# Approximation Algorithms

Lecture 9:

An Approximation Scheme for Euclidean TSP

Part I:

The Traveling Salesman Problem

Question: What's the fastest way to deliver all parcels to

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Given: A set of *n* houses (points) in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .



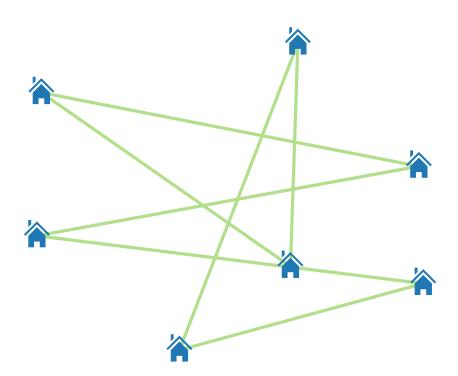


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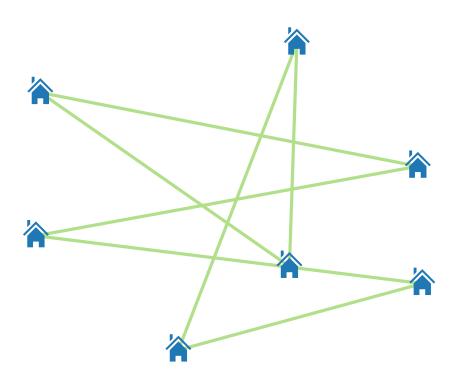


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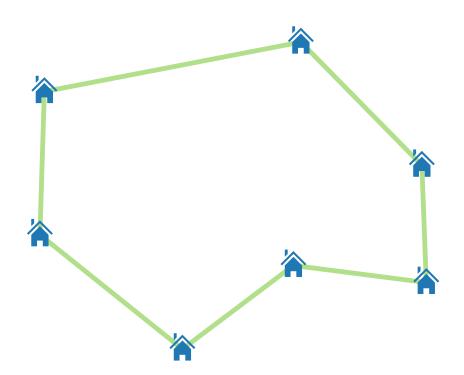


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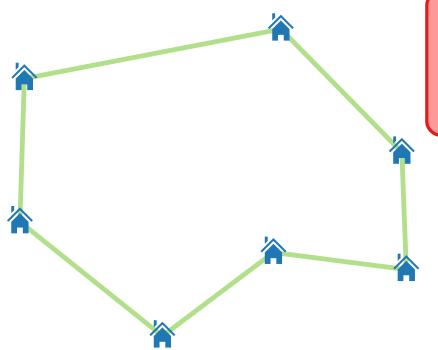


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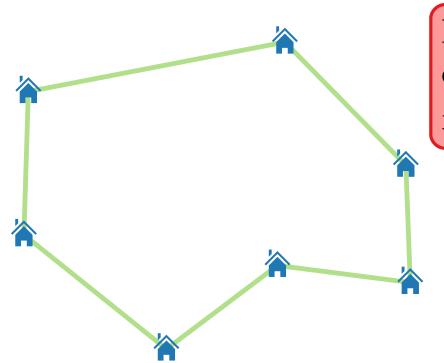
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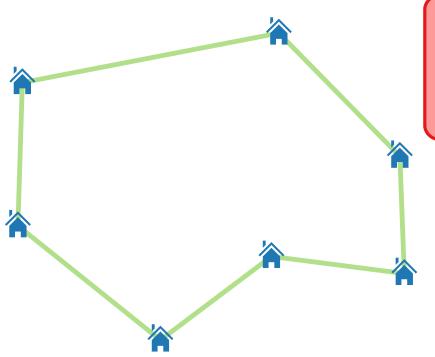
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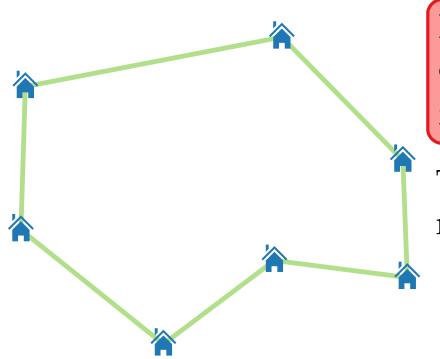
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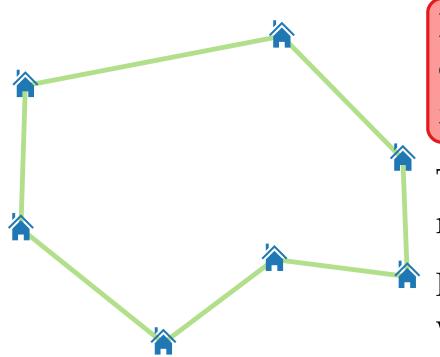
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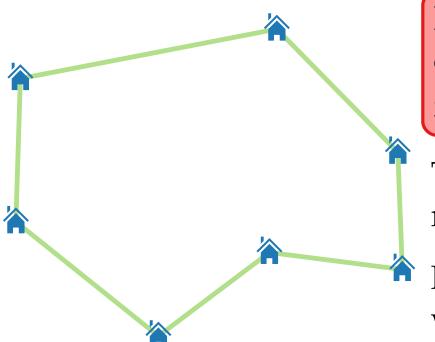
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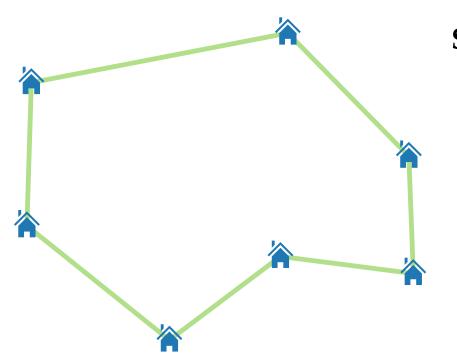
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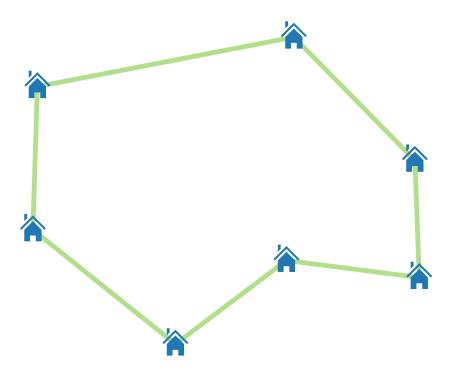
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#### **Simplifying Assumptions**

Houses inside  $(L \times L)$ -square

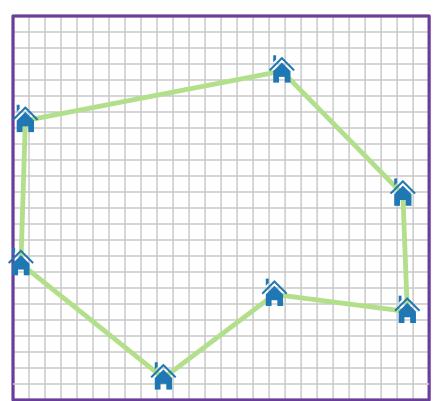
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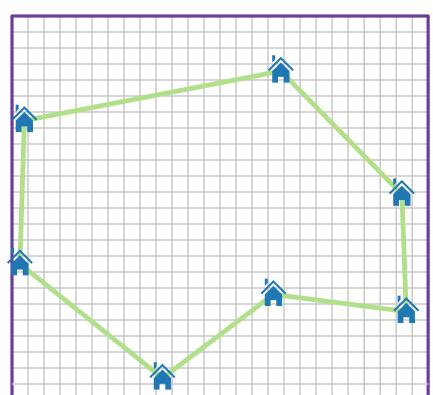
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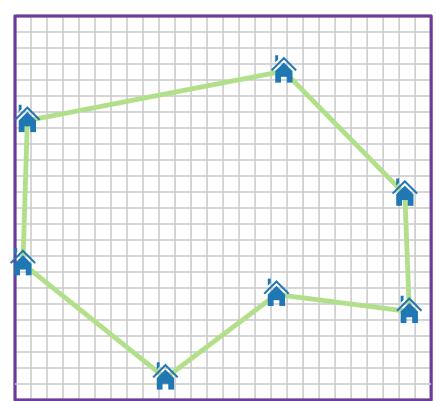
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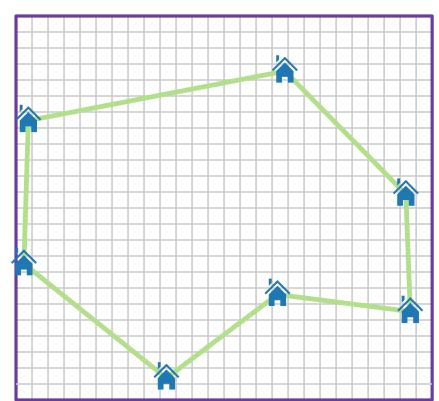
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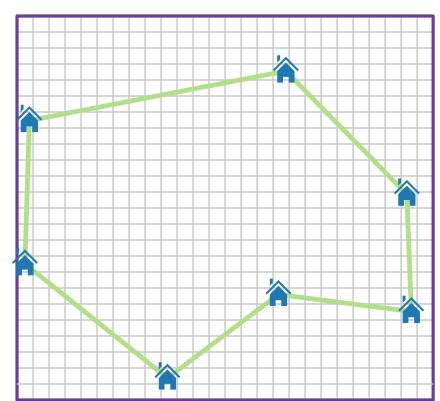
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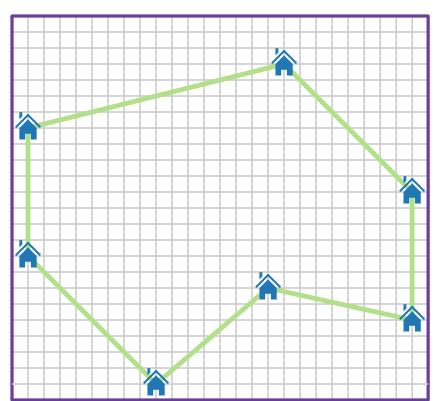
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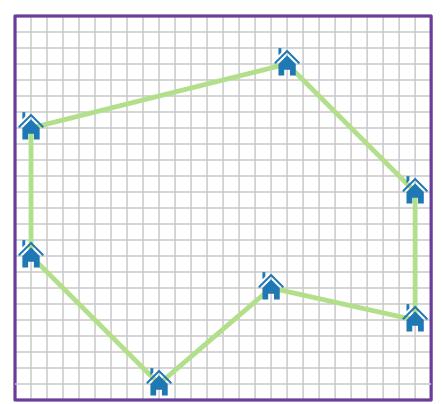
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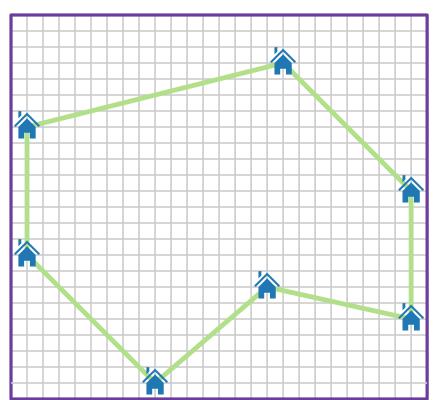
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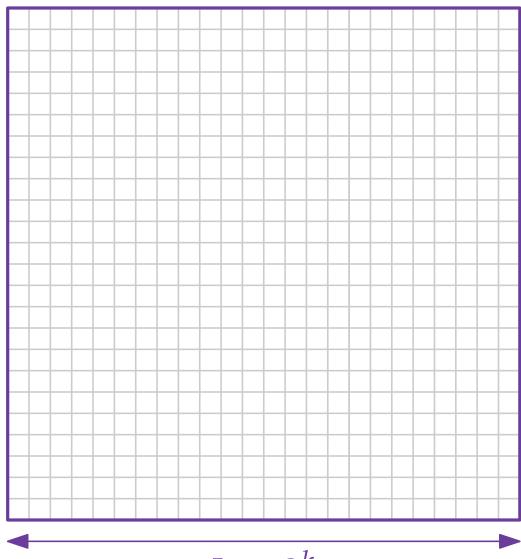
Goal:  $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximation!

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# Approximation Algorithms

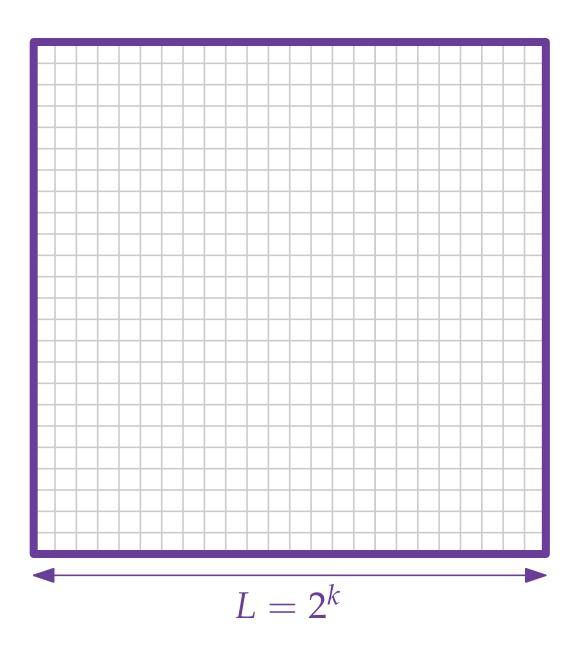
Lecture 9:
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Part II:
Dissection

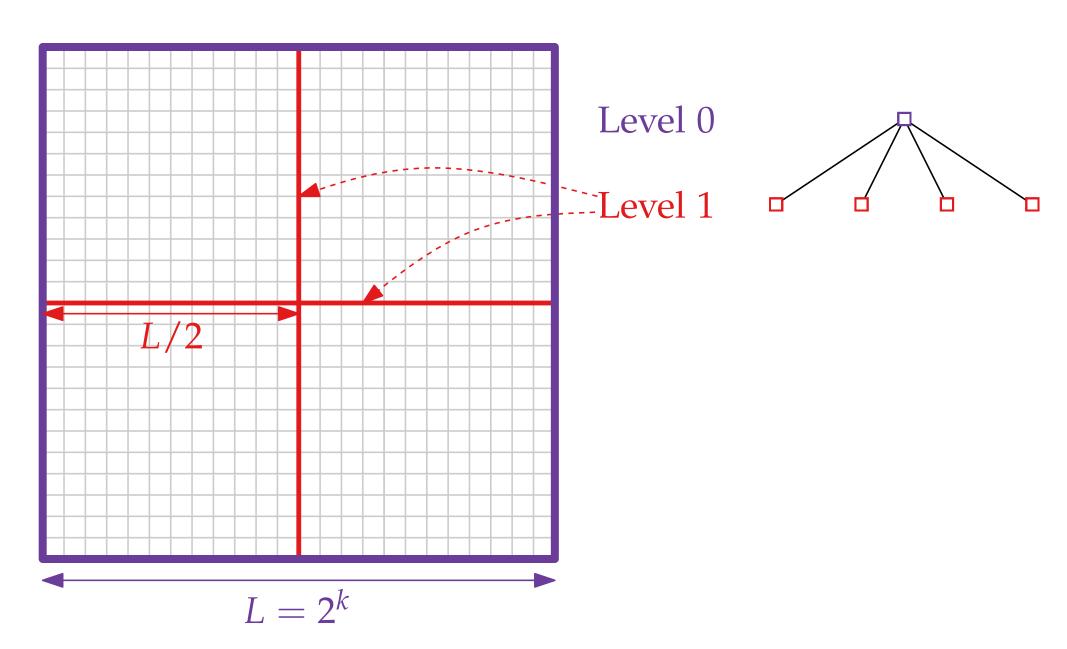


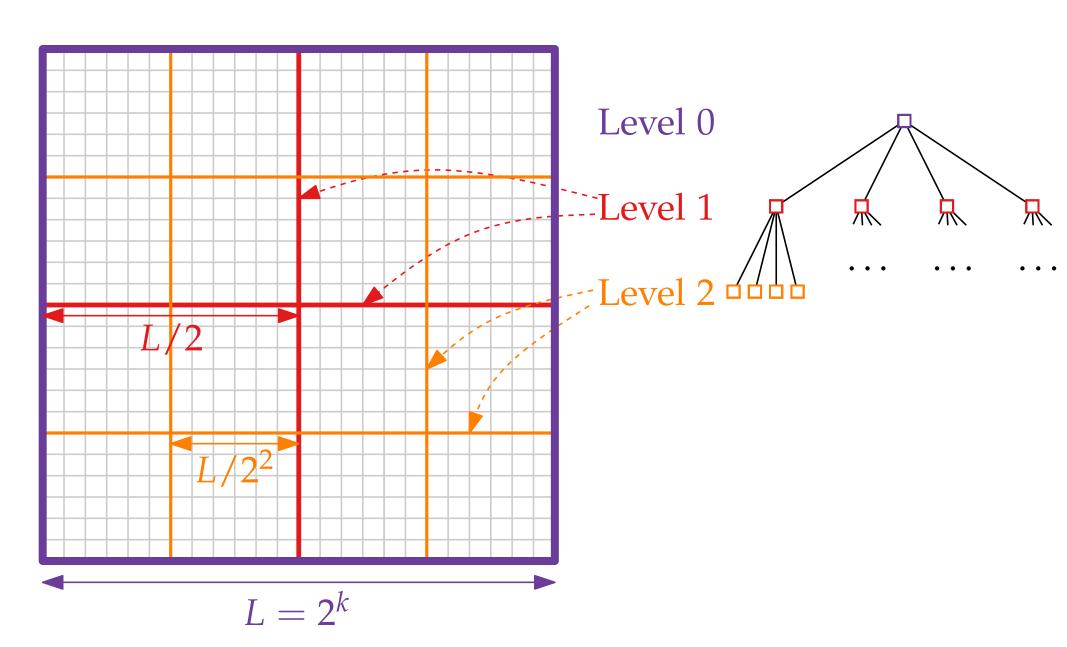
$$L=2^k$$

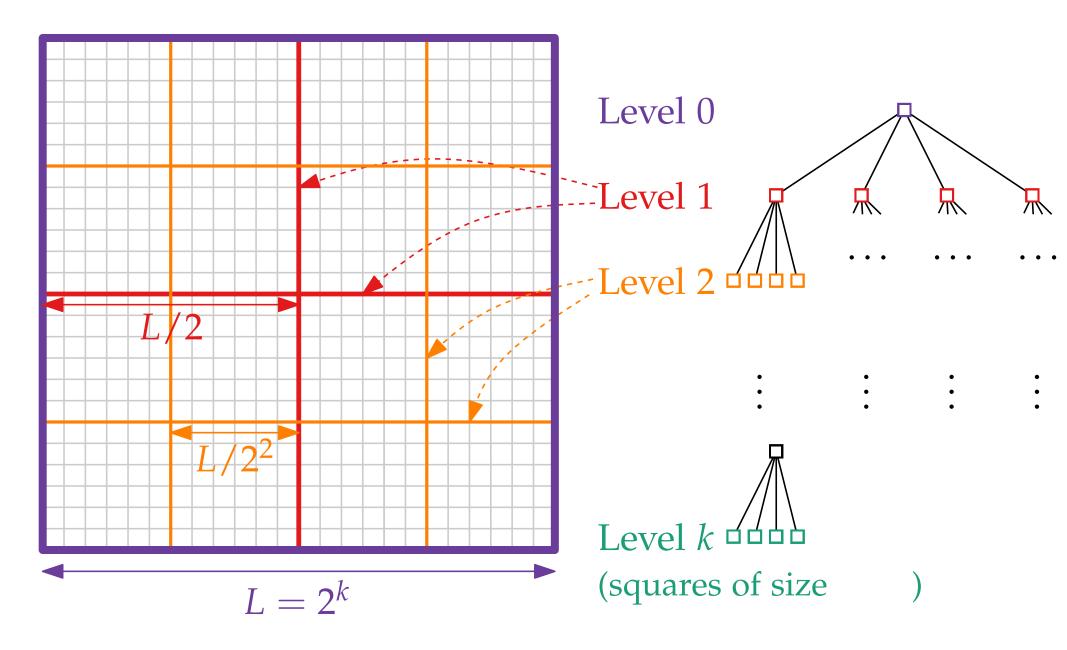
### Basic Dissection

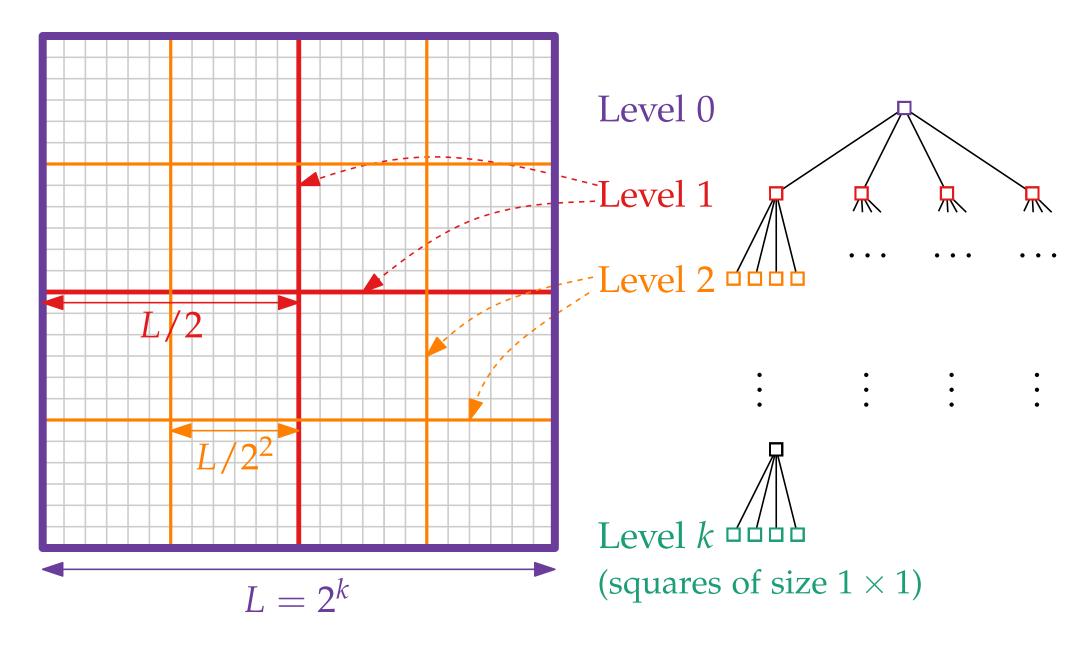


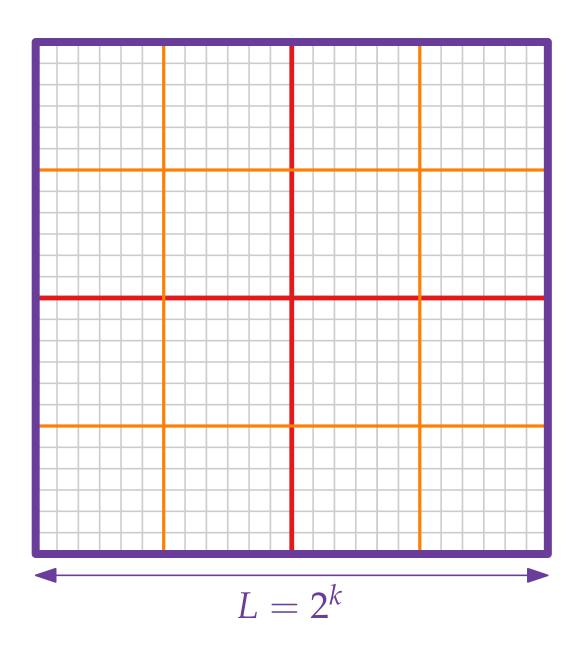
Level 0



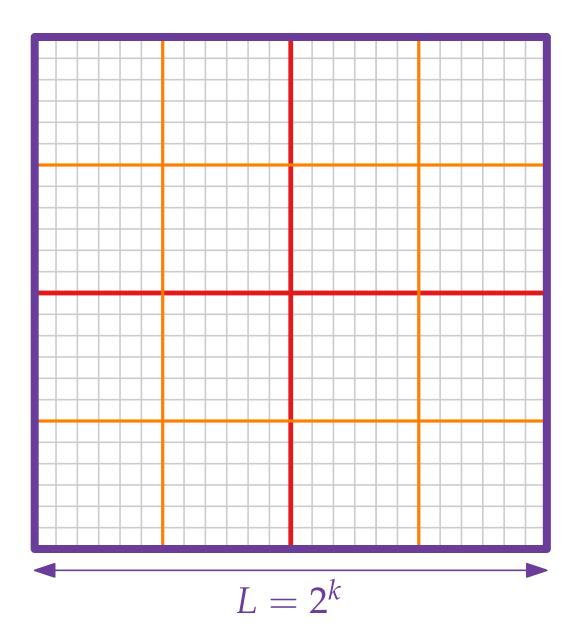






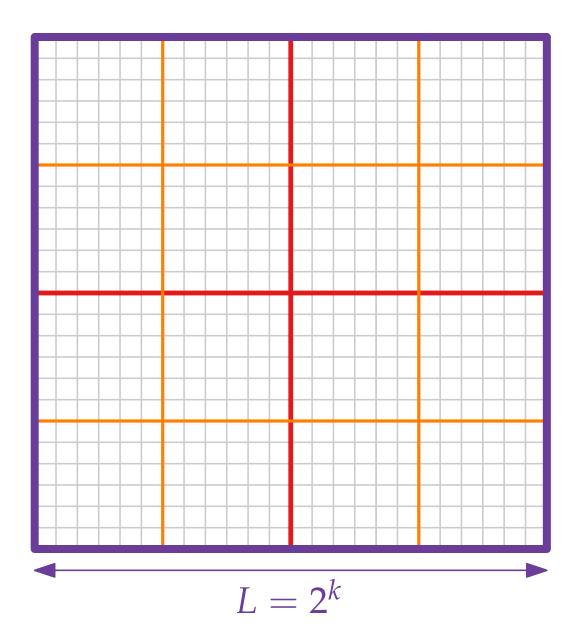


Let m be a power of 2 in the interval  $[k/\varepsilon, 2k/\varepsilon]$ .



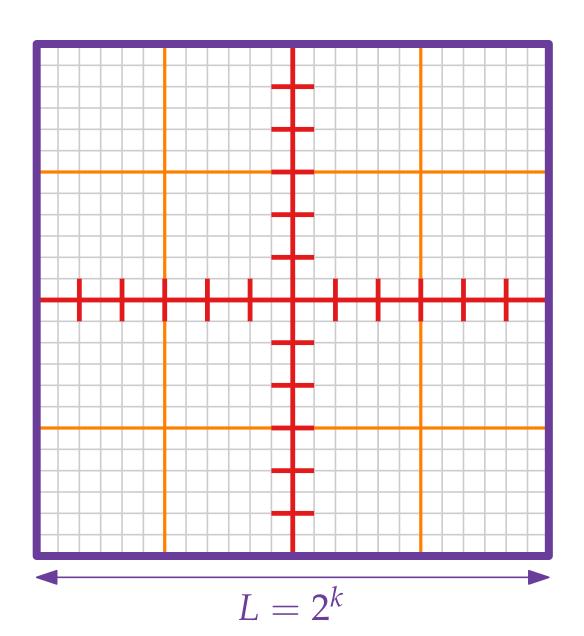
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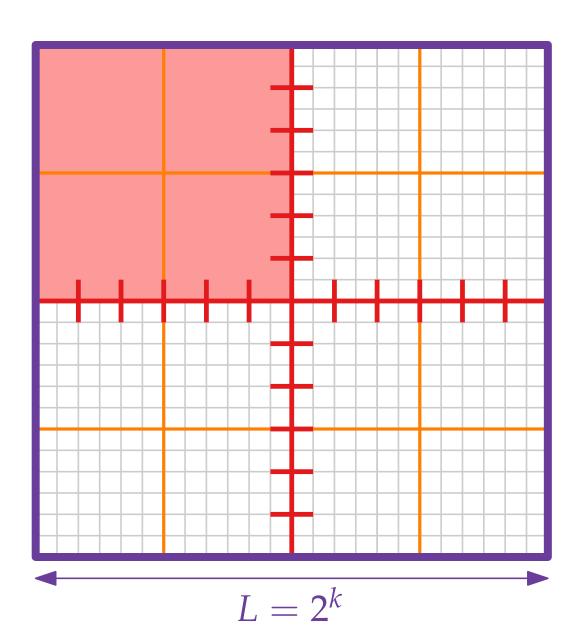
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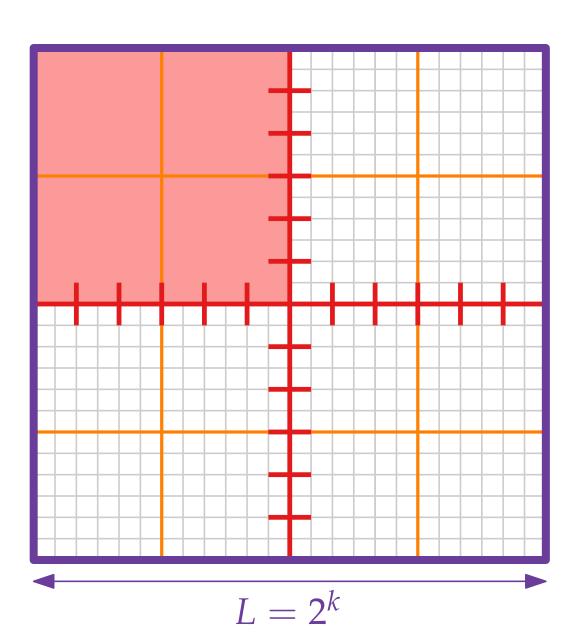
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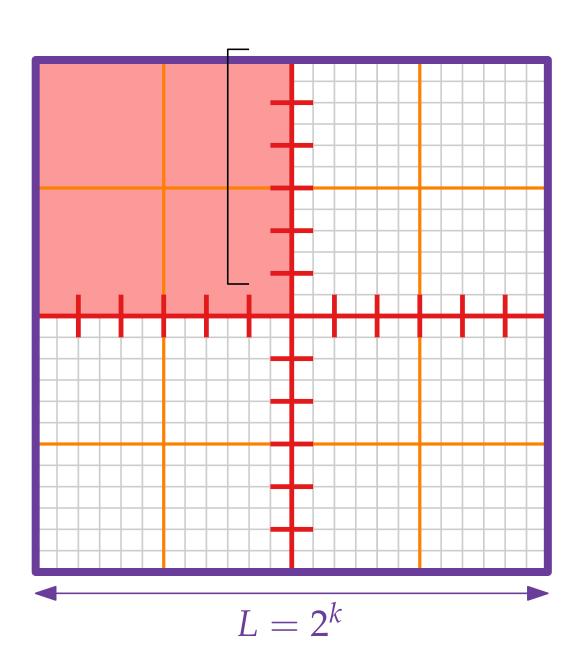
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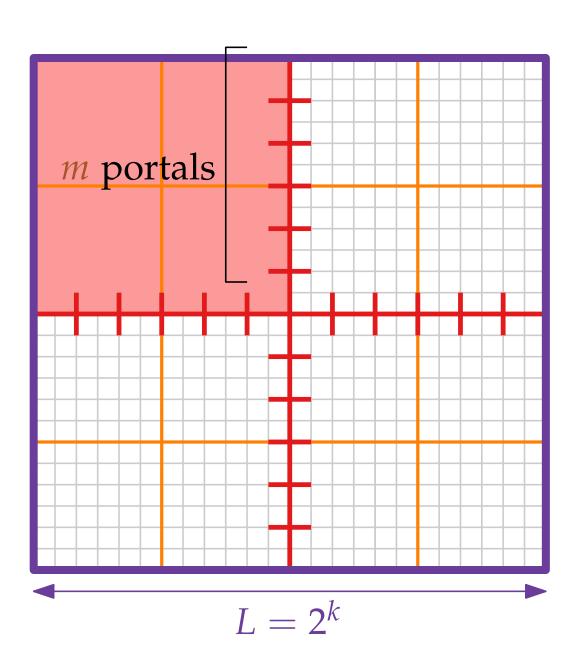
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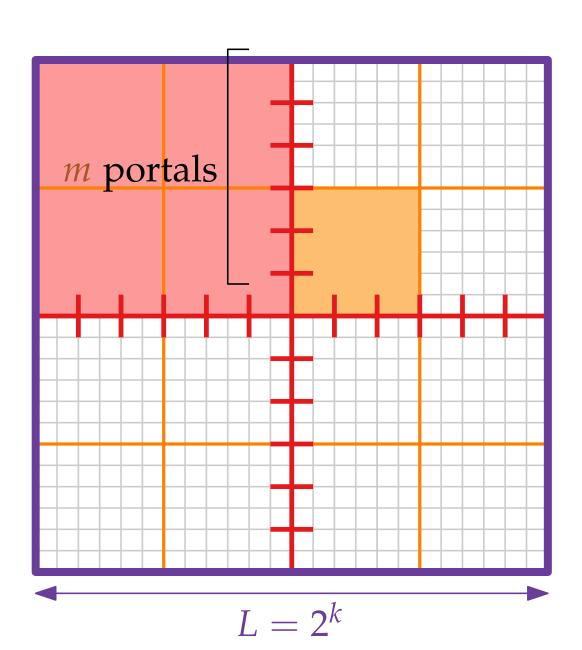
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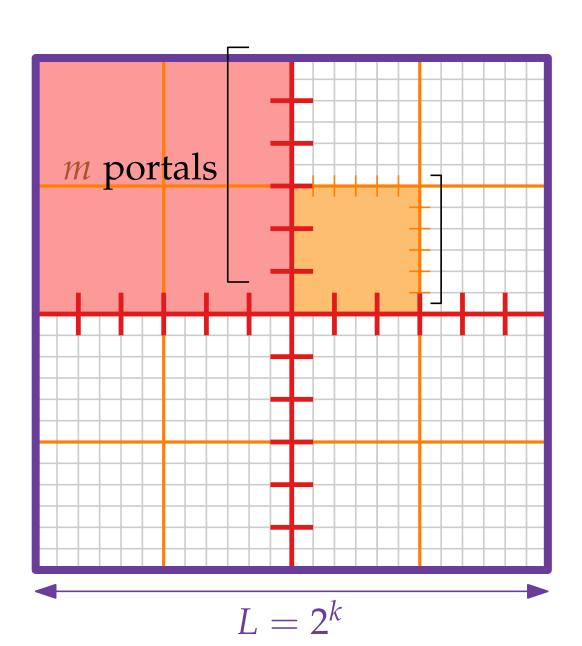
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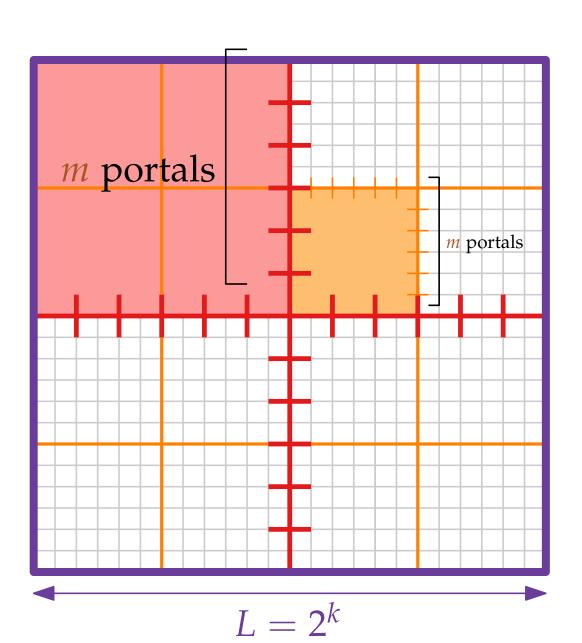
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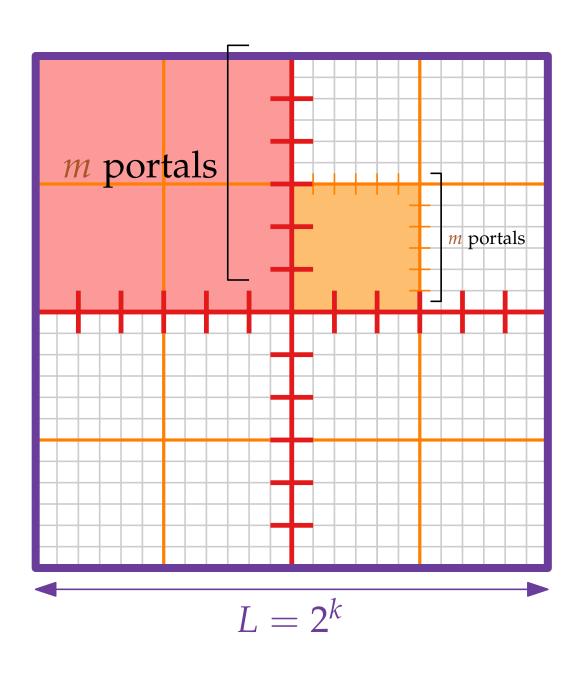
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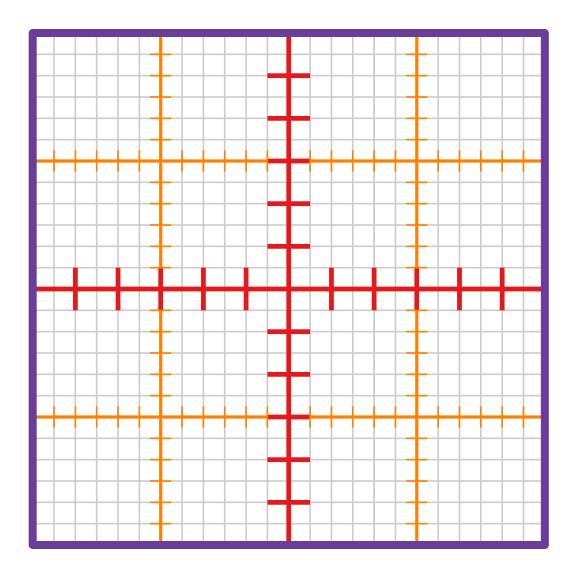
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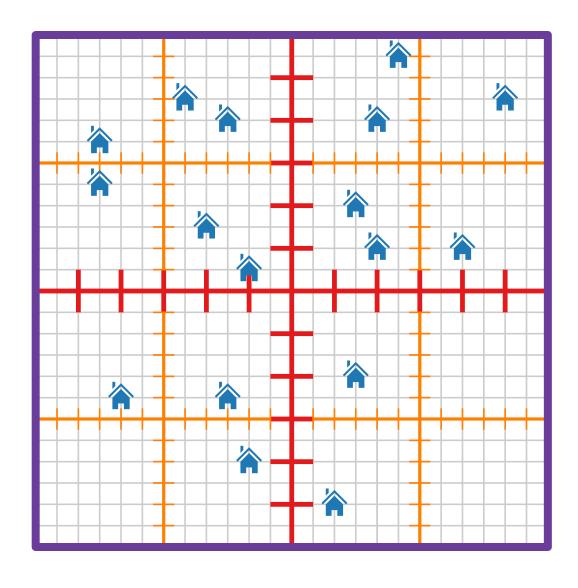
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- A level-i square has  $\leq 4m$  portals on its boundary.

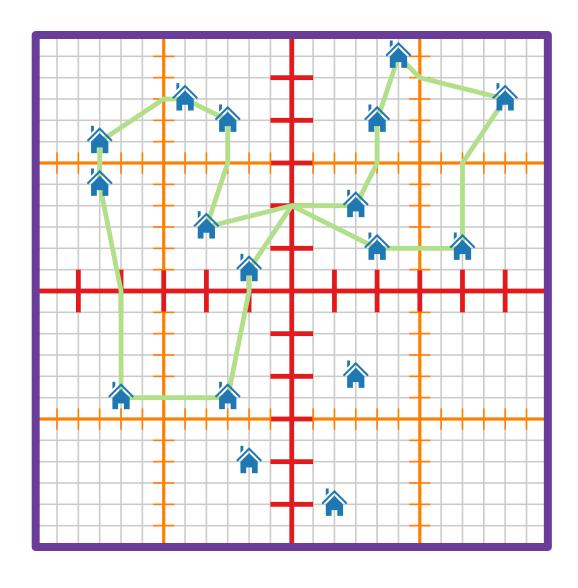
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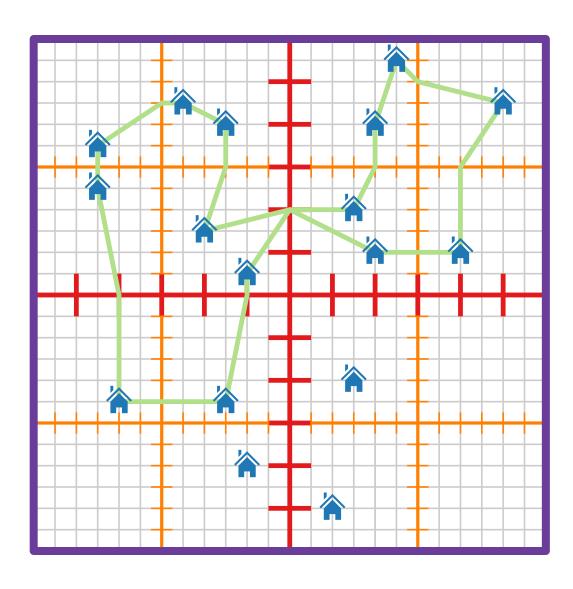
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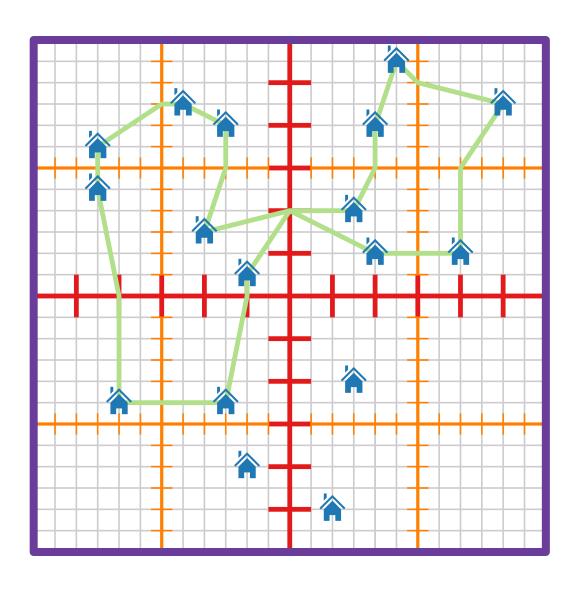
Part III: Well-Behaved Tours





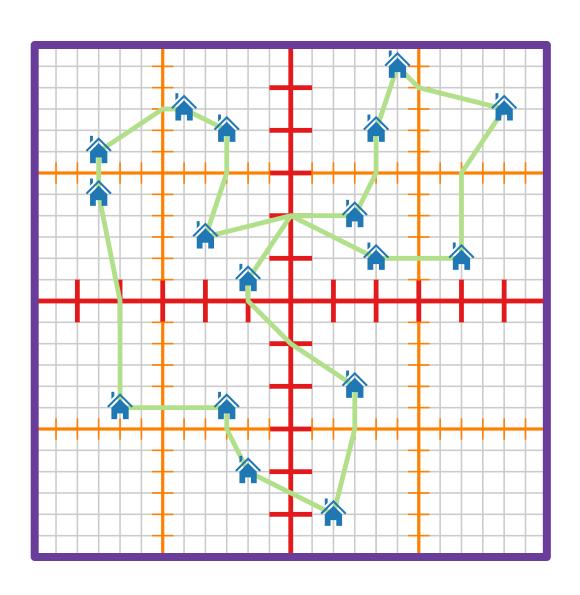






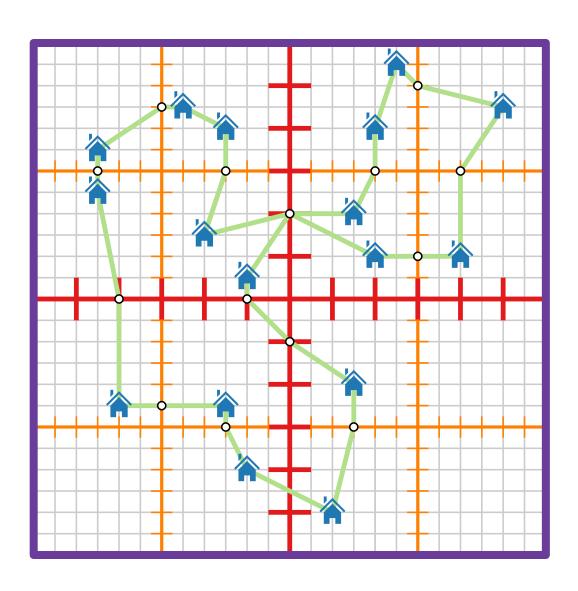
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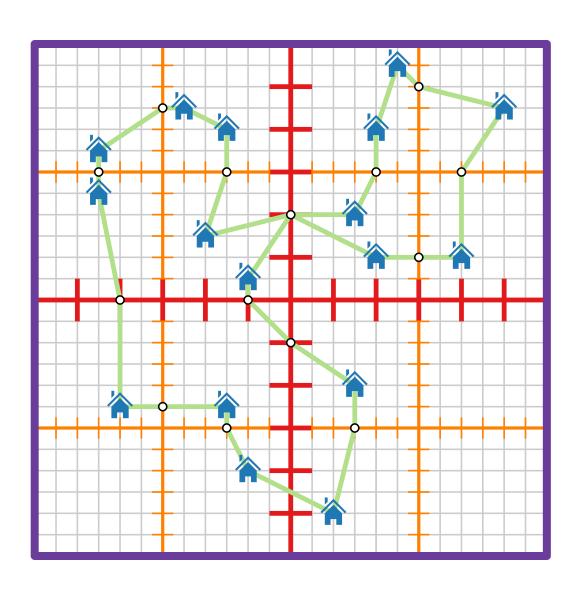
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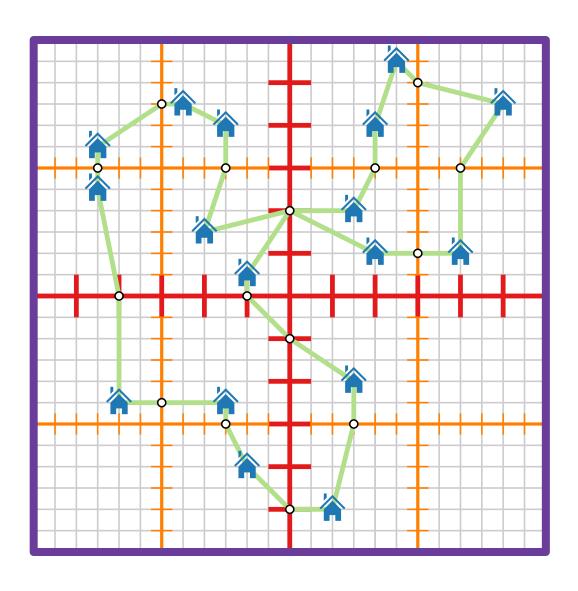


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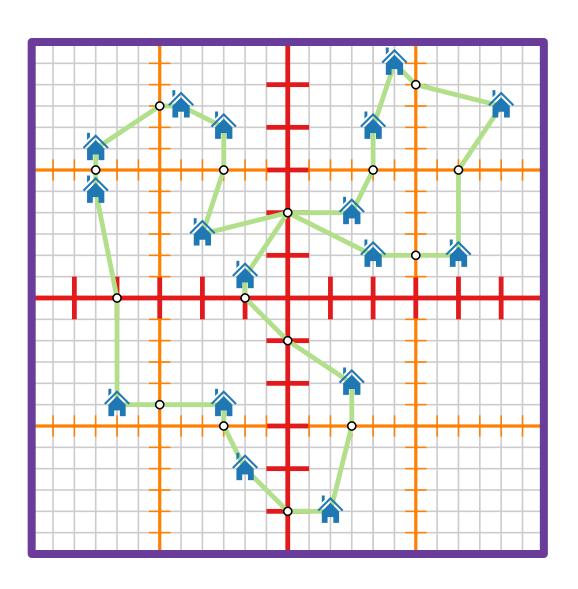
it involves all houses and a subset of the portals,



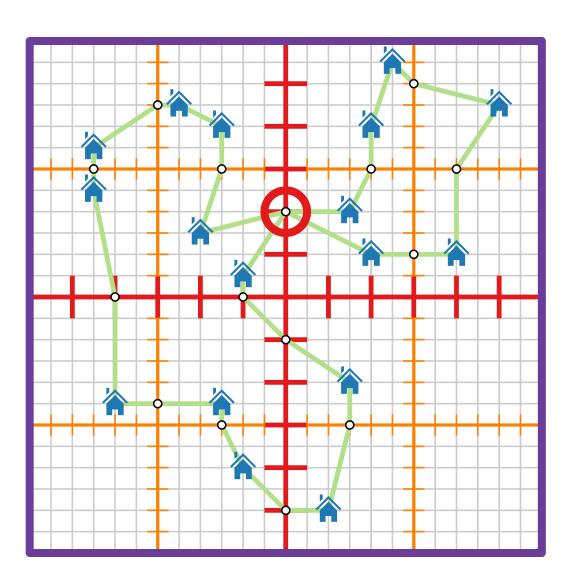
- it involves all houses and a subset of the portals,
- no edge of the tour crosses a line of the basic dissection,



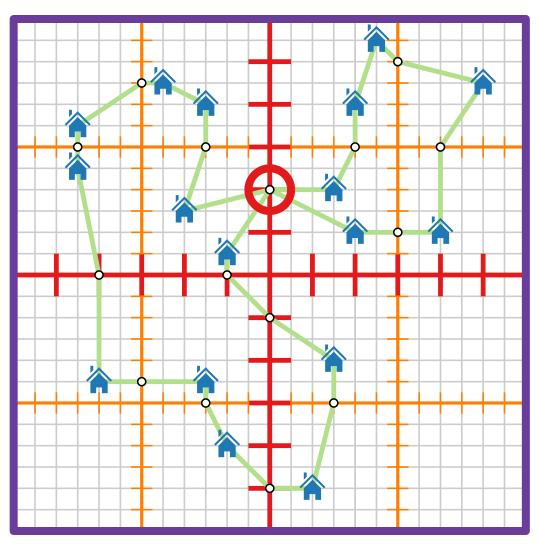
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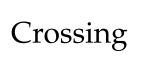
- it involves all houses and a subset of the portals,
- no edge of the tour crosses a line of the basic dissection,
- it is crossing-free.



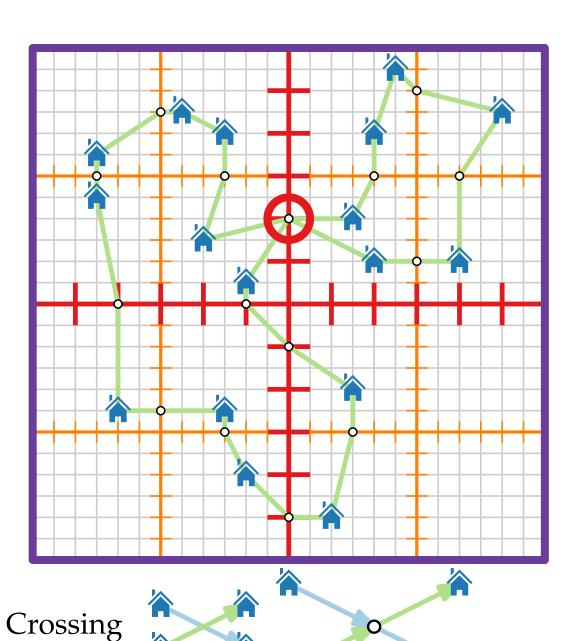
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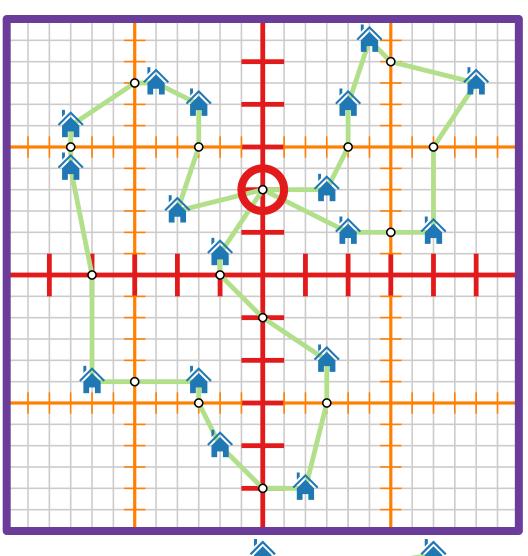
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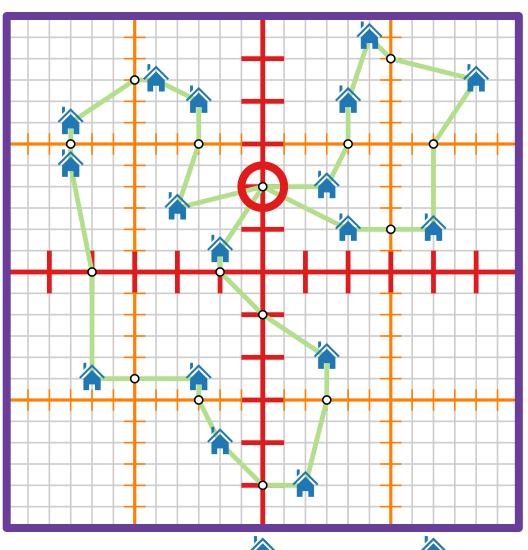
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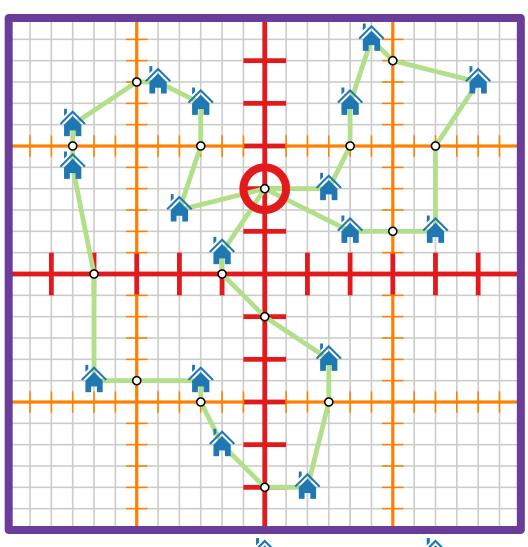




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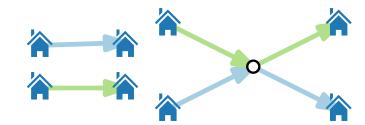
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- it involves all houses and a subset of the portals,
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W.l.o.g. (homework):
No portal visited more than twice



No crossing



Lemma.

An optimal well-behaved tour can be computed in  $2^{O(m)} = n^{O(1/\epsilon)}$  time.

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Sketch.



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**Sketch.** Dynamic programming!



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- Dynamic programming!
- Compute sub-structure of an optimal tour for each square in the dissection tree.



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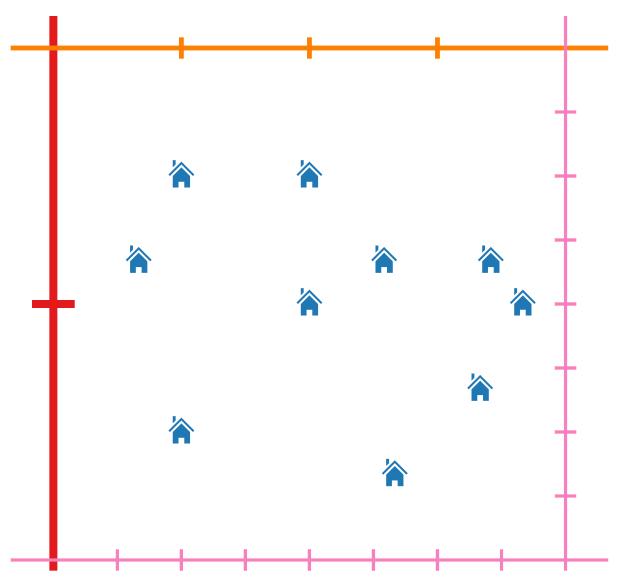
- Dynamic programming!
- Compute sub-structure of an optimal tour for each square in the dissection tree.
- These solutions can be efficiently propagated bottom-up through the dissection tree.



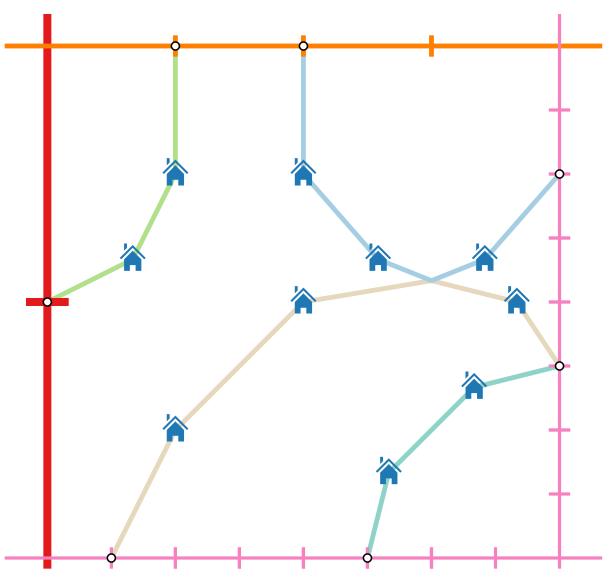
# Approximation Algorithms

Lecture 9:
A PTAS for Euclidean TSP

Part IV: Dynamic Program

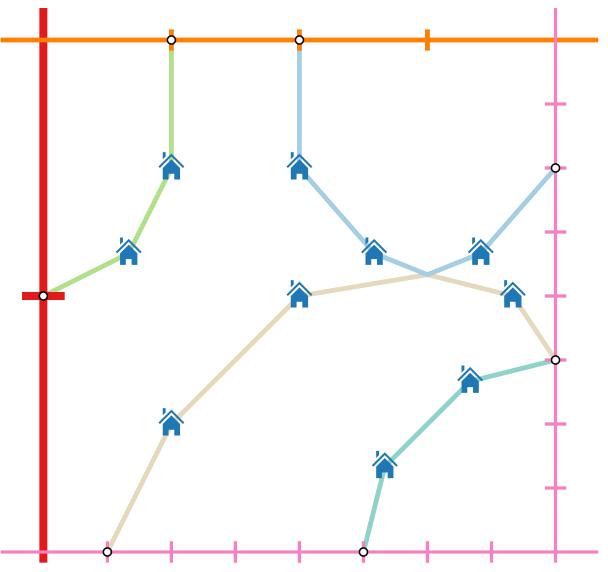


Each well-behaved tour induces the following in each square *Q* of the dissection:



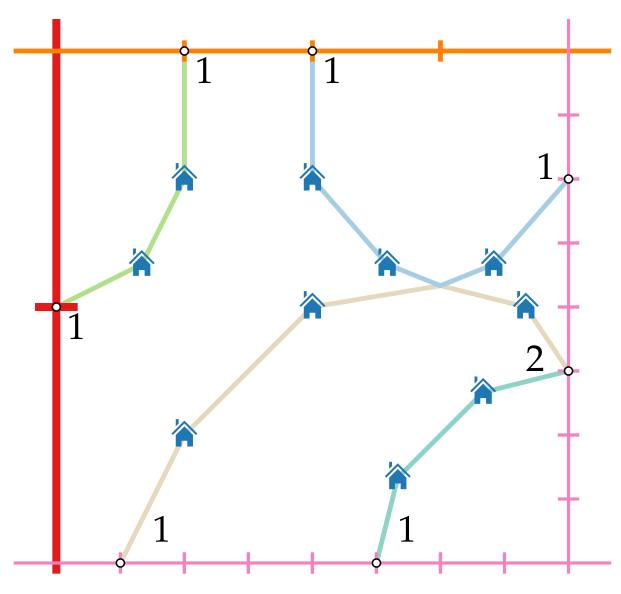
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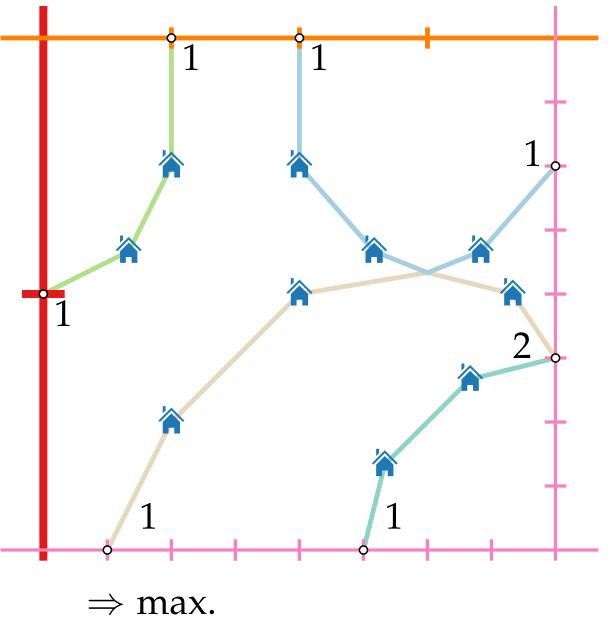
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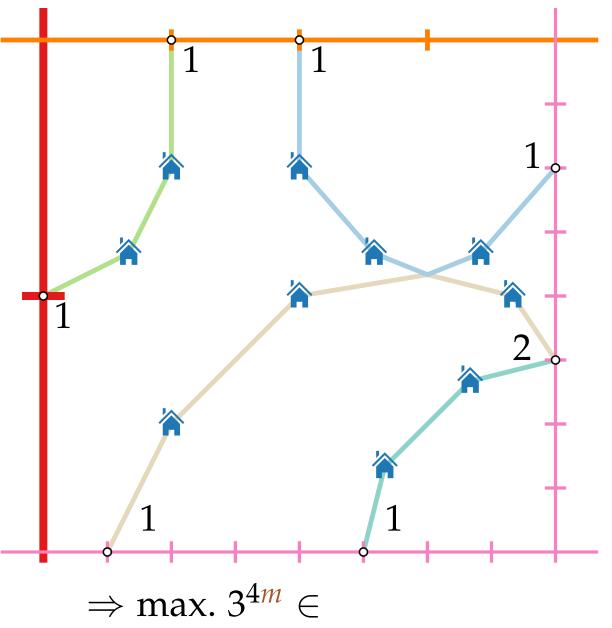
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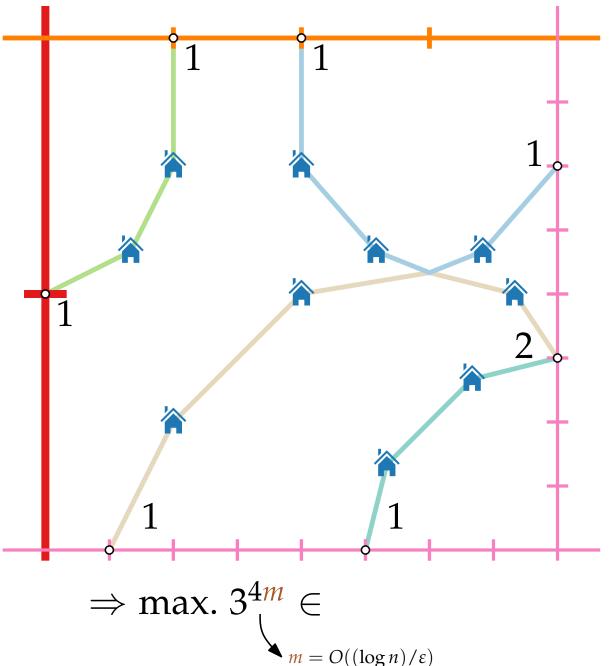
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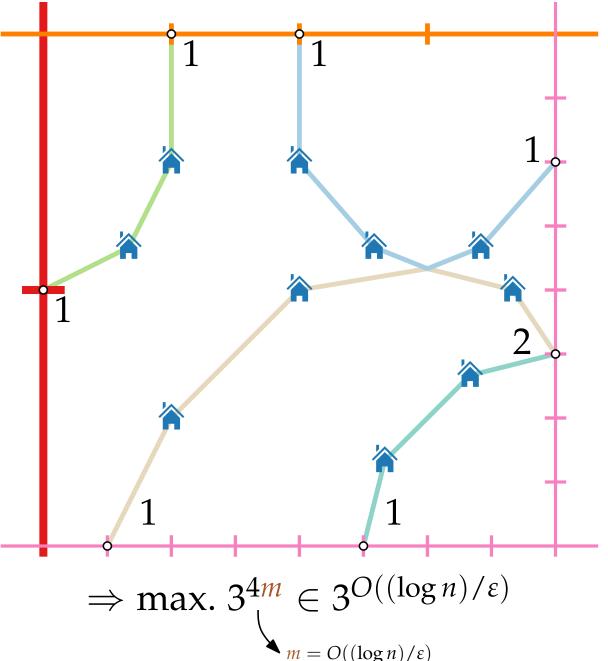
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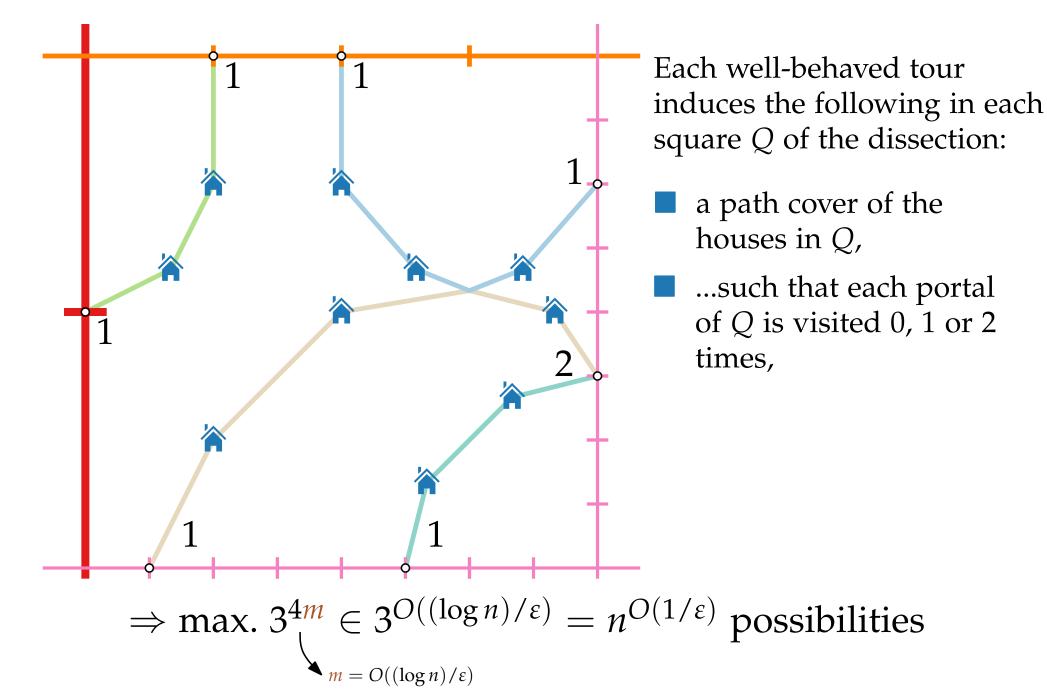
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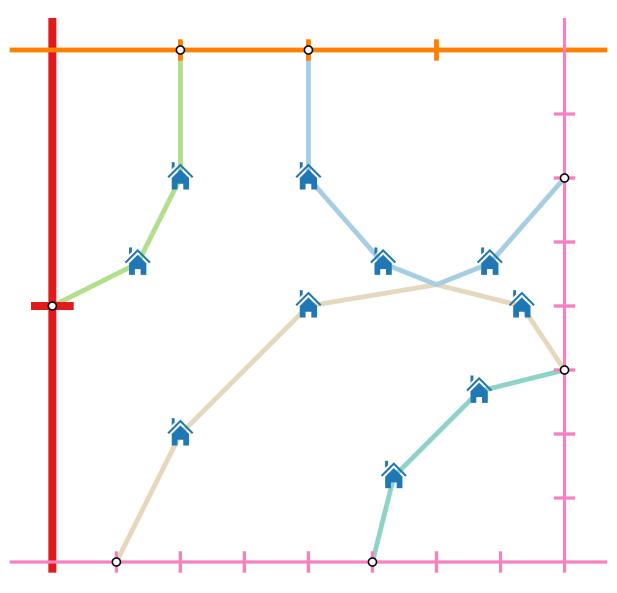


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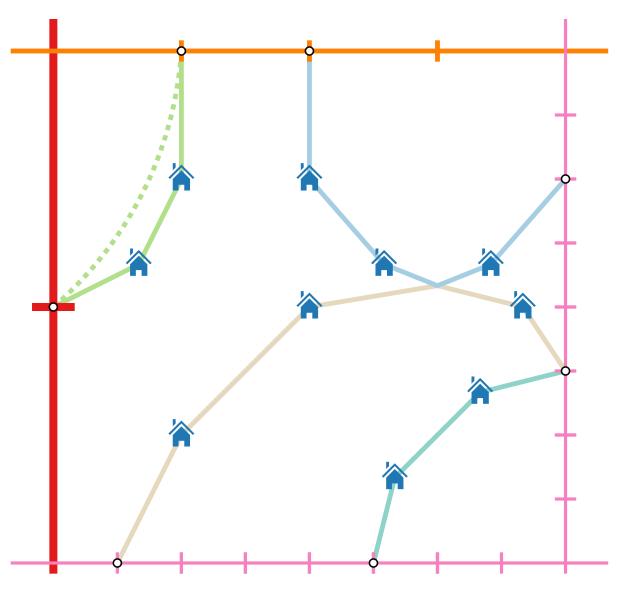
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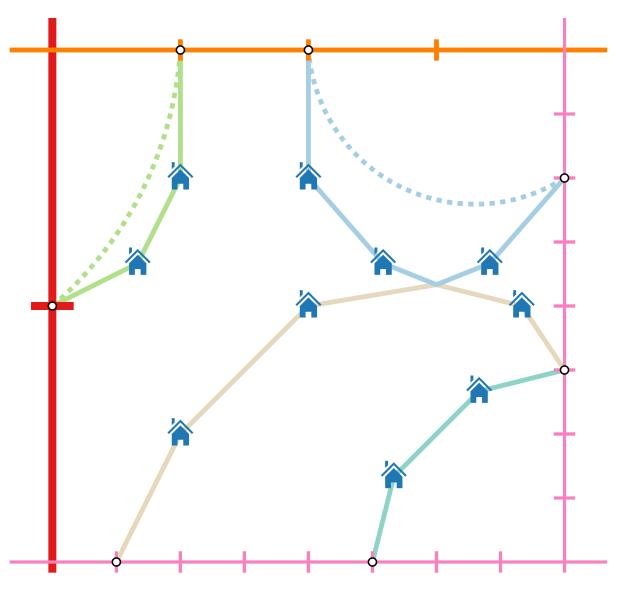




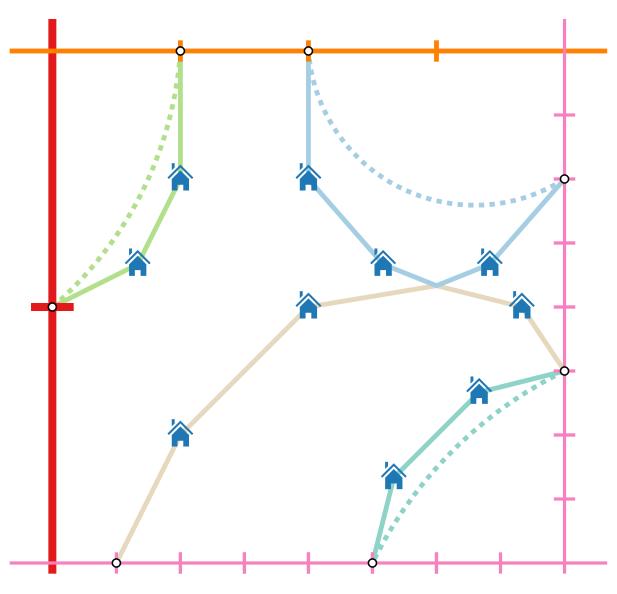
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- ...such that each portal of Q is visited 0, 1 or 2 times,
- a crossing-free pairing of the visited portals.



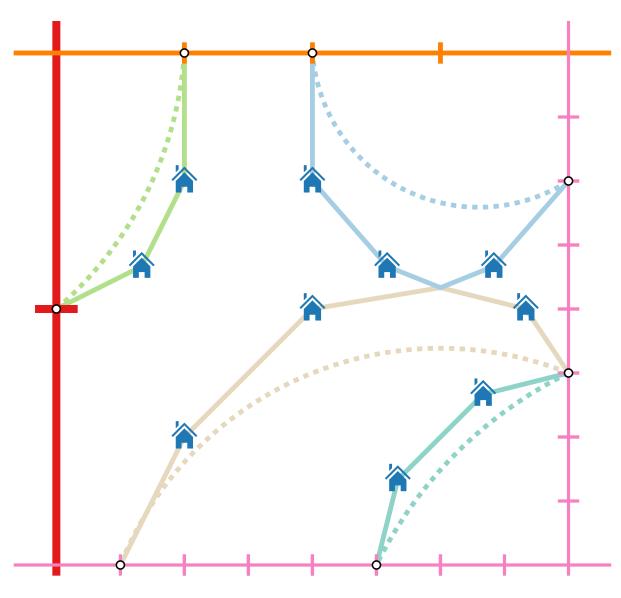
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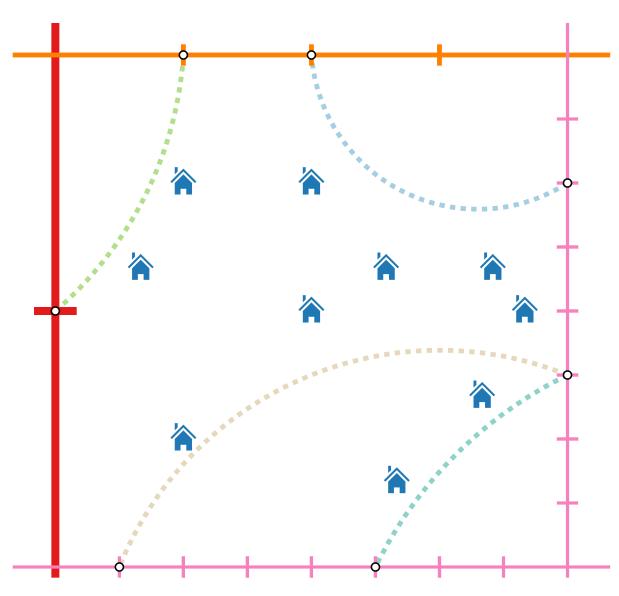
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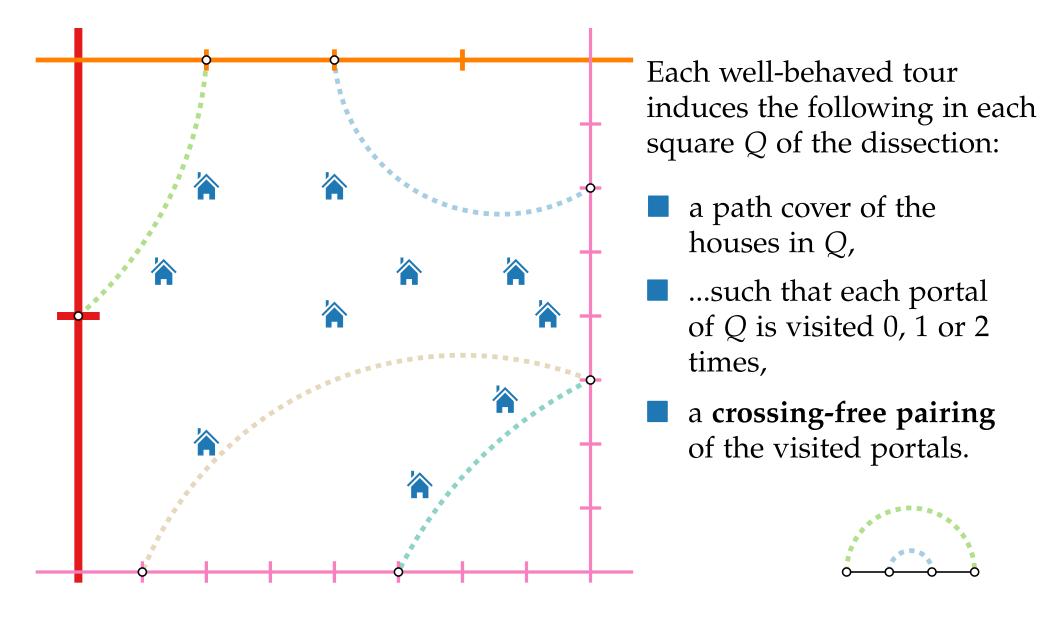
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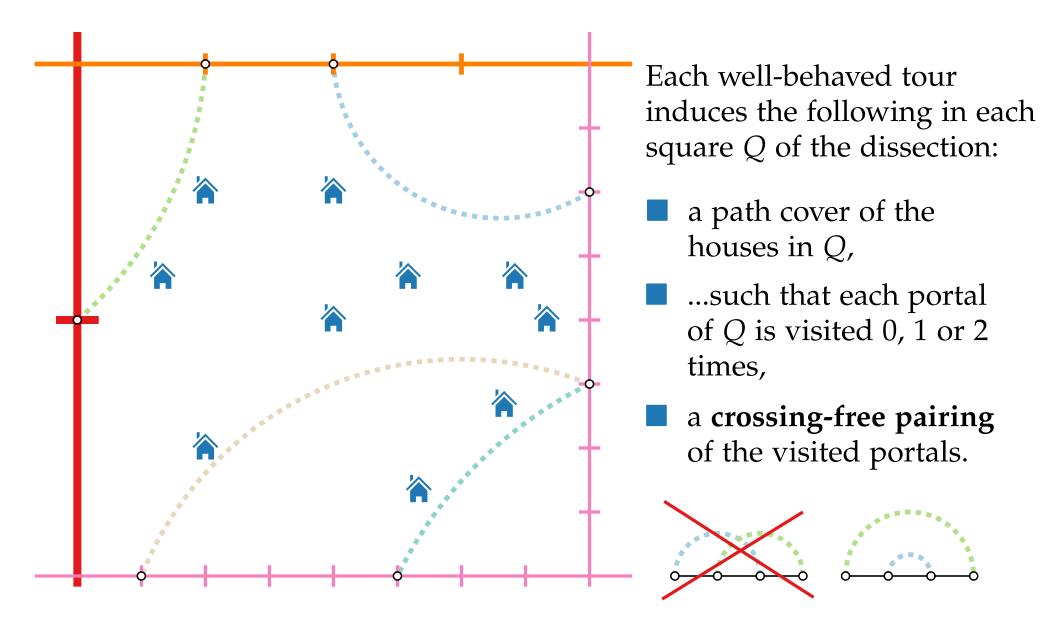


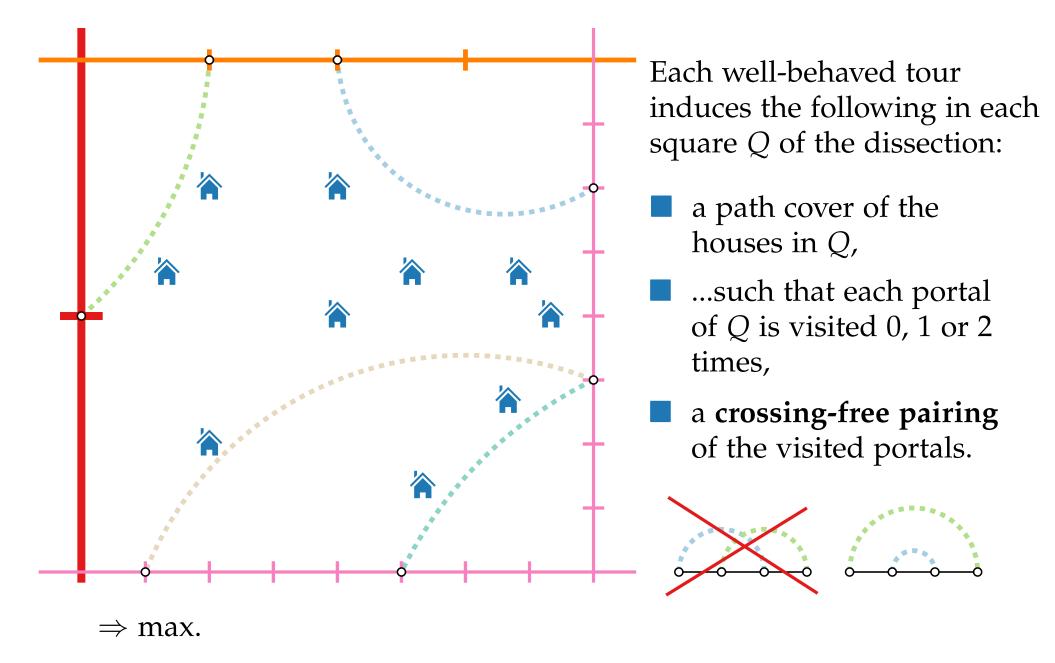
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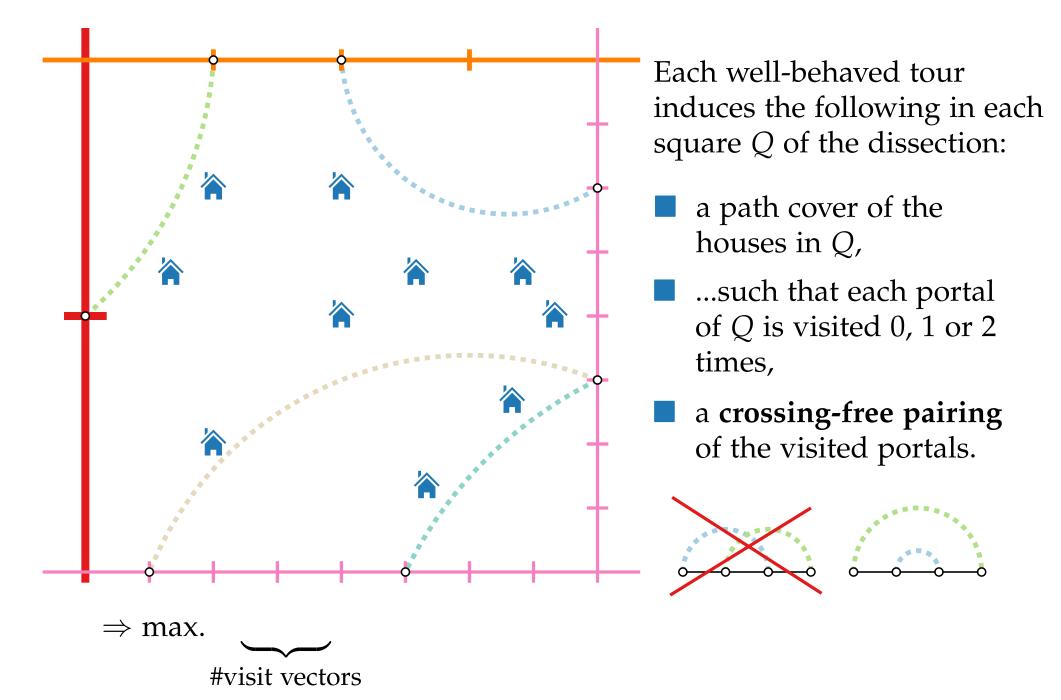


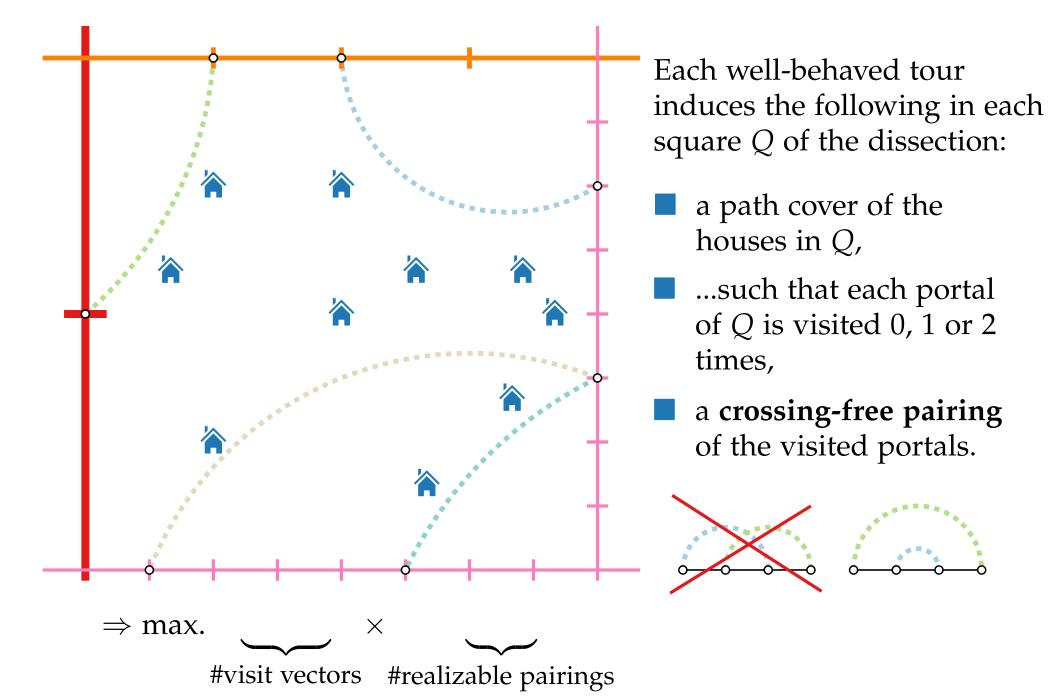
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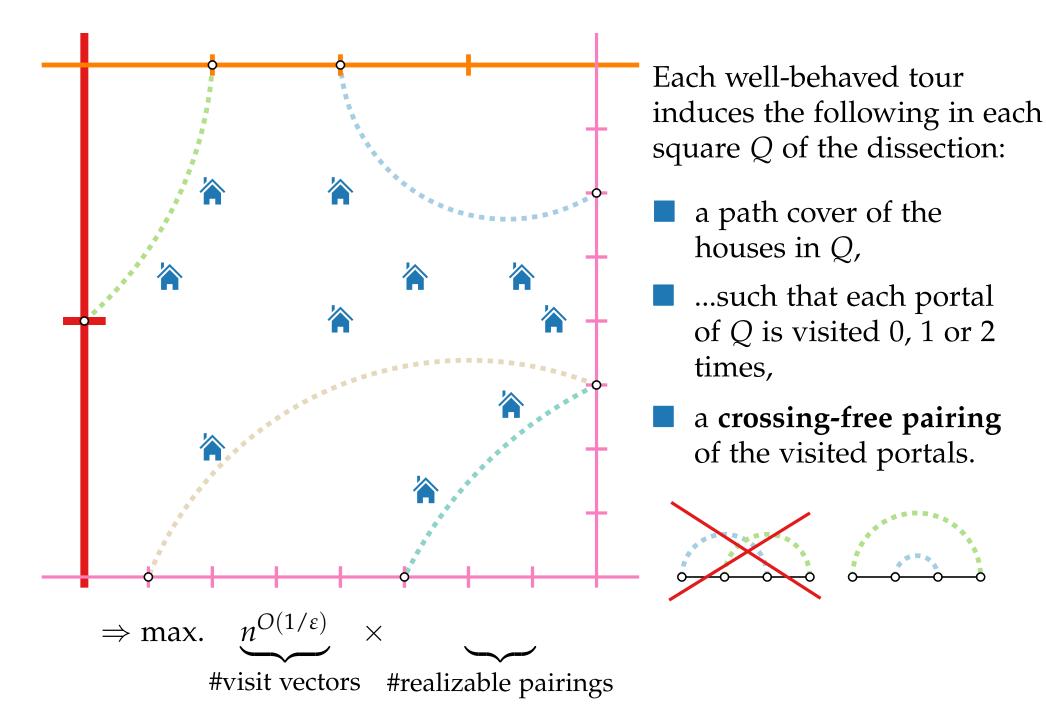


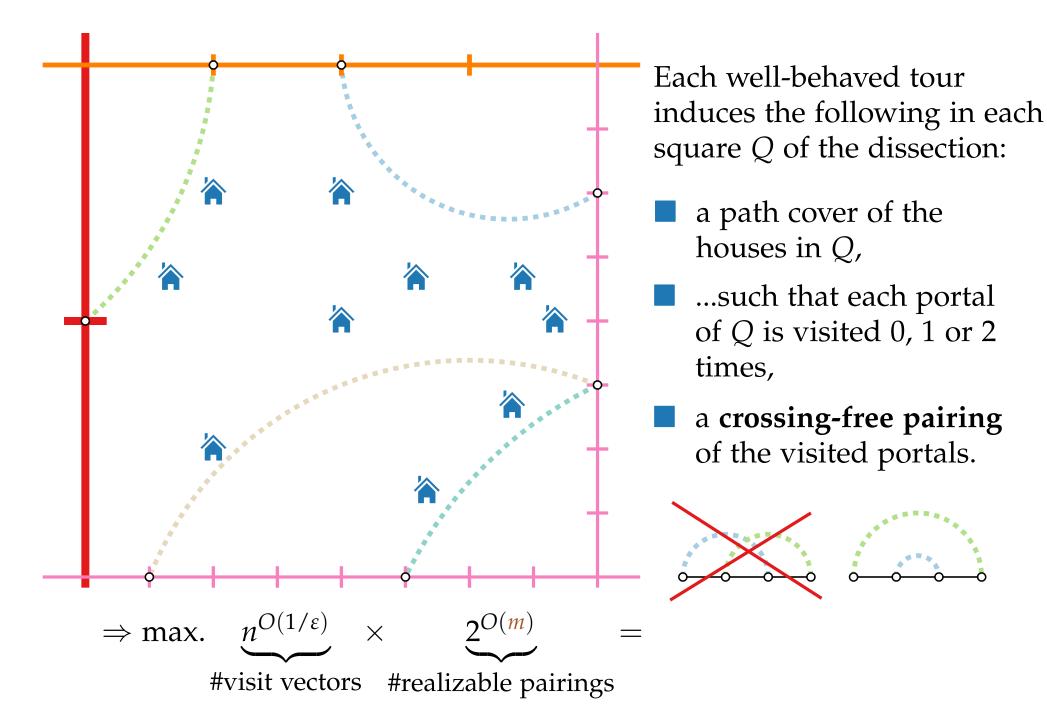


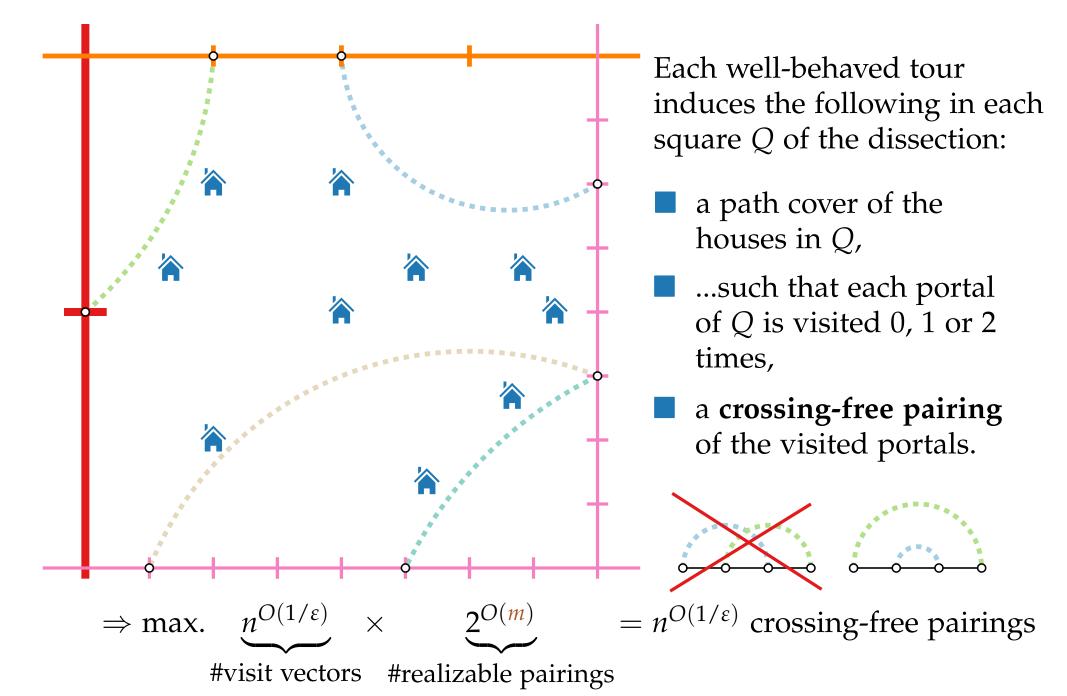


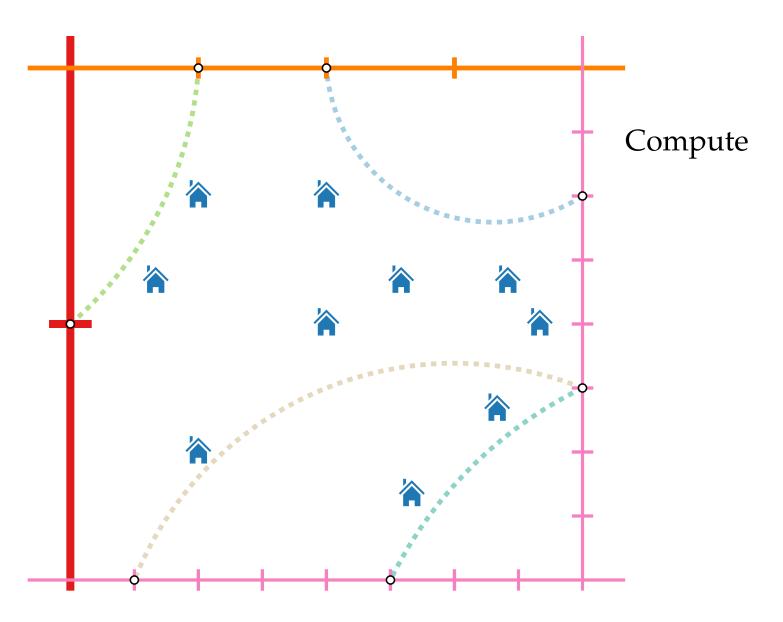


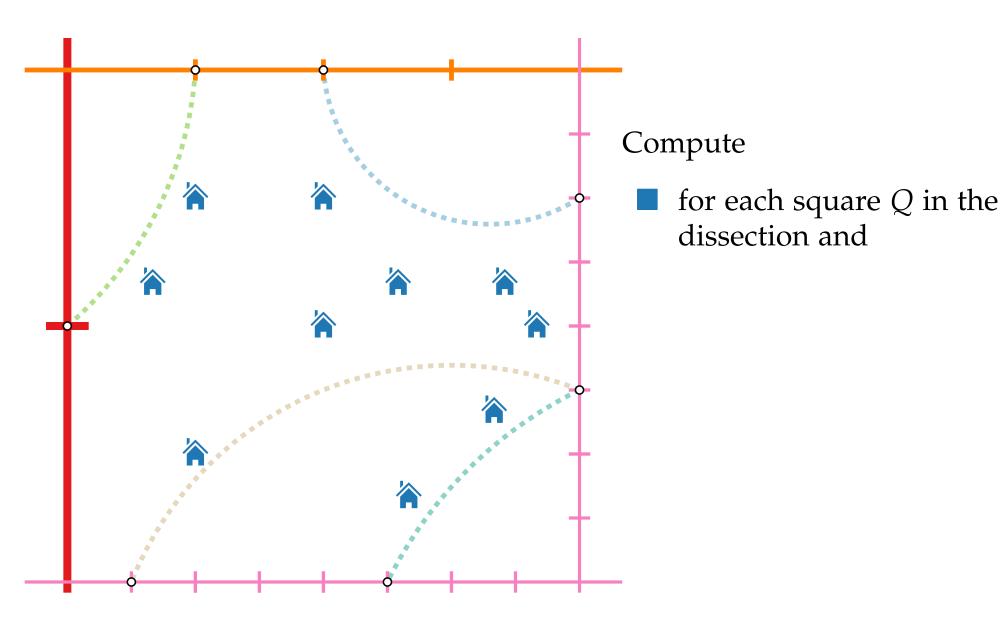


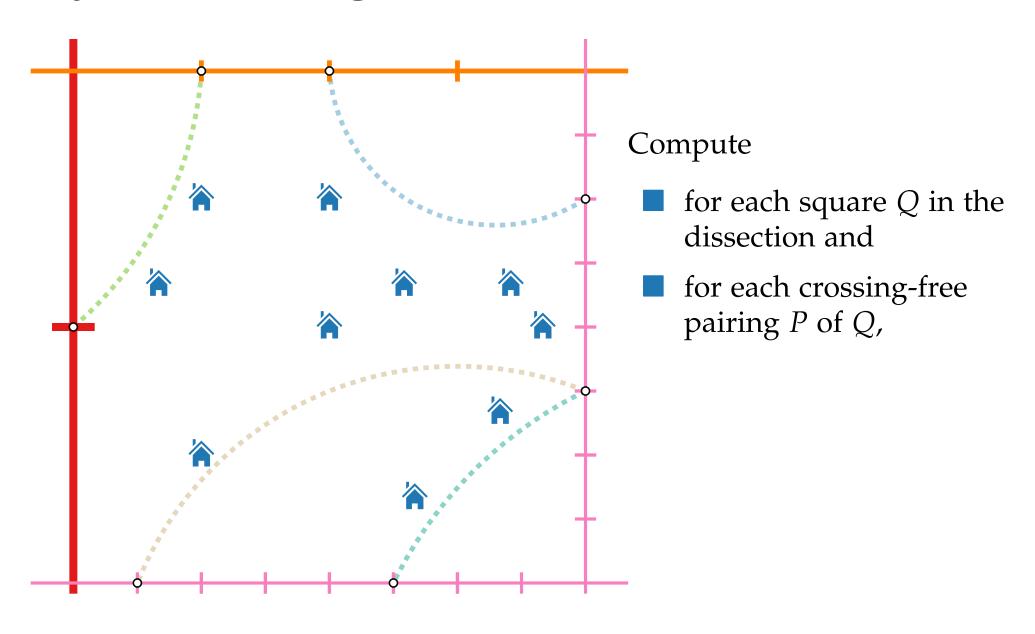


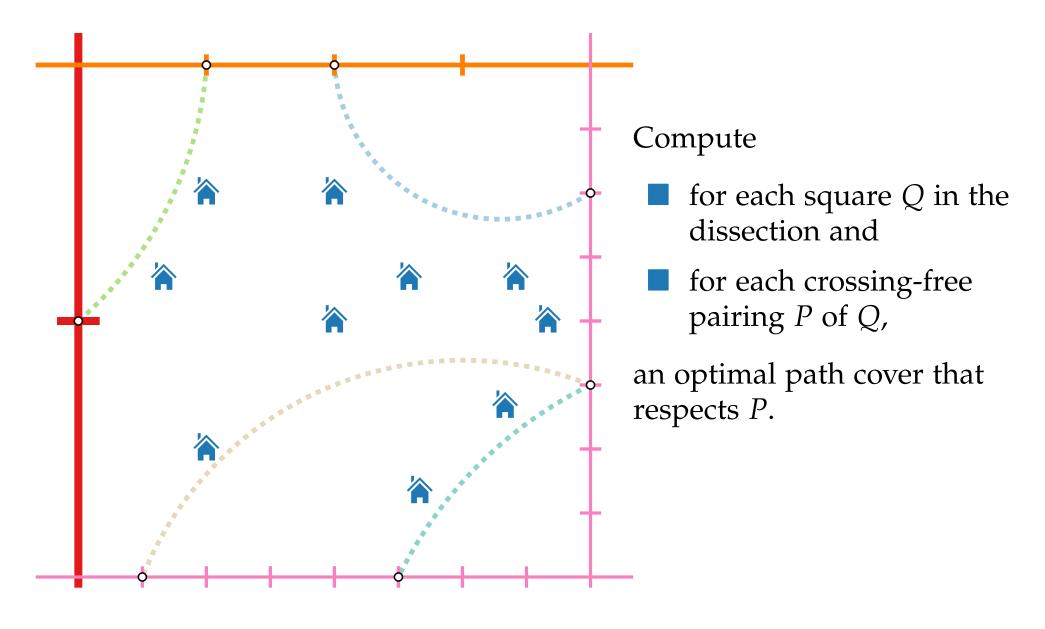


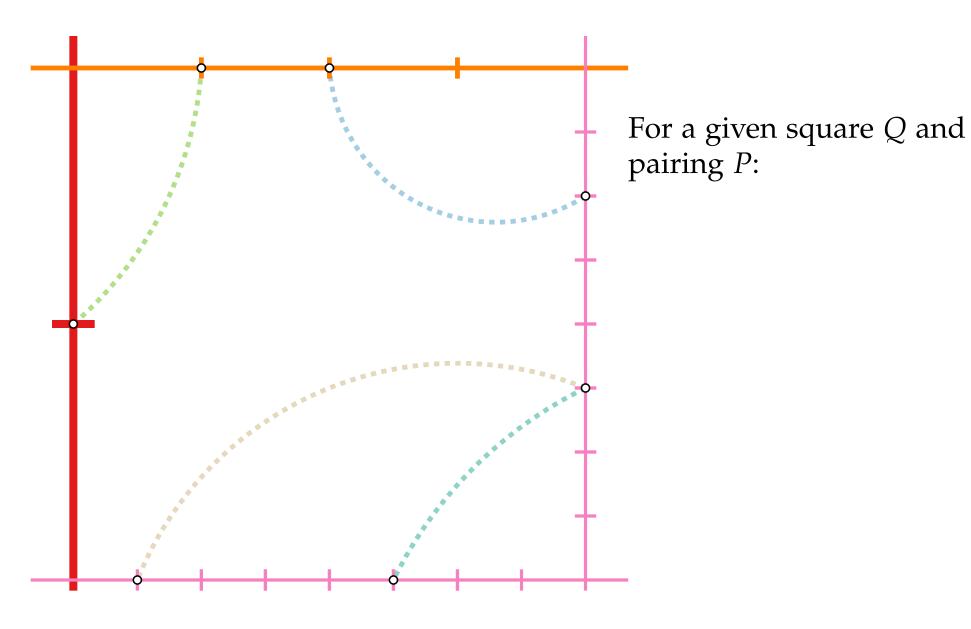


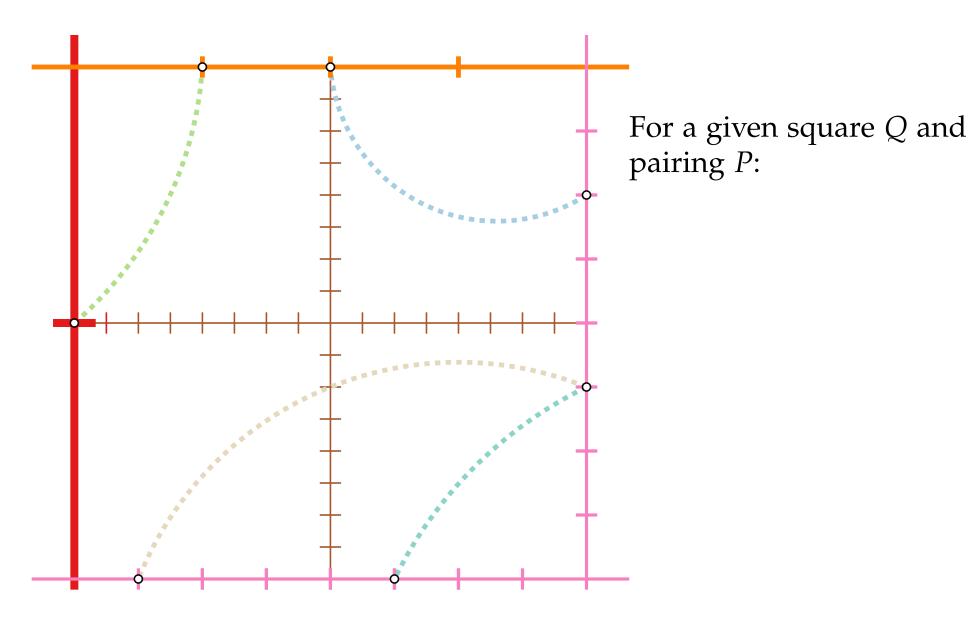


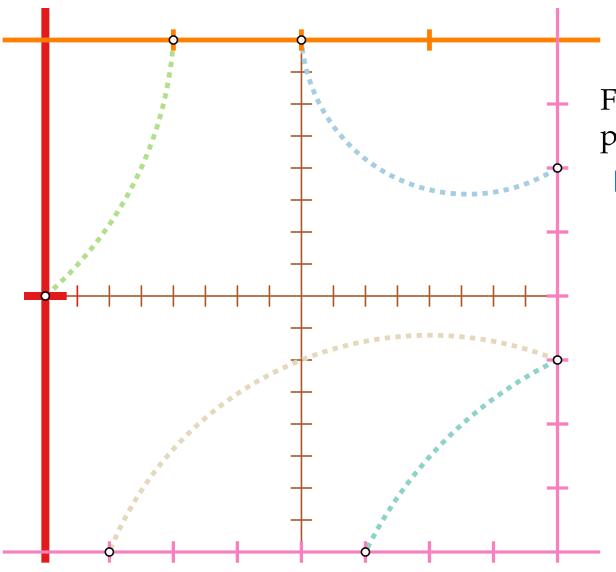








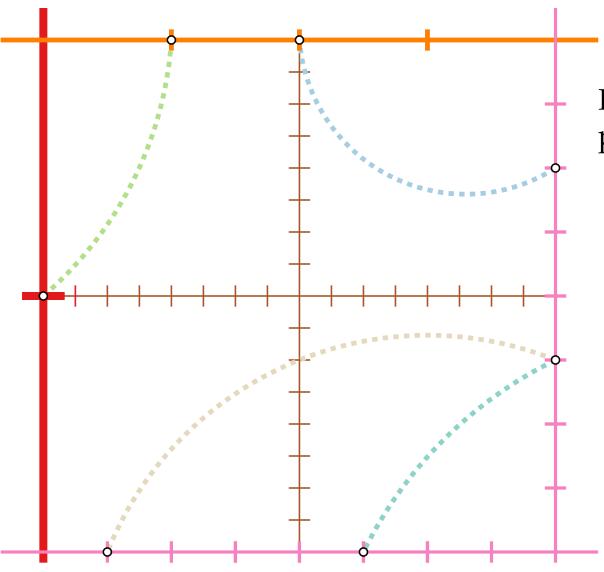




For a given square *Q* and pairing *P*:

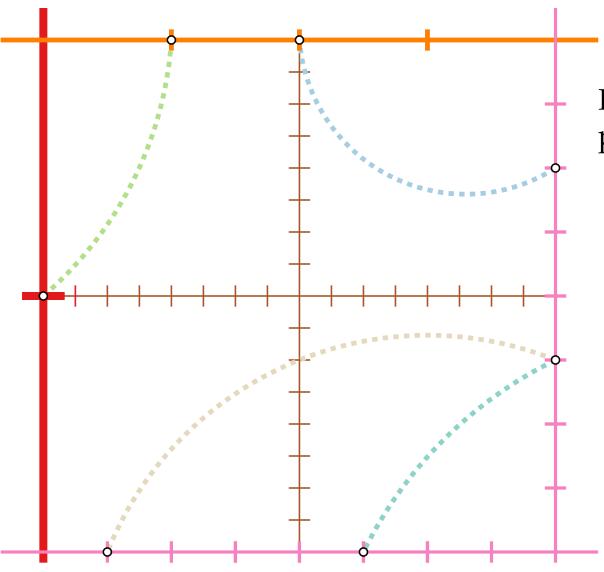
Iterate over all

crossing-free pairings of the child squares.



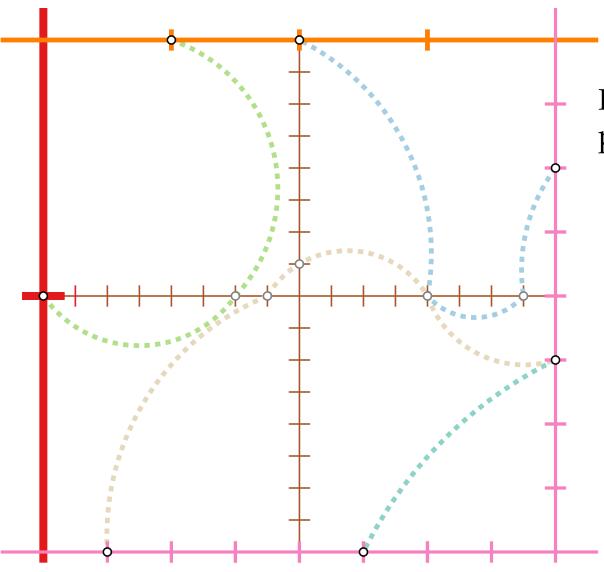
For a given square *Q* and pairing *P*:

Iterate over all  $(n^{O(1/\epsilon)})^4 =$  crossing-free pairings of the child squares.



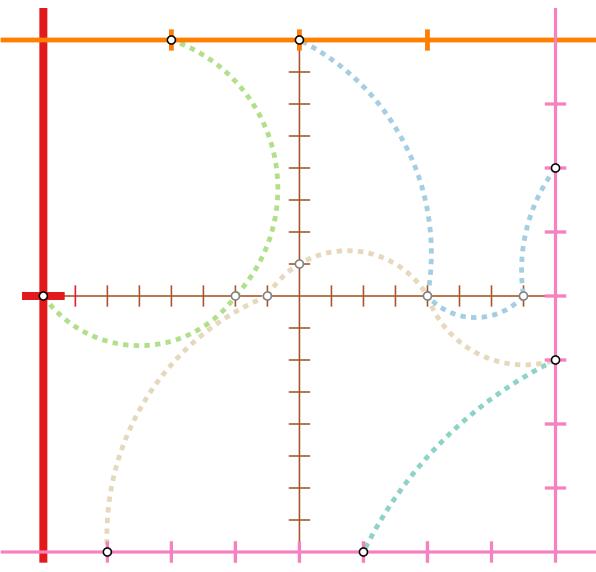
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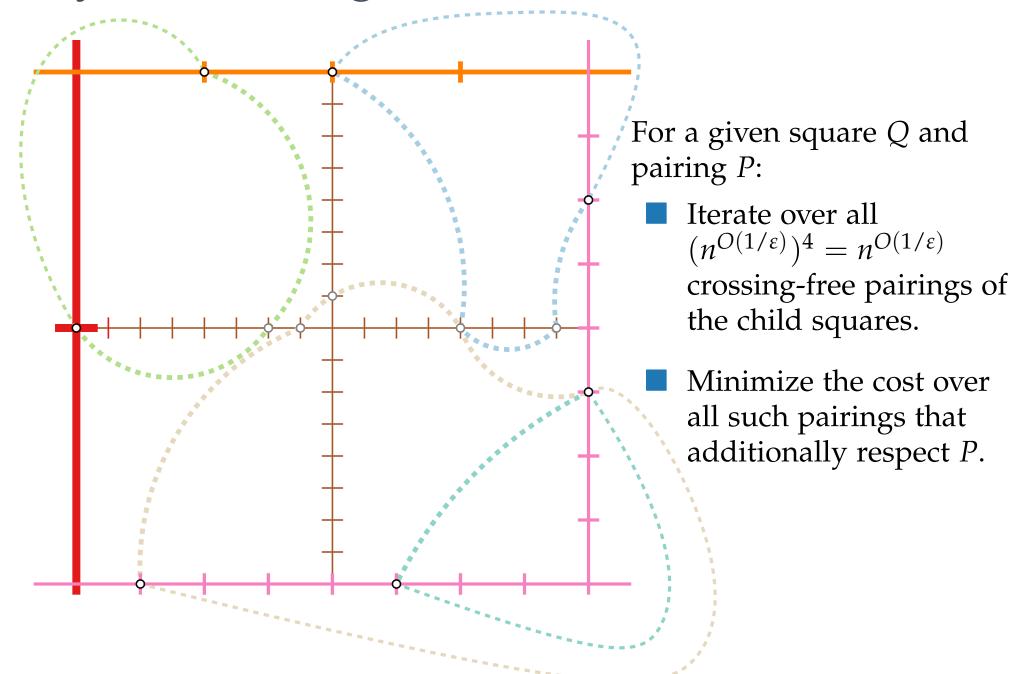
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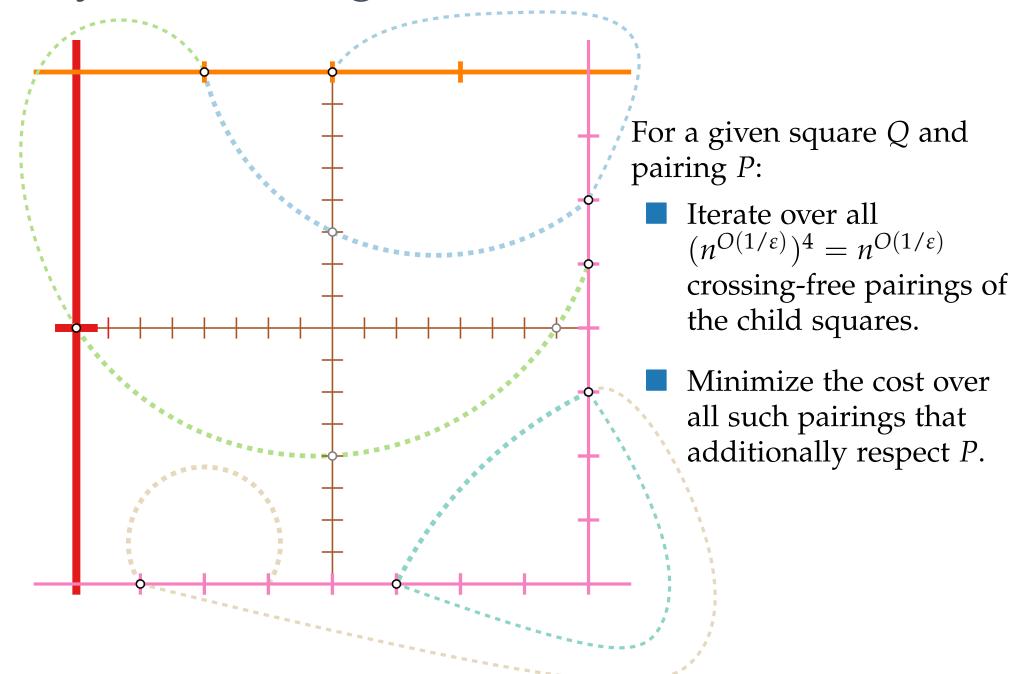
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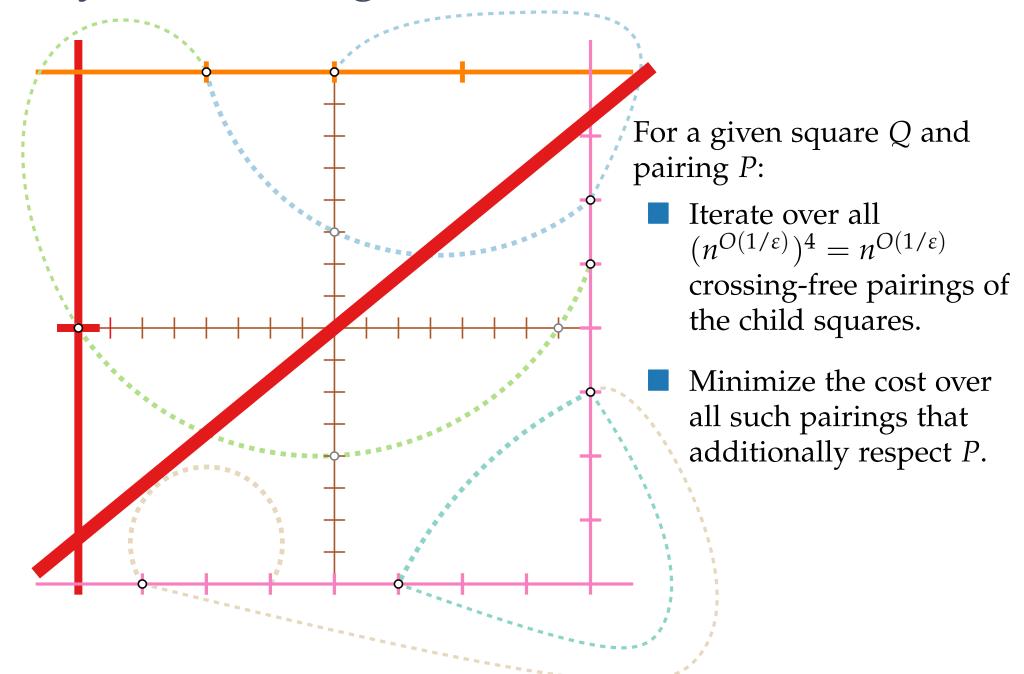


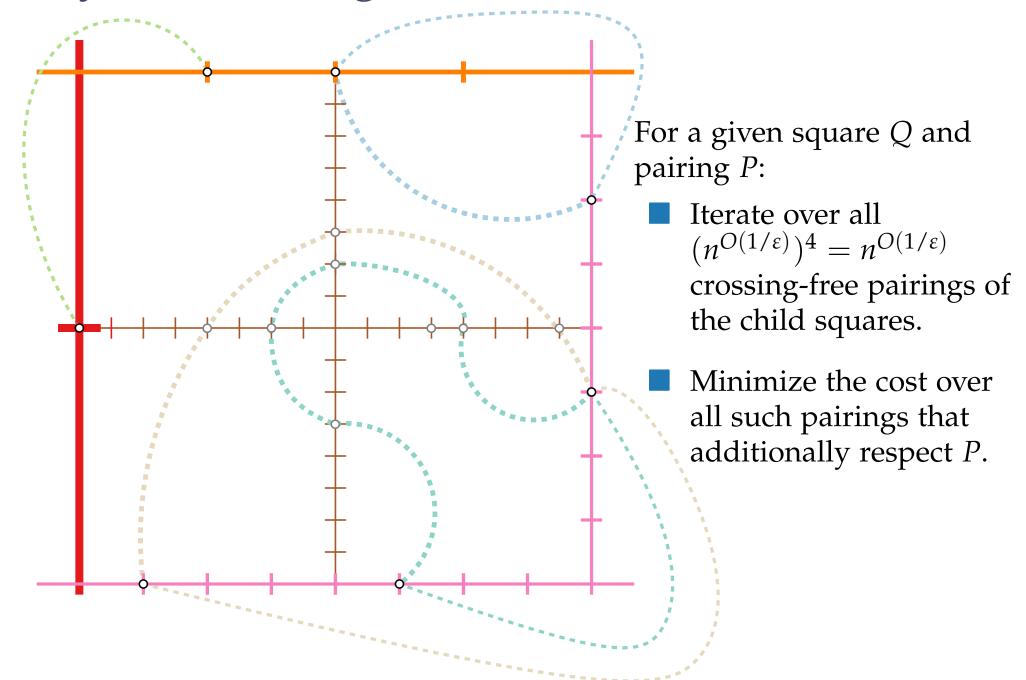
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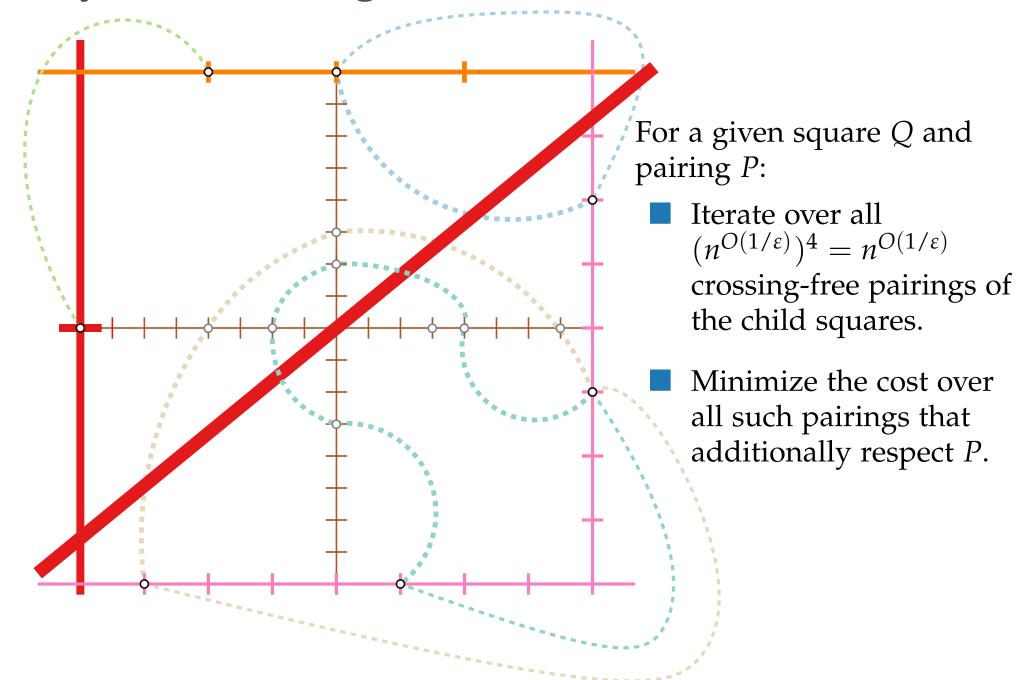
- Iterate over all  $(n^{O(1/\varepsilon)})^4 = n^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$  crossing-free pairings of the child squares.
- Minimize the cost over all such pairings that additionally respect P.

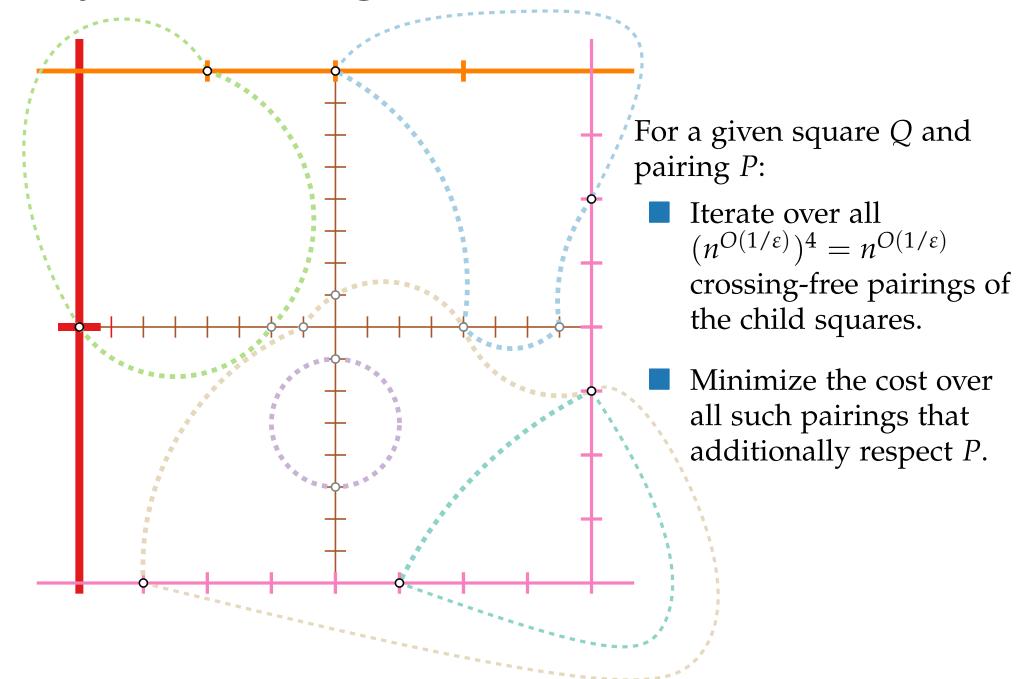


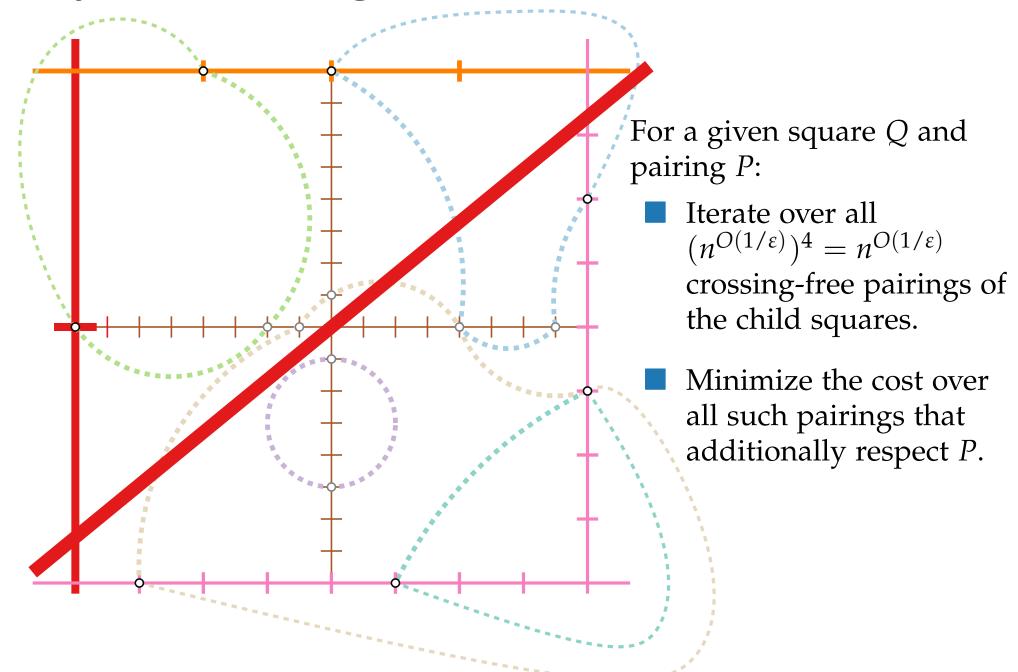


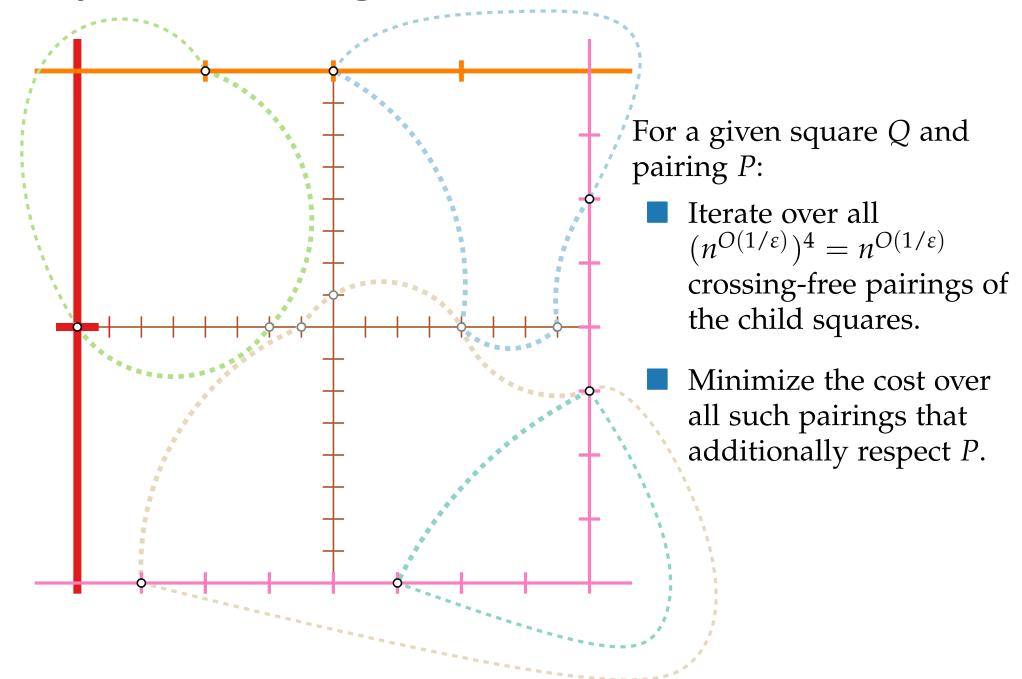


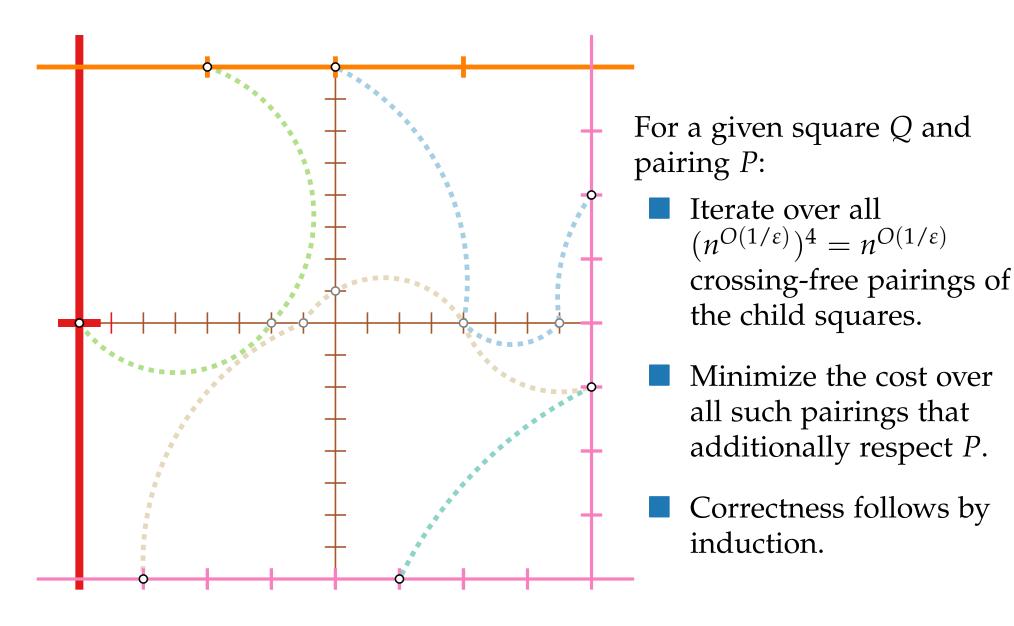




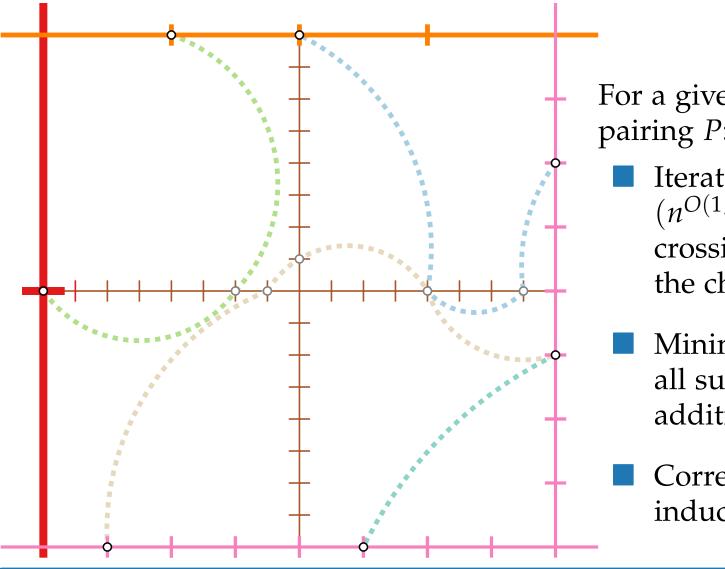








## Dynamic Program (III)



For a given square *Q* and pairing *P*:

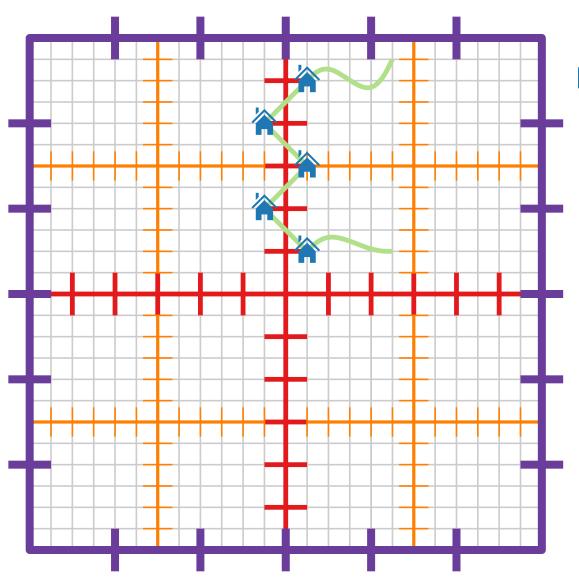
- Iterate over all  $(n^{O(1/\epsilon)})^4 = n^{O(1/\epsilon)}$  crossing-free pairings of the child squares.
- Minimize the cost over all such pairings that additionally respect *P*.
- Correctness follows by induction.

Lemma. An optimal well-behaved tour can be computed in  $2^{O(m)} = n^{O(1/\epsilon)}$  time.

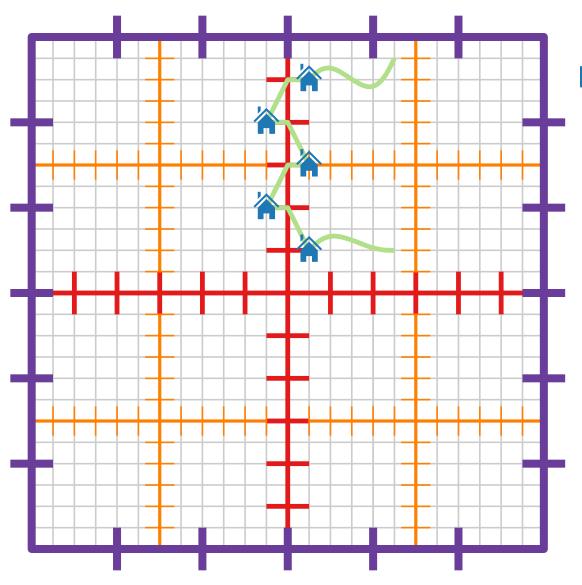
# Approximation Algorithms

Lecture 9:
A PTAS for Euclidean TSP

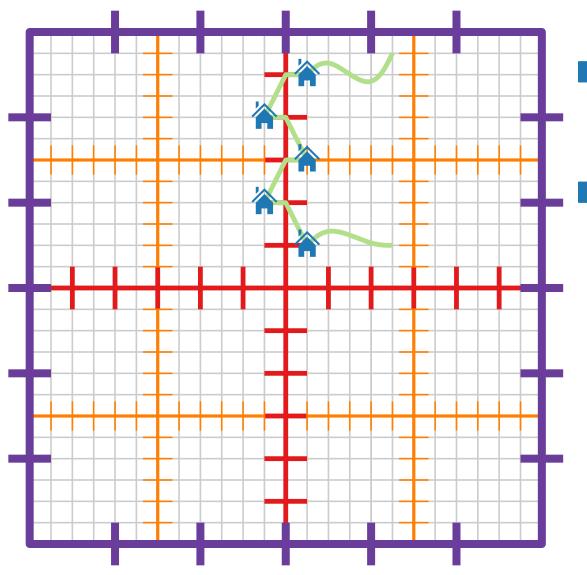
Part V: Shifted Dissections



The best well-behaved tour can be a bad approximation.

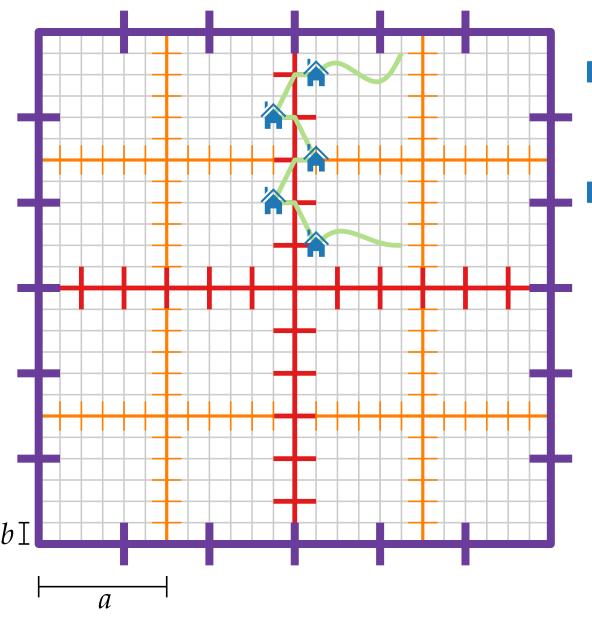


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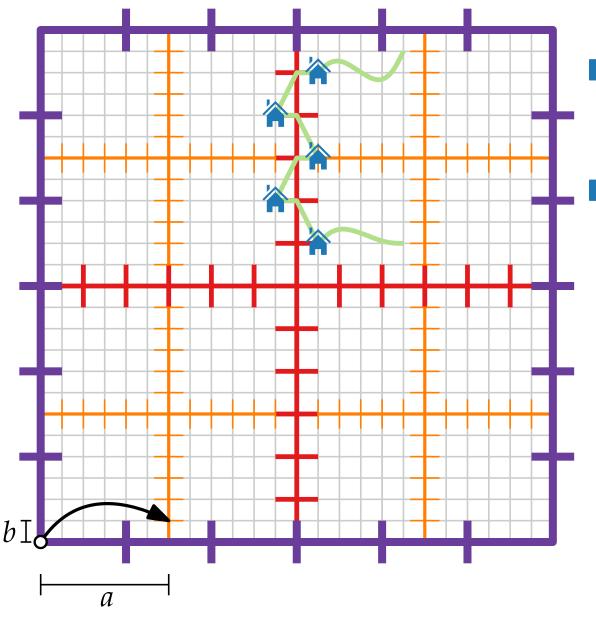
- The best well-behaved tour can be a bad approximation.
- Consider an (a, b)-shifted dissection:

$$x \mapsto (x+a) \mod L$$
  
 $y \mapsto (y+b) \mod L$ 



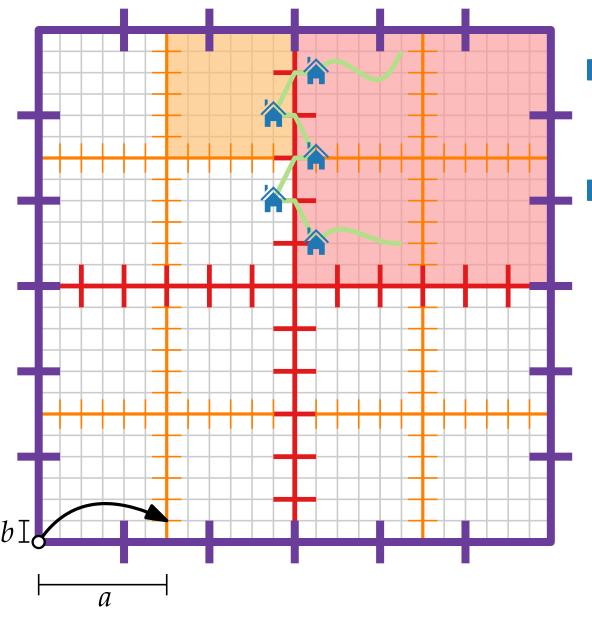
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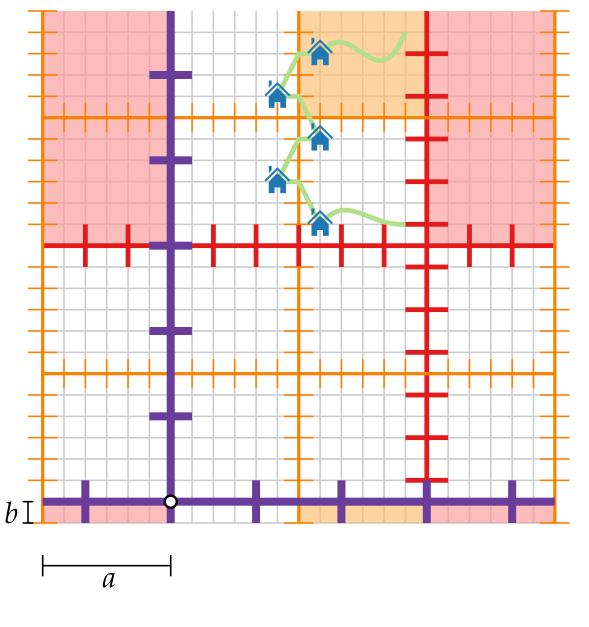
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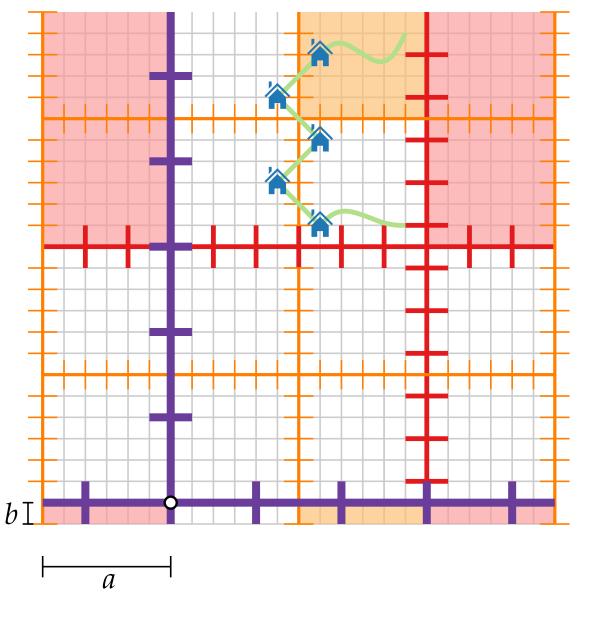
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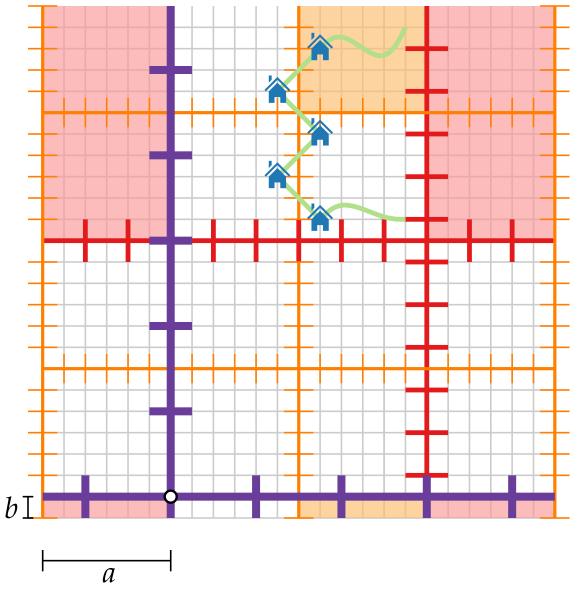
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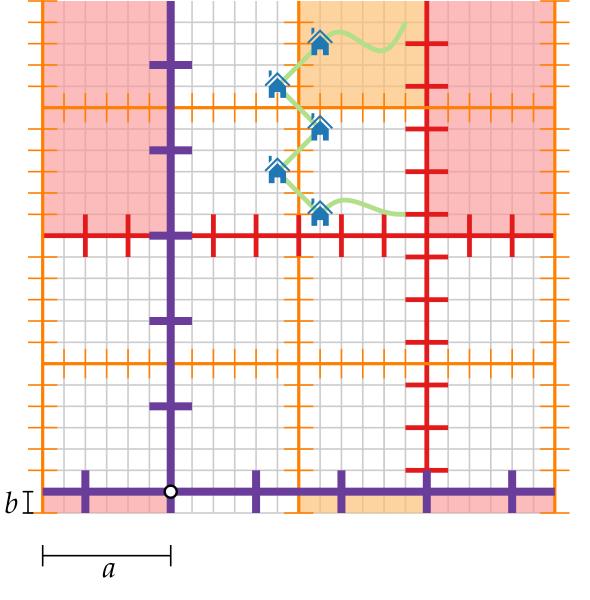
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Squares in the dissection tree are "wrapped around".



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- Squares in the dissection tree are "wrapped around".
- Dynamic program must be modified accordingly.

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Let  $\pi$  be an optimal tour, and let  $N(\pi)$  be the number of crossings of  $\pi$  with the lines of the  $(L \times L)$ -grid.

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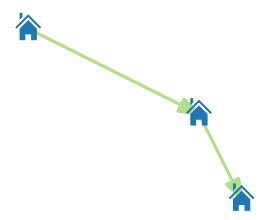


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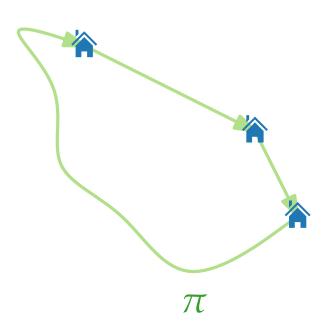


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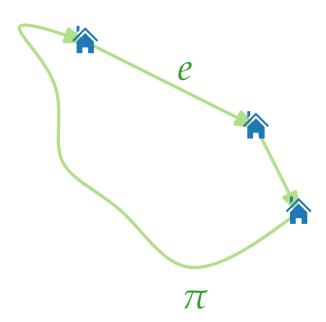
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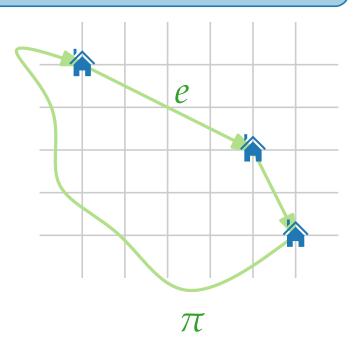
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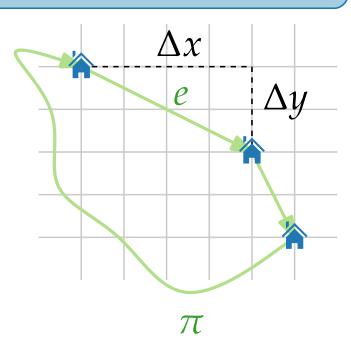
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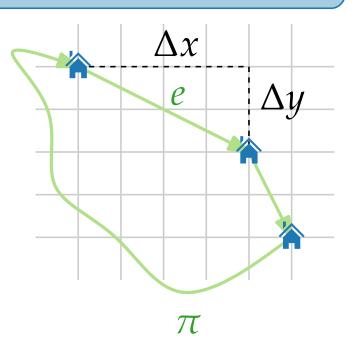
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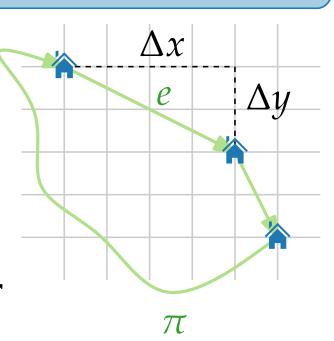
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- Each edge e generates  $N_e \leq \Delta x + \Delta y$  crossings.



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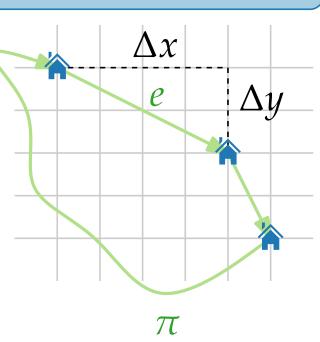


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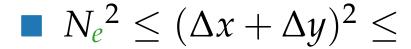


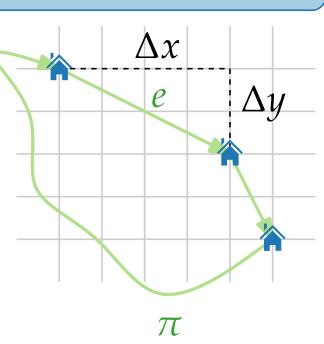


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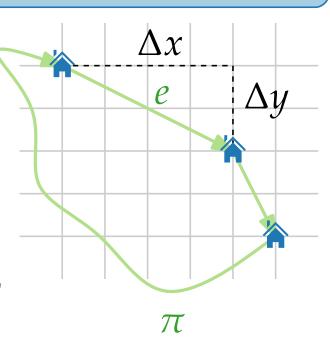




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- $N_e^2 \le (\Delta x + \Delta y)^2 \le$

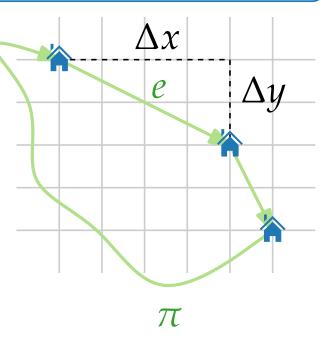


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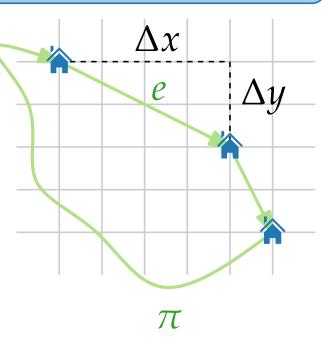
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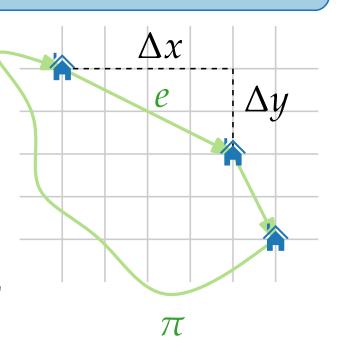


 $N_e^2 \le (\Delta x + \Delta y)^2 \le 2(\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2) = 2|e|^2.$ 

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Let  $\pi$  be an optimal tour, and let  $N(\pi)$  be the number of crossings of  $\pi$  with the lines of the  $(L \times L)$ -grid. Then we have  $N(\pi) \leq \sqrt{2} \cdot \mathsf{OPT}$ .

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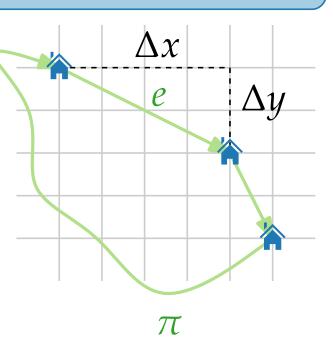
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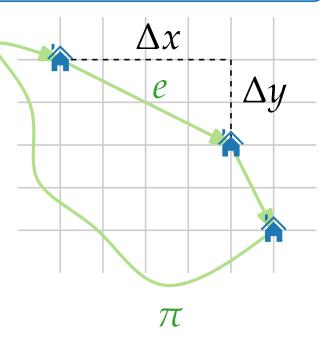
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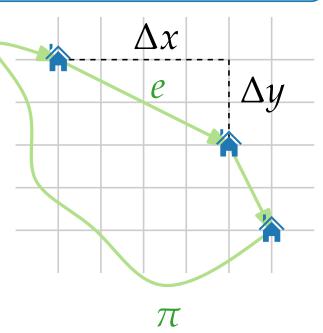
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# Approximation Algorithms

Lecture 9:
A PTAS for Euclidean TSP

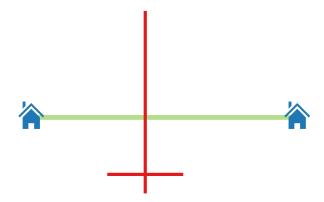
Part VI:
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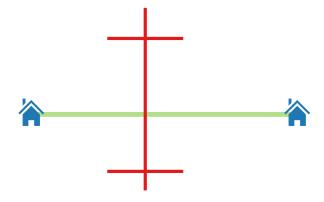
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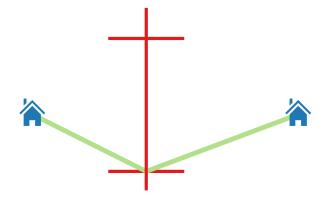
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**Proof.** Consider optimal tour  $\pi$ . Make  $\pi$  well-behaved by moving each intersection point with the  $(L \times L)$ -grid to the nearest portal.



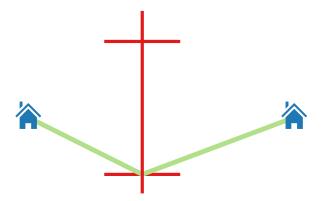
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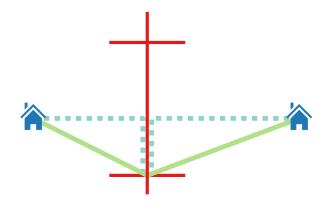
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Summing over all  $N(\pi) \le \sqrt{2} \cdot \text{OPT}$  intersection points and applying linearity of expectation yields the claim.

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- Anna R. Karlin, Nathan Klein, Shayan Oveis Gharan:
  A (slightly) improved approximation algorithm for metric TSP.

Proc. STOC, p. 32–45, 2021: approx. factor  $1.5 - 10^{-36}$ , best paper award!