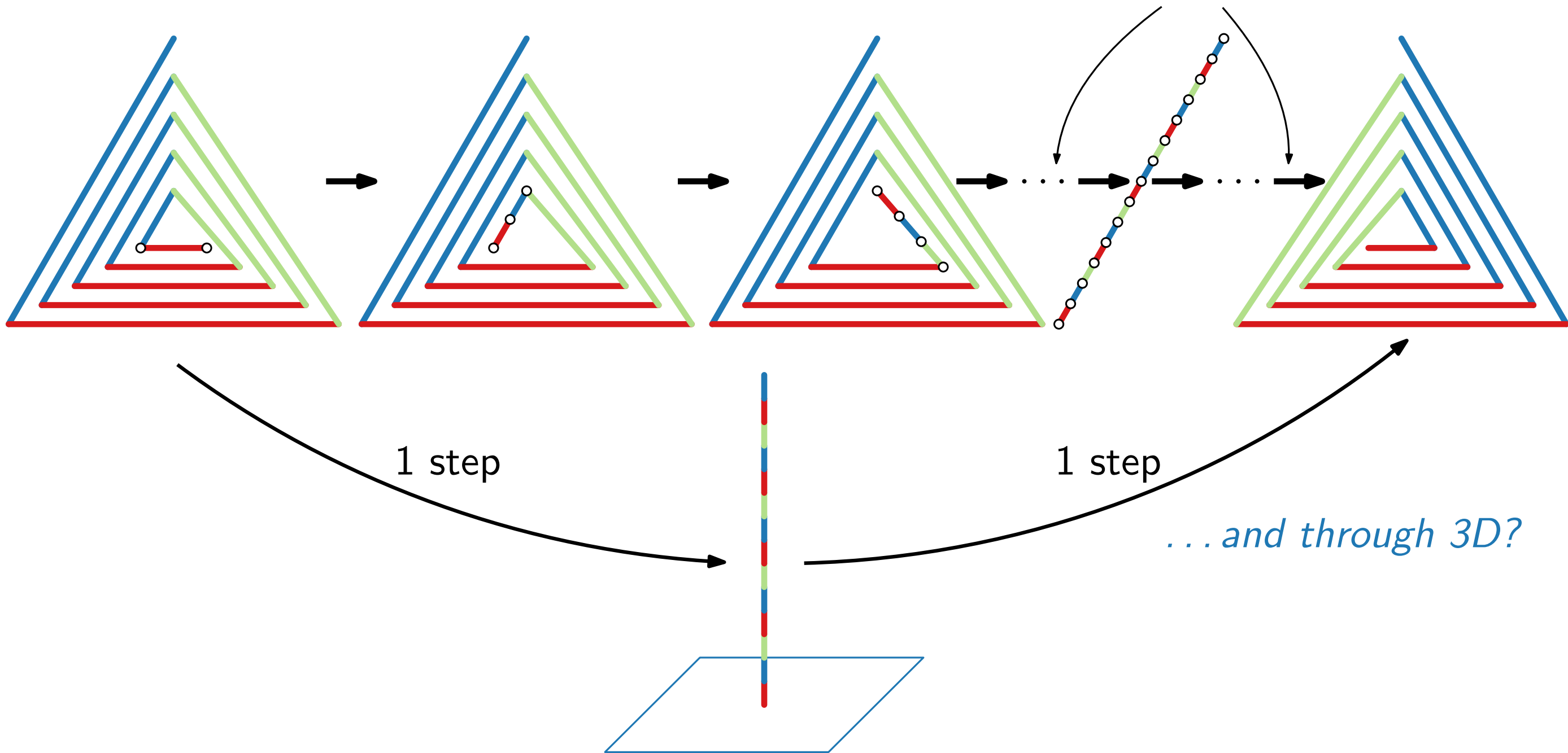


... and through 3D?

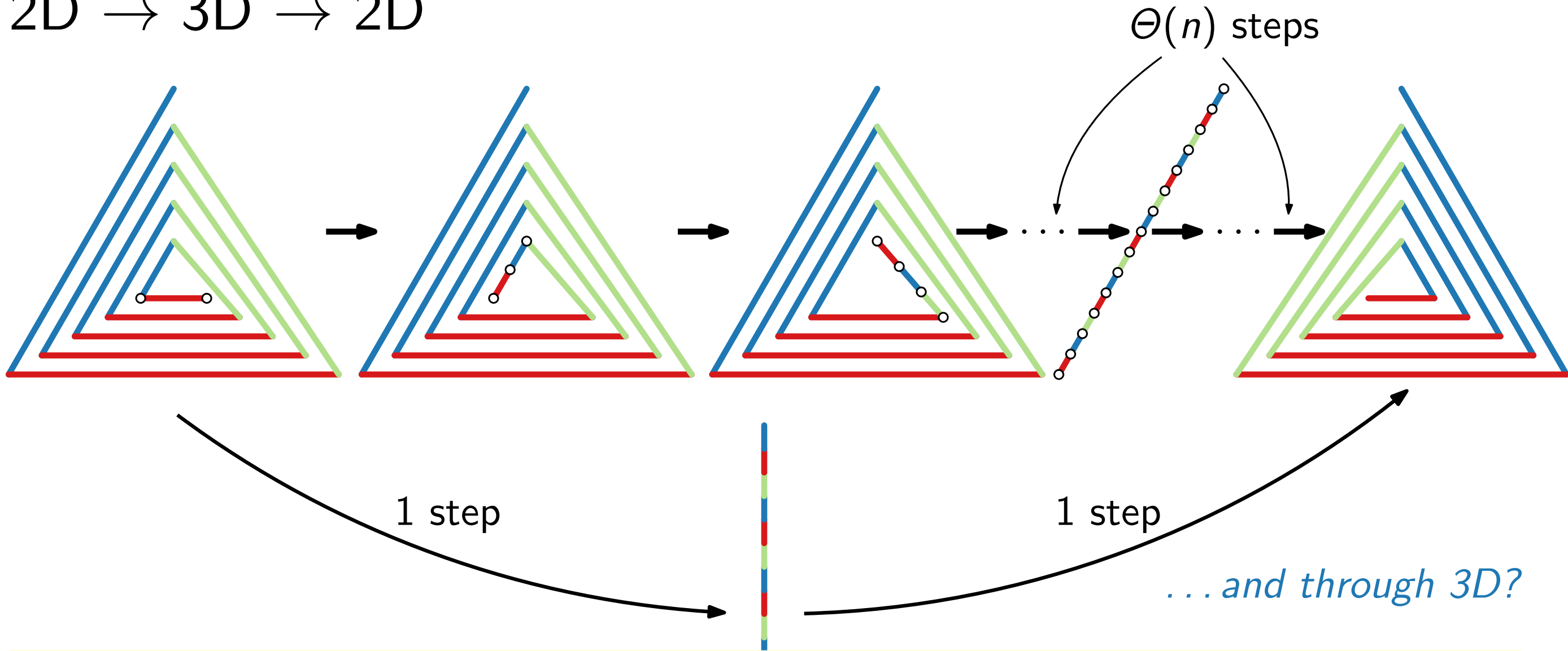
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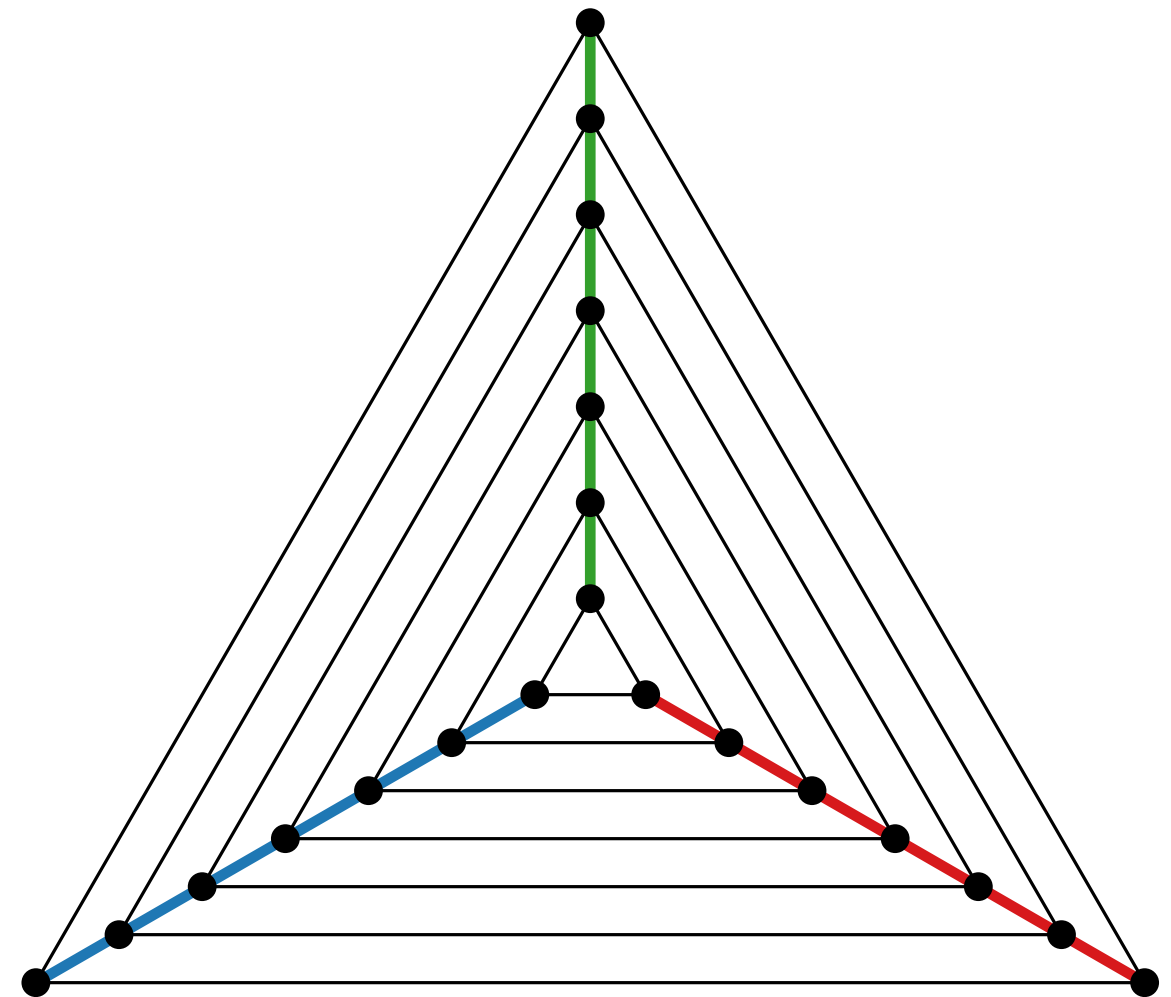
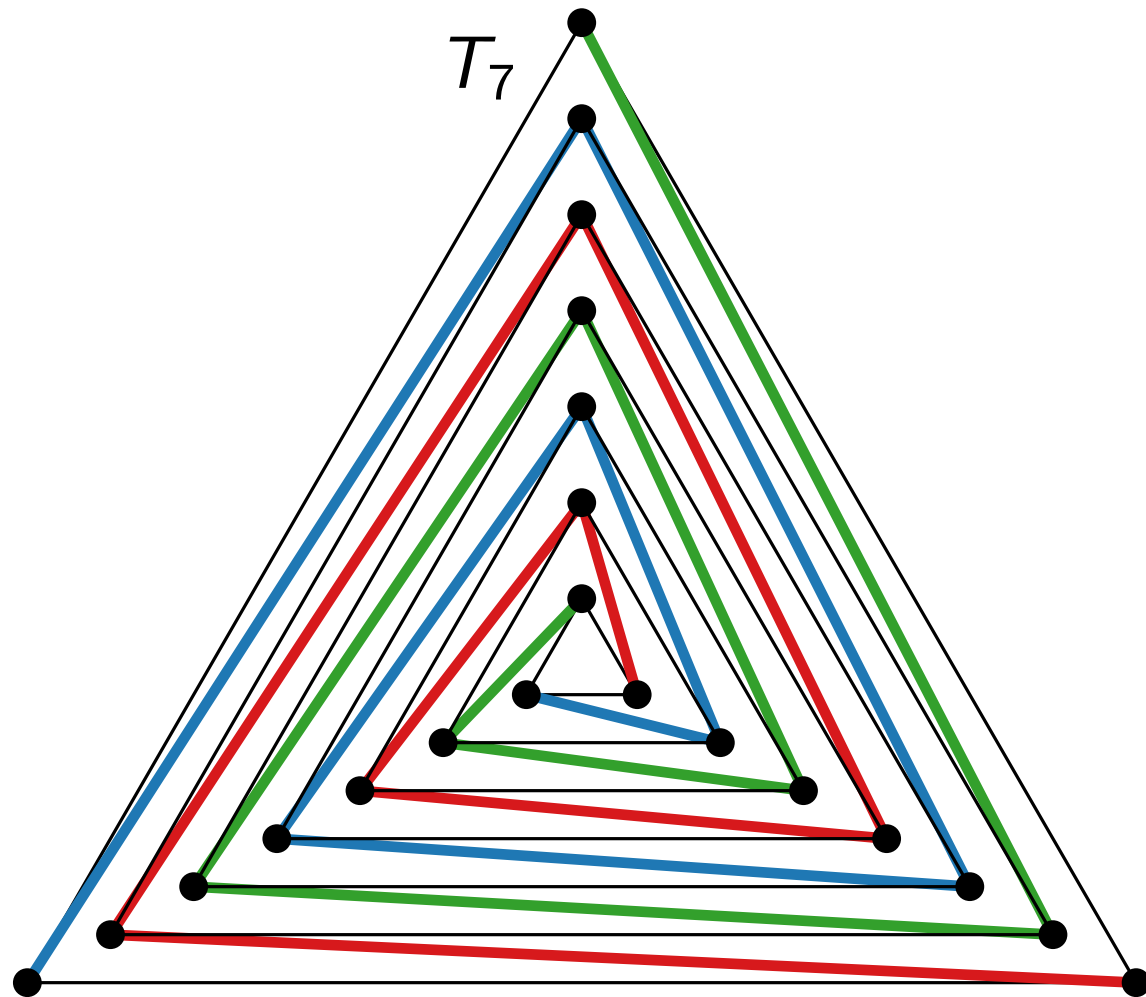
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Between any two 2D straight-line crossing-free drawings of the same n -vertex *tree*, there is a k -step morph through 3D s.t. $k \in O(\log n)$. (For 3D input, $k \in O(n)$.)
[Arseneva, Bose, Cano, D'Angelo, Dujmovic, Frati, Langerman, Tappini: JGAA 2019]

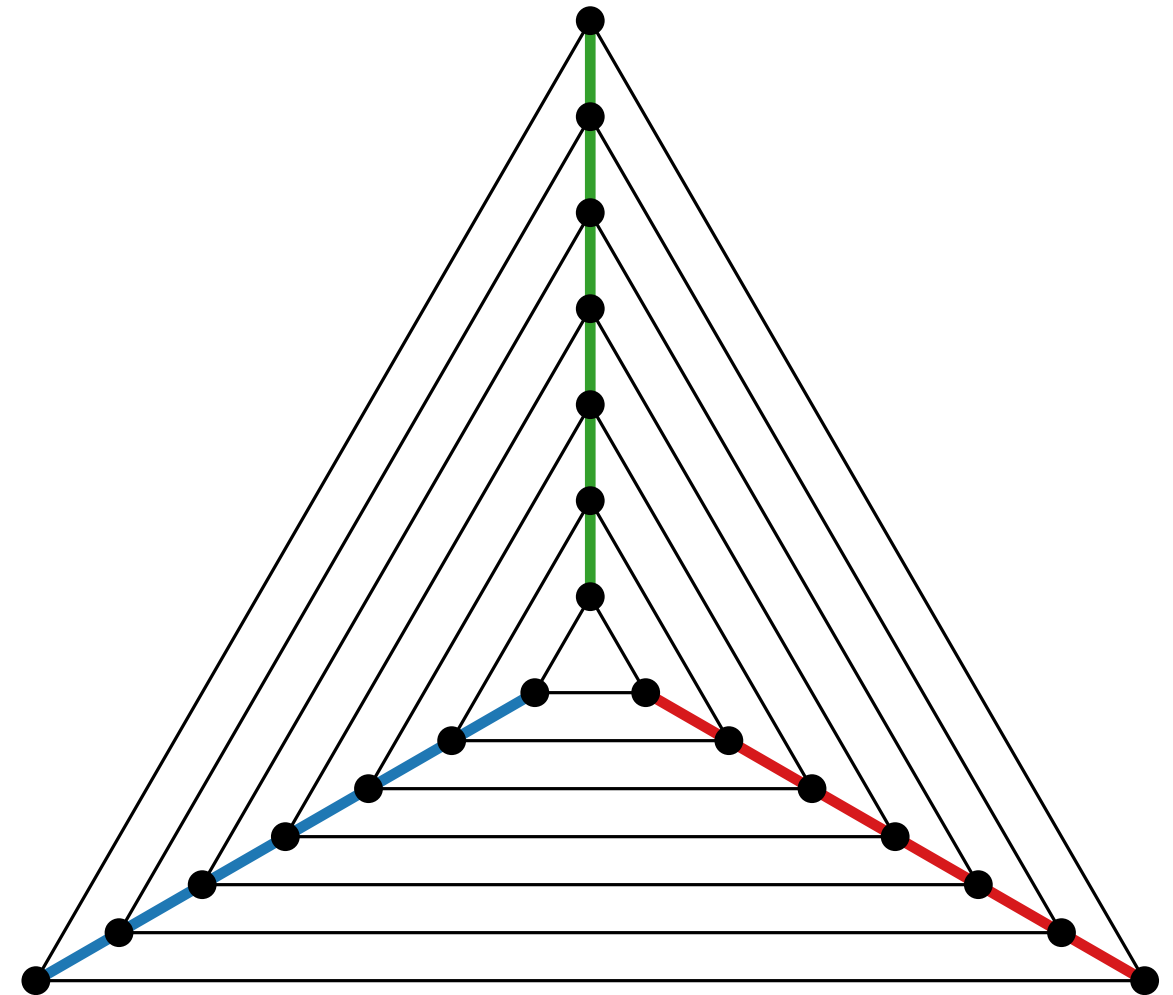
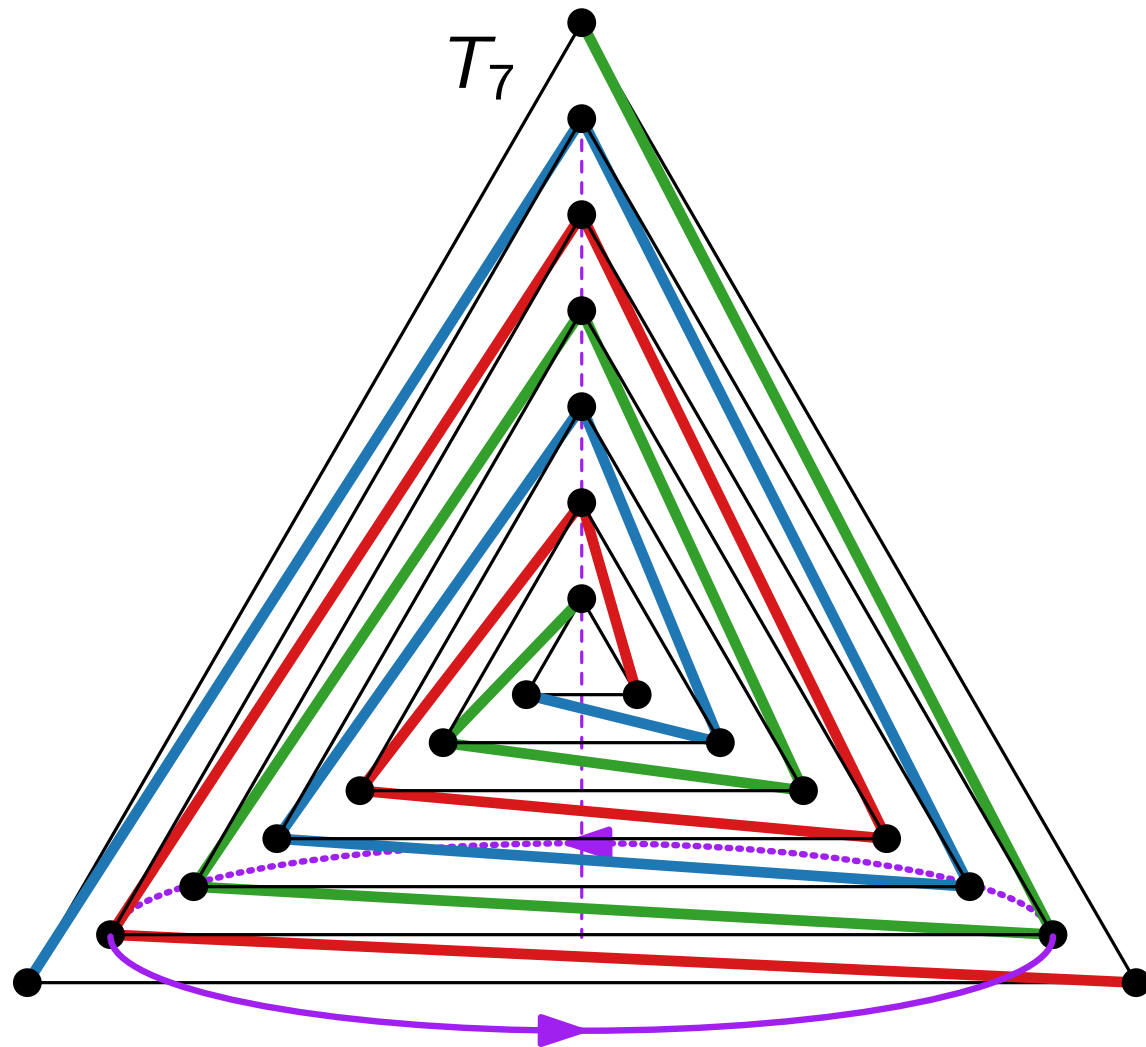
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Show that T_n needs $\Omega(n)$ steps to untangle, even with the help of 3D!



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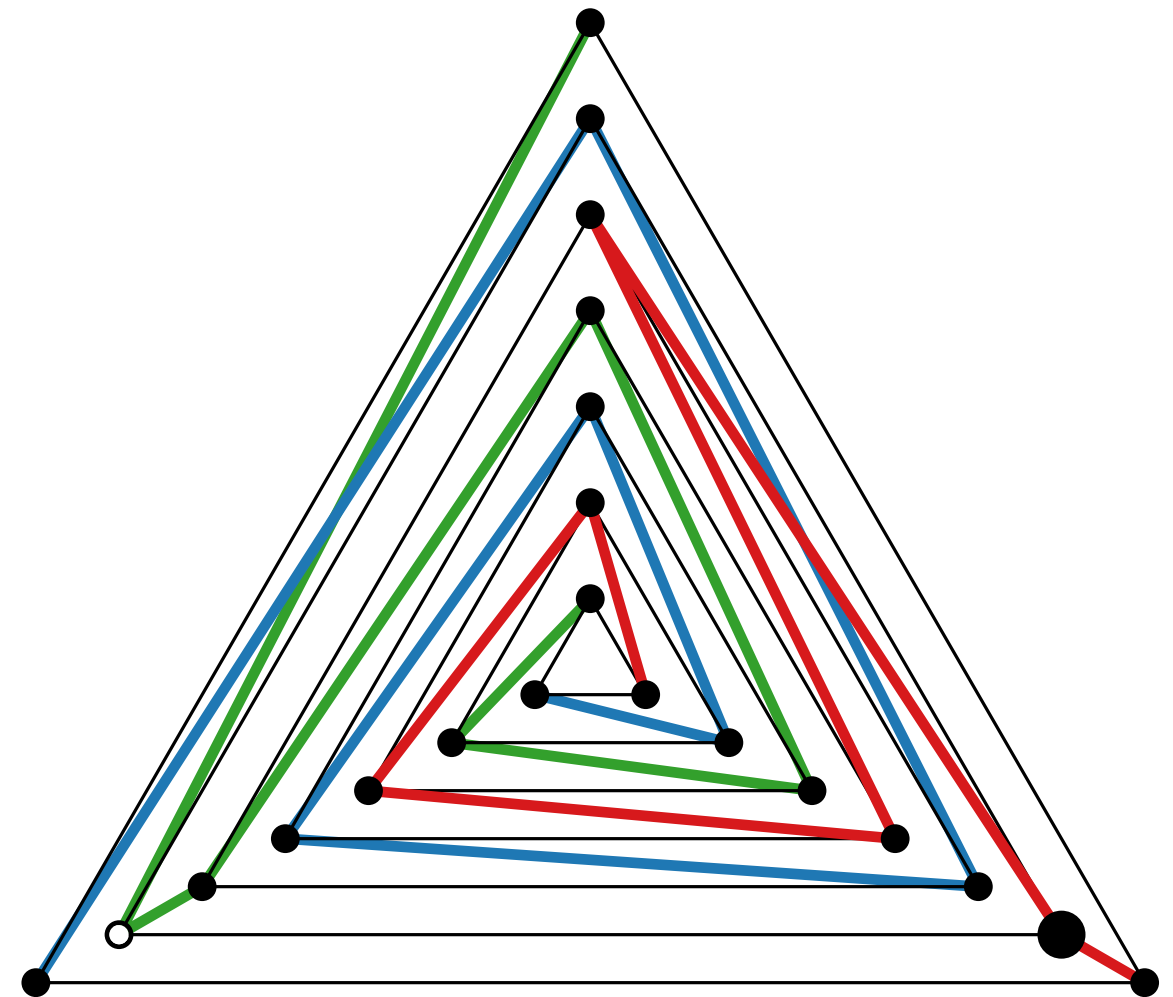
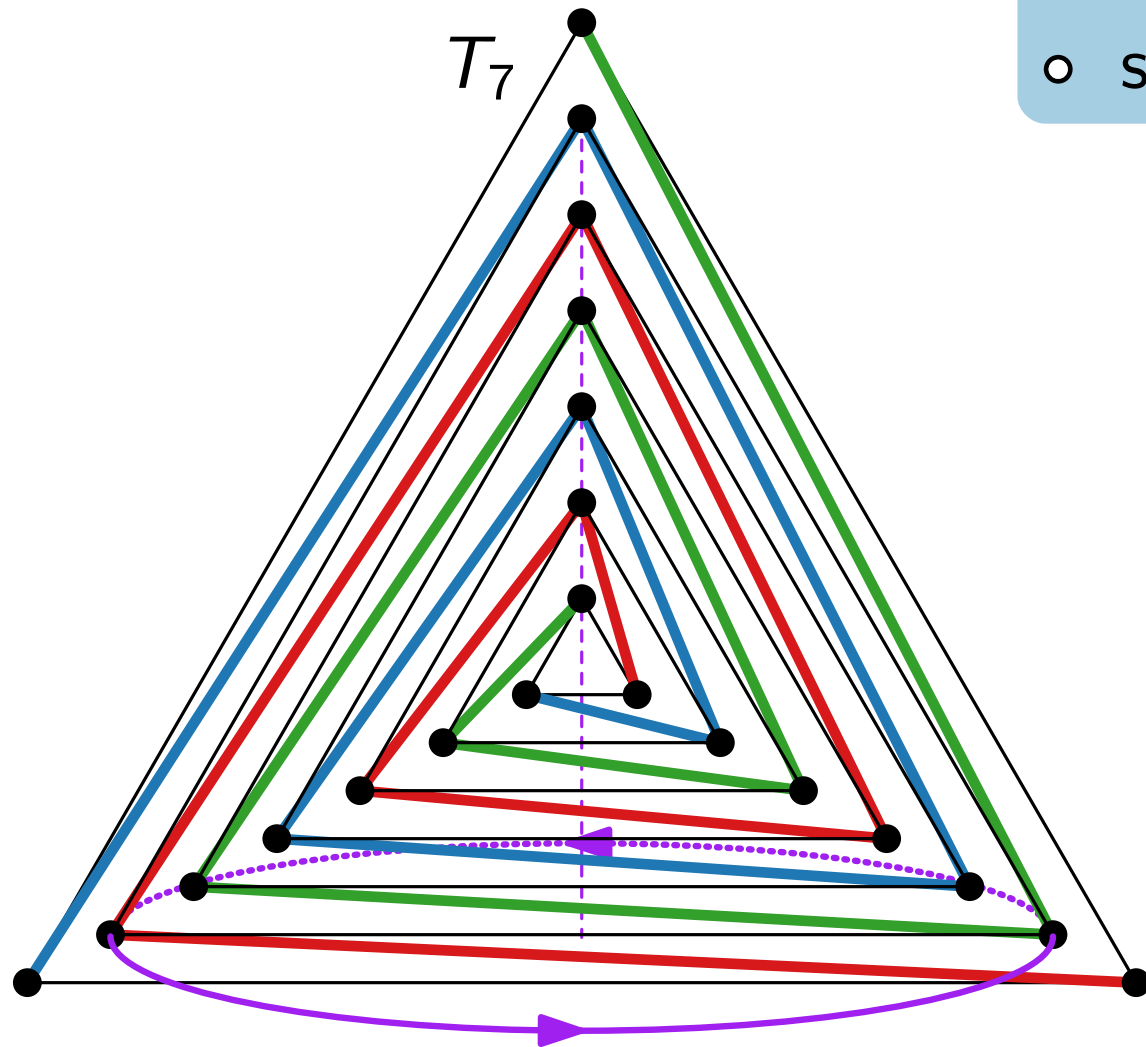
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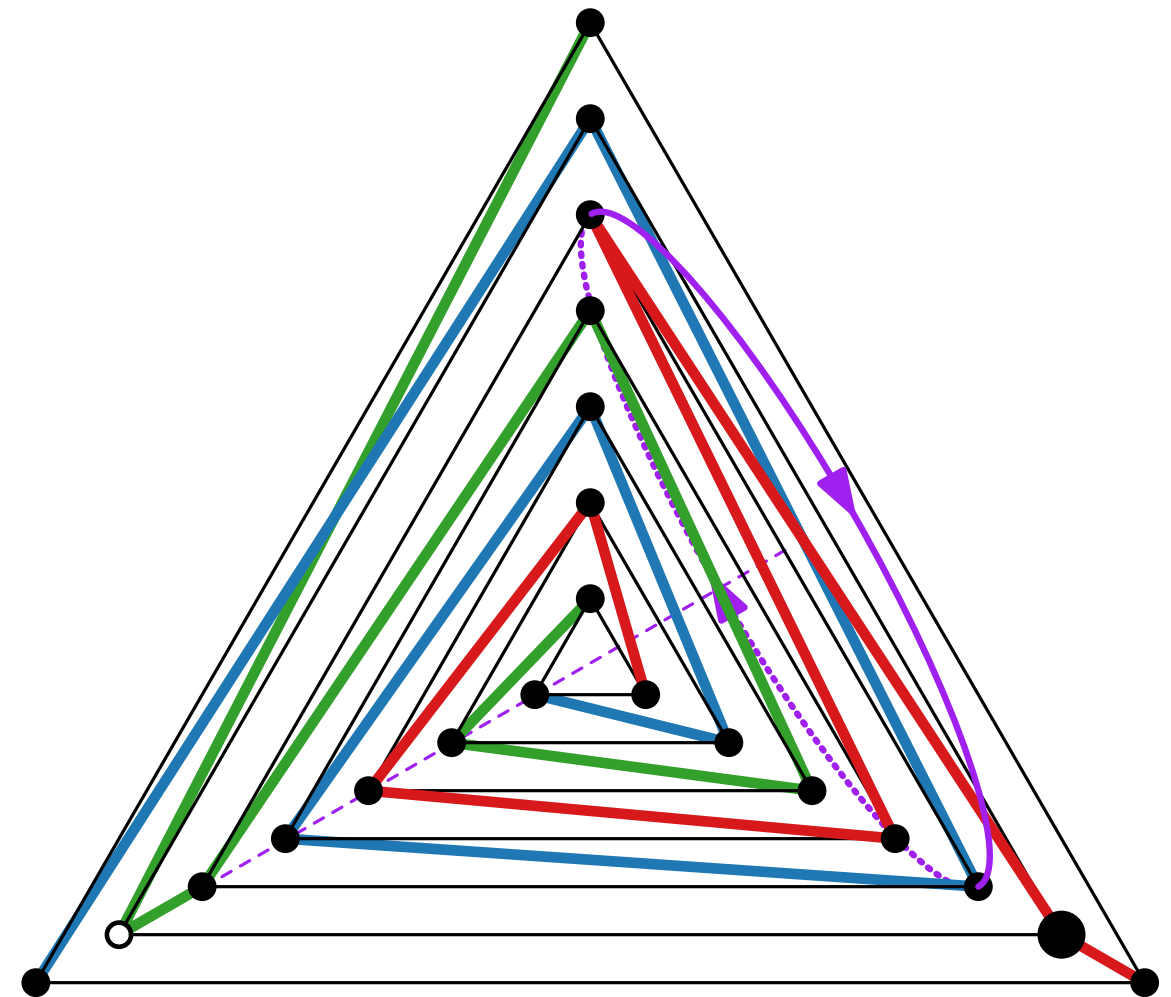
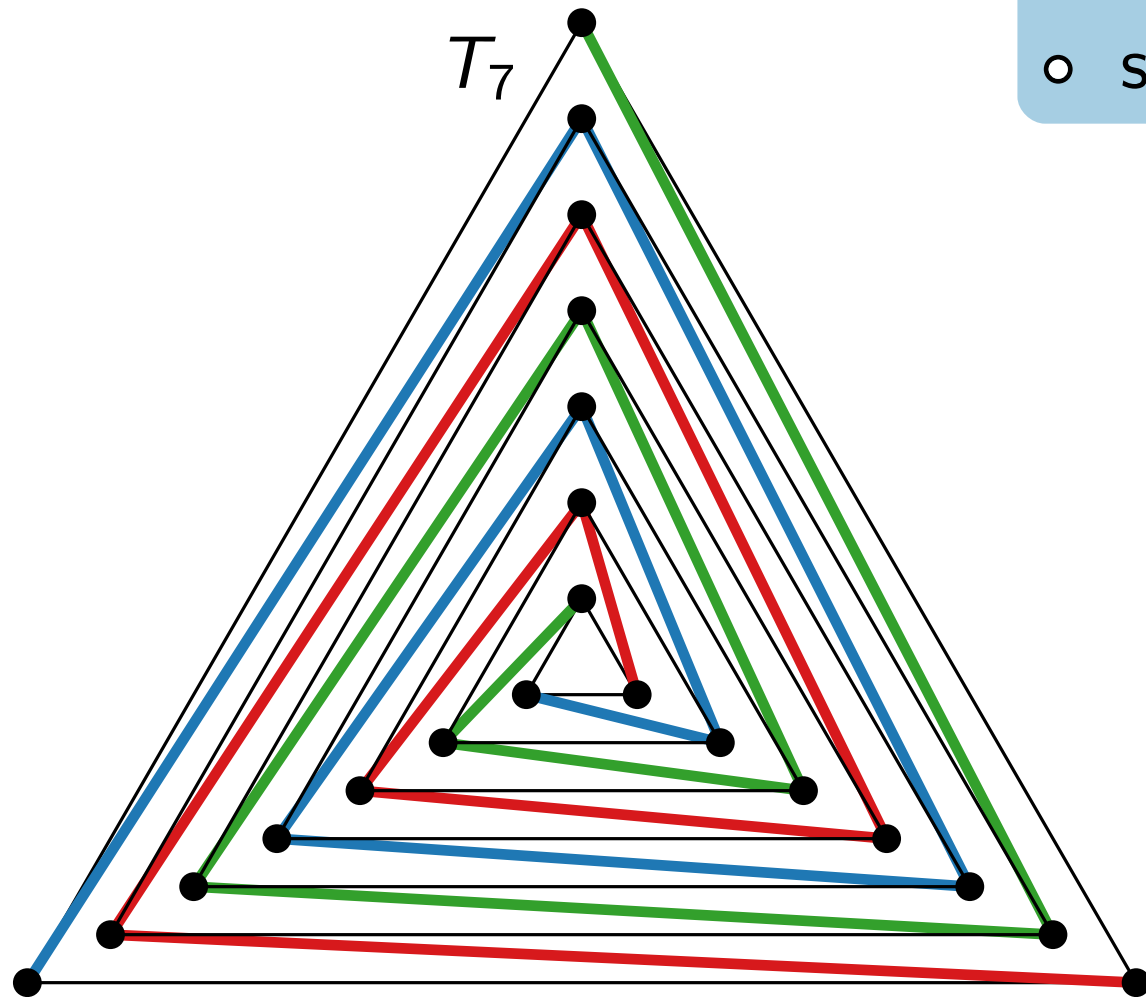
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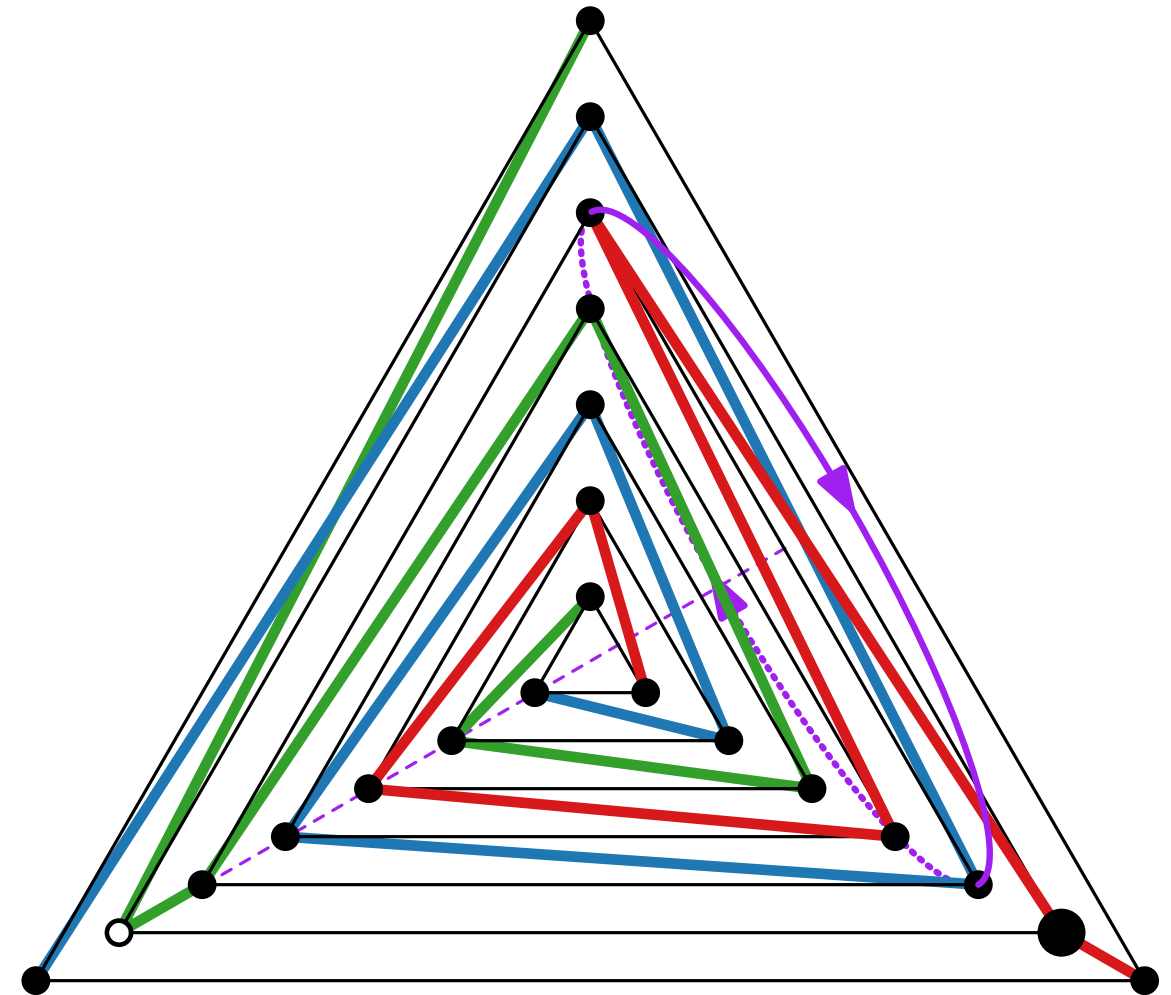
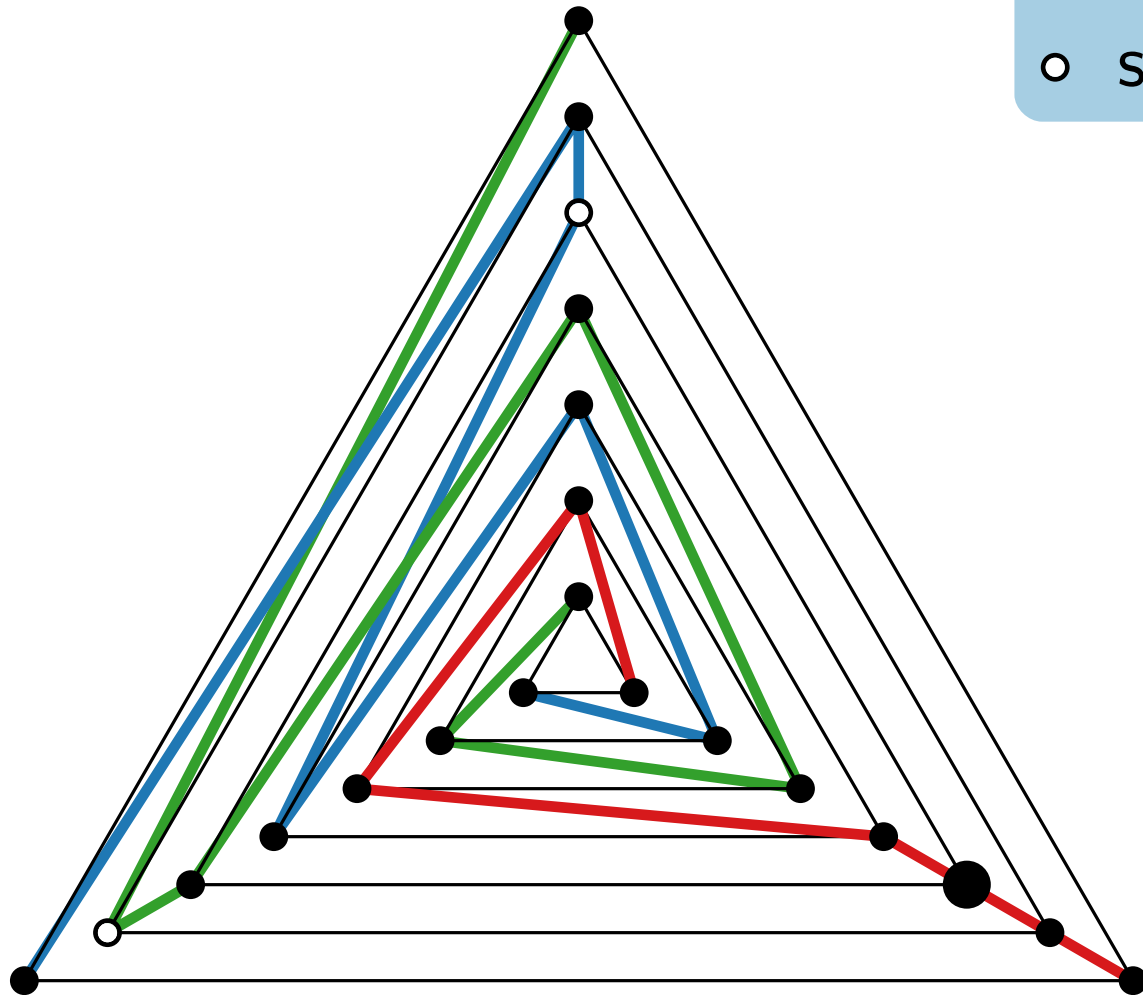
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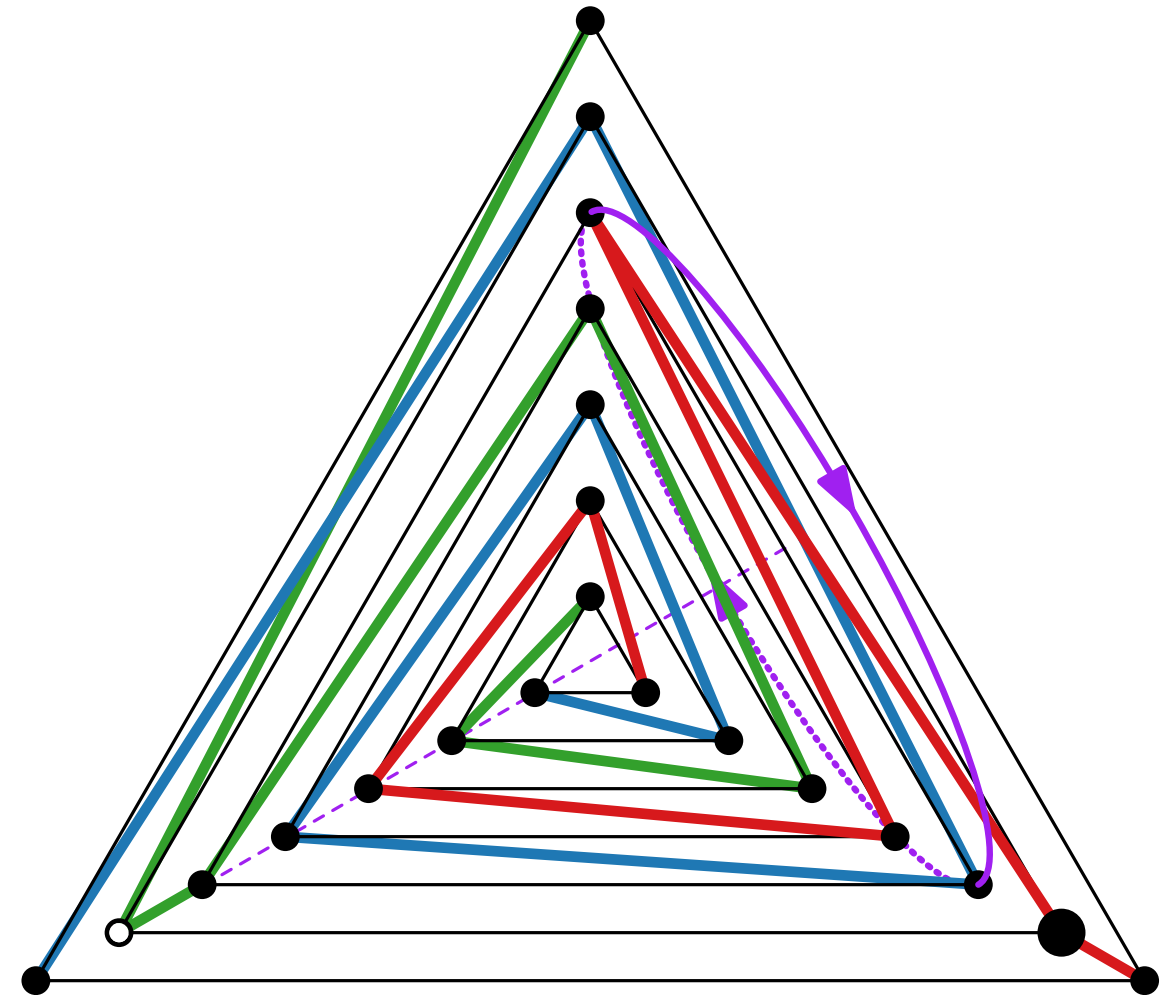
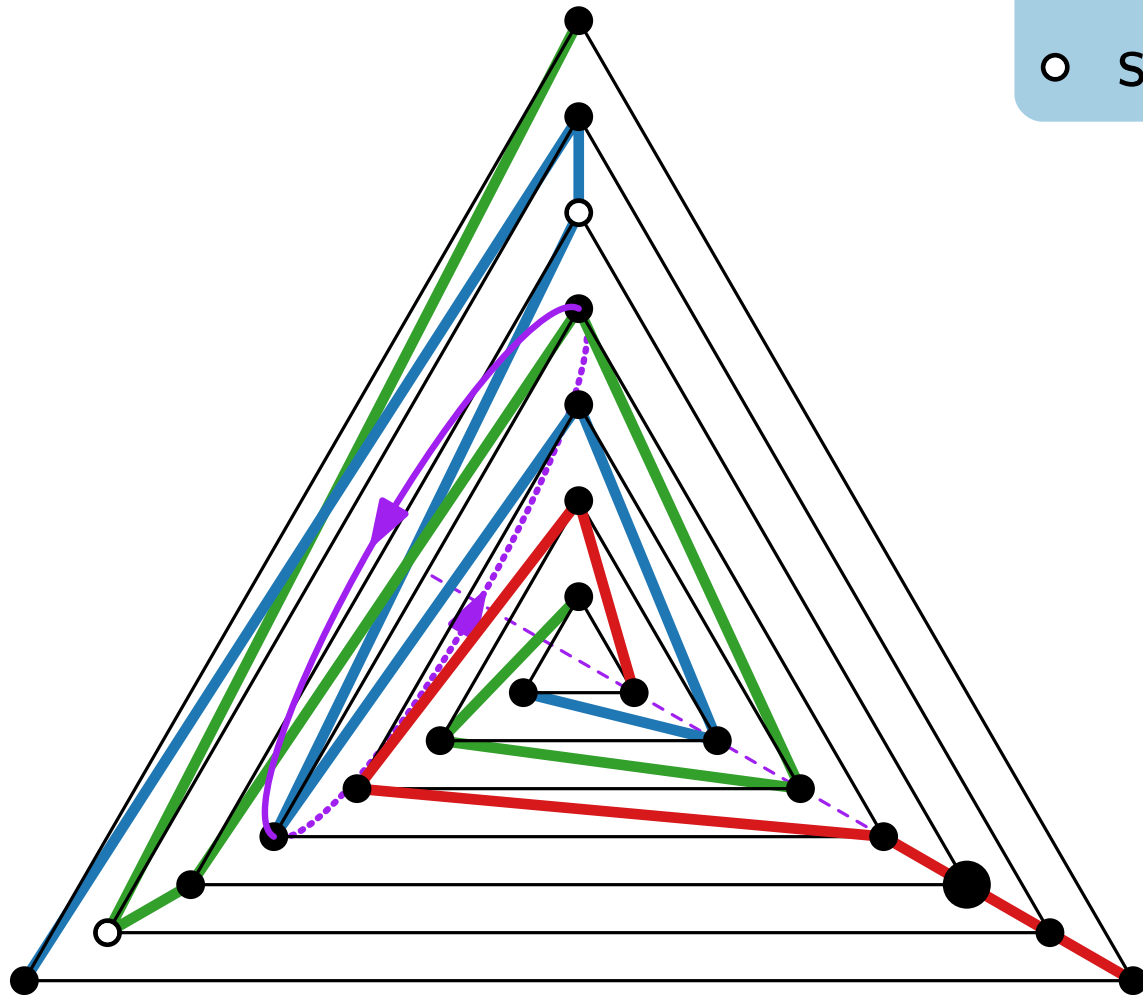
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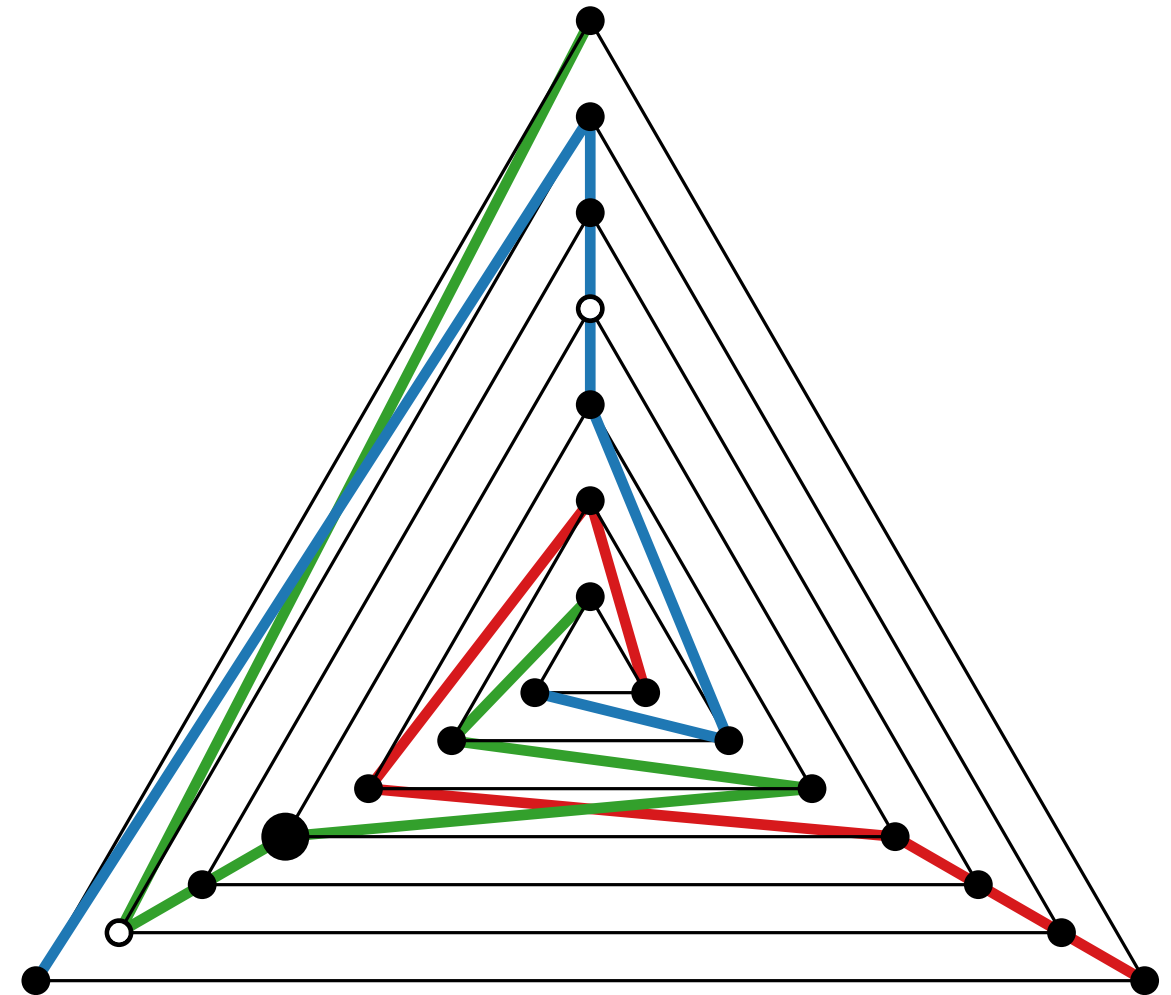
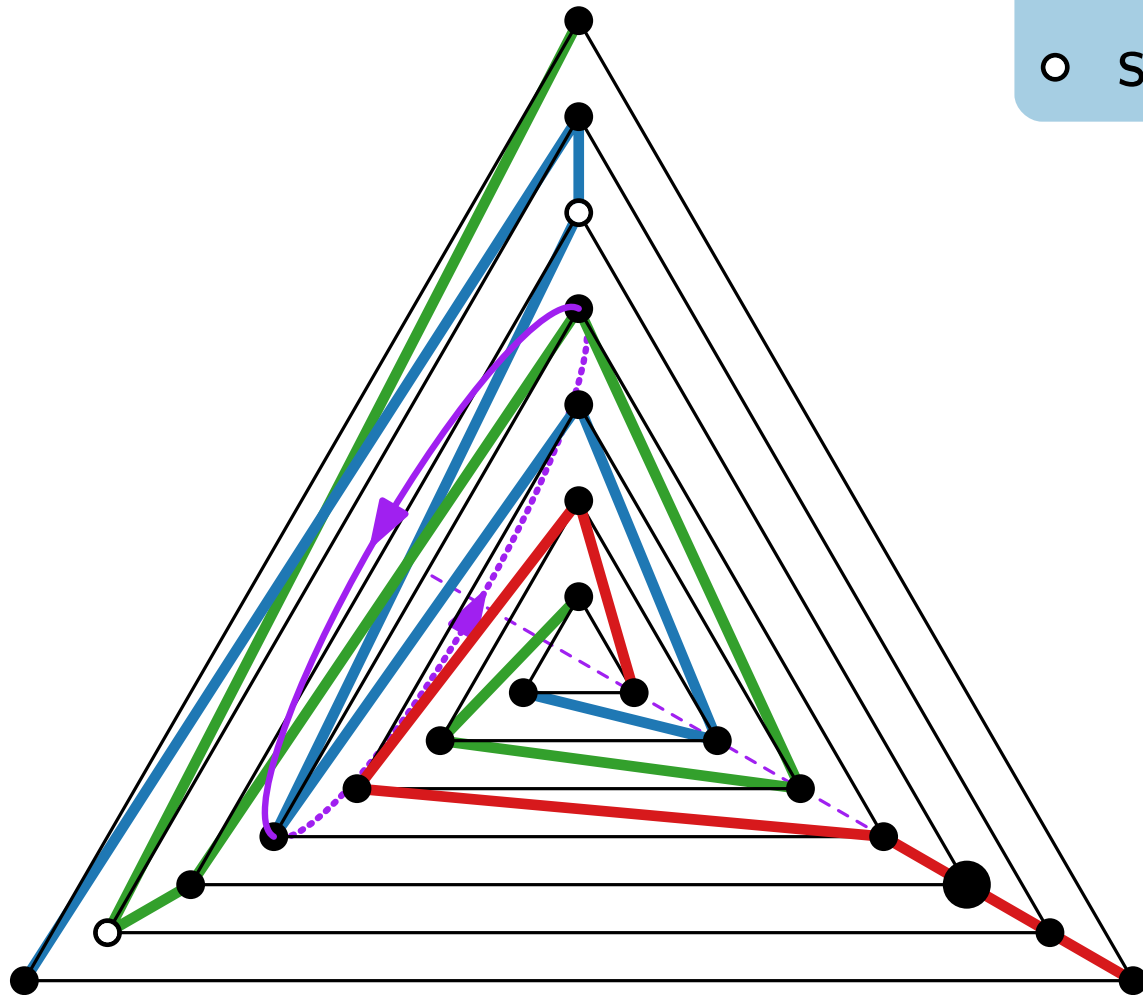
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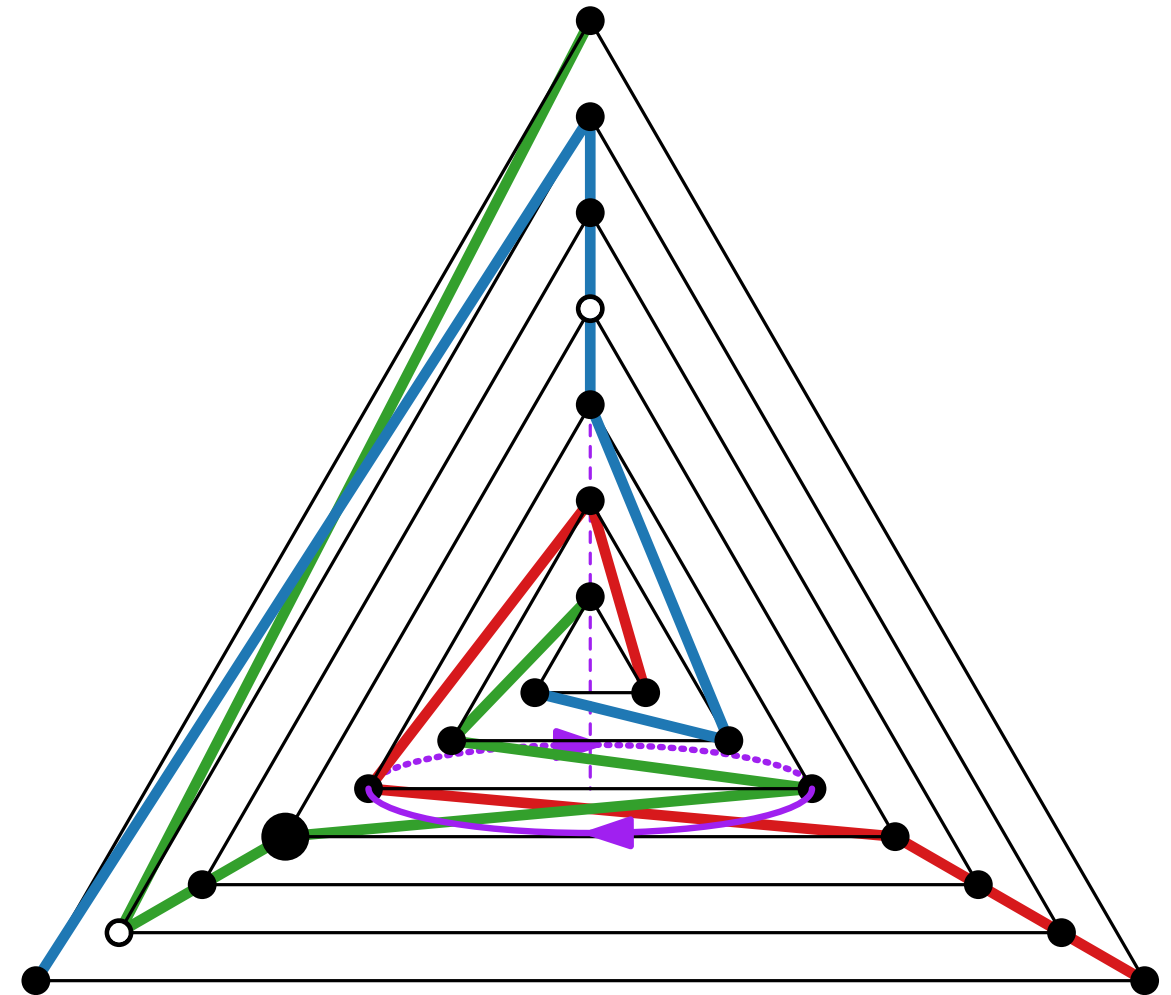
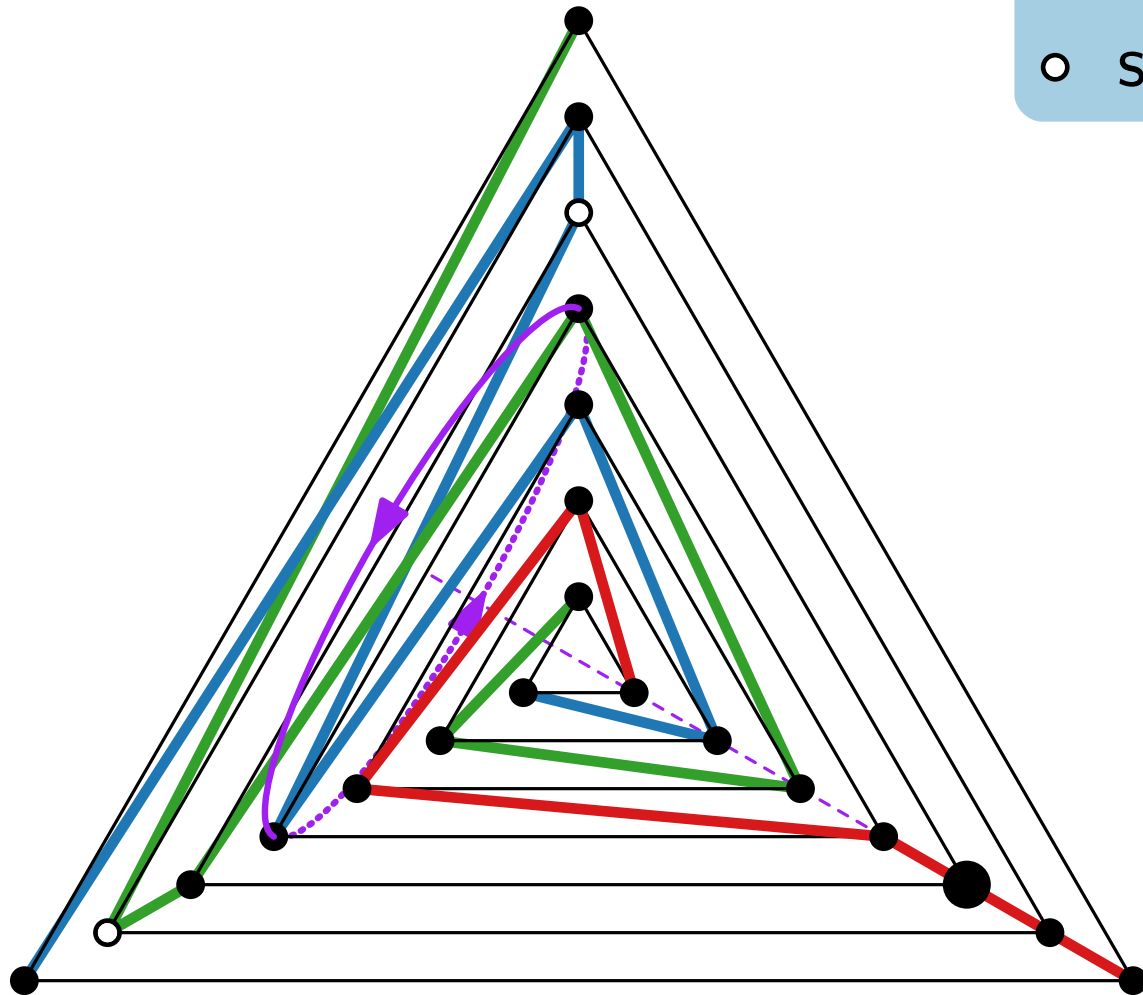
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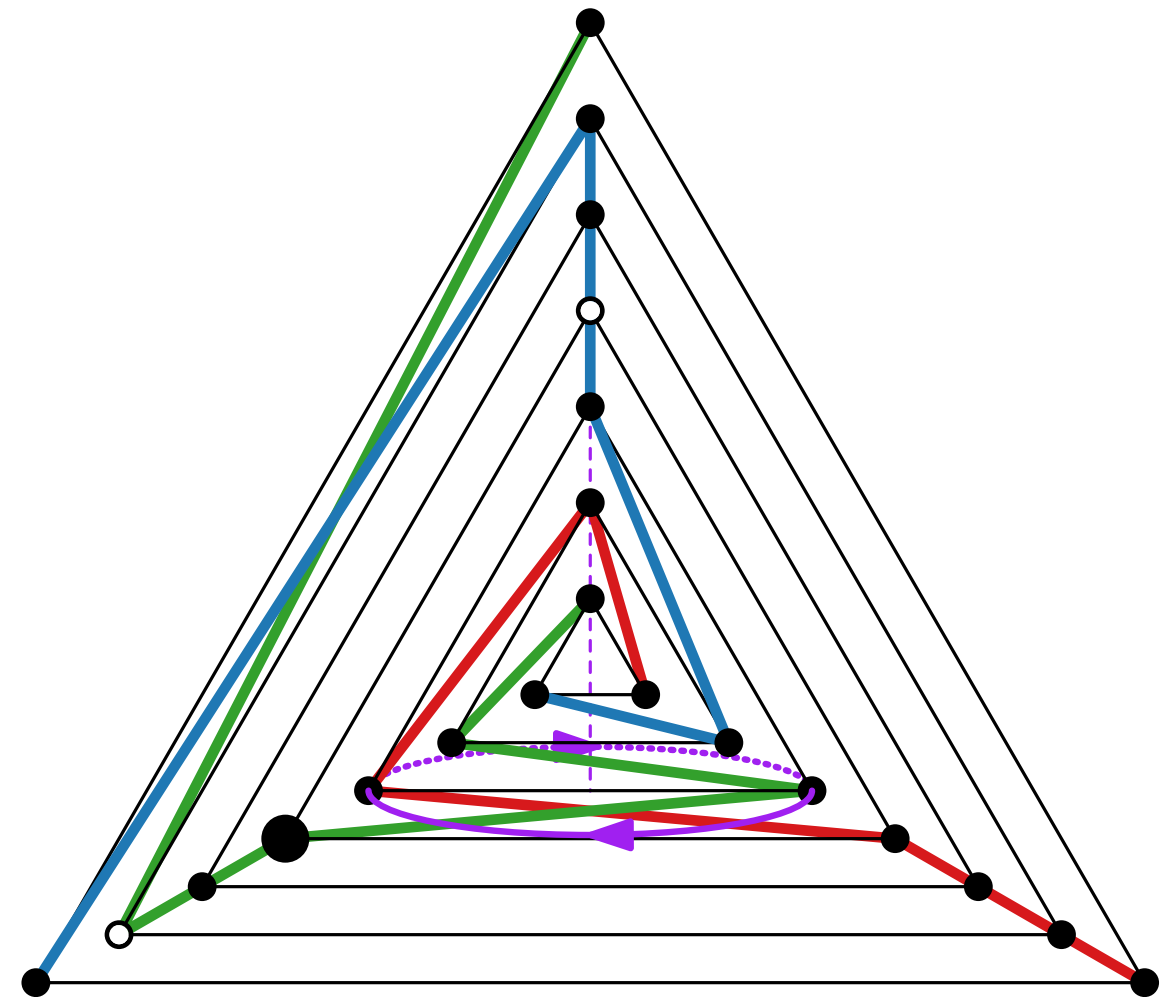
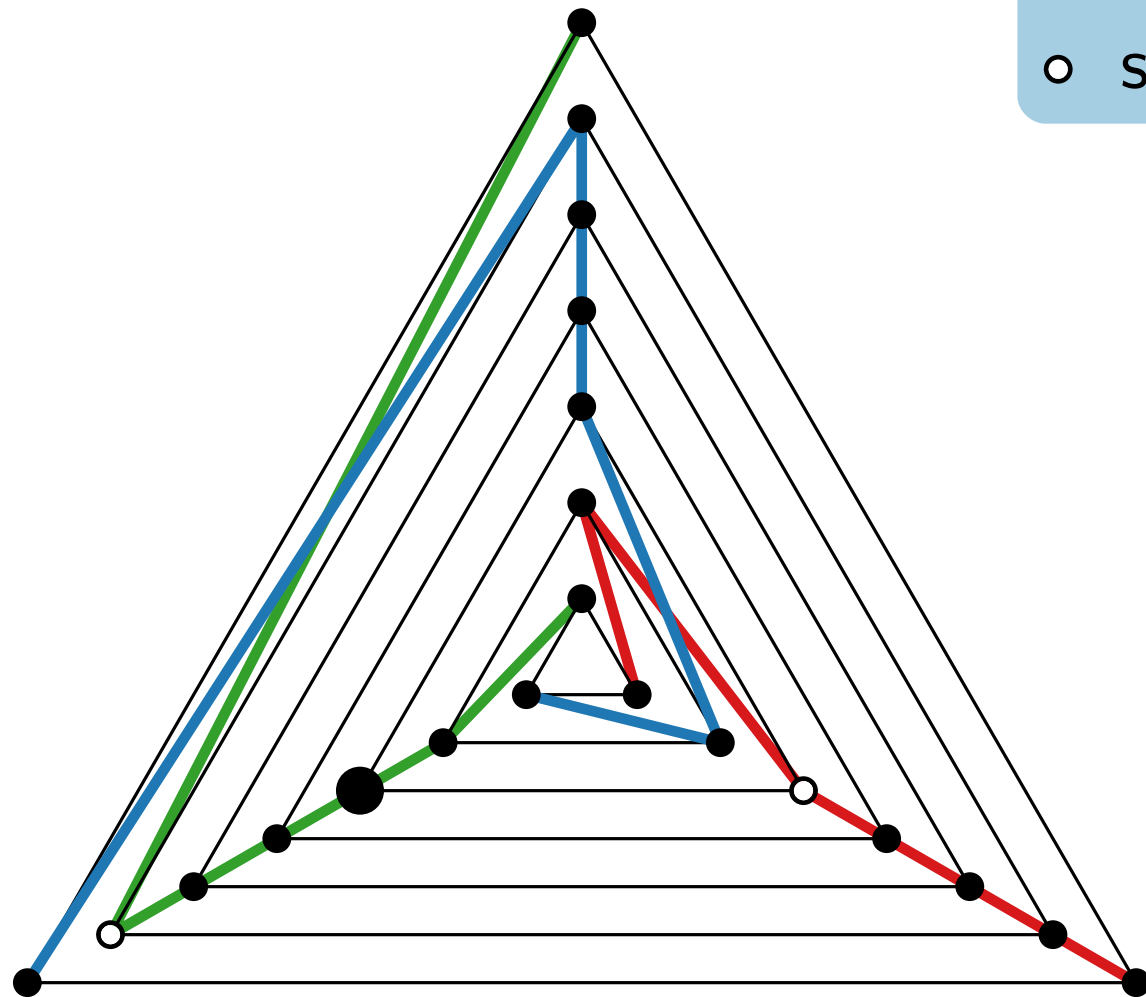
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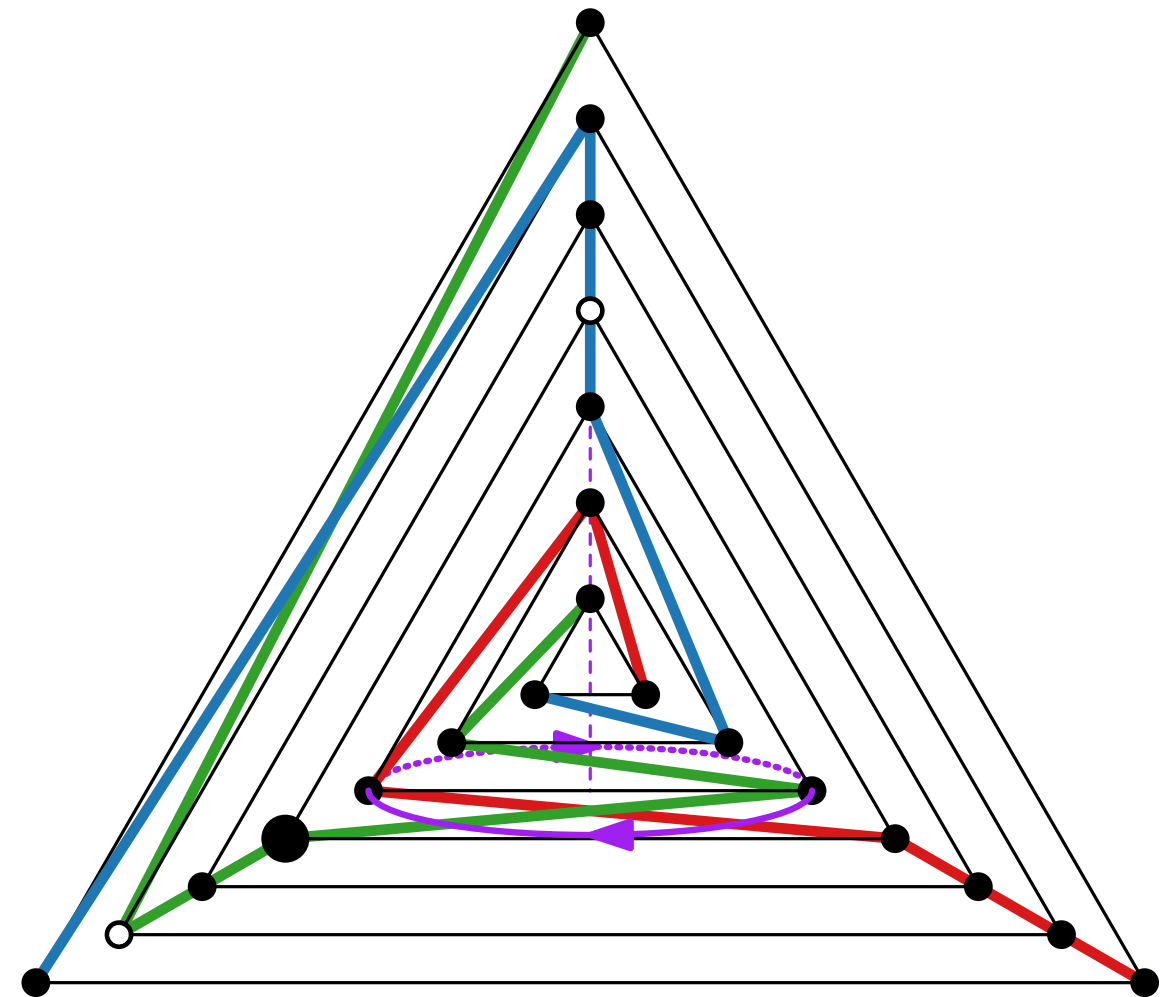
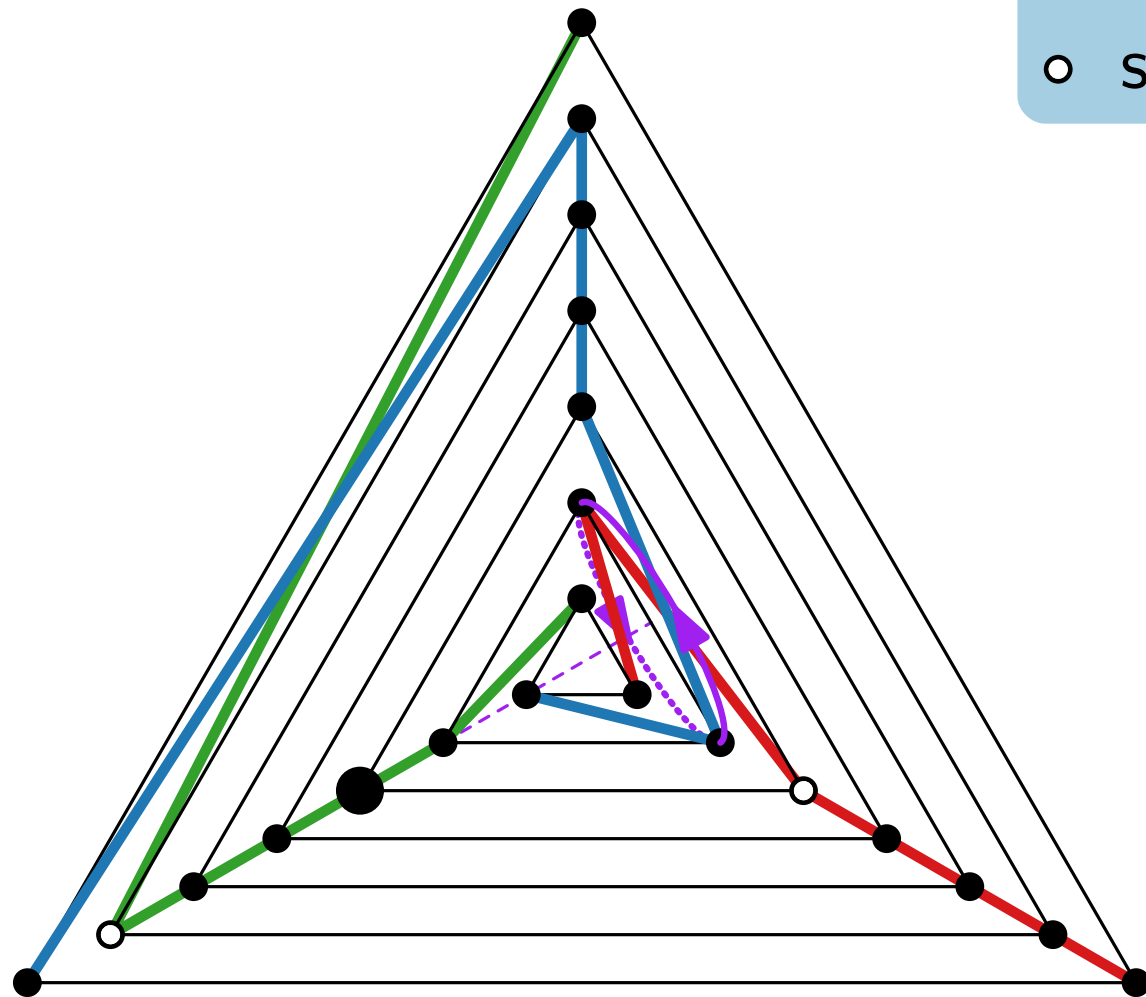
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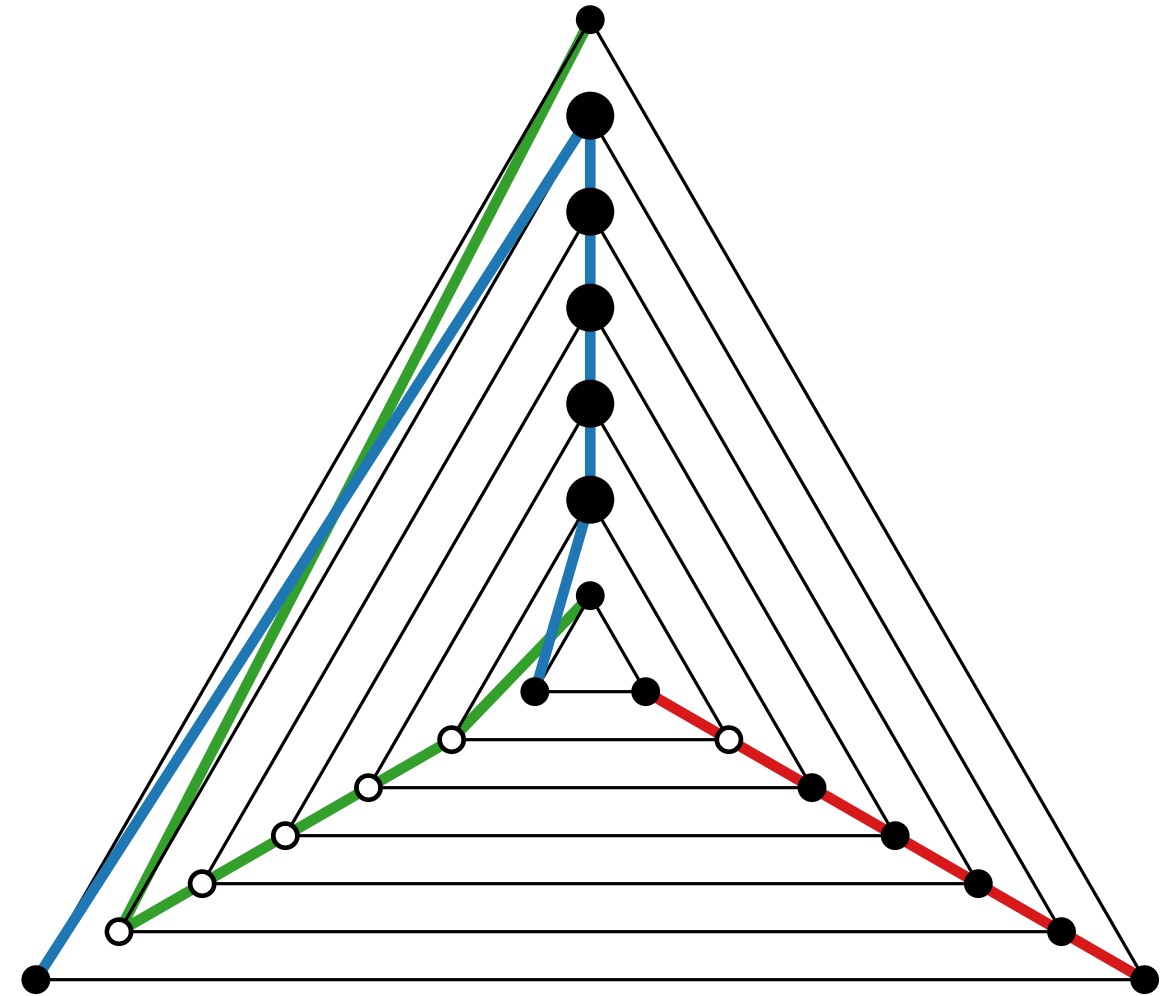
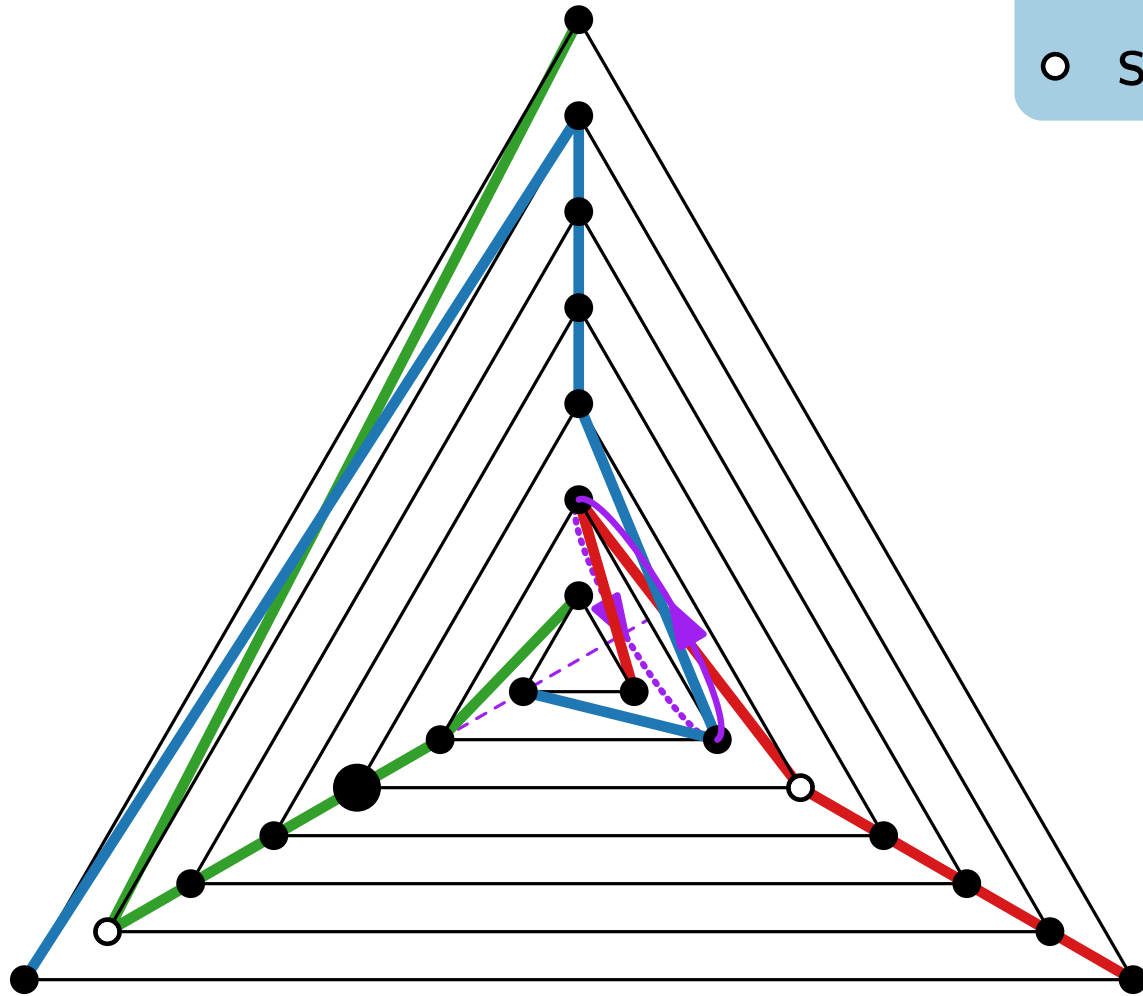
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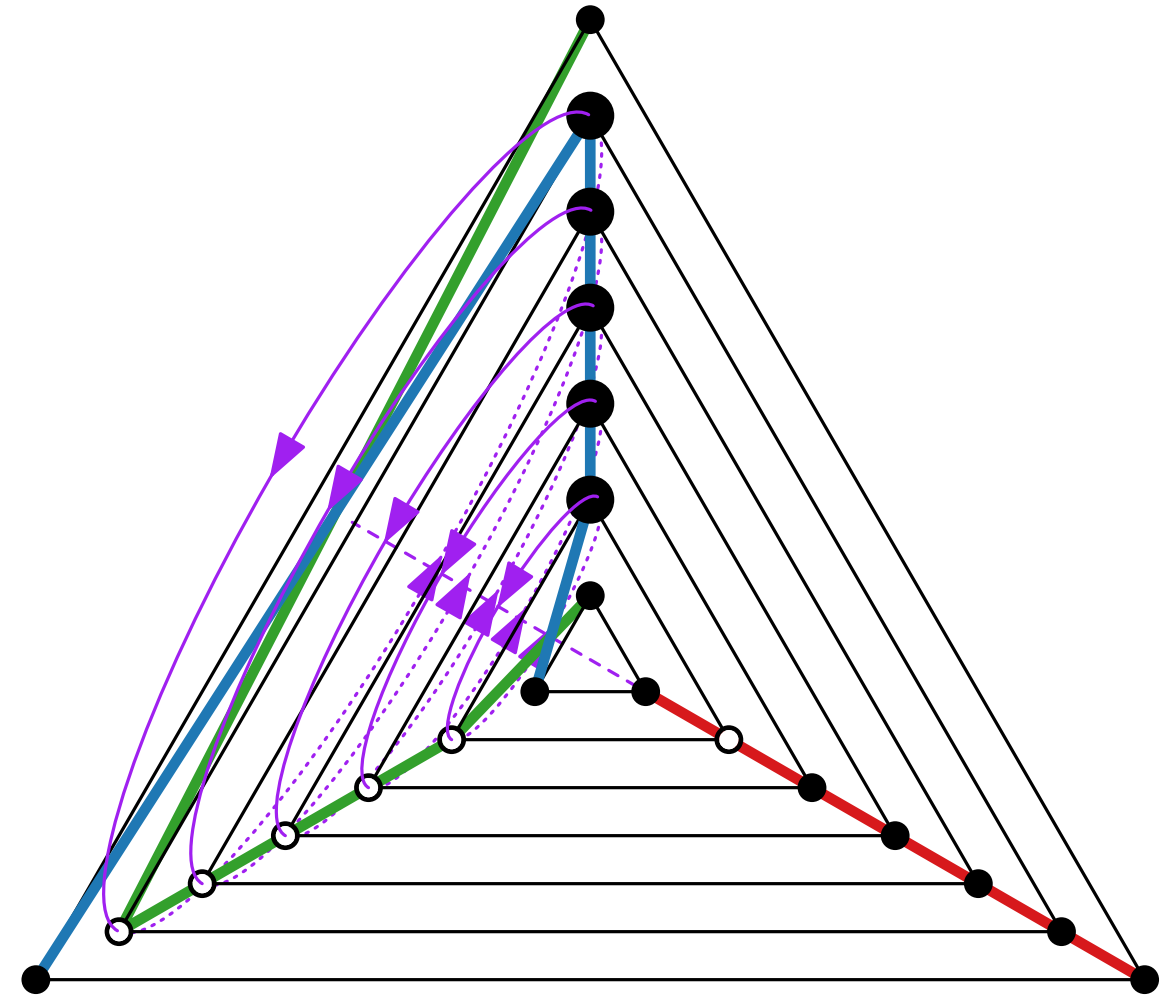
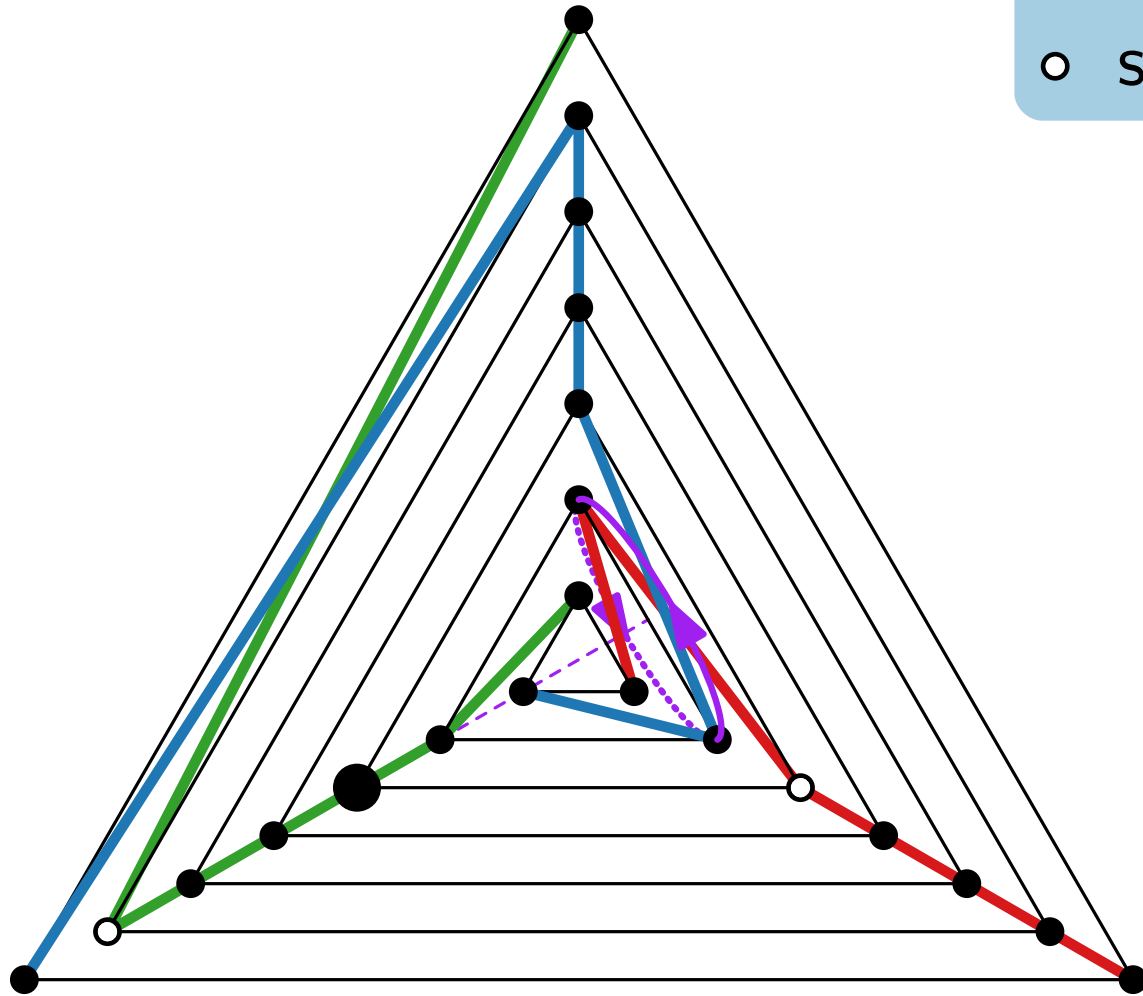
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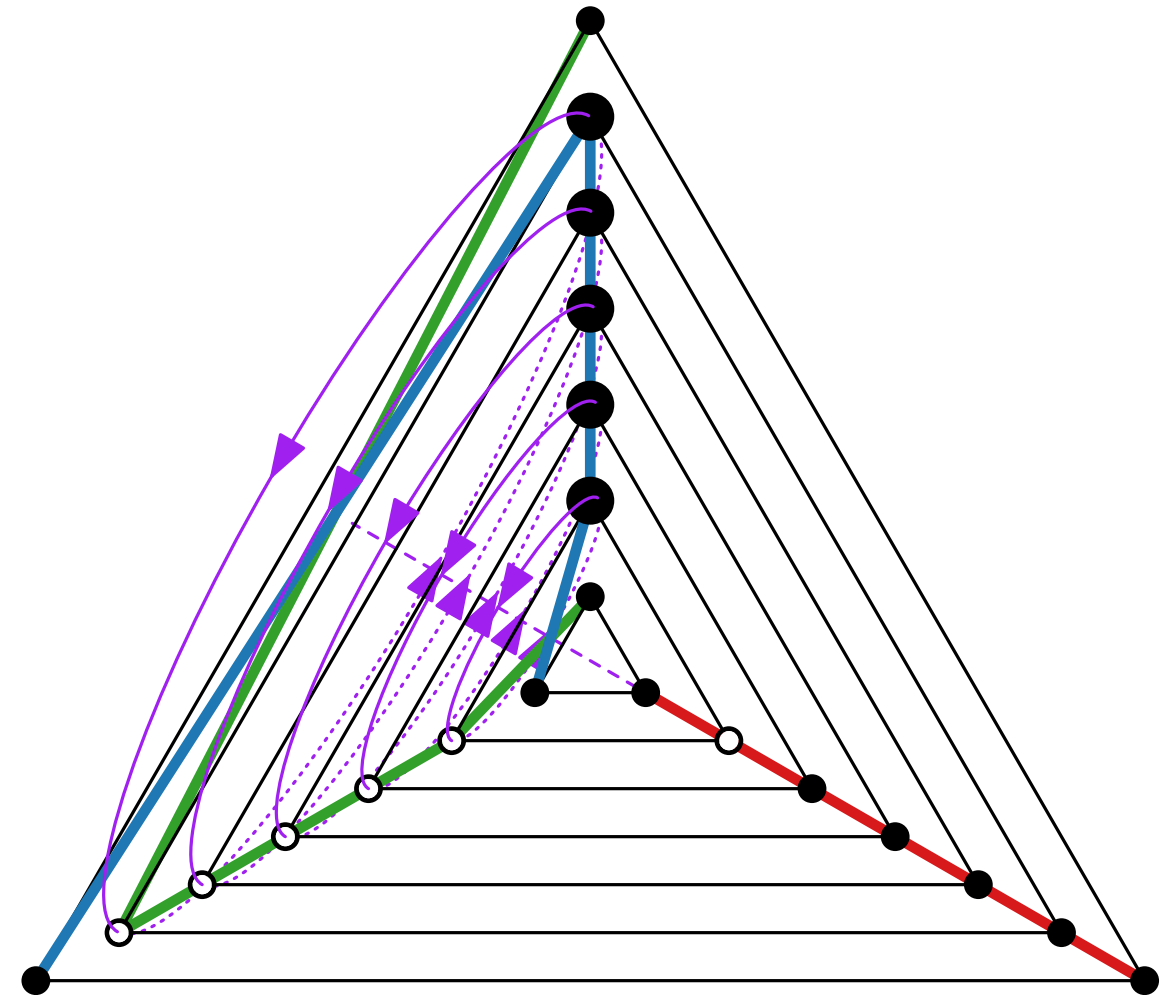
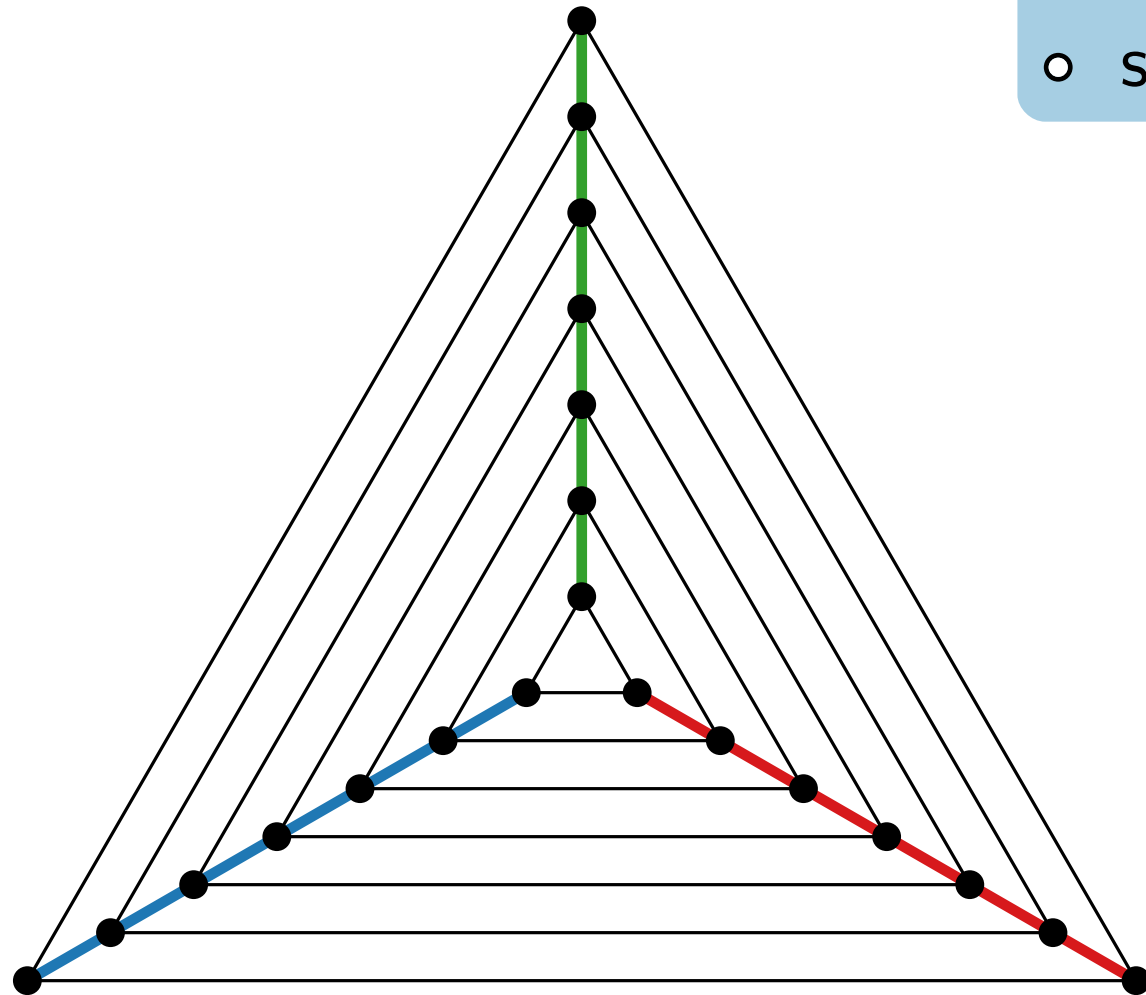
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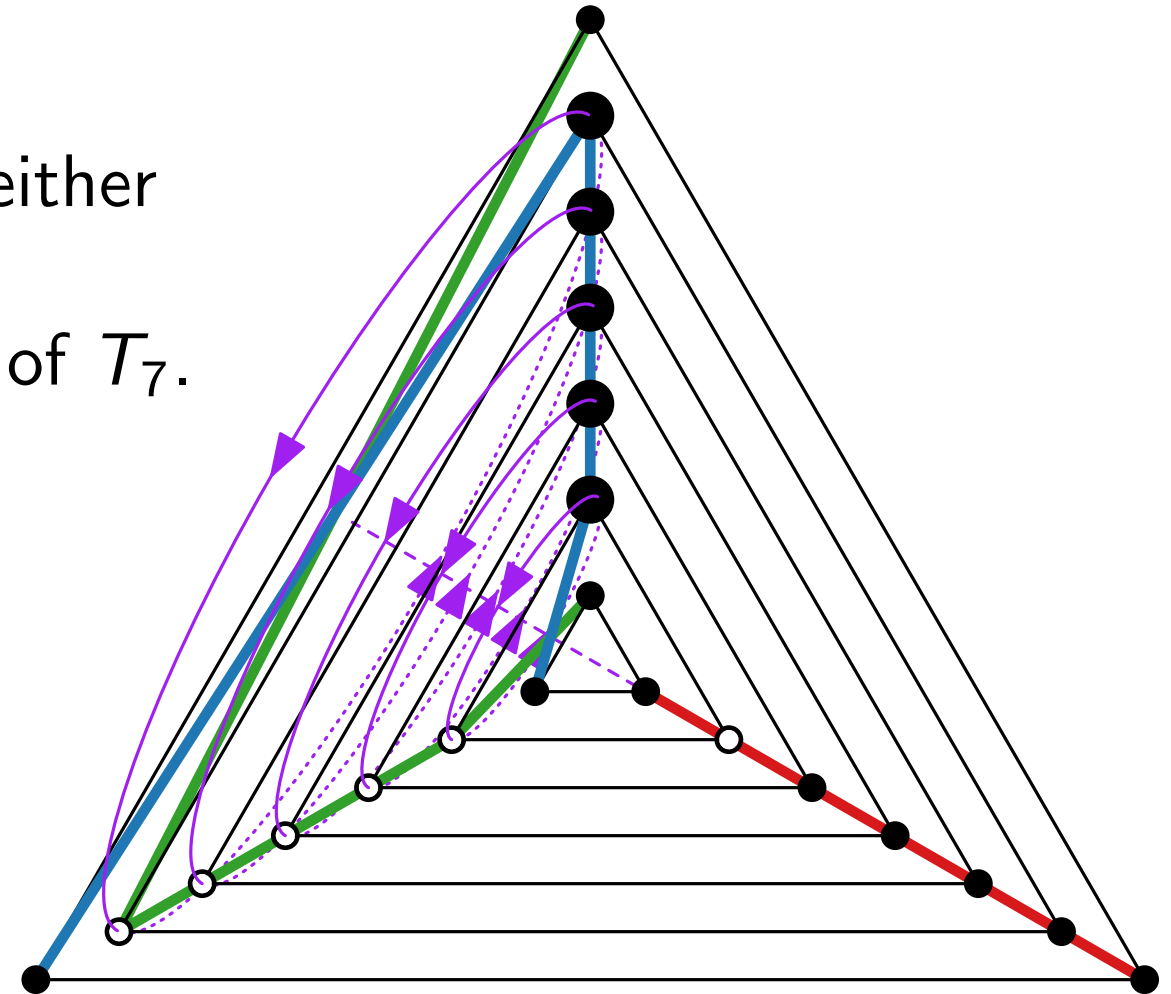
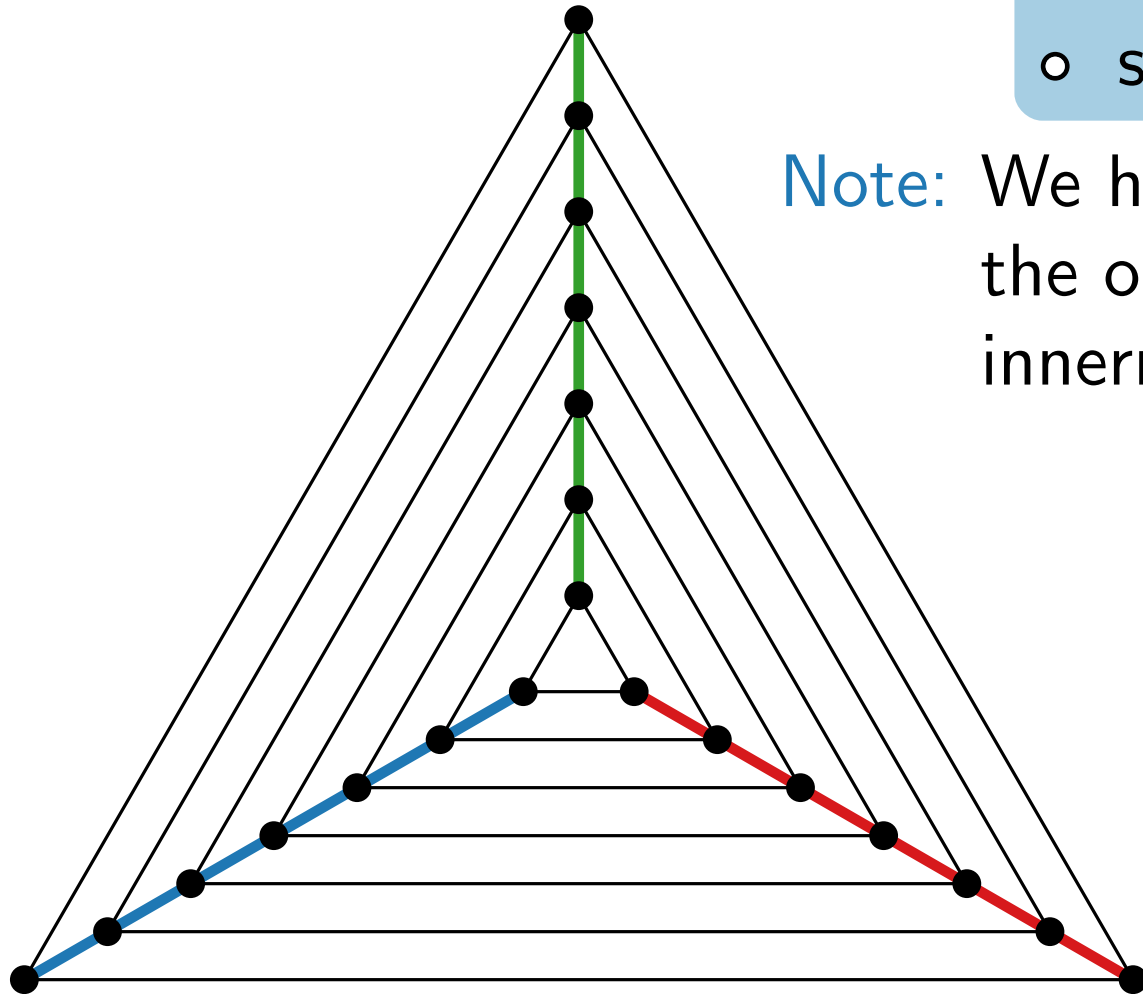


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Note: We have moved neither the outer- nor the innermost triangle of T_7 .

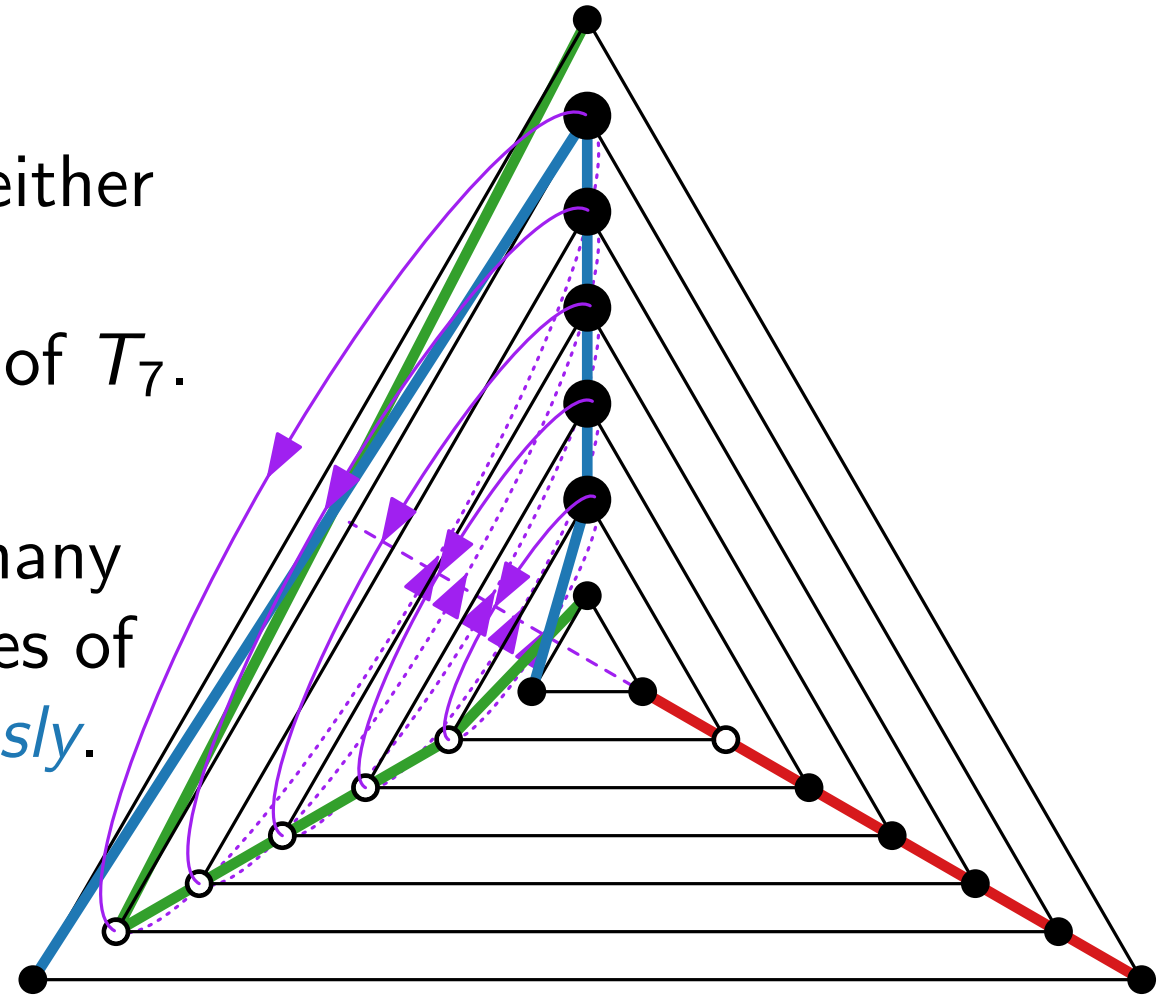
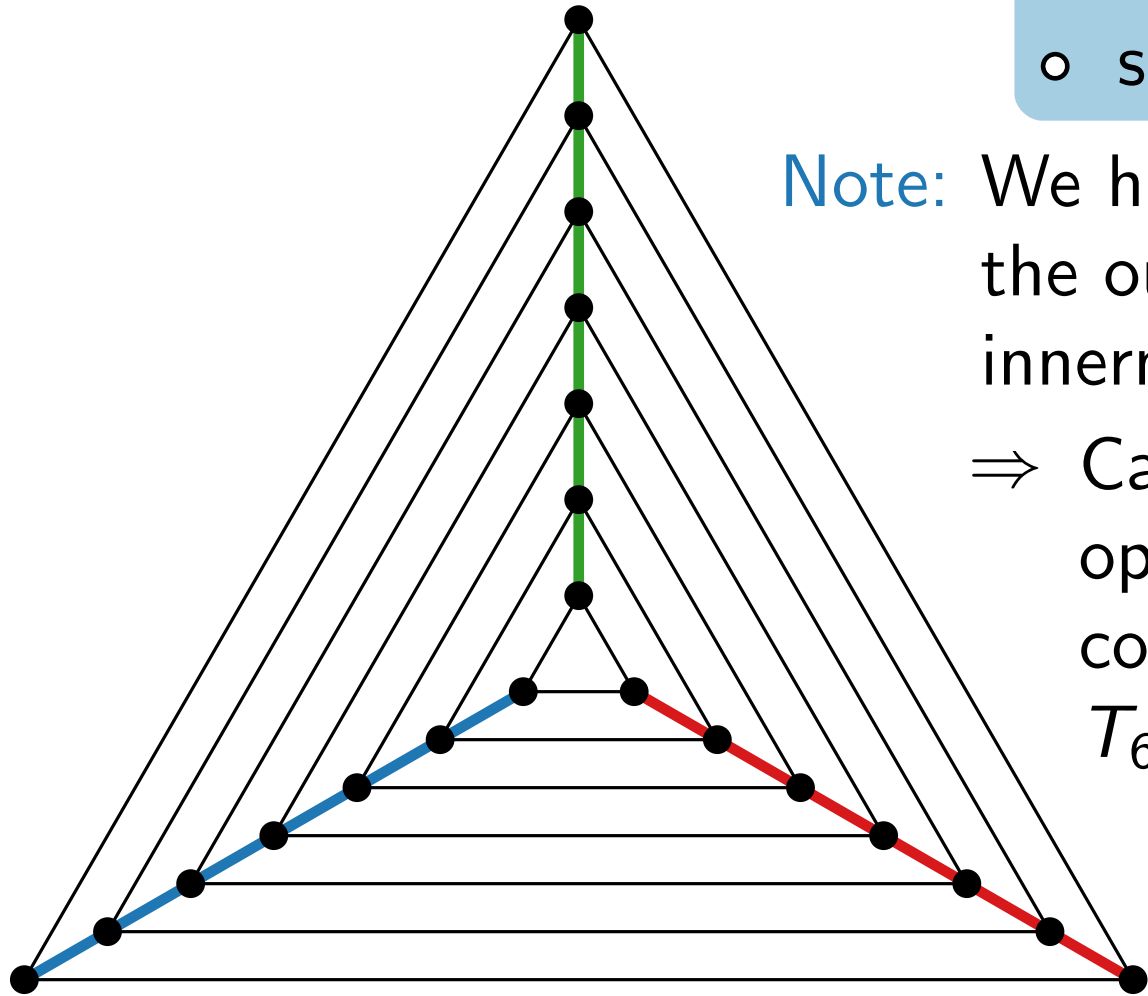


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 \Rightarrow Can do same operations to many concentric copies of T_6 *simultaneously*.



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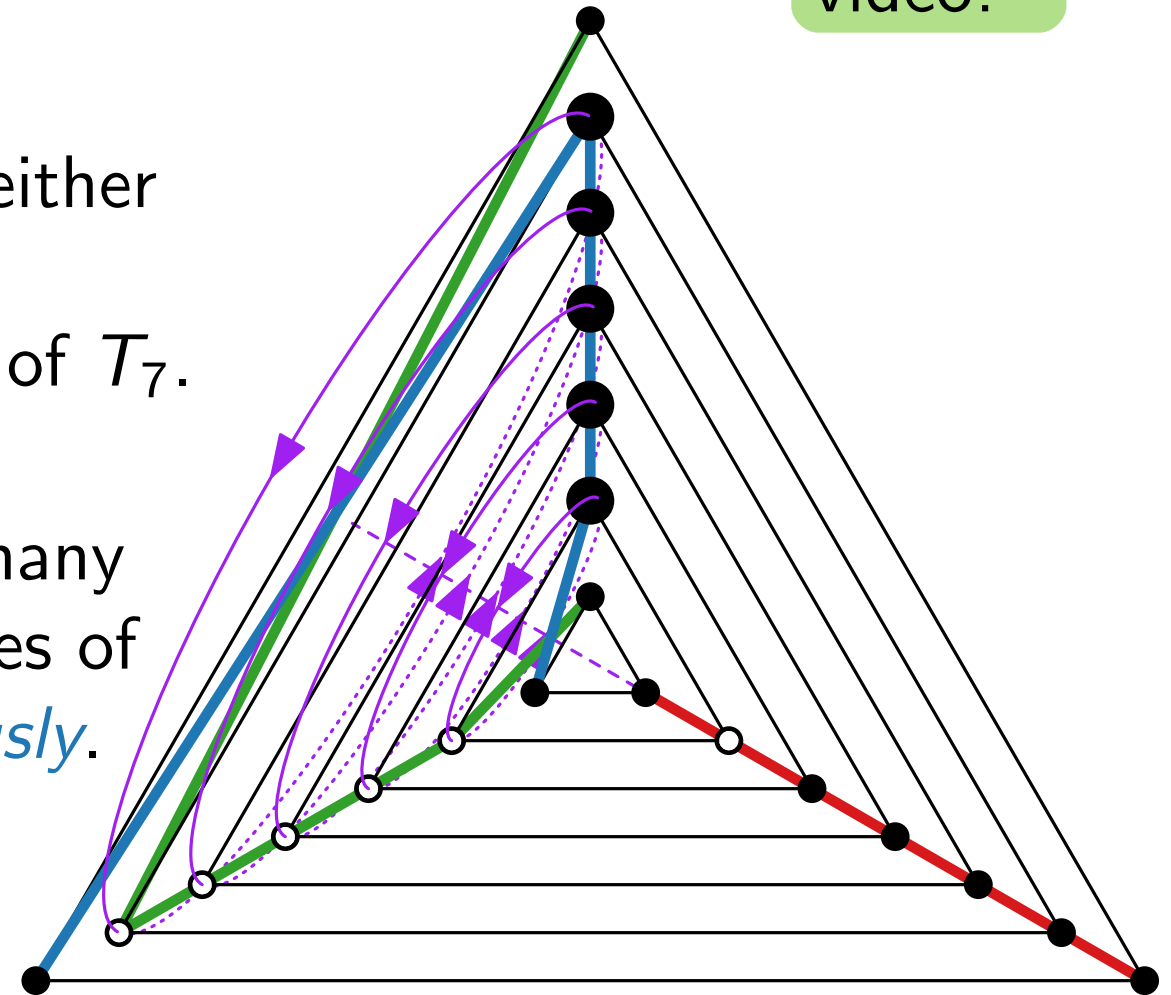
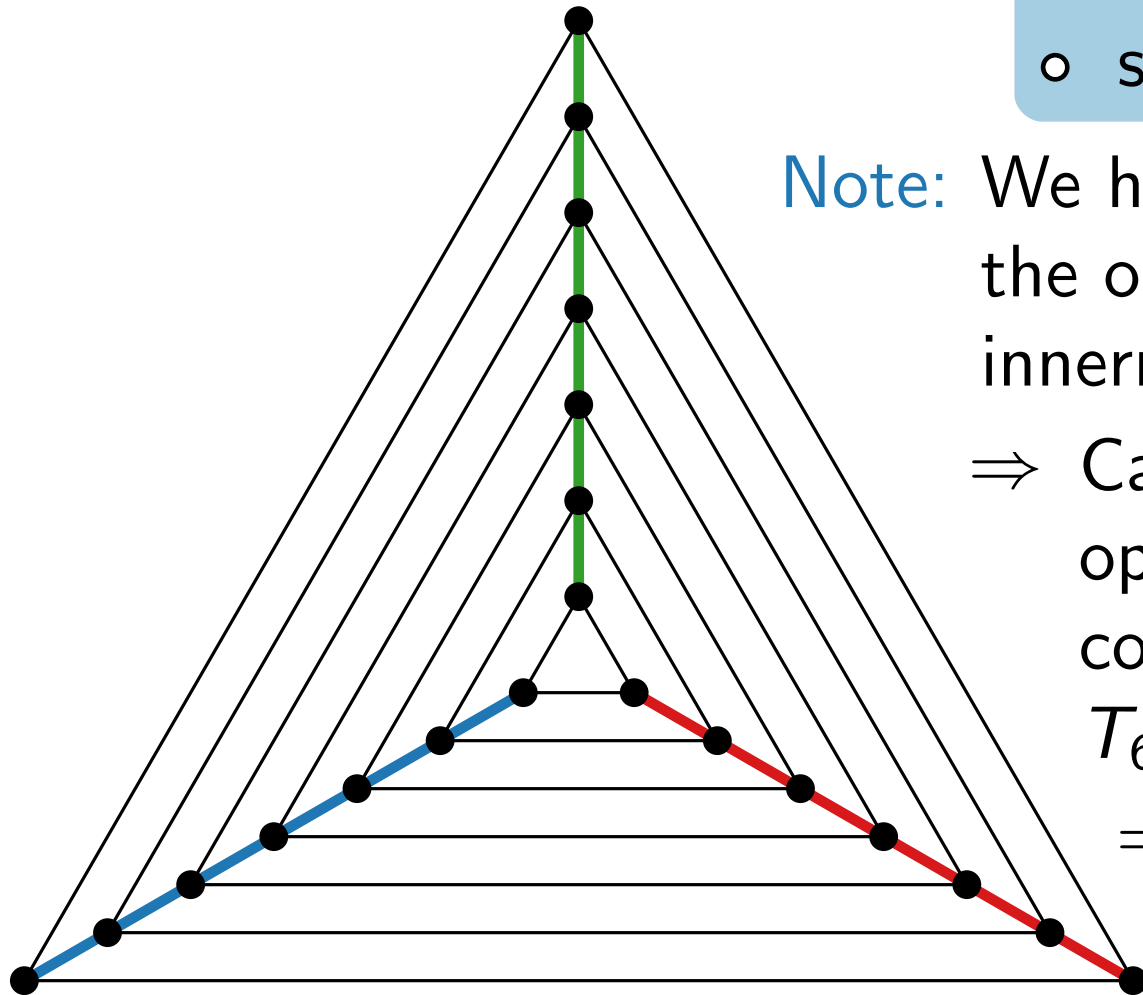
- xy-plane
- slightly above
- slightly below

Try our
video!

Note: We have moved neither the outer- nor the innermost triangle of T_7 .

⇒ Can do same operations to many concentric copies of T_6 *simultaneously*.

⇒ Need only $O(1)$ steps for any T_n .



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A *split component* of G with respect to a split pair $\{u, v\}$ is the edge uv or a maximal subgraph G_{uv} of G such that $\{u, v\}$ is not a split pair of G_{uv} .

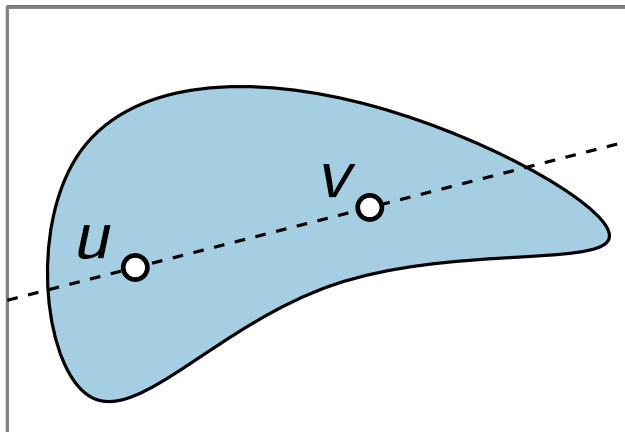
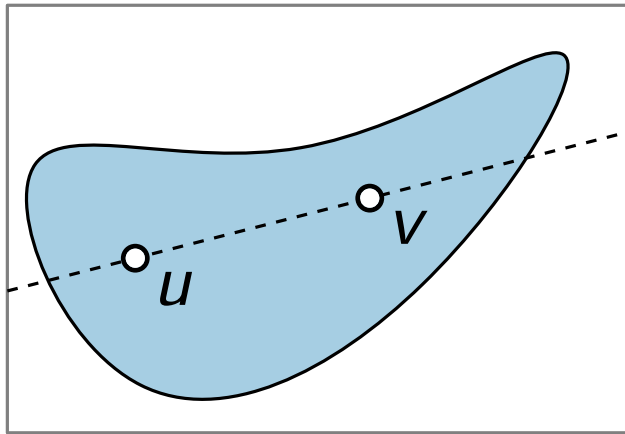
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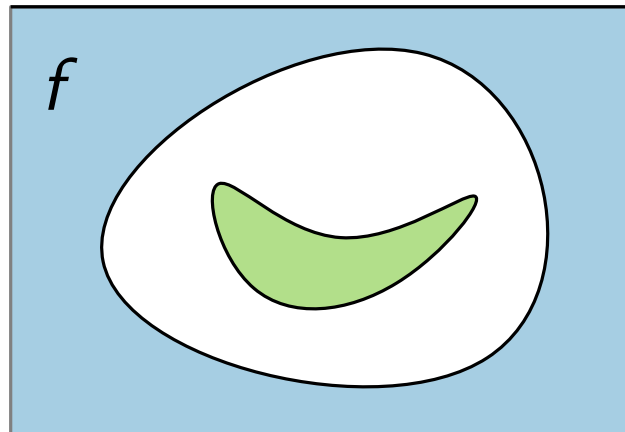
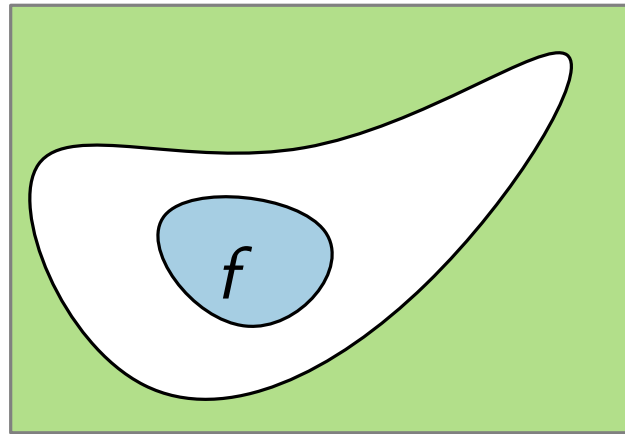
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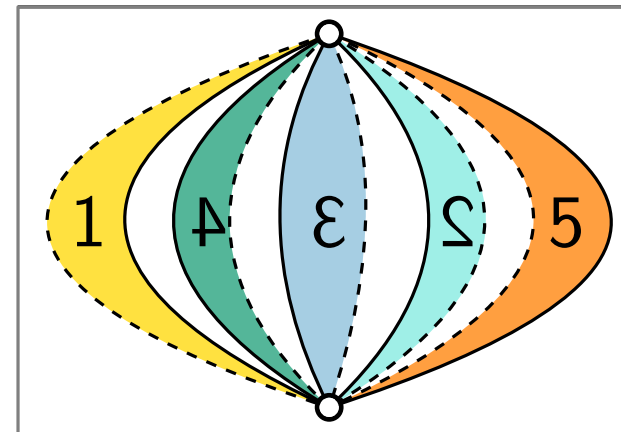
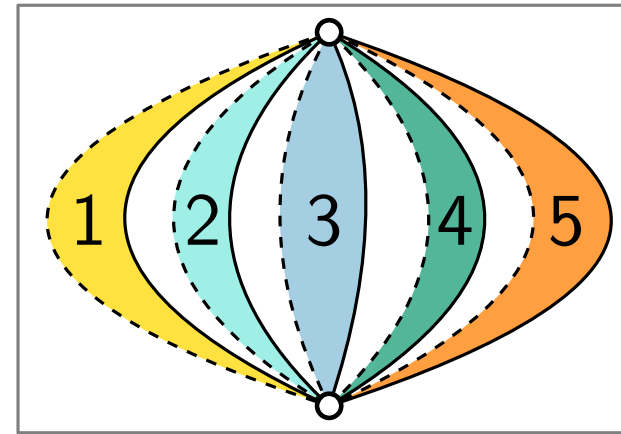
Graph flip



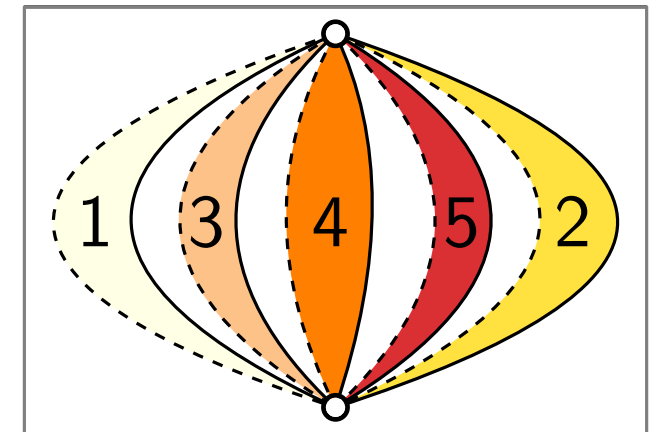
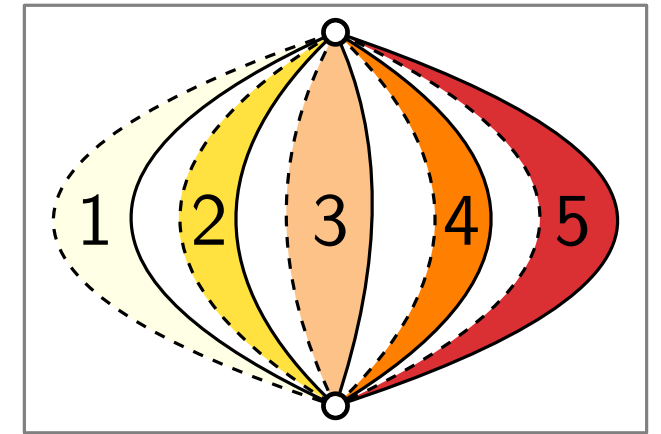
Outer face change



Component flip



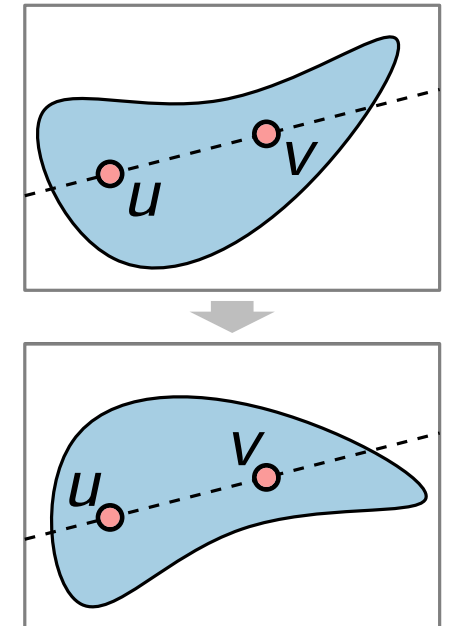
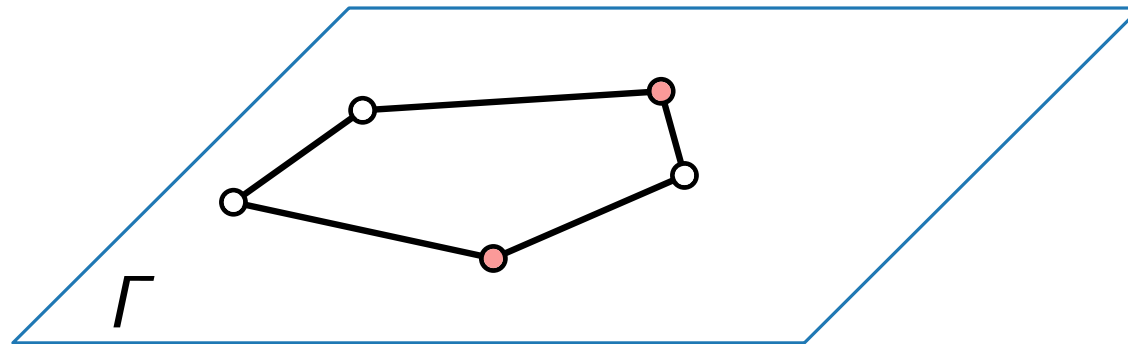
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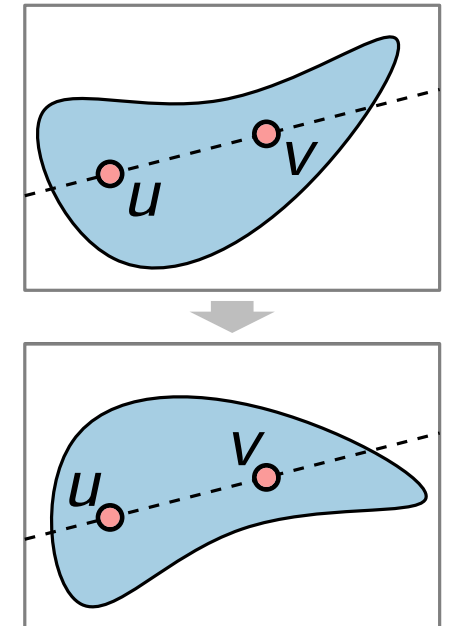
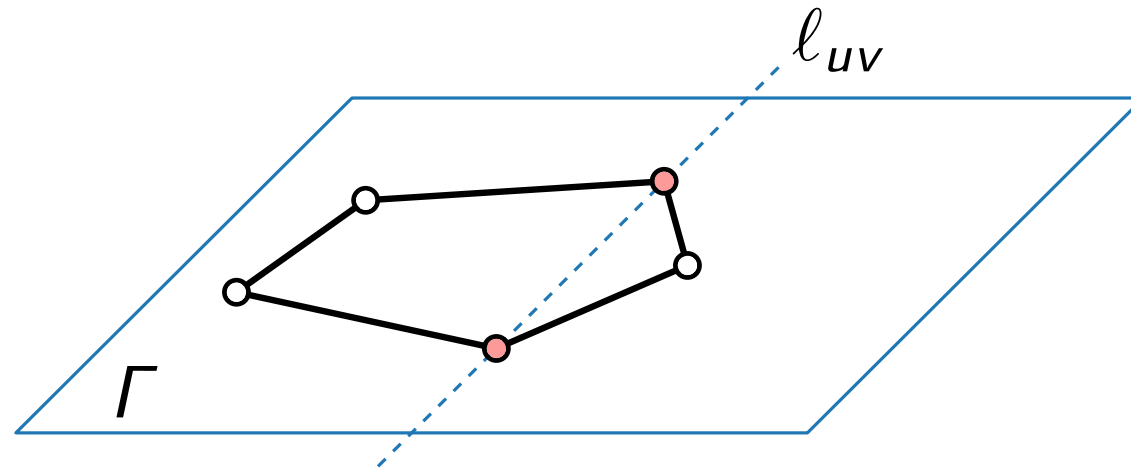
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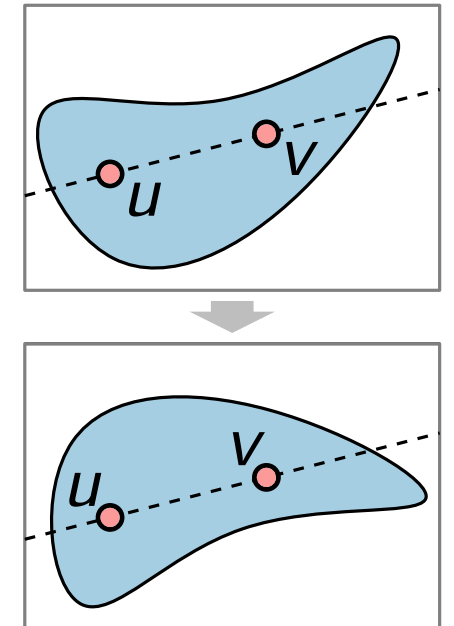
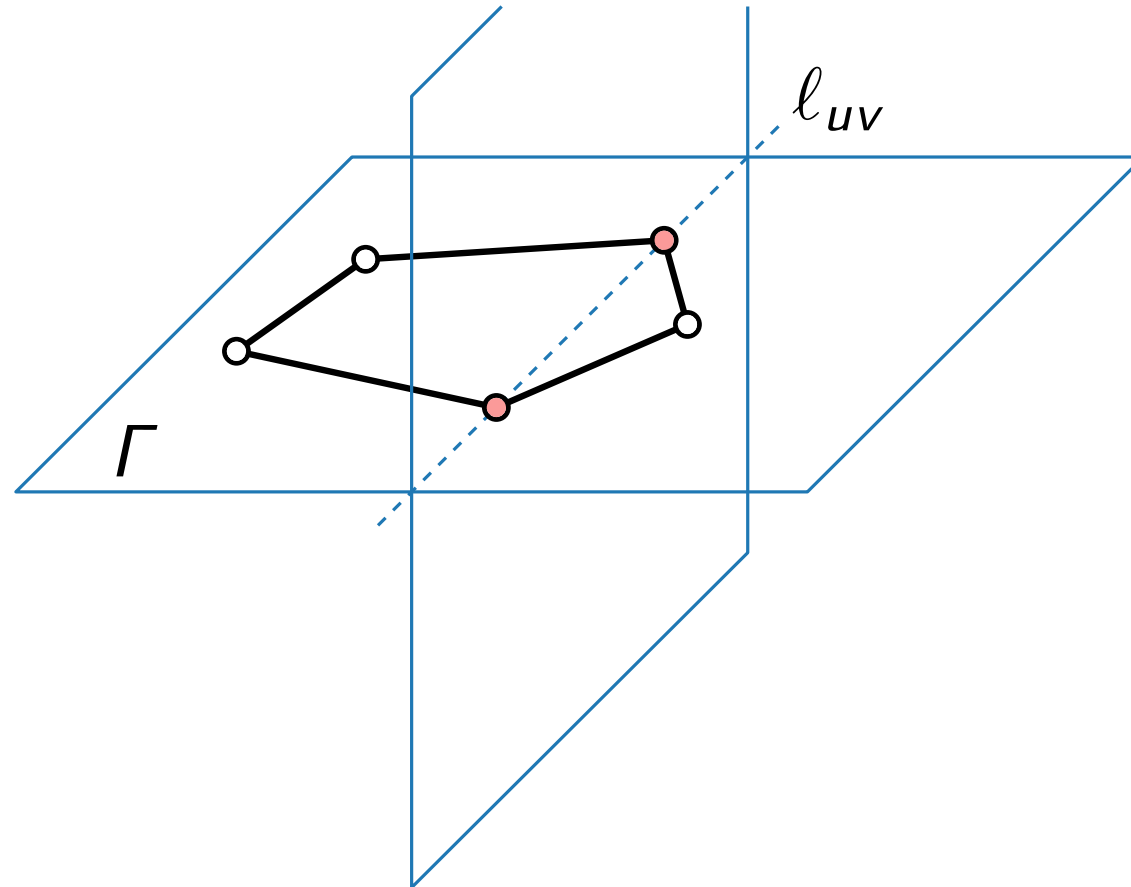
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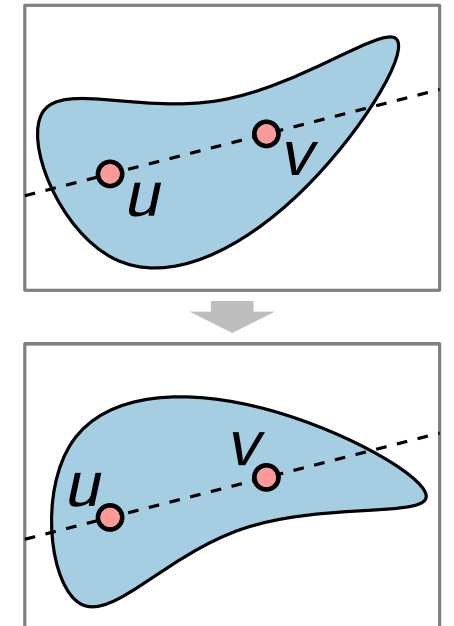
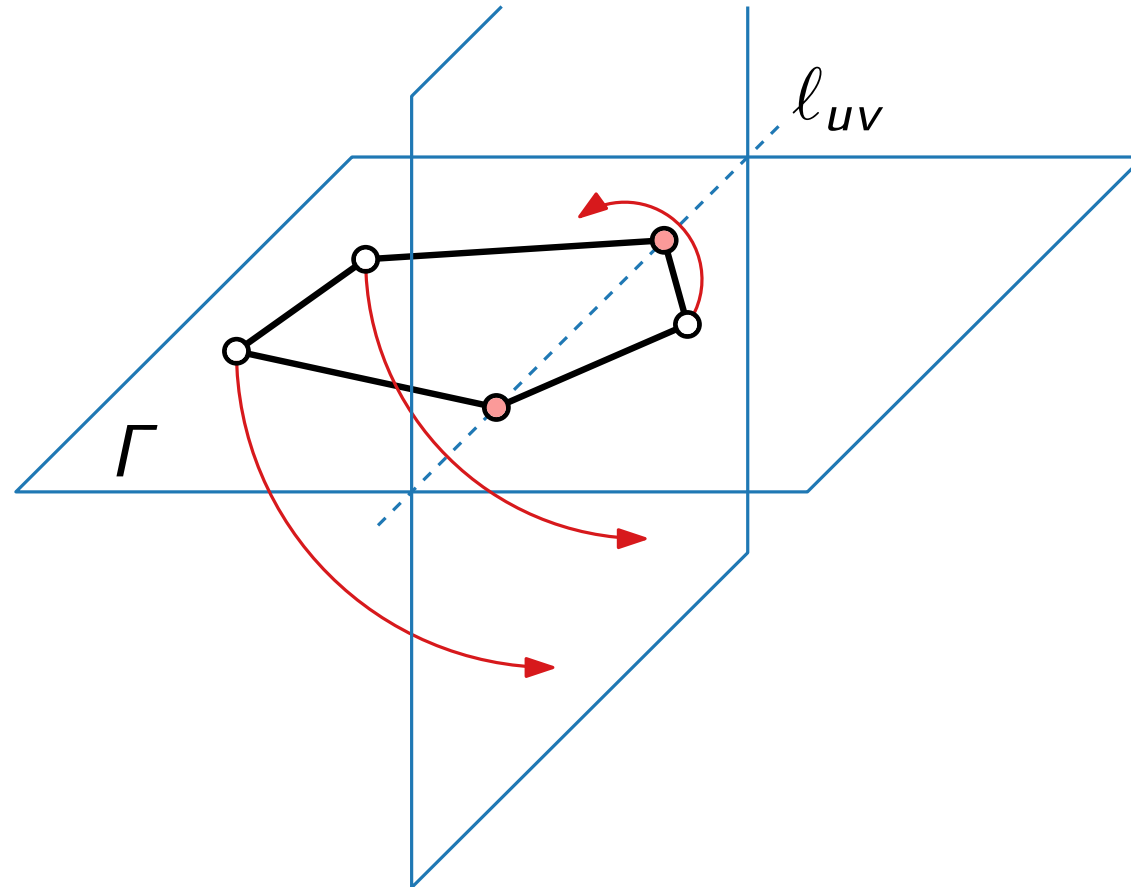
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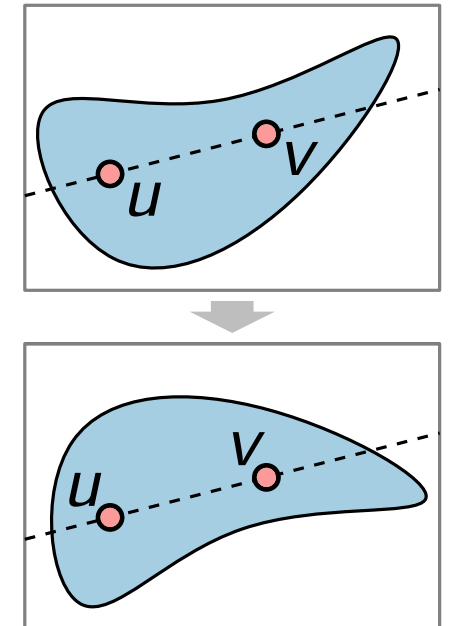
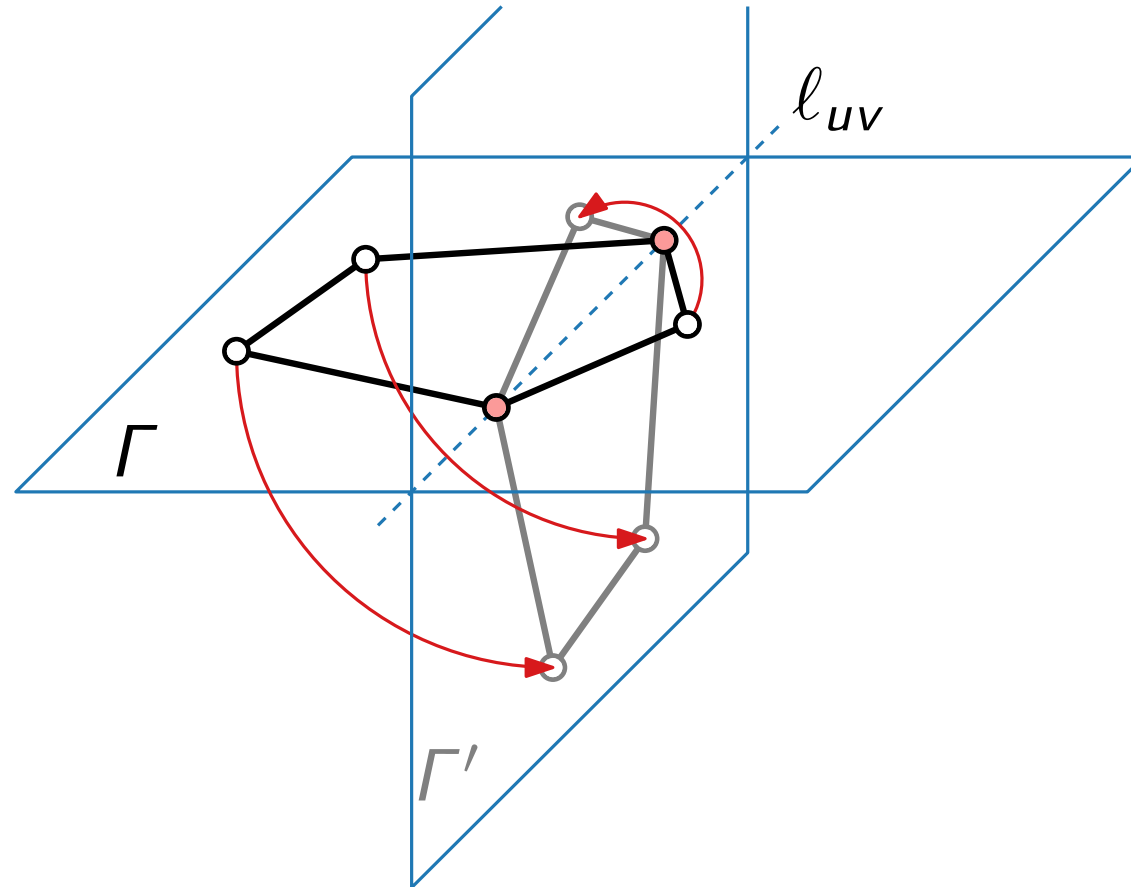
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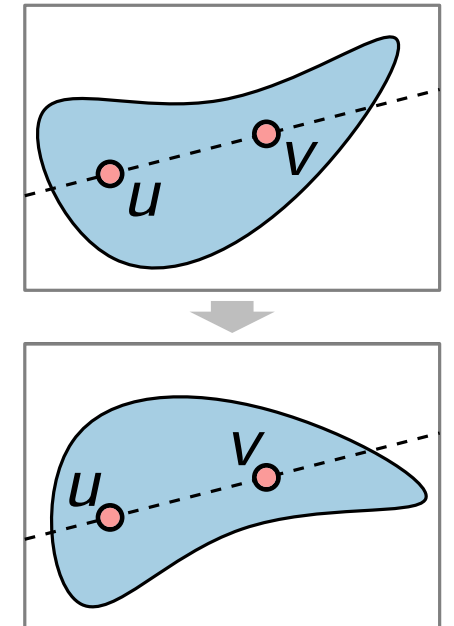
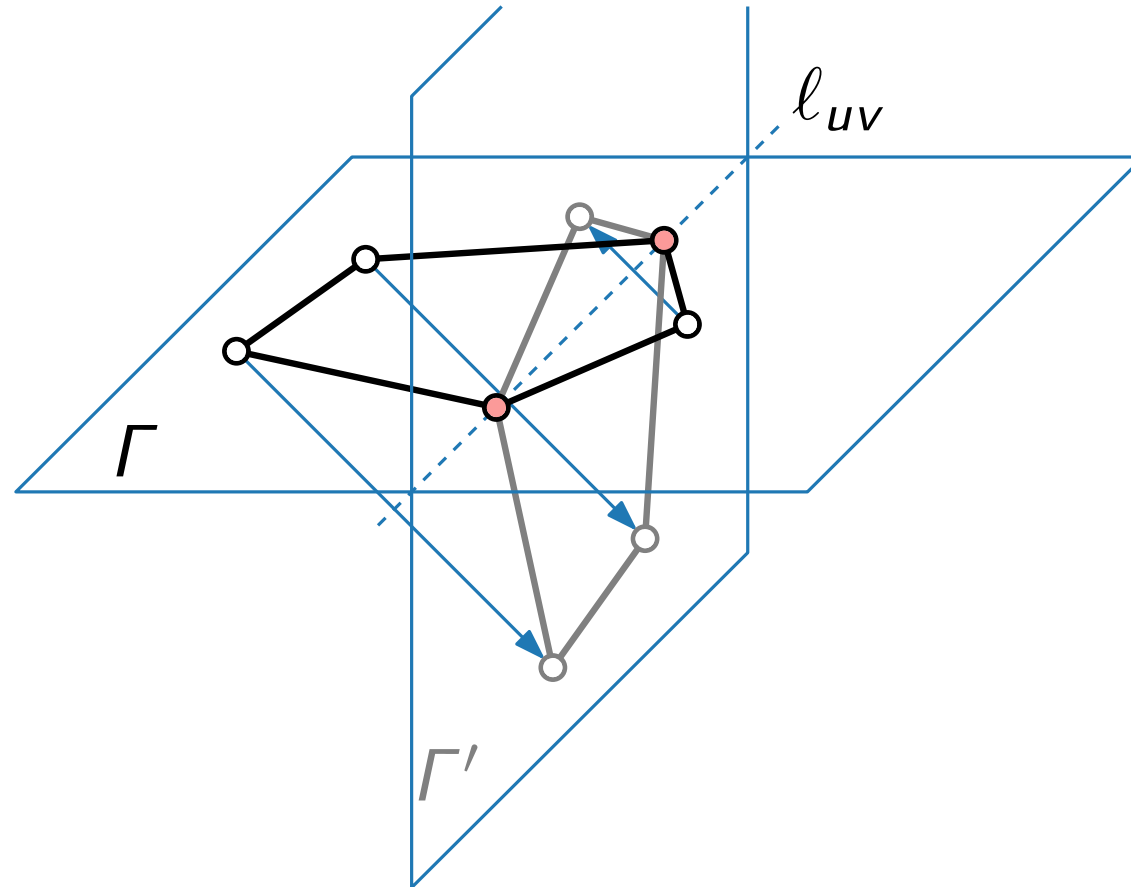
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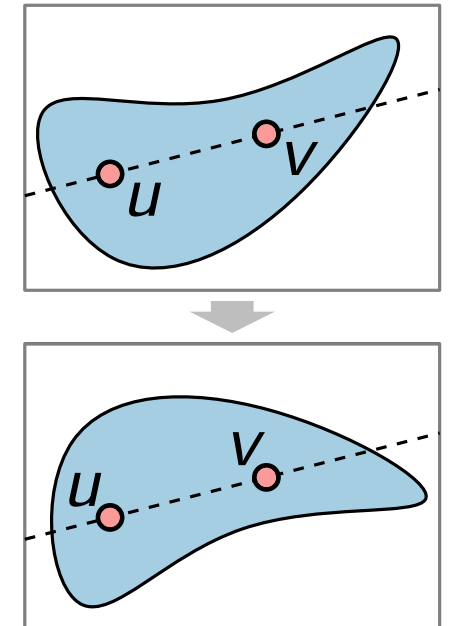
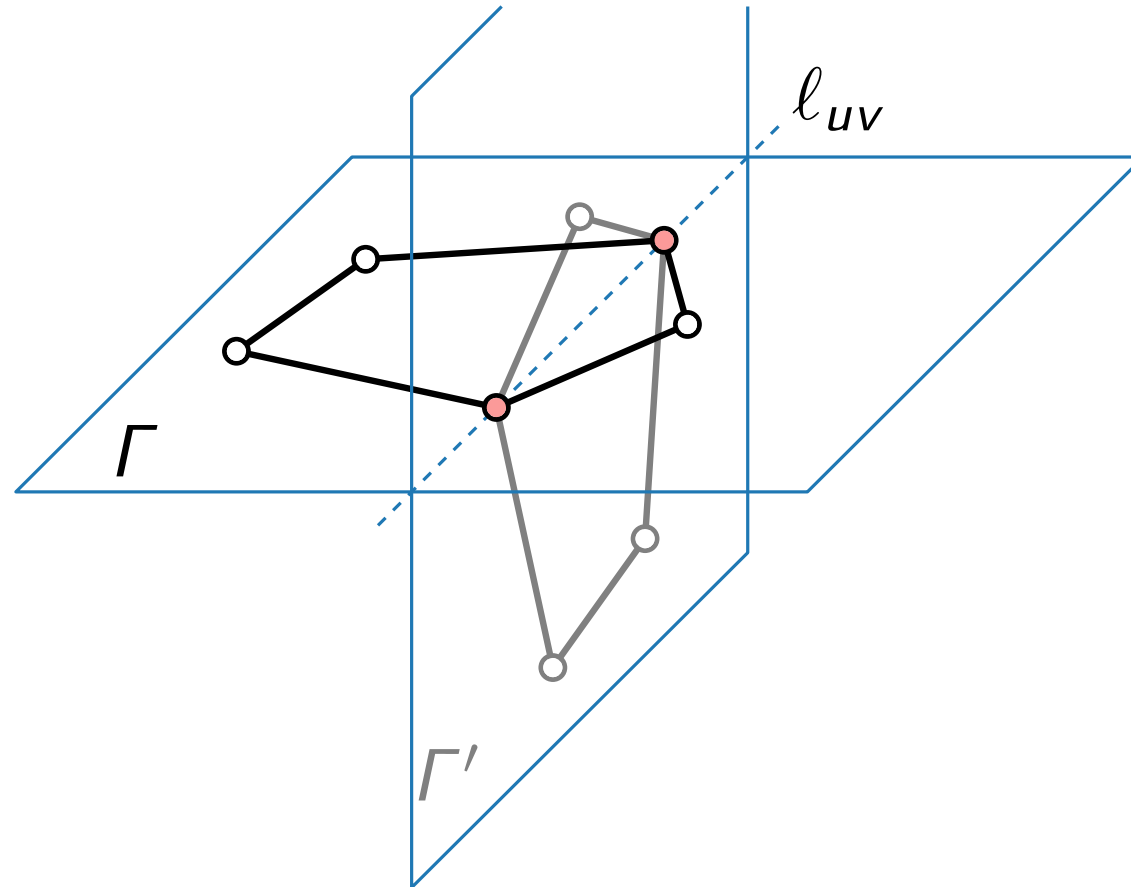
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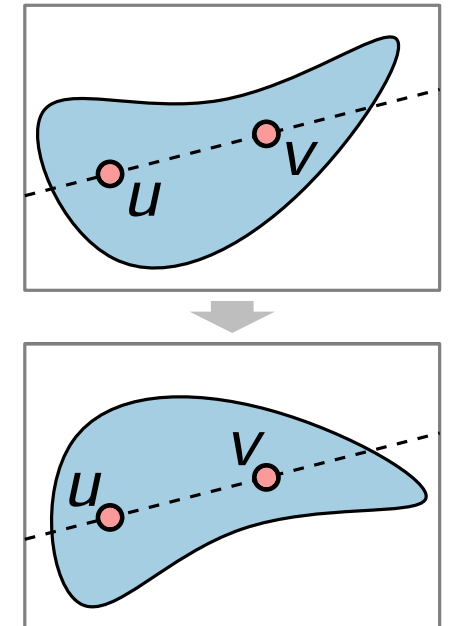
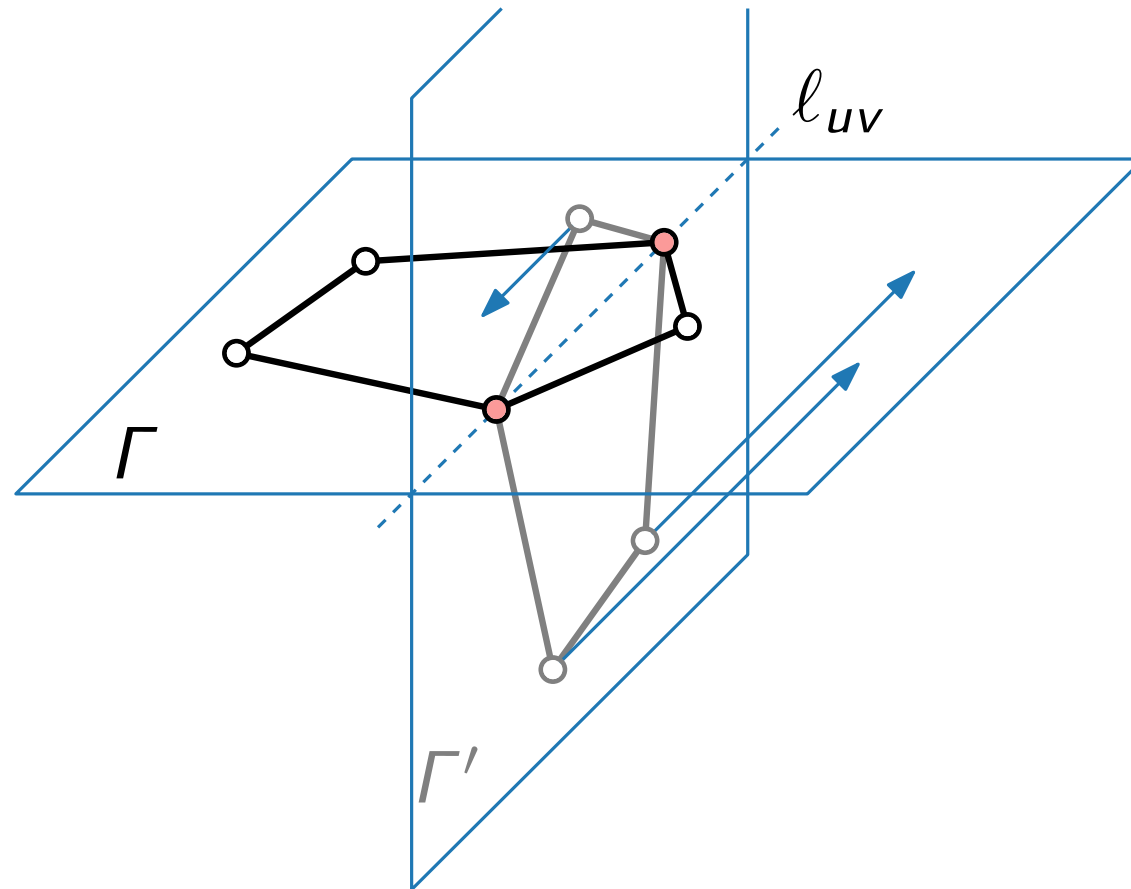
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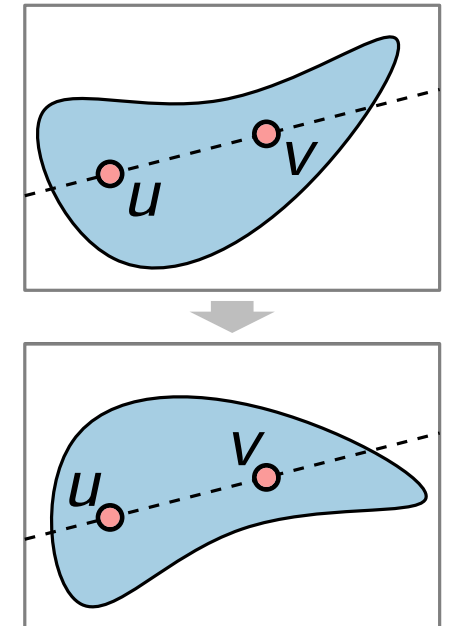
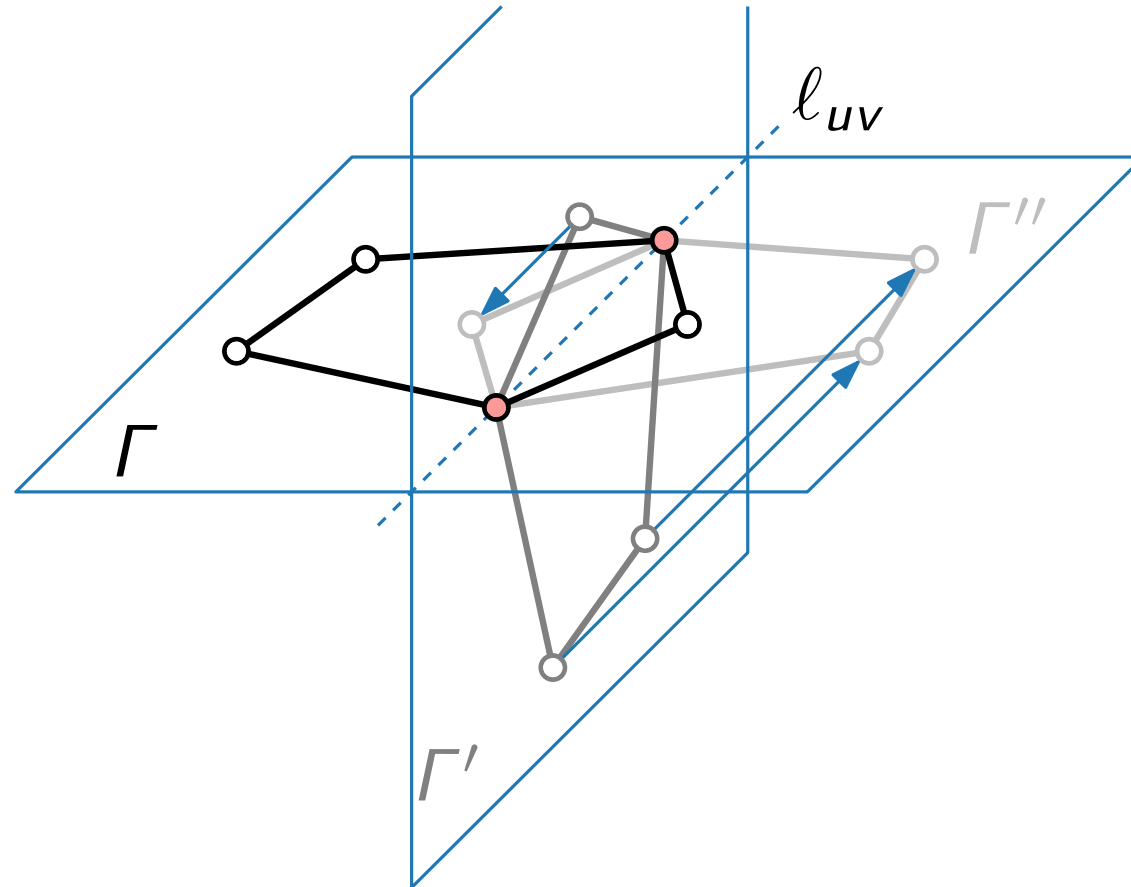
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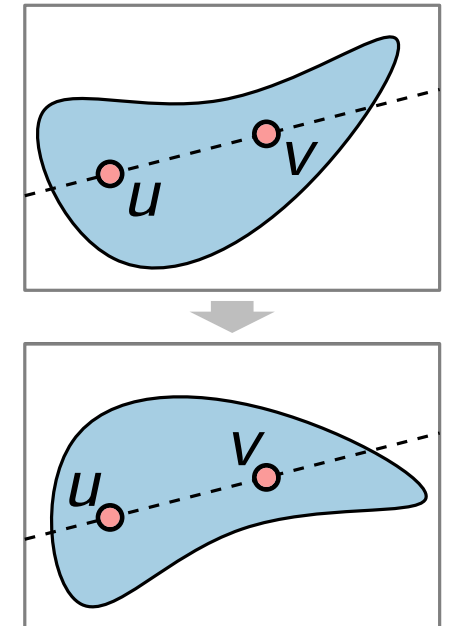
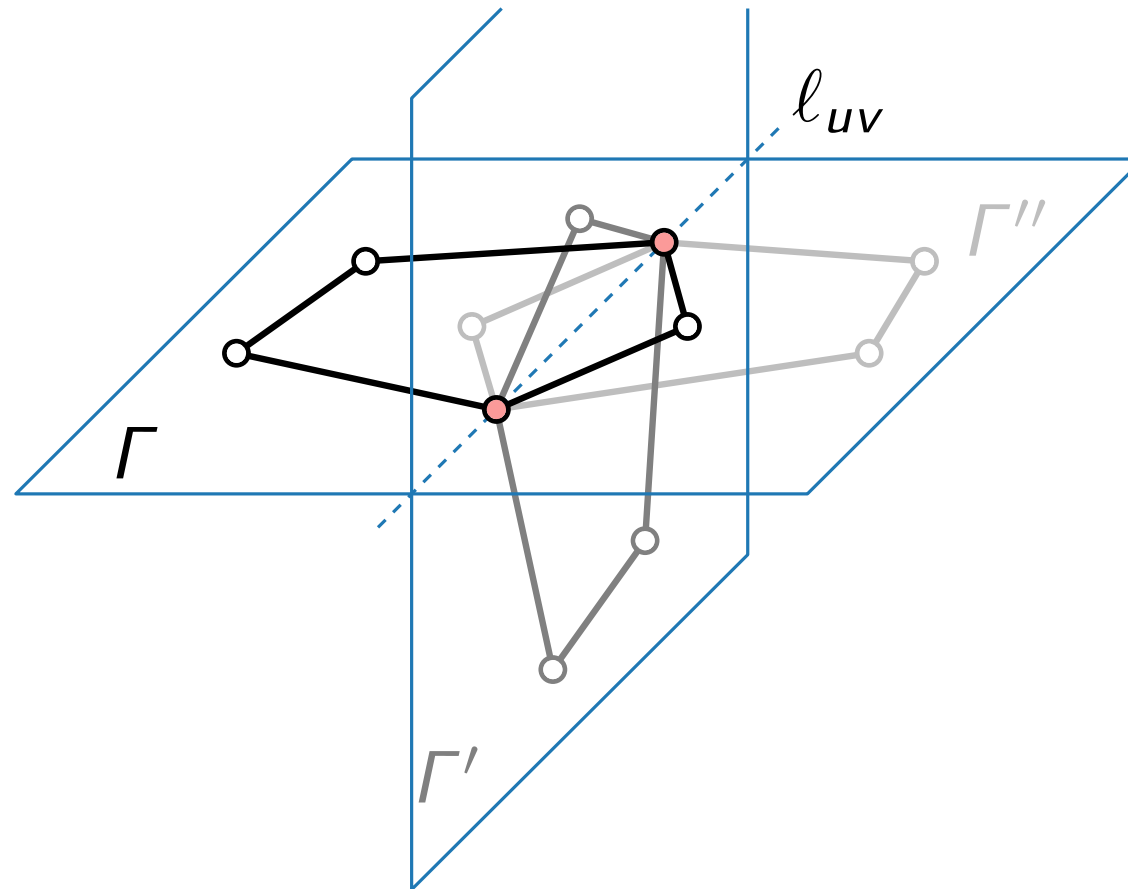
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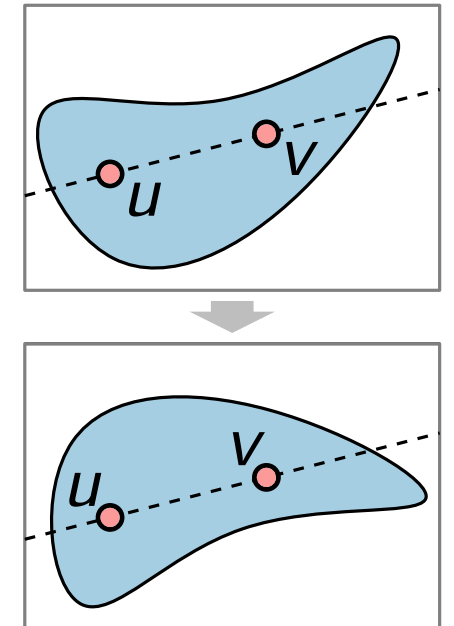
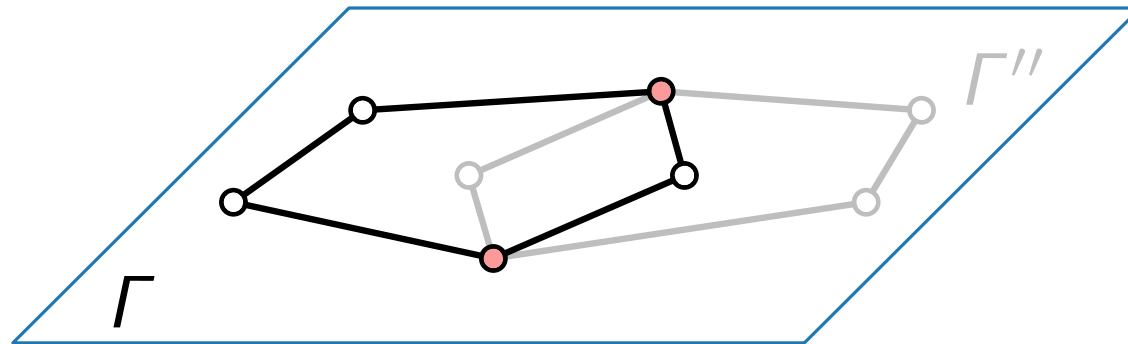
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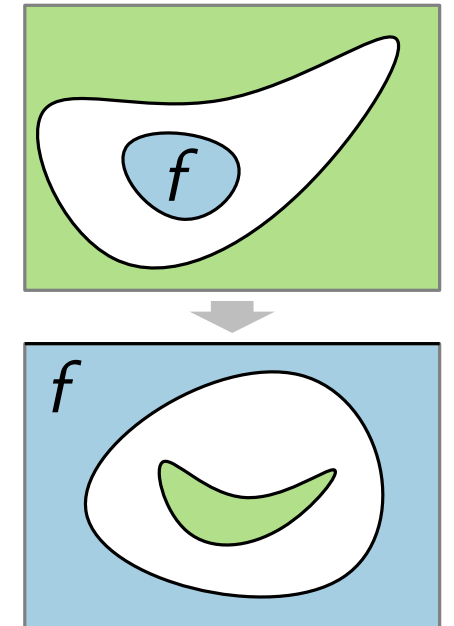
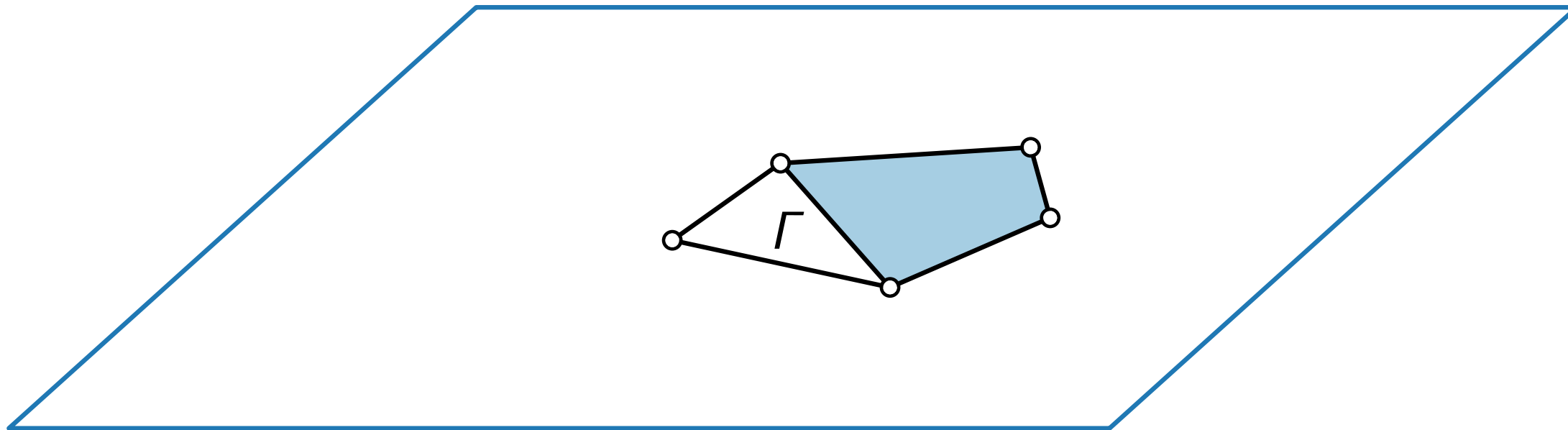
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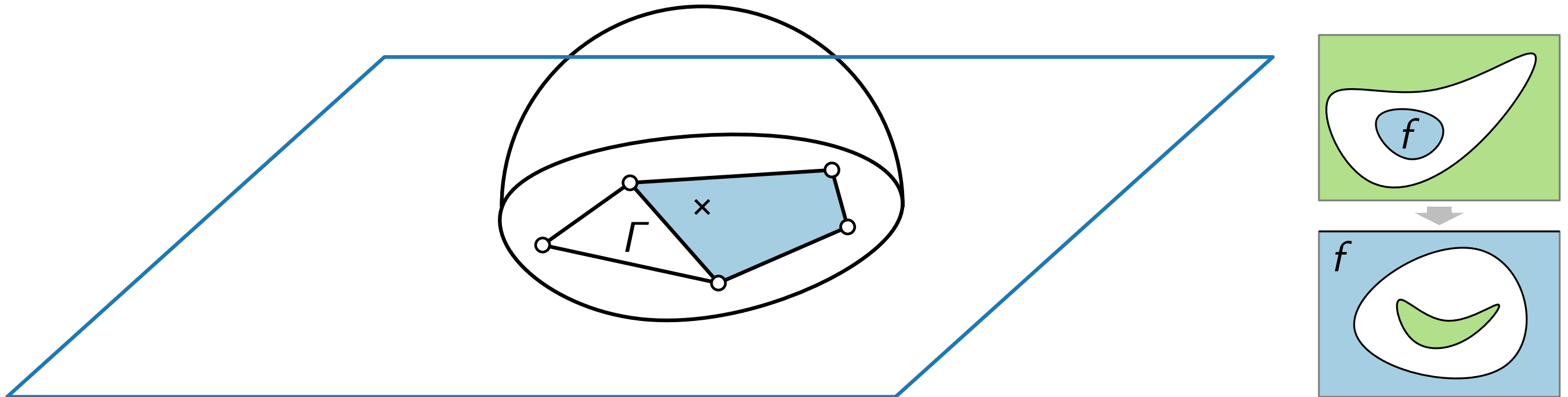
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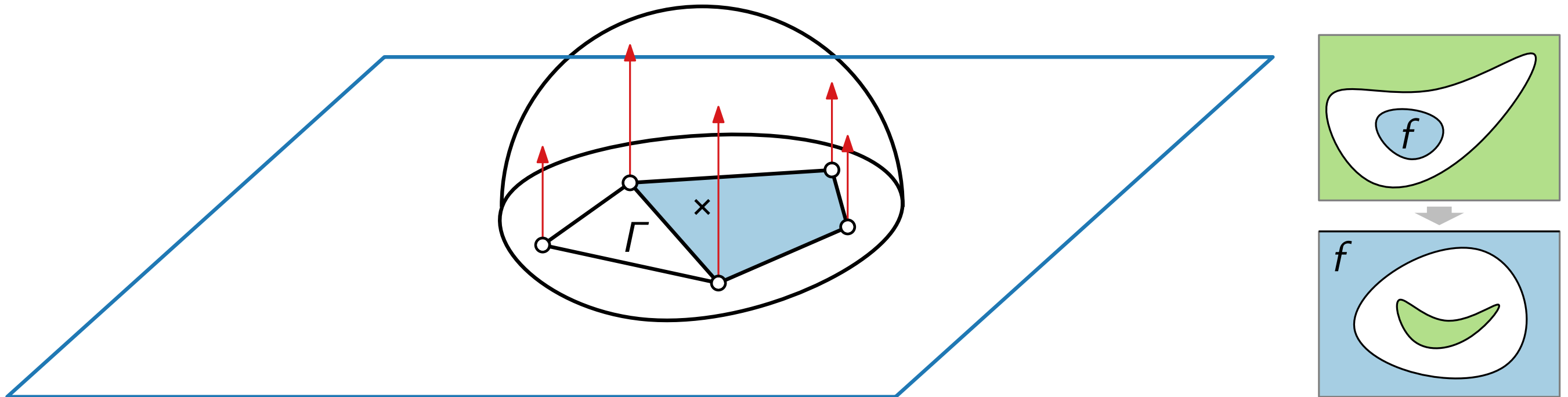


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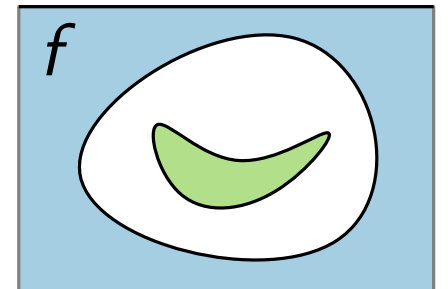
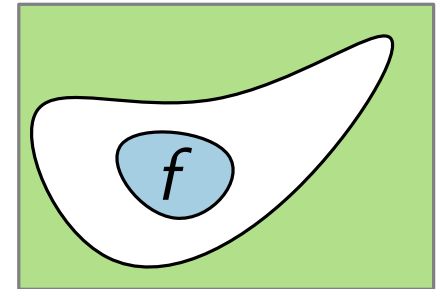
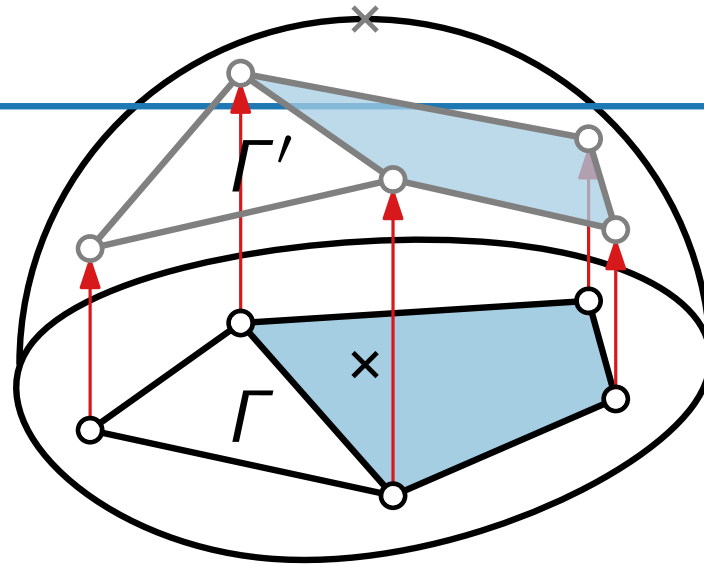


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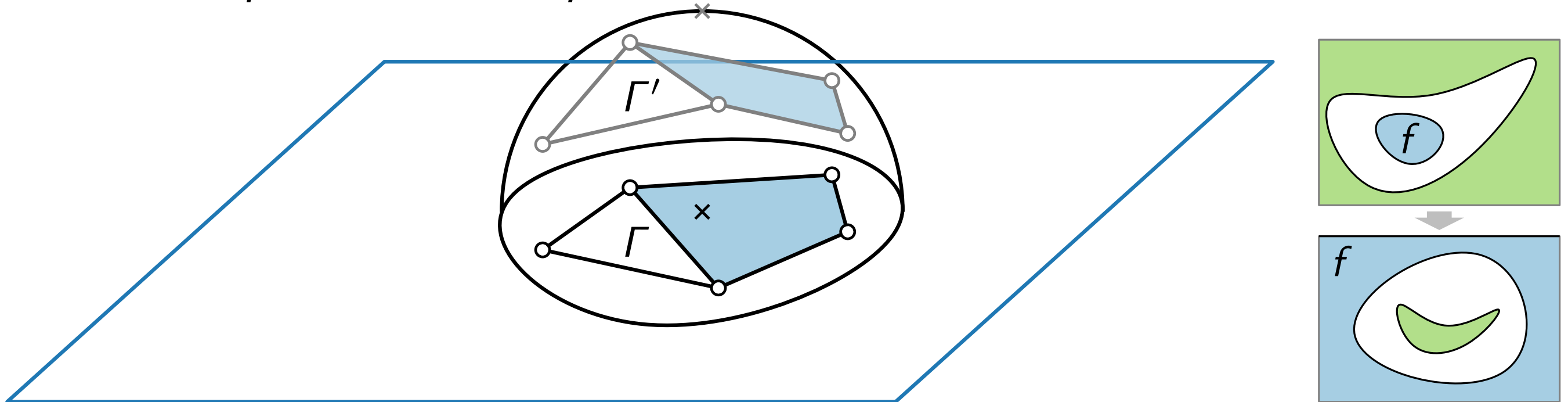


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$\Gamma \xrightarrow{\text{vertical projection}} \Gamma'$

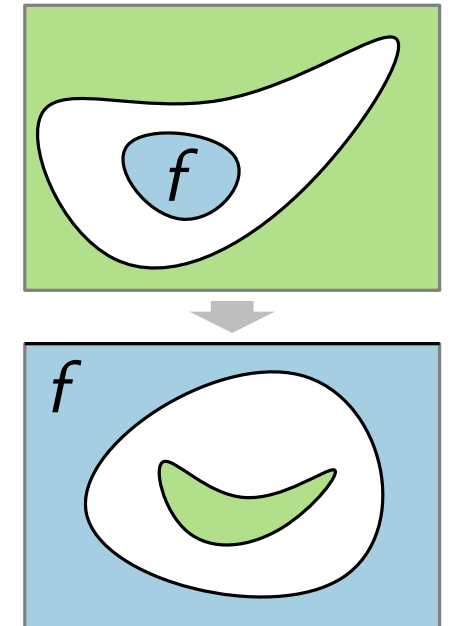
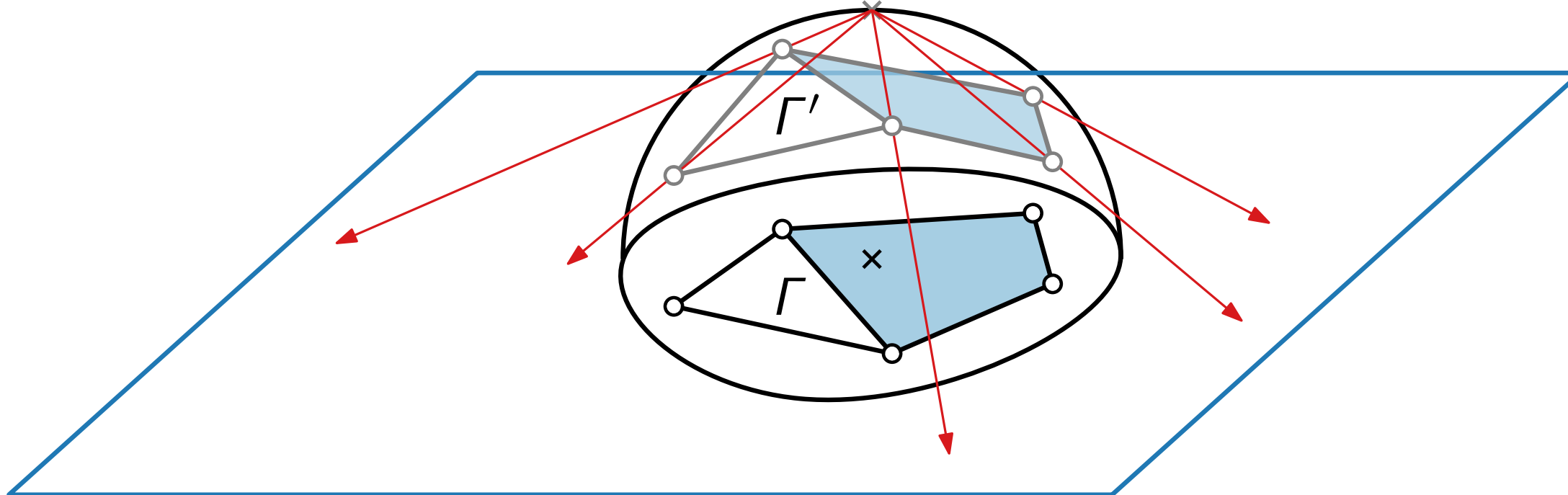


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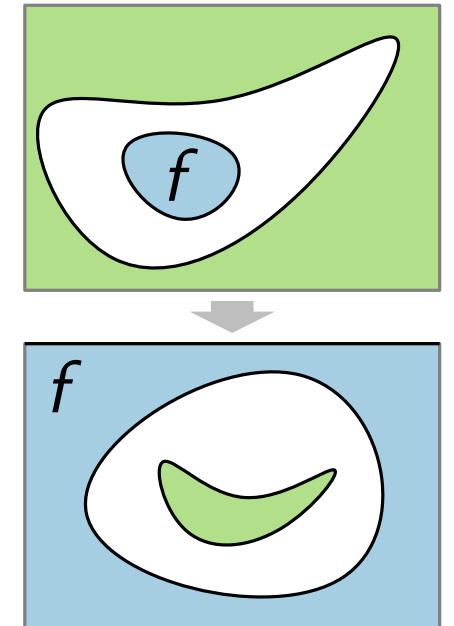
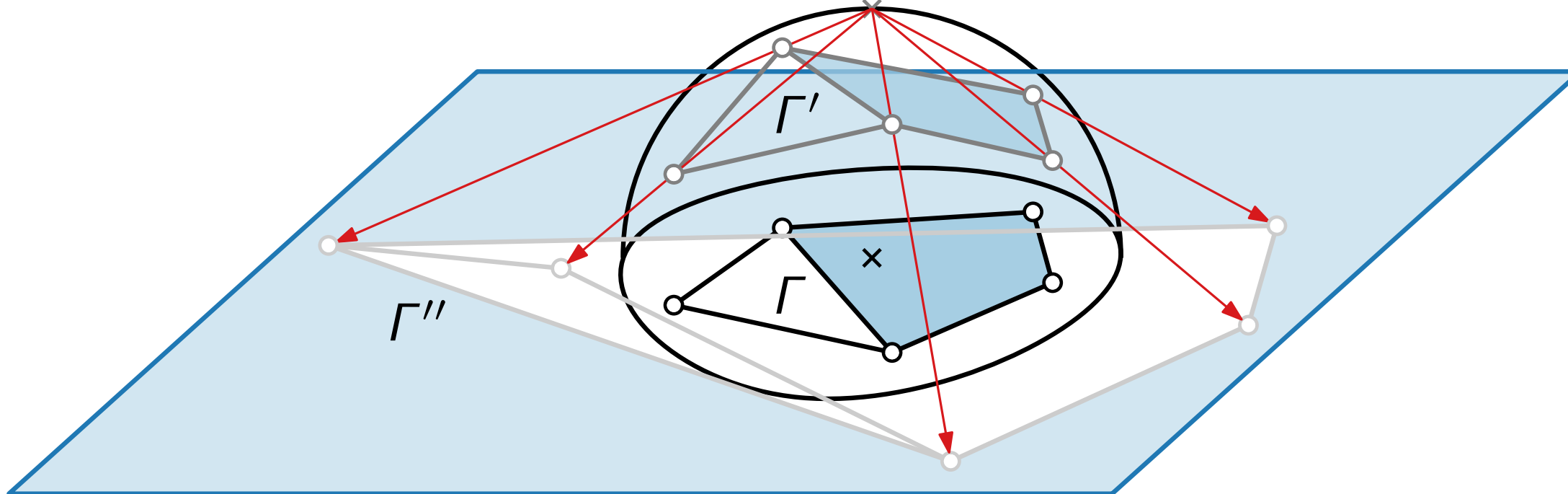
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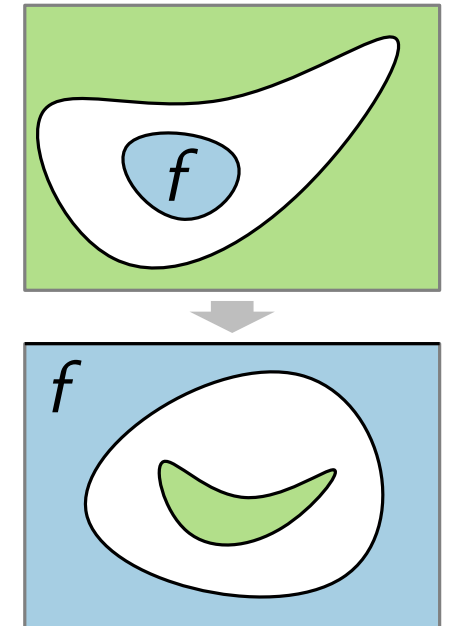
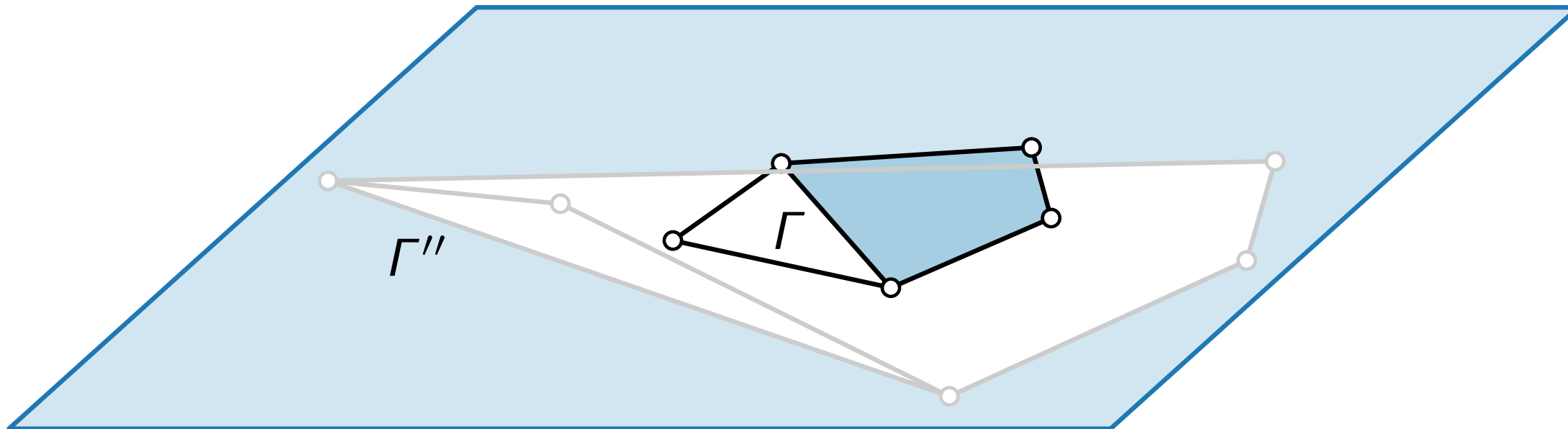
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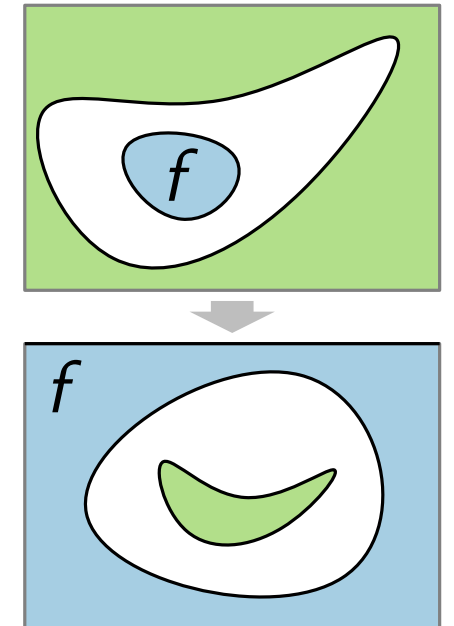
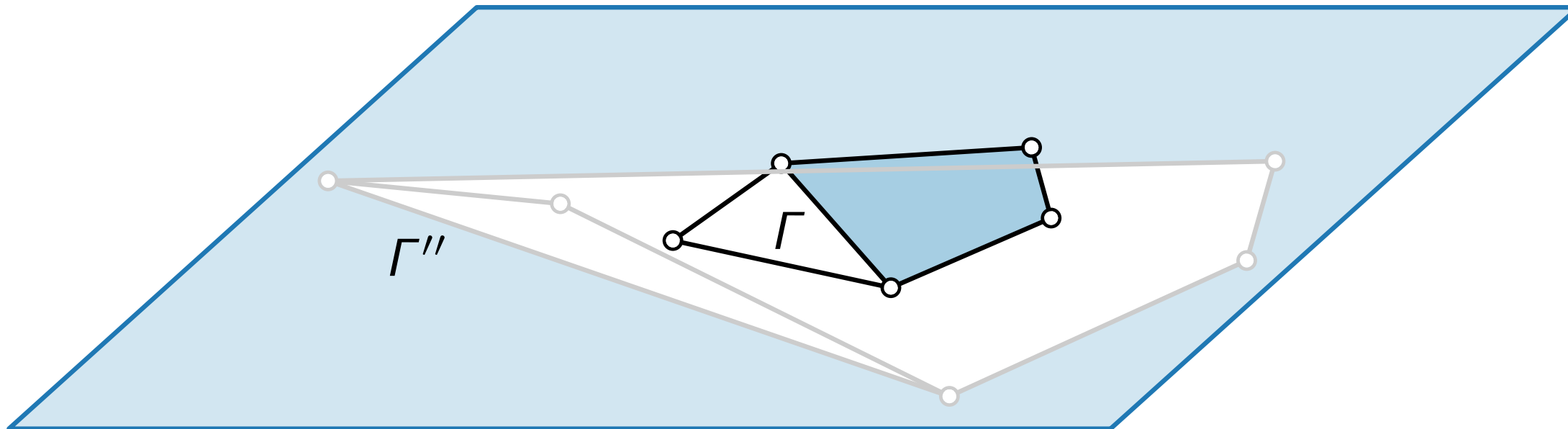
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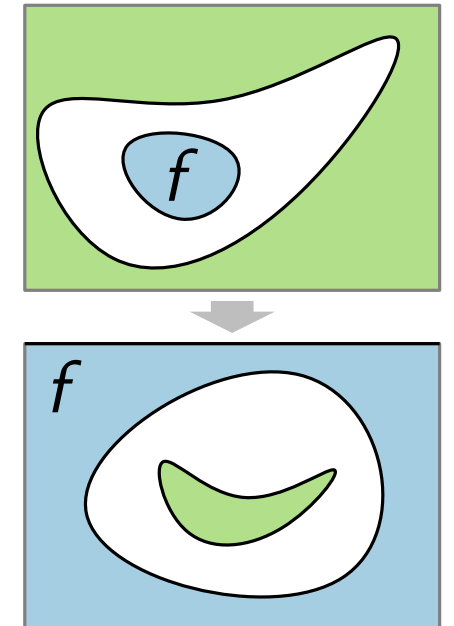
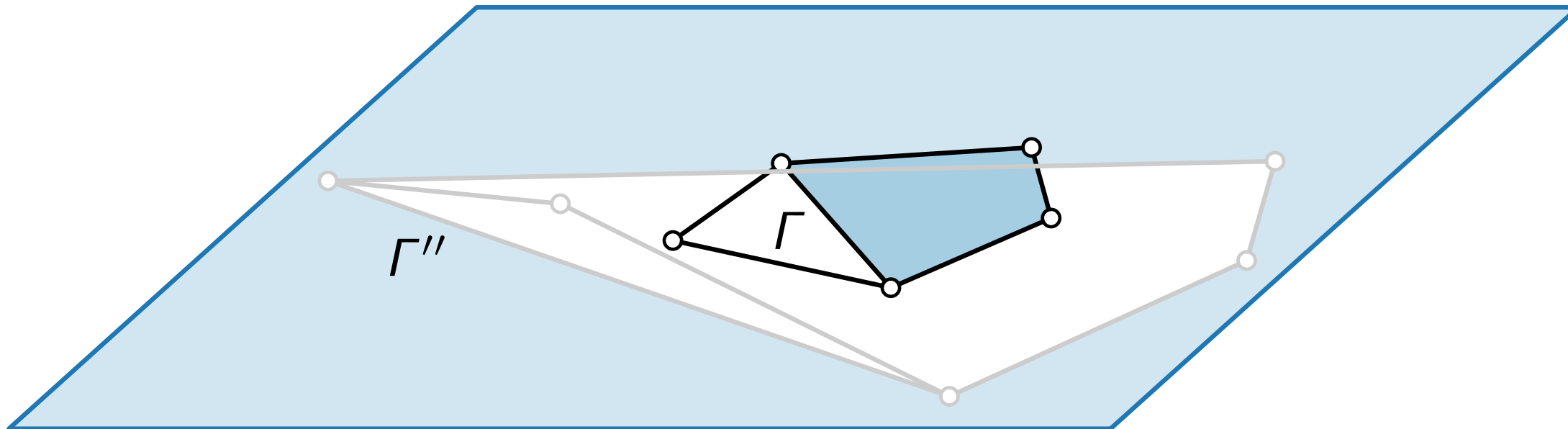
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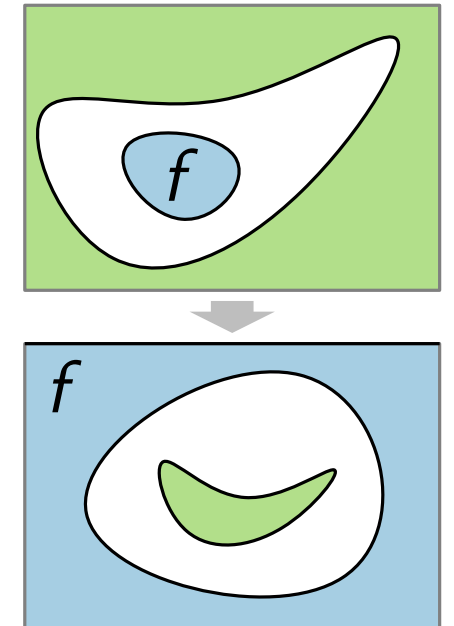
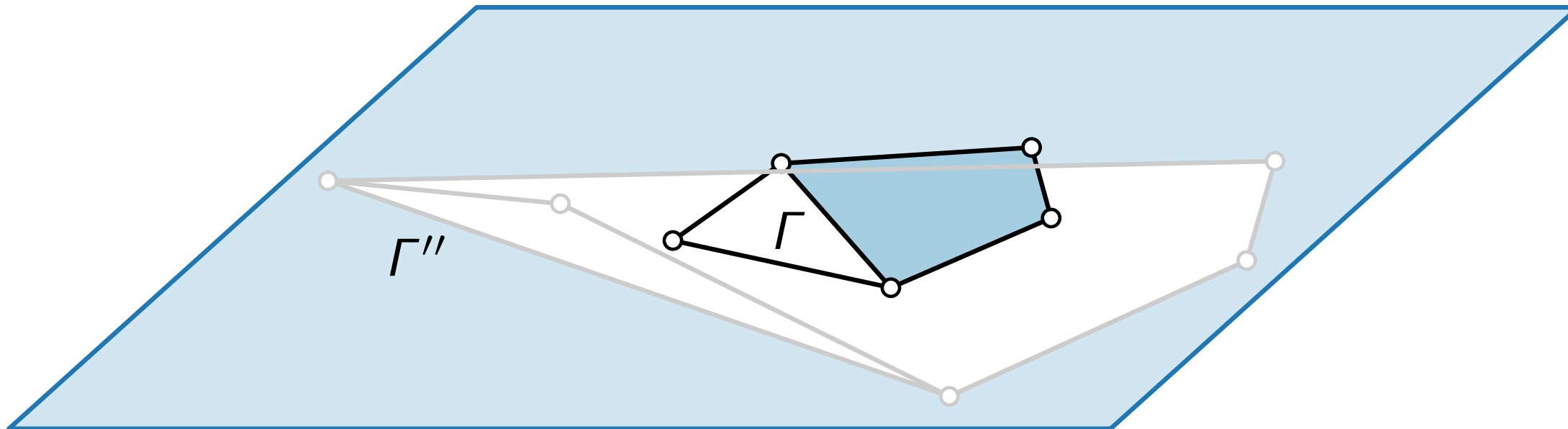
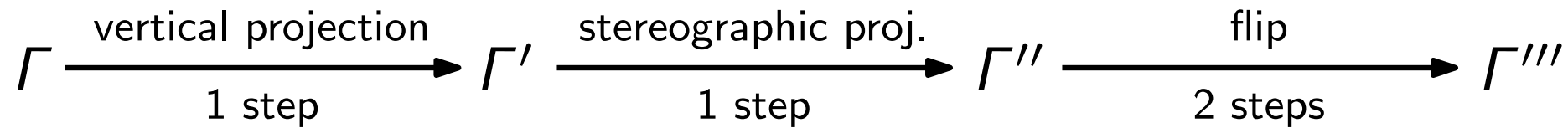
Lemma 2. Let G be a biconnected plane graph, let Γ be a planar straight-line drawing of G , and let f be a face of Γ .

There exists a 4-step 3D crossing-free morph from Γ to a planar straight-line drawing Γ''' of G whose embedding is the same as that of Γ , except that the outer face of Γ''' is f .



Operation 2: Changing the Outer Face

Lemma 2. Let G be a biconnected plane graph, let Γ be a planar straight-line drawing of G , and let f be a face of Γ . There exists a 4-step 3D crossing-free morph from Γ to a planar straight-line drawing Γ''' of G whose embedding is the same as that of Γ , except that the outer face of Γ''' is f .

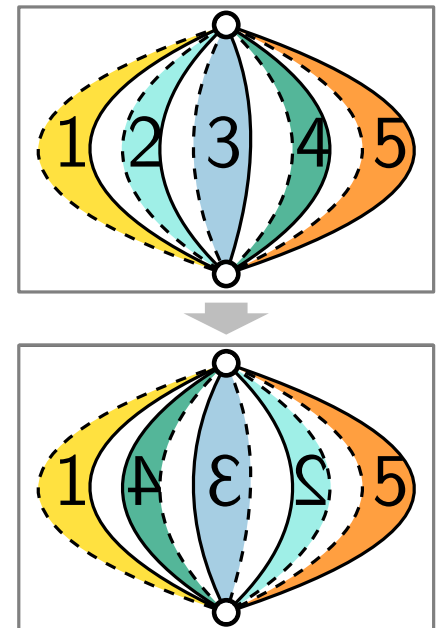


Operation 3: Flipping Split Components

- Lemma 3.**
- Let $\{u, v\}$ be a split pair. Let Γ be a planar straight-line drawing of G where u and v are incident to the outer face.
 - Let G_1, \dots, G_k be the split components w.r.t. $\{u, v\}$ in cw order around u s.t. G_1 and G_k are incident to the outer face.
 - Let $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k$. If $uv \in E(G)$, then uv is one of G_i, \dots, G_j .

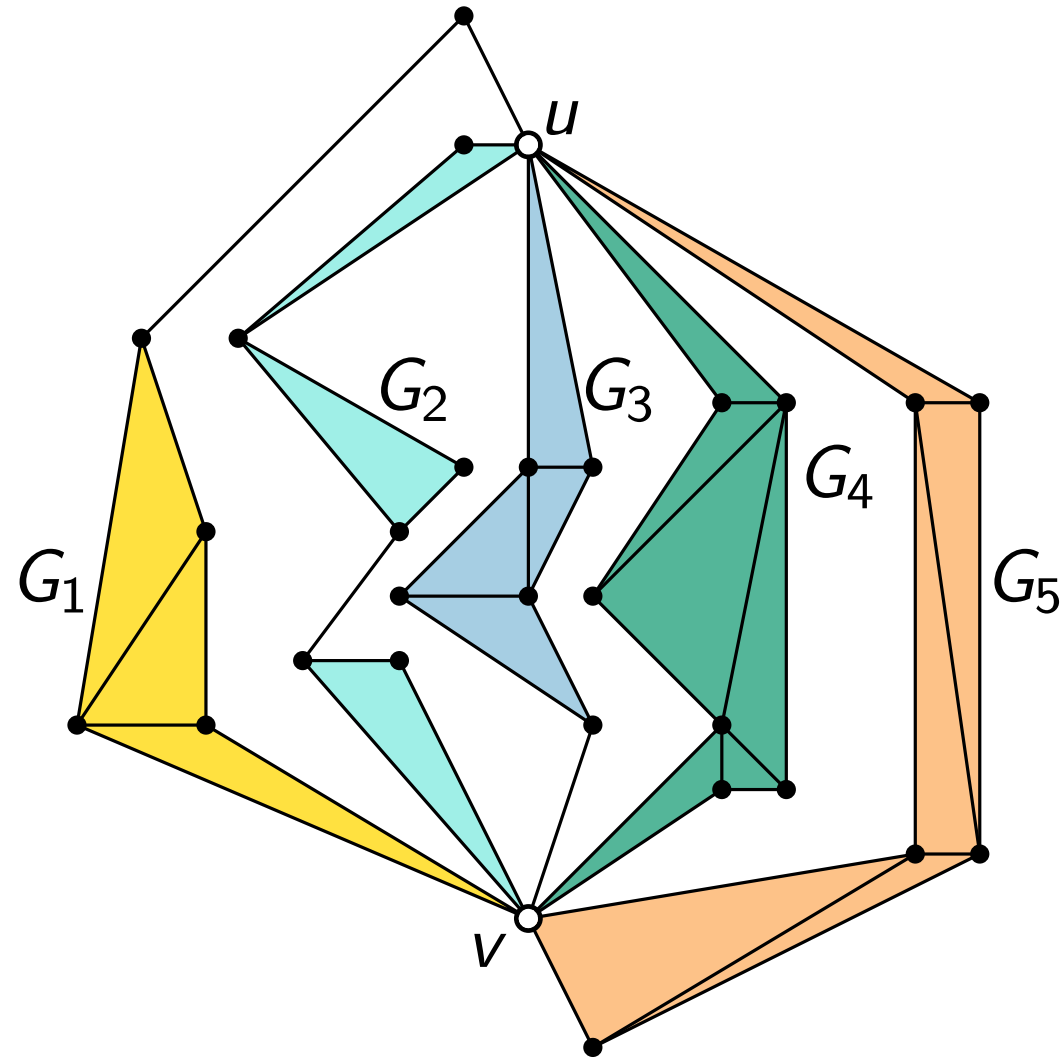
There exists an $O(n)$ -step 3D crossing-free morph from Γ to a planar straight-line drawing Γ' of G in which exactly G_i, \dots, G_j are flipped.

In Γ' , the cw order around u is $G_1, \dots, G_{i-1}, G_j, G_{j-1}, \dots, G_i, G_{j+1}, \dots, G_k$.



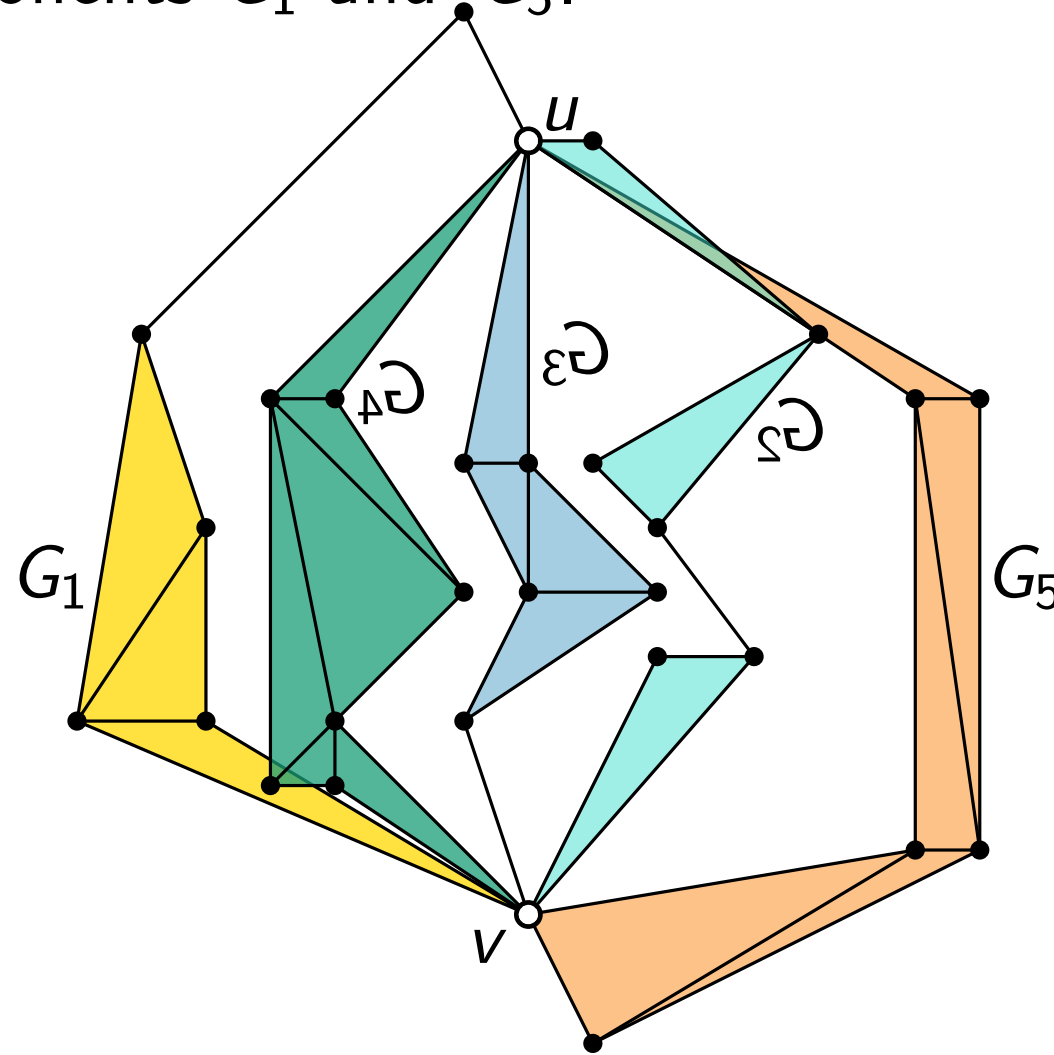
Algorithm for Operation 3

- We want to flip split components G_2 , G_3 , and G_4 .



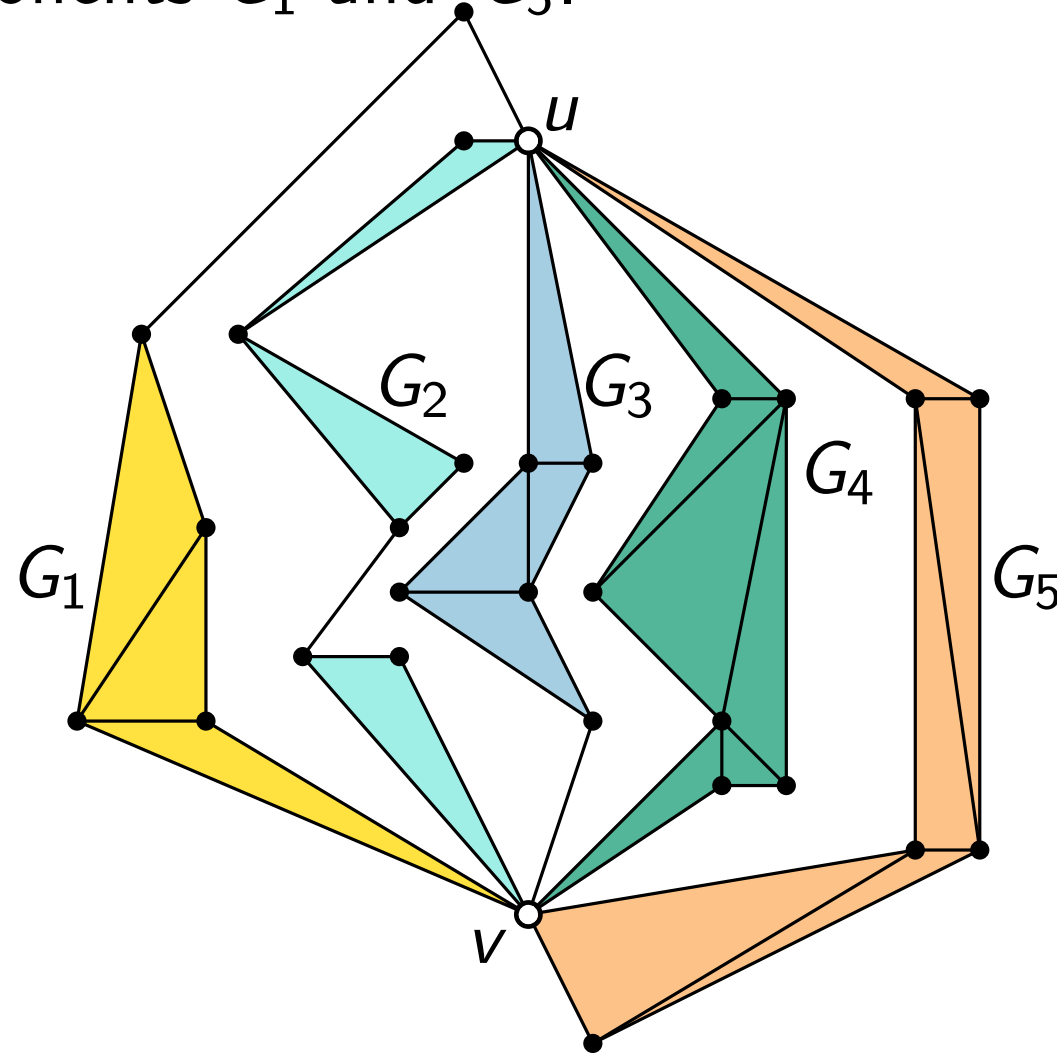
Algorithm for Operation 3

- We want to flip split components G_2 , G_3 , and G_4 .
- But they may intersect split components G_1 and G_5 .



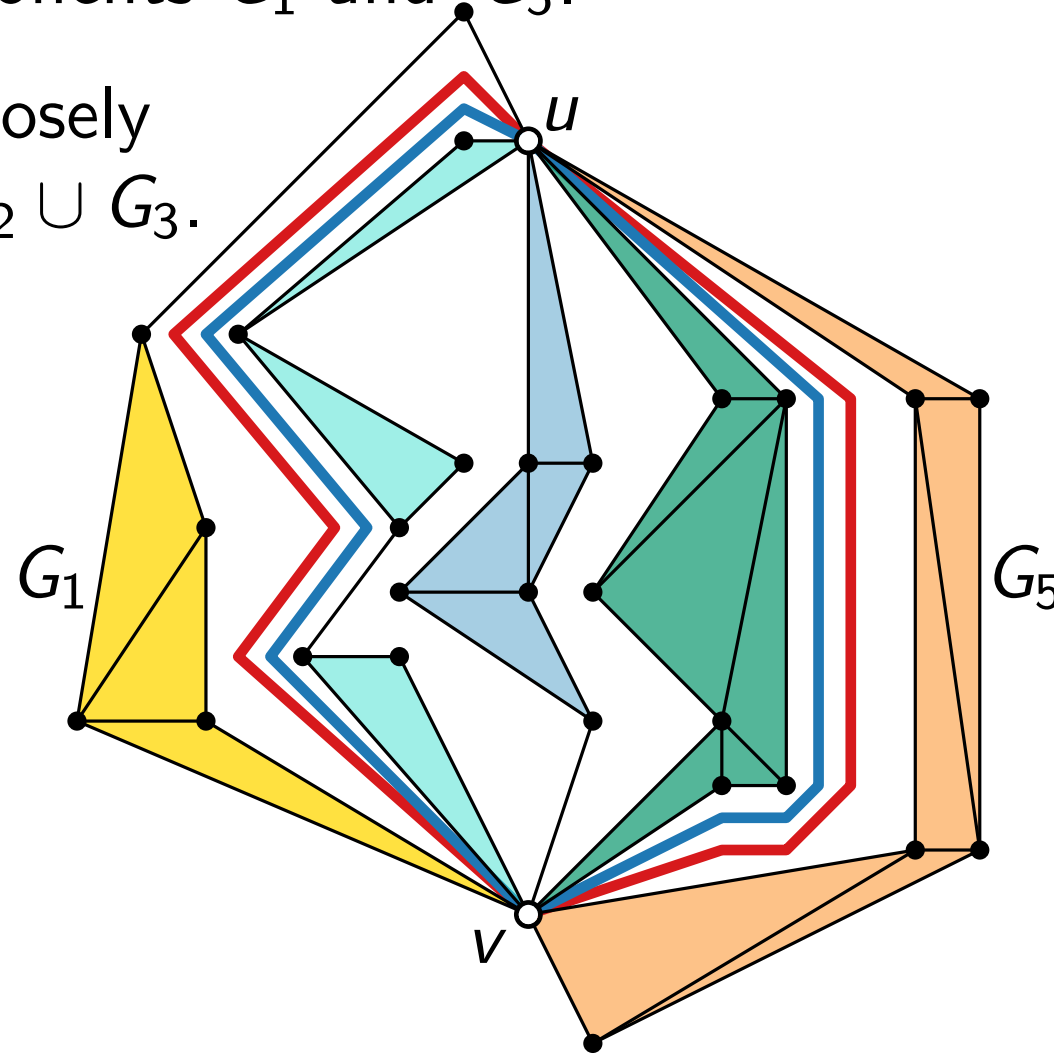
Algorithm for Operation 3

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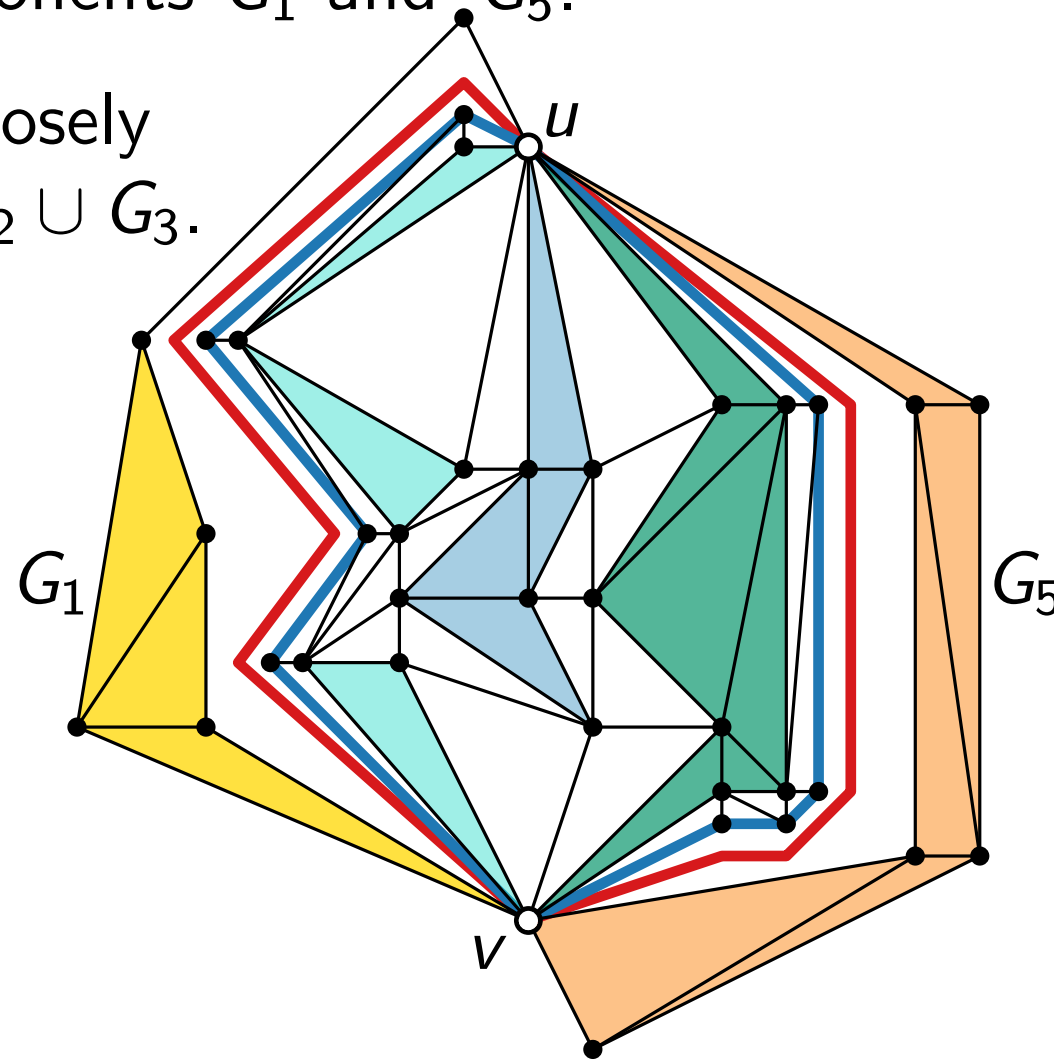
Algorithm for Operation 3

- We want to flip split components G_2 , G_3 , and G_4 .
- But they may intersect split components G_1 and G_5 .
- Insert a blue and a red polygon, closely following the outer face of $G_1 \cup G_2 \cup G_3$.



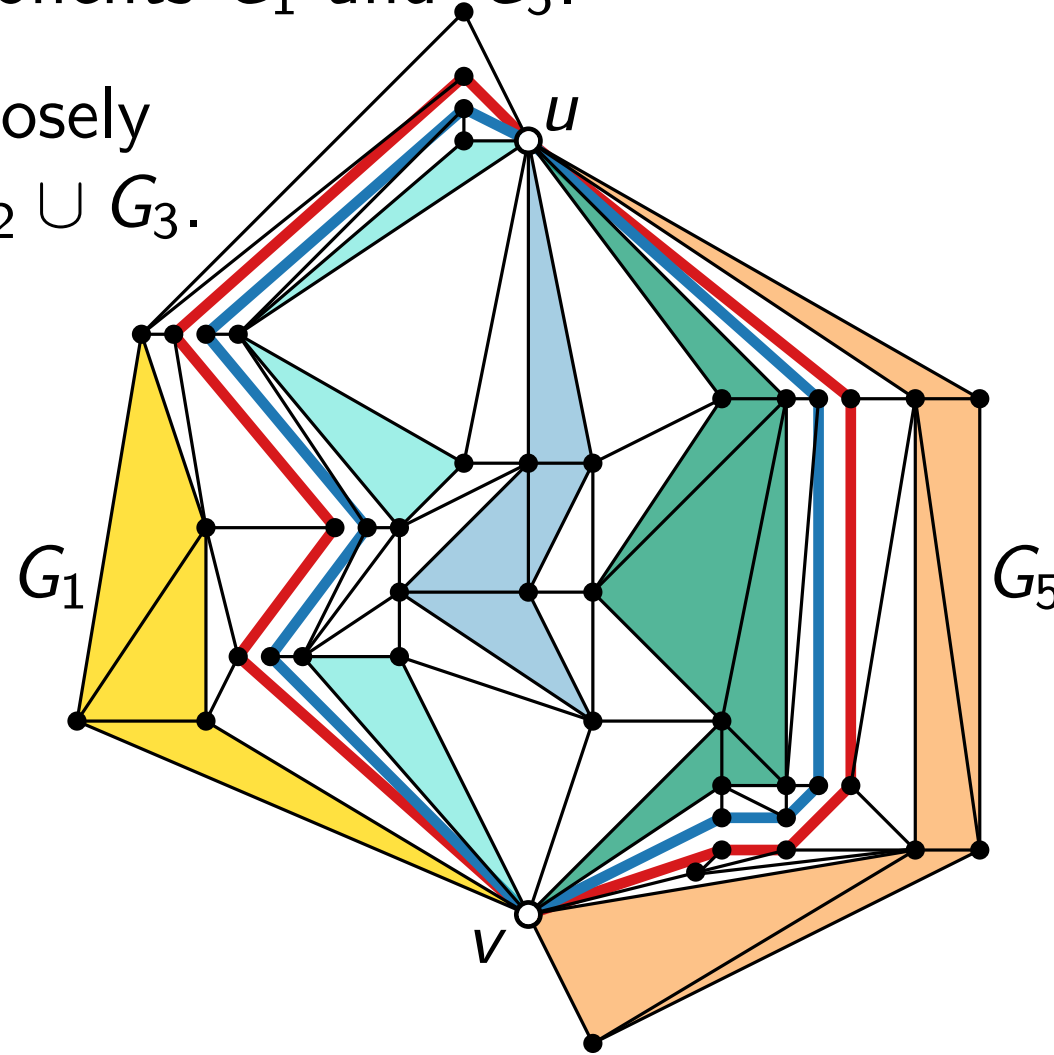
Algorithm for Operation 3

- We want to flip split components G_2 , G_3 , and G_4 .
- But they may intersect split components G_1 and G_5 .
- Insert a blue and a red polygon, closely following the outer face of $G_1 \cup G_2 \cup G_3$.
- Triangulate everything inside the blue polygon.



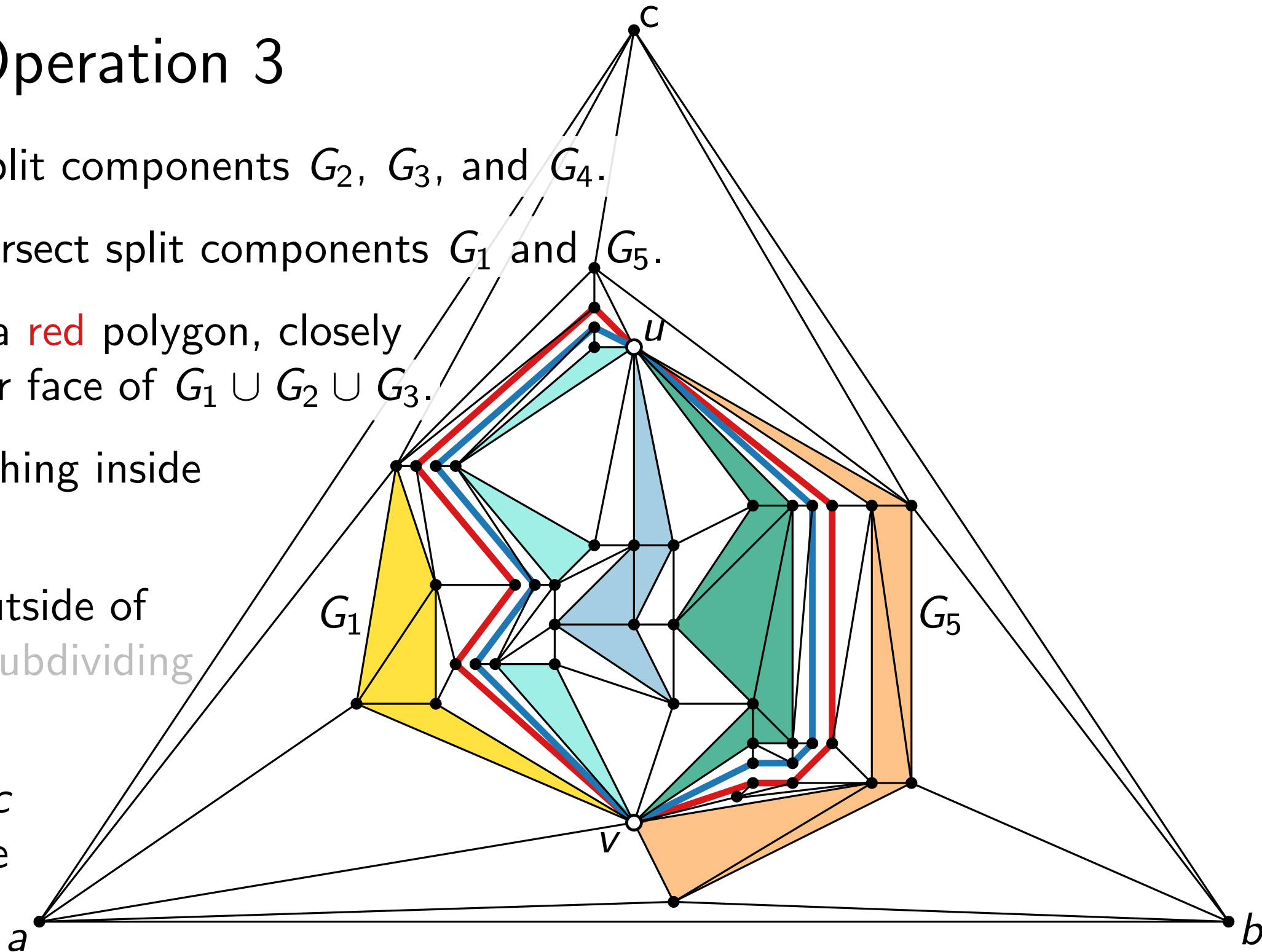
Algorithm for Operation 3

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- But they may intersect split components G_1 and G_5 .
- Insert a blue and a red polygon, closely following the outer face of $G_1 \cup G_2 \cup G_3$.
- Triangulate everything inside the blue polygon.
- Triangulate the outside of the red polygon, subdividing potential chords.



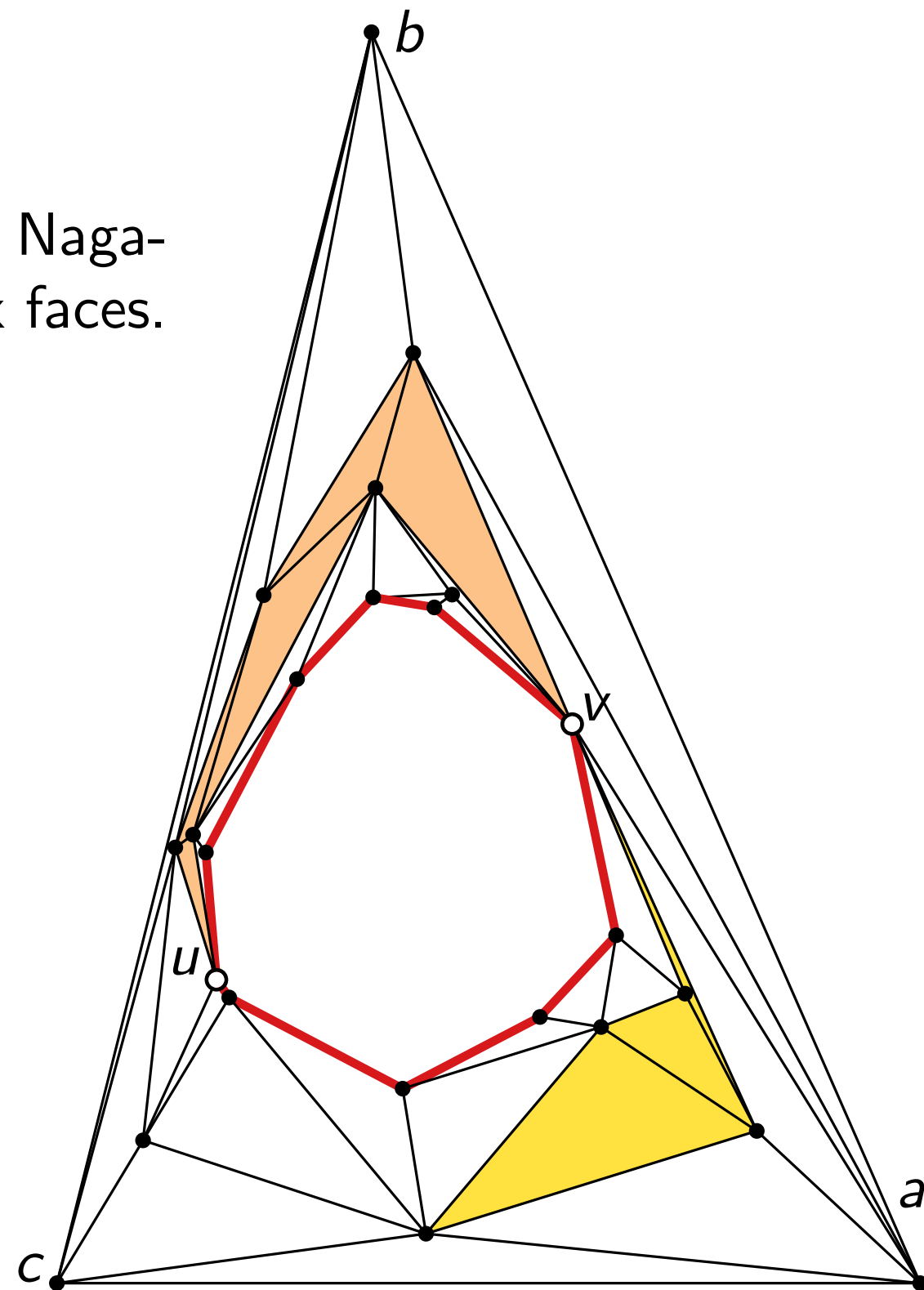
Algorithm for Operation 3

- We want to flip split components G_2 , G_3 , and G_4 .
- But they may intersect split components G_1 and G_5 .
- Insert a **blue** and a **red** polygon, closely following the outer face of $G_1 \cup G_2 \cup G_3$.
- Triangulate everything inside the **blue** polygon.
- Triangulate the outside of the **red** polygon, subdividing potential chords.
- Add a triangle abc around the outside and triangulate.



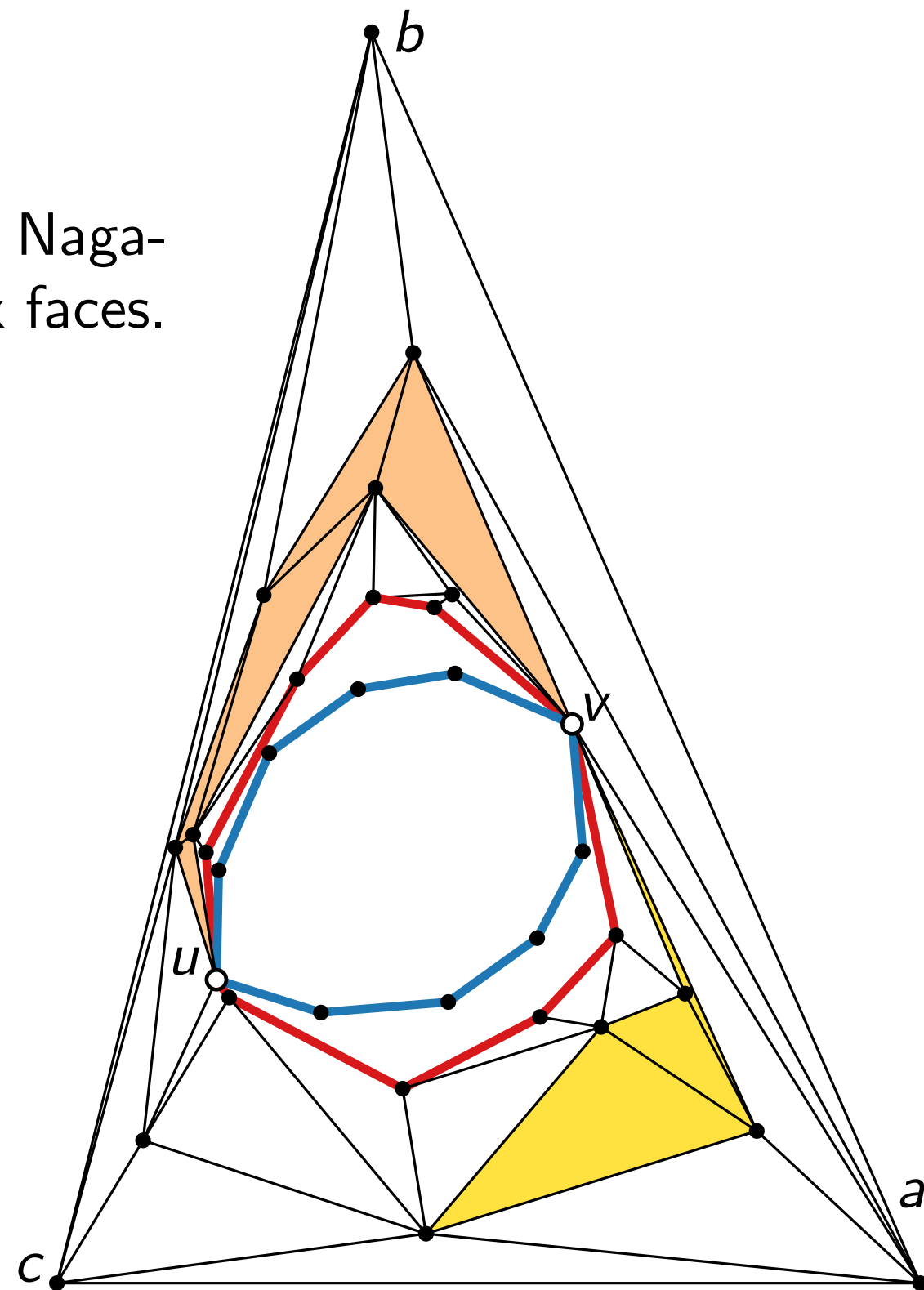
Algorithm for Operation 3 (cont'd)

- Use the algorithm of Tutte [1963] or of Hong & Nagamochi [2010] to draw the “outside” with convex faces.



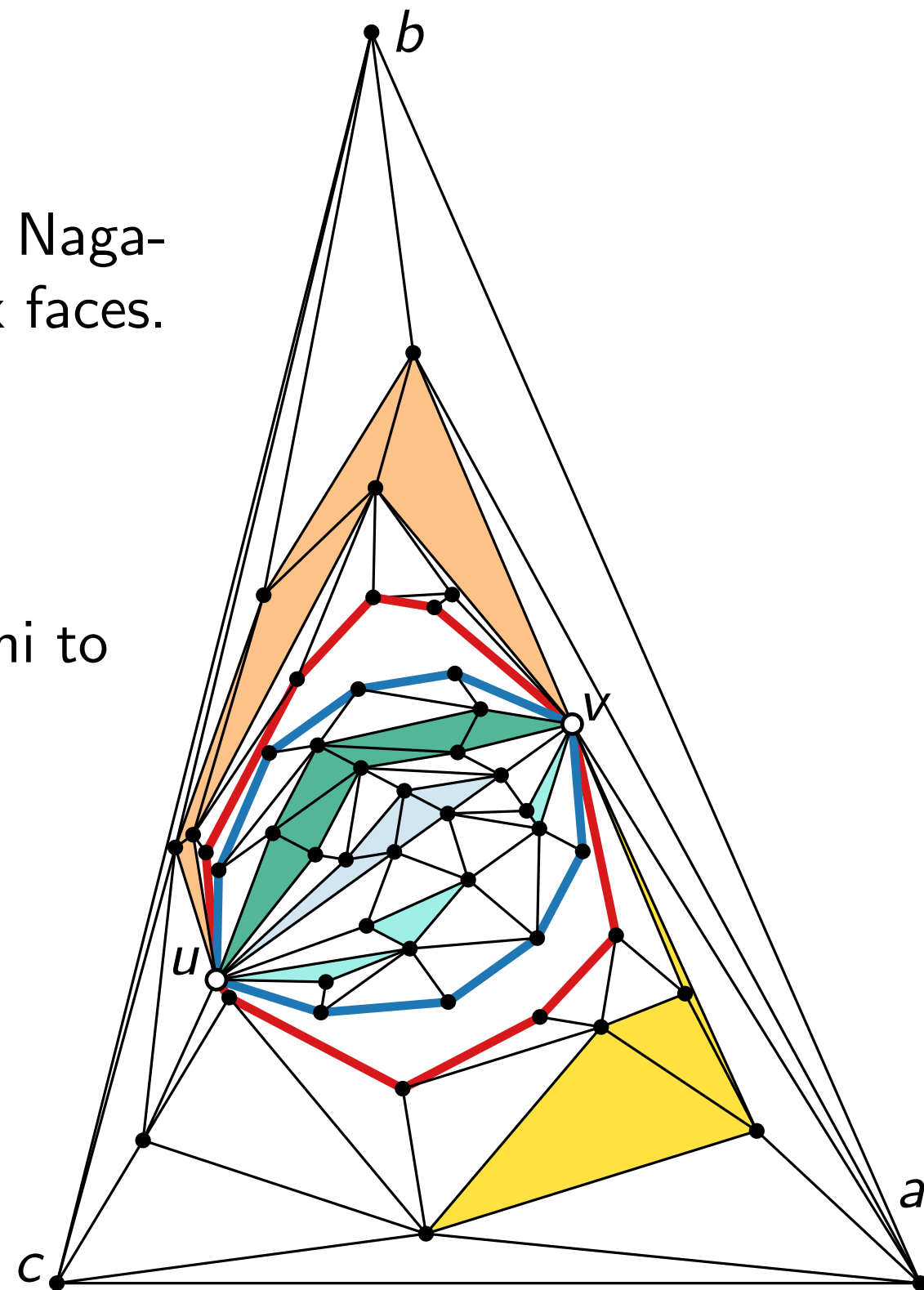
Algorithm for Operation 3 (cont'd)

- Use the algorithm of Tutte [1963] or of Hong & Nagamochi [2010] to draw the “outside” with convex faces.
- Draw the **blue polygon** inside the **red polygon** such that the **blue** is symmetric to the line uv .



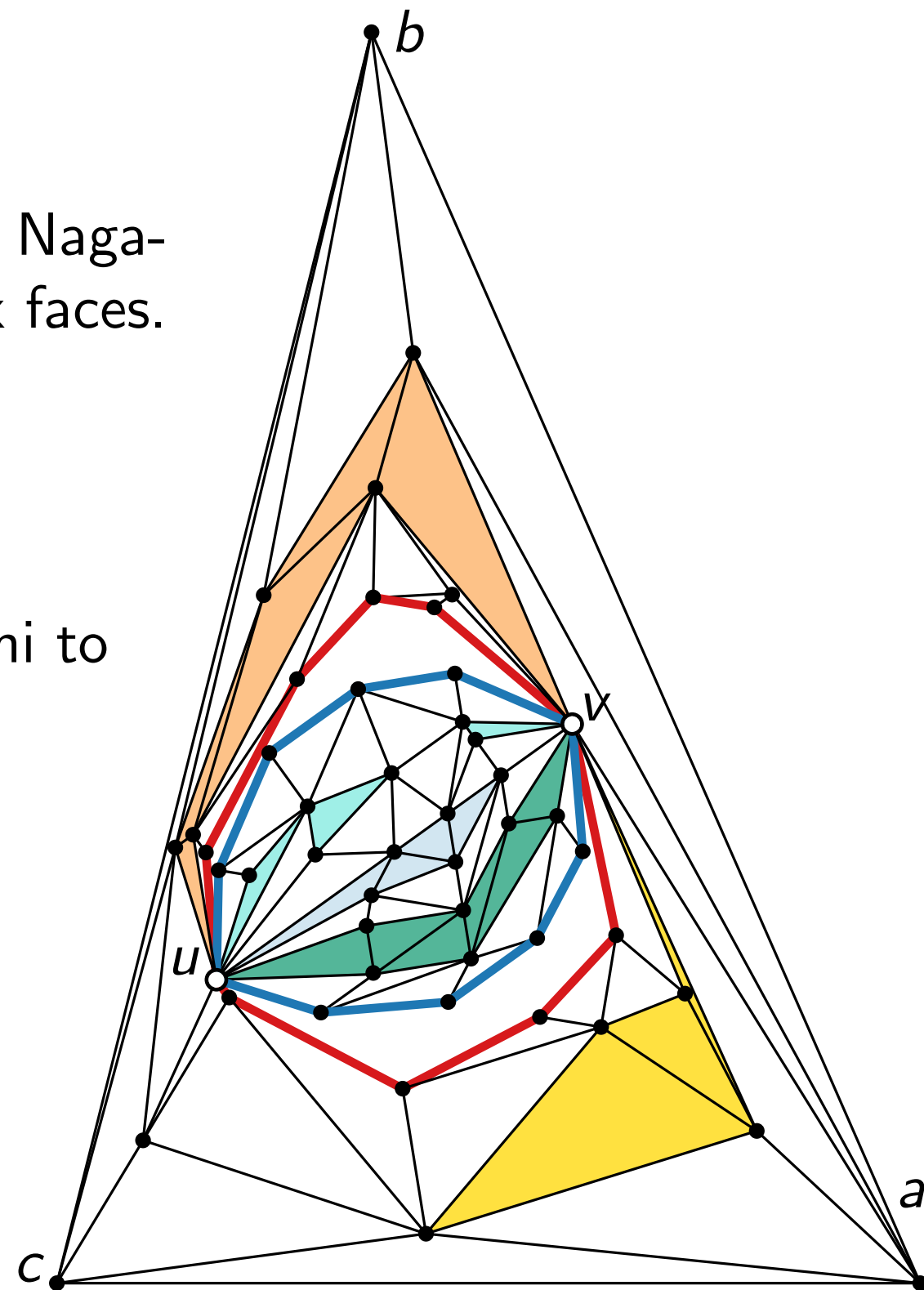
Algorithm for Operation 3 (cont'd)

- Use the algorithm of Tutte [1963] or of Hong & Nagamochi [2010] to draw the “outside” with convex faces.
- Draw the **blue polygon** inside the **red polygon** such that the **blue** is symmetric to the line uv .
- Use the algorithm of Tutte / Hong & Nagamochi to draw the “inside” into the **blue polygon**.



Algorithm for Operation 3 (cont'd)

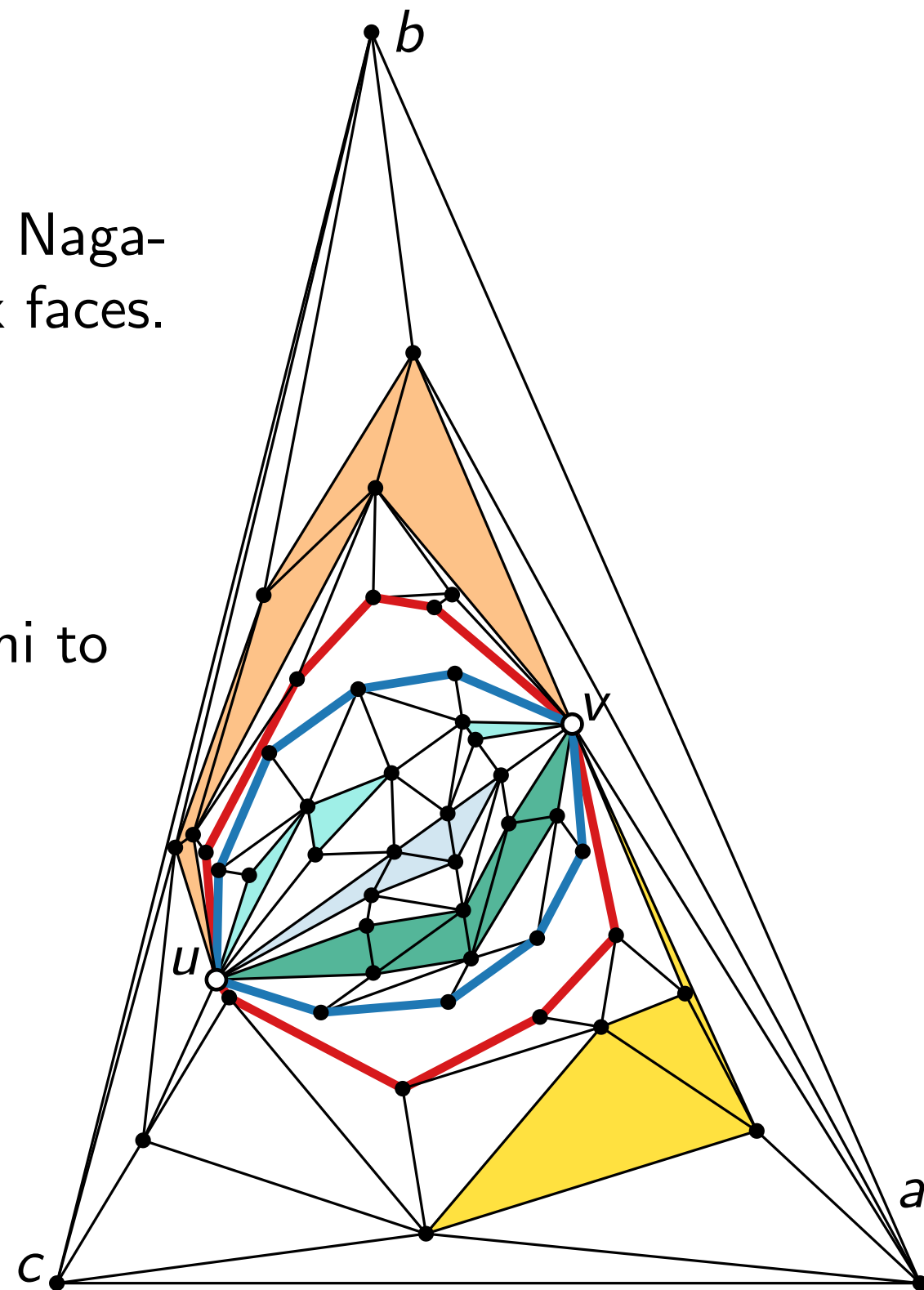
- Use the algorithm of Tutte [1963] or of Hong & Nagamochi [2010] to draw the “outside” with convex faces.
- Draw the blue polygon inside the red polygon such that the blue is symmetric to the line uv .
- Use the algorithm of Tutte / Hong & Nagamochi to draw the “inside” into the blue polygon.
- Mirror the blue polygon with its inside at uv .



Algorithm for Operation 3 (cont'd)

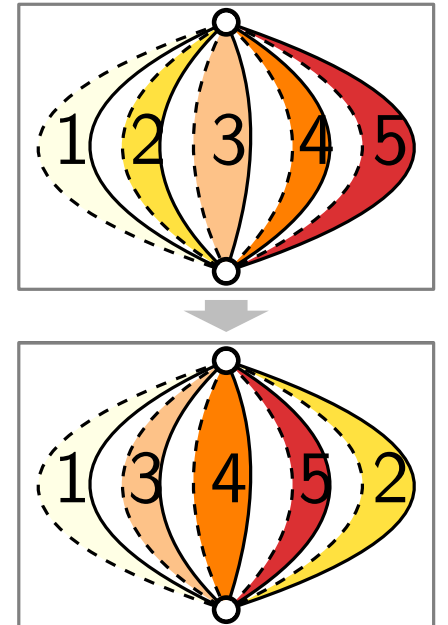
- Use the algorithm of Tutte [1963] or of Hong & Nagamochi [2010] to draw the “outside” with convex faces.
- Draw the **blue polygon** inside the **red polygon** such that the **blue** is symmetric to the line uv .
- Use the algorithm of Tutte / Hong & Nagamochi to draw the “inside” into the **blue polygon**.
- Mirror the **blue polygon** with its inside at uv .

Done, using $O(n)$ steps.



Operation 4: Skipping a Split Component

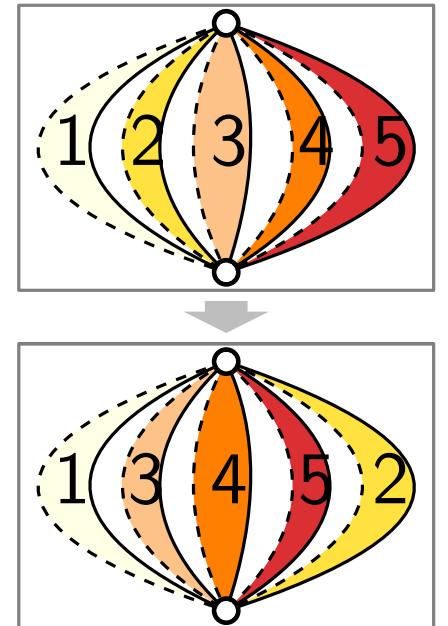
Lemma 4. Let $G, G_1, \dots, G_k, \{u, v\}$, and Γ be as before. If $uv \in E(G)$, $G_1 = \{uv\}$. There exists an $O(n)$ -step 3D crossing-free morph from Γ to a planar straight-line drawing Γ' in which G_1, \dots, G_k have the same embedding as in Γ and their cw order around u is $G_1, \dots, G_{i-1}, G_{i+1}, \dots, G_k, G_i$ (and G_1 and G_i are incident to the outer face).



Operation 4: Skipping a Split Component

Lemma 4. Let $G, G_1, \dots, G_k, \{u, v\}$, and Γ be as before. If $uv \in E(G)$, $G_1 = \{uv\}$. There exists an $O(n)$ -step 3D crossing-free morph from Γ to a planar straight-line drawing Γ' in which G_1, \dots, G_k have the same embedding as in Γ and their cw order around u is $G_1, \dots, G_{i-1}, G_{i+1}, \dots, G_k, G_i$ (and G_1 and G_i are incident to the outer face).

... even more complicated :-)



Putting Things Together

Starting from a planar graph drawing Γ , one can obtain the rotation system of any other planar drawing ϕ of the same graph by:

- (i) suitably changing the permutation of the components in some parallel compositions; that is, for some split pairs $\{u, v\}$ that define ≥ 3 split components, changing the clockwise (circular) ordering of such components; and
- (ii) flipping the embedding for some rigid compositions; that is, for some split pairs that define a maximal split component that is biconnected, flipping the embedding of the component.

[Di Battista, Tamassia: SIAM J. Comput. 1996]

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First flip then skip.

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Let $\{u, v\}$ be a split pair with a component G_i that needs to be flipped.

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Assuming that $uv \notin E(G)$, apply Operation 3 (which takes $O(n)$ morphing steps).

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\Rightarrow All such flips can be done in $O(n^2)$ morphing steps in total.

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Apply Operation 2 so that the outer face becomes any face incident to u and v .

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First flip then skip.

Apply Operation 2 so that the outer face becomes any face incident to u and v . Let G_1, \dots, G_k be the split components of G with respect to $\{u, v\}$, in cw order around u s.t. G_1 and G_k are incident to the outer face.

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Skip components one by one, to bring them in the desired order.

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Total # split components is $O(n)$ [DT'96]

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Skip components one by one, to bring them in the desired order. $\Rightarrow O(nk)$ steps.

Total # split components is $O(n)$ [DT'96] $\Rightarrow O(n^2)$ steps in total. □

Open Problems

- Is there a family of plane graphs $(G_n)_n$ such that $\Omega(n)$ steps are needed to 3D morph between two planar drawings of G_n with the same embedding?

Open Problems

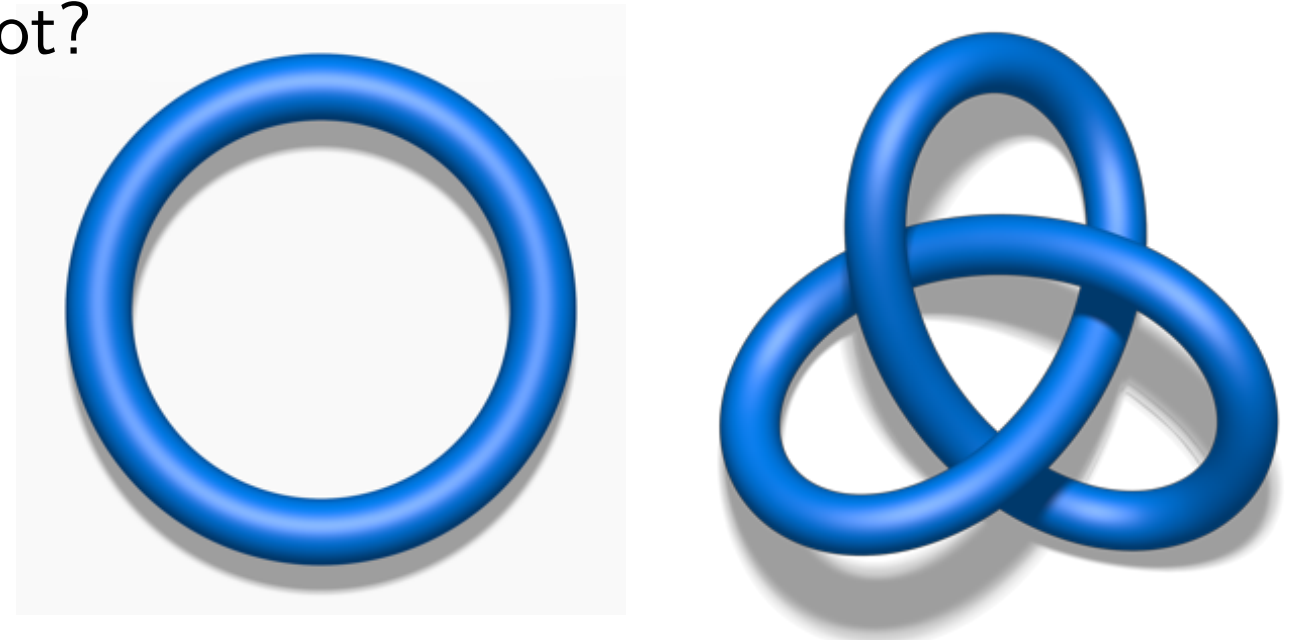
- Is there a family of plane graphs $(G_n)_n$ such that $\Omega(n)$ steps are needed to 3D morph between two planar drawings of G_n with the same embedding?
- Do $o(n^2)$ morphing steps suffice (through 3D), even if the embedding changes?

Open Problems

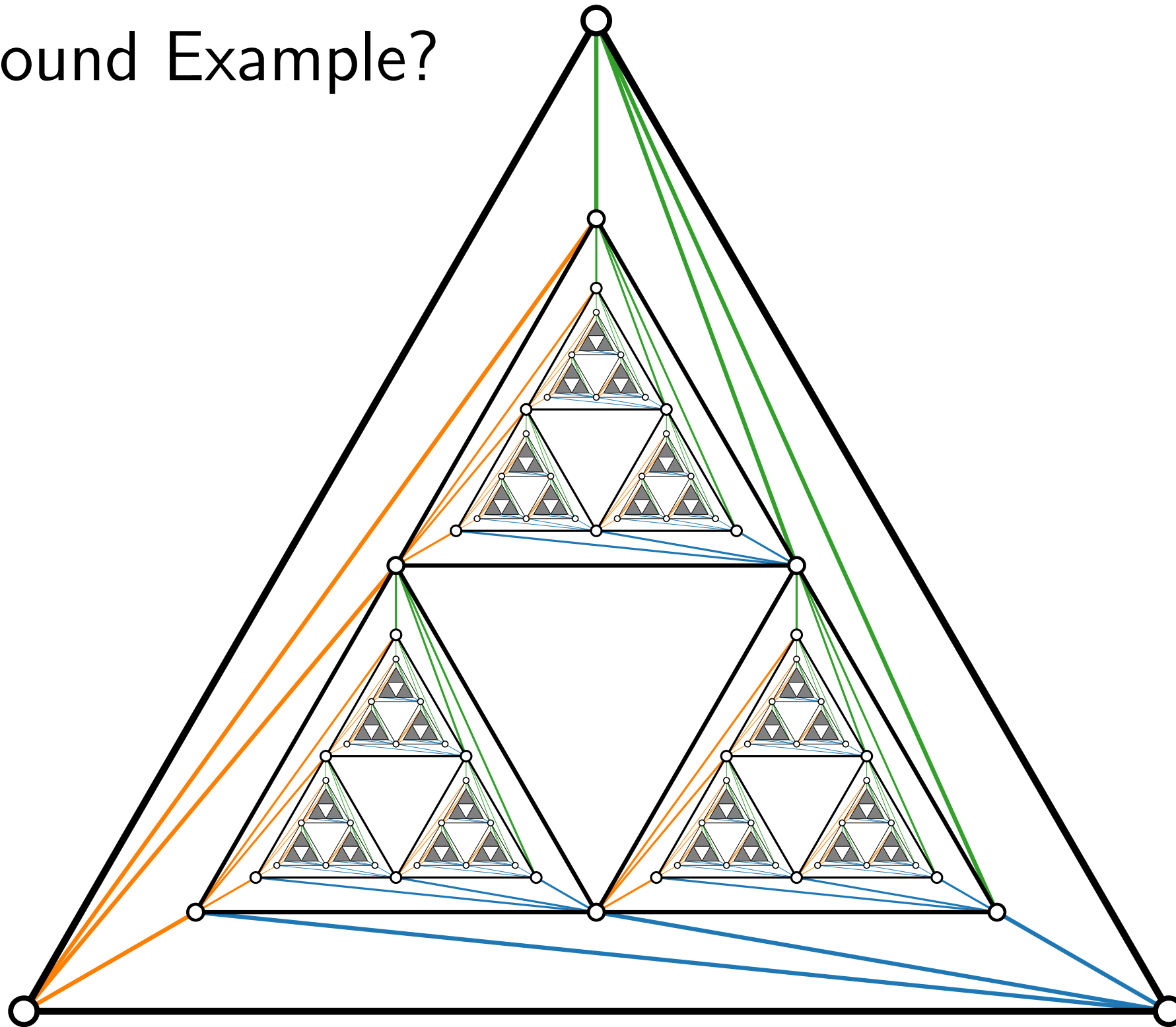
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- Complexity of recognizing unknot vs. knot?



A Lower Bound Example?



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