

# Time-Space Trade-offs for Triangulating a Simple Polygon

Boris Aronov<sup>1</sup>   Matias Korman<sup>2</sup>   Simon Pratt<sup>3</sup>  
André van Renssen<sup>4,5</sup>   Marcel Roeloffzen<sup>4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>New York University

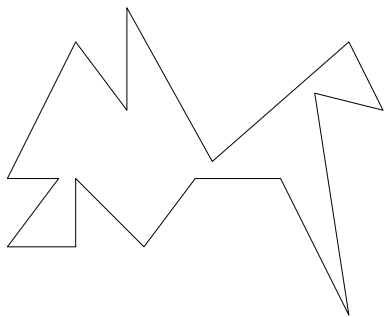
<sup>2</sup>Tohoku University

<sup>3</sup>University of Waterloo

<sup>4</sup>National Institute of Informatics

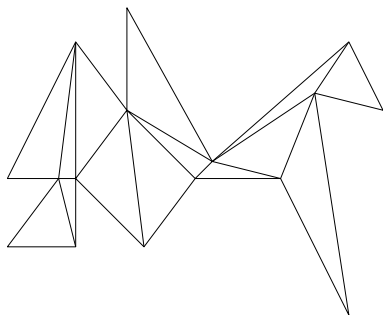
<sup>5</sup>JST, ERATO, Kawarabayashi Large Graph Project

# Problem



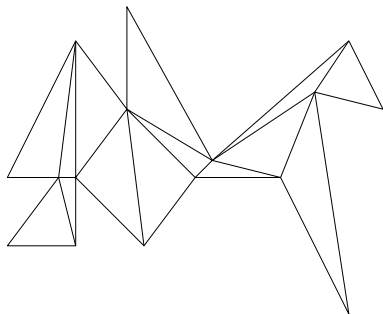
Given a simple polygon:

# Problem



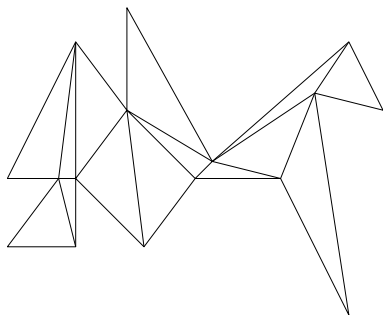
Given a simple polygon: **Triangulate!**

# Why?



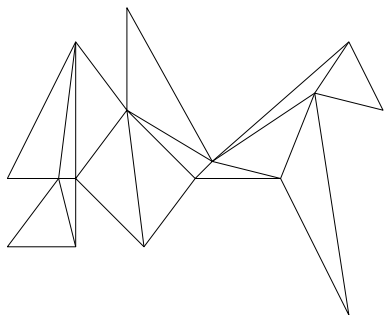
- Don't we already have Chazelle's  $O(n)$  time algorithm?

# Why?



- Don't we already have Chazelle's  $O(n)$  time algorithm?
- Chazelle's algorithm uses  $O(n)$  words of space
- **What if we only have  $O(s < n)$  words of space?**

# Why?



- Don't we already have Chazelle's  $O(n)$  time algorithm?
- Chazelle's algorithm uses  $O(n)$  words of space
- **What if we only have  $O(s < n)$  words of space?**
- Ideally, we'd like a time-space trade-off

# Model

$s$ -Workspace Model:

- Also called constant workspace

# Model

## $s$ -Workspace Model:

- Also called constant workspace
- Input is read-only, but we have random access



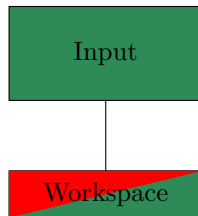
Input



# Model

## $s$ -Workspace Model:

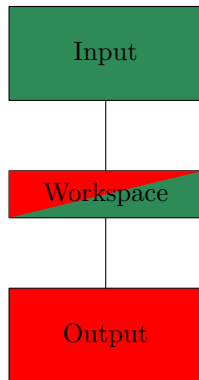
- Also called constant workspace
- Input is read-only, but we have random access
- $O(s)$  words of extra (read/write) space



# Model

## s-Workspace Model:

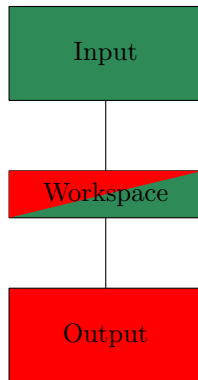
- Also called constant workspace
- Input is read-only, but we have random access
- $O(s)$  words of extra (read/write) space
- Output is write-only, no random access



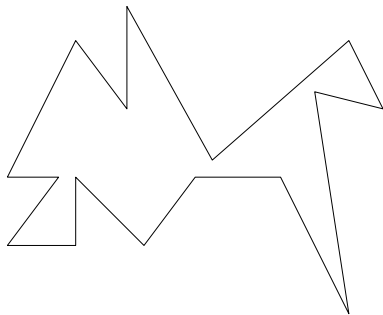
# Model

## s-Workspace Model:

- Also called constant workspace
- Input is read-only, but we have random access
- $O(s)$  words of extra (read/write) space
- Output is write-only, no random access
- Otherwise, normal word RAM

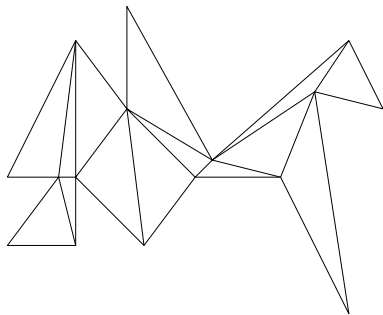


# Problem



- Input:
  - A simple polygon
  - Given as vertices in clockwise order:  $v_1 v_2, v_2 v_3, \dots, v_{n-1} v_n$

# Problem



- **Input:**
  - A simple polygon
  - Given as vertices in clockwise order:  $v_1 v_2, v_2 v_3, \dots, v_{n-1} v_n$
- **Output:**
  - A maximal set of straight, non-intersecting line segments between vertices of the input

# Results

- $O(n^2/s + n \log s \log^5(n/s))$  expected time,  
for  $s \in O(n)$

# Results

- $O(n^2/s + n \log s \log^5(n/s))$  expected time,  
for  $s \in O(n)$
- $O(n^2/s)$  expected time,  
for “reasonable”  $s \in O\left(\frac{n}{\log n \log^5 \log n}\right)$

# Tool 1: Chazelle's Algorithm

- Triangulates a simple polygon
- $O(n)$  time
- $O(n)$  space

Credit: *Chazelle, 1991*



## Tool 2: Memory-Constrained Triangulation

- Triangulates a simple polygon
- $O(n^2)$  time
- $O(1)$  space

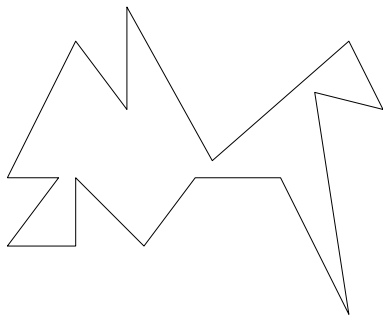
Credit: *Asano et al., 2013*

## Tool 3: Har-Peled's Algorithm

- Finds the shortest path between two vertices within a simple polygon
- $O(n^2/s + n \log s \log^4(n/s))$  expected time
- $O(s)$  space

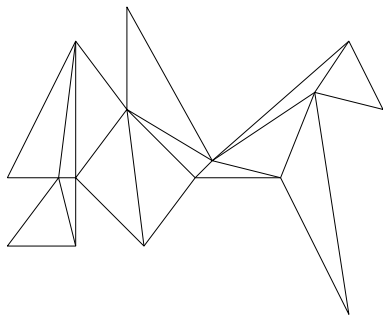
Credit: *Har-Peled, SoCG 2015, JoCG 2016*

# Overview



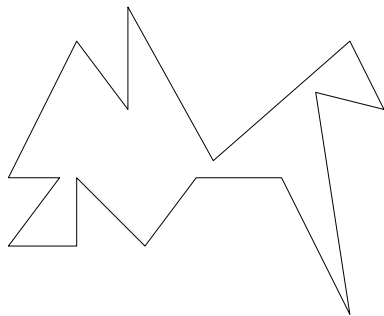
- If polygon fits in available memory:

# Overview



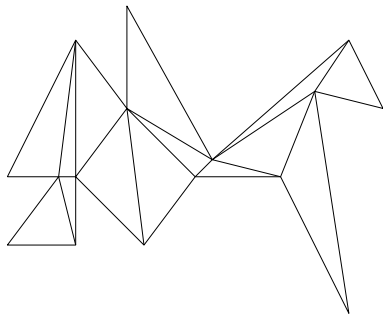
- If polygon fits in available memory: [Use Chazelle's algorithm](#)

# Overview



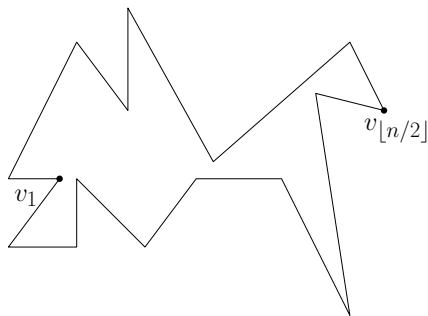
- If polygon fits in available memory: Use Chazelle's algorithm
- Else if  $s$  is constant:

# Overview



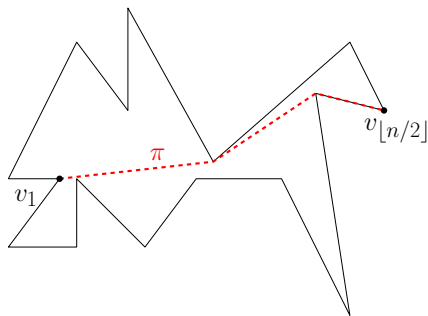
- If polygon fits in available memory: Use Chazelle's algorithm
- Else if  $s$  is constant: Use memory-constrained triangulation

# Overview



- If polygon fits in available memory: Use Chazelle's algorithm
- Else if  $s$  is constant: Use memory-constrained triangulation
- Else:

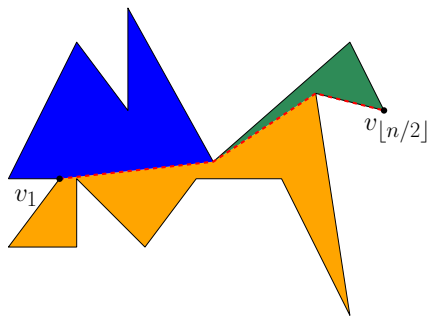
# Overview



- If polygon fits in available memory: Use Chazelle's algorithm
- Else if  $s$  is constant: Use memory-constrained triangulation
- Else:
  - Use Har-Peled's algorithm to find geodesic from  $v_1$  to  $v_{n/2}$

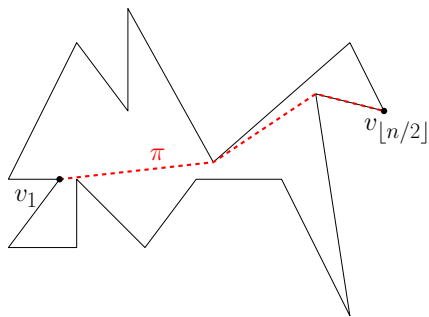


# Overview



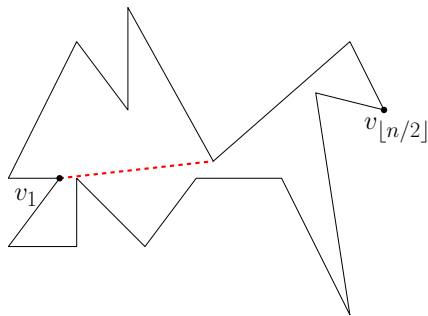
- If polygon fits in available memory: Use Chazelle's algorithm
- Else if  $s$  is constant: Use memory-constrained triangulation
- Else:
  - Use Har-Peled's algorithm to find geodesic from  $v_1$  to  $v_{[n/2]}$
  - Recurse on subpolygons induced by  $\pi$ , with smaller  $s$

# First Challenge



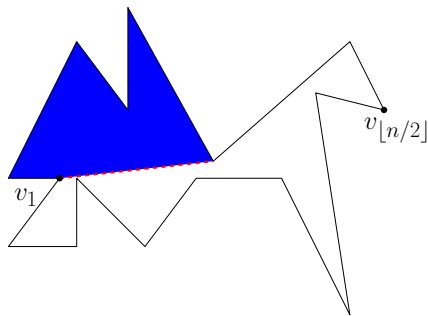
- Problem:
  - $\pi$  might not fit into available memory

# First Challenge



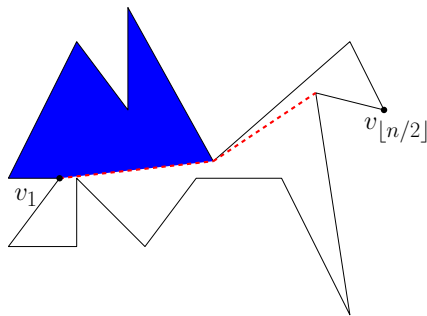
- Problem:
  - $\pi$  might not fit into available memory
- Solution:
  - “Pause” Har-Peled after each edge

# First Challenge



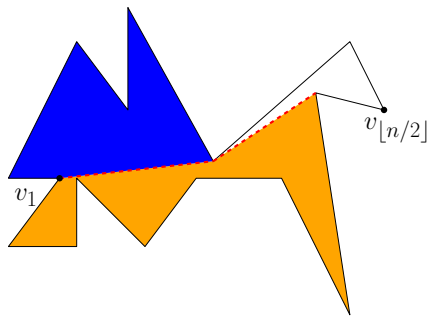
- Problem:
  - $\pi$  might not fit into available memory
- Solution:
  - “Pause” Har-Peled after each edge
  - Recurse on subpolygons as they are created

# First Challenge



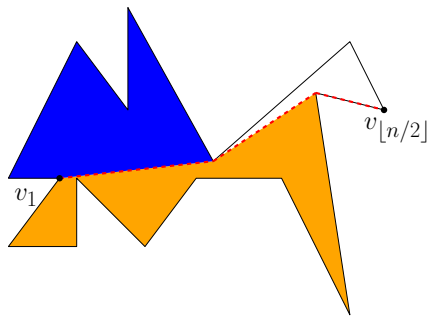
- Problem:
  - $\pi$  might not fit into available memory
- Solution:
  - “Pause” Har-Peled after each edge
  - Recurse on subpolygons as they are created

# First Challenge



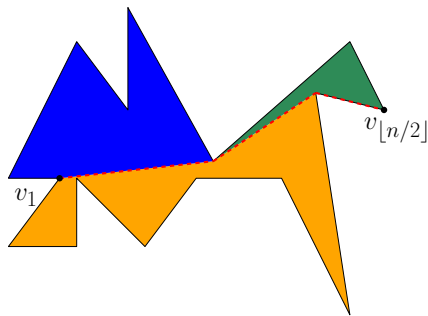
- Problem:
  - $\pi$  might not fit into available memory
- Solution:
  - “Pause” Har-Peled after each edge
  - Recurse on subpolygons as they are created

# First Challenge



- Problem:
  - $\pi$  might not fit into available memory
- Solution:
  - “Pause” Har-Peled after each edge
  - Recurse on subpolygons as they are created

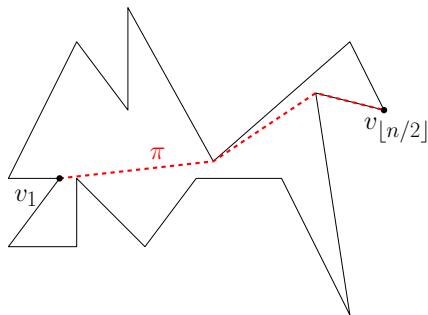
# First Challenge



- Problem:
  - $\pi$  might not fit into available memory
- Solution:
  - “Pause” Har-Peled after each edge
  - Recurse on subpolygons as they are created

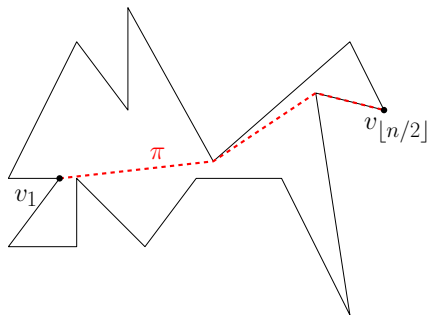


## Second Challenge



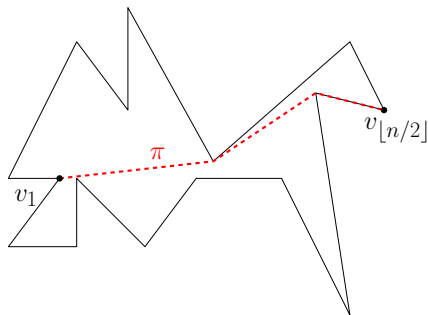
- Problem:
  - A subpolygon can be bounded by more than a single edge of  $\pi$

## Second Challenge



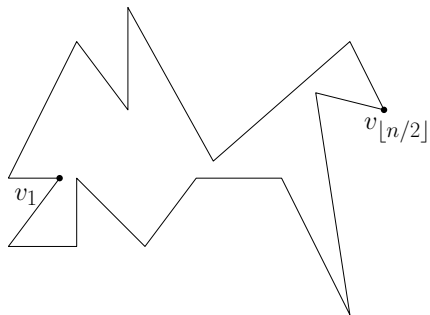
- Problem:
  - A subpolygon can be bounded by more than a single edge of  $\pi$
  - We need to store a list of edges on  $\pi$

## Second Challenge

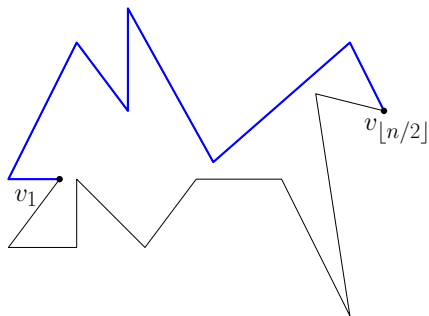


- Problem:
  - A subpolygon can be bounded by more than a single edge of  $\pi$
  - We need to store a list of edges on  $\pi$
  - This list of edges might not fit in memory

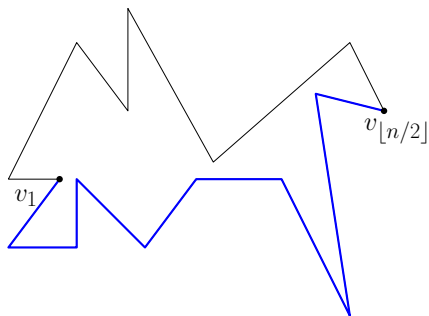
# Alternating Diagonals



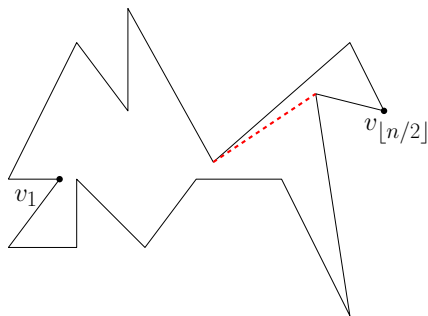
# Alternating Diagonals



# Alternating Diagonals



# Alternating Diagonals



*Alternating diagonal:*

- An edge with one vertex on the “top” and one on the “bottom” of the polygon

# Alternating Diagonals

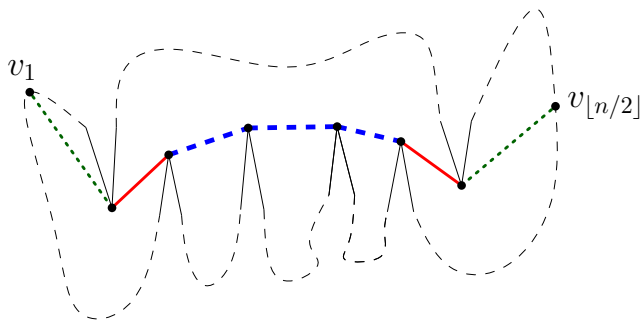


*Alternating diagonal:*

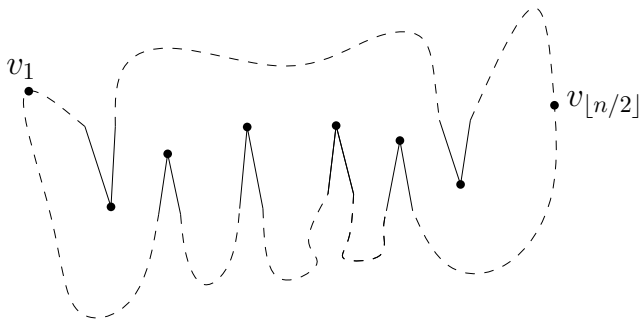
- An edge with one vertex on the “top” and one on the “bottom” of the polygon
- In other words, an edge which separates  $v_1$  and  $v_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$  into different induced subpolygons



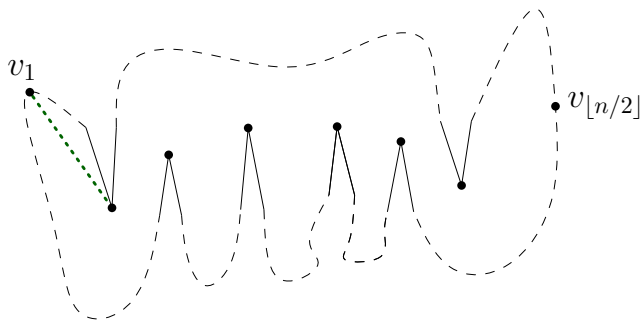
# More Details



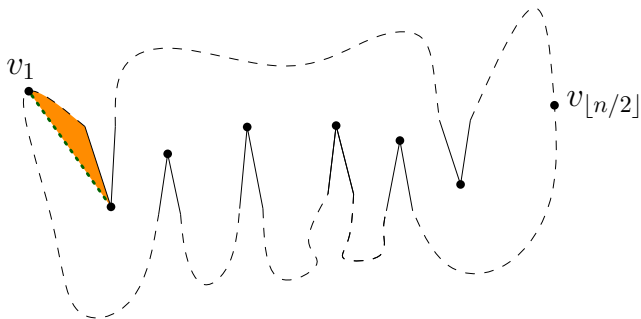
# More Details



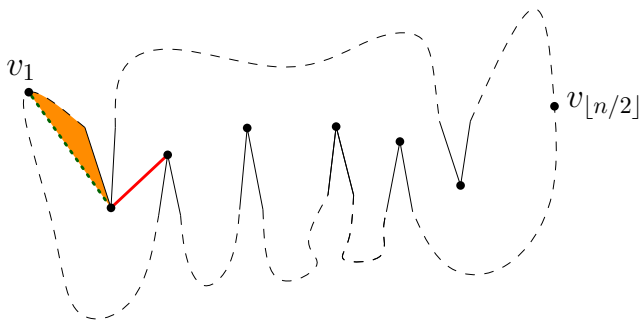
# More Details



# More Details

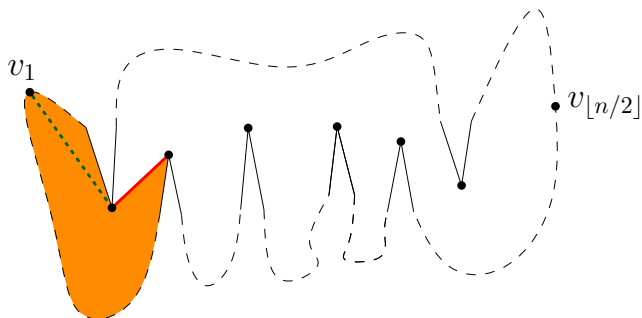


# More Details



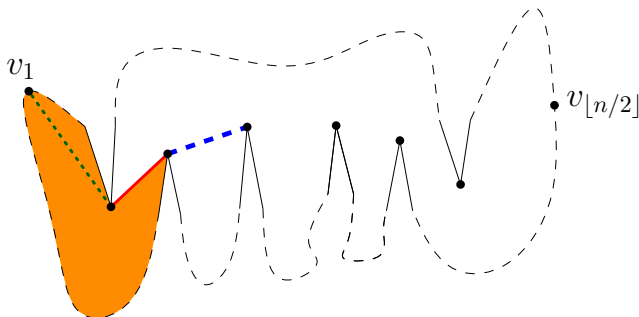
- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$

# More Details



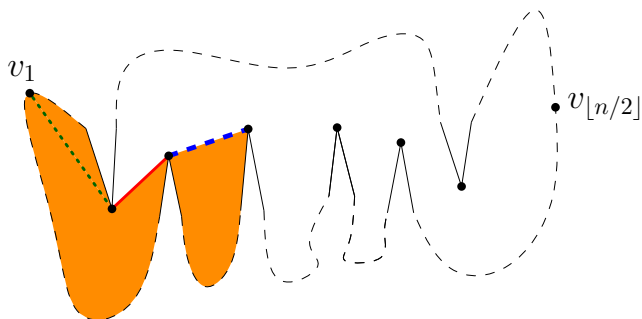
- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

# More Details



- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

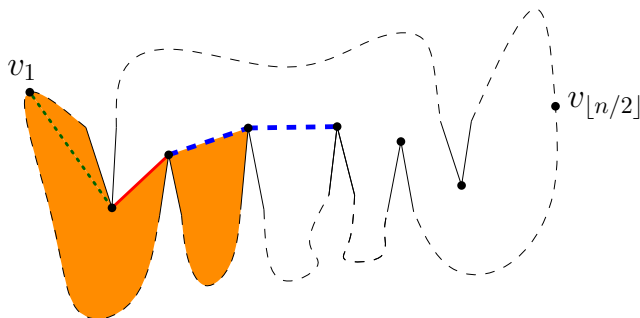
# More Details



- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

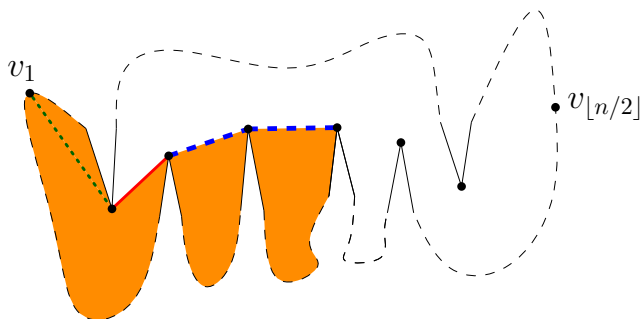


# More Details



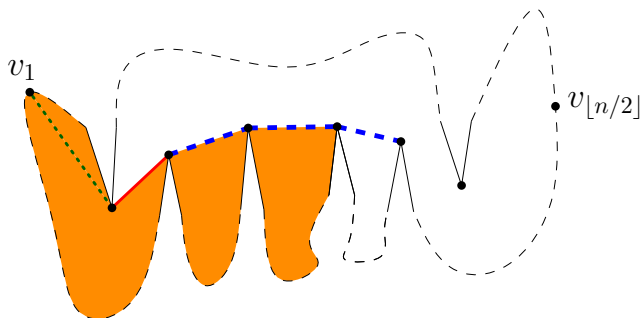
- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

# More Details



- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

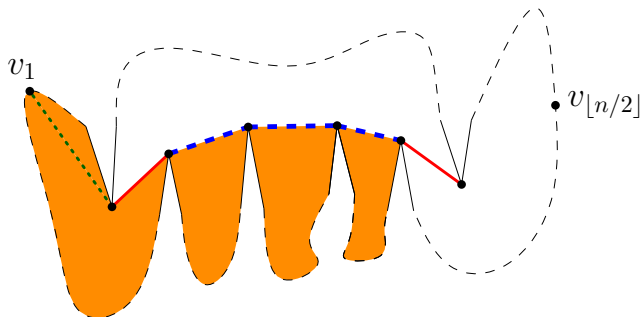
# More Details



- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

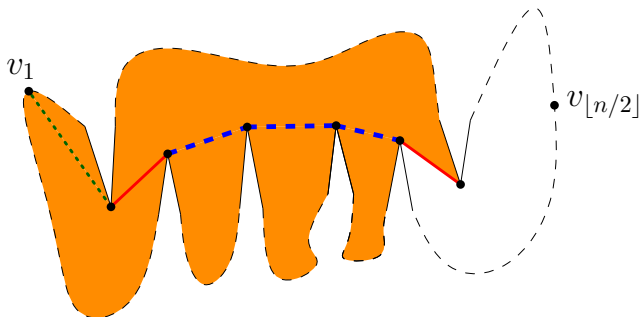


# More Details



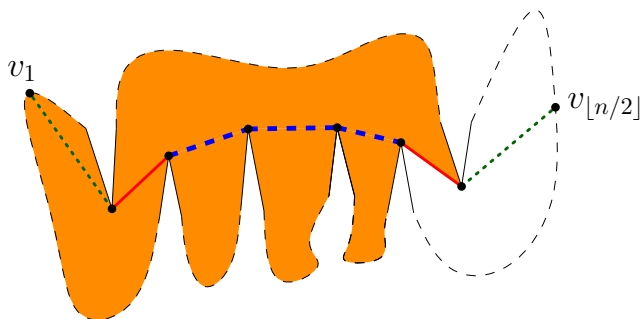
- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

# More Details



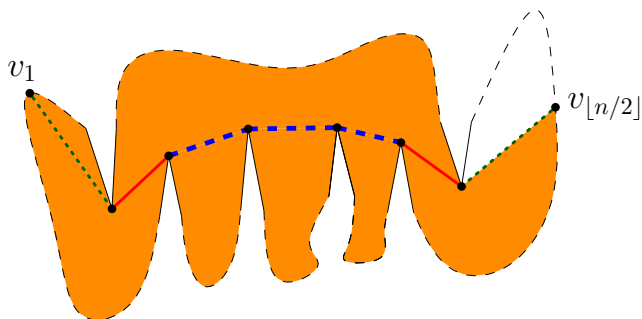
- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

# More Details



- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

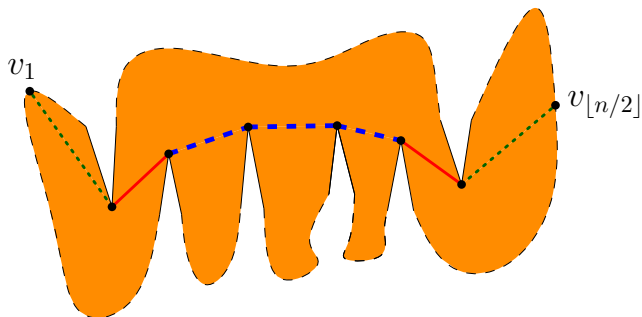
# More Details



- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

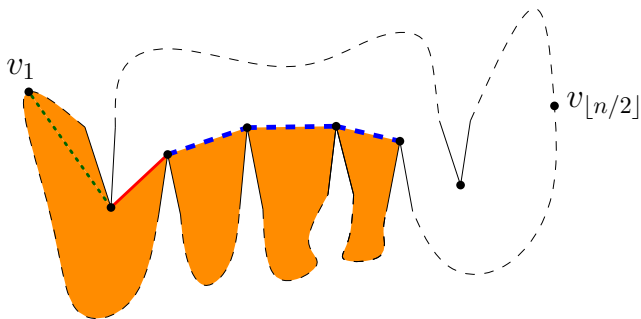


# More Details



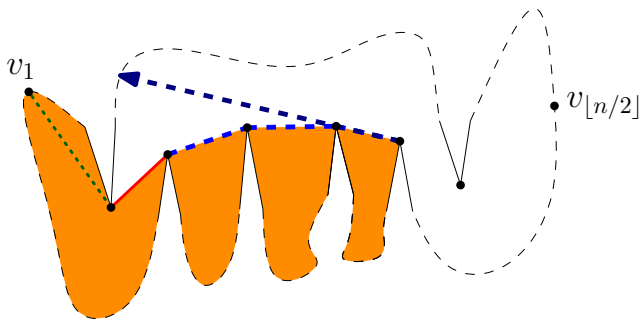
- Store:
  - Last alternating diagonal  $a_c$
  - Edges of  $\pi$  since  $a_c$
- Maintain invariant:
  - Subpolygon induced by  $a_c$  containing  $v_1$  is triangulated

## Second Challenge



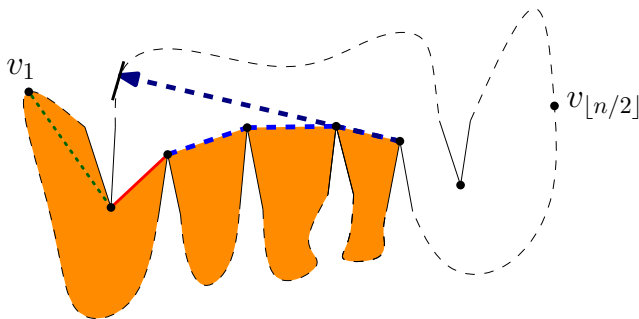
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory

## Second Challenge



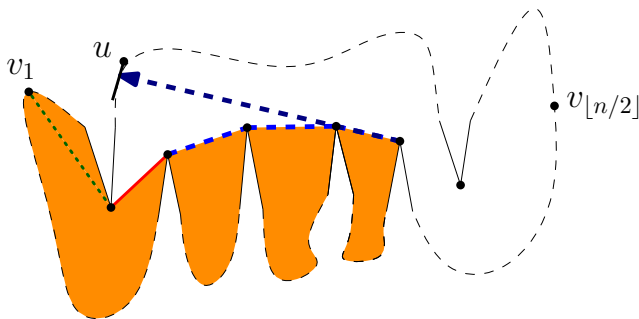
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

## Second Challenge



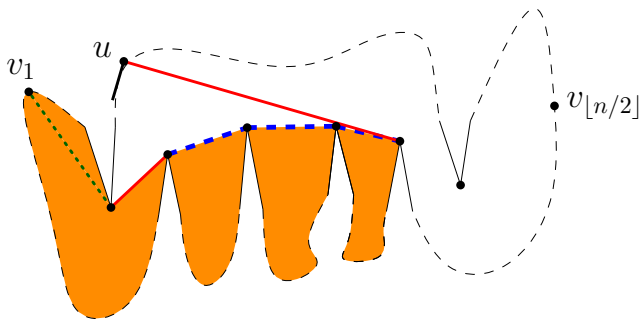
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

## Second Challenge



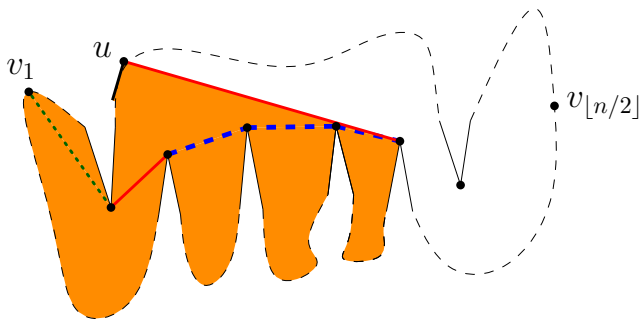
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

## Second Challenge



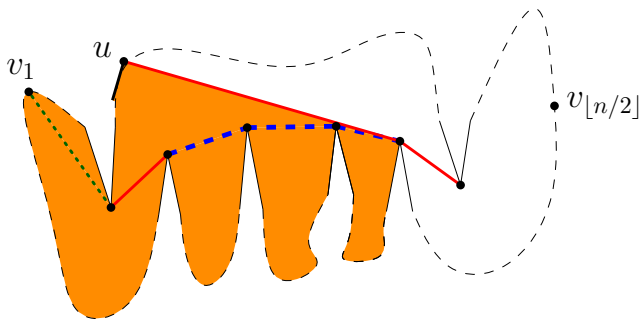
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

## Second Challenge



- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

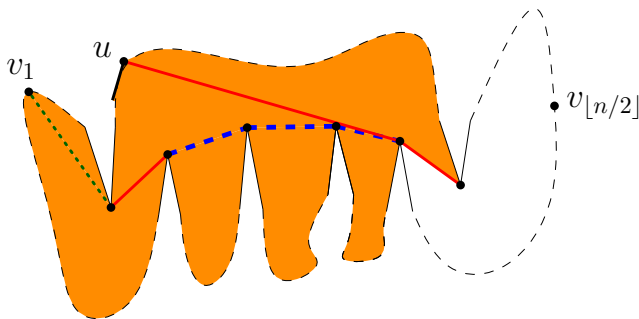
## Second Challenge



- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

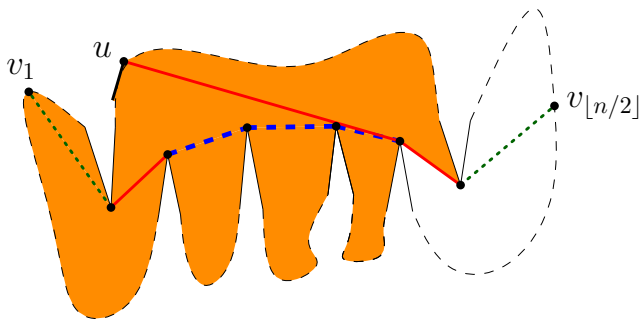


## Second Challenge



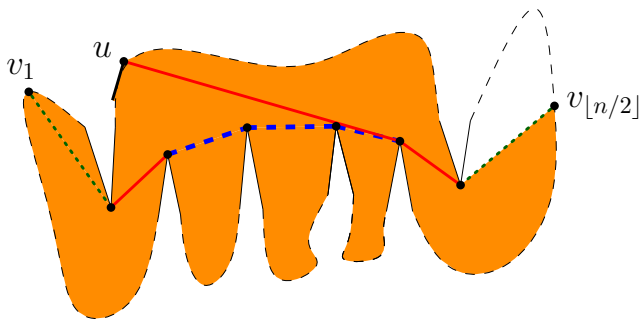
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

## Second Challenge



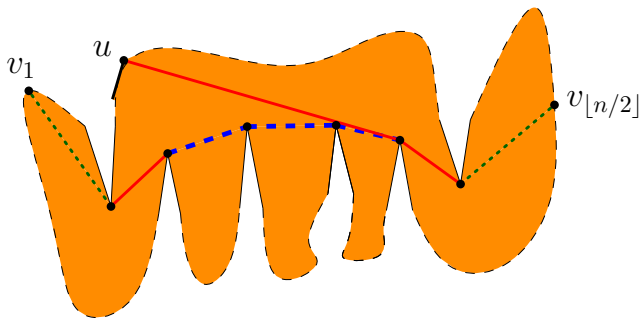
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

## Second Challenge



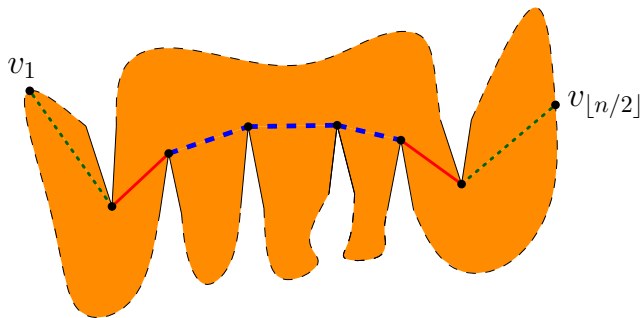
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

## Second Challenge



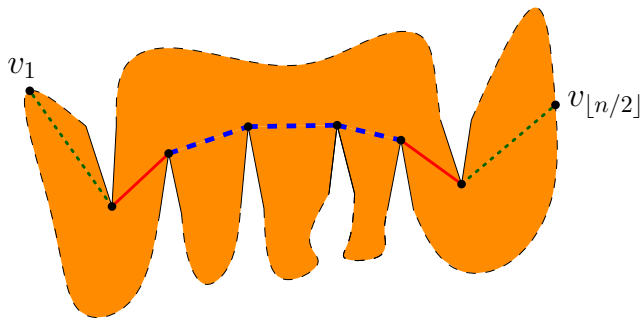
- Problem:
  - There may be more edges between alternating diagonals than can fit in memory
- Solution:
  - Find an alternating diagonal (not on  $\pi$ )
  - $O(n)$  time,  $O(1)$  extra space

# Efficiency: Overview



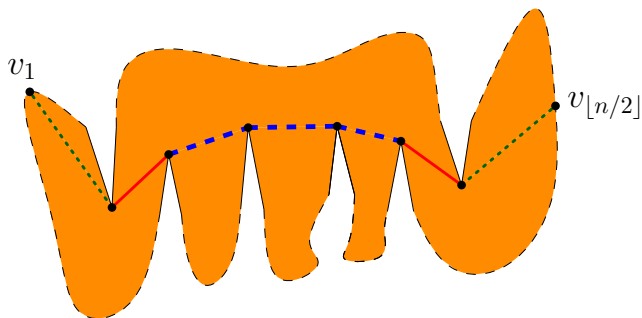
- SPACE:  $O(s)$

# Efficiency: Overview



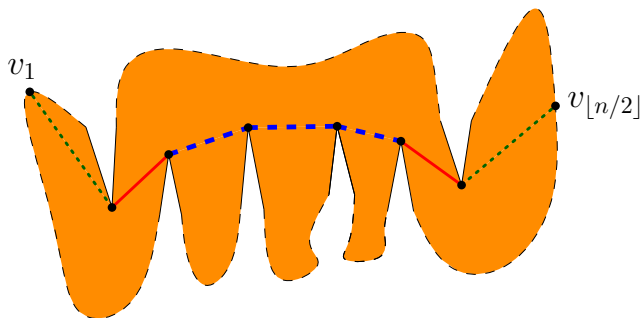
- SPACE:  $O(s)$ 
  - Use a parameter  $\tau$  to keep track of available space

# Efficiency: Overview



- SPACE:  $O(s)$ 
  - Use a parameter  $\tau$  to keep track of available space
  - Initially,  $\tau = s$

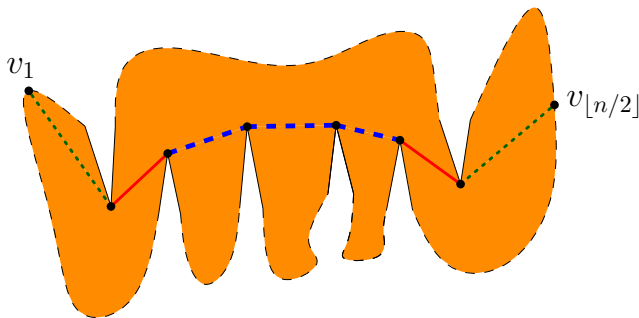
# Efficiency: Overview



- SPACE:  $O(s)$ 
  - Use a parameter  $\tau$  to keep track of available space
  - Initially,  $\tau = s$
  - $\tau$  shrinks by a constant factor at each level of recursion

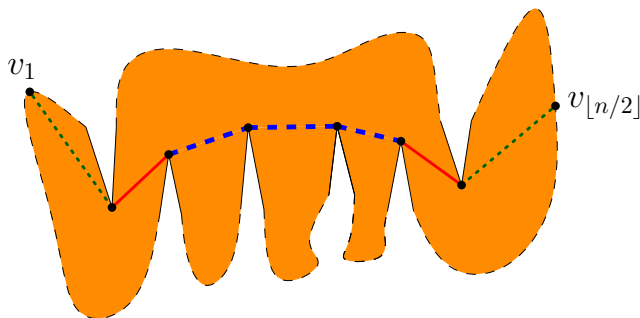


# Efficiency: Overview



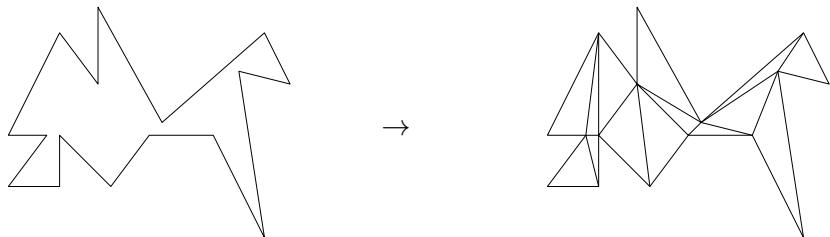
- SPACE:  $O(s)$ 
  - Use a parameter  $\tau$  to keep track of available space
  - Initially,  $\tau = s$
  - $\tau$  shrinks by a constant factor at each level of recursion
- TIME:  $O(n^2/s + n \log s \log^5(n/s))$  expected

# Efficiency: Overview



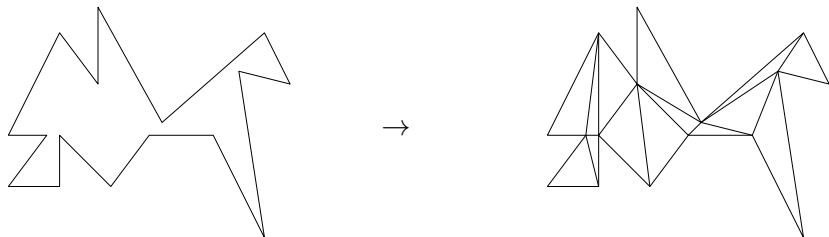
- SPACE:  $O(s)$ 
  - Use a parameter  $\tau$  to keep track of available space
  - Initially,  $\tau = s$
  - $\tau$  shrinks by a constant factor at each level of recursion
- TIME:  $O(n^2/s + n \log s \log^5(n/s))$  expected
  - Most work done in computing the geodesic

# Conclusion



Using Chazelle's, Asano's, and Har-Peled's algorithms as building blocks.

# Conclusion

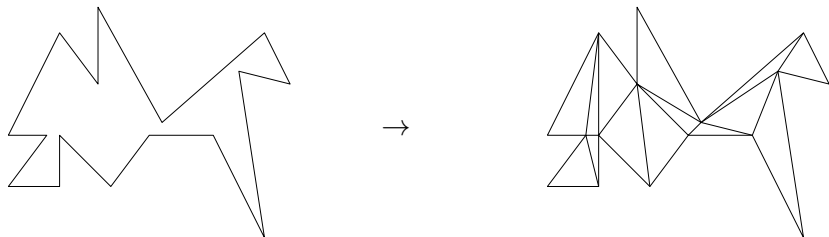


Using Chazelle's, Asano's, and Har-Peled's algorithms as building blocks.

Triangulate a polygon in:

- $O(s)$  space
- $O(n^2/s + n \log s \log^5(n/s))$  expected time, for  $s \in O(n)$

# Conclusion



Using Chazelle's, Asano's, and Har-Peled's algorithms as building blocks.

Triangulate a polygon in:

- $O(s)$  space
- $O(n^2/s + n \log s \log^5(n/s))$  expected time, for  $s \in O(n)$
- $O(n^2/s)$  expected time, for "reasonable"  $s \in O\left(\frac{n}{\log n \log^5 \log n}\right)$

# References

- ① Tetsuo Asano, Kevin Buchin, Maïke Buchin, Matias Korman, Wolfgang Mulzer, Günter Rote, André Schulz.  
*Memory-constrained algorithms for simple polygons.* Journal of Computational Geometry, Volume 46, Issue 8, 2013, Pages 959–969.
- ② Bernard Chazelle. *Triangulating a simple polygon in linear time.* Journal of Discrete & Computational Geometry, Number 6, Issue 3, 2007, Pages 485–524.
- ③ Sariel Har-Peled. "Shortest path in a polygon using sublinear space." Journal of Computational Geometry, Volume 7, Number 2, 2016, Pages 19–45.