

# Introduction to Algorithms and Data Structures

Lesson 17: Super Application  
*Computational Origami*

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**refine by author**

Ryuhei Uehara (158)

**Erik D. Demaine (39)**

Takeaki Uno (27)

Yota Otachi (27)

Yushi Uno (26)

Martin L. Demaine (22)

Toshiki Saitoh (19)

Takehiro Ito (17)

Yoshio Okamoto (16)

Takashi Horiyama (13)

*127 more options*

**refine by venue**

CCCG (18)

ISAAC (14)

WALCOM (12)

Theor. Comput. Sci. (12)

CoRR (11)

IEICE Transactions (9)

TAMC (7)

Bulletin of the EATCS (6)

FUN (4)

Discrete Applied Mathematics (4)

*37 more options*

# Self introduction

Affiliation:

JAIST School of Information Science

Professor

DBLP Info.:

Erdős number = 2  
(with Pavol Hell)

Director of JAIST Gallery  
(with more than 10000 puzzles)

I'd like to give some talks in the last day...?

**Specialist of Theoretical Computer Science**

- Algorithms
  - Graph Algorithms
- Computational Complexity of Puzzles and Games...
  - Recreational Mathematics
- Computational Geometry
  - Computational Origami



# Introduction to Computational Origami

## CANDAR Keynote 2: Folding and Unfolding Algorithms on (Super)Computer

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# Computational ORIGAMI

- “ORIGAMI”

- In 1500s, may be in Asia, with “papers” ...?
- Now “ORIGAMI” is popular even in English; There are many Origami books in book stores.
- Something like “Origami” ... while “Ori” means *folding*, and “gami” means *paper*...

There are many origami-applications or origami-engineering even they are not “folding”, not “paper” ...; e.g., DNA folding, folding robots, ...



- Development of recent Origami
  - In 1980s – 1990s, Origami becomes complicated, which is called “complex origami”.



Maekaya Devil,  
1980. (From one  
square sheet of  
paper)



Kawasaki Rose,  
1985. (From one  
square sheet of  
paper)



Cuckoo Clock by Robert Lang,  
1987. (From one rectangular  
sheet of size 1x10)

# Computational ORIGAMI

- Computerized Origami...
  - Since 1990s, computer aided design of origami popular.

In 2016, they were key items in movies “Shin-Godzilla” and “Death Note”



Cuckoo Clock by Robert Lang, 1987. (From one rectangular sheet of size 1x10)



Origamizer by Tomohiro Tachi, 2007. (From one rectangular sheet in 10 hours ;-)

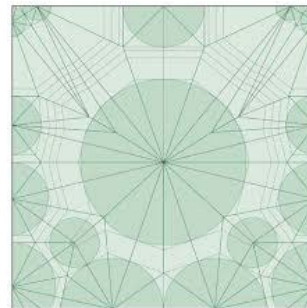
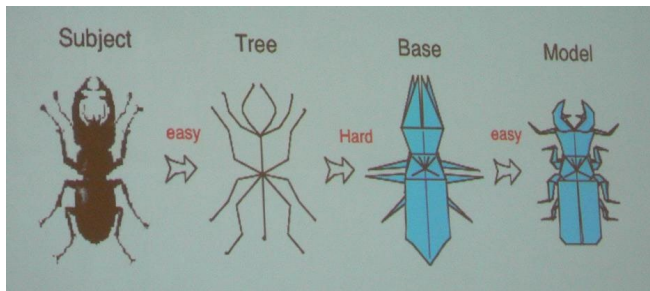


Mathematically designed origami Jun Mitani, 2010. (From one rectangular sheet)



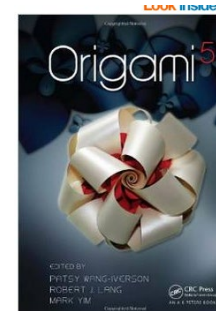
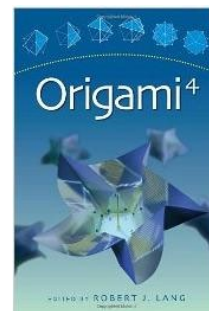
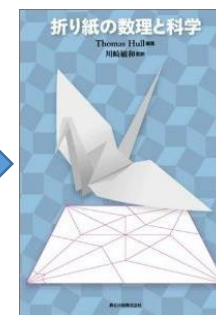
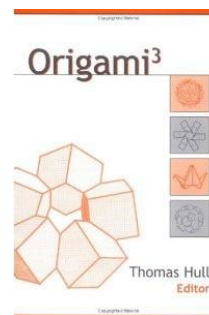
- Development of Design method with computer
  - 1980s: Maekawa's Devil
    - Get "parts" together in a CAD-like way
    - So called "Complex Origami" has been developed
  - 2000s: "TreeMaker"; software by Robert Lang
    - Any given "metric tree" is developed into a square sheet of paper such that folding the crease pattern, you can get "large" metric tree.
  - Practical algorithm that solves several optimization problems.

Including NP-hard problems



# International Conferences on Origami

1. December, 1989@ Italy  
The International meeting of Origami Science and Technology
2. 1994@Shiga, Japan
3. March, 2001@USA  
The International meeting of Origami Science, Mathematics, and Education (3OSME)
4. August, 2006@USA  
4OSME
5. July, 2010@Singapore  
5OSME
6. August, 2014@Tokyo, Japan  
6OSME
7. September, 2018: 7OSME@Oxford, UK.







# Origami and Computer Science



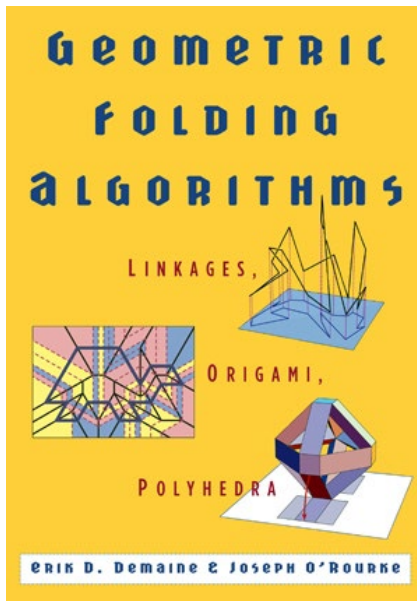
- Proposal of “Computational Origami”  
Since 1990s, in Computational Geometry Society, “folding problems” are investigated in the contexts of “computational geometry” and “optimization problems”

**Very** famous researcher in this area: Erik D. Demaine

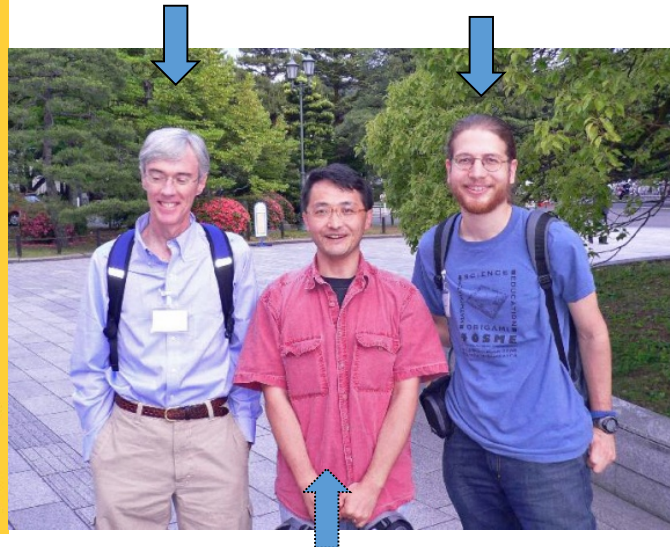
- He was born in 1981
- In 2001, he got Ph.D when he was 20, and became faculty member in MIT
- Topic of his Ph.D thesis was computational origami
- Still leading Origami research at MIT! (e.g., origami-robots)



- “Bible” in Computational Origami  
J. O’Rourke and E. D. Demaine, *Geometric Folding Algorithms: Linkages, Origami, Polyhedra*, 2007.



Authors



I translated into Japanese (2009).



# Today's Topic

## Relationship between **polygon** and **convex polyhedron** folded from it

- Big open problem and related problems
- For a given polygon, how can we compute (convex) polyhedron folded from it?
  - This problem is related to both of
    - **Computational geometry**
    - **Graph theory and graph algorithms**
  - We need “mathematical property”, “nice algorithms”, and “computer power”!

**Today's Problem:** Folding 2 or more boxes from one polyomino (polygon made by unit squares)

There are many open problems, and young researchers had been solving them 😊



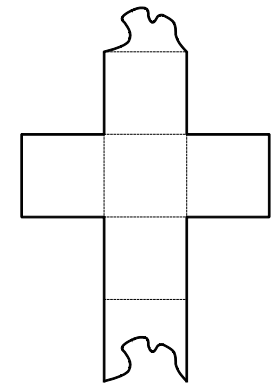
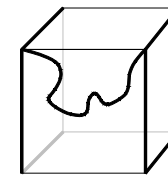
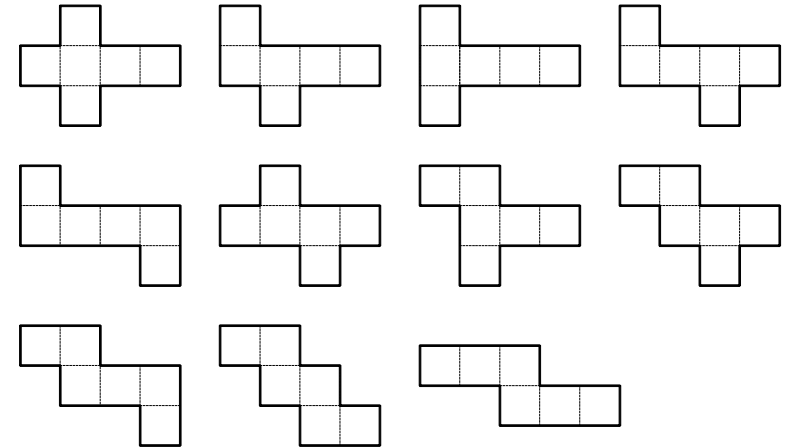
# Prelim: (Edge) unfolding



- **(General) development:** polygon obtained by cutting any surface of a polyhedron and developing of it.
  - It should be **connected**.
  - It should be **non-overlapping** simple polygon.
- **(Edge) development:** development by cutting along edges of the polyhedron
  - Boundary of development consists of edges of polyhedron
  - In Japanese elementary school, we had learnt this notion as “development”, which I don’t know why?

★ Today’s “Development” means general ones!

- We learnt “a cube has 11 different developments” in elementary school. But it is not in our context; there are **infinitely many**.
- **Puzzle:** Find the other developments that consist of 6 squares.
  1. They can be different sizes!
  2. Can you find ones that consists of 6 unit squares?



Special Thanks:  
Masaka Iwai

If you know traditional origami “Balloon”,,, 😊

# Prelim. Basic facts

Let  $G$  be a graph induced by the vertices and edges of a convex polyhedron  $S$ :

[Theorem 1]

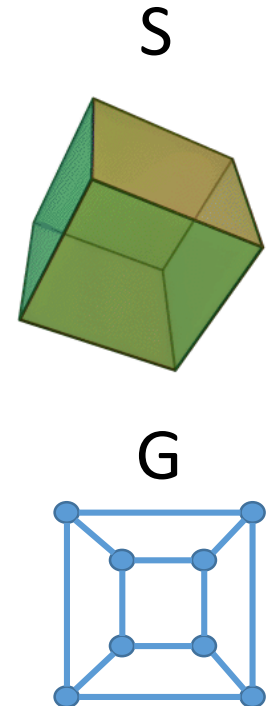
Cut lines of any edge development of  $S$  produces a spanning tree of  $G$

[Proof]

- It visits all vertices: If not, uncut vertex cannot be flat.
- It produces no cycle:  
If not, the development cannot be connected.

[Theorem 2]

Cut lines of any general development of  $S$  a tree that spans all vertices of  $S$ .

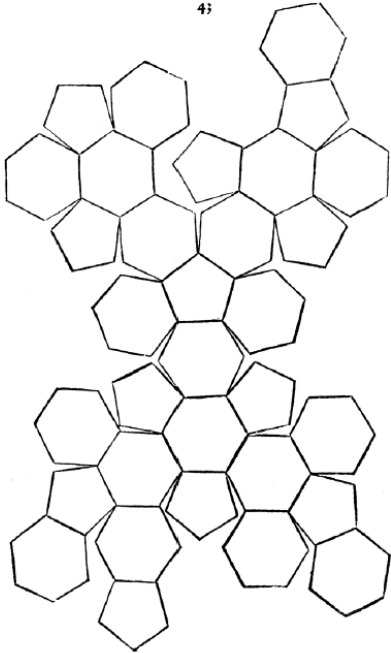


Note: We say nothing about overlapping, which is the other (and quite difficult) problem.

- In *Underweysung der Messung* (Albrecht Dürer, 1525), Dürer described many solids by their developments;

*In andro das mach auß zweynig sechszeter flachen seiden/ gleichfölig vnd windlich/ so man darsu thut dreyßig fünffzeter flacher seider/ so die gleichfölig gegen den sechszeter flachen sind/ vnd in iren selbs auch gleich windlich vnd ebenlich an eynder geschnitten/ da vnter ich das offen im ymo henschach hat außzueiffen/ So man dann das alles zusamen seht/ so wirt ein corpus daraus/ das geuinet drey vnd sechzig eck/ vnd nechtzig schneffer seiten/ die Corpus rüret in einer helen kugel mit allen seiten an.*

43



He conjectured the following?

**Big open problem:**

Any convex polyhedron has an edge development, i.e.,

- **Connected**
- **Non-overlapping**

## Open problem:

Any convex polyhedron has an edge unfolding.

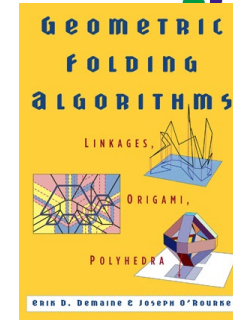
Related results (I don't talk anymore today);

- Counterexample when you consider non-convex ones (any edge development causes overlapping)
- We have algorithms if you allow general unfolding (cut along all shortest paths from one point to all vertices)
- Experimentally, random edge unfolding of a random convex polyhedron causes overlapping with probability almost 1.

**Summary:** We have few knowledge about development

## Target of this research:

- Given a polygon  $P$ , determine convex polyhedra  $Q$  that can be folded from  $P$ , and vice versa. (mathematical/computational/...)



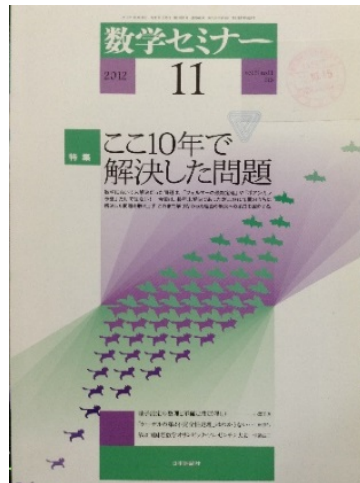


# Common developments of boxes

- Common developments that can fold to 2 different boxes.
- Common developments that can fold to 3 different boxes...

... and open problems

You can find articles in a monthly magazine in Japan...



My result is used in main trick in a mystery (?) novel!



# Common developments of boxes



## References:

- Dawei Xu, Takashi Horiyama, Toshihiro Shirakawa, Ryuhei Uehara: Common Developments of Three Incongruent Boxes of Area 30, *COMPUTATIONAL GEOMETRY: Theory and Applications*, Vol. 64, pp. 1-17, August 2017.
- Toshihiro Shirakawa and Ryuhei Uehara: Common Developments of Three Incongruent Orthogonal Boxes, *International Journal of Computational Geometry and Applications*, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 65-71, 2013.
- Zachary Abel, Erik Demaine, Martin Demaine, Hiroaki Matsui, Guenter Rote and Ryuhei Uehara: Common Developments of Several Different Orthogonal Boxes, *Canadian Conference on Computational Geometry (CCCG' 11)*, pp. 77-82, 2011/8/10-12, Toronto, Canada.
- Jun Mitani and Ryuhei Uehara: Polygons Folding to Plural Incongruent Orthogonal Boxes, *Canadian Conference on Computational Geometry (CCCG 2008)*, pp. 39-42, 2008/8/13.

...and some developments:

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/~uehara/etc/origami/nets/index-e.html>

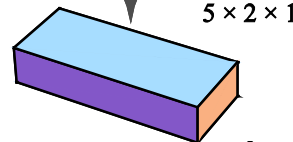
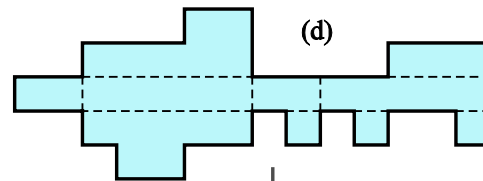
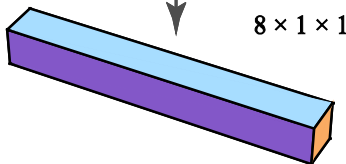
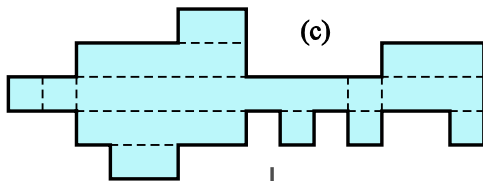
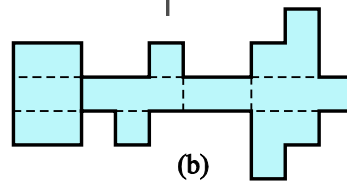
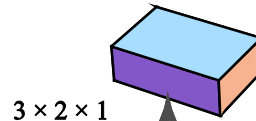
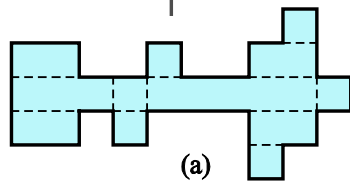
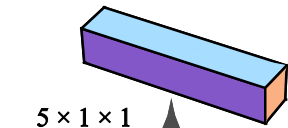
# When I was translating



...

There are two polygons that can fold to

two different boxes;



- Are they “exceptional?”
- Polygons that fold to 3 or more boxes?

Biedl : I guess you cannot fold 3 boxes by one polygon...

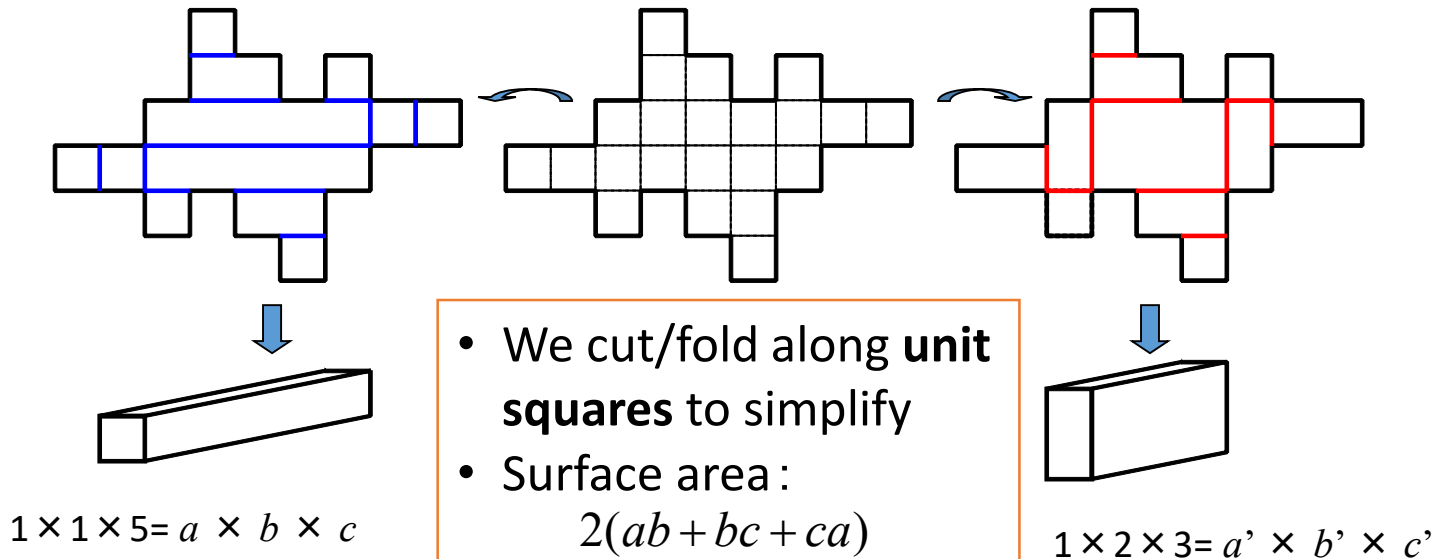


[Biedl, Chan, Demaine, Demaine, Lubiw, Munro, Shallit, 1999]

# Before computation...

Example  
 $1 \times 1 + 1 \times 5 + 1 \times 5 = 1 \times 2 + 2 \times 3 + 1 \times 3 = 11$  (Area: 22)

When a polygon can fold to 2 different boxes,



$$ab + bc + ca = a'b' + b'c' + c'a'$$

Good areas have many 3-tuples

# Precomputation: Surface areas and possible size of boxes

If you want to find common developments of three boxes,

If you want to find common developments of four boxes,

| Area      | 3-tuples        | Area | 3-tuples  |
|-----------|-----------------|------|---|
| <b>22</b> | (1,1,5),(1,2,3) | 46   | (1,1,11),(1,2,7),(1,3,5)                                |
| 30        | (1,1,7),(1,3,3) | 70   | (1,1,17),(1,2,11),(1,3,8),(1,5,5)                       |
| <b>34</b> | (1,1,8),(1,2,5) | 94   | (1,1,23),(1,2,15),(1,3,11),<br>(1,5,7),(3,4,5)          |
| 38        | (1,1,9),(1,3,4) | 118  | (1,1,29),(1,2,19),(1,3,14),<br>(1,4,11),(1,5,9),(2,5,7) |

Known results

# Polygons that fold to 2 boxes

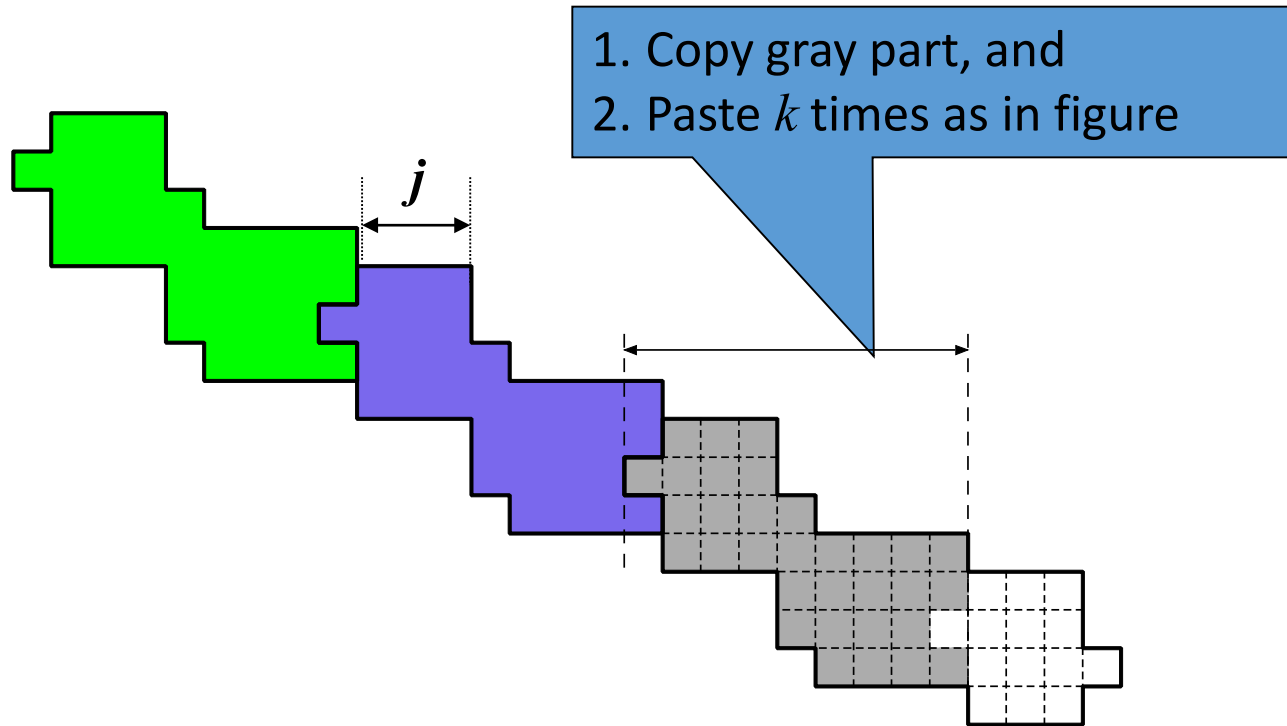
In [Uehara, Mitani 2008], I ran a randomized algorithm that unfolds many target boxes of several sizes (infinitely :-)

- That fold to 2 boxes;
  1. There are **pretty many** ( $\sim 9000$ )  
(by Supercomputer SGI Altix 4700)
  2. Theoretically,  
there are **infinitely** many!
- To 3 boxes...?



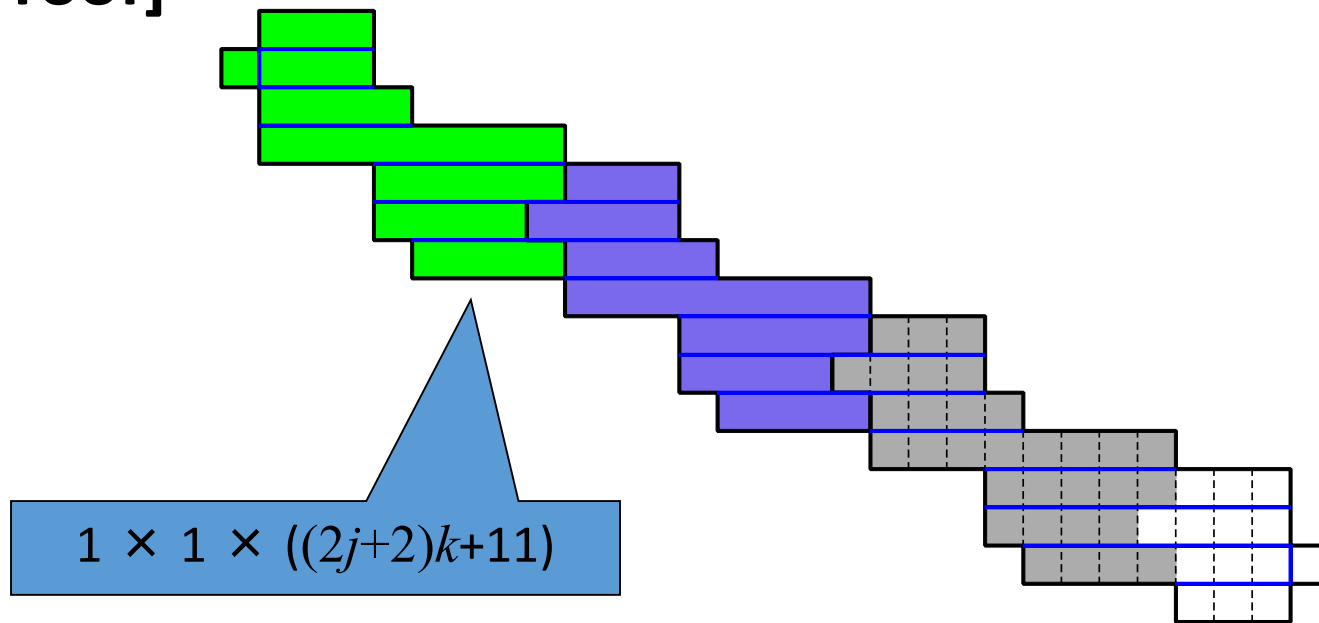
[Theorem] There are infinitely many common developments of 2 boxes.

[Proof]



[Theorem] There are infinitely many common developments of 2 boxes.

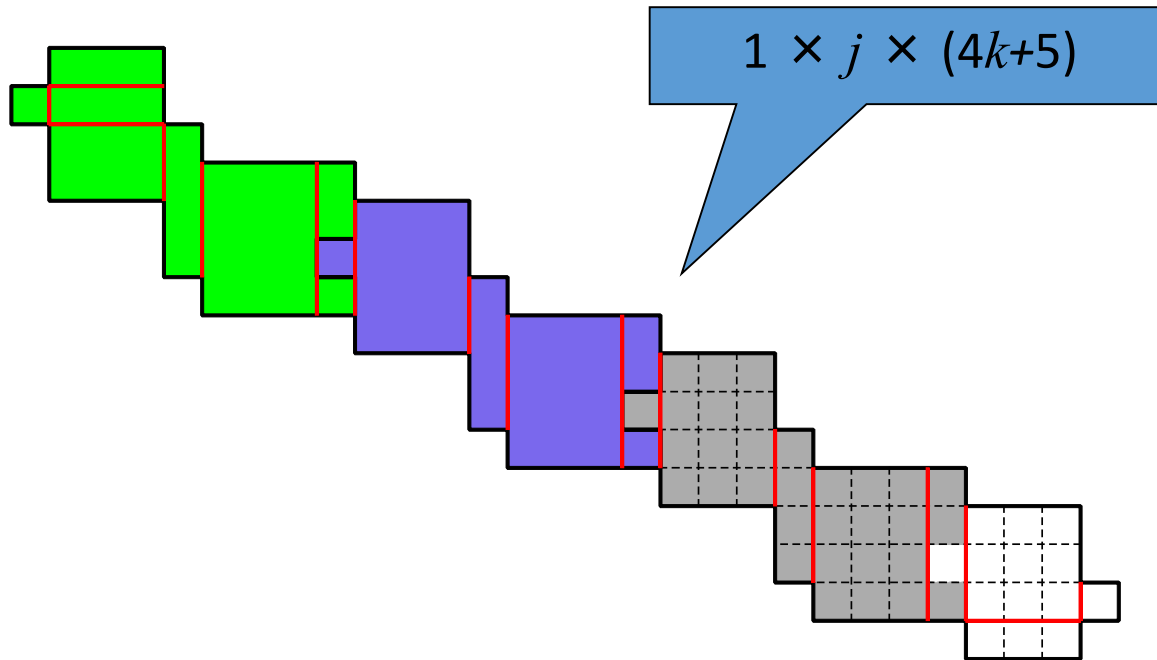
[Proof]





[Theorem] There are infinitely many common developments of 2 boxes.

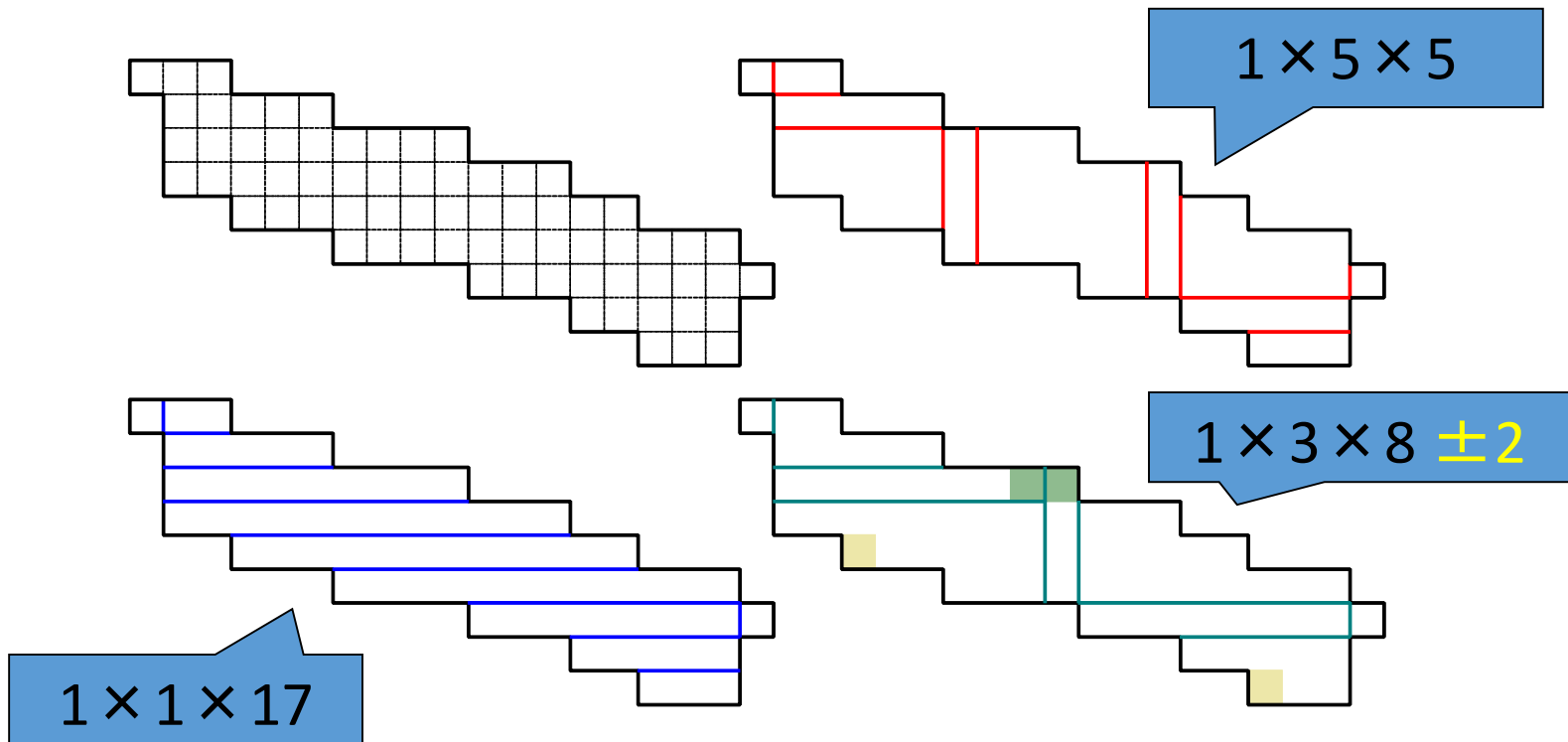
[Proof]



# Common development of 3 boxes?

Is there a common development of 3 boxes?

- Pretty close solution among 2 box solutions of area 46:





# Challenge to common development of 3 boxes



In [Abel, Demaine, Demaine, Matsui, Rote, Uehara 2011]

- The number of common developments of area 22 that fold into two boxes of size  $1 \times 1 \times 5$  and  $1 \times 2 \times 3$  is **2263** in total.

Program in 2011: It ran around **10 hours** on a desktop PC.

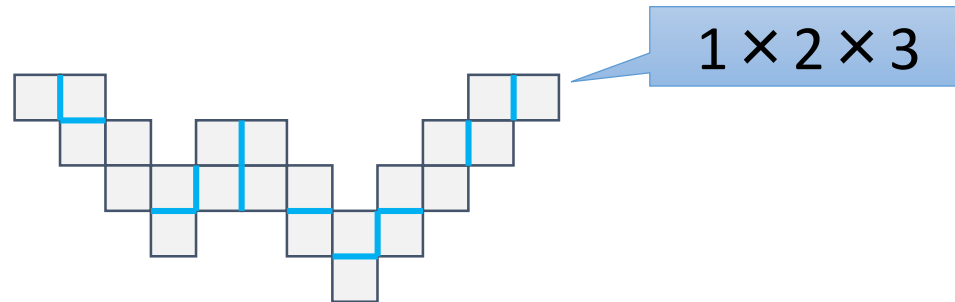
- Among these 2263 common developments, there is only one **pear** development...

In [Abel, Demaine, Demaine, Matsui, Rote, Uehara 2011]

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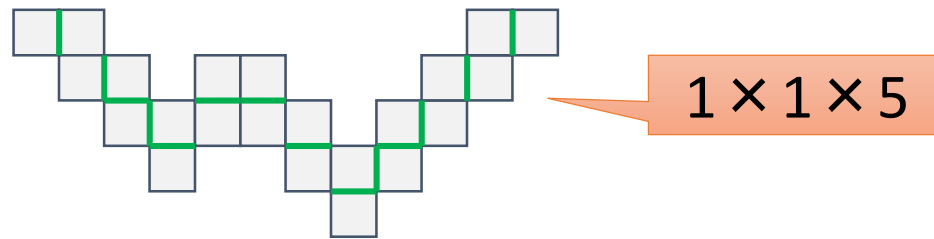


In [Abel, Demaine, Demaine, Matsui, Rote, Uehara 2011]

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Program in 2011: It ran around **10 hours** on a desktop PC.

- Among these 2263 common developments, there is only one **pear** development...

Is it cheating using "box" of volume 0?

Each column has 2 squares, so we can fold it vertically

If you don't like  $1/2$ , you can refine each square ( $\square$ ) into 4 squares ( $\boxplus$ )

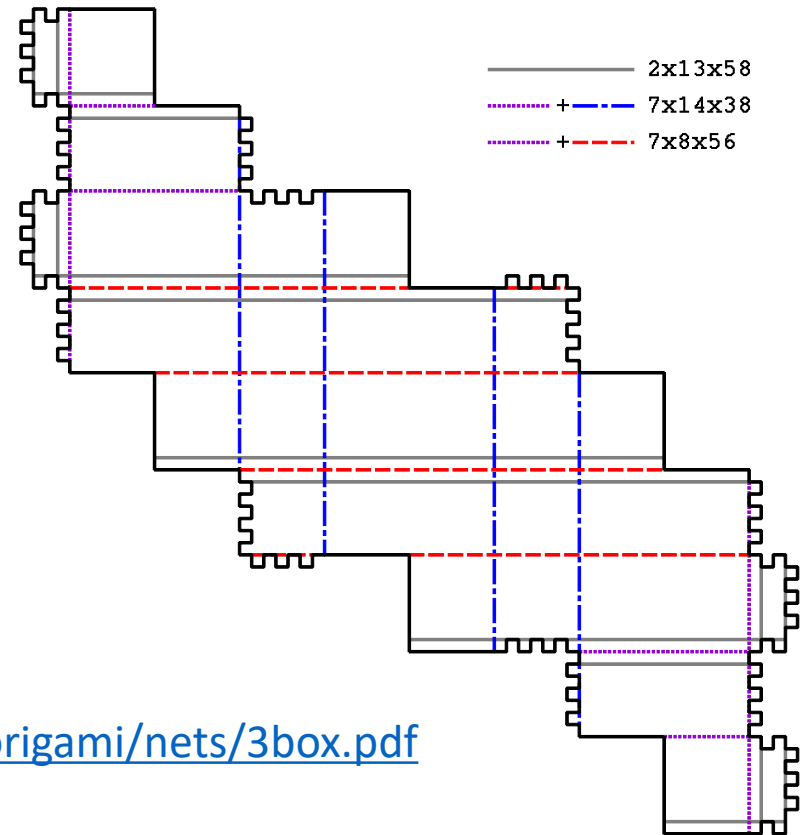
$1 \times 11 \times 0$



# Finally: Common developmet of 3 boxes (1)

- February 2012, Shirakawa and Uehara finally found a common development of 3 boxes!!

[Basic idea] We fold one more box from a common development of 2 boxes in somehow....

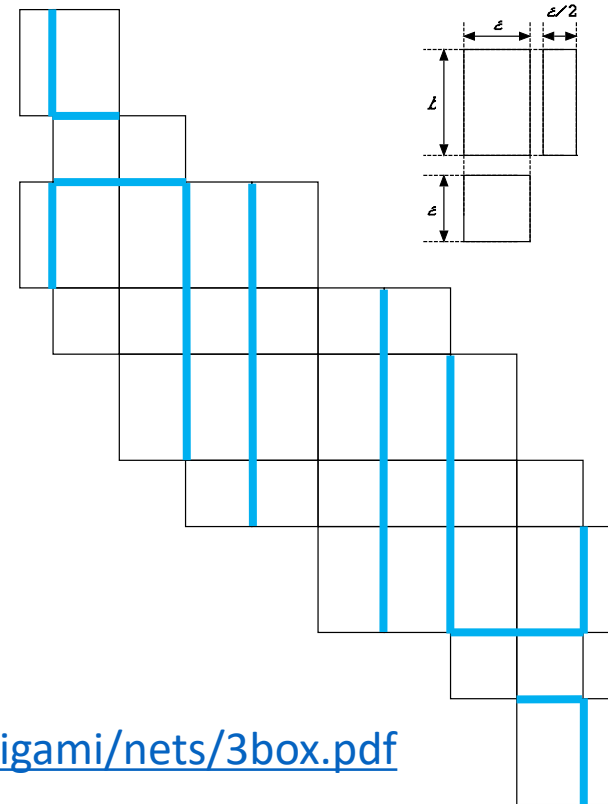


You can find this pattern at

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/~uehara/etc/origami/nets/3box.pdf>

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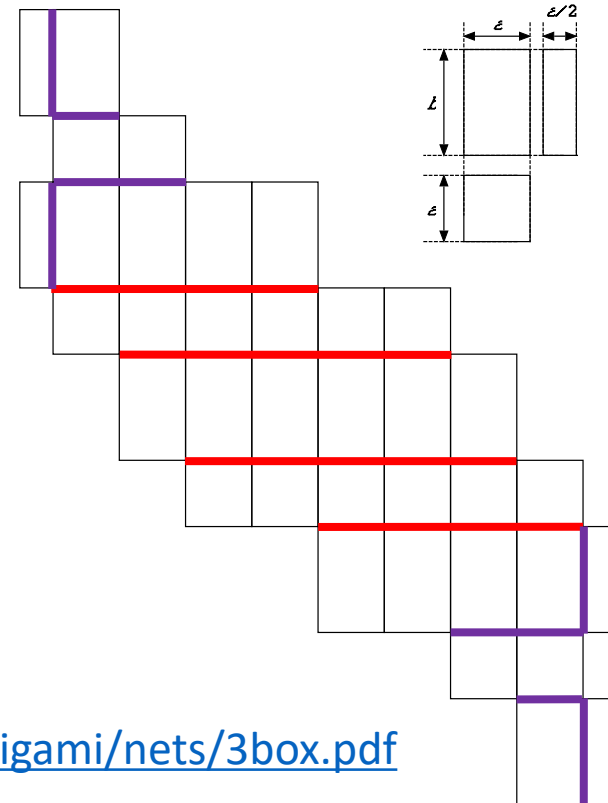
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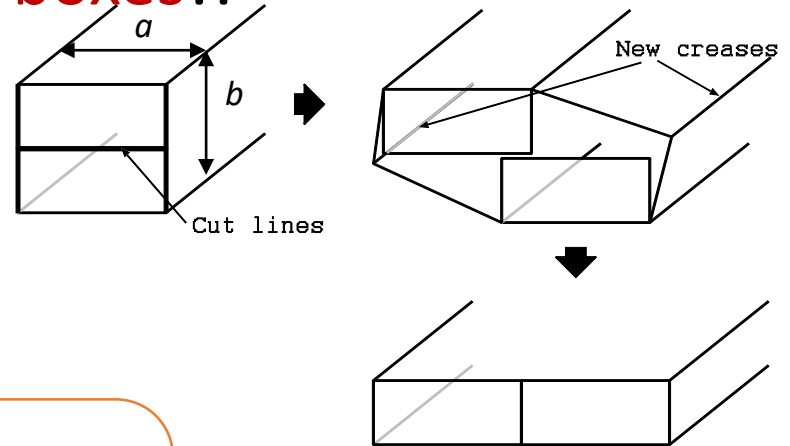
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[Basic idea] We fold one more box from a common development of 2 boxes in somehow....



[No!!!]

The idea works only when  $a=2b$ , which allow to translate from a rectangle of size  $1 \times 2$  to a rectangle of size  $2 \times 1$ .

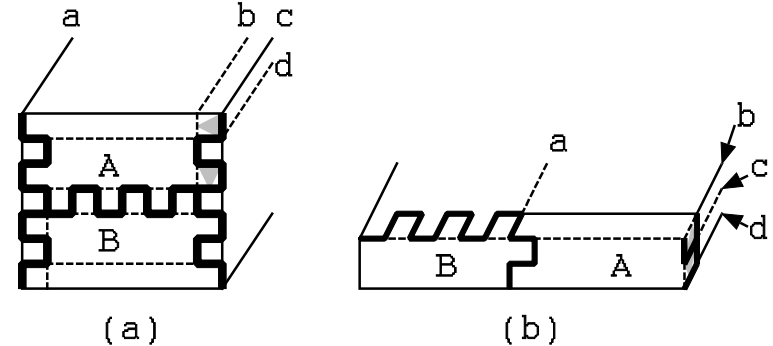
We may *squash* the box like this way?

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/~uehara/etc/origami/nets/3box.pdf>

# Finally: Common development of 3 boxes (1)

- February 2012, Shirakawa and Uehara finally found a common development of 3 boxes!!

[Basic idea] We fold one more box from a common development of 2 boxes in somehow....



[Yes!!]

If we use a **neat pattern!**

You can find this pattern at

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/~uehara/etc/origami/nets/3box.pdf>

We may *squash* the box like this way?

# Finally: Common development of 3 boxes (1)

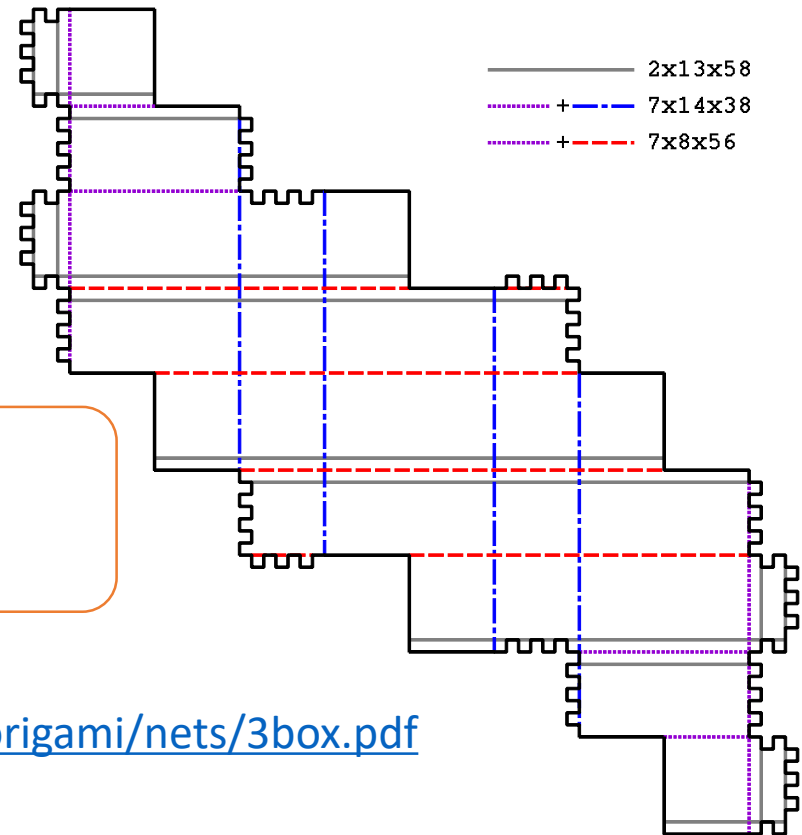
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[Yes!!]  
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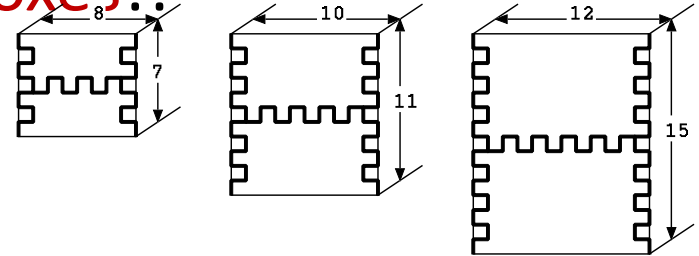
You can find this pattern at

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# Finally: Common development of 3 boxes (1)

- February 2012, Shirakawa and Uehara finally found a common development of 3 boxes!!



[Basic idea] We fold one more box from a common development of 2 boxes in somehow....

[Theorem]

There are infinitely many polygons that fold to three different boxes.

[Generalization]

- The base box has edges of flexible lengths.
- Zig-zag pattern can be generalized.

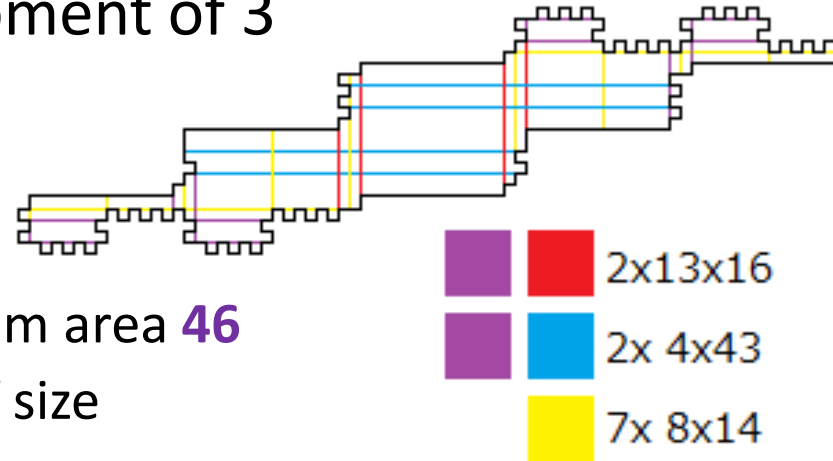
You can find this pattern at

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/~uehara/etc/origami/nets/3box.pdf>

# Future work in those days

- The smallest common development of 3 boxes?

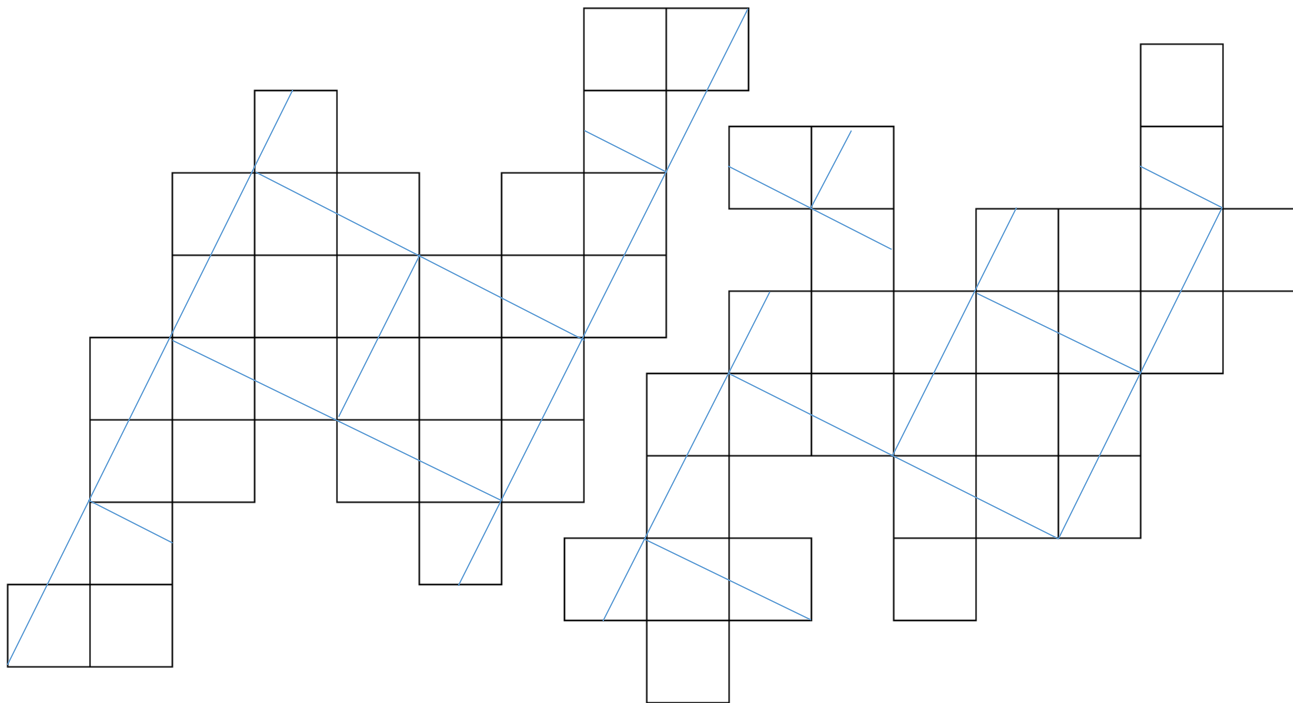
Using the idea, we obtain smallest one with **532 unit squares**, which is quite larger than the minimum area **46** that **may** allow us to fold 3 boxes of size  $1 \times 1 \times 11$ ,  $1 \times 2 \times 7$ ,  $1 \times 3 \times 5$ .



(Note: There are 2263 common developments of area **22** of two boxes of size  $1 \times 1 \times 5$  and  $1 \times 2 \times 3$ .)

Are there common developments of 4 or more boxes?  
(Is there any upper bound of this number?)

“I found polygons of area 30 that fold to 2 boxes of size  $1 \times 1 \times 7$  and  $\sqrt{5} \times \sqrt{5} \times \sqrt{5}$ . This area allows to fold of size  $1 \times 3 \times 3$ , it may be the smallest area of three boxes if you allow to fold along diagonal.”



# Surface areas and possible size of boxes

If you want to find common developments of three boxes,

If you want to find common developments of four boxes,

| Area      | 3-tuples             | Area | 3-tuples  |
|-----------|----------------------|------|---|
| <b>22</b> | (1, 1, 5), (1, 2, 3) | 46   | (1, 1, 11), (1, 2, 7), (1, 3, 5)                            |
| 30        | (1, 1, 7), (1, 3, 3) | 70   | (1, 1, 17), (1, 2, 11), (1, 3, 8), (1, 5, 5)                |
| <b>34</b> | (1, 1, 8), (1, 2, 5) | 94   | (1, 1, 23), (1, 2, 15), (1, 3, 11),<br>(1, 5, 7), (3, 4, 5) |
| 38        | (1, 1, 9), (1, 3, 4) | 110  | (1, 4, 10), (2, 5, 7)                                       |

Known results

Area 30 was on the edge...

In 2011, Matsui's program based on **exponential time** algorithm

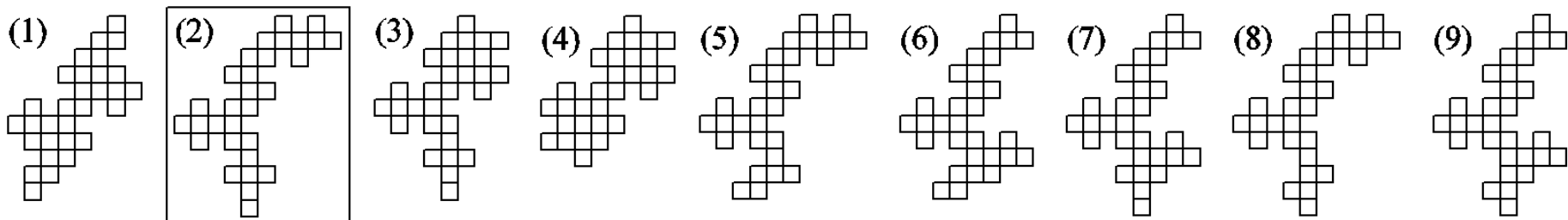
- enumerated all developments of **area 22**
  - there are 2263 development of boxes of size  $1 \times 1 \times 5$  and  $1 \times 2 \times 3$
- ran in **10 hours** on his desktop PC



# My student, Dawei, succeeded! on June, 2014, for his master thesis on September ;-)

- We completed enumeration of developments of **area 30!** [Xu, Horiyama, Shirakawa, Uehara 2015]
- Summary:
  - It took **2 months** by Supercomputer (Cray XC 30) in JAIST.
  - There are 1080 common developments of 2 boxes of size  $1 \times 1 \times 7$  and  $1 \times 3 \times 3$
  - Among 1080, the following 9 can fold to a cube of size  $\sqrt{5} \times \sqrt{5} \times \sqrt{5}$ .

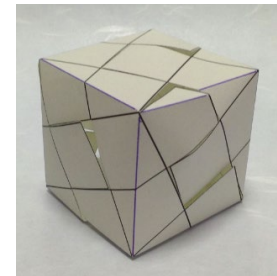
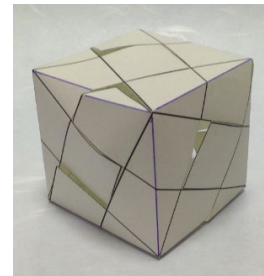
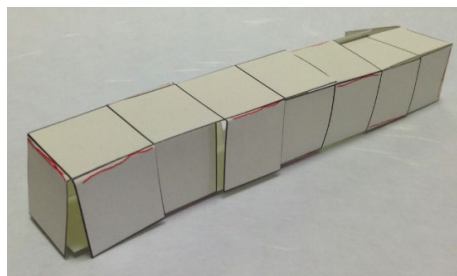
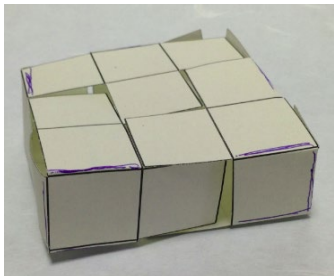
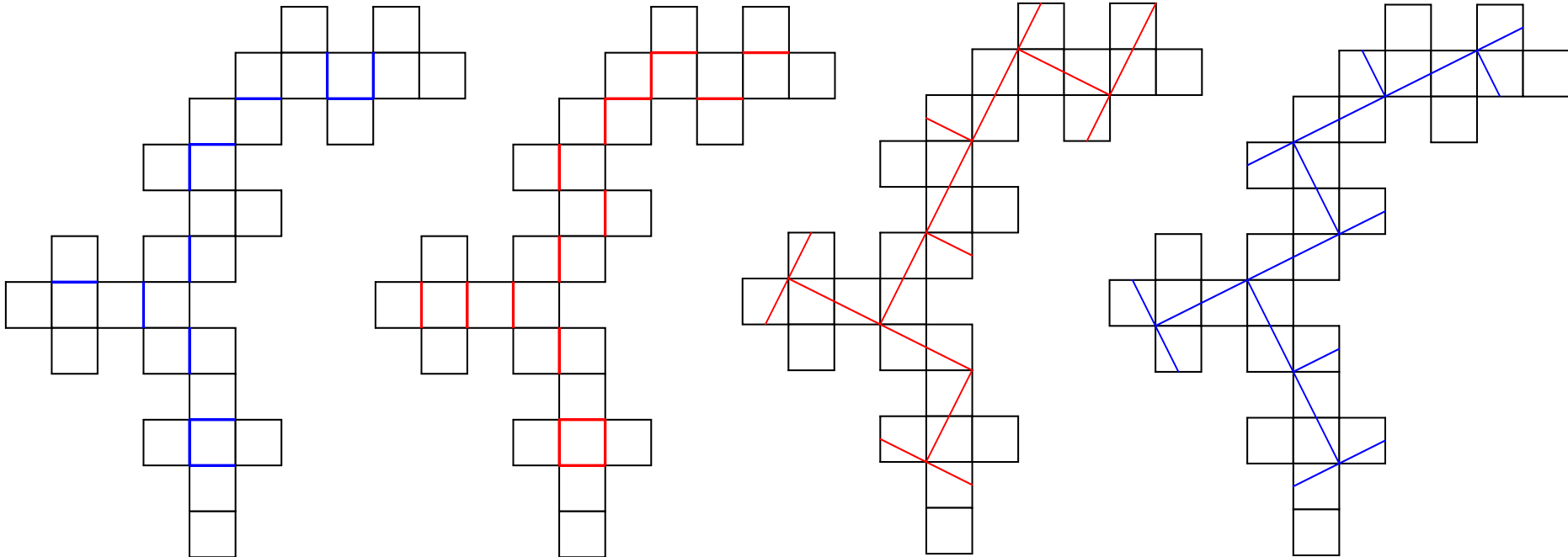
Note: Using **BDD**, the running time is reduced to **10 days!**



Quite surprisingly, (2) has two different ways for folding the cube!!

# Miracle Development

**This pattern has 4 ways of folding to box!!**

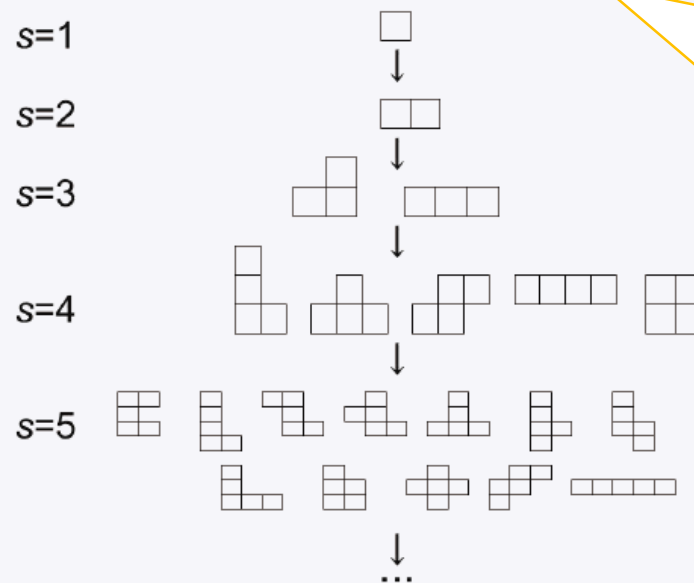


# Brief Algorithm for finding them

## The enumerate approach

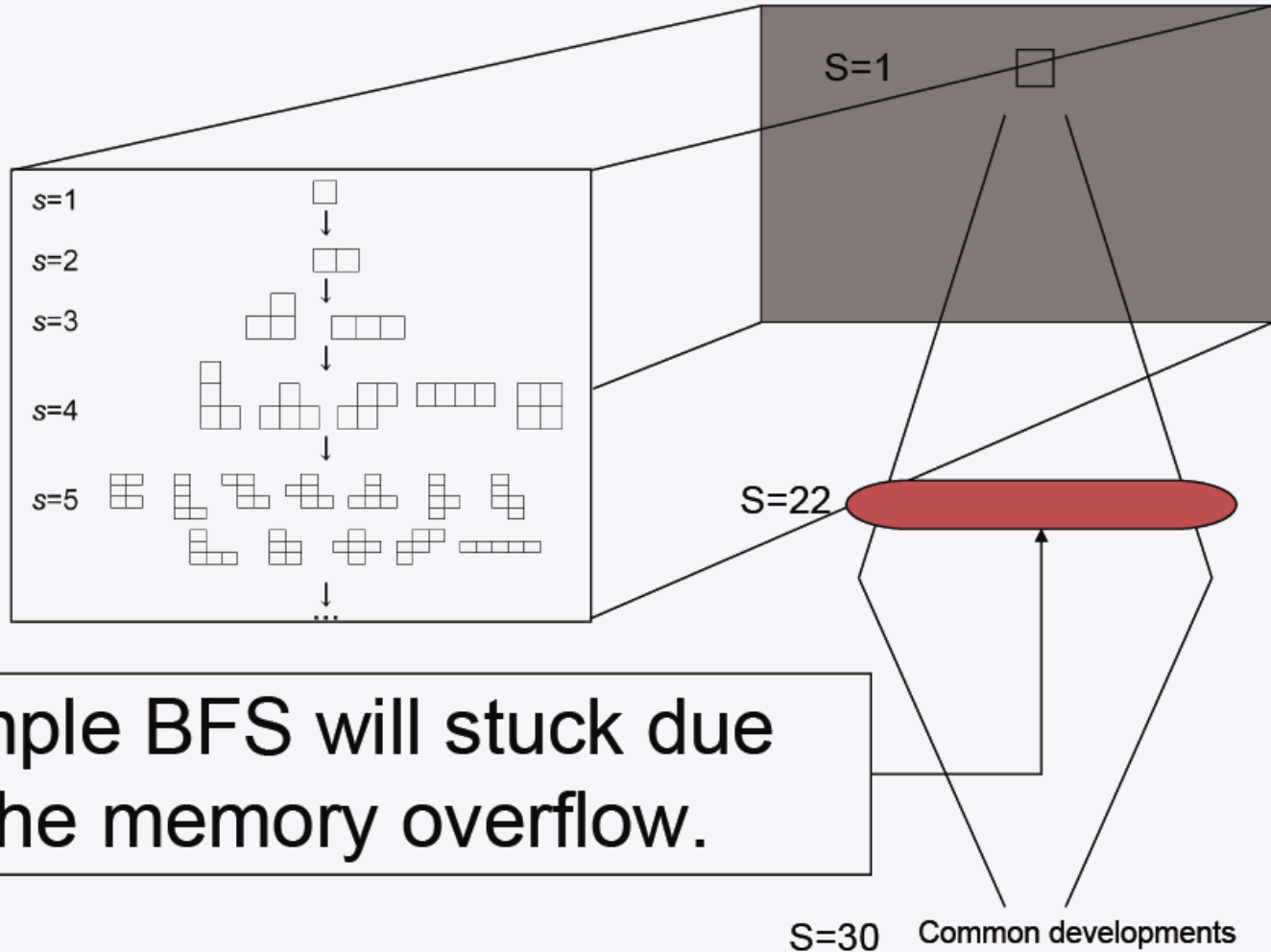


- The basic idea is similar to finding two boxes of size  $1 \times 1 \times 5$  and  $1 \times 2 \times 3$  [6].
- We start from a single 1 square, then add another square adjacent to it, and extend the set of partial developments, repeat this step, until 30 squares.



From Ph.D defense slides by Dawei on June 15, 2017

# The simple BFS gets stuck



Simple BFS will stuck due to the memory overflow.

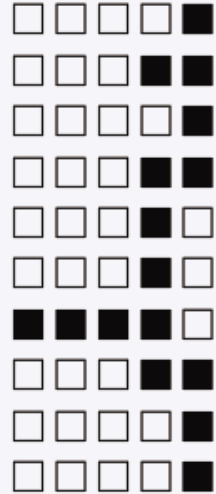
# Our solution

## Segmentation

Step 16 generated 7486799 developments,  
Divided them into 75 groups.

development<sub>0</sub>,  
development<sub>1</sub>,  
development<sub>2</sub>,

x=5 y=10

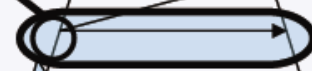


development<sub>7486798 / 75</sub>,

S=1



S=16



Parallel Computing

Merge

S=30

Common developments

# Summary and future work...

If you want to find common developments of three boxes,

If you want to find common developments of four boxes,

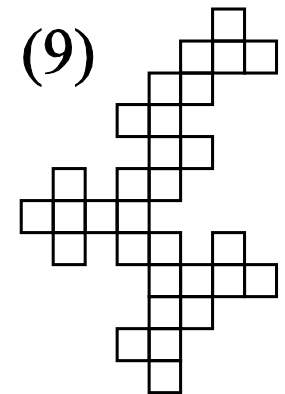
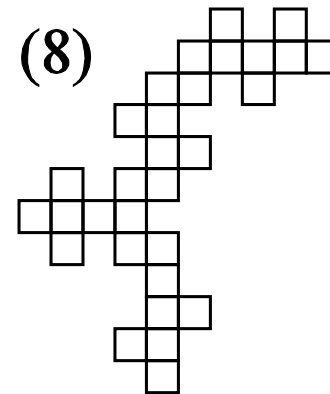
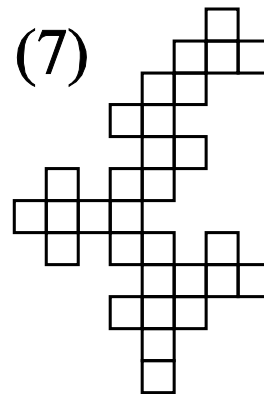
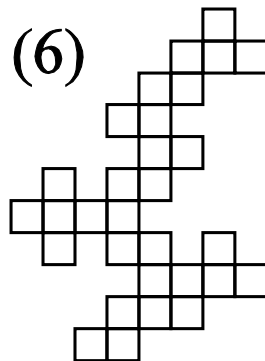
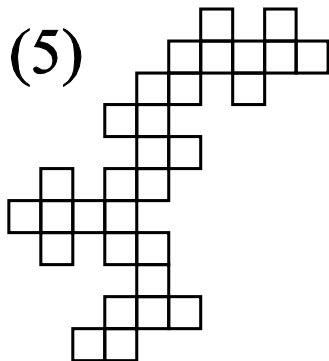
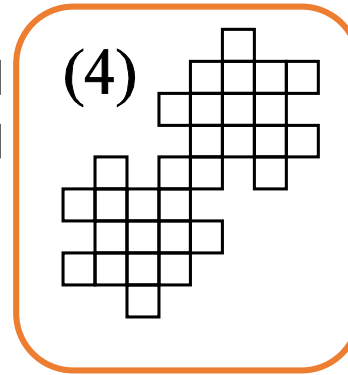
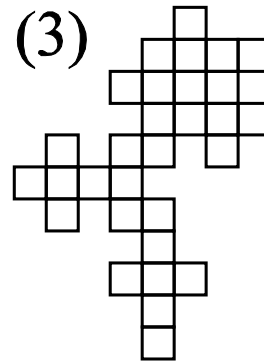
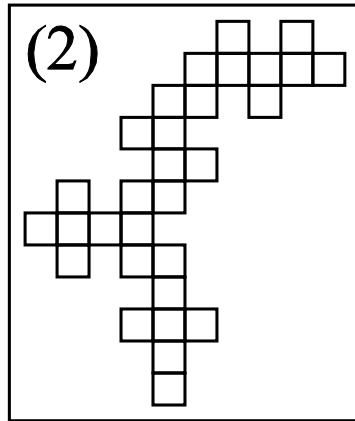
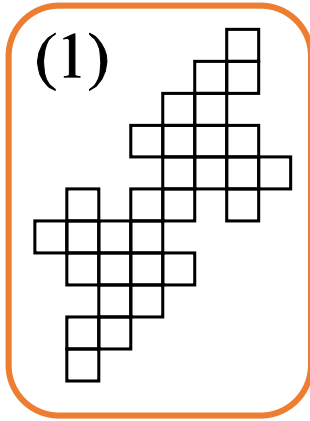
| Area      | 3-tuples             | Area | 3-tuples  |
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| <b>22</b> | (1, 1, 5), (1, 2, 3) | 46   | (1, 1, 11), (1, 2, 7), (1, 3, 5)  |
| 30        | (1, 1, 7), (1, 3, 3) | 70   | (1, 1, 17), (1, 2, 11), (1, 3, 8), (1, 5, 5)                            |
| <b>34</b> | (1, 1, 8), (1, 2, 5) | 94   | (1, 1, 23), (1, 2, 15), (1, 3, 11),<br>(1, 5, 7), (3, 4, 5)             |
| 38        | (1, 1, 9), (1, 3, 4) | 118  | (1, 1, 29), (1, 2, 19), (1, 3, 14),<br>(1, 4, 11), (1, 5, 9), (2, 5, 7) |

Known results

- In 2011, **area 22** was enumerated in **10 hours** on a desktop PC.
- In 2017, **area 30** was enumerated in **2 months** by a supercomputer, and improved to **10 days** on a desktop PC.
- It seems to be quite hard to **area 46** in this approach...

# Some progress...?

- We can try **more** on the **symmetric** ones...





# Some progress...?



- We can try **more** on the **symmetric** ones...
  1. The search space can be drastically reduced,
  2. Memory size is reduced into half, and
  3. Area can be incremented by 2.

(Quite sad) NEWS:

No common development of 3 boxes of areas **46** and **54**

- Area **46**: There are symmetric common developments of two different boxes of any pair of size  $1 \times 1 \times 11$ ,  $1 \times 2 \times 7$ , and  $1 \times 3 \times 5$ , but there are no symmetric common development of 3 of them.
- Same as for the area **54** of size  $1 \times 1 \times 13$ ,  $1 \times 3 \times 6$ , and  $3 \times 3 \times 3$ .





# Open problems



- Are there common developments of **3 boxes** of size **46** or **54**?
- Is there any common development of **4 boxes**?
- Is there any **upper bound** of **k** of the number of boxes that share a common development? It is quite unlikely that there is a common development of 10,000 different boxes,,, but who knows?

**FYI:** The number of different polyominoes is known up to area **45**. (by Shirakawa on OEIS)



# More open problems

The other variants of the following general problem:

For any **polygon P**, determine if you can fold to a **box Q** (or other **convex polyhedron**)

Known (related) results :

- General **polygon P** and **convex polyhedron Q**, there *is* a pseudo poly-time algorithm, however, ...
  - It runs in  $O(n^{456.5})$  time! (Kane, et al, 2009)
- When **Q** is a box of size  $a \times b \times c$ ,  $n$ -gon **P**, and edge-gluing is given,
  - $O((n+m)\log n)$  time algorithm
  - Parameter **m** indicates “how many line segments contained in an edge of **Q**” [Horiyama, Mizunashi 2017]
  - **Open: a,b,c are not given.**

There are many open problems, and young researchers had been solving them 😊