

An example of hypergraph approximation and some prospective differential privacy questions

Alexandre Louvet

2026-01-22

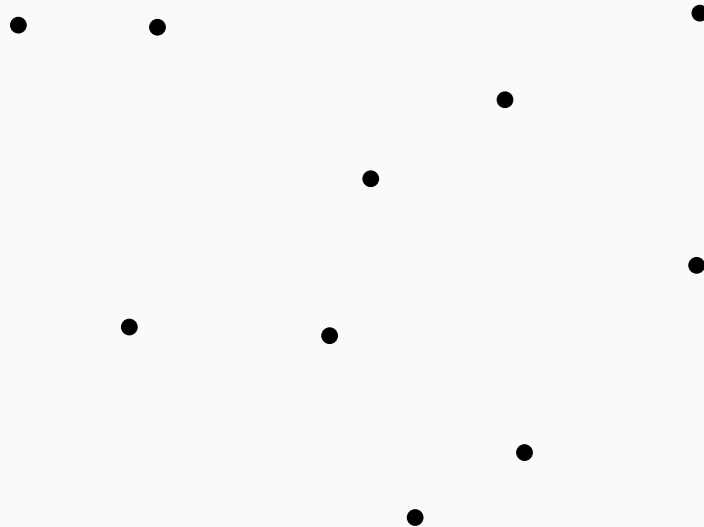
INRIA Lille

Set systems/Hypergraphs

$X \leftarrow$ ground set

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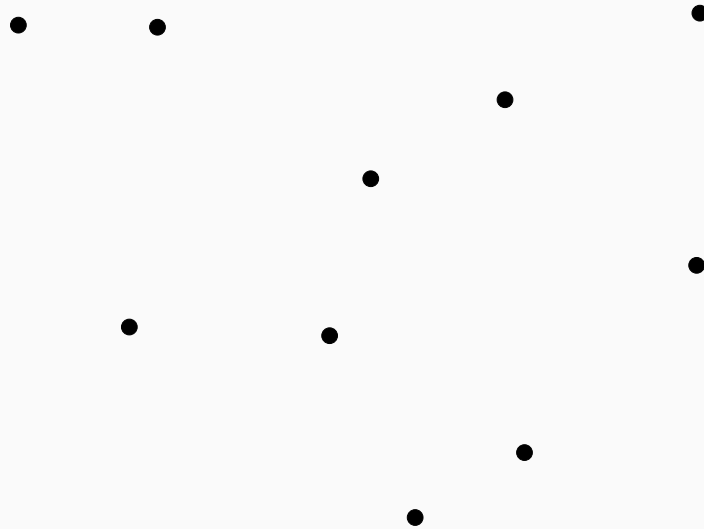
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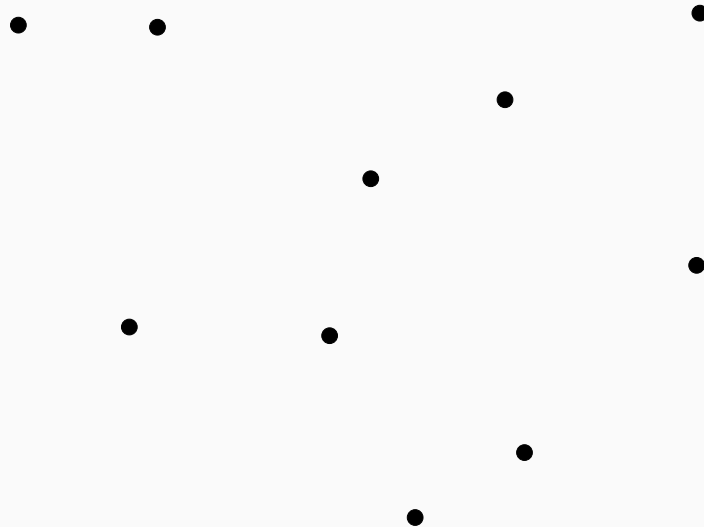


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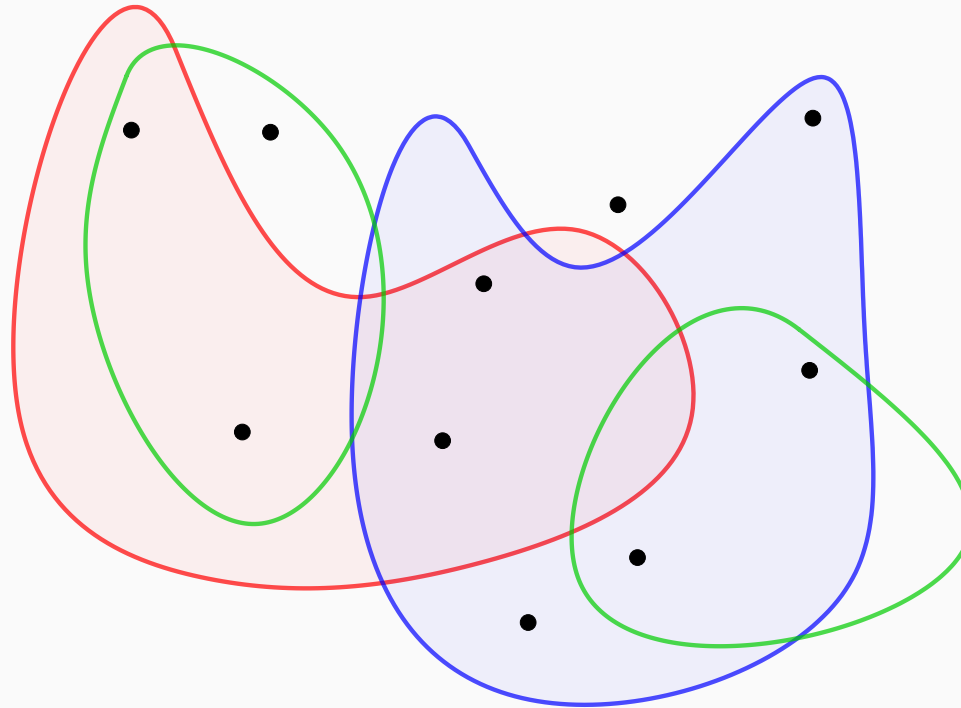


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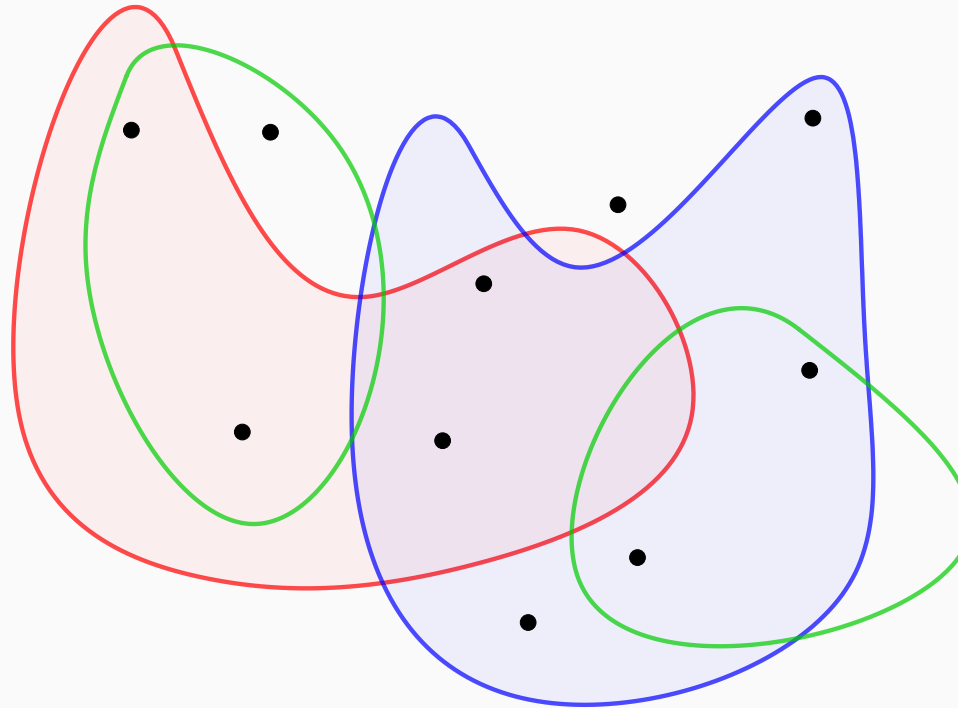
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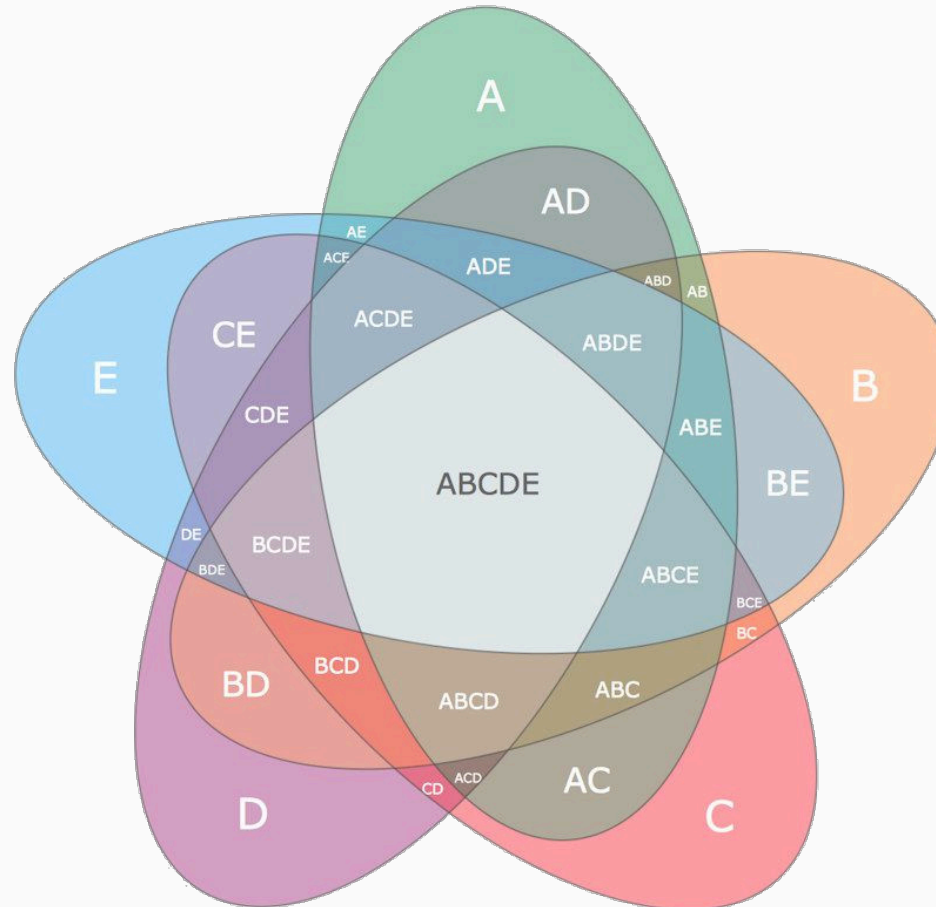
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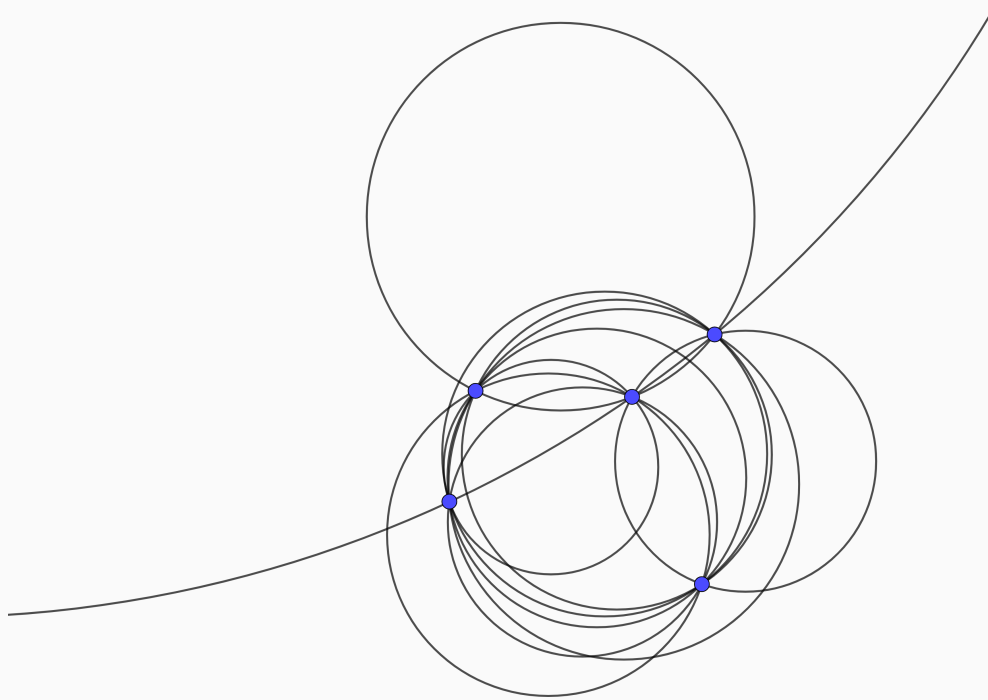


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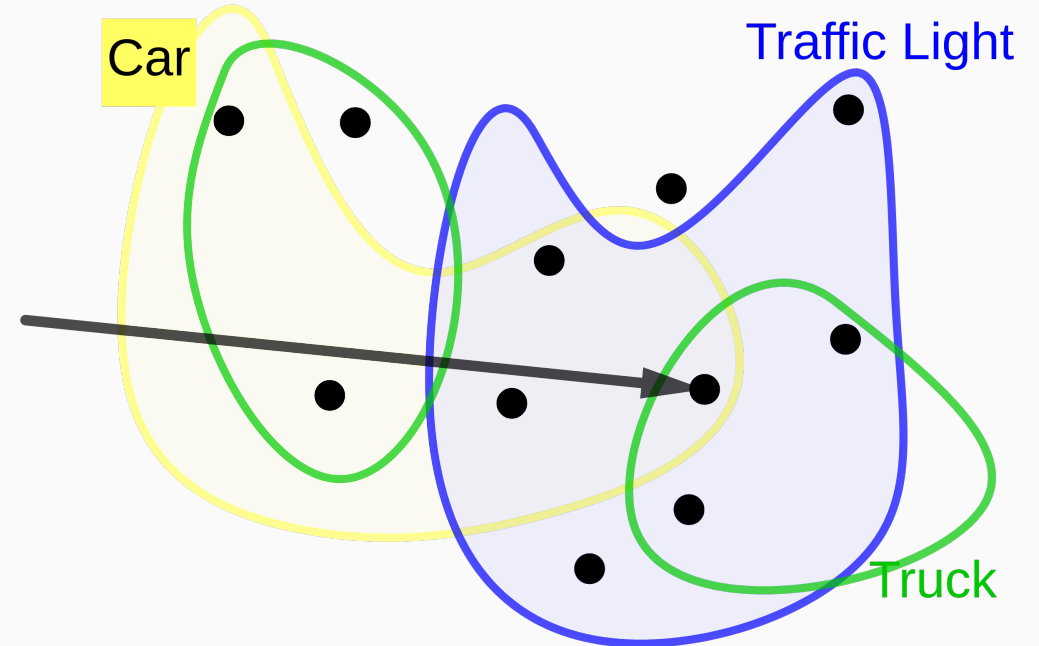
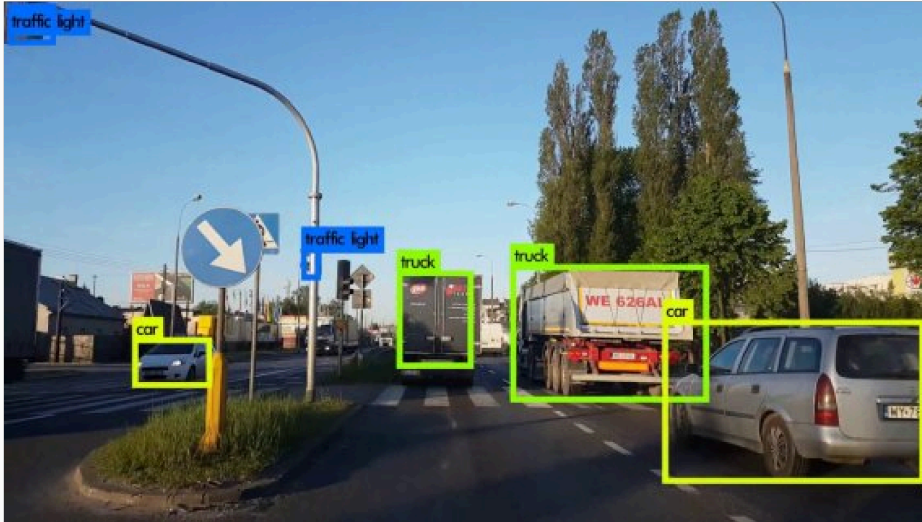


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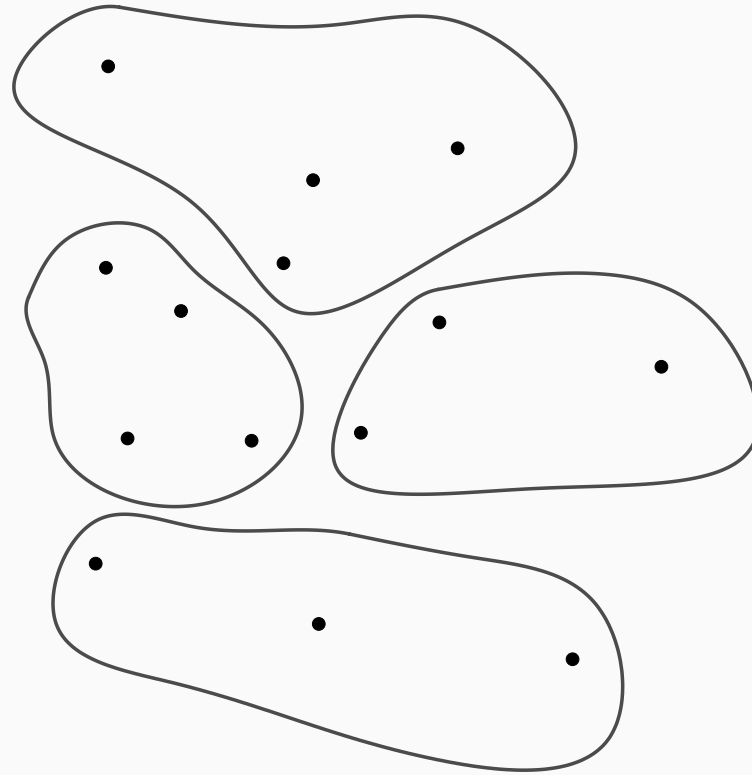
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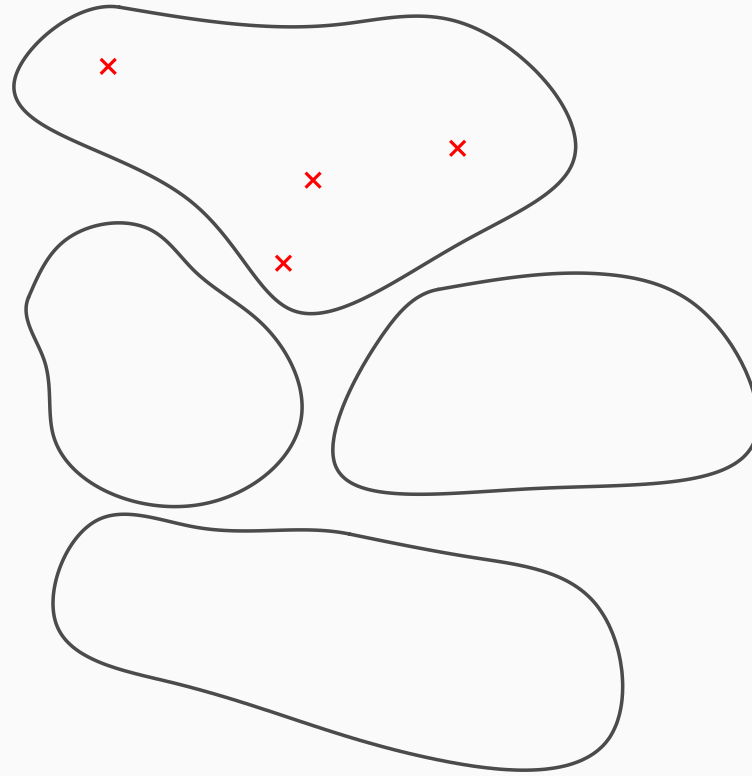
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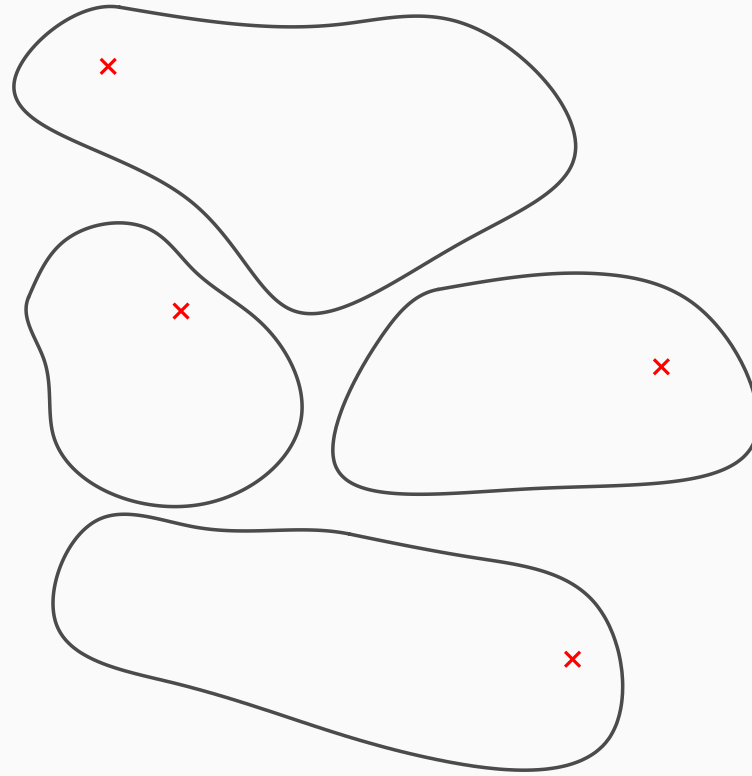
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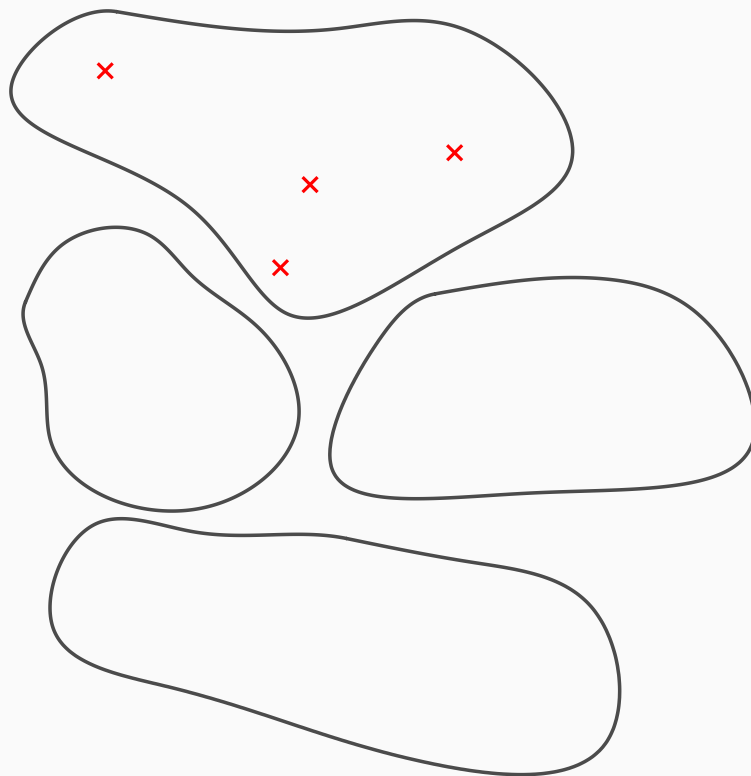
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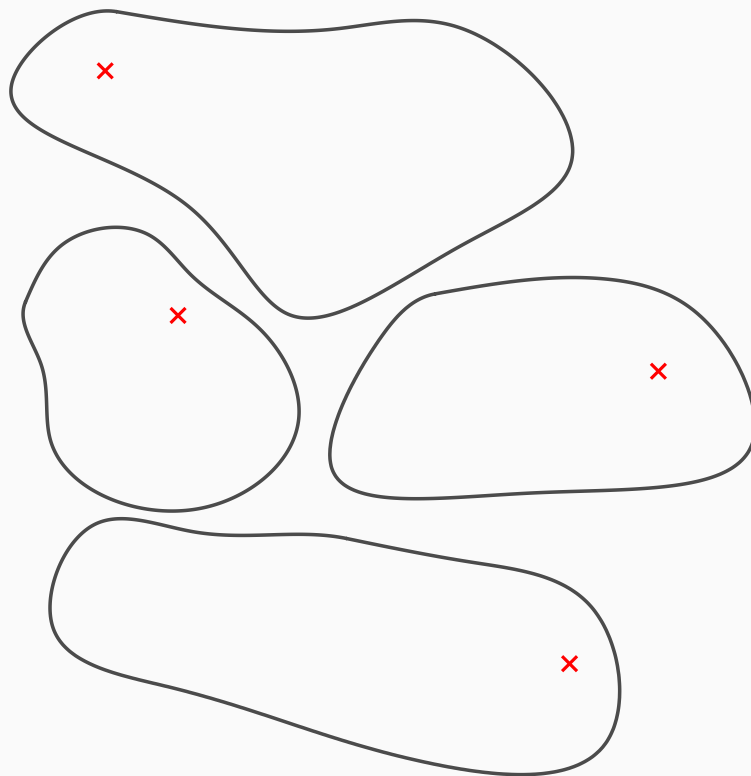
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$$\varepsilon = \frac{10}{14}$$

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Combinatorial discrepancy

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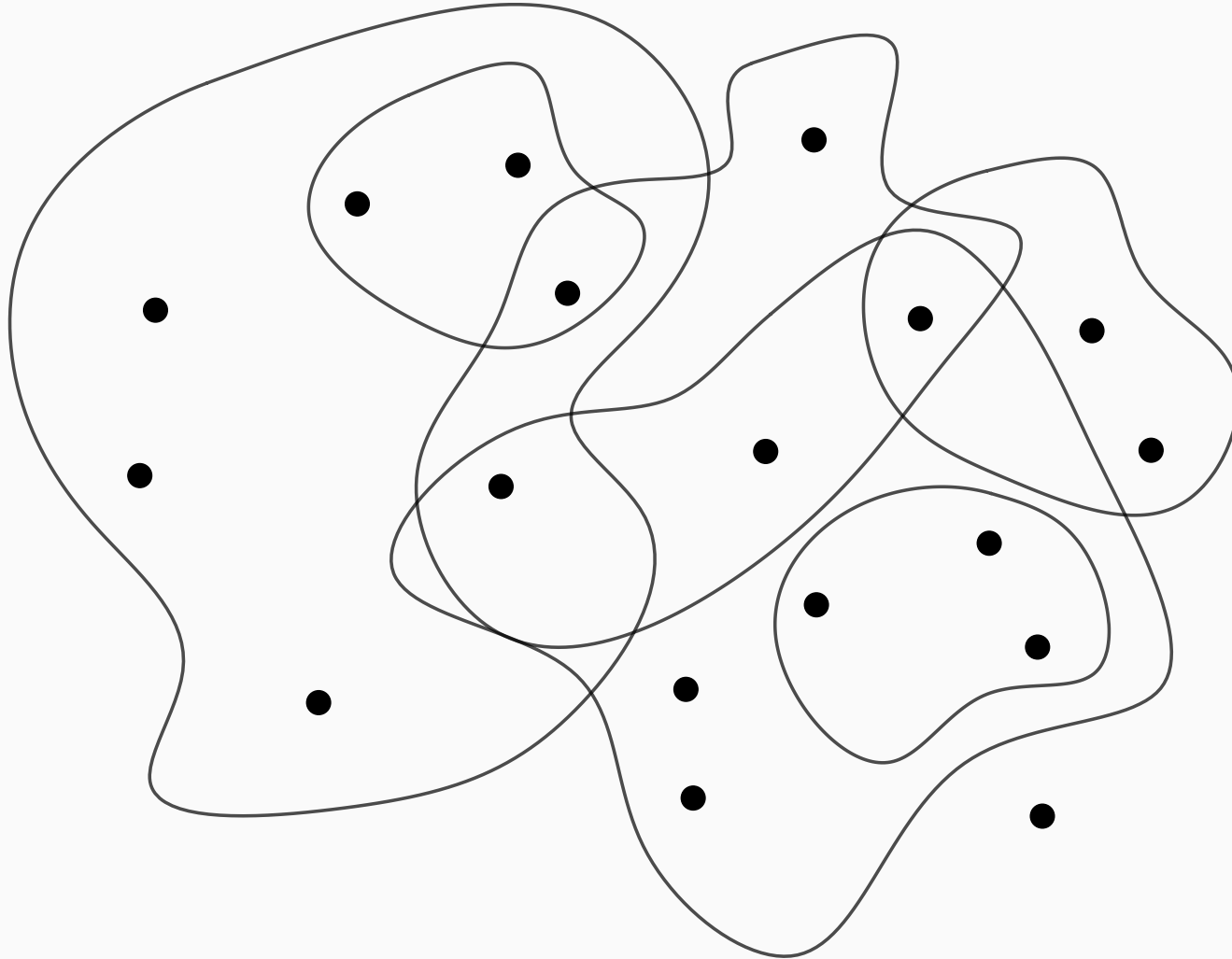
discrepancy w.r.t. χ : $\text{disc}_\chi(X, \mathcal{F}) = \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \underbrace{\left| \sum_{x \in F} \chi(x) \right|}_{|\chi(F)|}$

Problem statement

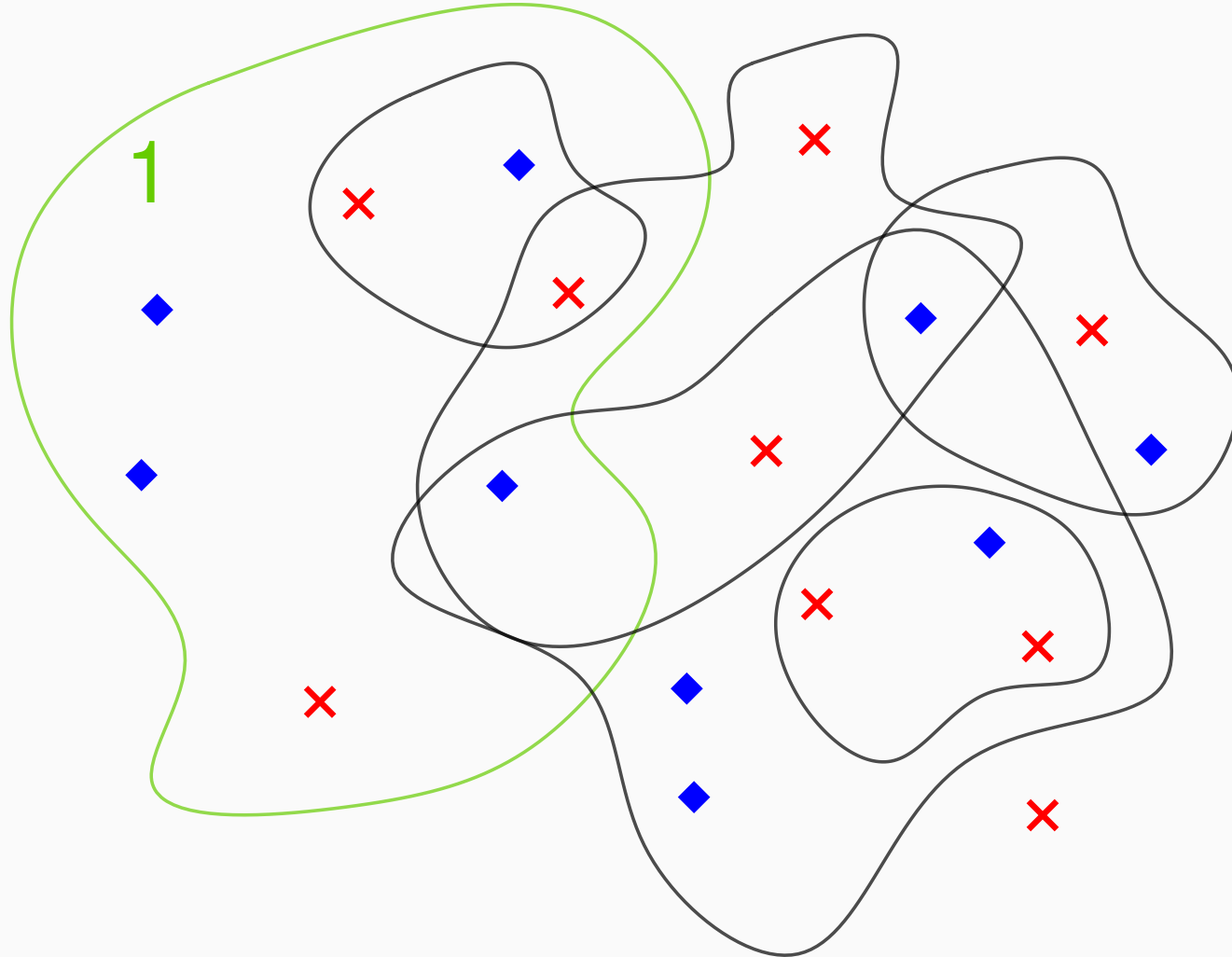
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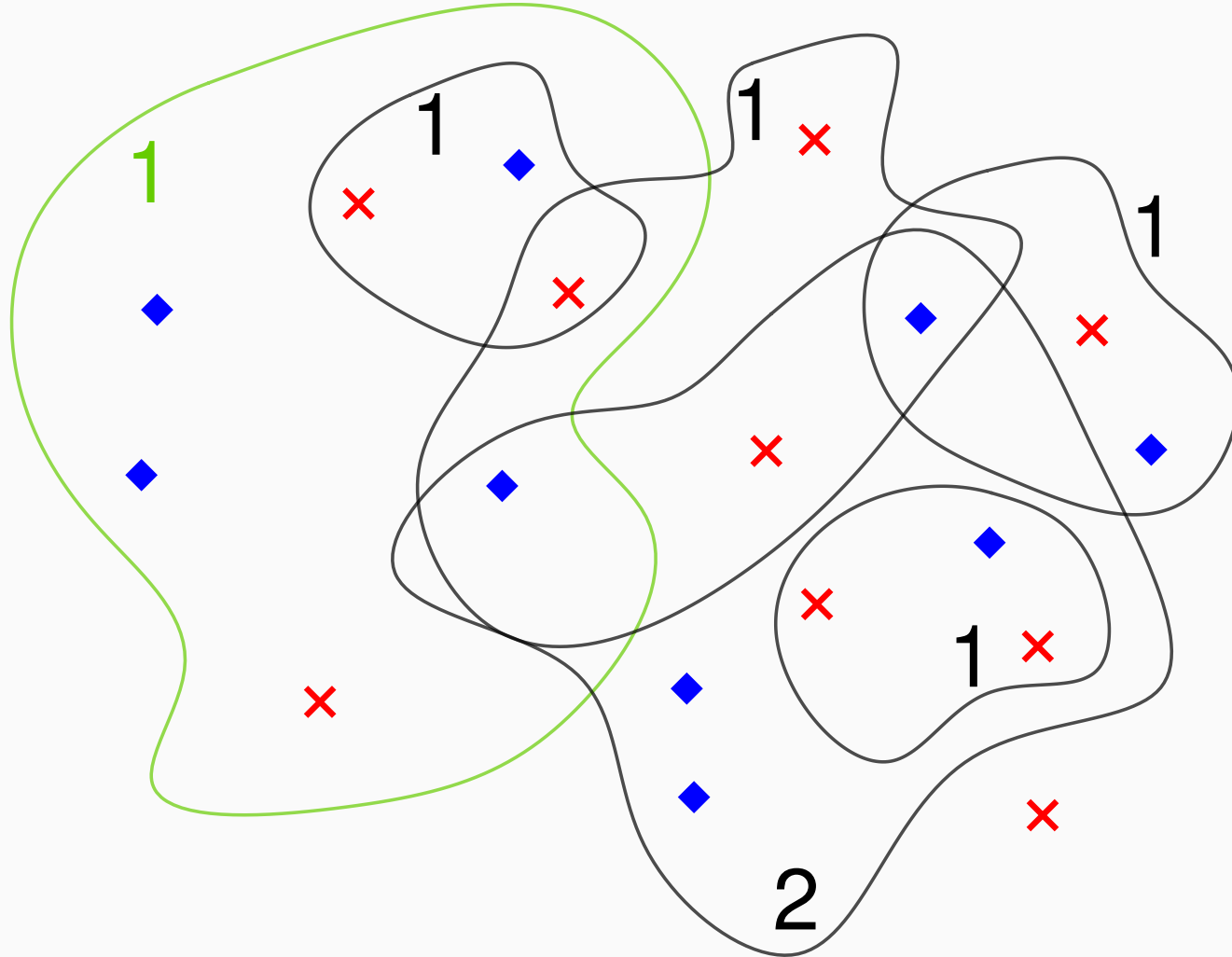
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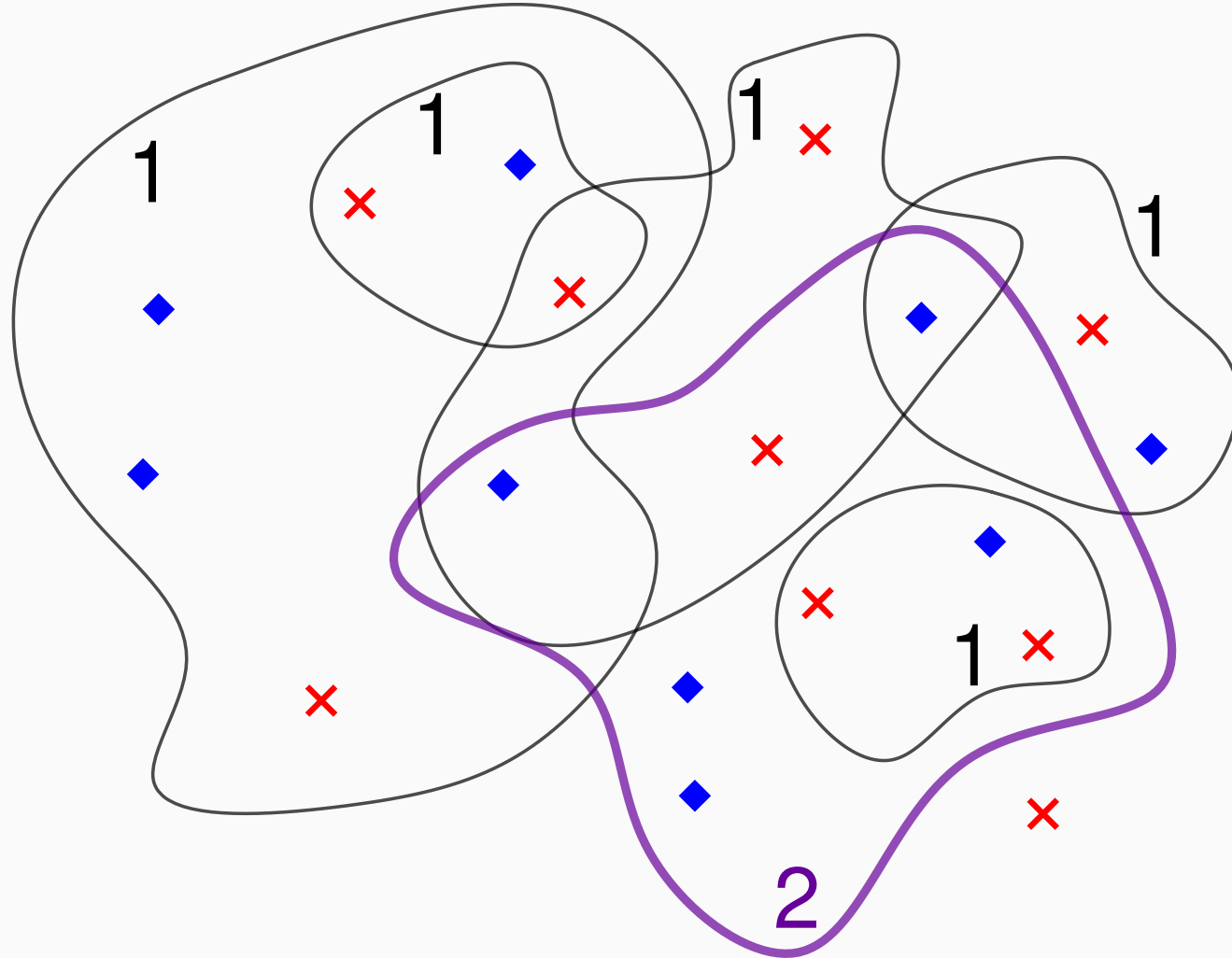
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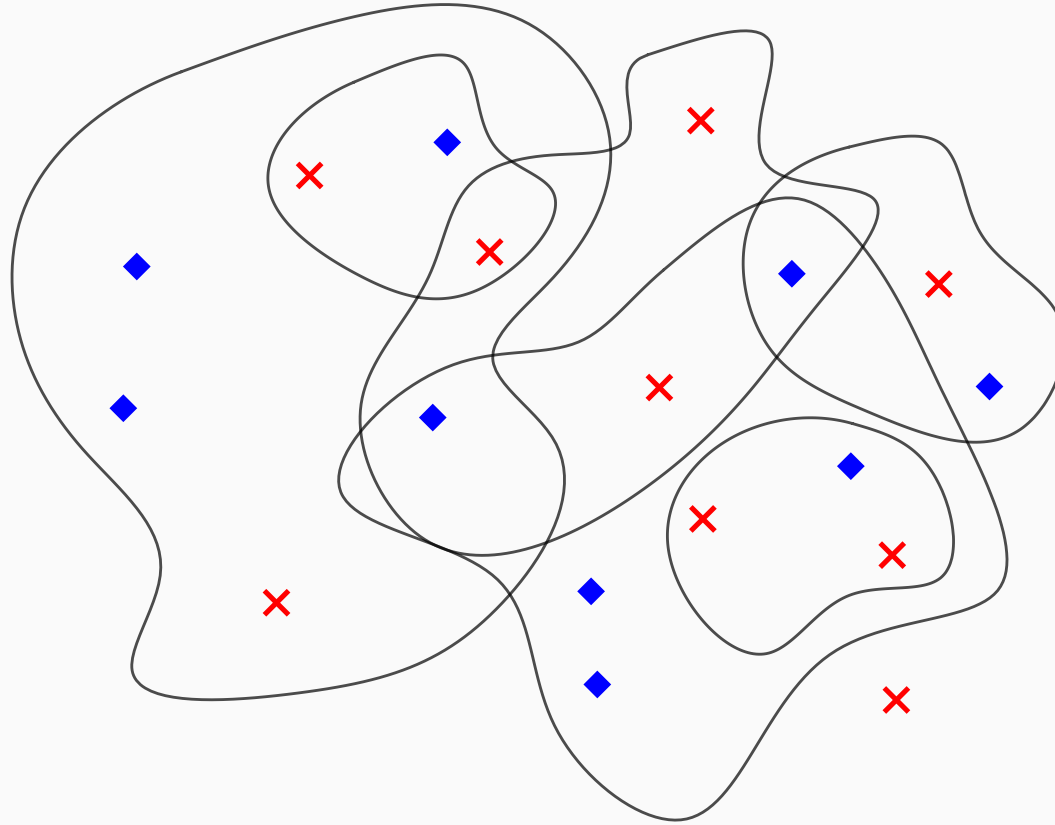
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Goal: Compute a small discrepancy coloring

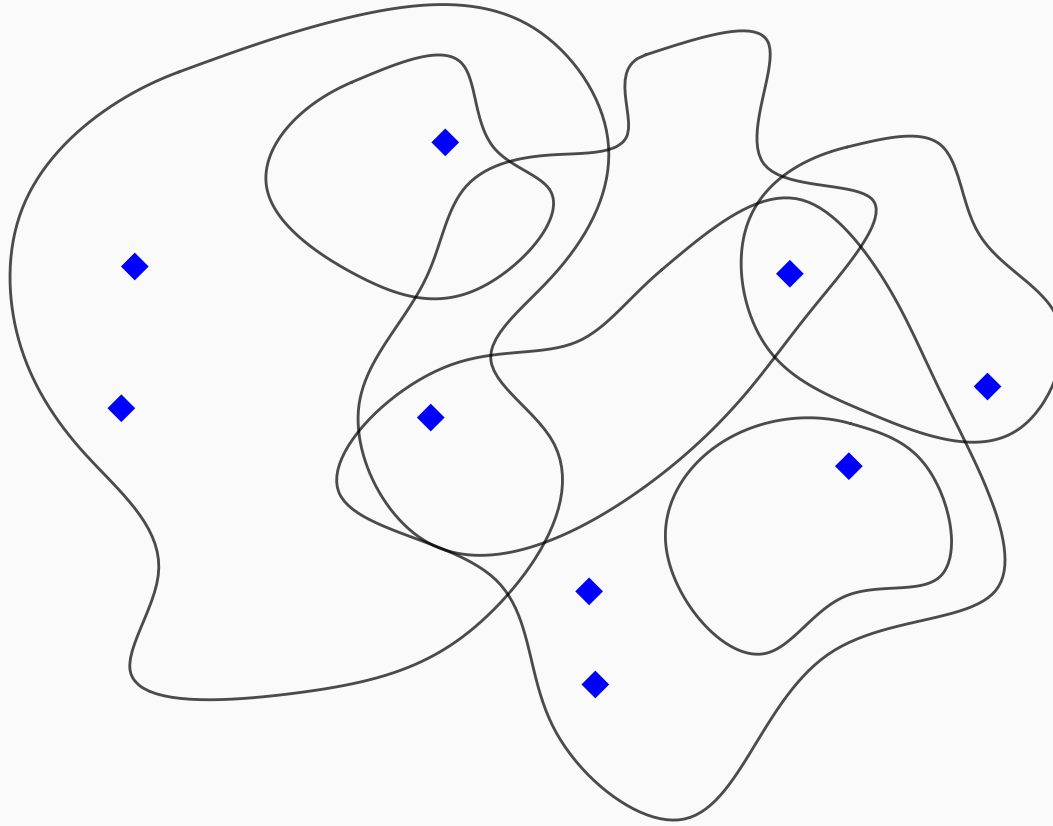
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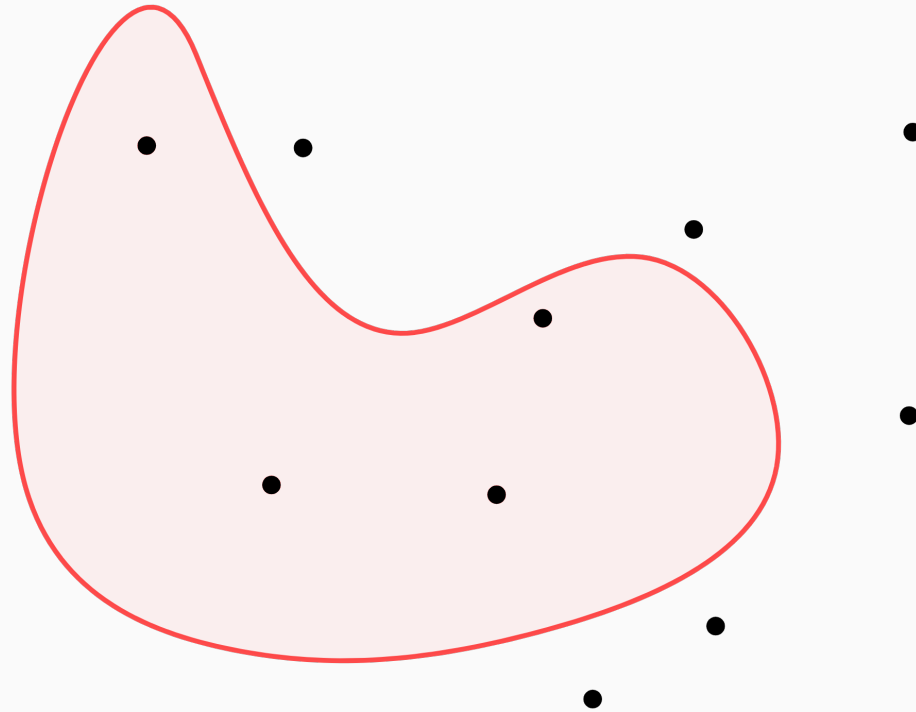


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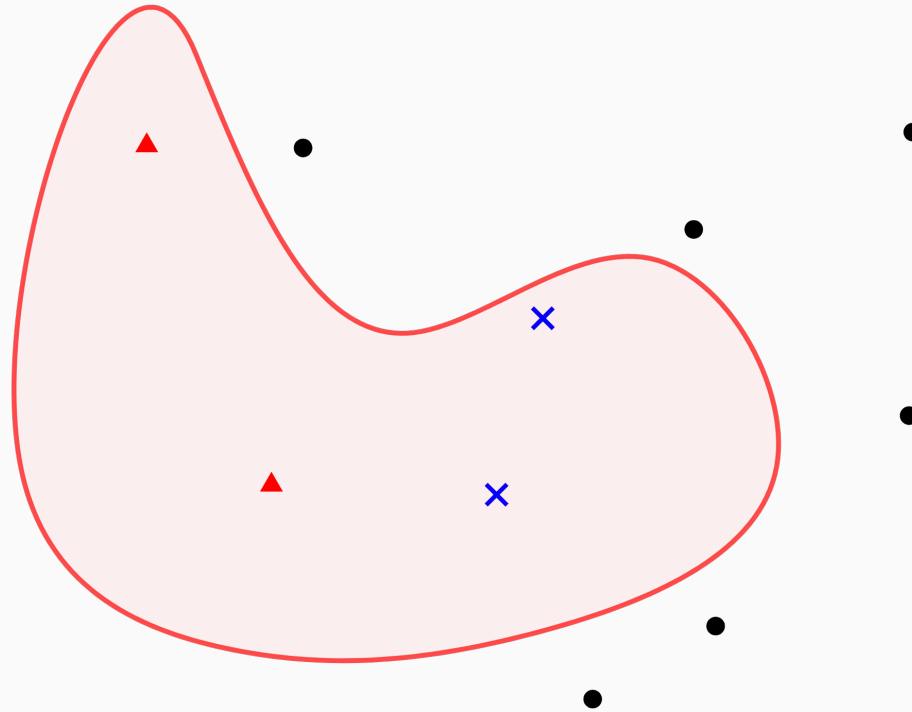


When does it get difficult?

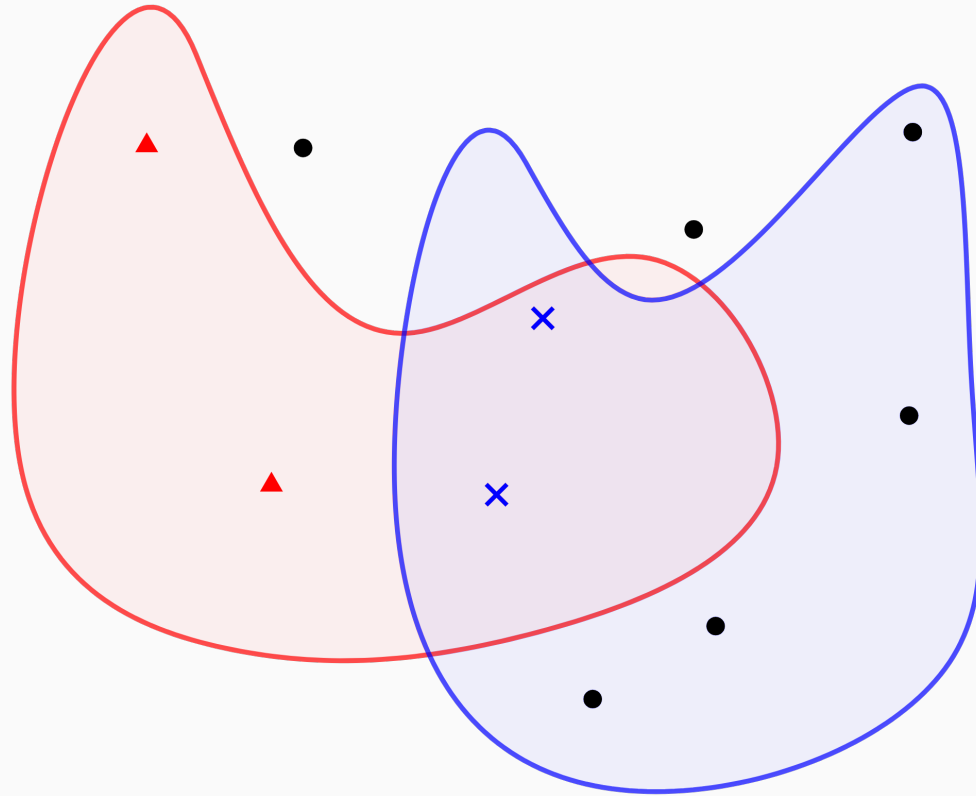
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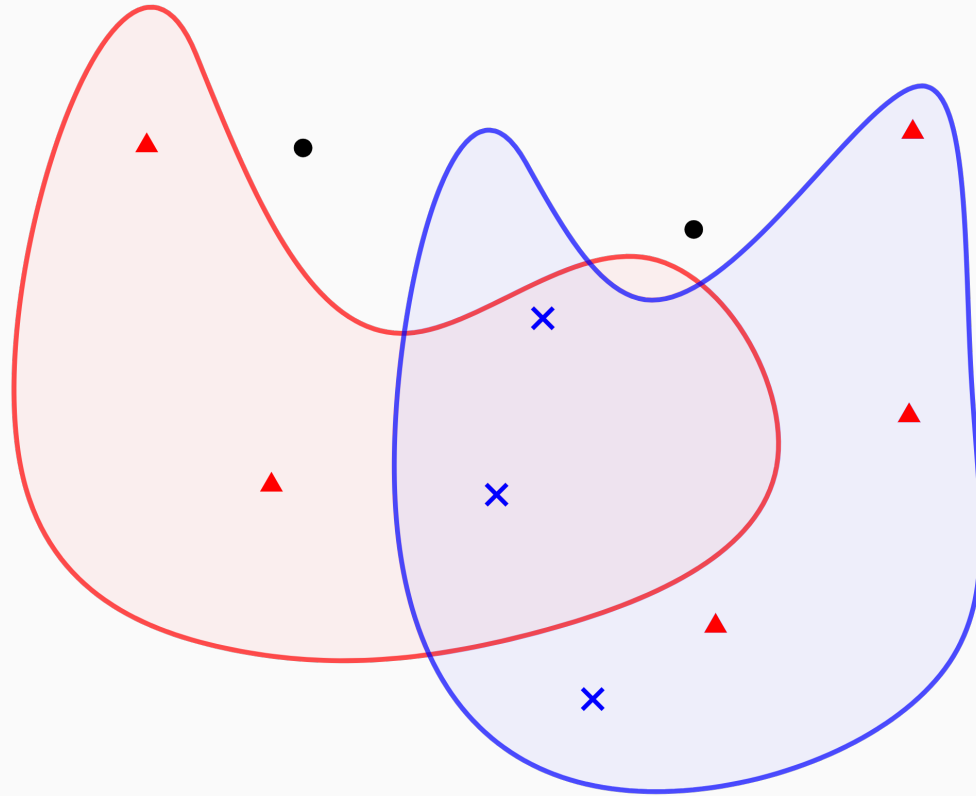
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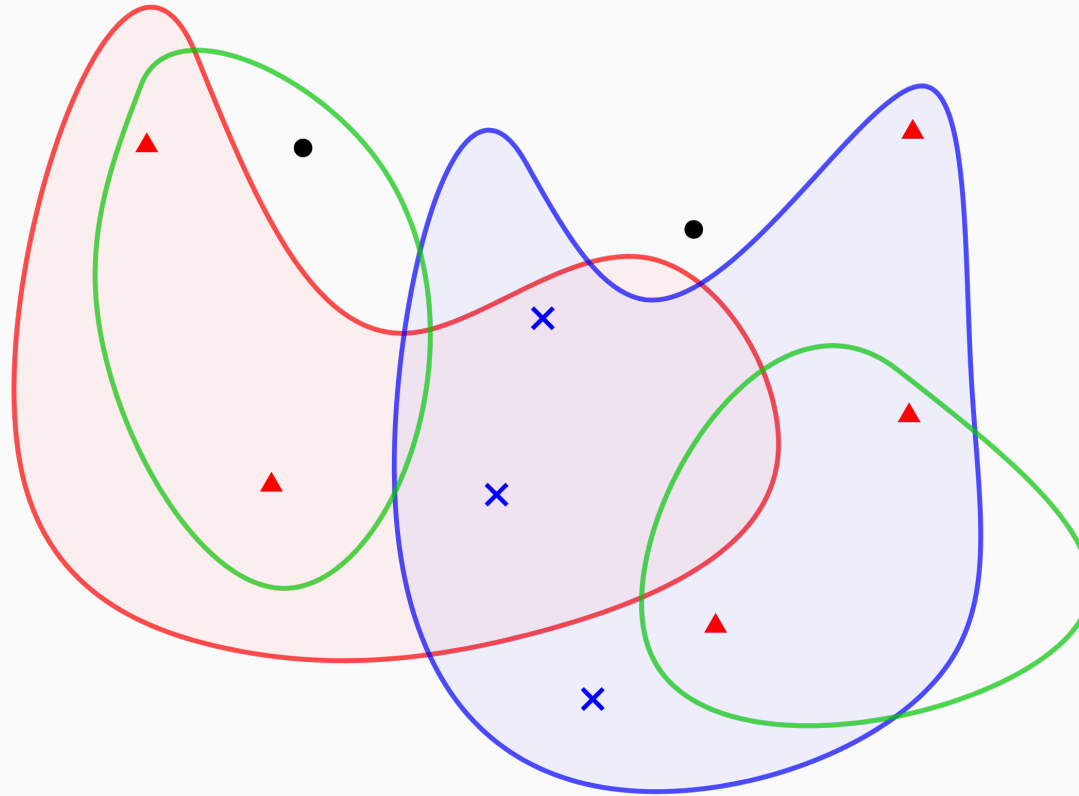
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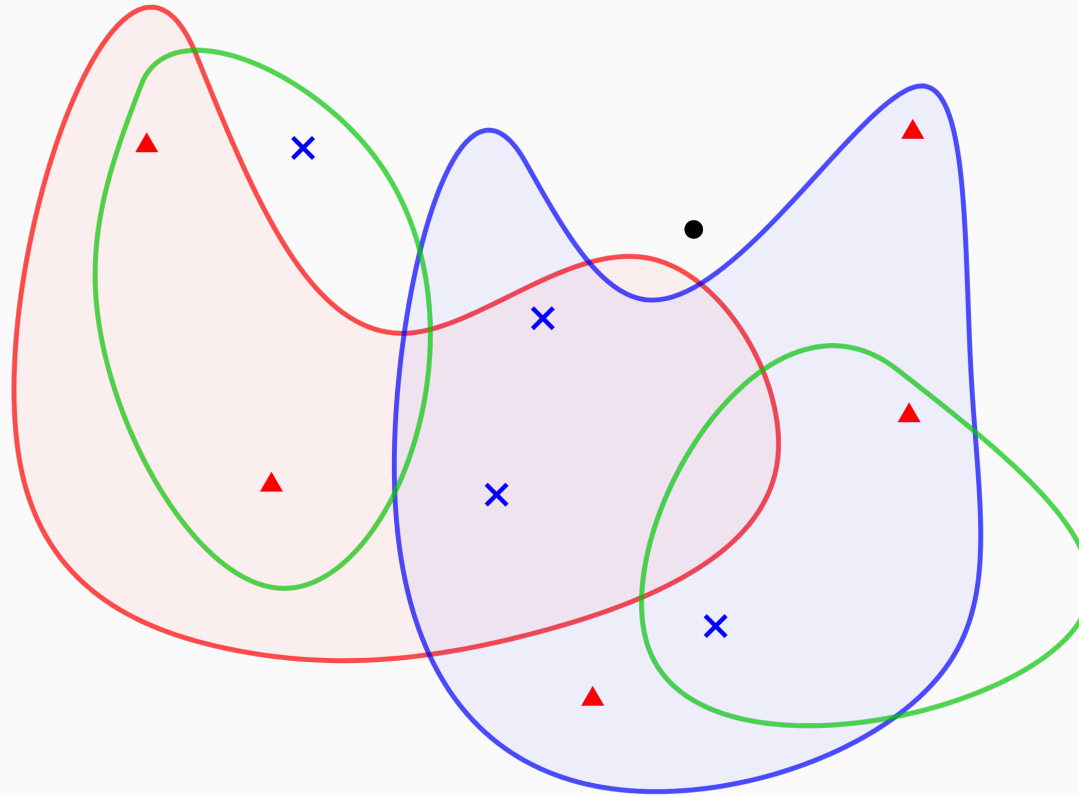
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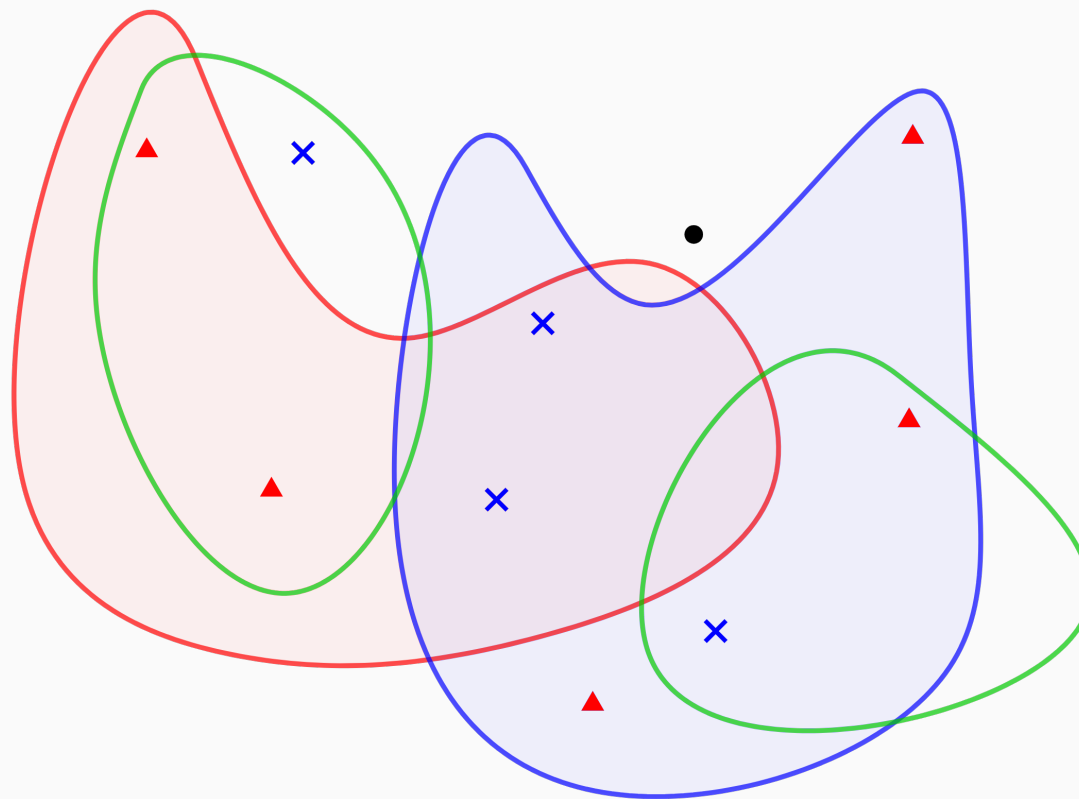
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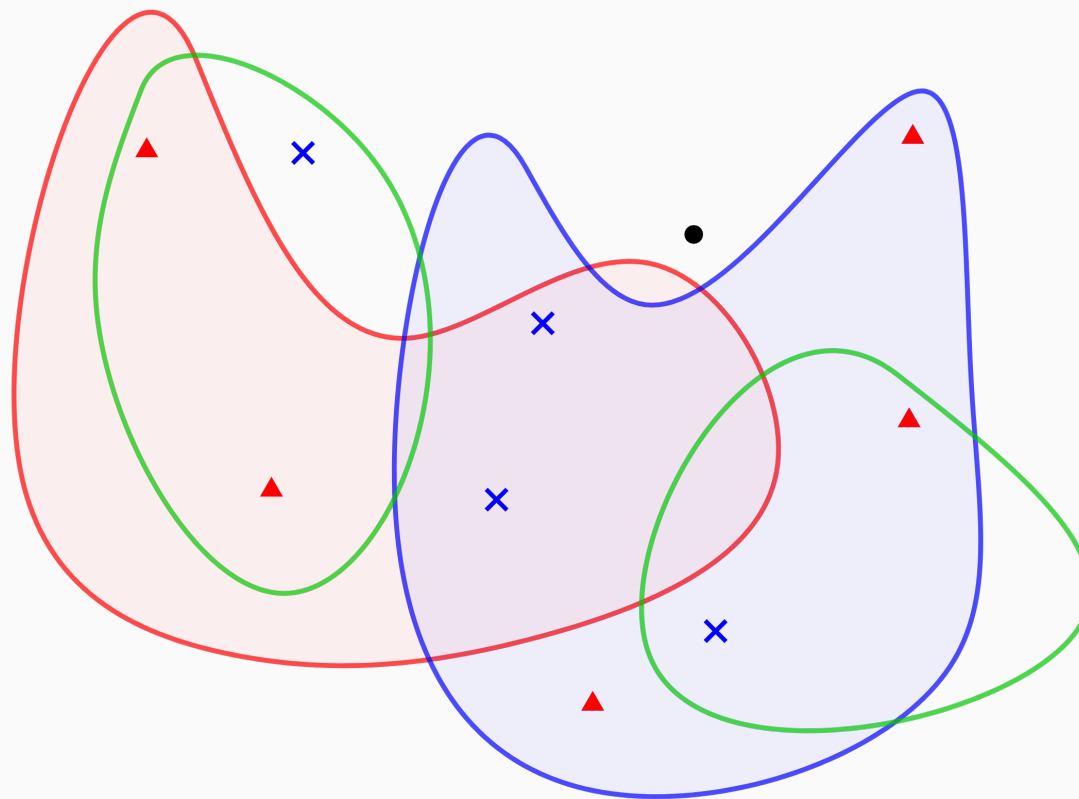


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Easy until $\Theta(n)$ sets: For $\Theta(n)$ sets, one can find colorings with discrepancy $\Theta(1)$!

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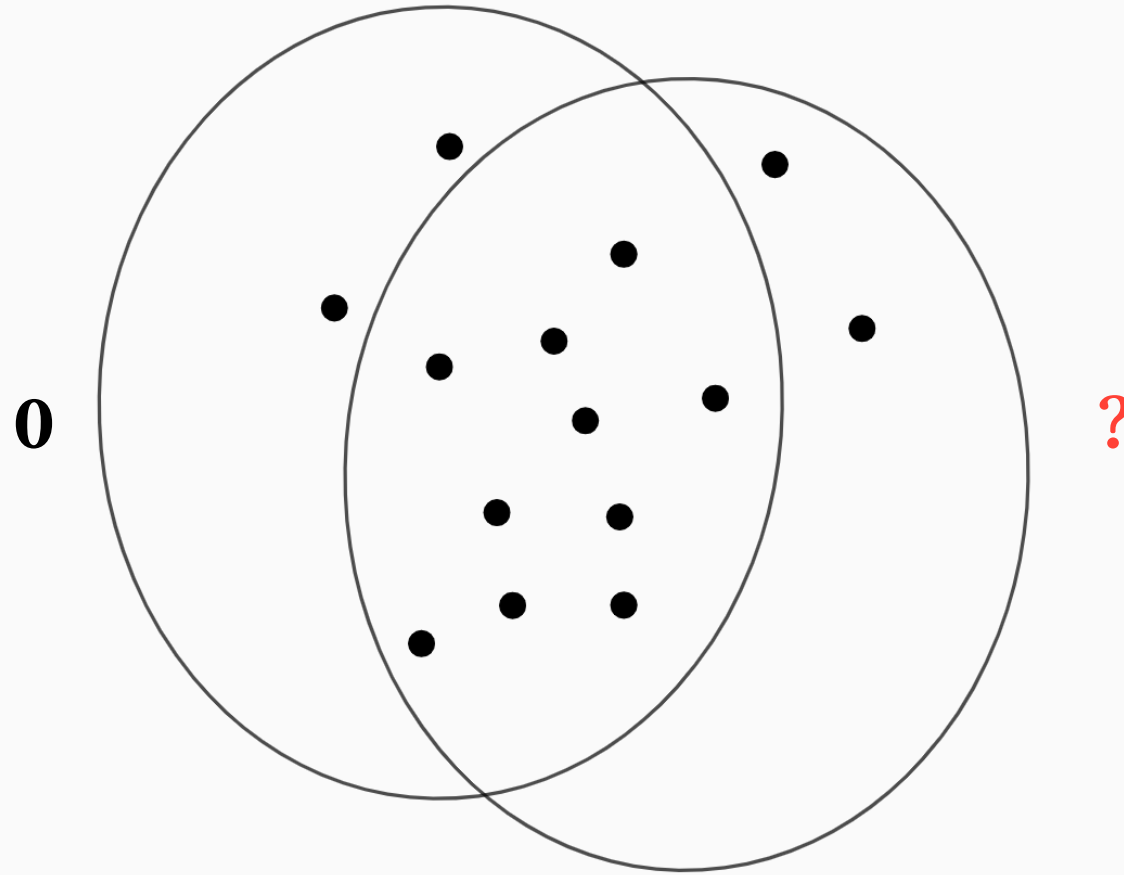


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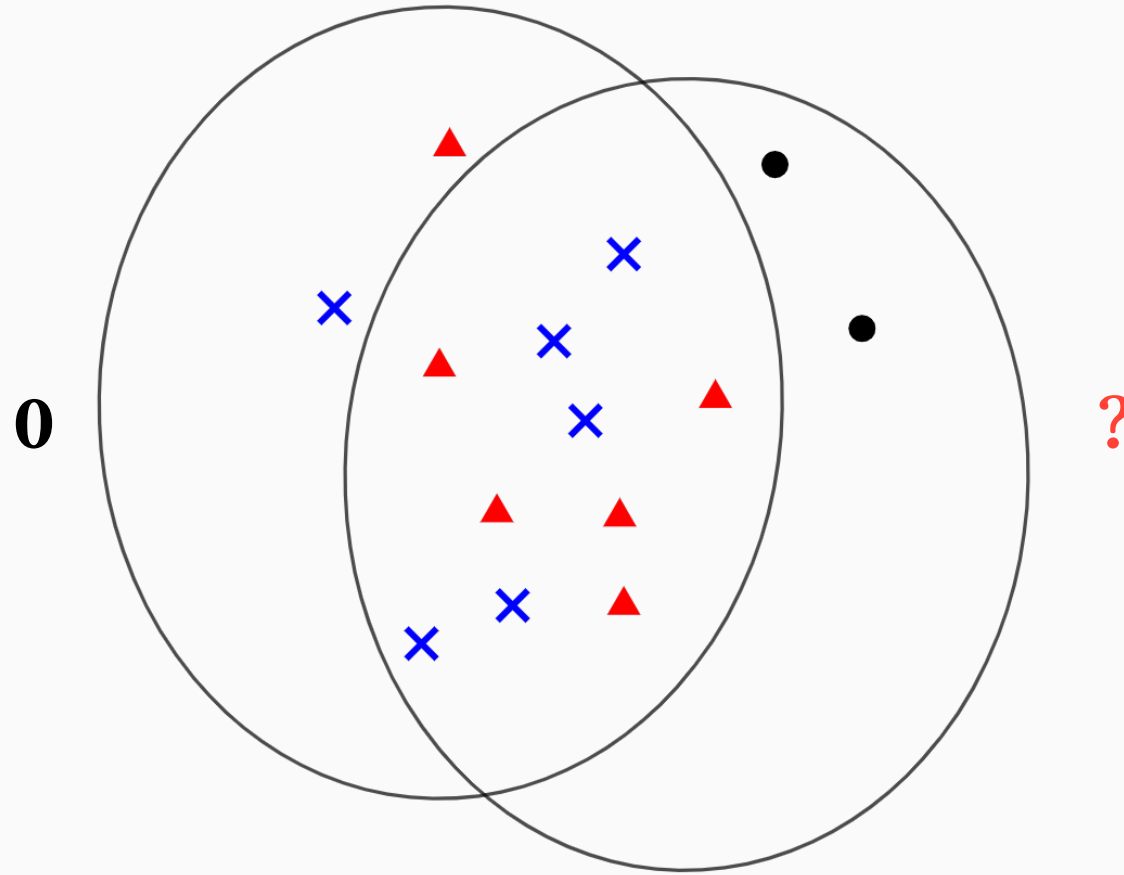
Hard for $m = \Omega(n)$: $\Omega\left(\sqrt{n \log\left(\frac{m}{n}\right)}\right)$ in general, $\Omega\left(n^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2d}}\right)$ for VC-dim d

Discrepancy and symmetric difference

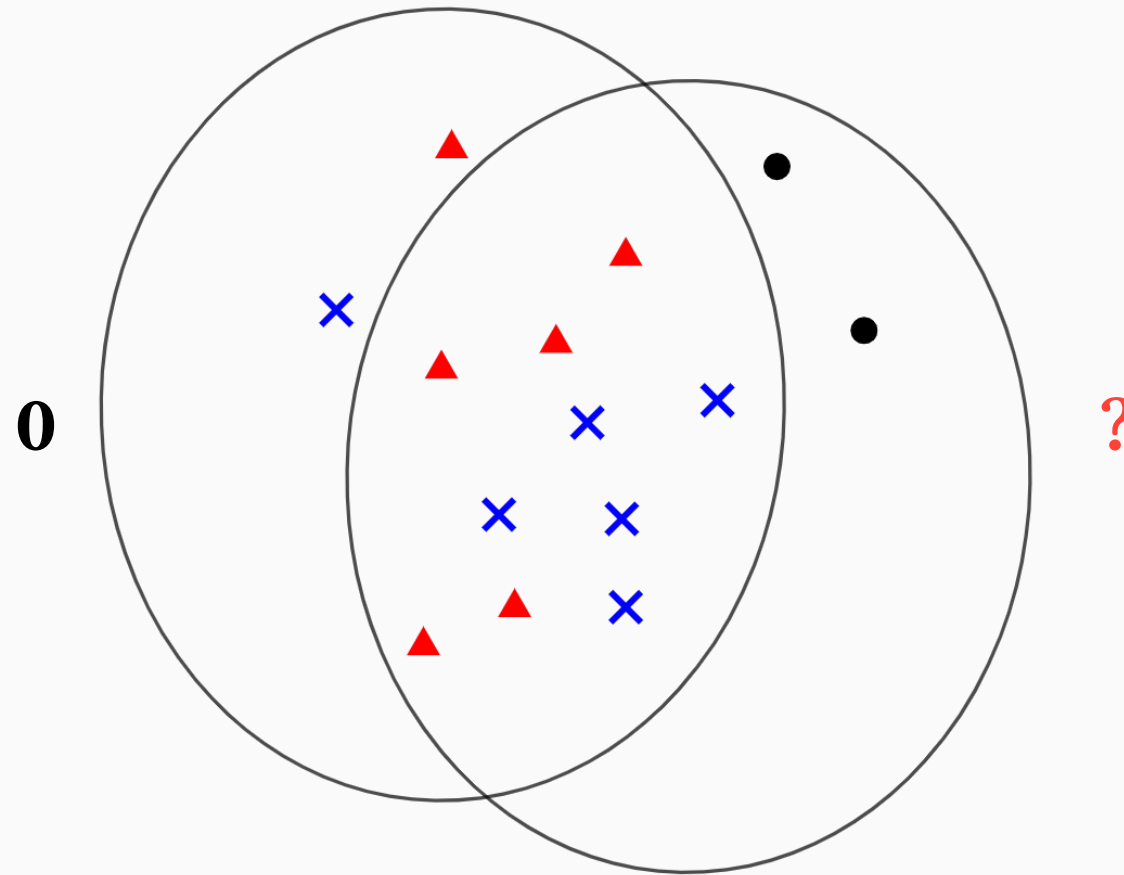
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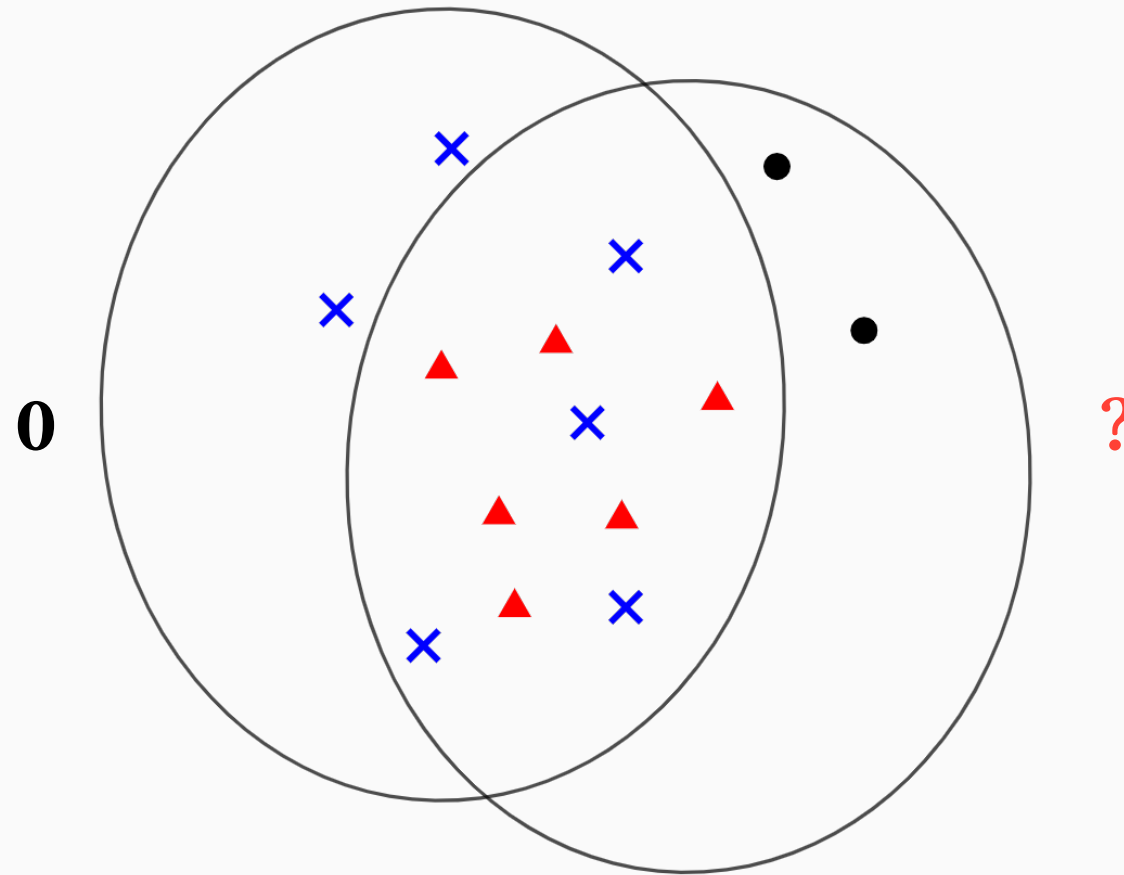
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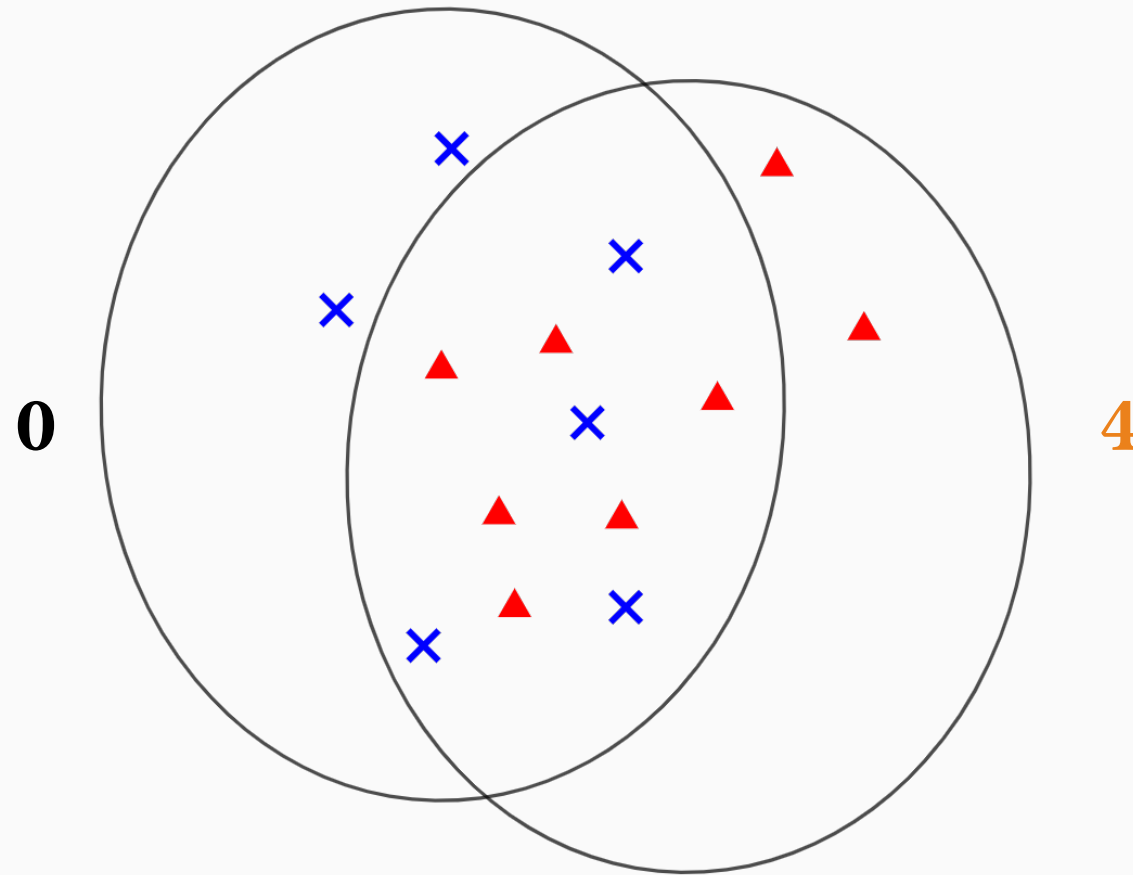
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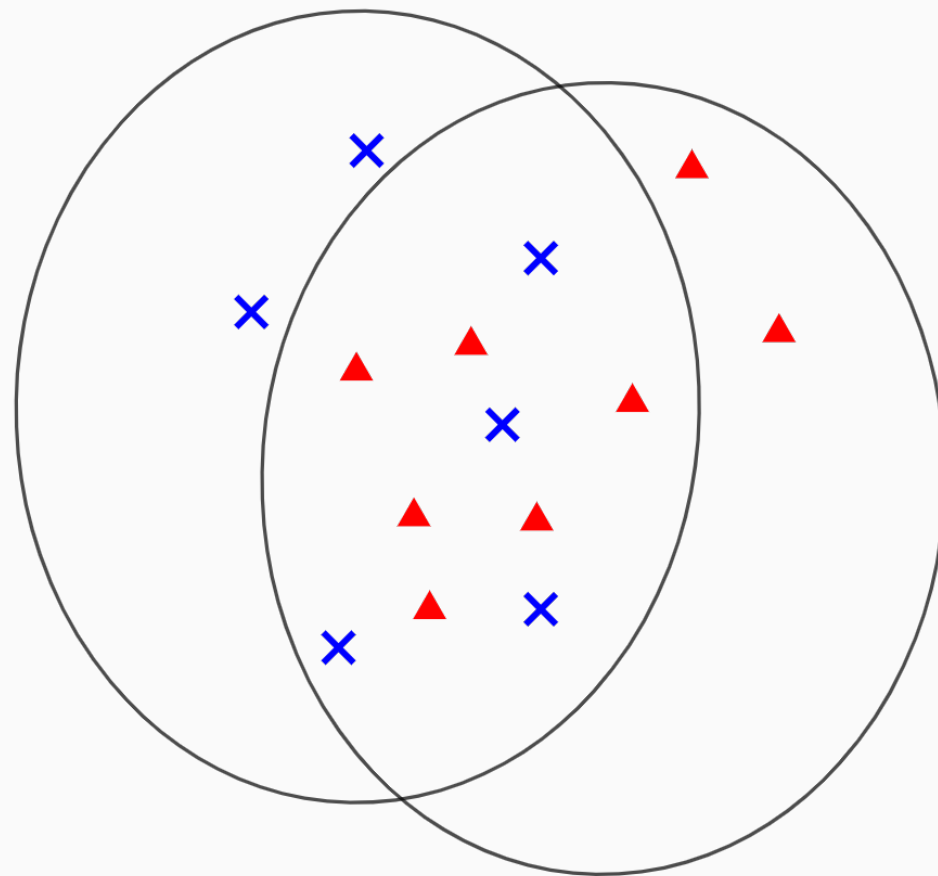
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Recap

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

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

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VC-dimension d set systems: $O\left(\left(\frac{n}{\delta}\right)^d\right)$ (Haussler 1995)

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

Differential privacy?

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To make it DP: Compute true answer and then randomize it (coin toss example)

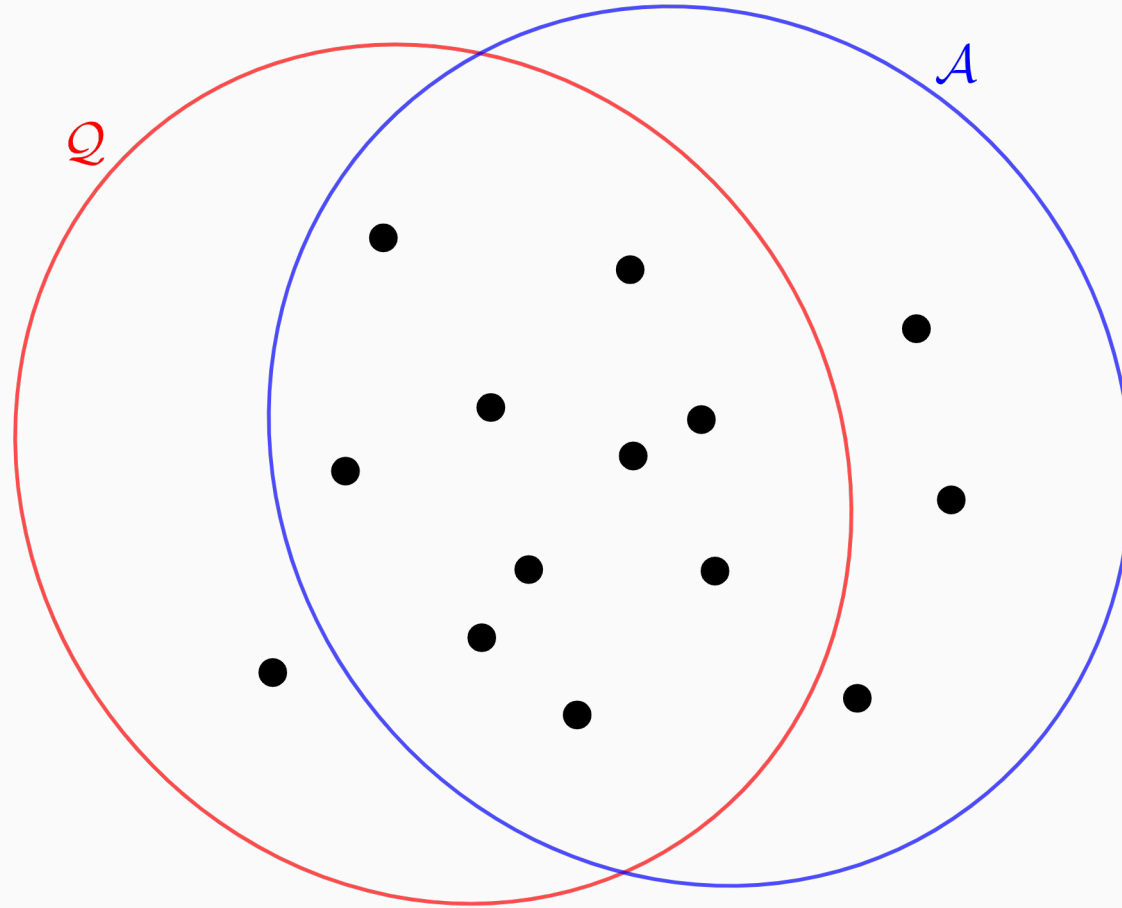
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A prospective paradigm for DP

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Current DP paradigm:

Data

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Data $\xrightarrow[\text{high complexity}]{\text{Algorithmic process}}$

A prospective paradigm for DP

Current DP paradigm:

Data $\xrightarrow[\text{high complexity}]{\text{Algorithmic process}}$ Exact answer

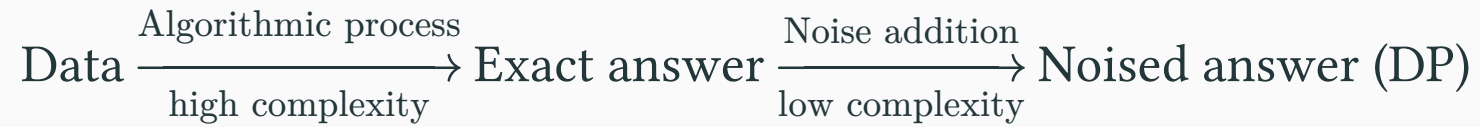
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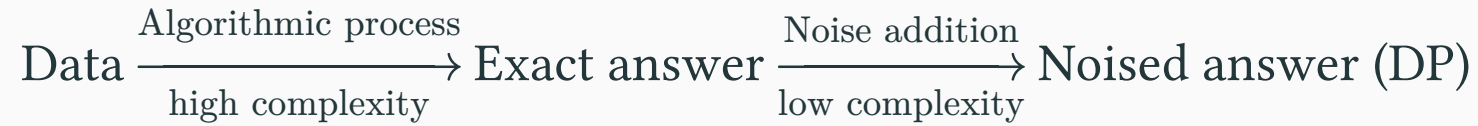
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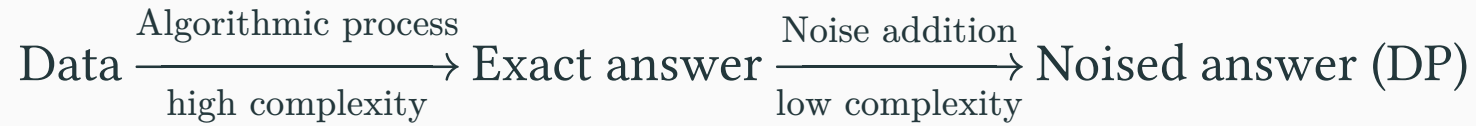


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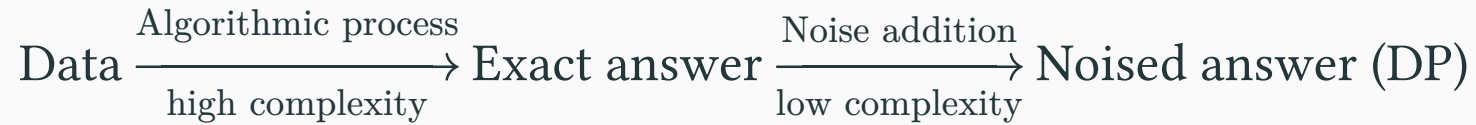


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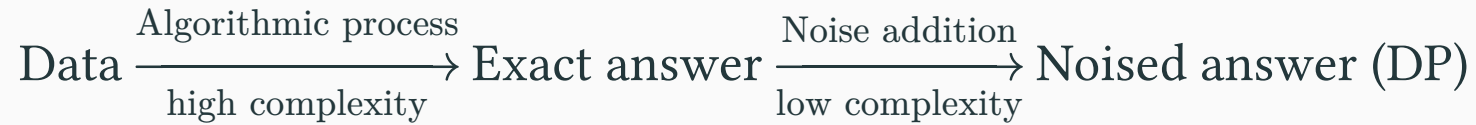


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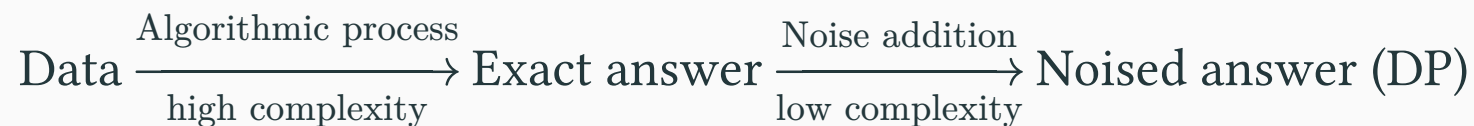


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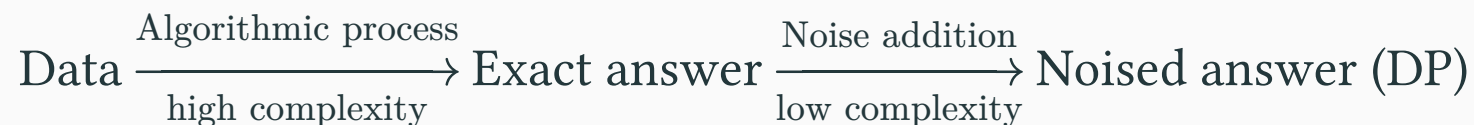


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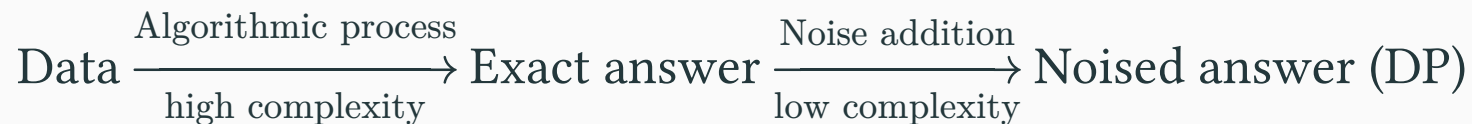
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Some technical challenges:

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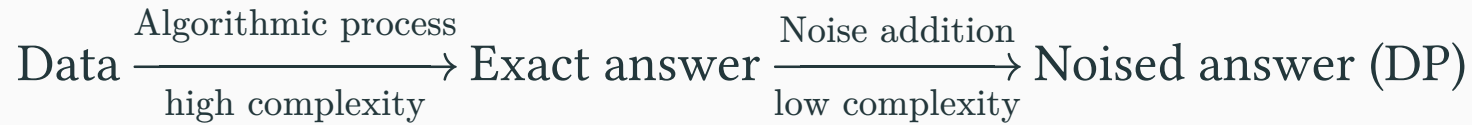


Some technical challenges:

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

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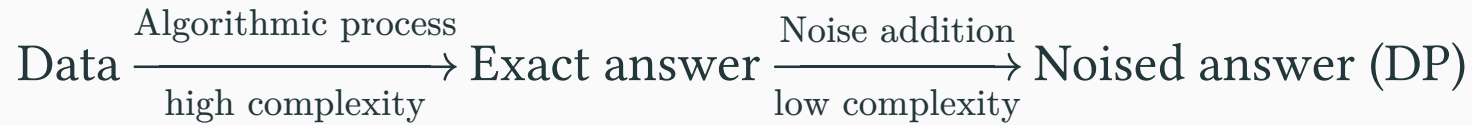


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- Characterizing the distribution of errors where most results focus only on worst case error.
- Extending some algorithms to return “out-data” results.

Thank you.

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