Shadoks

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1-Greedy MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

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Some results

How We Solve CG:SHOP Problems

Guilherme D. da Fonseca – LIS, Aix-Marseille Université Yan Gerard – LIMOS, Université Clermont Auvergne + All Shadoks team members



CG:SHOP Competition

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- Part of SoCG (International Symposium on Computational Geometry)
- Annual event that started in 2018–2019
- Hard geometric optimization problems
- Different problem each year
- $\blacksquare \sim 200$ instances given
- $\blacksquare \sim 3$ months to compute solutions
- Send our solutions (not the code)
- Score based on the quality of the solutions
- Top teams invited to publish in SoCG proceedings and ACM Journal of Experimental Algorithmics or Computing in Geometry and Topology

CG:SHOP 2019 (MaxPolygon)

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Minimum (or Maximum) Area Polygon:

- Input: A set of points $S \subset \mathbb{R}^2$
- Output: A simple polygon with vertex set S
- Goal: Minimize (or maximize) the area
- Related to Euclidean TSP
- Two categories: minimization, maximization
- We got 2nd place
- Techniques: greedy and local search





CG:SHOP 2020 (ConvexPartition)

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Minimum Convex Partition:

- Input: A set of points $S \subset \mathbb{R}^2$
- Output: A simple partition of the convex hull of S into convex regions with vertex set S
- Goal: Minimize the number of regions
- We got 4th place
- Used integer programming



11 convex regions

CG:SHOP 2021 (Robots)

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Coordinated Motion Planning:

- Input: Sets $S, T \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ of start and target locations for n robots and possibly a set of obstacles
- Output: A sequence of movements for all robots from start to target avoiding collisions
- Goal: Minimize the total time (makespan) or the total number of movements (energy)
- 1st place in makespan category, 3rd place in energy category
- Used storage network and conflict optimizer



Target:



CG:SHOP 2022 (SegmentColoring)

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Partition Into Plane Graphs:

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- Input: A graph G embedded in the plane with straight edges
- Output: A partition of G into plane graphs
- Goal: Minimize the number of partitions (colors)
- We won 1st place
- Best solution of all teams to all instances
- Optimal solution to at least 23
- Reused conflict optimizer







CG:SHOP 2023 (ConvexCover)

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Convex Covering:

- Input: A polygon with holes P
- Output: A collection of convex polygons whose union is P
- Goal: Minimize the number of convex polygons
- We won 2nd place
- Best solution among all teams to 128 of 206 instances
- Used integer programming and simulated annealing



CG:SHOP 2024 (Packing)

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Knapsack Translational Packing:

- Input: A convex polygon (container) and a multi-set of polygons with values (items)
- Output: A translation of some items that form a packing inside the container
- Goal: Maximize the sum of the values in the output
- We won 1st place
- Used greedy, local search, and integer programming



Initial Solution and Optimized Solution

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- Our strategy in every competition:
 - 1 Find initial feasible solutions
 - 2 Improve them
 - We've seen two types of problems:
 - The quality of the initial solution is irrelevant and the improvements are major
 - The quality of the initial solution is essential and the improvements are minor
 - Hard to tell them apart
 - If the solution to a subproblem can be incorporated into an existing solution, it is easier to improve

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Initial

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- Greedy heuristics often produce good initial solutions:
 - 1 Choose an element to add to the solution
 - 2 Choose how to incorporate this element
 - 3 Repeat
- Good data structures to implement it efficiently
- Three examples:
 - Packing
 - Coloring
 - MaxPolygon

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Simple idea:

Start with the convex hull

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- Choose the valid vertex-edge pair that decreases the

Issues:

- Long edges block many future vertex-edge pairs
- Stall: May have no valid vertex-edge pair

- Penalize long edges and favor breaking long edges:
- Add random noise to circumvent stalls.



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Simple idea:

- Start with the convex hull
- Choose the valid vertex-edge pair that decreases the area the least

lssues:

- Long edges block many future vertex-edge pairs
- Stall: May have no valid vertex-edge pair

- Penalize long edges and favor breaking long edges: weight(p₁, p₂, q) = area(p₁p₂q) + α(||qp₁|| + ||qp₂|| - ||p₁p₂||) for small α
- Add random noise to circumvent stalls



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Robots Coloring

1-IP Packing Simple idea:

- Start with the convex hull
- Choose the valid vertex-edge pair that decreases the area the least

ssues:

- Long edges block many future vertex-edge pairs
- Stall: May have no valid vertex-edge pair

Solution:

Penalize long edges and favor breaking long edges: $weight(p_1, p_2, q) =$ $area(p_1p_2q) + \alpha(||qp_1|| + ||qp_2|| - ||p_1p_2||)$ for small α

Add random noise to circumvent stalls



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Robots Coloring Simple idea:

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- Penalize long edges and favor breaking long edges: weight(p₁, p₂, q) = area(p₁p₂q) + α(||qp₁|| + ||qp₂|| - ||p₁p₂||) for small α
- Add random noise to circumvent stalls











Packing ConvexCover

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ConvexPartition 2-Local

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2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict Robots Coloring Some results

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ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

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ConvexPartition 2-Local MaxPolygon

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2-Conflict Robots Coloring





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2-Conflict Robots Coloring





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Another thing to improve










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Different Packing Strategies

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Input: n segments in the plane







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Input: n segments in the plane

Output: segments coloring with a minimum number of colors so that two crossing segments don't have the same color...







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Input: n segments in the plane

Output: segments coloring with a minimum number of colors so that two crossing segments don't have the same color...





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Conflict graph





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Any graph coloring algorithm can be used... or algorithms using geometry

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Many graph coloring heurisitics...

DSATUR [Brélaz, 1979] RLF [Leighton, 1979] Tabu search [Hertz and de Werra, 1987] Hybrid evolutionary algorithms Population-based hybrid algorithms Reduce and solve algorithms Modified cuckoo algorithm Boolean satisfiability formulation



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Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices



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Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices



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Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices



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Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices



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Initialization: order the vertices



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Initialization: order the vertices



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Initialization: order the vertices



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Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices

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Color 1 Color 2 Color 3 Color 4

Most simple heuristic

Initialization: order the vertices



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Cool, but which order ?





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Color 1



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Color 1 Color 2



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Color 3

Color 2







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DSatHull Coloring





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Another greedy heuristic (variant of DSatur)


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Color 1

Color 2

Color 3



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Color 1 Color 2

Color

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Color 1 Co

Color 2

Color 3

Color 1



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Color 1

Color 2



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Color 1



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Color 5

Color 2 Color 3 Color 4

Color 1

Color 2



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Color 1







1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots Coloring





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- Some results





Color 1

Color 2







Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots Coloring









Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots Coloring





Color 1

Color 2







Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots Coloring



Color 1

Color 2





1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

Robots Coloring



Color 1





Coloring

Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

Robots Coloring







1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

Robots Coloring







1-IP Packing ConvexCover

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Robots Coloring





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Robots Coloring





Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

Robots Coloring











Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots Coloring

Some results



Color 1 Color 2 Color 3 Color 4 Color 5











2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots Coloring
















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Greedy algorithms

Fast and simple (easy and fast to code) Can be randomized to provide many solutions



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Integer Programming (IP)

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Integer Programming (IP)

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Some results

Integer programming (IP):

- Variables: Take integer values
- Constraints: A set of linear inequalities
- Objective: A linear function to maximize or minimize

Solvers:

- Commercial solvers are quite efficient (CPLEX, Gurobi...)
- Some open source alternatives (GLPK, COIN-OR...)
- Optimal solutions or small gap are guaranteed
- Cannot solve huge problems

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- Goal: Reduce a geometric problem to a combinatorial problem
- Create some random translations of each item inside the container
- Each translated item is a vertex
- A clique for translations of the same item
- Edges for overlapping translations
- Solve maximum independent set
- Use the corresponding packing





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Maximum Independent Set as Linear Programming

Shadoks

Introduction

1-Greedy MaxPolygon

Packing Coloring

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MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

Robots Coloring Some results

- Variables: vertices
 - 0: not in the solution
 - 1: in the solution
 - Objective: Maximize sum of variables
 - Constraints: edge uv becomes $u + v \leq 1$
 - \blacksquare Better constraint for clique C

 $\sum_{v\in C} v \leq 1$

• And for k copies of the same item





Maximum Independent Set as Linear Programming

Shadoks

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ConvexCover ConvexPartition

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- \blacksquare CPLEX can only handle ~ 1000 vertices
- Not enough copies of each item
- Solution: We repeat with some translations near the previous solution
- Also random translations of every item
- If we are lucky, we pack more items





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Convex Covering in Two Steps

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- Some results

- We want to cover a polygon (with holes) using convex polygons
- Goal: Reduce a geometric problem to a combinatorial problem
 - Create a collection of many large convex polygons
- 2 Find a small subset of the collection
- We show how to solve step 2





Convex Covering in Two Steps

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382 convex polygons

Convex Covering in Two Steps

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20 convex polygons

Convex Covering as Set Cover

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- $\mathcal{C}:$ Convex polygons from phase 1
- *P*: Instance polygon with holes
 - $\blacksquare \ (\mathcal{C}, P)$ define a set system
 - P has infinitely many points
 - First attempt: reduce P to a quadratic number of witnesses, one point per arrangement cell
 - Too many witnesses!
 - Building the arrangement is slow!



1009 witnesses for $82\ {\rm convex}\ {\rm polygons}$

Vertex Witnesses

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- Solution: only place witnesses near vertices of P
- Does not guarantee that P is covered
- Two possible fixes:
 - Add a witnesses inside each uncovered area and repeat (generally better, but slower)
 - Cover the uncovered area using some quick heuristic (faster and sometimes better)



200 witnesses for 82 convex polygons

Vertex Witnesses

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5 uncovered regions 8 convex polygons

Vertex Witnesses

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 ${\rm 0}$ uncovered regions ${\rm 9}$ convex polygons
Solving Combinatorial Set Cover with IP

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Use integer programming (IP):

- Each set becomes a binary variable
 - 0: Not in the solution
 - 1: In the solution
- Each witness becomes a constraint: the sum of the sets that contain it must be at least 1
- Objective: minimize the sum of all variables
- Very fast for small to medium instances
- Solutions often guaranteed optimal
- On some large instances: slow and very bad solutions

Solving Combinatorial Set Cover with IP

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Improving Convex Cover with IP

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2-IP

ConvexCover ConvexPartition

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2-Conflict Robots Coloring

Some results

We use multiple good solutions to get a better one



160





 $\rightarrow 72$



 \nearrow



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- Convex partition can easily be modelled as IP
 - CPLEX can only solve small instances
 - We improve a solution using CPLEX:
 - Select some adjacent cells
 - 2 Remove selected cells
 - **3** Solve the polygon in the selected area
 - The initial solution is not very relevant, we may start with a triangulation



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Improving Maximum Area Polygon with Local Search

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- 2-IP
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- MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict
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- Some results

- We try to improve many solutions
- Sometimes a worse solution may improve better
- We move one or more vertices in the polygon order in order to increase the area
- For this problem, changes are small





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Local Search for Packing





1-Greedy MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

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1) Choose **a random point P** in the solution

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- 1) Choose a random point P in the solution
- 2) Push every packed item away from P (from the farthest to the closest)

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- 1) Choose a random point P in the solution
- 2) Push every packed item away from P (from the farthest to the closest)
- Try to pack a new item around P (if it crosses some packed items but there could be a benefit, we pack the new item)

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Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict

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MaxPolygo Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

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Robots Coloring





Introduction Two Phases

1-Greedy MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict

Robots Coloring





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28 agents in a room: find the best consensus to a complex combinatorial problem...



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Repeat thousands of times... until the new consensus is accepted

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What can we do to optimize a solution ?



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- 2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition
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1-Greedy MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover

ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

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Some results



Remove the robots arriving at their target at t=61

- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

1-IP

2-IP





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2-Conflict

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Some results



Remove the robots arriving at their target at t=61



- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution...

Remove the robots in conflict with this path...



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- Conflict optimizer
- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

- Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots
- Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution...
- Remove the robots in conflict with this path...

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Loops robot r_0 excludes robot r_1 robot r_1 excludes robot r_0 robot r_0 excludes robot r_1

Conflict optimizer

- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution...

Remove the robots in conflict with this path...

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Some results

We add weights (each robot has a weight)

Loops

robot r_0 excludes robot r_1 robot r_1 excludes robot r_0 robot r_0 excludes robot r_1

Each time that a robot is removed from the solution: increase its weight...

- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

Minimize the total weight of the robots in conflict...

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at t ... t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots Add the path of the first of r_0 in the current ion...

conflict with this path...

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Each time that a robot is removed from the solution: increase its weight...

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If there is a loop, it increases the weights and the algorithm goes out of the loop...

Each time that a robot is removed from the solution: increase its weight...

- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

Minimize the total weight of the robots in conflict...

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at t⁻... t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots Add the path of the first of r_0 in the current ion...

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- Conflict optimizer
- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

- Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a minimum number of conflicts with other robots
- Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution...
- Remove the robots in conflict with this path...

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- Conflict optimizer
- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a conflicts of minimal weights Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution... Remove the robots in conflict with this path... Increase the weights of the removed robots

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Add randomization to explore as many configurations as possible

Conflict optimizer

- Put the removed robots in a queue Q

 Pick the first robot r₀ of the queue search for a path P arriving at time t=60 with a conflicts of minimal weights Add the path of the first robot r_0 in the current solution... Remove the robots in conflict with this path... Increase the weights of the removed robots





MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

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Remove one color

- Put the segments without color in a queue C

 Pick the first segment s₀ of the queue choose its new color with a minimum conflict weight with other sec

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Remove one color

- Put the segments without color in a queue Q

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Remove one color

- Put the segments without color in a queue Q

 Pick the first segment s₀ of the queue choose its new color with a minimum conflict weight with other segments $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Color } s_0 \mbox{ with its new } \\ \mbox{color} \ldots \\ \mbox{Uncolor the segments in } \\ \mbox{conflict with } s_0 \ldots \\ \mbox{And increase their } \\ \mbox{weights } \end{array}$





MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing

2-Conflict Robots

Coloring











MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

1-IP Packing ConvexCover

2-IP ConvexCover ConvexPartition

2-Local MaxPolygon Packing 2-Conflict

Robots Coloring



What did we get with these algorithms?

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The (very hard) problem of going on vacation

Maximum Area Polygon



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Minimum Area Polygon



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Segment Intersection Graph Coloring and Clique





1-Greedy MaxPolygon Packing Coloring

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Each Color Class (Interior-Disjoint Segments)

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Convex Cover

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Convex Cover



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Packing (50 items)



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Packing (335 items)



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Packing (500 items)



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Packing 1000 items)

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Packing (1240 items)

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Packing (1672 items)

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Packing (1685 items)

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Packing (2000 items)

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Packing (3000 items)

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Packing (5000 items)



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Packing (10000 items)



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Packing (10000 items)



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Packing (50000 items)



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Packing (50000 items)



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Moving Robots Video

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Thank You!

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Art by @maryanneshakyhand