

# Triangulating a polygon

## Computational Geometry

### Lecture 4: Triangulating a polygon

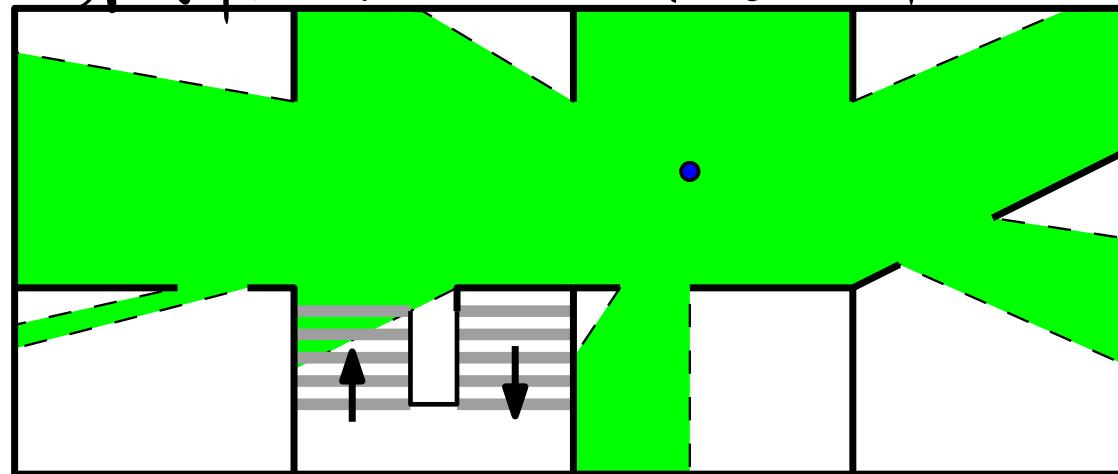
对多边形进行三角剖分

# Polygons and visibility

one of motivation

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

如果简单多边形的两点连线在多边形中



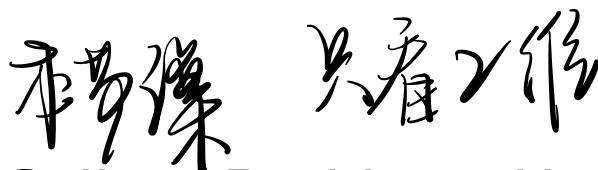
即能看到彼此。

Art gallery

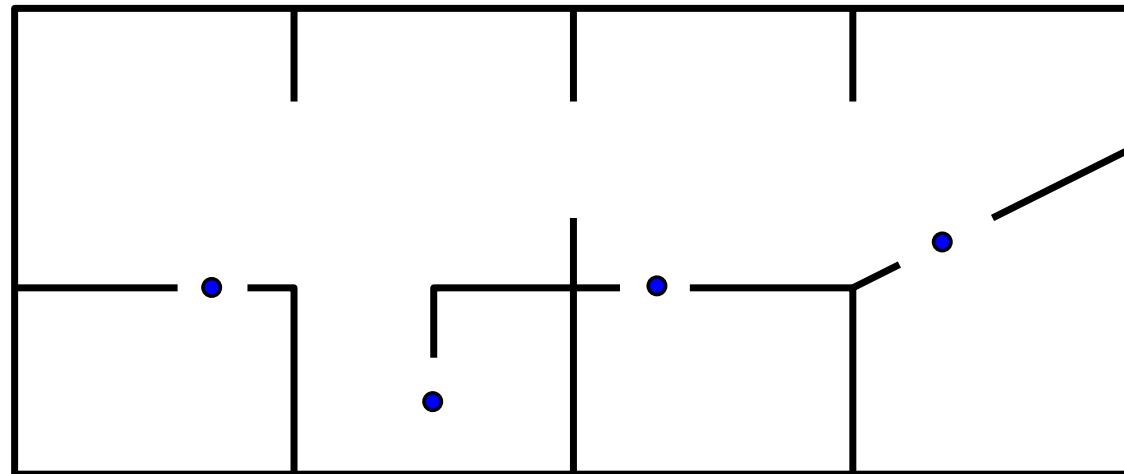
放一些摄像头  
能保护文物  
不被偷

博物馆里放飞无人机， $\rightarrow$  find a way to place a camera so that everything is protected.

# Art gallery problem



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



# Art gallery problem

We don't want the line of visibility to be blocked by a wall.  $\rightarrow$  ~~find~~  
minimize.  $\rightarrow$  NP-hard.

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

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

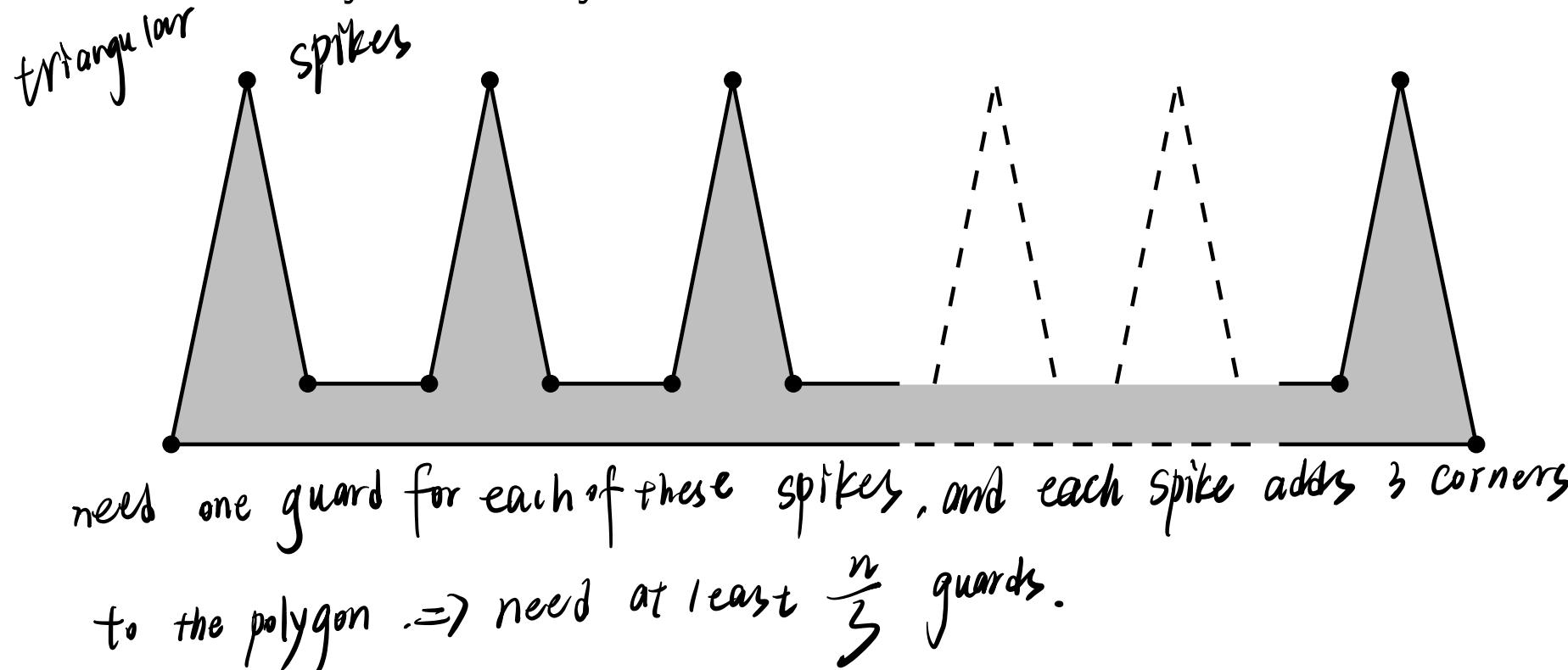
The optimization problem is computationally difficult



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

# Art gallery problem

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



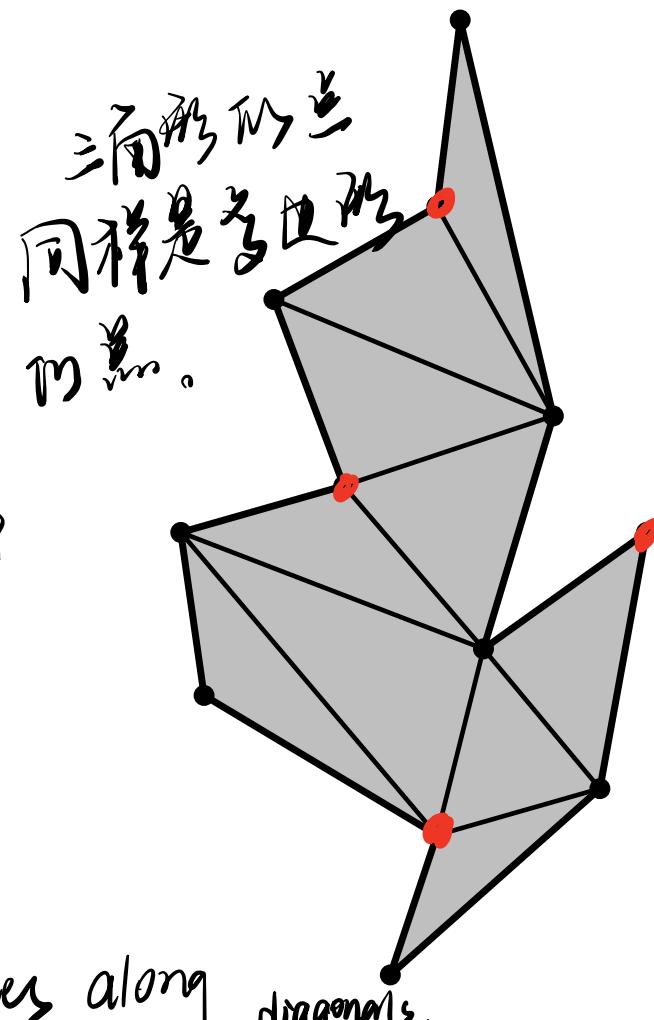
# Triangulation, diagonal

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

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

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

We have cut the polygon in pieces along diagonals.



# A triangulation always exists

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

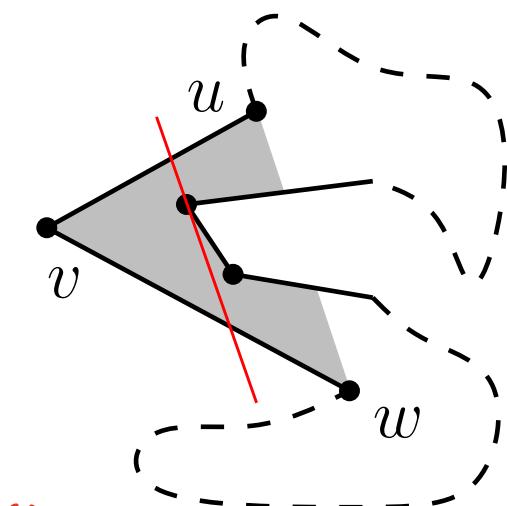
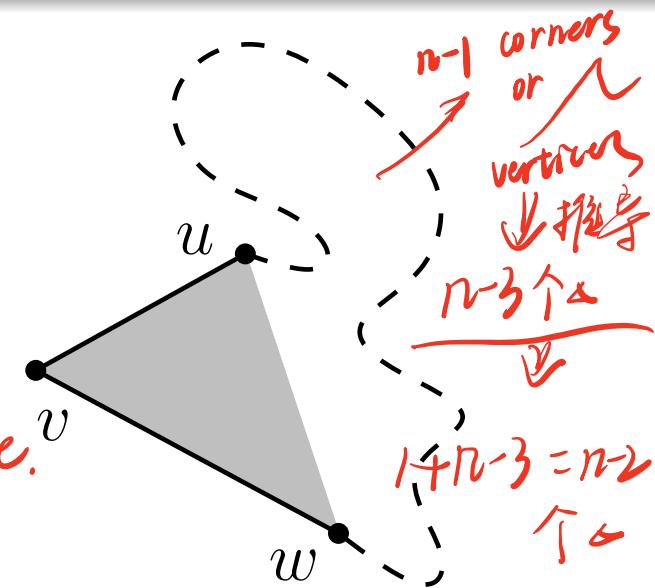
**Proof:** Induction on  $n$ . If  $n = 3$ , it is trivial  $\rightarrow$  Already triangulated,  $n-2=1 \uparrow$  triangle.

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

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

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

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



# A triangulation always exists

因为  $w$  不能在上部分, 而  $u$  也不能在下部分(即), 所以



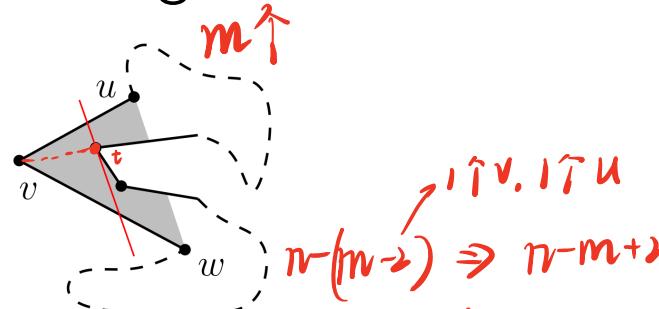
它们中的每一个都有少于  $n$  个 vertices ?  
至少两个

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

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

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

□

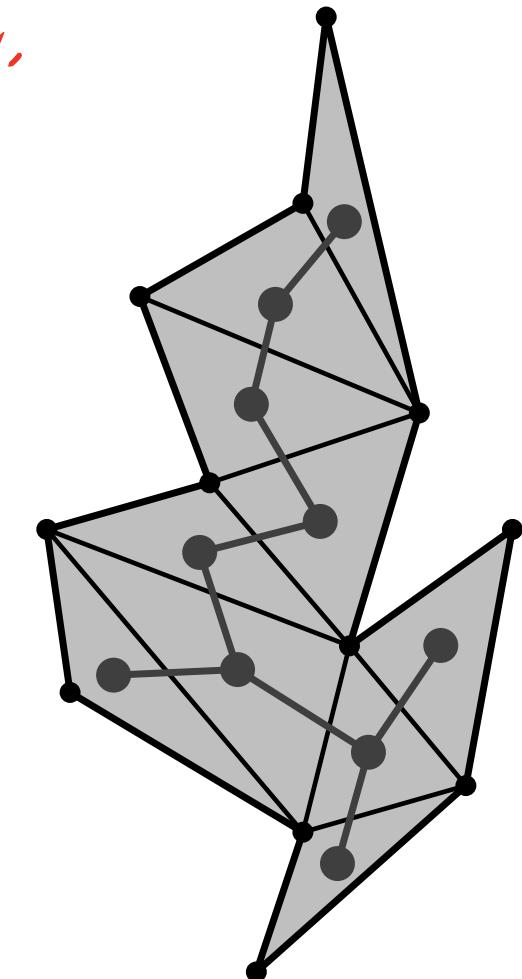


# A 3-coloring always exists

We can always triangulate a polygon.  
 ↗ 如果你在一个房间里，你总能去一些角落并且从那个角落，  
 你只能看见另一个角落。

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

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

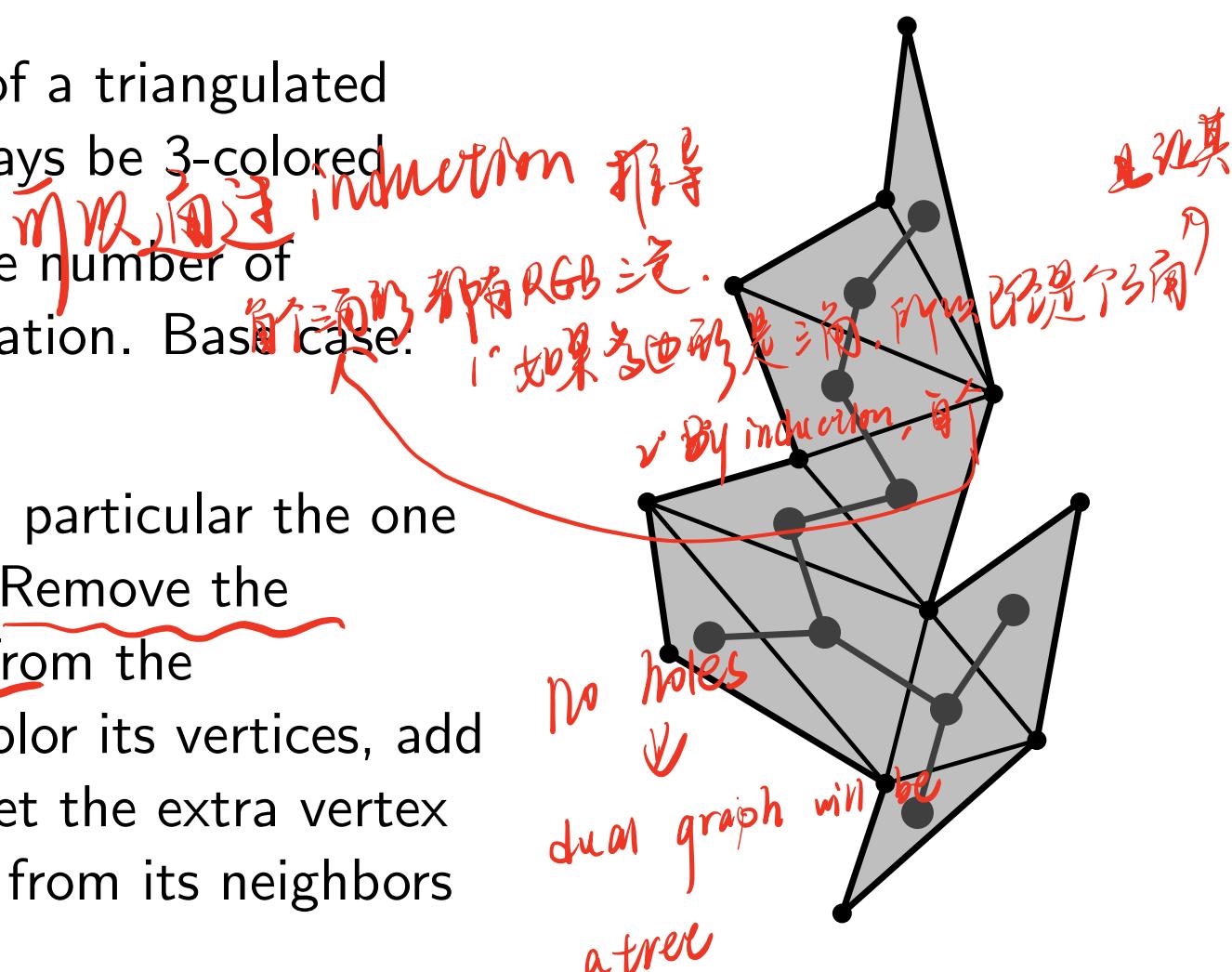


# A 3-coloring always exists

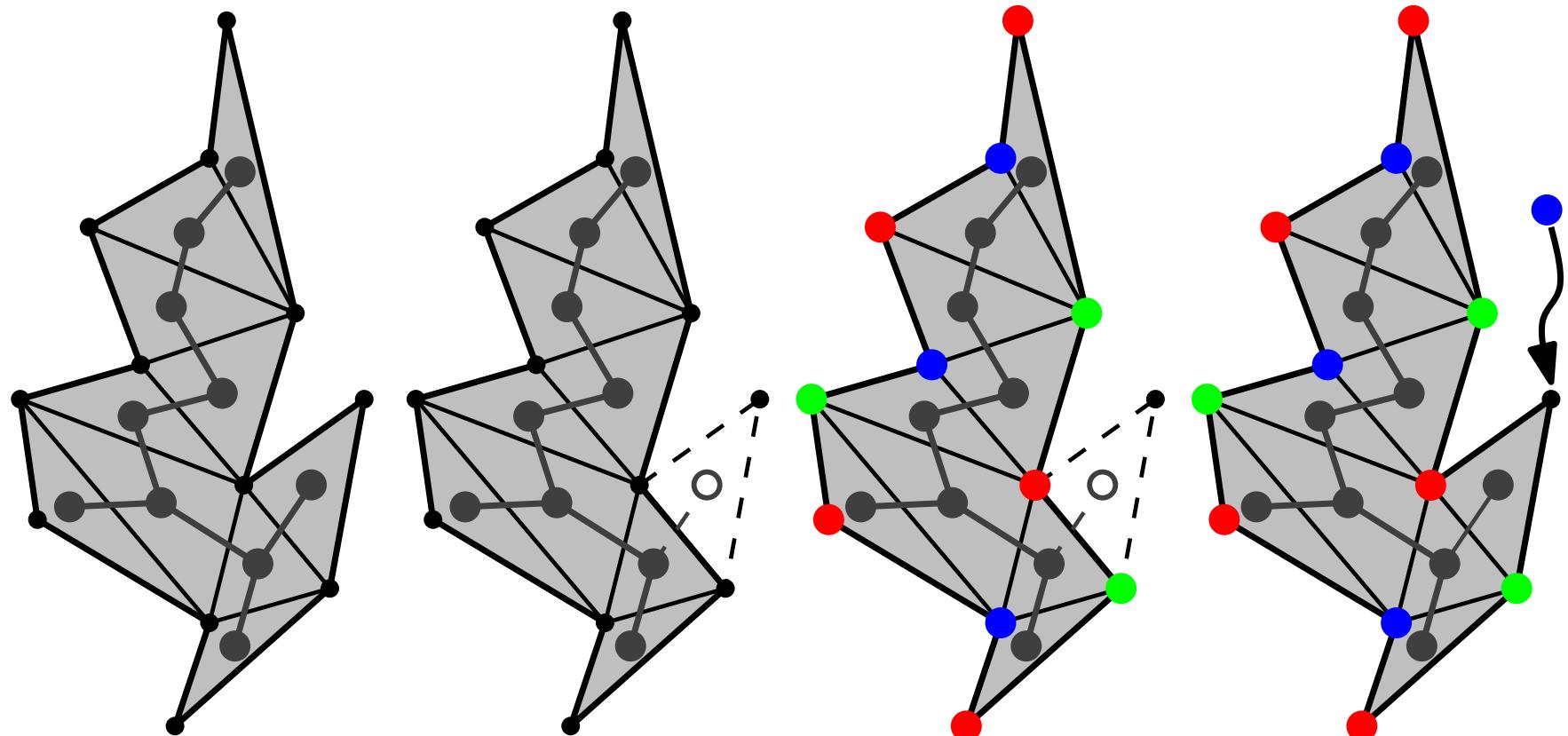
**Lemma:** The vertices of a triangulated simple polygon can always be 3-colored

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

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



# A 3-coloring always exists



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

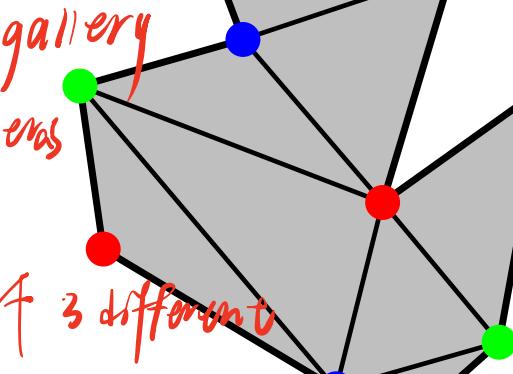
For a 3-colored, triangulated simple polygon, one of the color classes is used by at most  $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$  colors. Place the cameras at these vertices  *We can regard the*

This argument is called  
the pigeon-hole principle

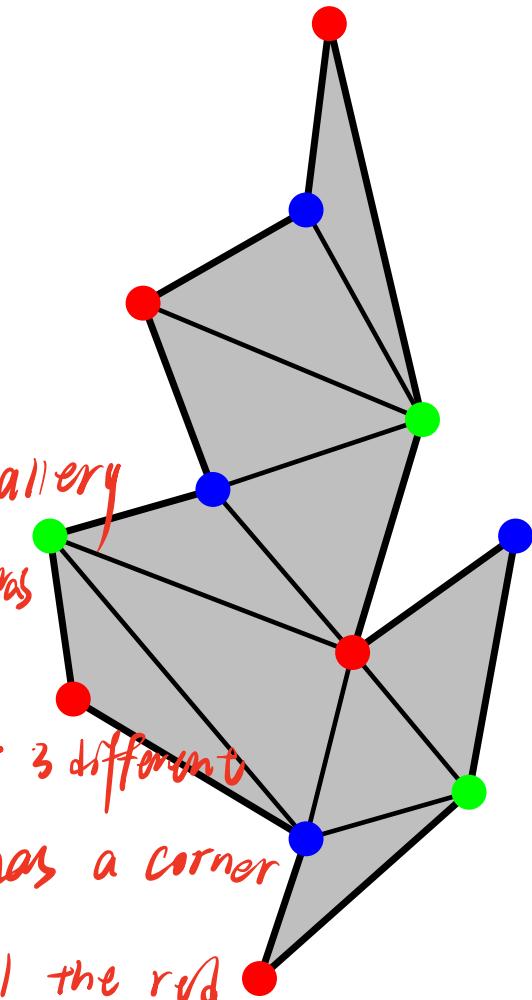
{ [R] , [G] , [B] }

A hand-drawn red circle containing the word "integers". The circle is roughly circular with some irregularities. The word "integers" is written in red cursive within the circle. There are several red arrows pointing towards the circle from the right side.

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



Because we have vertices of 3 different colours and then each triangle has a corner of each color  $\Rightarrow$  if we take all the red vertices, they will guard everything as each triangle will be guarded by some red point.



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

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

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

# Two-ears for triangulation

→ 两种识别 ↑ 的方法。

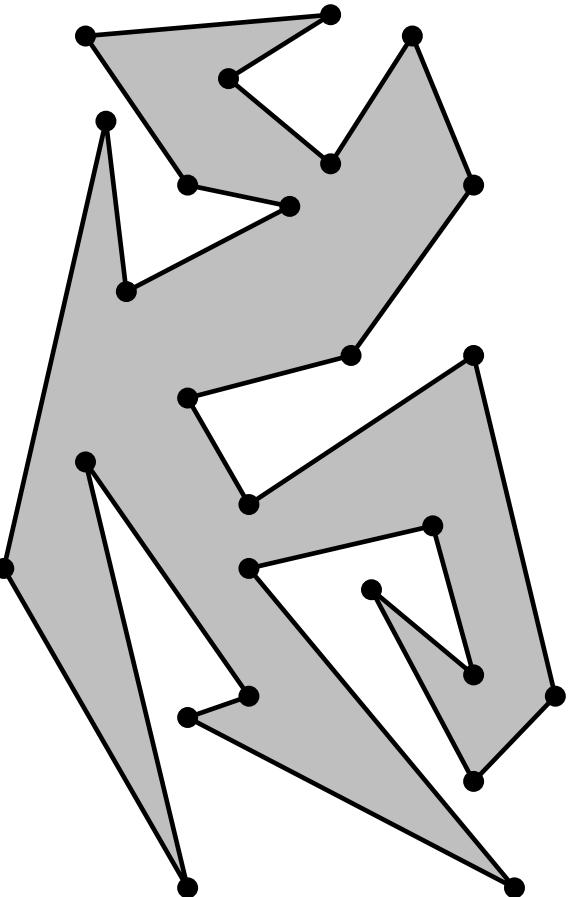
Using the **two-ears theorem**:

(an ear consists of three consecutive vertices  $u, v, w$  where  $\overline{uw}$  is a diagonal)

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

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

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

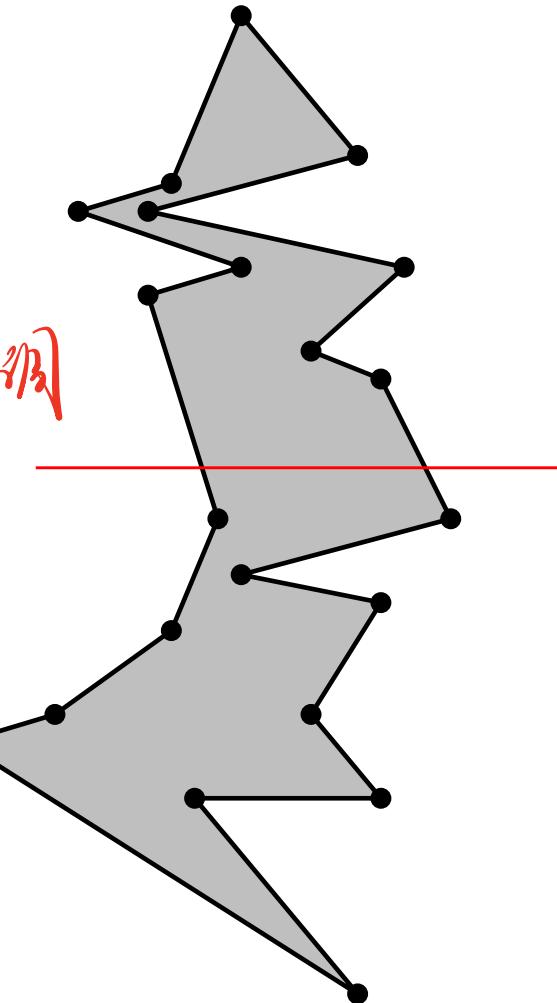


# Overview

A simple polygon is *y-monotone* iff any horizontal line intersects it in a connected set (or not at all)  $\Rightarrow$  *如果一条线相交于一个连通集则单调*

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

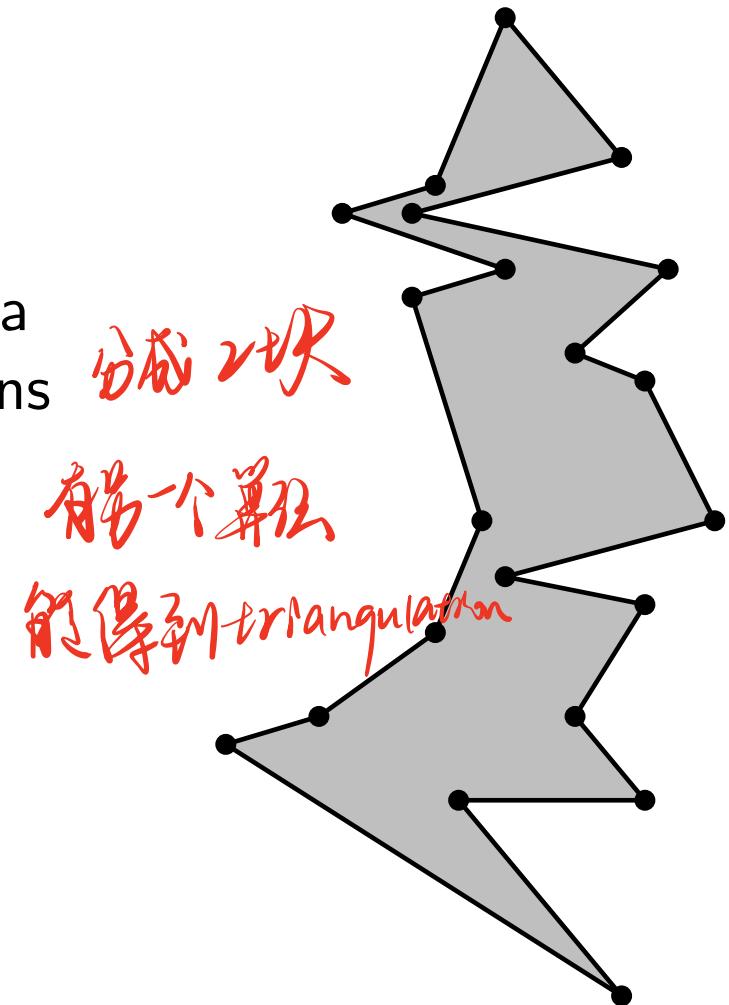
Then triangulate each *y-monotone* polygon



# Monotone polygons

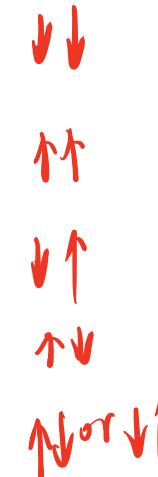
A  $y$ -monotone polygon has a top vertex, a bottom vertex, and two  $y$ -monotone chains between top and bottom as its boundary

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



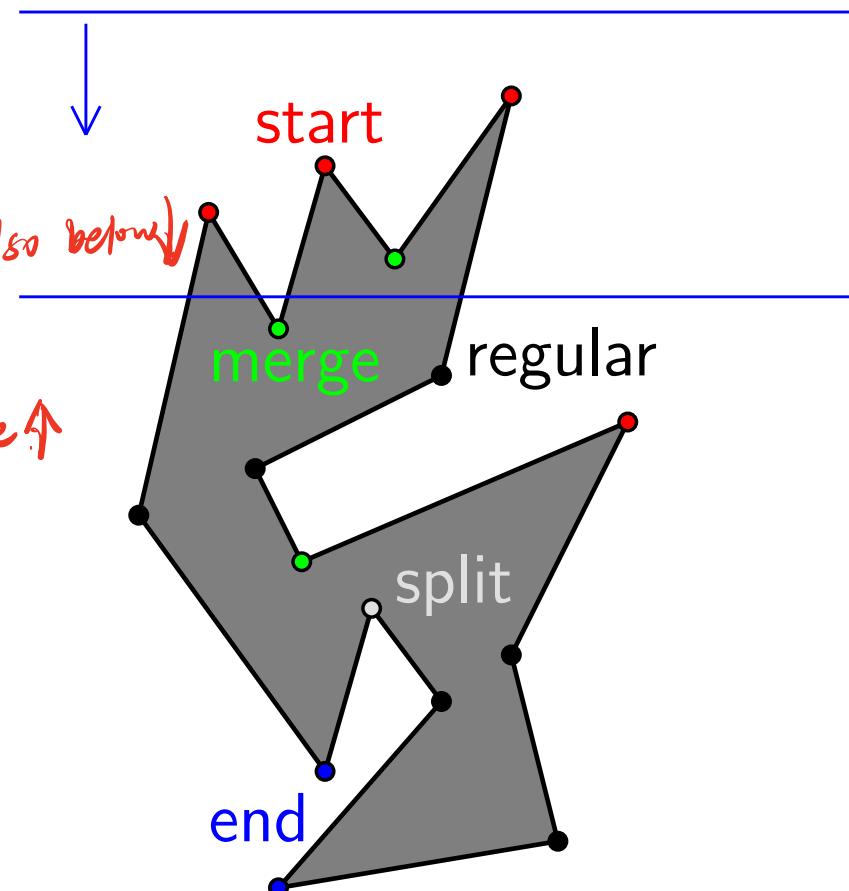
# Vertex types

What types of vertices does a simple polygon have?



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

... imagining a sweep line going top to bottom

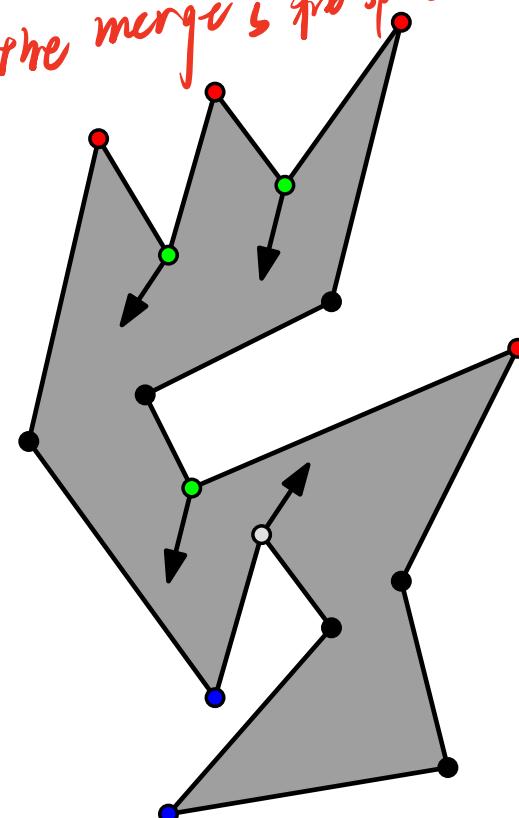


# Sweep ideas

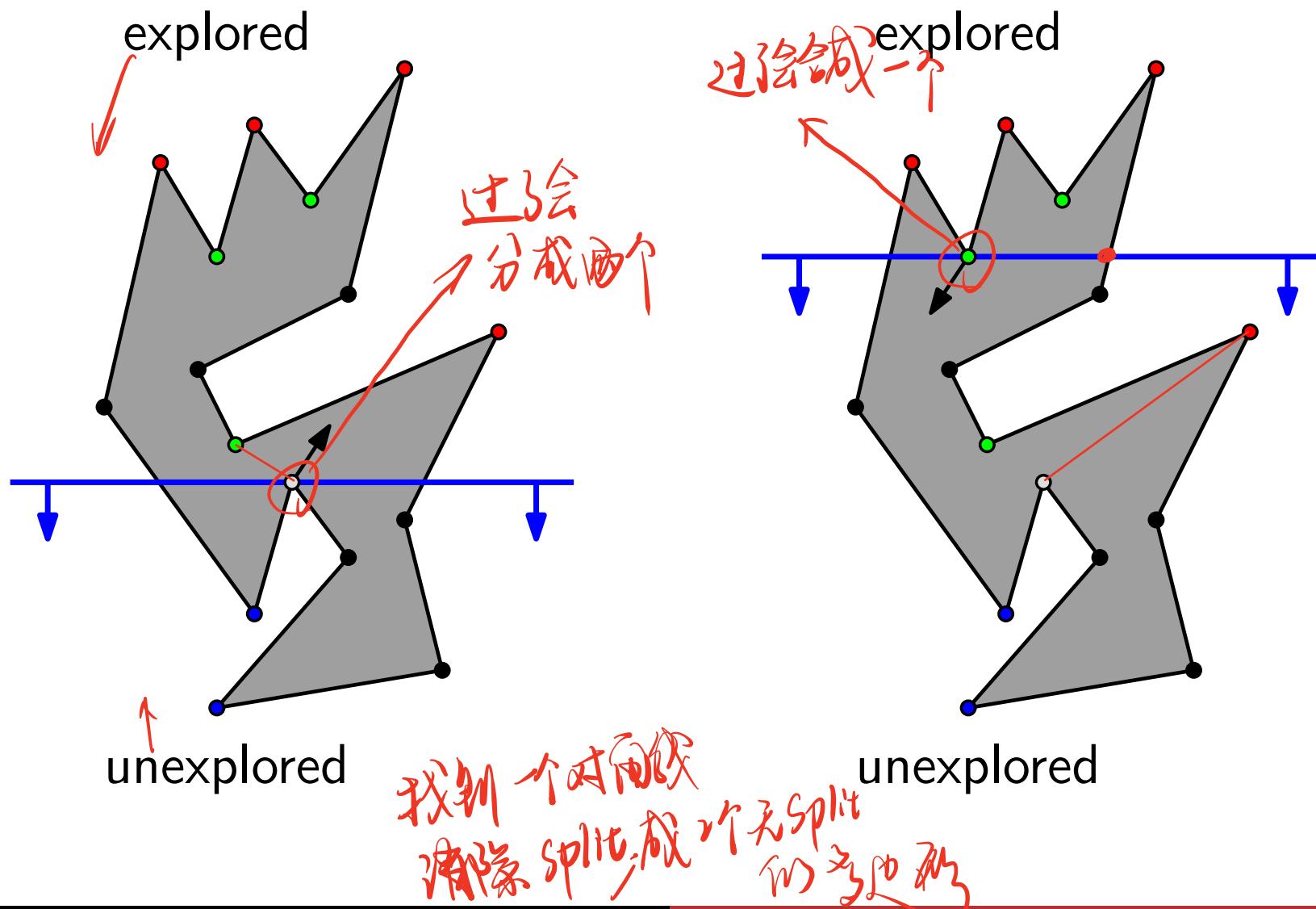
Find diagonals from each merge vertex down, and from each split vertex up

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

为了得到  $y$ -monotone pieces,  
我们得消除 all the merges & no split.



# Sweep ideas

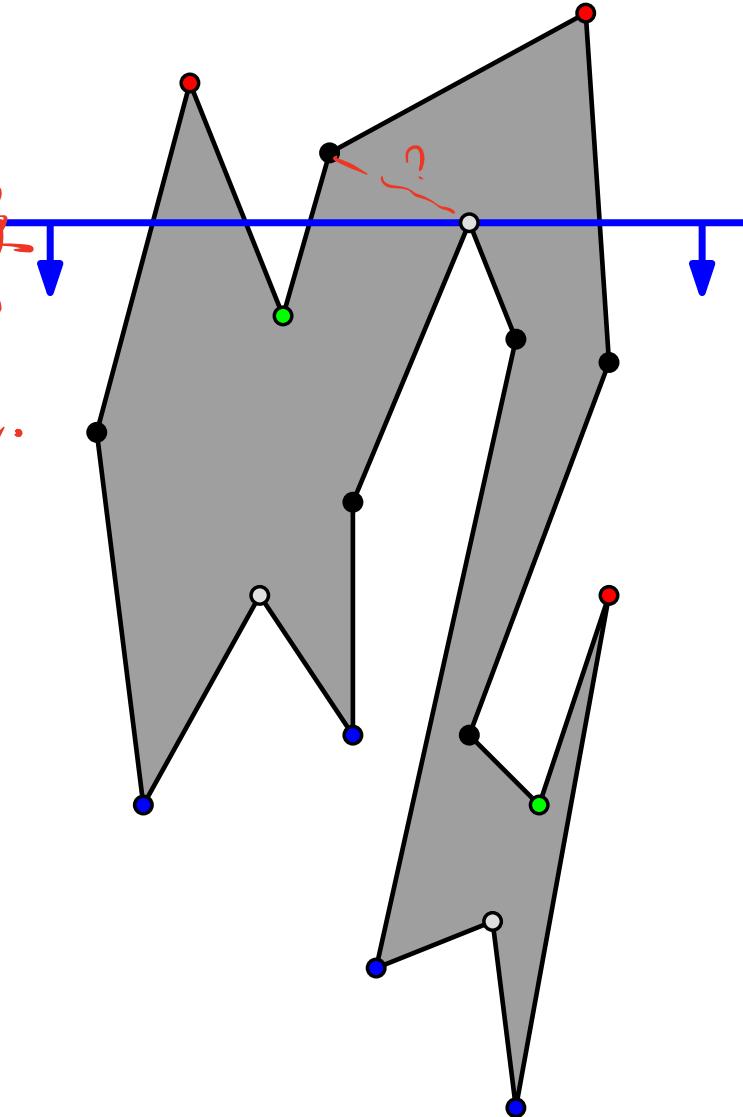


# Sweep ideas

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

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

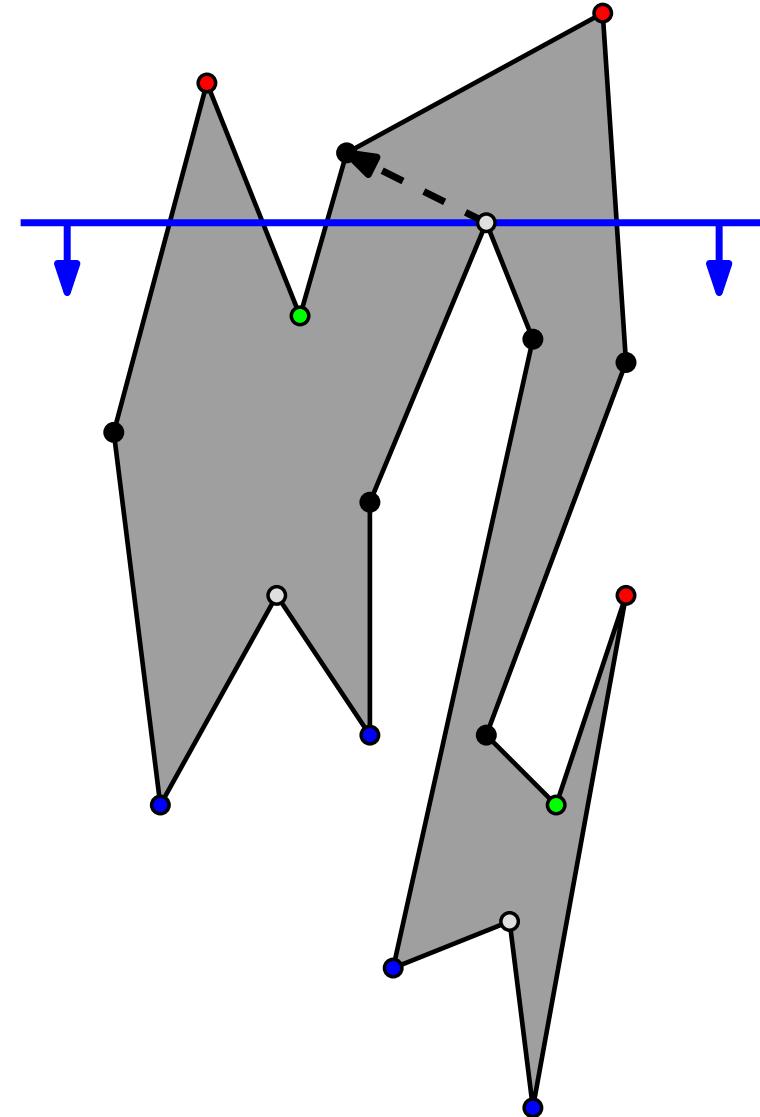
从上往下看 split  
从下往上看 merge  
因为反向共线  
是 split.



# Sweep ideas

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

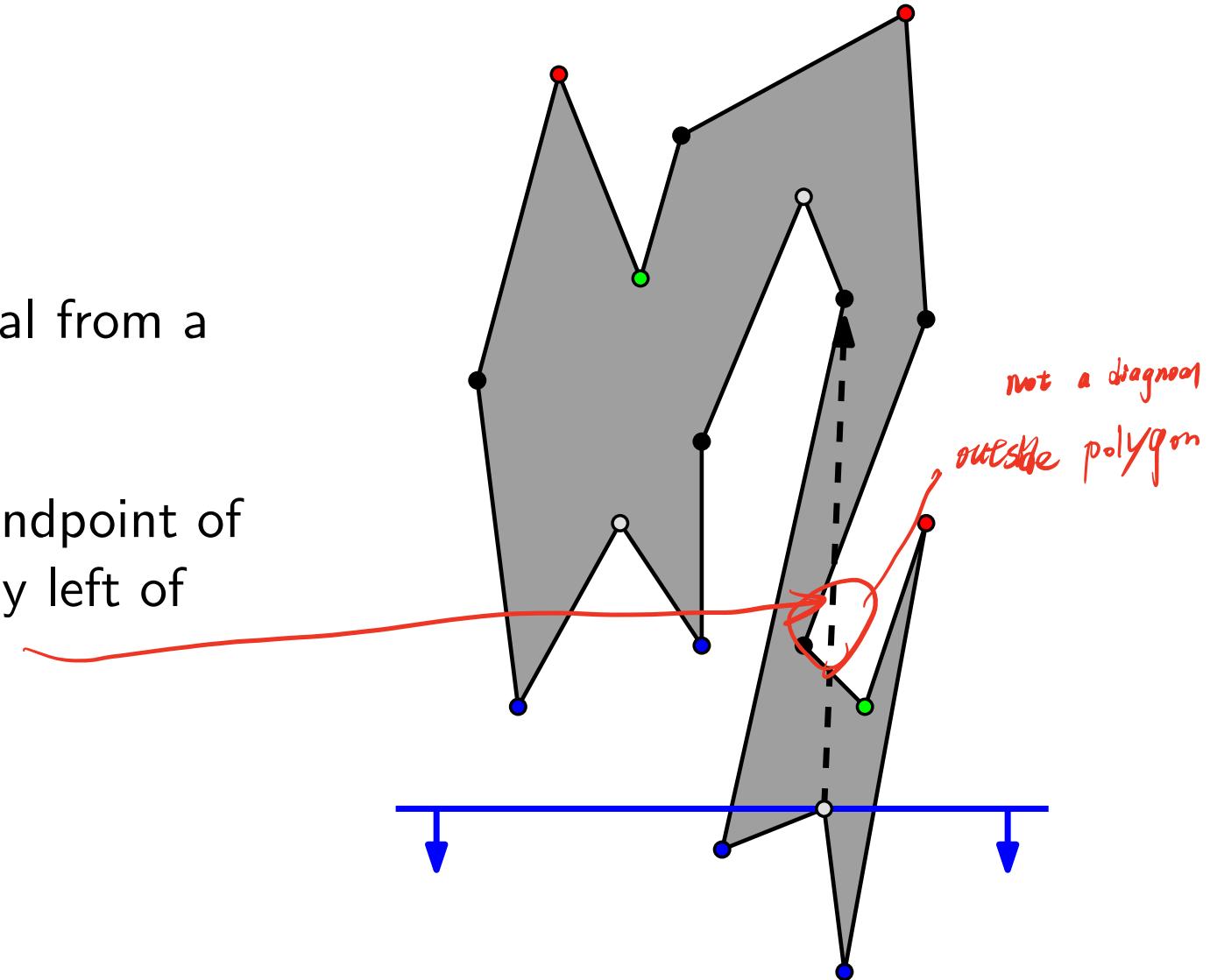
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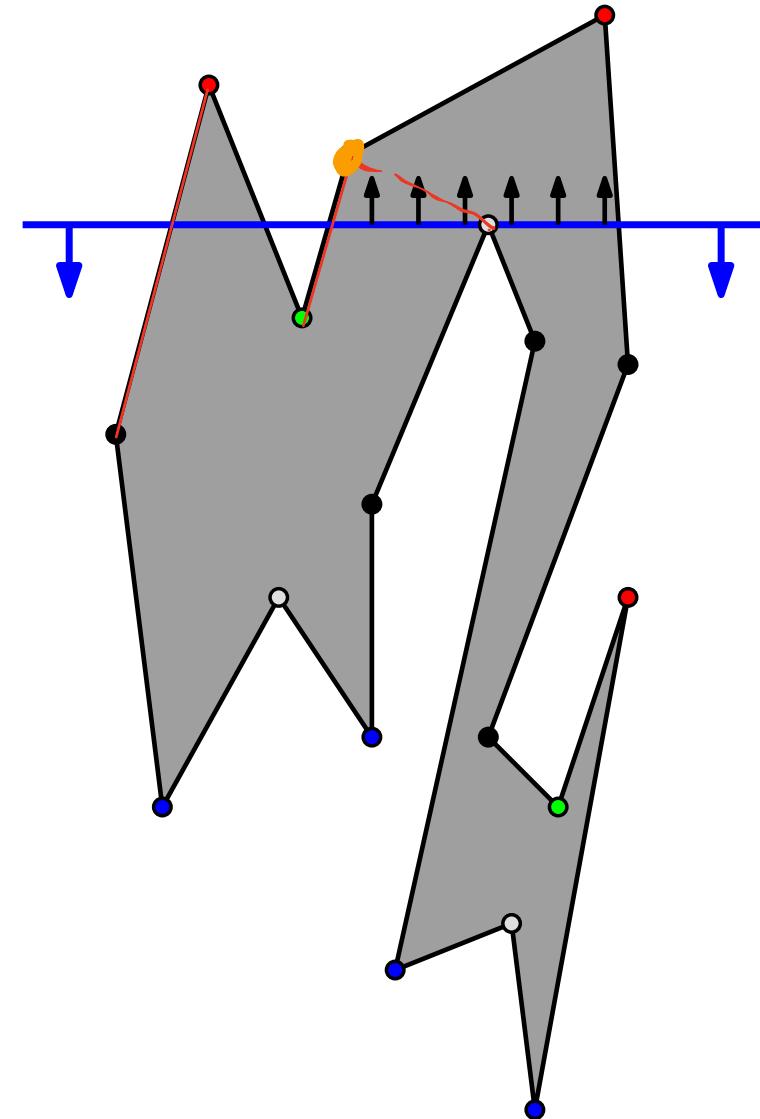
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# Sweep ideas

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

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

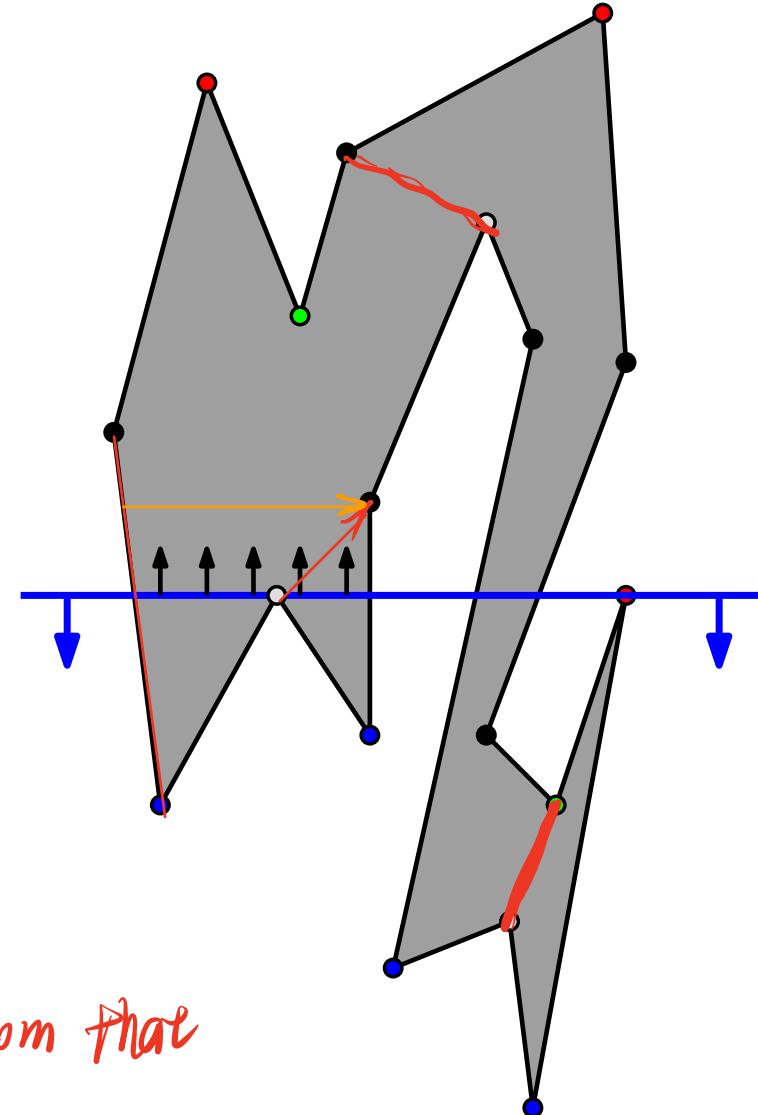


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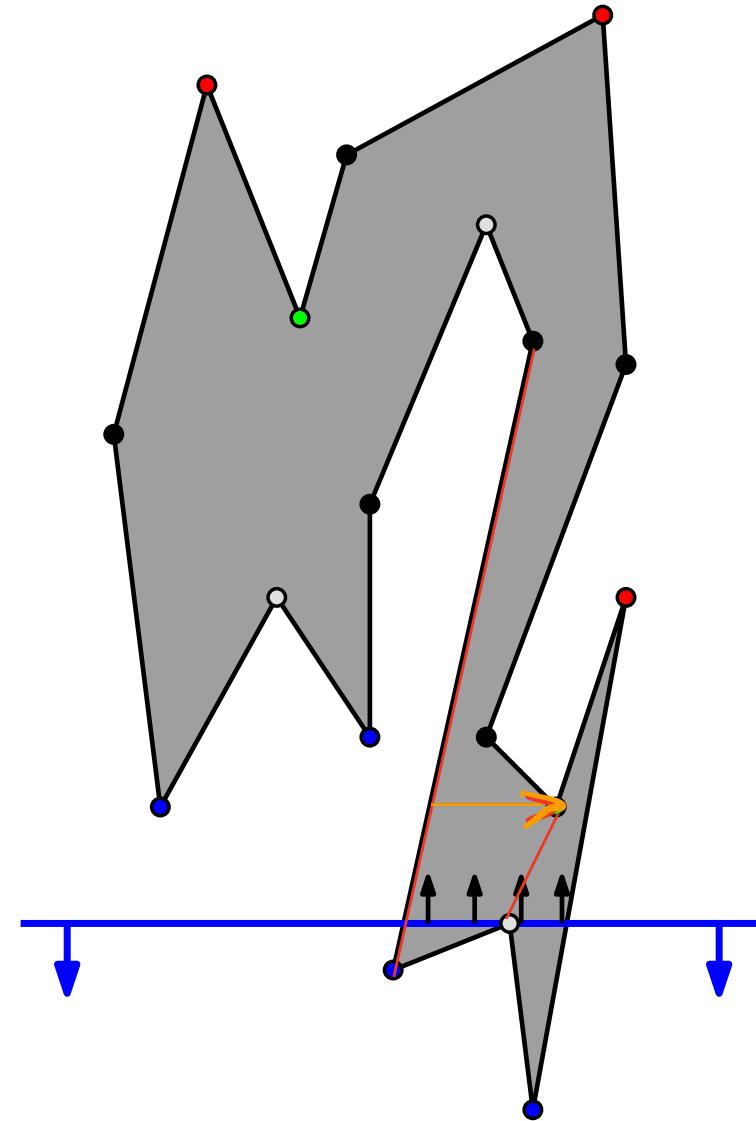
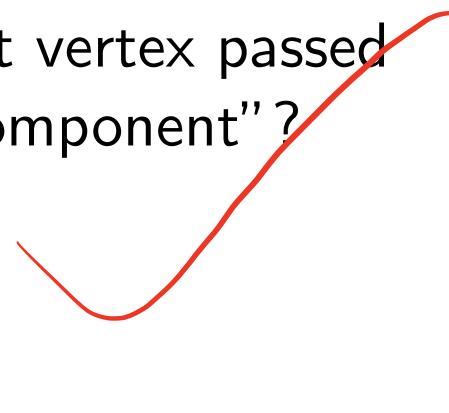
The first vertex we need  
when we look up from that



# Sweep ideas

Where can a diagonal from a split vertex go?

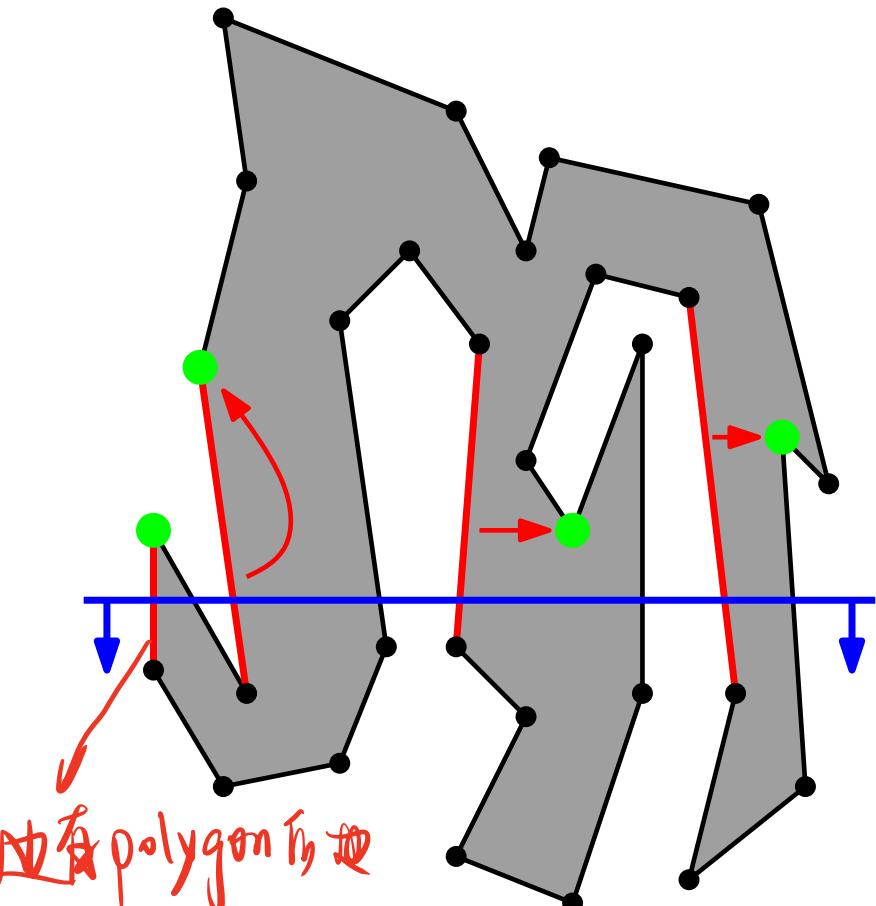
Perhaps the last vertex passed in the same “component”?



# Helpers of edges

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

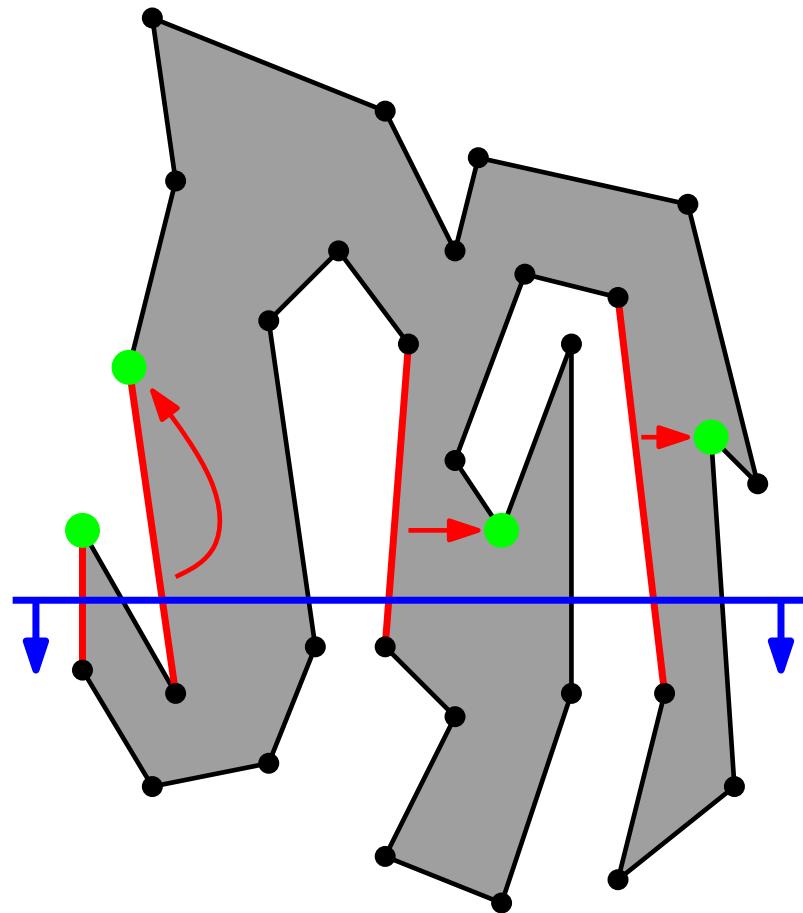
helper of this edge  
———  
这个是 这条边能看到的最低点



# Status of sweep

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

$n+g$   
edge+vertex



We need to update this structure as we go along,

# Status structure, event list

当我们遇到 split 时，连接 status 与那个 helper.

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

事件仅在顶点发生：按 y-坐标排序并放入列表

按逆时针顺序存储  
列表。

形成一个有序之叉树。  
一个根。

# Main algorithm

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

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

# Event handling

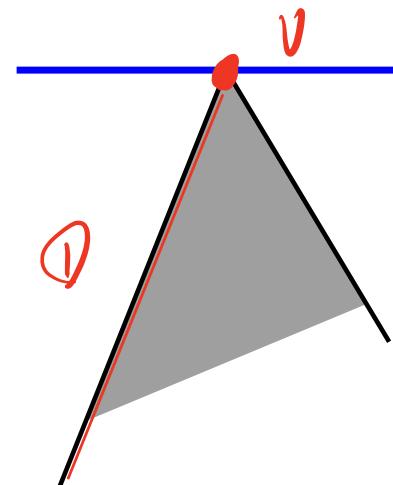
当过这个点，将这个边和立着的边

## Start vertex $v$ :

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

是因为这个点  
是最远的，顺着这个边

$\text{status} \rightarrow \{0, v\}$

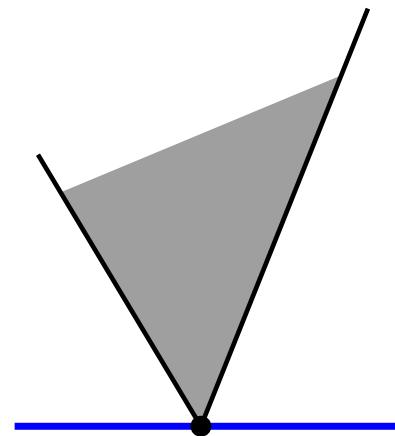


# Event handling

**End vertex  $v$ :**

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

这样就处理了  
删除这个边和它的helper.

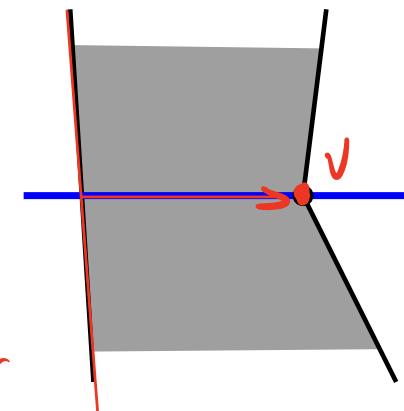
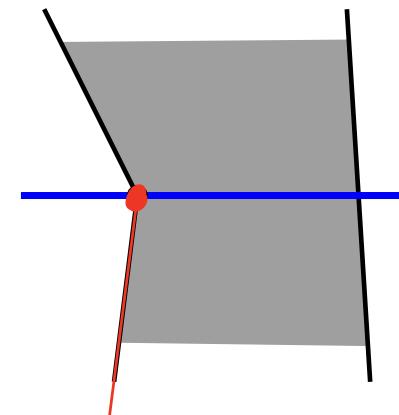


# Event handling

**Regular vertex  $v$ :**

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

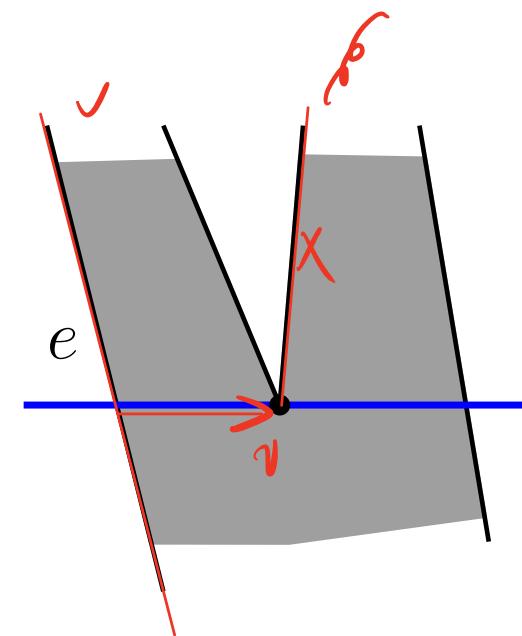
*helper*



# Event handling

## Merge vertex $v$ :

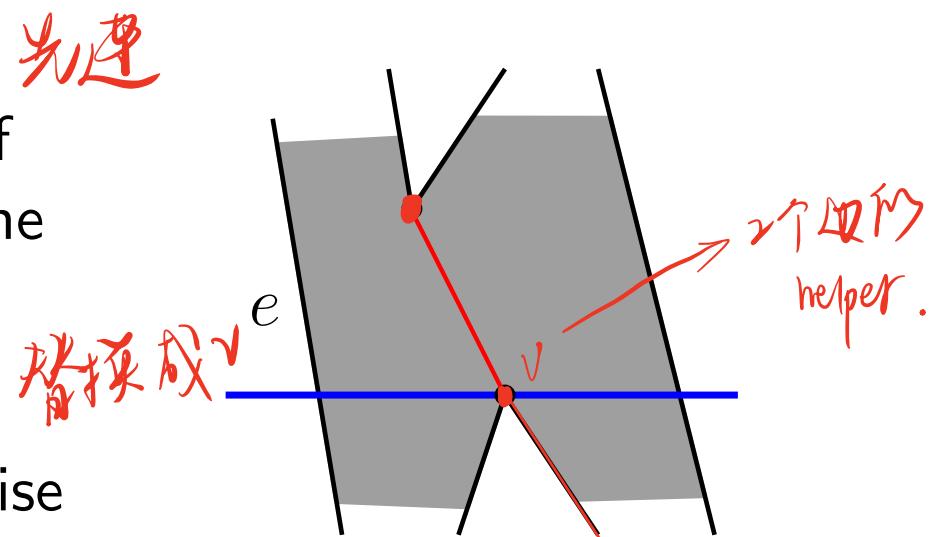
- Remove the edge clockwise from  $v$  from  $T$
- Find the edge  $e$  directly left of  $v$ , and replace its helper by  $v$



# Event handling

**Split vertex  $v$ :**

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



# Efficiency

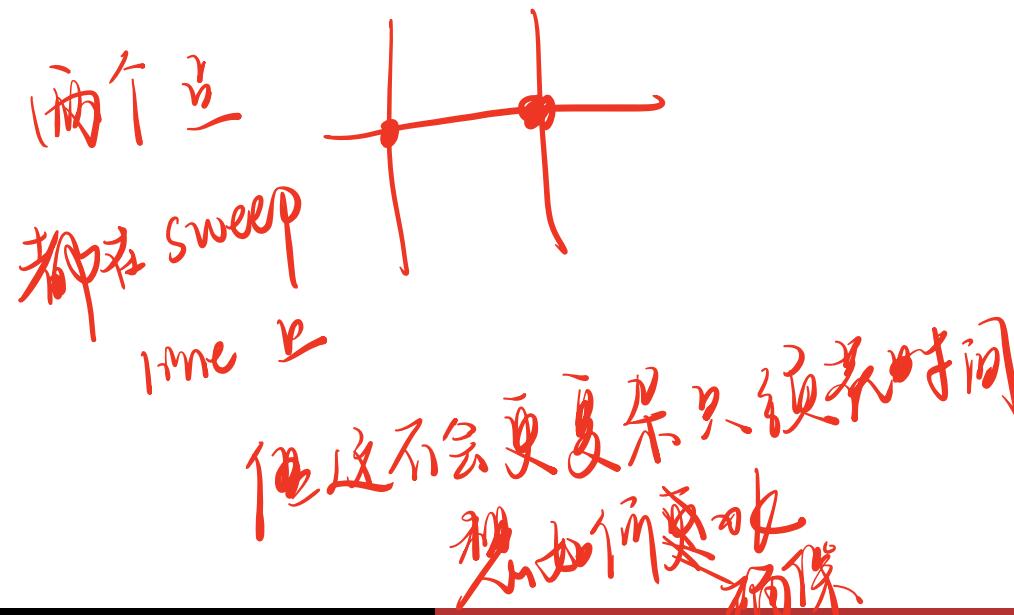
Sorting all events by  $y$ -coordinate takes  $O(n \log n)$  time

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

BST

# Degenerate cases

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



# Representation

代表性

A simple polygon with some diagonals is a subdivision  $\Rightarrow$   
use a DCEL

$\rightarrow$  Duplicated Connected

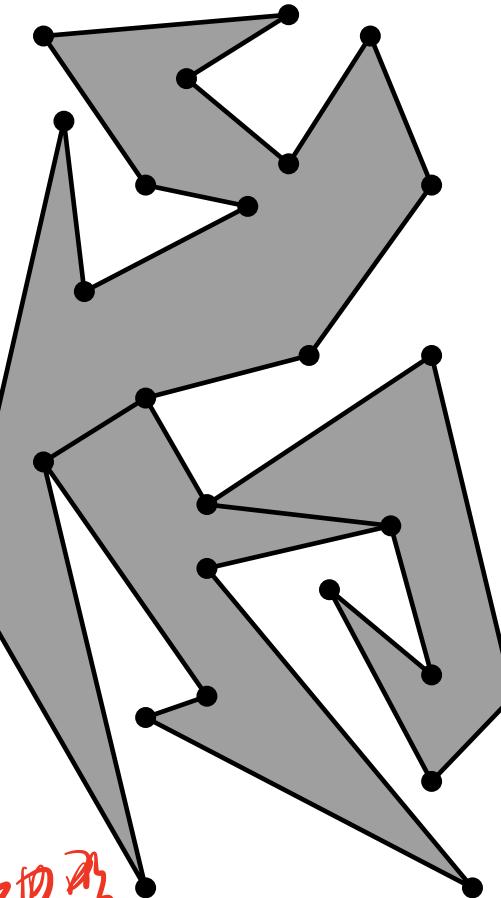
Edge list.

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

我们加这些对角线

然后会变成更多边形

然后之后对这些边形操作



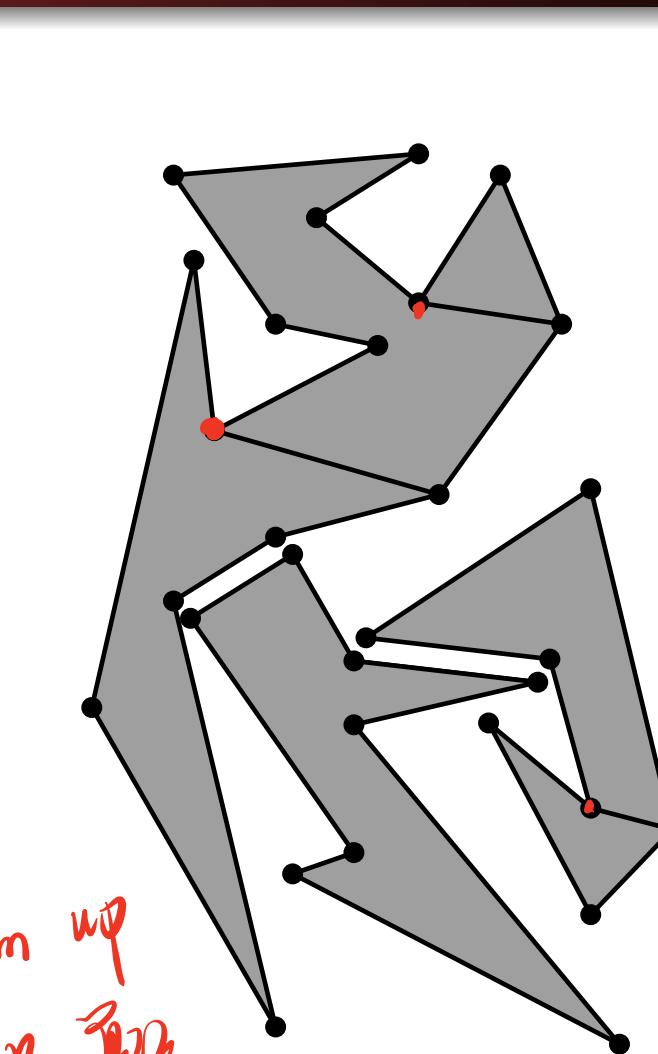
# More sweeping

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



This makes all subpolygons  
*y-monotone*

但凡有 merge  
就以爲是 bottom up  
和 info 開始



# Result

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

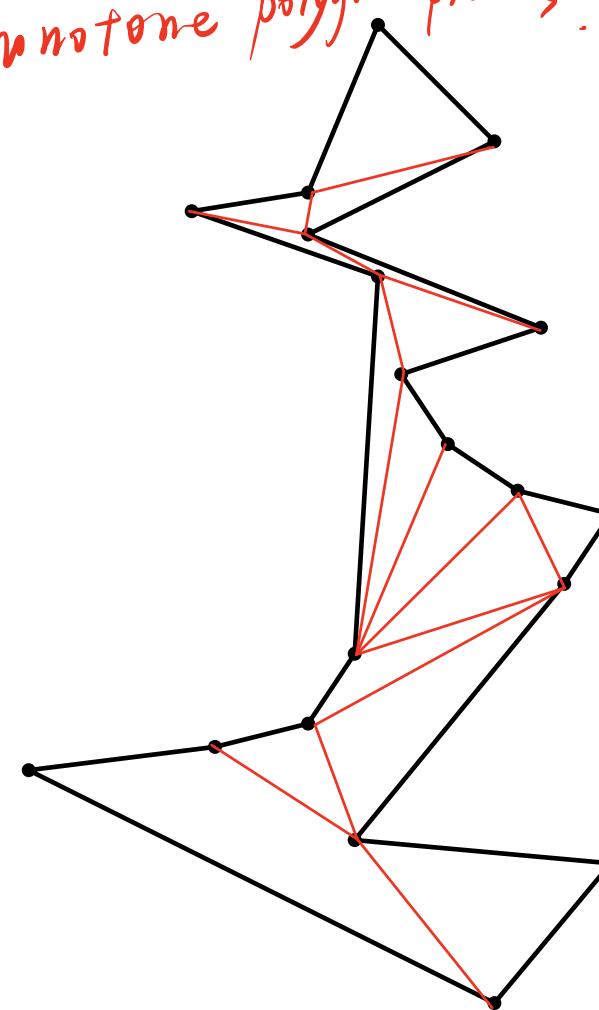
因为我们用  $n \log n$  时间来 sort 点 corners

同时也用  $\log n$  时间来更新数据结构(树形动态)

每次  $\log n$

# Triangulating a monotone polygon

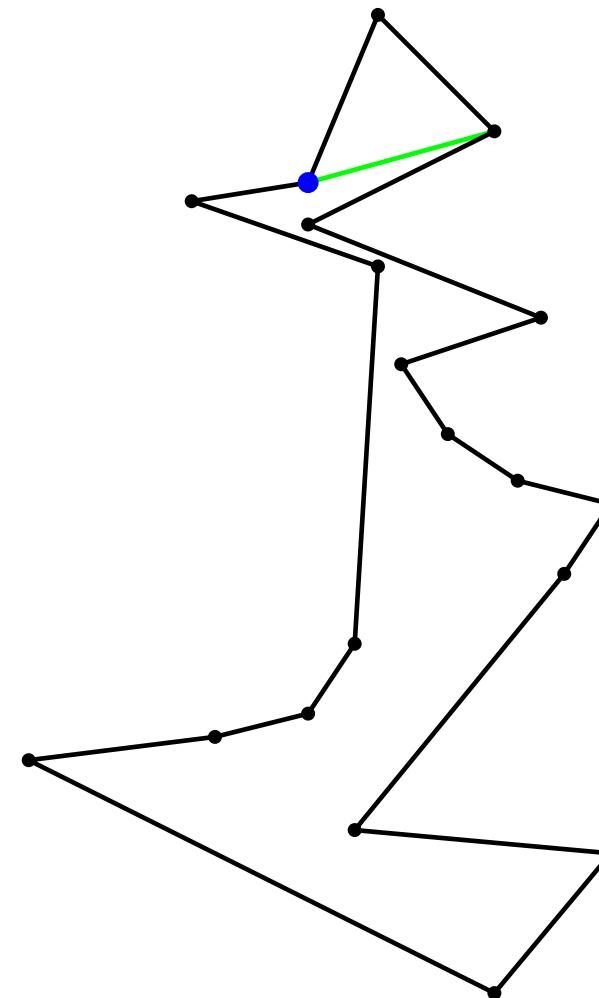
如何是如何  $y$ -monotone polygon pieces.



How to triangulate a  
 $y$ -monotone polygon?

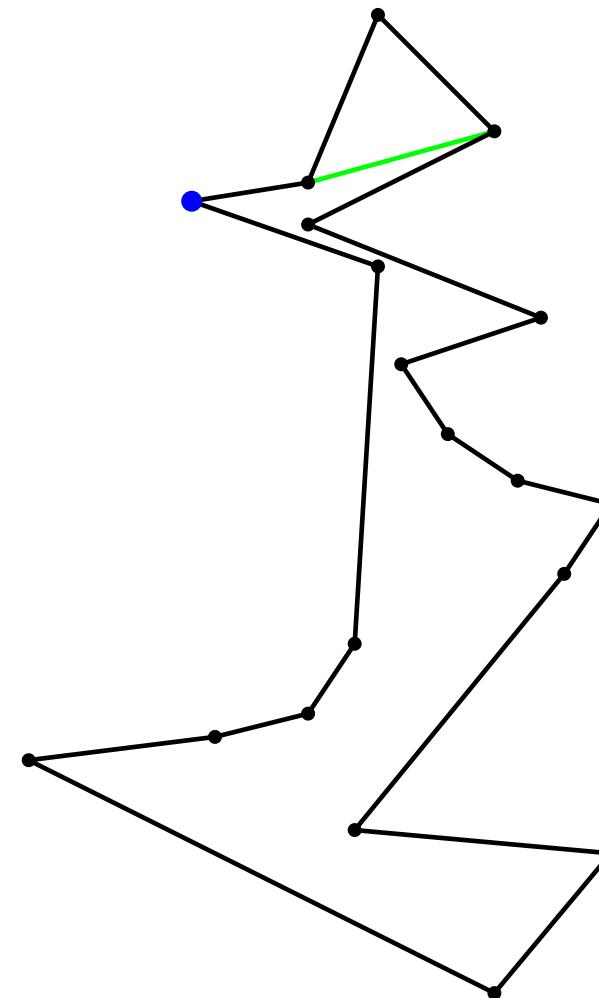
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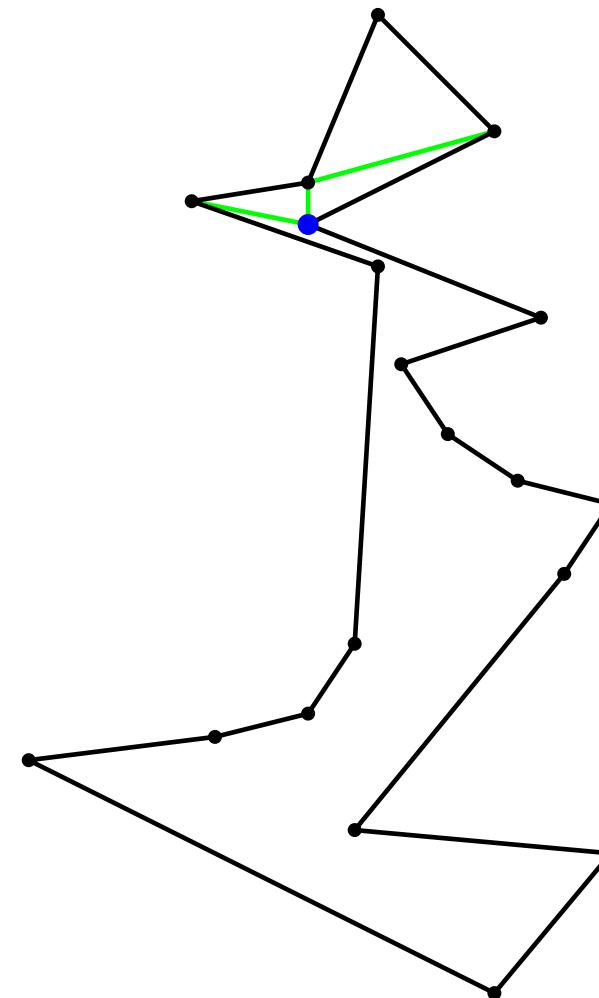
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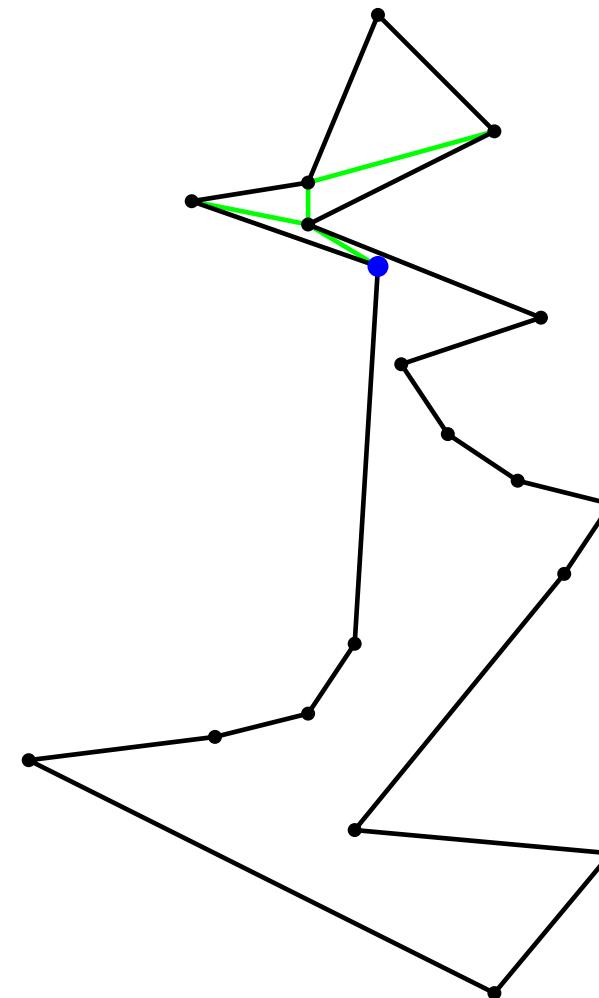
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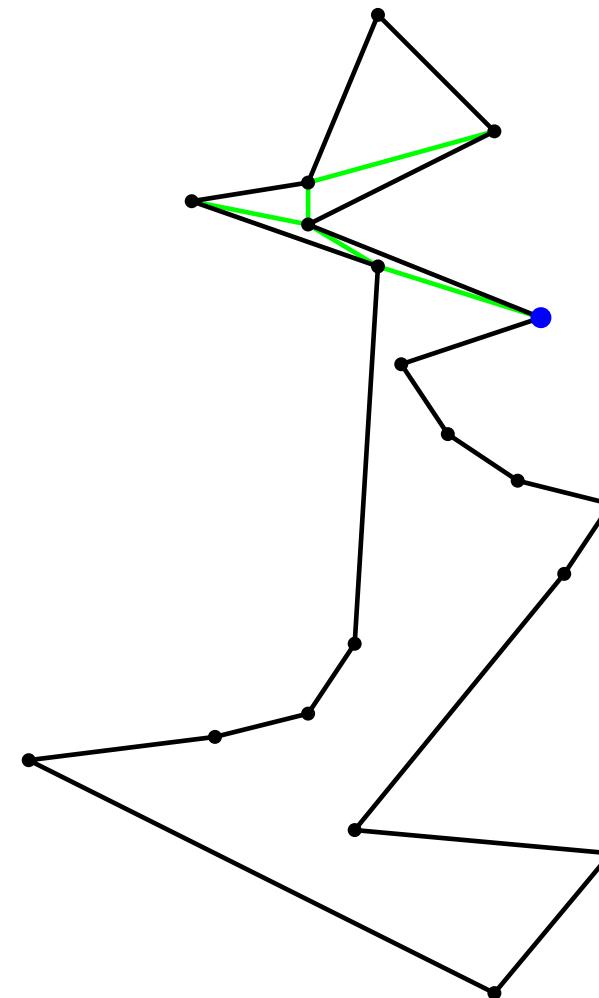
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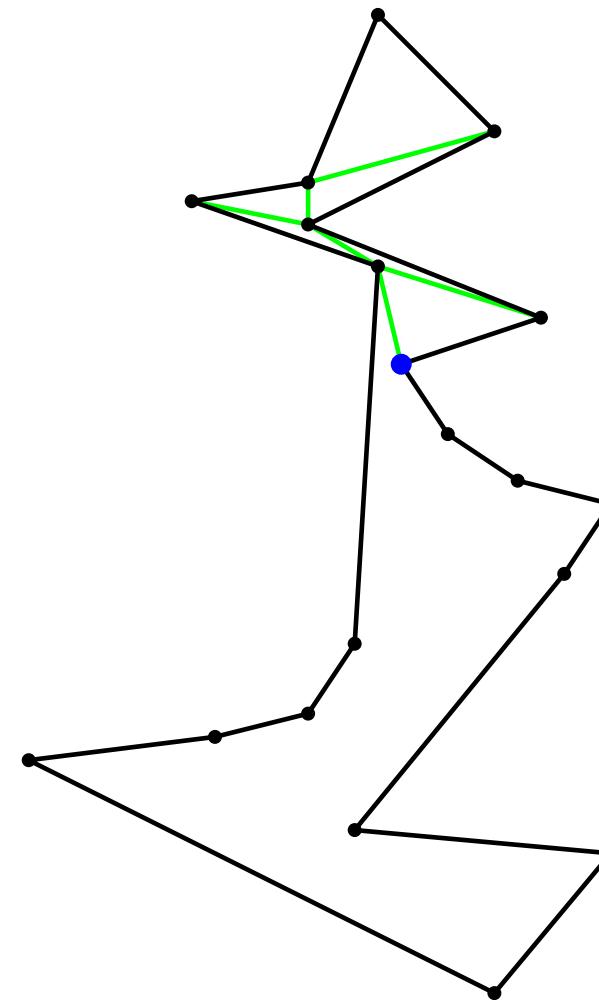
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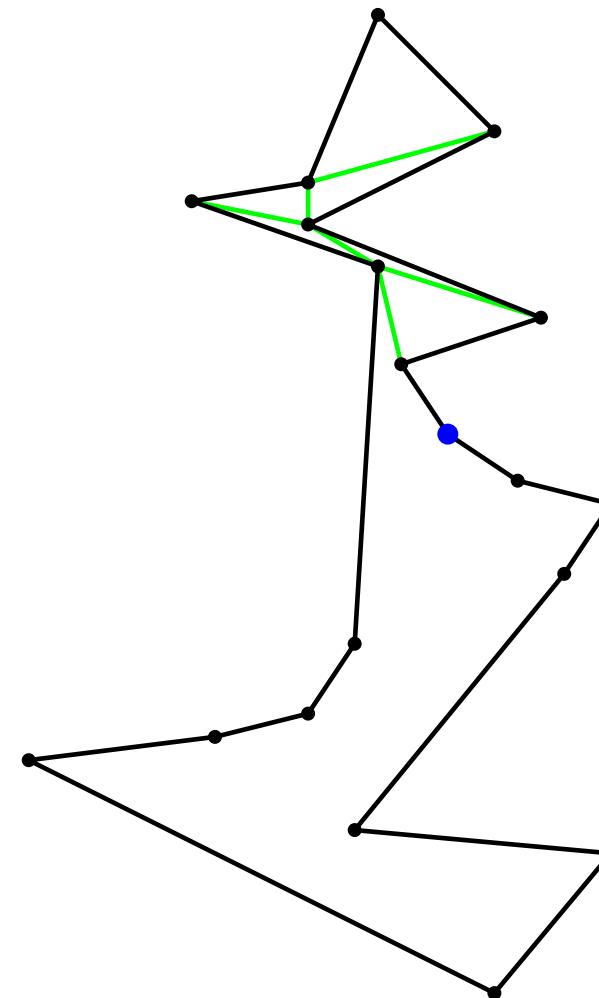
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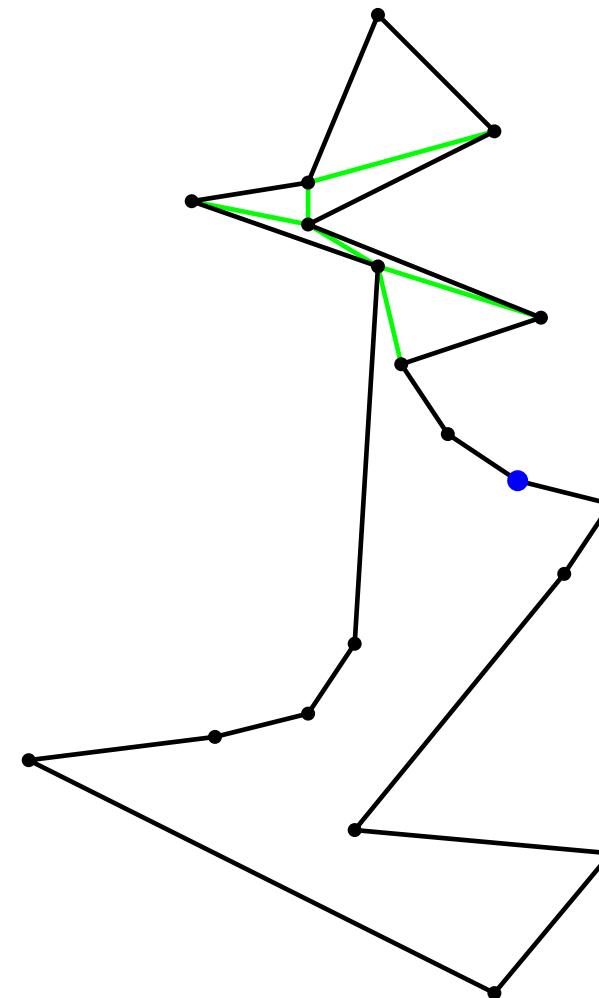
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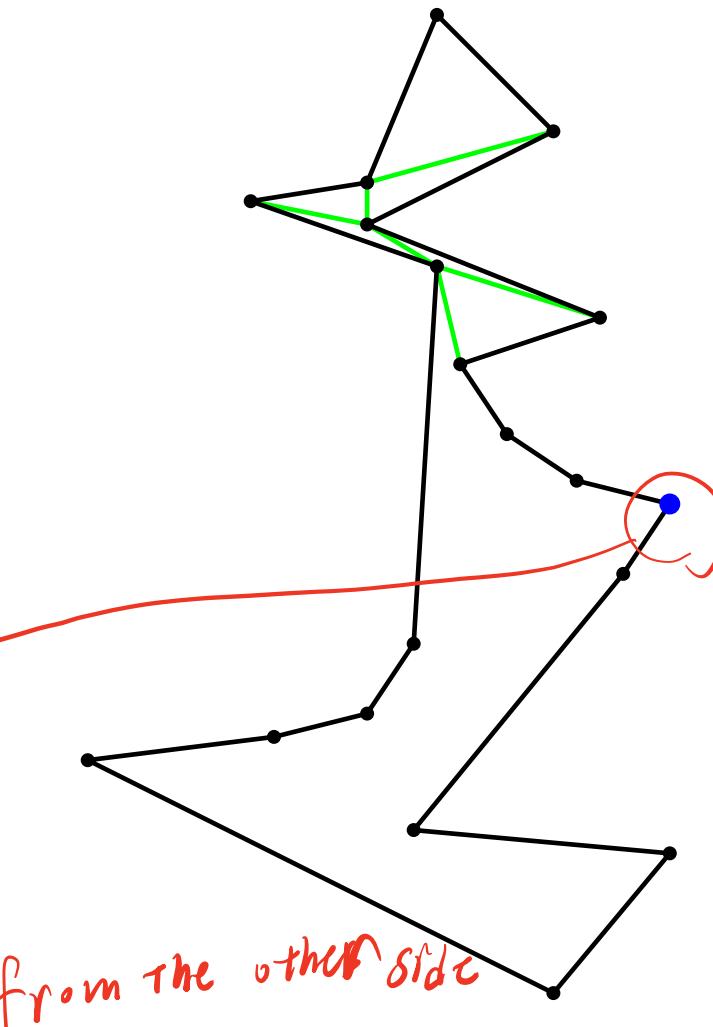
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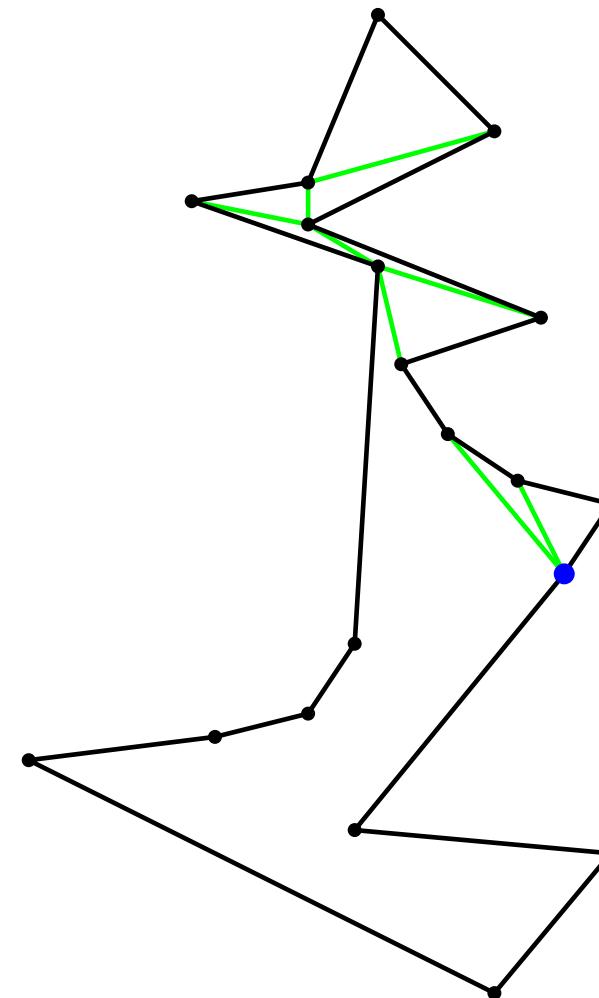
How to triangulate a  
 $y$ -monotone polygon?

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



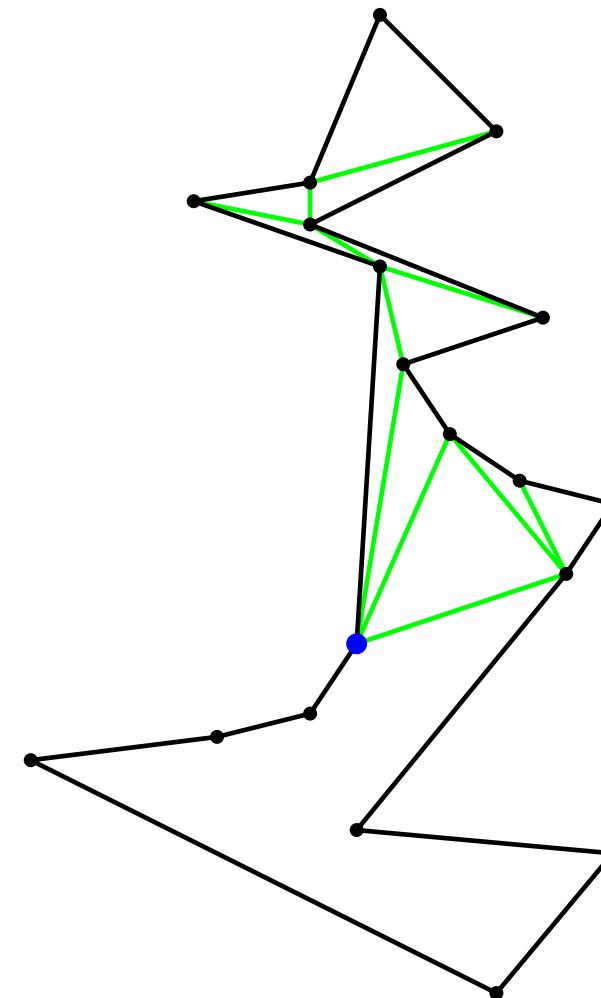
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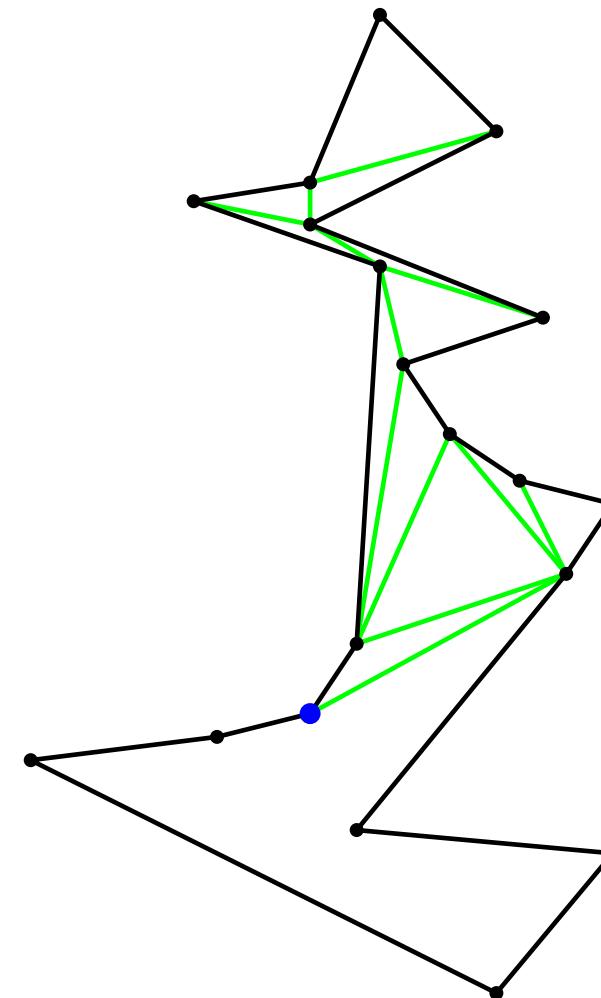
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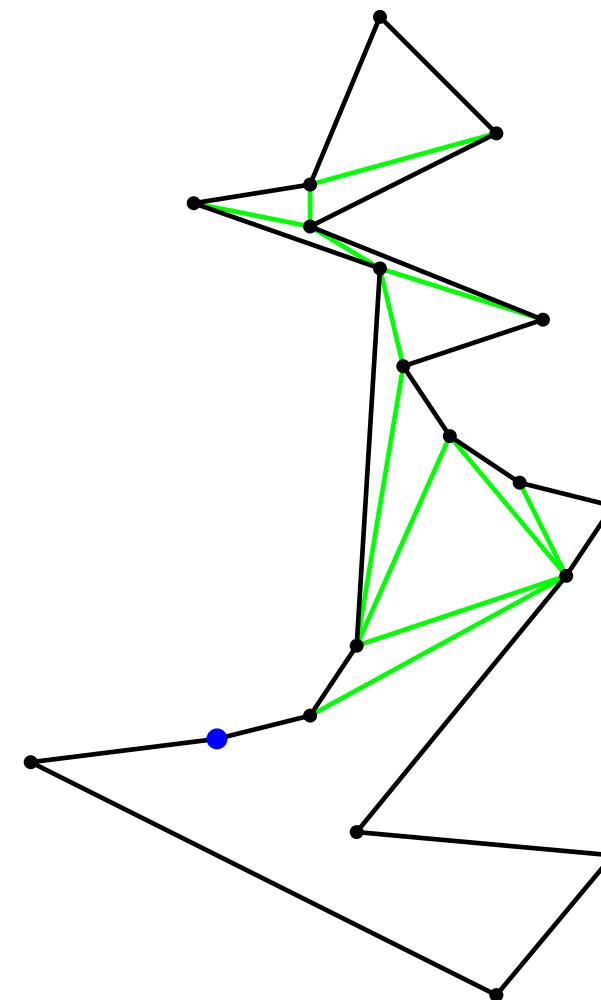
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How to triangulate a  
 $y$ -monotone polygon?



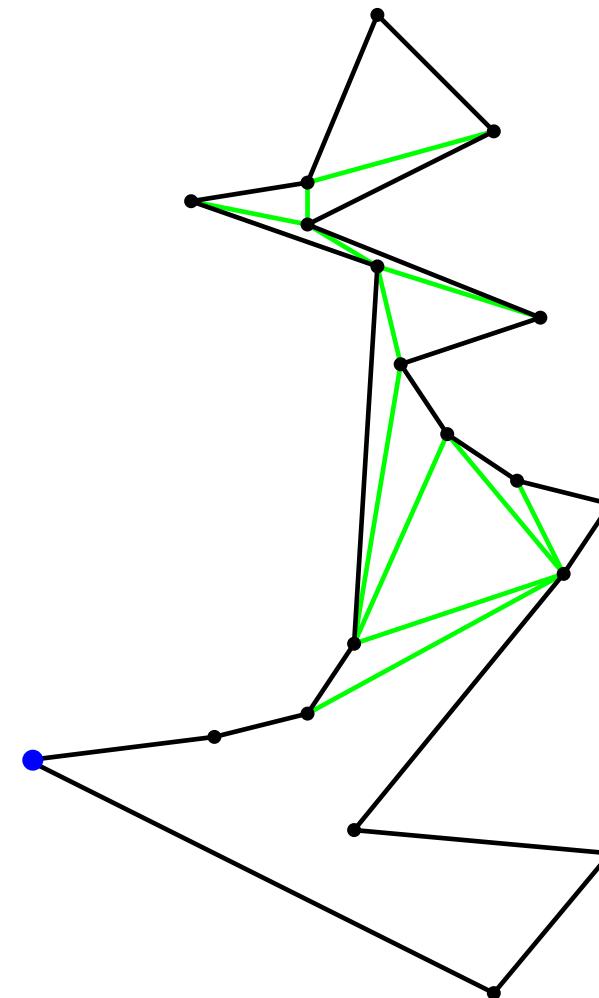
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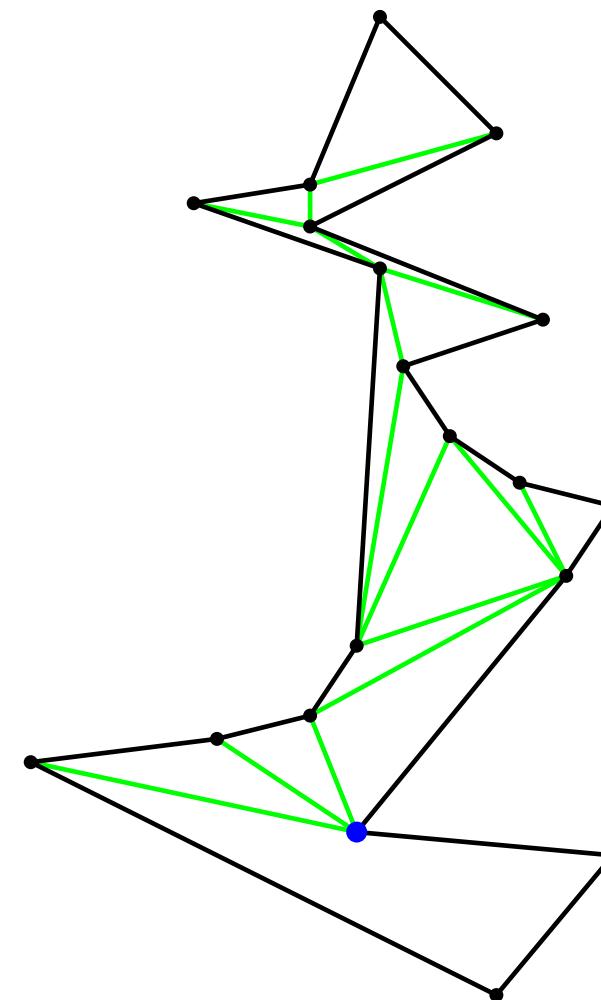
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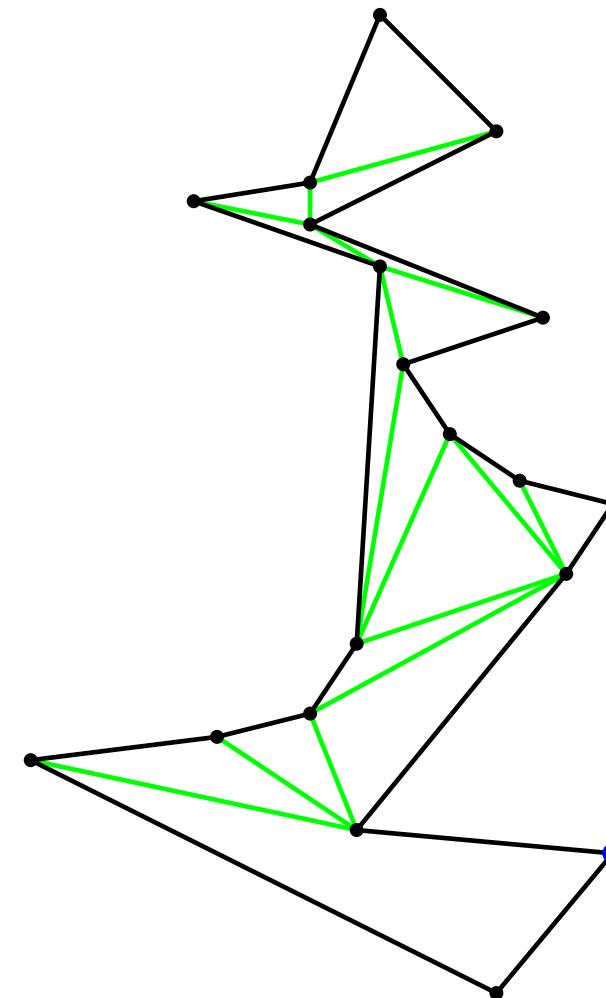
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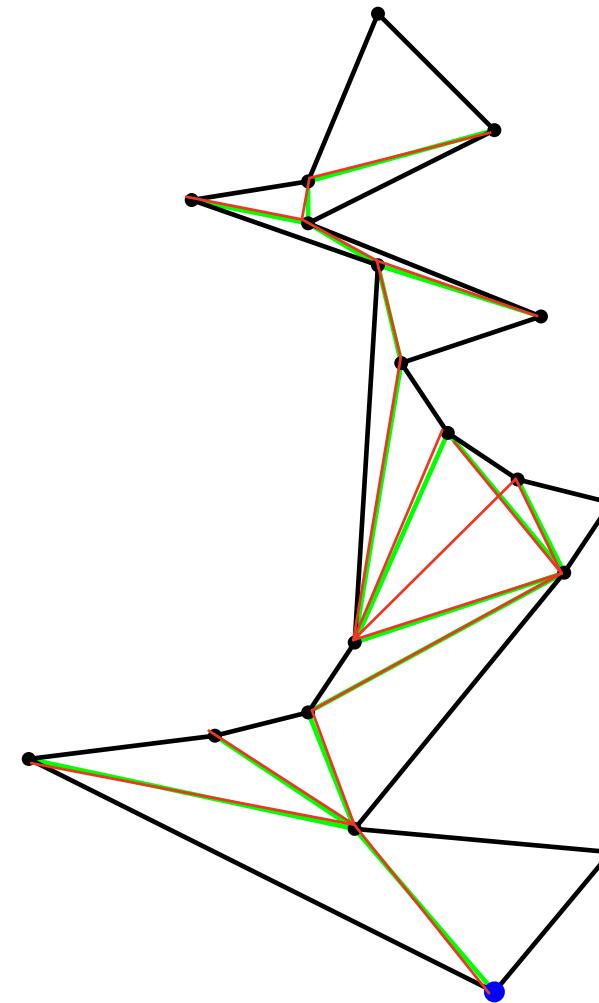
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# The algorithm

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

# Result

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

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

Can we immediately conclude:

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

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

最后的  
方法是  
从 N 个点  
开始，  
因为第一次分割有  
 $\Theta(n^2)$  的时间复杂度。  
split 和 merge 都会加一条边，  
从而多出一个点，但是两边都是这样，最终是还是  
 $O(n)$  个点。

# Result

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

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

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

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