

# Packing and covering: planar separator and shifting

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Computational Geometry  
Summer semester 2020



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- Planar separator theorem (slides by Mark de Berg)

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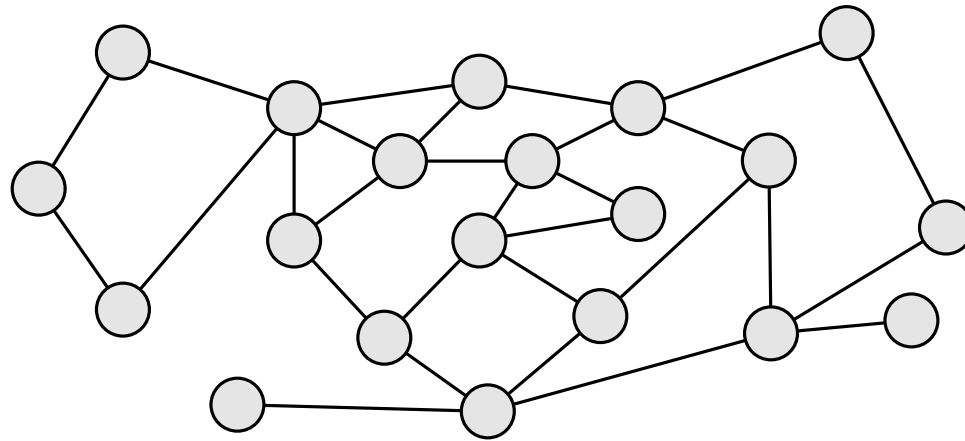
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- Independent set in planar graphs (slides by MdB)
- Exact algorithms for packing and covering

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- Planar separator theorem (slides by Mark de Berg)
- Independent set in planar graphs (slides by MdB)
- Exact algorithms for packing and covering
- Shifting strategy: approximation schemes

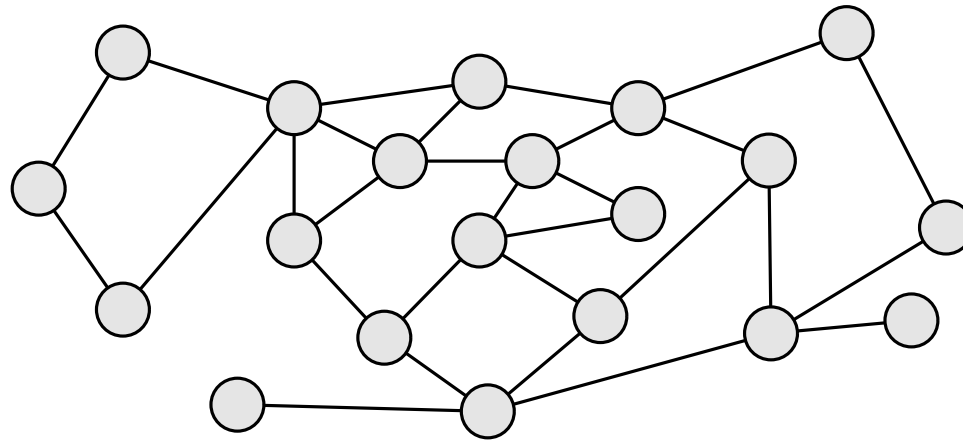
# Planar graphs

Planar graphs: graphs that can be drawn without crossing edges



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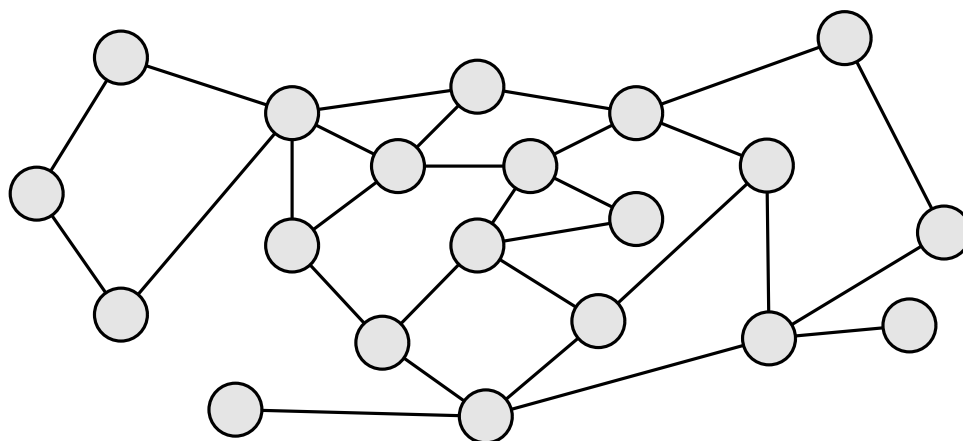
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**Planar Separator Theorem (Lipton, Tarjan 1979)**

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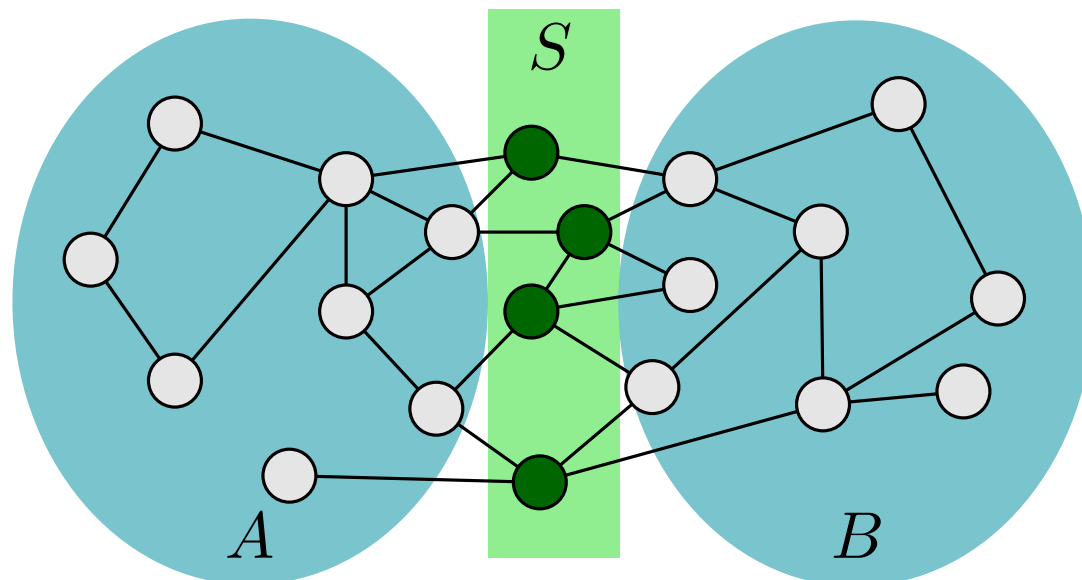
## Planar Separator Theorem (Lipton, Tarjan 1979)

For any planar graph  $G = (V, E)$  there is a **separator**  $S \subset V$  of size  $O(\sqrt{n})$  such that  $V \setminus S$  can be partitioned into subsets  $A$  and  $B$ , each of size at most  $\frac{2}{3}n$  and with no edges between them.



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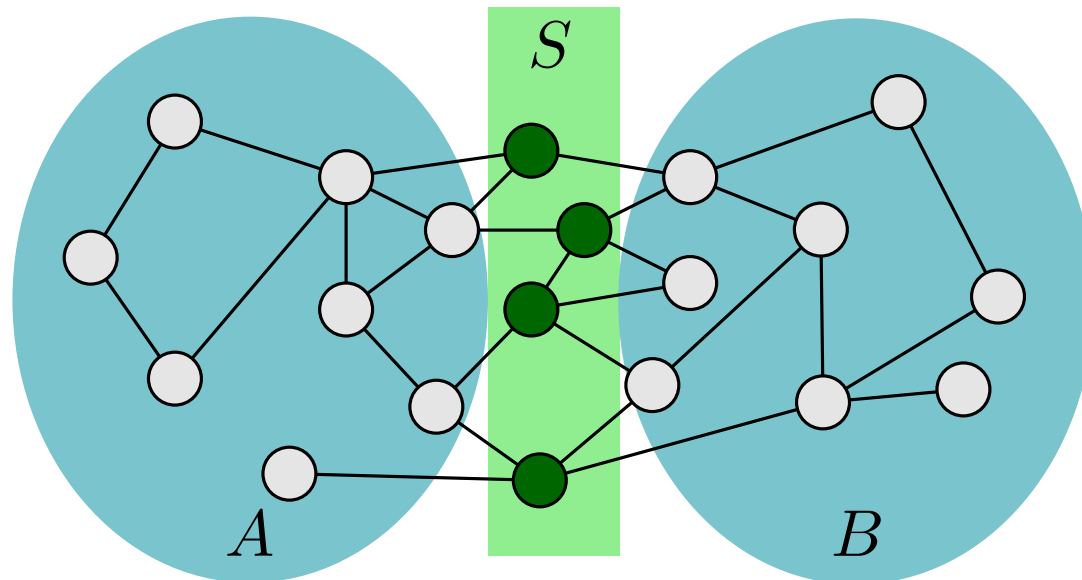


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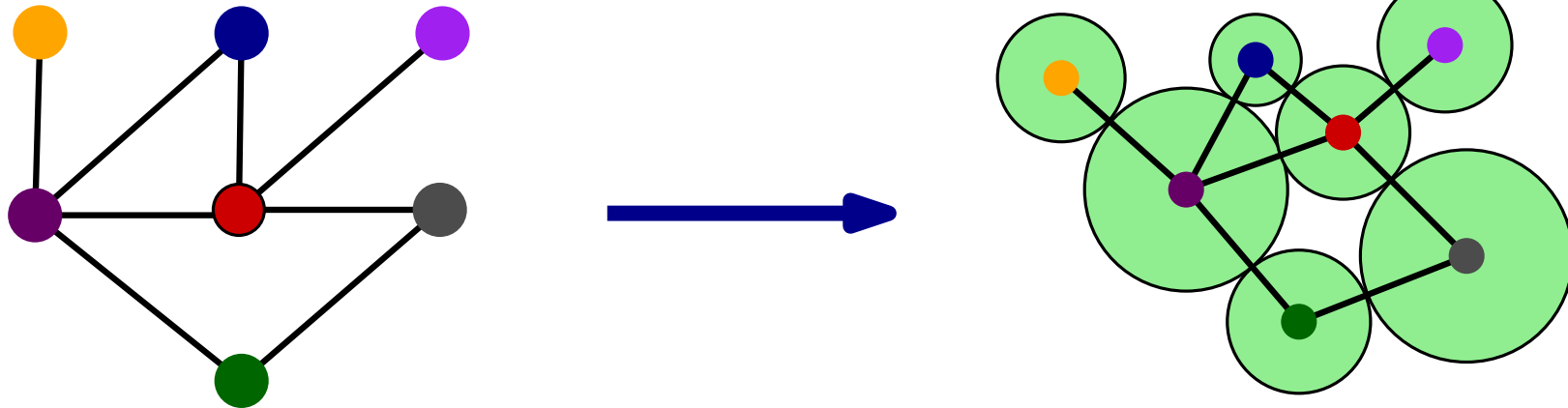
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Such a  $(2/3)$ -balanced separator can be computed in  $O(n)$  time.

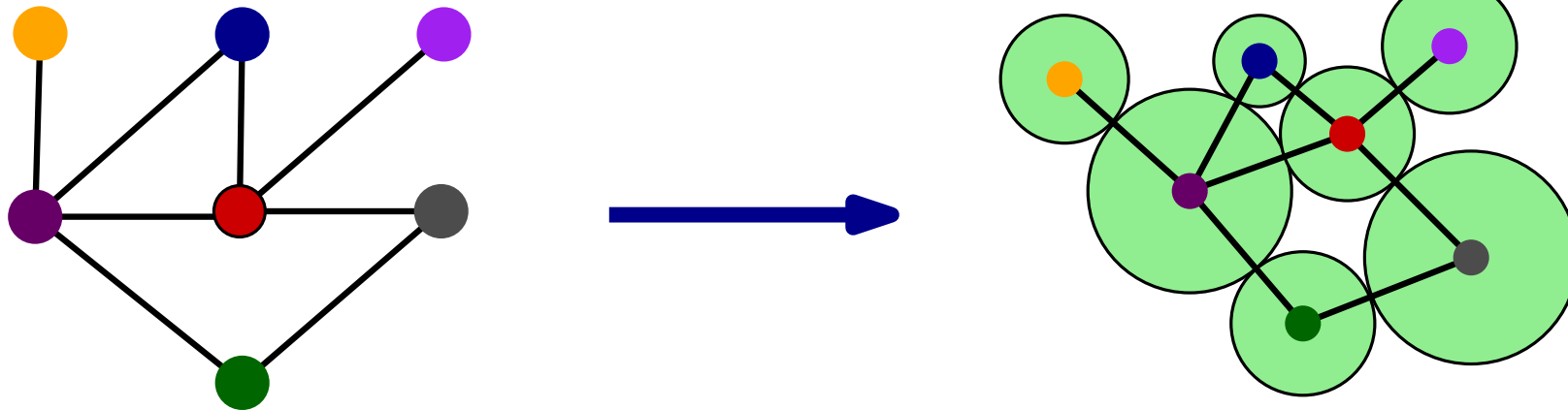
# A geometric proof of the Planar Separator Theorem

**Fact:** Any planar graph is the contact graph of a set of interior-disjoint disks.

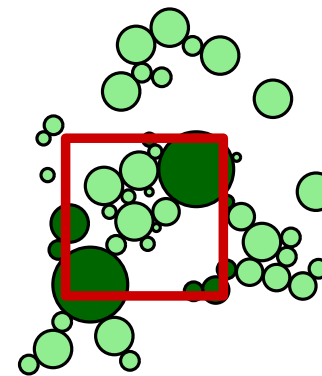


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**Fact:** Any planar graph is the contact graph of a set of interior-disjoint disks.



**Proof idea:** Find a square  $\sigma$  intersecting  $O(\sqrt{n})$  disks that is a balanced separator.



# A geometric proof of the Planar Separator Theorem

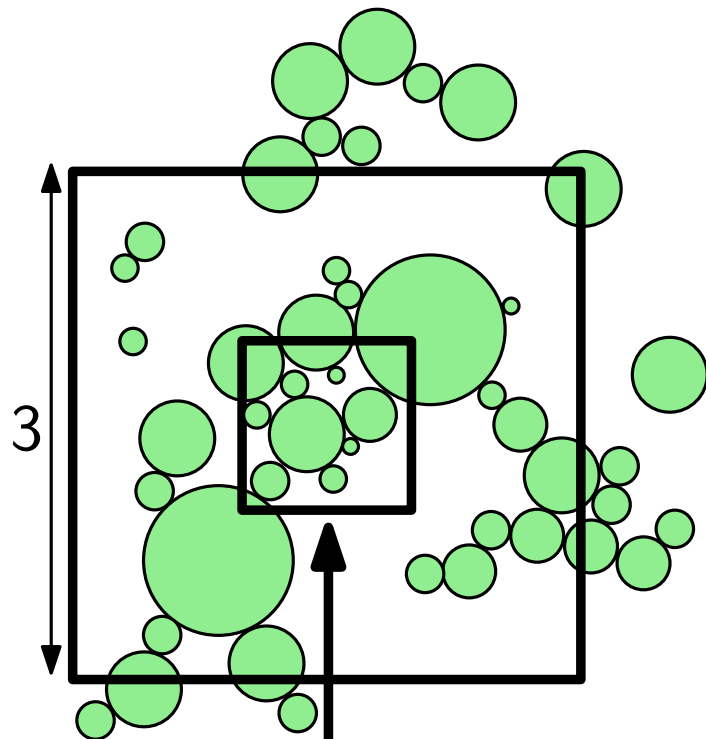
**Theorem.** For any contact graph of  $n$  interior-disjoint disks, there is an  $\alpha$ -balanced separator of size  $O(\sqrt{n})$ , where  $\alpha = 36/37$ .

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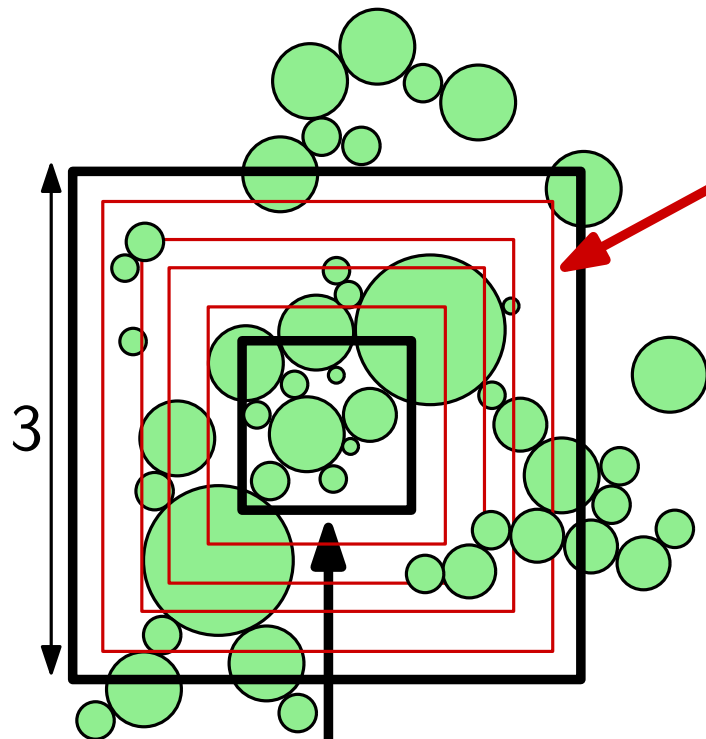


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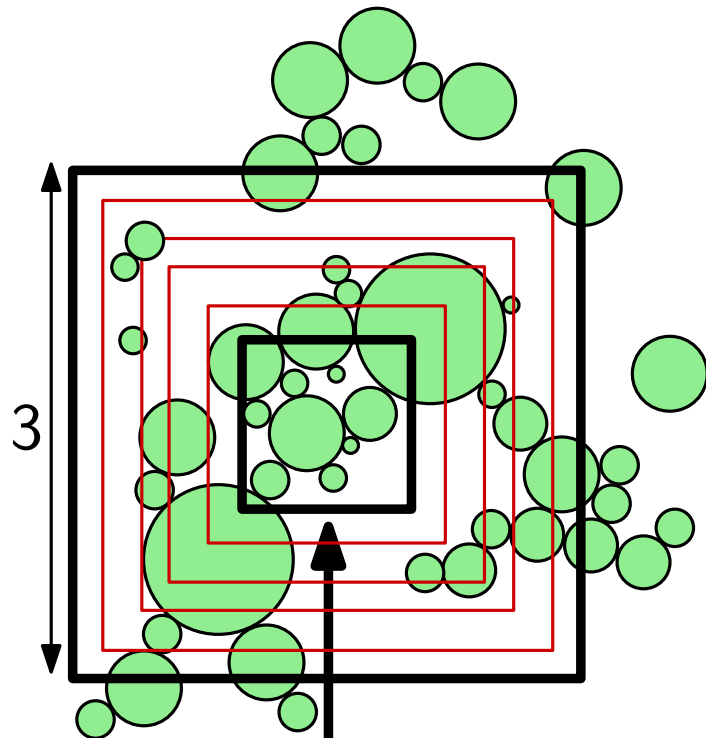
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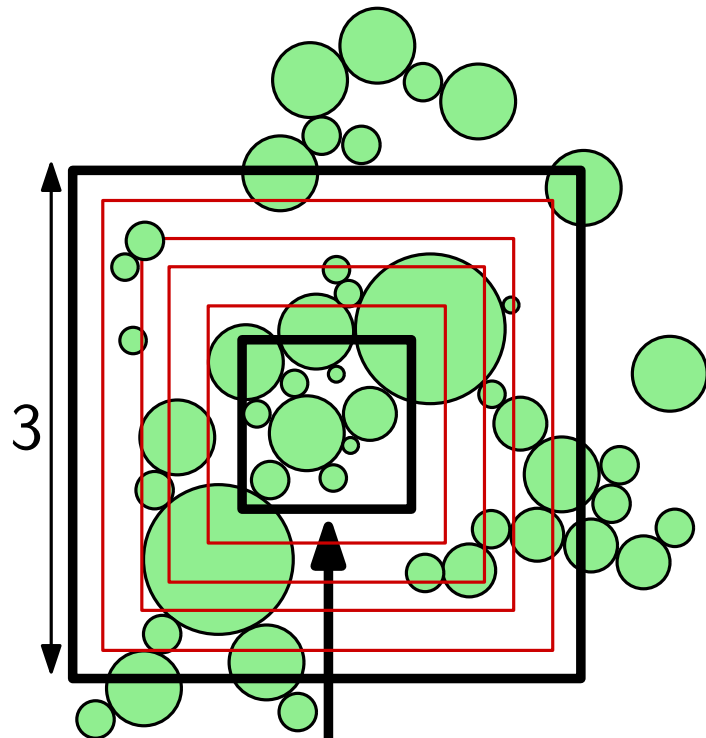
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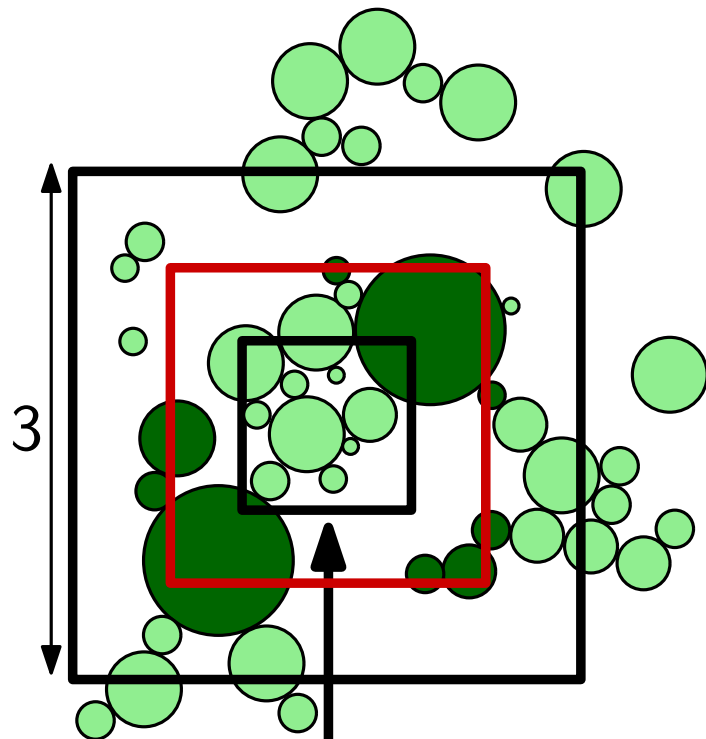
Constructing the separator:

Select a square  $\sigma_i$  that intersects  
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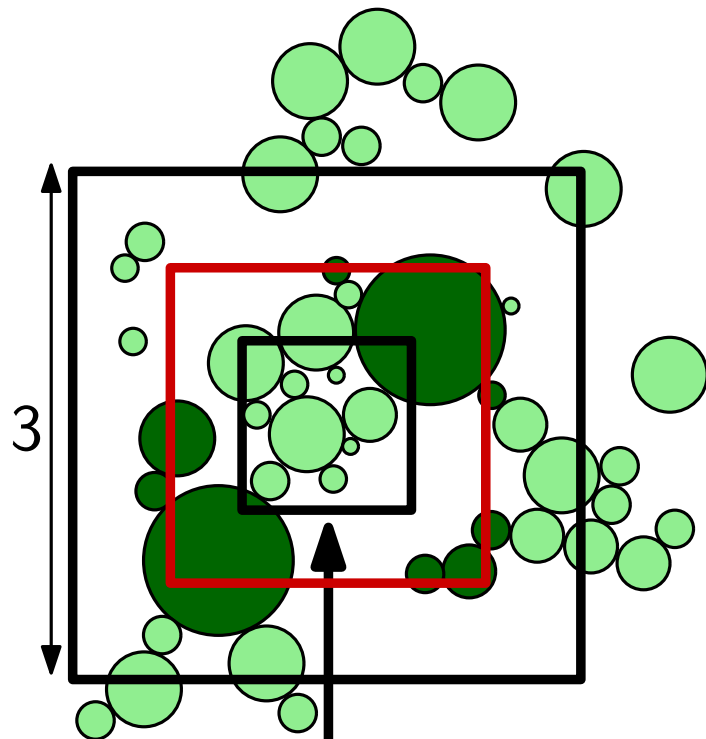
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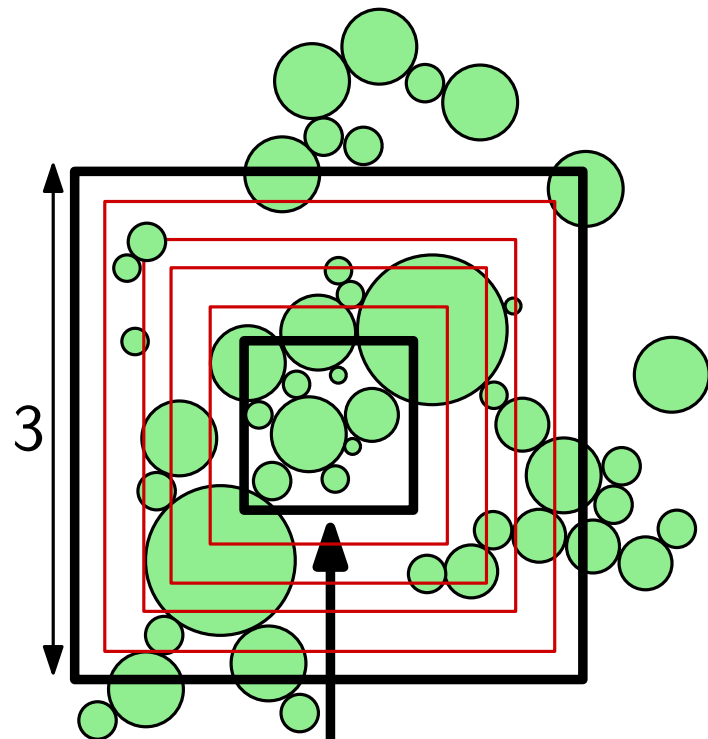
Things to check

- separator is  $(36/37)$ -balanced
- does square  $\sigma_i$  with the desired property actually exist ??

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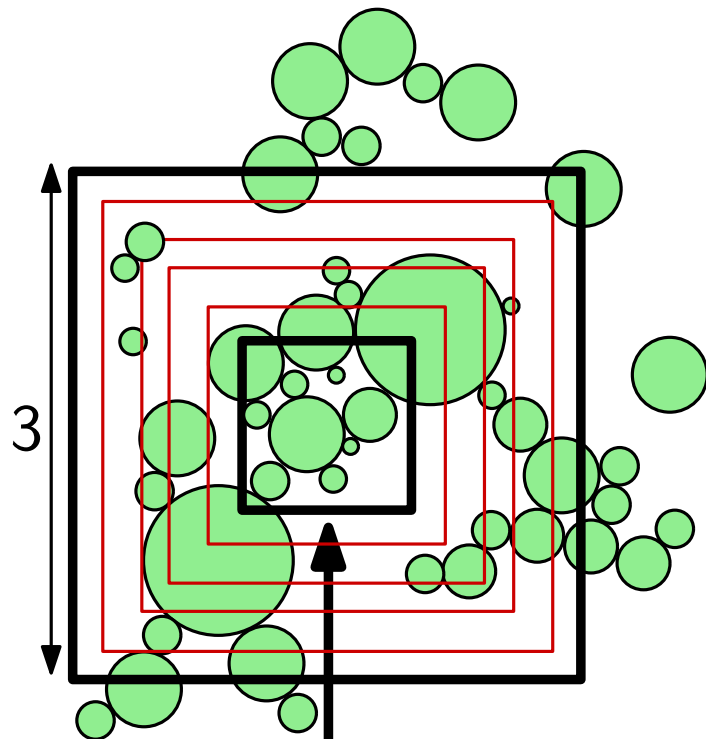
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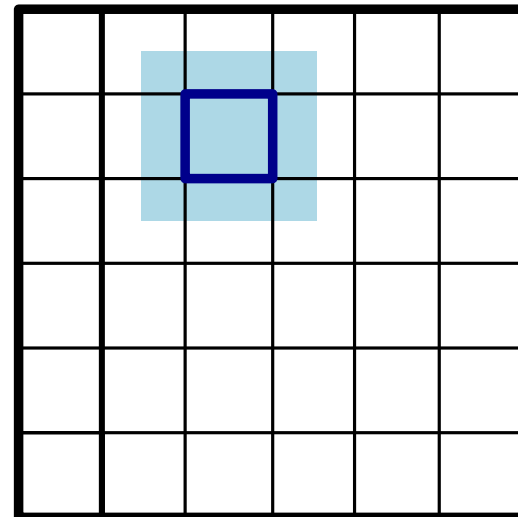
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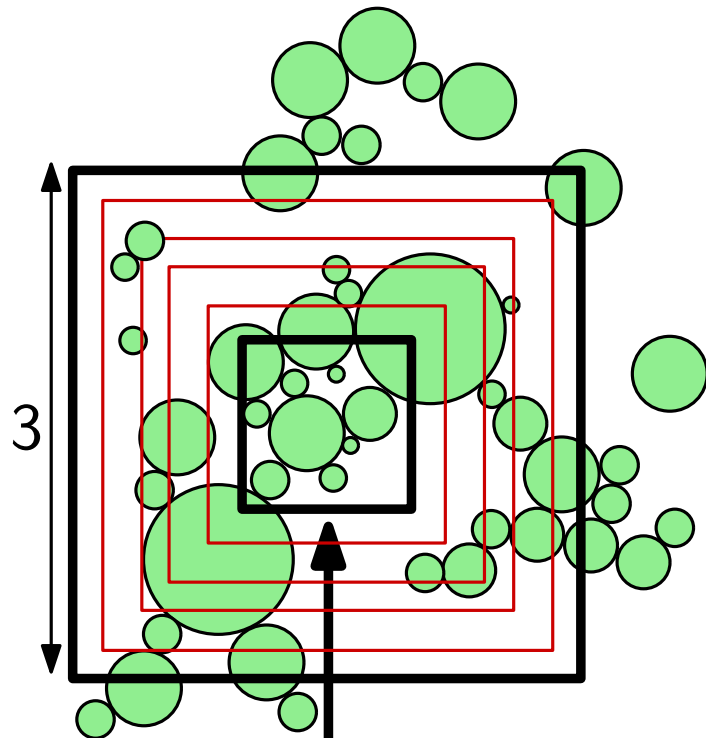
- at least  $n/37$  disk inside
- at most  $36n/37$  disks inside



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Does  $\sigma_i$  intersecting  $O(\sqrt{n})$  disks exist?

total number of disk-square intersections

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{small}}} (1 + \text{diam}(D_i) \cdot \sqrt{n}) \\ &\leq n_{\text{small}} + O(\sqrt{n}) \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{small}}} \sqrt{\text{area}(D_i)} \\ &= O(n) \end{aligned}$$

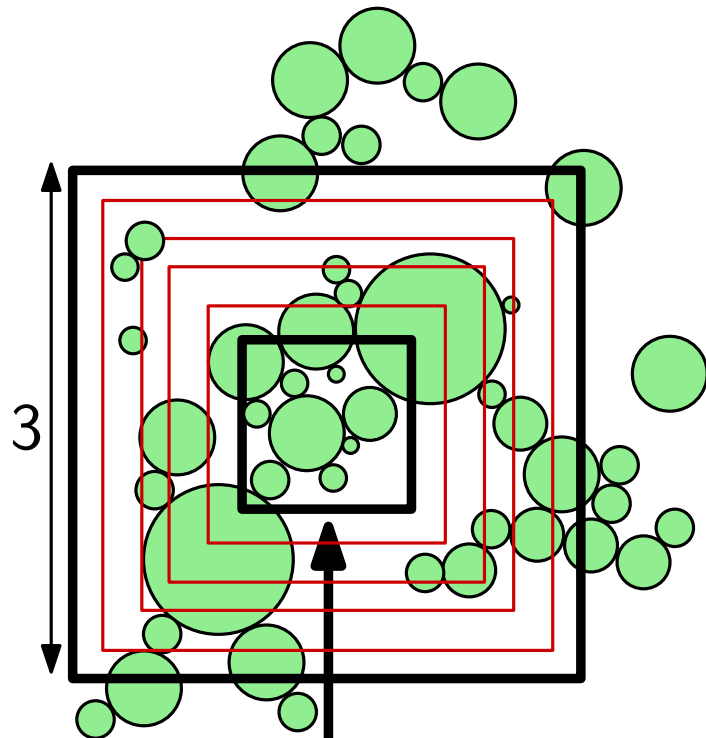
last step uses

- $\sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{small}}} \text{area}(D_i) = O(1)$  (sort of ...)
- $\sum_{i=1}^k \sqrt{a_i} \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^k a_i}{k}}$

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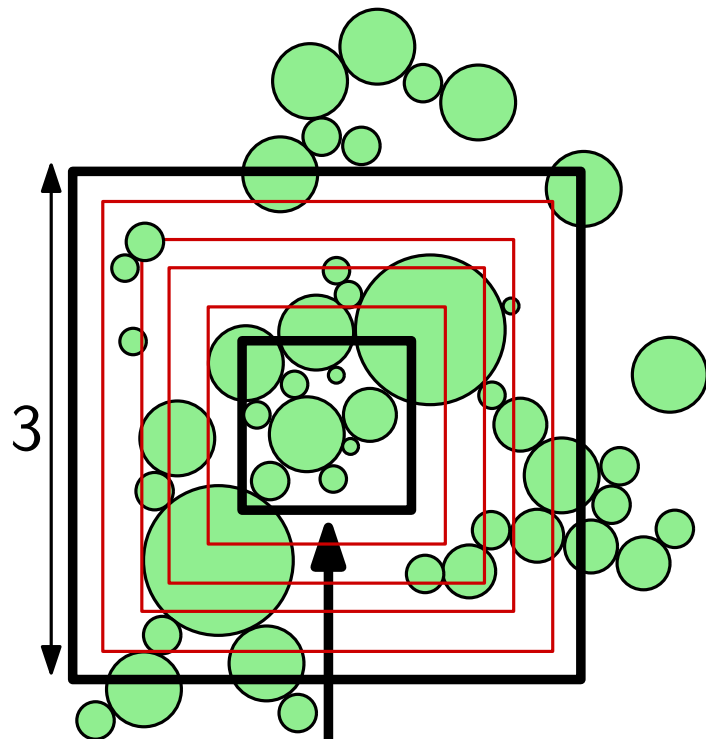
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$\Rightarrow$  one of the  $\sigma_i$ 's intersects  $O(\sqrt{n})$  disks



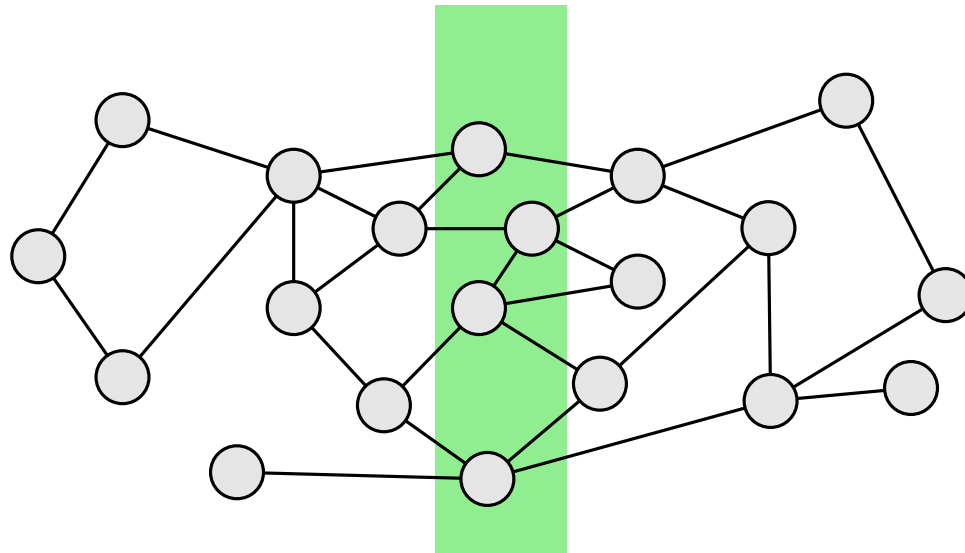


## Subexponential algorithms on planar graphs

**Theorem.** INDEPENDENT SET can be solved in  $2^{O(\sqrt{n})}$  time in planar graphs.

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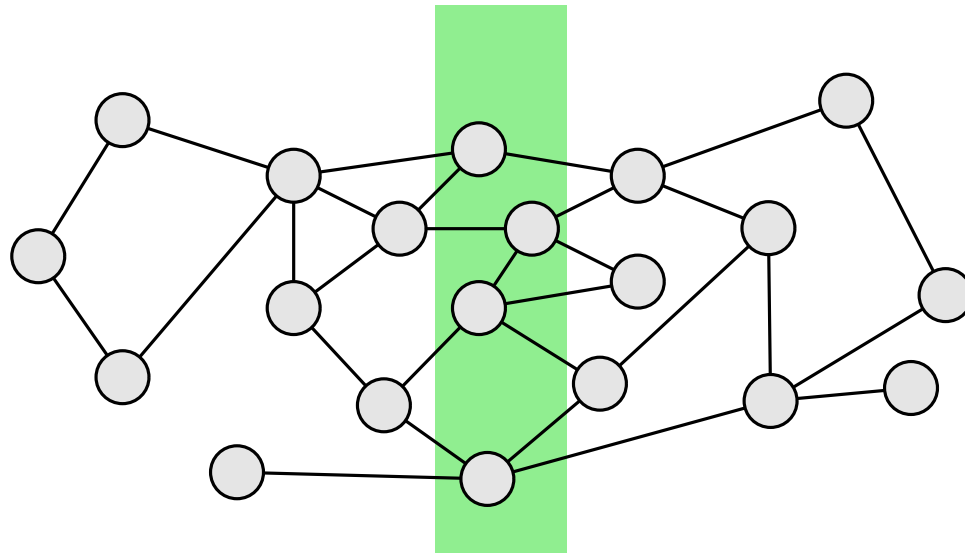
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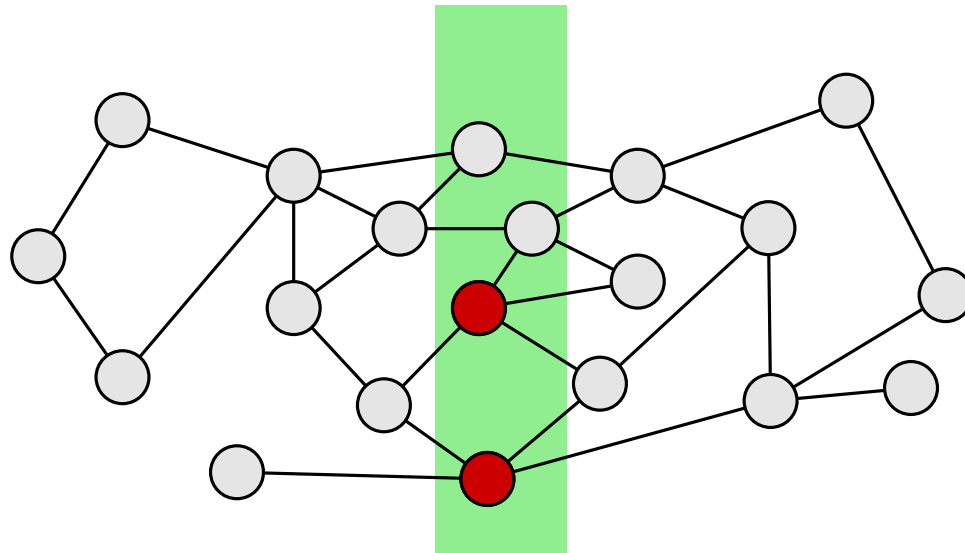
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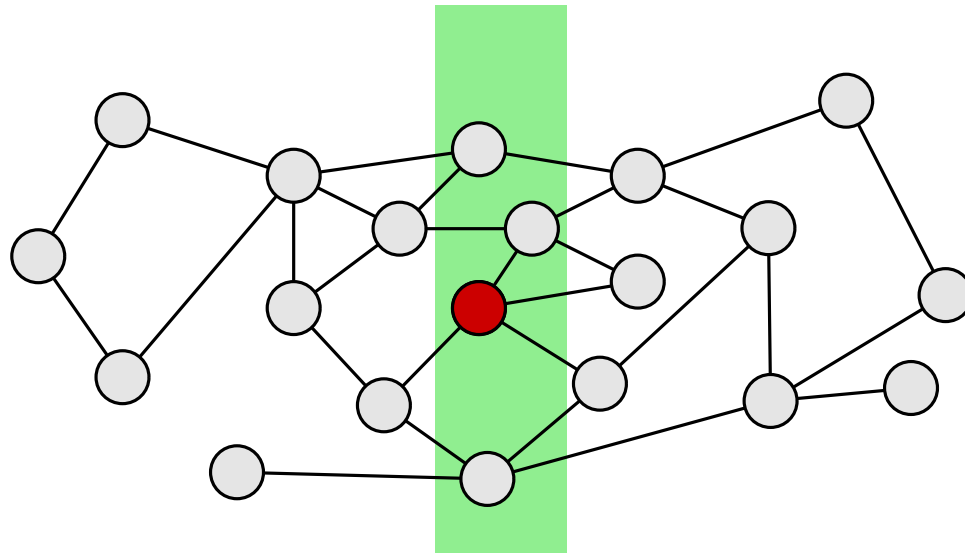
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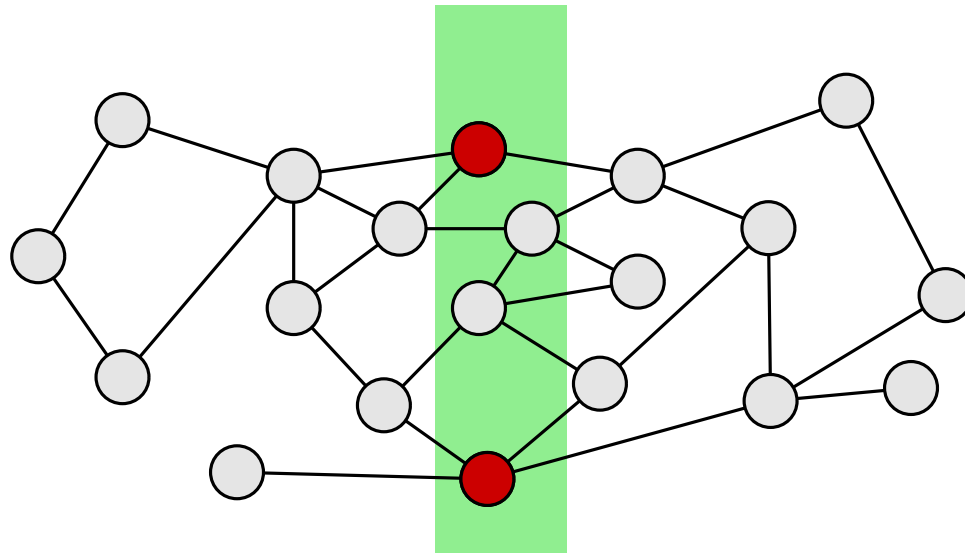
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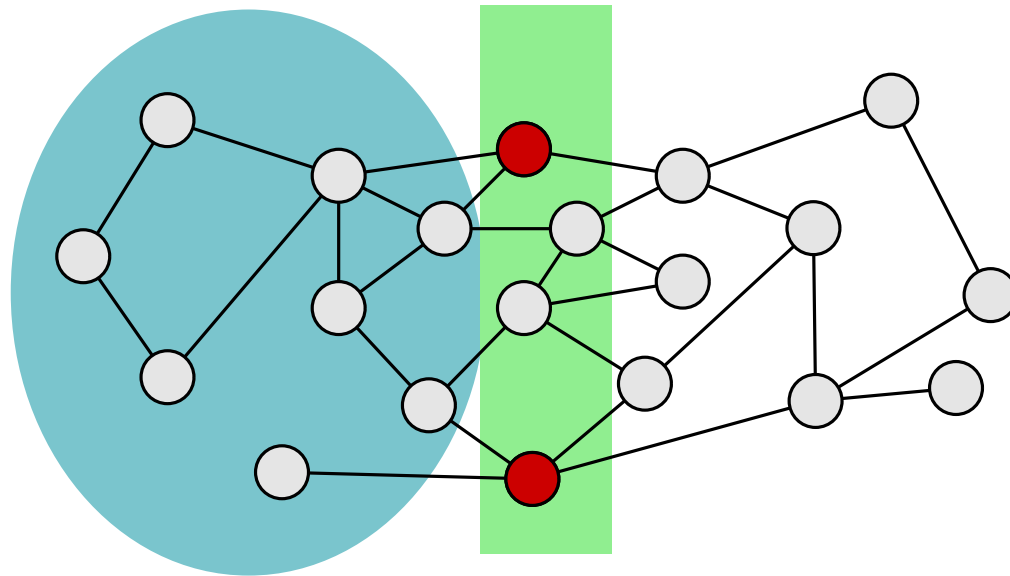
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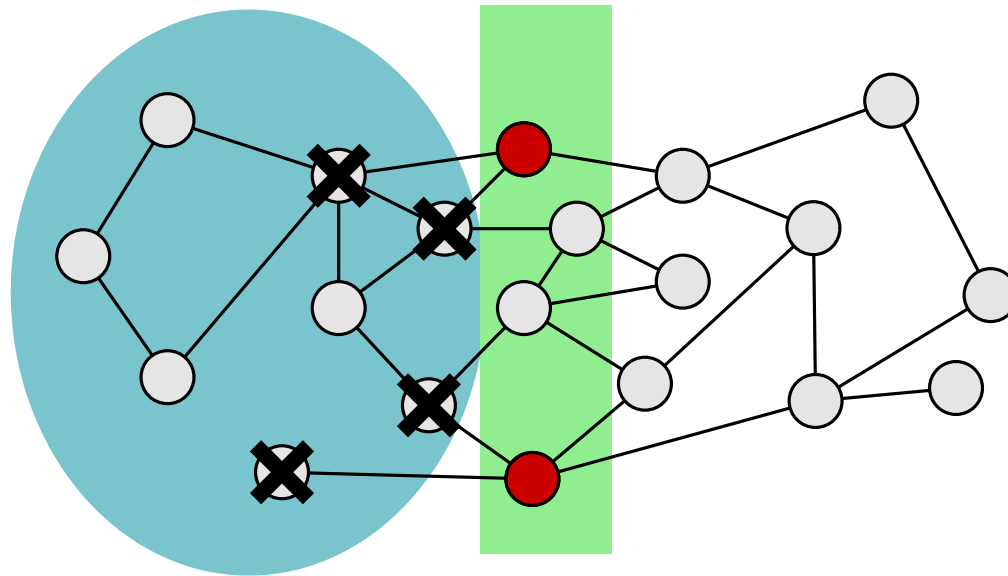
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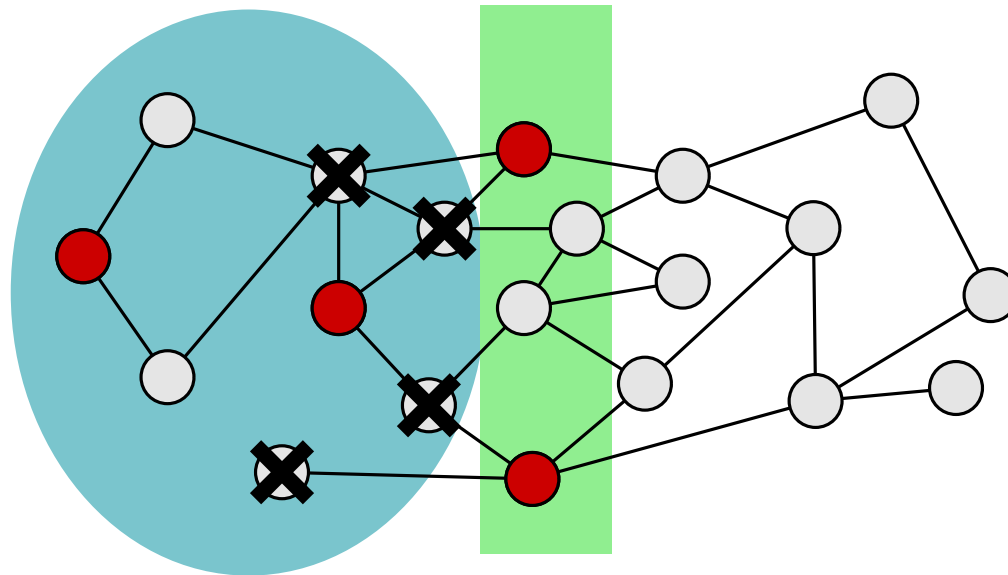


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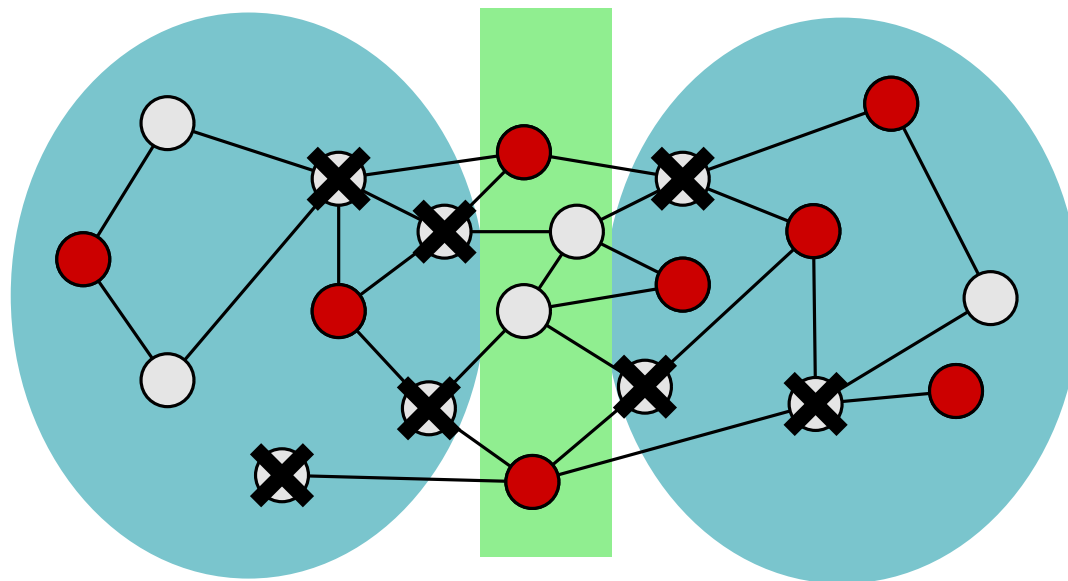
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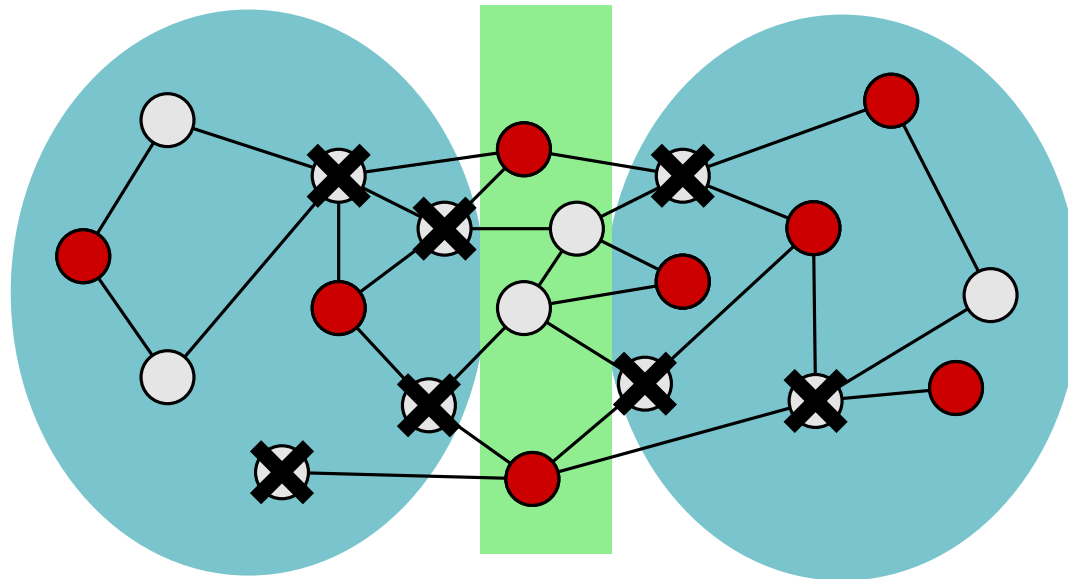
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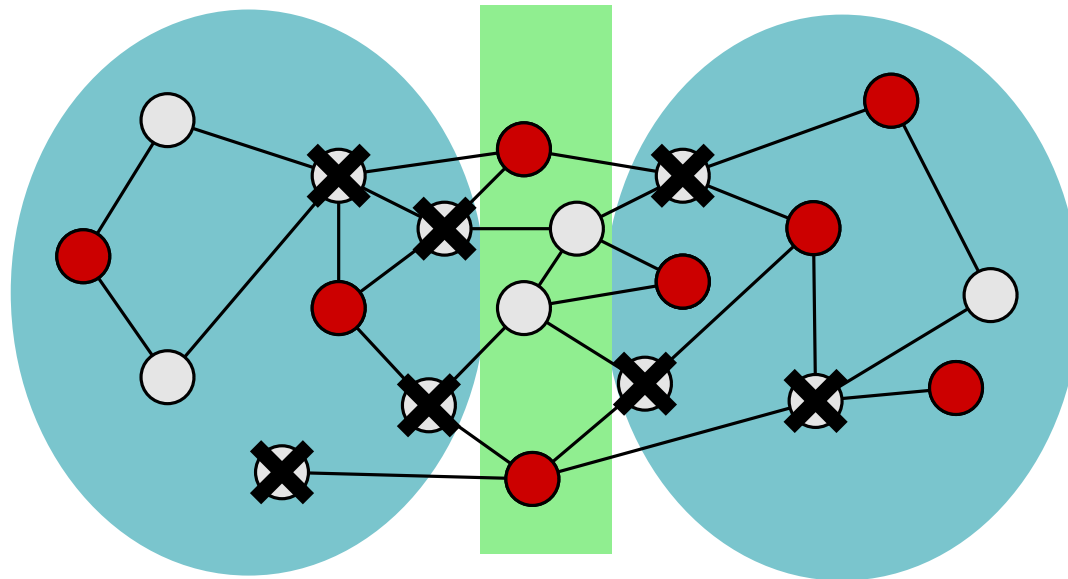
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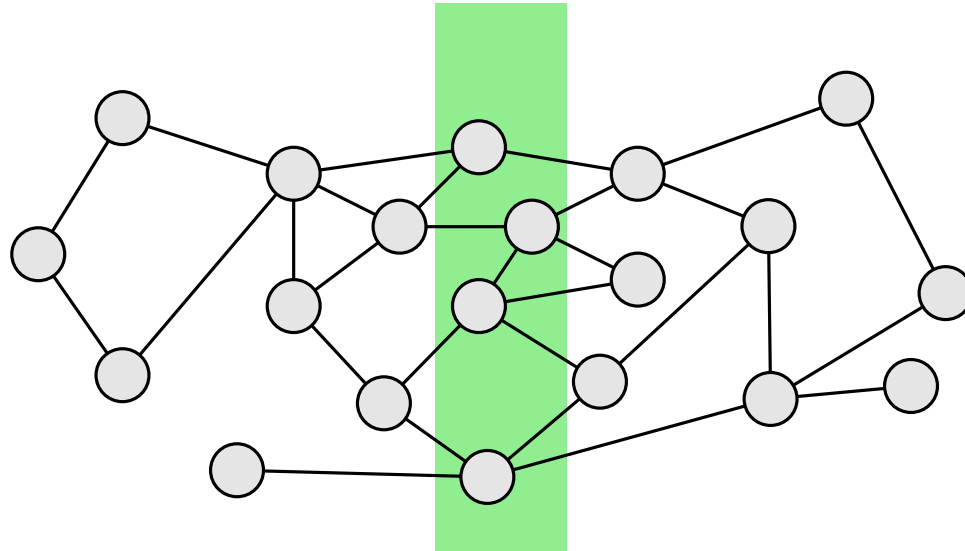
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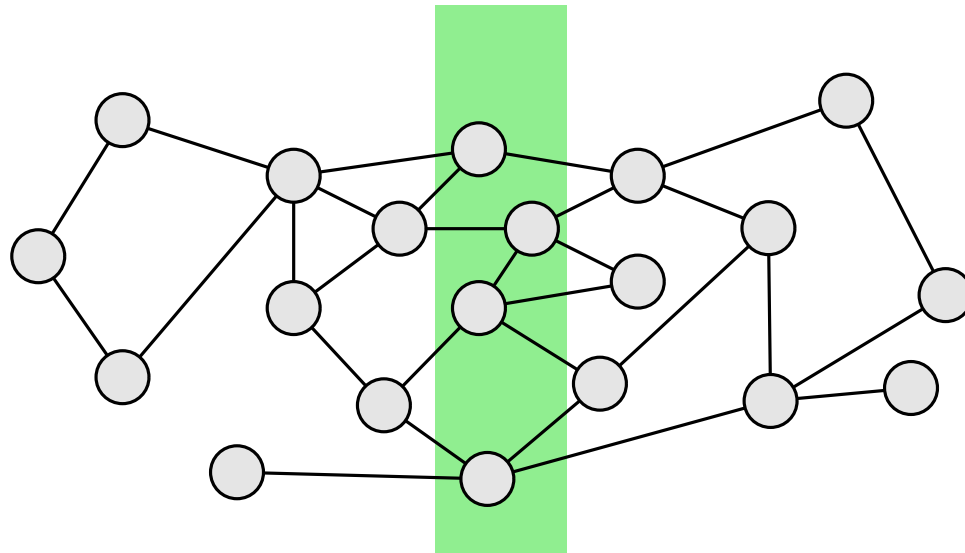
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$$T(n) \leq O(n) + 2^{O(\sqrt{n})} \cdot T(2n/3) \quad \implies \quad T(n) = 2^{O(\sqrt{n})}$$

# Overview

- Planar separator theorem (slides by Mark de Berg)
- Independent set in planar graphs (slides by MdB)
- Exact algorithms for packing and covering
- Shifting strategy: approximation schemes

# Intersection graphs

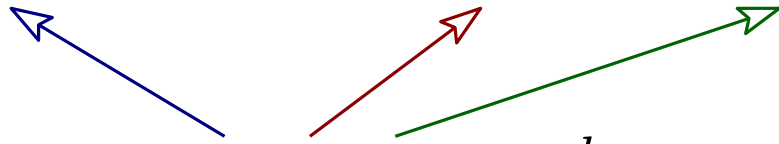
Given a set  $S$  of  $n$  objects in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , their *intersection graph* has vertex set  $S$  and edge set

$$E[S] := \{ss' \mid s, s' \in S \text{ and } s \cap s' \neq \emptyset\}$$



# Intersection graphs

arbitrary subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$    ball (disk)   axis-parallel box

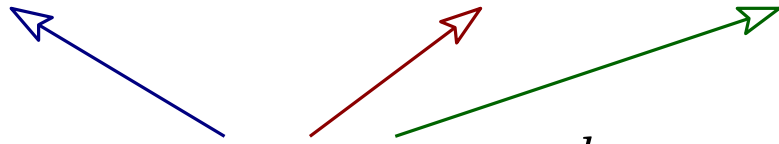


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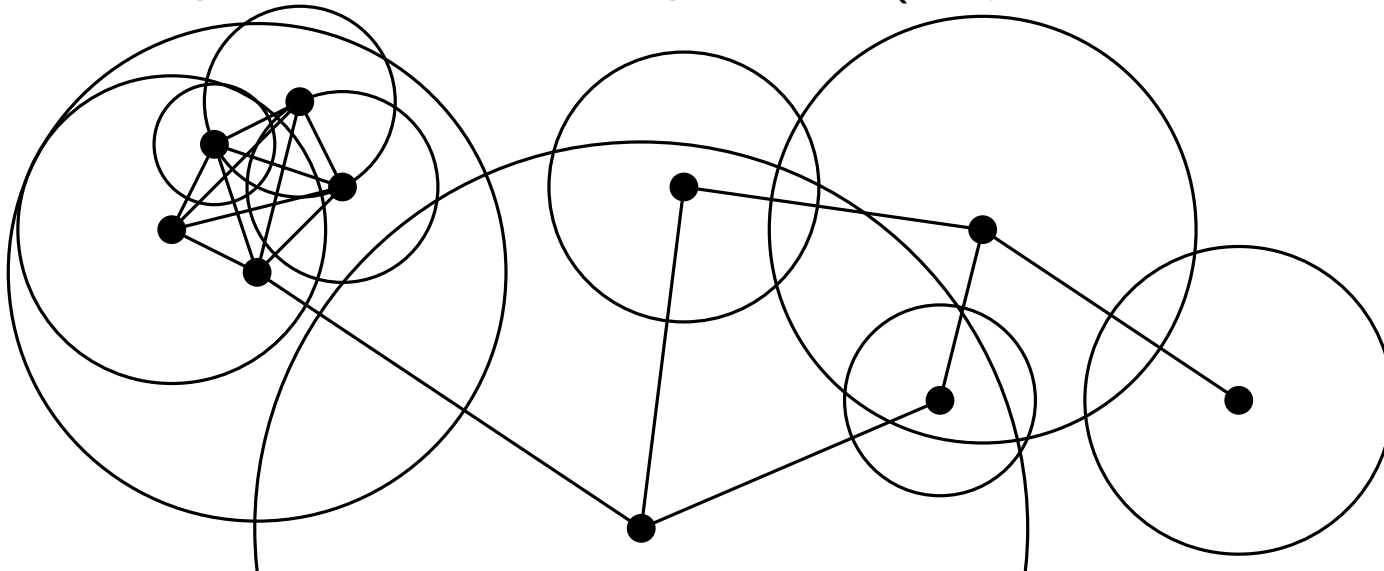
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Planar graphs  $\subset$  Disk graphs (object: disks in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ )



# Packing: discrete vs continuous

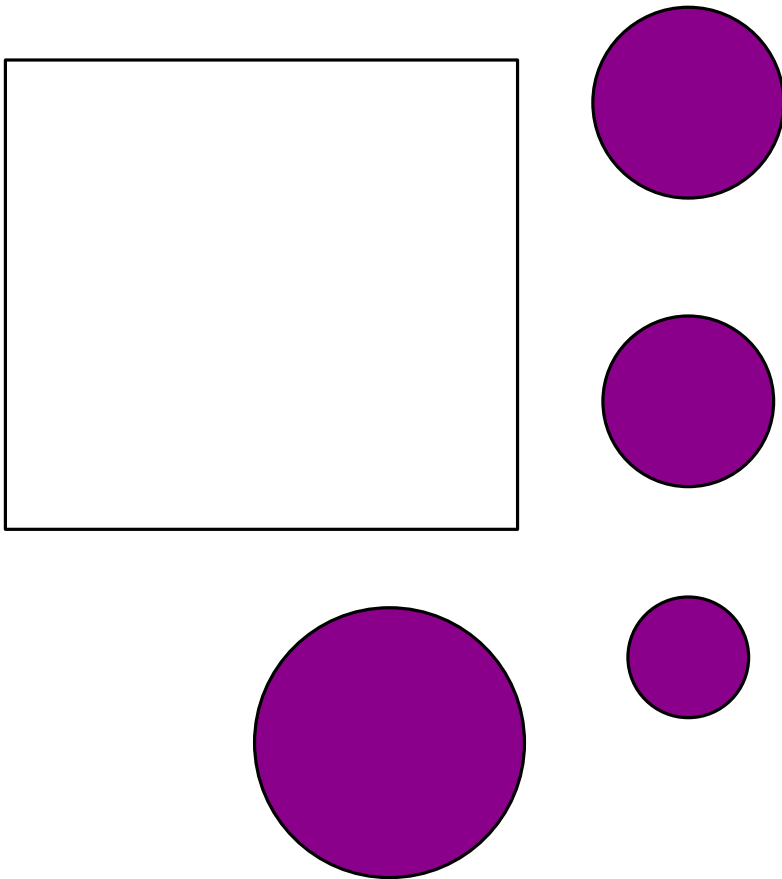
Continuous:

Given  $n$  objects, do they fit  
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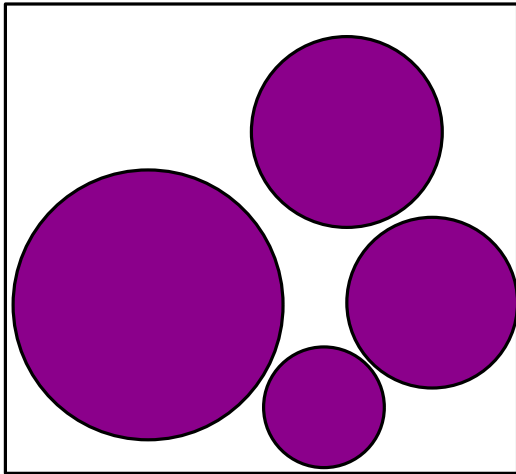
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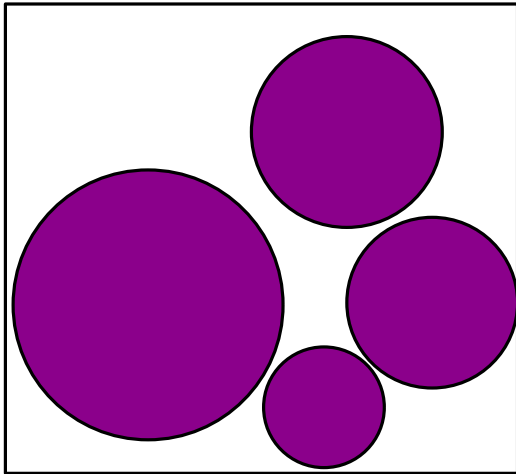
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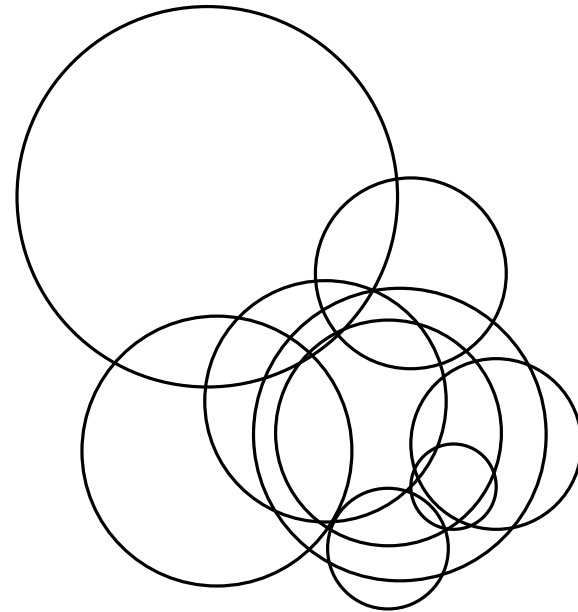
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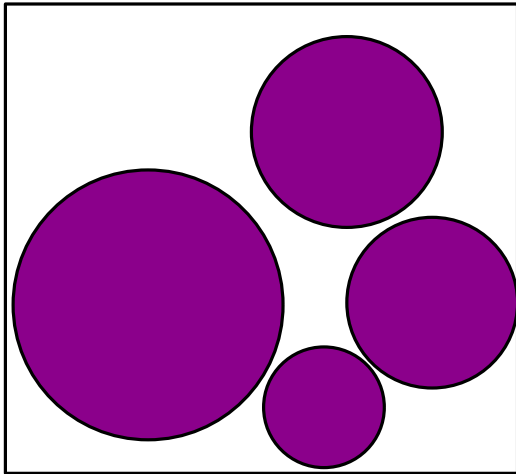
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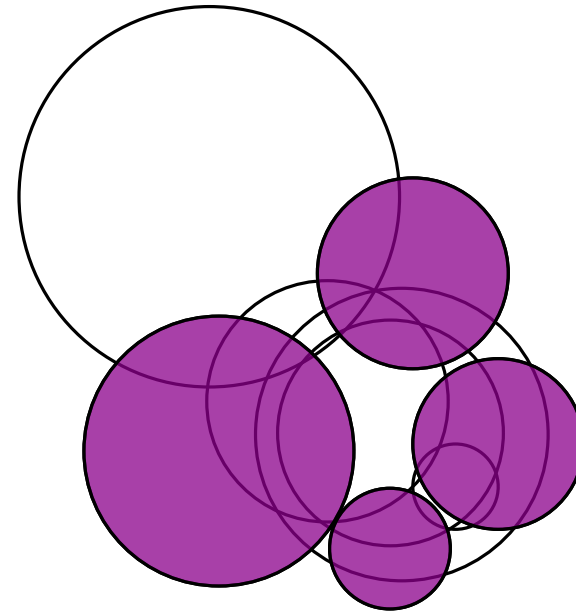
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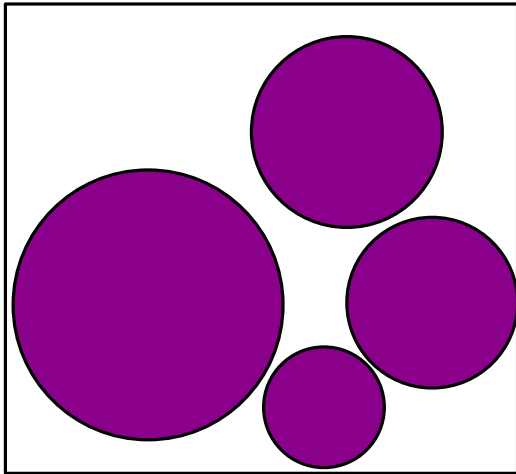
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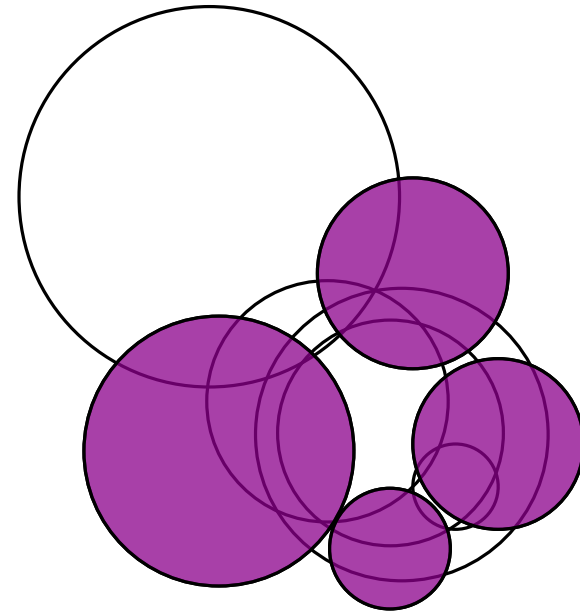
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Discrete:

Given  $n$  objects, find maximum subset of non-overlapping objects



Same as max. independent set in intersection graph



# Exact algorithm for discrete packing

**Theorem.** Independent set in intersection graphs of disks can be solved in  $n^{O(\sqrt{k})}$  time, where  $k$  = size of max indep. set.

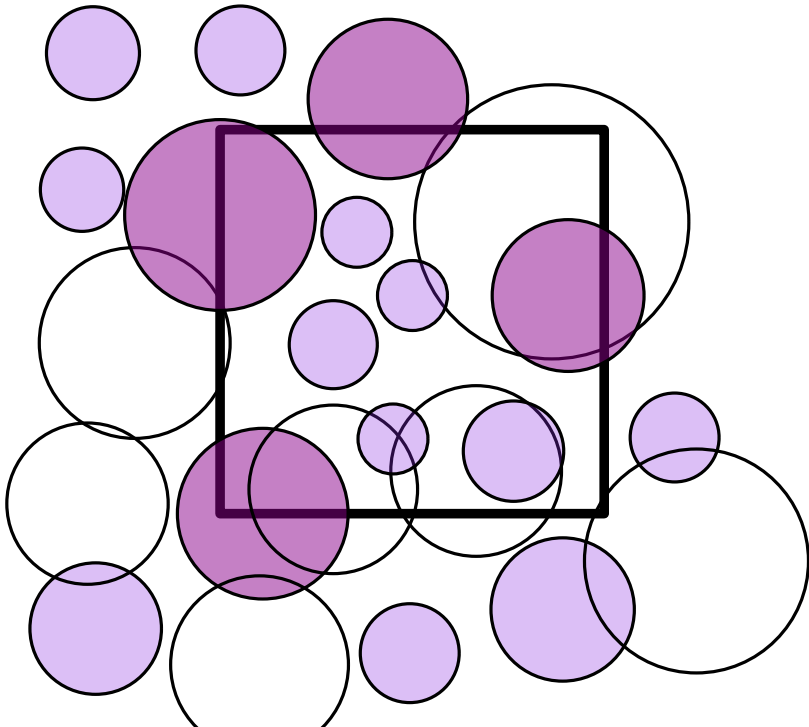
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Solution  $I$  has  $k$  interior-disjoint disks.

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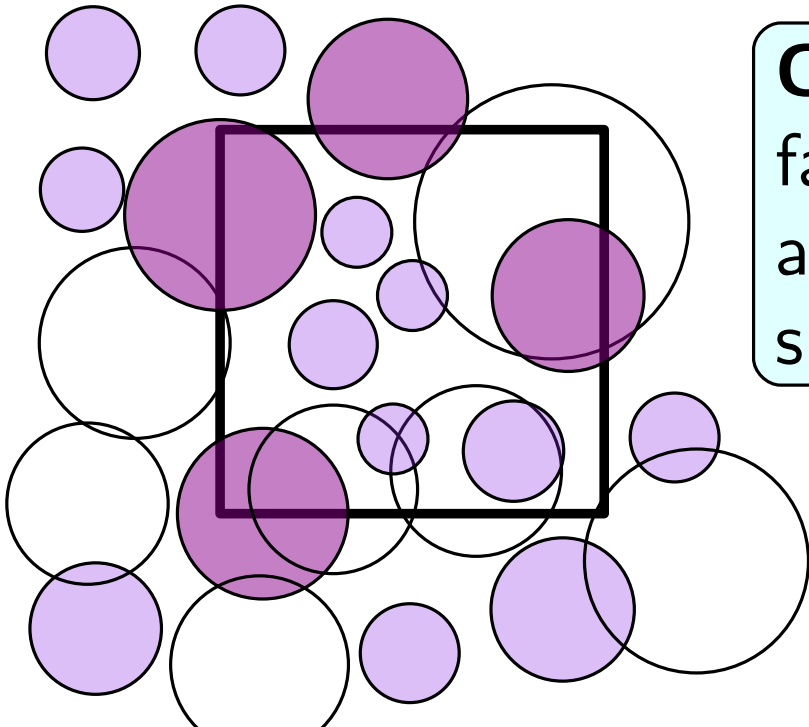
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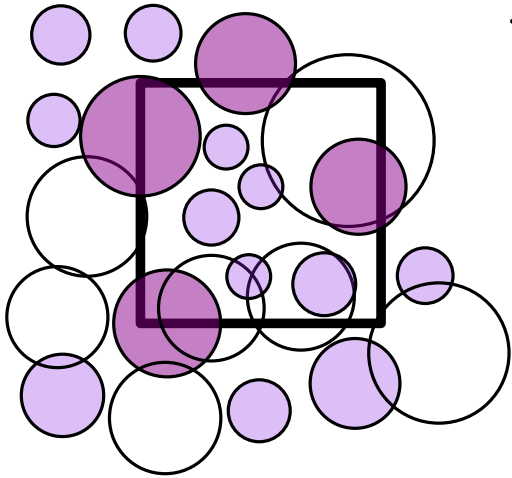
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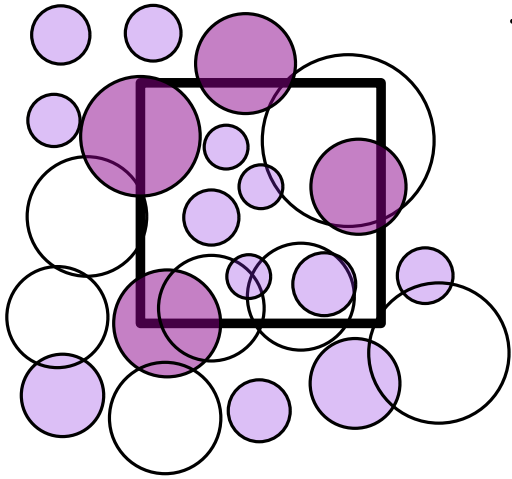
**Claim.** Given  $S$ , we can compute a family  $Y$  of  $\text{poly}(n)$  squares containing all attainable square separators of all subsets of  $S$ .

# Exact algorithm for discrete packing II



```
for each separator  $\sigma \in Y$  do  
  for each intersecting  $I_\sigma \subset S$  of size  $O(\sqrt{k})$  do  
    Remove disks in  $S$  intersecting  $\sigma$   
    Remove neighbors of  $I_\sigma$   
    Recurse on disks inside  $\sigma$   
    Recurse on disks outside  $\sigma$   
return largest indep. set found
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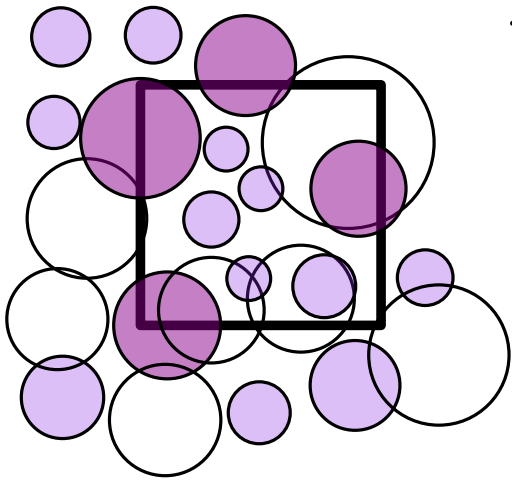
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$$T(n, k) = n^{c\sqrt{k} + c\sqrt{(36/37)k} + c\sqrt{(36/37)^2k} + \dots} = n^{O(\sqrt{k})}$$

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# Geometric set cover: discrete vs continuous

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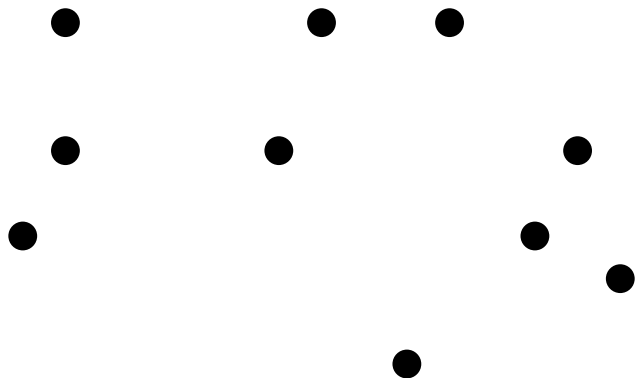
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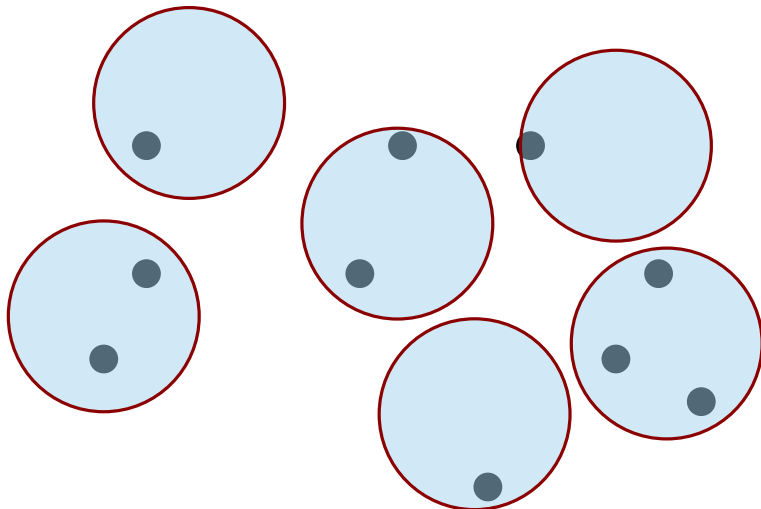
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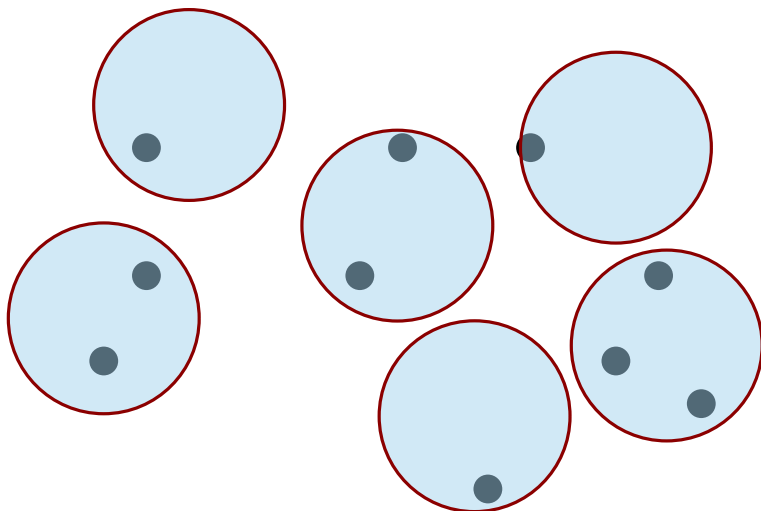
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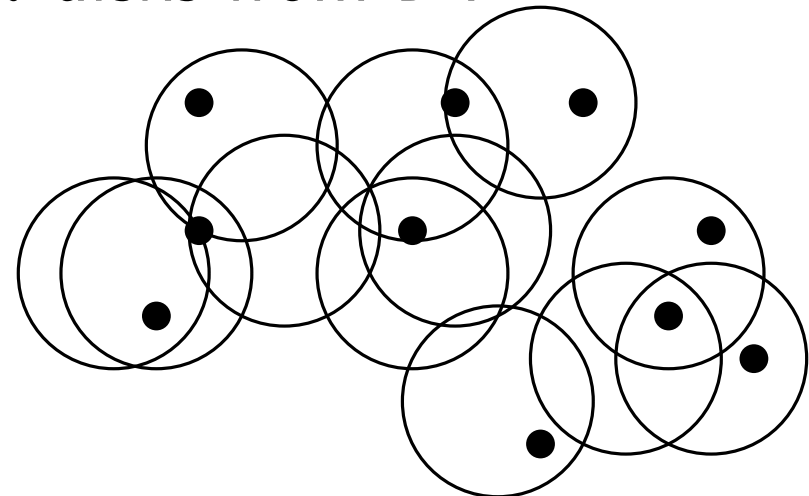
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Discrete:

Given  $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $m$  unit disks  $\mathcal{D}$ , can we cover  $P$  with  $k$  disks from  $\mathcal{D}$ ?



# Exact algorithms for covering

**Theorem (Marx–Pilipczuk, 2015)** Discrete geometric set cover with disks can be solved in  $m^{O(\sqrt{k})} \text{poly}(n)$  time, where  $k = \text{size of min cover}$ .



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Proof based on guessing separator in solution's Voronoi diagram.

**Theorem (Marx–Pilipczuk, 2015).** There is no  $f(k)(m + n)^{o(\sqrt{k})}$  algorithm for covering points with disks for any computable  $f$ , unless ETH fails.

Shifting grids  
Approximation schemes  
Hochbaum–Maass 1985

# PTASes

**Definition.** A polynomial time approximation scheme (PTAS) for a minimization problem is an algorithm, which given  $\varepsilon > 0$  and the input instance, outputs a feasible solution of value at most  $(1 + \varepsilon)OPT$  in  $\text{poly}_\varepsilon(n)$  time.

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**Example:** Independent set is APX-hard on general graphs.

**But!** Independent set in planar graphs has a PTAS. (Baker '83)

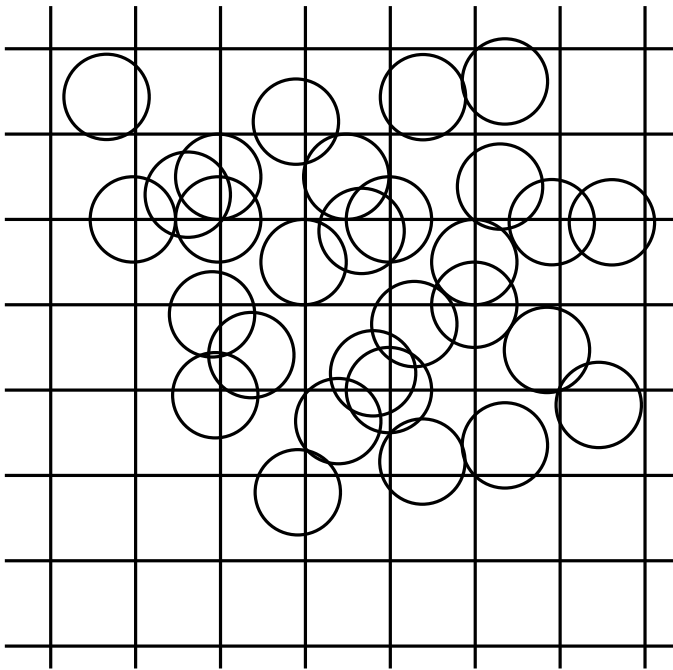
# Packing unit disks via shifting

**Theorem.** The discrete packing of unit disks has a PTAS: given  $n$  unit disks, we can compute an independent set of size  $(1 - \varepsilon)OPT$  in  $n^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$  time.

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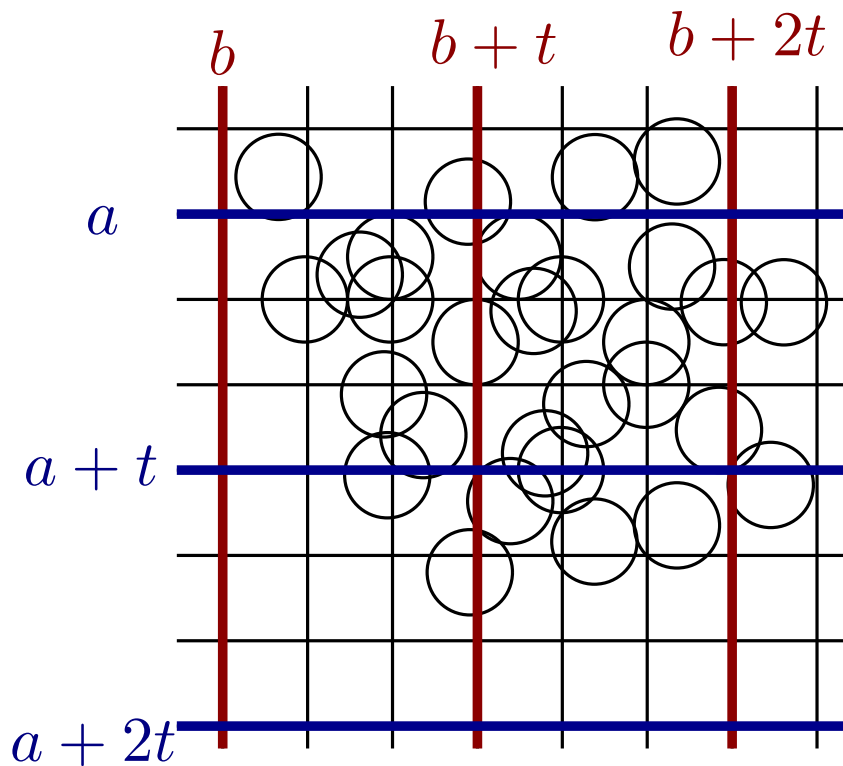
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Let  $t = \lceil 2/\varepsilon \rceil$ .

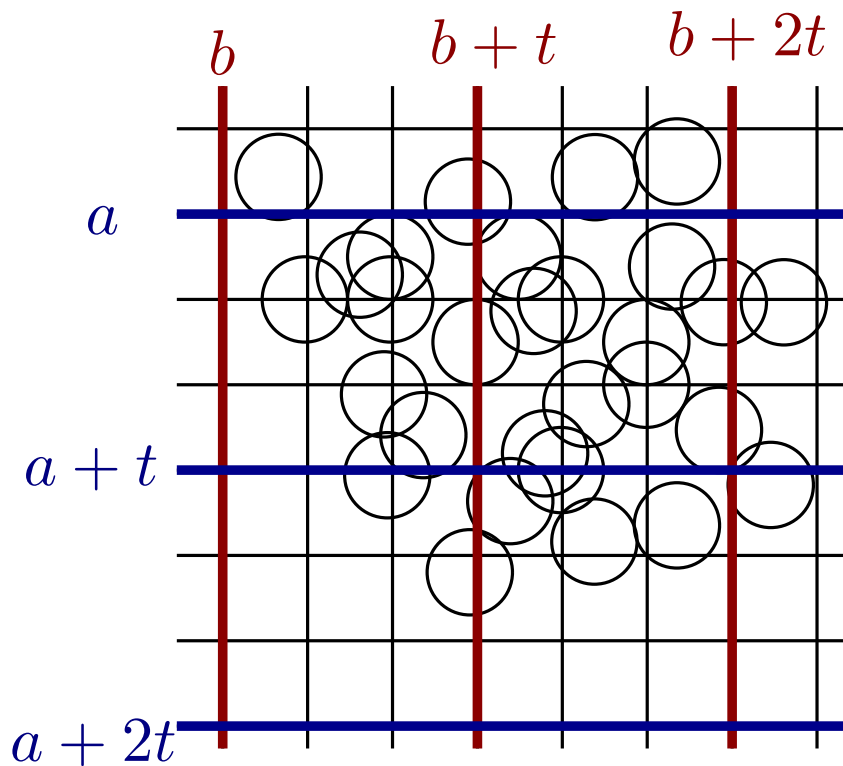
For a shift  $(a, b)$  ( $a, b \in \{0, \dots, t-1\}$ ),  
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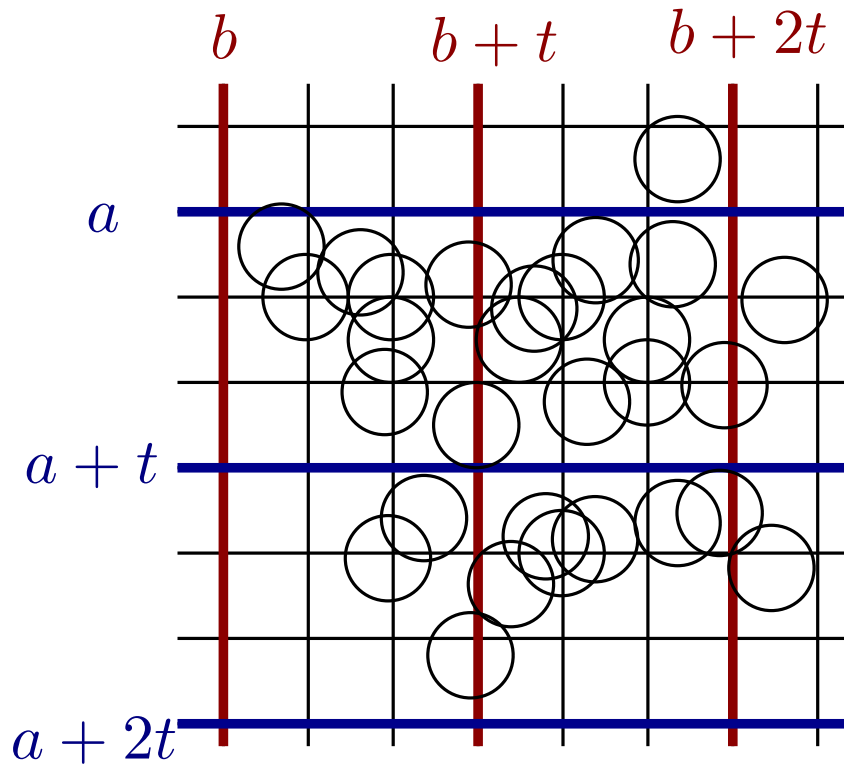
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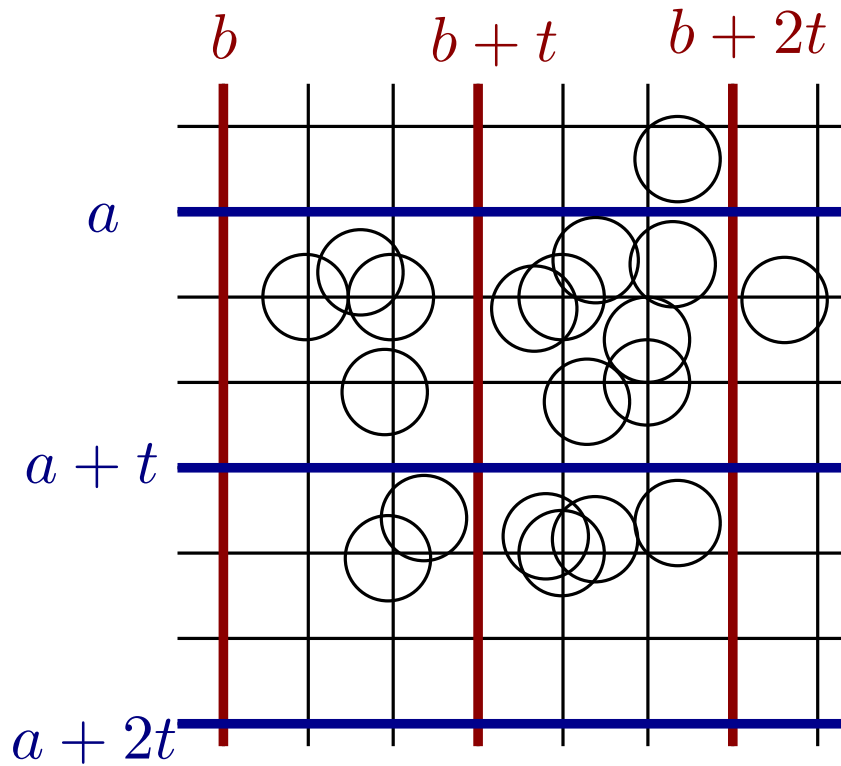
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Remove disks intersecting selected lines

# Shifting strategy: solving cells



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Large cells have area  $O(1/\varepsilon^2)$

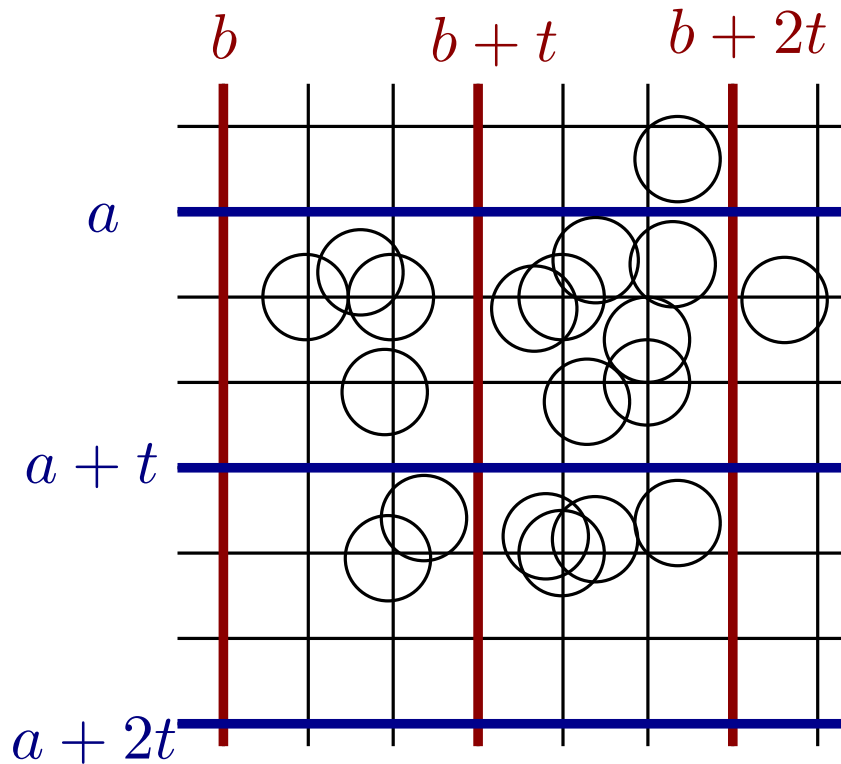
$\Rightarrow$  max indep. set has size

$$k = O(1/\varepsilon^2)$$

$\Rightarrow$  max indep. set found in

$$n^{O(\sqrt{k})} = n^{O(1/\varepsilon)} \text{ time.}$$

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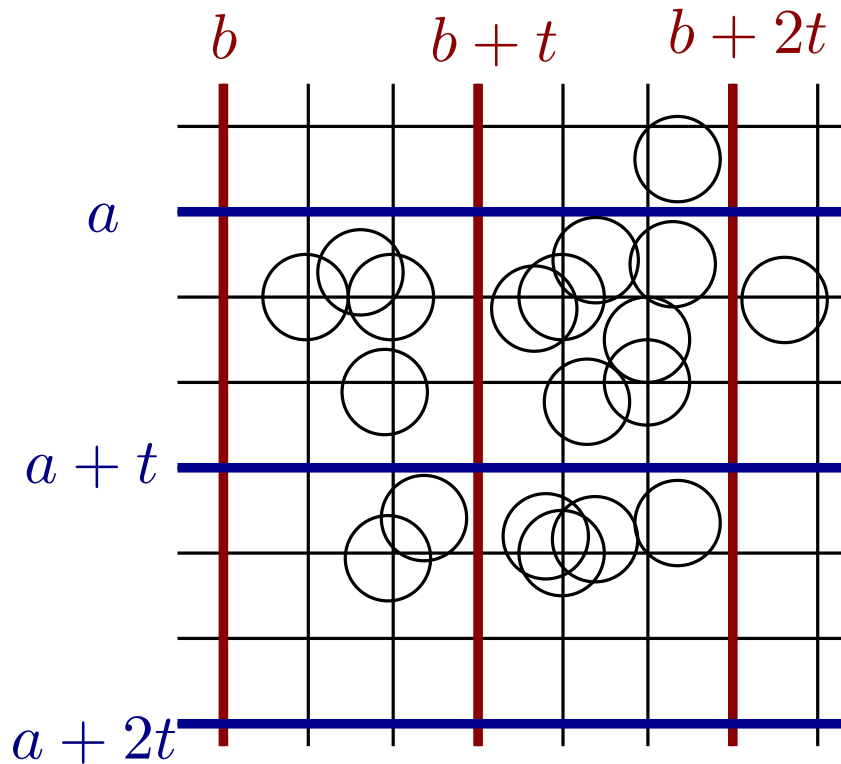
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 $\Rightarrow$  max indep. set has size  $k = O(1/\varepsilon^2)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  max indep. set found in  $n^{O(\sqrt{k})} = n^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$  time.

**Claim.** The union of large cell solutions has size at least  $(1 - \varepsilon)OPT$  for some shift  $(a, b)$ .

*Proof.* Of the  $t = \lceil 2/\varepsilon \rceil$  shifts for horizontals, there is some  $a \in \{0, \dots, t - 1\}$  intersecting  $\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}OPT$  solution disks. Similarly there is  $b$  s.t. verticals intersect  $\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}OPT$ .  
 $\Rightarrow (a, b)$  works.



# Discrete packing outlook

- Extends to unit balls in higher dimensions:  $n^{O(1/\varepsilon^{d-1})}$
- $n^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$  is essentially tight in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (Marx 2007)
- Local search: slower PTAS for “pseudodisks” (last lecture?)

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Best known:  $n^{O((\log \log n/\varepsilon)^4)}$  (Chuzhoy–Ene 2016)



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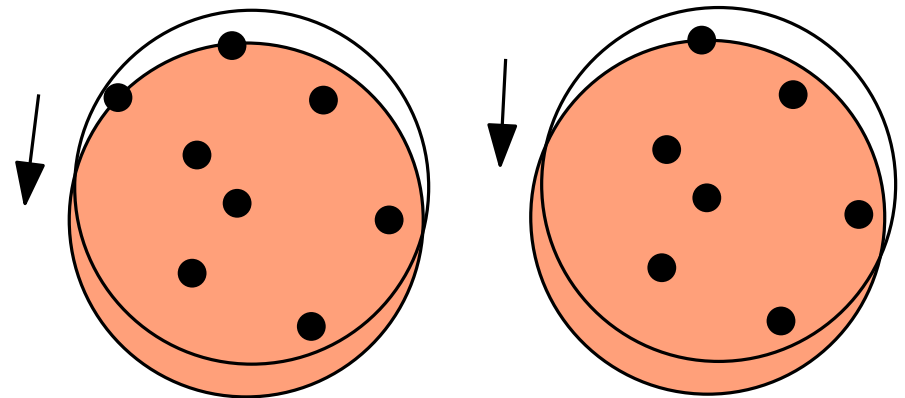
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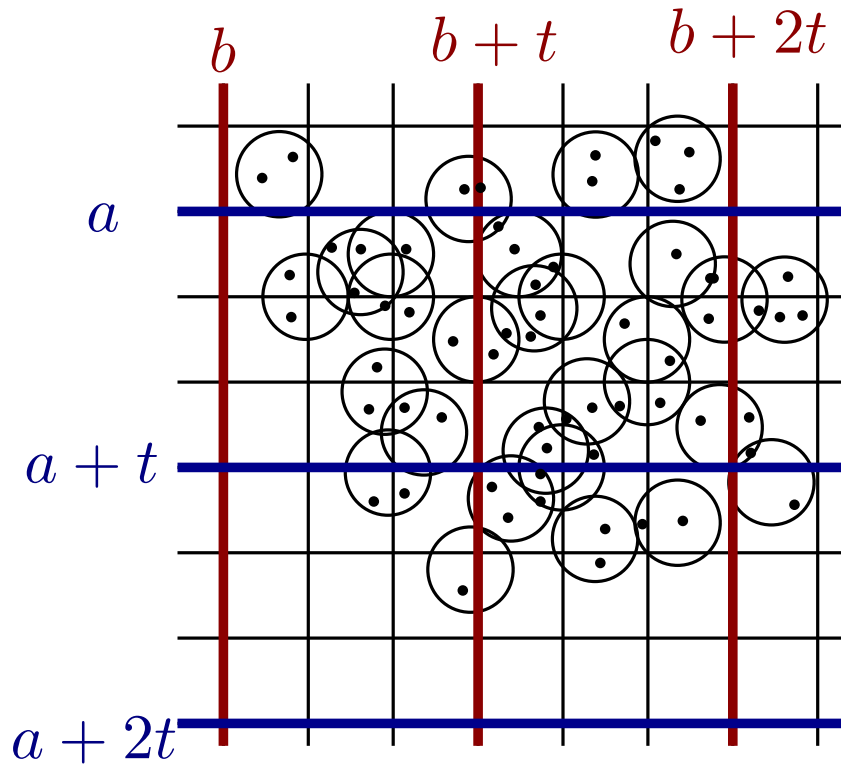
There is a cover of size  $k \Leftrightarrow$  there is a canonical cover of size  $k$ .

2 disks per point pair  $p, p' \in P$ ,  
one disk for each  $p \in P$

$2\binom{n}{2} + n \leq n^2$  canonical disks



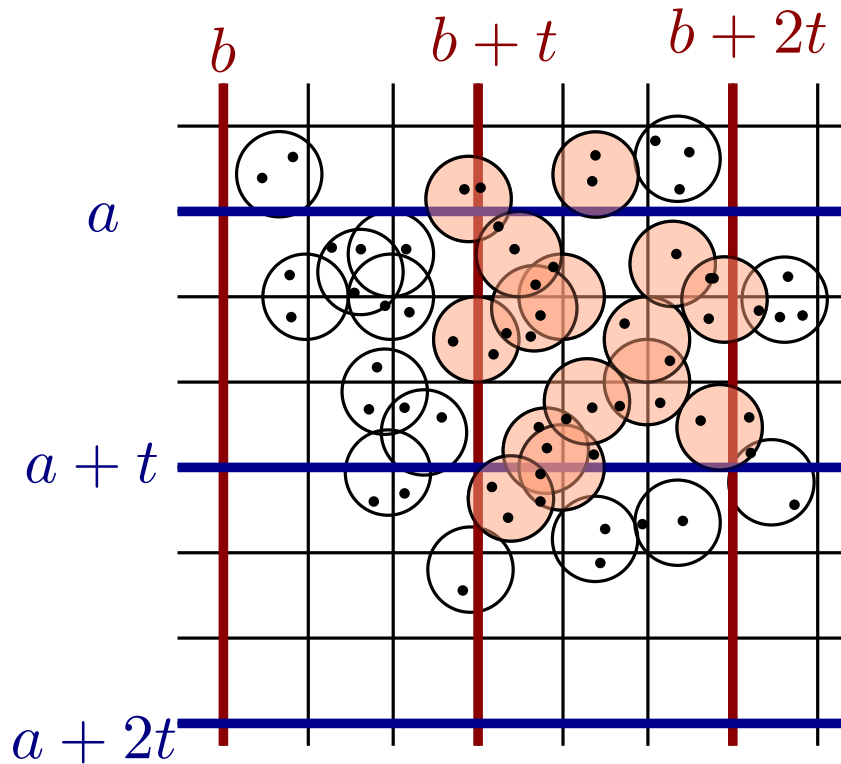
# Shifting for set cover with unit disks



Grid of side length 2, set  $t = \lceil 6/\epsilon \rceil$

Cell disks: canonical disks inside  
and those intersecting the boundary

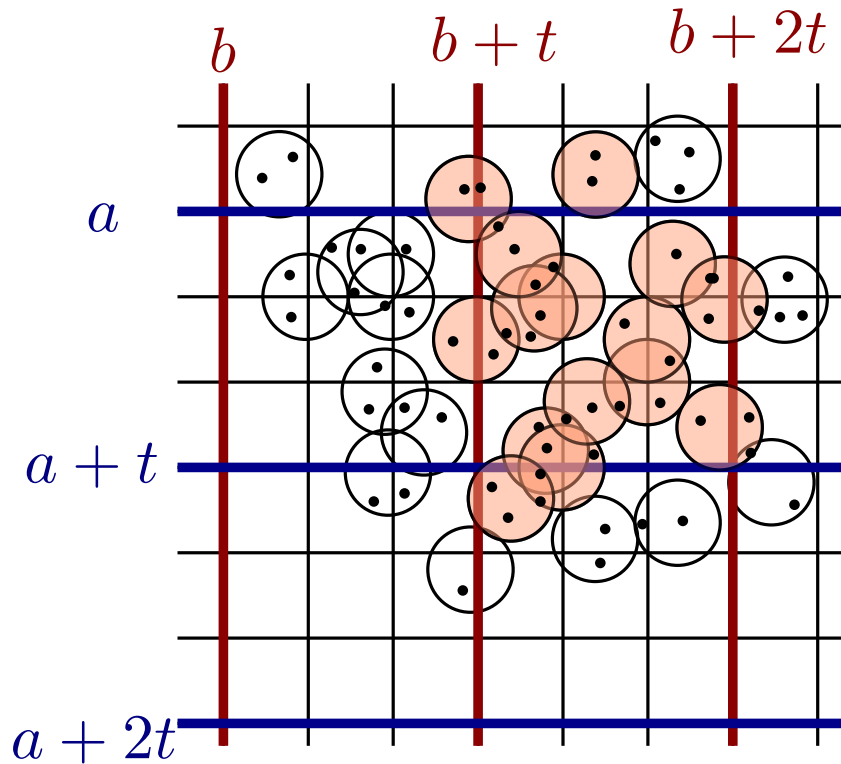
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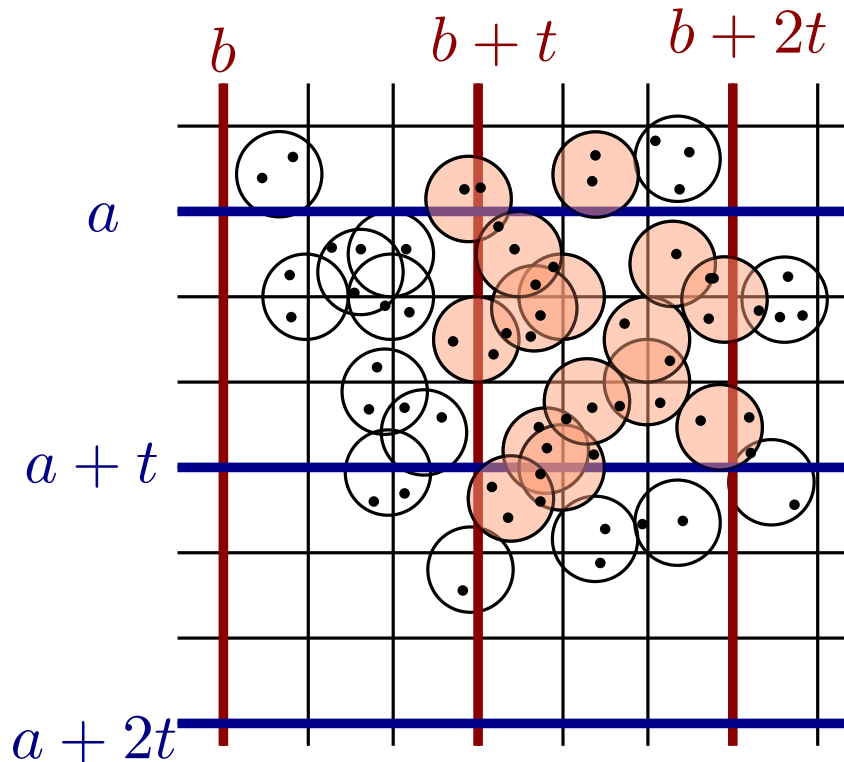
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Whole cell can be covered by  
 $O(1/\varepsilon^2)$  (non-canonical) disks.

$\Rightarrow$  Min cover in a cell solved in  
 $(n^2)^{O(\sqrt{1/\varepsilon^2})} = n^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$

In  $\mathcal{C}$ , solution  $|S(C)| \leq |OPT(C)|$ . Return  $U := \bigcup_C S(C)$

# Shifting for set cover with unit disks



Grid of side length 2, set  $t = \lceil 6/\varepsilon \rceil$

Cell disks: canonical disks inside  
and those intersecting the boundary

Whole cell can be covered by  
 $O(1/\varepsilon^2)$  (non-canonical) disks.

$\Rightarrow$  Min cover in a cell solved in  
 $(n^2)^{O(\sqrt{1/\varepsilon^2})} = n^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$

In  $\mathcal{C}$ , solution  $|S(C)| \leq |OPT(C)|$ . Return  $U := \bigcup_C S(C)$

For some shift  $a$  blue intersects  $\leq |OPT|/t$  disks.

$\Rightarrow \exists(a, b)$  intersecting  $2|OPT|/t \leq \varepsilon|OPT|/3$  disks.

Each disk of  $OPT$  counted in  $\leq 4$  cells.

$$|U| \leq \sum_C |OPT(C)| \leq |OPT| + 3\varepsilon|OPT|/3 = (1 + \varepsilon)|OPT|$$

