Deterministic tilings, periodicity and undecidability

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Frac de printemps 2014, Nancy 8 avril 2014



We meet:

- tilings by Wang tiles
- deterministic tilesets
- Turing machine simulations
- undecidable tiling problems

We prove the **undecidability of the Periodic Domino Problem** when the input is restricted to **4-way deterministic** tilesets.

1. Tilings

Tilings by Wang tiles

A **Wang tile** is an oriented (no rotations allowed) unit square tile carrying a **color on each side**.

A **tileset** τ is a finite set of Wang tiles.

A tiling $c : \mathbb{Z}^2 \to \tau$ associates a tile to each cell of the discrete plane \mathbb{Z}^2 in such a way that the colors of the common sides of neighboring tiles match.







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Domino Problem (1/2)

Domino Problem [Wang 61]. Given a Wang tileset, decide whether it tiles the discrete plane.

Simple facts.

- 1. If a tileset admits a periodic tiling, then it admits a bi-periodic tiling.
- 2. The Domino Problem is co-recursively enumerable.
- 3. Deciding whether a tileset admits a periodic tiling is recursively enumerable.

Wang's conjecture. If a tileset tiles the plane, then it admits a periodic tiling. Hence **DP** is decidable.

Actually... There exists an aperiodic tileset [Berger 64] (103 tuiles).

Domino Problem with a seed tile

DP with a seed tile. Given a tileset with an identified *seed tile*, decide whether it admits a tiling containing the seed tile.

Undecidable. Use the seed tile to properly initialize a Turing computation.

There exists a tiling containing the seed tile \Leftrightarrow the machine does not halt from the empty tape.





Theorem [Berger 64]. DP is undecidable.

Proof simplified later by [Robinson 71].

The existence of **aperiodic** tilesets and this result justify the definition of a natural variant of the Domino Problem...

Periodic Domino Problem

Periodic Domino Problem. Given a tileset, decide whether it admits a **periodic** tiling.

[Gurevich-Koryakov 72] modifies Berger's construction to deal with this problem.

Theorem [Gurevich-Koryakov 72]. PDP is undecidable.

Or, equivalently:

Theorem. Periodic and aperiodic tilesets are recursively inseparable.

This can also easily be proved by a simple modification of Robinson's construction.

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But also... more on that later.

2. Determinism

Deterministic tilesets

Introduced by J. Kari in 1991 to prove the undecidability of the nilpotency problem for 1D cellular automata.

Notations: NW for North-West, SE pour South-East...

Deterministic tileset. A tileset τ is **NE-deterministic** if for any pair of tiles $(t_W, t_S) \in \tau^2$, there exists **at most one** tile *t* compatible to the west with t_W and to the south with t_S .



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Deterministic tilesets: a short history

[Kari 91] introduced a (bi-)determinization of **[Robinson 71]** to treat the nilpotency problem for cellular automata in dimension 1 (**Nil1D**).

Theorem [Kari 91]. Nil1D is undecidable.

Theorem [Kari 91]. There exist some (bi-)deterministic aperiodic tilesets.

N.B. The 16 Wang tiles derived from Ammann's geometric tiles are bi-deterministic.

Theorem [Kari 91]. DP remains undecidable for (one-way) **deterministic** tilesets.

Deterministic tilesets: a revised history

[Aanderaa-Lewis 74] embedded the coding of two-dimensional Wang tilings into one-dimensional double shifts, allowing this to be coded back into deterministic Wang tilesets or one-dimensional cellular automata.

Theorem [Aanderaa-Lewis 74]. Nil1D is undecidable.

Theorem [Aanderaa-Lewis 74]. There exist some **deterministic** aperiodic tilesets.

N.B. The 16 Wang tiles derived from Ammann's geometric tiles are bi-deterministic.

Theorem [Aanderaa-Lewis 74]. DP remains undecidable for (one-way) **deterministic** tilesets.

[Kari-Papasoglu 99] builds a strong determinization of [Robinson 71].

Theorem [Kari-Papasoglu 99]. There exist some **4-way** deterministic aperiodic tilesets.

[Lukkarila 09] introduces a 4-way determinization of [Robinson, 1971] + Turing computation.

Theorem [Lukkarila 09]. DP remains undecidable for **4-way** deterministic tilesets.

3. The 4-way deterministic PDP

What about the deterministic setting? Mazoyer and Rapaport considered this problem in the deterministic case to prove the undecidability of the nilpotency problem **over periodic** configurations of one-dimensional cellular automata.

Theorem [Mazoyer-Rapaport 99]. Nil1D over **periodic** configurations is undecidable.

Theorem [Mazoyer-Rapaport 99]. PDP remains undecidable for (oneway) **deterministic** tilesets.

The proof is a slightly technical modification of [Kari 91].

Let us prove the following.

Theorem. PDP remains undecidable for 4-way deterministic tilesets.

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We will also build upon the 4-way deterministic **Turing machine simulation** from **[Lukkarila 09]**.

Preliminaries: Transformations (1/3)

Product. Given two tilesets $\tau_1 \subseteq C_1^4$ and $\tau_2 \subseteq C_2^4$, the **product** tileset $\tau = \tau_1 \times \tau_2$ is

$$\tau = \left\{ \underbrace{w_1 w_2}_{s_1 s_2}, \underbrace{w_i}_{s_i} e_i e_i \\ e_i \in \tau_i, \ 1 \le i \le 2 \right\}$$

over the set of colors $\mathcal{C}_1 \times \mathcal{C}_2$.

We interpret it as a **two-layered** tileset whose tiles hold a tile of τ_1 on the first layer and a tile of τ_2 on the second layer (with a local matching condition requiring that the matching conditions of both layers are verified).

If τ_1 and τ_2 are **4-way deterministic**, then $\tau_1\times\tau_2$ is also 4-way deterministic.

Preliminaries: Transformations (2/3)



If a tileset is **4-way deterministic**, any of its disjoint mirrors is also 4-way deterministic (some determinism directions are interchanged).

Any of the (disjoint) unions of a tileset with some of its disjoint mirrors (e.g. $\tau \sqcup \overline{\tau}^h \sqcup \overline{\tau}^v \sqcup \overline{\tau}^c$) is also 4-way deterministic.

Grouping. Given a tileset τ , its 2 \times 2 grouping $\tau^{2\times 2}$ is

$$\tau^{2\times 2} = \left\{ \underbrace{ac}_{cd}^{ab}_{bd} \in (\tau^2)^4, \underbrace{\frac{a}{c}}_{cd}^{a} \text{ is a valid } 2 \times 2 \text{ pattern by } \tau \right\}$$

over the set of colors τ^2 .

The tileset $\tau^{2\times 2}$ is a coding of 2 \times 2 patterns by τ with the local matching condition that two horizontally (resp. vertically) adjacent patterns overlap on one column (resp. row).

If τ is 4-way deterministic, then $\tau^{2\times 2}$ is also 4-way deterministic.

Layer 1: Grid



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Layers 2 and 3: Mirrors (1/2)

We consider τ_a an arbitrary **4-way deterministic** aperiodic tileset over the set of colors C.

Let $\overline{\tau_a}^h$ be its **horizontal mirror tileset** over the set of colors $C_h = \{x_h, x \in C\}$ (disjoint copy of C).

For all $x \in C$, we add the following tiles to $\tau_a \sqcup \overline{\tau_a}^h$.





Lemma. The built tileset is 4-way deterministic.

Lemma. Every horizontally periodic tiling contains a vertical mirror line. Hence, by periodicity, it contains infinitely many such lines (with bounded distance between two consecutive lines).



We add a **third layer**, similarly to what we have done for the second layer but with **horizontal mirror lines**.

We **synchronize** the lines of the grid of the first layer with the mirror lines of the second and third layers.

Lemma. The built tileset is 4-way deterministic.

Lemma. Every bi-periodic tiling contains a grid with bounded rectangle size on its first layer.

Layer 4: Turing computation (1/4)

Given a Turing machine M, [Lukkarila 09] introduces a 4-way deterministic tileset τ_M to prove the undecidability of the Domino Problem with a seed tile in the 4-way deterministic setting.

One of the layers of τ_M exactly is the following.



Layer 4: Turing computation (2/4)

We assemble this set τ_M and its three mirror tilesets $\overline{\tau_M}^h$, $\overline{\tau_M}^v$, $\overline{\tau_M}^c$ on a grid adding the following tiles to $\tau_M \sqcup \overline{\tau_M}^h \sqcup \overline{\tau_M}^v \sqcup \overline{\tau_M}^c$.



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Layer 4: Turing computation (3/4)

We **synchronize** this grid with the one of the first layer.

Lemma. The built tileset is 4-way deterministic.

Lemma. Every bi-periodic tiling contains a grid on its fourth layer with finite patterns by one of each of the four mirror tilesets of τ_M in each of its four types of rectangles.

It is far from sufficient to properly simulate the Turing machine.

Additional restriction 1 (by subset). Horizontal colors containing a machine state cannot appear along vertical grid lines on the fourth layer.

This restriction forbids a Turing machine head from **leaving** its rectangle and any other Turing machine head from **appearing** unexpectedly in a rectangle.

Layer 4: Turing computation (4/4)

We denote as:

- $\diamond t_0$ the **seed tile** of τ_M
- ♦ $F \subset \tau_M$ the set of tiles of τ_M carrying a **final state** of *M* in their north color (*head move* tile)

 t_0^h, t_0^v, t_0^c and F^h, F^v, F^c the corresponding objects for the mirror tilesets.

Additional restriction 2 (by grouping). We add the following initialization and halting constraints on the fourth layer.



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We furthermore require, without loss of generality, *M* to verify the following properties:

- during the computation, the head never moves to a position situated to the left of its starting position;
- when the computation halts (if it halts), the position of the head is exactly the **rightmost position** that has been reached during the computation.

Lemma. The built tileset is 4-way deterministic.

Proposition. The built tileset admits periodic tilings \Leftrightarrow the Turing machine *M* halts from the empty tape.

Conclusion (2/2)

Sketch of the proof of the proposition.

- Even by the described bi-periodic tiling.
- \Rightarrow There must exist a bi-periodic tiling.

Such a tiling contains a grid on its fourth layer with properly initialized (due to the seed tile) Turing computation from the empty tape on the *first* line of each rectangle.

The head cannot leave and no head can appear on the borders, hence the computation is properly simulated.

A final state is required in a corner, thus the machine halts.

This concludes the construction, the reduction and the proof of the theorem.

4.↓

That's all folks!

Thanks for your attention \downarrow