# Poster Printing using Z3

Luxue Wen\*

September, 2025

## 1 Modeling the Problem

#### 1.1 Parameters

- N\_canvas = 3: number of each canvas.
- $N_{-}poster = 12$ : number of each canvas.
- w = [5, 5, 4, 3, 7, 6, 5, 4, 6, 4, 6, 5]: width of each poster.
- h = [6, 6, 10, 11, 7, 10, 13, 10, 9, 15, 10, 10]: height of each poster.
- price = [10, 14, 13, 15, 10, 17, 21, 16, 16, 23, 19, 17]: price of each poster.
- W = [12, 12, 20]: width of each canvas.
- H = [12, 12, 20]: height of each canvas.
- cost = [30, 30, 90]: cost of each canvas.
- $minimal\_profit = 60$ : minimal profit of printing.

#### 1.2 Decision Variables

To fit posters into canvases, we introduce the following variables:

- $z_{c,p} \in \mathbb{B}$  for  $c = 1, ..., N\_canvas, p = 1, ..., N\_poster$ : the value of  $z_{c,p}$  will be true if and only if post[p] will be printed on canvas[c]
- $r_{c,p} \in \mathbb{B}$  for  $c = 1, ..., N\_canvas, p = 1, ..., N\_poster$ : the value of  $r_{c,p}$  will be true if and only if post[p] will be turned 90°
- $u_c \in \mathbb{B}$  for c = 1, ..., N\_canvas: the value of  $u_c$  will be true if and only if canvas[c] will be used
- $x_{c,p}, y_{c,p} \in \mathbb{N}$  for  $c = 1, ..., N\_canvas, p = 1, ..., N\_poster$ : the values of  $x_{c,p}$  and  $y_{c,p}$  indicate the bottom-left coordinate (x, y) of poster[p] placed in canvas[c]
- $w\_eff\_i, h\_eff\_i, w\_eff\_j, h\_eff\_j \in \mathbb{N}$ : the width and height of post[i] and post[j]
- $total\_profit \in \mathbb{N}$ : the value of total profit after printing

<sup>\*</sup>Student Number: 2271796 Email: l.wen@student.tue.nl

#### 1.3 Constraints

For post[p], it cannot be printed more than once. This is expressed by the formula

$$\sum_{i} z_{p,i} \le 1$$

Next we determine that whether post[p] fits into canvas[c]. This is expressed by the formula

$$z_{c,p} \Rightarrow \left( (\neg r_{c,p} \land x_{c,p} \ge 0 \land y_{c,p} \ge 0 \land x_{c,p} + w[p] \le W[c] \land y_{c,p} + h[p] \le H[c] \land w[p] \le W[c] \land h[p] \le H[c] \right)$$

$$\lor (r_{c,p} \land x_{c,p} \ge 0 \land y_{c,p} \ge 0 \land x_{c,p} + w[p] \le W[c] \land y_{c,p} + h[p] \le H[c]) \land h[p] \le W[c] \land w[p] \le H[c] \right)$$

Additionally, every two posters post[i] and post[j] should have no overlap. This is expressed by the formula

$$(z_{c,i} \land z_{c,j}) \Rightarrow \Big( (x_{c,i} + w_e f f_i \le x_{c,j}) \lor (x_{c,j} + w_e f f_j \le x_{c,i})$$
$$\lor (y_{c,i} + h_e f f_i \le y_{c,j}) \lor (y_{c,j} + h_e f f_j \le y_{c,i}) \Big)$$

Then, we associate canvase[c] and poster[p]. This is expressed by the formula

$$z_{c,p} \Rightarrow u_c$$

Finally, we set the minimal profit. This is expressed by the formula

$$total\_profit \ge mininal\_profit$$

#### 1.4 Calculation Function

The calculation function of  $w_-eff_-i$ ,  $h_-eff_-i$ ,  $w_-eff_-j$ ,  $h_-eff_-j$  is expressed by the formula

$$w\_eff\_i = \begin{cases} h_i, & \text{if } r_{c,i} = 1 \\ w_i, & \text{if } r_{c,i} = 0 \end{cases} h\_eff\_i = \begin{cases} w_i, & \text{if } r_{c,i} = 1 \\ h_i, & \text{if } r_{c,i} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$w = f f_{-j} = \begin{cases} h_j, & \text{if } r_{c,j} = 1 \\ w_i, & \text{if } r_{c,j} = 0 \end{cases} h_{-e} f f_{-j} = \begin{cases} w_j, & \text{if } r_{c,j} = 1 \\ h_i, & \text{if } r_{c,j} = 0 \end{cases}$$

The calculation function of total\_profit is expressed by the formula

$$\sum_{\substack{c=1,\ldots,N_{\text{canvas}}\\p=1,\ldots,N_{\text{poster}}\\r_c-\text{true}}} price_p - \sum_{\substack{c=1,\ldots,N_{\text{canvas}}\\u_c=\text{true}}} cost_c$$

## 2 Solver Implementation using Z3

- In part (a), a solver instance s using s = Solver() is used to store and solve the constraints).
- In part (b), an optimization solver instance using s = Optimize() is used to store constrains and handle objective functions to maximize variables.
- Constraints mentioned in 1.3 are added to the solver using s.add().
- The satisfiability of the constraints is checked by calling s.check().
- The specific values of the variables can be checked by calling s.model().evaluate

### 3 Results Part

### 3.1 posters Assignments with three canvases

Table 1: posters Assignments with three canvases for Part (a)

|        |    |    |    |    |    |       | p5 p6 p7 p8 p9 p1 |    |    |    |     |     |                |          |        |  |  |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|-------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|----------------|----------|--------|--|--|
| canvas | p0 | p1 | p2 | p3 | p4 | $p_5$ | p6                | p7 | p8 | p9 | p10 | p11 | price          | $\cos t$ | profit |  |  |
| 0      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0     | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0              | 0        |        |  |  |
| 1      | 10 | 14 | 0  | 15 | 0  | 0     | 0                 | 16 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 55             | 30       |        |  |  |
| 2      | 0  | 0  | 13 | 0  | 0  | 17    | 21                | 0  | 16 | 23 | 19  | 17  | 0<br>55<br>126 | 90       |        |  |  |
| Total  |    |    |    |    |    |       |                   |    |    |    |     |     | 181            | 120      | 61     |  |  |

It is possible to obtain profit at least 60.

## 3.2 posters Assignments with two small canvases

Table 2: posters Assignments with three canvases for Part (a)

| canvas | p0 | p1 | p2 | р3 | p4 | p5 | p6 | p7 | p8 | p9 | p10 | p11 | price    | cost | profit |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----------|------|--------|
| 0      | 10 | 14 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 19<br>48 | 43   | 30     |
| 1      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 15 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 16 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 17  | 48       | 30   |        |
| Total  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     | 91       | 60   | 31     |

The highest profit created by the two small canvases is 31.

#### 3.3 Solver Performance and Optimization Results

- In Part (a), the run time is around 900ms.
- In Part (a), the run time is 2s.