

# Geometric Algorithms

Range searching

Quadtrees, 2D trees, kD trees

Intersections of geometric objects

## Geometric search: overview

Types of data: points, lines, planes, polygons, circles, ...

This lecture: sets of N objects.

Geometric problems extend to higher dimensions.

- Good algorithms also extend to higher dimensions.

Basic problems.

- Range searching.
- Nearest neighbor.
- Finding intersections of geometric objects.

## 1D Range Search

Extension to symbol-table ADT with comparable keys.

- Insert key-value pair.
- Search for key k.
- How many records have keys between  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ ?
- Iterate over all records with keys between  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ .

Application: database queries.

```

insert B      B
insert D      B D
insert A      A B D
insert I      A B D I
insert H      A B D H I
insert F      A B D F H I
insert P      A B D F H I P
count G to K  2
search G to K H I
    
```

Geometric intuition.

- Keys are point on the line.
- How many points in a given interval?



## 1D Range Search Implementations

Range search: how many records have keys between  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ ?

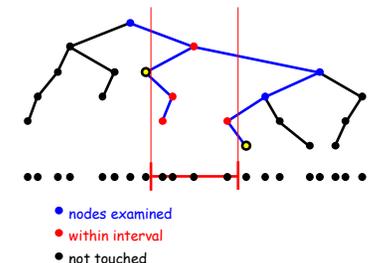
Ordered array. Slow insert, binary search for  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  to find range.

Hash table. No reasonable algorithm (key order lost in hash).

BST. In each node x, maintain number of nodes in tree rooted at x. Search for smallest element  $\geq k_1$  and largest element  $\leq k_2$ .

	insert	count	range
ordered array	N	log N	R + log N
hash table	1	N	N
BST	log N	log N	R + log N

N = # records  
R = # records that match



## 2D Range Search

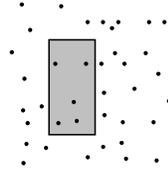
Extension to symbol-table ADT with 2D keys.

- Insert a 2D key.
- Search for a 2D key.
- Range search: find all keys that lie in a 2D range?

Applications: networking, circuit design, databases.

Geometric interpretation.

- Keys are point in the plane.
- Find all points in a given h-v rectangle?

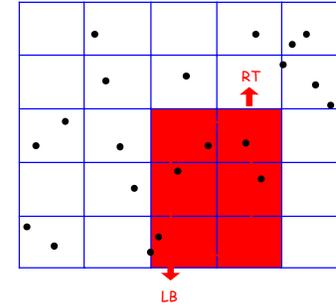


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## 2D Range Search Grid Implementation

Grid implementation. (Sedgewick 3.18)

- Divide space into M-by-M grid of squares.
- Create linked list for each square.
- Use 2D array to directly access relevant square.
- Insert: insert (x, y) into corresponding grid square.
- Range search: examine only those grid squares that could have points in the rectangle.



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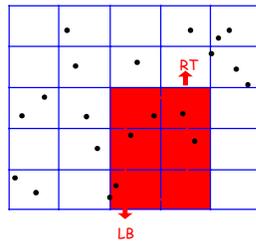
## 2D Range Search Grid Implementation Costs

Space-time tradeoff.

- Space:  $M^2 + N$ .
- Time:  $1 + N / M^2$  per grid cell examined on average.

Choose grid square size to tune performance.

- Too small: wastes space.
- Too large: too many points per grid square.
- rule of thumb:  $\sqrt{N}$  by  $\sqrt{N}$  grid.



Time costs.

- Initialize:  $O(N)$  to initialize 2D array of lists.
  - Insert:  $O(1)$ .
  - Range:  $O(1)$  per point in range.
- ← assumes points are evenly distributed

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## Clustering

Grid implementation. Fast, simple solution for well-distributed points.  
Problem. Clustering is a well-known phenomenon in geometric data.



Ex: USA map data.

- 80,000 points, 20,000 grid squares.
- Half the grid squares are empty.
- Half the points have  $\geq 10$  others in same grid square.
- Ten percent have  $\geq 100$  others in same grid square.

Need data structure that gracefully adapts to data.

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## Space Partitioning Trees

**Space partitioning tree.** Use a tree to represent the recursive hierarchical subdivision of d-dimensional space.

**BSP tree.** Recursively divide space into two regions.

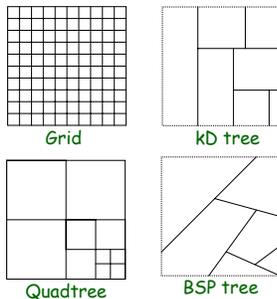
**Quadtree.** Recursively divide plane into four quadrants.

**Octree.** Recursively divide 3D space into eight octants.

**kD tree.** Recursively divide k-dimensional space into two half-spaces.

### Applications.

- Ray tracing.
- Flight simulators.
- N-body simulation.
- Collision detection.
- Astronomical databases.
- Adaptive mesh generation.
- Accelerate rendering in Doom.
- Hidden surface removal and shadow casting.

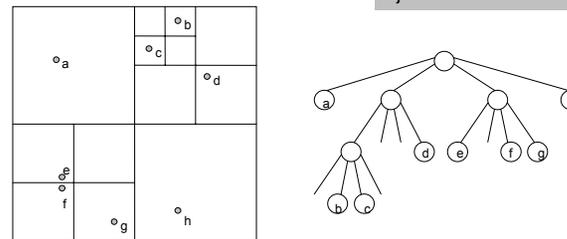


## Quad Trees

**Quad tree.** Recursively partition plane into 4 quadrants.

**Implementation:** 4-way tree.

```
public class Quadtree {
    Quad quad;
    Object value;
    Quadtree NW, NE, SW, SE;
}
```



Good clustering performance is a primary reason to choose quad trees over grid methods.

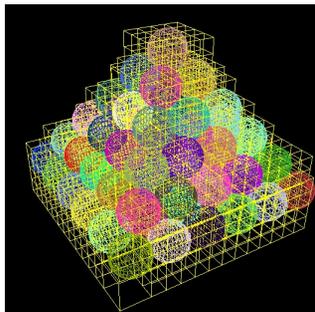
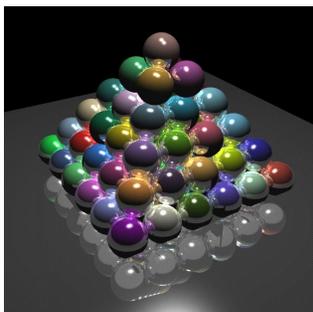
## Curse of Dimensionality

**Range search / nearest neighbor in k dimensions?**

**Main application.** Multi-dimensional databases.

**3D space.** Octrees: recursively divide 3D space into 8 octants.

**100D space.** Centrees: recursively divide into 100 centrants???



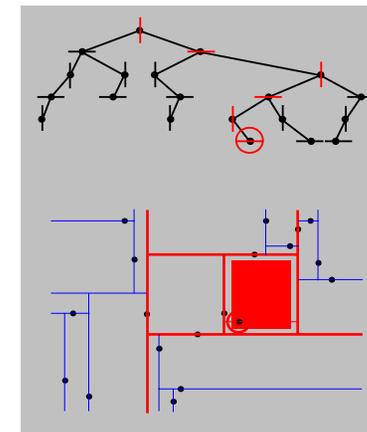
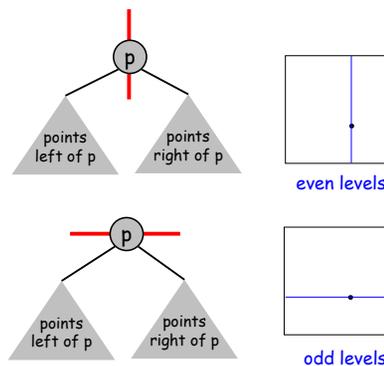
Raytracing with octrees  
<http://graphics.cs.ucdavis.edu/~gregorsk/graphics/275.html>

## 2D Trees

**2D tree.** Recursively partition plane into 2 halfplanes.

**Implementation:** BST, but alternate using x and y coordinates as key.

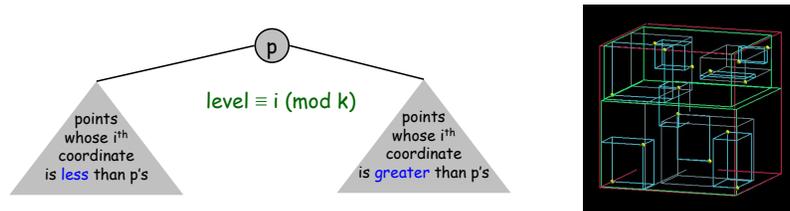
- Search gives rectangle containing point.
- Insert further subdivides the plane.



## KD Trees

**KD tree.** Recursively partition k-dimensional space into 2 halfspaces.

**Implementation:** BST, but cycle through dimensions ala 2D trees.



**Efficient, simple data structure for processing k-dimensional data.**

- Adapts well to high dimensional data.
- Adapts well to clustered data.
- Discovered by an undergrad in an algorithms class!

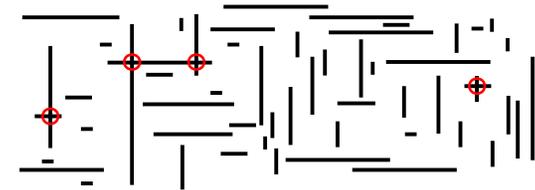
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## Geometric Intersection

**Problem:** find all intersecting pairs among set of N geometric objects.

**Applications:** CAD, games, movies, virtual reality.

**Simple version:** 2D, all objects are horizontal or vertical **line segments**.



**Brute force:** test all  $\Theta(N^2)$  pairs of line segments for intersection.

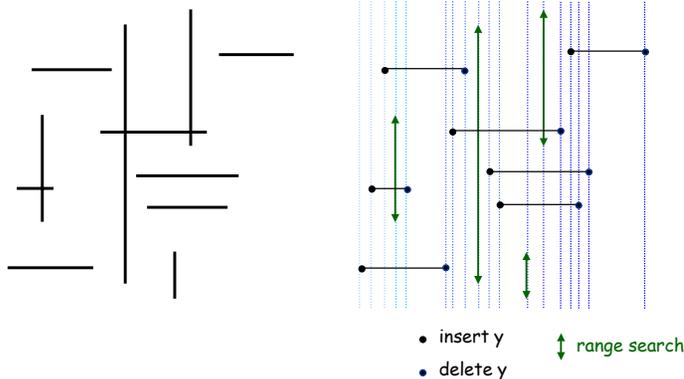
**Sweep line:** efficient solution extends to 3D and general objects.

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## Orthogonal Segment Intersection: Sweep Line Algorithm

Use horizontal sweep line moving from left to right.

- Sweep line: sort segments by x-coordinate and process in this order.
- Left endpoint of h-segment: insert y coordinate into ST.
- Right endpoint of h-segment: remove y coordinate from ST.
- v-segment: range search for interval of y endpoints.



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## Orthogonal Segment Intersection: Sweep Line Algorithm

Sweep line **reduces** 2D orthogonal segment intersection problem to 1D range searching!

Running time of sweep line algorithm.

- Sort by x-coordinate.  $O(N \log N)$
  - Insert y-coordinate into ST.  $O(N \log N)$
  - Delete y-coordinate from ST.  $O(N \log N)$
  - Range search.  $O(R + N \log N)$
- $N = \#$  line segments  
 $R = \#$  intersections

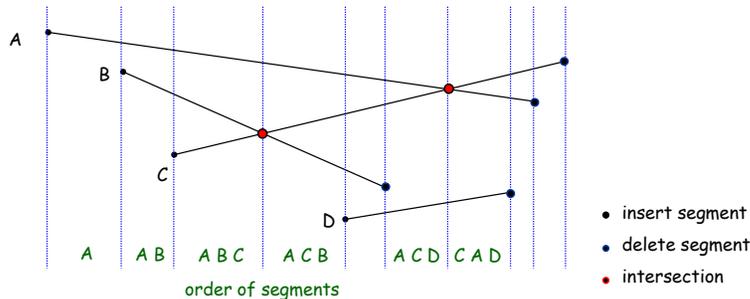
Efficiency relies on judicious use of data structures.

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## Line Segment Intersection: General Version

Use horizontal sweep line moving from left to right.

- Maintain **order** of segments that intersect sweep line by y-coordinate.
- Intersections can only occur between adjacent segments.
- Add/delete line segment  $\Rightarrow$  one new pair of adjacent segments.
- Intersection  $\Rightarrow$  two new pairs of adjacent segments.

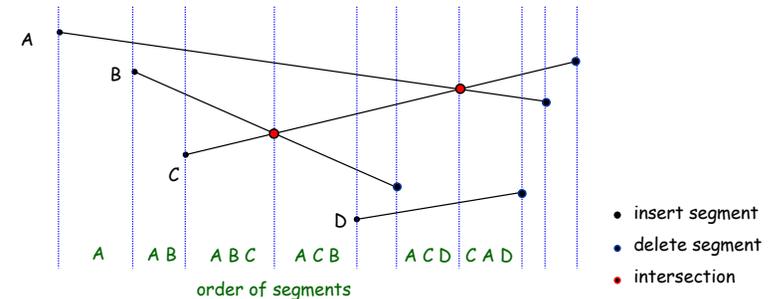


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## Line Segment Intersection: General Version

Efficient implementation of sweep line algorithm.

- Maintain PQ of important x-coordinates - endpoints and **intersections**.
- Maintain ST of segments intersecting sweep line, sorted by y.
- $O(R \log N + N \log N)$ .



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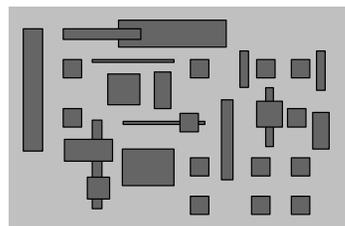
## Algorithms and Moore's Law

VLSI database problem: Find all intersections among h-v **rectangles**.

Application: microprocessor design.

Early 1970s: microprocessor design became a geometric problem

- Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI).
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD).
- Design-rule checking.



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## Algorithms and Moore's Law

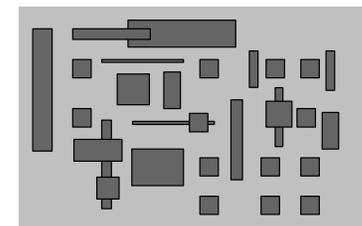
Moore's Law: processing power doubles every 18 months.

- 197x: need to check  $N$  rectangles.
- 197(x+1.5): need to check  $2N$  rectangles on a 2x-faster computer.

Quadratic algorithm: compare each rectangle against all others.

- 197x: takes  $M$  days.
- 197(x+1.5): takes  $(4M)/2 = 2M$  days. (!!)

Need  $O(N \log N)$  CAD algorithms to sustain Moore's Law.

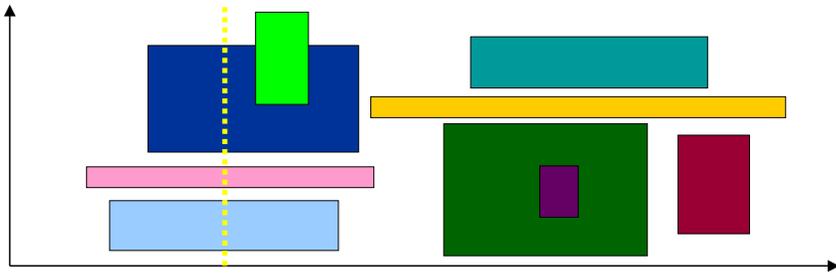


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## VLSI Database Problem

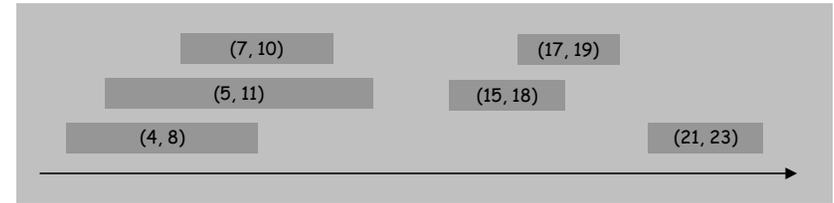
Move a vertical "sweep line" from left to right.

- Sweep line: sort rectangles by x-coordinate and process in this order.
- Maintain data structure of **intervals** intersecting sweep line.
- Key operation: given a new interval, does it intersect an existing one?



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## Interval Search Trees



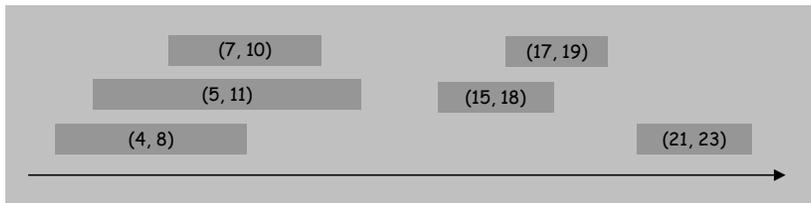
Support following operations.

- **Insert** an interval  $(lo, hi)$ .
- **Delete** the interval  $(lo, hi)$ .
- **Search** for an interval that overlaps  $(lo, hi)$ .

**Non-degeneracy assumption.** No rectangles share same x-coordinate.

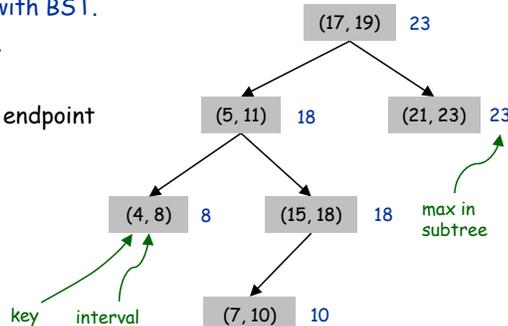
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## Interval Search Trees



Interval tree implementation with BST.

- BST nodes contain interval.
- BST sorted on  $lo$  endpoint.
- Additional info: store max endpoint in subtree rooted at node.

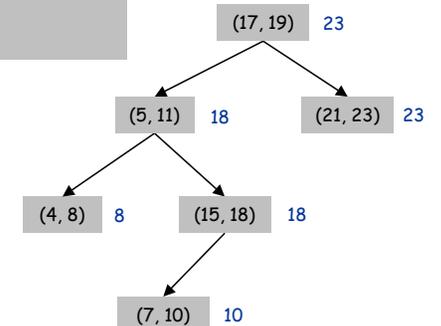


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## Finding an Overlapping Interval

**Search** for an interval that overlaps  $I = (lo, hi)$ .

```
x = root;
while (x != null) {
  if (x.interval.overlaps(lo, hi))
    return x.interval;
  if (x.left == null) x = x.right;
  else if (x.left.max < lo) x = x.right;
  else x = x.left;
}
return null;
```



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## Finding an Overlapping Interval

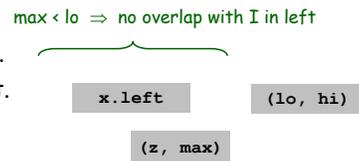
Search for an interval that overlaps  $I = (lo, hi)$ .

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x = root;
while (x != null) {
  if (x.interval.overlaps(lo, hi)) return x.interval;
  if (x.left == null) x = x.right;
  else if (x.left.max < lo) x = x.right;
  else x = x.left;
}
return null;
```

Case 1 (right). If search goes right, then there exists an overlap in right subtree or no overlap in either.

Proof. Suppose no overlap in right.

- $(x.left == null) \Rightarrow$  no overlap in left.
- $(x.left.max < lo) \Rightarrow$  no overlap in left.



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## Finding an Overlapping Interval

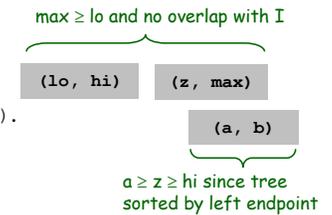
Search for an interval that overlaps  $I = (lo, hi)$ .

```
x = root;
while (x != null) {
  if (x.interval.overlaps(lo, hi)) return x.interval;
  if (x.left == null) x = x.right;
  if (x.left.max < lo) x = x.right;
  else if (x.left.max >= lo) x = x.left;
  else x = x.left;
}
return null;
```

Case 2 (left). If search goes left, then there exists an overlap in left subtree or no overlap in either.

Proof. Suppose no overlap in left.

- $(x.left.max \geq lo) \Rightarrow$  no interval  $(a, b)$  in right subtree overlaps  $(lo, hi)$ .

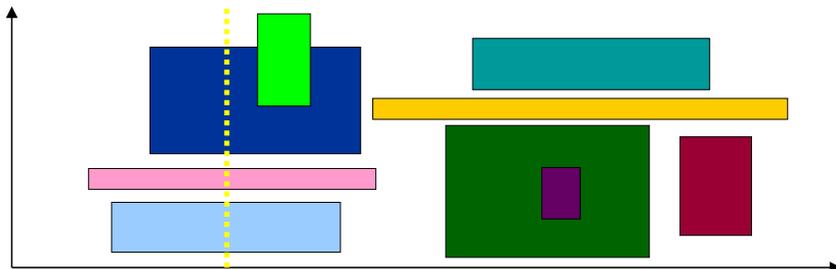


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## VLSI Database Problem

Move a vertical "sweep line" from left to right.

- Sweep line: sort rectangles by x-coordinates and process in this order, stopping on left and right endpoints.
- Store set of rectangles that intersect the sweep line in an interval search tree (using y-interval of rectangle).
- Left side: interval search for y-interval of rectangle, insert y-interval.
- Right side: delete y-interval.



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## VLSI Database Problem: Sweep Line Algorithm

Sweep line reduces 2D orthogonal rectangle intersection problem to 1D interval searching!

Running time of sweep line algorithm.

- Sort by x-coordinate.  $O(N \log N)$
  - Insert y-interval into ST.  $O(N \log N)$
  - Delete y-interval from ST.  $O(N \log N)$
  - Interval search.  $O(R + N \log N)$
- $N = \#$  line segments  
 $R = \#$  intersections

Efficiency relies on judicious extension of BST.

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## Summary

Basis of many geometric algorithms: search in a planar subdivision.

	grid	2D tree	Voronoi diagram	intersecting lines
basis	$\sqrt{N}$ h-v lines	N points	N points	$\sqrt{N}$ lines
representation	2D array of N lists	N-node BST	N-node multilist	$\sim N$ -node BST
cells	$\sim N$ squares	N rectangles	N polygons	$\sim N$ triangles
search cost	1	log N	log N	log N
extend to kD?	too many cells	easy	cells too complicated	use (k-1)D hyperplane

