

Faster DBSCAN and HDBSCAN in Low-Dimensional Euclidean Spaces

Paper: Mark de Berg, Ade Gunawan, Marcel Roeloffzen

Slides: Thomas van Dijk

Noon seminar: 15th Feb 2018

Clustering

Clustering is classically the problem of finding a partition of a data set such that elements in the same cell (“cluster”) are near each other according to a given distance criterion, while elements in different sets are distant.

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Fundamental problem in data mining, but not uniquely defined.

What are you clustering? What are you trying to do with the data?

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Distance: Euclidean?

Metric?

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Distance: Euclidean?

Metric?

How many clusters?

What can clusters look like?

Clustering

1956

MATHÉMATIQUE

Sur la division des corps matériels en parties

par

H. STEINHAUS

Présenté le 19 Octobre 1956

Un corps Q est, par définition, une répartition de matière dans l'espace, donnée par une fonction $f(P)$; on appelle cette fonction la **densité** du corps en question; elle est définie pour tous les points P de l'espace; elle est non-négative et mesurable. On suppose que l'ensemble caracté-

SOME METHODS FOR CLASSIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF MULTIVARIATE OBSERVATIONS

J. MACQUEEN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

1. Introduction

The main purpose of this paper is to describe a process for partitioning an N -dimensional population into k sets on the basis of a sample. The process, which is called ' k -means,' appears to give partitions which are reasonably efficient in the sense of within-class variance. That is, if p is the probability mass function for the population, $S = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ is a partition of E_N , and u_i ,

Clustering

DBSCAN

1996

**A Density-Based Algorithm for Discovering Clusters
in Large Spatial Databases with Noise?**

Martin Ester, Hans-Peter Kriegel, Jörg Sander, Xiaowei Xu

Institute for Computer Science, University of Munich
Oettingenstr. 67, D-80538 München, Germany
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Clustering

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A **D**ensity-**B**ased Algorithm for Discovering **C**lusters in Large Spatial Databases with **N**oise[?]

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$\geq 8 \times 10^3$ citations

KDD “test of time award” 2014

Open source implementations available in many languages

Clustering

DBSCAN

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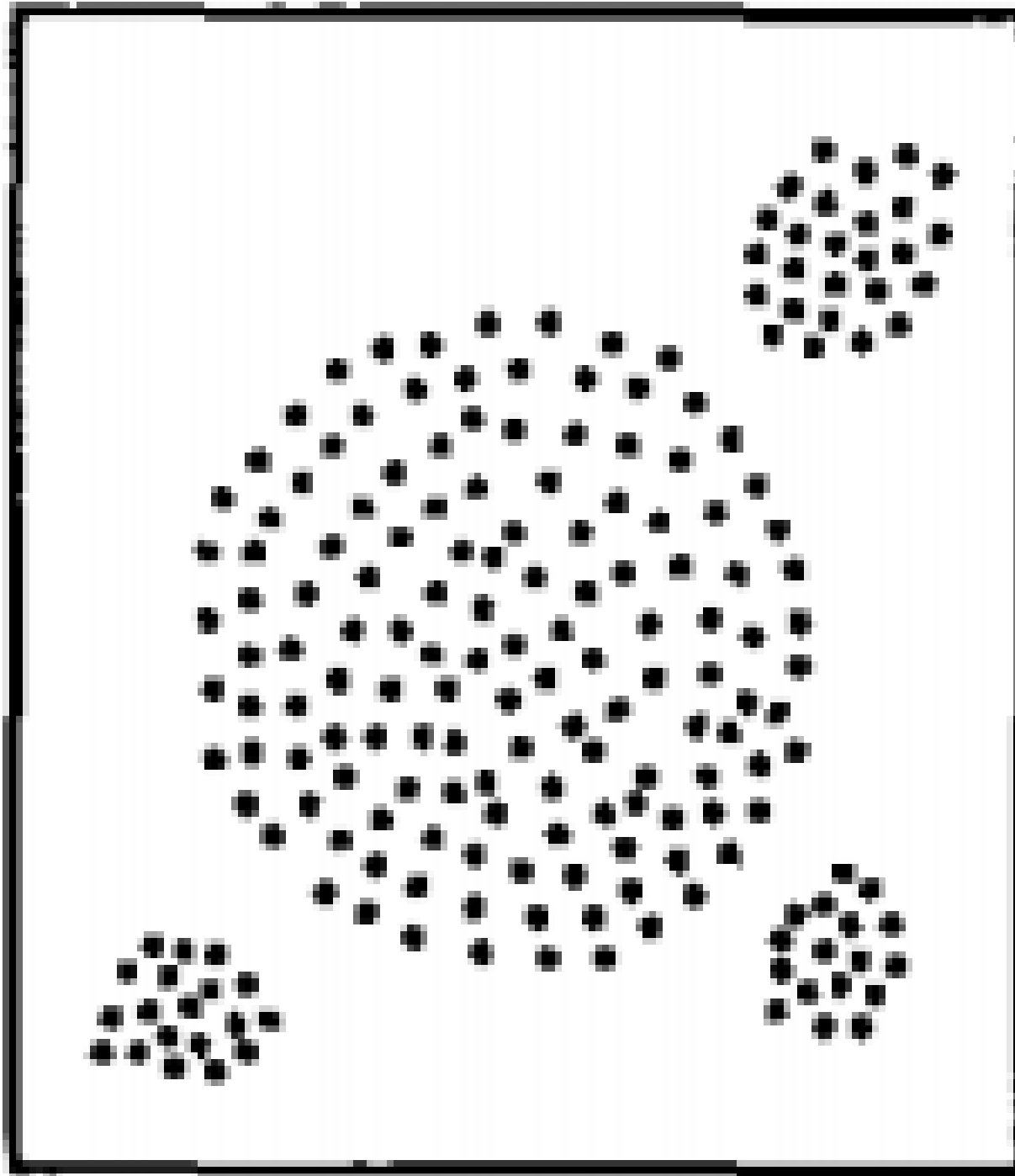
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ing an appropriate value for it. It discovers clusters of arbitrary shape. Finally, DBSCAN is efficient even for large spatial databases. The rest of the paper is organized as follows.

Clustering



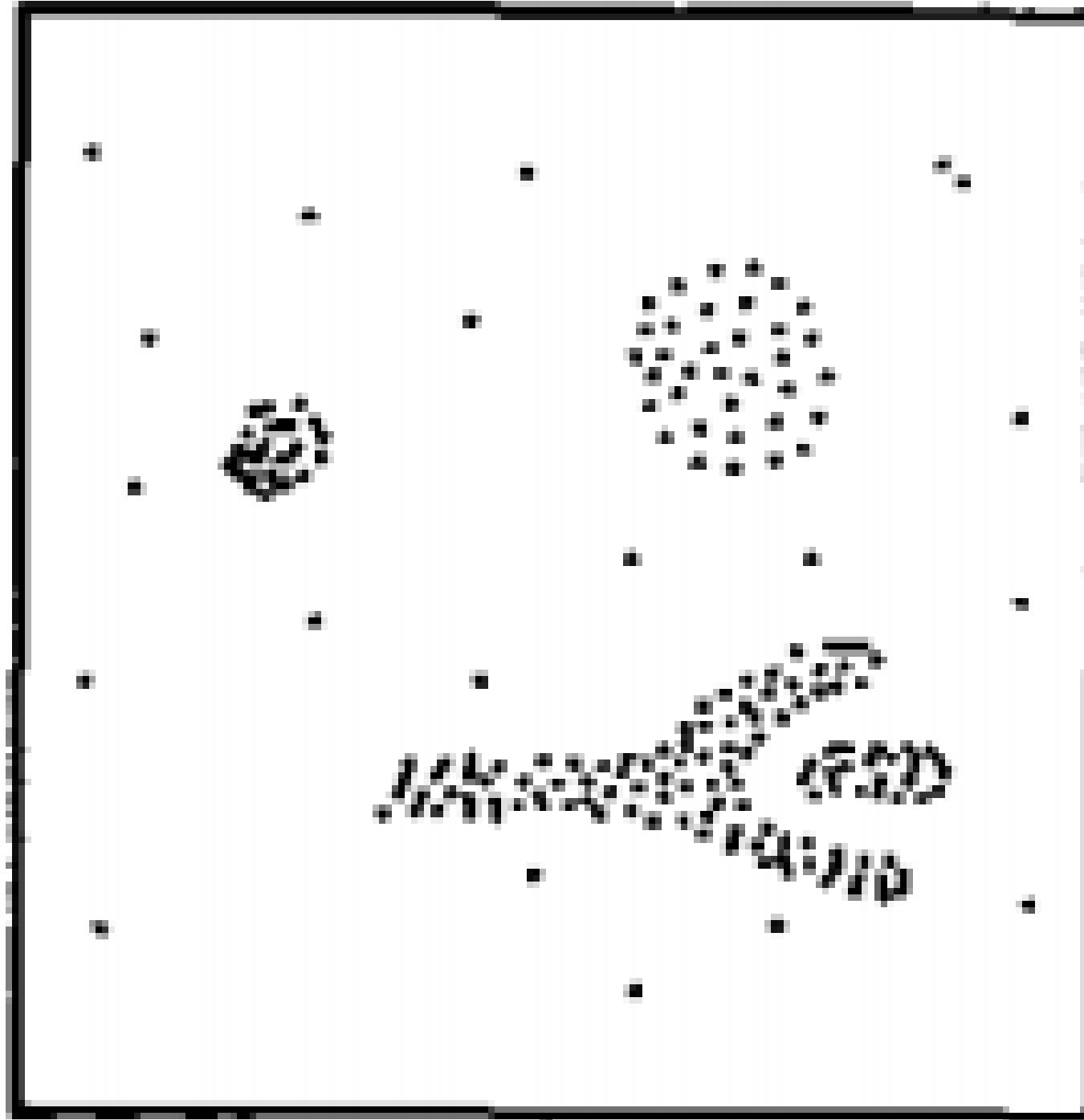
database 1

Clustering



database 2

Clustering



database 3

DBSCAN: Objectives

- 1.** “Minimal requirements of domain knowledge to determine the input parameters, because appropriate values are often not known in advance when dealing with large databases.”

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DBSCAN: Objectives

- 1.** “Minimal requirements of domain knowledge to determine the input parameters, because appropriate values are often not known in advance when dealing with large databases.”
- 2.** “Discovery of clusters with arbitrary shape, because the shape of clusters in spatial databases may be spherical, drawn-out, linear, elongated etc.”
- 3.** “Good efficiency on large databases, i.e. on databases of significantly more than just a few thousand objects.”

DBSCAN

Given: data points X , distance function $d(\cdot, \cdot)$, thresholds ε and k .

DBSCAN

"Eps" "MinPts"
↓ ↓

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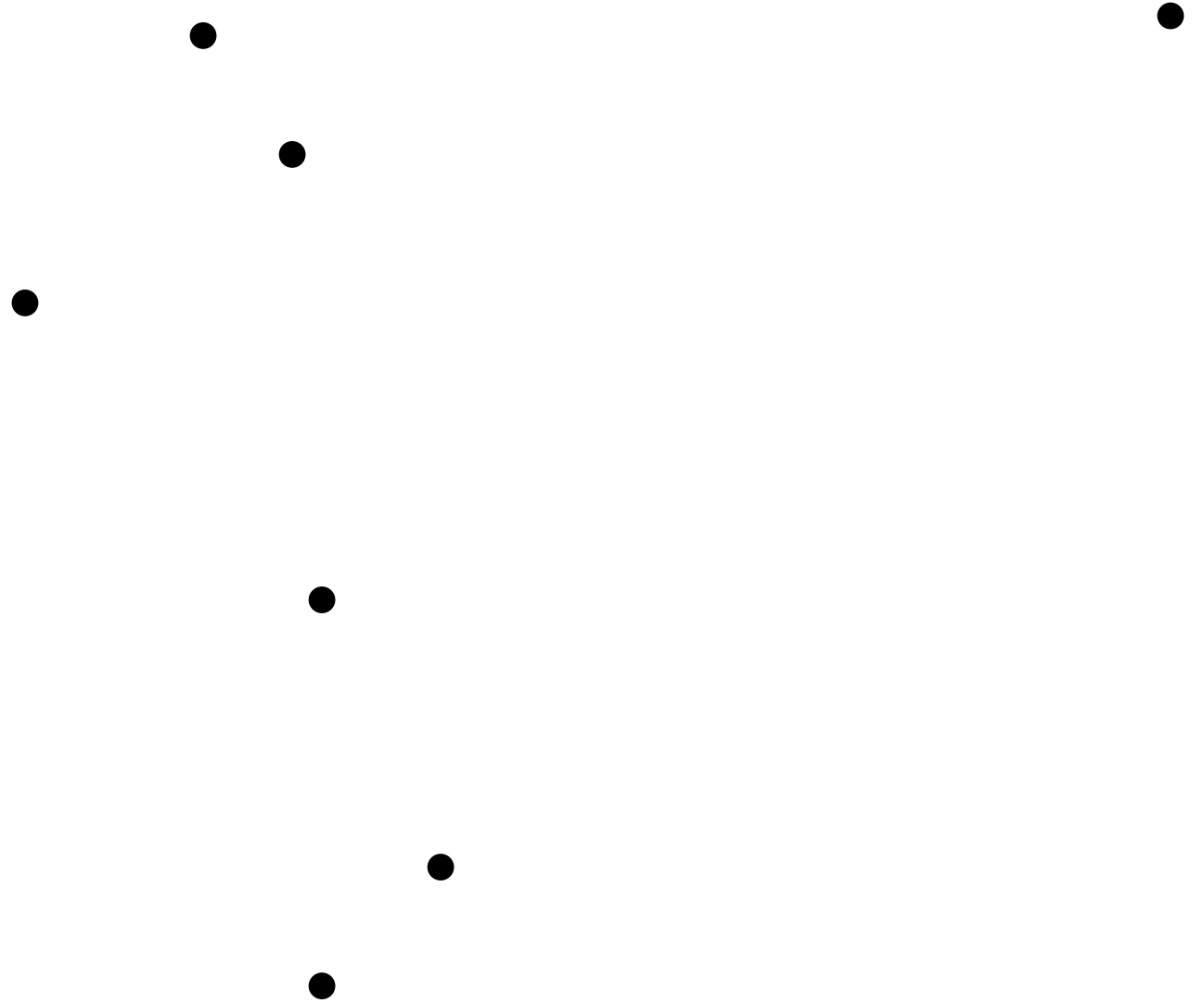
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Def. A point $p \in X$ is **density connected** to a point q if there exists a (core) point r such that both p and q are density-reachable from r .

DBSCAN example

Legend

$k = 3$

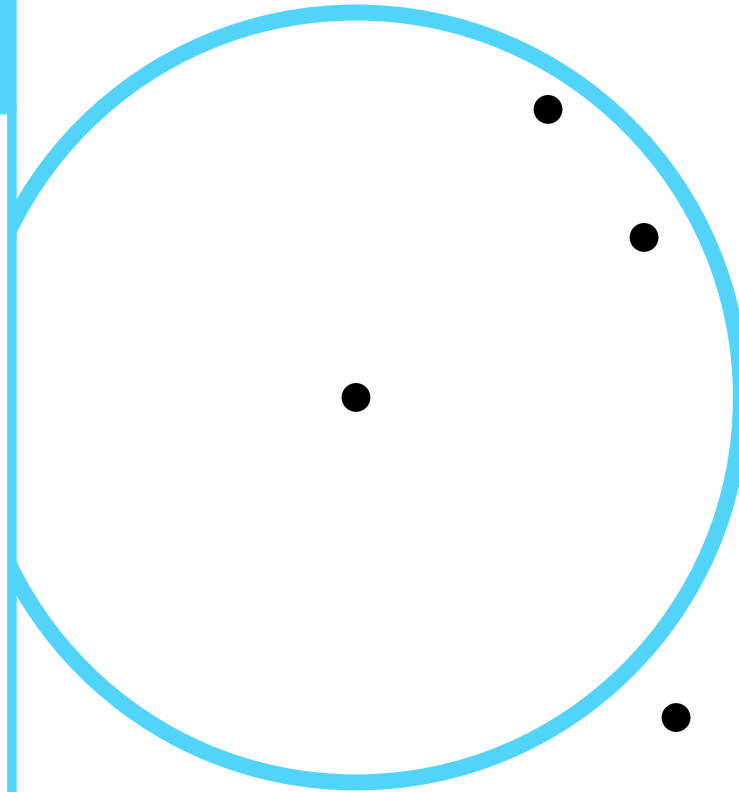


DBSCAN example

Legend

$k = 3$

Distance ϵ



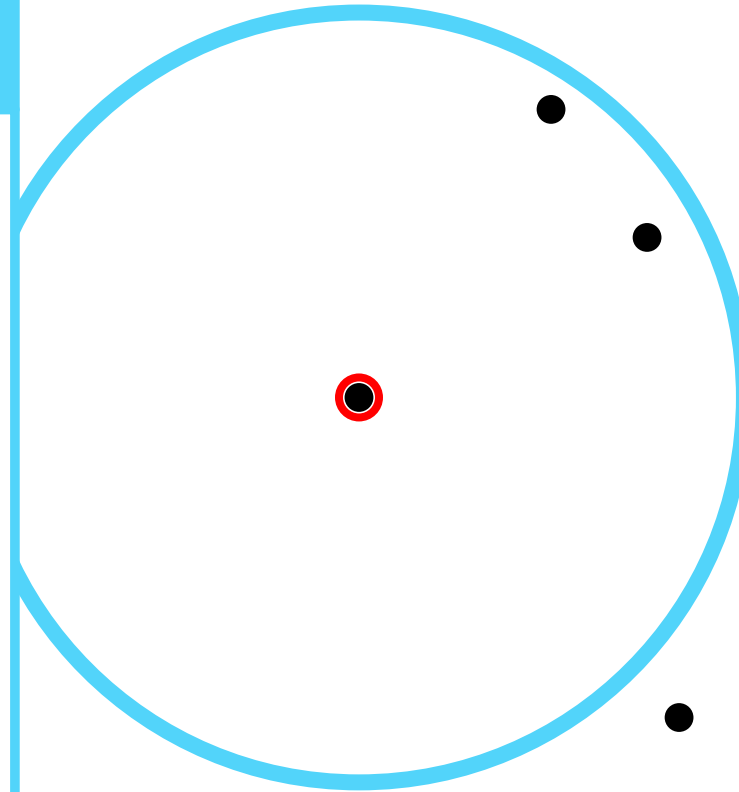
DBSCAN example

Legend

$k = 3$

Distance ϵ

Core points



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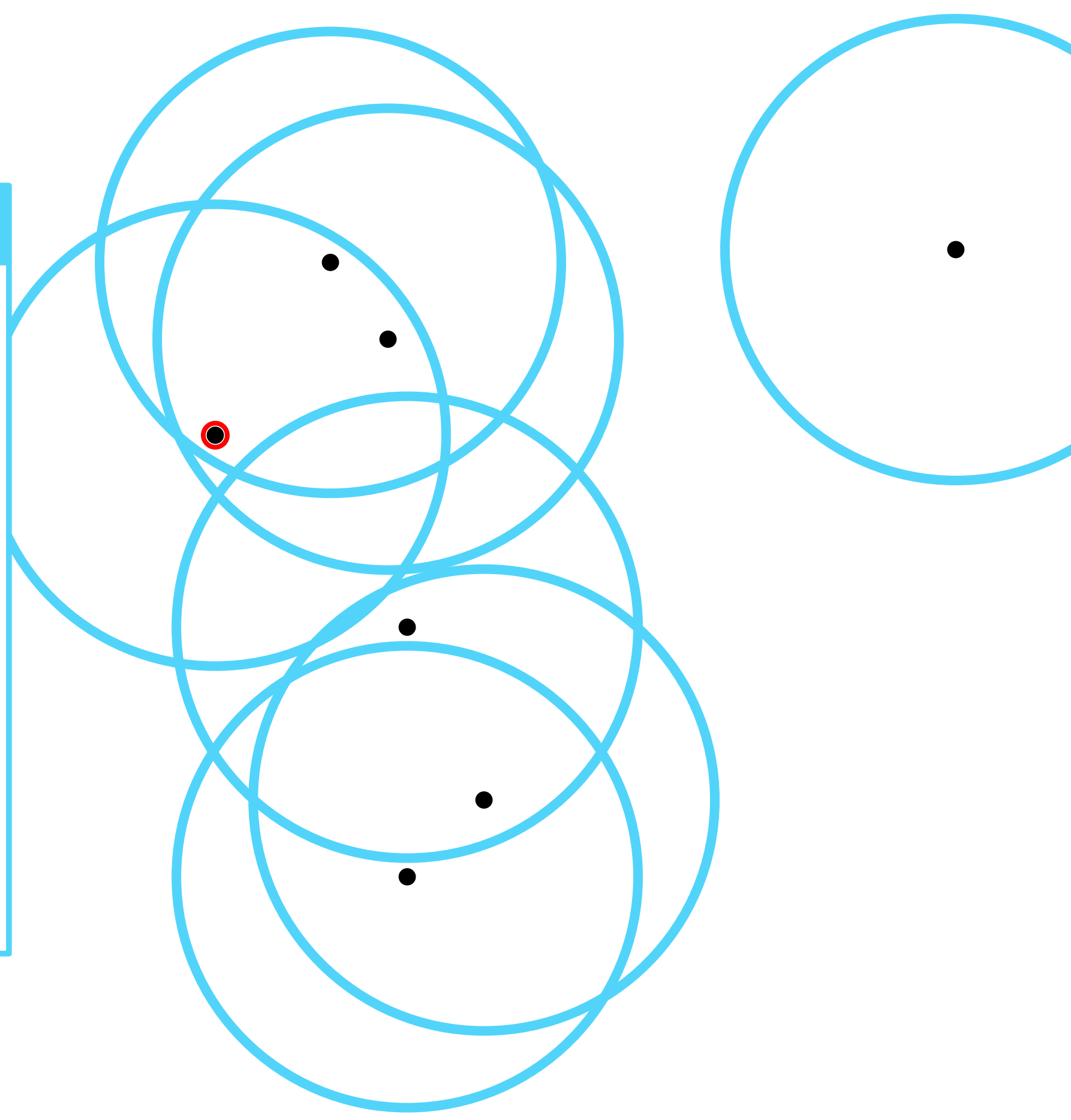
DBSCAN example

Legend

$k = 3$

Distance ε

Core points



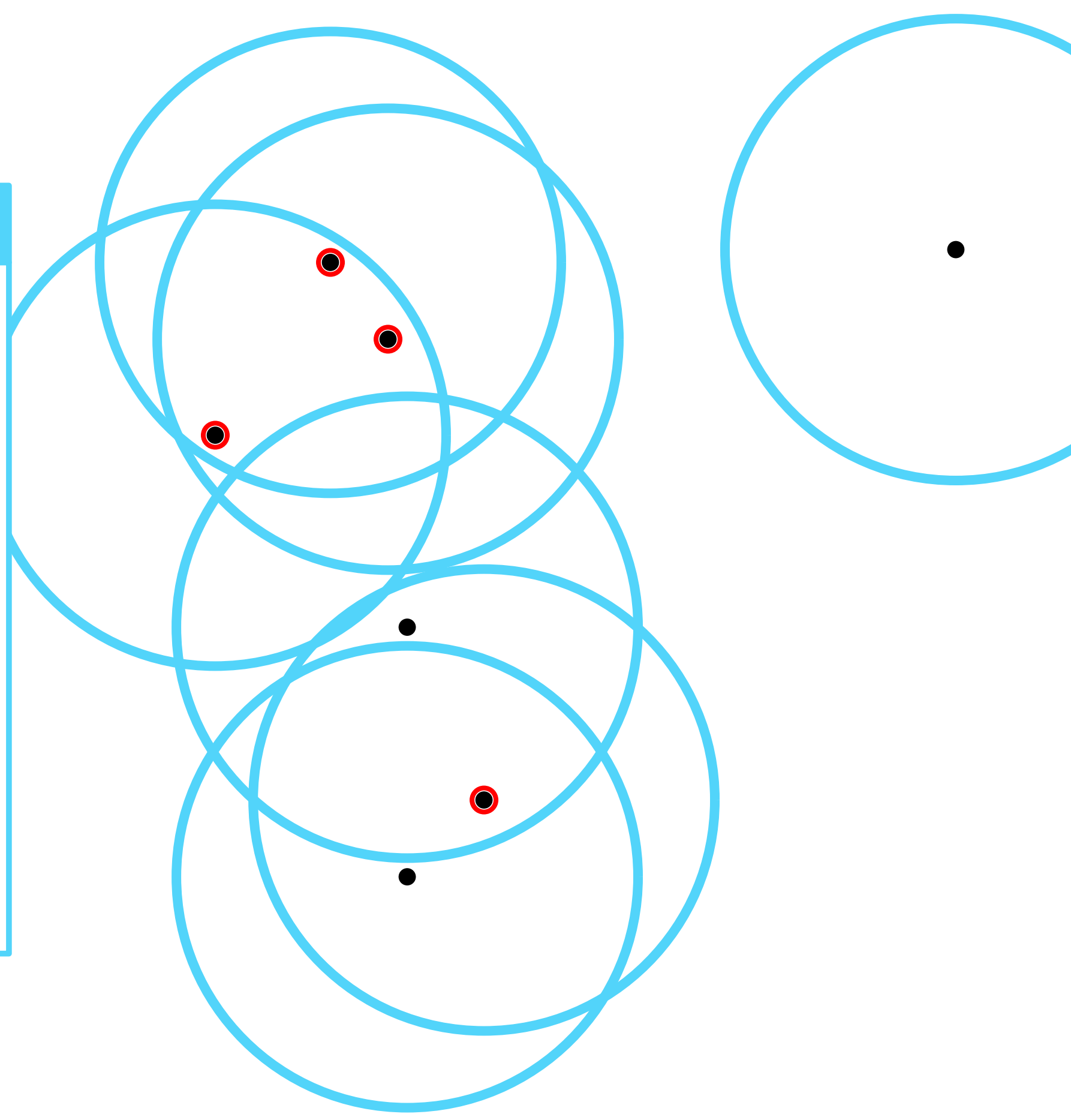
DBSCAN example

Legend

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Distance ϵ

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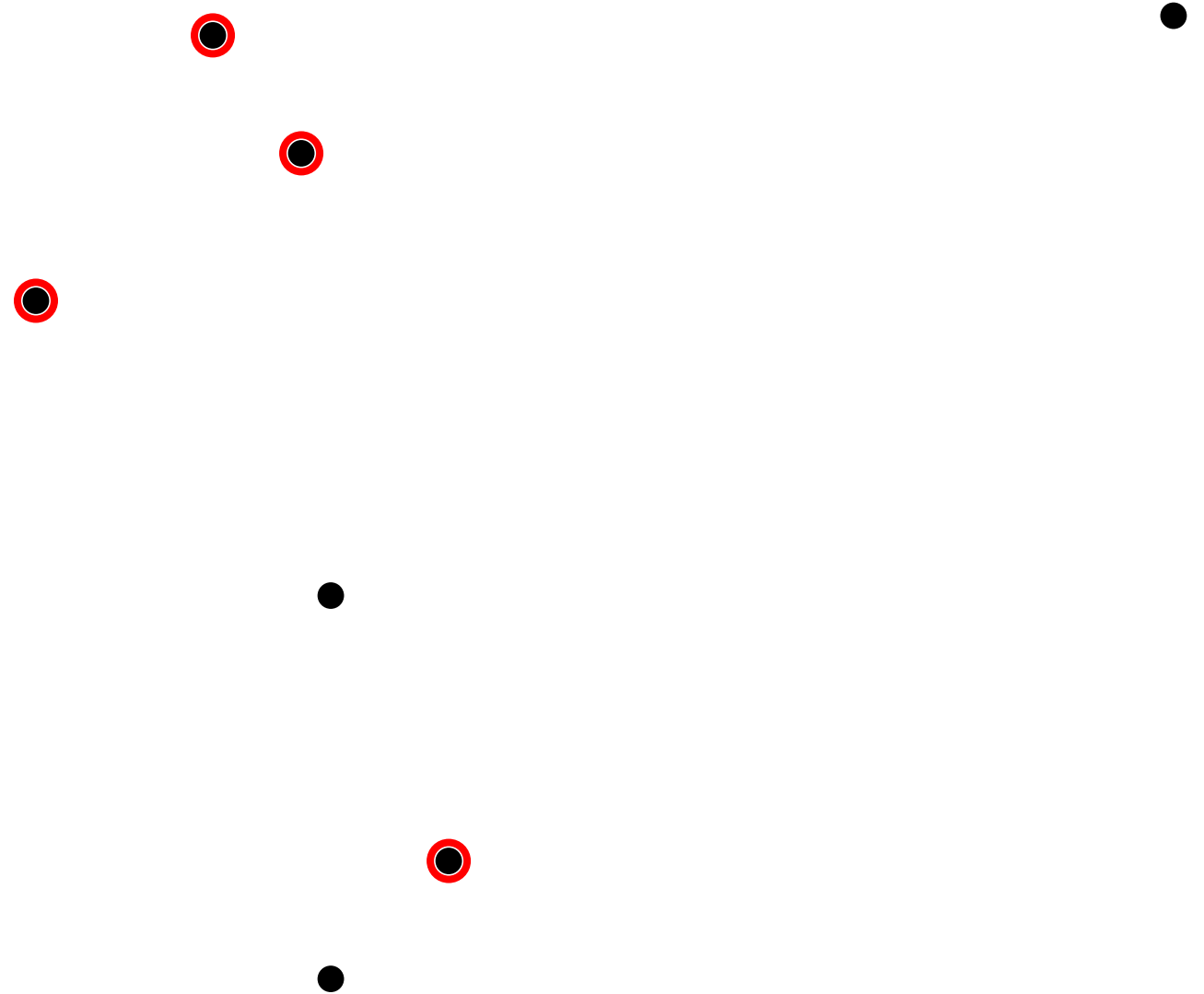
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DBSCAN example

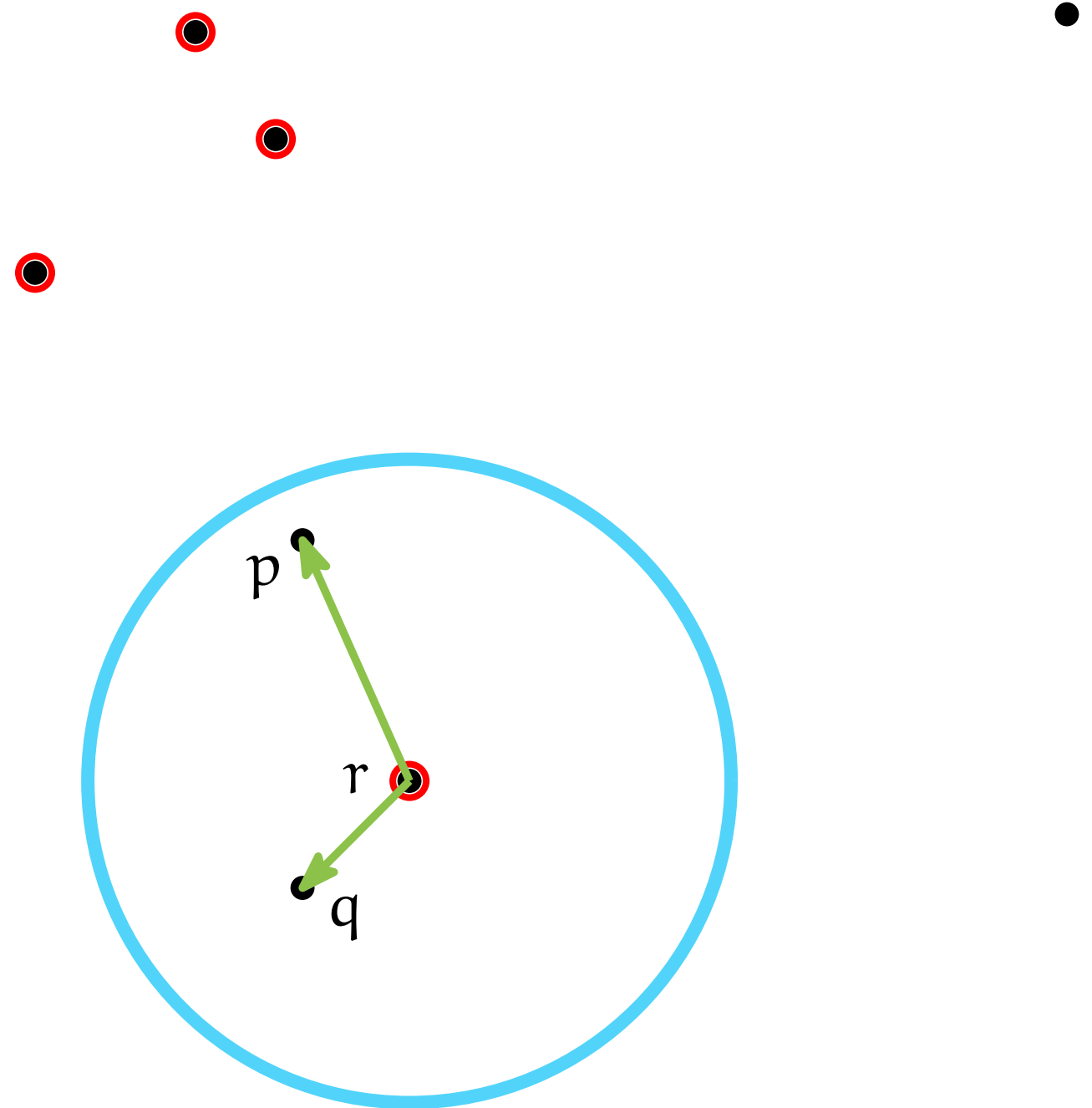
Legend

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Distance ε

Core points

Density connected



DBSCAN example

Legend

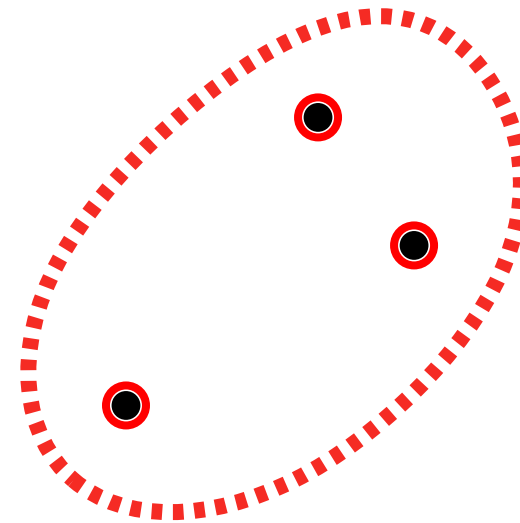
$k = 3$

Distance ϵ

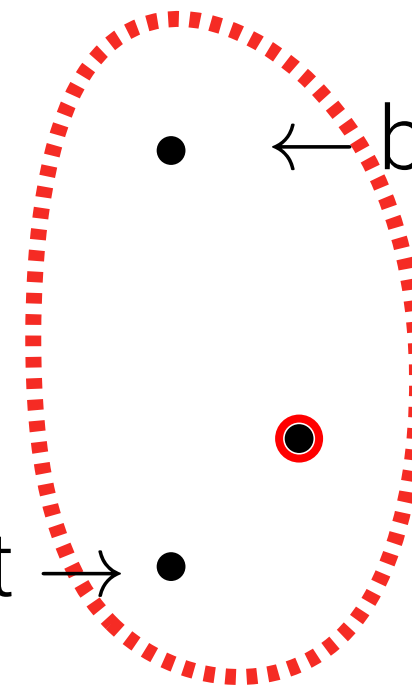
Core points

Density connected

DBSCAN clustering



noise point \rightarrow •



border point \leftarrow

border point \rightarrow

DBSCAN example

Legend

$k = 3$

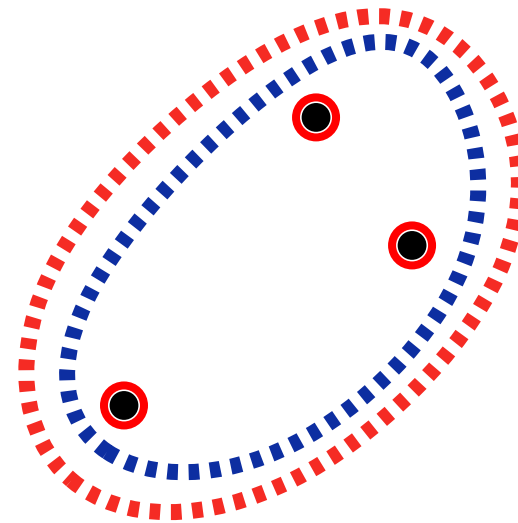
Distance ε

Core points

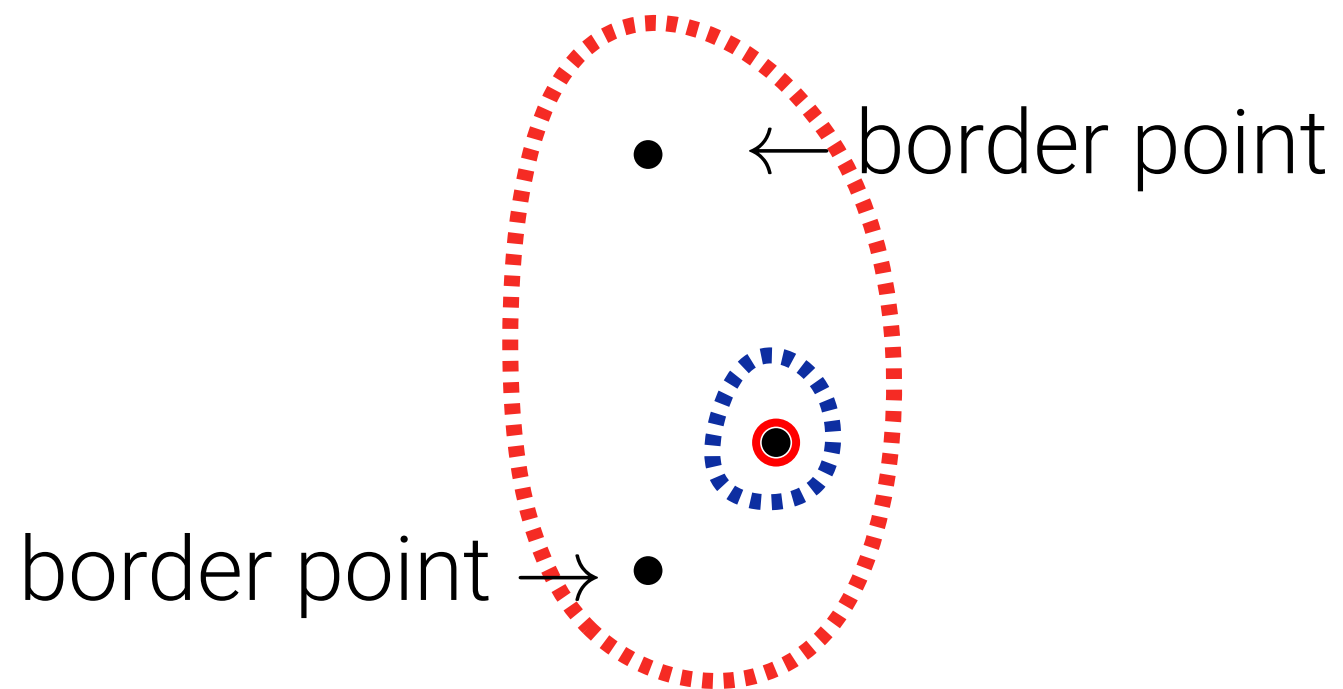
Density connected

DBSCAN clustering

DBSCAN* clustering



noise point \rightarrow •



DBSCAN example

Legend

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Distance ε

Core points

Density connected

DBSCAN clustering

DBSCAN* clustering

Runtime

Naive algorithm runs in $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ time.

border

DBSCAN example

Legend

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Distance ε

Core points

Density connected

DBSCAN clustering

DBSCAN* clustering

Runtime

Naive algorithm runs in $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ time.

“Since the Eps-Neighborhoods are expected to be small compared to the size of the whole data space, the average run time complexity of a single region query is $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$. (...)”

Thus, the average run time complexity of DBSCAN is $\mathcal{O}(n * \log n)$.”

border

Results

Everywhere: ε free, k fixed constant, Euclidean distances

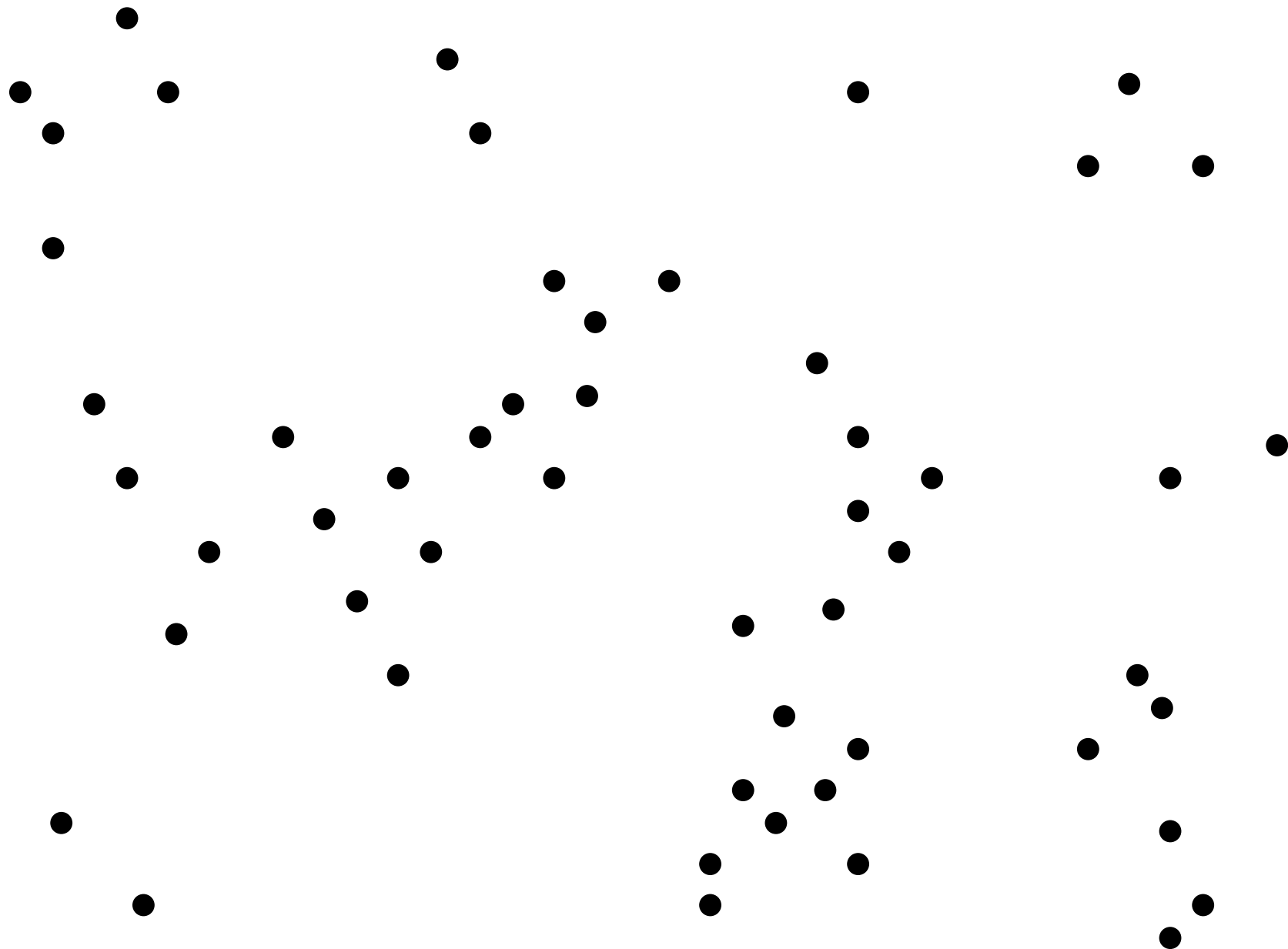
	2D	dD
DBSCAN	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$	$\mathcal{O}(n^{2 - \frac{2}{\lceil d/2 \rceil + 1} + \gamma}) \quad \gamma > 0$
HDBSCAN	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ expected	\times

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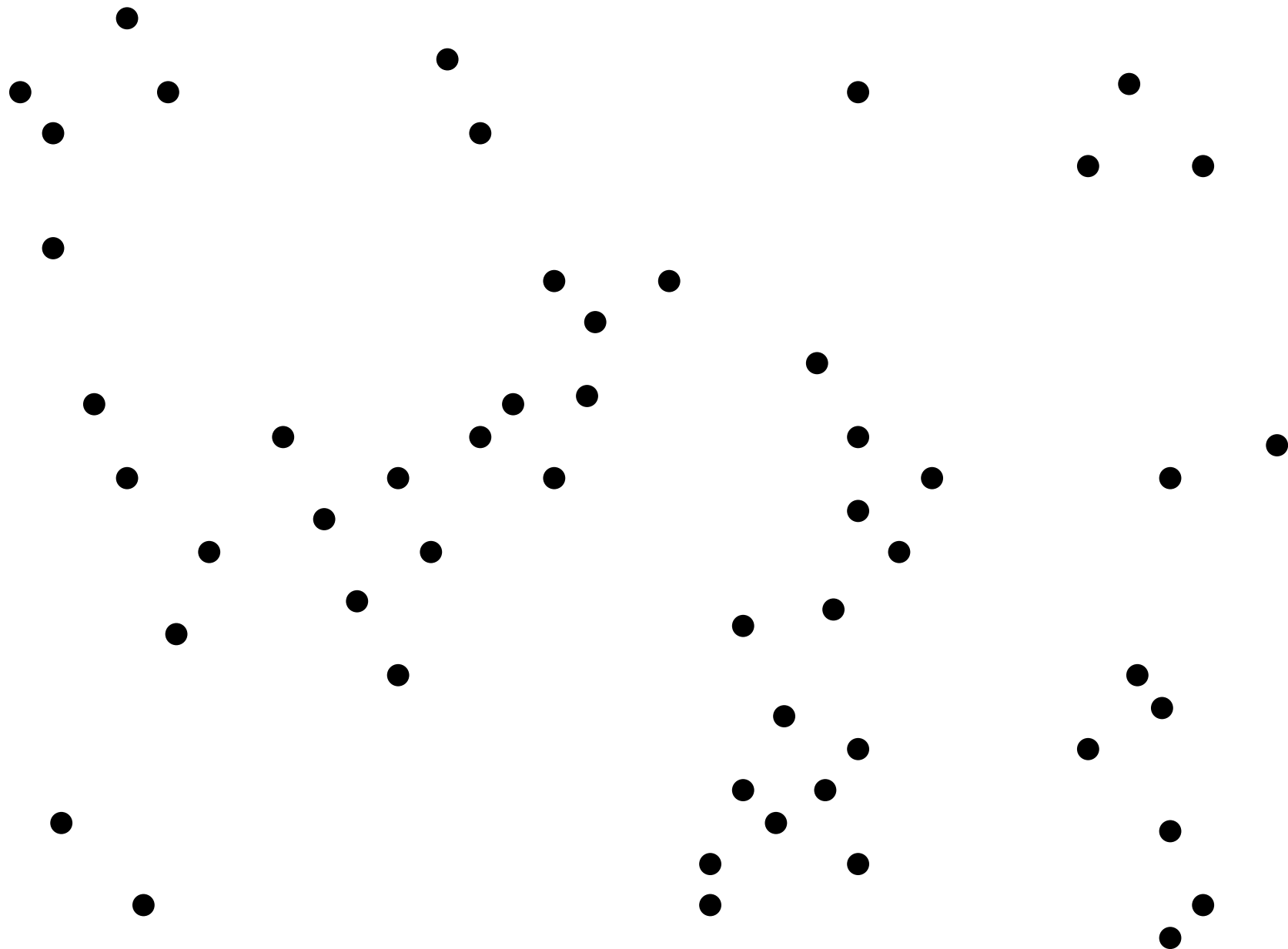
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Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

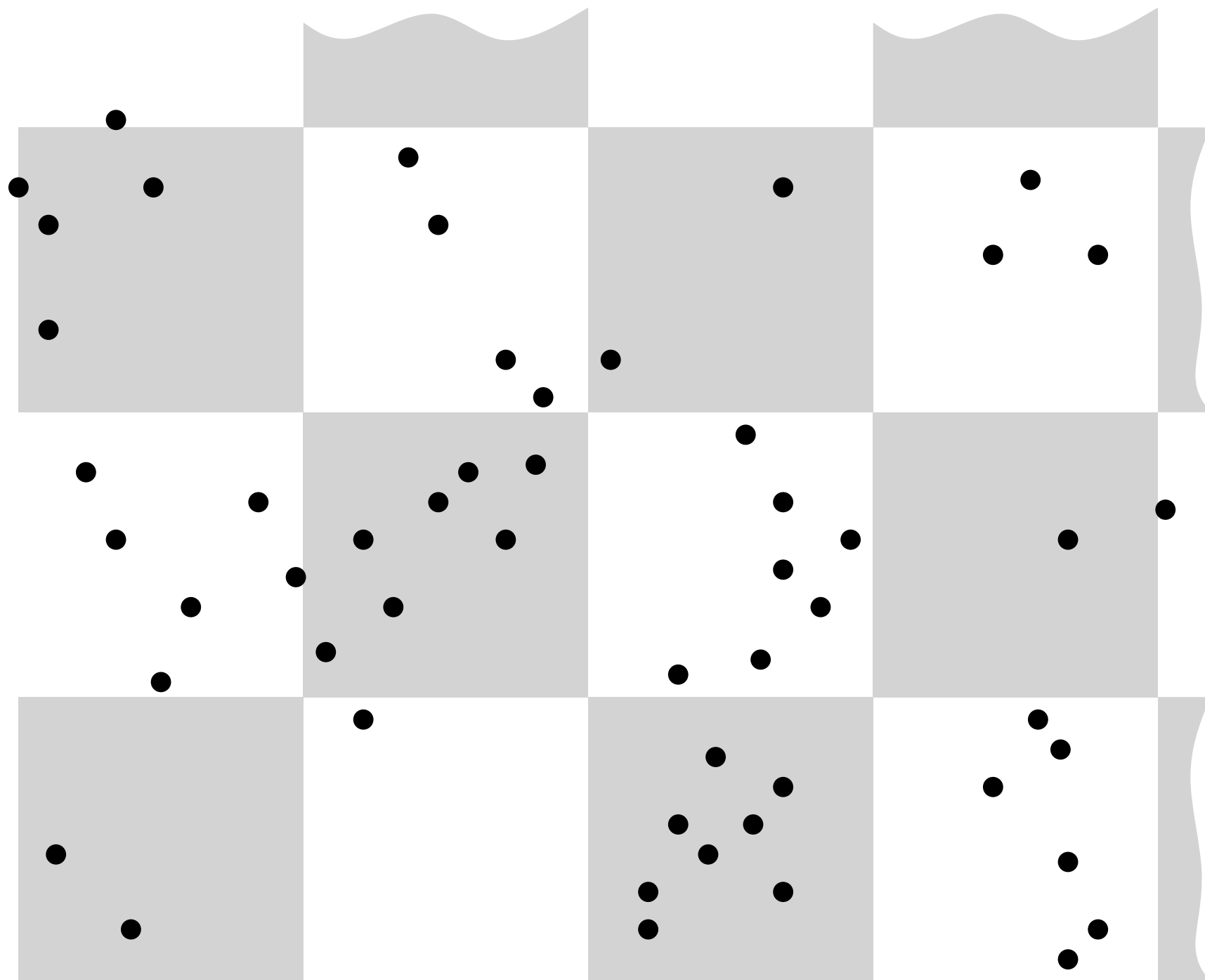


Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

ε : 



Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



ϵ : 

$\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 

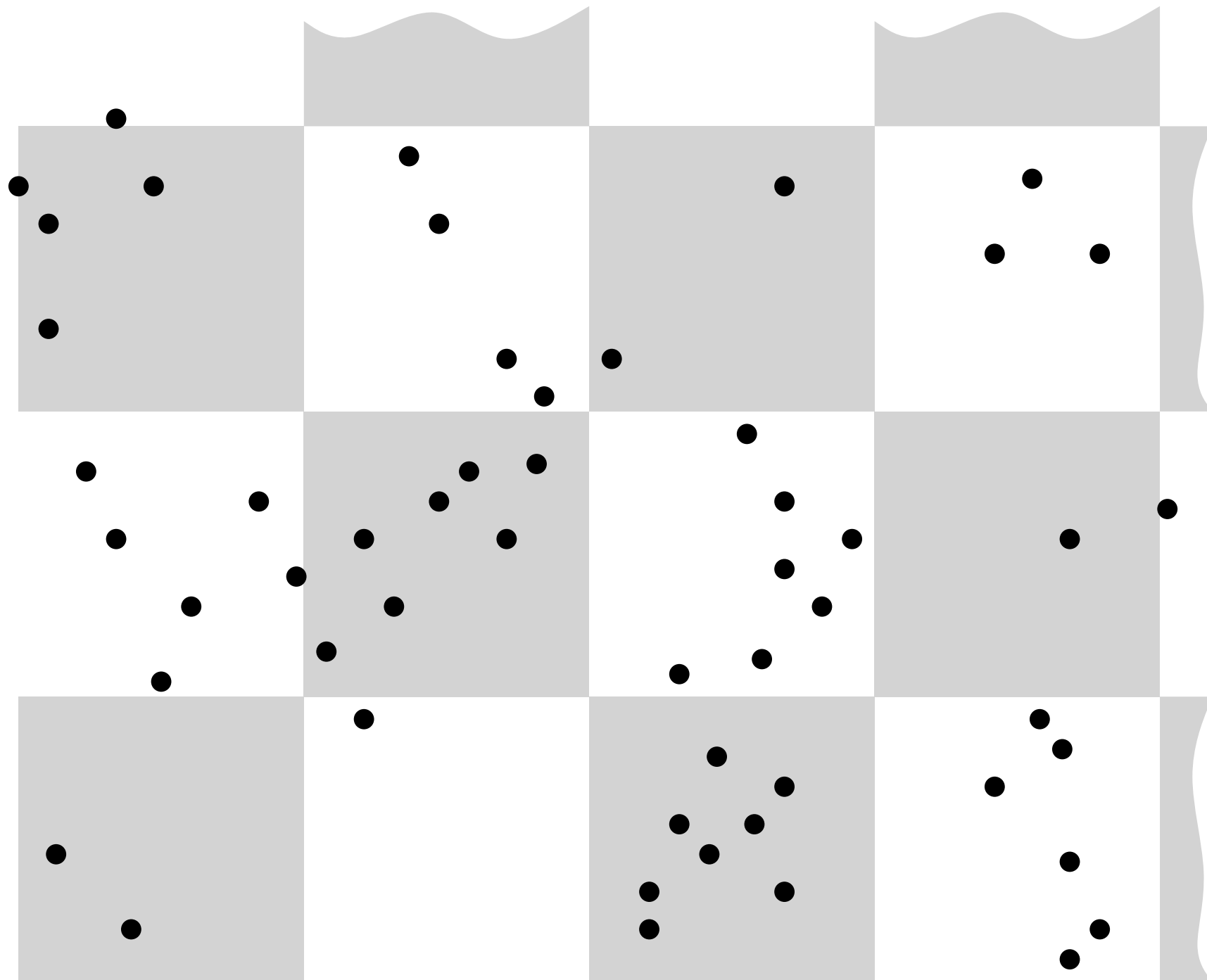
A grid-based approach?

Make a grid

Side length $\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$

(Assumes we can round down to a multiple of $\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$)

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



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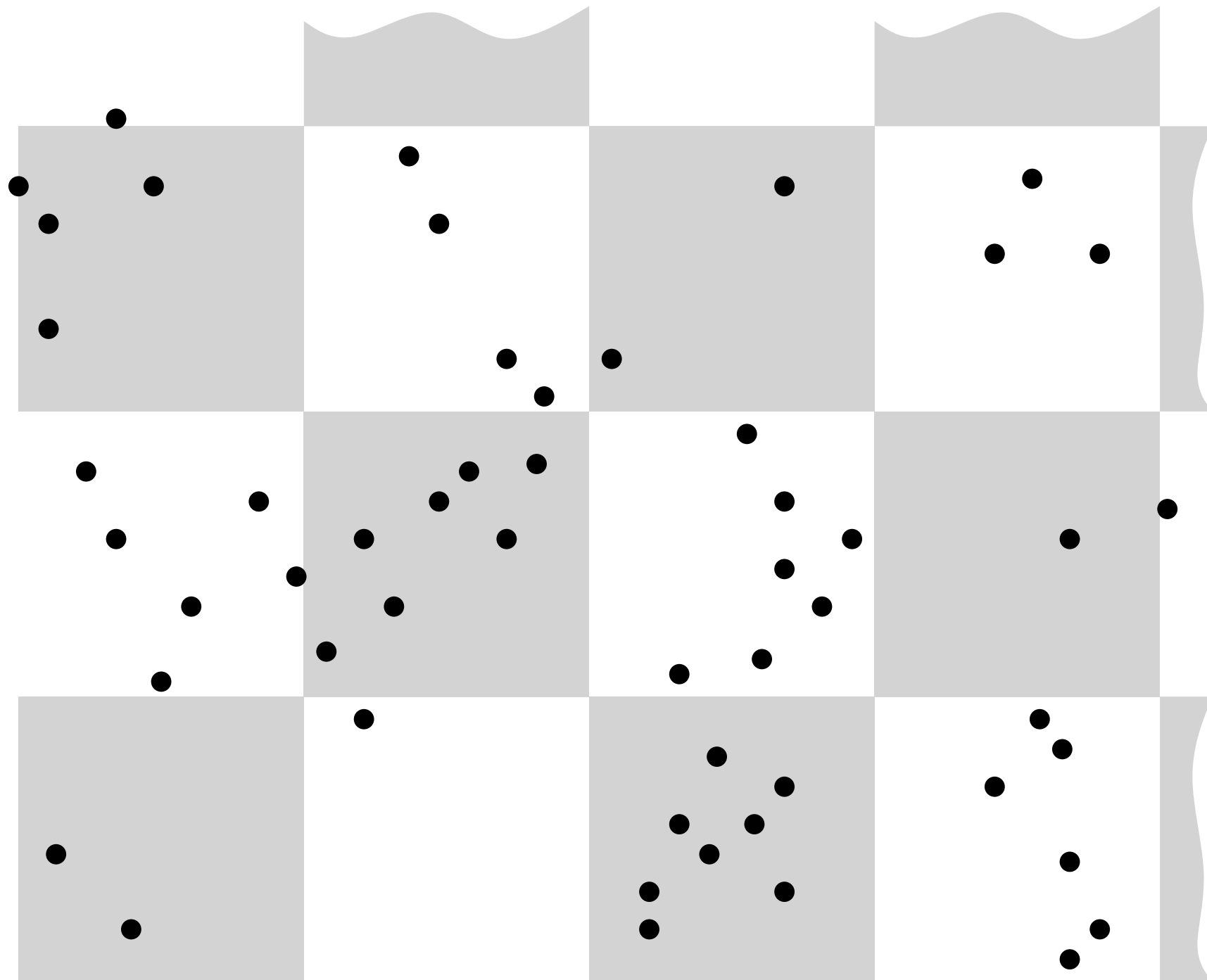
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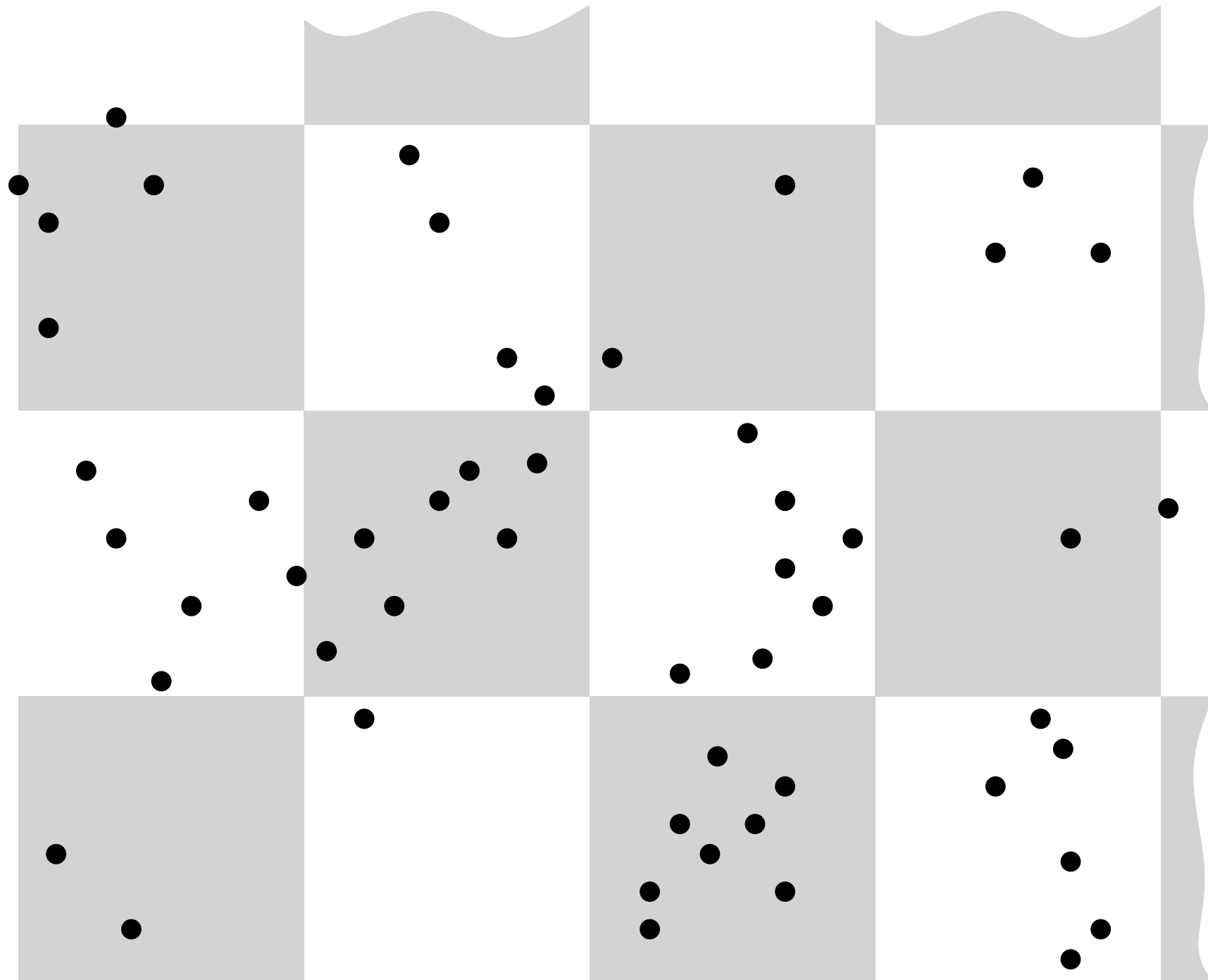
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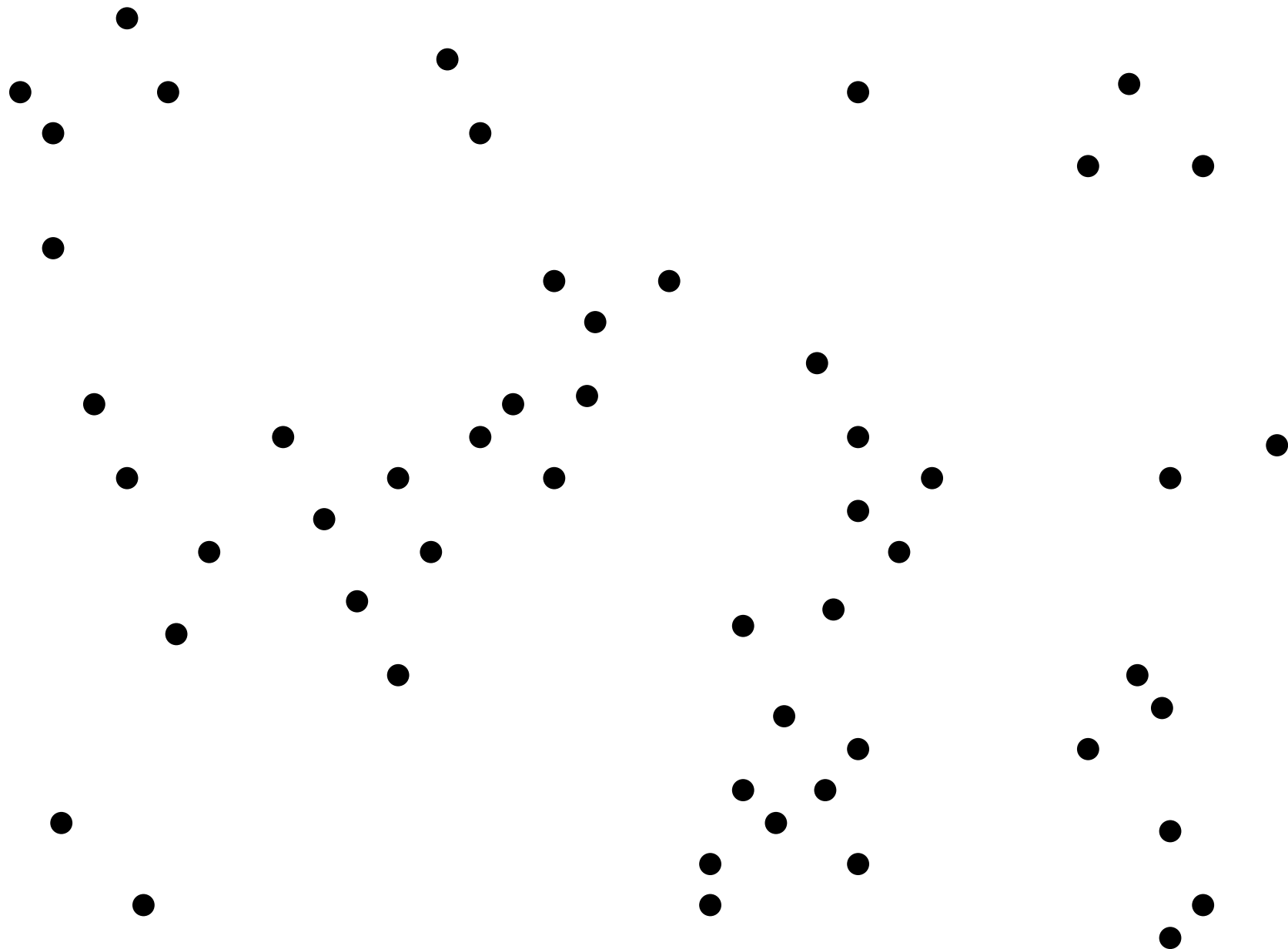
Connectivity within cells?

Between points in different cells?

Not clear how to get a runtime bound in n without assumption on the distribution.

Be more flexible...

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



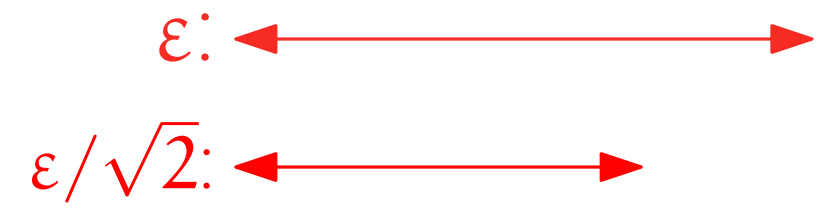
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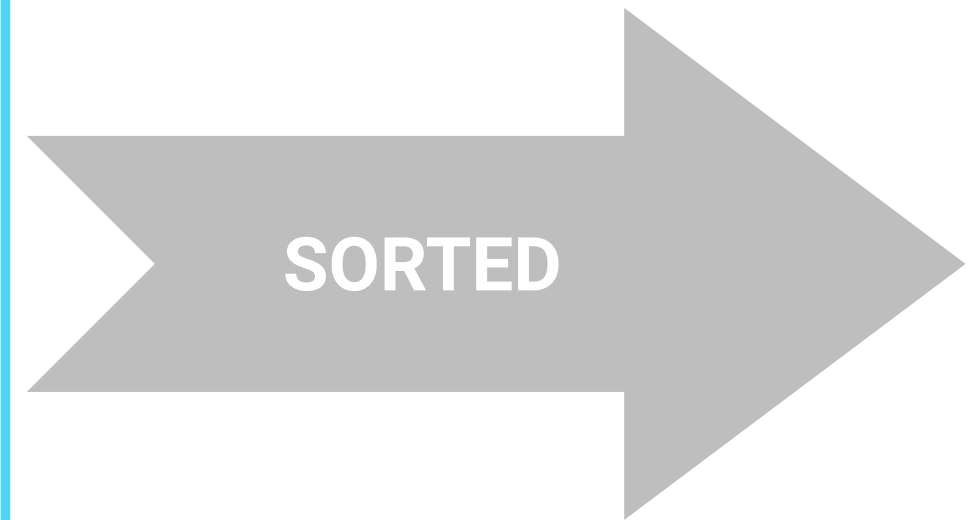


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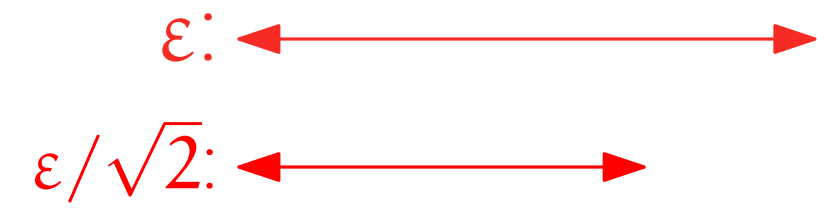


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Add points as long as
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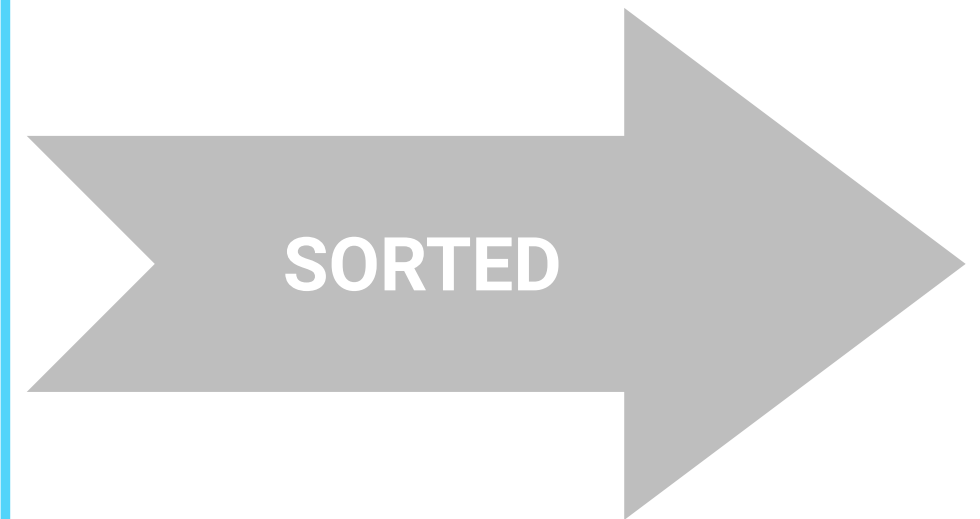


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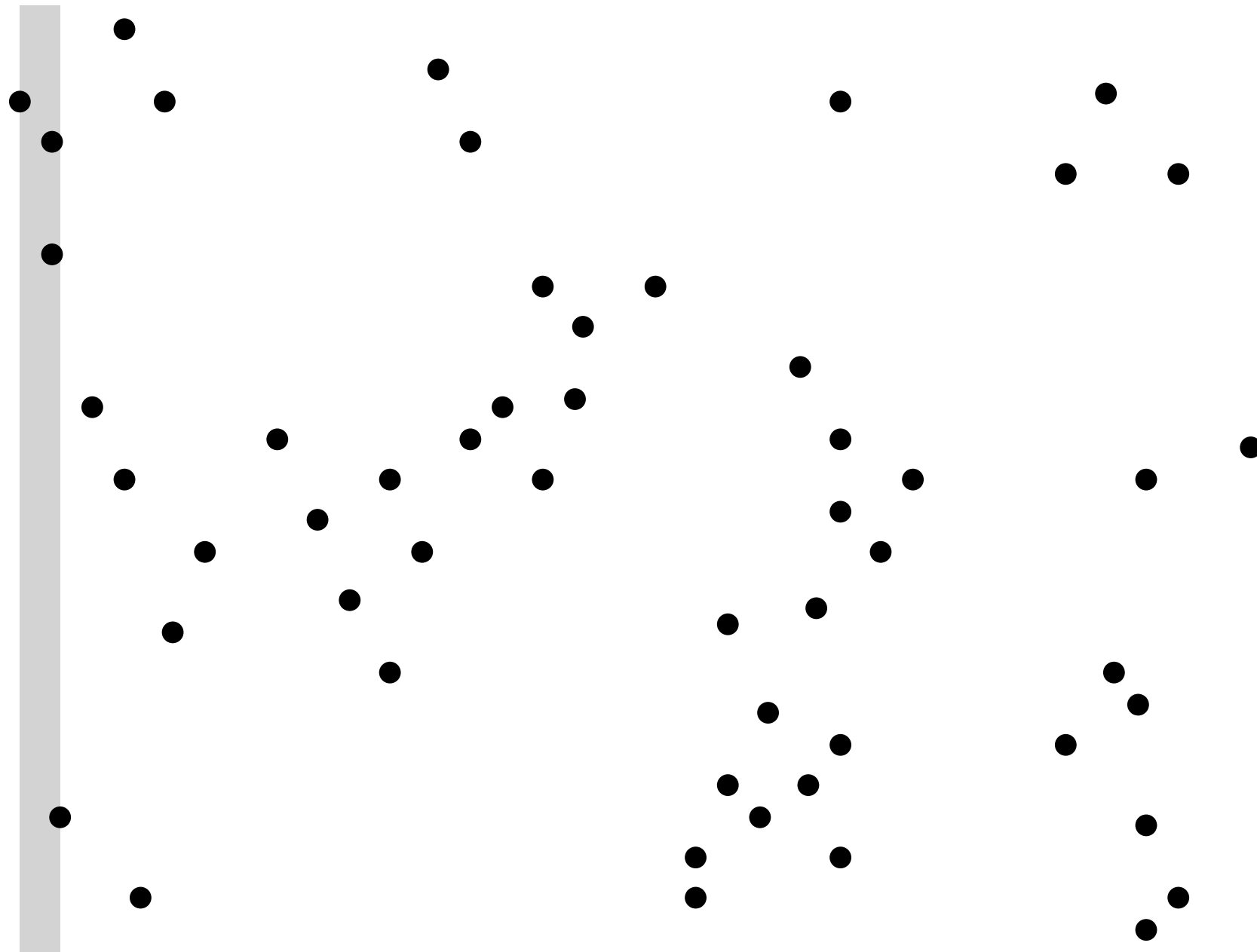


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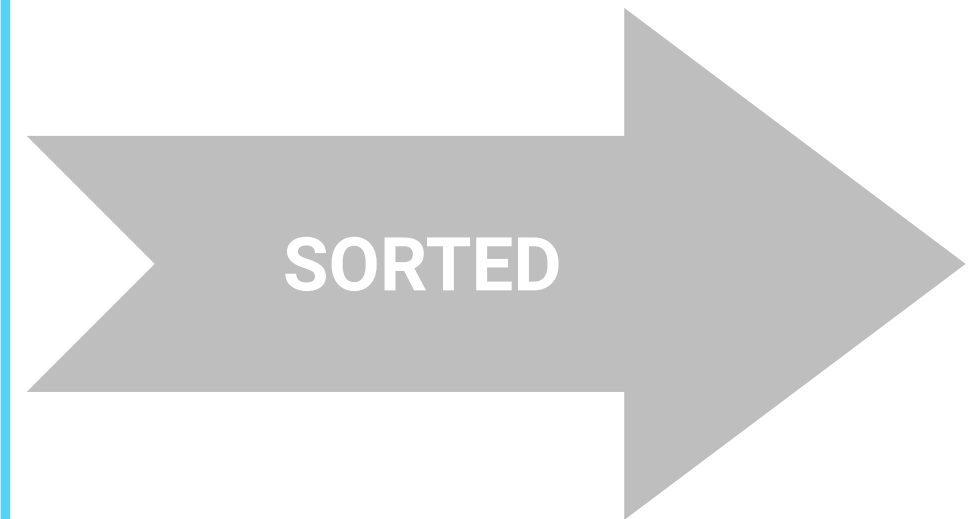


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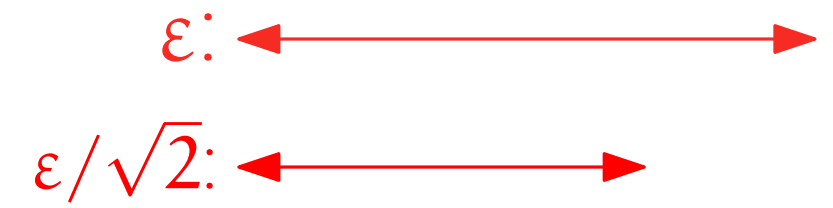


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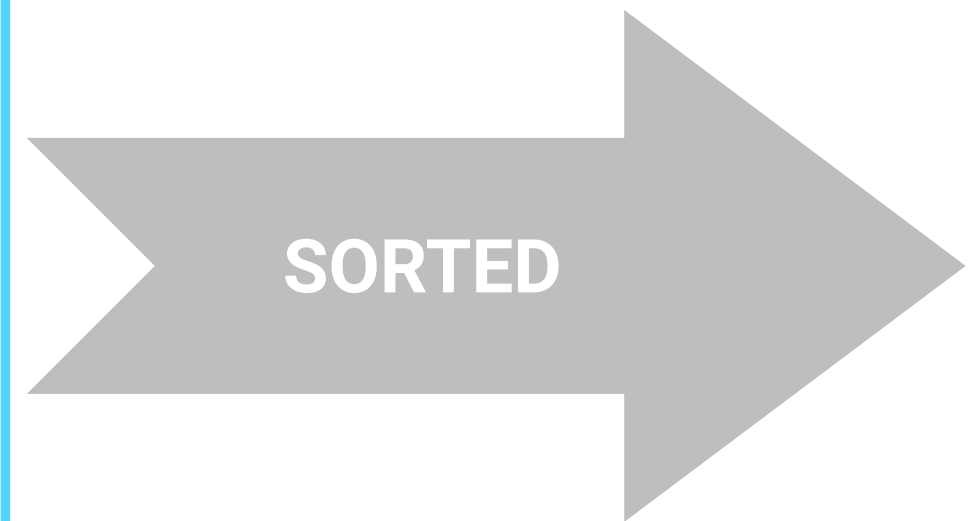


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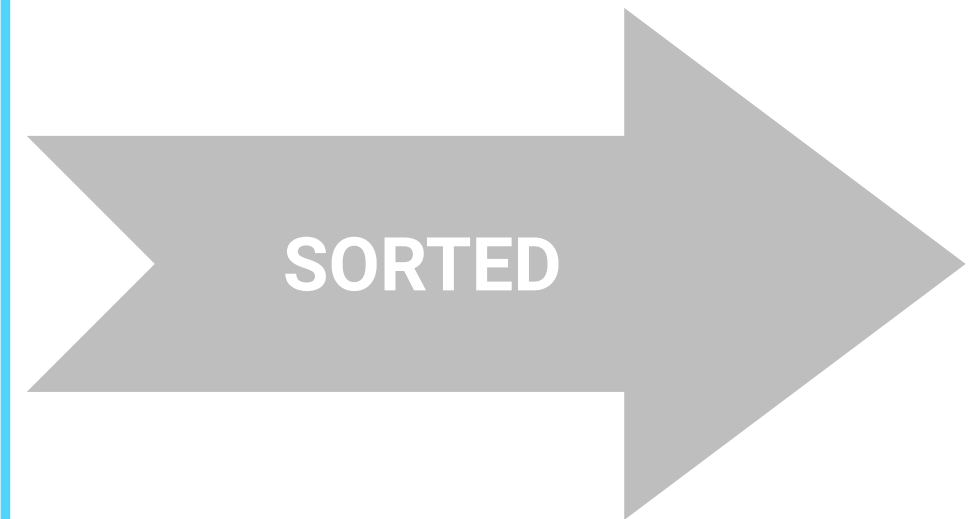


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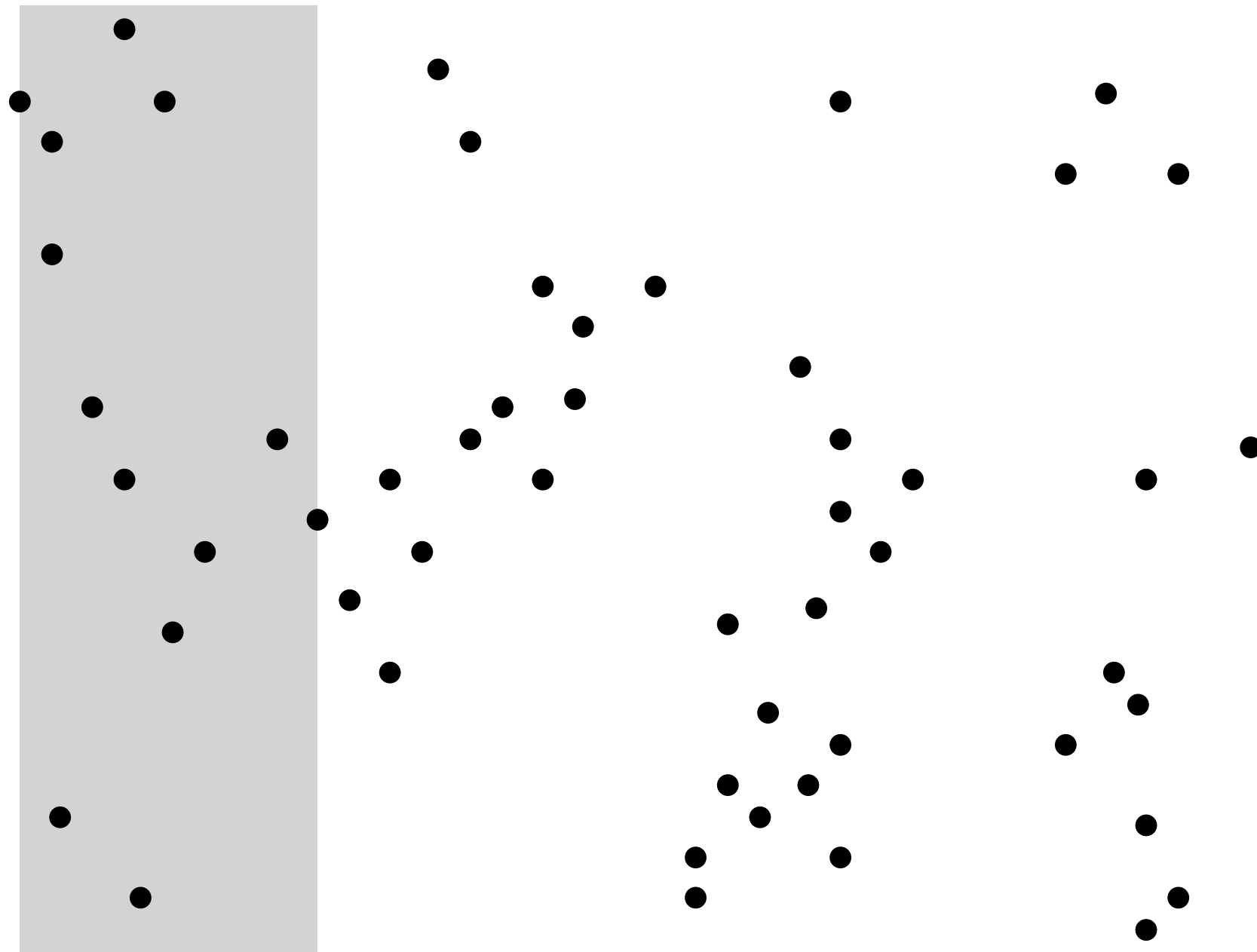




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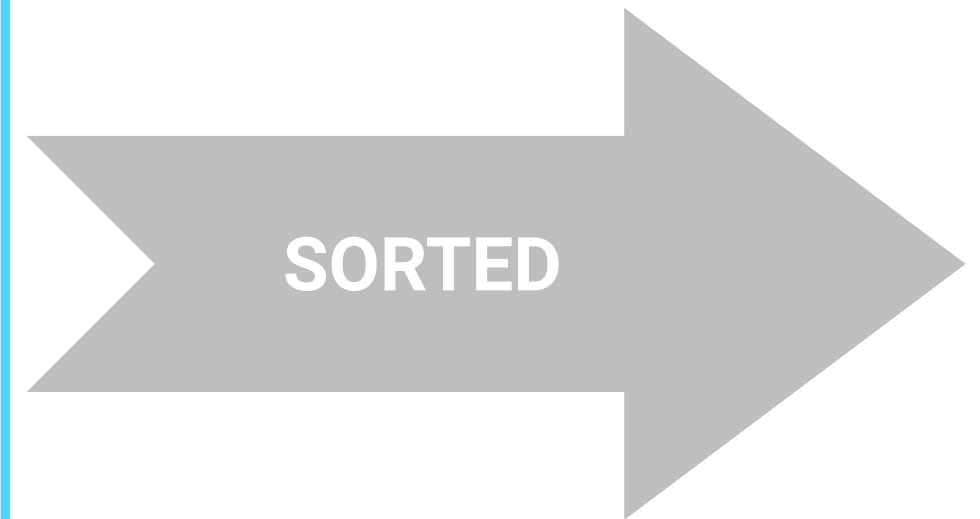
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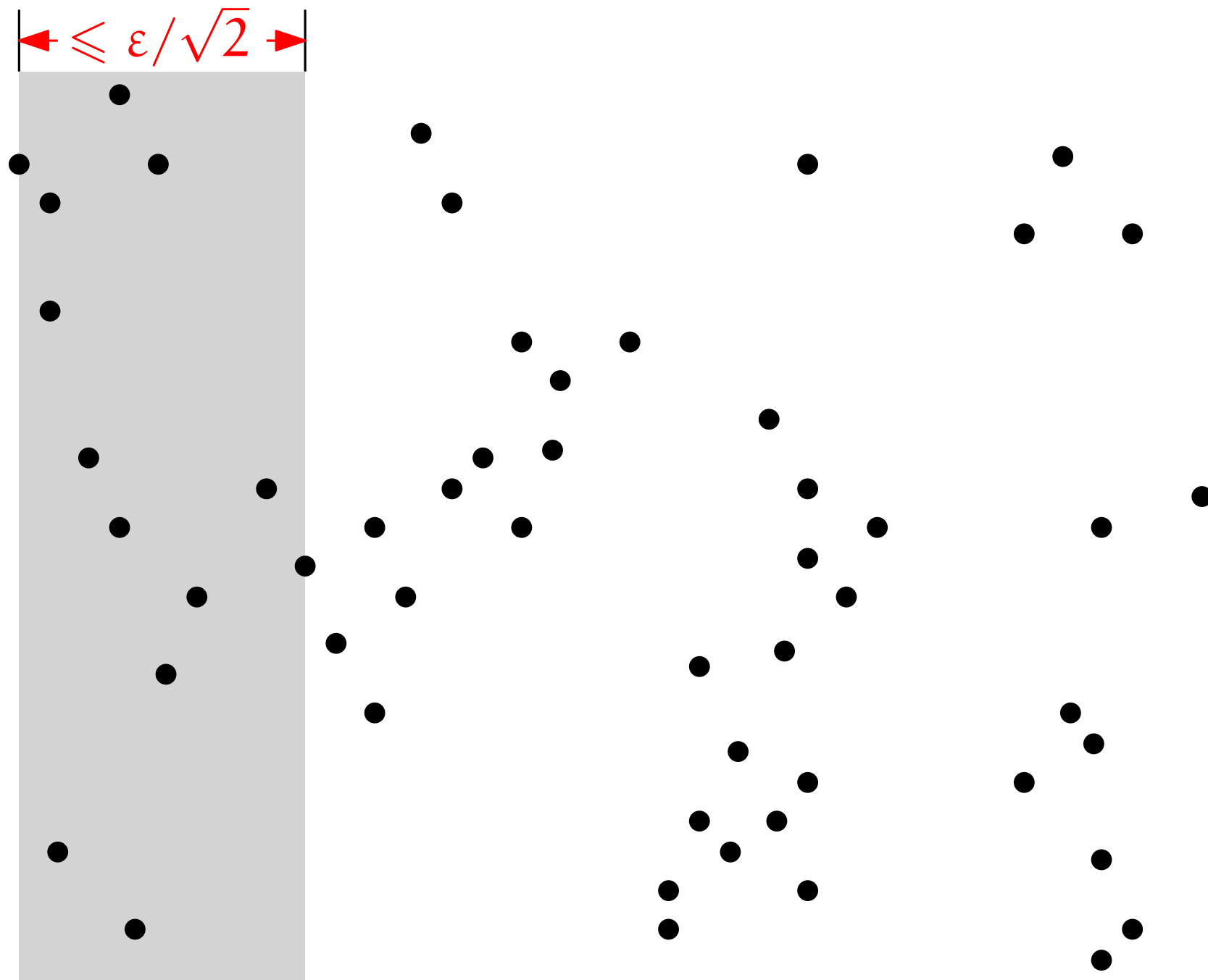
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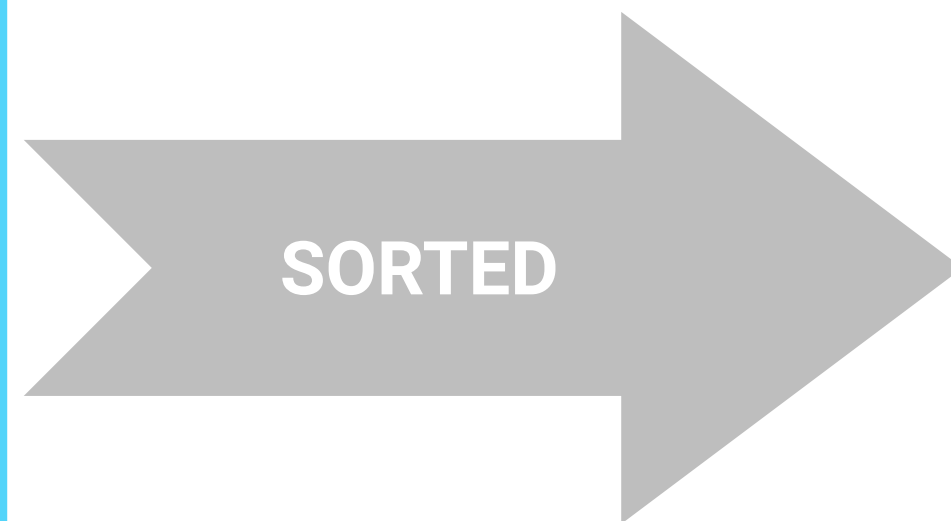


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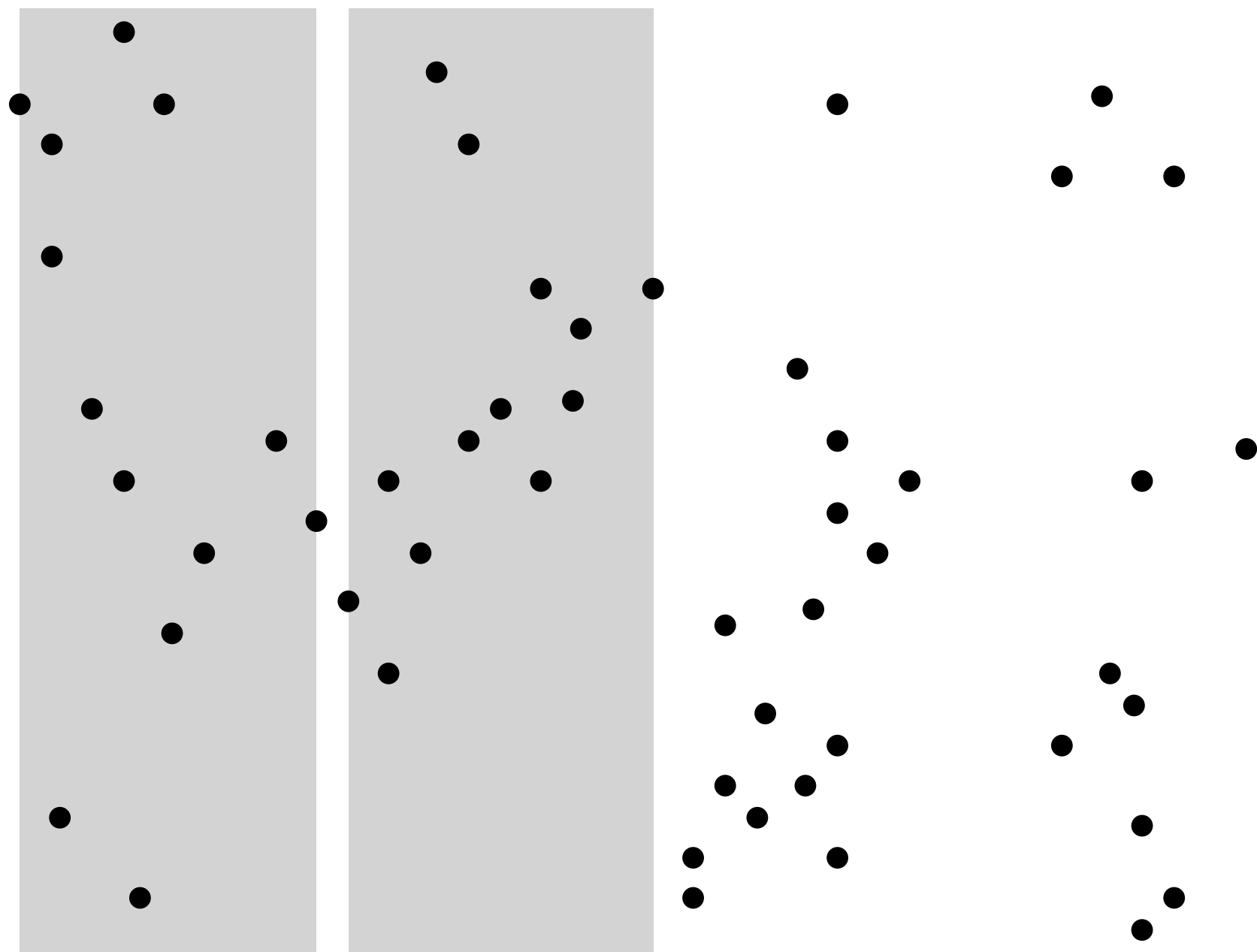


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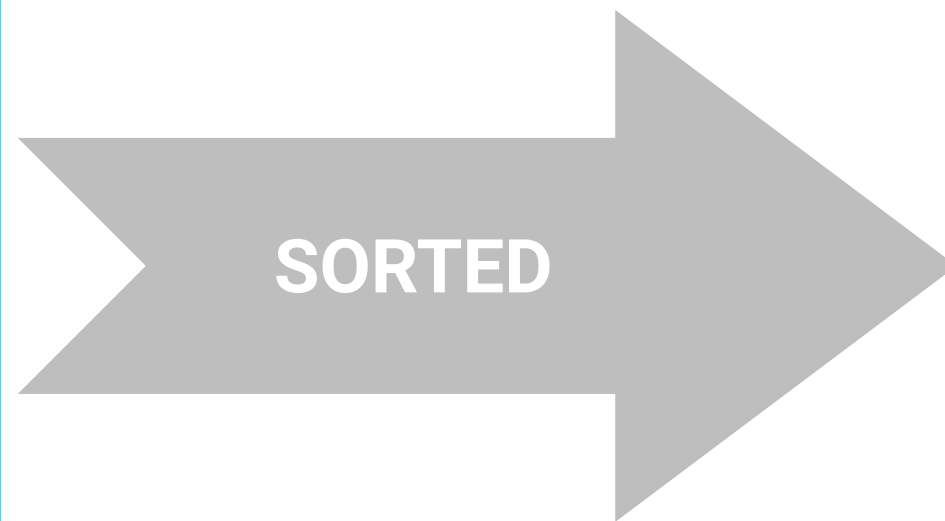
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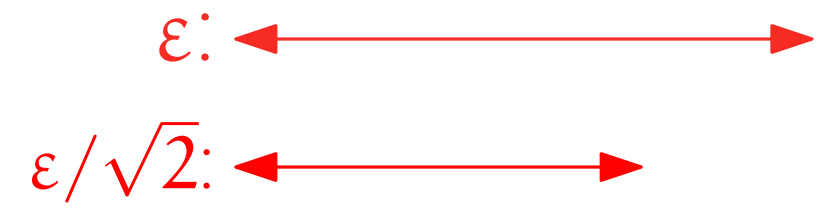
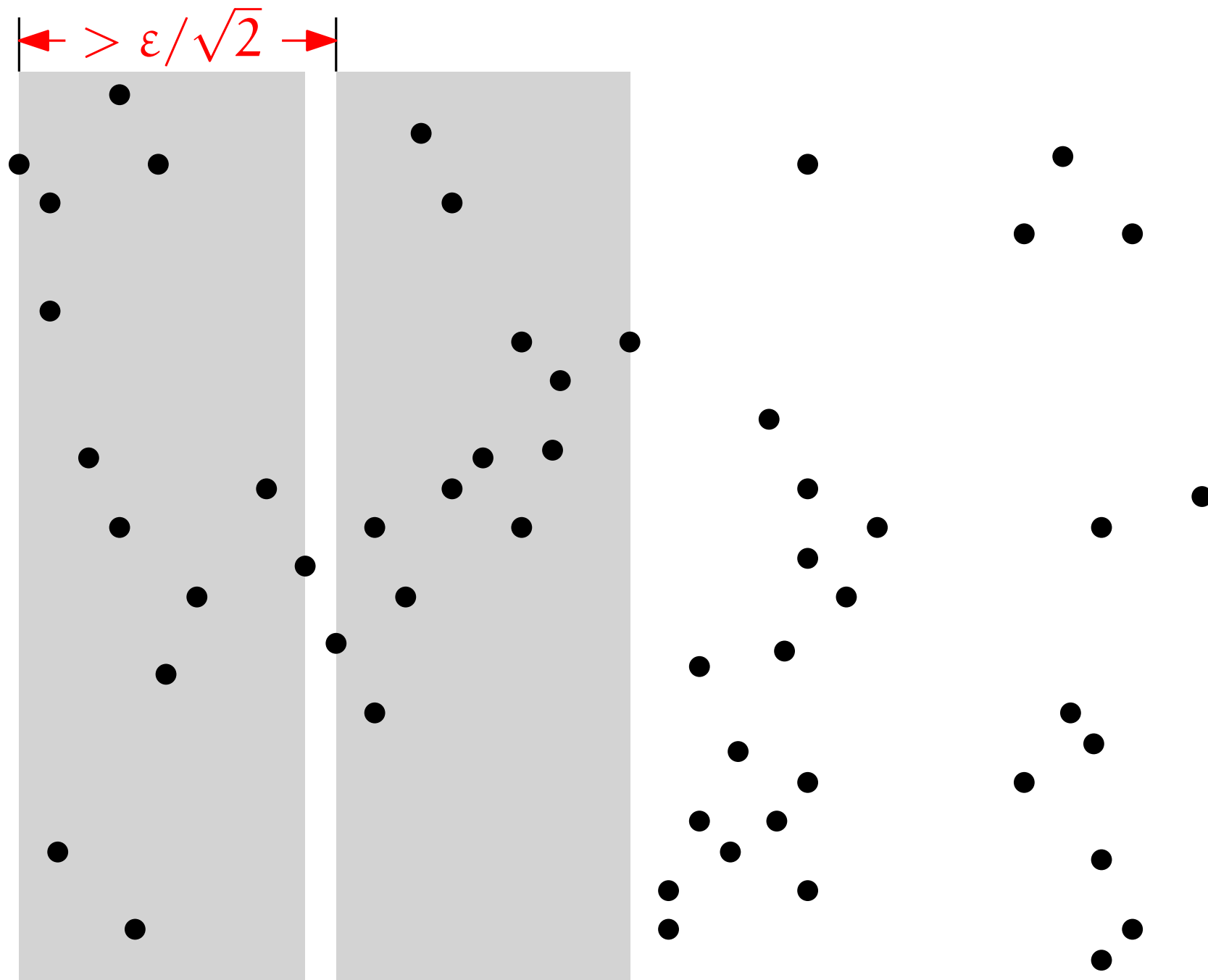
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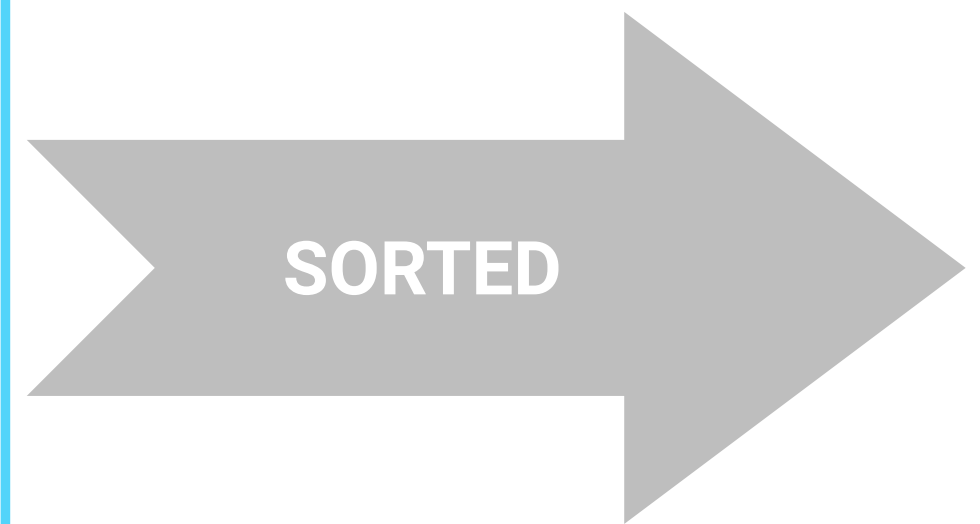


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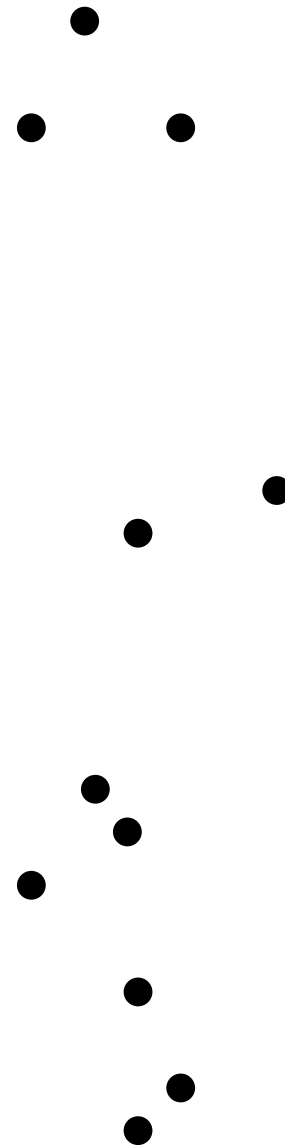
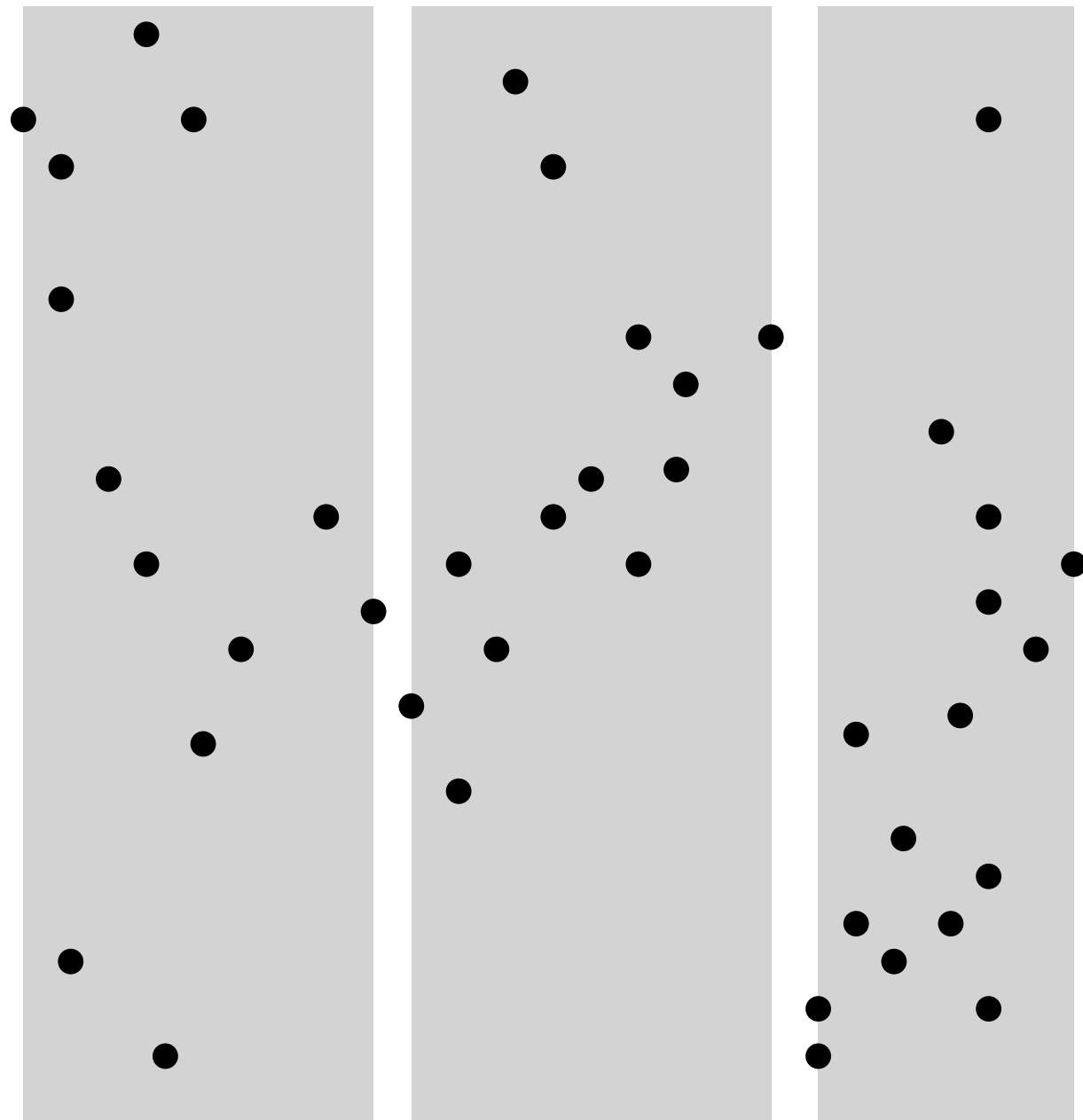


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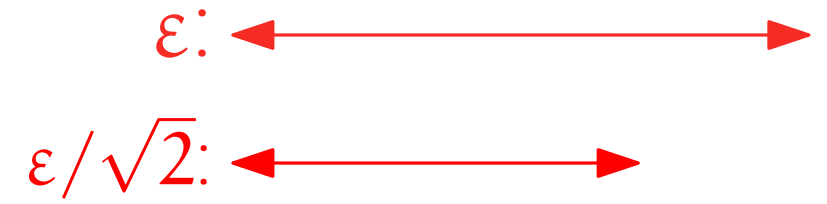
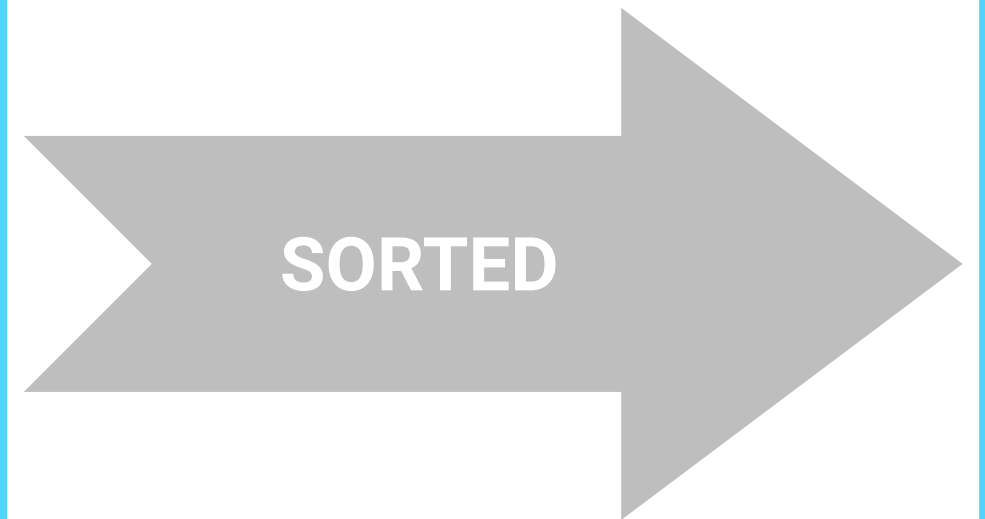


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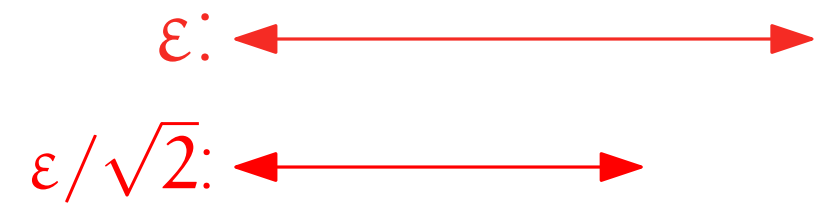
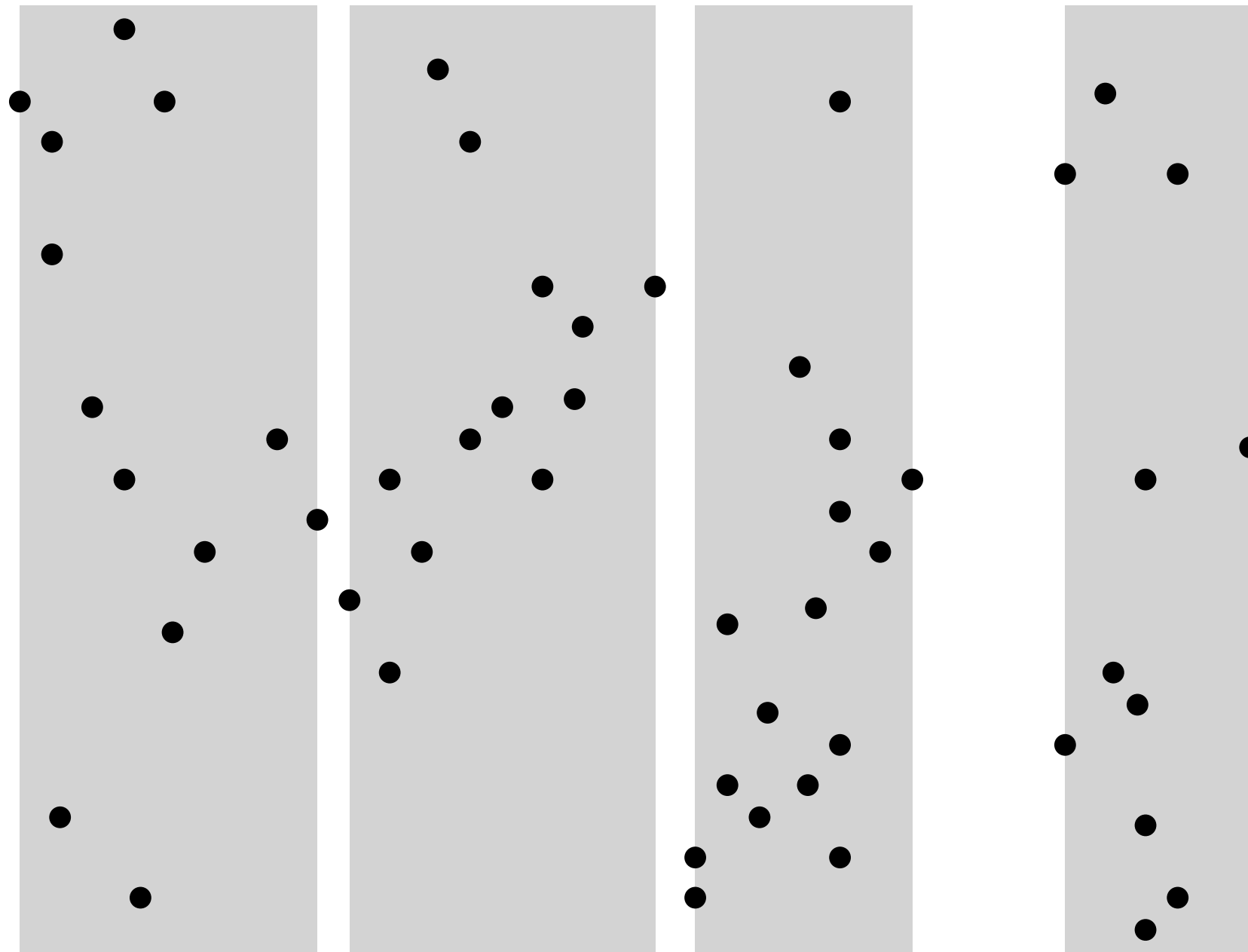


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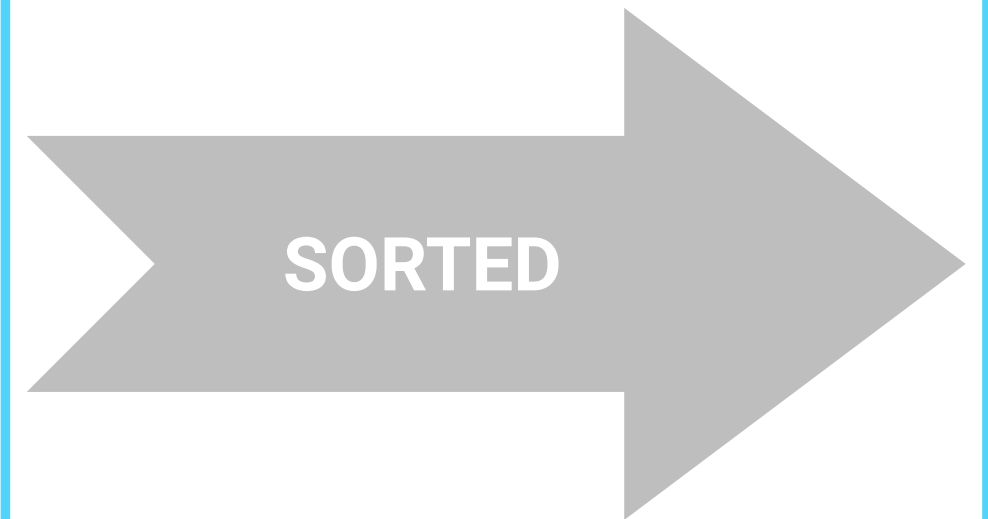


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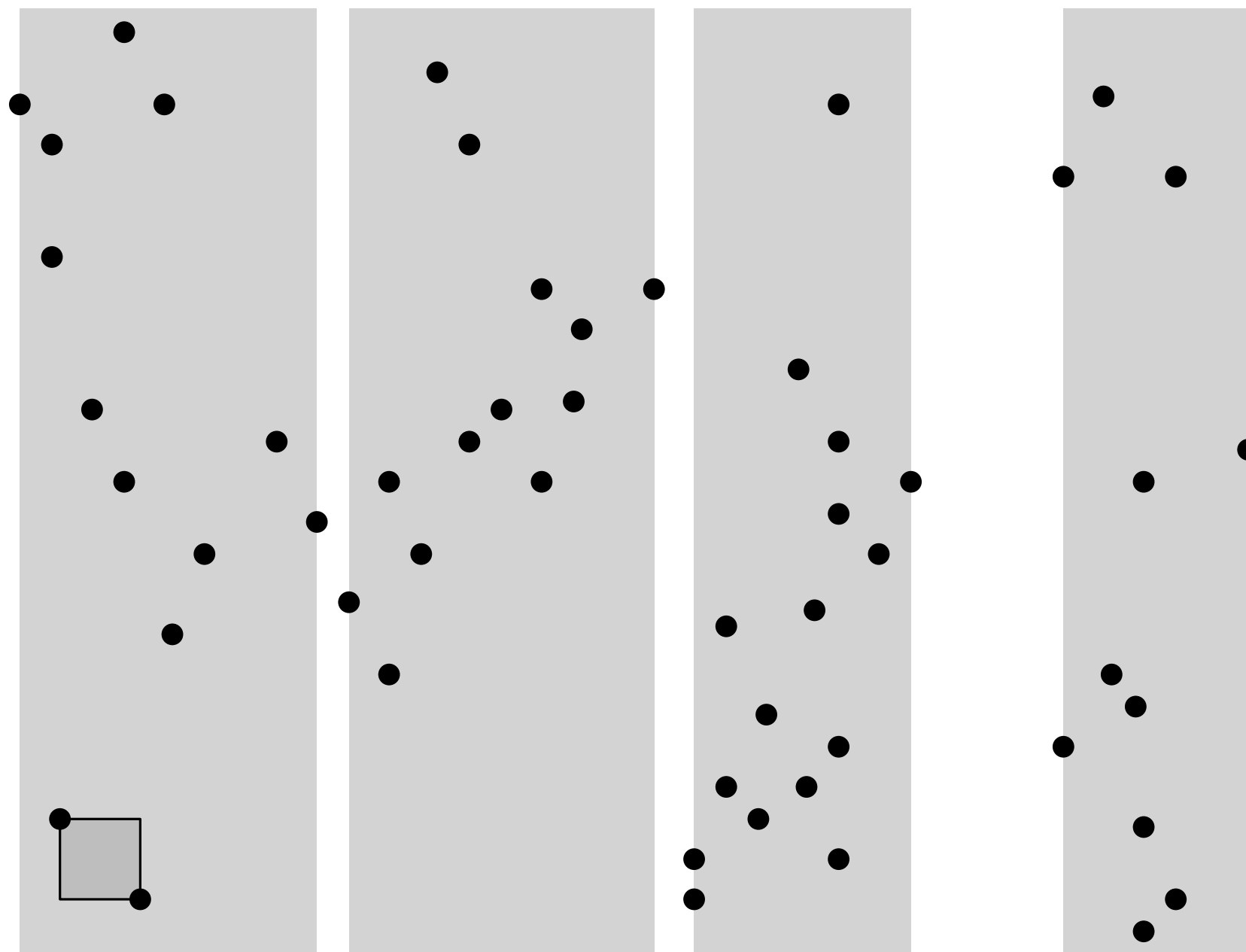


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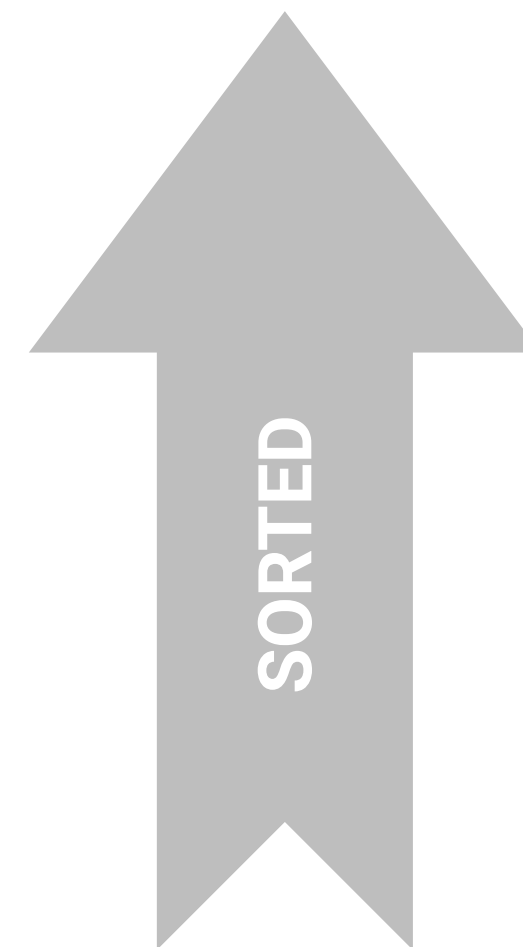
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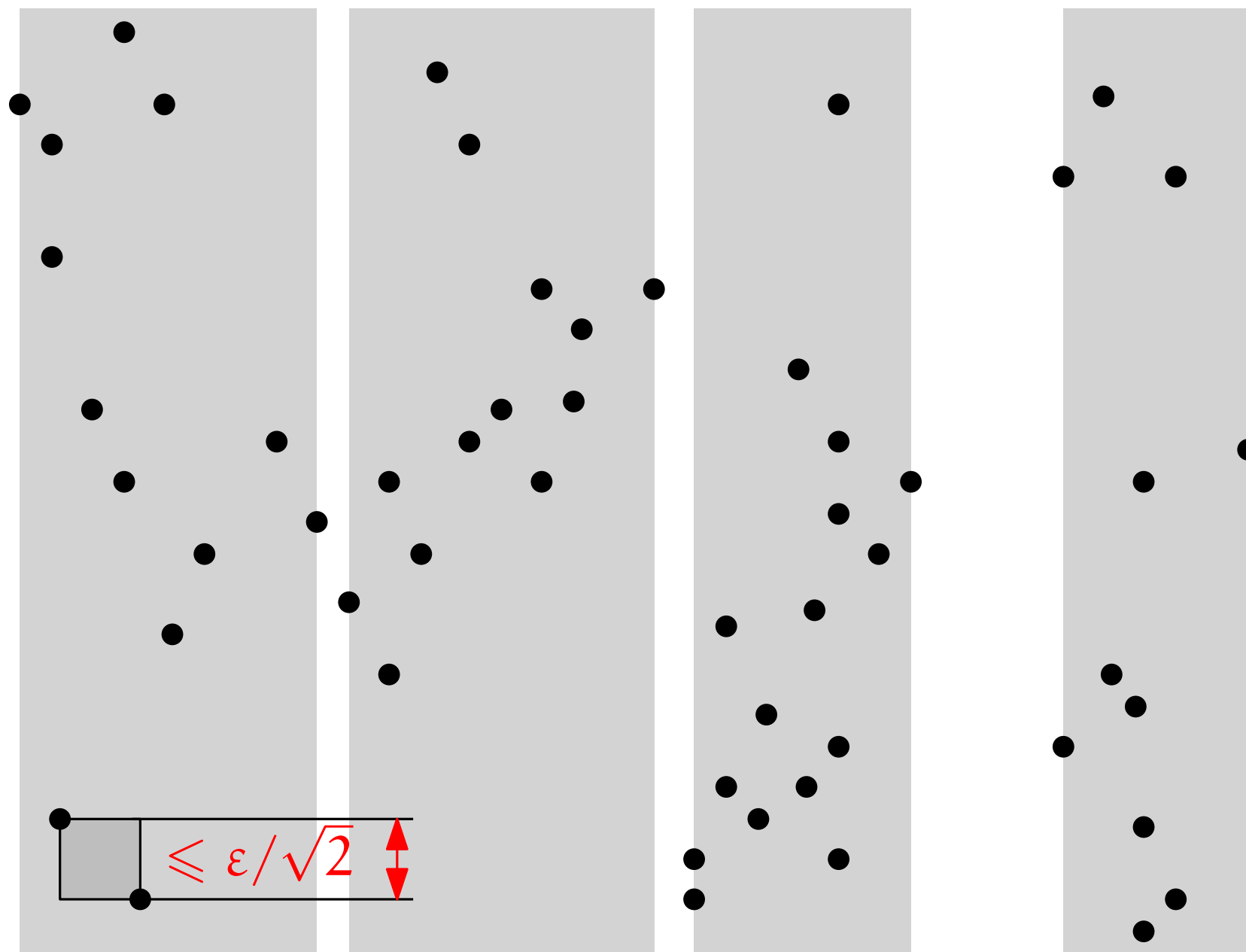
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Per strip: add points to box as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.



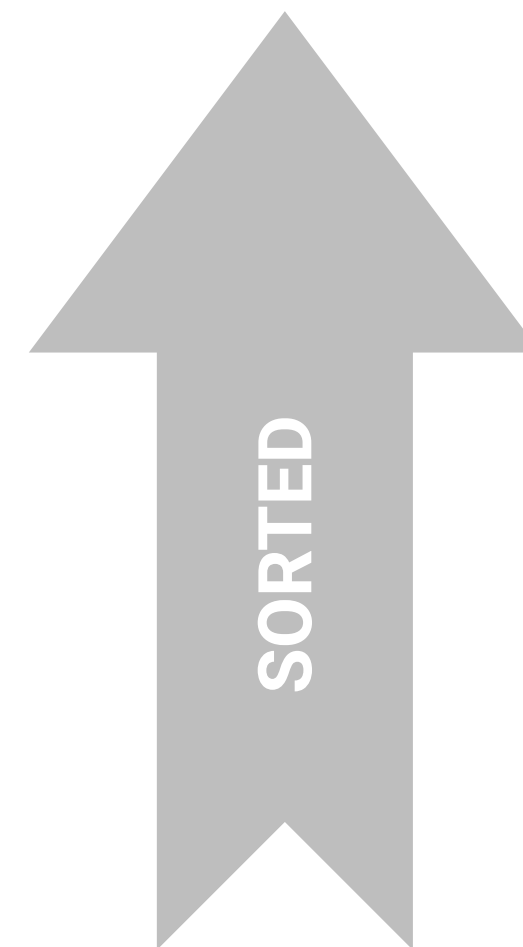
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



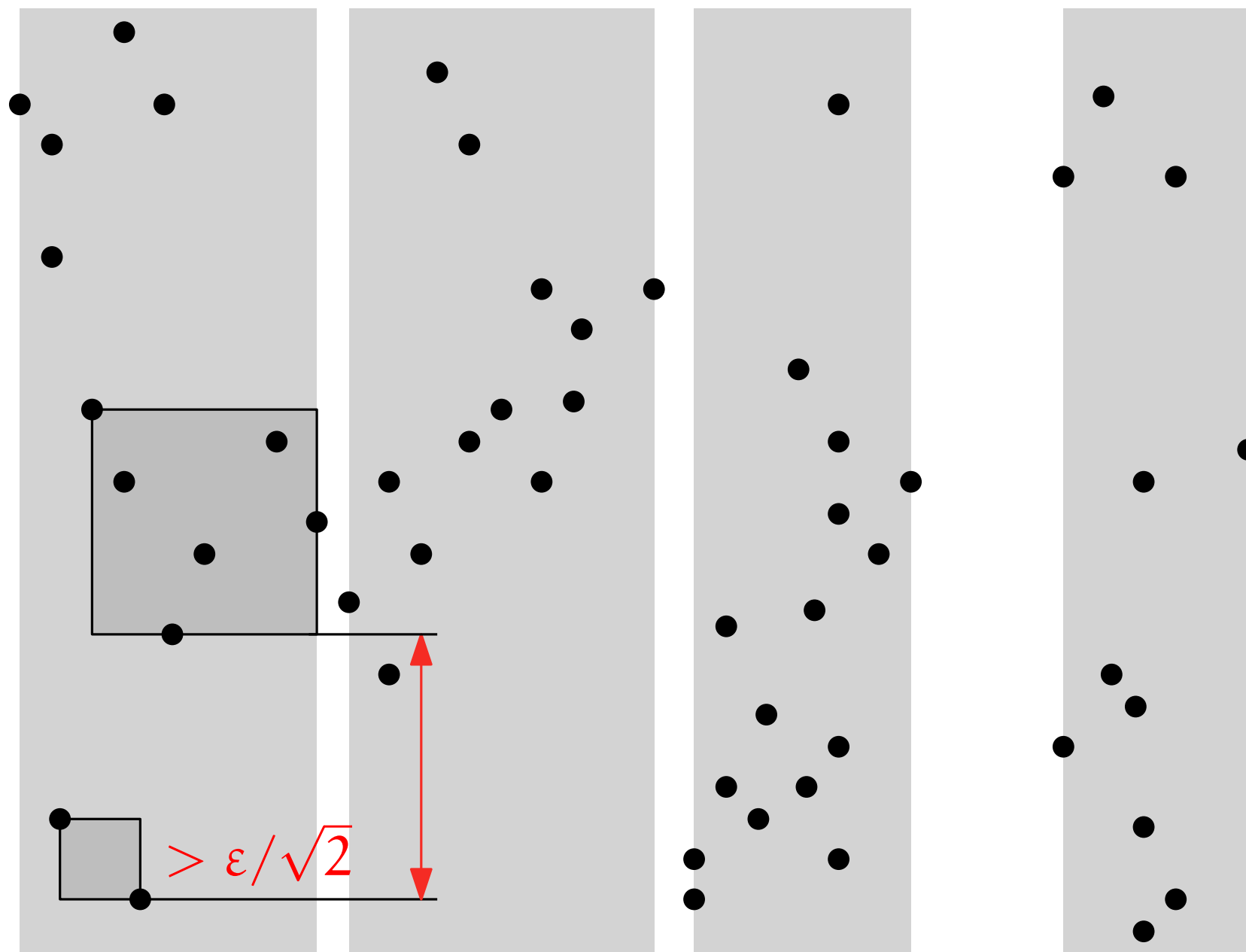
1. Construct boxes

Add points as long as strip width $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

Per strip: add points to box as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.



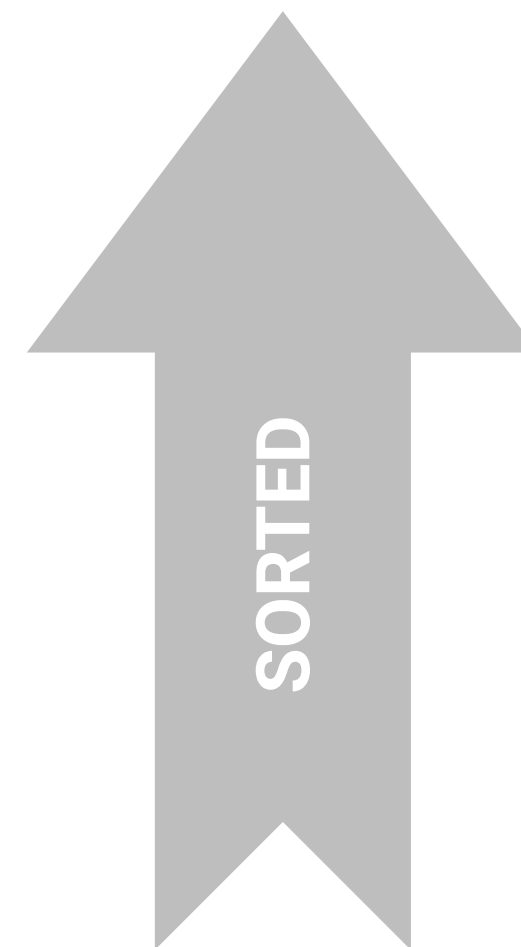
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



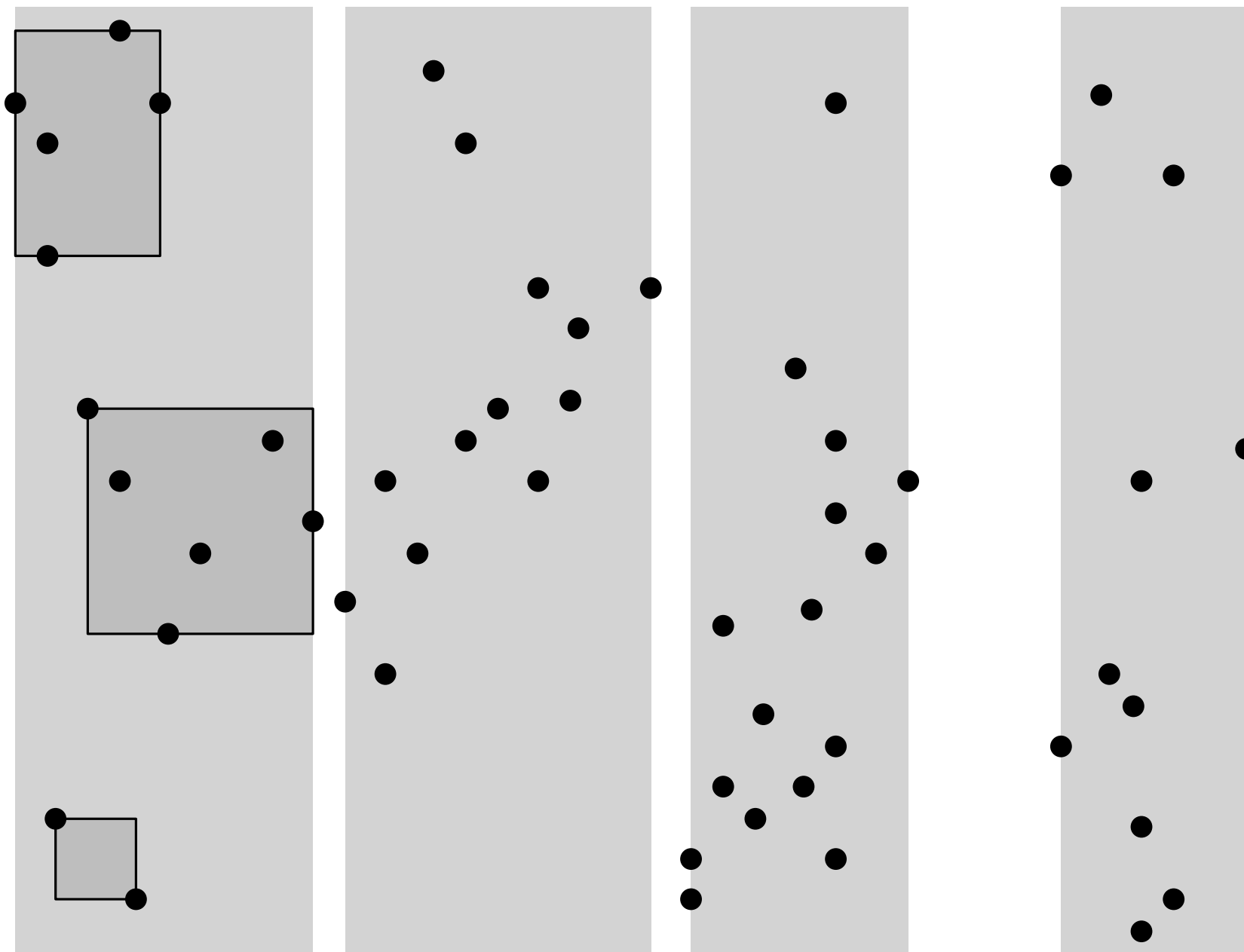
1. Construct boxes

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Per strip: add points to box as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.



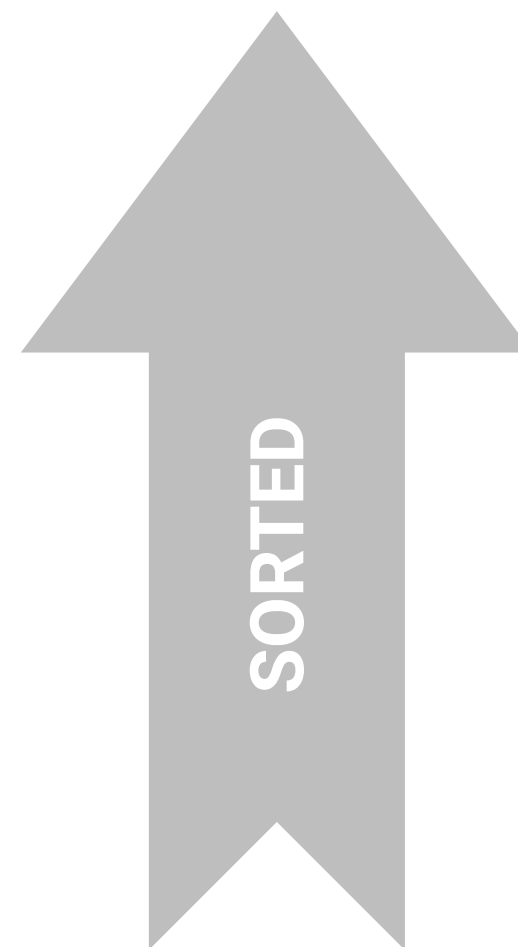
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



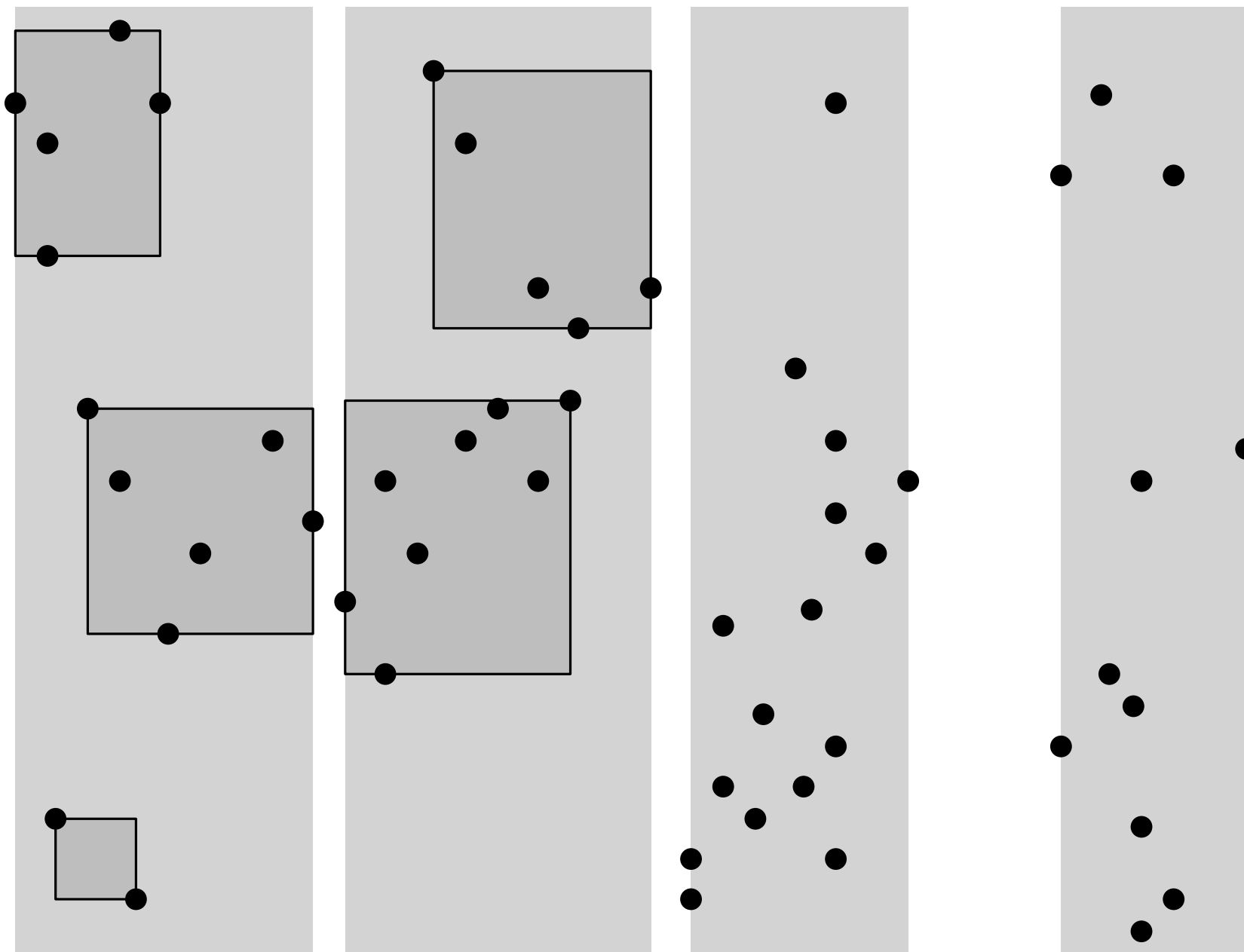
1. Construct boxes

Add points as long as strip width $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

Per strip: add points to box as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.



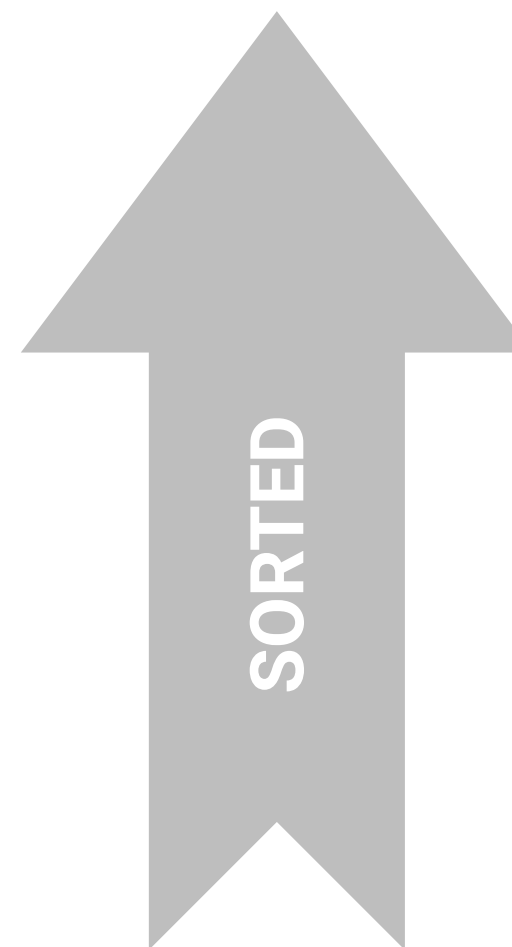
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



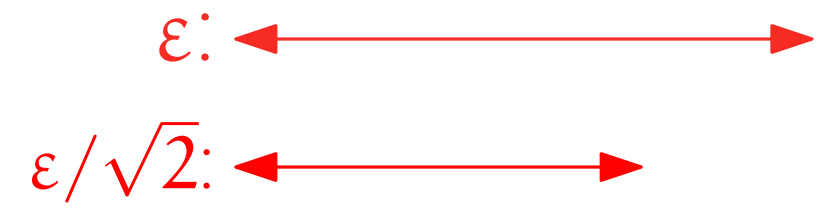
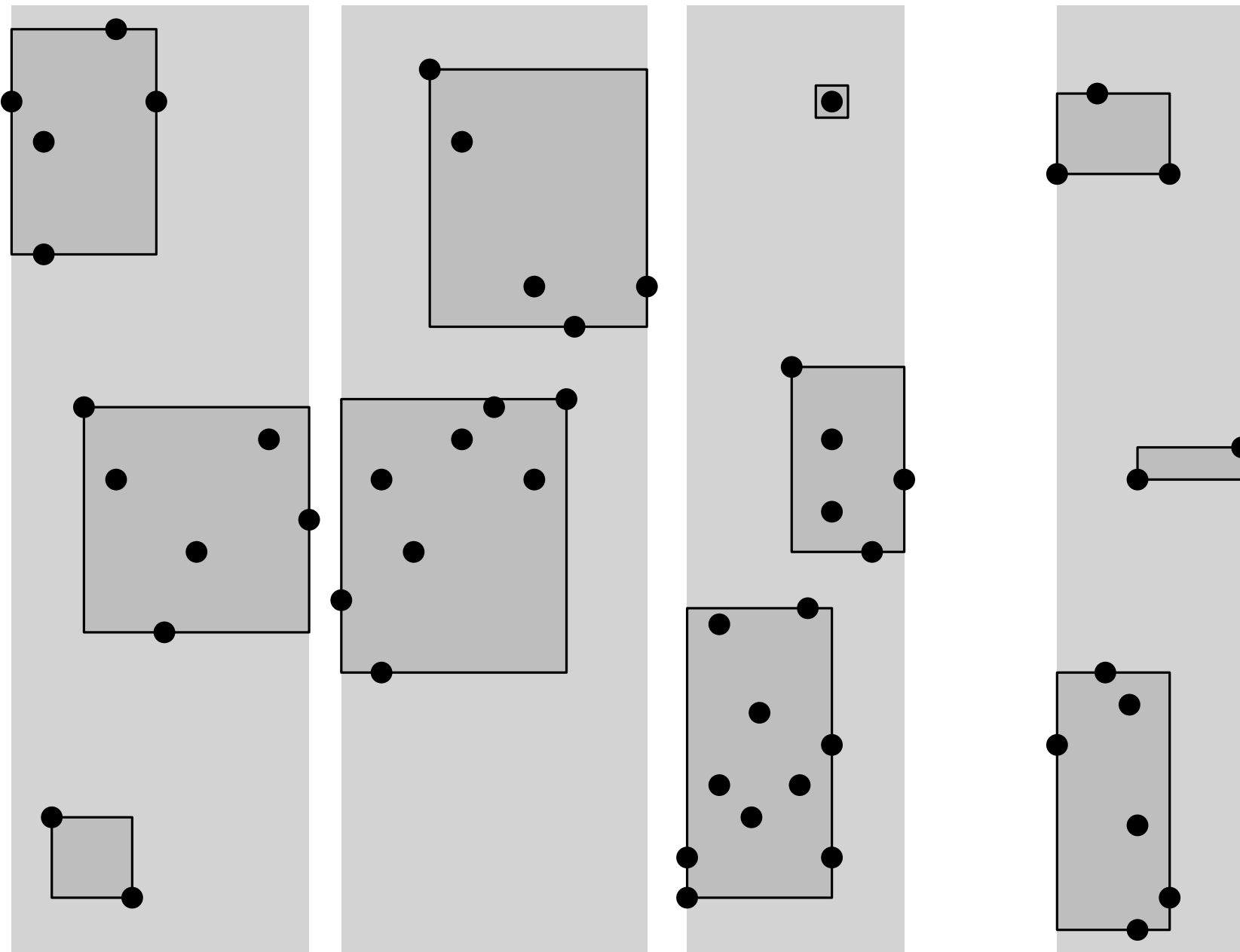
1. Construct boxes

Add points as long as strip width $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

Per strip: add points to box as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.



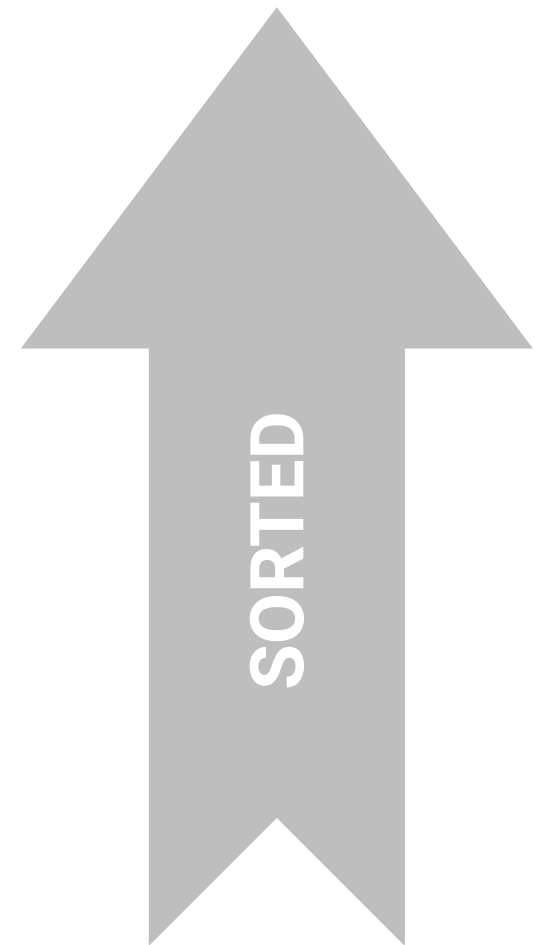
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



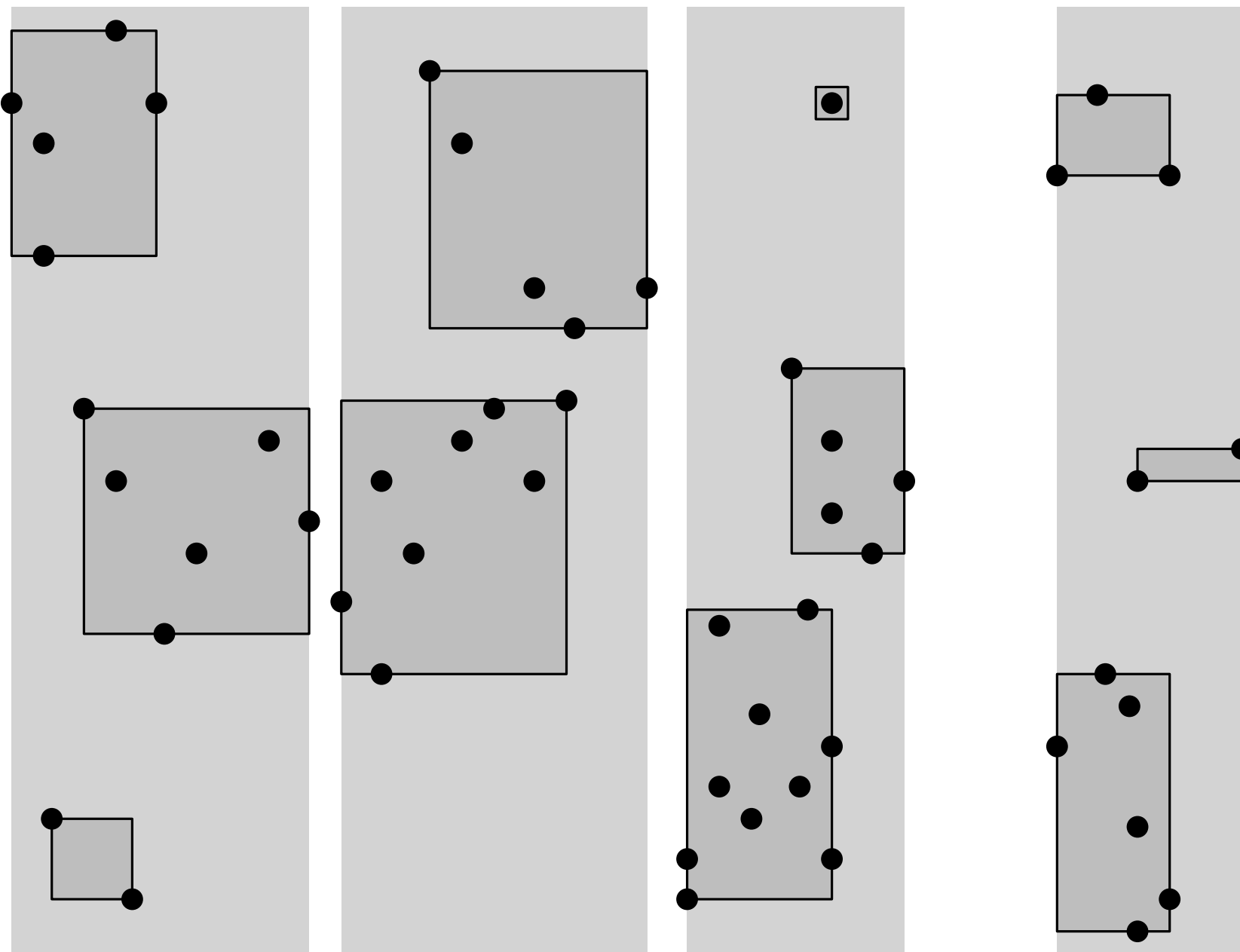
1. Construct boxes

Add points as long as
strip width $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

Per strip: add points to box
as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.



Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



1. Construct boxes

Add points as long as
strip width $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

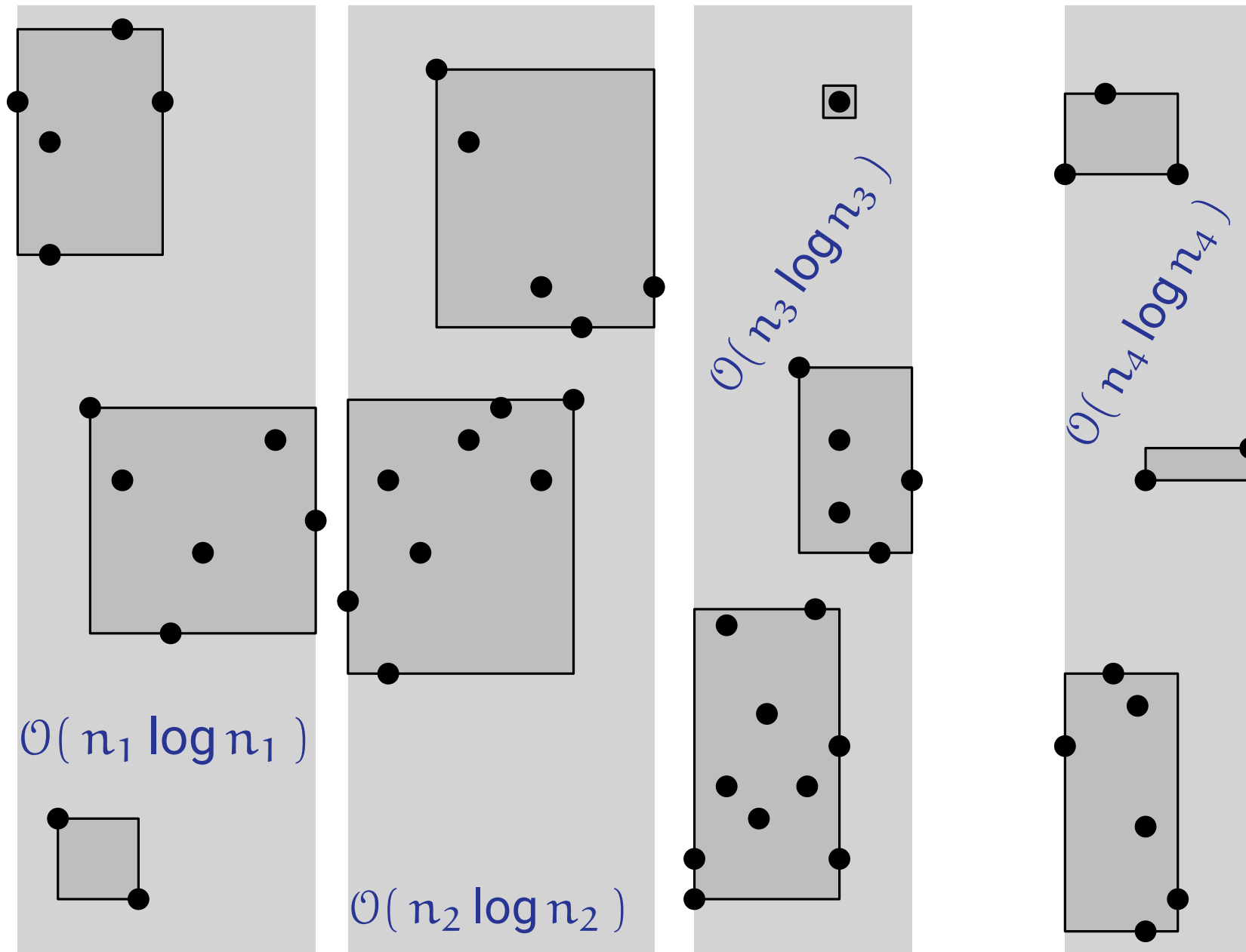
Per strip: add points to box
as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

Runtime:

Sort by x

$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



1. Construct boxes

Add points as long as strip width $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

Per strip: add points to box as long as height $\leq \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$.

Runtime:

Sort by x

$$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$$

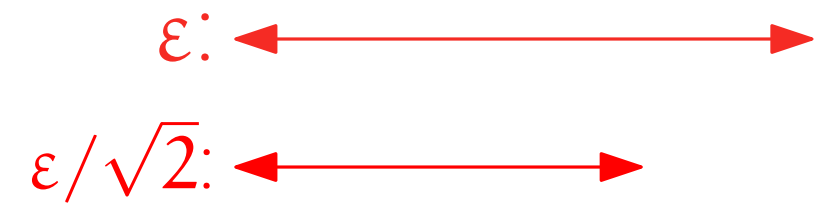
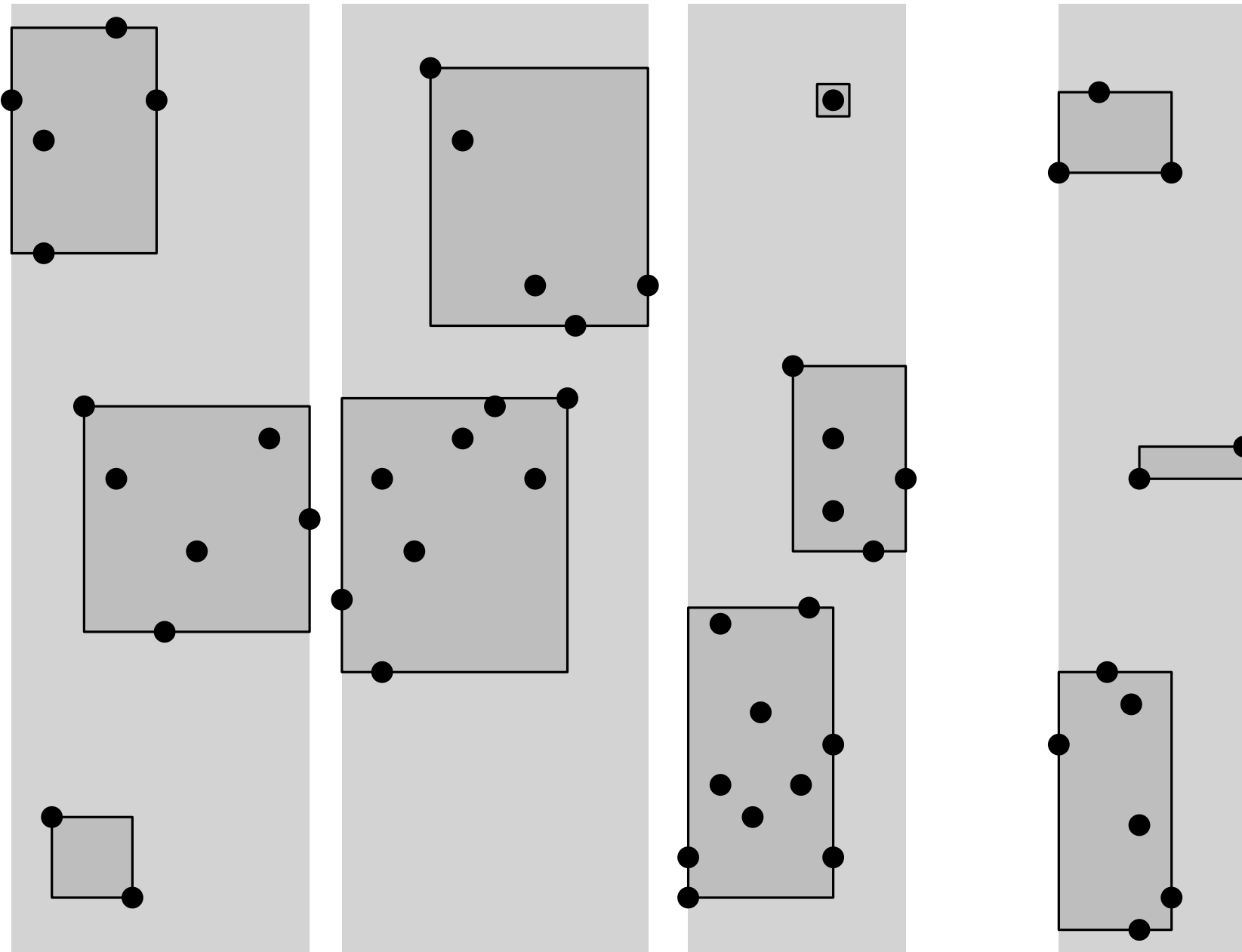
Sort by y per strip

$$\sum_j \mathcal{O}(n_j \log n_j)$$

Total

$$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$$

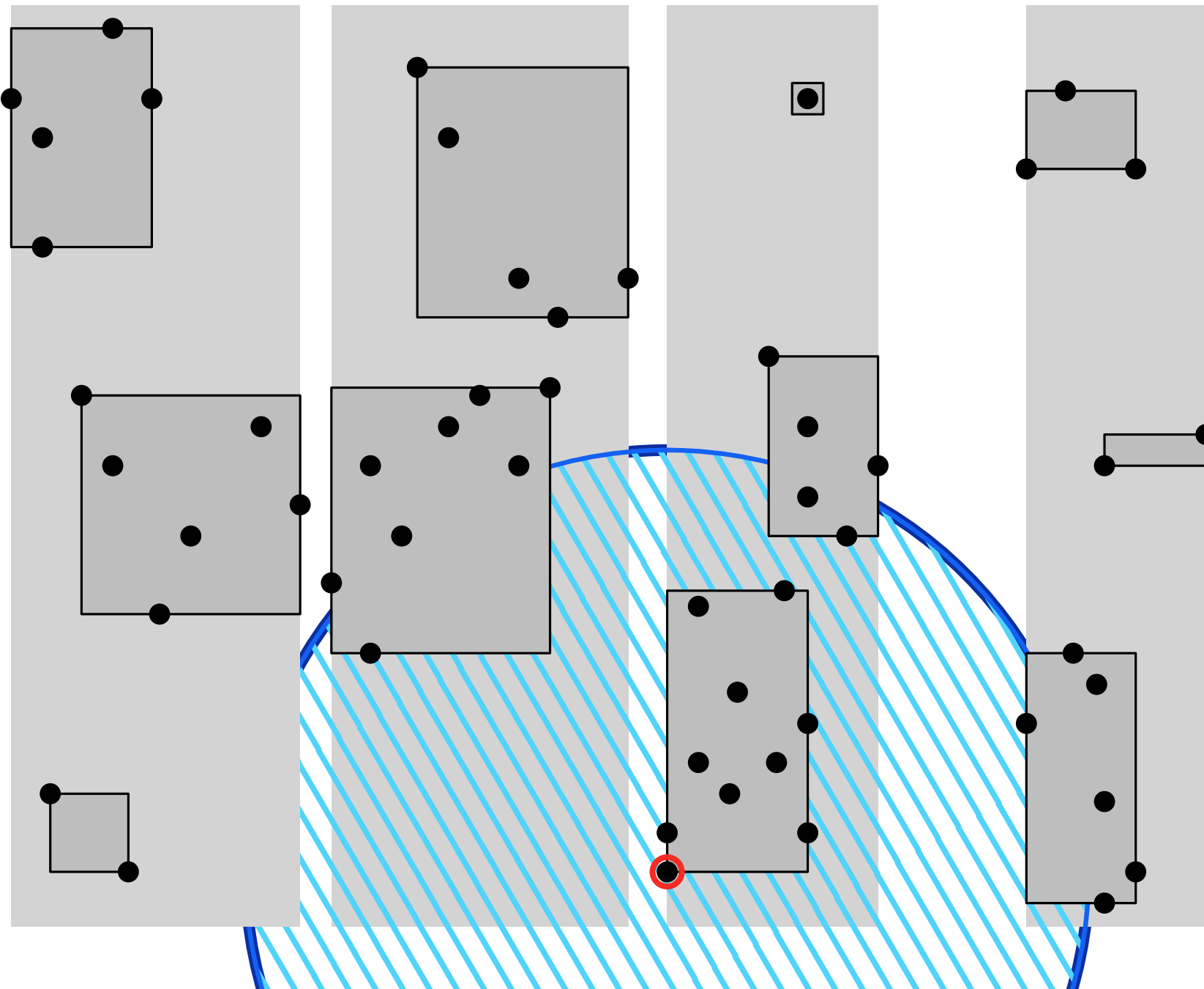
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}




Property of single boxes

All points within a box...

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



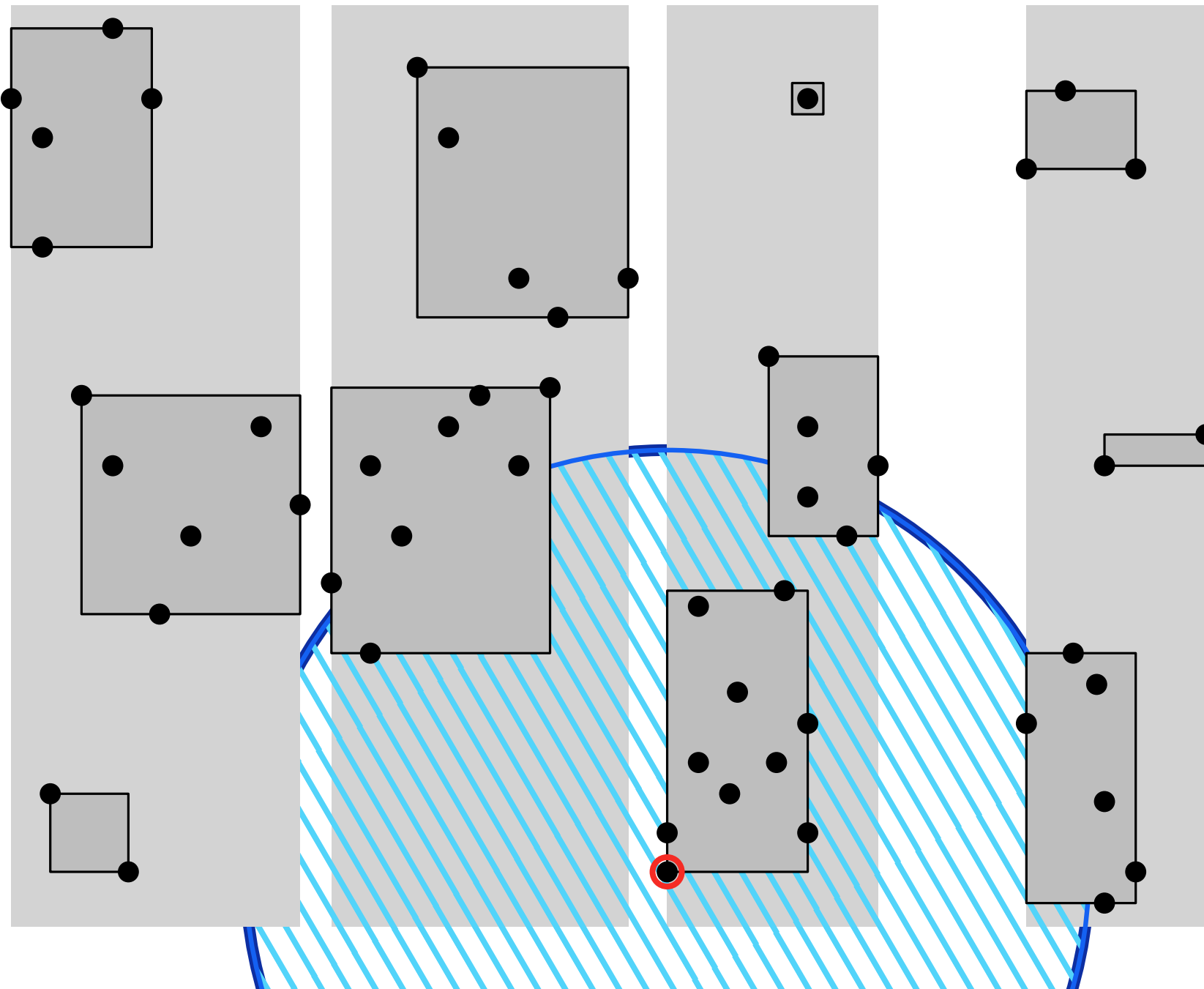
ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 

Property of single boxes

All points within a box...

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 

Property of single boxes

All points within a box...
are in ε -neighbourhood.

(Box width & height are
each $\leq \varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$.)

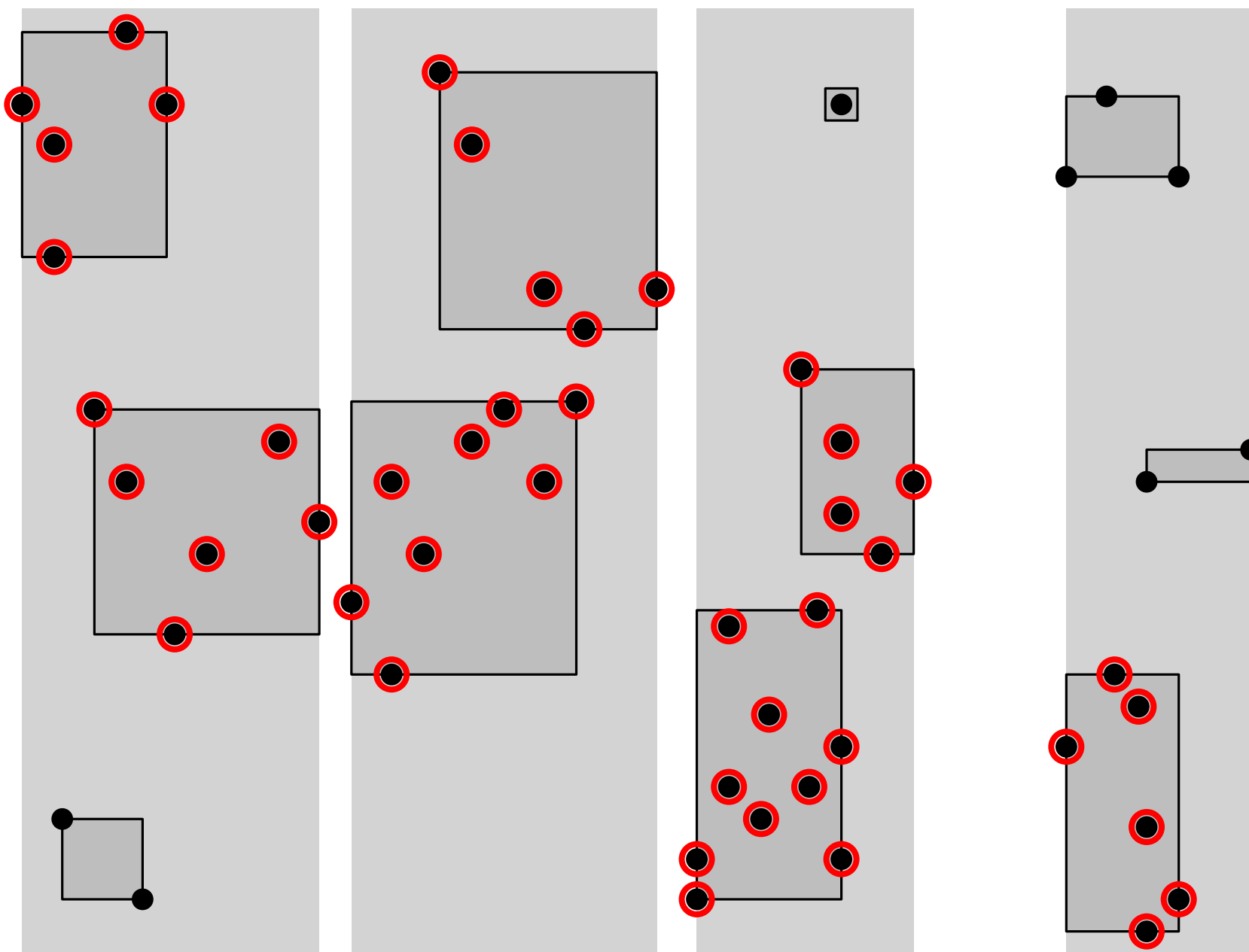
In boxes with at least k
points, ...

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



Property of single boxes

All points within a box...
are in ε -neighbourhood.

(Box width & height are
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In boxes with at least k
points, ...

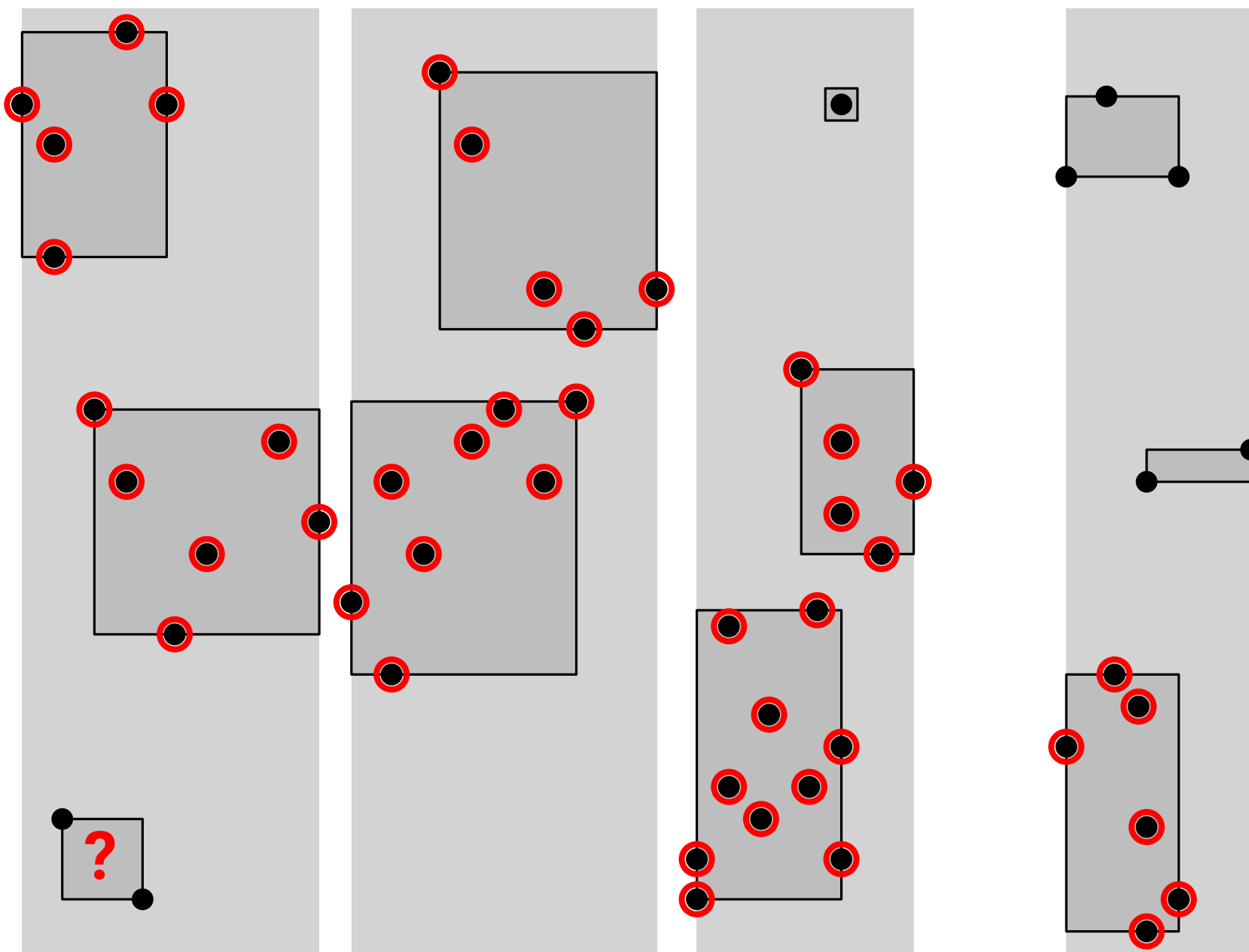
all points are core points.

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



Property of single boxes

All points within a box...
are in ε -neighbourhood.

(Box width & height are
each $\leq \varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$.)

In boxes with at least k
points, ...
all points are core points.

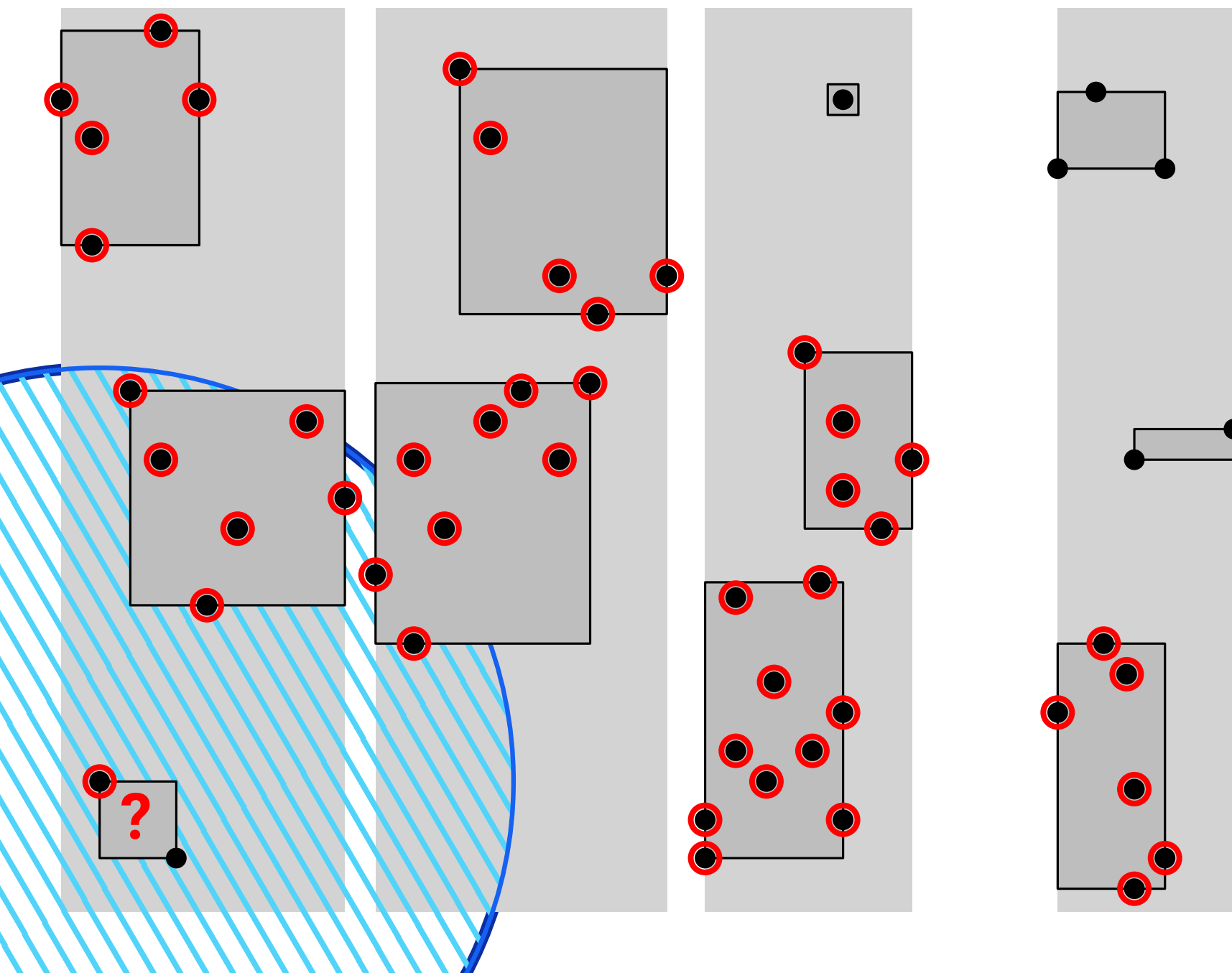
In boxes with fewer than k
points, ...

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



Property of single boxes

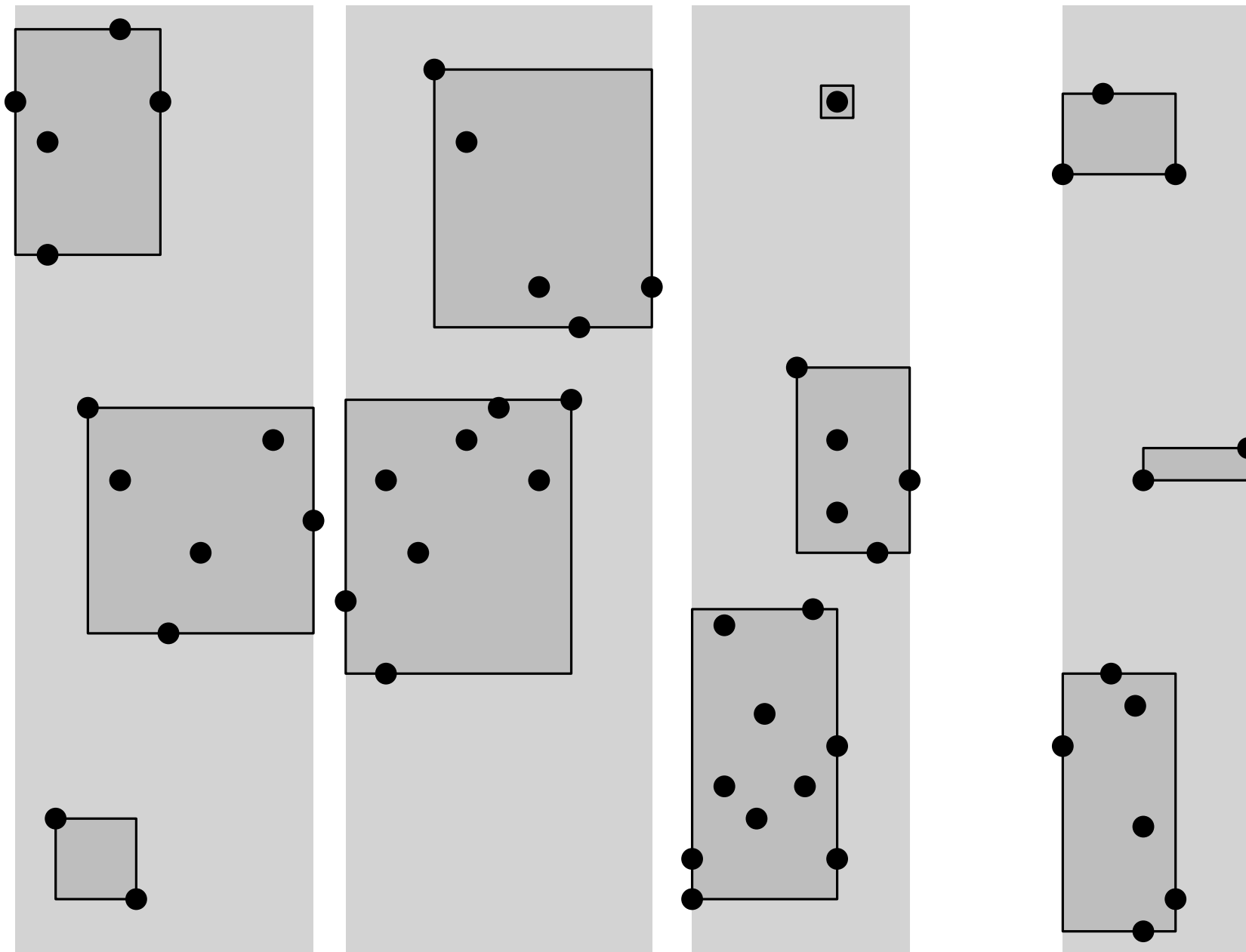
All points within a box...
are in ε -neighbourhood.

(Box width & height are
each $\leq \varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$.)

In boxes with at least k
points, ...
all points are core points.

In boxes with fewer than k
points, ...
points **can** be core points.

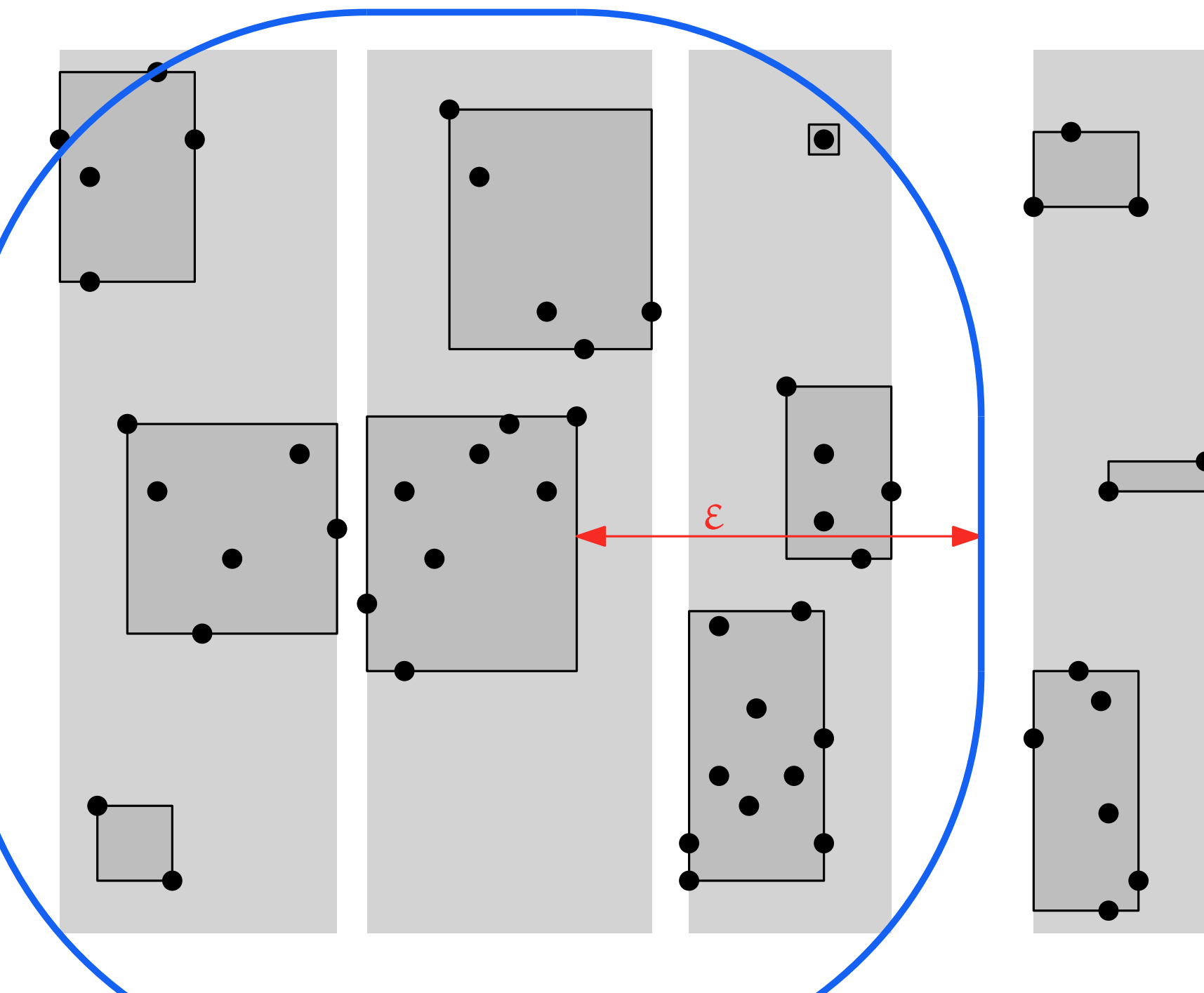
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ε .

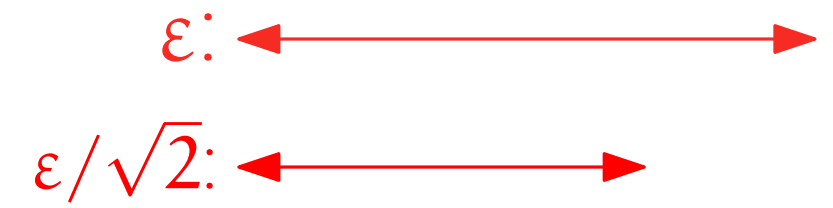
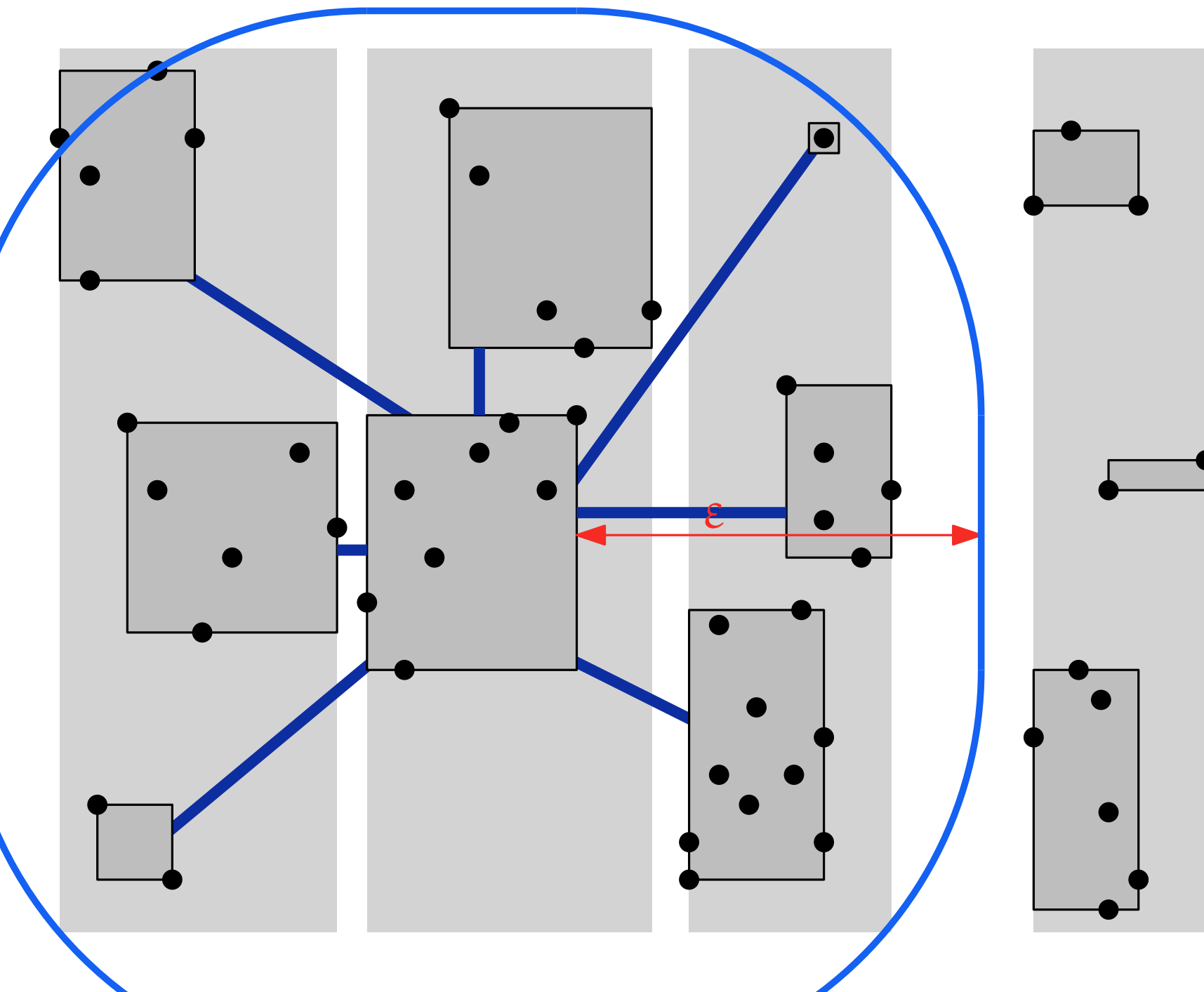
Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ε .

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

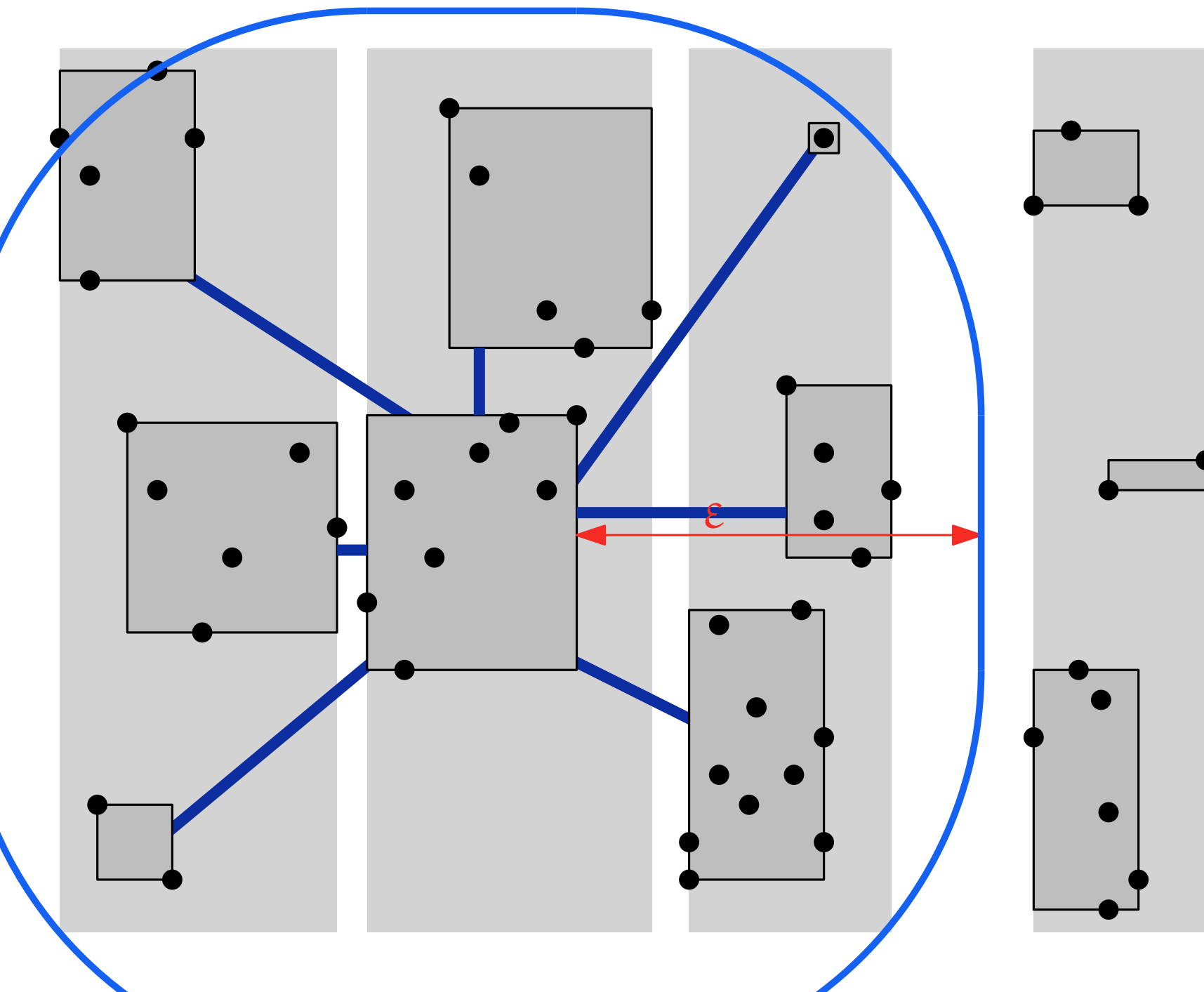


Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} :
none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



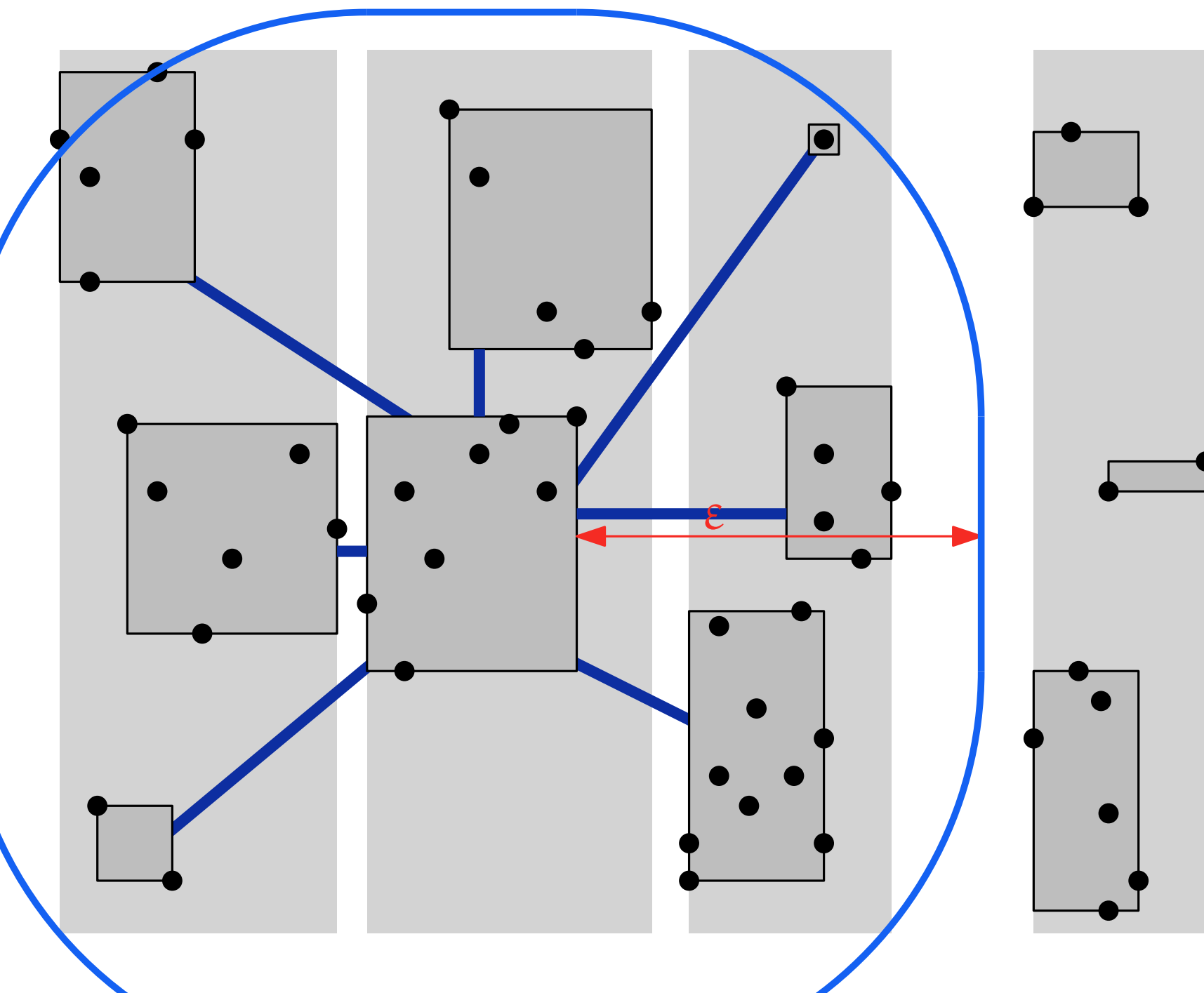
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have?

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



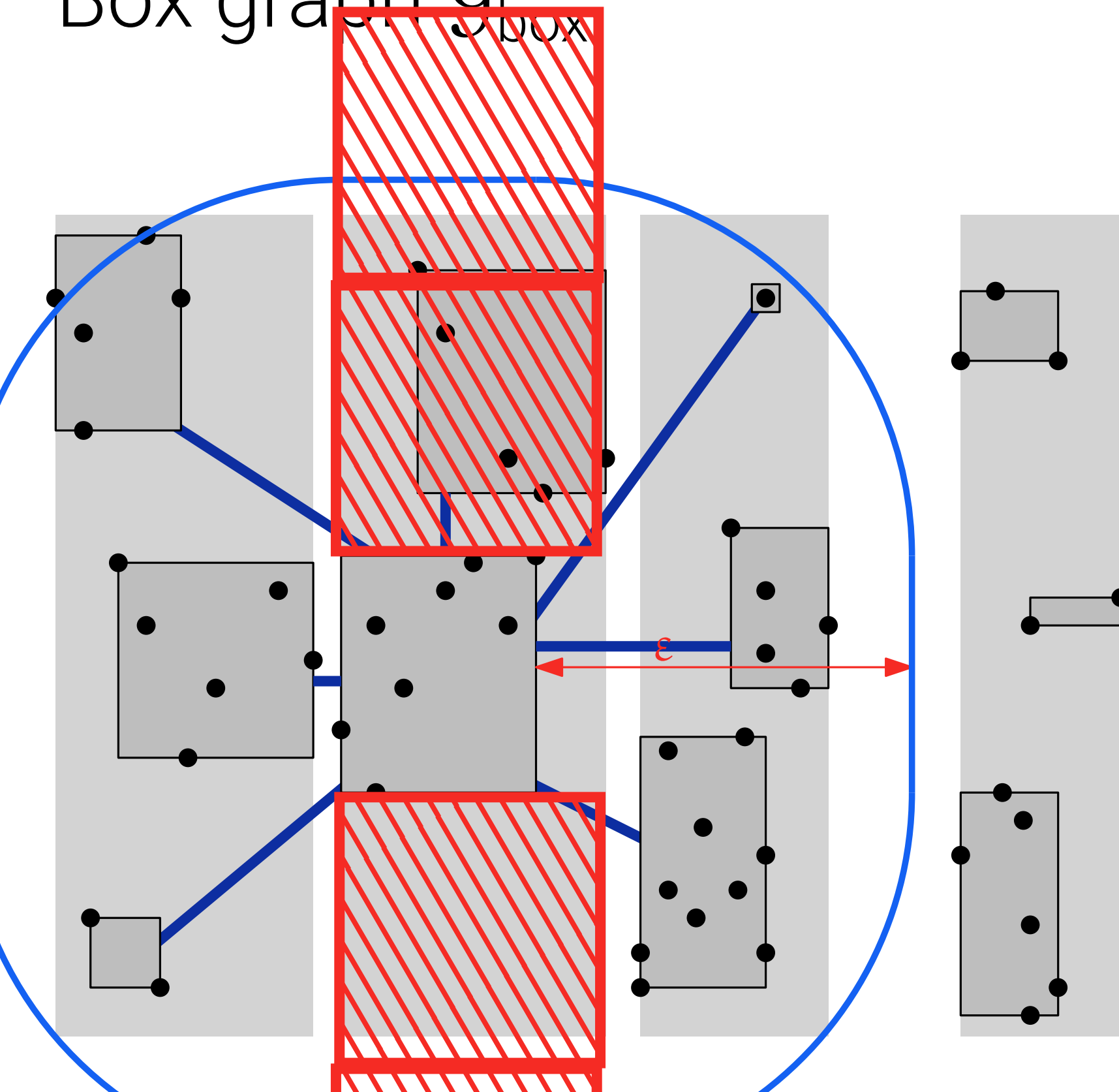
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



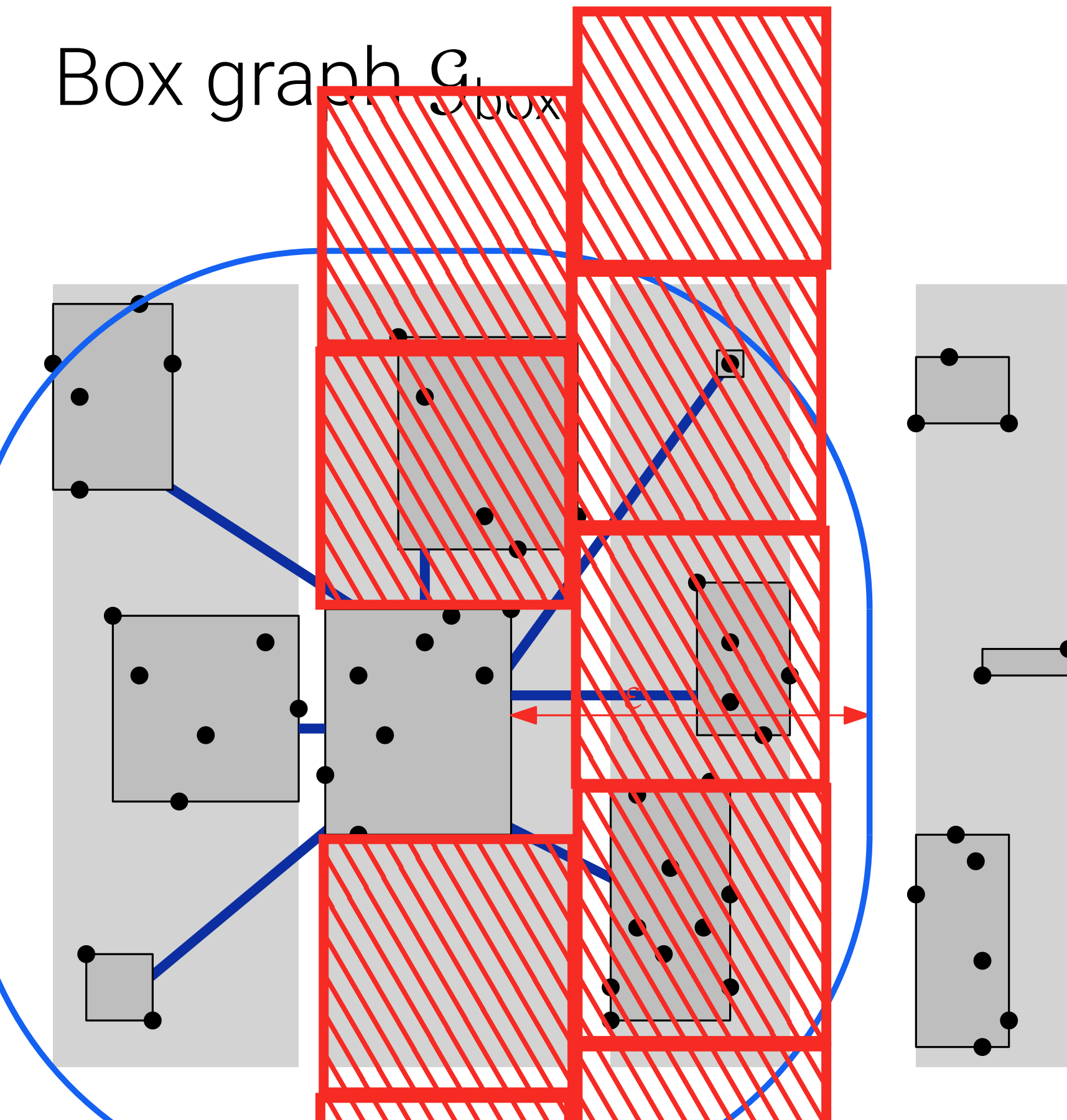
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

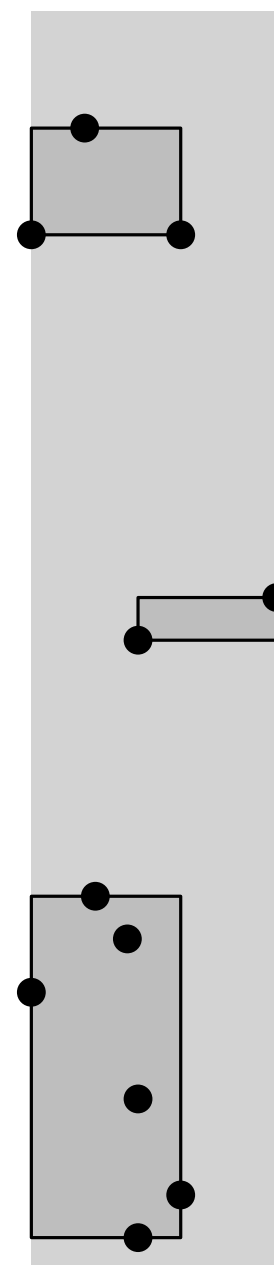


Property of box pairs

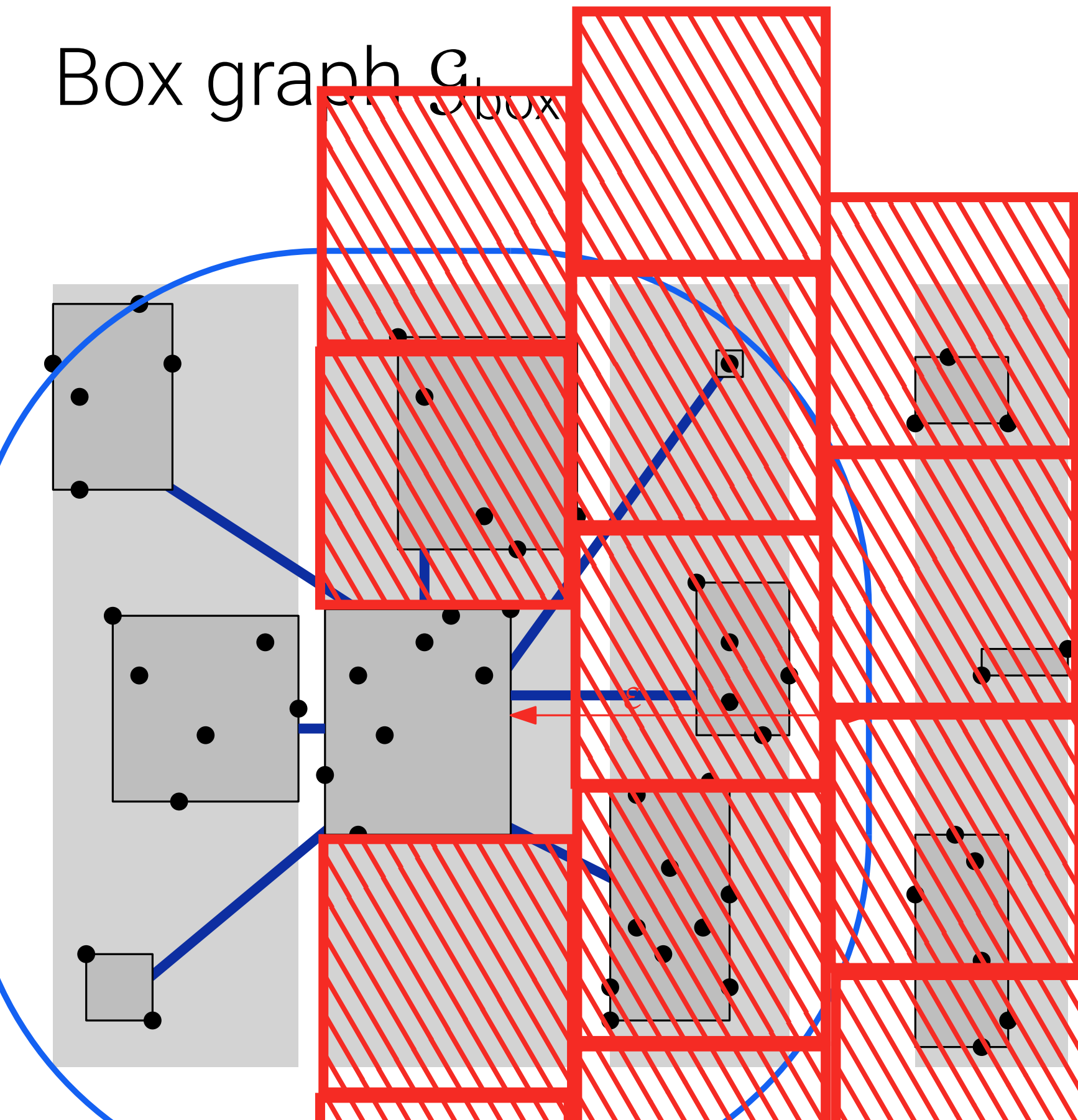
Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$



Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



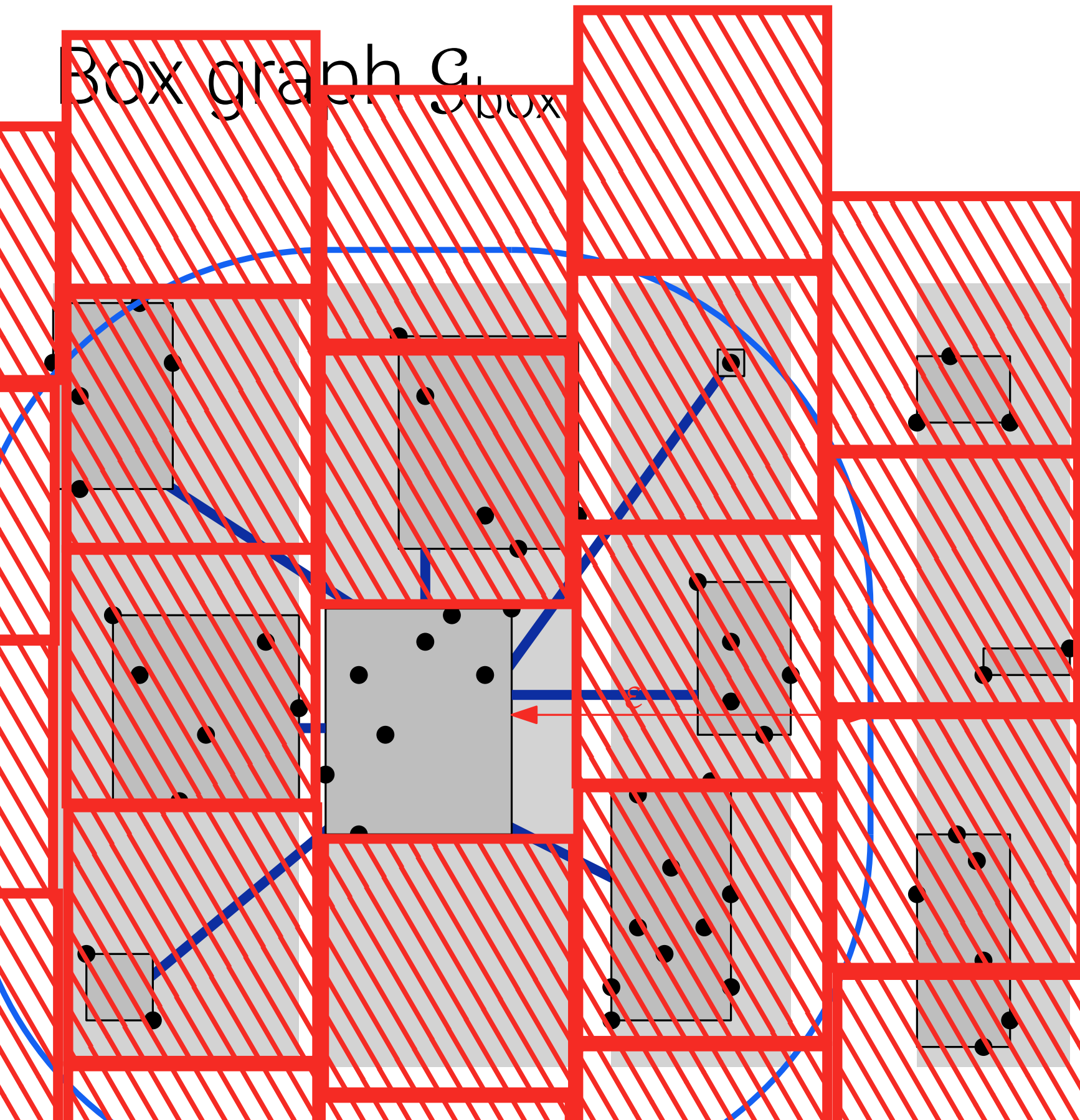
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



ε :

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$:

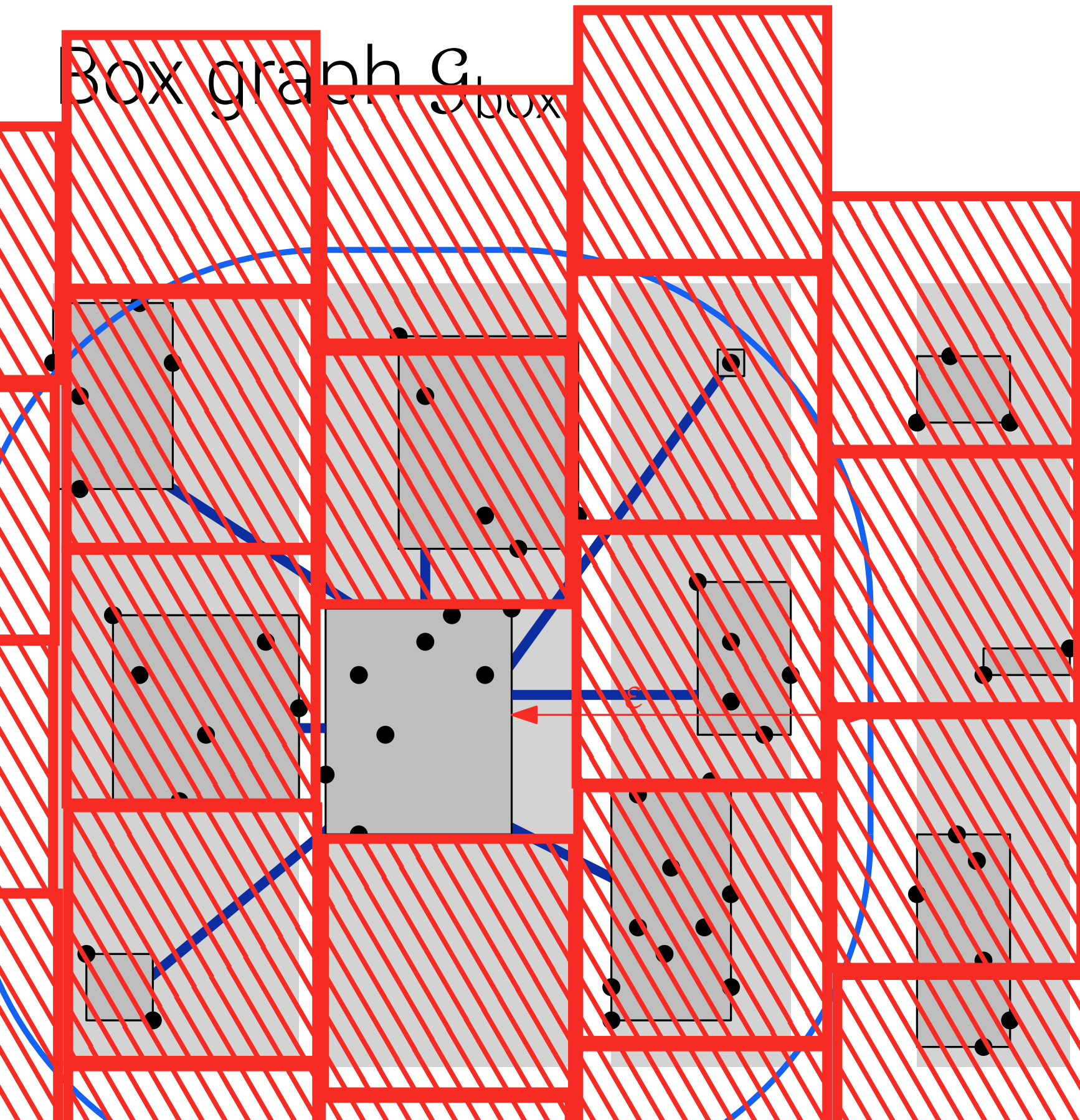
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ε .


Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ε -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



ϵ : 

$\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 

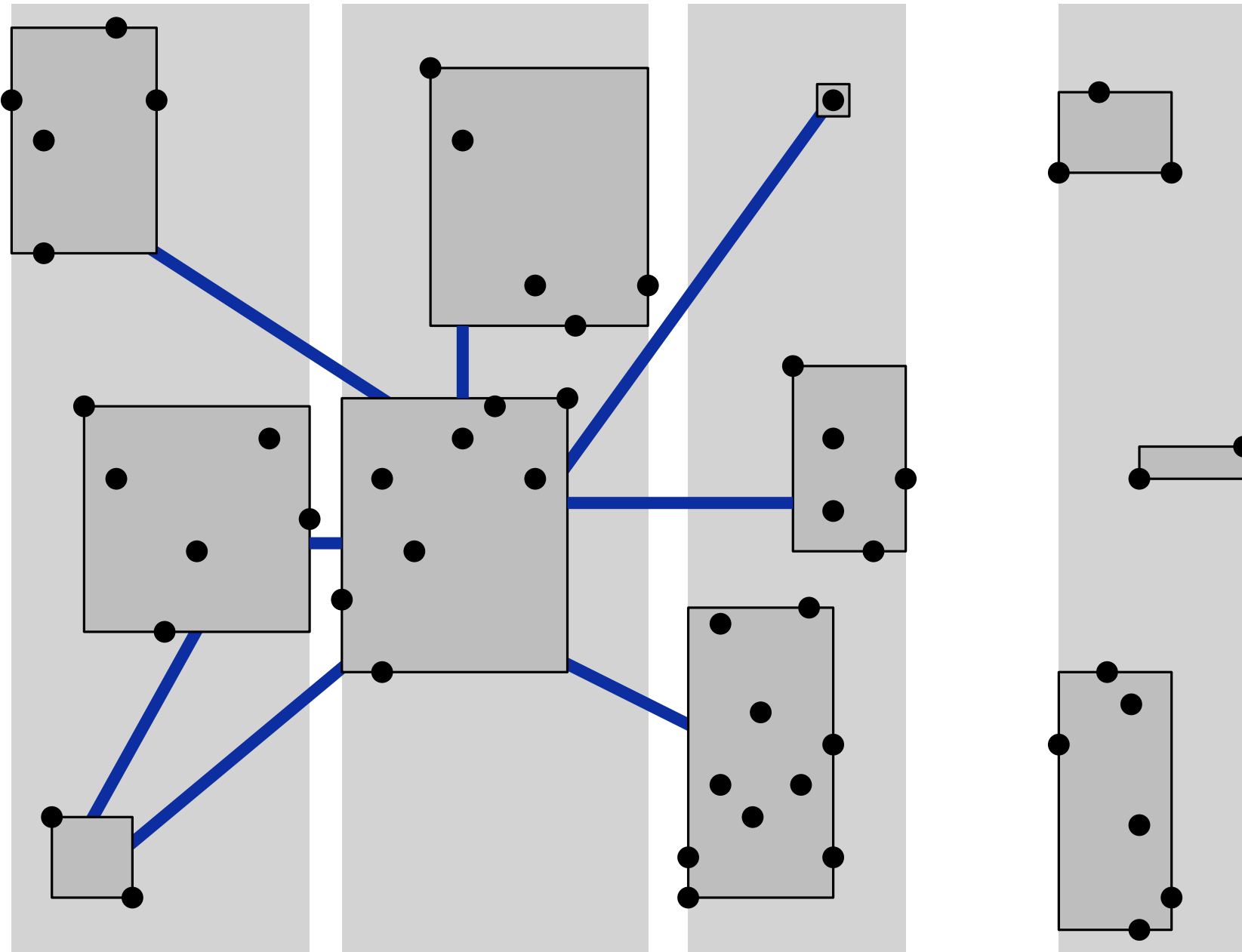
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? **22** $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



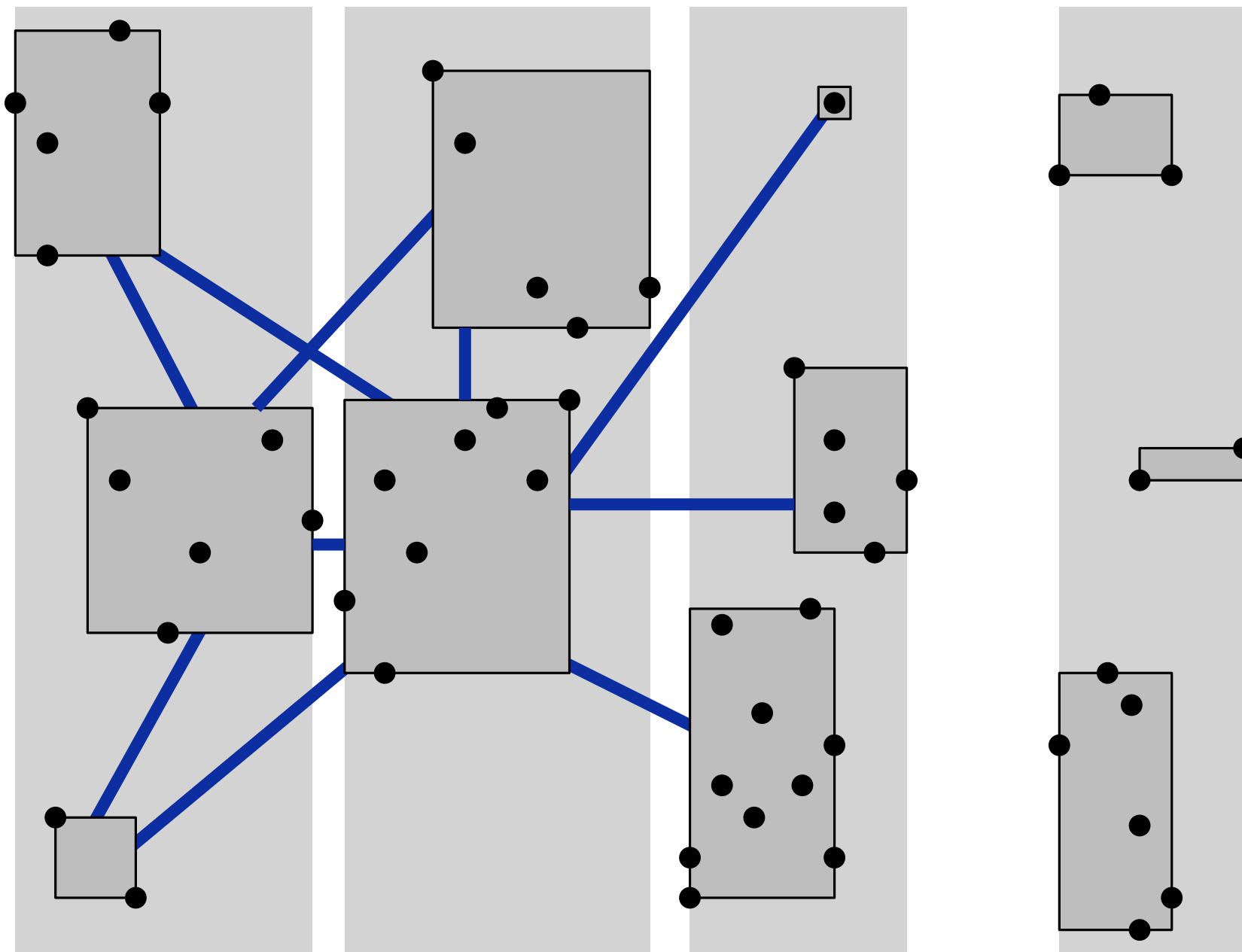
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? **22** $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



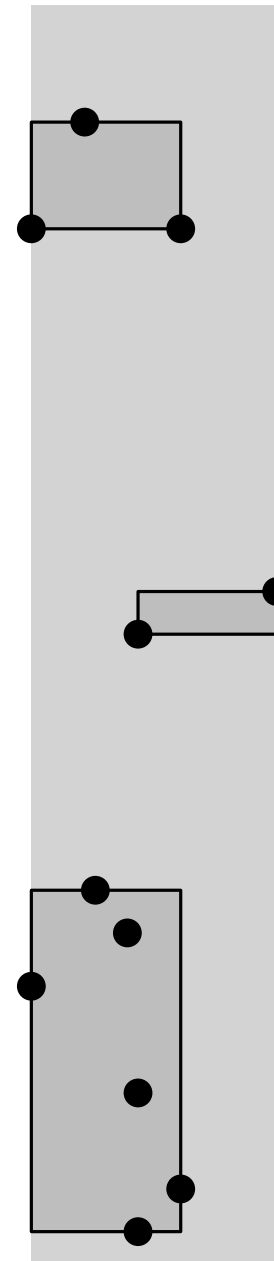
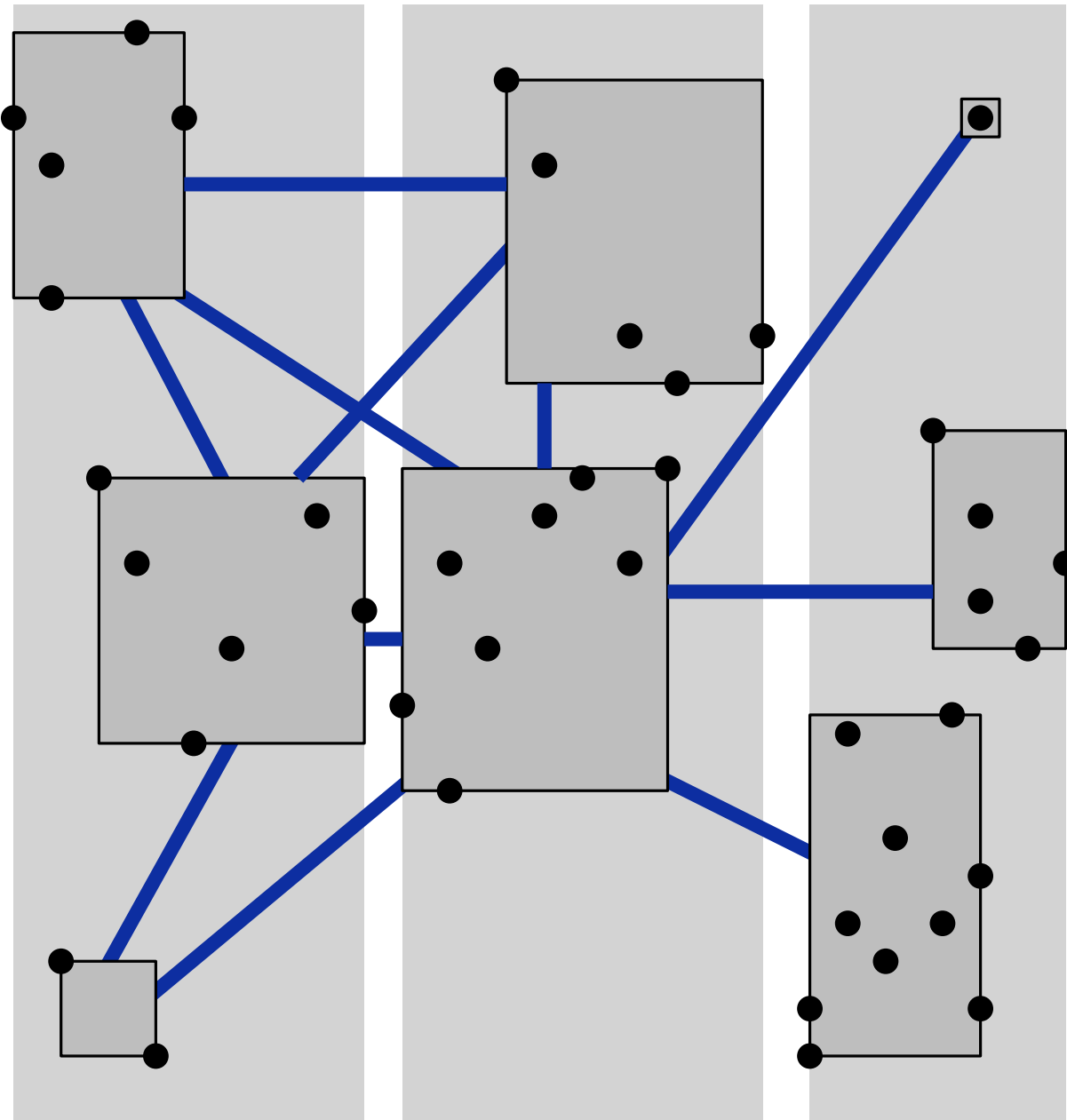
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ε .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ε -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? **22** $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



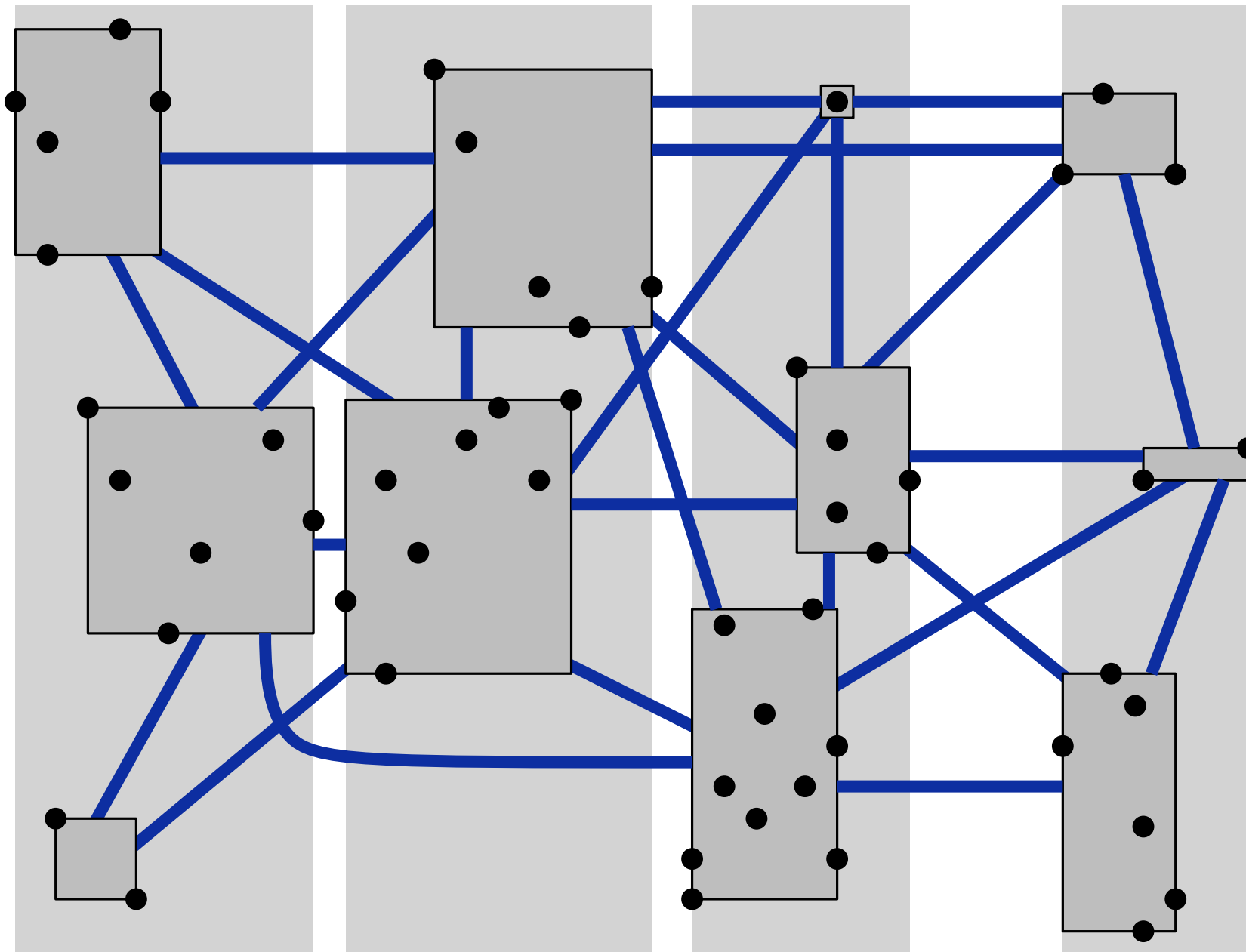
Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ϵ .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ϵ -neighbourhood.

How many neighbours can a box have? **22** $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



ε :

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$:

Property of box pairs

Connect boxes with edge if distance between **boxes** is at most ε .

Nonneighbours in \mathcal{G}_{box} : none of these points are in ε -neighbourhood.

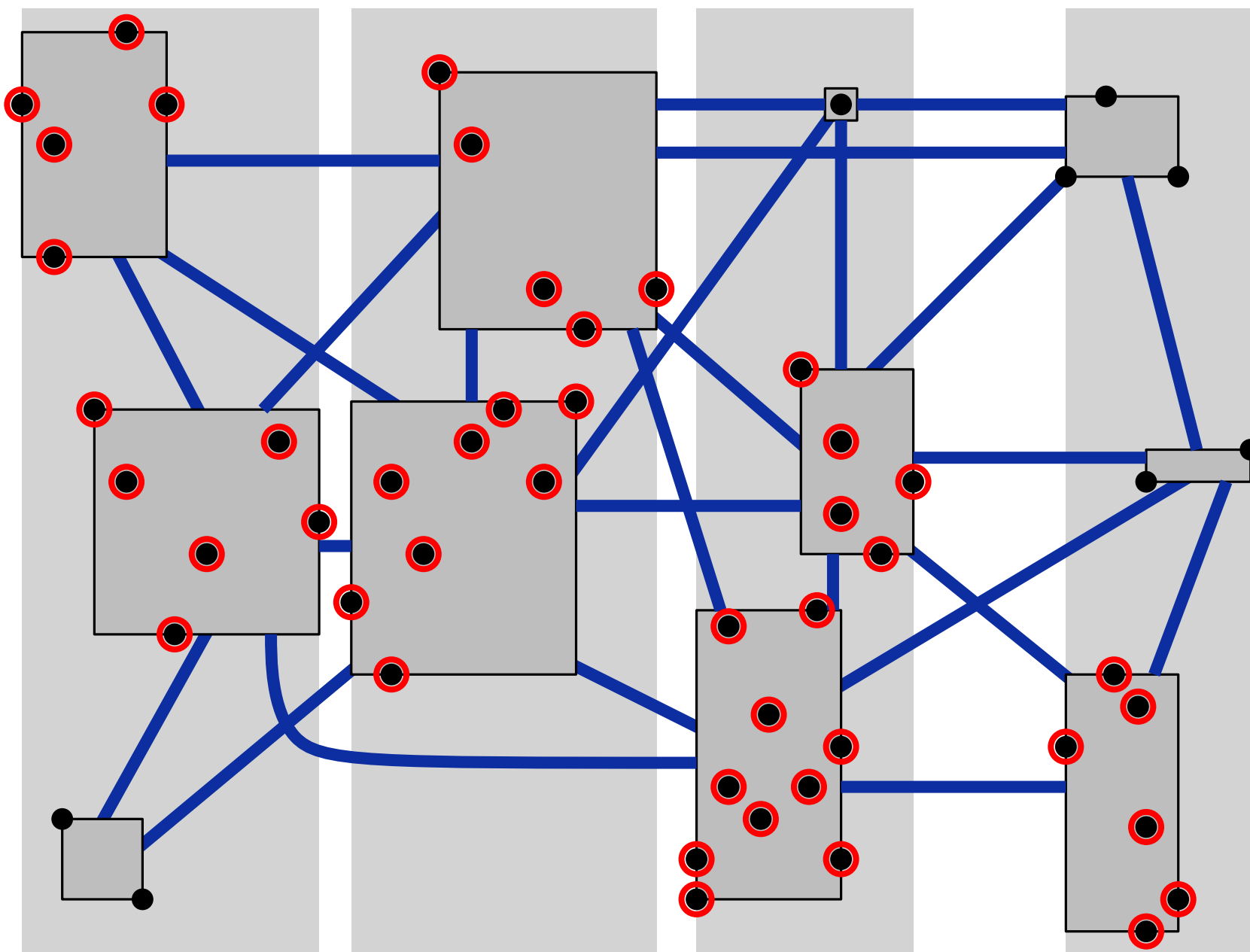
How many neighbours can a box have? **22** $\in \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

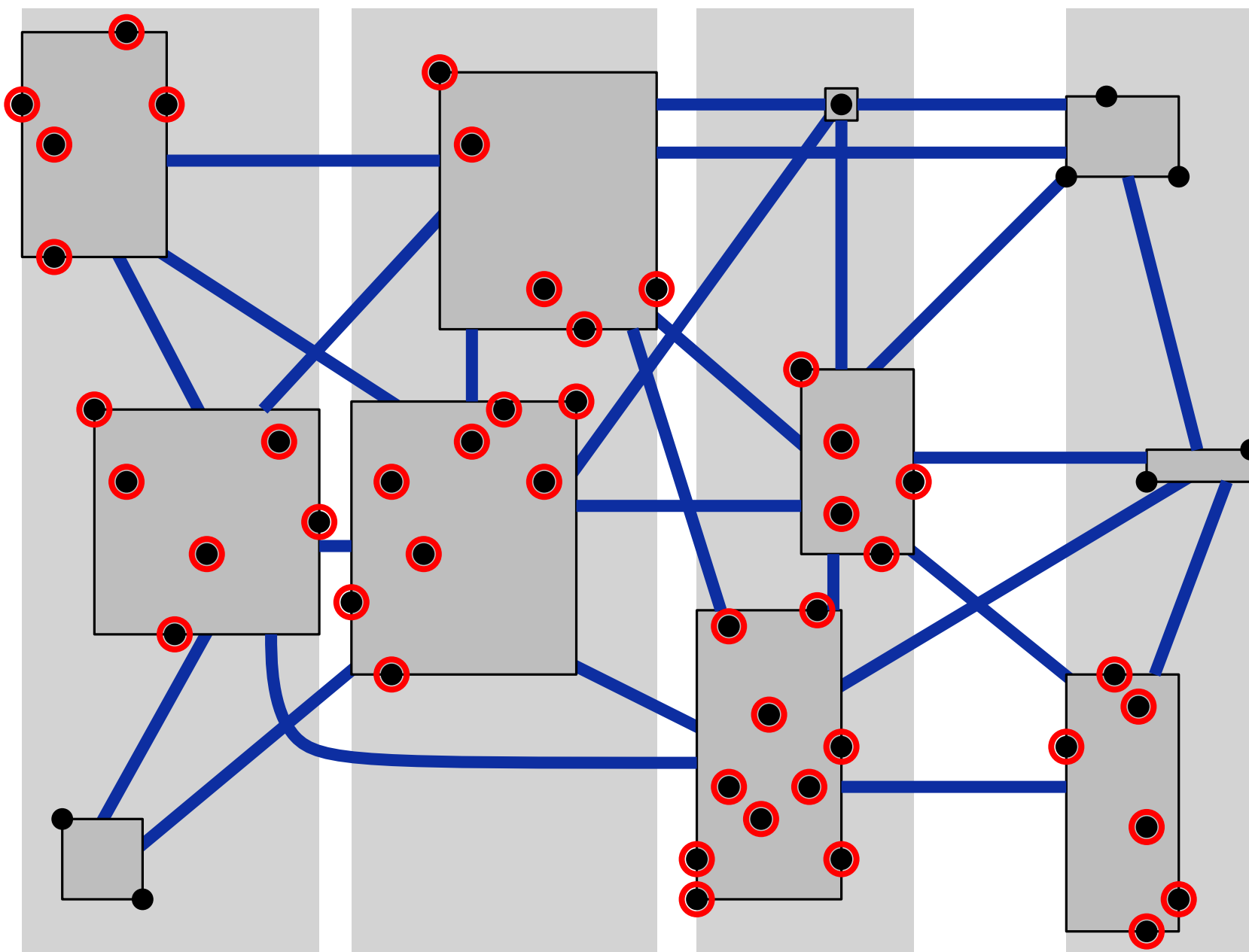
Already have all core points
in “crowded” boxes.

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points in “crowded” boxes.

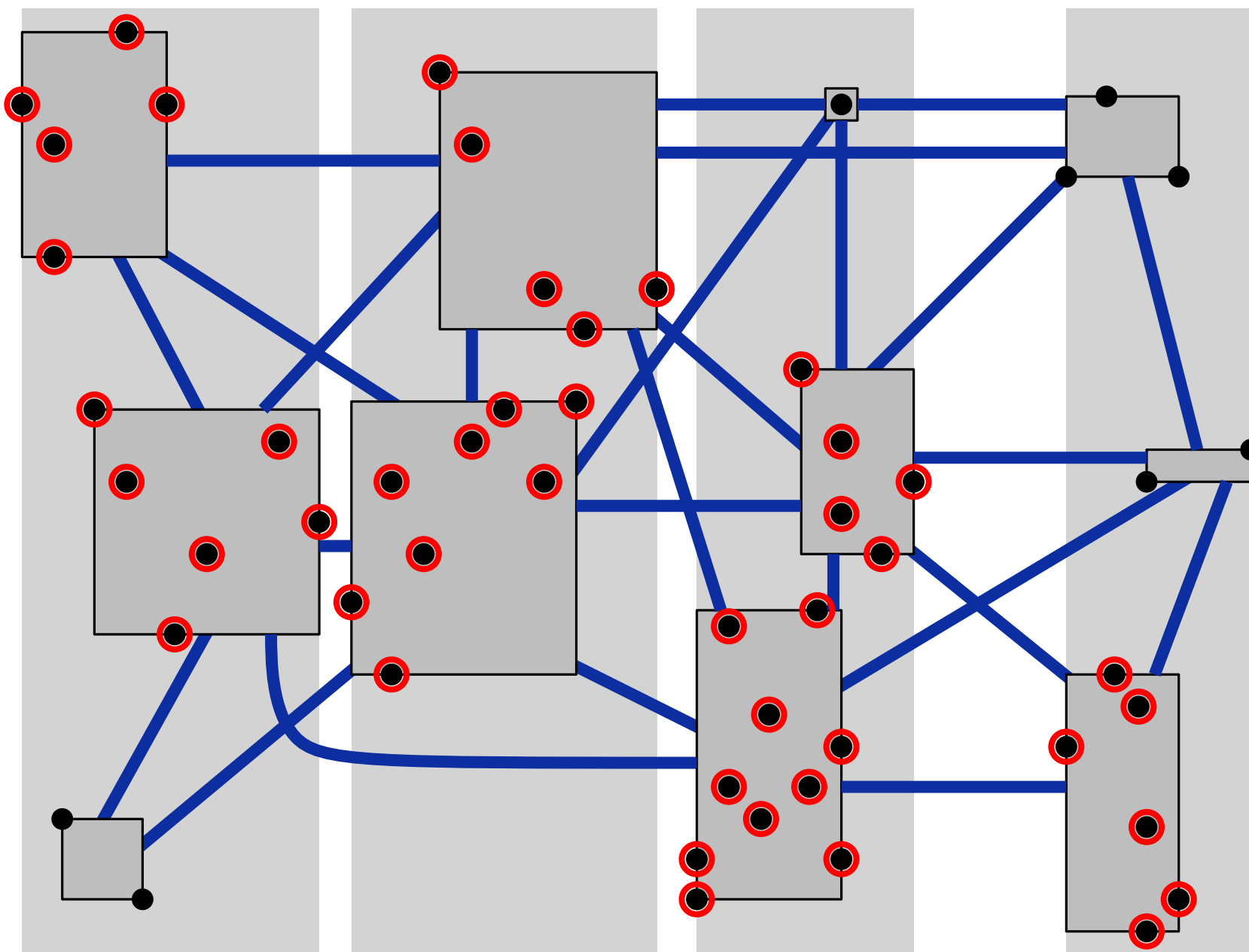
For all “sparse” boxes:

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points in “crowded” boxes.

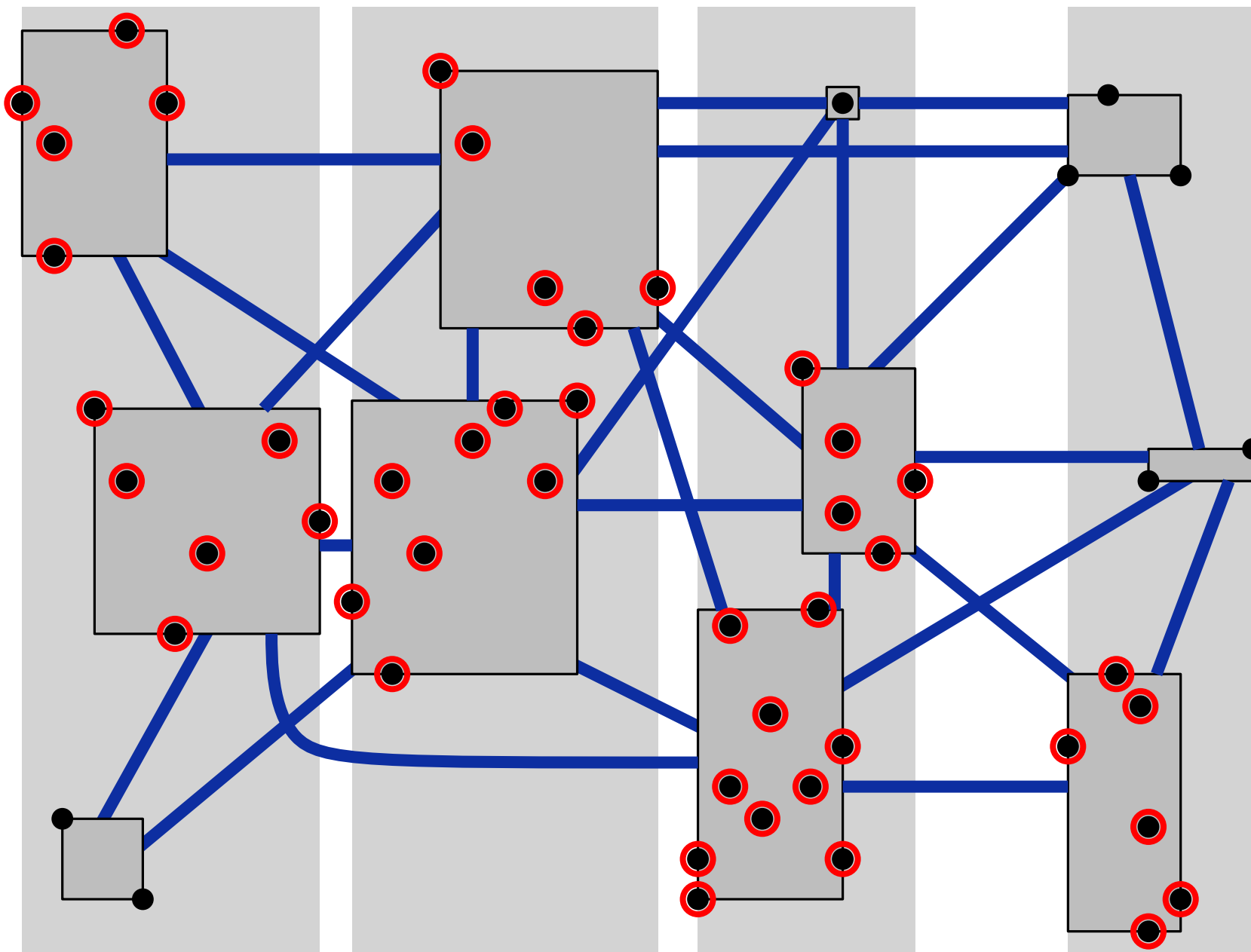
For all “sparse” boxes:
For all neighbour boxes:

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points in “crowded” boxes.

For all “sparse” boxes:
For all neighbour boxes:
... check all pairs.

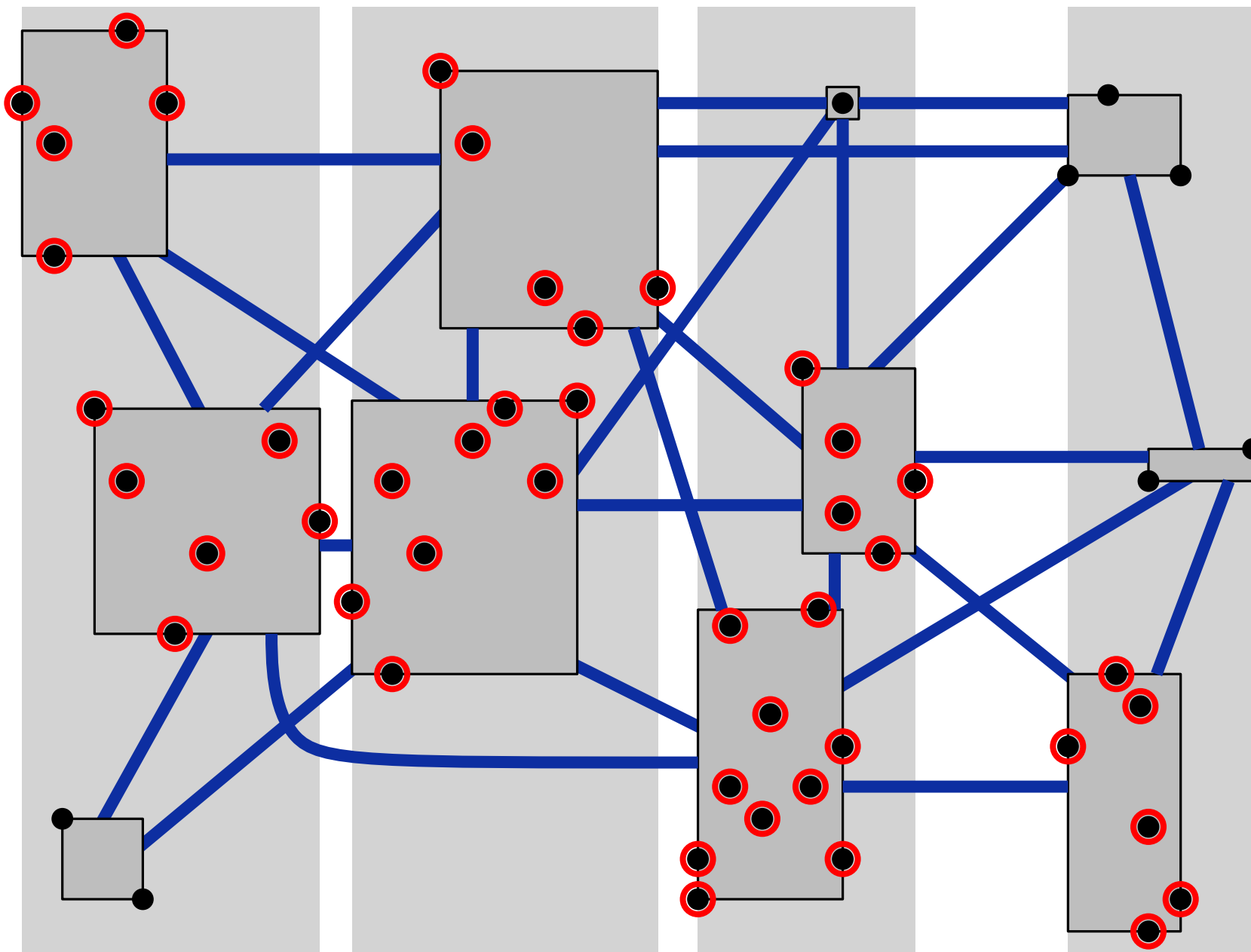
Total runtime?

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ϵ : 

$\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points
in “crowded” boxes.

For all “sparse” boxes:
For all neighbour boxes:
... check all pairs.


Total runtime?

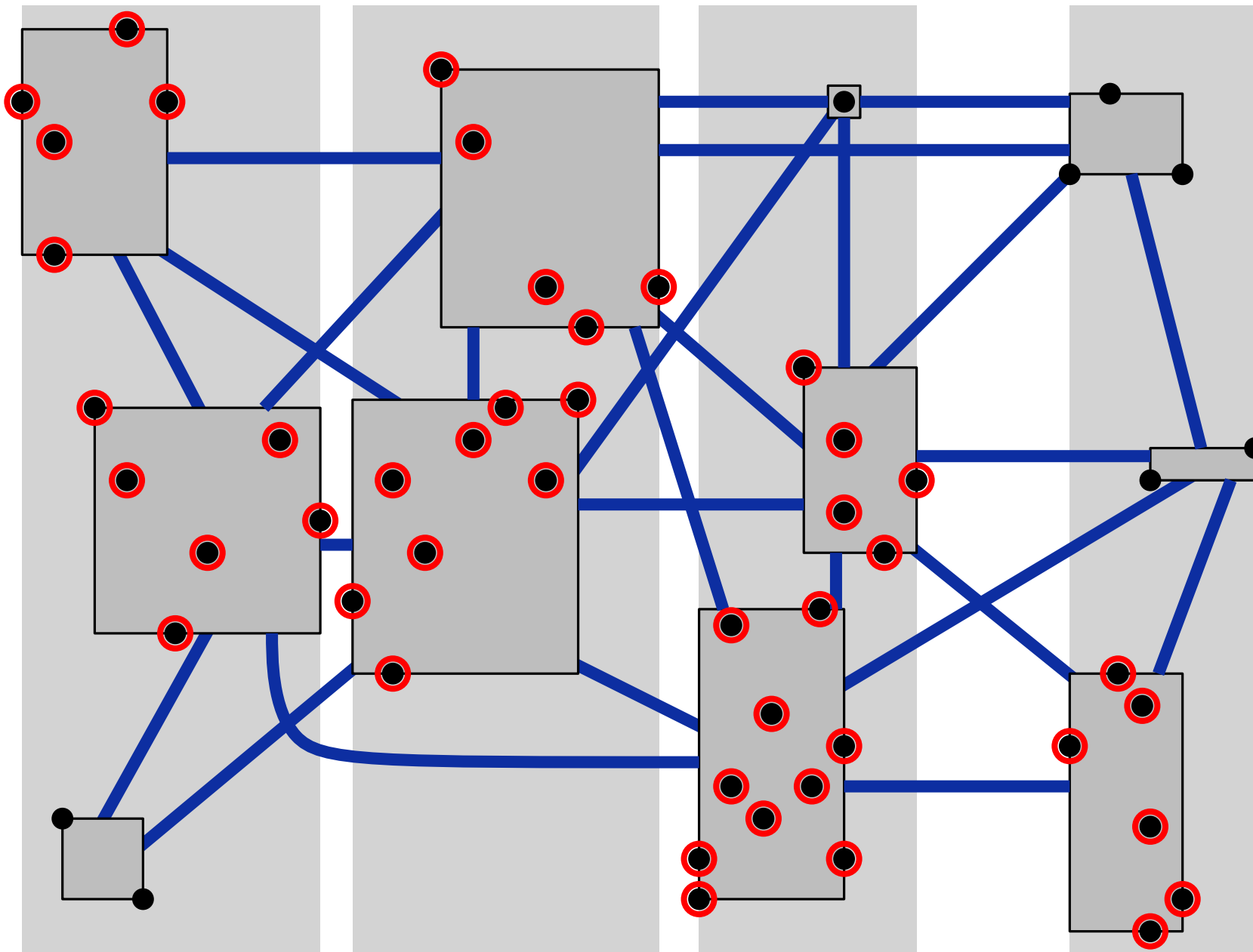
Other box is sparse:

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points
in “crowded” boxes.

For all “sparse” boxes:
For all neighbour boxes:
... check all pairs.

Total runtime?

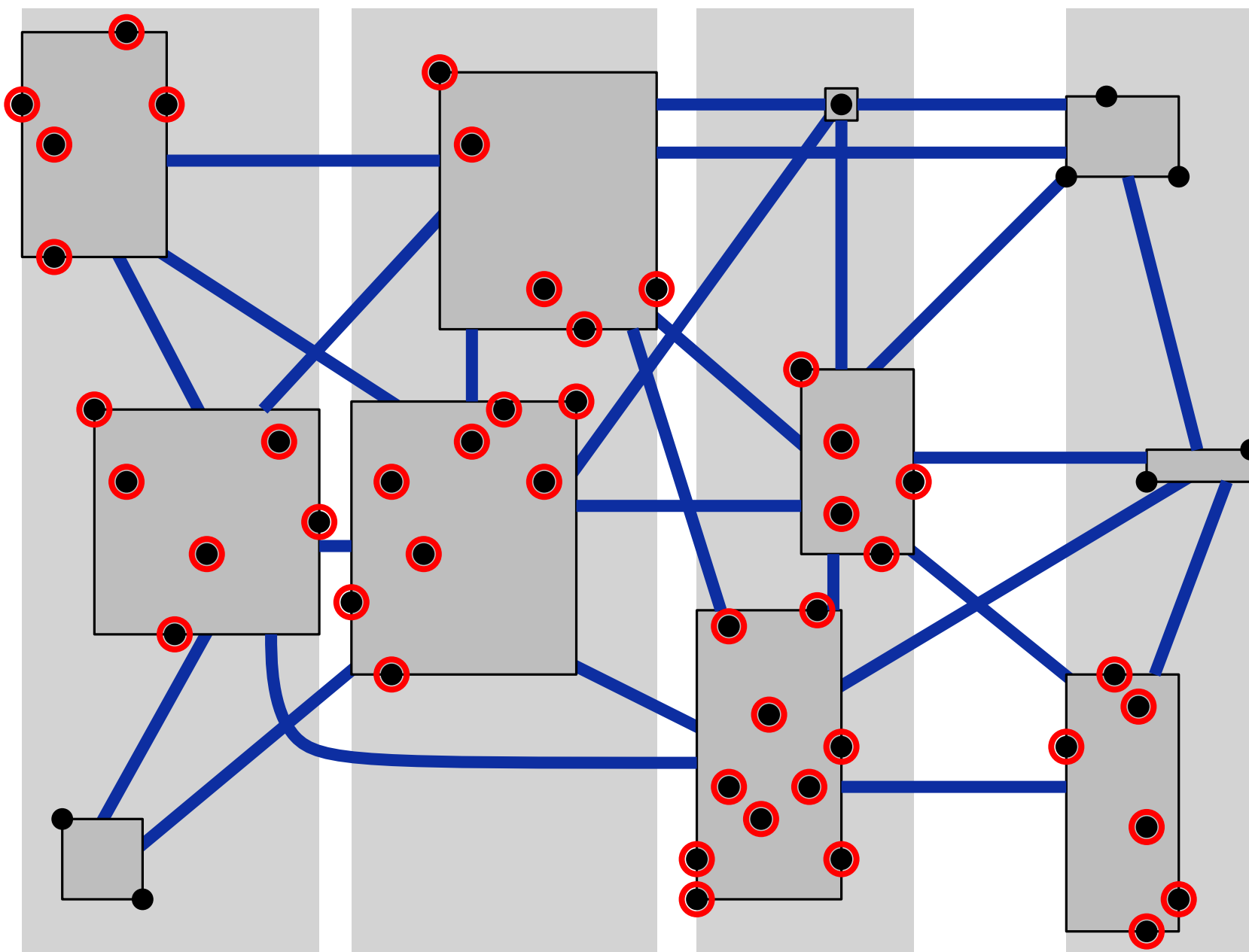
Other box is sparse:
 $\mathcal{O}(k^2) = \mathcal{O}(1)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ϵ : \longleftrightarrow

$\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$: \longleftrightarrow



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points in “crowded” boxes.

For all “sparse” boxes:
For all neighbour boxes:
... check all pairs.

Total runtime?

Other box is sparse:

$$\mathcal{O}(k^2) = \mathcal{O}(1)$$

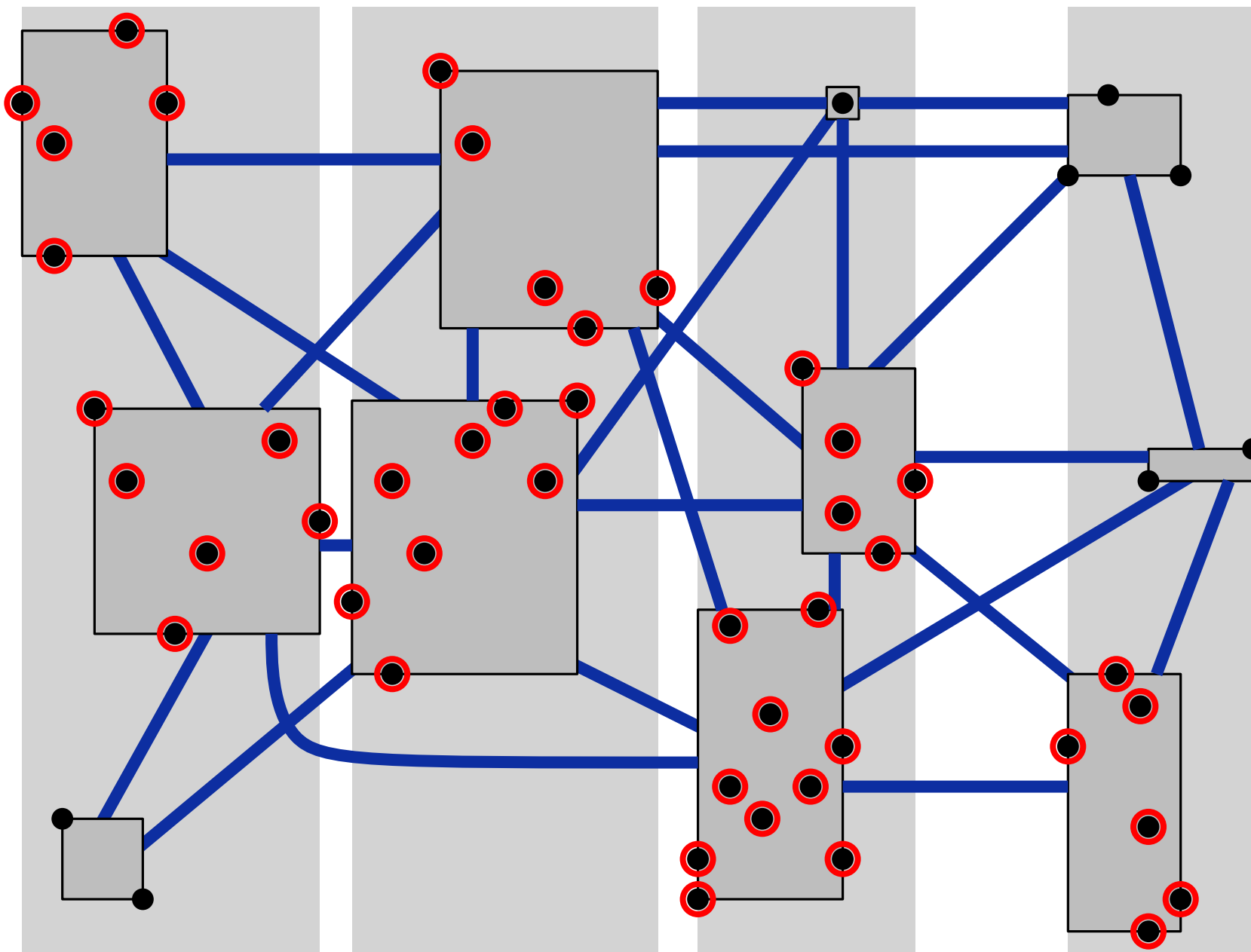
Other box is crowded:

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ϵ : 

$\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points in “crowded” boxes.

For all “sparse” boxes:
For all neighbour boxes:
... check all pairs.

Total runtime?

Other box is sparse:

$$\mathcal{O}(k^2) = \mathcal{O}(1)$$

Other box is crowded:

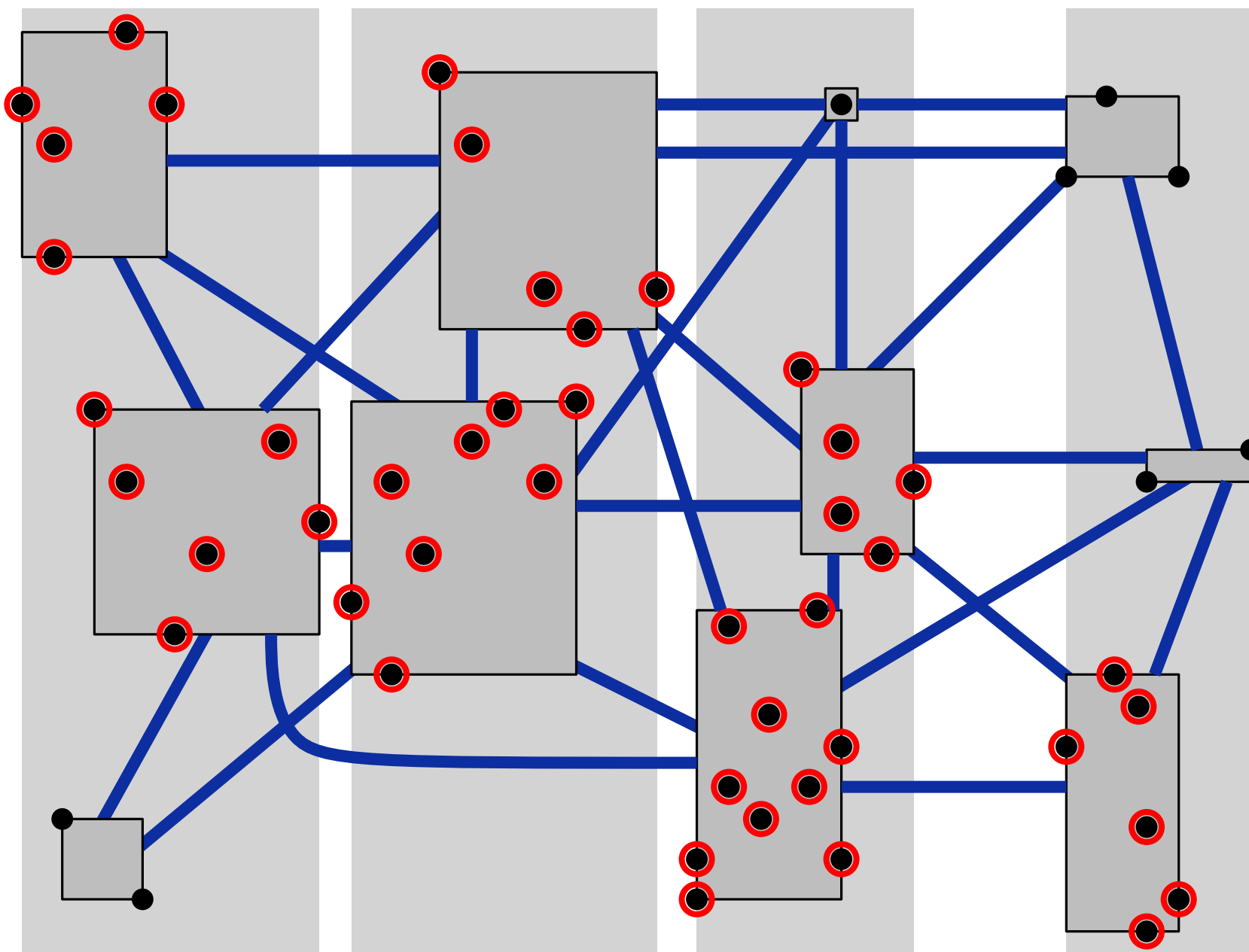
Charge to crowded box

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ϵ : 

$\epsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



2. Find all core points

Already have all core points in “crowded” boxes.

For all “sparse” boxes:
For all neighbour boxes:
... check all pairs.

Total runtime?

Other box is sparse:
 $\mathcal{O}(k^2) = \mathcal{O}(1)$

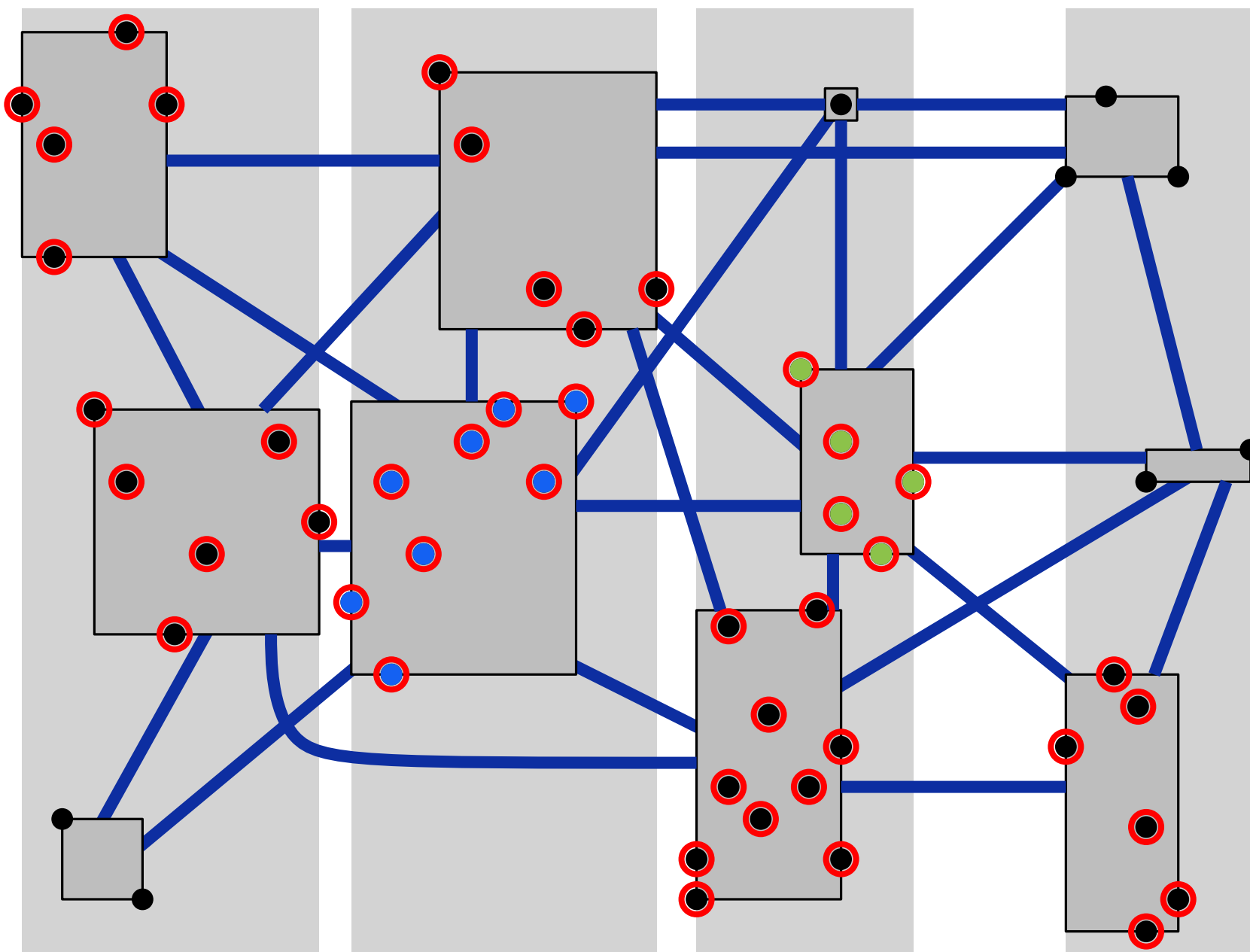
Other box is crowded:
Charge to crowded box
Point in crowded box
checked $\leq 22k$ times.

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}

$k = 4$

ε : 

$\varepsilon/\sqrt{2}$: 



Pairs of crowded boxes

These are all core points.

Are the **the same cluster**?

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

These are all core points.

Are the **the same cluster**?

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

These are all core points.

Are the **the same cluster**?

BICHROMATIC CLOSEST PAIR

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

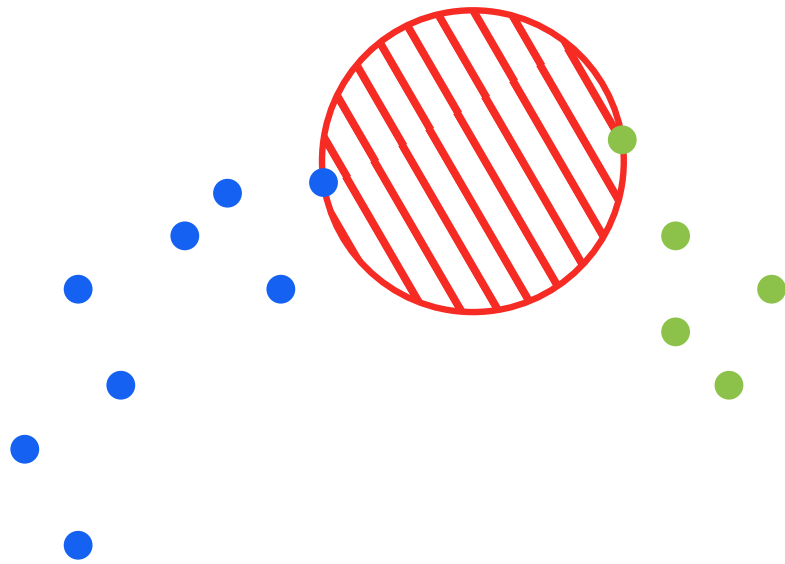
These are all core points.

Are they **the same cluster**?

BICHROMATIC CLOSEST PAIR

In Euclidean 2D?

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

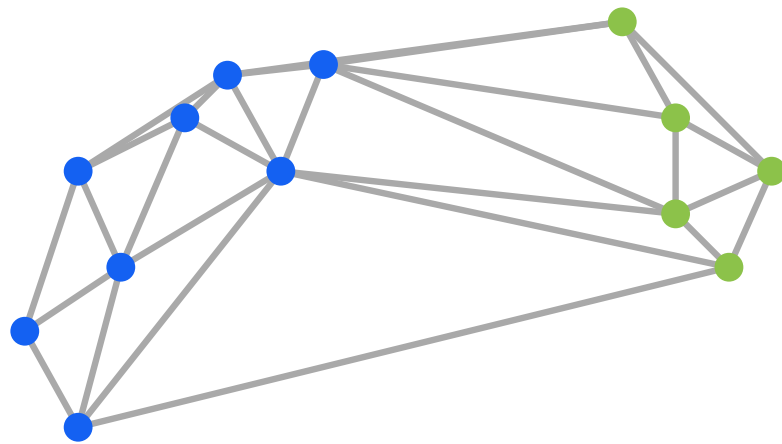
These are all core points.

Are the **the same cluster**?

BICHROMATIC CLOSEST PAIR

In Euclidean 2D?

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

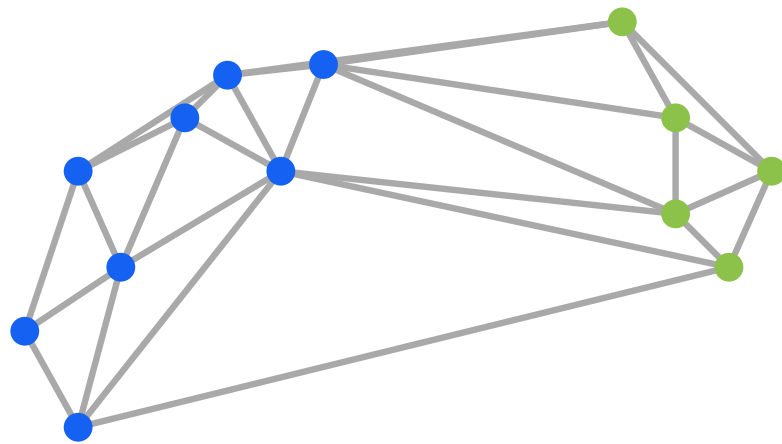
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BICHROMATIC CLOSEST PAIR

In Euclidean 2D?

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

These are all core points.

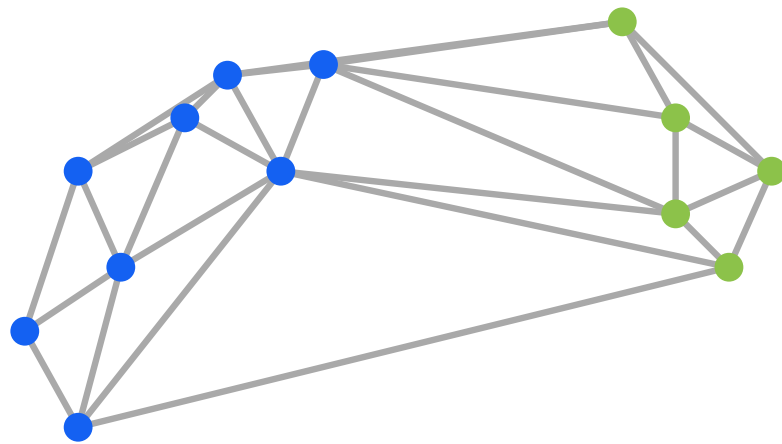
Are they **the same cluster**?

BICHROMATIC CLOSEST PAIR

In Euclidean 2D?

Delaunay triangulation has
this edge.

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

These are all core points.

Are they **the same cluster**?

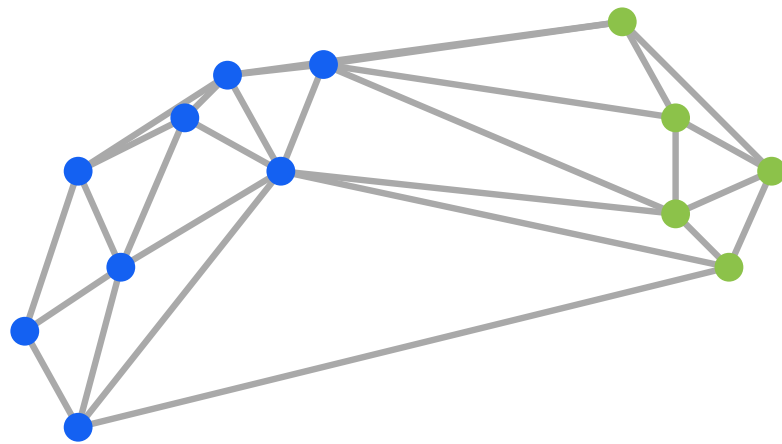
BICHROMATIC CLOSEST PAIR

In Euclidean 2D?

Delaunay triangulation has
this edge.

$\Theta(n \log n)$

Box graph \mathcal{G}_{box}



Pairs of crowded boxes

These are all core points.

Are they **the same cluster**?

BICHROMATIC CLOSEST PAIR

In Euclidean 2D?

Delaunay triangulation has
this edge.

$O(n \log n)$

Charge to edges in \mathcal{G}_{box}

Results

Everywhere: ε free, k fixed constant, Euclidean distances

	2D	dD
DBSCAN	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$	$\mathcal{O}(n^{2 - \frac{2}{\lceil d/2 \rceil + 1} + \gamma}) \quad \gamma > 0$
HDBSCAN	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ expected	\times

Results

Everywhere: ε free, k fixed constant, Euclidean distances

	2D	dD
DBSCAN	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$	$\mathcal{O}(n^{2 - \frac{2}{\lceil d/2 \rceil + 1} + \gamma}) \quad \gamma > 0$
HDBSCAN	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ expected	\times



1. Construct \mathcal{G}_{box}

2. Find core points

3. Merge clusters

(4. Assign border points.)

Results

Everywhere: ε free, k fixed constant, Euclidean distances

	2D	dD
DBSCAN	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$	$\mathcal{O}(n^{2 - \frac{2}{\lceil d/2 \rceil + 1} + \gamma}) \quad \gamma > 0$
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1. Construct \mathcal{G}_{box}

2. Find core points

3. Merge clusters

(4. Assign border points.)

BICHROMATIC CLOSEST POINT instead of
Delauney triangulation.

Results

Everywhere: ε free, k fixed constant, Euclidean distances

	2D	dD
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Store this tree structure of cluster creation and merges: HDBSCAN.

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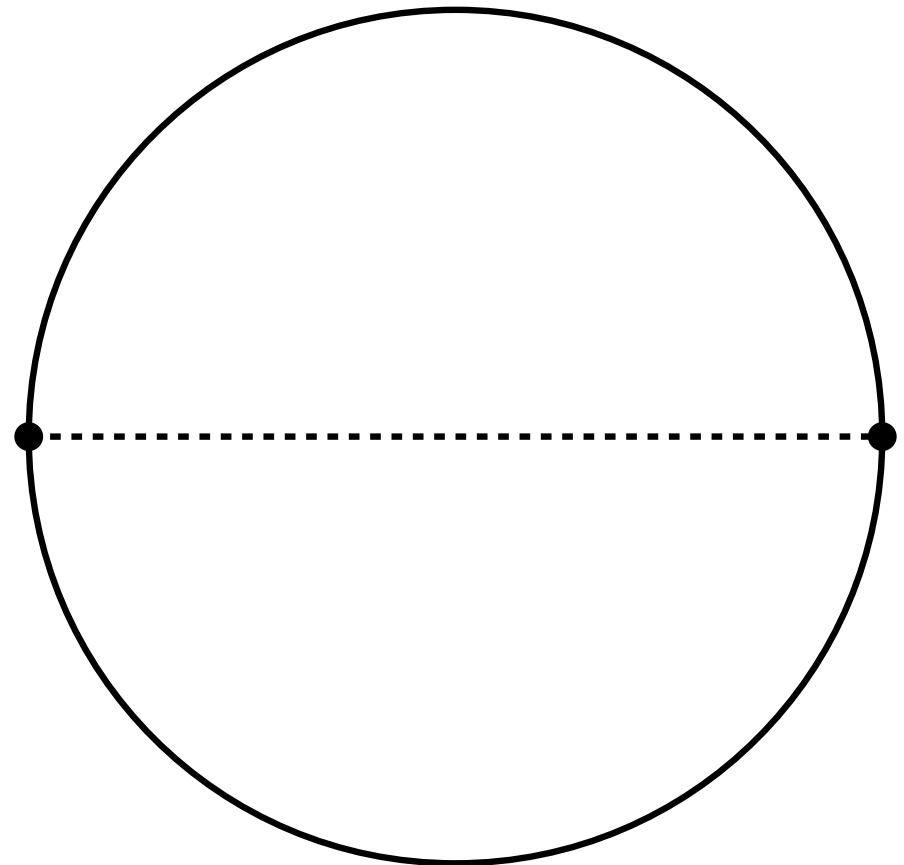


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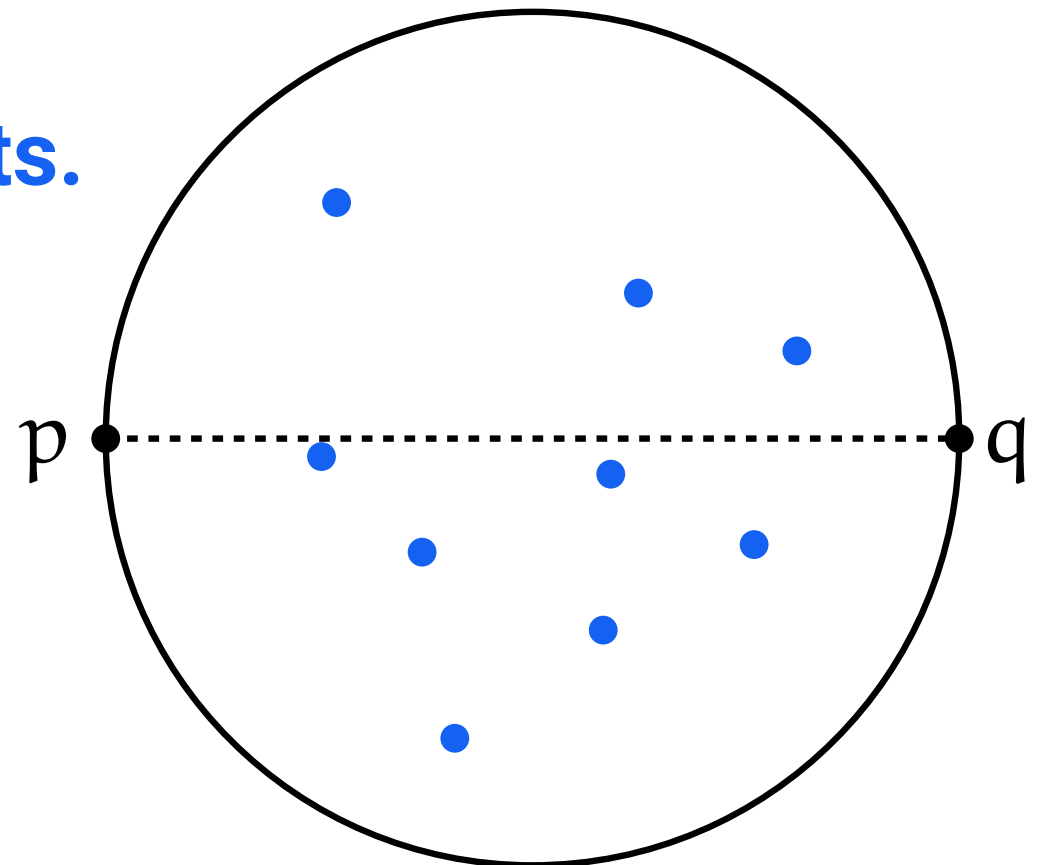
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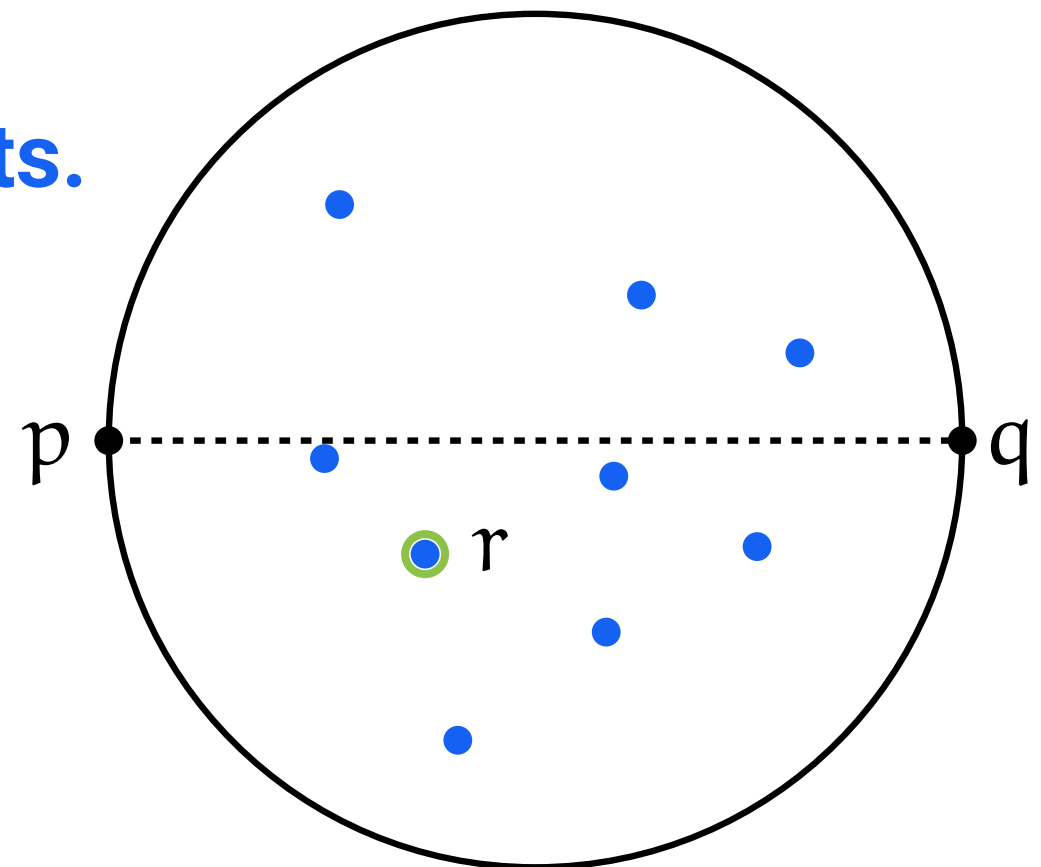
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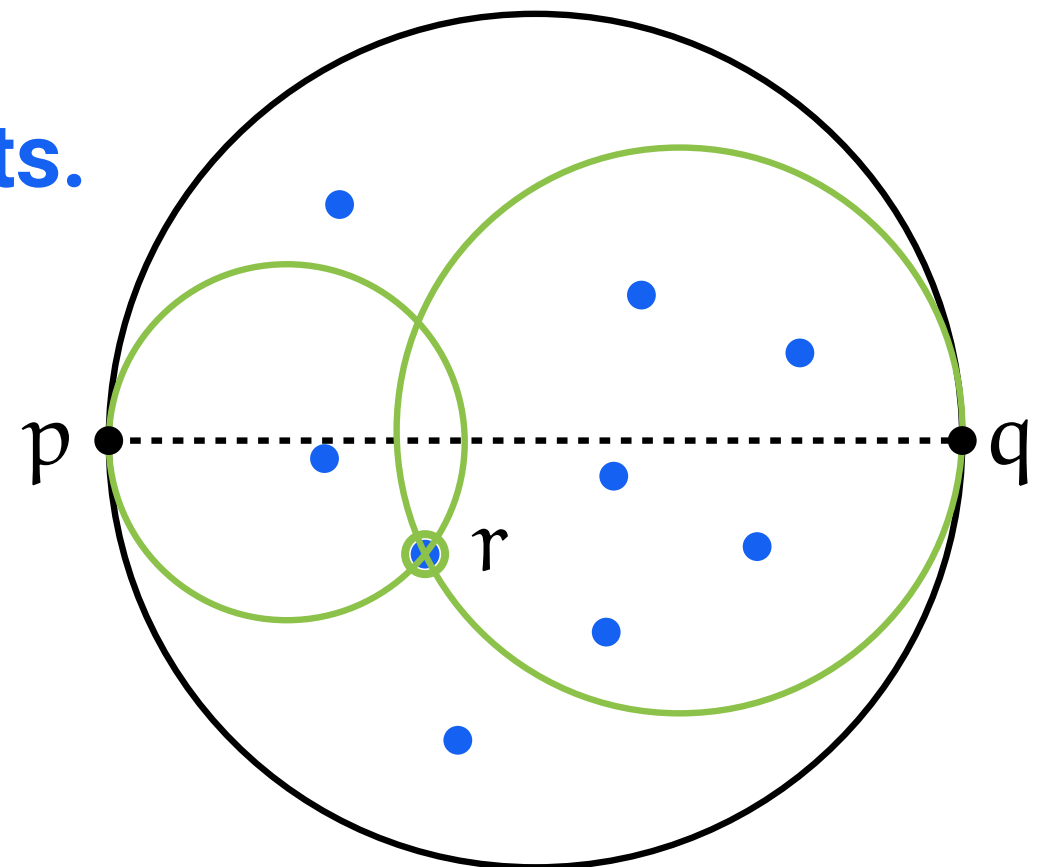
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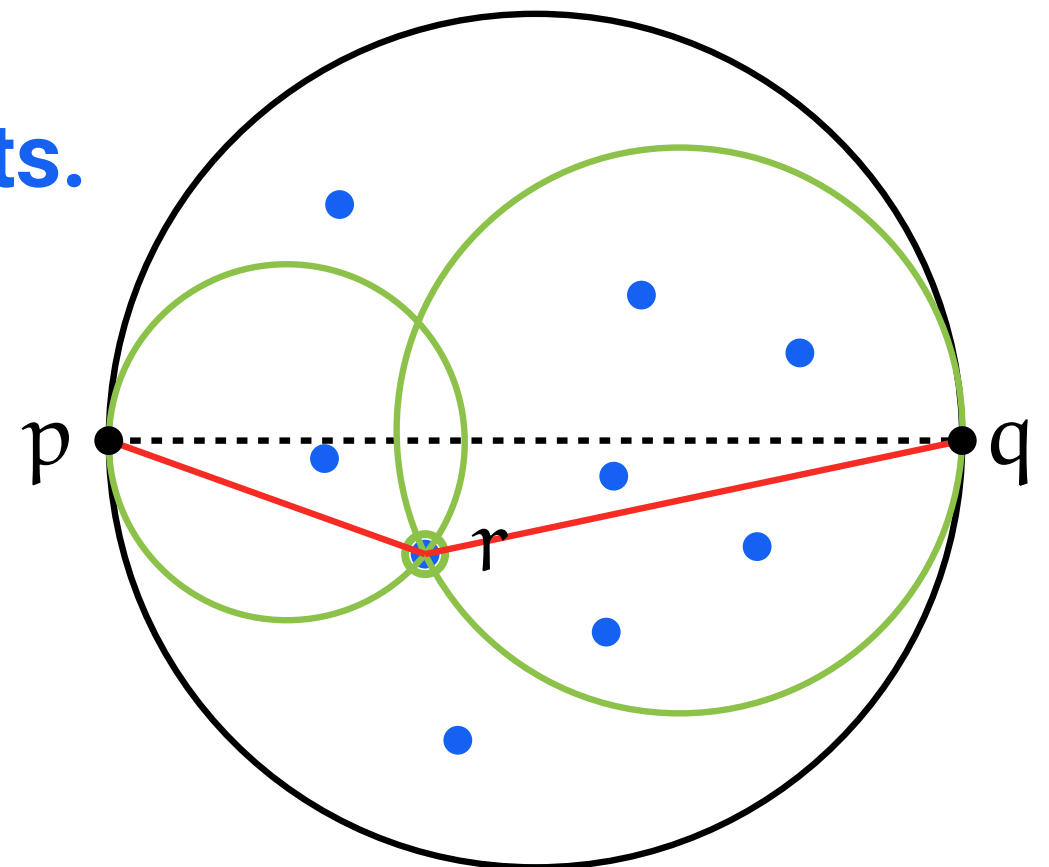
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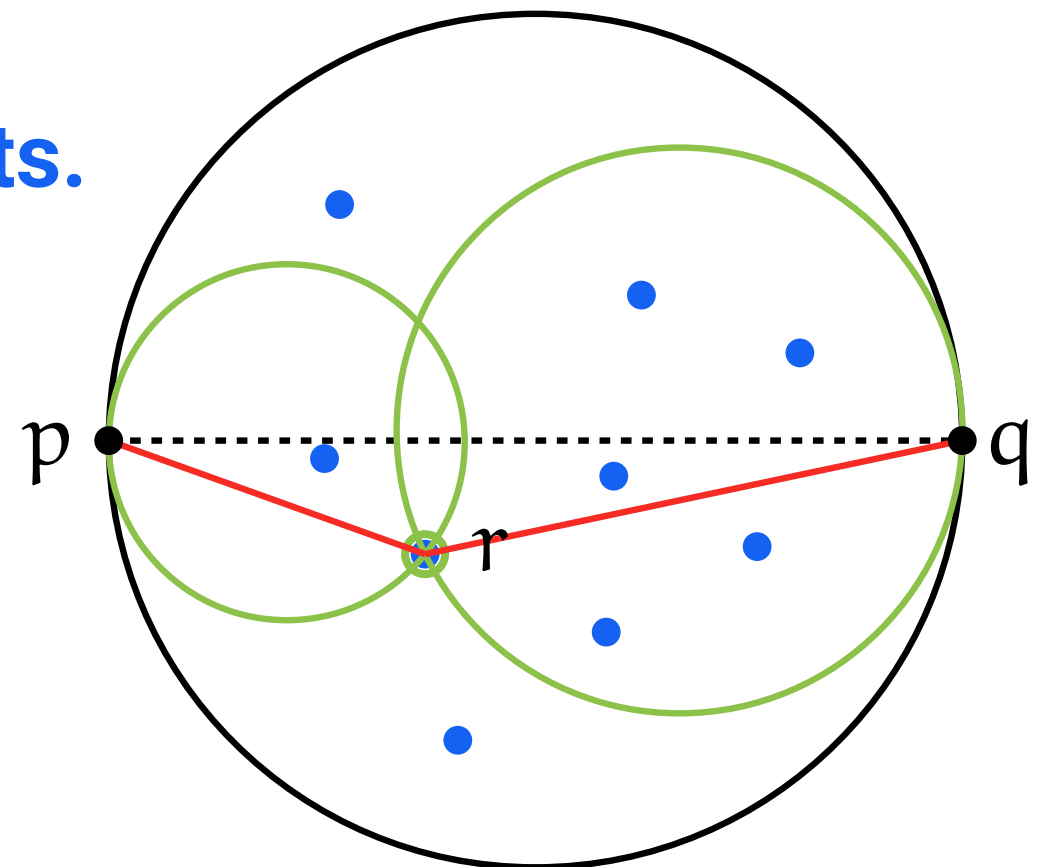
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Kruskal has already considered those edges, so p and q already connected.



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