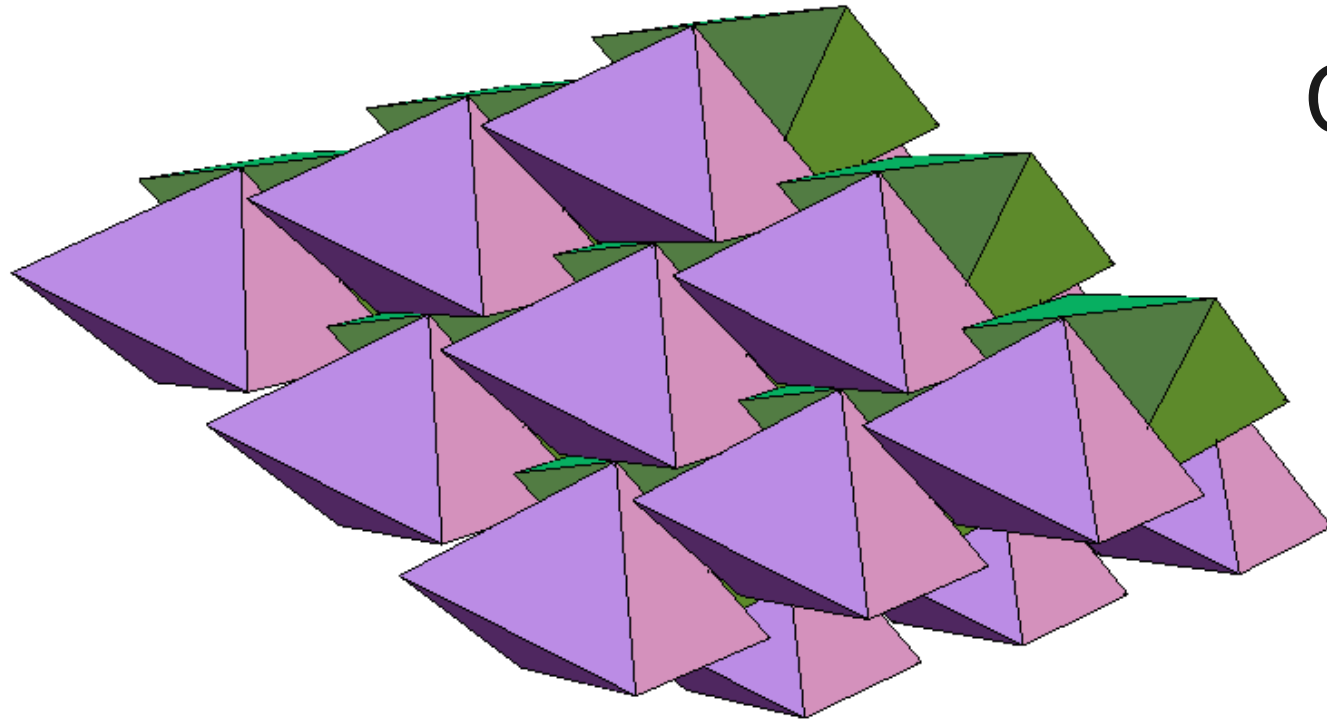


# The *Divide and Concur* approach to packing



Yoav Kallus  
Physics Dept.  
Cornell University

j/w:  
Veit Elser  
Simon Gravel

Particulate matter workshop  
MPIPKS, Dresden

May 31, 2010

# Packing problems:

Optimization: given a collection of figures, arrange them without overlaps as densely as possible.

Feasibility: find an arrangement of density  $> \varphi$

## Possible computational approaches:

- Complete algorithm
- Specialized incomplete (heuristic) algorithm
- General purpose incomplete algorithm
  - e.g.: simulated annealing, genetic algorithms, etc.

Divide and Concur belongs to the last category

## Two constraint feasibility

$$x \in A \cap B$$

Example:

A = permutations of “acgiknp”

B = 7-letter English words

## Two constraint feasibility

$$x \in A \cap B$$

Example:

A = permutations of “acgiknp”

B = 7-letter English words

x = “packing”

## More structure

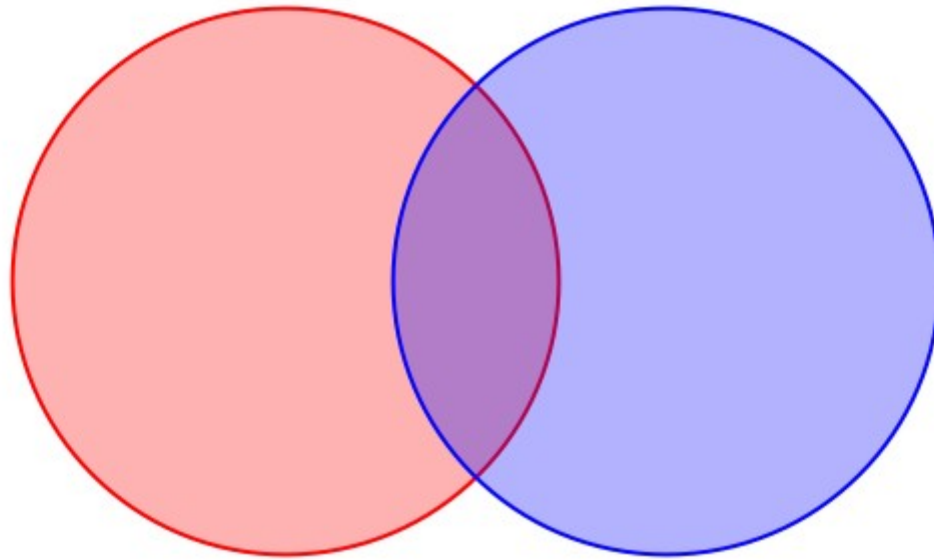
A, B are sets in a Euclidean configuration space  $\Omega$

simple constraints:

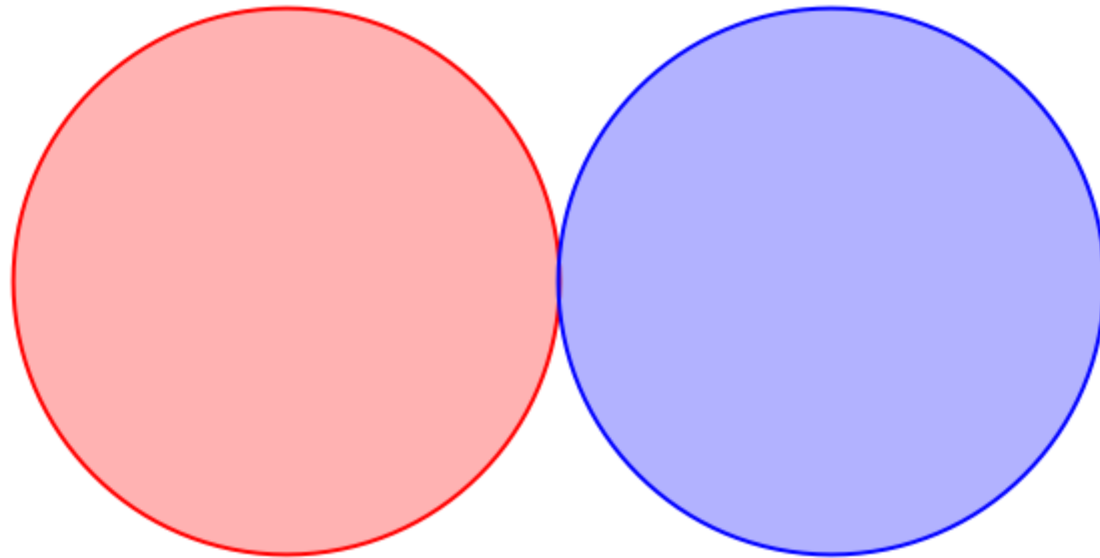
easy, efficient **projections** to A, B

$$P_A(x) = y \in A \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|x - y\| \text{ is minimized}$$

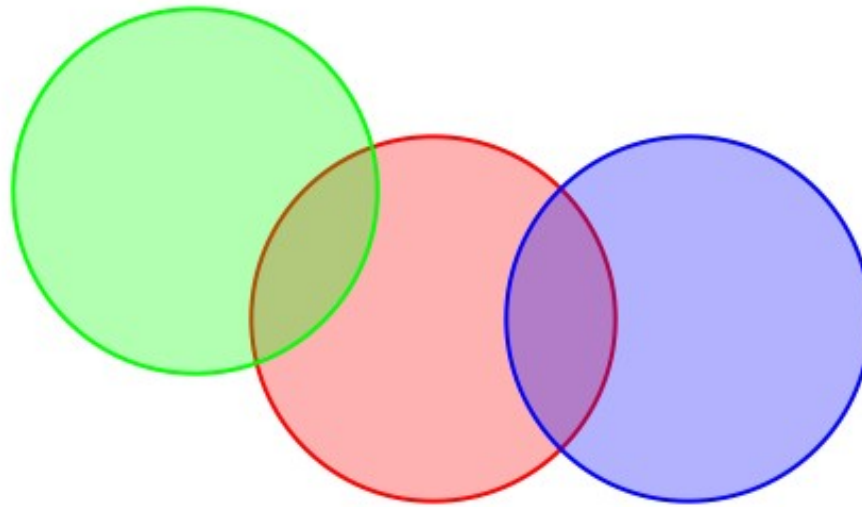
Projection to the packing (no overlaps) constraint



Projection to the packing (no overlaps) constraint

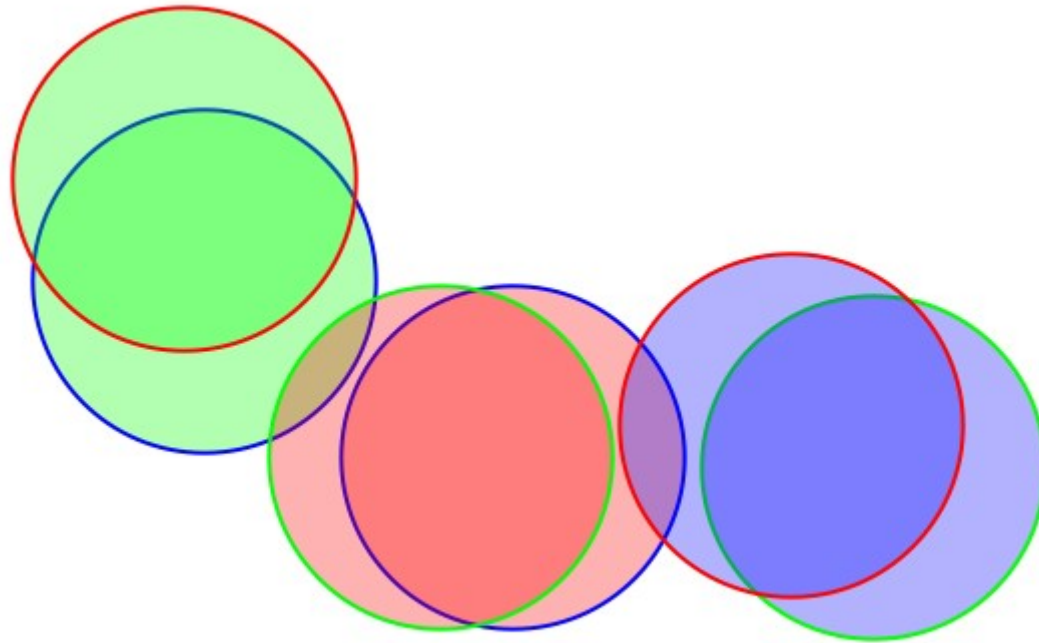


# Dividing the Constraints

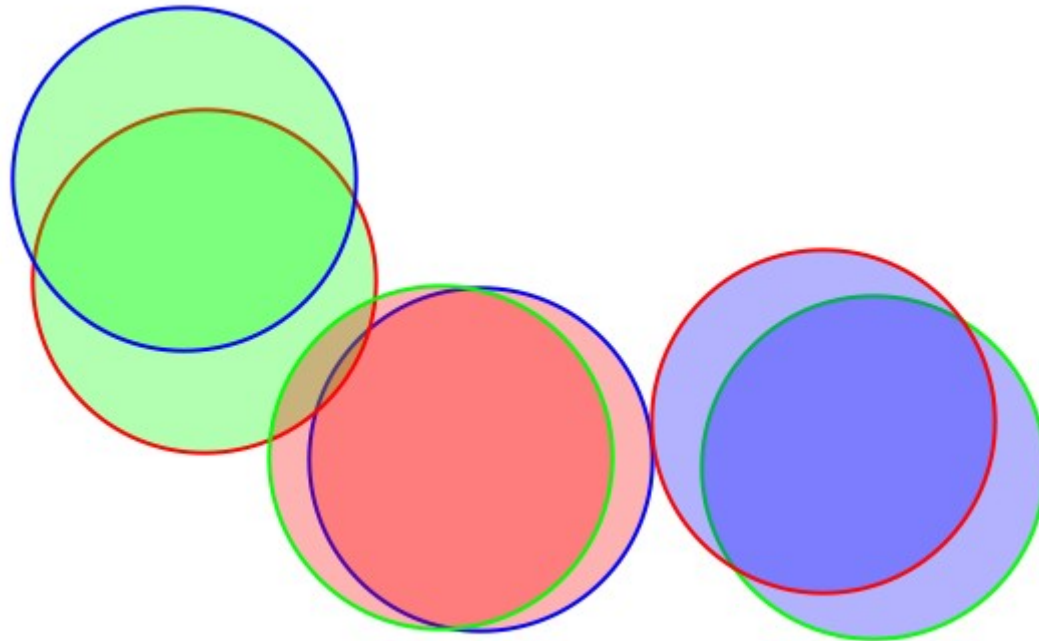




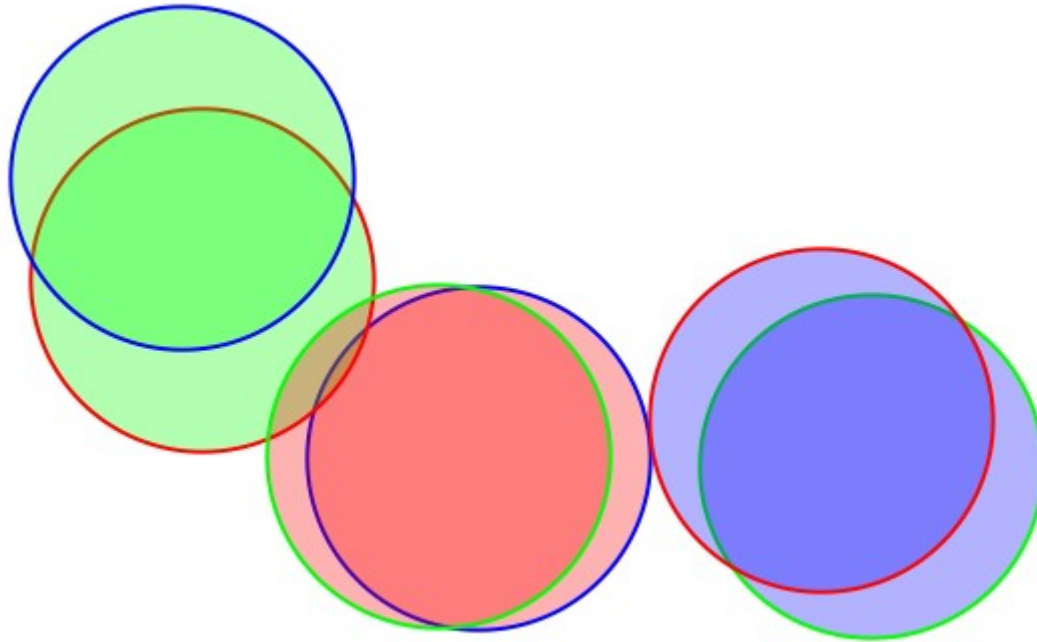
# Dividing the Constraints



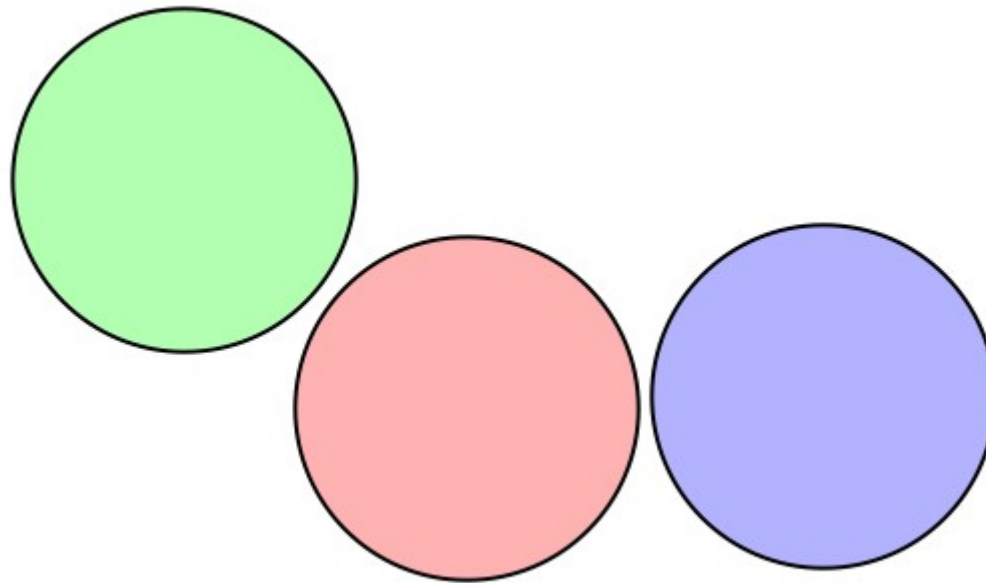
# Dividing the Constraints



# Projection to concurrence constraint



# Projection to concurrence constraint



## *Divide and Concur* scheme

A

No overlaps between  
designated replicas

“divided” packing  
constraints

B

All replicas of a  
particular figure concur

“concurrency”  
constraint

# What can we do with projections?

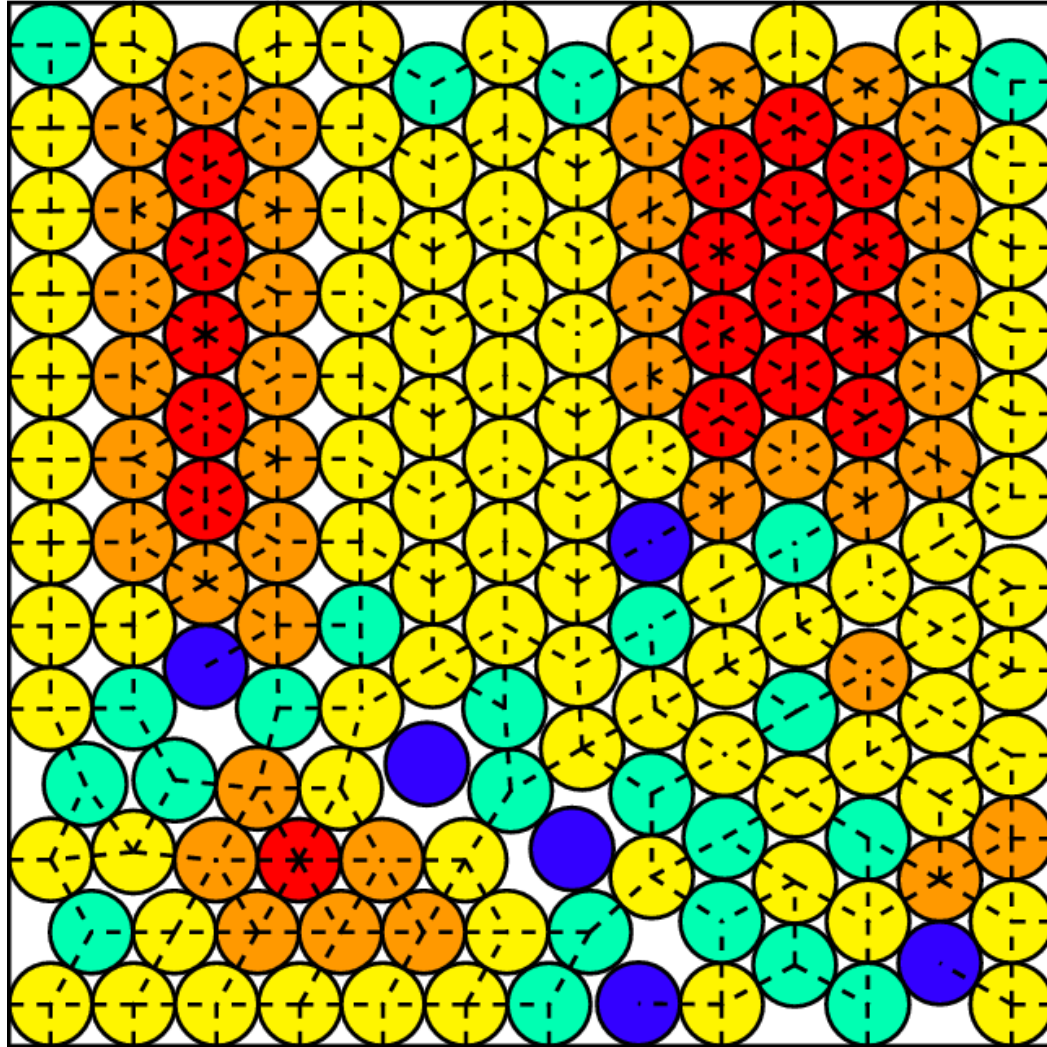
- alternating projections:

$$x'_i = P_A(x_i); \quad x_{i+1} = P_B(x'_i)$$

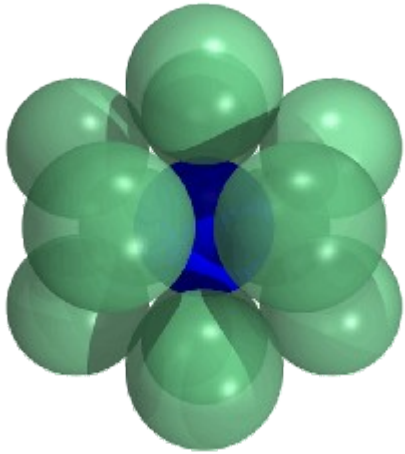
- Douglas-Rachford iteration (a/k/a difference map):

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + P_B(2P_A(x_i) - x_i) - P_A(x_i)$$

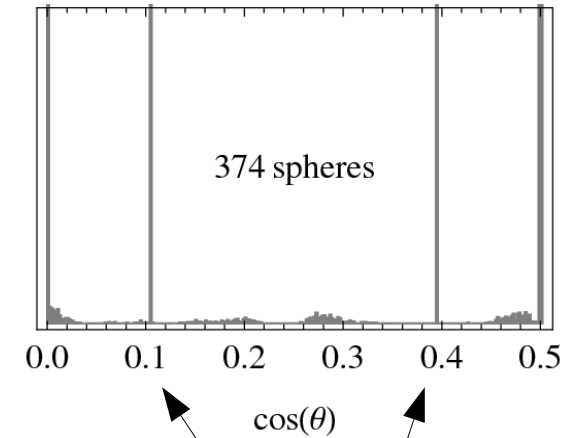
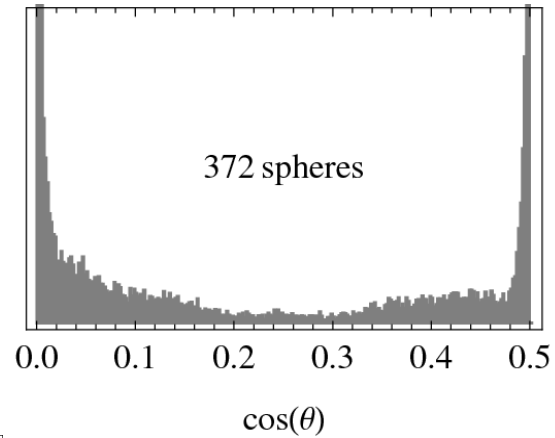
# Finite packing problems



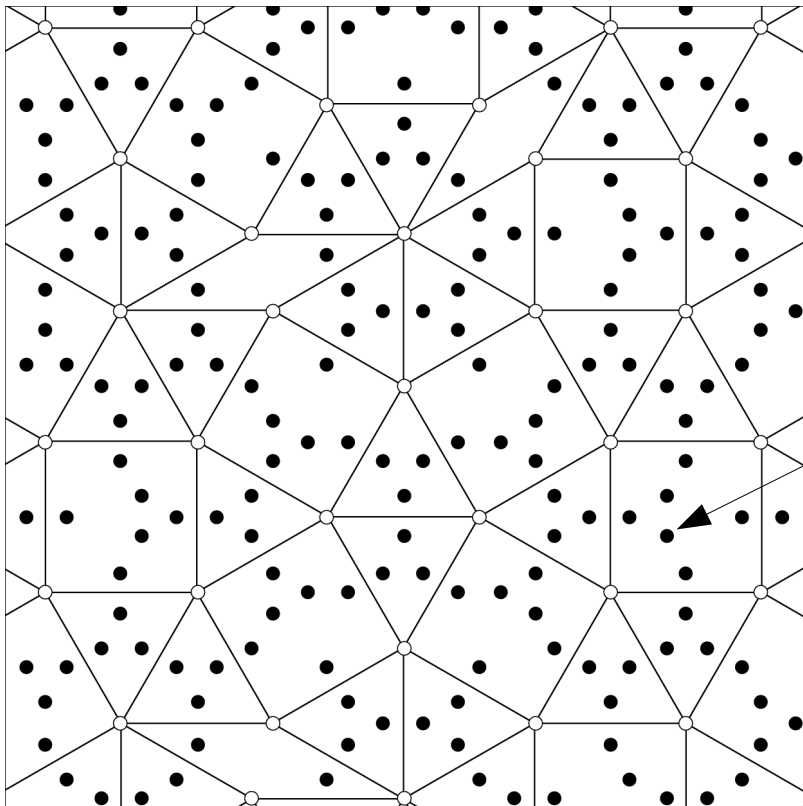
# Finite packing problems



The kissing number problem in 10D



$$(3 \pm \sqrt{3})/12$$



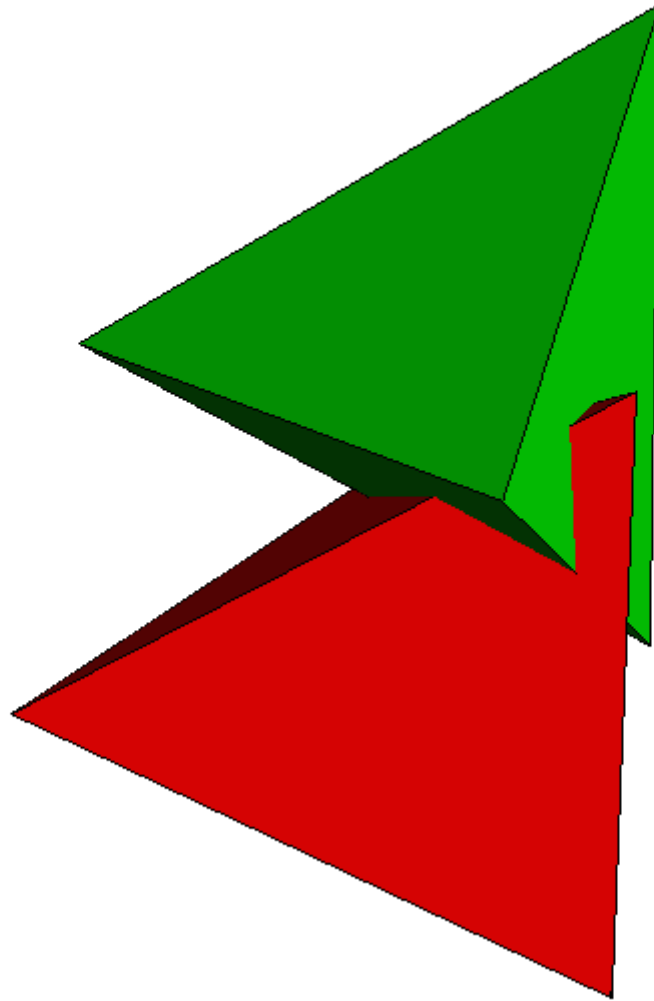
$$A_2 \oplus A_2 \oplus D_4$$

Special dimensions matter!

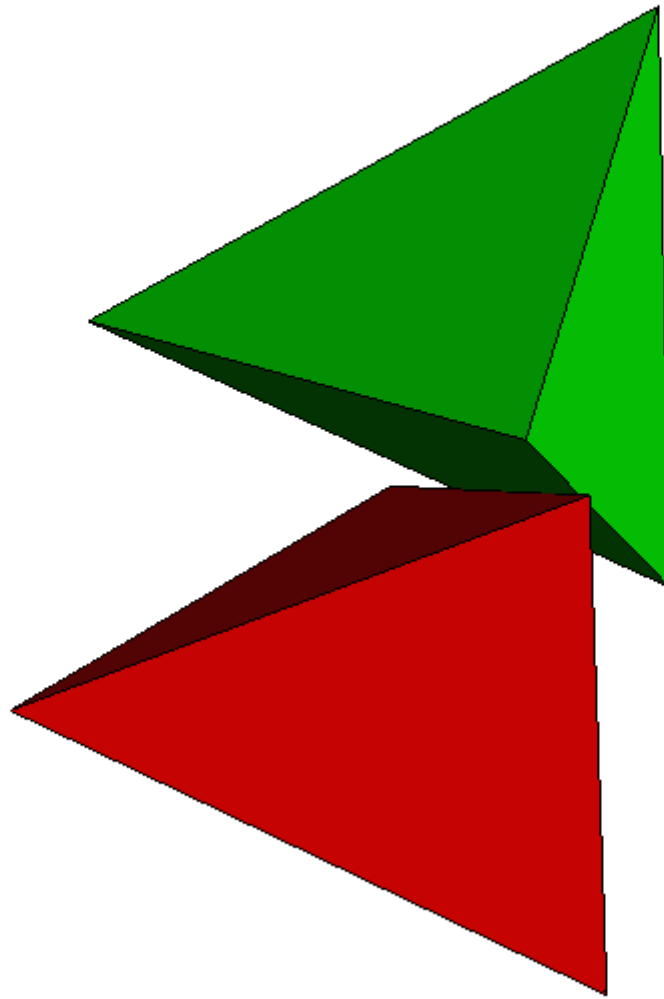
Elser & Gravel, Disc. Compu. Geom. (2010)



# Generalization to non-spherical Particles



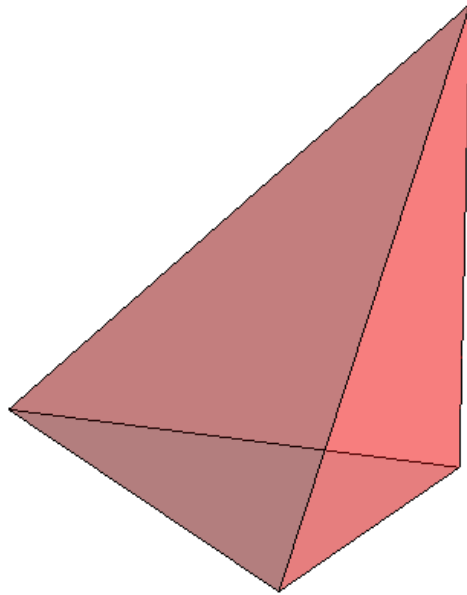
# Generalization to non-spherical Particles



# Generalization to non-spherical Particles

A

“divided” packing constraints (rigidity relaxed)



B

“concurrence” + rigidity constraints

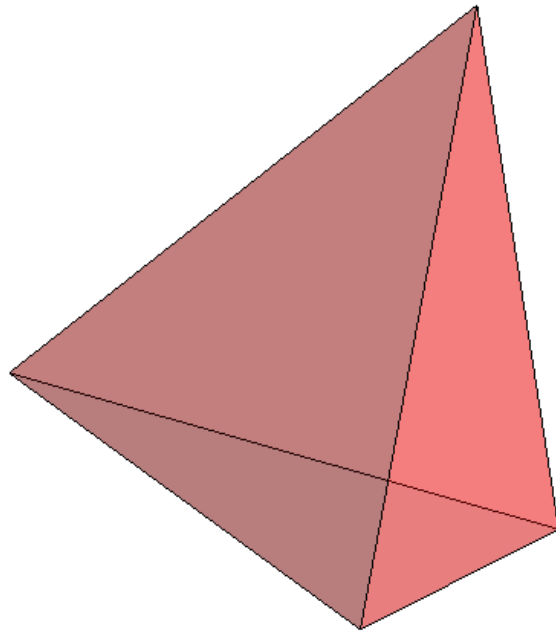
# Generalization to non-spherical Particles

A

“divided” packing  
constraints (rigidity  
relaxed)

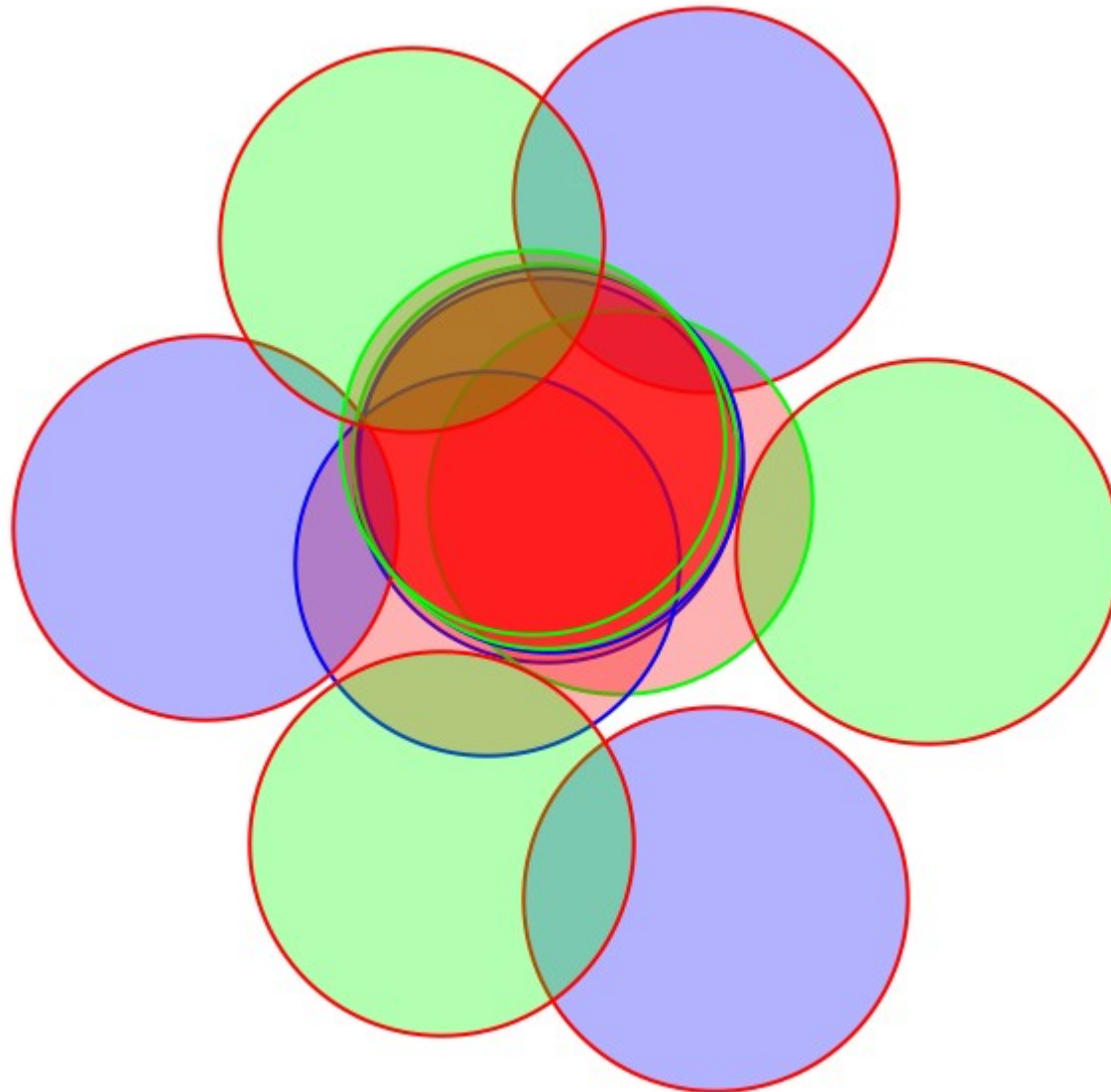
B

“concurrence” +  
rigidity constraints



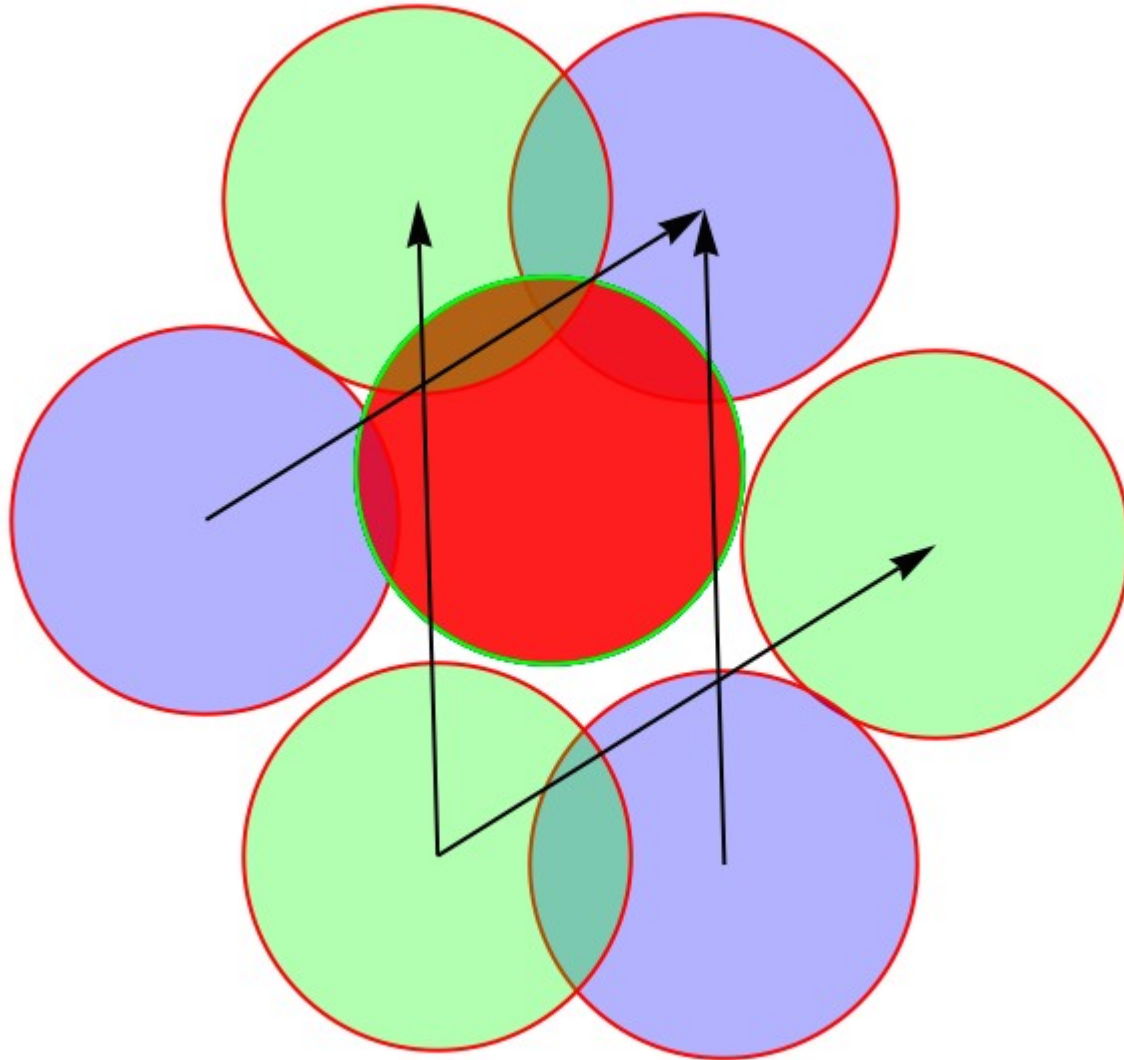
# Generalization to periodic packings

replicas  $\longrightarrow$  replicas + periodic images



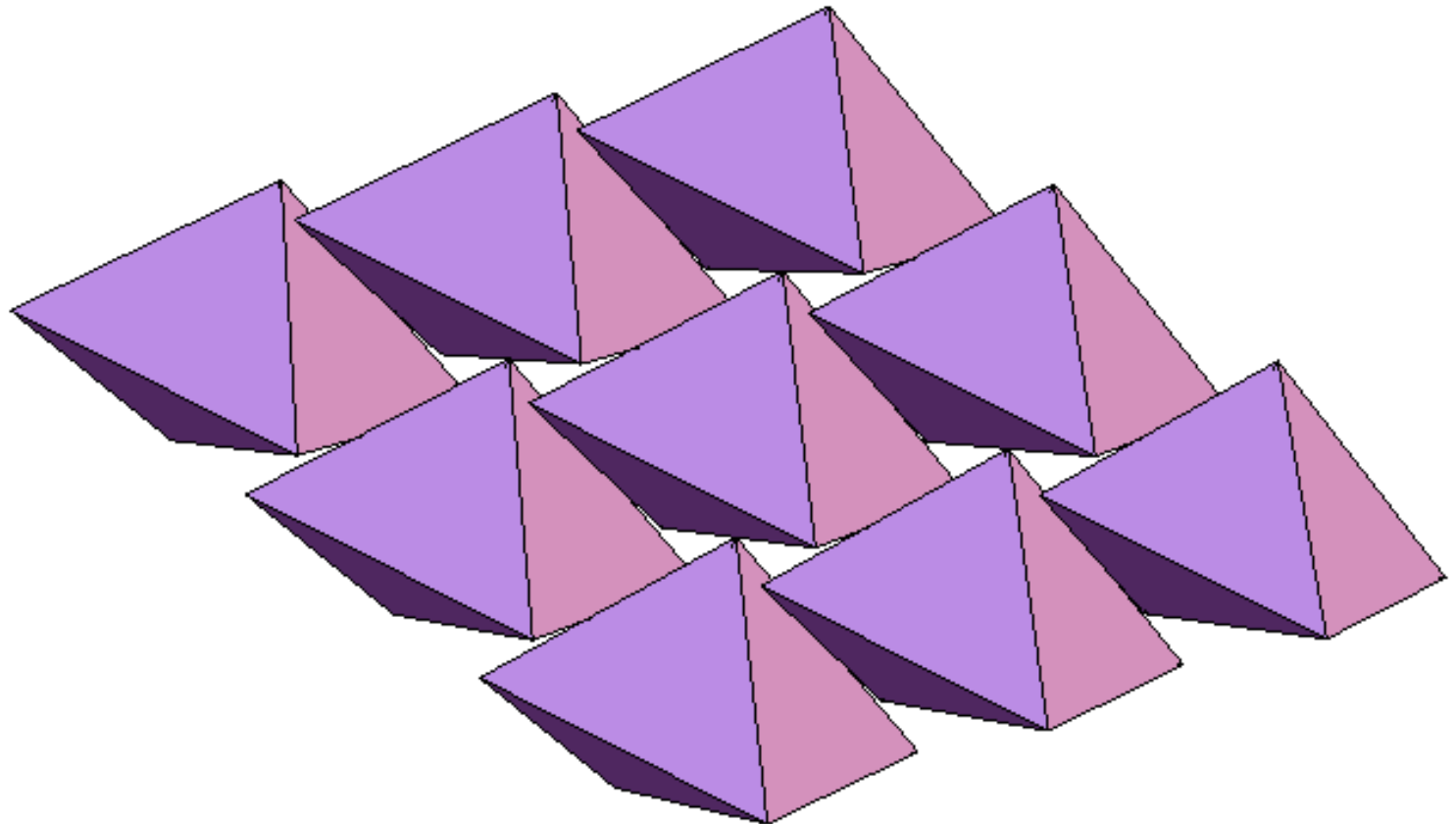
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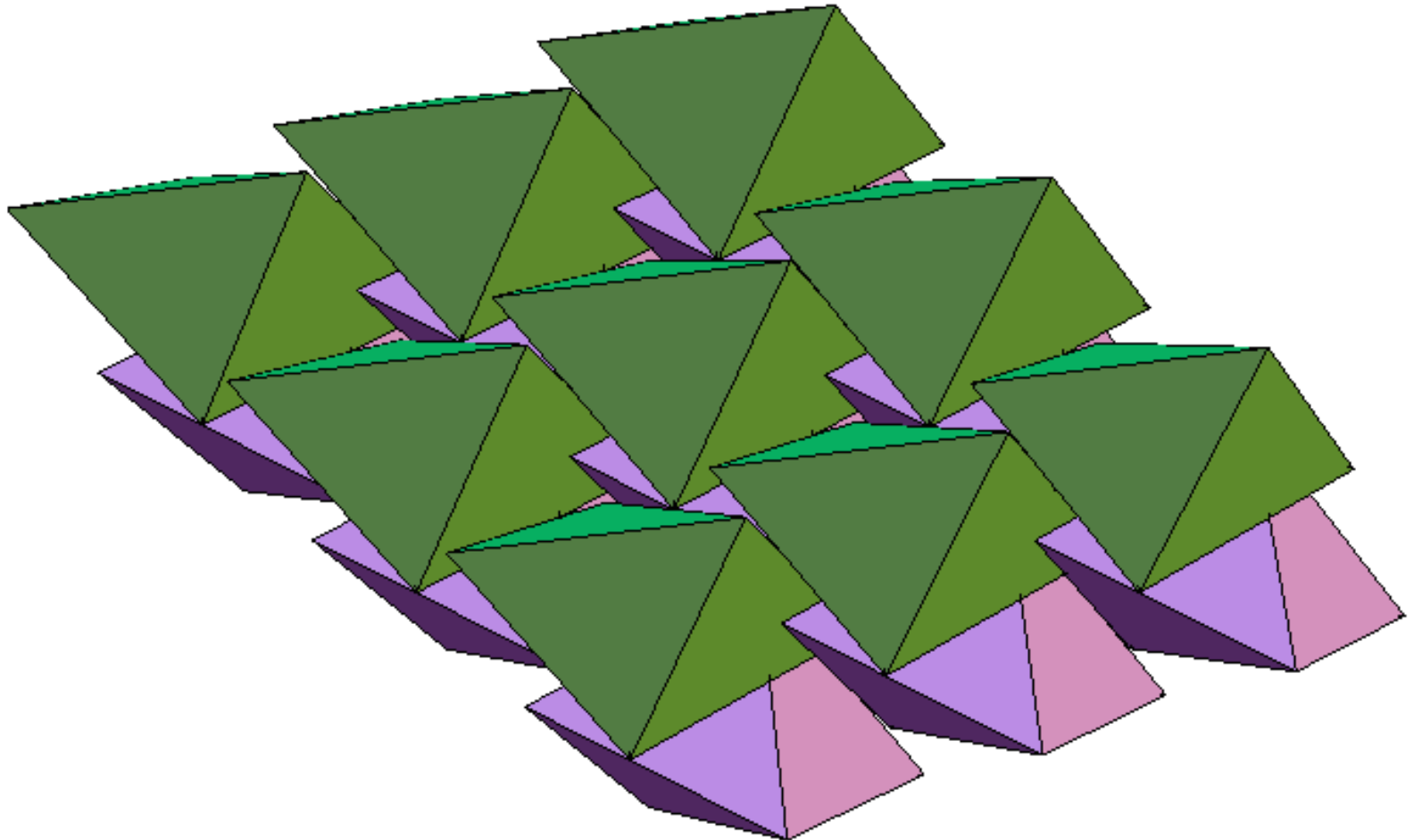


# Regular tetrahedron packing

(Stay tuned for next talk)



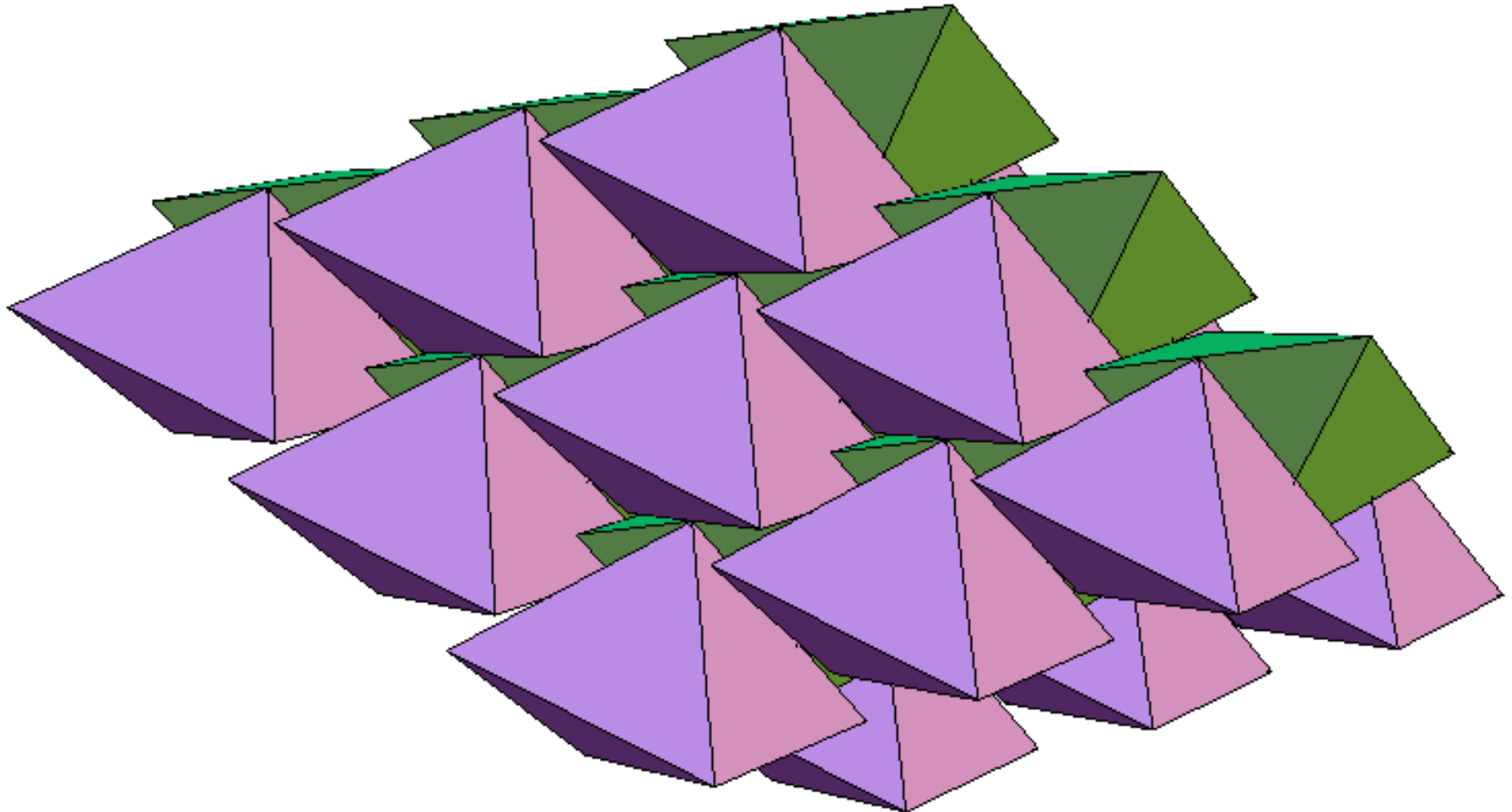
# Regular tetrahedron packing



Kallus, Elser, & Gravel, Disc. Compu. Geom. (2010)



# Regular tetrahedron packing



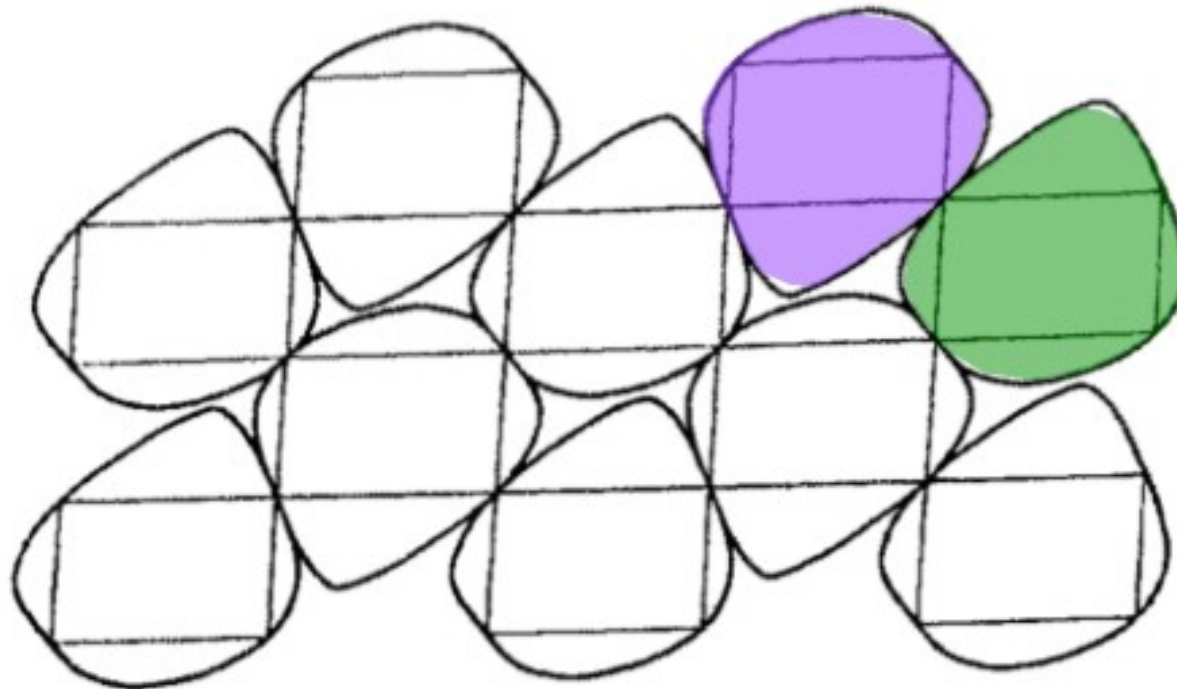
Kallus, Elser, & Gravel, Disc. Compu. Geom. (2010)

# Double-Lattice Packings of Convex Bodies in the Plane

G. Kuperberg<sup>1</sup> and W. Kuperberg<sup>2</sup> Disc. Compu. Geom. (1990)

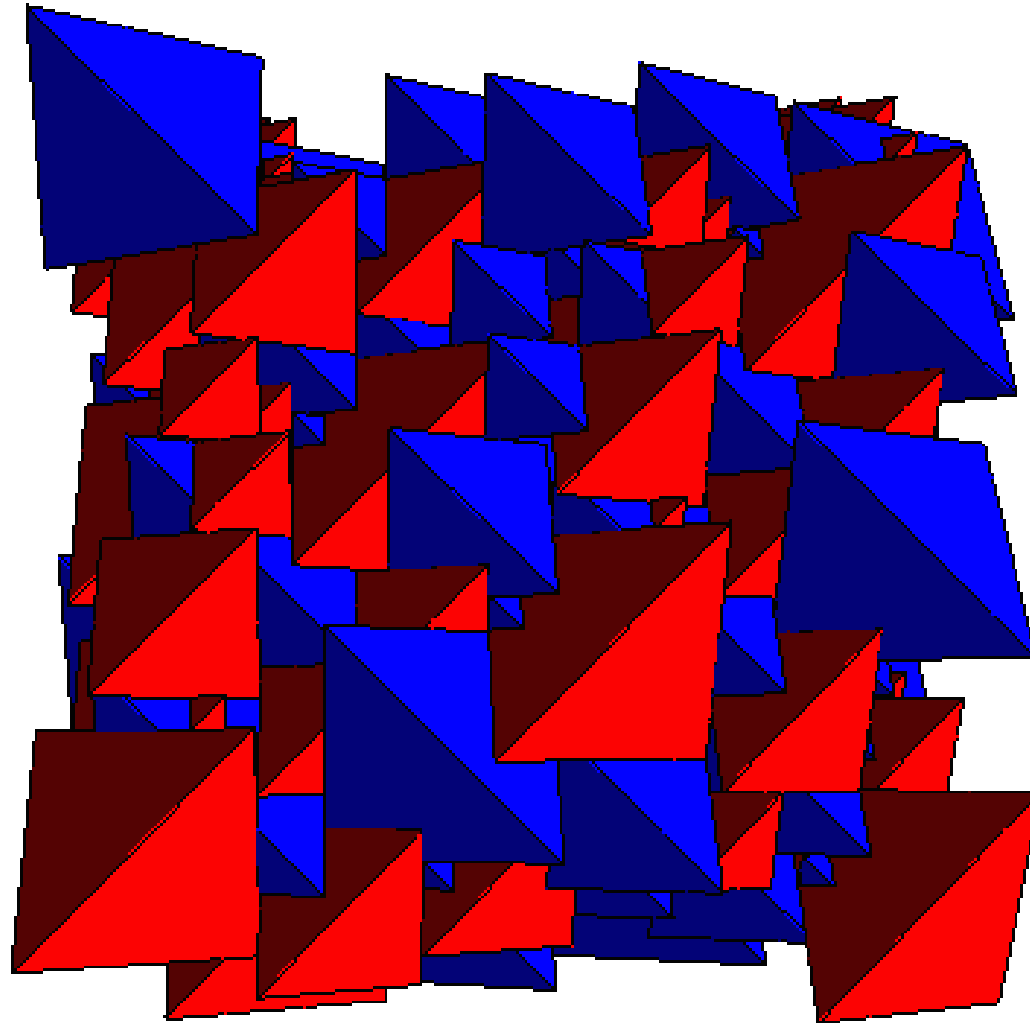
<sup>1</sup> Department of Mathematics, University of California at Berkeley,  
Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

<sup>2</sup> Division of Mathematics, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, USA



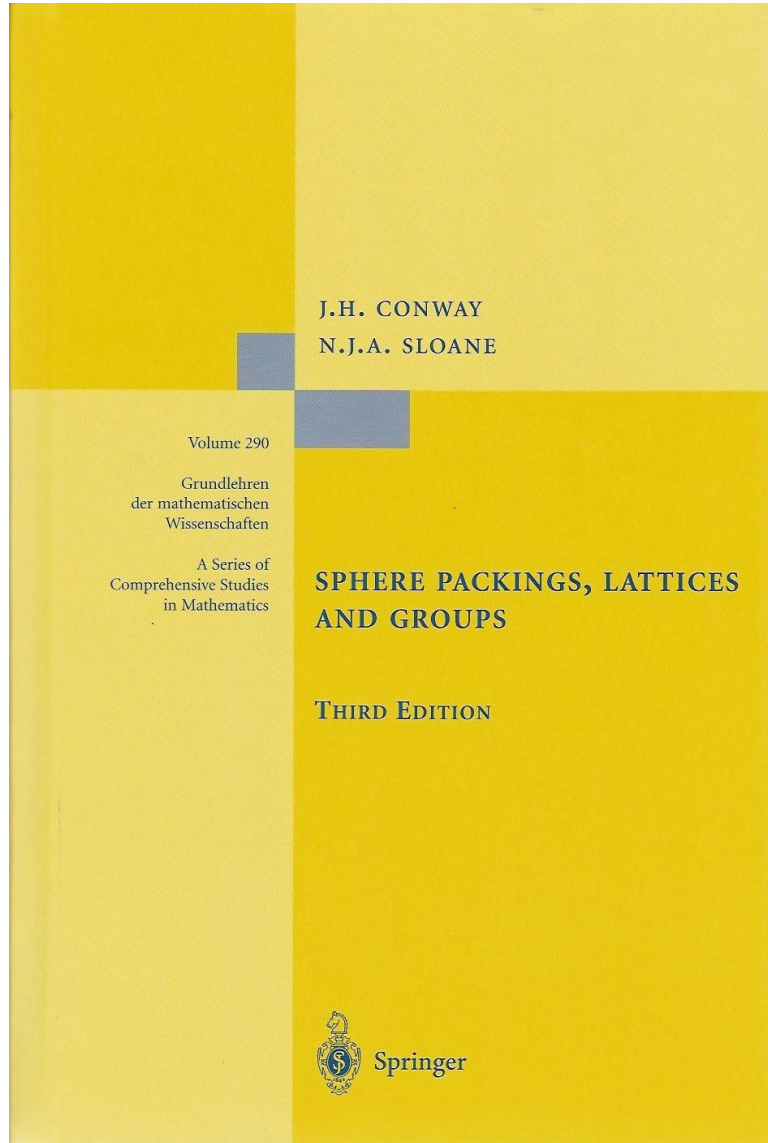
**Fig. 4.** Double-lattice packing generated by an extensive parallelogram.

Dense regular pentatope packing –  
also a dimer double lattice!



$$\varphi = 128/219 = 0.5845$$

# Sphere packing and kissing in higher dimensions



Densest known  
lattice packing  
in  $d$  dimensions:

| $d$ | $\Lambda_{\text{densest}}$ | $\phi_{\text{densest}}^{(L)}$ | $\langle N_{\text{iter}} \rangle$ |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2   | $A_2$                      | 0.90690                       | 42                                |
| 3   | $D_3$                      | 0.74047                       | 230                               |
| 4   | $D_4$                      | 0.61685                       | 191                               |
| 5   | $D_5$                      | 0.46526                       | 308                               |
| 6   | $E_6$                      | 0.37295                       | 173                               |
| 7   | $E_7$                      | 0.29530                       | 217                               |
| 8   | $E_8$                      | 0.25367                       | 99                                |
| 9   | $\Lambda_9$                | 0.14577                       | 161                               |
| 10  | $\Lambda_{10}$             | 0.092021                      | 394                               |
| 11  | $K_{11}$                   | 0.060432                      | 421                               |
| 12  | $K_{12}$                   | 0.049454                      | 397                               |
| 13  | $K_{13}$                   | 0.029208                      | 577                               |
| 14  | $\Lambda_{14}$             | 0.021624                      | 1652                              |

lattice with highest  
known kissing  
number in  $d$   
dimensions:

| $d$ | $\Lambda_{\text{highest}}$ | $\tau_{\text{highest}}^{(L)}$ | $\langle N_{\text{iter}} \rangle$ |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2   | $A_2$                      | 6                             | 27                                |
| 3   | $D_3$                      | 12                            | 54                                |
| 4   | $D_4$                      | 24                            | 132                               |
| 5   | $D_5$                      | 40                            | 163                               |
| 6   | $E_6$                      | 72                            | 225                               |
| 7   | $E_7$                      | 126                           | 597                               |
| 8   | $E_8$                      | 240                           | 511                               |
| 9   | $\Lambda_9$                | 272                           | 350                               |
| 10  | $\Lambda_{10}$             | 336                           | 438                               |
| 11  | $\Lambda_{11}$             | 438                           | 549                               |

# Tetrahedron packing upper bound

Challenge:

1. Prove  $\varphi \leq 1 - \varepsilon$ , where  $\varepsilon > 0$
2. Maximize  $\varepsilon$

# Tetrahedron packing upper bound

Challenge:

1. Prove  $\varphi \leq 1 - \varepsilon$ , where  $\varepsilon > 0$
- ~~2. Maximize  $\varepsilon$~~
- 2'. Minimize length of proof

Solution:  $\varepsilon = 5.01\dots \times 10^{-25}$  (15 pages)