



# Computational Origami

Ryuhei Uehara

Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)

School of Information Science

[uehara@jaist.ac.jp](mailto:uehara@jaist.ac.jp)

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/~uehara>



# I628E Information Processing Theory



- Schedule

- January 27 (13:30-15:10)
  - Introduction to Computational Origami
  - Polygons and Polyhedra folded from them
- January 29 (10:50-12:30)
  - Computational Complexity of Origami algorithms
- February 3 (9:00-10:40)
  - Advanced topics
  - 13:30-15:10 (Office Hour at I67-b)



# I628E Information Processing Theory



- Report (up to 20pts)
  - Submit a report about one of the following two options:
    1. Survey some paper(s) appearing in these three lectures
    2. Solve some problems appearing in these three lectures
  - **Firm deadline: 17:00, February 10** in one of the following two ways
    - **By email:**  
PDF file (word file is not acceptable) from JAIST account.
    - **By paper:**  
A4 size paper, staple at the top-left corner.  
You can write your report in **English** or **Japanese**.



# Topics in the lectures

## Part 1: Polygons and polyhedra folded from them

- Relationship between unfolding and solids: Big open problem
- How can we compute (convex) “polyhedra” from a given “unfolding”?
  - Mathematical characterization/algorithms/computation power

## Algorithms and Computational Complexity

## Part 2: Algorithms and computational complexity of “folding”

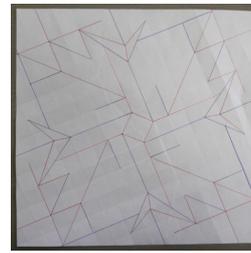
- Basic operations of origami
- Algorithms and complexity of origami
  - Efficiency of folding of 1-dimensional origami (algorithms and complexity)
    - Efficient algorithm (how can we reduce the number of folding?)
    - How can we evaluate “good” folded states?

I have not yet  
reach to  
2-dimension...

There are many open problems,  
where many young researchers working on



# History...



Kawasaki Rose



- June 22, 2008

at “Forth Origami in Science, Mathematics, and Education”,

Professor Toshikazu Kawasaki, who is a mathematician and the designer of Kawasaki Rose, said that:

“As a mathematician, I do not take care once if we can show the **existence** of solutions.”

Trivia: The other twin Kawasaki is a professor of OR in Kyushu University.



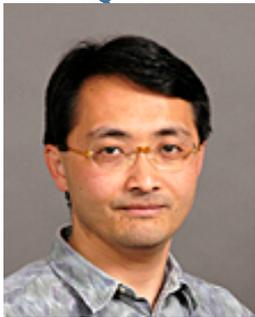
As a **computer scientist**, I considered...

It is important that **how** can we obtain the solution, and

It's **computational cost**

- GOOD algorithms?
- Computational complexity

We need good problem...



# Objective: Estimate “Complexity” of origami design

I would like to give the answer to the question  
“which is more complex?”



Kawasaki Rose

You need to fold in 3 dimensional space. For Uehara, it took 10 days at first, but now it takes about 10 minutes.

For Uehara, it took 40 minutes, and even Maekawa-san needs 20 minutes to fold.



Maekawa Devil

Both are more complicated than the classic “crane”, but why can you say that?





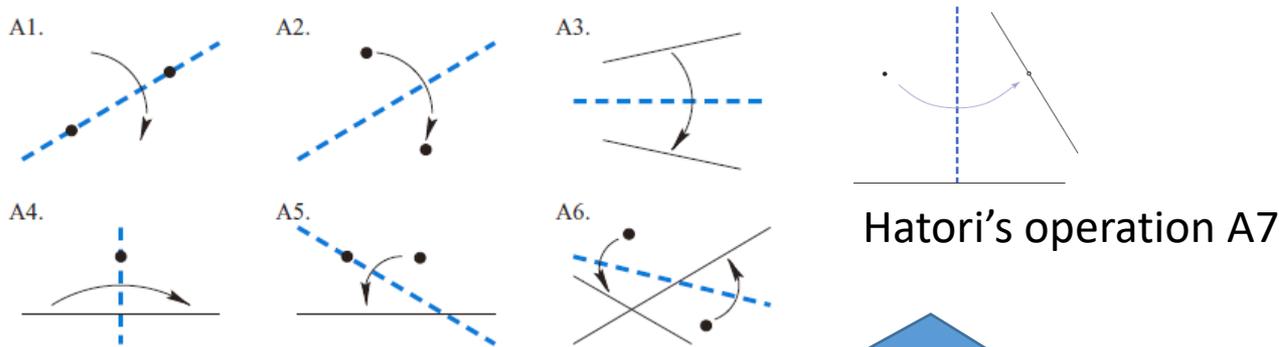
# Computational complexity and algorithm theory



- Basic theory of theoretical computer science
  - Basic machine models:
    - Common agreement of “**basic operations**”
    - Turing machine
    - VRAM model
  - Algorithm = sequence of basic operations
    - How can we combine basic operations?
  - Complexity of algorithm
    - Time complexity: Estimate by the number of basic operations
    - Space complexity: Estimate by the quantity of memory cells

# “Complexity” of folding...?

- Basic origami operations:
  - In origami society, they agree that the following seven operations as “basic operations”
  - We consider them as “basic operations”



Huzita's axioms A1-A6

Hatori's operation A7

These 7 operations can solve up to quartic (4) equations. (Traditional “ruler+compass” can solve up to quadratic (2) equations.)



# “Complexity” of folding...?

- “Reasonable” origami models to investigate computational complexity? (Simple → Complex)
  1. The simplest model: 1D, creases in unit distance
    - On a long paper strip, we fold along vertical crease lines of unit interval
  2. 2 directions to extend
    - Crease lines in non-unit interval
      - (Crease lines can be *slanted*)
    - Higher dimensions (2 or 3 or more?)

We are still around here...



# Complexity/Efficiency of Origami(?)



- From the viewpoint of **Theoretical Computer Science**...
- Two resources of **Turing machine model**
  1. Time: The number of basic operations
  2. Space: The quantity of memory cells



# Complexity/Efficiency of Origami(?)



- From the viewpoint of **Theoretical Computer Science...**
- Two **resources** of **Origami model**
  1. **Time**: The number of basic (folding) operations
    - J. Cardinal, E. D. Demaine, M. L. Demaine, S. Imahori, T. Ito, M. Kiyomi, S. Langerman, R. Uehara, and T. Uno: Algorithmic Folding Complexity, *Graphs and Combinatorics*, Vol. 27, pp. 341-351, 2011.
    - (Guoxin Hu, Shin-Ichi Nakano, Ryuhei Uehara and Takeaki Uno: Simple Fold and Cut Problem for Line Segments, [CCCG 2019](#), pp. 158-163, 2019/08/08-10, Edmonton, Canada.)
  2. **Space**: The quantity of ??
    - R. Uehara: On Stretch Minimization Problem on Unit Strip Paper, *22nd Canadian Conference on Computational Geometry*, pp. 223-226, 2010/8/9-11.
    - Takuya Umesato, Toshiki Saitoh, Ryuhei Uehara, and Hiro Ito: Complexity of the stamp folding problem, [5th Annual International Conference on Combinatorial Optimization and Applications \(COCOA '11\)](#), Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Vol. 6831, pp. 311-321, 2011/8/4-6, Zhangjiajie, China.
    - Erik D. Demaine, David Eppstein, Adam Hesterberg, Hiro Ito, Anna Lubiw, Ryuhei Uehara and Yushi Uno: Folding a Paper Strip to Minimize Thickness, [The 9th Workshop on Algorithms and Computation \(WALCOM 2015\)](#), Lecture Notes in Computer Science Vol. 8973, pp. 113-124, 2015/02/26-2015/02/28, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

# Today's Topic

The 7<sup>th</sup> EATCS/LA Presentation Award!

## 5. Time Complexity

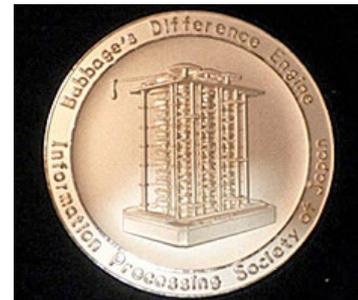
- “Folding complexity”
  - Theoretically, the world fastest algorithm for pleat folding

## 6. Space Complexity (?)

- Stamp Folding Problem
- Minimization of Crease width
  - NP-complete problem, FPT algorithm

## 7. Undecidable Origami Problem

- Diagonalization and undecidability



March 2012  
IPSI Yamashita SIG  
Research Award

On the other hand; This paper was rejected by some journal because “the proof is too simple”, which is an important point in the paper ;-)  
Sometimes, it is difficult to propose new computation model...



# Exercise (or challenge)

1. Propose some measurement that evaluate “complexity” of origami
  - Example: space for folding
2. Discuss about the measurement
  - Example: For one dimensional origami, the space for folding can be important. Imagine folding a long, say, 1km, metal pipe for water supply. On the other hand, in two dimensional space, Origami (in square) basically shrinks in each folding usually, so it is not reasonable.

Goal: In Turing machine, we have “time-space trade off”. It is quite nice to have such a measure that has a kind of trade off property between the number of folding.