

Mechanical Comparison of Arrangement Strategies for Topological Interlocking Assemblies

Lukas Schnelle

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Topological Interlocking

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A topological interlocking assembly can be defined as an arrangement of blocks that are in contact with each other together with a frame such that, if the frame is fixed, any non-empty finite subset of blocks of the arrangement is prevented from moving.

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Here:

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- only copies of the same block differently arranged.

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and triangular faces

$$B_2 := \{\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}, \{v_1, v_2, v_5\}, \{v_1, v_3, v_4\}, \{v_1, v_4, v_9\}, \{v_1, v_5, v_9\}, \\ \{v_2, v_3, v_7\}, \{v_2, v_5, v_6\}, \{v_2, v_6, v_7\}, \{v_3, v_4, v_7\}, \{v_4, v_7, v_8\}, \\ \{v_4, v_8, v_9\}, \{v_5, v_6, v_7\}, \{v_5, v_7, v_9\}, \{v_7, v_8, v_9\}\}.$$

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$$v_1 = (0, 0, 0), v_2 = (1, 1, 0), v_3 = (2, 0, 0),$$

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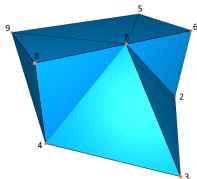
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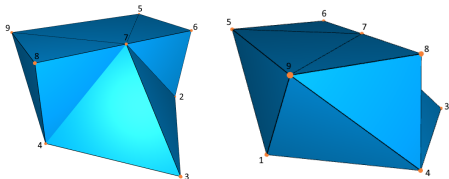
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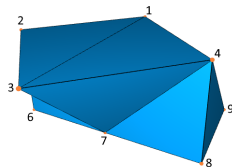
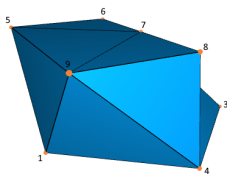
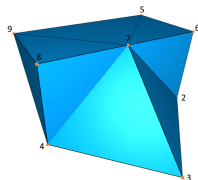
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Crystallographic/Wallpaper Groups Let $\Gamma \leq E(n)$ a subgroup of the group of isometries of dimension n .

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Proposition ([1, Prop. 1.9])

Let $\Gamma \leq E(n)$.

Then $E(n)/\Gamma$ is compact iff the orbit space \mathbb{R}^n/Γ is compact.

Examples of wallpaper groups

$p1 :=$

$$\left\langle \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \right\rangle$$

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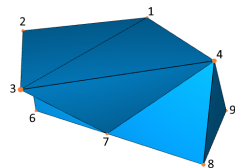
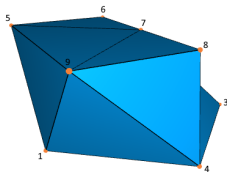
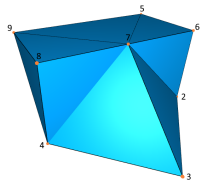
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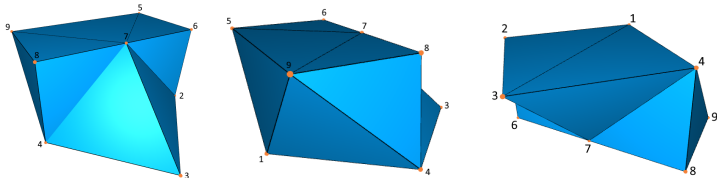
$p4 :=$

$$\left\langle \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) \right\rangle$$

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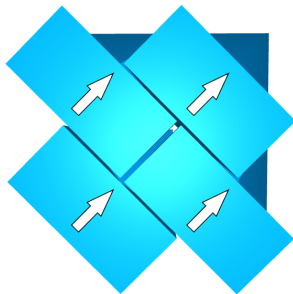
Notice: Versatile Block has only vertices with $z = 0$ and $z = 1$.
Now consider the an isometry φ from before lifted to \mathbb{R}^3 by

$$\hat{\varphi} : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3, \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \varphi \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \\ z \end{pmatrix}$$

Applied to all coordinates of the vertices of the Versatile Block we get a Versatile Block between the same planes.

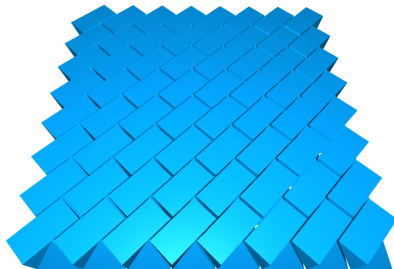
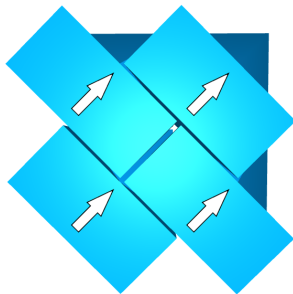
Planar Assemblies of the Versatile Block

With the groups $p1$, p_g and $p4$ from before we get three interlocking assemblies consisting only of copies of the Versatile Block:



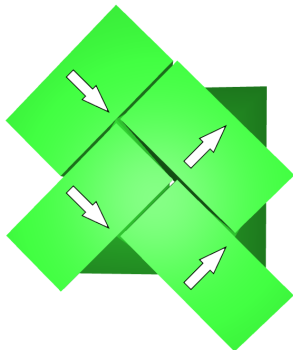
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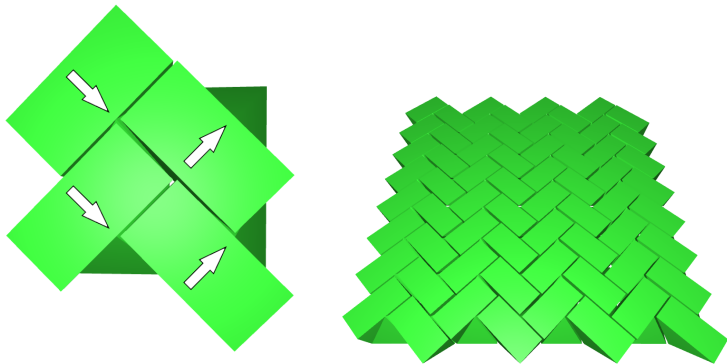
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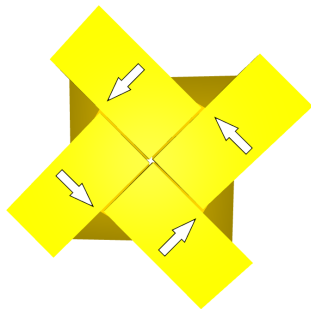
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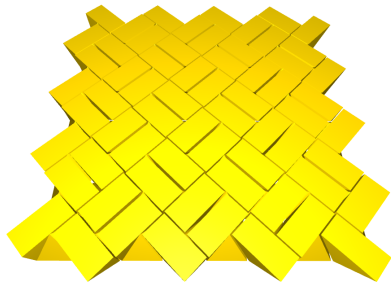
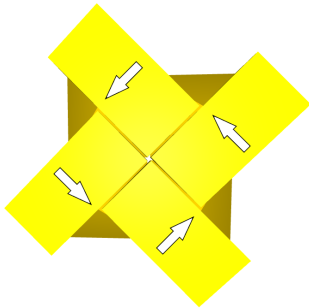
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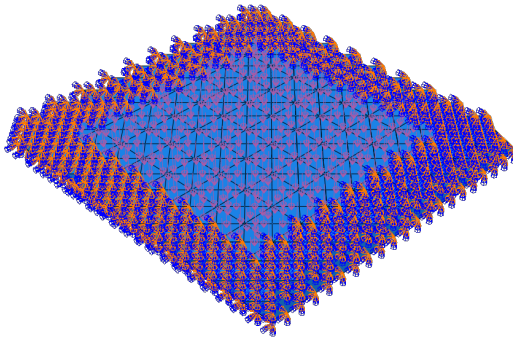
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Setup like this:



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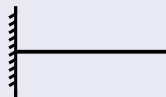
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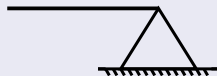
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Only rotation, no translation.

Problem formulation

Simulation Setup

Stresses

Combinatorial Method

Combinatorial Results

- [1] A. Szczepanski and W. Scientific. *Geometry of Crystallographic Groups*. Algebra and discrete mathematics. World Scientific, 2012. URL: <https://books.google.de/books?id=wX26CgAAQBAJ>.