

Graph Spanners for Group Steiner Distances

Davide Bilò¹, Luciano Gualà²,

Stefano Leucci¹, [Alessandro Straziota](#)²

(1)



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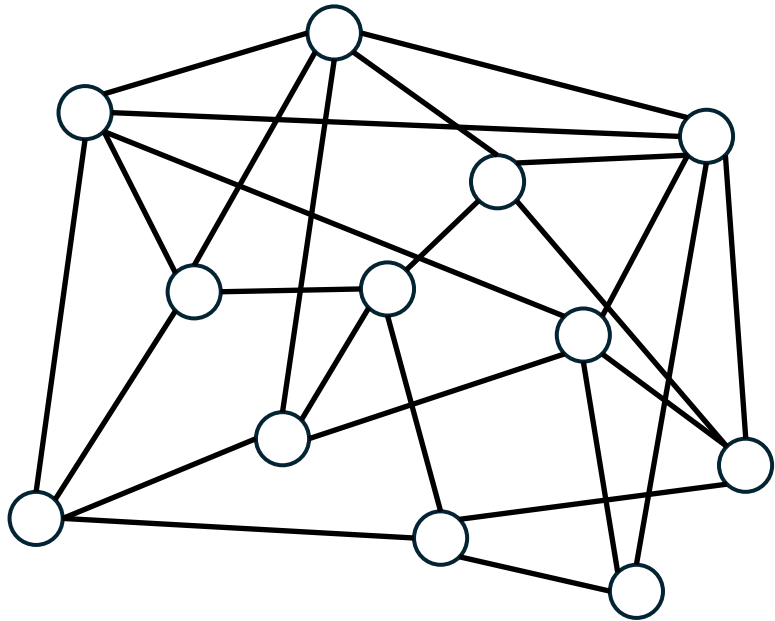
(2)



TOR VERGATA
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

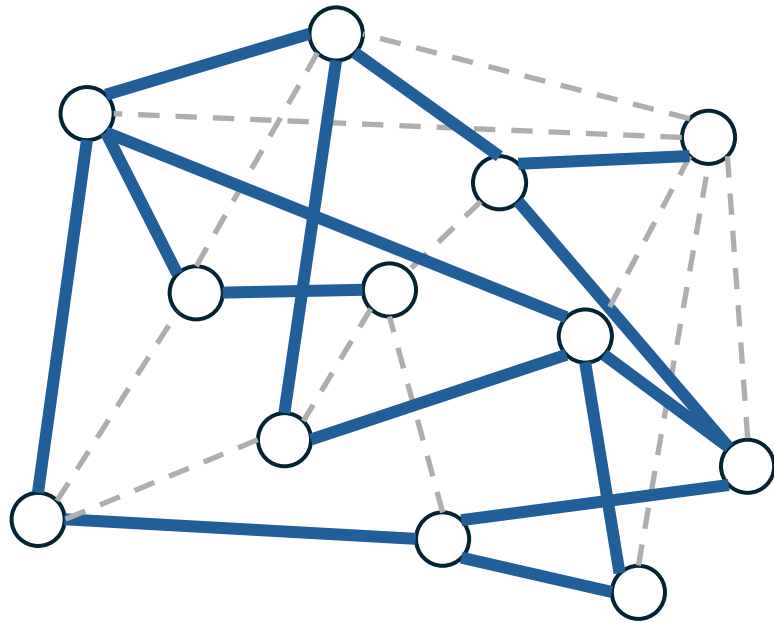
Graph Spanners

Graph Spanners



G

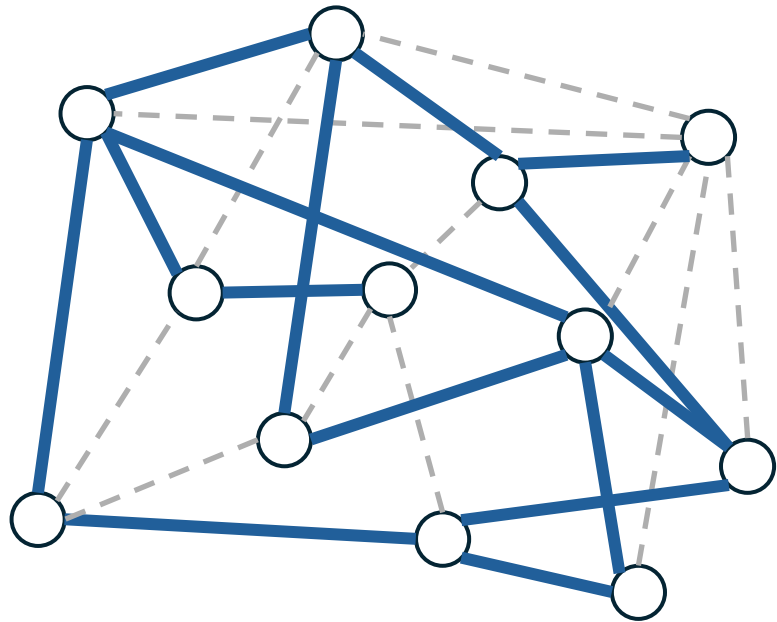
Graph Spanners



H is an α -spanner of G if

$$d_H(u, v) \leq \alpha d_G(u, v) \quad \forall u, v \in V(G)$$

Graph Spanners



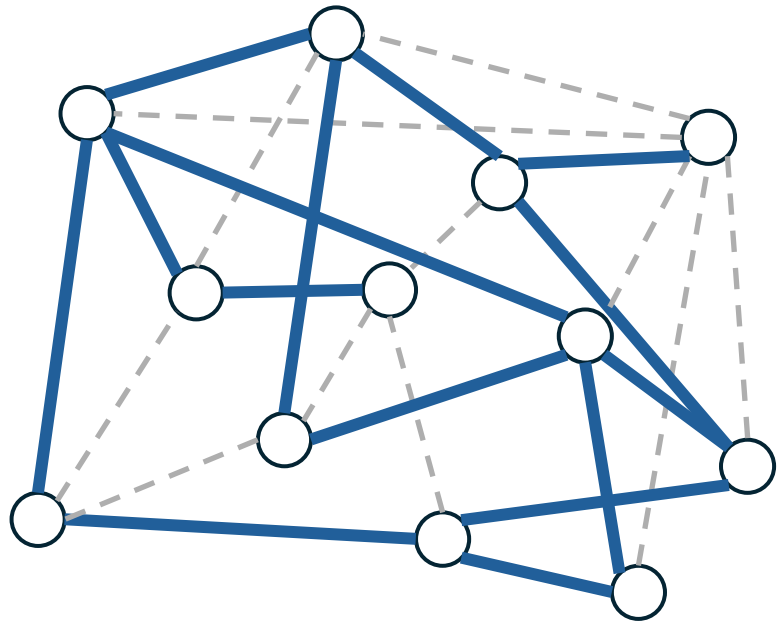
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stretch factor

Graph Spanners



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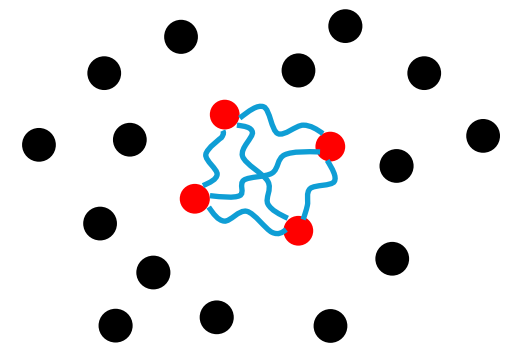
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GOAL: small size and low stretch

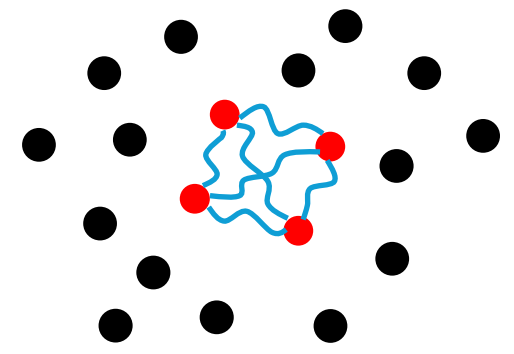
Some variants

Subset-wise spanner
or $R \times R$ spanner

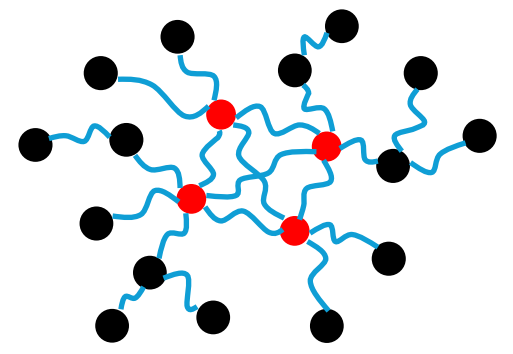


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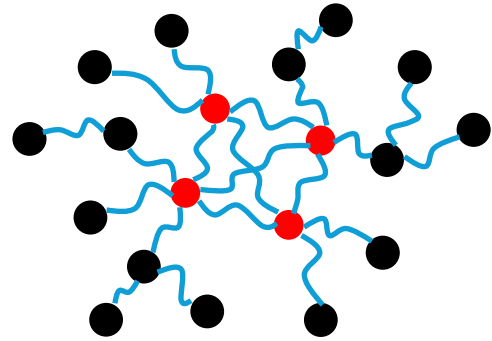
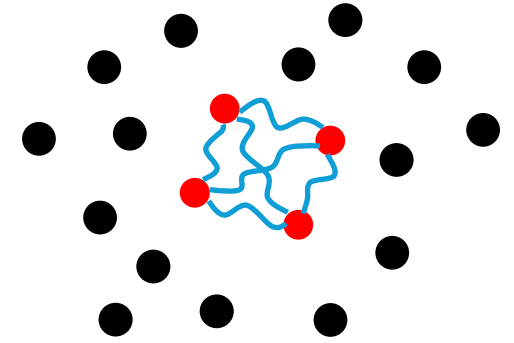


Source-wise spanner
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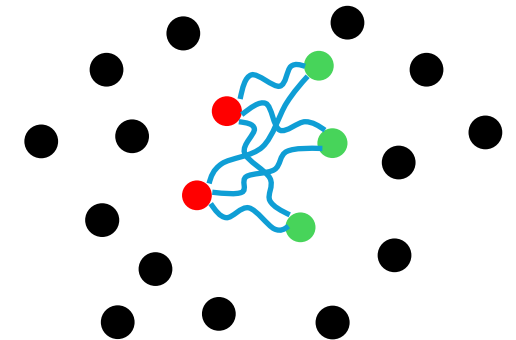
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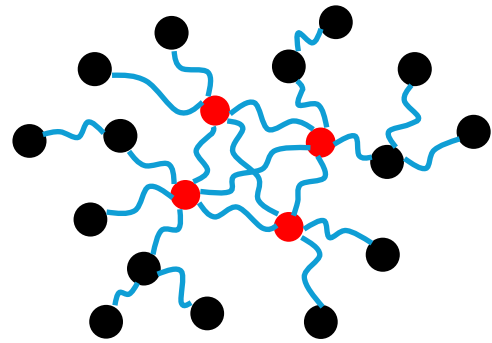
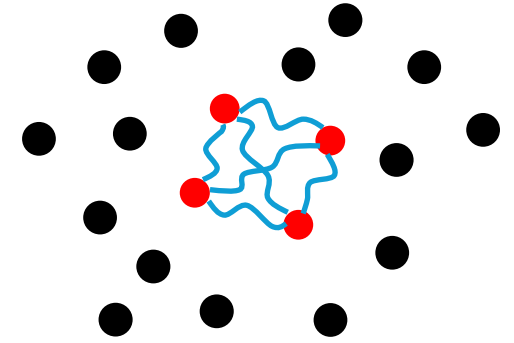
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Source-Target spanner
or $S \times T$ spanner

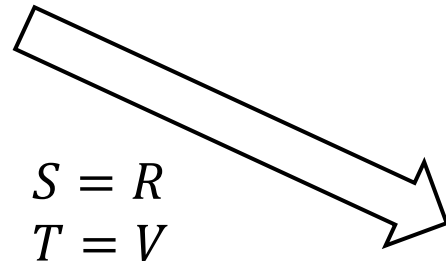


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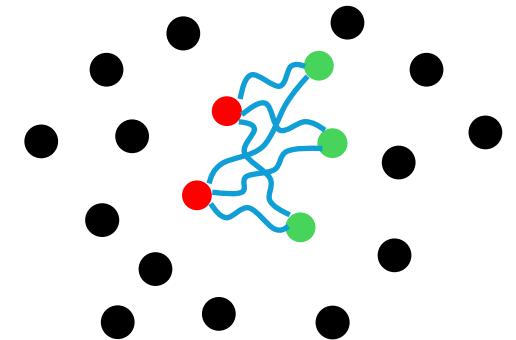


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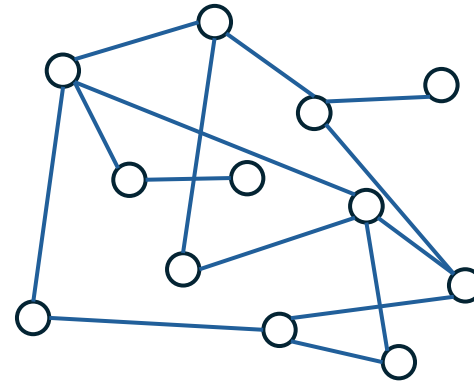
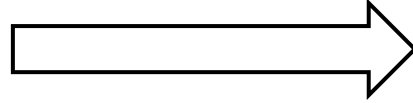
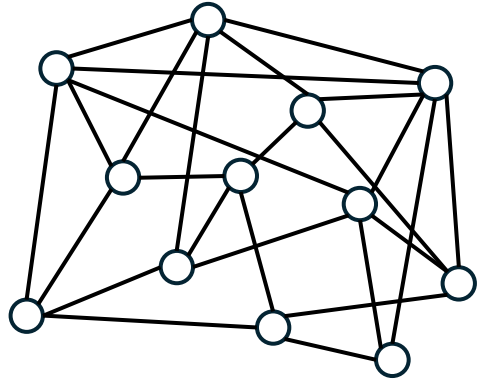


Source-Target spanner
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$S = T = R$

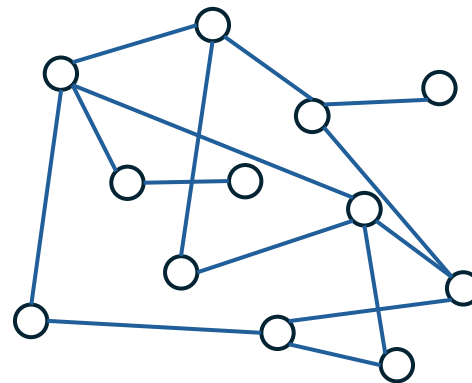
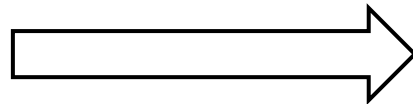
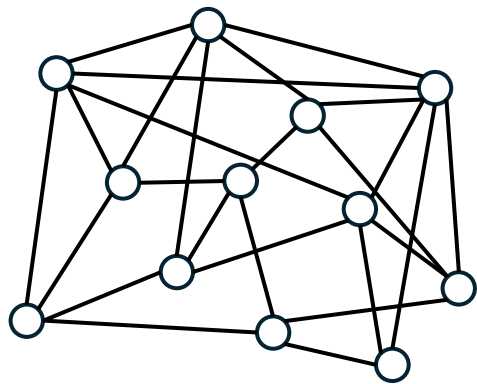


Distance oracle

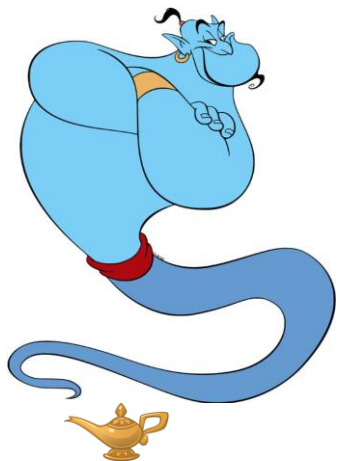
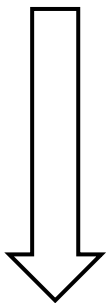


Graph spanner

Distance oracle

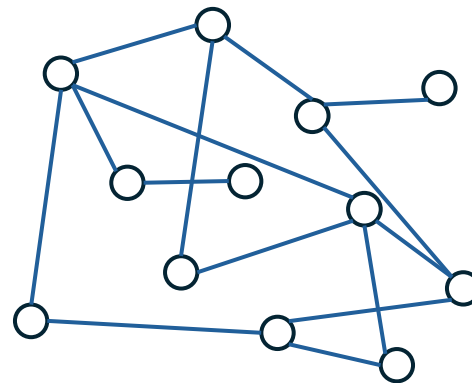
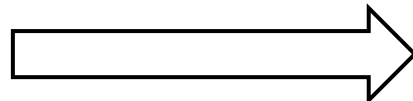
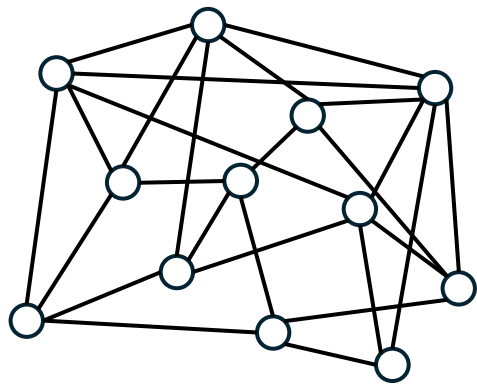


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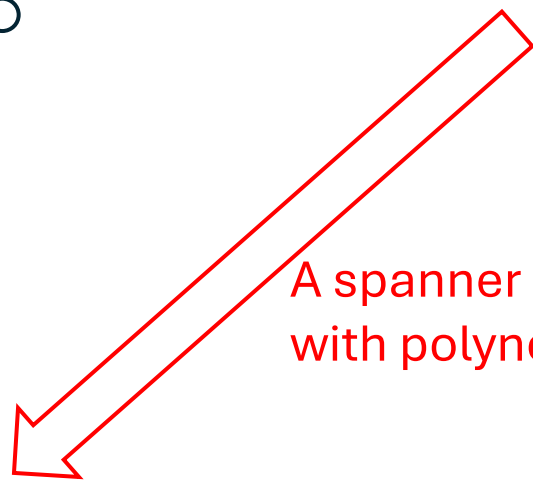
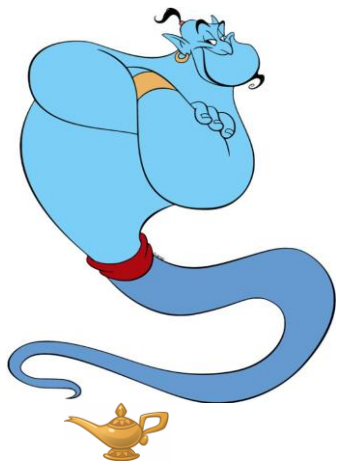
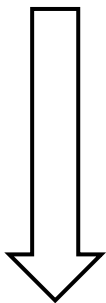


Distance Oracle: compact data structure able to quickly report exact or approximated distances.

Distance oracle



Graph spanner

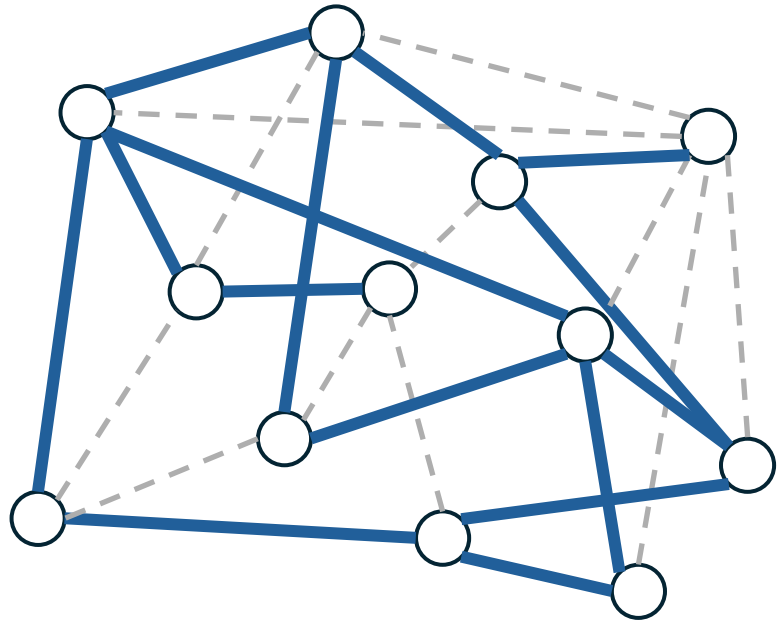


A spanner is a distance oracle
with polynomial query time

Distance Oracle: compact data structure able to quickly report exact or approximated distances.

Group Steiner Spanner

Our question



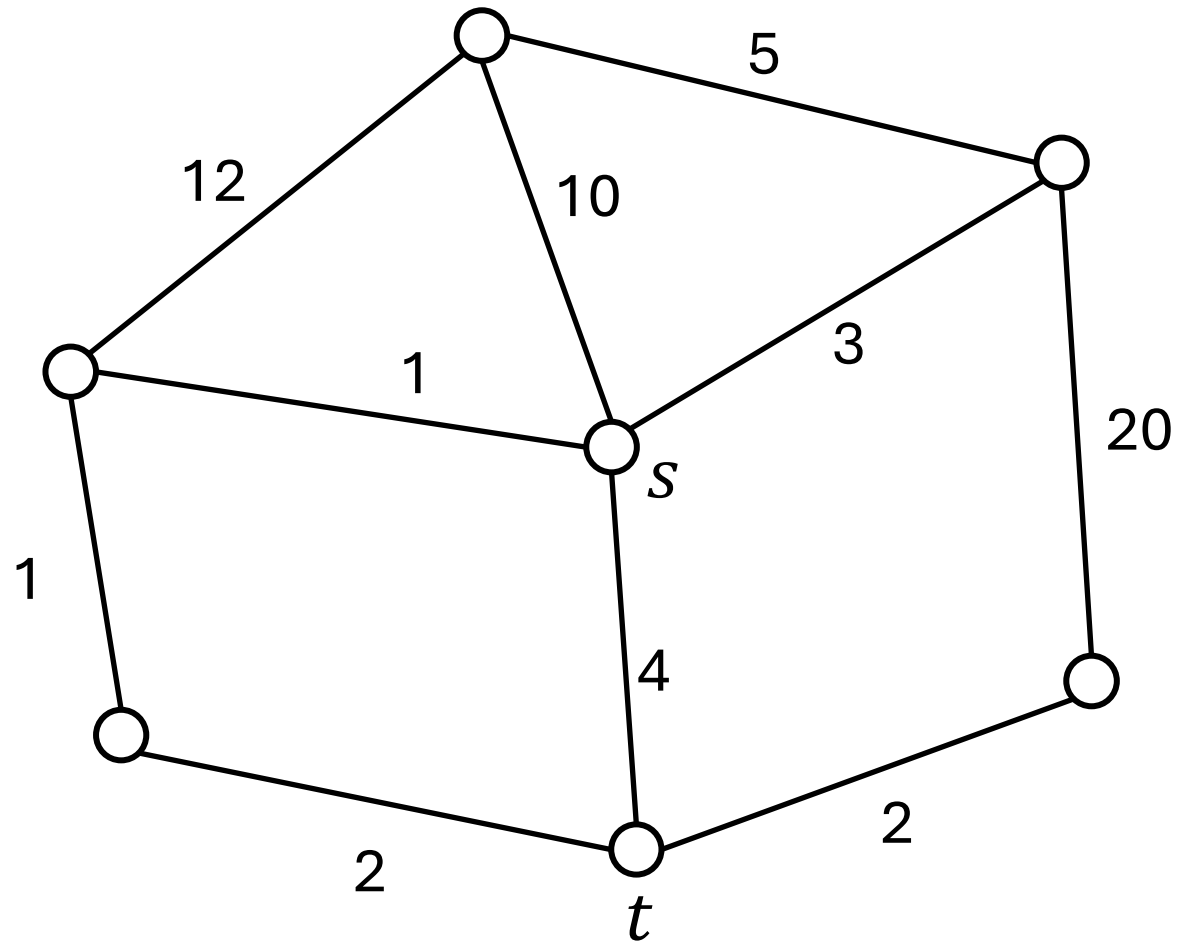
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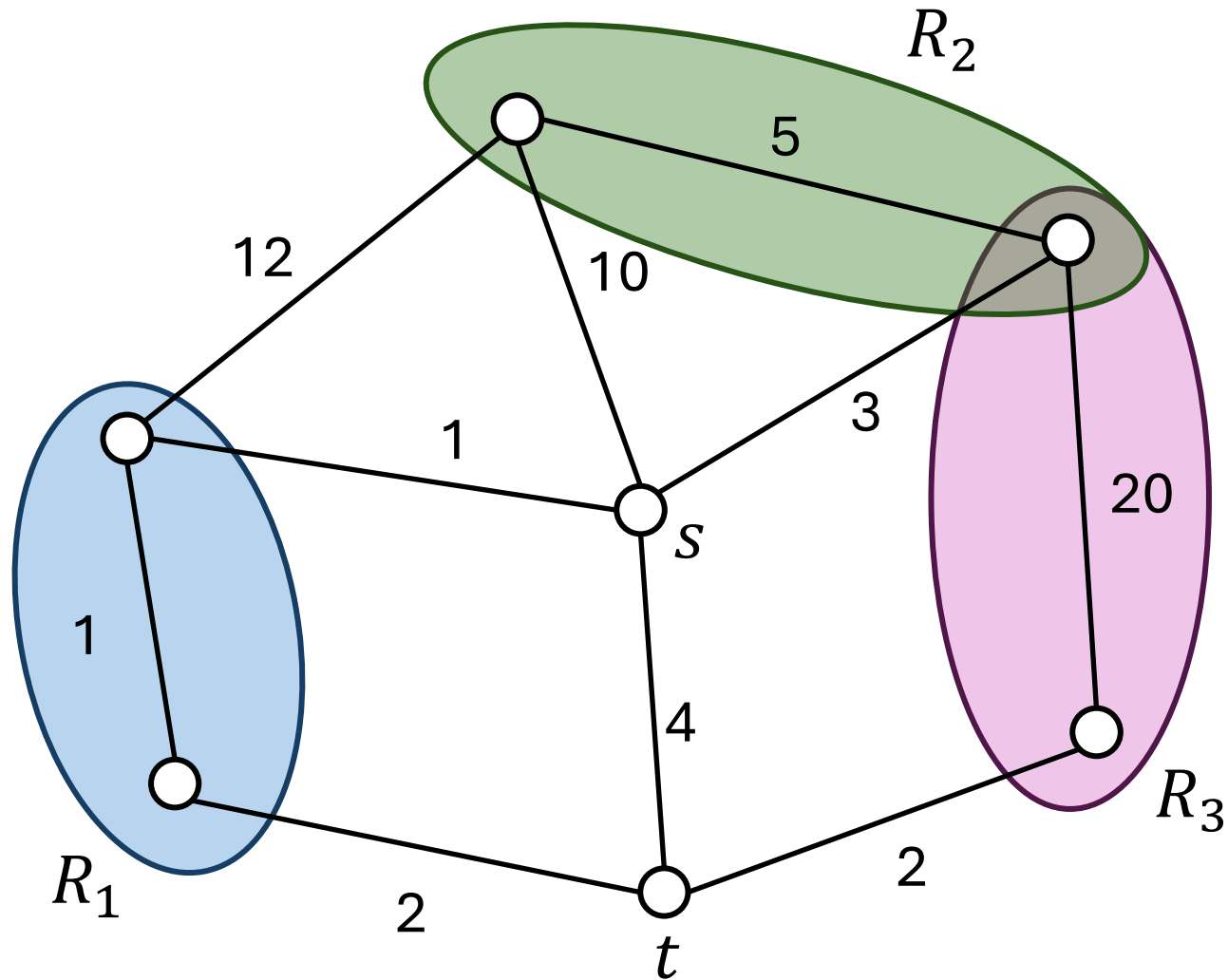
$$\underbrace{d_H(u, v) \leq \alpha d_G(u, v)}_{\forall u, v \in V(G)}$$

What if we consider a **different metric** then the shortest path distance?

Group Steiner Distance

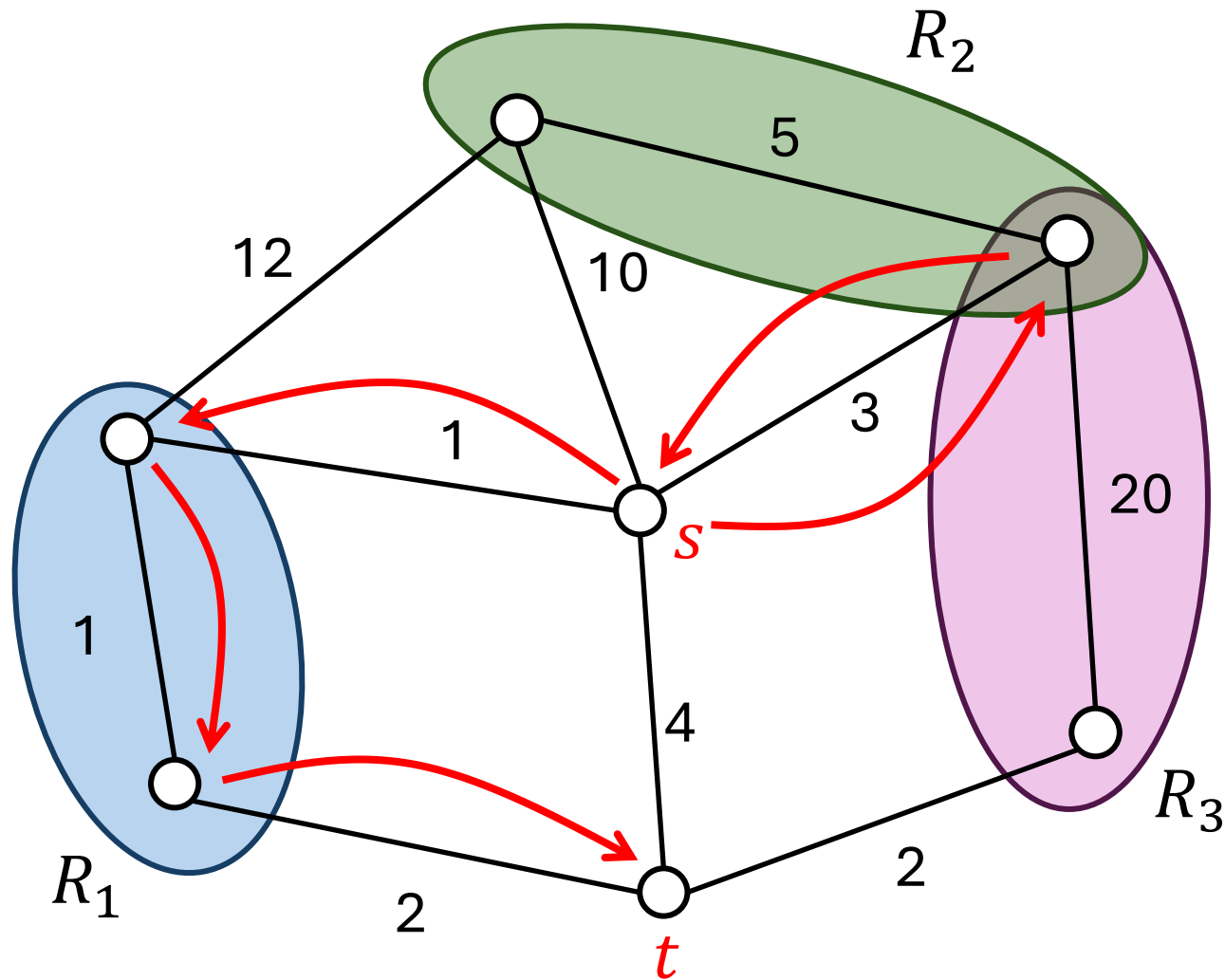


Group Steiner Distance



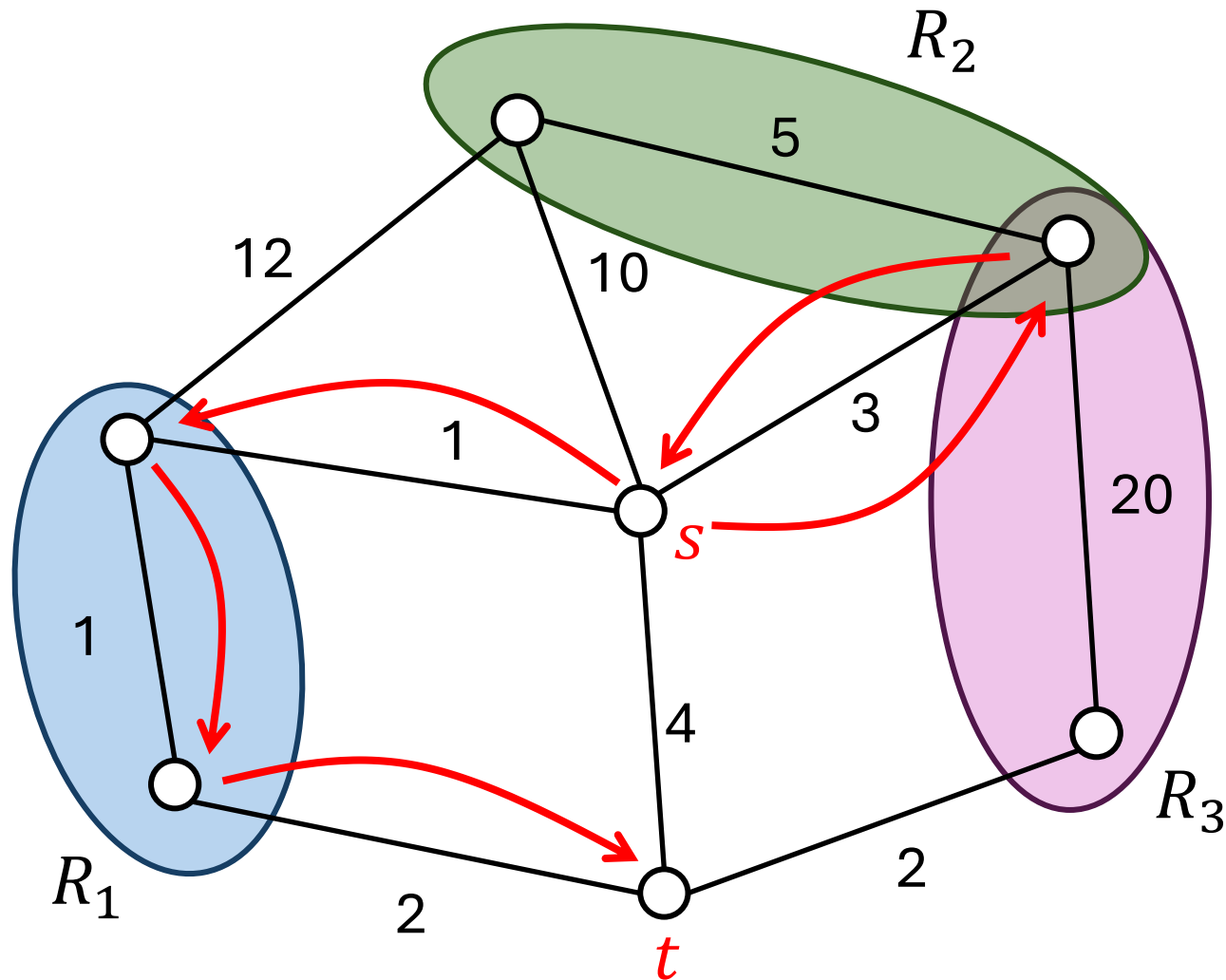
- A collection $\mathcal{R} = \{R_1, \dots, R_k\}$ of k groups of subsets of **required vertices**

Group Steiner Distance



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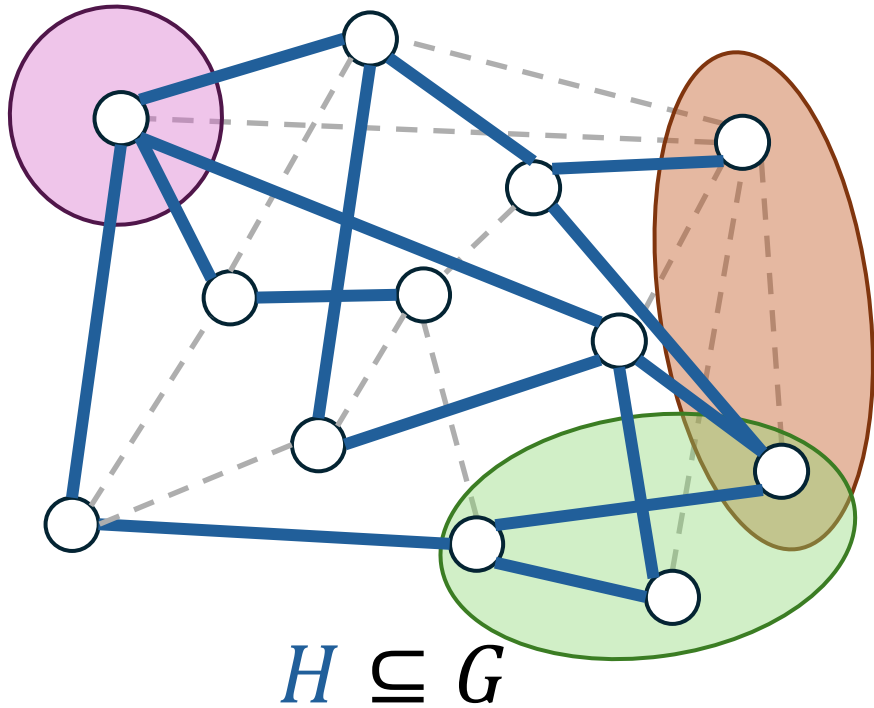
Group Steiner Distance



$$\sigma_G(s, t) = 3 + 3 + 1 + 1 + 2 = 10$$

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- Group Steiner path from s to t wrt \mathcal{R} : a walk that traverses at least one required vertex for each group, in **any order**
- Group Steiner distance $\sigma_G(s, t)$: the sum of weights (**with their multiplicity**) of the edges in shortest group Steiner path

Group Steiner Spanner



H is a **Group Steiner** α -spanner of G if

$$\sigma_H(u, v) \leq \alpha \sigma_G(u, v) \quad \forall u, v \in V(G)$$

Computing Group Steiner Distances

(results from minimum Group Steiner Tree problem)

- NP-hard for large k

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Computing Group Steiner Distances

(results from minimum Group Steiner Tree problem)

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- [Halperin & Krauthgamer - STOC 2003] there exists no poly-time $O(\log^{2-\varepsilon} k)$ -apx, unless $NP \subseteq ZPTIME(n^{\text{polylog}(n)})$
- We can compute GS path and distances in **FPT time** $2^k kn^{O(1)}$, which is polynomial for small $k = O(\log n)$

Previous Results

When $k = 1$ GP-distance is equivalent to the **Beer-distance** [Bacic et. al. – ISAAC 2021]

Several works about exact beer-distance oracle for **special** classes of graphs:

- Outer planar graphs [Bacic et. al. – ISAAC 2021]
- Interval graphs [Das et. al. – ISAAC 2022]
- Bounded tree-width graphs [Gudmundsson et. al. – ISAAC 2023]

Previous Results

When $k = 1$ GP-distance is equivalent to the **Beer-distance** [Bacic et. al. – ISAAC 2022]

Our focus is on:

1. General GP-distances ($k \geq 1$)

2. General graphs

Several well-known classes of graphs:

- Outerplanar graphs
- Interval graphs

- Bounded tree-width graphs [Gudmundsson et. al. – ISAAC 2023]

classes of

Our Results

Our results

- Group Steiner Spanner for
 1. General group sizes (and relation with classical source-wise)
 2. The singleton case
 3. General group sizes – single source

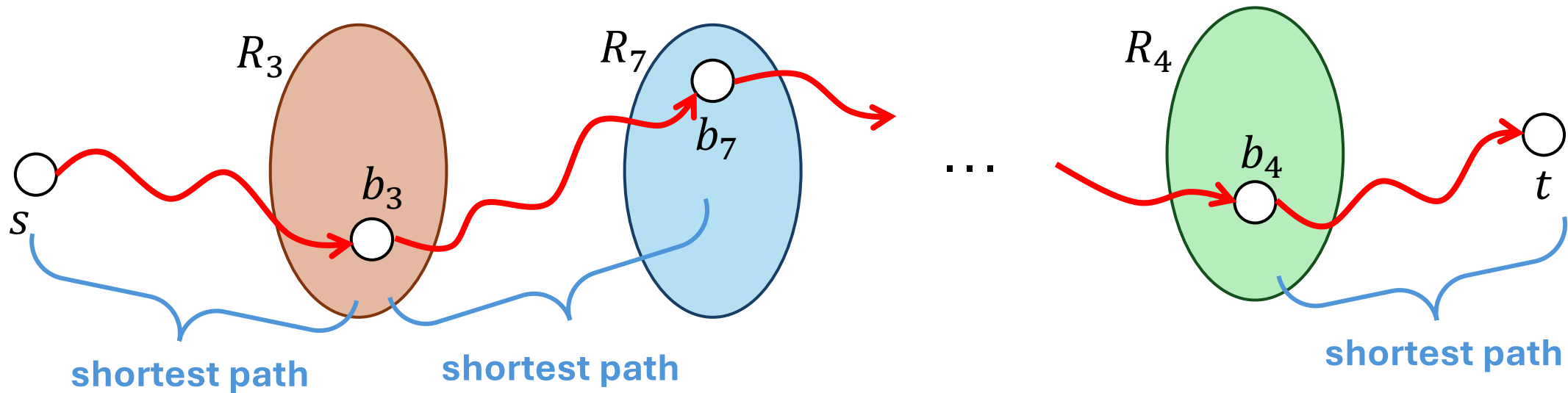
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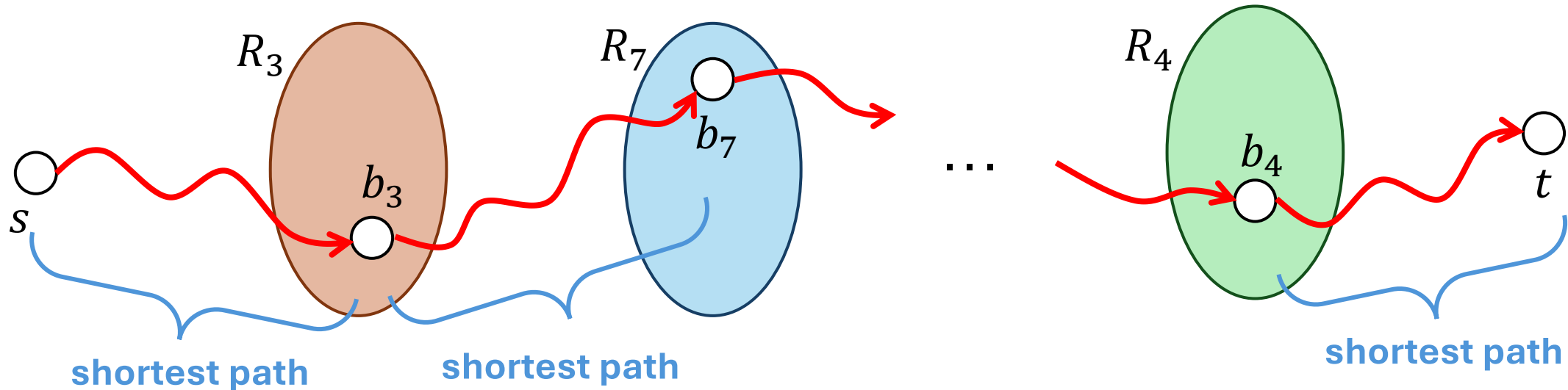
- How to turn our spanners into distance oracles with
 1. Same stretch
 2. Same (asymptotic) size
 3. Same building time
 4. Non-trivial query time

General group sizes

GS-Spanners vs Source-Wise Spanner



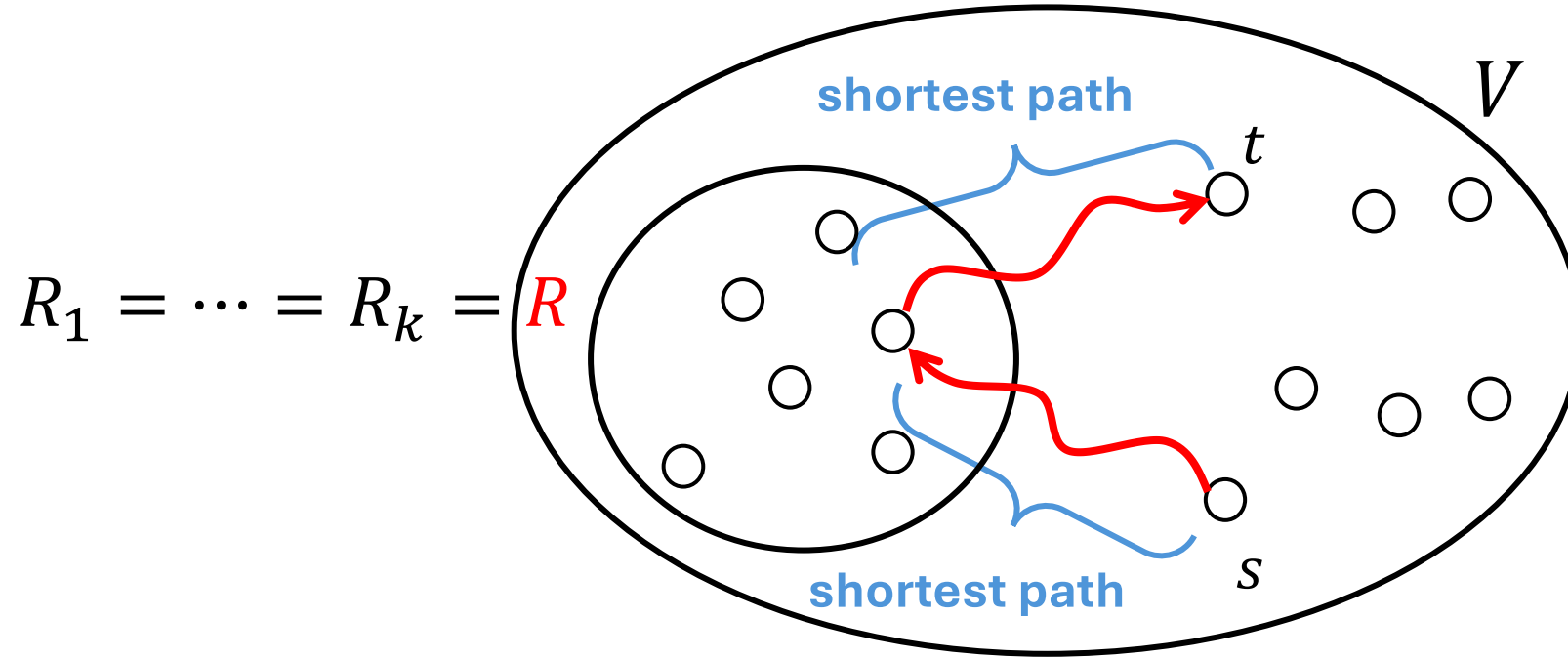
GS-Spanners vs Source-Wise Spanner



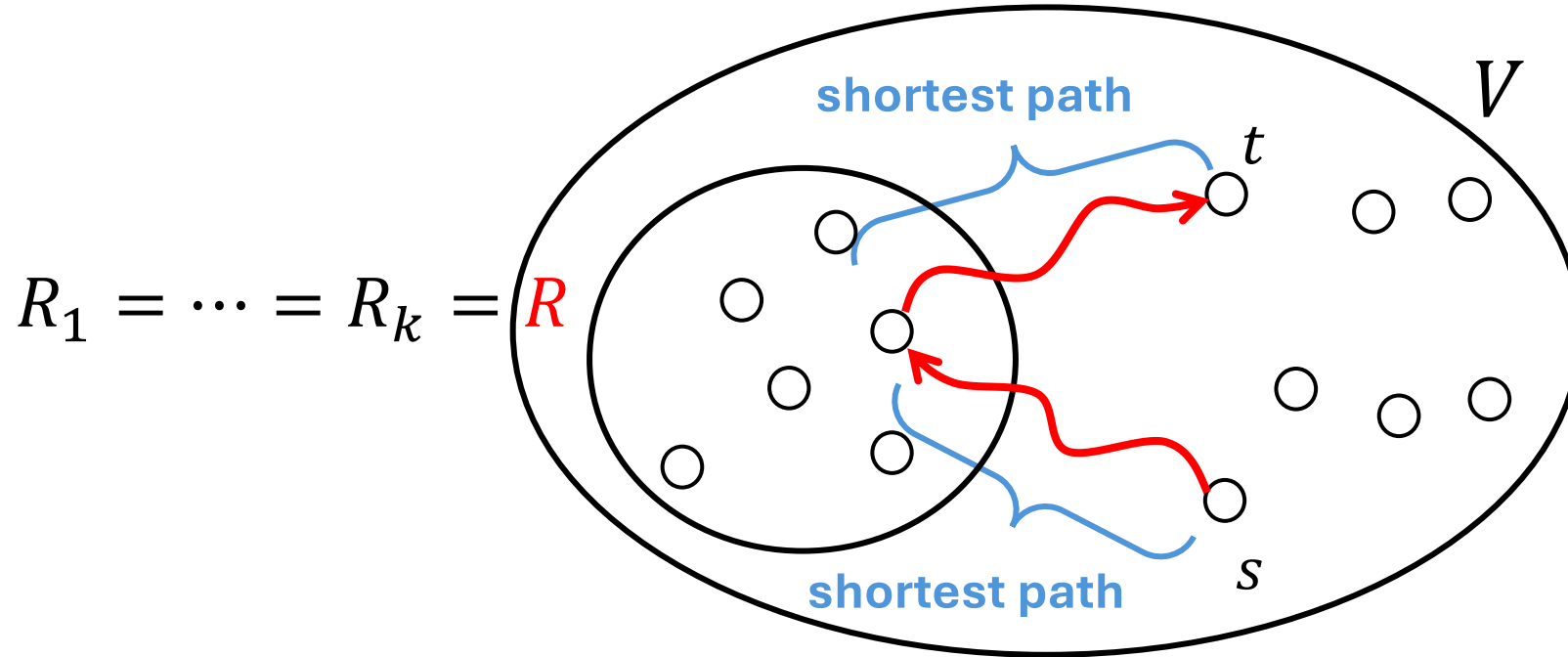
Source-Wise $(R_1 \cup \dots \cup R_k) \times V$ spanner \Rightarrow Group Steiner Spanner

**Upper bounds for classical source-wise
carry over to GS-spanners**

GS-Spanners vs Source-Wise Spanner



GS-Spanners vs Source-Wise Spanner



Source-Wise $R \times V$ spanner \Leftarrow Group Steiner Spanner

We can't obtain better size-stretch trade-offs than the ones for source-wise

(b) All-pairs, general group sizes.

Stretch	Size	Building time	Reference	D.O. query time
$2\alpha + 1$	$kn + \bigcup_i (R_i \times R_i \alpha\text{-spanner}) $	polynomial	Theorem 13	$O(2^k k \cdot R ^2 + R ^3)$
$2\alpha + 1$	$n + R \times R \alpha\text{-spanner} $	polynomial	Theorem 14	$O(2^k k \cdot R ^2 + R ^3)$

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All-pairs Weighted

α	Size	Reference
$\boxtimes 3$	$O(n^{4/3} R ^{1/3})$	Ob. 2 + [1]
3	$O(kn + kR_{\max}^2 n^{1/2})$	Th. 13 + [13]
3	$O(n + R ^2 n^{1/2})$	Ob. 2 + [17]
3	$O(n^{3/2})$	Ob. 2 + [3]
$\boxtimes 5$	$O(n^{9/7} R ^{2/7})$	Ob. 2 + [1]
5	$O(n^{4/3})$	Ob. 2 + [3]
* $\boxtimes 7$	$O(n R ^{2/3})$	Th. 14 + [1]
7	$O(n + R ^{3/2} n^{1/2})$	Ob. 2 + [17]
7	$O(n^{5/4})$	Ob. 2 + [3]
* $7 + \varepsilon$	$O(n R ^{1/2}/\varepsilon)$	Th. 14 + [18]
$2h - 1$	$O(n^{1+1/h})$	Ob. 2 + [3]
$4h - 1$	$O(n + n^{1/2} R ^{1+1/h})$	Ob. 2 + [17]

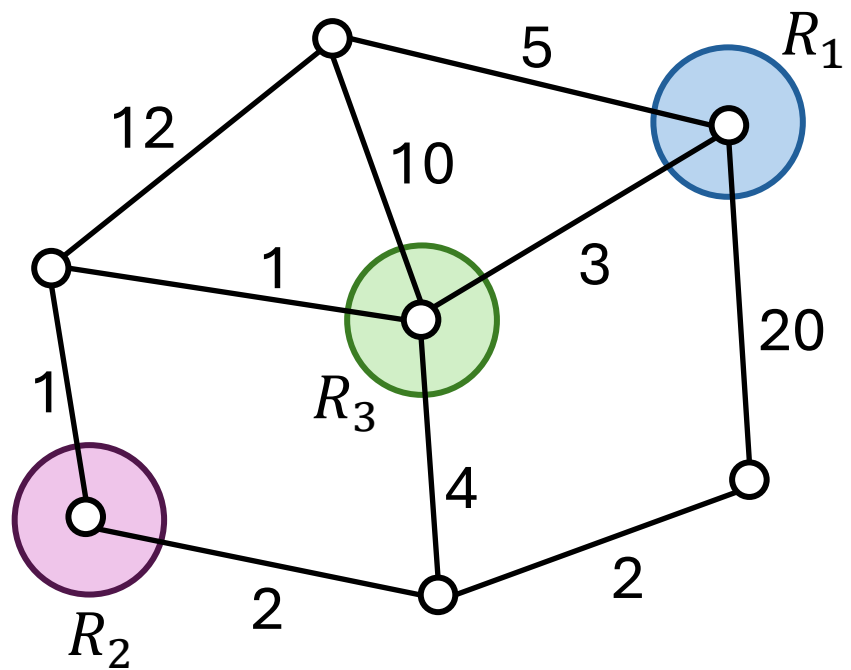
All-pairs Unweighted

α	Size	Reference
* 3	$O(n^{2/3} R ^{4/3} + n R ^{2/3})$	Th. 14 + [8]
3	$O(kn^{2/3}R_{\max}^{4/3} + knR_{\max}^{2/3})$	Th. 13 + [8]
3	$\tilde{O}(n^{5/4} R ^{1/4})$	Ob. 2 + [9]
5	$\tilde{O}(n^{11/9} R ^{2/9})$	Ob. 2 + [24]
7	$\tilde{O}(n^{6/5} R ^{1/5})$	Ob. 2 + [24]
7	$O(n + R ^{3/2} n^{1/2})$	Ob. 2 + [17]
* 7	$O(n R ^{1/2})$	Th. 14 + [14]

Singleton case

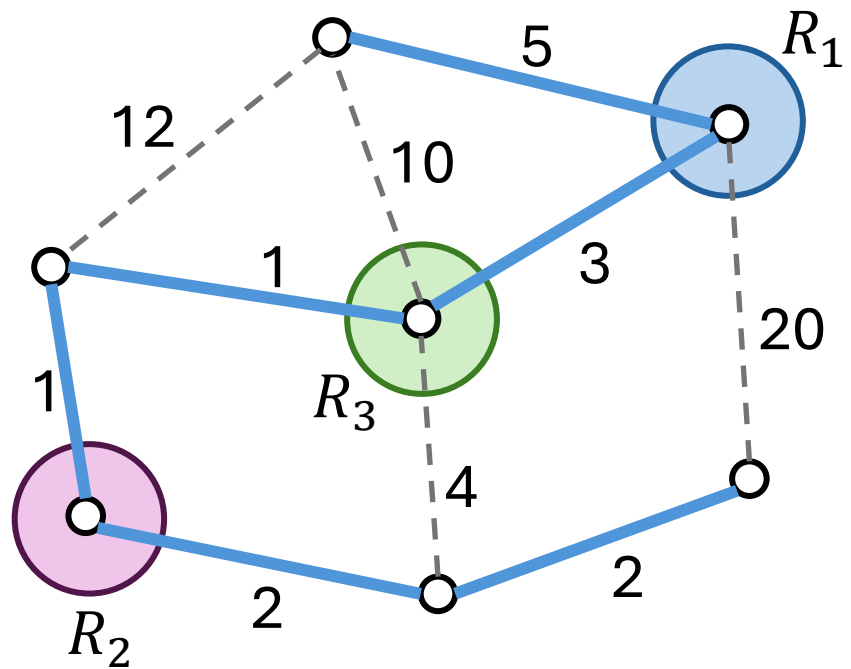
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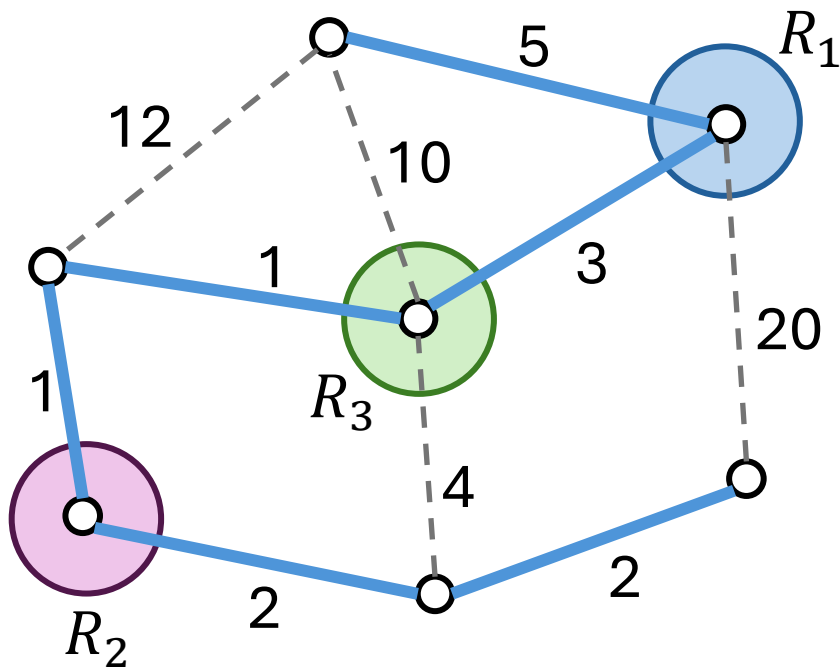
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Singleton case \equiv minimum-cost metric Hamiltonian path

- NP-hard
- Does not admit poly-time $\frac{185}{184}$ -apx, unless $P = NP$ [Karpinski et. al – JCSS '15]
- Admits poly-time $\frac{3}{2}$ -apx [Zenklusen – SODA '19]

Singleton case – all pairs

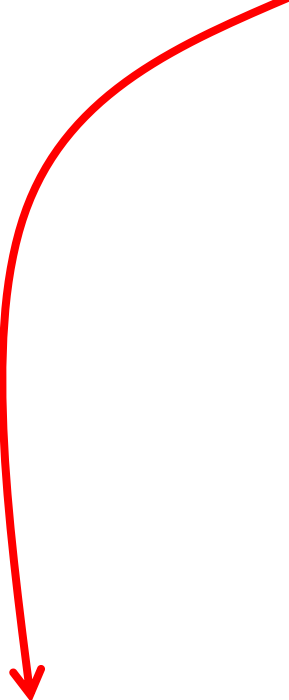
(a) All-pairs, singleton case ($|R_i| = 1 \forall i = 1, \dots, k$).

	Stretch	Size	Building time	Reference	D.O. query time
☆	1	$O(kn)$	polynomial	Theorem 7	$O(2^k \cdot k^3)$
	$1 + \varepsilon$	$O(n/\varepsilon^2)$	FPT	Theorem 8	$O(1/\varepsilon^2)$
	$\gamma + \varepsilon$	$O(n/\varepsilon^2)$	polynomial	Theorem 9	$O(1/\varepsilon^2)$
☆	2	$n - 1$	polynomial	Theorem 11	$O(1)$

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Tight bound: stretch 1 $\Rightarrow \Omega(kn)$ edges are required

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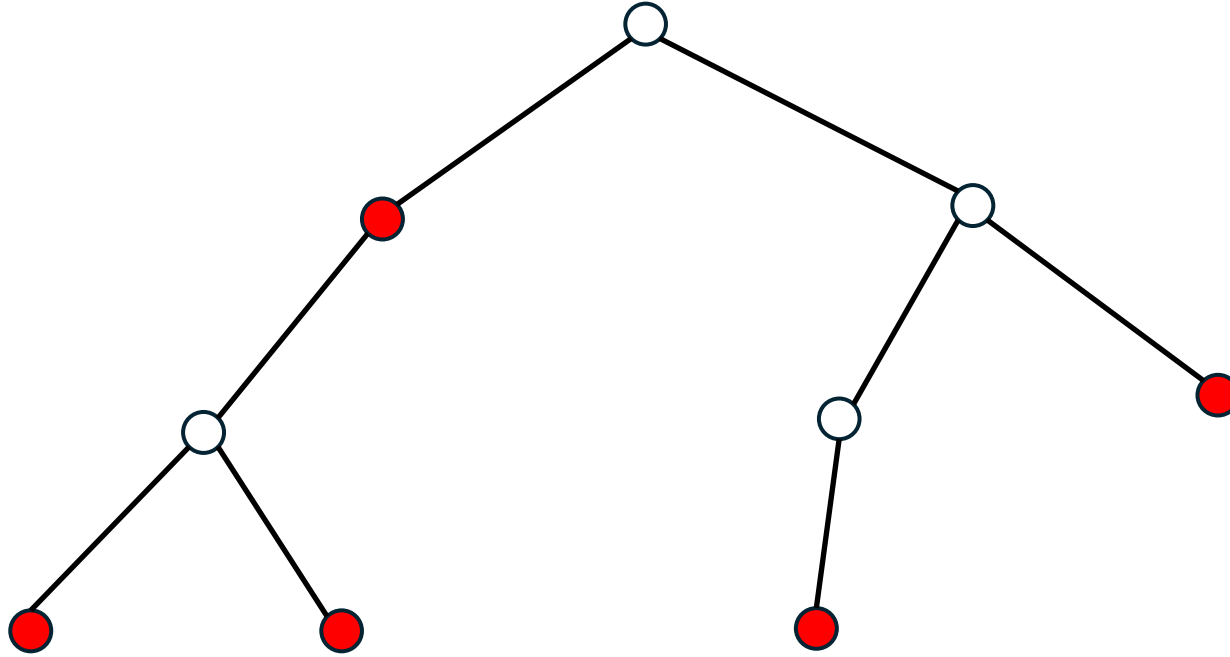
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$n - 1$ edge are sufficient to achieve a stretch 2

Tight bound: stretch $< 2 \Rightarrow n$ edges are required

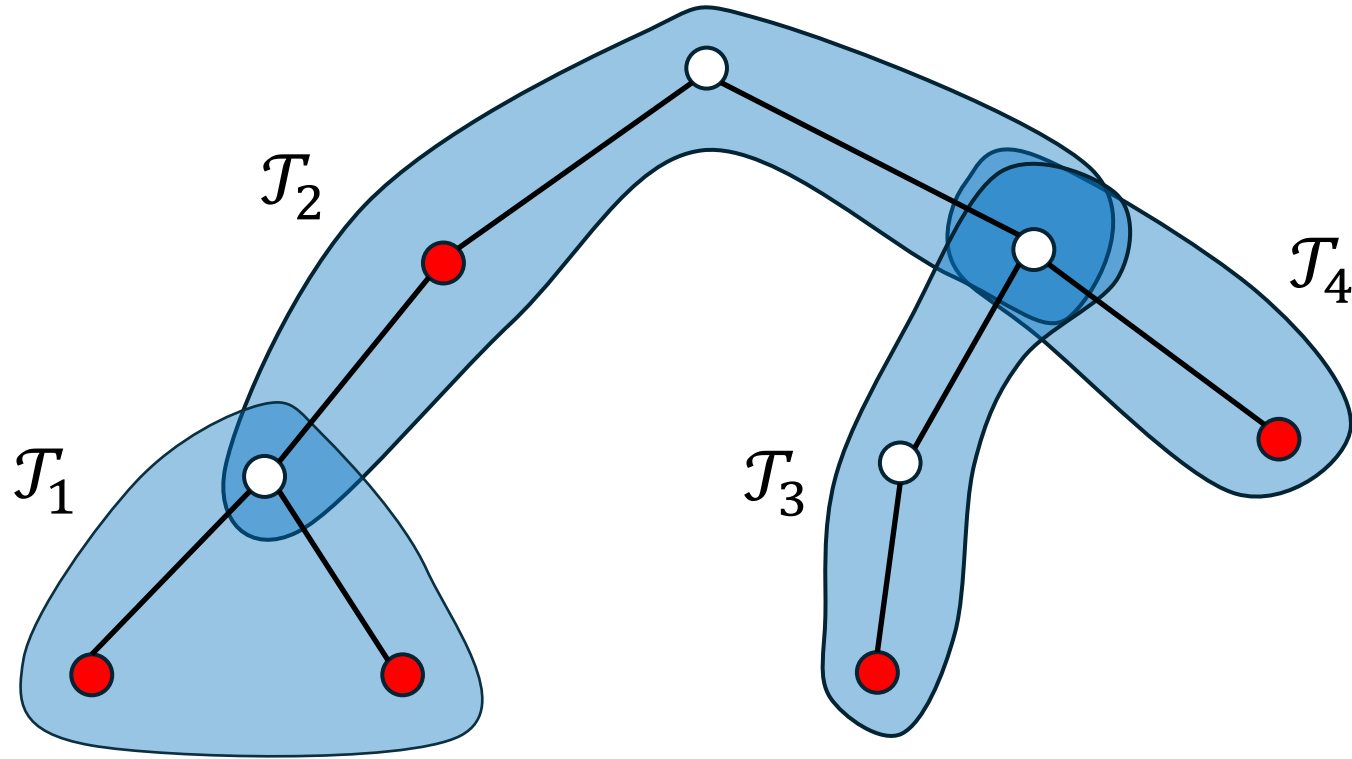
Tight bound: stretch 1 $\Rightarrow \Omega(kn)$ edges are required

$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton



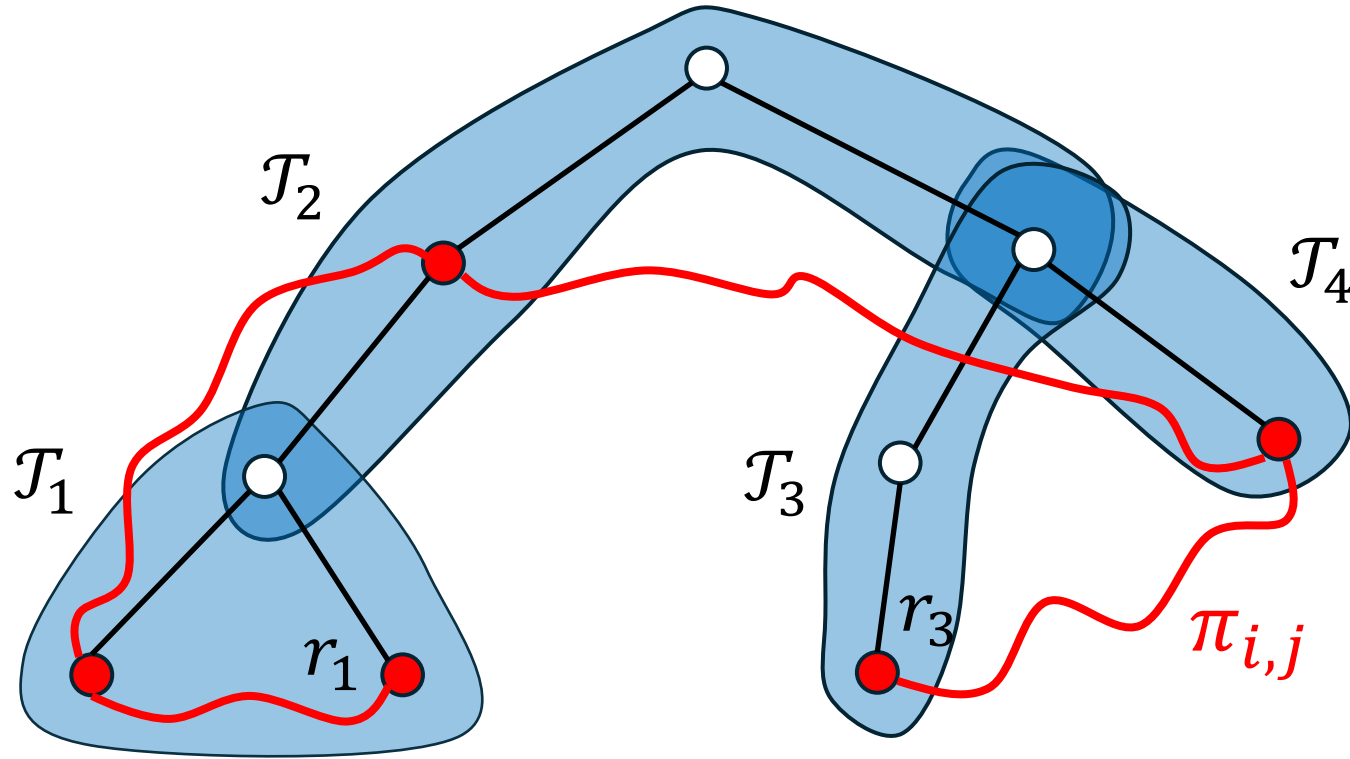
Compute a 2-apx steiner tree T (in *poly-time*)

$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton



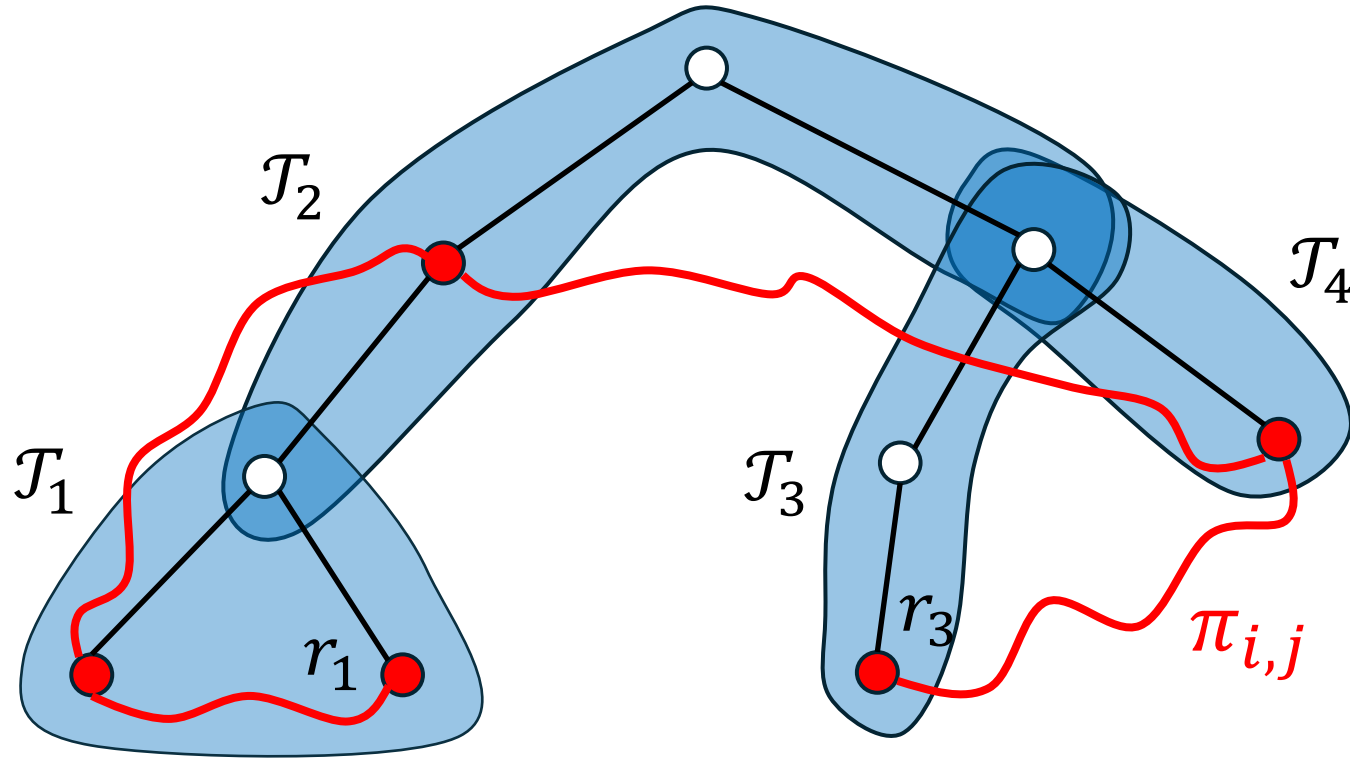
Partition T into $O(1/\varepsilon)$ **micro-trees** $\mathcal{T}_1, \dots, \mathcal{T}_h$,
all of them with weight **at most** $W = \frac{\varepsilon}{4} w(T)$ (in *poly-time*).

$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton



$\pi_{i,j}$: the **best** shortest GS-path between two required $r_i \in \mathcal{J}_i$ and $r_j \in \mathcal{J}_j$, one for each pair $\mathcal{J}_i, \mathcal{J}_j$ (in *FPT-time*).

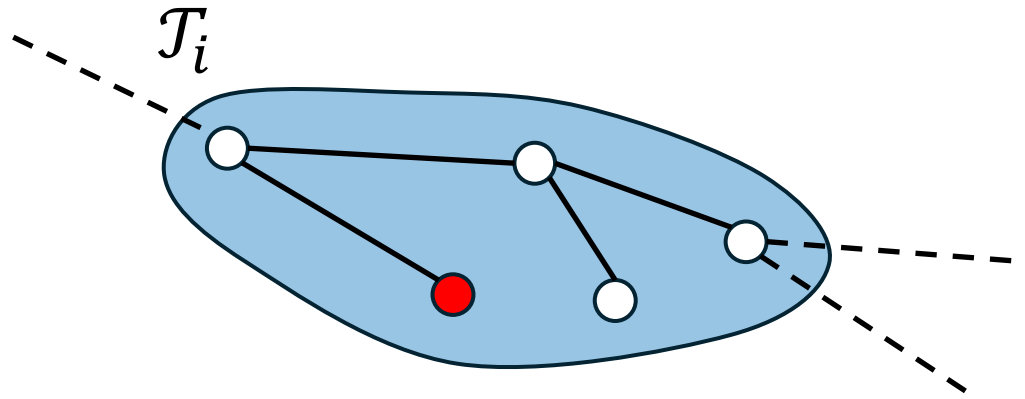
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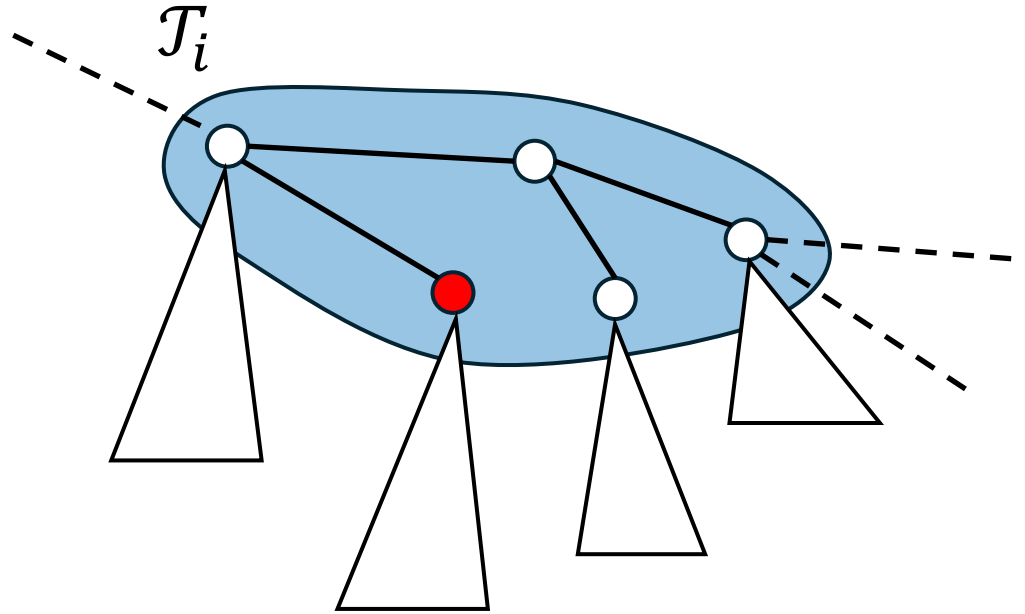
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$O\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$ of these GS-paths $\pi_{i,j}$.

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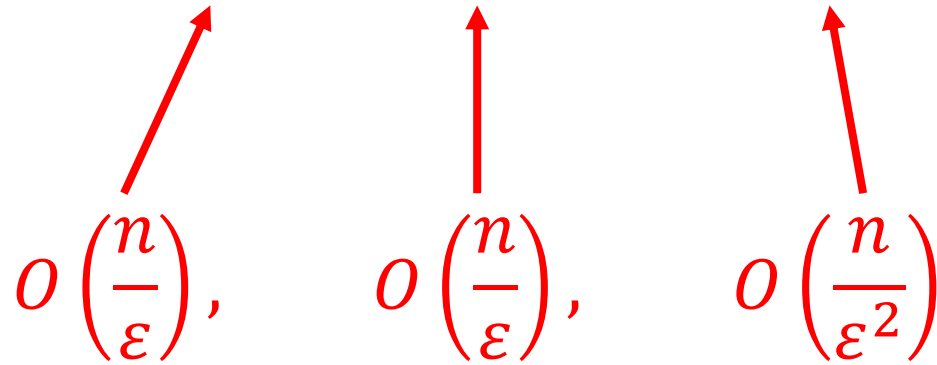
$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton



We compute a **spanning forest** F_i consisting of trees rooted at each vertex in \mathcal{T}_i , where every path from a node to its root is the shortest.

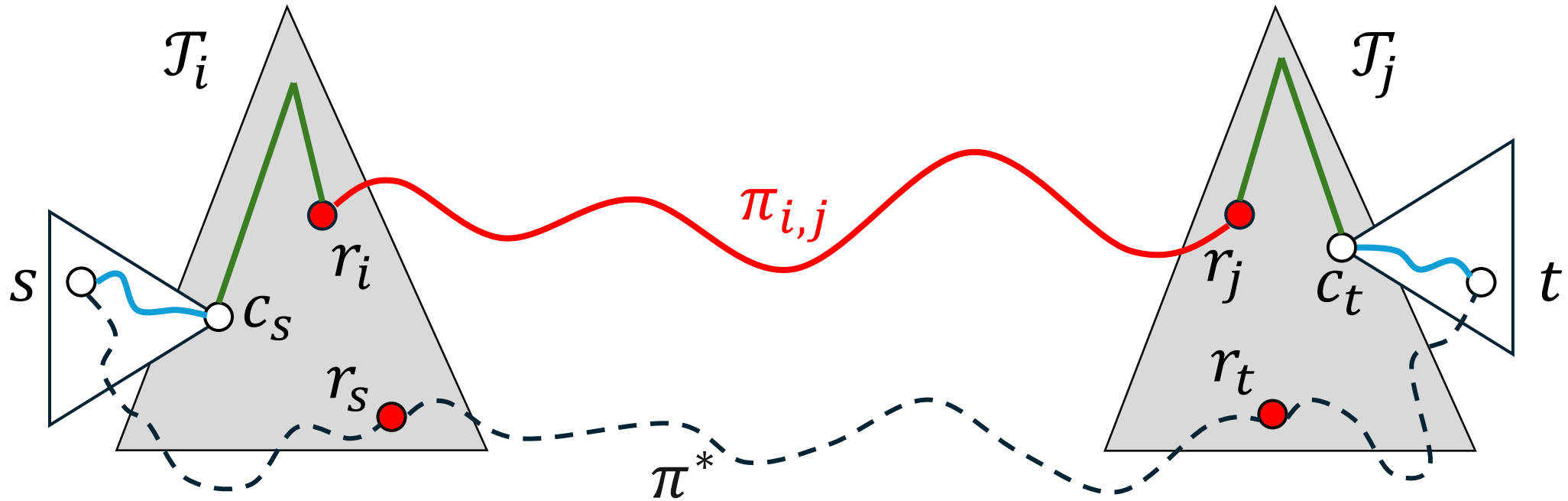
$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton

$$\text{GS-spanner} = U_i \mathcal{T}_i + U_i F_i + U_{i,j} \pi_{i,j}$$



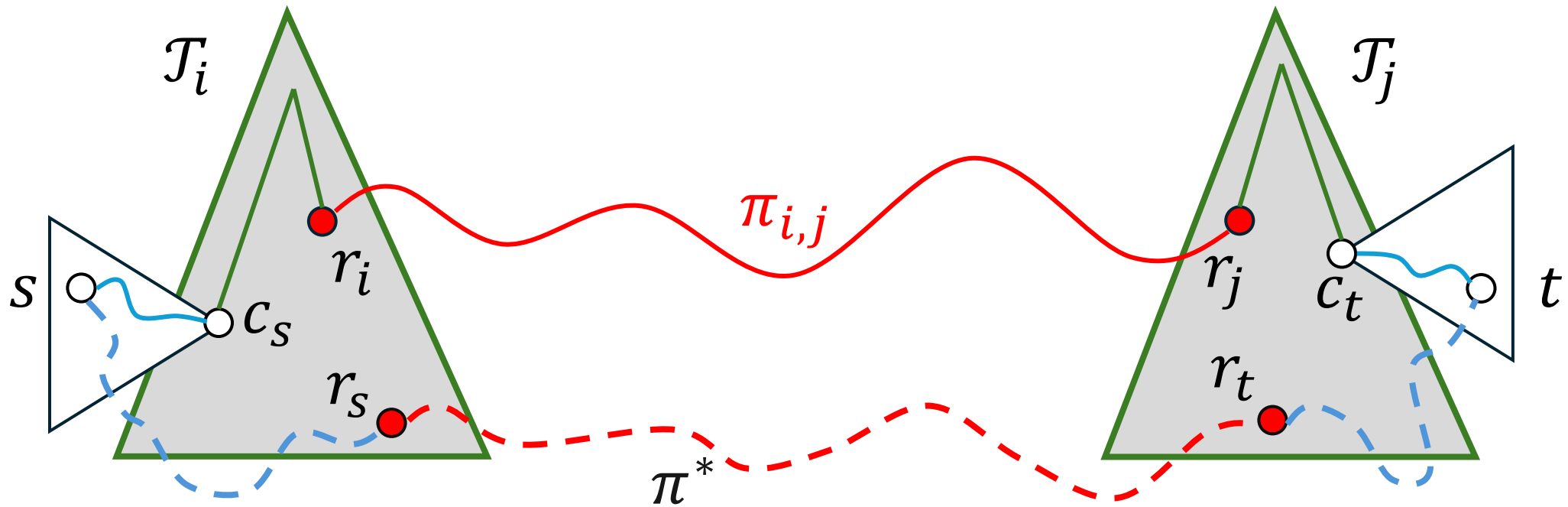
$O\left(\frac{n}{\varepsilon}\right),$ $O\left(\frac{n}{\varepsilon}\right),$ $O\left(\frac{n}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$

$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton



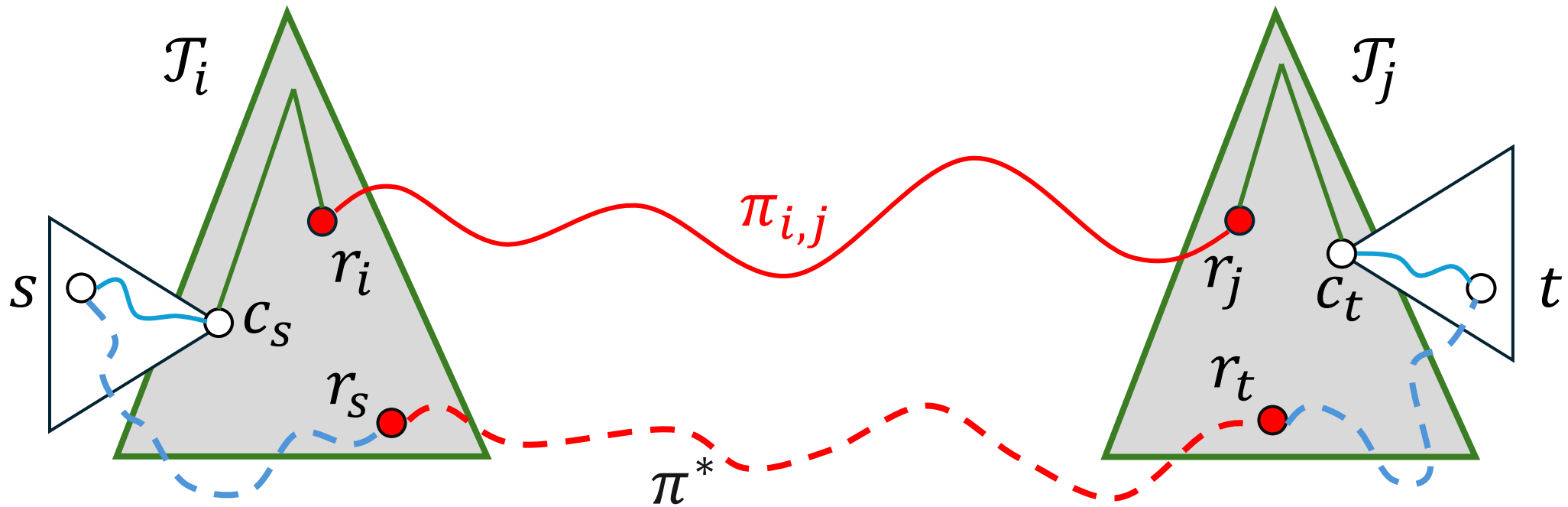
$$\sigma_H(s, t) \leq d(s, c_s) + d_{\mathcal{T}_i}(c_s, r_i) + w(\pi_{i,j}) + d_{\mathcal{T}_j}(r_j, c_t) + d(c_t, t)$$

$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton



$$\leq w(\pi^*[s:r_s]) + W + w(\pi^*[r_i:r_s]) + W + w(\pi^*[r_t:t])$$

$(1 + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton



$$\leq \sigma_G(s, t) + 2W = \sigma_G(s, t) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} w(T) = (1 + \varepsilon) \sigma_G(s, t)$$

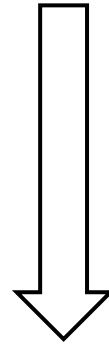
$(\gamma + \varepsilon)$ -GS spanner – singleton

Stretch

$(1 + \varepsilon)$

Building time

FPT



γ = apx ratio of a poly-time
algorithm for minimum-cost
metric Hamiltonian path

Stretch

$(\gamma + \varepsilon)$

Building time

Polynomial

Open problems

1. Ad-hoc constructions for general group size

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2. Better bounds for single-source preserver

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Thanks !