

Difficulty: 3/4 Interest: 3/4

Consider polyominoes where each cell has one of n colors, and each distinct pair of colors is adjacent (horizontally or vertically) to each other somewhere in the polyomino. Let an n -minimum polyomino be one that has the minimum number of cells.

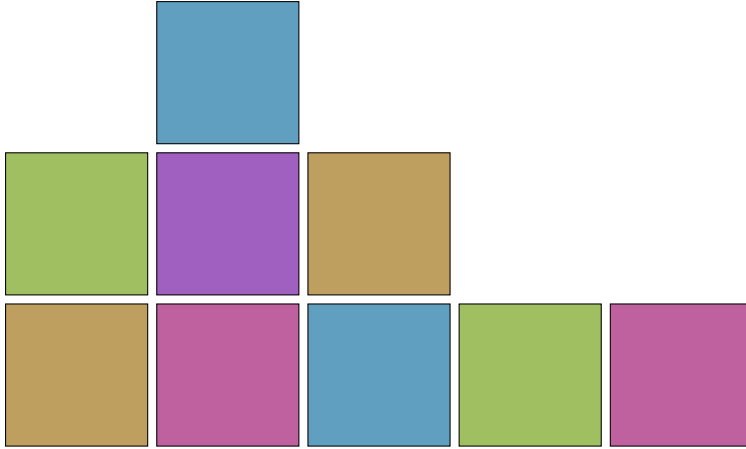


Figure 1: An example of a minimum polyomino for $n = 5$; $a(5) = 9$

Question. How many such n -minimum polyominoes exist?

Related.

1. What if the “distinct” restriction is lifted? (e.g. a blue label must somewhere be adjacent to another blue label.)
2. What is a way to determine the size of an n -minimum polyomino for large n ?
3. What if this is done on a triangular or hexagonal grid?
4. What if this is done on a three dimensional cube lattice?

References.

<https://oeis.org/A278299>