

Department of Mathematics



UCL

THE QUEST FOR STRUCTURE

*Continued Fractions in
Enumerative combinatorics¹*

¹ Research project under the supervision of Professor Alan Sokal (UCL) and Dr Bishal Deb (Sorbonne Université) through funds from the UCL Department of Mathematics



introduction



generating functions



continued fractions



*unlabelled binary
trees*



labelled binary trees



our conjecture



What is *Enumerative Combinatorics*?

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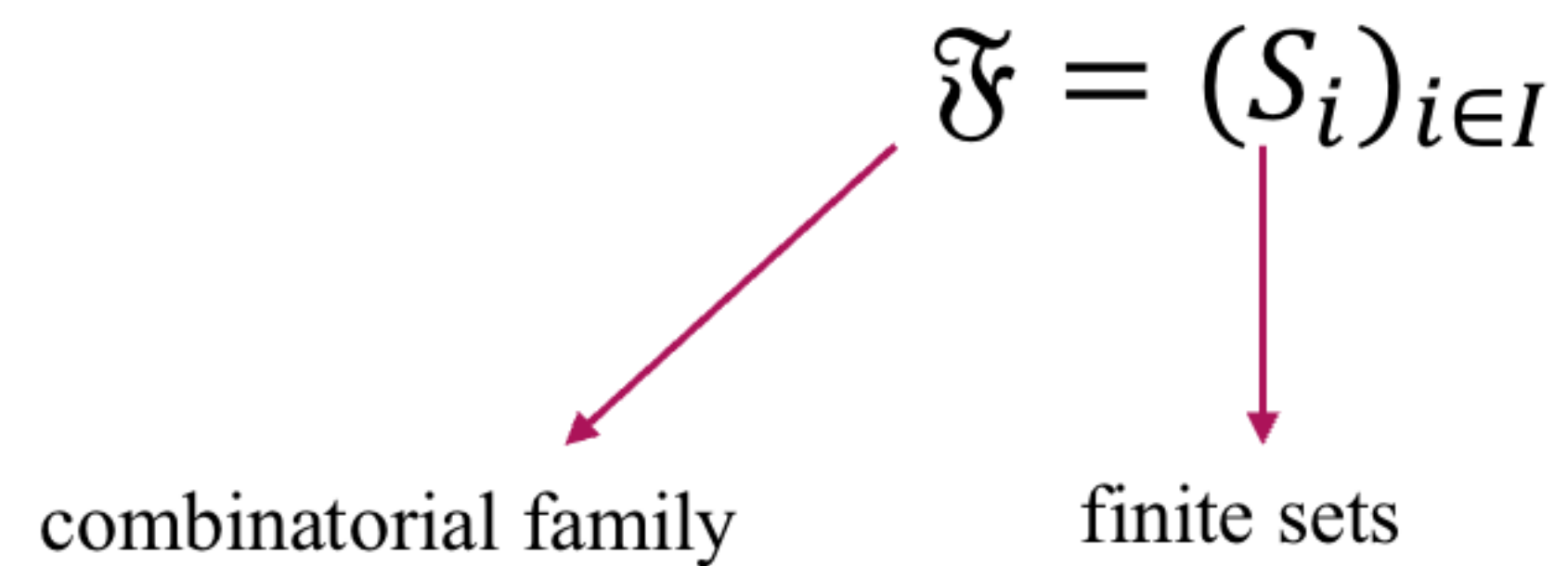
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combinatorial family

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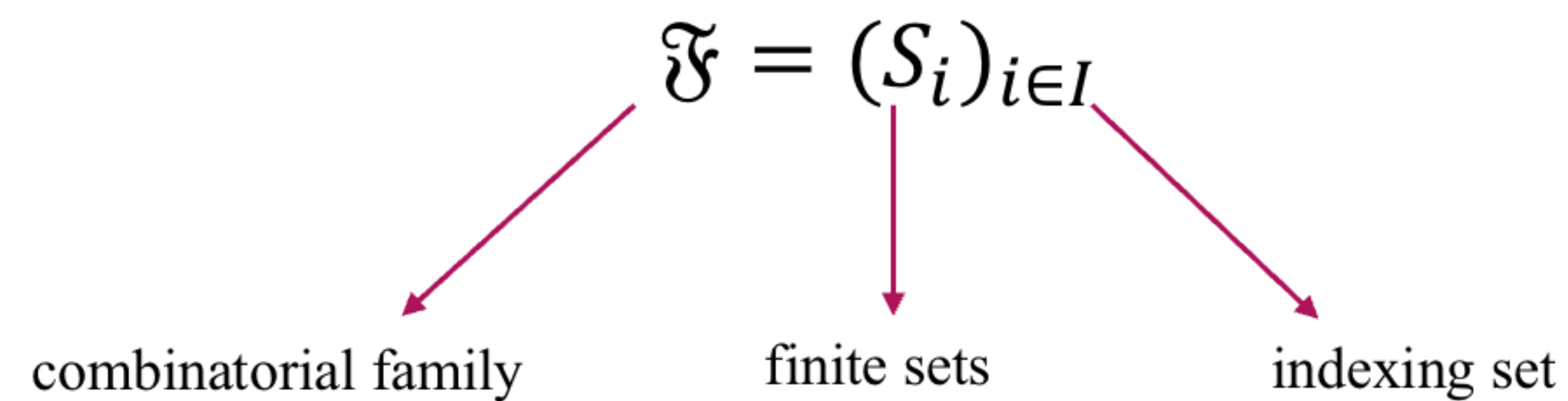
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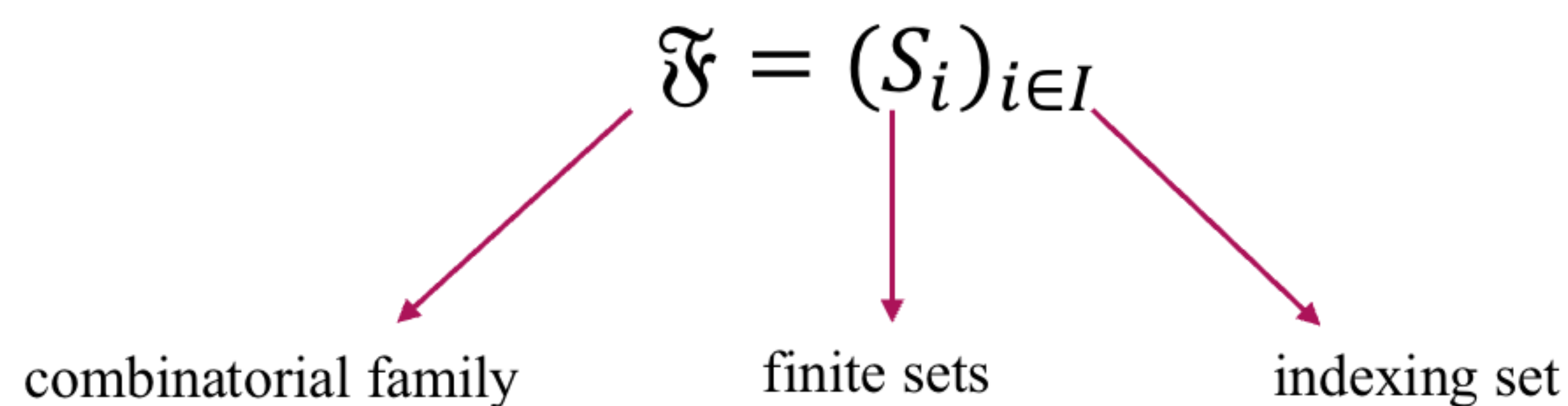
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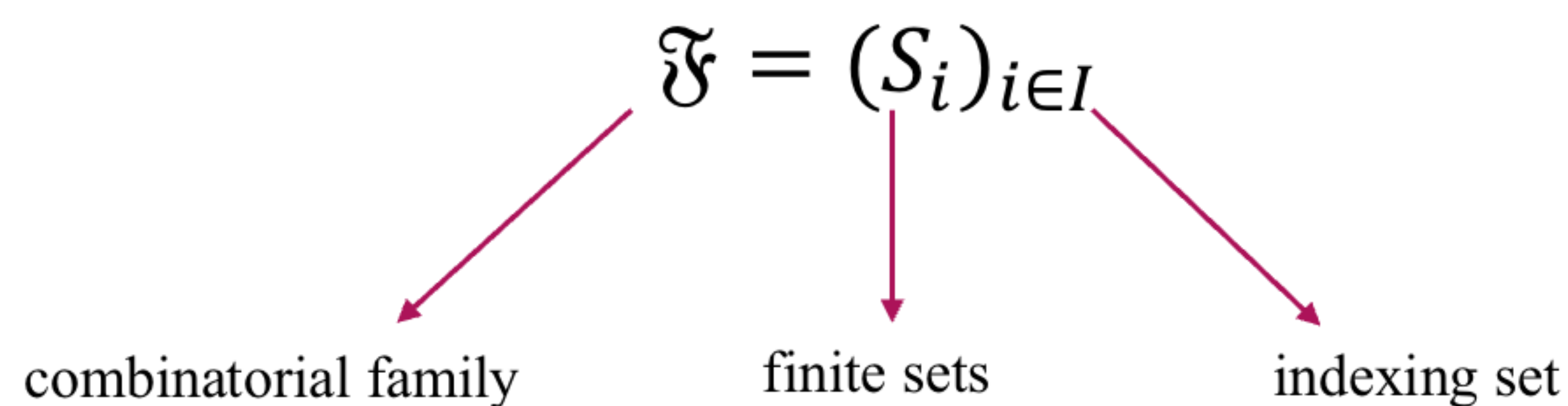


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- Goal: find nice closed formula that describes $|S_i|$.
- Not always possible: Generating Functions.





introduction


generating functions


continued fractions


*unlabelled binary
trees*


labelled binary trees


our conjecture



Generating Functions

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- Some motivation: as formal power series they behave nicely.
- Curiosity: set of all formal power series forms an integral domain. Particularly is a PID and any ideal as the form (t^n) .









introduction


generating functions


continued fractions


*unlabelled binary
trees*


labelled binary trees


our conjecture

Continued Fractions

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Stieltjes-type continued fractions
S-fractions

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Jacobi-type continued fractions
J-fractions


$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |S_n|t^n = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_1 t - \frac{\alpha_1 t}{1 - \gamma_2 t - \frac{\alpha_2 t}{1 - \gamma_3 t - \frac{\alpha_3 t}{1 - \gamma_4 t - \frac{\alpha_4 t}{1 - \dots}}}}}$$

Thron-type continued fractions
T-fractions






introduction


generating functions


continued fractions

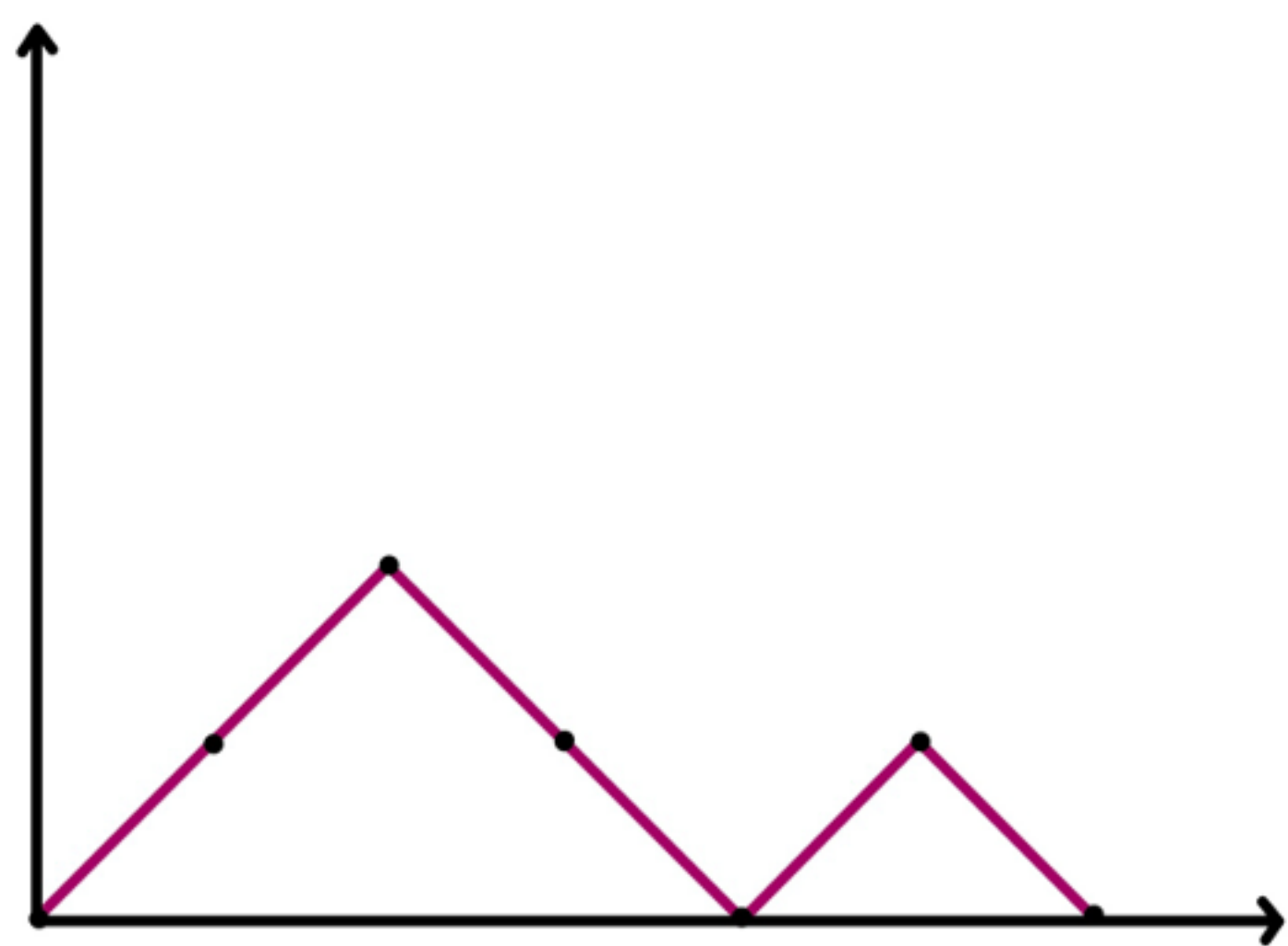

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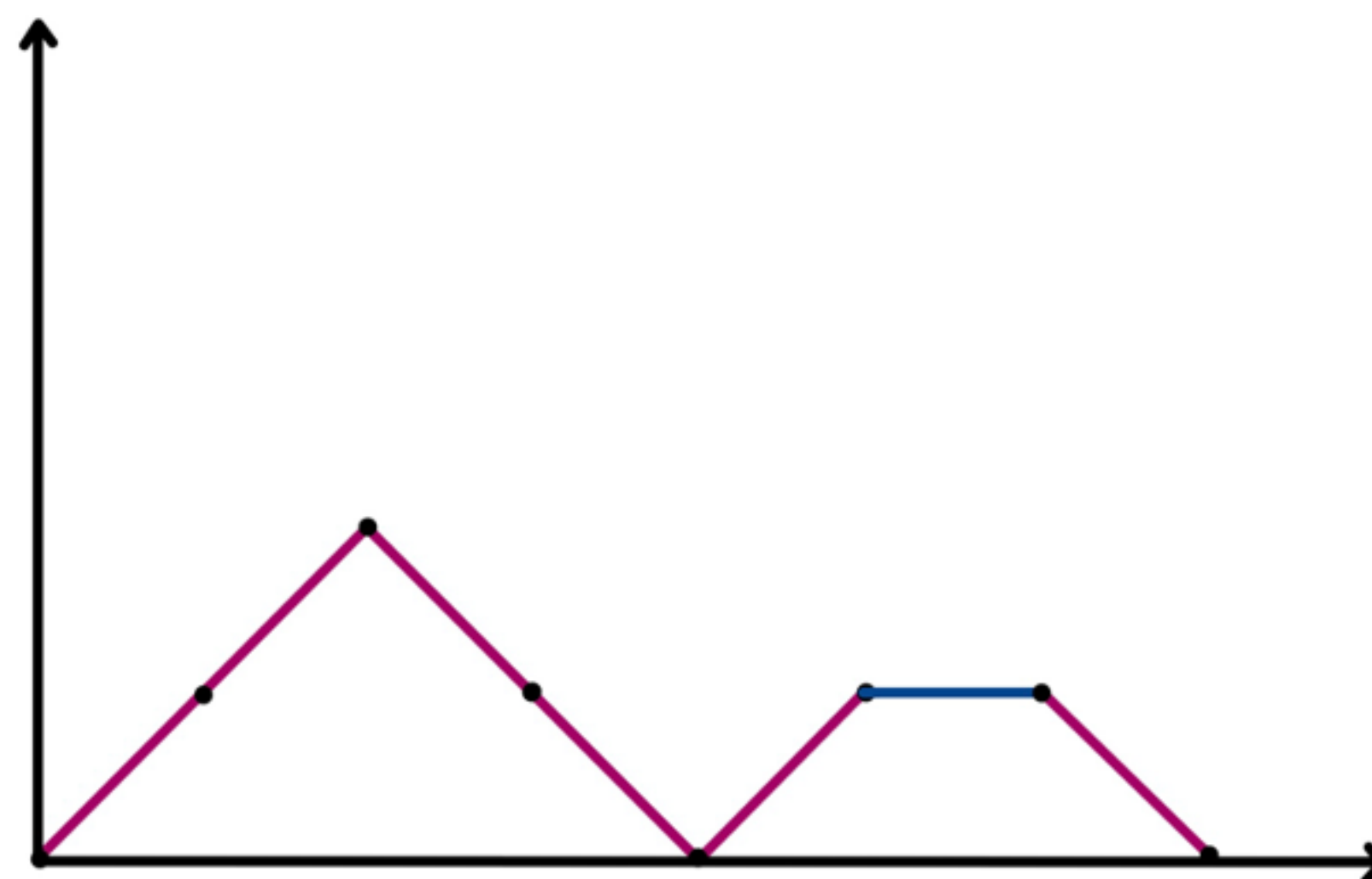

our conjecture

Flajolet (1980) showed the connection between **S-**, **J-** and **T-fractions** with **Dyck**, **Motzkin**, **Schröder paths**.

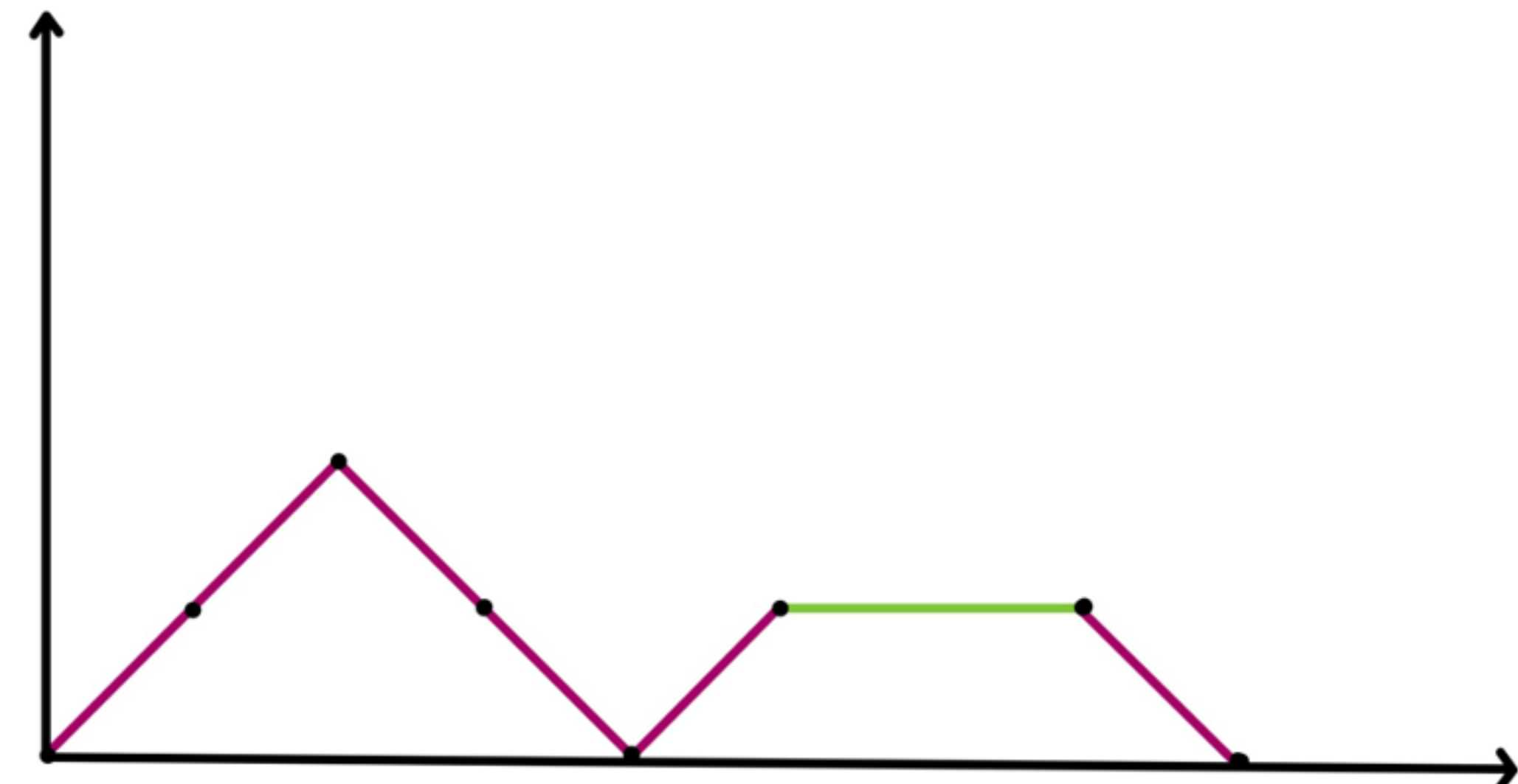
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Dyck Path

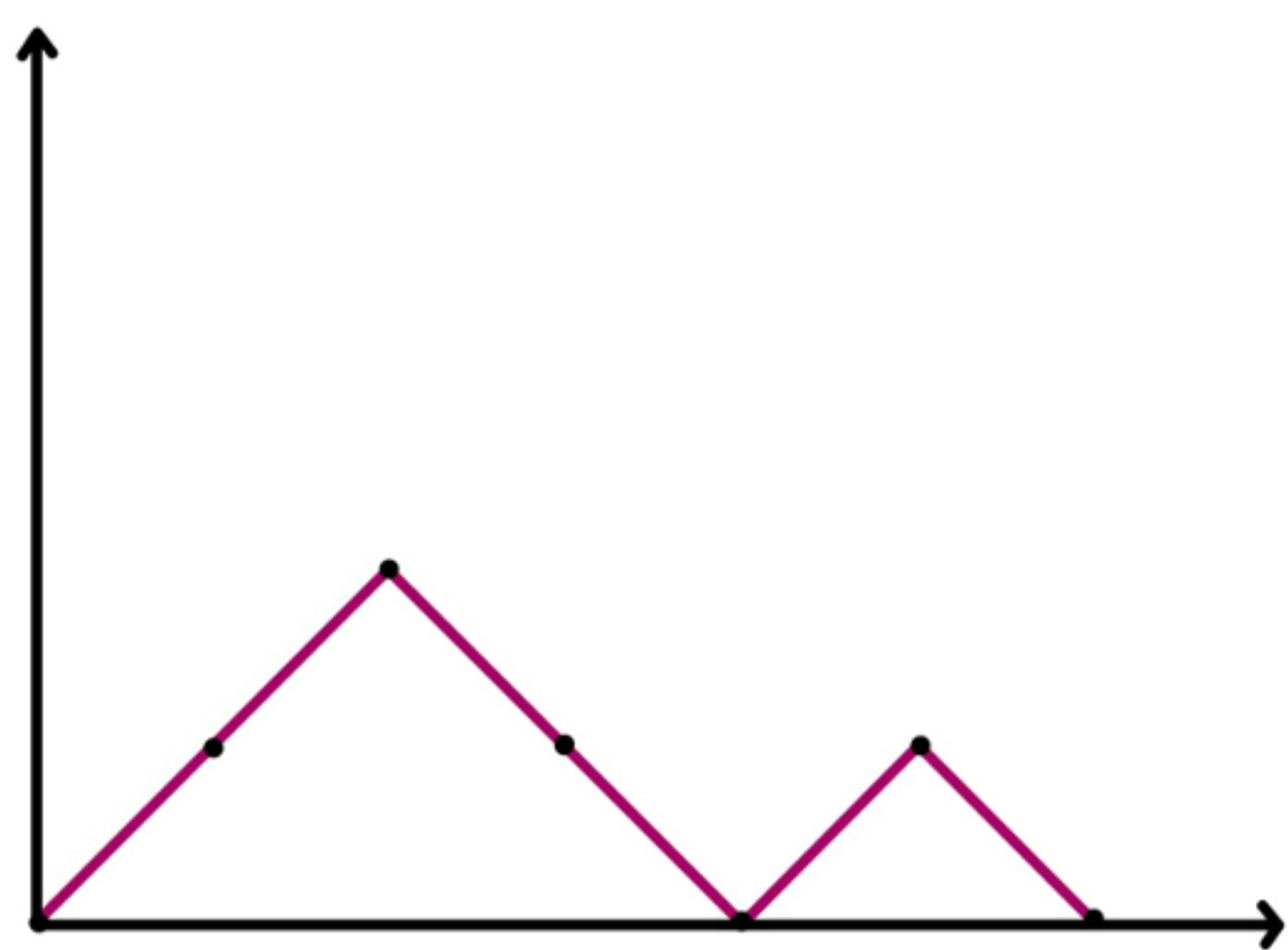


Motzkin Path

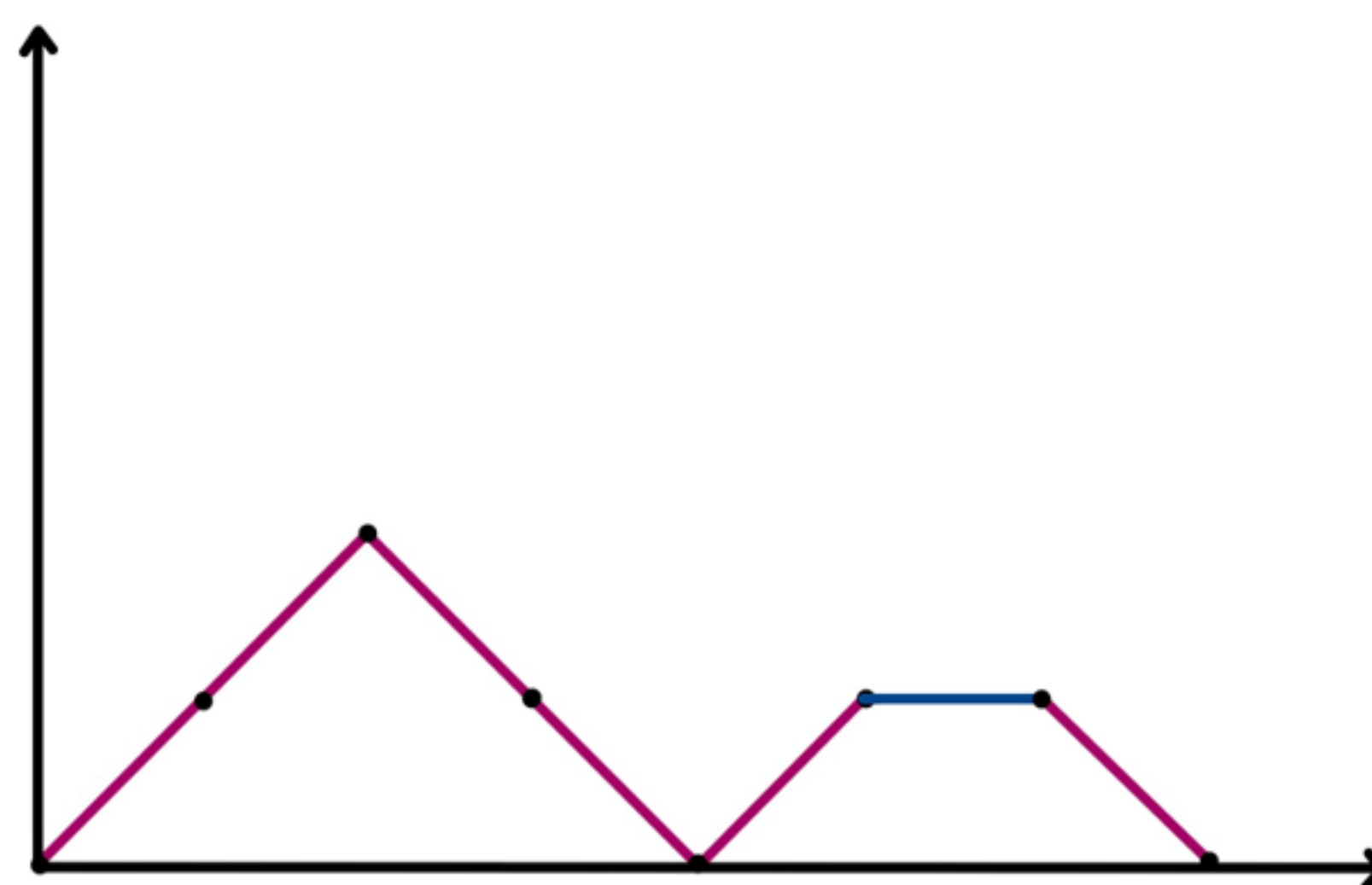


Schröder Path

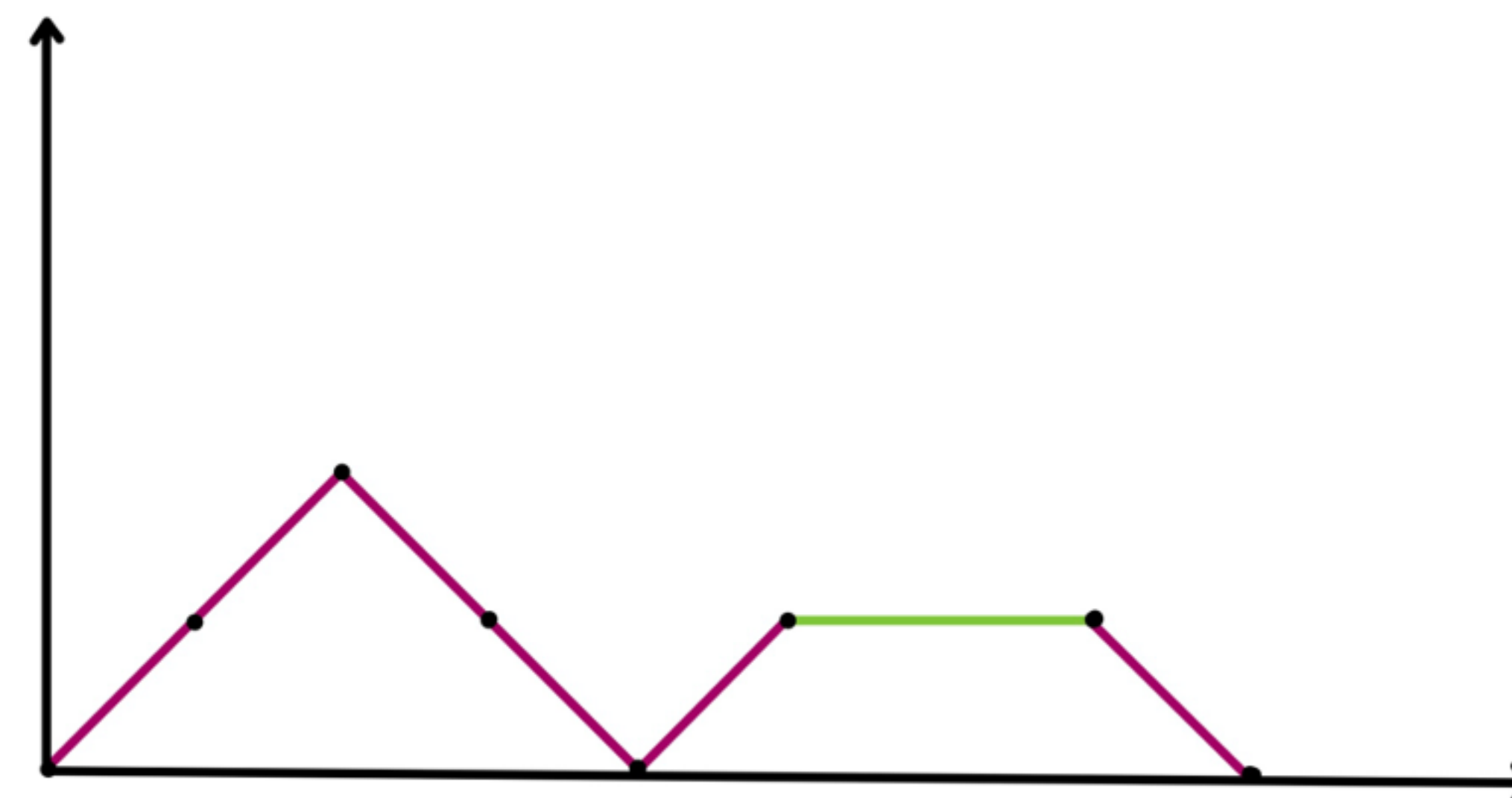
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Dyck Path



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Schröder Path

How? Let's consider the easiest case: (weighted) Dyck paths.





introduction


generating functions


continued fractions


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trees*


labelled binary trees


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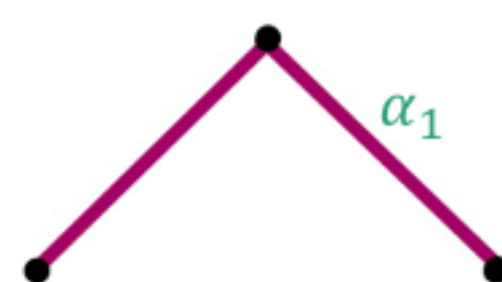
$$S_2 = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 + \alpha_1^2$$

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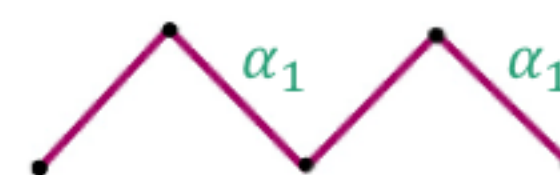
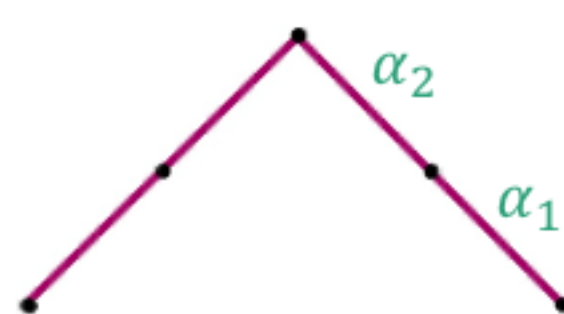
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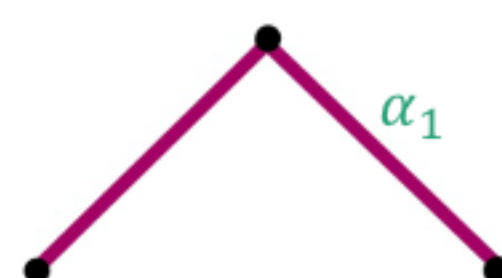


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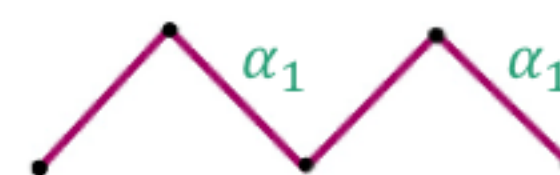
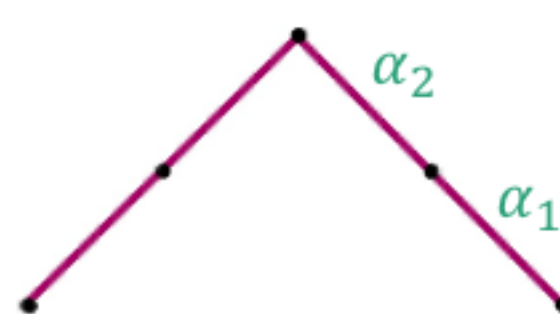
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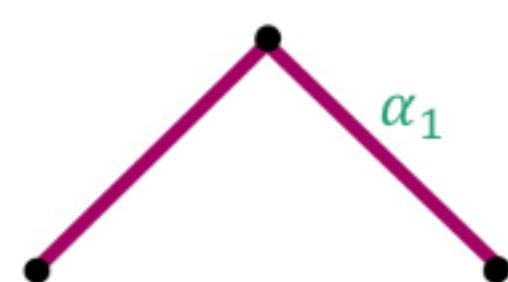
$$S_3 = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_1^2 \alpha_2 + \alpha_1^3$$

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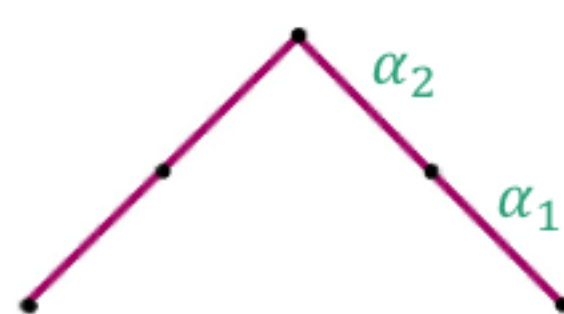
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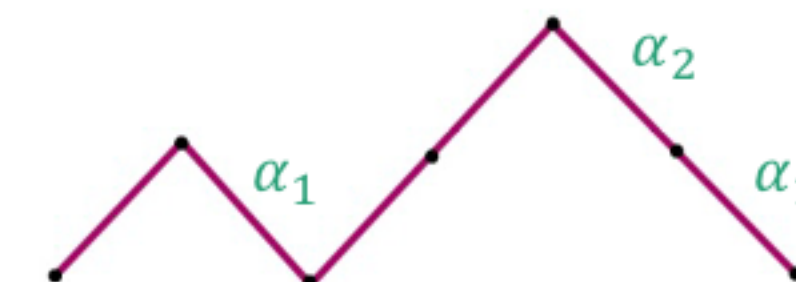
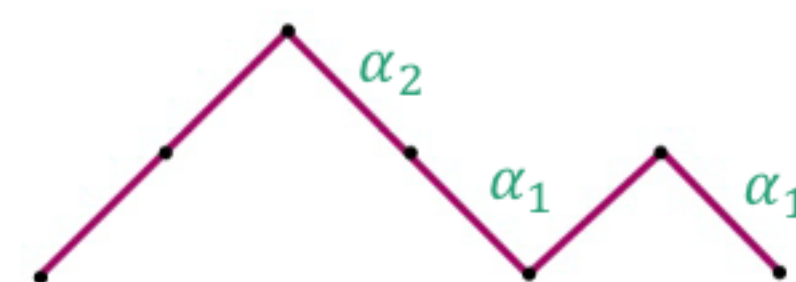
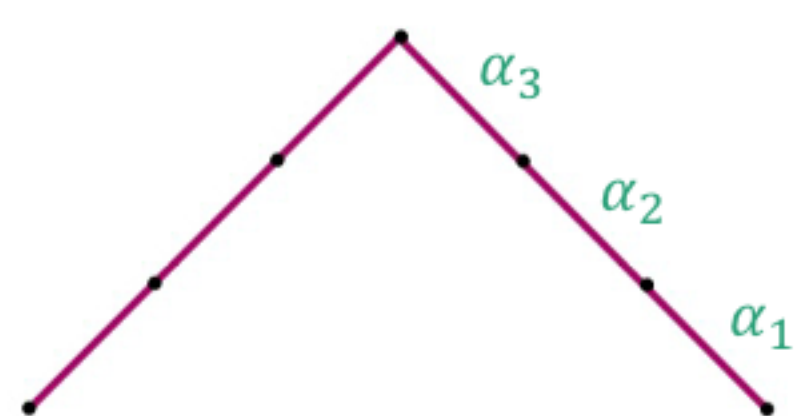
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introduction


generating functions


continued fractions


*unlabelled binary
trees*


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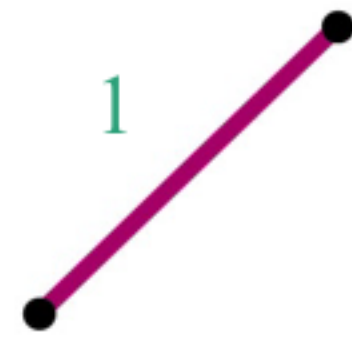

our conjecture

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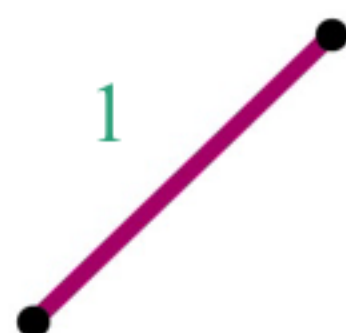
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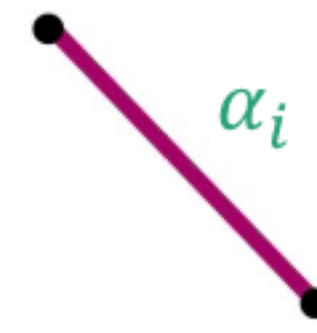
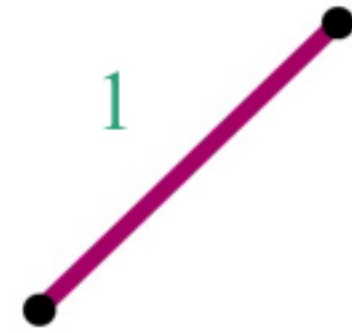
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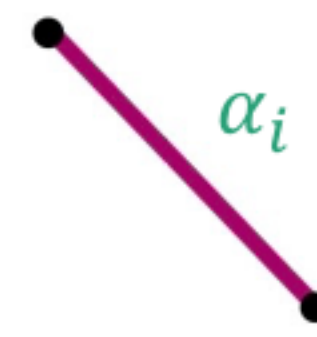
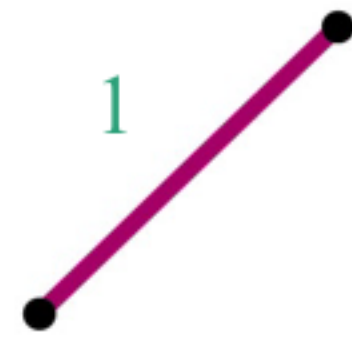
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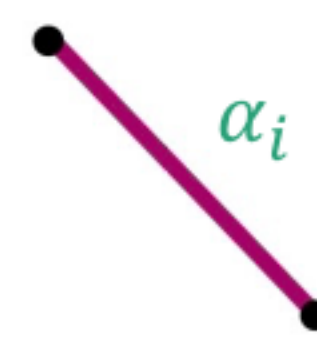
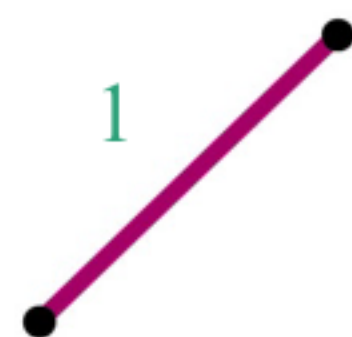
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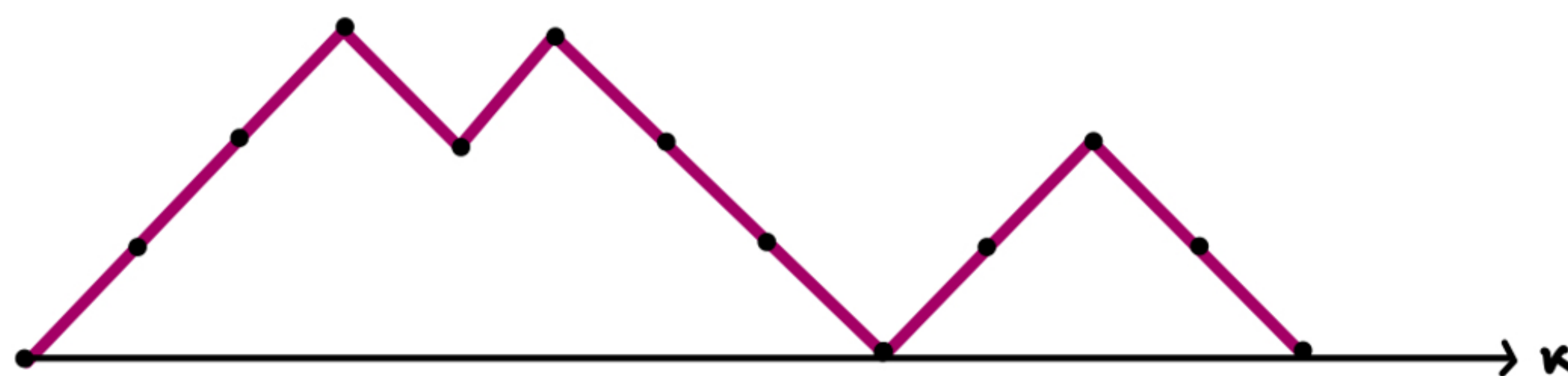
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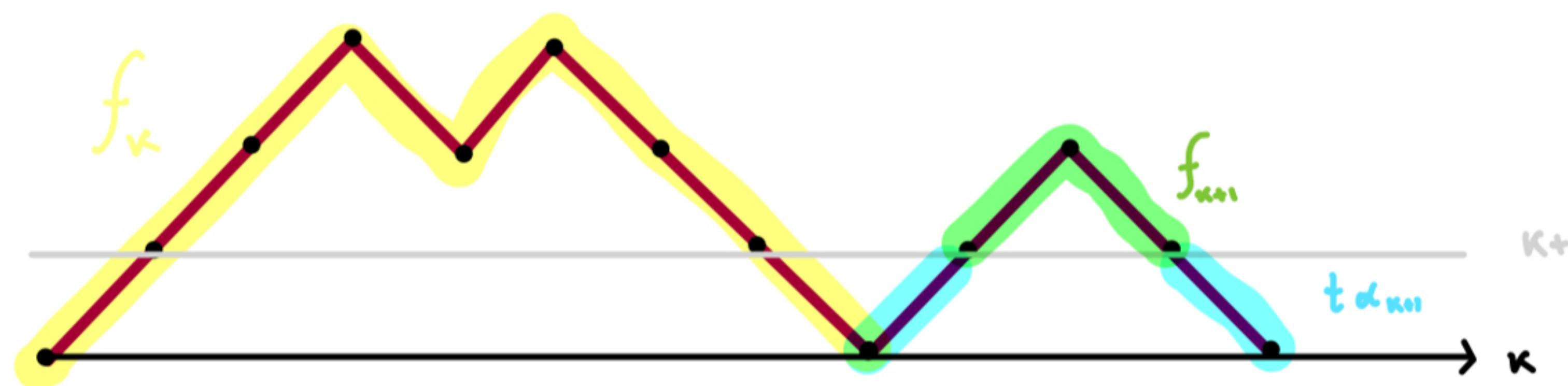
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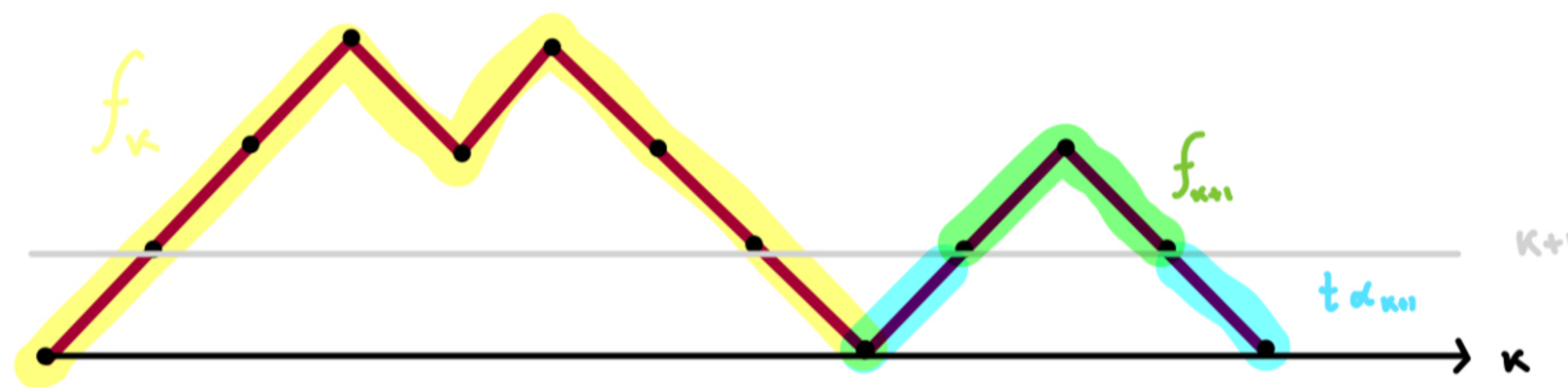
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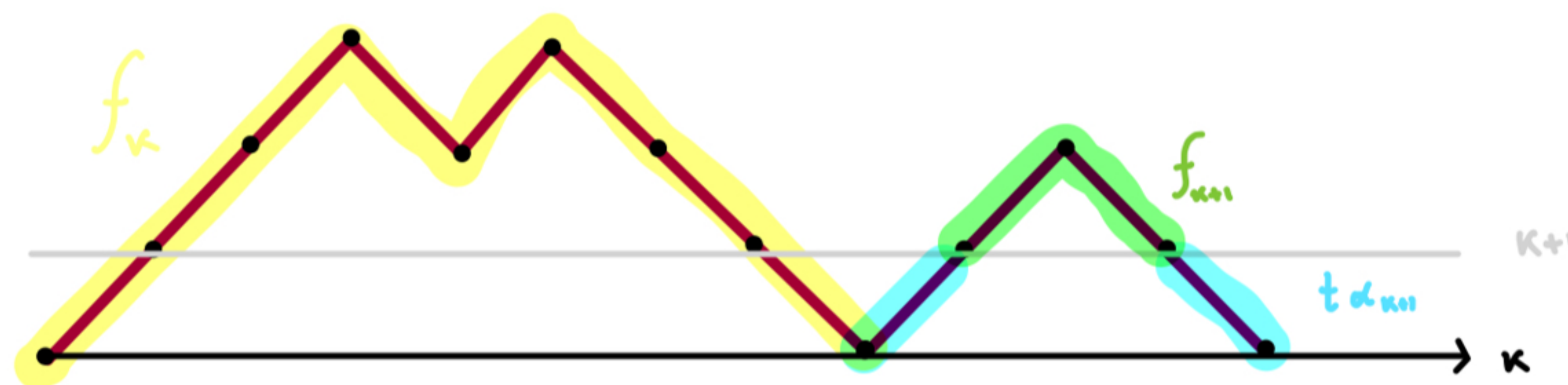


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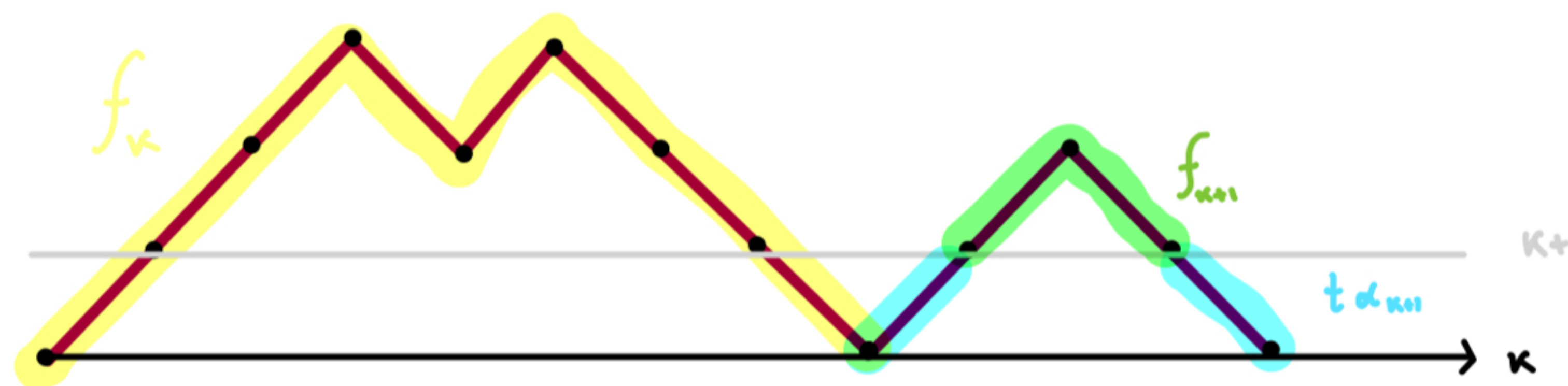
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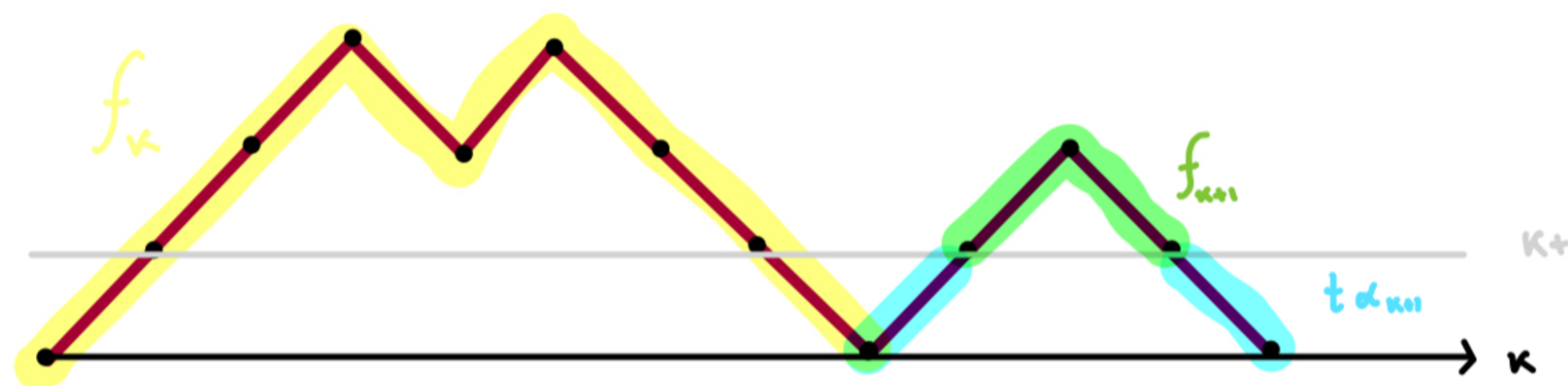


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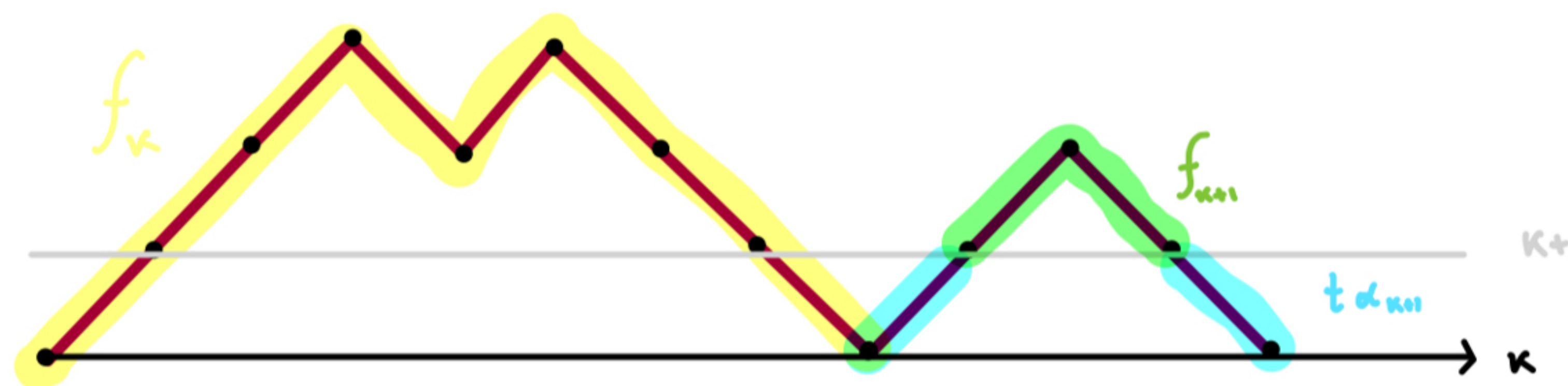
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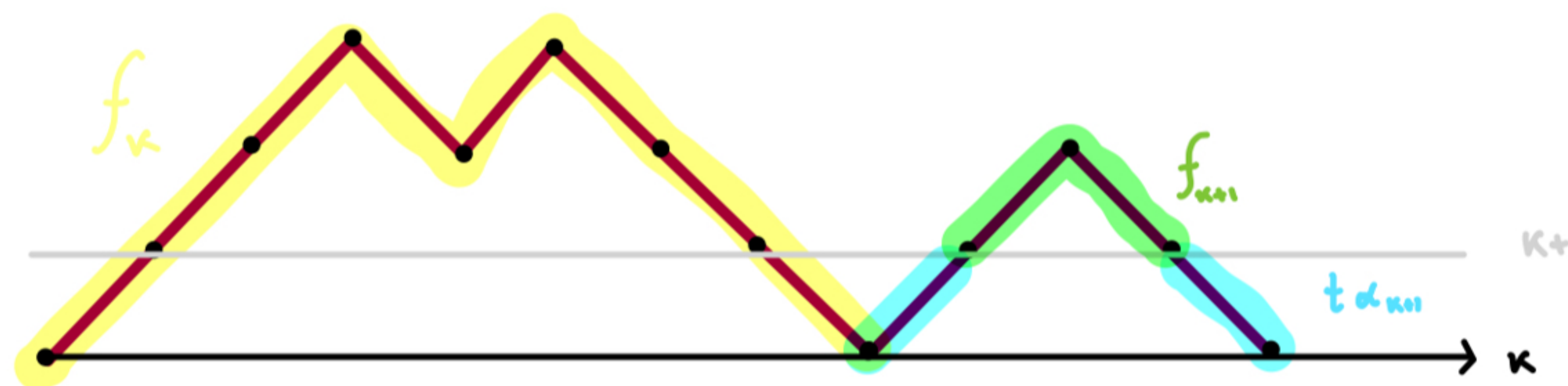
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●
introduction

●
generating functions

● ● ● ● ●
continued fractions

● ● ● ● ●
*unlabelled binary
trees*

● ● ● ● ●
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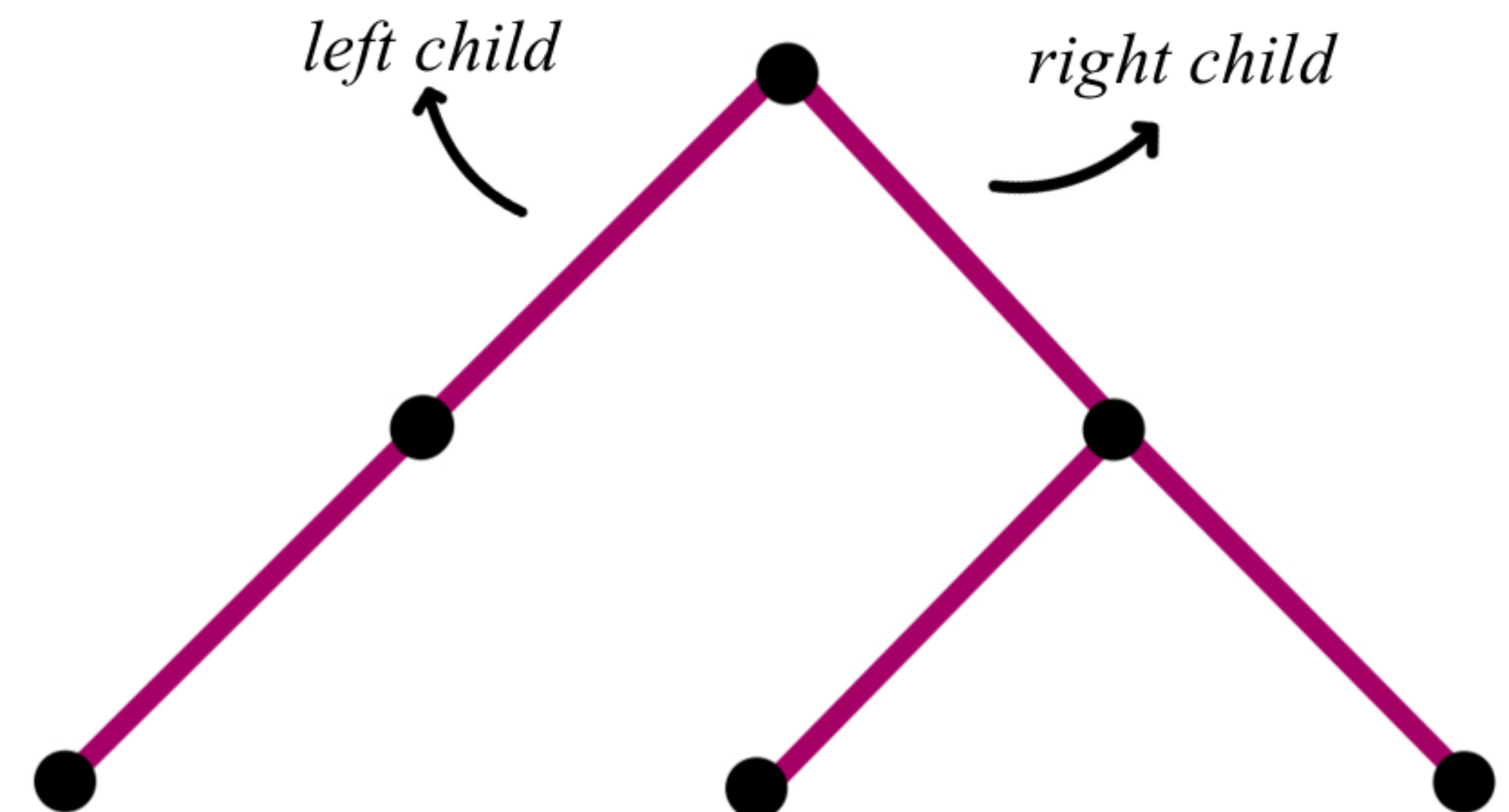
An example: (unlabelled) binary trees

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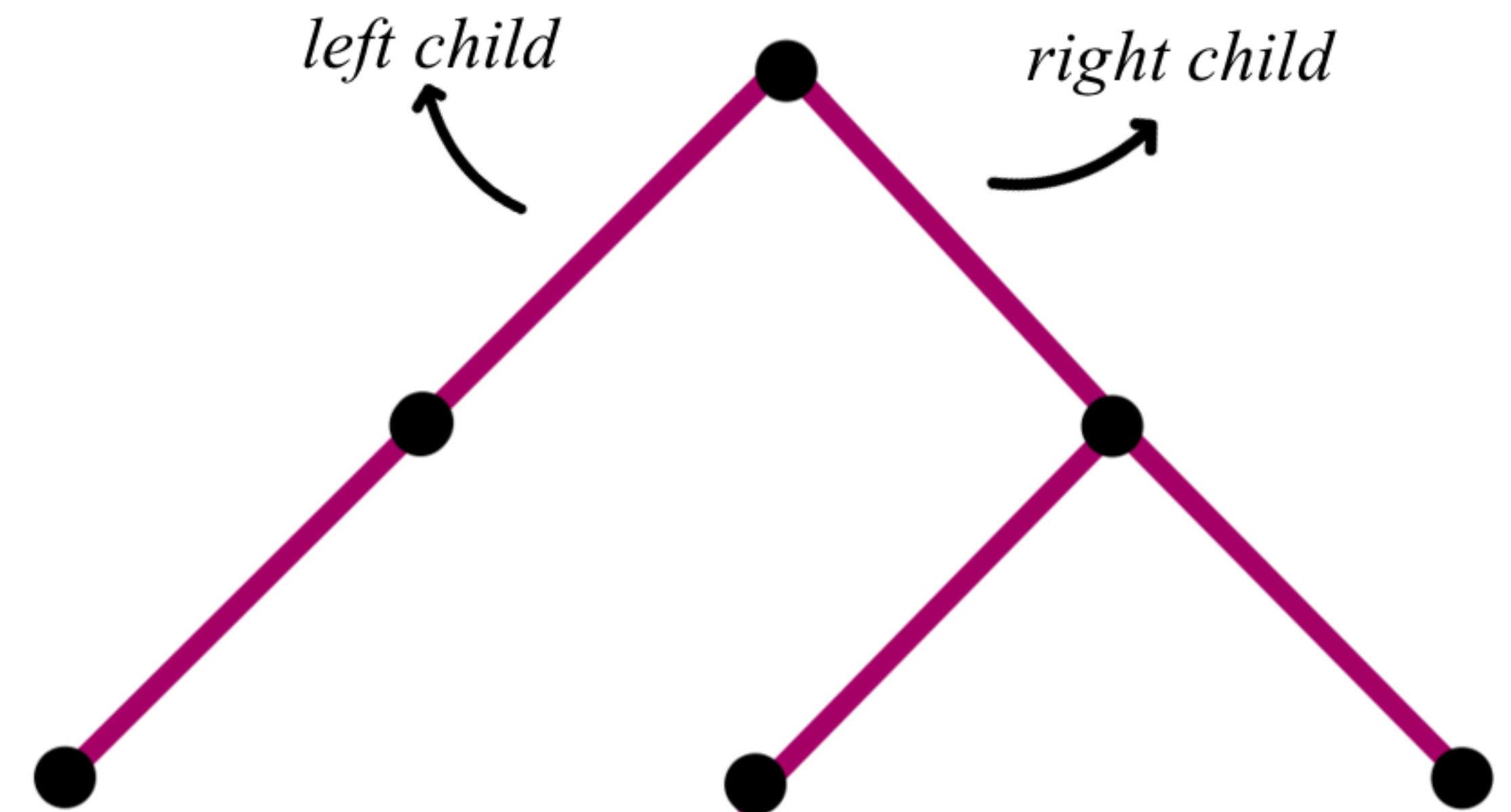


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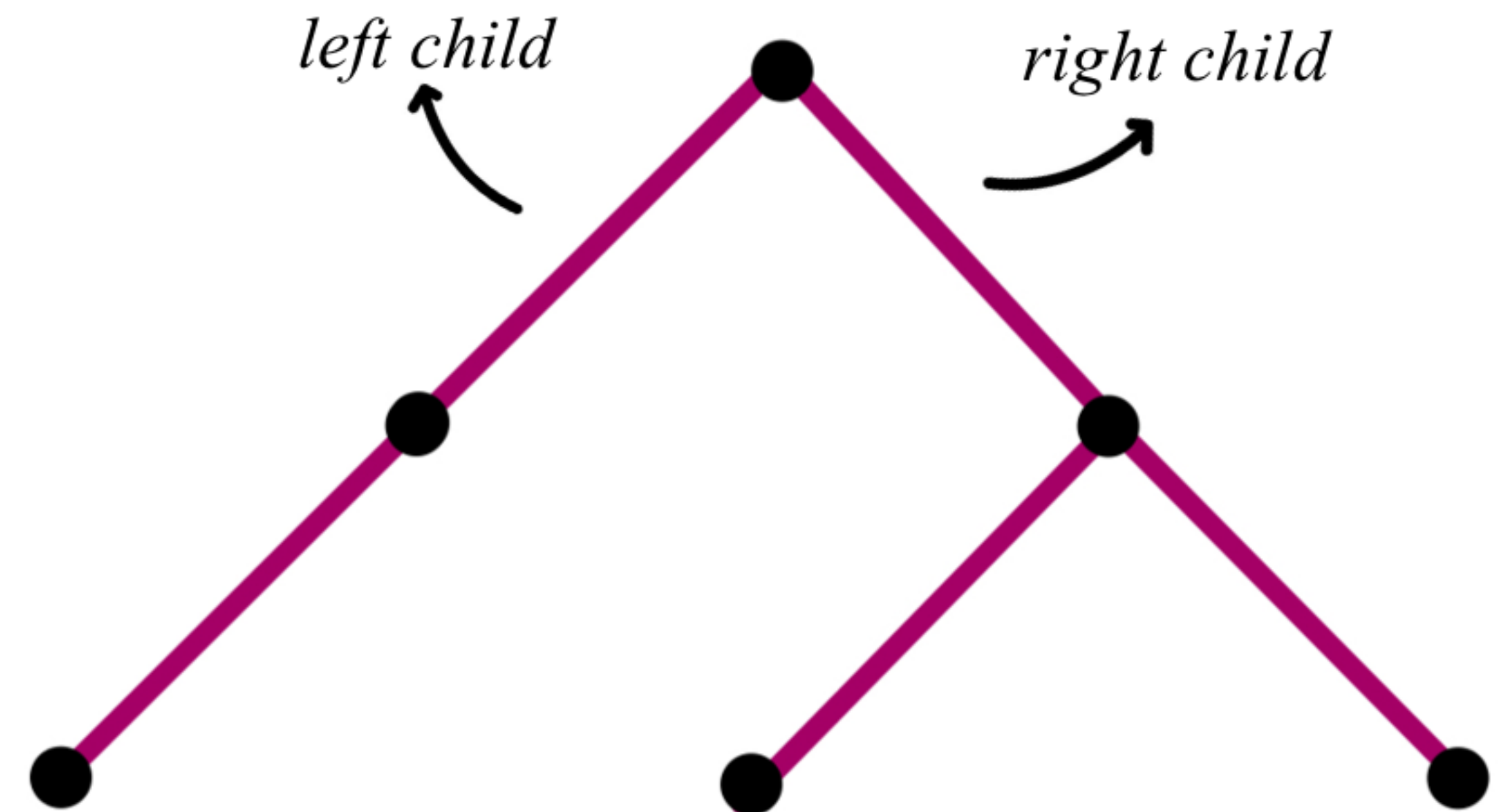
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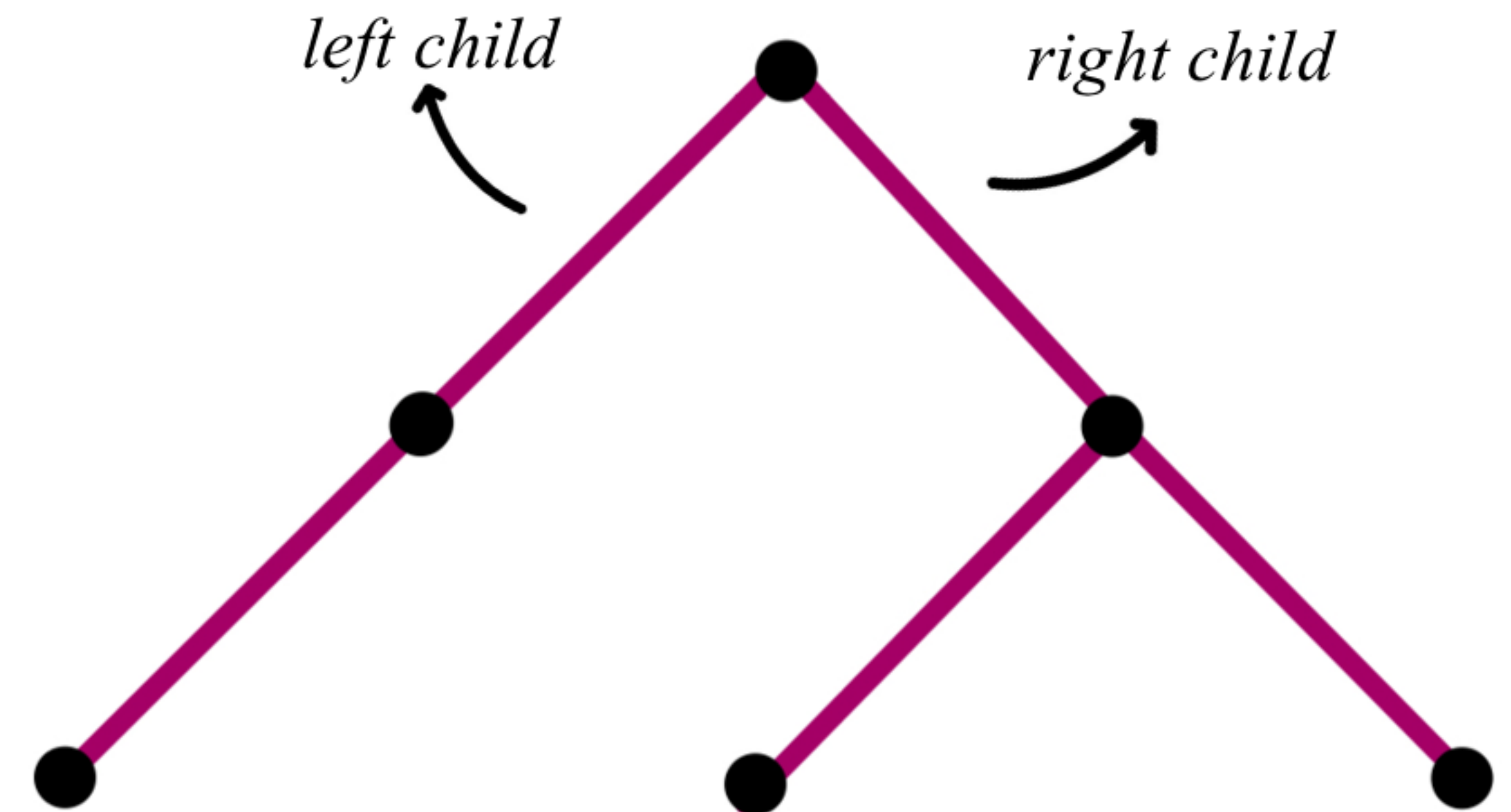


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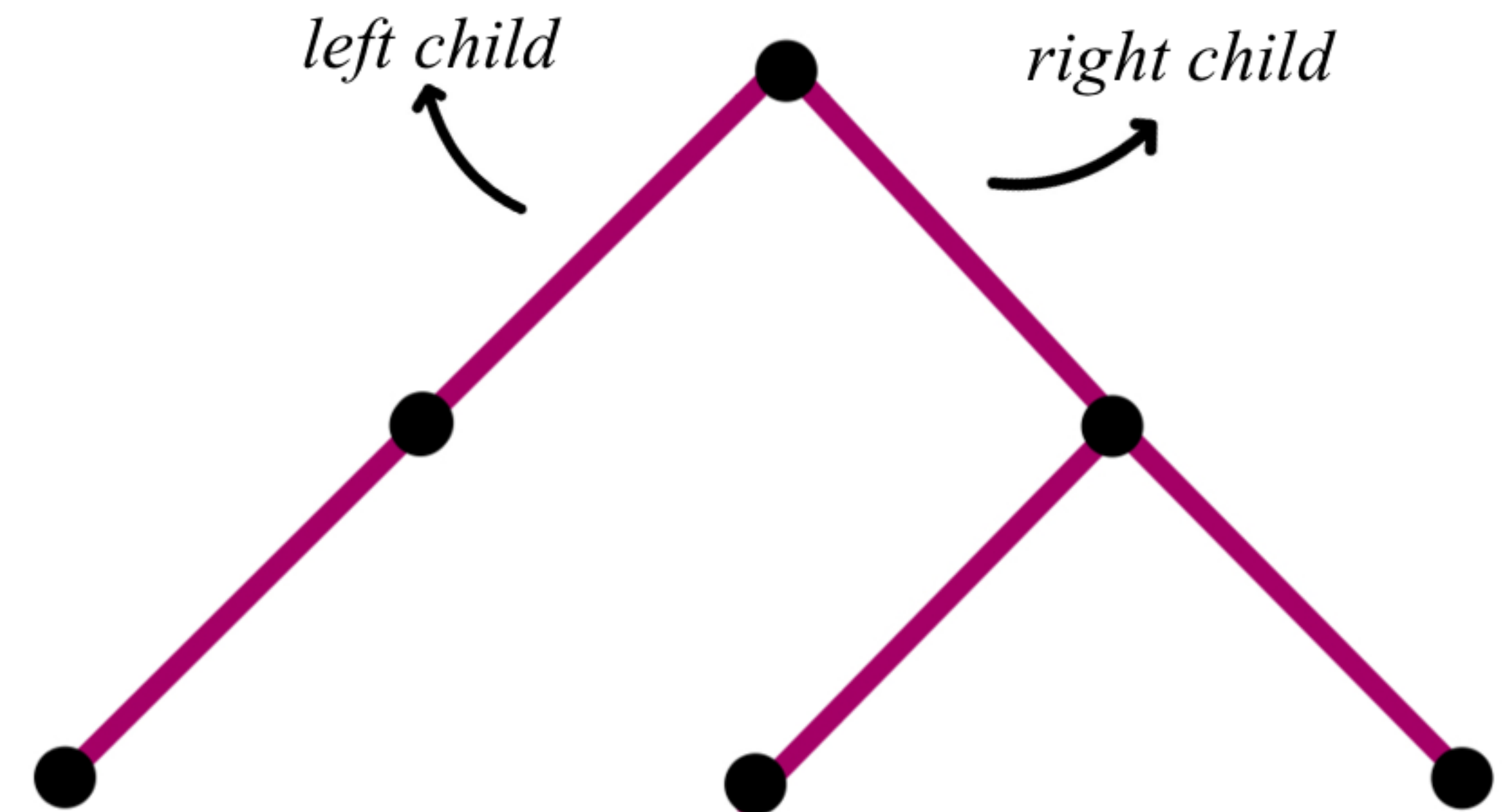


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$$f(t) = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4t}}{2t}$$

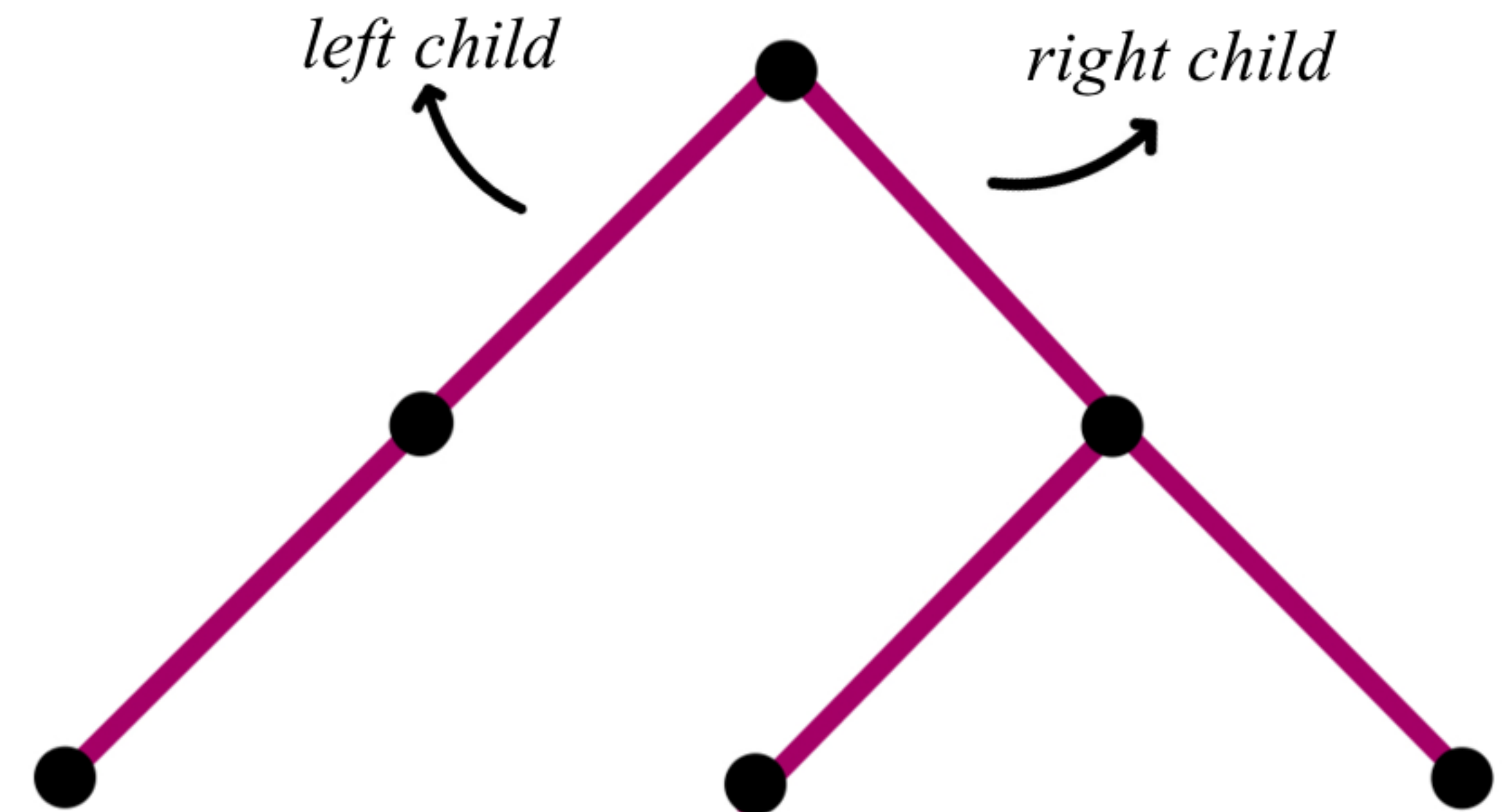


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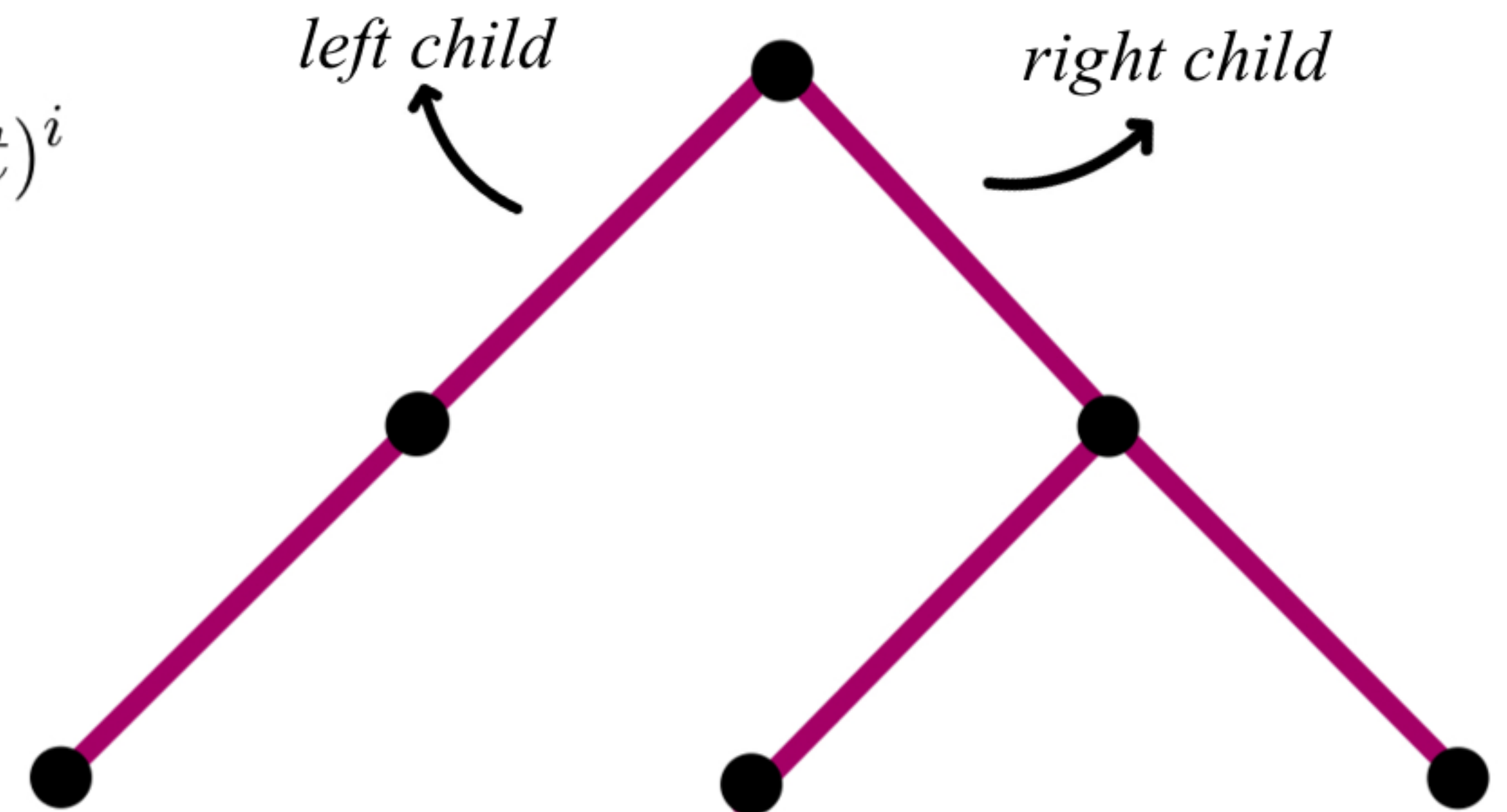
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$$(1 - 4t)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{i} (-4t)^i = \dots = (1 - 2t) \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \frac{(2i - 3)!!}{2^i i!} (-4t)^i$$

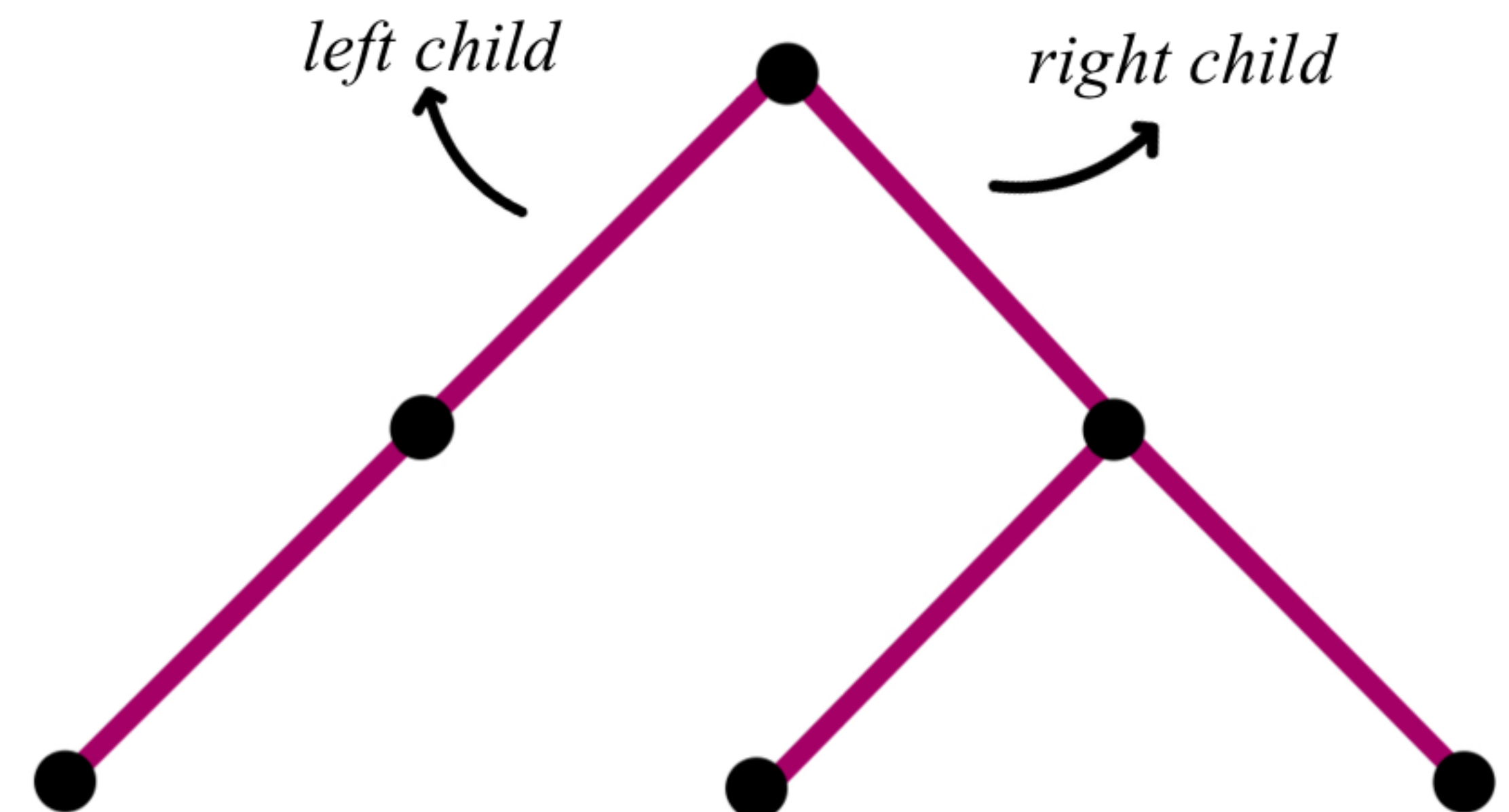


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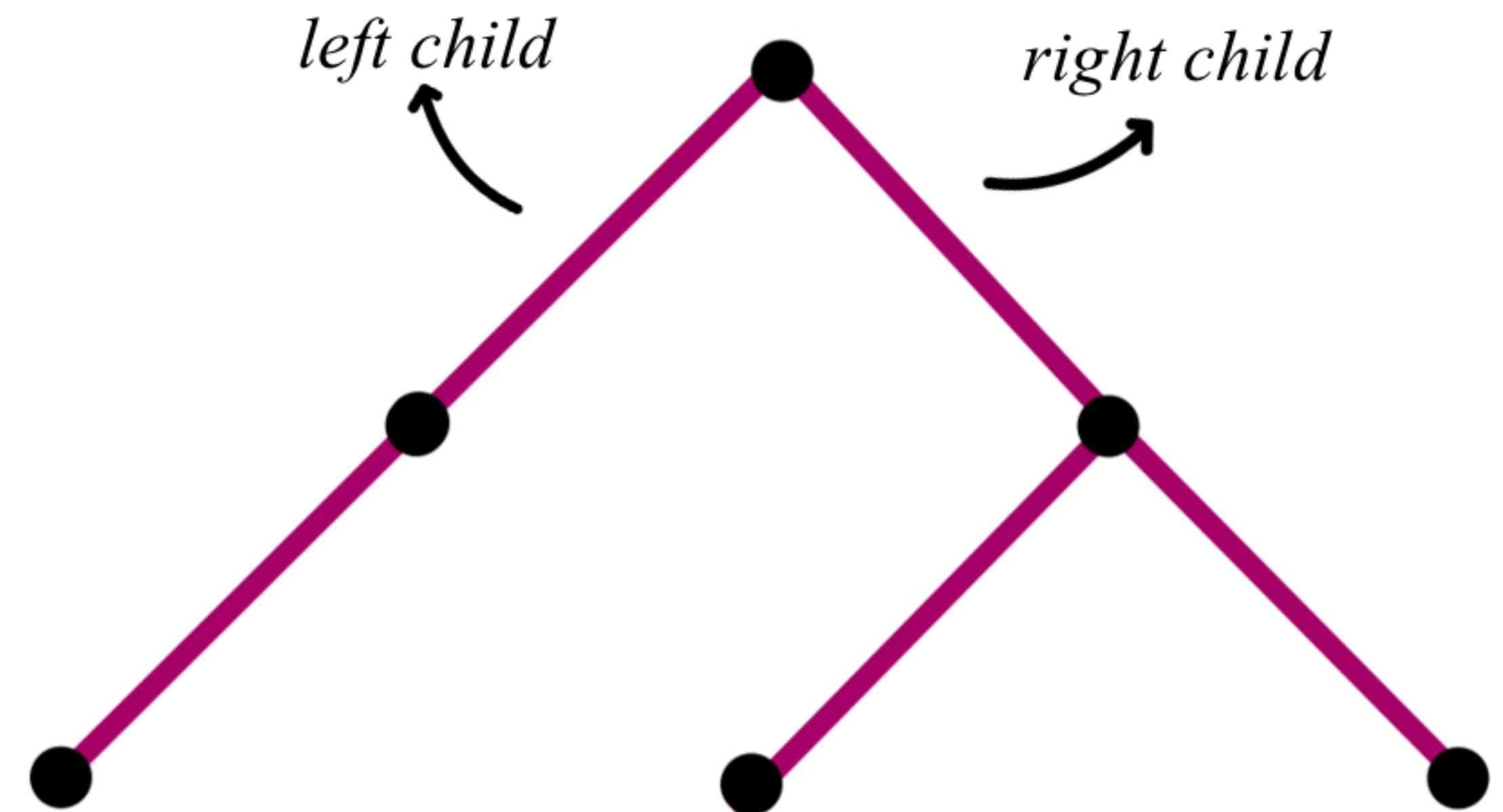


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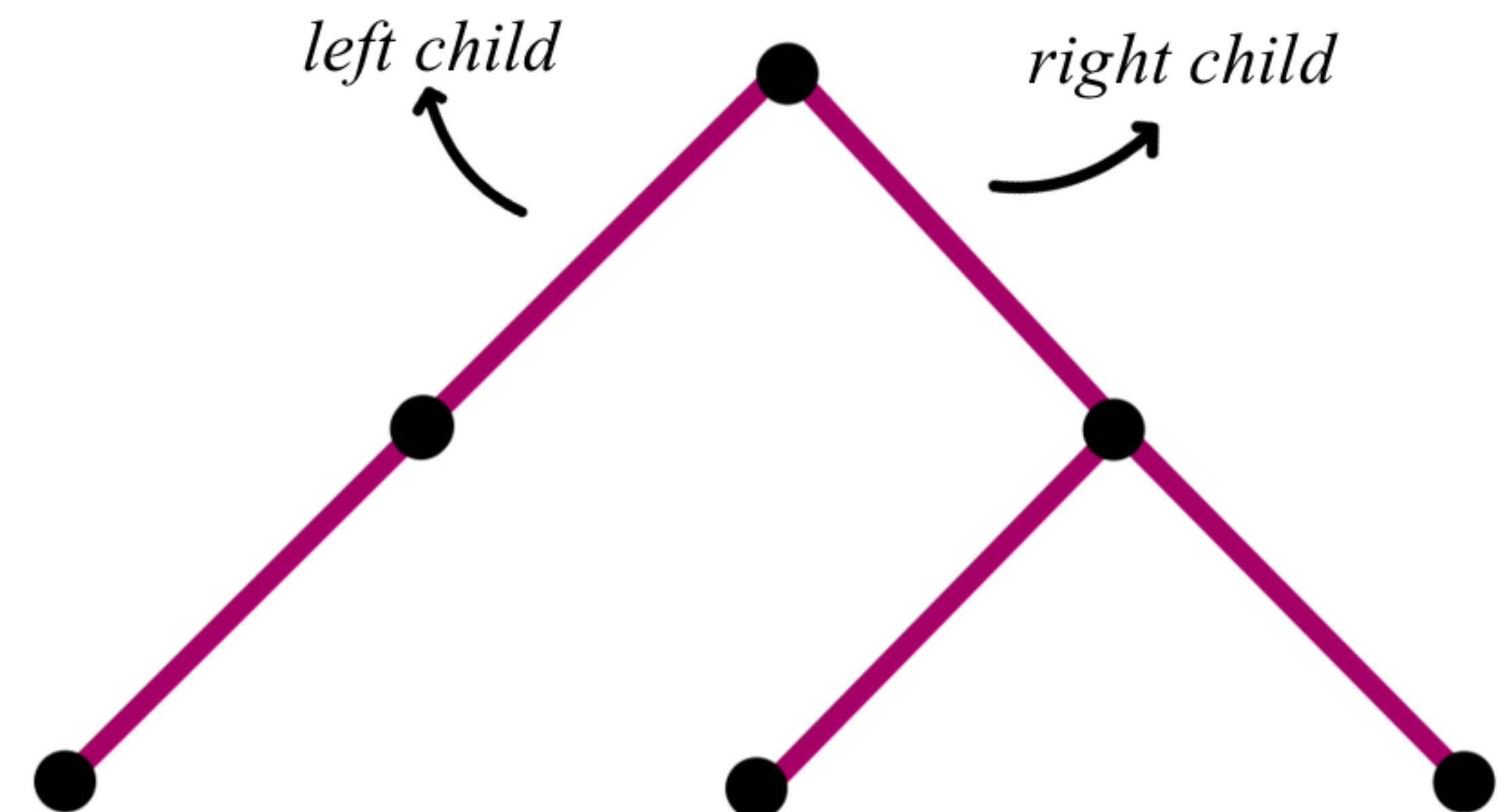


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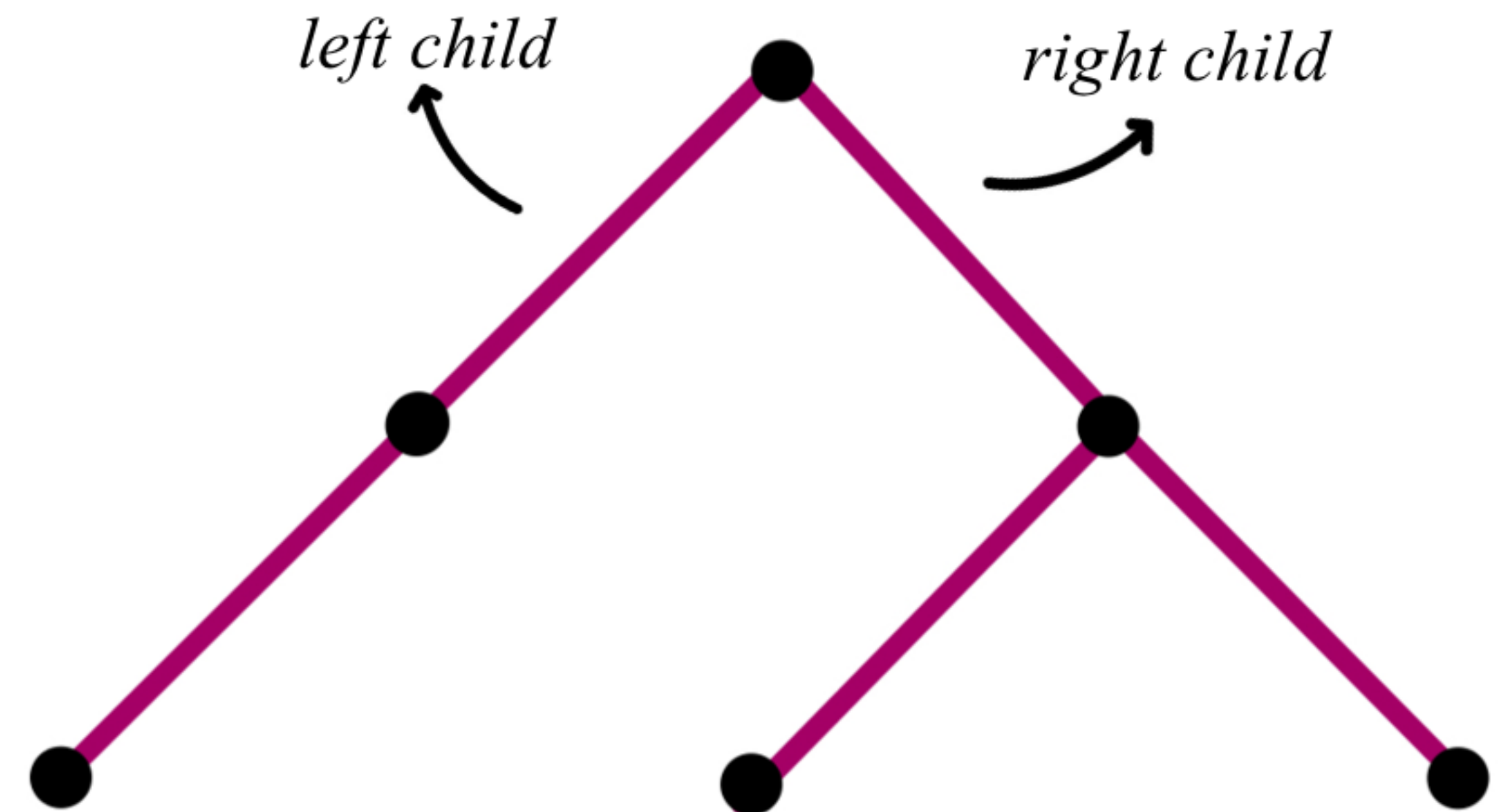
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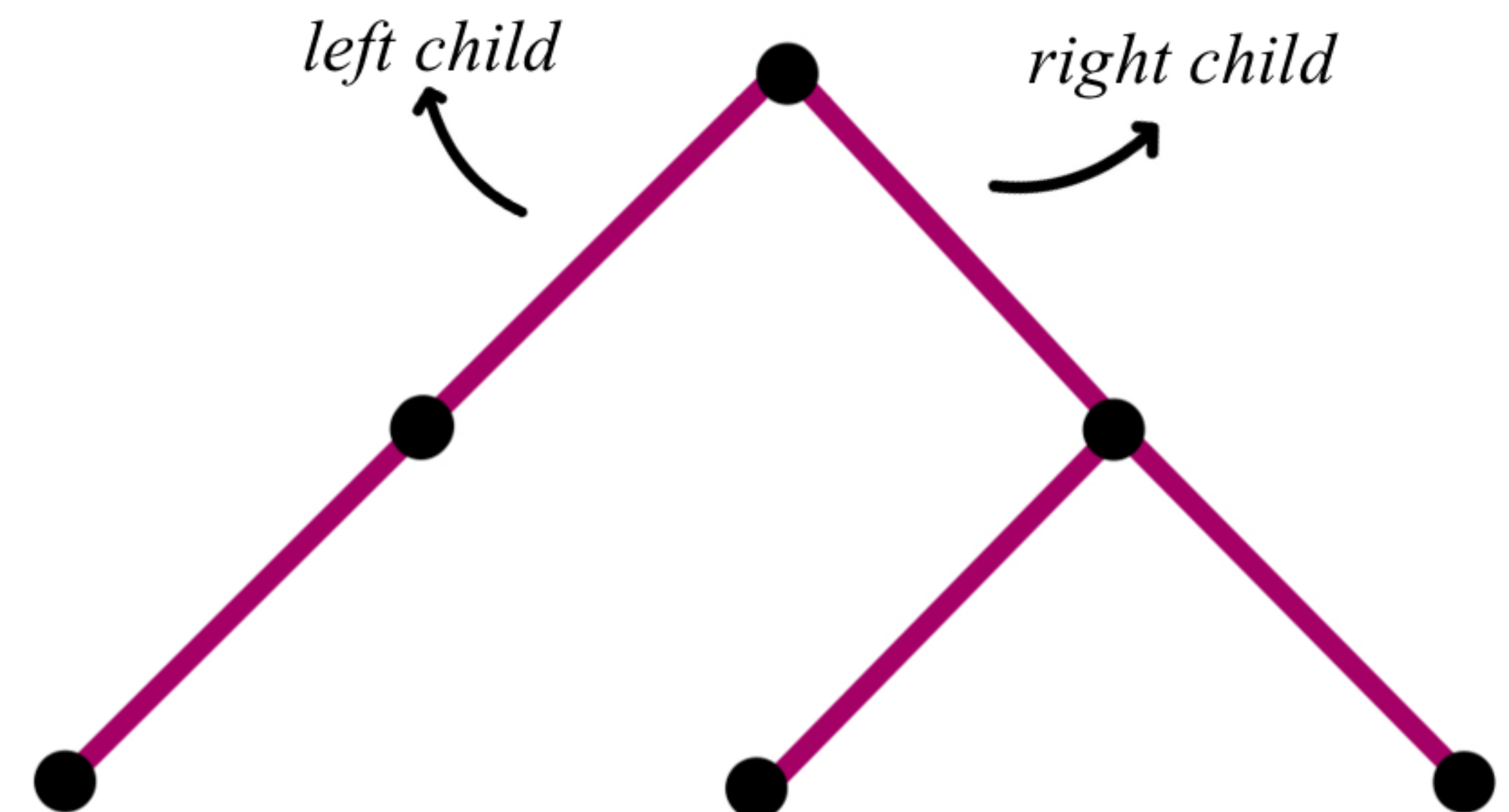


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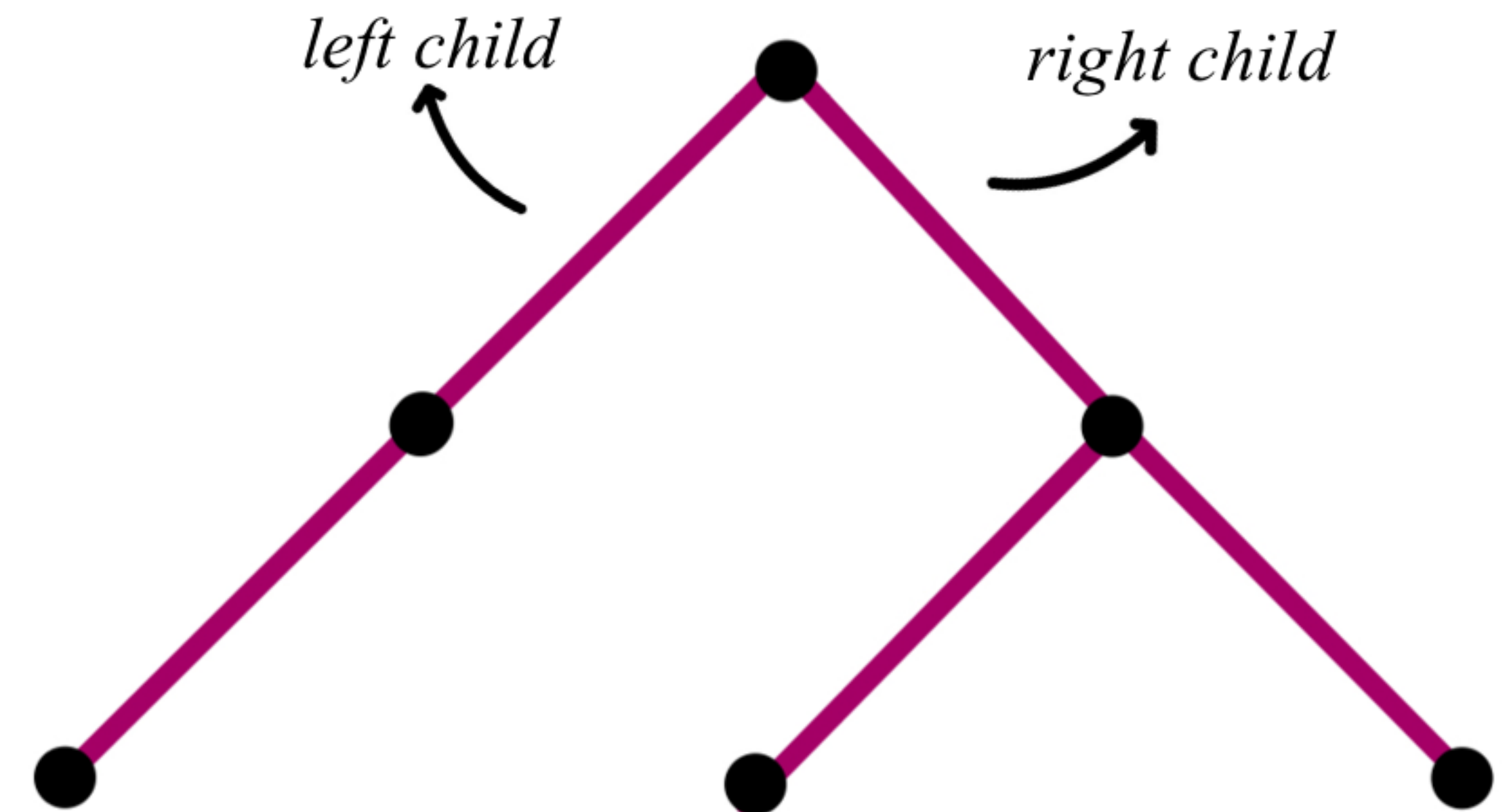
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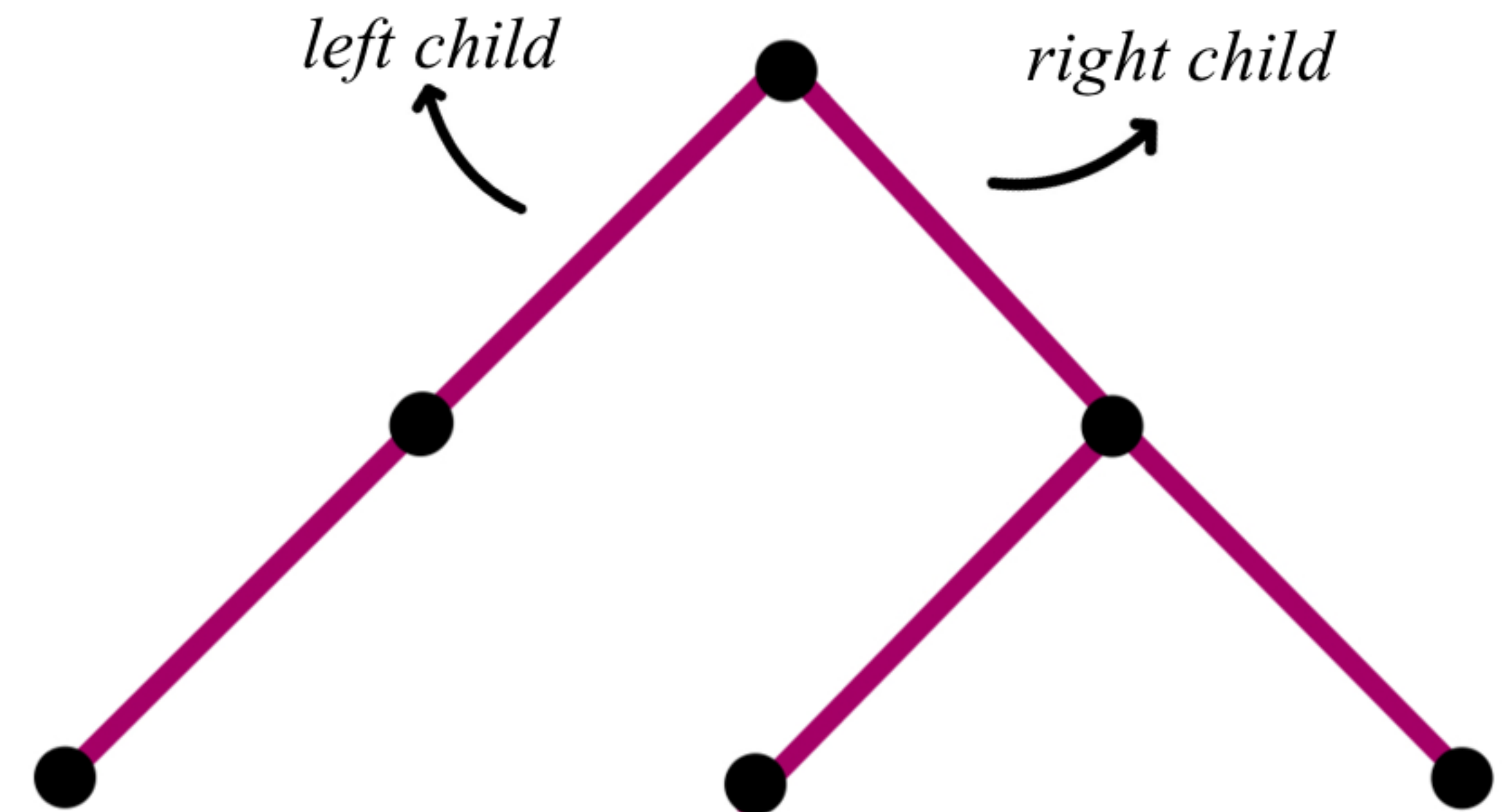


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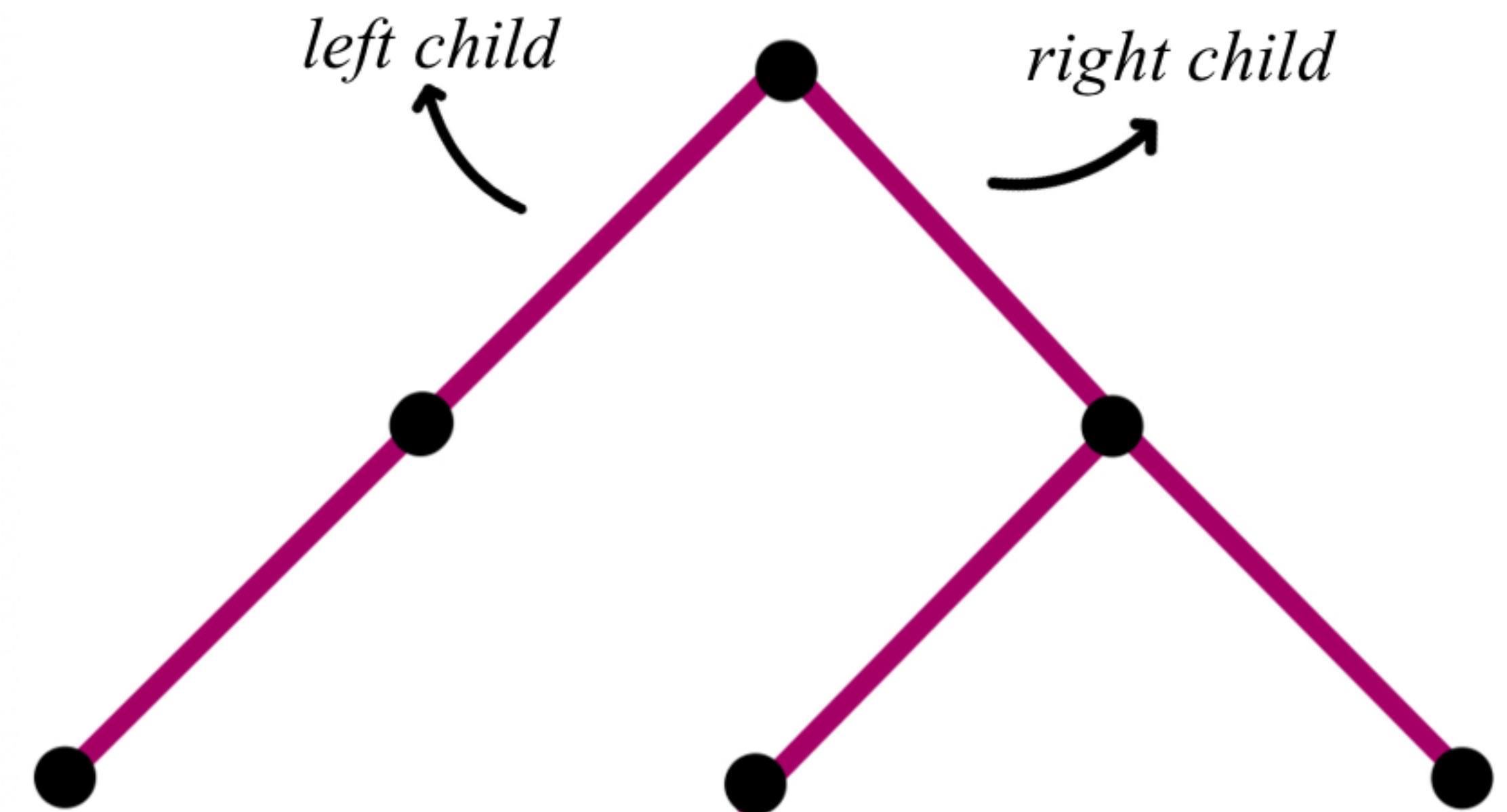
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 f(t) &= 2t - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(2n-3)!!(-1)^{n-1}(-t)^n}{2^n n!} \right) \frac{1}{2t} = \\
 &= 1 + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{2^{n-1}(2n-3)!!t^{n-1}}{n!} = \\
 &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n(2n-1)!!t^n}{(n+1)!}
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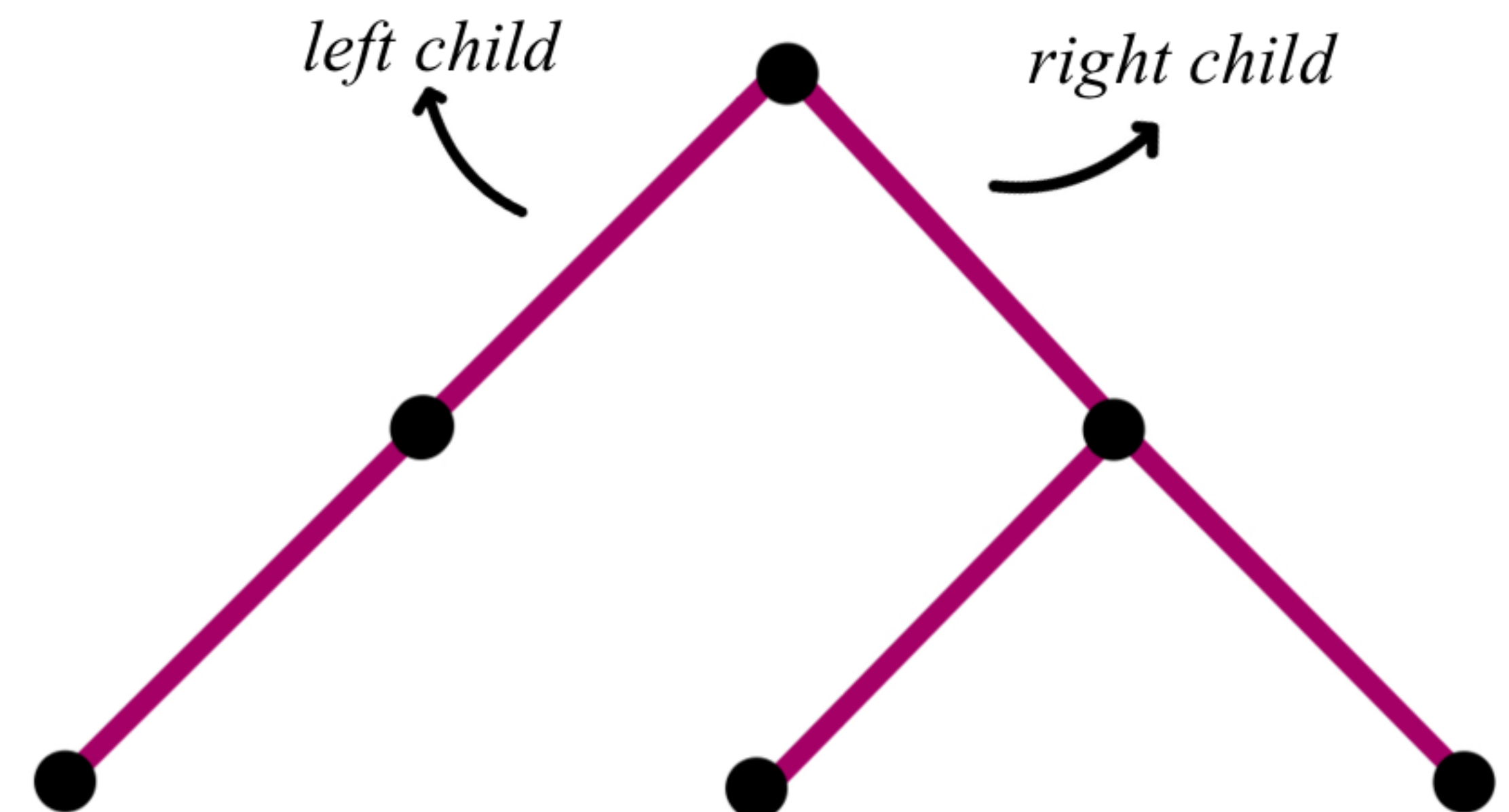


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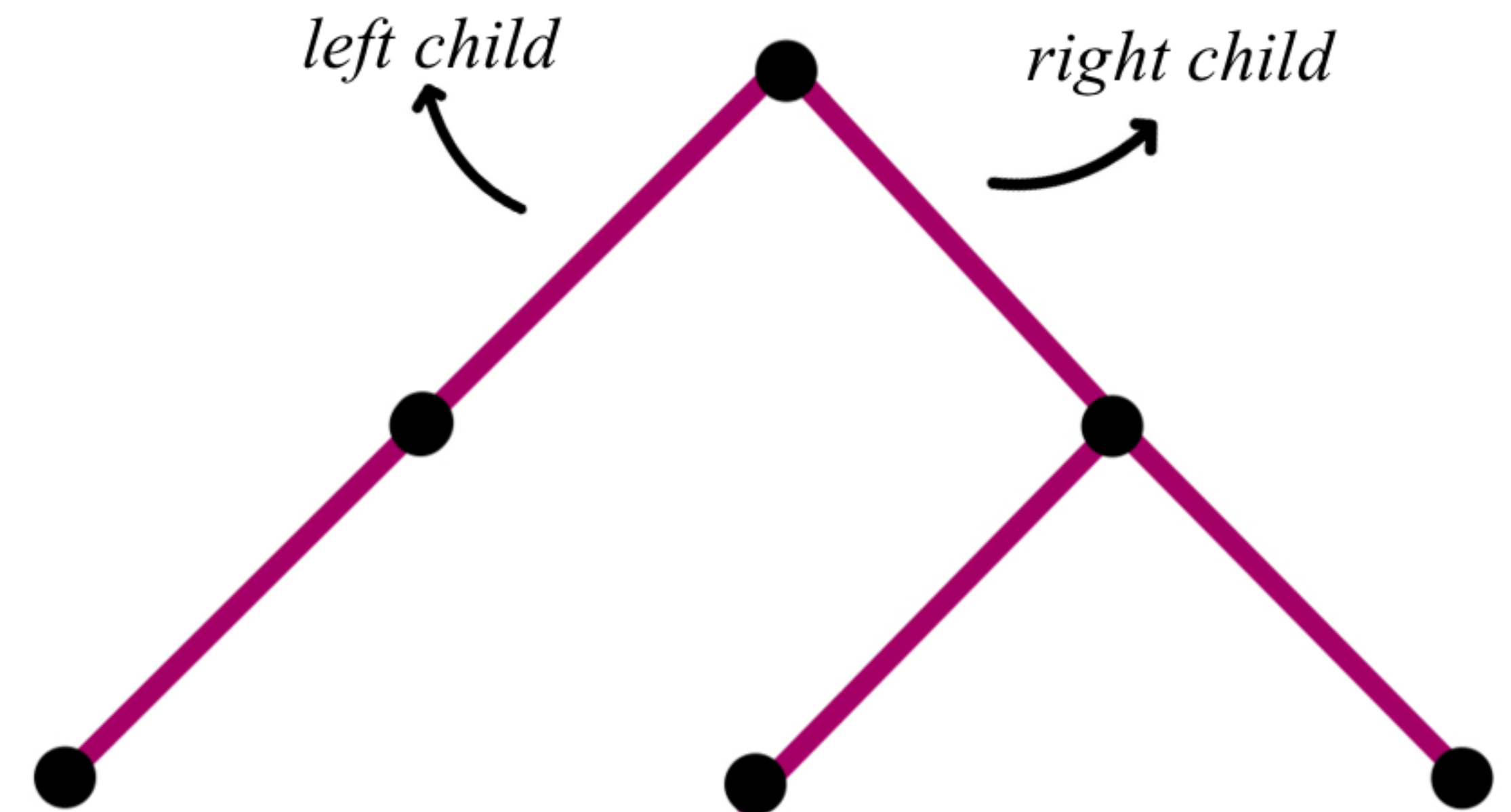
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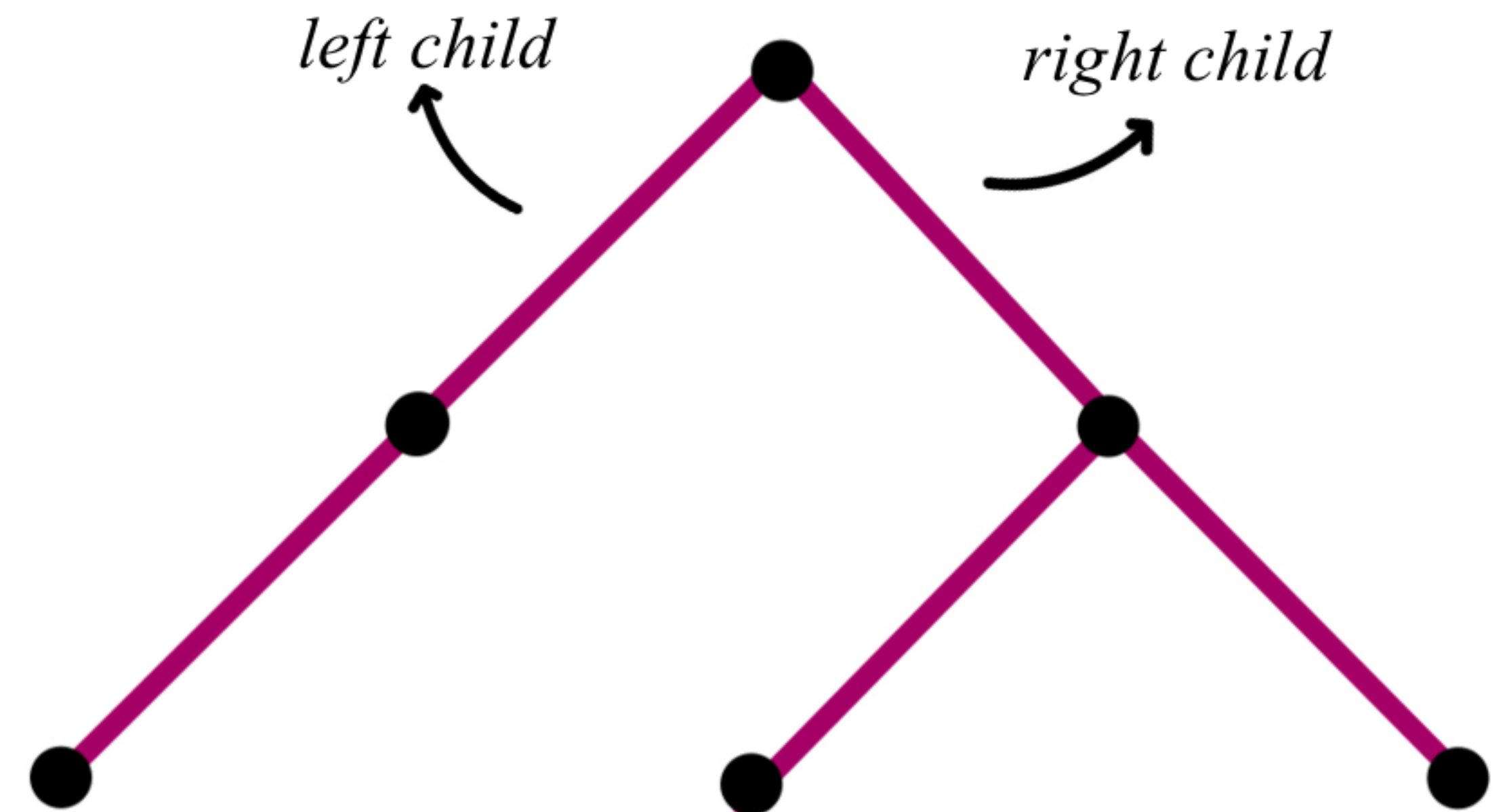
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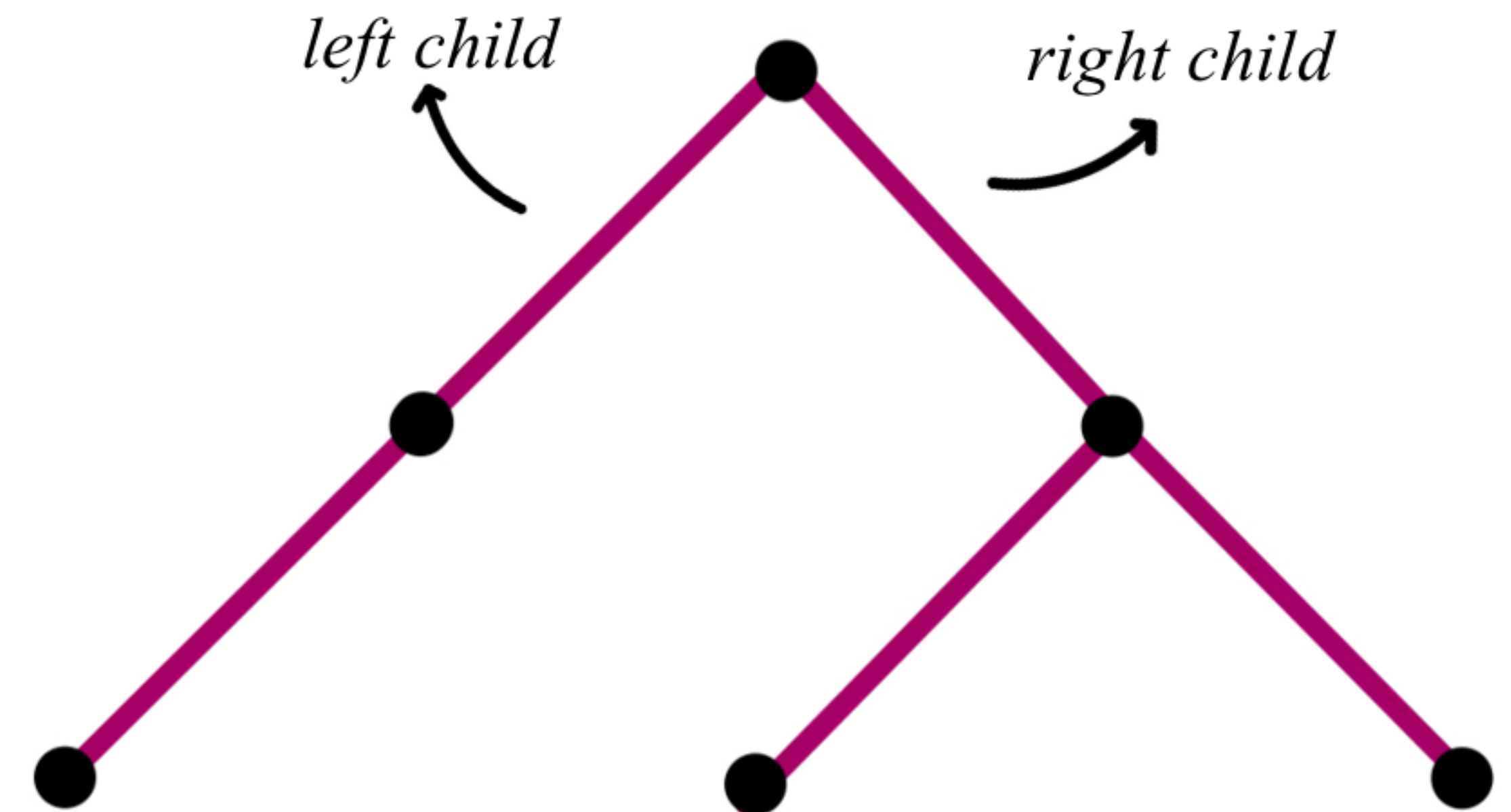
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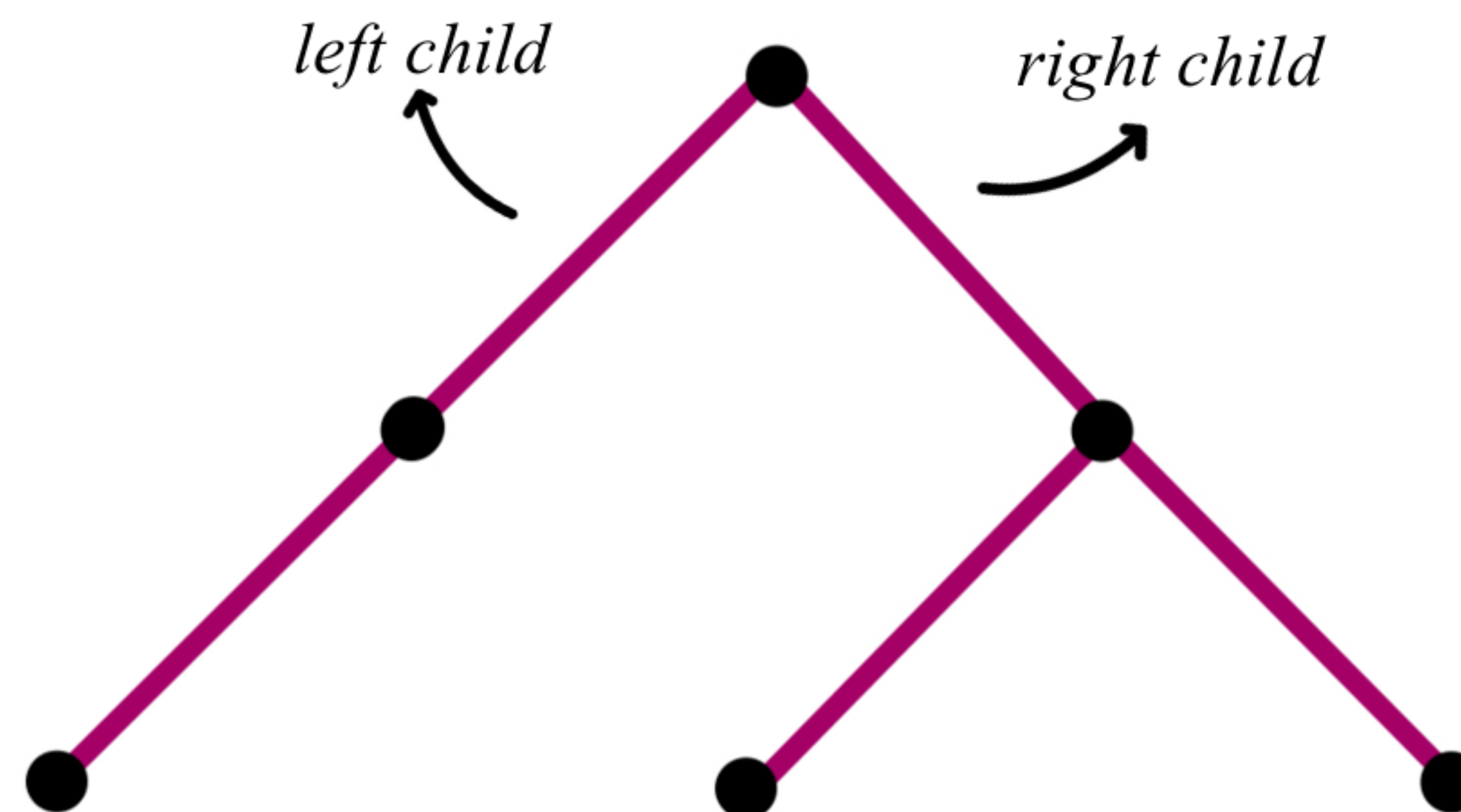
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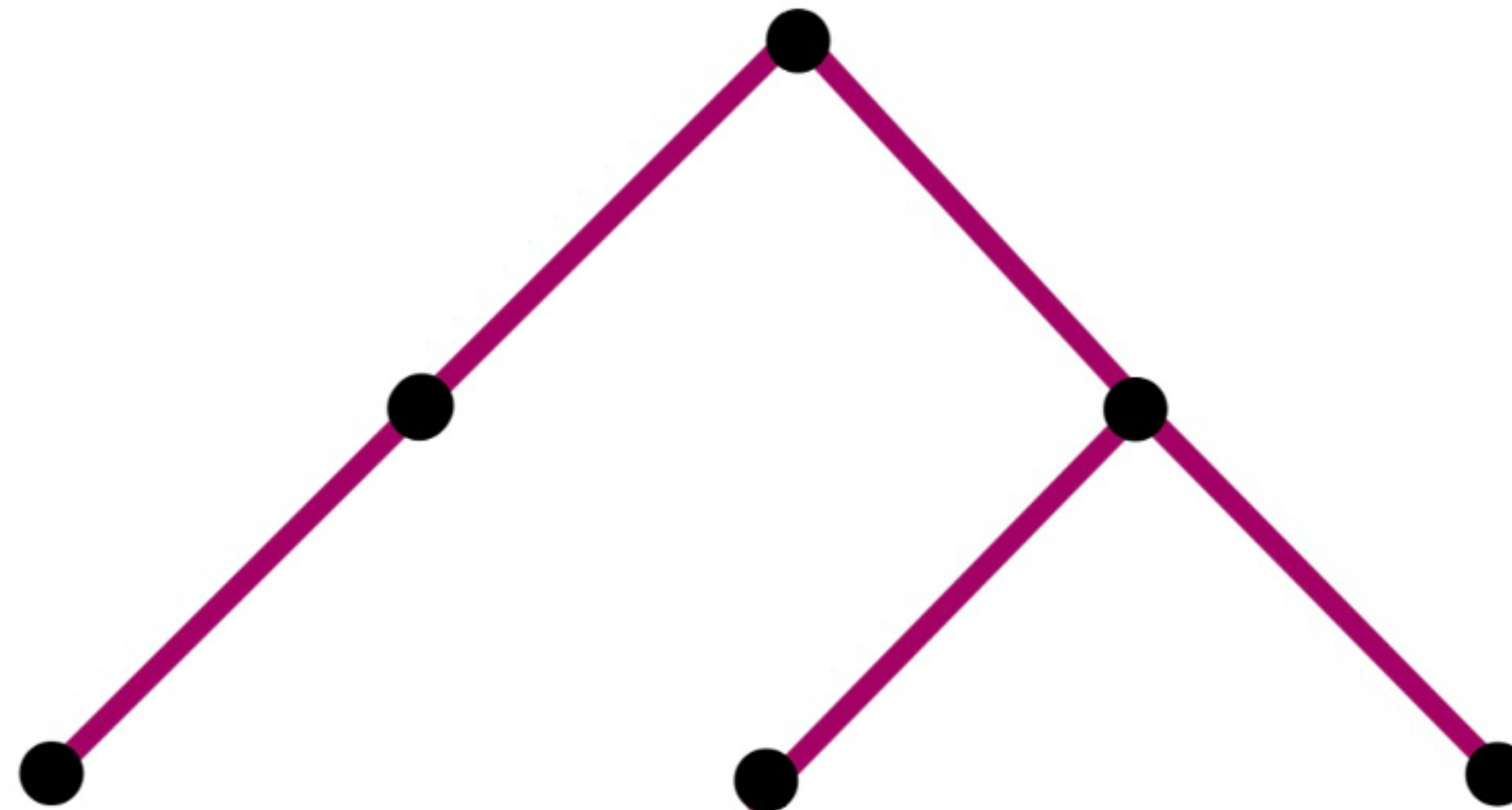
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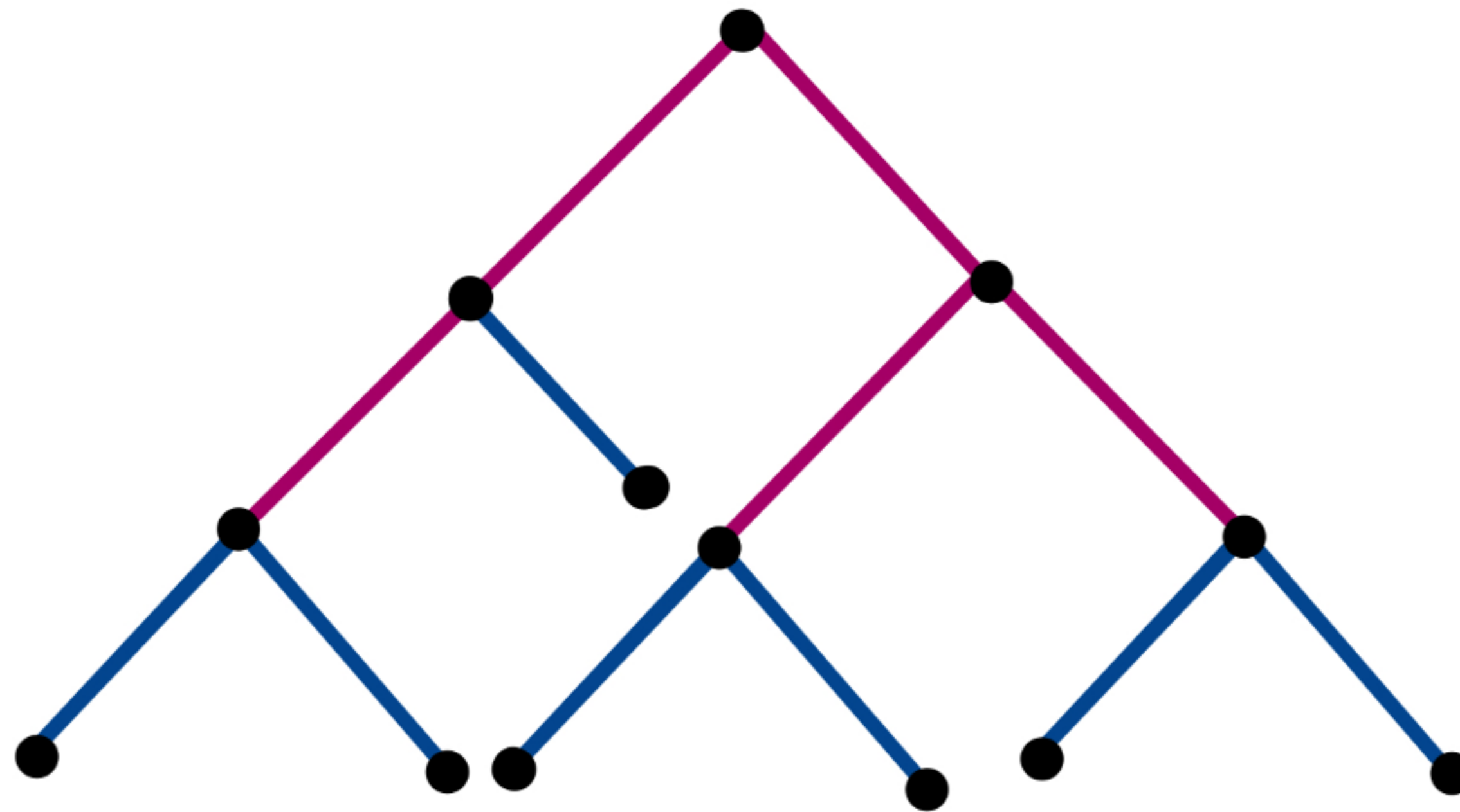


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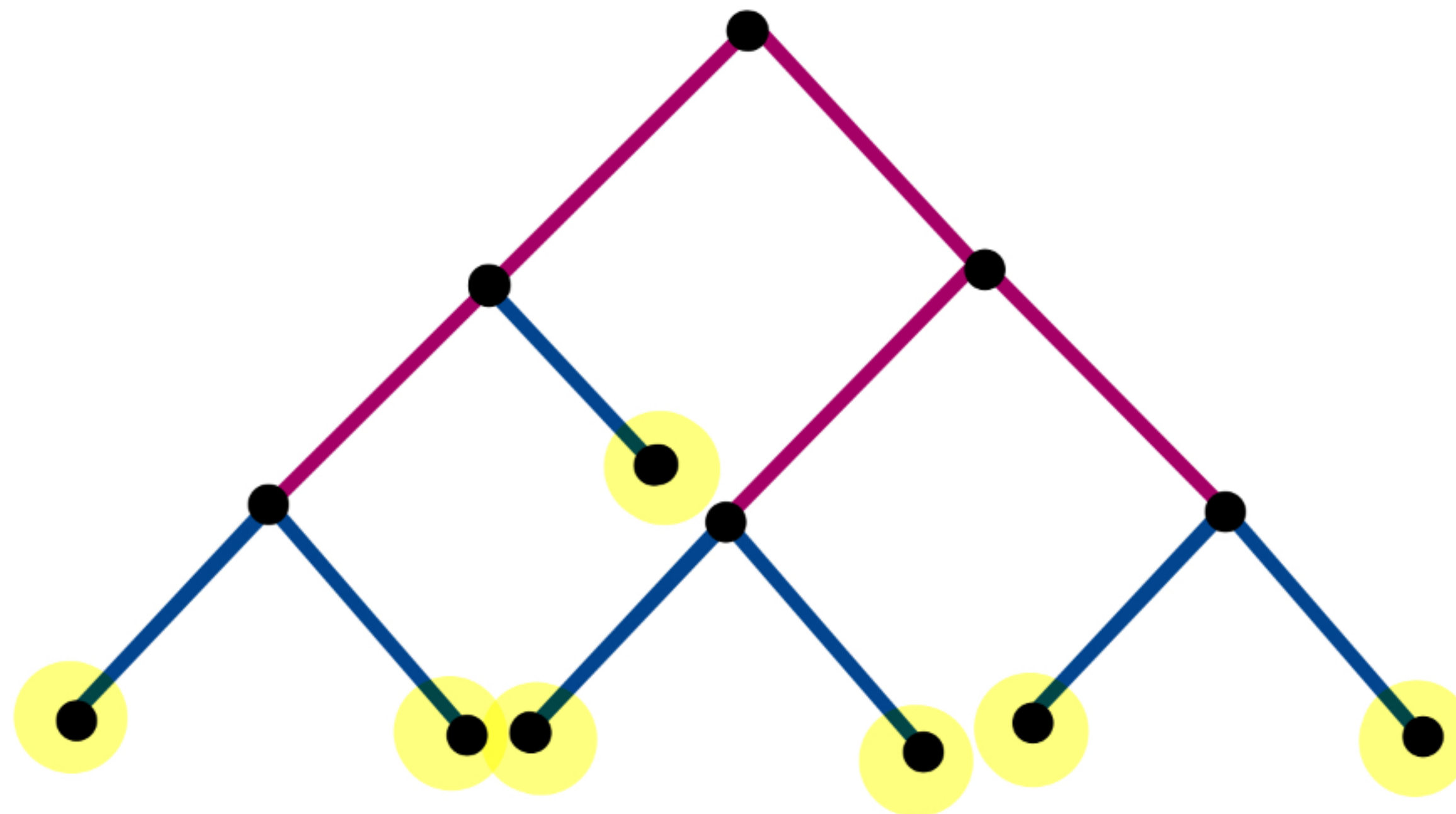


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•
introduction

•
generating functions

••••
continued fractions

••••
unlabelled binary trees

••••
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••
our conjecture

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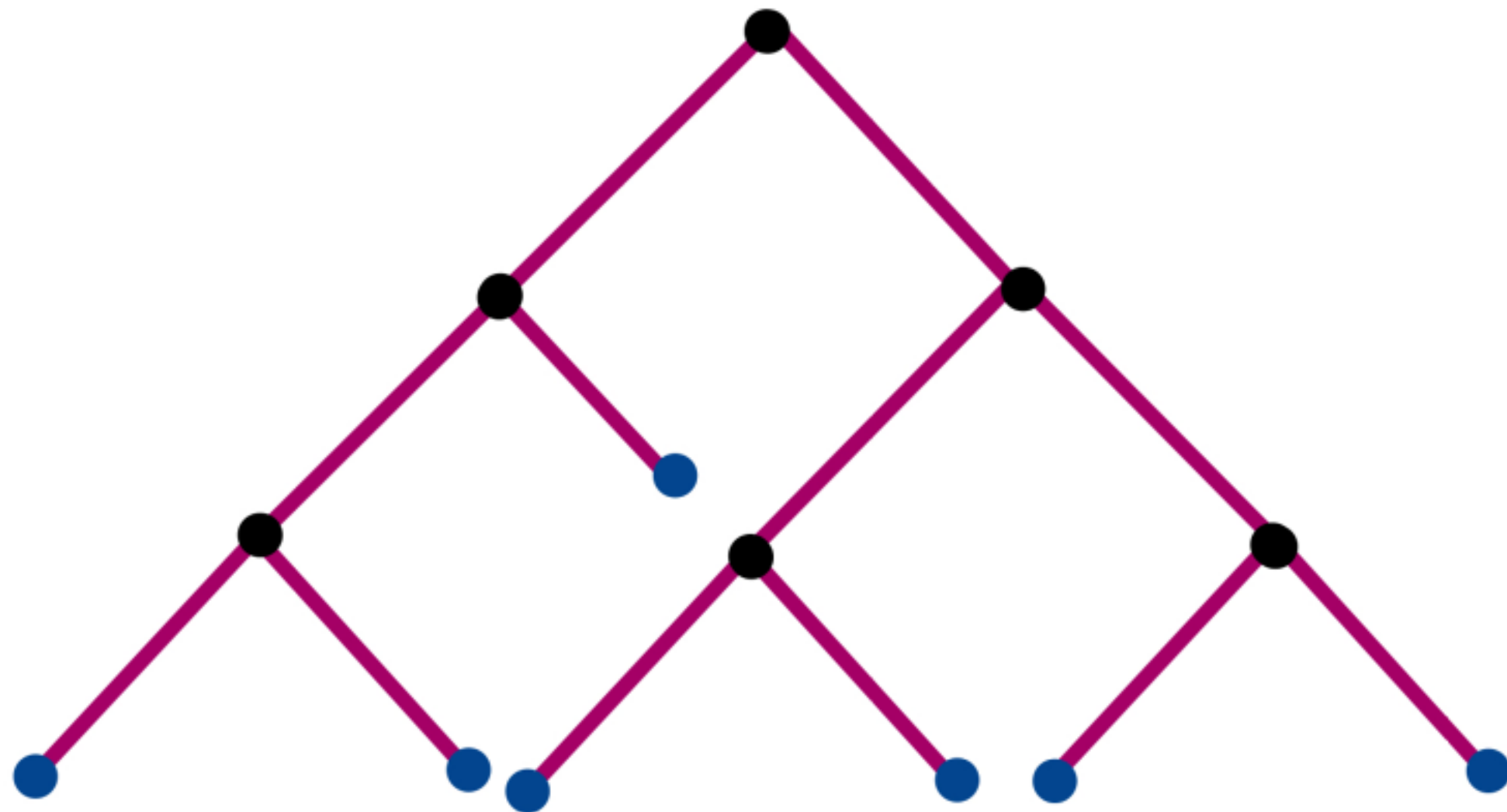
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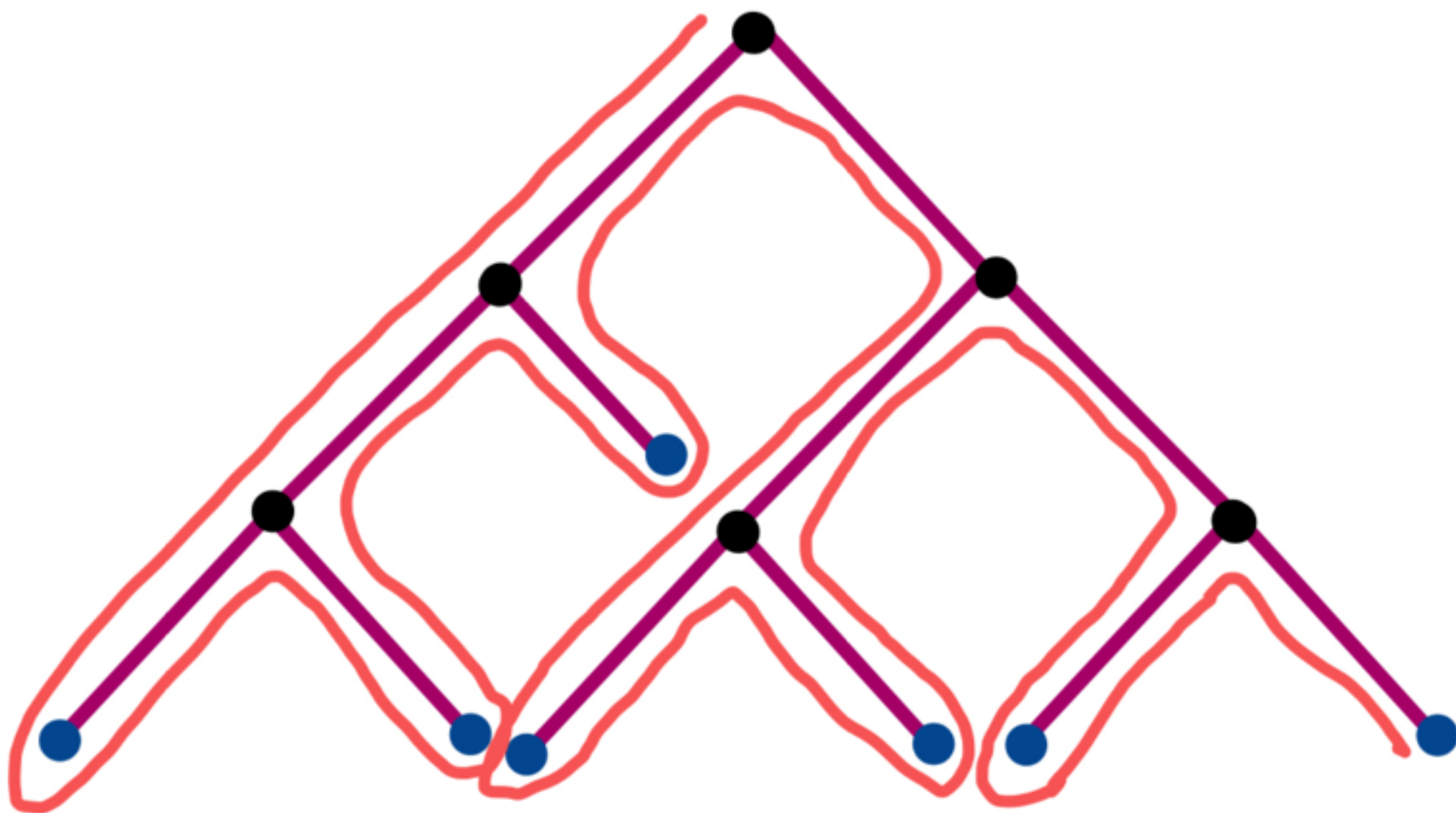
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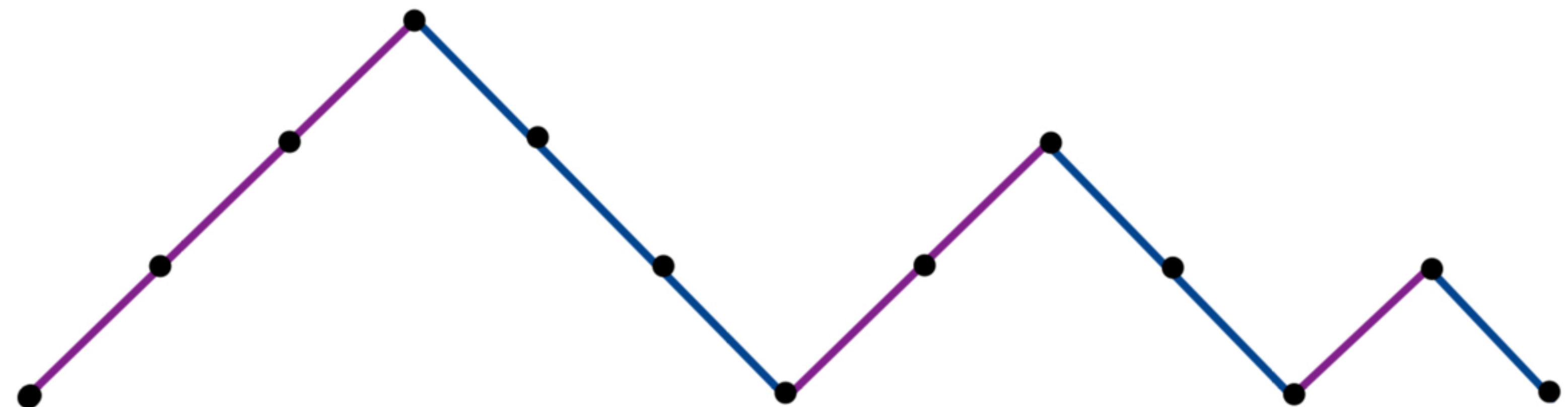
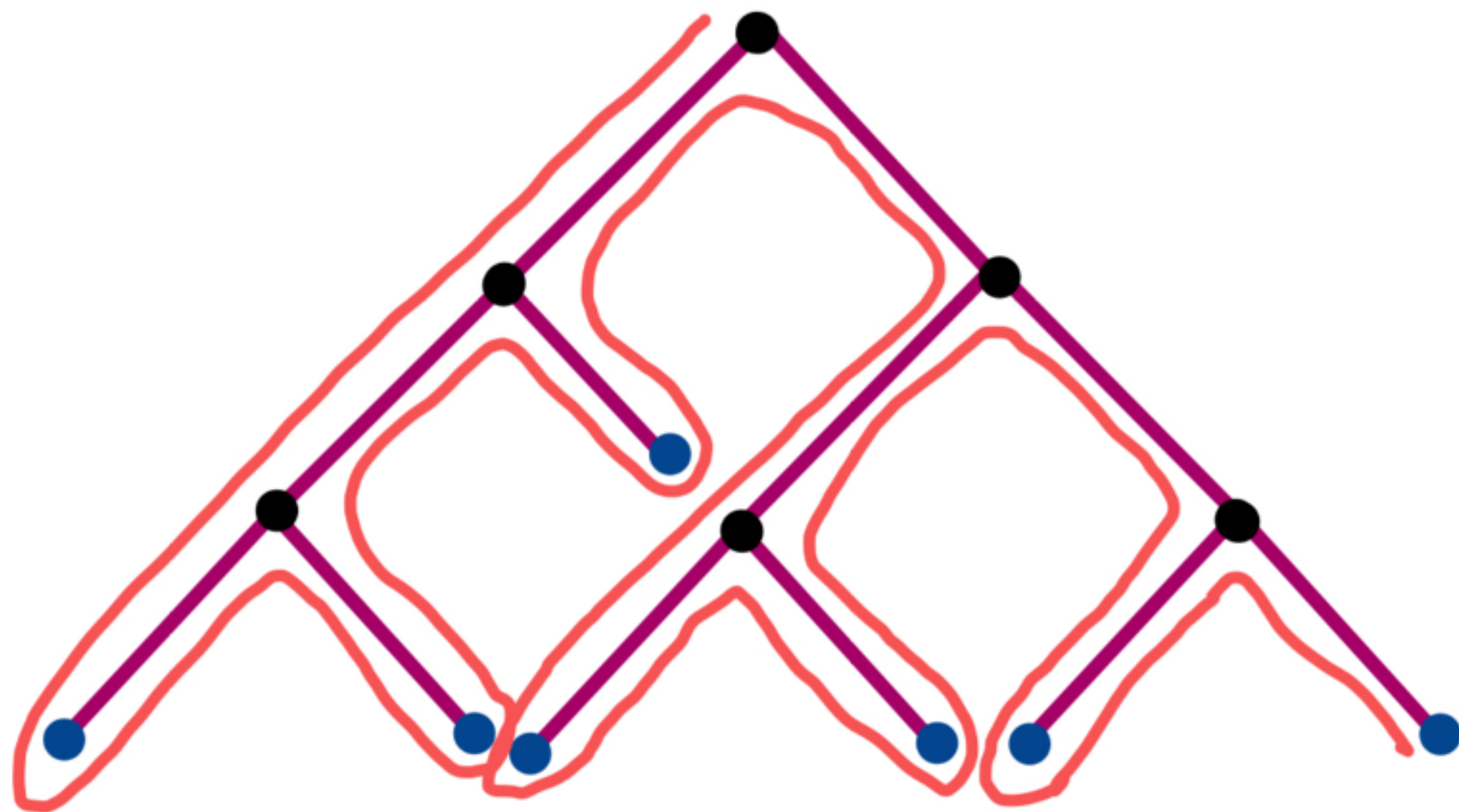
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introduction


generating functions


continued fractions

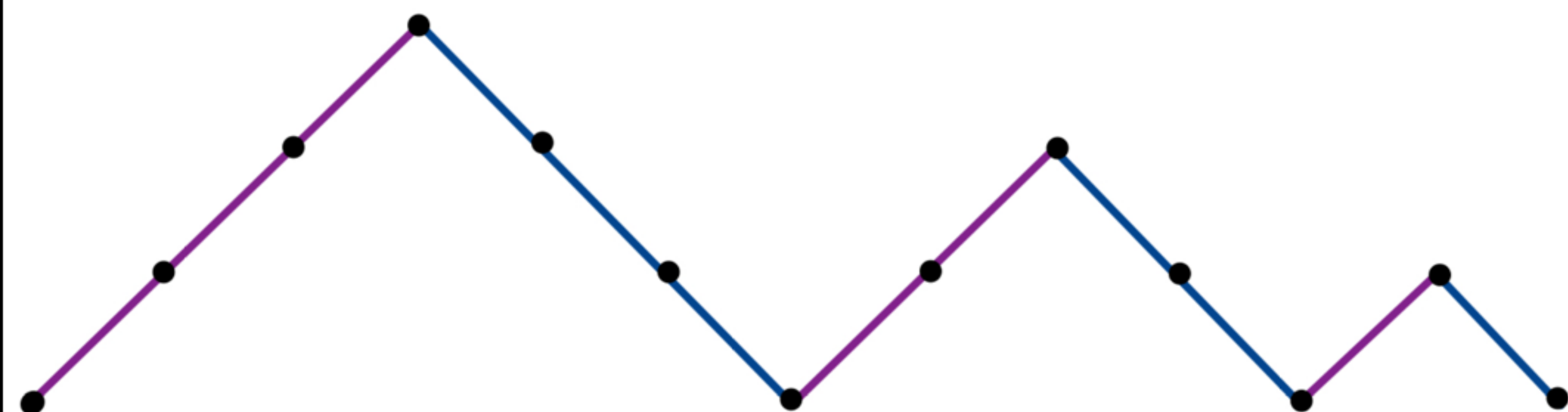

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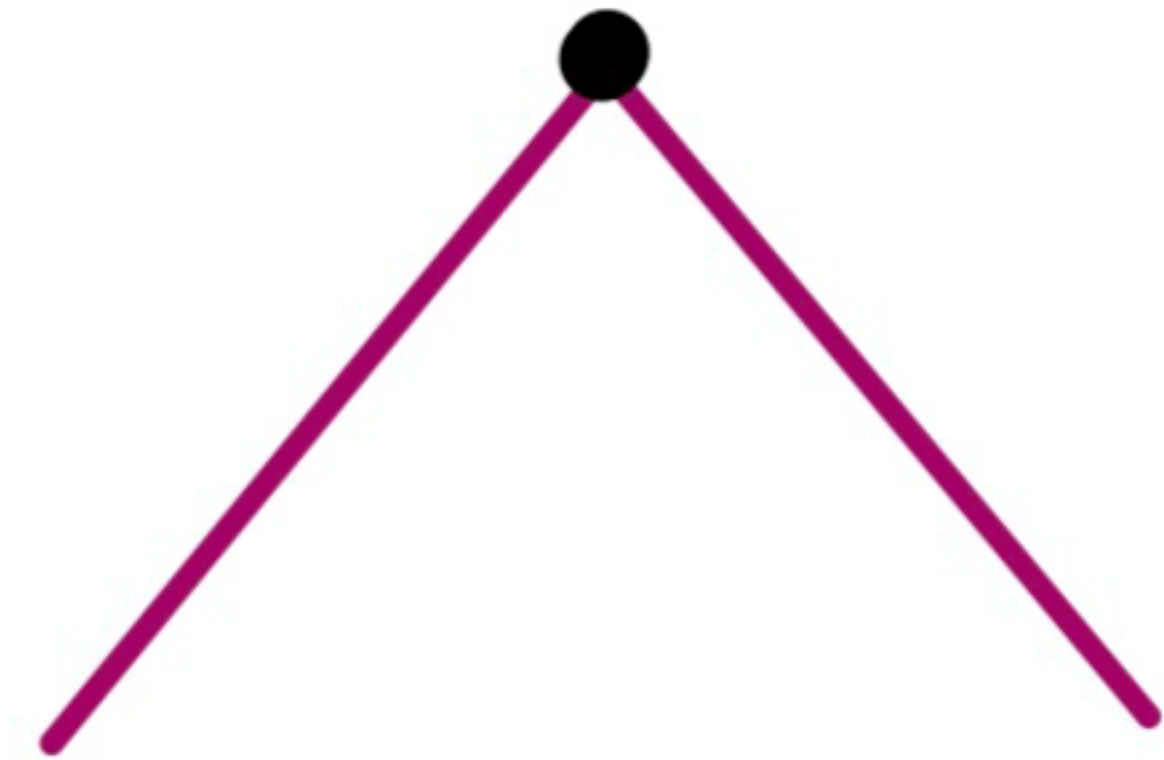
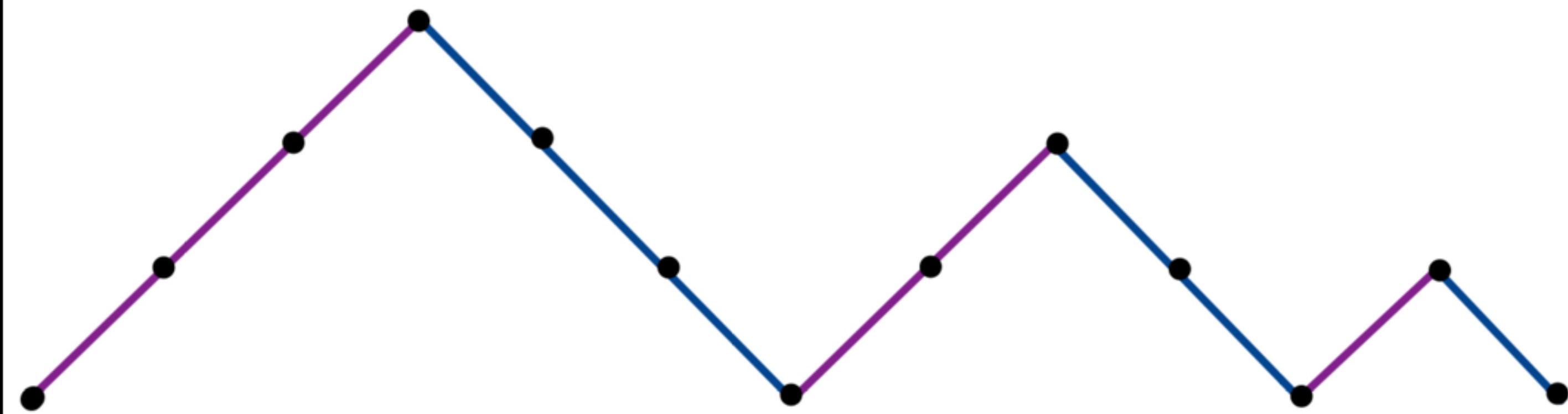

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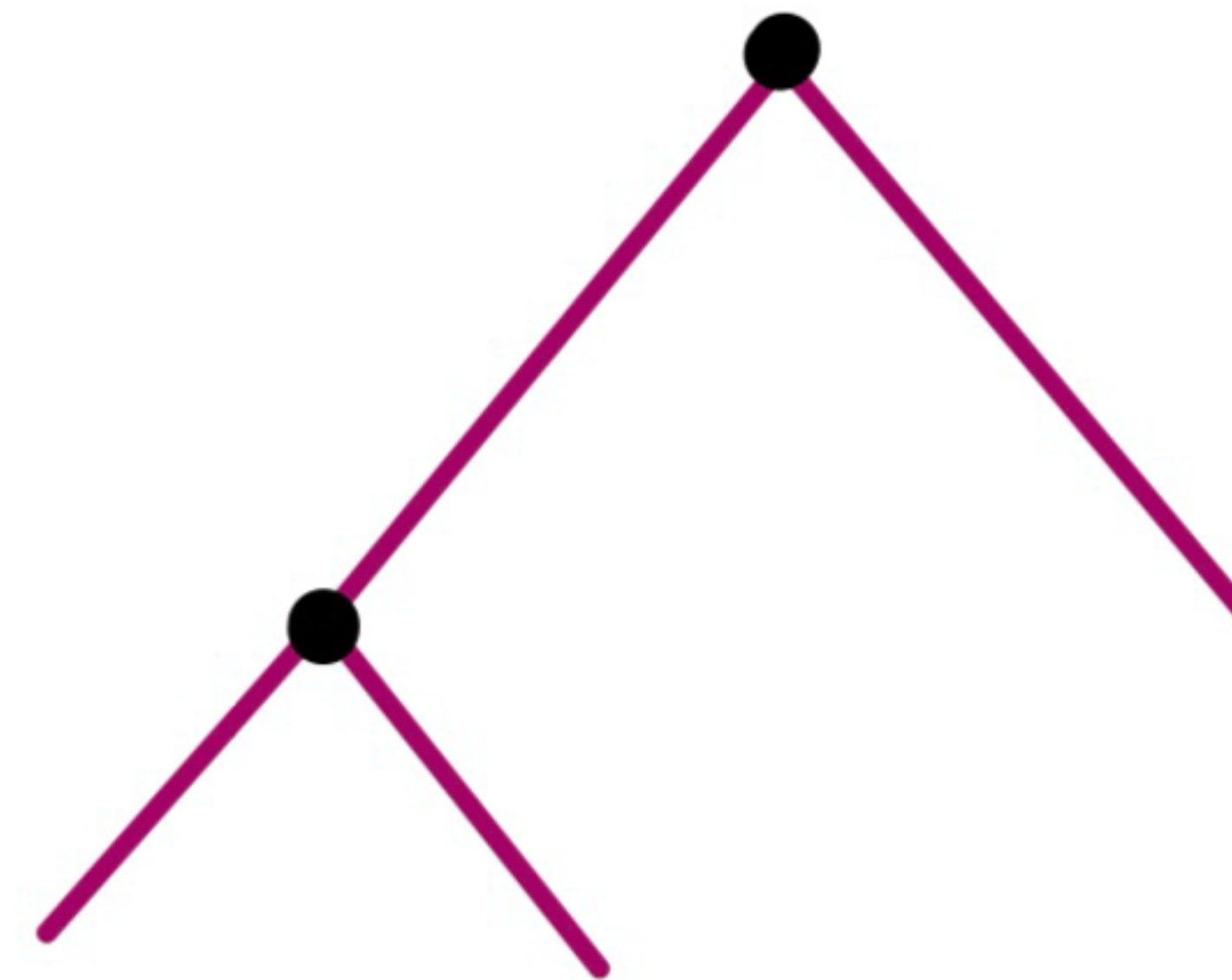
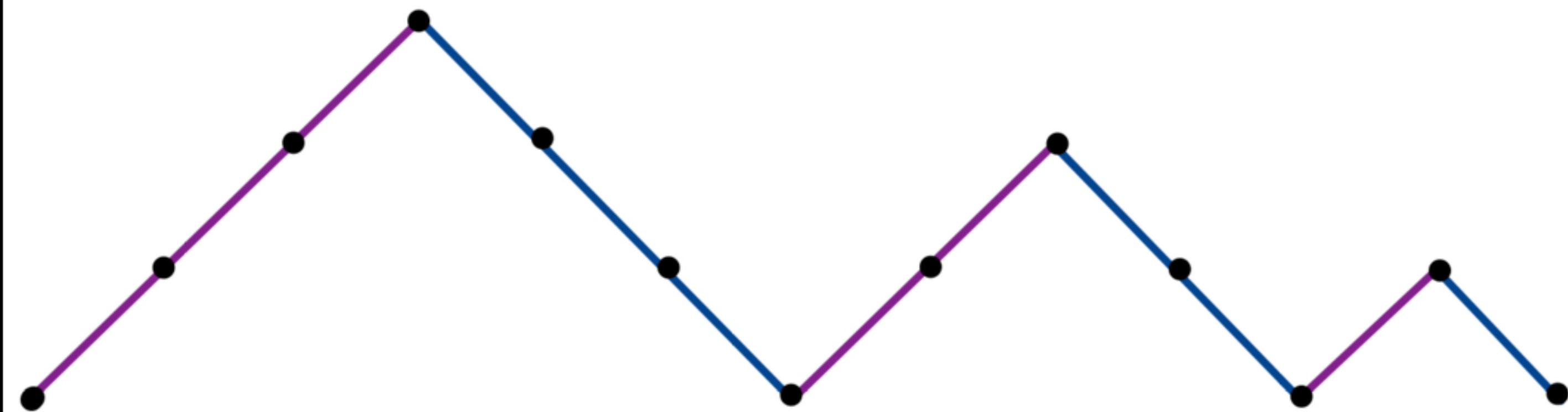
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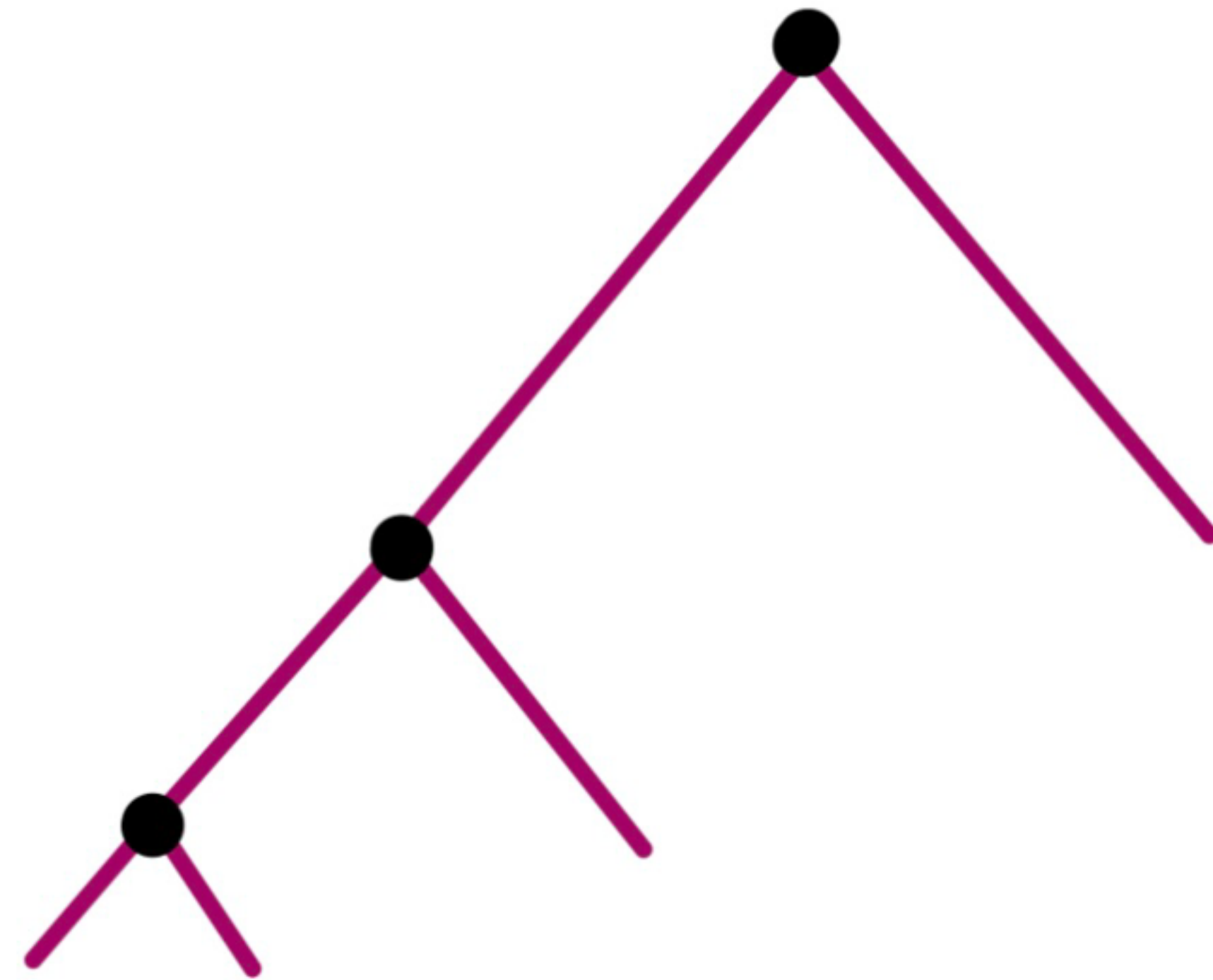
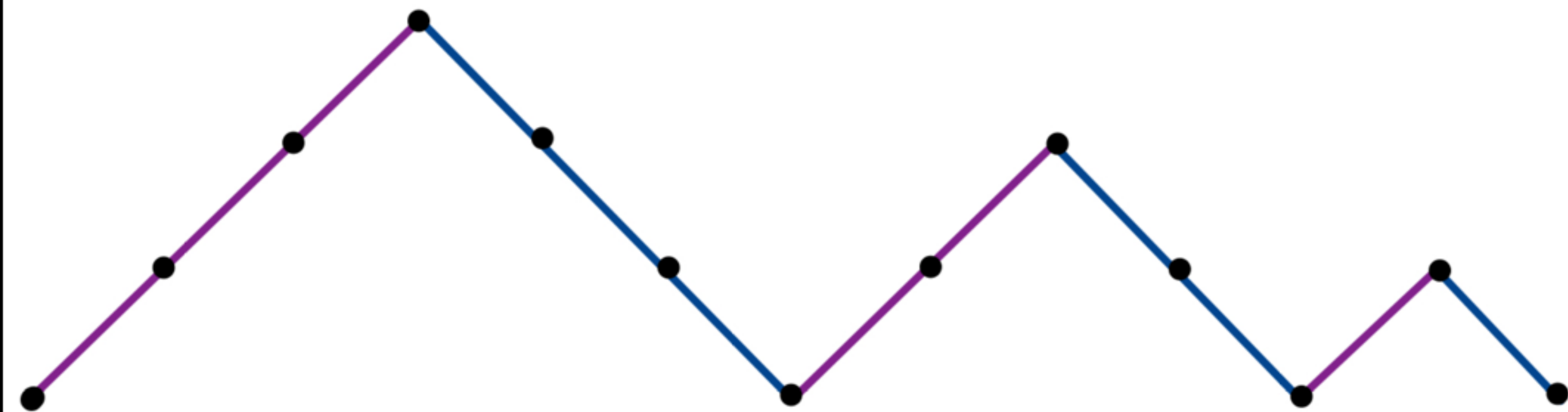
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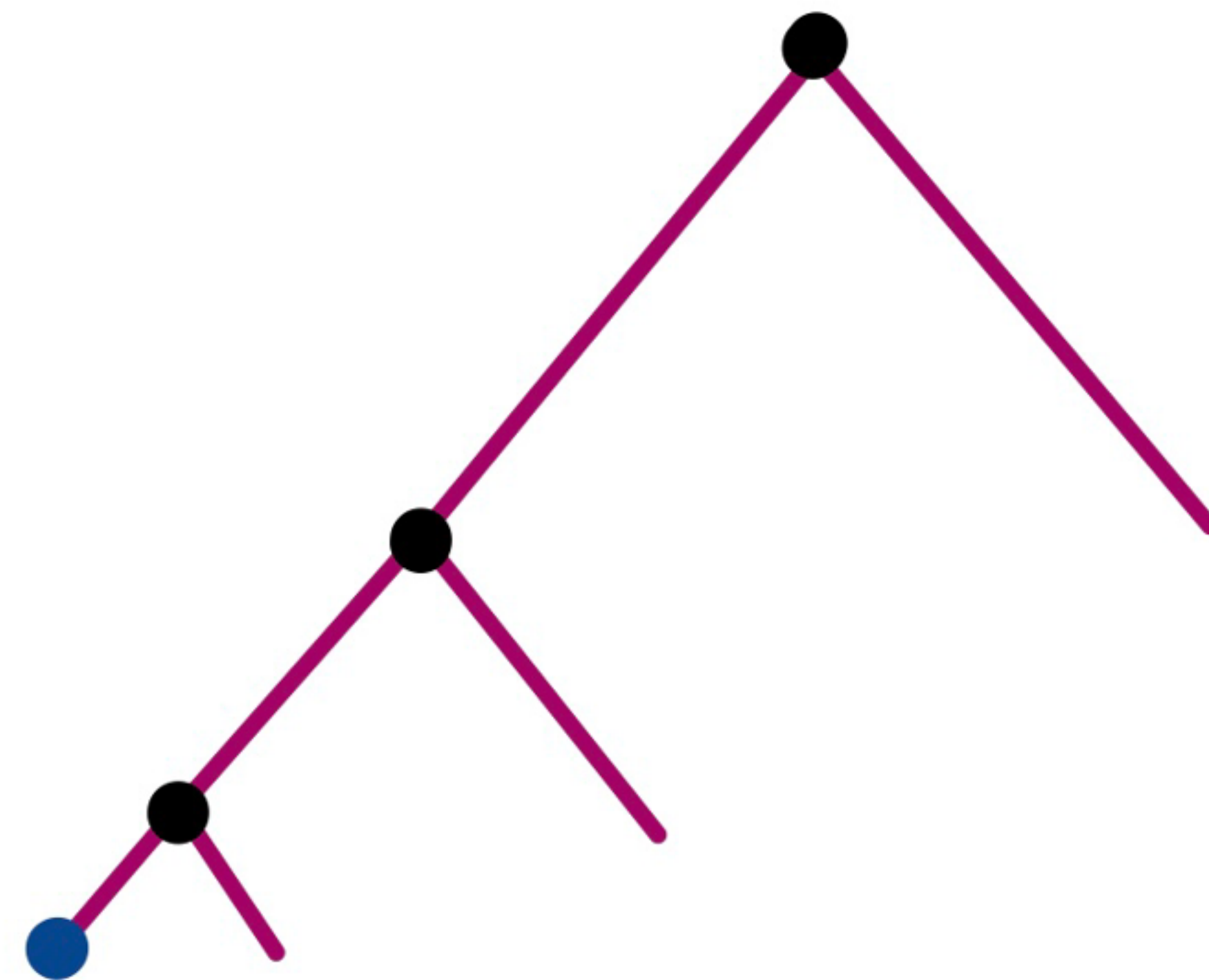
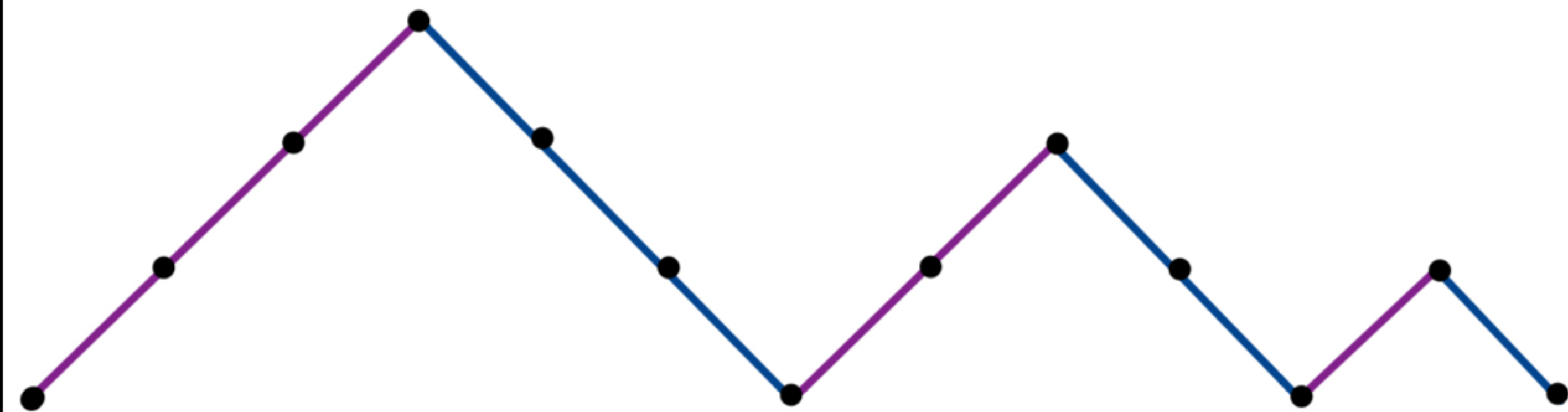
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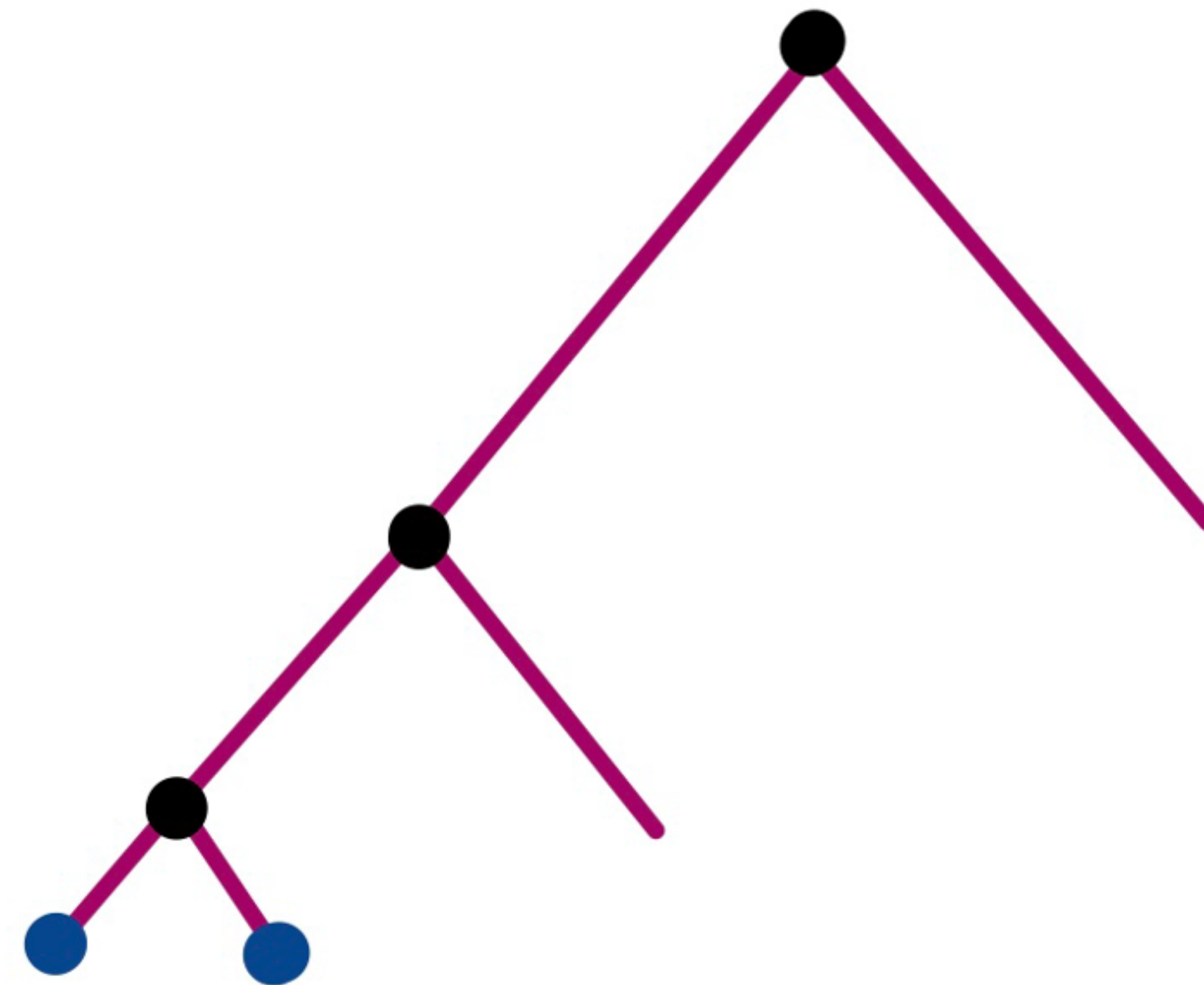
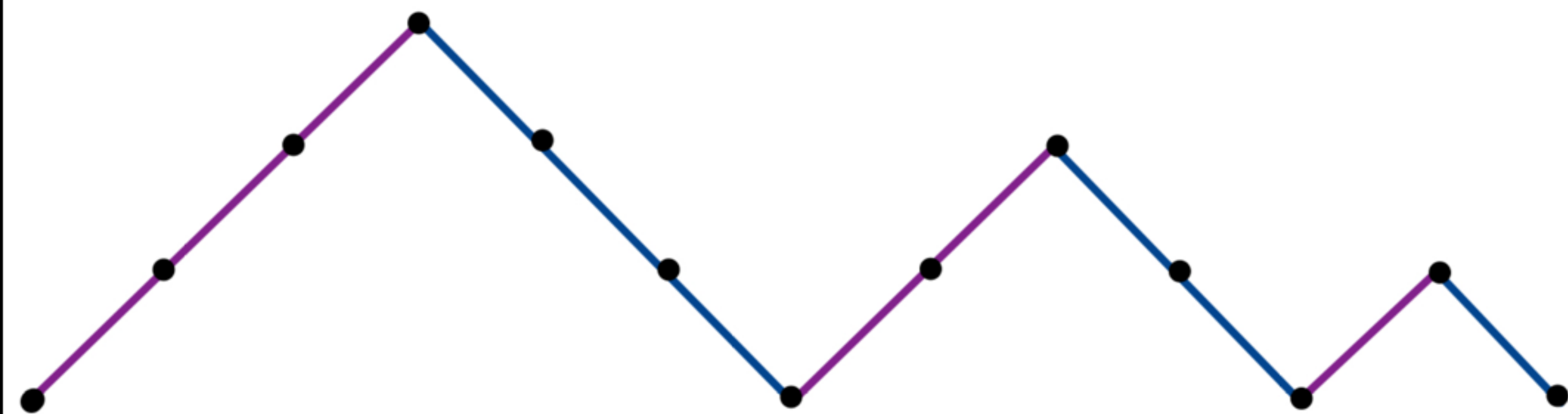
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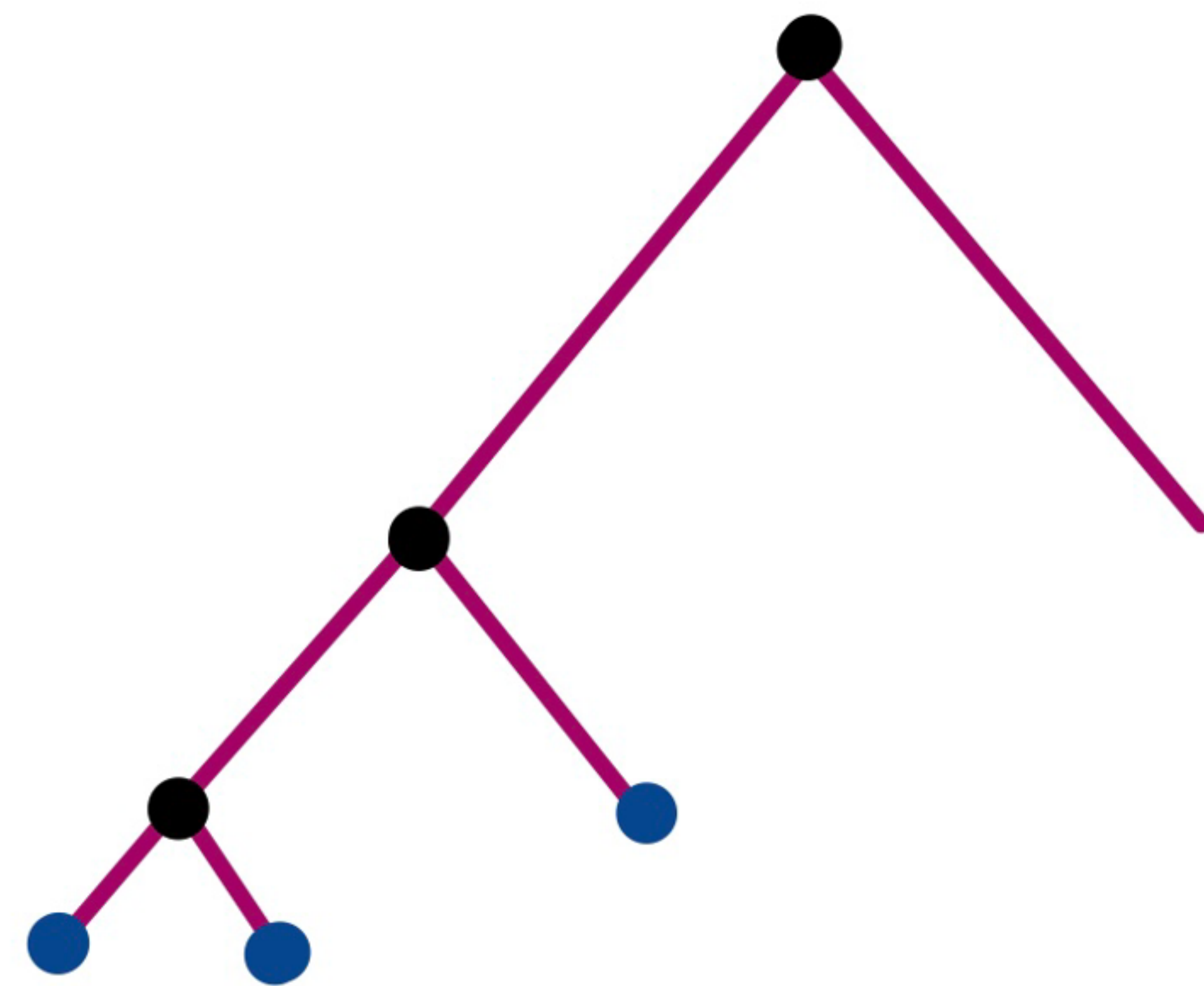
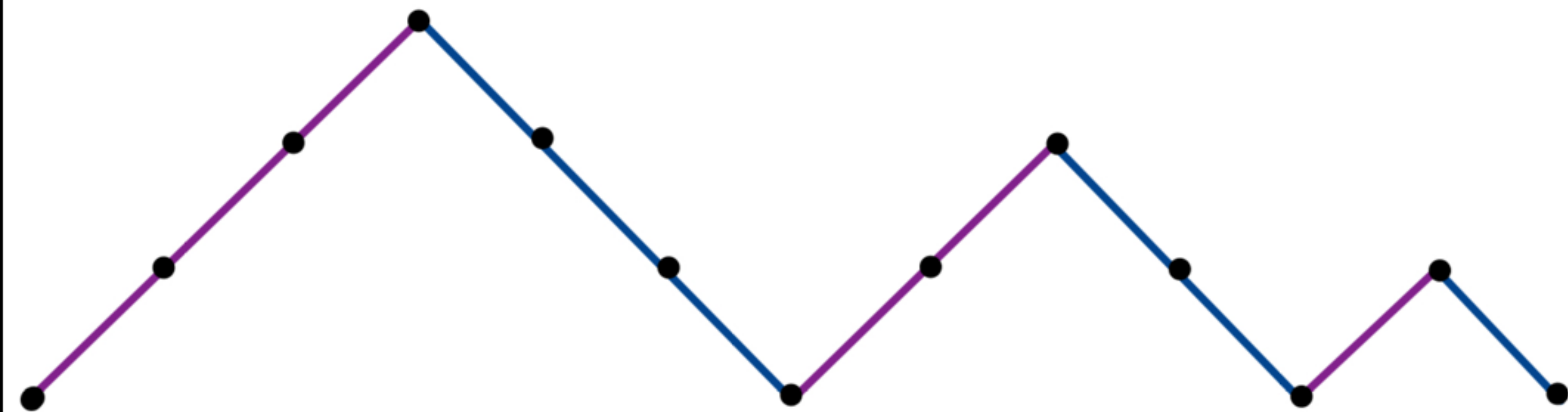
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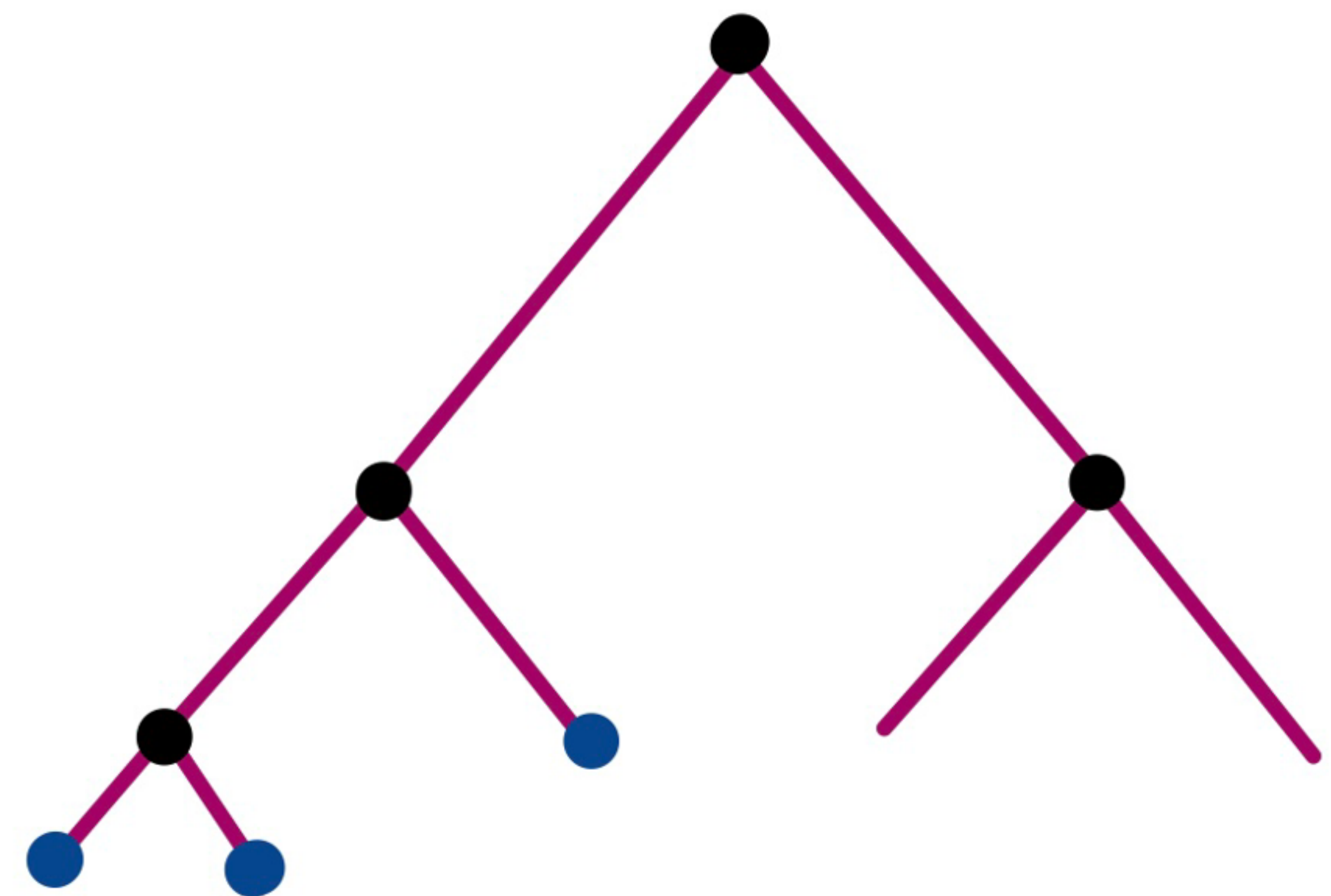
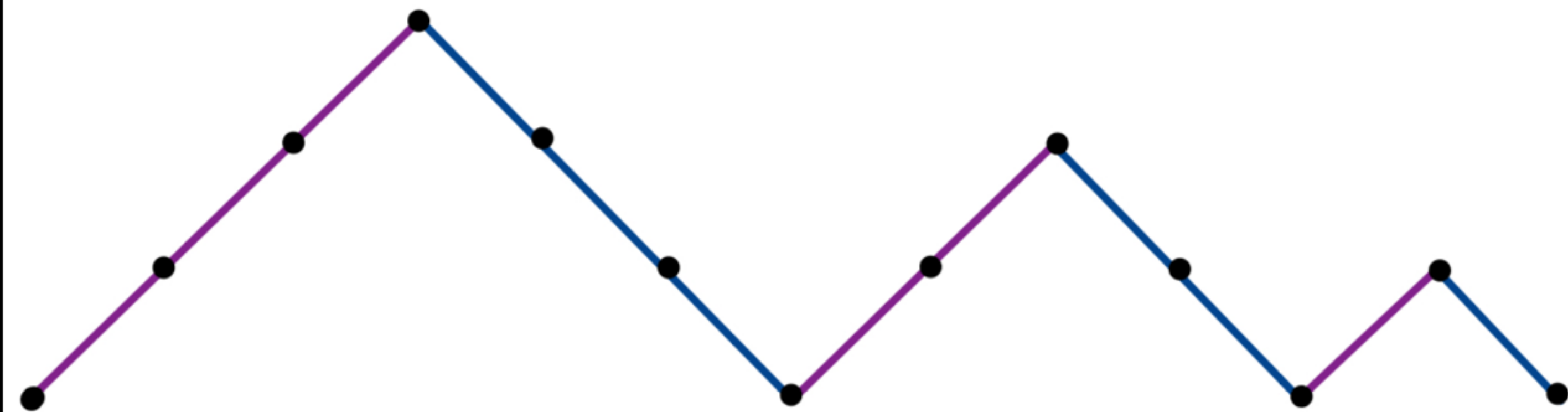
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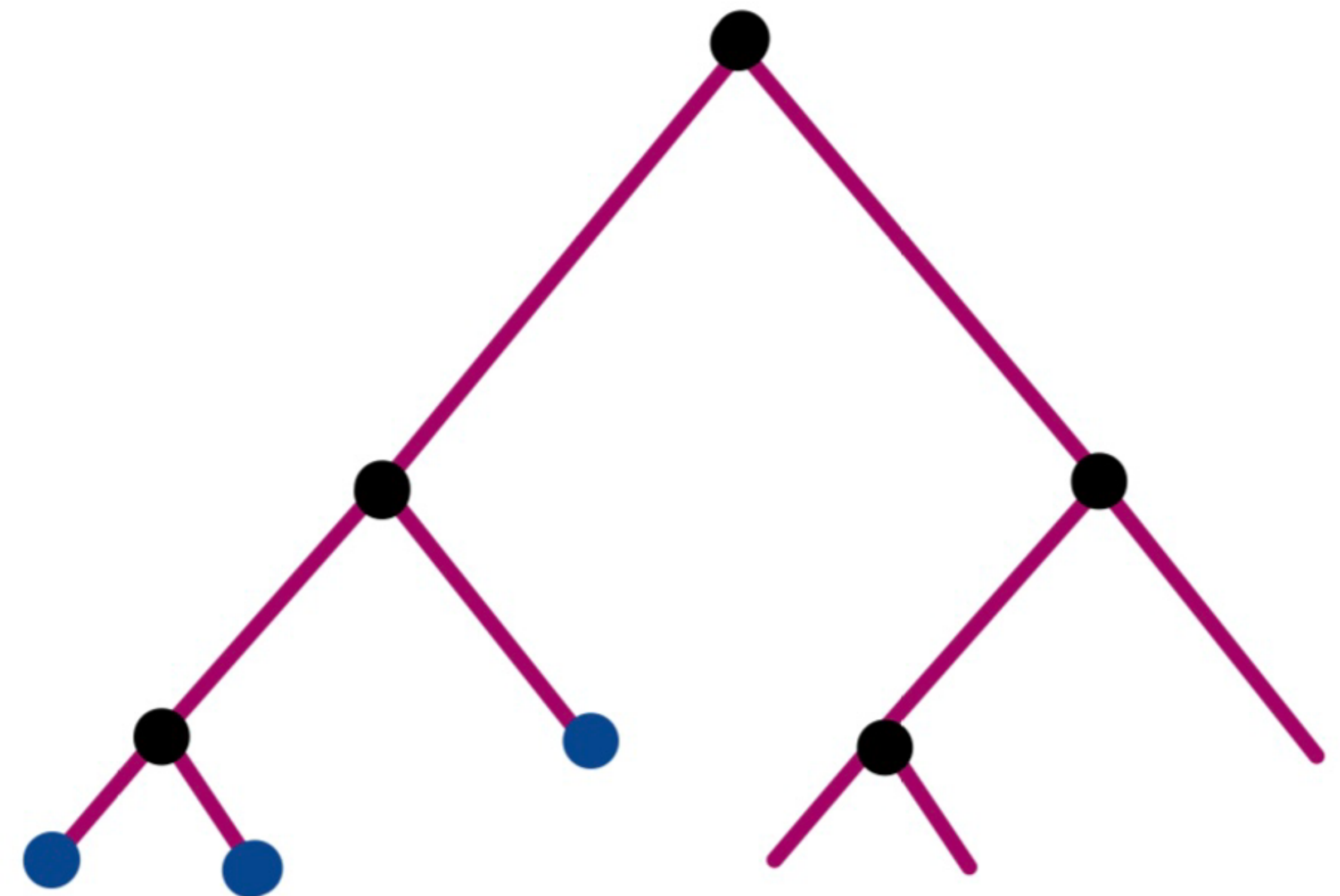
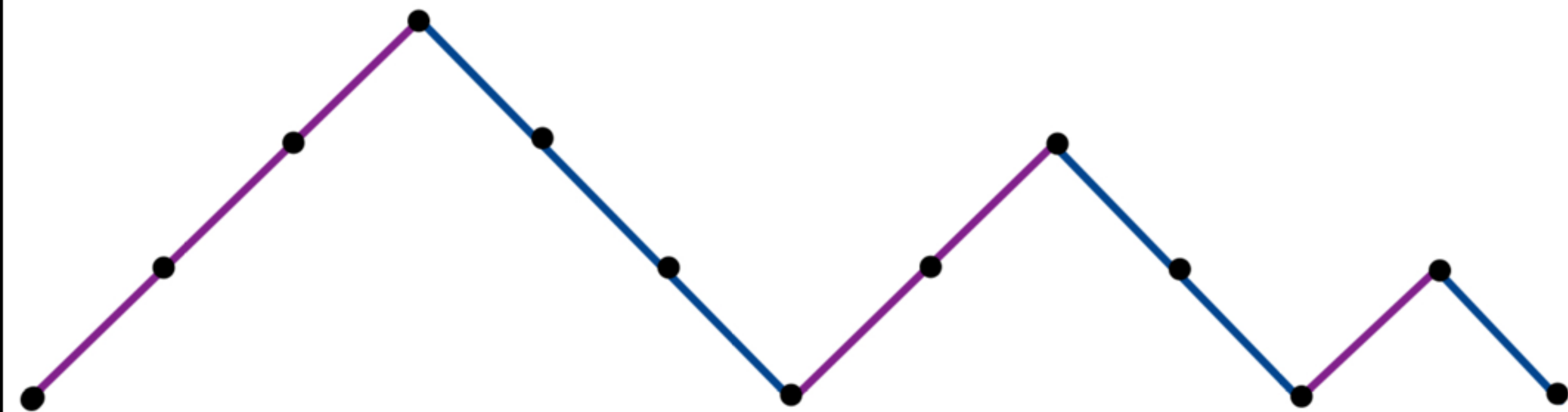
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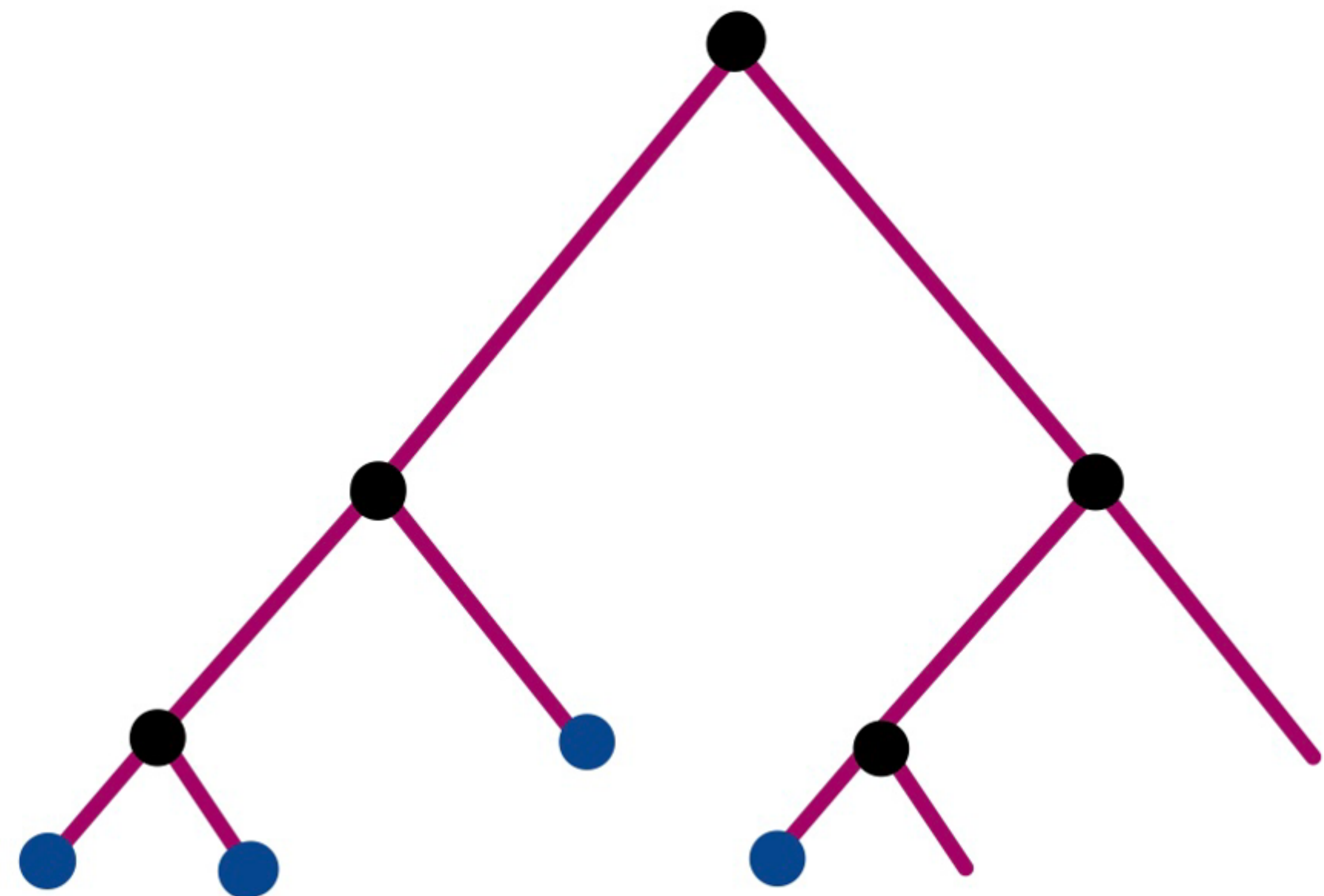
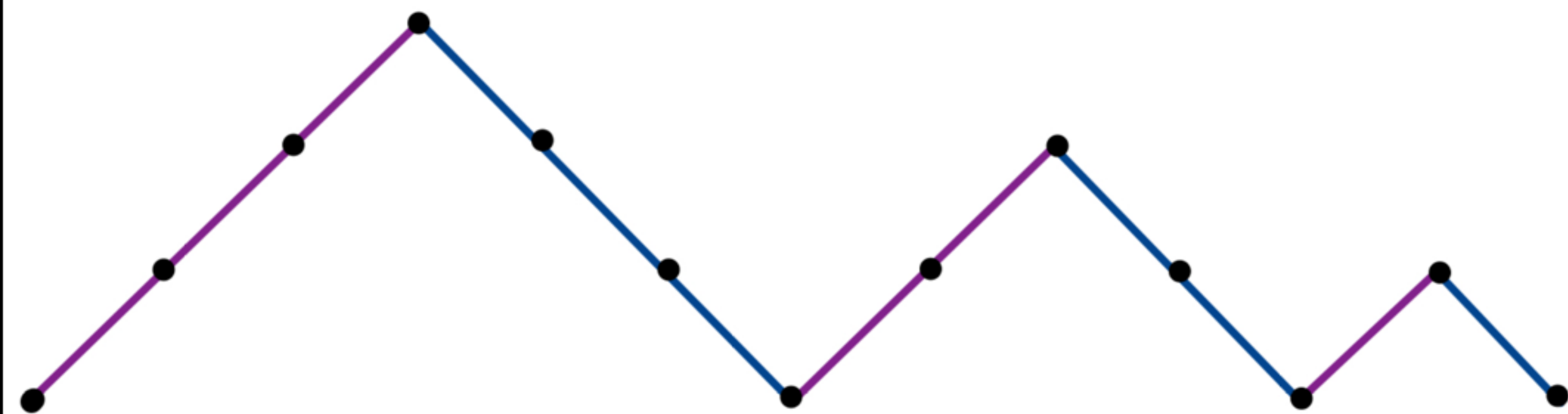
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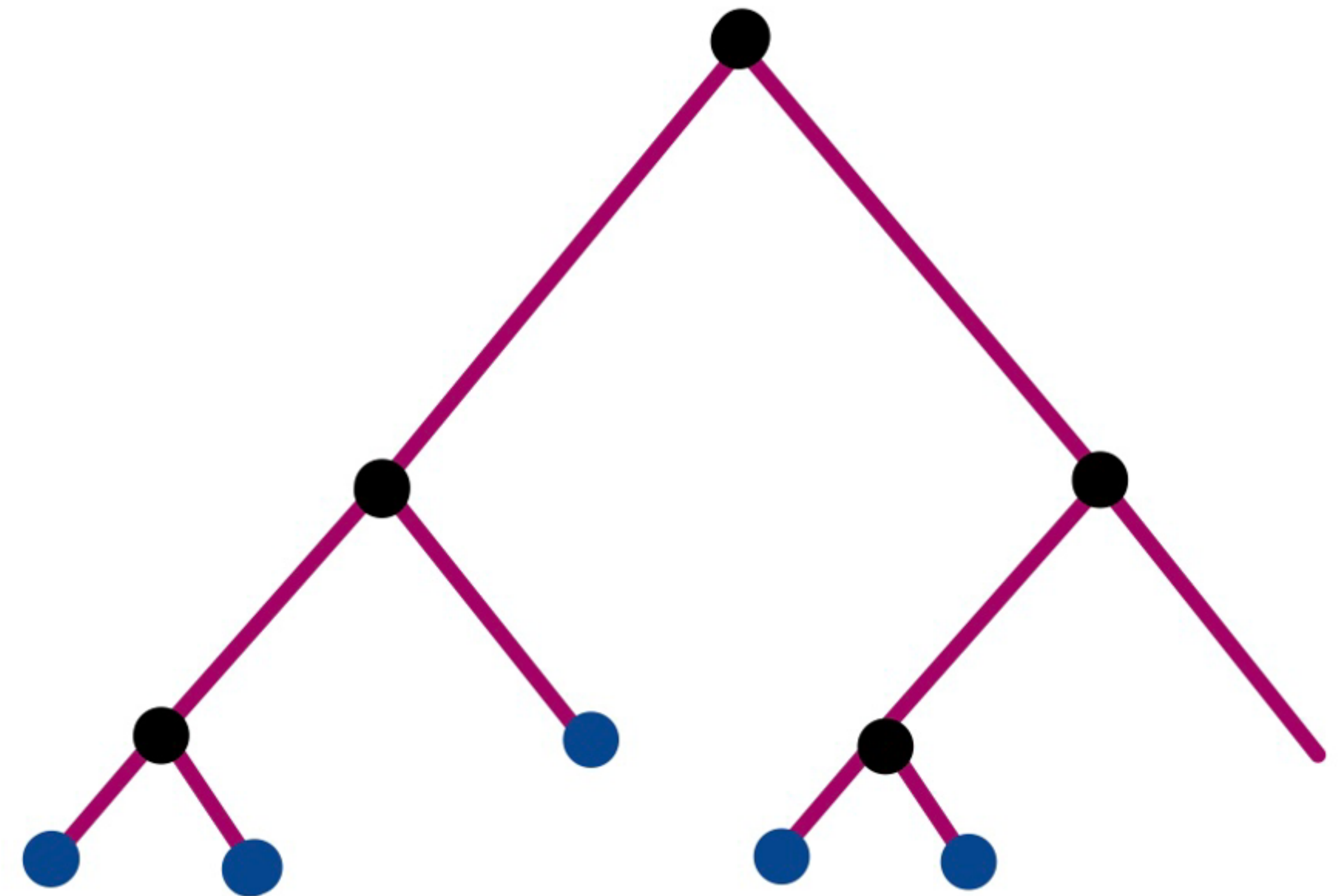
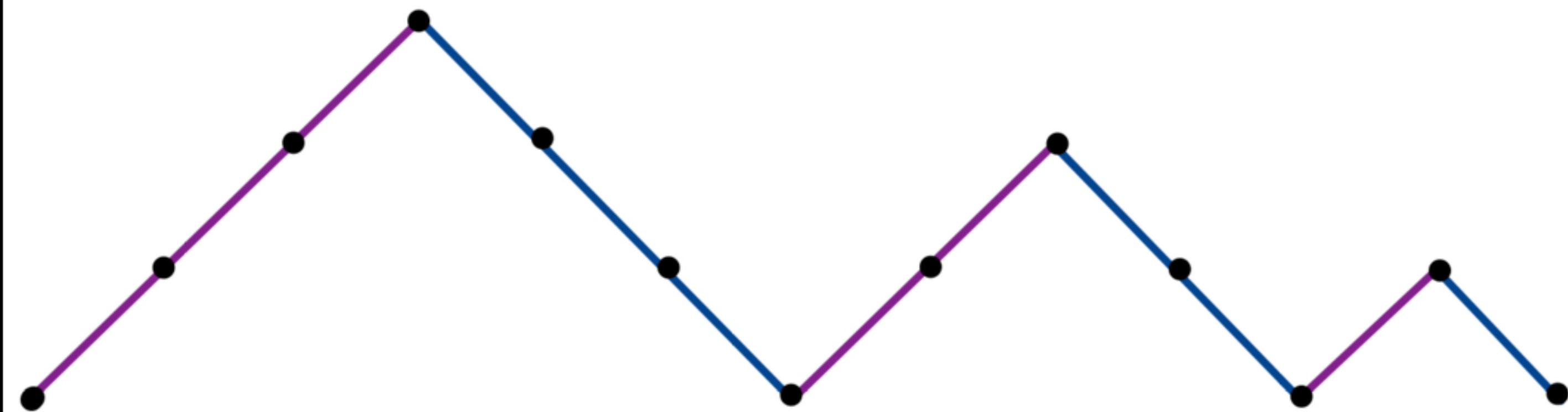
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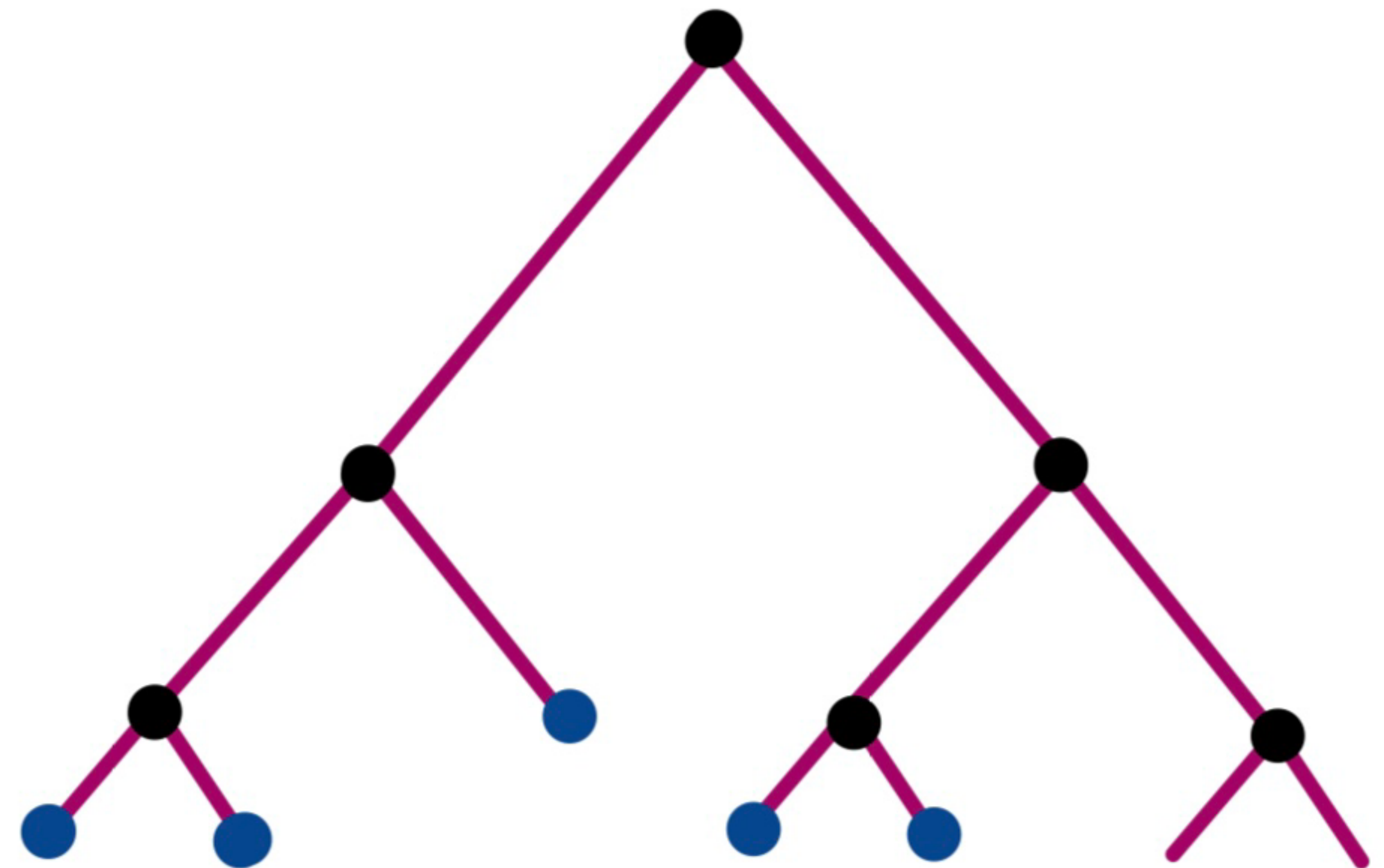
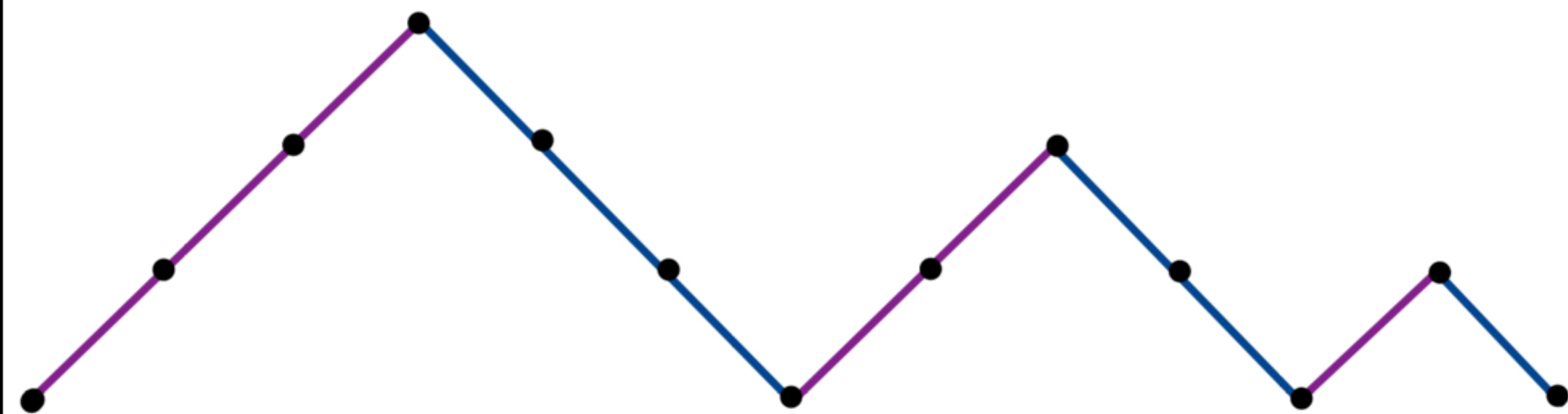
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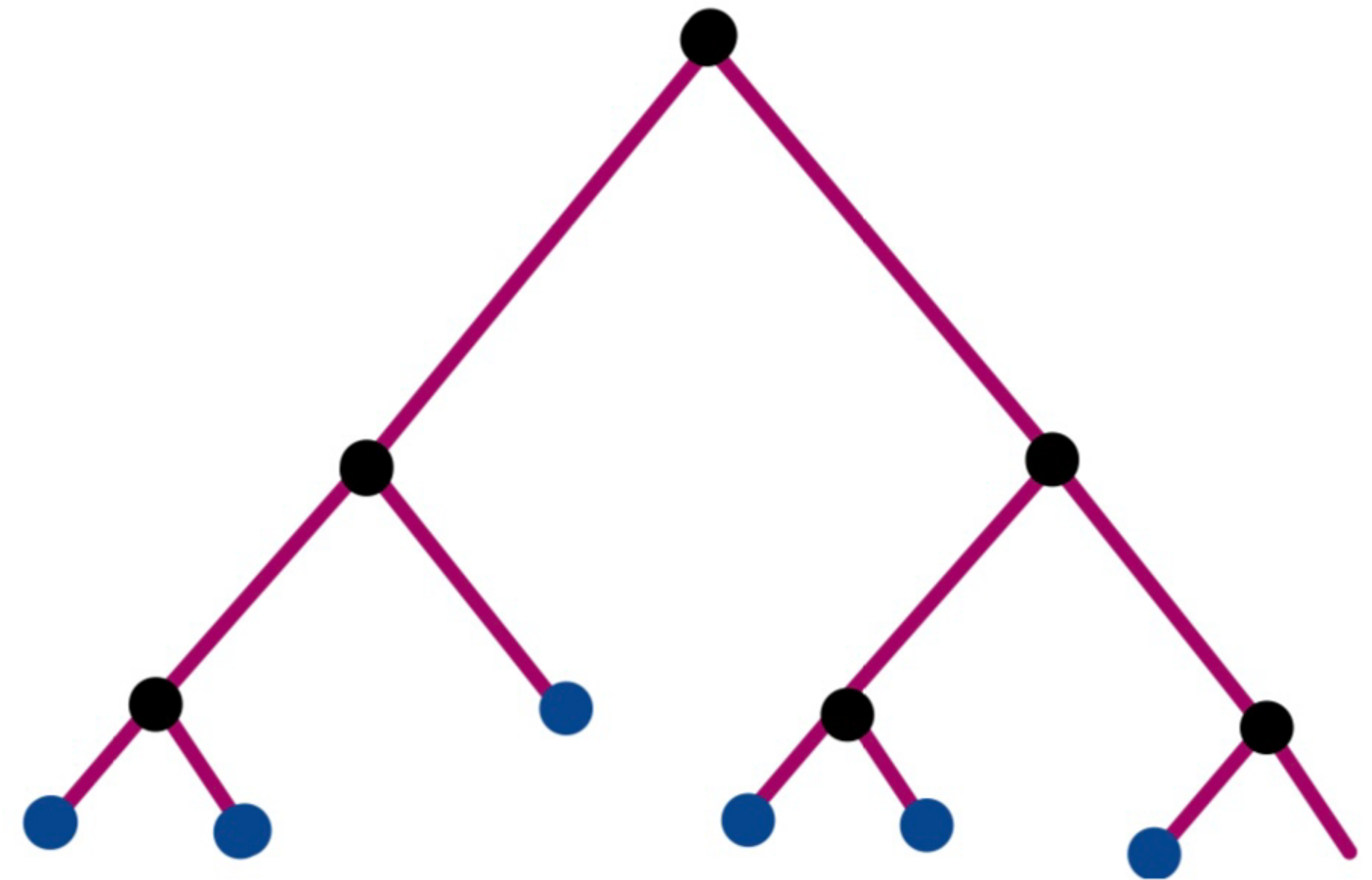
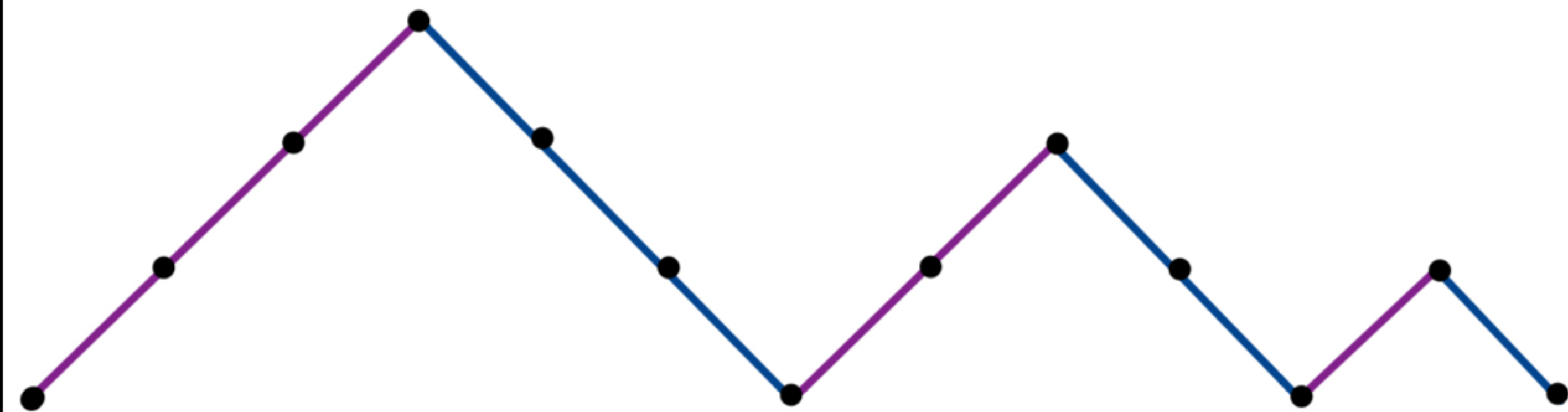
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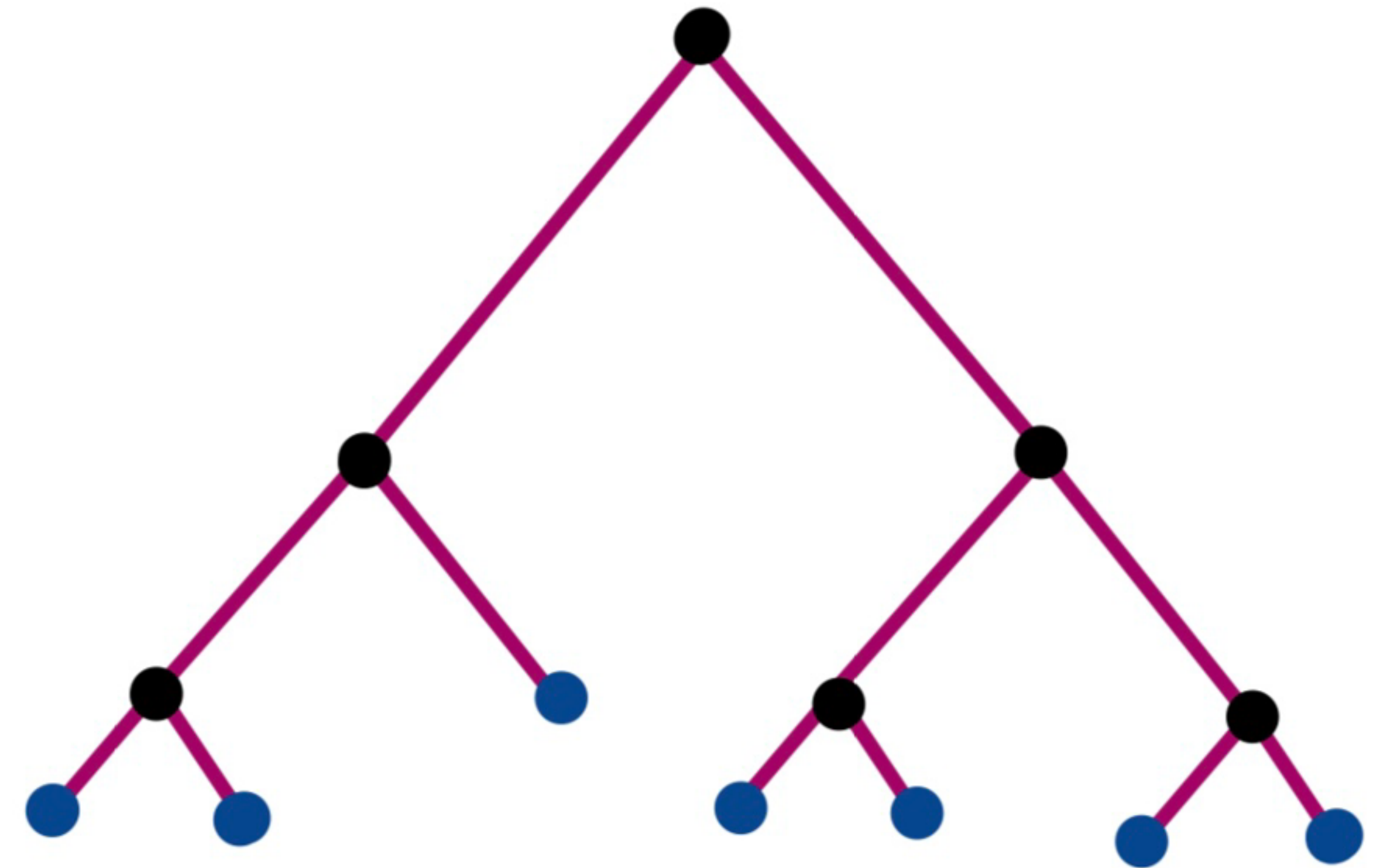
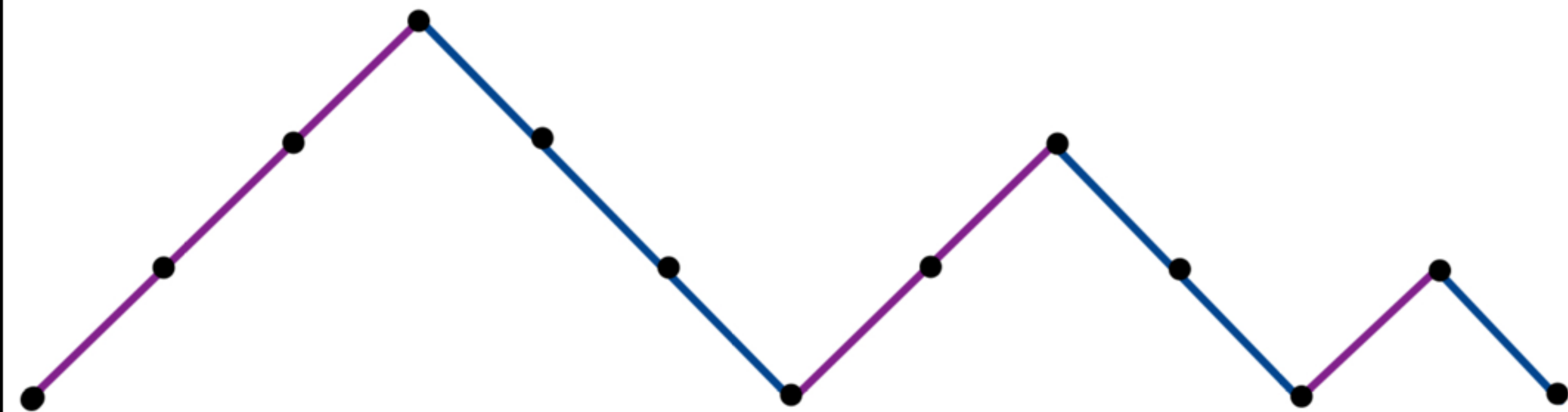
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introduction


generating functions


continued fractions


*unlabelled binary
trees*


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our conjecture



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$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! t^n = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1t}{1 - \frac{1t}{1 - \frac{2t}{1 - \frac{2t}{1 - \dots}}}}}$$

Another example: increasing binary trees

- **[Definition]:** “A single-labelled binary tree (of order n) is a binary tree such that each node is labelled with a number from $[n]$. In particular, a labelled binary tree is **increasing** if each child has label bigger than its parent.”
- Increasing binary trees on n vertices \Leftrightarrow permutations of $[n]$.
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- Continued fraction expansion (Euler 1760):

D I V E R G E N T I B V S. 225

$$A = \frac{1}{1+x} - \frac{1}{1+x} \frac{1}{1+2x} + \frac{1}{1+x} \frac{1}{1+2x} \frac{1}{1+3x} - \frac{1}{1+x} \frac{1}{1+2x} \frac{1}{1+3x} \frac{1}{1+4x} + \dots$$

etc.

§. 22. Quemadmodum autem huiusmodi fractionum continuarum valor fit investigandus, alibi ostendi: Scilicet cum singulorum denominatorum partes integrae sint unitates, soli numeratores in computum veniunt; fit ergo $x = 1$, atque investigatio summae A sequenti modo instituetur:

●
introduction

●
generating functions

● ● ● ● ●
continued fractions

● ● ● ● ●
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- Remark! The above is actually a bijection. Given $\hat{\omega}$ we get back ω proceeding every *left-to-right* maximum.






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generating functions


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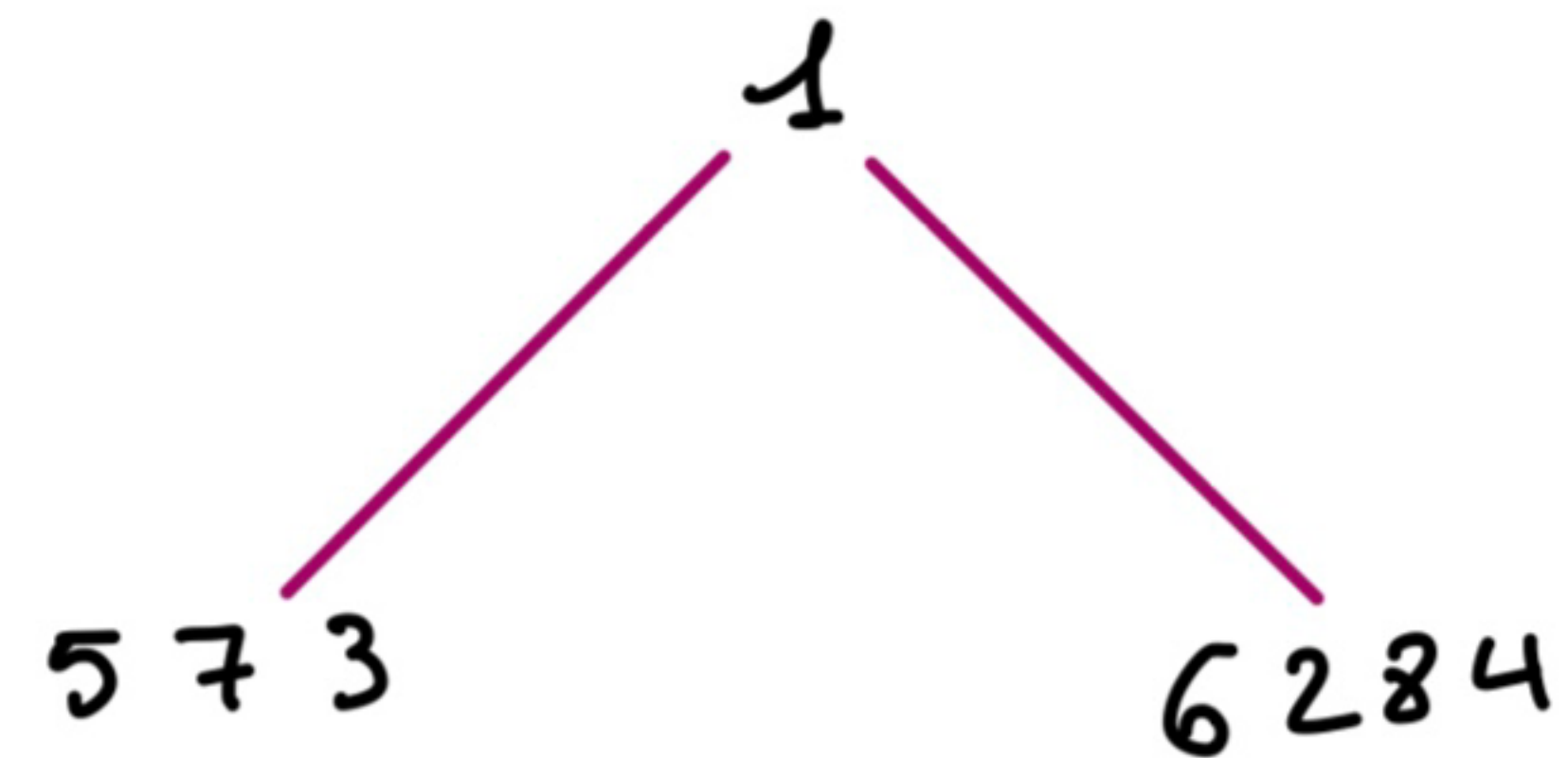
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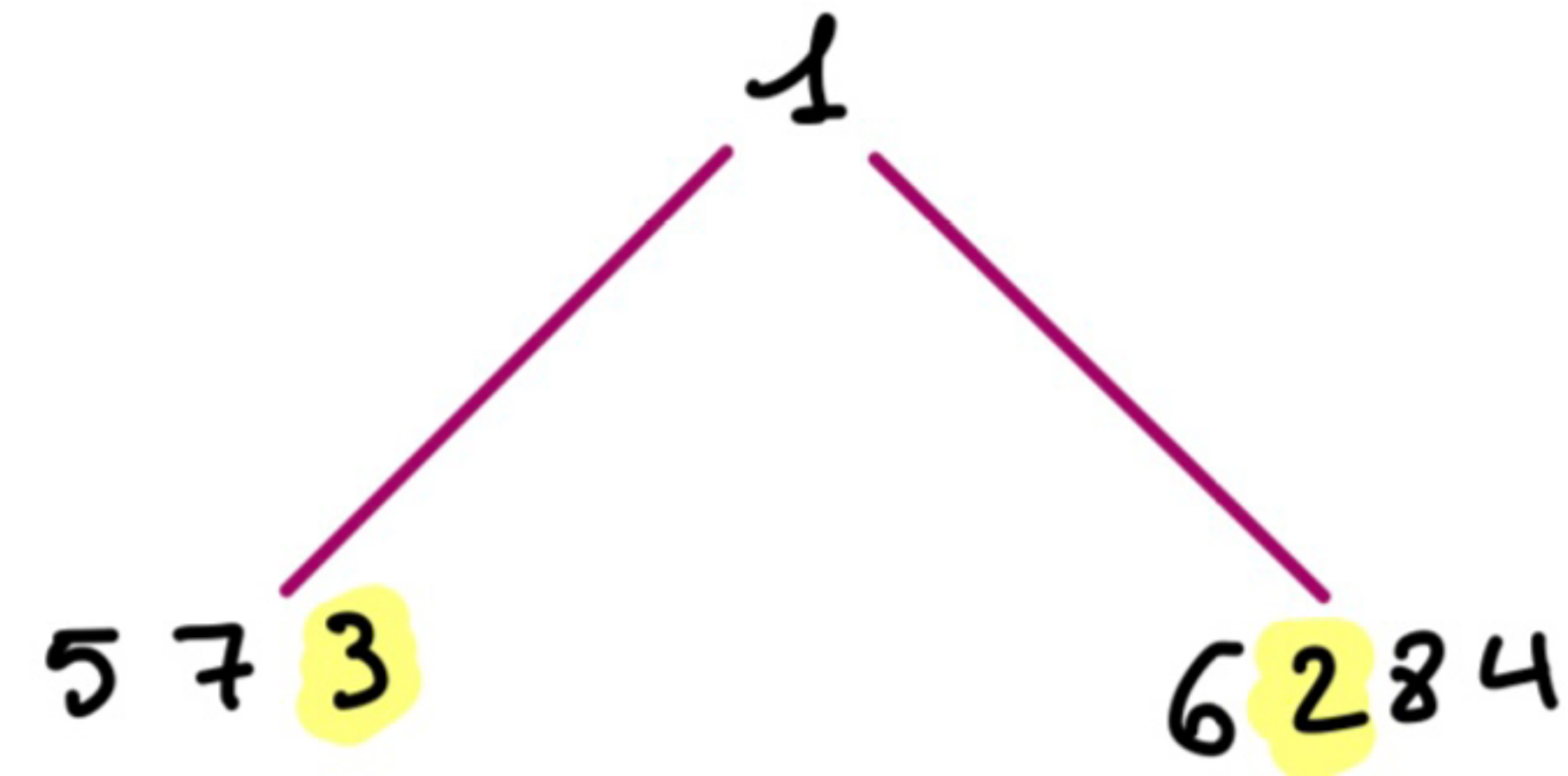
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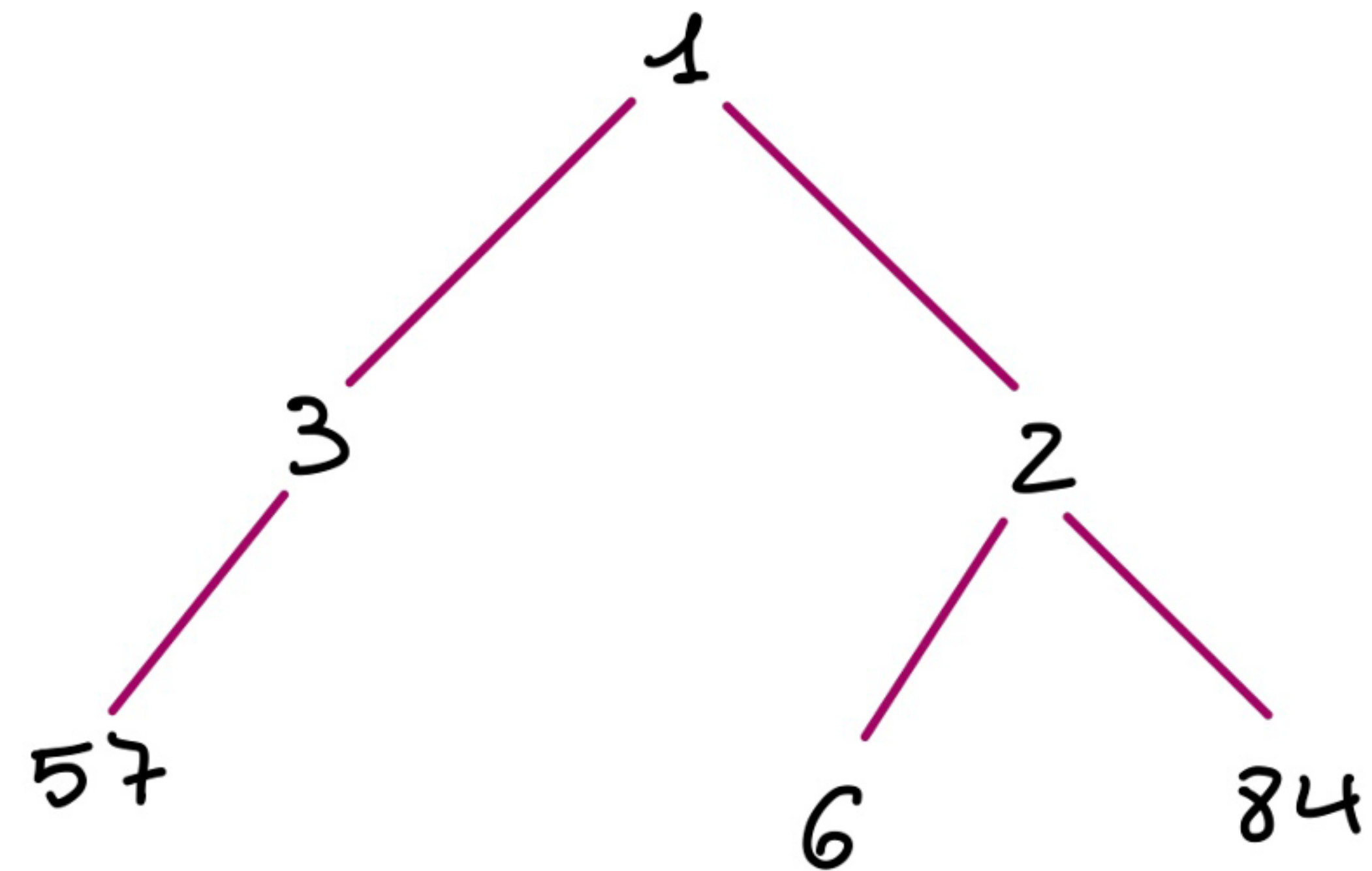
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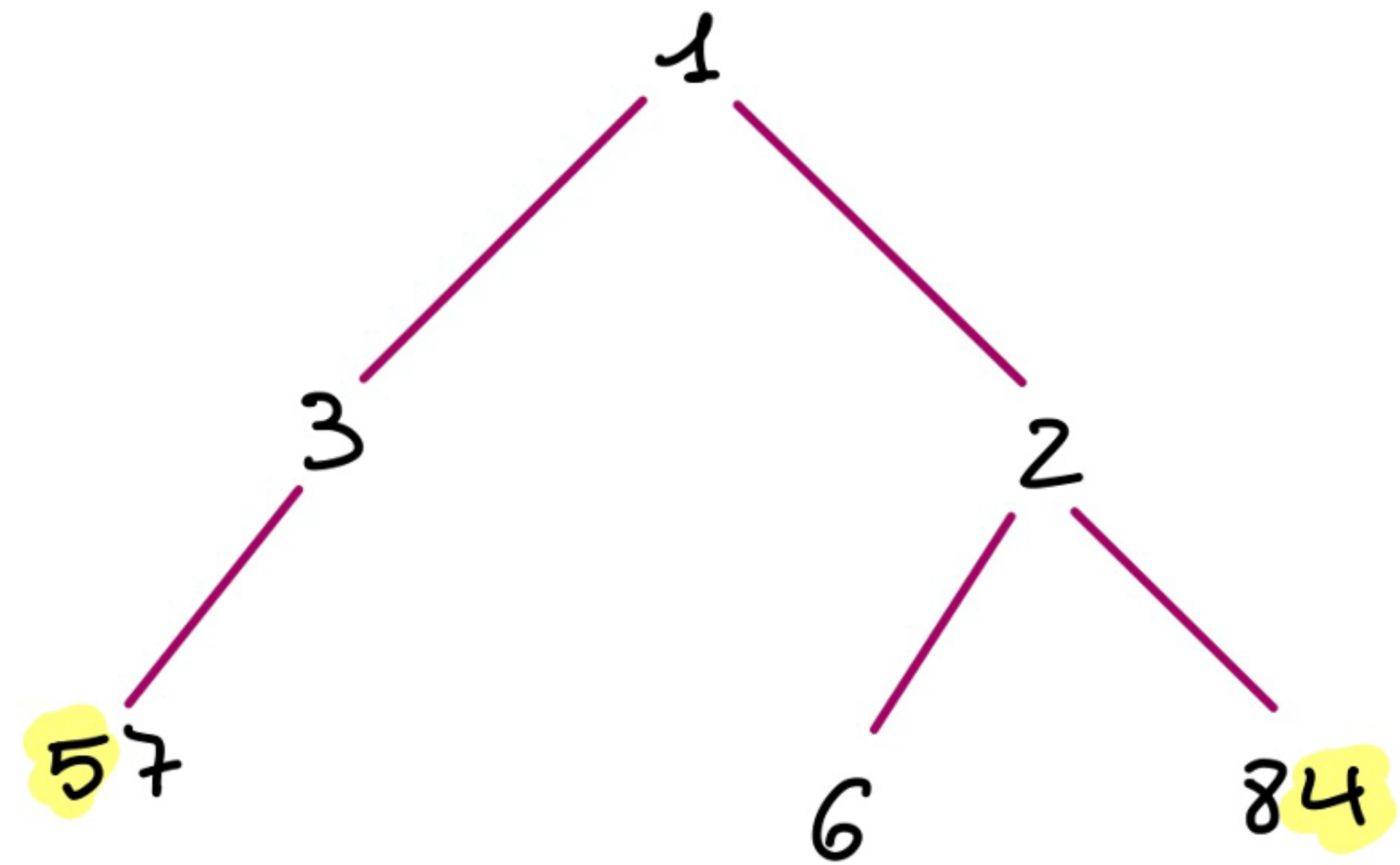
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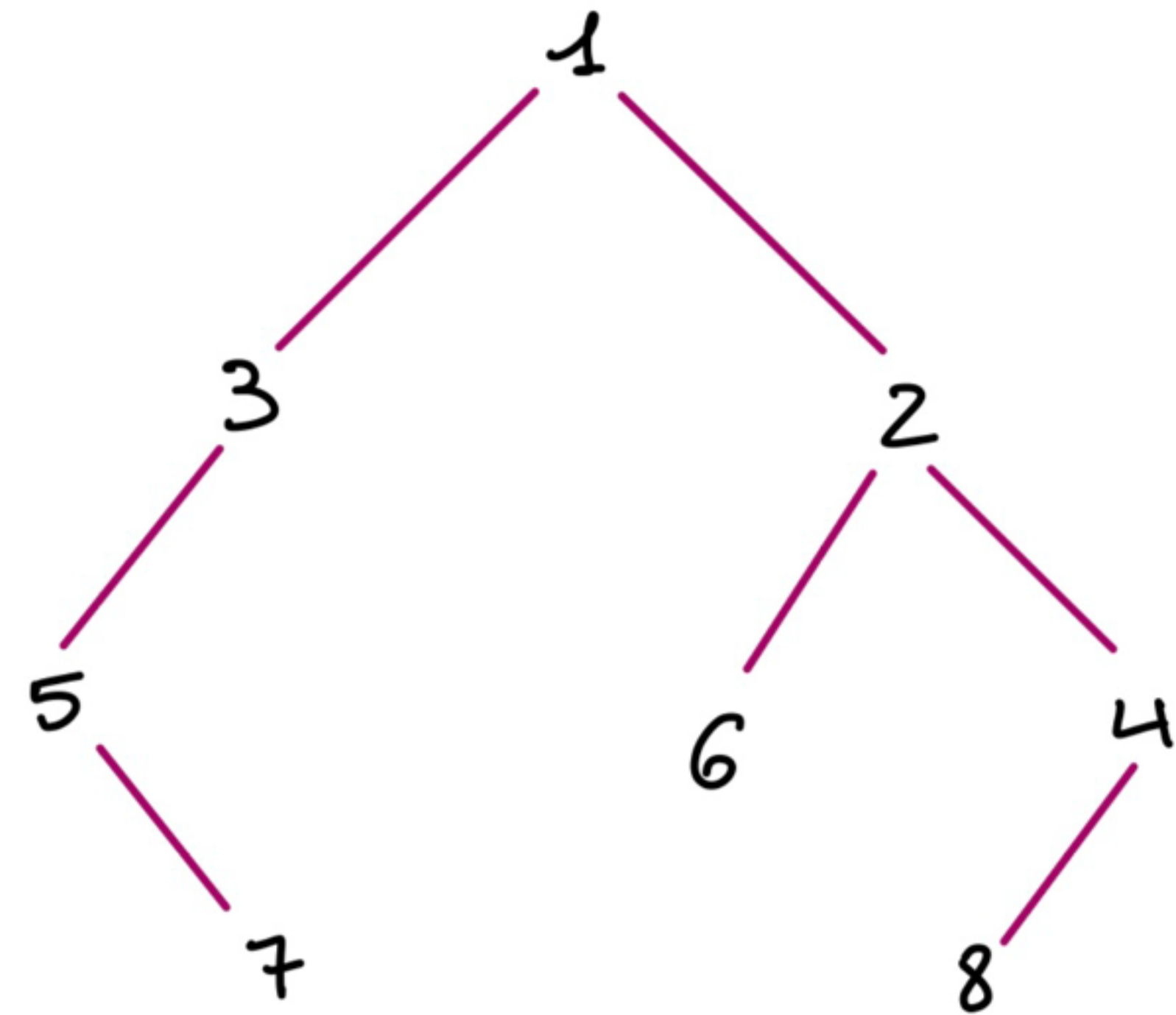
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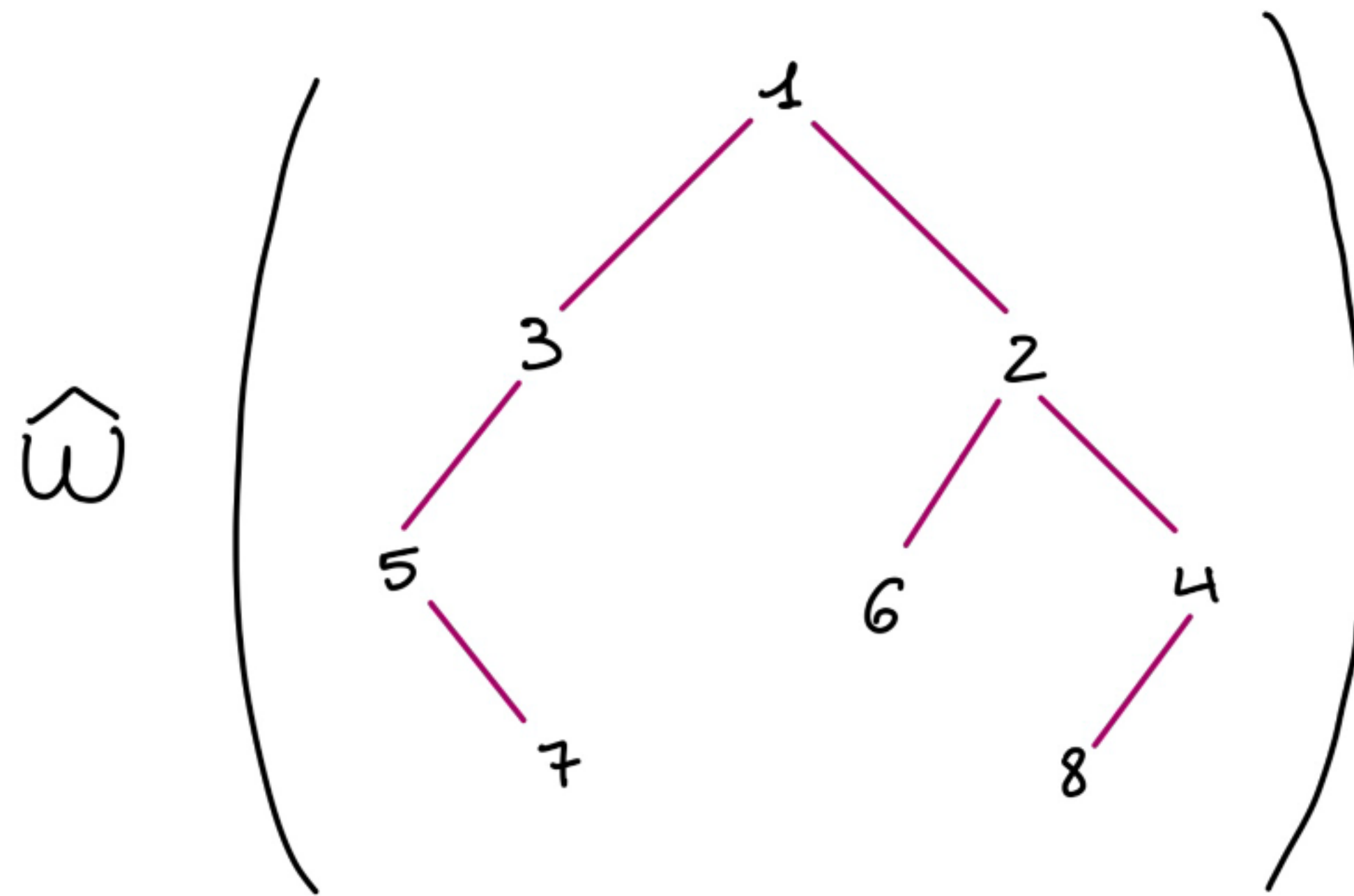
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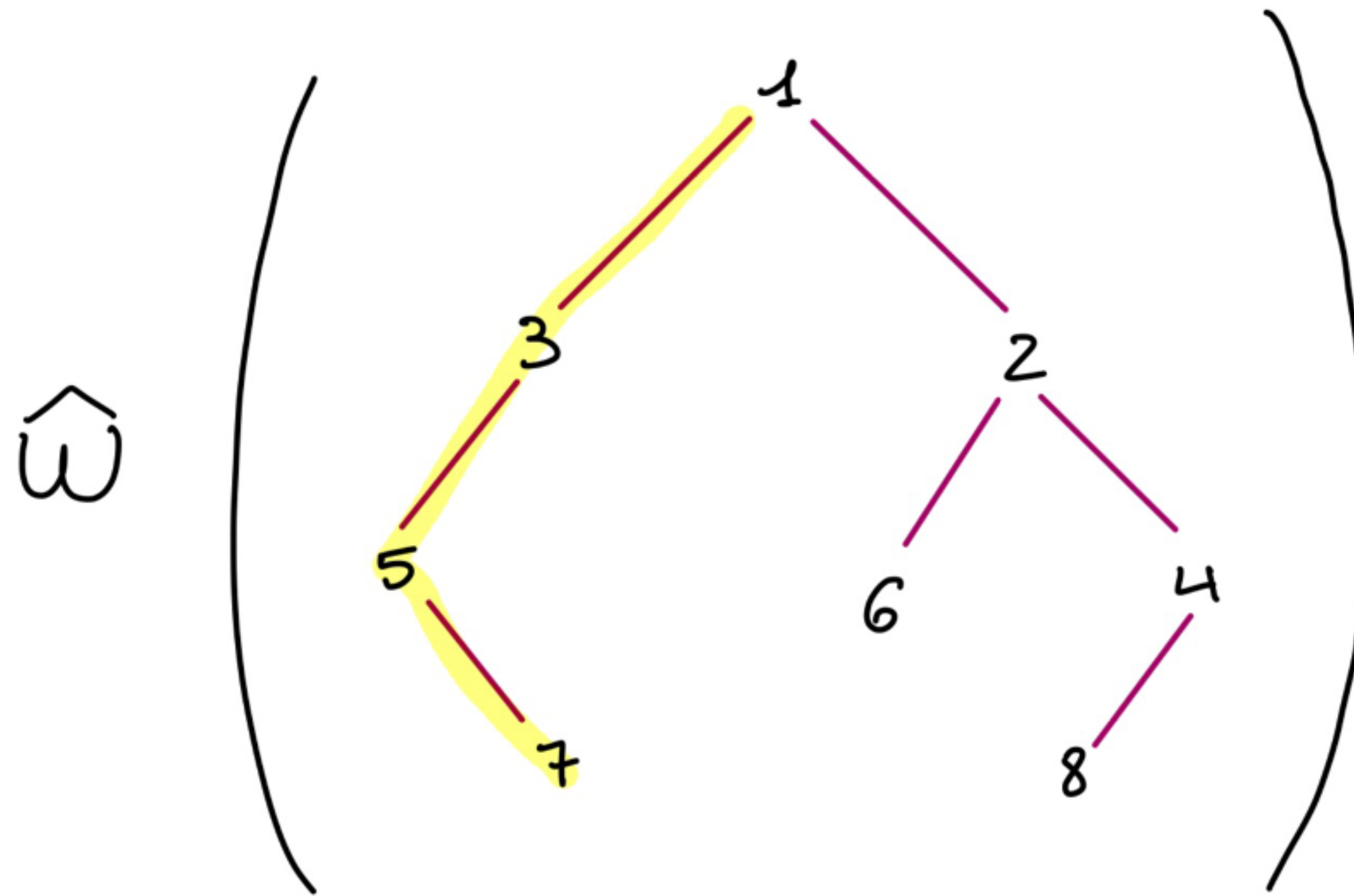


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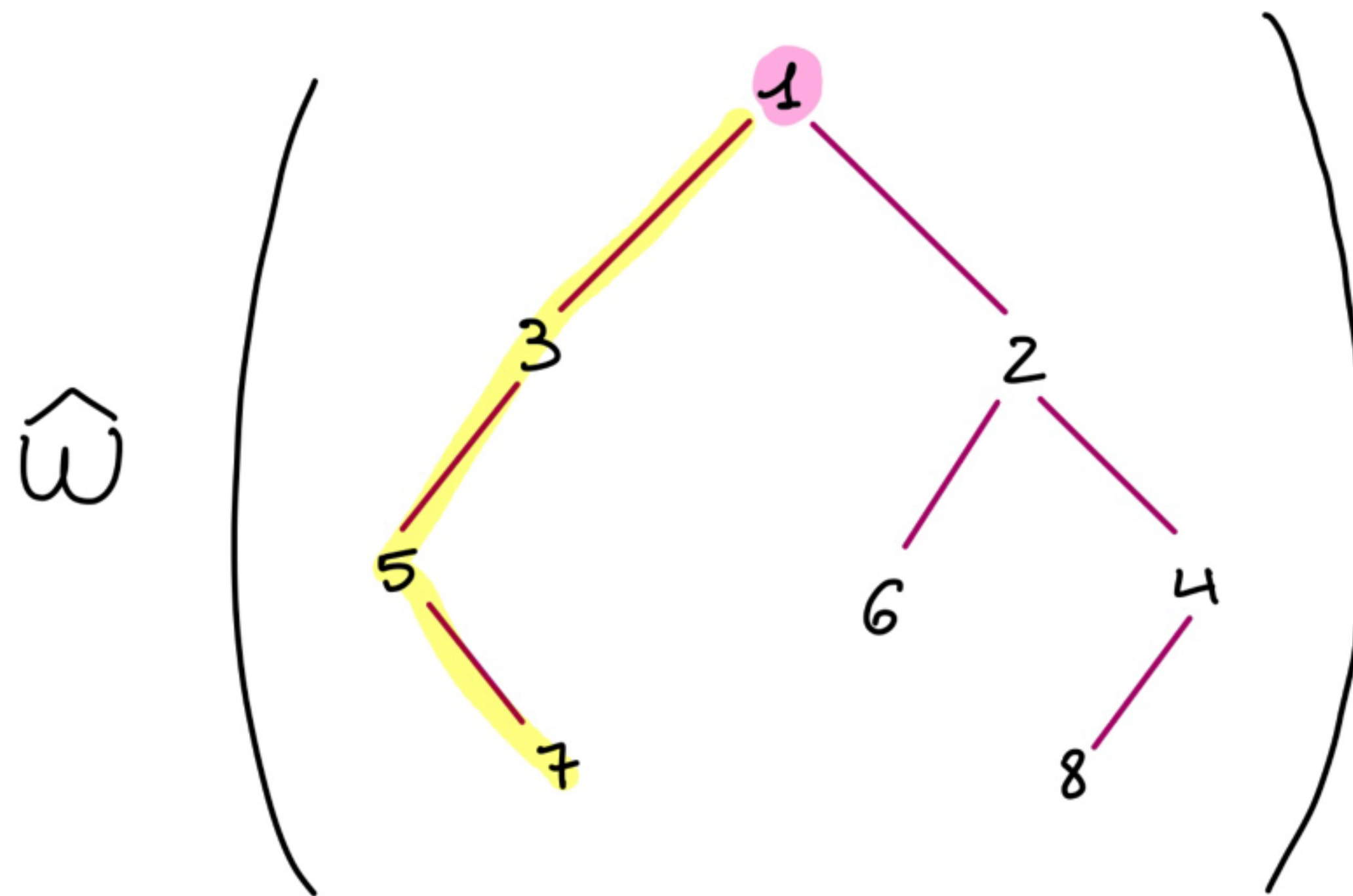


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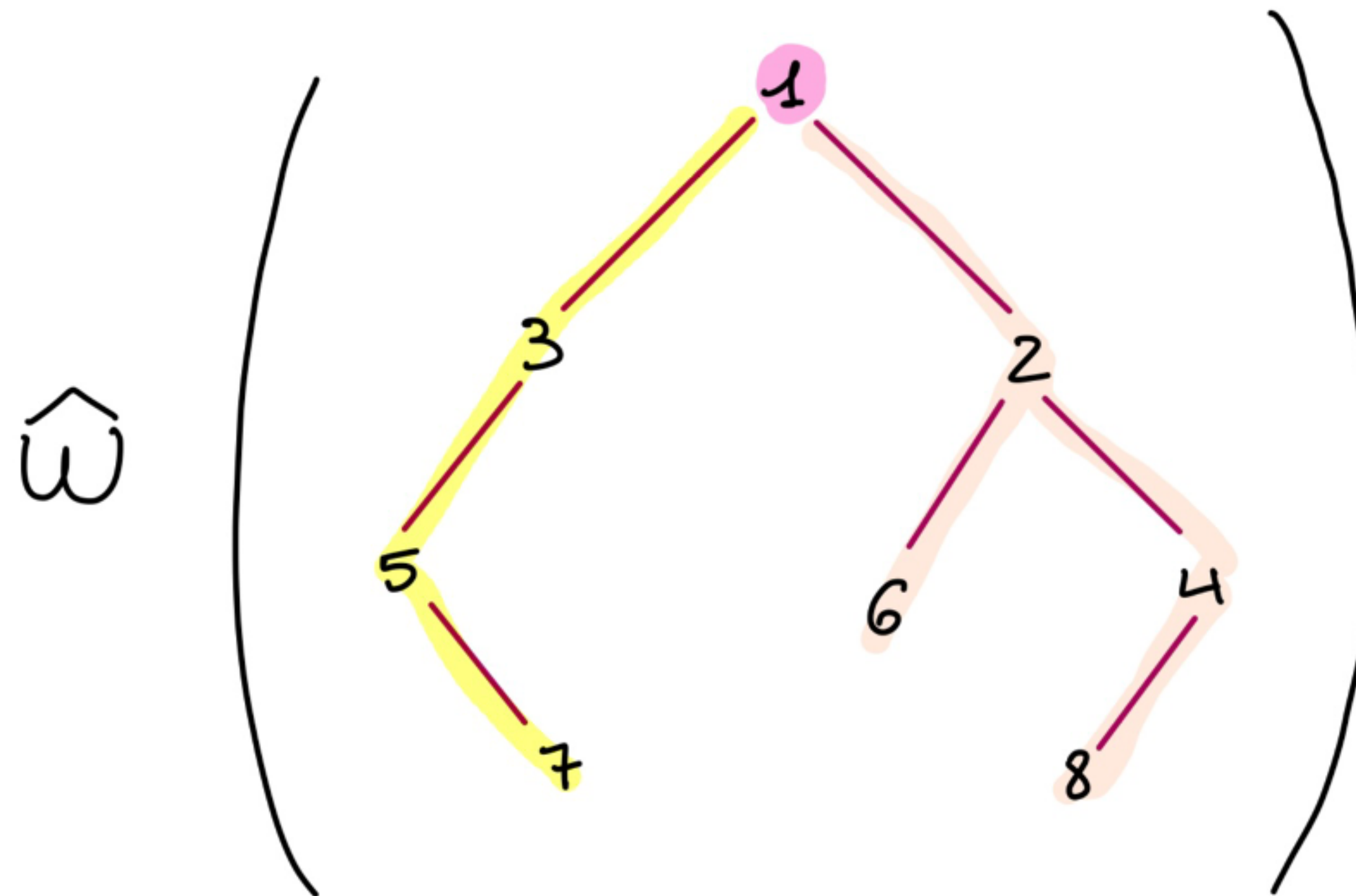


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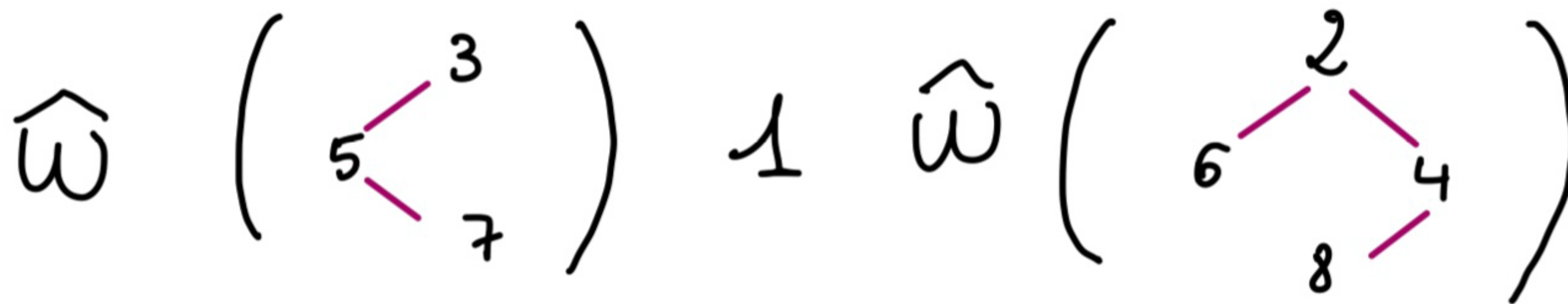


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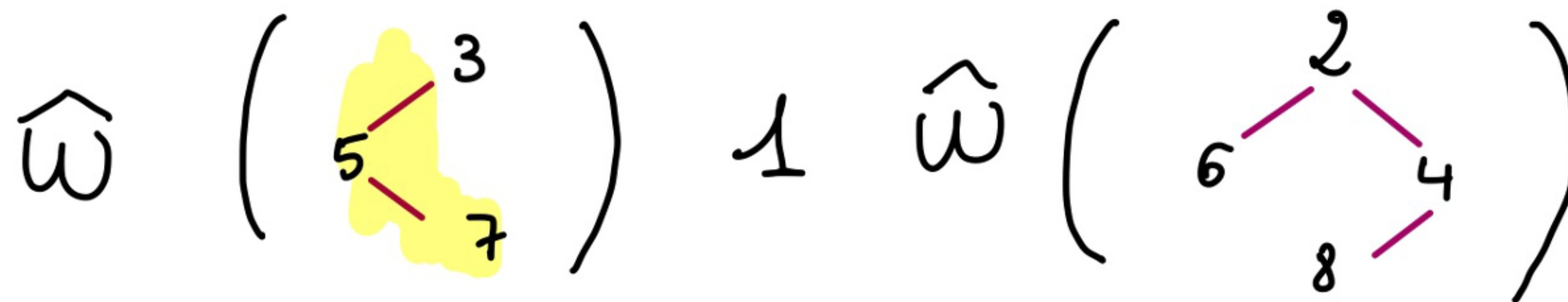


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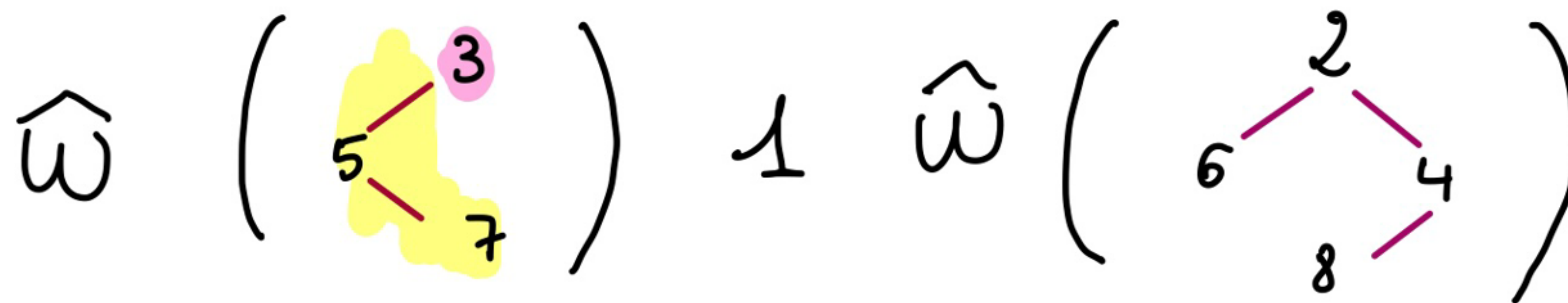


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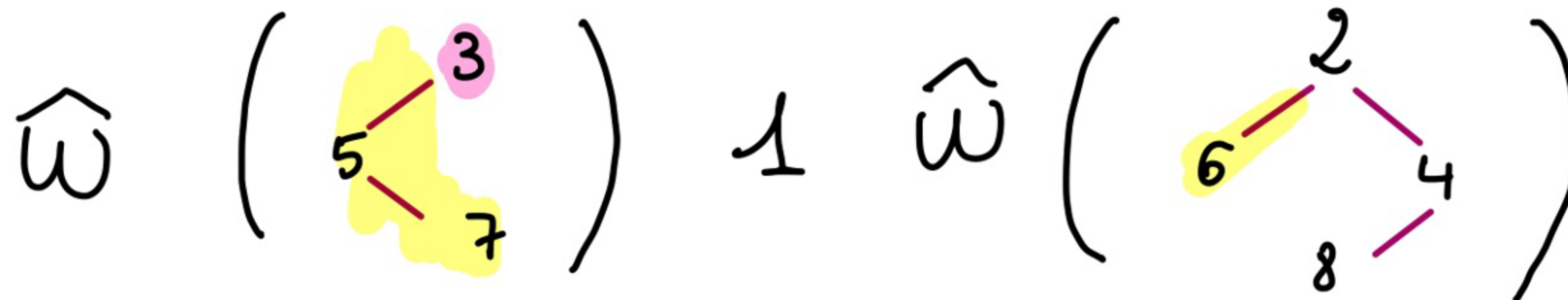


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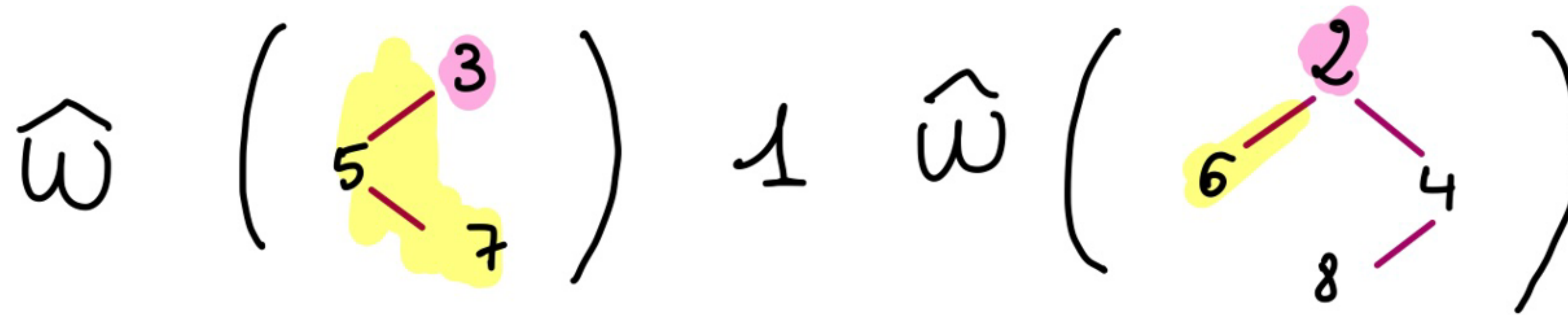


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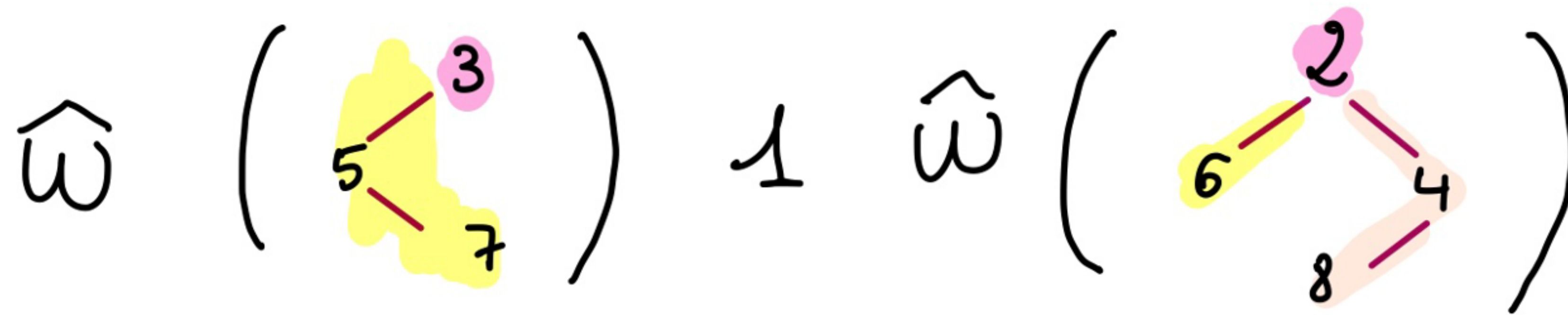


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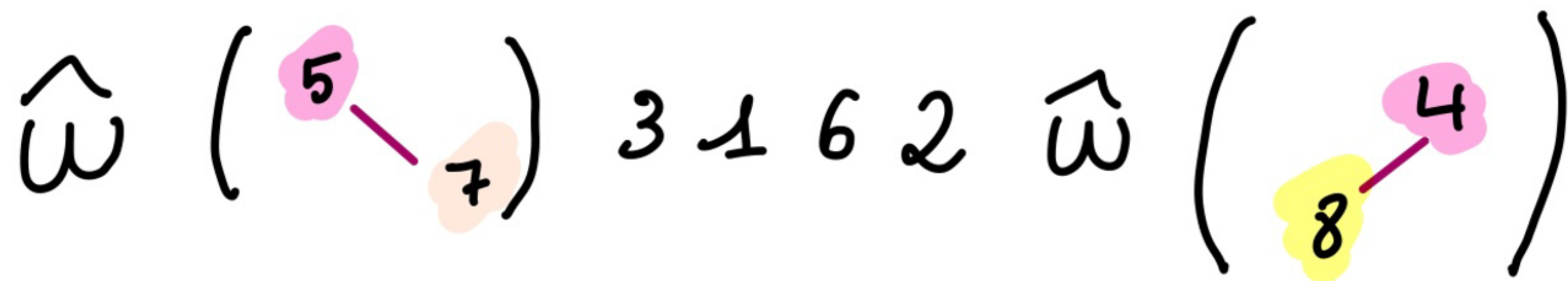
$$\hat{\omega} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \diagdown \\ 7 \end{array} \right) \quad 3 \ 1 \ 6 \ 2 \quad \hat{\omega} \left(\begin{array}{c} 4 \\ \diagup \\ 8 \end{array} \right)$$

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•
generating functions

••••
continued fractions

•••••
unlabelled binary trees

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••
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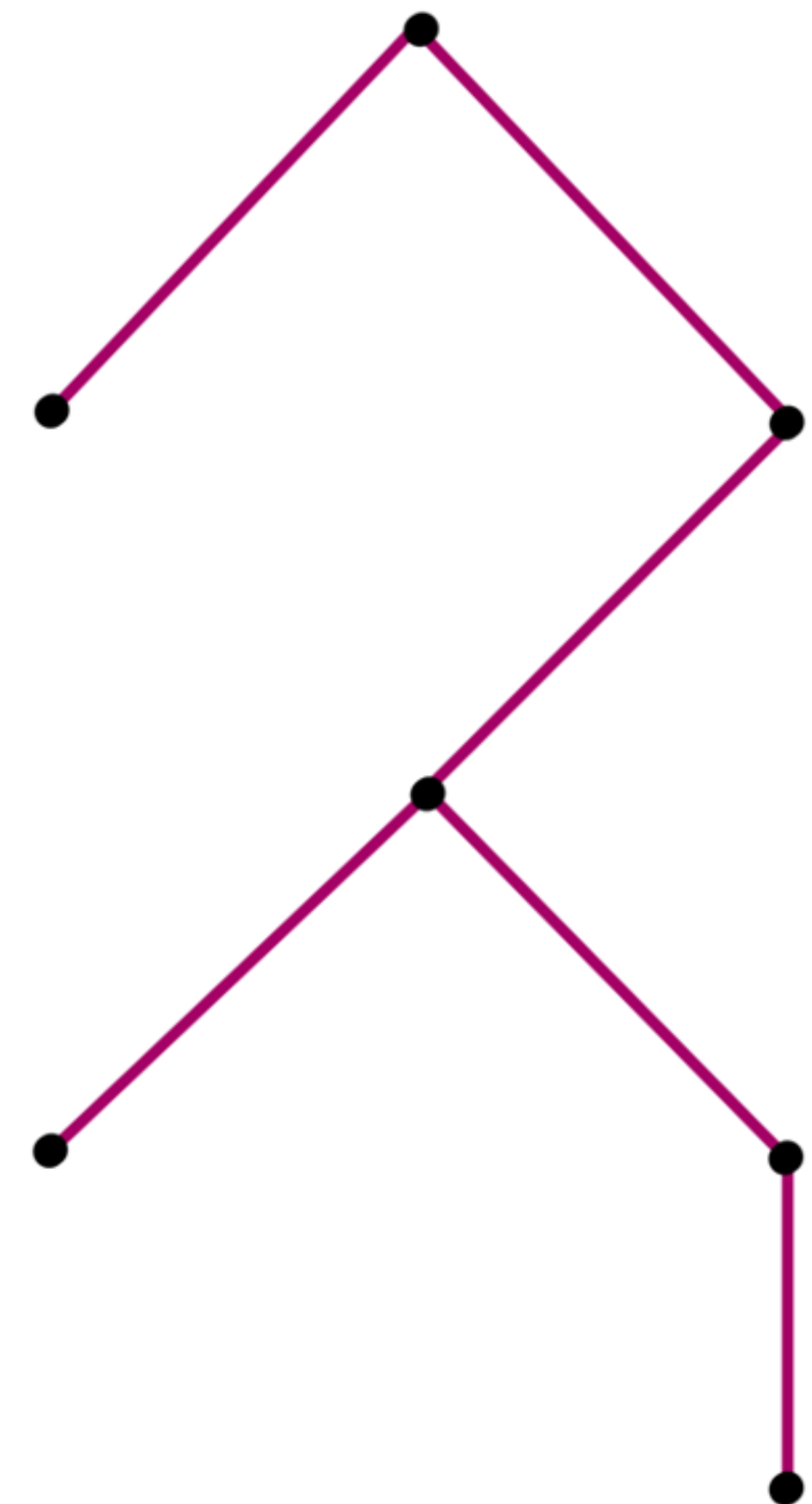
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 - OEIS (<https://oeis.org>)
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Our Conjecture

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```

In[ ]:= MyT2 = Select[Tuples[{0, 1}, 6], (! (#[[3]] == #[[4]] == #[[5]] == #[[6]] == 0) &];
In[ ]:= Do[Print["nn=", nn, " ", MyT2[[nn]], " ", (Spec2 @@ MyT2[[nn])]], {nn, 1, 60}]

In[ ]:= Do[Print["nn=", nn, " ", MyT2[[nn]], " ",
                SequenceInOEIS2[(Spec2 @@ MyT2[[nn])]], {nn, 1, 60}]

nn=50 {1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1} {A230008} (**)
    
```




●
introduction

●
generating functions

● ● ● ● ●
continued fractions

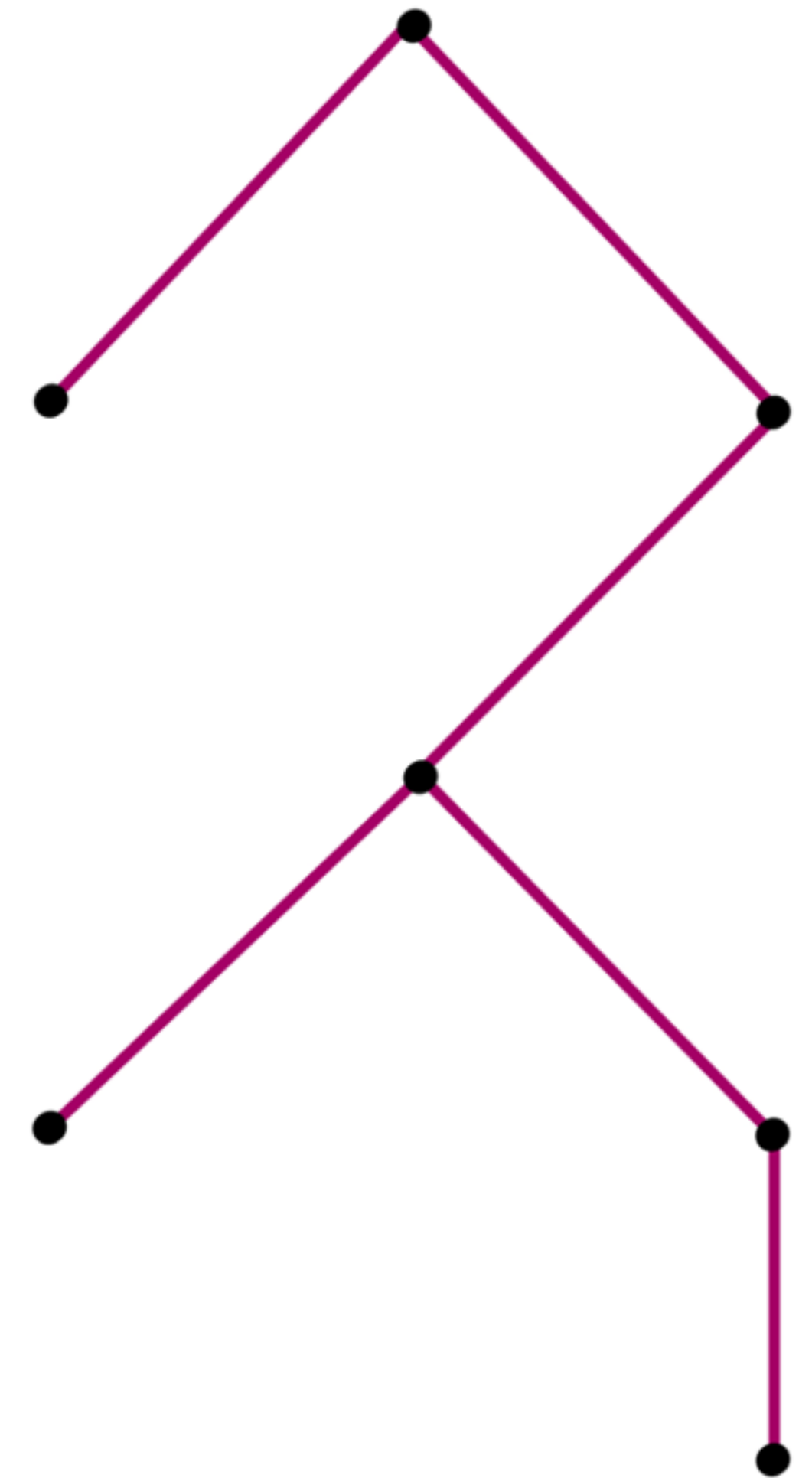
● ● ● ● ●
*unlabelled binary
trees*

● ● ● ● ●
labelled binary trees

● ● ● ● ●
our conjecture

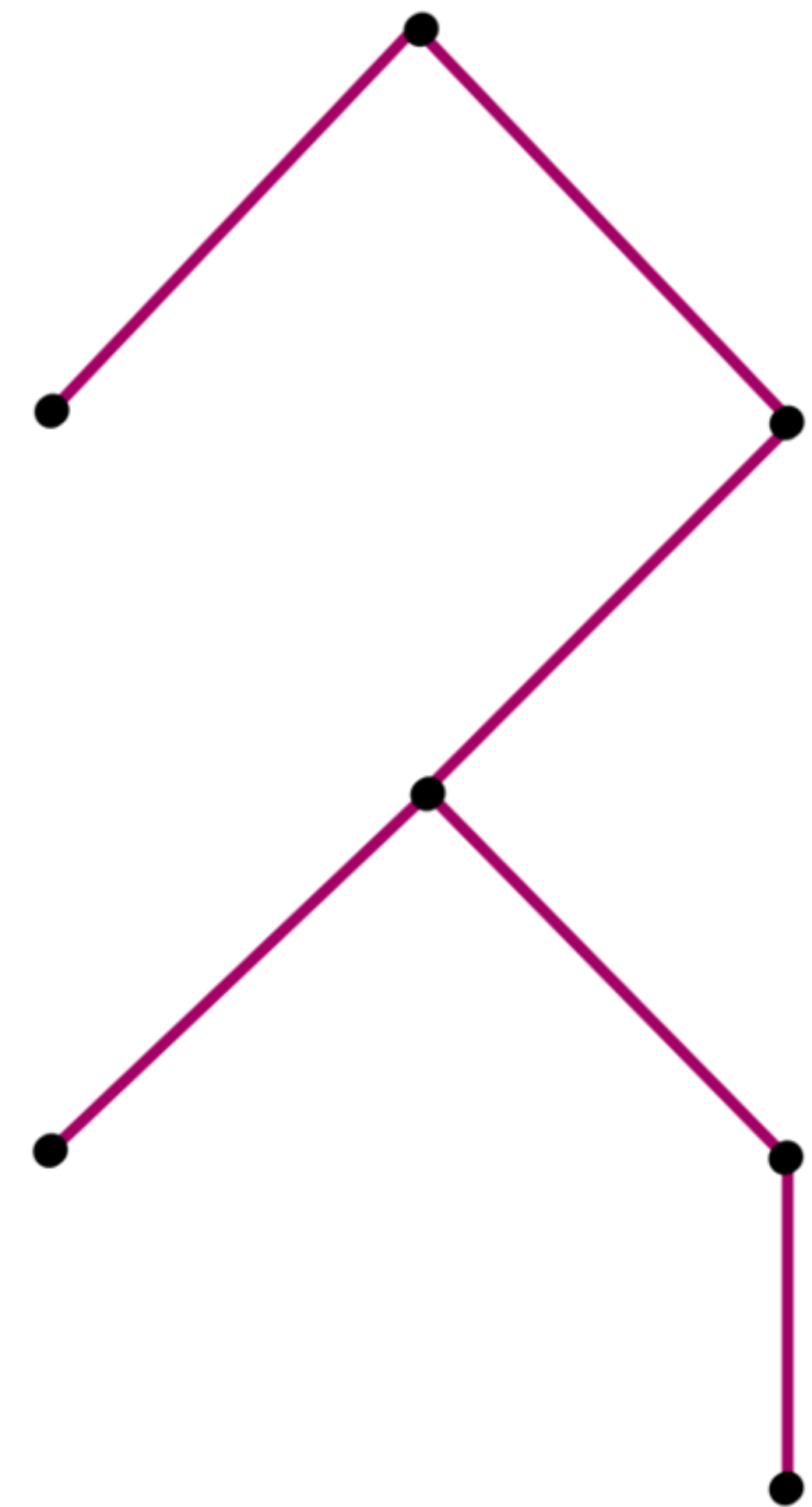


Our Conjecture



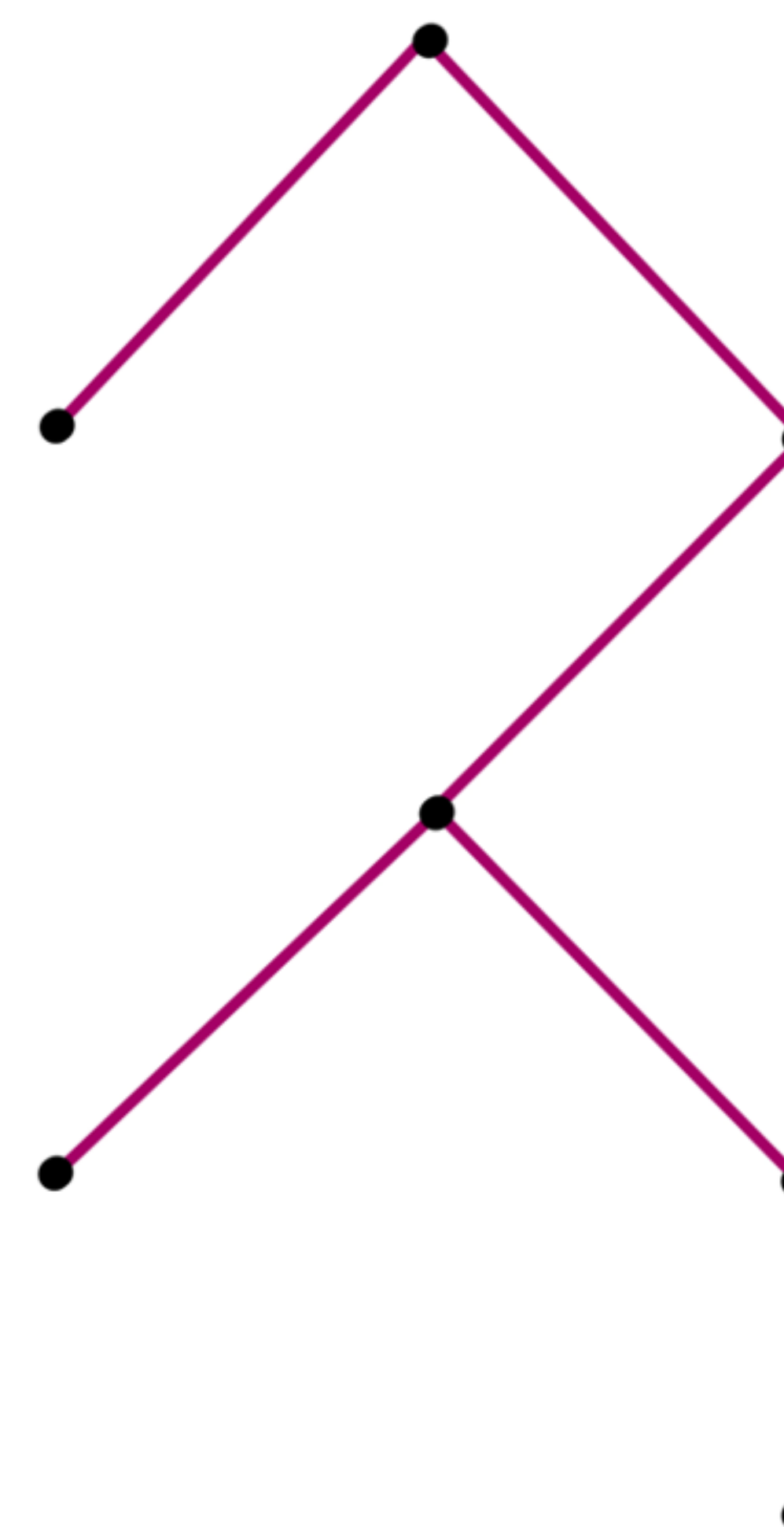
Our Conjecture

- We have shown that such type of trees are enumerated by OEIS A230008: 1, 1, 3, 11, 51, 295, 2055, 16715,



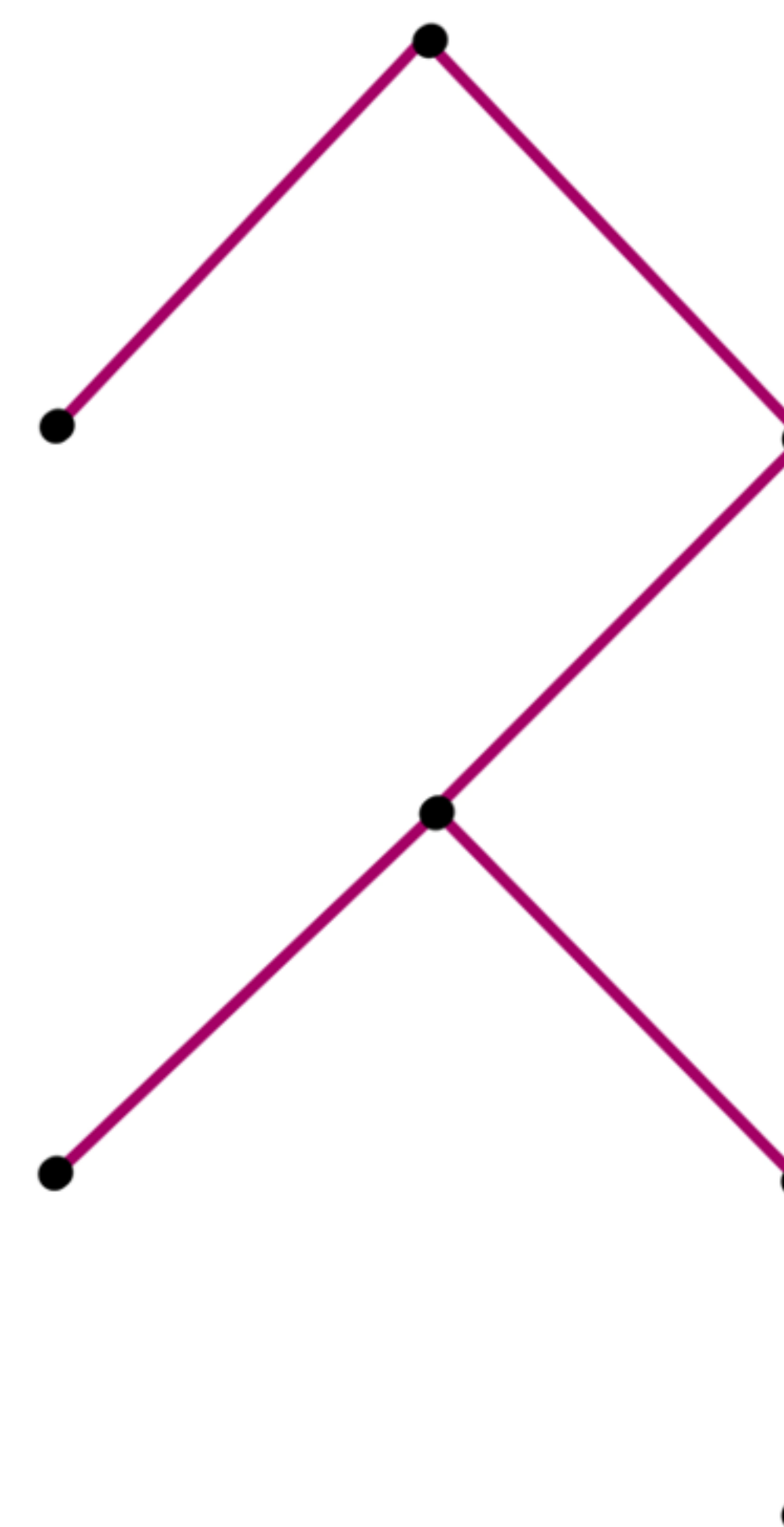
Our Conjecture

- We have shown that such type of trees are enumerated by OEIS A230008: 1, 1, 3, 11, 51, 295, 2055, 16715,
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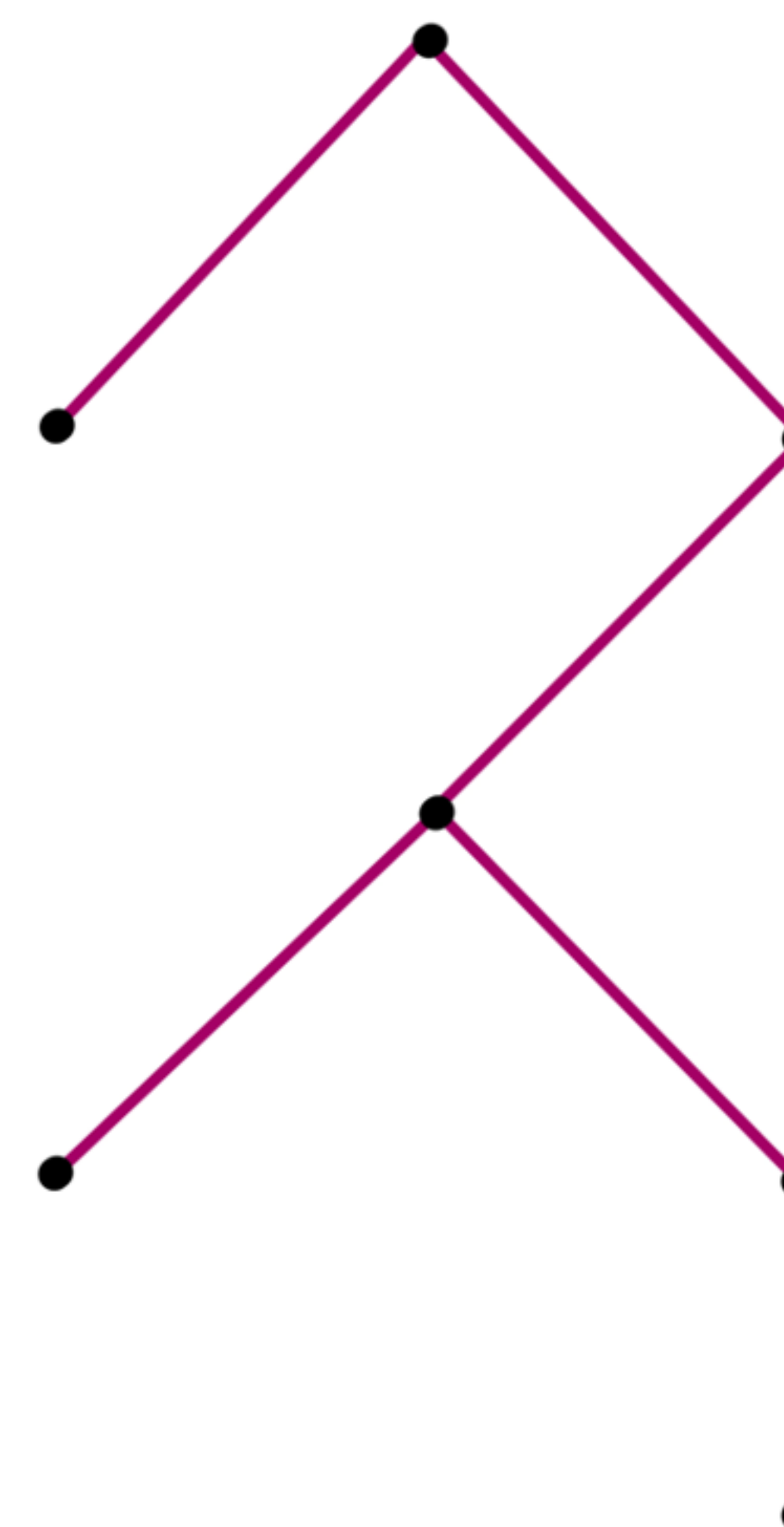
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 - $\alpha = 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, \dots$



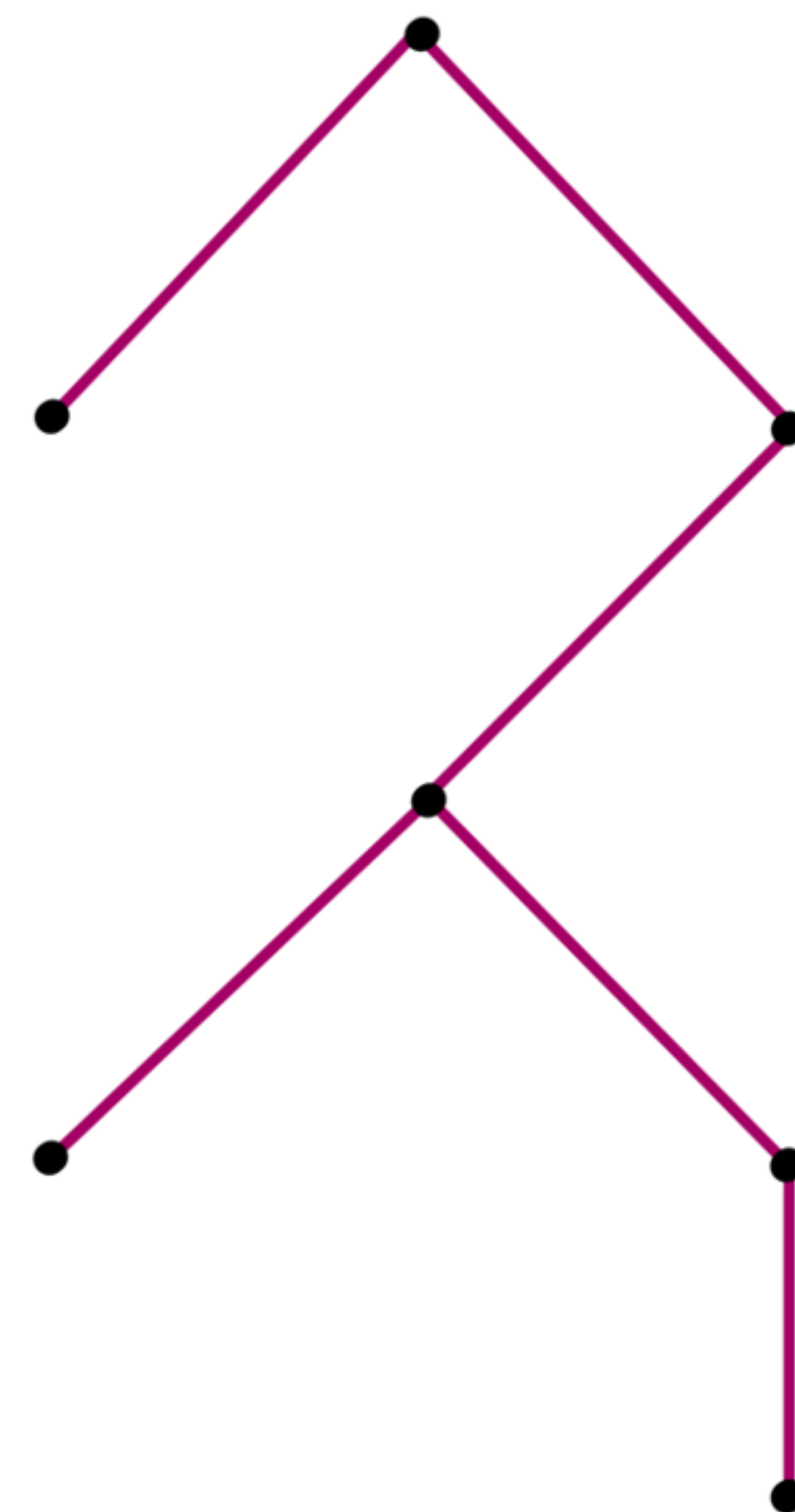
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- Can we generalize this to multilabelled ternary trees?



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Thank You!