

# Interval Trees and Segment Trees

*slides by Andy Mirzaian*

*(a subset of the original slides are used here)*

# References:

- [M. de Berge et al] chapter 10

## **Data Structures:**

- Interval Trees
- Priority Search Trees
- Segment Trees

## Applications:

- Windowing Queries
- Vehicle navigation systems
- Geographic Information Systems
- Flight simulation in computer graphics
- CAD/CAM of printed circuit design

# Windowing

**PROBLEM 1:** Preprocess a set  $S$  of non-crossing line-segments in the plane for efficient query processing of the following type:

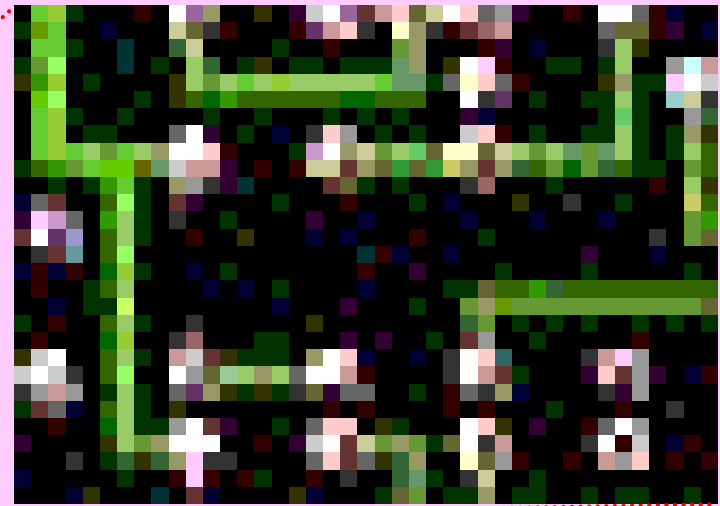
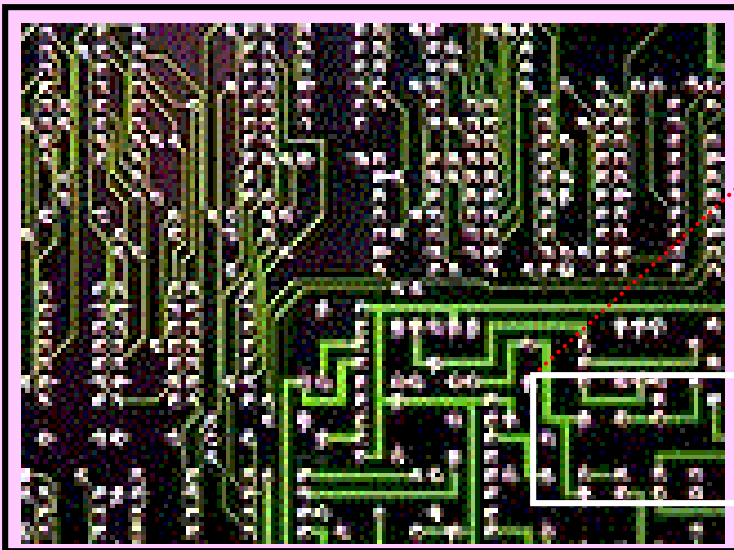
**Query:** given an axis-parallel rectangular query window  $W$ , report all segments in  $S$  that intersect  $W$ .



# Windowing

**PROBLEM 2:** Preprocess a set  $S$  of horizontal or vertical line-segments in the plane for efficient query processing of the following type:

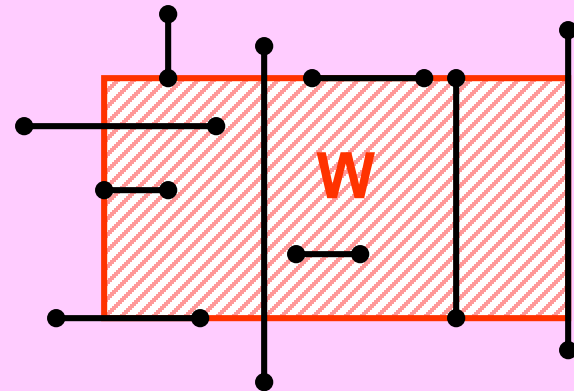
**Query:** given an axis-parallel rectangular query window  $W$ , report all segments in  $S$  that intersect  $W$ .



# INTERVAL TREES

**PROBLEM 2:** Preprocess a set  $S$  of horizontal or vertical line-segments in the plane for efficient query processing of the following type:

**Query:** given an axis-parallel rectangular query window  $W$ , report all segments in  $S$  that intersect  $W$ .



# INTERVAL TREES

## **SUB-PROBLEM 1.1 & 2.1:**

Let  $S$  be a set of  $n$  line-segments in the plane. Given an axis-parallel query window  $W$ , the segments of  $S$  that have at least one **end-point inside**  $W$  can be reported in  $O(K + \log n)$  time with a data structure that uses  $O(n \log n)$  space and  $O(n \log n)$  preprocessing time, where  $K$  is the number of reported segments.

## **Method:**

Use 2D Range Tree on segment end-points and fractional cascading.

# INTERVAL TREES

Now consider horizontal (similarly, vertical) segments in  $S$  that intersect  $W$ , but their end-points are **outside**  $W$ .

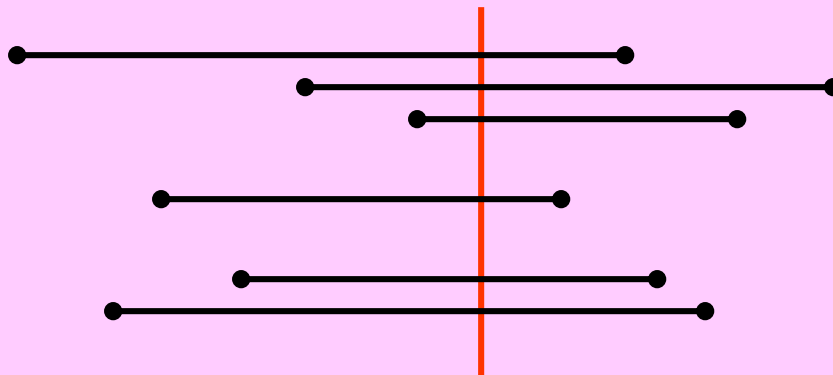
They must all cross the **left edge** of  $W$ .



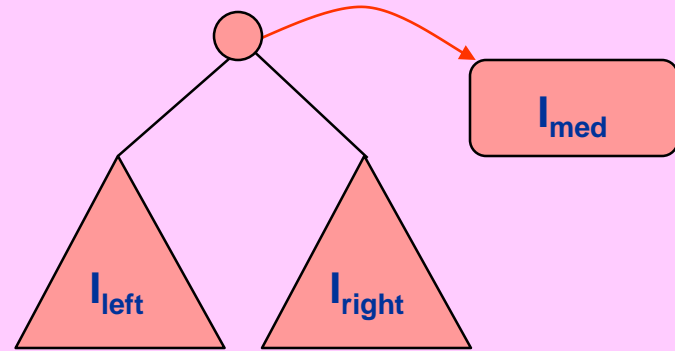
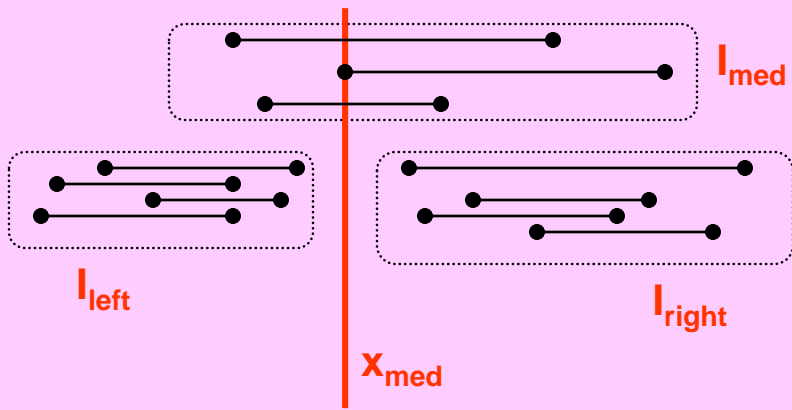
## SUB-PROBLEM 2.2:

Preprocess a set  $S_H$  of horizontal line-segments in the plane, so that the subset of  $S_H$  that intersects a query **vertical line** can be reported efficiently.

Method: Use Interval Trees.

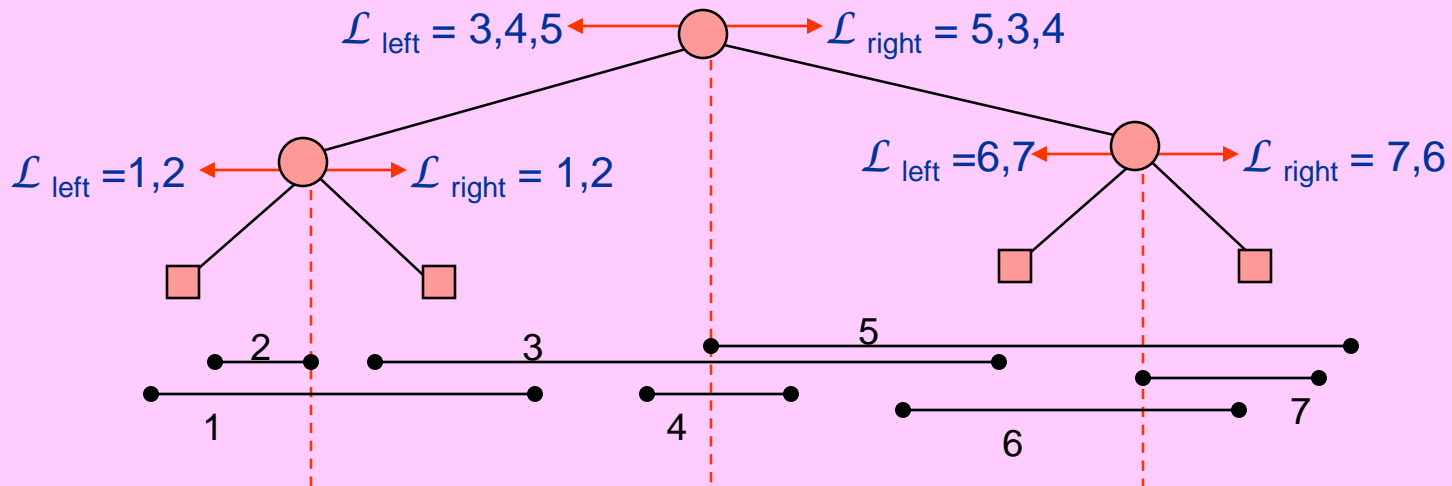


# INTERVAL TREES



**Associated structure for  $I_{med}$  :**

$\mathcal{L}_{left}$  = list of segments in  $I_{med}$  sorted by their **left** end-points,  
 $\mathcal{L}_{right}$  = list of segments in  $I_{med}$  sorted by their **right** end-points.





# INTERVAL TREES

**THEOREM:** Interval Tree for a set of  $n$  horizontal intervals:

- $O(n)$  storage space
  - $O(n \log n)$  construction time
  - $O(K + \log n)$  query time
- [report all  $K$  data intervals that contain a query  $x$ -coordinate.]

# INTERVAL TREES

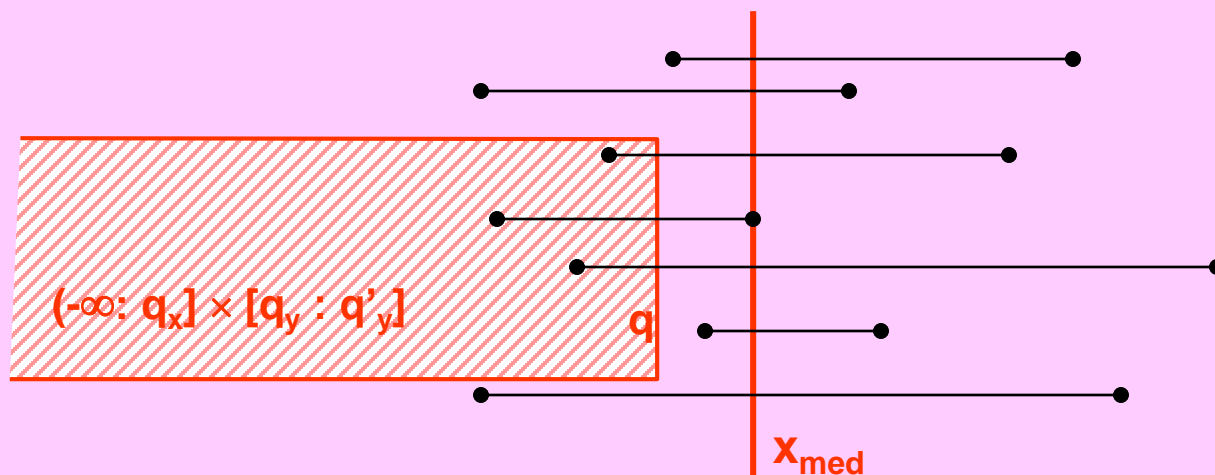
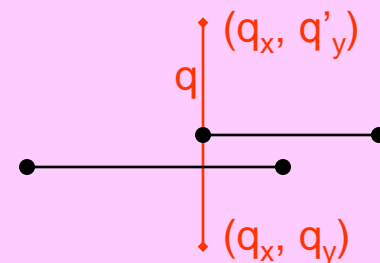
## SUB-PROBLEM 2.3:

Now instead of the query being on a vertical line, suppose it is on a vertical line-segment.

The primary structure of Interval Trees is still valid.  
Modify the associated secondary structure.

## SOLUTION:

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{left}}$  = **Range Tree** on left end-points of  $I_{\text{med}}$  ,  
 $\mathcal{L}_{\text{right}}$  = **Range Tree** on right end-points of  $I_{\text{med}}$  .



# INTERVAL TREES

**THEOREM:** Interval Tree for a set of  $n$  horizontal intervals:

- $O(n \log n)$  storage space
- $O(n \log n)$  construction time
- $O(K + \log^2 n)$  query time

[report all  $K$  data intervals that intersect a query vertical line-segment.]

**COROLLARY:** Let  $S$  be a set of  $n$  horizontal or vertical line-segments in the plane. We can preprocess  $S$  for axis-parallel rectangular query window intersection with the following complexities:

- $O(n \log n)$  storage space
- $O(n \log n)$  construction time
- $O(K + \log^2 n)$  query time

[report all  $K$  data intervals that intersect the query window.]

# PRIORITY SEARCH TREES

Improving the previous solution:  
the associated structure can be implemented by Priority Search Trees,  
instead of Range Trees.

$$P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2.$$

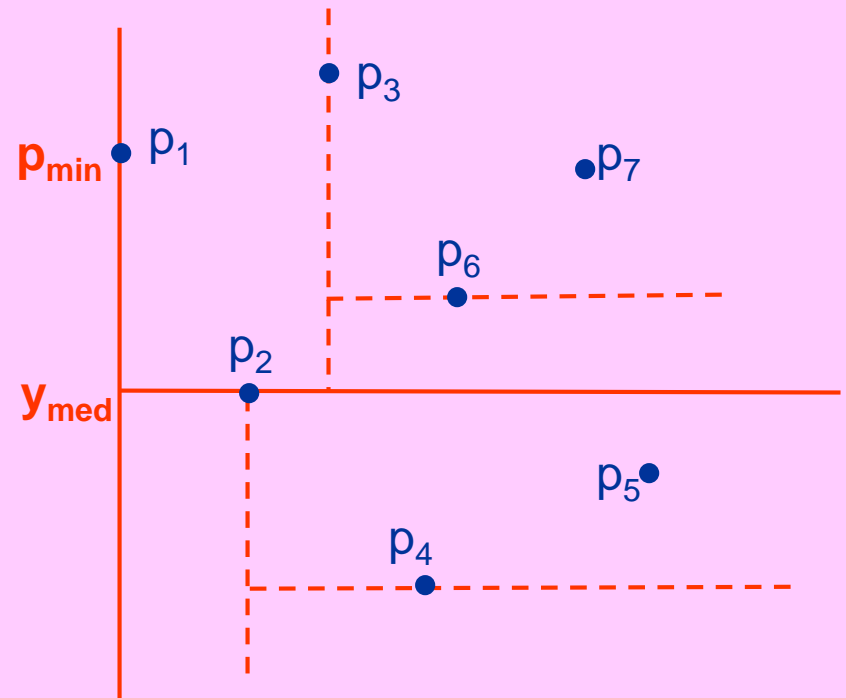
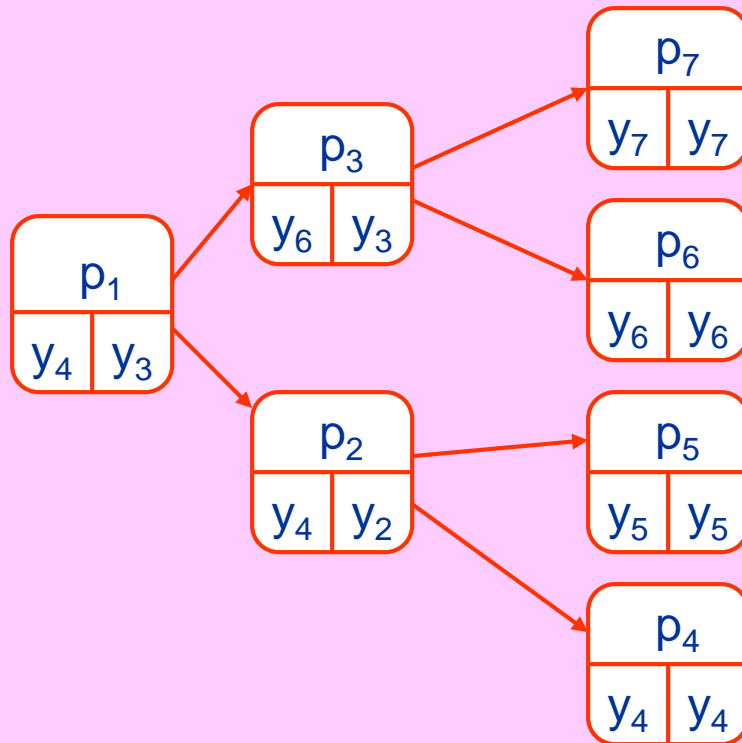
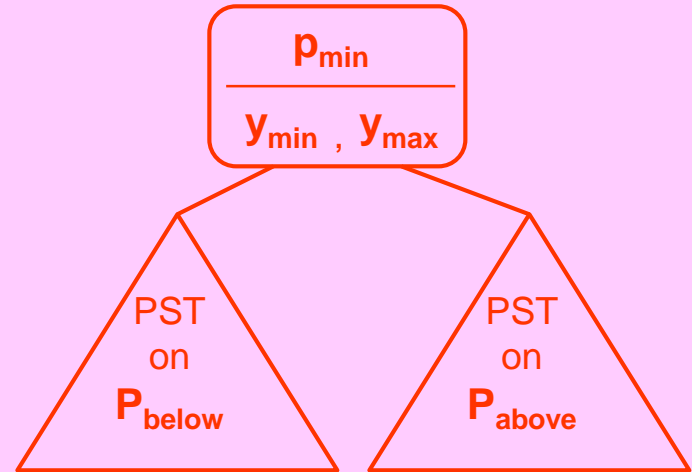
A Priority Search Tree (PST)  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $P$  is:

- a binary tree, one point per node,
- heap-ordered by x-coordinates,
- (almost) symmetrically ordered by y-coordinates.

# PRIORITY SEARCH TREES

$p_{\min}$  ← point in  $P$  with minimum x-coordinate.  
 $y_{\min}$  ← min y-coordinate of points in  $P$   
 $y_{\max}$  ← max y-coordinate of points in  $P$

$P'$  ←  $P - \{p_{\min}\}$   
 $y_{\text{med}}$  ← y-median of points in  $P'$   
 $P_{\text{below}}$  ←  $\{p \in P' \mid p_y \leq y_{\text{med}}\}$   
 $P_{\text{above}}$  ←  $\{p \in P' \mid p_y > y_{\text{med}}\}$



# PRIORITY SEARCH TREES

Priority Search Tree  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $n$  points in the plane requires:

- $O(n)$  storage space
- $O(n \log n)$  construction time:
  - either recursively, or
  - pre-sort  $P$  on  $y$ -axis, then construct  $\mathcal{T}$  in  $O(n)$  time bottom-up. (How?)

**Priority Search Trees** can replace the secondary structures (range trees) in **Interval Trees**.

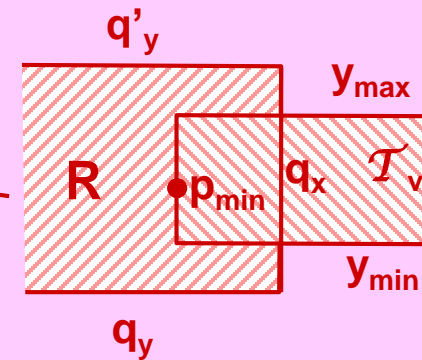
- simpler (no fractional cascading)
- linear space for secondary structure.

How to use PST to search for a query range  $R = (-\infty: q_x] \times [q_y : q'_y]$  ?

### ALGORITHM QueryPST (v, R)

```

if v = nil or pmin x(v) > qx or ymin(v) > q'y or ymax(v) < qy
  then return
if pmin x(v) ≤ qx and qy ≤ ymin(v) ≤ ymax(v) ≤ q'y
  then Report.In.Subtree (v, qx)
  else do
    if pmin x(v) ∈ R then report pmin x(v)
    QueryPST (lc(v), R)
    QueryPST (rc(v), R)
  end else
end
  
```

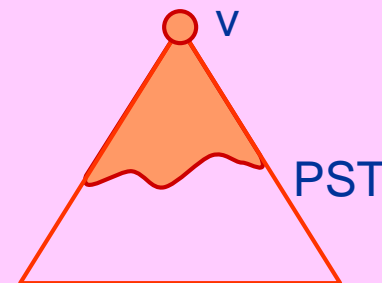


### PROCEDURE Report.In.Subtree (v, q<sub>x</sub>)

```

if v=nil then return
if pmin x(v) ≤ qx then do
  report pmin x(v)
  Report.In.Subtree (lc(v), qx)
  Report.In.Subtree (rc(v), qx)
end if
end
  
```

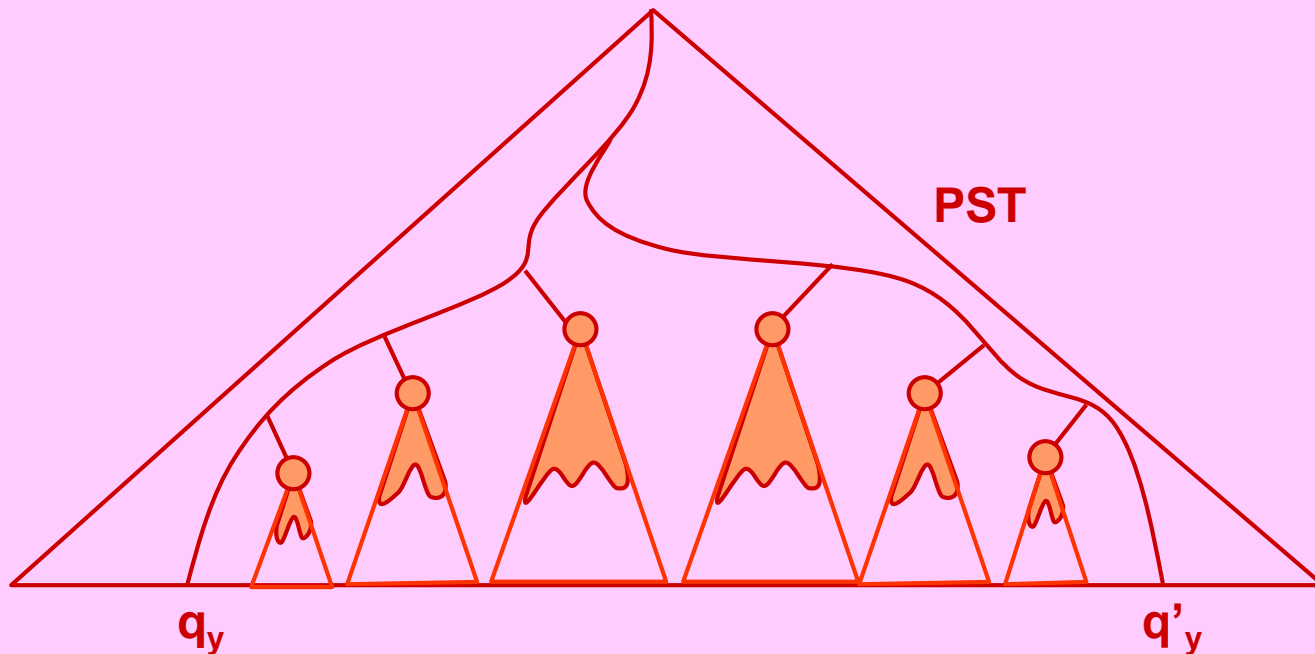
Truncated Pre-Order on the Heap:  $O(1 + K_v)$  time.



**LEMMA:**  $\text{Report.In.Subtree}(v, q_x)$  takes  $O(1 + K_v)$  time to report all points in the subtree rooted at  $v$  whose x-coordinate is  $\leq q_x$ , where  $K_v$  is the number of reported points.

**THEOREM:** Priority Search Tree for a set  $P$  of  $n$  points in the plane has complexities:

- $O(n)$  Storage space
- $O(n \log n)$  Construction time
- $O(K + \log n)$  Query time  
[report all  $K$  points of  $P$  in a query range  
 $R = (-\infty: q_x] \times [q_y : q'_y]$  .]

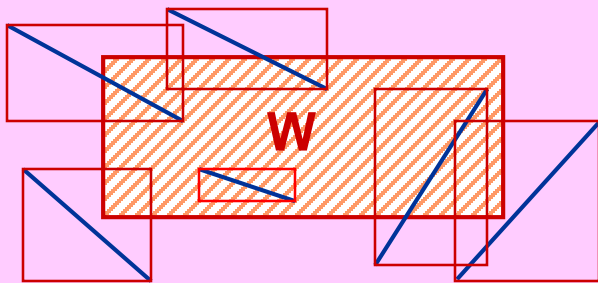




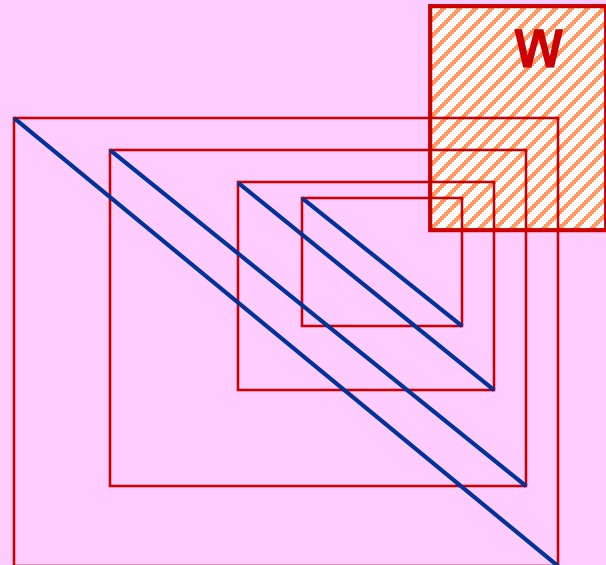
# SEGMENT TREES

Back to Problem 1: Arbitrarily oriented line segments.

**Solution 1:** Bounding box method.



Bad worst-case.  
Many false hits.



# SEGMENT TREES

Back to Problem 1: Arbitrarily oriented line segments.

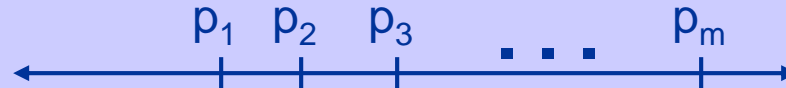
**Solution 2:** Use Segment Trees.

- a) Segments with end-points in  $W$  can be reported using range trees (as before).
- b) Segments that intersect the boundary of  $W$  can be reported by Segment Trees.

**SUB-PROBLEM 1.1:** Preprocess a set  $S$  of  $n$  non-crossing line-segments in the plane into a data structure to report those segments in  $S$  that intersect a given vertical query segment  $q = q_x \times [q_y : q'_y]$  efficiently.

# SEGMENT TREES

## Elementary x-intervals of S



$(-\infty : p_1)$ ,  $[p_1 : p_1]$ ,  $(p_1 : p_2)$ ,  $[p_2 : p_2]$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $(p_{m-1} : p_m)$ ,  $[p_m : p_m]$ ,  $(p_m : +\infty)$ .

Build a balanced search tree with each **leaf** corresponding (left-to-right) to an elementary interval (in increasing x-order).

### Leaf v:

**Int(v)** = set of intervals (in S) that contain the elementary interval corresponding to v.

**IDEA 1:** Store  $\text{Int}(v)$  with each leaf v.

**Storage  $O(n^2)$** , because intervals in S that span many elementary intervals will be stored in many leaves.

# SEGMENT TREES

## IDEA 2:

$\forall$  internal node  $v$ :

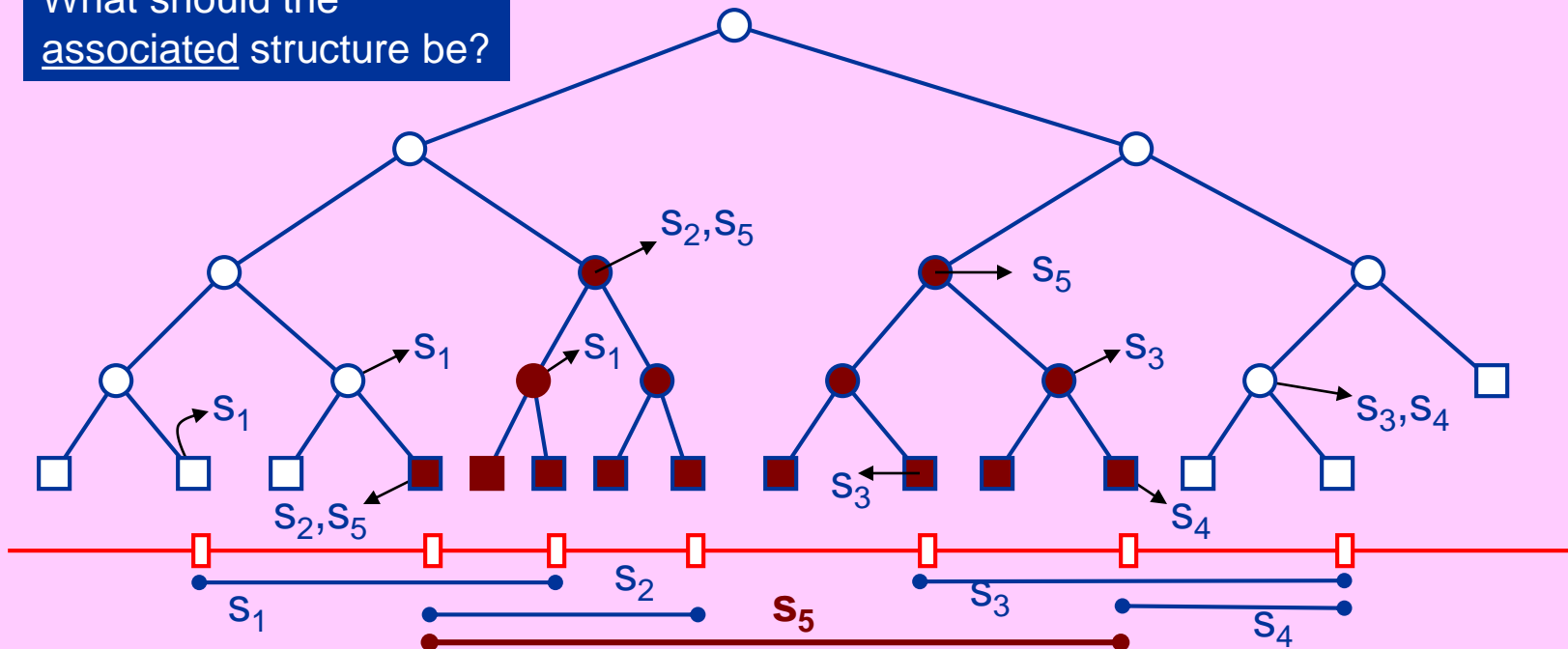
$\text{Int}(v)$  = union of elementary intervals corresponding to the leaf-descendants of  $v$ .

Store an interval  $[x:x']$  of  $S$  at a node  $v$  iff  $\text{Int}(v) \subseteq [x:x']$  but  $\text{Int}(\text{parent}(v)) \not\subseteq [x:x']$ .

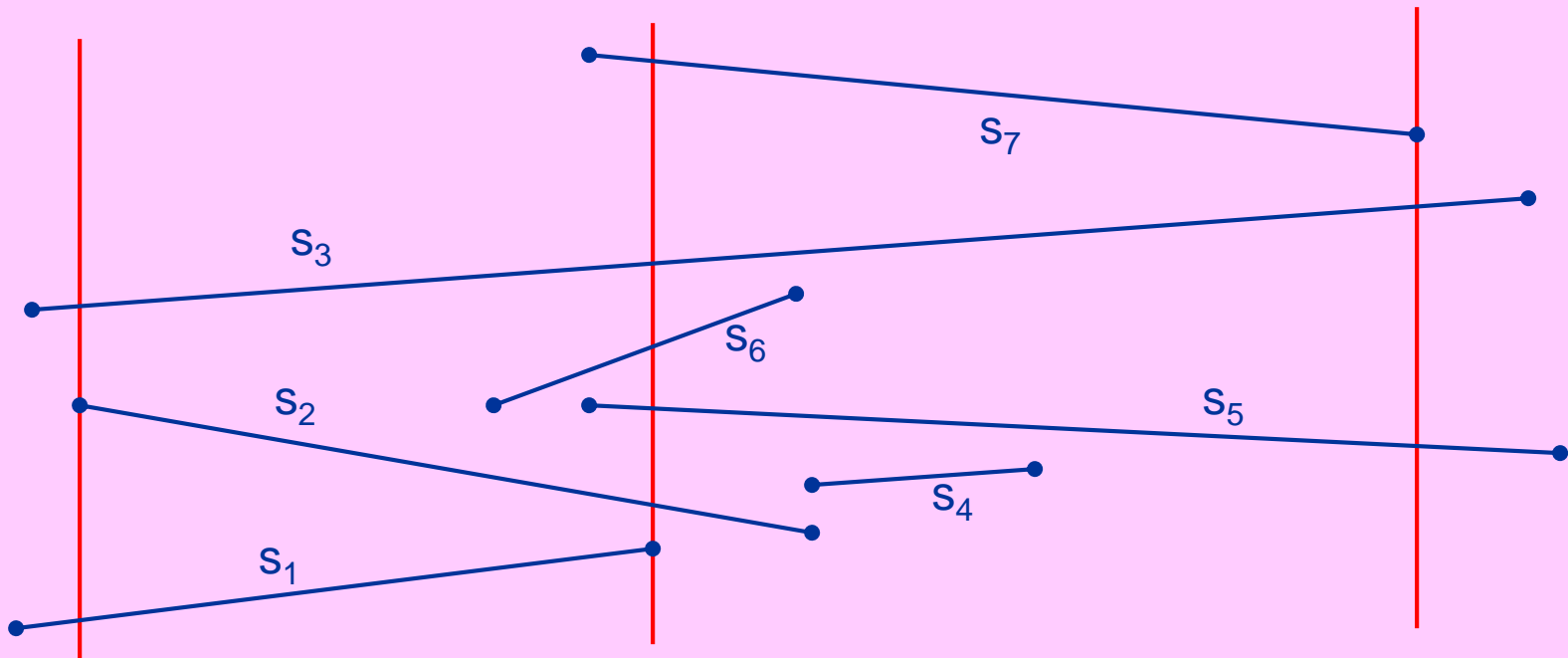
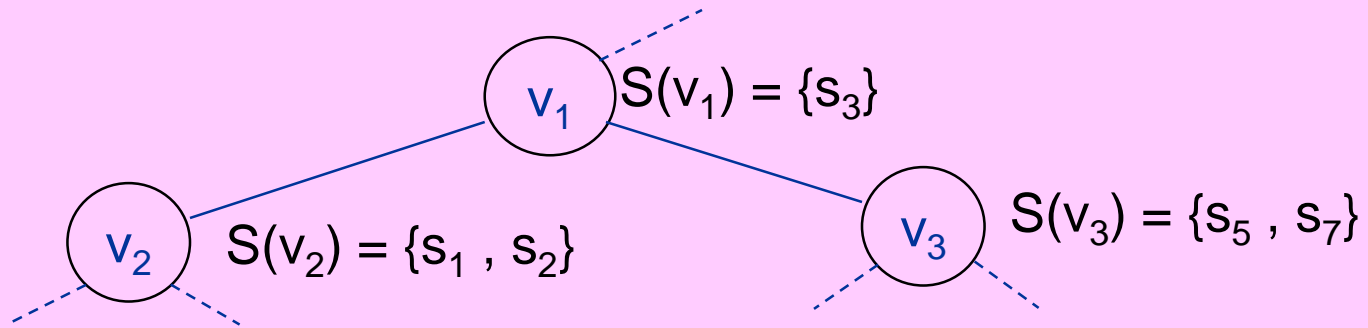
Each interval of  $S$  is stored in at most 2 nodes per level (i.e.,  $O(\log n)$  nodes).

Thus, storage space reduces to  $O(n \log n)$ .

What should the  
associated structure be?



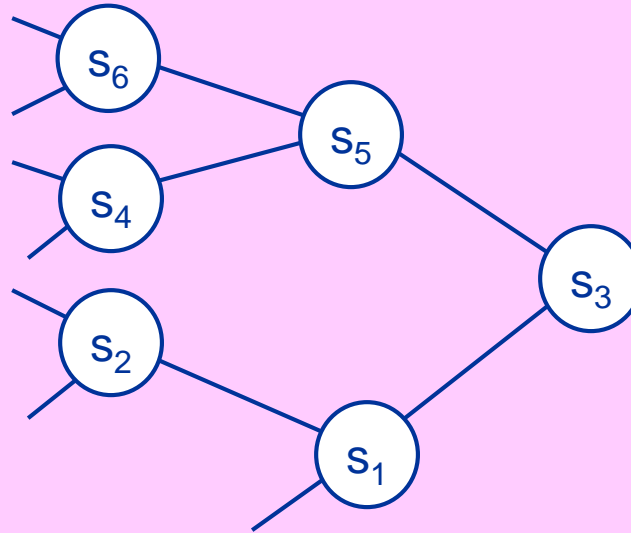
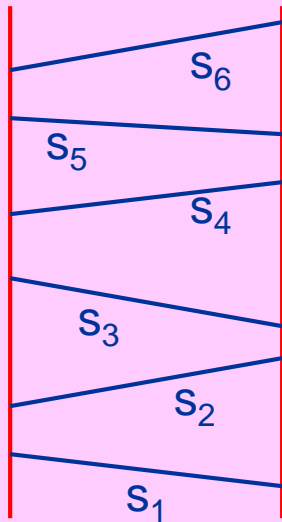
# SEGMENT TREES



# SEGMENT TREES

## Associated structure

is a balanced search tree based on the vertical ordering of segments  $S(v)$  that cross the slab  $\text{Int}(v) \times (-\infty : +\infty)$ .



# SEGMENT TREES

## THEOREM:

Segment Tree for a set  $S$  of  $n$  non-crossing line-segments in the plane:

- $O(n \log n)$  Storage space
- $O(n \log n)$  Construction time
- $O(K + \log^2 n)$  Query time

[report all  $K$  segments of  $S$  that intersect a vertical query line-segment.]

## COROLLARY:

Segment Trees can be used to solve Problem 1 with the above complexities. That is, the above complexities applies if the query is with respect to an axis-parallel rectangular window.