

Light Euclidean Spanners with Steiner Points

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University of Massachusetts
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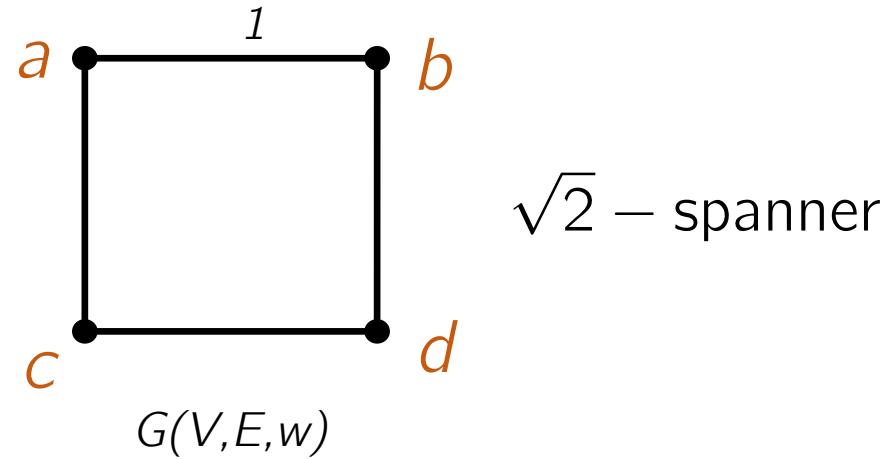
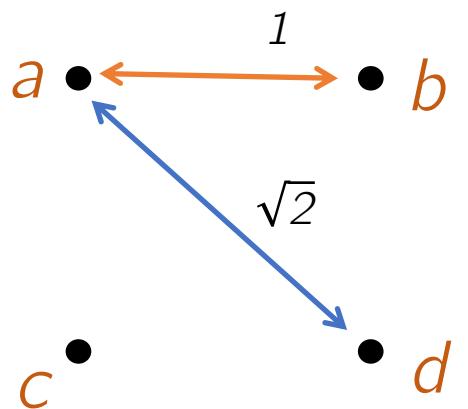
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Euclidean Spanners

A Euclidean **t -spanner** of a point set $P \in R^d$ is a **geometric graph** $G(V, E, w)$:

1. $V = P$
2. $\forall e = (p, q), w(e) = \|p, q\|_2$
3. $\max_{p \neq q \in V} \frac{d_G(p, q)}{\|p, q\|_2} \leq t$ t is called **stretch factor**

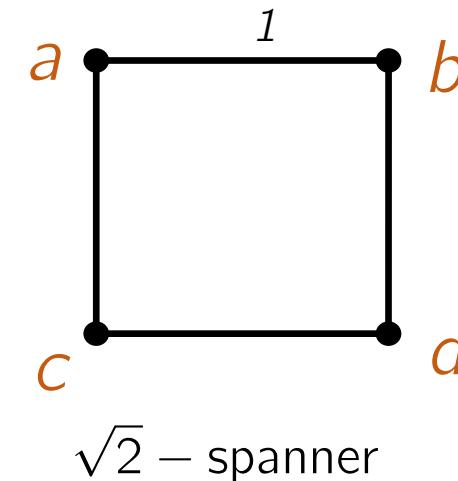
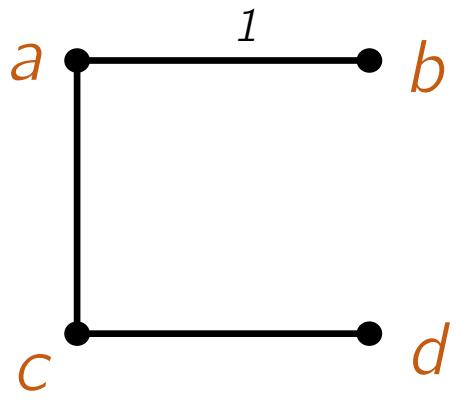
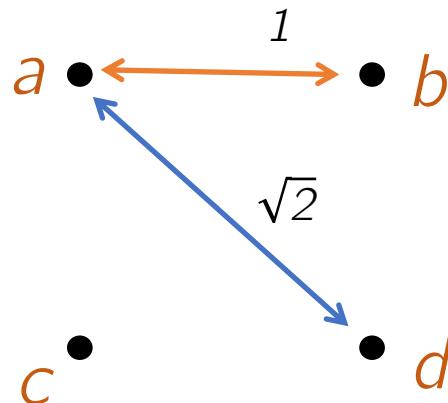


Sparsity and Lightness

Think of t -spanner as a **sparse** and **light weight** graph that preserves Euclidean distances up to a factor of t .

$$\text{Sparsity}(G) = \frac{|E(G)|}{|E(\text{MST})|}$$

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})}$$



Applications of Euclidean spanners

Approximating geometrical graphs via “spanners” and “banyans”

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Approximation algorithm

EXPLORING PROTEIN FOLDING TRAJECTORIES USING GEOMETRIC SPANNERS

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Computational biology

Approximate Distance Oracles for Geometric Graphs

Joachim Gudmundsson* Christos Levcopoulos† Giri Narasimhan‡ Michiel Smid§

Distance oracle

Sparse Communication Networks and Efficient Routing in the Plane

[Extended Abstract]

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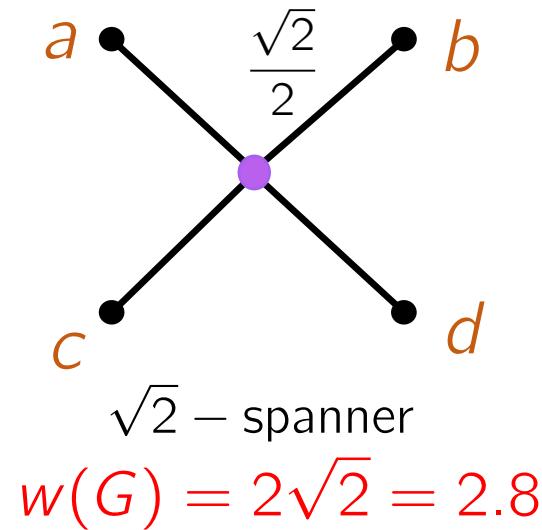
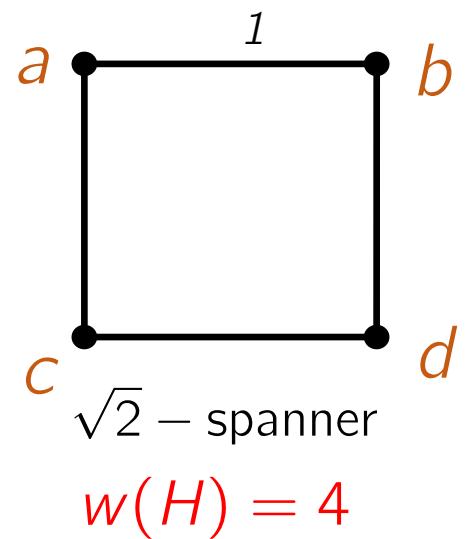
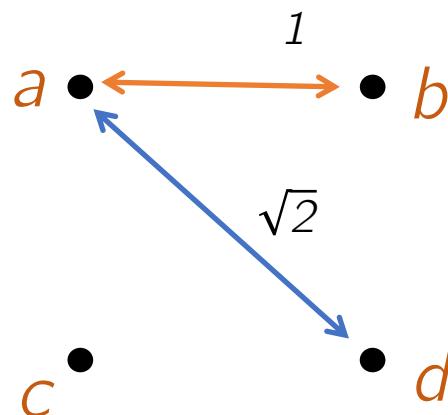
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Network design

Steiner Euclidean Spanners

A **Steiner** Euclidean t -spanner of a point set $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is a **geometric graph** $G(V, E, w)$:

1. $P \subseteq V, Q = V \setminus P$ **Steiner points**
2. $\forall e = (p, q), w(e) = \|p, q\|_2$
3. $\max_{p \neq q \in P} \frac{d_G(p, q)}{\|p, q\|_2} \leq t$



Non-Steiner vs Steiner Spanners

Question: Do Steiner points really help?
(in reducing sparsity and lightness)

Spoiler alert: Yes!!!

Known Results: \mathbb{R}^2

$t = 1 + \varepsilon$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

| | Non-Steiner Spanners | | Steiner Spanners | |
|-----------|--|---|---|--|
| Sparsity | $O(1/\varepsilon)$ [Clarkson87; Keil88] | $\Omega(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{\Omega}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS, FOCS19] |
| Lightness | $\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\Omega(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS, FOCS19] | ? | $\tilde{\Omega}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, FOCS19] |

This Work

$t = 1 + \varepsilon$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

| | Non-Steiner Spanners | | Steiner Spanners | |
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| Sparsity | $O(1/\varepsilon)$ [Clarkson87; Keil88] | $\Omega(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{\Omega}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS, FOCS19] |
| Lightness | $\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\Omega(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, ESA20] | $\tilde{\Omega}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, FOCS19] |

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

when spread Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$
hold when Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$.

Known Results: R^d when $d \geq 3$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

$t = 1 + \varepsilon$

| | Non-Steiner Spanners | | Steiner Spanners | |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|
| Sparsity | $O(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [RS91] | $\Omega(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(1-d)/2})$ [LS,FOCS19] | ? |
| Lightness | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\Omega(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | ? | ? |

This Work

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

| | Non-Steiner Spanners | | Steiner Spanners | |
|-----------|--|--|---|-------------|
| Sparsity | $O(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [RS91] | $\Omega(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(1-d)/2})$ [LS,FOCS19] | ? |
| Lightness | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\Omega(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(-d-1)/2})$ [LS,ESA20] | ? |
| | | | | Lower bound |

when spread Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$

hold when Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$.

This Work

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

Non-Steiner Spanners

Steiner Spanners

Steiner points help reducing lightness quadratically
(for point sets with spread $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$)

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

when spread Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$

hold when Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$.

Detailed Results

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

Theorem 1 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = O\left(\frac{\log \Delta}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

Theorem 2 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^d$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = \tilde{O}(\epsilon^{(-d-1)/2} + (\log \Delta)\epsilon^{-2})$$

This talk

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

Theorem 1 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

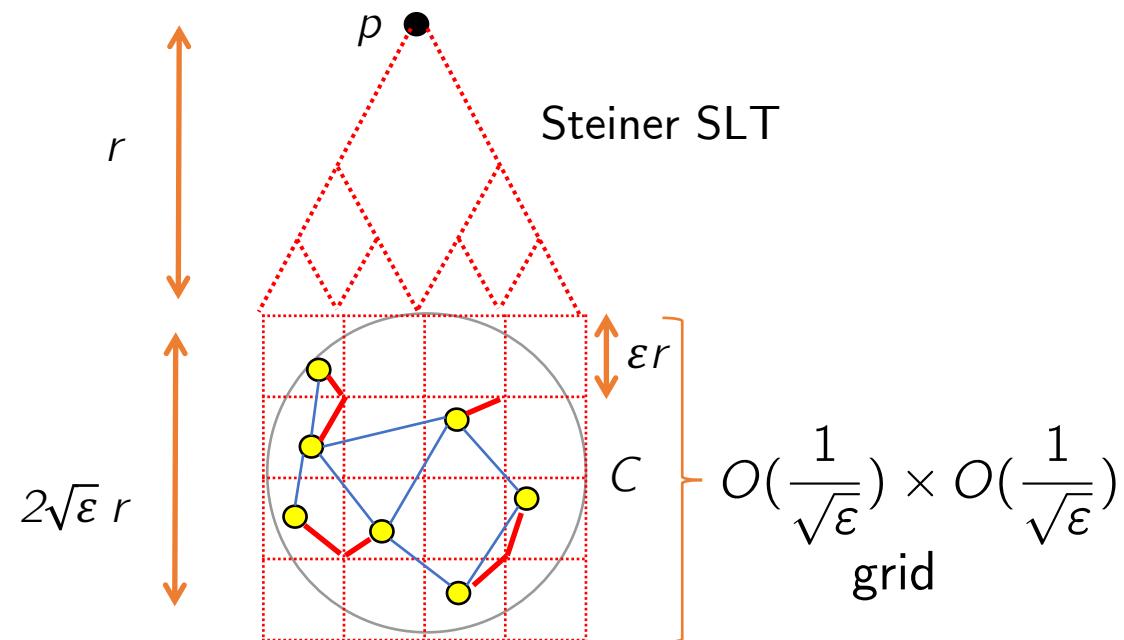
$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = O\left(\frac{\log \Delta}{\epsilon}\right)$$

The rest of the talk: proving Theorem 1

Detour: Single Source Spanners (SSP)

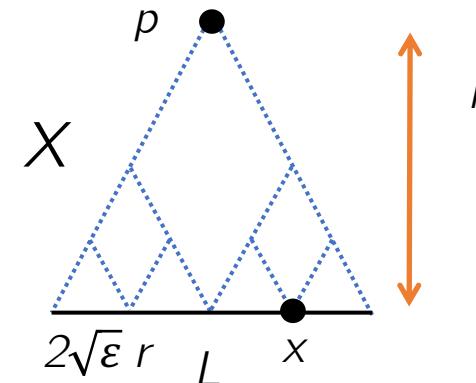
Source p , $Q \subseteq C_{(\sqrt{\varepsilon} r)}$, $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner S of Q ,
 $d(p, C_{(\sqrt{\varepsilon} r)}) = r$. SSP is a geometric graph H :

$$d_{HUS}(p, x) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in Q$$



Steiner SLT: SLT = Shallow Light Tree
point p , line L , $d(p, L) = r$, $\text{length}(L) = 2\sqrt{\varepsilon}r$.
Steiner SLT is a geometric graph X :

$$d_{XUL}(p, x) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in L$$



Solomon [SocG14]: $w(X) = O(r)$

Detour: Single Source Spanners

Source p , $Q \subseteq C_{(\sqrt{\varepsilon} r)}$, $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner S of Q ,

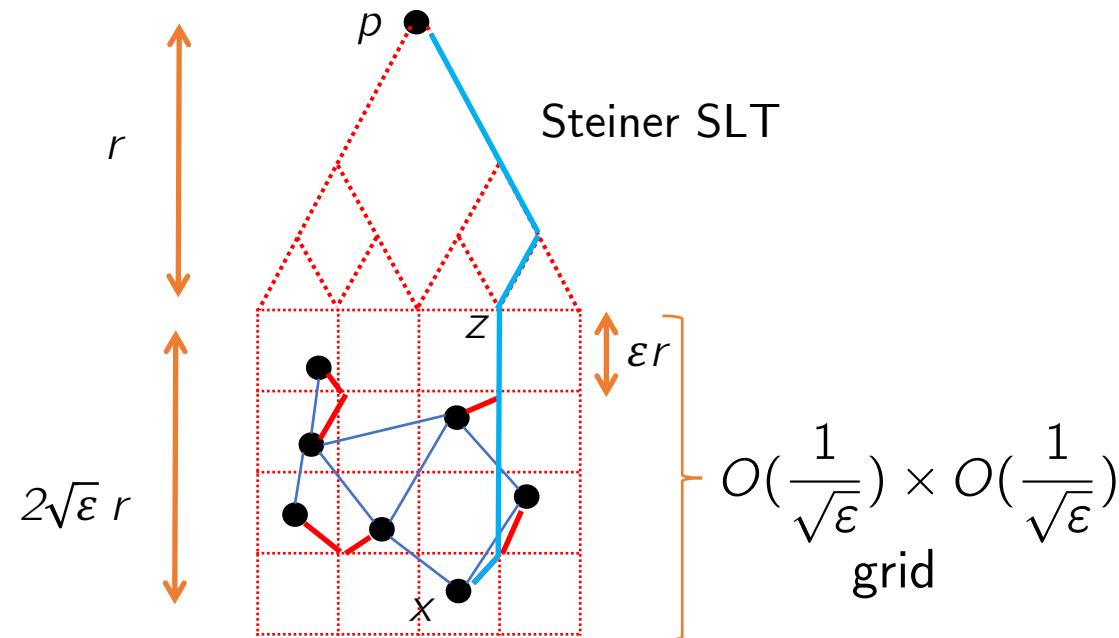
$d(p, C_{(\sqrt{\varepsilon} r)}) = r$. SSP is a geometric graph H :

$$d_{HUS}(p, x) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in Q$$

Claim: $w(H) = O(r)$

Proof:

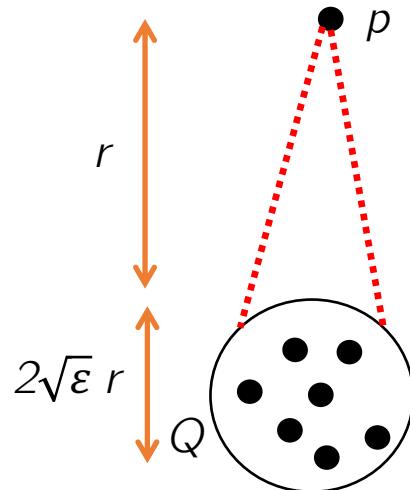
$$\begin{aligned} w(H) &= w(\text{SLT}) + w(\text{grid}) \\ &\quad + w(\text{connections to grid}) \\ &= O(r) + O(r) + O(r) \end{aligned}$$



Detour: Single Source Spanners

Lemma: Given a point p , a set of points Q enclosed in a circle C of radius $\sqrt{\varepsilon}r$ where $d(p, C) = r$, and a $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner S of Q , one can construct a graph H such that:

- (1) $d_{H \cup S}(p, x) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in Q$
- (2) $w(H) = O(r)$



Steiner Spanner Construction: Overview

Goal: Find a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with $w(G) = O(\log \Delta / \varepsilon) w(\text{MST})$

- Spread Δ : assume min. distance = 1 and max. distance = Δ
- Partition $\mathcal{P} = \{(p, q)\}_{p \neq q \in P}$ into $\log \Delta$ subsets:
$$\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$$
- Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for \mathcal{P}_i separately

- (1) $d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$
- (2) $w(H_i) = O(1/\varepsilon) w(\text{MST})$

Claim: $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\log \Delta} H_i$ is the desired spanner.

Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O(1/\varepsilon)w(\text{MST})$$

- Let $r = 2^i$, and N be a $(\sqrt{\varepsilon}r)$ -net of P :

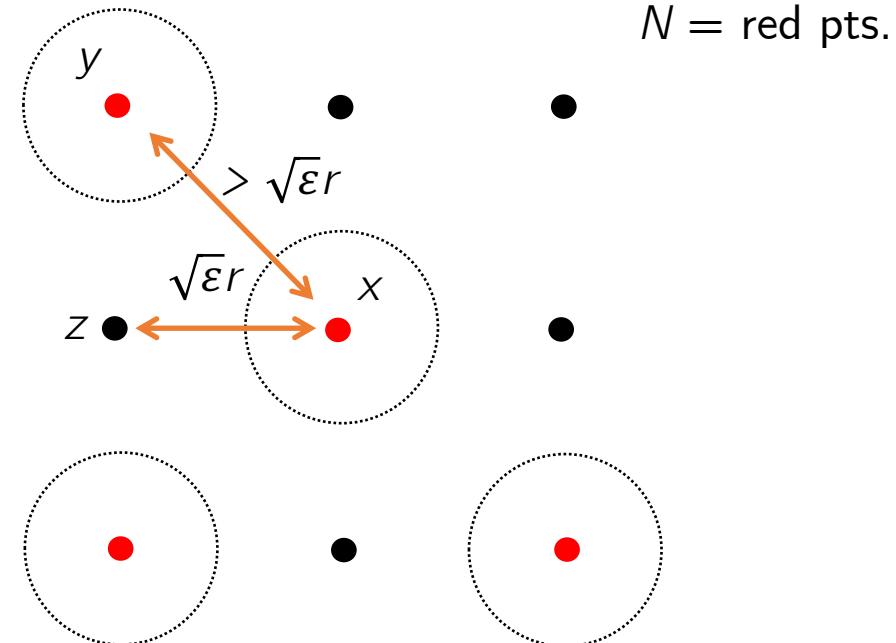
$$(1) \quad \forall x \neq y \in N, \|x, y\| > \sqrt{\varepsilon}r$$

$$(2) \quad \forall z \in P, \exists x \in N : \|x, z\| \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon}r$$

Claim: $|N| = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}r}\right)$

Proof: $\{C(x, \sqrt{\varepsilon}r/2)\}_{x \in N}$ are pairwise disjoint.

$$|N| \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon}r}{2} \leq w(\text{part of MST inside all circles}) \leq w(\text{MST})$$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$

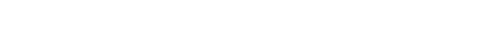
- (1) $d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$
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Claim: $|N| = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}r}\right)$



- If $w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{|N|r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right)$ then:

$$w(H_i) = O(|N| \frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}) = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}r} \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\varepsilon}\right)$$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (r/2, r]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

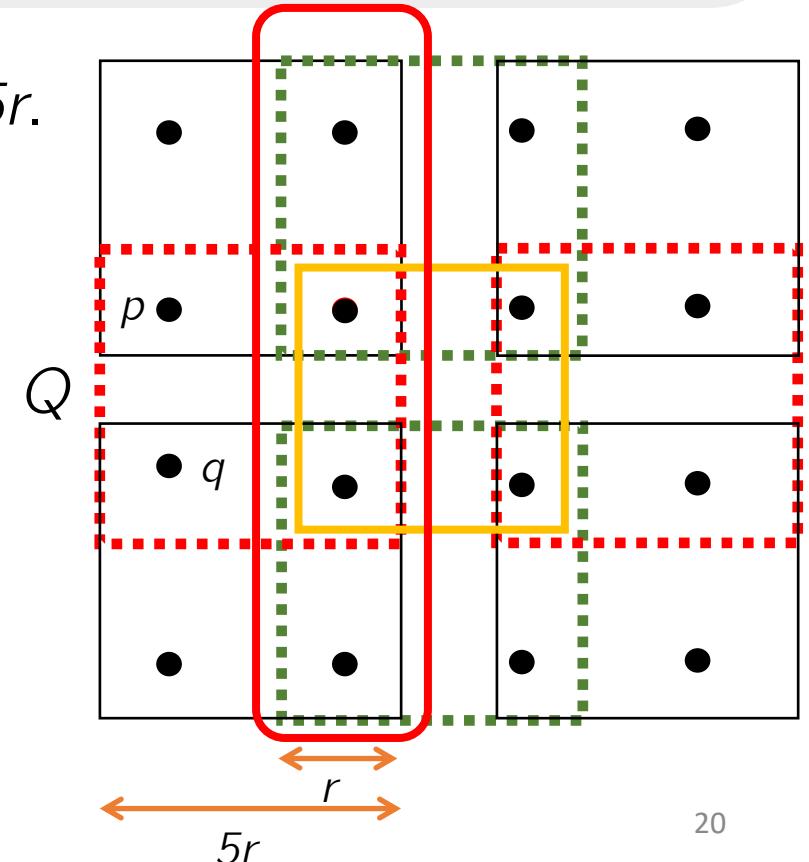
$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{|N|r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) \quad N \text{ is } r\sqrt{\varepsilon}\text{-net of } P$$

- “Cover” the plane by overlapping \square of size length $5r$.

- (a) $\forall x \in N : x \in$ at most 4 \square s
- (b) $\forall (p, q) : \|p, q\| \leq r, \exists \square Q$ s.t $p, q \in Q$

- Focus on 1 square Q : preserve (p, q) s.t

$$(p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q$$



Spanner in a Square

- Place grid with cell size $(r/8) \times (r/8)$
- Horizontal band: a row of the grid.
 - **O(1) such bands**
- Vertical band: a column of the grid

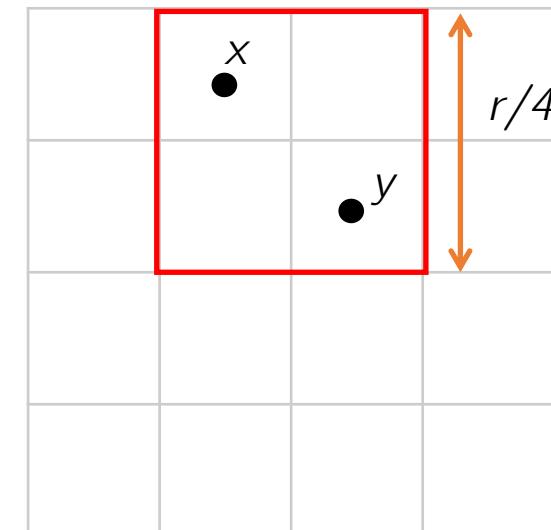
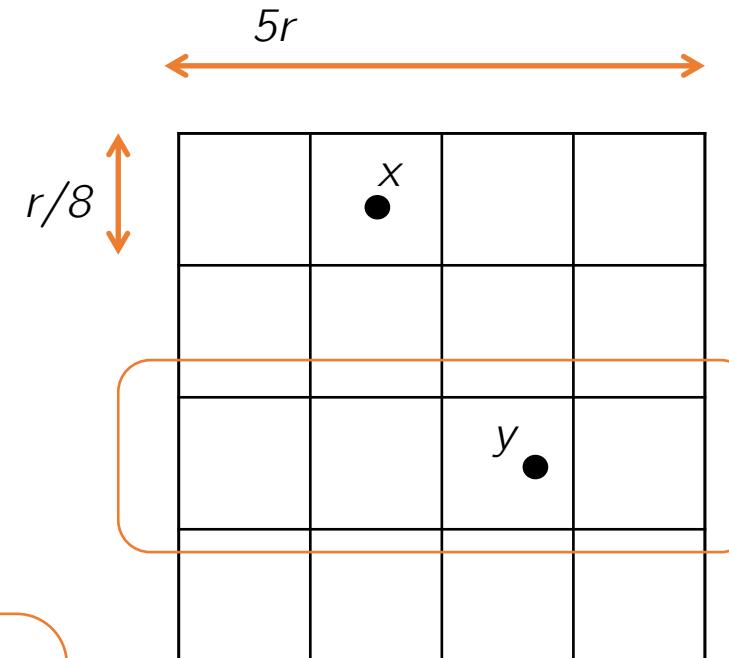
Claim: $(x,y) \in N \times N$ such that $\|x,y\| \in (r/2, r]$. Then:

- x,y in two **non-adjacent horizontal bands**
- or x,y in two **non-adjacent vertical bands**

Proof:

Otherwise, x,y both in \square of size length $r/4$.

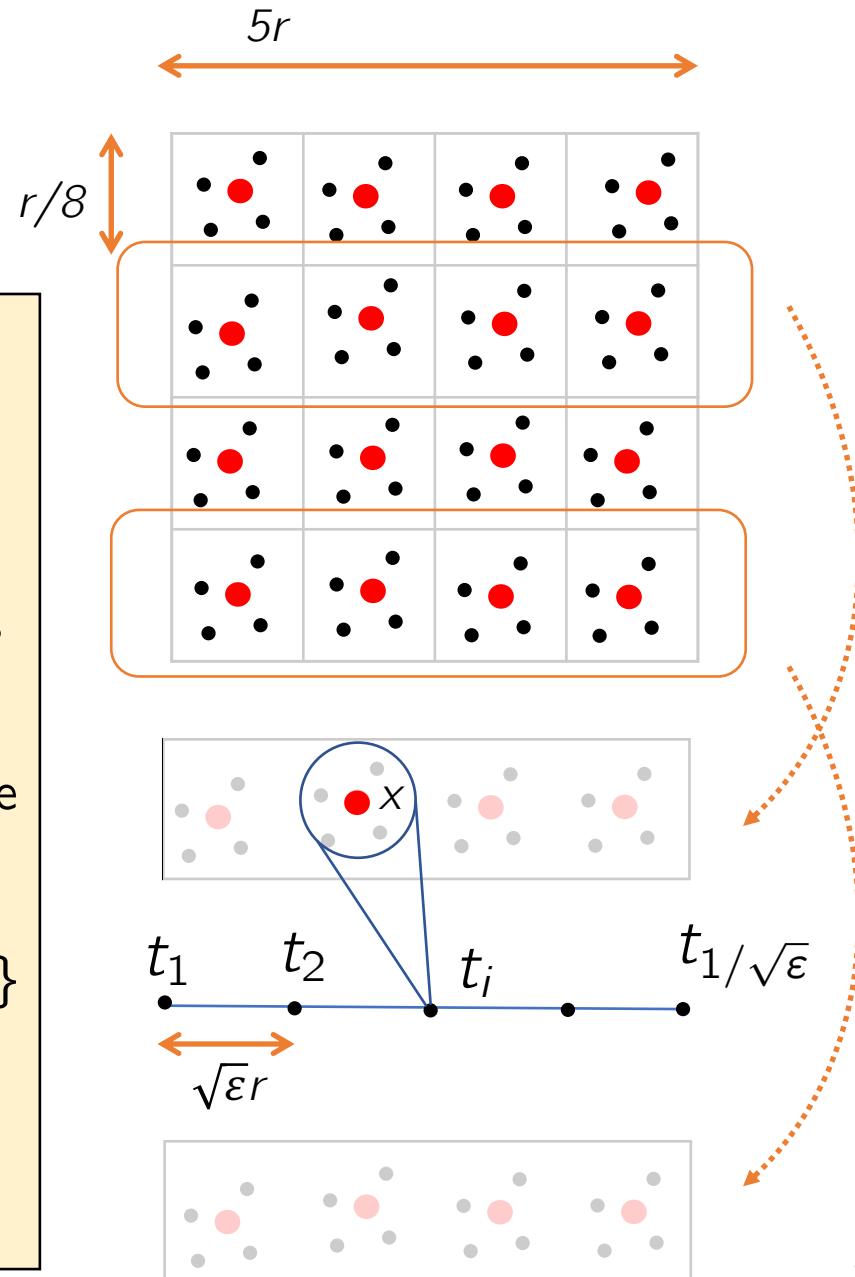
$$\|x,y\| \leq \sqrt{2} \cdot \frac{r}{4} < \frac{r}{2}$$



Spanner in a Square (cont.)

SQUARESPANNER(Q)

1. Divide Q into a grid with cell size $(r/8) \times (r/8)$
2. $H_Q \leftarrow \emptyset$ // square spanner
3. **Foreach** pair (X, Y) of non-adj. horizontal (vertical) bands
4. $H_{X,Y} \leftarrow \emptyset$ // band spanner
5. Place $O(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ Steiner points $\{t_1, t_2, \dots\}$ on the mid-line
6. **Foreach** point t_i and each point x in $N \cap (X \cup Y)$:
7. $H_{X,Y} \leftarrow H_{X,Y} \cup \{\text{a SS spanner from } t_i \text{ to } C(x, \sqrt{\varepsilon}r)\}$
8. $H_Q \leftarrow H_Q \cup H_{X,Y}$
9. return H_Q



Spanner in a Square (cont.)

SQURESPANNER(Q)

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9. return H_Q

$O(r)$ weight

Claim: $w(H_Q) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} |N \cap Q|\right)$

Proof:

$\longrightarrow O(1)$ pairs

$$w(H_{X,Y}) = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} r |N \cap (X \cup Y)|\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} w(H_Q) &= O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \sum_{X,Y} |N \cap (X \cup Y)|\right) \\ &= O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} |N \cap Q|\right) \end{aligned}$$

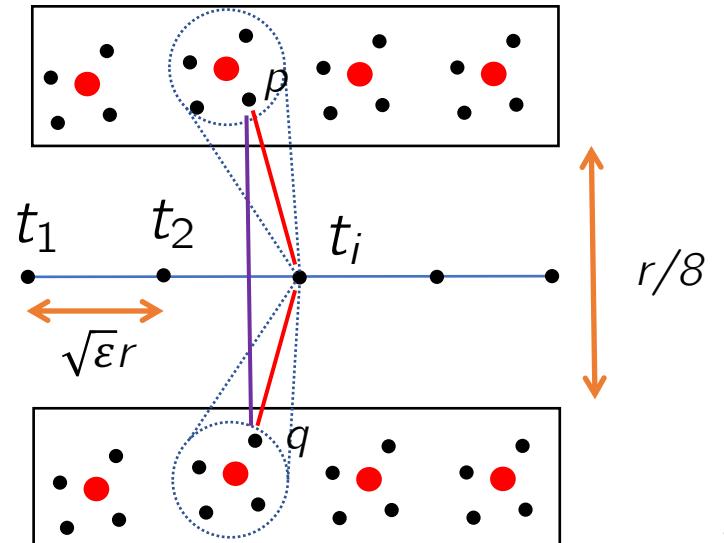
Spanner in a Square (cont.)

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8. $H_Q \leftarrow H_Q \cup H_{X,Y}$
9. return H_Q

Claim: $w(H_Q) = O(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} |N \cap Q|)$

Claim: any $(p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q$
 then: $d_{H_Q}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|p, q\|$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (r/2, r]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{|N|r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) \quad N \text{ is } r\sqrt{\varepsilon}\text{-net of } P$$

- “Cover” the plane by overlapping \square of size length $5r$.

$$(a) \quad \forall x \in N : x \in \text{ at most 4 } \square\text{s}$$

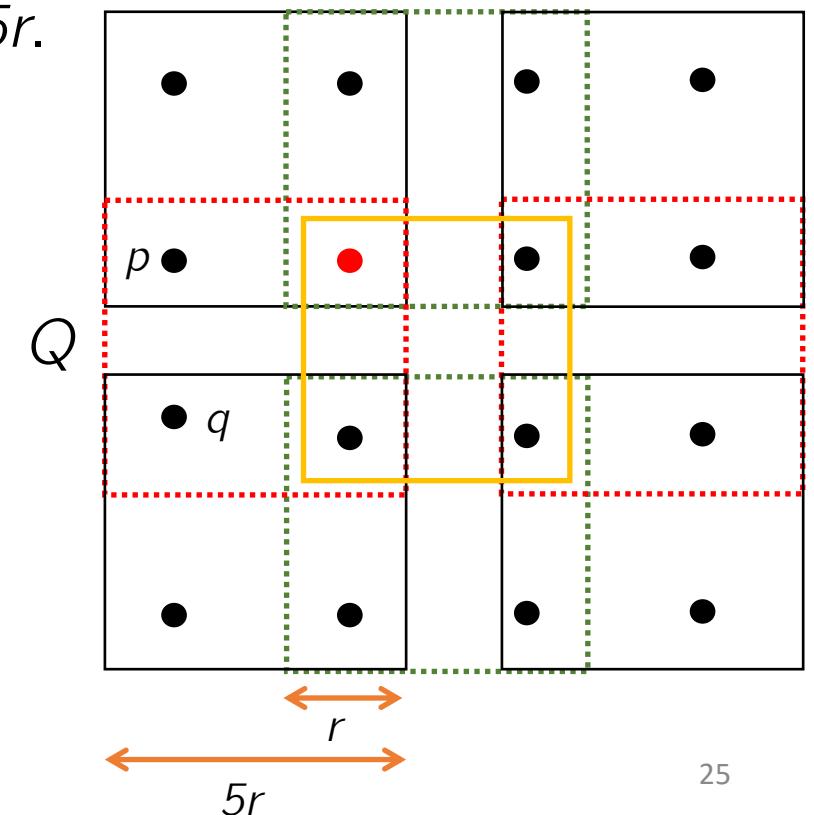
$$(b) \quad \forall (p, q) : \|p, q\| \leq r, \exists \square Q \text{ s.t } p, q \in Q$$

- For each square Q : $w(H_Q) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}|N \cap Q|\right)$

$$d_{H_Q}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q$$

- Let

$$H_i = \bigcup_Q H_Q$$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (r/2, r]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

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- “Cover” the plane by overlapping \square of size length $5r$.

$$(a) \quad \forall x \in N : x \in \text{ at most 4 } \square \text{s}$$

$$(b) \quad \forall (p, q) : \|p, q\| \leq r, \exists \square Q \text{ s.t } p, q \in Q$$

$$\bullet \text{ For each square } Q: \boxed{w(H_Q) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} |N \cap Q|\right)}$$

$$\boxed{d_{H_Q}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q}$$

- Let

$$H_i = \bigcup_Q H_Q$$

$$\begin{aligned} w(H_i) &= O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \sum_Q |N \cap Q|\right) \\ &= O\left(\frac{r|N|}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} d_{H_i}(p, q) &\leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \\ \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \end{aligned}$$

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- Spread Δ : assume min. distance = 1 and max. distance = Δ
- Partition $\mathcal{P} = \{(p, q)\}_{p \neq q \in P}$ into $\log \Delta$ subsets:
$$\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$$
- Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for \mathcal{P}_i

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O(1/\varepsilon) w(\text{MST})$$



Claim: $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\log \Delta} H_i$ is the desired spanner.

Our results (recap)

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

Theorem 1 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = O\left(\frac{\log \Delta}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

Open Problems

$t = 1 + \varepsilon$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

| | Non-Steiner Spanners | | Steiner Spanners | |
|-----------|--|---|---|--|
| Sparsity | $O(1/\varepsilon)$ [Clarkson87; Keil88] | $\Omega(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{\Omega}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS, FOCS19] |
| Lightness | $\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\Omega(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS, FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, ESA20] | $\tilde{\Omega}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS, FOCS19] |

when spread Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$

Problem 1: Find a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with $w(G) = O(1/\varepsilon)w(\text{MST})$ for any spread in Euclidean plane.

Open Problems

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

| | Non-Steiner Spanners | | Steiner Spanners | |
|-----------|--|--|---|----------------|
| Sparsity | $O(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [RS91] | $\Omega(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(1-d)/2})$ [LS,FOCS19] | ? |
| Lightness | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\Omega(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19] | $\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(-d-1)/2})$ [LS20] | ? |
| | | | | for any spread |

Thank you

Q&A

