

DRAWING THE UNKNOWN



Maarten Löffler
Utrecht University

Hello!

Hello!

My name is Maarten.

Hello!

My name is Maarten.



Hello!

My name is Maarten.

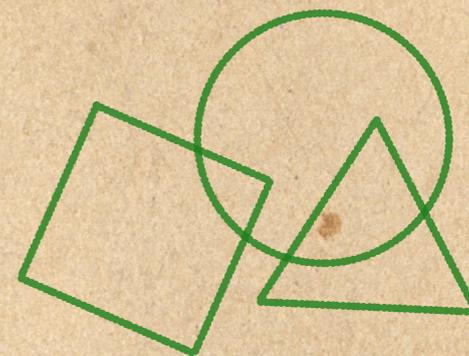


I am a computational geometer.

Hello!

My name is Maarten.

I am a computational geometer.

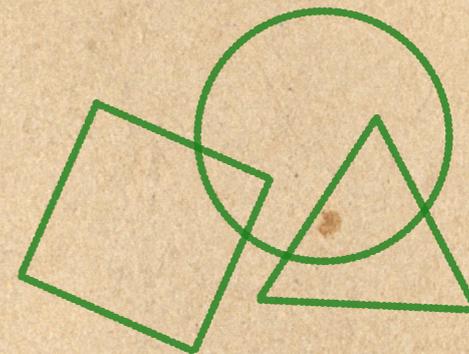


Hello!

My name is Maarten.

I am a computational geometer.

I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.

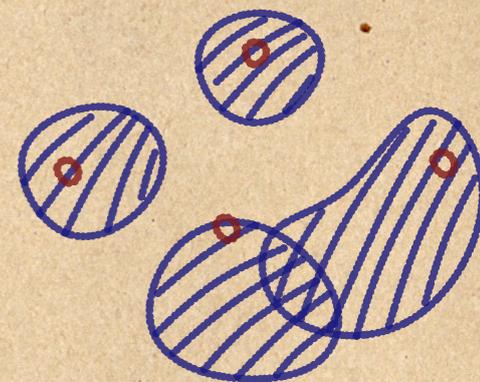
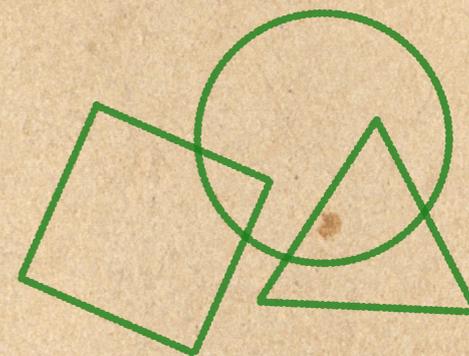


Hello!

My name is Maarten.

I am a computational geometer.

I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.



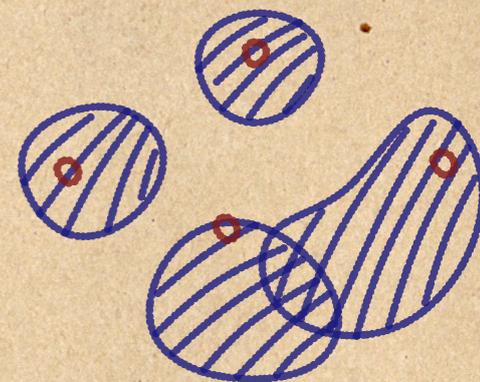
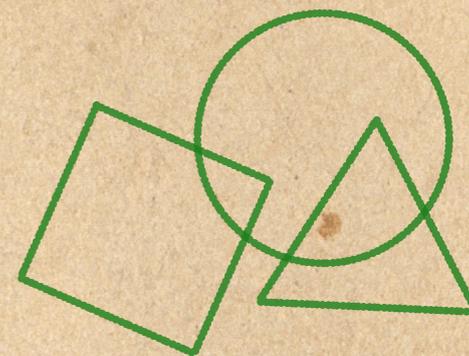
Hello!

My name is Maarten.

I am a computational geometer.

I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.

I have a confession to make.



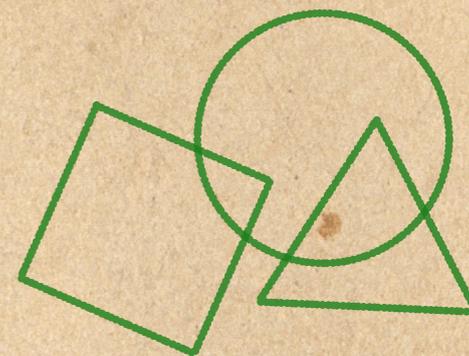
Hello!

My name is Maarten.



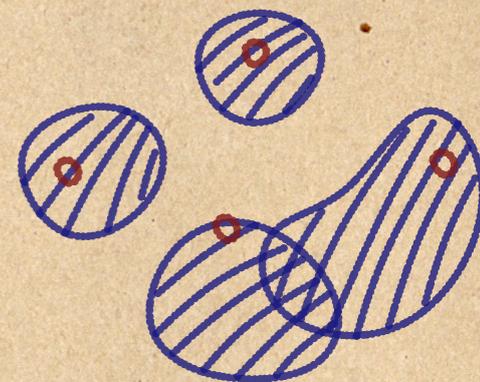
I am a computational geometer.

I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.



I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.



Hello!

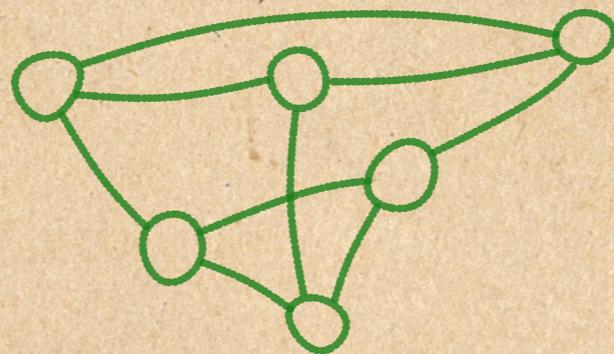
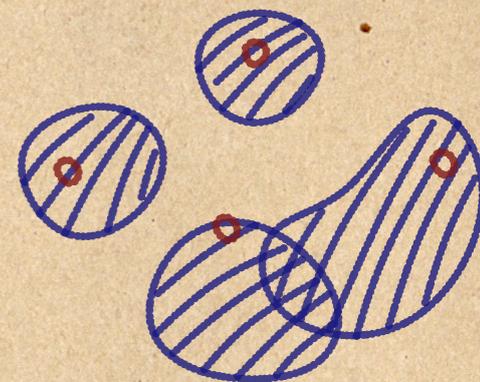
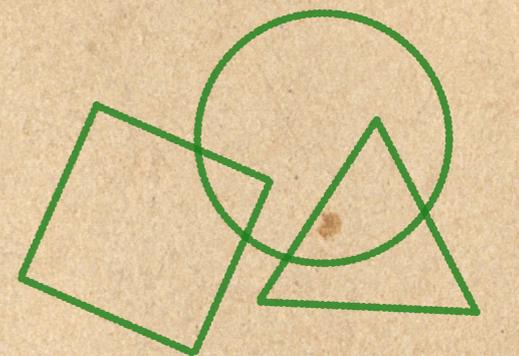
My name is Maarten.

I am a computational geometer.

I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.

I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.

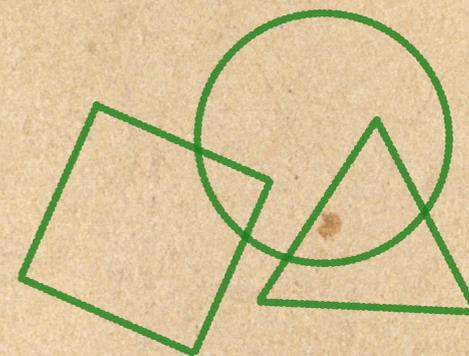


Hello!

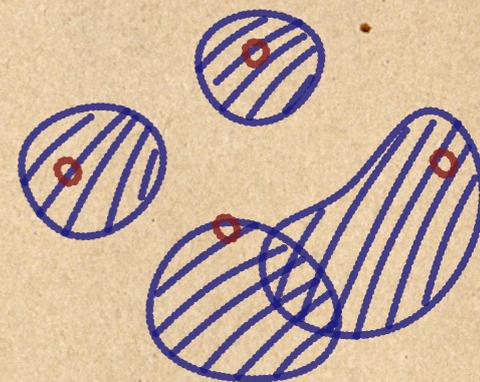
My name is Maarten.



I am a computational geometer.

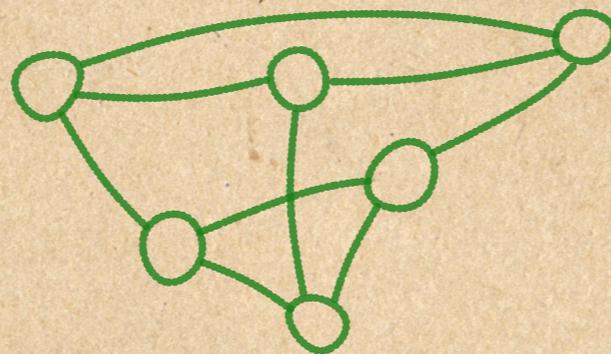
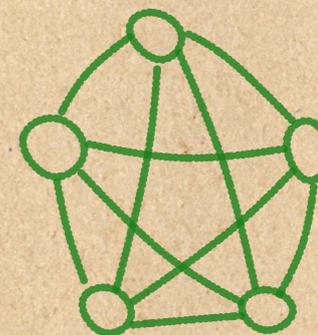


I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.



I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.

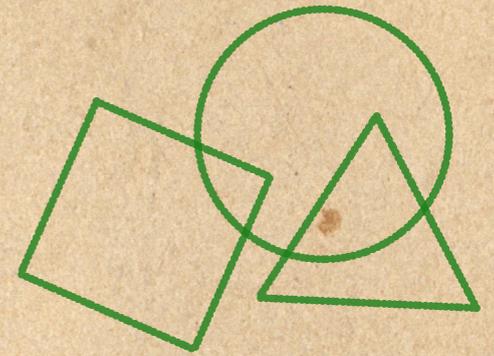


Hello!

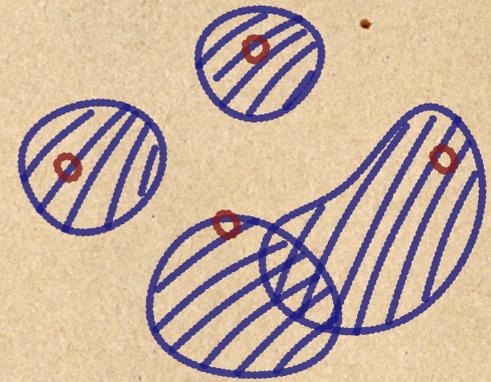
My name is Maarten.



I am a computational geometer.

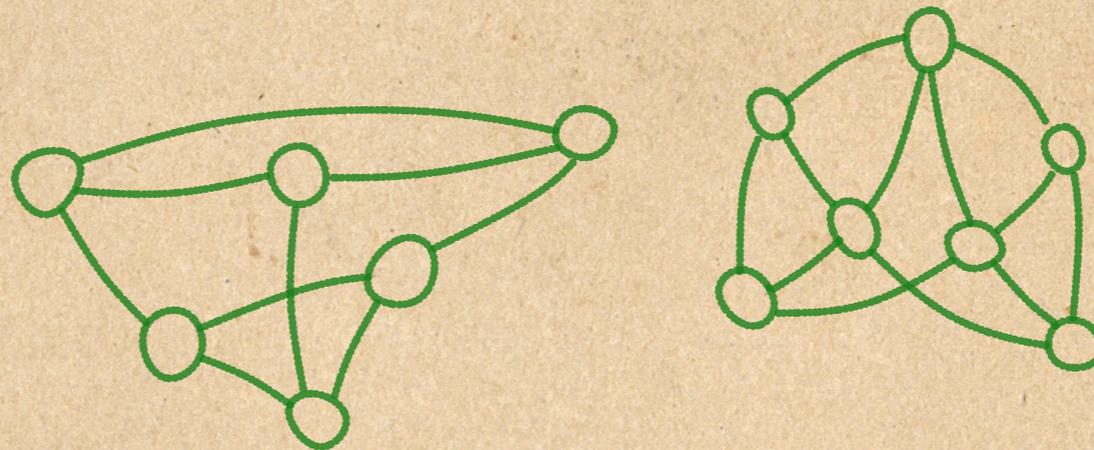
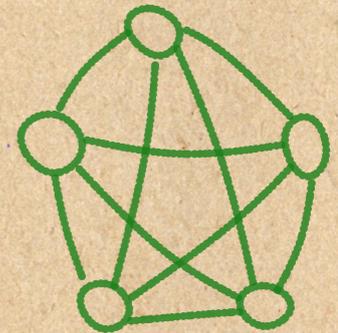


I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.



I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.

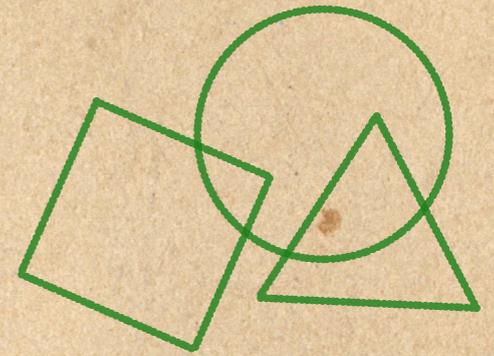


Hello!

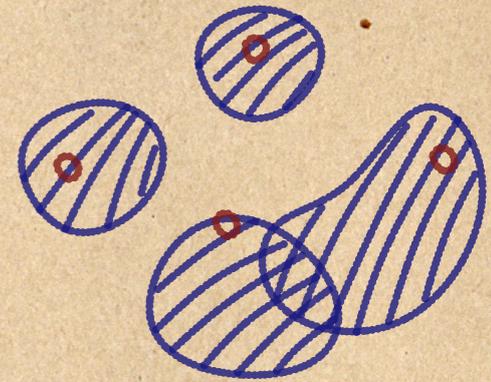
My name is Maarten.



I am a computational geometer.

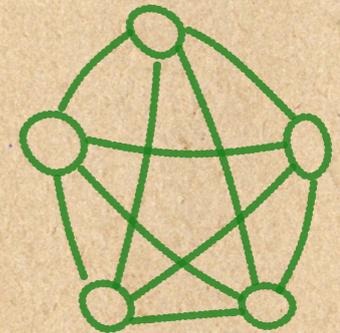


I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.

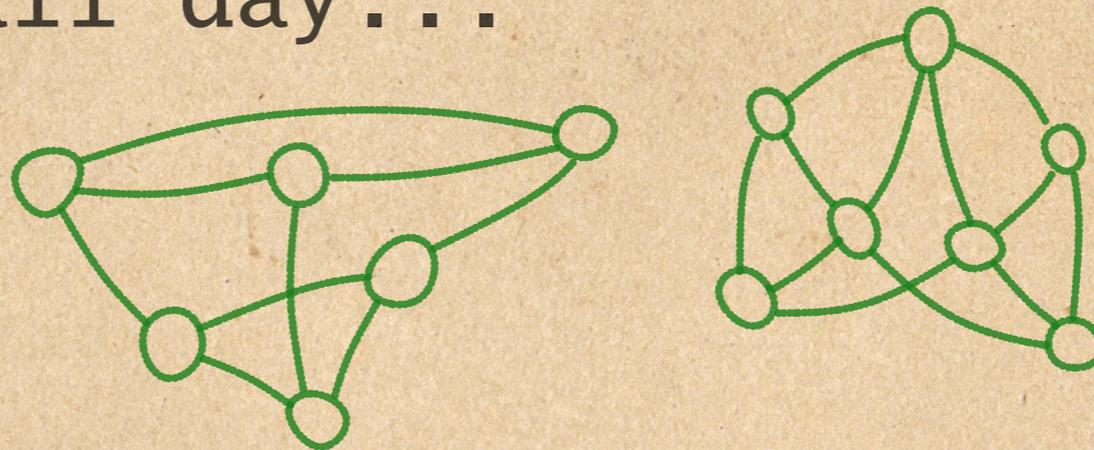


I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.



I could do this all day...

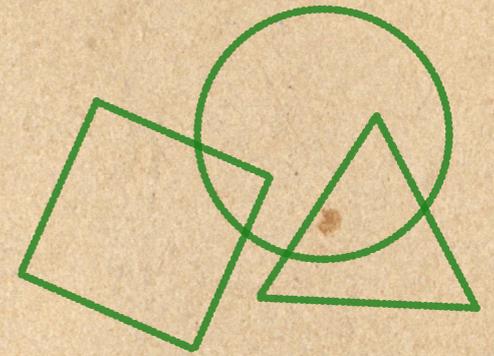


Hello!

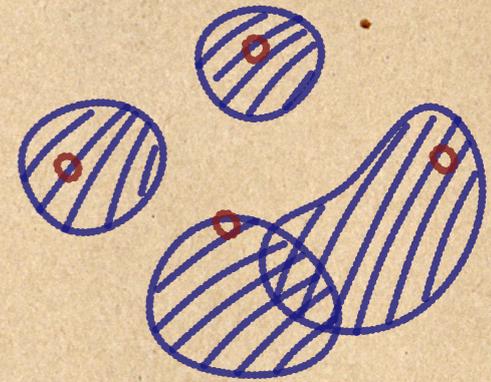
My name is Maarten.



I am a computational geometer.

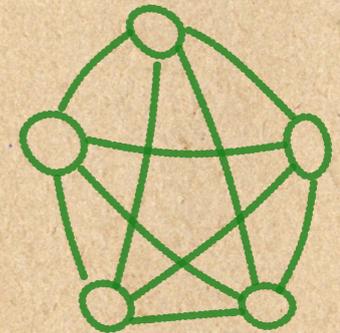


I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.



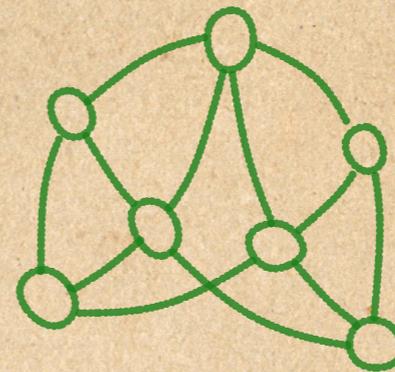
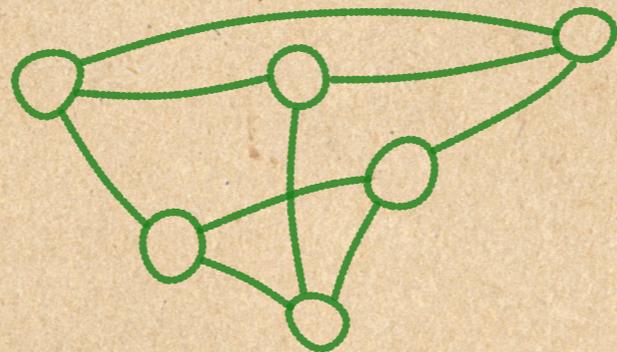
I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.



I could do this all day...

Wait...

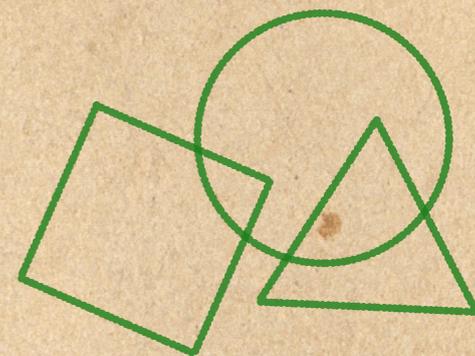


Hello!

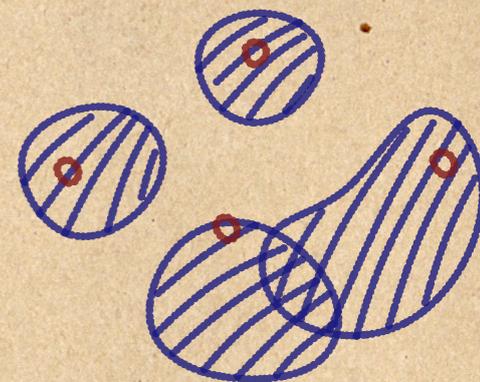
My name is Maarten.



I am a computational geometer.

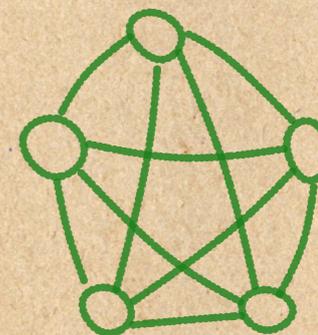


I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.



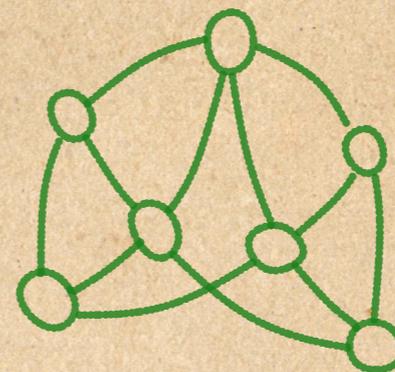
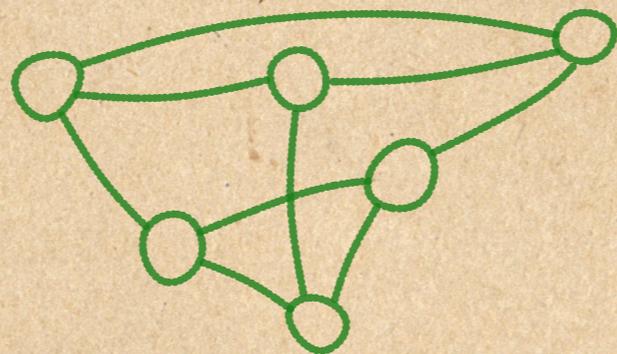
I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.



I could do this all day...

Wait...



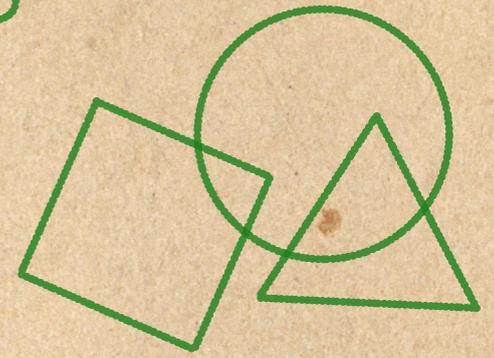
I have an idea.

Hello!

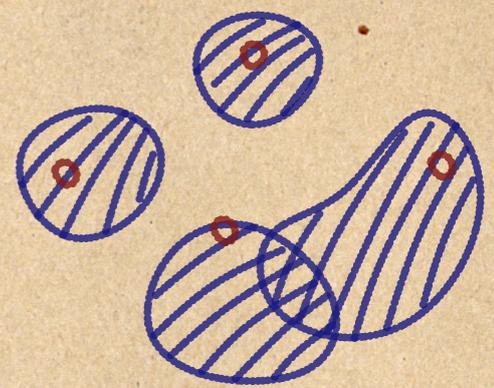
My name is Maarten.



I am a computational geometer.

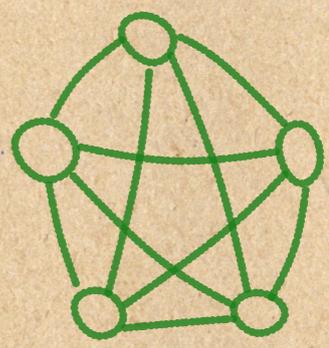


I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.



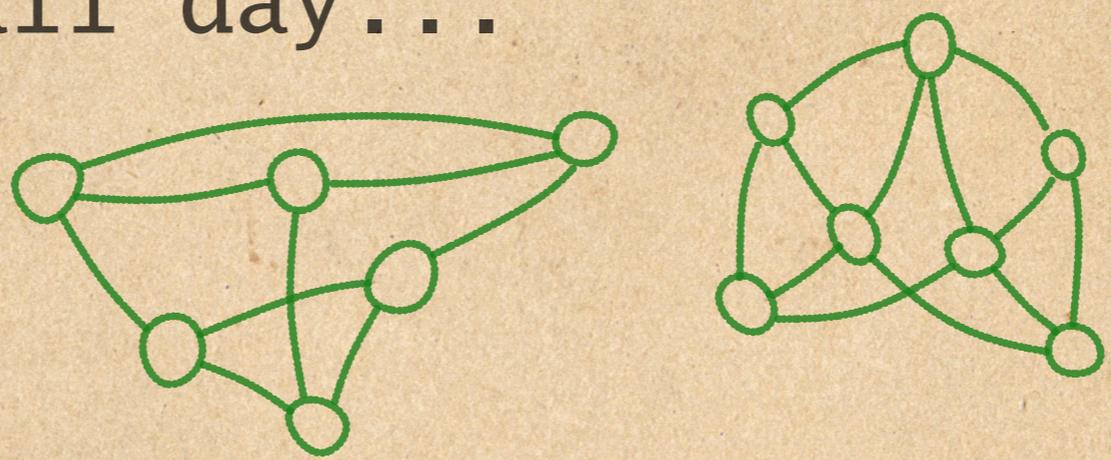
I have a confession to make.

I really like drawing graphs.



I could do this all day...

Wait...



I have an idea.

Hello!

My name is Maarten.

I am a computational geometer.

I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.

I have a confession to make.

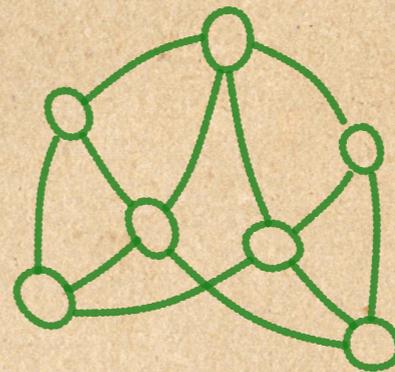
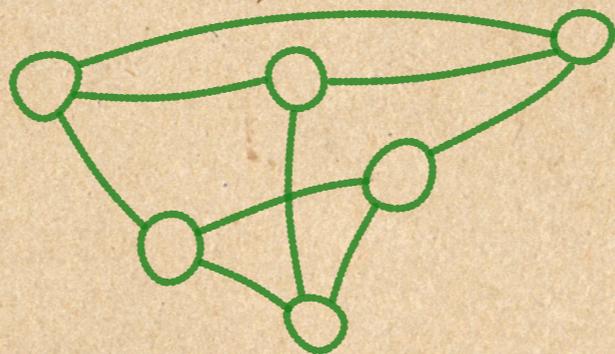
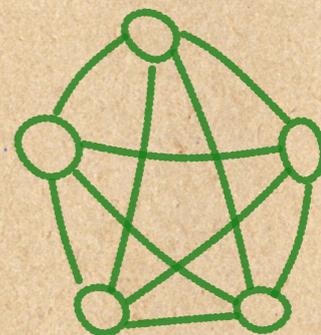
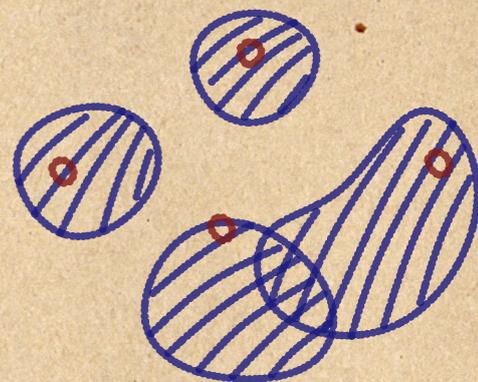
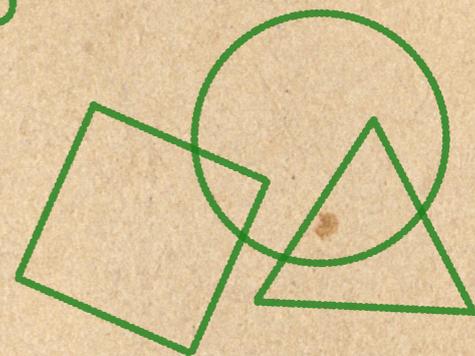
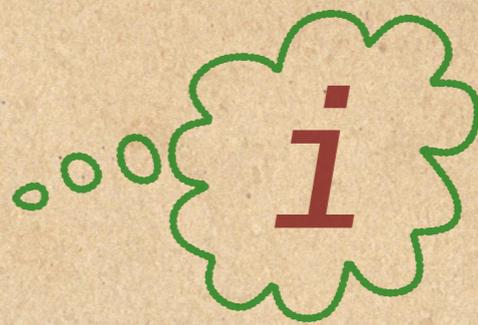
I really like drawing graphs.

I could do this all day...

Wait...

I have an idea.

What if I could draw *uncertain graphs*?



Hello!

My name is Maarten.

I am a computational geometer.

I work on uncertainty in geometric algorithms.

I have a confession to make.

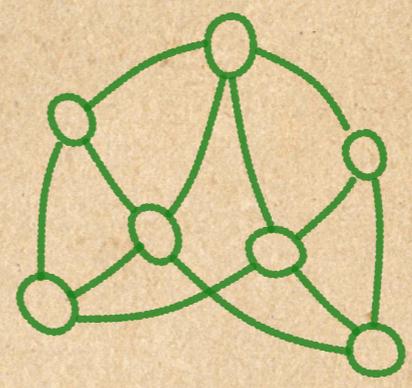
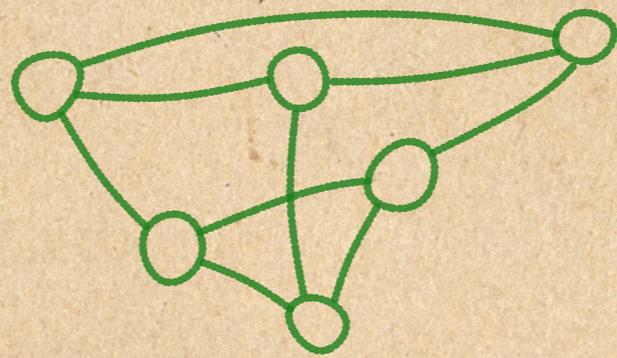
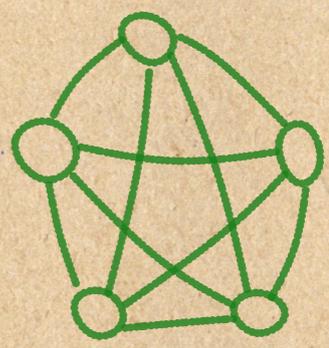
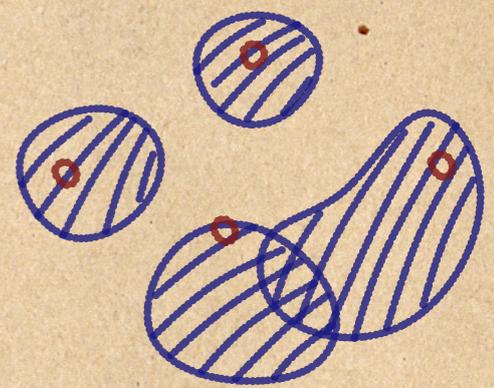
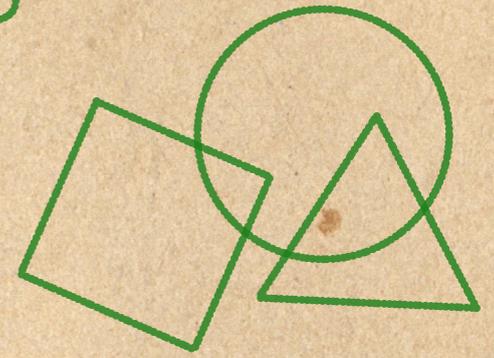
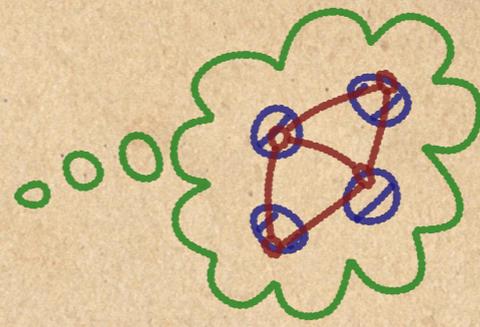
I really like drawing graphs.

I could do this all day...

Wait...

I have an idea.

What if I could draw *uncertain graphs*?



Visualising uncertainty is useful.

Visualising uncertainty is useful.



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

Visualising uncertainty is useful.



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

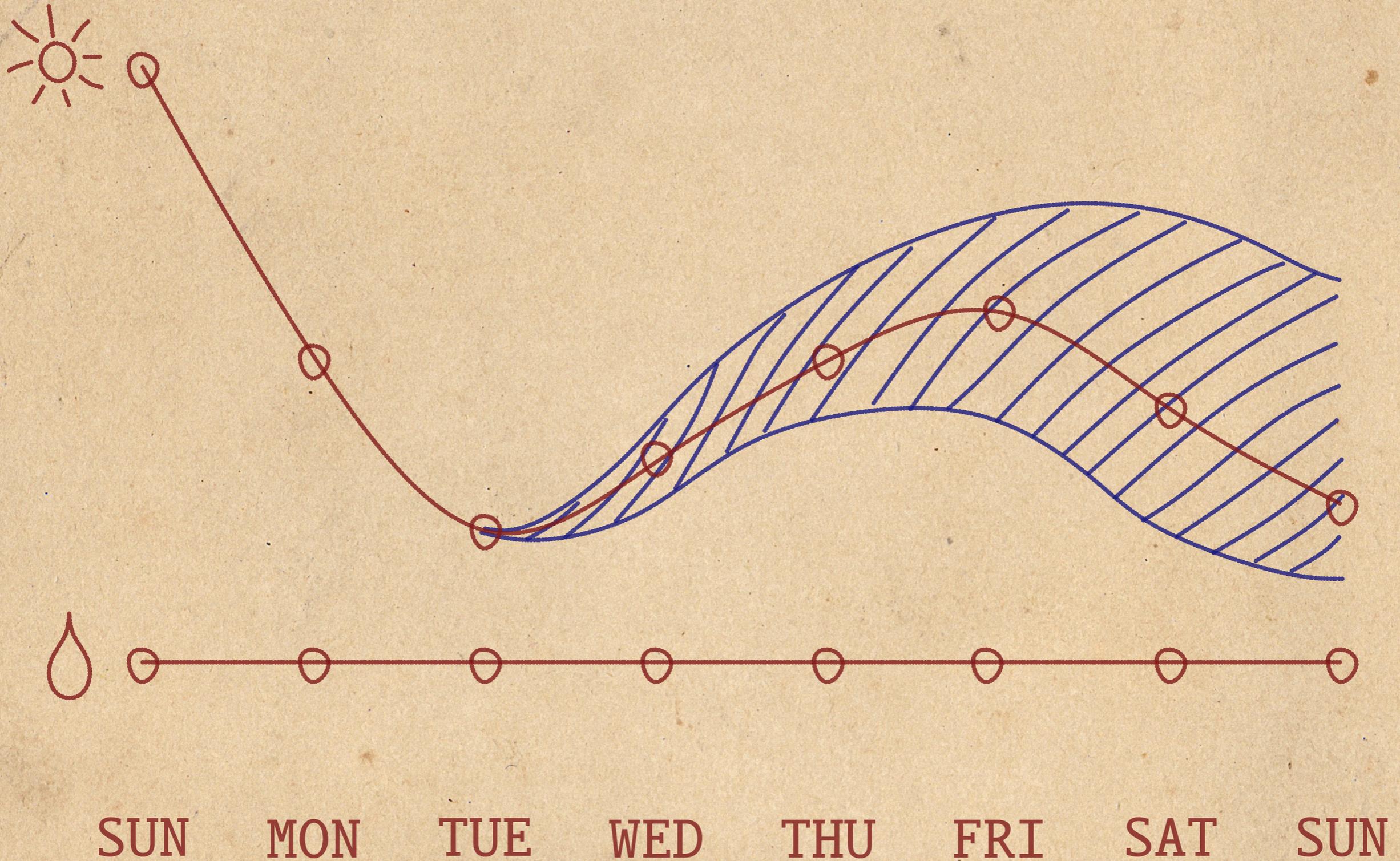
THU

FRI

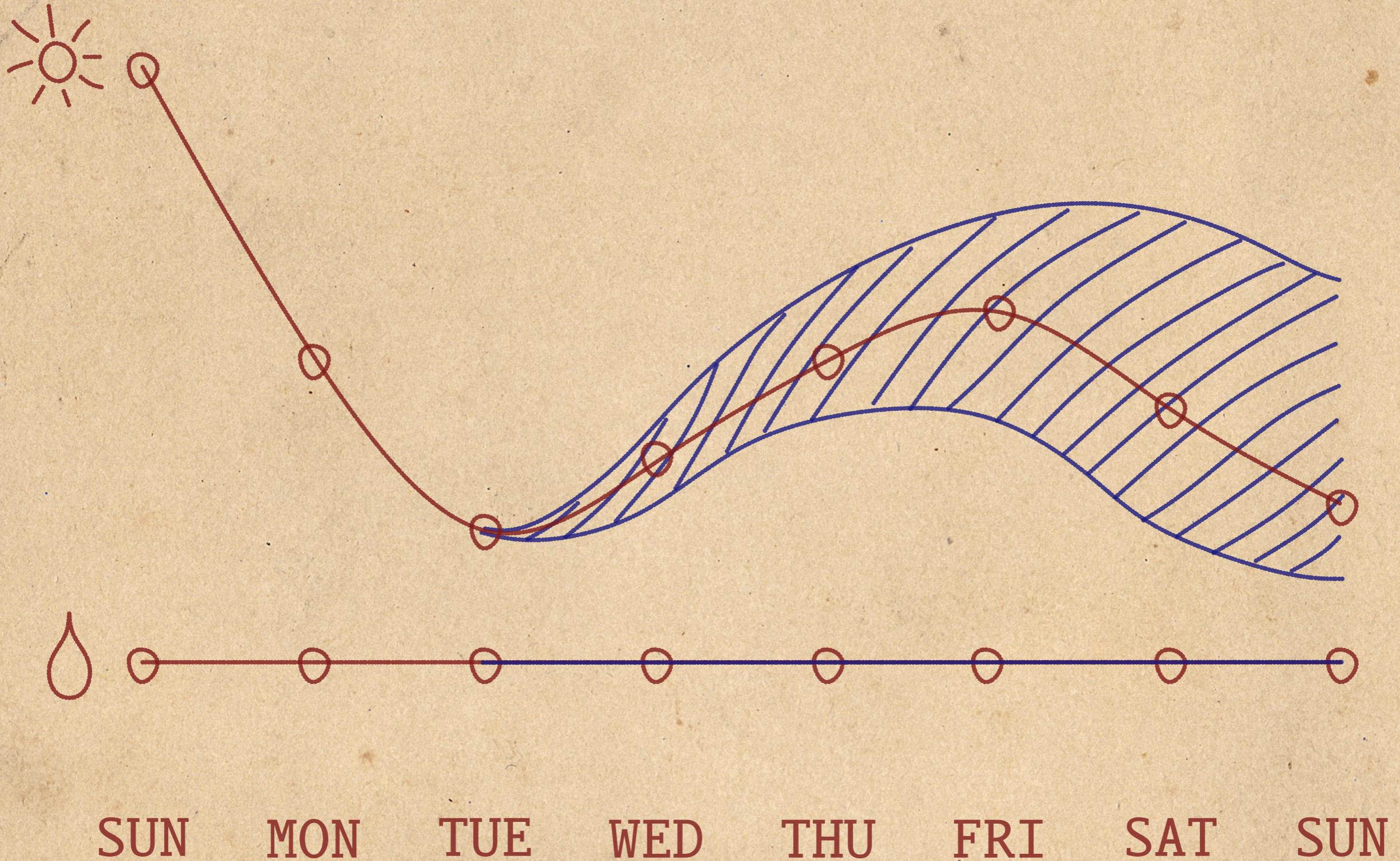
SAT

SUN

Visualising uncertainty is useful.



Visualising uncertainty is useful.



GRAPH DRAWING

Consider a typical graph drawing scenario.

Consider a typical graph drawing scenario.

Input: a graph

Consider a typical graph drawing scenario.

Input: a graph

$G = (\{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{(1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 3), (2, 4)\})$

Consider a typical graph drawing scenario.

Input: a graph

$G = (\{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{(1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 3), (2, 4)\})$

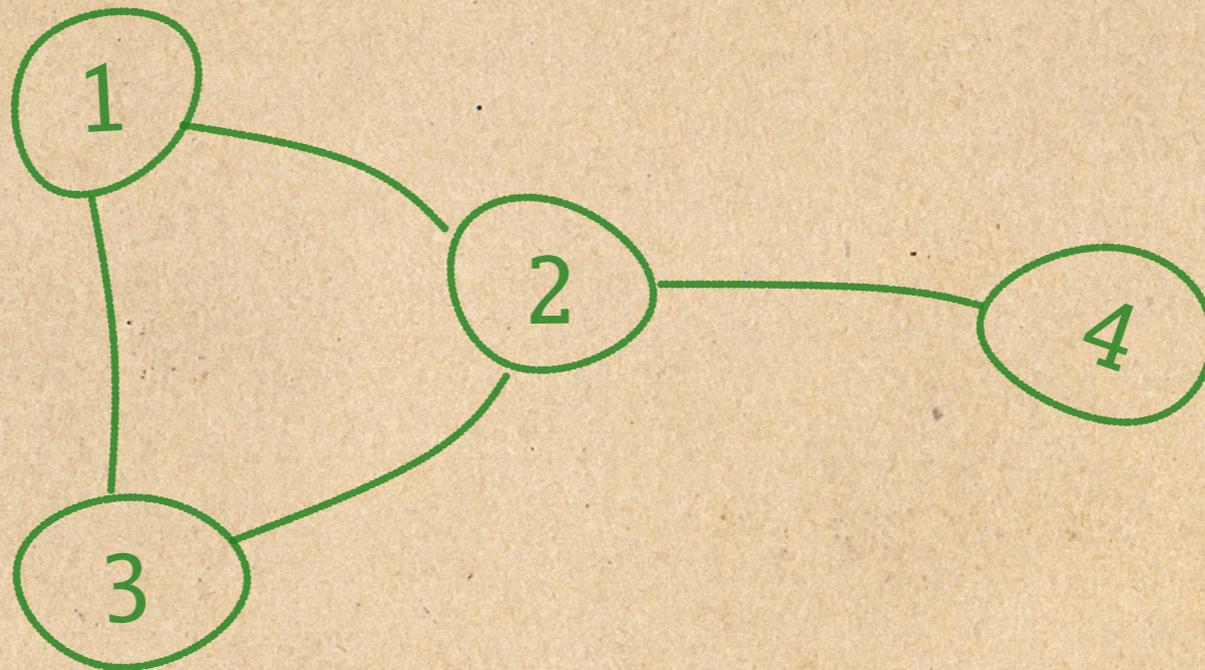
Output: a drawing of the graph

Consider a typical graph drawing scenario.

Input: a graph

$G = (\{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{(1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 3), (2, 4)\})$

Output: a drawing of the graph

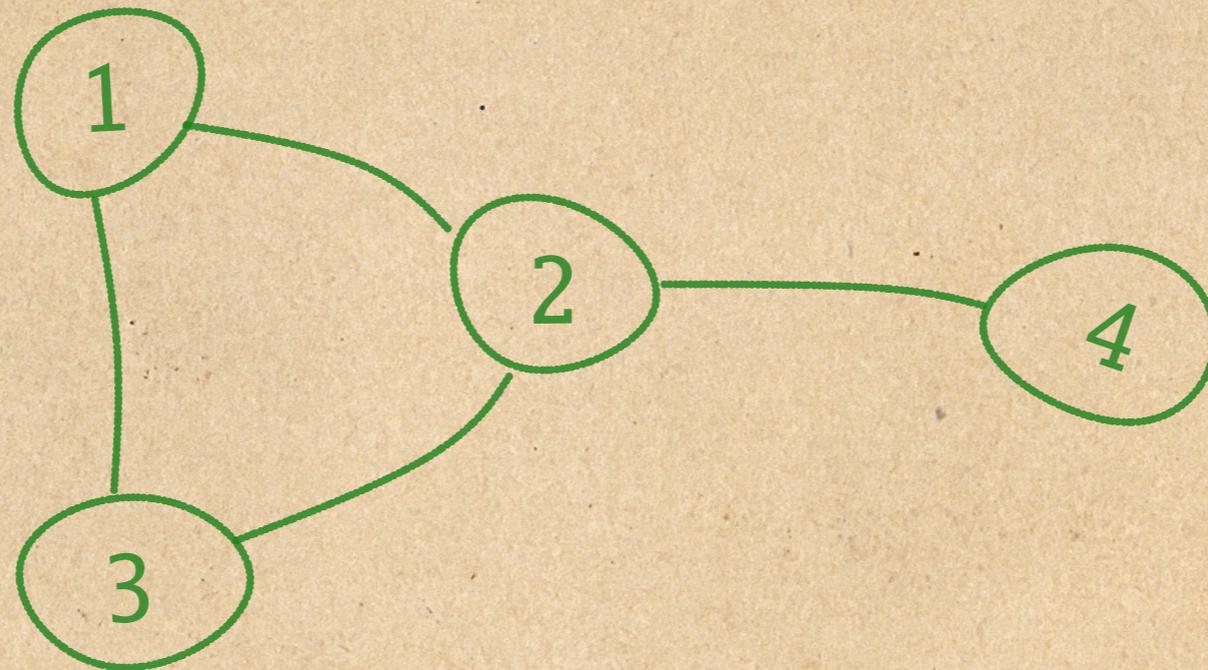


Consider a typical graph drawing scenario.

Input: a graph

$G = (\{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{(1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 3), (2, 4)\})$

Output: a drawing of the graph



We need to find out where the vertices are!

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Vertices have no intrinsic geometric meaning.

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Vertices have no intrinsic geometric meaning.

It doesn't matter where they are drawn.

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Vertices have no intrinsic geometric meaning.

It doesn't matter where they are drawn.

They serve to illustrate the graph structure.

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Vertices have no intrinsic geometric meaning.

It doesn't matter where they are drawn.

They serve to illustrate the graph structure.

These graphs are no fun.

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Vertices have no intrinsic geometric meaning.

It doesn't matter where they are drawn.

They serve to illustrate the graph structure.

These graphs are no fun.

Other graphs are *geometric*.

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Vertices have no intrinsic geometric meaning.

It doesn't matter where they are drawn.

They serve to illustrate the graph structure.

These graphs are no fun.

Other graphs are *geometric*.

Vertices already have a location!

Some graphs are *non-geometric*.

Vertices have no intrinsic geometric meaning.

It doesn't matter where they are drawn.

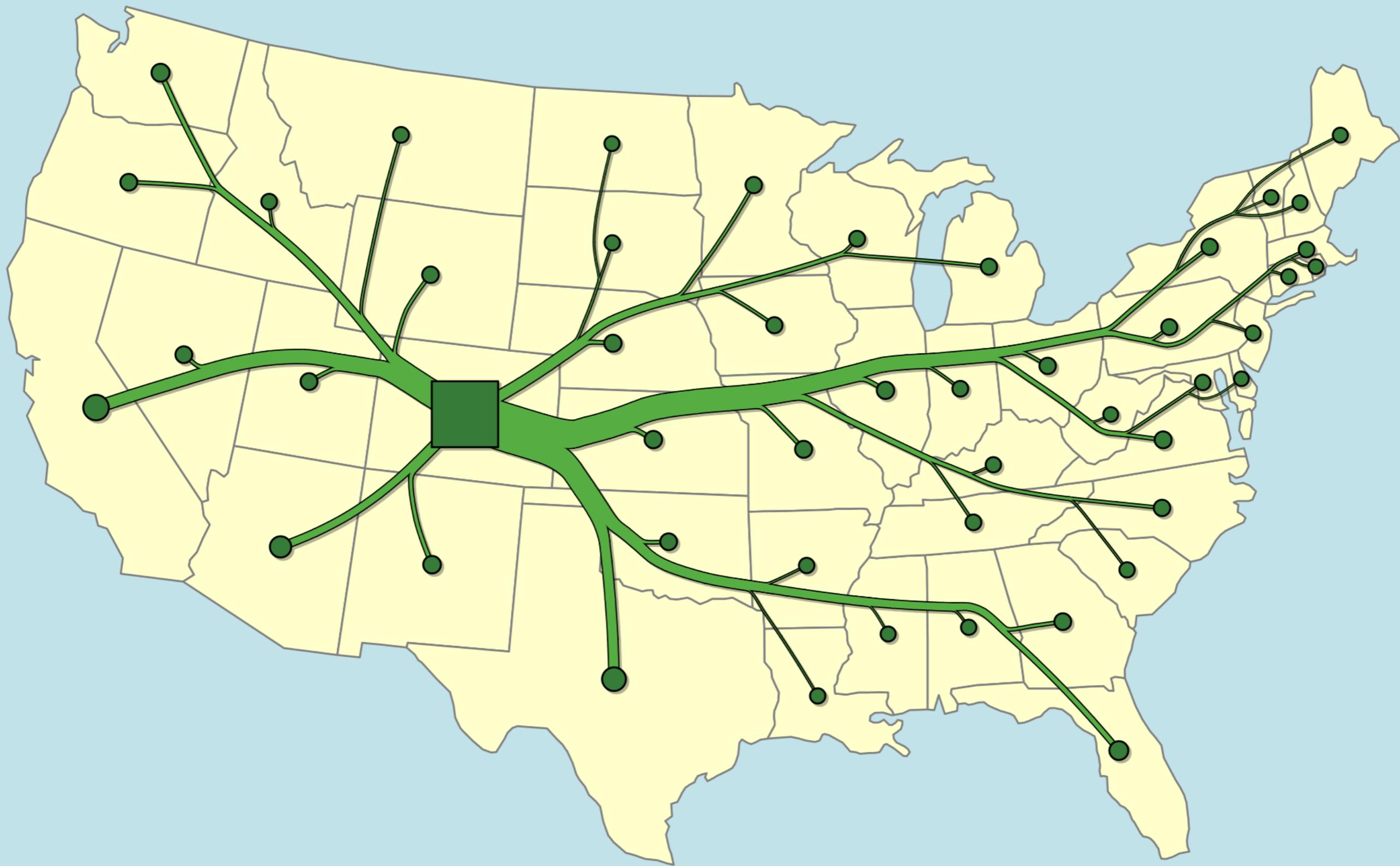
They serve to illustrate the graph structure.

These graphs are no fun.

Other graphs are *geometric*.

Vertices already have a location!

But then, what is left to be drawn?



CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?



CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?



CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

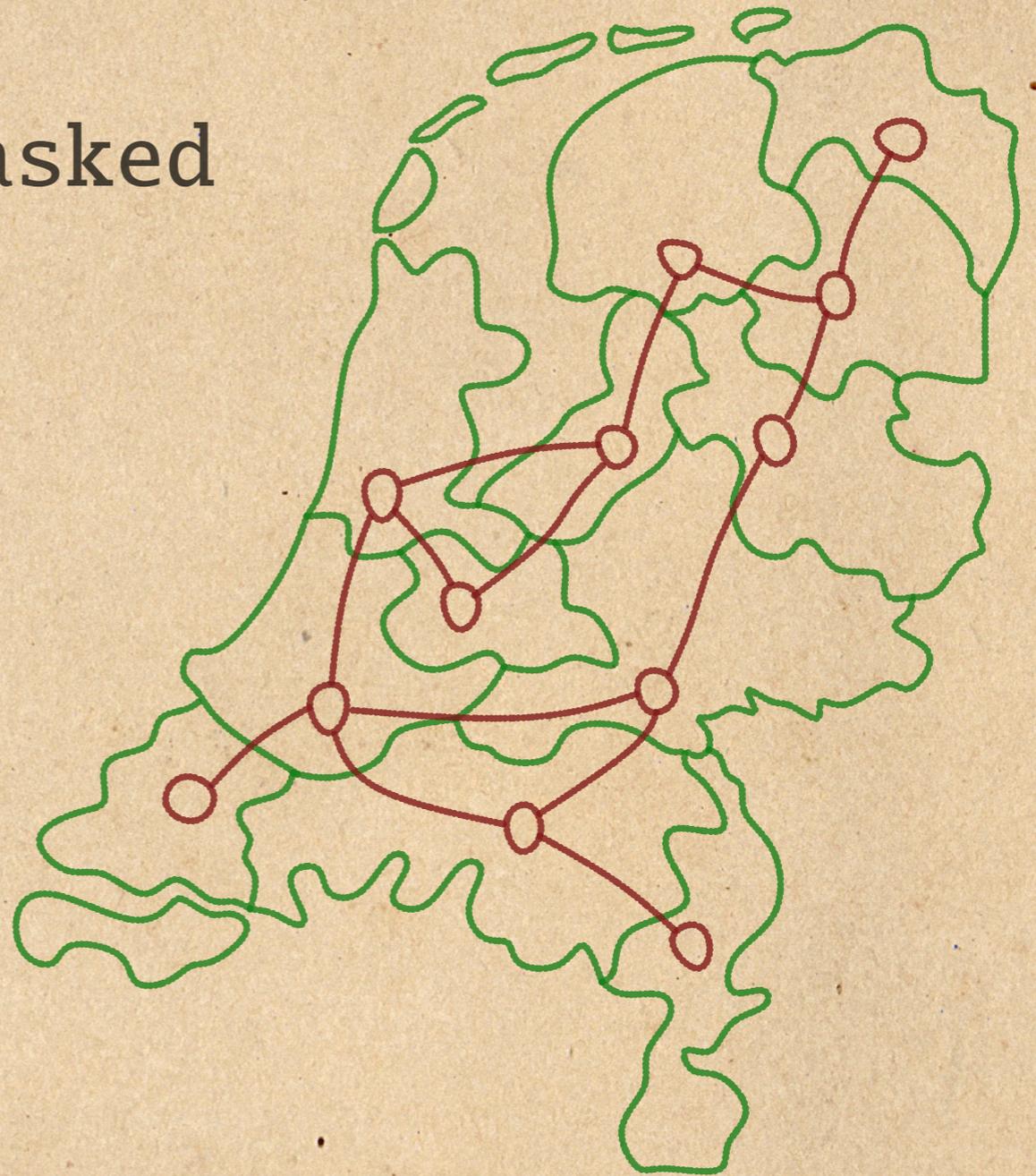


CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?



CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

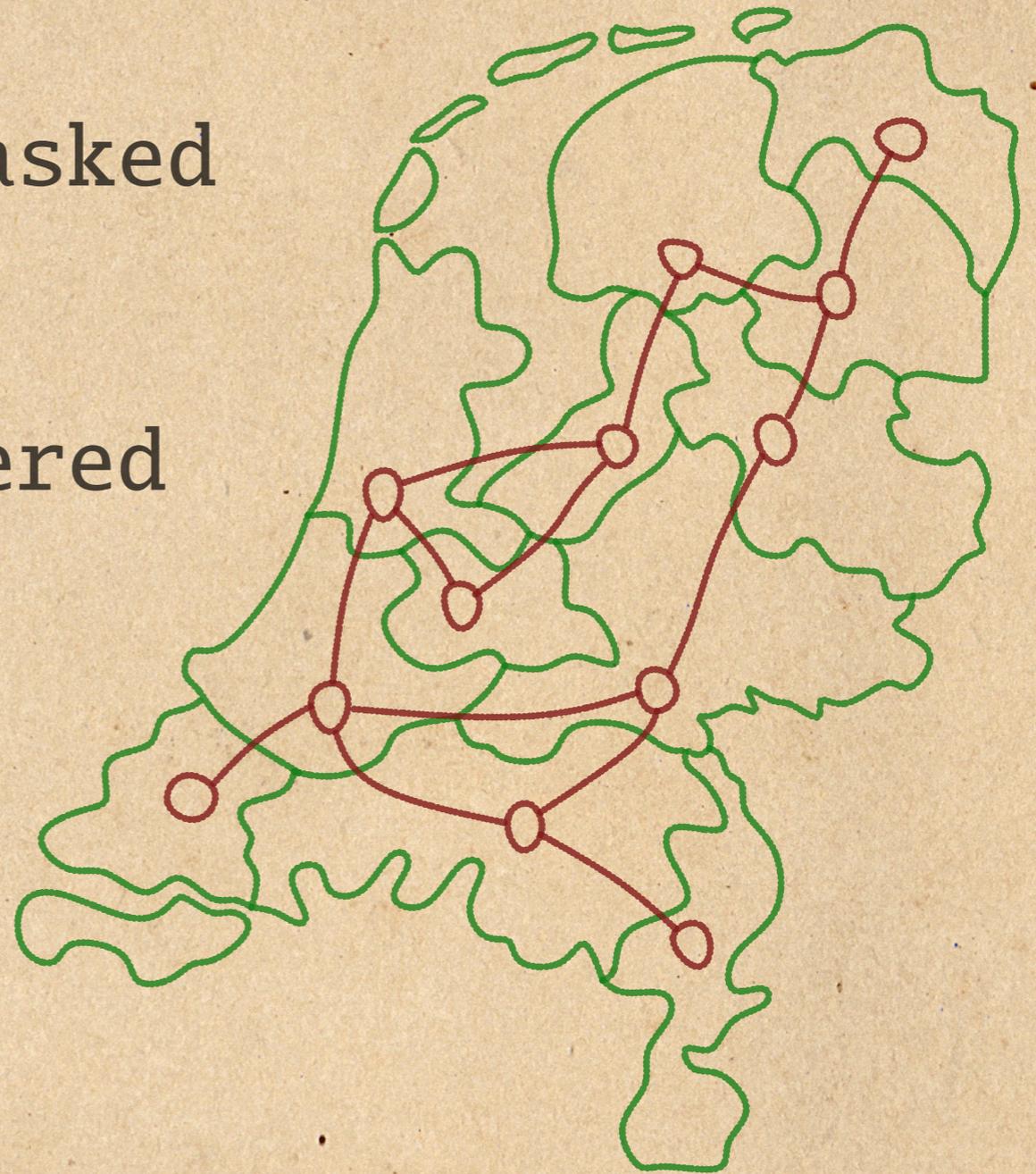
This question has been asked by many people.



CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

This question has been asked by many people.

It has also been discovered to be NP-hard by many people.

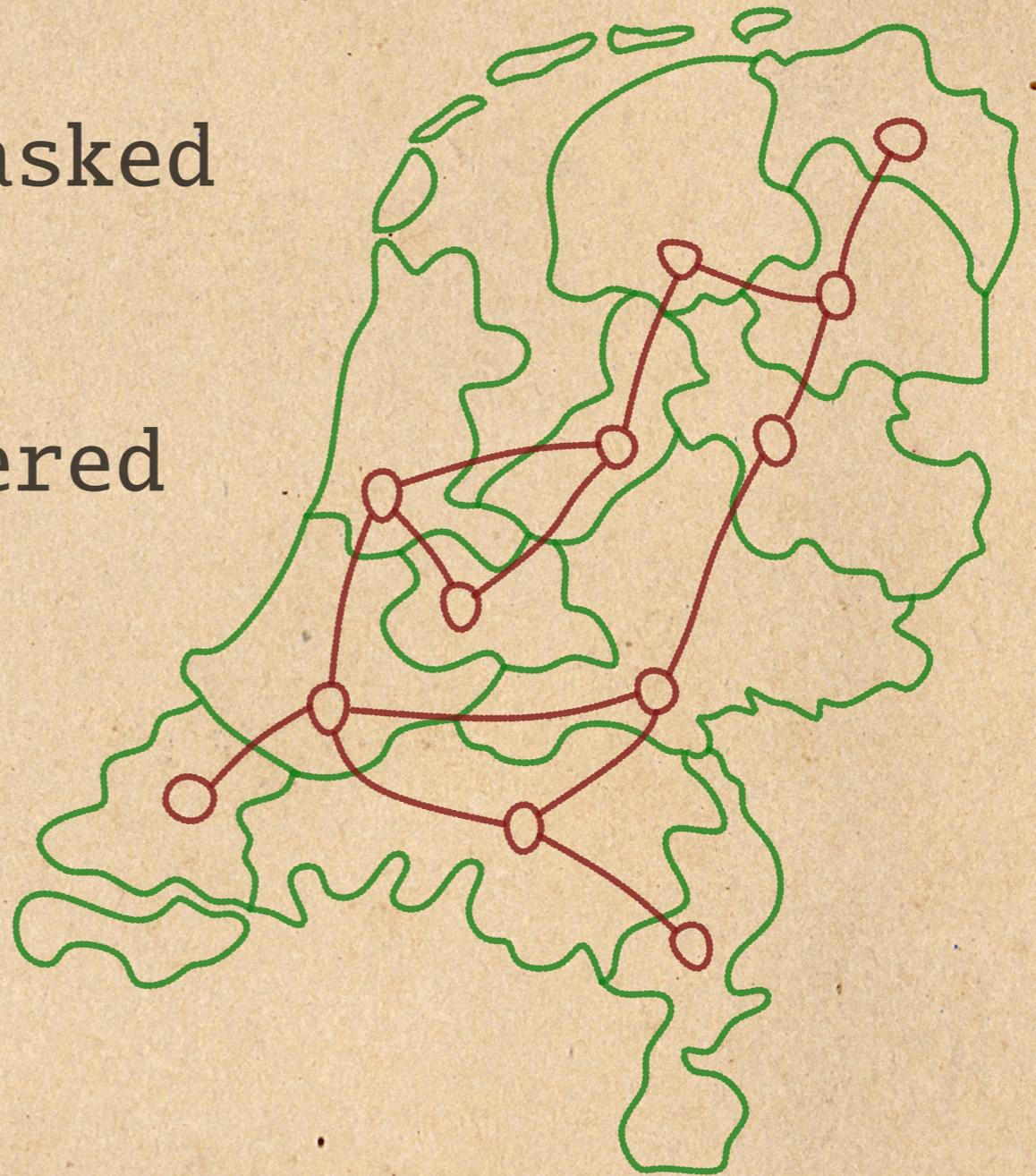


CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

This question has been asked by many people.

It has also been discovered to be NP-hard by many people.

Remains hard for restricted region types and graph classes.

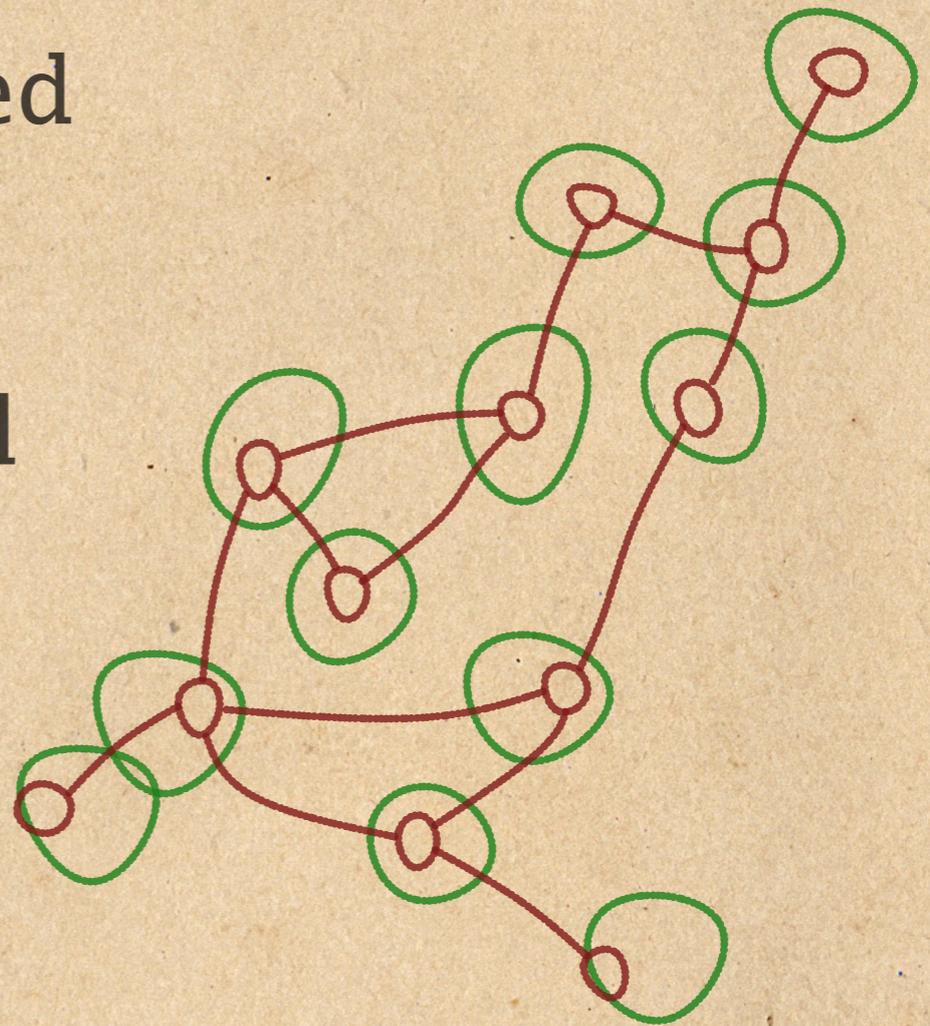


CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

This question has been asked by many people.

It has also been discovered to be NP-hard by many people.

Remains hard for restricted region types and graph classes.

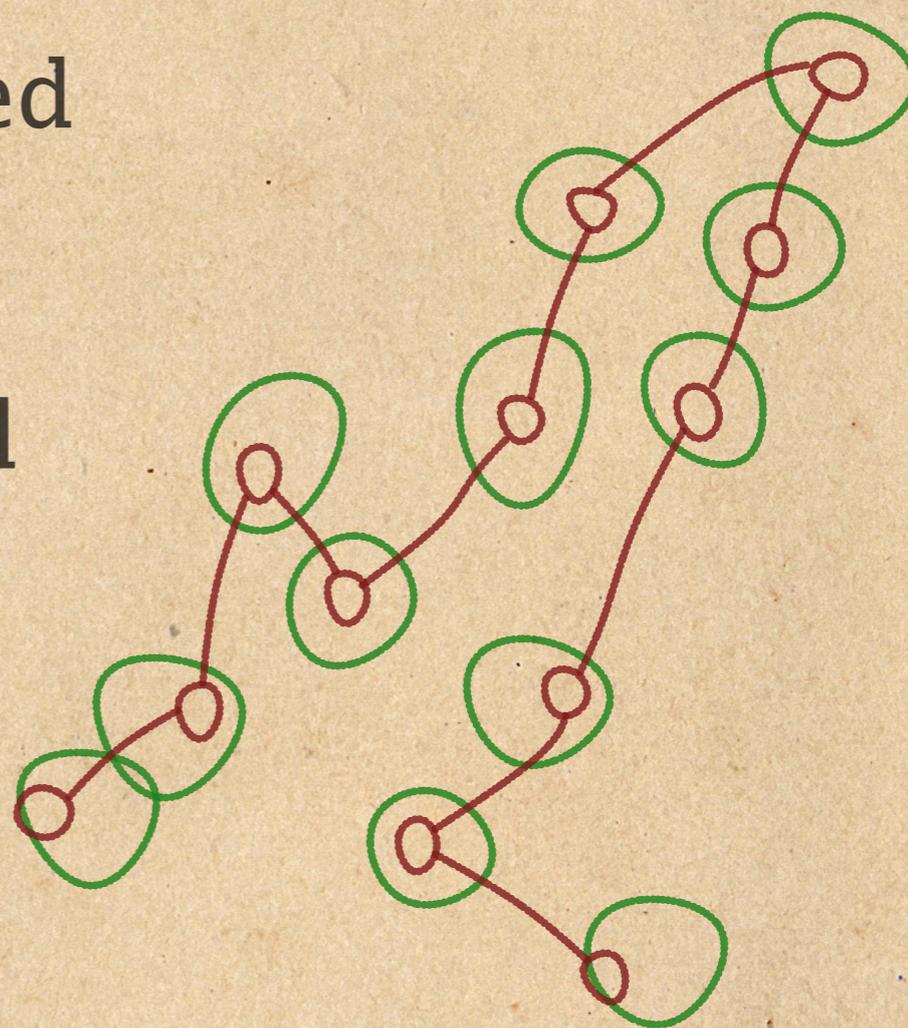


CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

This question has been asked by many people.

It has also been discovered to be NP-hard by many people.

Remains hard for restricted region types and graph classes.

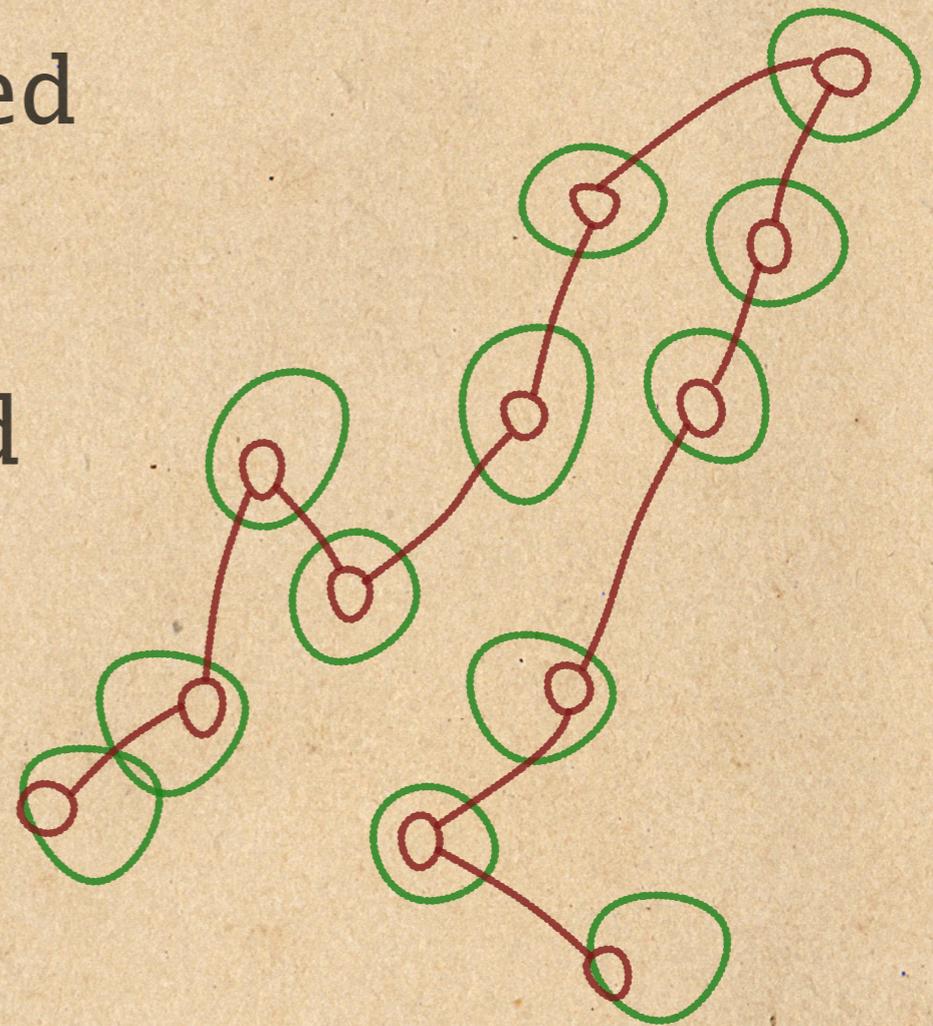


CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

This question has been asked by many people.

It has also been discovered to be NP-hard by many people.

Remains hard for restricted region types and graph classes.



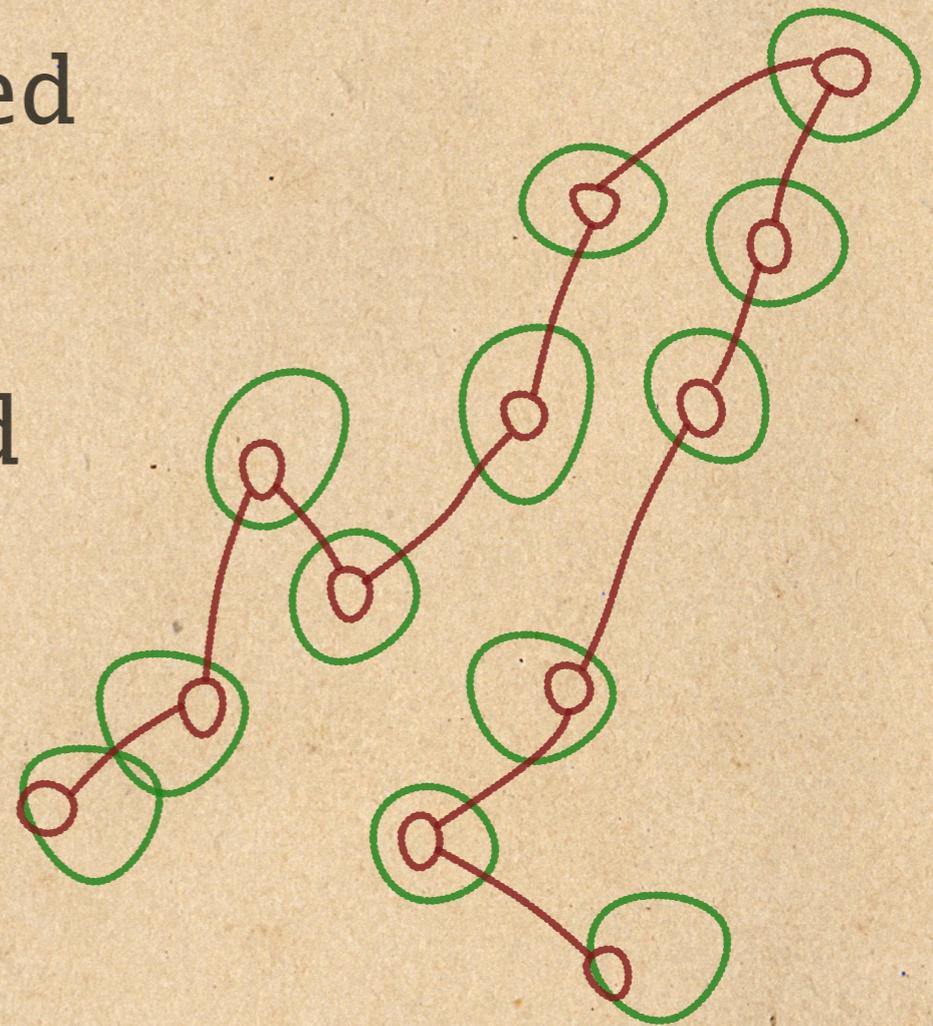
The end.

CLOSED PROBLEM Given a planar graph G and a region for each vertex, can it be drawn with its vertices in these regions, straight edges, and no crossings?

This question has been asked by many people.

It has also been discovered to be NP-hard by many people.

Remains hard for restricted region types and graph classes.



The end?

GEOMETRIC
UNCERTAINTY

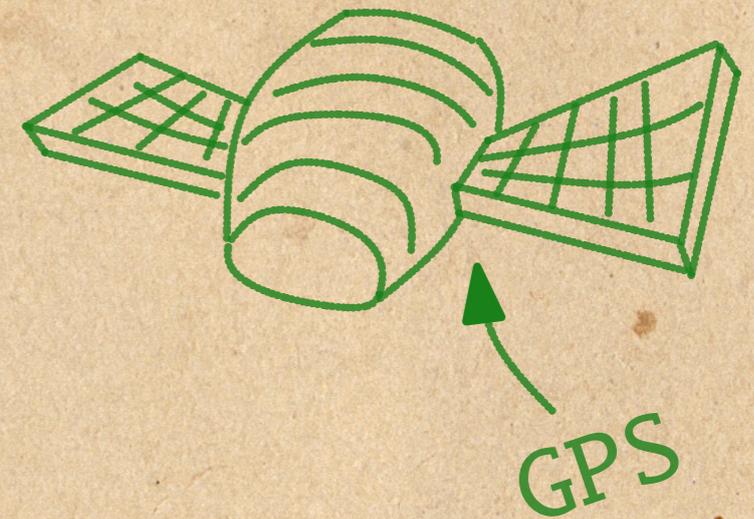
Locations can be *uncertain*.

Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come
from many different sources.

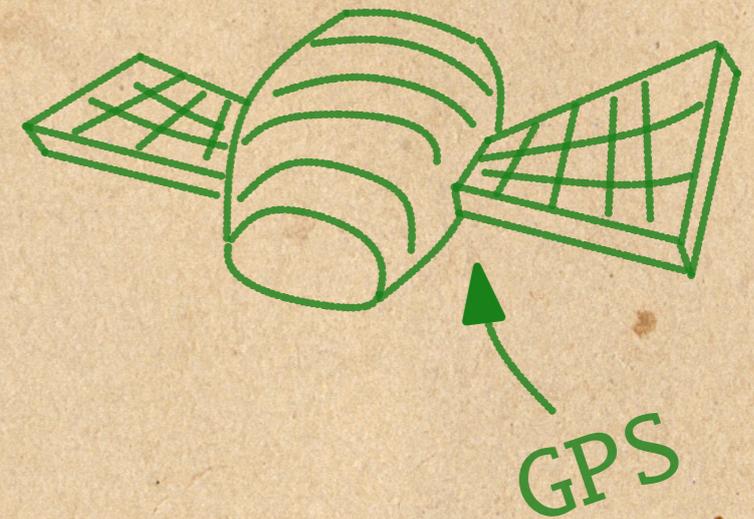
Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come from many different sources.



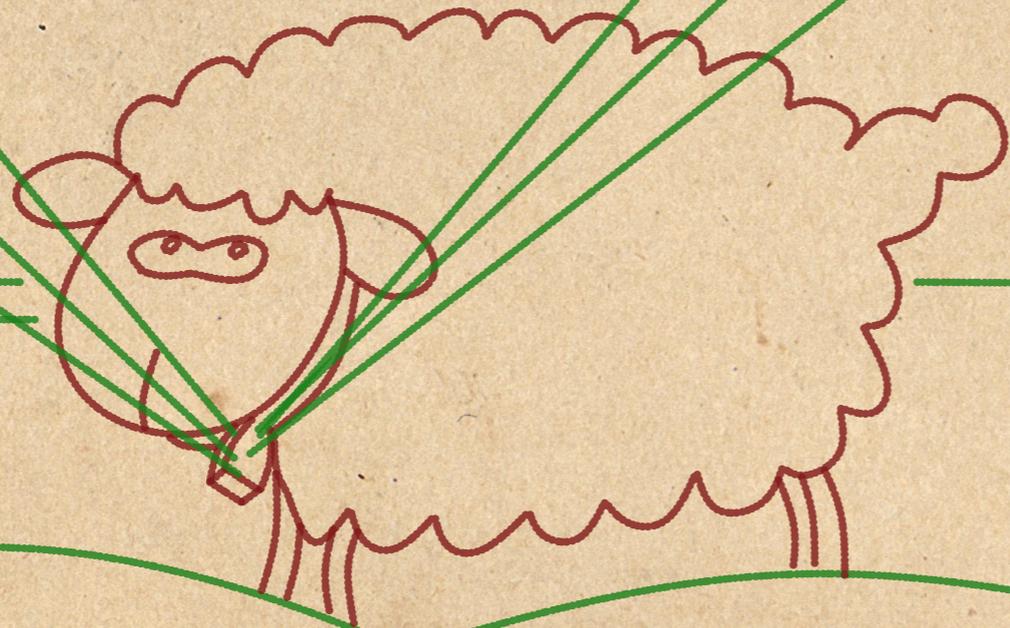
Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come from many different sources.



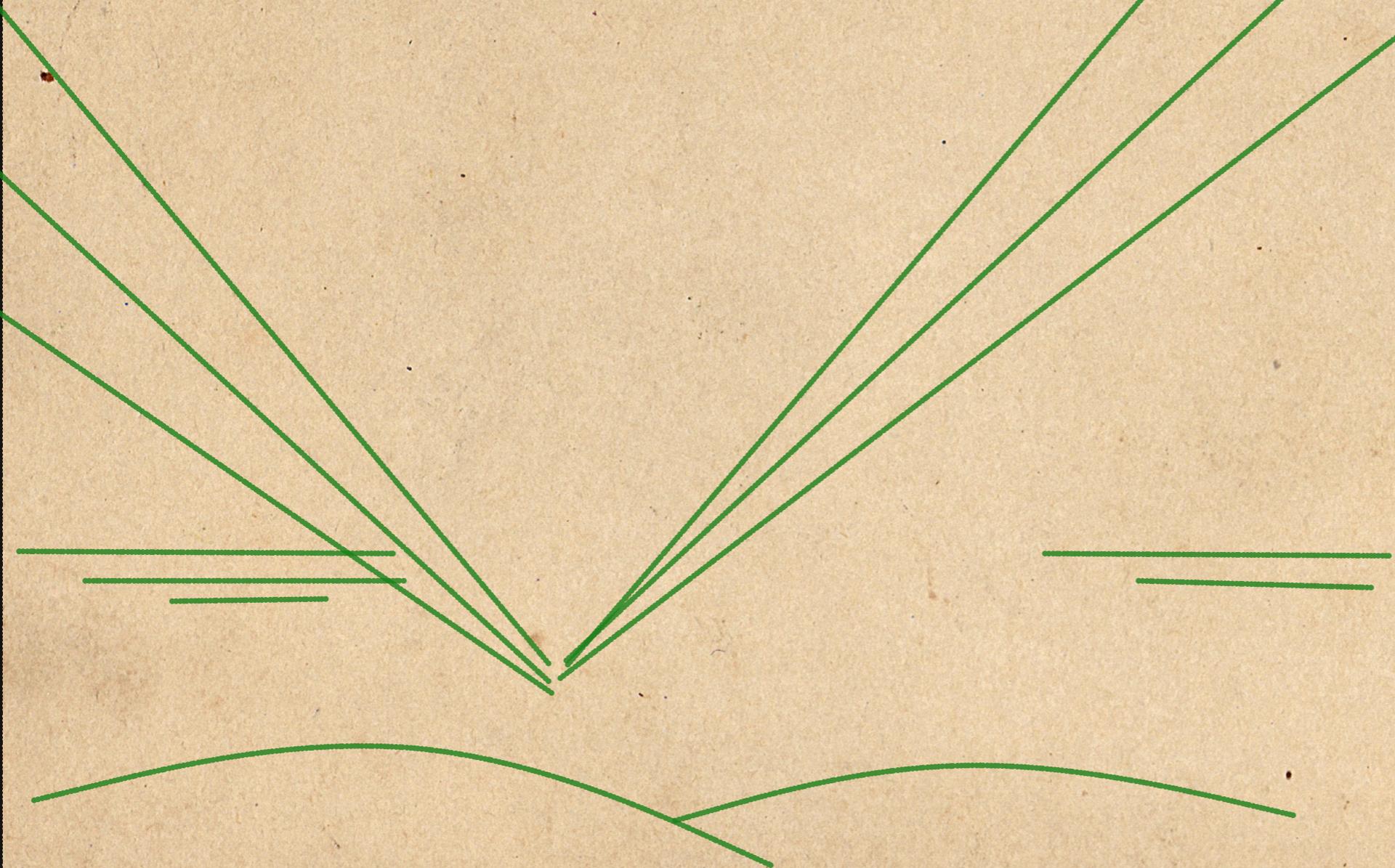
Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come from many different sources.



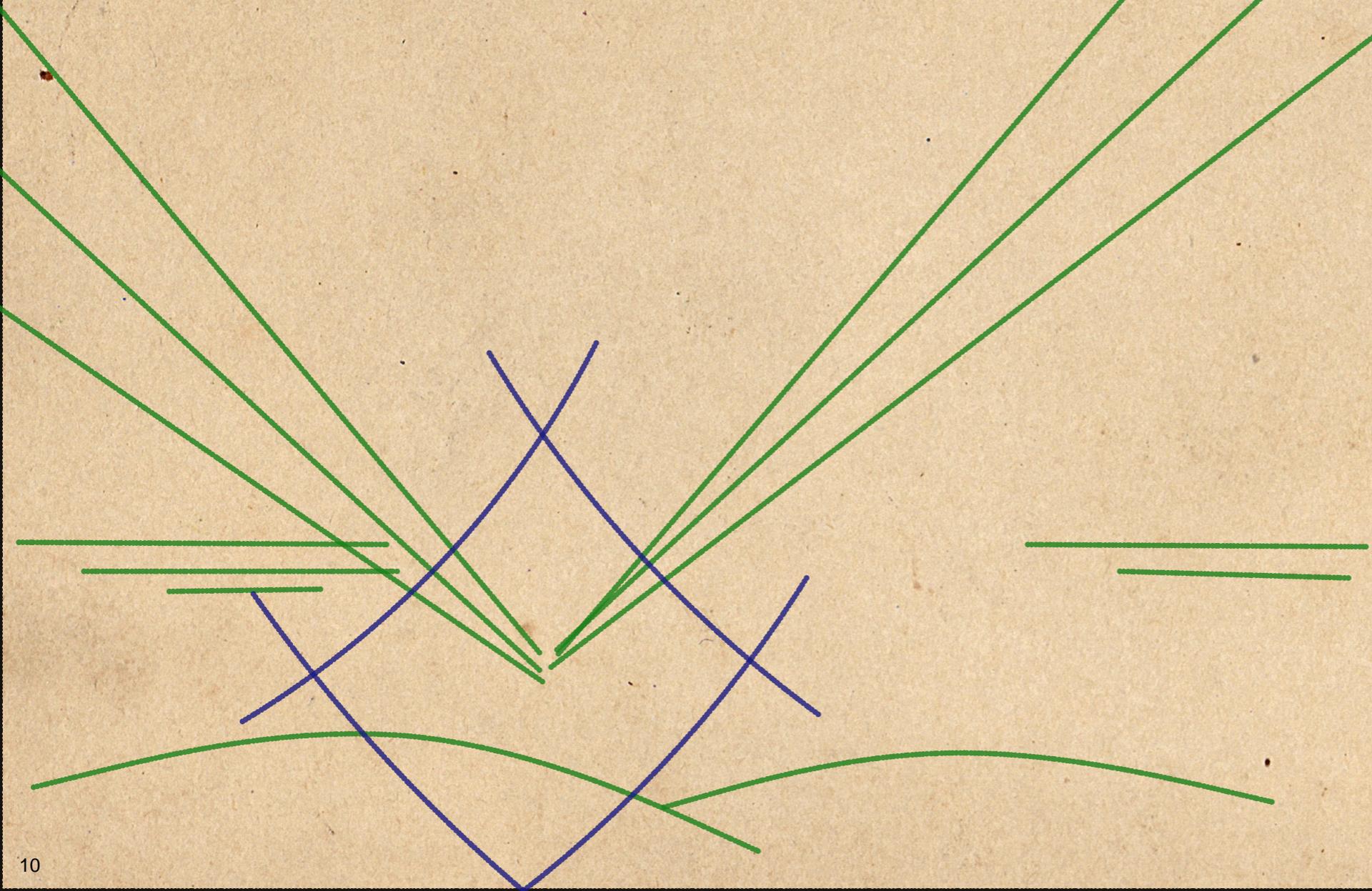
Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come from many different sources.



Locations can be *uncertain*.

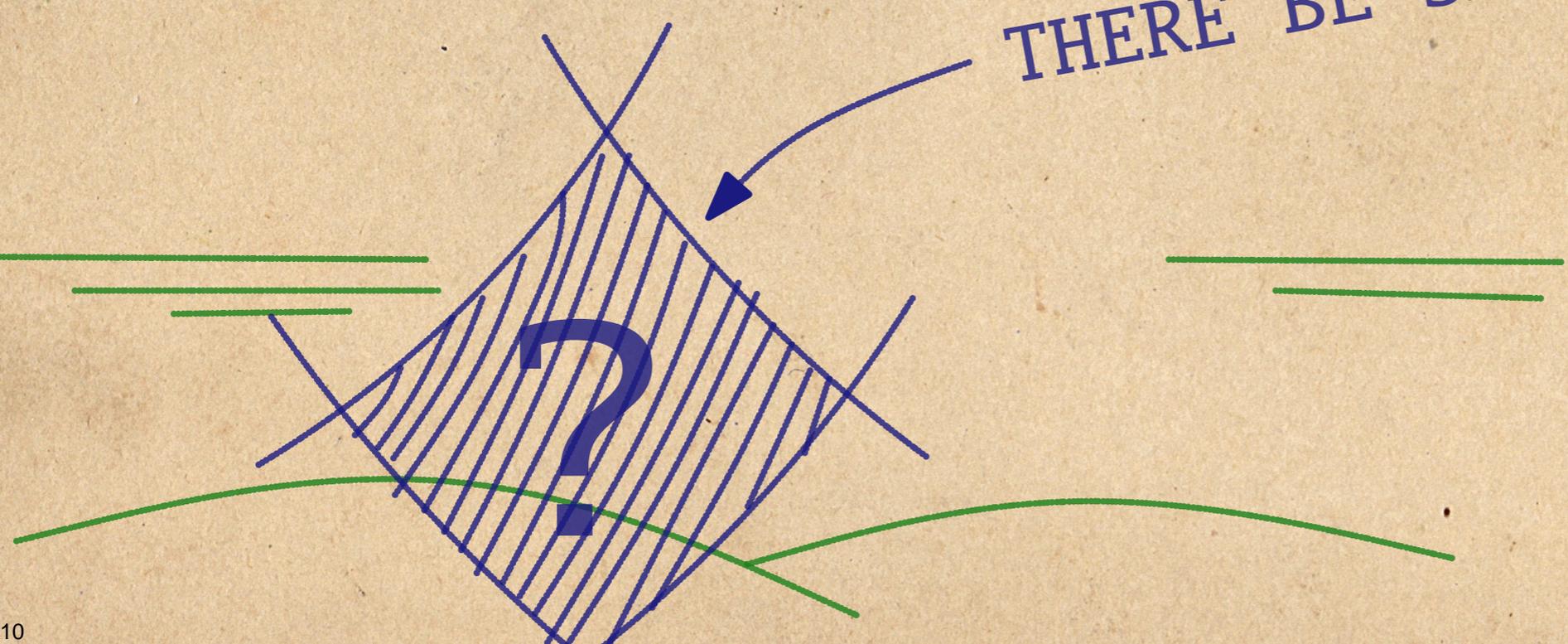
This uncertainty could come from many different sources.



Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come from many different sources.

THERE BE SHEEP

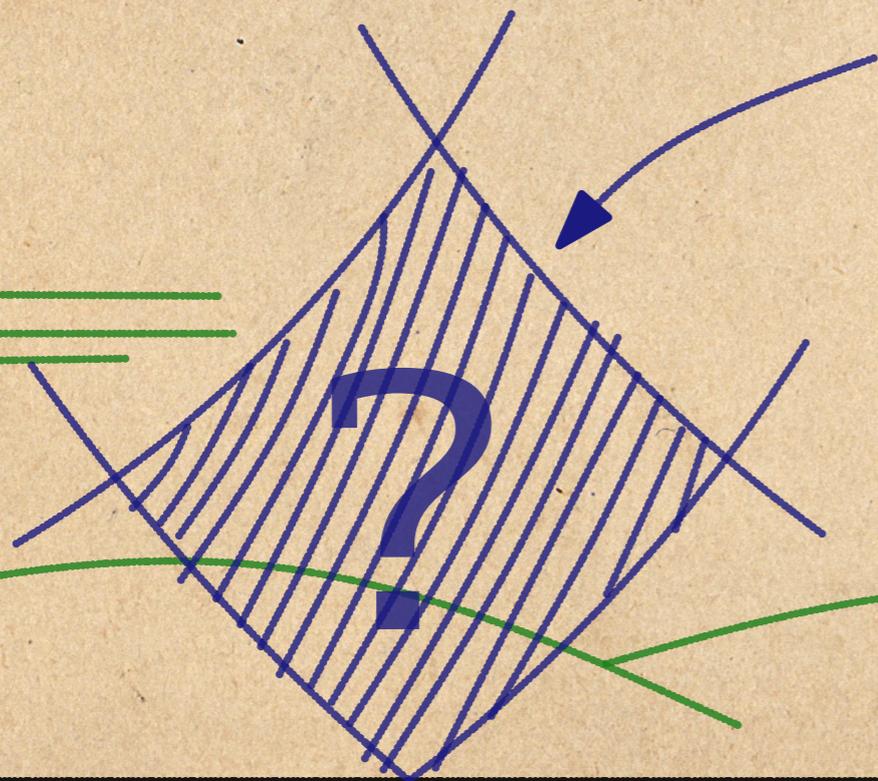


Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come
from many different sources.

I don't really care where it came from.

THERE BE SHEEP



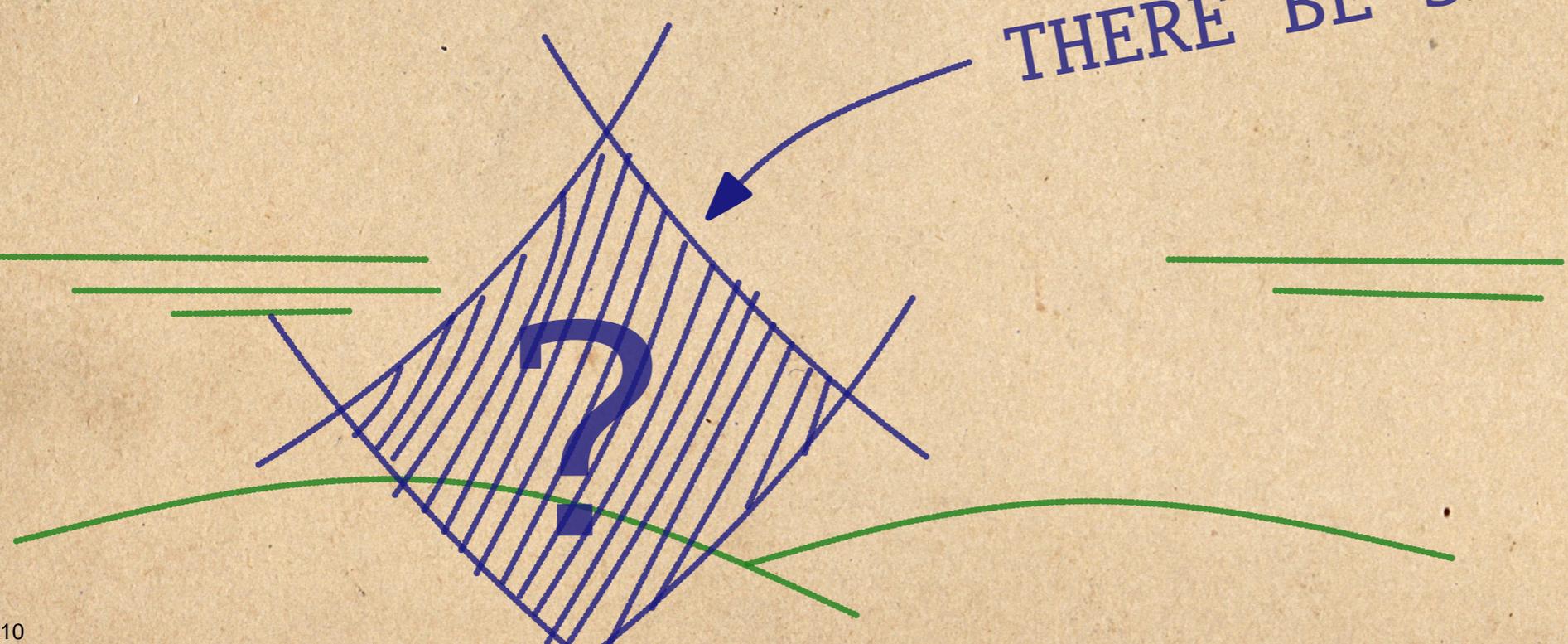
Locations can be *uncertain*.

This uncertainty could come from many different sources.

I don't really care where it came from.

How can we represent it?

THERE BE SHEEP



Locations can be *uncertain*.

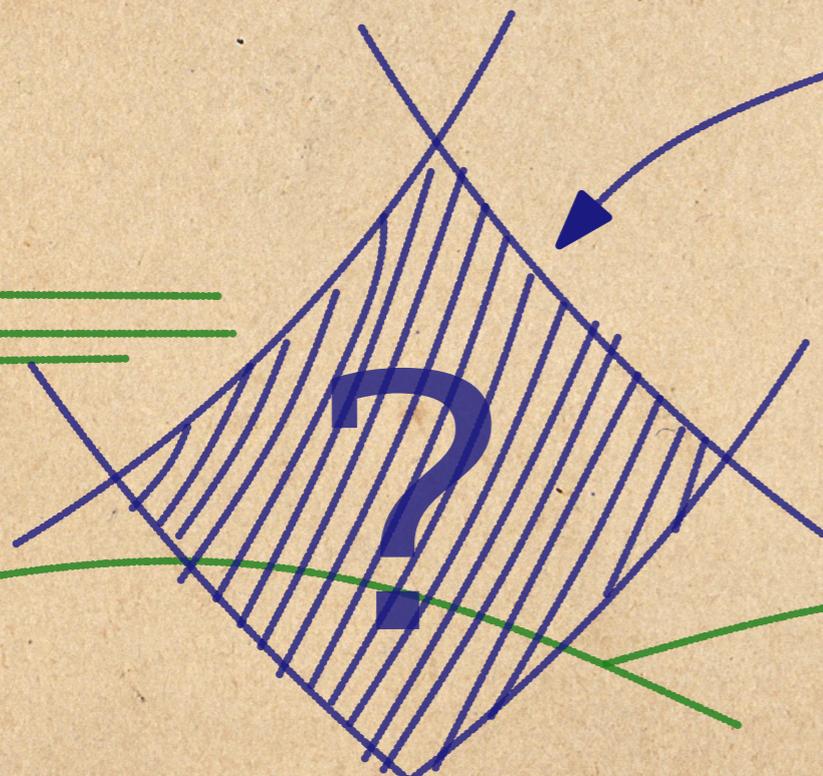
This uncertainty could come from many different sources.

I don't really care where it came from.

How can we represent it?

What do we do with it?

THERE BE SHEEP



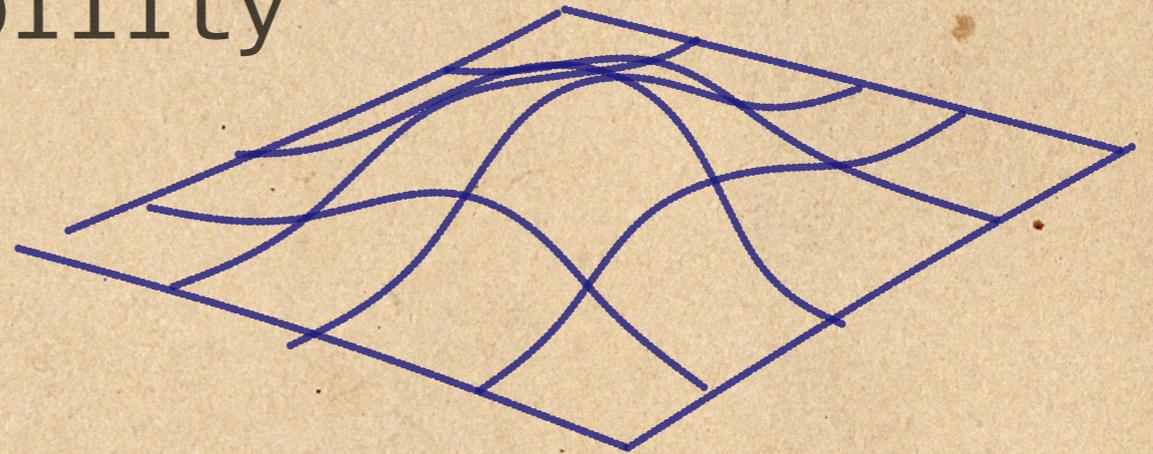
Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

For instance, using probability distributions.

Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

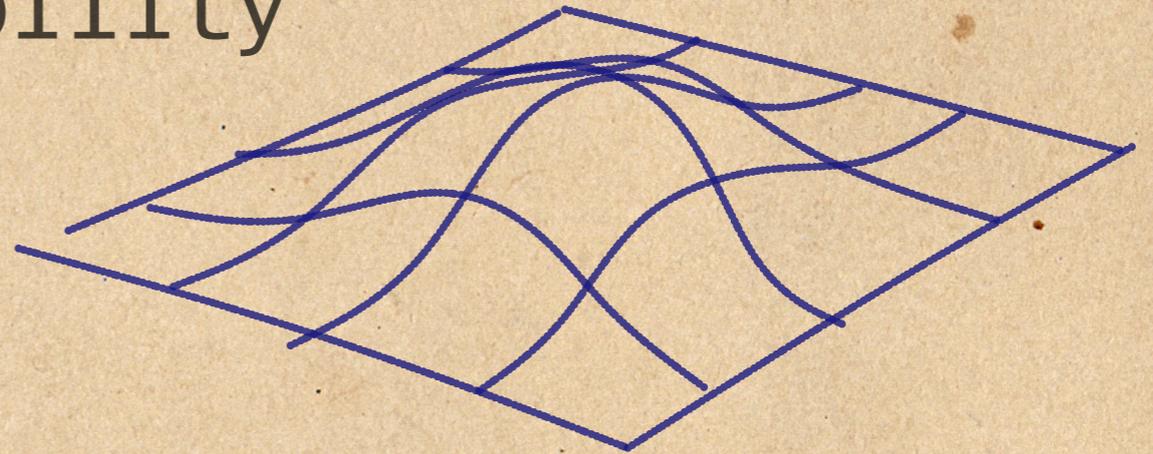
For instance, using probability distributions.



Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

For instance, using probability distributions.

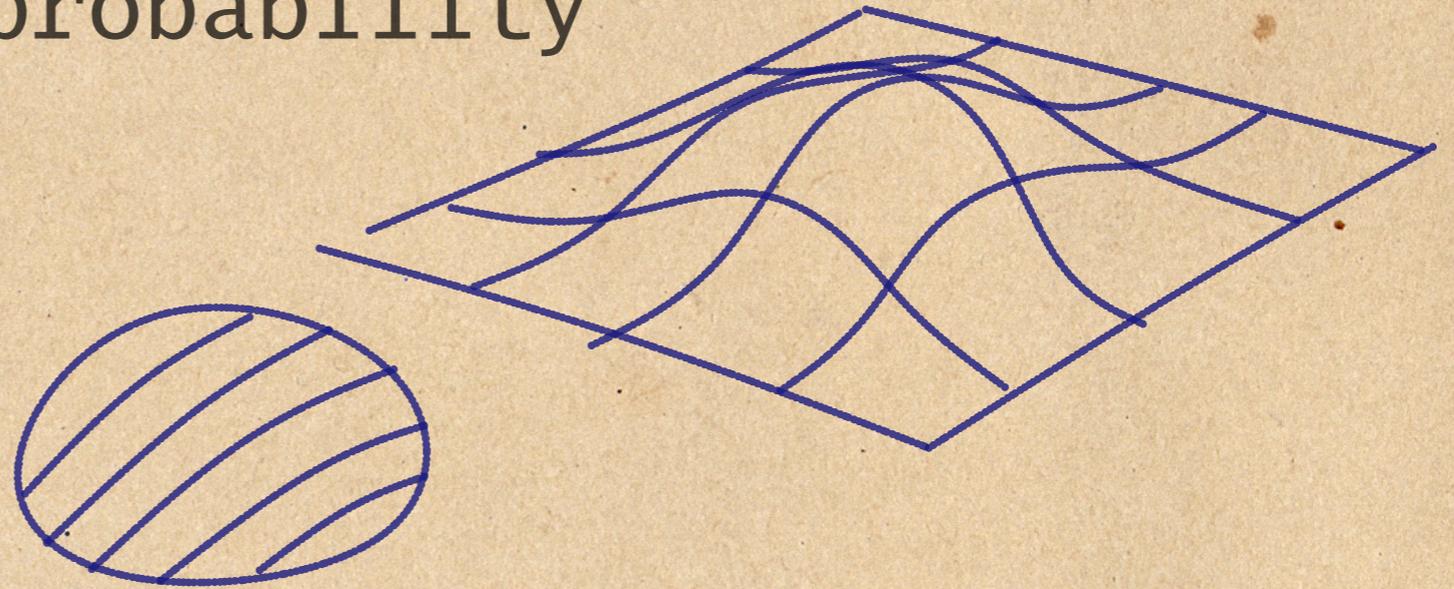
Or, using regions.



Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

For instance, using probability distributions.

Or, using regions.



Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

For instance, using probability distributions.

Or, using regions.

Or maybe as a discrete set of possibilities.



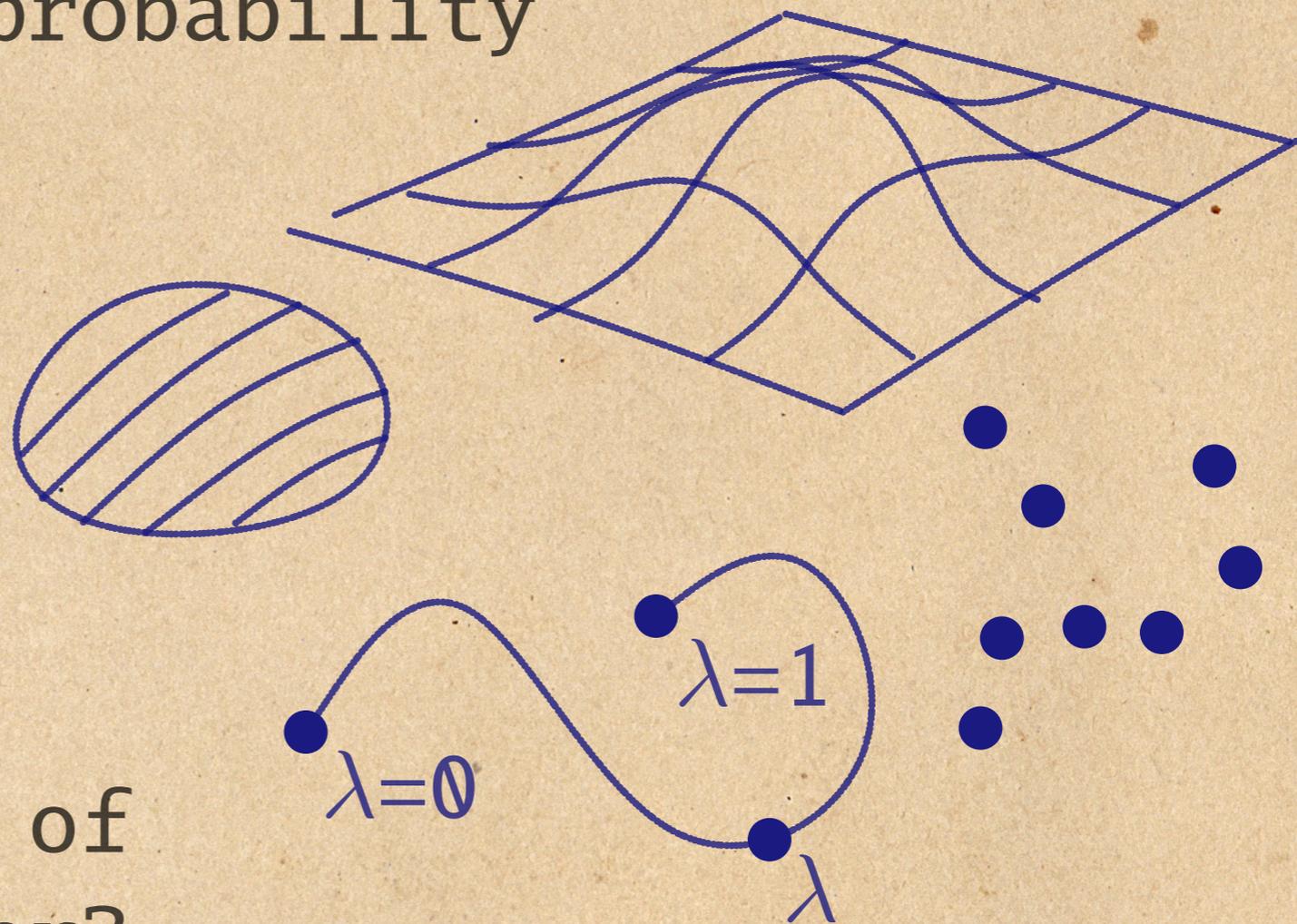
Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

For instance, using probability distributions.

Or, using regions.

Or maybe as a discrete set of possibilities.

How about a function of an uncertain parameter?



Uncertain points can be modelled in various ways.

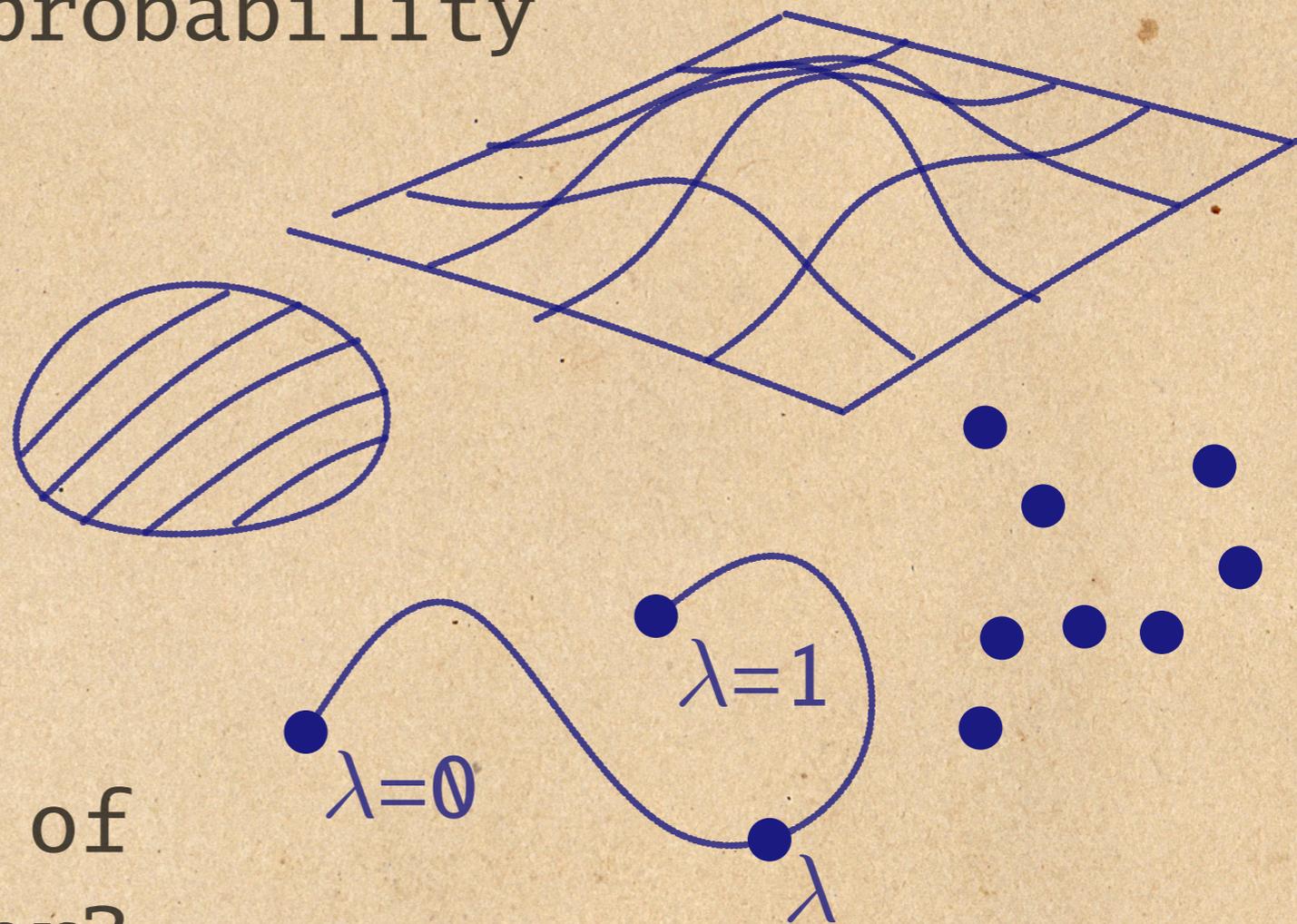
For instance, using probability distributions.

Or, using regions.

Or maybe as a discrete set of possibilities.

How about a function of an uncertain parameter?

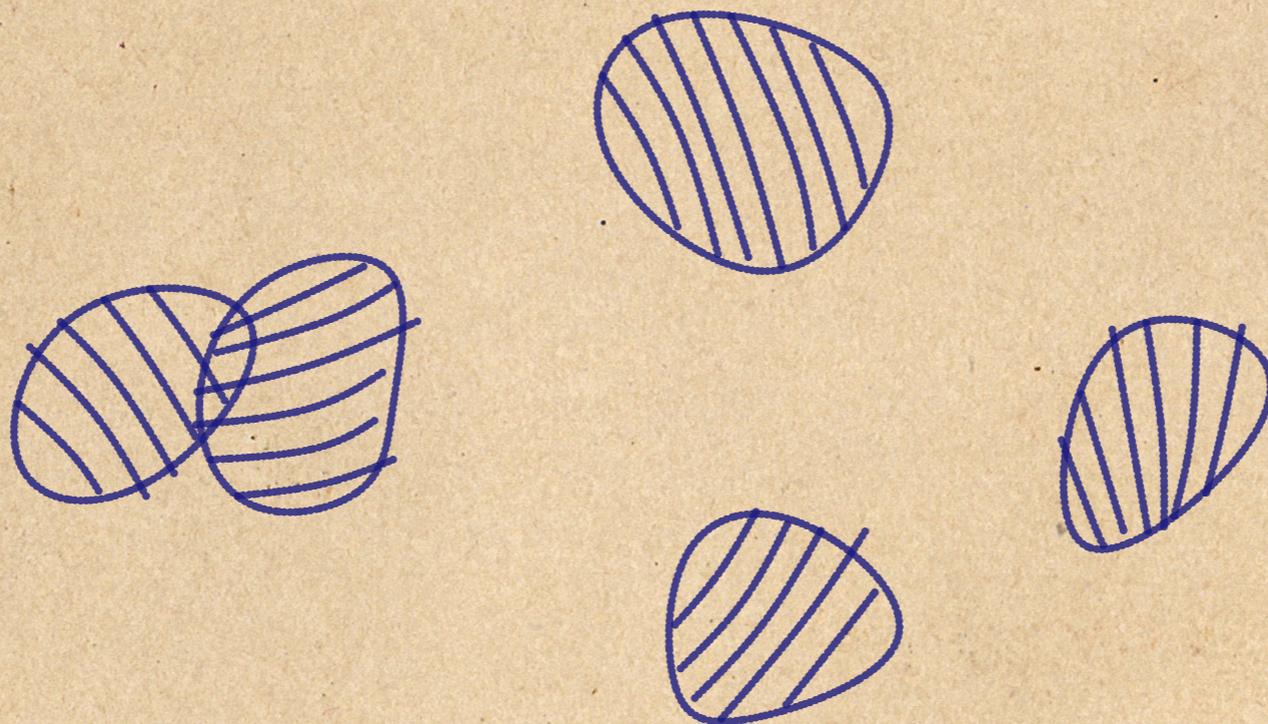
Etc...



But no matter how we model uncertainty.

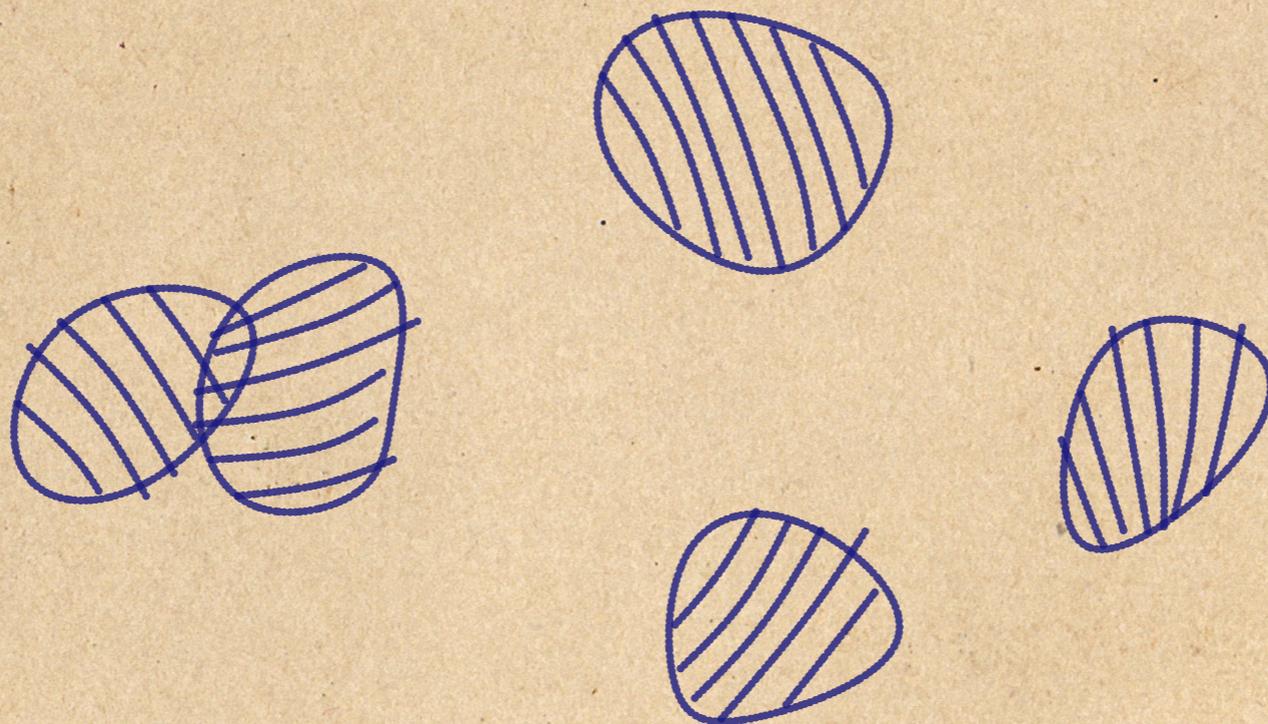
But no matter how we model uncertainty.
When the input to a geometric problem is
uncertain...

But no matter how we model uncertainty.
When the input to a geometric problem is
uncertain...



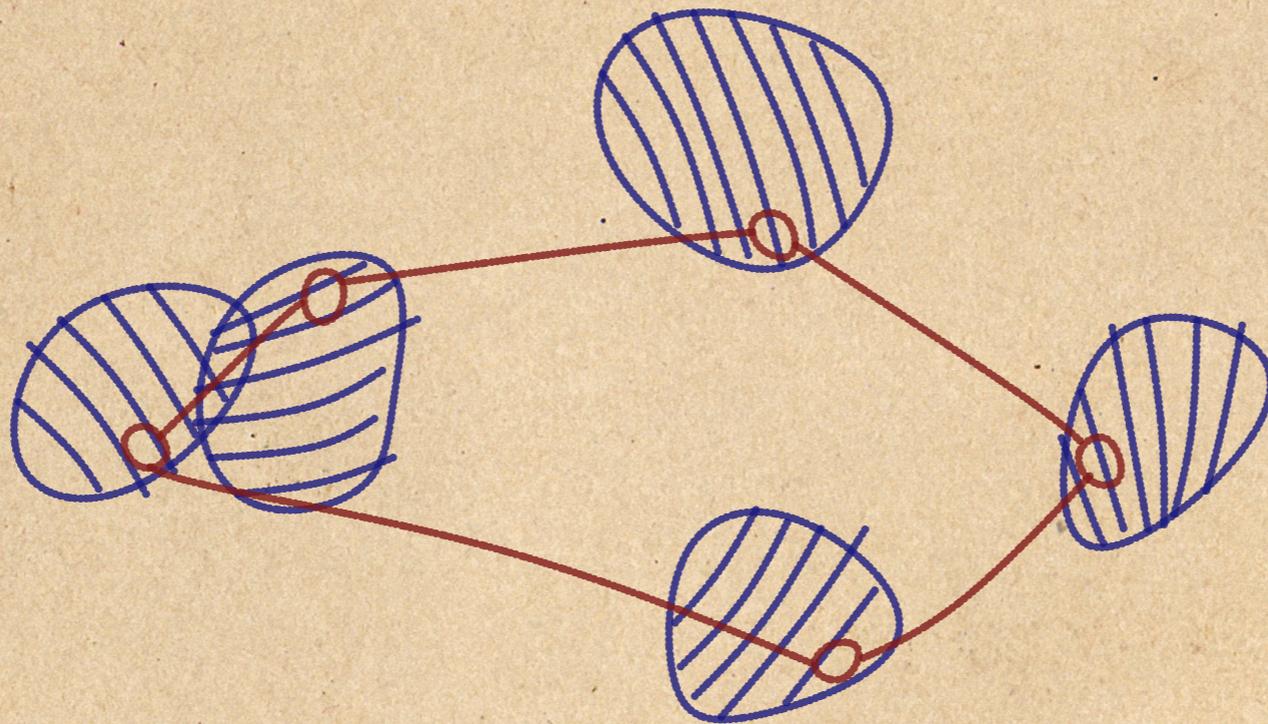
But no matter how we model uncertainty.
When the input to a geometric problem is
uncertain...

...so is the output!



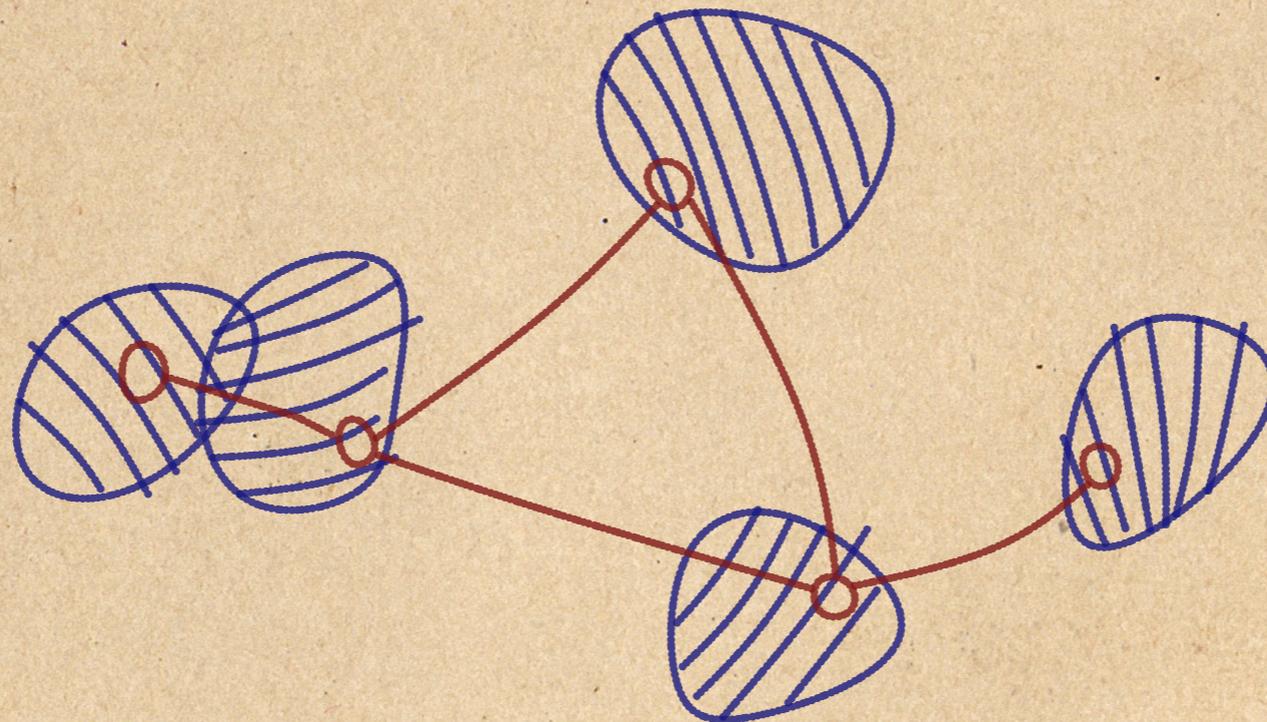
But no matter how we model uncertainty.
When the input to a geometric problem is
uncertain...

...so is the output!



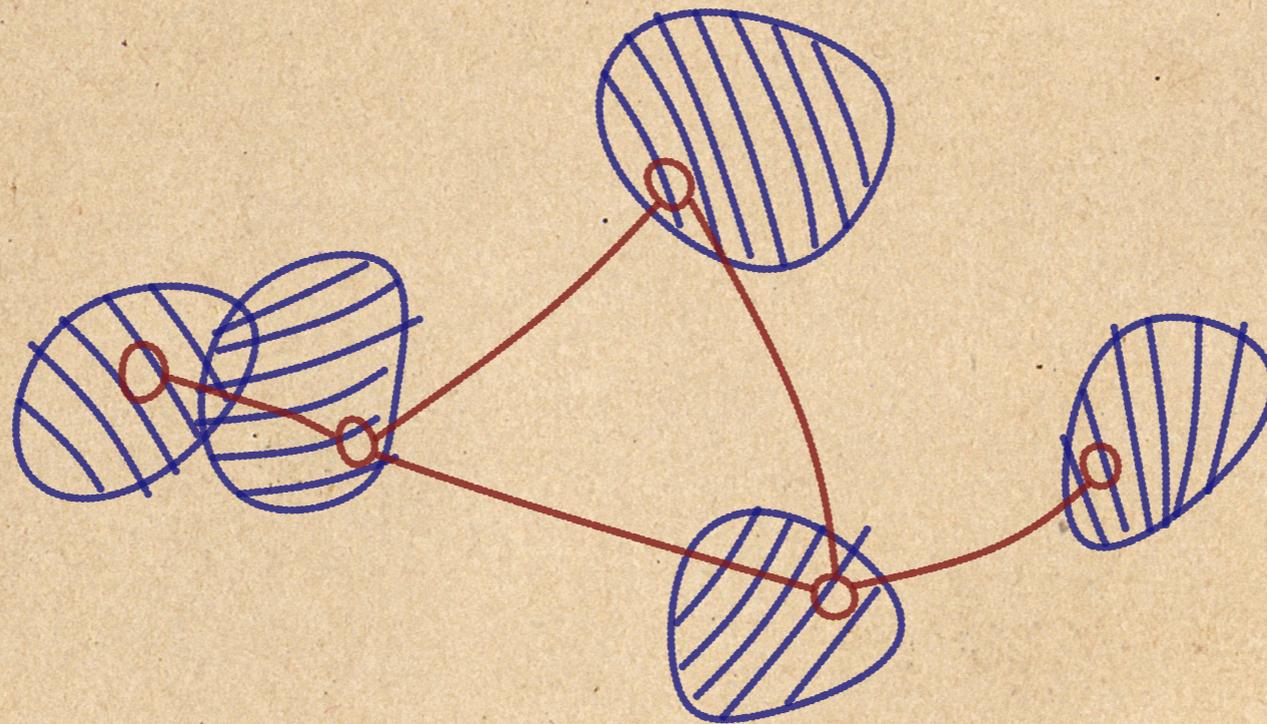
But no matter how we model uncertainty.
When the input to a geometric problem is
uncertain...

...so is the output!



But no matter how we model uncertainty.
When the input to a geometric problem is
uncertain...

...so is the output!



How do we capture/store/describe/visualise
this output uncertainty?

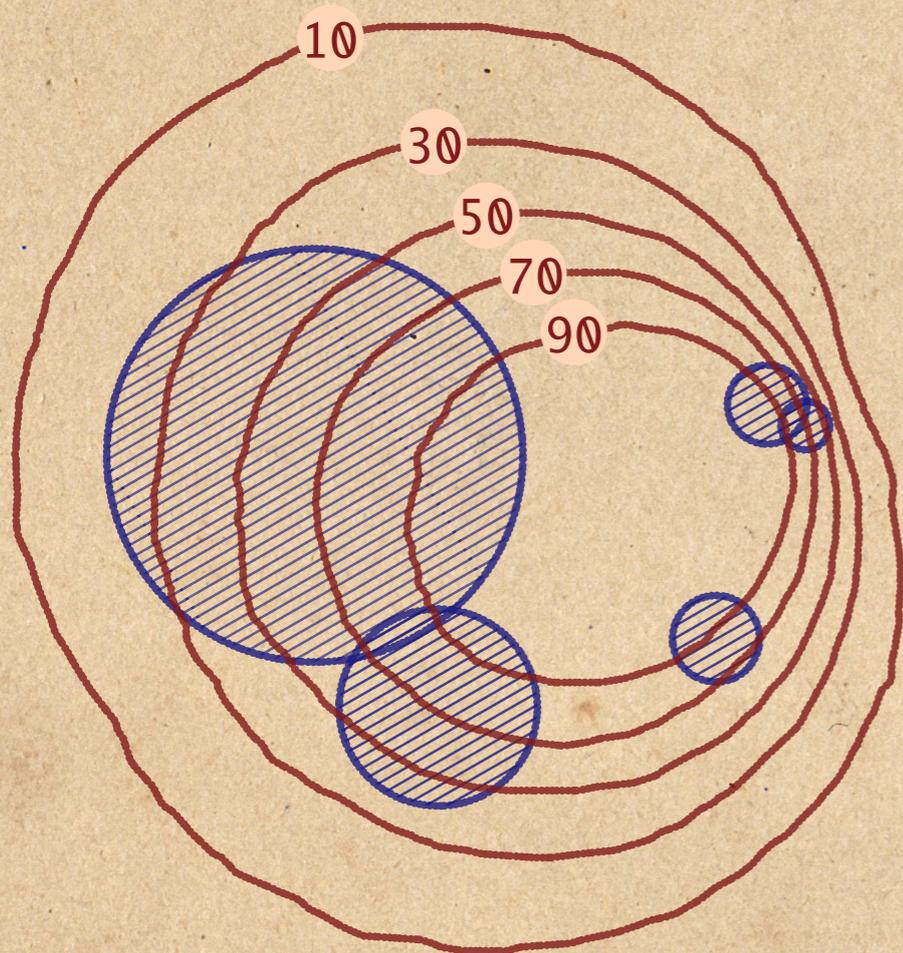
Today, let's focus on *visualising* geometric uncertainty.

Today, let's focus on *visualising* geometric uncertainty.

We could show geometric "error bars".

Today, let's focus on *visualising* geometric uncertainty.

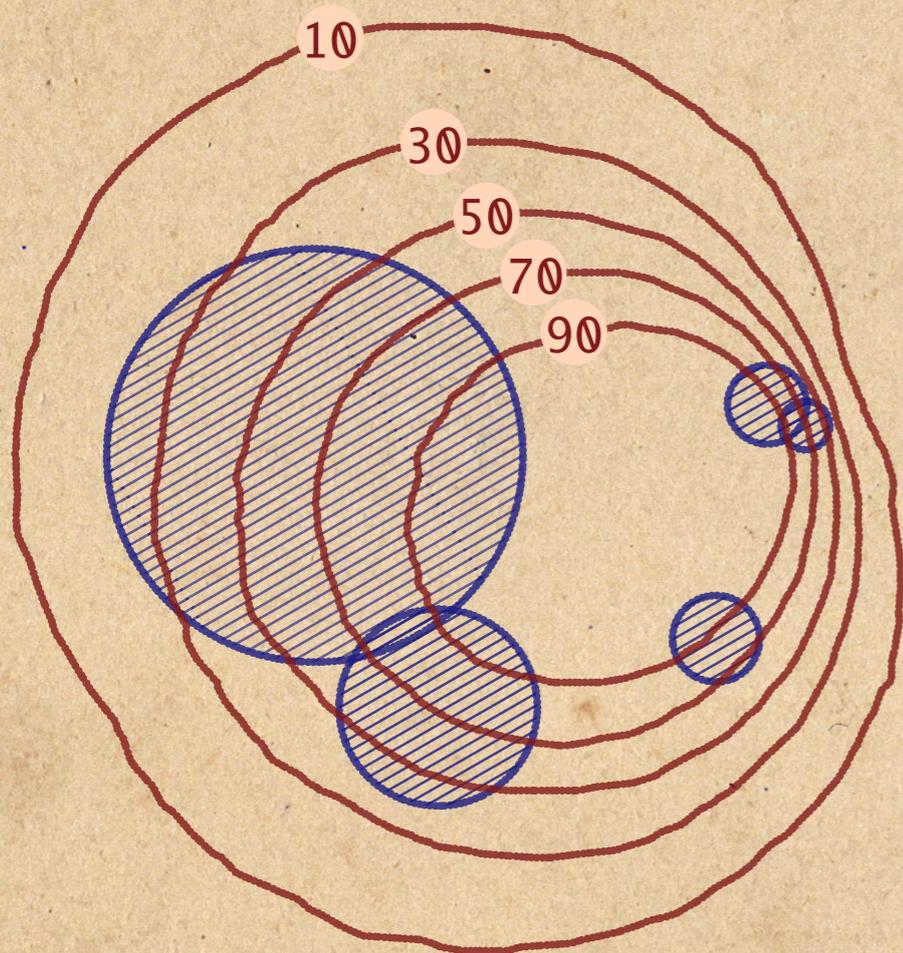
We could show geometric "error bars".



Today, let's focus on *visualising* geometric uncertainty.

We could show geometric "error bars".

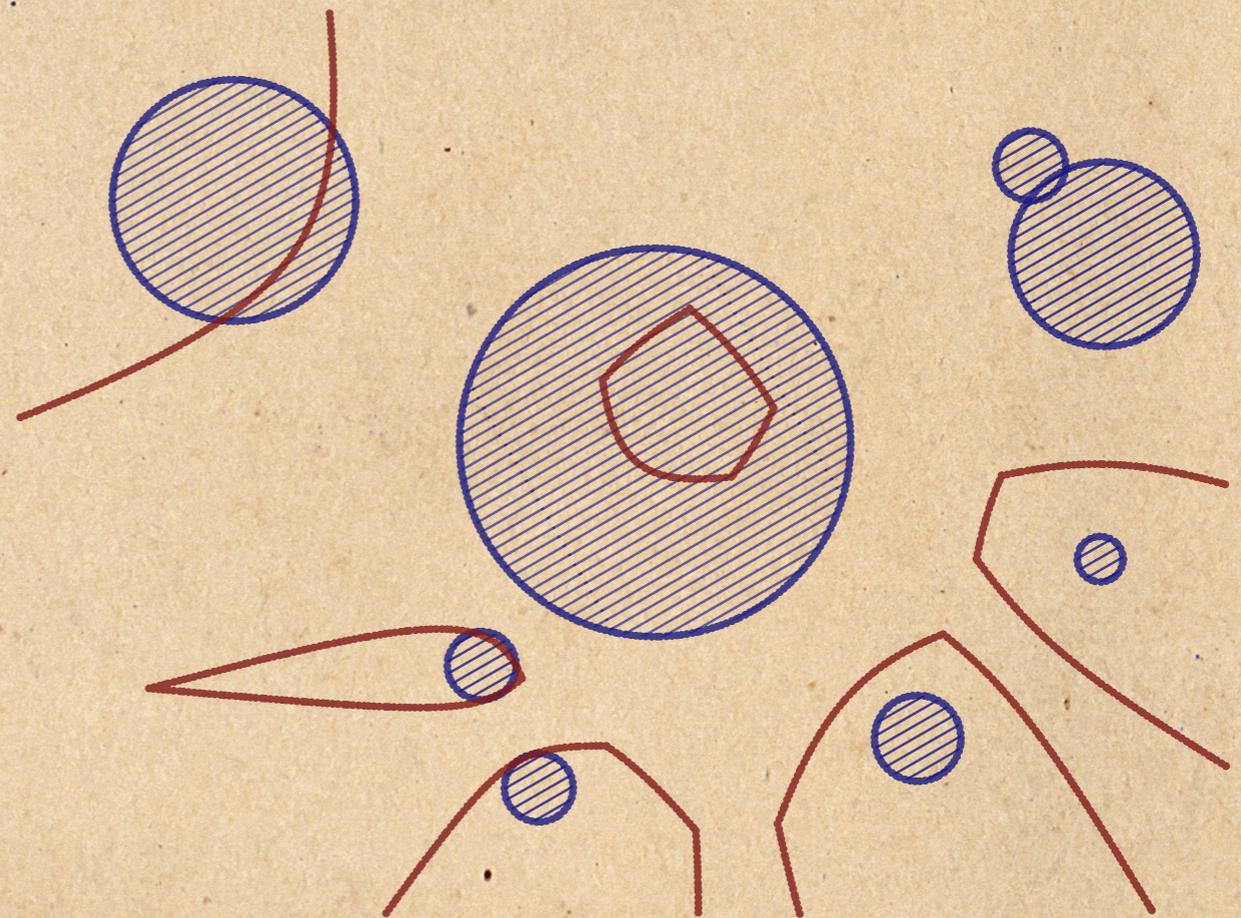
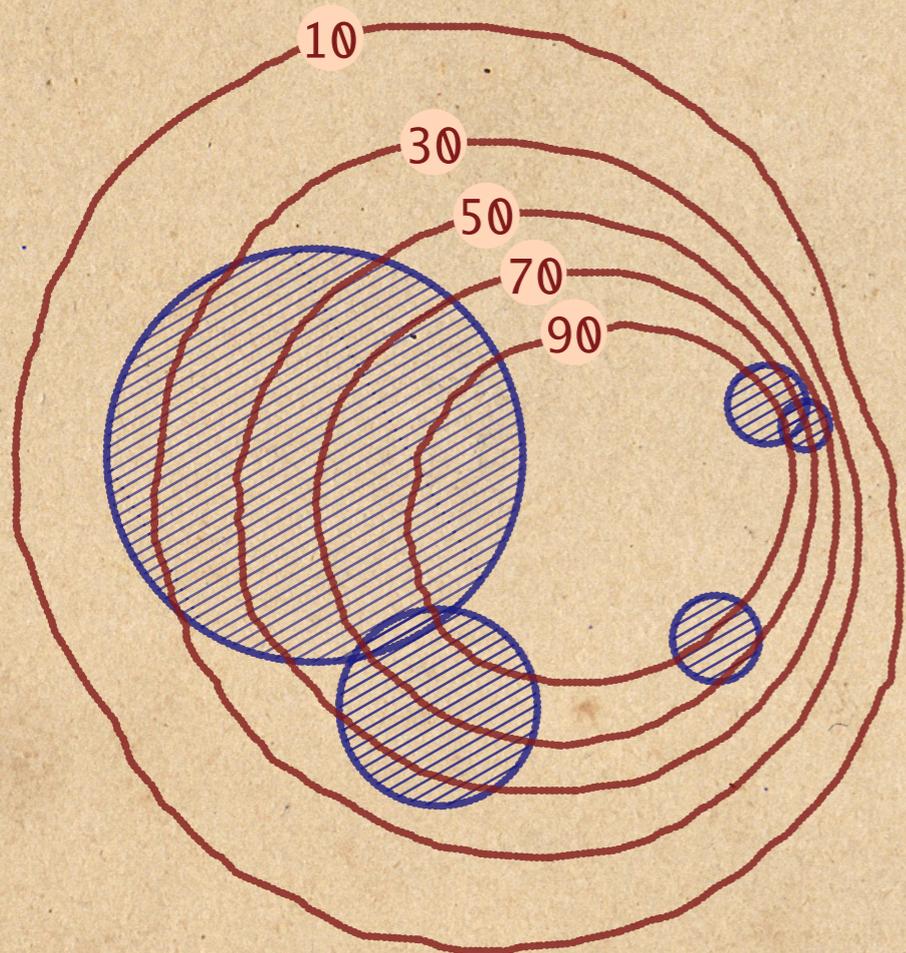
We could show features which are *guaranteed*.



Today, let's focus on *visualising* geometric uncertainty.

We could show geometric "error bars".

We could show features which are *guaranteed*.

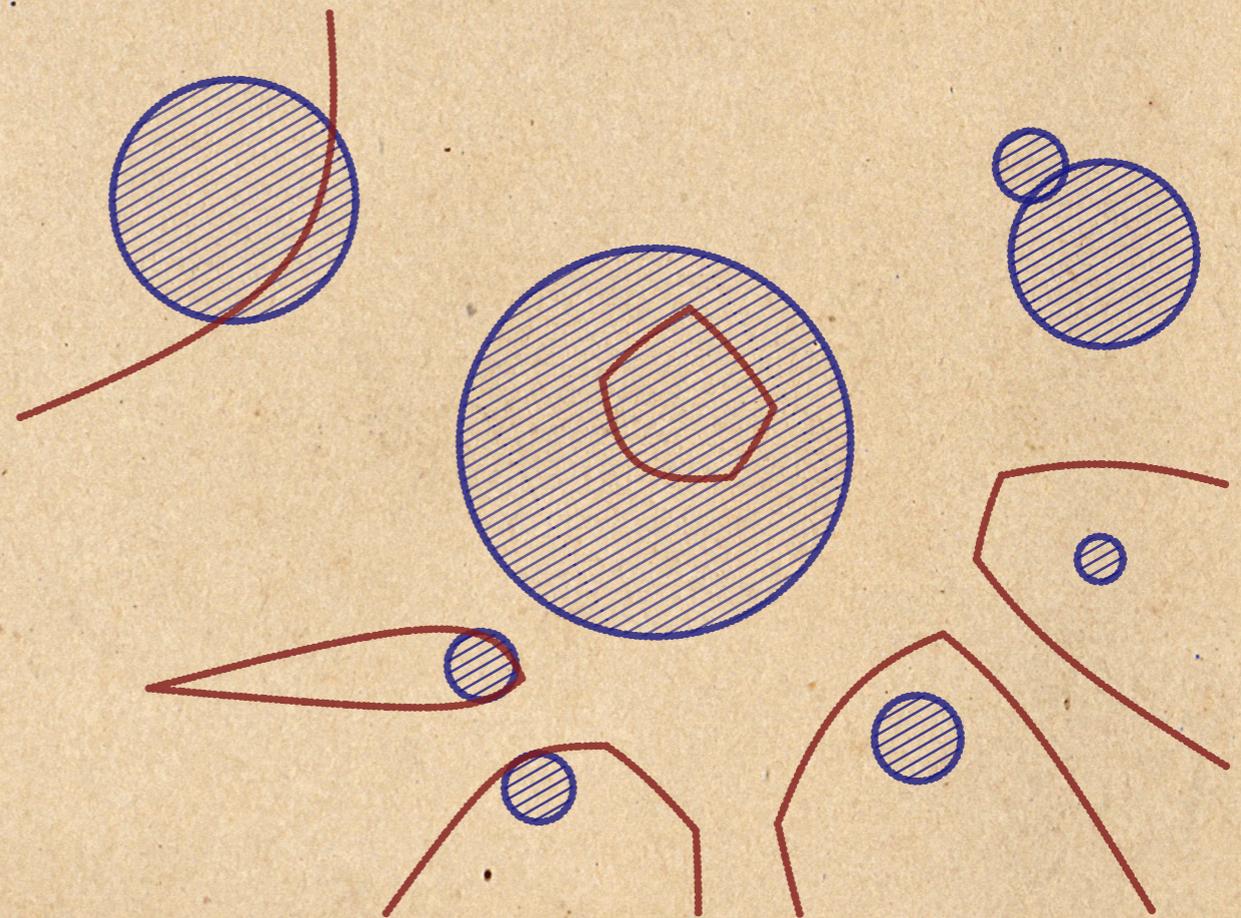
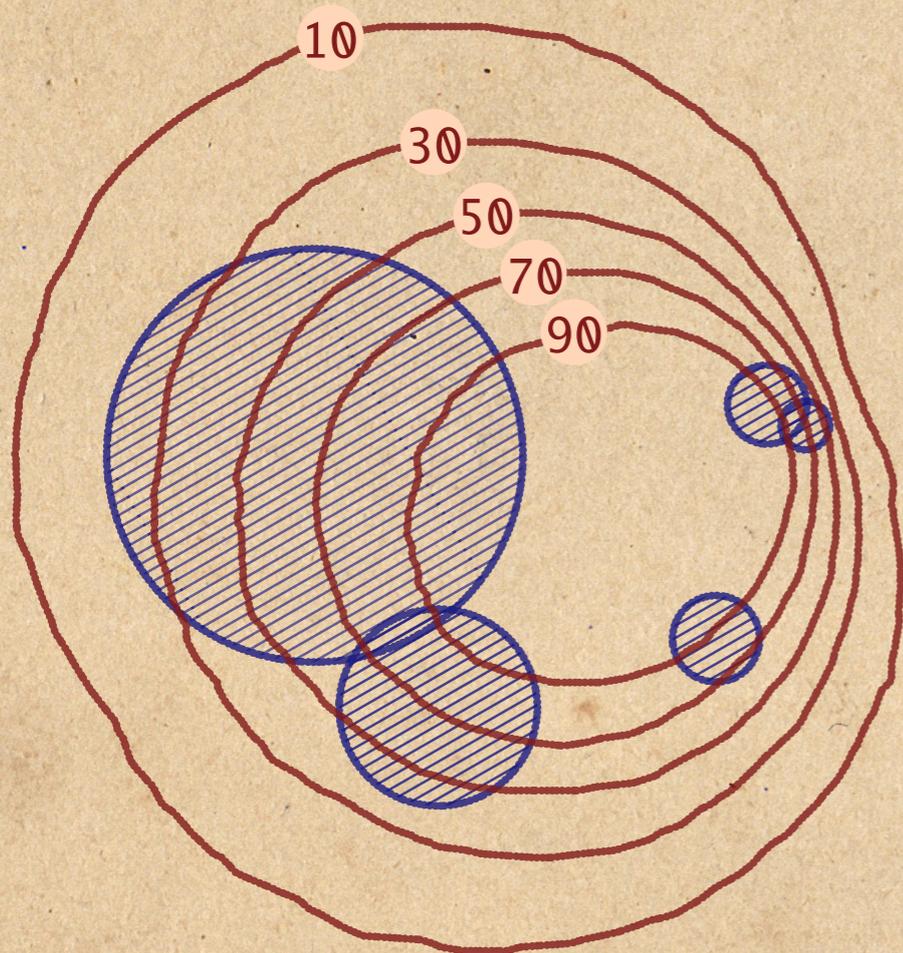


Today, let's focus on *visualising* geometric uncertainty.

We could show geometric "error bars".

We could show features which are *guaranteed*.

These are all very shapely things to show.



What if I'm interested in combinatorial
information?

What if I'm interested in combinatorial information?

Like, some sort of connectivity thing?

What if I'm interested in combinatorial information?

Like, some sort of connectivity thing?

Say, a graph?

What if I'm interested in combinatorial information?

Like, some sort of connectivity thing?

Say, a graph?

Well, if a graph is defined geometrically...

What if I'm interested in combinatorial information?

Like, some sort of connectivity thing?

Say, a graph?

Well, if a graph is defined geometrically...

Then the graph structure is going to depend on the exact location of the vertices.

What if I'm interested in combinatorial information?

Like, some sort of connectivity thing?

Say, a graph?

Well, if a graph is defined geometrically...

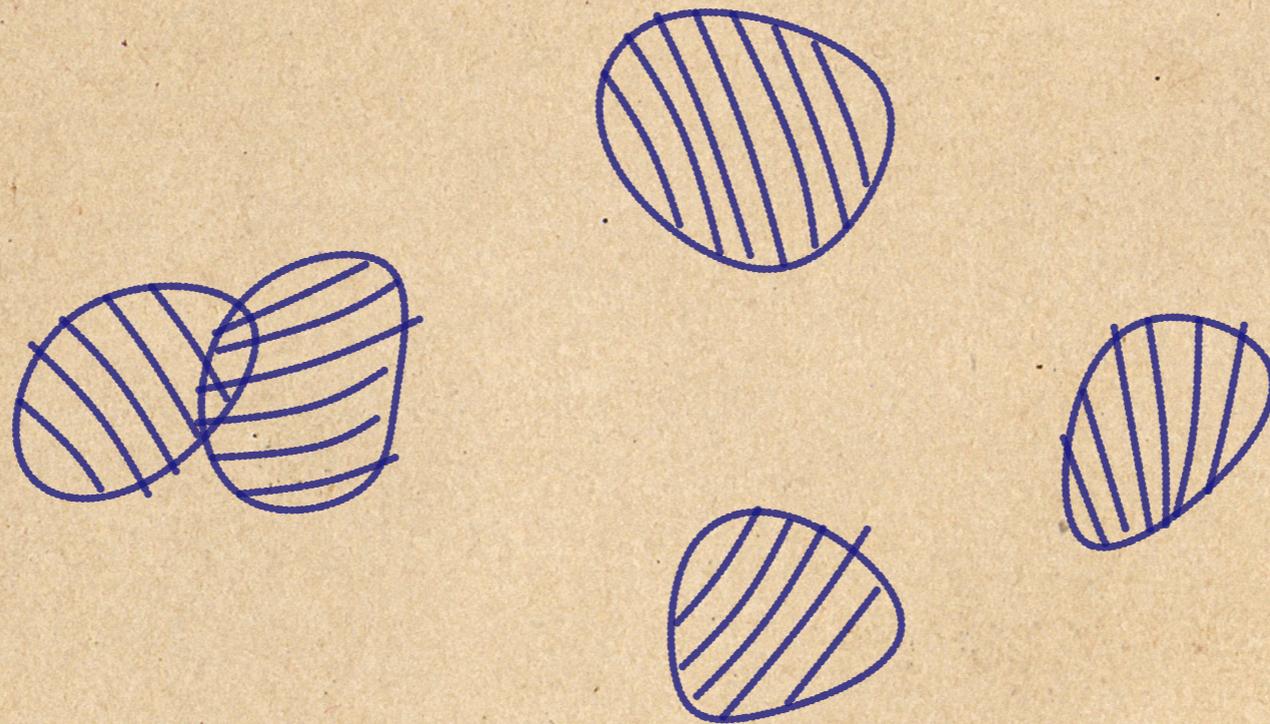
Then the graph structure is going to depend on the exact location of the vertices.

Can we also visualise this "combinatorial uncertainty"?

DRAWING
GEOMETRIC
UNCERTAINTY
GRAPHS

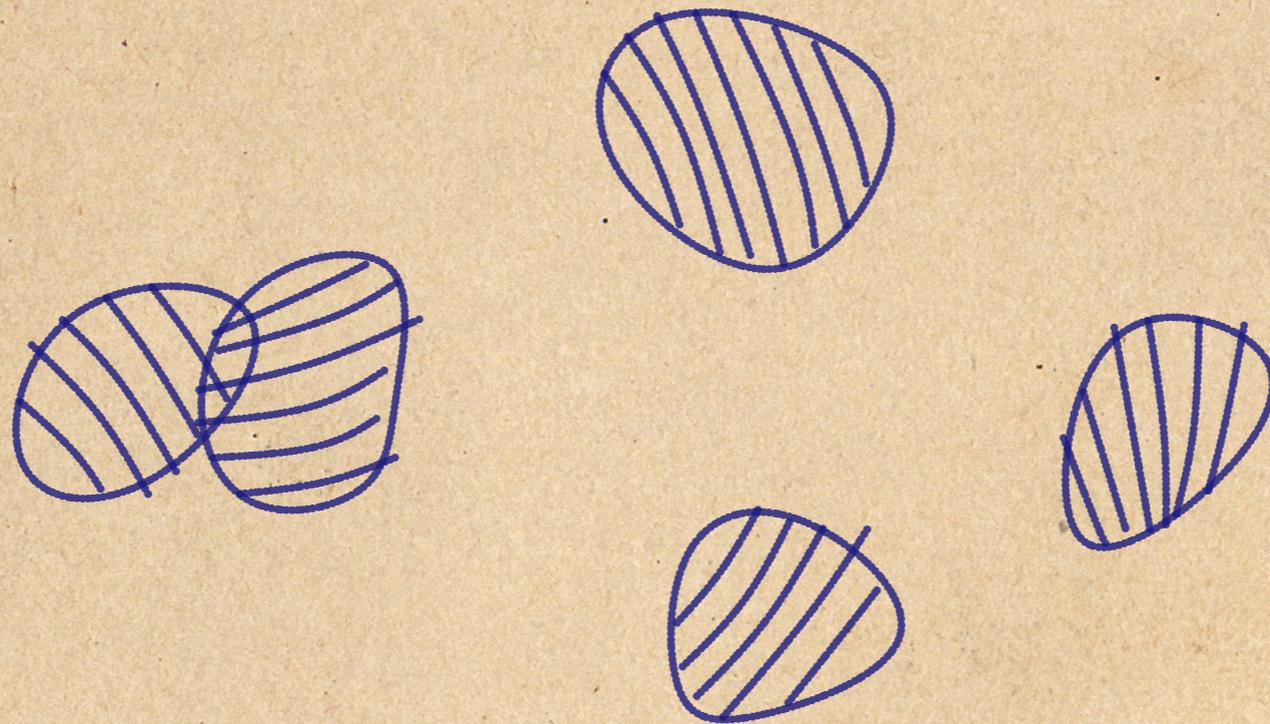
Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.



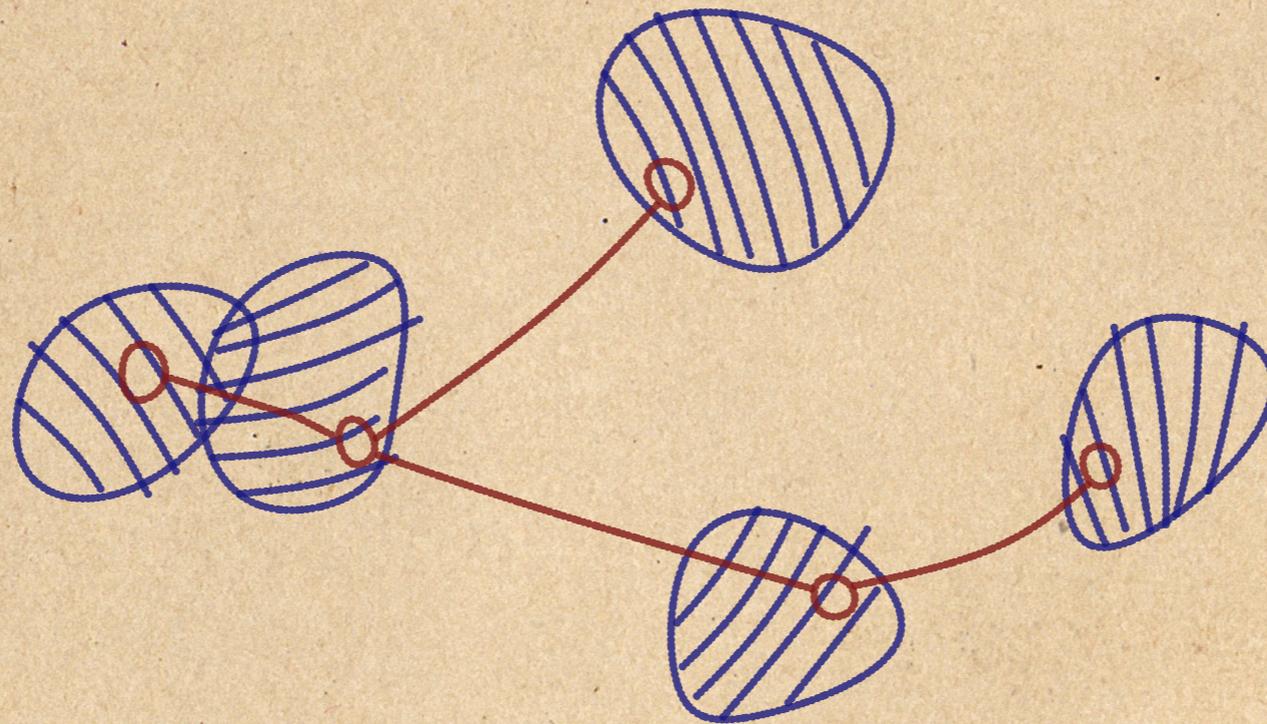
Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

We can try a few different possibilities.



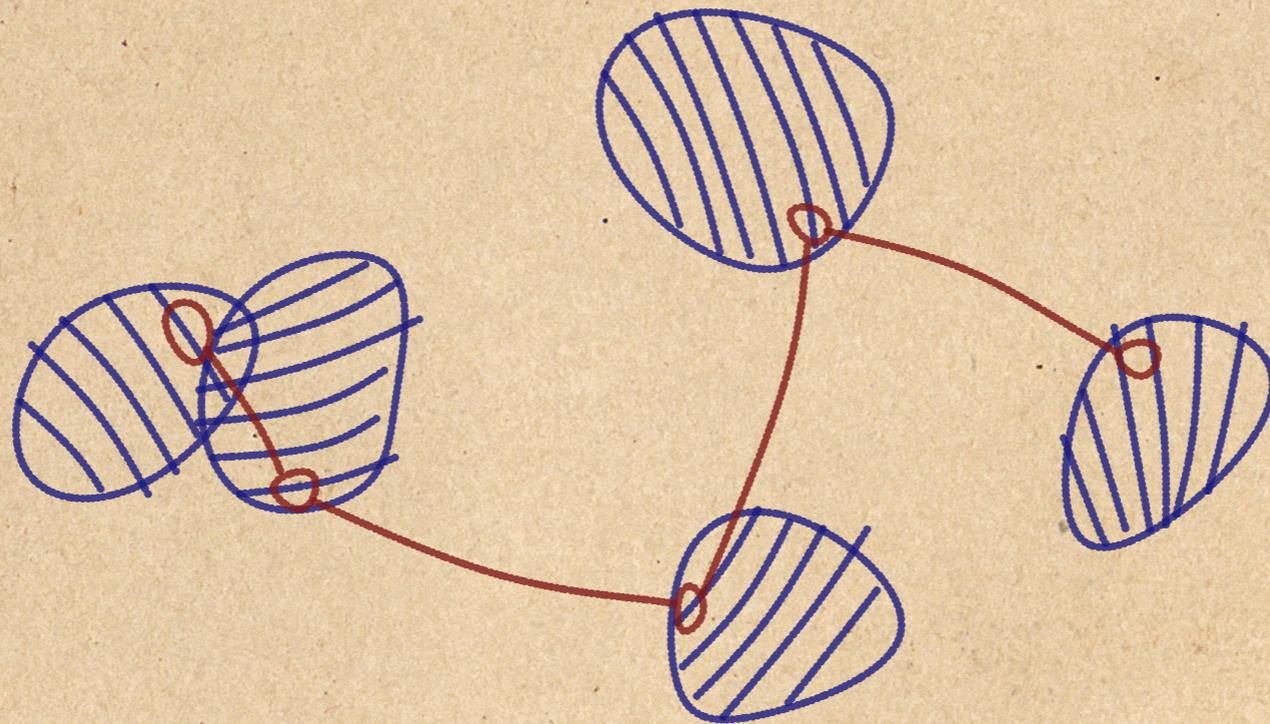
Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

We can try a few different possibilities.



Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

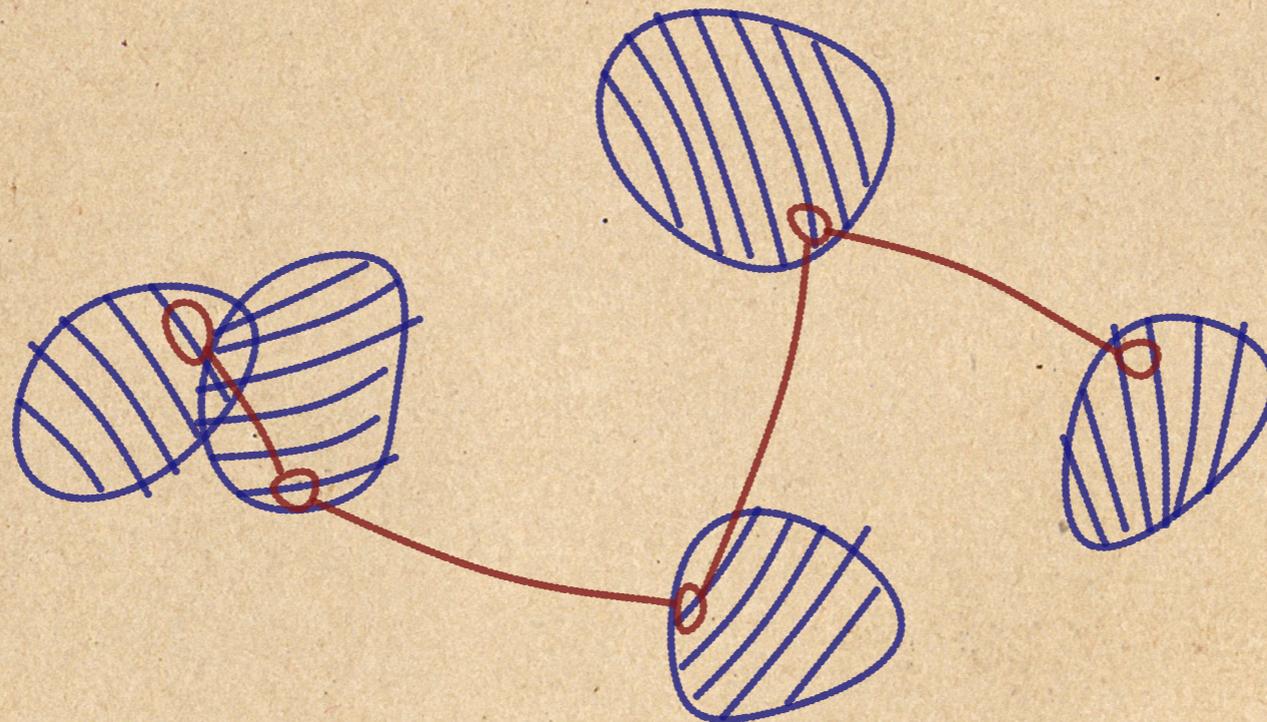
We can try a few different possibilities.



Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

We can try a few different possibilities.

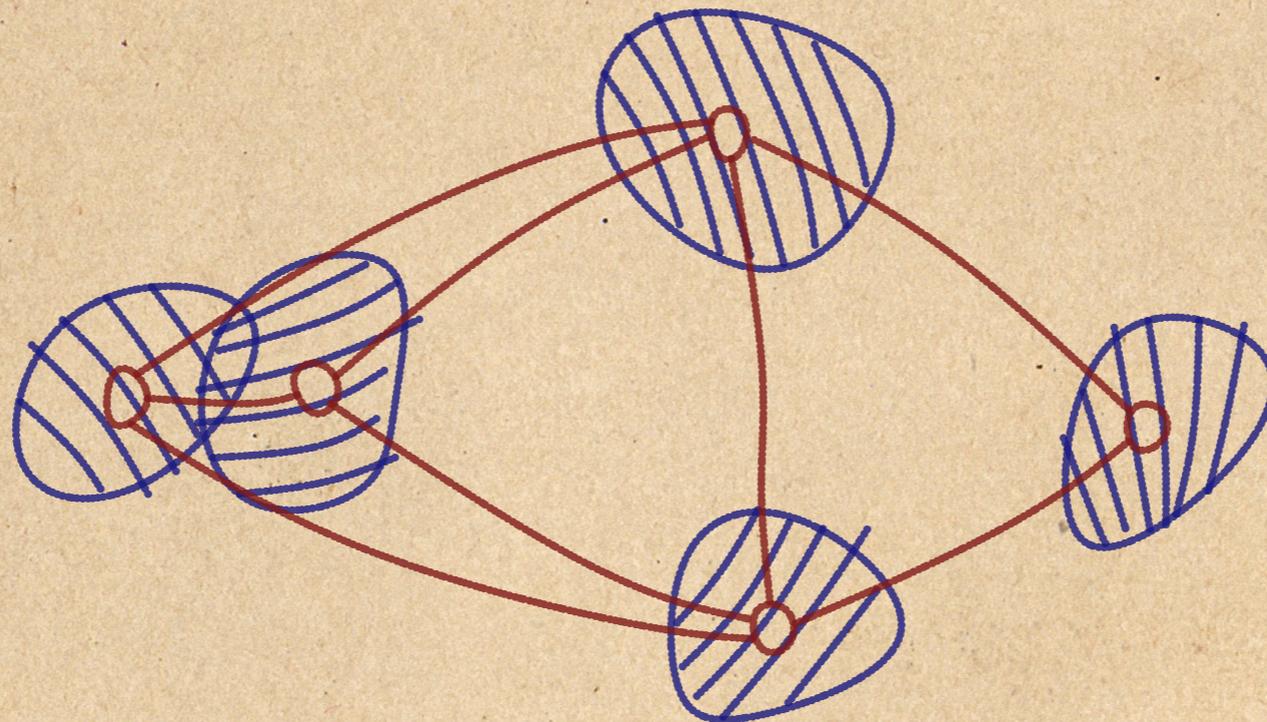
Or look at the graph of all *potential* edges.



Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

We can try a few different possibilities.

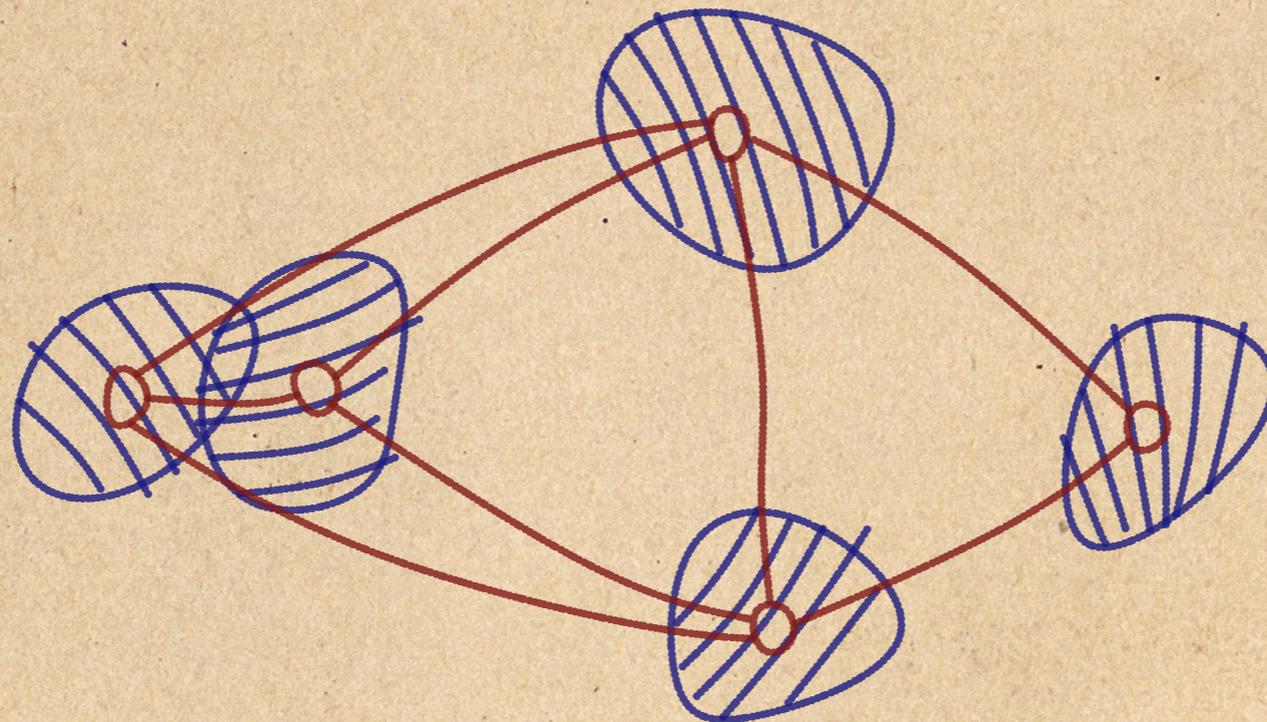
Or look at the graph of all *potential* edges.



Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

We can try a few different possibilities.

Or look at the graph of all *potential* edges.

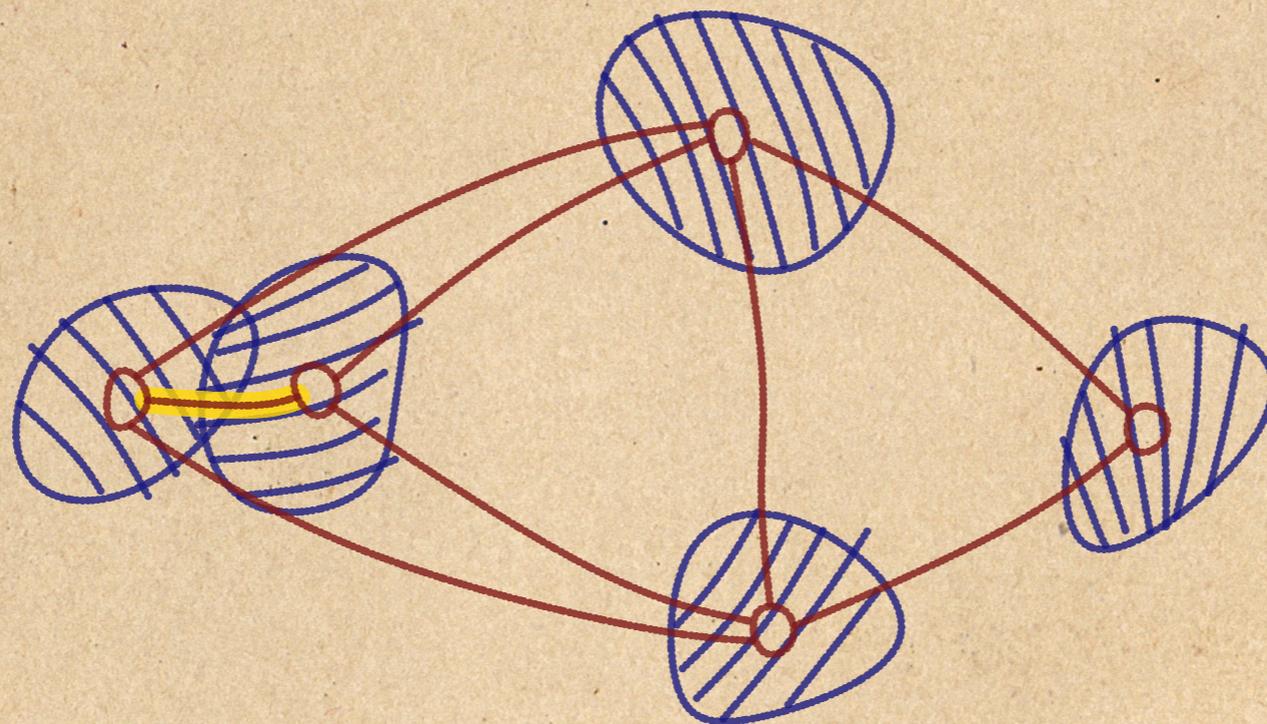


We can also mark all *guaranteed* edges.

Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

We can try a few different possibilities.

Or look at the graph of all *potential* edges.

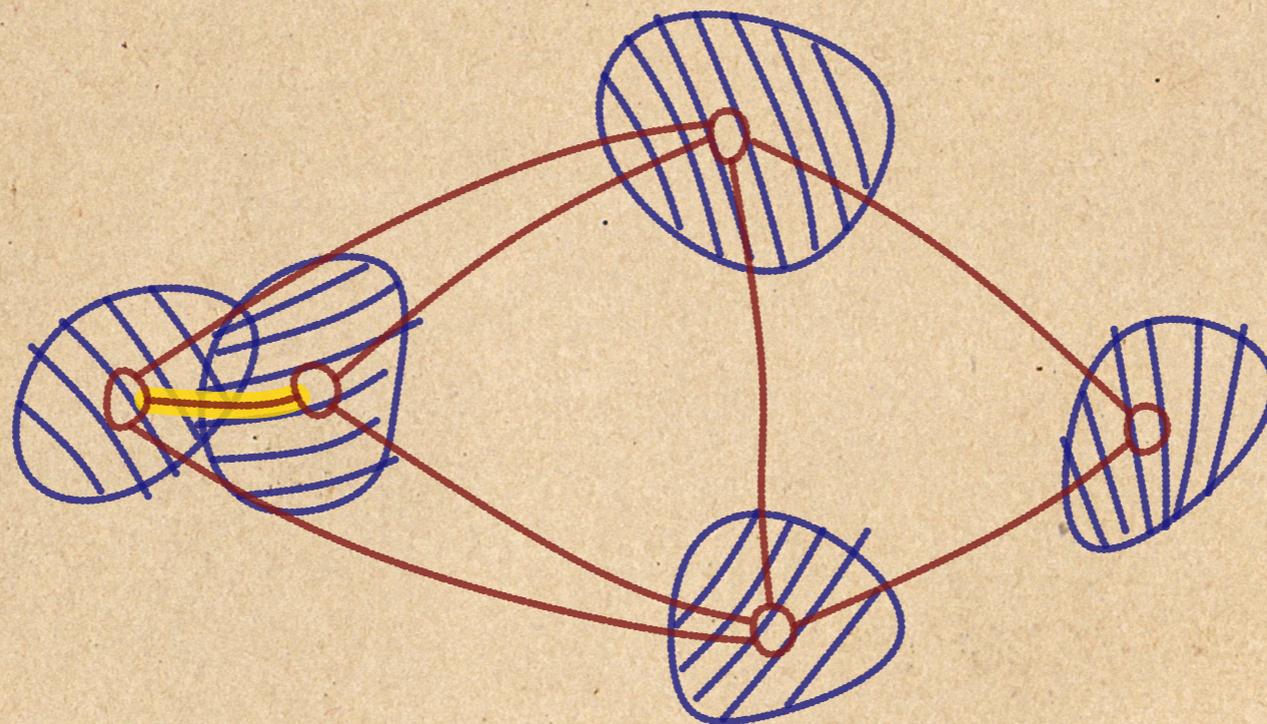


We can also mark all *guaranteed* edges.

Suppose we want the *minimum spanning tree* of some uncertain points.

We can try a few different possibilities.

Or look at the graph of all *potential* edges.



We can also mark all *guaranteed* edges.

But how do we draw this graph?

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

So, we can try to improve the visual quality using our favourite quality criteria!

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

So, we can try to improve the visual quality using our favourite quality criteria!

Like, minimise crossings!

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

So, we can try to improve the visual quality using our favourite quality criteria!

Like, minimise crossings!

Yay!

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

So, we can try to improve the visual quality using our favourite quality criteria!

Like, minimise crossings!

Yay!

But wait, wasn't that NP-hard?

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

So, we can try to improve the visual quality using our favourite quality criteria!

Like, minimise crossings!

Yay!

But wait, wasn't that NP-hard?

Well... maybe.

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

So, we can try to improve the visual quality using our favourite quality criteria!

Like, minimise crossings!

Yay!

But wait, wasn't that NP-hard?

Well... maybe.

We get more restrictive graph classes.

Vertices should be in their uncertainty regions, to show the connection.

But we don't really care *where* exactly.

So, we can try to improve the visual quality using our favourite quality criteria!

Like, minimise crossings!

Yay!

But wait, wasn't that NP-hard?

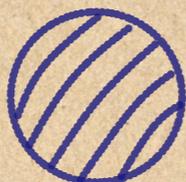
Well... maybe.

We get more restrictive graph classes.

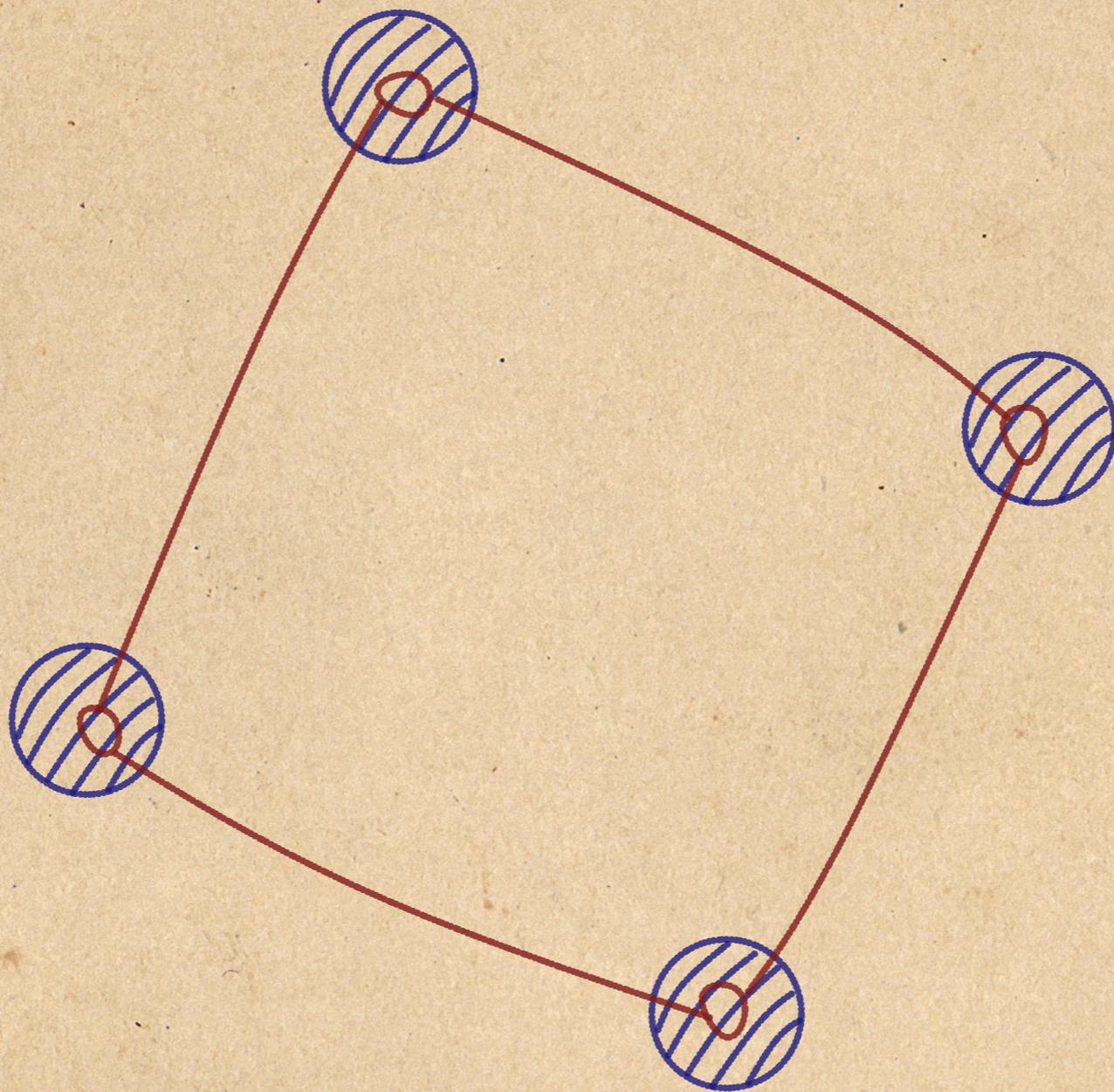
VITAL QUESTION Does the geometric structure make these graphs easier to draw?

OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?

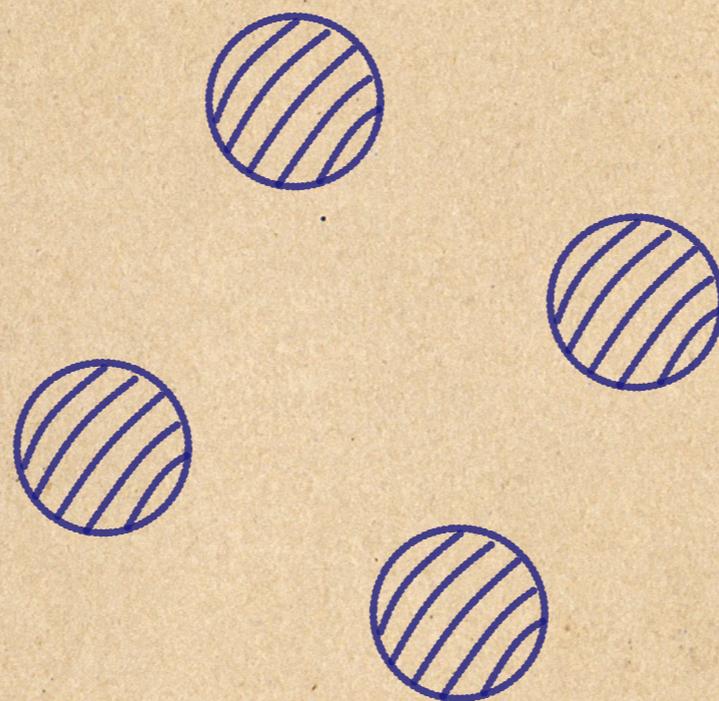
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?



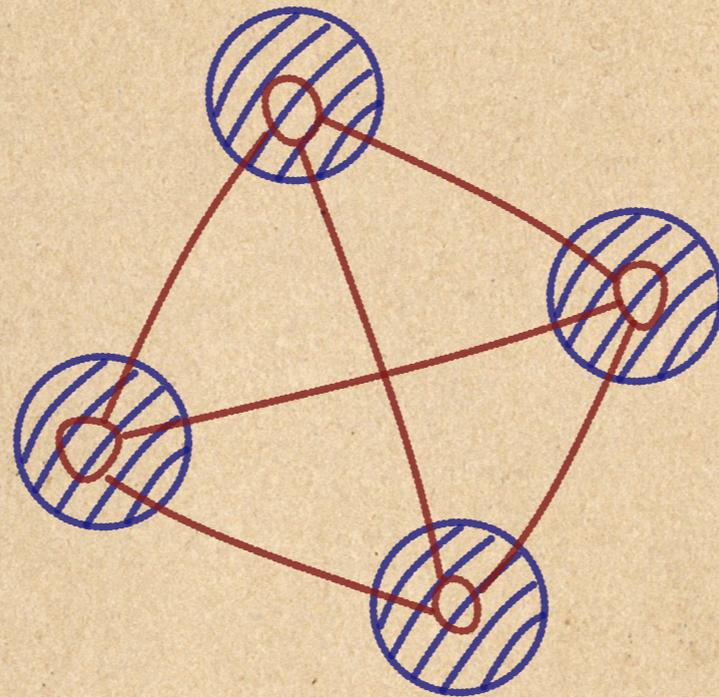
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?



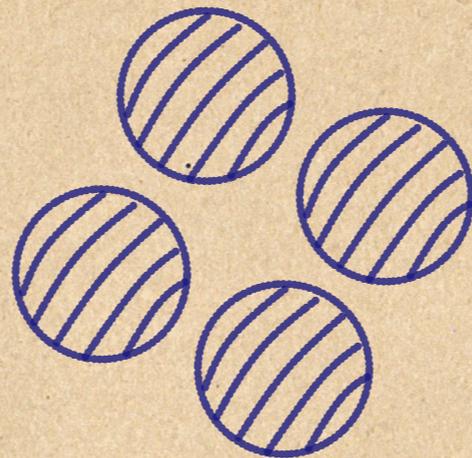
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?



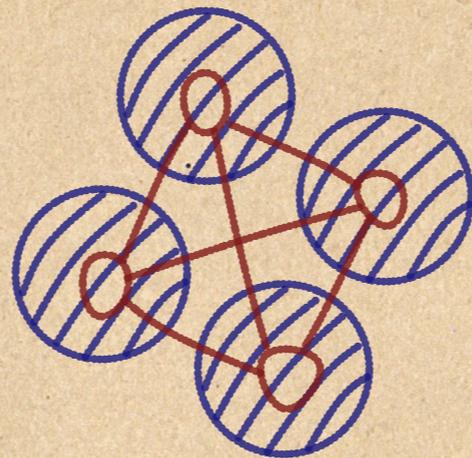
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?



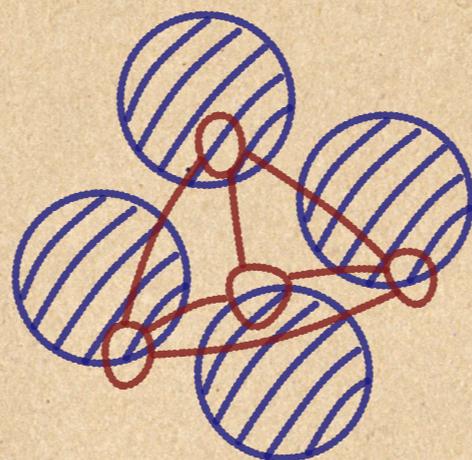
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?



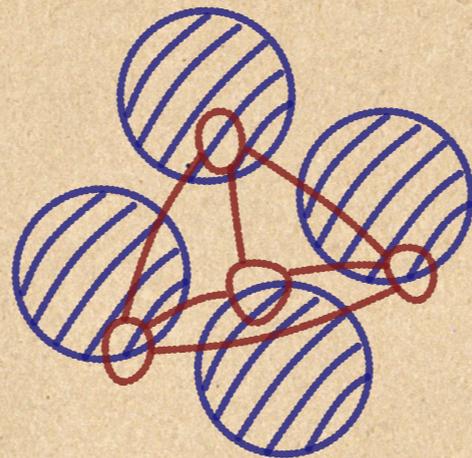
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?



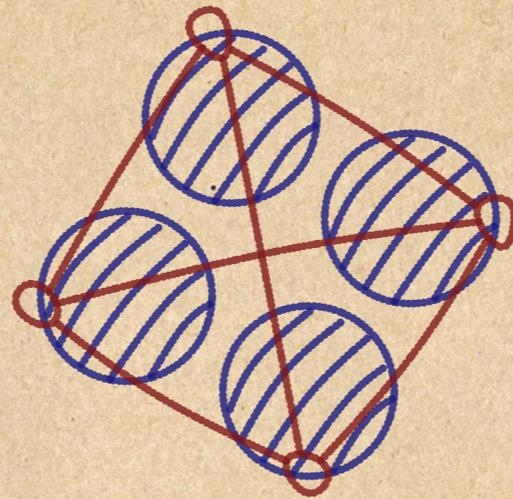
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?



OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?
...or, with nice resolution?



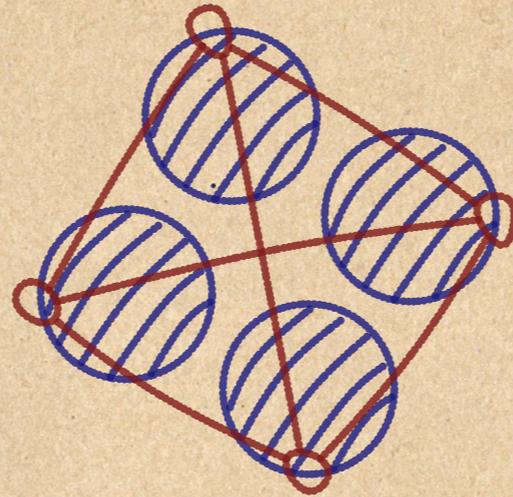
OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?
...or, with nice resolution?



OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?

...or, with nice resolution?

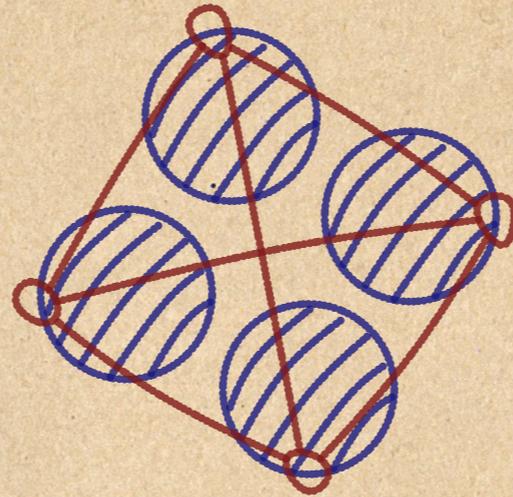
...or, without small angles?



OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?

...or, with nice resolution?

...or, without small angles?

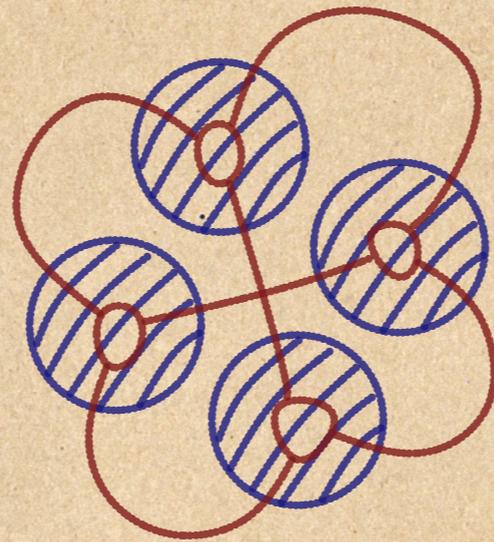


...maybe using circular arcs?

OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?

...or, with nice resolution?

...or, without small angles?

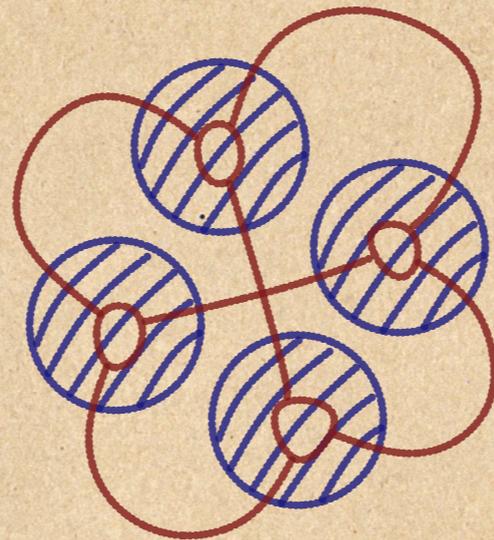


...maybe using circular arcs?

OPEN PROBLEM Given a set of regions, can the potential MST graph be drawn in a planar way?

...or, with nice resolution?

...or, without small angles?

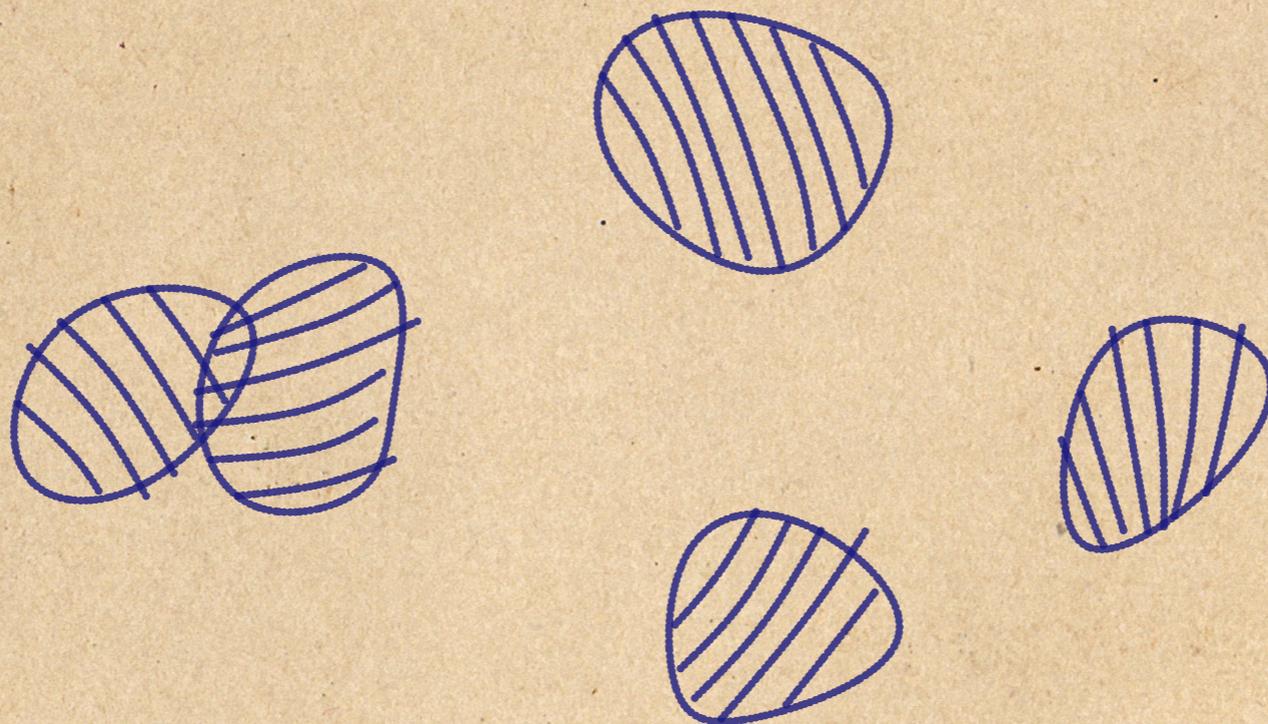


...maybe using circular arcs?

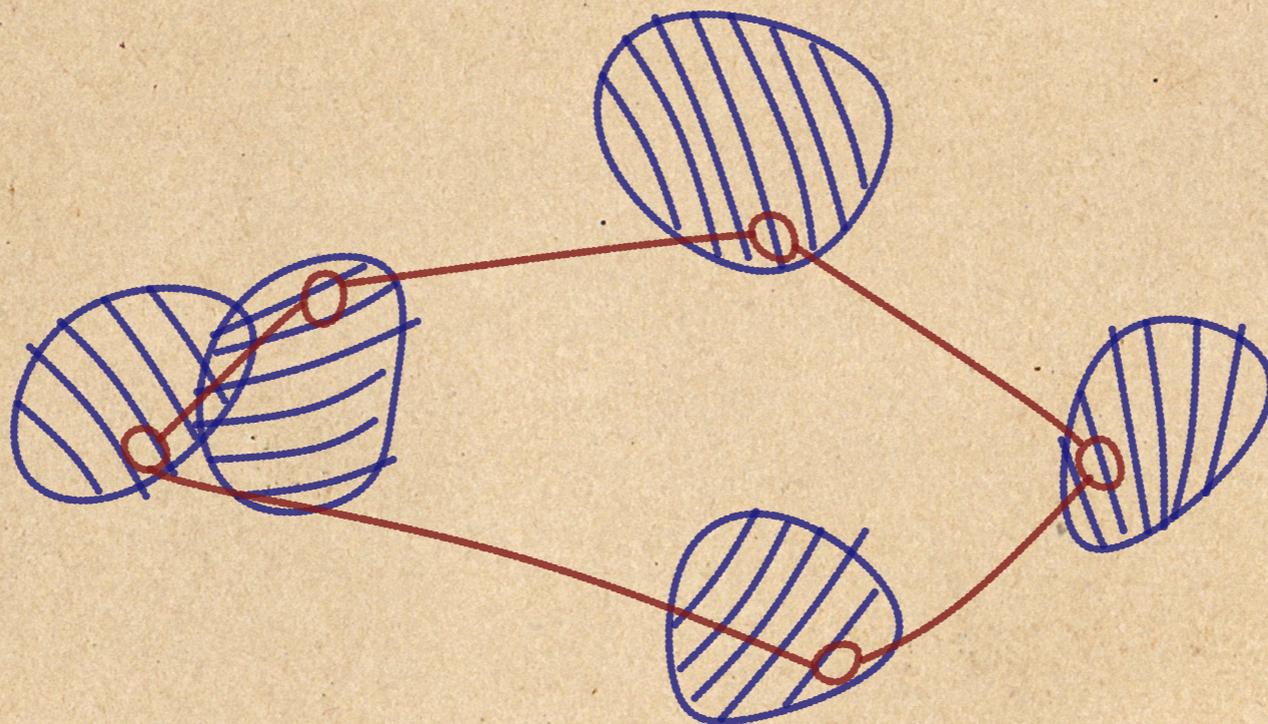
OPEN PROBLEM Count the number of open problems this leads to.

Or consider the *convex hull*.

Or consider the *convex hull*.

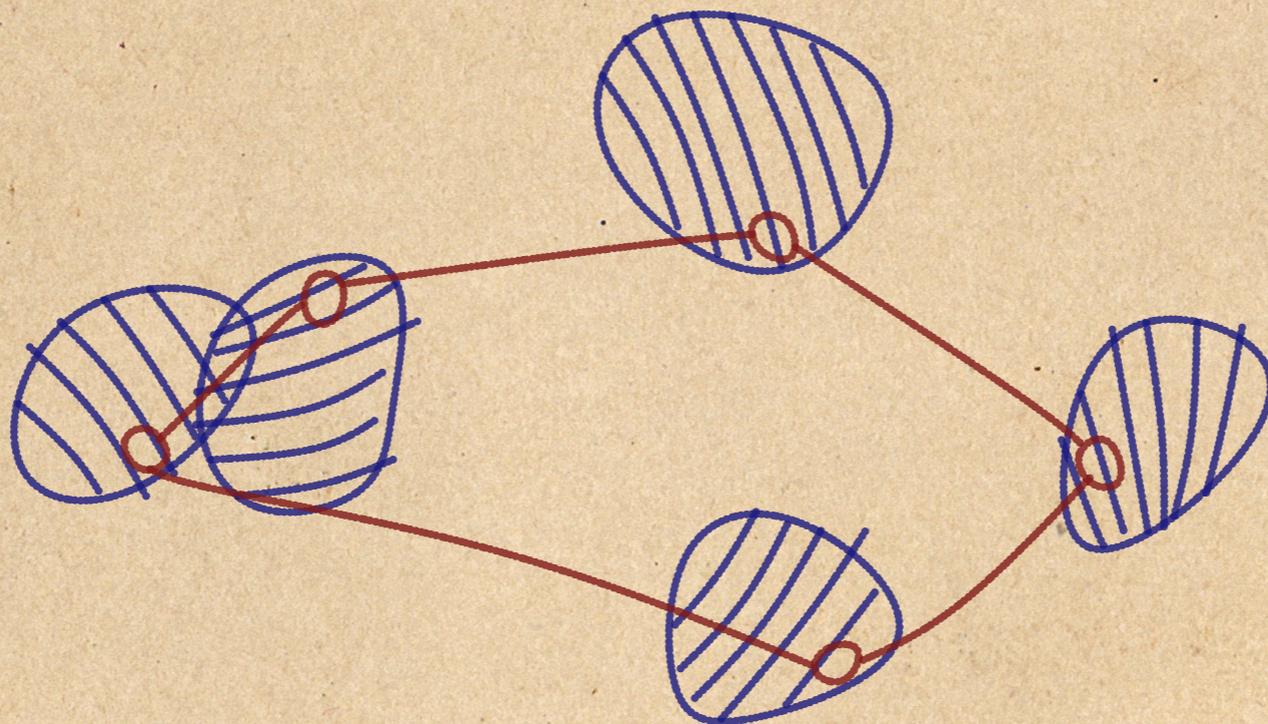


Or consider the *convex hull*.



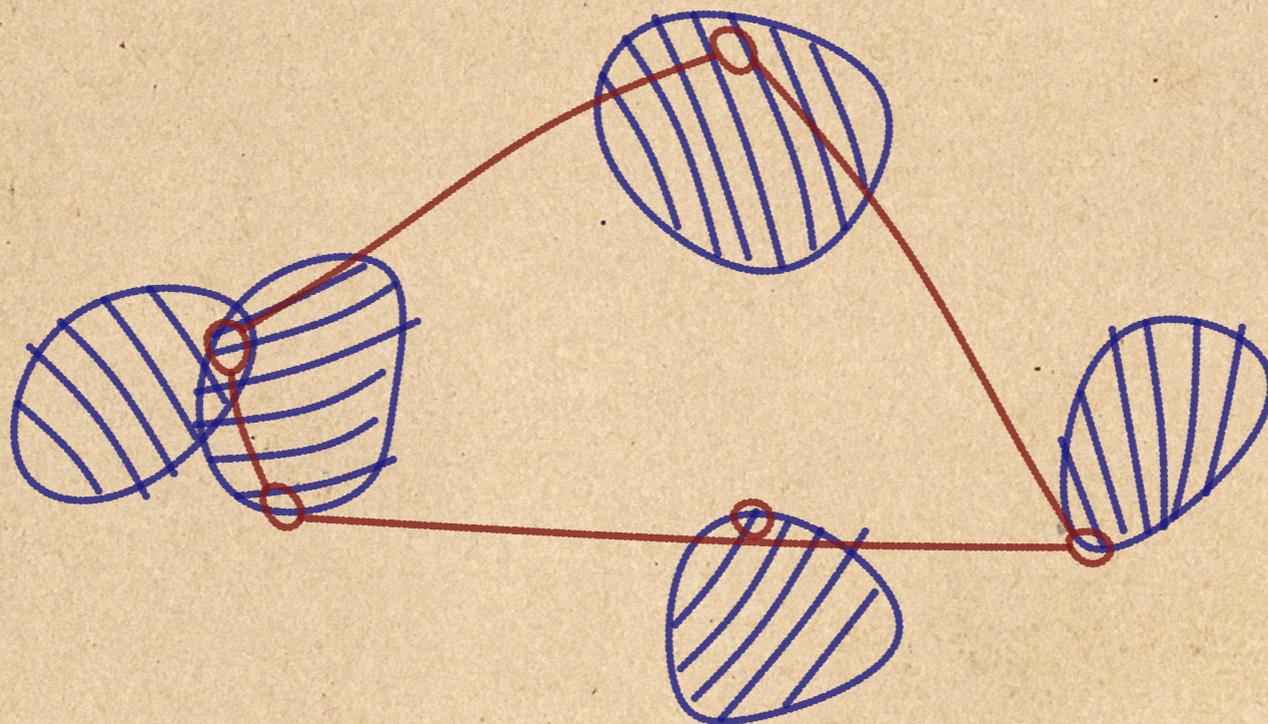
Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.



Or consider the *convex hull*.

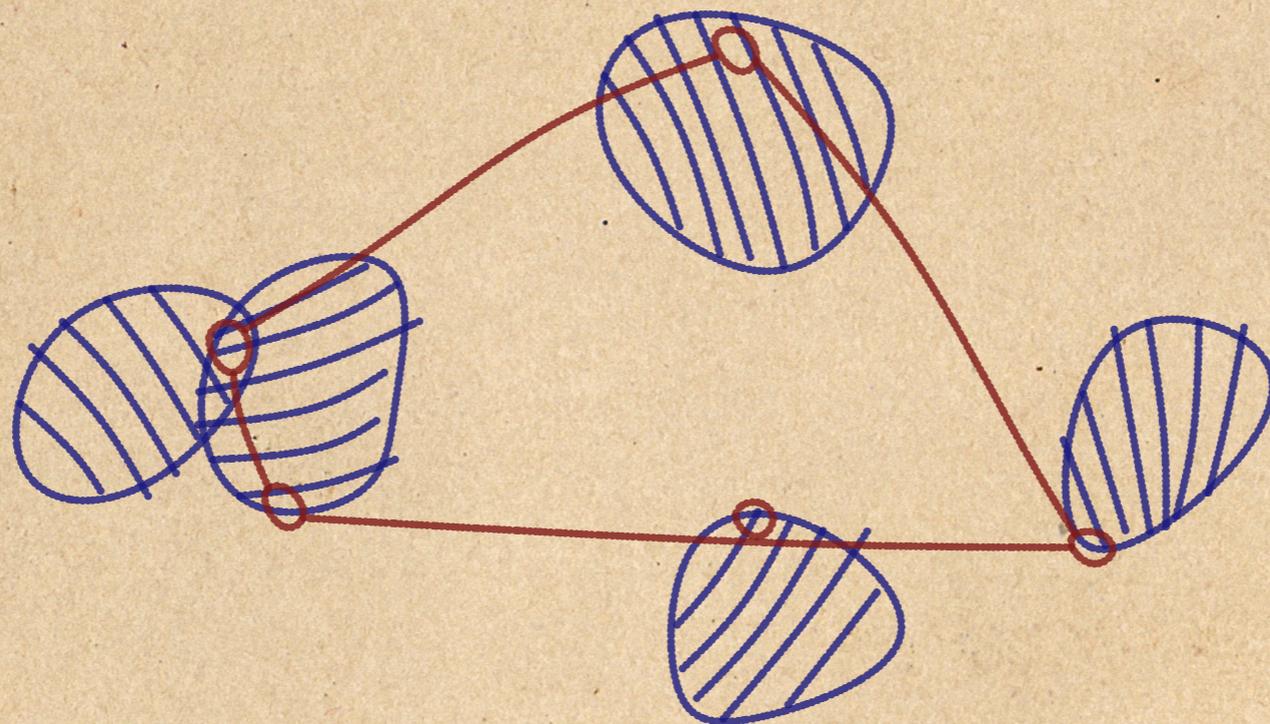
Again, there are different possibilities.



Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.

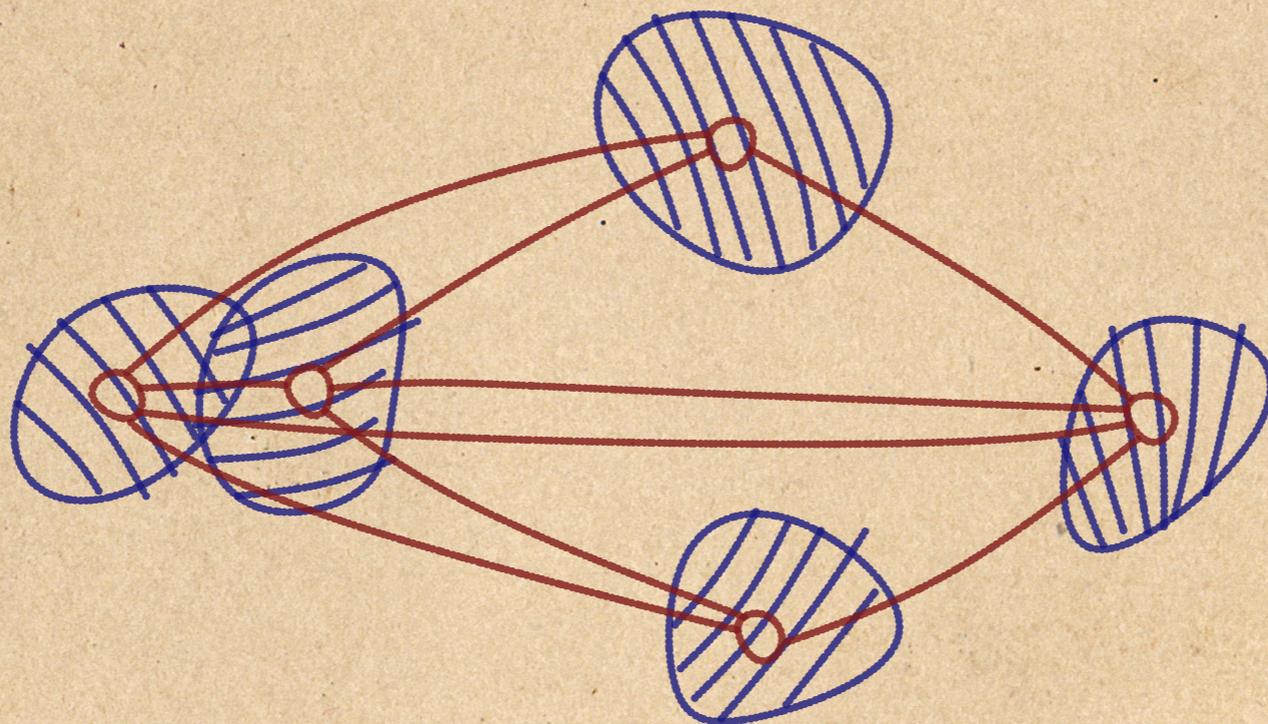
Again, we can draw the *potential* hull edges...



Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.

Again, we can draw the *potential* hull edges...

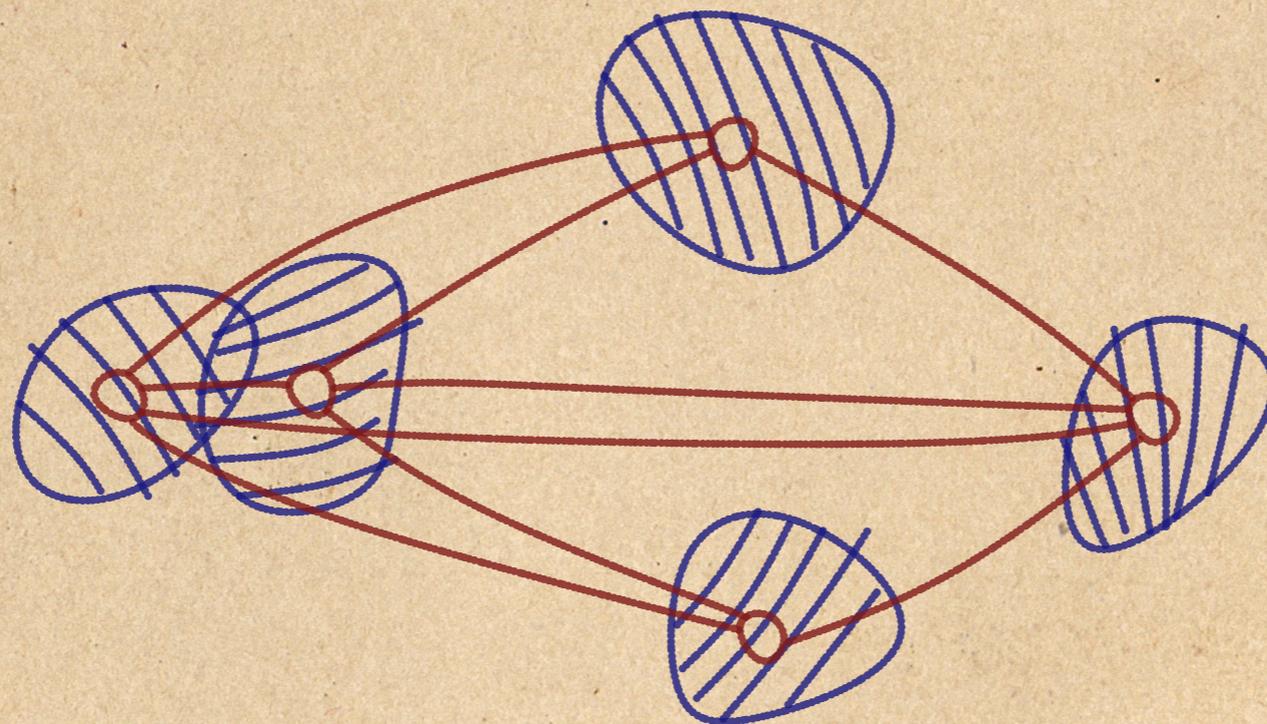


Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.

Again, we can draw the *potential* hull edges...

...and highlight the *guaranteed* hull edges.

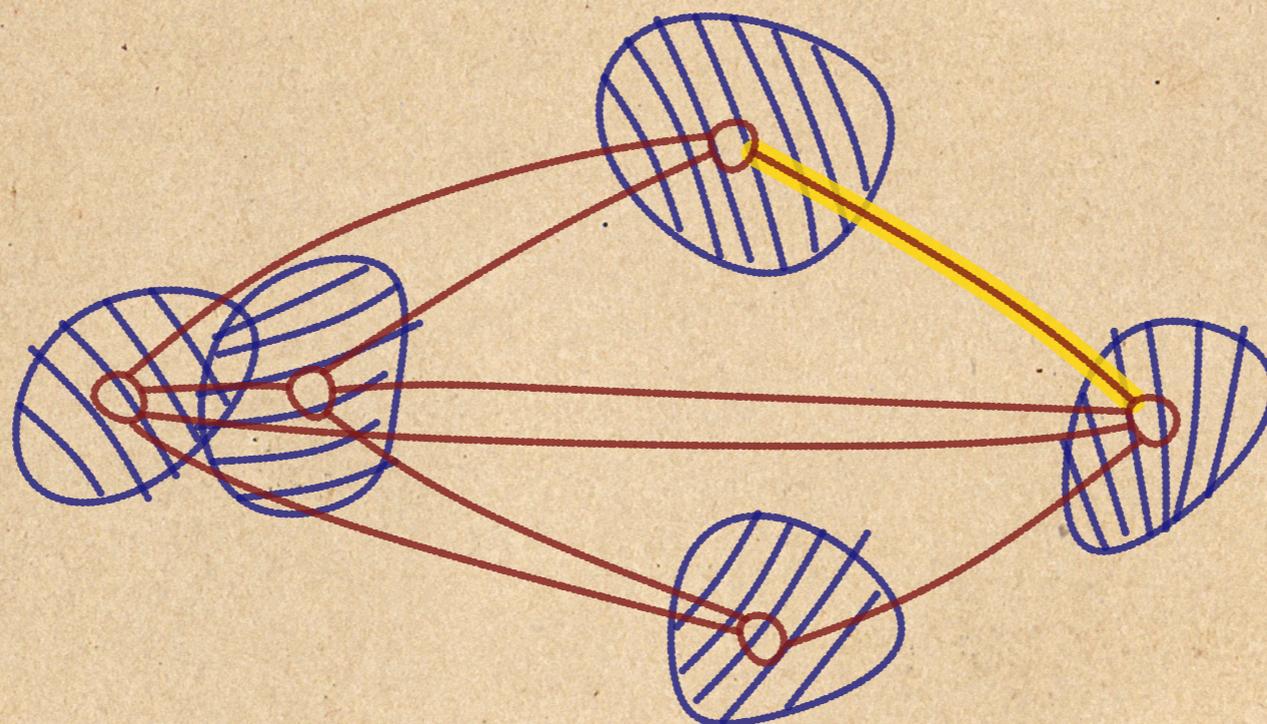


Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.

Again, we can draw the *potential* hull edges...

...and highlight the *guaranteed* hull edges.

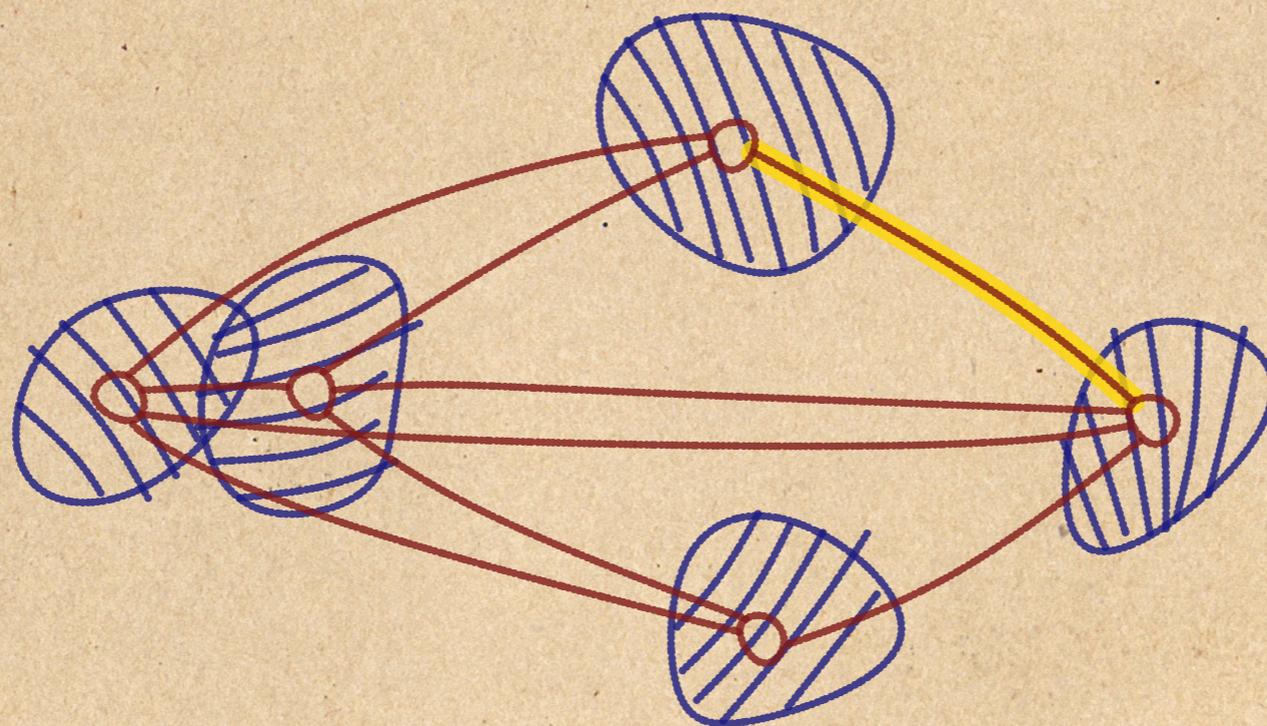


Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.

Again, we can draw the *potential* hull edges...

...and highlight the *guaranteed* hull edges.



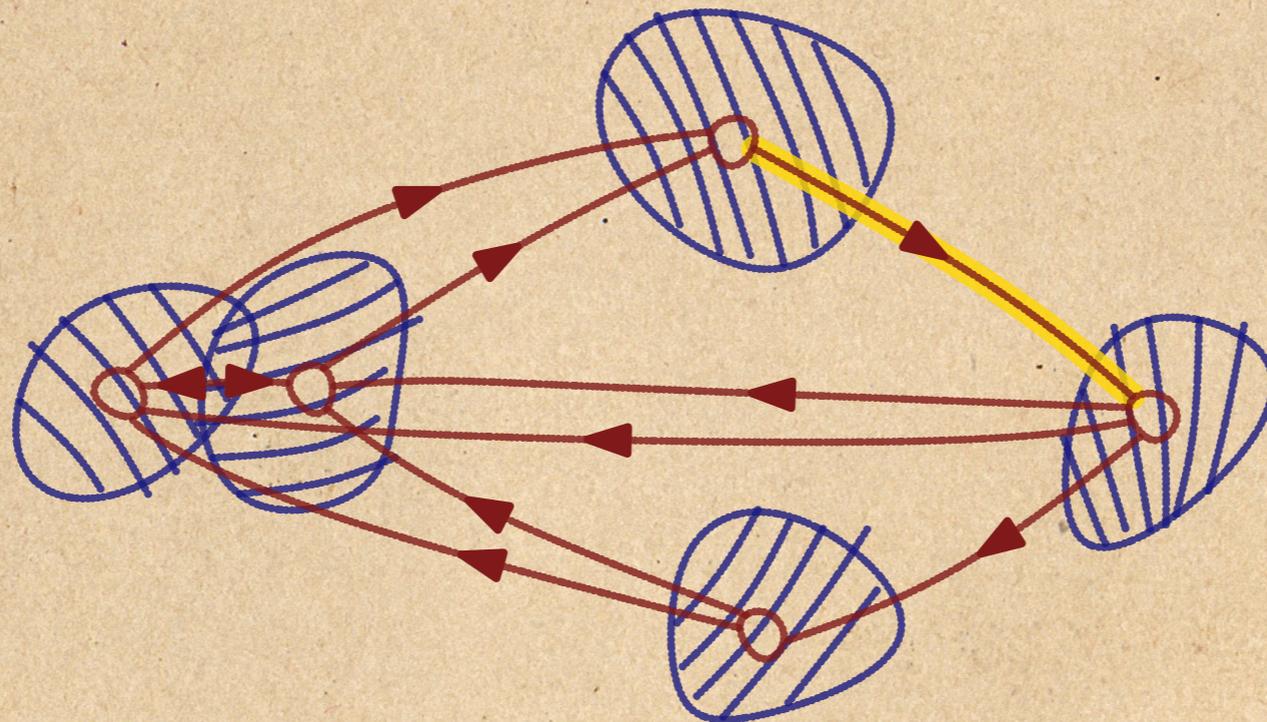
Additionally, we could direct the edges.

Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.

Again, we can draw the *potential* hull edges...

...and highlight the *guaranteed* hull edges.



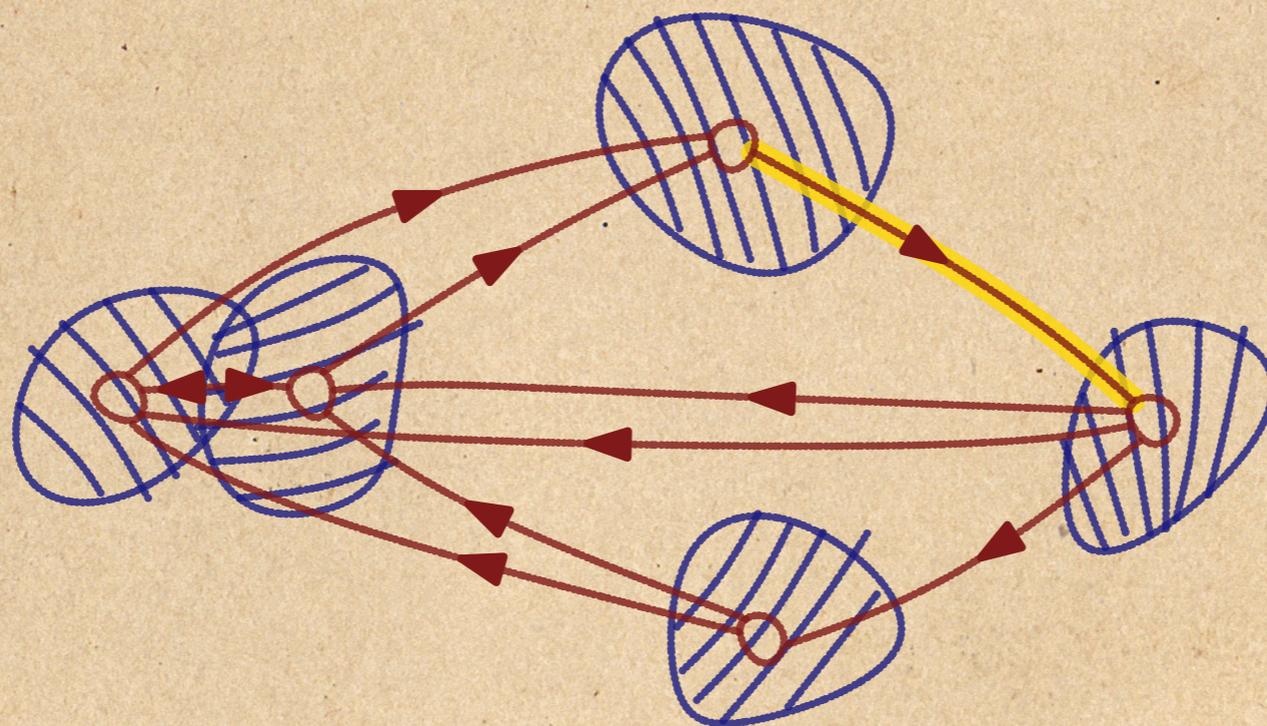
Additionally, we could direct the edges.

Or consider the *convex hull*.

Again, there are different possibilities.

Again, we can draw the *potential* hull edges...

...and highlight the *guaranteed* hull edges.

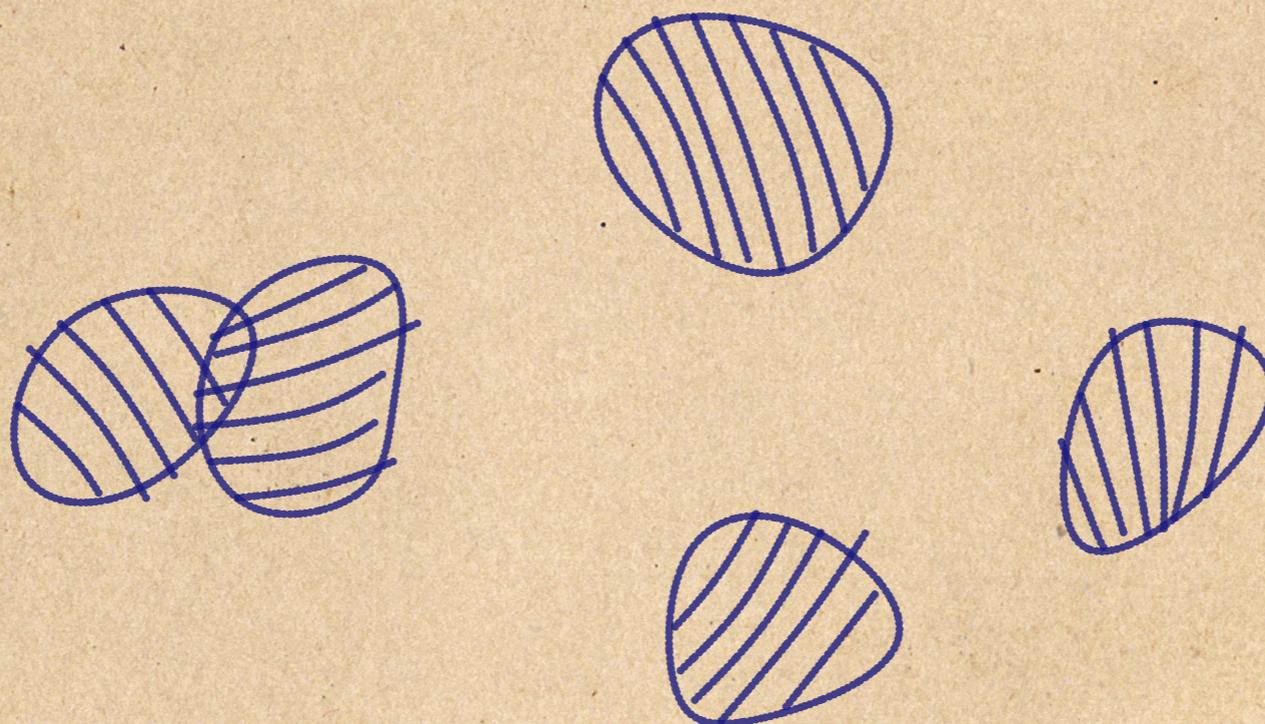


Additionally, we could direct the edges.

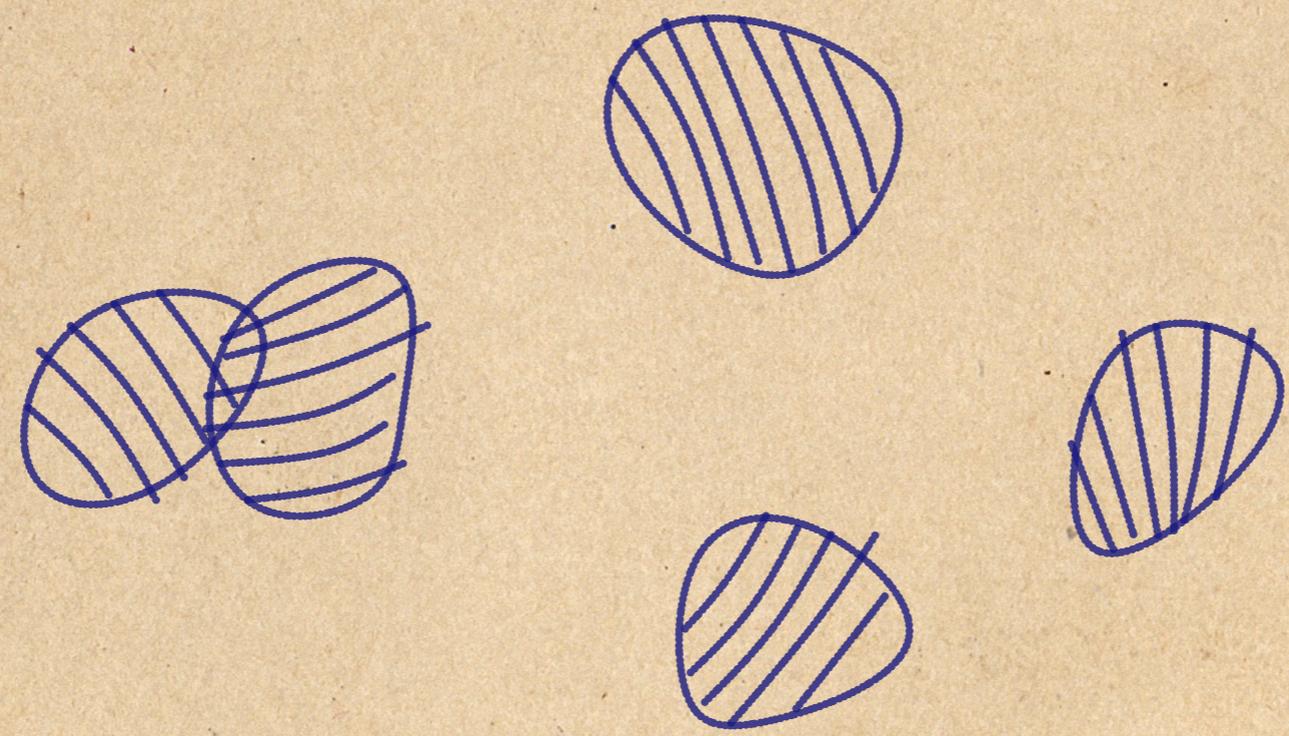
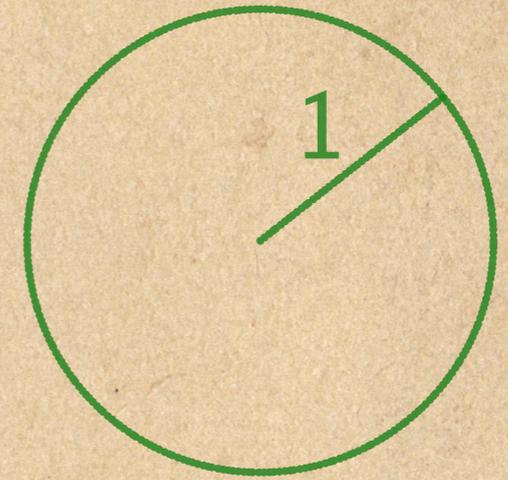
OPEN PROBLEM Draw this graph nicely (and figure out what that means).

Or what about *unit disk graphs*.

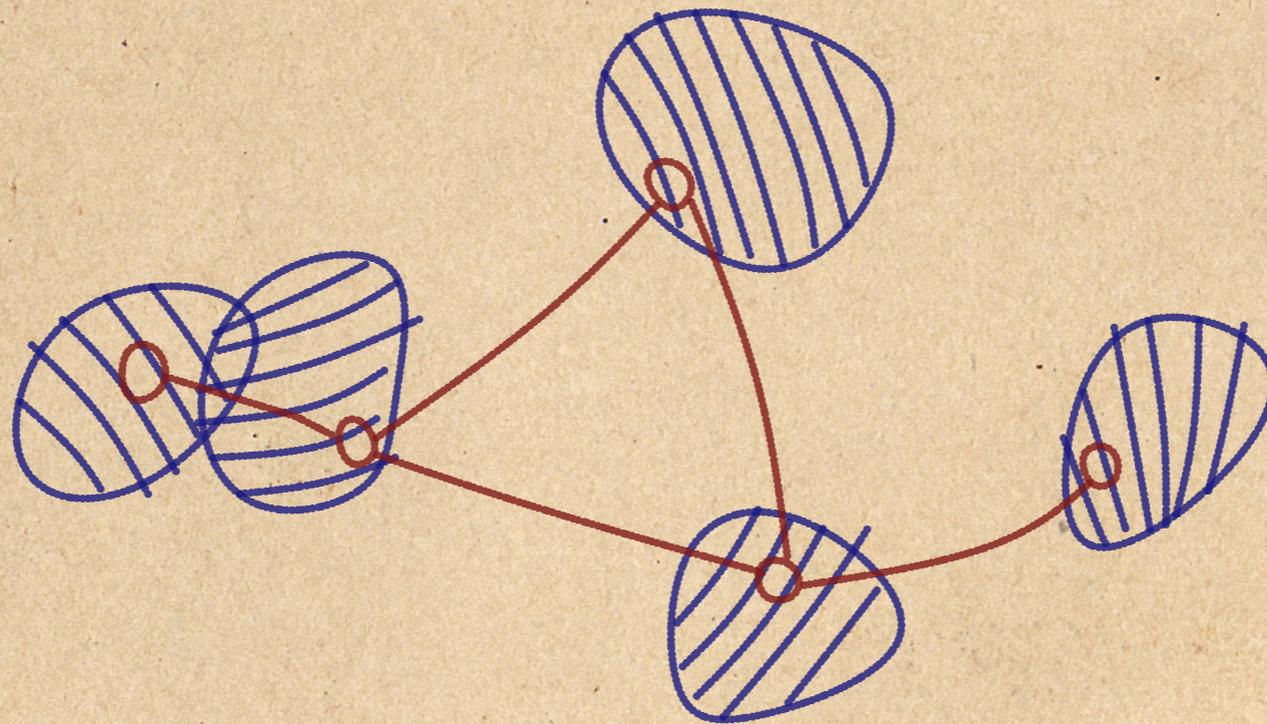
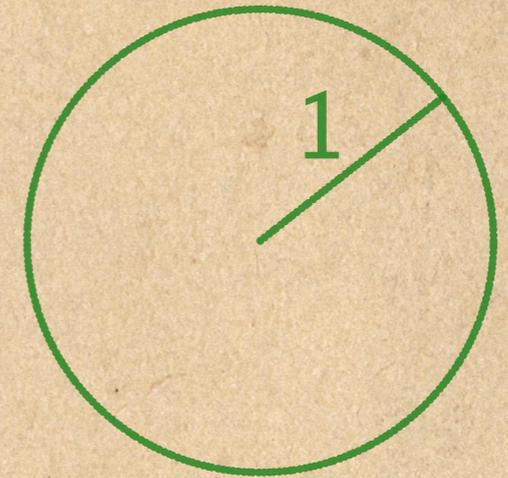
Or what about *unit disk graphs*.



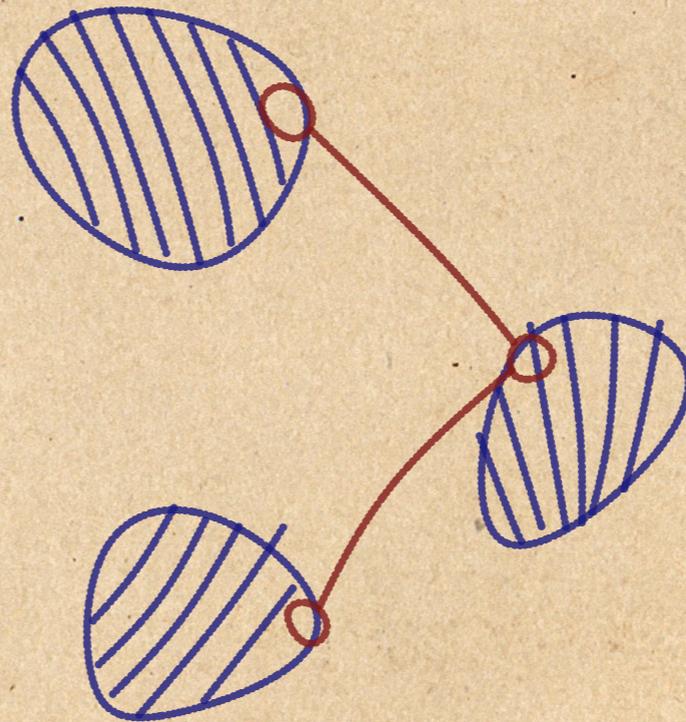
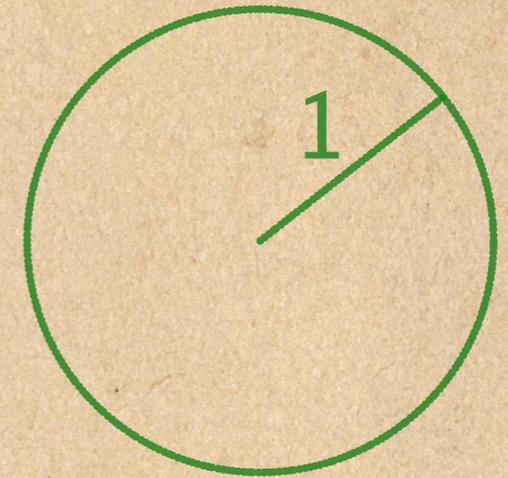
Or what about *unit disk graphs*.



Or what about *unit disk graphs*.

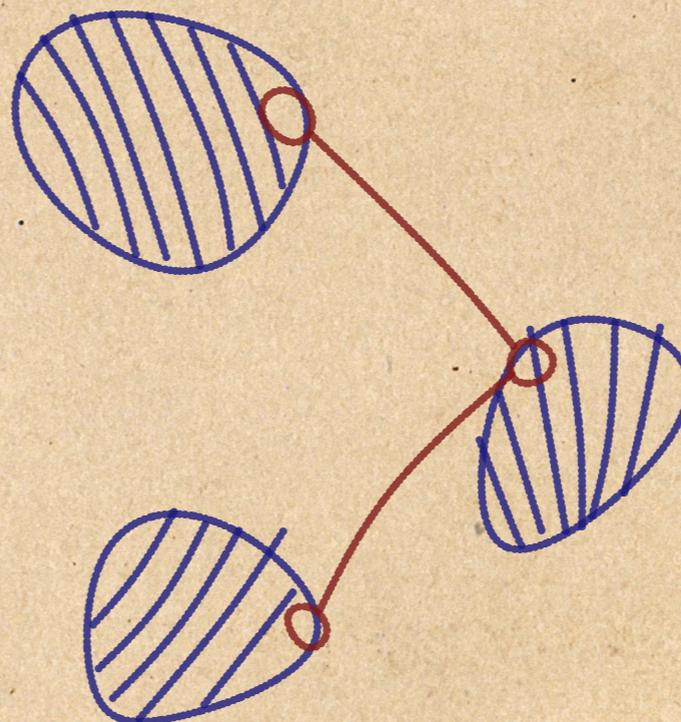
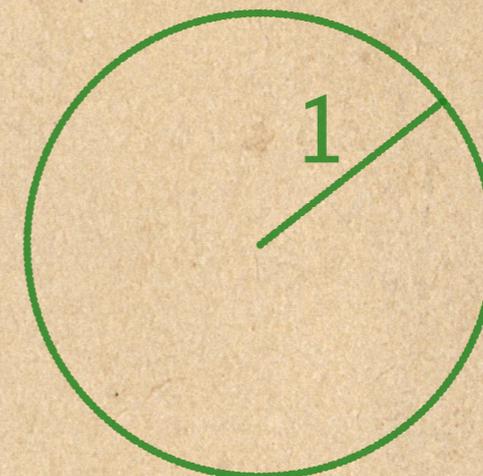


Or what about *unit disk graphs*.



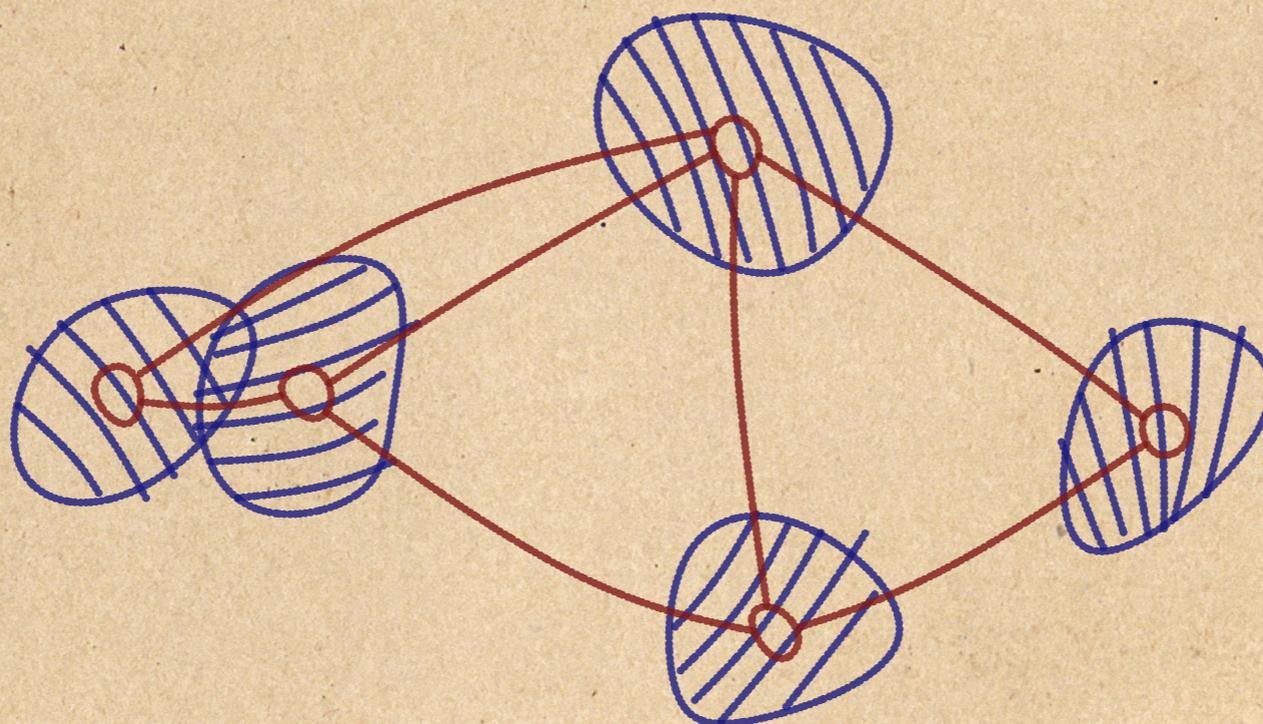
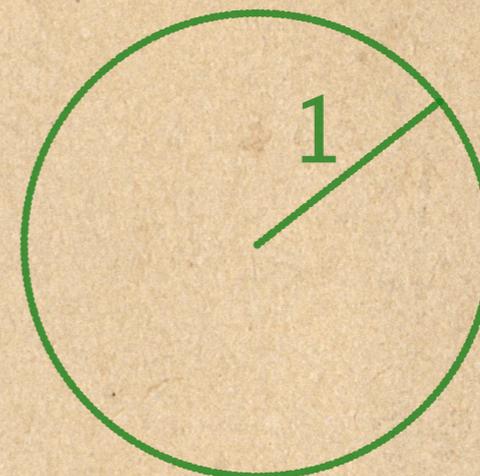
Or what about *unit disk graphs*.

We can do the same thing!



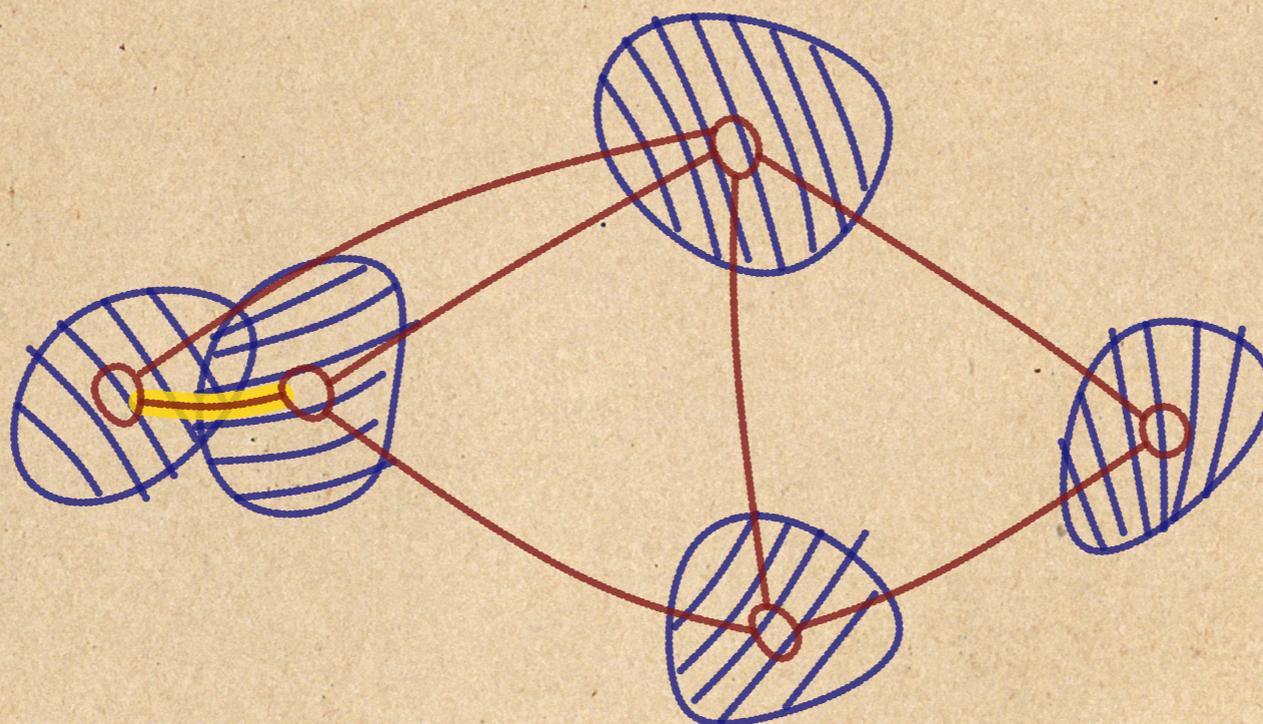
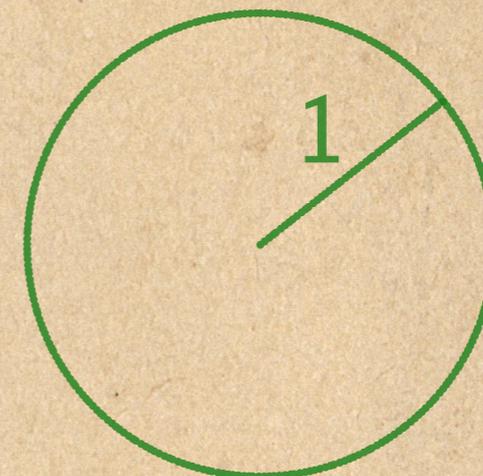
Or what about *unit disk graphs*.

We can do the same thing!



Or what about *unit disk graphs*.

We can do the same thing!



For unit disk graphs, we have some partial results for the special case $1 = 0$.

For unit disk graphs, we have some partial results for the special case $1 = 0$.

Given a set of arbitrary regions, testing whether their intersection graph can be drawn planar is NP-hard.

For unit disk graphs, we have some partial results for the special case $1 = 0$.

Given a set of arbitrary regions, testing whether their intersection graph can be drawn planar is NP-hard.

On the other hand, if the regions are disks and the *ply* is at most 2, this can be decided in polynomial time.

For unit disk graphs, we have some partial results for the special case $1 = 0$.

Given a set of arbitrary regions, testing whether their intersection graph can be drawn planar is NP-hard.

On the other hand, if the regions are disks and the *ply* is at most 2, this can be decided in polynomial time. [unpublished]

For unit disk graphs, we have some partial results for the special case $1 = 0$.

Given a set of arbitrary regions, testing whether their intersection graph can be drawn planar is NP-hard.

On the other hand, if the regions are disks and the *ply* is at most 2, this can be decided in polynomial time. [unpublished]

OPEN PROBLEM What about general unit disks?

For unit disk graphs, we have some partial results for the special case $1 = \emptyset$.

Given a set of arbitrary regions, testing whether their intersection graph can be drawn planar is NP-hard.

On the other hand, if the regions are disks and the *ply* is at most 2, this can be decided in polynomial time. [unpublished]

OPEN PROBLEM What about general unit disks?

OPEN PROBLEM What about $1 > \emptyset$?

What is *your* favourite geometric graph?

What is *your* favourite geometric graph?

Delaunay triangulation?

What is *your* favourite geometric graph?

Delaunay triangulation?

Gabriel graph?

What is *your* favourite geometric graph?

Delaunay triangulation?

Gabriel graph?

Travelling Salesman Tour?

What is *your* favourite geometric graph?

Delaunay triangulation?

Gabriel graph?

Travelling Salesman Tour?

Shortest path graph?

What is *your* favourite geometric graph?

Delaunay triangulation?

Gabriel graph?

Travelling Salesman Tour?

Shortest path graph?

Schlegel diagram?

What is *your* favourite geometric graph?

Delaunay triangulation?

Gabriel graph?

Travelling Salesman Tour?

Shortest path graph?

Schlegel diagram?

OPEN PROBLEM Draw the uncertainty version of your favourite geometric graph, using your favourite optimisation criterion!

I would like to take this opportunity to
briefly reiterate my main points.

THANK YOU

