

Recall: packing of  $n$  squares without rotation into a square is strongly NP-complete [L2]

Edge-unfolding polyhedra: given a polyhedron, cut along edges to unfold flat without overlap

- not always possible [Biedl et al. & Bern et al. 1998]
- strongly NP-hard [Abel & Demaine 2011]  
even for orthogonal polyhedra topologically sphere

Reduction from Square Packing:

- infrastructure: polyhedron with square with tower with squares & "atoms" on side
- "pipe" is super long but can move out  
 $\Rightarrow$  squares must pack inside base of tower
- atoms are universal: can turn left/right/straight in 2D unfolding & left/right/straight on tower surface  
 $\Rightarrow$  can connect & place squares as in any (slightly perturbed) packing, then exit via pipe
- lots of details e.g. shrink squares slightly to enable perturbation

## Snake cube puzzle: AKA Cubra circa 1990

- given chain of unit cubes each with specified "turn angle" of 0 or  $90^\circ$  (elastic through centers)
- goal: fold it into larger cube (exactly)
- NP-hard  
[Abel, Demaine, Demaine, Eisenstat, Lynch, Schardl 2012]

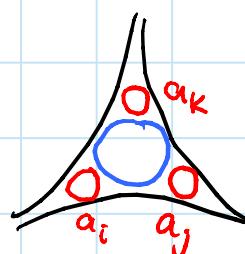
## Reduction from 3-Partition:

- infrastructure:
  - fill cube to leave  $x \times y \times z$  box
  - fill box to leave "hub & slots" shape
  - each hub is  $8 \times t \times \text{huge}$
- $a_i$  gadget:  must go in 1 hub
  - 8 to avoid coming back to same  $4 \times 4 \times 4$  voxel
- connected together by zig-zag gadget 
- zig-zag is universal:
  - $2 \times 2 \times 2$  can turn/go straight  
 $\Rightarrow$  fill Hamiltonian shapes scaled  $2 \times$
  - $2 \times 2 \times 2$  refinement makes any shape Hamilt.
  - $\Rightarrow$   $4 \times 4 \times 4$  refinement makes fillable by zig-zag
  - parity issue: snake alternates in cell parity
  - claim: can start & end at any faces of opposite parity

Disk packing: pack  $n$  given disks into given shape

- motivation: computational origami design  
(tree method — see Lang)
- strongly NP-hard [Demaine, Fekete, Lang - OSME 2010]

Reduction from 3-Partition:

- infrastructure:
  - build  $\frac{n}{3}$  symmetric pockets
  - equilateral  $\Delta$ : forced packing
  - square target: forced packing
    - + repeated subdivision with forced packings
    - + fill all other pockets by repeatedly adding maximal disks, until small enough (depth  $\approx \log n$ )
- triple gadget: (in symmetric pocket)
  - scale  $a_i$ 's &  $t$  so that  $t = 1$
  - shrink center disk by  $-\frac{1}{N}$
  - shrink  $a_i$  disk by  $-\frac{1}{N^2}$ , grow it by  $+\frac{a_i}{N}$   

  - key property: disks fit  $\Leftrightarrow a_i + a_j + a_k \leq t$   
(proof by geometry + Taylor series)

## Clickomania: [Schuessler ~2000?]

- given rectangular grid of colored squares
- move = remove connected group of  $> 1$  square of the same color
  - remaining squares fall within each column
  - empty columns disappear
- polynomial for one row or column
  - reduces to CFG parsing
- NP-hard for
  - 2 columns & 5 colors
  - 5 columns & 3 colors
  - **OPEN**: 2 rows?  
2 colors?

$S \rightarrow \Delta | SS$   
 $c_i S c_i |$   
 $c_i S c_i S c_i$

[Biedl, Demaine,  
Demaine, Fleischer,  
Jacobsen, Munro 2000]

## Reduction from 3-Partition: → necessary: encoding in unary

- left column mostly checkerboard except middle & interspersed red  $\square$ s to measure  $t$ 's
  - collapses  $\Leftrightarrow$  red  $\square$ s removed
- right column has  $a_i$  groups
  - + red squares on top
- details: spacing out groups & reds while still getting alignment

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{scaled by } B \\ &= \frac{4}{3}n \end{aligned}$$

## Tetris: [Alexey Pashitnov 1985]

- rectangular board
- tetromino blocks come one at a time
  - ↳ 4 unit squares joined edge-to-edge
- can rotate block as it falls from sky
- filled lines disappear
- stack to sky  $\Rightarrow$  die

- perfect information version:
  - know entire sequence of pieces to come
  - initial board position given
- NP-complete to [Breukelaar, Demaine, Hohenberger, Hoogeboom, Kosters, Liben-Nowell 2003]
  - survive
  - approximate # lines/Tetrises/time until death up to a factor of  $n^{1-\varepsilon}$

## Reduction from 3-Partition: → necessary: encoding in unary

- initial board =  $n/3$  buckets of "depth"  $t$
- $a_i$  encoded as ,  $(\text{I}, \text{I}, \text{I})^{a_i}$ , , 
- claim: entire gadget must go in one bucket
- finale =  $(\text{I})^{n/3}$ , ,  $(\text{O})^{\frac{5}{4}t+4}$

## OPEN:

- initially empty board
- $O(1)$  rows or columns
- restricted piece sets (e.g. )
- no last-minute slides
- 2-player: PSPACE-complete?
- online Tetris?

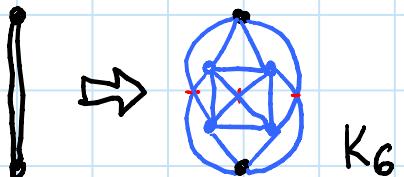
1-planarity: draw a given graph in the plane such that each edge crosses  $\leq 1$  other

[Ringel 1985]

- NP-complete [Grigoriev & Bodlaender - Alg. 2007]

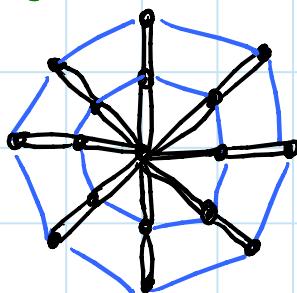
Reduction from 3-Partition:

- uncrossable edge gadget:



(denoted by thick edge)

- double wheel gadget:



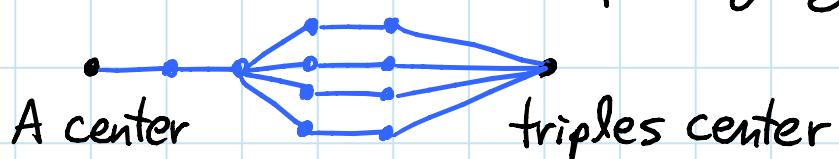
- unique embedding

- one for A

- one for triples

- separate triples with thick edges  
every  $t$  hours around triples gadget

-  $a_i$ -gadget:



GeoLoop & Ivan's hinge puzzles: piano-hinged dissection  
↳ NP-complete from 3-Partition

### Ruler folding:

- given carpenter's ruler with lengths  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$
- goal: fold to fit in 1D box of length  $L$
- weakly NP-complete [Hopcroft, Joseph, Whitesides - SIcomp 1985]
- pseudopolynomial (like 2-Partition)

### Reduction from (2-) Partition:

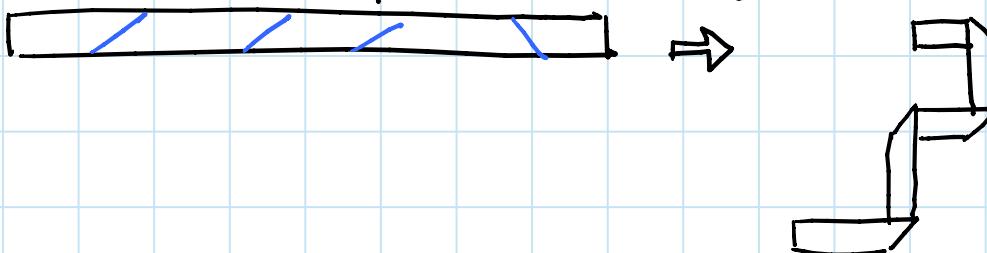
- idea: Partition solvable  $\Leftrightarrow$  can assign signs to  $a_i$ 's such that  $\sum_i \pm a_i = 0$
- folding flips sign; unfolding leaves sign  
 $\Rightarrow$  can fold ends together  $\Leftrightarrow$  Partition solvable
- construction:  $2B, B, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, B, 2B$   
 $\hookrightarrow \sum_i a_i$   
 $\Rightarrow$   $2B$ 's will be aligned & fit inside length- $2B$  box  
 $\Leftrightarrow$  can fold ends together  $\Leftrightarrow$  Partition solvable

Map folding (simple): given crease pattern, can it fold flat by sequence of simple folds?

- weakly NP-hard [Arkin, Bender, Demaine, Demaine, Mitchell, Sethia, Skiena - 2000]  
for orthogonal paper & orthogonal creases  
or square paper &  $45^\circ$ /orthog. creases

Reduction from Partition:

- similar to Ruler Folding
- 2 vertical creases check y extent against frame
- horizontal creases done before or after check
  - if ruler folded ↳
  - ↳ if not
- force square paper into orthogonal shape:



**OPEN**: strongly NP-hard?  
pseudopolynomial?

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## 6.890 Algorithmic Lower Bounds: Fun with Hardness Proofs

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