

## Interface Specification for Mixed Palletizing Competition



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Logistics Group**

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## Document History

| Version | Date      | Author             | Modification |
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| 01      | 2/16/2010 | Dr. Christian Wurl | Creation     |
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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Objective

This documentation is describing the hardware and software setup of the Mixed Case Palletizing development and demonstration cell which will be finally located at the Robotics Institute of the College of Computing at GeorgiaTech.

This demonstration cell will be displayed by KUKA Systems North America on the trade fair show "NA 2010" in Cleveland, OH (April 26-29, 2010) and will then continue to the 2010 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2010) in Anchorage, Alaska (May 3-8, 2010).

At the ICRA the cell is part of the "Virtual Manufacturing Competition Challenge". All participating University teams can run their results finally on a real robot to see whether their calculations lead to a stable and dense mixed pallet. Further information about this competition can be found at <http://www.vma-competition.com>.

To provide an objective benchmark all participating teams have to calculate mixed pallets for the included "real" customer orders, which are described in Chapter 4.

## 1.2 Terms and Definitions

| Terms           | Description   |
|-----------------|---|
| Family Grouping | Specifies the grouping of all cases according to its product family.<br><br>E.g. all cases belonging into the same super market aisle shall be grouped together on one pallet.                              |
| Fragility Class | Classification of all cases according to its packaging stability  |
| KRC             | KUKA Robot Controller   |
| Order           | Palletizing Order from the WMS<br><br>The order contains a list of cases with different dimensions and quantities. The mixed palletizing software converts this order into a Packlist.                      |
| Packlist        | List of pallet pattern describing the stacking of one or more mixed pallets.<br><br>For each pallet the list contains the case sequence, the 3D positions on the pallet and collision-free approach points. |
| Ranking         | Grouping of cases according to its fragility class.<br><br>In order to achieve a stable pallet, the most stable cases should be located on the bottom and the most instable cases on the top of the pallet. |
| SKU             | Stock Keeping Unit: An individual article   |

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Tray | Card board or plastic container holding cans or bottles. A tray can either be open or shrink wrapped.   |
| WMS  | Warehouse Management System<br>Software System which is managing the inventory of the distribution center and is dispatching the work to the automation system or human workers |

## 2 System Description

### 2.1 Layout

The system layout of the mixed case palletizing cell is shown in Figure 1.

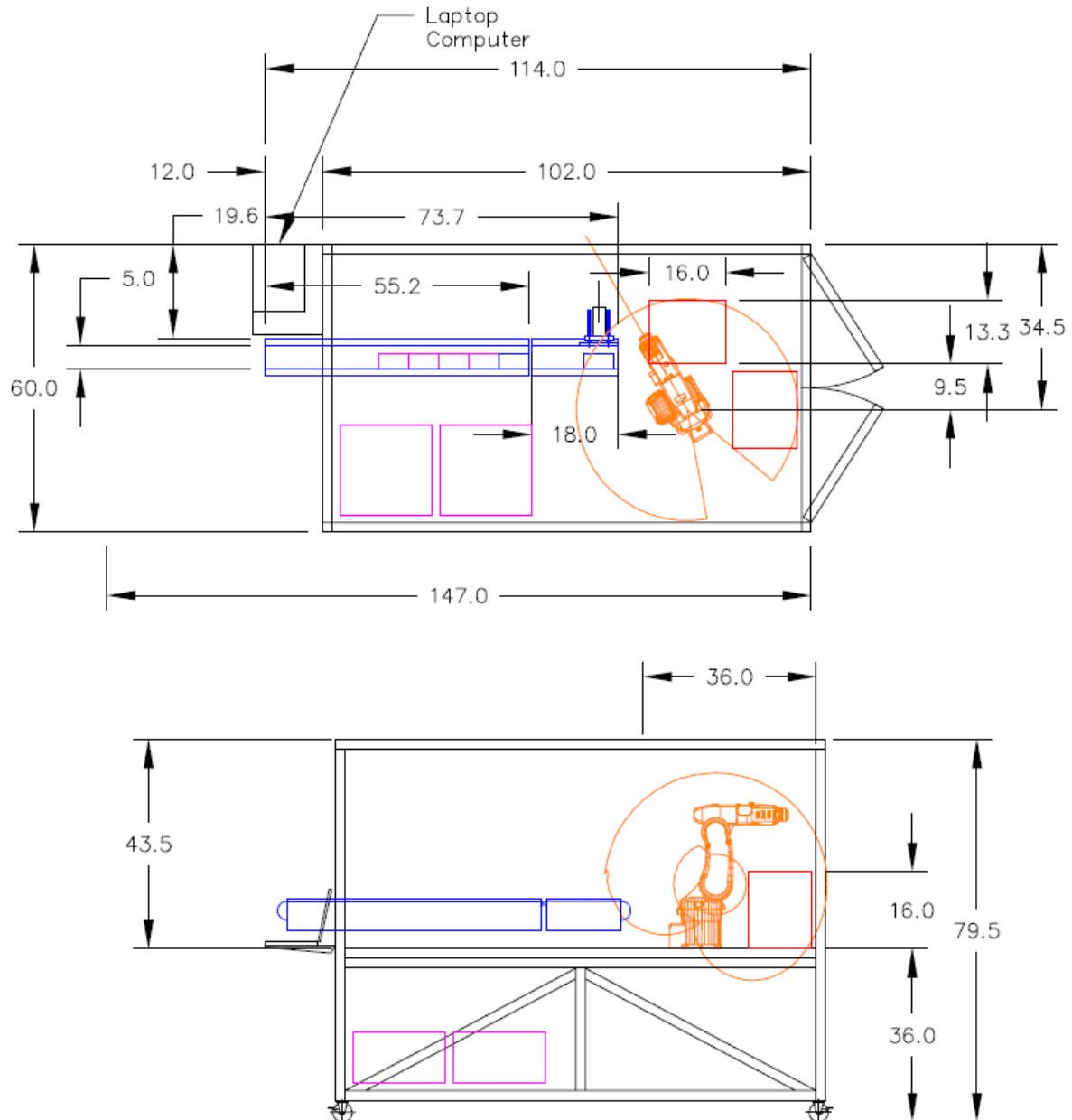


Figure 1: Layout of the Mixed Case Palletizing Cell in the top and side view.

The cell consists of a KUKA Robot KR 5Six W650 which is equipped with simple vacuum gripper. Cases are placed manually onto a conveyor at the left side of the cell. They are conveyed towards the robot and aligned to one side to ensure a known pick up position. There are two possible target pallet positions where a mixed pallet can be build.

The whole cell is surrounded by Plexiglas windows to guarantee the required safety regulations. Underneath the robot plate the robot controller is located.

Close to the case infeed position is a mounting plate for a laptop which runs the robot cell control software KUKA.PickControl. This application is able to read in the mixed pallet pattern (Packlist.xml → see Section 3.3) and displays the mixed pallet pattern in 3D and instructs the operator which case needs to be placed onto the conveyor.

The whole cell layout is a scaled down version of a real robotic cell. The used scale is 1:3. Thus a normal US pallet with a size of 48 x 40" is scaled down to 16 x 13.3" or 406 x 339mm. The maximum load height is typically 65 – 72", but due to the limited reach of the robot, the maximum height is reduced to "real" 48" or 16" or 406 mm in the reduced scale.

## 2.2 Mixed Pallets

Mixed case palletizing is basically applied in every distribution center. Depending on the customer order lines, the distribution center is shipping full pallets or custom build order pallets. Mixed order pallets can be grouped into the following four categories:

1. Rainbow pallets: Pallets containing 2 or more SKUs where each SKU is ordered in one or more layer quantities
2. Mixed layers: Pallets containing 2 or more SKUs where different SKUs can be combined into a mixed layer since the package type is the same or the cases heights are in the same range
3. Mixed pallets: Pallets containing usually 25 or more SKUs which have different package dimensions and cannot be combined into full or mixed layers
4. Hybrid pallets: Pallets containing at least two different of the first three categories.

The customer's SKU proliferation and order line characteristics is the main driving factor to which category an order pallet belongs to.

A beverage manufacturer has usually 300 – 800 different SKUs and a very steep Pareto curve (Figure 2).

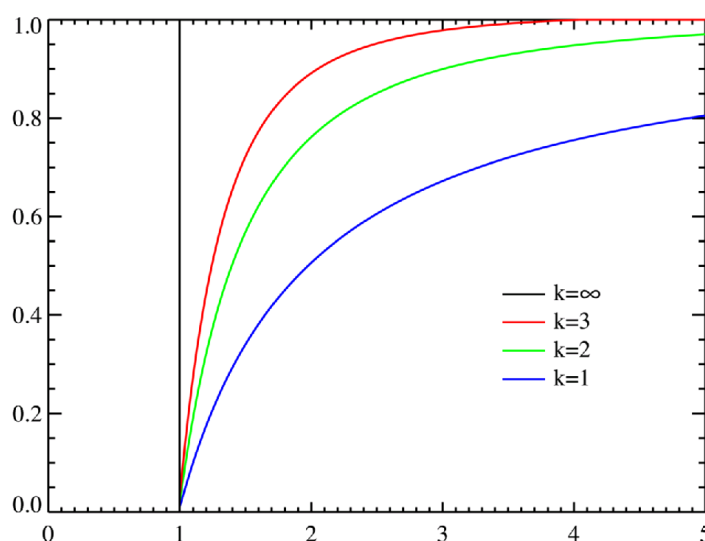


Figure 2: Pareto cumulative distribution functions for various  $\alpha$  with  $x_m = 1$ . The horizontal axis is the  $x$  parameter  
[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pareto\\_distribution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pareto_distribution)]

Usually the order volume follows the “80-20 rule”, which means that with 20% of its products the manufacturer is generating 80% of its turn over.

A food distribution center has usually 4000 – 10,000 different SKUs and a less steep Pareto curve. That means, a food distribution center has to touch more SKUs to generate e.g. 80% of its turn over.

## 2.3 Test blocks

For the mixed palletizing competition, two different sets of test blocks are available to execute the calculated mixed palletizing results of every participant. In Chapter 4, different order examples are explained in detail.

The two sets represent “real” product dimensions, which are scaled down accordingly.

### 2.3.1 Beverage Industry

The beverage block set consists of 8 different package types.

| No.     | Package Code | Package Name    | Length [mm] | Width [mm] | Height [mm] | Blocks Required |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1       | 843          | 12OZ CN 24/1CB  | 90          | 67         | 82          | 40              |
| 2       | 1261         | 12OZ CN 8/3 FM  | 89          | 43         | 41          | 60              |
| 3       | 1128         | 12OZ CN 12/2 FM | 131         | 43         | 41          | 40              |
| 4       | 1459         | 12OZ CN 18/1 FM | 131         | 66         | 41          | 24              |
| 5       | 735          | 20OZ PL 1/24S   | 159         | 106        | 75          | 16              |
| 6       | 1098         | 16.9OZ PL 24/1  | 144         | 95         | 74          | 20              |
| 7       | 810          | 1L PL BS 1/15S  | 159         | 95         | 93          | 18              |
| 8       | 455          | 2L PL 1/8S      | 161         | 80         | 110         | 20              |
| Min     |              |                 | 89          | 43         | 41          | 238             |
| Average |              |                 | 133         | 74         | 70          | Sum             |
| Max     |              |                 | 161         | 106        | 110         |                 |

### 2.3.2 Food Industry

The food block set consists of 112 different SKUs which can be grouped into 51 different package type categories.

| No. | Part # | Package Code | Length [mm] | Width [mm] | Height [mm] | Quantity |
|-----|--------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|
| 1   | 11343  | 100-70-50    | 100         | 70         | 50          | 6        |
| 2   | 11346  | 100-70-50    | 100         | 70         | 50          | 6        |
| 3   | 11350  | 100-70-50    | 100         | 70         | 50          | 6        |
| 4   | 11365  | 100-70-50    | 100         | 70         | 50          | 6        |
| 5   | 11401  | 100-70-50    | 100         | 70         | 50          | 6        |
| 6   | 12280  | 100-70-53    | 100         | 70         | 53          | 3        |
| 7   | 12282  | 100-70-53    | 100         | 70         | 53          | 3        |
| 8   | 12286  | 100-70-53    | 100         | 70         | 53          | 3        |
| 9   | 11601  | 100-70-63    | 100         | 70         | 63          | 5        |
| 10  | 11204  | 100-70-67    | 100         | 70         | 67          | 4        |
| 11  | 66022  | 100-73-50    | 100         | 73         | 50          | 3        |
| 12  | 13221  | 103-53-47    | 103         | 53         | 47          | 3        |
| 13  | 30275  | 103-53-47    | 103         | 53         | 47          | 3        |
| 14  | 30276  | 103-53-47    | 103         | 53         | 47          | 3        |
| 15  | 11620  | 103-57-47    | 103         | 57         | 47          | 8        |



|    |       |            |     |     |    |    |
|----|-------|------------|-----|-----|----|----|
| 16 | 11681 | 103-57-47  | 103 | 57  | 47 | 8  |
| 17 | 15168 | 103-70-63  | 103 | 70  | 63 | 3  |
| 18 | 15167 | 103-70-63  | 103 | 70  | 63 | 3  |
| 19 | 15180 | 103-70-63  | 103 | 70  | 63 | 3  |
| 20 | 62435 | 103-80-63  | 103 | 80  | 63 | 2  |
| 21 | 62436 | 103-80-63  | 103 | 80  | 63 | 2  |
| 22 | 13214 | 107-55-47  | 107 | 55  | 47 | 4  |
| 23 | 14101 | 107-55-47  | 107 | 55  | 47 | 4  |
| 24 | 14103 | 107-55-47  | 107 | 55  | 47 | 4  |
| 25 | 15223 | 107-55-47  | 107 | 55  | 47 | 4  |
| 26 | 15224 | 107-55-47  | 107 | 55  | 47 | 4  |
| 27 | 15226 | 107-55-47  | 107 | 55  | 47 | 4  |
| 28 | 15227 | 107-55-47  | 107 | 55  | 47 | 4  |
| 29 | 15316 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 30 | 15317 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 31 | 15325 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 32 | 15411 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 33 | 15420 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 34 | 15602 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 35 | 15626 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 36 | 16602 | 107-57-47  | 107 | 57  | 47 | 2  |
| 37 | 62439 | 110-60-43  | 110 | 60  | 43 | 2  |
| 38 | 62441 | 110-60-43  | 110 | 60  | 43 | 2  |
| 39 | 62443 | 110-60-43  | 110 | 60  | 43 | 2  |
| 40 | 62406 | 110-60-47  | 110 | 60  | 47 | 3  |
| 41 | 40022 | 110-87-70  | 110 | 87  | 70 | 9  |
| 42 | 30214 | 113-77-37  | 113 | 77  | 37 | 3  |
| 43 | 60020 | 120-80-53  | 120 | 80  | 53 | 7  |
| 44 | 60008 | 120-80-57  | 120 | 80  | 57 | 2  |
| 45 | 60021 | 120-80-57  | 120 | 80  | 57 | 2  |
| 46 | 70012 | 120-80-57  | 120 | 80  | 57 | 2  |
| 47 | 80035 | 120-80-57  | 120 | 80  | 57 | 2  |
| 48 | 30643 | 120-90-63  | 120 | 90  | 63 | 2  |
| 49 | 30644 | 120-90-63  | 120 | 90  | 63 | 2  |
| 50 | 30403 | 123-90-87  | 123 | 90  | 87 | 3  |
| 51 | 30414 | 123-90-87  | 123 | 90  | 87 | 3  |
| 52 | 30415 | 123-90-87  | 123 | 90  | 87 | 3  |
| 53 | 49572 | 123-90-87  | 123 | 90  | 87 | 3  |
| 54 | 30429 | 123-90-97  | 123 | 90  | 97 | 3  |
| 55 | 30430 | 123-90-97  | 123 | 90  | 97 | 2  |
| 56 | 30431 | 123-90-97  | 123 | 90  | 97 | 2  |
| 57 | 11644 | 127-63-67  | 127 | 63  | 67 | 4  |
| 58 | 30460 | 133-117-53 | 133 | 117 | 53 | 10 |
| 59 | 25669 | 140-103-80 | 140 | 103 | 80 | 6  |
| 60 | 25672 | 140-103-80 | 140 | 103 | 80 | 6  |
| 61 | 25673 | 140-103-80 | 140 | 103 | 80 | 6  |
| 62 | 13232 | 140-103-83 | 140 | 103 | 83 | 12 |
| 63 | 24043 | 140-107-53 | 140 | 107 | 53 | 8  |
| 64 | 11623 | 140-110-53 | 140 | 110 | 53 | 2  |
| 65 | 11252 | 140-110-57 | 140 | 110 | 57 | 2  |
| 66 | 11254 | 140-110-57 | 140 | 110 | 57 | 2  |
| 67 | 25633 | 143-100-67 | 143 | 100 | 67 | 3  |
| 68 | 25635 | 143-100-67 | 143 | 100 | 67 | 3  |

|     |       |             |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 69  | 30289 | 143-100-67  | 143 | 100 | 67  | 3   |
| 70  | 30285 | 143-100-80  | 143 | 100 | 80  | 2   |
| 71  | 30286 | 143-100-80  | 143 | 100 | 80  | 2   |
| 72  | 30287 | 143-100-80  | 143 | 100 | 80  | 2   |
| 73  | 11292 | 143-110-53  | 143 | 110 | 53  | 3   |
| 74  | 63004 | 147-80-47   | 147 | 80  | 47  | 4   |
| 75  | 63044 | 147-80-47   | 147 | 80  | 47  | 2   |
| 76  | 52060 | 147-90-70   | 147 | 90  | 70  | 2   |
| 77  | 52061 | 147-90-70   | 147 | 90  | 70  | 2   |
| 78  | 30435 | 157-113-77  | 157 | 113 | 77  | 3   |
| 79  | 51830 | 157-87-83   | 157 | 87  | 83  | 2   |
| 80  | 30419 | 160-108-100 | 160 | 108 | 100 | 3   |
| 81  | 30420 | 160-108-100 | 160 | 108 | 100 | 3   |
| 82  | 30421 | 160-108-100 | 160 | 108 | 100 | 3   |
| 83  | 30422 | 160-108-100 | 160 | 108 | 100 | 3   |
| 84  | 50005 | 160-47-40   | 160 | 47  | 40  | 5   |
| 85  | 30406 | 167-110-43  | 167 | 110 | 43  | 3   |
| 86  | 30404 | 167-110-47  | 167 | 110 | 47  | 3   |
| 87  | 30405 | 167-110-47  | 167 | 110 | 47  | 3   |
| 88  | 30407 | 167-110-47  | 167 | 110 | 47  | 3   |
| 89  | 30410 | 167-110-47  | 167 | 110 | 47  | 3   |
| 90  | 30466 | 167-117-53  | 167 | 117 | 53  | 3   |
| 91  | 30591 | 167-117-53  | 167 | 117 | 53  | 3   |
| 92  | 63047 | 180-97-47   | 180 | 97  | 47  | 3   |
| 93  | 11210 | 193-53-87   | 193 | 53  | 87  | 3   |
| 94  | 52187 | 193-93-47   | 193 | 93  | 47  | 3   |
| 95  | 11293 | 200-53-57   | 200 | 53  | 57  | 4   |
| 96  | 30398 | 223-90-47   | 223 | 90  | 47  | 2   |
| 97  | 30399 | 223-90-47   | 223 | 90  | 47  | 2   |
| 98  | 15192 | 60-40-40    | 60  | 40  | 40  | 6   |
| 99  | 63204 | 80-77-77    | 80  | 77  | 77  | 2   |
| 100 | 63208 | 80-77-77    | 80  | 77  | 77  | 2   |
| 101 | 54925 | 85-57-37    | 85  | 57  | 37  | 3   |
| 102 | 30210 | 90-67-53    | 90  | 67  | 53  | 3   |
| 103 | 25680 | 90-70-60    | 90  | 70  | 60  | 4   |
| 104 | 25681 | 90-70-60    | 90  | 70  | 60  | 4   |
| 105 | 25685 | 90-70-60    | 90  | 70  | 60  | 4   |
| 106 | 25686 | 90-70-60    | 90  | 70  | 60  | 3   |
| 107 | 15190 | 93-60-37    | 93  | 60  | 37  | 2   |
| 108 | 15191 | 93-60-37    | 93  | 60  | 37  | 2   |
| 109 | 54141 | 93-80-40    | 93  | 80  | 40  | 3   |
| 110 | 54176 | 93-80-40    | 93  | 80  | 40  | 3   |
| 111 | 54321 | 93-80-40    | 93  | 80  | 40  | 3   |
| 112 | 54581 | 93-80-40    | 93  | 80  | 40  | 3   |
| Min |       |             | 60  | 40  | 37  | 385 |
| Avg |       |             | 124 | 80  | 59  | Sum |
| Max |       |             | 223 | 117 | 100 |     |

## 3 Software Description

### 3.1 Overview

The robot control software KUKA.PickControl is able to read in the output file of the mixed palletizing software and converts this file into individual robot movements.

For a collision free pallet building it is necessary to specify additional approach points beside the final place position.

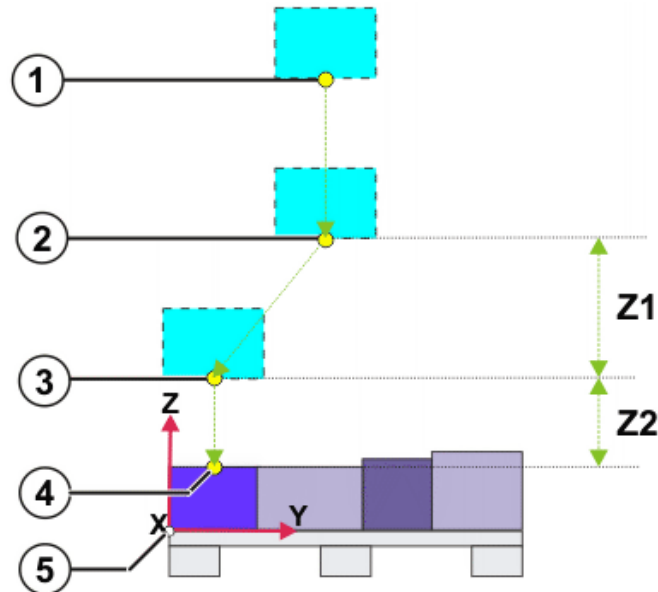
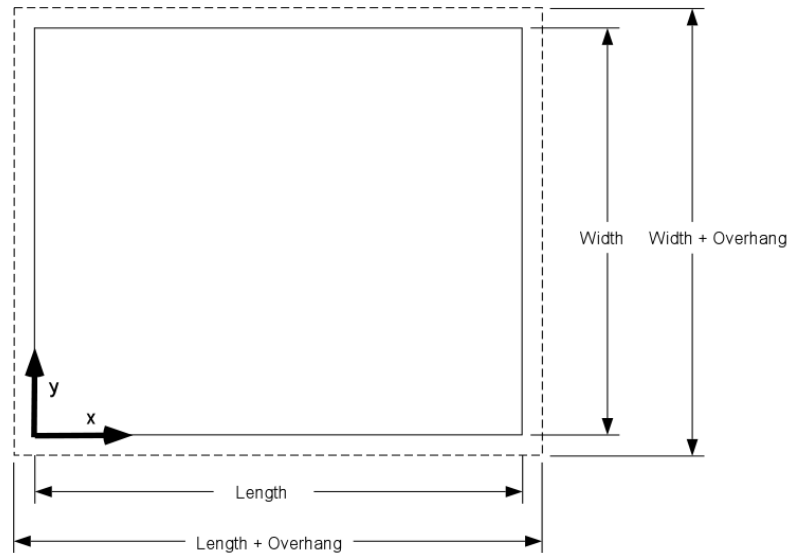


Figure 3: Definition of the approach points and coordinate system

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Approach position 1  |
| 2  | Approach position 2  |
| 3  | Approach position 3  |
| 4  | Final place position   |
| 5  | Pallet coordinate system   |
| X  | X-Axis along the long side of the pallet                           |
| Y  | Y-Axis along the short side of the pallet                          |
| Z1 | Distance between the approach point 2 and 3                        |
| Z2 | Distance between the approach point 3 and the final place position |

In Figure 4 the pallet coordinate system and a typical pallet overhang is defined. The X-Axis is usually along the longer side of the pallet.



*Figure 4: Pallet Coordinate System and Overhang definition*

## 3.2 Input File: Order File

### 3.2.1 Overview

The order.xml file contains the following data:

- Initialization parameters for the pallets: <PalletInit>...</PalletInit>
- Order data: <Order> ... </Order>
  - Order Number and definition of product grouping
  - List of all ordered articles with article parameters and corresponding barcodes

Example:

```
<Message index="1">
  <PalletInit>
    <Pallets>
      <Pallet>
        <PalletNumber>1</PalletNumber>
        <Description>Euro Pallet</Description>
        <Dimensions>
          <Length>940</Length>
          <Width>940</Width>
          <MaxLoadHeight>1700</MaxLoadHeight>
          <MaxLoadWeight>1000000</MaxLoadWeight>
        </Dimensions>
        <Overhang>
          <Length>26</Length>
          <Width>26</Width>
        </Overhang>
        <SecurityMargins>
          <Length>0</Length>
          <Width>0</Width>
        </SecurityMargins>
      </Pallet>
    </Pallets>
  </PalletInit>
  <Order>
    <ID>00011380</ID>
    <Description />
    <Restrictions>
      <FamilyGrouping>False</FamilyGrouping>
      <Ranking>False</Ranking>
    </Restrictions>
    <OrderLines>
      <OrderLine>
        <OrderLineNo>1</OrderLineNo>
        <Article>
          <ID>11</ID>
          <Description>20oz PET Singles</Description>
          <Type>1</Type>
          <Length>470</Length>
          <Width>311</Width>
          <Height>241</Height>
          <Weight>16000</Weight>
          <Family>4</Family>
        </Article>
        <Barcodes>
          <Barcode>110001</Barcode>
          <Barcode>110002</Barcode>
        </Barcodes>
      </OrderLine>
      <OrderLine>
        <OrderLineNo>2</OrderLineNo>
        ...
      </OrderLine>
    </OrderLines>
  </Order>
</Message>
```

Pallet Init: <PalletInit> ... </PalletInit>

| Parameter     | Description  |
|---------------|--|
| Pallet Number | Pallet number  |
| Description   | Name of the pallet, e.g. "Euro Pallet", CHEP Pallet, US Pallet, etc. |

Pallet dimension: <Dimensions> ... </Dimension>

| Parameter     | Description  |
|---------------|--|
| Length        | Length of the pallet in X direction in [mm]              |
| Width         | Width of the pallet in Y direction in [mm]               |
| MaxLoadHeight | Maximum load height of the pallet in Z direction in [mm] |
| MaxLoadWeight | Maximum weight of the pallet in [g]                      |

Overhang: <Overhang> ... </Overhang>

| Parameter | Description   |
|-----------|---|
| Length    | Allowed overhang along the length side in X direction in [mm] |
| Width     | Allowed overhang along the width side in Y direction in [mm]  |

SecurityMargin: <SecurityMargin> ... </SecurityMargin>

| Parameter | Description  |
|-----------|--|
| Length    | Safety distance between the cases along the length side in X direction in [mm] |
| Width     | Safety distance between the cases along the width side in Y direction in [mm]  |

Order Data: <Order> ... </Order>

| Parameter | Description     |
|-----------|-----------------|
| ID        | Unique Order ID |

Article Grouping: <Restrictions> ... </Restrictions>

| Parameter       | Description  |
|-----------------|--|
| Family Grouping | Family grouping enabled (True) or disabled (False)<br>Default: False |
| Ranking         | Ranking enabled (True) or disabled (False)<br>Default: False         |

Order Line: <OrderLine> ... </OrderLine>

| Parameter   | Description                             |
|-------------|---|
| OrderLineNo | Incrementing number for each order line |

Article Data: <Article> ... </Article>

| Parameter   | Description   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| ID          | Unique identifier of the article  |   |
| Description | Name of the article   |   |
| Type        | Packaging Type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Square box</li></ul> Currently only value 1 is allowed             |   |
| Length      | Length of the case in [mm]  | Length x Width are specifying the bottom of the case.<br><br>The length value should be larger than the width value |
| Width       | Width of the case in [mm]   |   |
| Height      | Height of the case in [mm]  |   |
| Weight      | Weight of the case in [g]   |   |
| Family      | Number of the family group to which this case belongs to.<br><br>Only relevant if Parameter <FamilyGrouping> was set to True. |   |

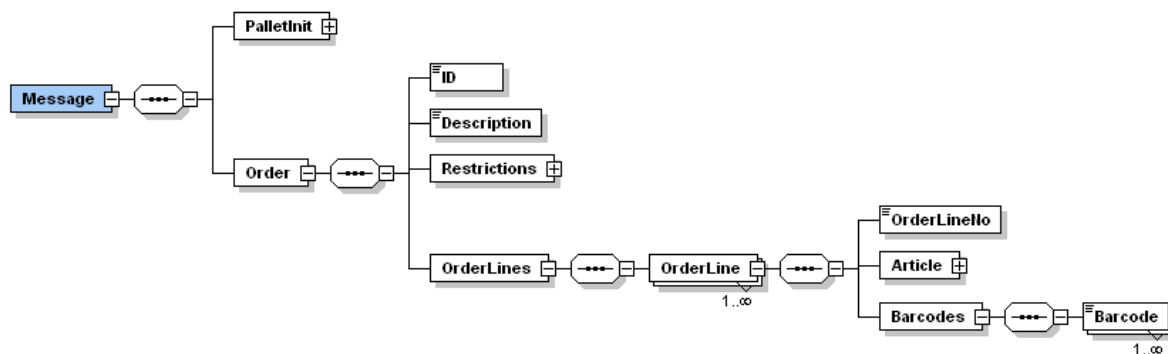
Data about potential sub units in a case: <Barcodes> ... </Barcodes>

| Parameter | Description   |
|-----------|---|
| Barcode   | Barcode<br><br>The number of barcodes corresponds to the number of ordered cases. |

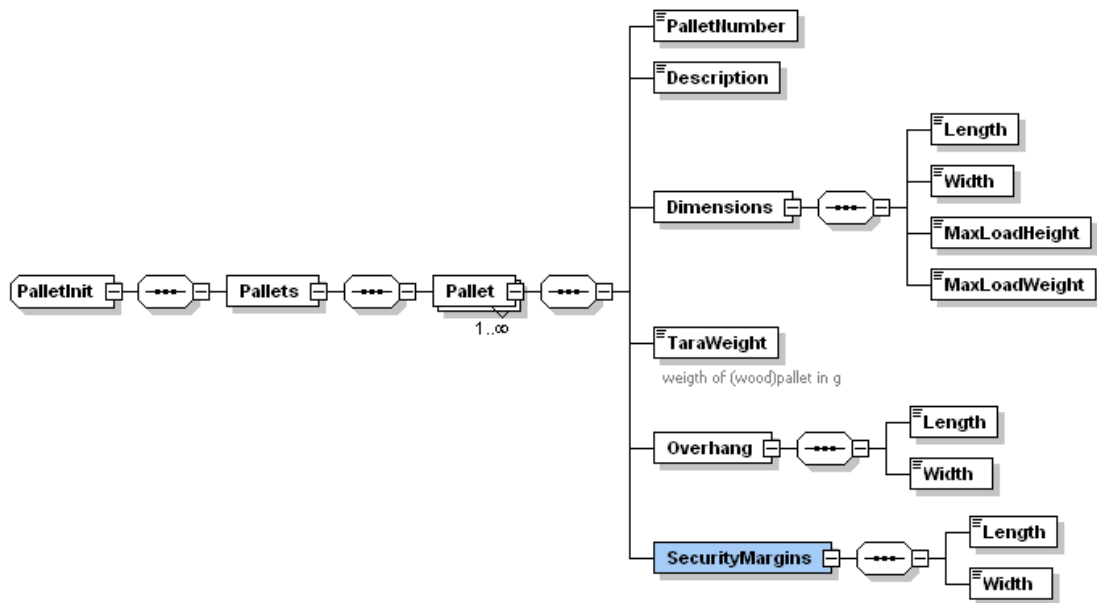
## 3.2.2 Schema File

The input file is described in a set of schema files in order to check the format on correctness.

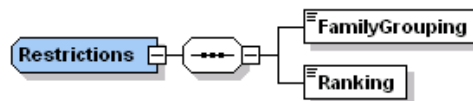
### OffLineMessage.xsd



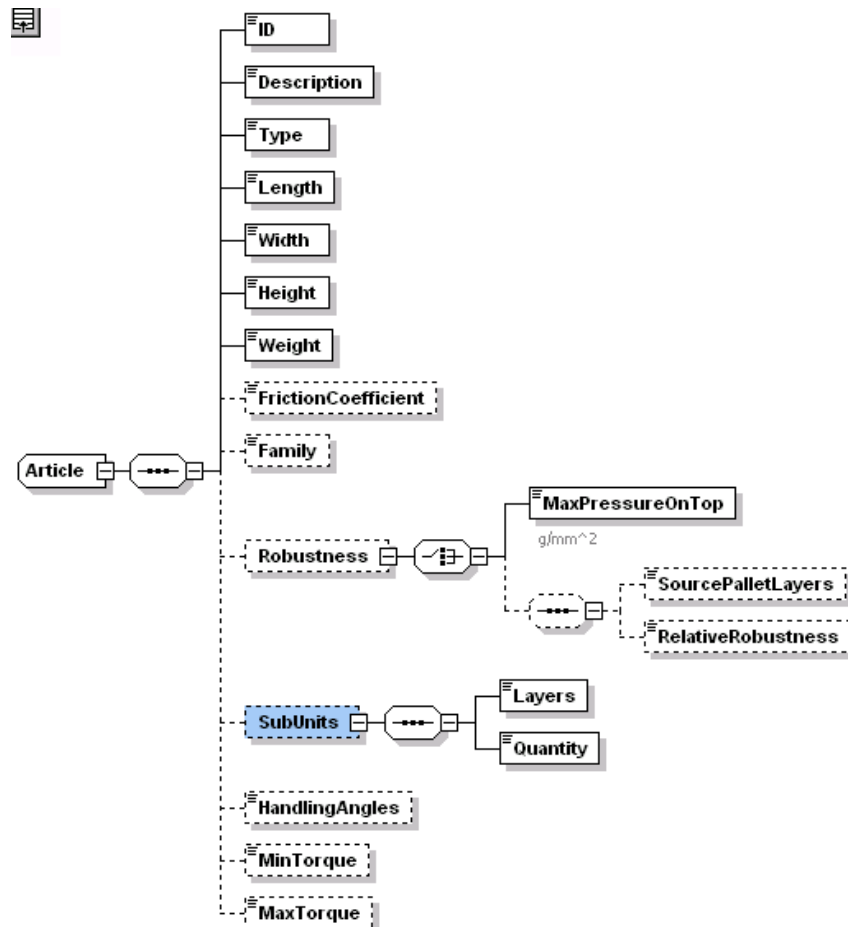
## PalletInit.xsd



## Restrictions.xsd



## Article.xsd





## 3.3 Output File: Packlist File

### 3.3.1 Overview

The mixed palletizing software has to calculate the stacking sequence, the placement coordinates and three collision free approach points for each ordered case. Depending on the order volume the software may stack the cases on more than one pallet.

```
<Response>
  <PackList>
    <OrderID>00011380</OrderID>
    <PackPallets>
      <PackPallet>
        <PalletNumber>1</PalletNumber>
        <Description>EuroPallet</Description>
        <Dimensions>
          <Length>940</Length>
          <Width>940</Width>
          <MaxLoadHeight>1700</MaxLoadHeight>
          <MaxLoadWeight>1000000</MaxLoadWeight>
        </Dimensions>
        <Packages>
          <Package>
            <PackSequence>1</PackSequence>
            <IncomingSequence>1</IncomingSequence>
            <OrderLineNo>5</OrderLineNo>
            <ParentLayer>0</ParentLayer>
            <Article>
              <ID>146</ID>
              <Description>12oz 12pk FM</Description>
              <Type>1</Type>
              <Length>398</Length>
              <Width>132</Width>
              <Height>124</Height>
              <Weight>5000</Weight>
              <Family>1</Family>
              <Rank>1</Rank>
              <MaxRankOnTop>1</MaxRankOnTop>
              <HandlingAngles>All</HandlingAngles>
              <MinTorque>10</MinTorque>
              <MaxTorque>100</MaxTorque>
            </Article>
            <Barcode>1460002</Barcode>
            <PlacePosition>
              <X>767</X>
              <Y>900</Y>
              <Z>124</Z>
            </PlacePosition>
            <Orientation>1</Orientation>
            <ApproachPoint1>
              <X>60</X>
              <Y>-60</Y>
              <Z>50</Z>
            </ApproachPoint1>
            <ApproachPoint2>
              <X>60</X>
              <Y>-60</Y>
              <Z>50</Z>
            </ApproachPoint2>
            <ApproachPoint3>
              <X>0</X>
              <Y>0</Y>
              <Z>3</Z>
            </ApproachPoint3>
            <StackHeightBefore>0</StackHeightBefore>
          </Package>
          <Package>
            <PackSequence>2</PackSequence>
            ...
          </Package>
        </Packages>
      </PackPallet>
    </PackPallets>
  </PackList>
</Response>
```

Order Data: <PackList> ... </PackList>

| Parameter | Description   |
|-----------|---|
| OrderID   | Unique order number extracted from the ORDER.XML file |

Pallet Data:

| Parameter     | Description  |
|---------------|--|
| Pallet Number | Pallet number  |
| Description   | Name of the pallet, e.g. "Euro Pallet", CHEP Pallet, US Pallet, etc. |

Pallet dimension: <Dimensions> ... </Dimension>

| Parameter     | Description  |
|---------------|--|
| Length        | Length of the pallet in X direction in [mm]              |
| Width         | Width of the pallet in Y direction in [mm]               |
| MaxLoadHeight | Maximum load height of the pallet in Z direction in [mm] |
| MaxLoadWeight | Maximum weight of the pallet in [g]                      |

Package Data:

| Parameter        | Description  |
|------------------|--|
| PackSequence     | Sequence number in which the package has to be placed on to the pallet   |
| IncomingSequence | Sequence number in which the package has to be conveyed into the cell<br><br>Note: In the offline mixed palletizing environment the PackSequence and the IncomingSequence have to be identical |
| OrderLineNo      | Unique number extracted from the ORDER.XML file  |
| ParentLayer      | Layer number of the pallet on which the package will be placed to  |

Article Data: <Article> ... </Article>

| Parameter   | Description  |
|-------------|--|
| ID          | Unique identifier of the article   |
| Description | Name of the article  |
| Type        | Packaging Type:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: Square box</li> </ul> Currently only value 1 is allowed |
| Length      | Length of the case in [mm]   |
| Width       | Width of the case in [mm]  |
| Height      | Height of the case in [mm]   |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Weight         | Weight of the case in [g]   |
| Family         | Number of the family group to which this case belongs to.<br><br>Only relevant if Parameter <FamilyGrouping> was set to True. |
| Rank           | Number of the fragility class to which this case belongs to.<br><br>Only relevant if Parameter <Ranking> was set to True.     |
| MaxRankOnTop   | Specifies the maximum rank class of cases, which can be placed on top of this case  |
| HandlingAngles | Allowed gripper orientation during the pick up on the conveyor.<br><br>Default: All   |
| MinTorque      | Not used  |
| MaxTorque      | Not used  |

| Parameter | Description  |
|-----------|--|
| Barcode   | Barcode of the case extracted from the ORDER.XML file. |

## Approach Strategy:

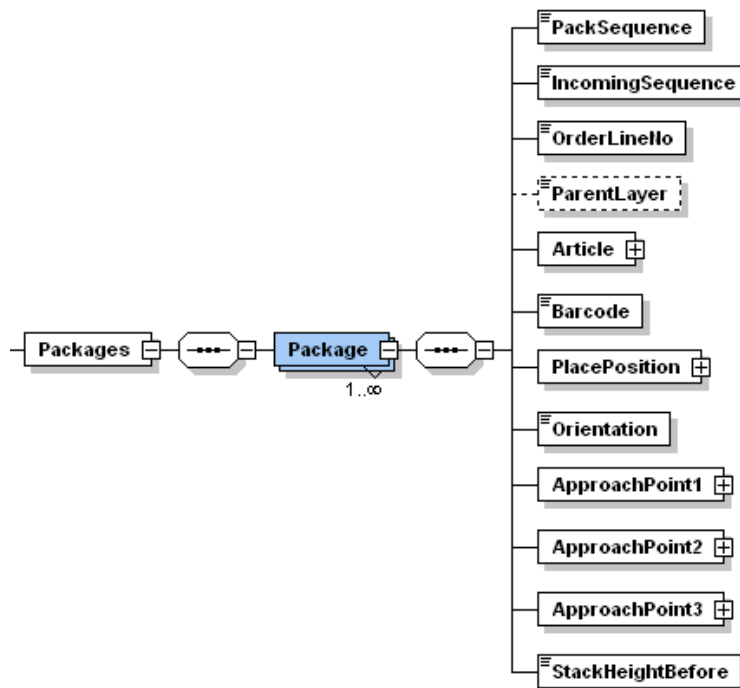
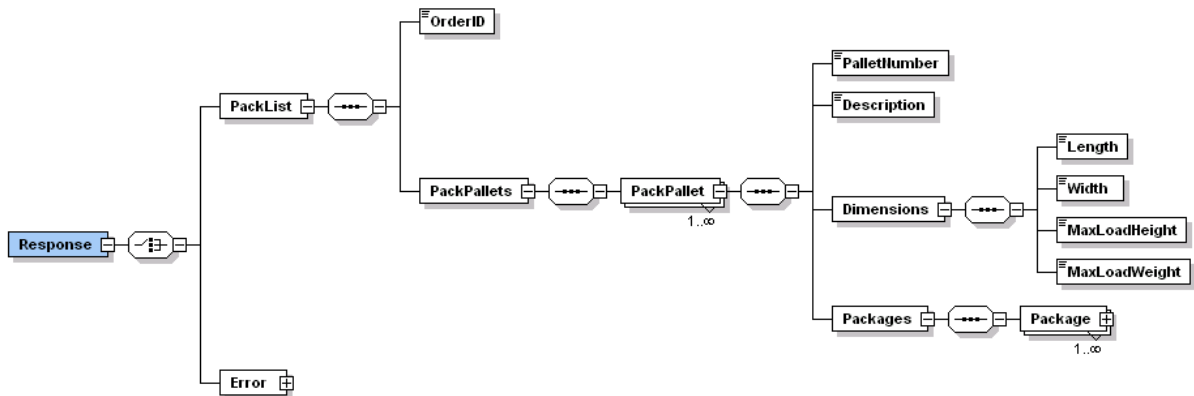
| Parameter     | Description   |
|---------------|---|
| PlacePosition | Final place position of the case on the pallet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X: Position in X direction of the pallet</li> <li>• Y: Position in Y direction of the pallet</li> <li>• Z: Position in Z direction of the pallet</li> </ul> All units are in [mm]   |
| Orientation   | Orientation of the case on the pallet in reference to the pallet coordinate system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: 0°; the long side of the case is parallel to the X direction of the coordinate system</li> <li>• 2: 90°; the long side of the case is parallel to the Y direction of the coordinate system</li> </ul> |

| Parameter                               | Description  |
|---|--|
| ApproachPoint1<br>...<br>ApproachPoint3 | Approach position above the pallet.<br><br>The coordinates of the approach points are relative to the place positions on the pallet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X: Relative position in X-direction</li> <li>• Y: Relative position in Y-direction</li> </ul> |

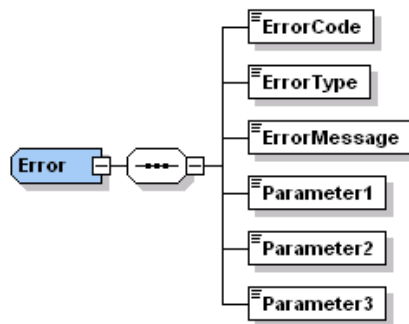
|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Z: Relative position in Z-direction</li> </ul> |
| StackHeightBefore | Highest Point on the pallet before placing the current case                             |

### 3.3.2 Schema Files

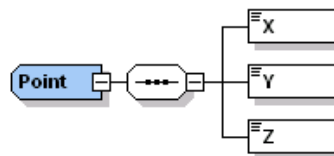
#### OffLineResponse.xsd



## OffLineResponse.xsd



## Point.xsd



## 4 Example Orders

### 4.1 Overview

In the following paragraphs different examples for the beverage and food industry are summarized and explained in detail.

The shown pallets are calculated with a mixed palletizing algorithm without optimizing any industry specific parameters. The shown results are not optimal solutions but shall give a rough guideline what the orders look like.

### 4.2 Beverage Industry

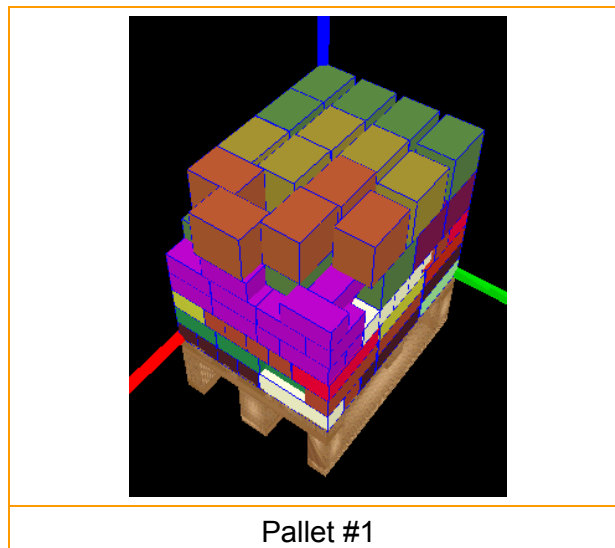
The beverage example pallets are using the block set “Beverage”. The following three orders are defined:

1. Small sized order which should fit onto one pallet
2. Medium sized order which should fit onto 2 – 3 pallets
3. Large sized order which should fit into onto 5 – 6 pallets
4. Medium sized order which fits onto 2 – 3 Coolift Pallets)

Orders #1 - #3 are using a “Beverage” Pallet which has a size of 48x36” in the real world. Order #4 is using a “Coolift” Pallet which 42x18.5” large. This pallet type was introduced by one US soft drink producer to change the front door delivery. Further information about the Coolift pallet can be found at <http://swiftwaterlogistics.com/coolift.html>.

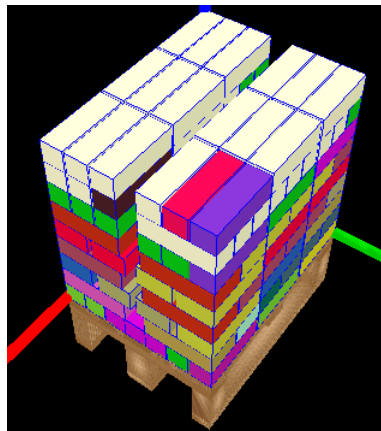
#### 4.2.1 Beverage\_001.xml

This order consists of 16 order lines with 124 cases in total distributed over 16 different SKUs.

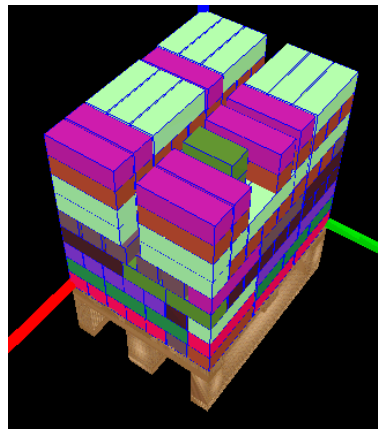


## 4.2.2 Beverage\_002.xml

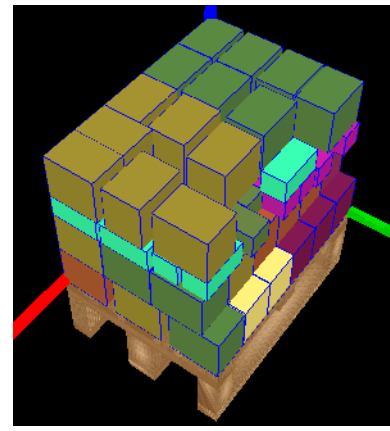
This order consists of 41 order lines with 386 cases in total distributed over 41 different SKUs.



Pallet #1



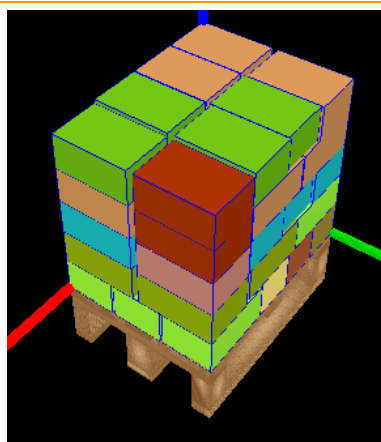
Pallet #2



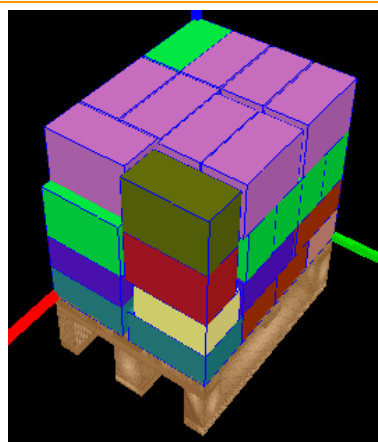
Pallet #3

## 4.2.3 Beverage\_003.xml

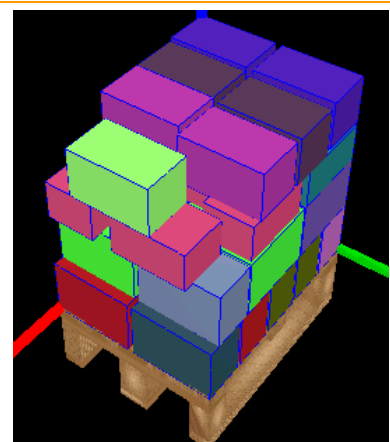
This order consists of 60 order lines with 247 cases in total distributed over 41 different SKUs.



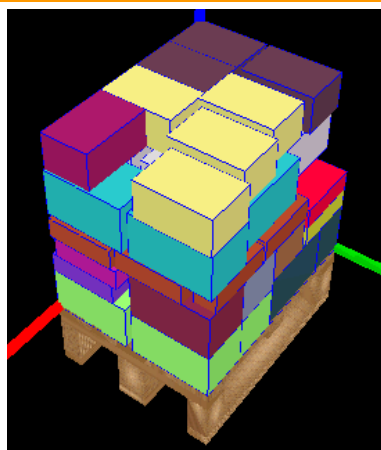
Pallet #1



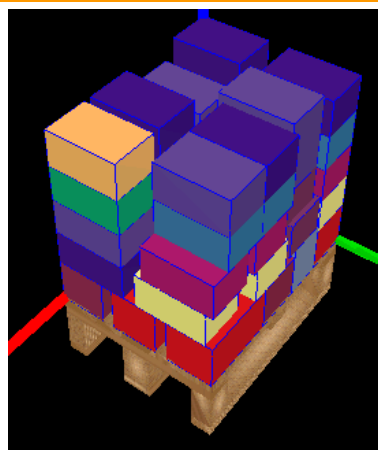
Pallet #2



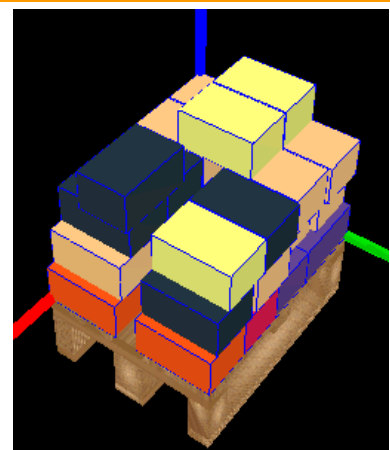
Pallet #3



Pallet #4



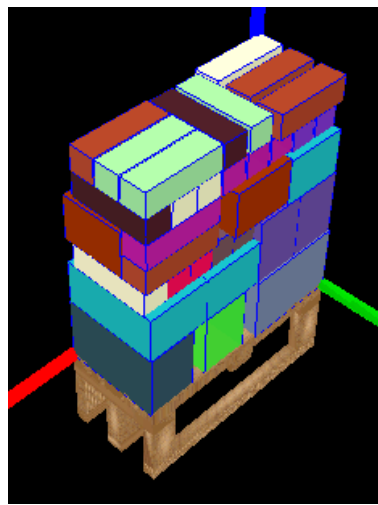
Pallet #5



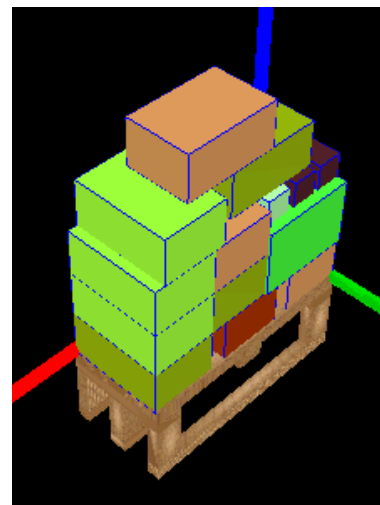
Pallet #6

## 4.2.4 Beverage\_004.xml

This order consists of 17 order lines with 49 cases in total distributed over 17 different SKUs. Coolift orders are in general smaller orders since they are delivered front door e.g. to gas stations or convenience stores.



Pallet #1



Pallet #2



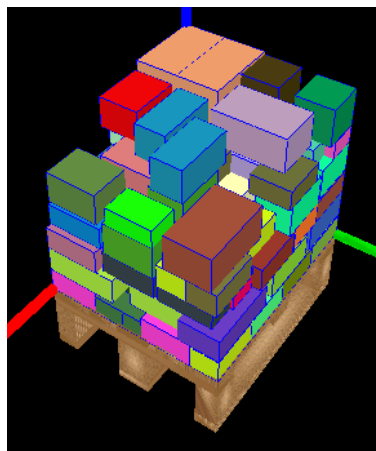
## 4.3 Food Industry

The food example pallets are using the block set “Food”. The following three orders are defined:

1. Small sized order which should fit onto one pallet
2. Medium sized order which should fit onto 2 – 3 pallets
3. Large sized order which should fit onto 5 – 6 pallets
4. X-Large sized order which should fit into a truck 20 – 24 pallets

### 4.3.1 Food\_001.order.xml

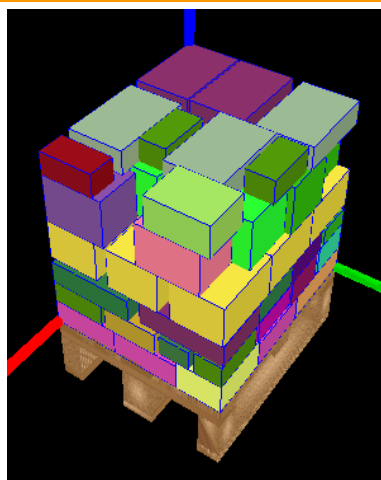
This order consists of 90 order lines with 90 cases in total distributed over 65 different SKUs. Thus some order lines contain the same SKU.



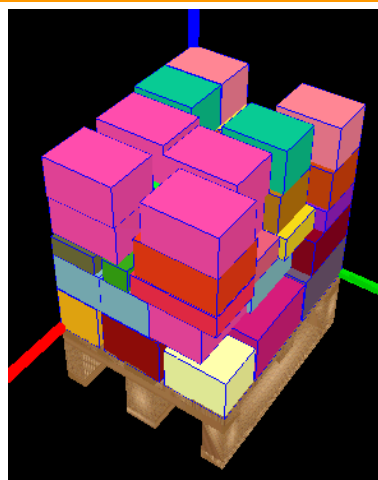
Pallet #1

### 4.3.2 Food\_002.order.xml

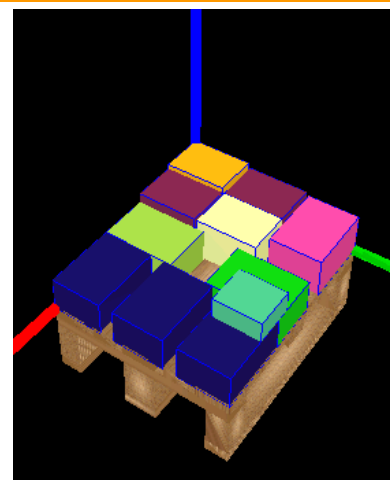
This order consists of 51 order lines with 129 cases in total distributed over 51 different SKUs.



Pallet #1



Pallet #2

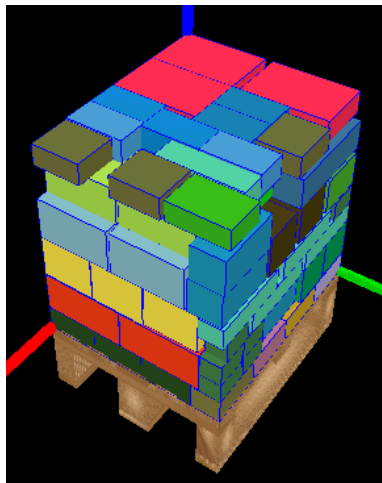
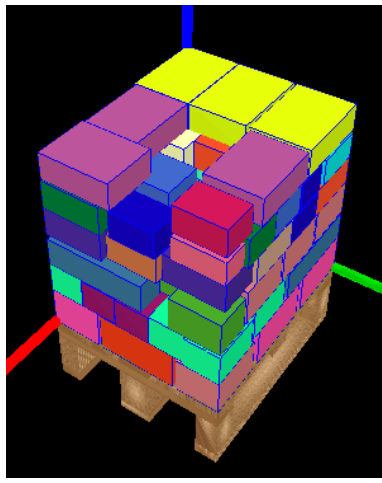
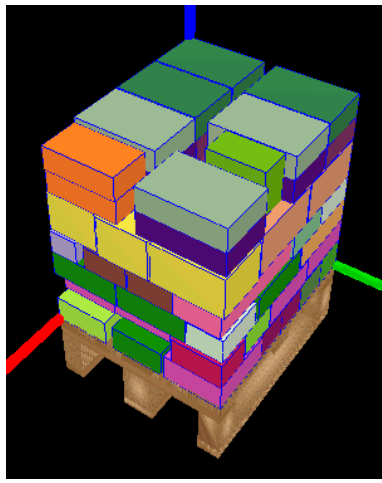
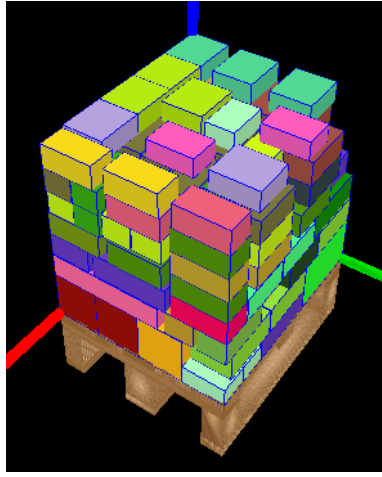
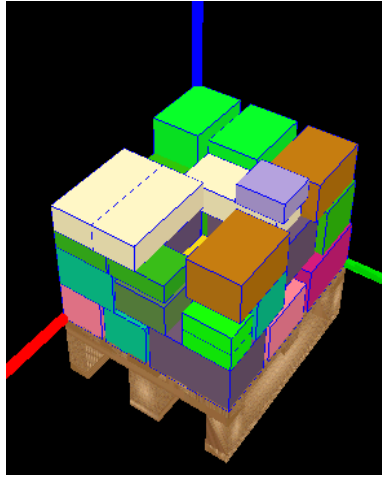


Pallet #3

The used mixed palletizing algorithm was not able to stack all cases onto two pallets, but human pickers are able to build two pallets.

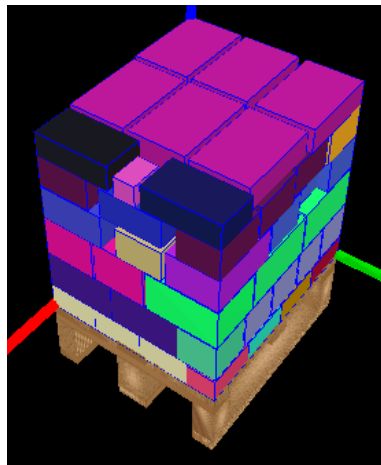
## 4.3.3 Food\_003.order.xml

This order consists of 112 order lines with 385 cases in total distributed over 112 different SKUs.

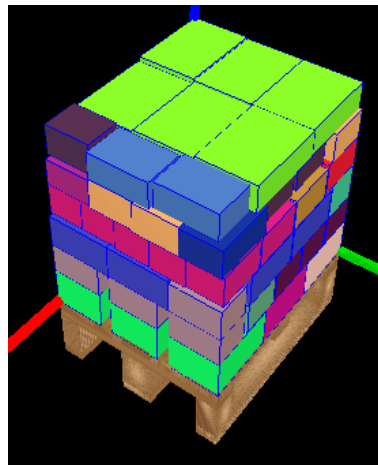
|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|   |   |  |
| Pallet #1  | Pallet #2  | Pallet #3   |
|  |  |   |
| Pallet #4  | Pallet #5  |   |

## 4.3.4 Food\_004.order.xml

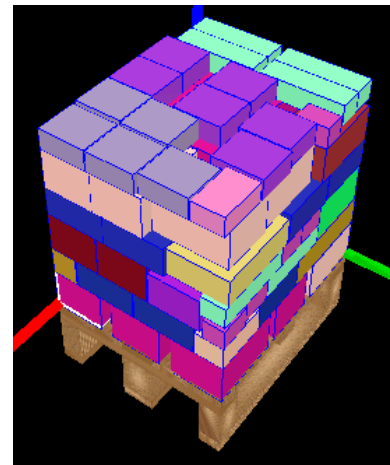
This order consists of 112 order lines with 688 cases in total distributed over 112 different SKUs.



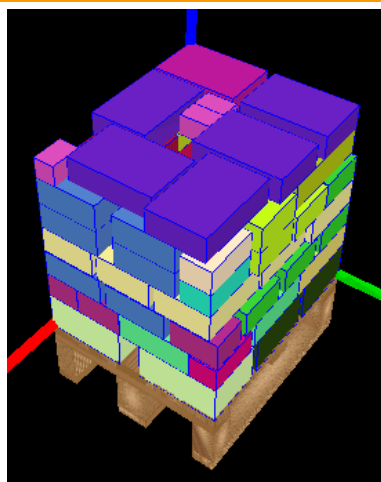
Pallet #1



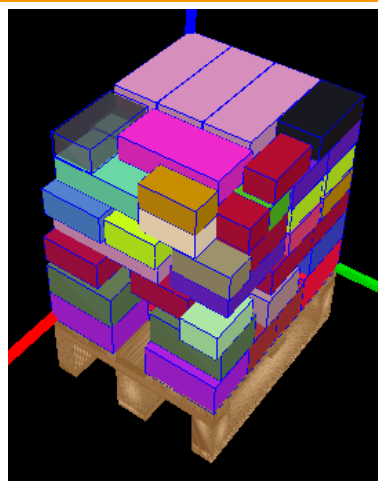
Pallet #2



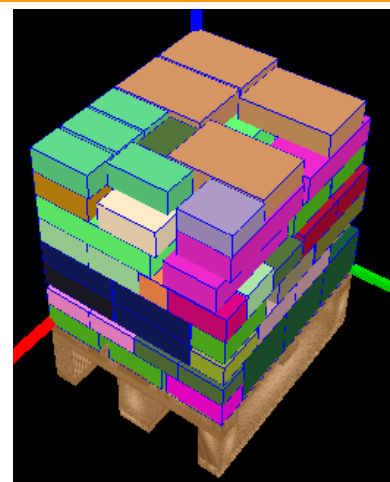
Pallet #3



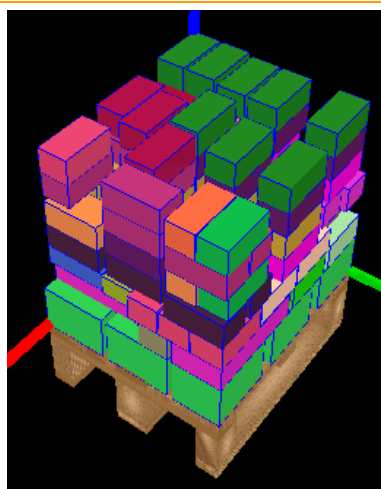
Pallet #4



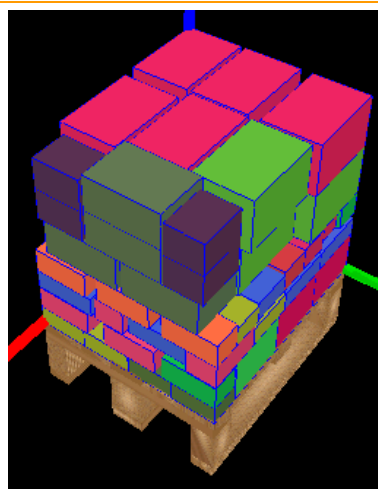
Pallet #5



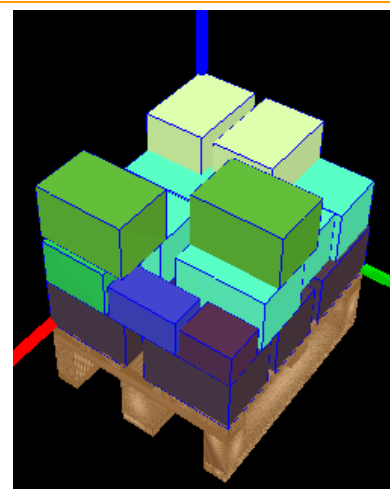
Pallet #6



Pallet #7



Pallet #8



Pallet #9

## 5 Included Files

This document includes the following additional files:

| File                            | Description  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| KUKA.PalletMix-XSD.zip          | Archive containing all schema files which can be used to validate the input and output XML files (see Chapter 3)   |
| Beverage and Food Orders.01.xls | Excel File containing the block set definitions and the different orders as described in Chapter 4.<br><br>The Excel Files contains a “quick and dirty” VBA Macro to generate the Order file format from a work sheet. |
| Food.zip                        | Archive containing the described order files and its corresponding packlist result files.  |
| Beverage.zip                    | Archive containing the described order files and its corresponding packlist result files.  |