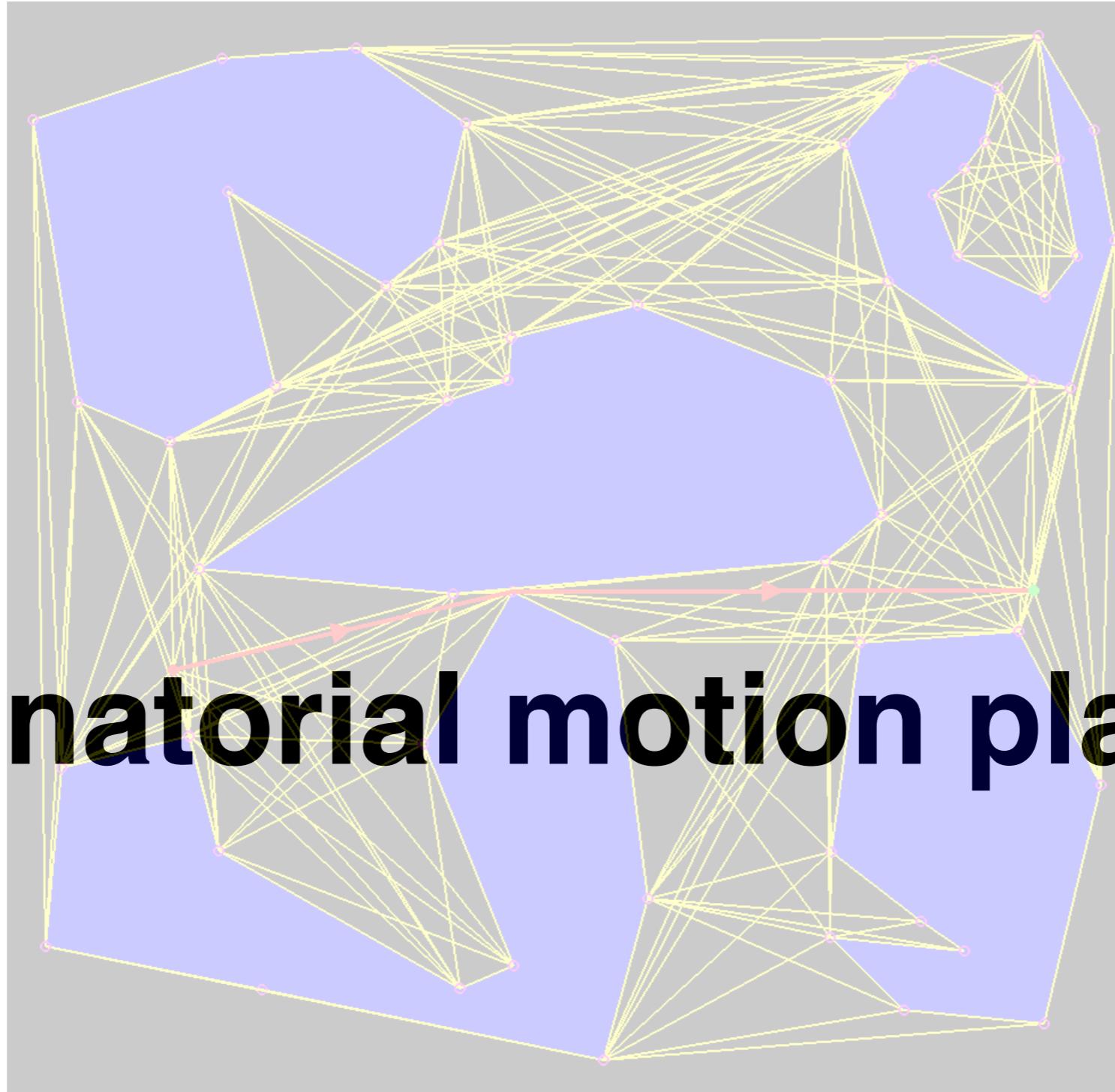
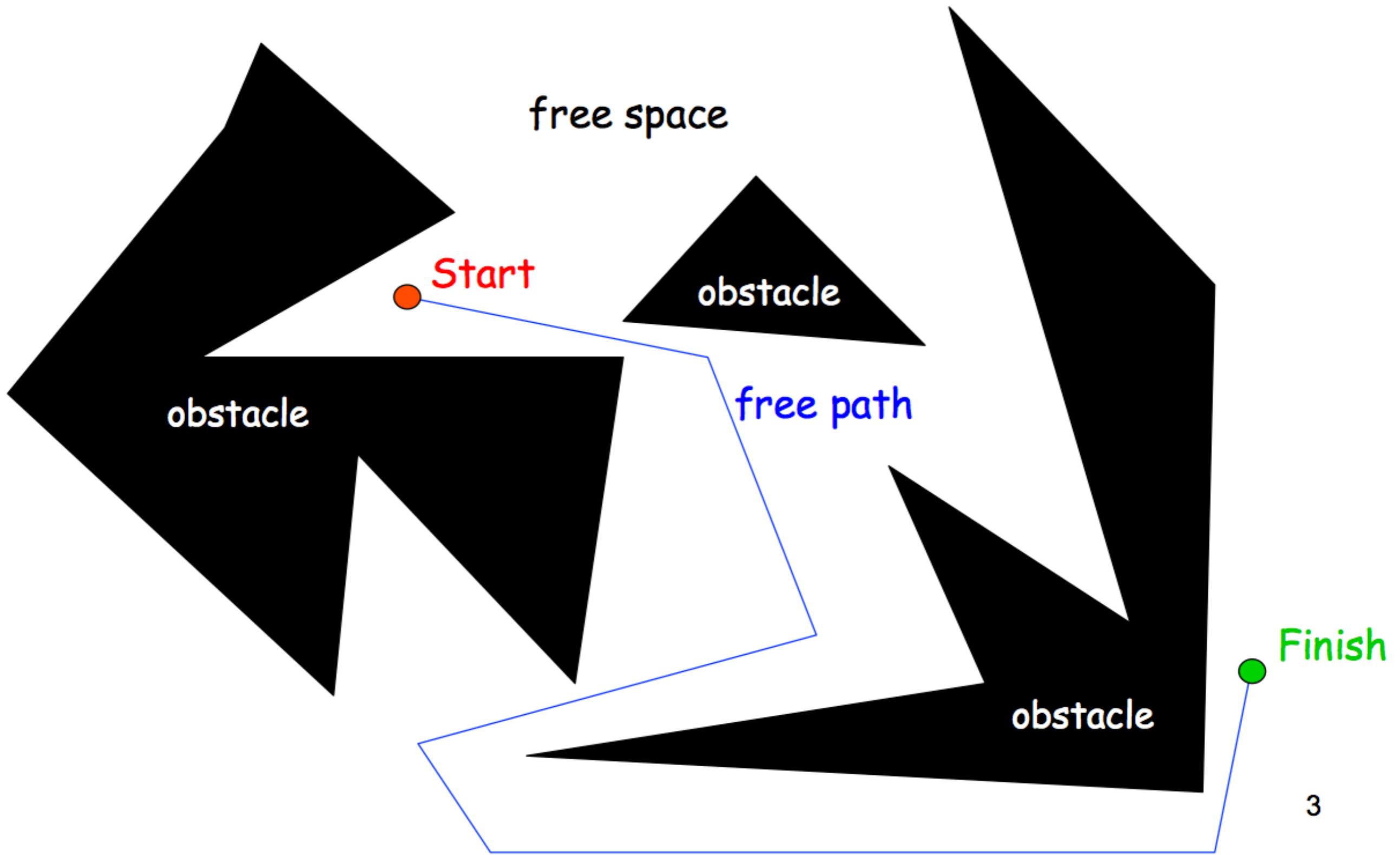


Combinatorial motion planning



Computational Geometry
csci3250
Laura Toma
Bowdoin College

Problem



Motion Planning

Input:

- a robot R
- start and end position
- a set of obstacles $S = \{O_1, O_2, \dots\}$

Find a path from start to end (that optimizes some objective function).

Parameters:

- geometry of obstacles (polygons, disks, convex, non-convex, etc)
- geometry of robot (point, polygon, disc)
- robot movement —how many degrees of freedom (dof); 2d, 3d
- objective function to minimize (euclidian distance, nb turns, etc)
- static vs dynamic environment
- exact vs approximate path planning
- known vs unknown map

Motion Planning

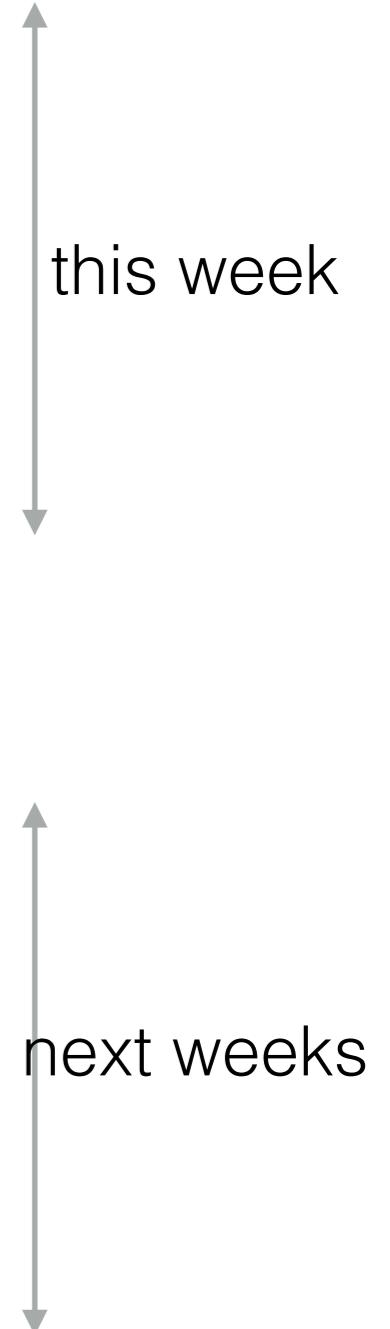
the algorithm that finds a path

Ideally we want a planner to be complete and optimal.

- A planner is complete:
 - it always finds a path when a path exists
- A planner is optimal:
 - it finds an optimal path (wrt objective function)

Approaches

- **Combinatorial (exact)**
 - Compute an exact representation of free space
 - Roadmap: a graph that represents the free space
 - Find a path using the roadmap
- **Approximate**
 - sampling-based, search based, space decomposition, probabilistic, potential functions



Point robot in 2D

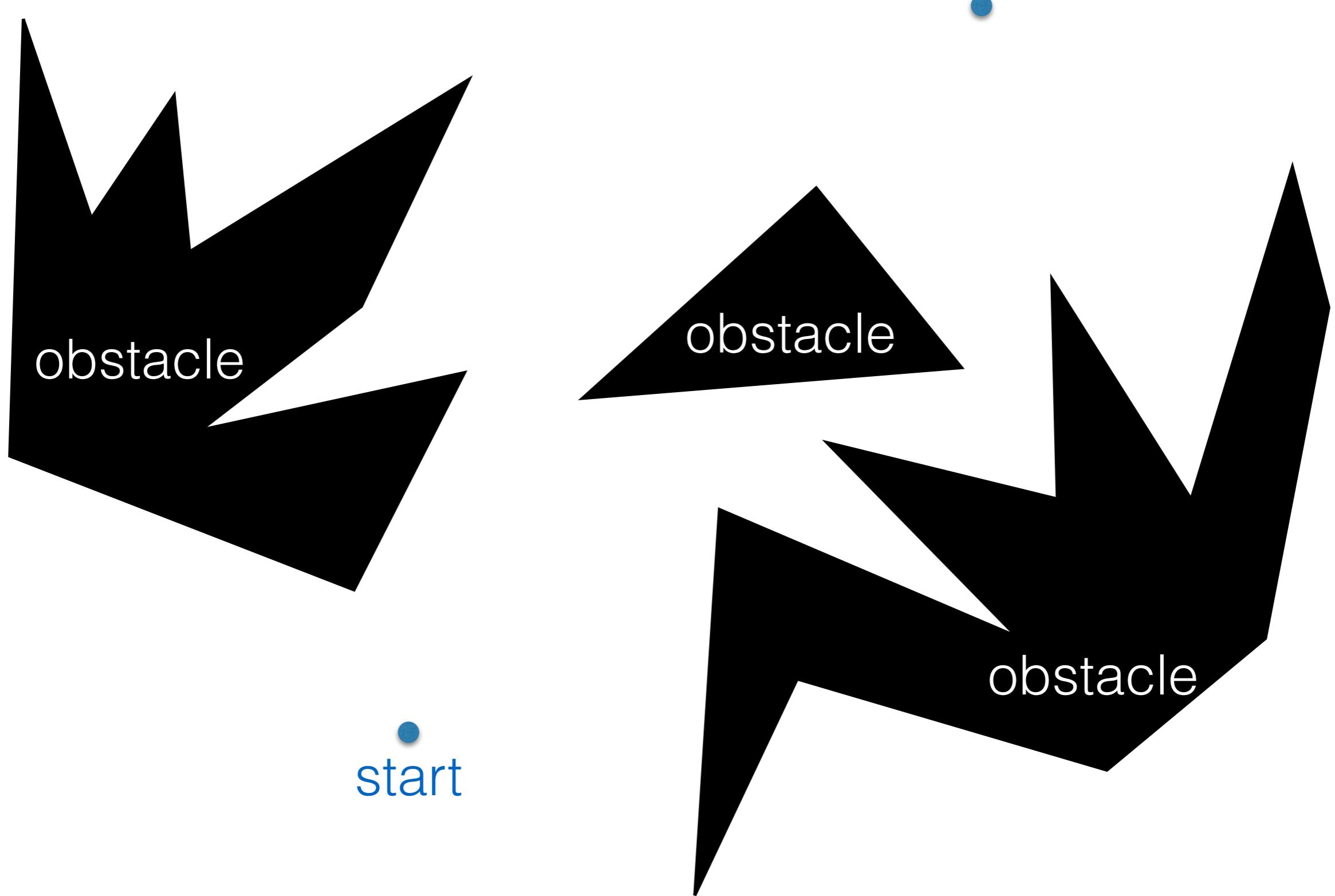
Point robot in 2D

Input:

- start and end position
- a set of polygonal obstacles $S = \{O_1, O_2, \dots\}$

Find a path from start to end.

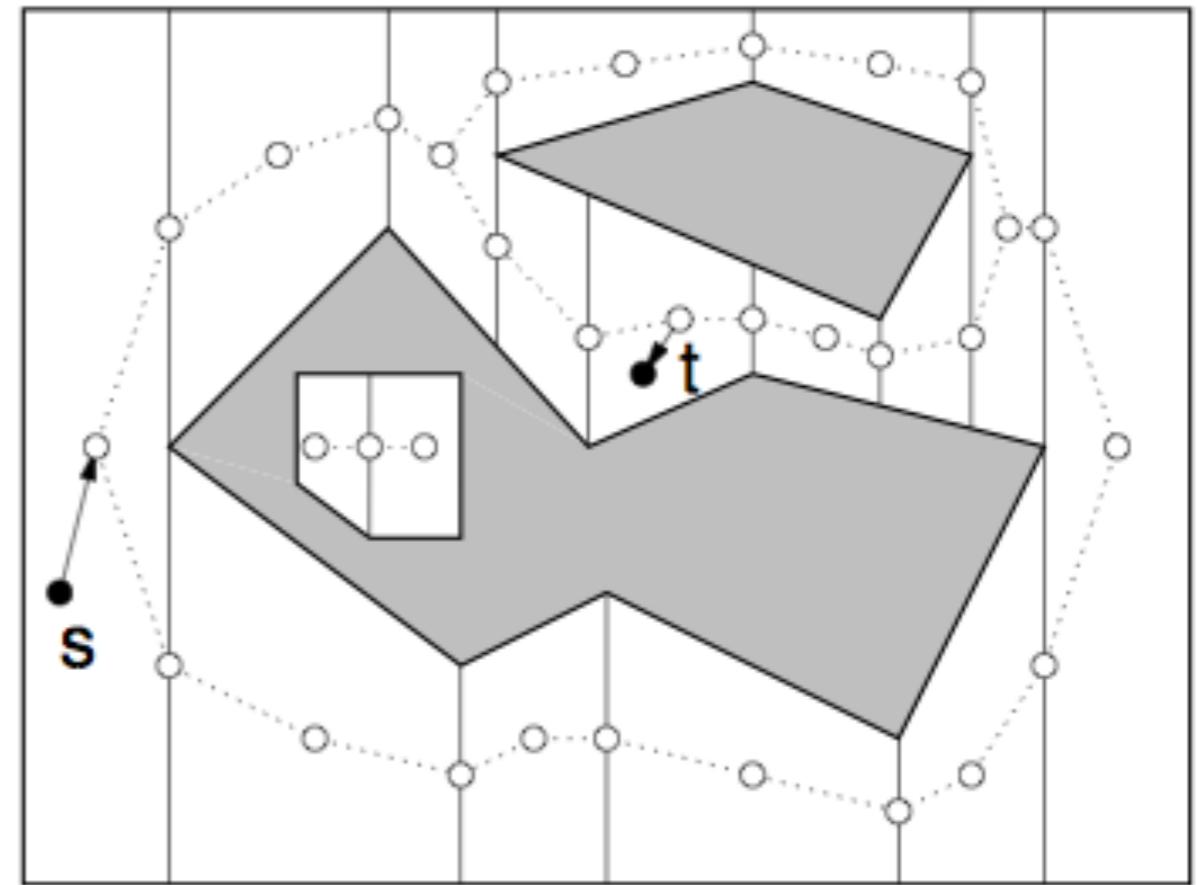
Point robot in 2D



Point robot in 2D

General idea

- Compute free space
- Compute a representation of free space
- Build a graph of free space
- Search graph to find path

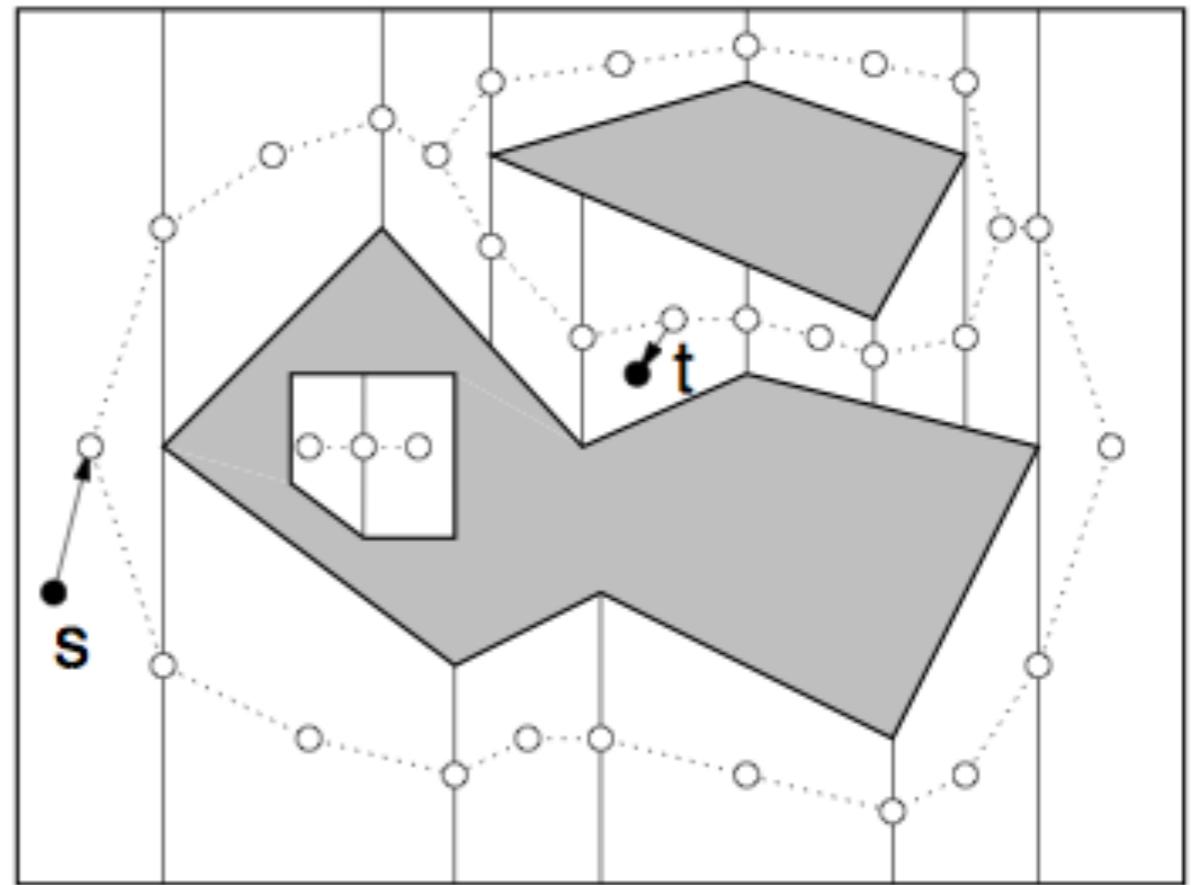


(screenshot from O'Rourke)

- Planning a path for point robot in 2D = graph search

Point robot in 2D

- Compute a representation of free space
 - Trapezoid decomposition
 - Size?
- Build a graph of free space
 - How?
- Search graph to find path
 - BFS(s)



(screenshot from O'Rourke)

Point robot in 2D

- Compute a representation of free space

- Trapezoid decomposition
 - Size?

Has size $O(n)$ and can be computed
in $O(n \lg n)$ time

- Build a graph of free space

- How?

Has size $O(n)$ and can be computed
in $O(n)$ time

- Search graph to find path

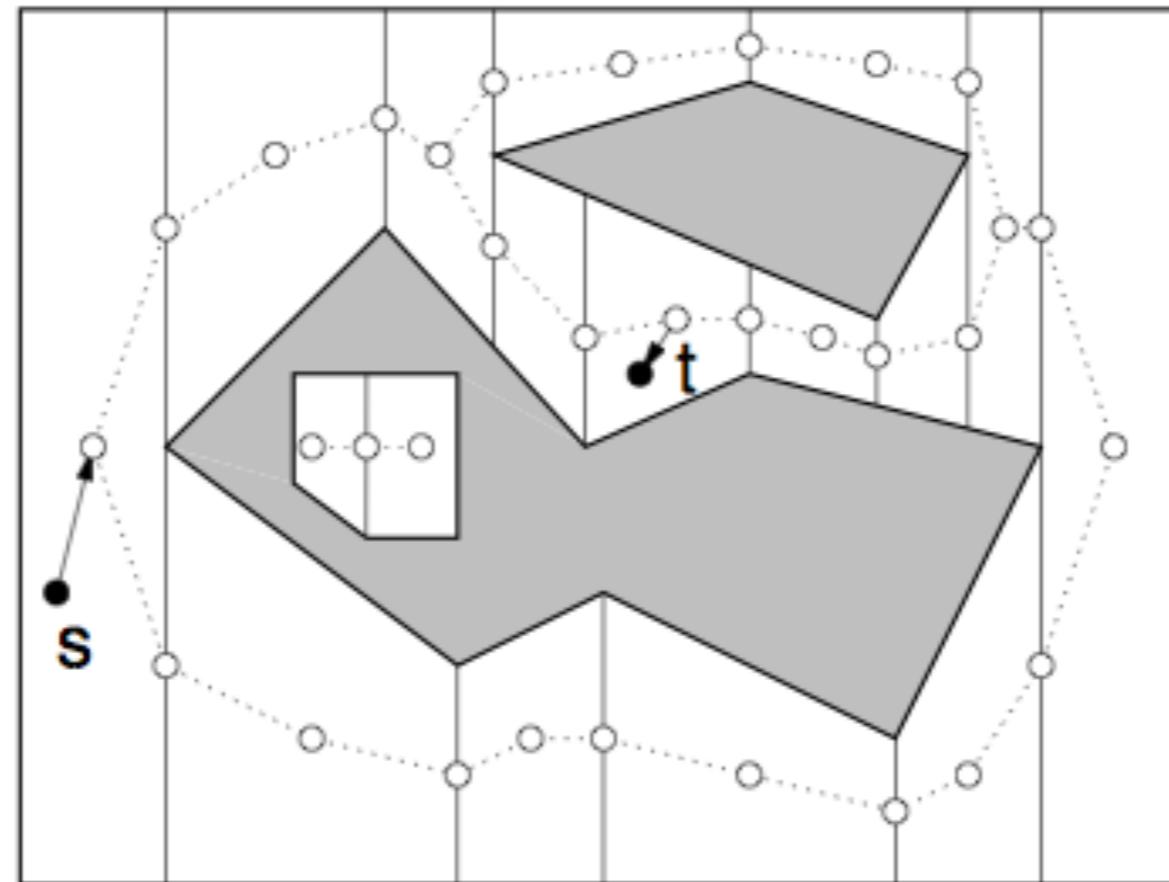
- BFS(s)

Runs in $O(n)$ time

Point robot in 2D

n = complexity of obstacles
(total number of edges)

Result: Let R be a point robot moving among a set of polygonal obstacles in 2D with n edges in total. We can pre-process S in $O(n \lg n)$ expected time such that, between any start and goal position, a collision-free path for R can be computed in $O(n)$ time, if it exists.



Point robot in 2D

n = complexity of obstacles
(total number of edges)

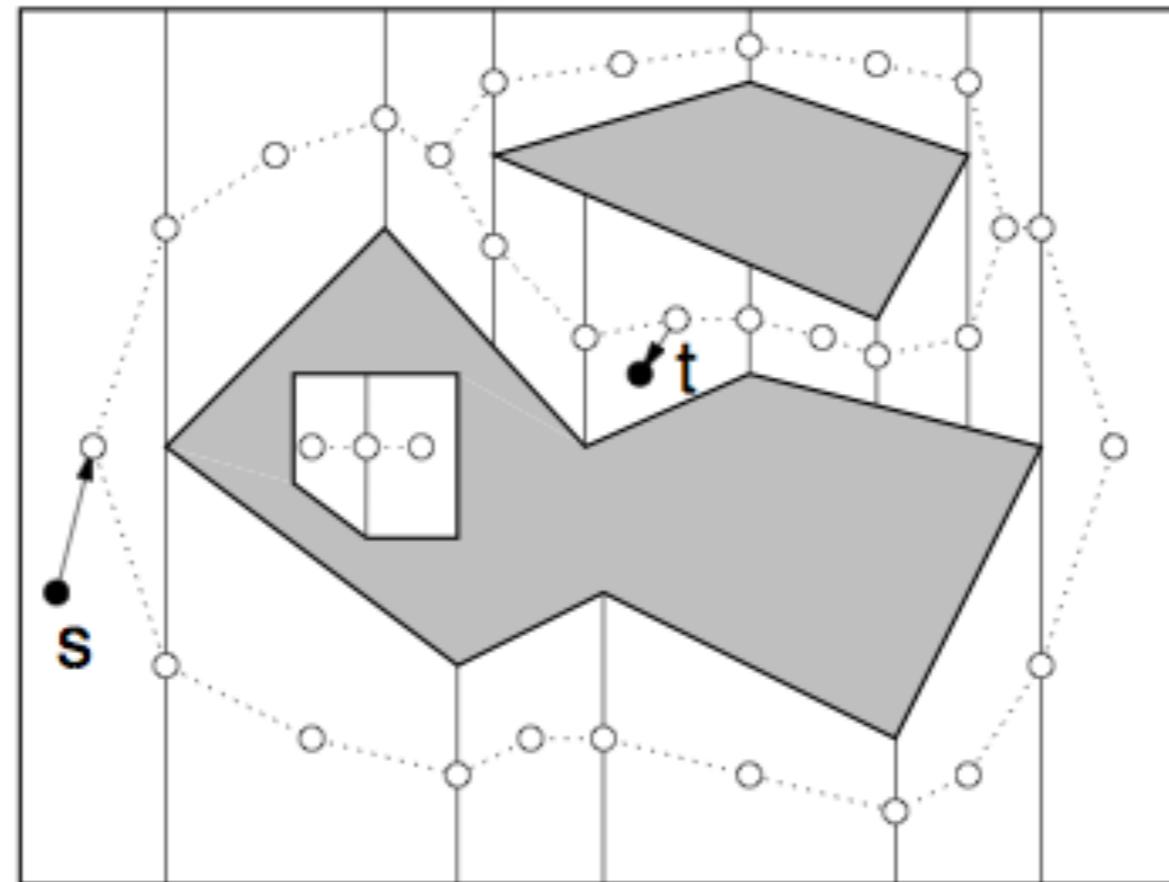
Result: Let R be a point robot moving among a set of polygonal obstacles in 2D with n edges in total. We can pre-process S in $O(n \lg n)$ expected time such that, between any start and goal position, a collision-free path for R can be computed in $O(n)$ time, if it exists.

Is this complete?

YES

Is this optimal?

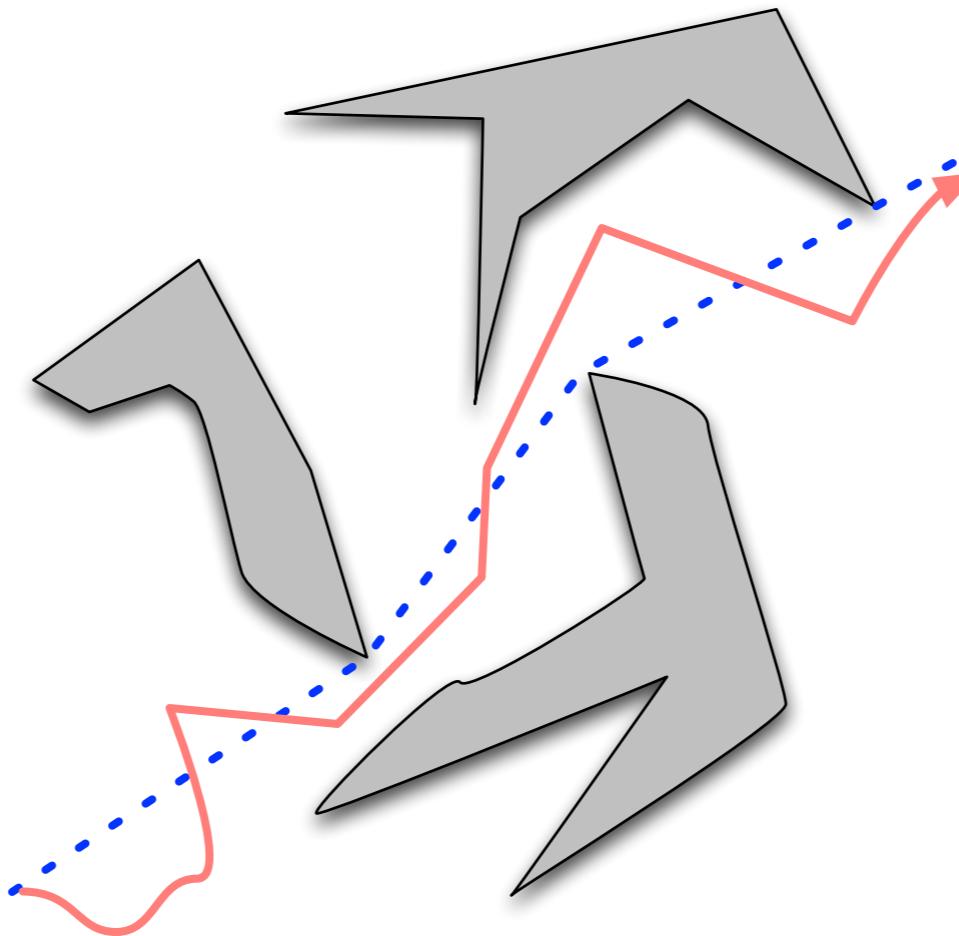
No



Class work

Show that the trapezoid map is not optimal by giving a scene where it does not give the optimal (shortest) path

Point robot in 2D

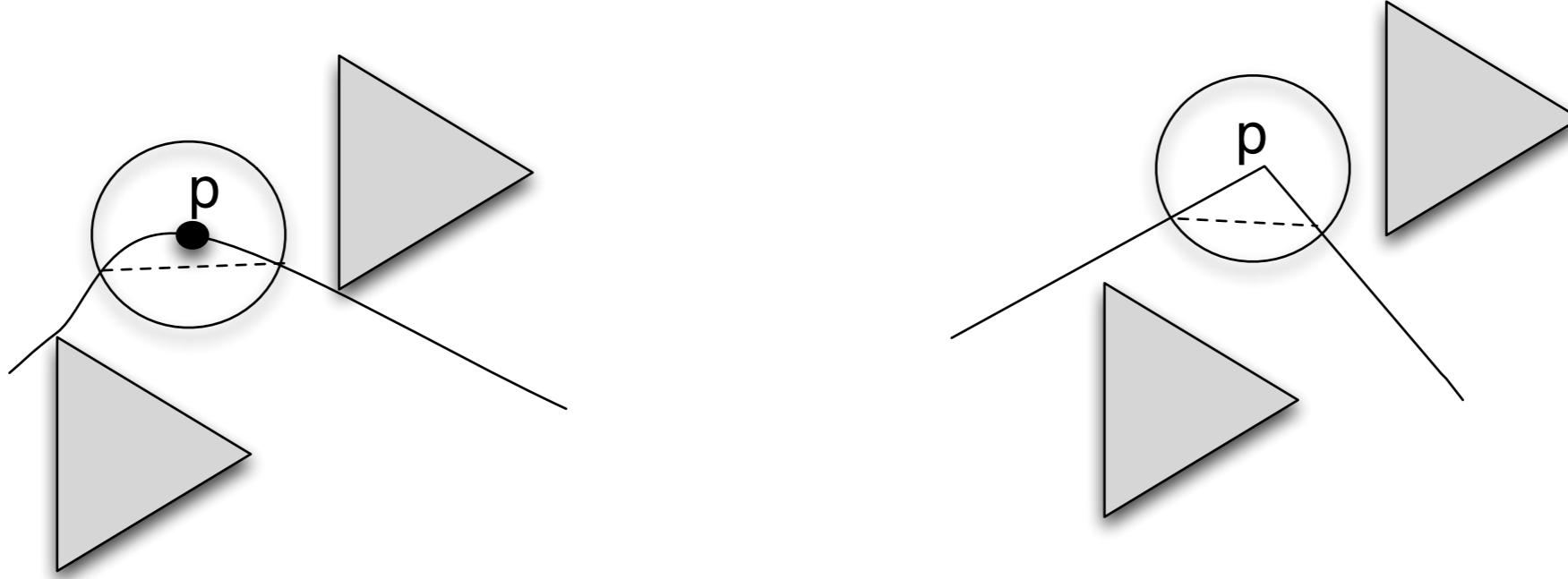


What if we wanted the shortest path?

Point robot in 2D with shortest paths

Claim: Any shortest path among a set S of disjoint polygonal obstacles

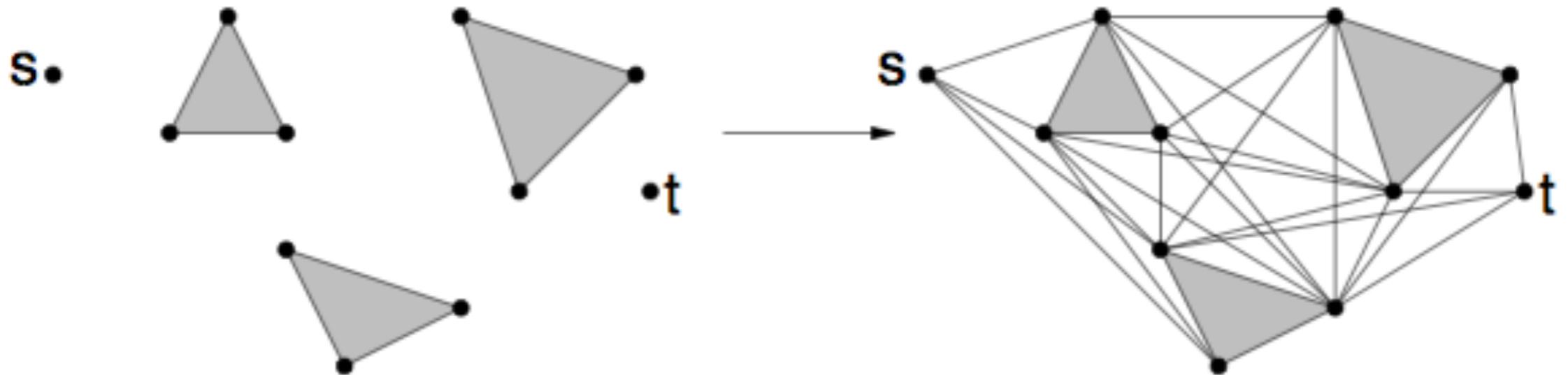
- is a polygonal path (that is, not curved)
- its vertices are the vertices of S .



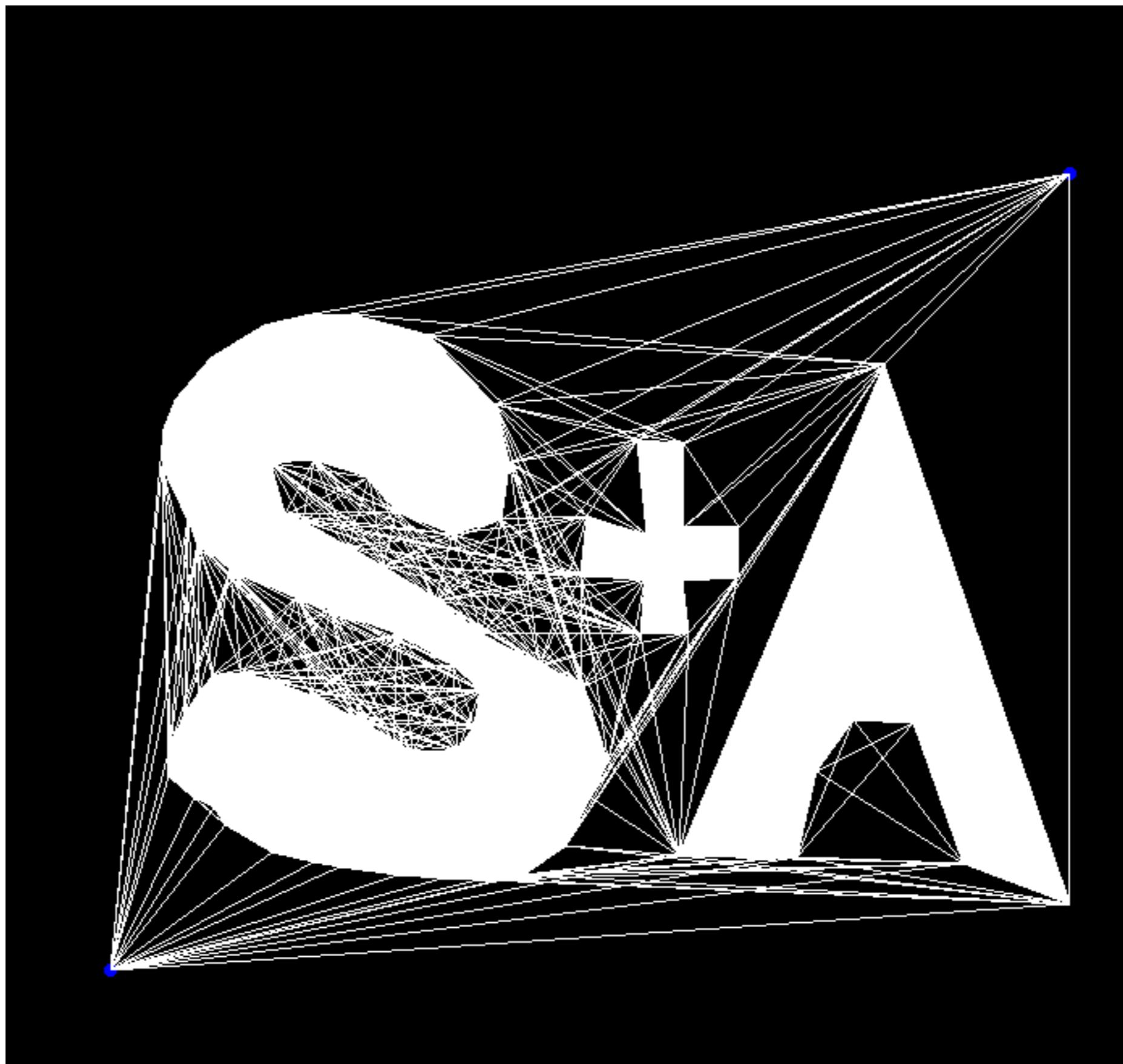
How to find a shortest path from start to end?

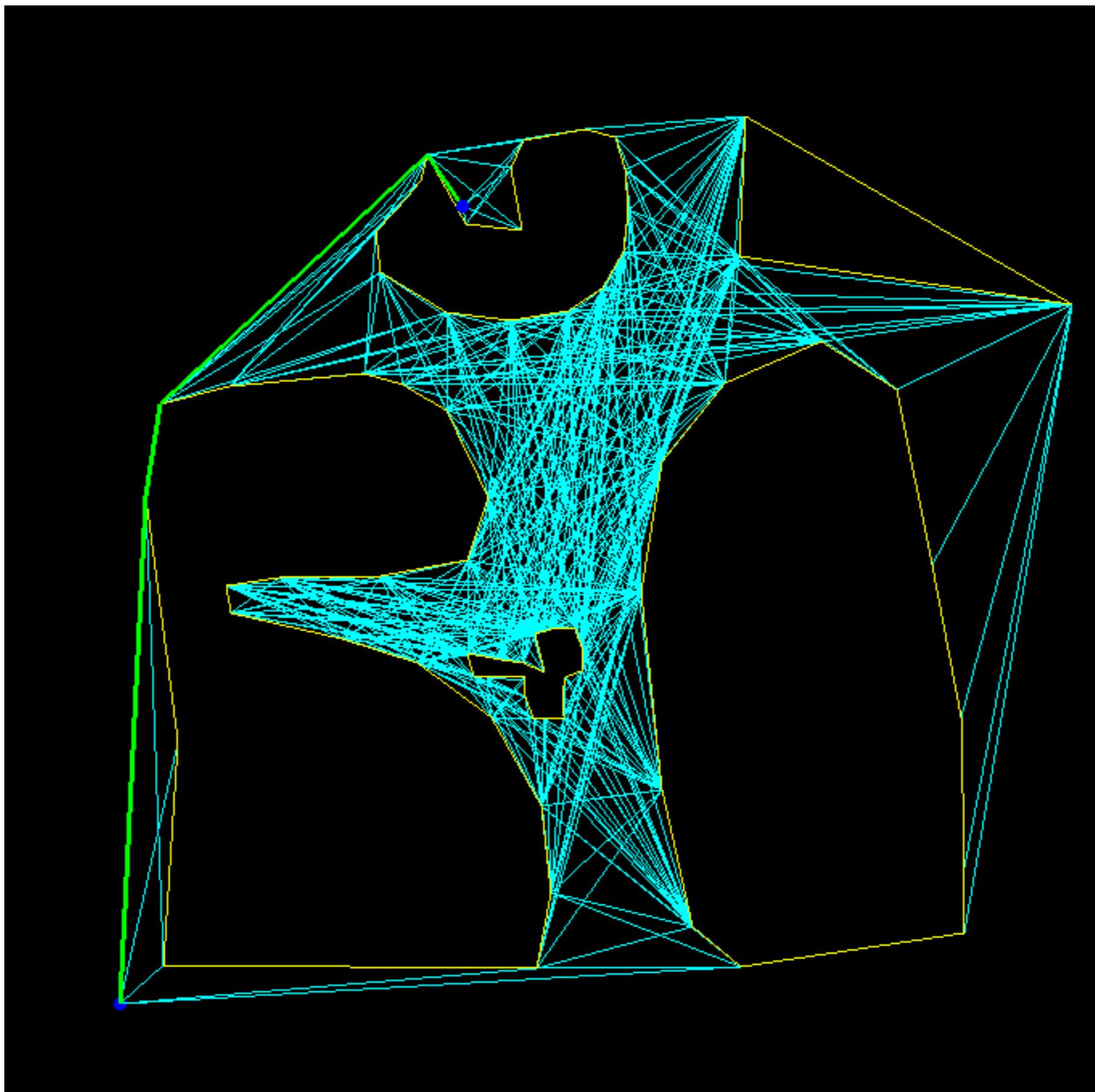
Point robot in 2D with shortest paths

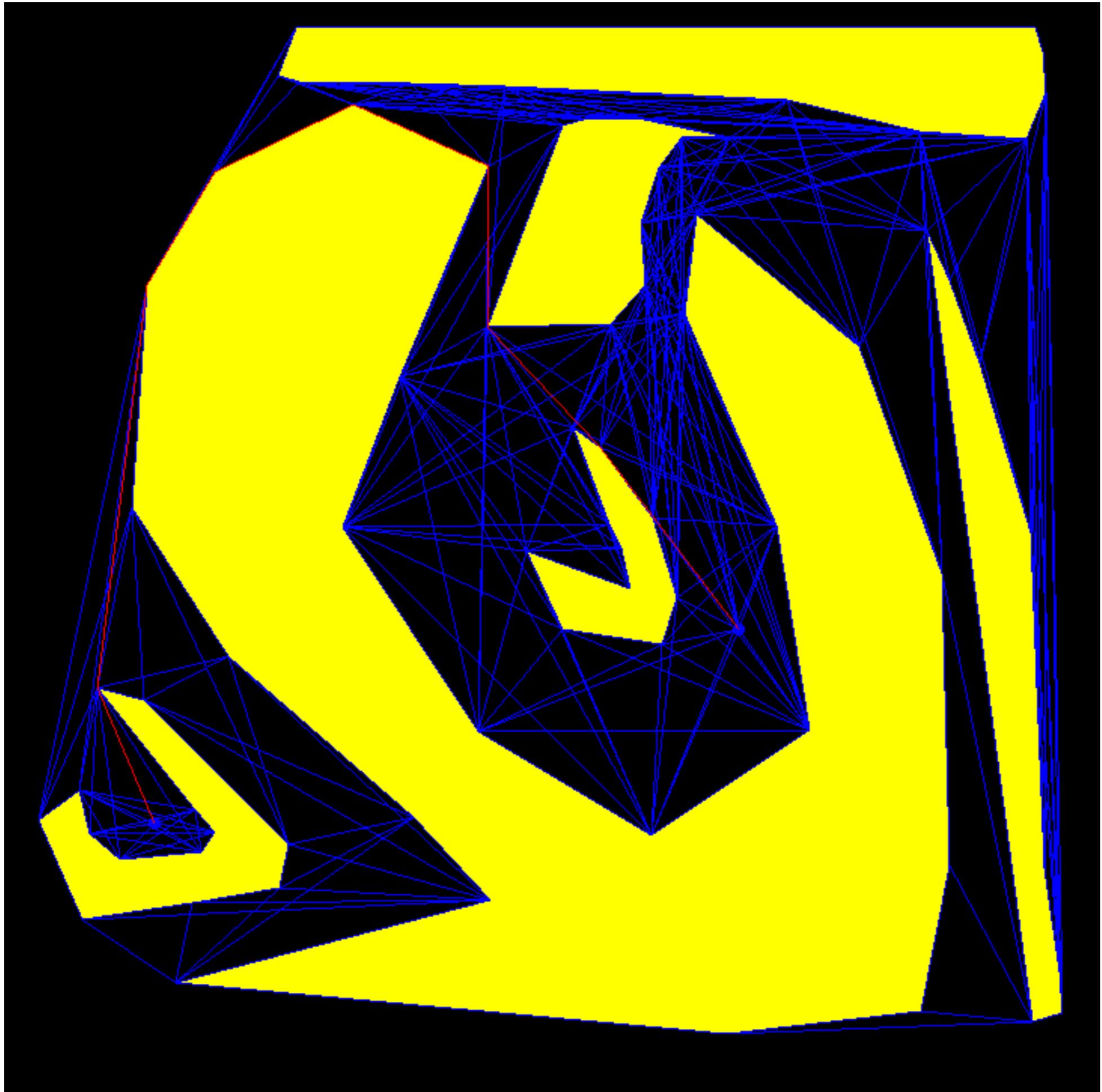
- Idea: Build the visibility graph (VG)
 - represents all possible ways to travel between the vertices of the obstacles

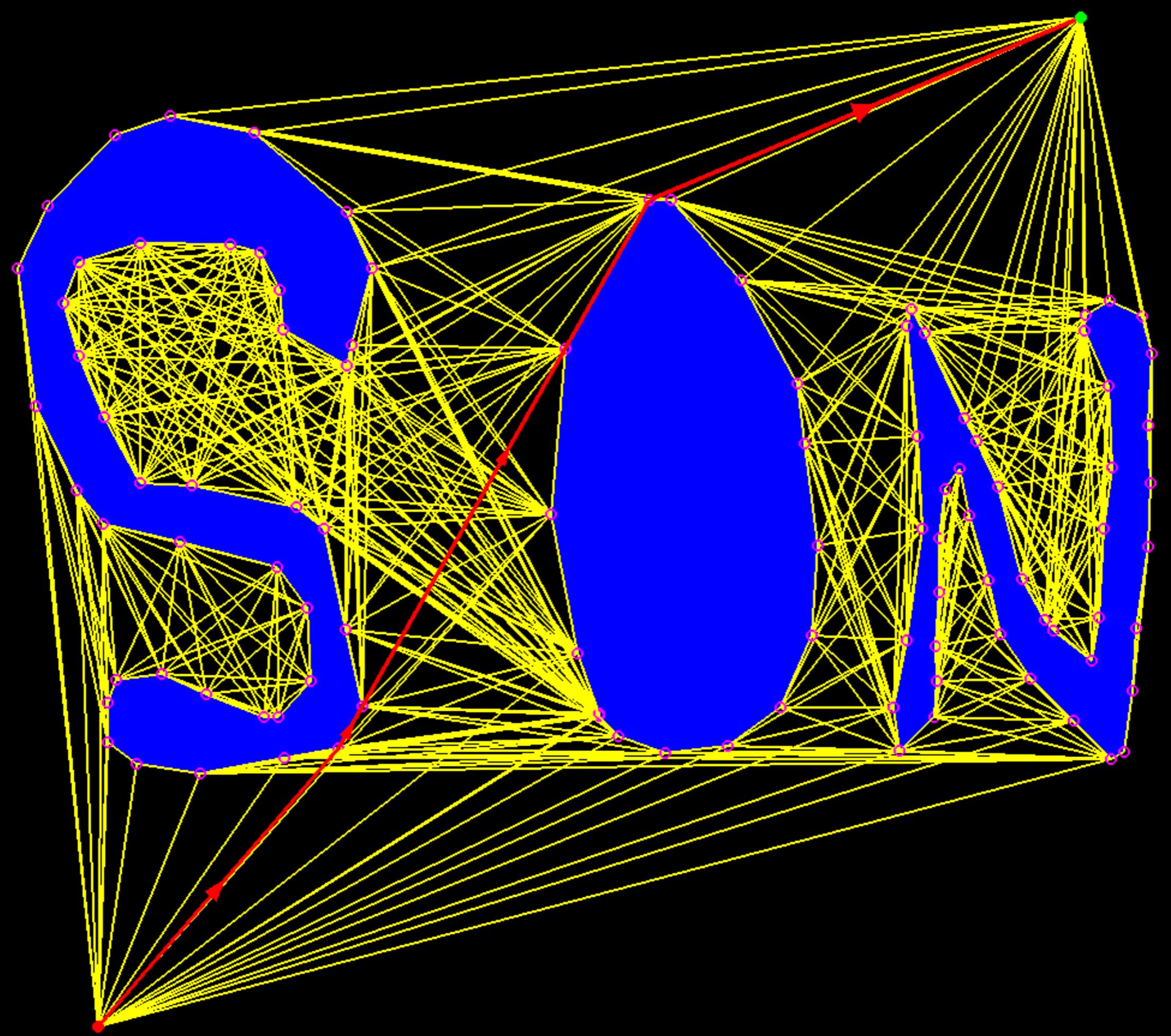


- Claim: any shortest path must be a path in the VG









n = complexity of obstacles
(total number of edges)

Point robot in 2D with shortest paths

Algorithm

- Compute visibility graph
 - $V = \{\text{set of vertices of obstacles} + p_{\text{start}} + p_{\text{end}}\}$
 - $E = \{\text{all pairs of vertices } (u,v) \text{ such that } uv \text{ are visible to each other}\}$
- SSSP (Dijkstra) in VG from start to finish

- Questions
 - What's the size of the VG?
 - How to compute it and how long?

n = complexity of obstacles
(total number of edges)

Classwork

- Consider a scene where the total size of the obstacles is n .
 - Come up with an example that triggers smallest/largest number of edges in VG (up to a constant factor).
 - Come up with a straightforward algorithm to compute VG and analyze it
 - How long does it take to run Dijkstra's algorithm on VG?

n = complexity of obstacles
(total number of edges)

Point robot in 2D with shortest paths

- Complexity of VG
 - $V_{VG} = O(n)$, $E_{VG} = O(n^2)$ <----- can have quadratic size
- Computing VG
 - naive: for each edge, check if intersects any obstacle. $O(n^3)$
 - improved: $O(n \lg n)$ per vertex, $O(n^2 \lg n)$ total ← later
- Dijkstra on VG: $O(E_{VG} \lg n) = O(n^2 \lg n)$

n = complexity of obstacles
(total number of edges)

Point robot in 2D with shortest paths

Summary

Algorithm

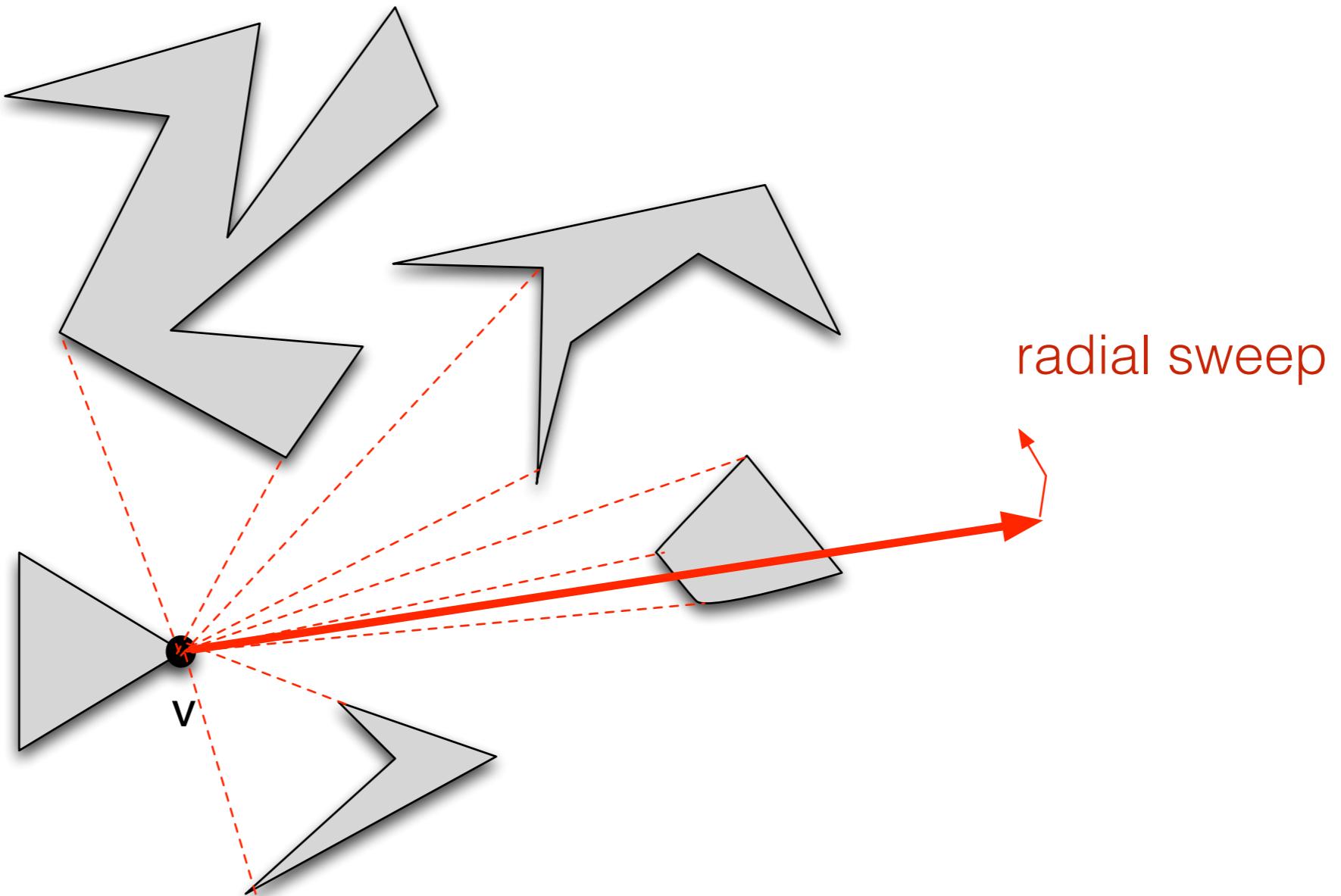
- Compute visibility graph $\longleftrightarrow O(n^2 \lg n)$
- SSSP (Dijkstra) in VG $\longleftrightarrow O(E_{VG} \lg n)$

Theorem: Given a set of polygonal obstacles with n edges, a shortest path between two points can be computed in $O(E_{VG} \lg n) = O(n^2 \lg n)$ time.

Computing the visibility graph

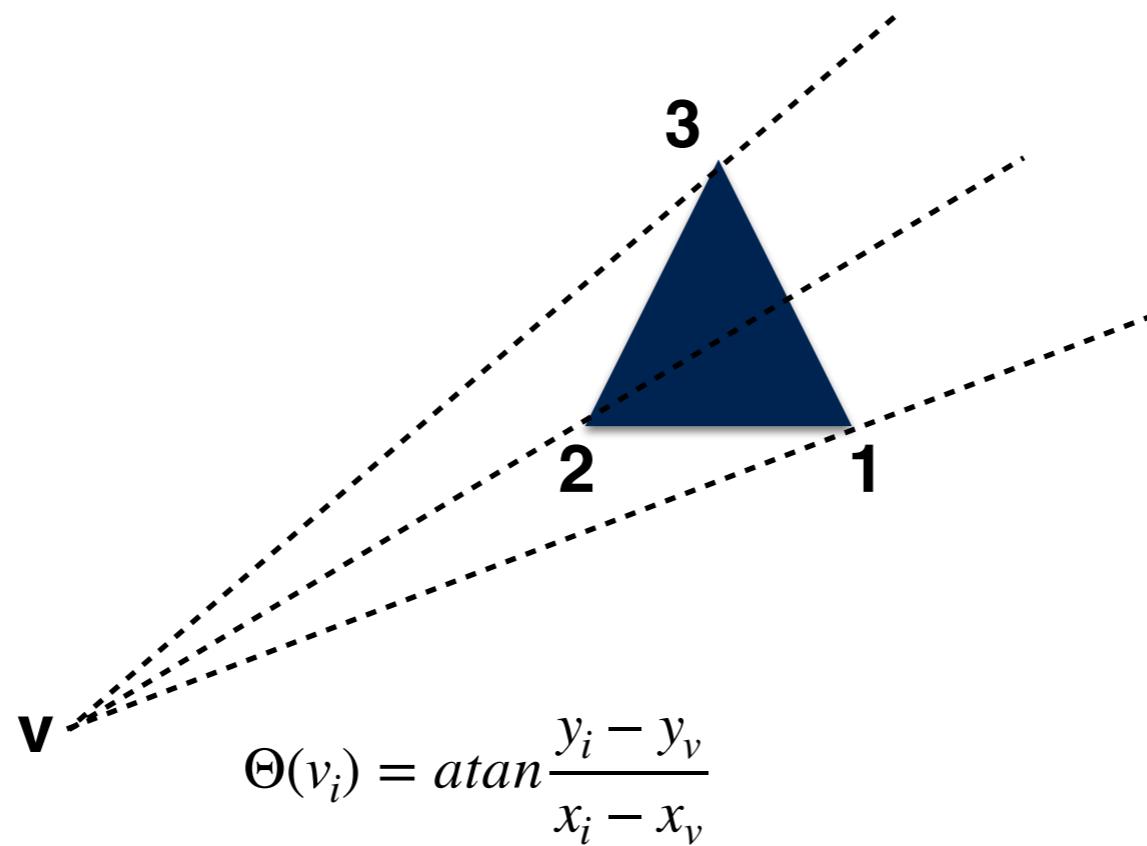
Improved computation of VG

- For every vertex v : compute all vertices visible from v in $O(n \lg n)$



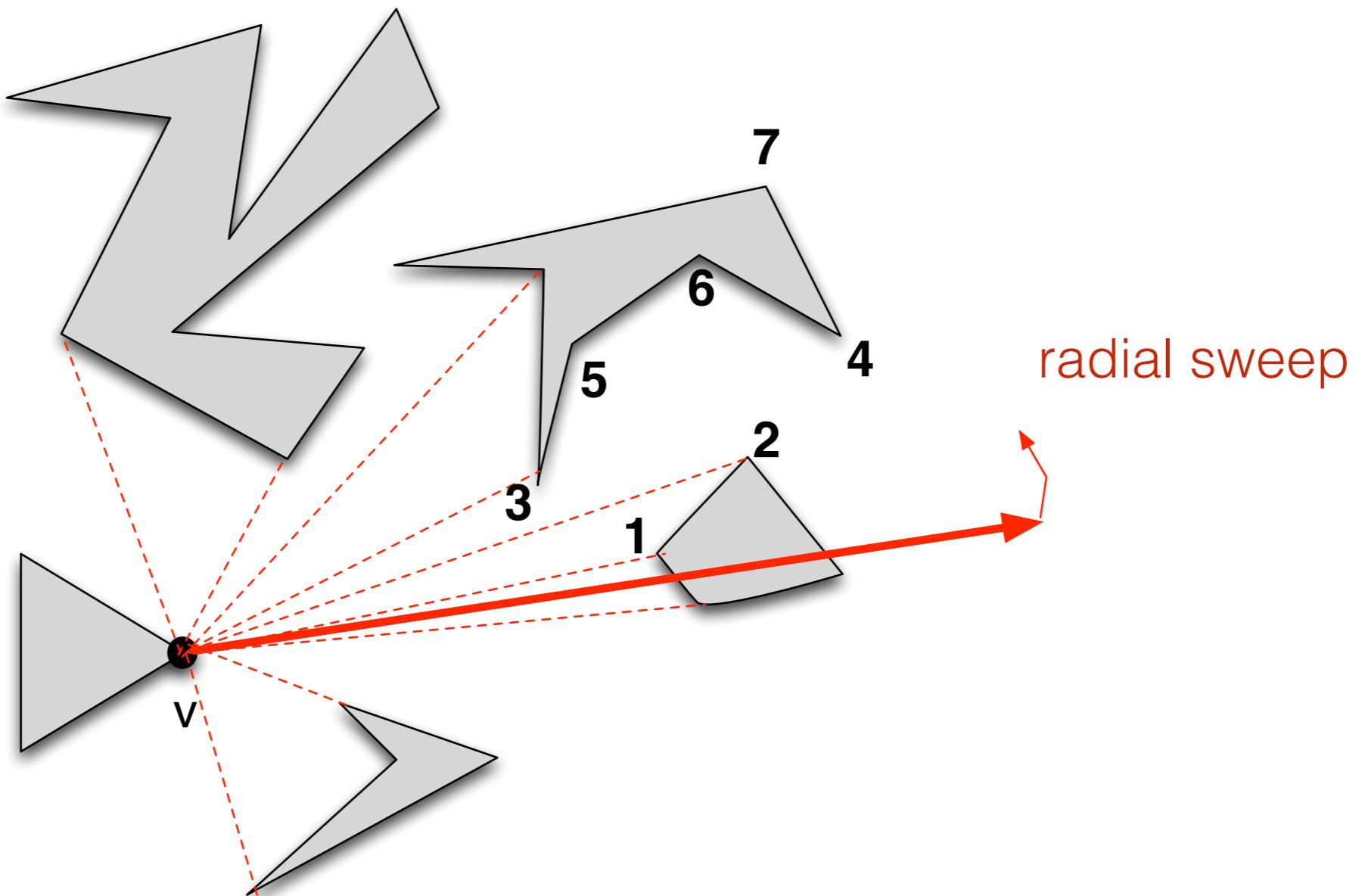
Improved computation of VG

- Radial sweep: rotate a ray centered at v
- Events: vertices of polygons (obstacles) sorted in radial order
 - for = angles, sorted by distance from v

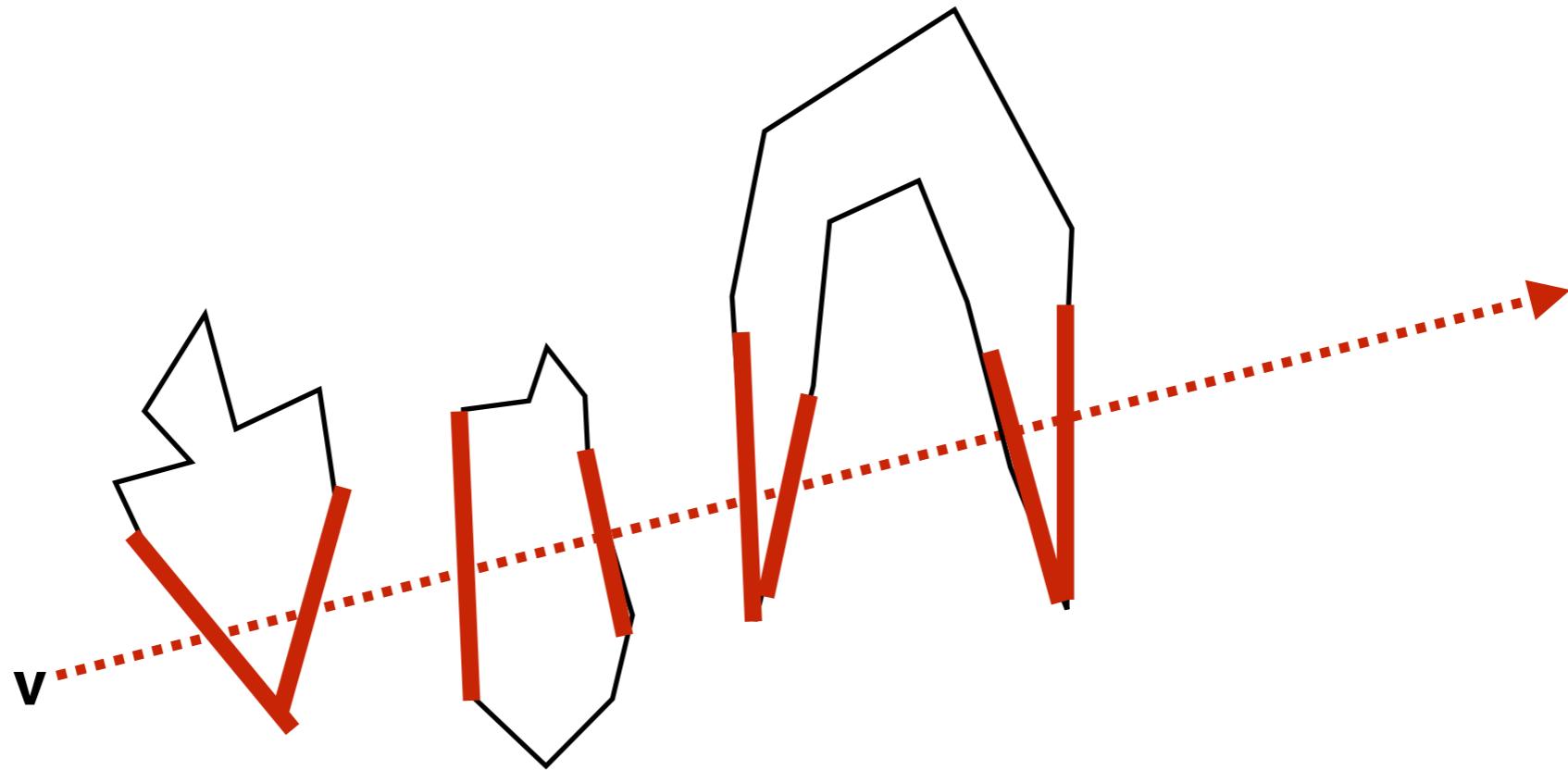


Improved computation of VG

- Radial sweep: rotate a ray centered at v
- Events: vertices of polygons (obstacles) sorted in radial order
 - for = angles, sorted by distance from v

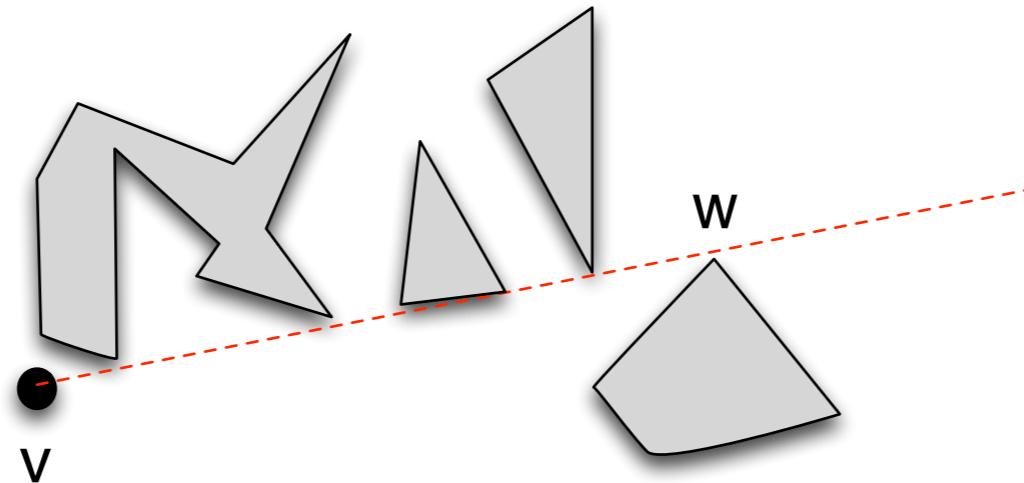


Improved computation of VG



Active structure (AS) stores all the edges that intersect the sweep line,
ordered by distance from v

Improved computation of VG



w visible if vw does not intersect the interior of any obstacle

Improved computation of VG

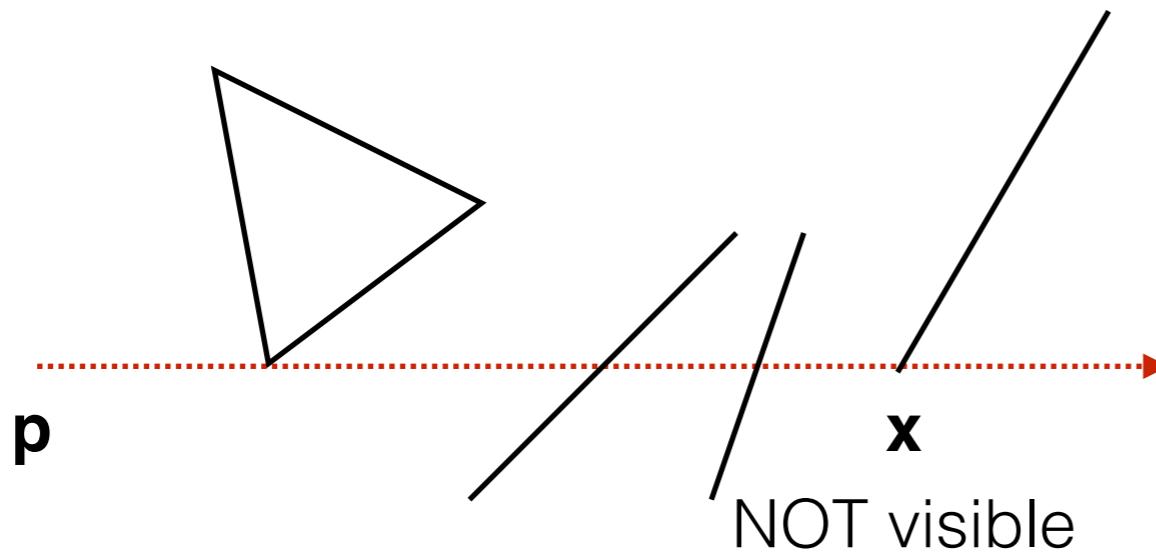
RadialSweep(polygon vertices V, vertex p)

- sort V radially from p, and secondarily by distance from p
- initialize AS with all edges that intersect the horizontal ray from p
- For each vertex v in sorted order:
 - determine if v is visible from p
 - figure out if the edges incident to v are above/below the sweep line.
If above -> insert edge in AS. If below => delete edge from AS

Runs in $O(n \lg n)$ time

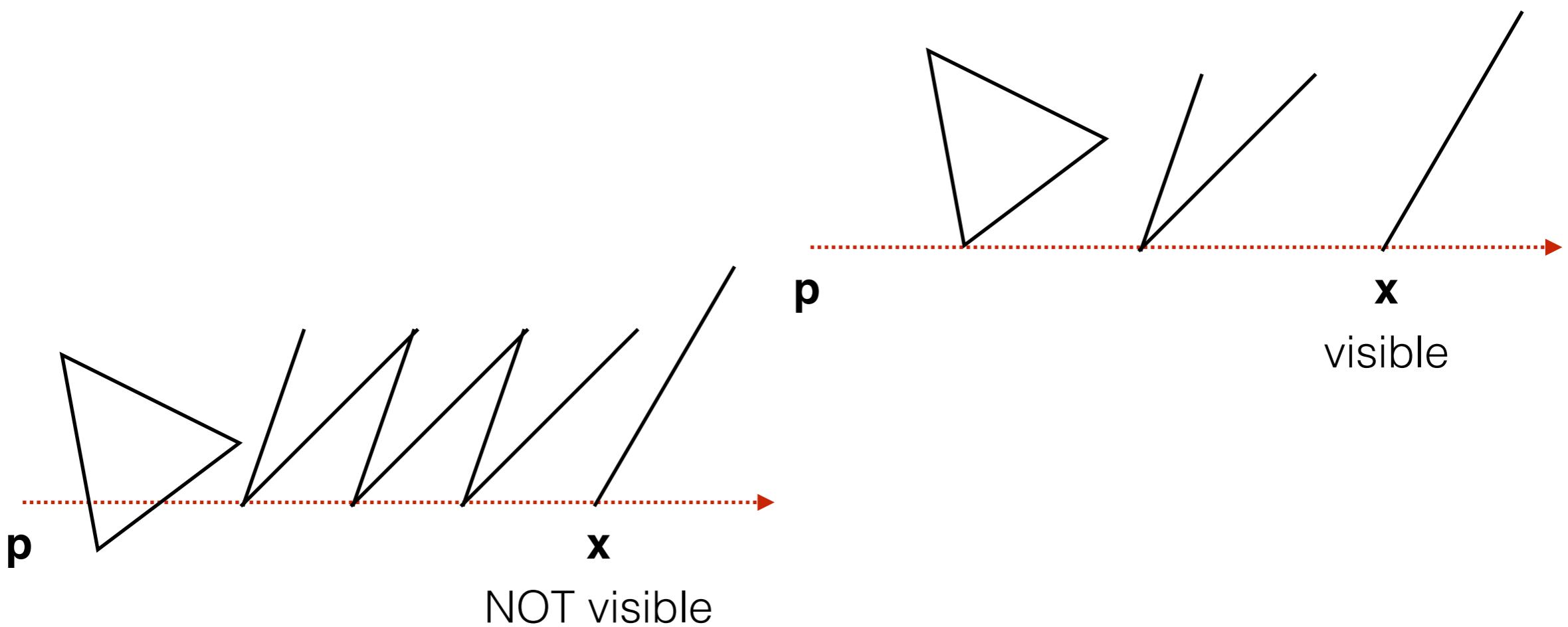
Is vertex x visible from p?

some cases



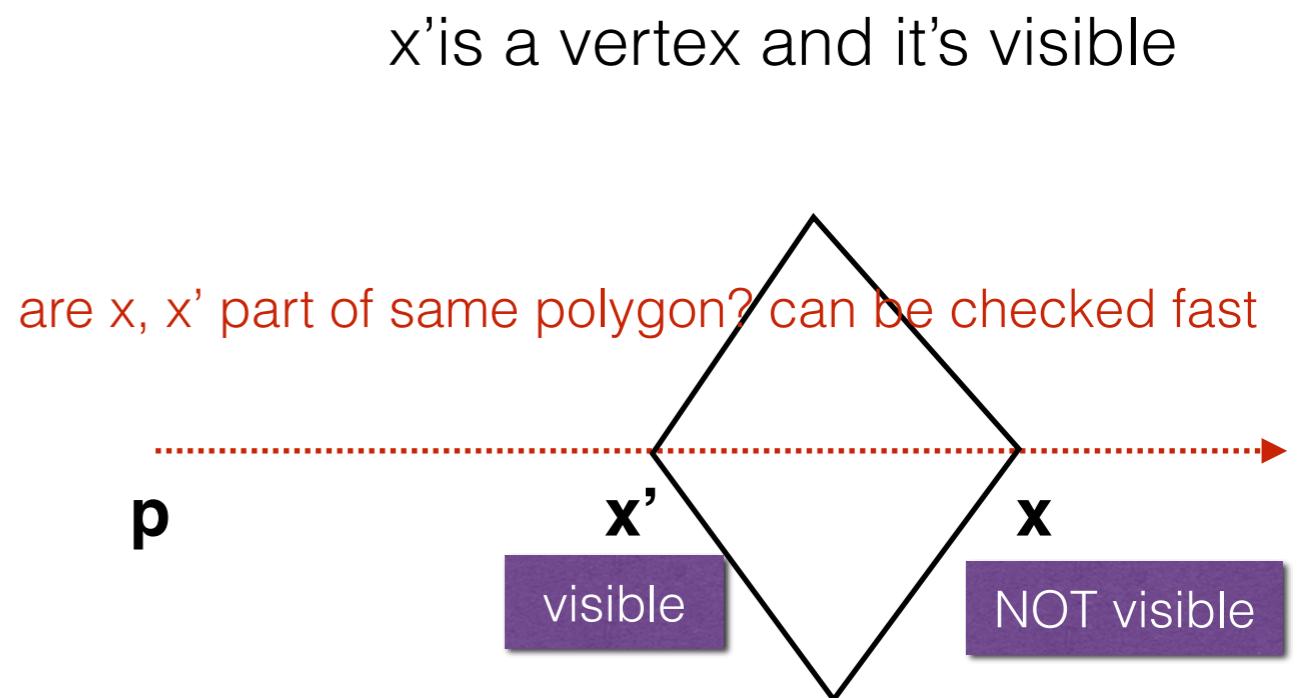
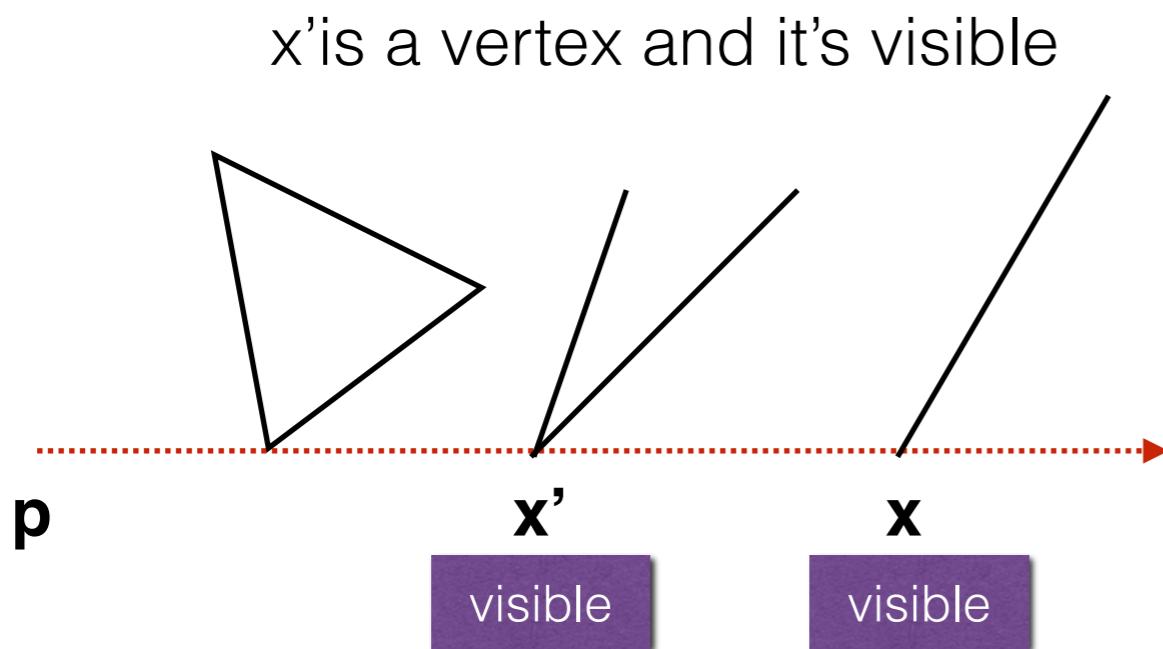
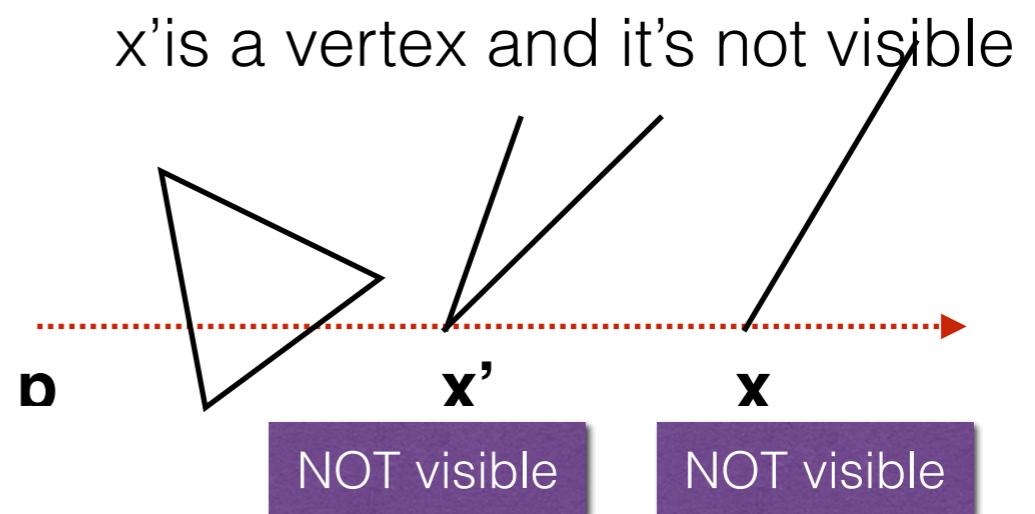
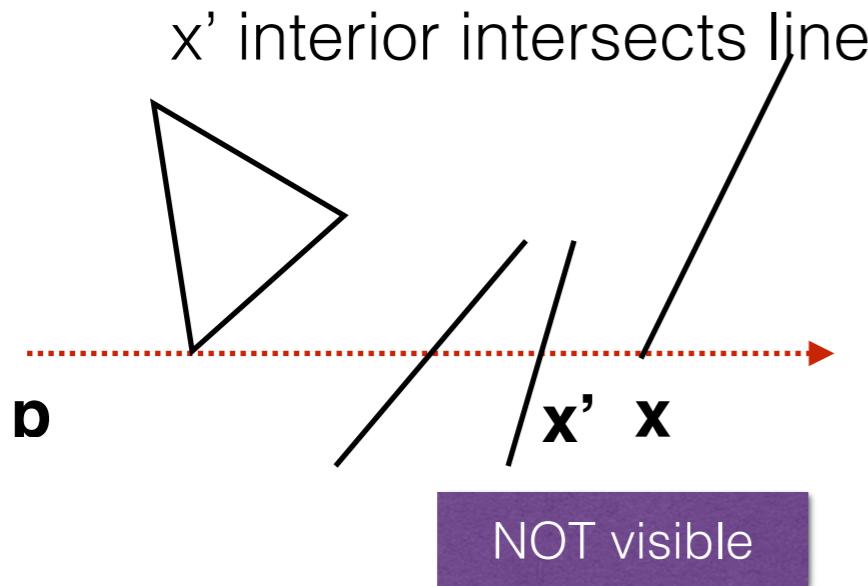
NOT visible:

If there is any edge in AS left of x , whose interior intersects the line



Is vertex x visible from p ?

Let x' be the edge just before x in the AS, $\text{AS}.\text{predecessor}(x)$



Is vertex x visible from p?

- check the event just before x in AS (AS.predecessor(x)). Call this x'.
- if x' is an edge whose interior intersects sweep line => x is not visible
- if x' has a vertex on the sweep line then:
 - if x' is not visible => x not visible
 - if x' is visible => x visible, unless they are both on the same polygon

Runs in $O(\lg n)$ time

Computing the visibility graph

END

Motion planning with the Visibility Graph

- + Optimal and complete
- + VG needs to be computed only once, so we can think of it as pre-processing
- VG may be large, $\Omega(n^2) \Rightarrow$ path planning doomed to quadratic complexity

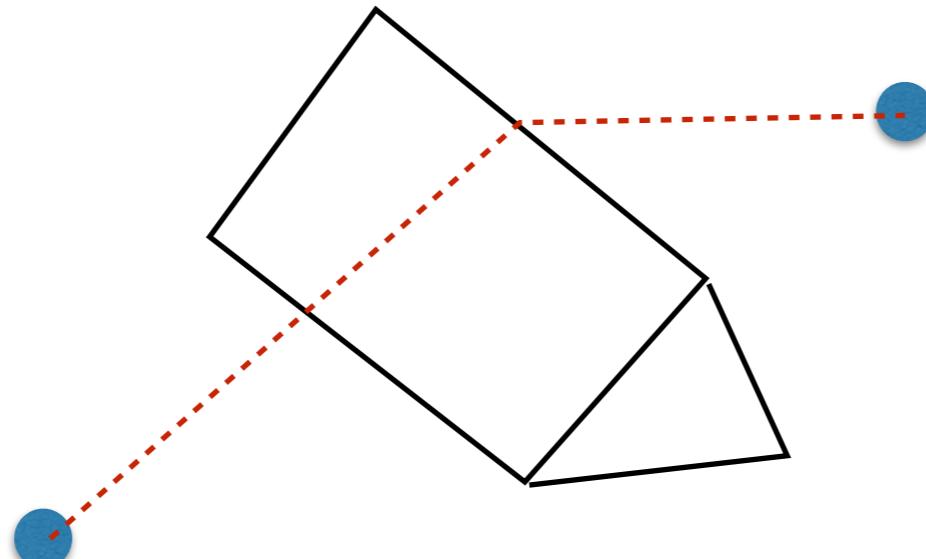
Motion planning with Visibility Graph in 2D

History:

- $O(n^2)$ algorithm also with a radial sweep
- Quadratic barrier broken by Joe Mitchell: SP of a point robot moving in 2D can be computed in $O(n^{1.5+\epsilon})$
- Continuous Dijkstra approach: SP of a point robot moving in 2D can be computed in $O(n \lg n)$ [Hershberger and Suri 1993]
- Special cases can be solved faster:
 - e.g. SP inside a simple polygon w/o holes: $O(n)$ time

Visibility Graph in 3D

- VG does not generalize to 3D
- Inflection points of SP are not restricted to vertices of S, can be inside edges
- Shortest paths in 3D much harder
 - Computing 3D shortest paths among polyhedral obstacles is NP-complete
 - Complete and optimal planning in 3D is hopeless



2D path planning problems

- point robot moving inside an arbitrary polygon
 -  **point** robot moving among (arbitrary) polygons
 - **disk** robot moving among (arbitrary) polygons
- next • **convex** robot moving among (arbitrary) polygons
- **non-convex** robot moving among (arbitrary) polygons
- robot with arms and articulations

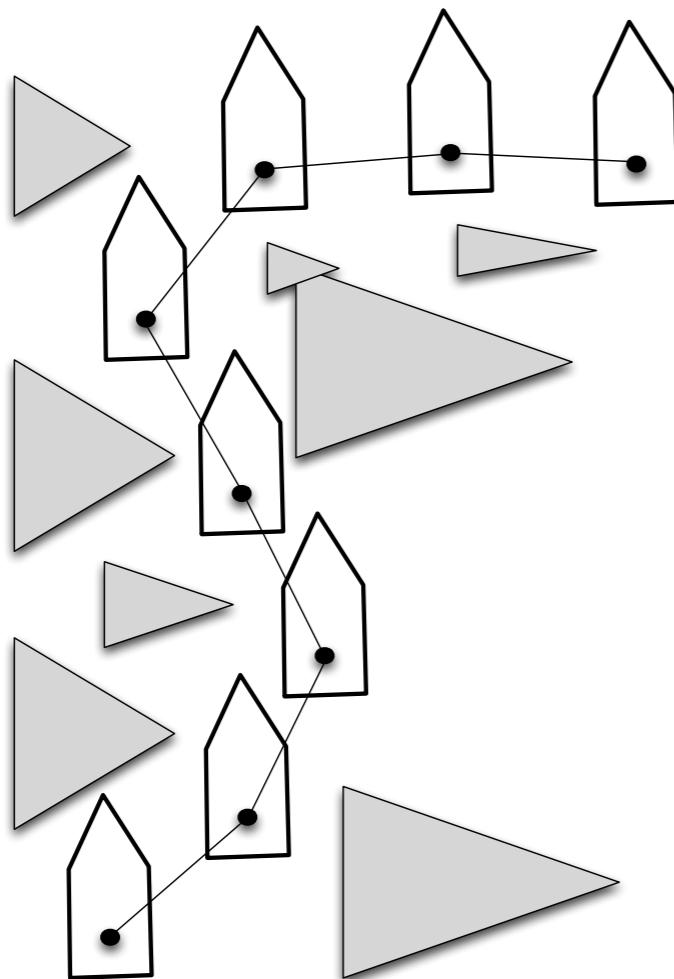


harder

Convex polygon moving in 2D

Convex polygon moving in 2D

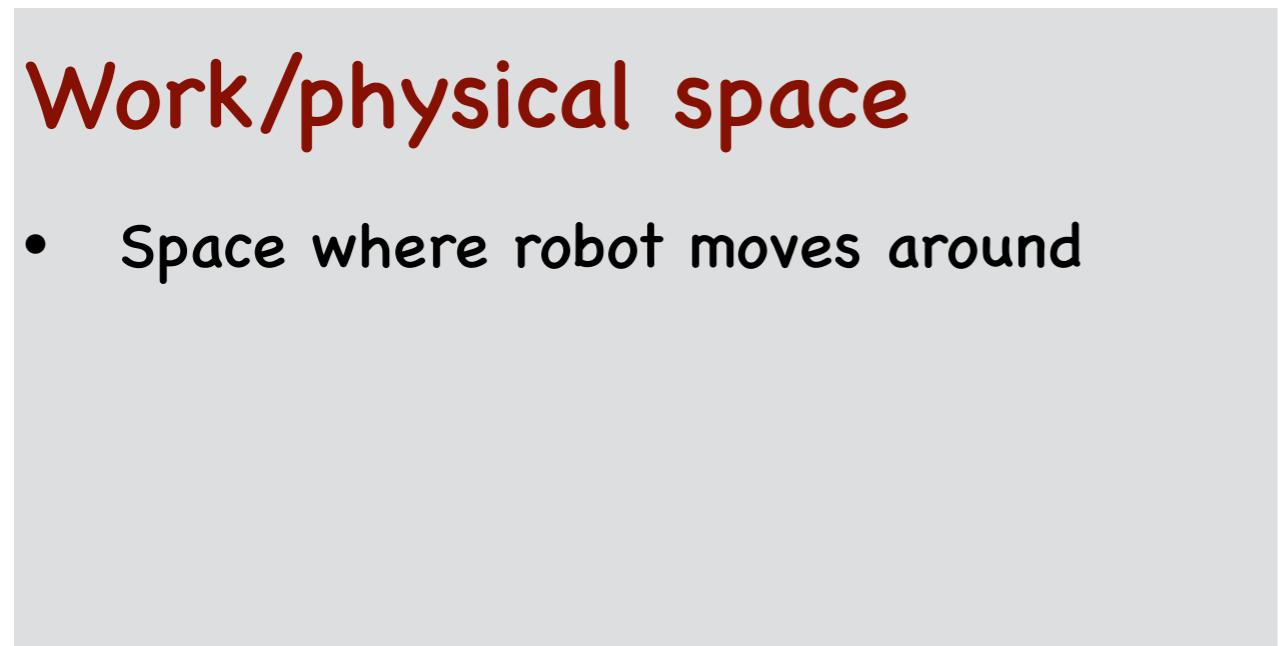
- How can the robot move?
 - Translation only
 - Translation + rotation



screenshot from internet

Work/physical space

- Space where robot moves around



A placement of robot is specified by the degrees of freedom (dof) of the robot

- Example:

$$R(x,y)$$

$$R(x,y,\theta)$$

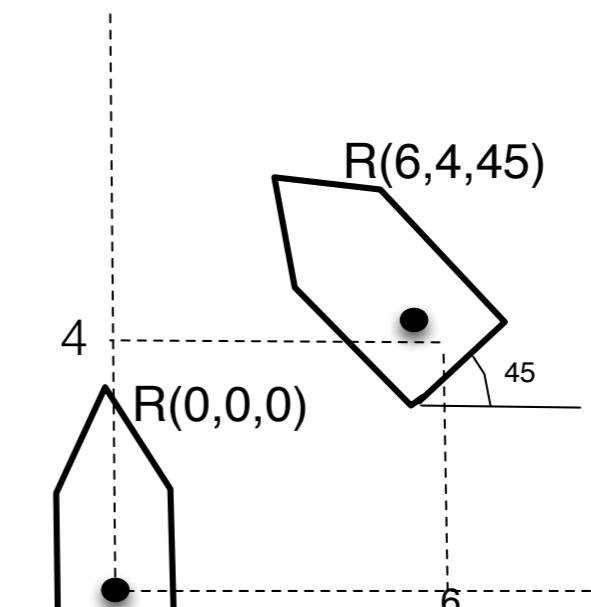
translation only



R(0,0)

R(6,4)

reference point



R(0,0,0)

R(6,4,45)

reference point

translation + rotation

Configuration space (C-space)

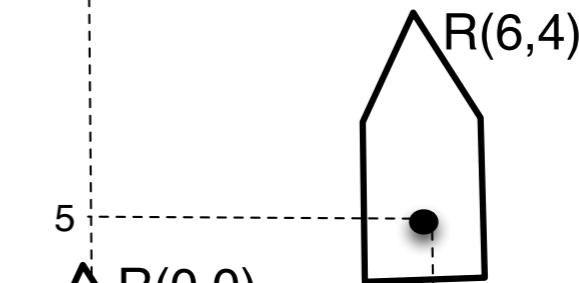
- C-space: The parametric space of the robot = space of all possible placements of the robot
- A point in C-space corresponds to placement of the robot in physical space

Examples:

2D, translation only $\leftrightarrow R(x,y)$

2D, transl.+ rot. $\leftrightarrow R(x,y, \theta)$

translation only



translation + rotation



translation + rotation

Physical Space and C-space

robot	physical space	C-space
polygon, (translation only)	2D	2D

Physical Space and C-space

robot	physical space	C-space
polygon, (translation only)	2D	2D
polygon, (translation + rotations)	2D	3D

Physical Space and C-space

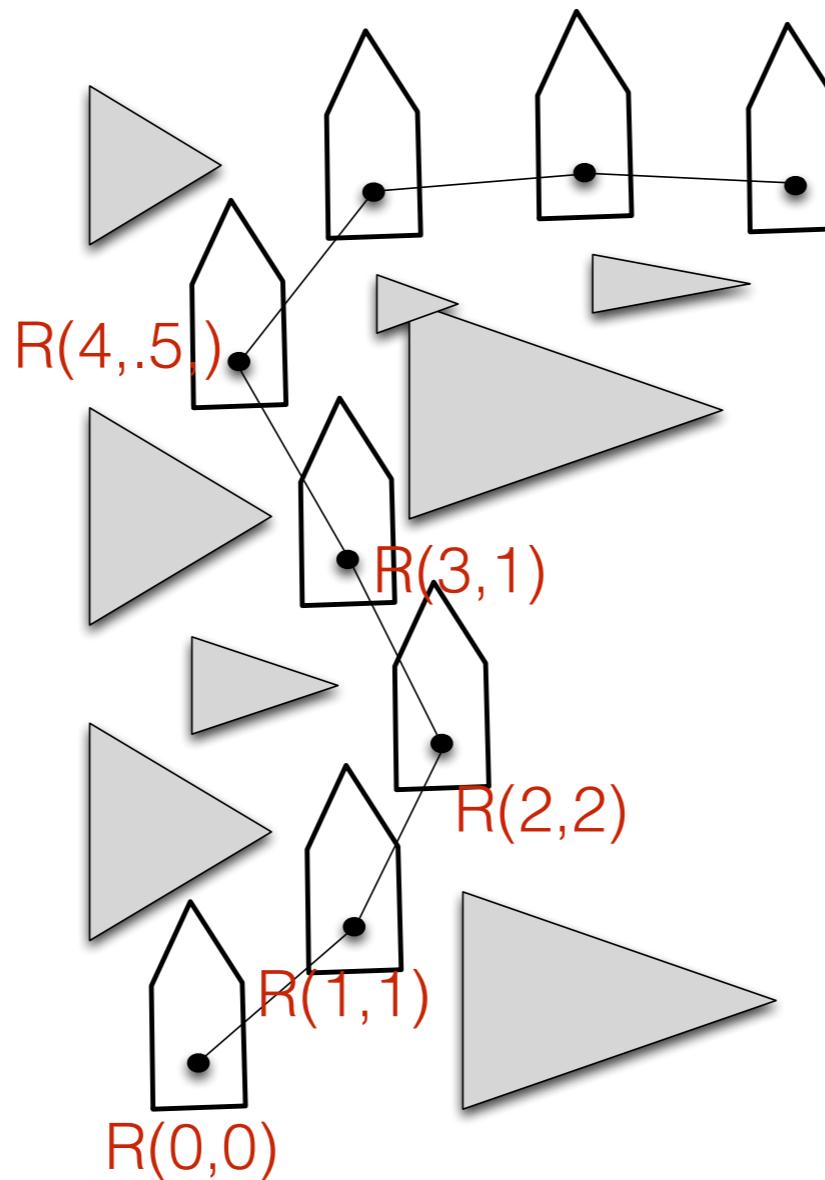
robot	physical space	C-space
polygon, (translation only)	2D	2D
polygon, (translation + rotations)	2D	3D
polygon (translation, rotations)	3D	6D

Physical Space and C-space

robot	physical space	C-space
polygon, (translation only)	2D	2D
polygon, (translation + rotations)	2D	3D
polygon (translation, rotations)	3D	6D
Robot arm with joints	3D	#DOF

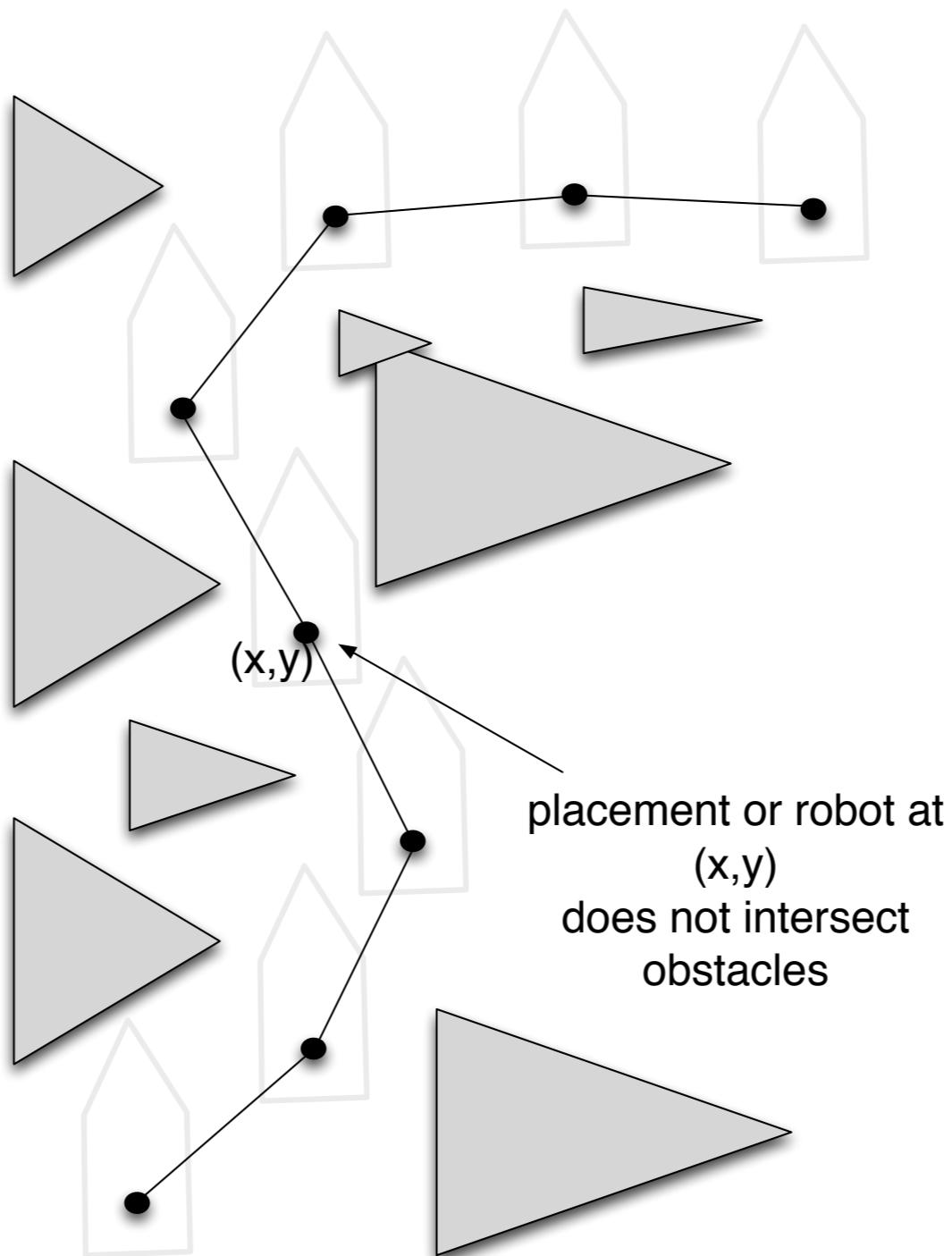
Path planning in C-space

- Any path for R corresponds to a path for R in C-space
- Path planning \Rightarrow path planning in C-space



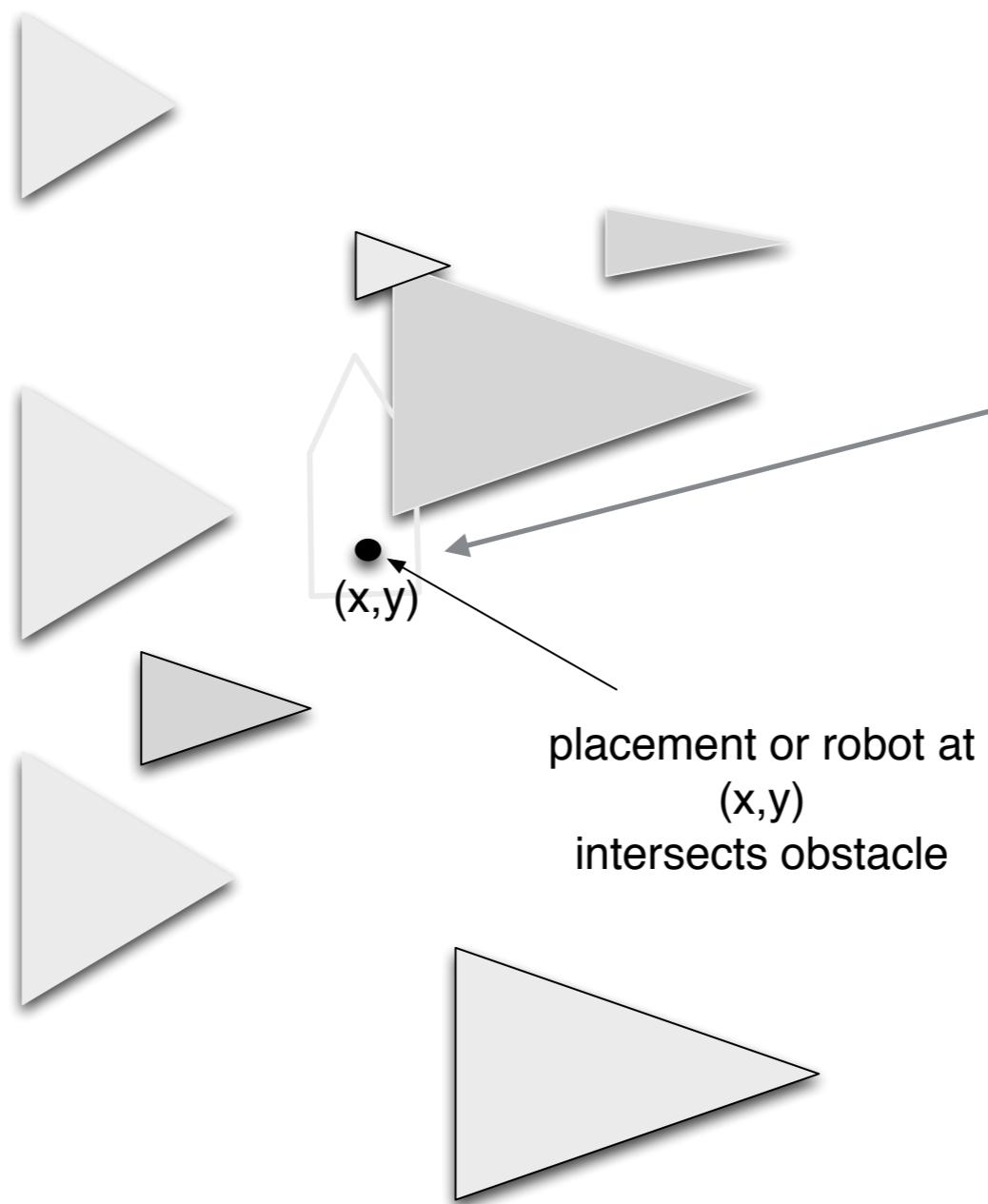
Free C-space

A point (x,y) is in free C-space if placing $R(x,y)$ does not intersect the obstacles



Forbidden C-space

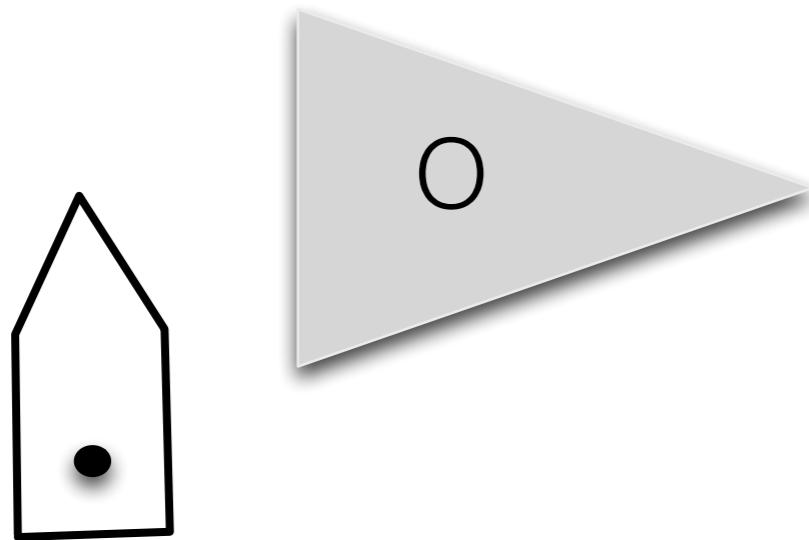
A point (x,y) is in forbidden C-space if it is not in free C-space.



forbidden C-space:
placements (x,y)
where robot intersects
with obstacle

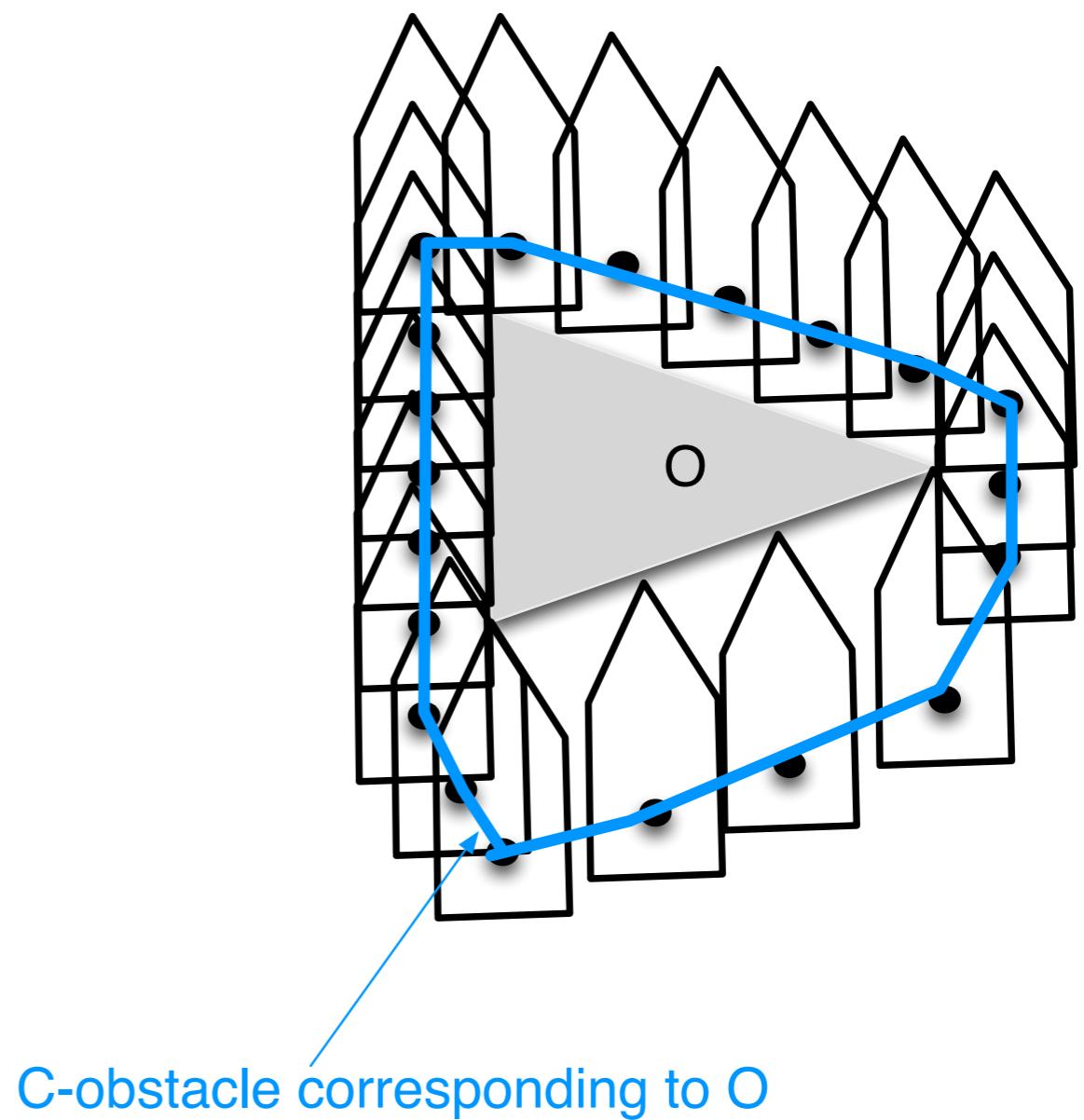
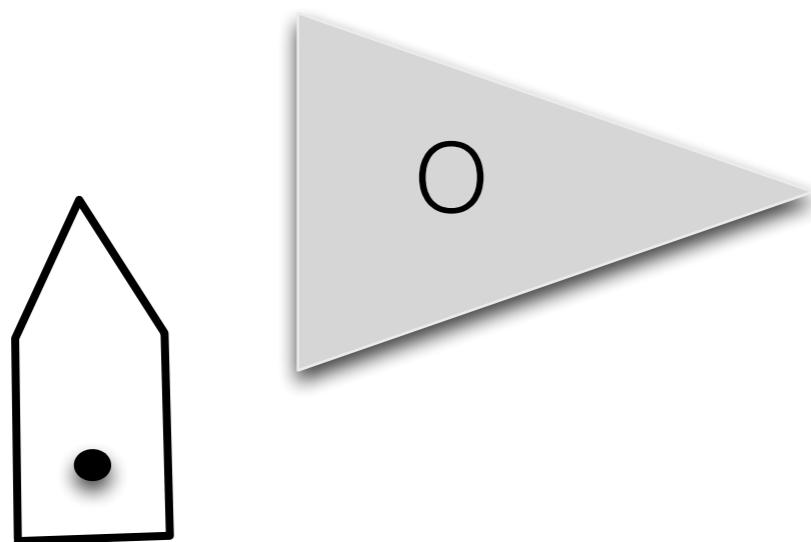
Extended obstacles or C-obstacles

- Given obstacle O and robot R(x,y): what placements cause intersection with O?



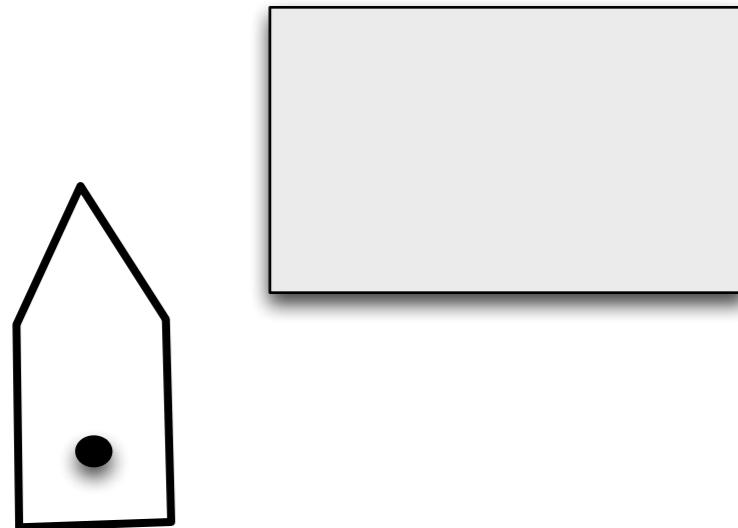
Extended obstacles or C-obstacles

- Given obstacle O and robot $R(x,y)$, what placements cause intersection with O ?



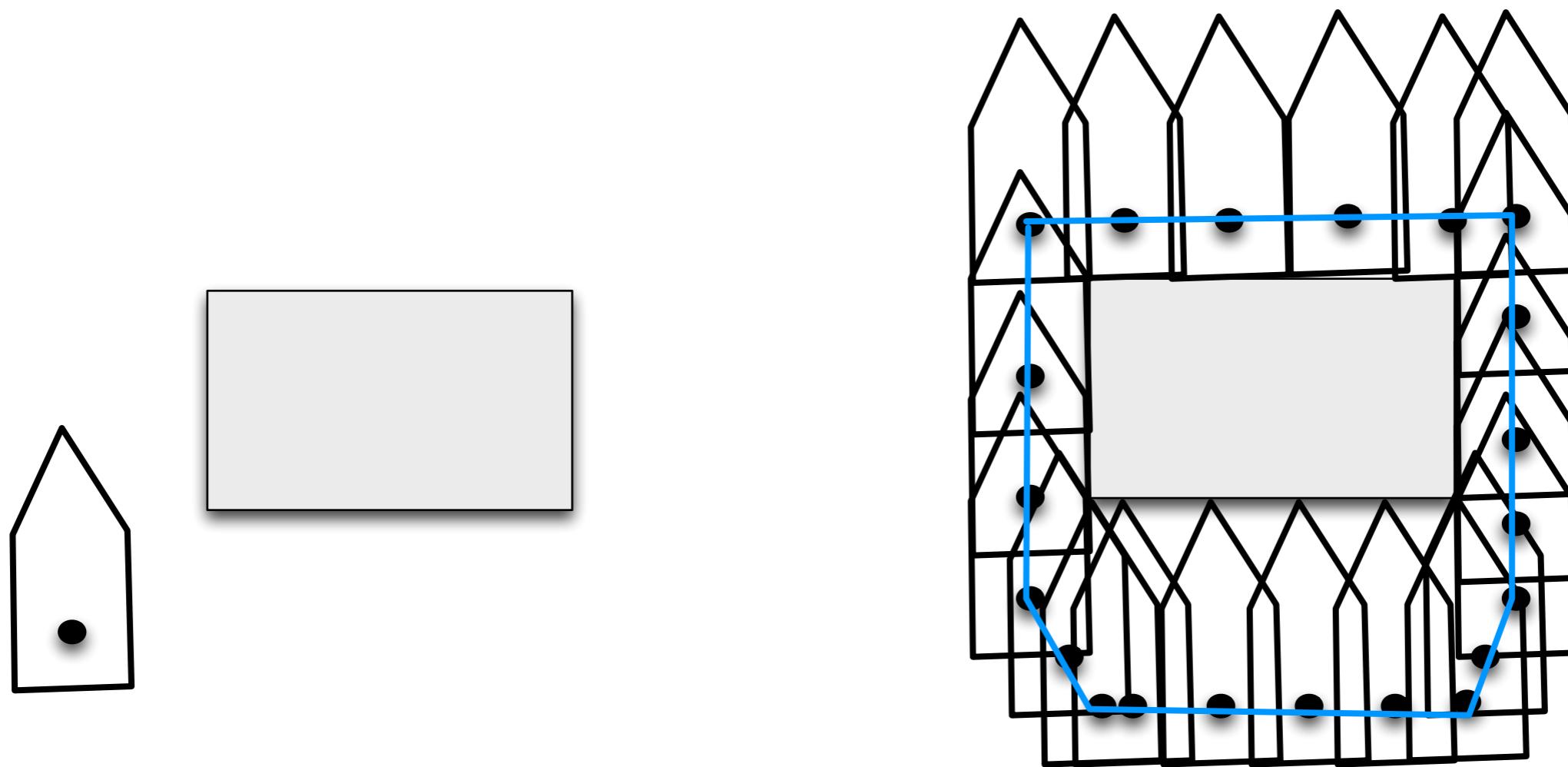
Extended obstacles or C-obstacles

- Given obstacle O and robot R(x,y), what placements cause intersection with O?

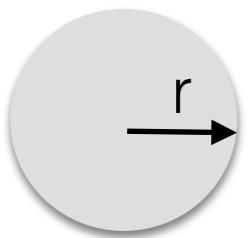


Extended obstacles or C-obstacles

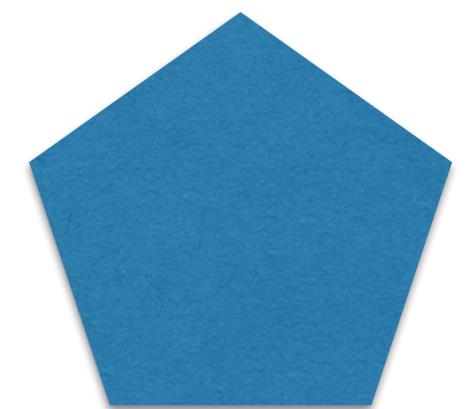
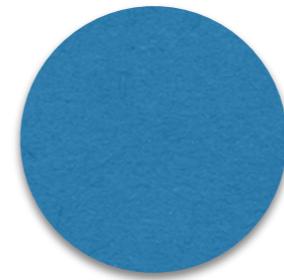
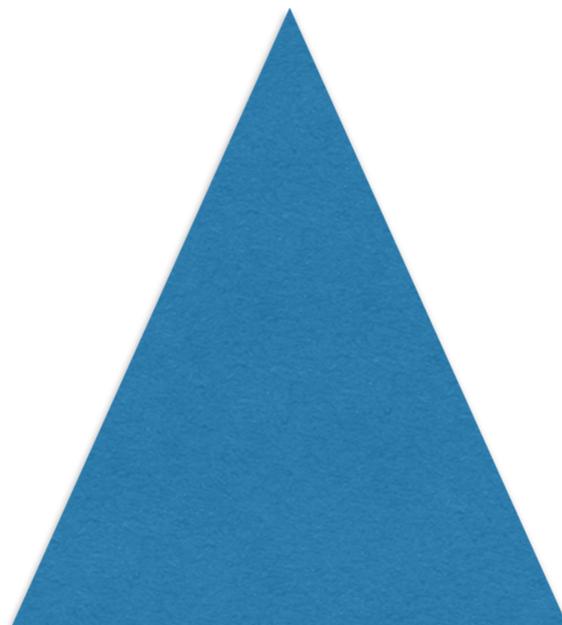
- Given obstacle O and robot R(x,y), what placements cause intersection with O?



Class work

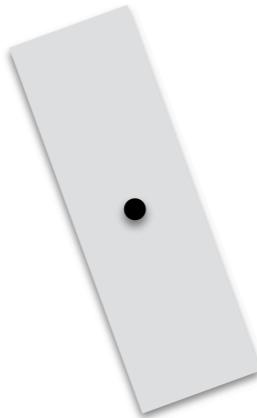


robot

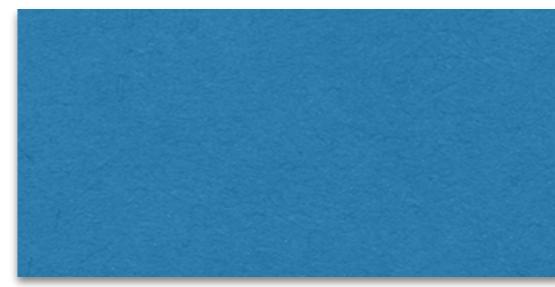


Show the corresponding C-obstacles for a disc robot.

Exercise



robot



Show the corresponding C-obstacle.

Now we are ready for
Polygonal robot translating in 2D

Polygonal robot translating in 2D

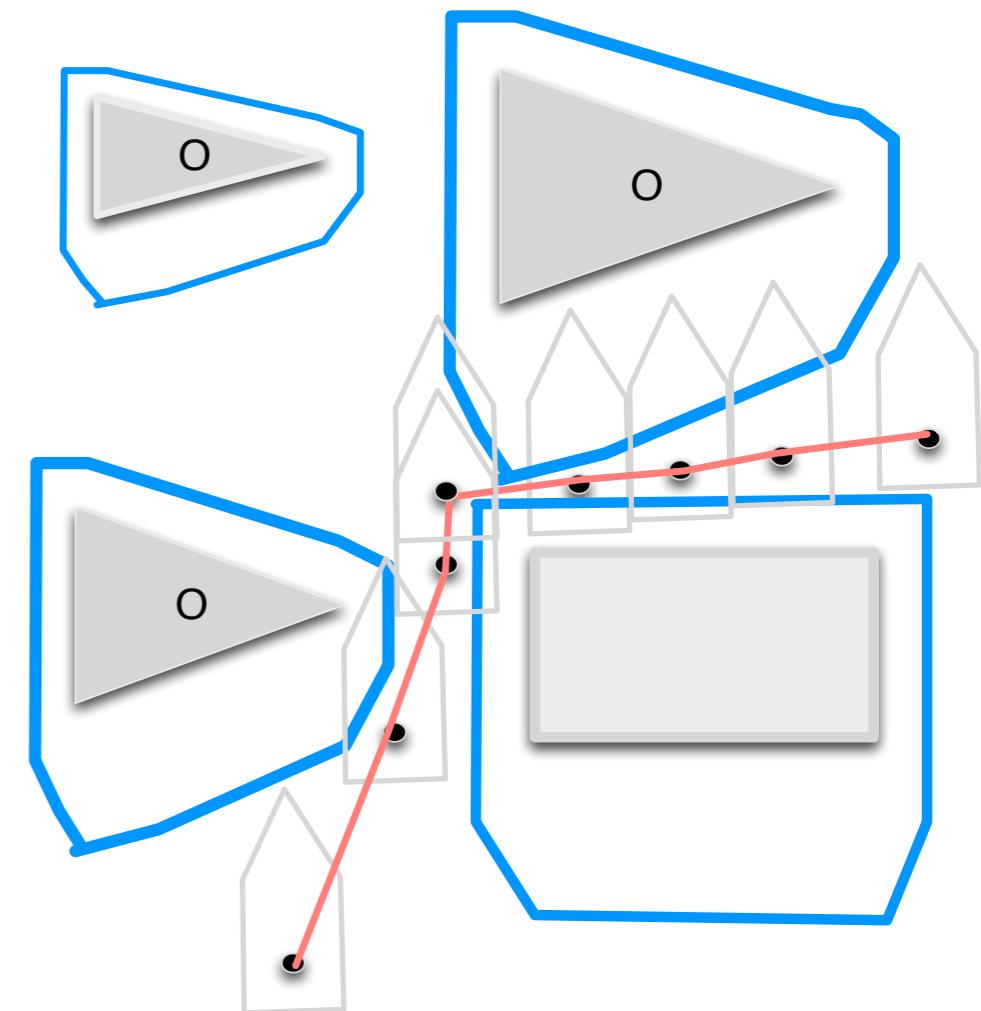
Algorithm

- For each obstacle O , compute the corresponding C-obstacle
- Compute the union of C-obstacles
- Compute its complement. That's the free C-space

//now the problem is reduced to a point

//robot moving in free C-space

- Compute a trapezoidal map of free C-space
- Use it to compute a roadmap of free space



How fast can we do this?

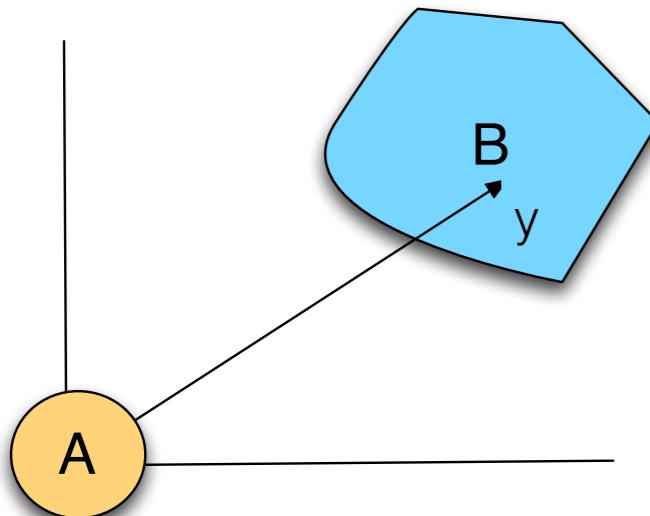
How do we compute C-obstacles?

Minkowski sum

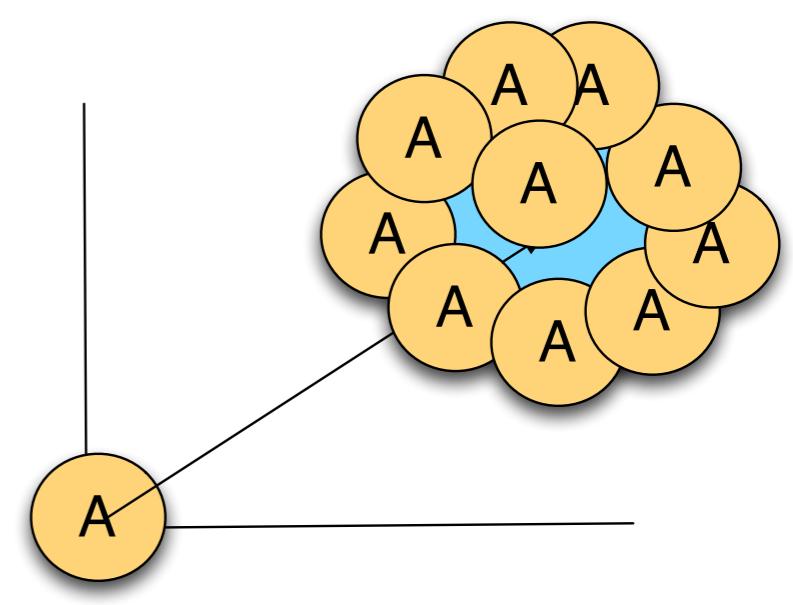
- Let A, B two sets of points in the plane
 - Define $A \odot B = \{x + y \mid x \text{ in } A, y \text{ in } B\}$ ← Minkowski sum

The diagram illustrates vector addition. On the left, the text "vector sum" is written below a black arrow pointing from the origin towards the top-right. On the right, the text "x, y vectors" is written below a black arrow pointing vertically upwards.

- Interpretation: consider set A to be centered at the origin. Then $A \oplus B$ represents many copies of A, translated by y, for all y in B; i.e. place a copy of A centered at each point of B.

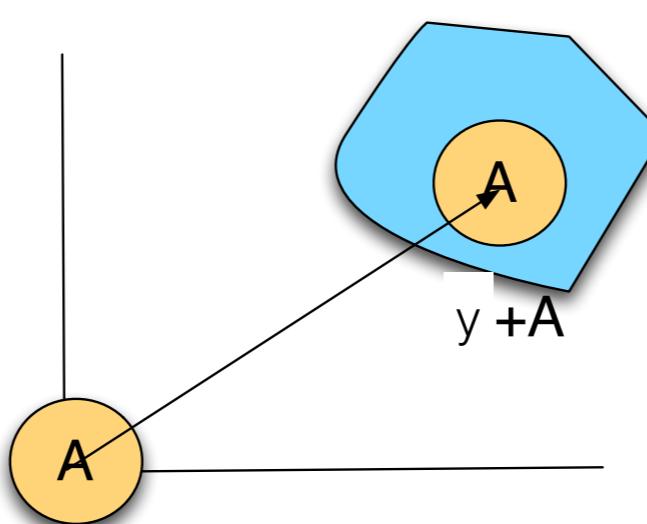
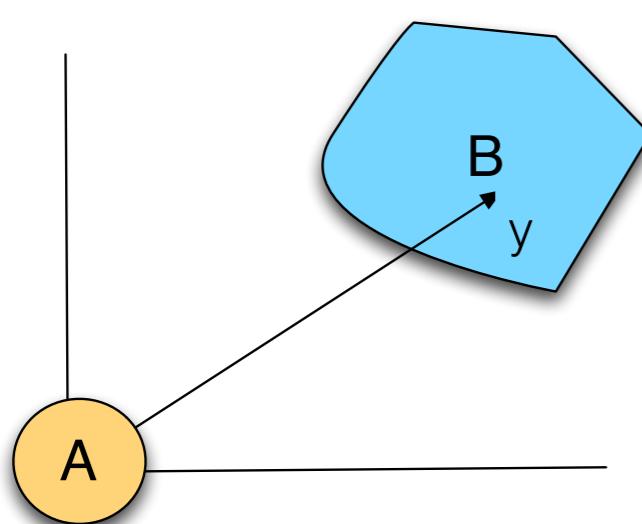


The diagram shows a point y represented by a black dot on a horizontal axis. A vector A is shown as a line segment originating from y and pointing upwards and to the right. The resulting position, $y + A$, is indicated by a blue shaded hexagon representing a small neighborhood around the tip of the vector sum.

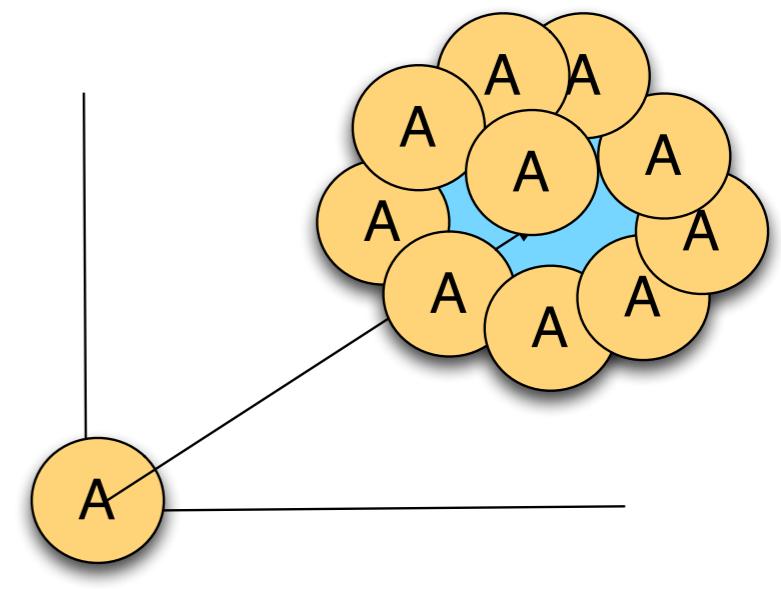


Minkowski sum

- $A \oplus B$: Slide A so that the center of A traces the edges of B



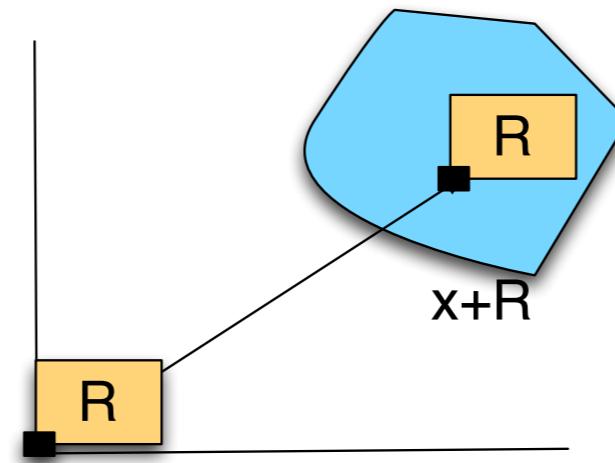
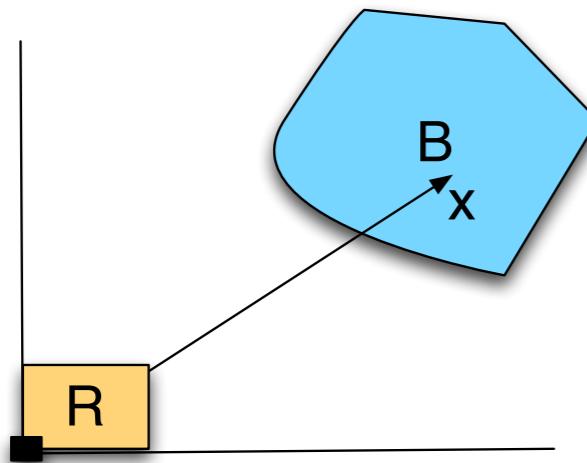
A translated by y



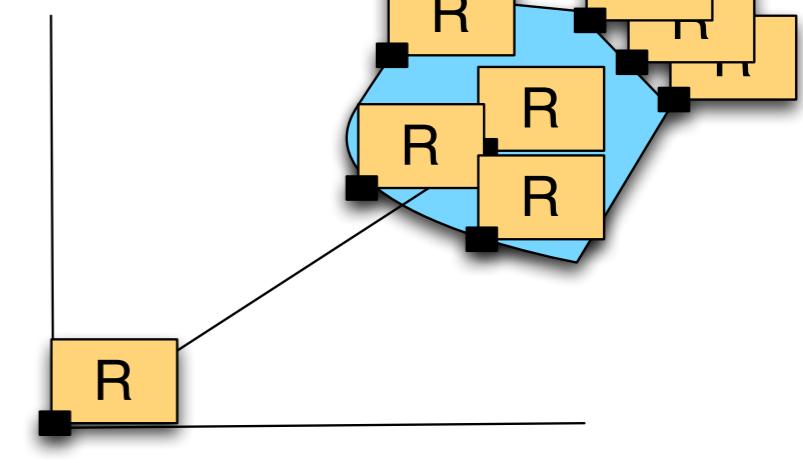
$B \oplus A$

C-obstacles as Minkowski sums

- Consider a robot R with the center in the lower left corner



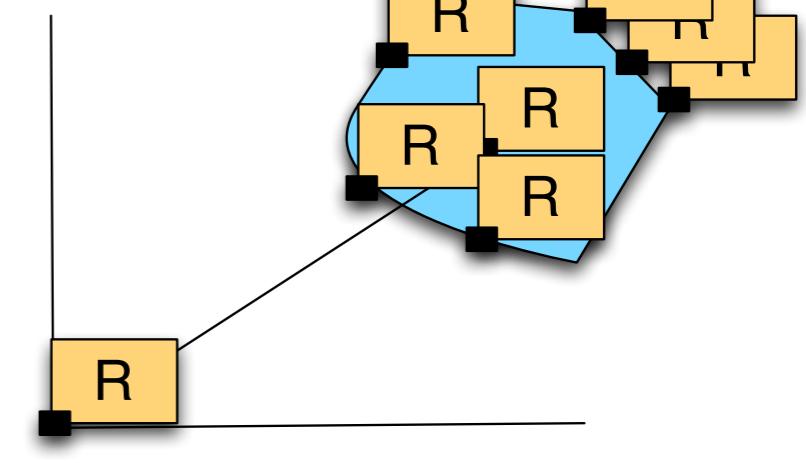
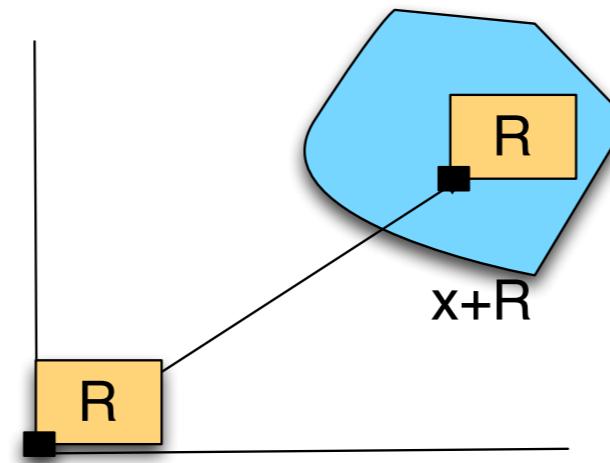
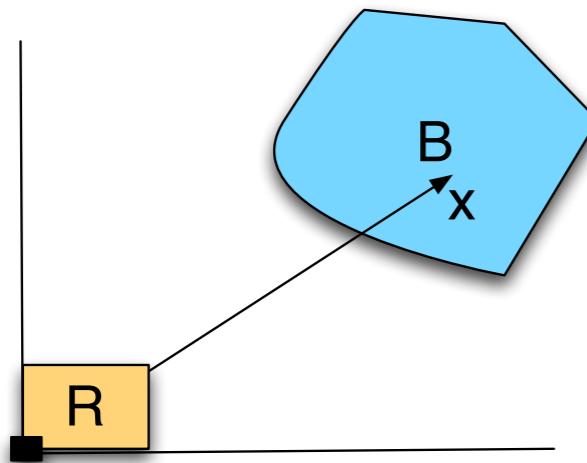
R translated by x



$B \oplus R$

C-obstacles as Minkowski sums

- Consider a robot R with the center in the lower left corner

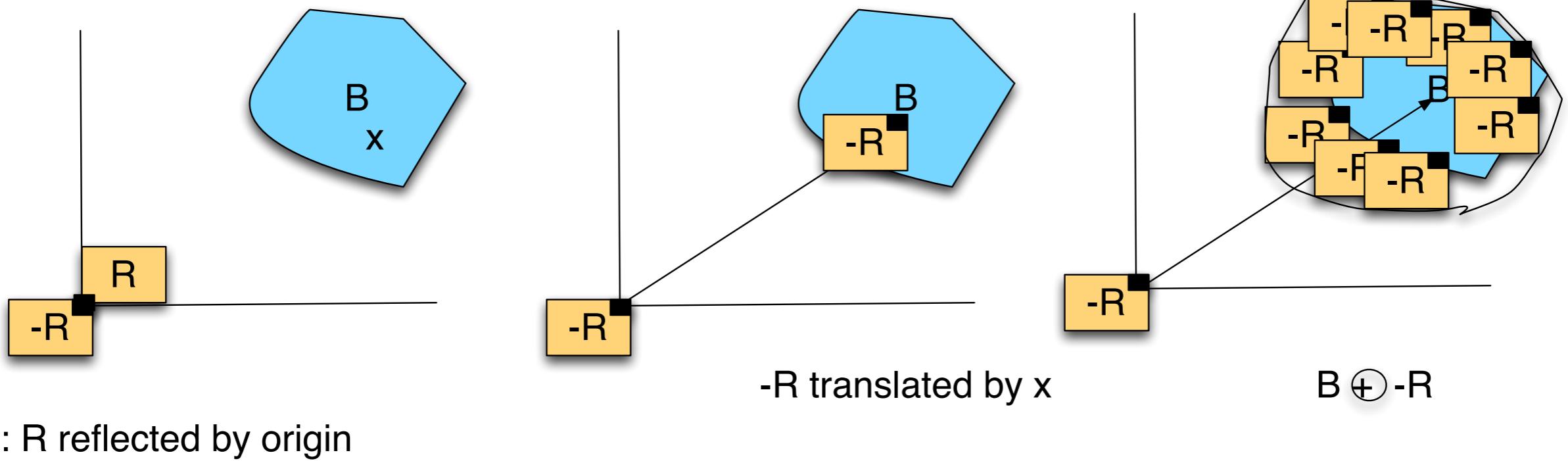


R translated by x

$B \oplus R$

$B \oplus R$ is not quite the C-obstacle of B

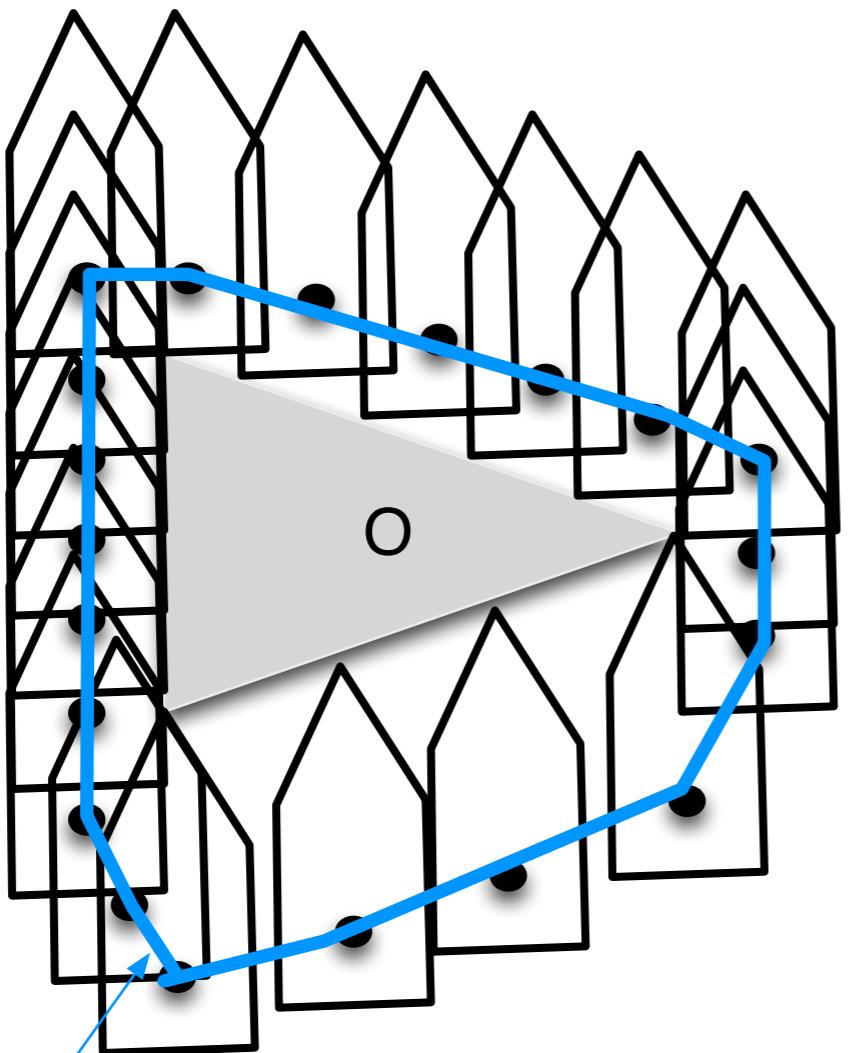
C-obstacles as Minkowski sums



The C-obstacle of B is $B \oplus (-R(0,0))$.

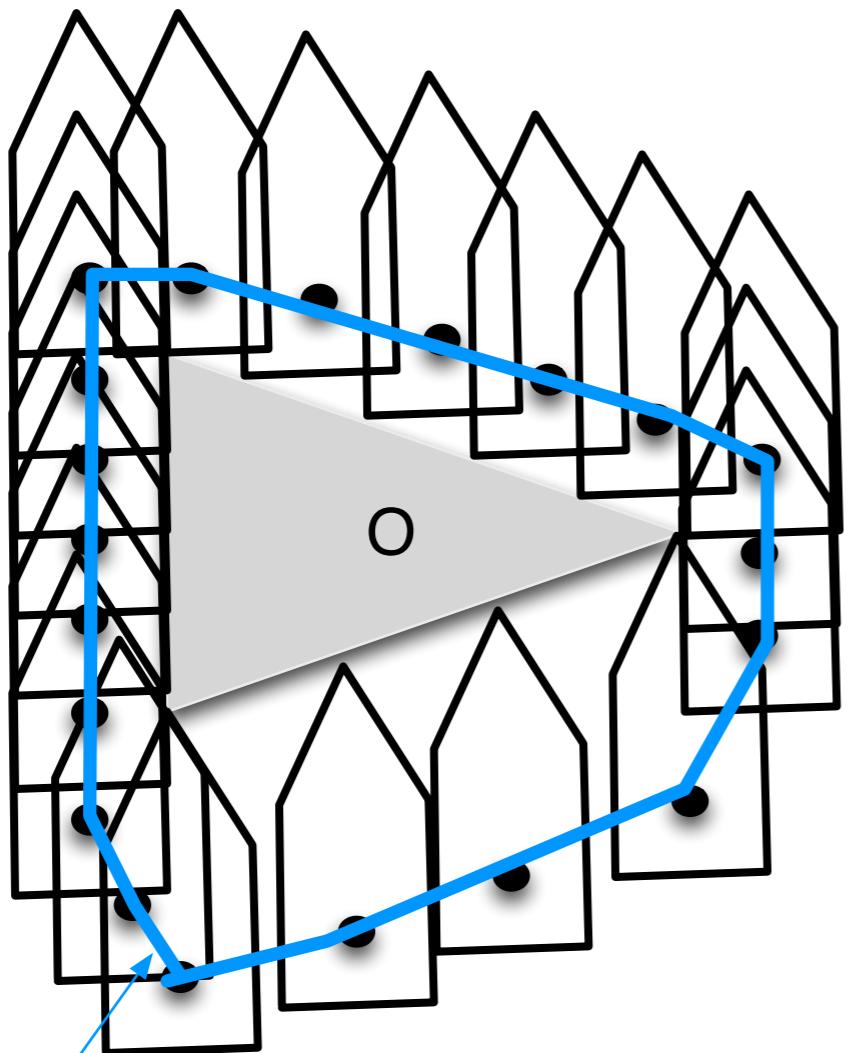
Slide so that R touches the obstacle

Find $O + (-R)$



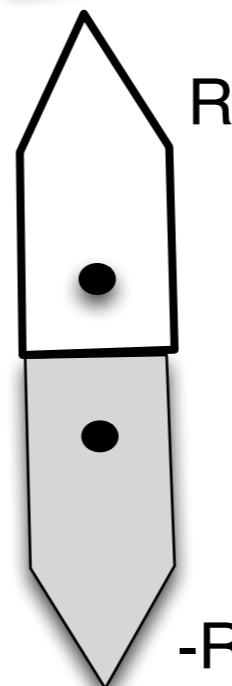
C-obstacle corresponding to O

Slide so that R touches the obstacle

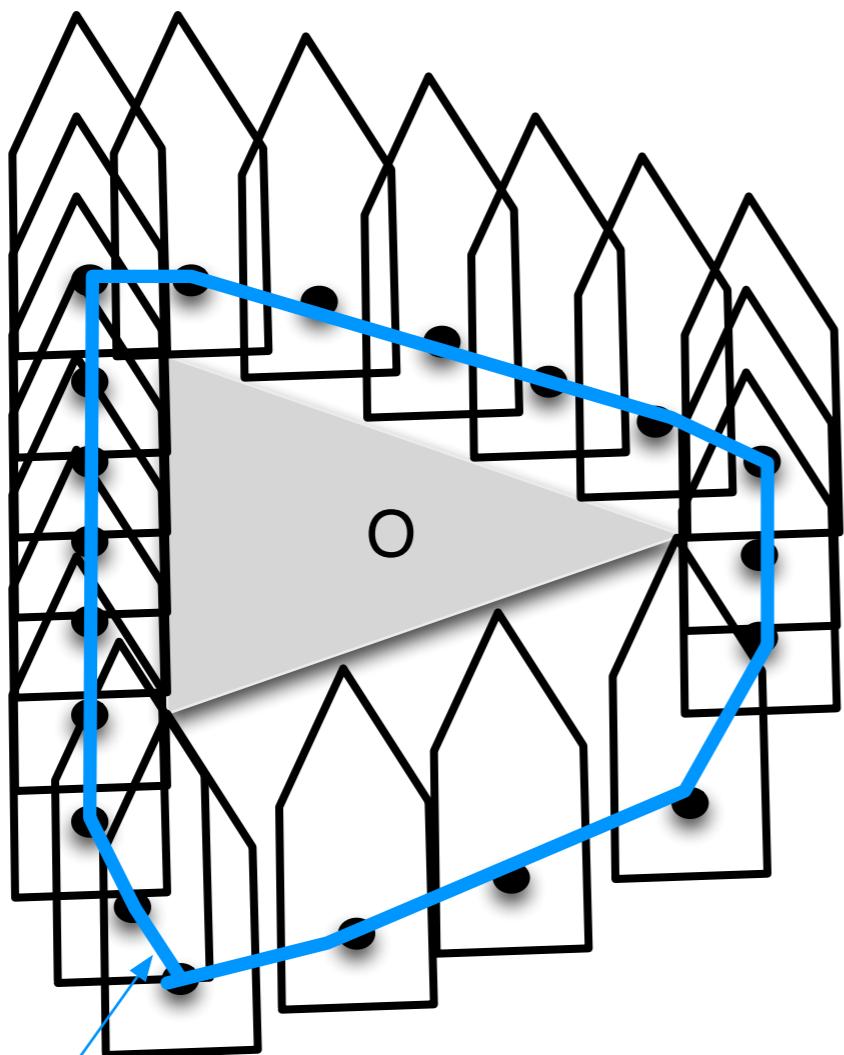


C-obstacle corresponding to O

Slide so that centerpoint of $-R$ traces the edges of obstacle

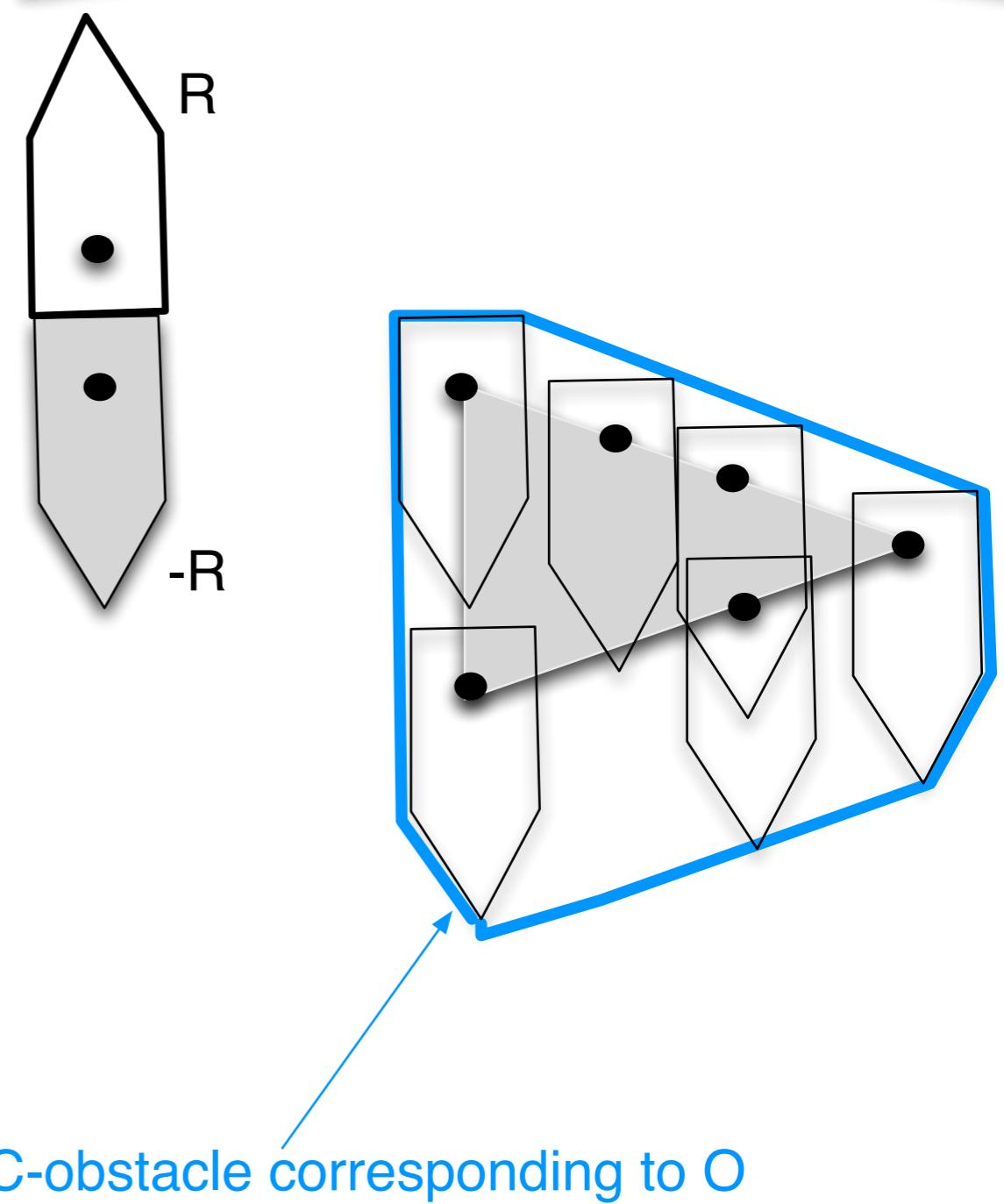


Slide so that R touches the obstacle

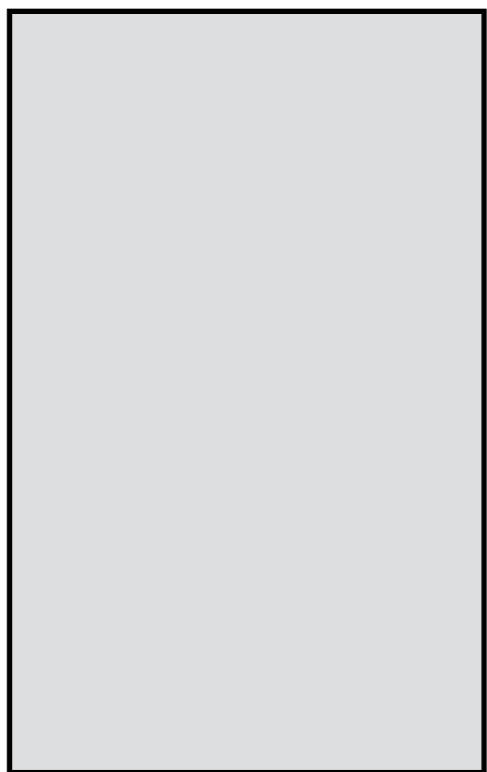


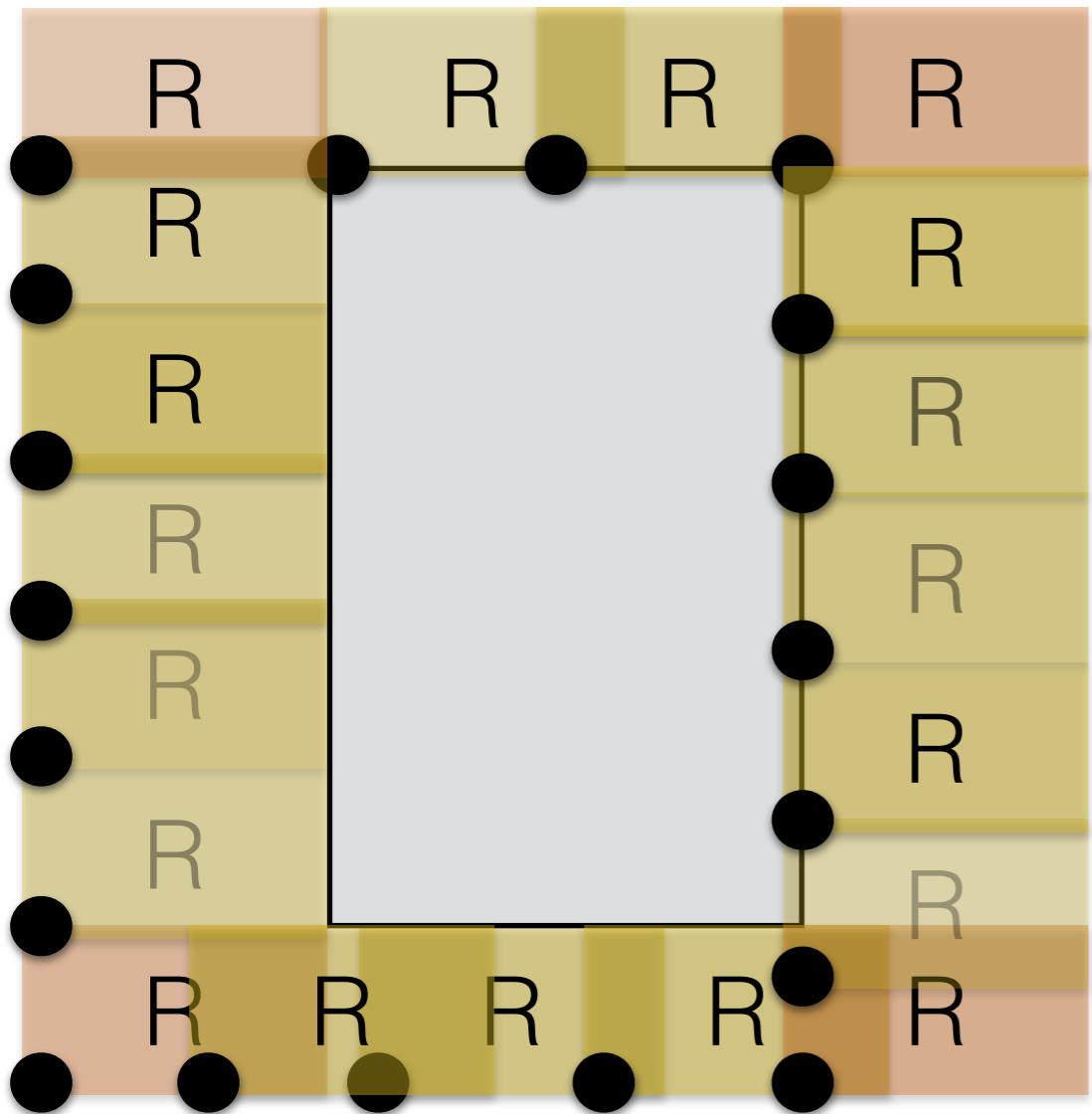
C-obstacle corresponding to O

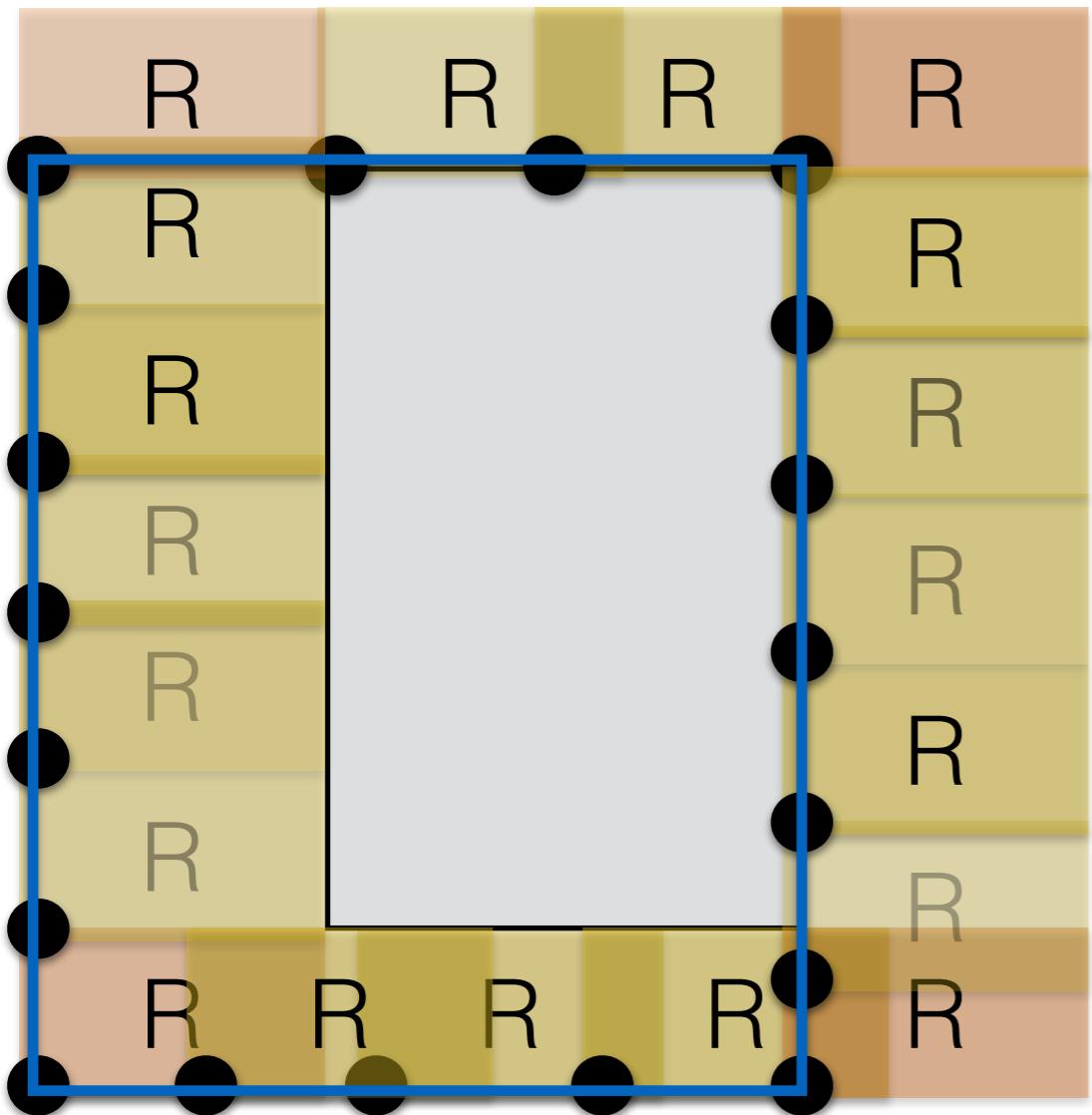
Slide so that centerpoint of $-R$ traces the edges of obstacle

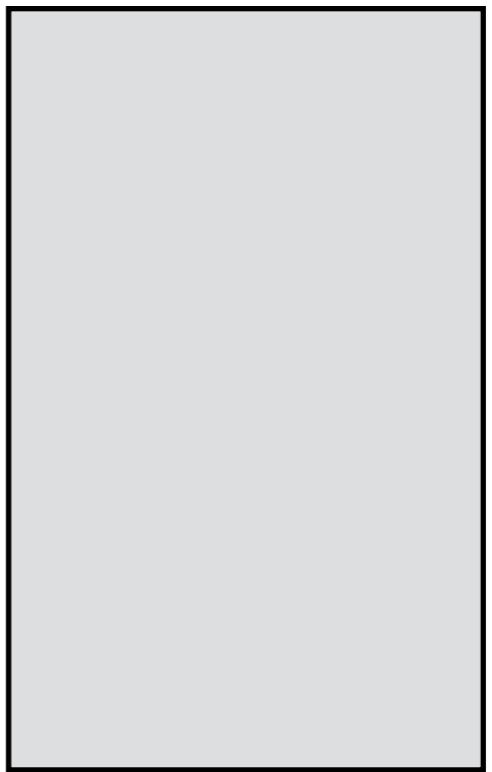
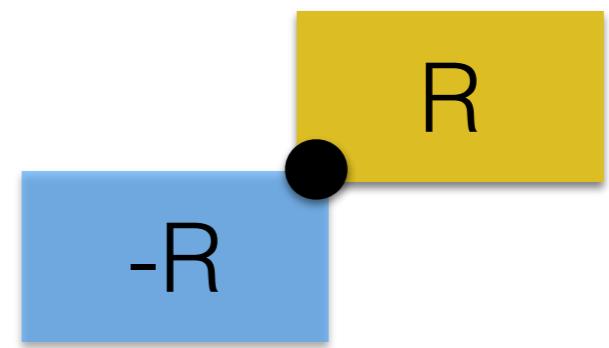


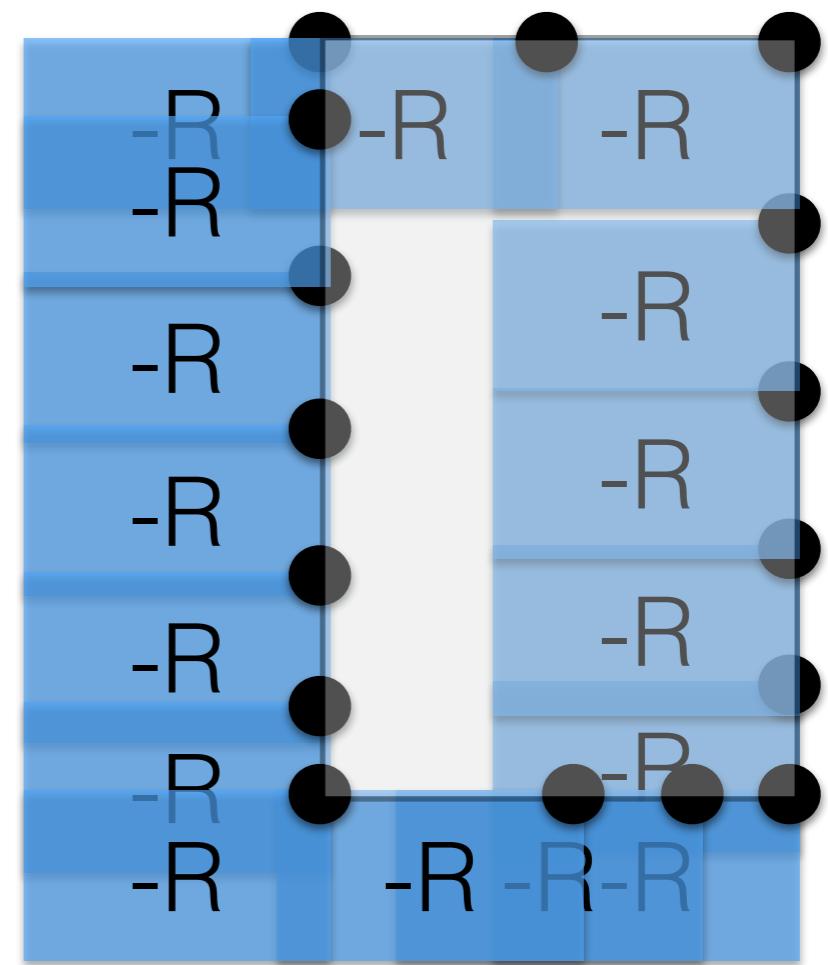
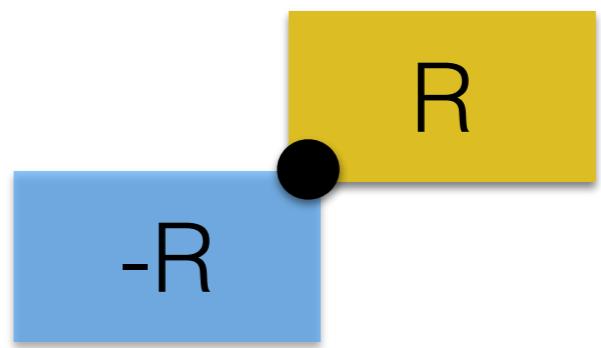
C-obstacle corresponding to O

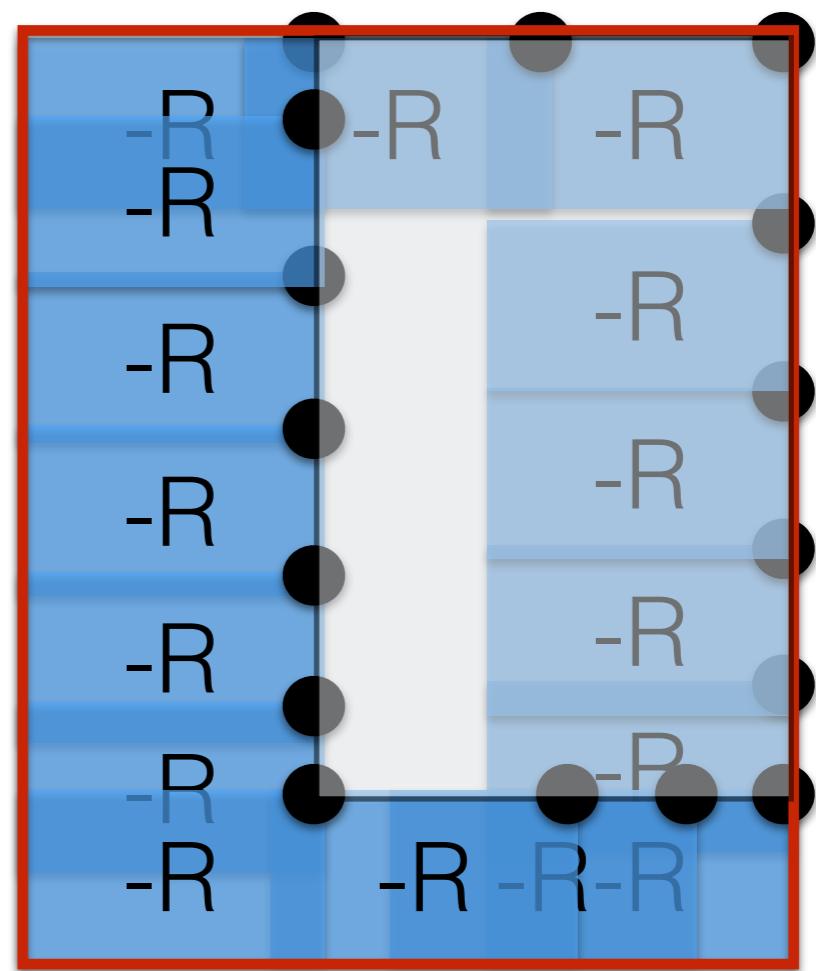
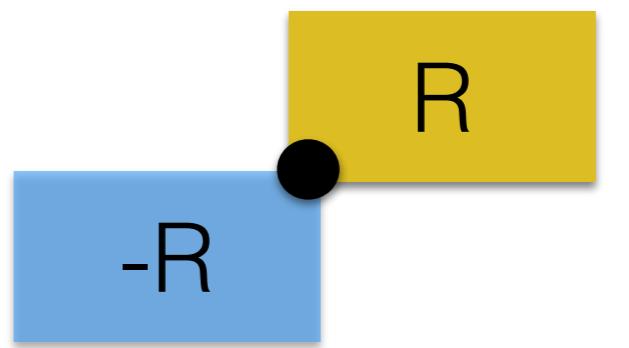


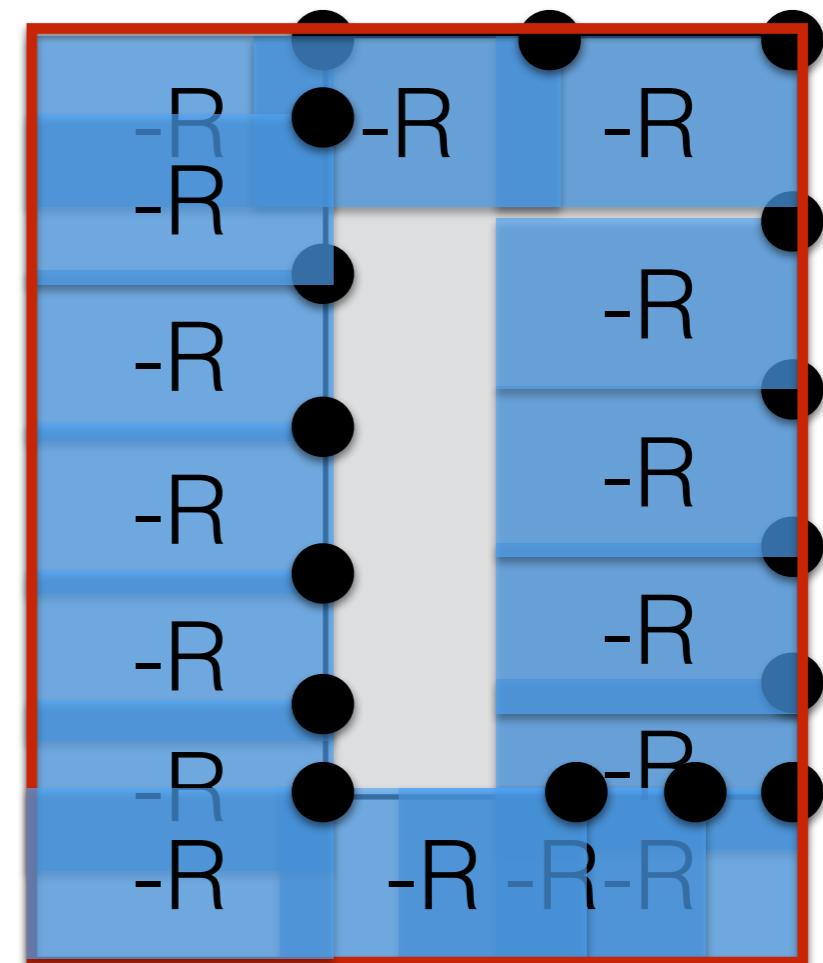
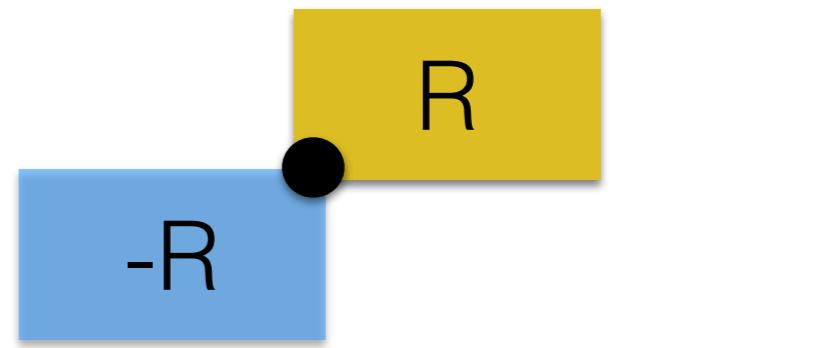
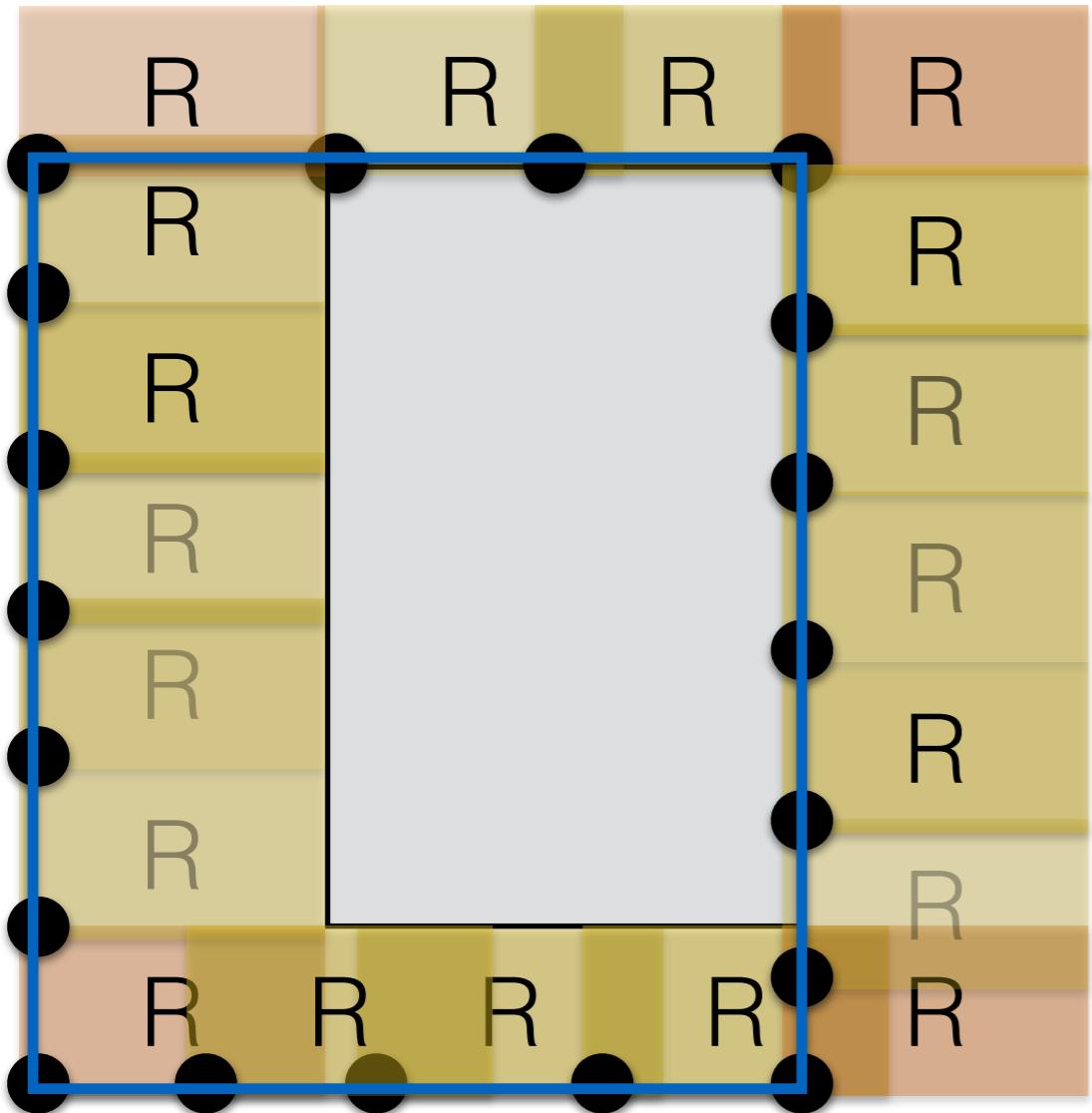


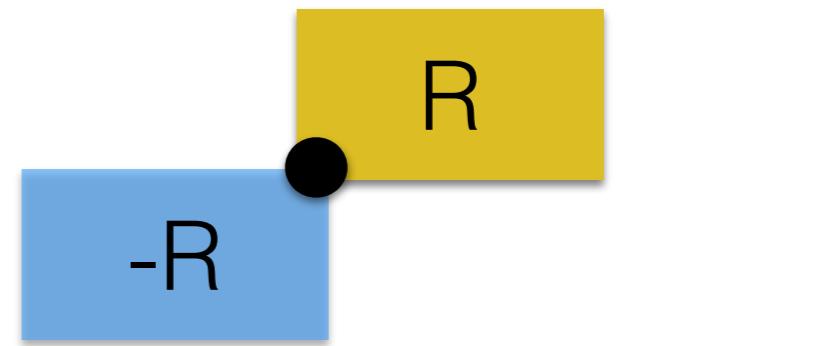
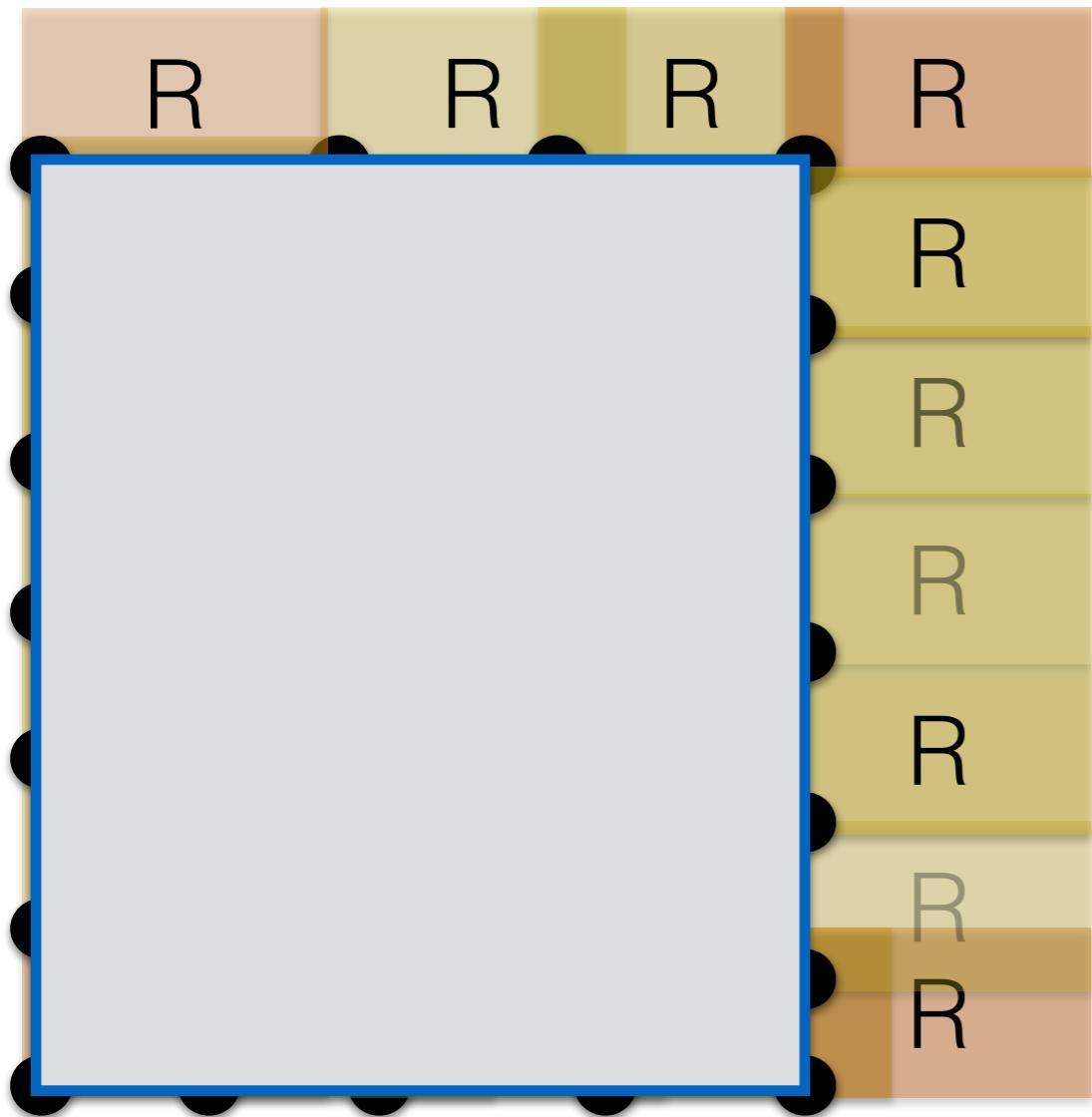


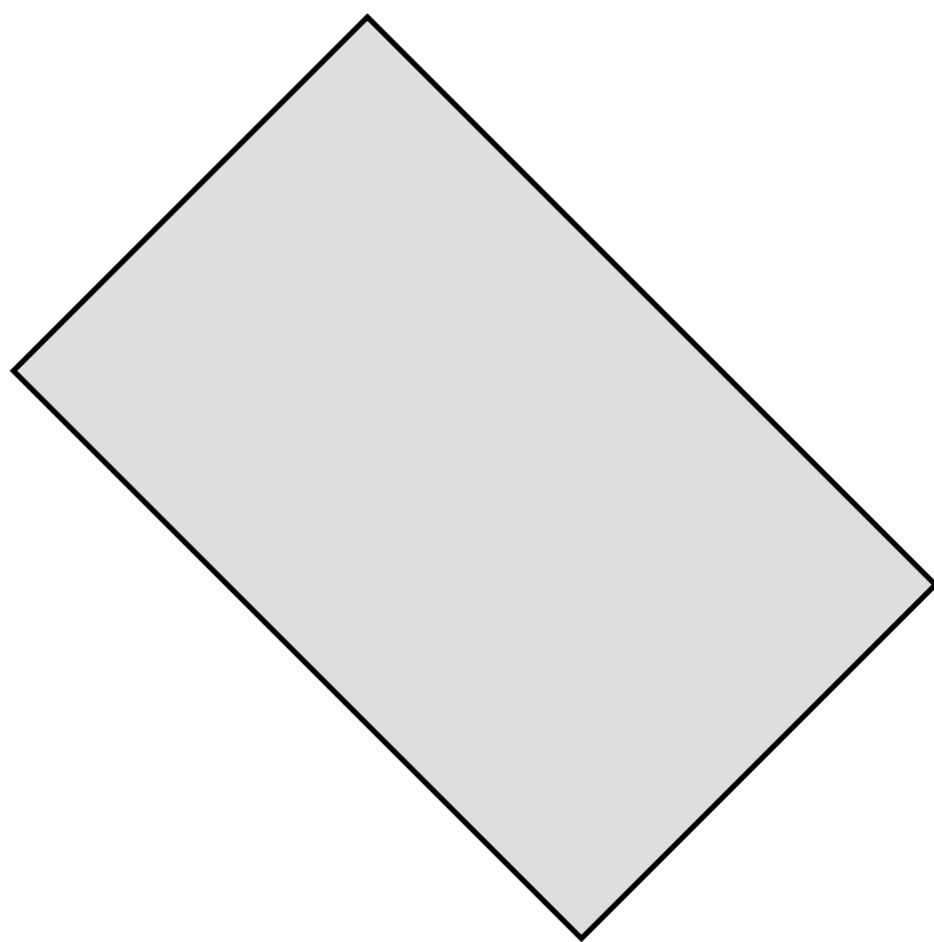
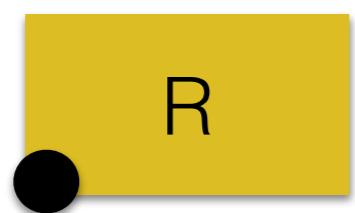


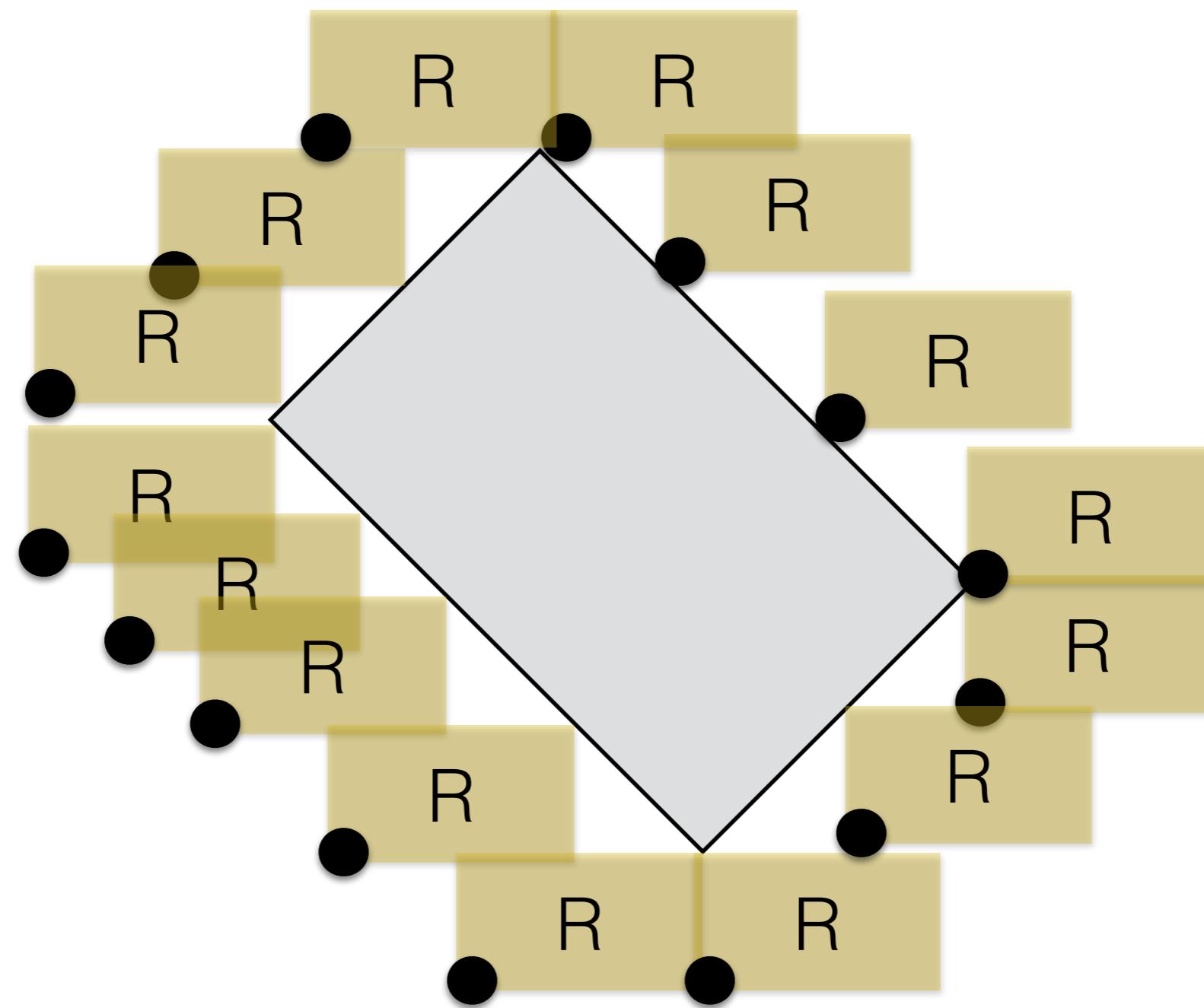


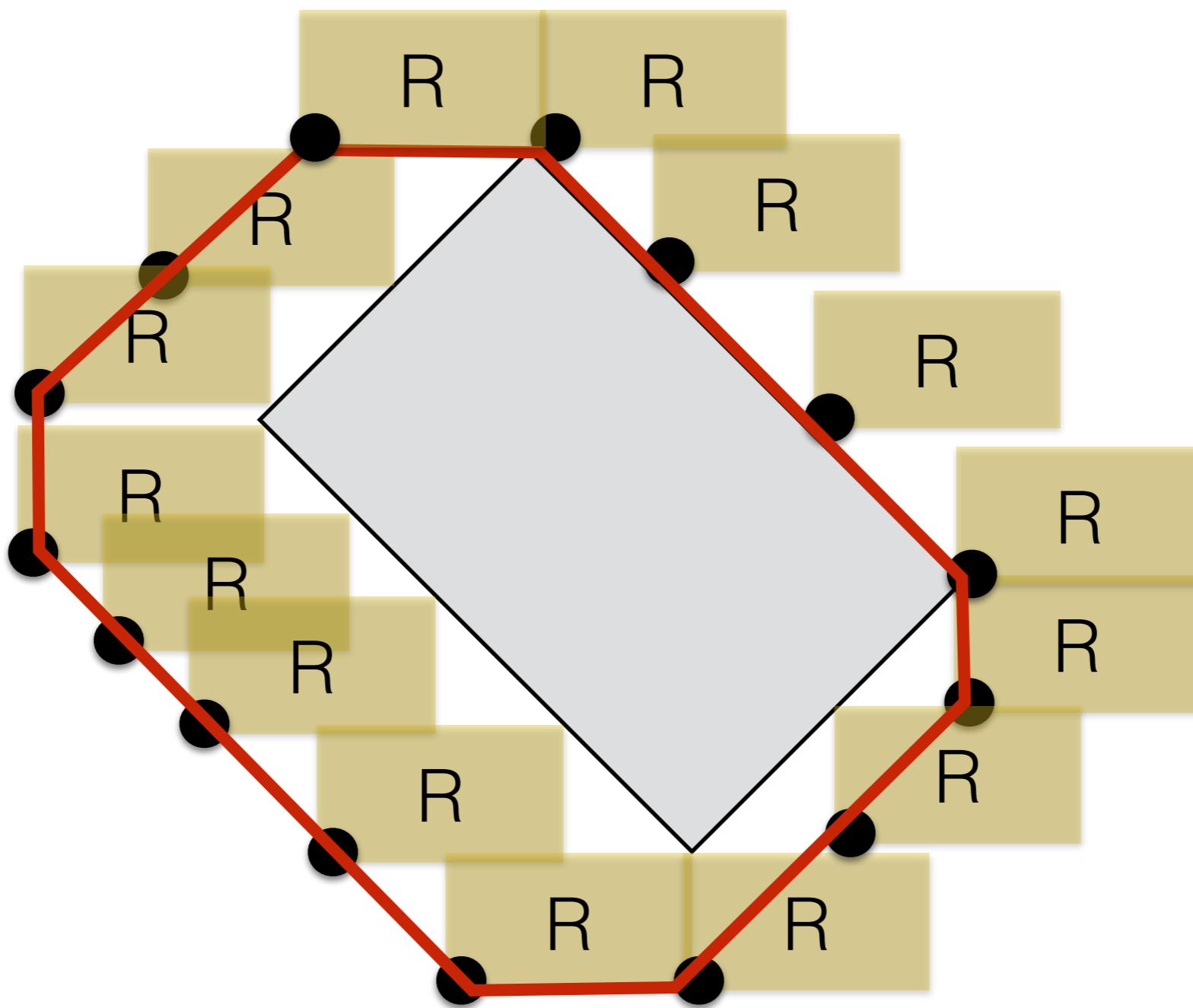






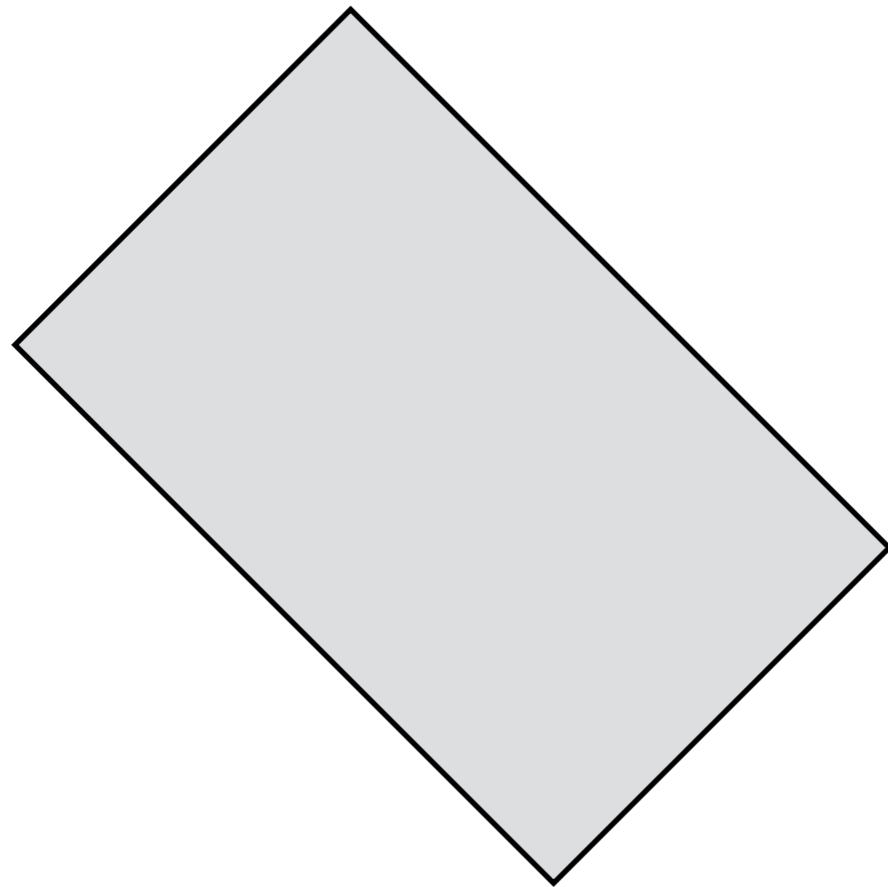


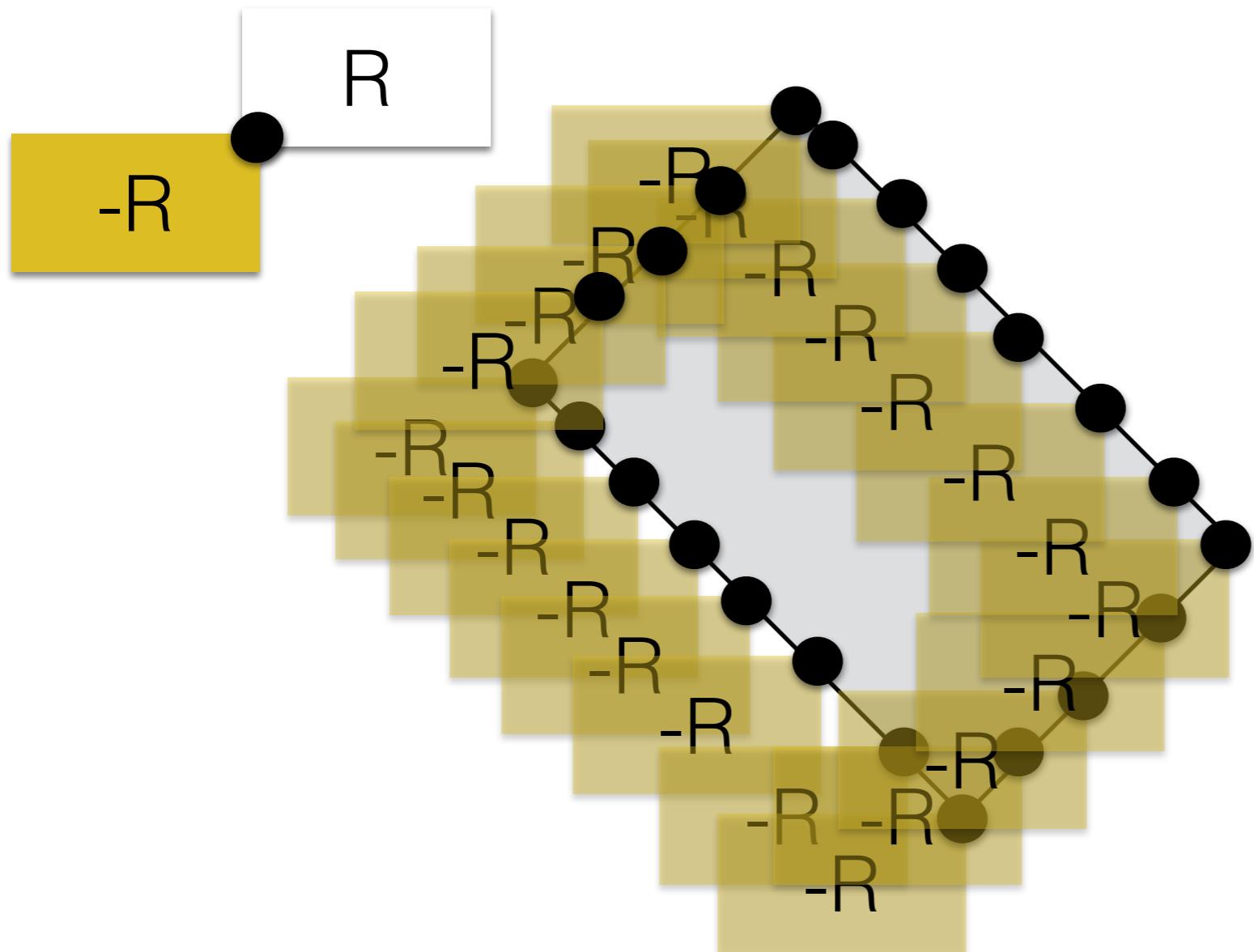


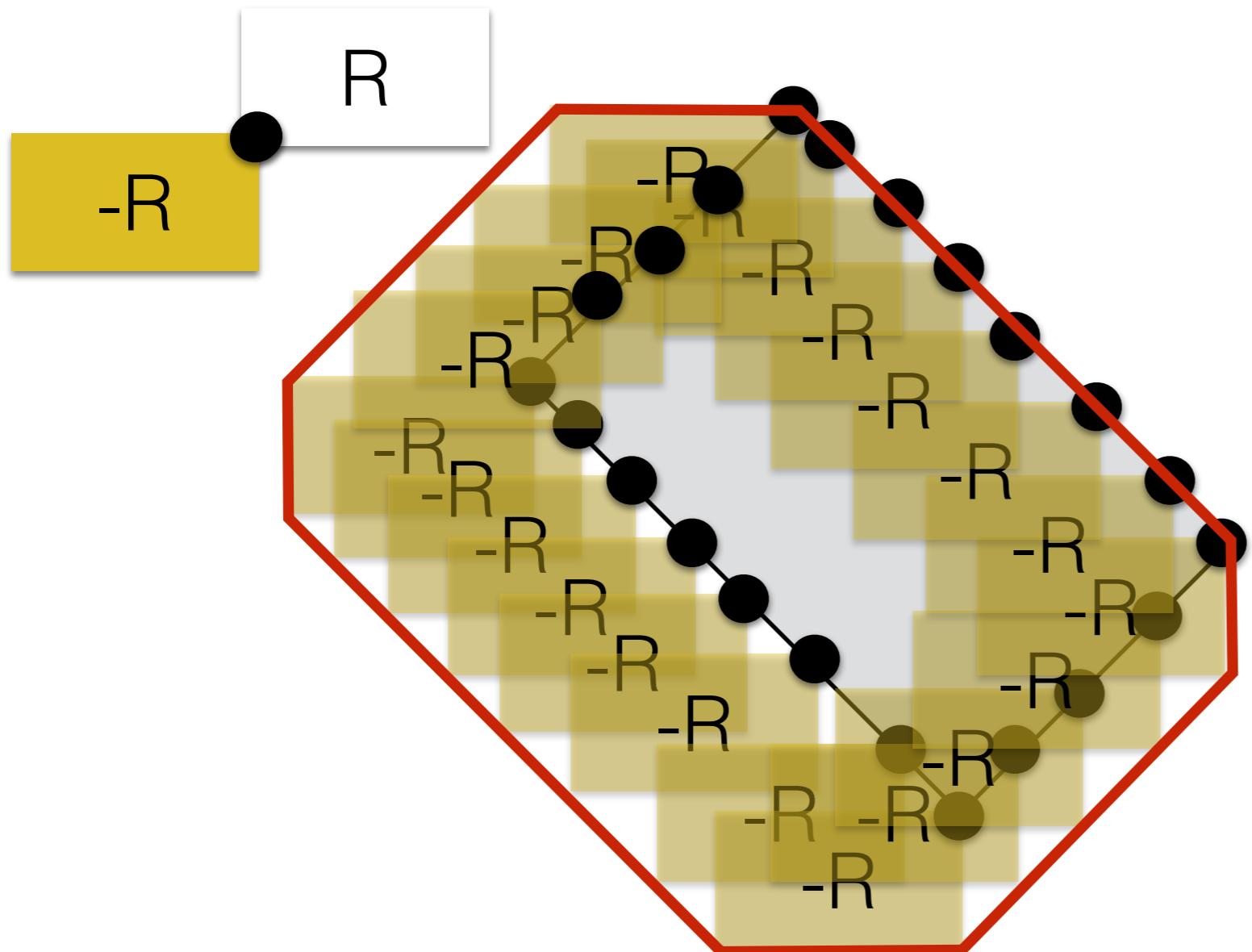


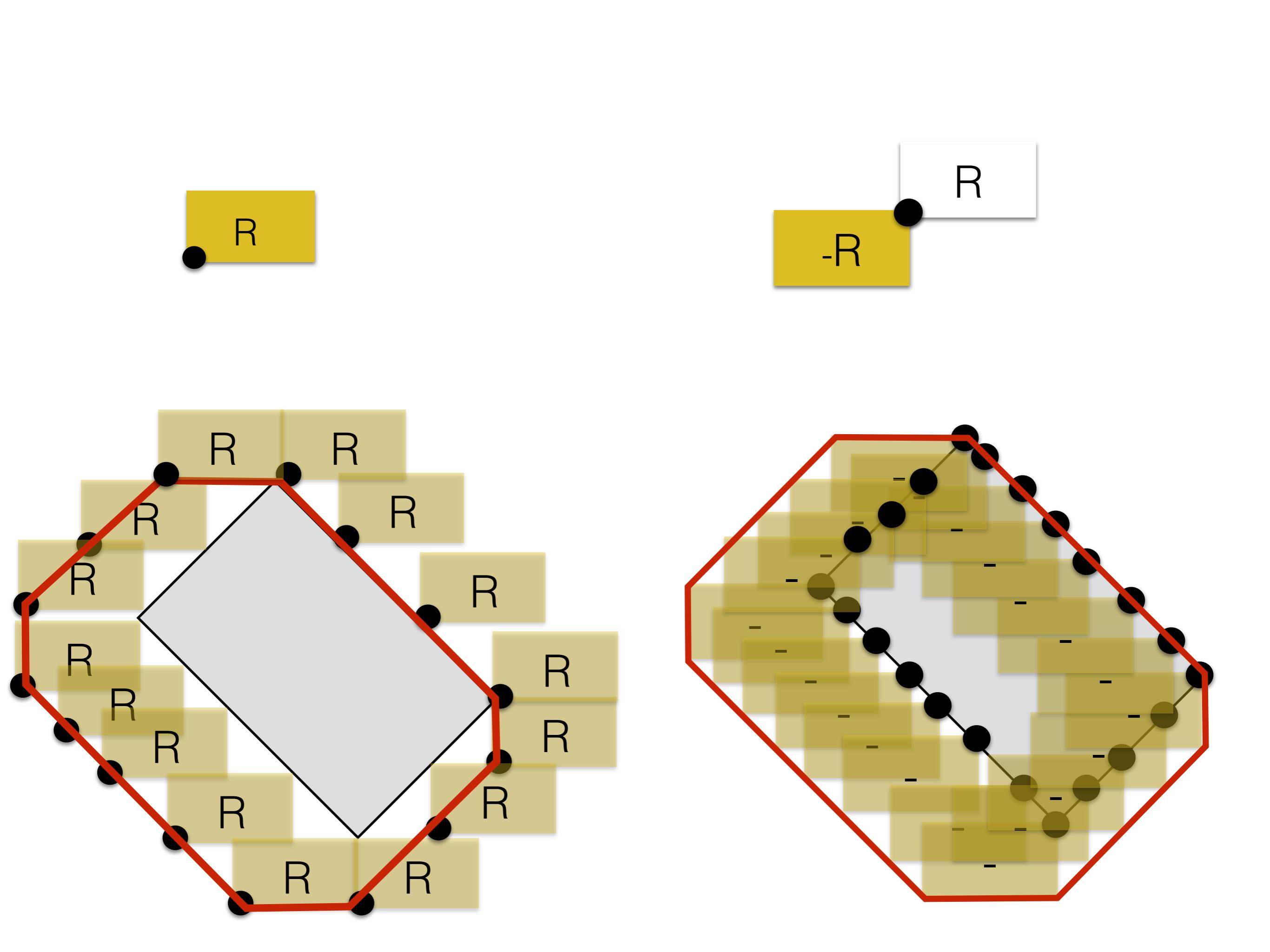
$-R$

R

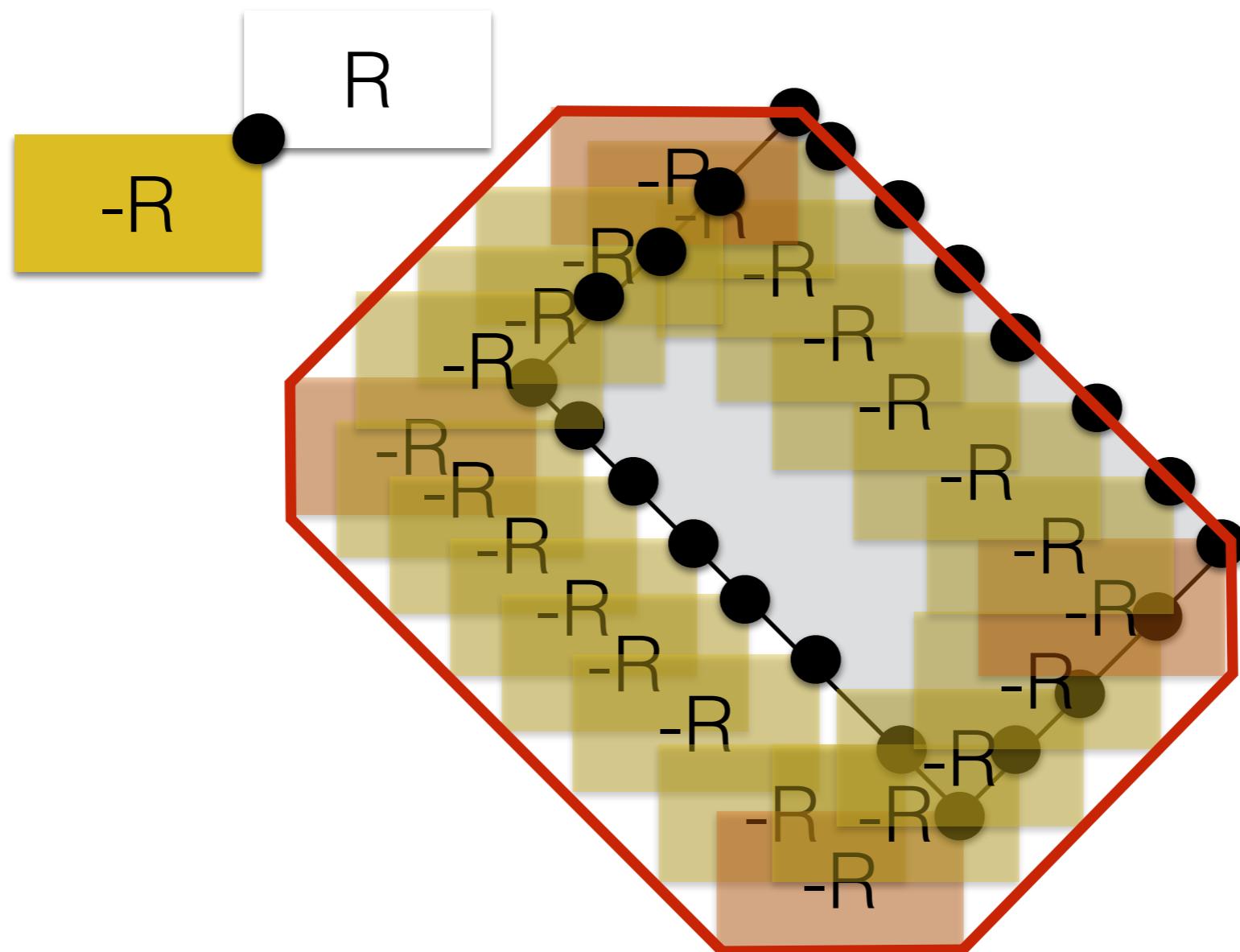




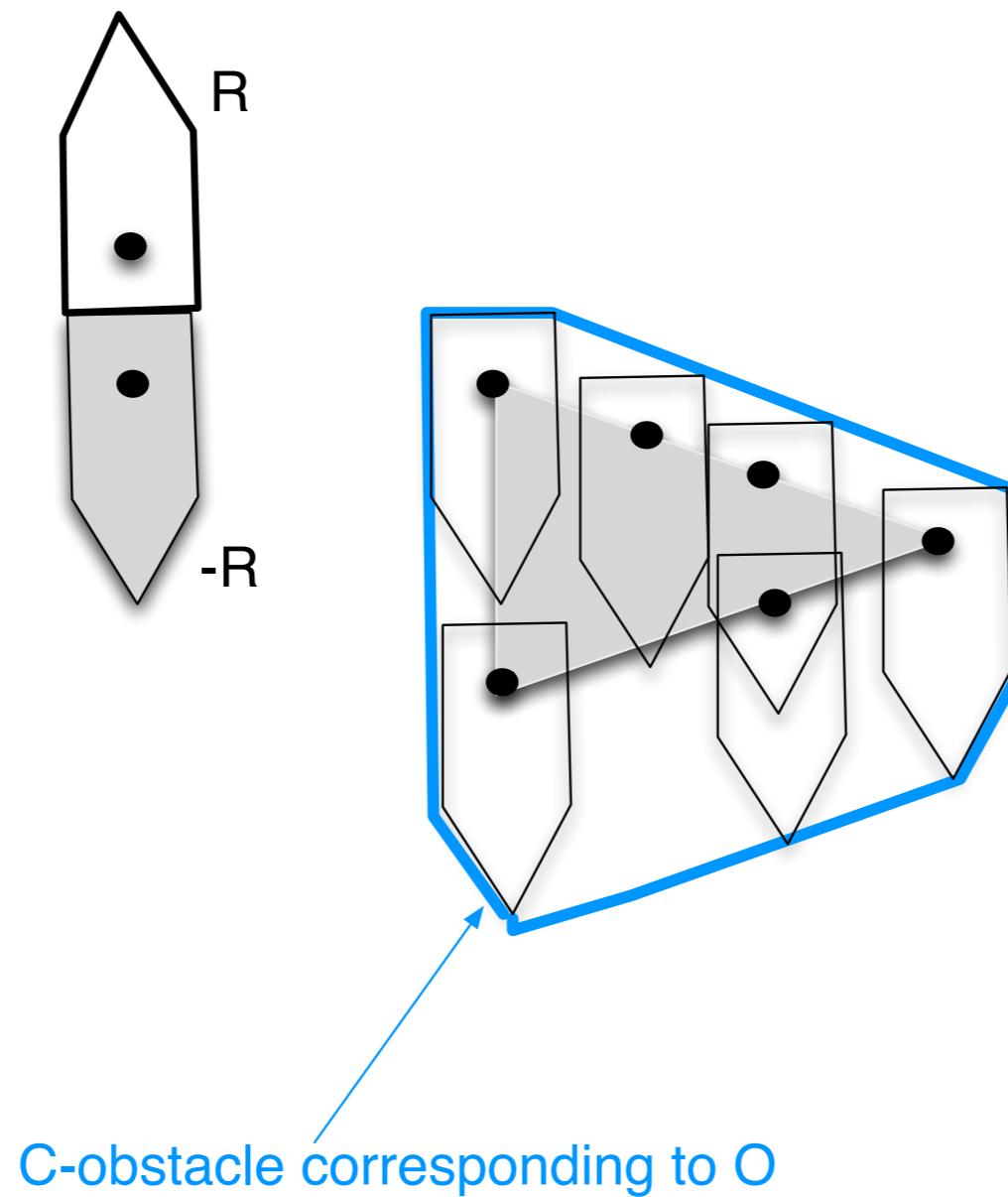




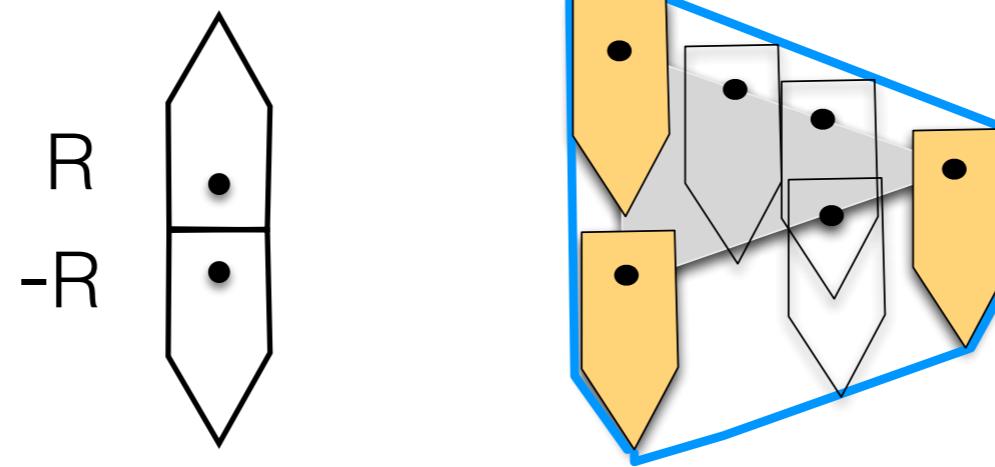
How do we compute Minkowski sums?



How do we compute Minkowski sums?



Computing Minkowski sums



CASE 1: Convex robot with convex polygon

Observations:

- Each edge in R , O will cause an edge in $R+O$
- $R+O$ has $m+n$ edges (unless there are parallel edges)
- To compute: Place $-R$ at all vertices of O and compute convex hull
- Possible to compute in $O(m+n)$ time by walking along the boundaries of R and O

Computing Minkowski sums

2D

- convex + convex polygons
 - The Minkowski sum of two convex polygons with n , and m edges respectively, is a convex polygon with $n+m$ edges and can be computed in $O(n+m)$ time.
- convex + non-convex polygons
 - Triangulate and compute Minkowski sums for each pair [convex polygon, triangle], and take their union
 - Size of Minkowski sum: $O(m+3)$ for each triangle $\Rightarrow O(mn)$
- non-convex + non-convex polygons:
 - size of Minkowski sum: $O(n^2m^2)$

3D

- it gets worse . . .

Polygonal robot translating in 2D

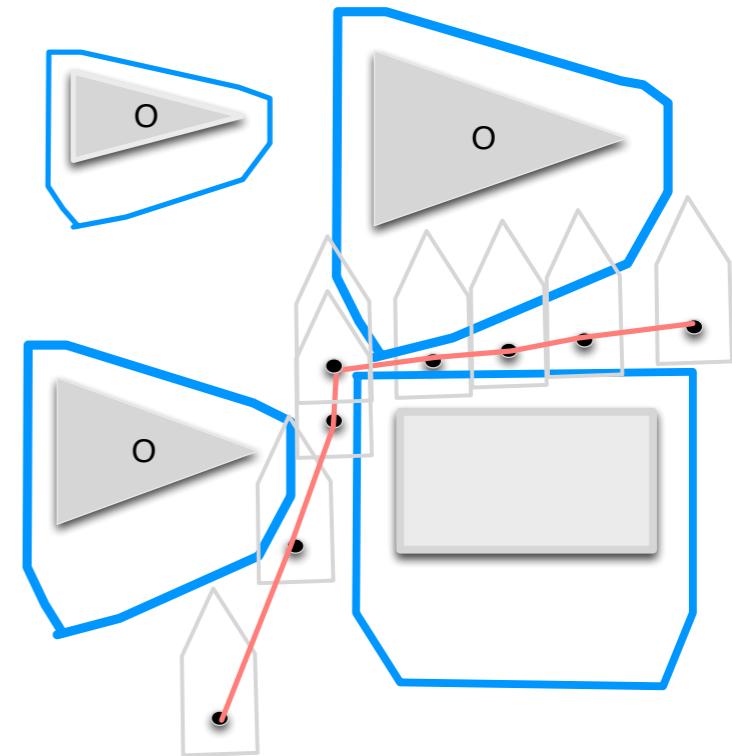
Algorithm

- For each obstacle O , compute the corresponding C-obstacle
- Compute the union of C-obstacles
- Compute its complement. That's the free C-space

//now the problem is reduced to point

//robot moving in free C-space

- Compute a trapezoidal map of free C-space
- Compute a roadmap



For a **convex** robot of **$O(1)$ size**

- Free C-space can be computed in $O(n \lg^2 n)$ time.
==> With $O(n \lg^2 n)$ time pre-processing, a collision-free path can be found for any start and end in $O(n)$ time.

Complete, non optimal.

Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

- Physical space is 2D
- A placement is specified by 3 parameters: $R(x,y, \theta)$ ==> C-space is 3D.



Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

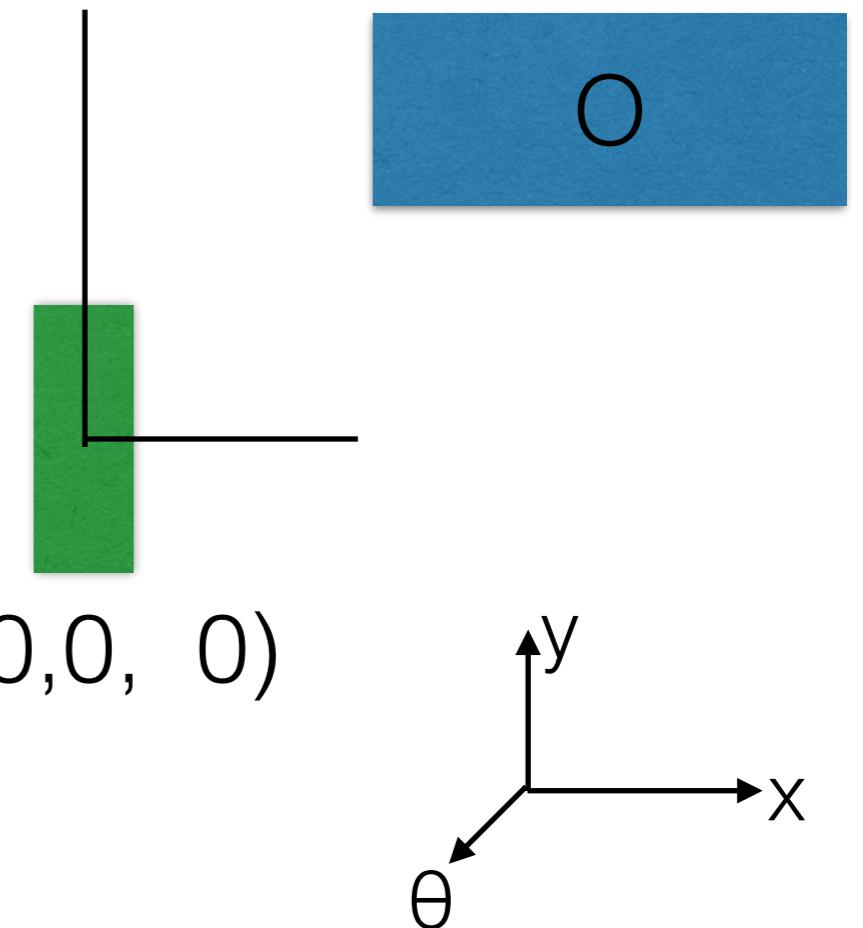
- We'd like to extend the same approach:

Reduce to point robot moving among C-obstacles in C-space.

- Compute C-obstacles
- Compute free space as complement of union of C-obstacles
- Decompose free space into simple cells
- Construct a roadmap
- BFS on roadmap

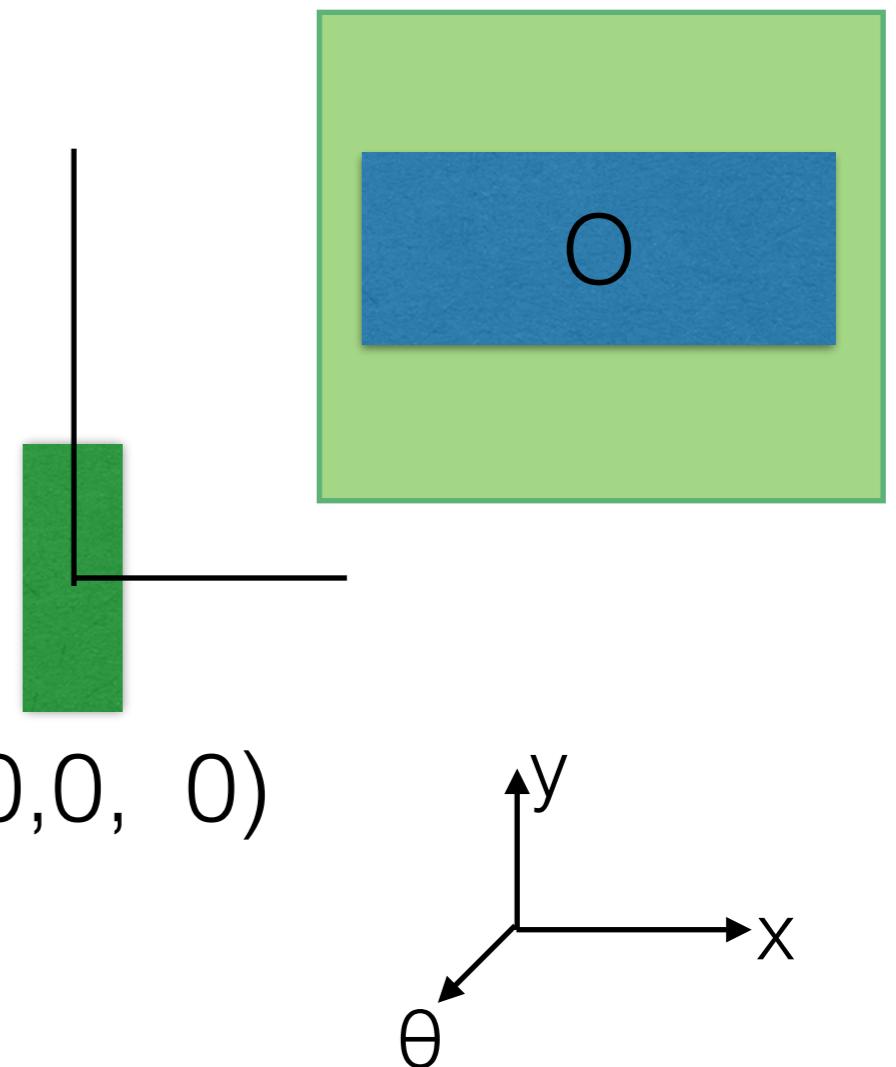
Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

- What does a C-obstacle look like when rotations are allowed?



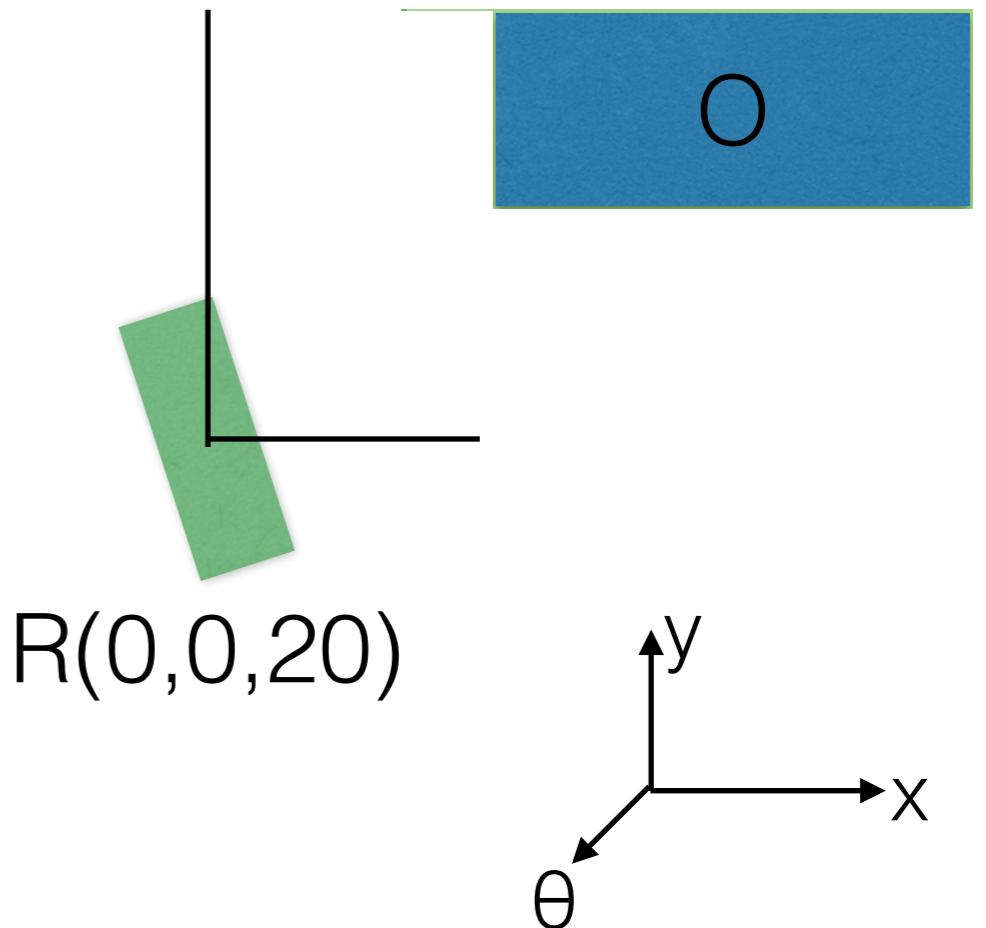
Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

- What does a C-obstacle look like when rotations are allowed?



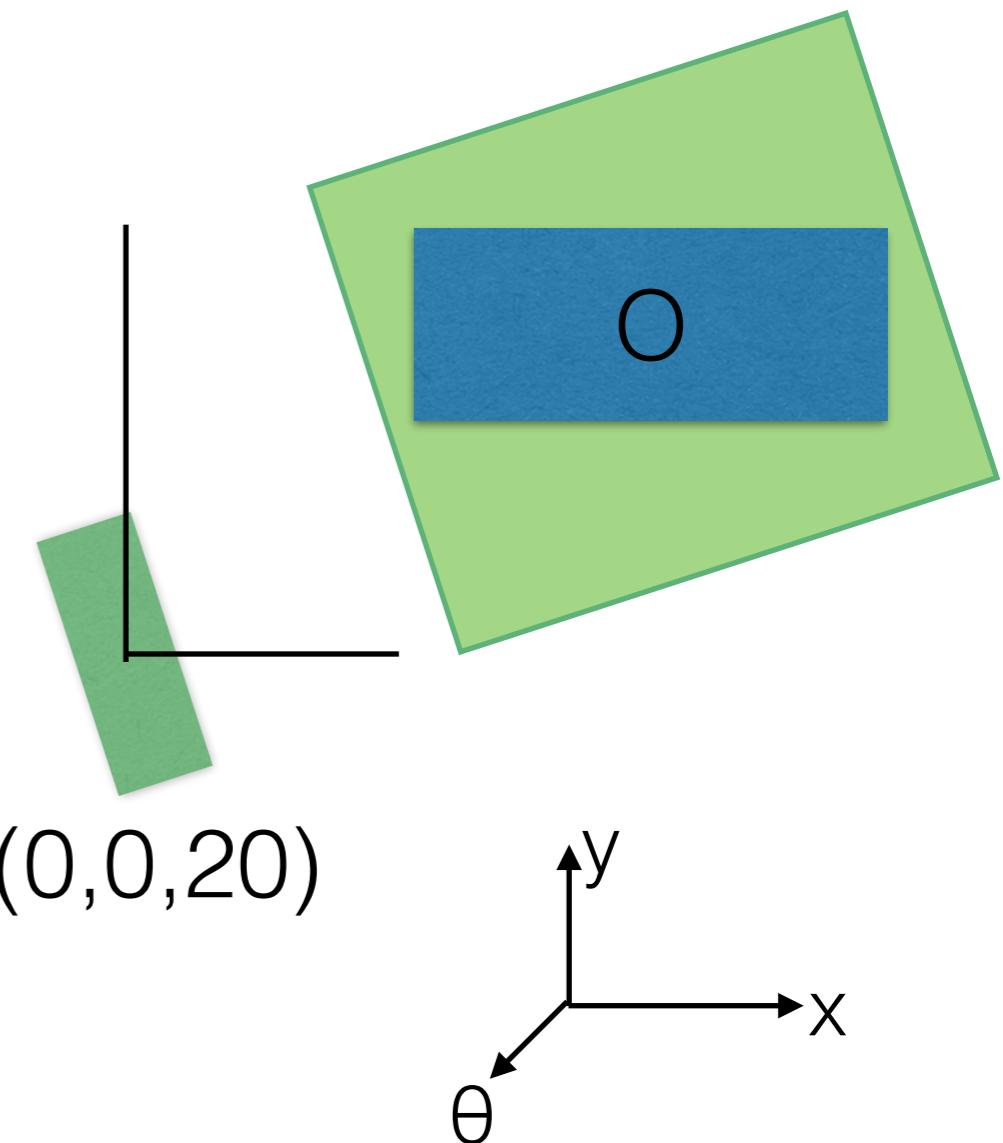
Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

- What does a C-obstacle look like when rotations are allowed?



Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

- What does a C-obstacle look like when rotations are allowed?



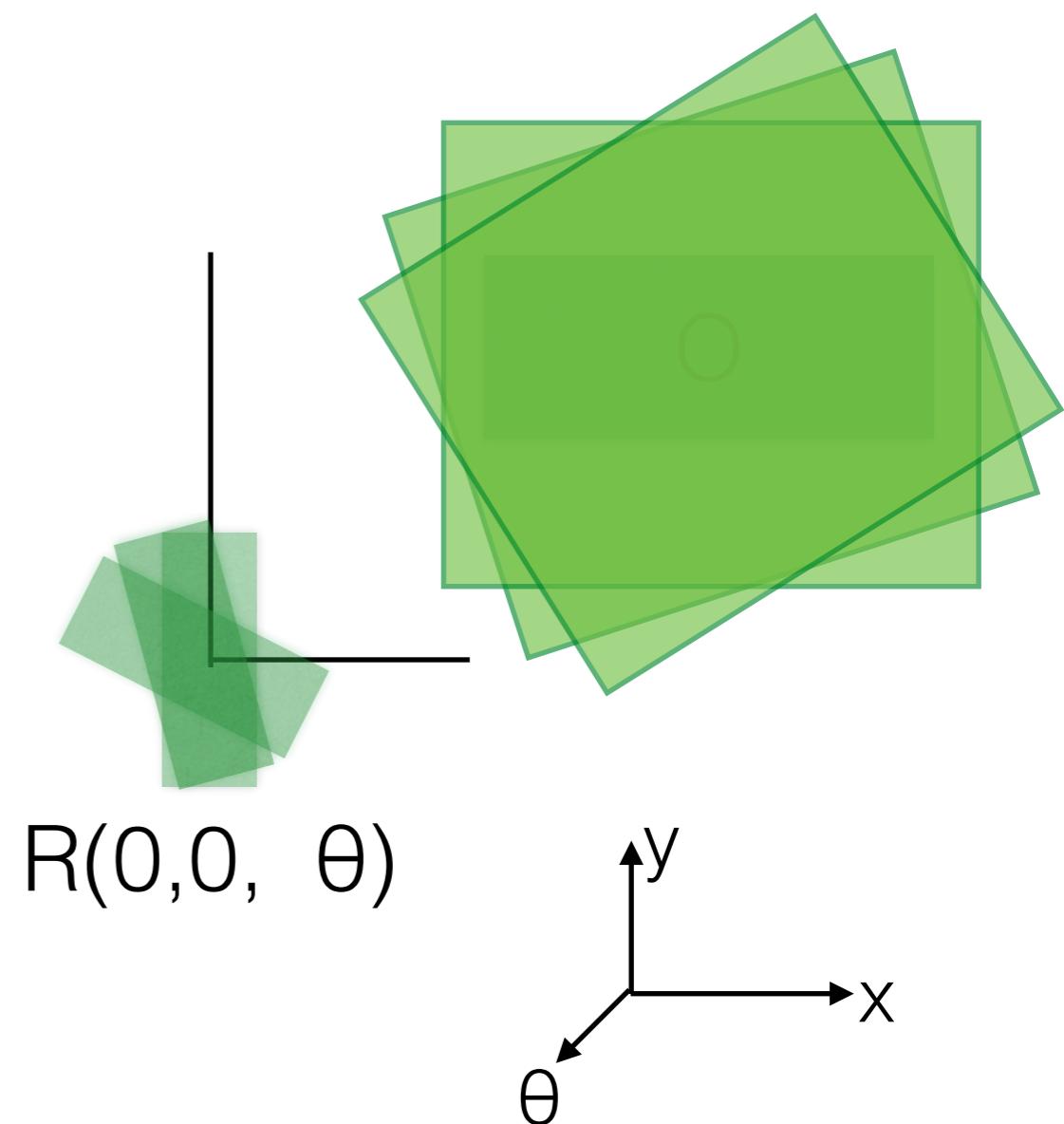
Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

A C-obstacle is a 3D shape.

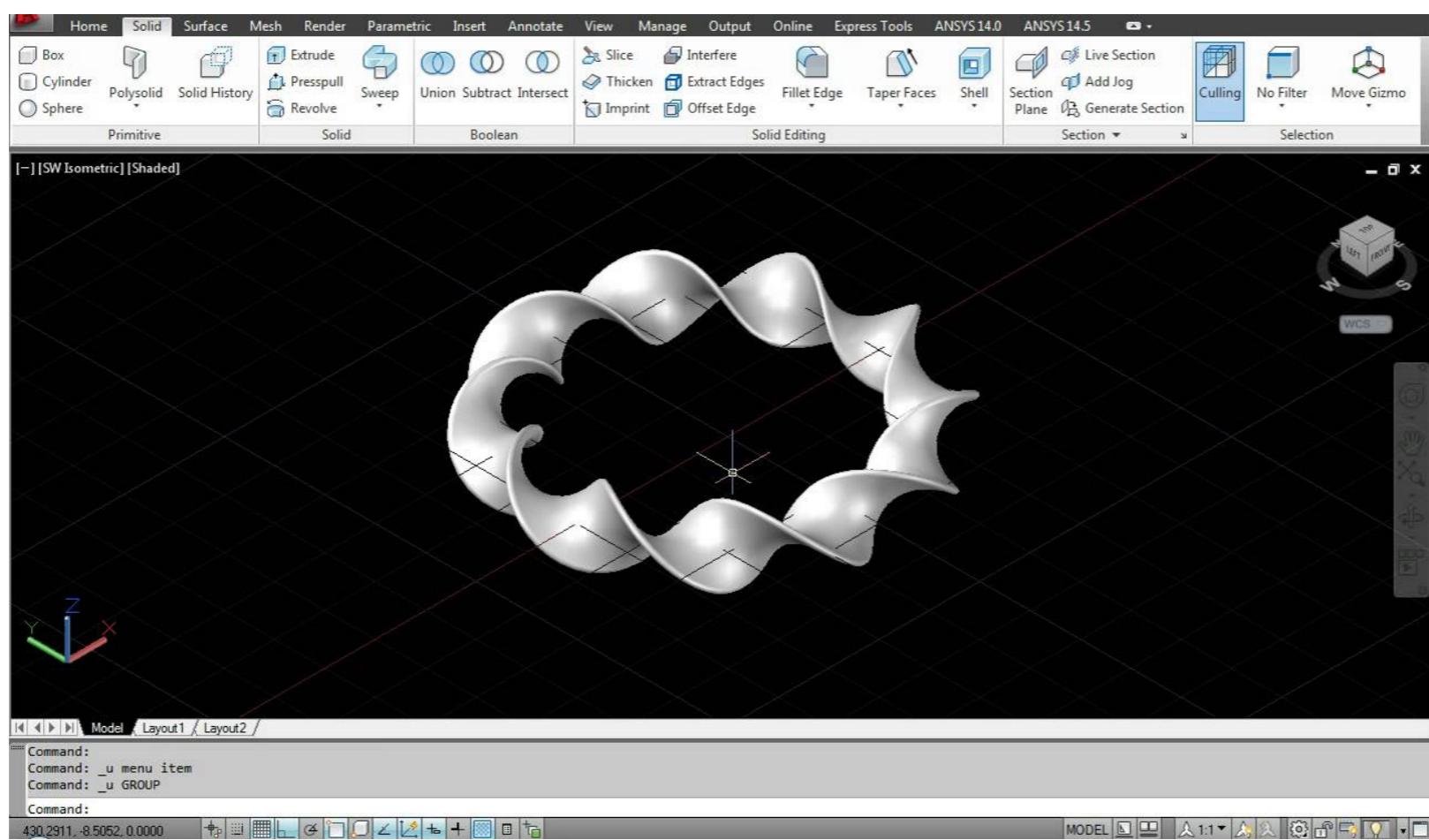
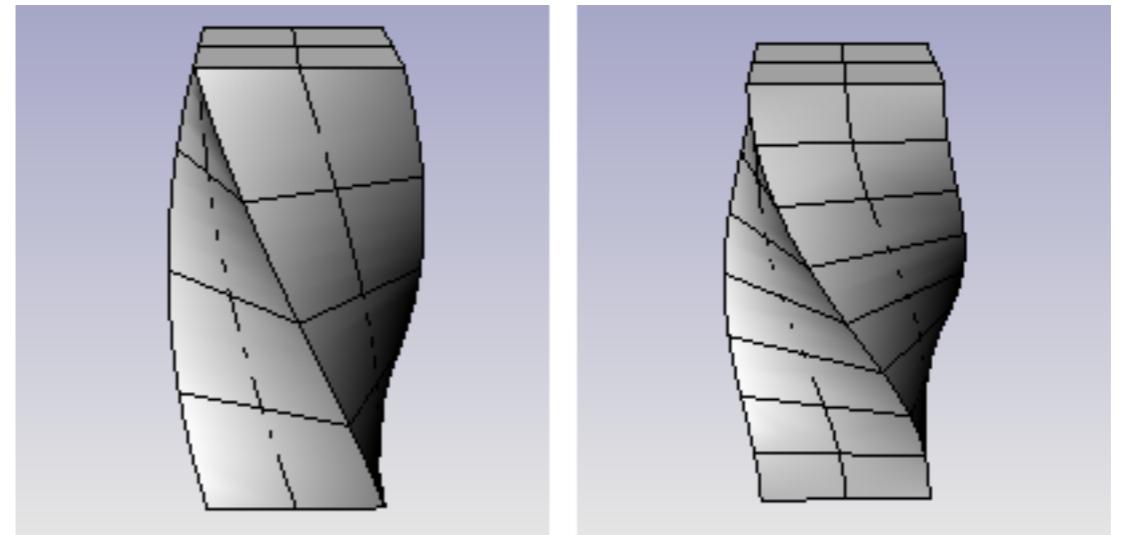
Imagine moving a horizontal plane vertically through C-space.

Each cross-section of the C-obstacle is a Minkowski sum $O \oplus -R(0,0,\theta)$

=> twisted pillar



the closest i could find ..



Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

What's known:

- C-space is 3D
- Boundary of free space is curved, not polygonal.
- Combinatorial complexity of free space is $O(n^2)$ for convex, $O(n^3)$ for non-convex robot

Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

What's known:

- C-space is 3D
- Boundary of free space is curved, not polygonal.
- Combinatorial complexity of free space is $O(n^2)$ for convex, $O(n^3)$ for non-convex robot
- Extend same approach:
 1. Compute C-obstacles and C-free
 2. Compute a decomposition of free space into simple cells
 3. Construct a roadmap
 4. BFS on roadmap

space is 3D



Difficult to construct a good cell decomposition for curved 3D space

Polygonal robot in 2D with rotations

- Difficult to construct a good cell decomposition for curved 3D space
- A possible approach:
 - If angle is fixed: you got translational motion planning
 - Discretize rotation angle and compute a finite number of slices, one for each angle
 - Construct a trapezoidal decomposition for each slice and its roadmap
 - Link them into a 3D roadmap
 - Add “vertical” edges between slices to allow robot to move up/down between slices; these correspond to rotational moves.
- Example: Consider two angles a and b . If placement (x,y) is in free space in slice a , and (x,y) is in free space in slice b , then the 3D roadmap should contain a vertical edge between slice a and b at that position

Is this complete ?

Combinatorial path planning: Summary

- **Idea: Compute free C-space combinatorially (= exact)**
- **Approach**
 - Reduce (robot, obstacles) => (point robot, C-obstacles)
 - Compute roadmap of free C-space
 - any path: trapezoidal decomposition or triangulation
 - shortest path: visibility graph
- **Comments**
 - Complete
 - Works beautifully in 2D and for some cases in 3D
 - Worst-case bound for combinatorial complexity of C-objects in 3D is high
 - Unfeasible/intractable for high #DOF
 - A complete planner in 3D runs in $O(2^{n^{\#DOF}})$