

# CSE 250

## Data Structures

Dr. Eric Mikida  
epmikida@buffalo.edu  
208 Capen Hall

**More Spatial Data Structures**

# Announcements

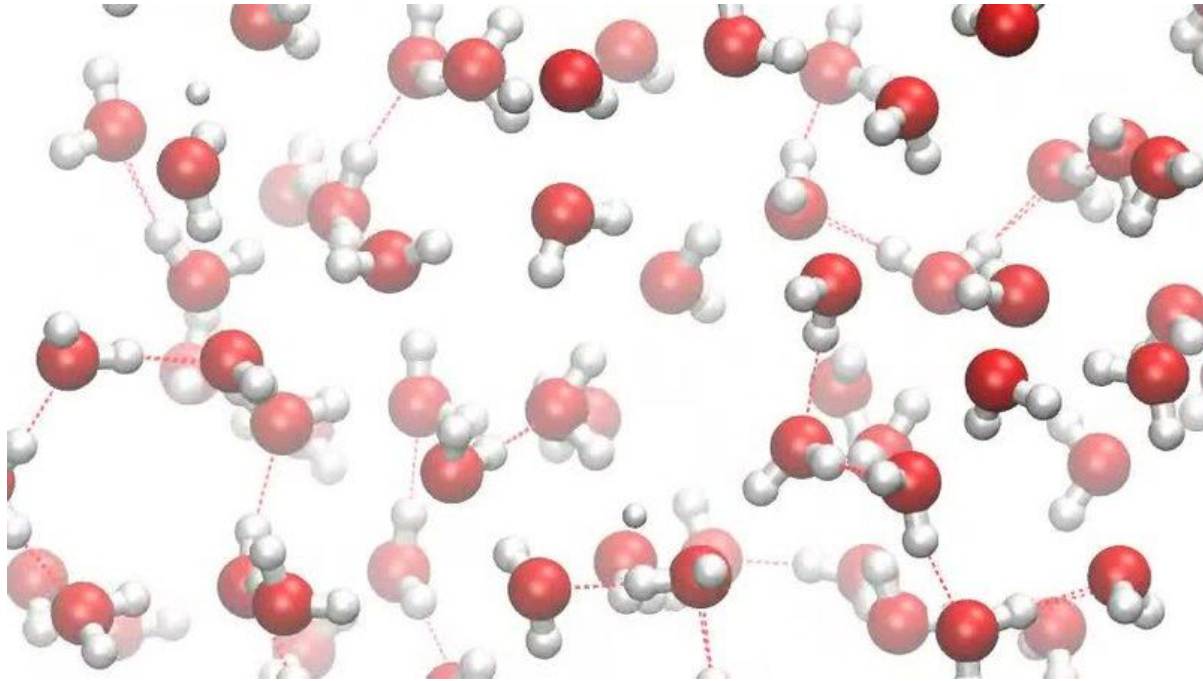
- PA4 due Sunday

# Some Problems are REALLY Big



ESA/Hubble and NASA: <http://www.spacetelescope.org/images/potw1006a/>

# Some Problems are REALLY Small



Molecular Dynamics Simulation of Liquid Water

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A\\_Molecular\\_Dynamics\\_Simulation\\_of\\_Liquid\\_Water\\_at\\_298\\_K.webm](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_Molecular_Dynamics_Simulation_of_Liquid_Water_at_298_K.webm)

# Some Problems are REALLY Detailed

This is **NOT** a photo. It is a computer generated image.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray\\_tracing\\_%28graphics%29#/media/File:Glasses\\_800\\_edit.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_tracing_%28graphics%29#/media/File:Glasses_800_edit.png)

# Other Problems: N-Body Problem

**What if we want to compute interactions between one body and every other body? How long would we expect that to take?**

# Other Problems: N-Body Problem

**What if we want to compute interactions between one body and every other body? How long would we expect that to take?**

Naively, this would take  $O(n^2)$ ...but likely we don't care as much about interactions with bodies that are very very far away.

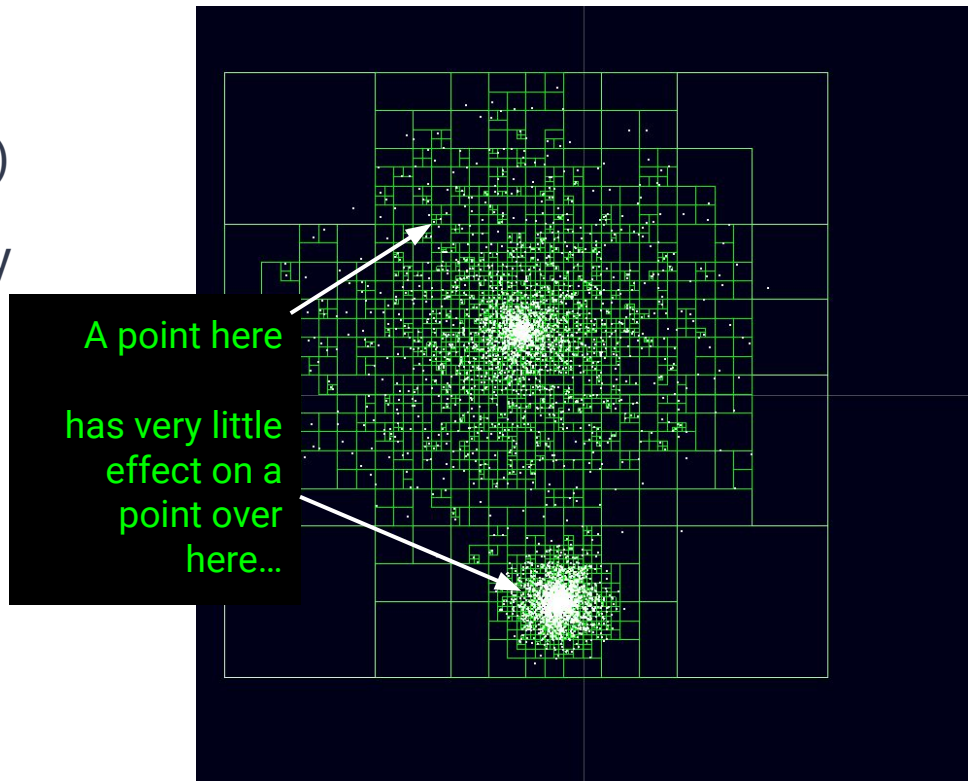
# Other Problems: N-Body Problem

**Idea:** Divide our points into a quadtree (or octree in 3 dimensions)

Do full calculation for points closeby (in the same box)

Compute a summary (ie total force and center of mass) for each box that can be applied to far away boxes

Target runtime:  $\sim O(n \log(n))$

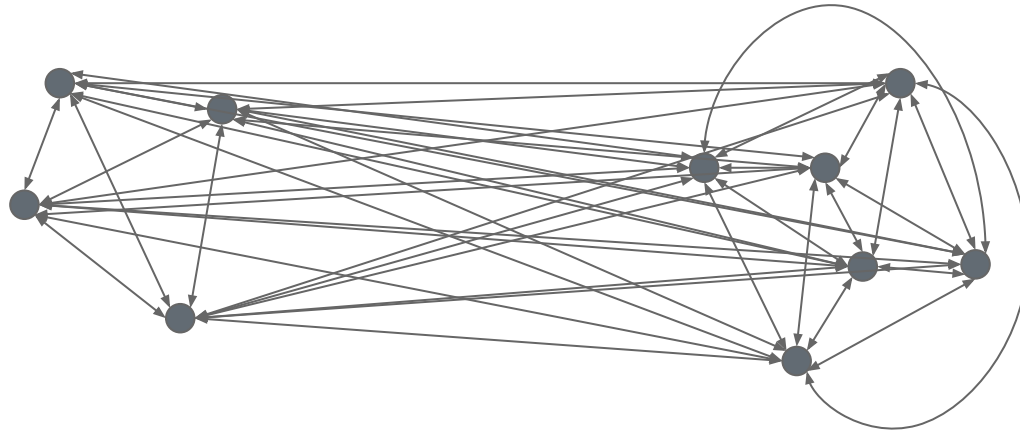




# Example

This diagram contains 10 bodies interacting with one another...

$O(n^2) = \sim 100$  interactions (arrows)

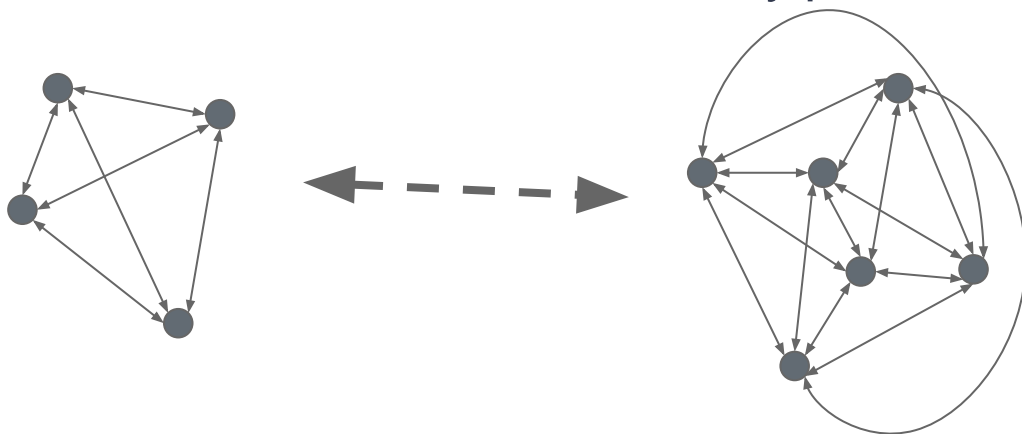


# Example

This diagram contains 10 bodies interacting with one another...

$O(n^2) = \sim 100$  interactions (arrows)

**Idea:** Estimate the interactions between far away points



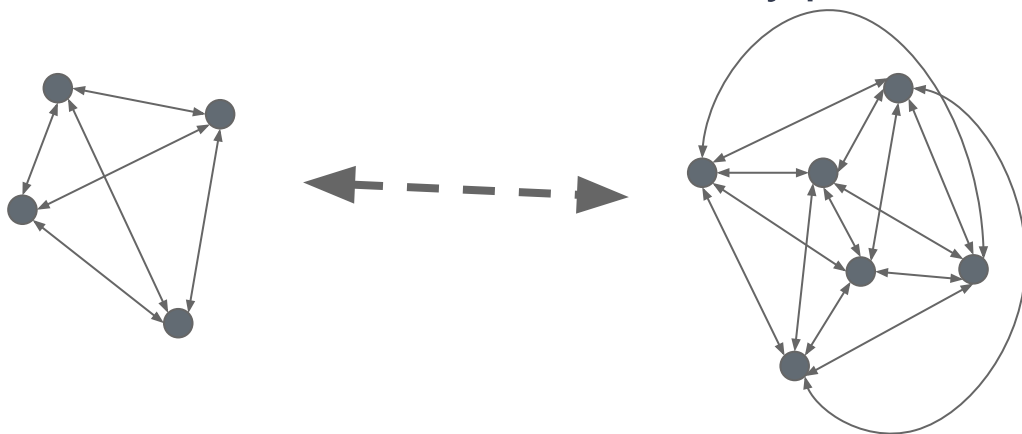
# Example

This diagram contains 10 bodies interacting with one another...

$O(n^2) = \sim 100$  interactions (arrows)

How can we do this systematically?

**Idea:** Estimate the interactions between far away points



# Quad/Oct Trees Revisited

**Idea:** Let's organize the data (spatially) in a tree structure

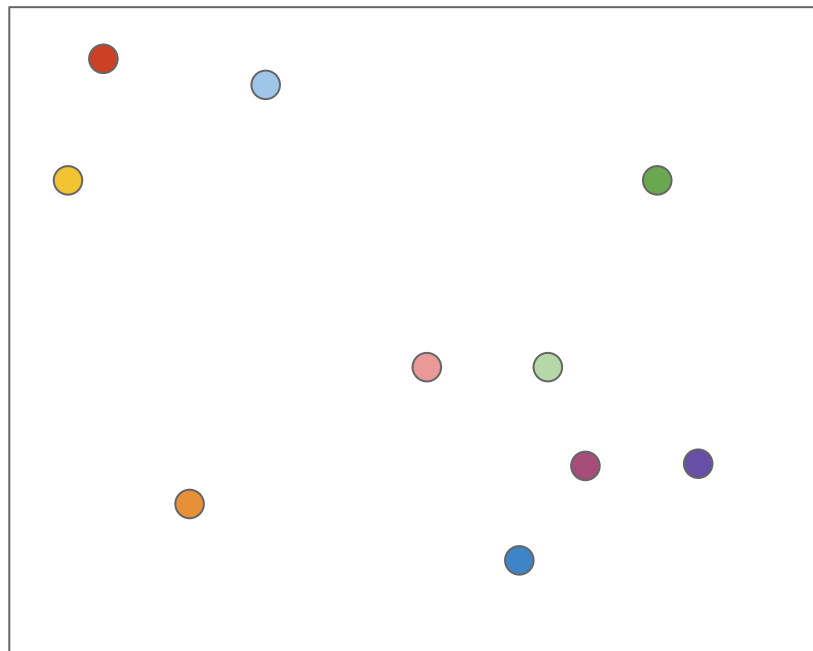
- 2D space → use a quad tree
- 3D space → use an oct tree (each node has at most 8 children)

**Unlike last time, let's partition the space we are simulating, rather than the points in the space**

# Space Partitioning - 2D Example

**Create a quad-tree by recursively partitioning the space**

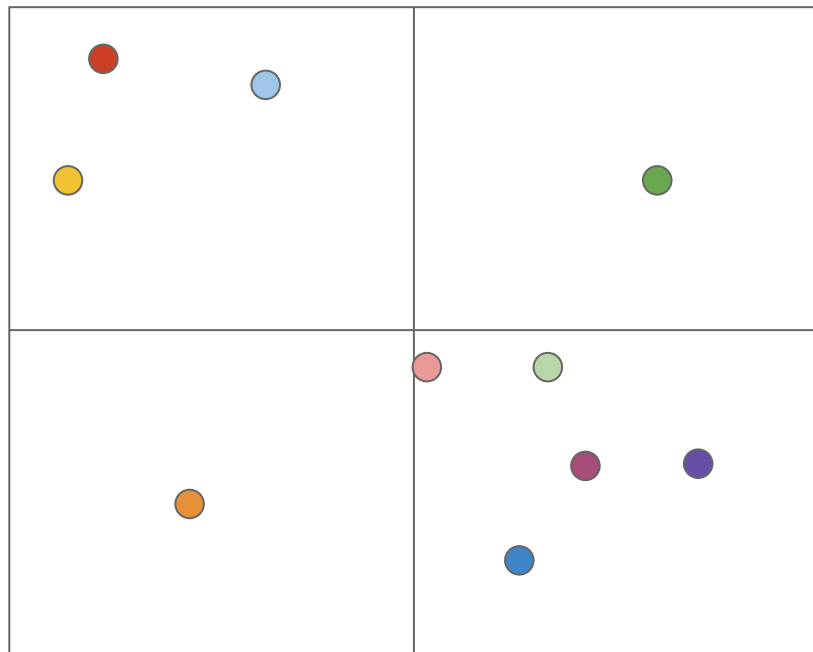
- Divide the space evenly until there is only one element per partition
- Internal tree nodes represent the partitions, leaves are the actual elements



# Space Partitioning - 2D Example

**Create a quad-tree by recursively partitioning the space**

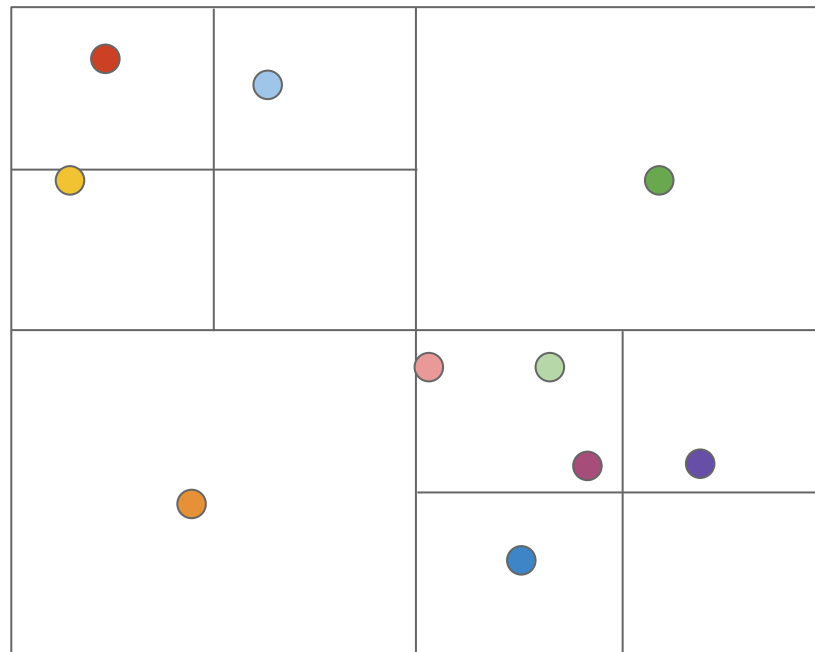
- Divide the space evenly until there is only one element per partition
- Internal tree nodes represent the partitions, leaves are the actual elements



# Space Partitioning - 2D Example

**Create a quad-tree by recursively partitioning the space**

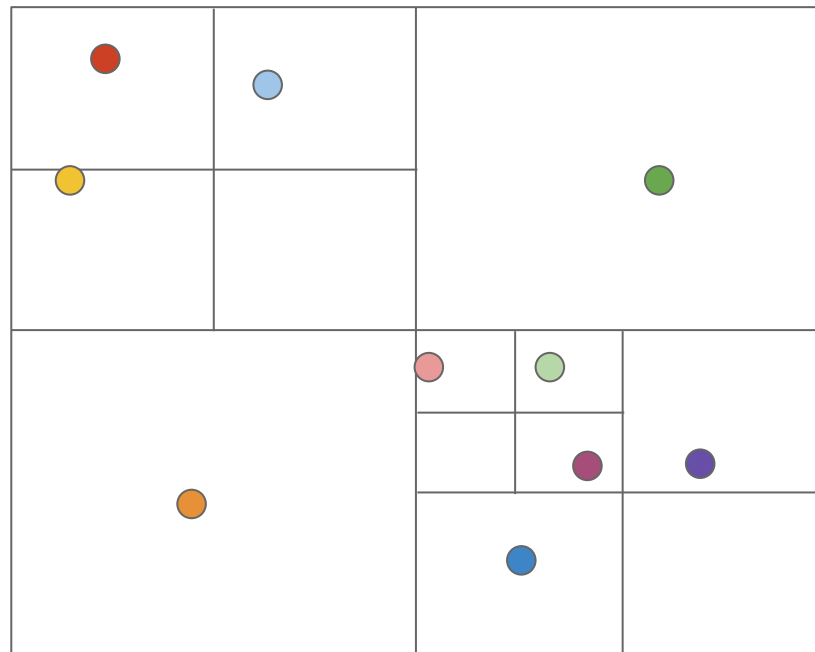
- Divide the space evenly until there is only one element per partition
- Internal tree nodes represent the partitions, leaves are the actual elements



# Space Partitioning - 2D Example

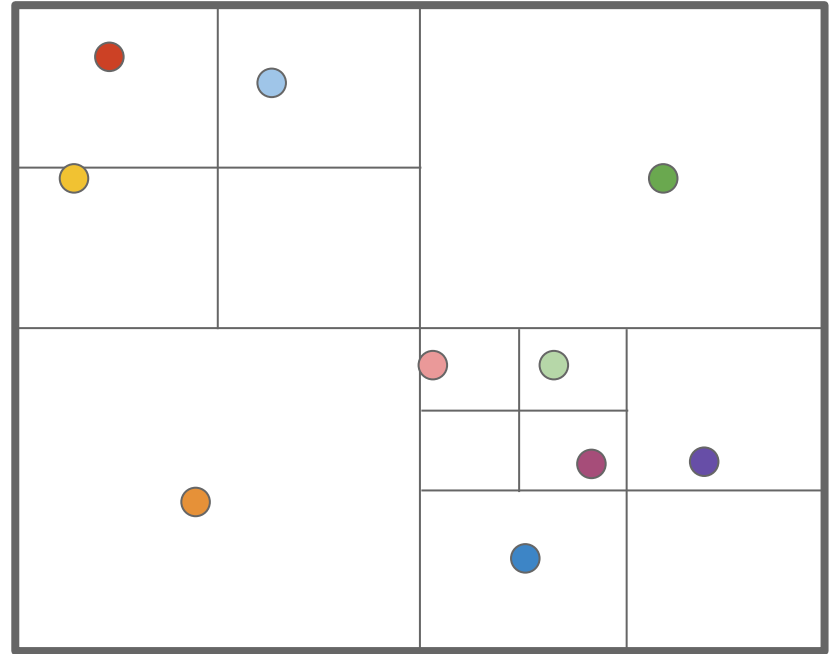
**Create a quad-tree by recursively partitioning the space**

- Divide the space evenly until there is only one element per partition
- Internal tree nodes represent the partitions, leaves are the actual elements

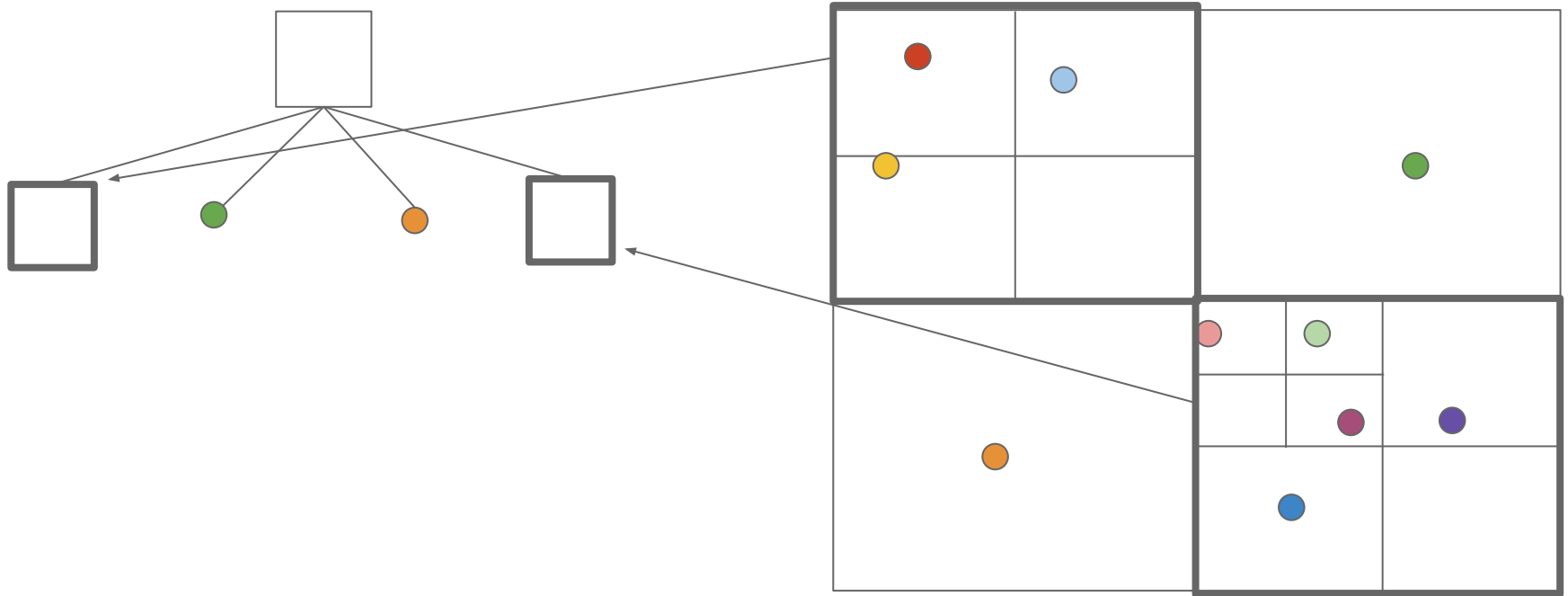




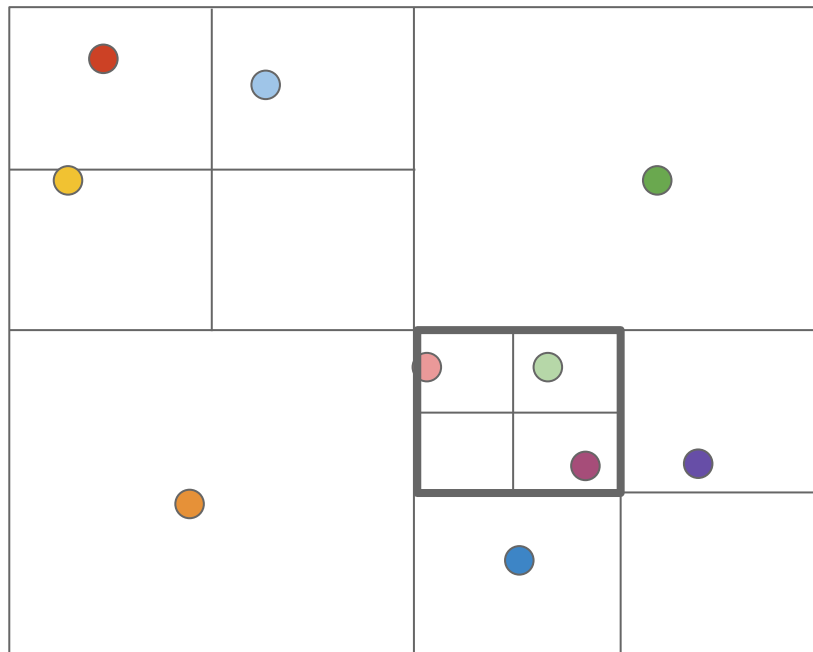
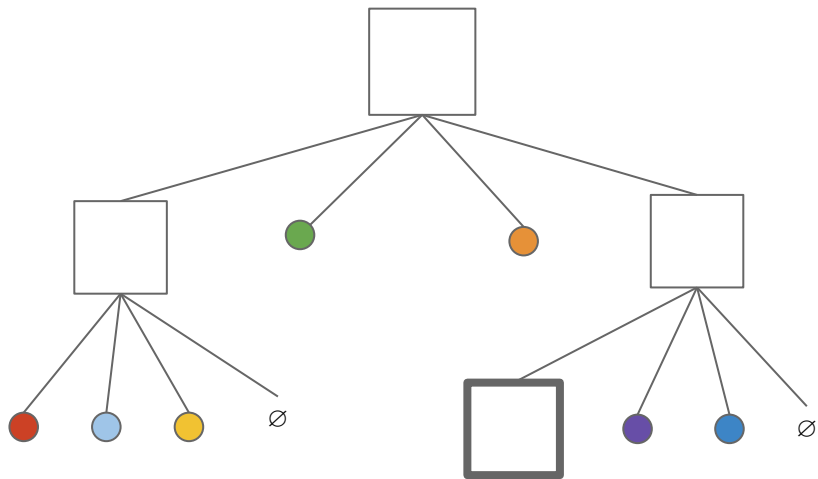
# Space Partitioning - 2D Example



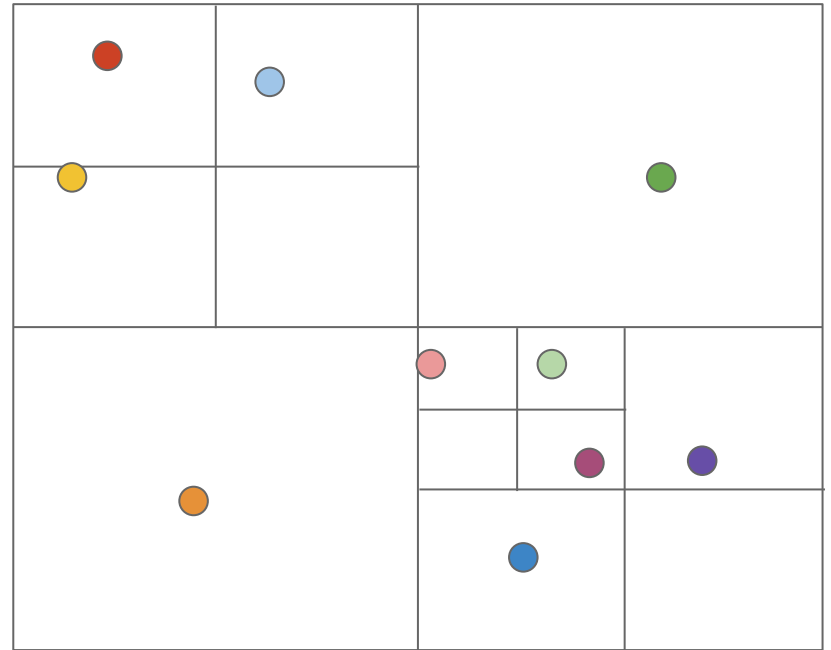
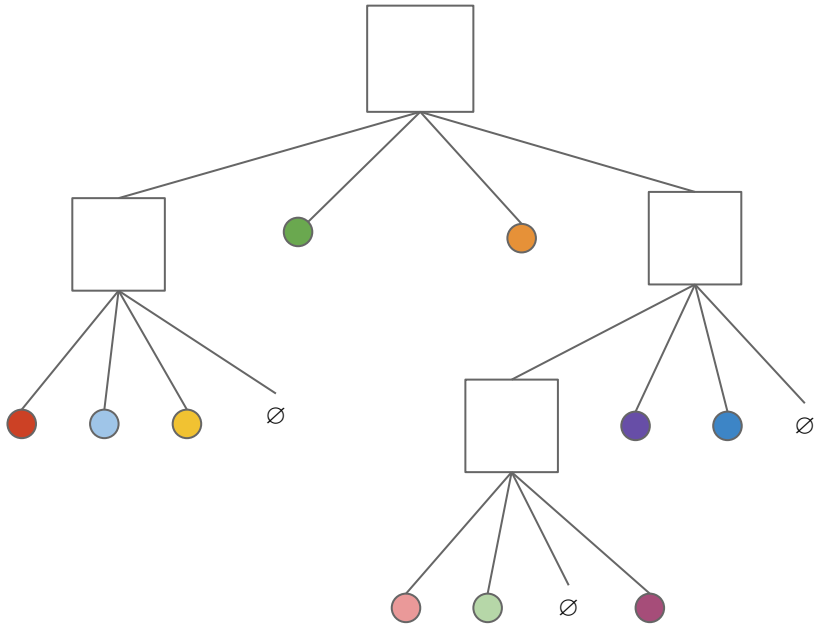
# Space Partitioning - 2D Example



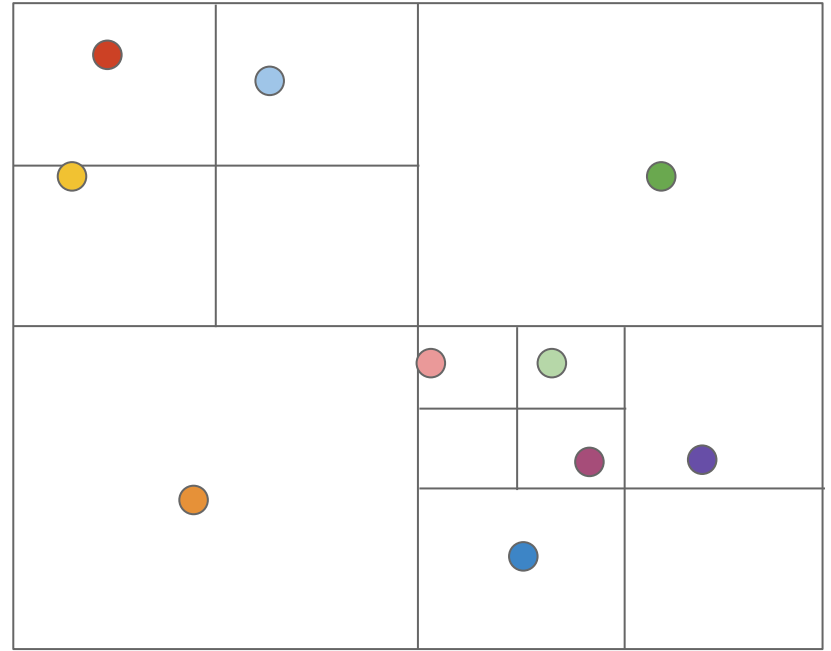
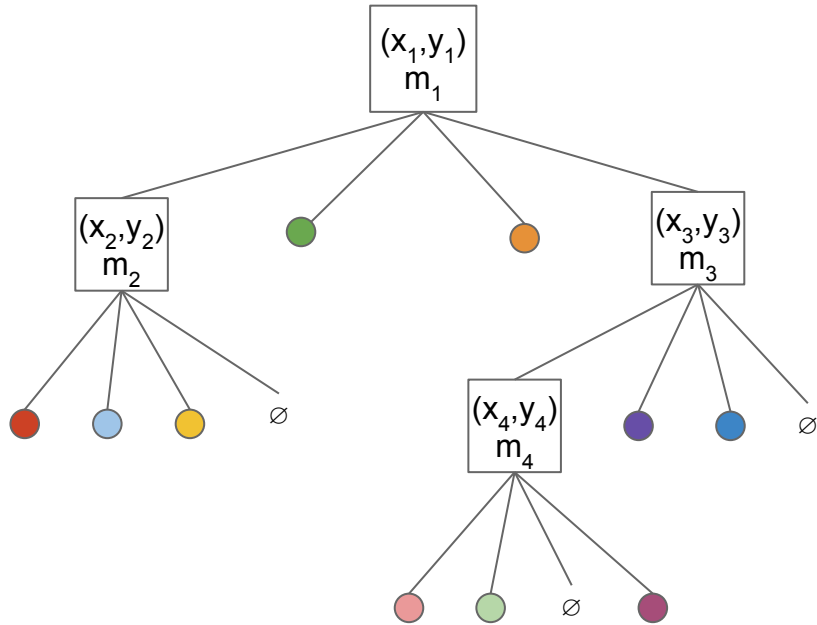
# Space Partitioning - 2D Example



# Space Partitioning - 2D Example



# Space Partitioning - 2D Example



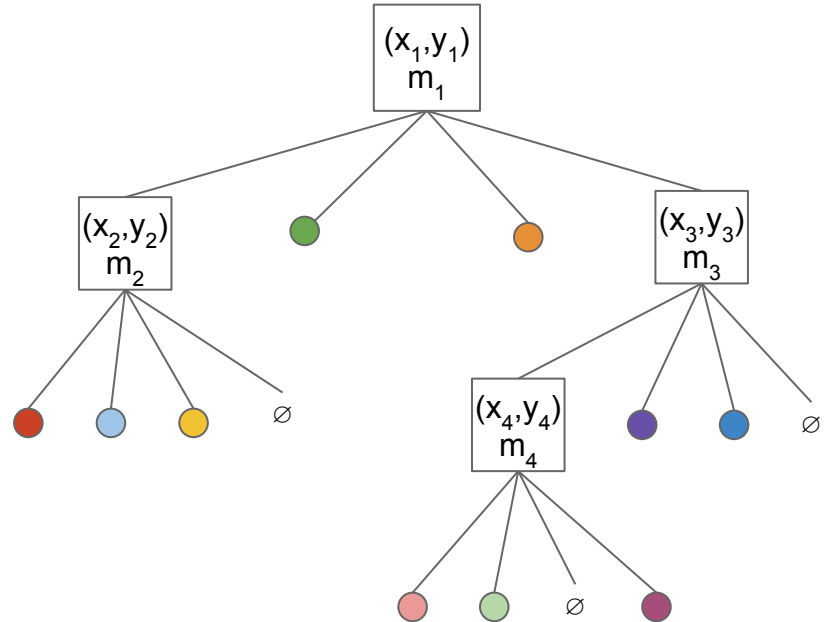
For each internal node, we can compute the center of mass and total mass

# Barnes-Hut Algorithm (simplified)

## Now to use the tree:

For a body with coordinates  $(x_b, y_b)$ :

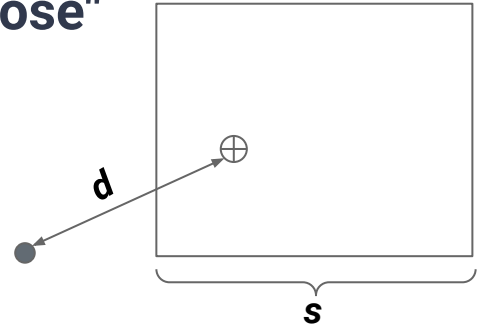
1. Start at the root
2. If the  $(x_1, y_1)$  is "far" from  $(x_b, y_b)$  then just treat it as a single body with mass  $m_1$
3. If it is "close", then repeat this process with the children



# Barnes-Hut Algorithm (simplified)

So what is considered "far", and what is considered "close"

- Find the ratio  $s/d$  where  $s$  is the width of the region in question and  $d$  is the distance from the body to the center of mass of that region
- Pick a threshold,  $\theta$ 
  - If  $s/d > \theta$  then we are close enough to check children in more detail
  - If  $s/d < \theta$  then we are far away and can treat the region as a single body
- Larger  $\theta$  means more fudging the numbers, but faster execution ( $\sim O(n \log n)$  to process all  $n$  bodies)
- $\theta = 0$  means finding an exact answer, but at a cost of  $O(n^2)$



# Trees as a Hierarchy

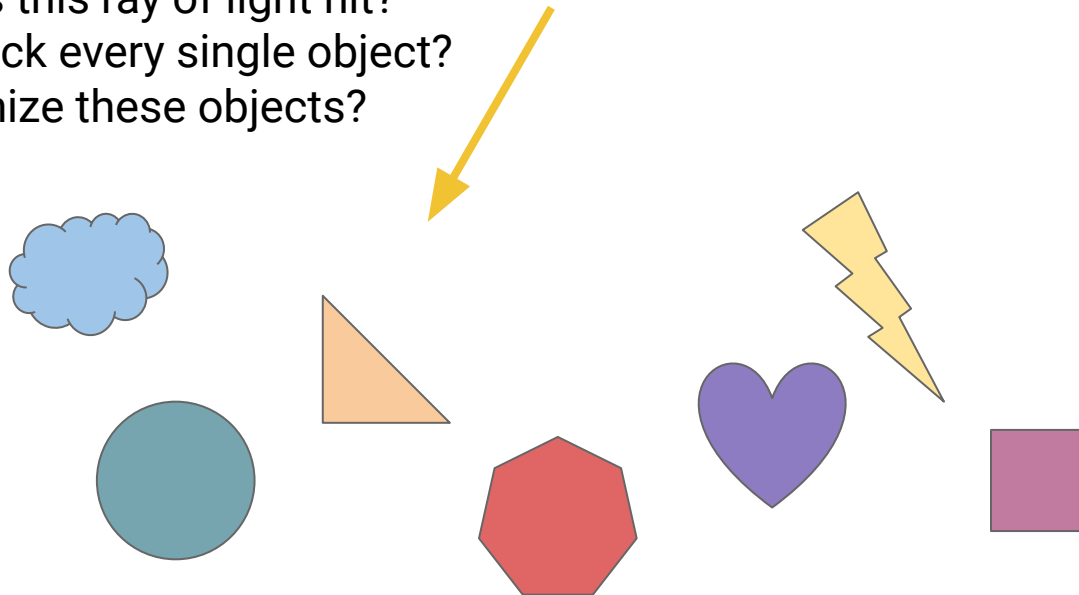
In the n-body problem, we used a tree to *hierarchically* organize our data

- When using this hierarchy, for each internal node we could decide whether or not to explore further with a very cheap  **$O(1)$**  check
  - This allows us to avoid checking all *n* elements in a systematic fashion
- This style of algorithm has other applications as well



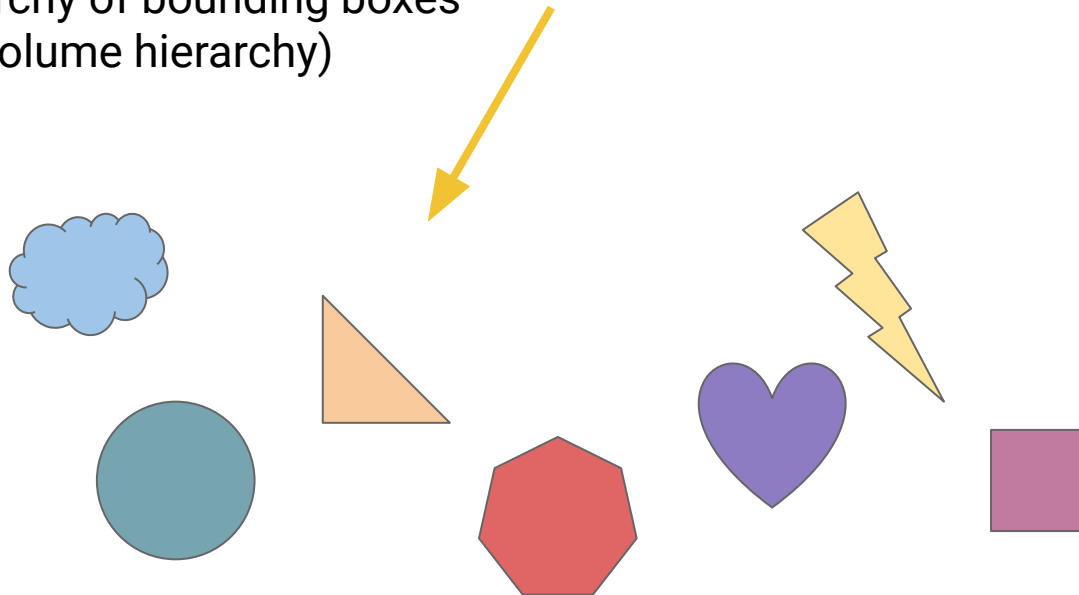
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

Which object does this ray of light hit?  
Do we have to check every single object?  
How can we organize these objects?



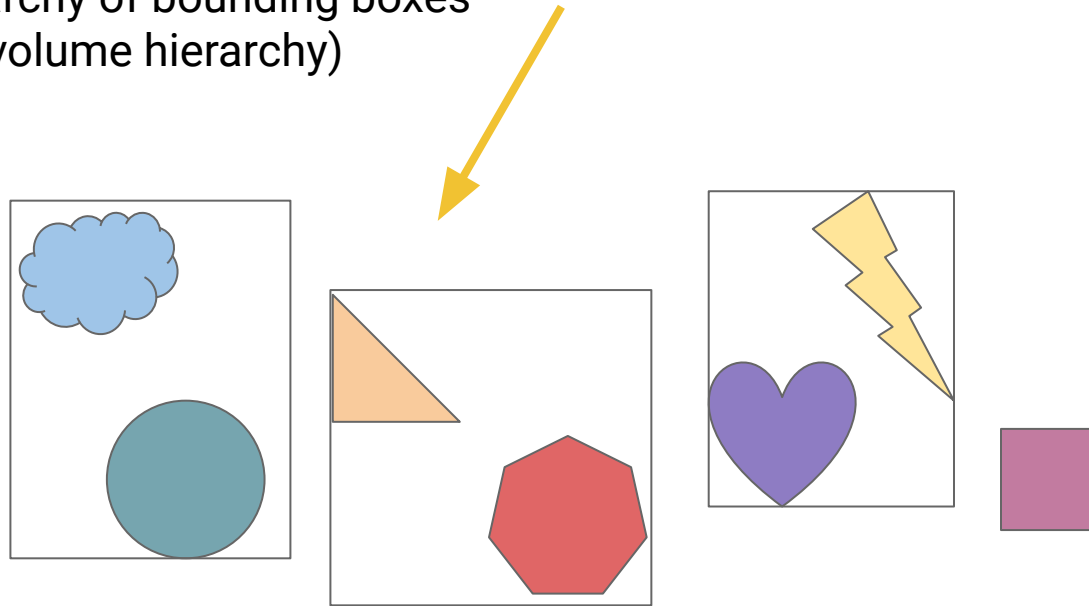
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**Idea:** Build a hierarchy of bounding boxes  
(BVH - Bounding volume hierarchy)



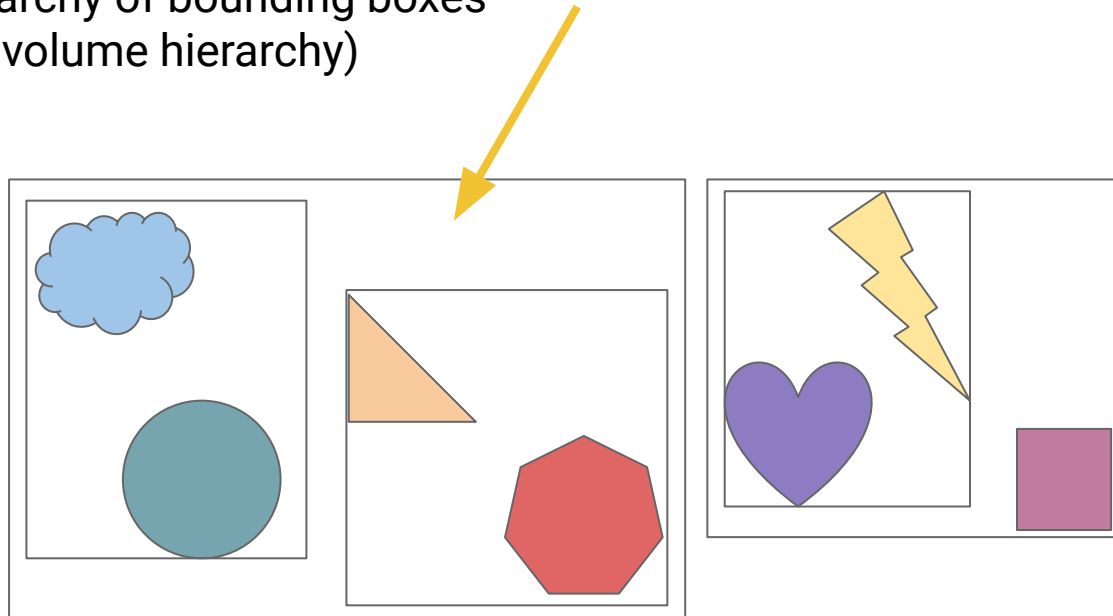
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**Idea:** Build a hierarchy of bounding boxes  
(BVH - Bounding volume hierarchy)



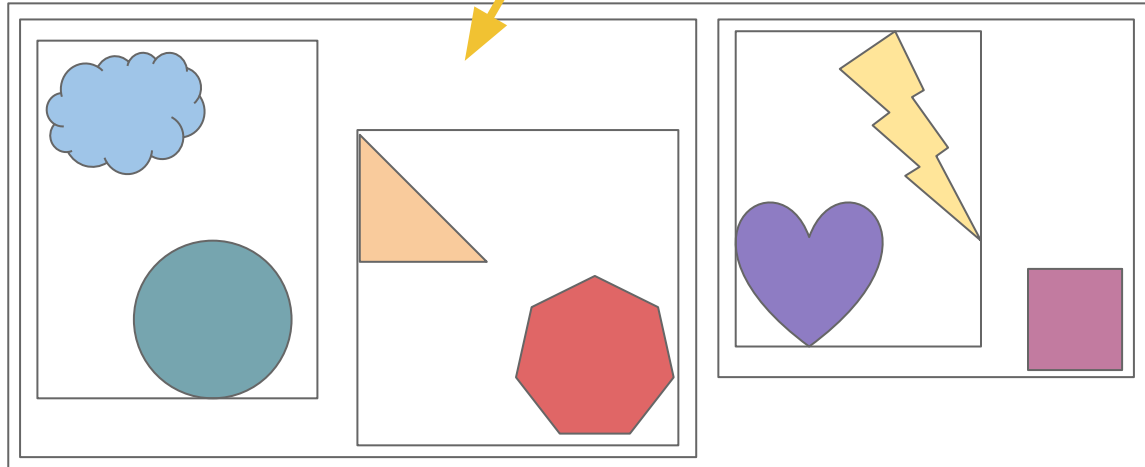
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**Idea:** Build a hierarchy of bounding boxes  
(BVH - Bounding volume hierarchy)



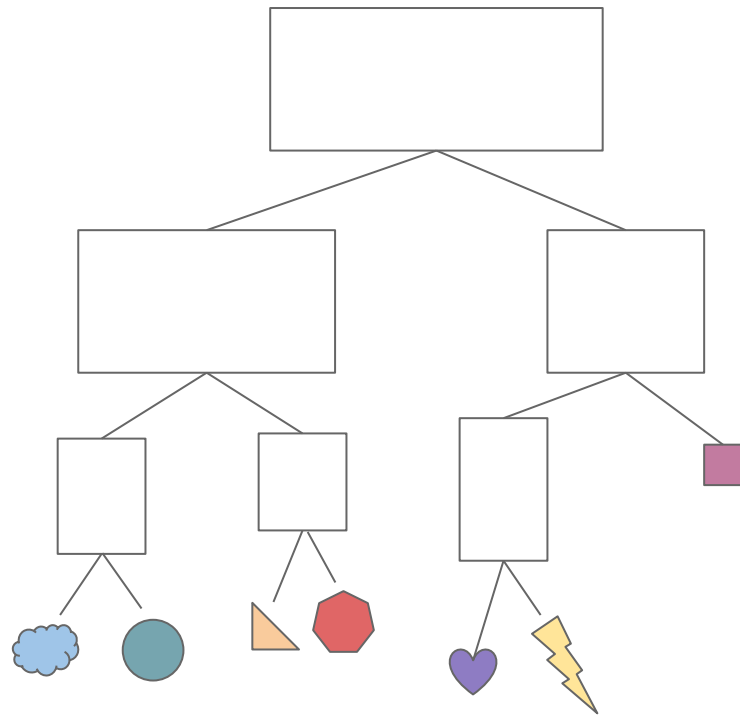
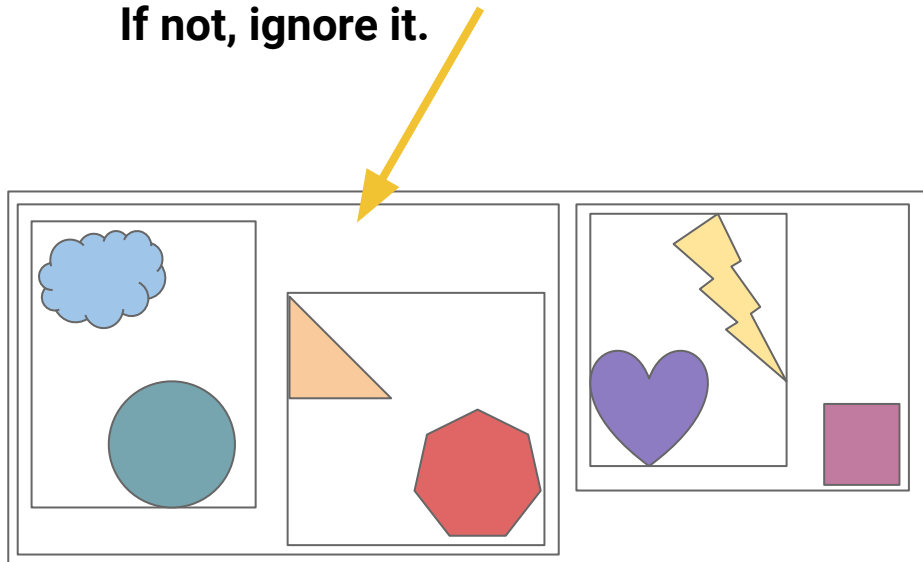
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**Idea:** Build a hierarchy of bounding boxes  
(BVH - Bounding volume hierarchy)



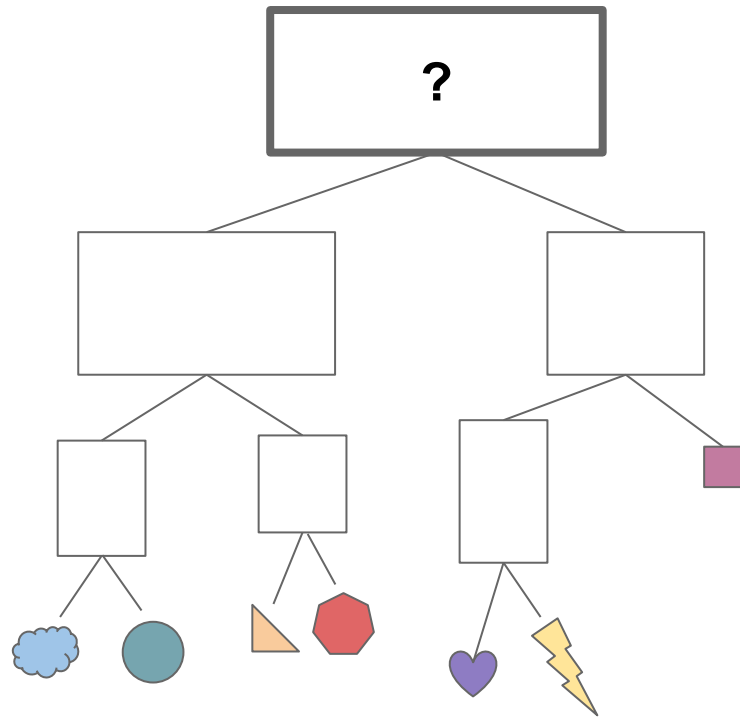
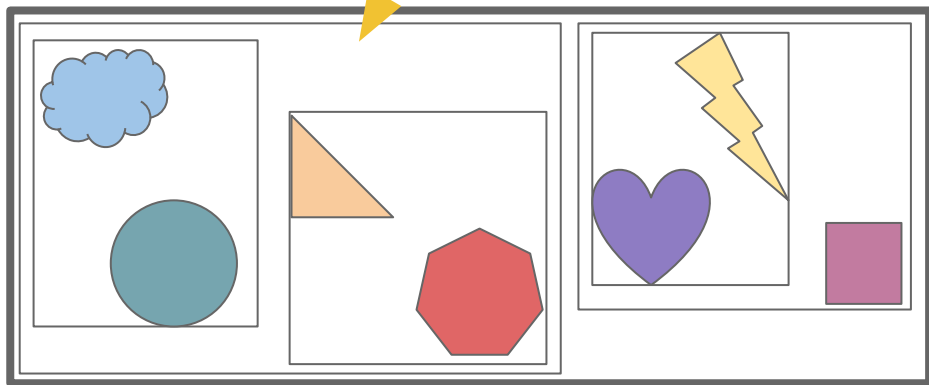
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**These bounding boxes form a tree...**  
**We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.**  
**If it does, explore its children.**  
**If not, ignore it.**



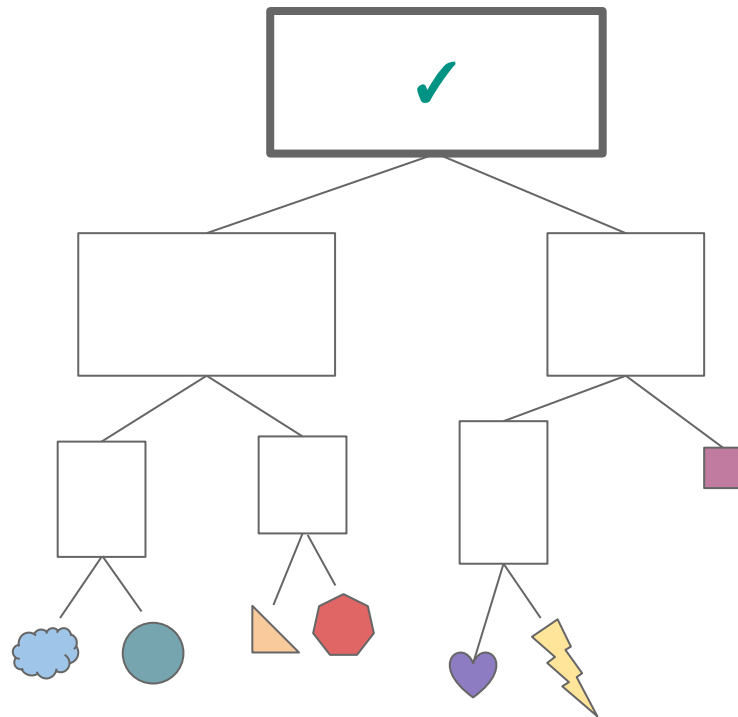
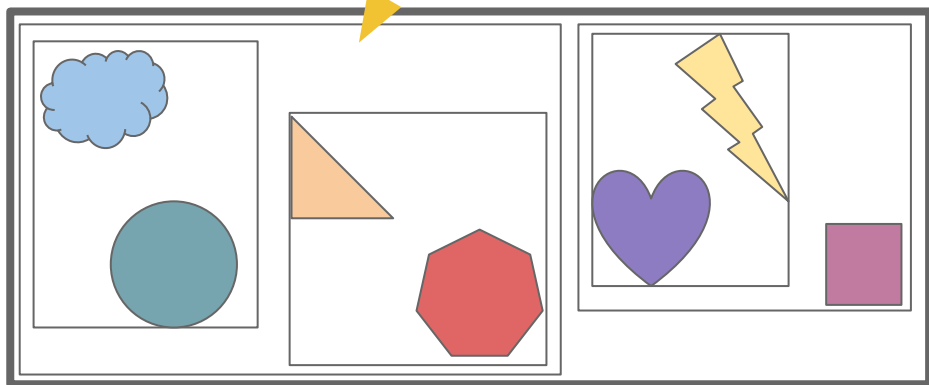
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**These bounding boxes form a tree...**  
**We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.**  
**If it does, explore its children.**  
**If not, ignore it.**



# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

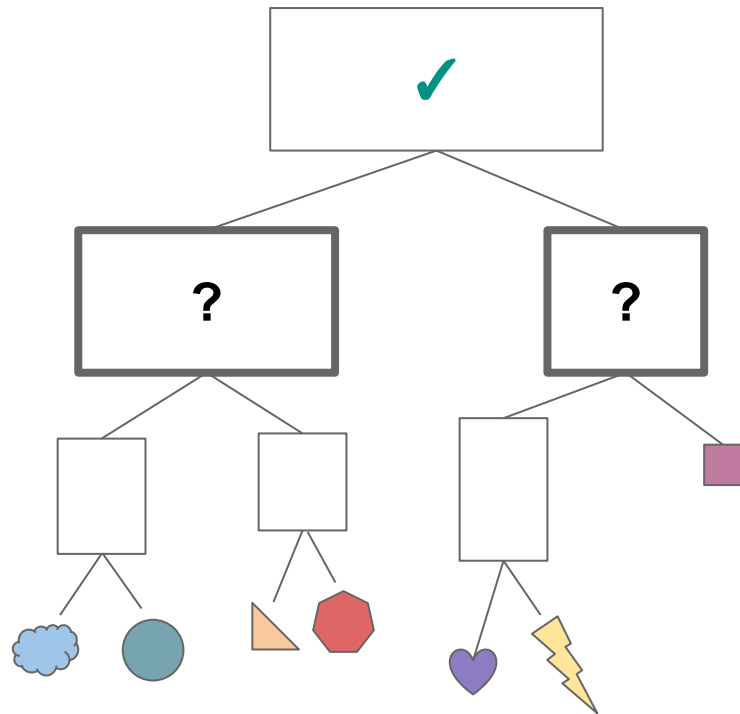
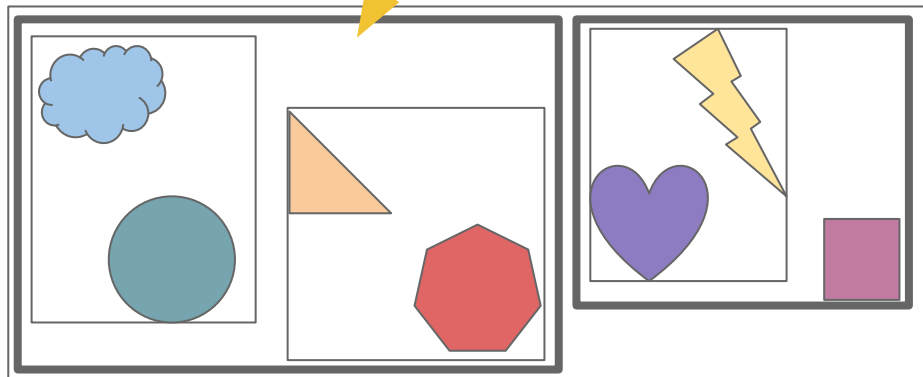
**These bounding boxes form a tree...**  
**We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.**  
**If it does, explore its children.**  
**If not, ignore it.**





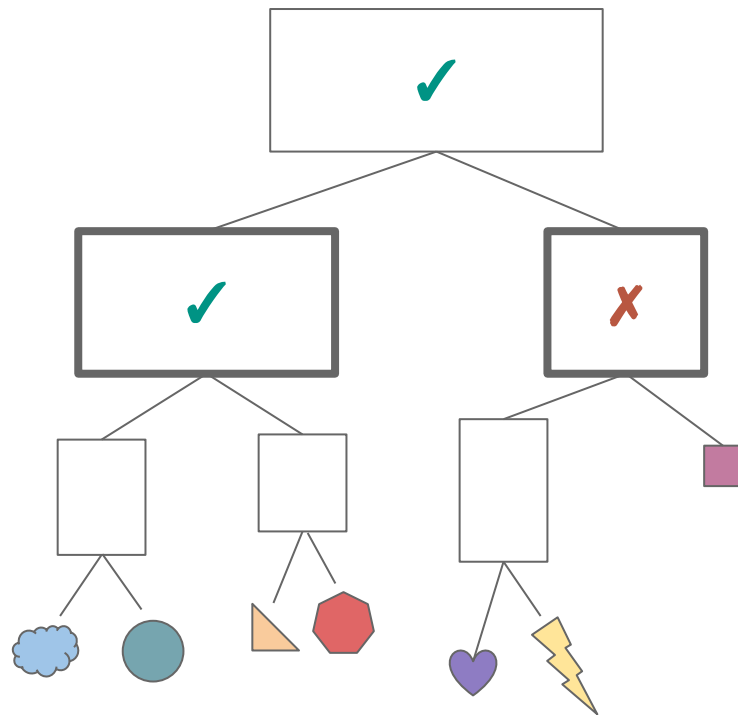
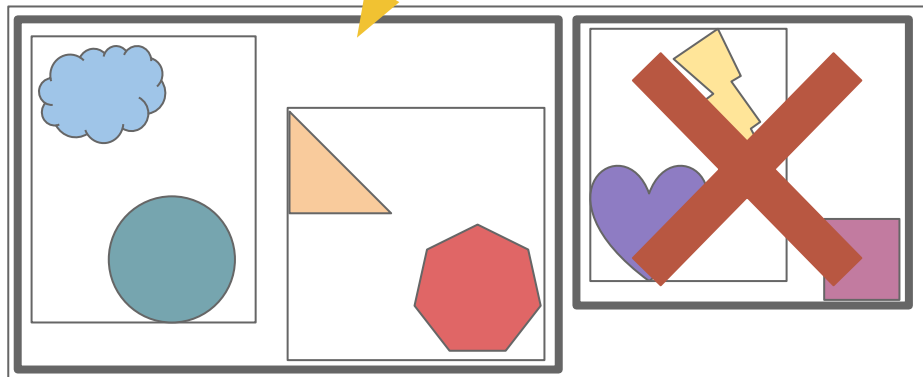
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**These bounding boxes form a tree...**  
**We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.**  
**If it does, explore its children.**  
**If not, ignore it.**



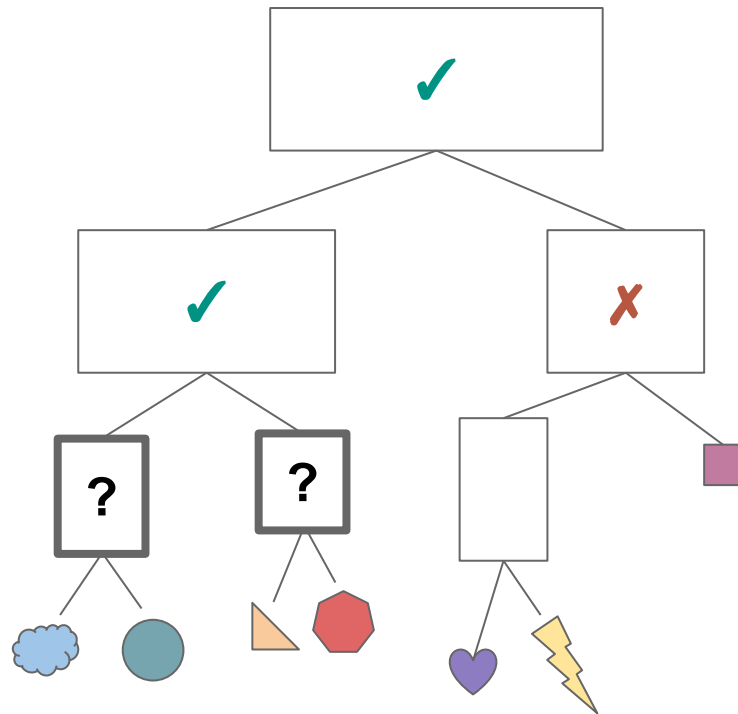
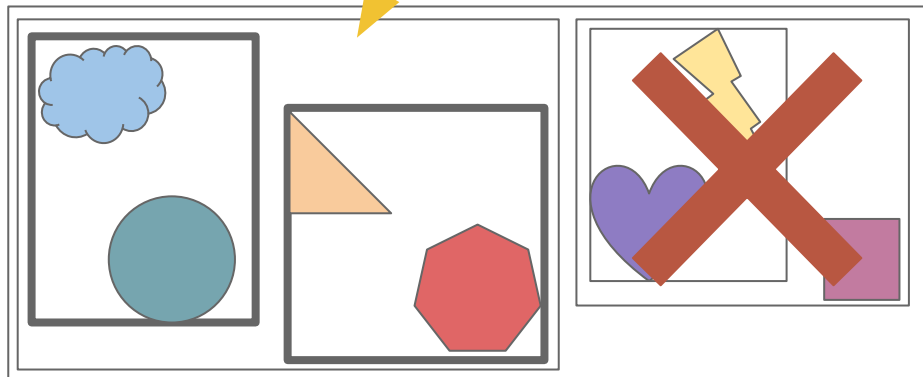
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**These bounding boxes form a tree...**  
**We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.**  
**If it does, explore its children.**  
**If not, ignore it.**



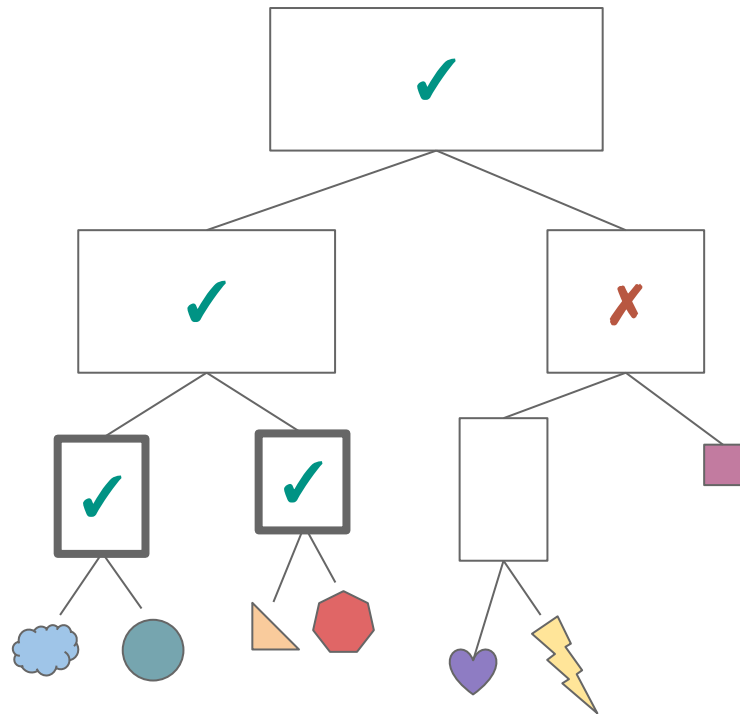
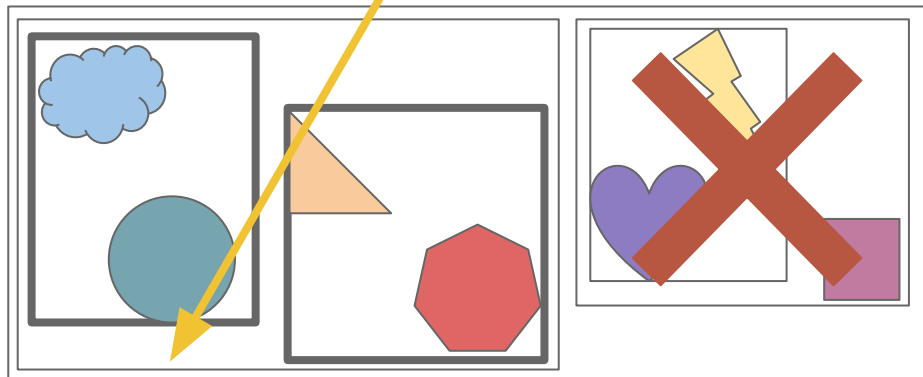
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**These bounding boxes form a tree...**  
**We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.**  
**If it does, explore its children.**  
**If not, ignore it.**



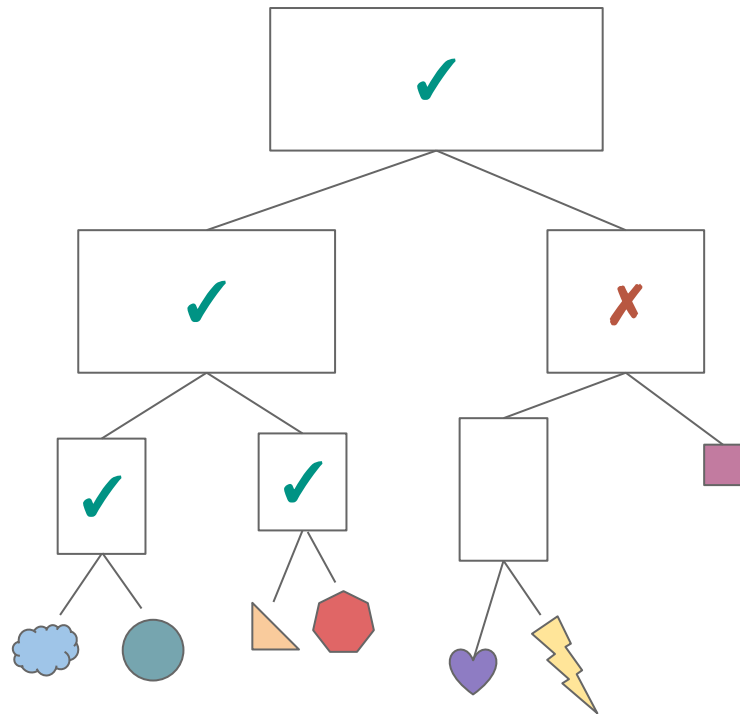
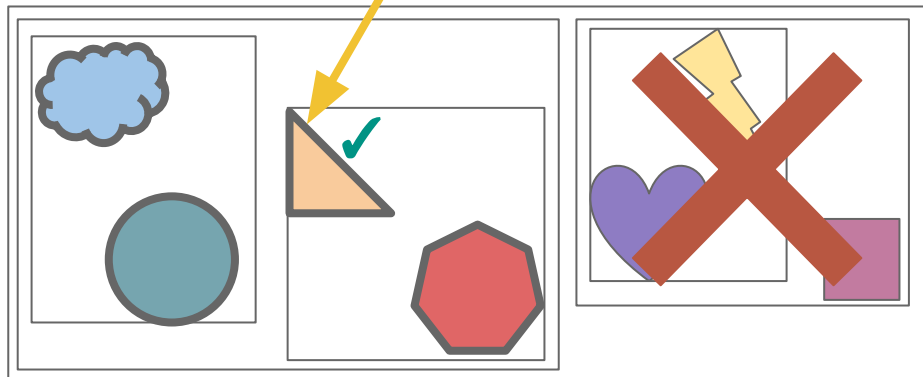
# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

**These bounding boxes form a tree...**  
**We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.**  
**If it does, explore its children.**  
**If not, ignore it.**



# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

These bounding boxes form a tree...  
We can check if the ray intersects a bounding box.  
If it does, explore its children.  
If not, ignore it.



# Other Problems: Ray/Path Tracing

- By using a ***bounding-volume hierarchy***, we can avoid checking all  $n$  objects for collisions
  - When we are projecting millions+ rays of light, this is a huge savings
- In practice, we hope to end up with a runtime of  $\sim O(m \log n)$  where  $m$  is the number of rays and  $n$  is the number of objects
  - This depends on how effectively we can build our BVH
- In both ray tracing and Barnes-Hut, the exact structure of the hierarchy will vary based on the specific data we are using

# High-Level Summary

- We've seen both trees and hash tables as effective ways to organize our data if we know we are going to be searching it often
- **HashTables** can be great for exact lookups
  - Think PA4: you may want to lookup a person with an exact (birthday, zipcode) pair, and HashTable lets you do that very fast
- **Trees** and tree like structures work very well for "fuzzier" searches
  - What is "close" to this point? What object might this projectile hit? etc
  - The input to your search is not necessarily an exact element in your tree, but the tree organizes the data in a way that directs your search