

Light Euclidean Spanners with Steiner Points

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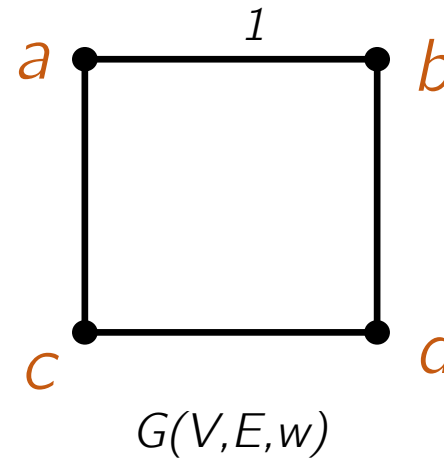
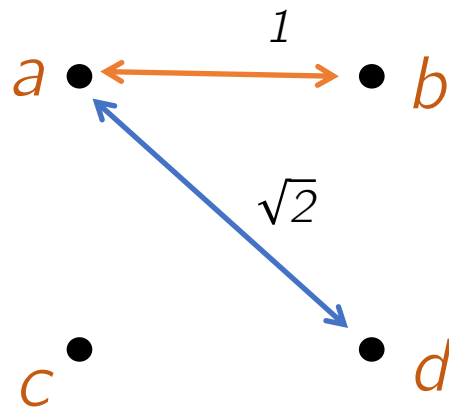
Tel Aviv University



Euclidean Spanners

A Euclidean **t -spanner** of a point set $P \in R^d$ is a **geometric graph** $G(V, E, w)$:

1. $V = P$
2. $\forall e = (p, q), w(e) = \|p, q\|_2$
3. $\max_{p \neq q \in V} \frac{d_G(p, q)}{\|p, q\|_2} \leq t$ t is called **stretch factor**



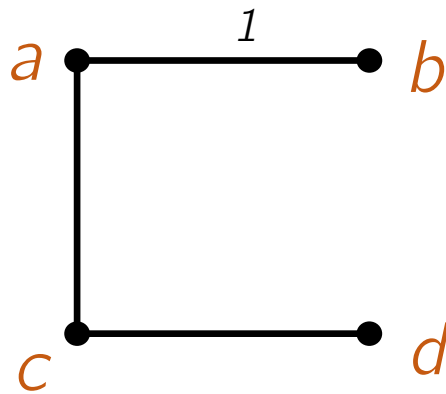
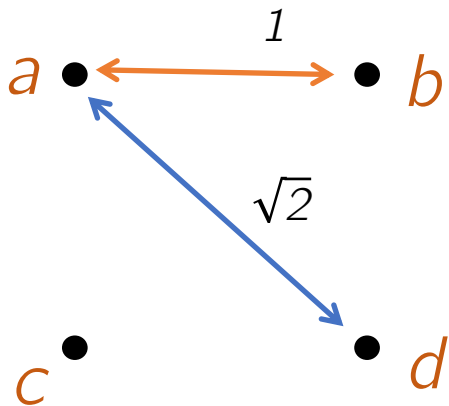
$\sqrt{2}$ – spanner

Sparsity and Lightness

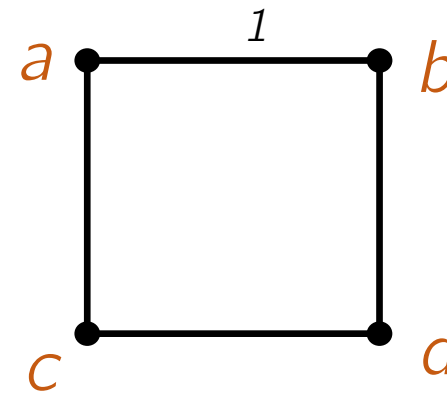
Think of t -spanner as a **sparse and light weight** graph that preserves Euclidean distances up to a factor of t .

$$\text{Sparsity}(G) = \frac{|E(G)|}{|E(\text{MST})|}$$

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})}$$



MST



$\sqrt{2}$ -spanner

Sparsity = $4/3$
Lightness = $4/3$

Applications of Euclidean spanners

Approximating geometrical graphs via “spanners” and “banyans”

Satish B. Rao & Warren D. Smith
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Approximation algorithm

Approximate Distance Oracles for Geometric Graphs

Joachim Gudmundsson* Christos Levcopoulos† Giri Narasimhan‡ Michiel Smid§

Distance oracle

EXPLORING PROTEIN FOLDING TRAJECTORIES USING
GEOMETRIC SPANNERS

D. RUSSEL and L. GUIBAS
Computer Science Department
353 Serra Mall
Stanford, CA 94305, USA

Computational biology

**Sparse Communication Networks and Efficient Routing in
the Plane**

[Extended Abstract]

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Network design

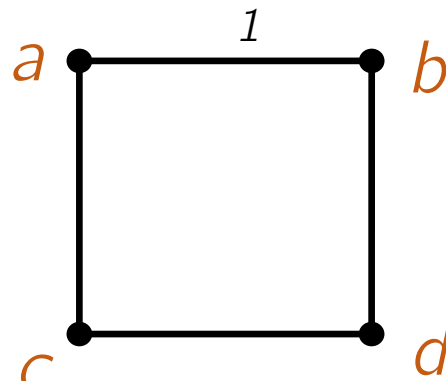
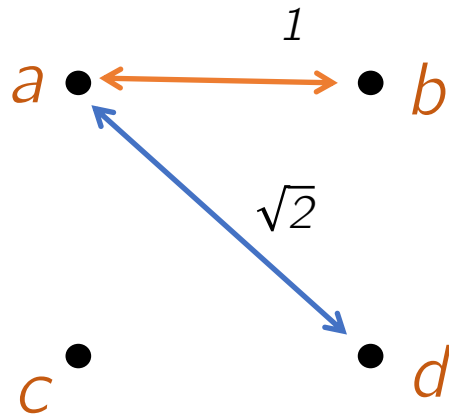
Steiner Euclidean Spanners

A **Steiner** Euclidean **t -spanner** of a point set $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is a **geometric graph** $G(V, E, w)$:

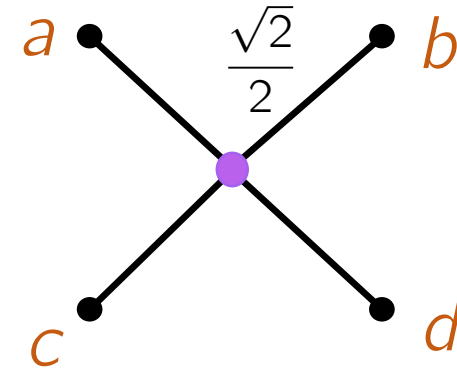
1. $P \subseteq V$, $Q = V \setminus P$ **Steiner points**

2. $\forall e = (p, q), w(e) = \|p, q\|_2$

3. $\max_{p \neq q \in P} \frac{d_G(p, q)}{\|p, q\|_2} \leq t$



$\sqrt{2}$ - spanner
 $w(H) = 4$



$\sqrt{2}$ - spanner
 $w(G) = 2\sqrt{2} = 2.8$

Non-Steiner vs Steiner Spanners


Question: Do Steiner points really help?
(in reducing sparsity and lightness)

Spoiler alert: **Yes!!!**

Known Results: \mathbb{R}^2

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

	Non-Steiner Spanners		Steiner Spanners	
Sparsity	$O(1/\varepsilon)$ [Clarkson87;Keil88]	$\Omega(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{\Omega}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS,FOCS19]
Lightness	$\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\Omega(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS,FOCS19]		$\tilde{\Omega}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,FOCS19]

[LS] H. Le and S. Solomon, “Truly optimal Euclidean spanners,” FOCS’19.

This Work

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

	Non-Steiner Spanners		Steiner Spanners	
Sparsity	$O(1/\varepsilon)$ [Clarkson87;Keil88]	$\Omega(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{\Omega}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS,FOCS19]
Lightness	$\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\Omega(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,ESA20]	$\tilde{\Omega}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,FOCS19]




$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

when spread Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$
hold when Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$.

Known Results: \mathbb{R}^d when $d \geq 3$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\epsilon)$.

$$t = 1 + \epsilon$$

	Non-Steiner Spanners		Steiner Spanners	
Sparsity	$O(\epsilon^{1-d})$ [RS91]	$\Omega(\epsilon^{1-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(\epsilon^{(1-d)/2})$ [LS,FOCS19]	 Lower bound
Lightness	$\tilde{O}(\epsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\Omega(\epsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]		 Lower bound

This Work

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

	Non-Steiner Spanners		Steiner Spanners	
Sparsity	$O(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [RS91]	$\Omega(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(1-d)/2})$ [LS,FOCS19]	? Lower bound
Lightness	$\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\Omega(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(-d-1)/2})$ [LS,ESA20]	? Lower bound

when spread Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$

hold when Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$.

[LS] H. Le and S. Solomon, "Light Euclidean Spanners with Steiner Points," ESA'20.

This Work

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

Non-Steiner Spanners

Steiner Spanners

Steiner points help reducing lightness quadratically
 (for point sets with spread $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$)

[LS,FOCS19]

[LS,FOCS19]

[LS,ESA20]

[LS,FOCS19]

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$



Detailed Results

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

Theorem 1 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = O\left(\frac{\log \Delta}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

Theorem 2 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^d$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = \tilde{O}\left(\varepsilon^{(-d-1)/2} + (\log \Delta)\varepsilon^{-2}\right)$$

This talk

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

Theorem 1 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

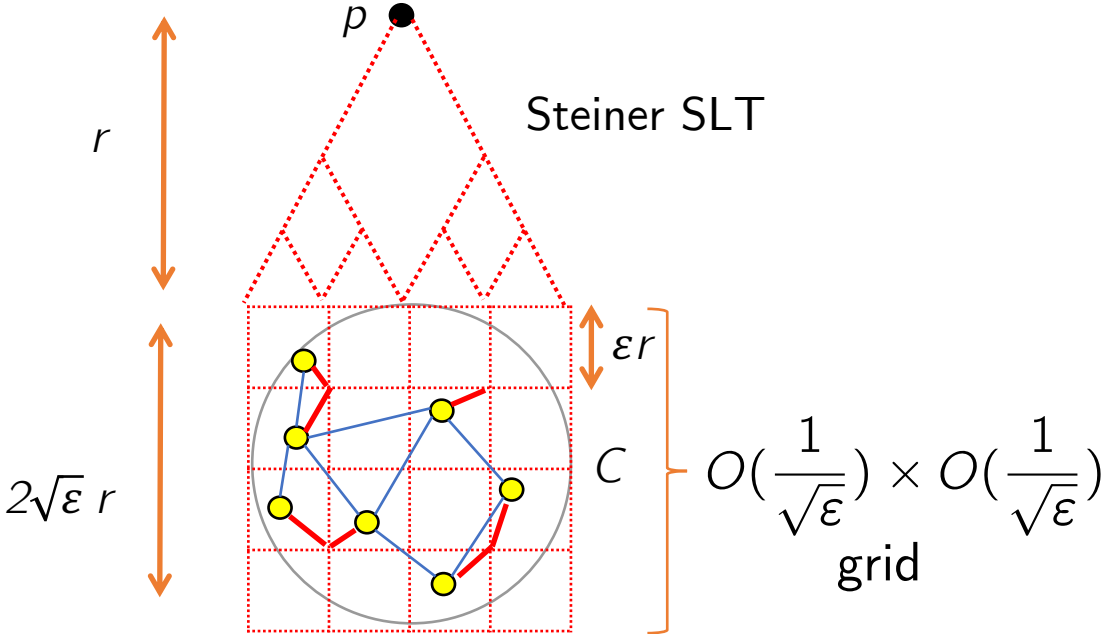
$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = O\left(\frac{\log \Delta}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

The rest of the talk: proving Theorem 1

Detour: Single Source Spanners (SSP)

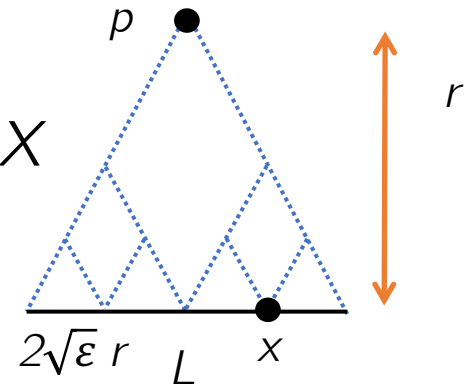
Source p , $Q \subseteq C_{(\sqrt{\epsilon}r)}$, $(1 + \epsilon)$ -spanner S of Q ,
 $d(p, C_{(\sqrt{\epsilon}r)}) = r$. SSP is a geometric graph H :

$$d_{HUS}(p, x) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in Q$$



Steiner SLT: SLT = Shallow Light Tree
 point p , line L , $d(p, L) = r$, $length(L) = 2\sqrt{\epsilon}r$.
 Steiner SLT is a geometric graph X :

$$d_{XUL}(p, x) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in L$$



Solomon [SocG14]: $w(X) = O(r)$

Detour: Single Source Spanners

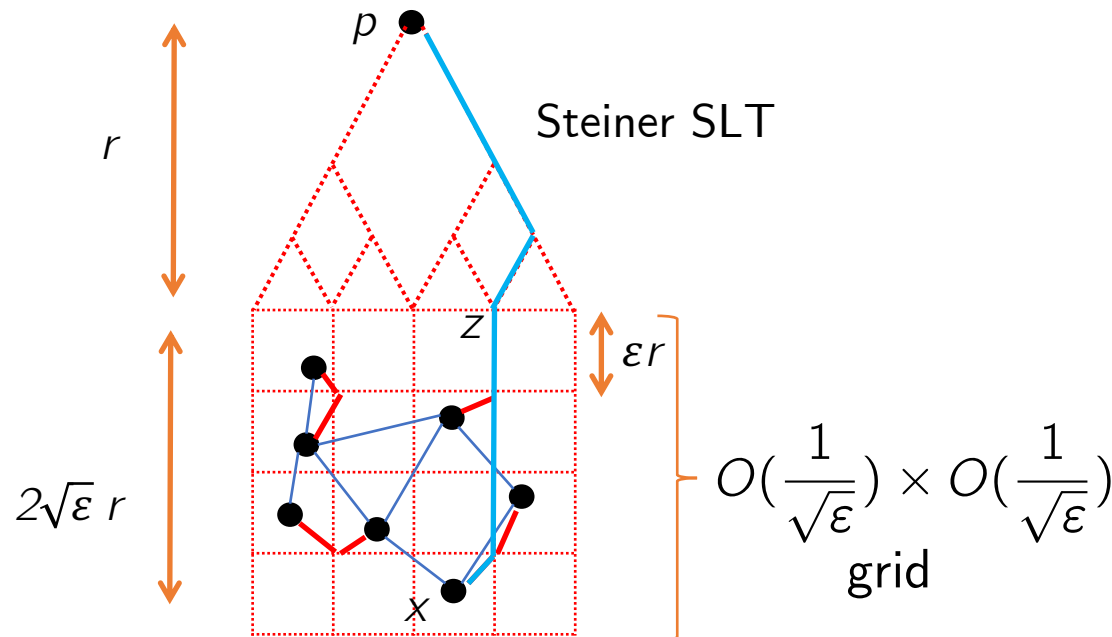
Source p , $Q \subseteq C_{(\sqrt{\epsilon}r)}$, $(1 + \epsilon)$ -spanner S of Q ,
 $d(p, C_{(\sqrt{\epsilon}r)}) = r$. SSP is a geometric graph H :

$$d_{HUS}(p, x) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in Q$$

Claim: $w(H) = O(r)$

Proof:

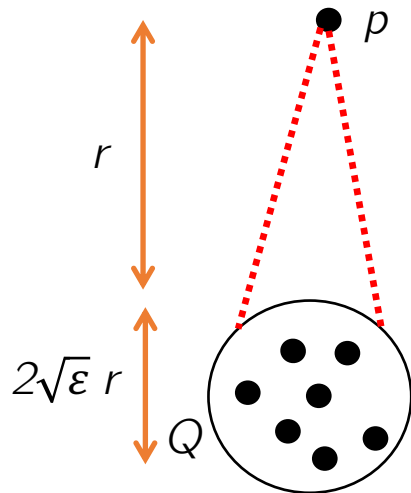
$$\begin{aligned} w(H) &= w(\text{SLT}) + w(\text{grid}) \\ &\quad + w(\text{connections to grid}) \\ &= O(r) + O(r) + O(r) \end{aligned}$$



Detour: Single Source Spanners

Lemma: Given a point p , a set of point Q enclosed in a circle C of radius $\sqrt{\varepsilon}r$ where $d(p, C) = r$, and a $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner S of Q , one can construct a graph H such that:

- (1) $d_{HUS}(p, x) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, x\| \quad \forall x \in Q$
- (2) $w(H) = O(r)$



Steiner Spanner Construction: Overview

Goal: Find a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with $w(G) = O(\log \Delta / \varepsilon)w(\text{MST})$

- Spread Δ : assume min. distance = 1 and max. distance = Δ
- Partition $\mathcal{P} = \{(p, q)\}_{p \neq q \in P}$ into $\log \Delta$ subsets:
$$\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$$
- Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for \mathcal{P}_i separately

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O(1/\varepsilon)w(\text{MST})$$

Claim: $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\log \Delta} H_i$ is the desired spanner.

Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \epsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$

- (1) $d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \epsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$
- (2) $w(H_i) = O(1/\epsilon)w(\text{MST})$

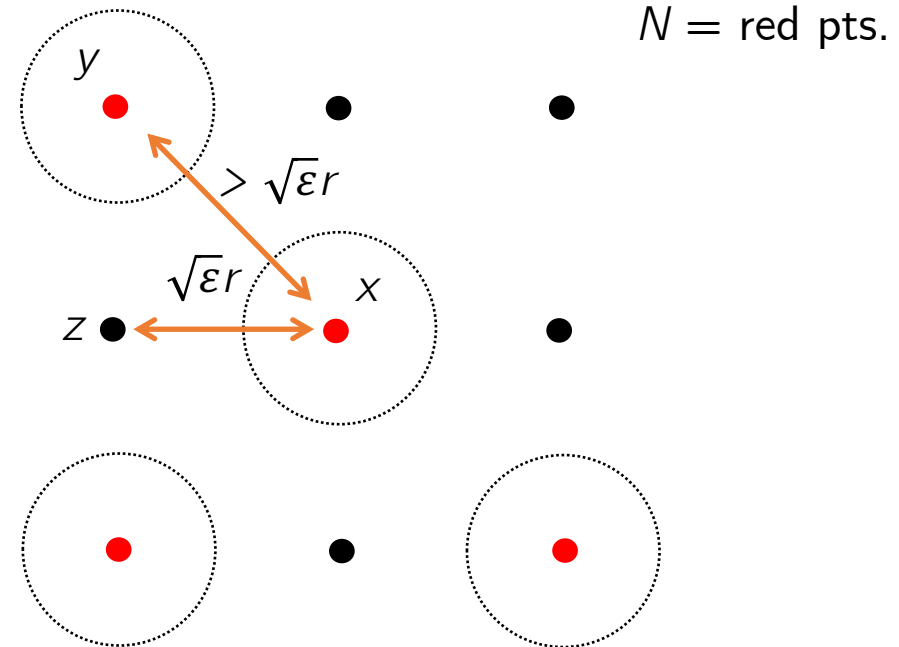
• Let $r = 2^i$, and N be a $(\sqrt{\epsilon}r)$ -net of P :

- (1) $\forall x \neq y \in N, \|x, y\| > \sqrt{\epsilon}r$
- (2) $\forall z \in P, \exists x \in N : \|x, z\| \leq \sqrt{\epsilon}r$

Claim: $|N| = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\sqrt{\epsilon}r}\right)$

Proof: $\{C(x, \sqrt{\epsilon}r/2)\}_{x \in N}$ are pairwise disjoint.

$$|N| \frac{\sqrt{\epsilon}r}{2} \leq w(\text{part of MST inside all circles}) \leq w(\text{MST})$$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O(1/\varepsilon)w(\text{MST})$$

• Let $r = 2^i$, and N be a $(\sqrt{\varepsilon}r)$ -net of P :

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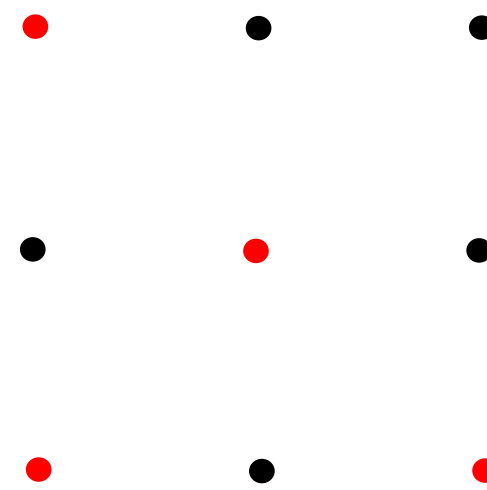
$$(2) \quad \forall z \in P, \exists x \in N : \|x, z\| \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon}r$$

$N =$ red pts.

$$\text{Claim: } |N| = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}r}\right)$$

• If $w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{|N|r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right)$ then:

$$w(H_i) = O\left(|N|\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}r} \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) = O\left(\frac{w(\text{MST})}{\varepsilon}\right)$$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (r/2, r]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{|N|r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) \quad N \text{ is } r\sqrt{\varepsilon}\text{-net of } P$$

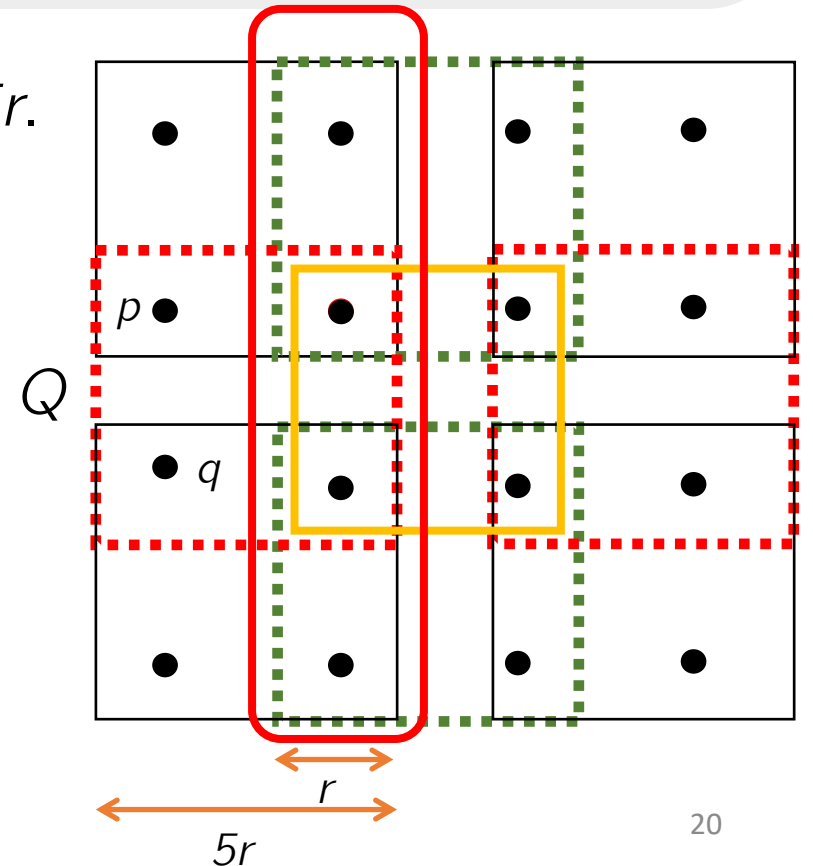
- “Cover” the plane by overlapping \square of size length $5r$.

(a) $\forall x \in N : x \in$ at most 4 \square s

(b) $\forall (p, q) : \|p, q\| \leq r, \exists \square Q$ s.t $p, q \in Q$

- Focus on 1 square Q : preserve (p, q) s.t

$$(p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q$$



Spanner in a Square

- Place grid with cell size $(r/8) \times (r/8)$
- Horizontal band: a row of the grid.
 - $O(1)$ such bands
- Vertical band: a column of the grid

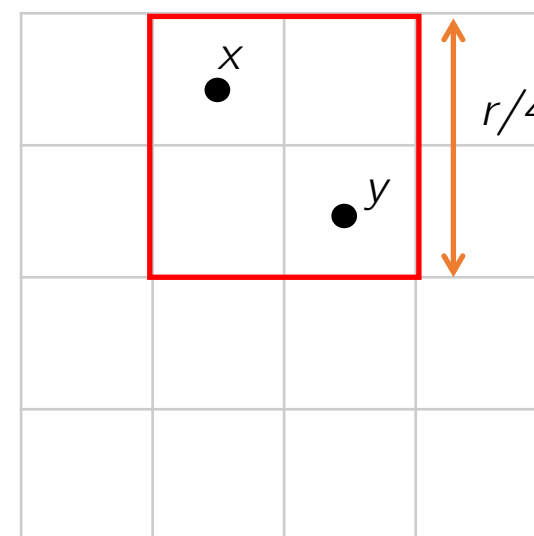
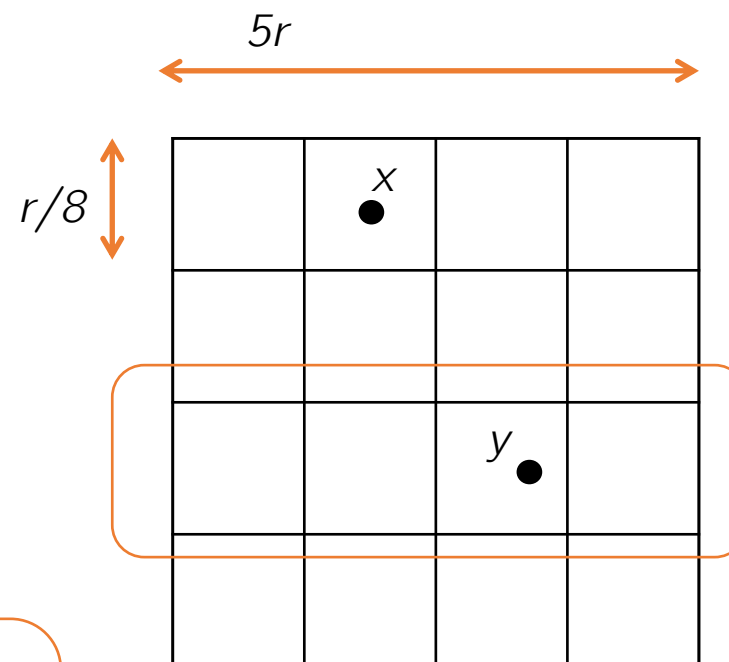
Claim: $(x,y) \in N \times N$ such that $\|x,y\| \in (r/2, r]$. Then:

- x,y in two **non-adjacent horizontal** bands
- or x,y in two **non-adjacent vertical** bands

Proof:

Otherwise, x,y both in \square of size length $r/4$.

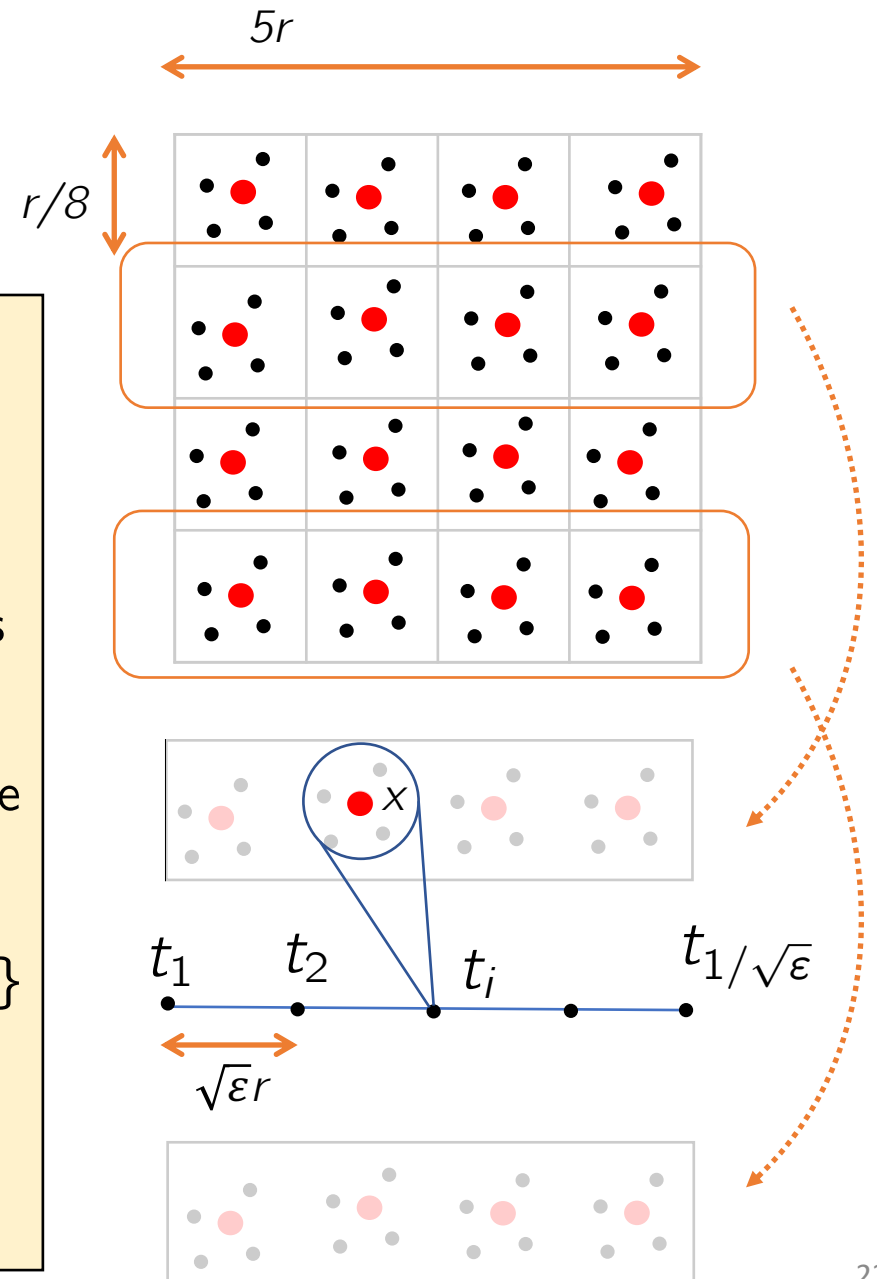
$$\|x,y\| \leq \sqrt{2} \cdot \frac{r}{4} < \frac{r}{2}$$



Spanner in a Square (cont.)

SQUARESPANNER(Q)

1. Divide Q into a grid with cell size $(r/8) \times (r/8)$
2. $H_Q \leftarrow \emptyset$ // square spanner
3. **Foreach** pair (X, Y) of non-adj. horizontal (vertical) bands
4. $H_{X, Y} \leftarrow \emptyset$ // band spanner
5. Place $O(1/\sqrt{\epsilon})$ Steiner points $\{t_1, t_2, \dots\}$ on the mid-line
6. **Foreach** point t_i and each point x in $N \cap (X \cup Y)$:
7. $H_{X, Y} \leftarrow H_{X, Y} \cup \{\text{a SS spanner from } t_i \text{ to } C(x, \sqrt{\epsilon}r)\}$
8. $H_Q \leftarrow H_Q \cup H_{X, Y}$
9. return H_Q



Spanner in a Square (cont.)

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7. $H_{X, Y} \leftarrow H_{X, Y} \cup \{ \text{a SS spanner from } t_i \text{ to } C(x, \sqrt{\epsilon}r) \}$
8. $H_Q \leftarrow H_Q \cup H_{X, Y}$ } $O(r)$ weight
9. return H_Q

Claim: $w(H_Q) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\epsilon}} |N \cap Q|\right)$

Proof:

$O(1)$ pairs

$$w(H_{X, Y}) = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}\right) r |N \cap (X \cup Y)|$$

$$\begin{aligned} w(H_Q) &= O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}\right) \left(\sum_{X, Y} |N \cap (X \cup Y)|\right) \\ &= O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}\right) |N \cap Q| \end{aligned}$$

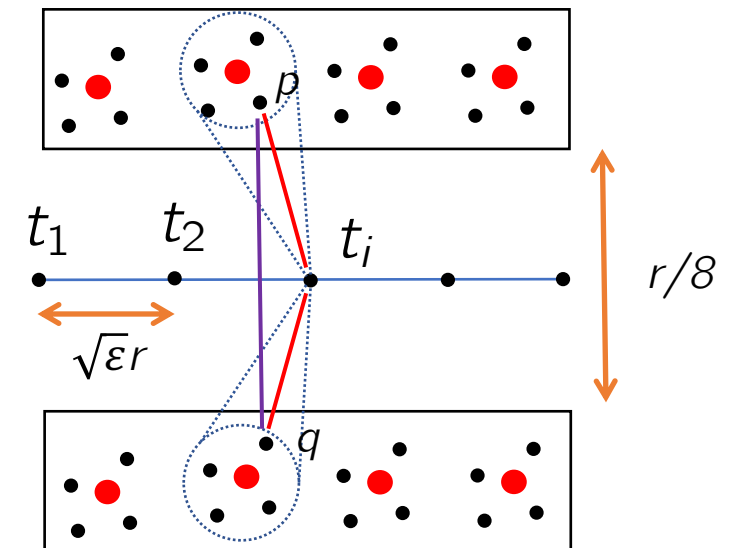
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8. $H_Q \leftarrow H_Q \cup H_{X, Y}$
9. return H_Q

Claim: $w(H_Q) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\epsilon}} |N \cap Q|\right)$

Claim: any $(p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q$
then: $d_{H_Q}(p, q) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \|p, q\|$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (r/2, r]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{|N|r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) \quad N \text{ is } r\sqrt{\varepsilon}\text{-net of } P$$

• “Cover” the plane by overlapping \square of size length $5r$.

(a) $\forall x \in N : x \in$ at most 4 \square s

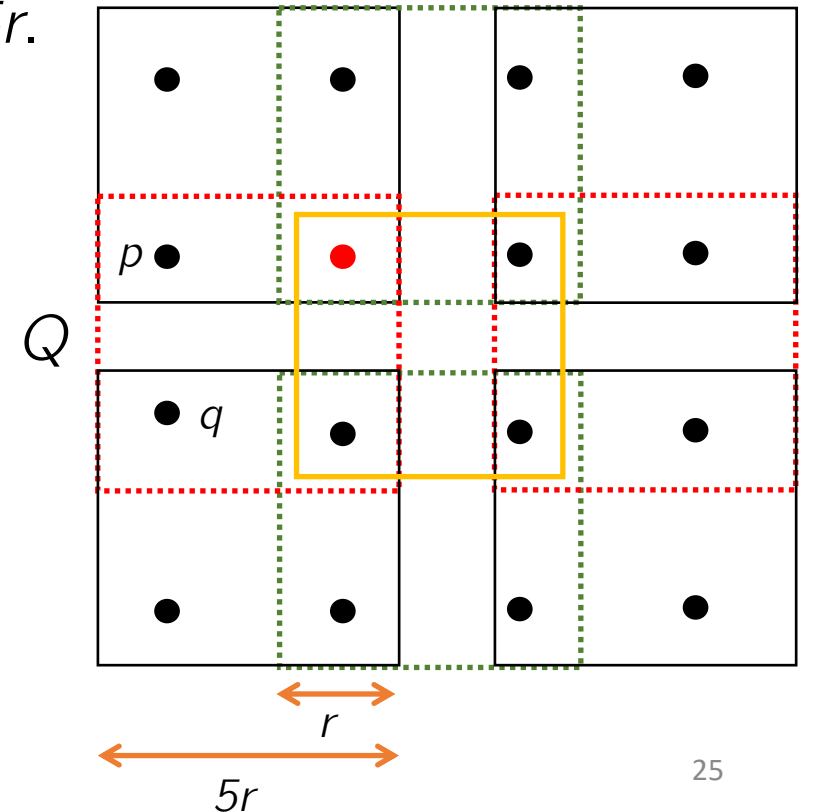
(b) $\forall (p, q) : \|p, q\| \leq r, \exists \square Q$ s.t. $p, q \in Q$

• For each square Q : $w(H_Q) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}|N \cap Q|\right)$

$$d_{H_Q}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q$$

• Let

$$H_i = \bigcup_Q H_Q$$



Goal: Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for $\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (r/2, r]\}$

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \quad \checkmark$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{|N|r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) \quad N \text{ is } r\sqrt{\varepsilon}\text{-net of } P \quad \checkmark$$

• “Cover” the plane by overlapping \square of size length $5r$.

(a) $\forall x \in N : x \in$ at most 4 \square s

(b) $\forall (p, q) : \|p, q\| \leq r, \exists \square Q$ s.t $p, q \in Q$

• For each square Q : $w(H_Q) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}|N \cap Q|\right)$

$$d_{H_Q}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i \cap Q$$

• Let

$$H_i = \bigcup_Q H_Q$$

$$w(H_i) = O\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) \sum_Q |N \cap Q|$$

$$= O\left(\frac{r|N|}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right)$$

$$d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\|$$

$$\forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

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- Spread Δ : assume min. distance = 1 and max. distance = Δ
- Partition $\mathcal{P} = \{(p, q)\}_{p \neq q \in P}$ into $\log \Delta$ subsets:
$$\mathcal{P}_i = \{(p, q) : \|p, q\| \in (2^{i-1}, 2^i]\}$$
- Find Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner H_i for \mathcal{P}_i

$$(1) \quad d_{H_i}(p, q) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|p, q\| \quad \forall (p, q) \in \mathcal{P}_i$$

$$(2) \quad w(H_i) = O(1/\varepsilon)w(\text{MST})$$



Claim: $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\log \Delta} H_i$ is the desired spanner.

Our results (recap)

$$\text{Spread } \Delta = \frac{\max_{p,q \in P} \|p, q\|}{\min_{p \neq q \in P} \|p, q\|}$$

Theorem 1 [LS20]

Given $P \in \mathbb{R}^2$, one can construct a Steiner $(1 + \epsilon)$ -spanner G for P with lightness:

$$\text{Lightness}(G) = \frac{w(G)}{w(\text{MST})} = O\left(\frac{\log \Delta}{\epsilon}\right)$$

Open Problems

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

	Non-Steiner Spanners		Steiner Spanners	
Sparsity	$O(1/\varepsilon)$ [Clarkson87;Keil88]	$\Omega(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{\Omega}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ [LS,FOCS19]
Lightness	$\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\Omega(1/\varepsilon^2)$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,ESA20]	$\tilde{\Omega}(1/\varepsilon)$ [LS,FOCS19]



when spread Δ is $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$

Problem 1: Find a Steiner $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -spanner G for P with $w(G) = O(1/\varepsilon)w(\text{MST})$ for any spread in Euclidean plane.

Open Problems

$$t = 1 + \varepsilon$$

$\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{O}$ hide $\text{polylog}(1/\varepsilon)$.

	Non-Steiner Spanners		Steiner Spanners	
Sparsity	$O(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [RS91]	$\Omega(\varepsilon^{1-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(1-d)/2})$ [LS,FOCS19]	 Lower bound
Lightness	$\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\Omega(\varepsilon^{-d})$ [LS,FOCS19]	$\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{(-d-1)/2})$ [LS20]	 Lower bound

for any spread

Thank you

Q&A

