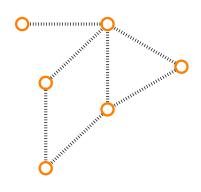
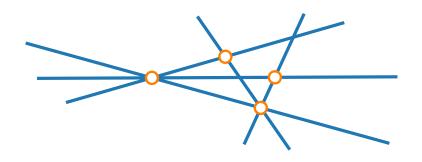


Visualization of Graphs

Lecture 9:

The Crossing Lemma and Its Applications



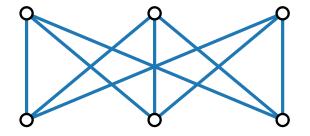


Johannes Zink

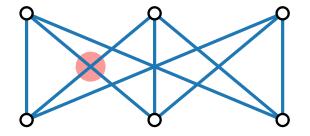
Summer semester 2024

For a graph G, the **crossing number** cr(G) is the smallest number of pairwise edge crossings in a drawing of G (in the plane).

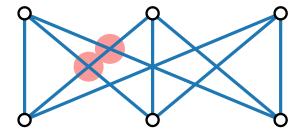
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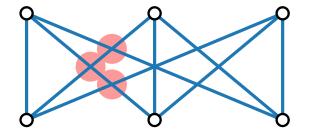
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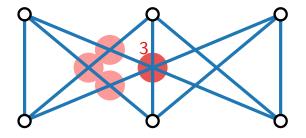
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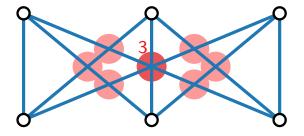
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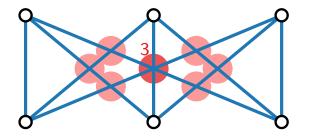
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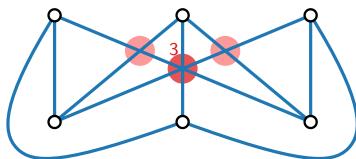
$$cr(K_{3,3}) = 9?$$



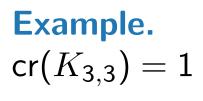
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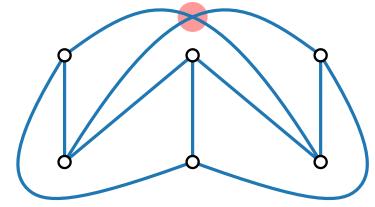
Example.

$$cr(K_{3,3}) = 5?$$



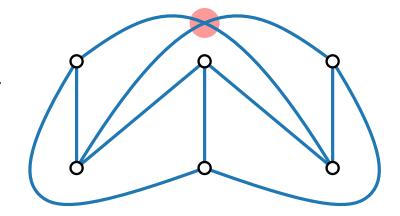
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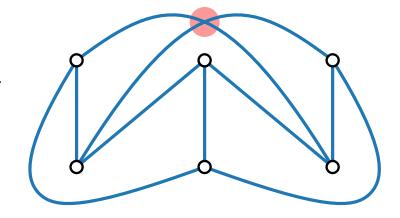
In a crossing-minimal drawing of G



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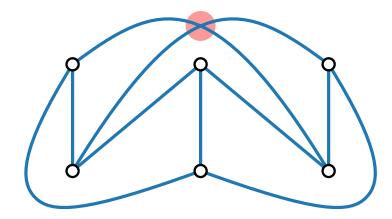
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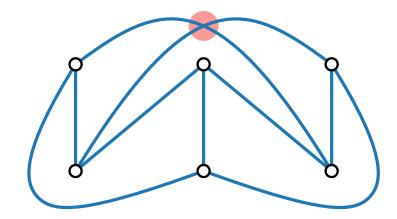
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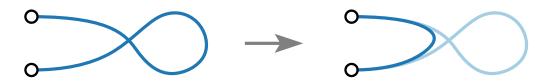
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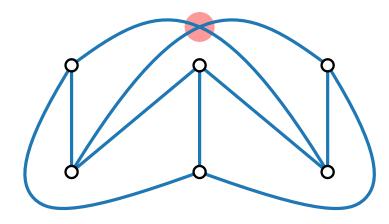
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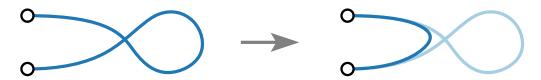


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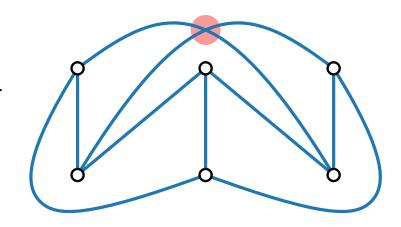


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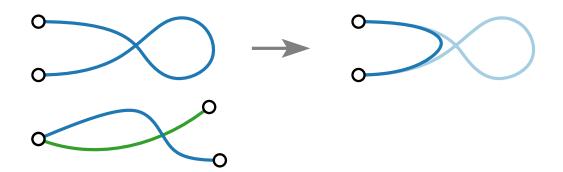


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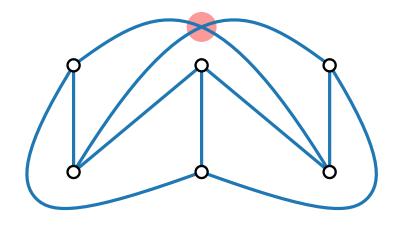


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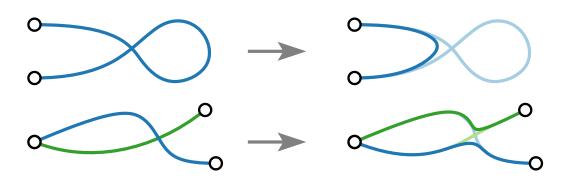


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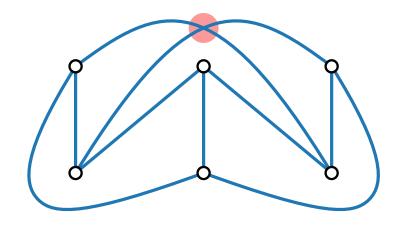


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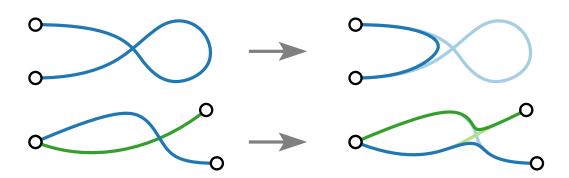


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Example. $cr(K_{3,3}) = 3$

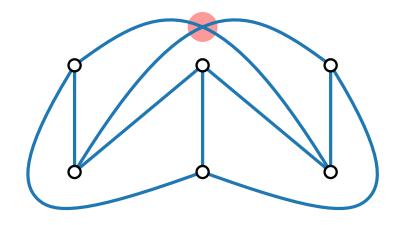


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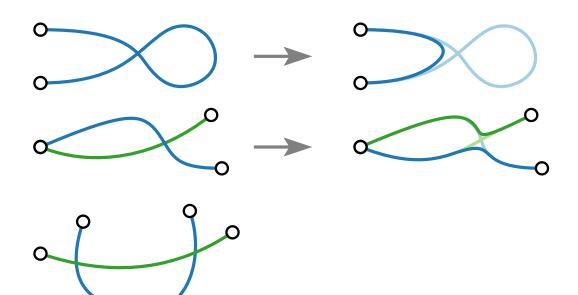


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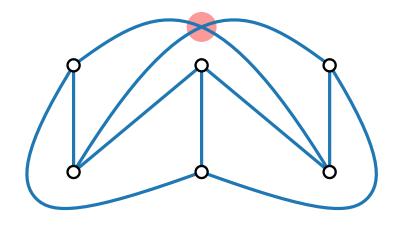


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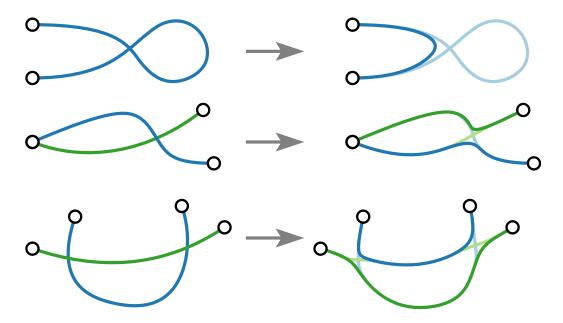


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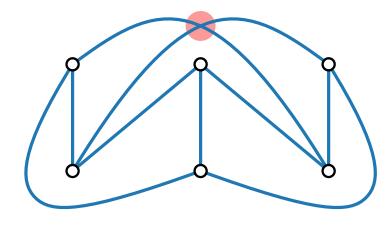


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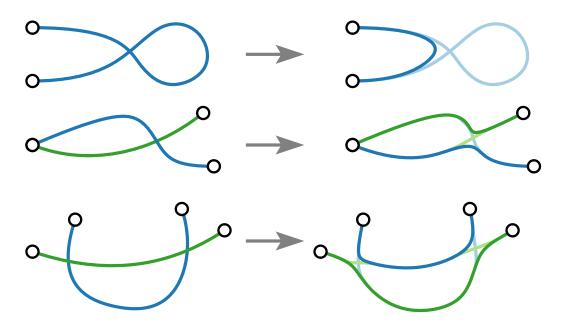


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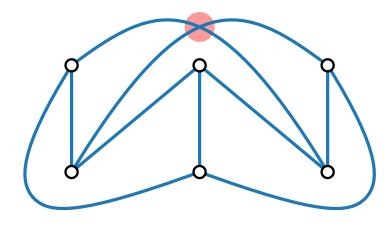


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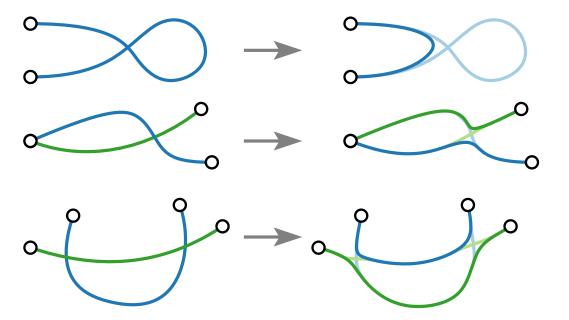
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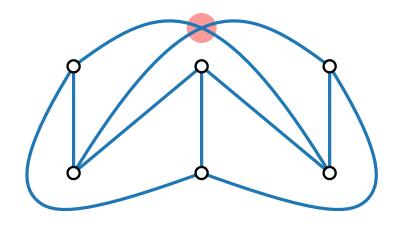
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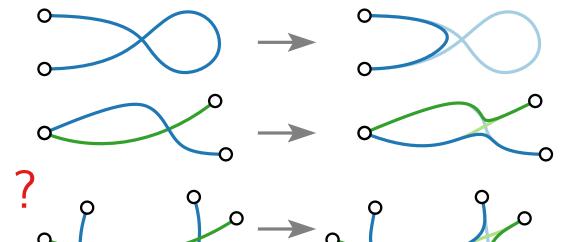
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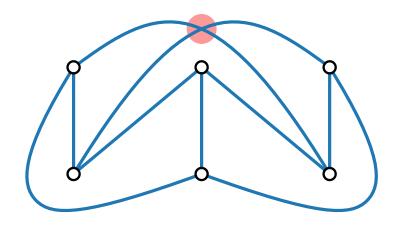
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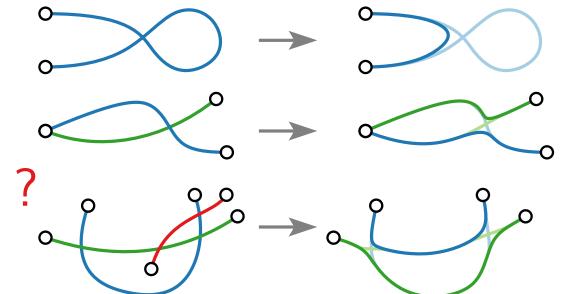
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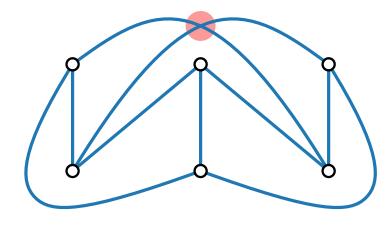
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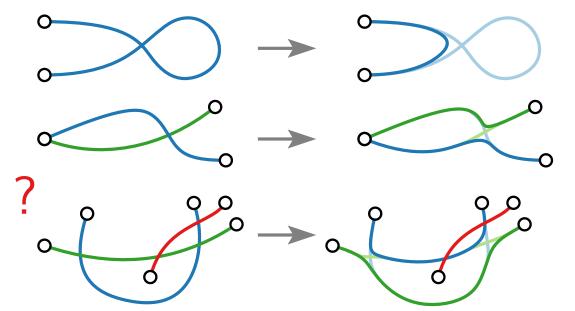
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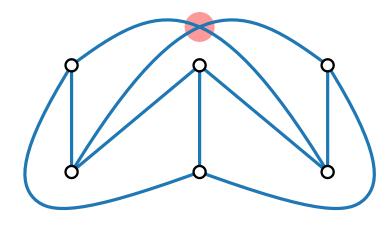
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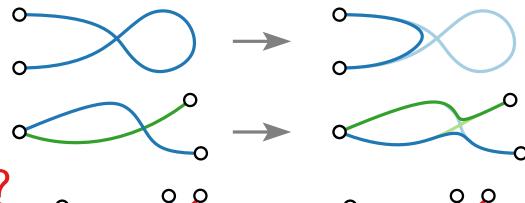
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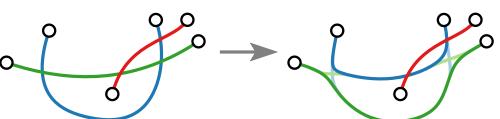
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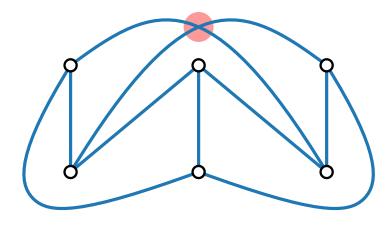




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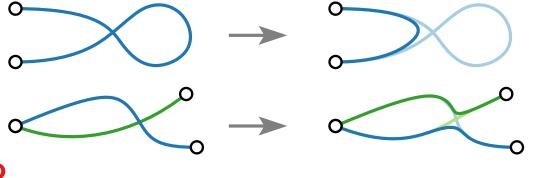
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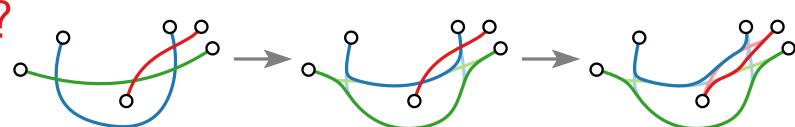
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A graph is planar if and only if it has a drawing in which all pairs of vertex-disjoint edges cross an even number of times.

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[Hanani '43, Tutte '70]

A graph is planar if and only if it has a drawing in which all pairs of vertex-disjoint edges cross an even number of times.

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$$ocr(G) = 0 \Rightarrow pcr(G) = 0 \Rightarrow cr(G) = 0$$

Theorem. [Pelsmajer, Schaefer & Štefankovič '08, Tóth '08] There is a graph G with $ocr(G) < cr(G) \le 10$

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- For planarization, where we replace crossings with dummy vertices, also only heuristic approaches are known.

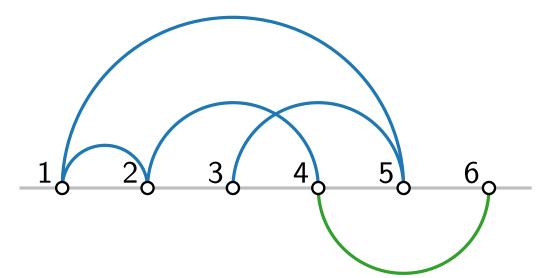
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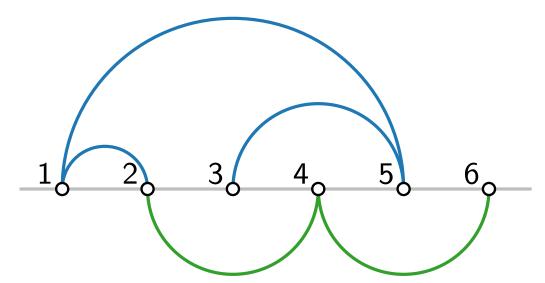
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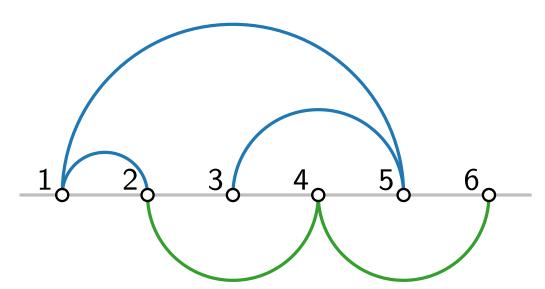
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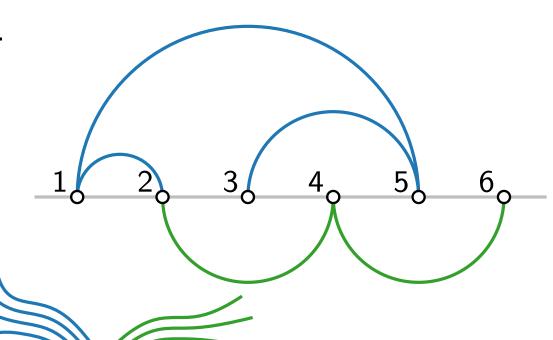
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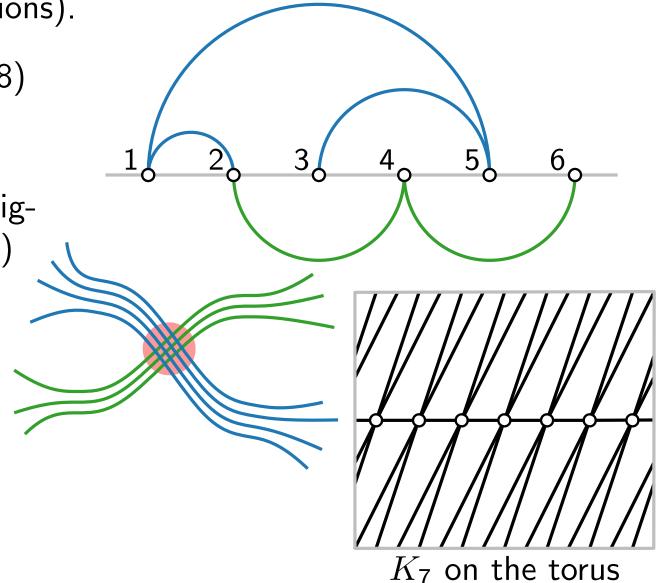
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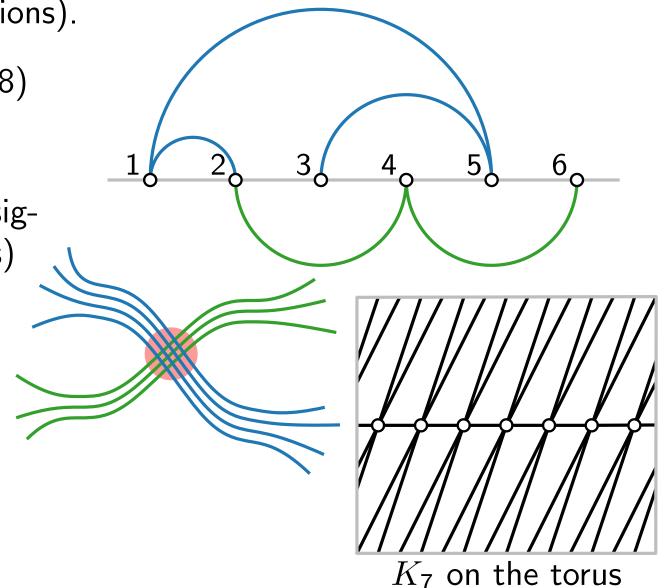
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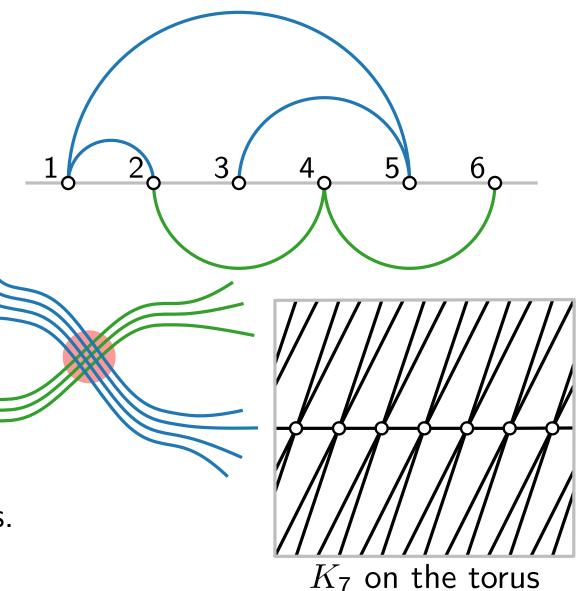
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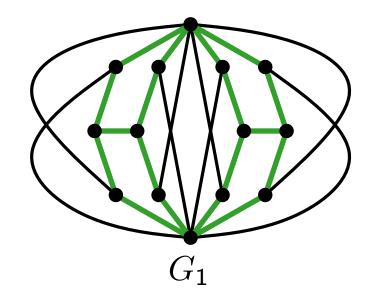
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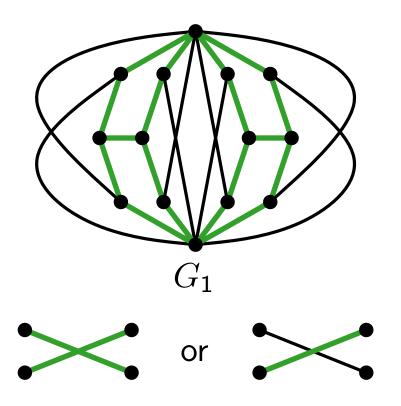
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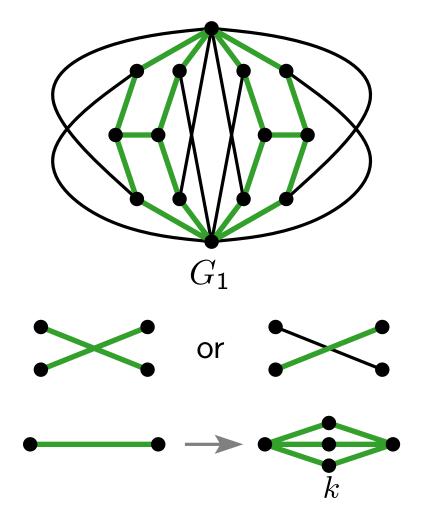
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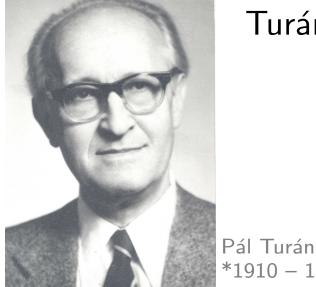
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Turán's brick factory problem (1944)



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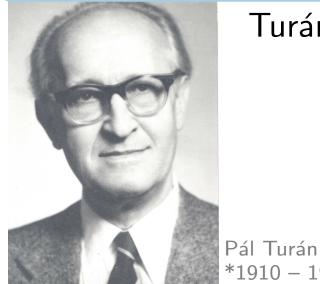
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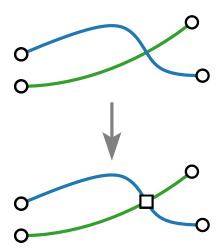
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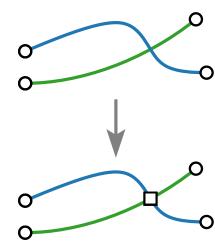


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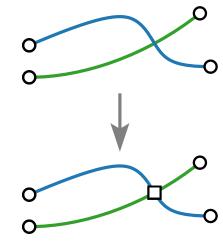
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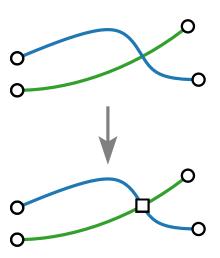
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- Obtain a graph H by turning crossings into dummy vertices.
- H has $n + \operatorname{cr}(G)$ vertices and $m + 2\operatorname{cr}(G)$ edges.

 \blacksquare H is planar, so

$$m + 2\operatorname{cr}(G) \le 3(n + \operatorname{cr}(G)) - 6.$$



Lemma 3.

For a non-planar graph G with n vertices and m edges,

$$\operatorname{cr}(G) \ge r \cdot {\lfloor m/r \rfloor \choose 2} \in \Omega \left(\frac{m^2}{n} \right)$$

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Proof sketch.

■ Take $\lfloor m/r \rfloor$ edge-disjoint subgraphs $G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_{\lfloor m/r \rfloor}$ of G with (at least) r edges.

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Consider this bound for graphs with $\Theta(n)$ and $\Theta(n^2)$ many edges.

- Take $\lfloor m/r \rfloor$ edge-disjoint subgraphs $G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_{\lfloor m/r \rfloor}$ of G with (at least) r edges.
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- Result stayed hardly known until Székely demonstrated its usefulness (in 1997).
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- Factor $\frac{1}{64}$ was later (with intermediate steps) improved to $\frac{1}{29}$ by Ackerman in 2013.

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For a graph G with n vertices and m edges, $m \geq 4n$, $\operatorname{cr}(G) \geq \tfrac{1}{64} \cdot \tfrac{m^3}{n^2}.$

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- By Lemma 2, $\operatorname{cr}(G_p) m_p + 3n_p \ge 6$. $\operatorname{cr}(G) \ge m 3n + 6 \Rightarrow \operatorname{E}[X_p m_p + 3n_p] \ge 0$.

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$$\operatorname{cr}(G) \ge \frac{m^3}{16n^2} - \frac{3m^3}{64n^2}$$

 $\operatorname{cr}(G) \ge m - 3n + 6 \quad \Rightarrow \mathsf{E}[X_p - m_p + 3n_p] \ge 0.$

Crossing Lemma.

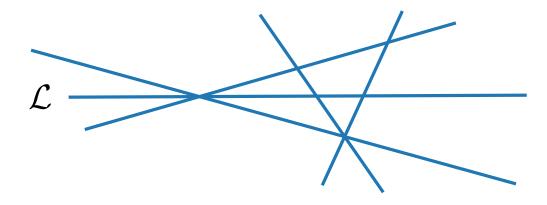
For a graph G with n vertices and m edges, $m \ge 4n$, $\operatorname{cr}(G) \geq \frac{1}{64} \cdot \frac{m^3}{2}$.

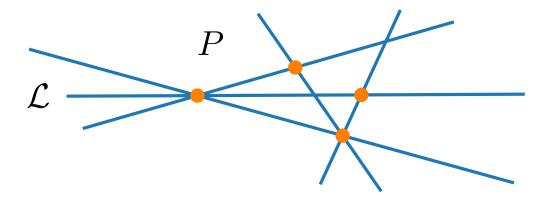
Proof.

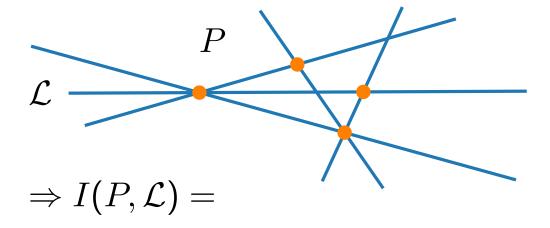
- \blacksquare Consider a crossing-minimal drawing of G.
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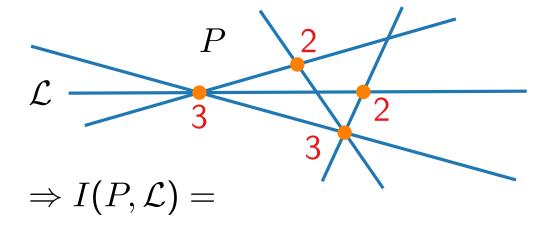
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- $\operatorname{cr}(G) \ge \frac{m^3}{16n^2} \frac{3m^3}{64n^2} = \frac{1}{64} \frac{m^3}{n^2}$

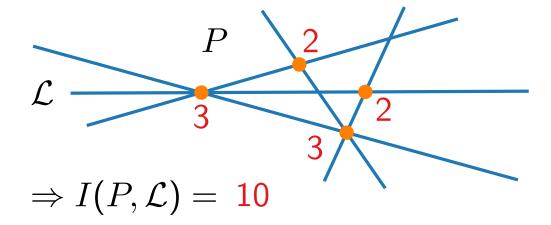
 $\operatorname{cr}(G) \ge m - 3n + 6 \quad \Rightarrow \mathsf{E}[X_p - m_p + 3n_p] \ge 0.$



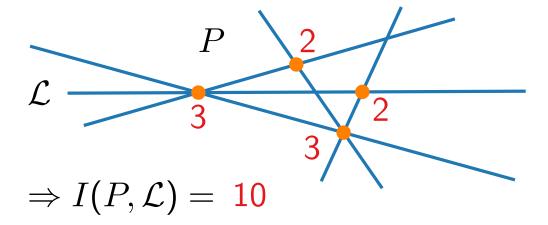




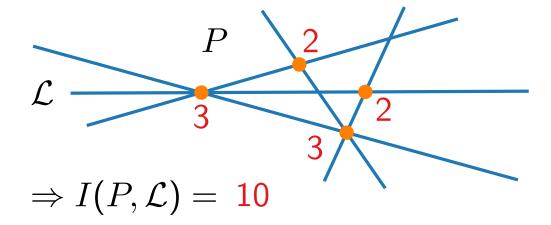




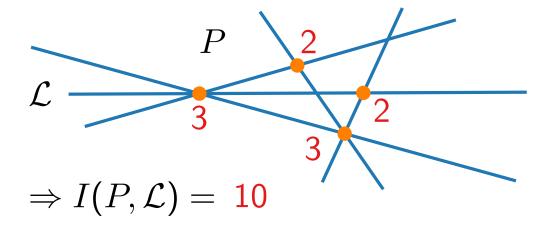
For a set $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ of points and a set \mathcal{L} of lines, let $I(P,\mathcal{L}) = \#$ point-line incidences in (P,\mathcal{L}) .



■ Define $I(n,k) = \max_{|P|=n, |\mathcal{L}|=k} I(P,\mathcal{L})$.

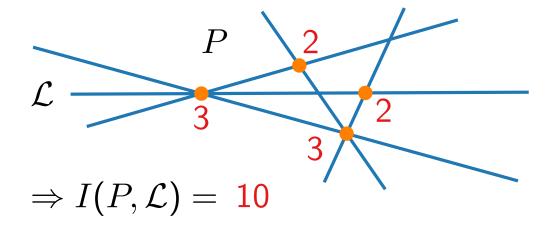


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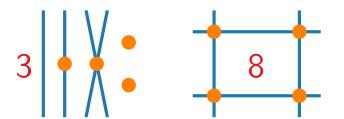


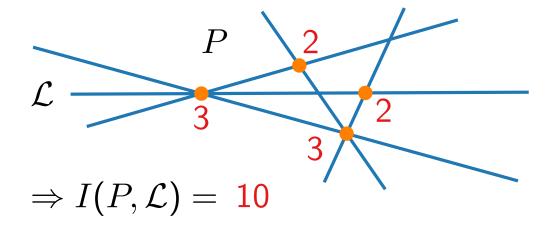
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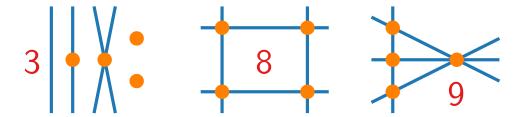


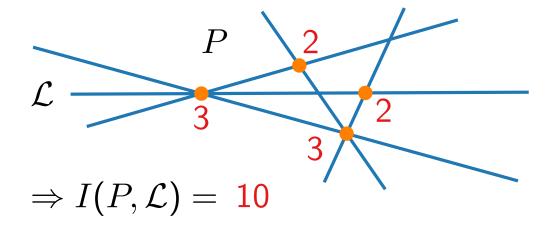
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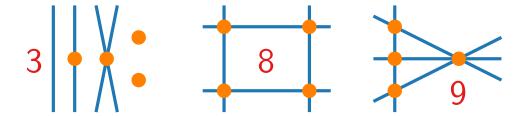


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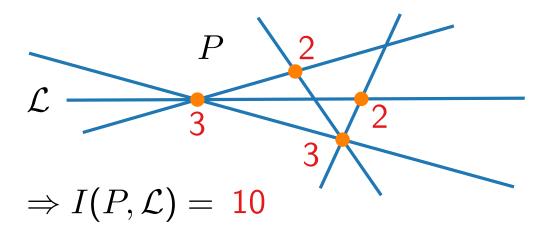




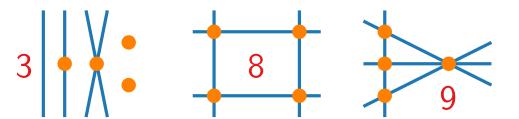
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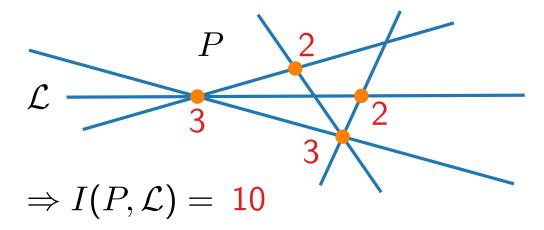
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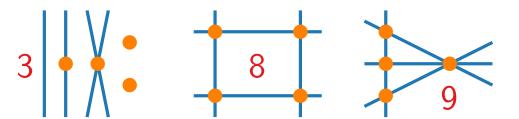
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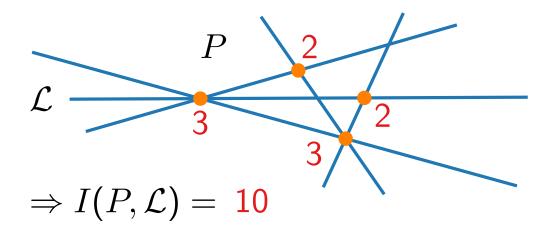
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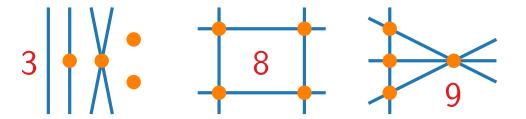
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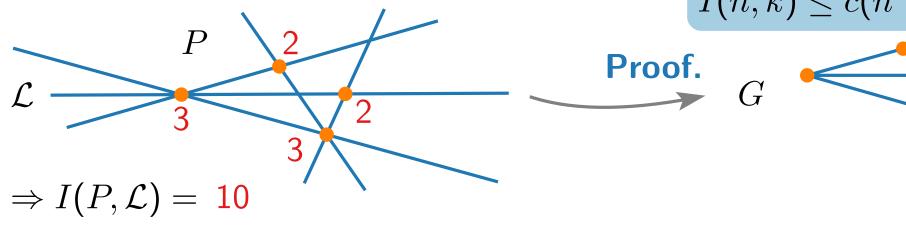
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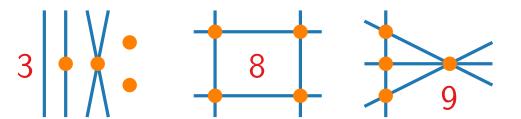
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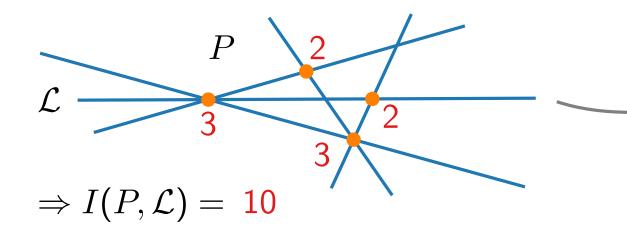


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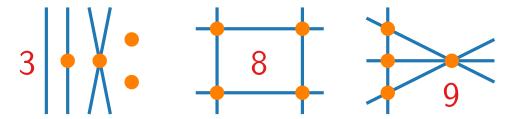
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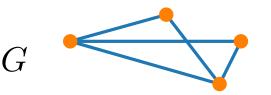
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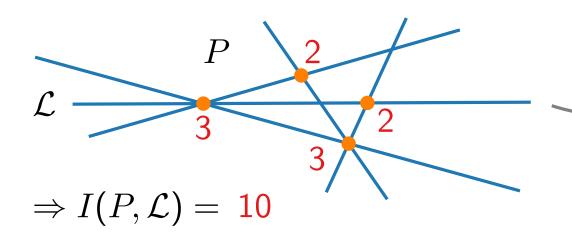
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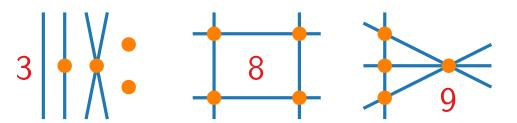


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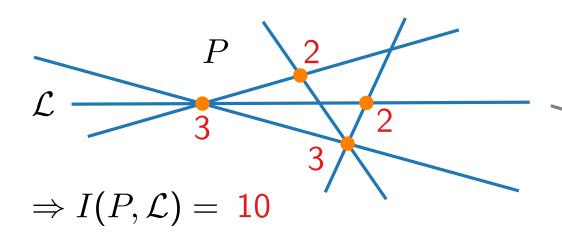
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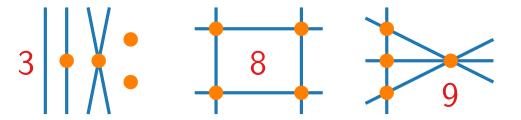
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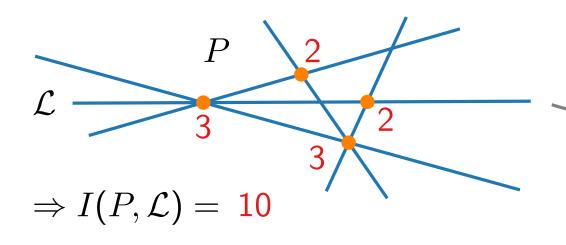
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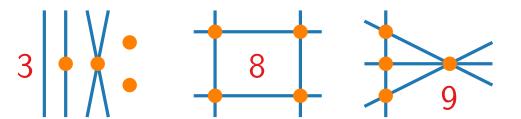
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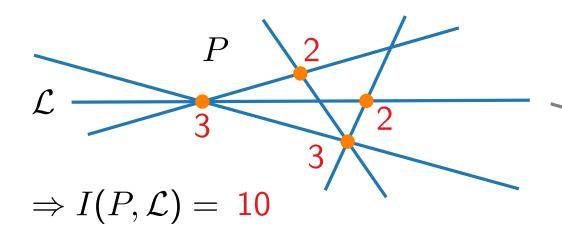
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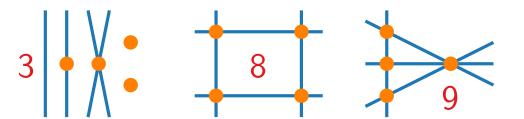


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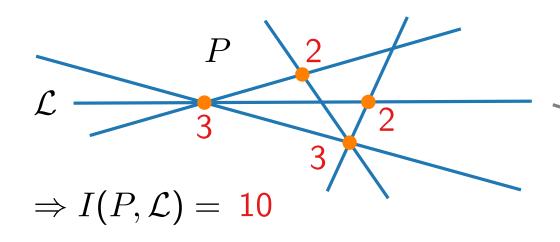


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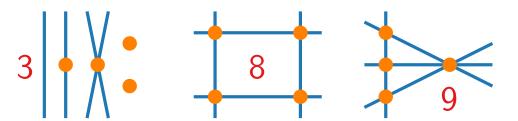
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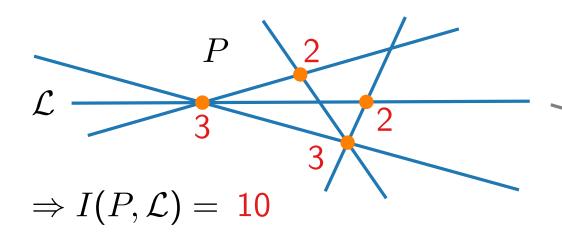


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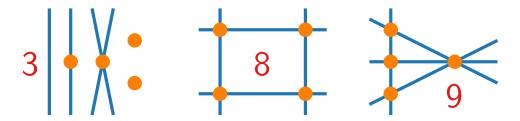
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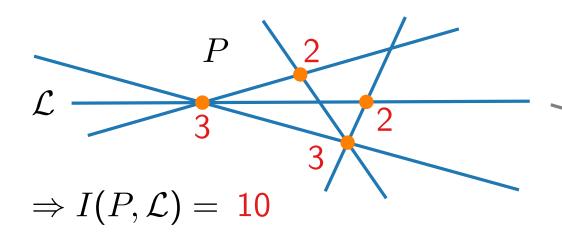


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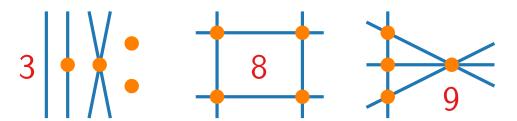
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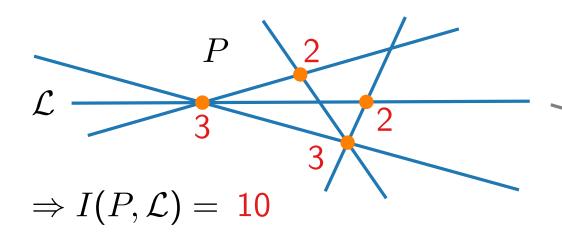
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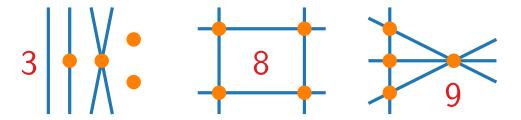
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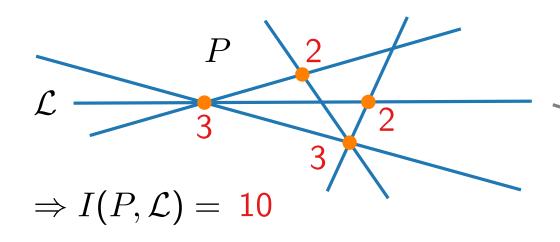
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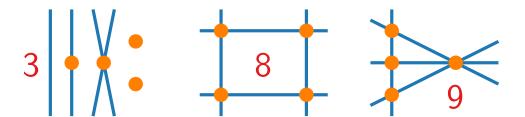
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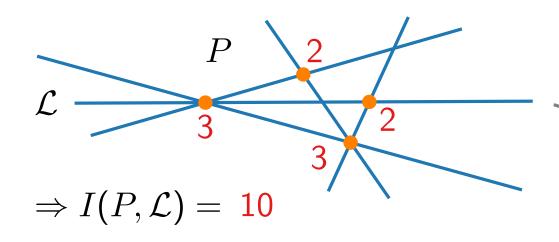
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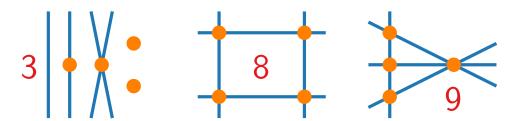
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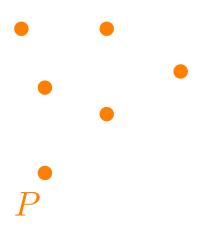
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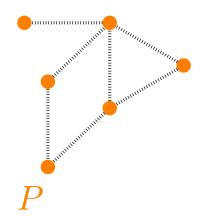


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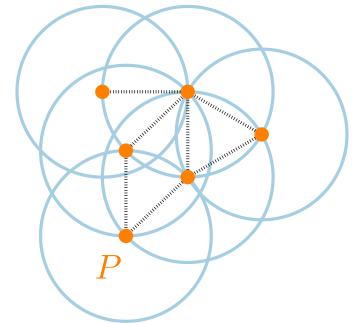


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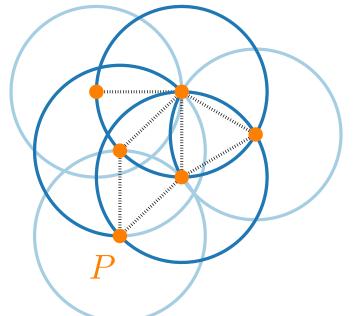


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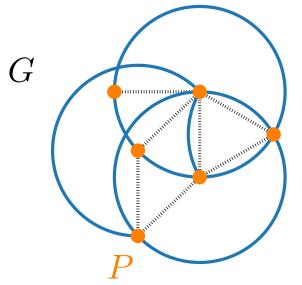


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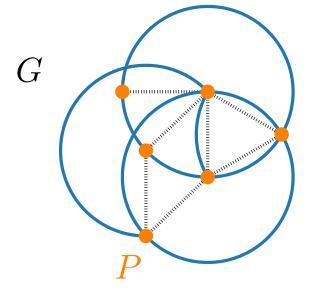


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- $lackbox{U}(P) = \text{number of pairs in } P \text{ at unit distance and}$
- $U(n) = \max_{|P|=n} U(P).$

Theorem 2.

[Spencer, Szemerédi, Trotter '84, Székely '97] $U(n) < 6.7n^{4/3}$



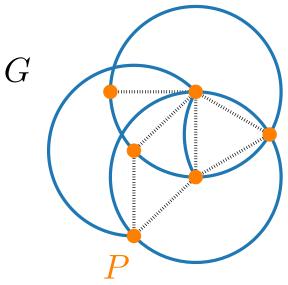
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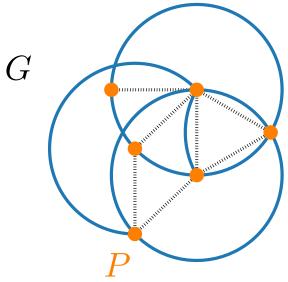
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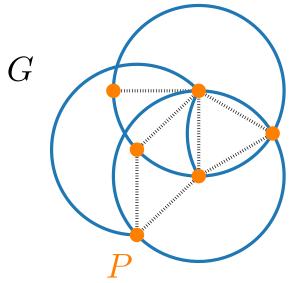
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Proof sketch.



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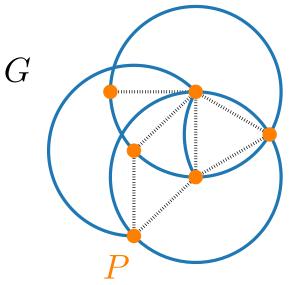
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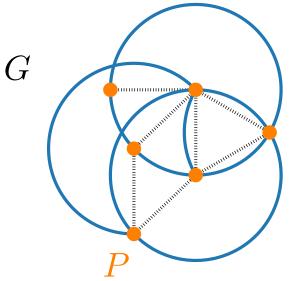
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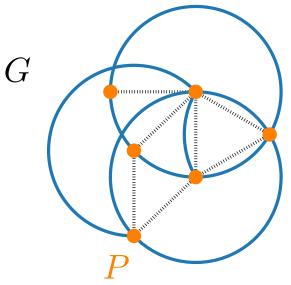
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Given set of n points (in general position, n even) –

0 0

0

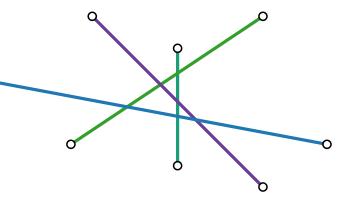
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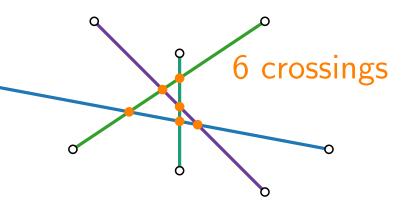
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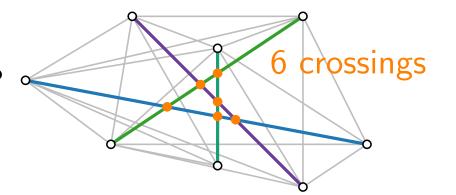


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Point set spans drawing Γ of K_n .



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We will analyze the number of crossings in a random perfect matching in Γ !

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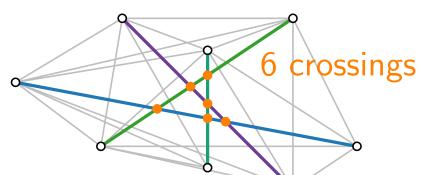
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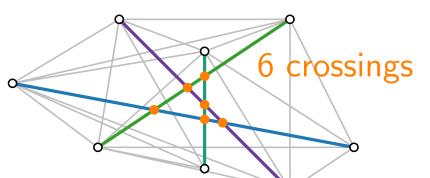


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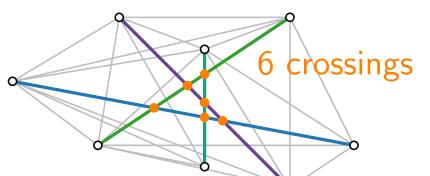
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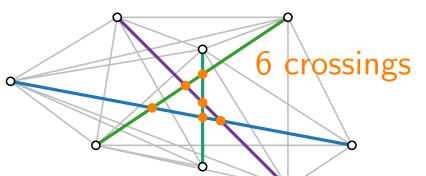


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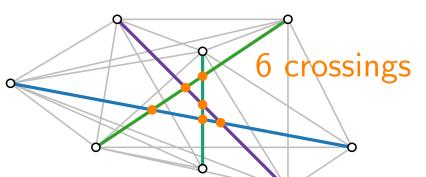
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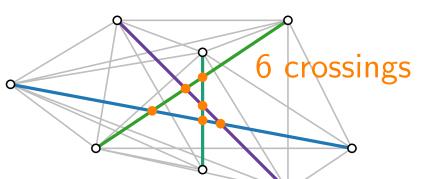
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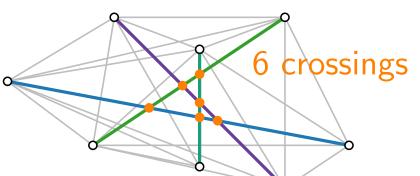
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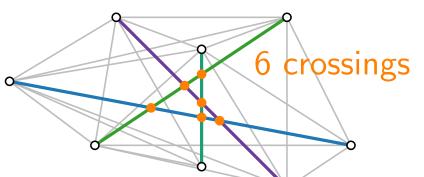
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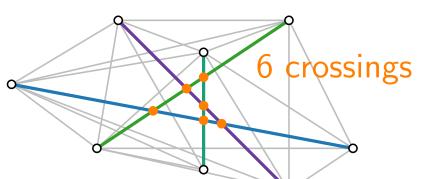
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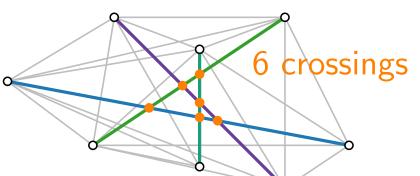
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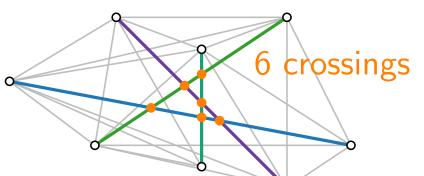
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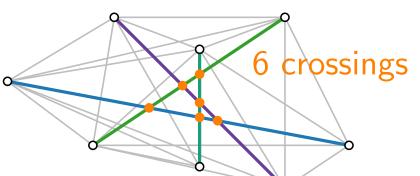
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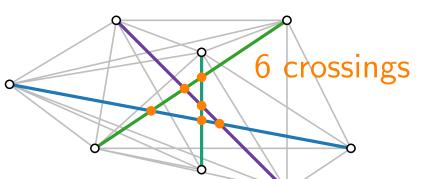
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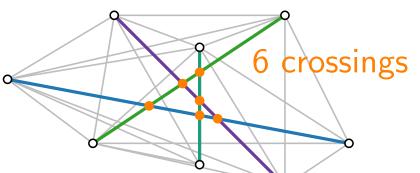
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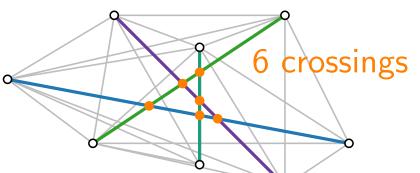
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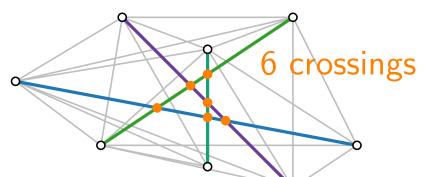
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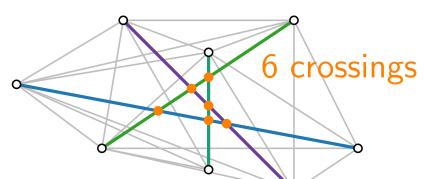
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Literature

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- [Schaefer '20] The Graph Crossing Number and its Variants: A Survey
- Terrence Tao's blog post "The crossing number inequality" from 2007
- [Hanani '43] Über wesentlich unplättbare Kurven im dreidimensionalen Raume
- [Tutte '70] Toward a theory of crossing numbers
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- [Pelsmajer, Schaefer & Štefankovič '07] Removing even crossings
- [Pelsmajer, Schaefer & Štefankovič '08] Odd Crossing Number and Crossing Number Are Not the Same
- [Tóth '08] Note on the Pair-crossing Number and the Odd-crossing Number
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- [Aichholzer et al. '06] On the Crossing Number of Complete Graphs
- [Székely '97] Crossing Numbers and Hard Erdős Problems in Discrete Geometry
- lacksquare Documentary/Biography "N Is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdős"
- Exact computations of crossing numbers: http://crossings.uos.de