

**PME Contributed Session on Research by Undergraduates**

## **Game of Life on Penrose Tiling : Robinson Triangle**

Research Advisor: Dr. May Mei, Denison University

2023.01.05 Mandy (Seung Hyeon) Hong, Denison University

# INDEX

## 01. Key Concepts

Game of Life and Penrose Tiling

## 02. Game of Life Algorithms

How to Play Game of Life on Robinson Triangle Tiling

## 03. Finding Patterns

Identify still lives and oscillators

## 04. Classification

Classification of neighborhoods and all valid four-cell still life

- Part 01
- 

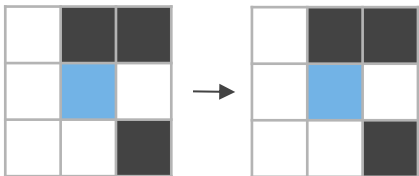
## **Key Concepts**

---

# Conway's Game of Life

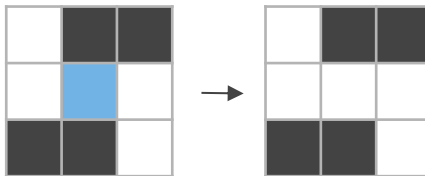
A mathematical game starting with initial configuration of live cells and observing how it evolves.

## Survival



- The cell **survives** when it has:
- Two or three alive neighbors

## Death



- The cell **dies** when it has:
- Four or more alive neighbors
  - One or no alive neighbors

## Birth



- The cell has **birth** when it has:
- Three alive neighbors

# Penrose Tiling

Sets of tiles with two different shapes that tile only nonperiodically, by mathematician Roger Penrose

## Tiling

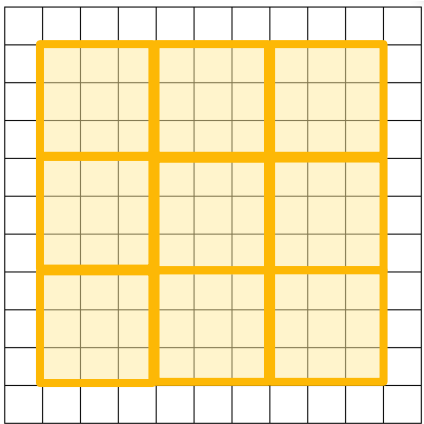
A **tiling (of the plane)** is a collection of subsets of the plane, i.e. tiles, which cover the plane without gaps or overlaps.

## Periodic and Nonperiodic Tiling

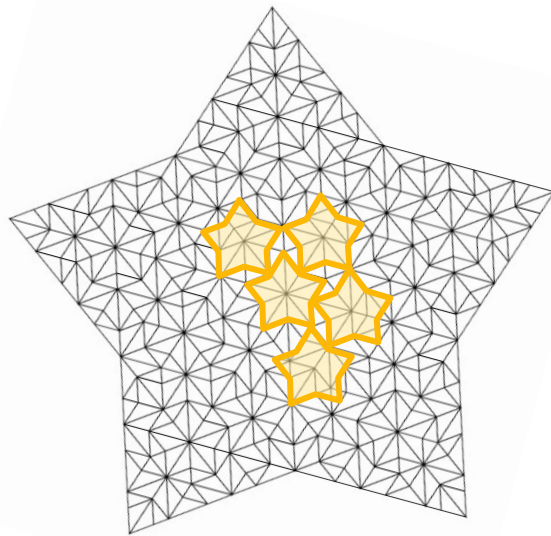
A **periodic tiling** is one on which you can outline a region that tiles the plane by translation, that is, by shifting the position of the region without rotating or reflecting it. A **nonperiodic tiling** is not periodic.

## Periodic and Nonperiodic Tiling

A periodic tiling is one on which you can outline a region that tiles the plane by translation, by shifting the position of the region without rotating or reflecting it. A nonperiodic tiling is not periodic.



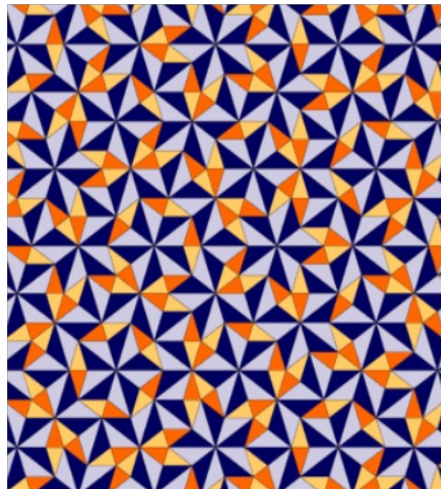
Periodic Tiling



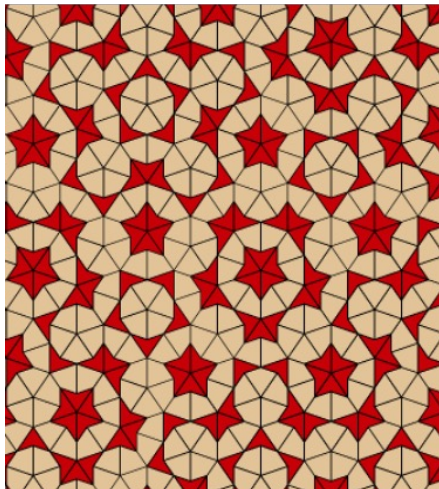
Nonperiodic Tiling

## Variations of Penrose Tiling

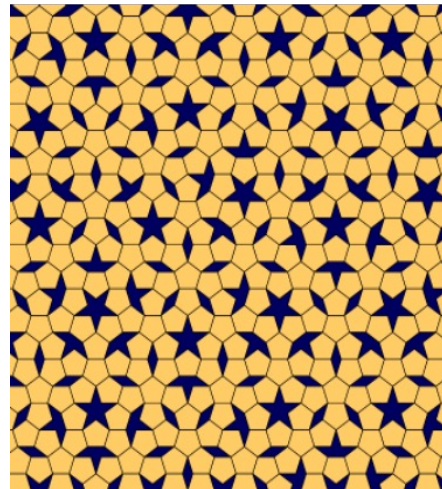
Different version of Penrose tiling (Image from Bielefeld Tiling Encyclopedia)



**01.**  
**Robinson Triangle**



**02.**  
**Kite and Dart**



**03.**  
**Pentagon Boat Star**

- Part 02
- 

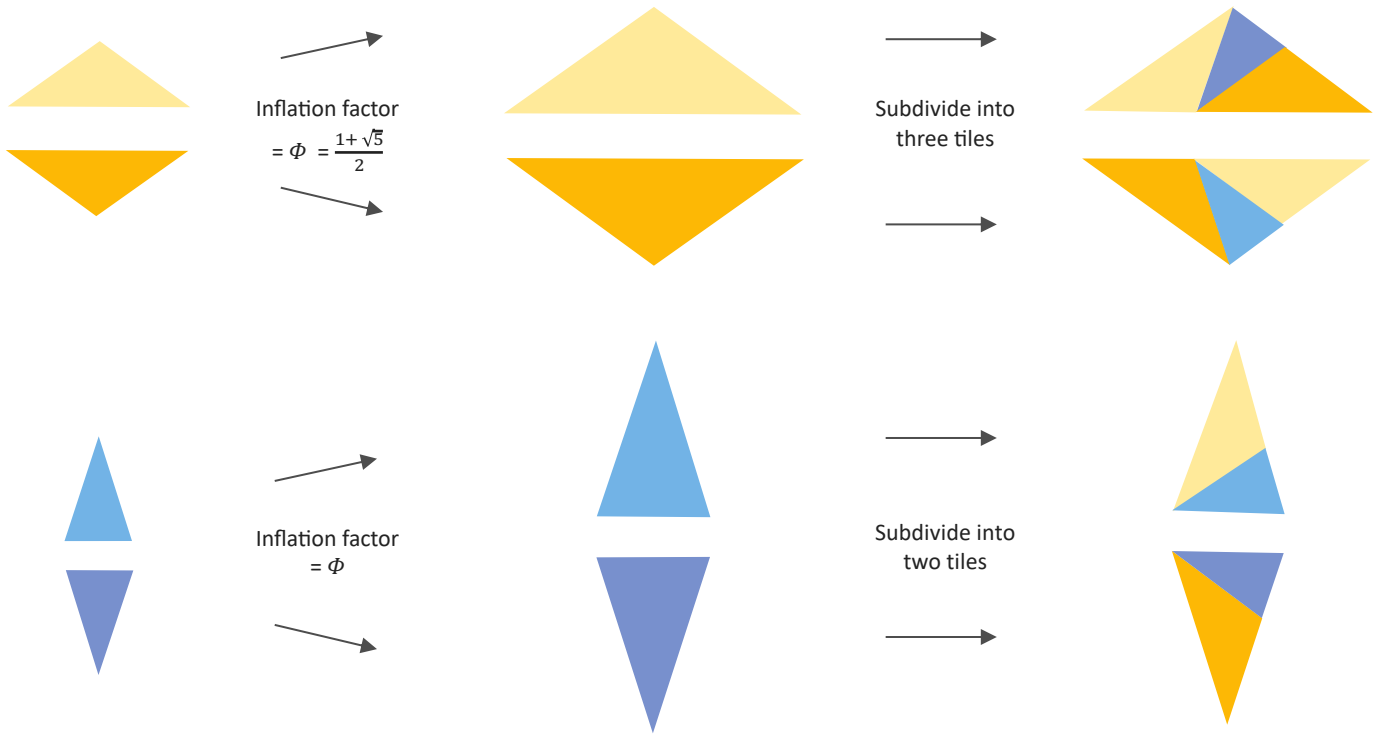
## **Game of Life Algorithms**

---



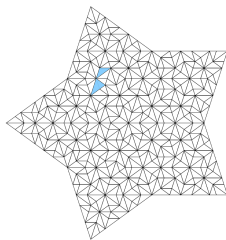
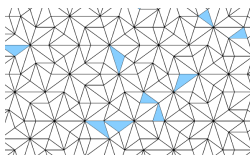
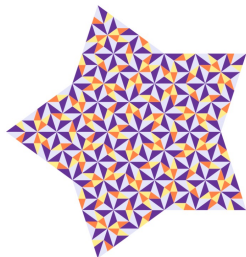
# Tiling using substitution method

There are four tiles in the tiling and four substitution (inflate & subdivide) rules to apply



# Three steps to implement Game of Life on Robinson Triangle Tiling

Create multiple function using *Julia*



## 1. Generate Tiling using Substitution Method

Initial configuration [tile type, position, orientation], number of substitutions, and side length of a tile is given.

## 2. Implement Game of Life on Robinson Triangle Tiling

Using neighboring tile's information, apply Game of Life rules to each tile when initial live cell list is given as an input.

## 3. Get graphics of each generation and make animations

Using live cell list of each generation, get a graphic of Game of Life. Using those graphics, generate animations.

- Part 03
- 

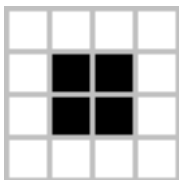
## Finding Patterns

---

## Terms for Patterns from Game of Life

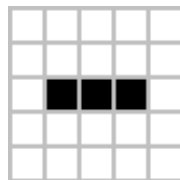
Still Life, Oscillator, Spaceship (Images from Wikipedia-Conway's Game of Life)

### Still life



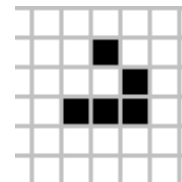
- Configuration does not change from one generation to the next.
- No death or birth.

### Oscillators



- Returns to initial configuration after a finite number of generations.

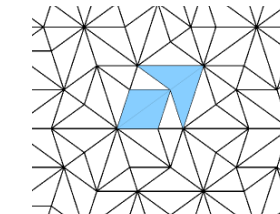
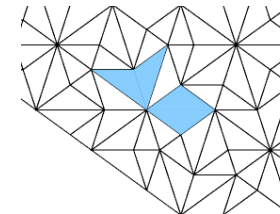
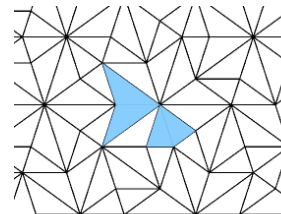
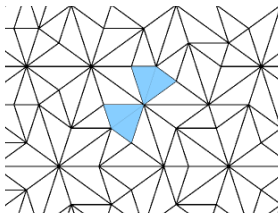
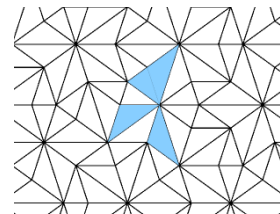
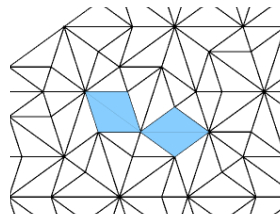
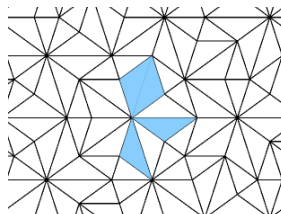
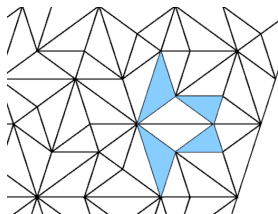
### Spaceships



- Each configuration reappears after a certain number of generations in the same orientation but in a different position.

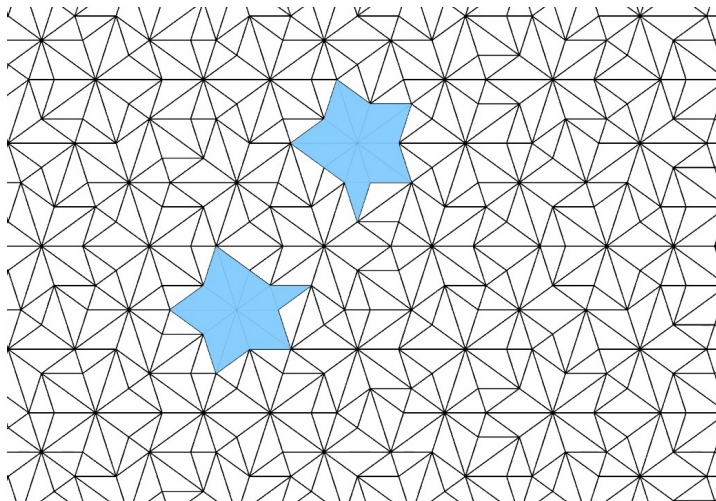
## Finding patterns: still life

Playing Game of Life multiple times until we find interesting still life patterns

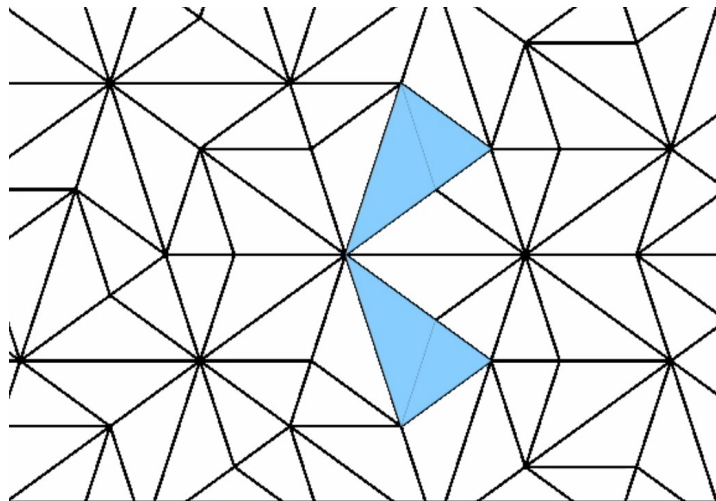


## Finding patterns: oscillator

Playing Game of Life multiple times until we find interesting oscillator patterns



period 14 oscillator



period 4 oscillator

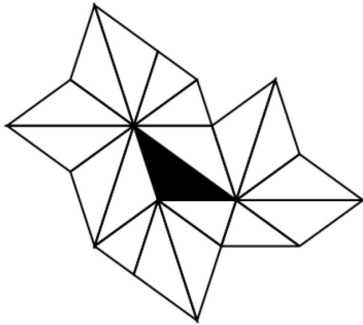
- Part 04

## Classification

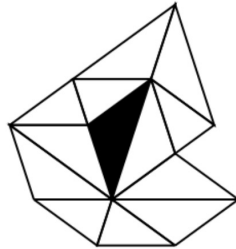
---

## Classification

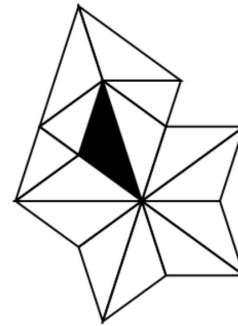
Identify distinct neighborhoods and find four-cell still life in each neighborhoods



18 neighbors



12 neighbors

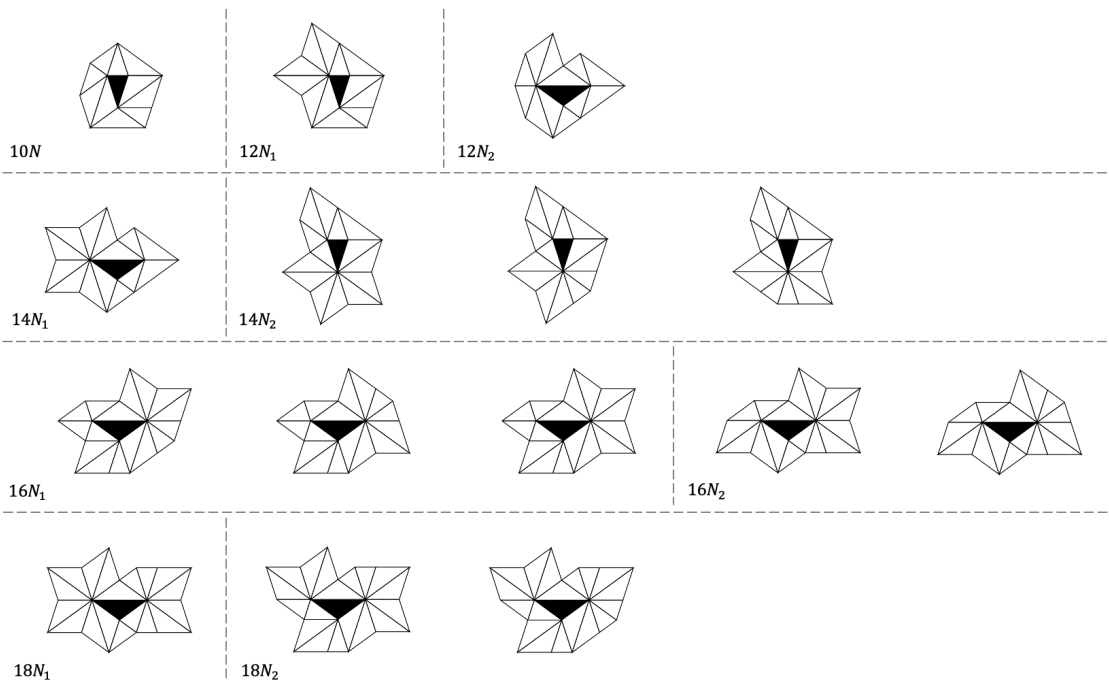


14 neighbors



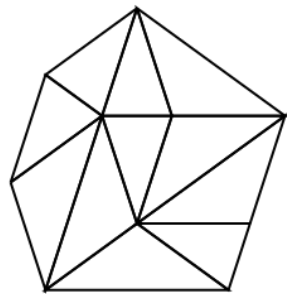
# Neighborhoods

Nine distinct neighborhoods in Robinson triangle tiling



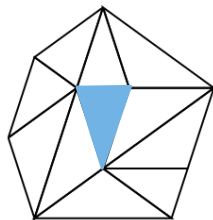
# Classification of four-cell still life

Create two algorithms to find valid four-cell still life configuration in each neighborhoods



10N

Case 1

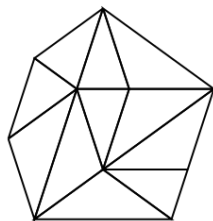


▪ **Alive center cell + 3 neighbors**

Among  $\binom{10}{3} = 120$  configurations, use **four-layered algorithm** that finds/get rid of configurations **with birth**.

Remaining configurations are four-cell still life.

Case 2



▪ **Dead center cell + 4 neighbors**

Among  $\binom{10}{4} = 210$  configurations, use **five-layered algorithm** that finds/get rid of configurations **with birth and death**.

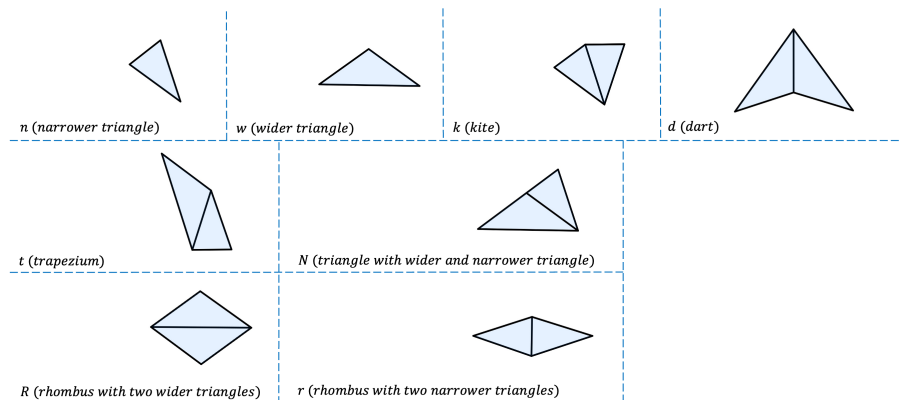
Remaining configurations are four-cell still life.
























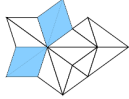







# Classification of four-cell still life

Categories of all four-cell still life in Robinson triangle tiling

| Neighborhood | Number of<br>valid still life |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| $10N$        | 7                             |
| $12N_1$      | 42                            |
| $12N_2$      | 42                            |
| $14N_1$      | 154                           |
| $14N_2$      | 154                           |
| $16N_1$      | 159                           |
| $16N_2$      | 189                           |
| $18N_1$      | 301                           |
| $18N_2$      | 194                           |

Classified 1242 four-cell still life into 31 categories with labels



|   |  |  |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <br><i>d - d</i>          | <br><i>d - k</i>       | <br><i>d - N</i>           | <br><i>d - r</i>      | <br><i>d - R</i>      | <br><i>d - t</i>      | <br><i>d - w - w</i>  |
| <br><i>k - k</i>         | <br><i>k - N</i>      | <br><i>k - R</i>          | <br><i>k - w - w</i> | <br><i>n - d - w</i> | <br><i>n - k - w</i> | <br><i>N - N</i>     |
| <br><i>n - n - d</i>     | <br><i>n - n - R</i>  | <br><i>n - n - w - w</i>  | <br><i>N - R</i>     | <br><i>N - t</i>     | <br><i>n - w - N</i> | <br><i>n - w - R</i> |
| <br><i>n - w - w - w</i> | <br><i>r - R</i>      | <br><i>R - R</i>          | <br><i>r - t</i>     | <br><i>R - t</i>     | <br><i>w - w - N</i> | <br><i>w - w - r</i> |
| <br><i>w - w - R</i>    | <br><i>w - w - t</i> | <br><i>w - w - w - w</i> | <div>Classification of four-cell still life 31 categories</div>  |   |   |   |
|   |  |  |  |   |   |   |

# Reference

Wikipedia. Game of Life.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway%27s\\_Game\\_of\\_Life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway%27s_Game_of_Life)

Kathryn Lindsey. What is Tiling? [http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~mec/2008-2009/KathrynLindsey/PROJECT/Page1.htm#:~:text=The%20Mathematical%20Definition%20of%20Tilings&text=In%20mathematics%2C%20a%20tiling%20\(of,plane%20without%20gaps%20or%20overlaps.](http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~mec/2008-2009/KathrynLindsey/PROJECT/Page1.htm#:~:text=The%20Mathematical%20Definition%20of%20Tilings&text=In%20mathematics%2C%20a%20tiling%20(of,plane%20without%20gaps%20or%20overlaps.)

Siobhan Roberts. The lasting lessons of john conway's game of life. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/28/science/math-conway-game-of-life.html?searchResultPosition=1>, accessed June 1, 2022.

Martin Gardner. Mathematical games: The fantastic combinations of john conway's new solitary game "life". Scientific American, 223(4):120–123, 1970.

Martin Gardner. Mathematical games: Extraordinary nonperiodic tiling that enriches the theory of tiles. Scientific American, 236(1):110–121, 1977.

Colin Adams. The tiling book: An introduction to the mathematical theory of tilings. unpublished, N.D.

Bielefeld University. Penrose pentagon boat star. <https://tilings.math.uni-bielefeld.de/substitution/penrose-pentagon-boat-star/>, accessed June 18, 2022.

Bielefeld University. Penrose kite dart. <https://tilings.math.uni-bielefeld.de/substitution/penrose-kite-dart/>, accessed June 18, 2022.

Bielefeld University. Penrose rhomb. <https://tilings.math.uni-bielefeld.de/substitution/penrose-rhomb/>, accessed June 18, 2022.

Bielefeld University. Robinson triangle. <https://tilings.math.uni-bielefeld.de/substitution/robinson-triangle/>, accessed June 18, 2022.

Bielefeld University. Substitution. <https://tilings.math.uni-bielefeld.de/glossary/substitution/>, accessed June 18, 2022.

Nick Owens and Susan Stepney. The Game of Life Rules on Penrose Tilings: Still Life and Oscillators, pages 331–378. Springer London, London, 2010.

PowerPoint design references: Peedori's PowerPoint, Saebyeol's PowerPoint



THANK  
YOU

---

Q & A

---