

Decomposability of polygon coverings

D. Pálvölgyi¹ and G. Tóth²

¹ Eötvös University, Budapest

² A. Rényi Institute of Mathematics, Budapest

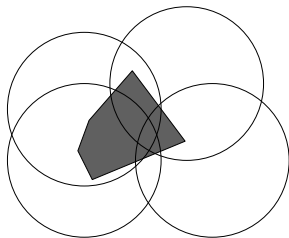
Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k-fold covering - Every point is contained in at least *k* sets.

Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

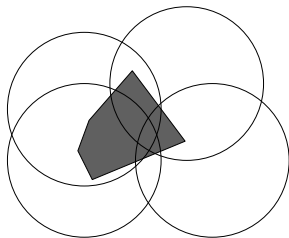
k-fold covering - Every point is contained in at least *k* sets.



Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k -fold covering - Every point is contained in at least k sets.

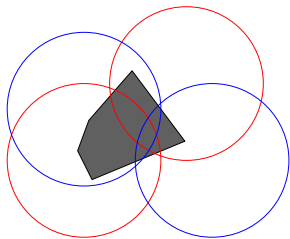
Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.



Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k -fold covering - Every point is contained in at least k sets.

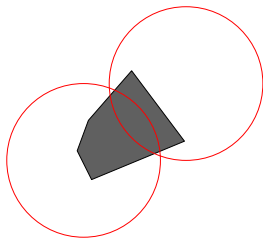
Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.



Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k-fold covering - Every point is contained in at least *k* sets.

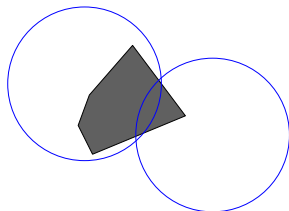
Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.



Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k -fold covering - Every point is contained in at least k sets.

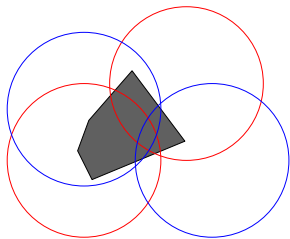
Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.



Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k -fold covering - Every point is contained in at least k sets.

Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.



Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k -fold covering - Every point is contained in at least k sets.

Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.

Plane-cover-decomposable - A set is plane-cover-decomposable if there is a k such that every k -fold covering of the plane with its translates is decomposable into two coverings.

Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k -fold covering - Every point is contained in at least k sets.

Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.

Plane-cover-decomposable - A set is plane-cover-decomposable if there is a k such that every k -fold covering of the plane with its translates is decomposable into two coverings.

Cover-decomposable - A set is cover-decomposable if there is a k such that every k -fold covering of any point set with its translates is decomposable into two coverings.

Given point set in plane (or whole plane) and a collection of sets.

k -fold covering - Every point is contained in at least k sets.

Decomposition - A covering is decomposable if the sets can be decomposed into two coverings.

Plane-cover-decomposable - A set is plane-cover-decomposable if there is a k such that every k -fold covering of the plane with its translates is decomposable into two coverings.

Cover-decomposable - A set is cover-decomposable if there is a k such that every k -fold covering of any point set with its translates is decomposable into two coverings. (Stronger!)

Earlier results

Earlier results

Conjecture (Pach)

All planar convex sets are cover-decomposable.

Earlier results

Conjecture (Pach)

All planar convex sets are cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Pach '86)

Every centrally symmetric convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Earlier results

Conjecture (Pach)

All planar convex sets are cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Pach '86)

Every centrally symmetric convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Mani-Levitska, Pach '87)

The unit disc is cover-decomposable.

Earlier results

Conjecture (Pach)

All planar convex sets are cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Pach '86)

Every centrally symmetric convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Mani-Levitska, Pach '87)

The unit disc is cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Pach, Tardos, Tóth '05)

Concave quadrilaterals are not plane-cover-decomposable.

Earlier results

Conjecture (Pach)

All planar convex sets are cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Pach '86)

Every centrally symmetric convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Mani-Levitska, Pach '87)

The unit disc is cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Pach, Tardos, Tóth '05)

Concave quadrilaterals are not plane-cover-decomposable.

Theorem (Tardos, Tóth '07)

Every triangle is cover-decomposable.

New results

New results

Theorem

Every convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

New results

Theorem

Every convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem

“Almost all” concave polygons are not cover-decomposable.

New results

Theorem

Every convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem

“Almost all” concave polygons are not cover-decomposable.

Note. If a concave polygon is the union of translates of a convex polygon, then it is cover-decomposable.

New results

Theorem

Every convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem

“Almost all” concave polygons are not cover-decomposable.

Note. If a concave polygon is the union of translates of a convex polygon, then it is cover-decomposable.

We know complete classification of polygons with respect to cover-decomposability.

New results

Theorem

Every convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem

“Almost all” concave polygons are not cover-decomposable.

Note. If a concave polygon is the union of translates of a convex polygon, then it is cover-decomposable.

We know complete classification of polygons with respect to cover-decomposability.

Corollary

Concave polygons with no parallel sides are not cover-decomposable.

New results

Theorem

Every convex polygon is cover-decomposable.

Theorem

“Almost all” concave polygons are not cover-decomposable.

Note. If a concave polygon is the union of translates of a convex polygon, then it is cover-decomposable.

We know complete classification of polygons with respect to cover-decomposability.

Corollary

Concave polygons with no parallel sides are not cover-decomposable.

Deciding plane-cover-decomposability seems harder.

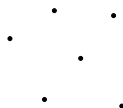
Dual problem

Dual problem

Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.

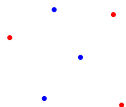
Dual problem

Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.



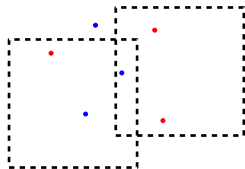
Dual problem

Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.



Dual problem

Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.



Dual problem

Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.

Theorem

A set is cover-decomposable if and only if there is a k such that every point set can be colored with two colors such that...

Dual problem

Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.

Theorem

A set is cover-decomposable if and only if there is a k such that every point set can be colored with two colors such that...

Proof.

Replace each set with its center of gravity. □

Dual problem

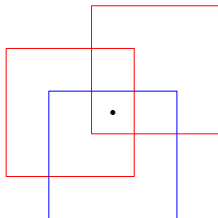
Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.

Theorem

A set is cover-decomposable if and only if there is a k such that every point set can be colored with two colors such that...

Proof.

Replace each set with its center of gravity. □



Dual problem

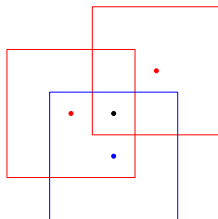
Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.

Theorem

A set is cover-decomposable if and only if there is a k such that every point set can be colored with two colors such that...

Proof.

Replace each set with its center of gravity. □



Dual problem

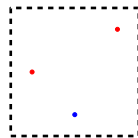
Color given set of points with two colors such that if a translate of a fixed polygon contains at least k points, then it contains both colors.

Theorem

A set is cover-decomposable if and only if there is a k such that every point set can be colored with two colors such that...

Proof.

Replace each set with its center of gravity.



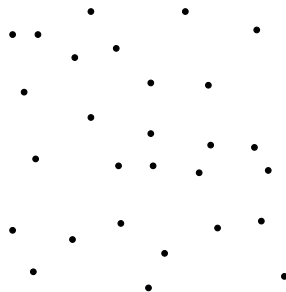
Division

Division

Divide the plane into small regions.

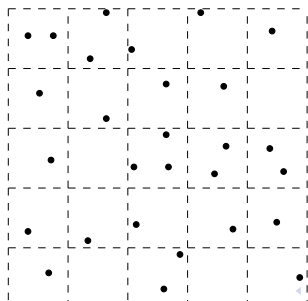
Division

Divide the plane into small regions.



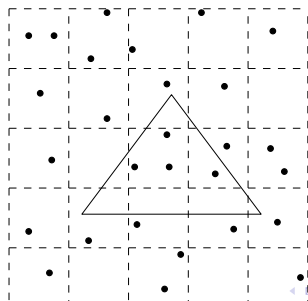
Division

Divide the plane into small regions.



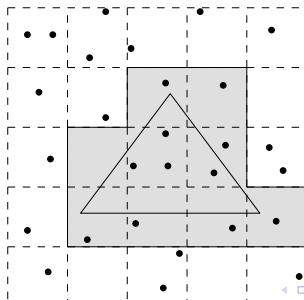
Division

Divide the plane into small regions.



Division

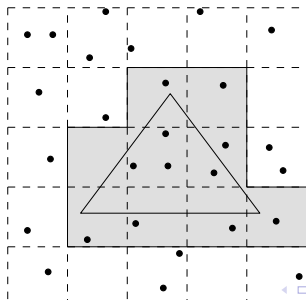
Divide the plane into small regions.



Division

Divide the plane into small regions.

Every translate intersects a bounded number of regions.

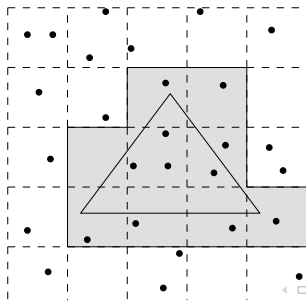


Division

Divide the plane into small regions.

Every translate intersects a bounded number of regions.

Every translate has each of its vertices in different regions.

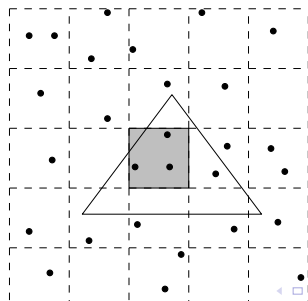


Division

Divide the plane into small regions.

Every translate intersects a bounded number of regions.

Every translate has each of its vertices in different regions.



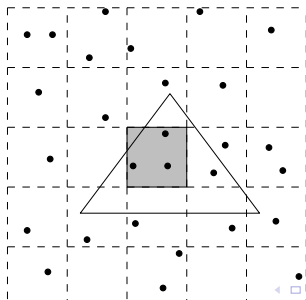
Division

Divide the plane into small regions.

Every translate intersects a bounded number of regions.

Every translate has each of its vertices in different regions.

We can assume that all the points are in a small region.



Wedges

Wedges

Every translate has only one of its vertices in the region.

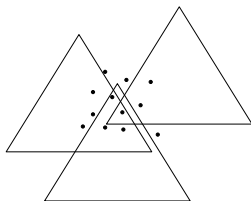
Wedges

Every translate has only one of its vertices in the region.



Wedges

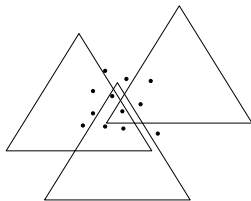
Every translate has only one of its vertices in the region.



Wedges

Every translate has only one of its vertices in the region.

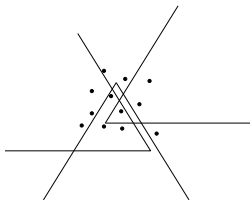
Replace translates by wedges.



Wedges

Every translate has only one of its vertices in the region.

Replace translates by wedges.

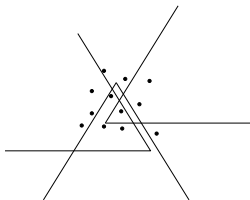


Wedges

Every translate has only one of its vertices in the region.

Replace translates by wedges.

Instead of translates of original polygon, solve problem for systems of wedges.



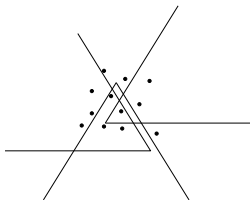
Wedges

Every translate has only one of its vertices in the region.

Replace translates by wedges.

Instead of translates of original polygon, solve problem for systems of wedges.

ie. color points with two colors such that any translate of the given wedges contains both colors if it contains at least k points.



Special pair of wedges

Special pair of wedges

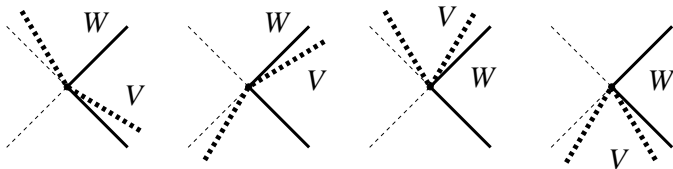
Assume we have two wedges, V and W .

Special pair of wedges

Assume we have two wedges, V and W .
Wlog, W has a right angle and “looks right”.

Special pair of wedges

Assume we have two wedges, V and W .
Wlog, W has a right angle and “looks right”.

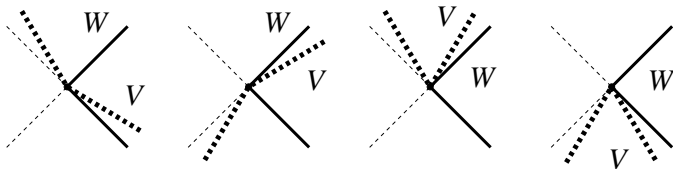


Special pair of wedges

Assume we have two wedges, V and W .
Wlog, W has a right angle and “looks right”.

Definition

They form a special pair if their relative position is one of these.

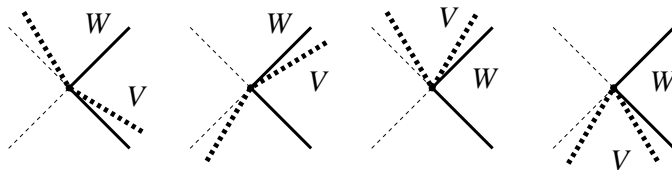


Special pair of wedges

Assume we have two wedges, V and W .
Wlog, W has a right angle and “looks right”.

Definition

*They form a special pair if their relative position is one of these.
That is, the union of the wedges is in an open halfplane whose boundary contains the origin, but none of them contain the other.*



Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □

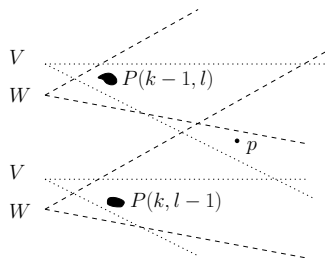
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



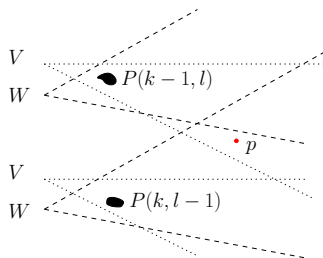
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



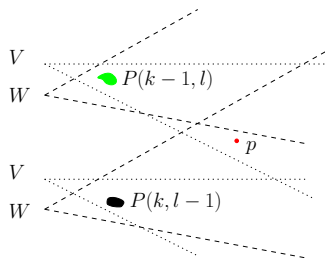
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. \square



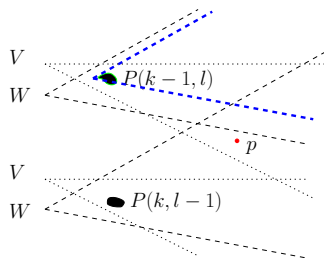
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



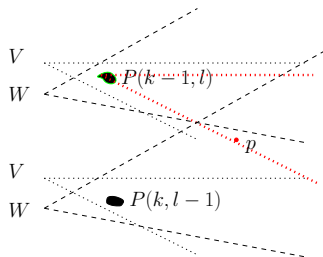
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



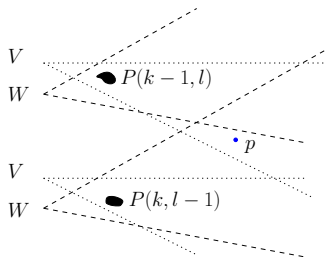
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



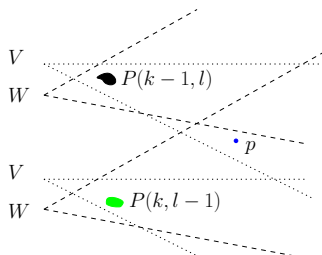
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



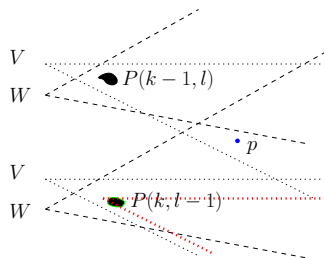
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



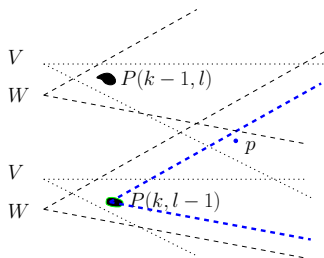
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



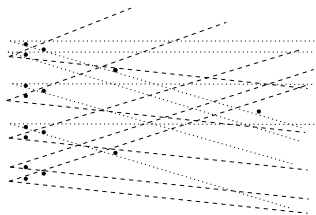
Uncolorable point set for special pair of wedges

Theorem

For any pair of special wedges V, W and for every k, l , there is a point set of cardinality $\binom{k+l}{k}$ such that for every coloring of P with red and blue either there is a translate of V containing k red and no blue points or there is a translate of W containing l blue and no red points.

Proof.

Induction. □



Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges.

Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges. Thus it is not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges. Thus it is not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

For a system of wedges we can color the points with two colors such that any translate of the given wedges contains both colors if it contains at least k points IFF none of the pairs are special.

Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges. Thus it is not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

For a system of wedges we can color the points with two colors such that any translate of the given wedges contains both colors if it contains at least k points IFF none of the pairs are special.

Theorem

A polygon is cover-decomposable IFF none of the pair of its angles are special.

Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges. Thus it is not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

For a system of wedges we can color the points with two colors such that any translate of the given wedges contains both colors if it contains at least k points IFF none of the pairs are special.

Theorem

A polygon is cover-decomposable IFF none of the pair of its angles are special.

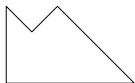


Figure: Cover-decomposable but not union of translates of a convex set.

Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges. Thus it is not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

For a system of wedges we can color the points with two colors such that any translate of the given wedges contains both colors if it contains at least k points IFF none of the pairs are special.

Theorem

A polygon is cover-decomposable IFF none of the pair of its angles are special.

Corollary

Convex polygons are cover-decomposable.

Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges. Thus it is not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

For a system of wedges we can color the points with two colors such that any translate of the given wedges contains both colors if it contains at least k points IFF none of the pairs are special.

Theorem

A polygon is cover-decomposable IFF none of the pair of its angles are special.

Corollary

Convex polygons are cover-decomposable.

Theorem

Polyhedrons are not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

If a concave polygon has no parallel sides, then it has a special pair of wedges. Thus it is not cover-decomposable.

Theorem

For a system of wedges we can color the points with two colors such that any translate of the given wedges contains both colors if it contains at least k points IFF none of the pairs are special.

Theorem

A polygon is cover-decomposable IFF none of the pair of its angles are special.

Corollary

Convex polygons are cover-decomposable.

Theorem

*Polyhedrons are not cover-decomposable.
Not even space-cover-decomposable.*

Different cover-decomposability notions

Different cover-decomposability notions

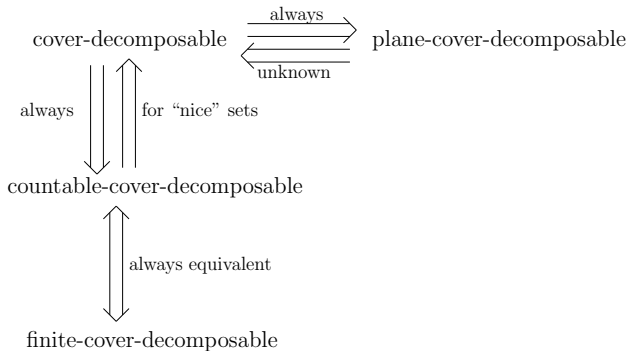


Figure: Connections between variants of cover-decomposability.

Different cover-decomposability notions

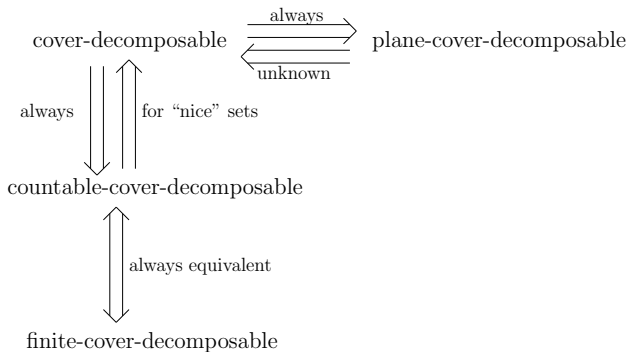


Figure: Connections between variants of cover-decomposability.

Corollary

It does not matter if the set is open or closed.

Extending the counter example to the whole plane

Extending the counter example to the whole plane

Theorem

If a concave polygon C has two special wedges that have a common touching line, then it is not plane-cover-decomposable.

Extending the counter example to the whole plane

Theorem

If a concave polygon C has two special wedges that have a common touching line, then it is not plane-cover-decomposable.

Proof.

The counter example can be extended. □

Extending the counter example to the whole plane

Theorem

If a concave polygon C has two special wedges that have a common touching line, then it is not plane-cover-decomposable.

Proof.

The counter example can be extended. □

Corollary

If a concave pentagon is not cover-decomposable, then it is not plane-cover-decomposable.

Extending the counter example to the whole plane

Theorem

If a concave polygon C has two special wedges that have a common touching line, then it is not plane-cover-decomposable.

Proof.

The counter example can be extended. □

Corollary

If a concave pentagon is not cover-decomposable, then it is not plane-cover-decomposable.

This statement does not hold for hexagons.

Extending the counter example to the whole plane

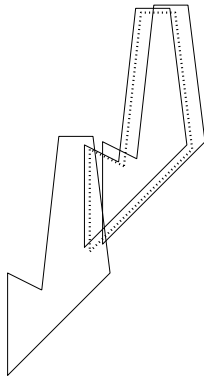
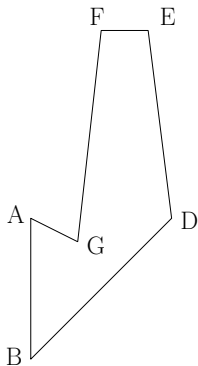
Theorem

There is a hexagon that is not cover-decomposable but it is plane-cover-decomposable.

Extending the counter example to the whole plane

Theorem

There is a hexagon that is not cover-decomposable but it is plane-cover-decomposable.



Thank you for your attention!