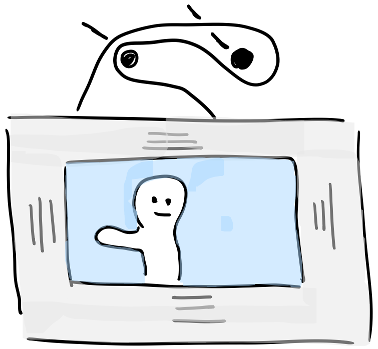
Hanging Pictures and Tiling Chessboards

MAN CHEUNG TSUI / MATH POSTDOC

FSU / SOCIETY OF UNDERGRADUATE MATH STUDENTS

Hanging Pictures

Hang a picture on two nails ...



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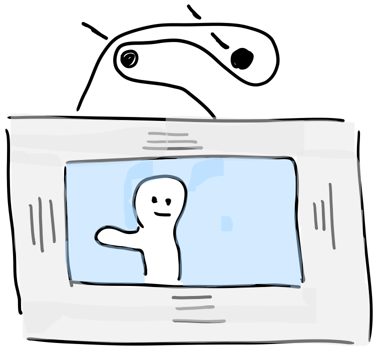

but remove any nail, the picture falls.

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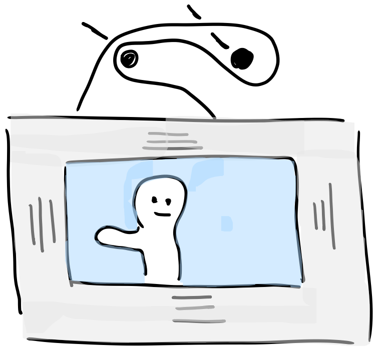

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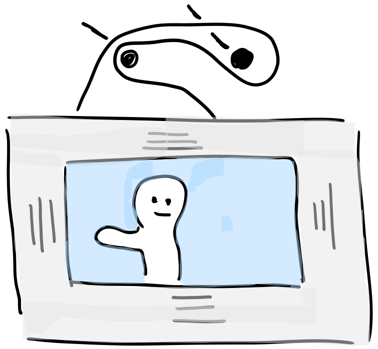
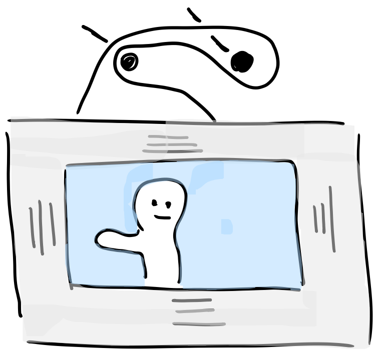


but remove any nail, the picture falls.

Can you do this?

Hang a picture on two nails ...



but remove any nail, the picture falls.

Can you do this?

Try three nails.

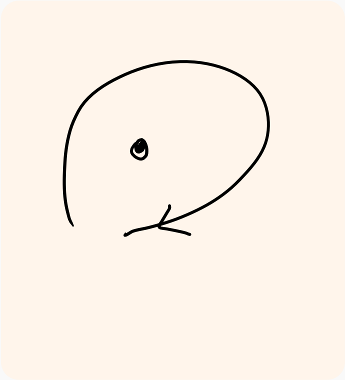
No nail.

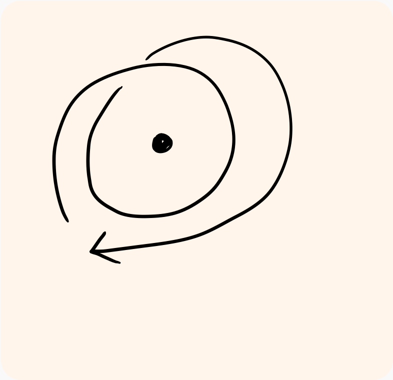
Every loop shrinks to a constant loop (a point).

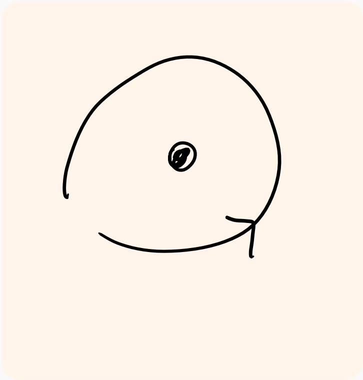
No nail.

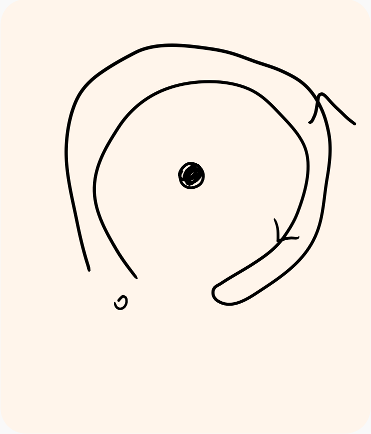
Every loop shrinks to a constant loop (a point).

One nail.









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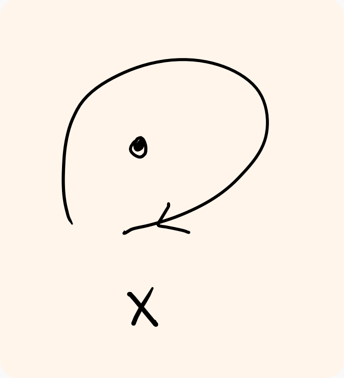

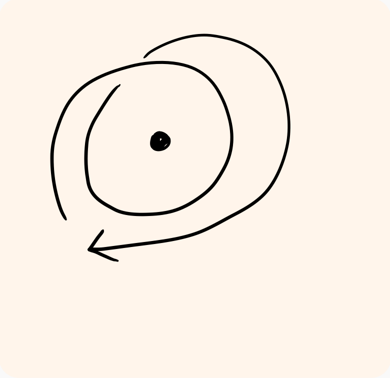

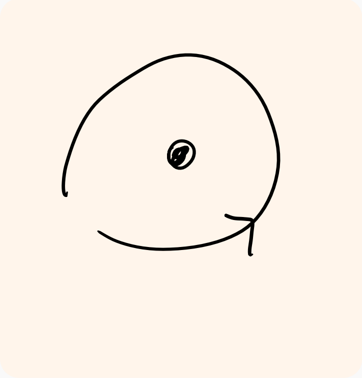

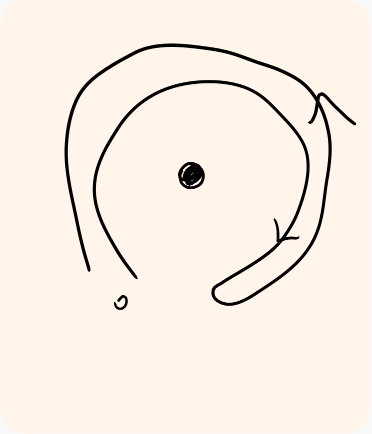

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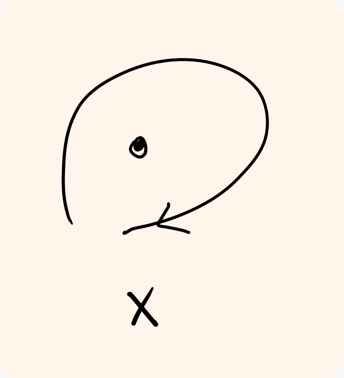

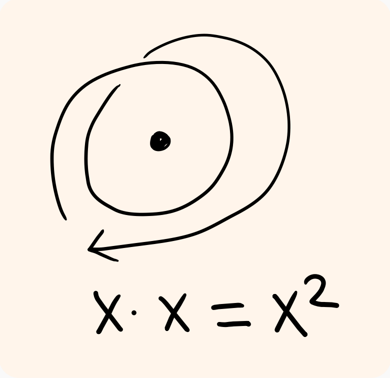

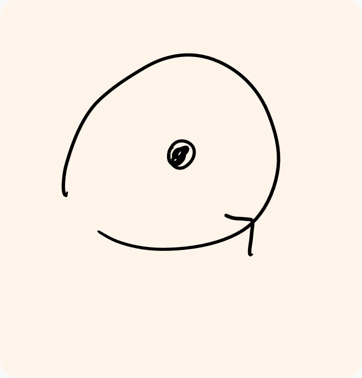

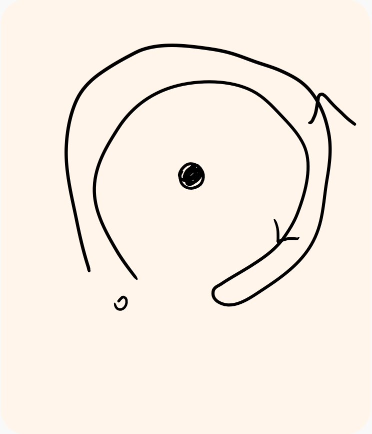

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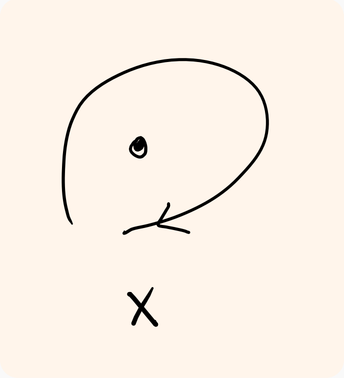

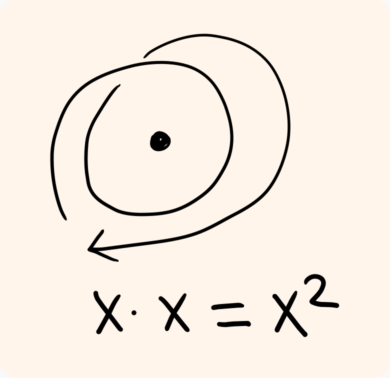

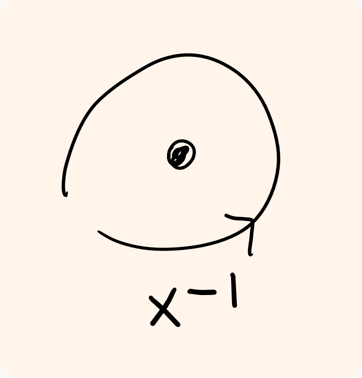

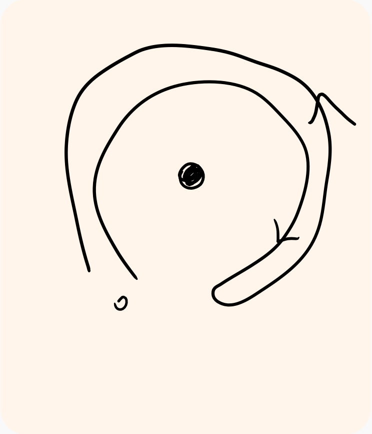

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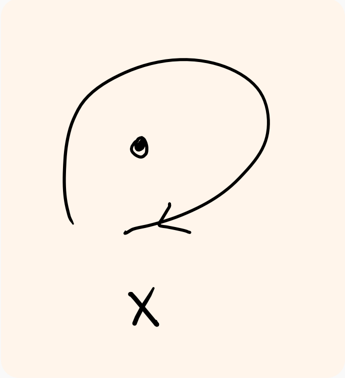

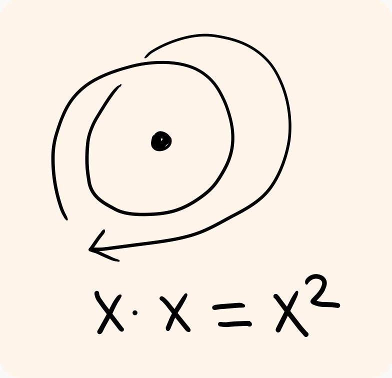

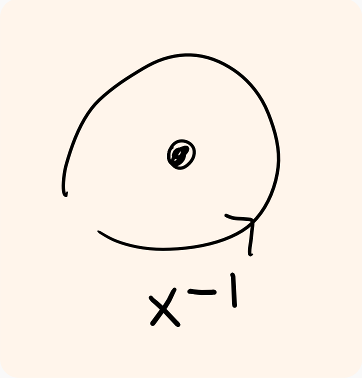

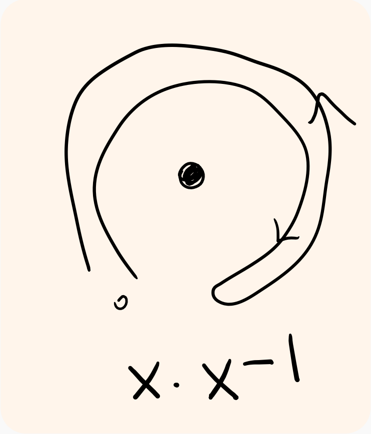

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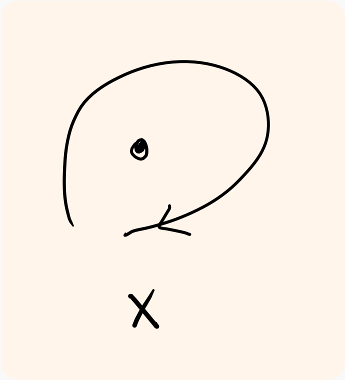

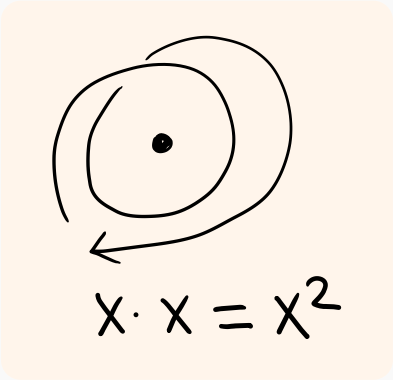

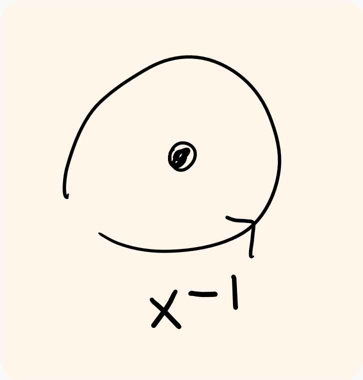

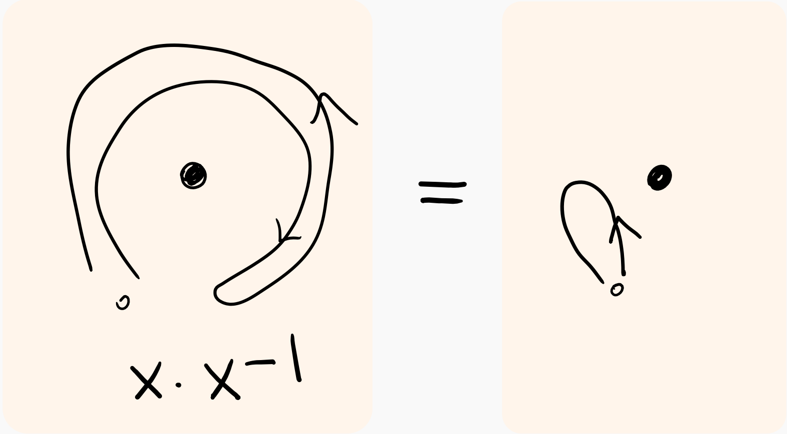

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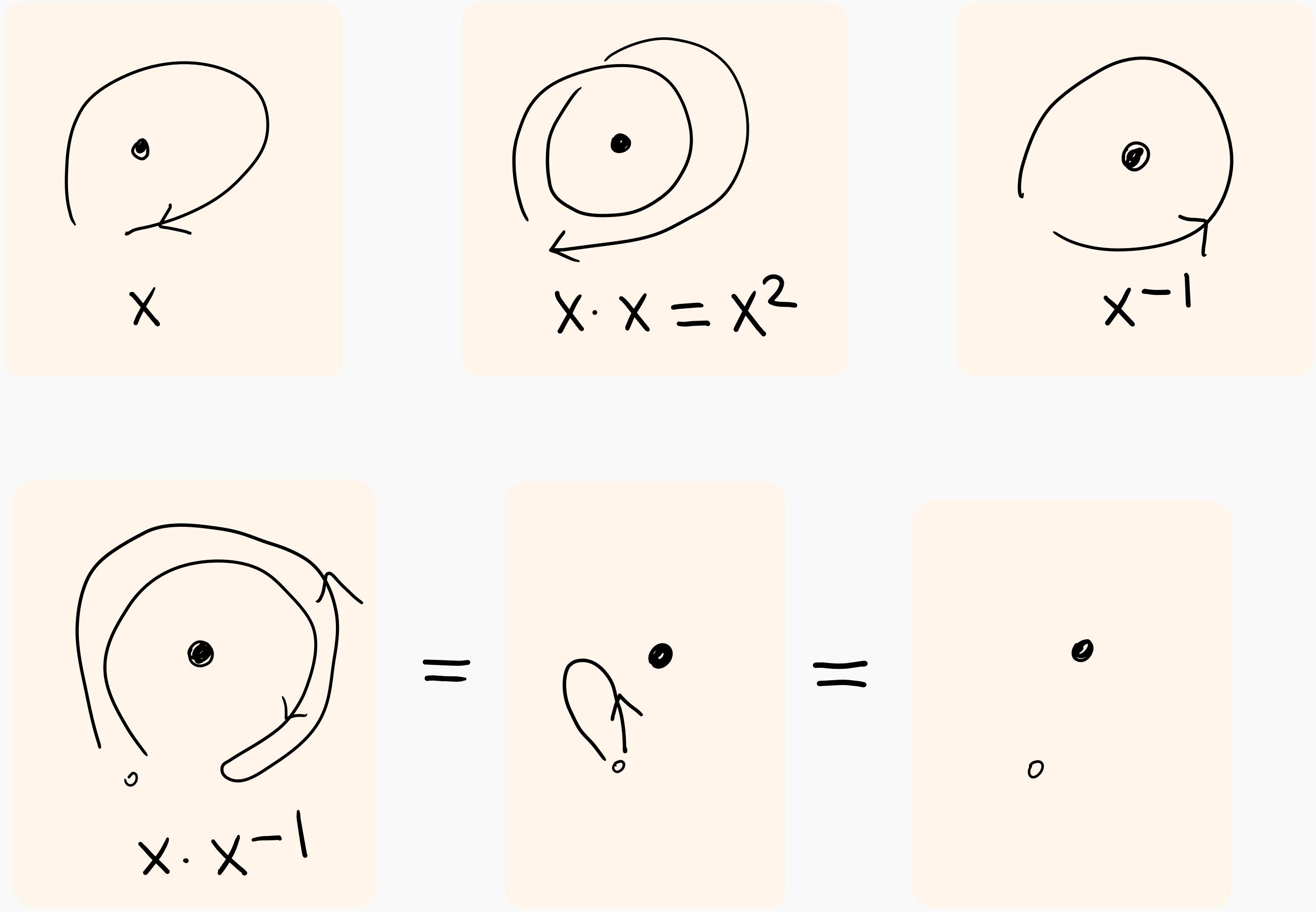

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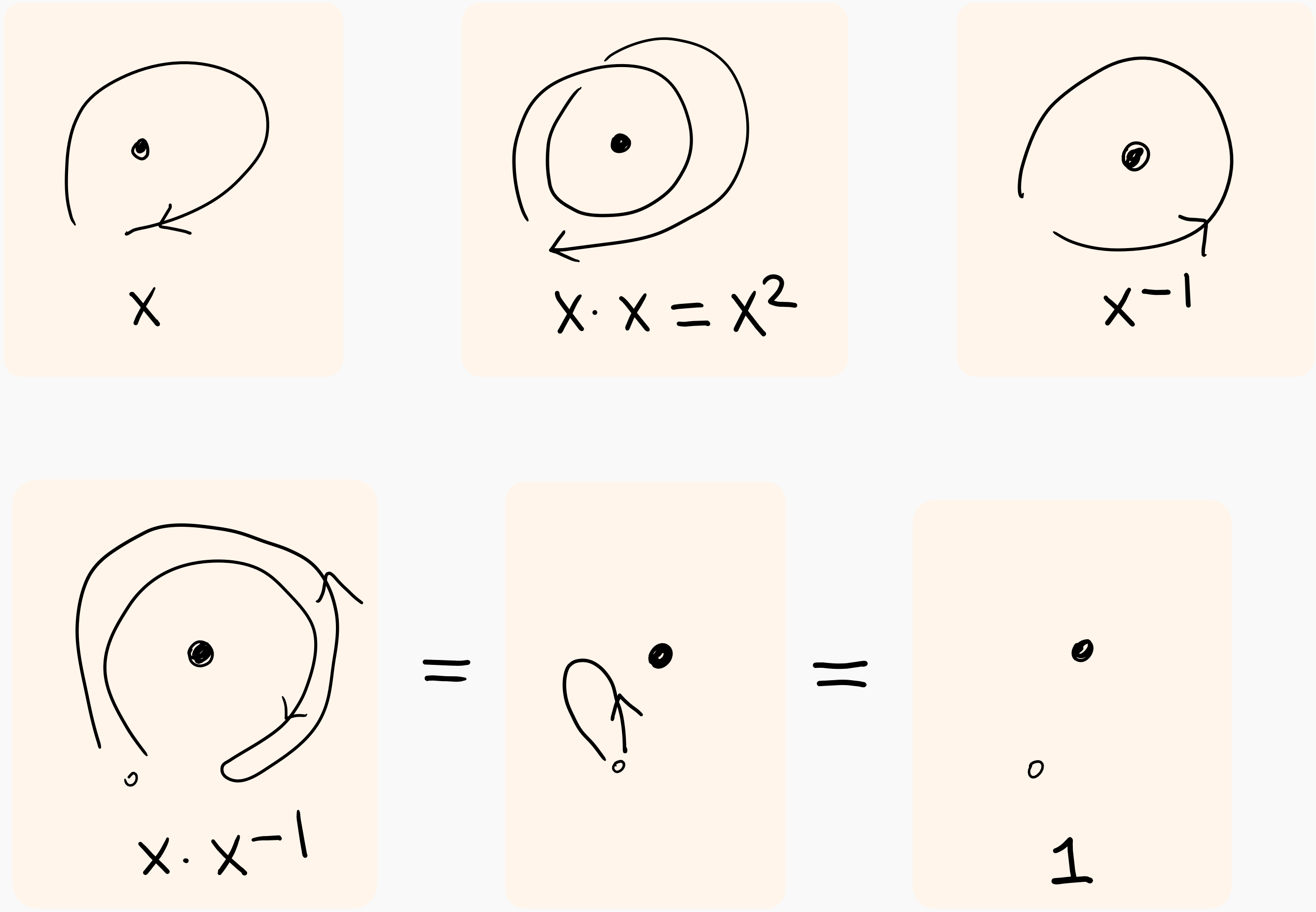
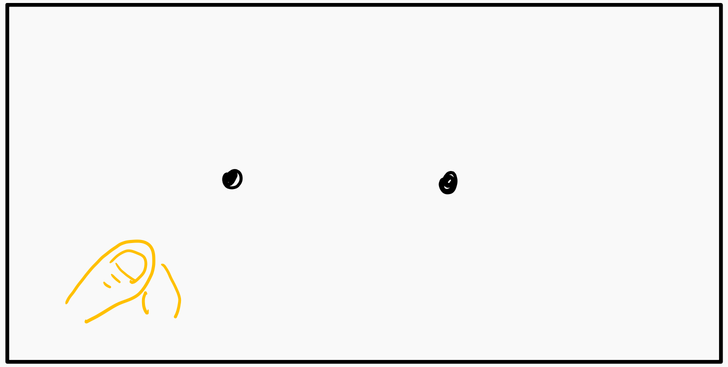
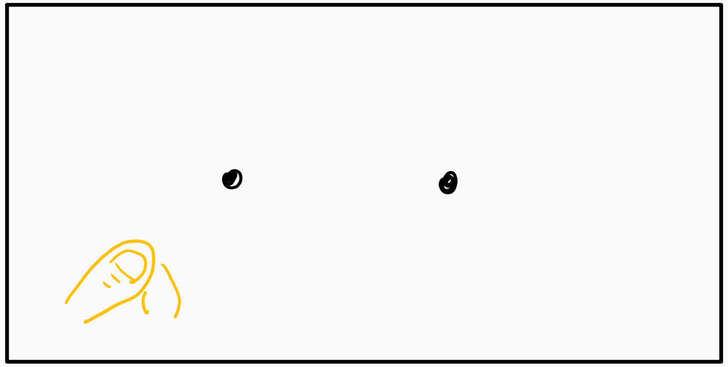


(constant loop)

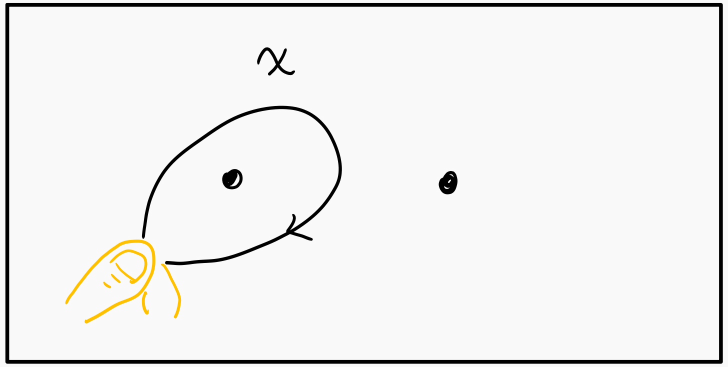
With two nails,

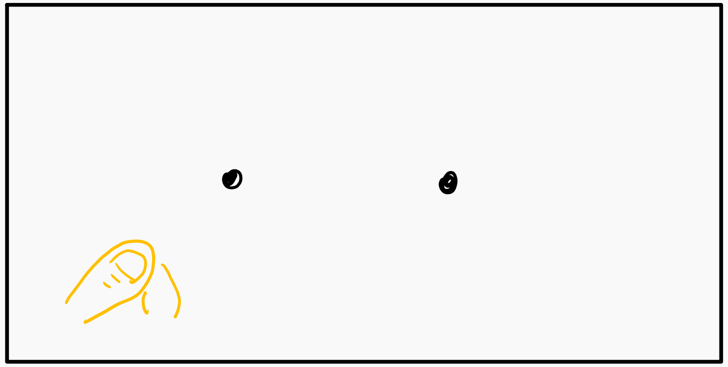




Finger position is “basepoint”

With two nails,





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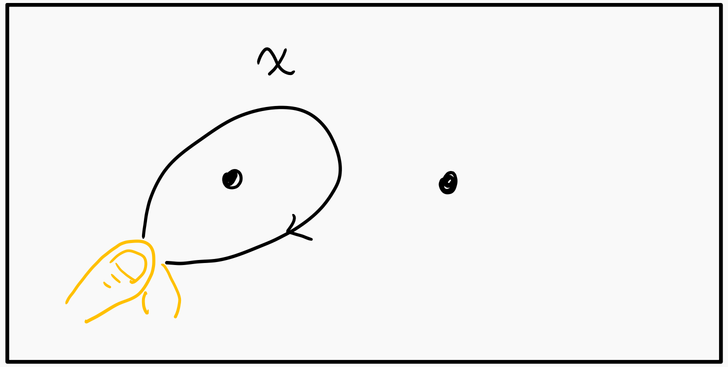

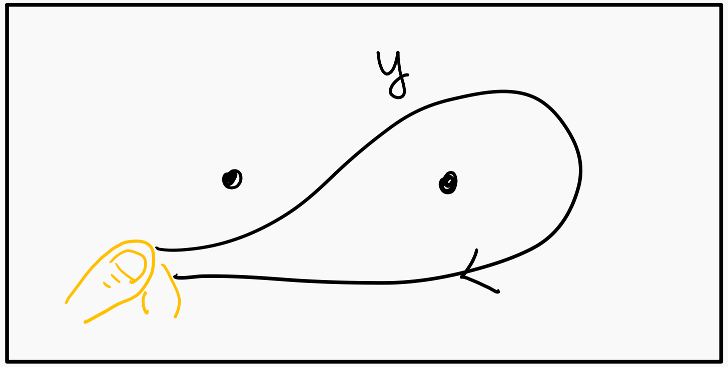

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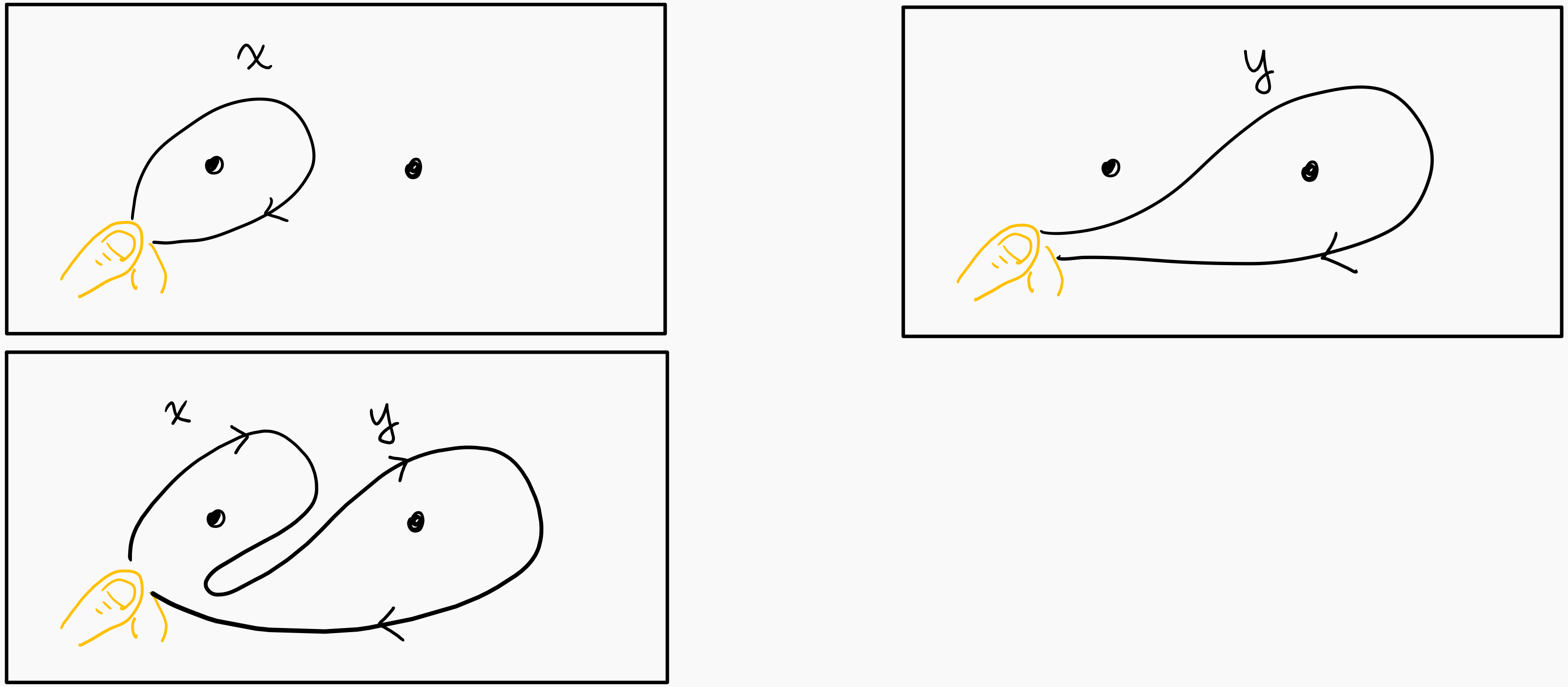

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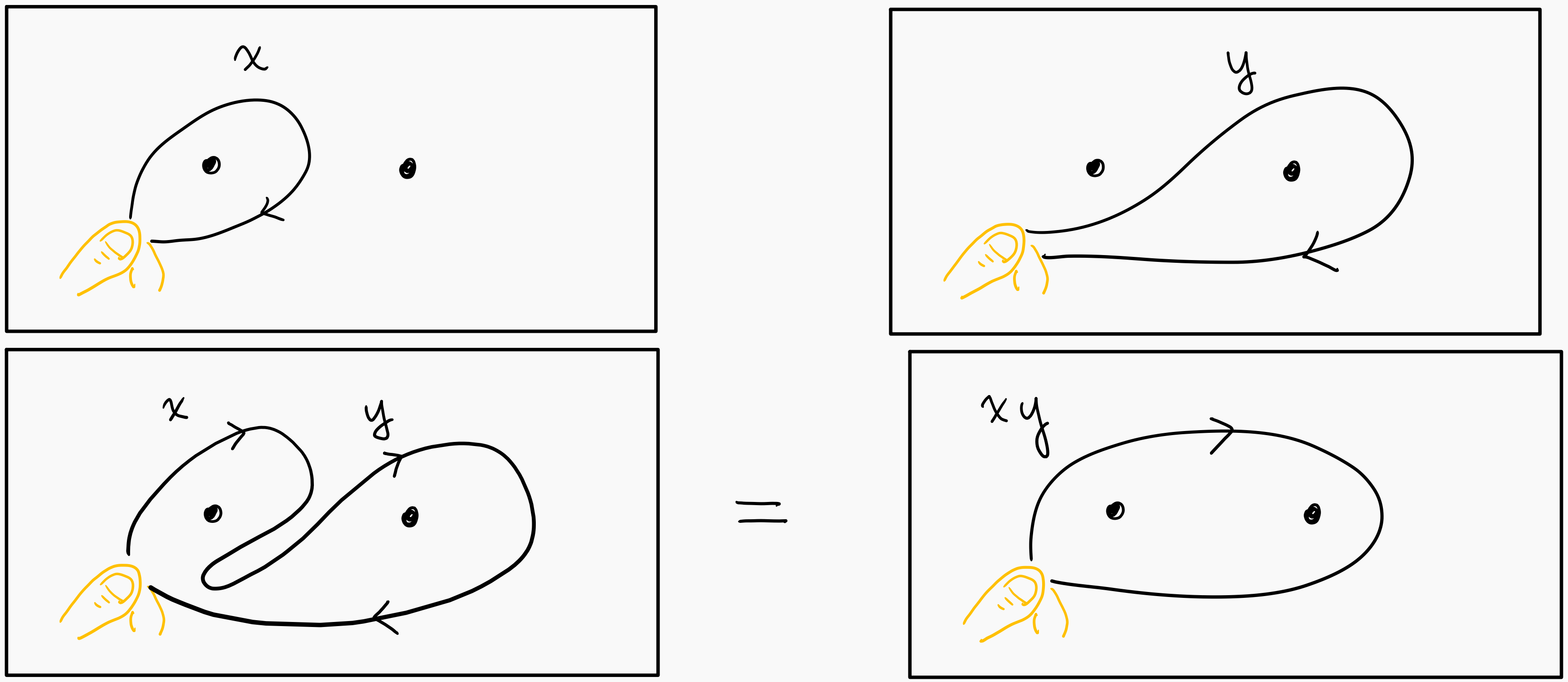

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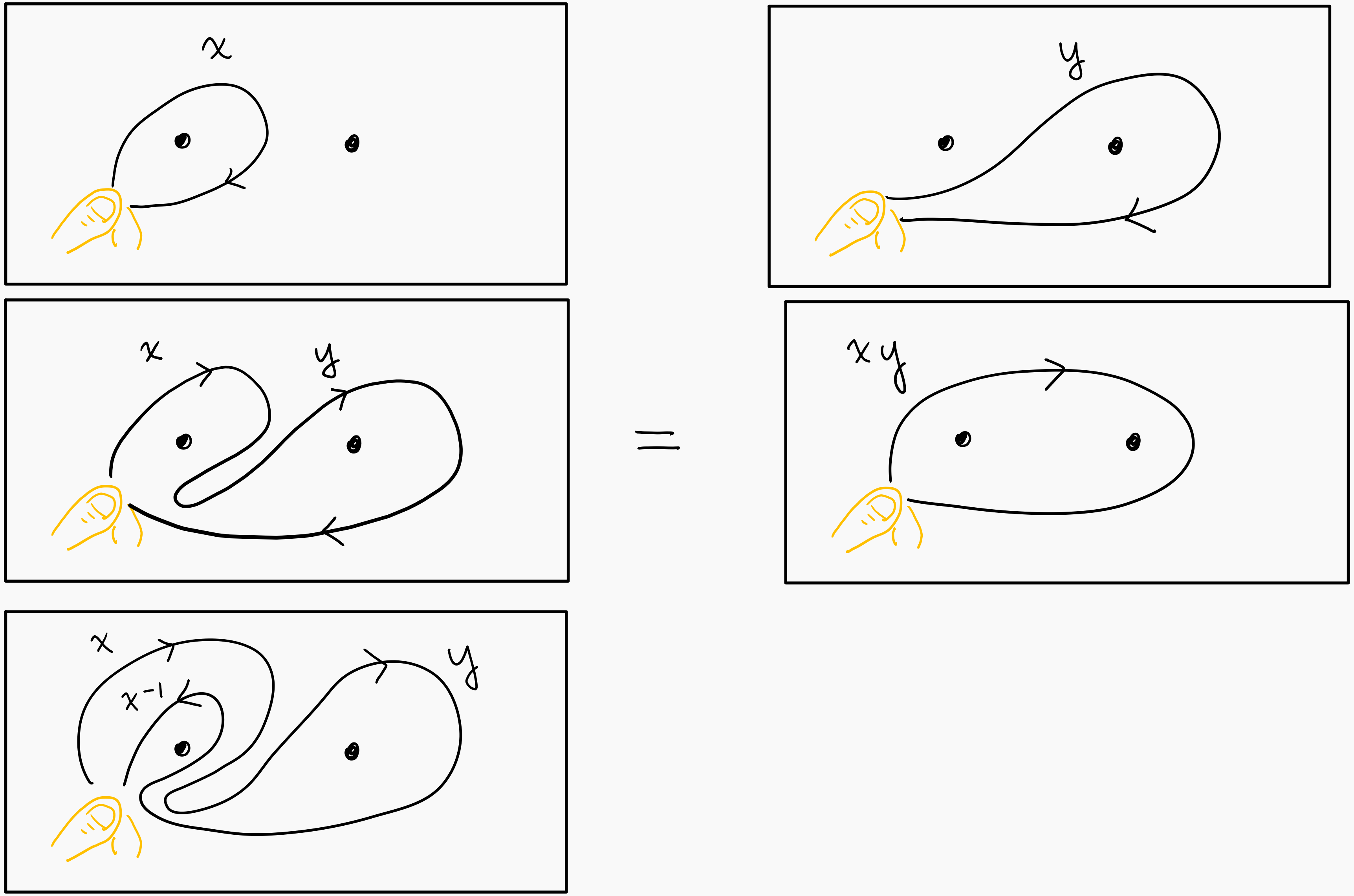

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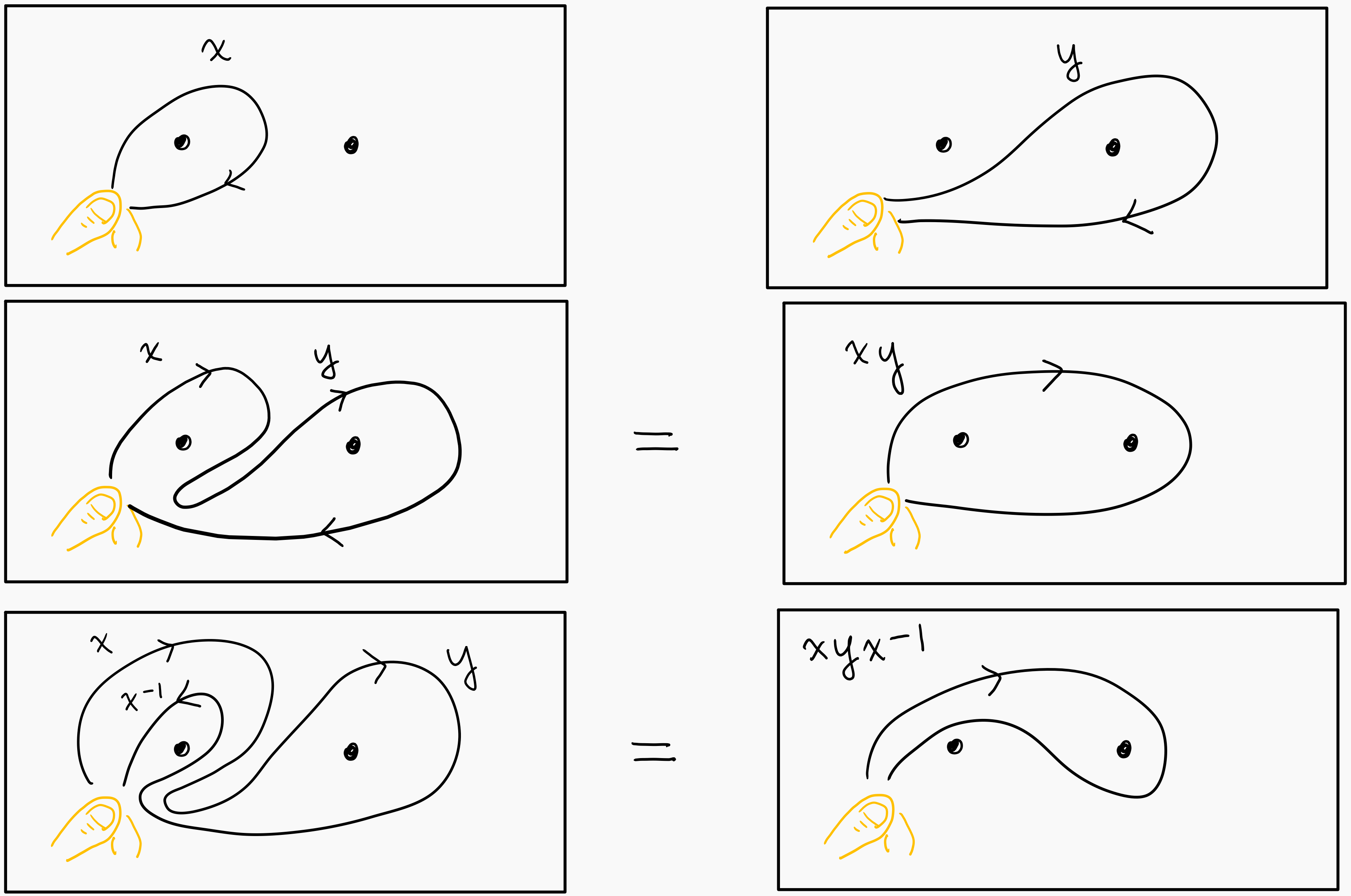

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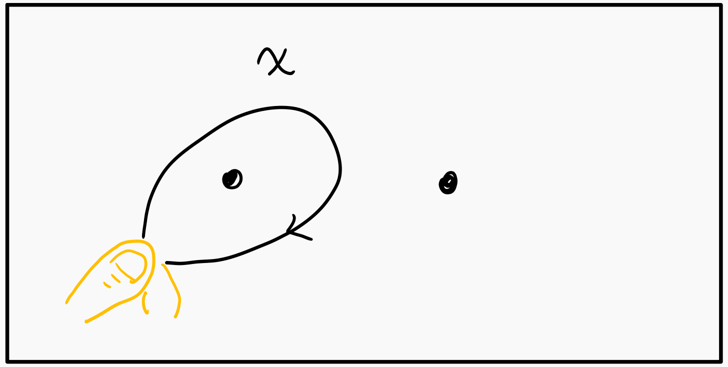
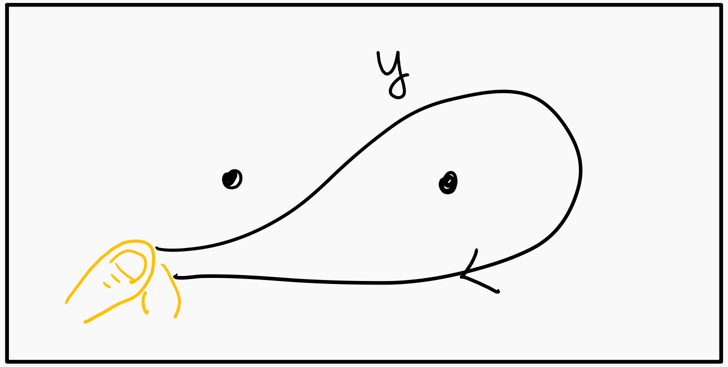
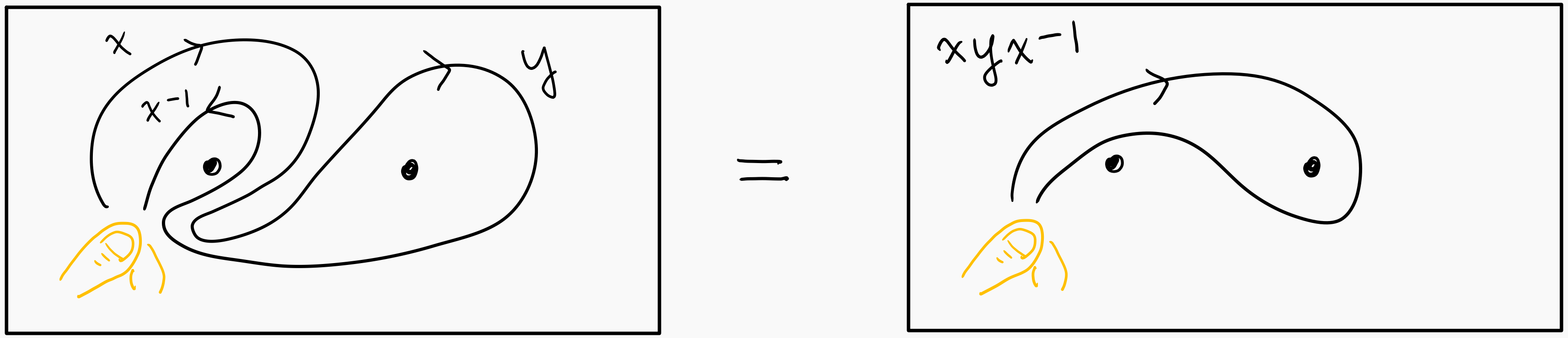




Such a loop = string of letters in alphabet x, y

= word in generators x, y



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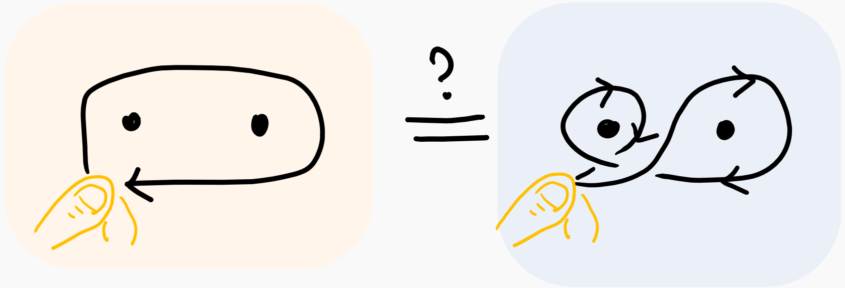
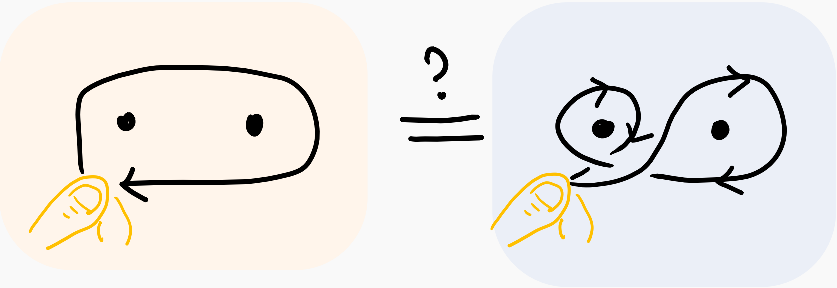


$$xy \overset{?}{=} yx$$

With two nails,

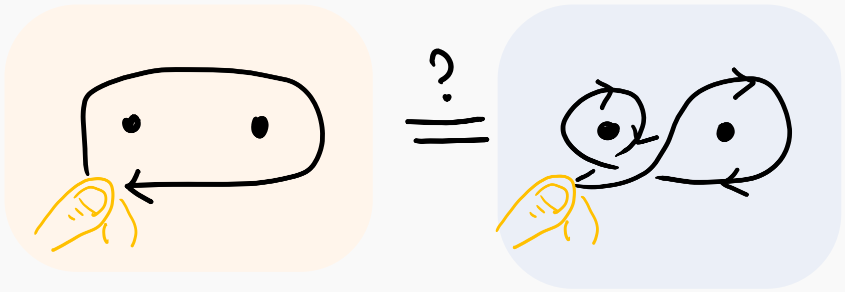


$$xy \stackrel{?}{=} yx$$

$\downarrow \cdot x^{-1}$

Experiment!

With two nails,



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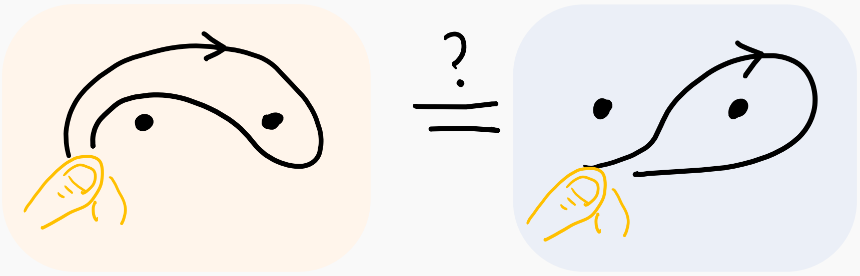
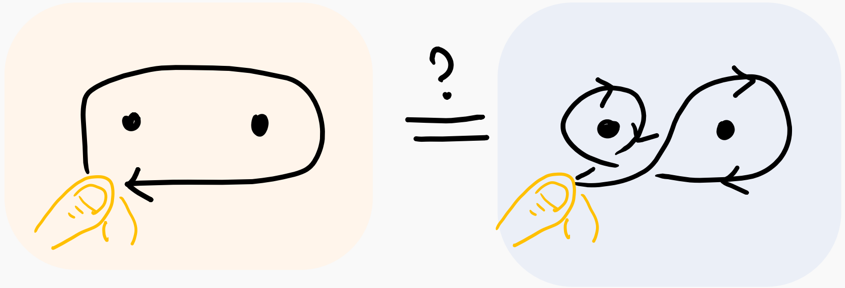
Experiment!



$$xyx^{-1} \stackrel{?}{=} y$$

With two nails,



$$xy \overset{?}{=} yx$$

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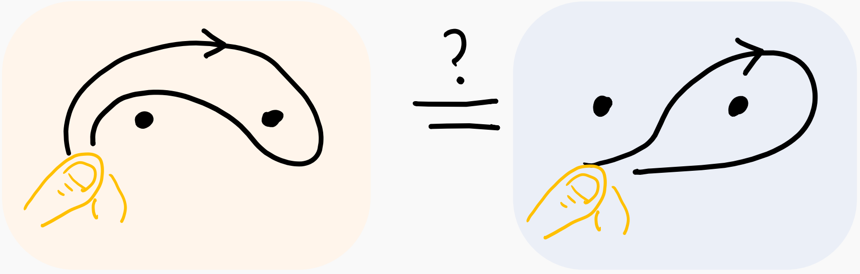
Experiment!

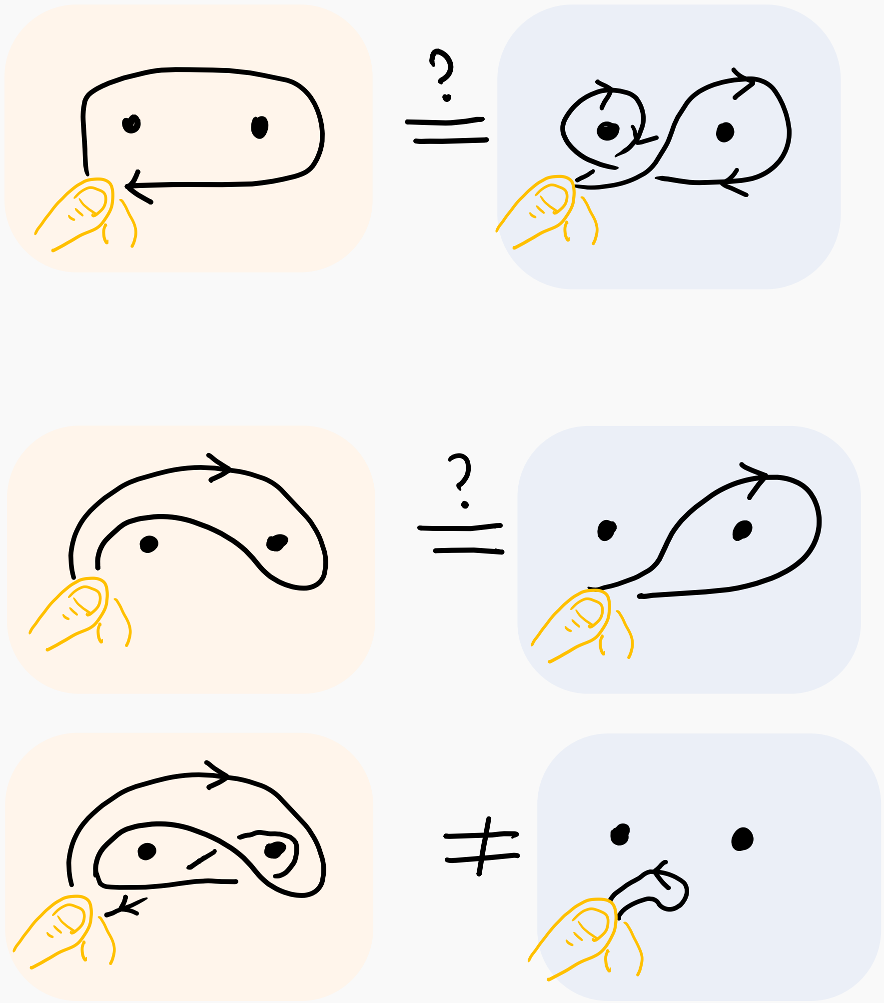


$$xyx^{-1} \overset{?}{=} y$$

$$\Big\downarrow \cdot y^{-1}$$

With two nails,

Experiment!



not fall   falls

$$xy \stackrel{?}{=} yx$$

$\cdot x^{-1}$

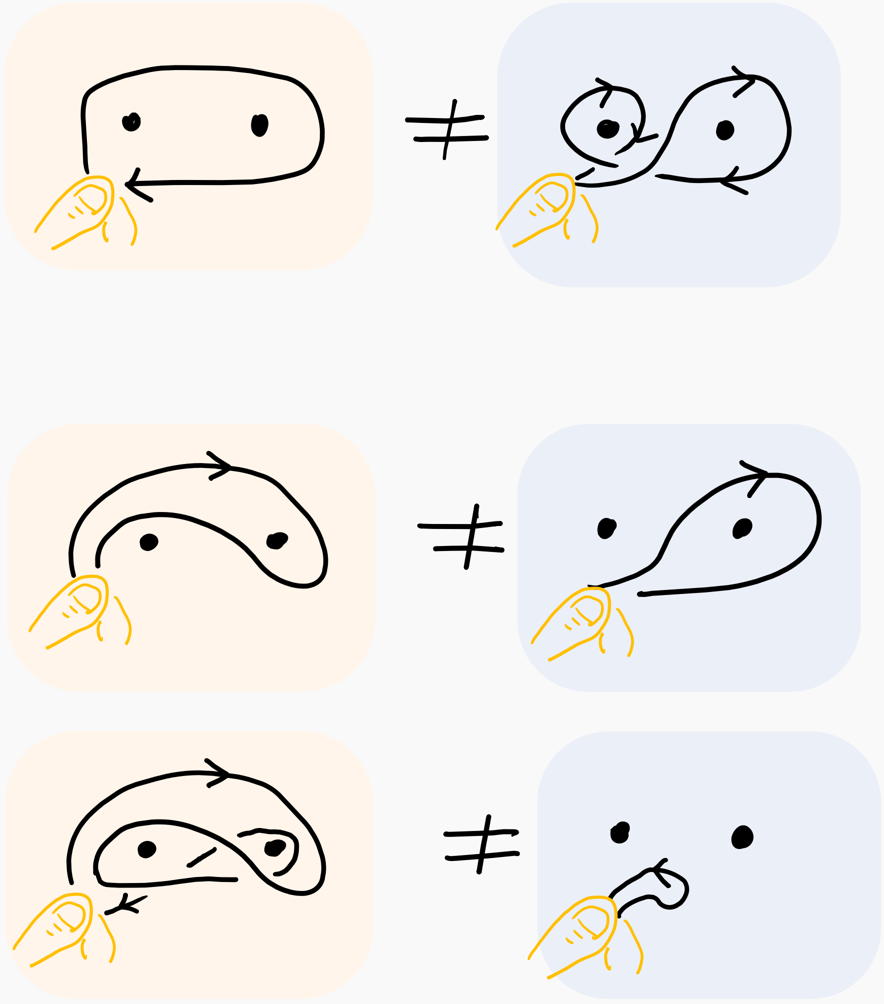
$$xyx^{-1} \stackrel{?}{=} y$$

$\cdot y^{-1}$

$$xyx^{-1}y^{-1} \neq 1$$

With two nails,

Experiment!



not fall | falls

$$xy \neq yx$$

$$\downarrow \cdot x^{-1}$$

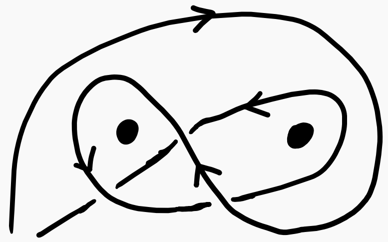
$$xyx^{-1} \neq y$$

$$\downarrow \cdot y^{-1}$$

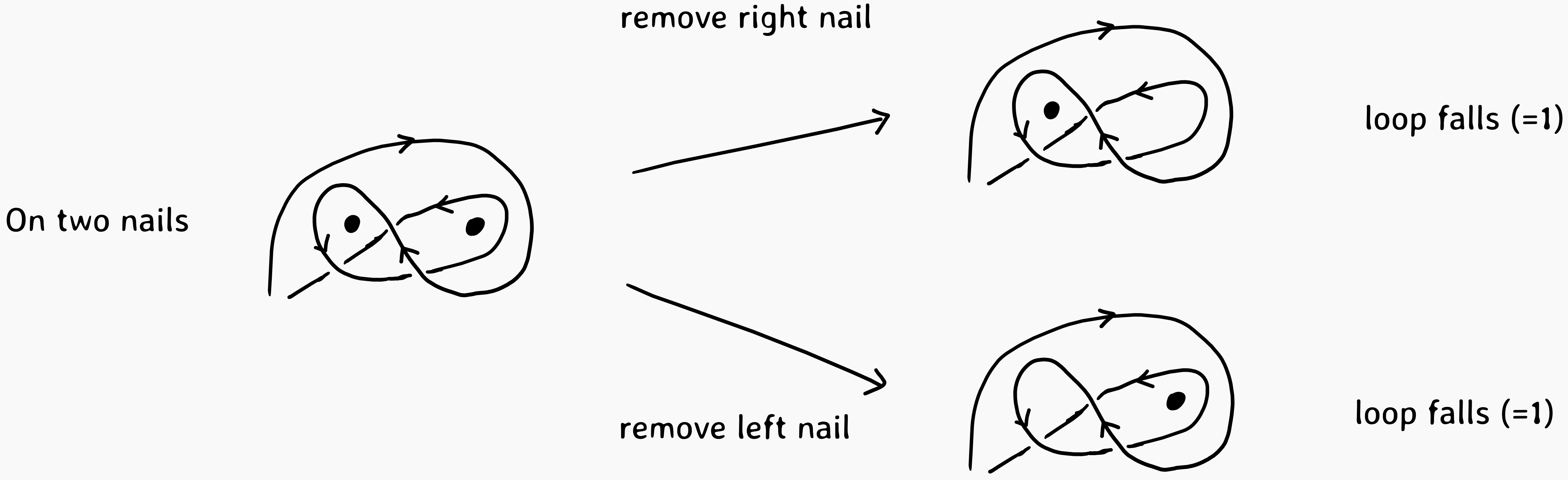
$$xyx^{-1}y^{-1} \neq 1$$

Picture-hanging solution for two nails.

On two nails



Picture-hanging solution for two nails.



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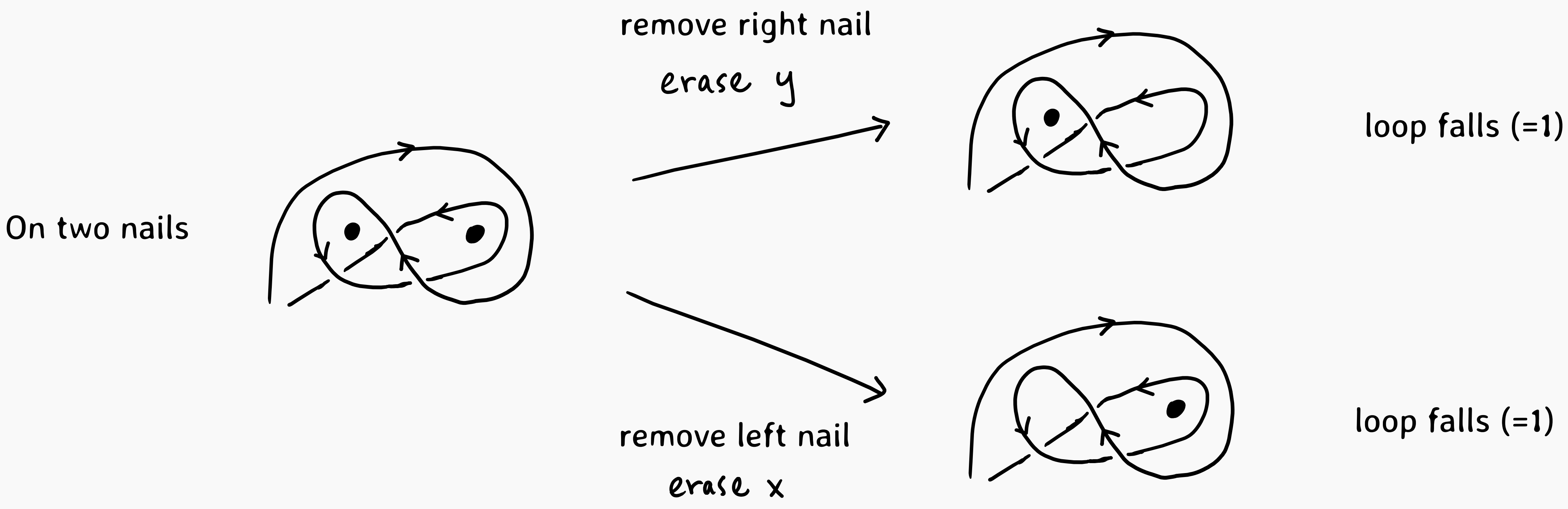

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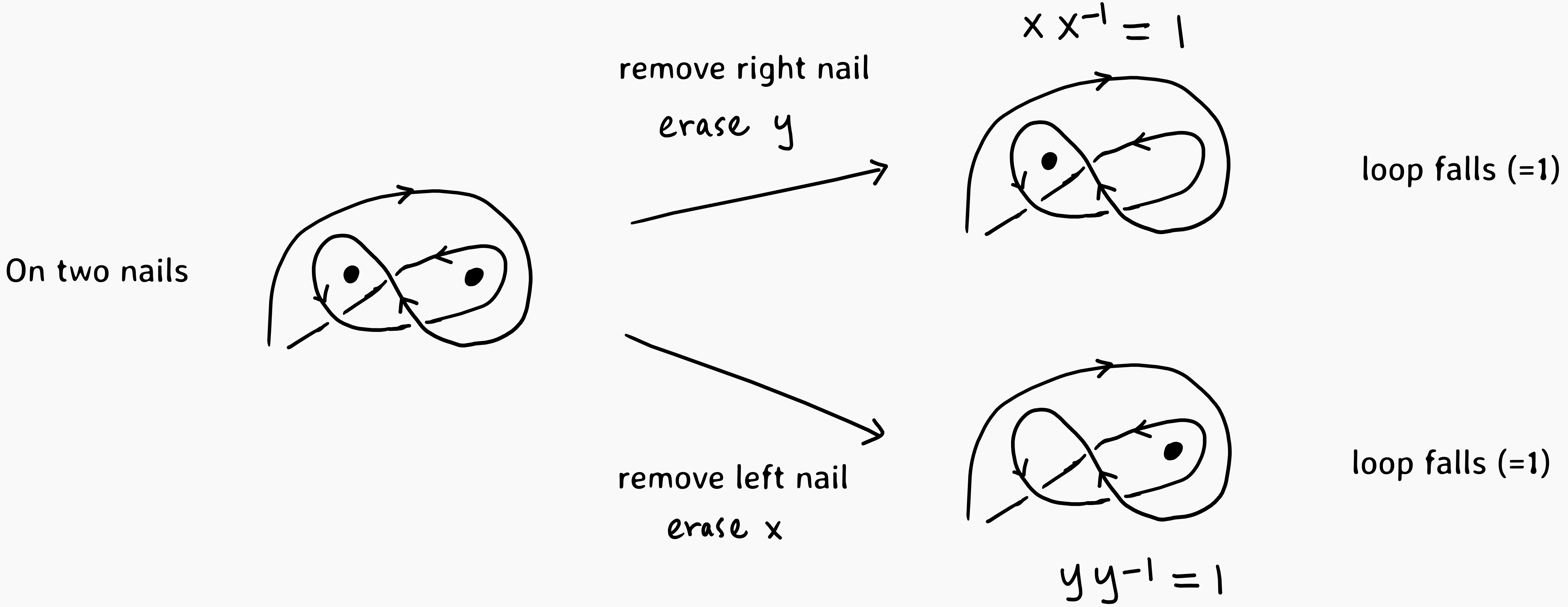

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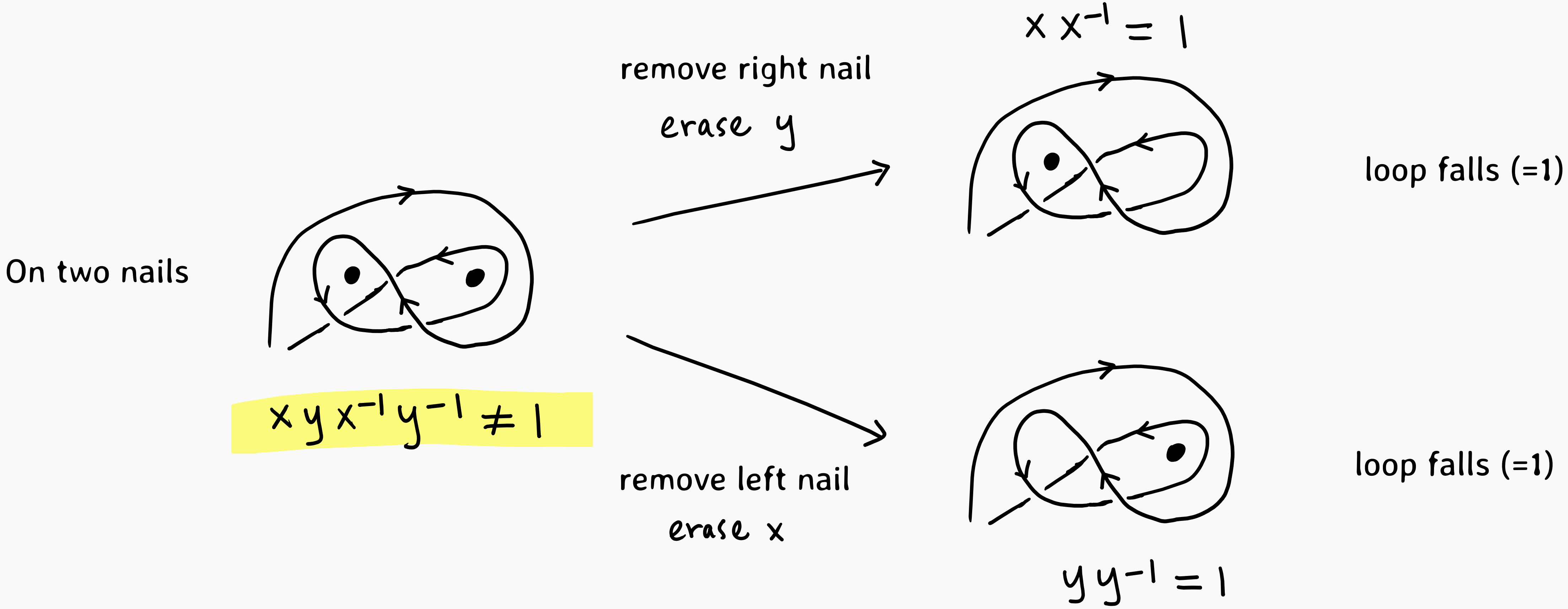

Fundamental group of a surface X with basepoint $p \in X$:

$$\pi_1(X, p) = \{ \text{loops on } X \text{ starting at } p \}$$

Here, two loops are “the same” if one loop deforms to the other loop.

Fundamental group of a surface X with basepoint $p \in X$:

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$$\pi_1(\text{plane}, p) = \{1\}$$

Fundamental group of a surface X with basepoint $p \in X$:

$$\pi_1(X, p) = \{\text{ loops on } X \text{ starting at } p \text{ }\}$$

Here, two loops are "the same" if one loop deforms to the other loop.

$$\pi_1(\text{plane}, p) = \{1\}$$

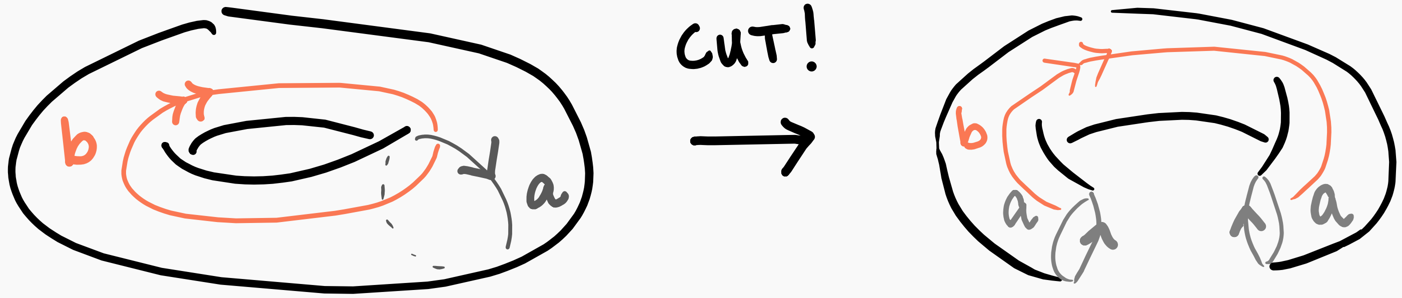
$$\pi_1(\text{plane missing one point}, p) = \langle x \rangle \quad \leftarrow \text{words generated by } x$$

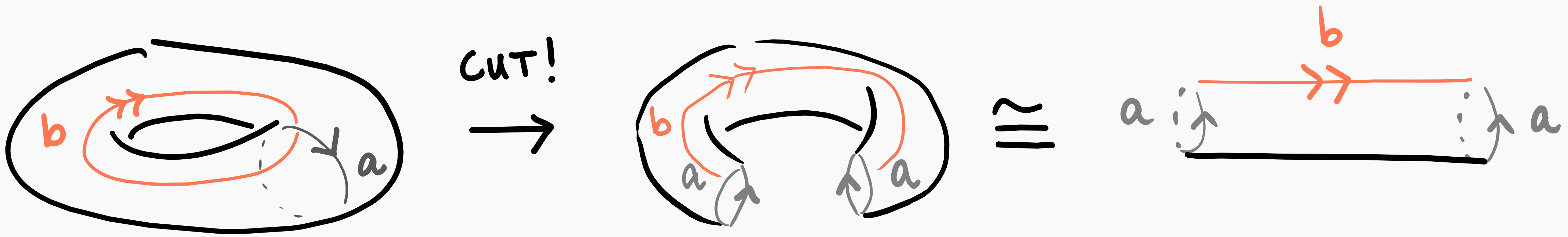
$$\pi_1(\text{plane missing two points}, p) = \langle x, y \rangle \quad \leftarrow \text{words generated by } x, y$$


a


b
a


b
a
CUT!


b
a
CUT!
b
a
a



b
a
CUT!
b
a
a
≅
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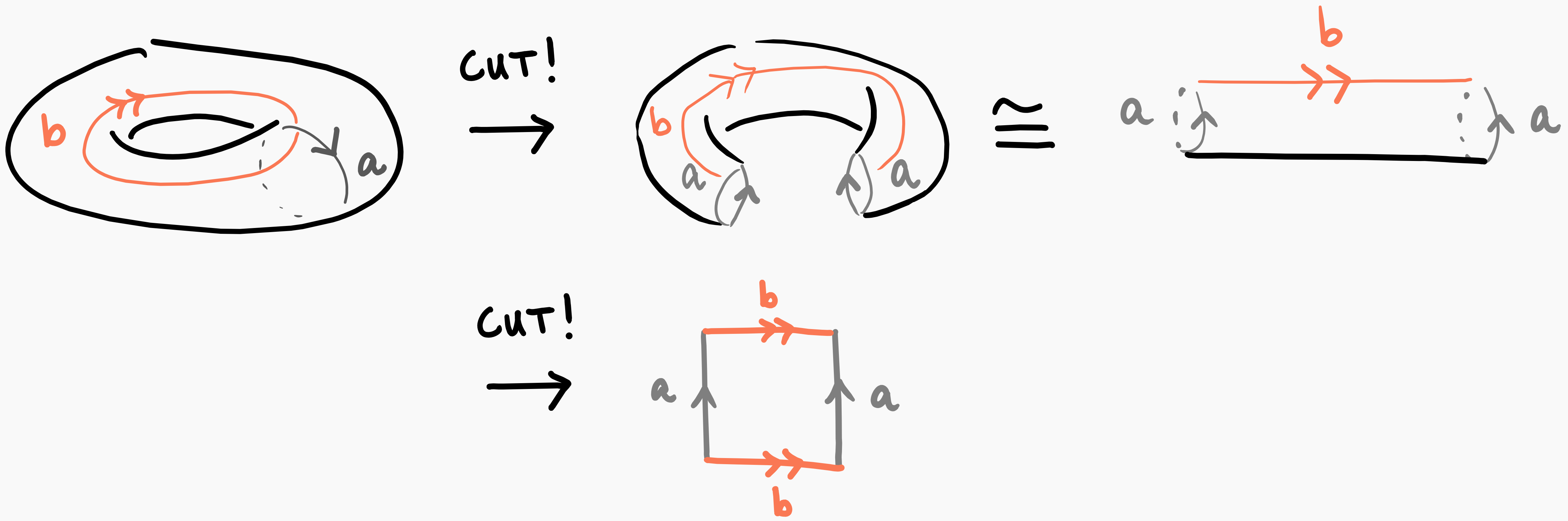
a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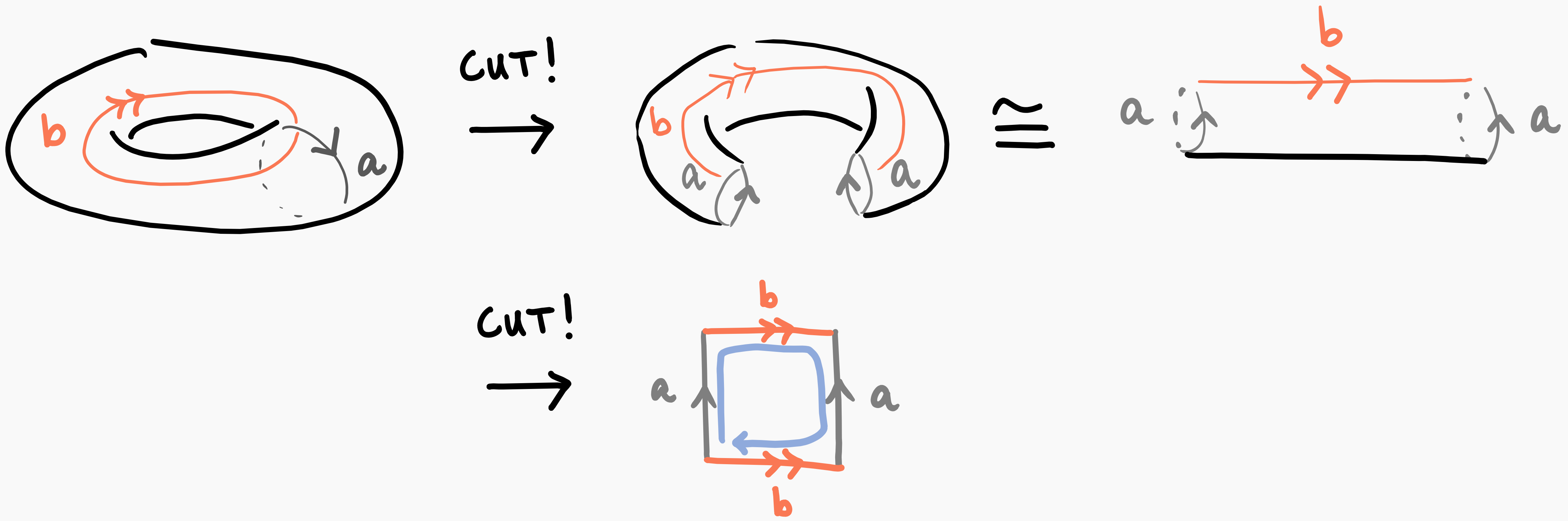

CUT!
CUT!
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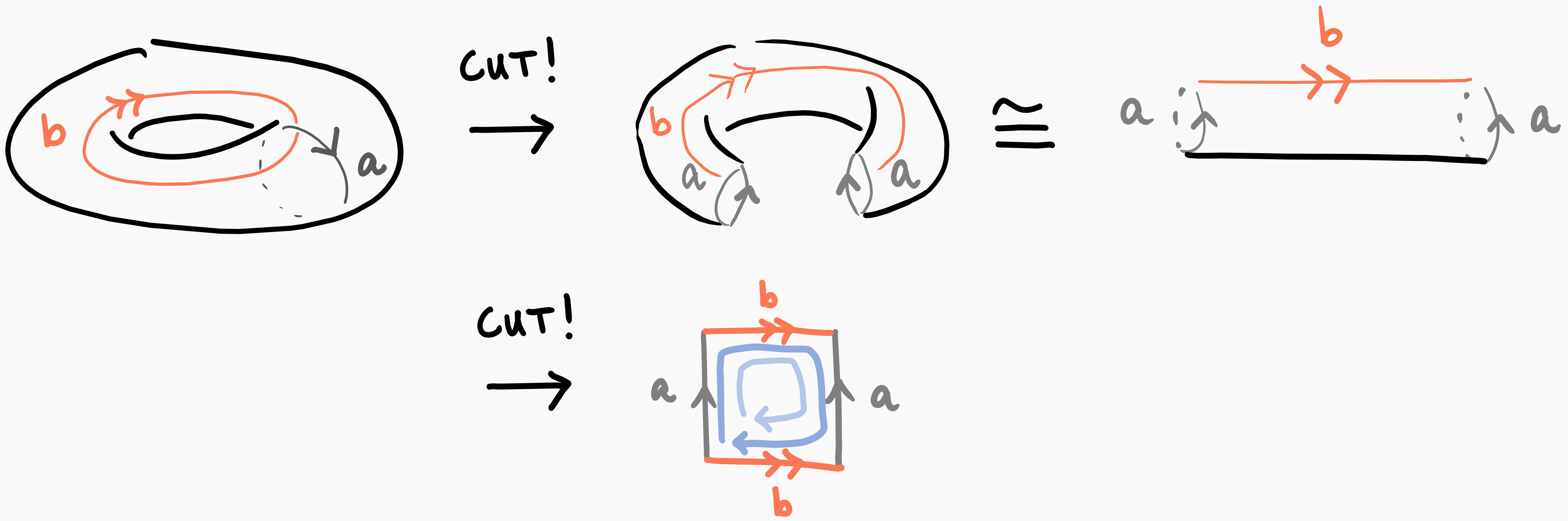
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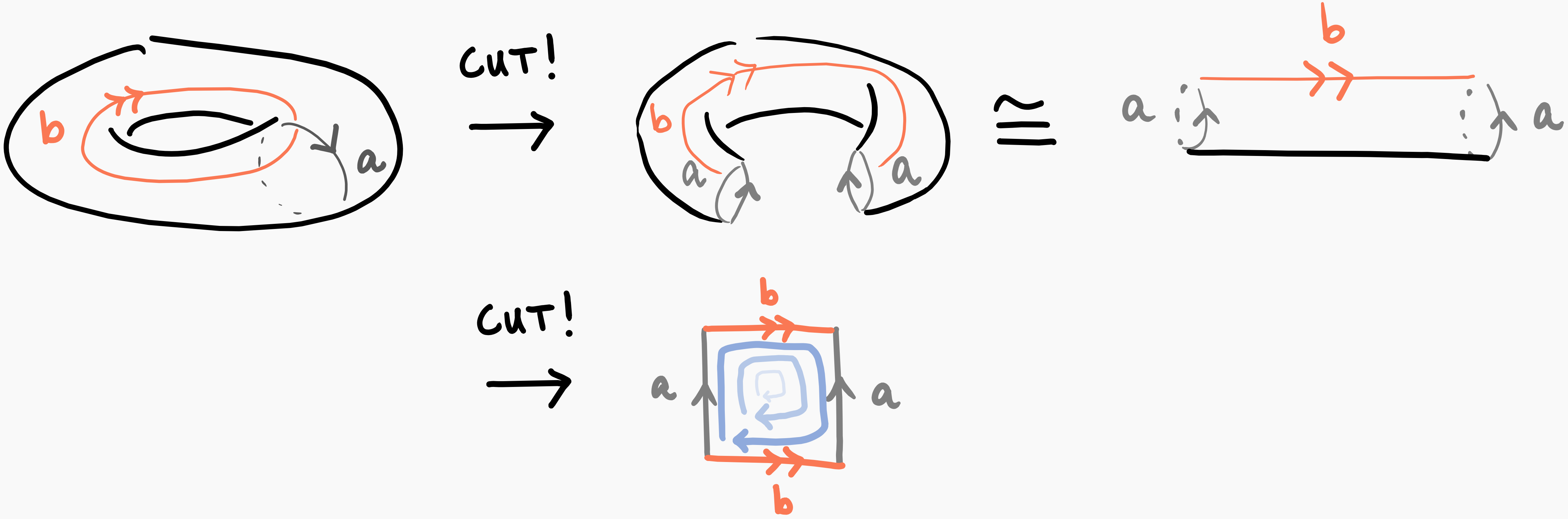
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CUT!
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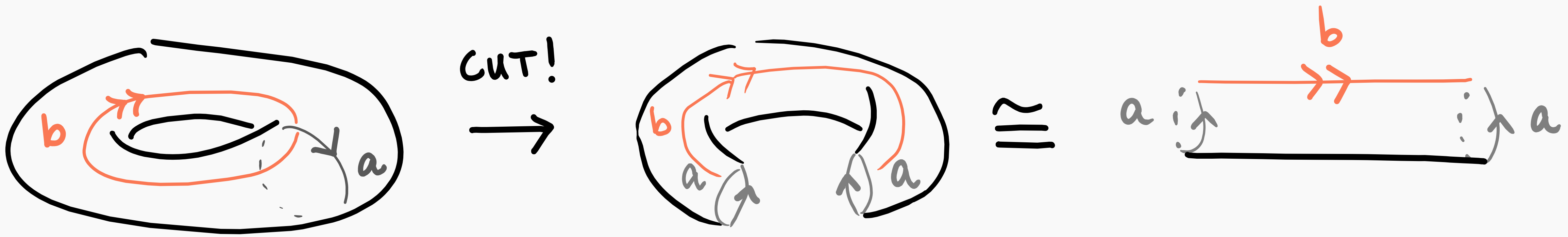
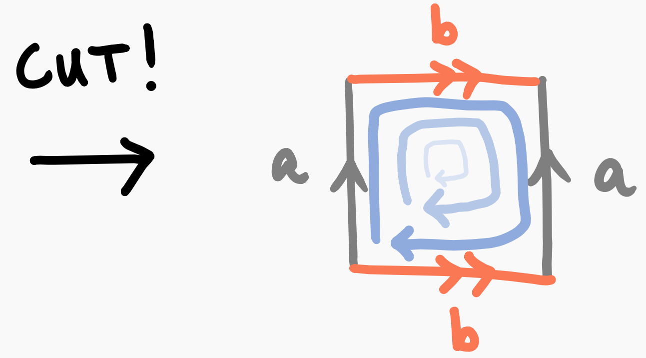
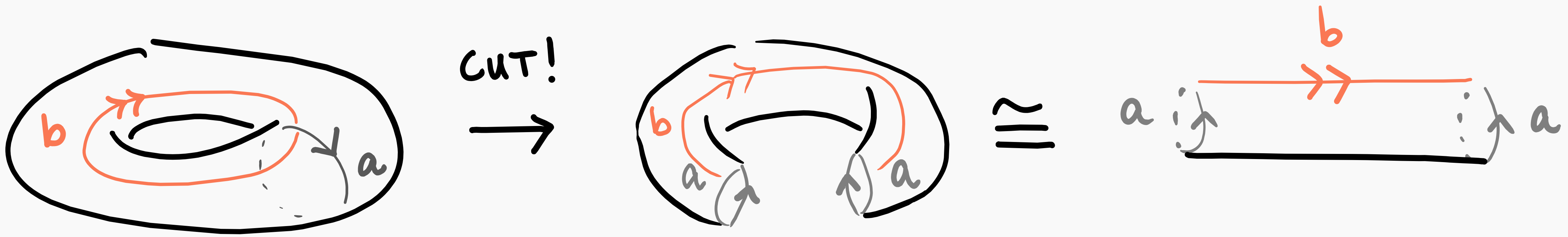
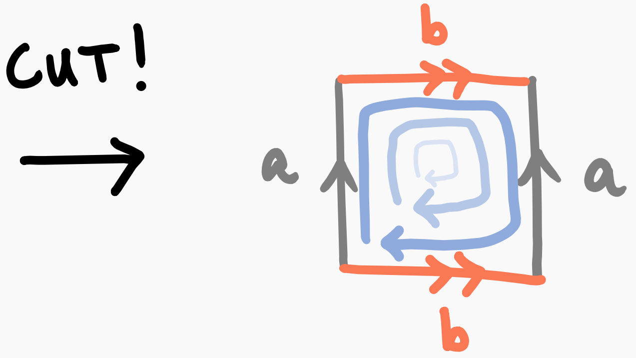
a
b





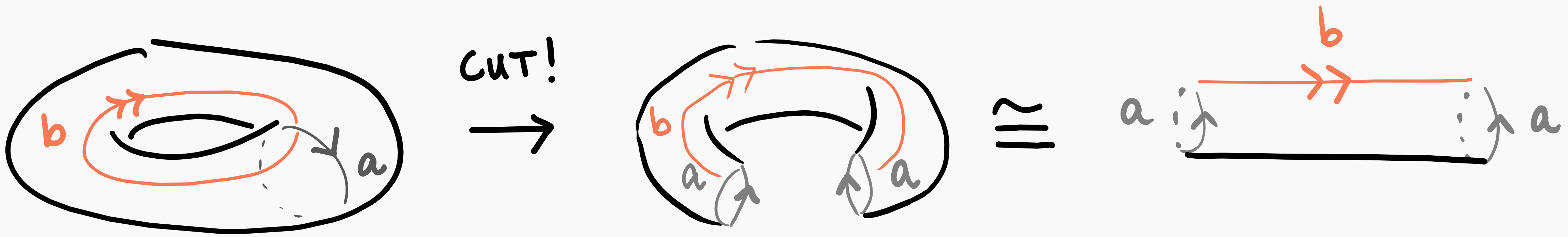
$$aba^{-1}b^{-1} = 1$$

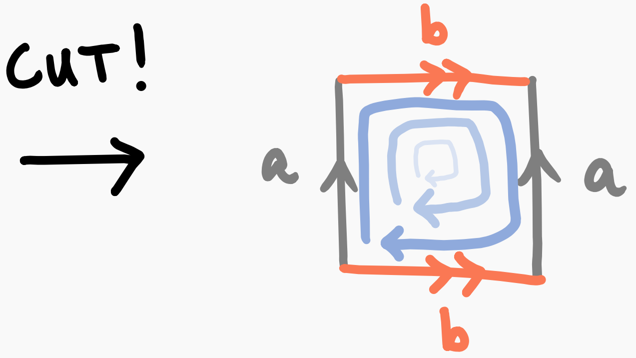




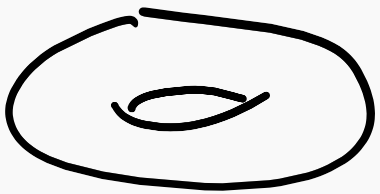
$$aba^{-1}b^{-1} = 1$$

$\pi_1($  $, p) = \langle a, b \mid aba^{-1}b^{-1} = 1 \rangle$



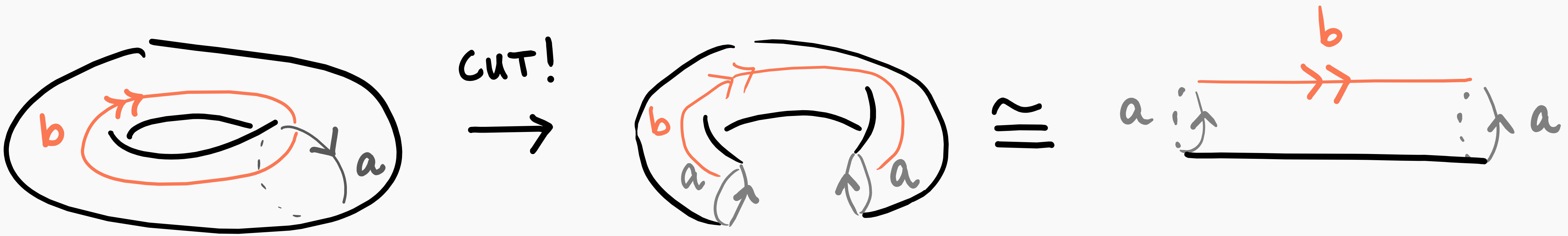


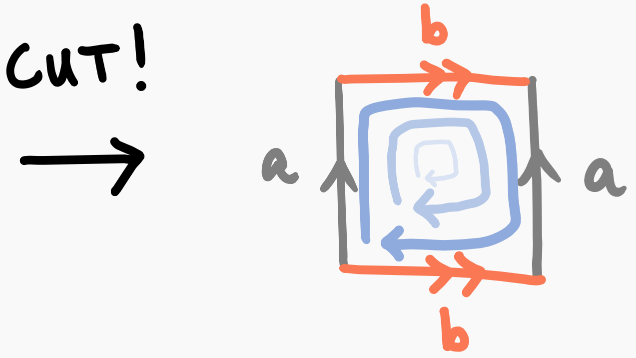
$$aba^{-1}b^{-1} = 1$$

$\pi_1($  $, p) = \langle a, b \mid aba^{-1}b^{-1} = 1 \rangle$

generators

relations
(simplifying rules)





$$aba^{-1}b^{-1} = 1$$

$\pi_1($  $, p) = \langle a, b \mid ab = ba \rangle$

generators

relations (simplifying rules)

$$abaab = aabab = aaabb = a^3 b^2$$

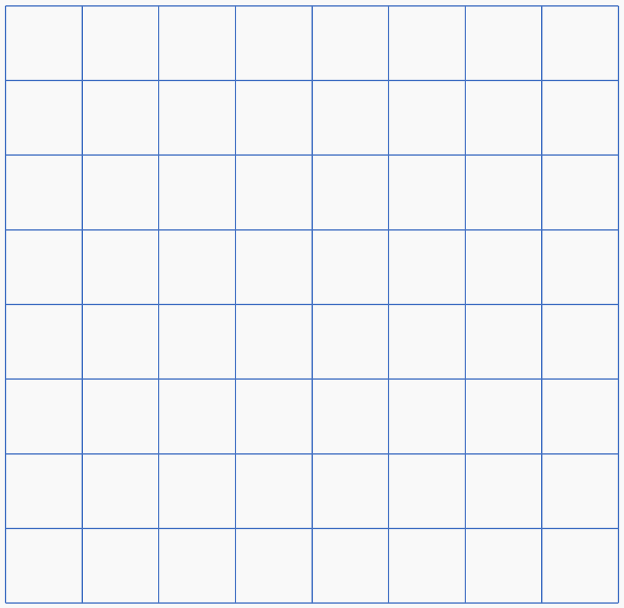
$\pi_1($  $, p) = \langle a, b \mid ab = ba \rangle$

generators

relations (simplifying rules)

Tiling Chessboards

Tile a chessboard with dominoes



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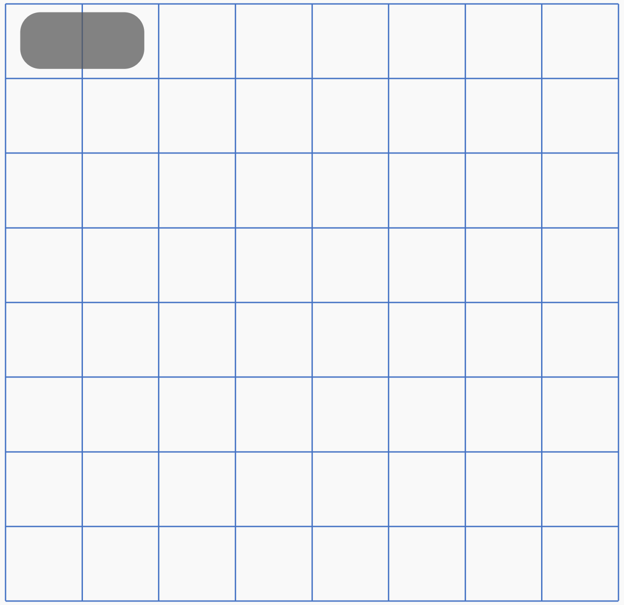

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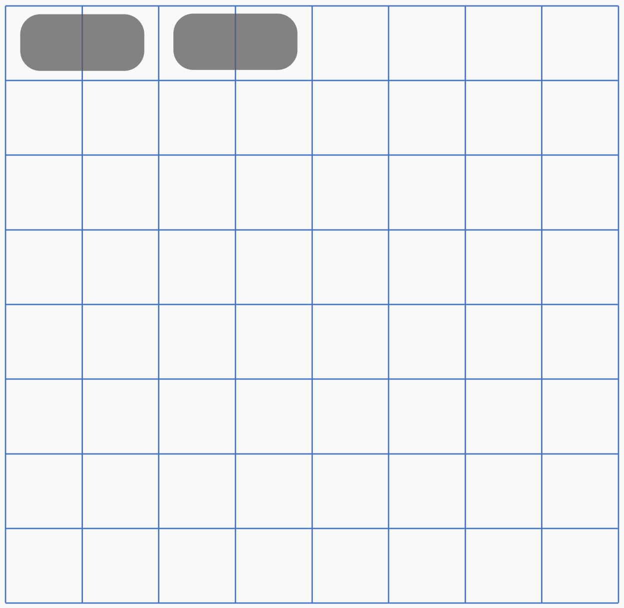

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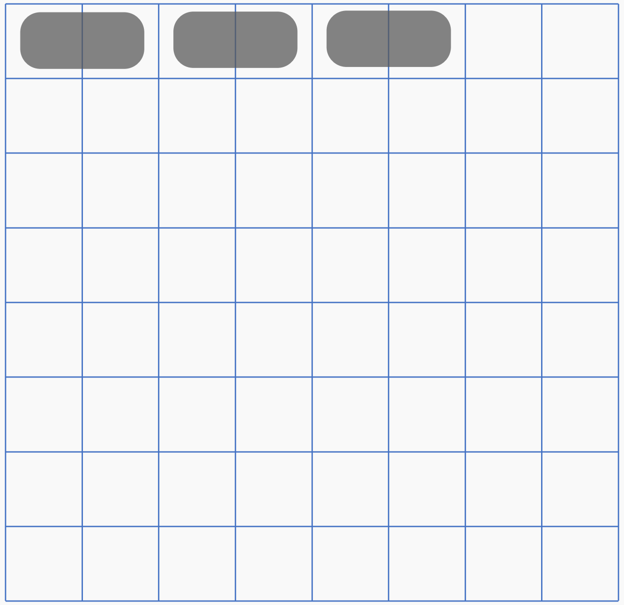
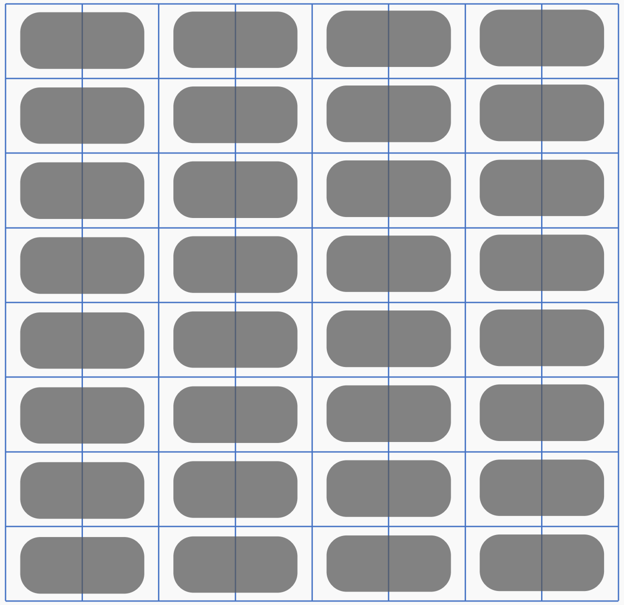
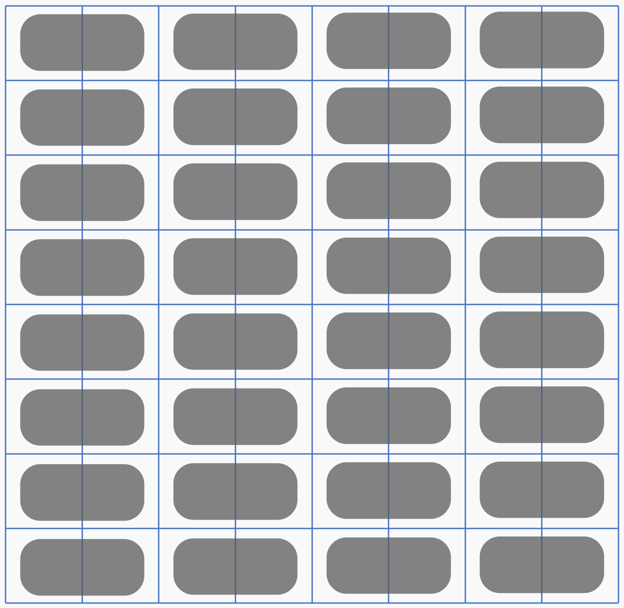


Tile a chessboard with dominoes



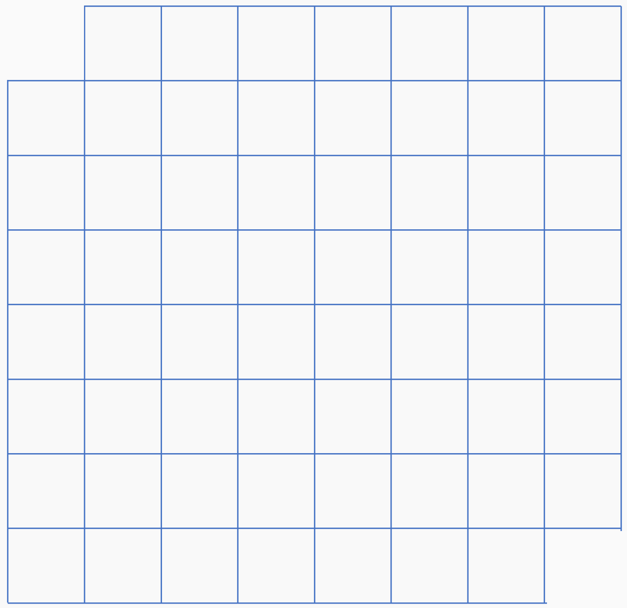
Yes!

Tile a chessboard with dominoes

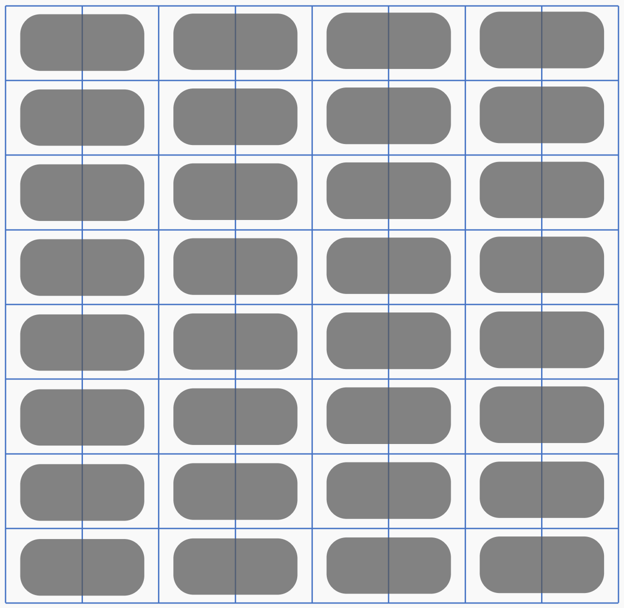


Yes!

... with the two corners removed



Tile a chessboard with dominoes



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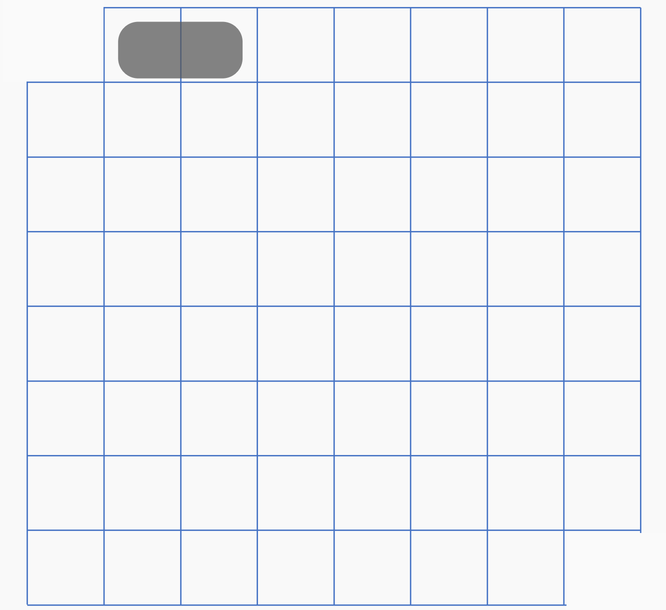
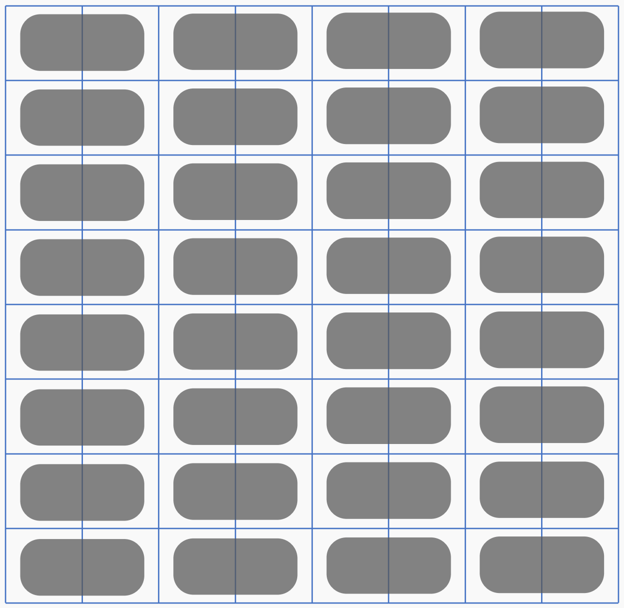


Tile a chessboard with dominoes



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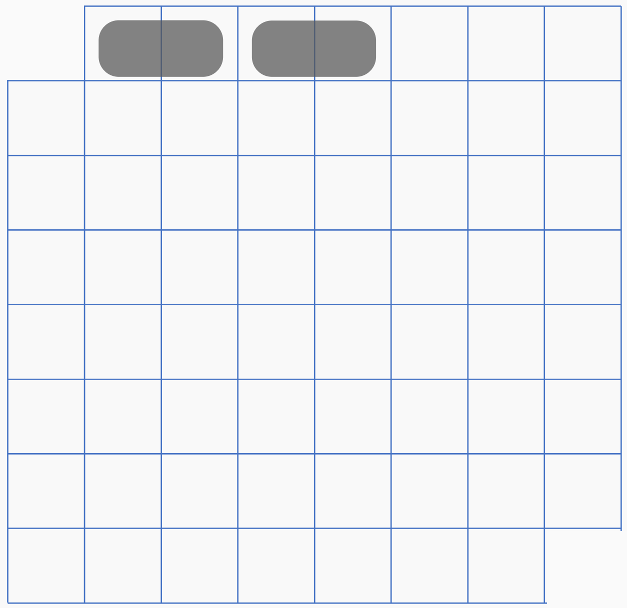

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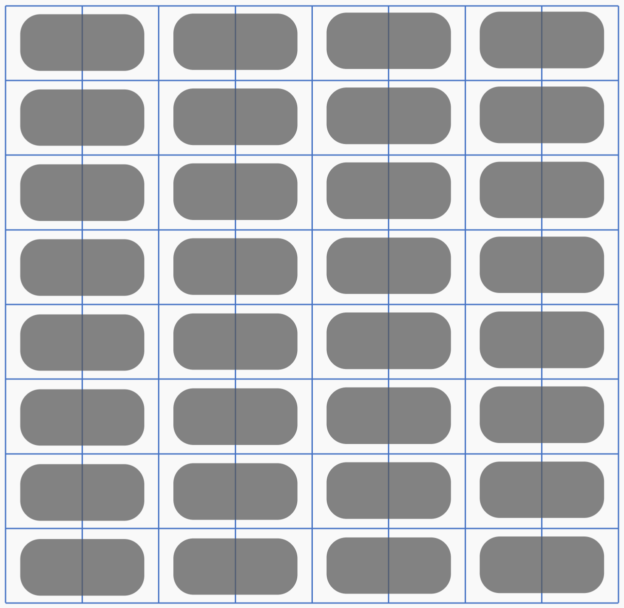

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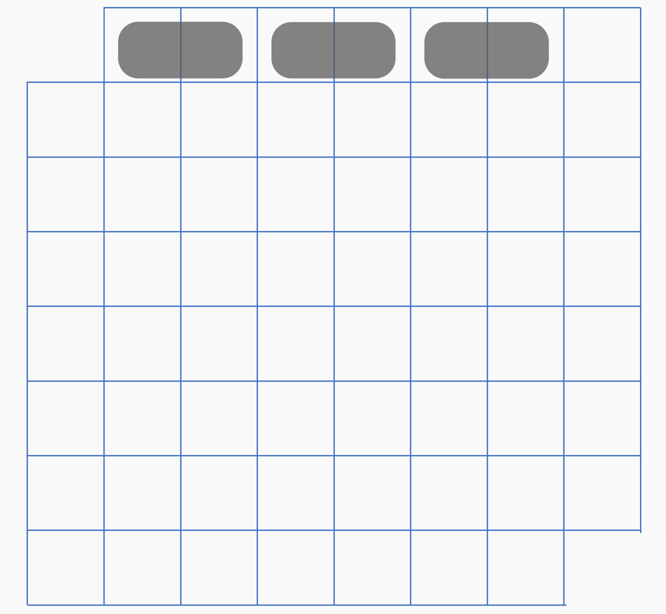
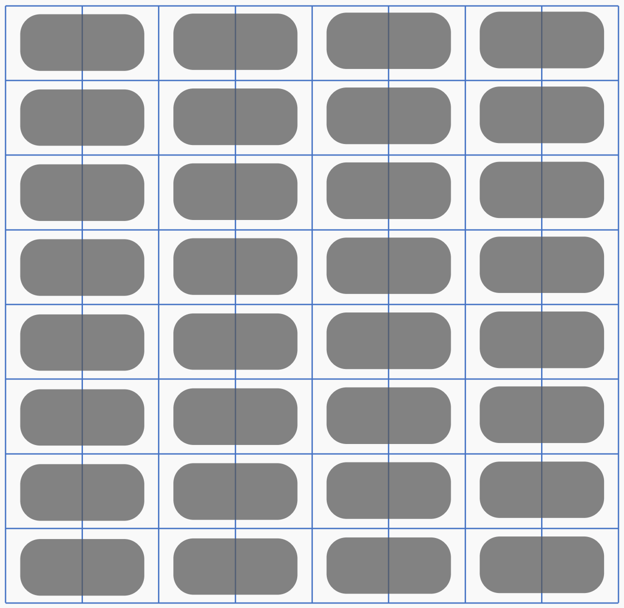


Tile a chessboard with dominoes



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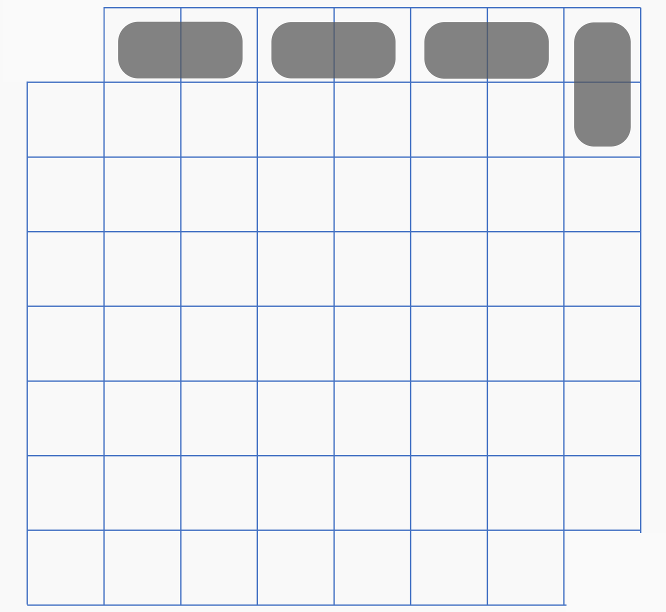
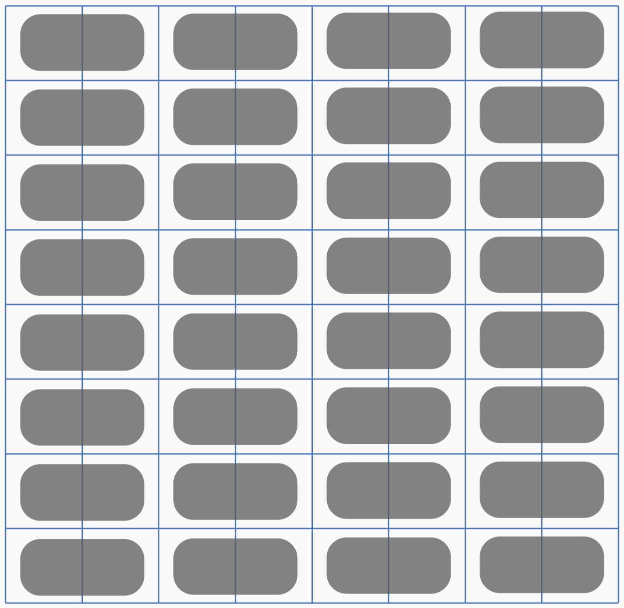


Tile a chessboard with dominoes



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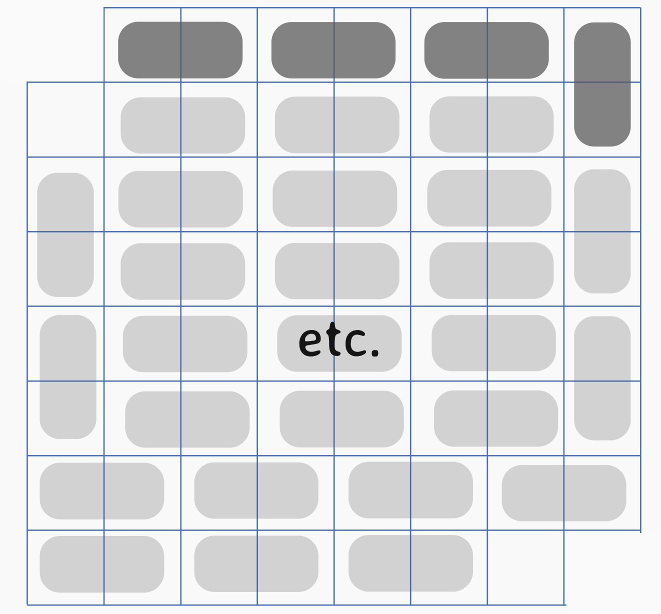
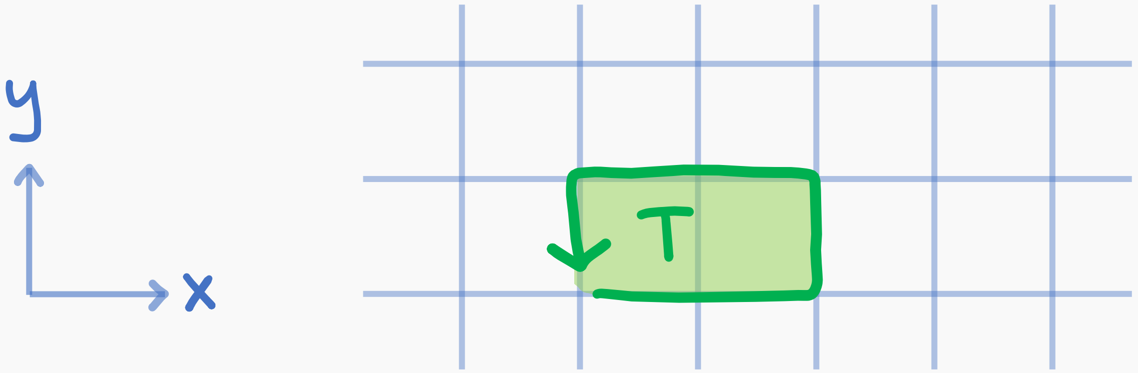
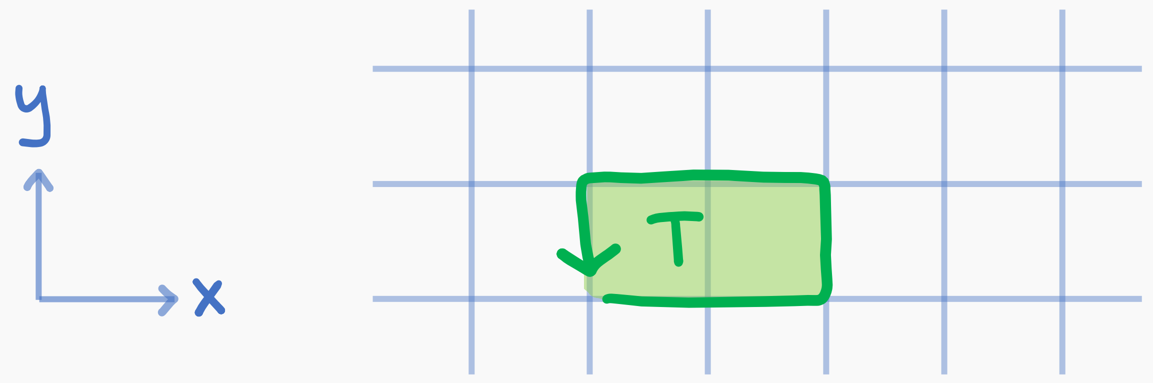


No! (But why?)

Assign word to region

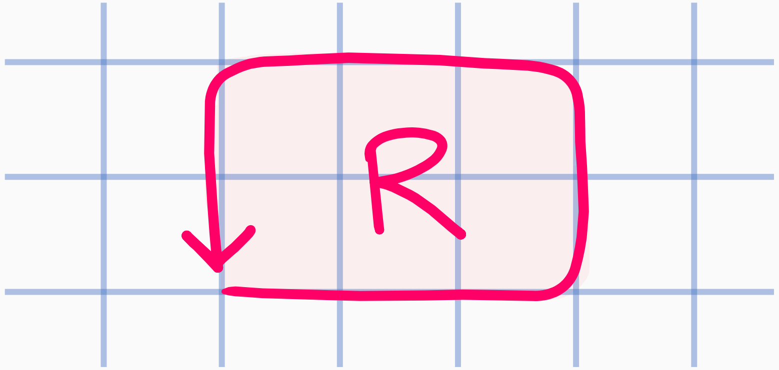


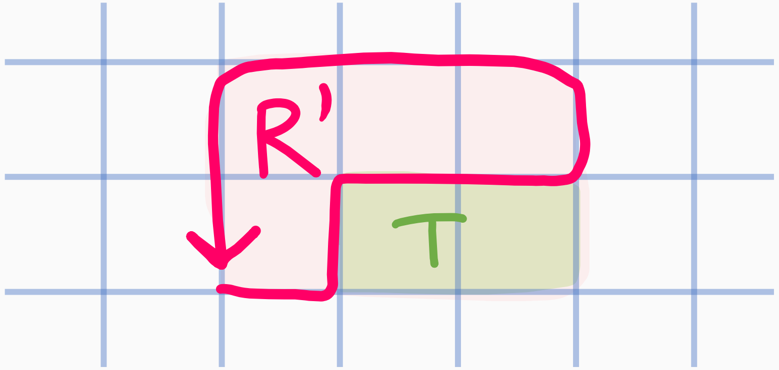
Assign word to region



$$W(T) = x\,x\,y\,x^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1} = x^2\,y\,x^{-2}\,y^{-1}$$

Shrink region R by tile shape T $\Rightarrow$ simplify W(R) by the rule W(T) = 1.





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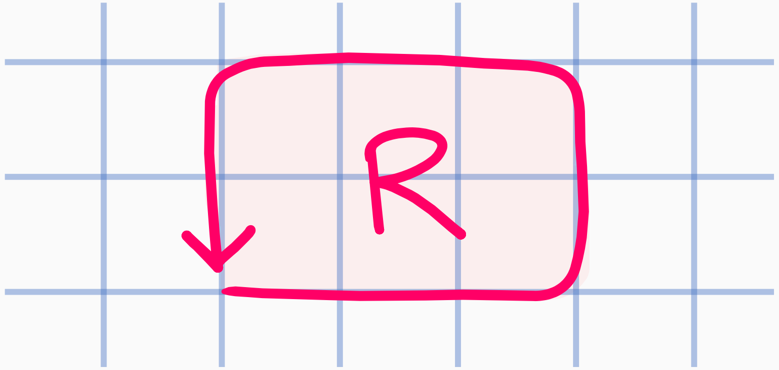
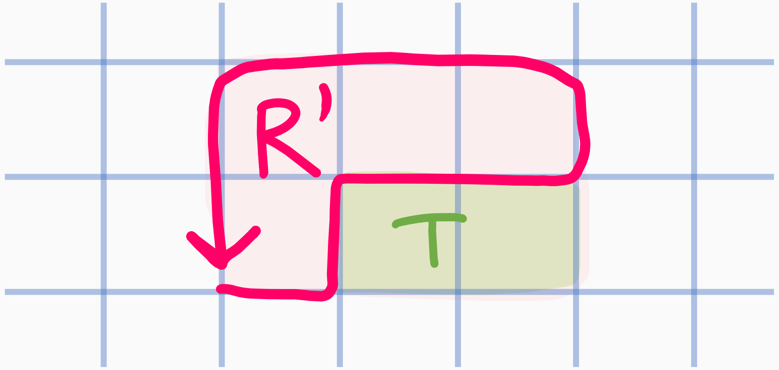
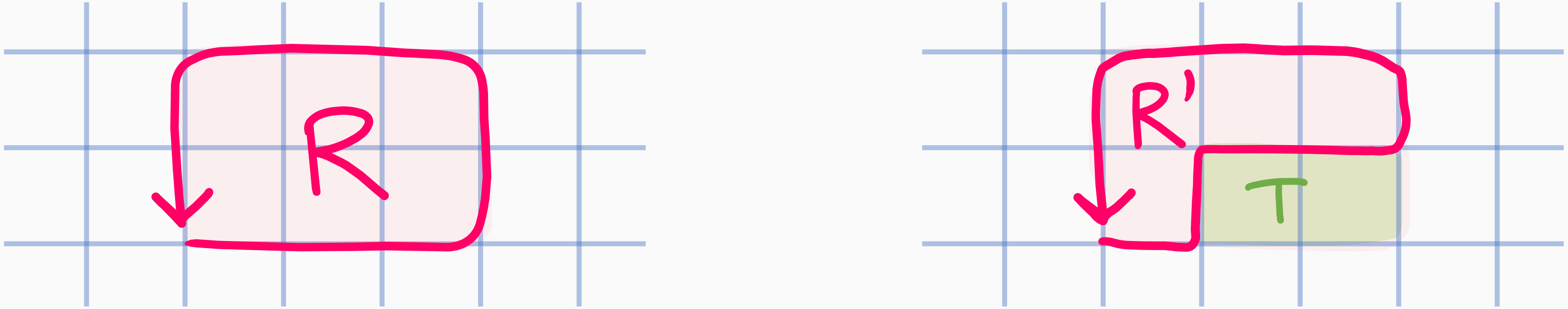




$W(R) = x x x y y x^{-1} x^{-1} x^{-1} y^{-1} y^{-1} =$

Shrink region R by tile shape T $\Rightarrow$ simplify W(R) by the rule W(T) = 1.



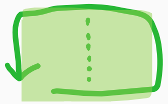
$$W(R) = xxxyyx^{-1}x^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1}y^{-1} =$$

$$xxyx^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1} = 1$$

or $xxy = yxx$

Shrink region R by tile shape T $\Rightarrow$ simplify W(R) by the rule W(T) = 1.

$$W(R) = xxxyyx^{-1}x^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1}y^{-1} =$$



$$xxyx^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1} = 1$$

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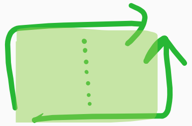
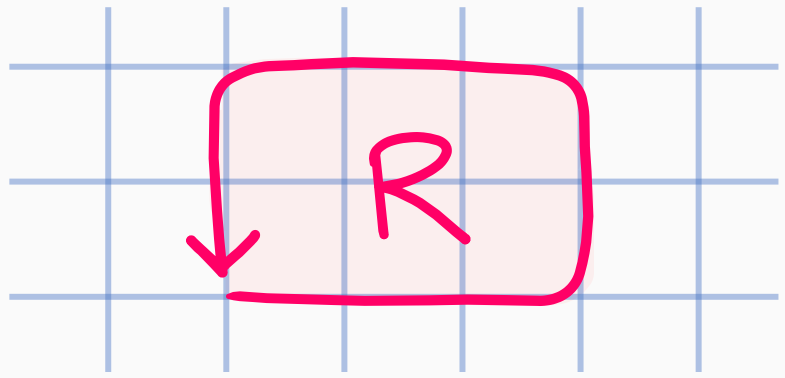
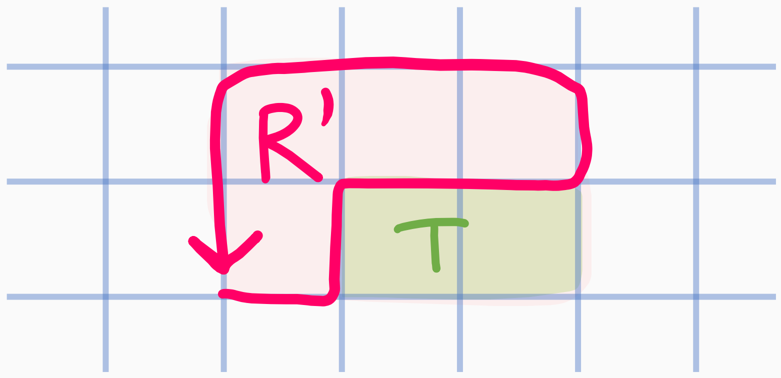
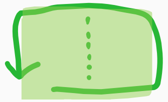


Shrink region R by tile shape T $\Rightarrow$ simplify W(R) by the rule W(T) = 1.



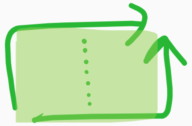


$$W(R) = xxxyyx^{-1}x^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1}y^{-1} = xyxxyx^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1}y^{-1} = W(R')$$

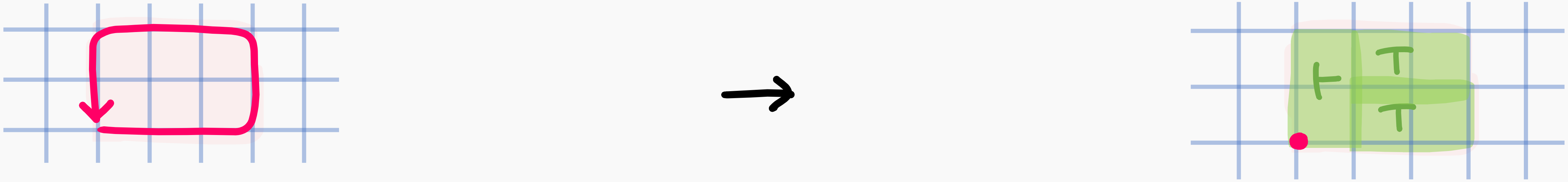


$$xxyx^{-1}x^{-1}y^{-1} = 1$$

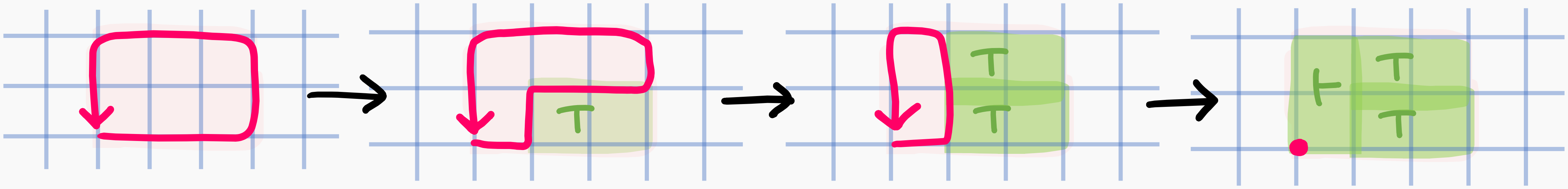
or $xxy = yxx$



If R can be tiled by tile shapes $T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_r$,

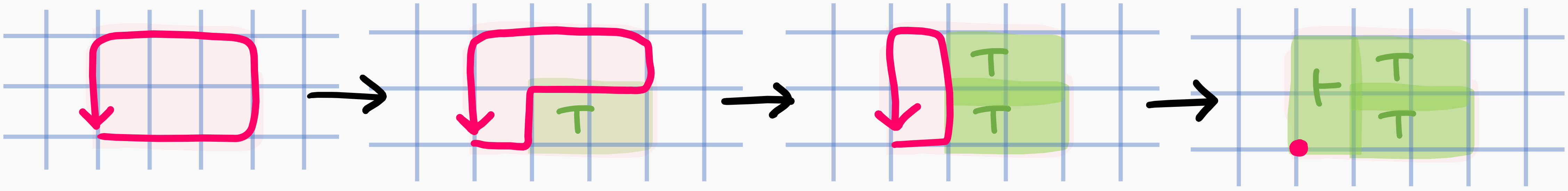


If R can be tiled by tile shapes $T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_r$,
Then $W(R)$ simplifies to 1 by rules $W(T_1) = 1, \ldots, W(T_r) = 1$.



If R can be tiled by tile shapes $T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_r$,
Then W(R) simplifies to 1 by rules W(T_1) = 1, …, W(T_r) = 1.

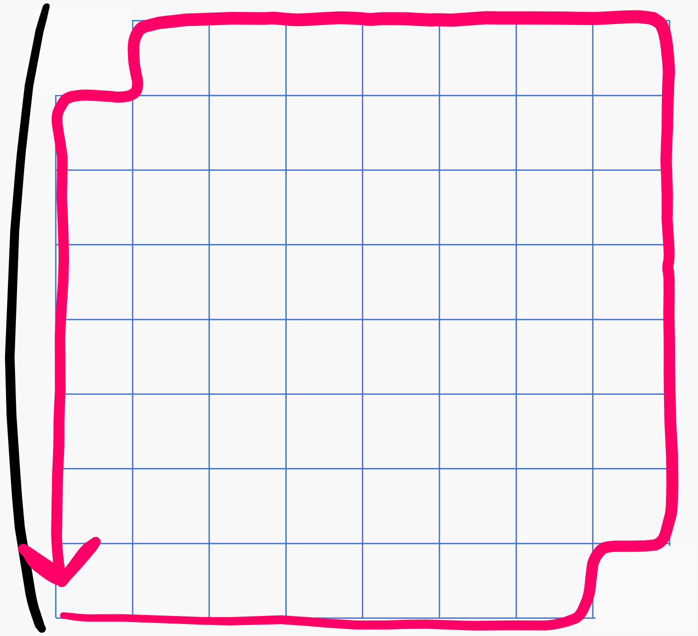
CONTRAPOSITIVE

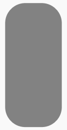


Theorem. (Conway-Lagarias, 1990)
If W(R) does not simplify to 1 by rules W(T_1) = 1, …, W(T_r) = 1,
Then R cannot be tiled by tile shapes $T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_r$.

Required assumption: R is simply-connected

For the chessboard missing corners

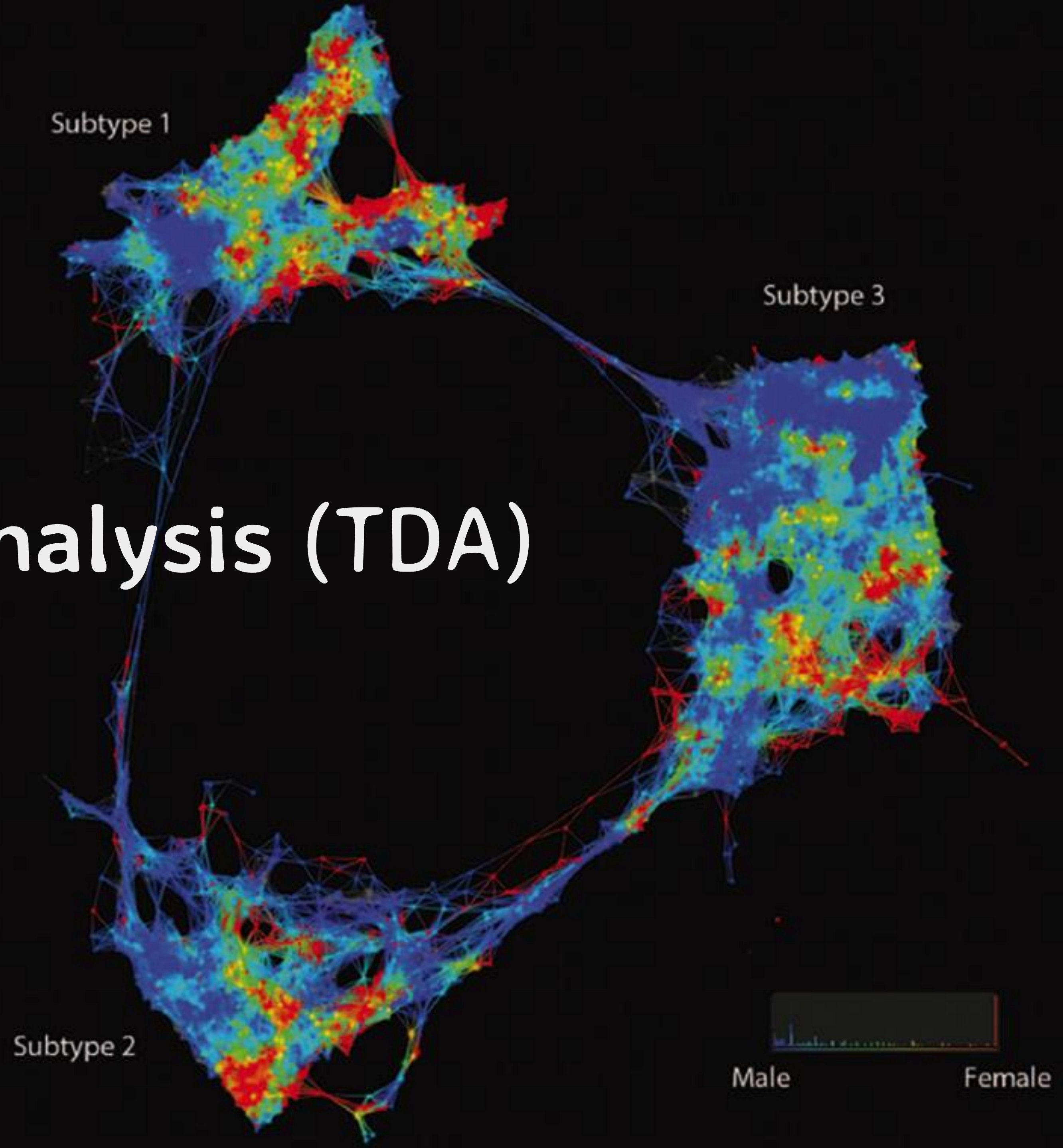
$W\Big($  $\Big)$ not simplify to 1 using

$W($  $) = 1$ and $W($  $) = 1$

Exercise.

Topological Data Analysis (TDA)

Three kinds of Type 2 Diabetes.
Discovered 2015.



Topological Data Analysis (TDA)

Data has shape.

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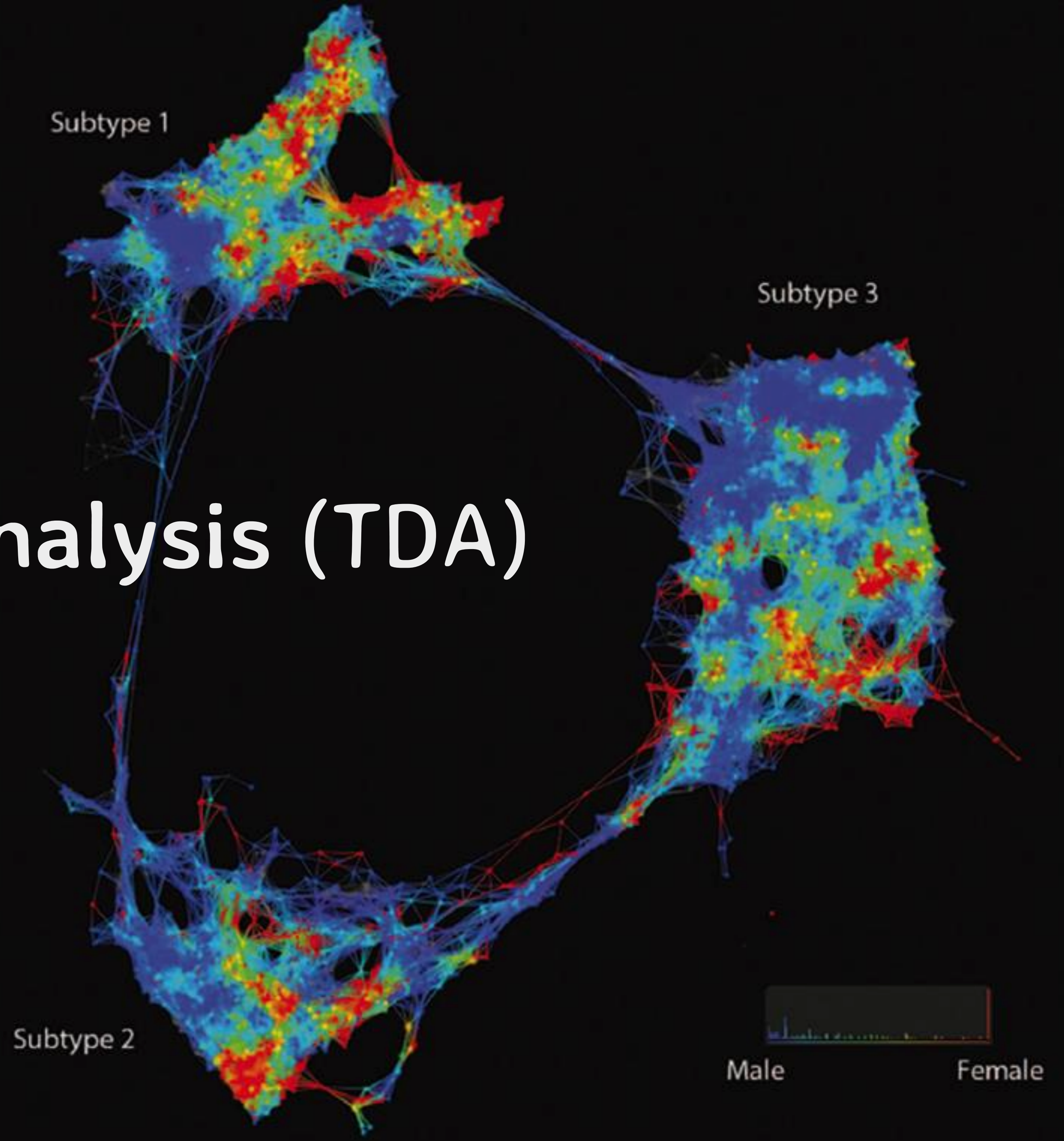
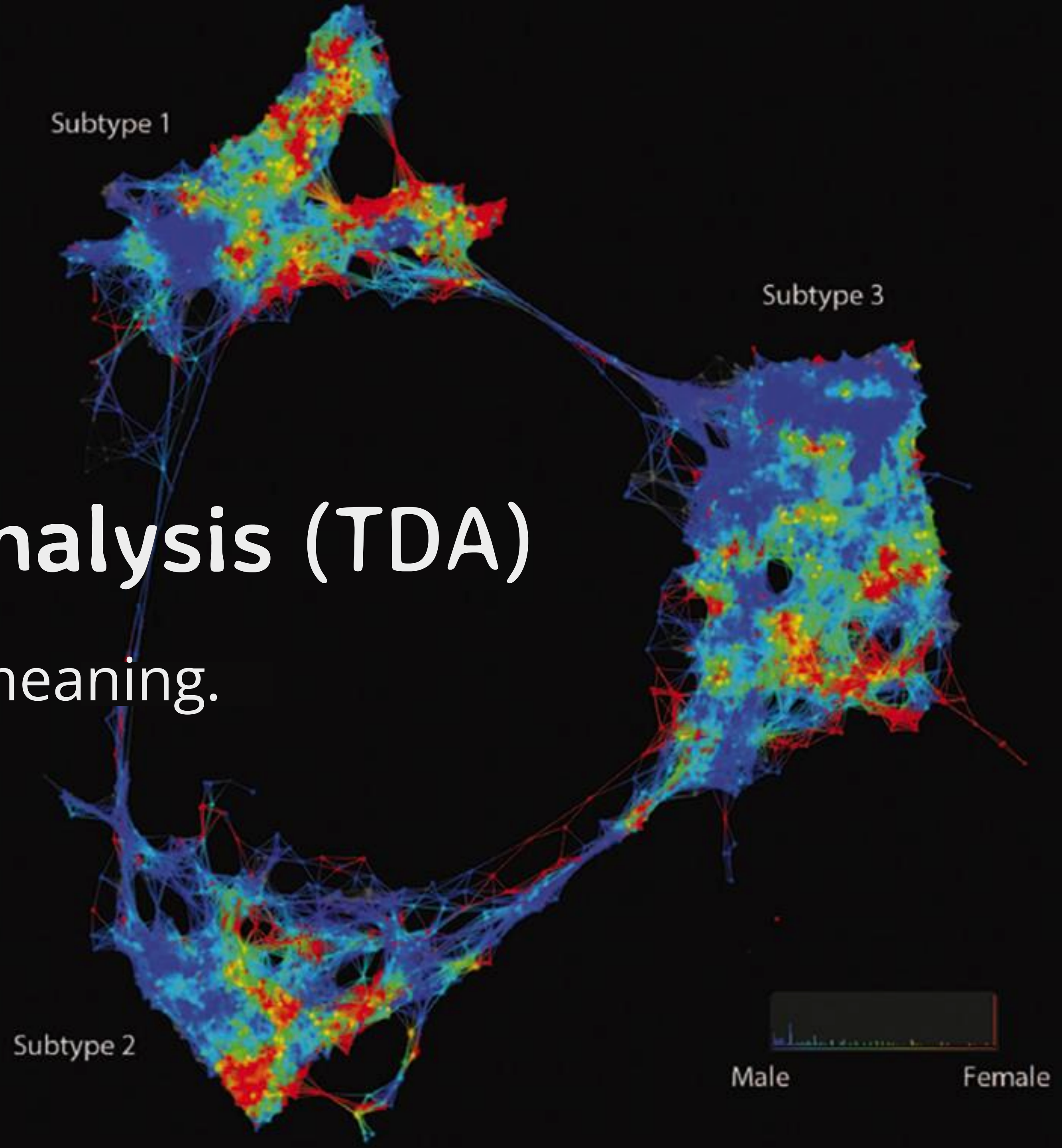


Topological Data Analysis (TDA)

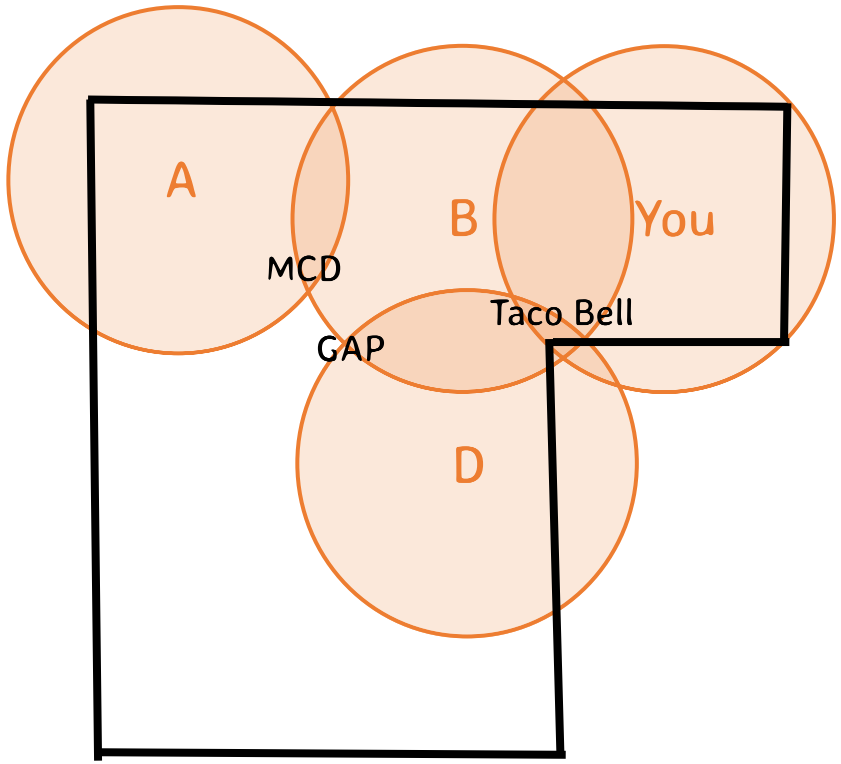
Data has shape. Shape has meaning.

Three kinds of Type 2 Diabetes.
Discovered 2015.



Coverage Problem

PERSON	SEES
You	Taco Bell
Aubrey	McDonald's
Becky	Taco Bell, McDonald's, GAP
Carlos	McDonald's, Gamestop, GAP
David	Taco Bell, Gamestop, GAP, Apple
Ellen	Gamestop, Foot Locker
Fabio	Apple, Foot Locker



Mall floorplan

Coverage Problem

PERSON	SEES
You	Taco Bell
Aubrey	McDonald’s
Becky	Taco Bell, McDonald’s, GAP
Carlos	McDonald’s, Gamestop, GAP
David	Taco Bell, Gamestop, GAP, Apple
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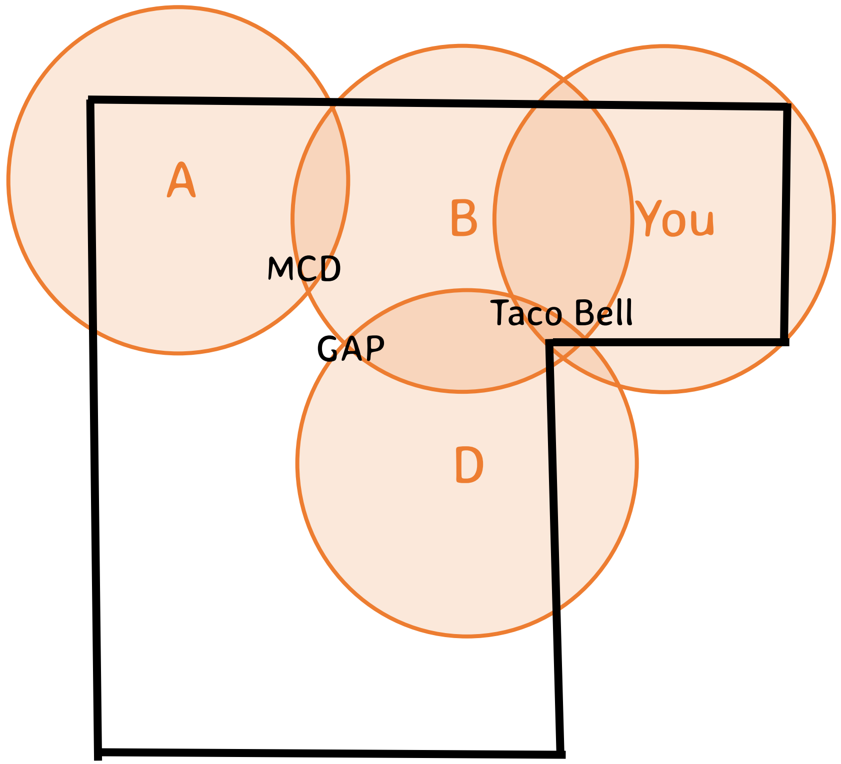

Mall floorplan

Assume

Everyone has the same sight radius

Phone calls reveal all common things any number of people see

Group sees entire mall periphery

Coverage Problem

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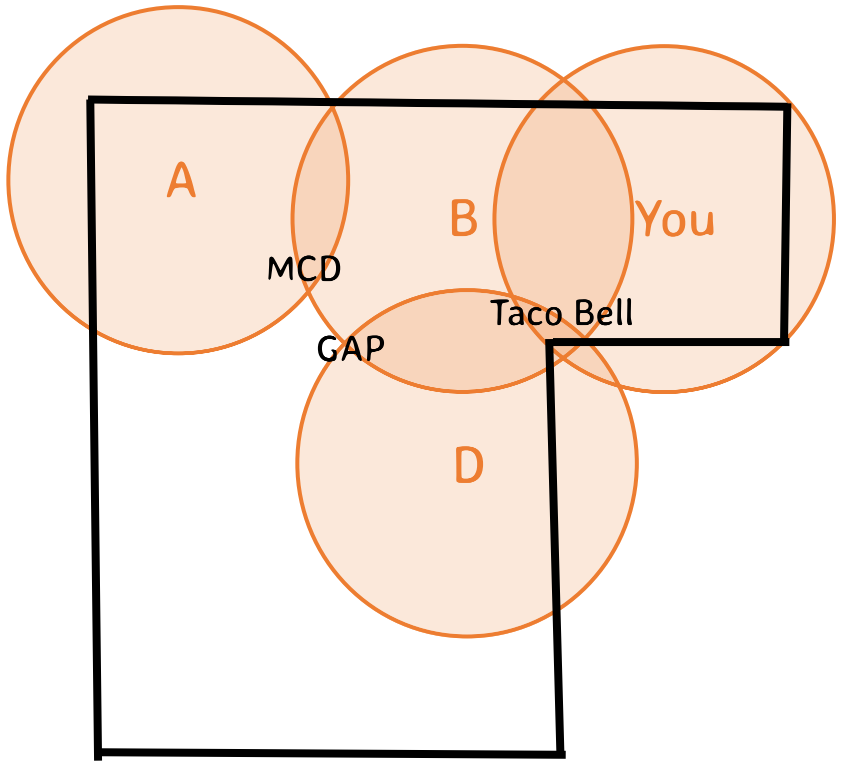

Mall floorplan

Assume

Everyone has the same sight radius

Phone calls reveal all common things any number of people see

Group sees entire mall periphery

Question

Can the group see the entire mall premise?

Coverage Problem

PERSON	SEES
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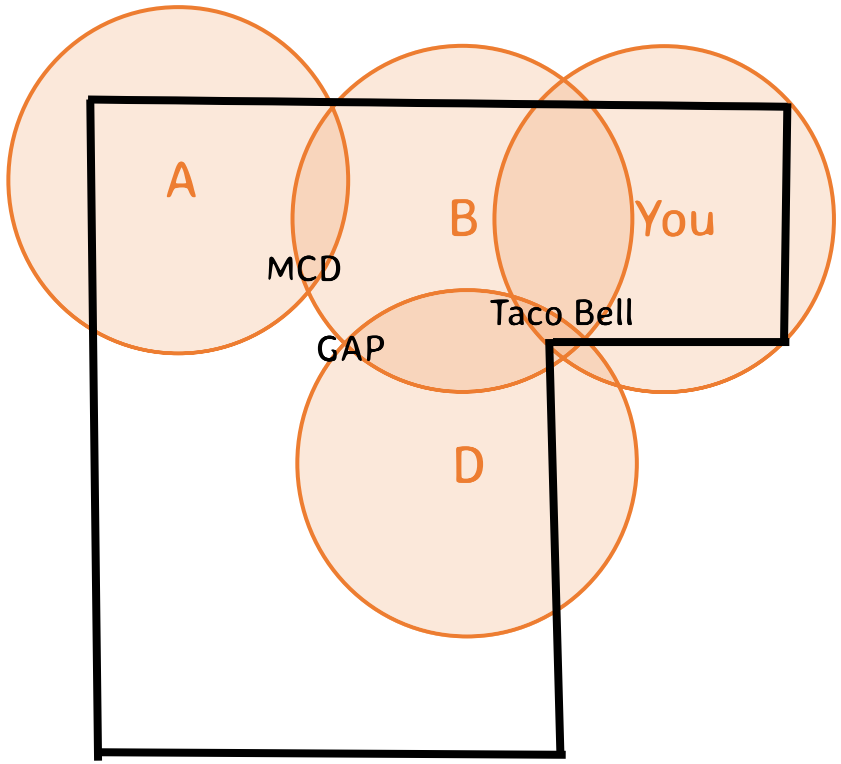

Build
Simplicial Complex

Coverage Problem

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You	Taco Bell
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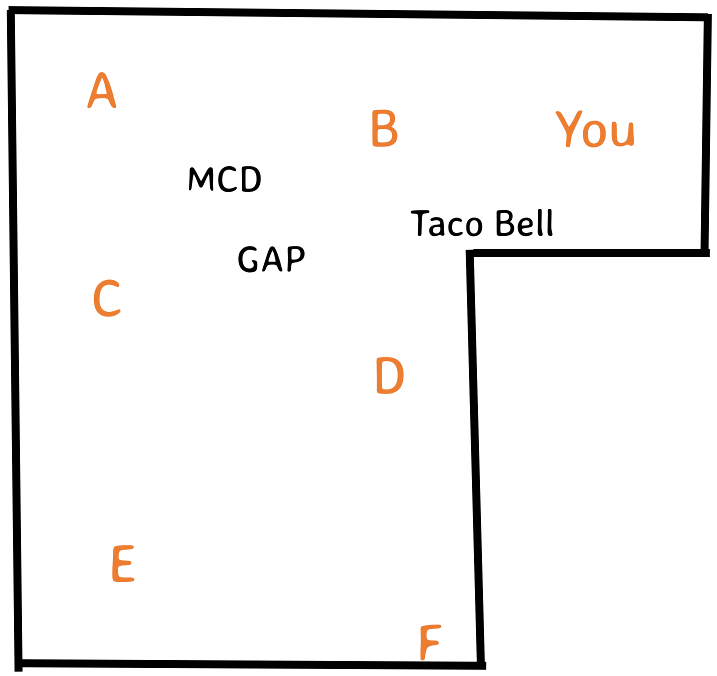

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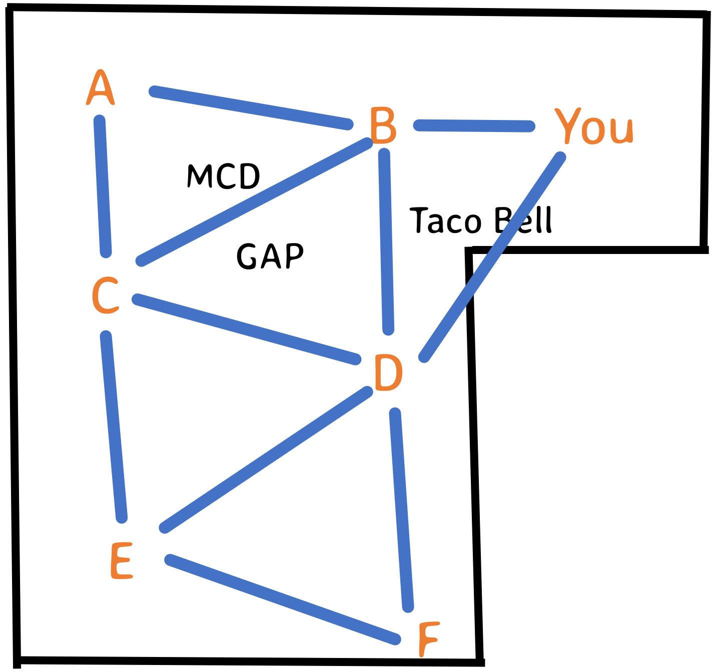

Build
Simplicial Complex

Edge: 2 people see same store

Coverage Problem

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You	Taco Bell
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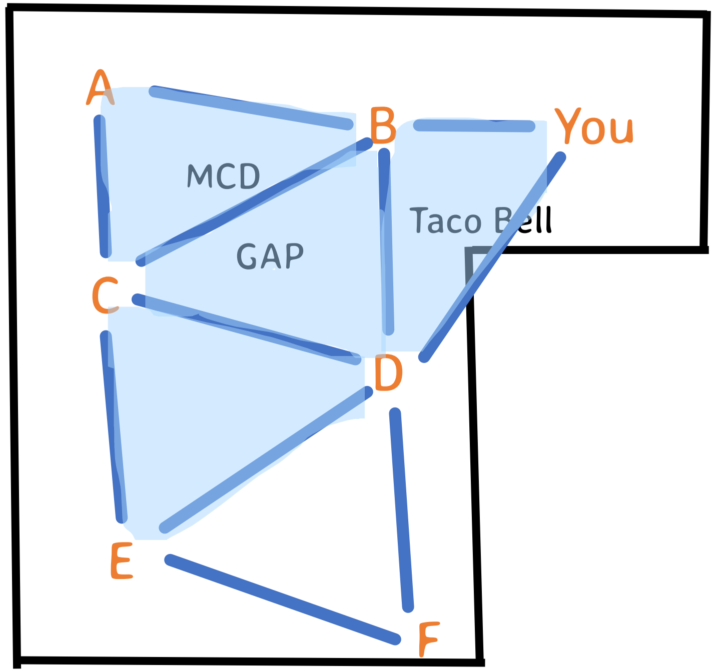

Build
Simplicial Complex

Edge: 2 people see same store

Face: 3 people see same store

Coverage Problem

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You	Taco Bell
Aubrey	McDonald's
Becky	Taco Bell, McDonald's, GAP
Carlos	McDonald's, Gamestop, GAP
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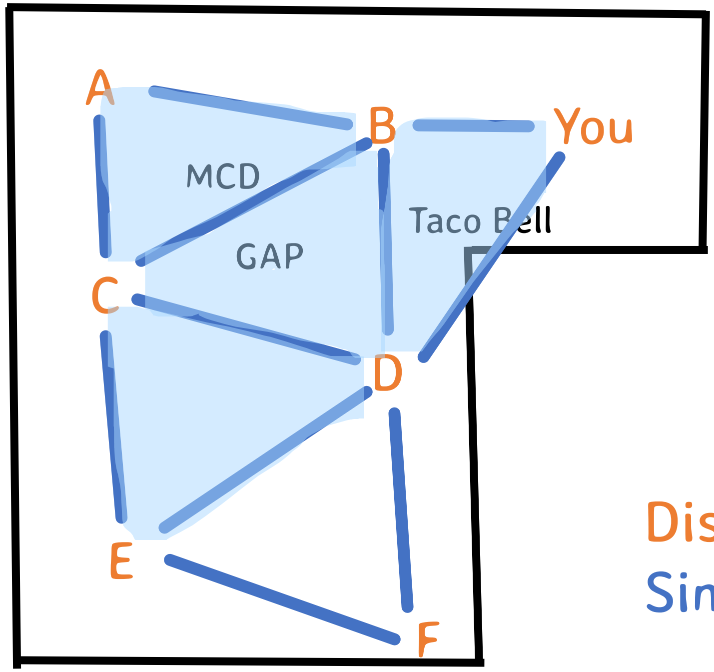

Build
Simplicial Complex

Edge: 2 people see same store

Face: 3 people see same store

Disks cover region ⇒
Simplicial complex has no "holes".

Coverage Problem

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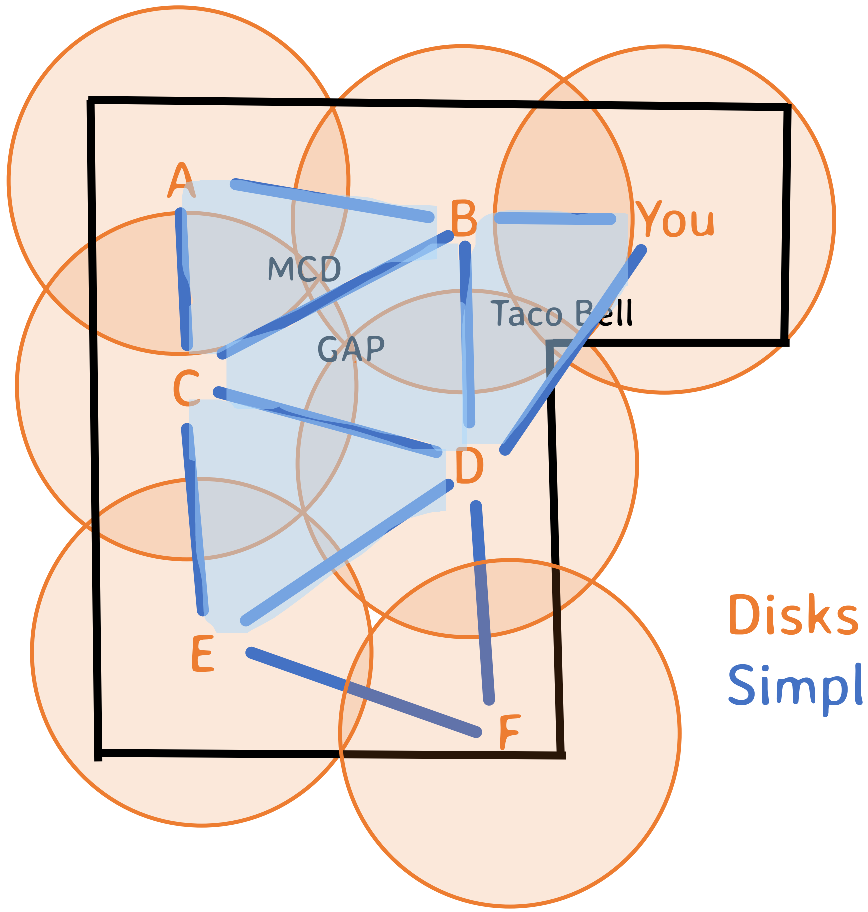

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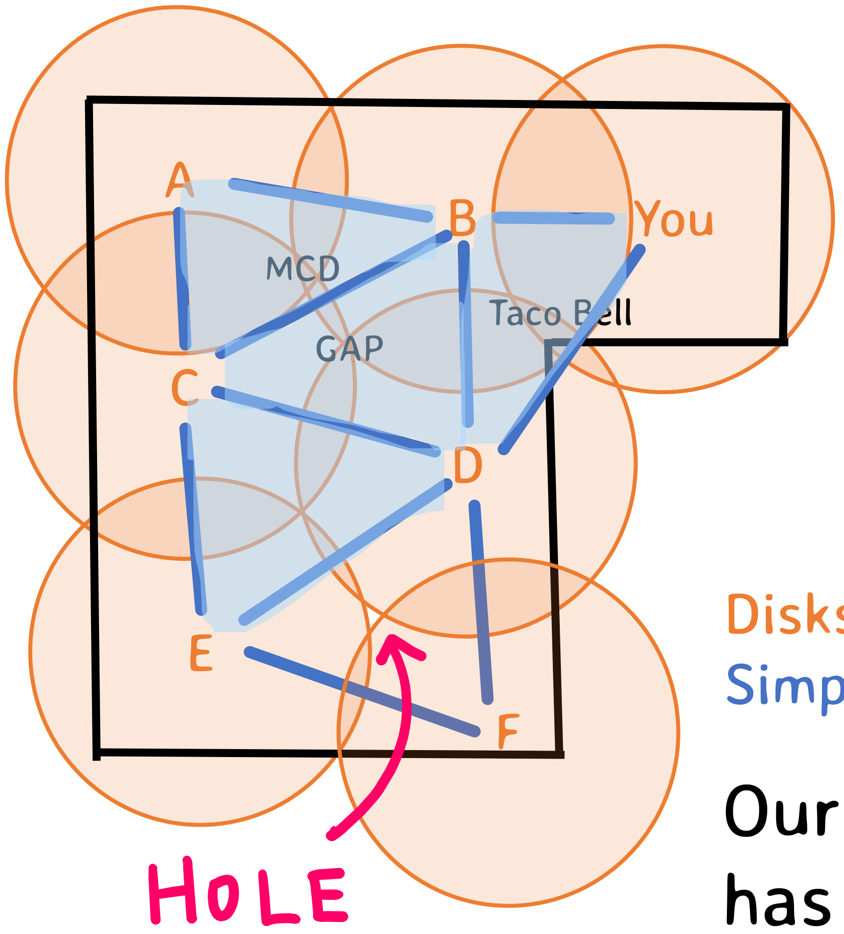
Simplicial complex has no "holes".

Coverage Problem

PERSON	SEES
You	Taco Bell
Aubrey	McDonald's
Becky	Taco Bell, McDonald's, GAP
Carlos	McDonald's, Gamestop, GAP
David	Taco Bell, Gamestop, GAP, Apple
Ellen	Gamestop, Foot Locker
Fabio	Apple, Foot Locker



Build
Simplicial Complex

Edge: 2 people see same store

Face: 3 people see same store

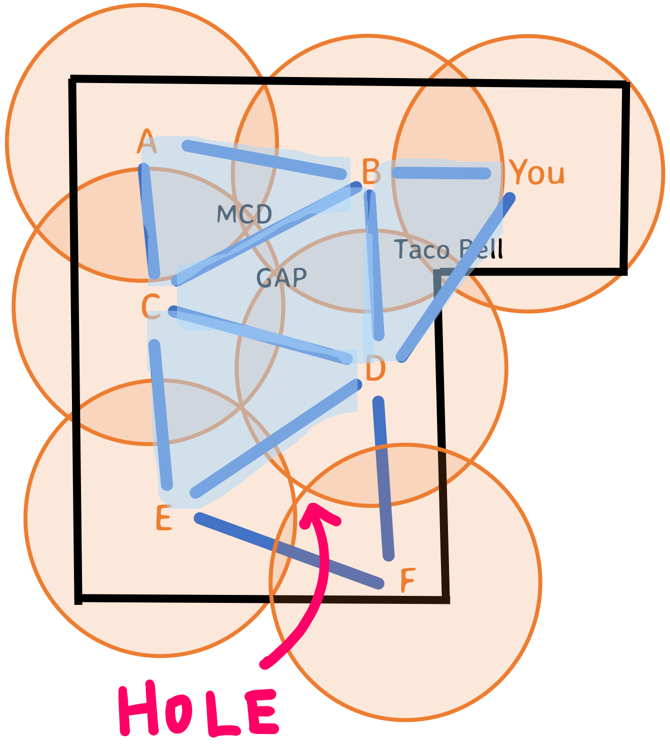
Disks cover region ⇒
Simplicial complex has no "holes".

Our simplicial complex has hole! So disks <u>don't</u> cover region.

Coverage Problem

Sensor network (drones, etc.) with no GPS used for:

- surveillance (forest fire),
- ensure wifi coverage



RESOURCES ON TOPOLOGY

- Tadashi Tokieda’s lectures on topology on YouTube. (Prerequisite: Calculus 3)
  < https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTBqohhFNBE_09L0i-lf3fYXF5woAbrzJ >

  Accompanying notes: "Topology in Four Days" in An Introduction to the Geometry and Topology of Fluid Flows.

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RESOURCES ON TOPOLOGICAL DATA ANALYSIS (TDA)

- Learn more: talk to Thomas Needham or Washington Mio in FSU math department.
- Gunnar Carlsson, The Shape of Big Data
  < https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9iiJa1nZZk >
- Diabetes subtypes: < https://towardsdatascience.com/identification-of-type-2-diabetes-subgroups-through-topological-data-analysis-of-patient-similarity-91838f2ccf74 >
- An example of a topology-based algorithm called Mapper (2007)
  < https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD0_zPlEsqY >
- de Silva, Ghrist, Homological Sensor Networks
  < https://www.ams.org/notices/200701/fea-ghrist.pdf >