

An example of hypergraph approximation and some prospective differential privacy questions

Alexandre Louvet

2026-01-22

INRIA Lille

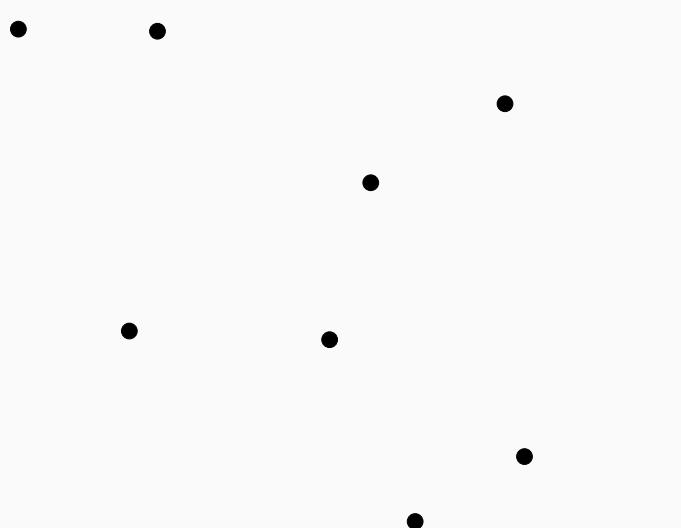
Set systems/Hypergraphs

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$X \leftarrow$ ground set

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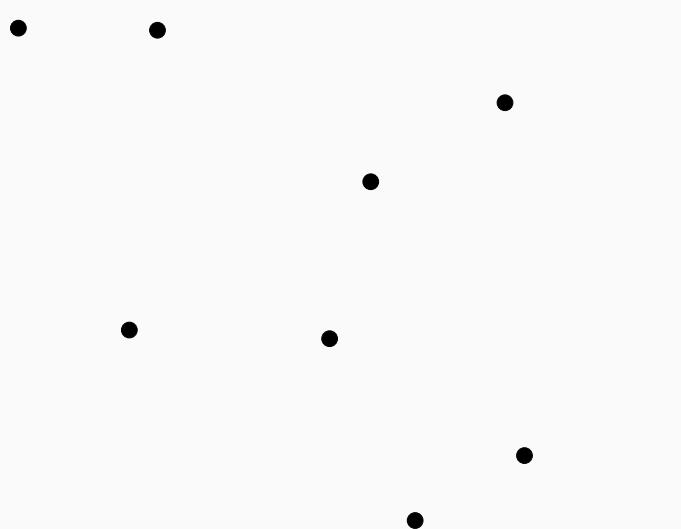
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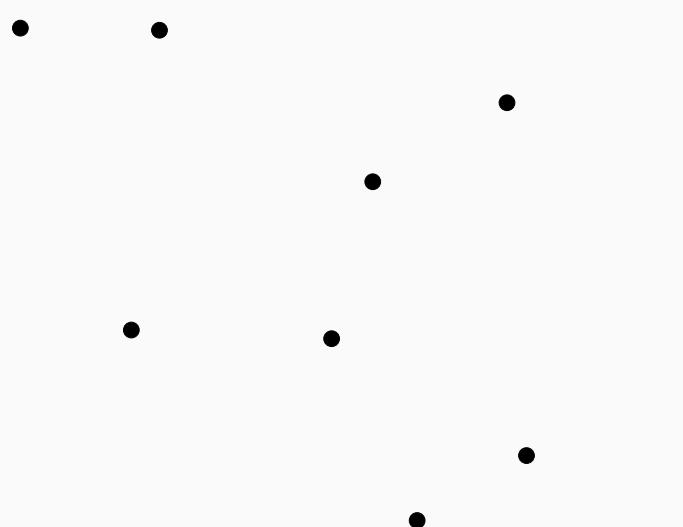


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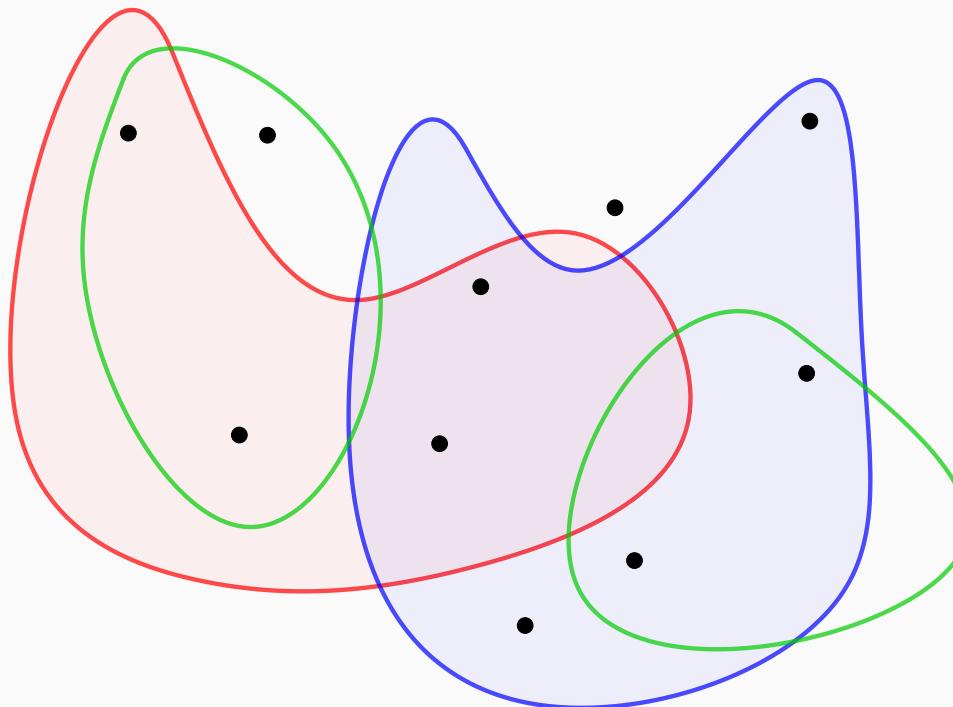


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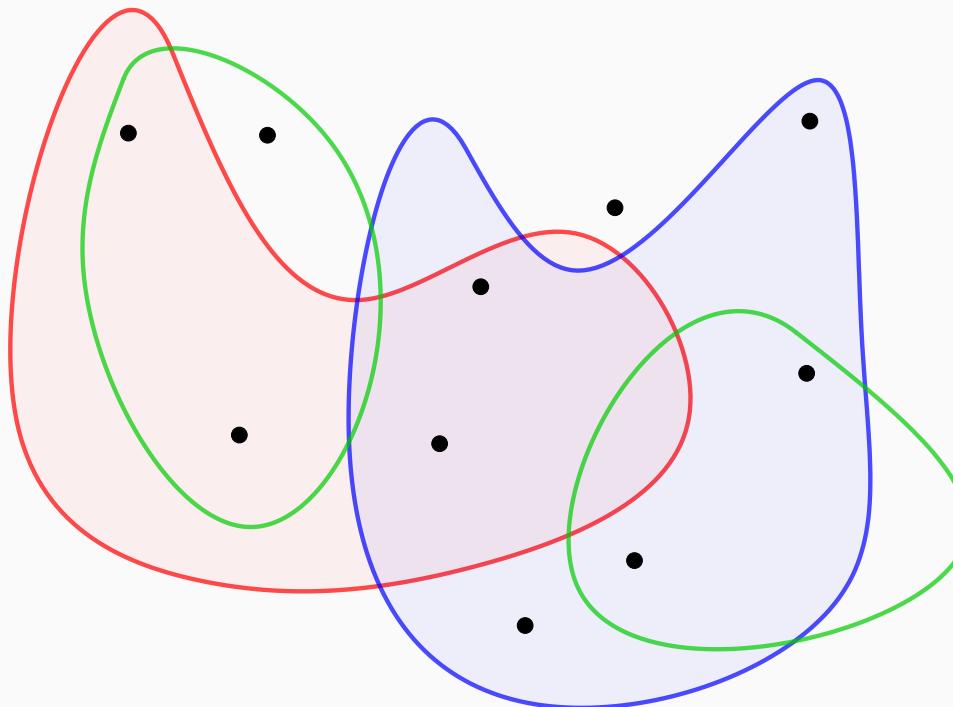
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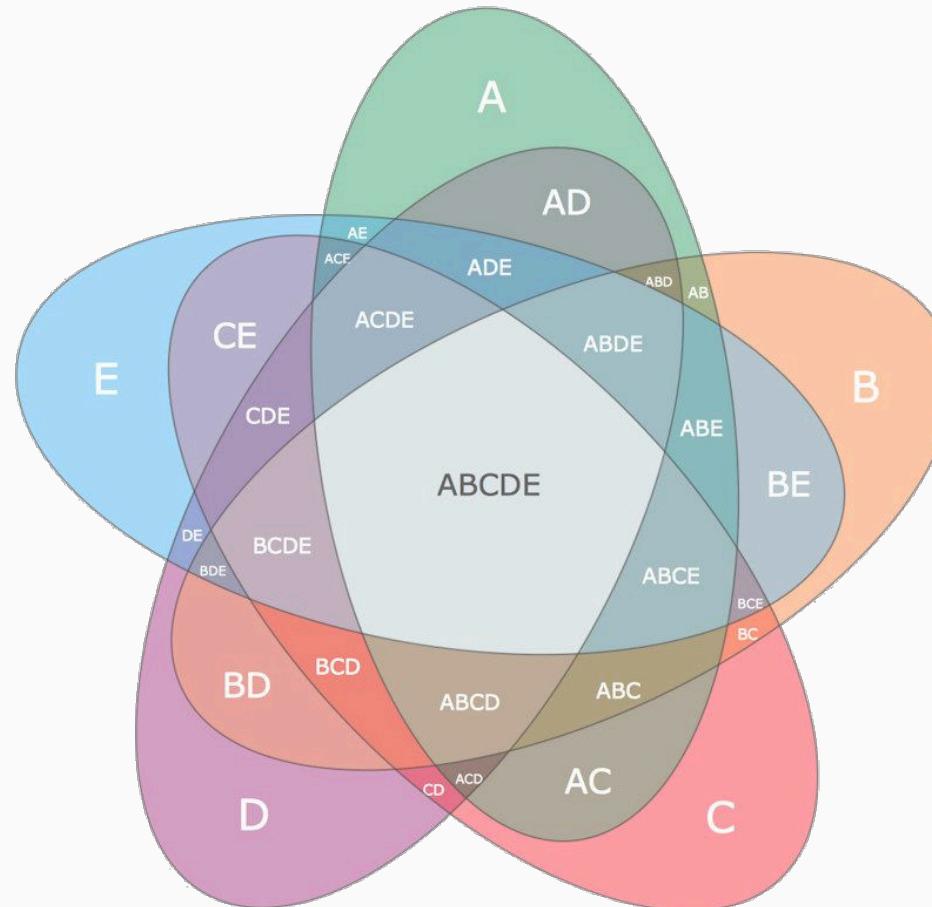
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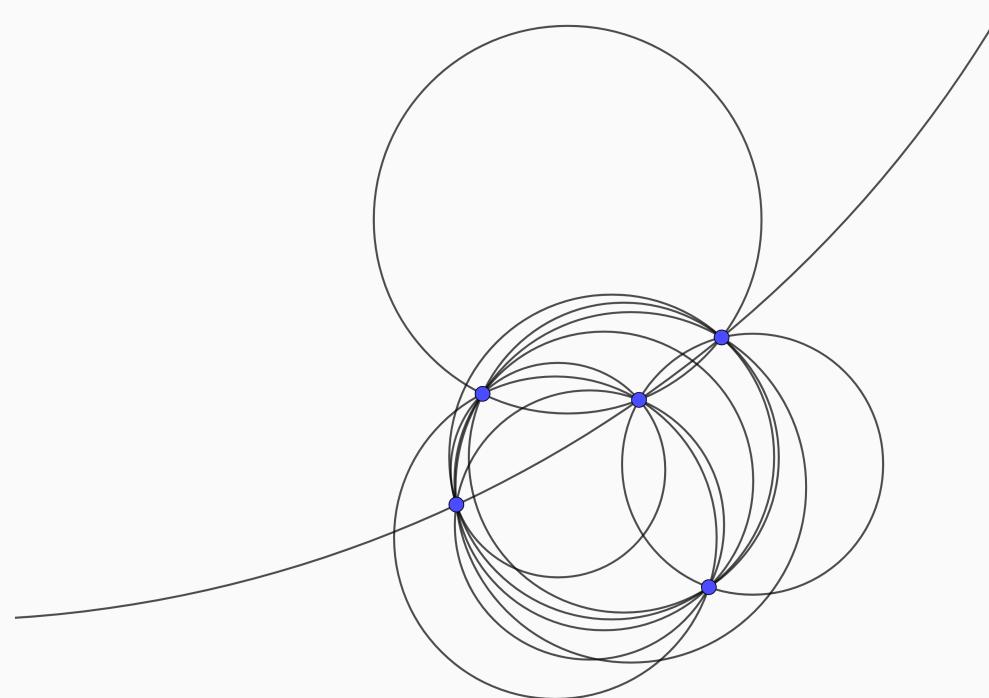


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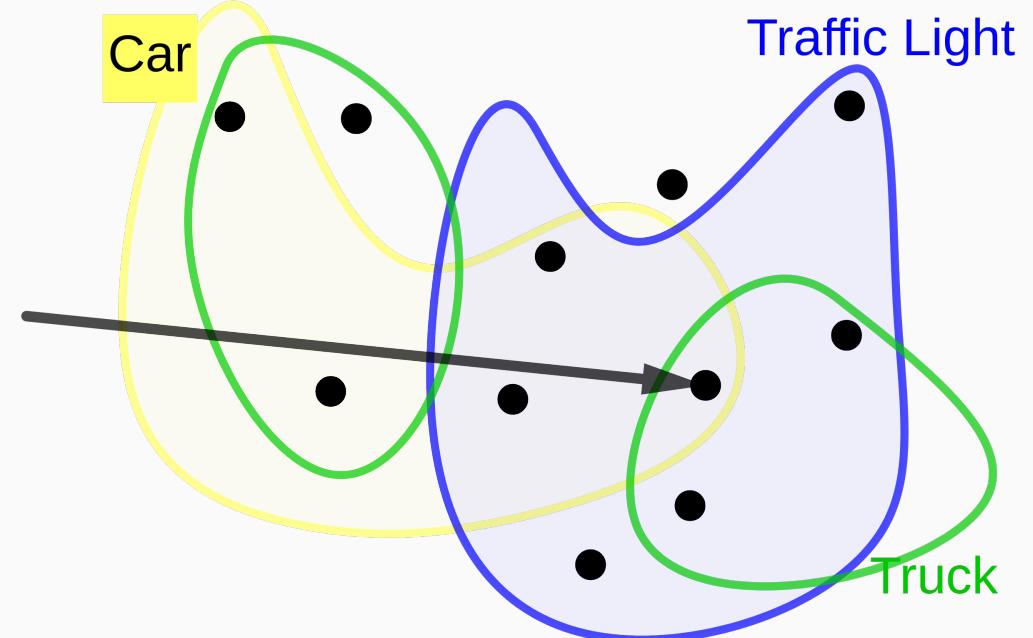
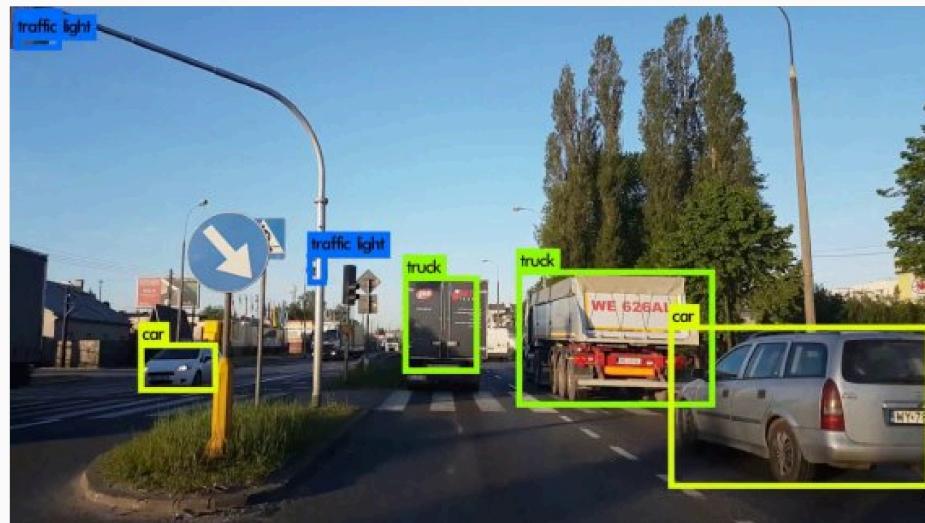


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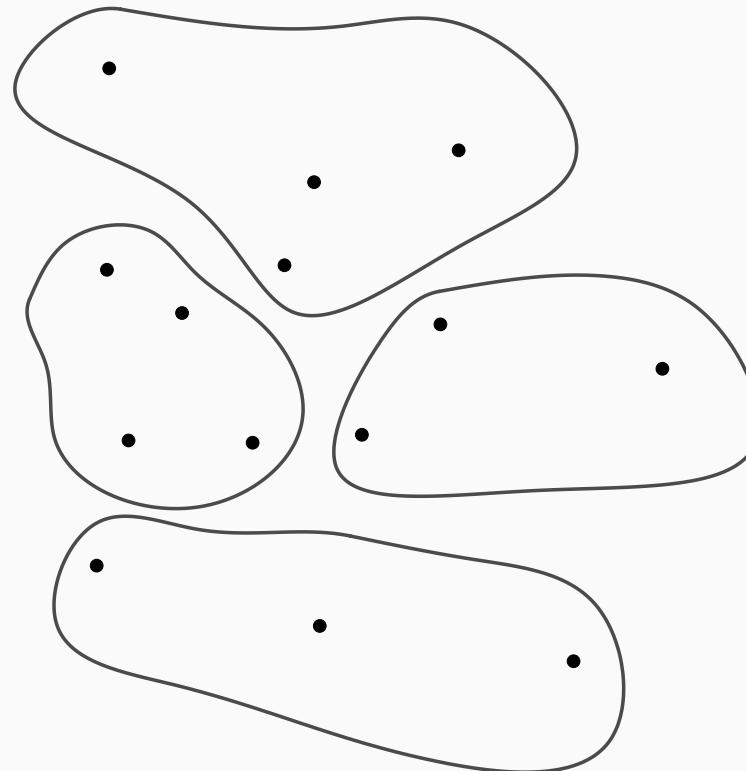
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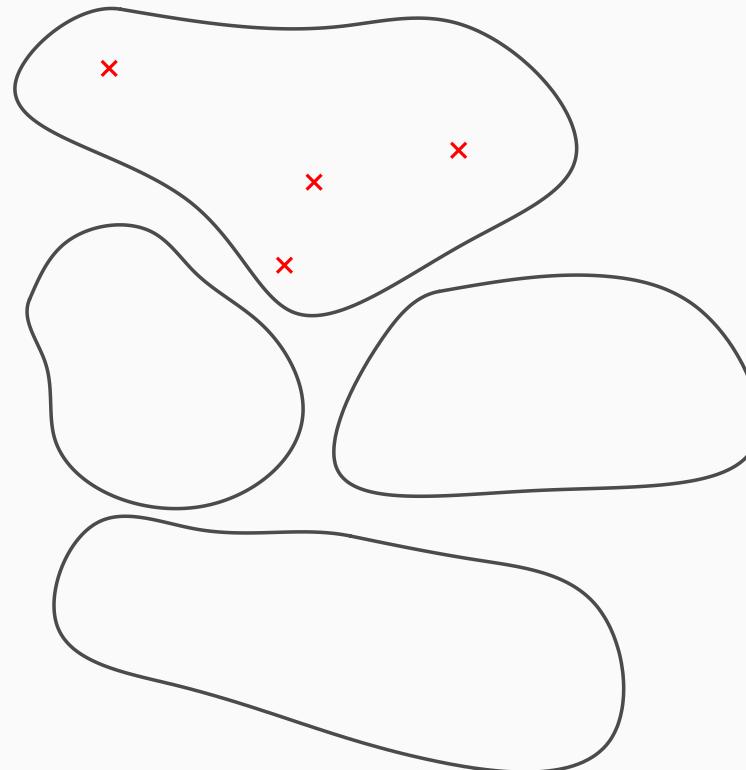
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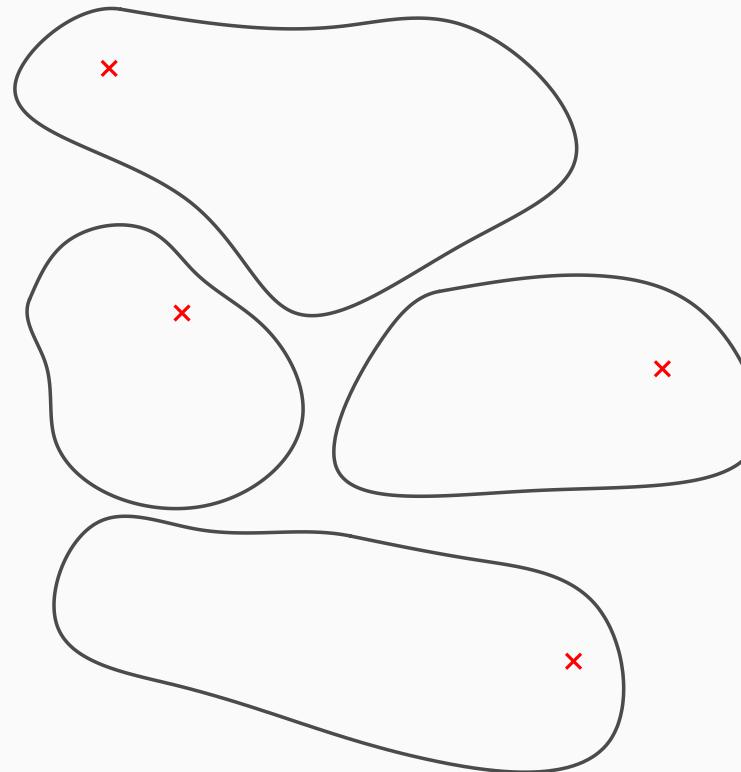
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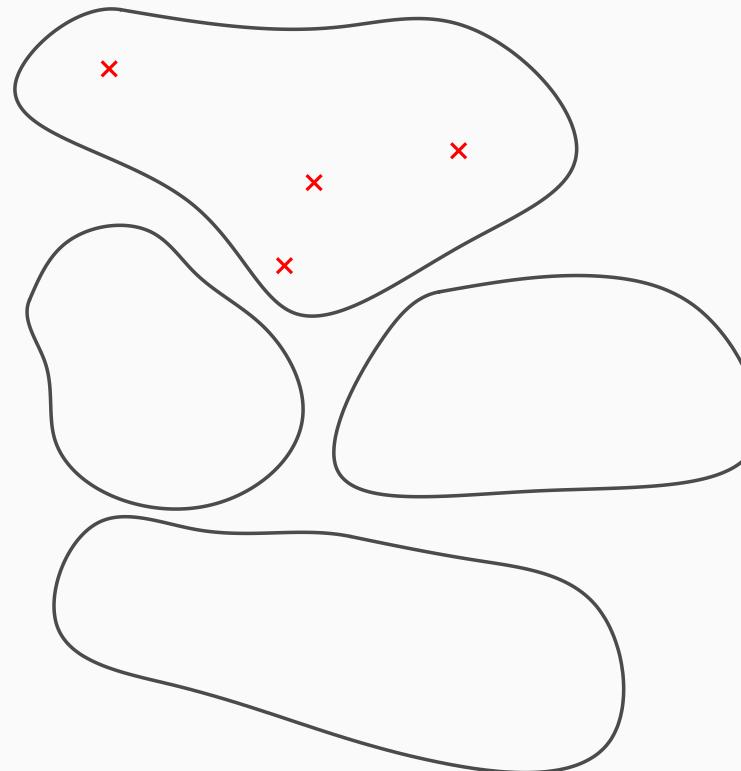


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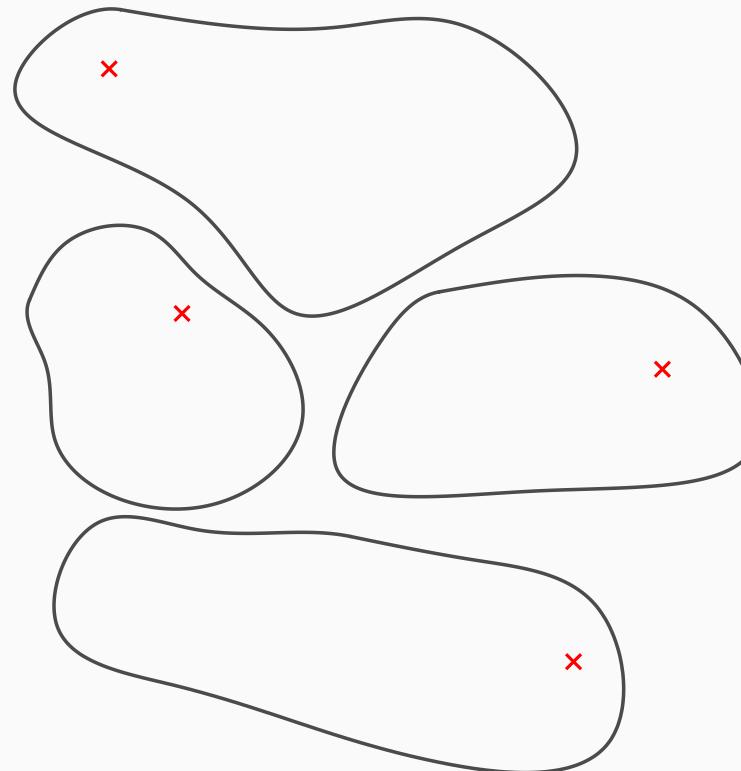
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$$\varepsilon = \frac{10}{14}$$

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Combinatorial discrepancy

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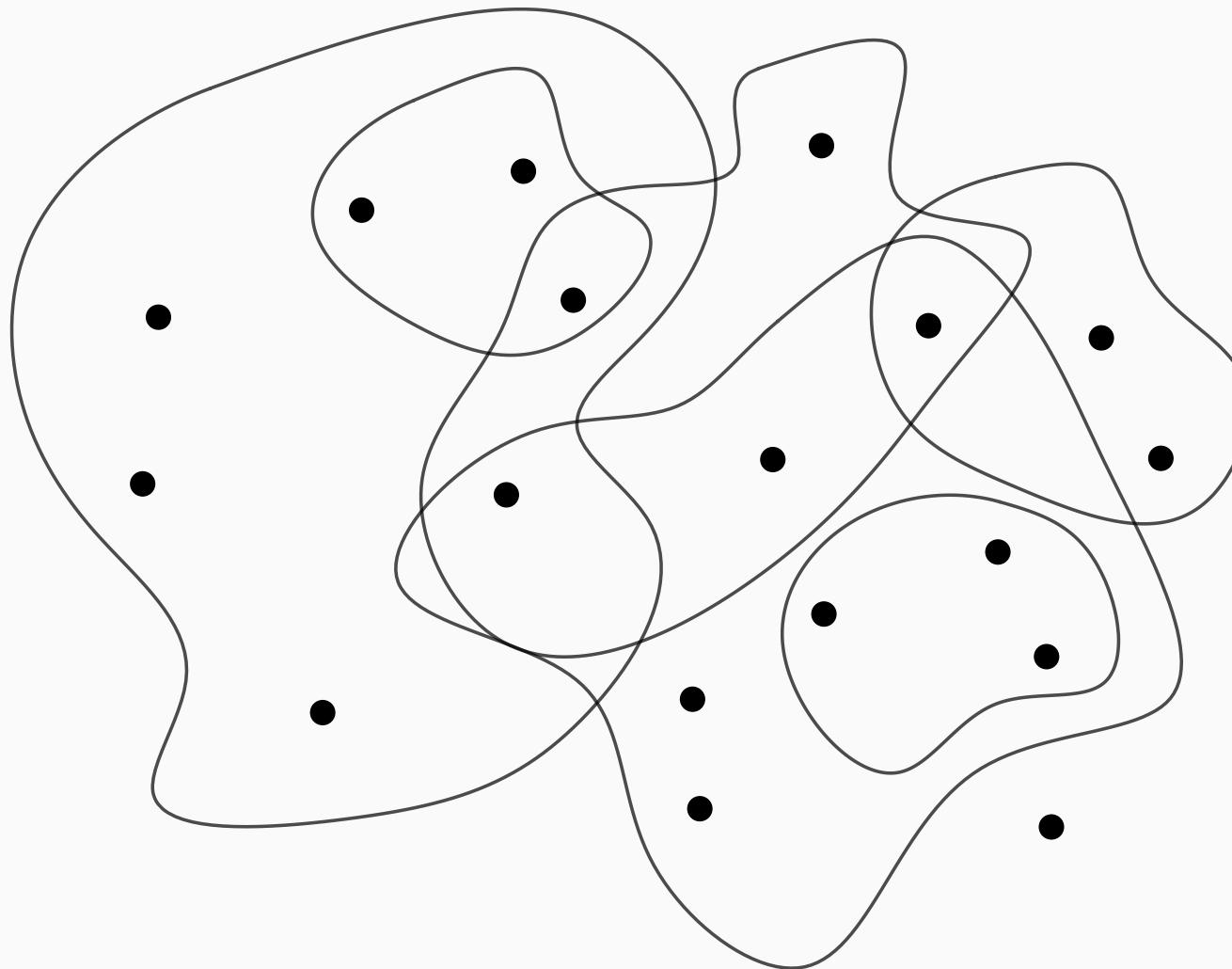
discrepancy w.r.t. χ : $\text{disc}_\chi(X, \mathcal{F}) = \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \underbrace{\sum_{x \in F} \chi(x)}_{|\chi(F)|} \right|$

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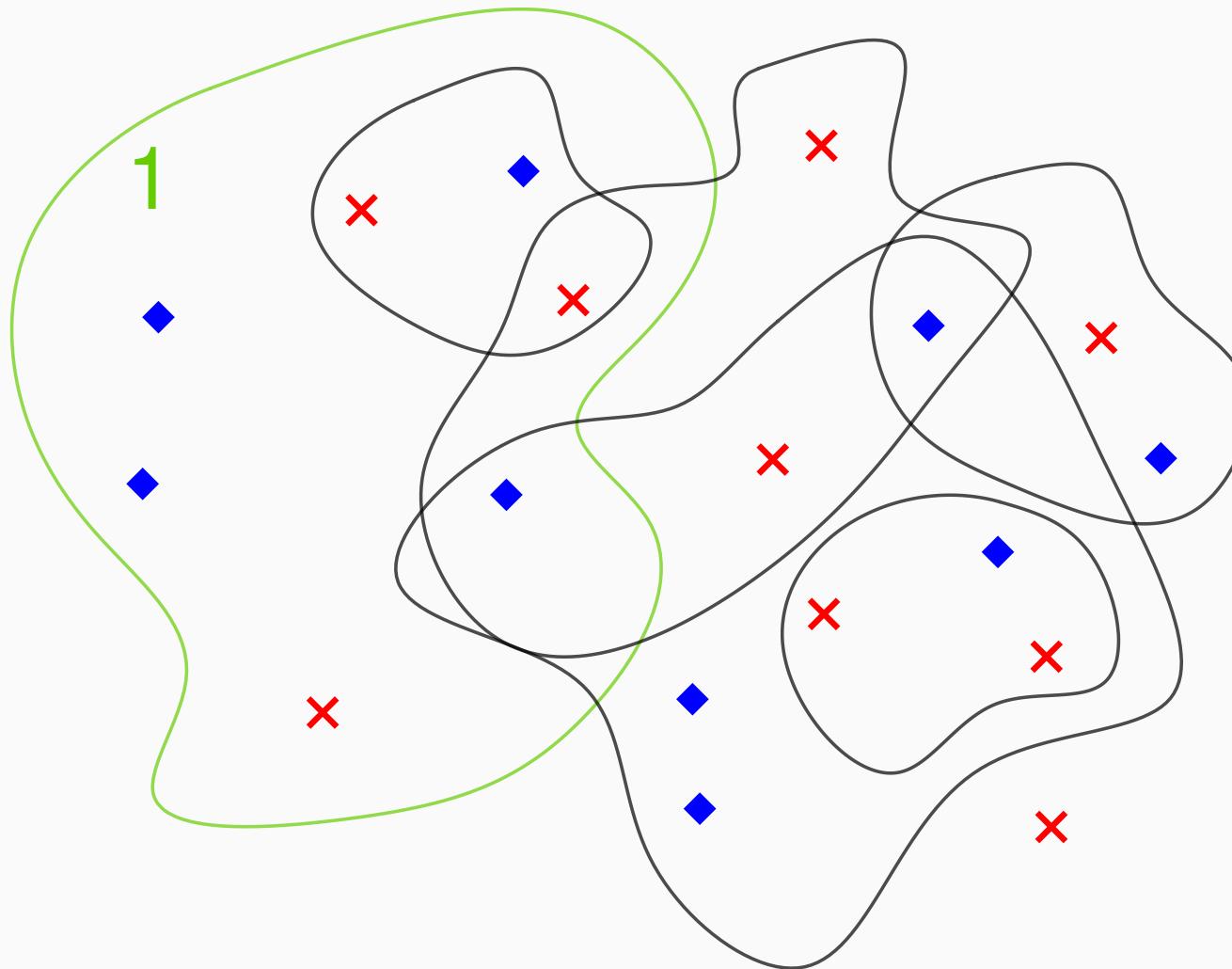
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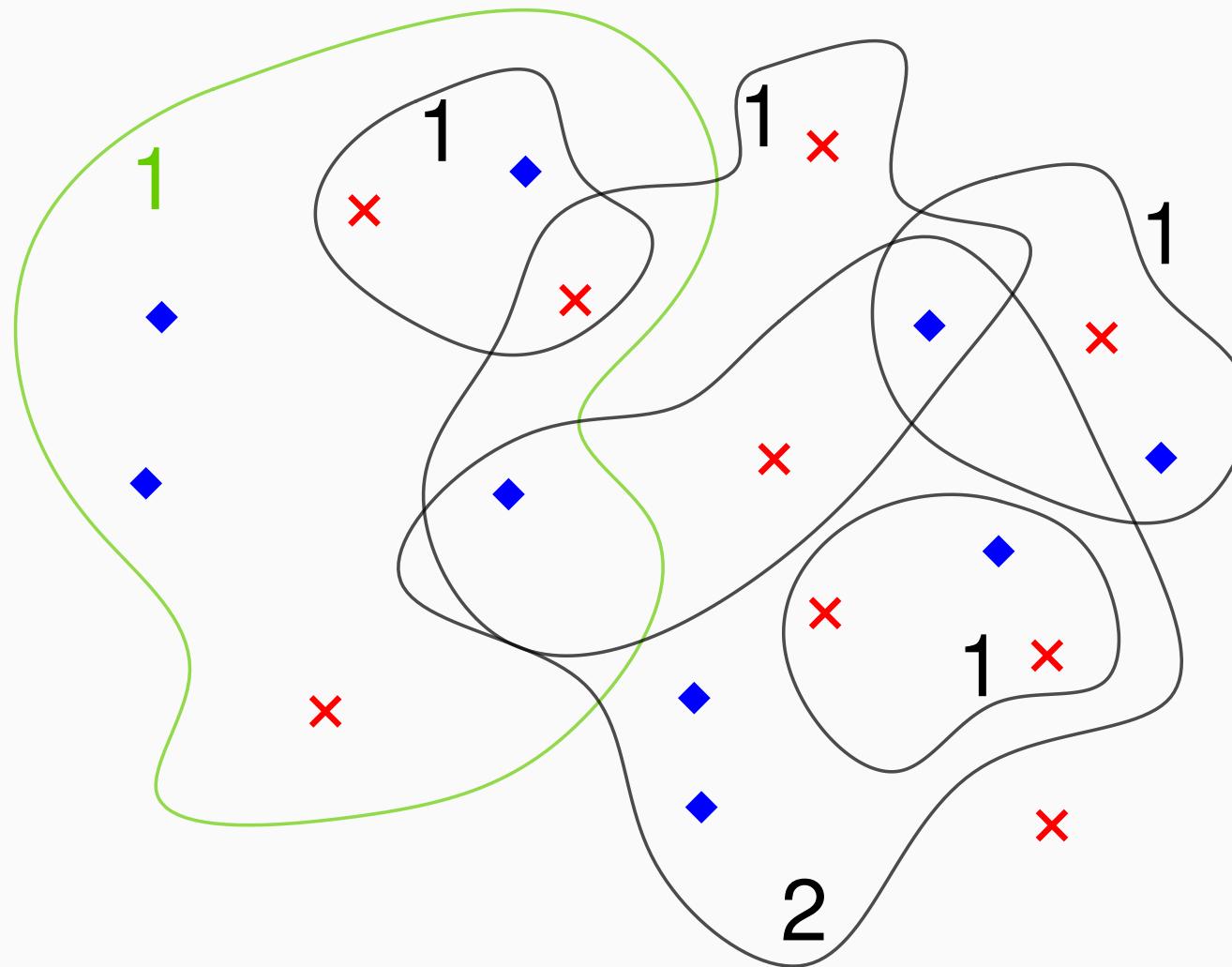
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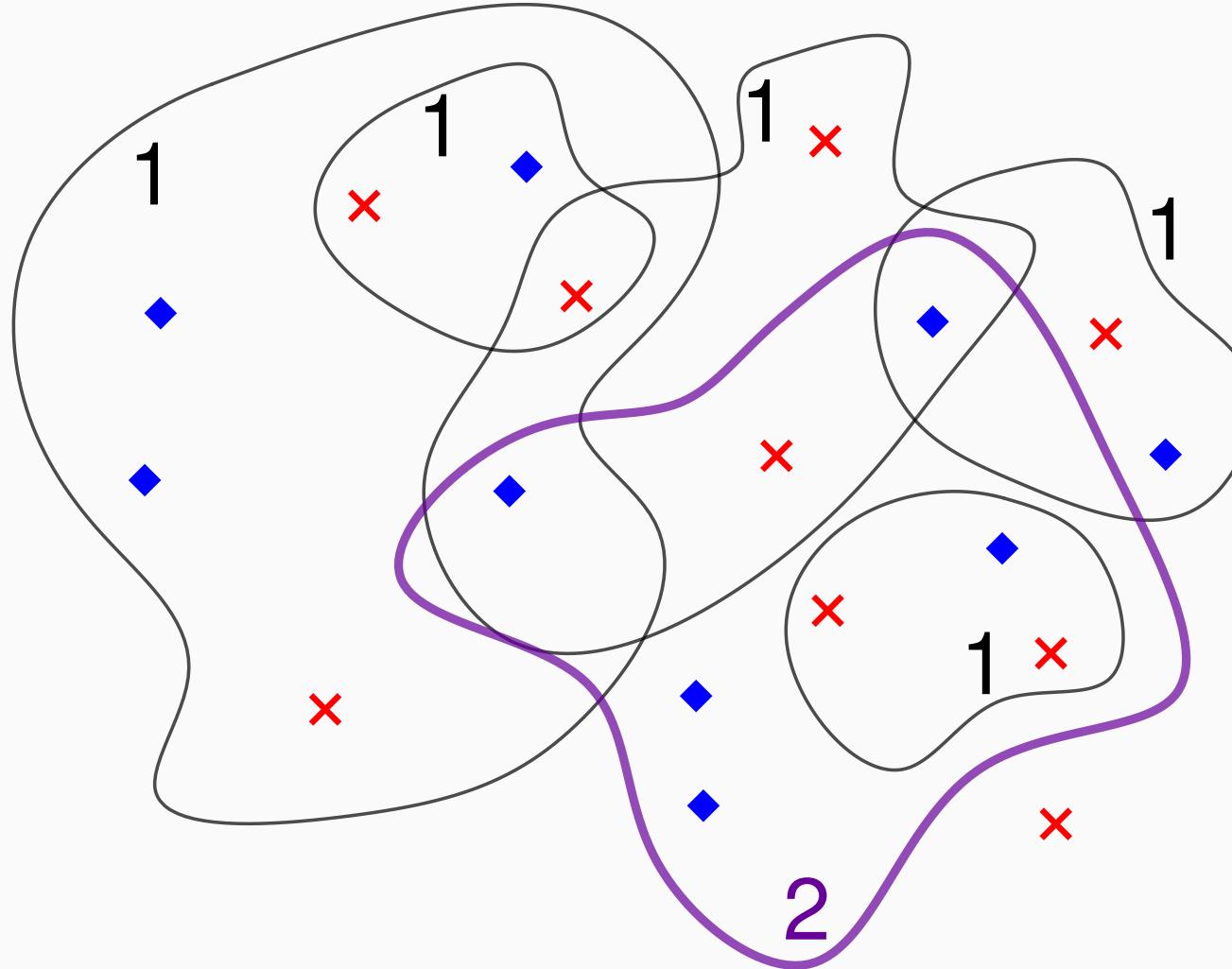
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Goal: Compute a small discrepancy coloring

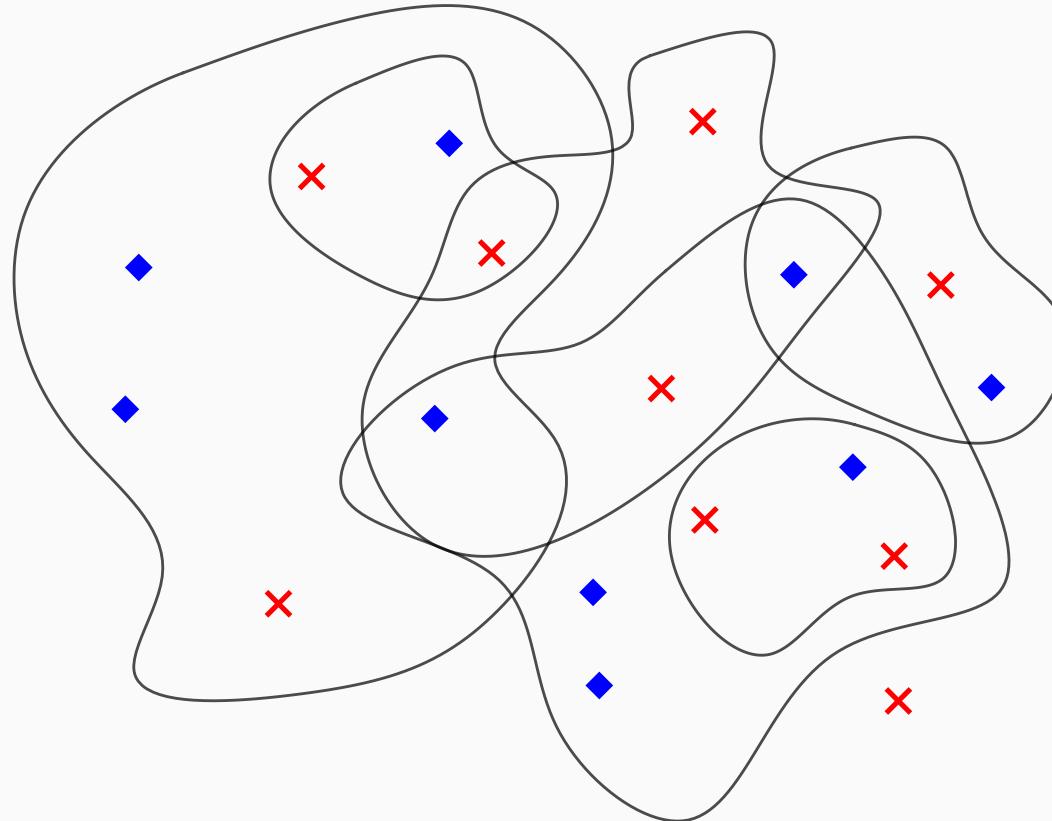
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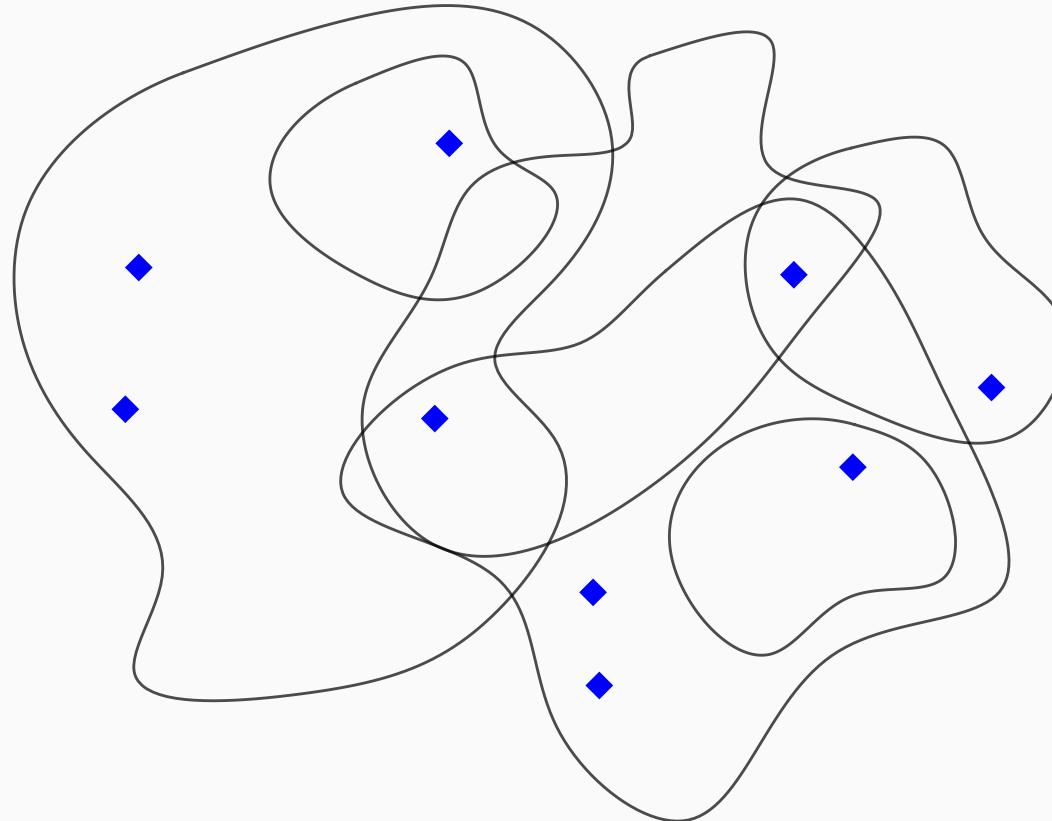
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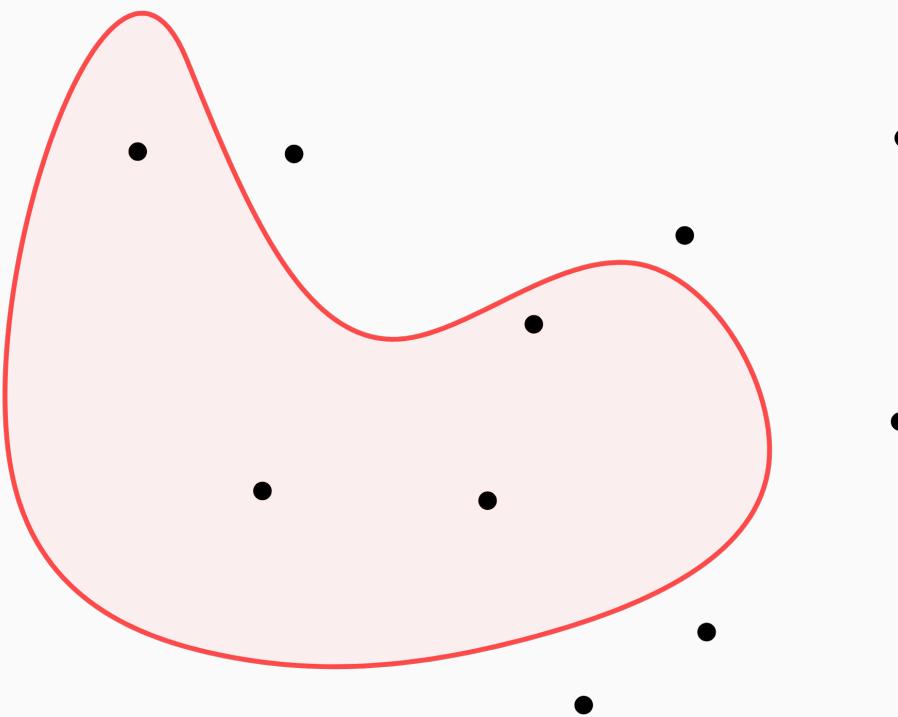
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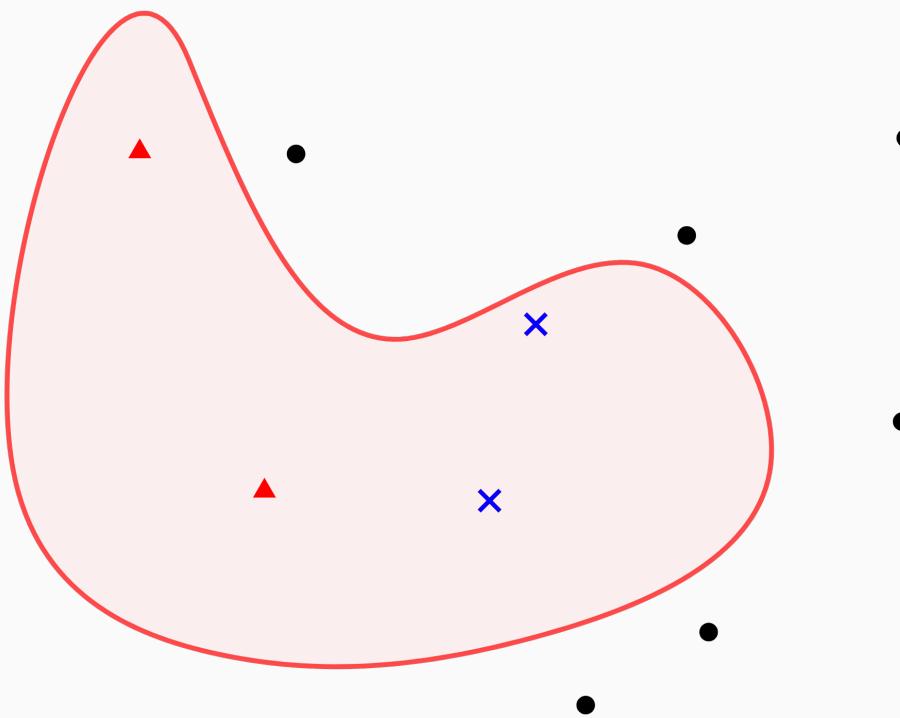


When does it get difficult?

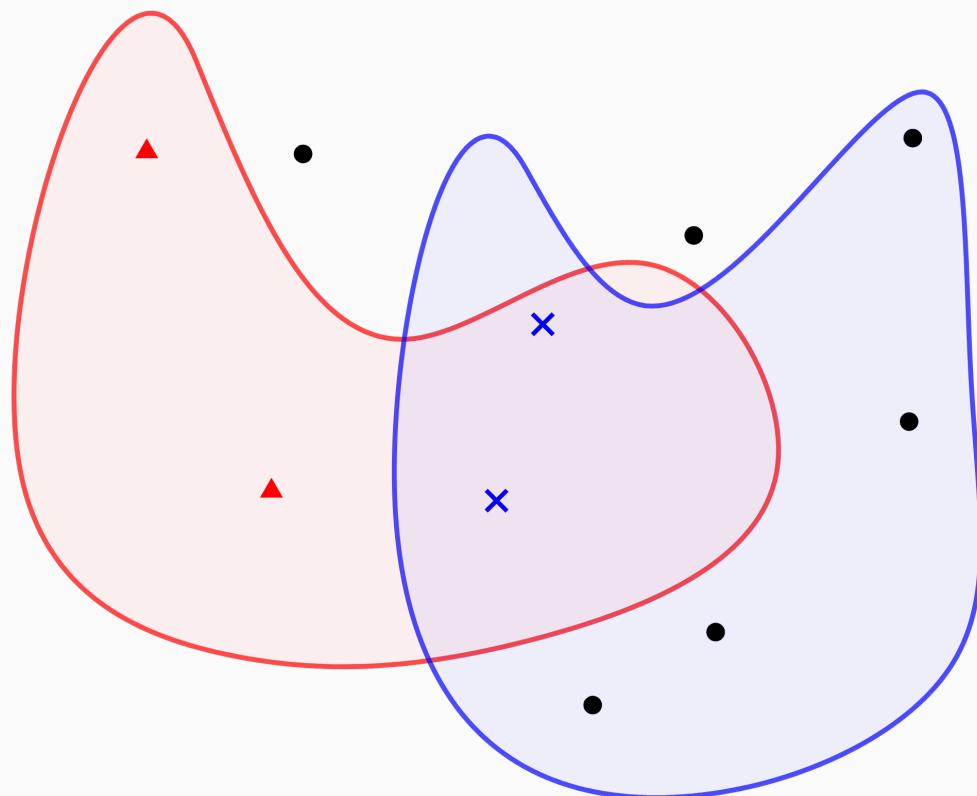
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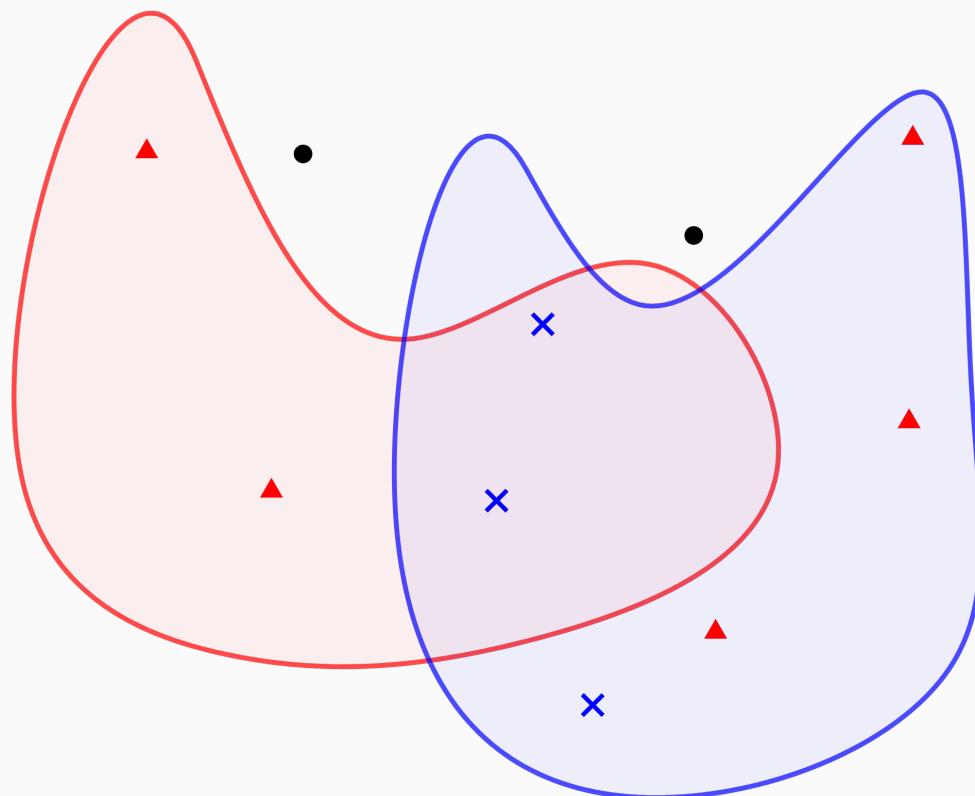
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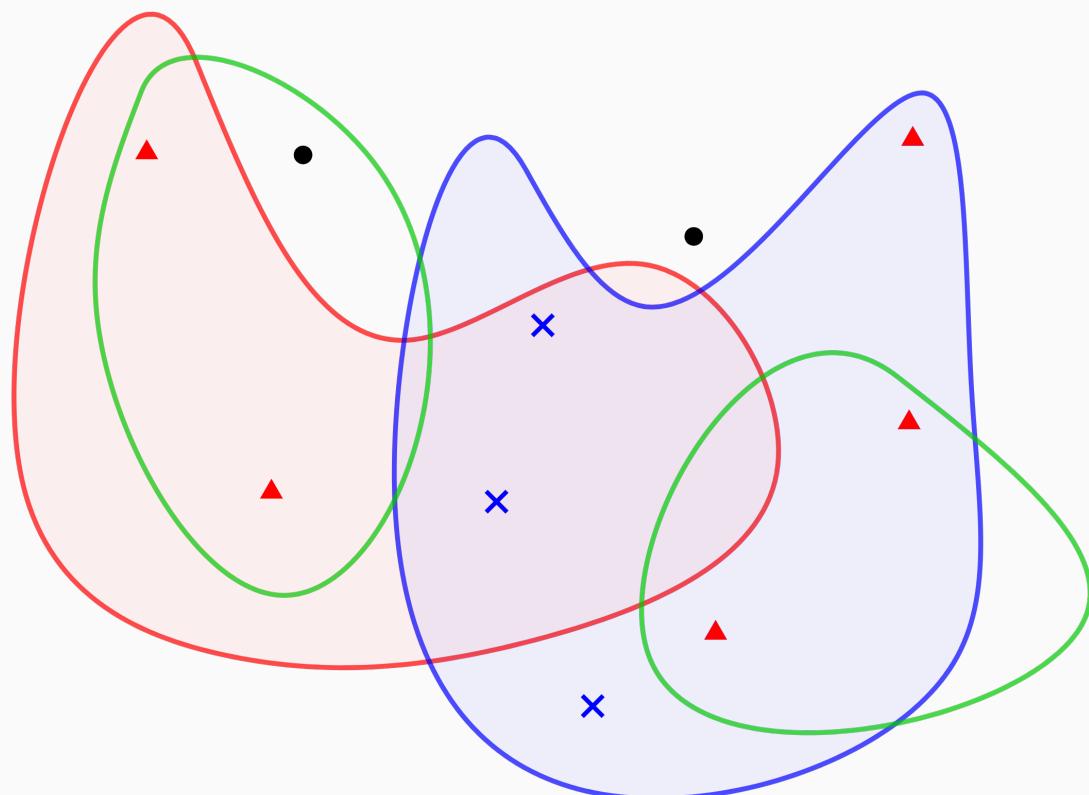
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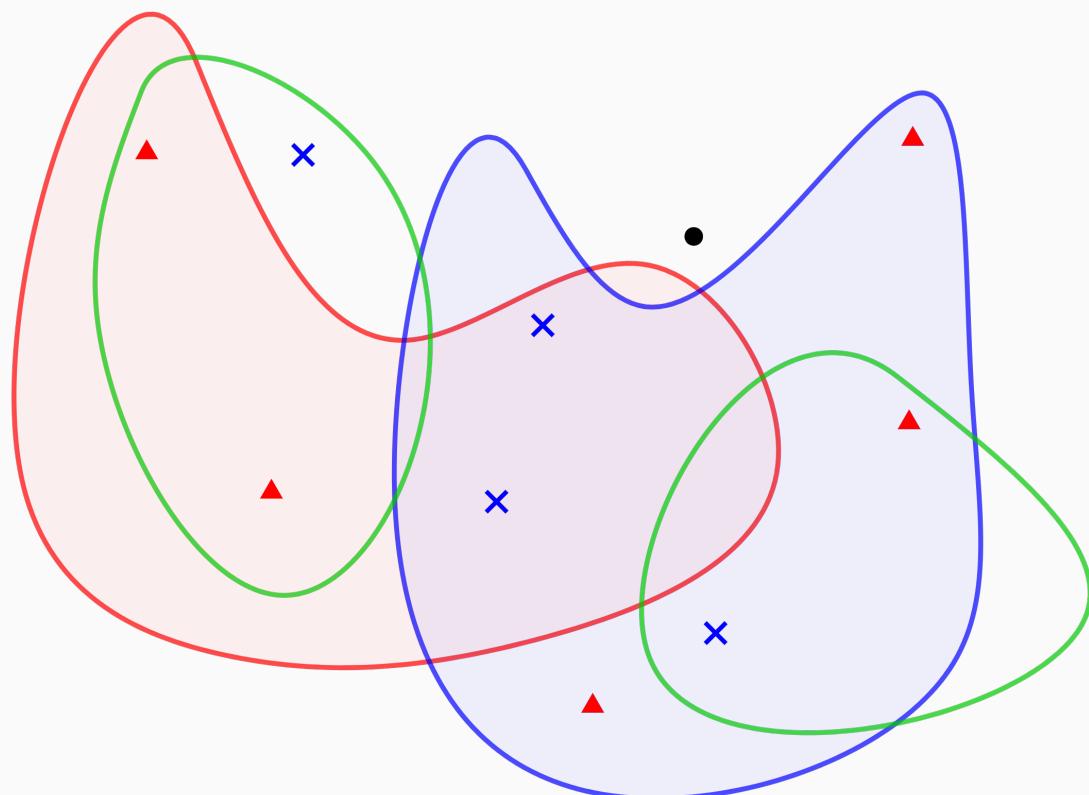
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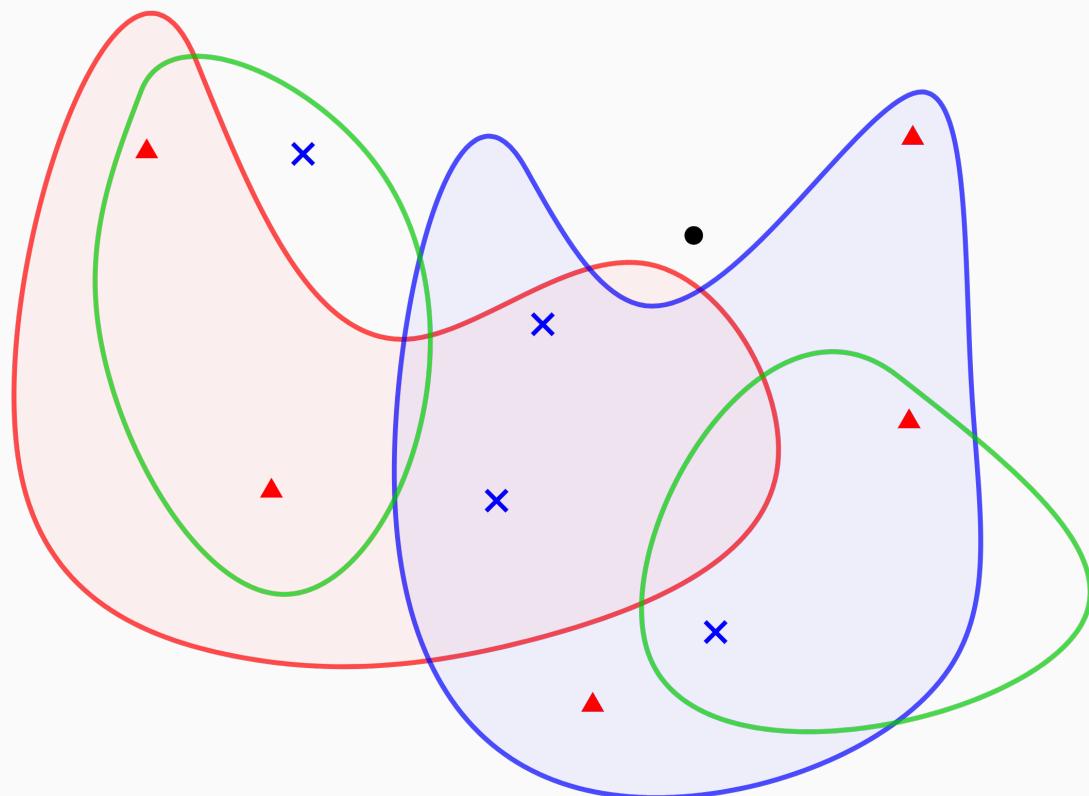
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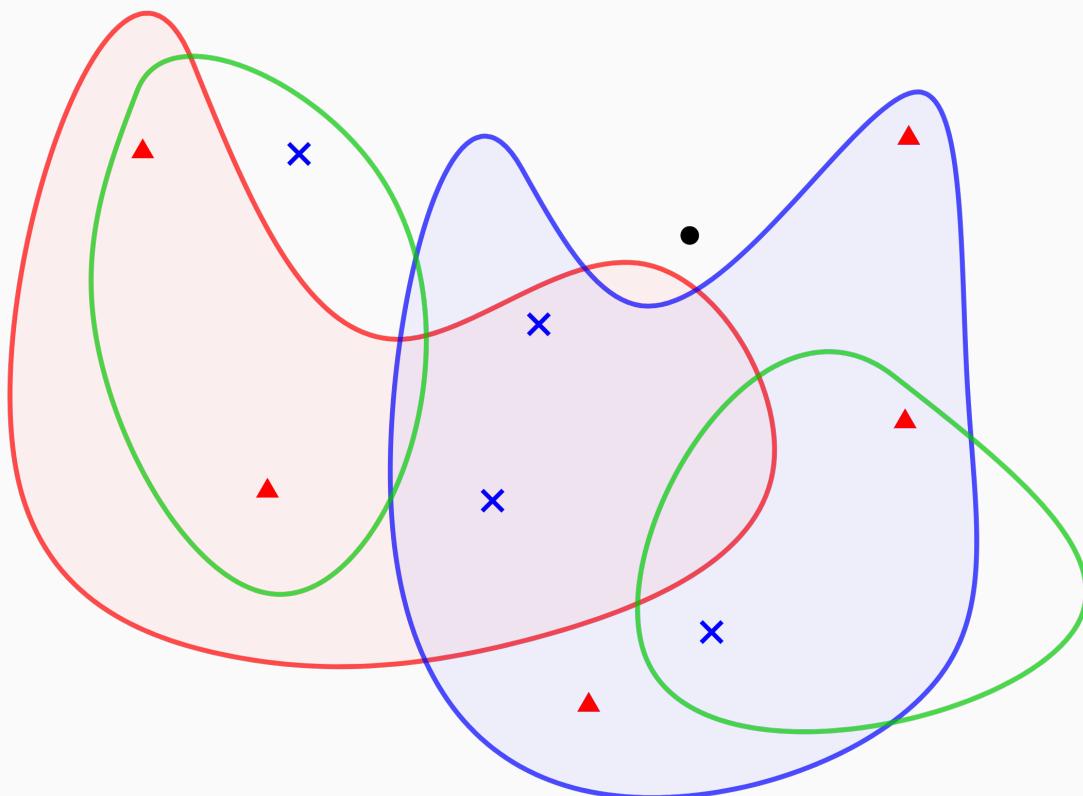


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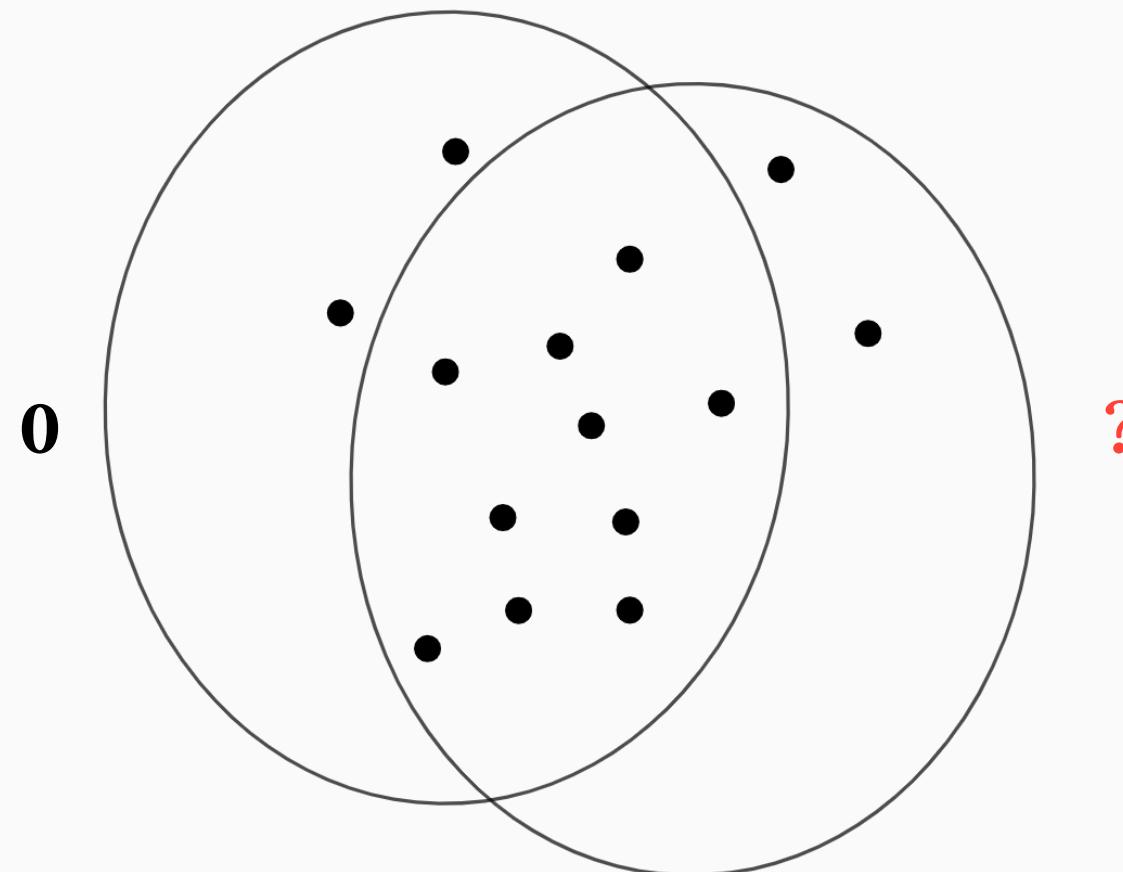


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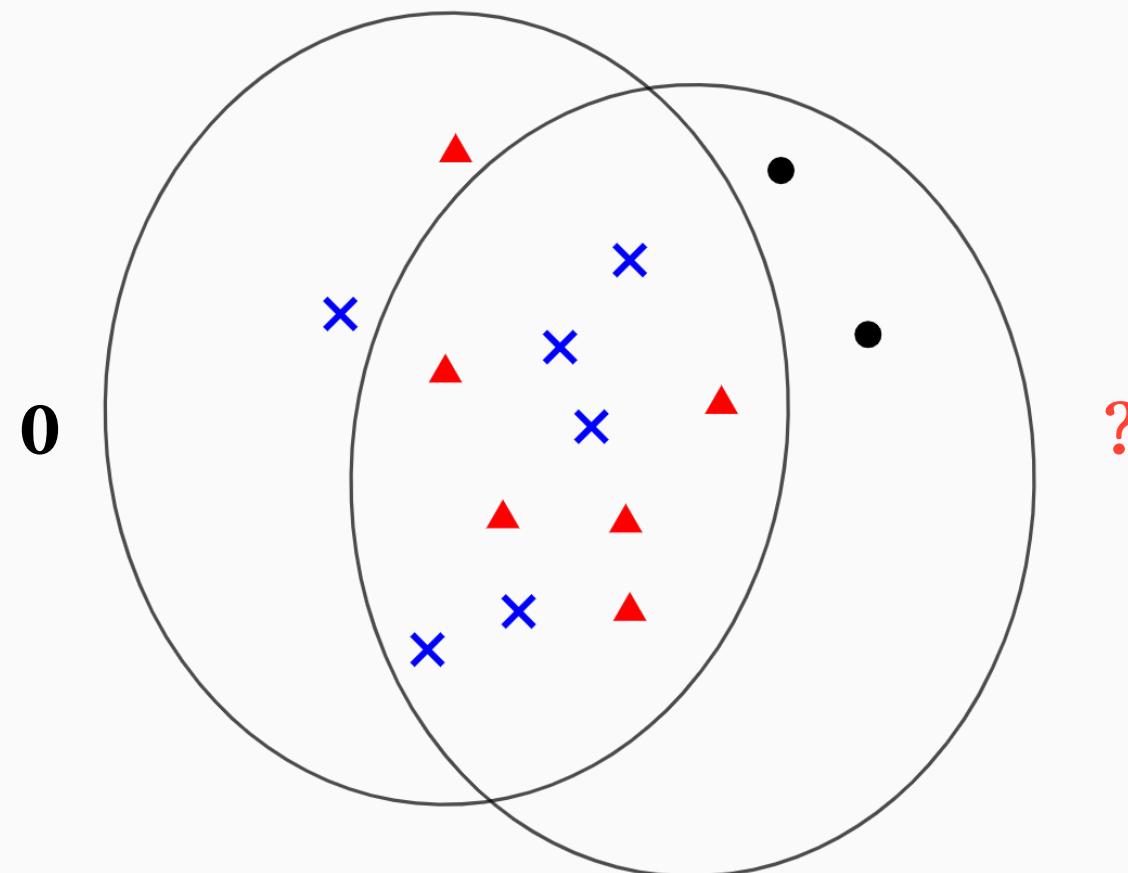
Hard for $m = \Omega(n)$: $\Omega\left(\sqrt{n \log\left(\frac{m}{n}\right)}\right)$ in general, $\Omega\left(n^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2d}}\right)$ for VC-dim d

Discrepancy and symmetric difference

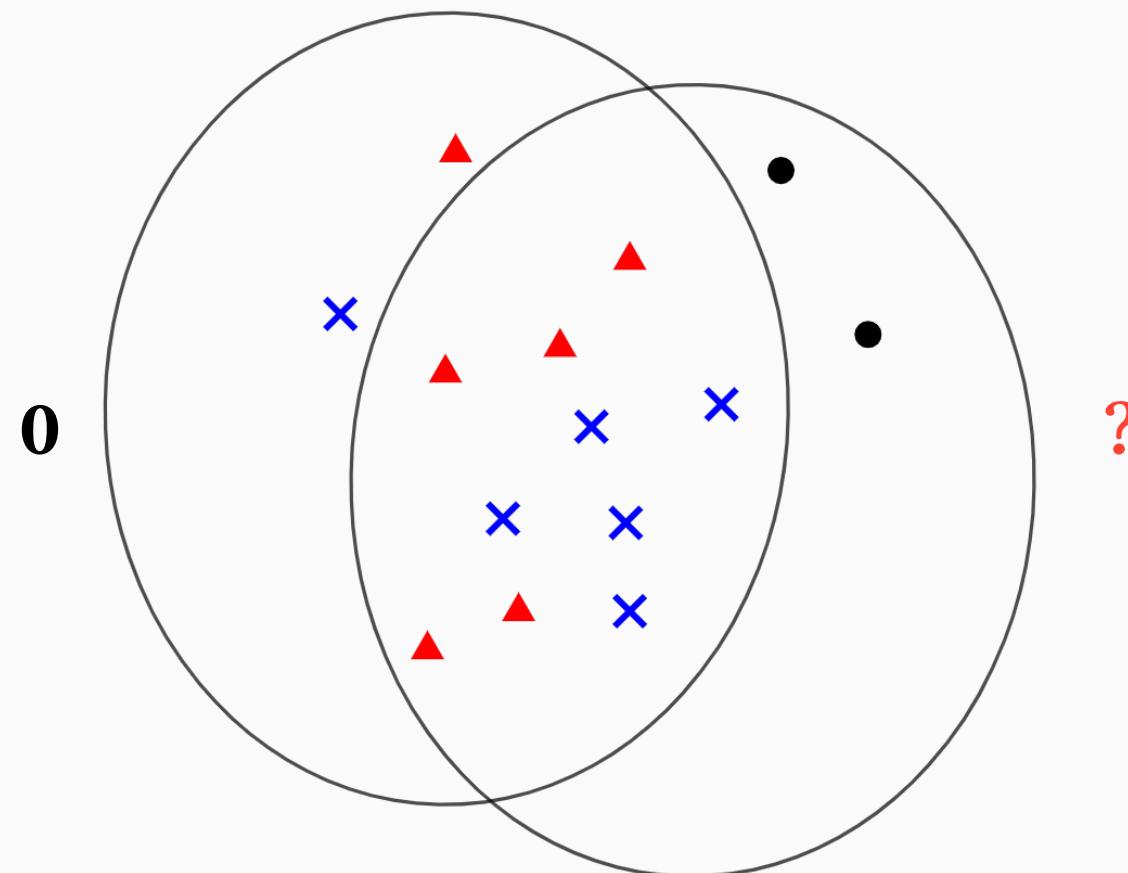
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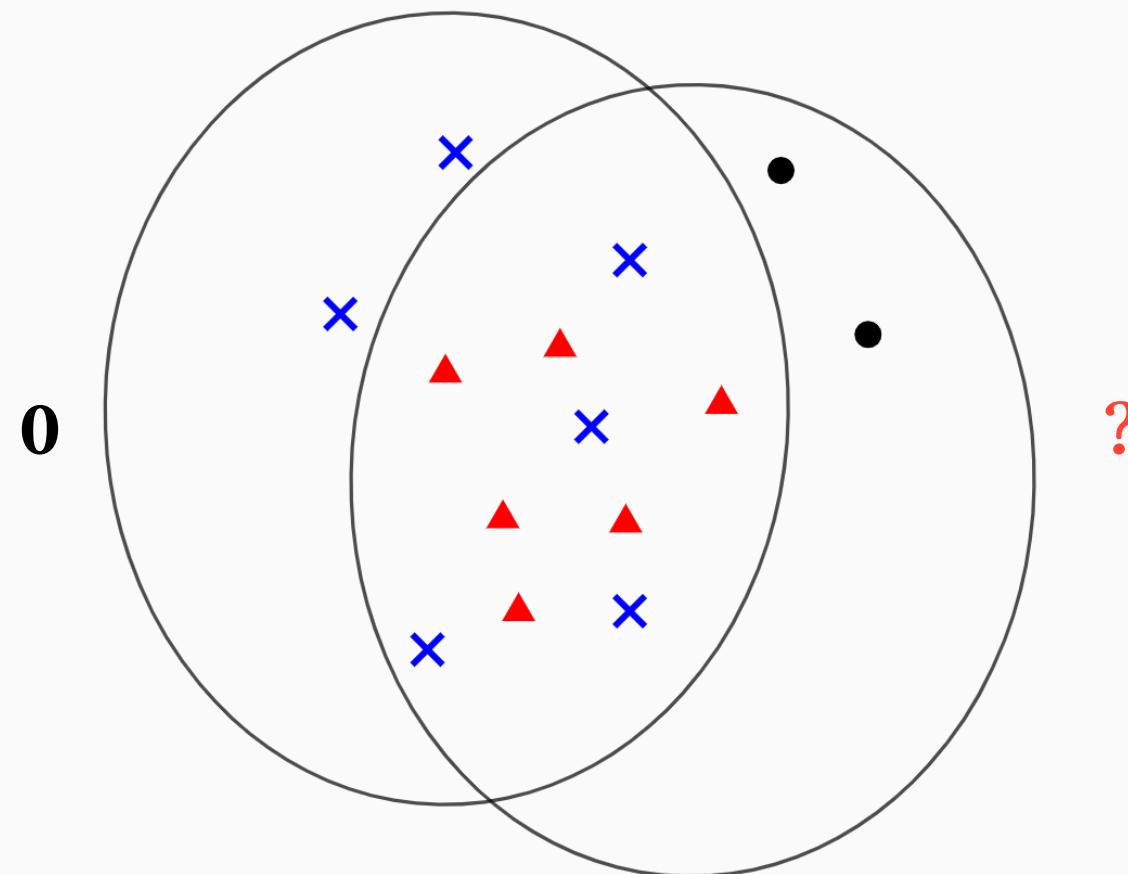
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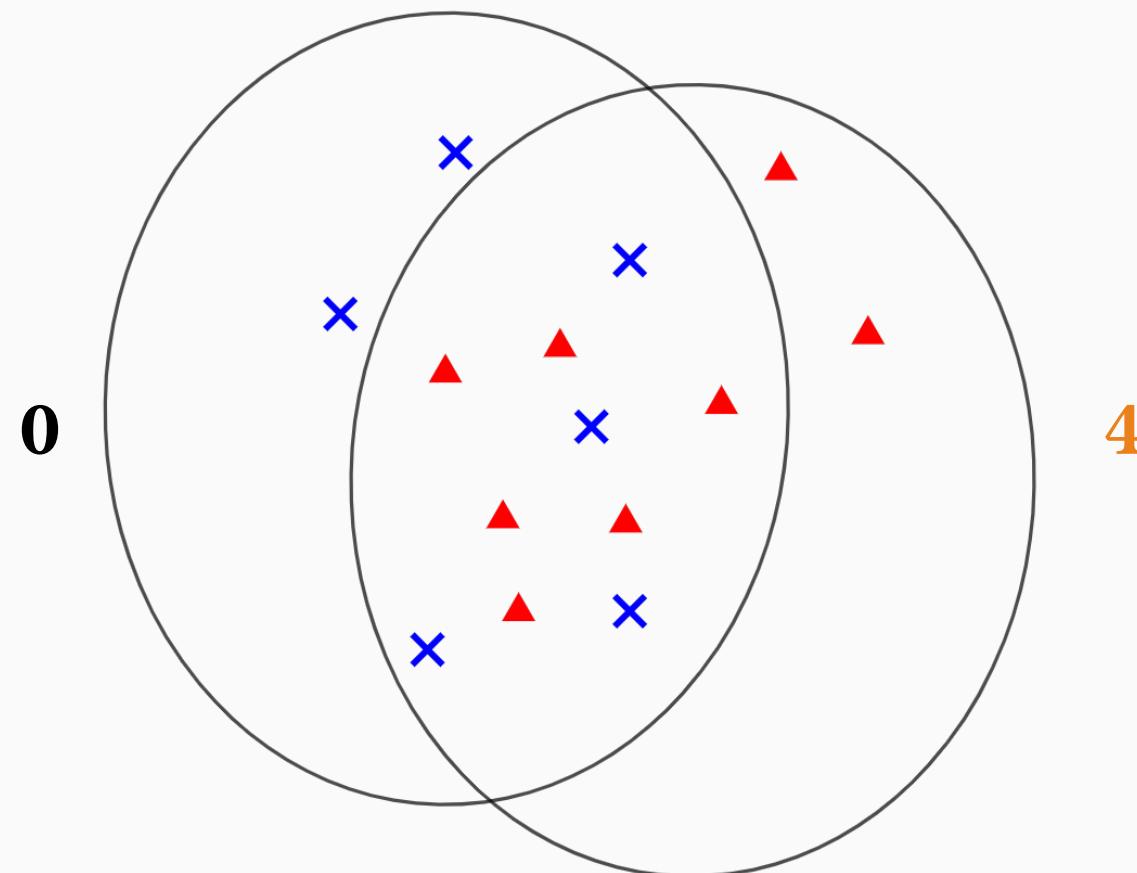
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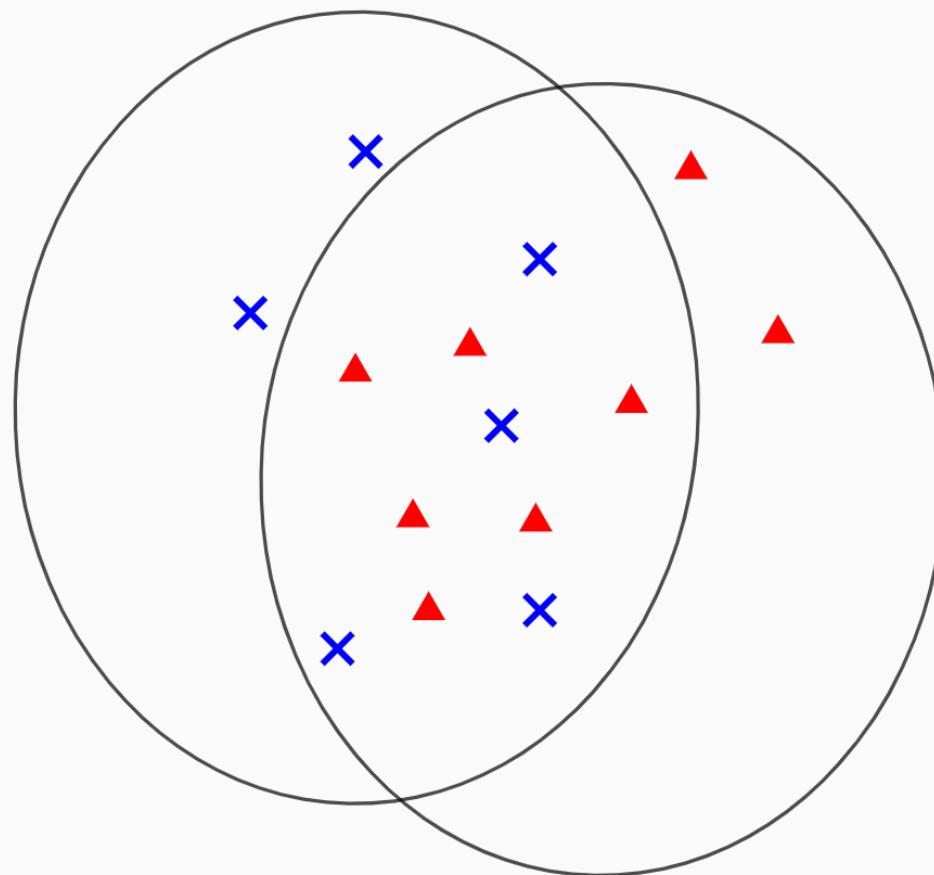
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$$\forall F, F' \in \mathcal{F}, |\chi(F)| \leq |\chi(F')| + |\chi(F \setminus F')| + |\chi(F' \setminus F)|$$

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↳ Let's find a (small) set of ranges such that all ranges are close to one of them!

δ -covering

$$\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{F} \text{ s.t. } \forall F \in \mathcal{F}, \exists C \in \mathcal{C} \text{ with } \underbrace{|\Delta(F, C)|}_{= |(F \setminus C) \cup (C \setminus F)|} \leq \delta$$

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Can be polynomially computed starting from a random sample of X (ε -net) (Matousek et al. 1993, Louvet 2025)

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With a little more effort (chaining), one can obtain $O\left(n^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2d}}\right)$ (optimal)

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We compute an approximation of the data (**δ -covering**)

We solve the problem really well on the approximation (**$\Theta(1)$ discrepancy**)

We obtain a good guarantee on the original set system (**Optimal order worst-case discrepancy**)

Differential privacy?

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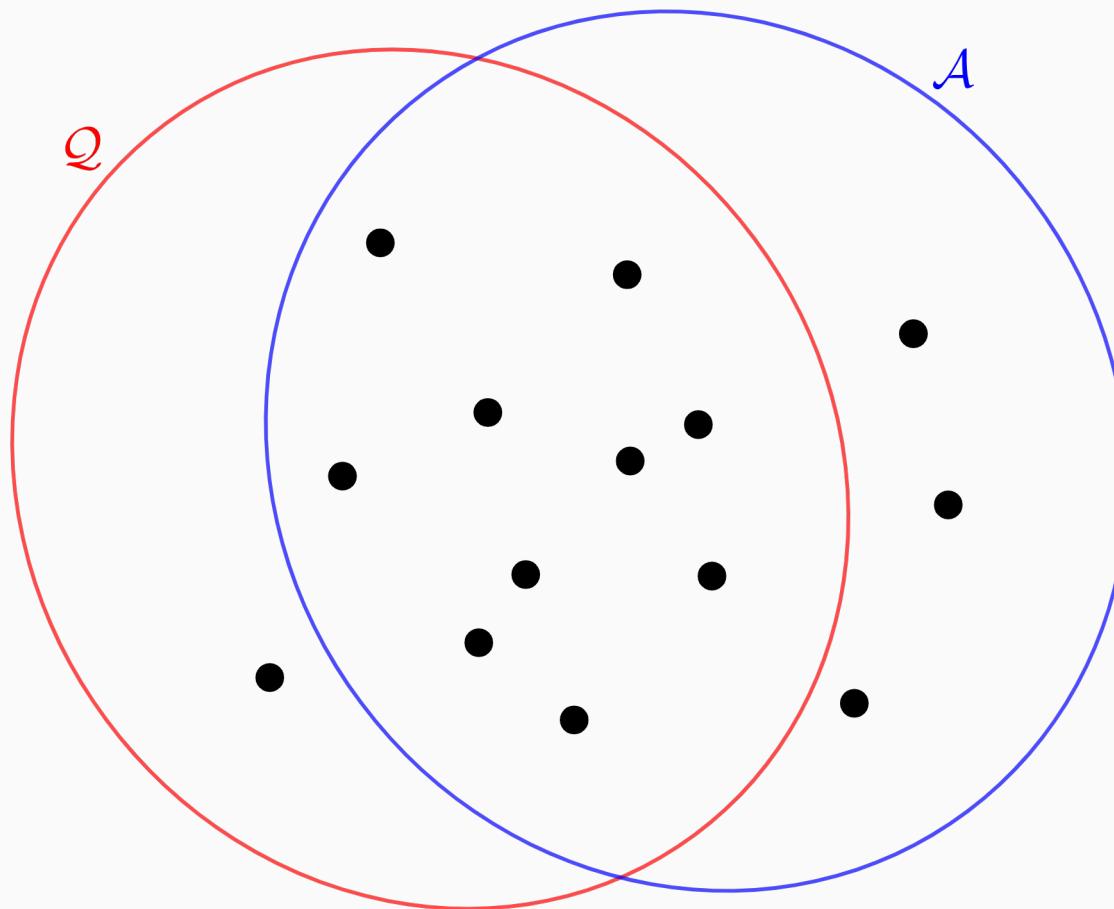
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A prospective paradigm for DP

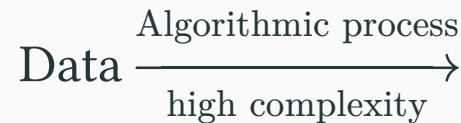
A prospective paradigm for DP

Current DP paradigm:

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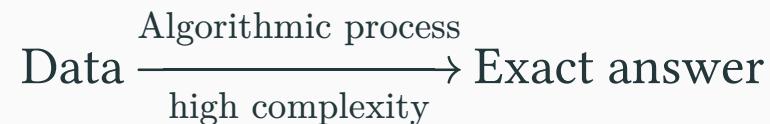
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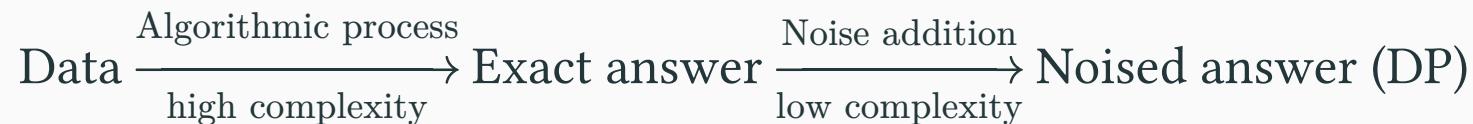
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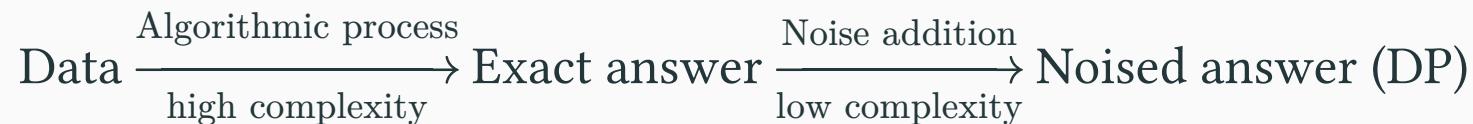


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Some technical challenges:

A prospective paradigm for DP

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- Characterizing the distribution of errors where most results focus only on worst case error.

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Thank you.

Bibliography

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