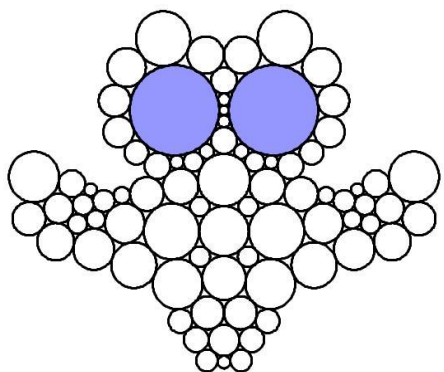


# Experimental Takes: Circle Packing and Discrete Schwarzians

Ken Stephenson

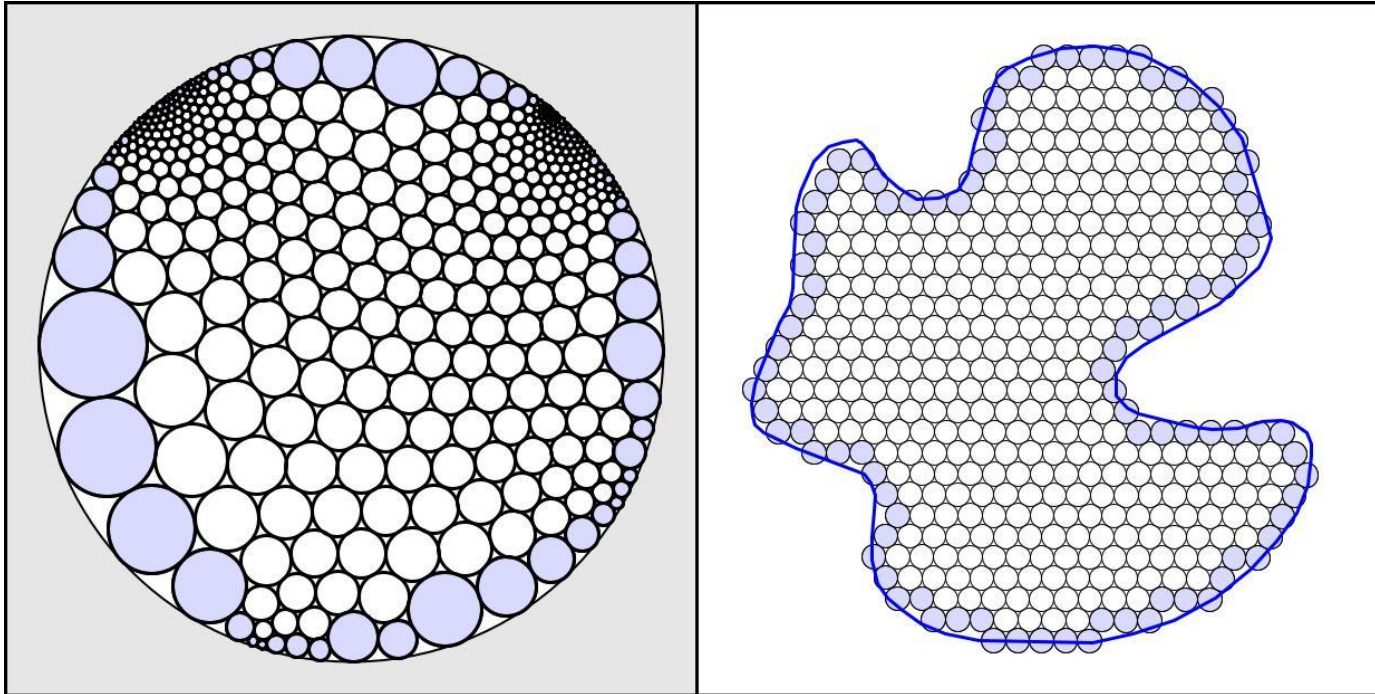
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
ICERM 2025



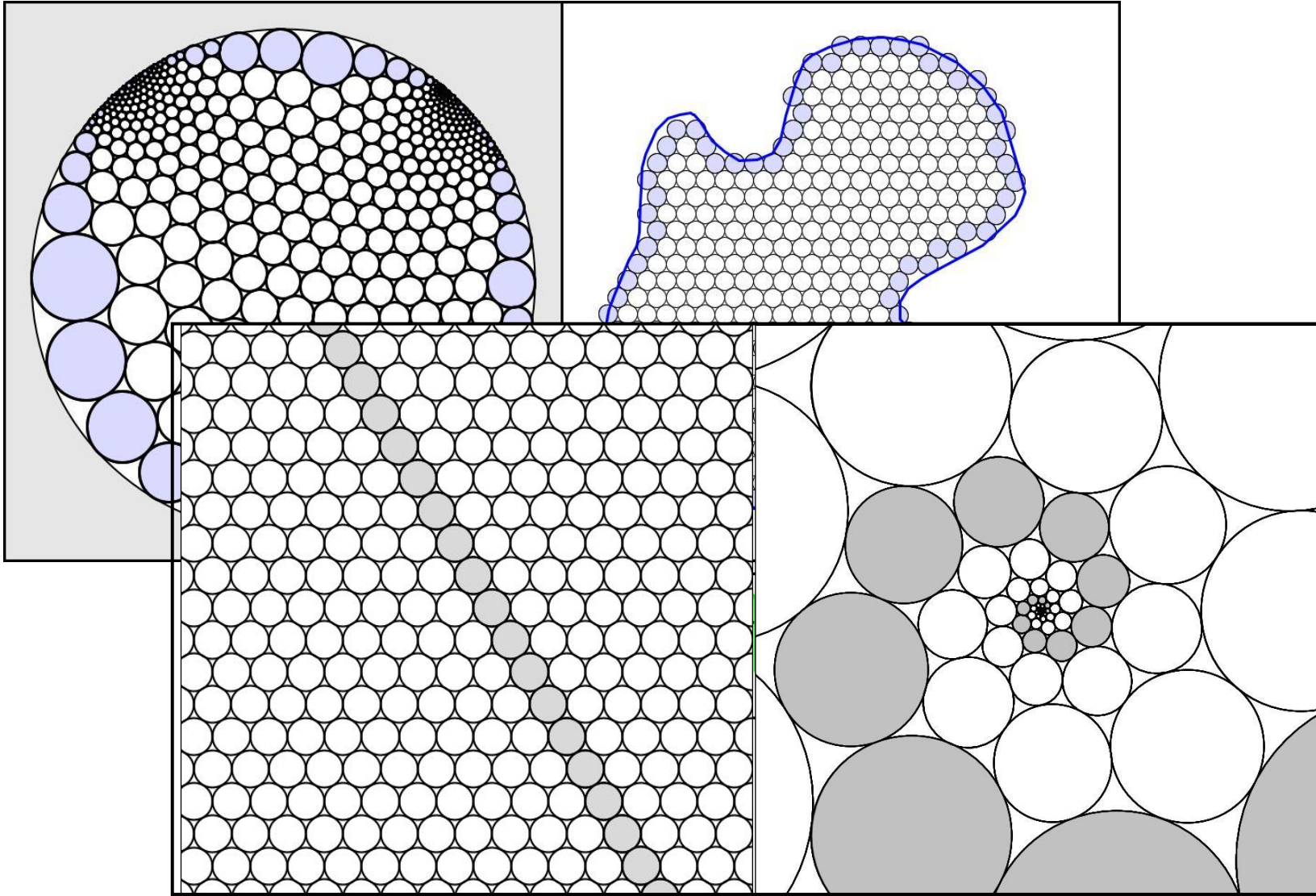
# Outline

- Circle packing and discrete analytic functions: Missing in action: discrete rational functions
- Schwarzian derivatives, classical and discrete
- “Intrinsic” schwarzians
- Normalized flower layouts
- Special flowers

## Discrete Analytic Functions:

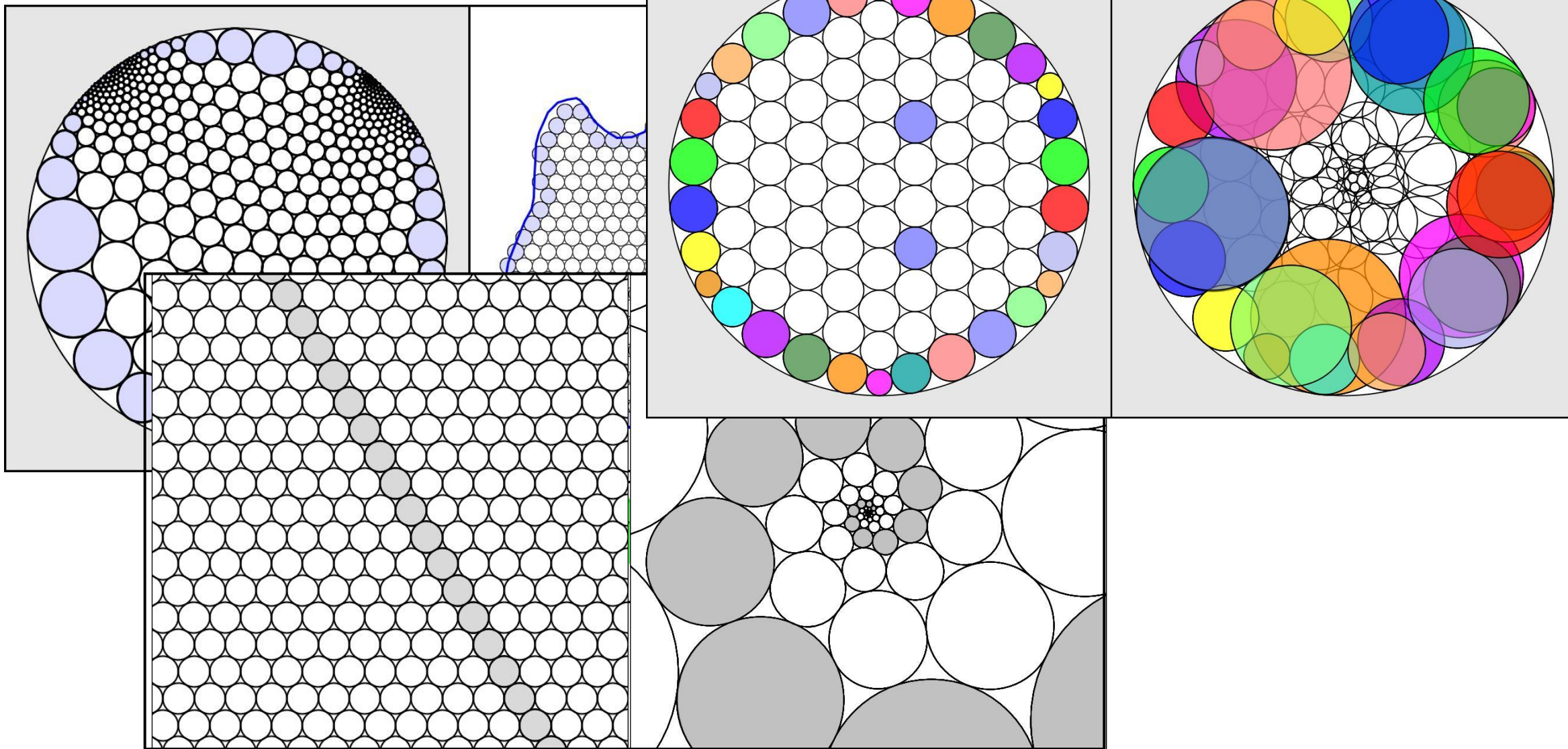


## Discrete Analytic Functions:

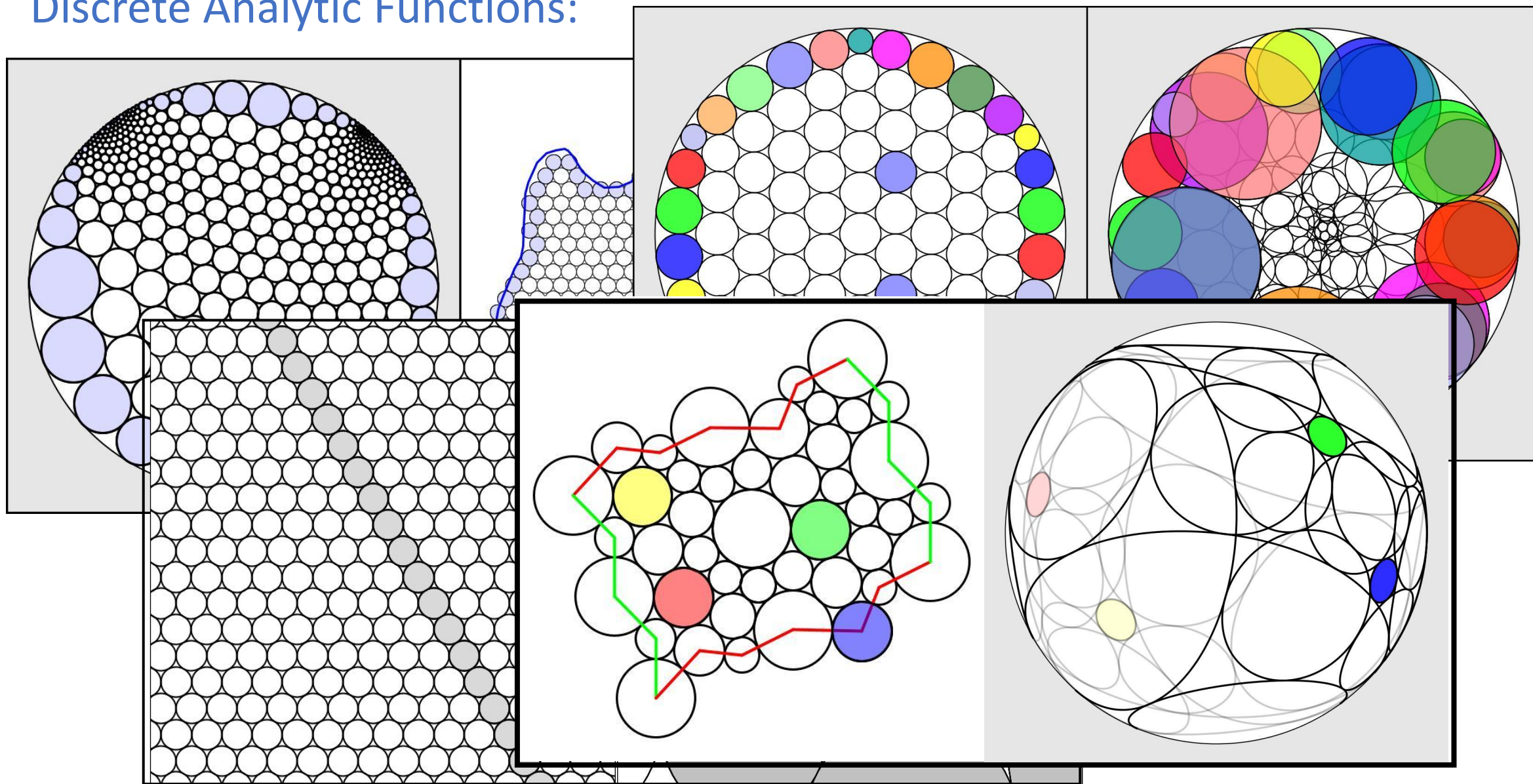




## Discrete Analytic Functions:

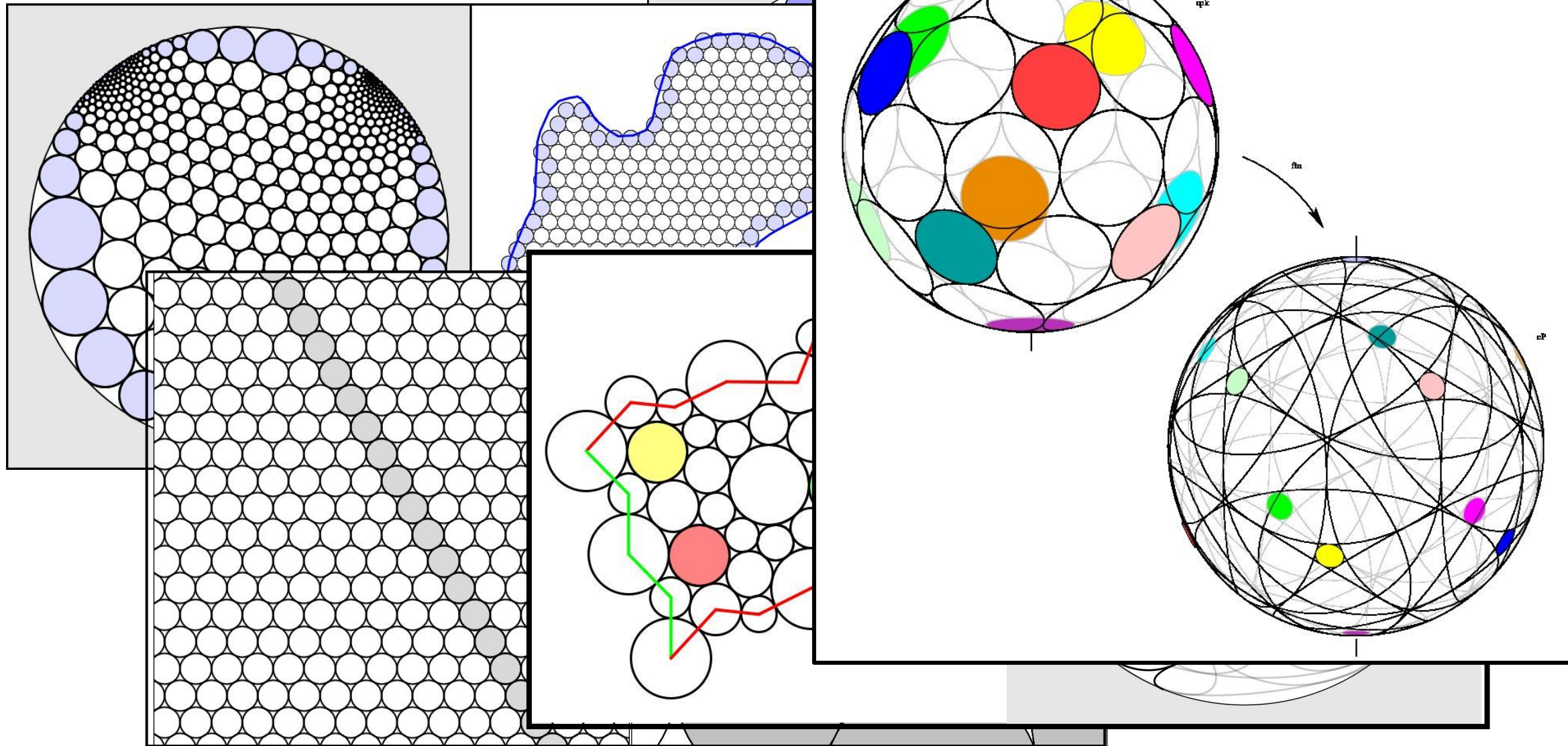


## Discrete Analytic Functions:



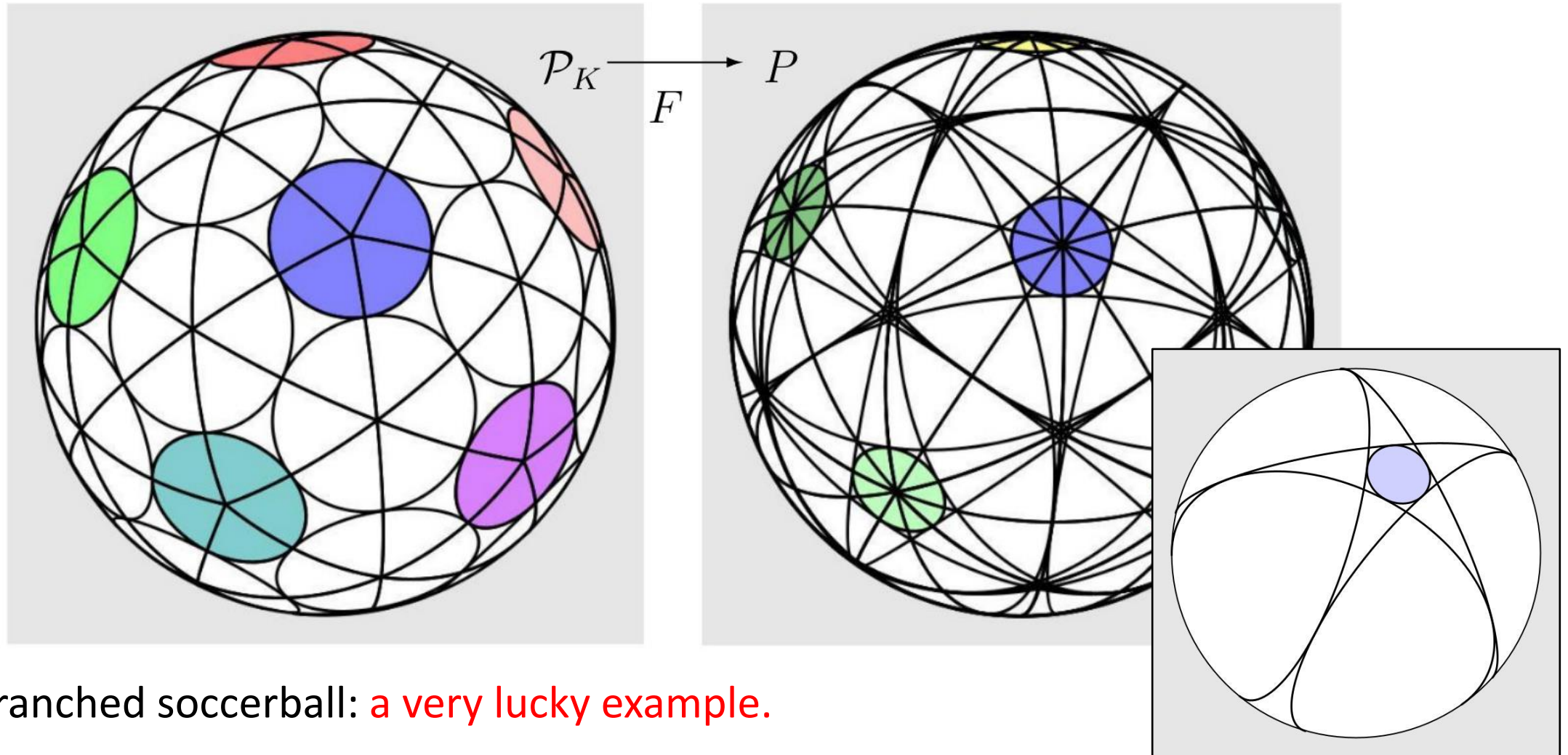


# Discrete Analytic Functions:



## A fly in the Ointment:

Creating/manipulating discrete rational functions

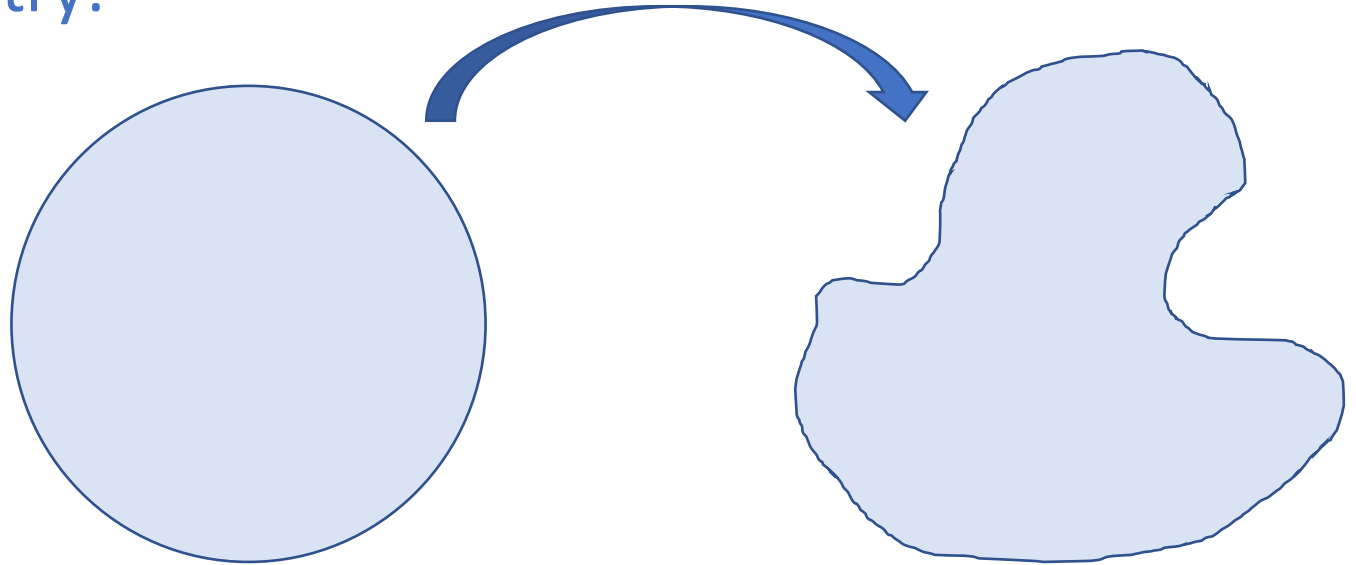


The branched soccerball: **a very lucky example.**



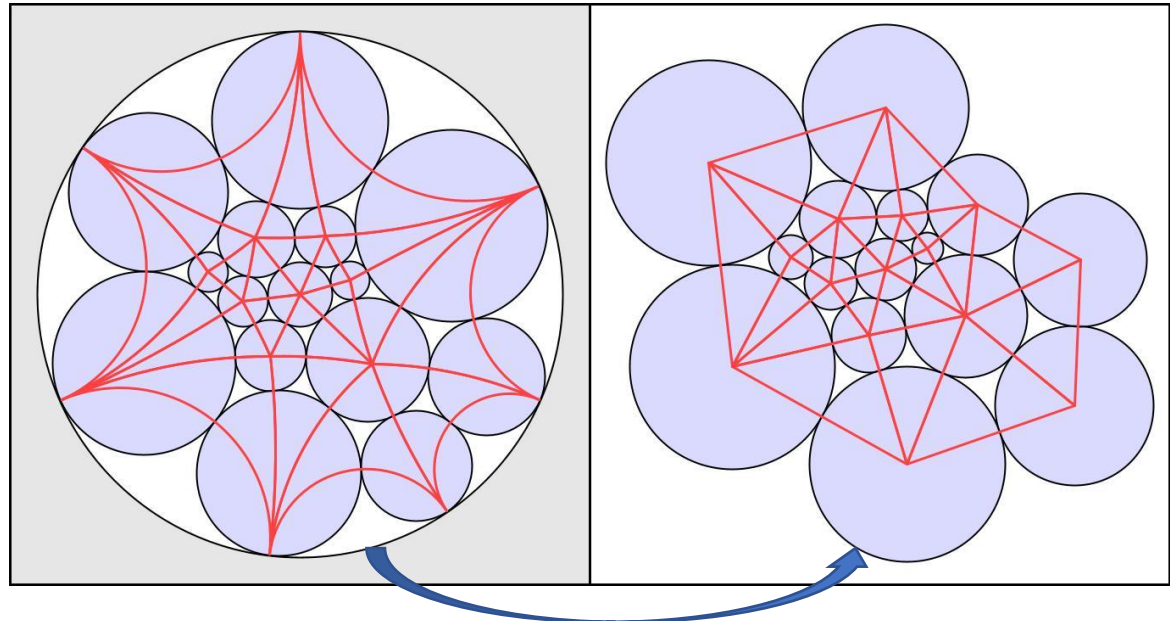
# Discrete Conformal Geometry:

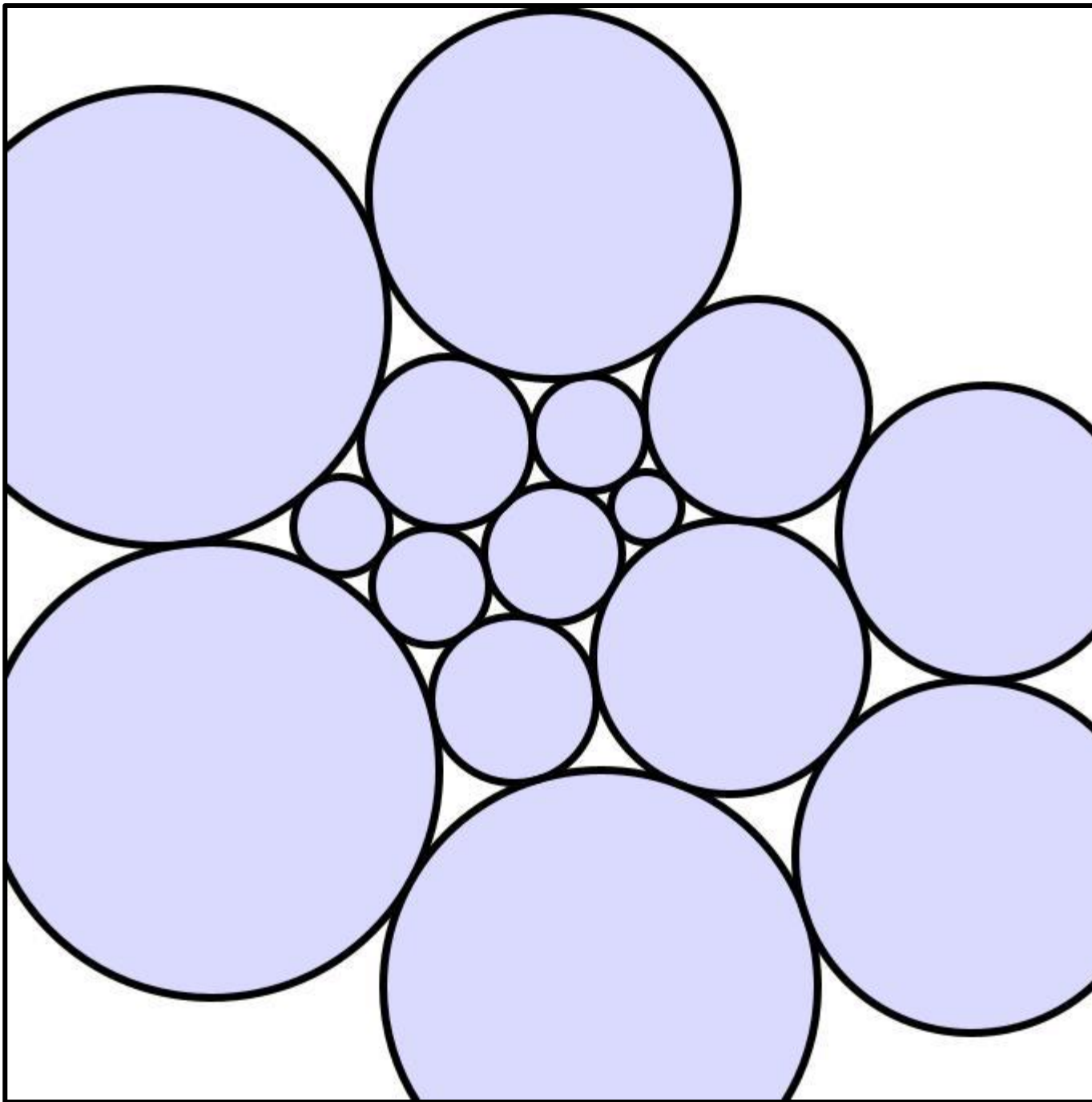
Classical analytic function



Discrete analytic function

Circle packing provides a fairly comprehensive and faithful parallel to the classical world.

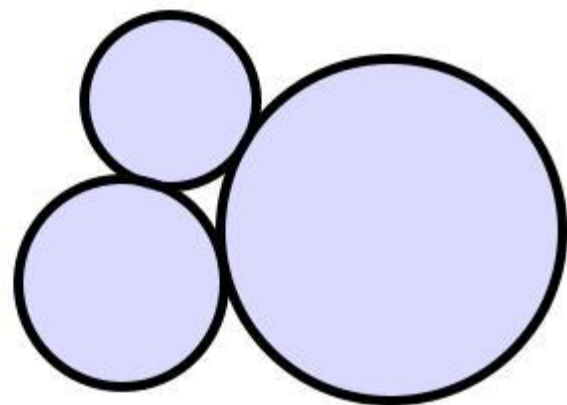




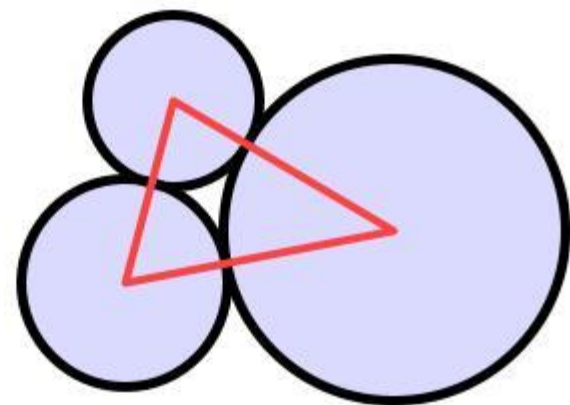
Traditional circle packings are created and manipulated using radii as the parameters.

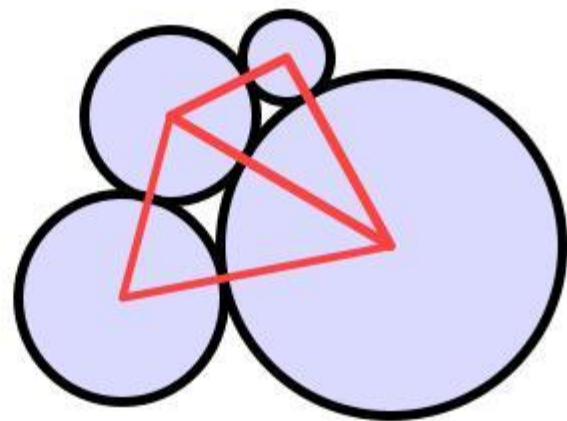
For Example: Given complex K

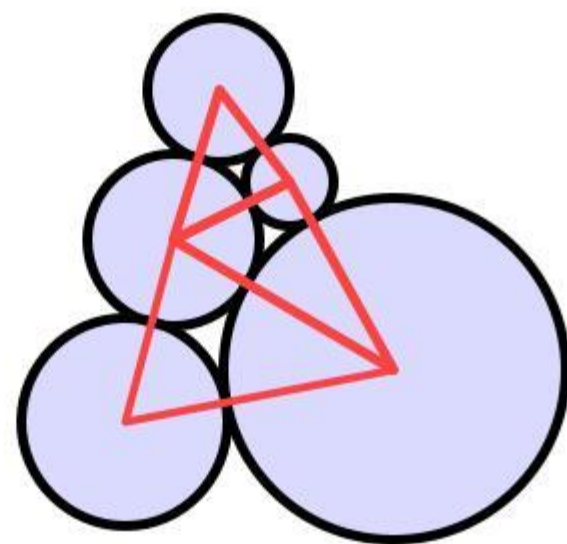
- Set the **boundary** radii
- Iteratively **adjust** internal radii until all internal vertices have **angle sum** a multiple of  $\pi$ .
- **Lay out** an initial triple of circles
- Successively **lay out** the remaining circles.



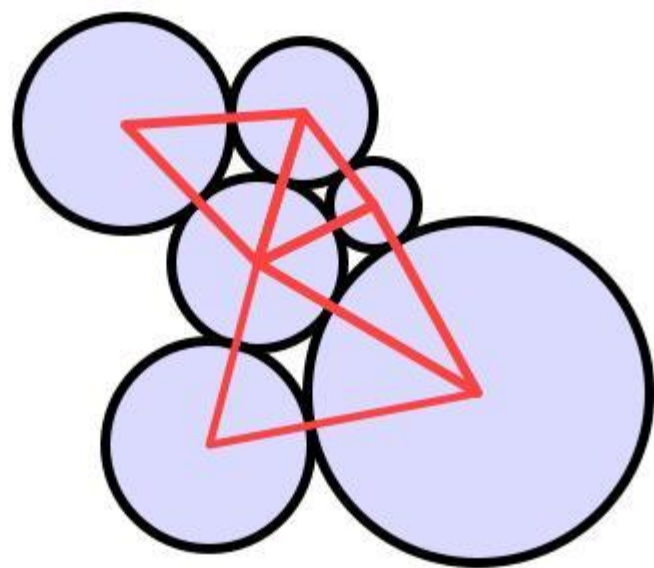


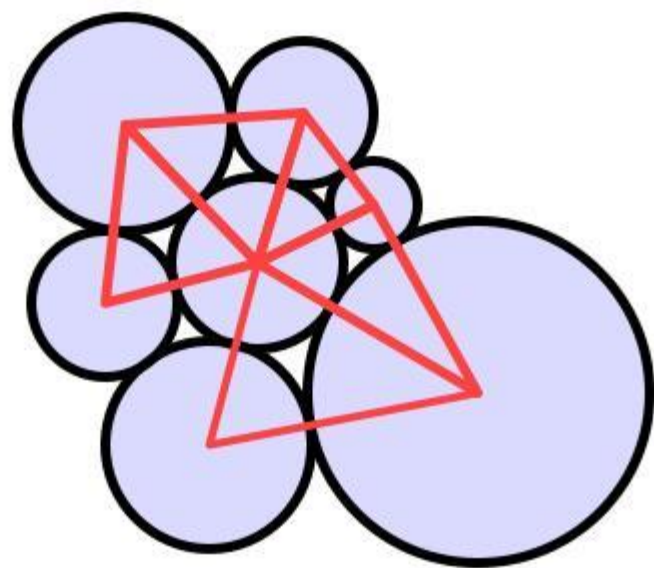


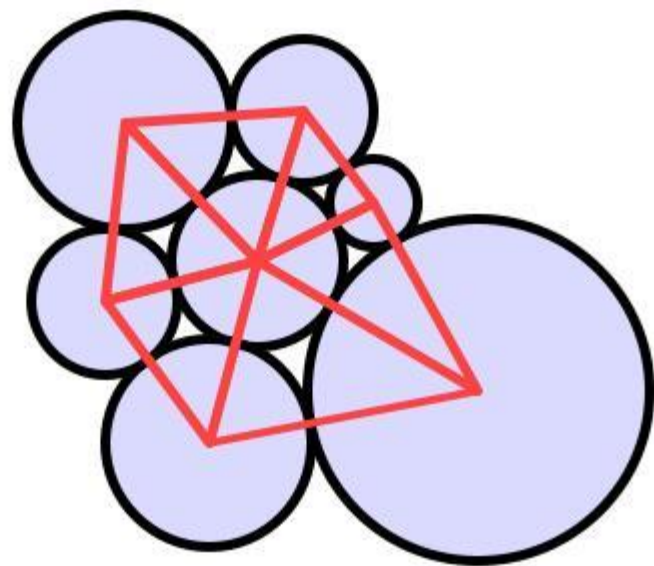




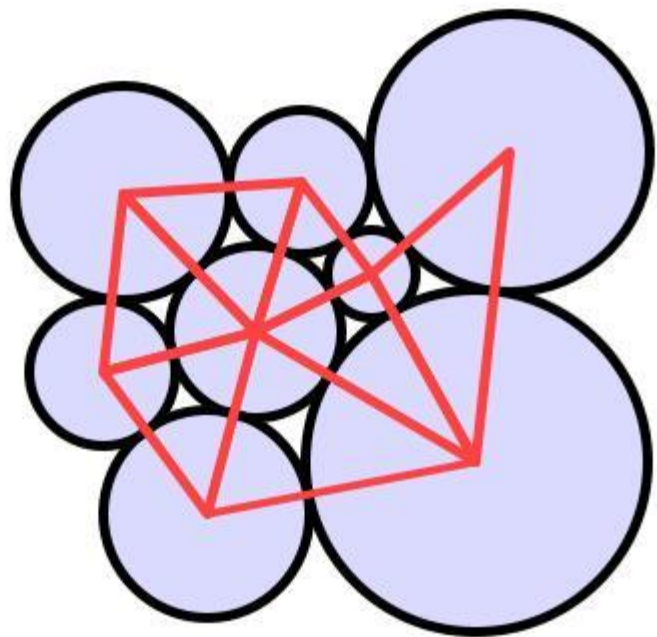


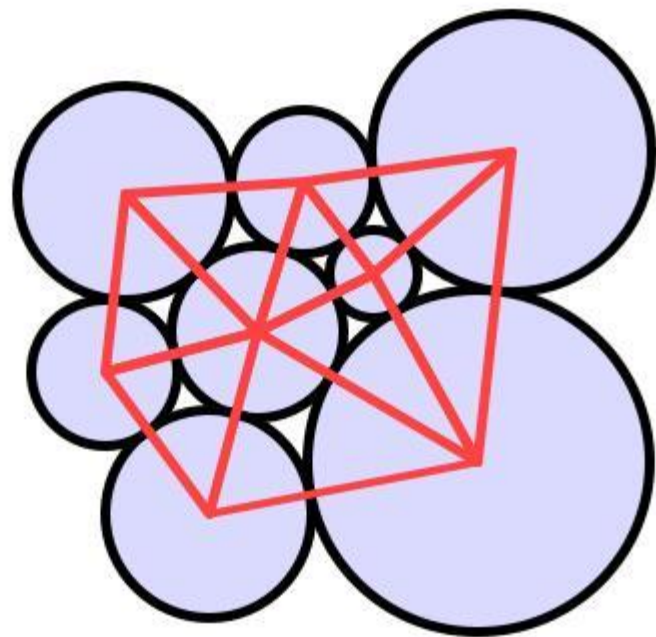


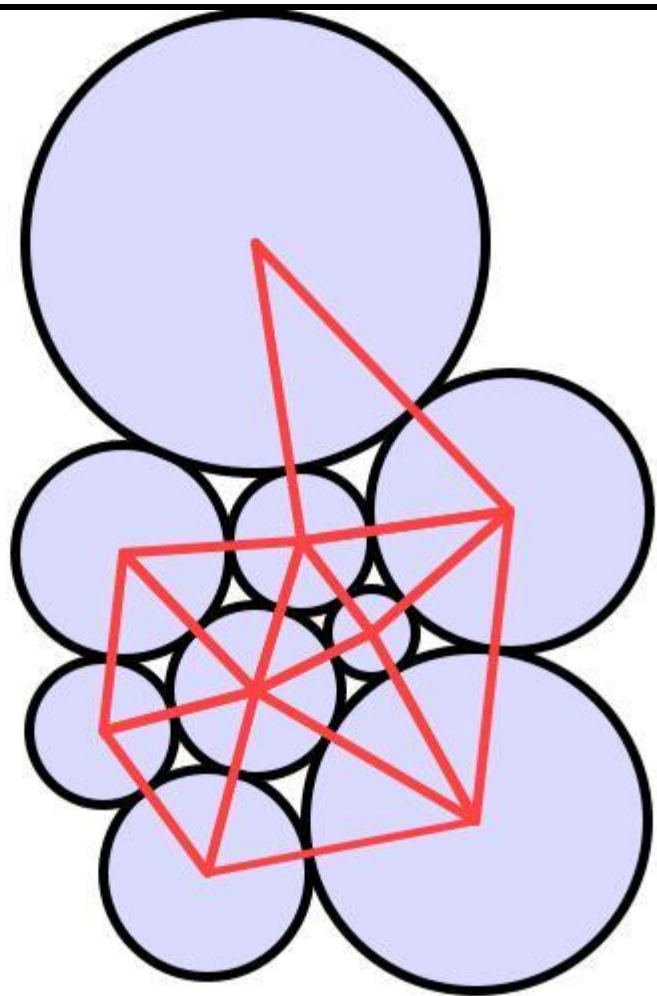




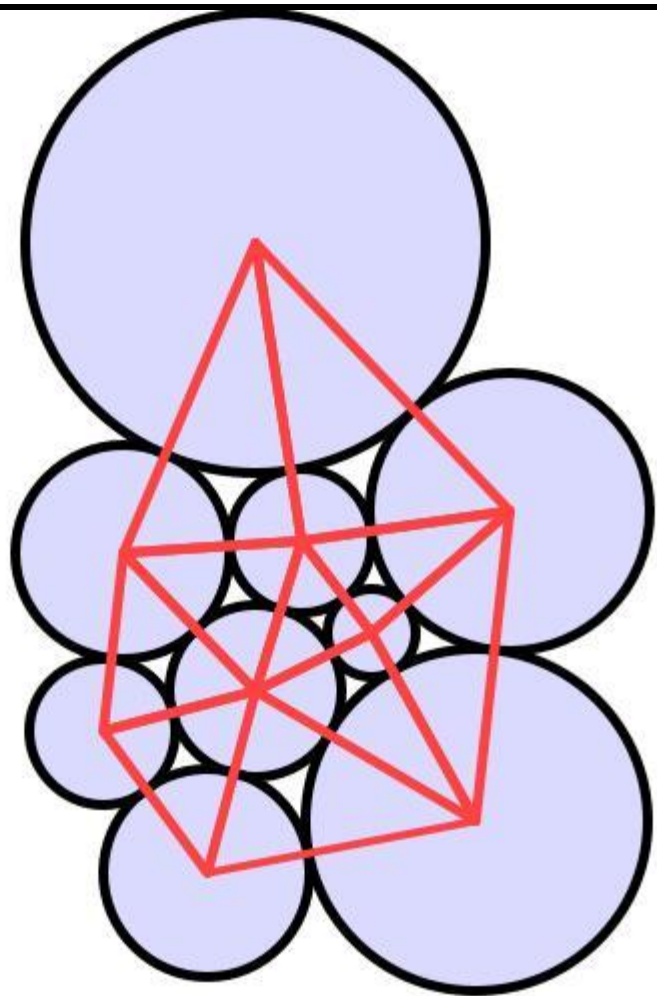


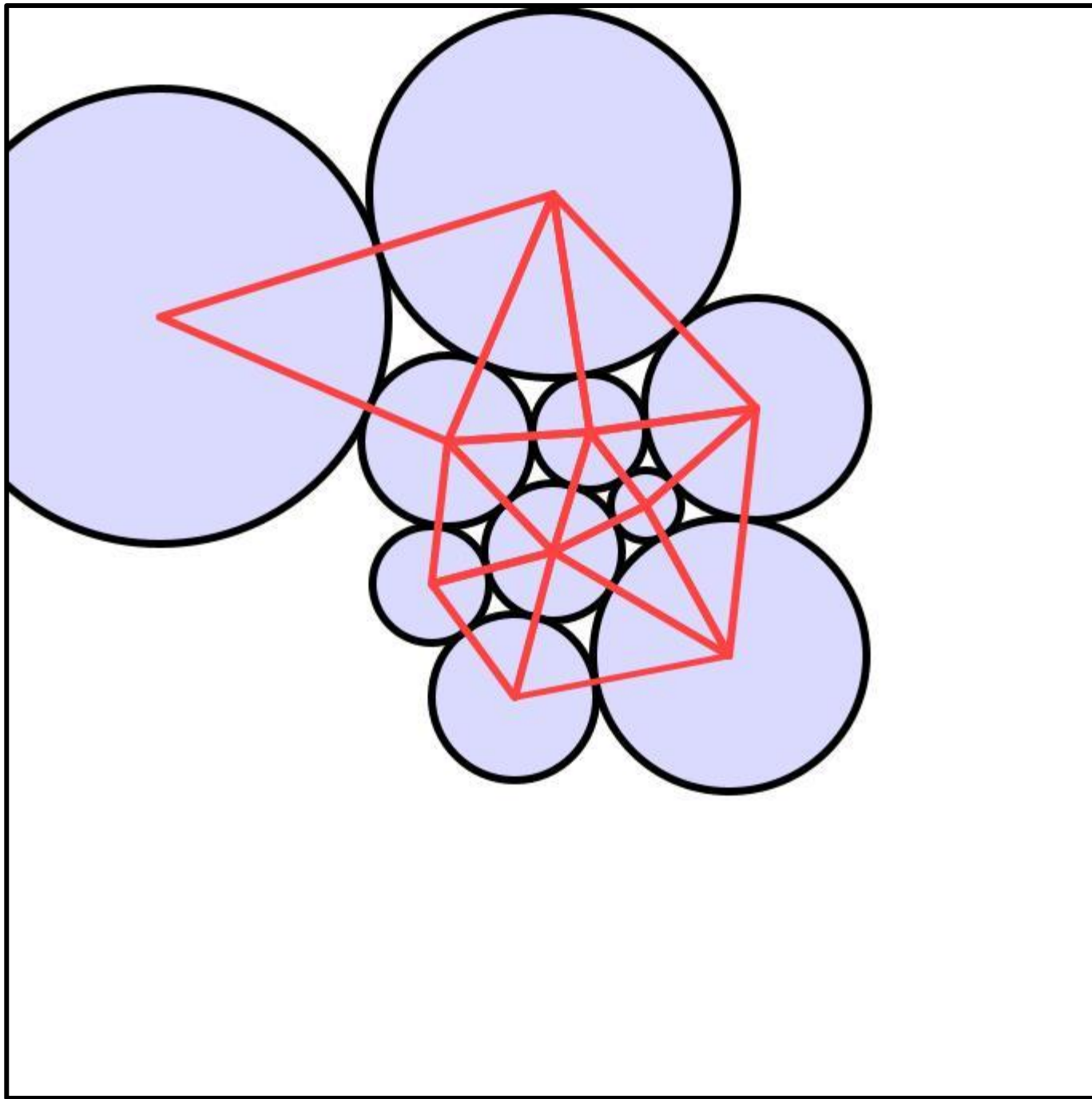


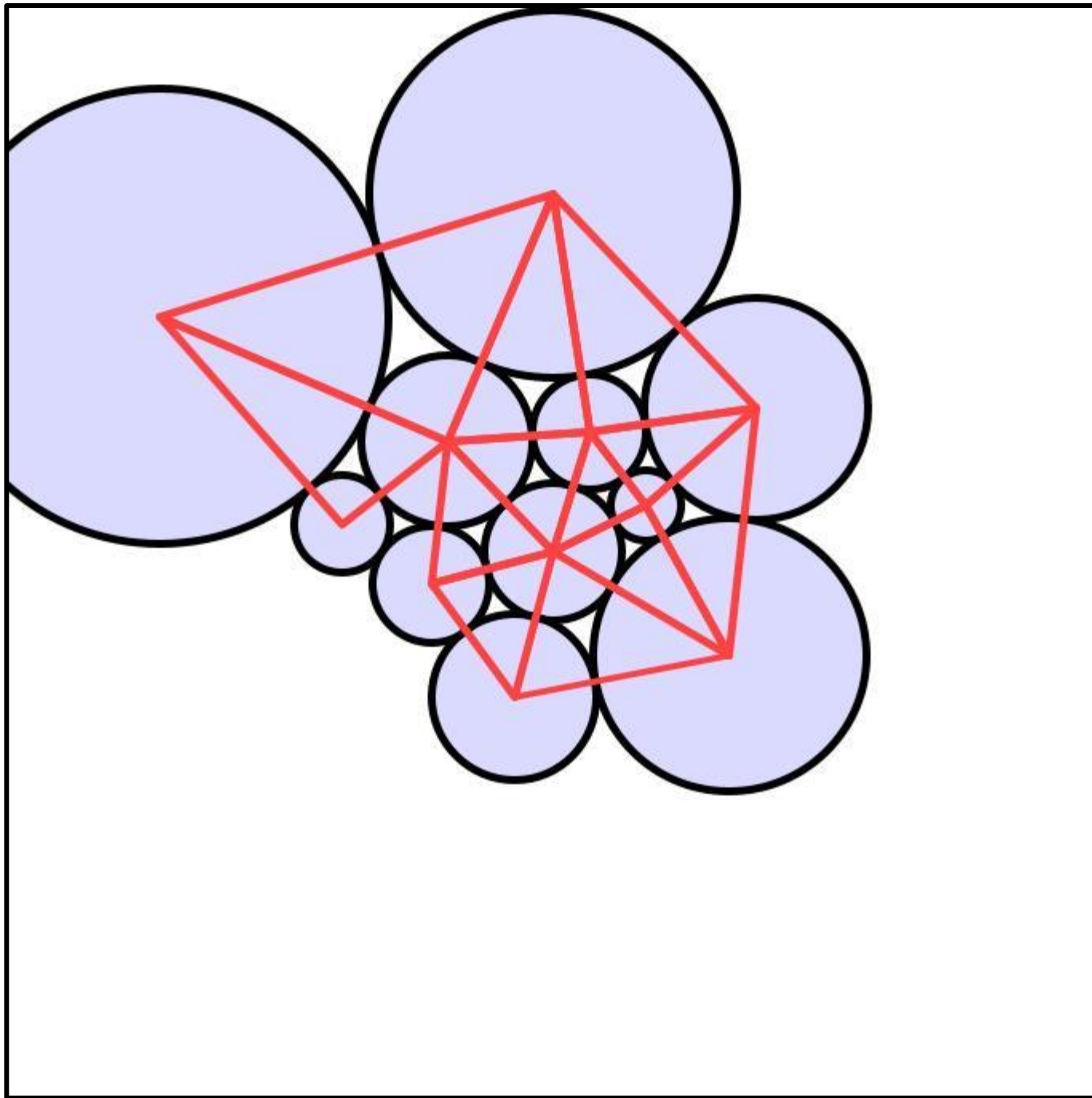


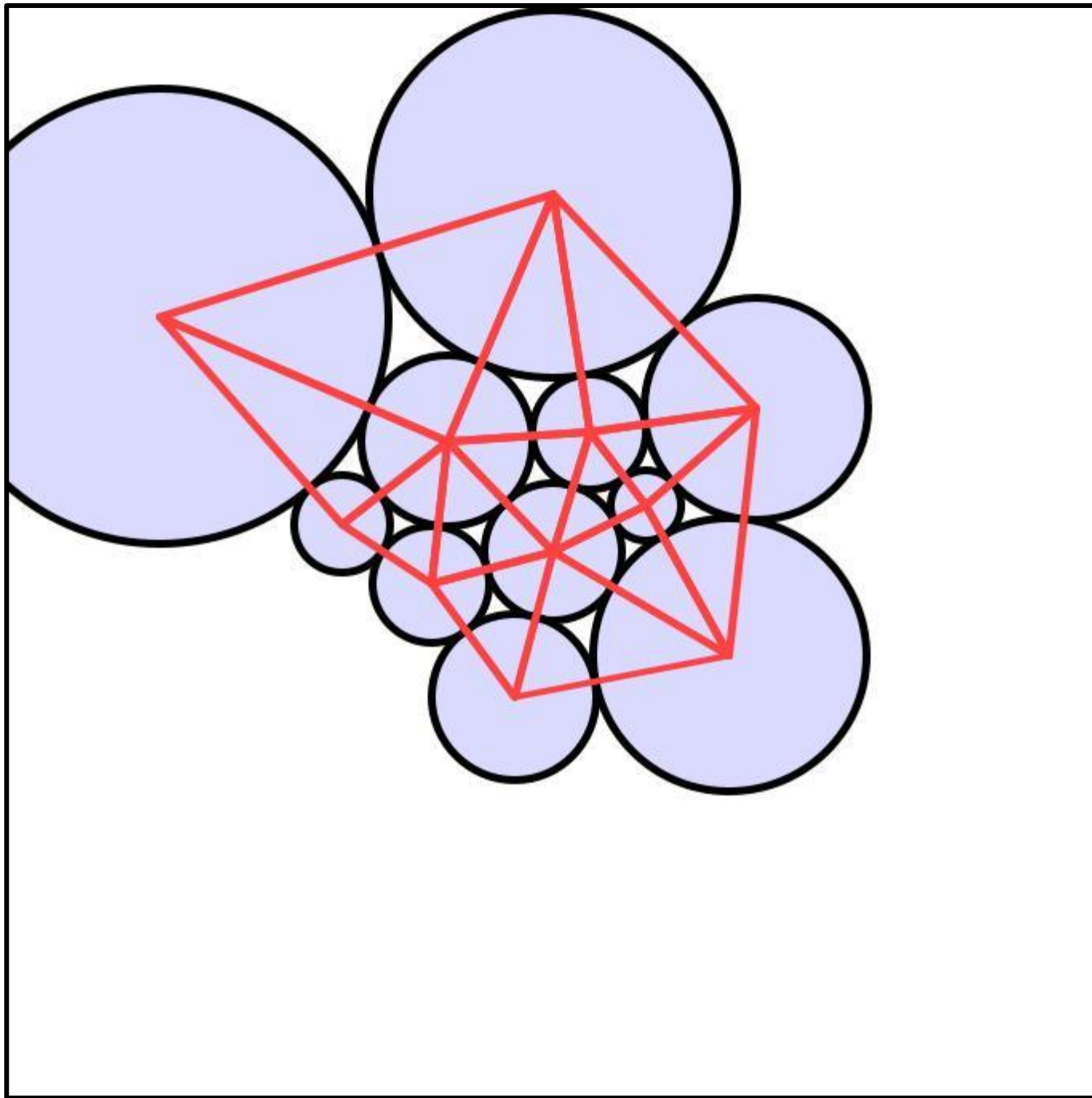


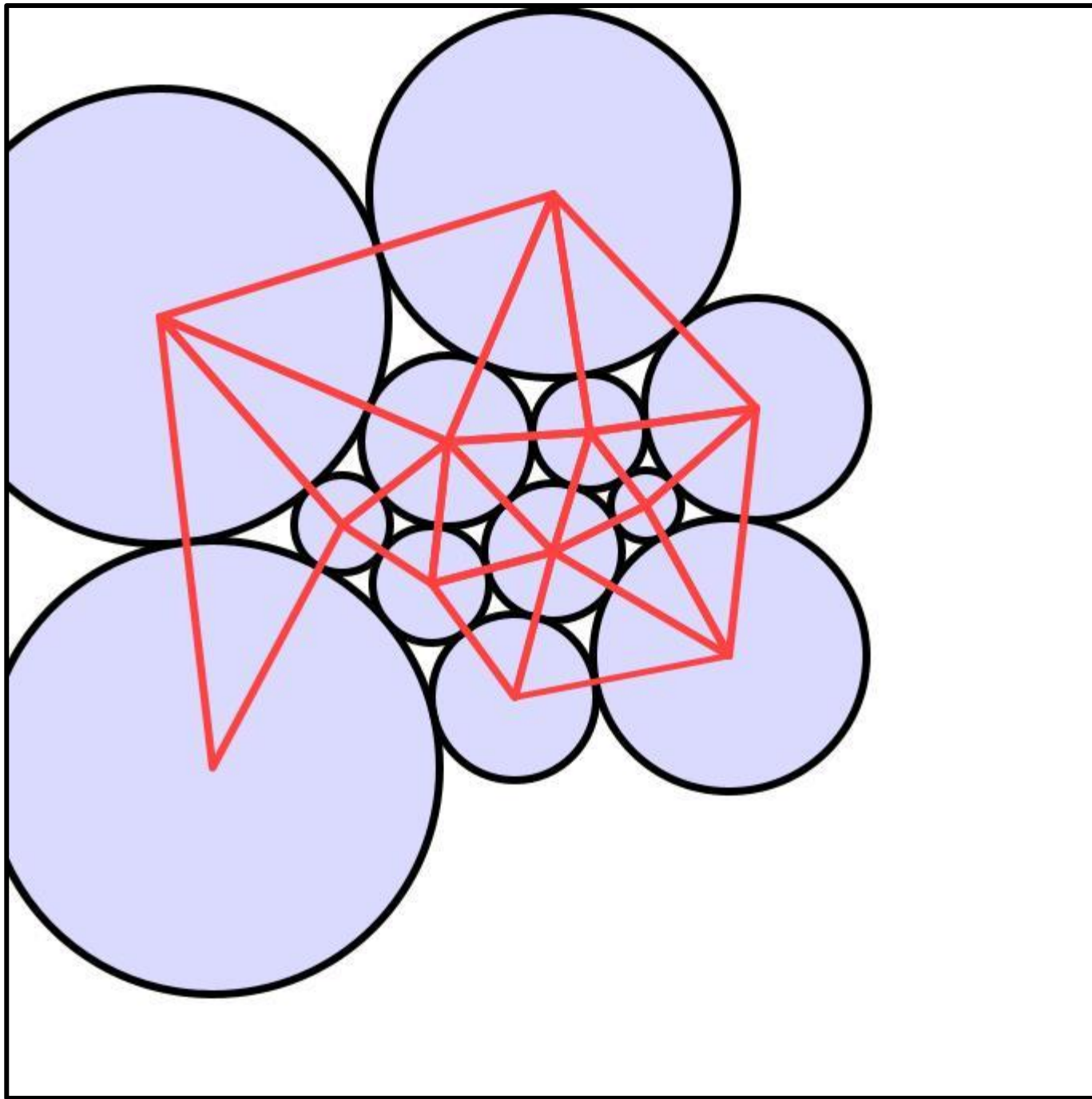




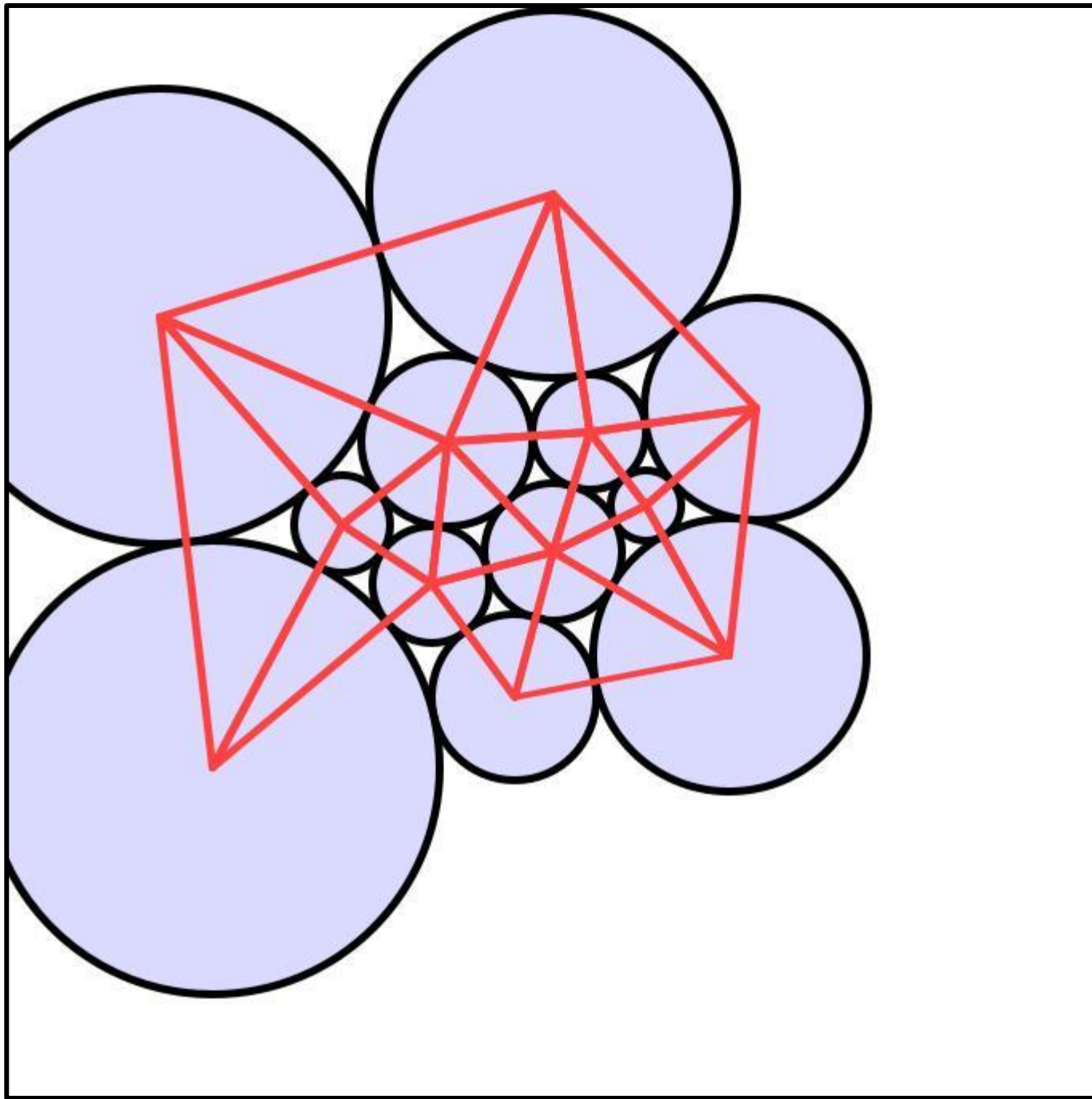


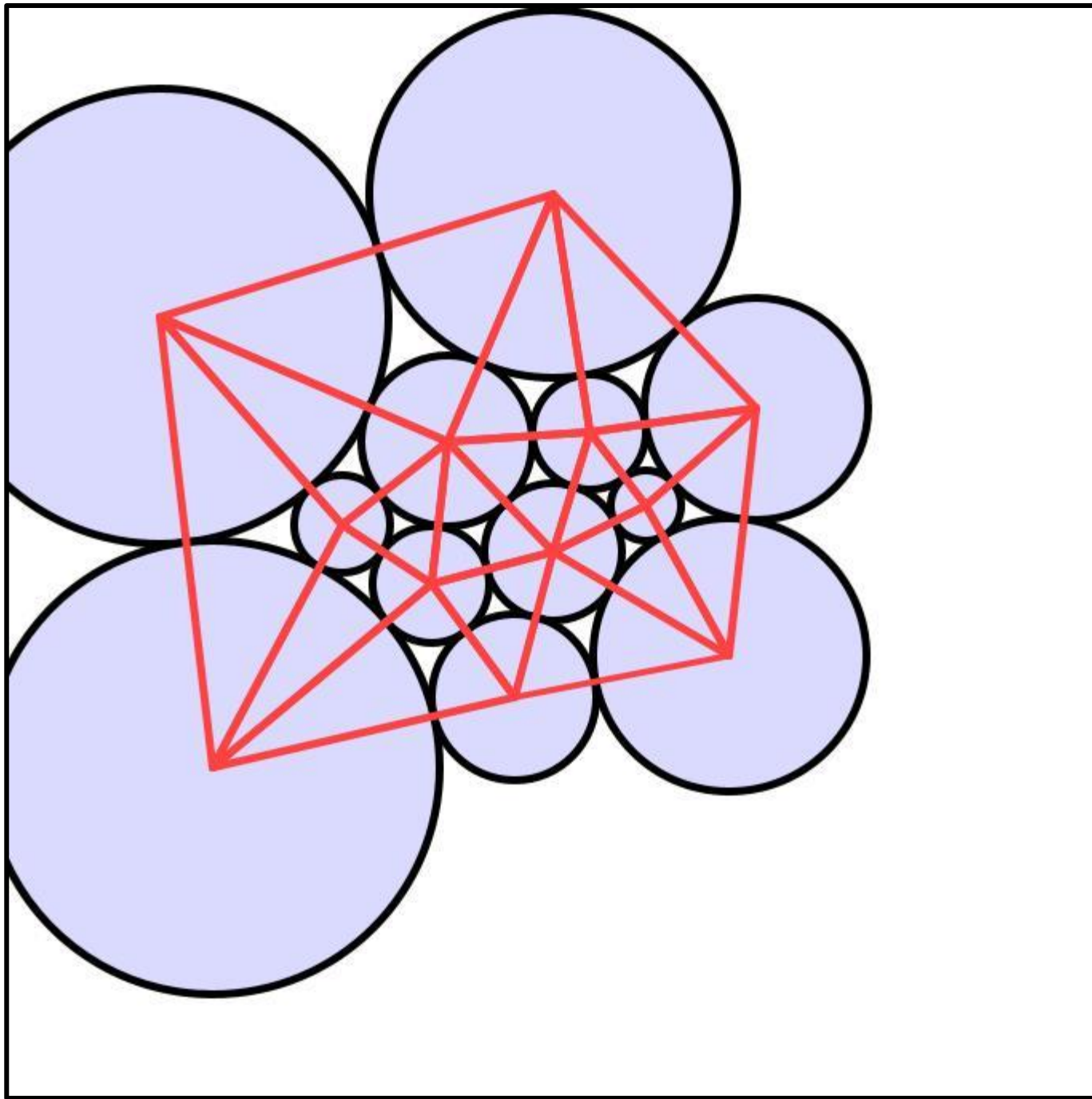


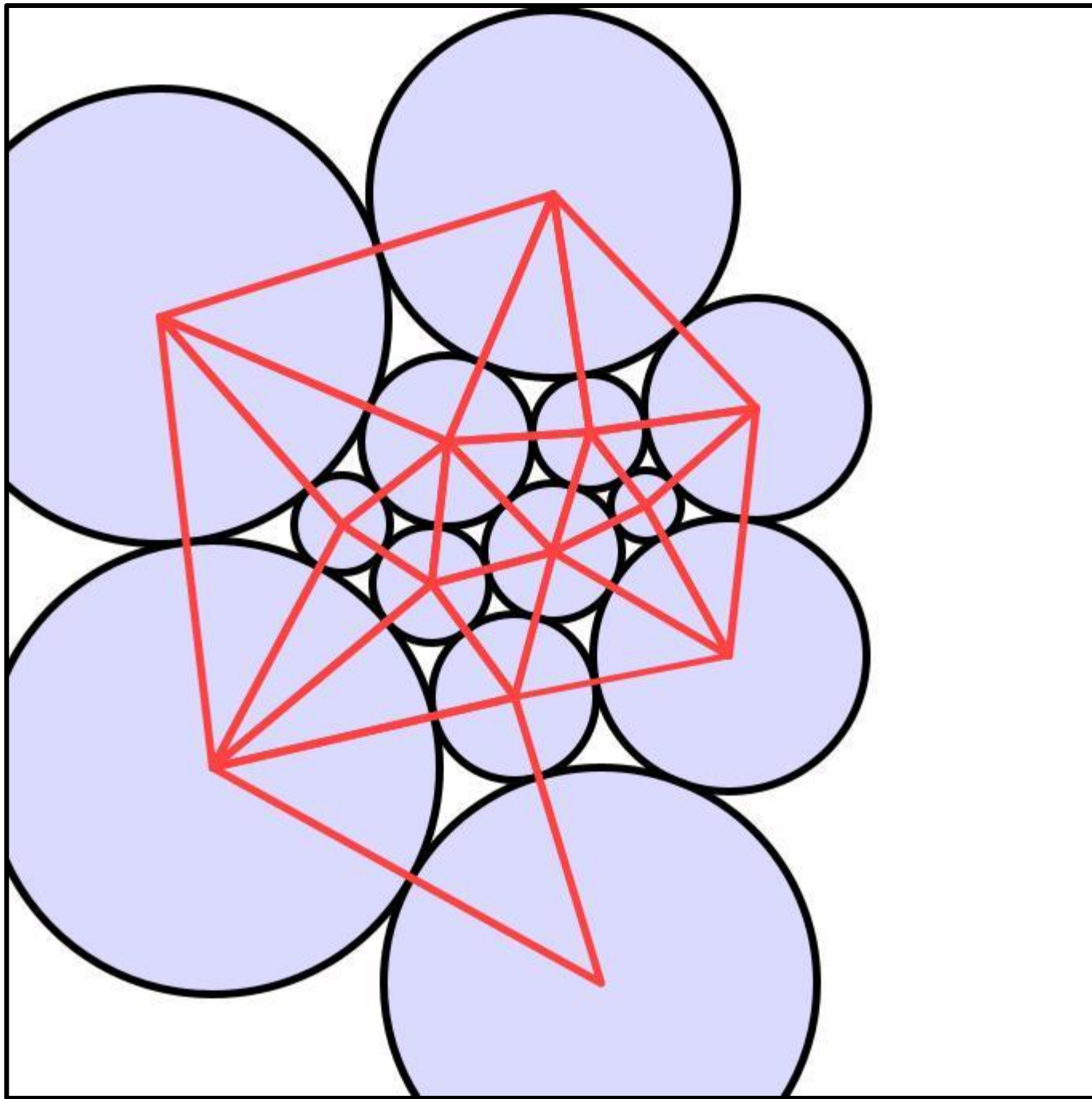


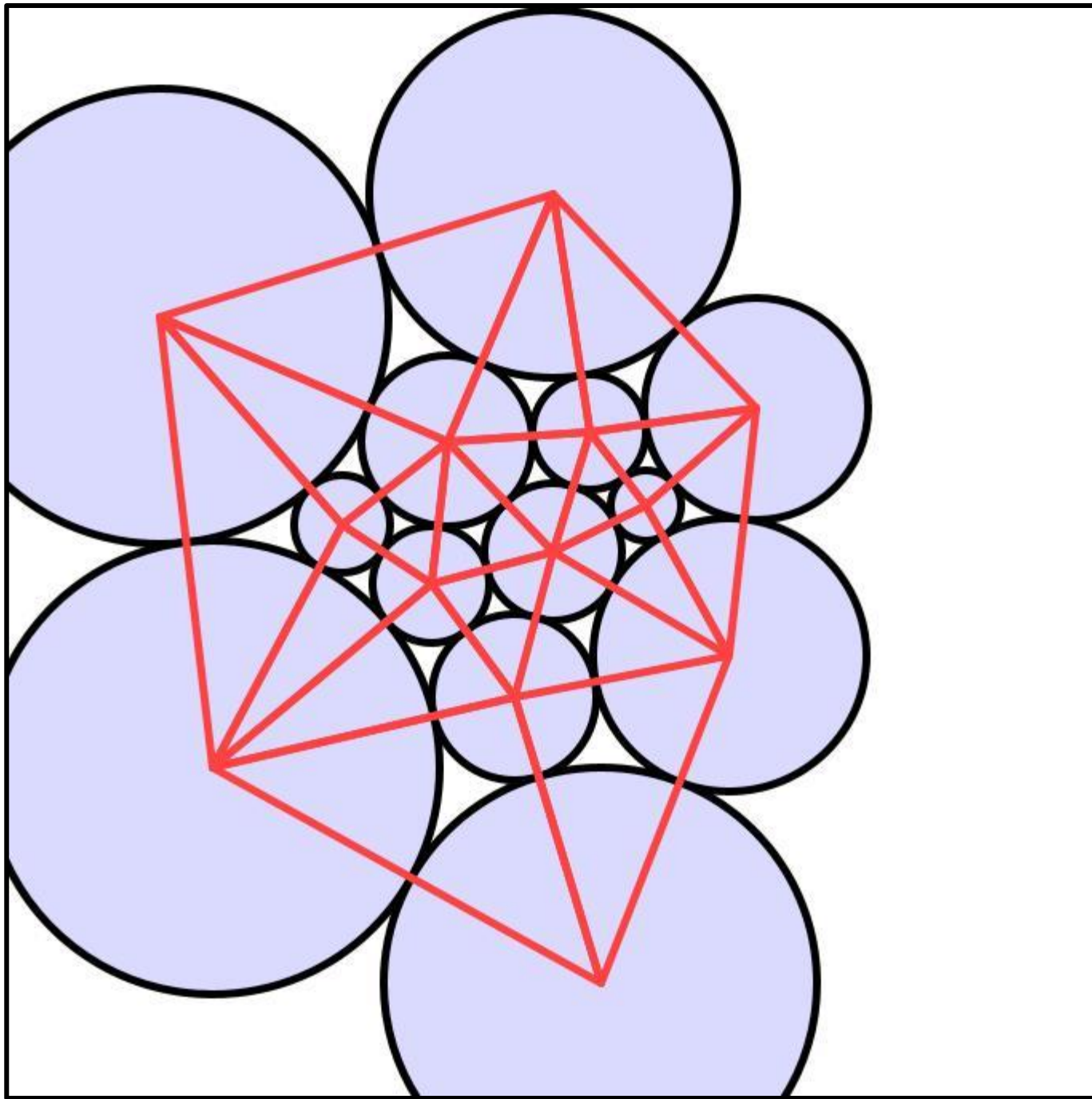




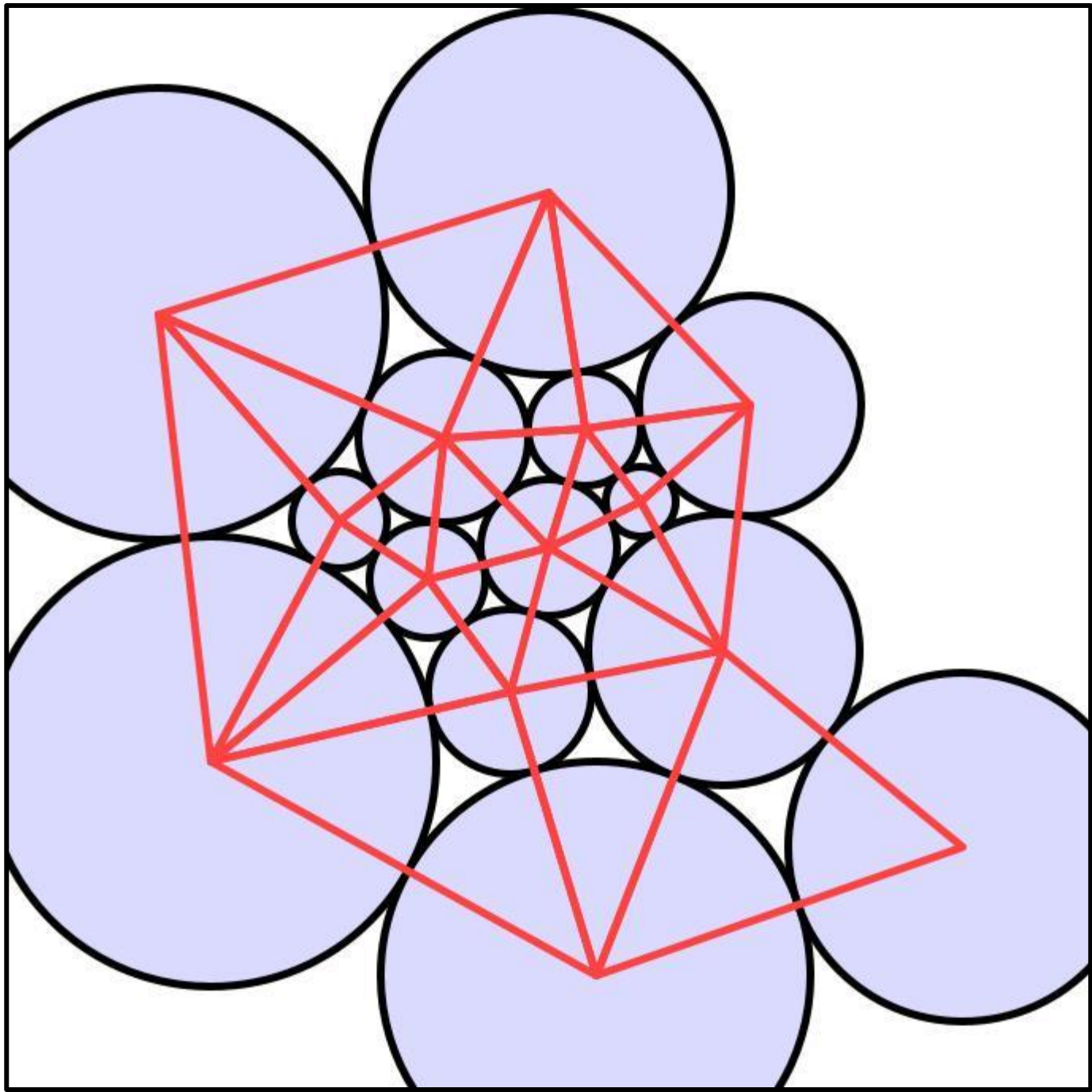




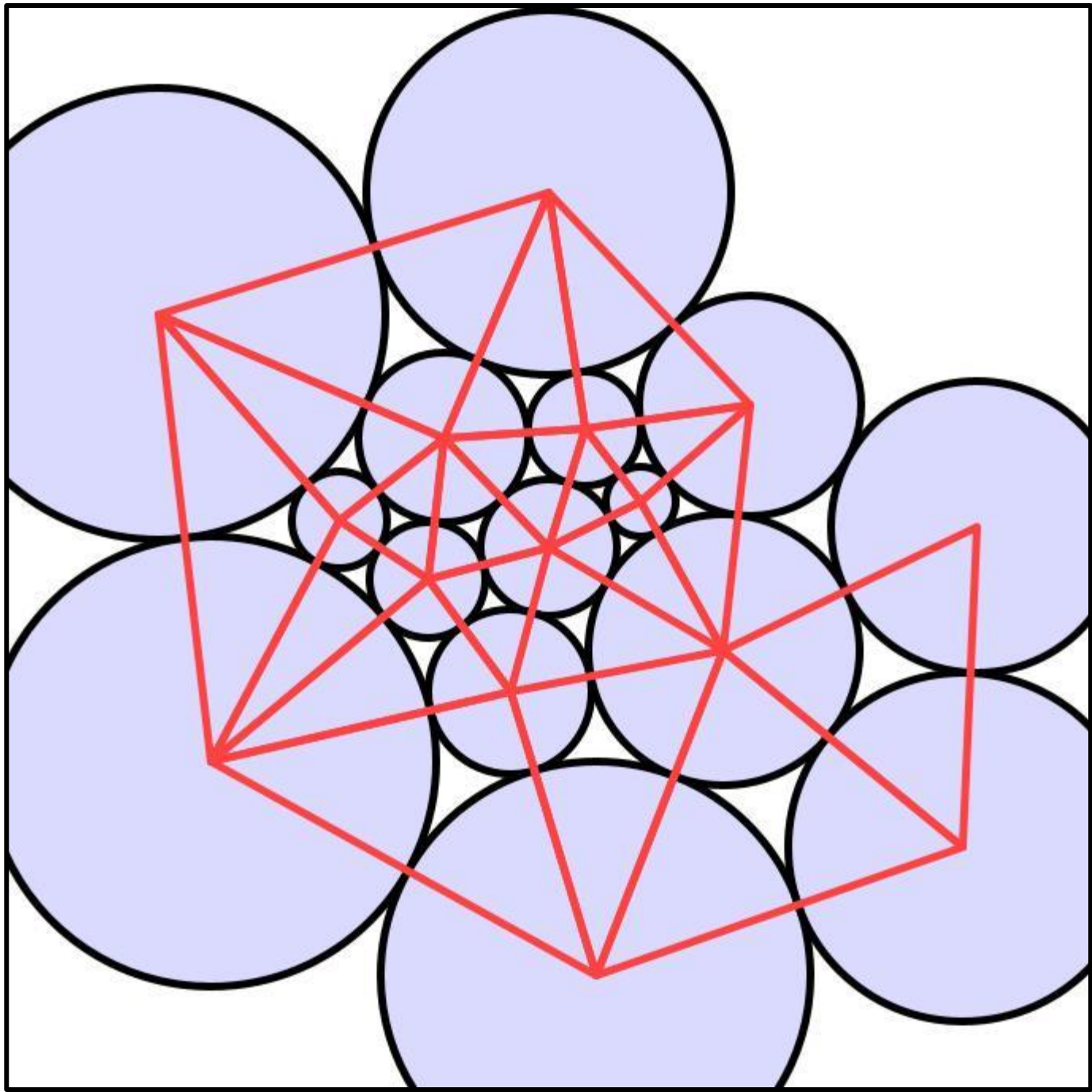


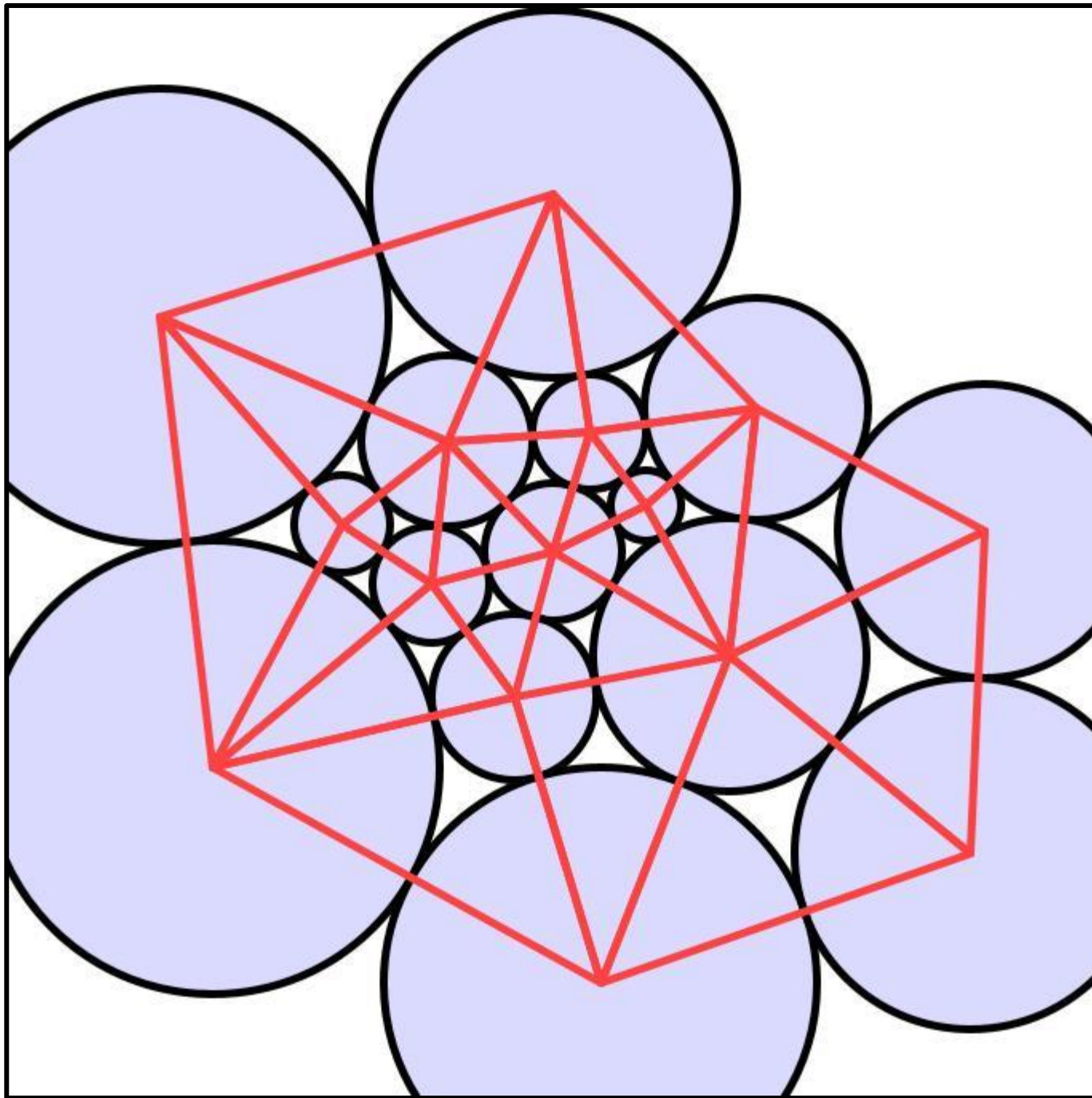












Done!

## Algorithms:

- A “packing algorithm” refers to some systematic method for computing the data associated with a circle packing  $P$  for a given complex  $K$ .
- Bill Thurston introduced circle packing and blessed us with a wonderful iterative algorithm based on radii. This works amazingly well in **euclidean** and **hyperbolic** geometry; the latest algorithms will pack complexes involving several million circles.
- However, there is as yet **no algorithm which works directly in spherical geometry**.
- Nearly all circle packings on the sphere have been stereographically projected from the plane or the disc. Except in certain rare exceptional situations, stereographic projection **does not work** for circle packings with **branching**.
- This talk is about opening a new approach, replacing radii as parameters by something Mobius invariant; namely, discrete Schwarzian data associate with edges.

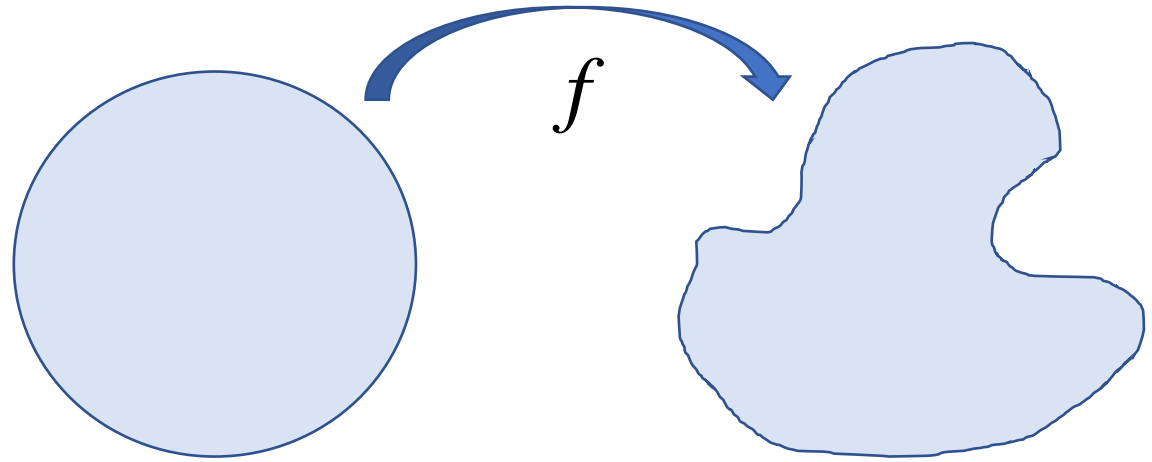
I am nowhere near an algorithm, so I can use some help!

# A Discrete Schwarzian Derivative

# A Discrete Schwarzian Derivative:

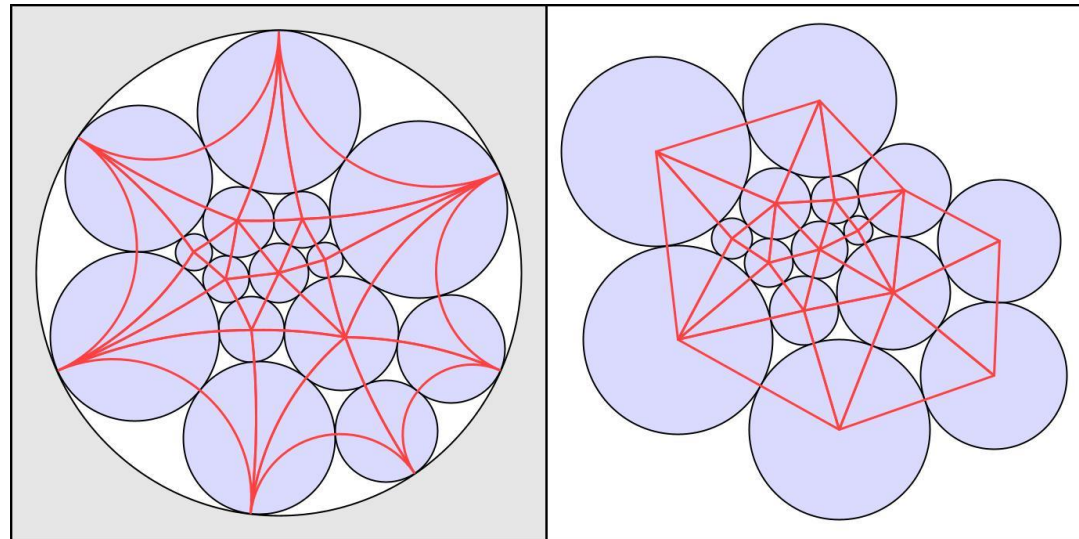
## Classical:

- \*  $S(f) = \left(\frac{f''}{f'}\right)' - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{f''}{f'}\right)^2$
- \*  $f \equiv 0$  iff  $f$  is Möbius
- \* Invariance:  $S(\phi(f)) \equiv S(f)$  if  $\phi$  is Möbius
- \* Measures the “distance” of  $f$  from the closest Möbius.



## Discrete: ????

- Combinatoric
- Face-by-face
- Conformally faithful





# Defining the discrete Schwarzian Derivative: (Following Gerald Orick)

Given discrete analytic function

$$F : P \longrightarrow P'$$

and edge  $e$  between faces  $f$  and  $g$ ,  
define Möbius transformations:

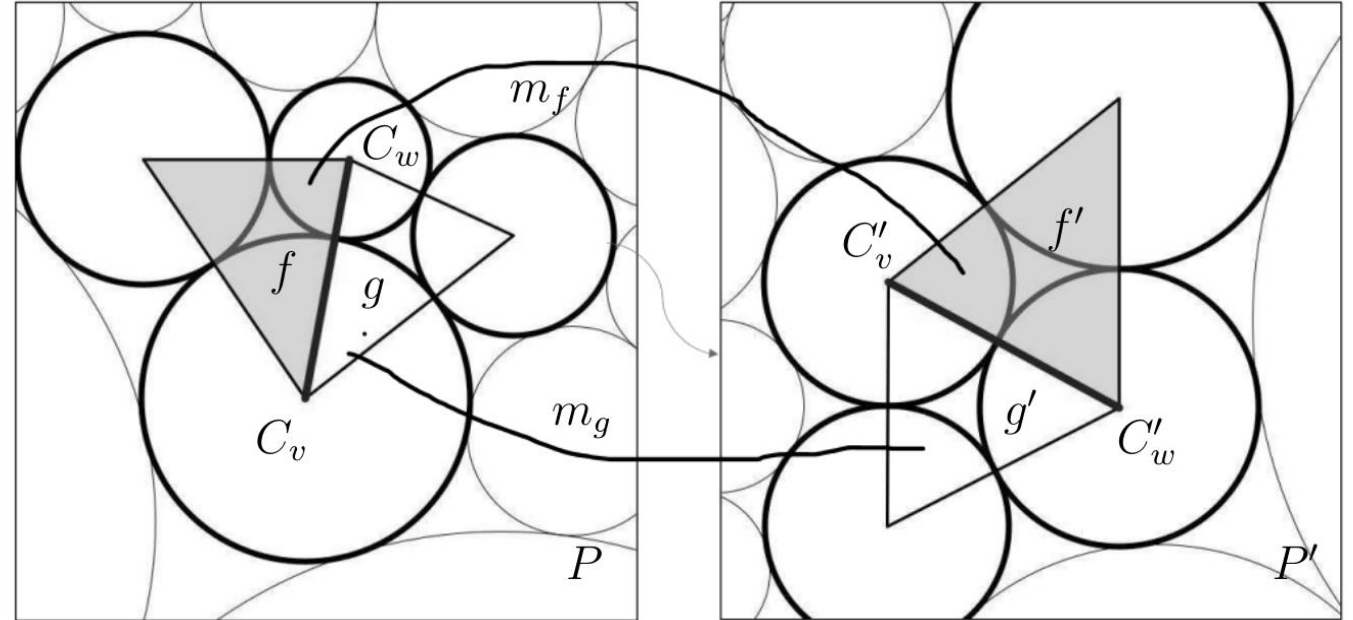
$$m_f : f \longrightarrow f'$$

$$m_g : g \longrightarrow g'$$

The discrete Schwarzian derivative  
of  $F$  on edge  $e$  is given by

$$\Sigma_F(e) = \sigma$$

$$\text{where } m_g^{-1} \circ m_f = \mathbb{I} + \sigma \begin{bmatrix} t & -t^2 \\ 1 & -t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \sigma t & 1 - \sigma t^2 \\ \sigma & 1 - \sigma t \end{bmatrix}$$



Sadly, Schwarzian Derivatives are not a good setting for experiments (2 packings, complex numbers)

# The Intrinsic Schwarzian for interior edges

## Plan B: intrinsic schwarzians:

Reformulate for use with a single packing  $P$  and real numbers:

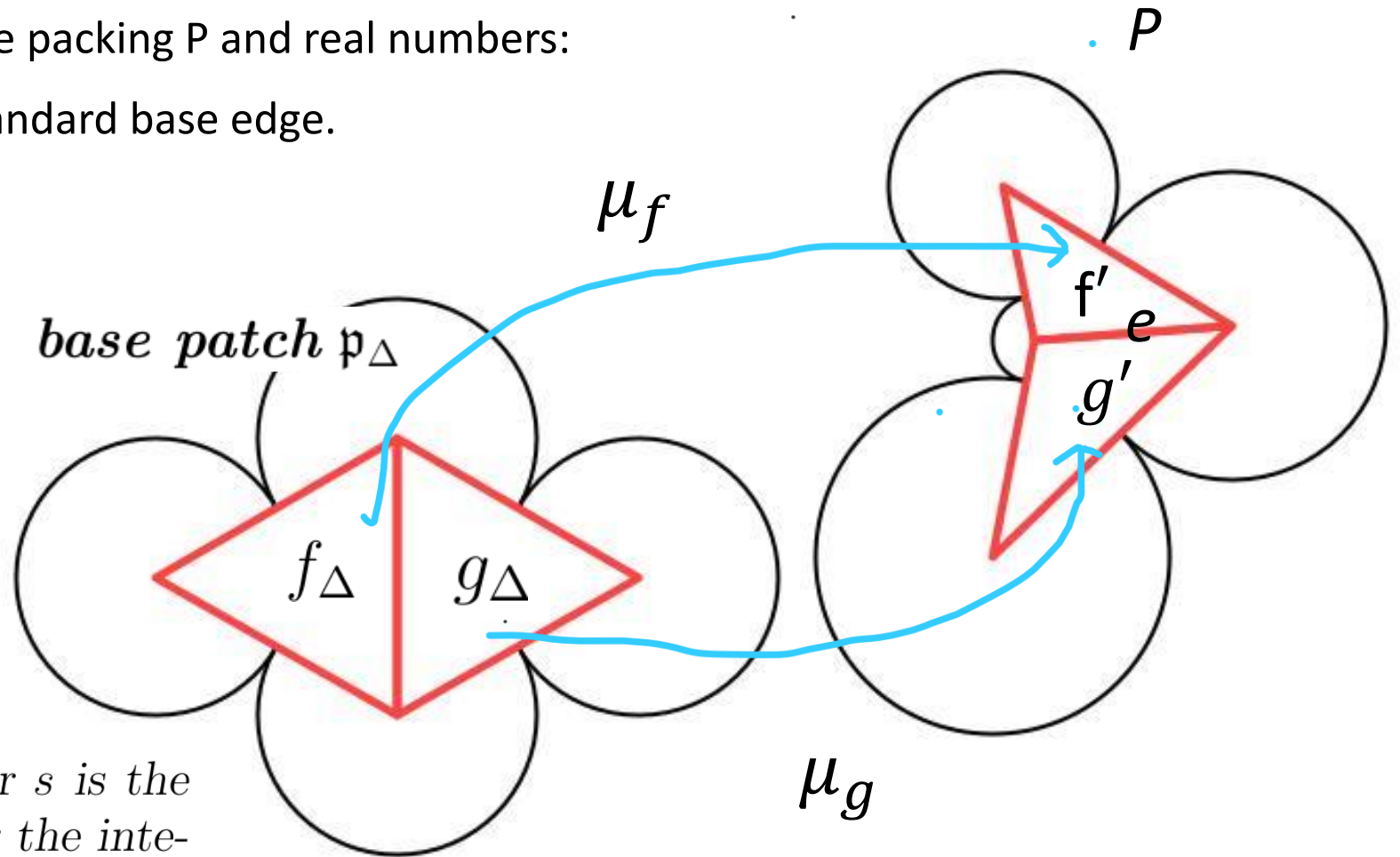
Compare every edge  $e$  to the standard base edge.

$$m_e = \mu_g^{-1} \circ \mu_f$$

$$m_e = \begin{bmatrix} 1+s & -s \\ s & 1-s \end{bmatrix}$$

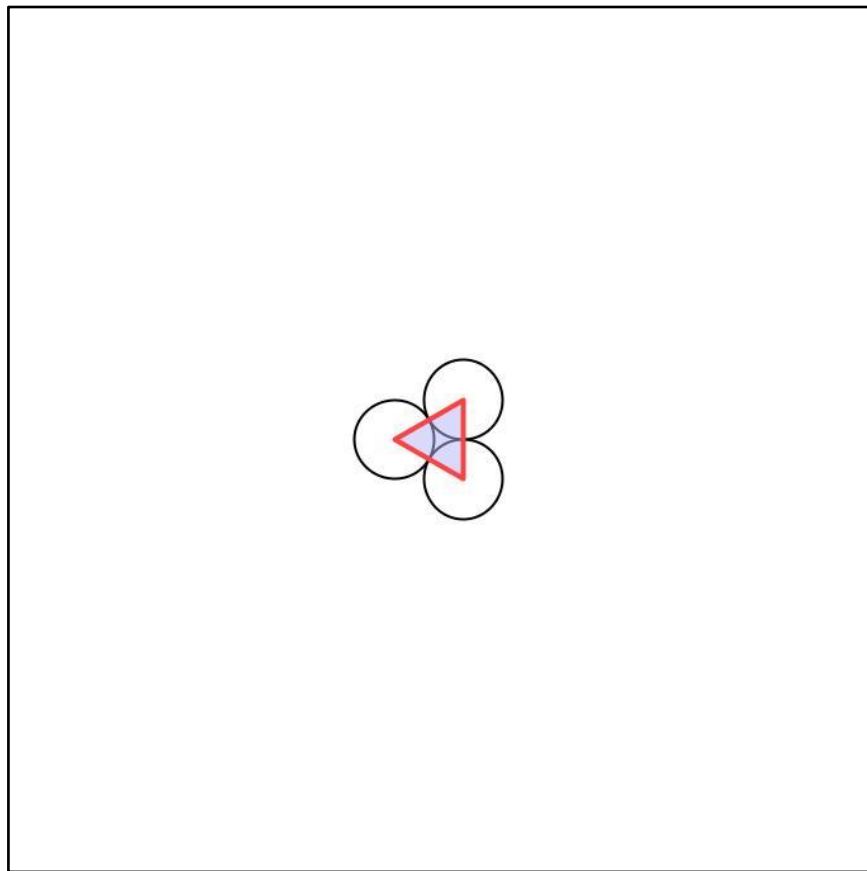
$$m_e = I + \begin{bmatrix} s & -s \\ s & -s \end{bmatrix}$$

**Definition:** The real number  $s$  is the *(intrinsic) schwarzian* for the interior edge  $e$  of  $P$ .

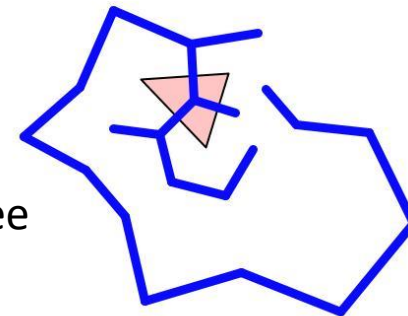


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

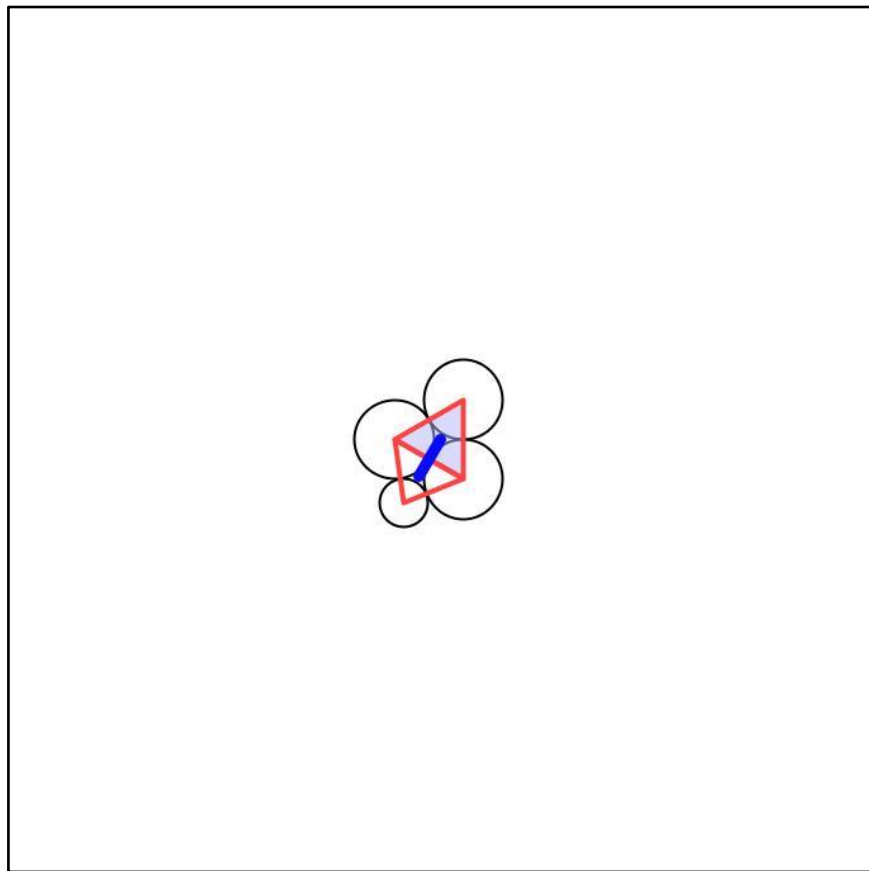


Dual spanning tree

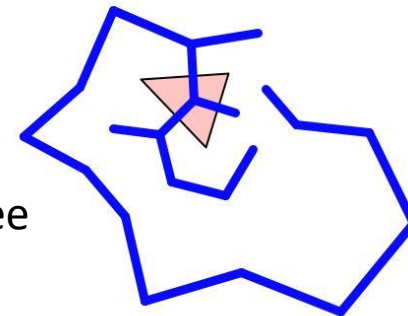


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



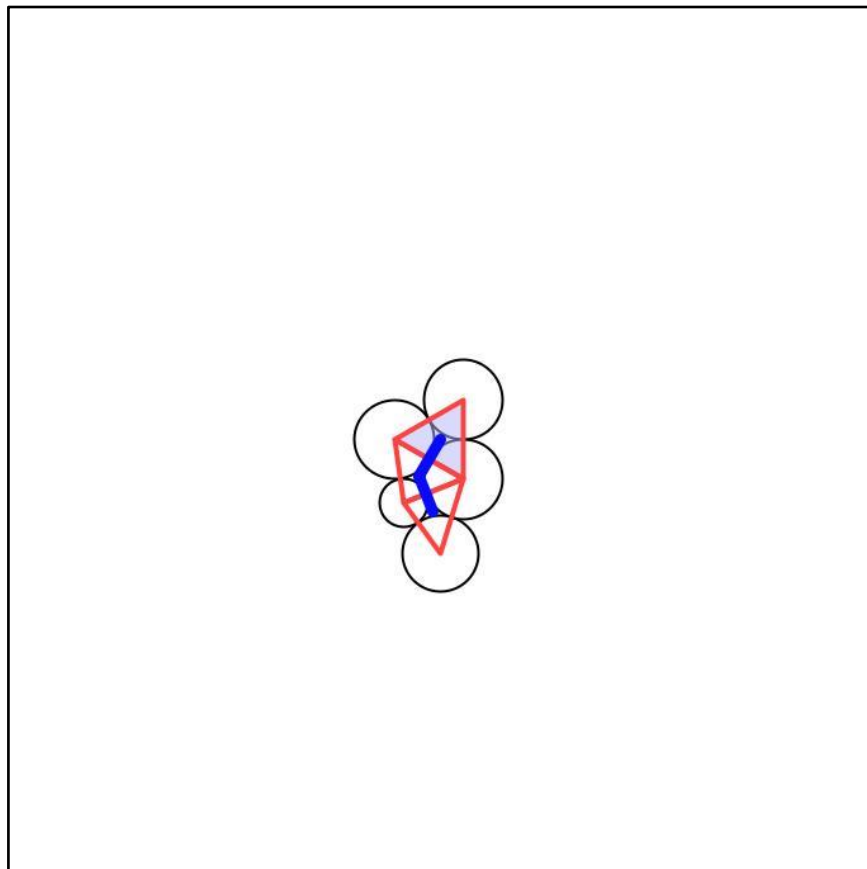
Dual spanning tree



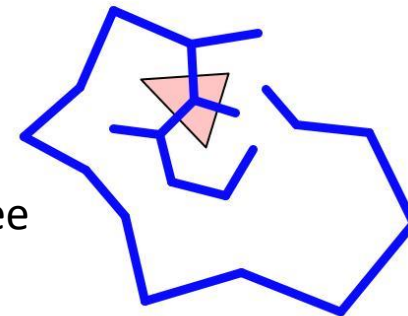


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

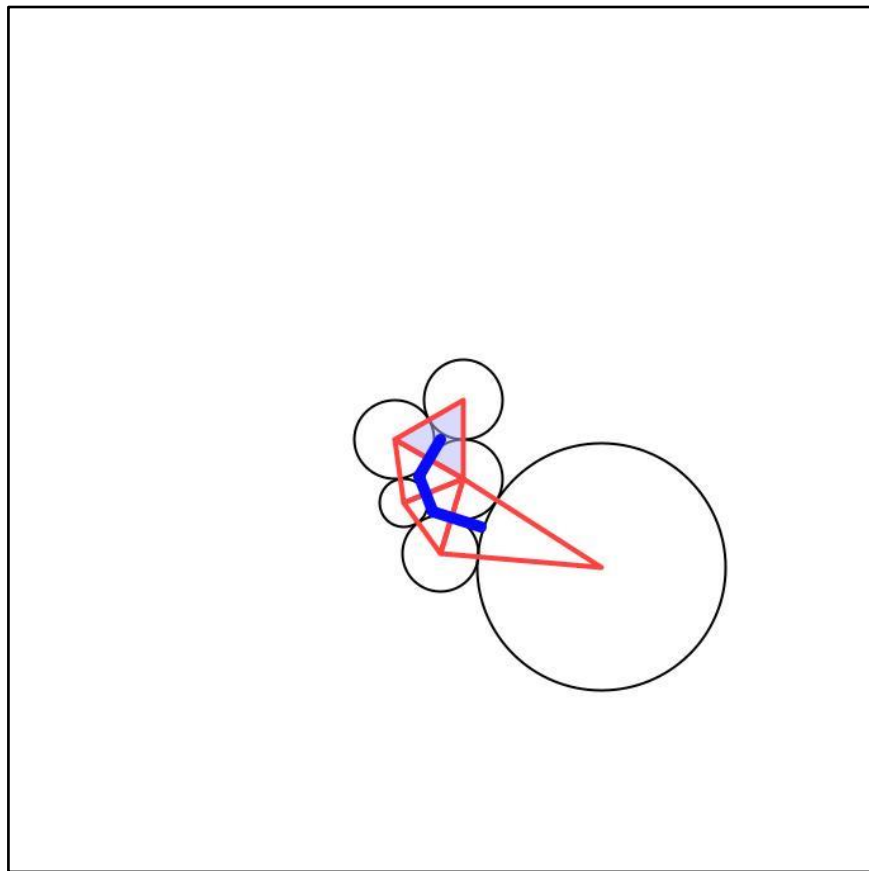


Dual spanning tree

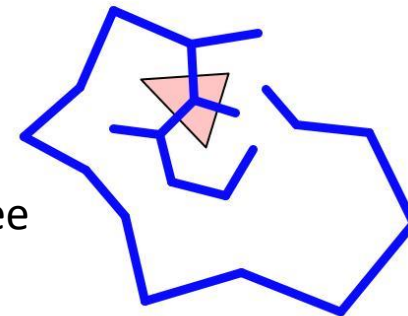


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

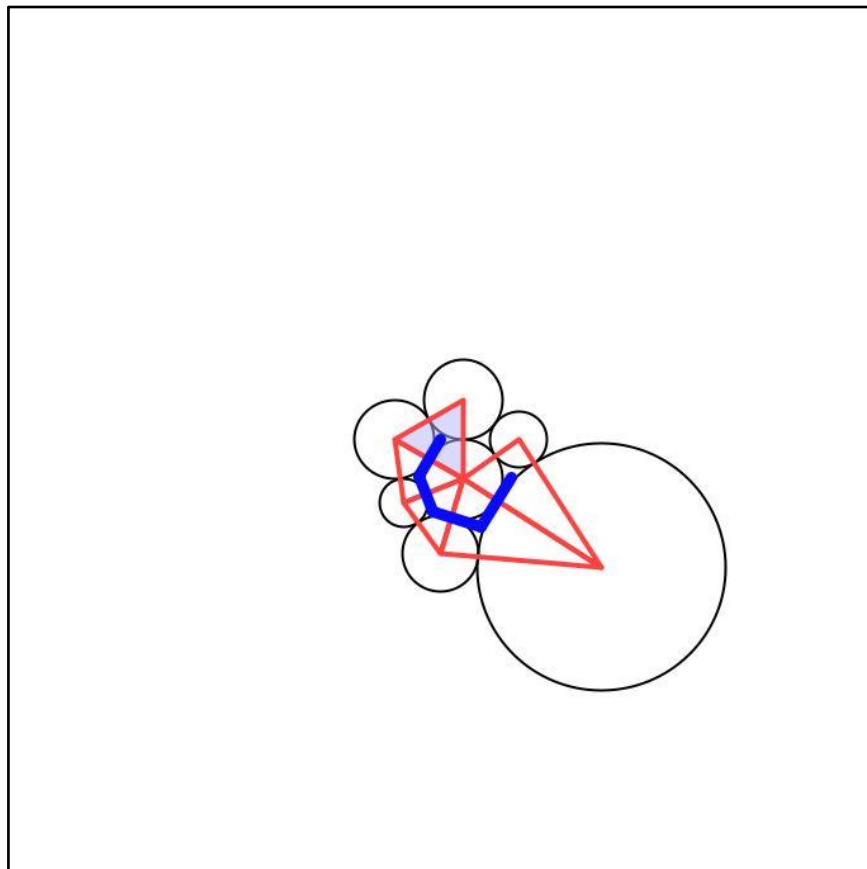


Dual spanning tree

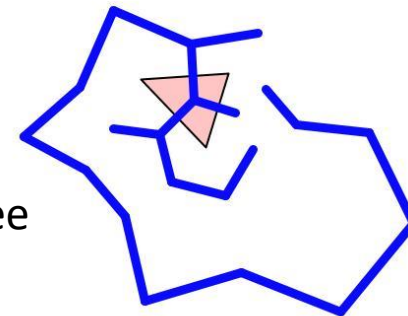


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

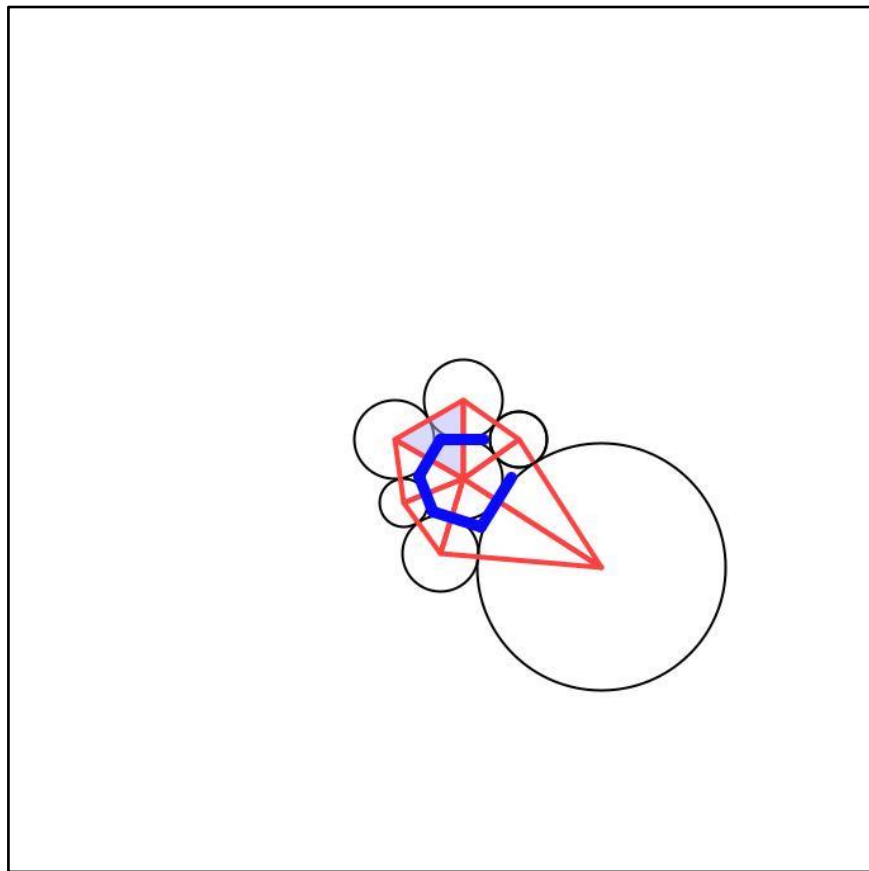


Dual spanning tree

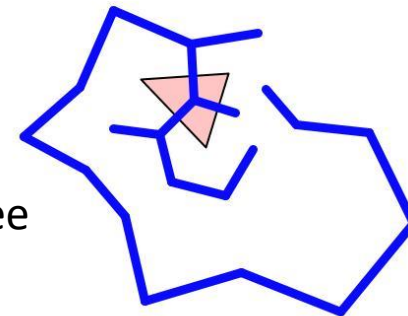


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

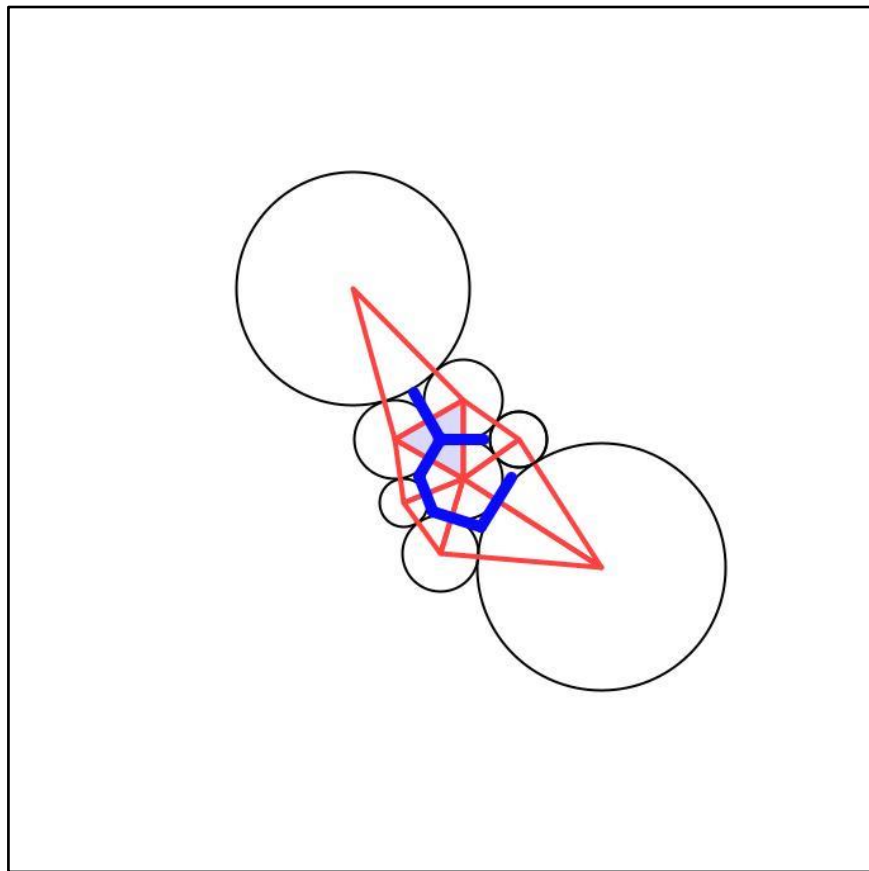


Dual spanning tree

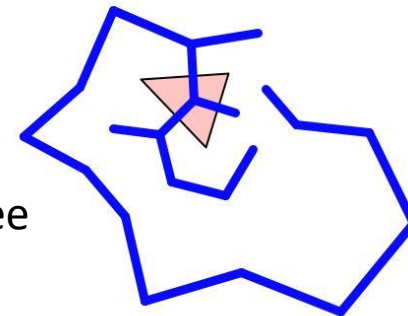


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

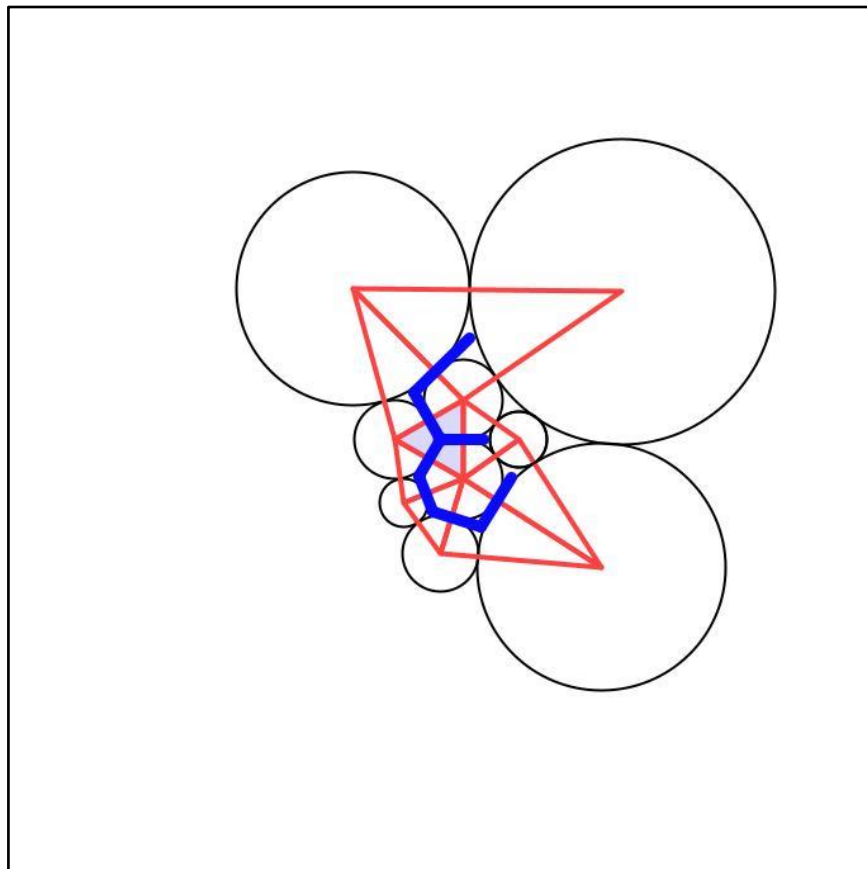


Dual spanning tree

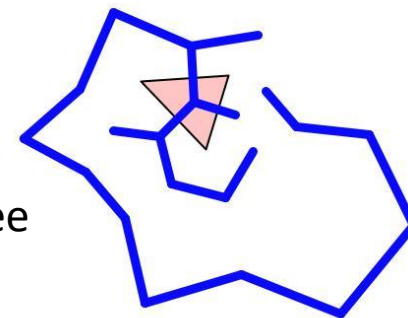


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



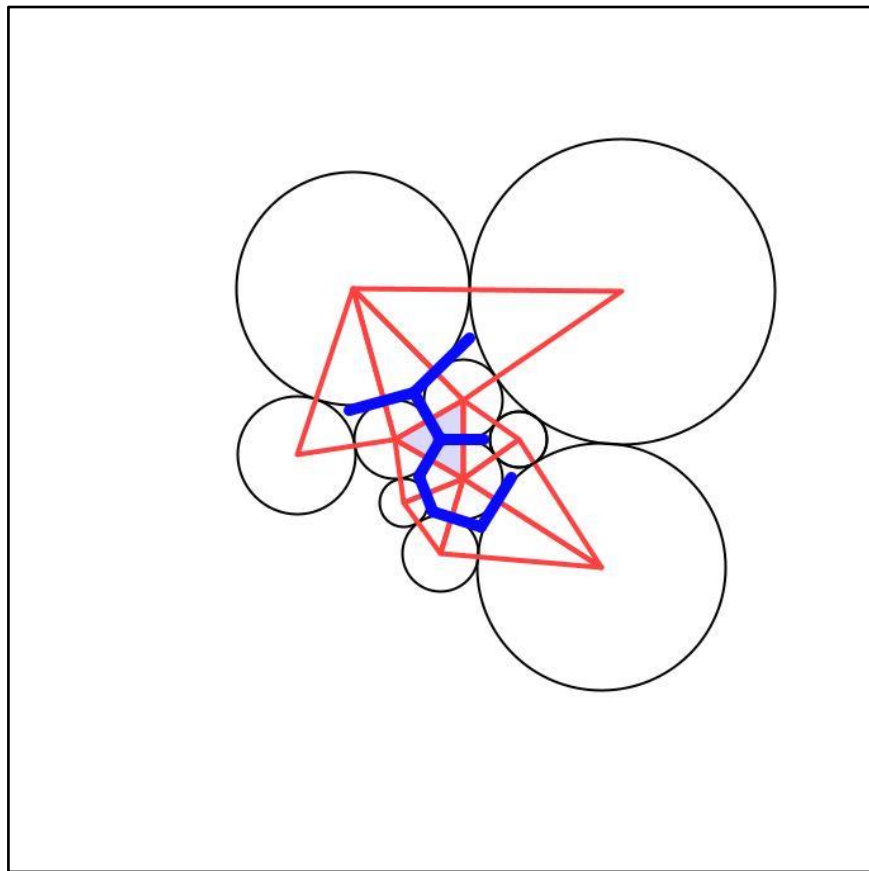
Dual spanning tree



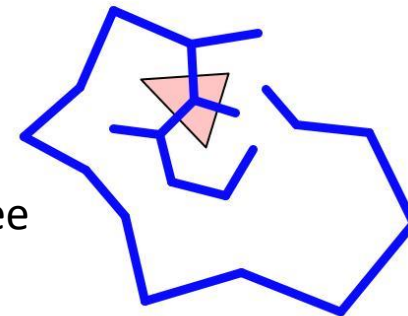


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

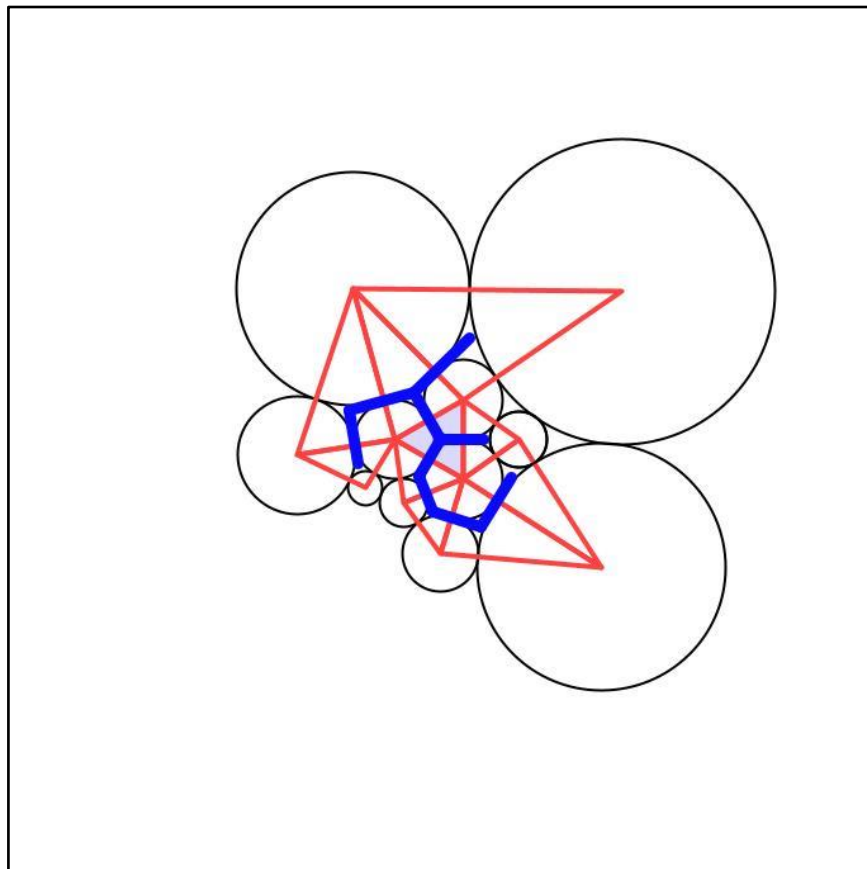


Dual spanning tree

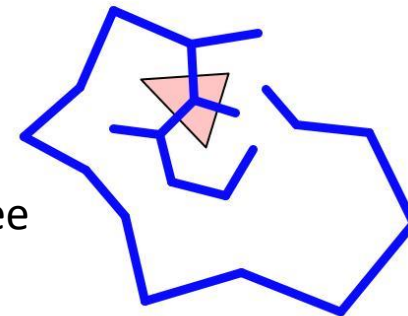


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

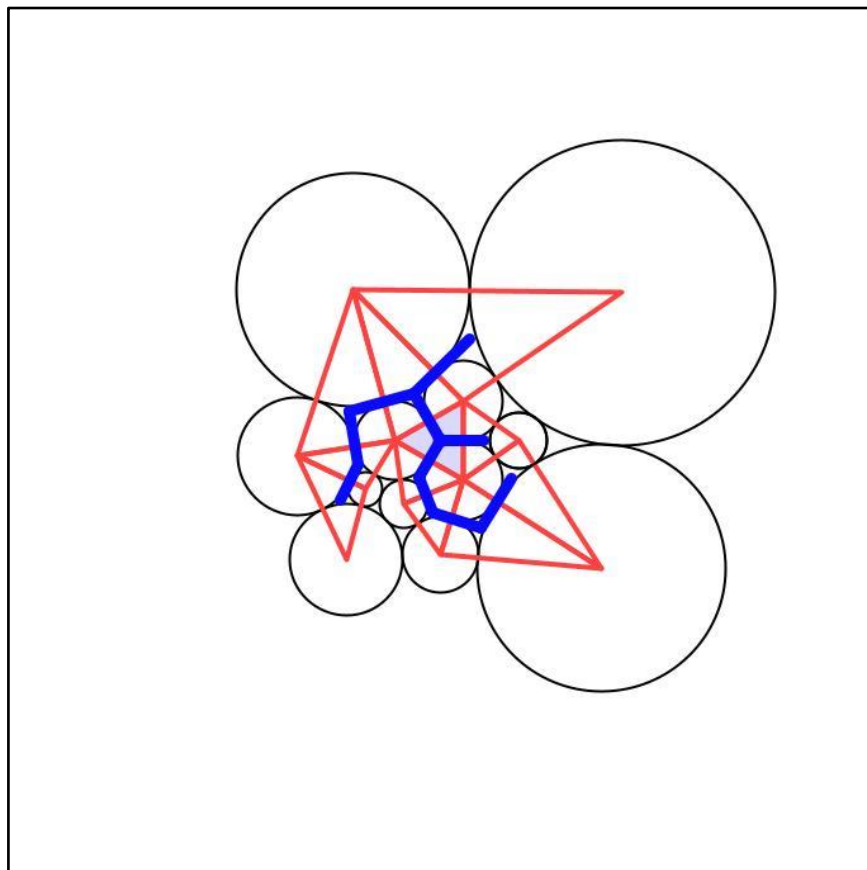


Dual spanning tree

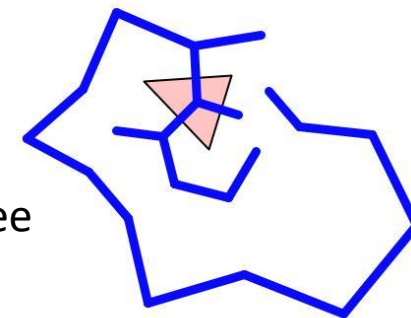


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

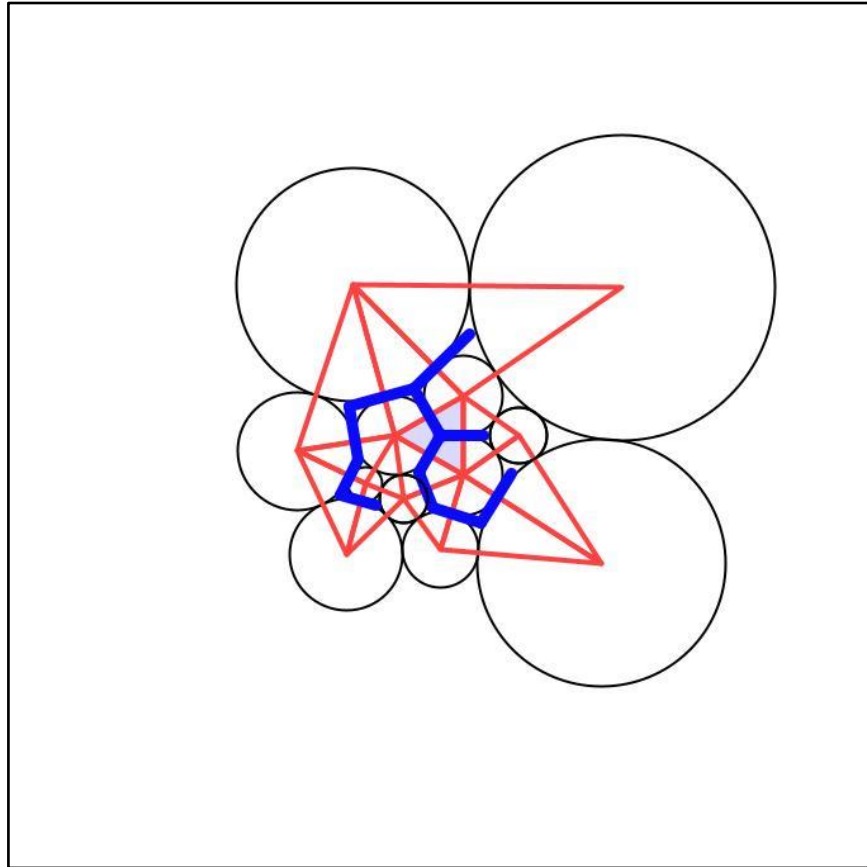


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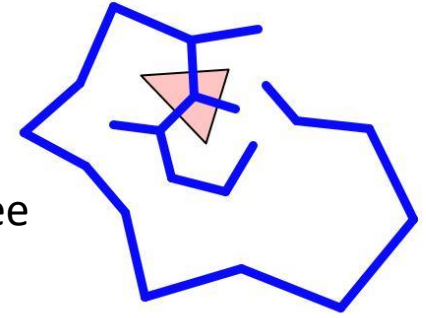


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

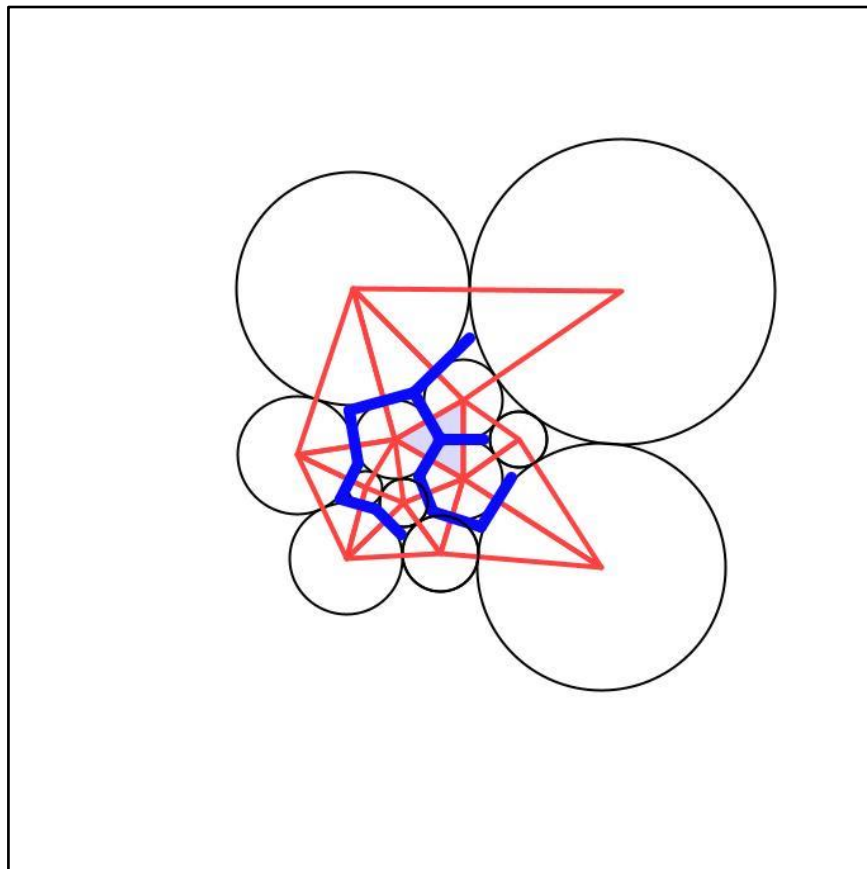


Dual spanning tree

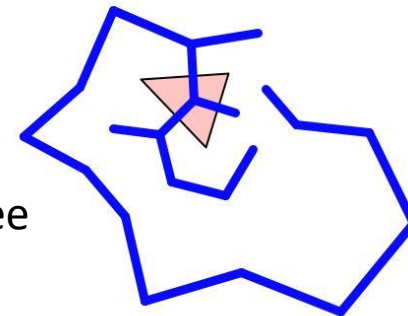


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On the plane

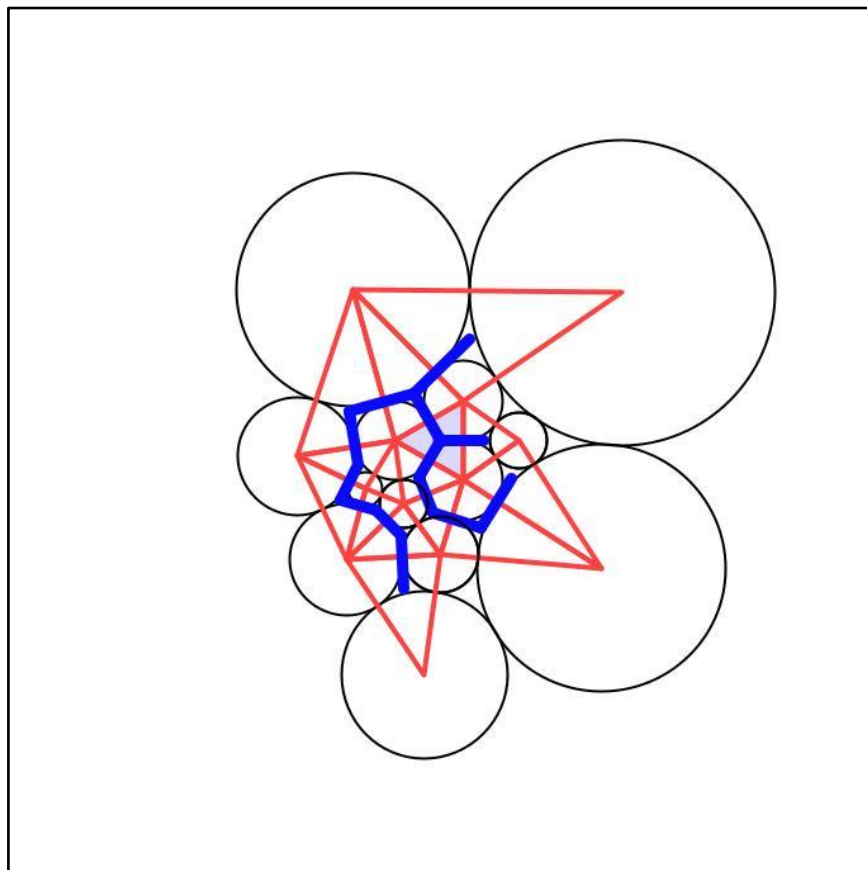


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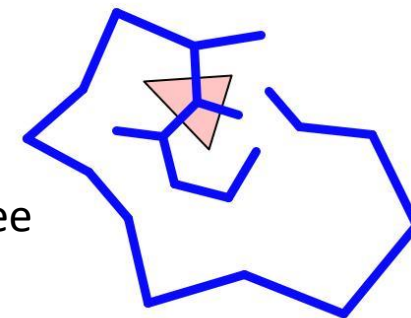


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



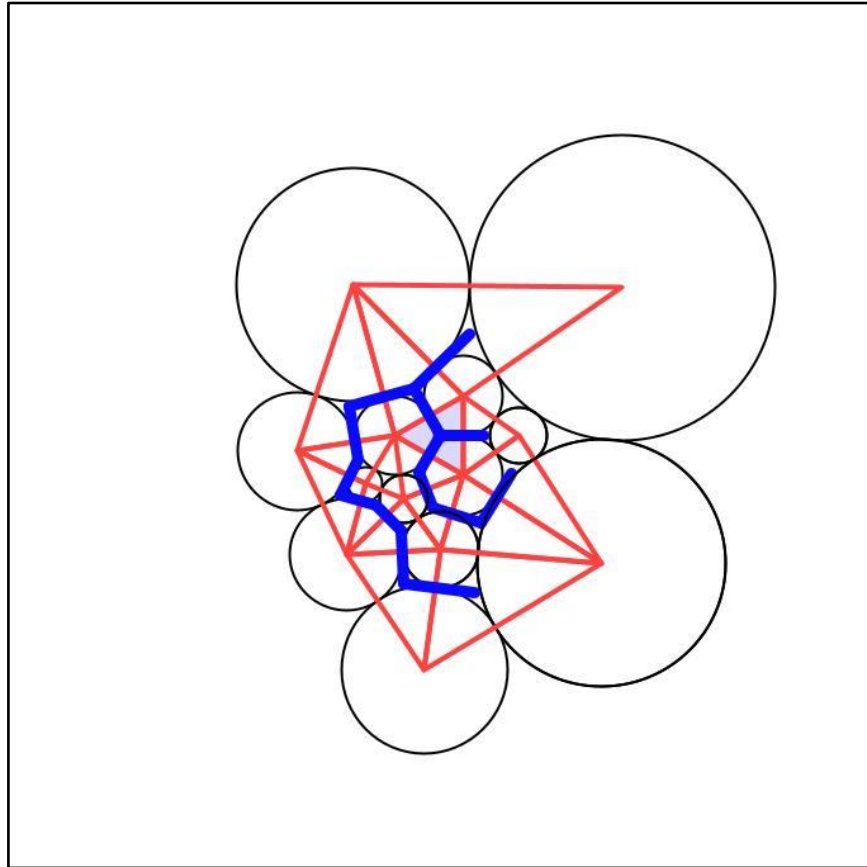
Dual spanning tree



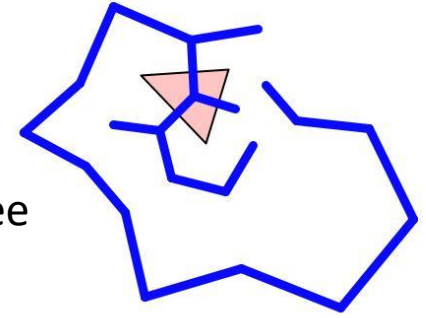


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

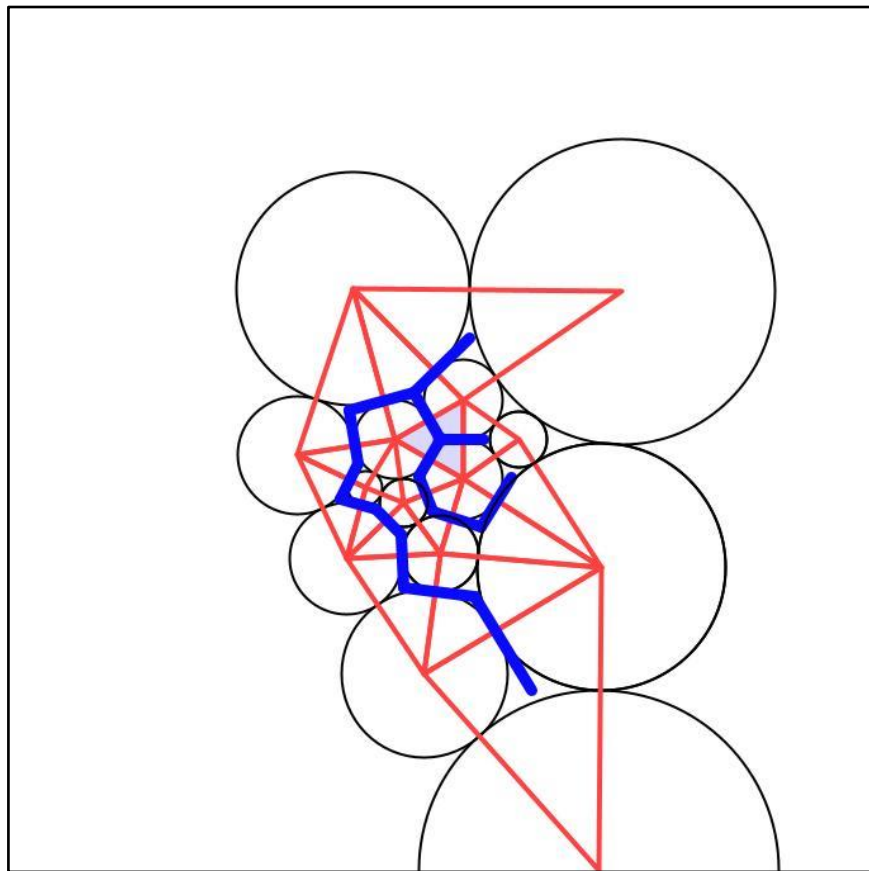


Dual spanning tree

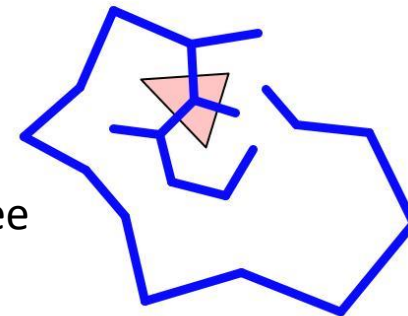


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

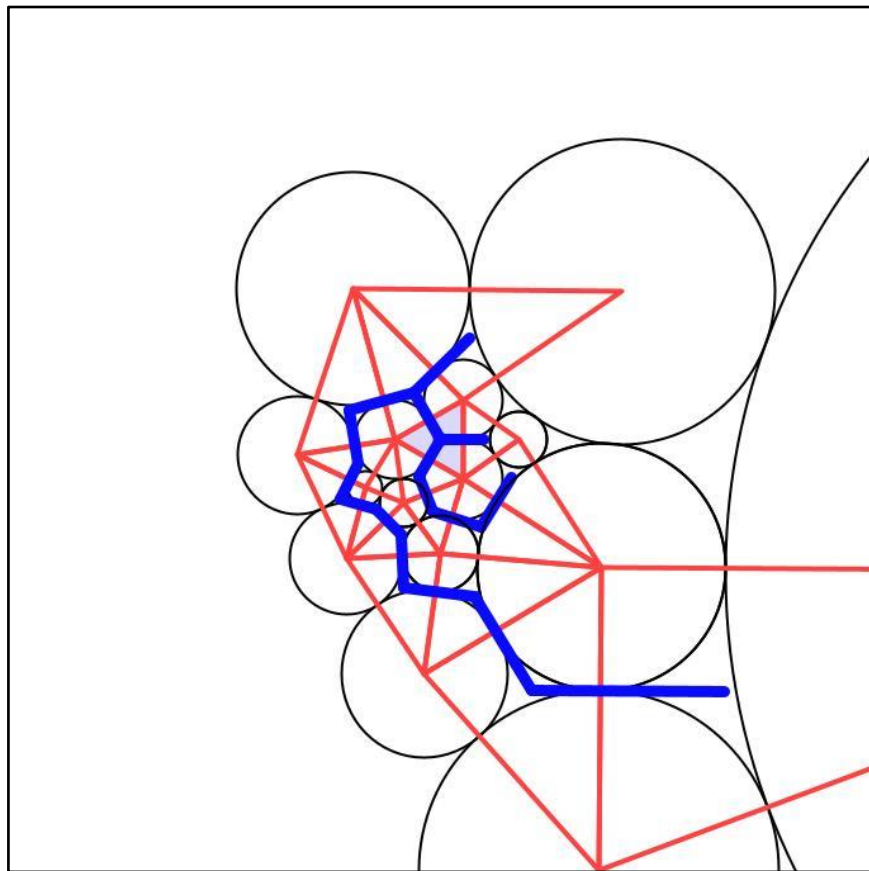


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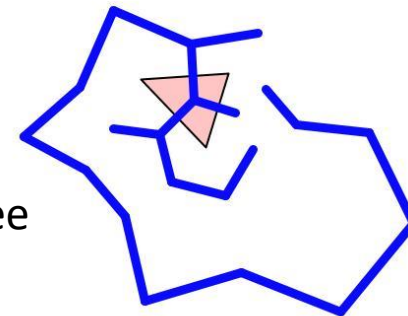


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

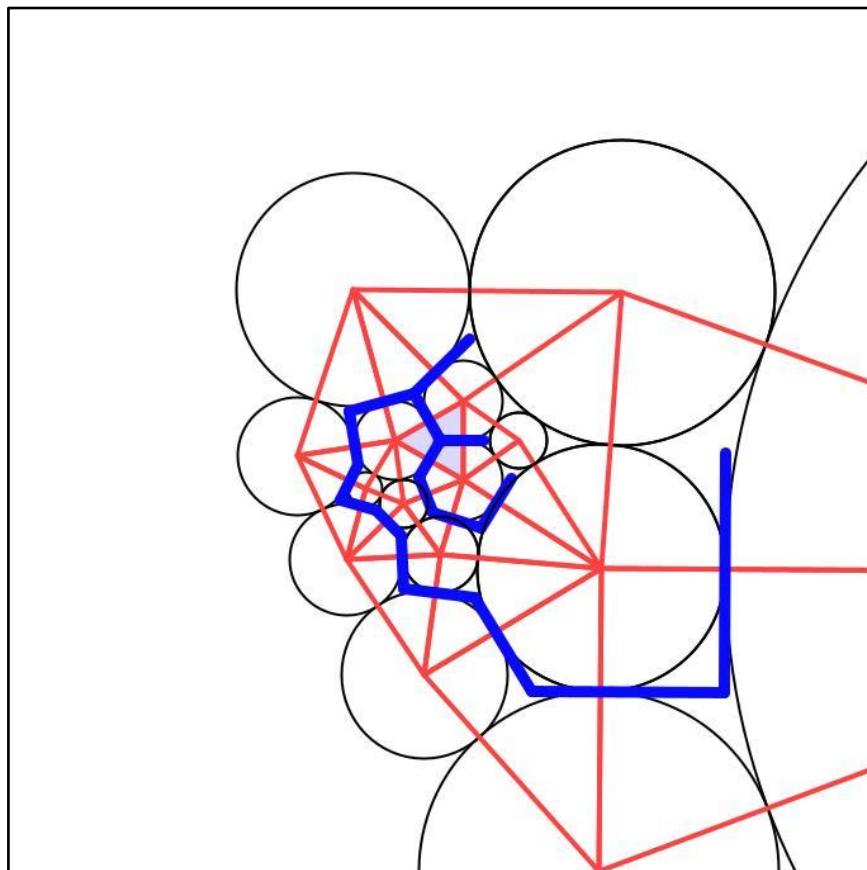


Dual spanning tree

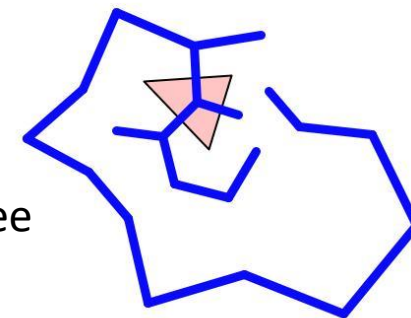


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

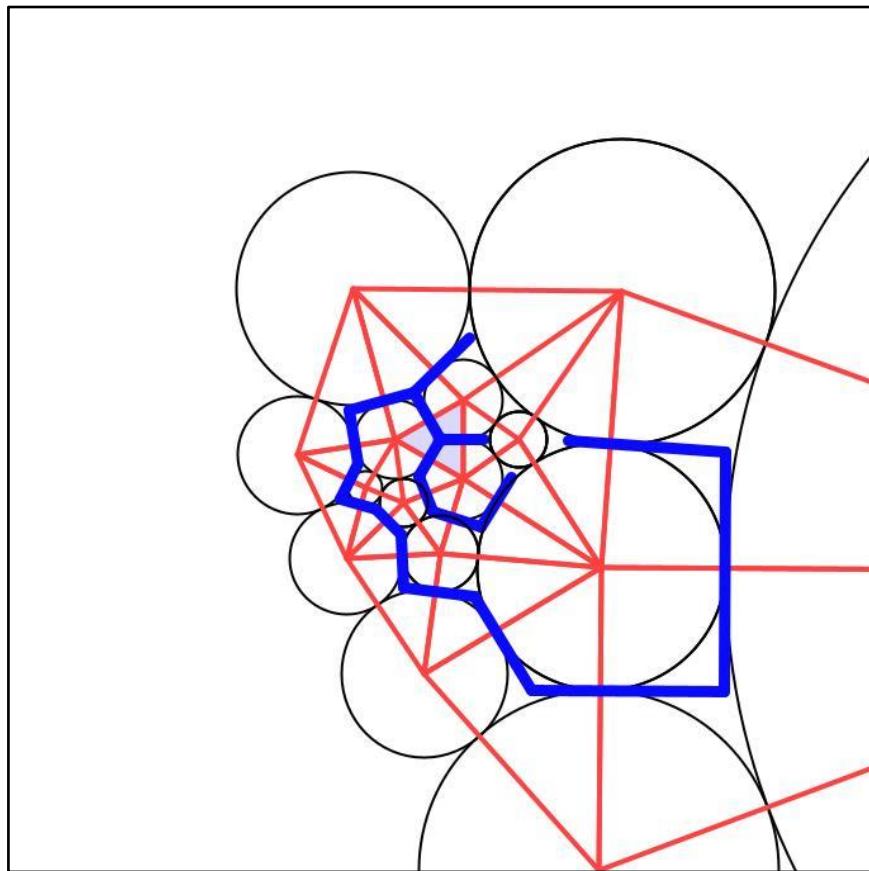


Dual spanning tree

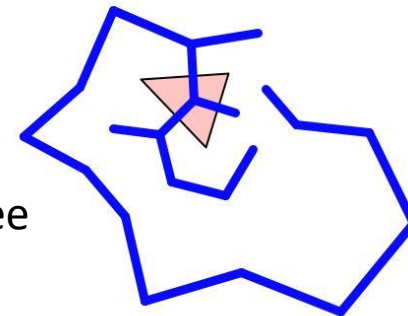


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane

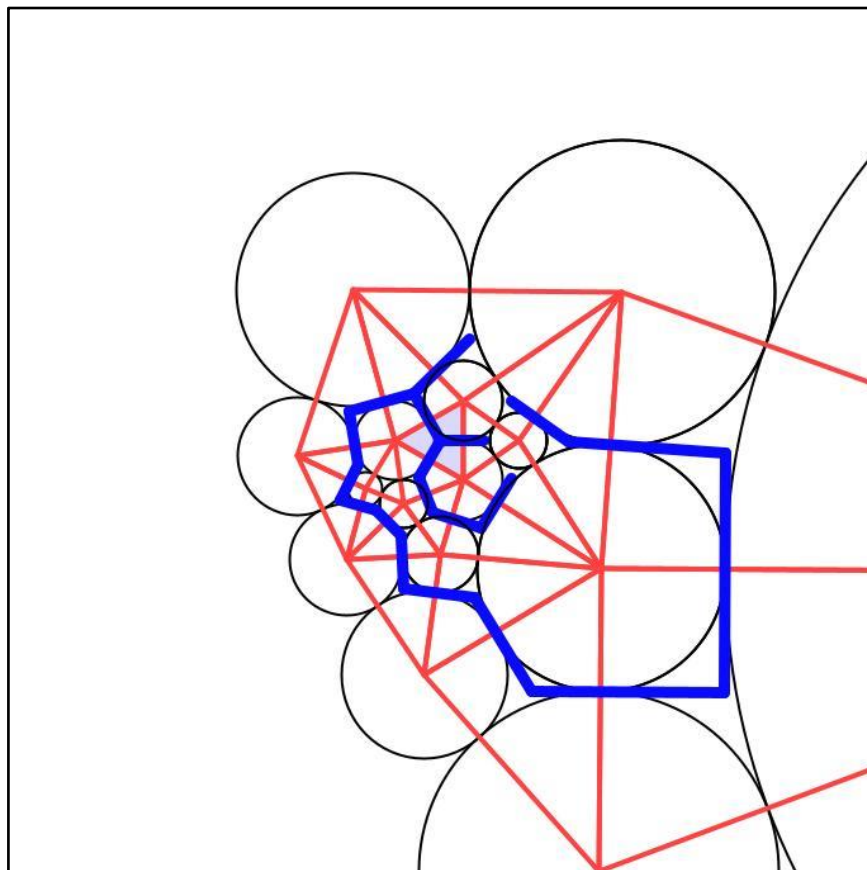


Dual spanning tree

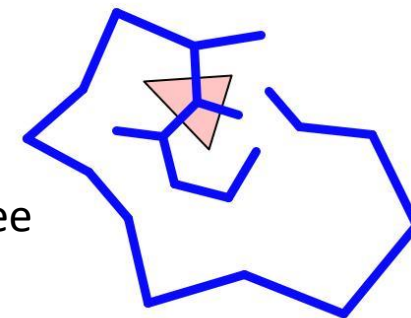


## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



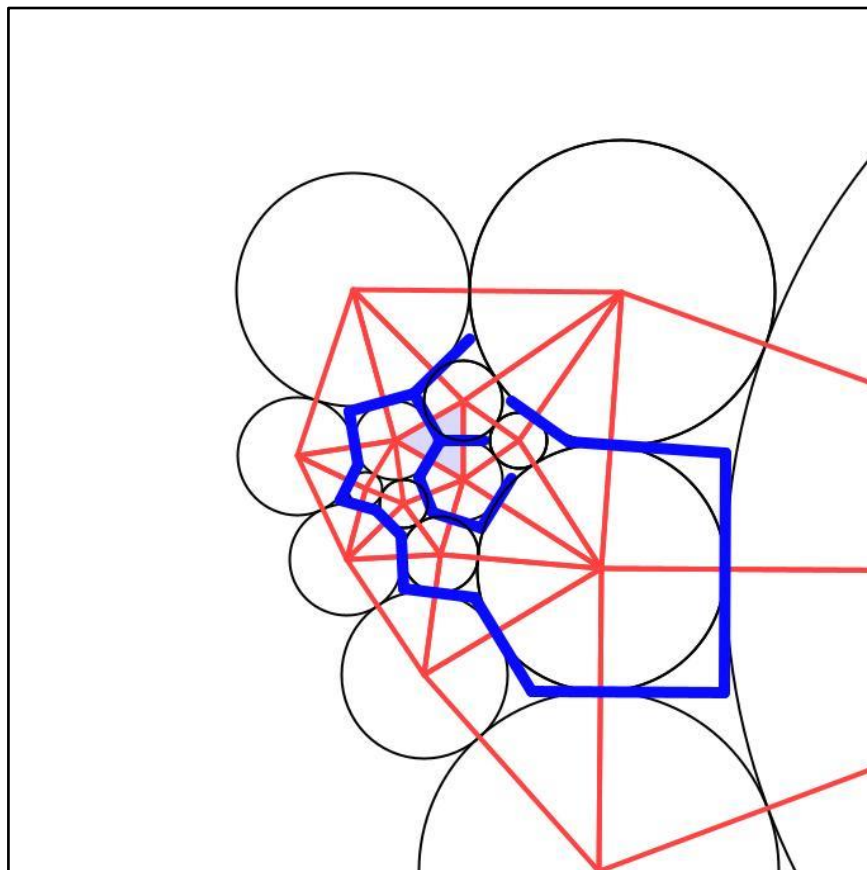
Dual spanning tree





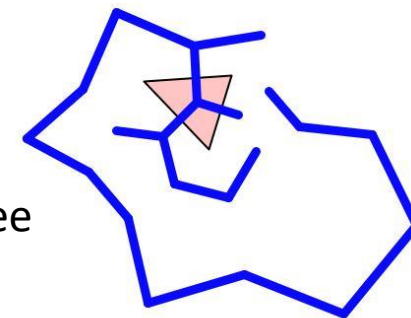
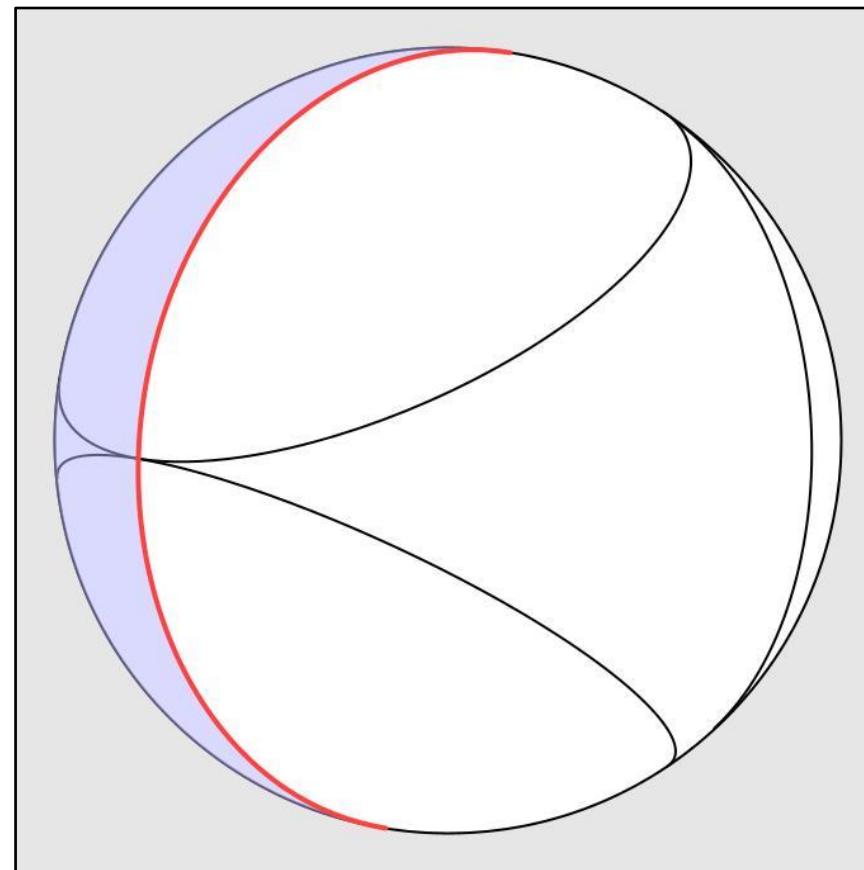
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



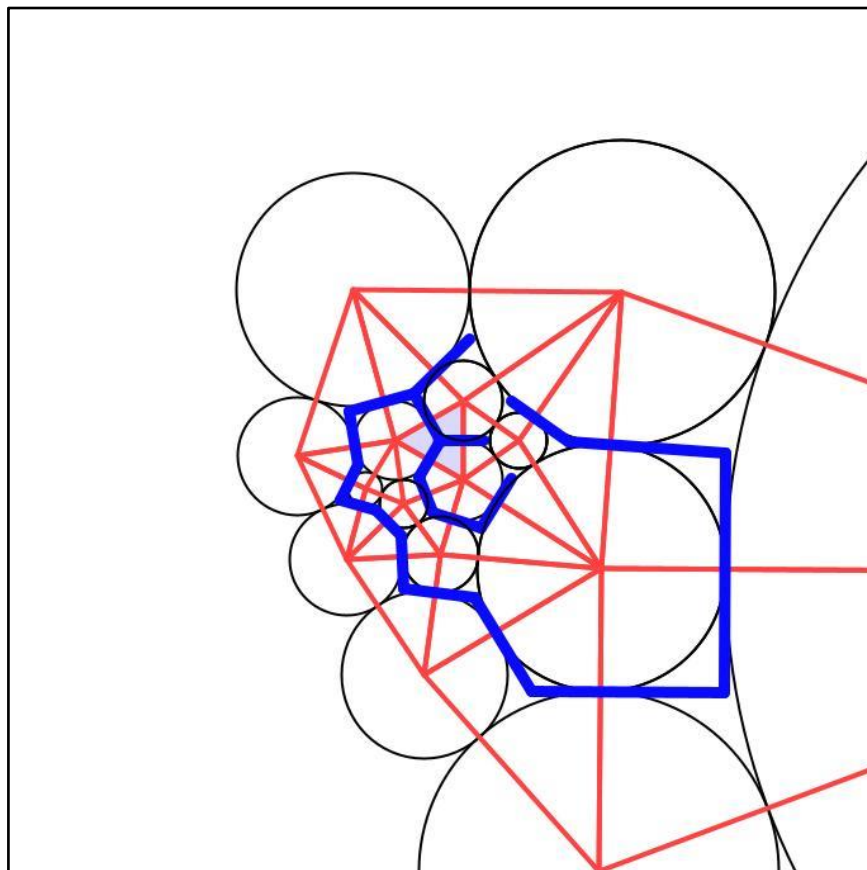
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



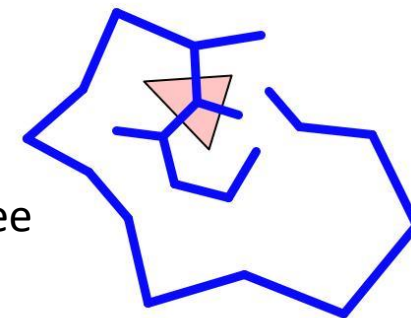
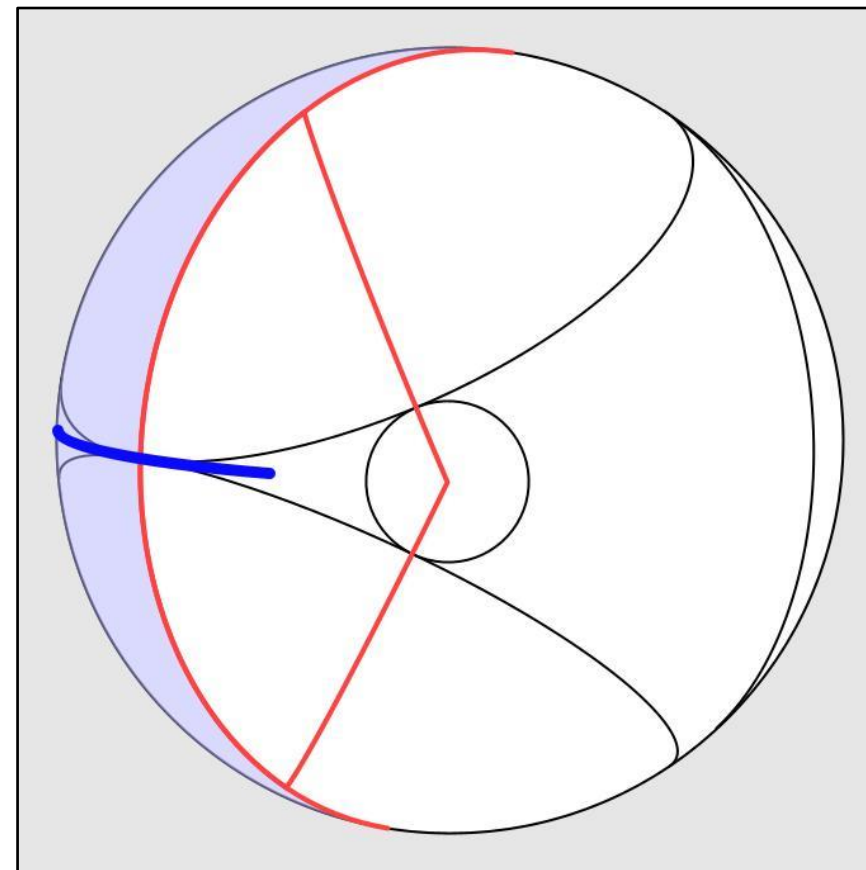
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



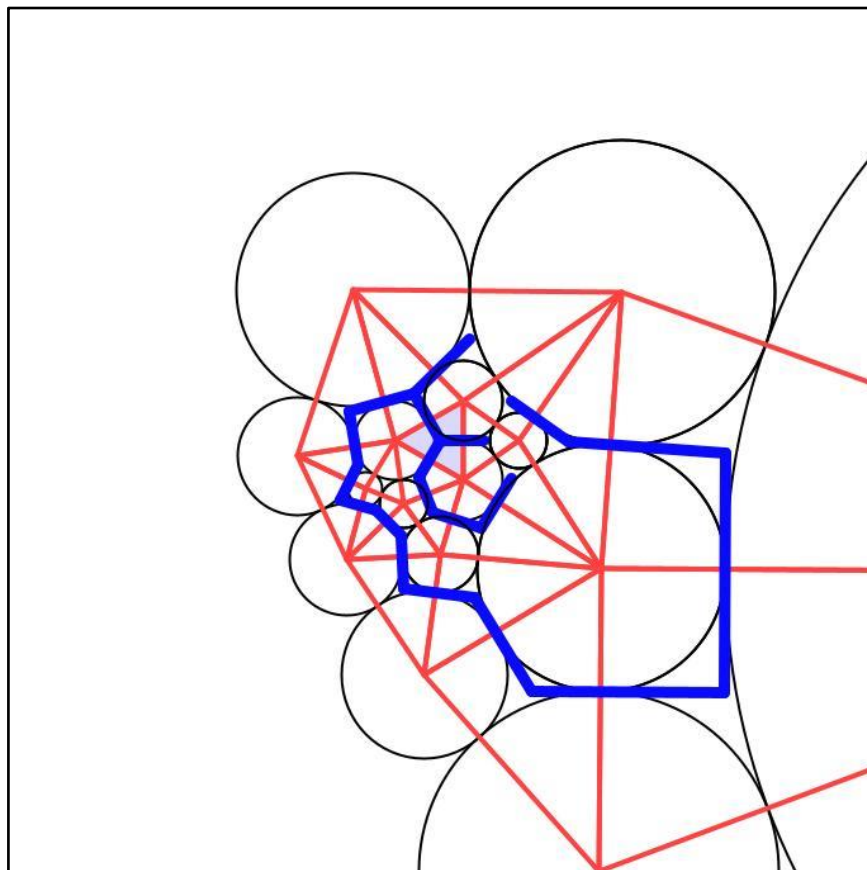
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



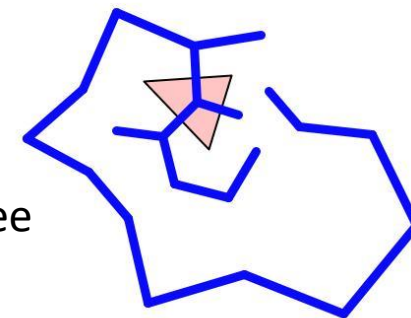
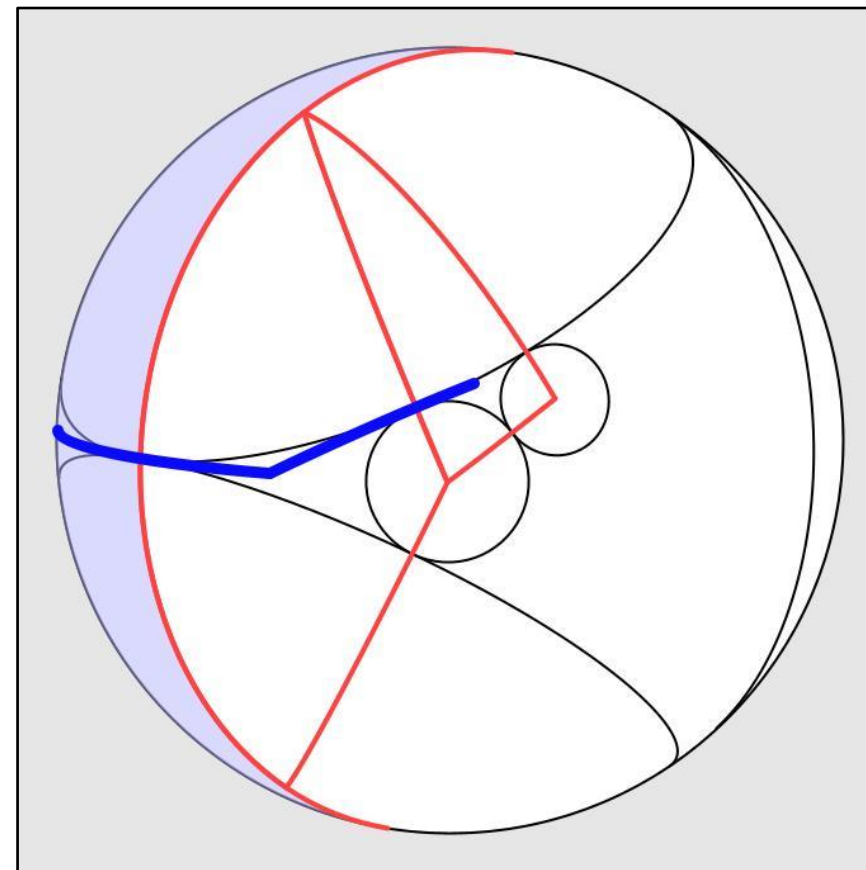
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On the plane



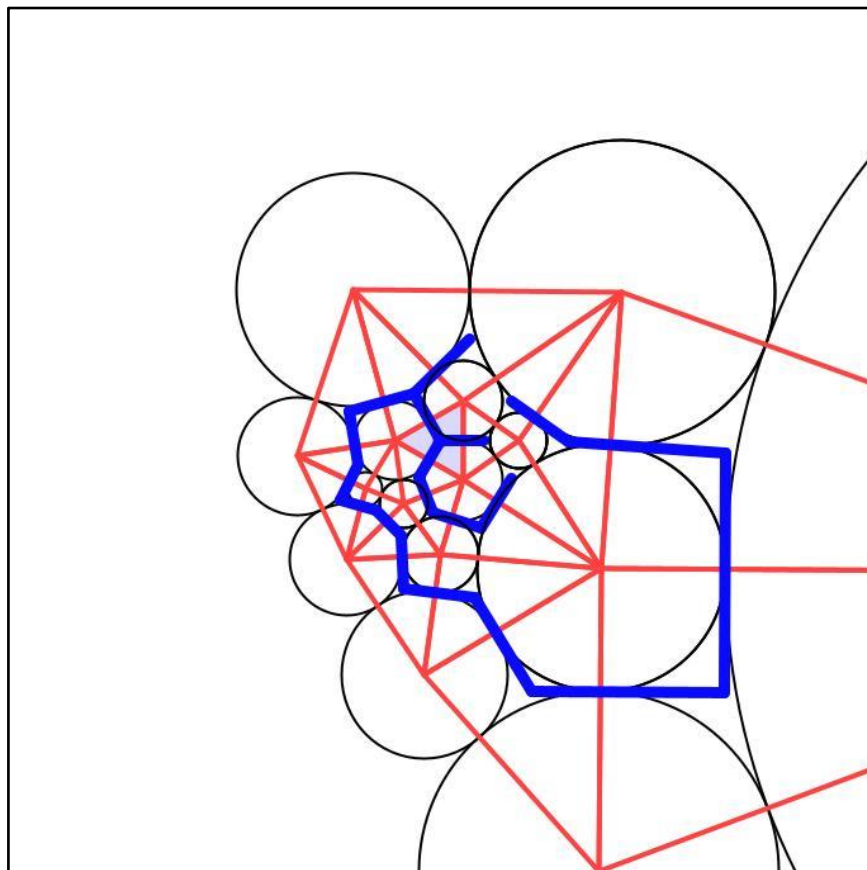
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



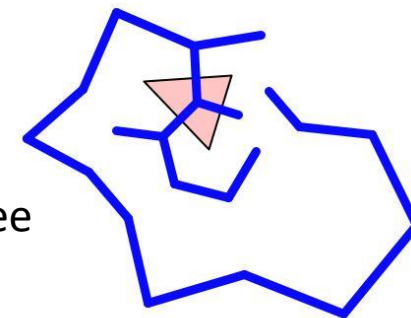
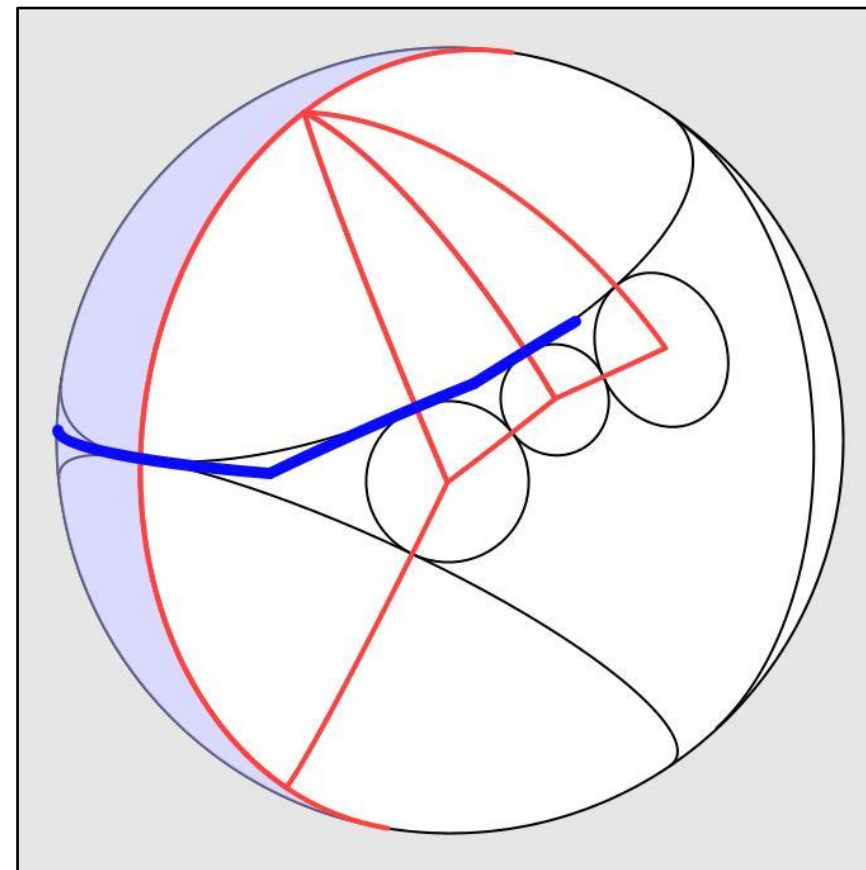
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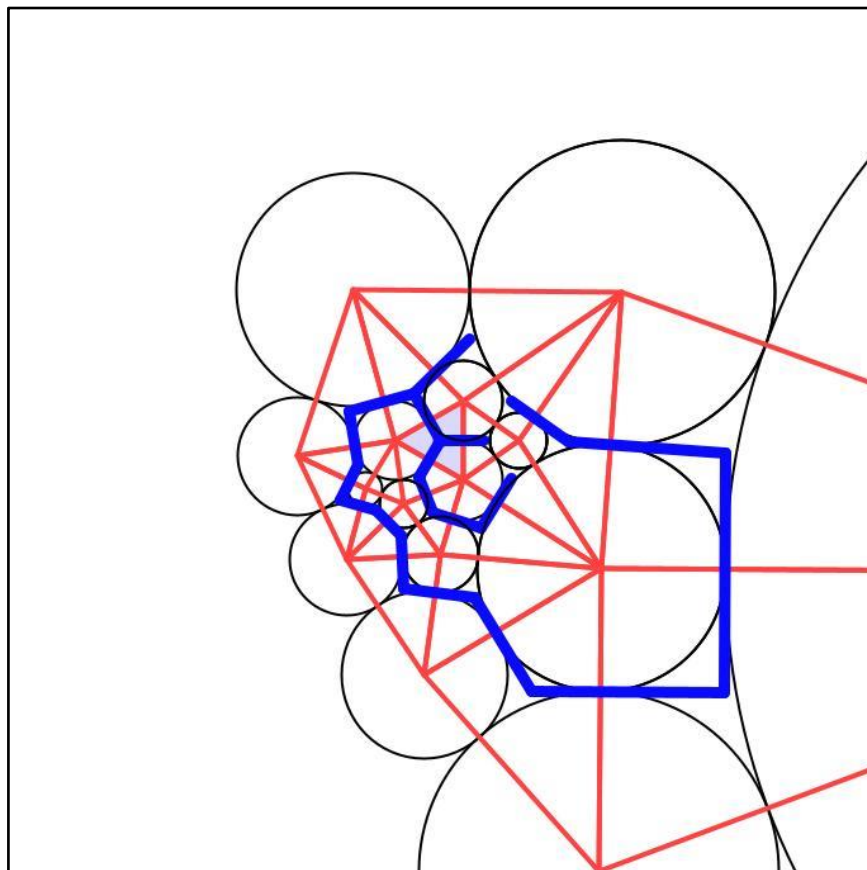
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



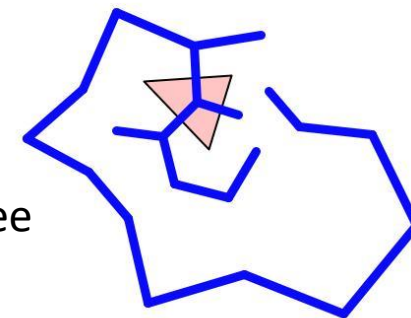
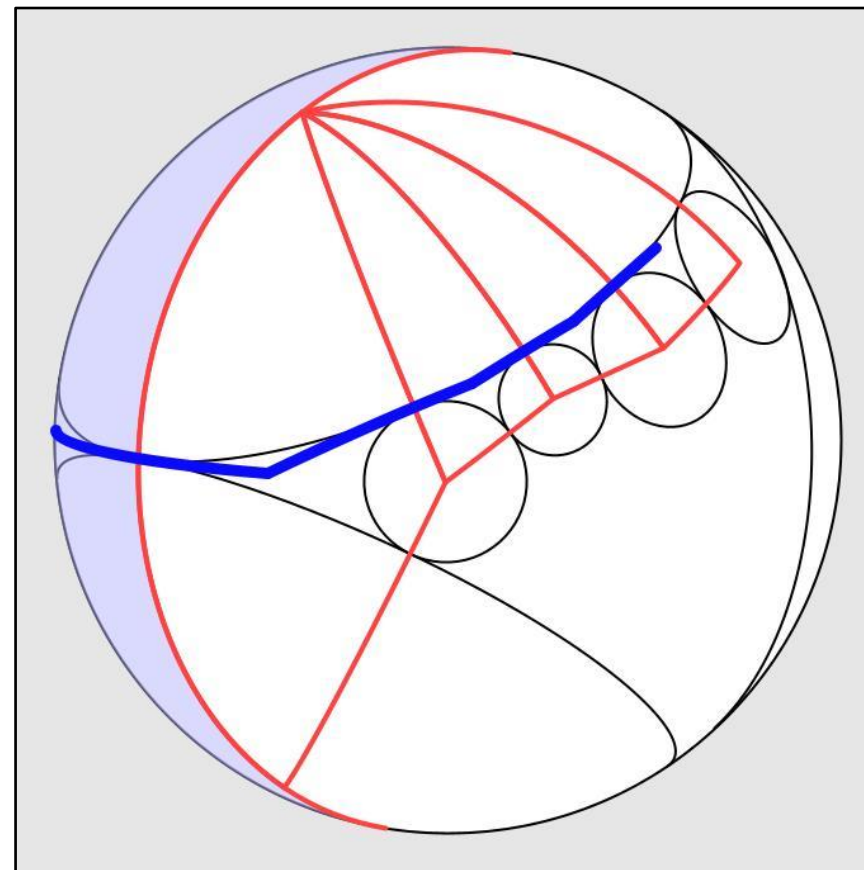
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



Dual spanning tree

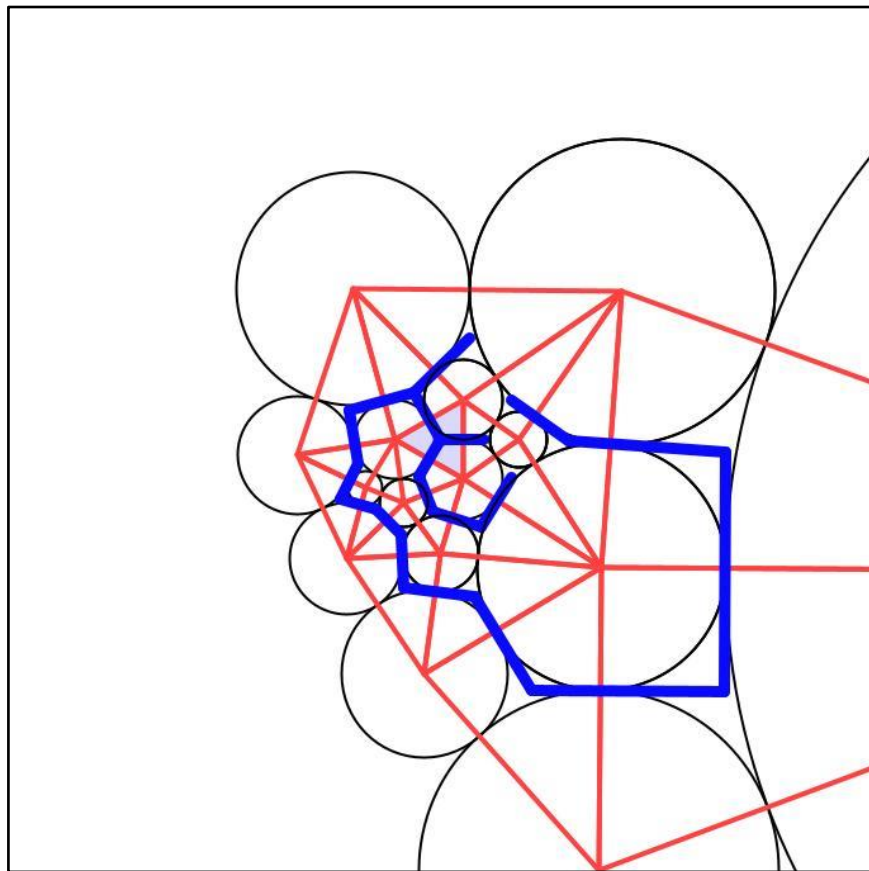
On the sphere





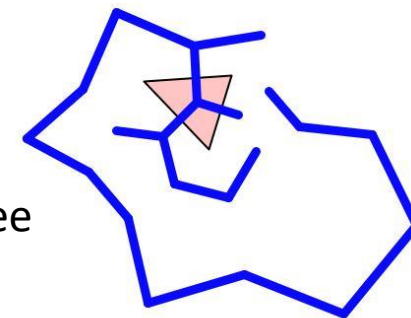
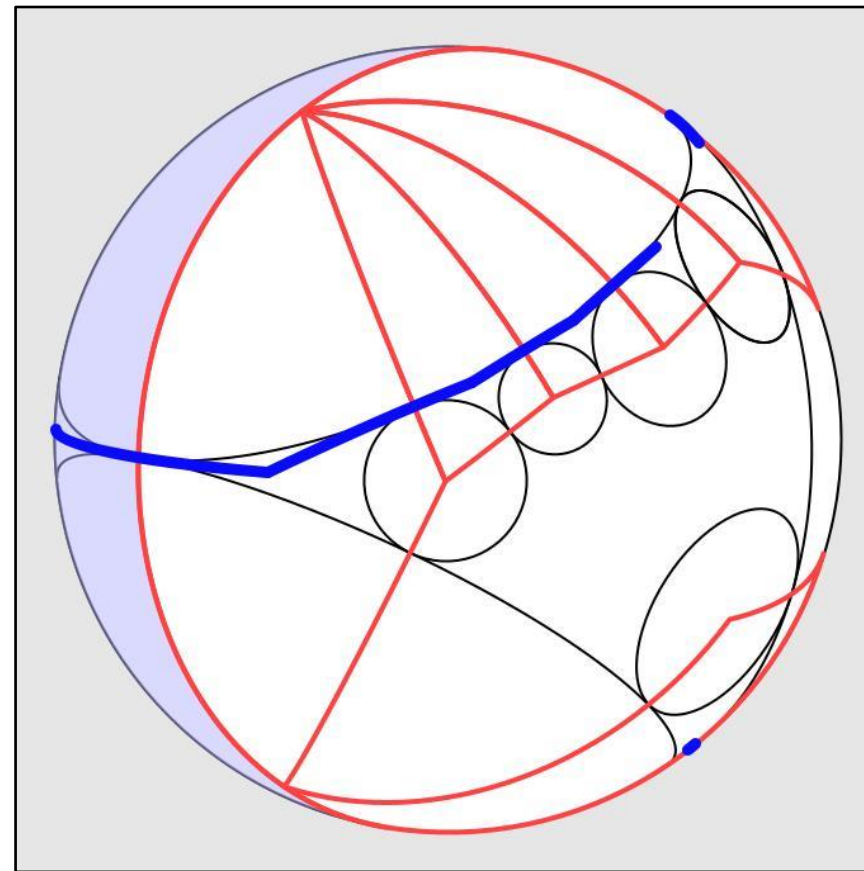
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



Dual spanning tree

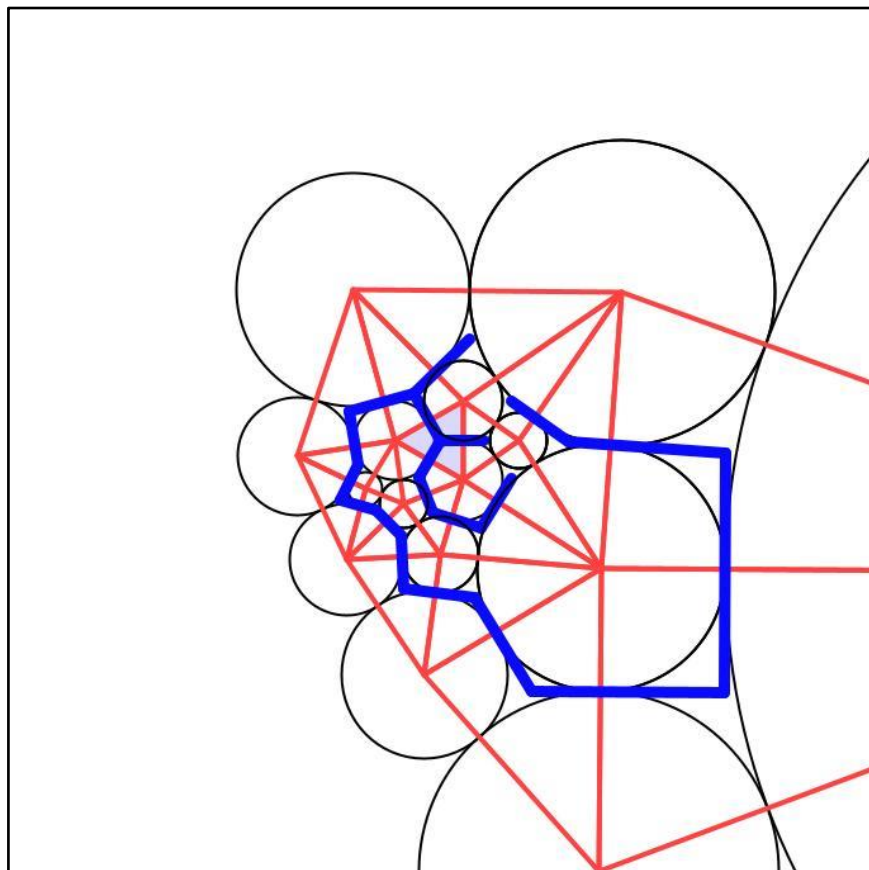
On the sphere





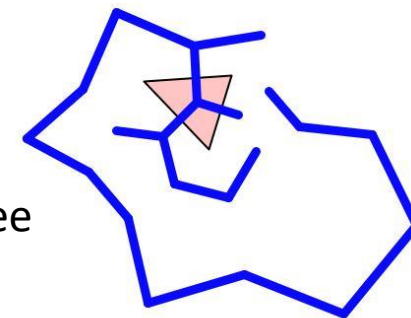
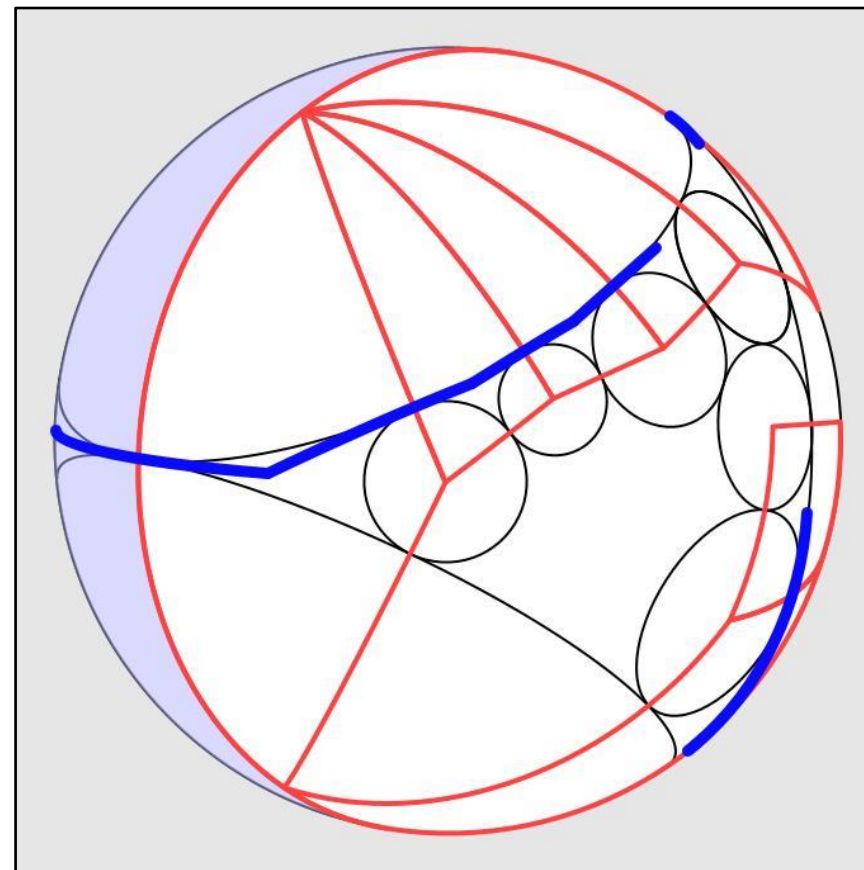
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On the plane



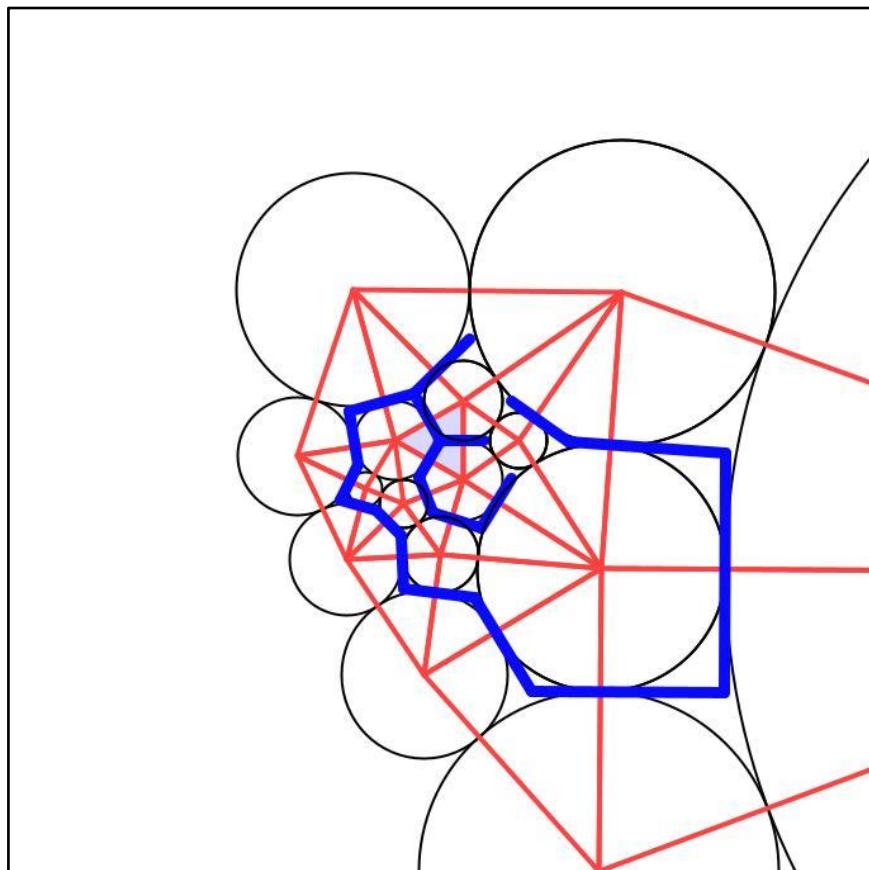
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



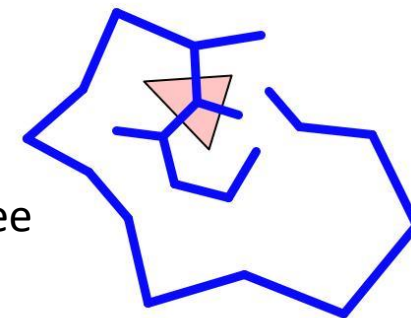
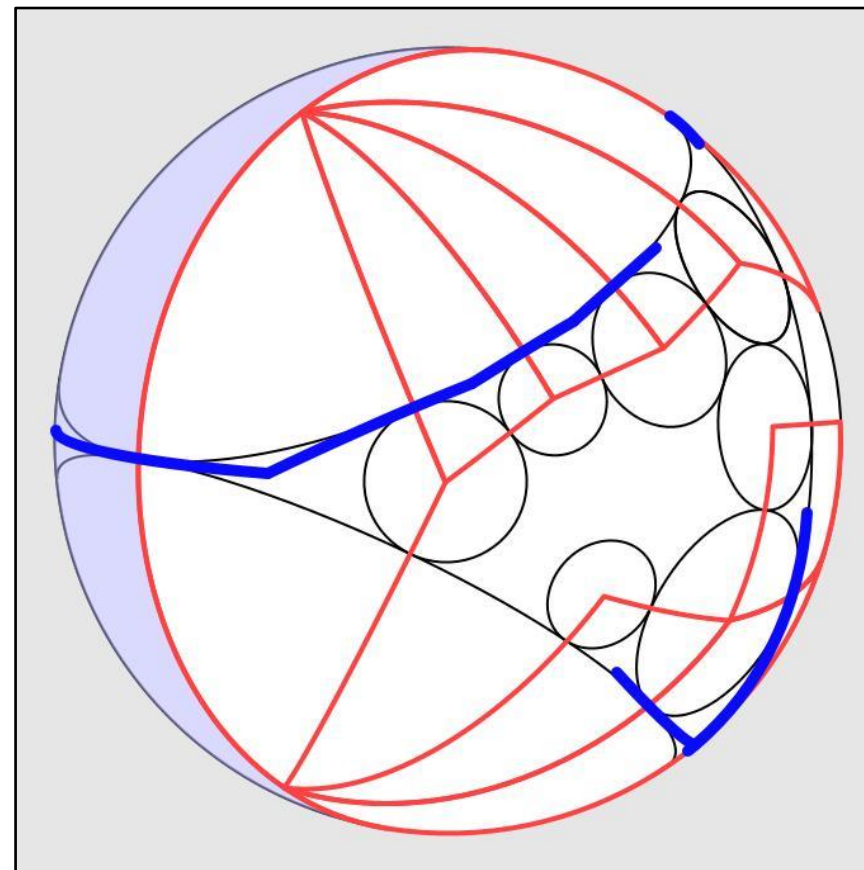
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On the plane



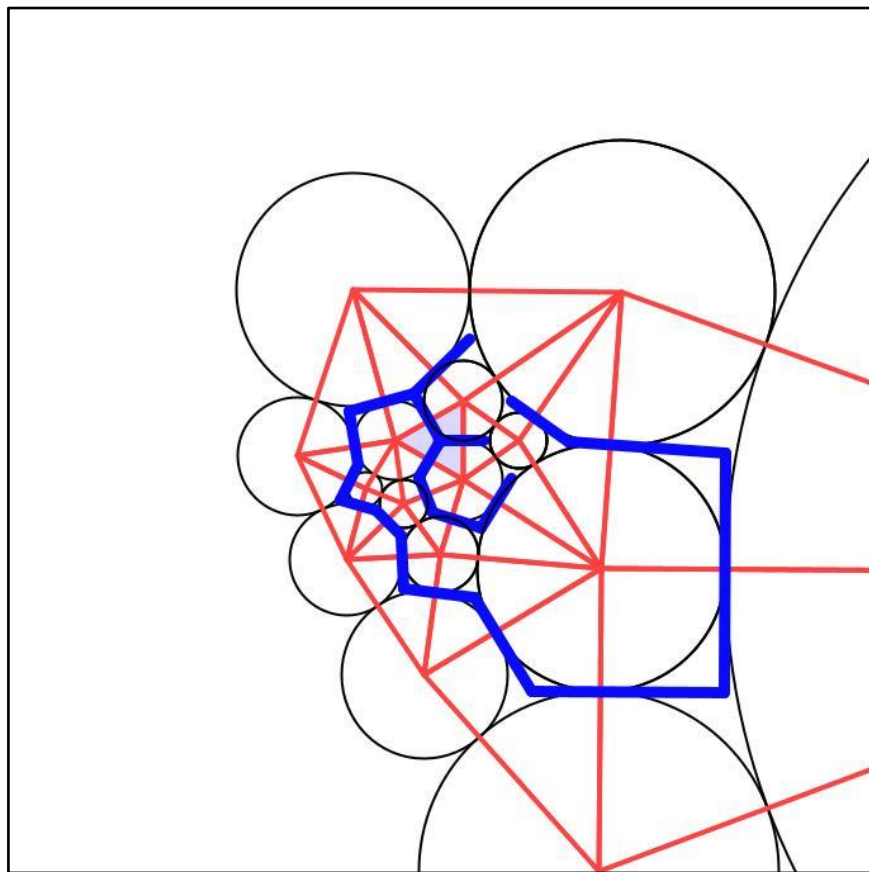
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



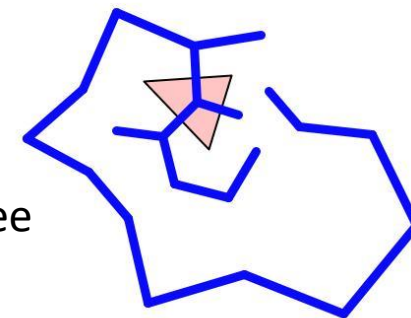
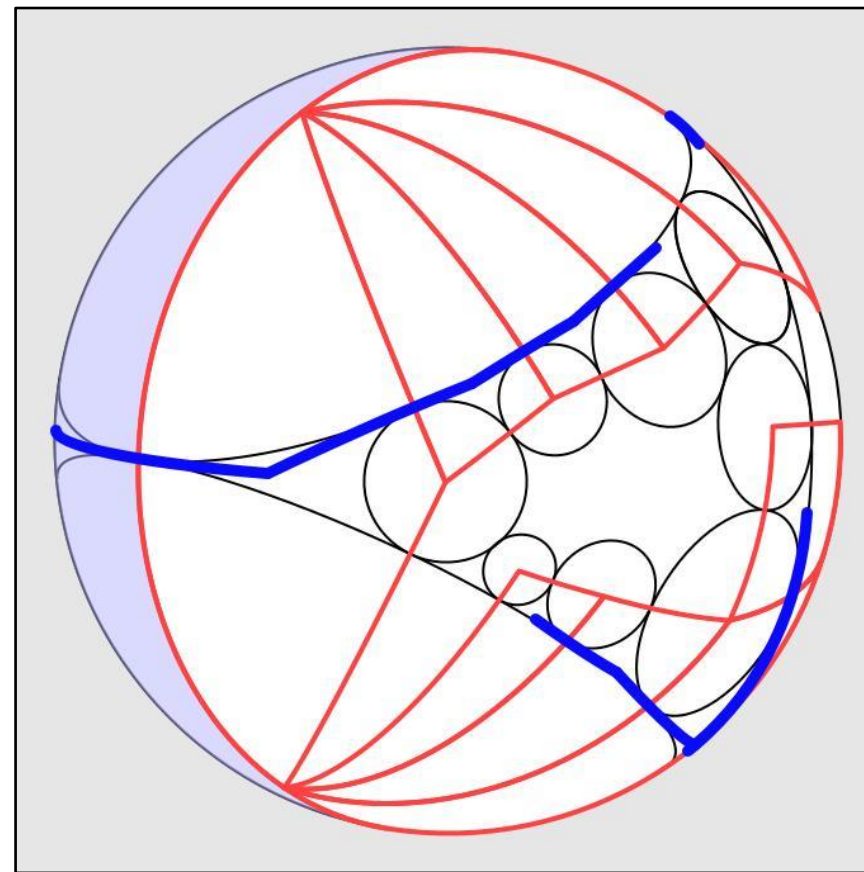
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On the plane



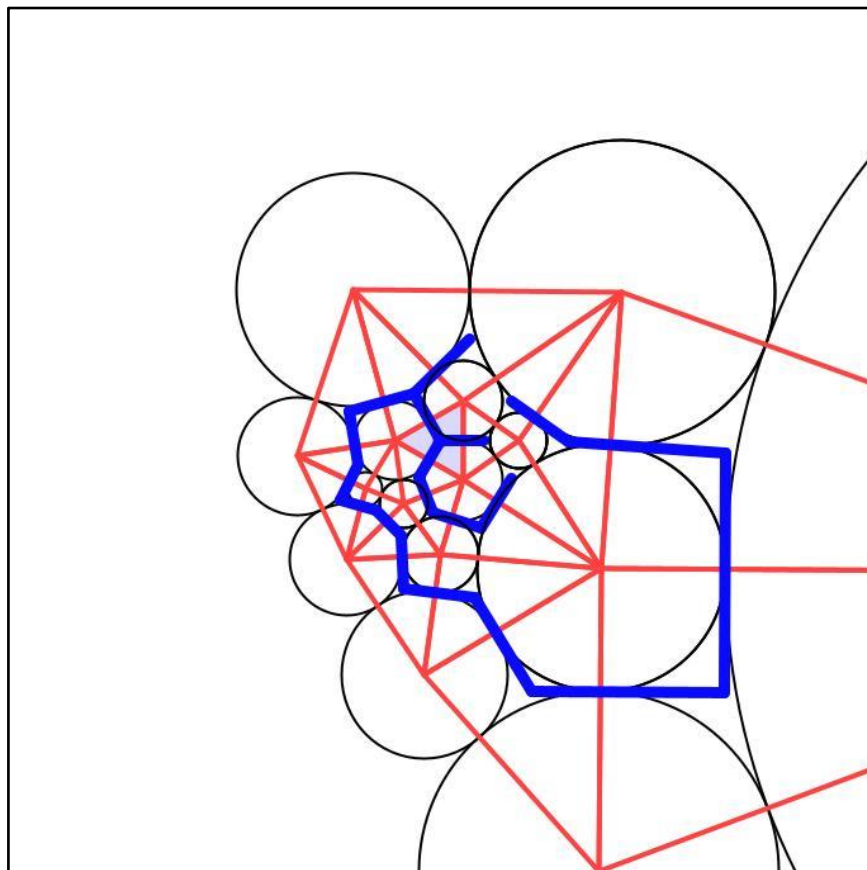
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



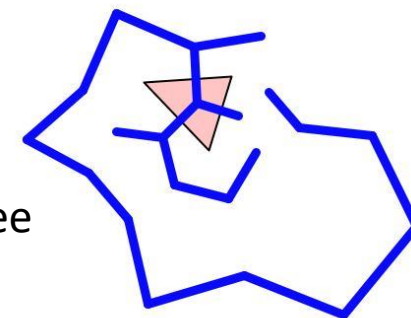
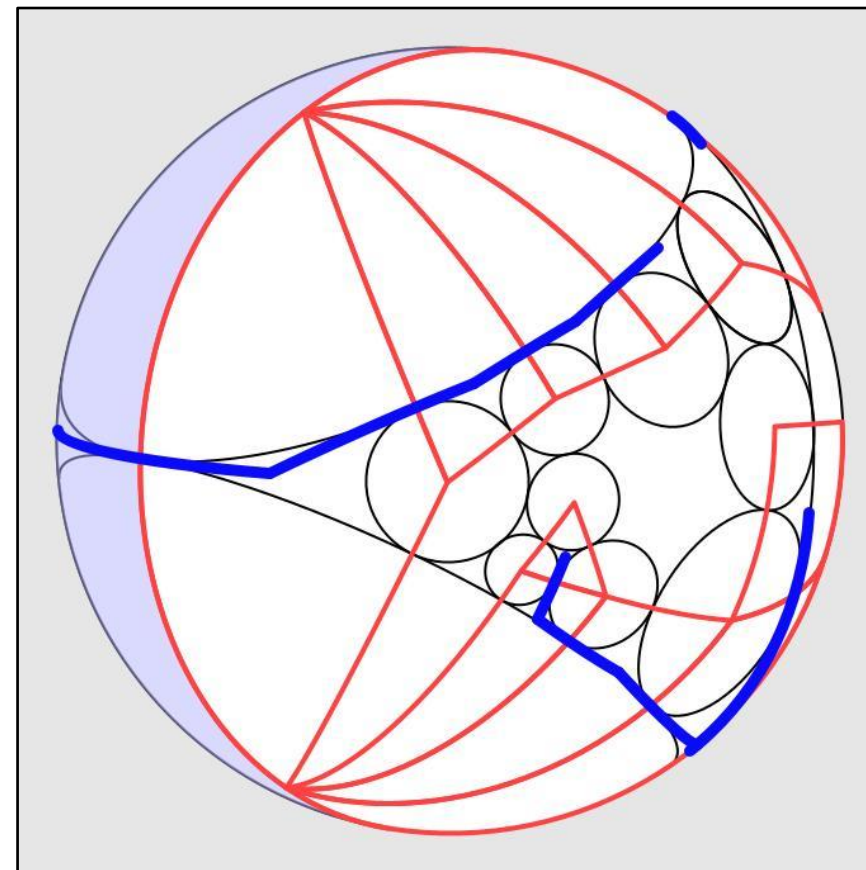
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



Dual spanning tree

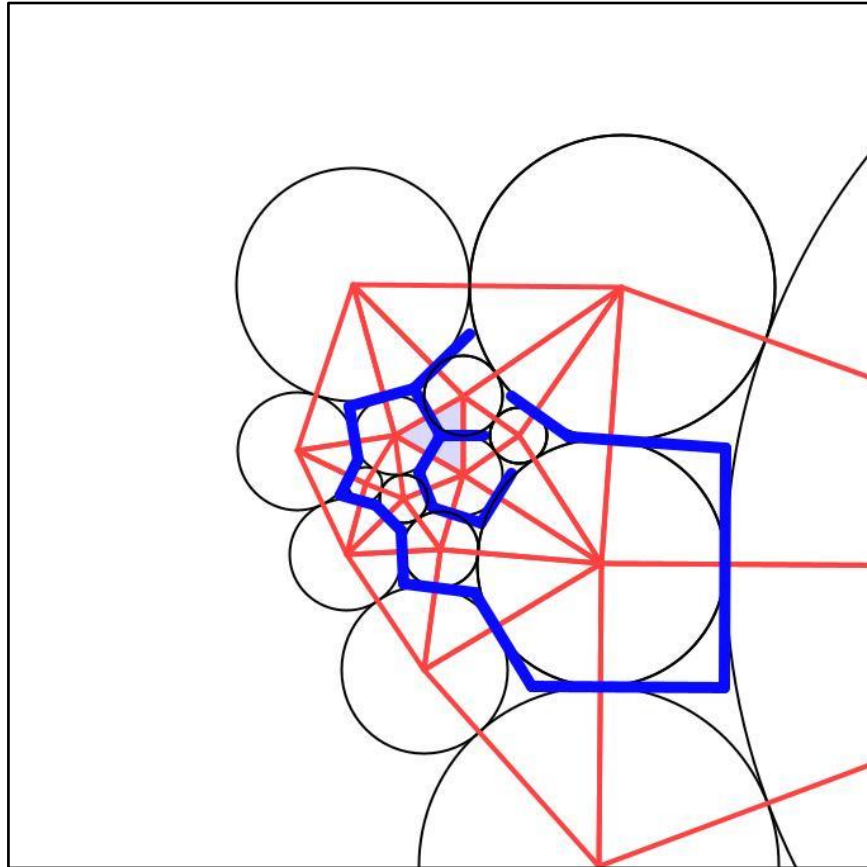
On the sphere





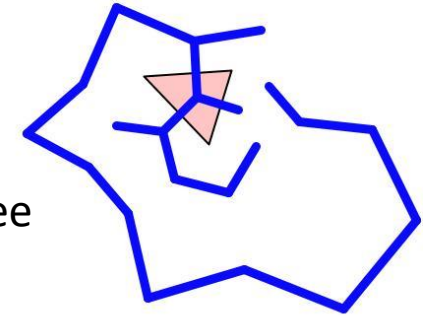
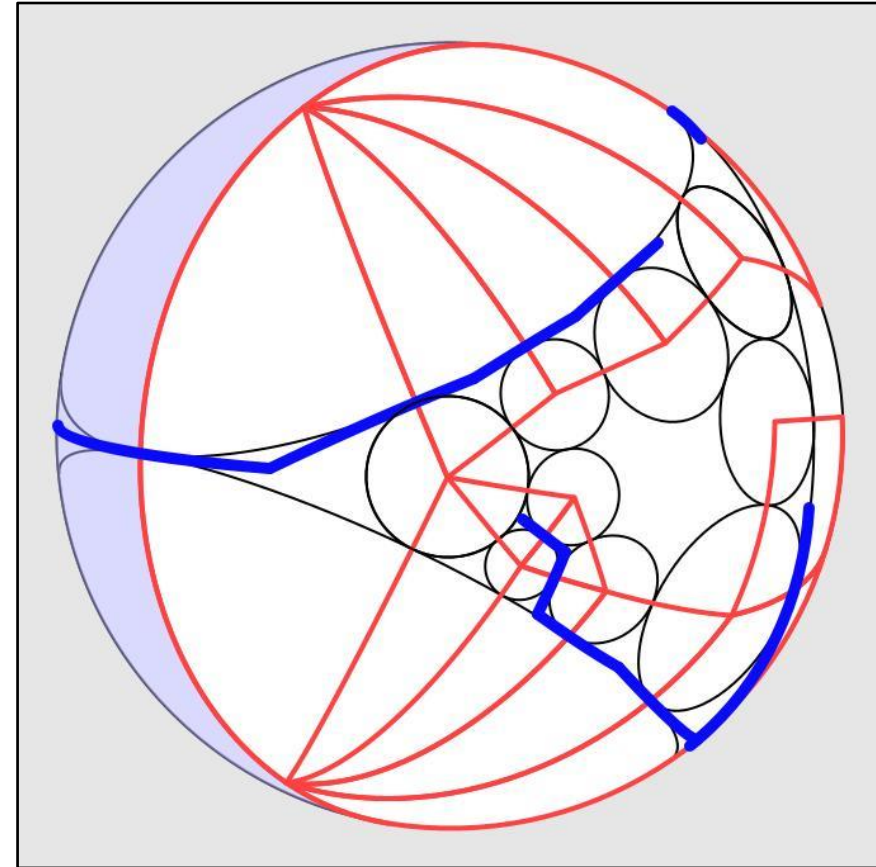
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



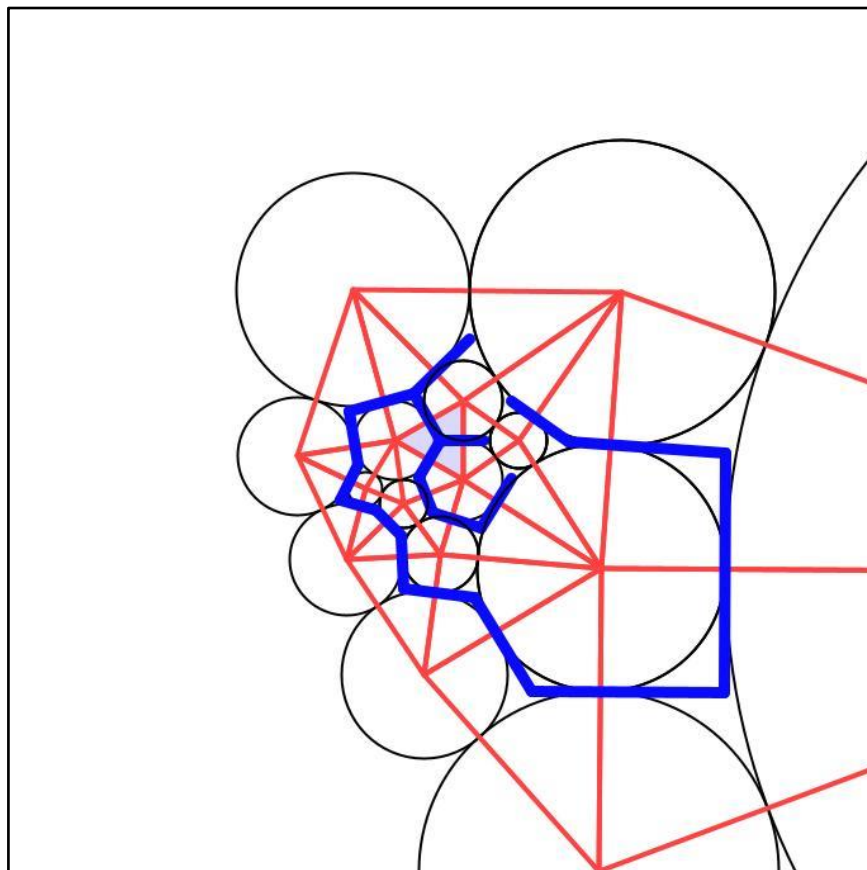
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



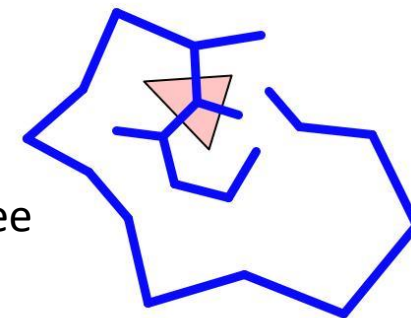
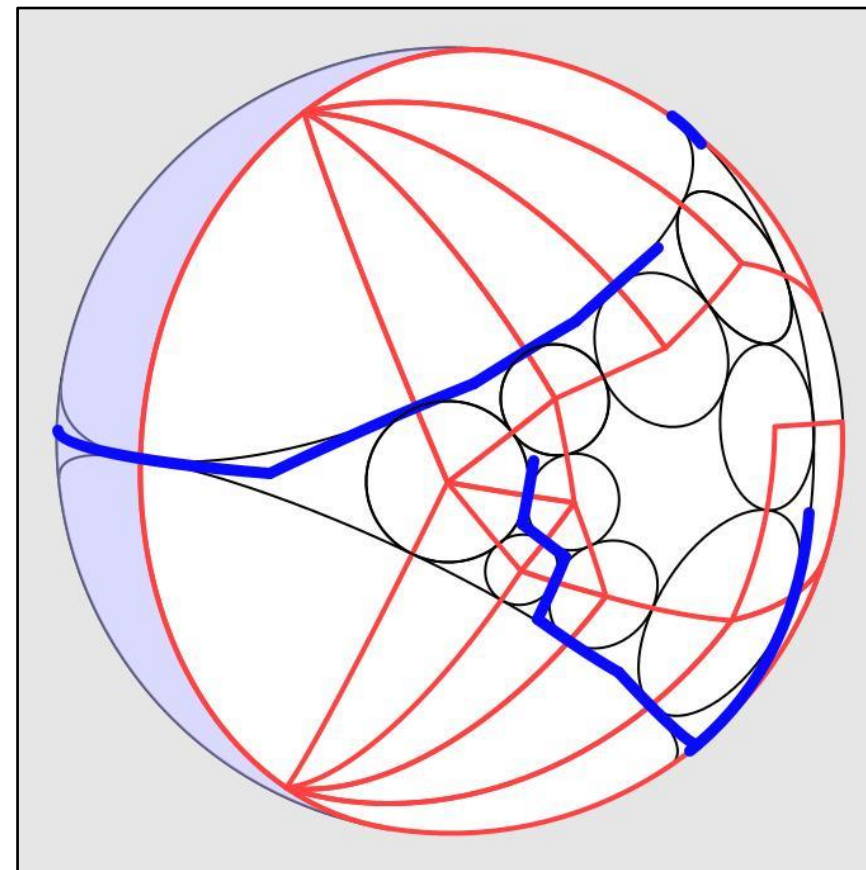
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



Dual spanning tree

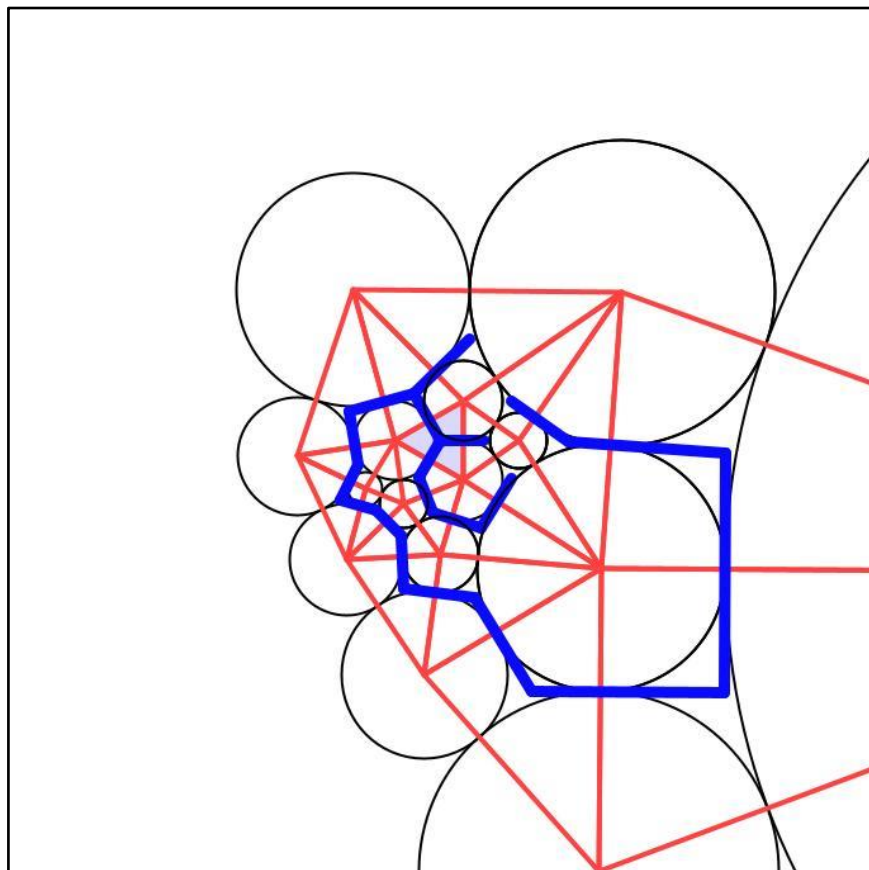
On the sphere





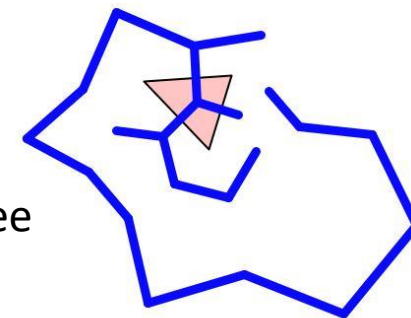
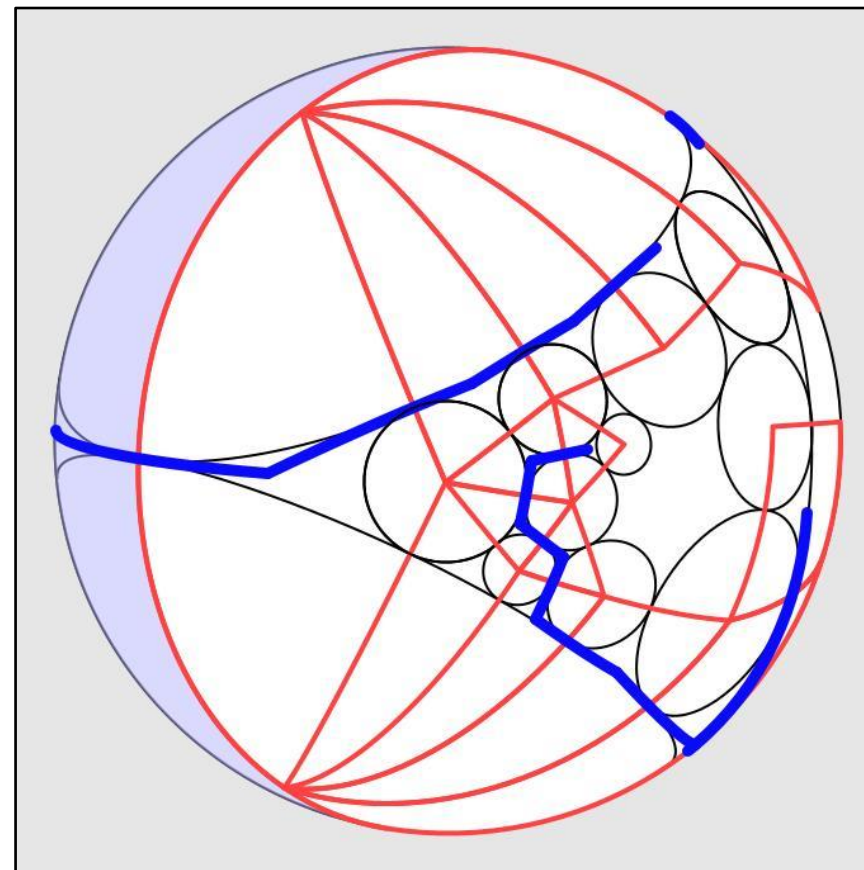
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



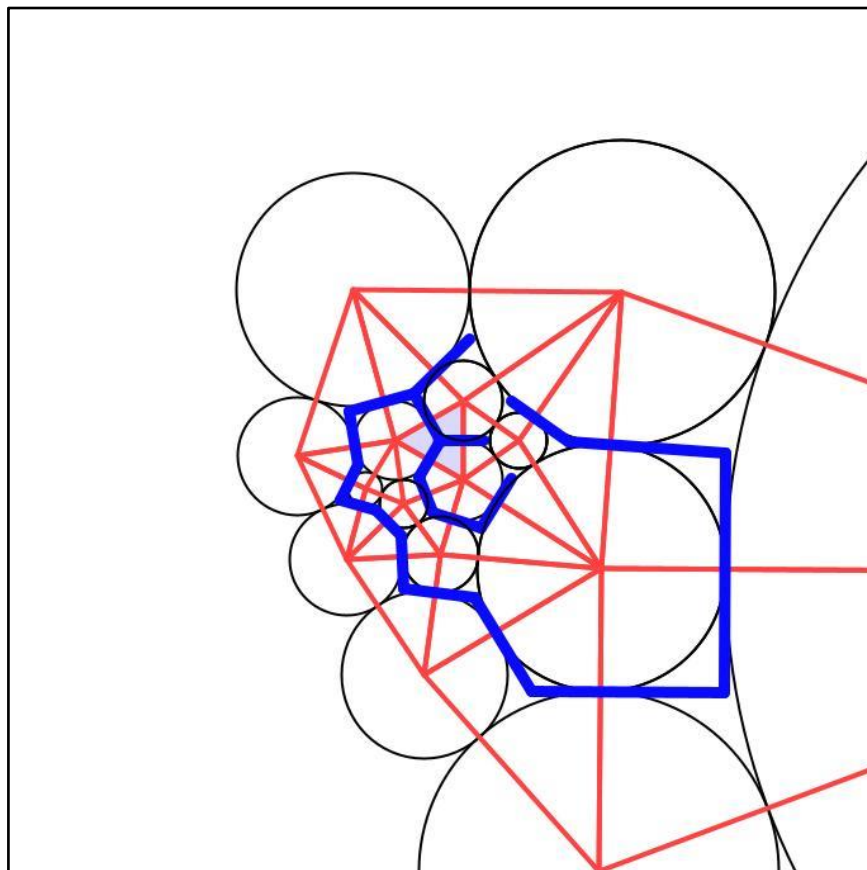
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



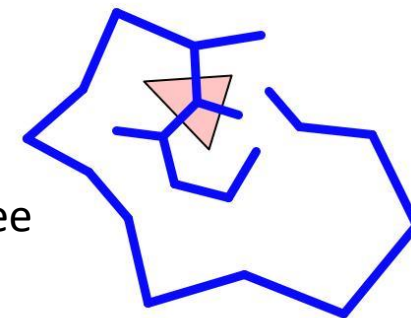
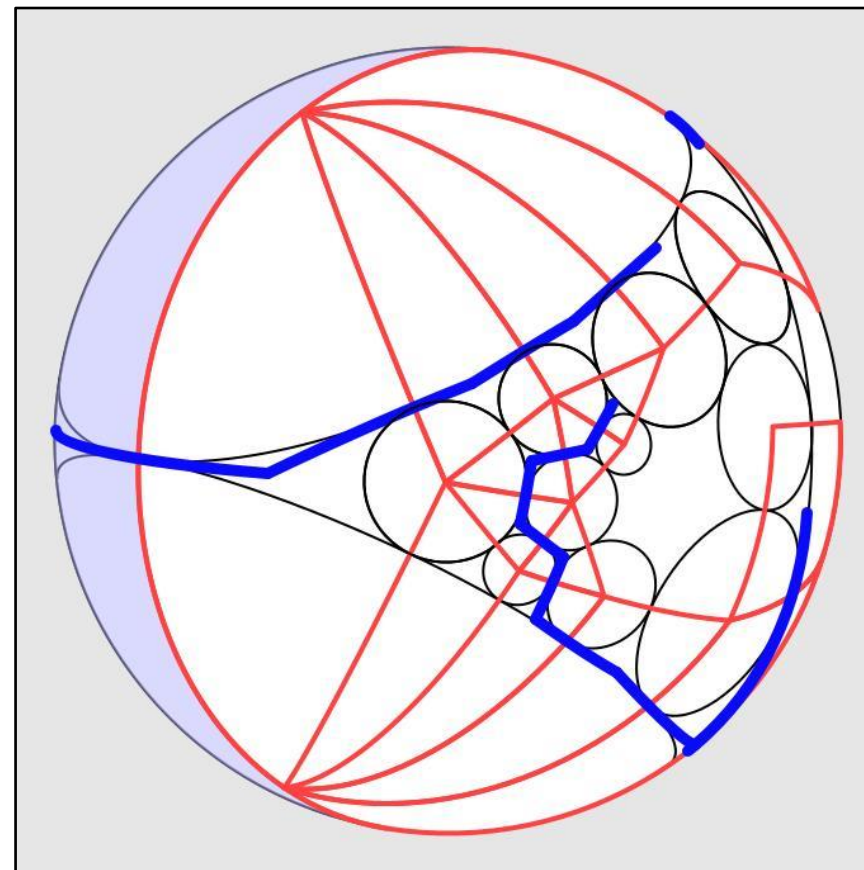
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



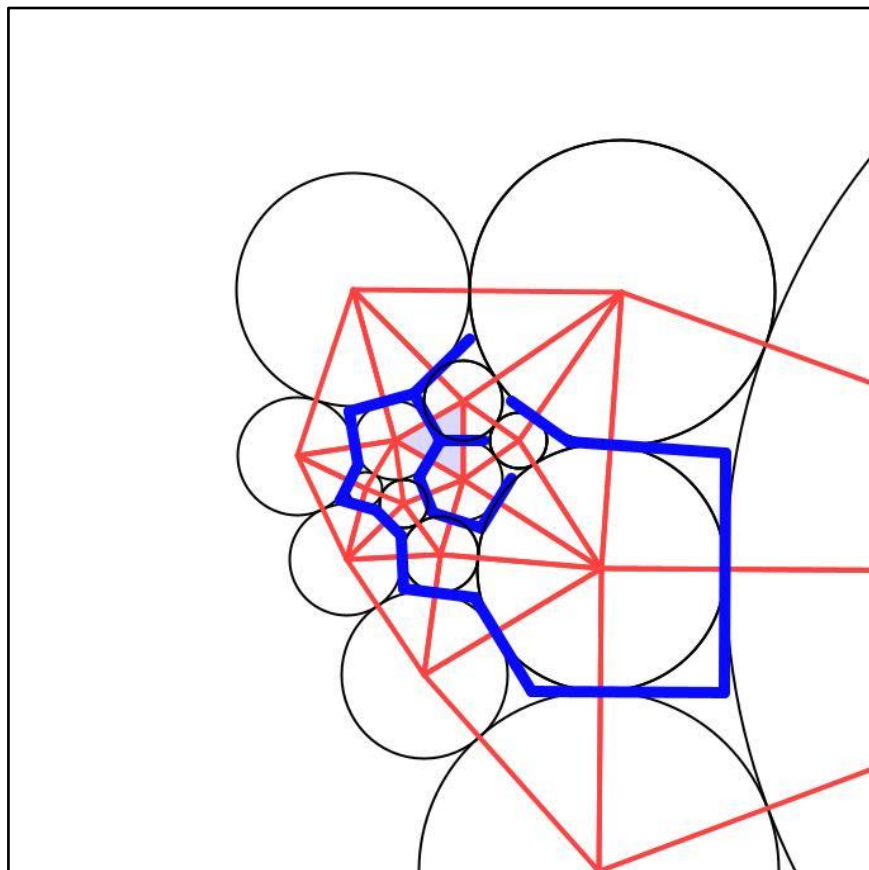
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



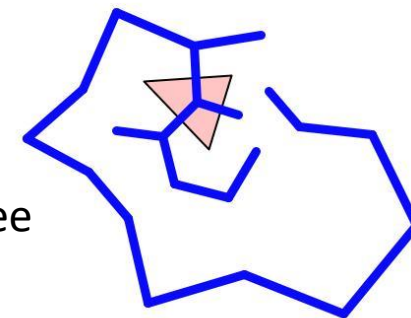
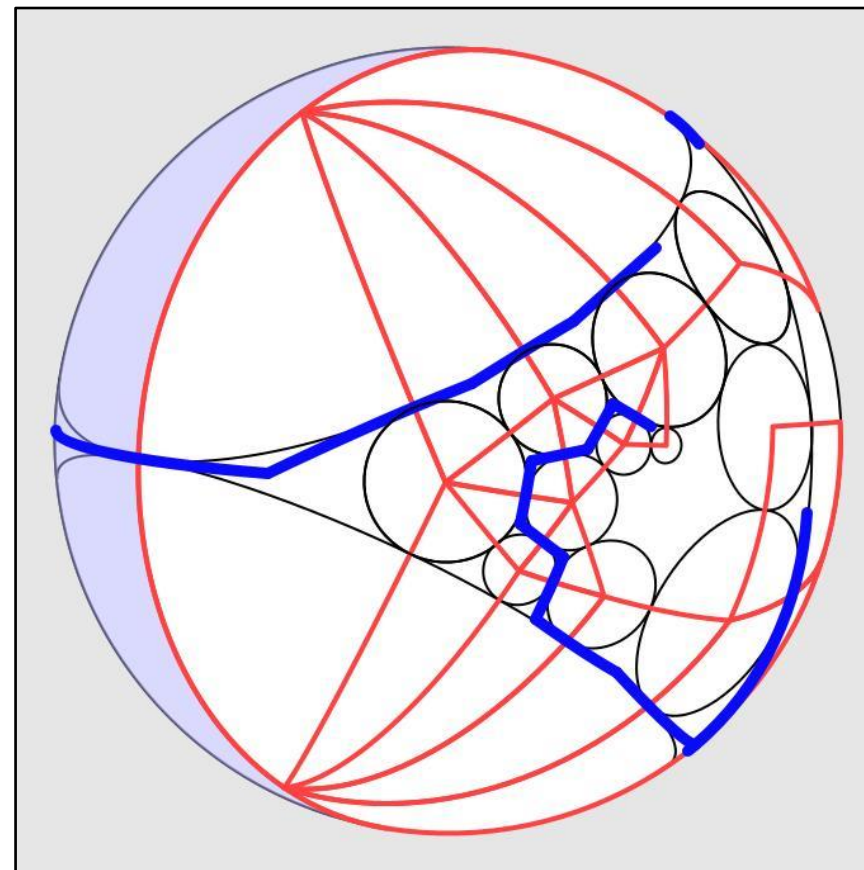
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



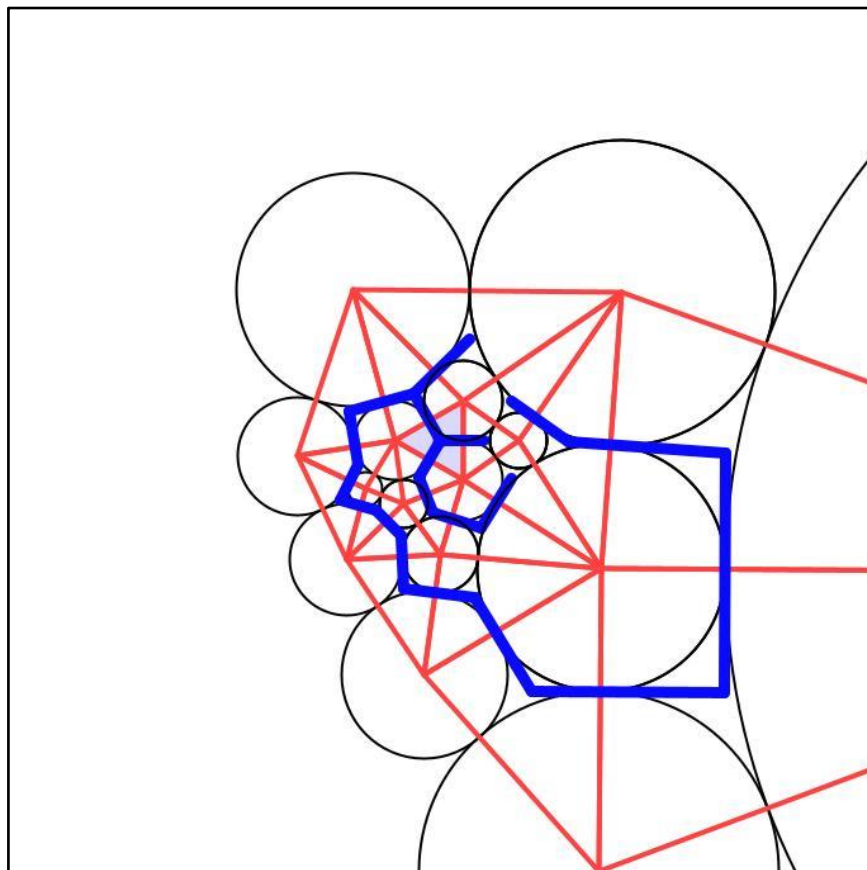
Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



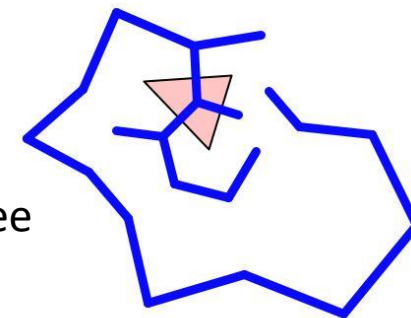
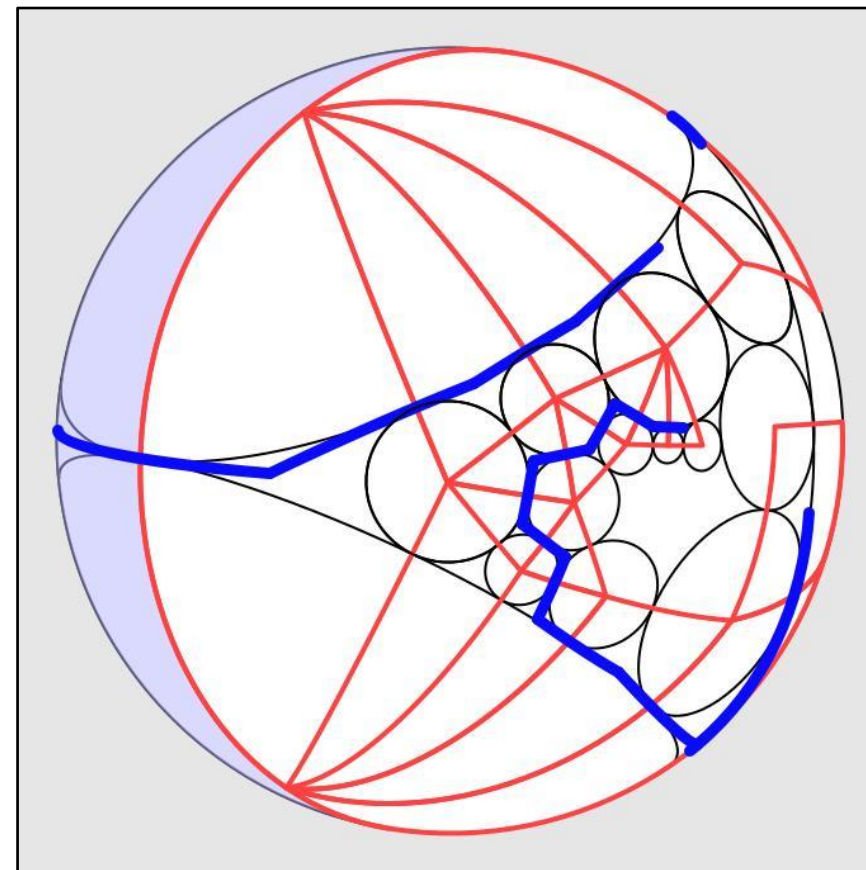
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



Dual spanning tree

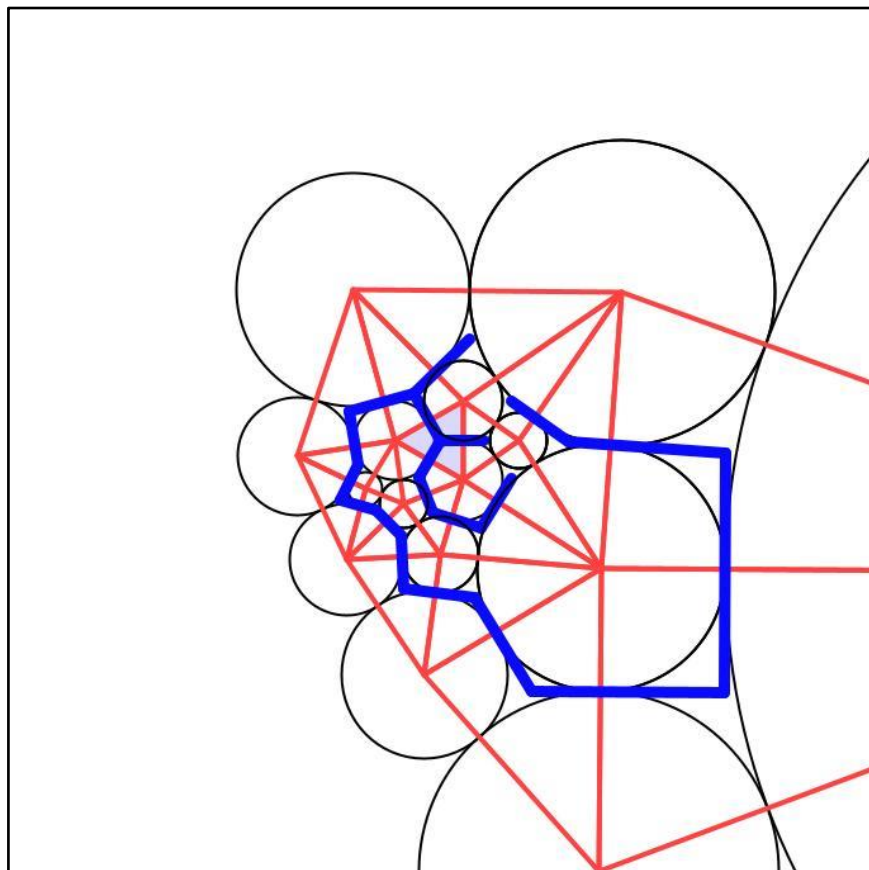
On the sphere





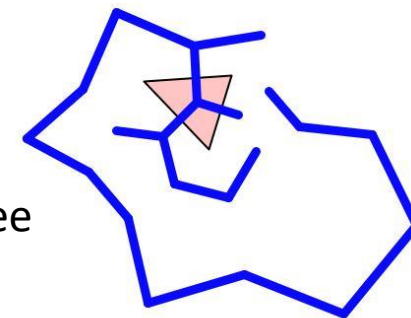
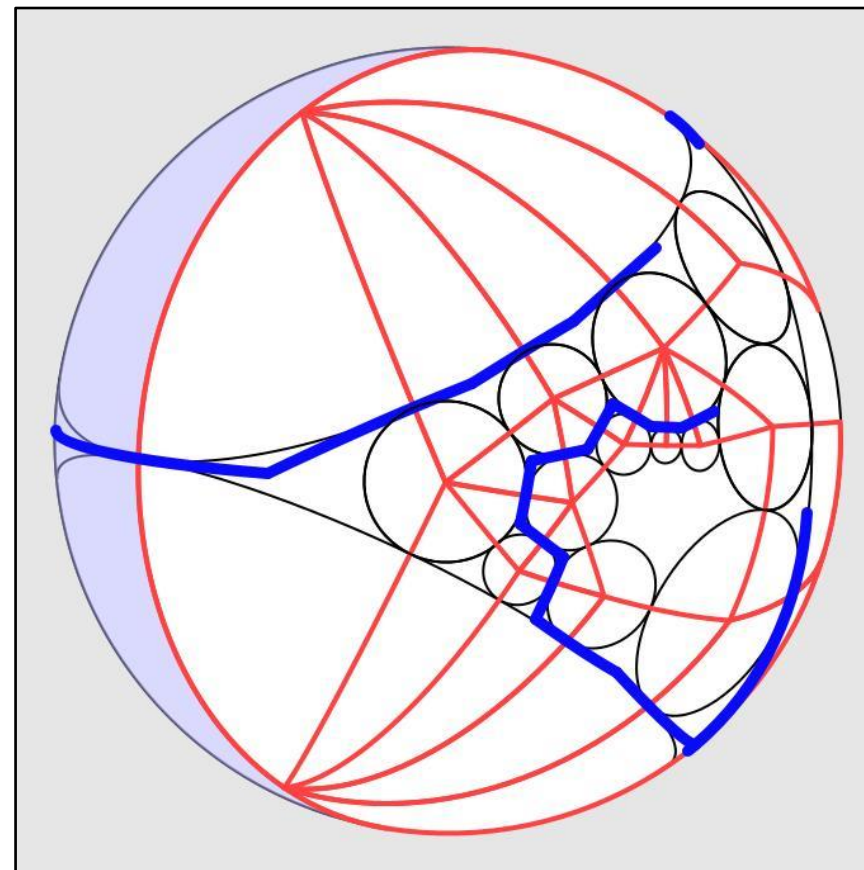
## Using known discrete Schwarzians:

On the plane



Dual spanning tree

On the sphere



## Goal (long term): Find packing (edge) labels

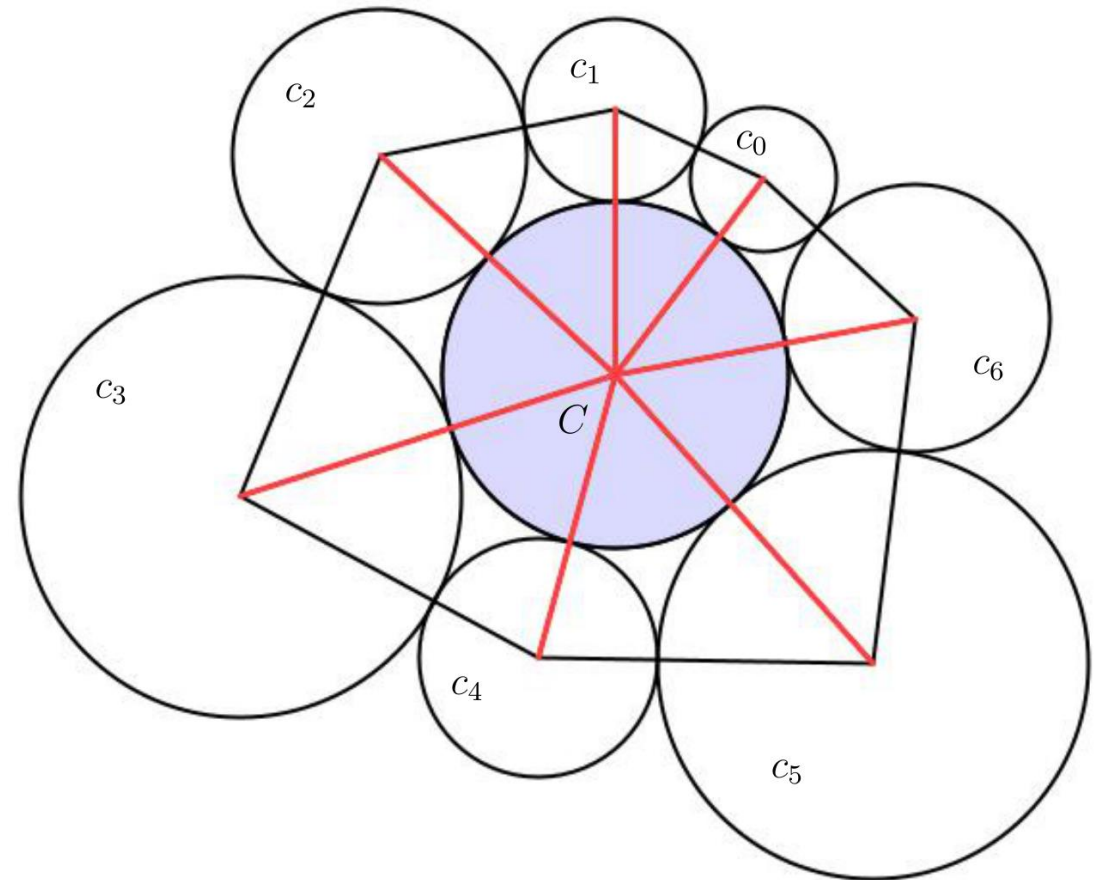
**Definition.** Let  $K$  be a simply connected complex and let  $S$  be an edge label, that is, a set of real numbers, one for each interior edge of  $K$ . We call  $S$  a **packing (edge) label** if there exists a circle packing  $P$  on the Riemann sphere whose intrinsic schwarzians are given by  $S$ .

Two traditional keys for working with radius labels:

- \* **Criteria** for packing
- \* **Monotonicities** in the data

If there exist monotonicities, they remain a mystery to me.

In this talk I concentrate on criteria: it suffices to have criteria for **packing labels for individual  $n$ -flowers**



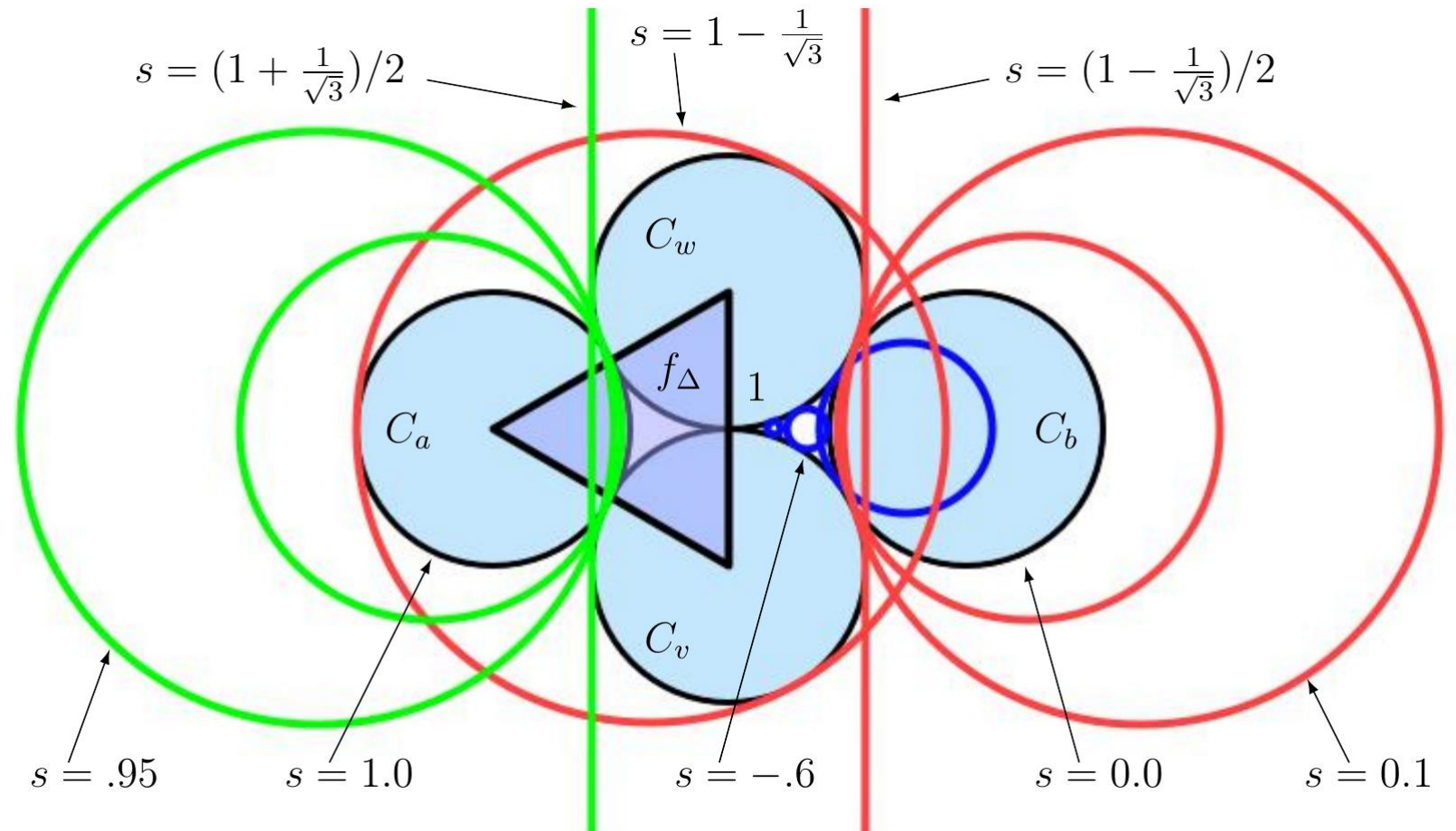


# Sample intrinsic schwarzians

$$c_b = M_s^{-1}(C_b)$$

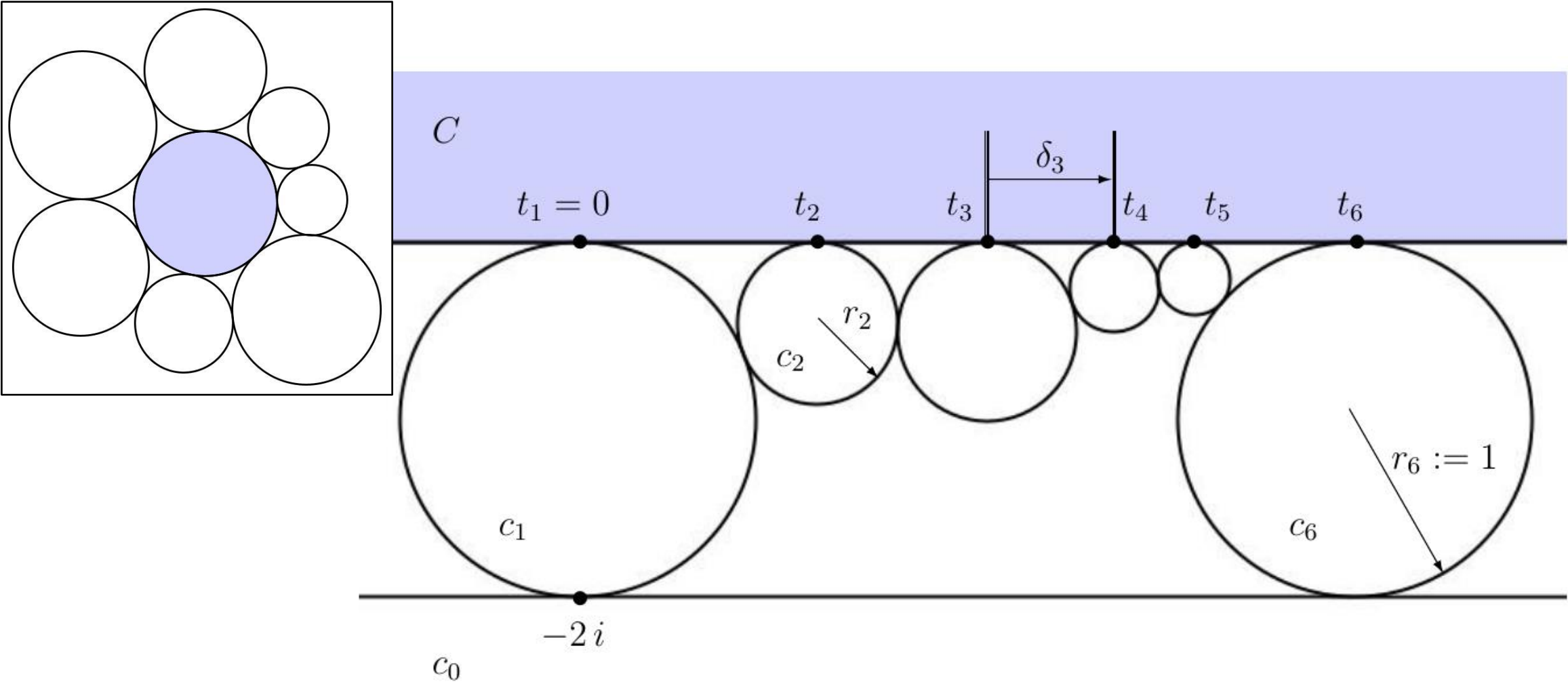
where

$$M_s^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1-s & s \\ -s & 1+s \end{bmatrix}$$

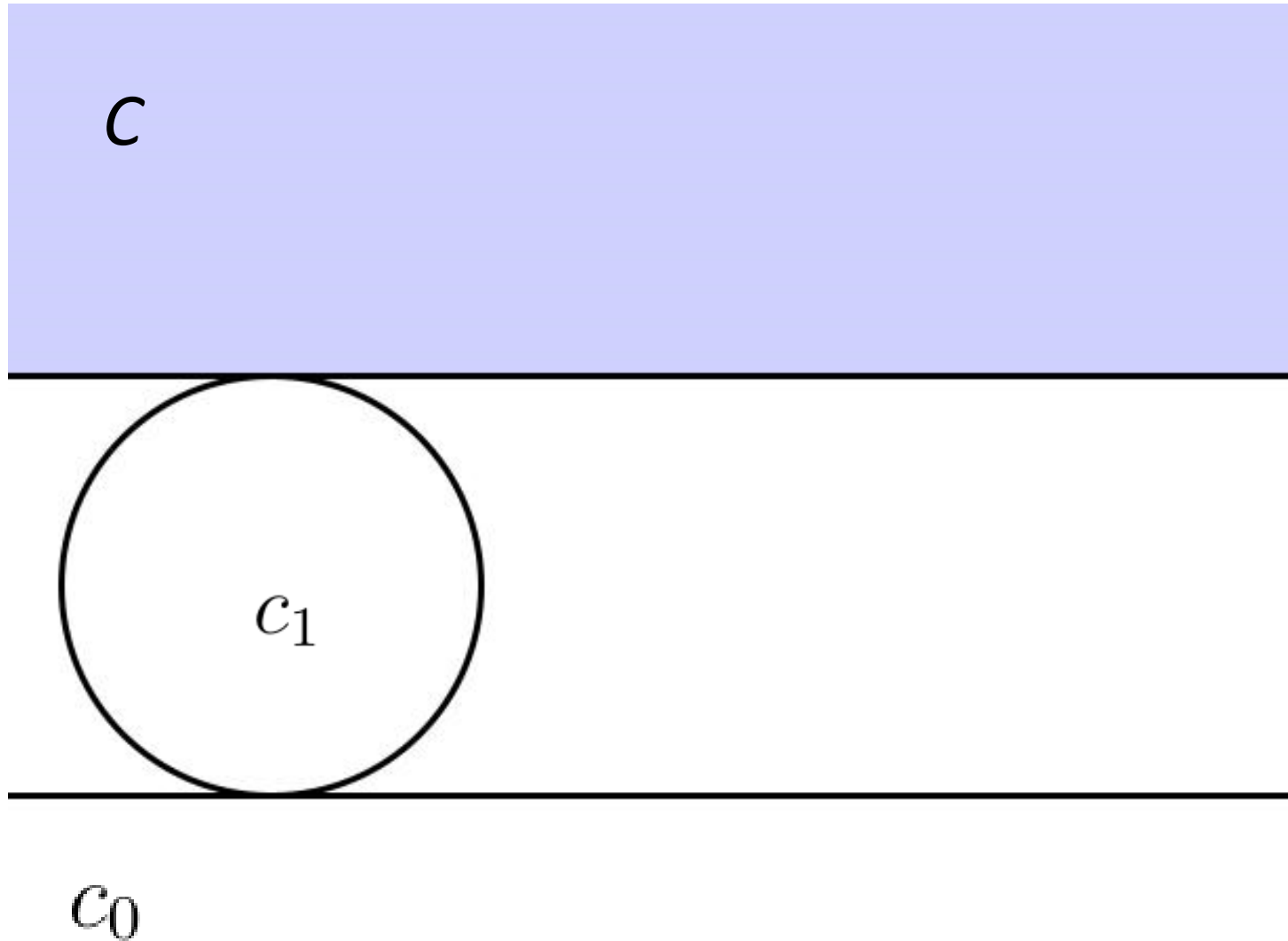


# Packing Labels for Un-branched Interior Flowers

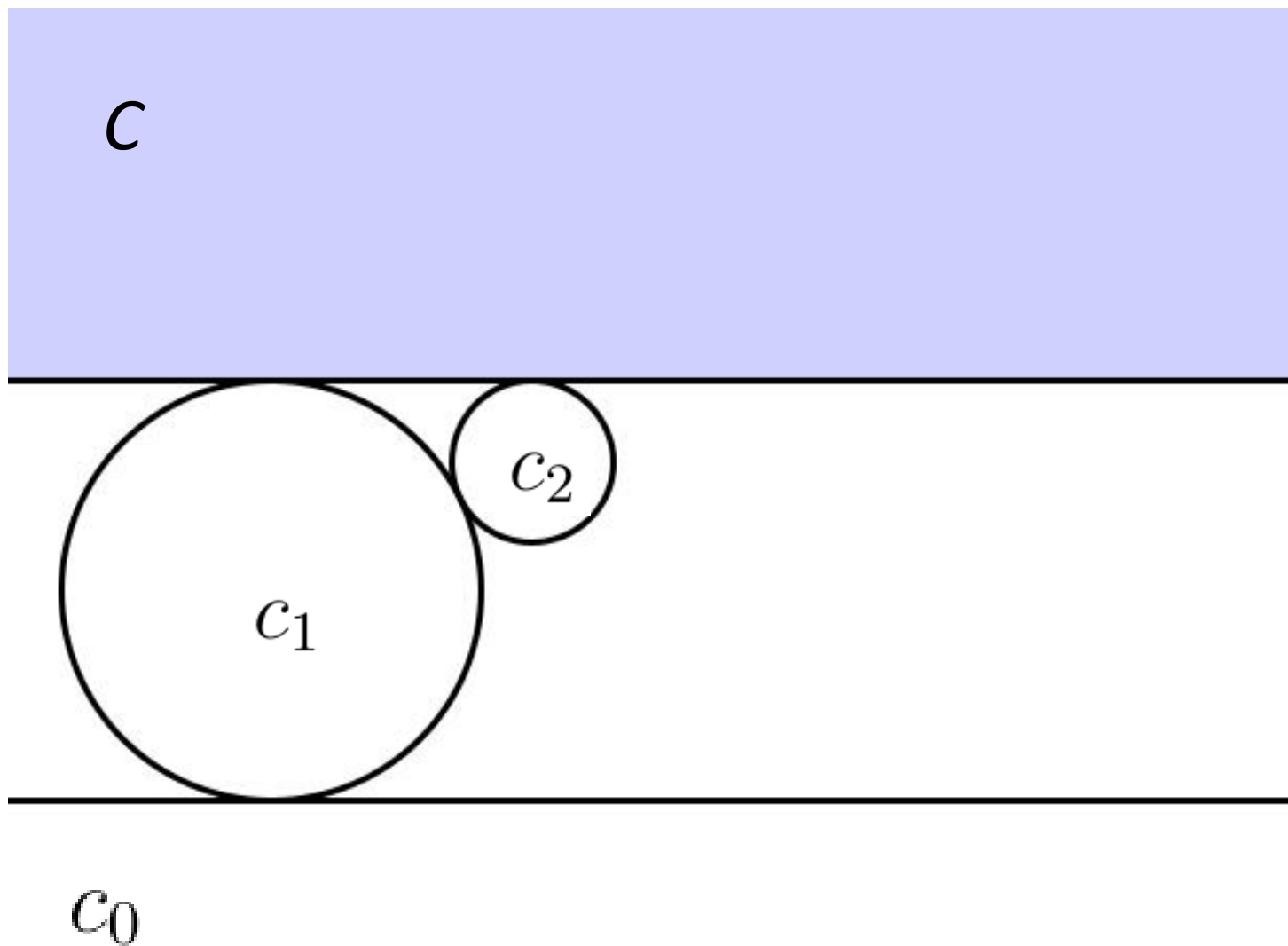
# Flower Normalizations and Notations



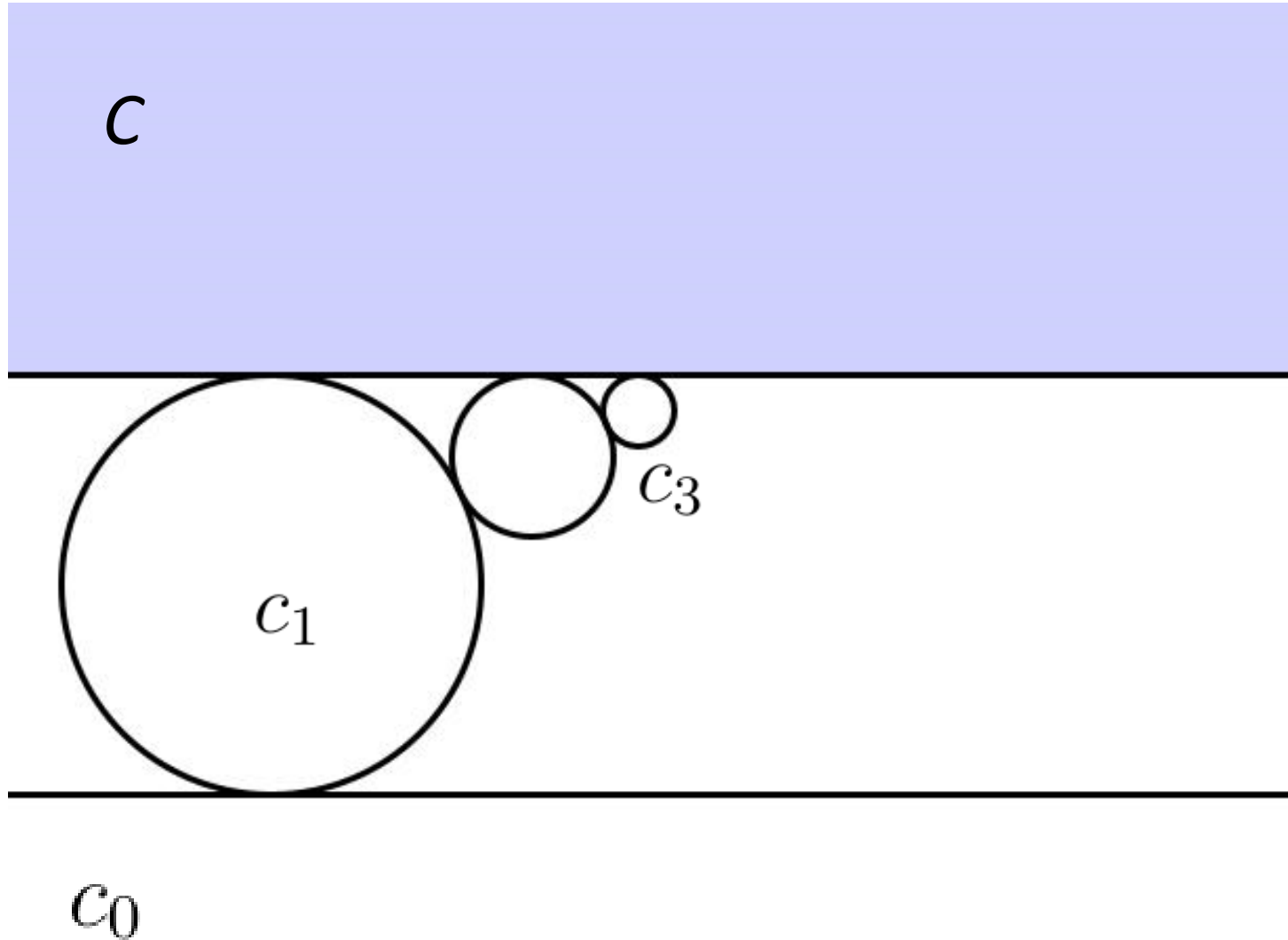
## Layout Process:



## Layout Process:

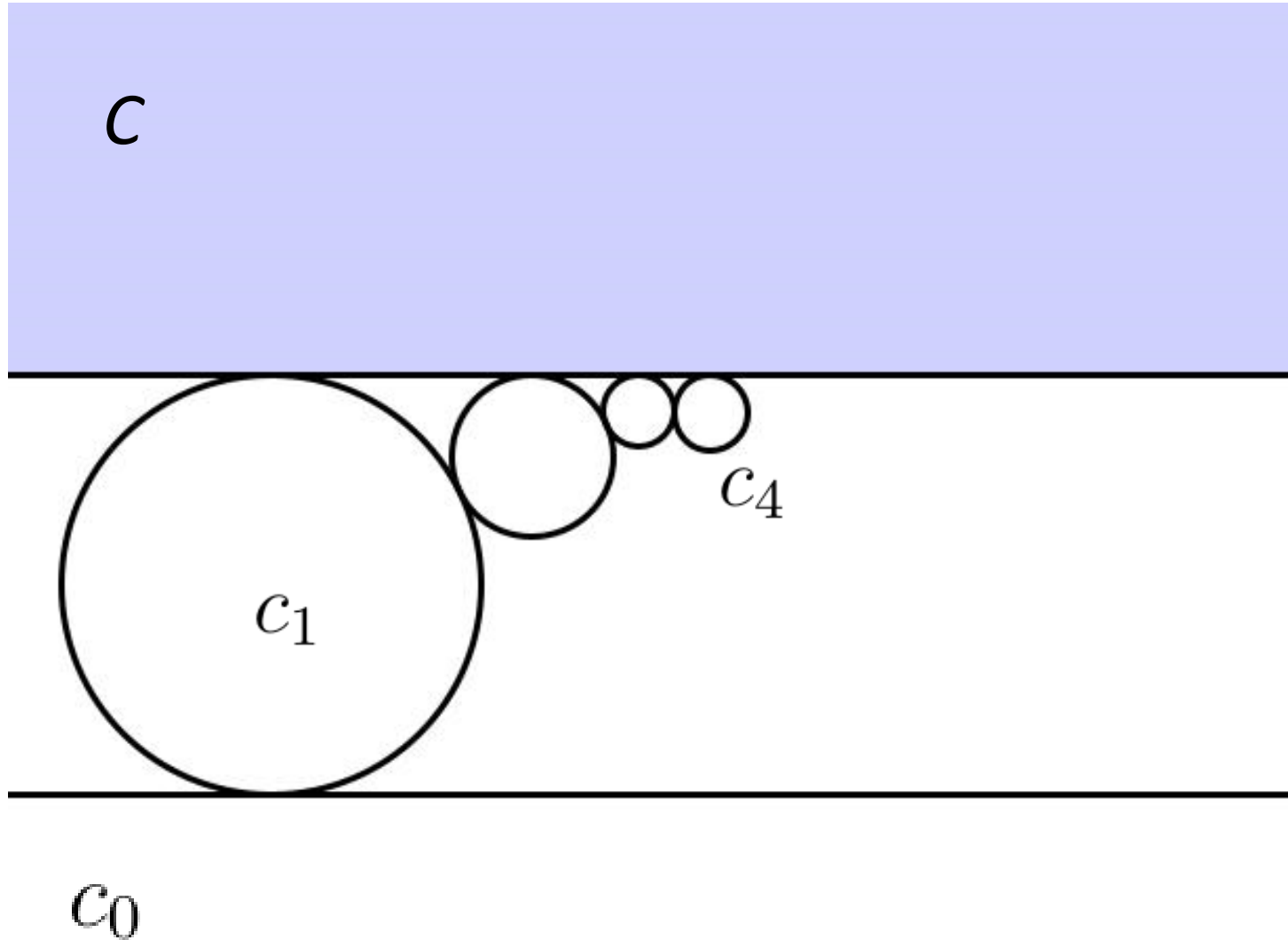


## Layout Process:

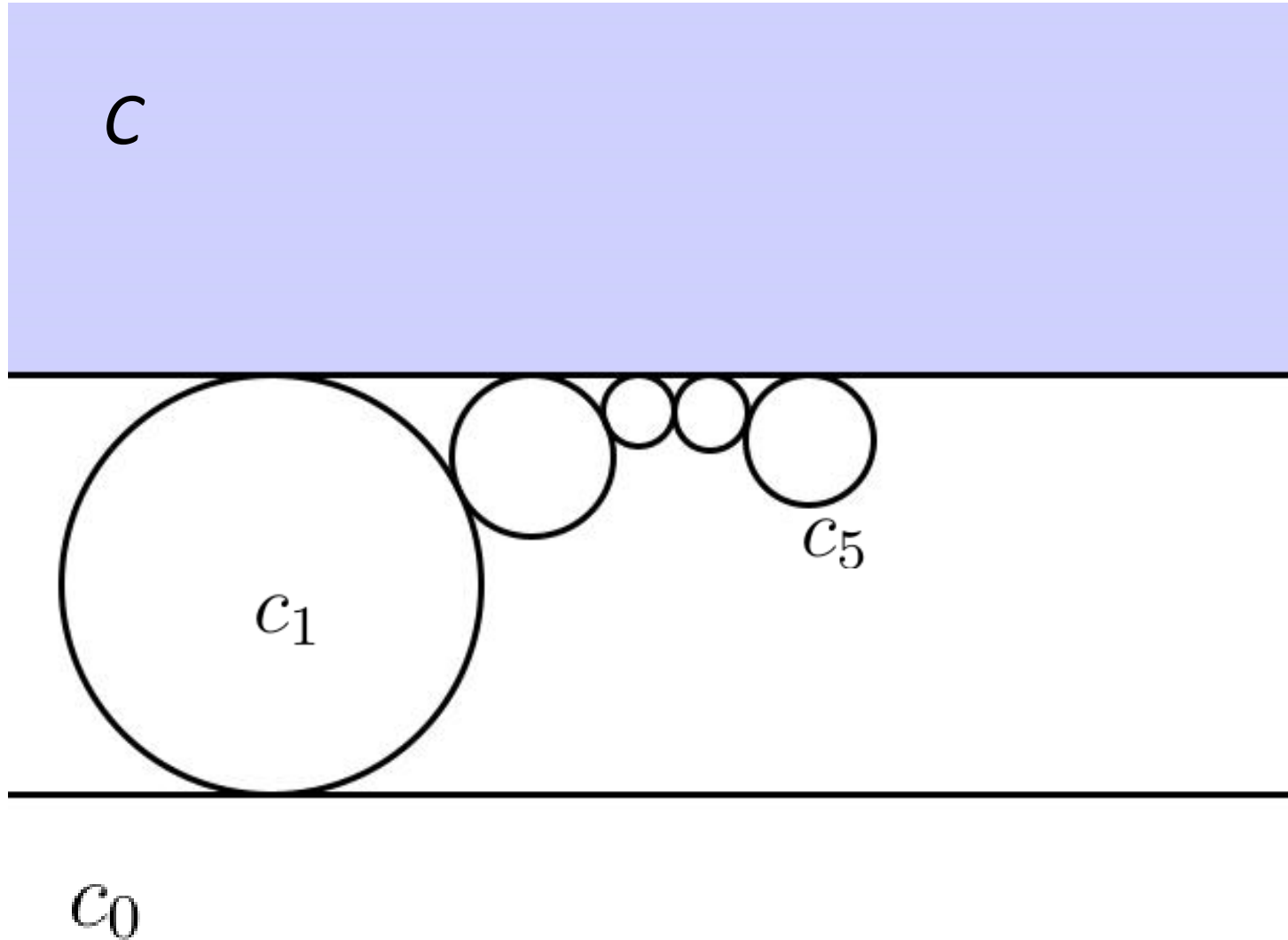




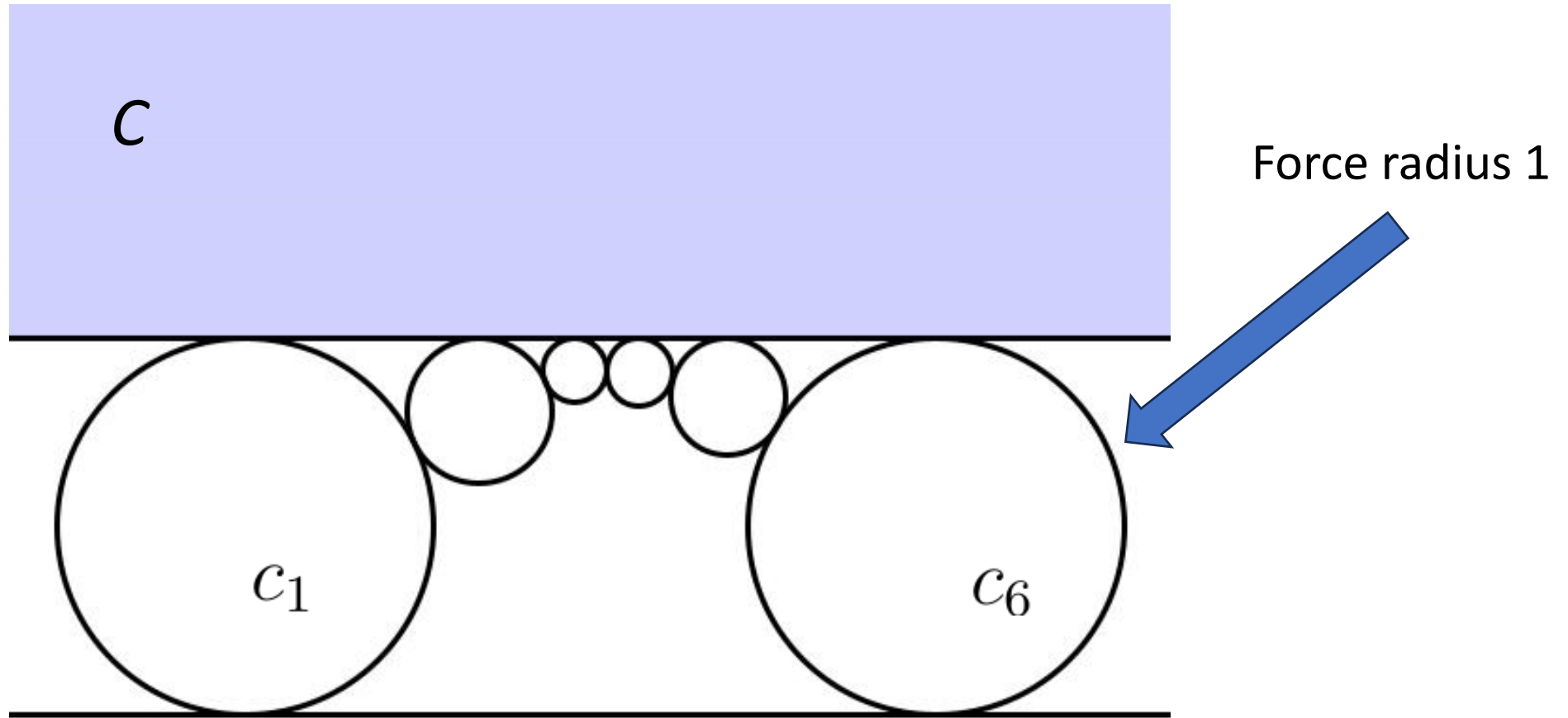
## Layout Process:



## Layout Process:



## Layout Process:

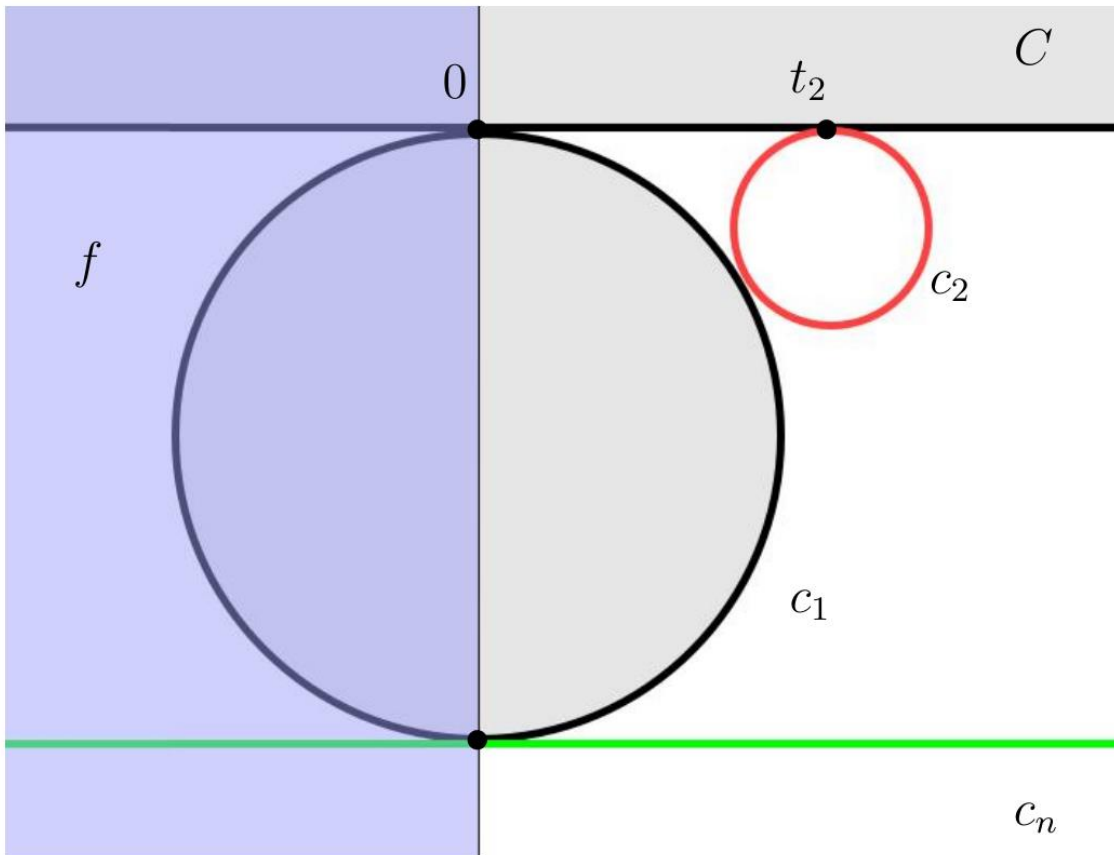


**NOTE:** This process used only  $n-3$  of the  $n$  edge labels !!

## Step-wise Computations:

This step-by-step construction encounters several computational situations:

**NOTE:** hand computations suggested introducing a new variable:  $u = 1 - s$   
so, our  $n-3$  parameters are  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{n-3}\}$



Place the **red** petal based on the Previous edge label:

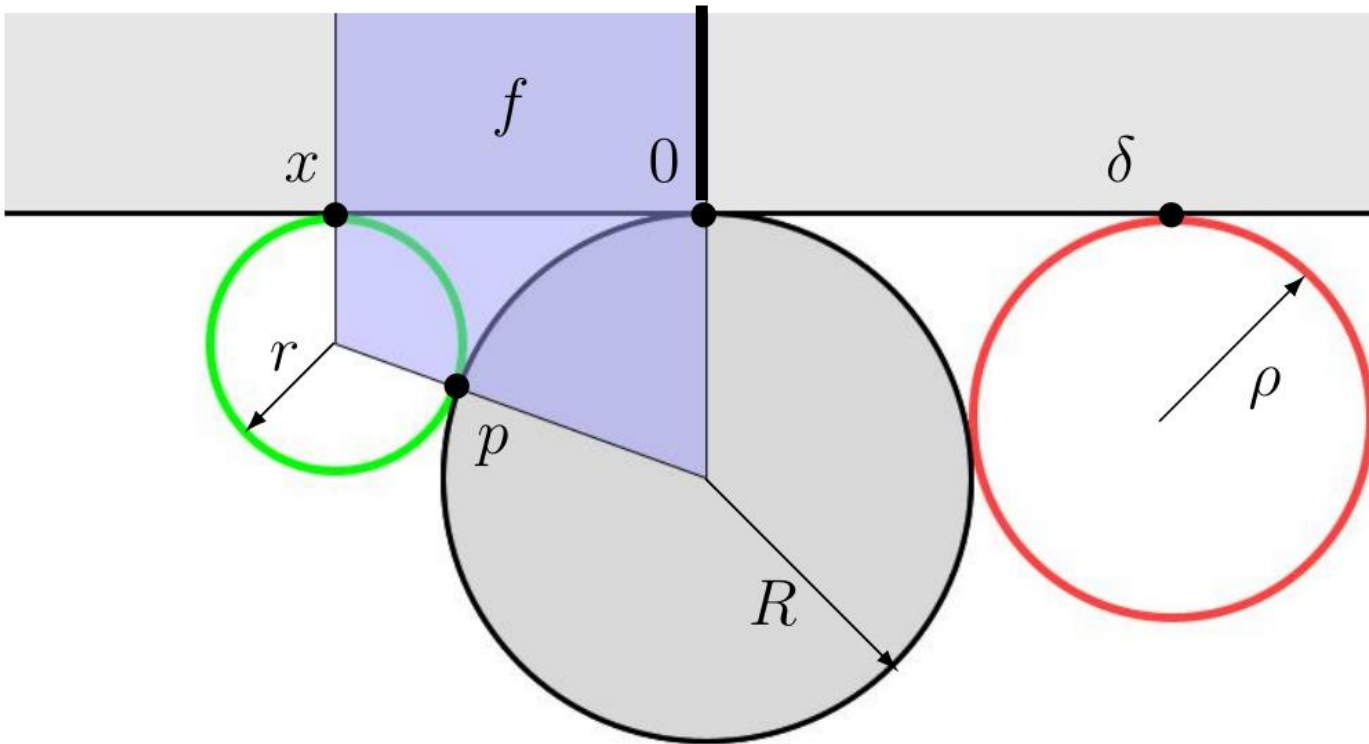
$$t_2 = 2/(\sqrt{3} u_1)$$

$$r_2 = 1/(\sqrt{3} u_1)^2$$

# Step-wise Computations:

Next is the generic step which is repeated n-2 times:

Place the **red** petal based on the face  $f$  formed by the **green** and shaded petals and the upper halfplane  $C$ ; use the schwarzian for the edge to the shaded petal:



$$\delta = \frac{2R}{(\sqrt{3}u - \sqrt{R/r})}$$

$$\rho = \frac{1}{(\sqrt{3}u/\sqrt{R} - 1/\sqrt{r})^2}$$

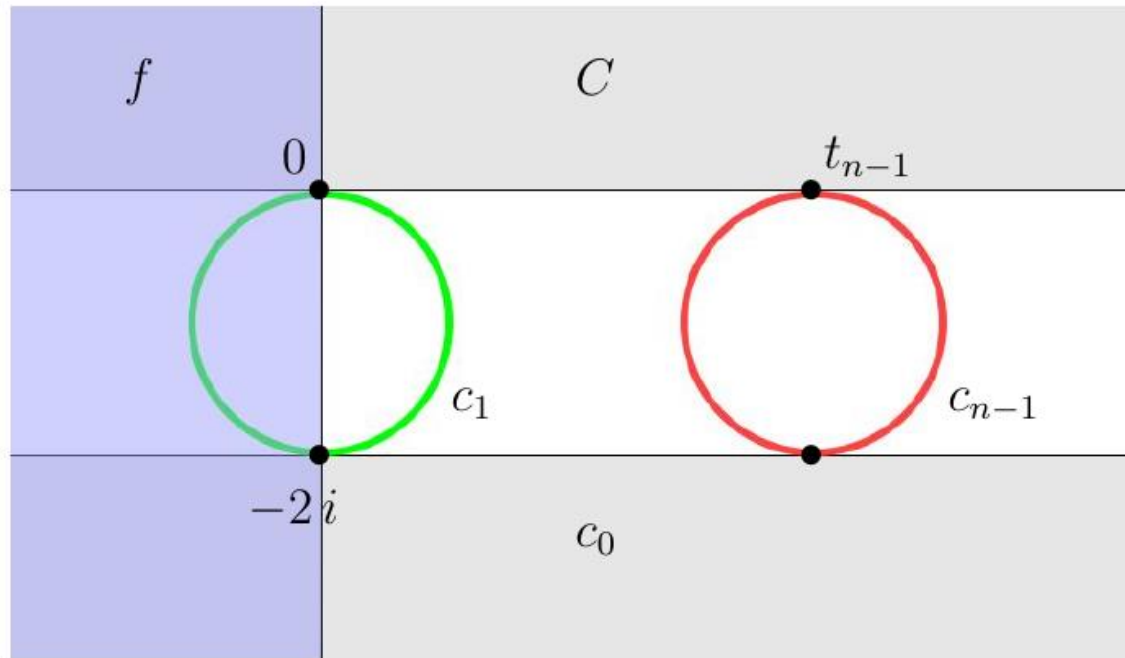
If  $\rho = 1$ , then

$$u = \frac{\sqrt{R} + \sqrt{R/r}}{\sqrt{3}}$$

\*

# Step-wise Computations:

The **red** and **green** petals are opposite across the edge connecting the half planes:



**IF** we were placing the last petal based on the first, we would get

$$t_{n-1} = 2\sqrt{3}u_0$$

But we do not know  $u_0$  !!

**Crucial Step:** We MANDATE  $r_{n-1} = 1$

With the last petal of radius 1 in place, we can directly compute  $u_{n-2}, u_{n-1}, u_0$



## Successive reciprocal roots:

A focus on reciprocal roots gives the valuable functions  $\mathfrak{C}_j(u_1, \dots, u_{j-1})$ .  
(Notation:  $u_{i,j,k} = u_i u_j u_k$ )

$$1/\sqrt{r_2} = \mathfrak{C}_2(u_1) = \sqrt{3}u_1,$$

$$1/\sqrt{r_3} = \mathfrak{C}_3(u_1, u_2) = 3u_{1,2} - 1,$$

$$1/\sqrt{r_4} = \mathfrak{C}_4(u_1, u_2, u_3) = \sqrt{3}(3u_{1,2,3} - u_1 - u_3),$$

$$1/\sqrt{r_5} = \mathfrak{C}_5(u_1, \dots, u_4) = 9u_{1,2,3,4} - 3u_{1,4} - 3u_{3,4} - 3u_{1,2} + 1,$$

$$1/\sqrt{r_6} = \mathfrak{C}_6(u_1, \dots, u_5) = \\ \sqrt{3}(9u_{1,2,3,4,5} - 3u_{1,4,5} - 3u_{3,4,5} - 3u_{1,2,5} - 3u_{1,2,3} + u_1 + u_3 + u_5).$$

.....

For  $p = (u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$  write  $\mathfrak{C}_j(u_1, \dots, u_{j-1}) = \mathfrak{C}_j(p)$ .

Then computations show

$$\mathfrak{C}_{j+1}(p) = \sqrt{3}u_j \mathfrak{C}_j(p) - \mathfrak{C}_{j-1}(p)$$

## Associated Functions $\mathfrak{U}_n(\cdot)$

Since the last petal has radius 1, (\*) implies  $u_{n-2} = \frac{1 + \mathfrak{C}_{n-3}(p)}{\sqrt{3} \mathfrak{C}_{n-2}(p)}$ .

Defining  $\mathfrak{U}_n(u_1, \dots, u_{n-3}) = \mathfrak{U}_n(p) = \frac{1 + \mathfrak{C}_{n-3}(p)}{\sqrt{3} \mathfrak{C}_{n-2}(p)}$ , we have:

$$u_2 = \mathfrak{U}_4(u_1) = \frac{2}{3u_1},$$

$$u_3 = \mathfrak{U}_5(u, u_2) = \frac{u_1 + 1/\sqrt{3}}{3u_{1,2} - 1},$$

$$u_4 = \mathfrak{U}_6(u_1, u_2, u_3) = \frac{u_{1,2}}{3u_{1,2,3} - u_1 - u_3},$$

$$u_5 = \mathfrak{U}_7(u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4) = \frac{3(3u_{1,2,3} - u_1 - u_3) + 1/\sqrt{3}}{3(3u_{1,2,3,4} - u_{1,2} - u_{1,4} - u_{3,4}) + 1},$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_6 &= \mathfrak{U}_8(u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_5) \\ &= \frac{3(3u_{1,2,3,4} - u_{1,2} - u_{1,4} - u_{3,4}) + 2}{3(9u_{1,2,3,4,5} - 3u_{1,2,3} - 3u_{1,2,5} - 3u_{1,4,5} - 3u_{3,4,5} + u_1 + u_3 + u_5)}. \end{aligned}$$

.....

## Un-branched Flowers (petals wrapping once around C)

**Theorem:** Given  $n > 3$ , the parameters  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{n-3}\}$  are part of a packing label for an un-branched  $n$ -flower if and only if

$$\mathfrak{C}_j(u_1, \dots, u_{j-1}) > 0, \quad j = 2, \dots, (n-2).$$

In this case, these expressions

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} u_{n-2} &= \mathfrak{U}_n(u_1, \dots, u_{n-3}), \\ u_{n-1} &= \mathfrak{U}_n(u_2, \dots, u_{n-2}), \\ u_0 &= \mathfrak{U}_n(u_3, \dots, u_{n-1}), \end{aligned}$$

allow computation of the three remaining labels.

Simultaneously a **characterization**, **parameterization**, and **computational tool**

# The Intriguing Functions $\mathfrak{U}_n(\cdot)$ $\mathfrak{C}_n(\cdot)$

Work with vectors  $p = (u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ . For **un-branched**  $n$ -flowers:

$$(\star) \quad u_{n-2} = \mathfrak{U}_n(p), \text{ with } \mathfrak{C}_j(p) > 0, j = 2, \dots, (n-2)$$

- $\mathfrak{U}_n$  is **rational**,  $\mathfrak{C}_j$  are **polynomial** with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{3}]$ . The zeros of  $\mathfrak{C}_{n-2}$  are poles of  $\mathfrak{U}_n$ .
- $(\star)$  is invariant under cyclic rotation (or reversal) of the coords of  $p$ .  
If  $\vec{p}^k$  is the cyclic permutation moving  $u_k$  to  $u_0$ , then

$$u_{n-1} = \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{p}^1) \text{ and } u_0 = \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{p}^{n-3}).$$

- Self-referential:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{n-2} &= \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{u}_{1,n-3}) \\ u_{n-1} &= \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{u}_{2,n-3}, \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{u}_{1,n-3})) \\ u_0 &= \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{u}_{3,n-3}, \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{u}_{1,n-3}), \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{u}_{2,n-3}, \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{u}_{1,n-3}))). \end{aligned}$$

- Define  $\mathcal{V}_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$  as the  $(n-3)$ -dim alg variety defined by

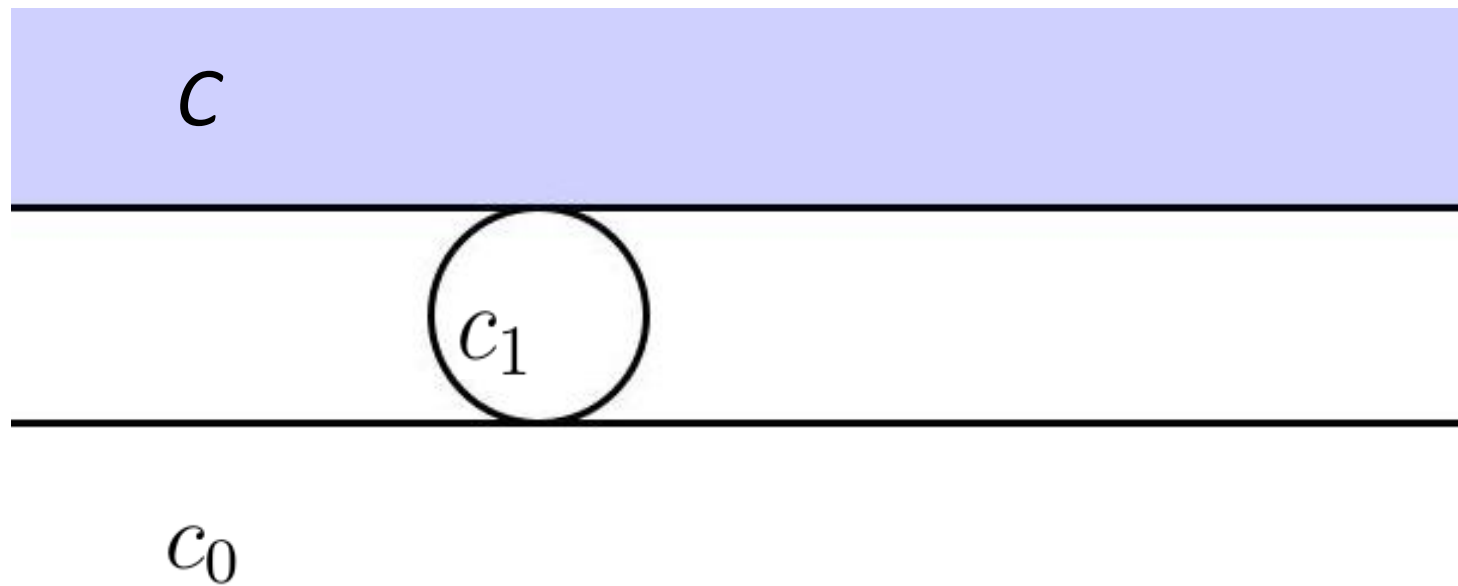
$$u_{n-2} = \mathfrak{U}_n(p) \quad u_{n-1} = \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{p}^1) \quad u_0 = \mathfrak{U}_n(\vec{p}^2)$$

and  $\mathcal{C}_n$  as cone  $\{\mathfrak{C}_j(p) > 0, j = 2, \dots, (n-2)\}$ . Then:

**Parameter Space** for un-branched  $n$ -flowers is  $\mathcal{F}_n = \mathcal{V}_n \cap \mathcal{C}_n$

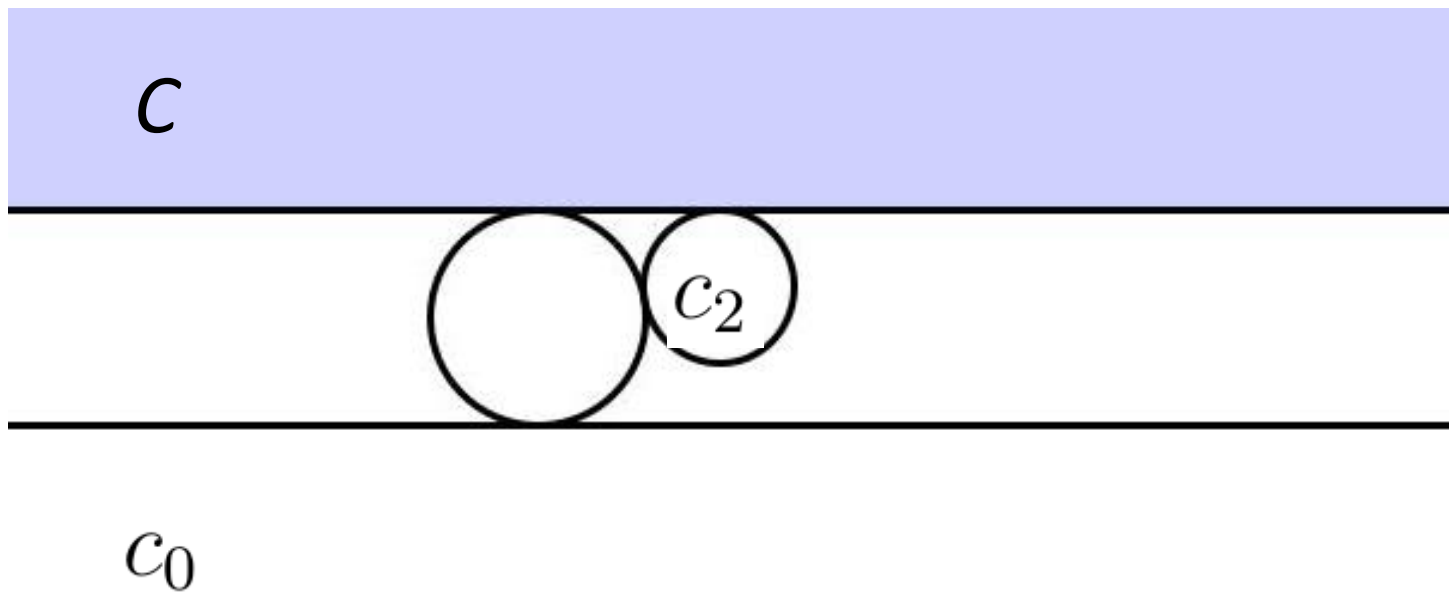
# Packing Labels for Branched Interior Flowers

Branching appears:

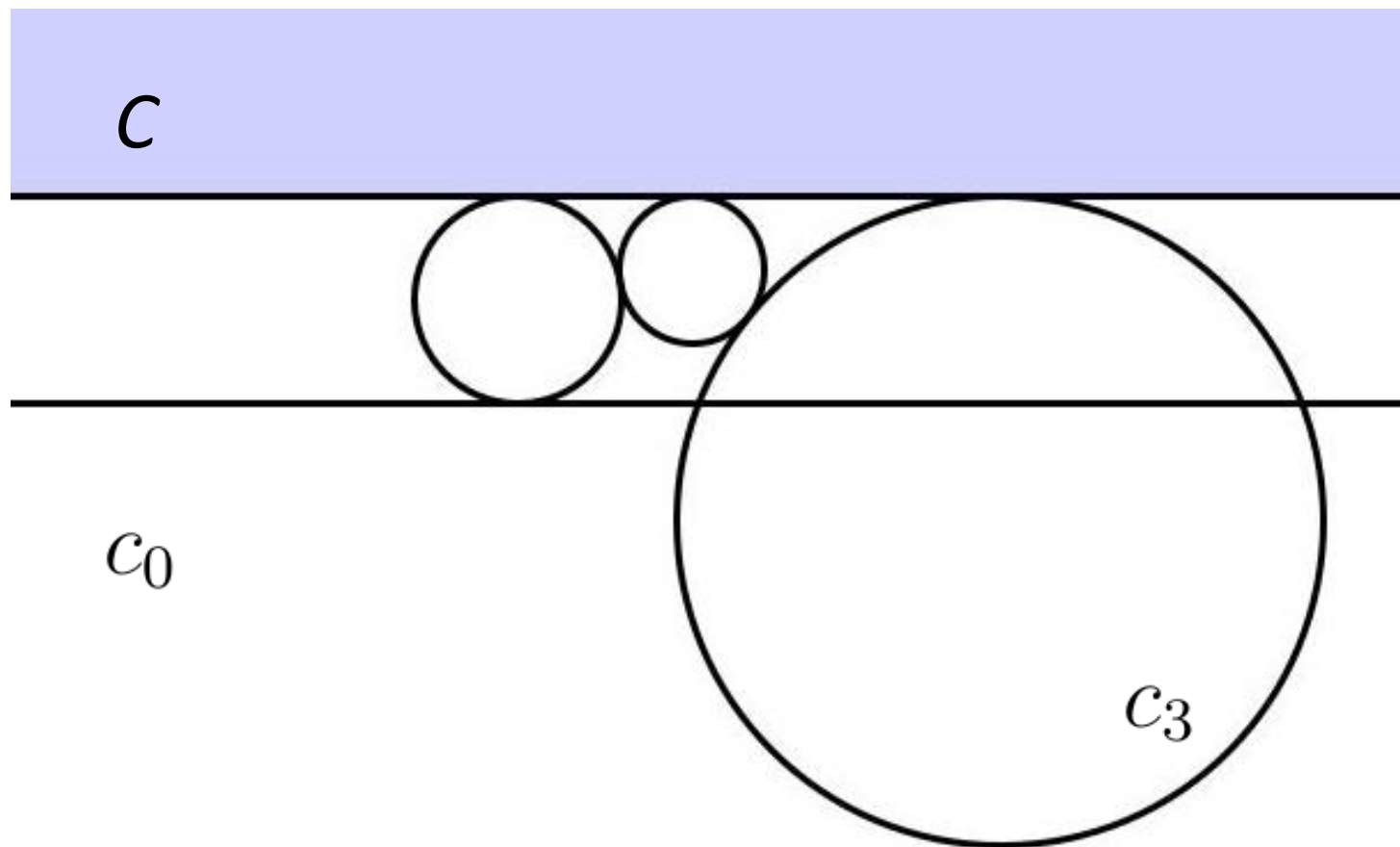




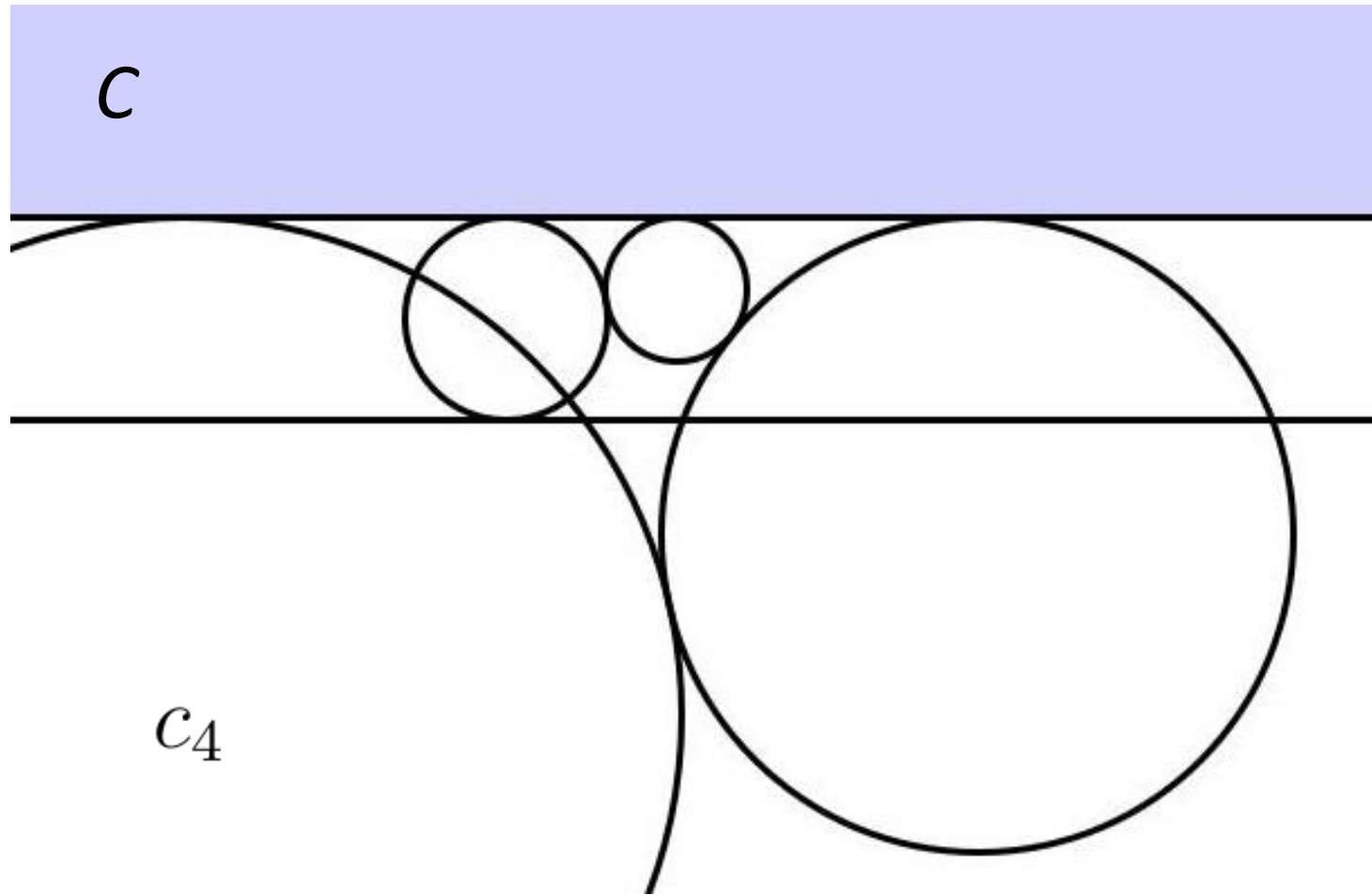
Branching appears:



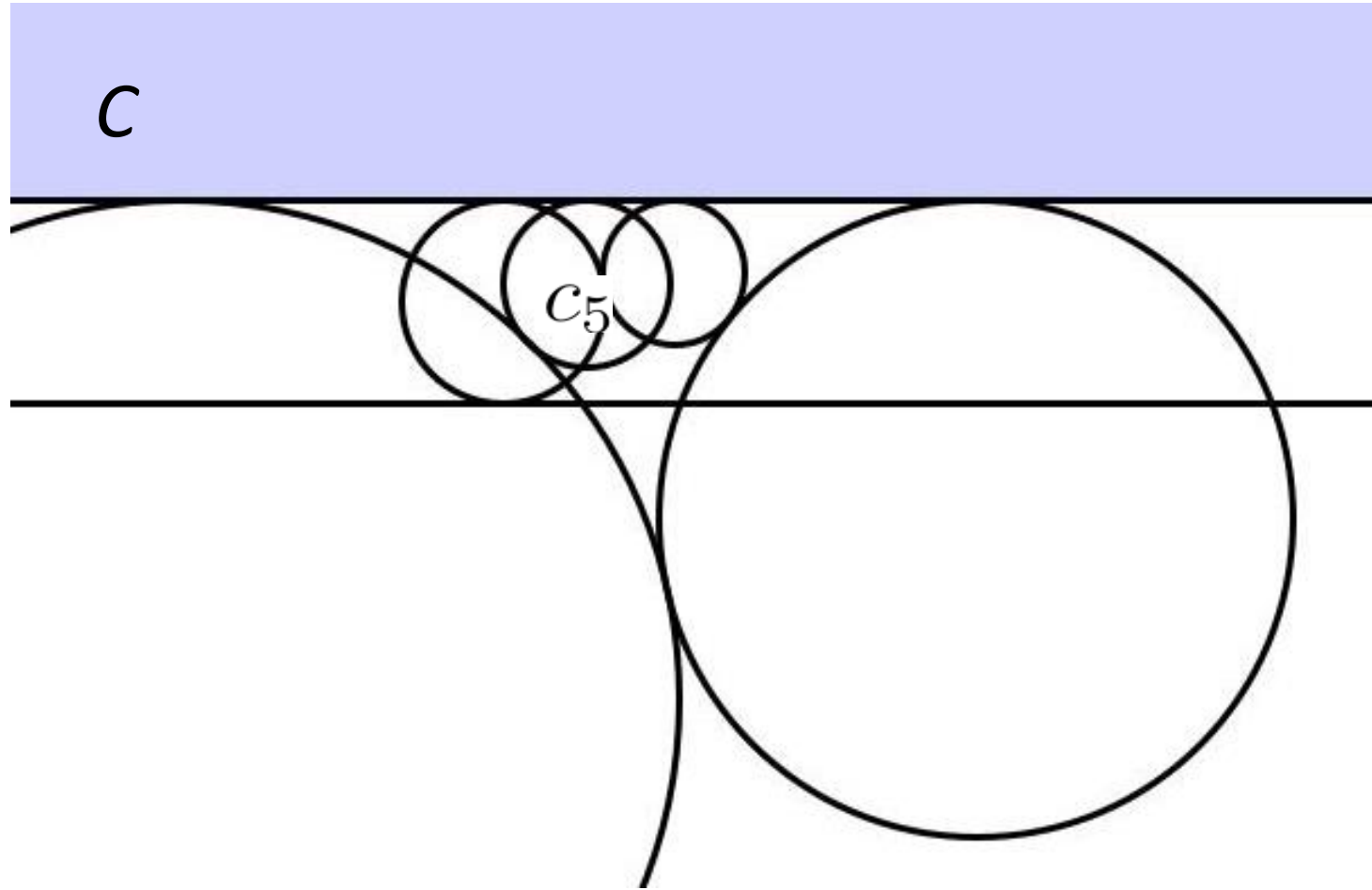
Branching appears:



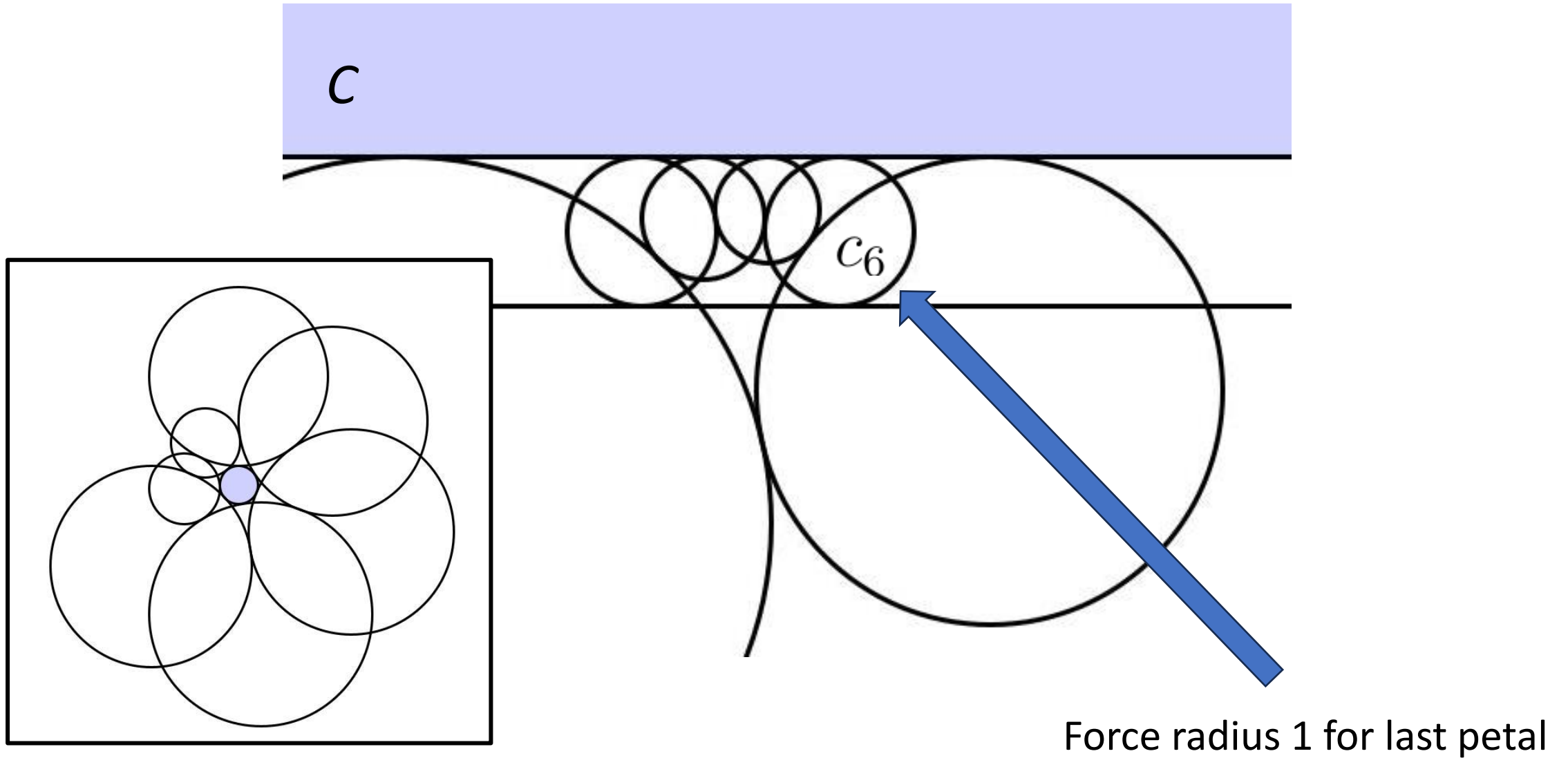
Branching appears:



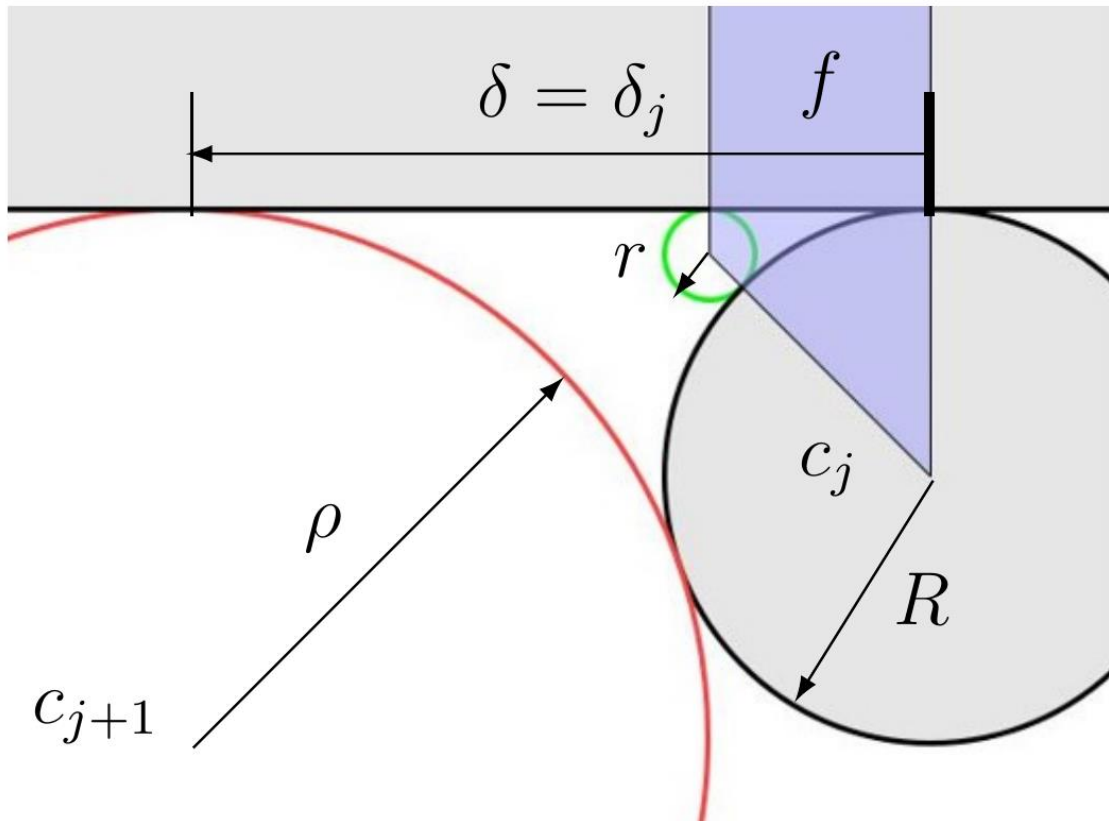
Branching appears:



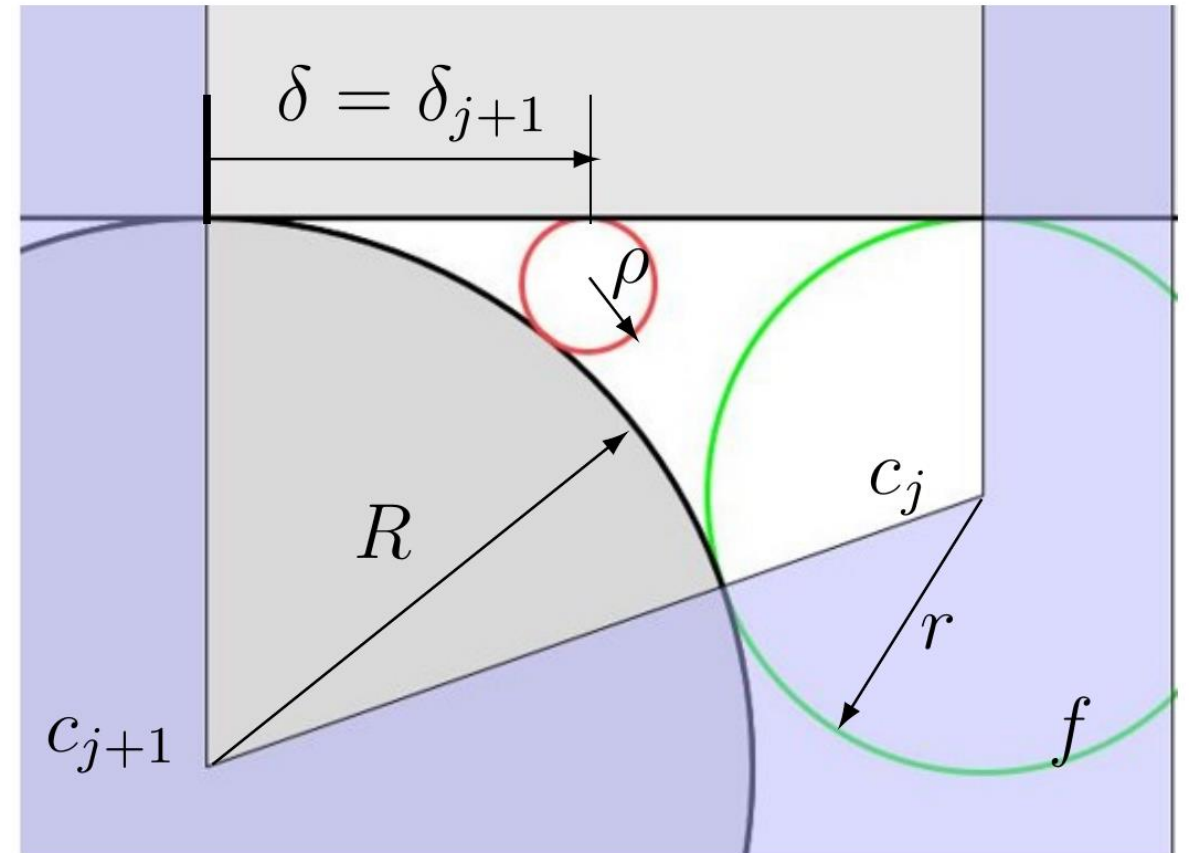
Branching appears:



## Branching Starts:



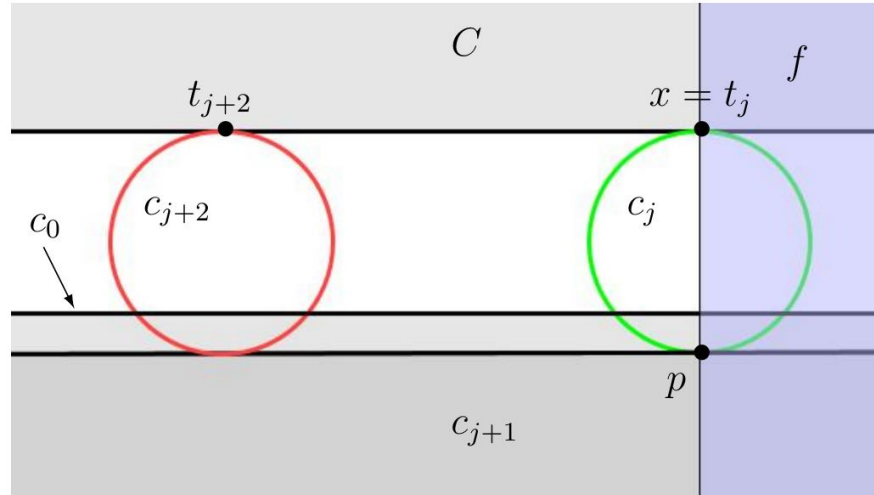
A negative displacement



$$\delta(u, r, R) = \frac{2R}{(\sqrt{3}u + \sqrt{R/r})} \quad \rho = \frac{1}{(\sqrt{3}u/\sqrt{R} + 1/\sqrt{r})^2}$$

**Theorem:** Given schwarzians  $\{s_1, \dots, s_{n-3}\}$ , the **Layout Process** results in a legitimate  $n$ -flower except in the following two situations:

- (a) when  $c_{n-2}$  is tangent to  $C$  at infinity or
- (b) when the computed  $s_0$  exceeds 1.



**Upshot in the case of branching?**

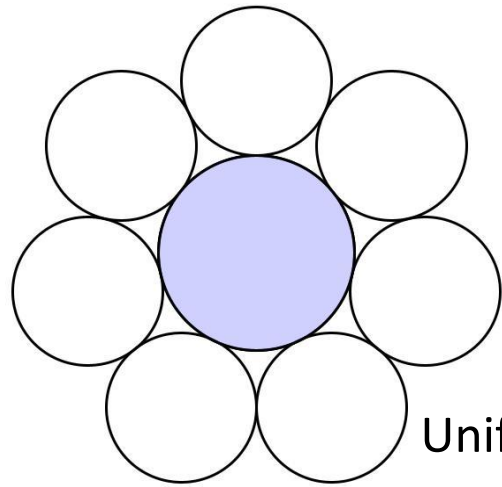
Computations/formulas for normalized flowers continue to hold.

The  $\mathfrak{U}_n$  are no longer explicit and must be interpreted as algorithms.

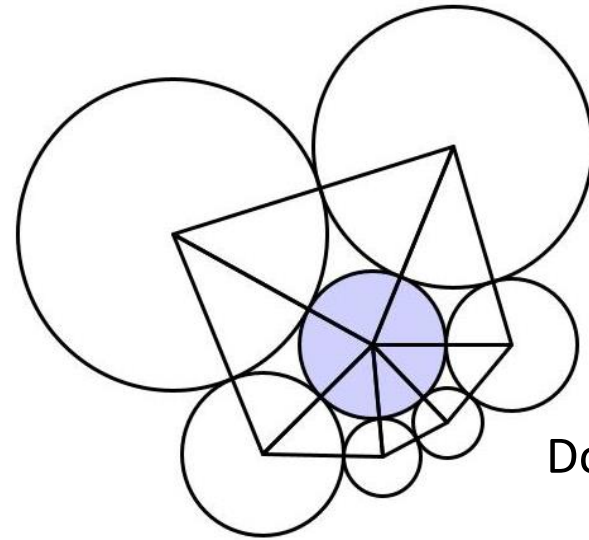


# Schwarzians for Special Classes of Flowers

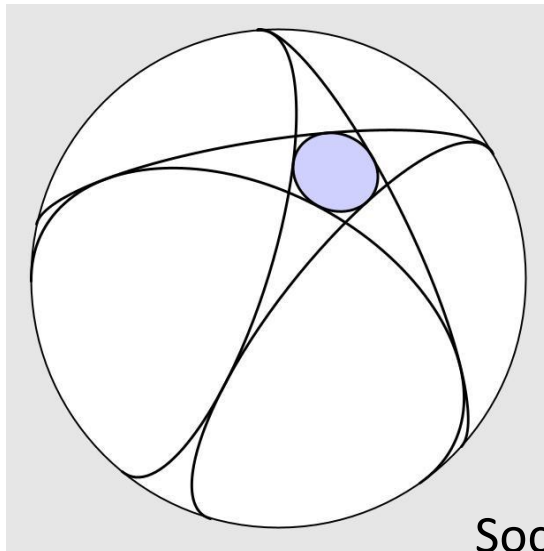
## Special flowers



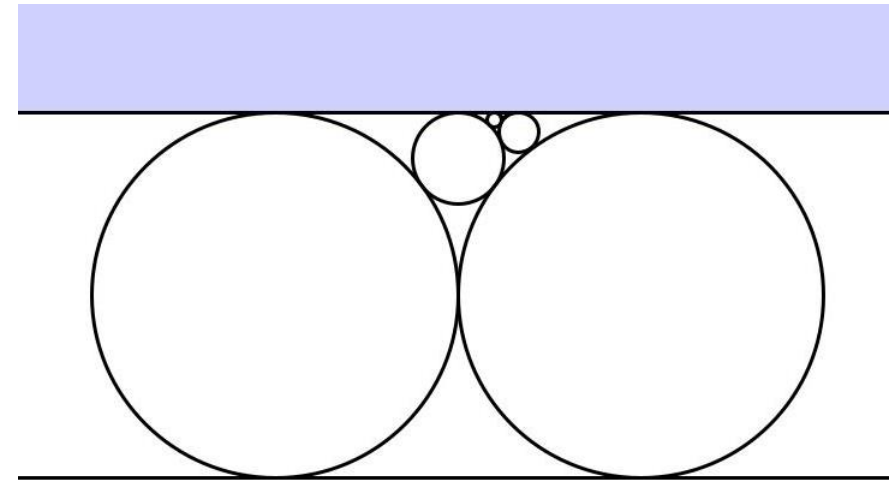
Uniform flower



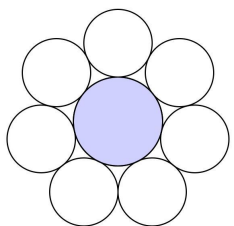
Doyle flower



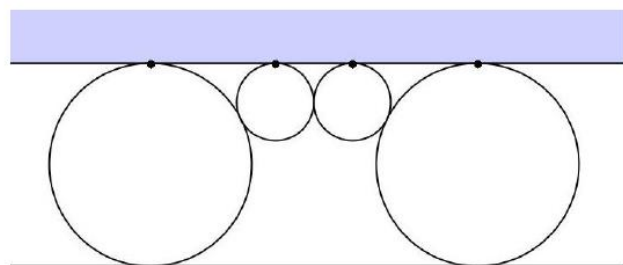
Soccerball flower



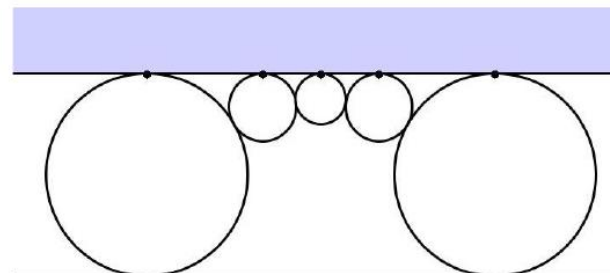
Ring Lemma flower



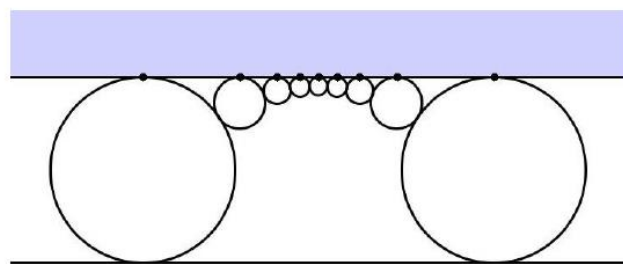
## Uniform Flowers:



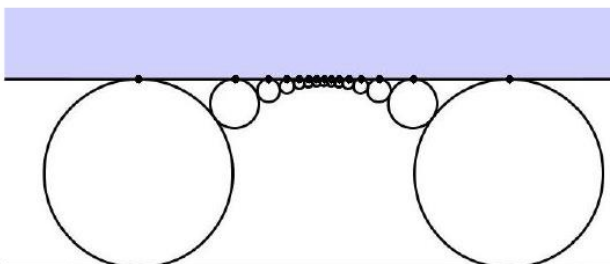
5-flower



6-flower



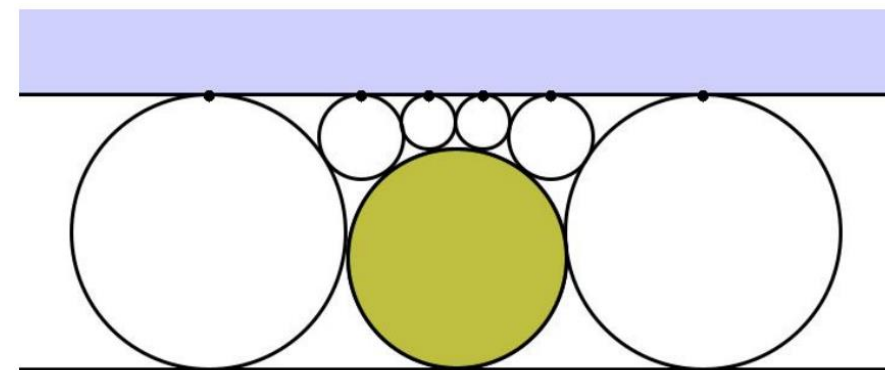
10-flower

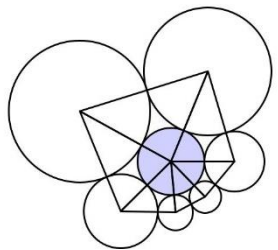


16-flower

For an  $n$ -flower: 
$$\mathfrak{s}_n = 1 - \frac{2 \cos(\pi/n)}{\sqrt{3}}$$

More general: 
$$s = 1 - \frac{2 \cos(\alpha)}{\sqrt{3}}$$





## Doyle Flowers:

Two-parameter family: For  $a > 0, b > 0$  the pattern of petal radii is:

$$\text{Radii: } \left\{ a, b, \frac{b}{a}, \frac{1}{a}, \frac{1}{b}, \frac{a}{b} \right\}$$

Pairing similar faces, get repeat pattern of edge labels:

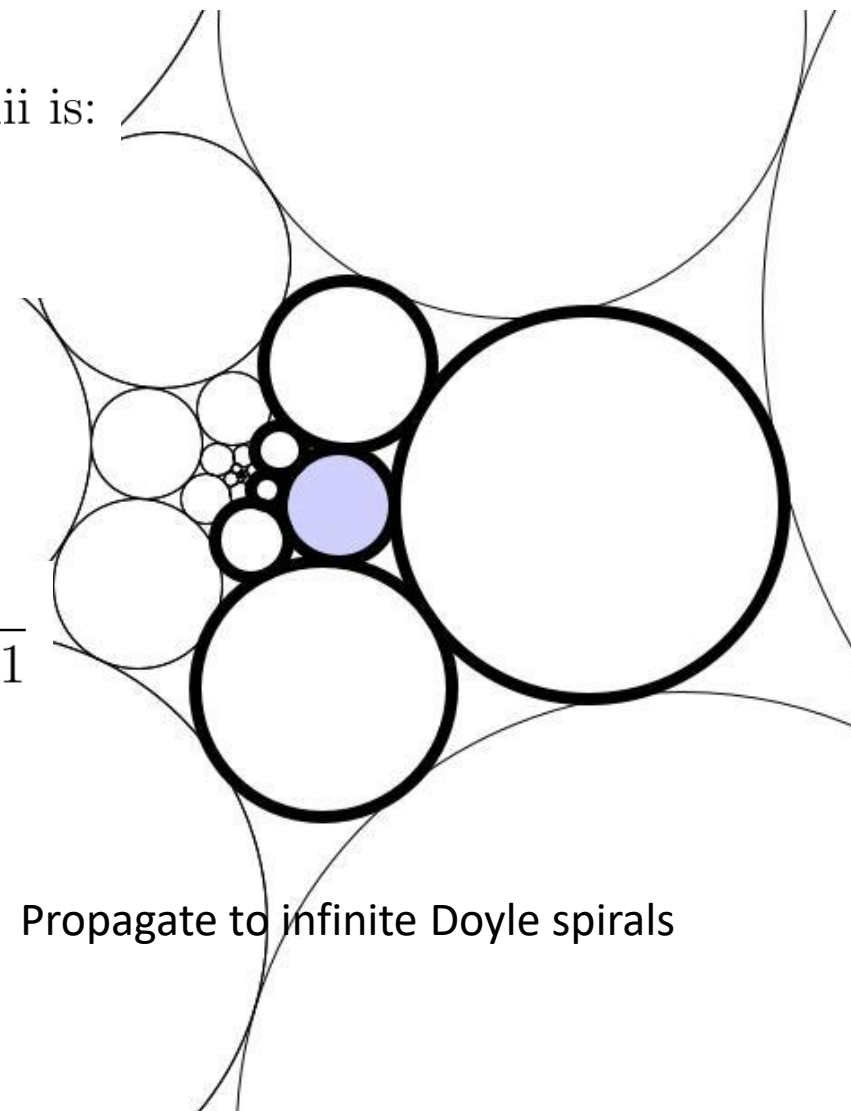
$$\text{Edge labels: } \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1, u_2, u_3\}$$

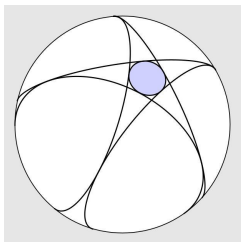
$$u_1 = \mathfrak{U}_6(u_1, u_2, u_3) = \frac{u_1 u_2}{3u_1 u_2 u_3 - u_1 - u_3} \implies u_3 = \frac{u_1 + u_2}{3u_1 u_2 - 1}$$

So this is also a two-parameter family:  $u_1 > 0, u_2 > 0$ .

Are there other local patterns that propagate ad infinitum?

Perhaps in square-grid combinatorics?





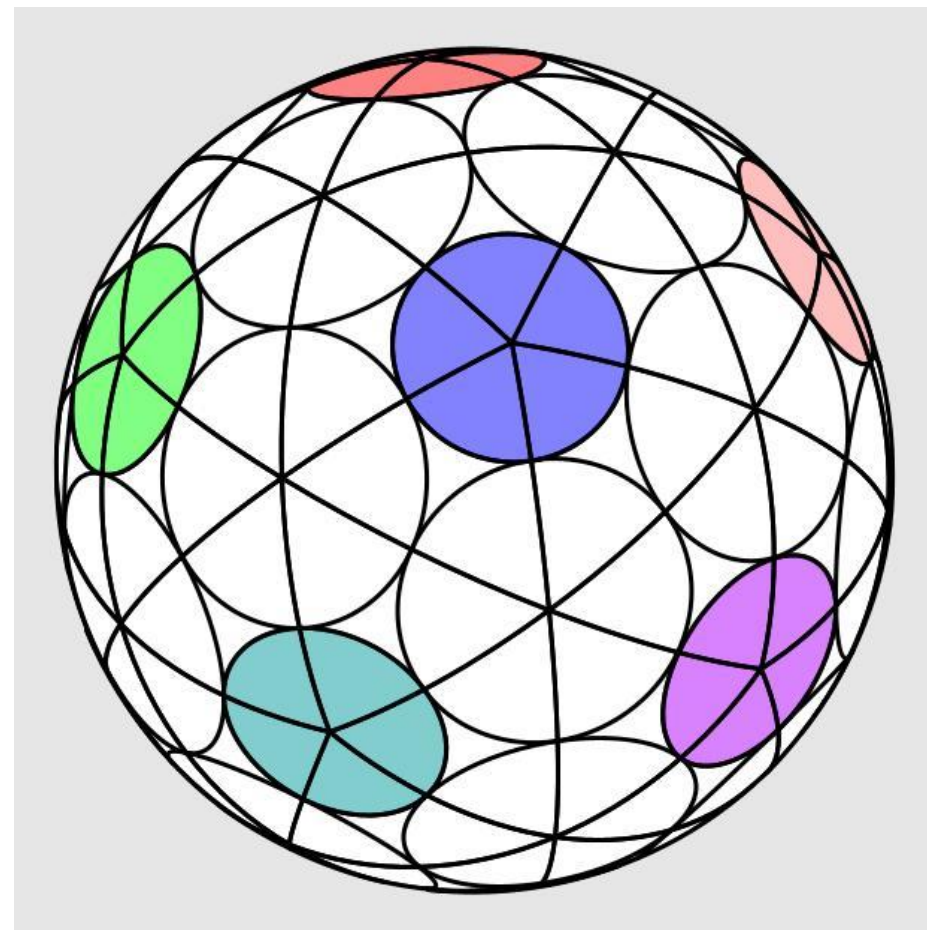
## Soccerball Flowers

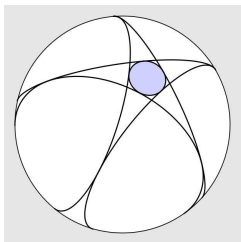
$K$  and its max packing  $P_K$  have dodecahedral symmetry: 42 verts, 12 degree 5, 30 degree 6.

- By symmetry,  $\exists$  just 2 schwarzians,  $s$  and  $s'$ .
- 5-flowers are uniform, so  $u = 1 - s = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \cos(\pi/5)$ .
- 6-flowers have alternating pattern  $\{u, u', u, u', u, u'\}$ , thus  $u' = \frac{uu'}{3uu'u - u - u'}$ , which yields  $uu' = 1$ .

Therefore, for  $P_K$ :

$$s = 1 - \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \cos(\pi/5) \text{ and } s' = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sec(\pi/5).$$





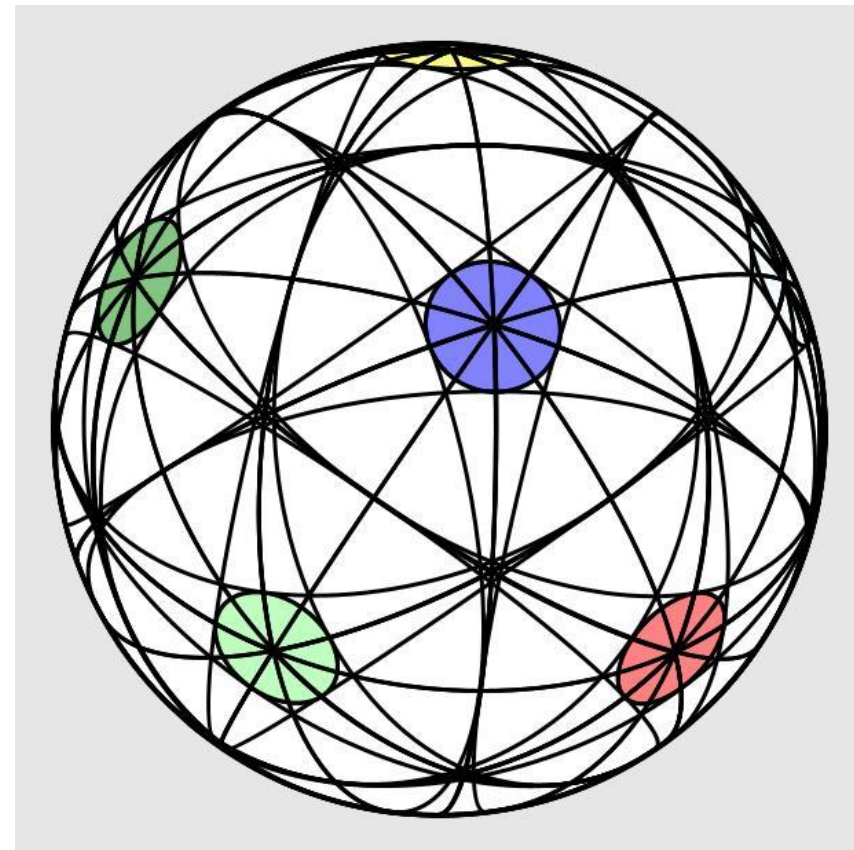
## Branched Soccerball Flowers

The same analysis applies here: there are just two schwarzians,  $s$  and  $s'$  and  $(1-s)(1-s') = 1$ . However, now the petals in each 5-degree flower wrap twice around the center, implying

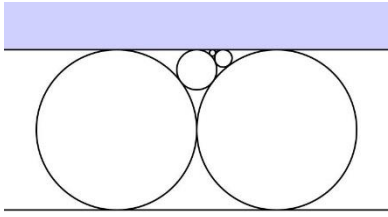
$$s = 1 - \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \cos(2\pi/5) \text{ and } s' = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sec(2\pi/5).$$

There are infinitely many pairs  $s, s'$  satisfying  $(1-s)(1-s') = 1$  which can be used to lay out circle packings for this  $K$ .

In general, these generate **topological spheres** with **projective structures**, each having 12 **cone points**.







## Ring Lemma Flowers:

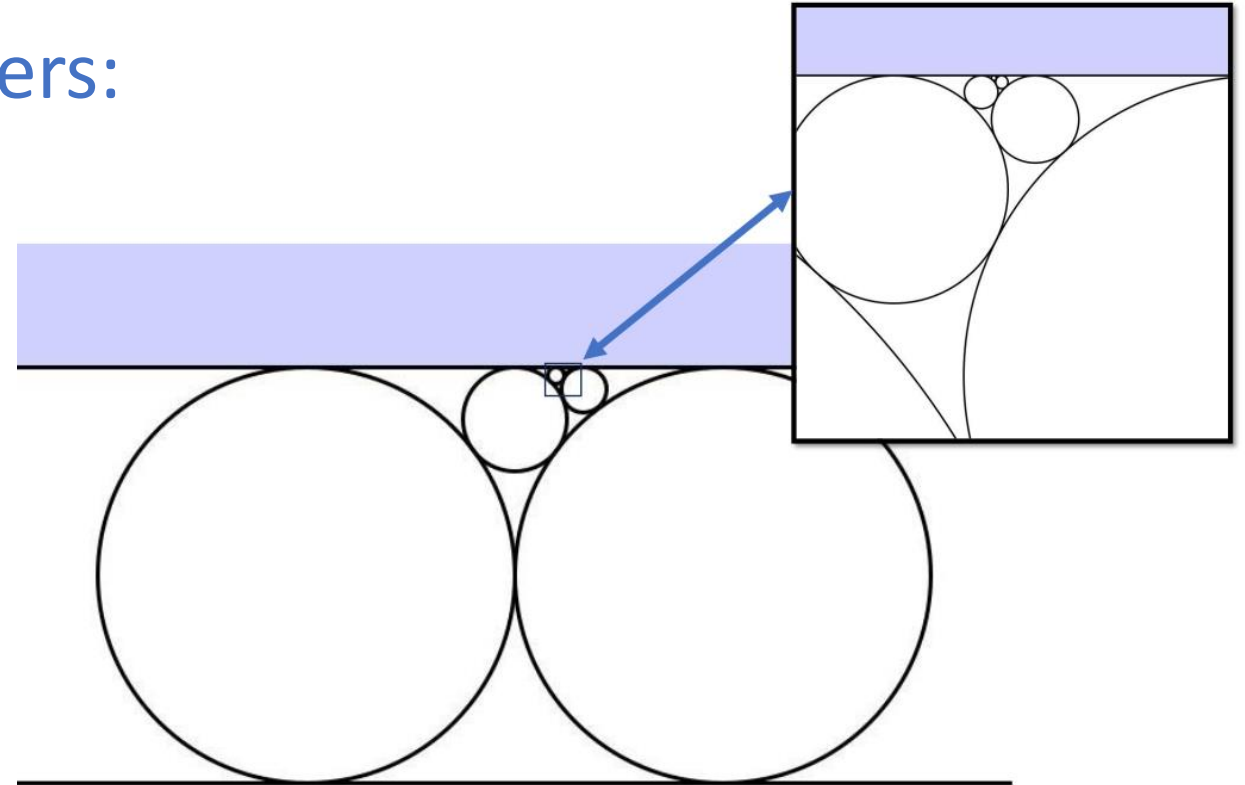
The extremal flowers for the Rodin-Sullivan “ring” lemma have fascinating geometry, with connections to the **Descartes Circle Theorem**, **Farey arithmetic**, **Apollonian packings**, the **golden ratio**, etc.

Procedure: Starting with 3 petals:

- Add a new petal in the smallest interstice,
- Repeat
- Repeat
- .....

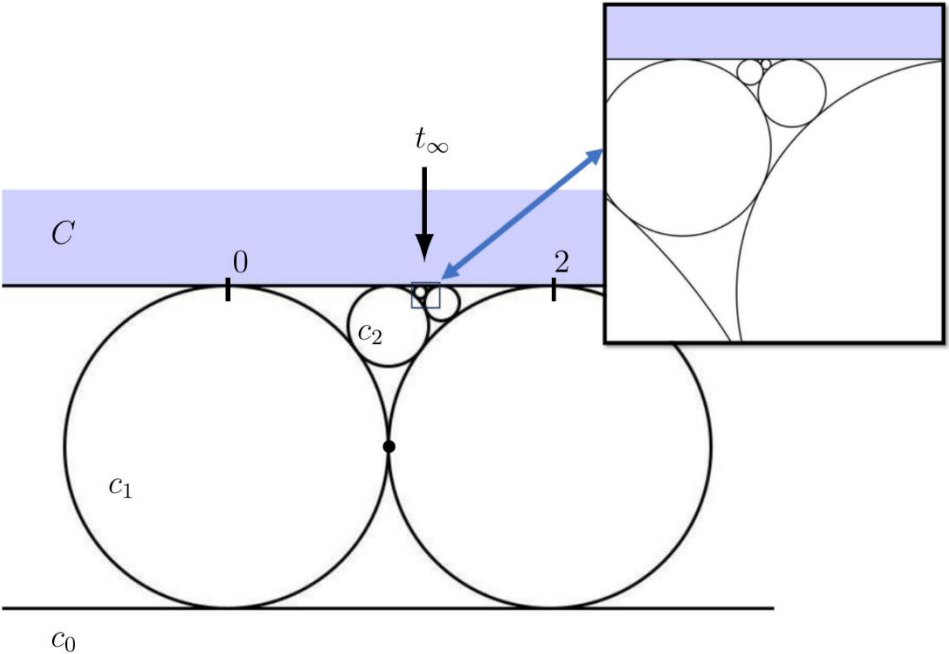
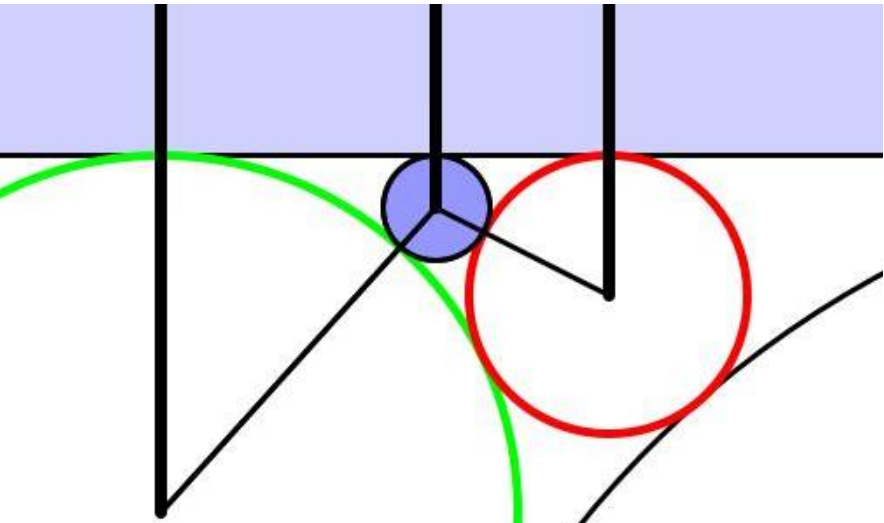
If we stop when we have an  $n$ -flower, here is the sequence of labels:

$$\{\sqrt{3}, \dots, \sqrt{3}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}, \sqrt{3}, \dots, \sqrt{3}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\}$$





# Ring Lemma Steps:



$$\{\sqrt{3}, \dots, \sqrt{3}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}, \sqrt{3}, \dots, \sqrt{3}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\}$$

↓                      ↓

$$\{\sqrt{3}, \dots, \sqrt{3}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \sqrt{3}, \dots, \sqrt{3}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{r_{j+1}}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r_j}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{r_{j-1}}}$$
$$\implies \frac{r}{r'} \longrightarrow \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^2 = \tau^2$$
$$\implies t_\infty = 2/\tau$$

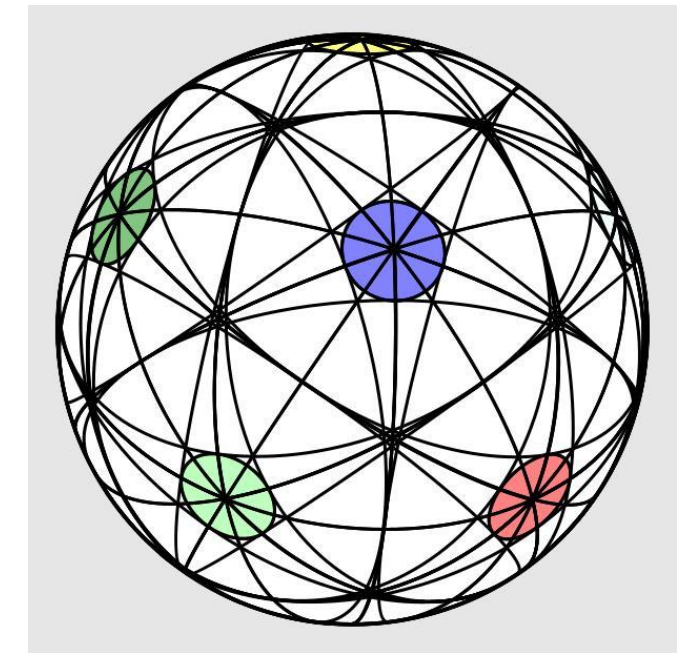
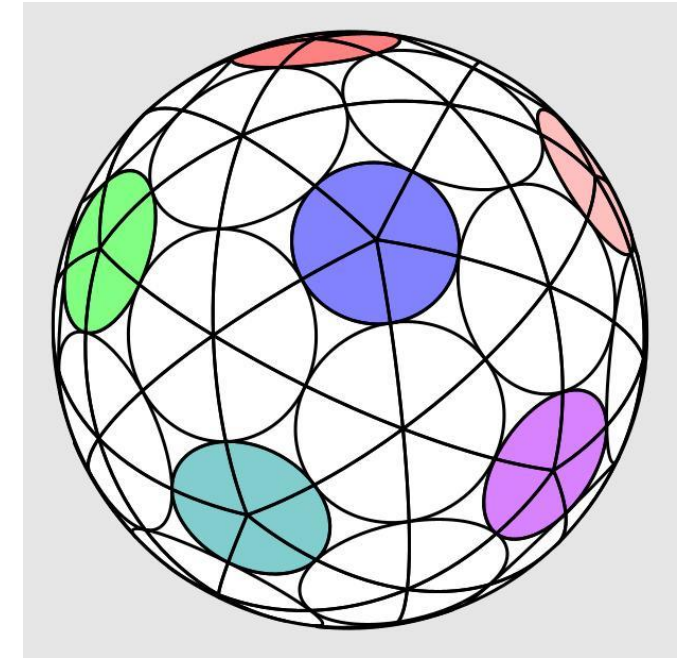
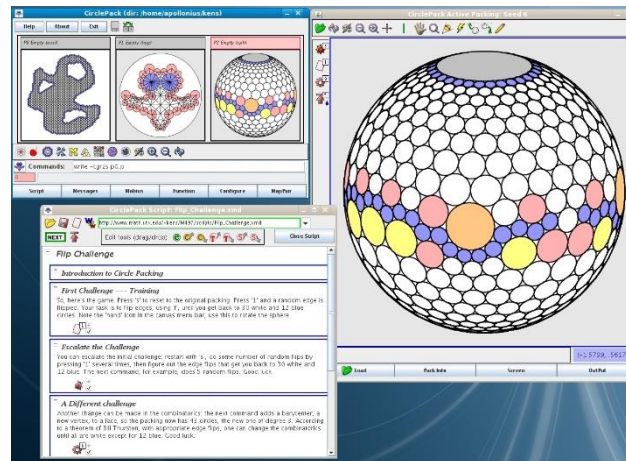
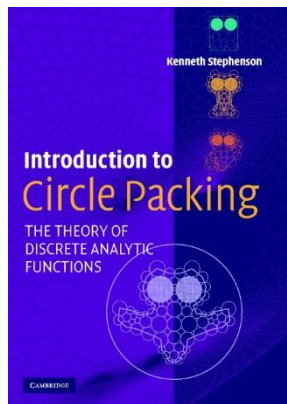
Conclusion: aren't circles grand?

# Concluding Comments:

**Main Question:** How does one compute packing edge labels  $S$  for a complex  $K$ ? The soccerball example relies on extreme symmetry.

Is there a packing algorithm using schwarzians, which lack angle sums, radii, and their associated monotonicities?

In the meantime, there are some beautiful visual, geometric, and numerical results to pursue.



# Thanks for your attention

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6. Burt Rodin and Dennis Sullivan, *The convergence of circle packings to the Riemann mapping*, J. Differential Geometry **26** (1987), 349–360.
7. Oded Schramm, *Circle patterns with the combinatorics of the square grid*, Duke Math. J. **86** (1997), 347–389.
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