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Some results

How We Solve CG:SHOP Problems

Yan Gerard – LIMOS, Université Clermont Auvergne + All Shadoks team members



CG:SHOP Competition

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- Part of SoCG (International Symposium on Computational Geometry)
- Annual event that started in 2018–2019
- Hard geometric optimization problems
- Different problem each year
- ~ 200 instances given
- $ightharpoonup \sim 3$ months to compute solutions
- Send our solutions (not the code)
- Score based on the quality of the solutions
- Top teams invited to publish in SoCG proceedings and ACM Journal of Experimental Algorithmics or Computing in Geometry and Topology

CG:SHOP 2019 (MaxPolygon)

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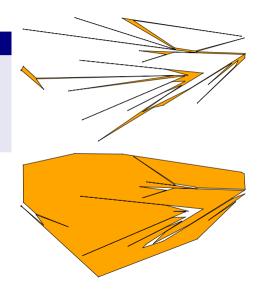
2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

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Minimum (or Maximum) Area Polygon:

- lacksquare Input: A set of points $S\subset\mathbb{R}^2$
- Output: A simple polygon with vertex set S
- Goal: Minimize (or maximize) the area
- Related to Euclidean TSP
- Two categories: minimization, maximization
- We got 2nd place
- Techniques: greedy and local search



CG:SHOP 2020 (ConvexPartition)

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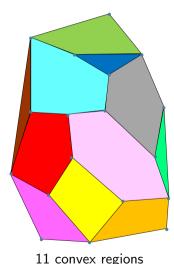
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Some results

Minimum Convex Partition:

- Input: A set of points $S \subset \mathbb{R}^2$
- Output: A simple partition of the convex hull of S into convex regions with vertex set S
- Goal: Minimize the number of regions
- We got 4th place
- Used integer programming



11 convex regions

CG:SHOP 2021 (Robots)

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Coordinated Motion Planning:

- Input: Sets $S, T \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ of start and target locations for n robots and possibly a set of obstacles
- Output: A sequence of movements for all robots from start to target avoiding collisions
- Goal: Minimize the total time (makespan) or the total number of movements (energy)
- 1st place in makespan category,3rd place in energy category
- Used storage network and conflict optimizer

Start:



Target:



CG:SHOP 2022 (SegmentColoring)

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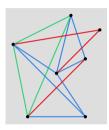
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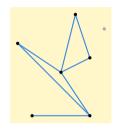
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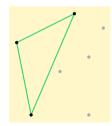
Partition Into Plane Graphs:

- Input: A graph *G* embedded in the plane with straight edges
- Output: A partition of G into plane graphs
- Goal: Minimize the number of partitions (colors)
- We won 1st place
- Best solution of all teams to all instances
- Optimal solution to at least 23
- Reused conflict optimizer









CG:SHOP 2023 (ConvexCover)

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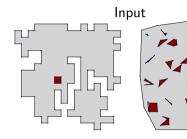
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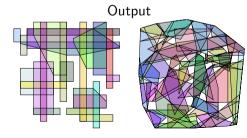
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Convex Covering:

- Input: A polygon with holes P
- Output: A collection of convex polygons whose union is P
- Goal: Minimize the number of convex polygons
- We won 2nd place
- Best solution among all teams to 128 of 206 instances
- Used integer programming and simulated annealing





CG:SHOP 2024 (Packing)

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Knapsack Translational Packing:

- Input: A convex polygon (container) and a multi-set of polygons with values (items)
- Output: A translation of some items that form a packing inside the container
- Goal: Maximize the sum of the values in the output
- We won 1st place
- Used greedy, local search, and integer programming



Initial Solution and Optimized Solution

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- Our strategy in every competition:
 - 1 Find initial feasible solutions
 - 2 Improve them
- We've seen two types of problems:
 - The quality of the initial solution is irrelevant and the improvements are major
 - The quality of the initial solution is essential and the improvements are minor
- Hard to tell them apart
- If the solution to a subproblem can be incorporated into an existing solution, it is easier to improve

Initial

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- Greedy heuristics often produce good initial solutions:
 - 1 Choose an element to add to the solution
 - Choose how to incorporate this element
 - 3 Repeat
- Good data structures to implement it efficiently
- Three examples:
 - Packing
 - Coloring
 - MaxPolygon

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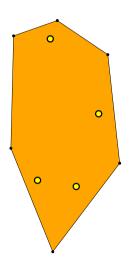
Simple idea:

- Start with the convex hull
- Choose the valid vertex-edge pair that decreases the area the least

Issues:

- Long edges block many future vertex-edge pairs
- Stall: May have no valid vertex-edge pair

- Penalize long edges and favor breaking long edges: $weight(p_1, p_2, q) = area(p_1p_2q) + \alpha(\|qp_1\| + \|qp_2\| \|p_1p_2\|)$ for small α
- Add random noise to circumvent stalls



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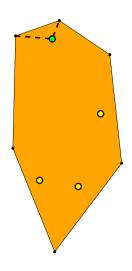
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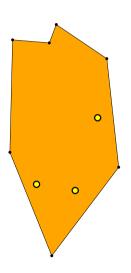
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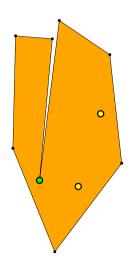
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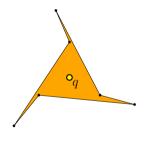
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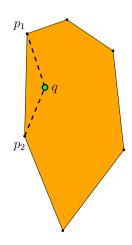
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Issues:

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- Stall: May have no valid vertex-edge pair

Solution:

for small α

- Penalize long edges and favor breaking long edges: $weight(p_1, p_2, q) = area(p_1p_2q) + \alpha(\|qp_1\| + \|qp_2\| \|p_1p_2\|)$
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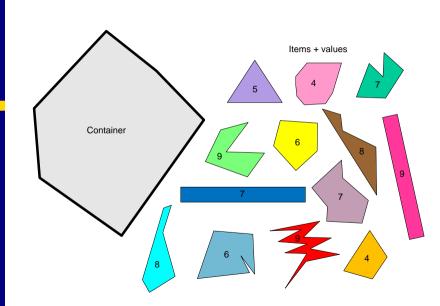
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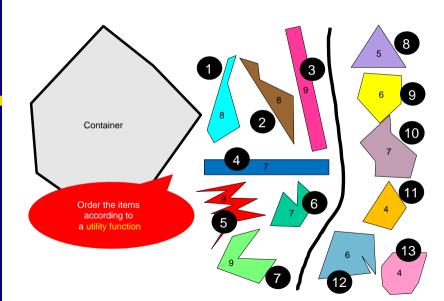
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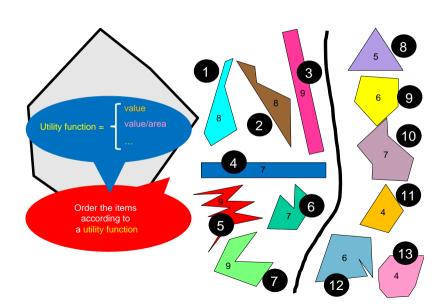
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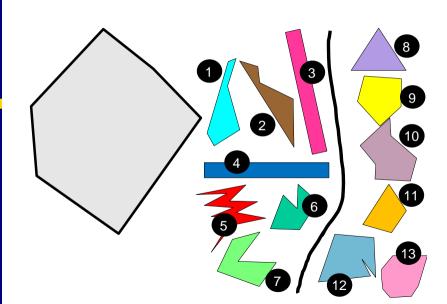
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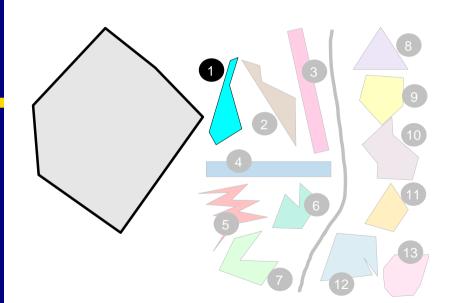
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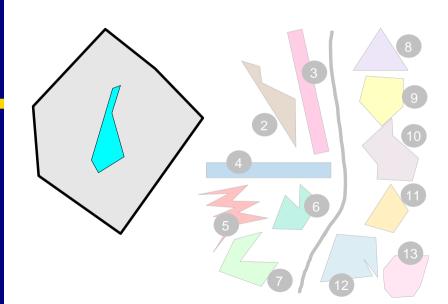
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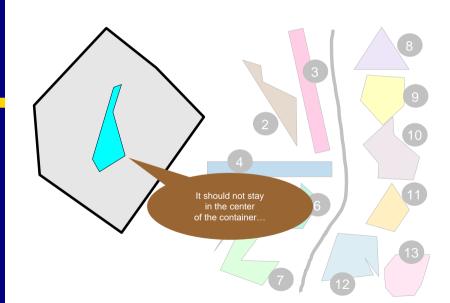
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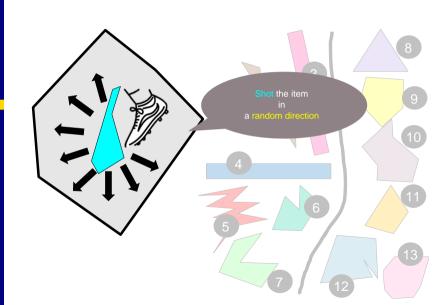
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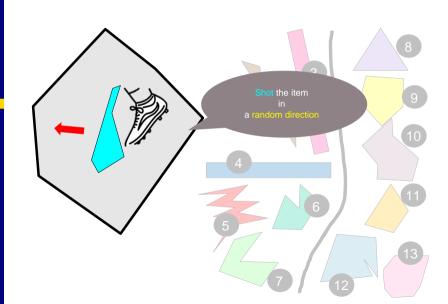
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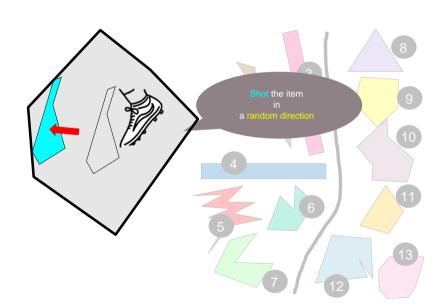
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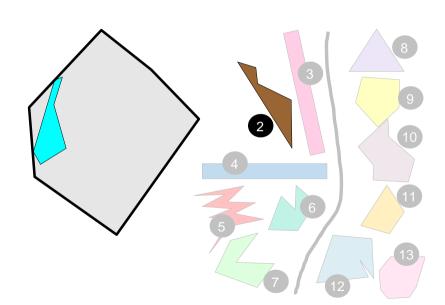
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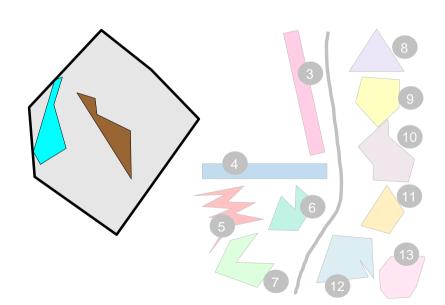
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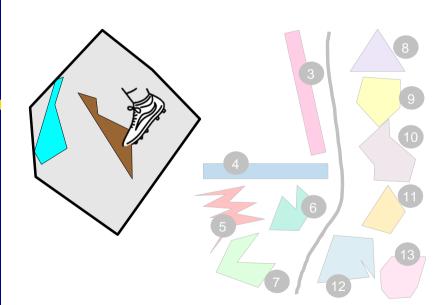
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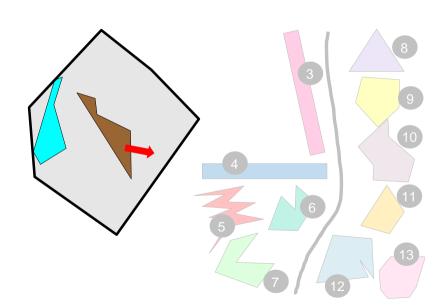
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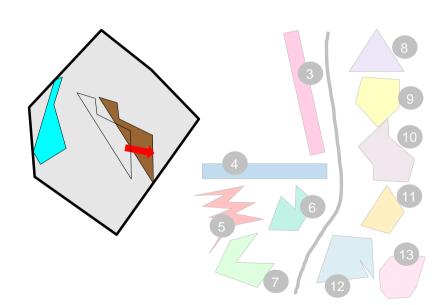
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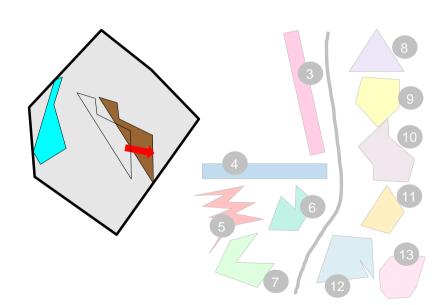
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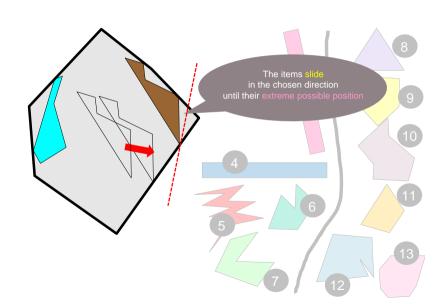
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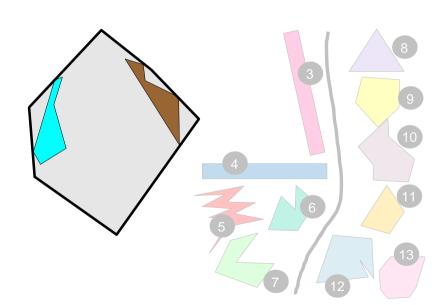
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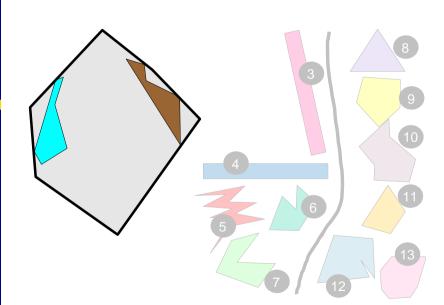
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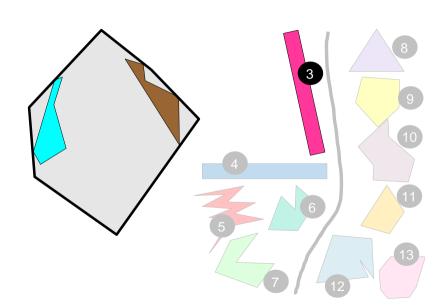
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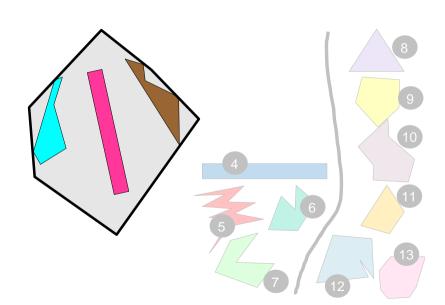
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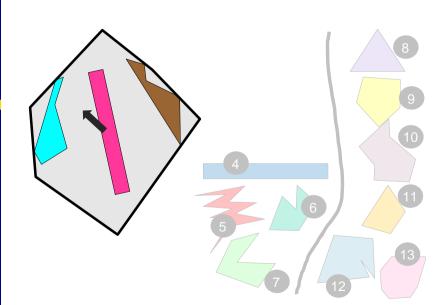
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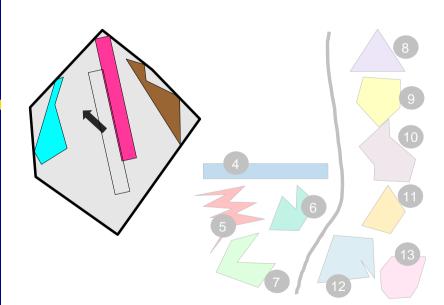
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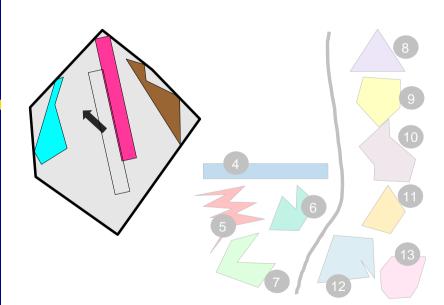
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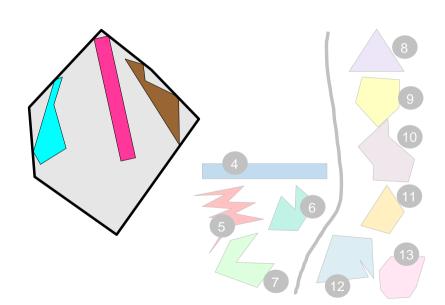
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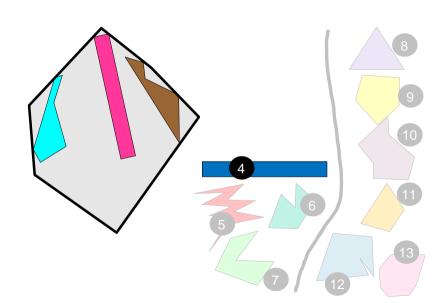
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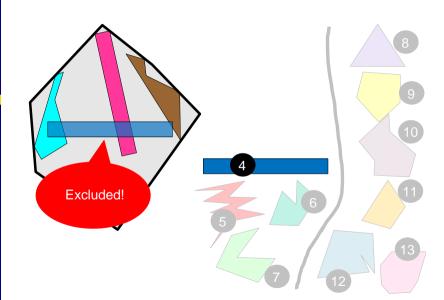
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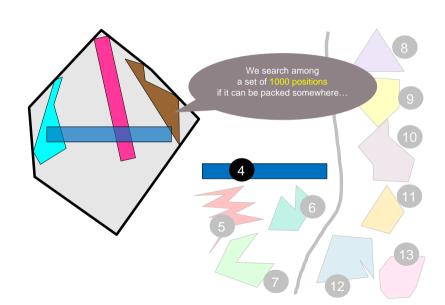
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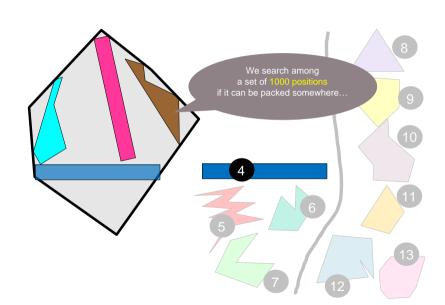
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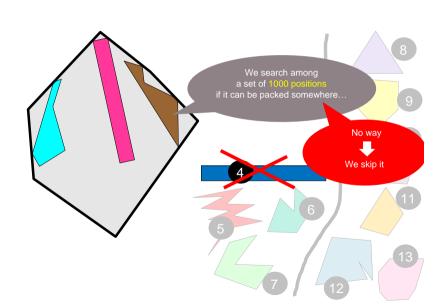
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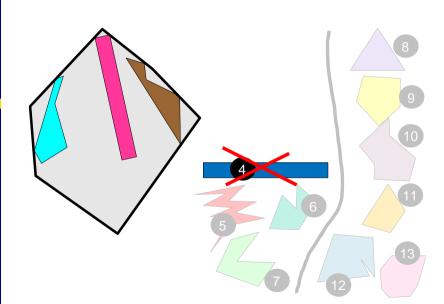
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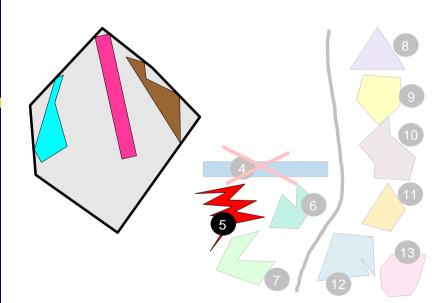
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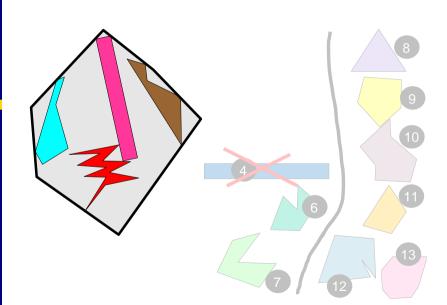
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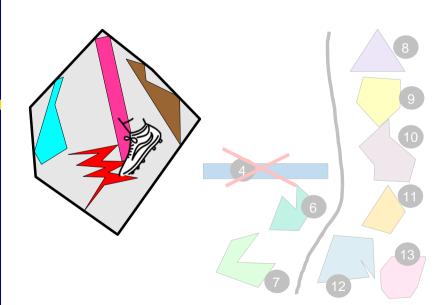
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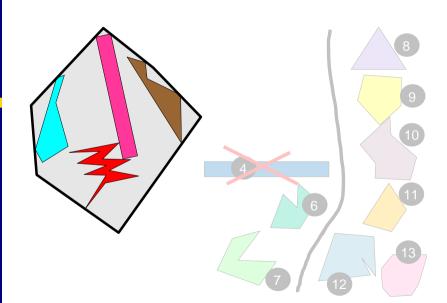
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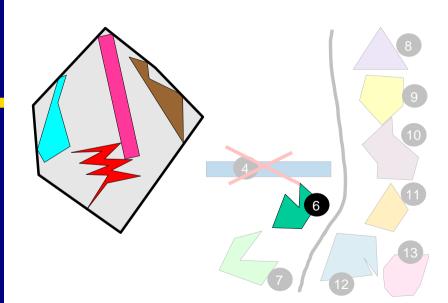
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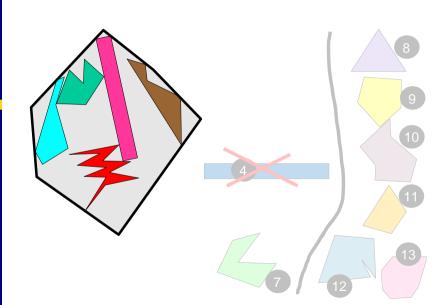
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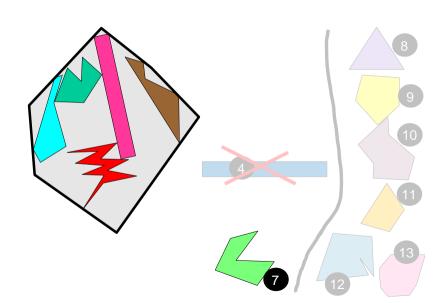
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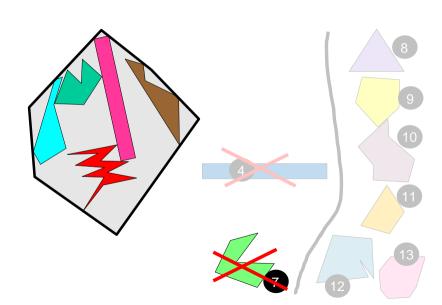
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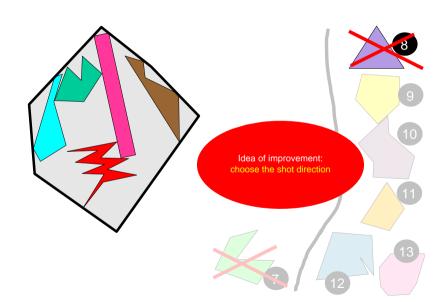
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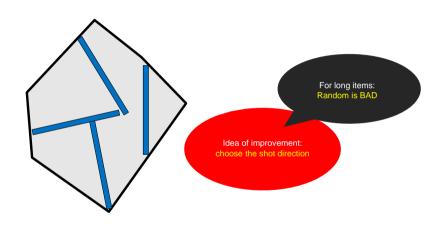
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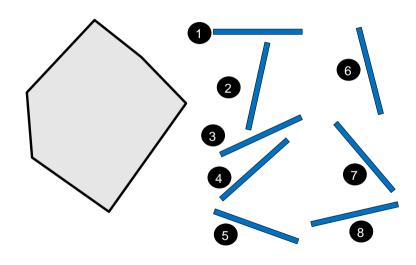
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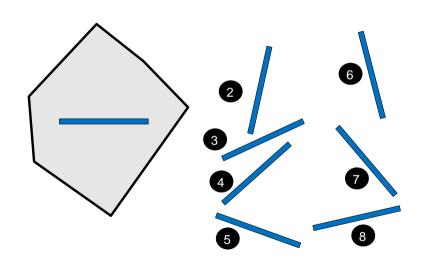
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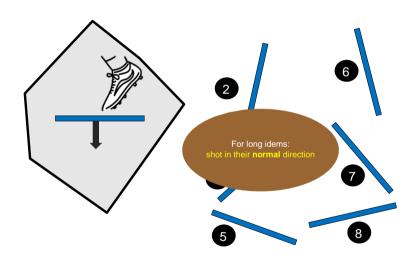
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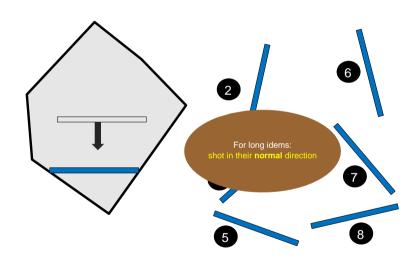
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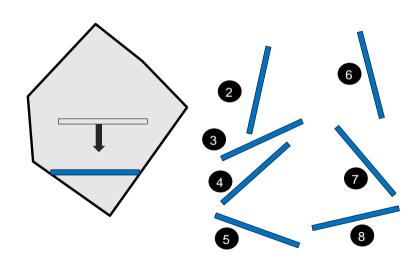
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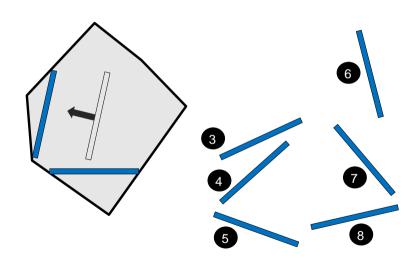
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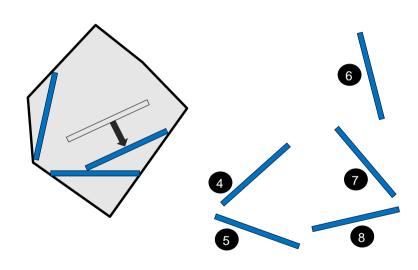
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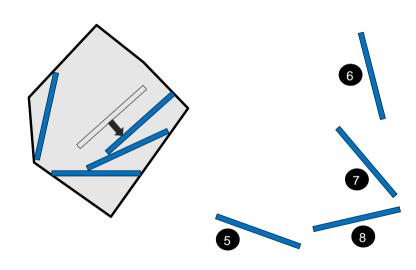
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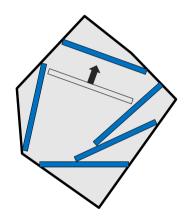
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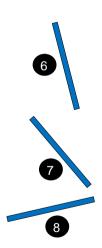
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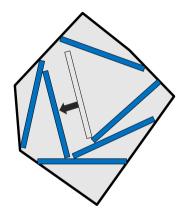
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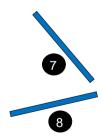
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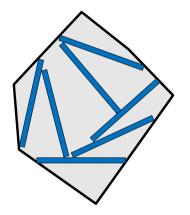
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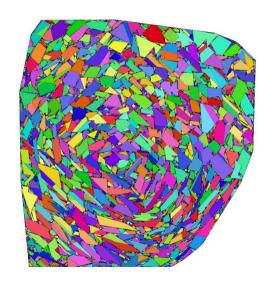
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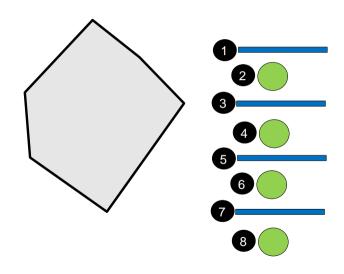
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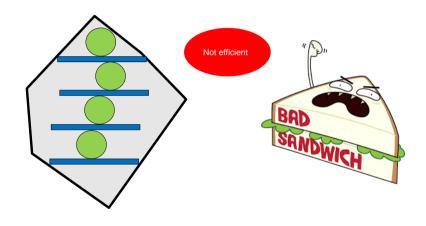
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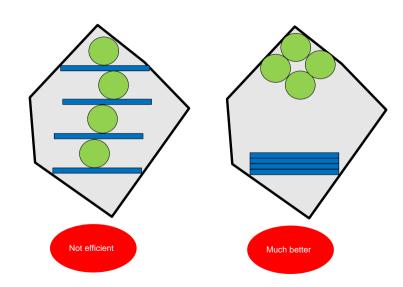
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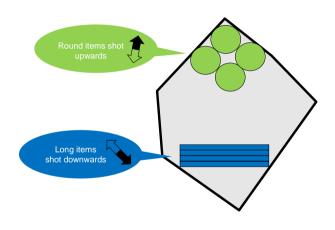
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Different Packing Strategies

${\sf Shadoks}$

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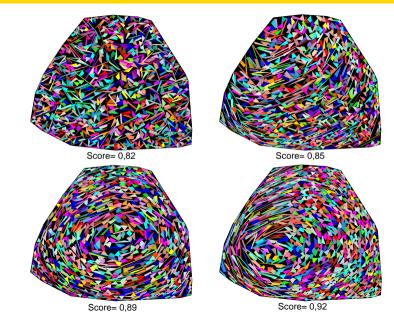
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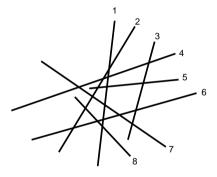
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Input: n segments in the plane

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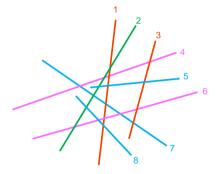
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Input: n segments in the plane

Output: segments coloring with a minimum number of colors so that two crossing segments don't have the same color...

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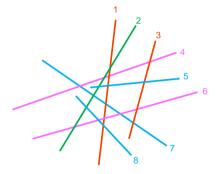
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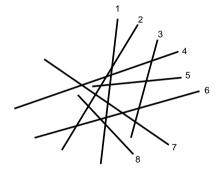
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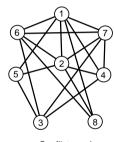
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Conflict graph

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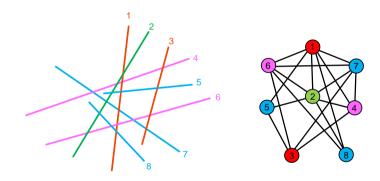
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Any graph coloring algorithm can be used... or algorithms using geometry

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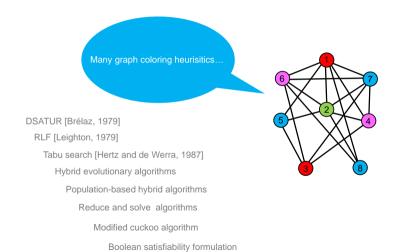
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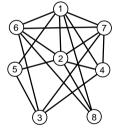
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Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices

Repeat: take the first uncolored vertex of the list color it with the first possible color



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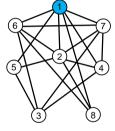
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Color 1

Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices



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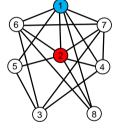
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Color 1

Color 2

Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices



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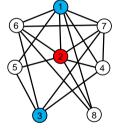
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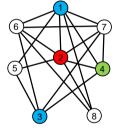
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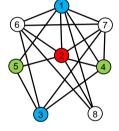
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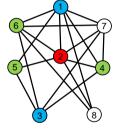
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Initialization: order the vertices



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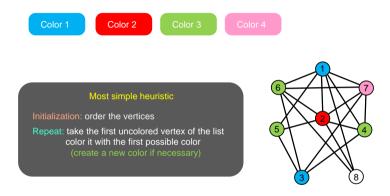
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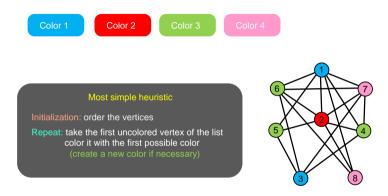
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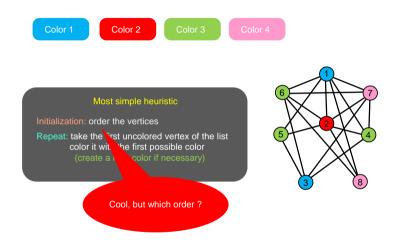
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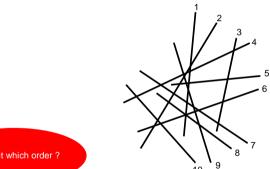
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Cool, but which order?

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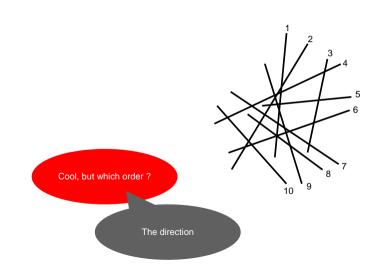
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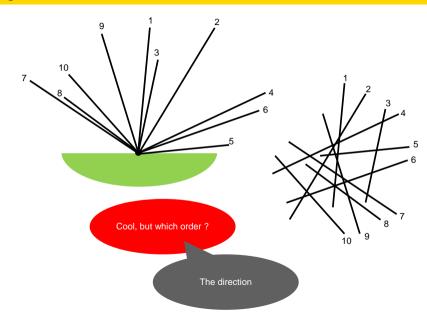
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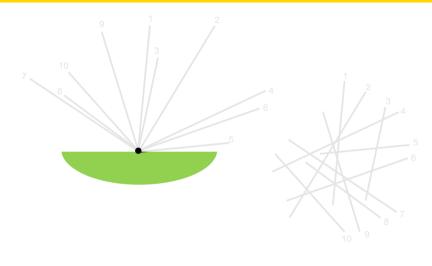
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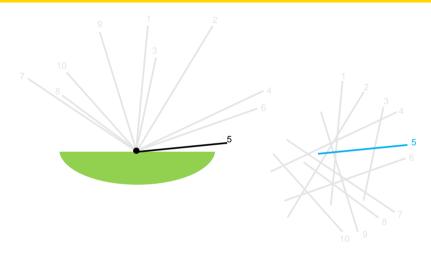
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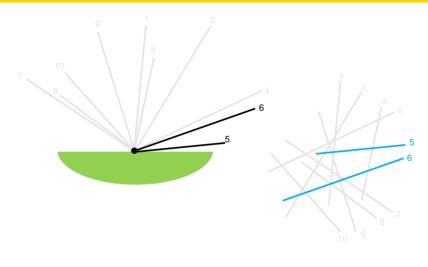
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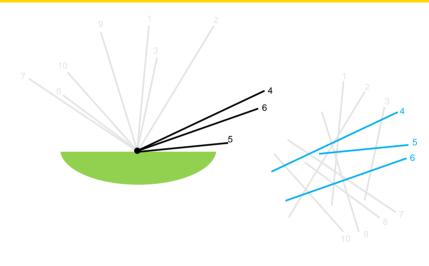
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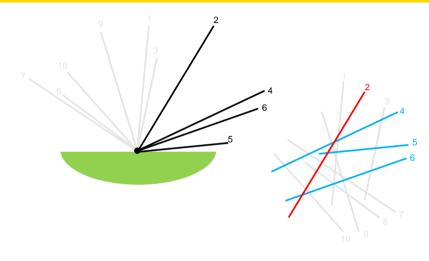
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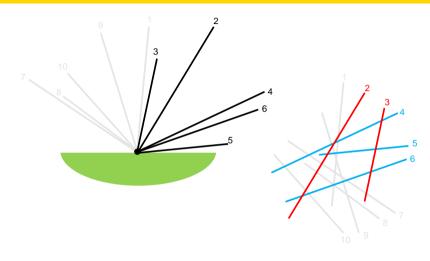
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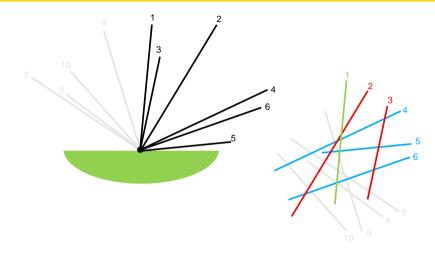
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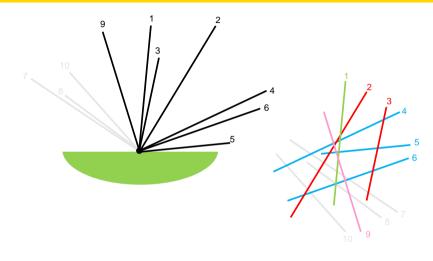
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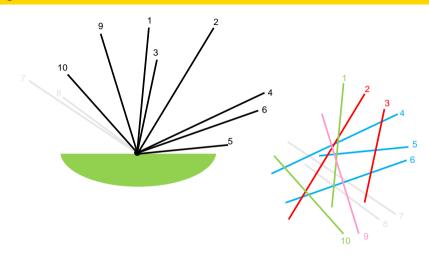
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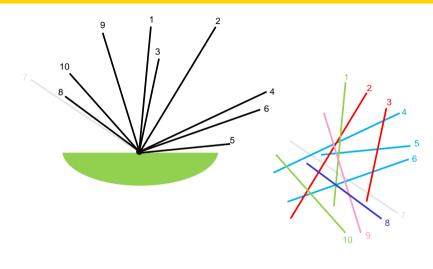
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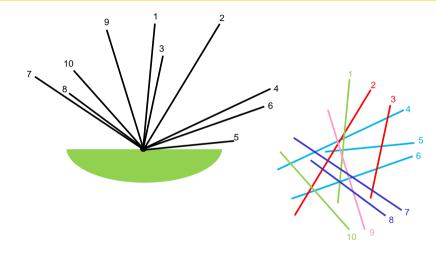
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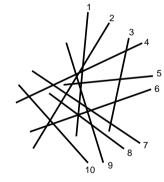
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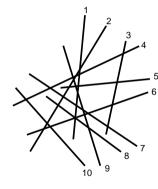
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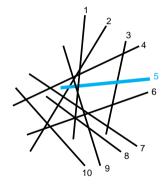
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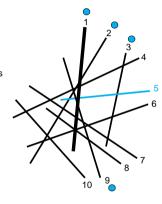
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Color a segment that crosses the largest number of colors



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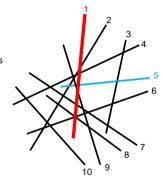
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Color a segment that crosses the largest number of colors



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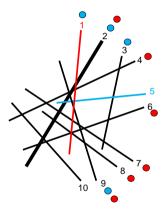
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Color a segment that crosses the largest number of colors



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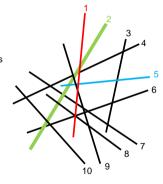
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Color a segment that crosses the largest number of colors



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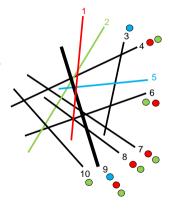
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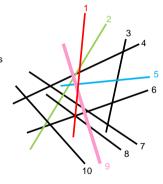
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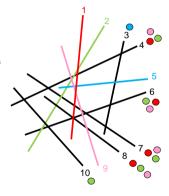
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Color a segment that crosses the largest number of colors



Color 1



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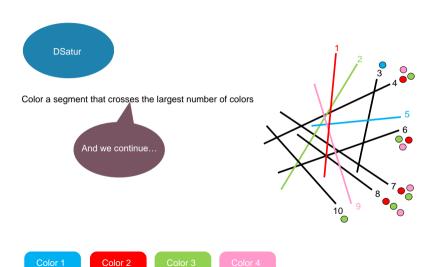
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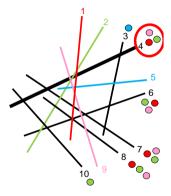
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Color a segment that crosses the largest number of colors



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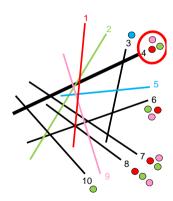
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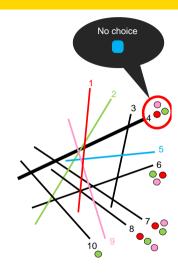
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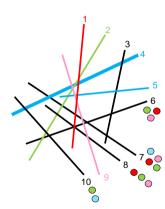
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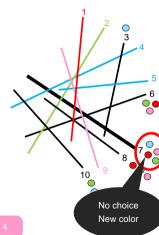
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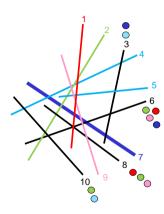
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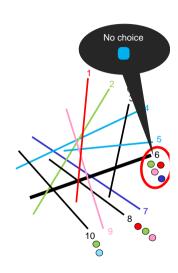
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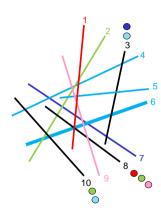
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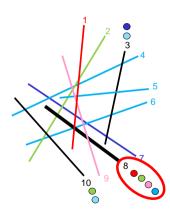
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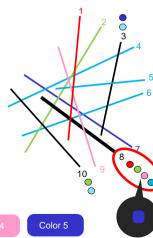
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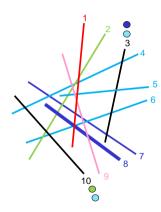
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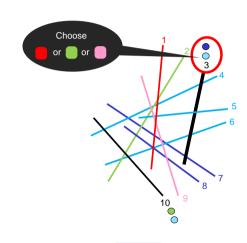
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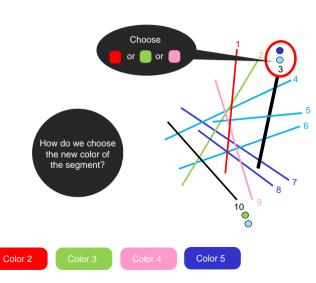
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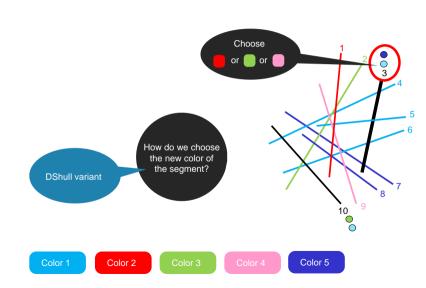
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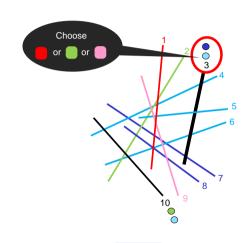
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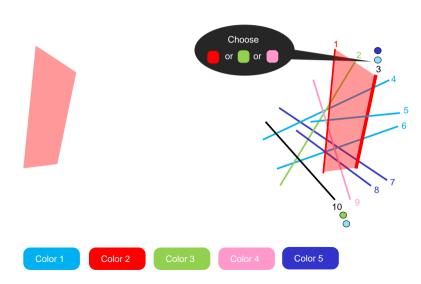
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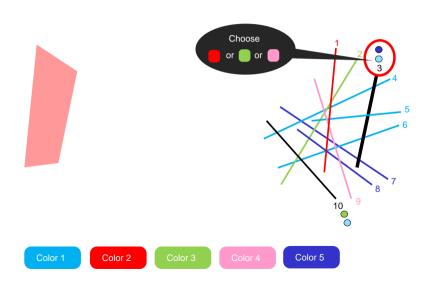
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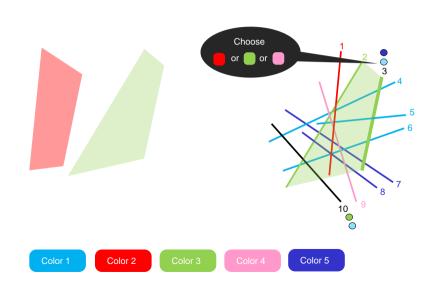
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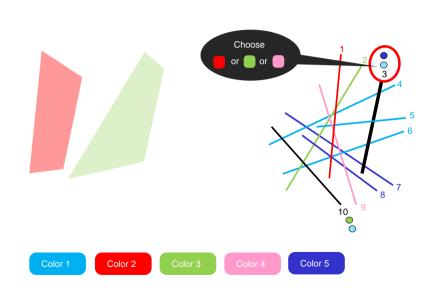
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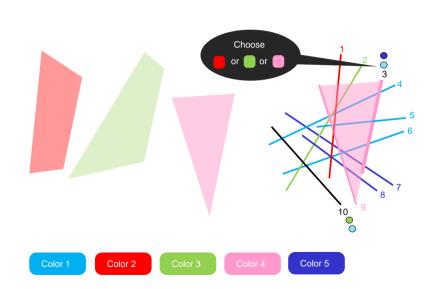
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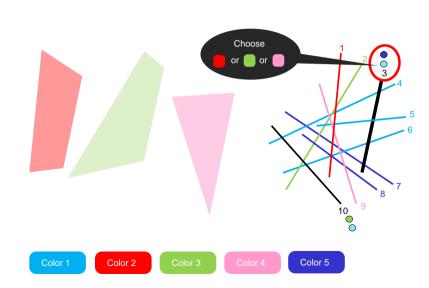
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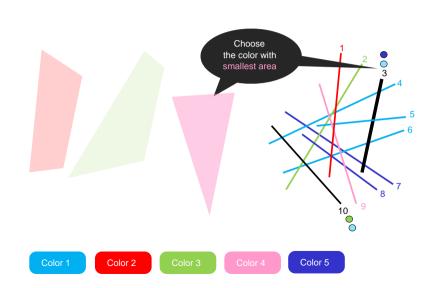
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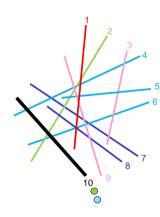
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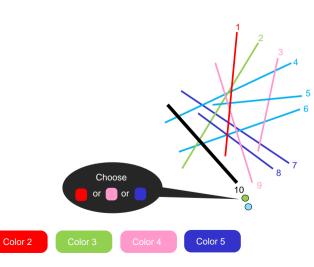
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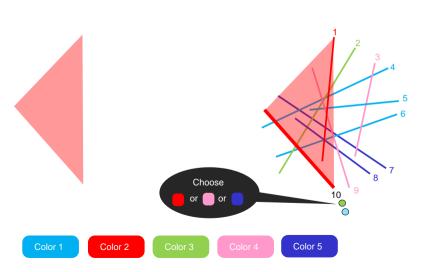
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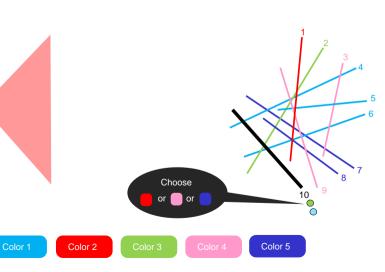
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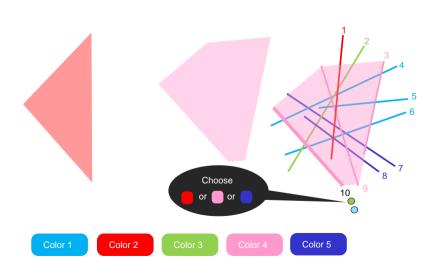
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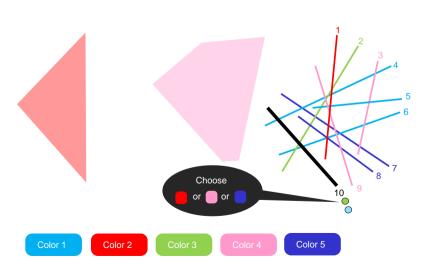
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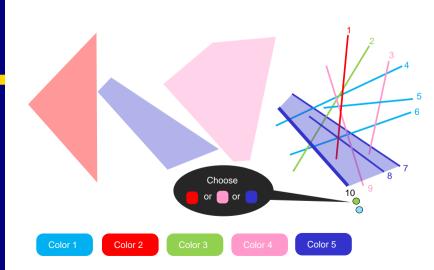
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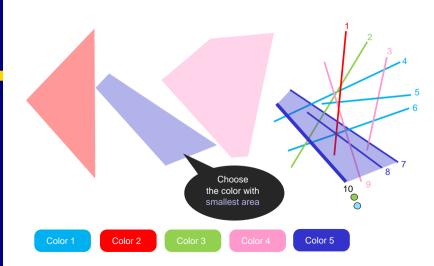
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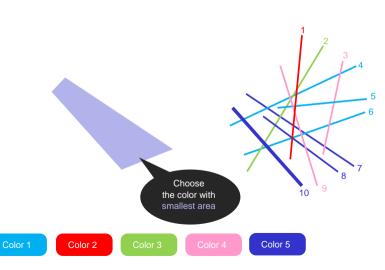
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Integer Programming (IP)

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Integer Programming (IP)

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Some results

Integer programming (IP):

- Variables: Take integer values
- Constraints: A set of linear inequalities
- Objective: A linear function to maximize or minimize

Solvers:

- Commercial solvers are quite efficient (CPLEX, Gurobi...)
- Some open source alternatives (GLPK, COIN-OR...)
- Optimal solutions or small gap are guaranteed
- Cannot solve huge problems

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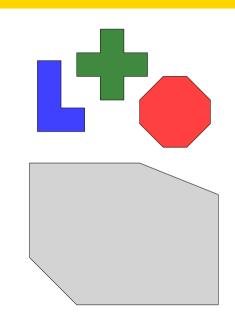
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Some results

Goal: Reduce a geometric problem to a combinatorial problem

- Create some random translations of each item inside the container
- Each translated item is a vertex
- A clique for translations of the same item
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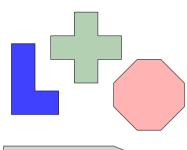
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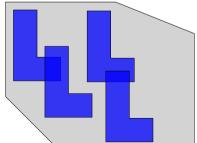
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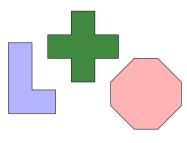
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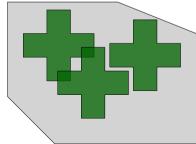
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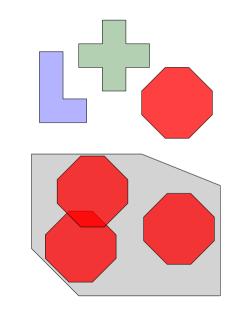
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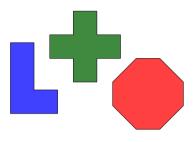
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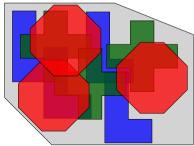
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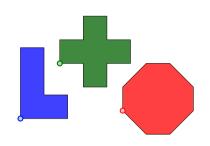
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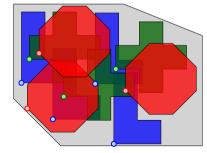
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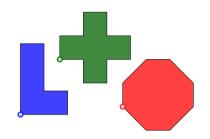
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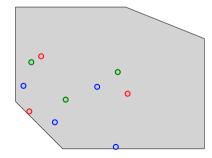
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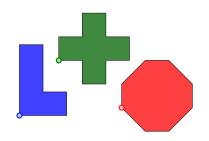
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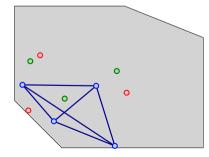
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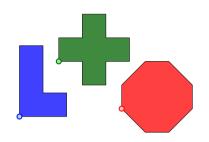
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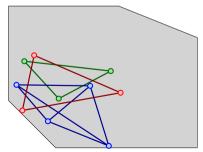
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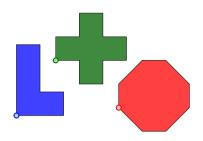
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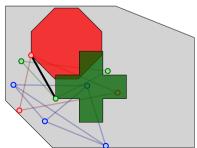
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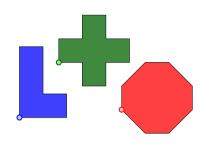
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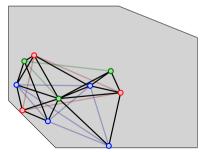
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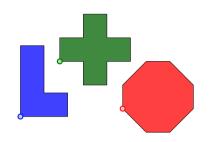
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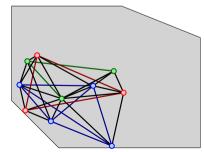
ConvexPartition

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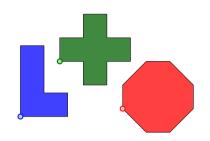
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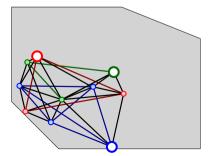
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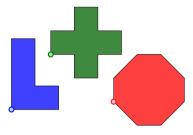
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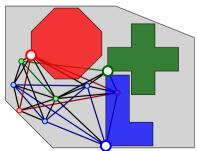
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Maximum Independent Set as Linear Programming

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Some results

Variables: vertices

0: not in the solution

1: in the solution

Objective: Maximize sum of variables

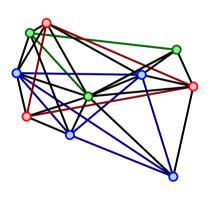
■ Constraints: edge uv becomes $u + v \le 1$

lacksquare Better constraint for clique C

$$\sum_{v \in C} v \le 1$$

 \blacksquare And for k copies of the same item

$$\sum_{v \in C} v \leq k$$



Maximum Independent Set as Linear Programming

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Some results

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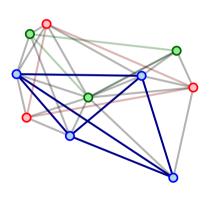
Constraints: edge uv becomes u+v < 1

Better constraint for clique C

$$\sum_{v \in C} v \leq 1$$

And for k copies of the same item

$$\sum_{v \in C} v \le k$$



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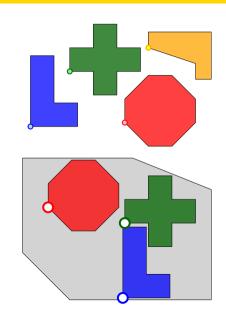
ConvexCover ConvexPartition

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Robots Coloring

- lueen CPLEX can only handle ~ 1000 vertices
- Not enough copies of each item
- Solution: We repeat with some translations near the previous solution
- Also random translations of every item
- If we are lucky, we pack more items



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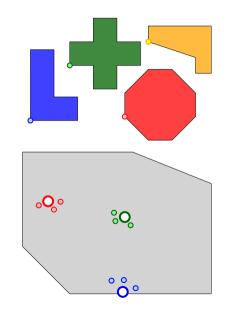
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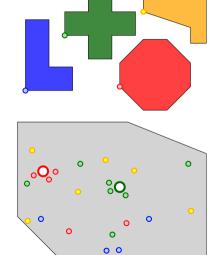
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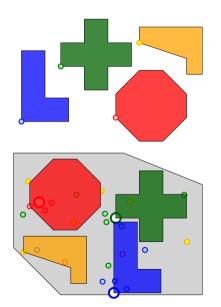
ConvexCover ConvexPartition

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Convex Covering in Two Steps

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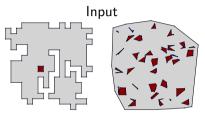
2-IP ConveyCover ConvexPartition

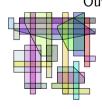
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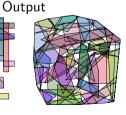
2-Conflict Robots Coloring

- We want to cover a polygon (with holes) using convex polygons
- Goal: Reduce a geometric problem to a combinatorial problem

- We show how to solve step 2







Convex Covering in Two Steps

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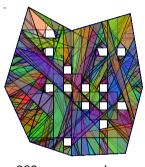
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- We want to cover a polygon (with holes) using convex polygons
- Goal: Reduce a geometric problem to a combinatorial problem
- Create a collection of many large convex polygons
- Find a small subset of the collection
- We show how to solve step 2



382 convex polygons

Convex Covering in Two Steps

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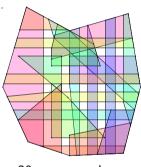
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20 convex polygons

Convex Covering as Set Cover

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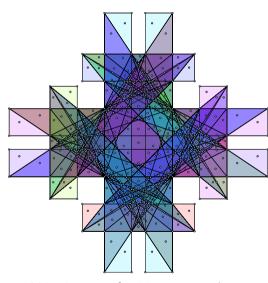
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Some results

 \mathcal{C} : Convex polygons from phase 1 P: Instance polygon with holes

- lacksquare (\mathcal{C},P) define a set system
- P has infinitely many points
- First attempt: reduce P to a quadratic number of witnesses, one point per arrangement cell
- Too many witnesses!
- Building the arrangement is slow!



1009 witnesses for 82 convex polygons

Vertex Witnesses

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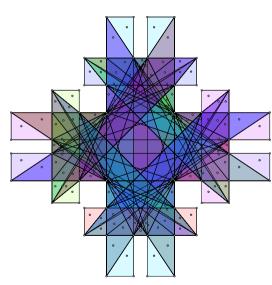
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Some results

- Solution: only place witnesses near vertices of P
- Does not guarantee that P is covered
- Two possible fixes:
 - Add a witnesses inside each uncovered area and repeat (generally better, but slower)
 - Cover the uncovered area using some quick heuristic (faster and sometimes better



200 witnesses for 82 convex polygons

Vertex Witnesses

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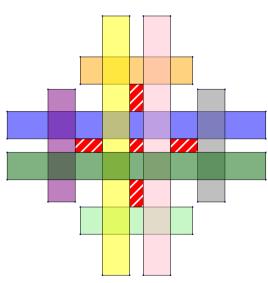
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5 uncovered regions 8 convex polygons

Vertex Witnesses

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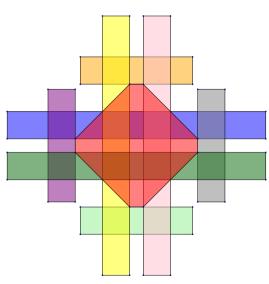
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- Two possible fixes:
 - Add a witnesses inside each uncovered area and repeat (generally better, but slower)
 - Cover the uncovered area using some quick heuristic (faster and sometimes better)



0 uncovered regions 9 convex polygons

Solving Combinatorial Set Cover with IP

Shadoks

Introduction Two Phases

1-Greedy
MaxPolygon
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Coloring

1-IP

2-IP

ConvexCover

Convexcover

ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict
Robots
Coloring

Some results

Use integer programming (IP):

- Each set becomes a binary variable
 - 0: Not in the solution
 - 1: In the solution
- Each witness becomes a constraint: the sum of the sets that contain it must be at least 1
- Objective: minimize the sum of all variables
- Very fast for small to medium instances
- Solutions often guaranteed optimal
- On some large instances: slow and very bad solutions

Solving Combinatorial Set Cover with IP

Shadoks

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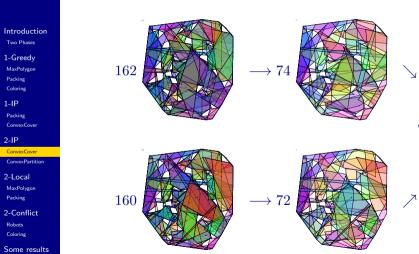
Use integer programming (IP):

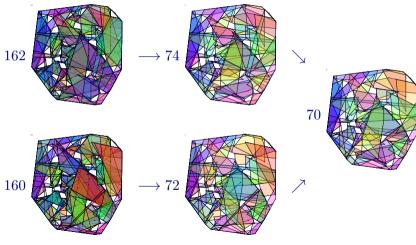
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Improving Convex Cover with IP

Shadoks

We use multiple good solutions to get a better one





Shadoks

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1-Greedy MaxPolygon Packing

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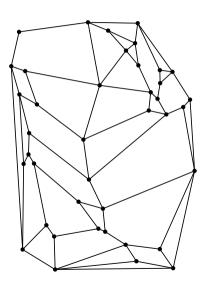
2-IP

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- Convex partition can easily be modelled as IP
- CPLEX can only solve small instances
- We improve a solution using CPLEX:
 - Select some adjacent cells
 - 2 Remove selected cells
 - 3 Solve the polygon in the selected area
- The initial solution is not very relevant, we may start with a triangulation



Shadoks

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1-Greedy MaxPolygon

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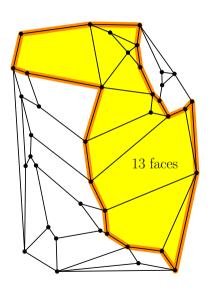
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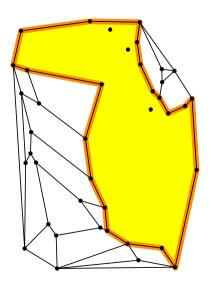
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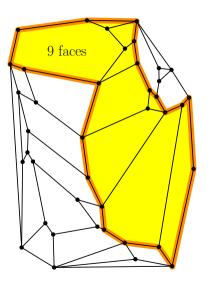
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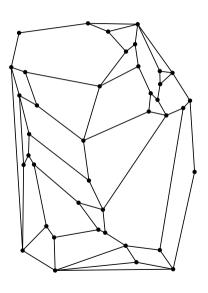
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Improving Maximum Area Polygon with Local Search

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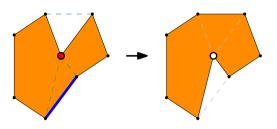
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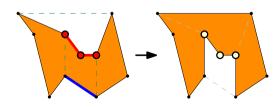
2-Local

MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots Coloring

- We try to improve many solutions
- Sometimes a worse solution may improve better
- We move one or more vertices in the polygon order in order to increase the area
- For this problem, changes are small





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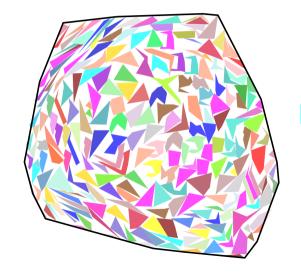
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Local Search for Packing

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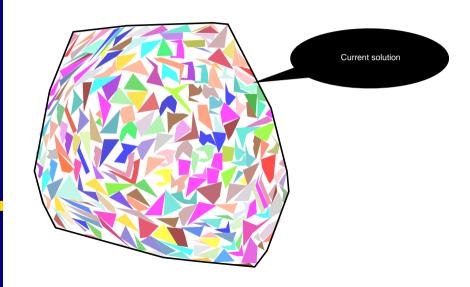
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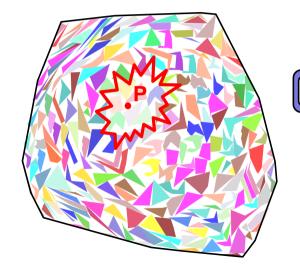
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1) Choose a random point P in the solution

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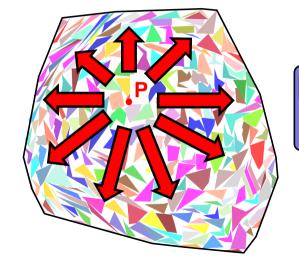
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- 1) Choose a random point P in the solution
- 2) Push every packed item away from P (from the farthest to the closest)

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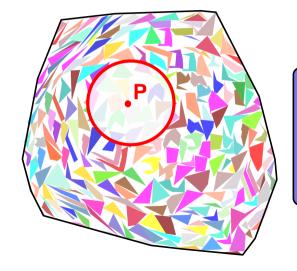
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- 1) Choose a random point P in the solution
- 2) Push every packed item away from P (from the farthest to the closest)
- Try to pack a new item around P
 (if it crosses some packed items but
 there could be a benefit, we pack the
 new item)

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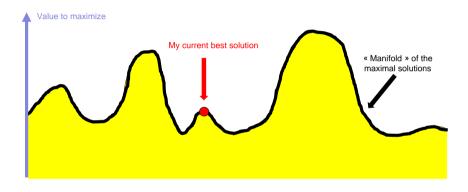
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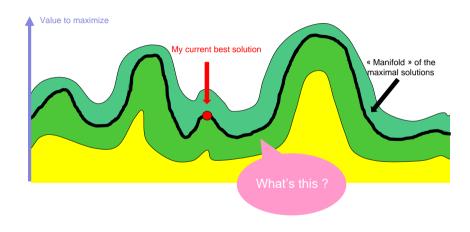
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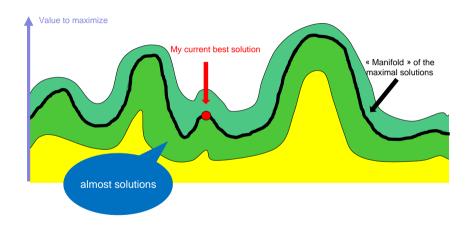
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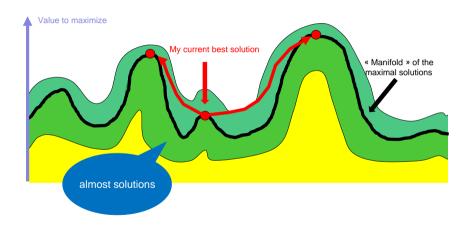
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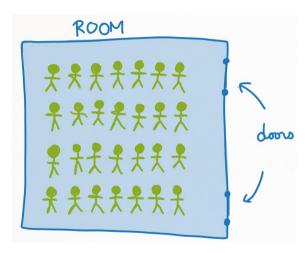
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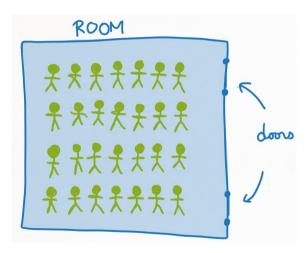
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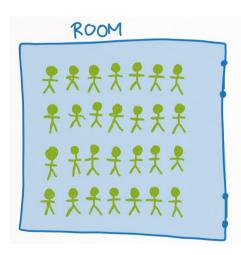
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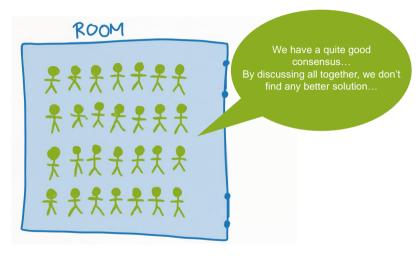
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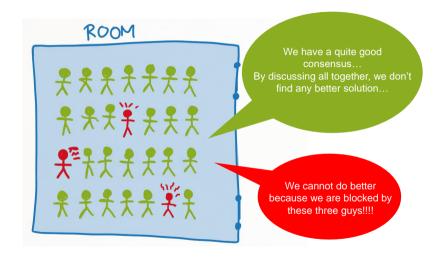
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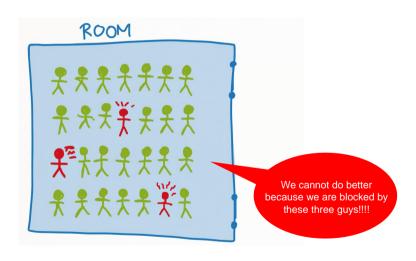
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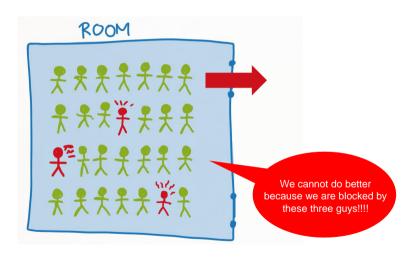
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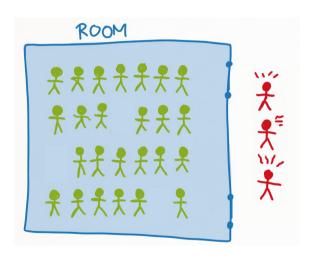
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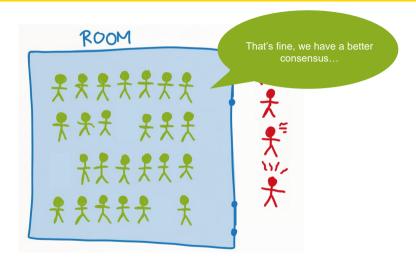
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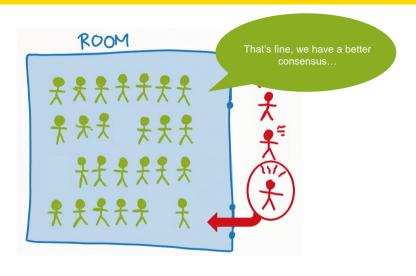
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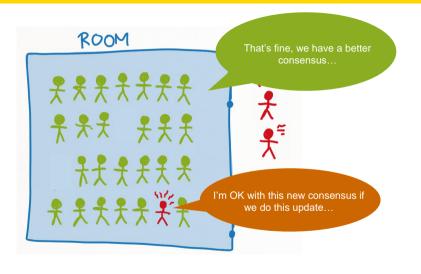
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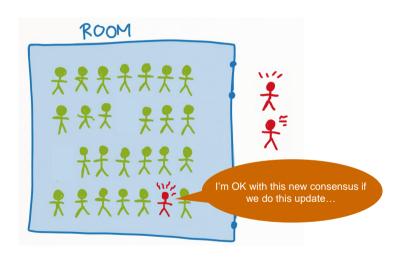
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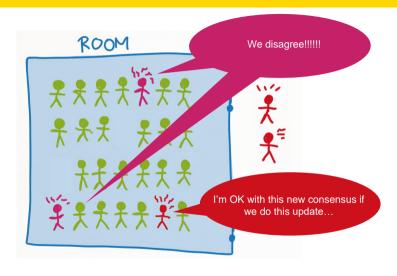
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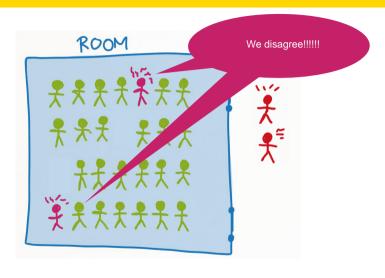
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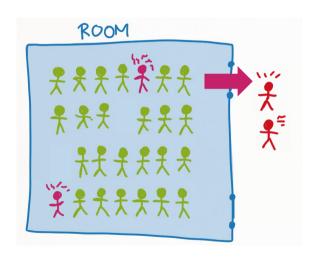
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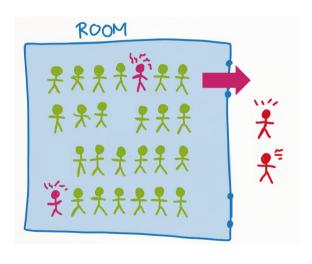
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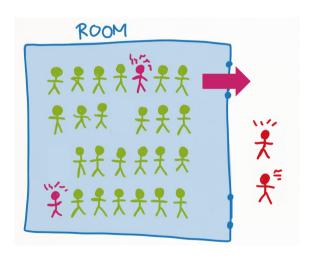
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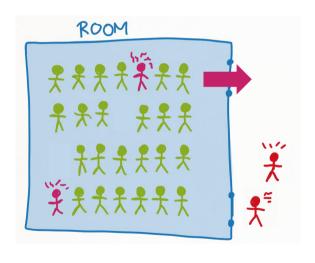
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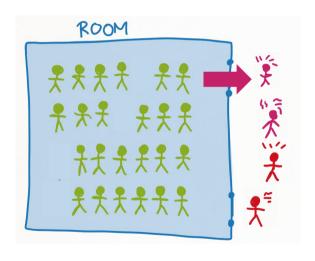
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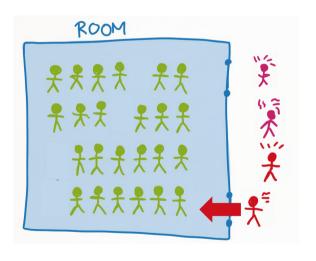
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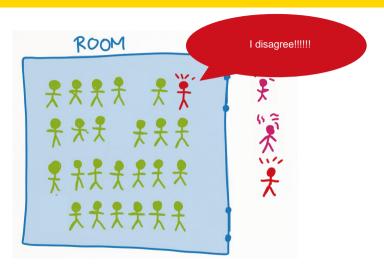
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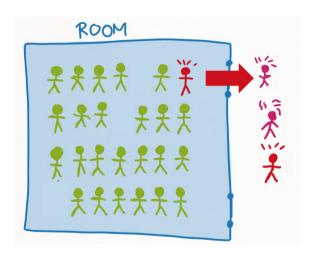
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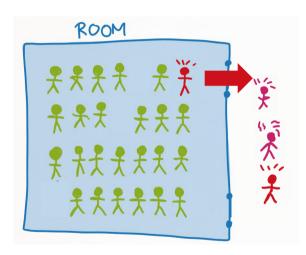
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28 agents in a room: find the best consensus to a complex combinatorial problem...

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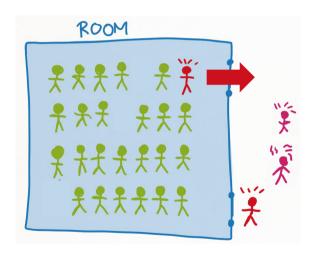
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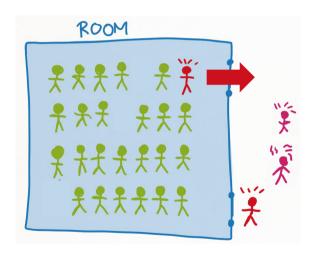
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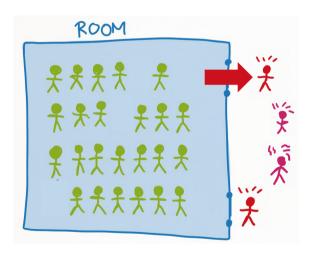
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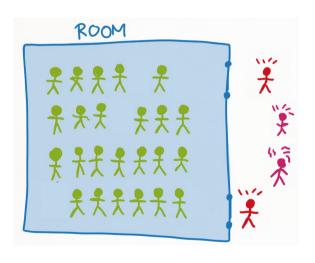
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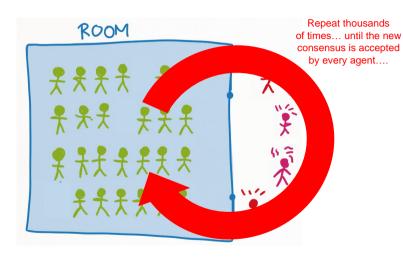
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What can we do to optimize a solution?

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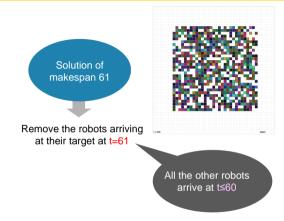
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Some results





Remove the robots arriving at their target at t=61



- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

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Remove the robots arriving at their target at t=61



- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots

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Some results

Solution of makespan 61

Remove the robots arriving at their target at t=61



- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution...

Remove the robots in conflict with this path...

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Solution of makespan 61

Remove the robots arriving at their target at t=61



- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution...

Remove the robots in conflict with this path...

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- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

- Pick the first robot ro of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots Add the path of the first robot ro in the current solution... Remove the robots in

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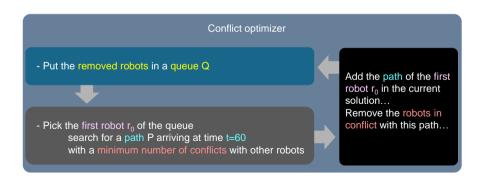
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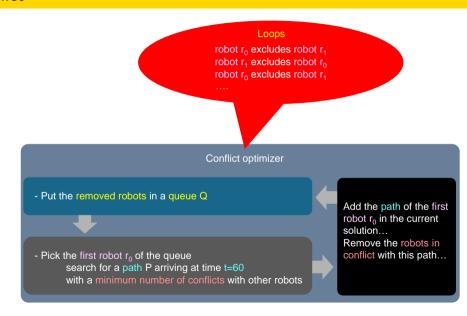
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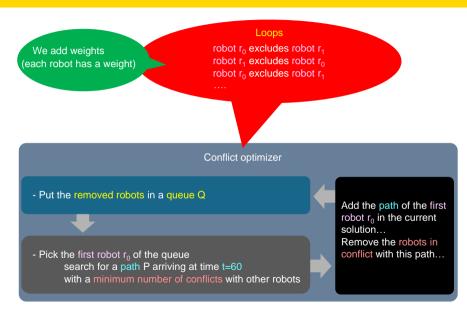
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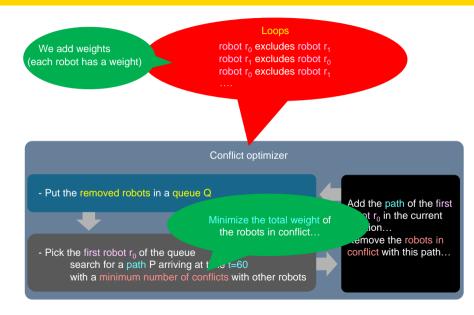
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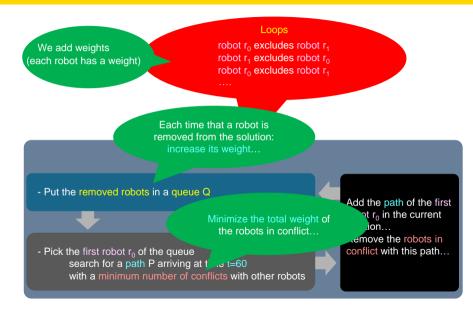
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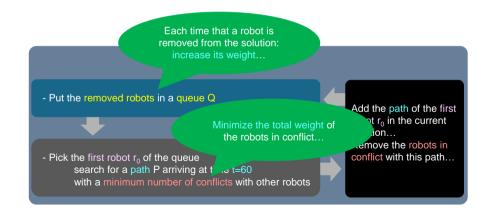
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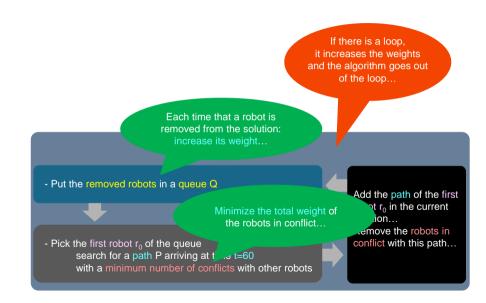
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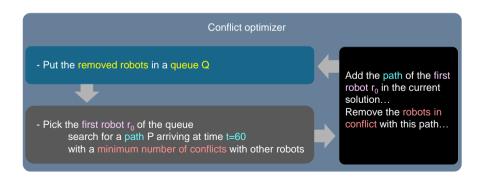
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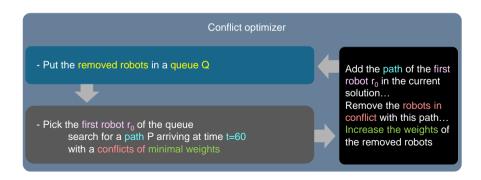
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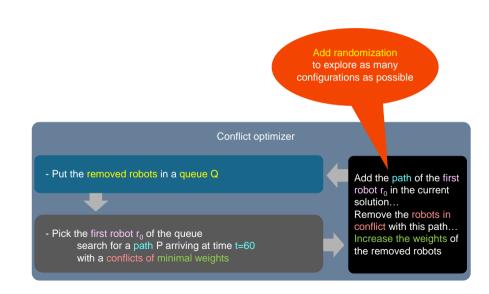
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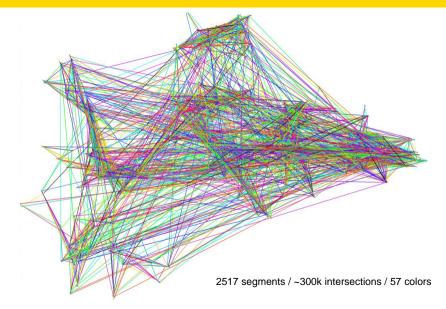
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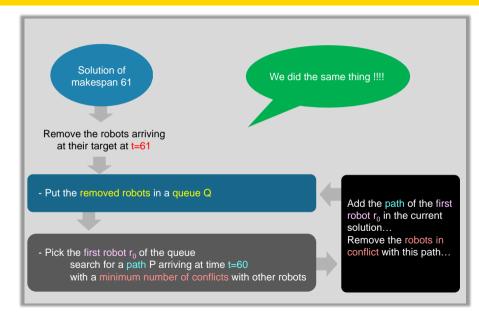
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Solution with 61 colors

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Remove one color

- Put the segments without color in a queue (

Pick the first segment s₀ of the queue choose its new color with a minimum conflict weight with other segments

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Color } s_0 \text{ with its new} \\ \text{color...} \\ \text{Uncolor the segments i} \\ \text{conflict with } s_0 \dots \\ \text{And increase their} \\ \text{weights} \\ \end{array}$

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Remove one color



- Put the segments without color in a queue Q

Pick the first segment s₀ of the queue choose its new color with a minimum conflict weight with other segments

Color s₀ with its new color...
Uncolor the segments i conflict with s₀ ...
And increase their weights

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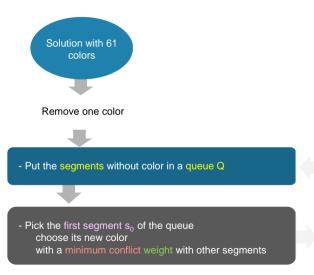
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Color s₀ with its new color...
Uncolor the segments conflict with s₀...
And increase their weights

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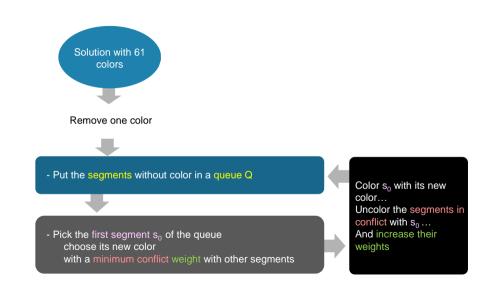
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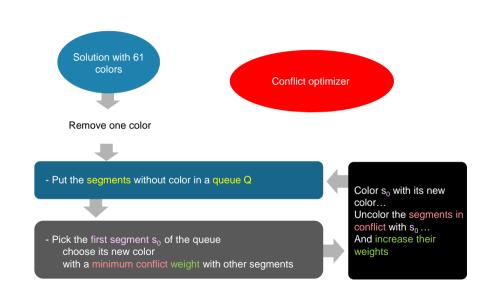
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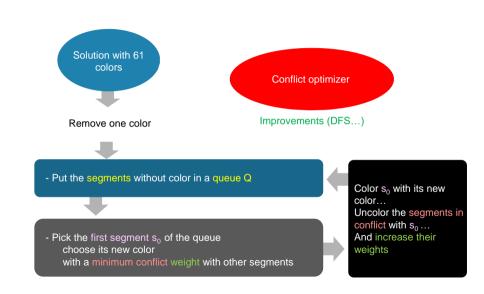
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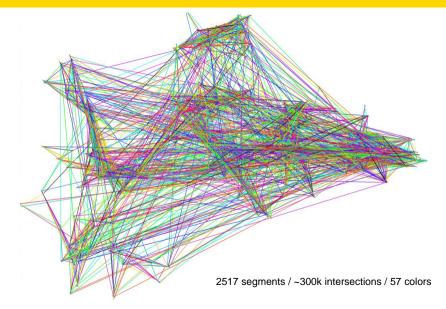
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What did we get with these algorithms?

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The (very hard) problem of going on vacation

Maximum Area Polygon

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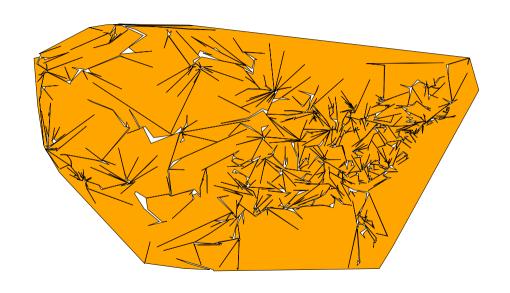
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Minimum Area Polygon

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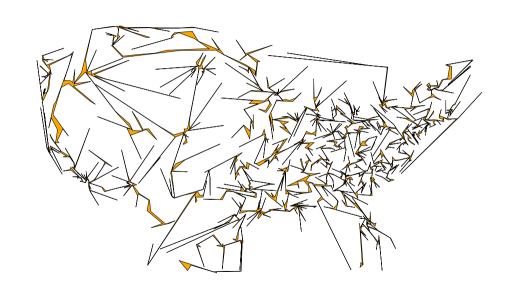
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Segment Intersection Graph Coloring and Clique

Shadoks

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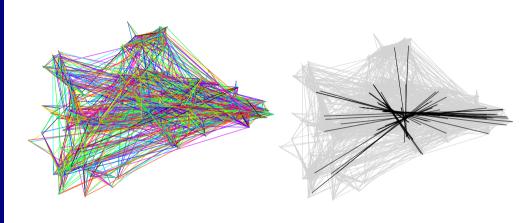
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Each Color Class (Interior-Disjoint Segments)

Shadoks

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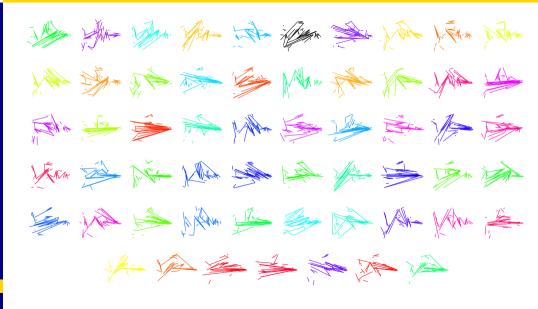
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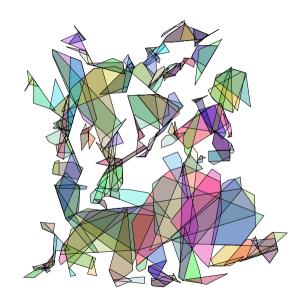
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Convex Cover

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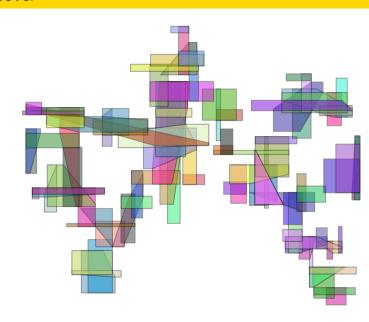
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Packing (50 items)

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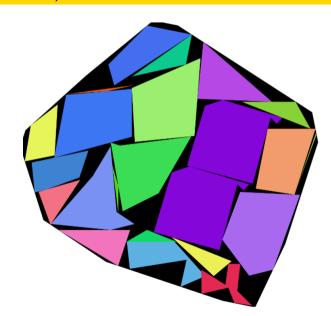
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Packing (335 items)

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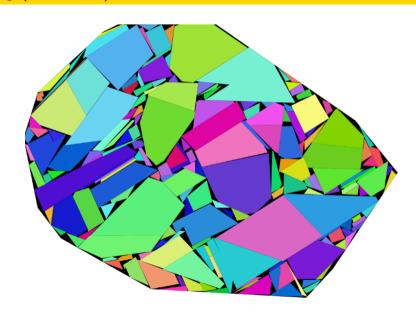
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Packing (500 items)

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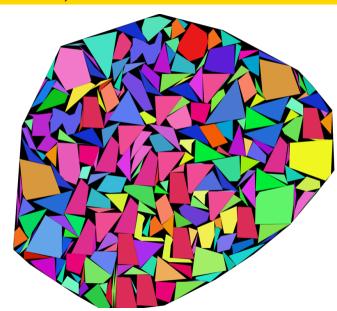
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Packing 1000 items)

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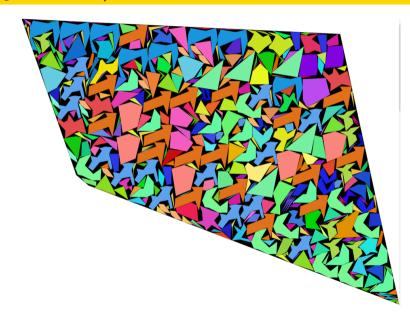
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Packing (1240 items)

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Packing (1672 items)

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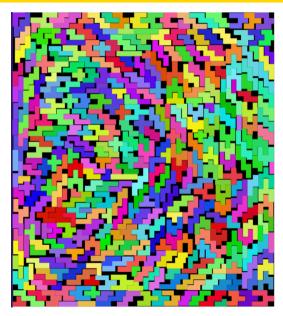
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Packing (1685 items)

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Packing (2000 items)

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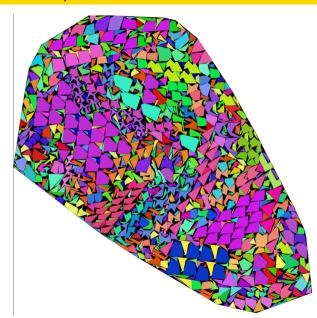
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Packing (3000 items)

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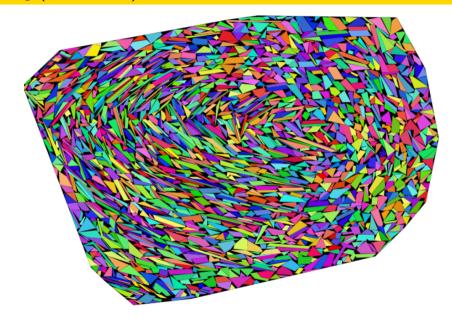
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Packing (5000 items)

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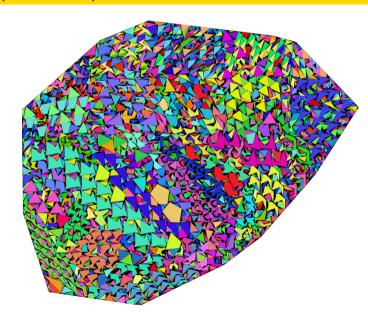
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Packing (10000 items)

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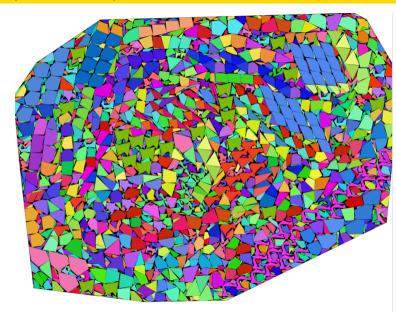
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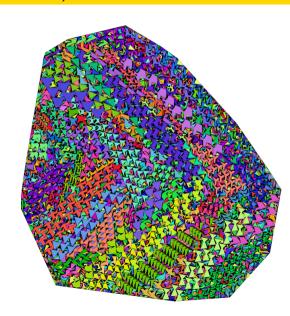
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Packing (50000 items)

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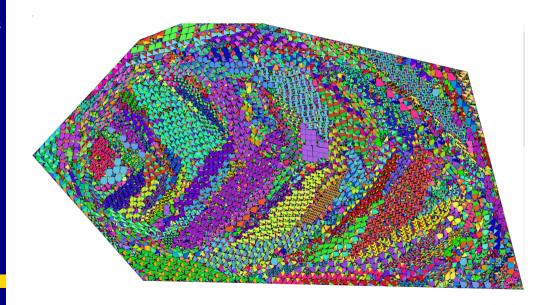
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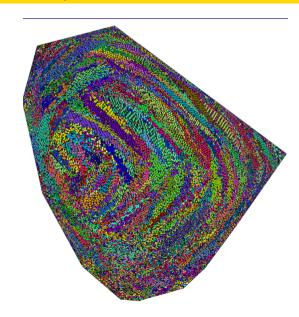
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Moving Robots Video

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Thank You!

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Art by @maryanneshakyhand