

Programme Gaspard Monge pour l'Optimisation et la Recherche  
Opérationnelle

## **Programmation linéaire colorée : bases, polytope et algorithmes**

Pauline Sarrabezolles – École des Ponts

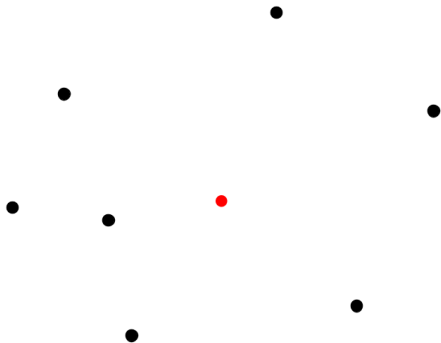
Travail commun avec Antoine Deza (McMaster University, Hamilton)  
et Frédéric Meunier (École des Ponts)

# Plan

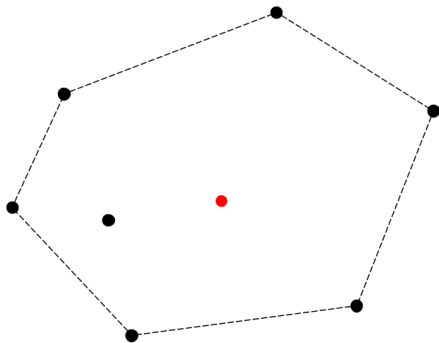
1. Colourful linear programming
2. Some algorithms
3. Counting questions
  - A geometrical problem : the colourful simplicial depth
  - A combinatorial approach : Octahedral systems

# Colourful linear programming

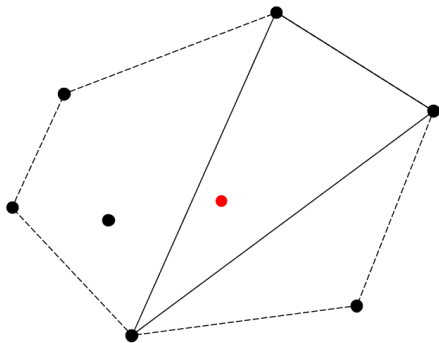
# The Carathéodory Theorem in dimension two



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# Linear programming

## The linear programming problem.

**Input** : A set  $S \subset \mathbb{Q}^d$  and a point  $p \in \mathbb{Q}^d$ .

**Output** : *Decide* whether there is a  $T \subseteq S$ ,  $|T| \leq d + 1$ , such that  $p \in \text{conv}(T)$ . If “yes”, *find* it.

Carathéodory Theorem  $\implies$

If  $p \in \text{conv}(S)$ , there is such a  $T$ .

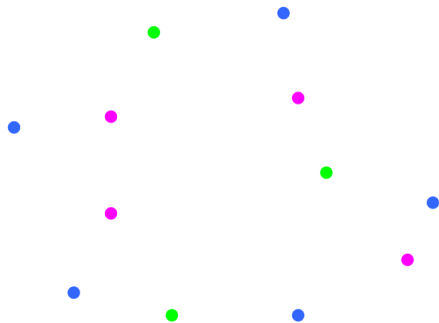
# Complexity status

## Theorem

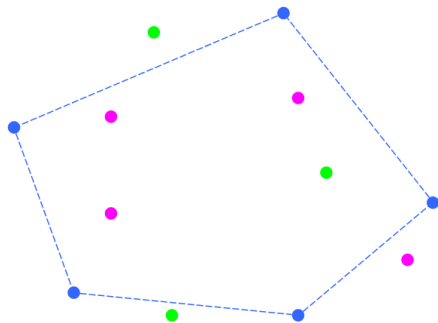
*Linear programming is in  $\mathcal{P}$ .*



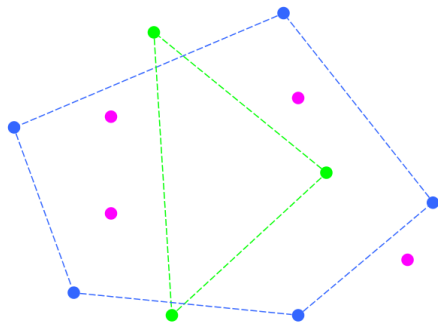
# The colourful Carathéodory Theorem in dimension two



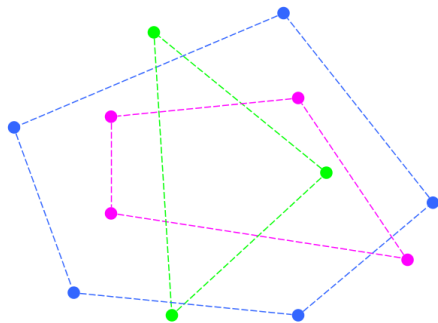
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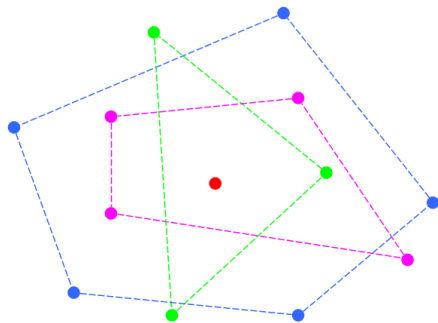
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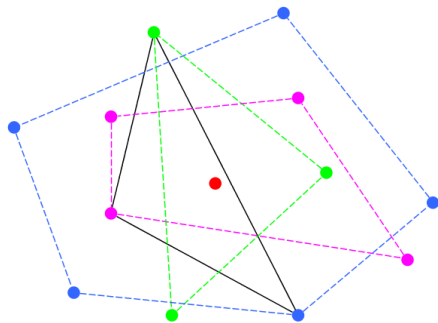
# The colourful Carathéodory Theorem in dimension two



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## The colourful Carathéodory Theorem [Bárány 1982]

*Given a set of points  $S = S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_{d+1}$  and a point  $p$  in  $\mathbb{Q}^d$  such that  $p \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{d+1} \text{conv}(S_i)$ , there is a  $T \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{d+1} S_i$  such that  $|T \cap S_i| \leq 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, d + 1$  and  $p \in \text{conv}(T)$ .*

*$T \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{d+1} S_i$  such that  $|T \cap S_i| \leq 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, d + 1$  is colourful.*

# Colourful linear programming [Bárány and Onn in 1997]

## The colourful linear programming problem.

**Input** :  $k$  sets, or *colours*,  $S_1, \dots, S_k \subset \mathbb{Q}^d$  and a point  $p \in \mathbb{Q}^d$ .

**Output** : *Decide* whether there is a colourful  $T = \{s_1, \dots, s_k\}$  such that  $p \in \text{conv}(T)$ . If “yes”, *find* it.

Colourful Carathéodory Theorem  $\implies$

If  $k = d + 1$  and  $p \in \bigcap_{i=1}^k \text{conv}(S_i)$ , there is such a  $T$ .



# Complexity status

Theorem (Bárány and Onn, 1997)

*Colourful linear programming is strongly  $\mathcal{NP}$ -complete.*

# Other colourful linear programming problems

## Colourful feasibility problem.

**Input** :  $d + 1$  sets  $S_1, \dots, S_{d+1} \subset \mathbb{Q}^d$  and a point  $p \in \mathbb{Q}^d$  such that,  $p \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{d+1} \text{conv } S_i$ .

**Output** : Find a colourful simplex containing  $p$ .

Complexity : open question.

## Other colourful linear programming problems

### Lemma (Octahedral Lemma)

*Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{d+1}$  be sets of points, with  $|X_i| = 2$ , and a point  $p$ . There is an even number of colourful simplices generated by  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{d+1} X_i$  containing  $p$ .*

*In particular, if there is one there is another.*

# Other colourful linear programming problems

## Another colourful simplex.

**Input** : A colourful simplex  $\sigma$  containing  $p$  and a colourful simplex  $\sigma'$  disjoint from  $\sigma$ .

**Output** : Find another colourful simplex containing  $p$  generated by points of  $\sigma \cup \sigma'$ .

Complexity : It belongs to the  $\mathcal{PPAD}$  class. It is an open question whether it is  $\mathcal{PPAD}$ -complete.

# Some algorithms<sup>1</sup>

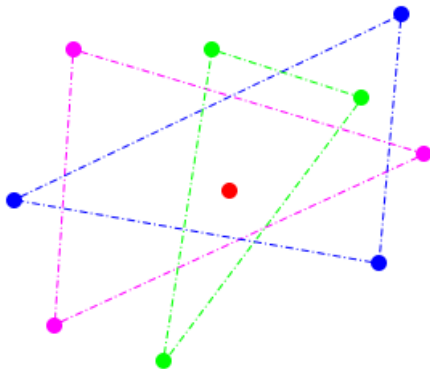
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<sup>1</sup>In this section,  $p$  is the origin  $\mathbf{0}$ .

An algorithm for the colourful feasibility problem.

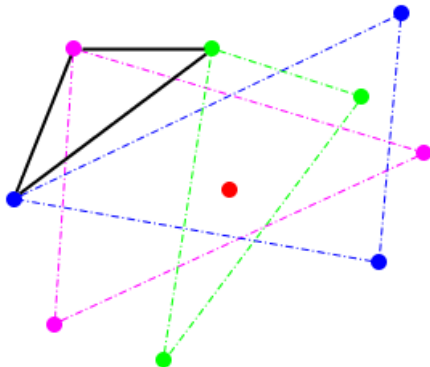
# Bárány's algorithm (1982)

Consider  $S_1, \dots, S_{d+1}$ , sets of points, each containing  $\mathbf{0}$ .



# Bárány's algorithm (1982)

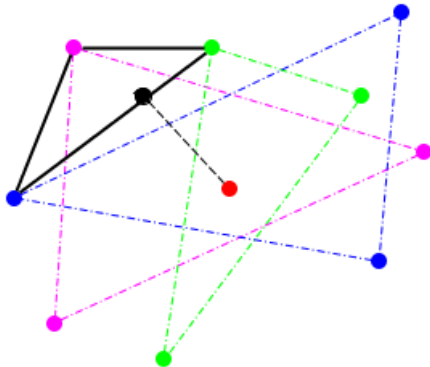
Consider a colourful simplex.





## Bárány's algorithm (1982)

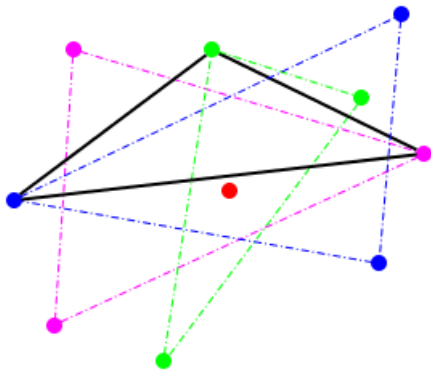
Consider the closest point to the  $\mathbf{0}$  in this simplex.



This point lies on a facet of the colourful simplex. A colour  $i$  is missing on this facet.

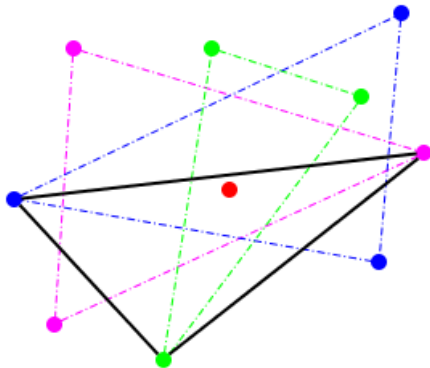
## Bárány's algorithm (1982)

Replace the vertex of colour  $i$  with another vertex of the same colour, getting a point closer to  $\mathbf{0}$



# Bárány's algorithm (1982)

Iterate...



# Bárány's algorithm

## Complexity for rational data :

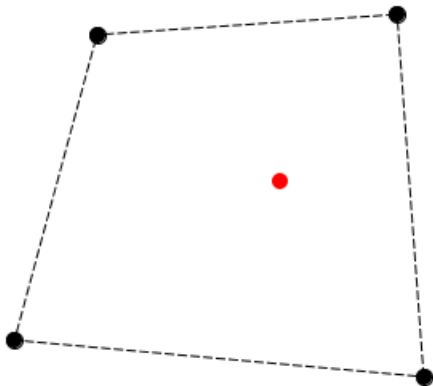
Given  $\rho > 0$  and  $S_1, \dots, S_{d+1} \subset \mathbb{Q}^d$  of bit size  $L$ , with  $B(0, \rho) \subset \text{conv}(S_i)$ .

This algorithm find a colourful simplex containing  $\mathbf{0}$  in polynomial time in  $L$  and  $1/\rho$ .

An algorithm for the problem another colourful simplex

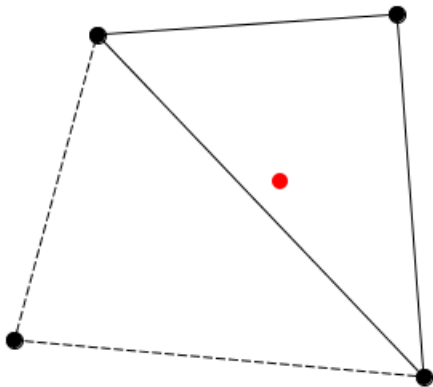
## Reminder : the simplex algorithm

A point in the convex hull of  $d + 2$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is in exactly two simplices generated by those points.



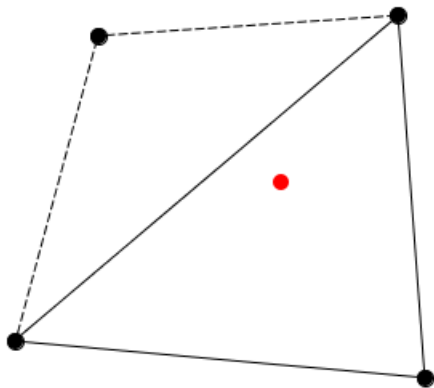
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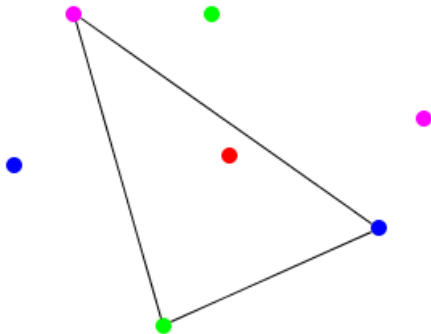
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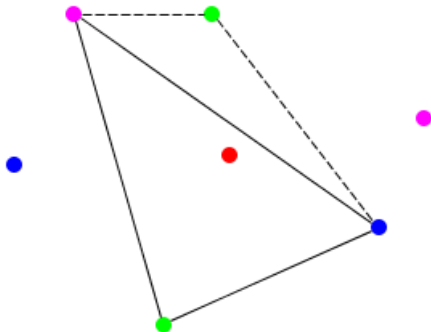
## Pivoting algorithm

Consider a colourful simplex  $\sigma$  containing  $\mathbf{0}$ , and a disjoint colourful simplex *i.e.* one point of each colour not in  $\sigma$ .



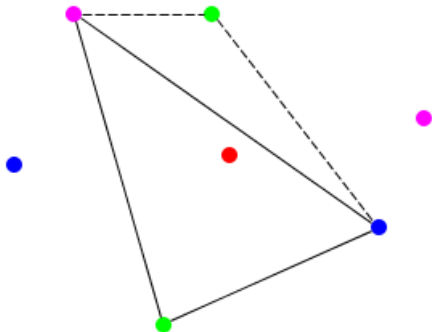
# Pivoting algorithm

Consider a colour, called the pivoting colour.



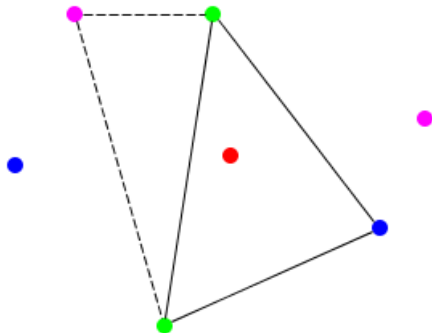
# Pivoting algorithm

Apply the argument of the simplex algorithm.



## Pivoting algorithm

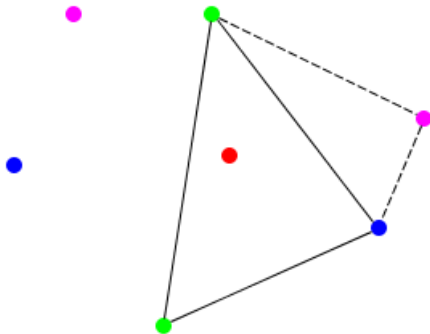
Consider the other simplex containing the origin.



*This simplex is “almost” colourful. The pivoting colour is duplicated, and a colour  $i$  is missing.*

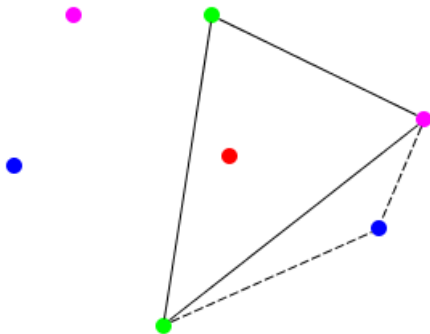
# Pivoting algorithm

Add the vertex of colour  $i$  not in  $\sigma$ , and obtain a new simplex containing  $\mathbf{0}$ .



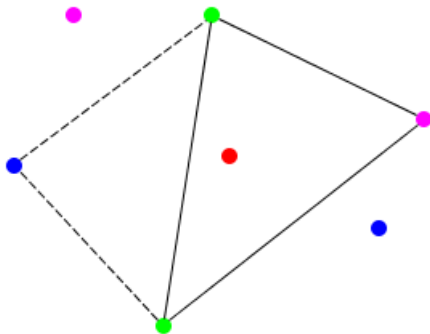
# Pivoting algorithm

Iterate...



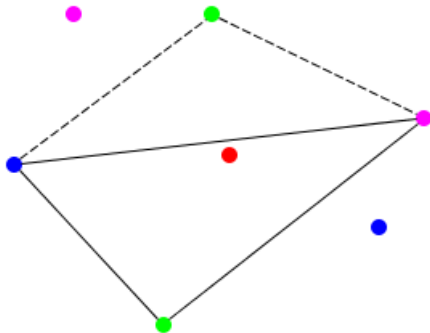
# Pivoting algorithm

Iterate...



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# Pivoting algorithm

Open questions :

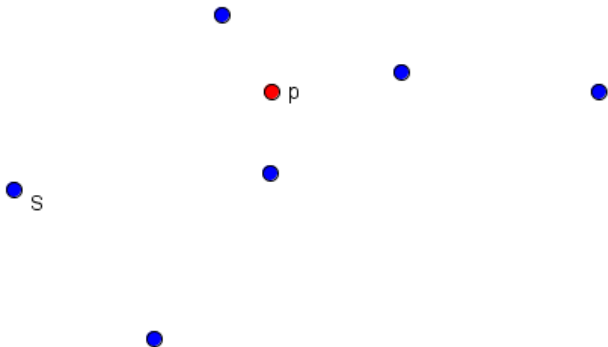
- How many steps in the pivoting algorithm ?
- Where do the colourful and almost colourful solutions lie on the polytope ?

# Counting feasible bases

## Original motivation : simplicial depth

Let  $S$  be a set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

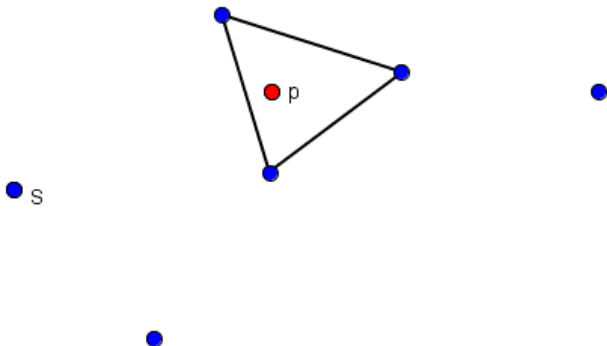
*Simplicial depth* of a point  $p$  = number of  $d$ -simplices generated by  $S$  and containing  $p$ .



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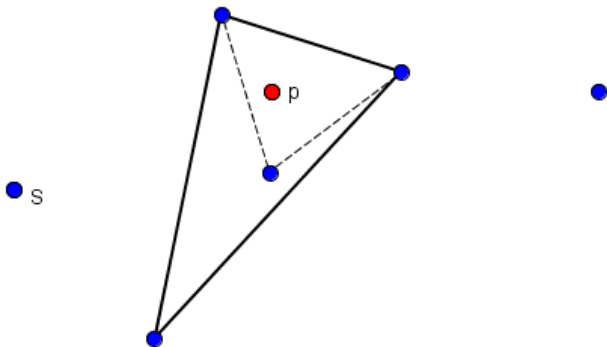
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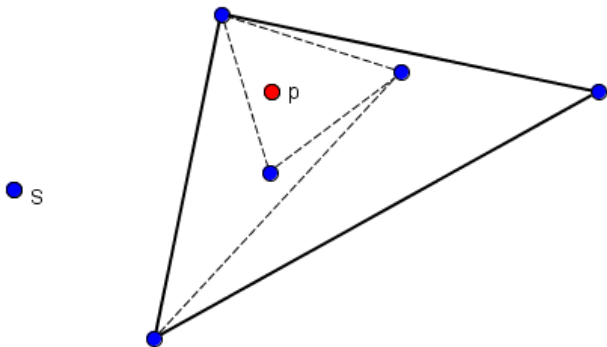
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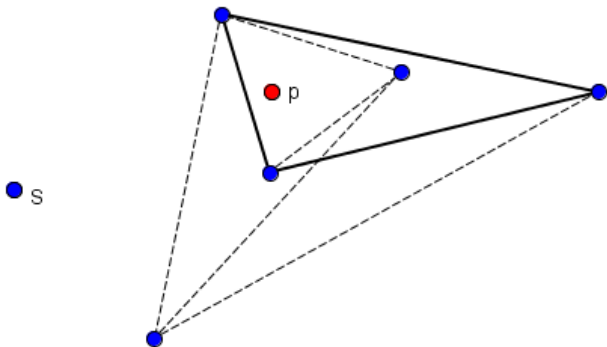
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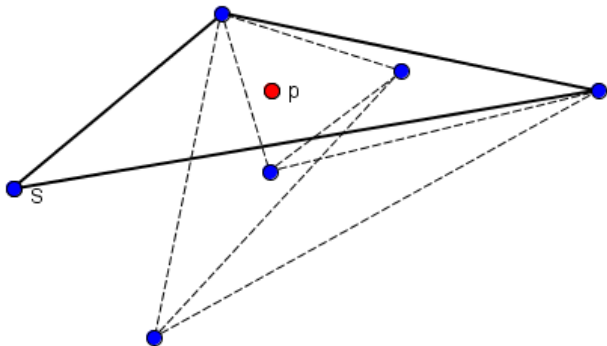
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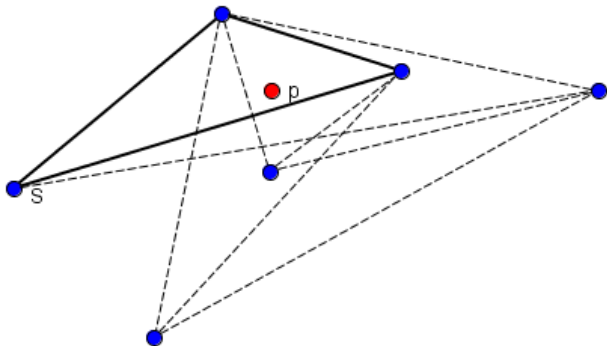




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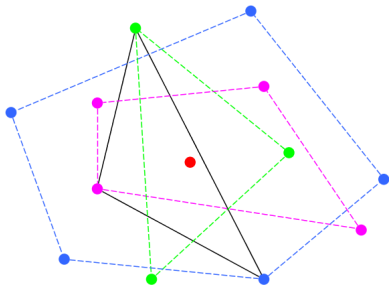


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Let  $S_1, \dots, S_{d+1}$  be  $(d + 1)$  sets of points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

*Colourful simplicial depth* of a point  $p$  is :

**depth** $_{S_1, \dots, S_{d+1}}(p)$  = number of colourful  $d$ -simplices generated by  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{d+1} S_i$  and containing  $p$ .

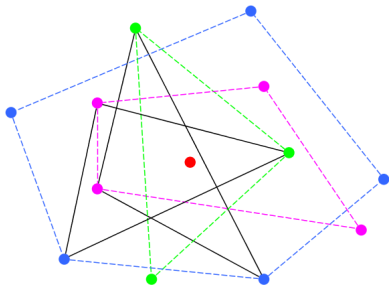


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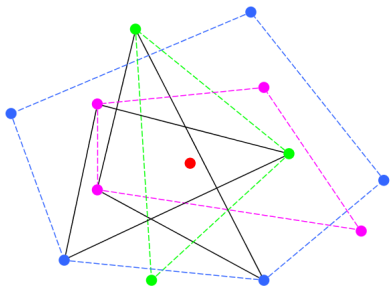


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$$\mu(d) = \min_{S_1, \dots, S_{d+1}, p} \text{depth}_{S_1, \dots, S_{d+1}}(p).$$

## A lower bound on simplicial depth

For  $S \cup \{p\}$  in general position

[Bárány1982]

$$\max_p \text{depth}_S(p) \geq \frac{1}{(d+1)^{d+1}} \binom{n}{d+1} \quad \text{with } n = |S|.$$

Proof combines the **Tverberg theorem** and the **colourful Carathéodory theorem**.

## A lower bound on simplicial depth

For  $S \cup \{p\}$  in general position

[Bárány1982]

$$\max_p \text{depth}_S(p) \geq \frac{\mu(d)}{(d+1)^{d+1}} \binom{n}{d+1} \quad \text{with } n = |S|.$$

Proof combines the **Tverberg theorem** and the **colourful Carathéodory theorem**.

## A new lower bound for simplicial depth

$$\mu(d) = \min_{\substack{S_1, \dots, S_{d+1} \\ p \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{d+1} \text{conv}(S_i)}} \#\{T : T \text{ colourful and } p \in \text{conv}(T)\}.$$

*Strong version of Colourful Carathéodory Theorem* : each point in  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{d+1} S_i$  is part of a colourful simplex containing the origin.

$$\max_p \text{depth}_S(p) \geq \frac{\mu(d)}{(d+1)^{(d+1)}} \binom{n}{d+1} \quad \text{with } n = |S|.$$

What is the exact value of  $\mu(d)$  ?

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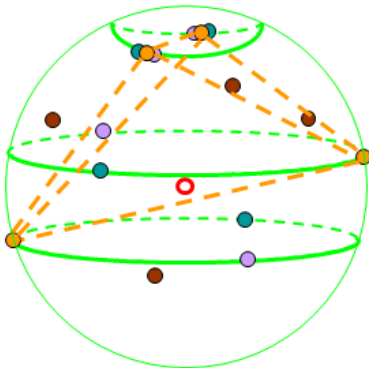
What is the exact value of  $\mu(d)$  ?



# Upper bound on the colourful simplicial depth

Unfortunately,  
[Deza et al., 2006]

$$\mu(d) \leq d^2 + 1.$$



## Gromov's bound

$$\max_p \text{depth}_S(p) \geq \frac{\mu(d)}{(d+1)^{(d+1)}} \binom{n}{d+1} \quad \text{with } n = |S|,$$

with  $\mu(d) = d^2 + 1$  at best.

[Gromov, 2010]

$$\max_p \text{depth}_S(p) \geq \frac{2d}{(d+1)!(d+1)} \binom{n}{d+1} \quad \text{with } n = |S|.$$

(simplification by Karasev, 2012).

# The conjecture

**Conjecture.**

$$\mu(d) = d^2 + 1.$$

# The successive improvements

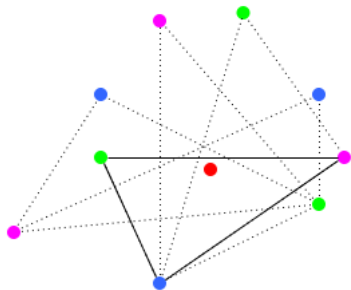
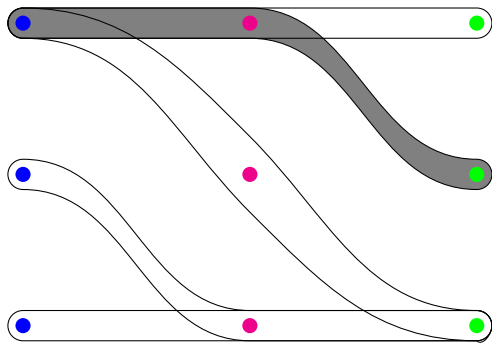
|                              | Lower bound<br>for $\mu(d)$               | Conjecture true<br>for $d$ up to |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Bárány, 1982                 | $d + 1$                                   | 1                                |
| Deza et al., 2006            | $2d$                                      | 2                                |
| Bárány and Matoušek, 2007    | $\max(3d, \frac{1}{5}d^2 + \frac{1}{5}d)$ | 3                                |
| Stephen and Thomas, 2008     | $\frac{1}{4}d^2 + d + 1$                  | $\emptyset$                      |
| Deza, Stephen, and Xie, 2011 | $\frac{1}{2}d^2 + d + \frac{1}{2}$        | $\emptyset$                      |
| Deza, Meunier, and S., 2012  | $\frac{1}{2}d^2 + \frac{7}{2}d - 8$       | 4                                |

## A combinatorial counterpart : octahedral systems

An *octahedral system*  $\Omega$  in an  $n$ -partite hypergraph  $(V_1, \dots, V_n, E)$  satisfying *parity condition* : for any  $X \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n V_i$  such that  $|X \cap V_i| = 2$  for all  $i$ , the number of edges of  $\Omega$  induced by  $X$  is **even**.

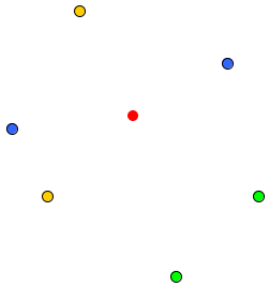
Octahedral systems *without isolated vertex* generalize colourful configurations.

# An octahedral system



# Two main properties for the geometrical approach

## Octahedral Lemma



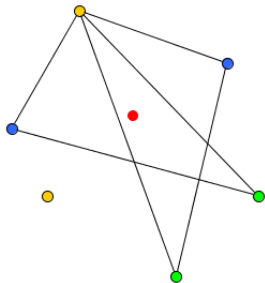
$X \subseteq S$ ,  $|X \cap S_i| = 2$  for all  $i \longrightarrow$  an **even** number of colourful simplices.

## Strong colourful Carathéodory Theorem

If  $\mathbf{0} \in \text{conv}(S_i)$  for all  $i$ , each point is part of some colourful simplices containing the origin.

# Two main properties for the geometrical approach

## Octahedral Lemma



$X \subseteq S$ ,  $|X \cap S_i| = 2$  for all  $i \rightarrow$  an **even** number of colourful simplices.

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## Combinatorial approach

**Vertex set :**

$$V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_{d+1}.$$

**Edge set :**  $E$ .

**Parity condition :** The number of edges induced by  $X$ , with  $|X \cap V_i| = 2$  for all  $i$ , is even.

**Octahedral systems without isolated vertex :** Every point in  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{d+1} V_i$  is in at least one edge.

## Geometrical approach

**A colourful configuration**

$$S = S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_{d+1}.$$

**Colourful simplices containing the origin.**

**Octahedral Lemma :** The number of colourful simplices containing the origin generated by points in  $X$ , with  $|X \cap S_i| = 2$  for all  $i$ , is even.

**Strong Colourful Carathéodory Theorem :**

Every point in  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{d+1} S_i$  is part of some colourful simplex containing the origin.

If  $\Omega$  realizes a colourful configuration, **the number of edges  $|E|$  is the number of colourful simplices containing the origin.**

### Definition ( $\nu$ )

$\nu(d)$  is the minimal number of edges of an octahedral system without isolated vertex with  $|V_i| = d + 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, d + 1$ .

$$\nu(d) \leq \mu(d)$$

# Lower bounds

Theorem (Deza, Meunier, S.)

$$\nu(d) \geq \frac{1}{2}d^2 + \frac{7}{2}d - 8$$

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$$\mu(d) \geq \frac{1}{2}d^2 + \frac{7}{2}d - 8$$

## Idea of the proof : induction

### Inductive approach.

Given an octahedral system  $\Omega = (V, E)$  without isolated vertex and one of its vertices  $v$ , use the bound for  $\Omega' = (V', E') = \Omega \setminus \{v\}$  :

$$|E| = |E'| + \deg_{\Omega}(v).$$

For any such  $\Omega'$ , **parity condition automatically satisfied.**

We would like to ensure that  $\Omega'$  is again without isolated vertex.

**Main Idea.** Delete the vertices one after another until reaching an octahedral system whose number of edges can be estimated.

# Small instances

*An octahedral system with  $n = 5$ ,  $|V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5$  and without isolated vertex has at least 17 edges.*

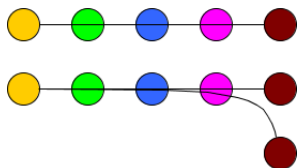
## Proposition

$$\mu(4) = 17.$$

Computational approach “branch-and-bound”  $\mu(4) \geq 14$ , (Deza, Stephen, and Xie, 2012).

## Small instances

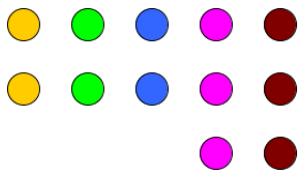
$$n = 5, |V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5 \implies |E| \geq 17.$$



$$|E| \geq 3$$

## Small instances

$$n = 5, |V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5 \implies |E| \geq 17.$$

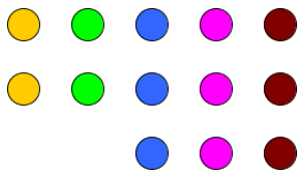


$$|E| \geq 4$$



## Small instances

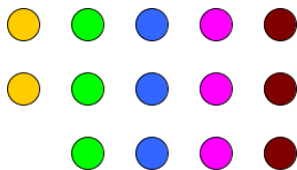
$$n = 5, |V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5 \implies |E| \geq 17.$$



$$|E| \geq 5$$

## Small instances

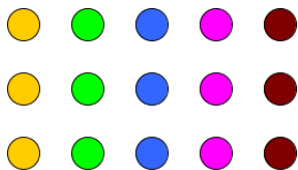
$$n = 5, |V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5 \implies |E| \geq 17.$$



$$|E| \geq 6$$

## Small instances

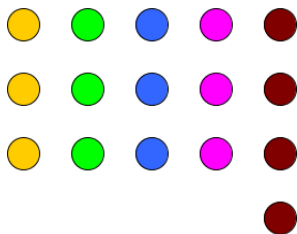
$$n = 5, |V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5 \implies |E| \geq 17.$$



$$|E| \geq 7$$

## Small instances

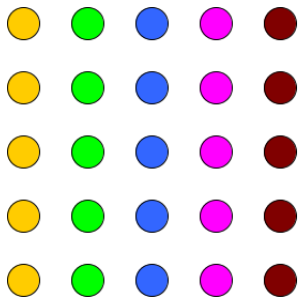
$$n = 5, |V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5 \implies |E| \geq 17.$$



$$|E| \geq 8$$

## Small instances

$$n = 5, |V_1| = \dots = |V_5| = 5 \implies |E| \geq 17.$$



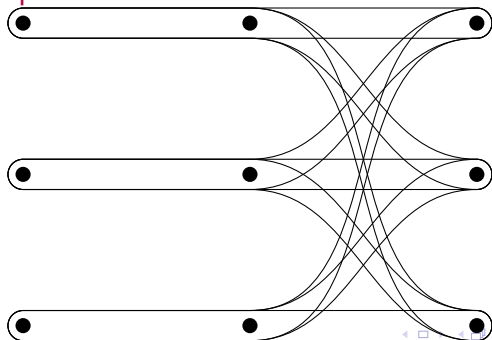
$$|E| \geq 17$$

# Realisability

Is any octahedral system  $\Omega$  with  $|V_i| = d + 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, d + 1$  and without isolated vertex the combinatorial counterpart of sets of points  $S_1, \dots, S_{d+1}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ?

No.

Counterexample.



# Consequence

It might be possible that the conjecture  $\mu(d) = d^2 + 1$  cannot be proven using octahedral systems...

# Open questions

- Complexity status of colourful linear programming under the condition  $p \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{d+1} \text{conv } S_i$ .
- Number of steps in the pivoting algorithm.
- $\mu(d) \stackrel{?}{=} d^2 + 1$ .



**Thank you.**