

EuroGIGA Final Conference “Geometry in Graphs and Algorithms”

Empty triangles in good drawings of the complete graph

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³ Departament de Matemàtica Aplicada II, UPC, Barcelona, Spain

Good Drawings

- drawing of a simple graph $G = (V, E)$ on S^2 or E^2

Good Drawings

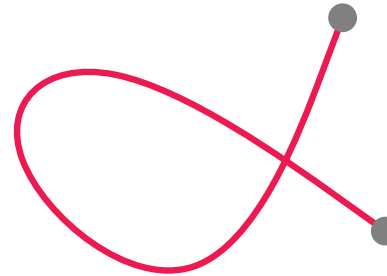
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- edges are Jordan arcs connecting end points

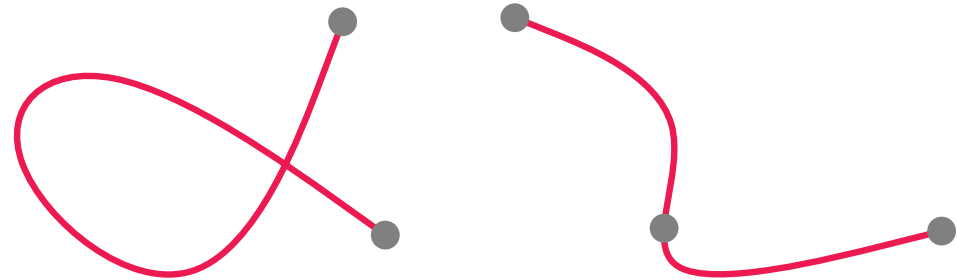
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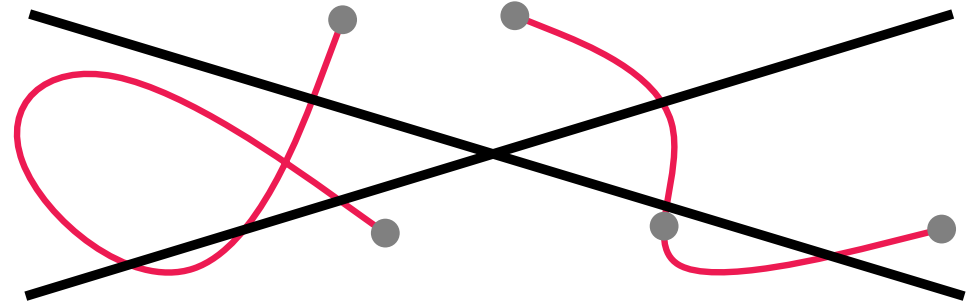
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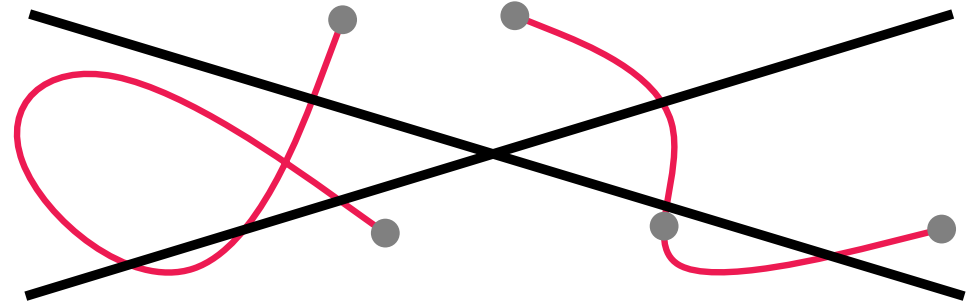
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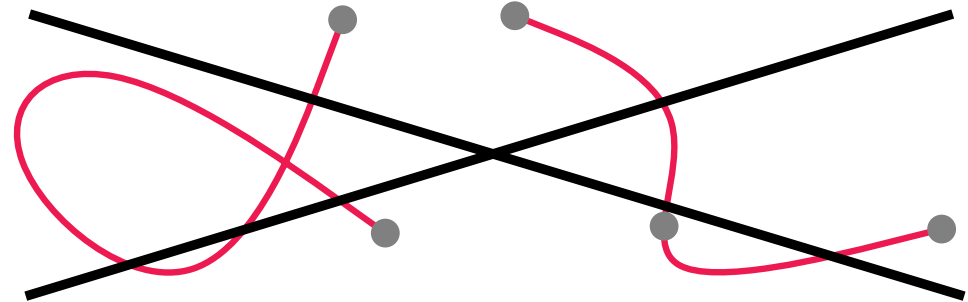
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- pairs of edges intersect at most once: proper crossing or common end point



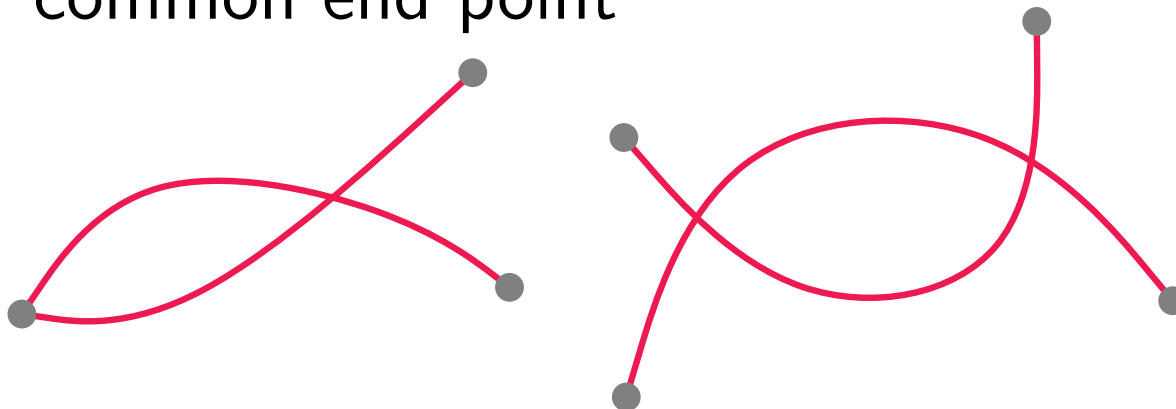
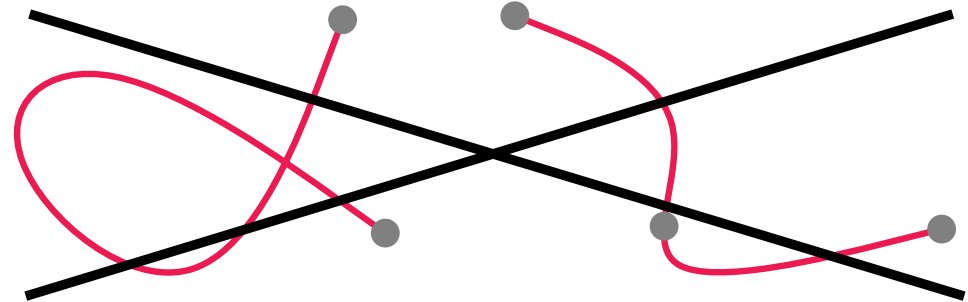
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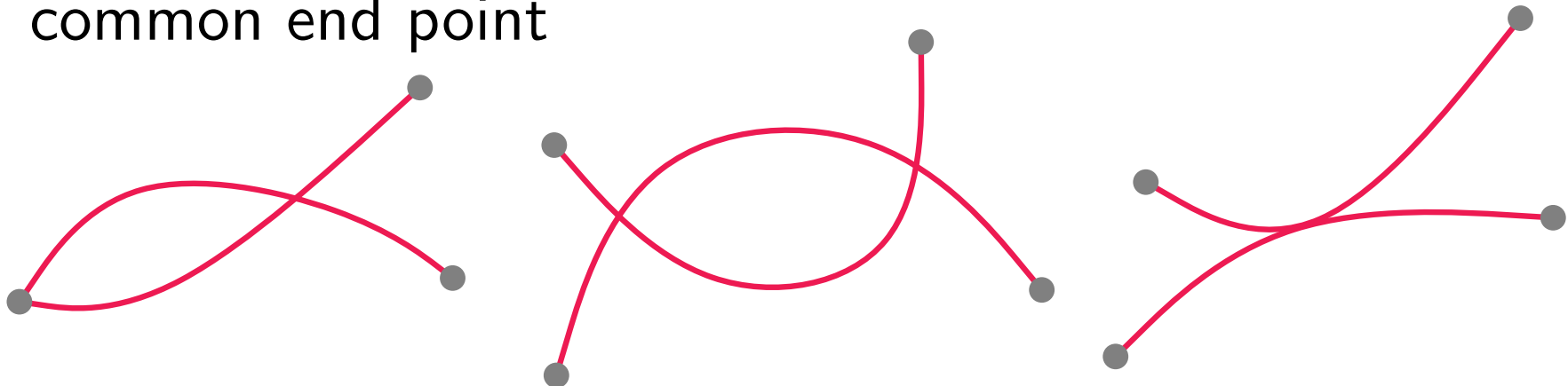
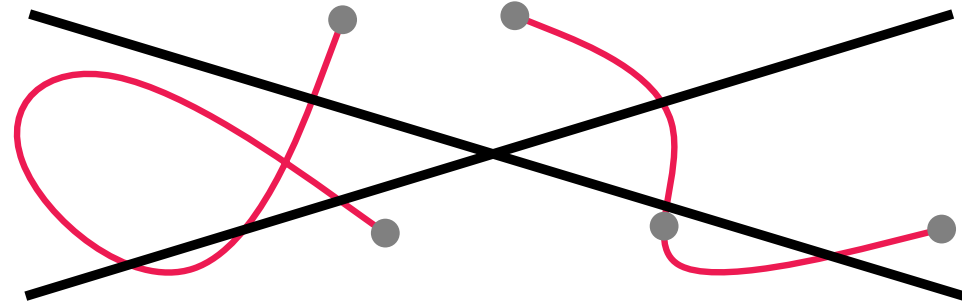
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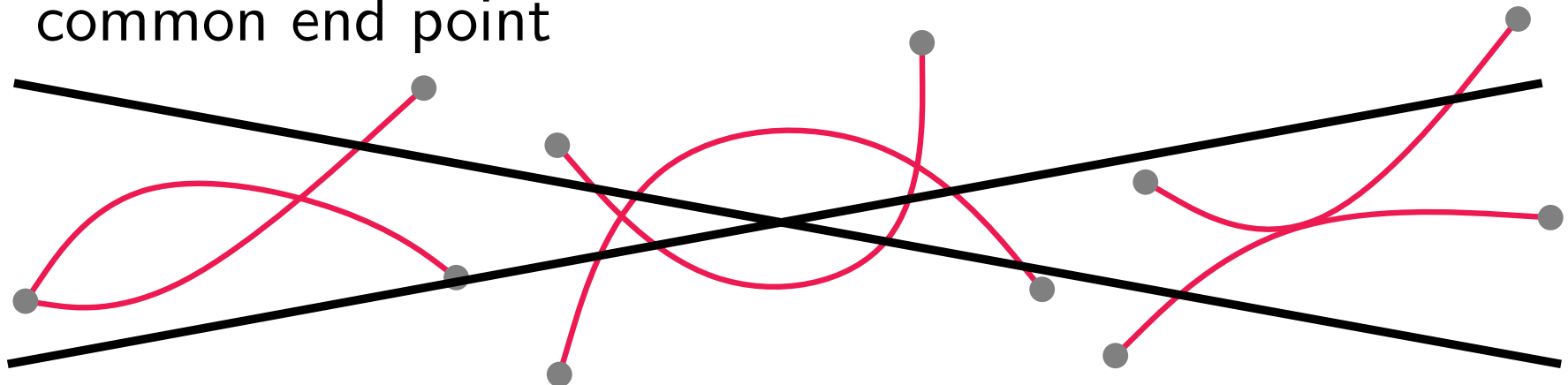
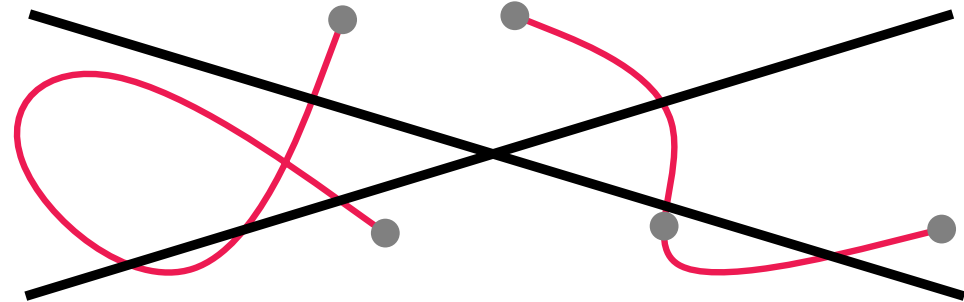
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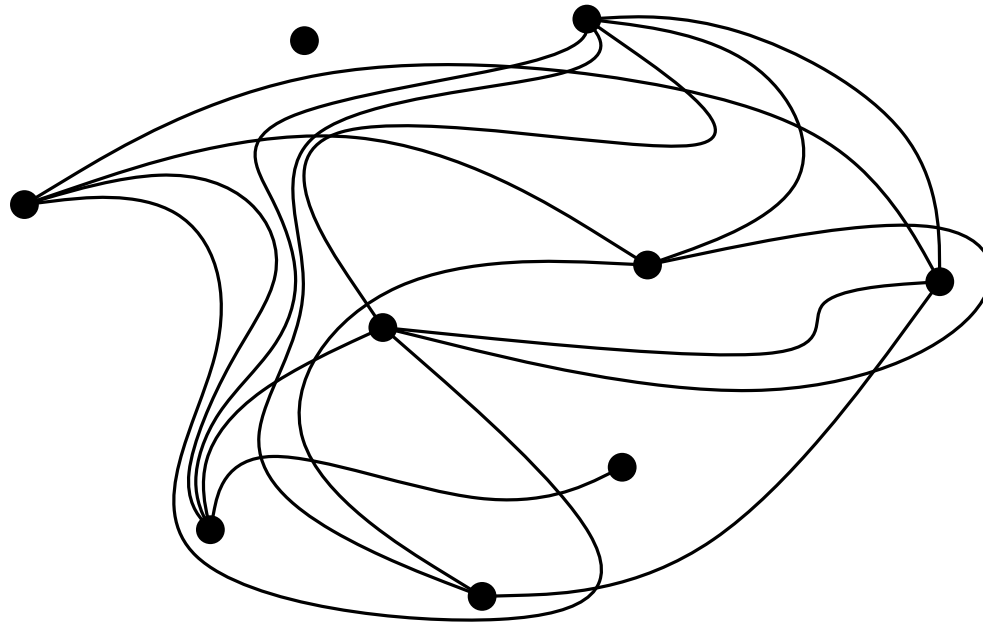
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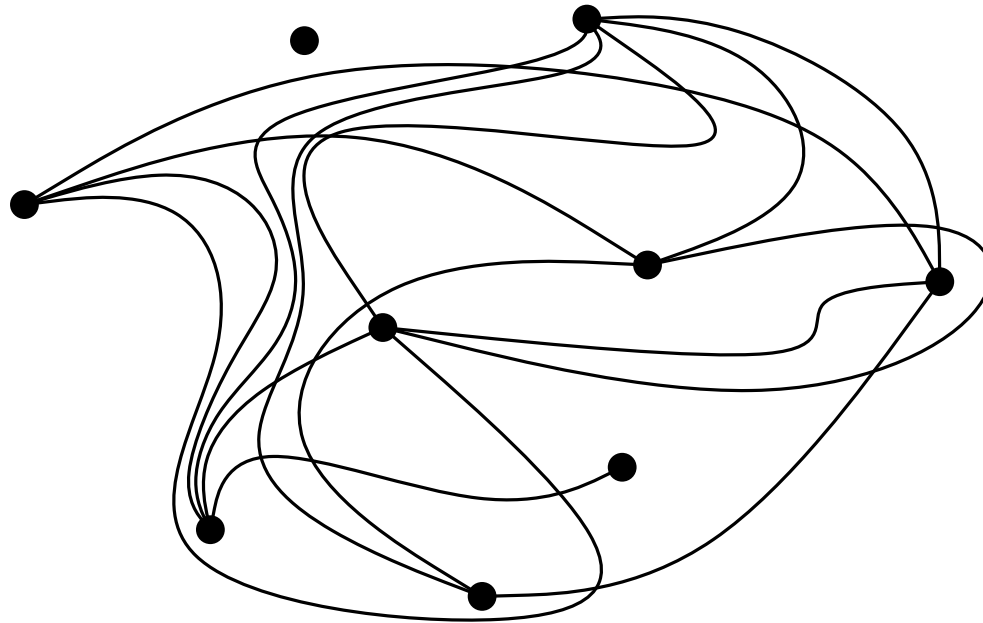
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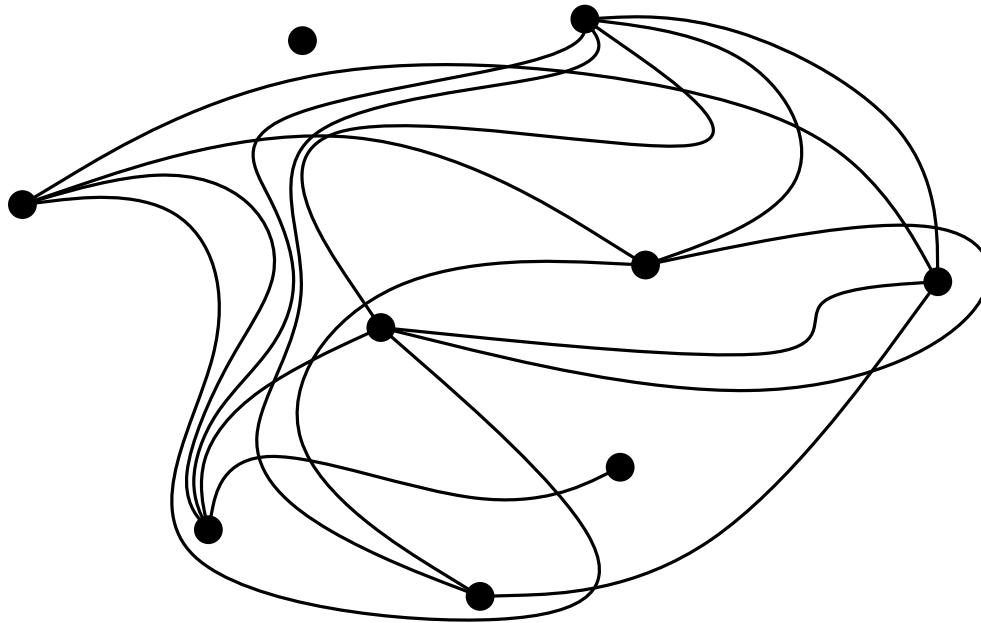
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- also: **simple topological graphs**

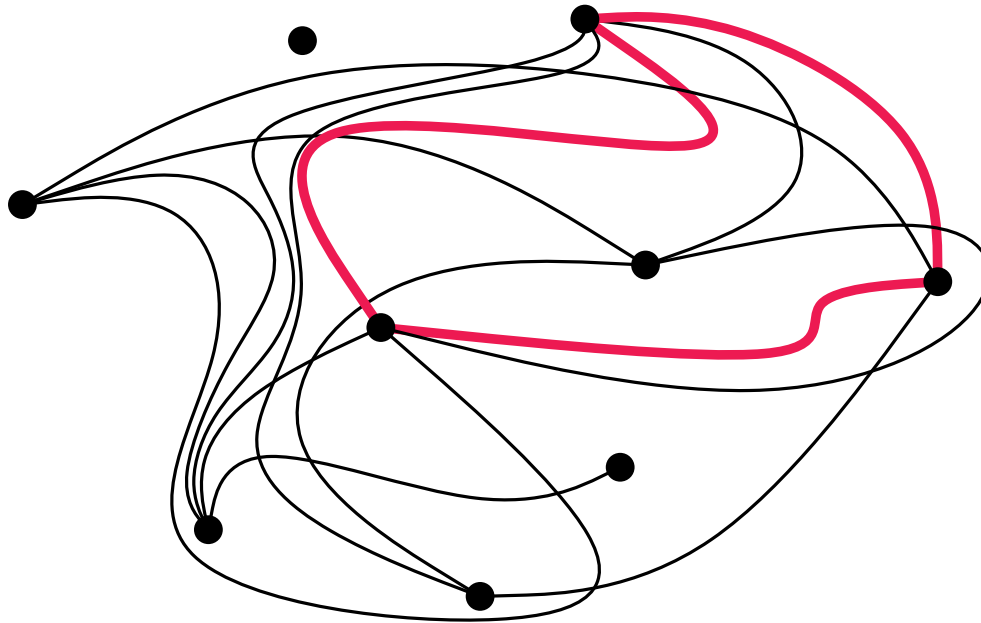
Triangles

- triangle: three pairwise adjacent edges



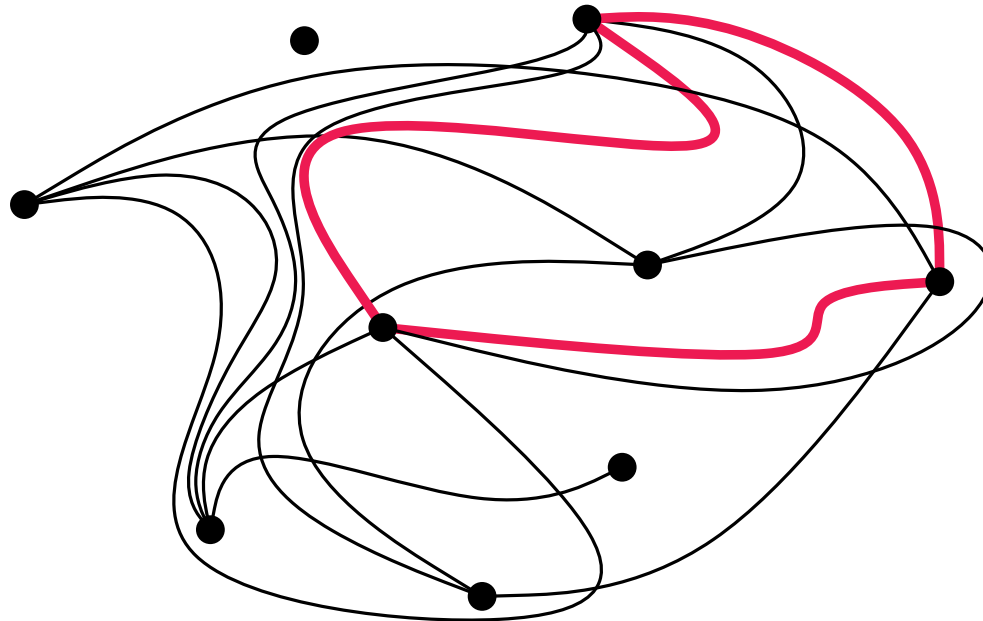
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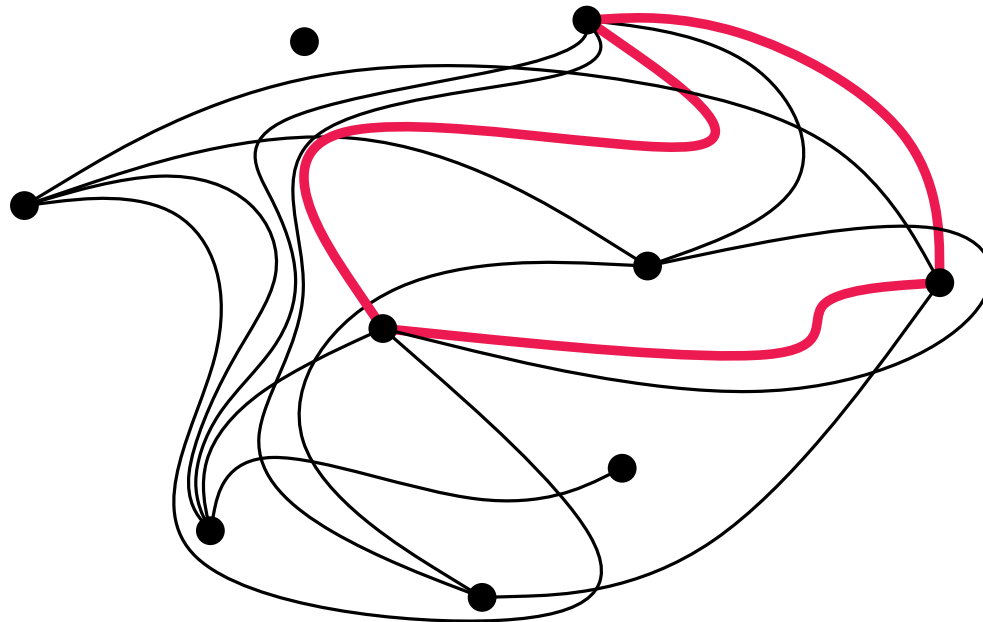
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 \Rightarrow partition of E^2 (or S^2) in two connected components

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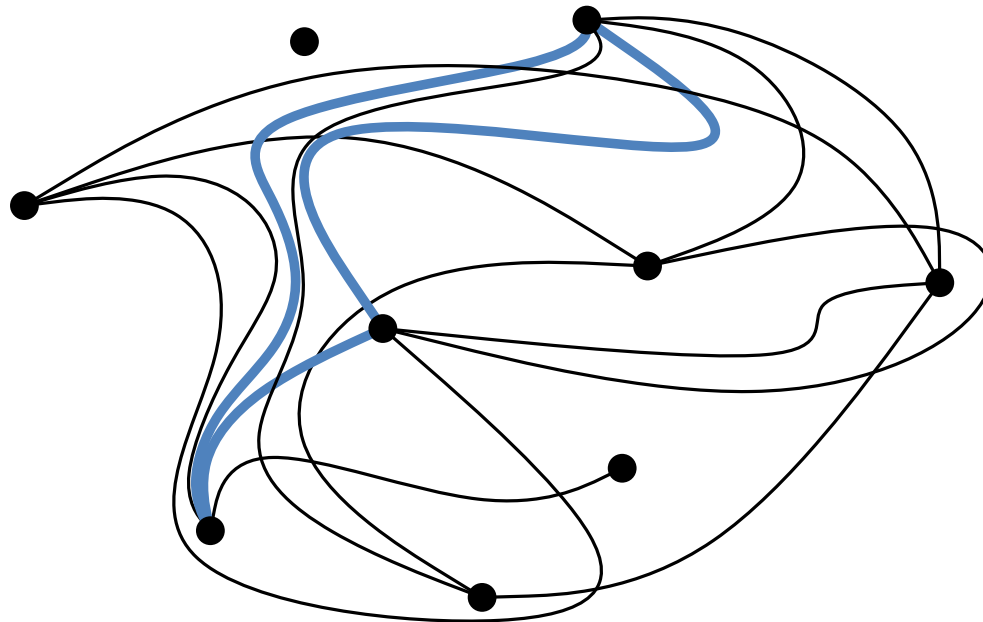
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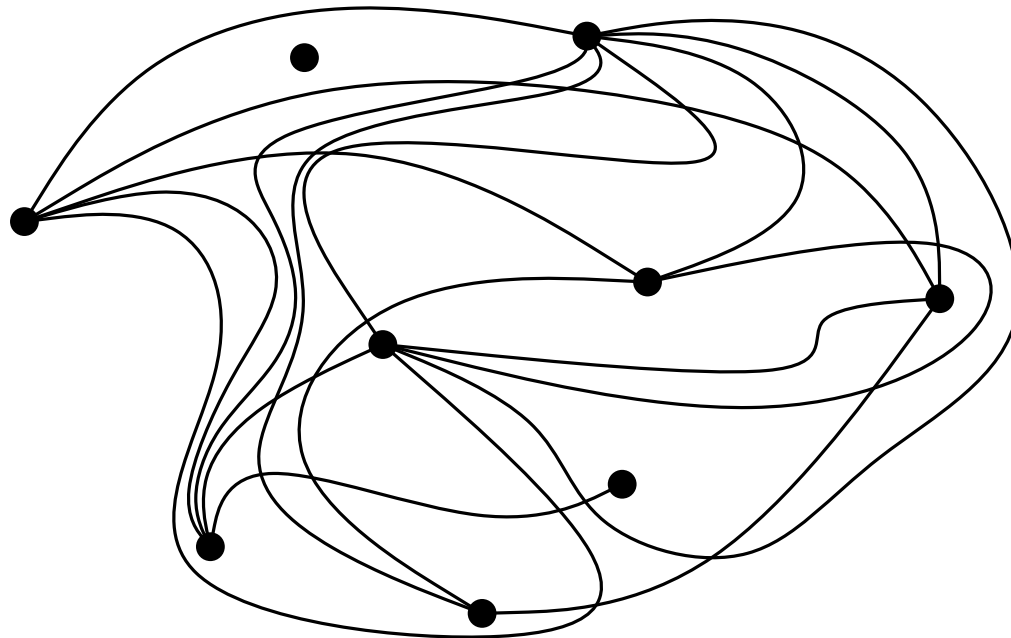
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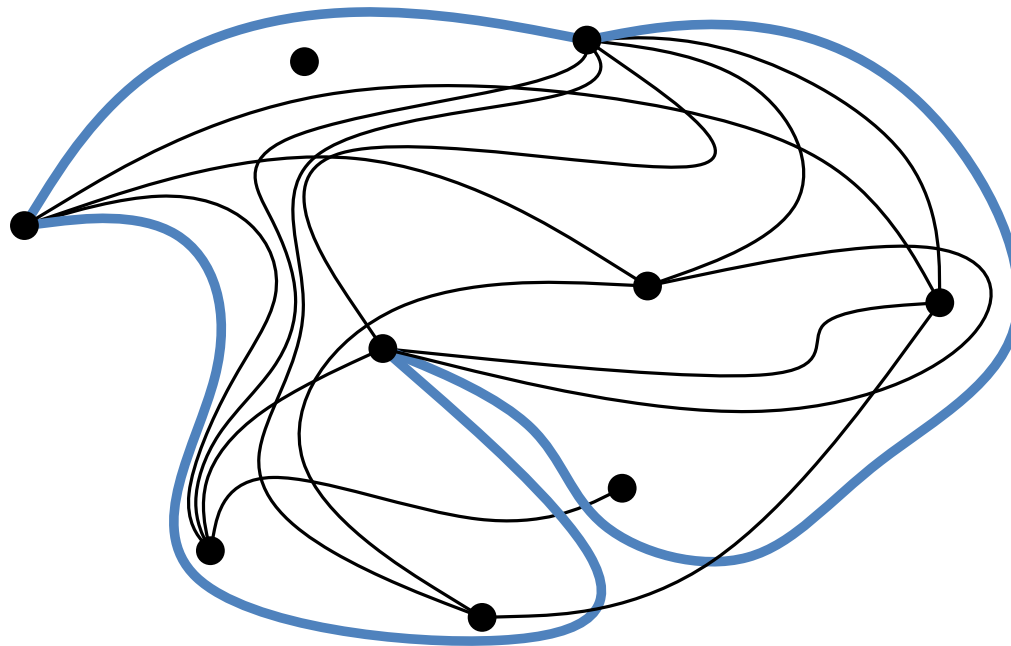
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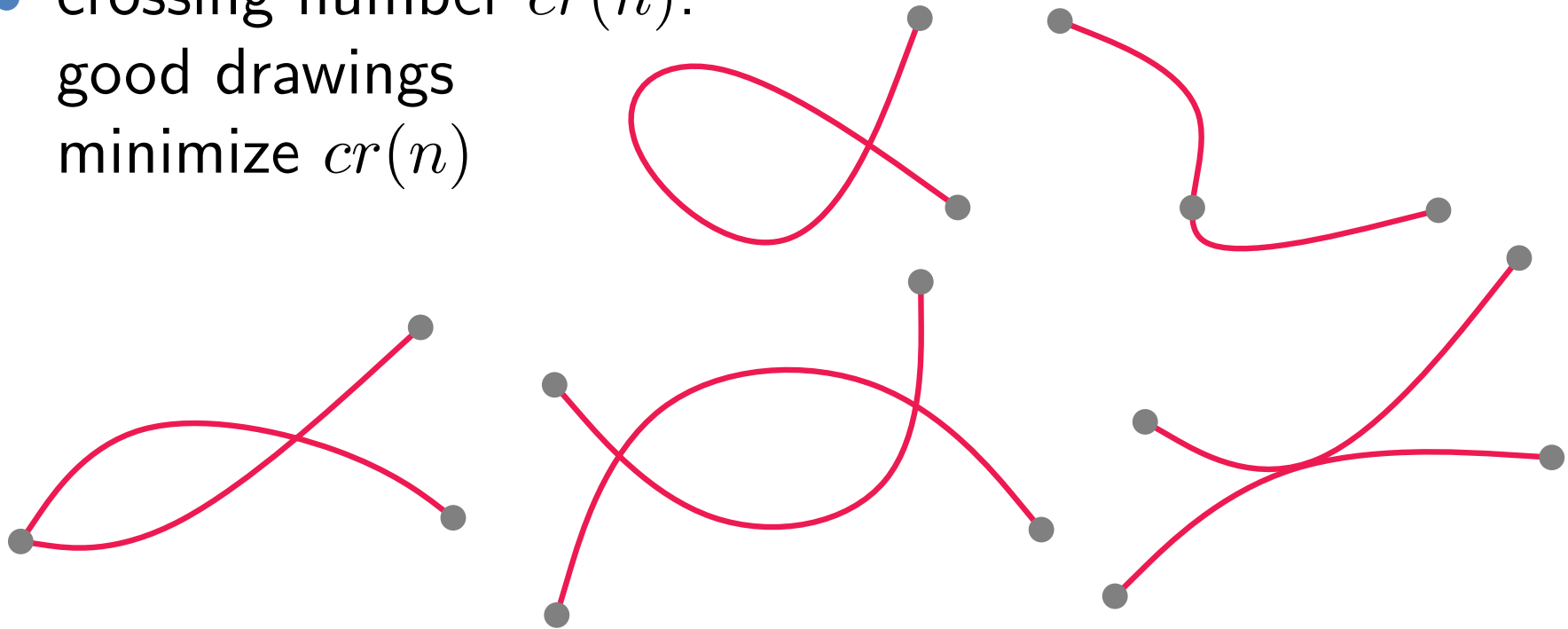
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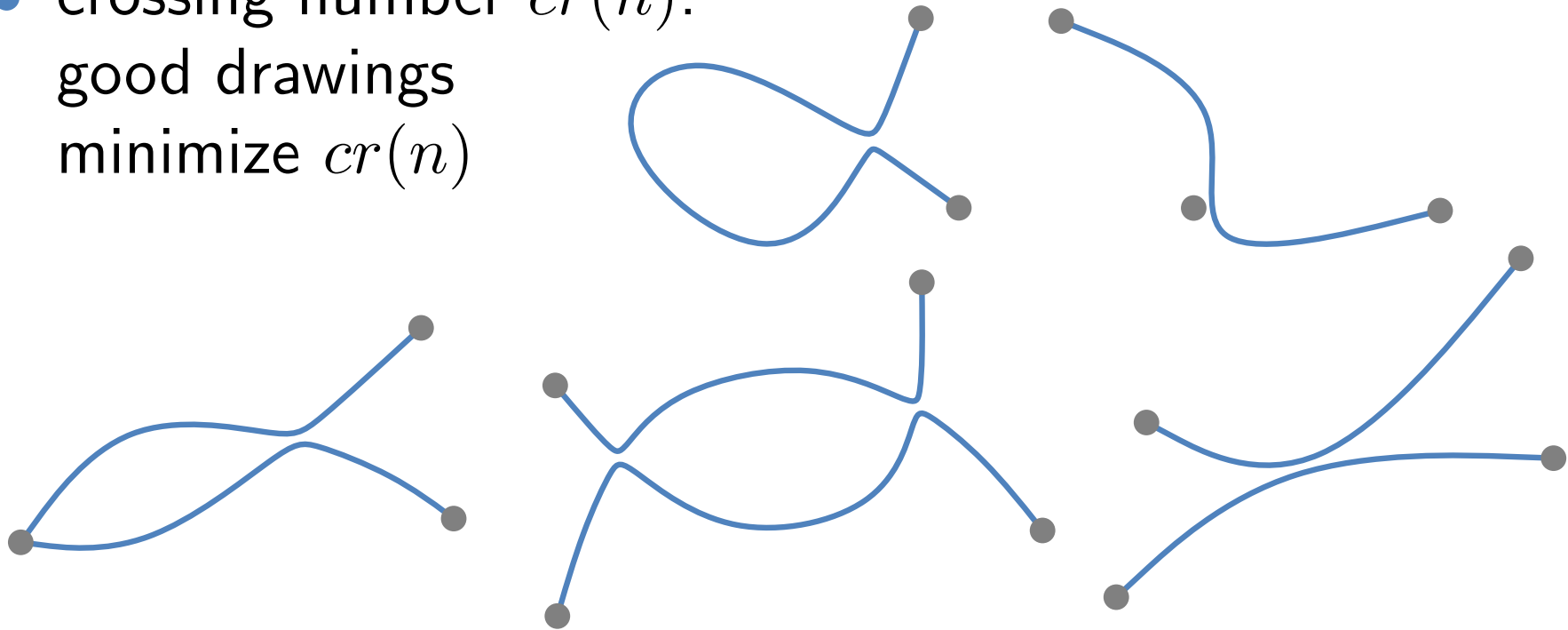
Background

- crossing number $cr(n)$:
good drawings
minimize $cr(n)$



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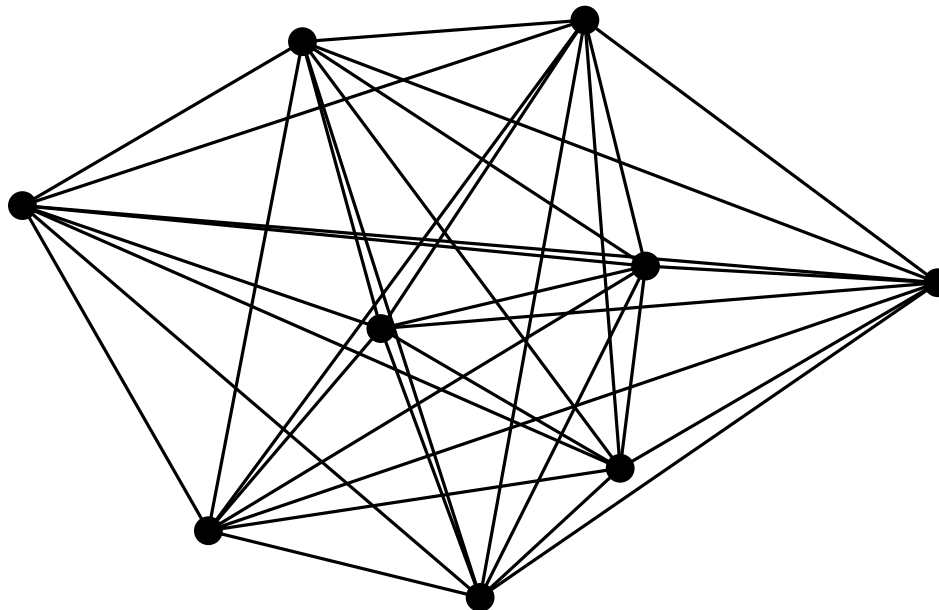
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⇒ **Wednesday at 9:30**

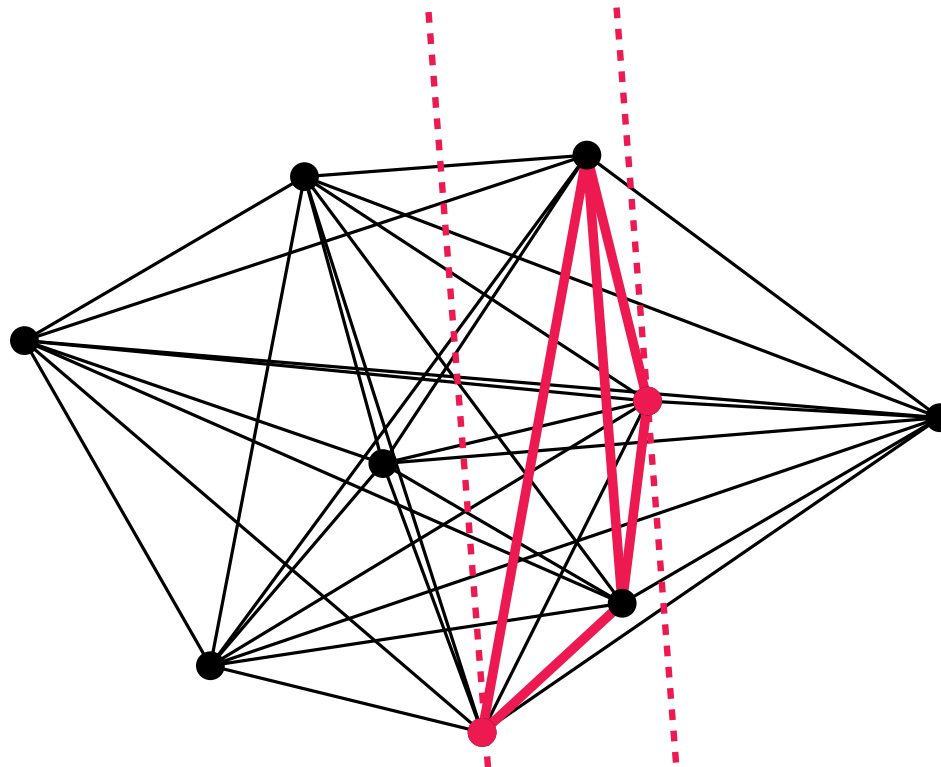
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- minimum number $h_3(n)$ of empty triangles in straight-line drawings of K_n :
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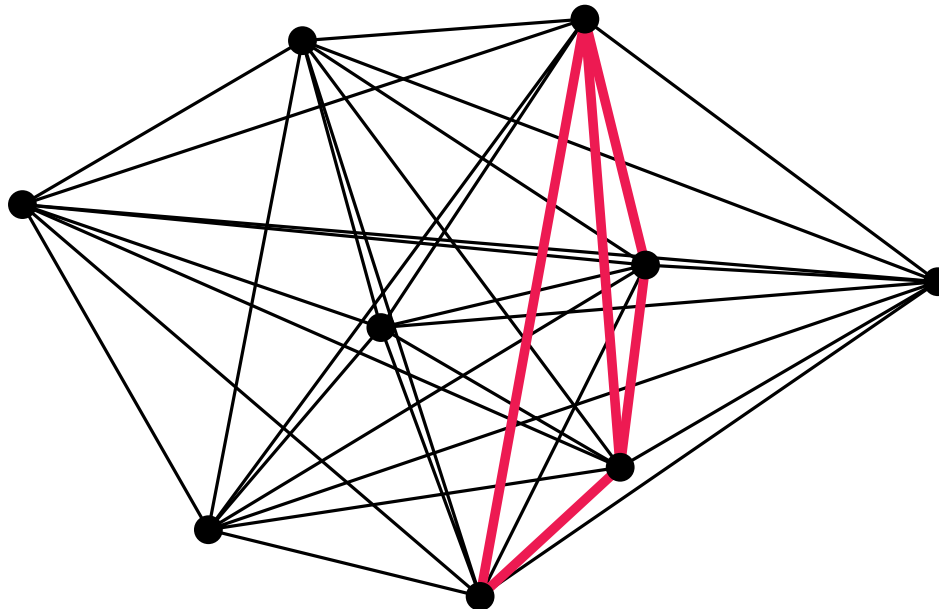
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- minimum number $h_3(n)$ of empty triangles in straight-line drawings of K_n :
 - at least one empty triangle per edge
 - currently best bounds: [BV 2004, AFHHPV 2012]:

$$n^2 - \frac{32}{7}n + \frac{22}{7} \leq h_3(n) \leq 1.6196n^2 + o(n^2)$$

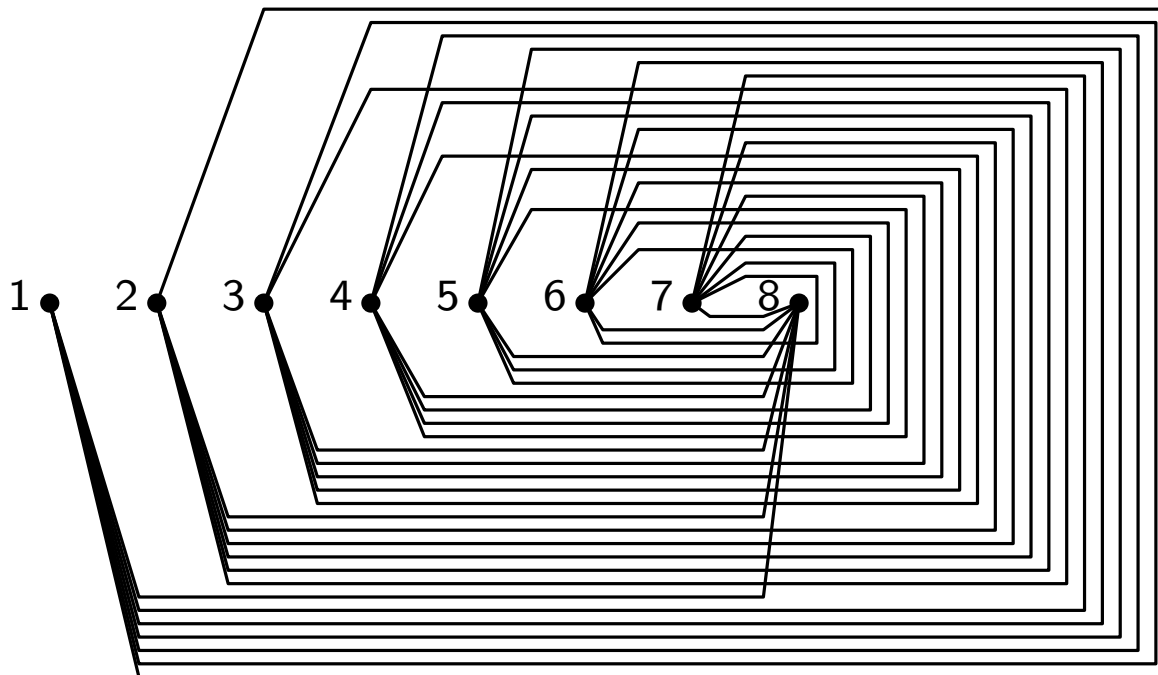


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- minimum number $t(n)$ of empty triangles in good drawings $D(K_n)$:
 - H. Harborth [1998]: $2 \leq t(n) \leq 2n - 4$

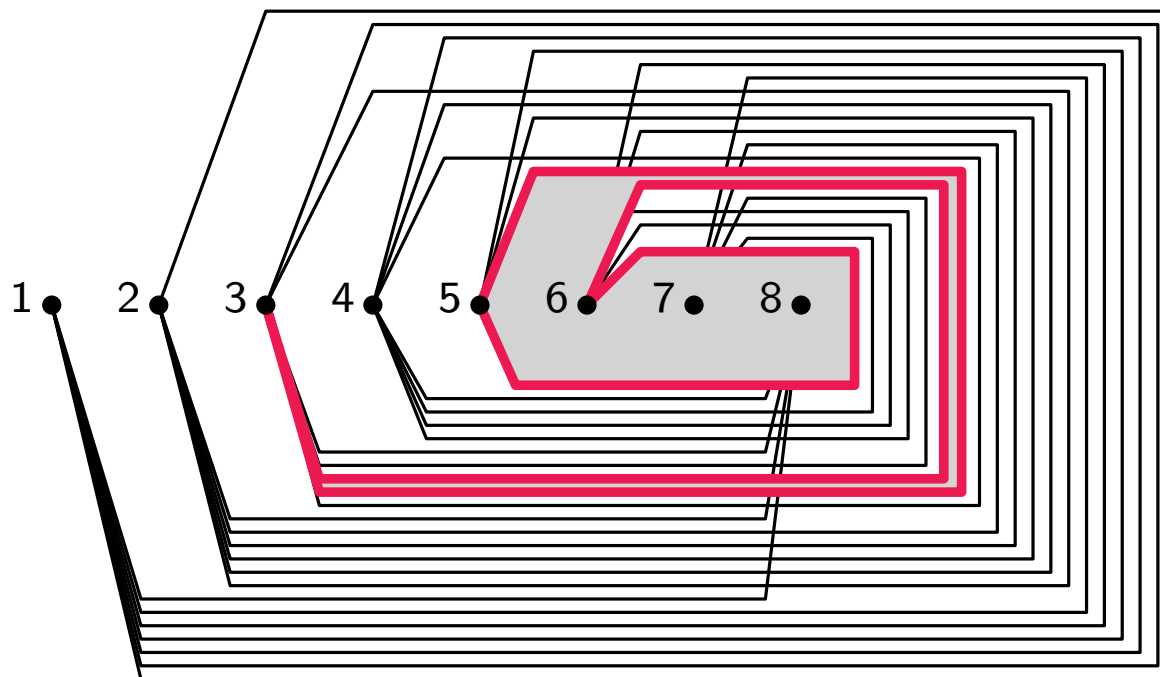
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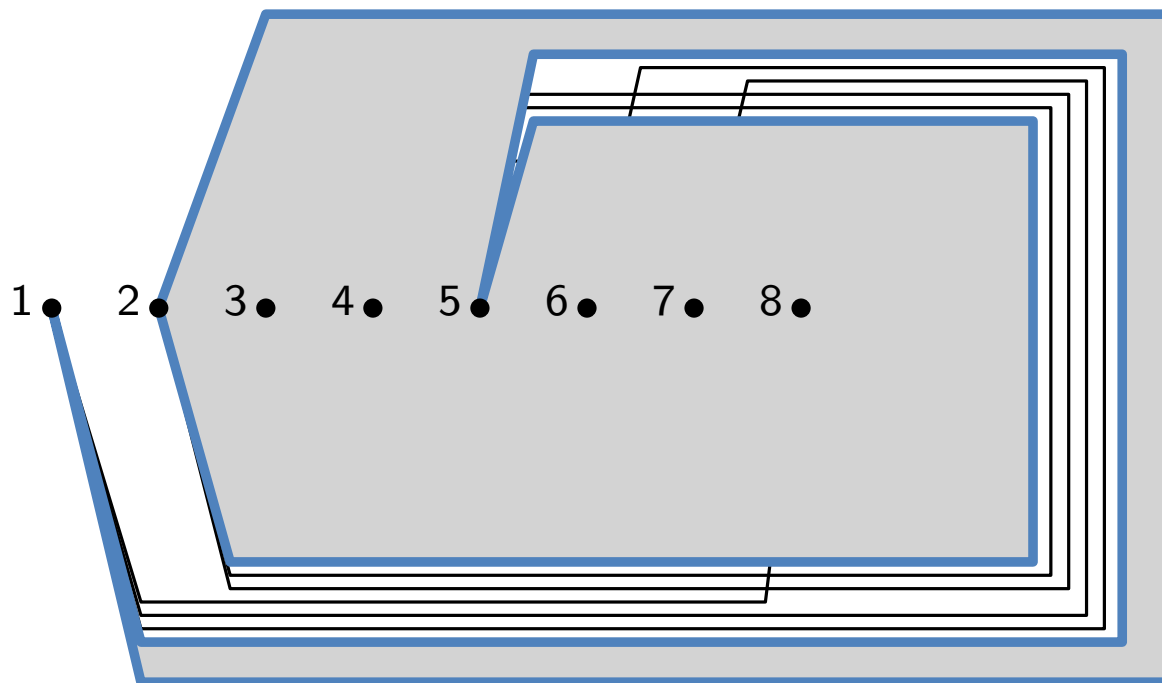
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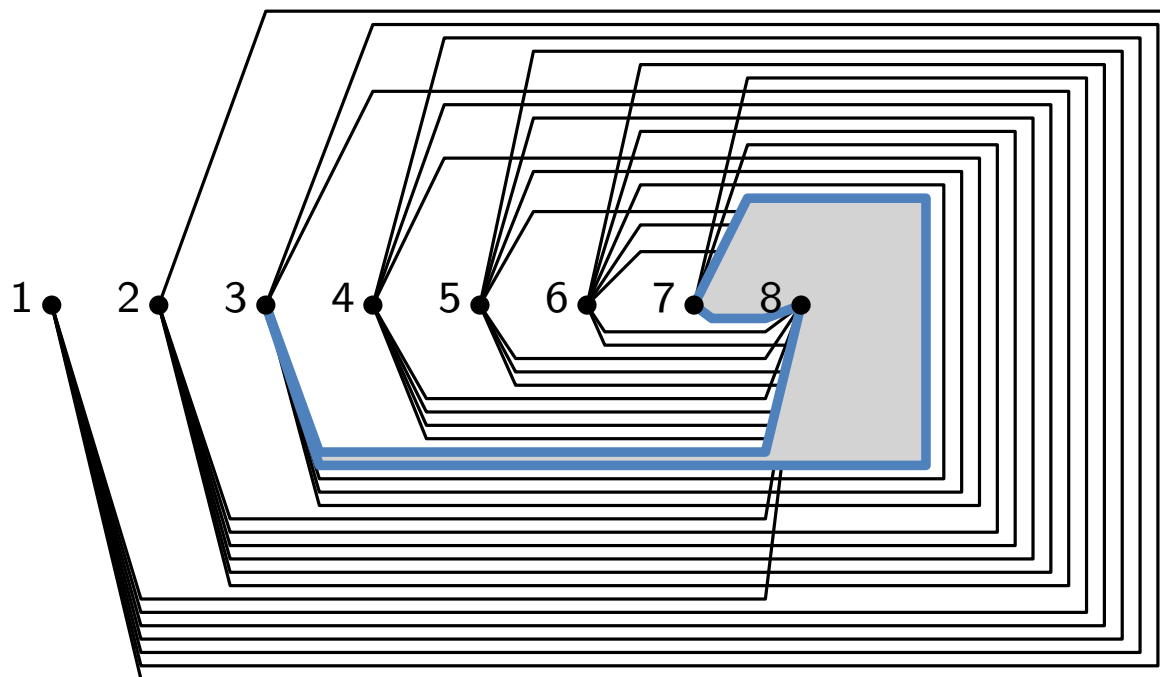
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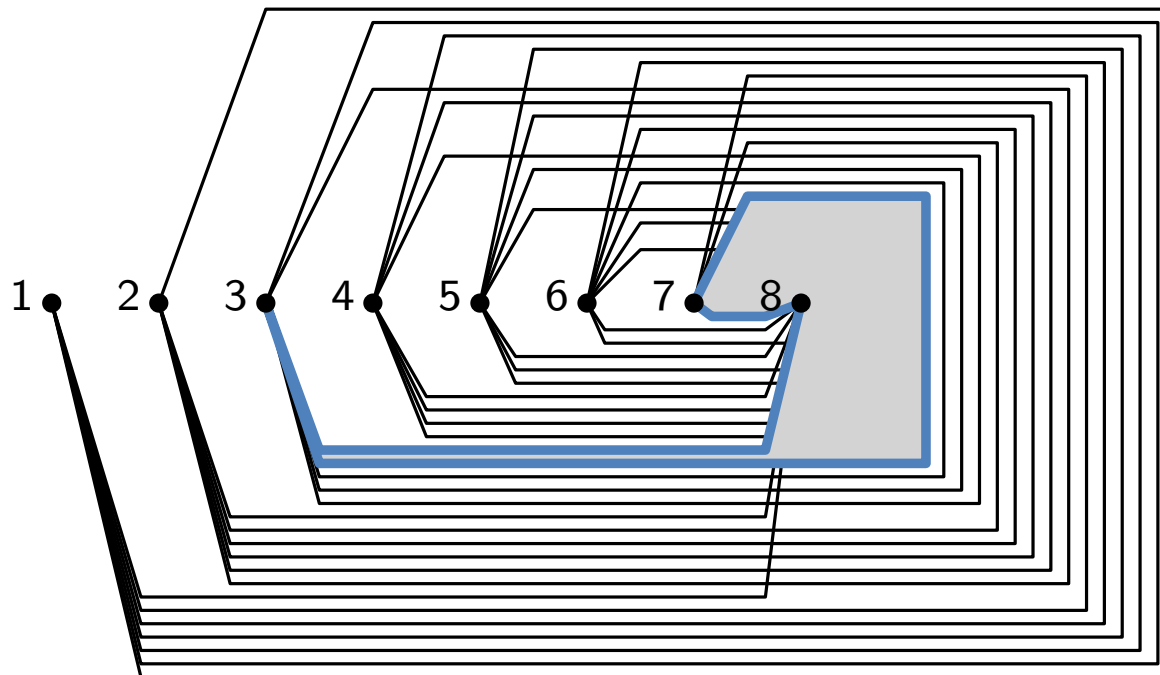
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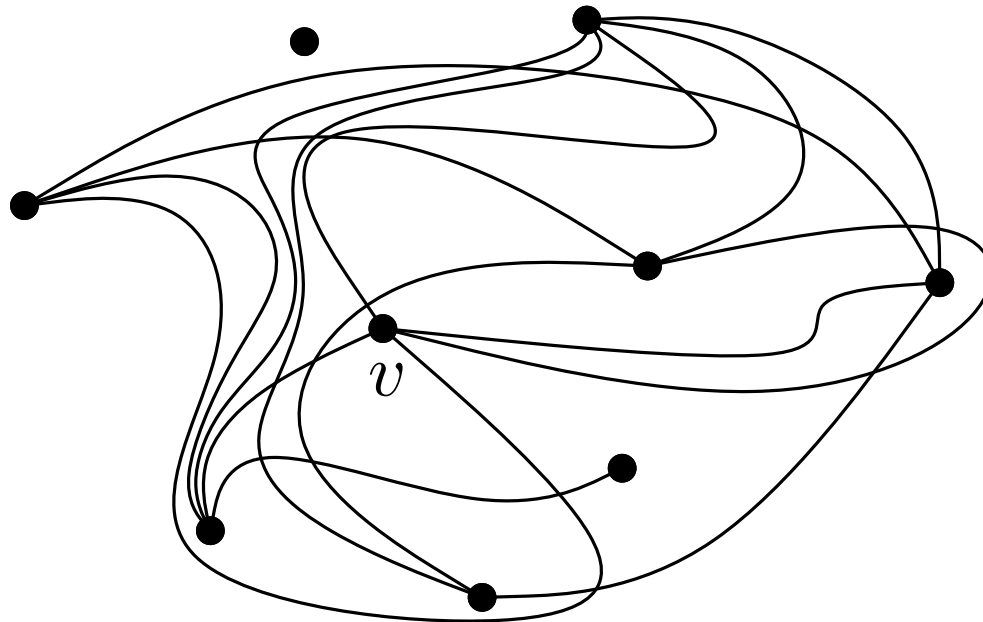
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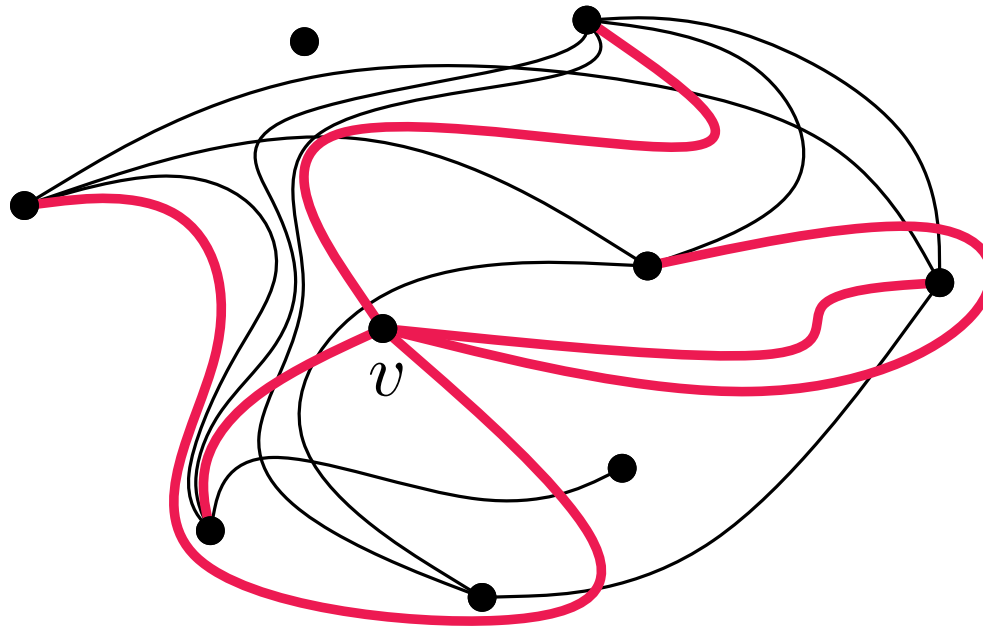
Star Graphs

- star graph of v : all vertices of G , all incident edges of v



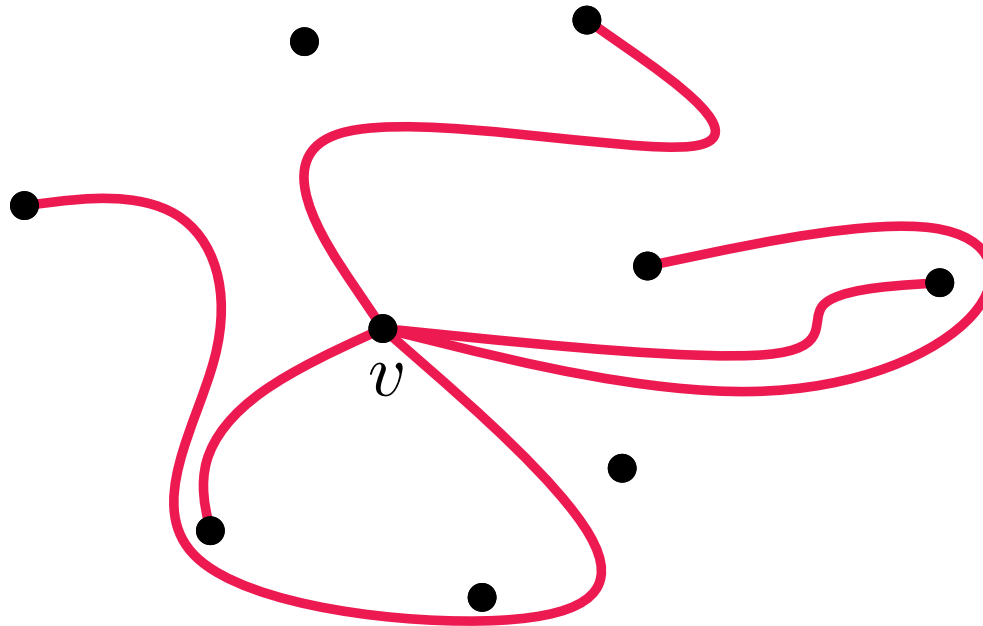
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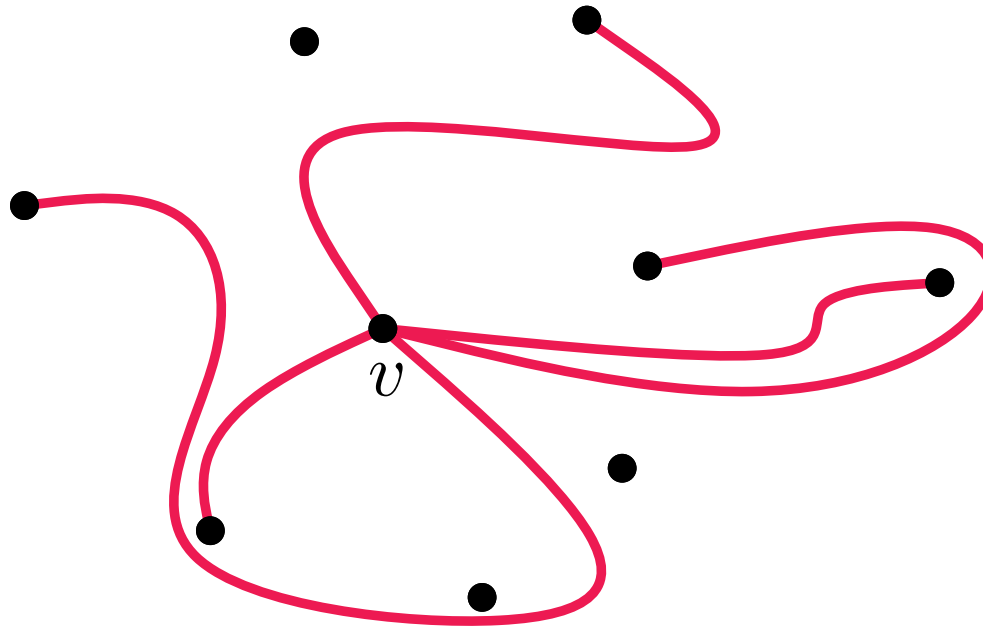
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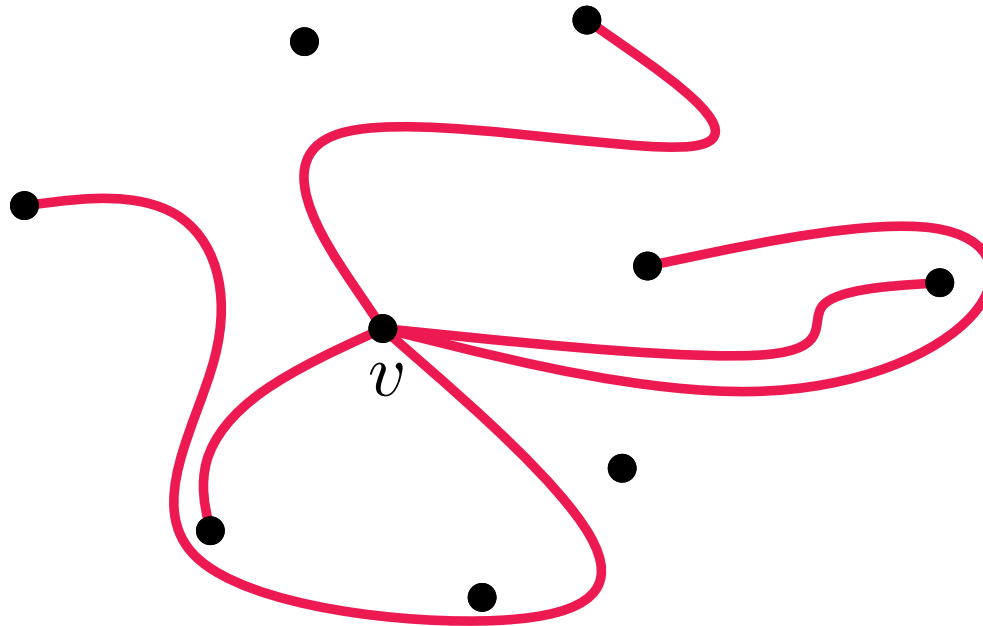
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- crossing-free

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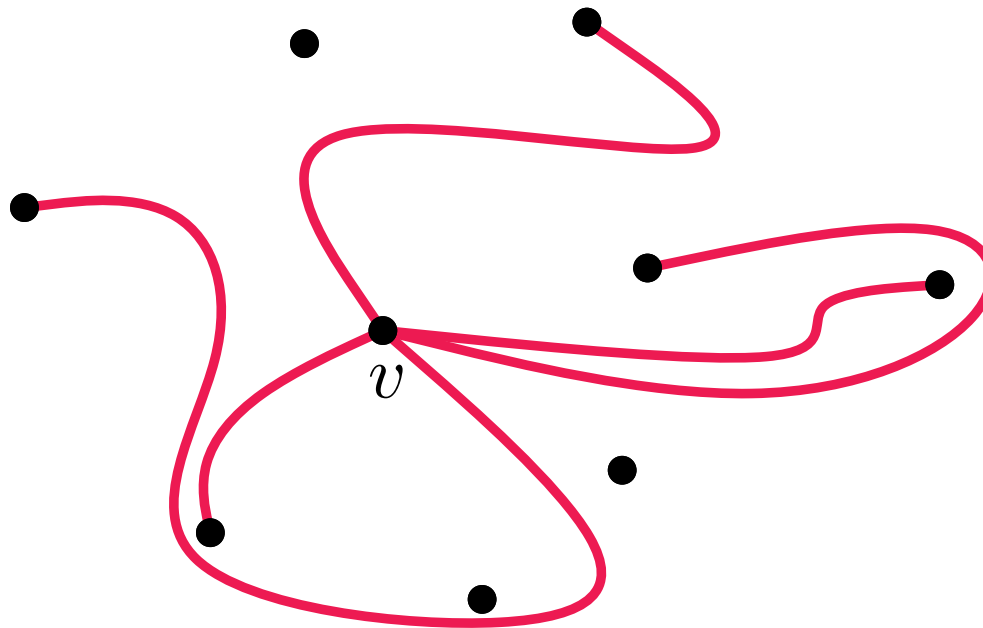
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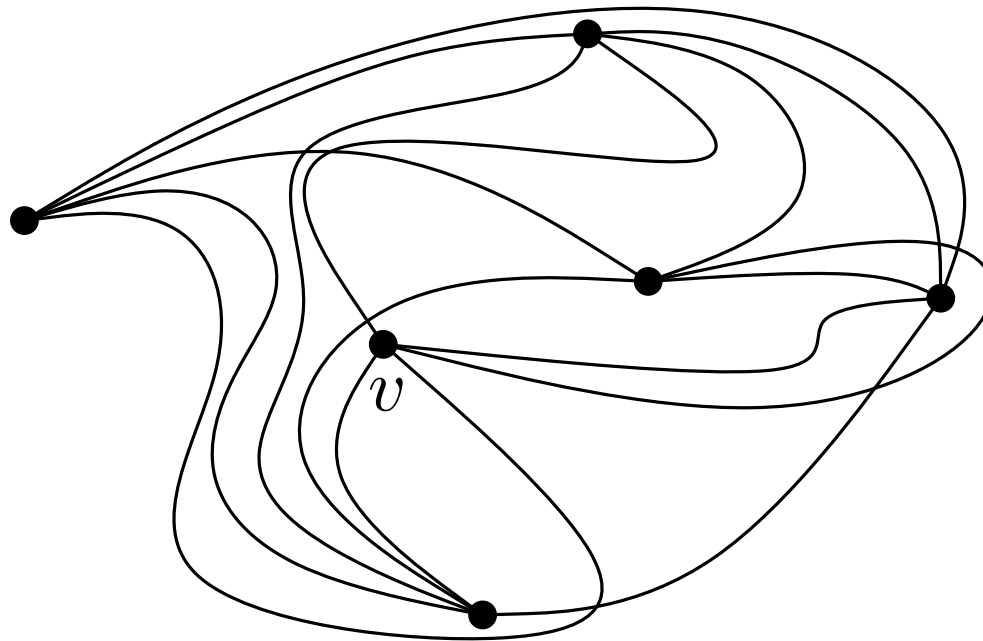
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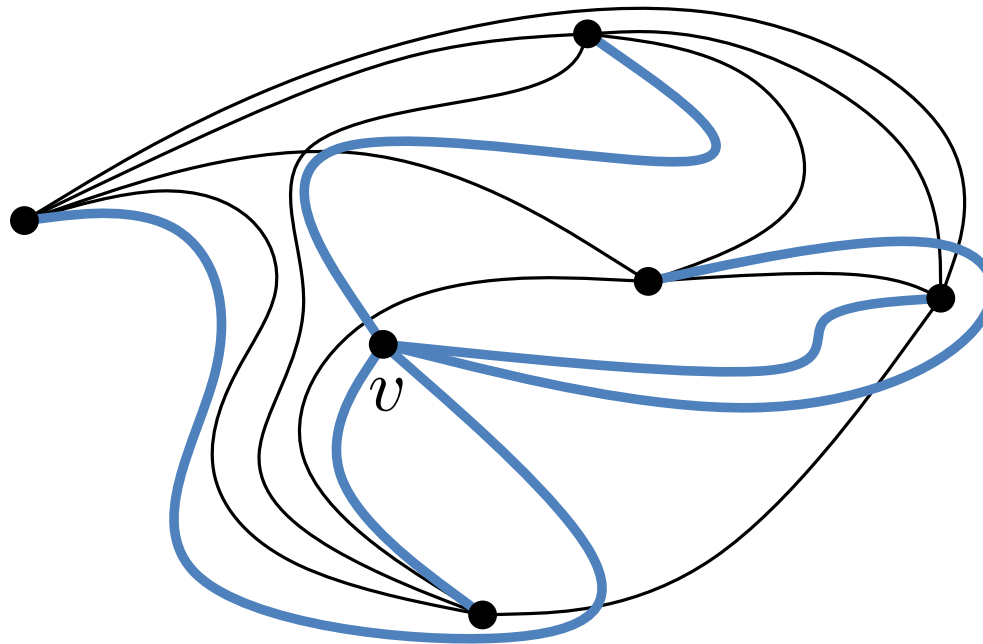
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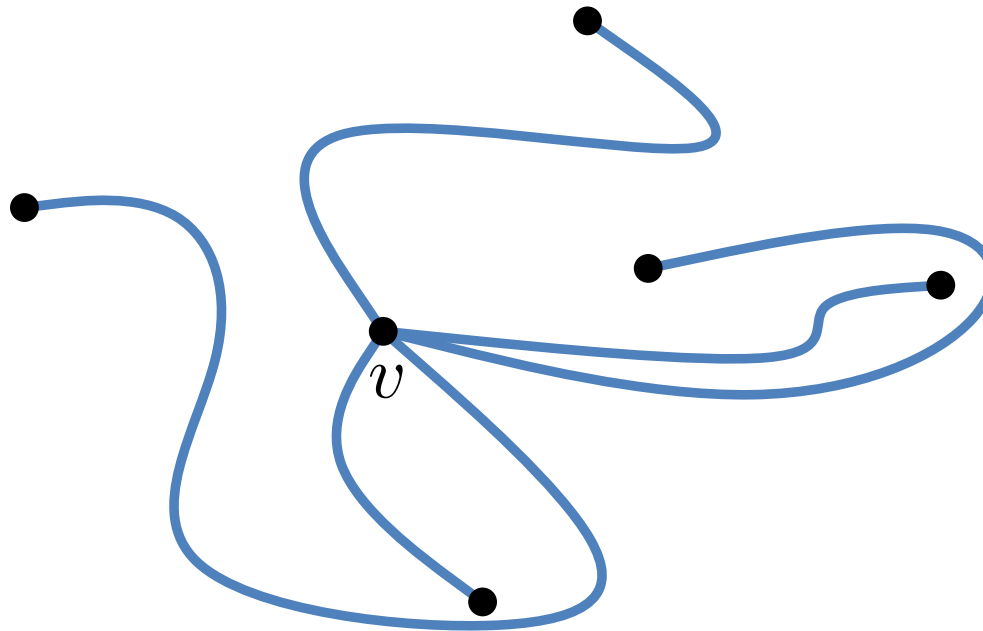
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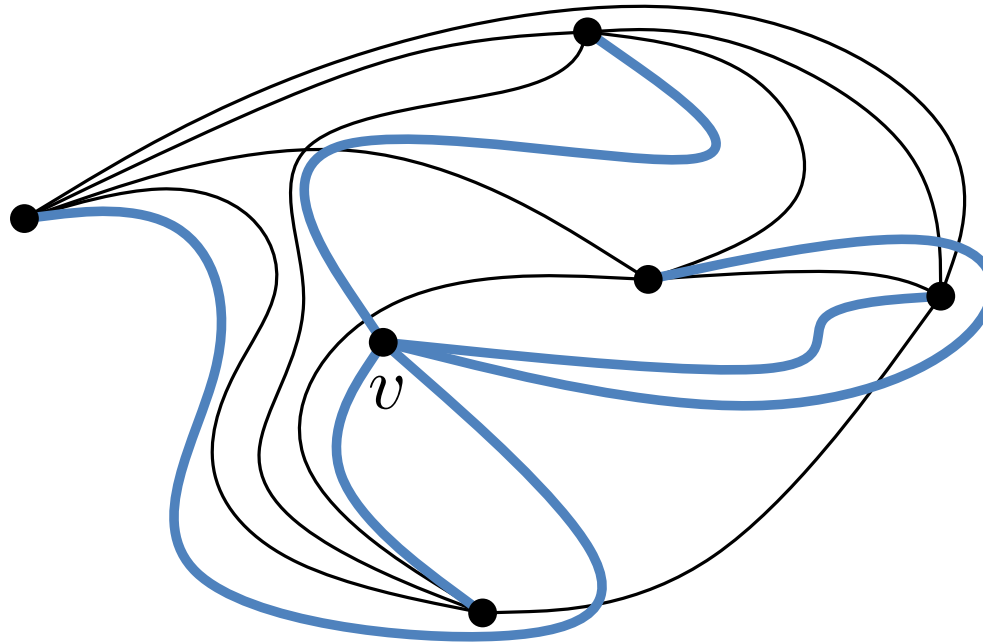
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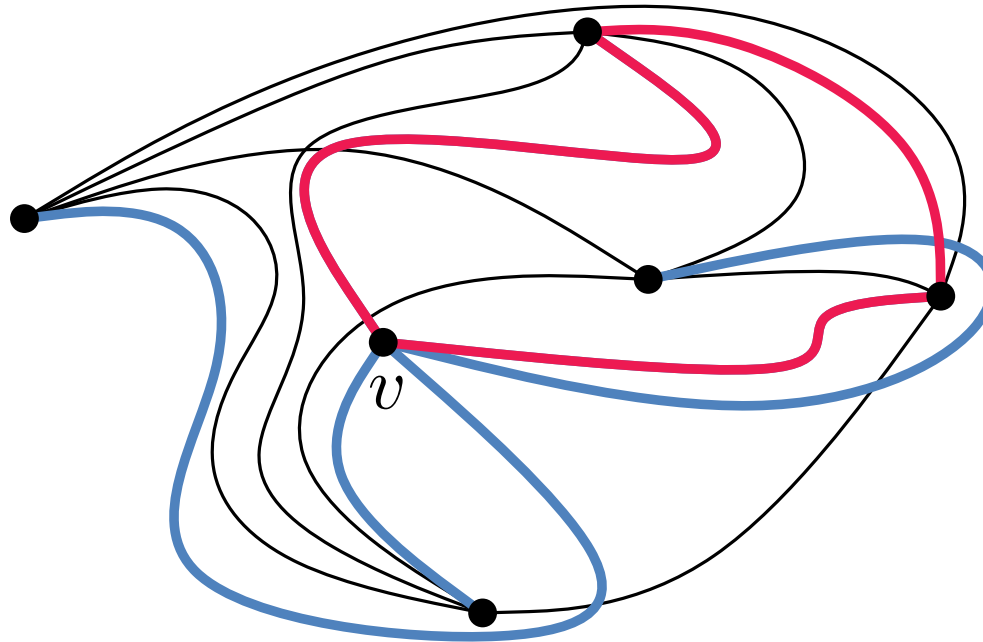
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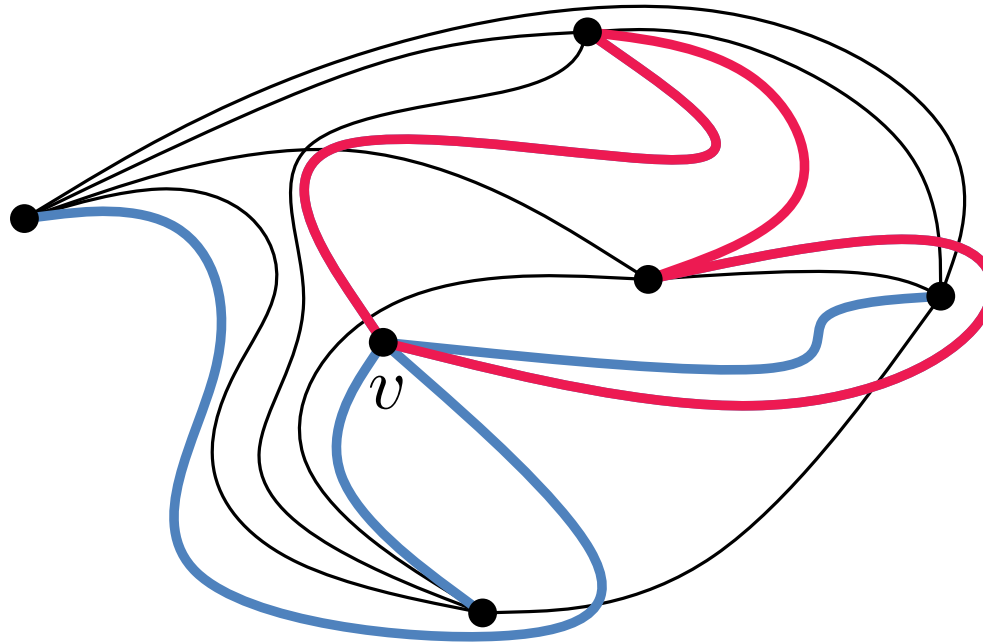
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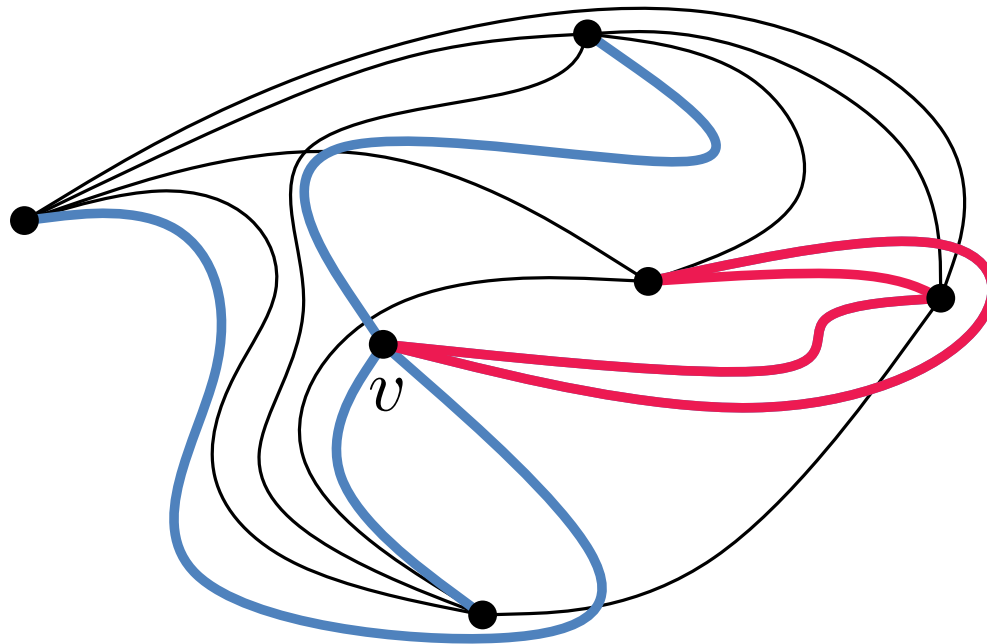
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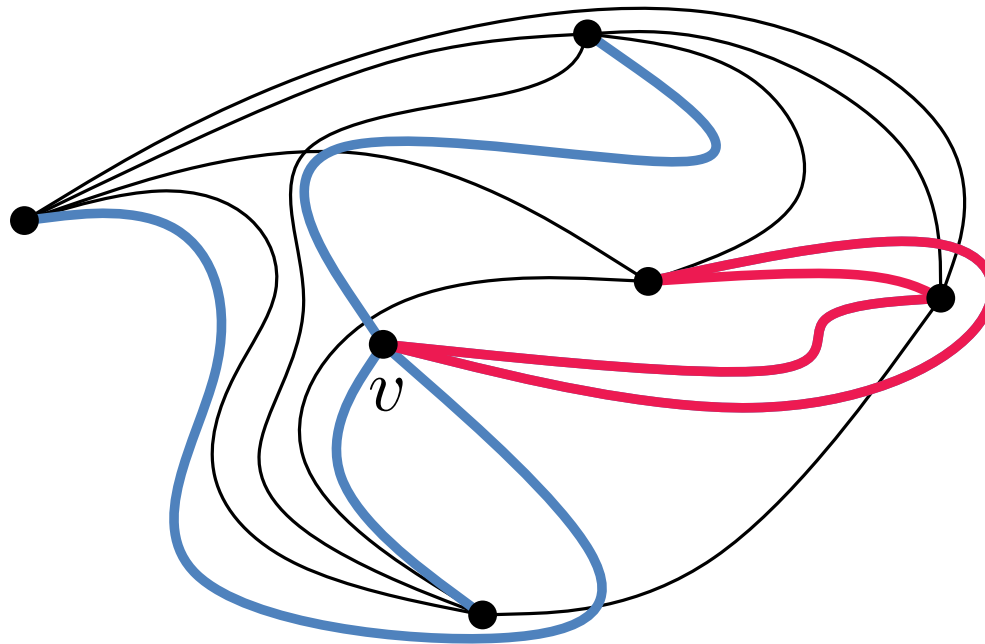
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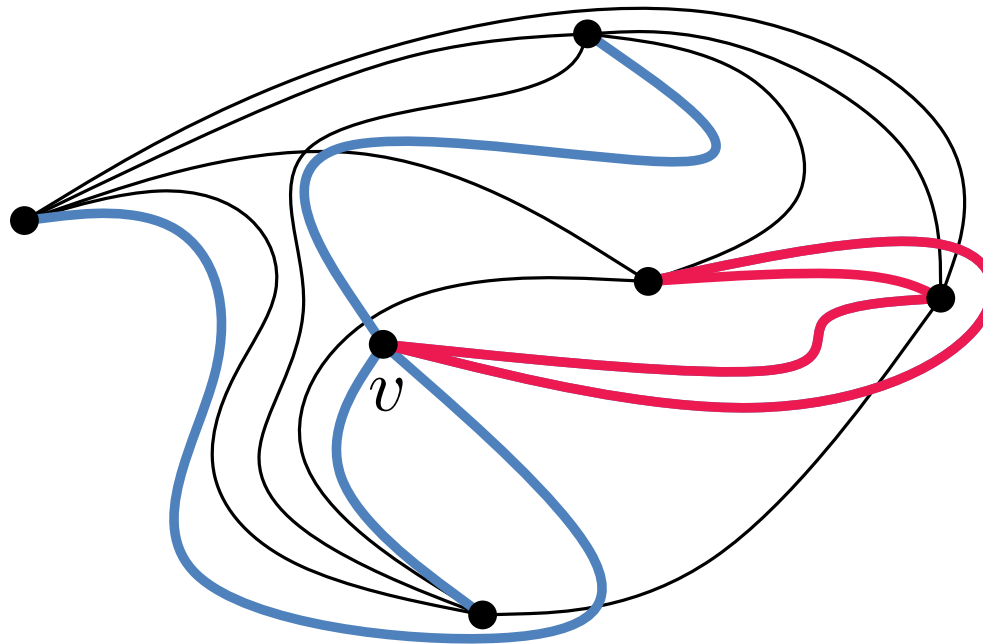


Proposition. $G = K_n$:

Δ empty star triangle at $v \iff$
star edges of Δ consecutive in order around v

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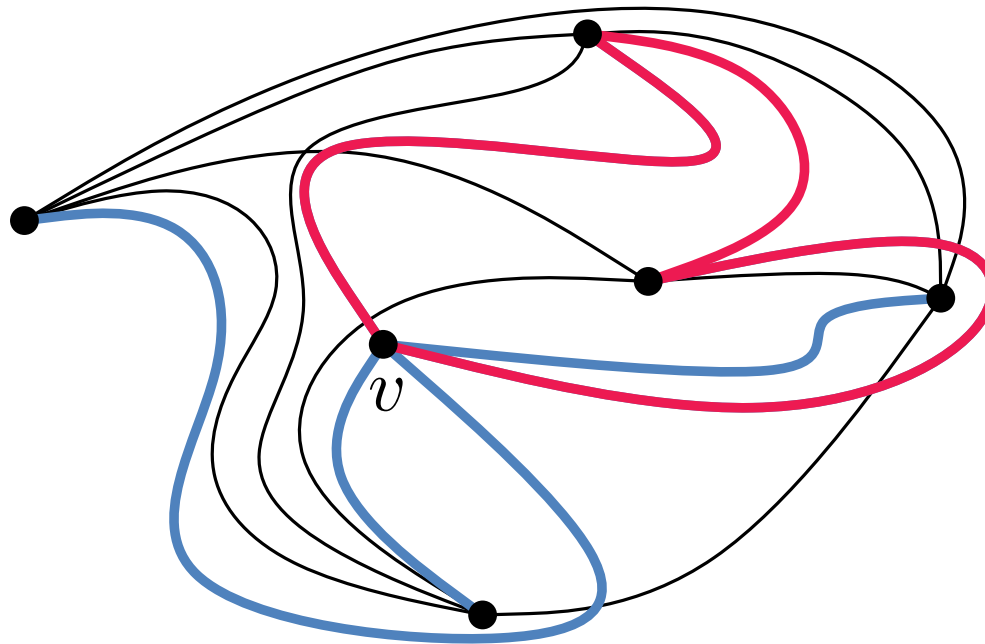
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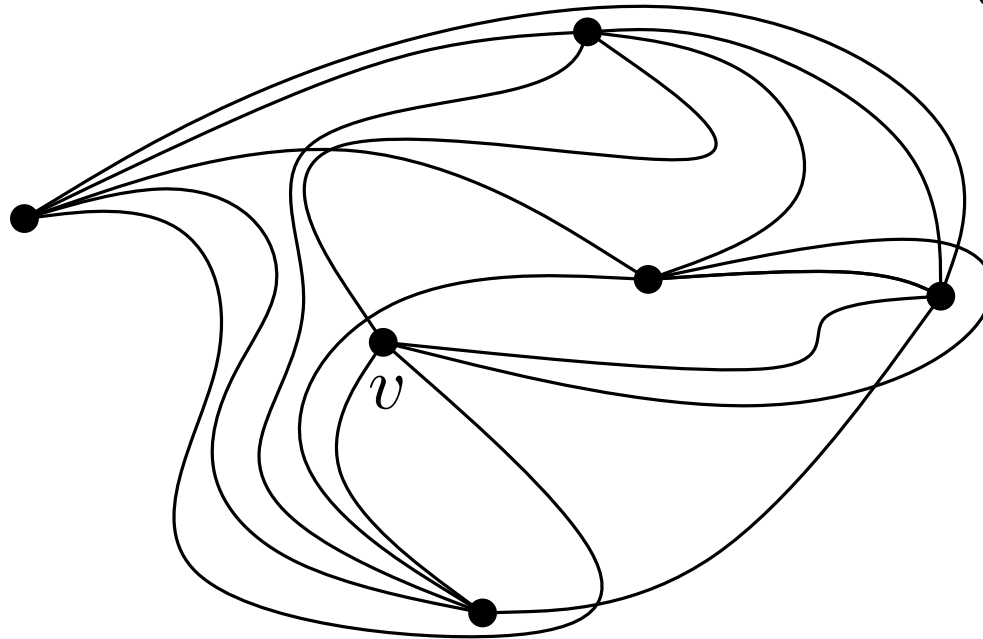
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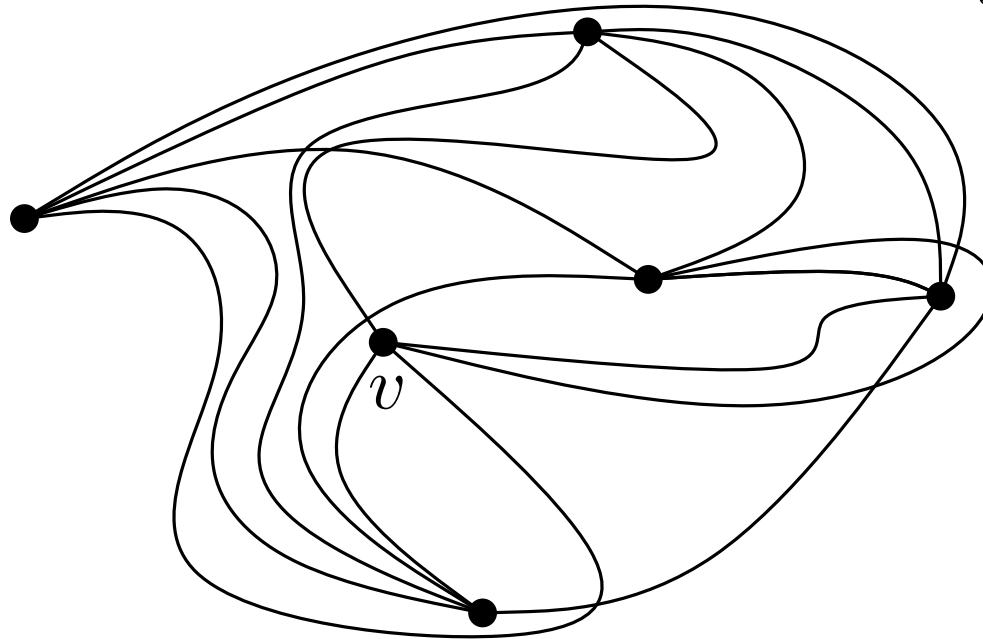
Background Cont.

R. Fulek, A. Ruiz-Vargas [2013]: $t(n) \geq \frac{2n}{3}$



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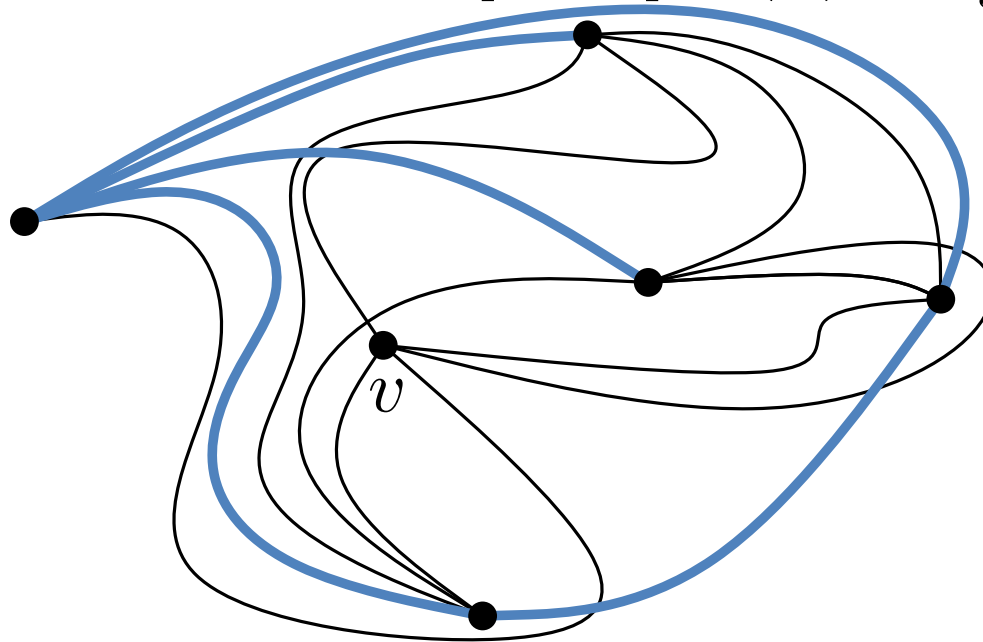
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- $D(K_n)$, plane subdrawing H , vertex $v \notin H$:
2 edges completely in same face of H as v

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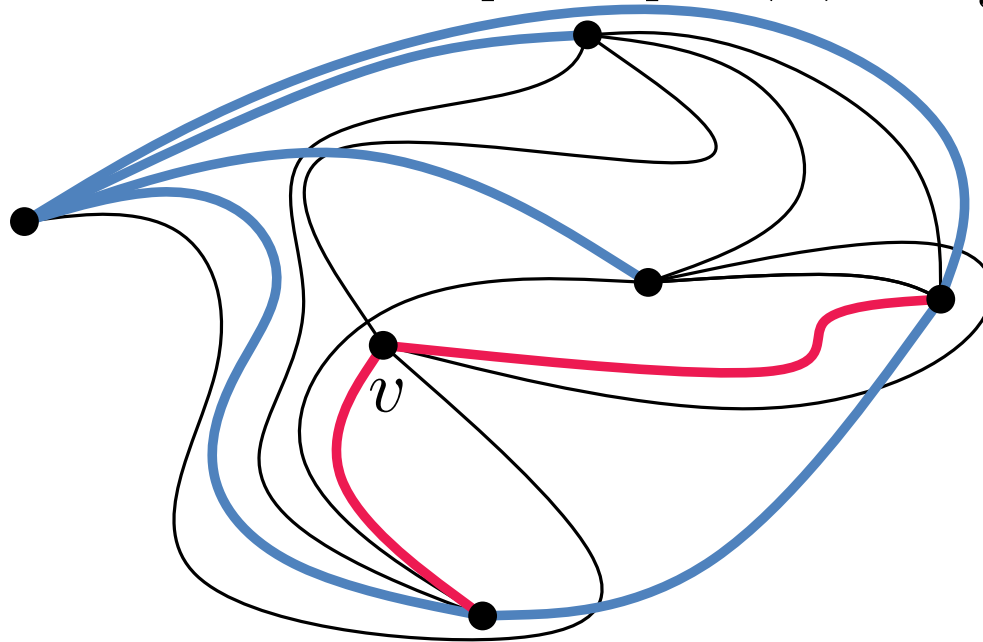
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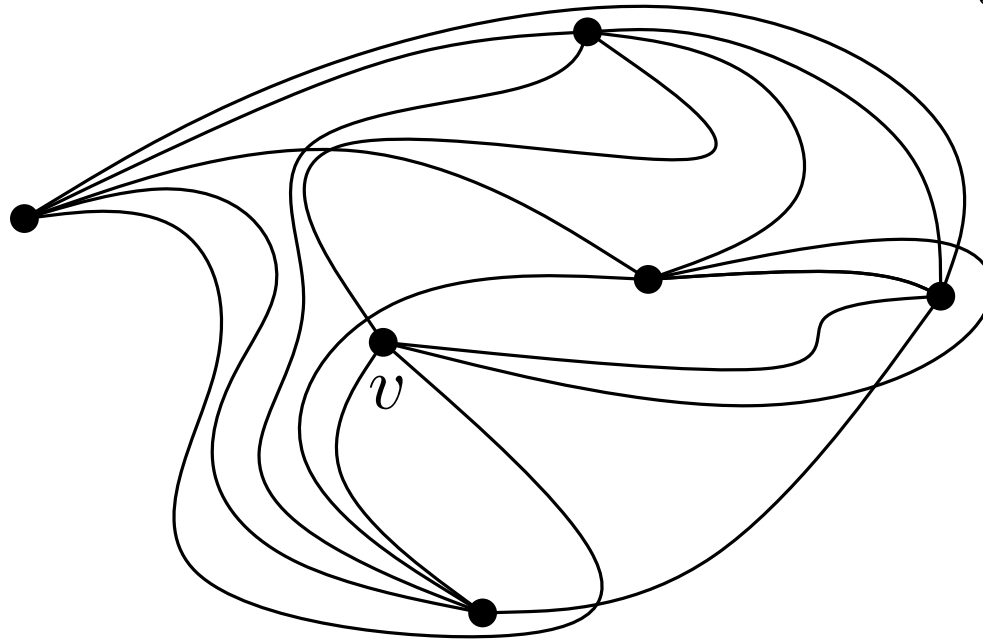
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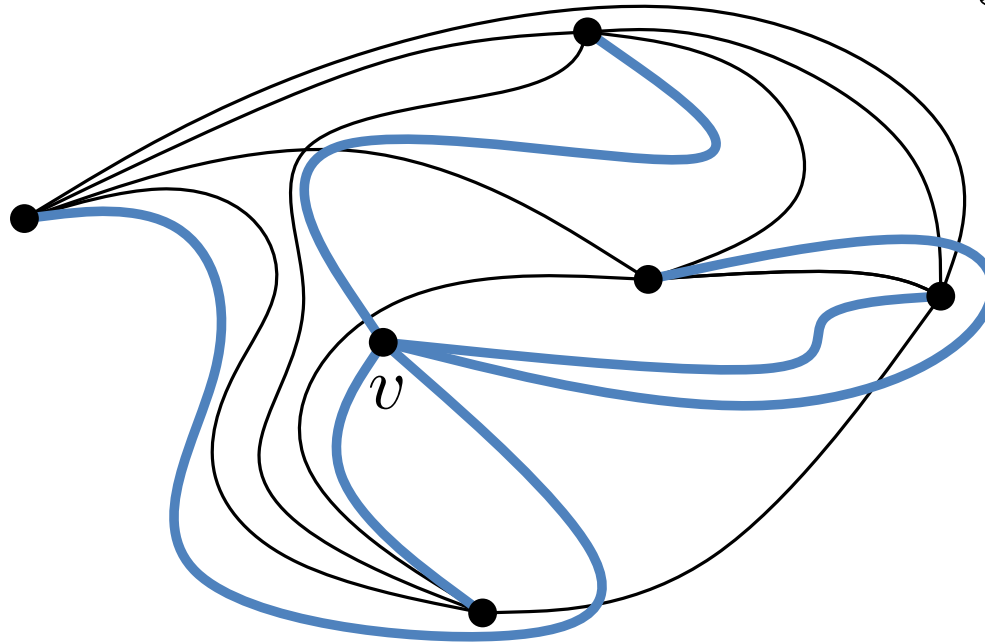
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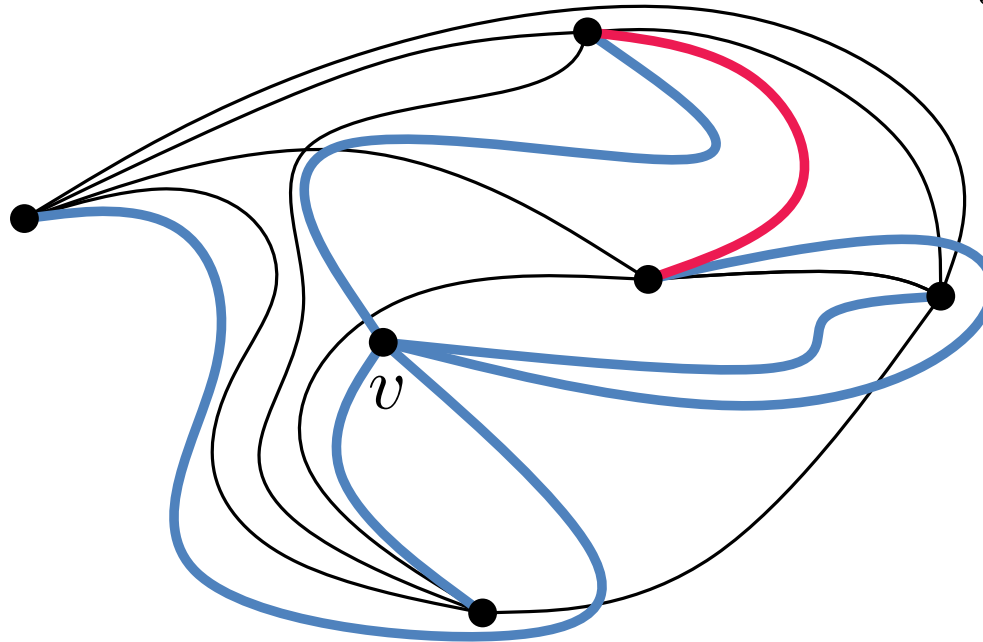
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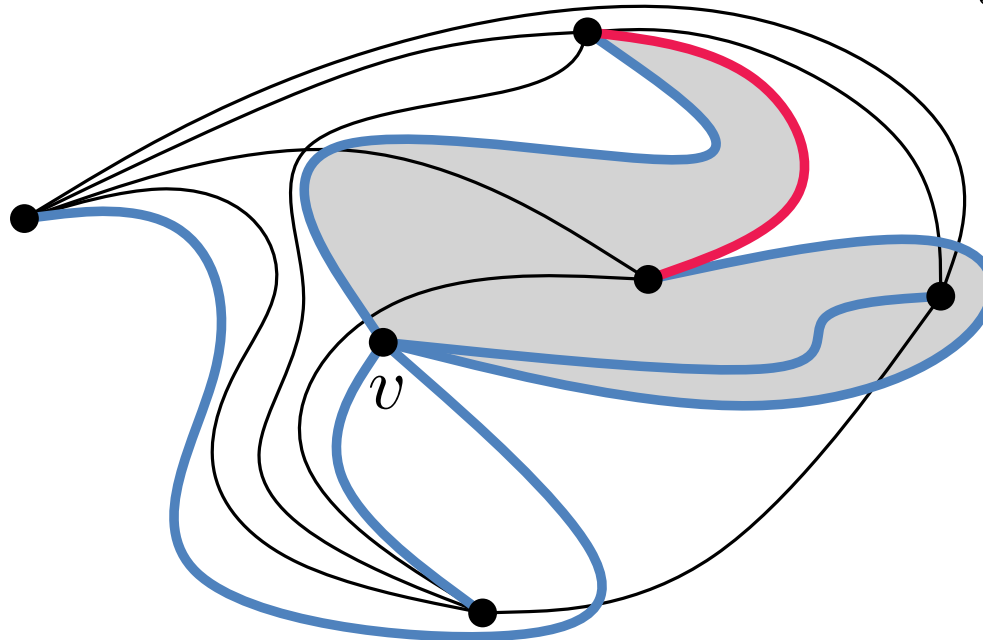
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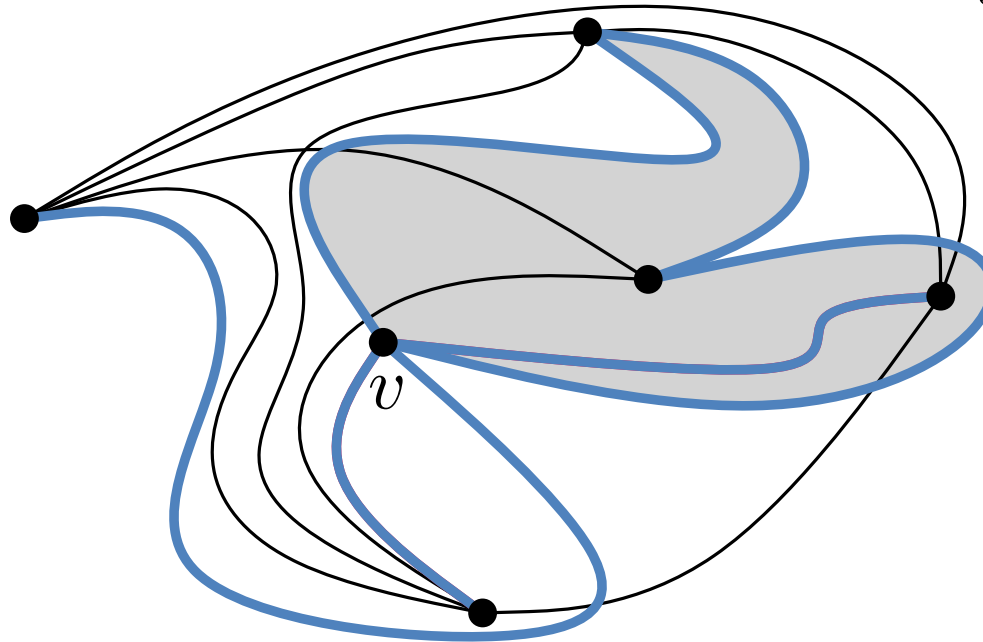
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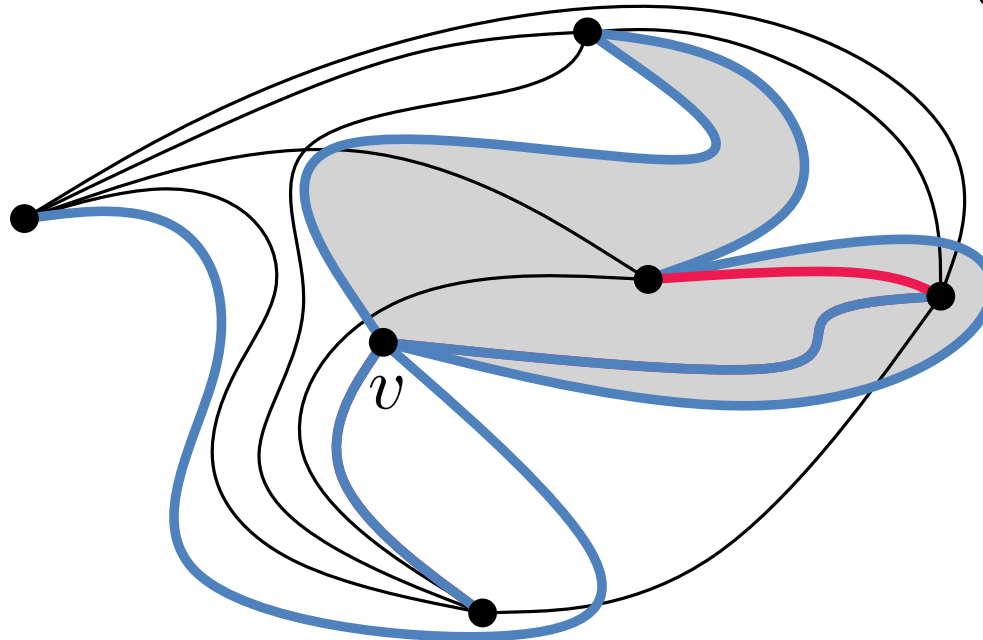
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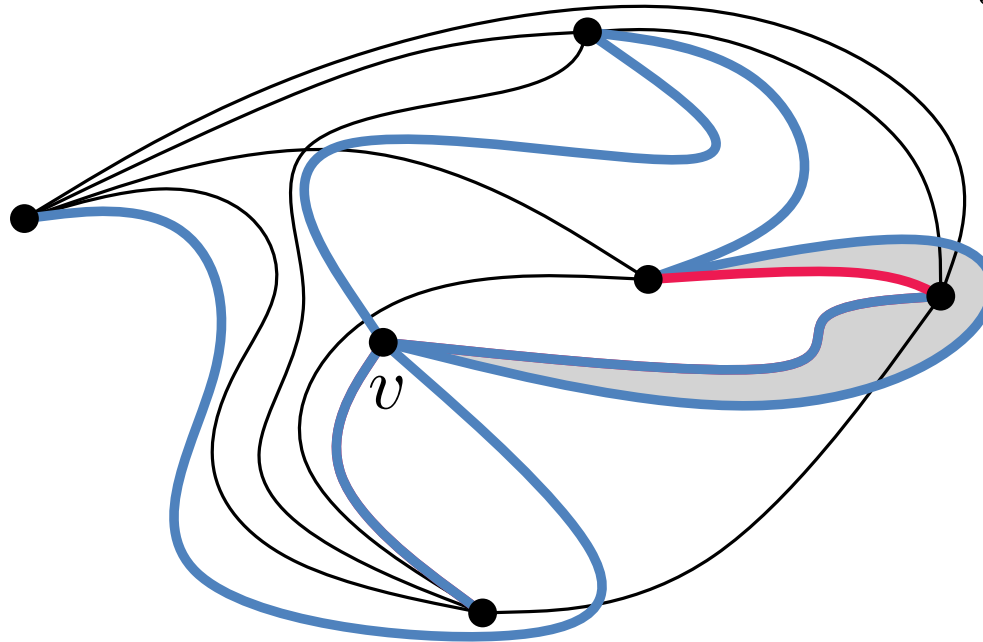
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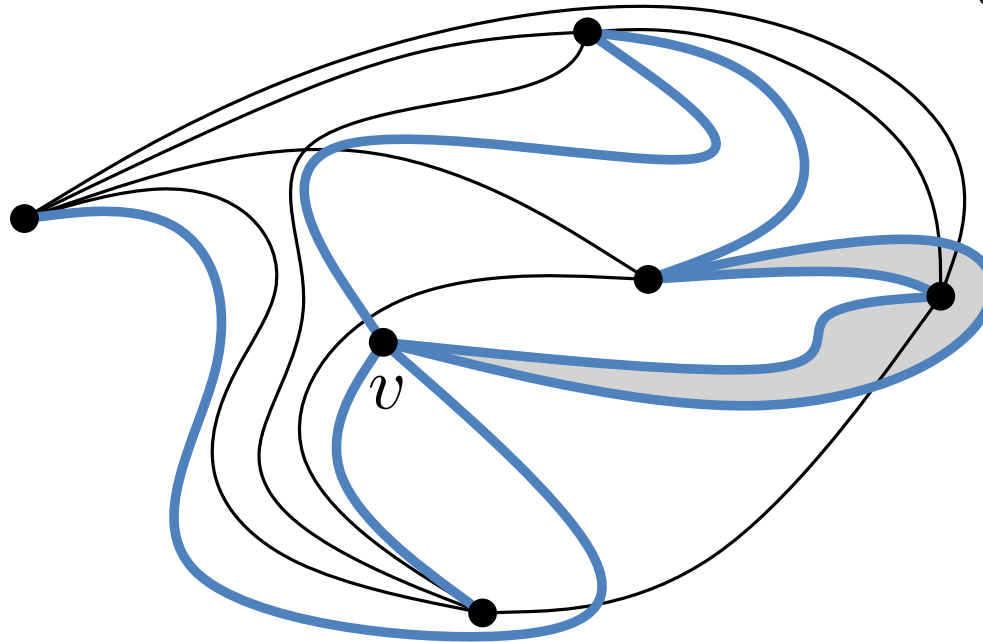
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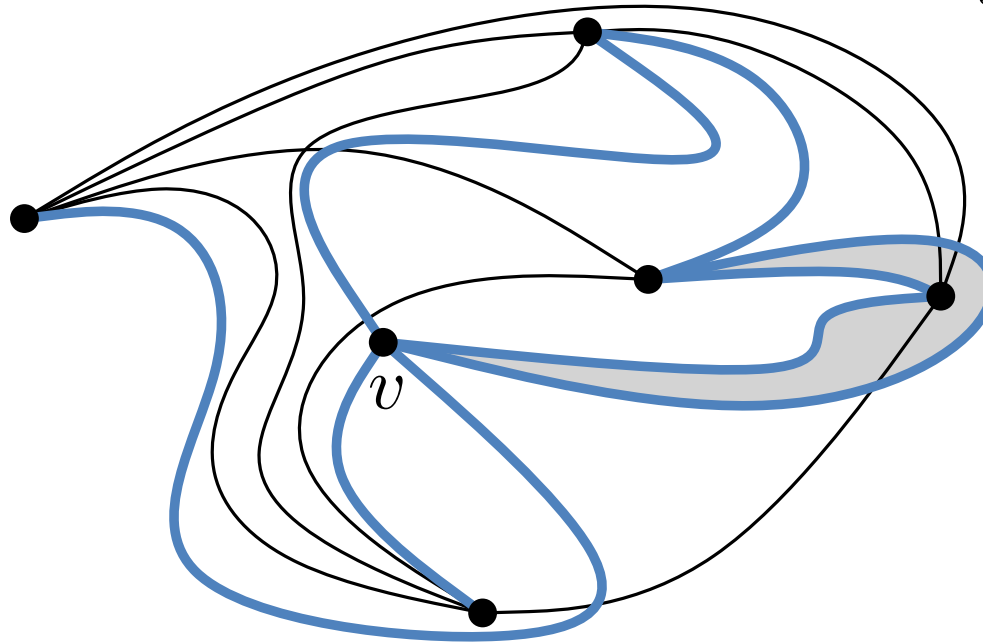
R. Fulek, A. Ruiz-Vargas [2013]: $t(n) \geq \frac{2n}{3}$



- $D(K_n)$, plane subdrawing H , vertex $v \notin H$:
2 edges completely in same face of H as v
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Background Cont.

R. Fulek, A. Ruiz-Vargas [2013]: $t(n) \geq \frac{2n}{3}$

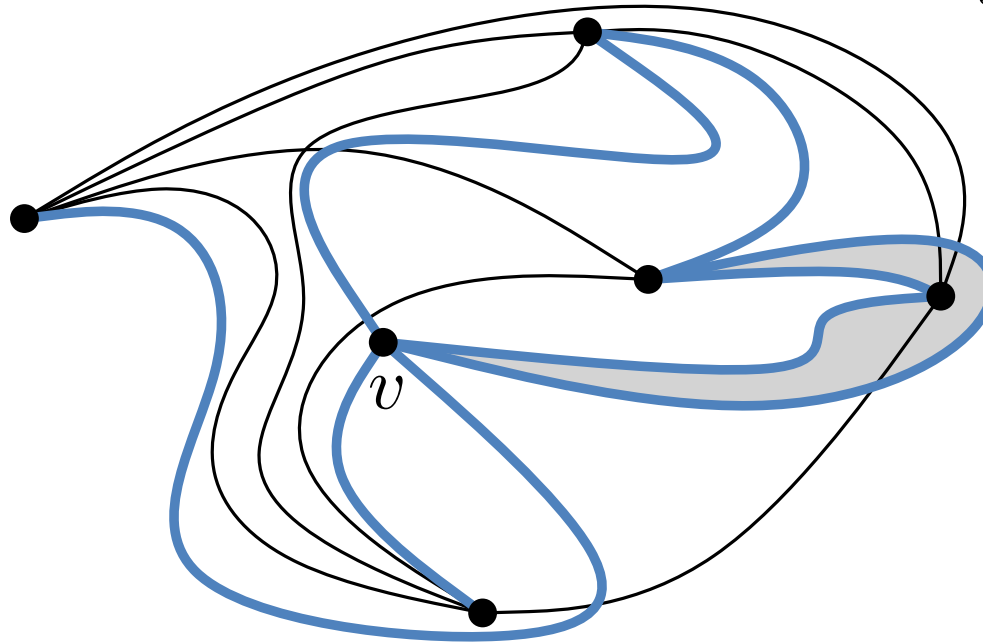


- $D(K_n)$, plane subdrawing H , vertex $v \notin H$:
2 edges completely in same face of H as v
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star at v
triangle

Background Cont.

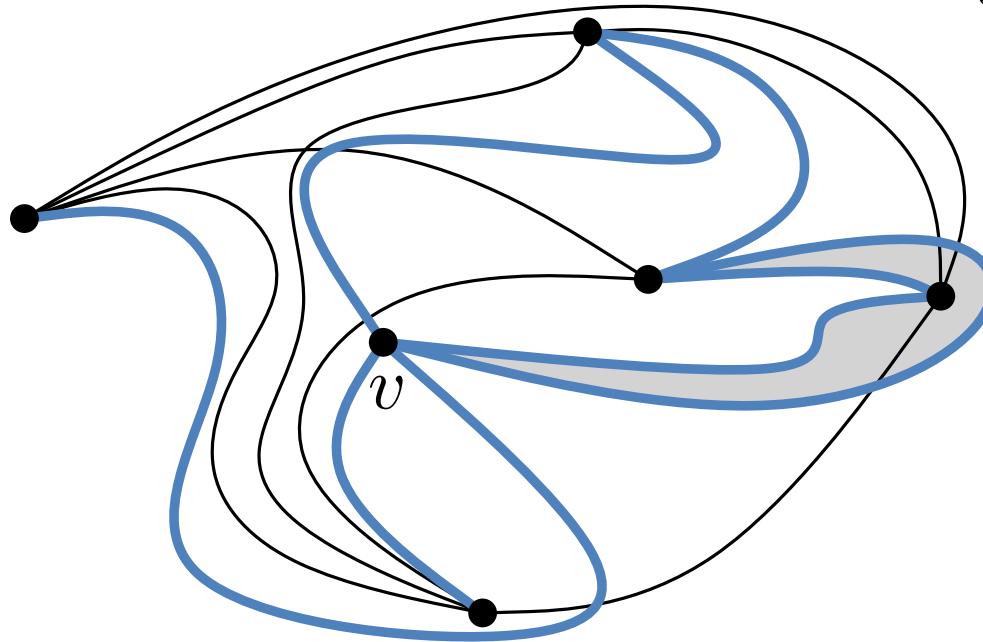
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- $D(K_n)$, plane subdrawing H , vertex $v \notin H$:
2 edges completely in same face of H as v
- every vertex v is incident to **two** empty triangles

Background Cont.

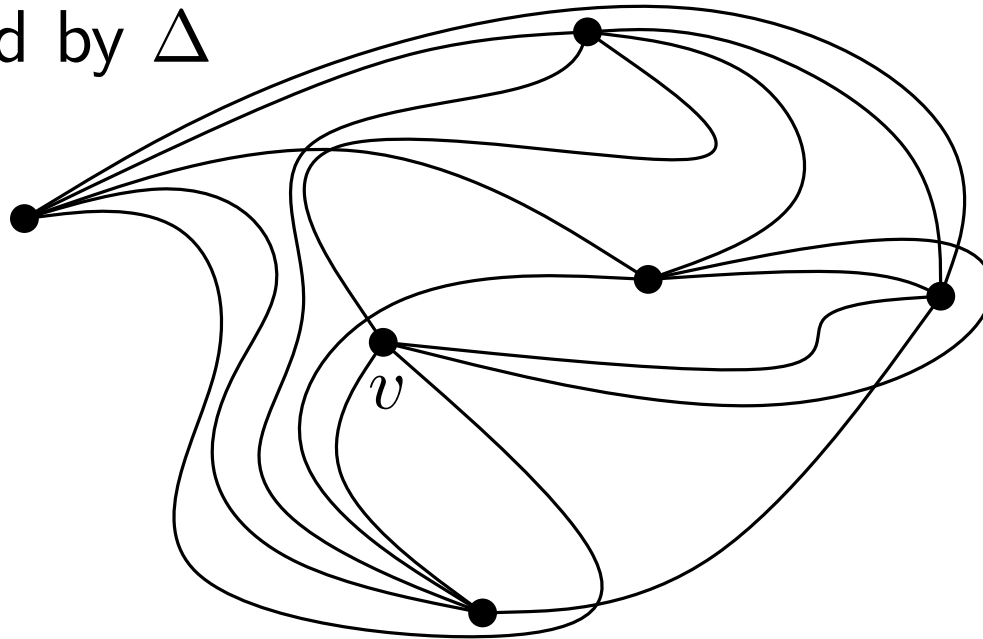
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- $D(K_n)$, plane subdrawing H , vertex $v \notin H$:
2 edges completely in same face of H as v
- every vertex v is incident to **two** empty star at v triangles

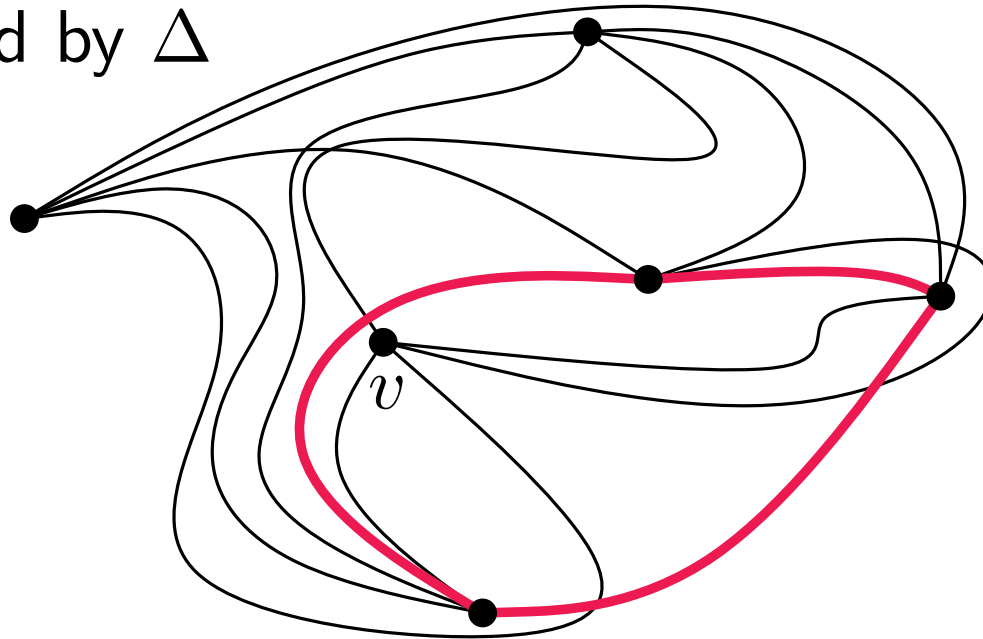
Loneliness and Luckiness

- v lonely (for Δ): v is the only vertex in a component induced by Δ



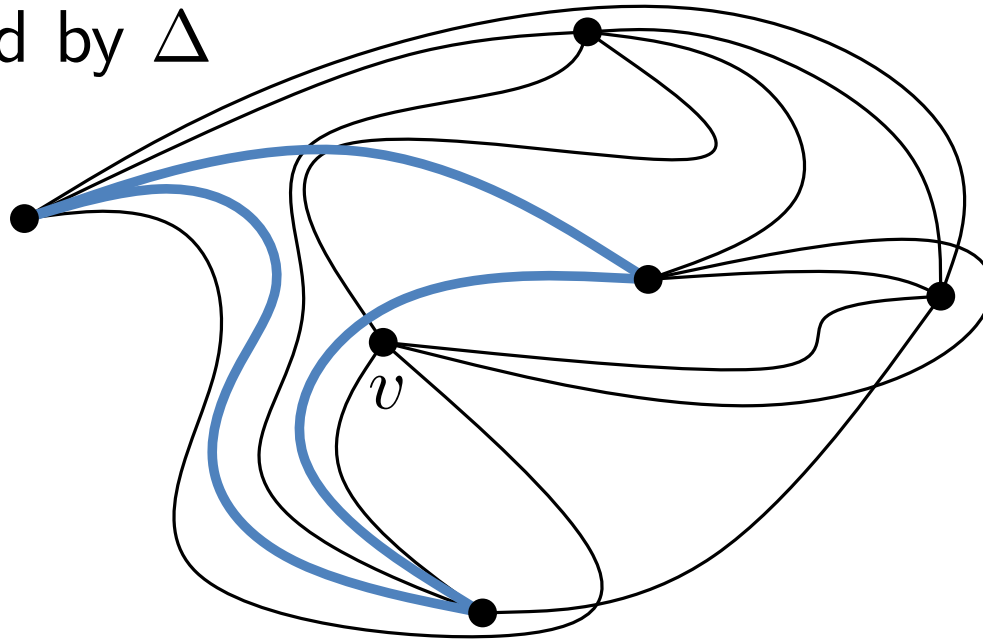
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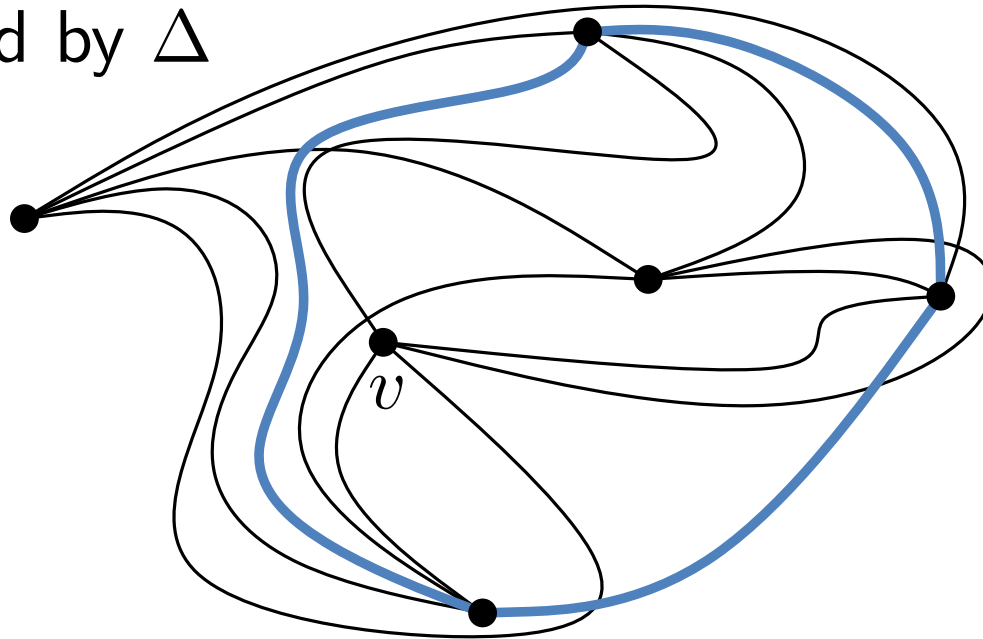
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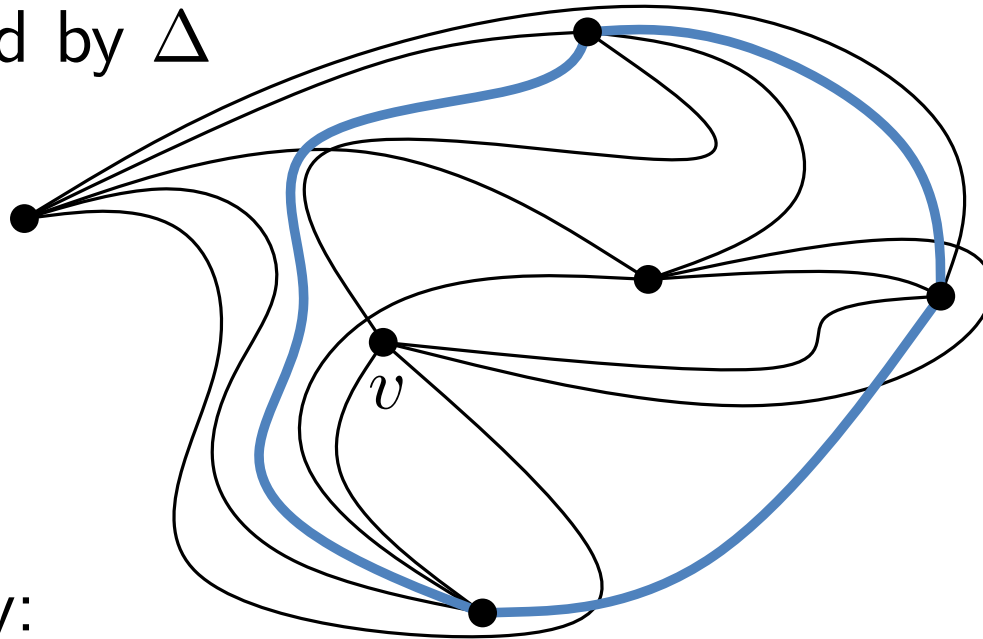
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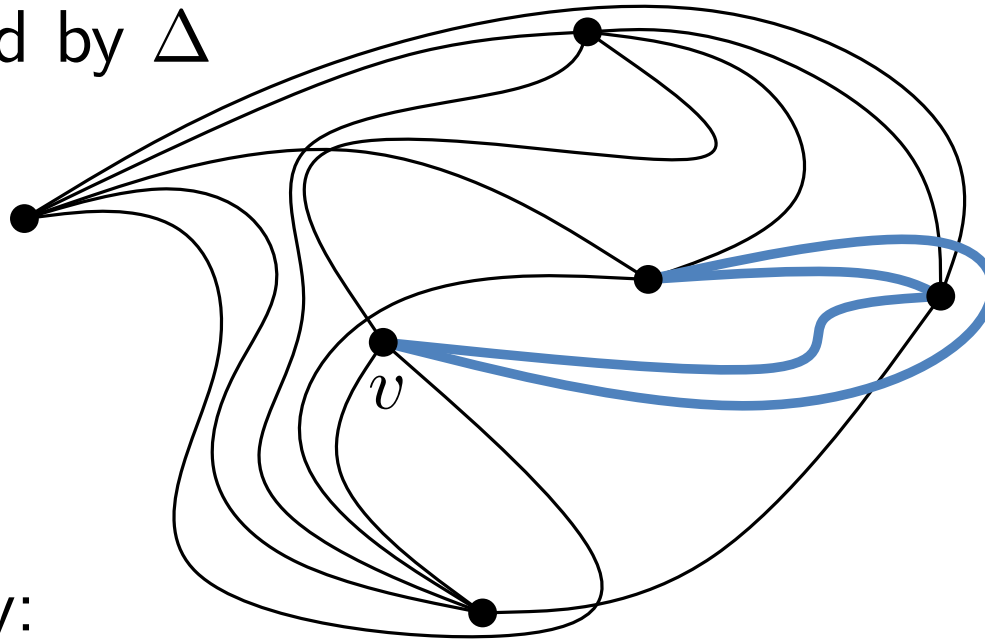
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- v lucky:
 - $\ell(v)$... number of triangles for which v is lonely
 - $t(v)$... number of triangles incident to v
- $\Rightarrow v$ lucky if $t(v) - \ell(v) \geq 2$

Loneliness and Luckiness

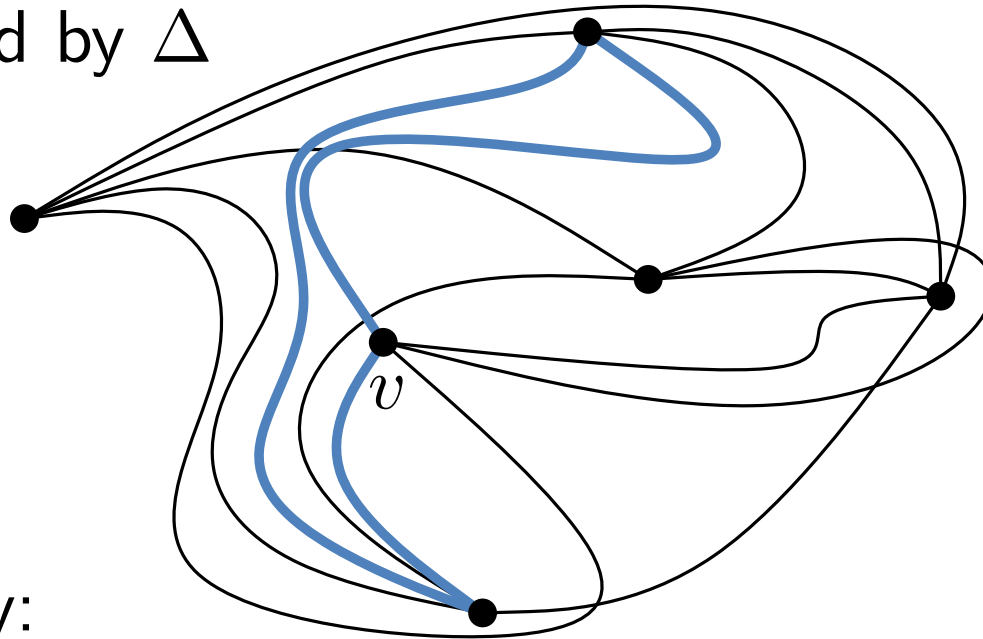
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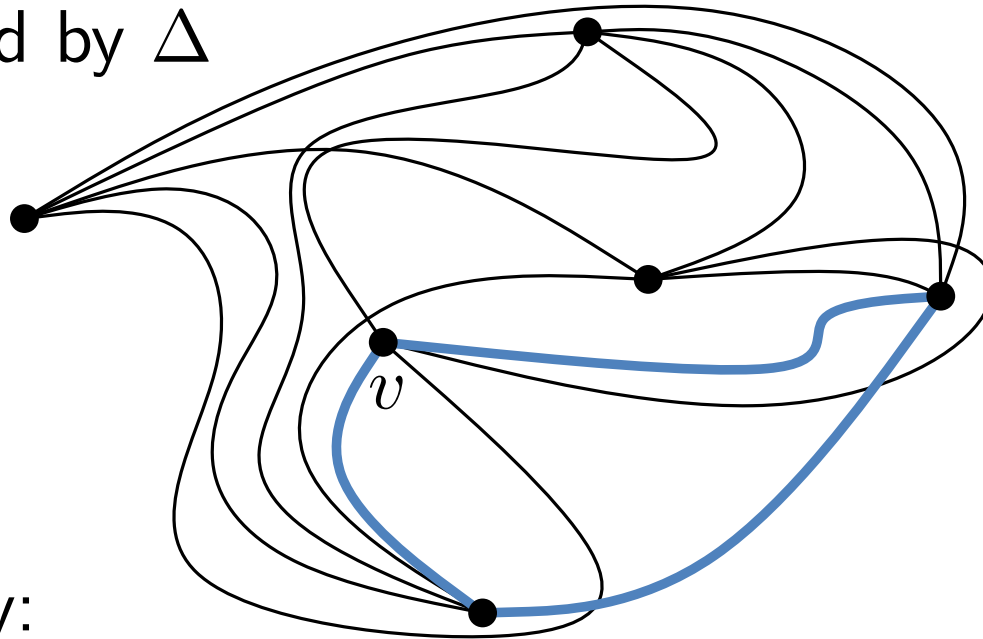
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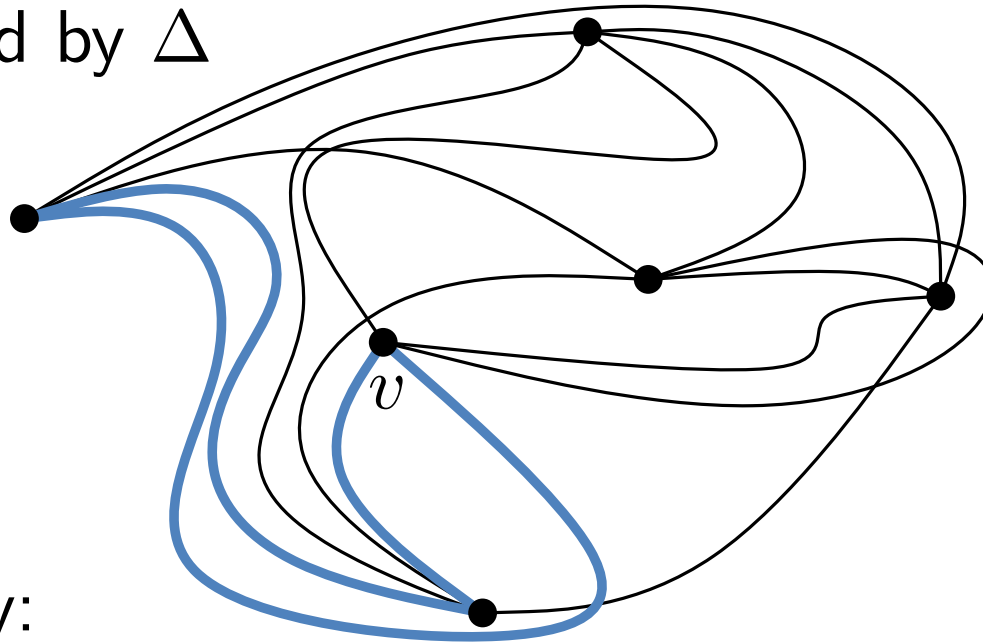
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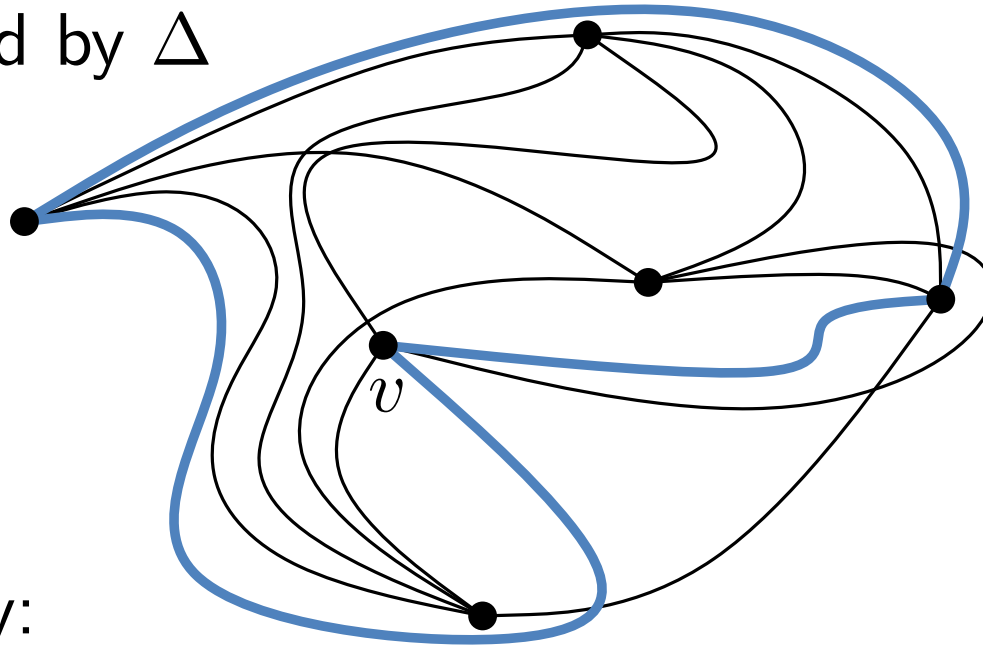
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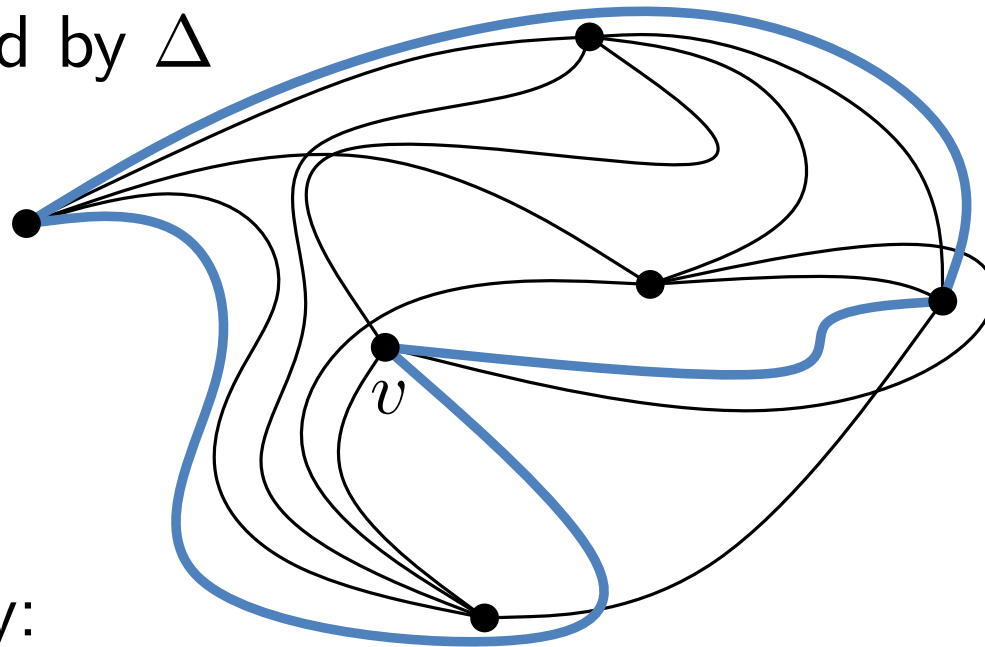
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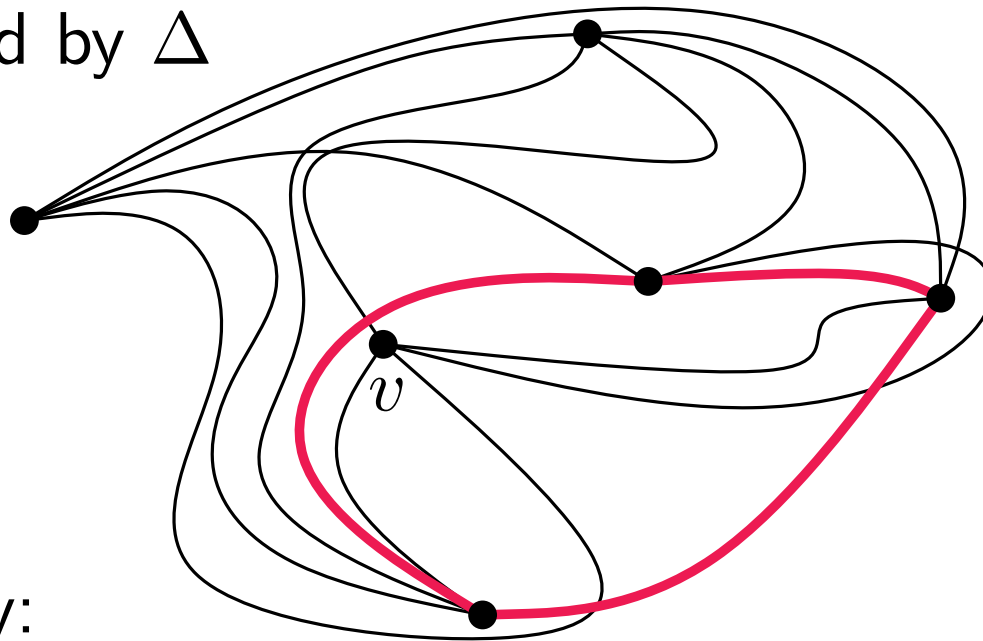


$$t(v) = 5$$

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Loneliness and Luckiness

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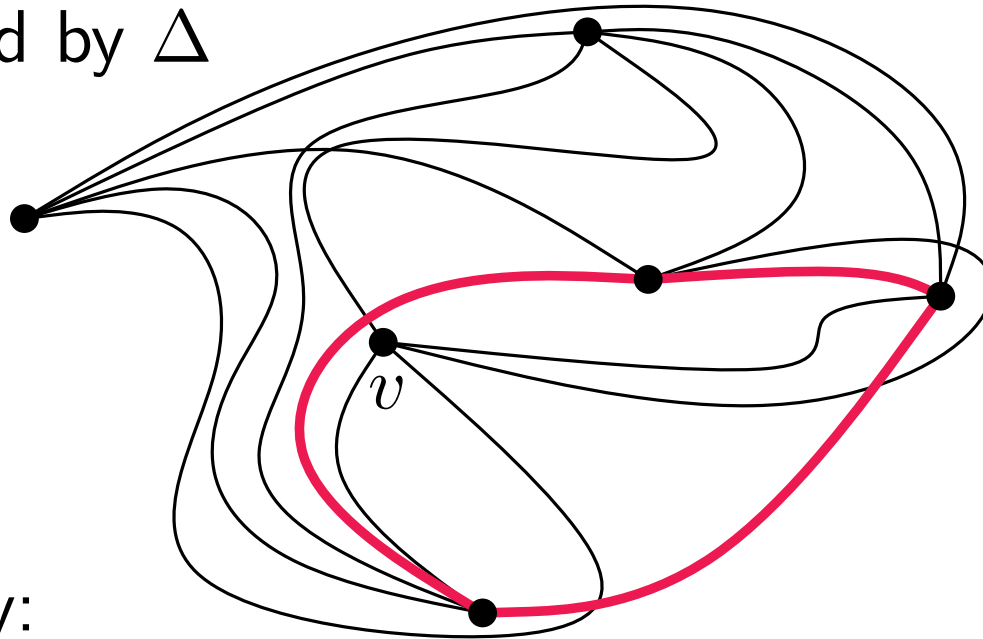
$$t(v) = 5$$

$$l(v) = 1$$

- v lucky:
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 - $t(v)$... number of triangles incident to v
- $\Rightarrow v$ lucky if $t(v) - l(v) \geq 2$

Loneliness and Luckiness

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$$t(v) = 5$$

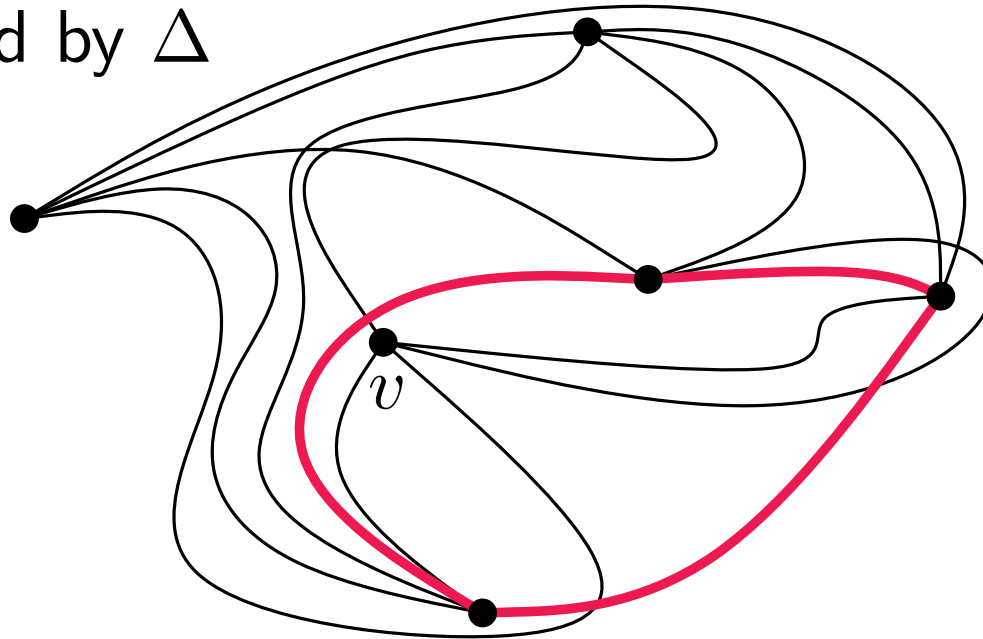
$$\ell(v) = 1$$

$\Rightarrow v$ lucky

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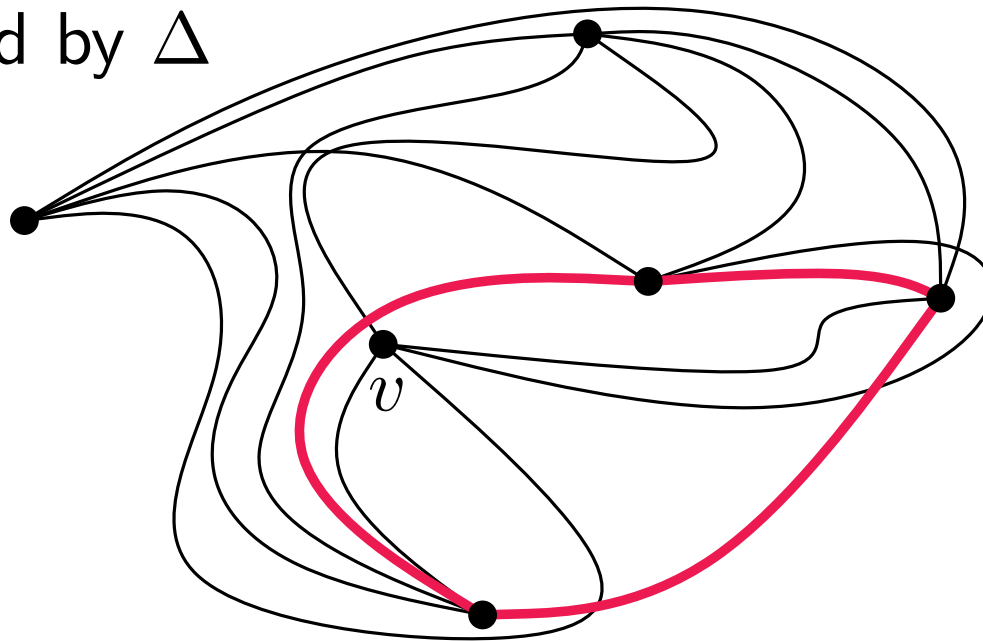
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Loneliness and Luckiness

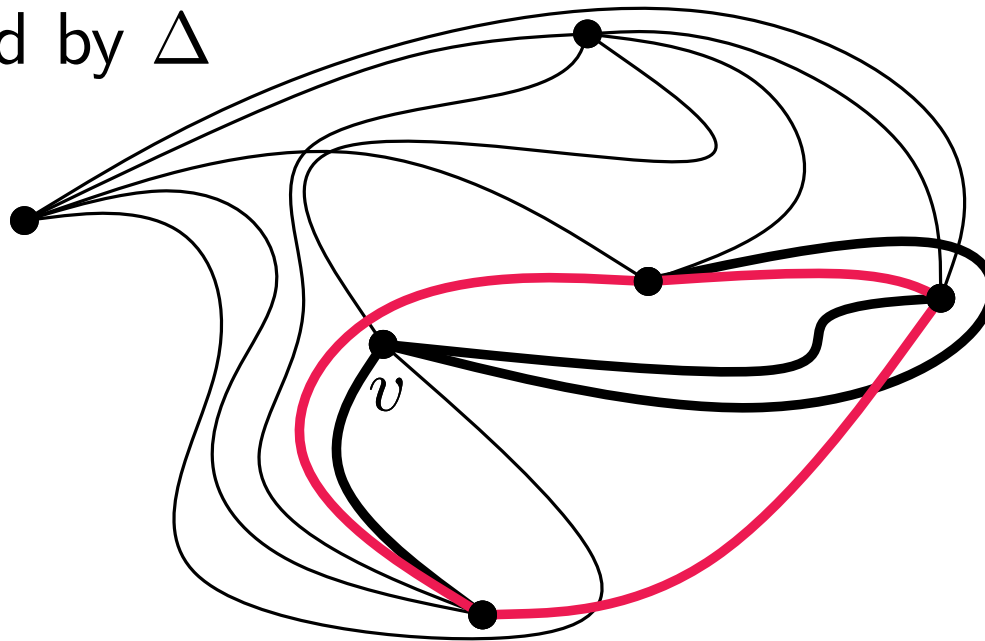
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Proposition. v lonely (for some Δ) $\Rightarrow t(v) \geq 3$

Loneliness and Luckiness

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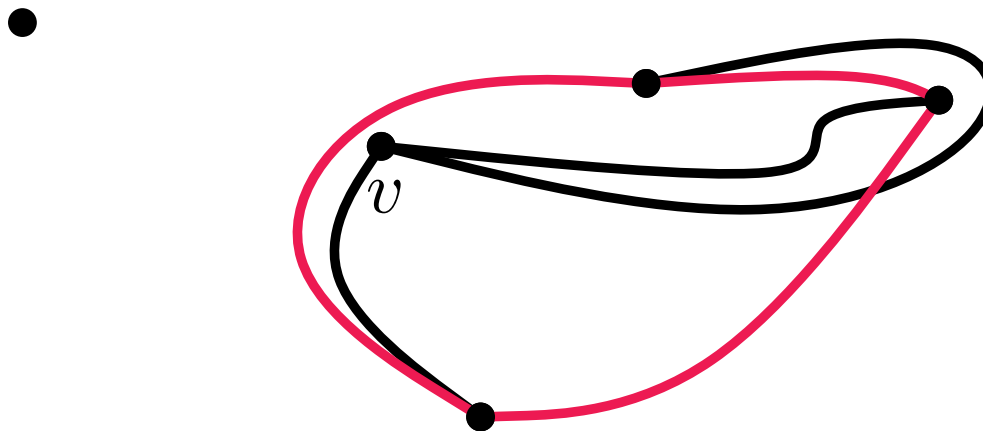


Proposition. v lonely (for some Δ) $\Rightarrow t(v) \geq 3$

Proof. $D(v, \Delta)$ and star $S(v)$ of v in $D(v, \Delta)$:

Loneliness and Luckiness

- v lonely (for Δ): v is the only vertex in a component induced by Δ

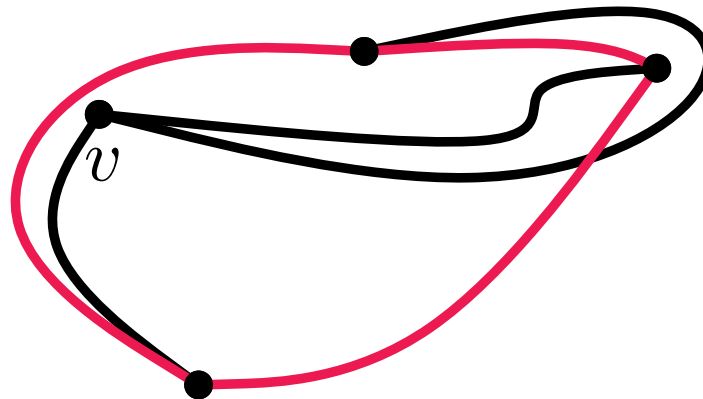


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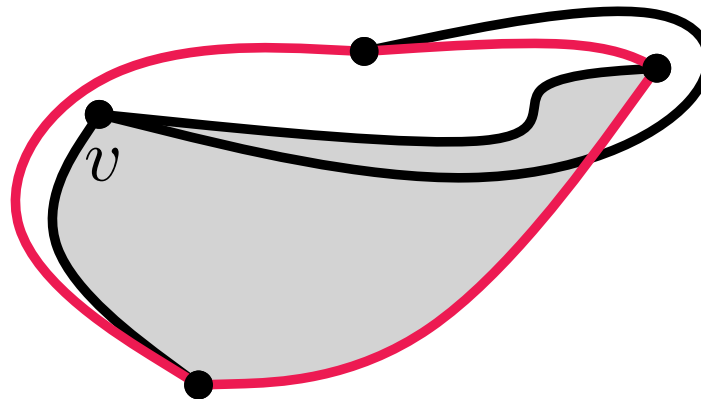
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Proof. $D(v, \Delta)$ and star $S(v)$ of v in $D(v, \Delta)$:

$S(v)$ intersects $\Delta \Rightarrow$ empty non-star triangle at v

Loneliness and Luckiness

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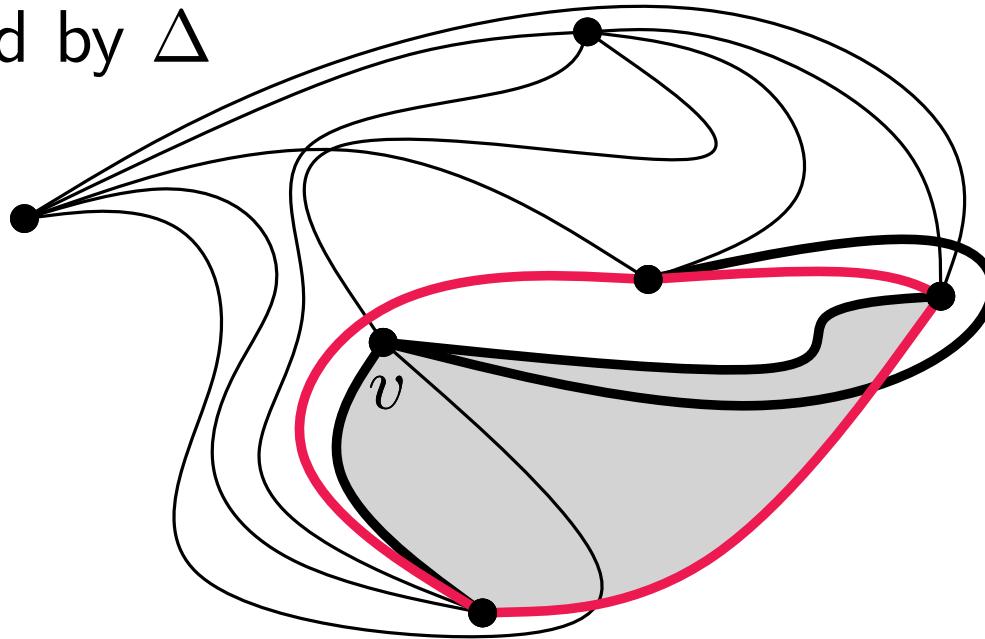
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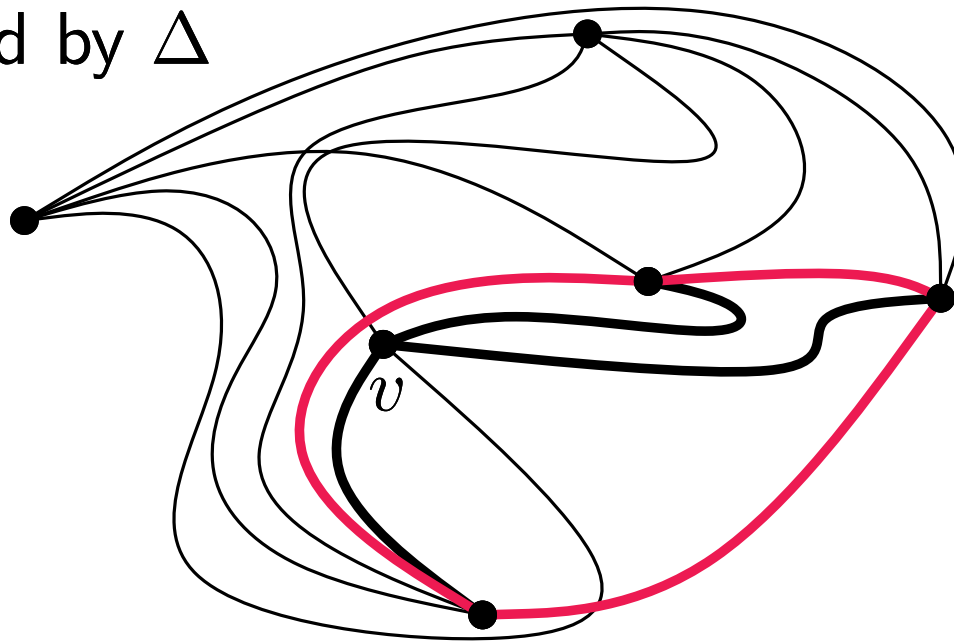
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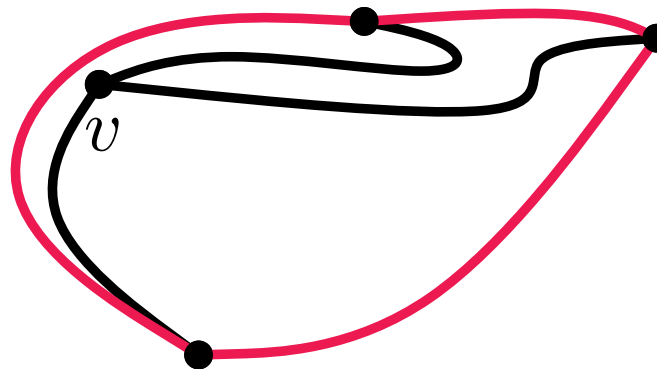
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Proof. $D(v, \Delta)$ and star $S(v)$ of v in $D(v, \Delta)$:

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otherwise:

Loneliness and Luckiness

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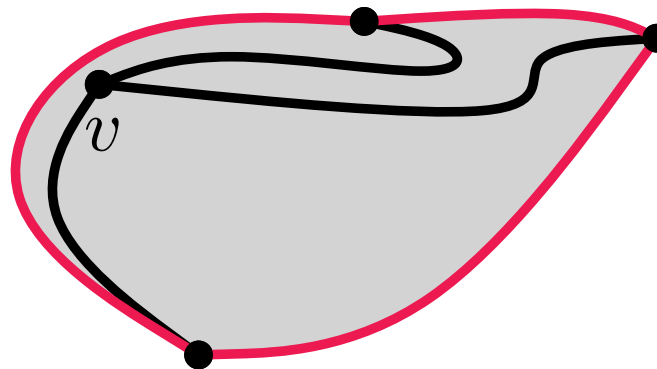
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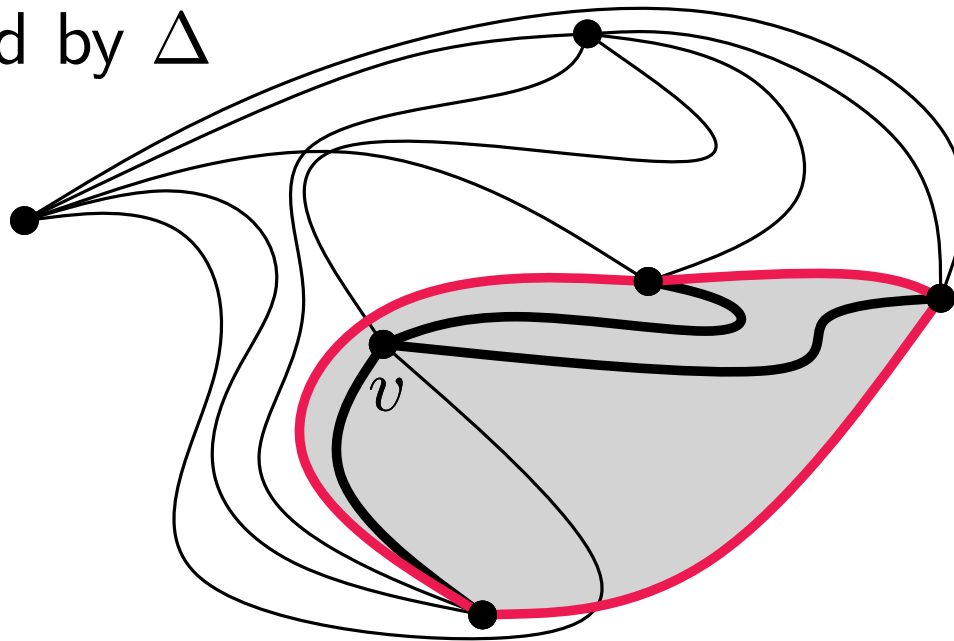
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otherwise: $S(v)$ splits Δ in three empty triangles

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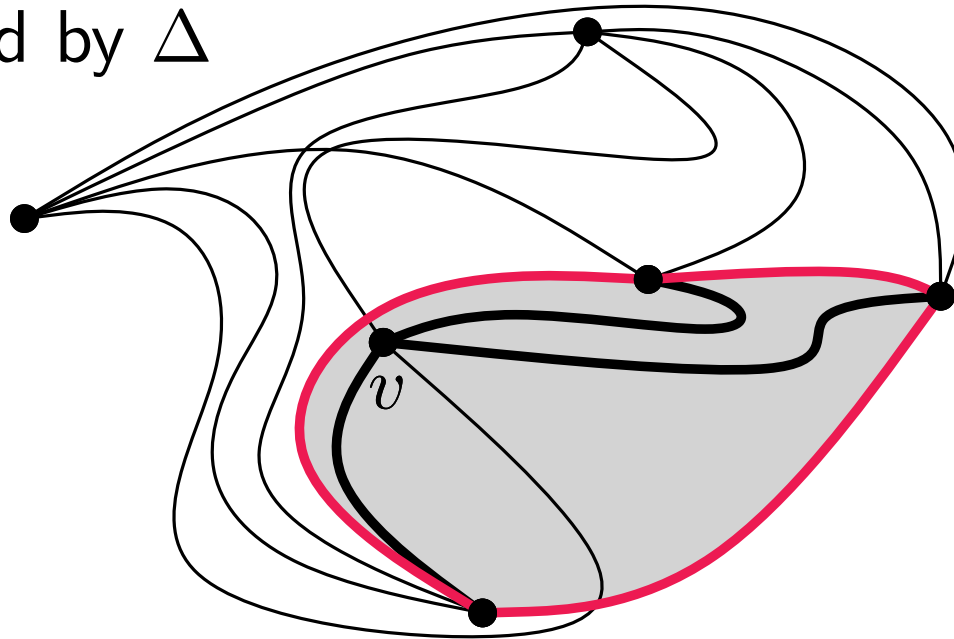
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Proposition. v lonely (for some Δ) $\Rightarrow t(v) \geq 3$

Corollary. v not lucky $\Rightarrow t(v) \geq 3$ and $n \geq 4$

Putting Things Together

- $n > 4$, no lucky vertices in $D(K_n)$
 - $\Rightarrow t(v) \geq 3$ for all vertices v
 - \Rightarrow at least $\frac{3n}{3} = n$ empty triangles in $D(K_n)$

Putting Things Together

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- $n = 4$: all $\binom{n}{3}$ triangles empty
 - $\Rightarrow t(4) = 4$ empty triangles in any $D(K_4)$

Putting Things Together

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 - \Rightarrow at least $\frac{3n}{3} = n$ empty triangles in $D(K_n)$
- $n = 4$: all $\binom{n}{3}$ triangles empty
 - $\Rightarrow t(4) = 4$ empty triangles in any $D(K_4)$
- $n > 4$, v lucky in $D(K_n)$
 - $\Rightarrow t$ empty triangles in $D(K_n \setminus v)$
 - $\Rightarrow t + t(v) - l(v) \geq t + 2 \geq t(n - 1) + 2$
empty triangles in $D(K_n)$

Putting Things Together

- $n > 4$, no lucky vertices in $D(K_n)$
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empty triangles in $D(K_n)$
- \Rightarrow **Theorem.** For $n \geq 4$, every drawing $D(K_n)$ contains at least n empty triangles.

Conclusion

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Conclusion

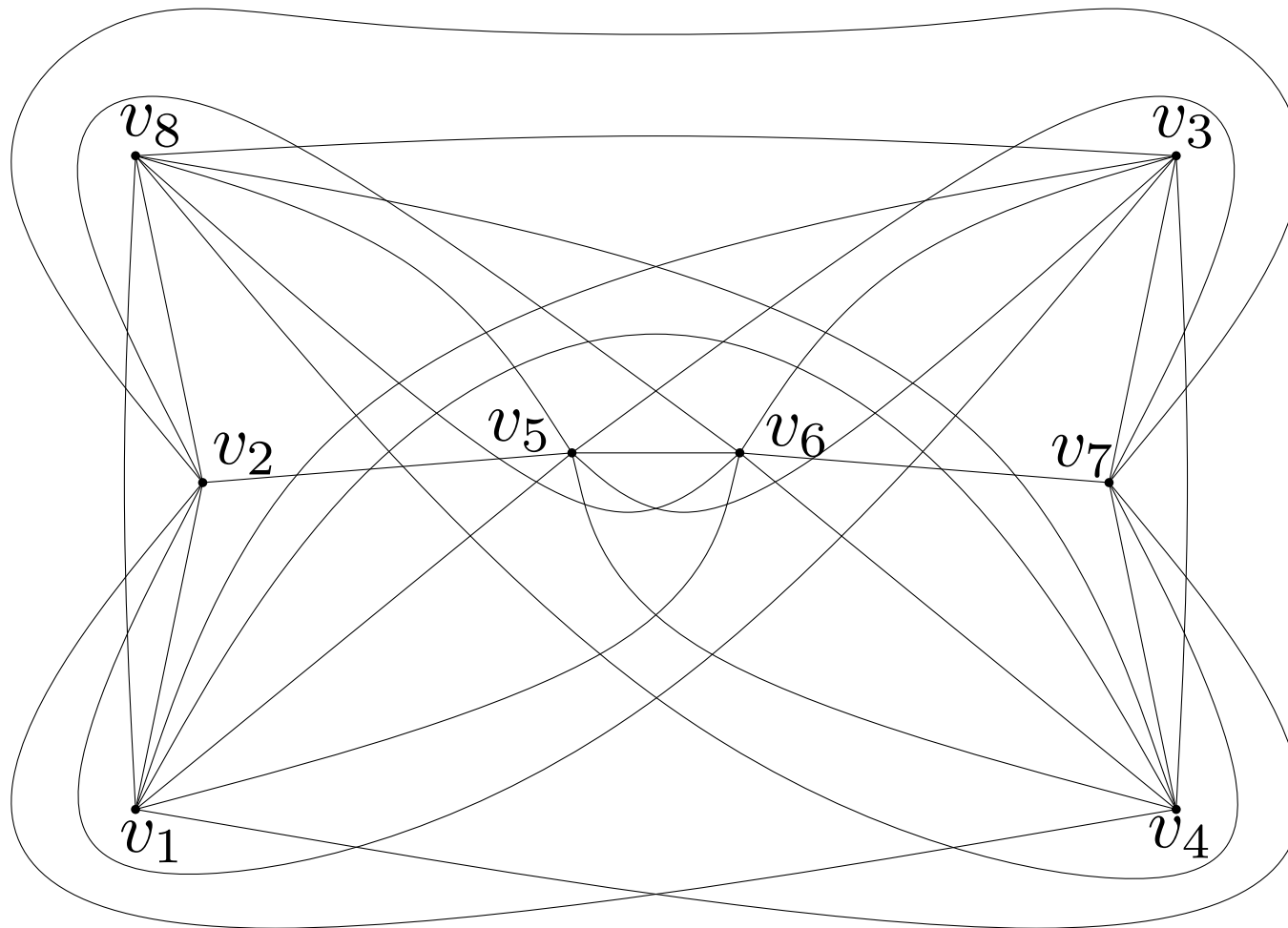
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Conclusion

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 - Harborth [1998]: For $3 \leq n \leq 6$, every drawing $D(K_n)$ contains at least $2n - 4$ empty triangles.
 - For $3 \leq n \leq 8$, every drawing $D(K_n)$ contains at least $2n - 4$ empty triangles.
- ⇒ **Conjecture.** Every drawing $D(K_n)$ contains at least $2n - 4$ empty triangles.

Thank you for your attention!

No lucky vertices



| v | $t(v)$ | $\ell(v)$ |
|-------|--------|-----------|
| v_1 | 4 | 3 |
| v_2 | 5 | 5 |
| v_3 | 3 | 2 |
| v_4 | 4 | 3 |
| v_5 | 6 | 5 |
| v_6 | 6 | 5 |
| v_7 | 5 | 5 |
| v_8 | 3 | 2 |