

Smoothed Analysis of Algorithms

Part I: Simplex Method and Local Search

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16 January 2013

Many problems and algorithms seem well understood.



Linear Programming

efficient algorithms (ellipsoid, interior point)



Knapsack Problem (KP)

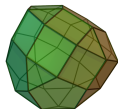
NP-hard, FPTAS exists



Traveling Salesperson Problem (TSP)

NP-hard, even hard to approximate

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Simplex method performs well in practice.



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local search methods yield very good solutions

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local search methods yield very good solutions

⇒ big gap between theory and practice

Outline

1 Linear Programming

Why is the **simplex method** usually efficient?

Smoothed Analysis – analysis of algorithms beyond worst case

2 Traveling Salesperson Problem

Why is **local search** successful?

3 Smoothed Analysis

Overview of **known results**

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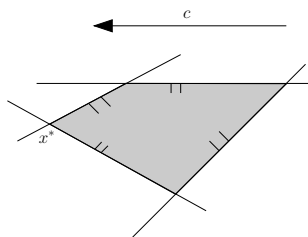
Linear Programs (LPs)

- variables: $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$
- **linear objective function:**
 $\max c^T x = c_1 x_1 + \dots + c_n x_n$
- **m linear constraints:**

$$a_{1,1}x_1 + \dots + a_{1,n}x_n \leq b_1$$

\vdots

$$a_{m,1}x_1 + \dots + a_{m,n}x_n \leq b_m$$



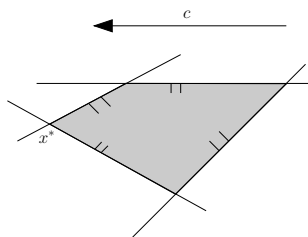
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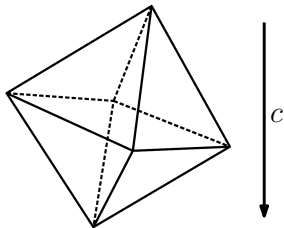
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Complexity of LPs

LPs can be solved in **polynomial time** by the **ellipsoid method** [Khachiyan 1979] and the **interior point method** [Karmarkar 1984].

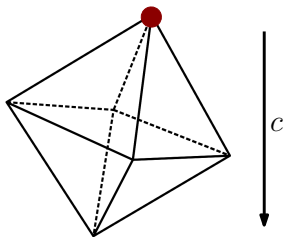
Simplex Algorithm



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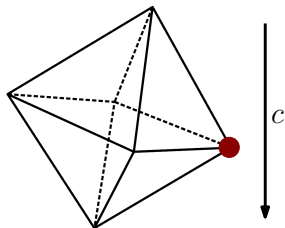
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Simplex Algorithm



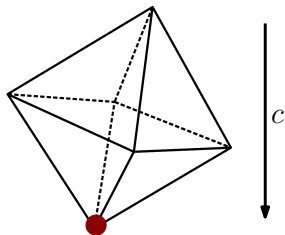
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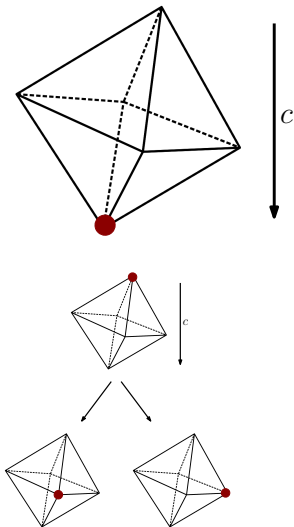
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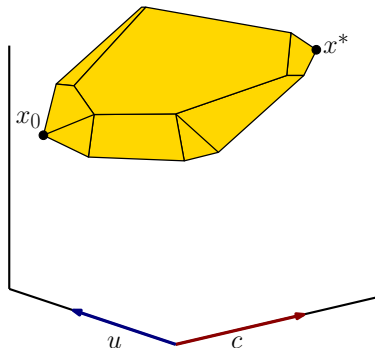
Pivot Rules

- Which vertex is chosen if there are multiple options?
- Different pivot rules suggested: random, steepest descent, shadow vertex pivot rule, ...

Simplex Algorithm – Shadow Vertex Pivot Rule

Shadow Vertex Pivot Rule

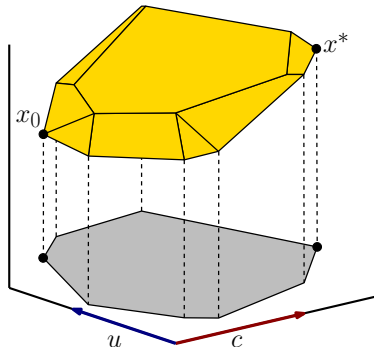
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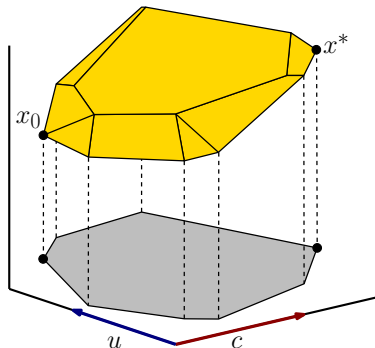
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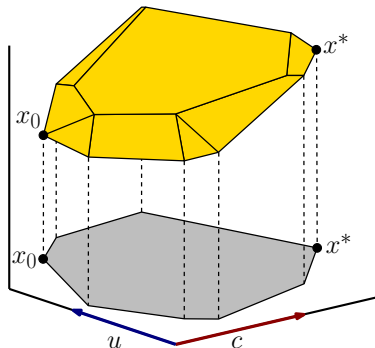
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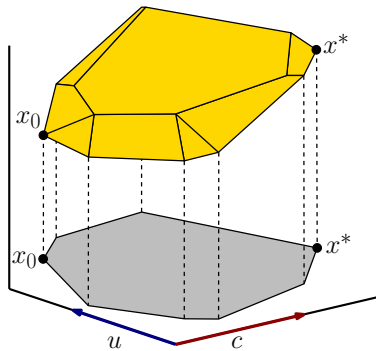
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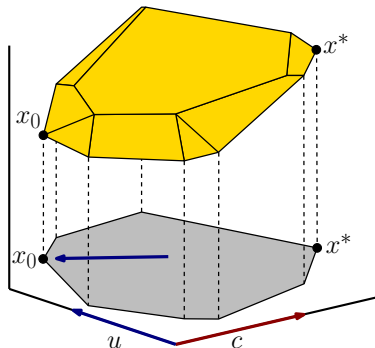


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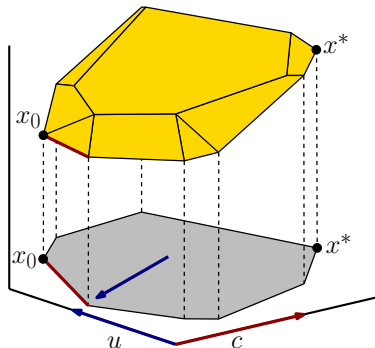


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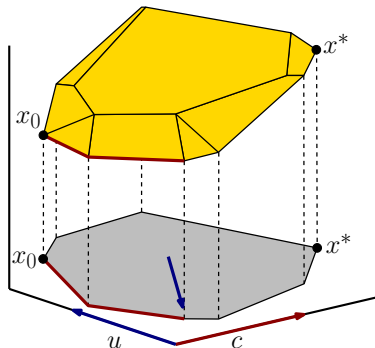


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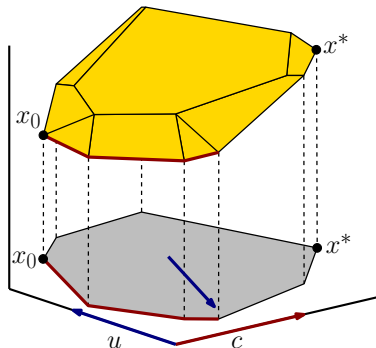


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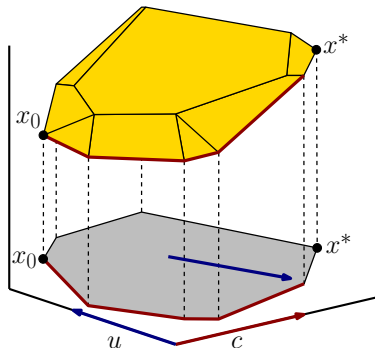


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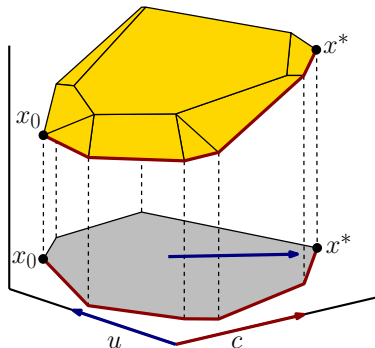


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- **no pivot rule with sub-exponential number of steps** known
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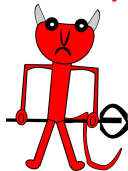
Engineers say...

- simplex method usually **fastest algorithm in practice**
- requires usually only $\Theta(m)$ steps
- clearly **outperforms ellipsoid method**

Reason for Gap between Theory and Practice

- Worst-case complexity is **too pessimistic!**
- There are **(artificial) worst-case LPs** on which the simplex method is not efficient. These LPs, however, **do not occur in practice.**
e.g., $a_{1,j} = 2^j$, $\sum_i a_{2,i} \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$, ...

Adversary

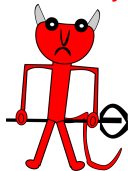


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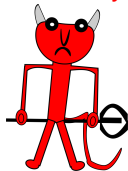
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Goal

Find a **more realistic performance measure** that is not just based on the worst case.

Smoothed Analysis

Observation: In worst-case analysis, the adversary is too powerful.

Idea: Let's weaken him!

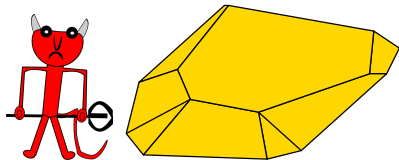
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Perturbed LPs

- Step 1: **Adversary** specifies arbitrary LP:
 $\max c^T x$ subject to $a_1^T x \leq b_1 \dots a_n^T x \leq b_n$.
W.l.o.g. $\|(a_i, b_i)\| = 1$.



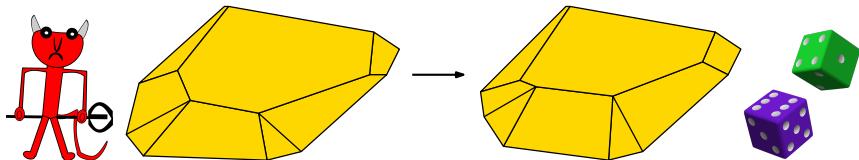
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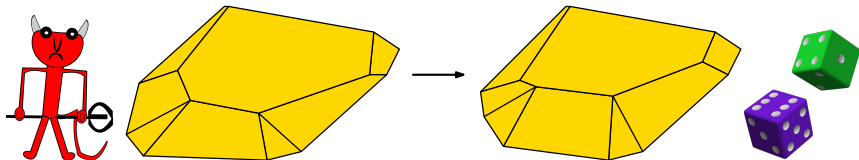
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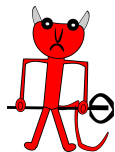
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Smoothed Running Time

= **worst expected running time the adversary can achieve**

Smoothed Analysis



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Adversary
chooses input I



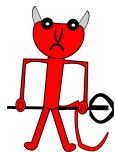
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 $I \rightarrow \text{per}_\sigma(I)$

Formal Definition:

$\text{LP}(n, m) =$ **set of LPs** with n variables and m constraints

$T(I) =$ **number of steps** of simplex method on LP I

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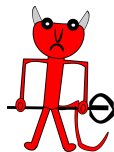
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Why do we consider this model?

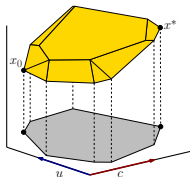
- First step **models unknown structure of the input**.
- Second step **models random influences**, e.g., measurement errors, numerical imprecision, rounding, ...
- **smoothed running time low** \Rightarrow bad instances are unlikely to occur
- σ determines the **amount of randomness**

Smoothed Analysis of the Simplex Algorithm

Lemma [Spielman and Teng (STOC 2001)]

For every fixed plane and every LP the adversary can choose, after the perturbation, the expected number of edges on the shadow is

$$O(\text{poly}(n, m, \sigma^{-1})).$$

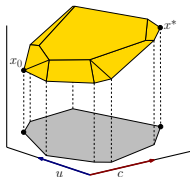


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Theorem [Spielman and Teng (STOC 2001)]

The **smoothed running time of the simplex algorithm** with shadow vertex pivot rule is

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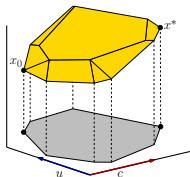
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Main Difficulties in Proof of Theorem:

- x_0 is found in phase I \rightarrow **no Gaussian distribution of coefficients**
- In phase II, the **plane onto which the polytope is projected is not independent of the perturbations.**

Theorem [Vershynin (FOCS 2006)]

The **smoothed number of steps of the simplex algorithm** with shadow vertex pivot rule is

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only **polylogarithmic** in the number of constraints m

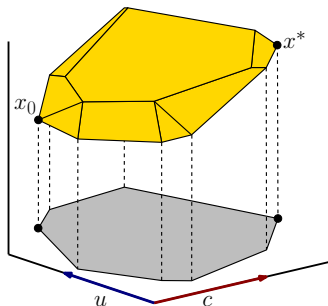
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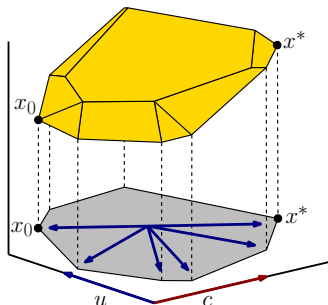
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- With high prob. **no angle between consecutive vertices is too small**.

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smoothed analysis – analysis of algorithms beyond worst case

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Traveling Salesperson Problem (TSP)



- **Input:** weighted (complete) graph
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Metric TSP: APX-hard

Euclidean TSP: PTAS exists

Numerous Experimental Studies:

(TSPLIB, DIMACS Implementation Challenge)

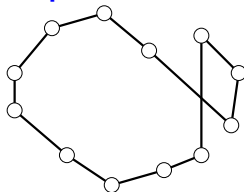
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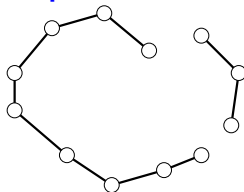
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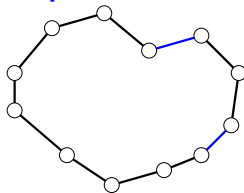
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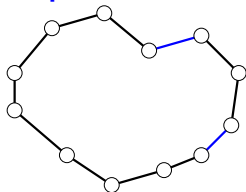
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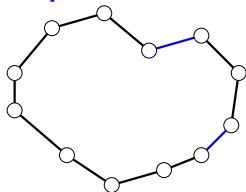
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- **approximation ratio:**
 ≈ 1.05
number of steps:
 $\leq n \cdot \log n$

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Smoothed Analysis

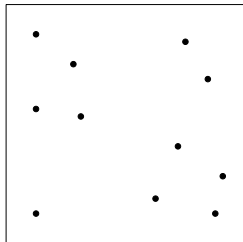
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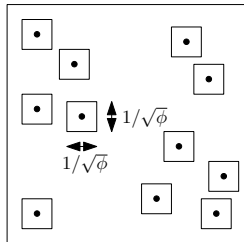
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Adversary chooses for each point i a **probability density** $f_i : [0, 1]^d \rightarrow [0, \phi]$ according to which it is chosen.

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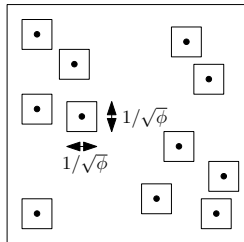
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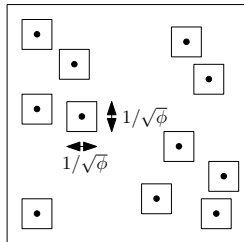
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The smoothed number of 2-Opt steps is $\tilde{O}(n^{4.33} \cdot \phi^{2.67})$.

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- Union bound over $O(n^4)$ steps + calculations:

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□

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Idea for Improvement

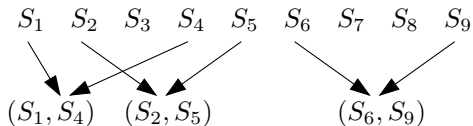
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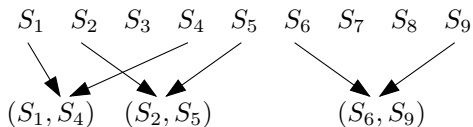
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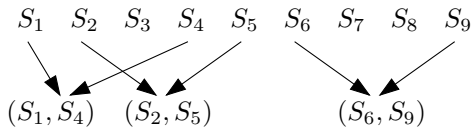
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- This idea yields $\tilde{O}(n^{4.33} \cdot \phi^{2.67})$.

Outline

1 Linear Programming

Why is the **simplex method** usually efficient?

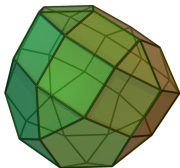
smoothed analysis – analysis of algorithms beyond worst case

2 Traveling Salesperson Problem

Why is **local search** successful?

3 Smoothed Analysis

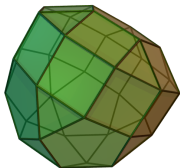
Overview of **known results**



Linear Programming

Simplex Method [Spielman, Teng (STOC 2001)]

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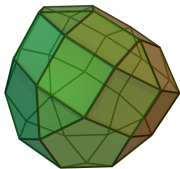
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Combinatorial Optimization

Complexity of Binary Optimization Problems

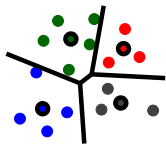
[Beier, Vöcking (STOC 2004)]

2-Opt Algo for TSP

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SSP Algo for Min-Cost Flow Problem

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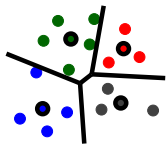
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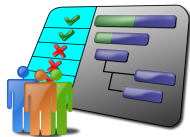
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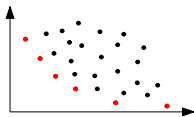
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Scheduling

Multilevel Feedback Algo [Becchetti, Leonardi, Marchetti-Spaccamela, Schäfer, Vredeveld (FOCS 2003)]

Local Search Algos [Brunsch, R., Rutten, Vredeveld (ESA 2011)]

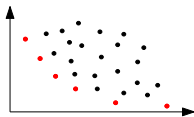


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Number of Pareto optima

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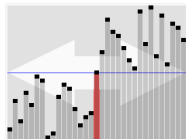


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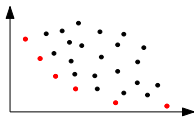
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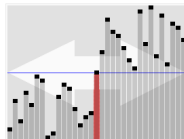


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