

# Theory and practice of algorithmic self-assembly

Damien Woods

The logo for Inria, featuring the word "Inria" in a stylized, cursive font with a red-to-orange gradient.

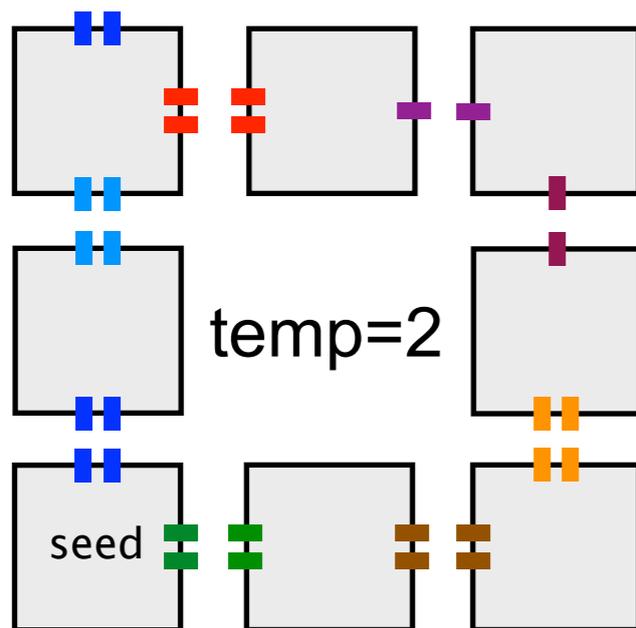
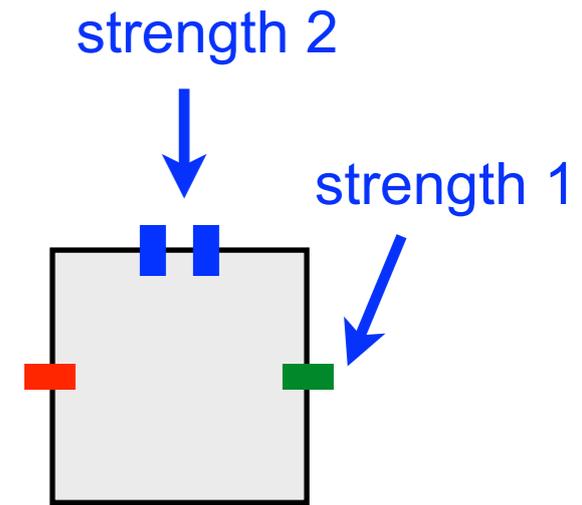
Paris

# Structure

- Monday (lecture 1). Some high-level motivations, basic algorithmic self-assembly **models** (definitions) and very recent results on **implementing algorithmic DNA nanotube circuits, a self-assembly model**, in the wet-lab
- Tuesday (lecture 2): DNA sequence design and results on the DNA nanotube circuit model
- Wednesday (lecture 3). Complexity theory for self assembly.
  - **Theorem:** The (cooperative, temperature  $\geq 2$ ) abstract tile assembly model is intrinsic universal
- Thursday (lecture 4). Complexity theory for self assembly.
  - **Theorem:** The noncooperative (temperature 1) abstract tile assembly model does not simulate the cooperative model

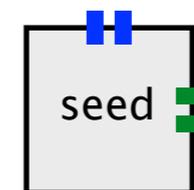
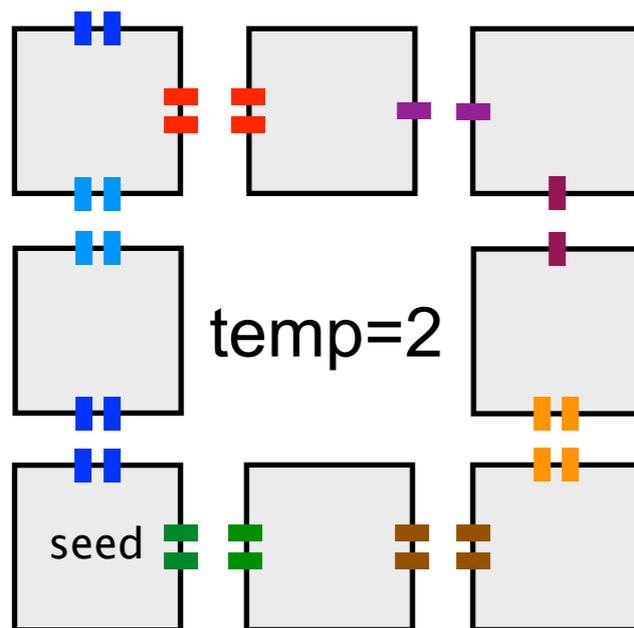
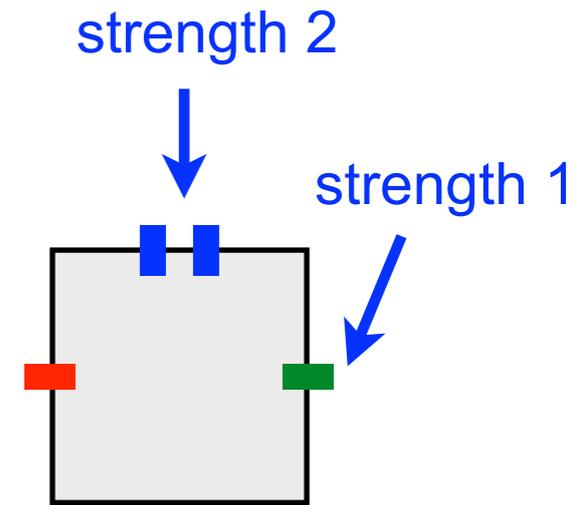
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- **Square tiles**
  - finite set of tile types, unlimited supply of each type, non-rotatable
- Each side has a **glue** (colour) and **strength** (0,1,2,3,...)
- System has a **temperature** (e.g. 2)
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**tile set, seed tile, temperature**



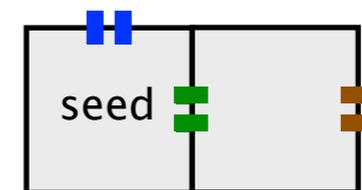
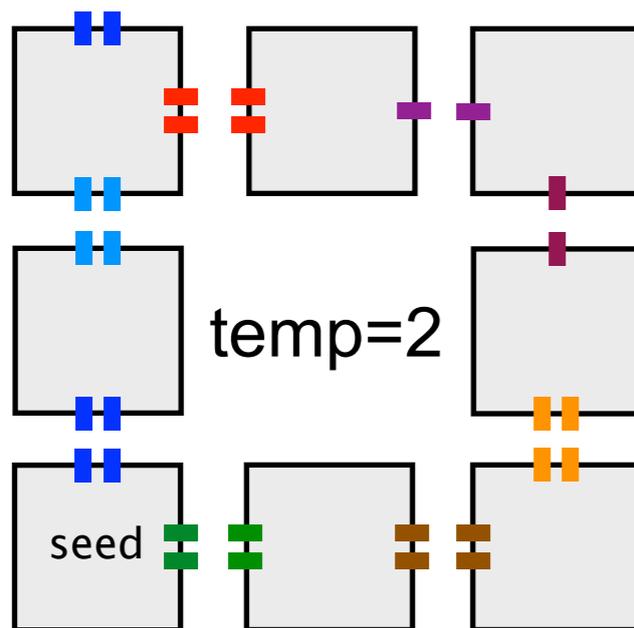
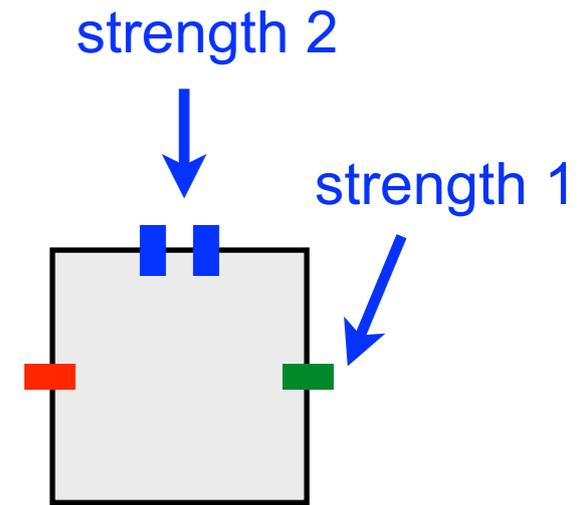
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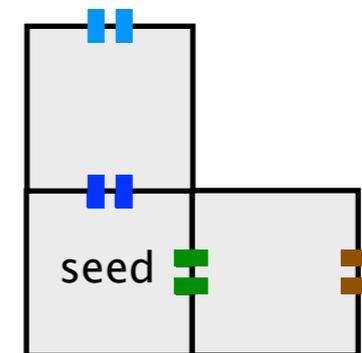
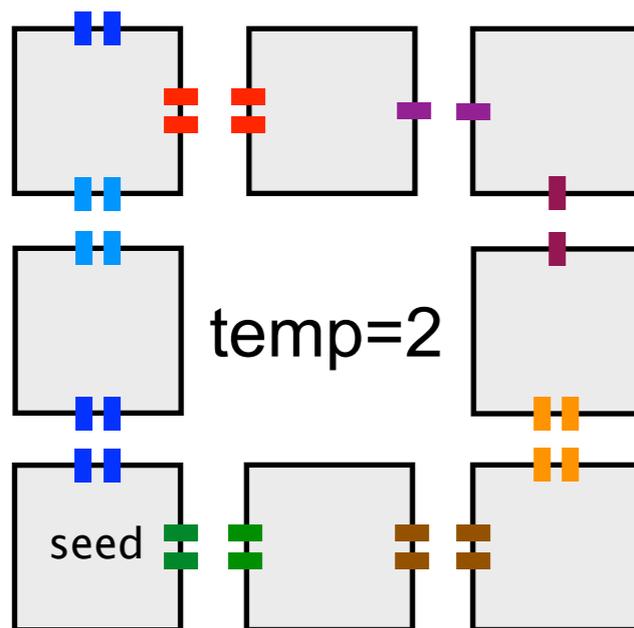
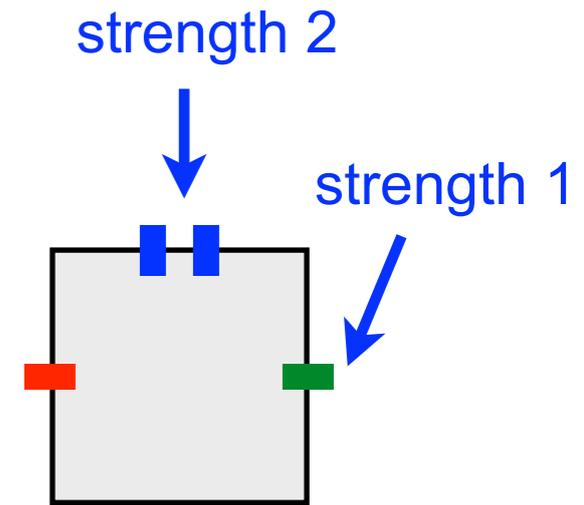
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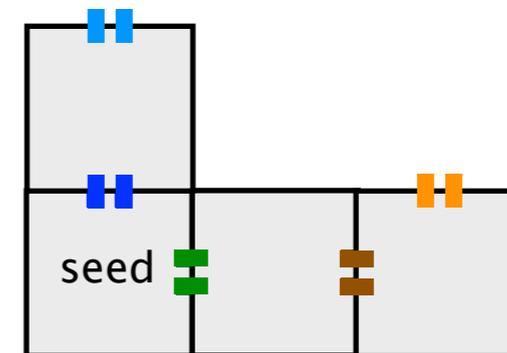
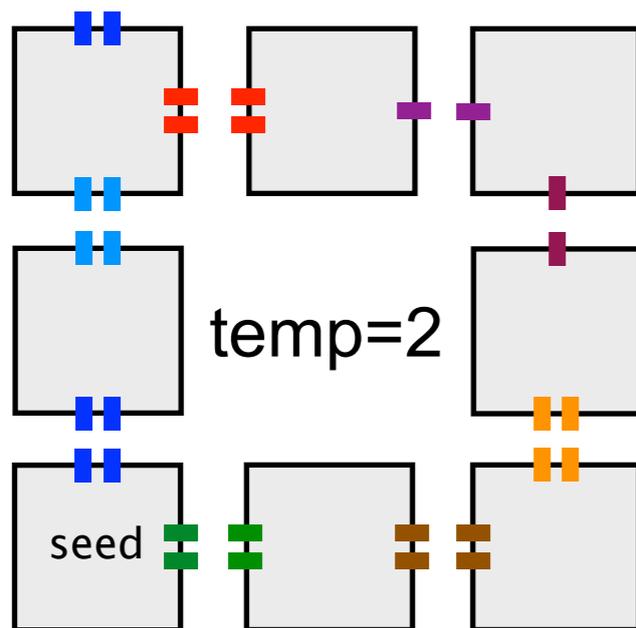
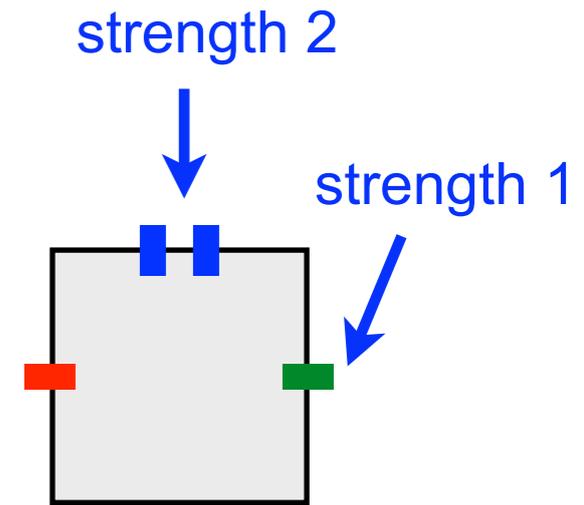
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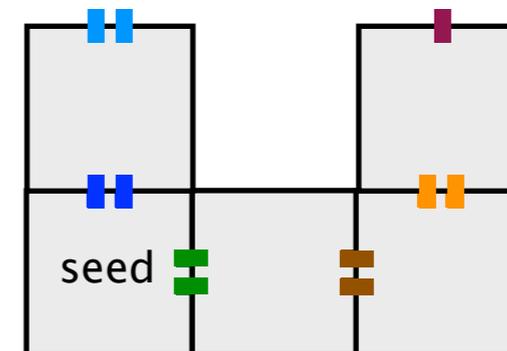
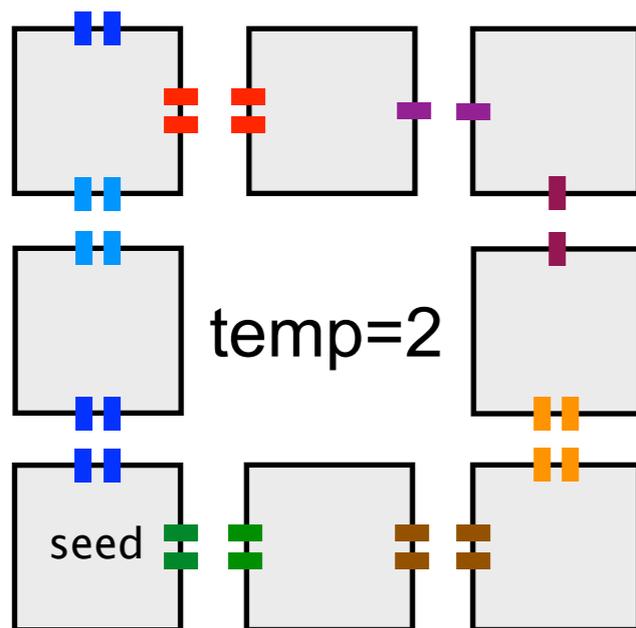
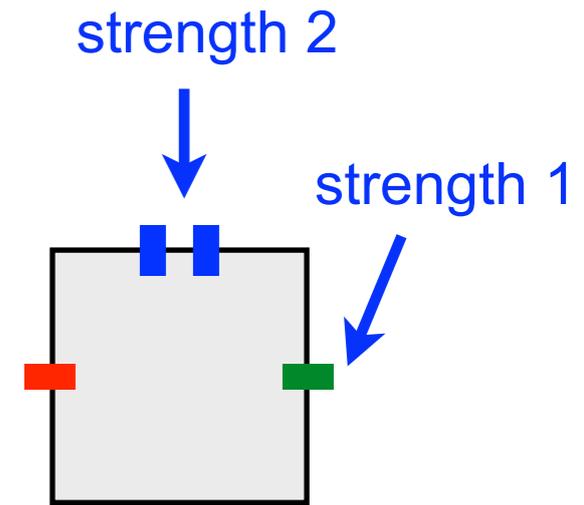
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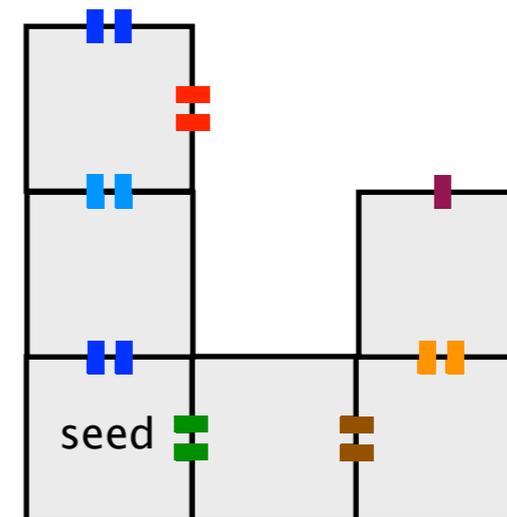
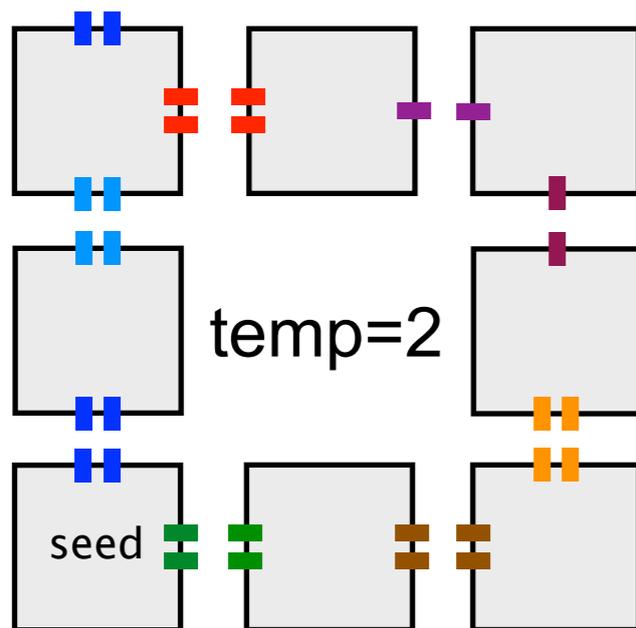
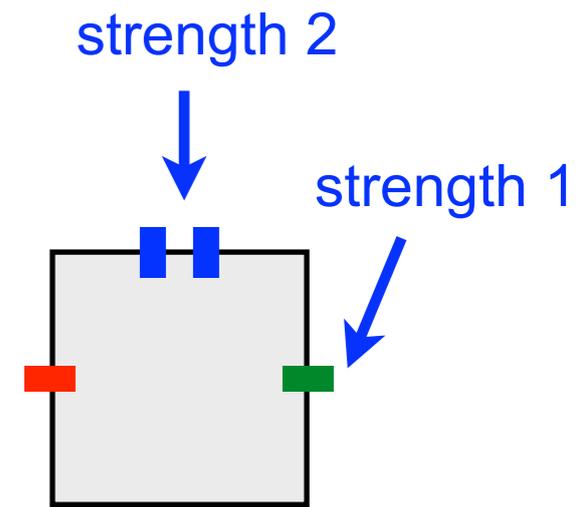
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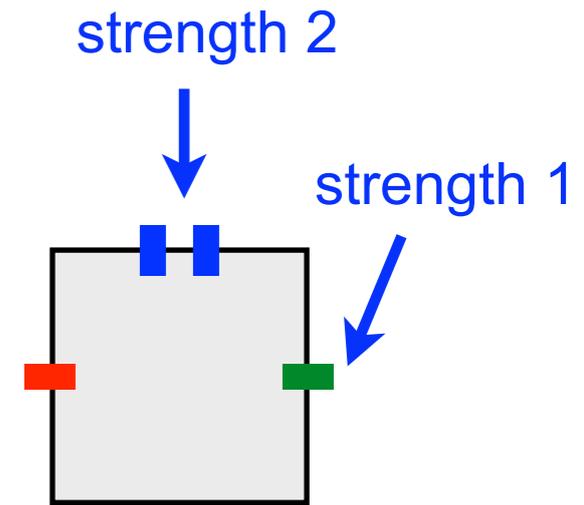
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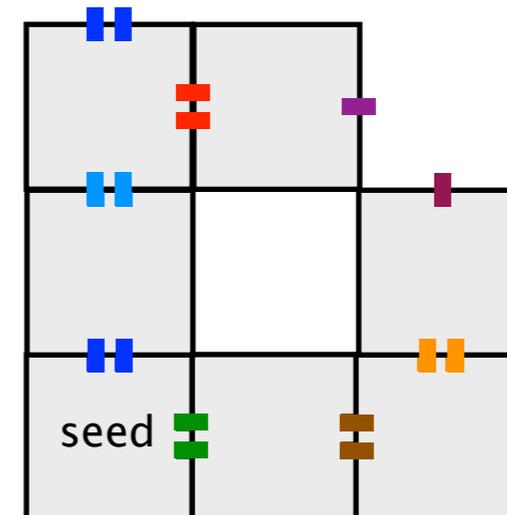
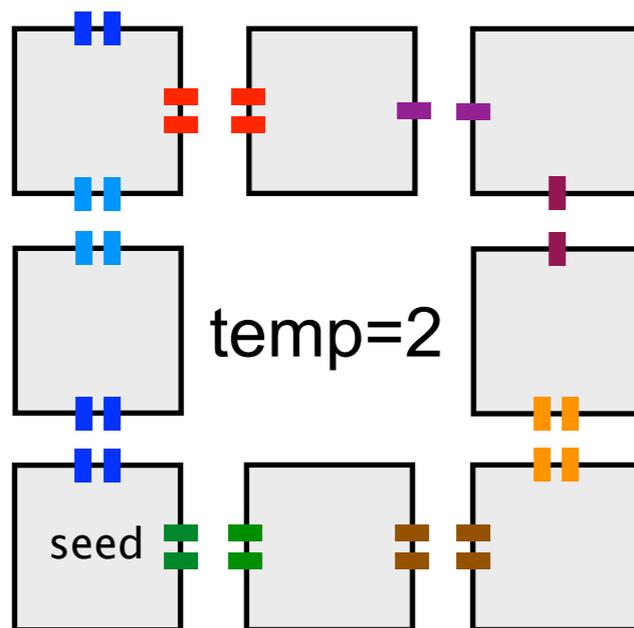


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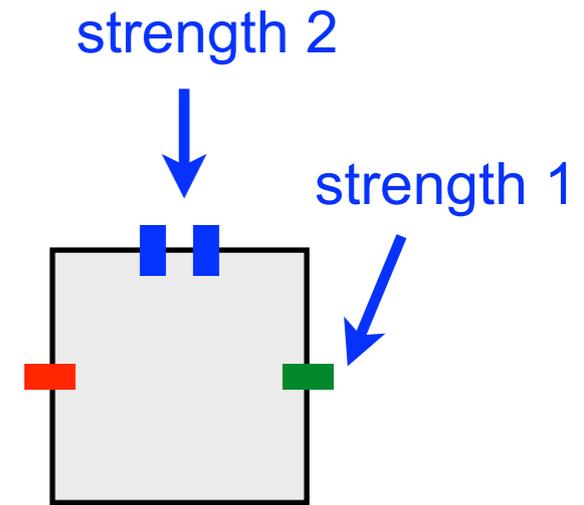


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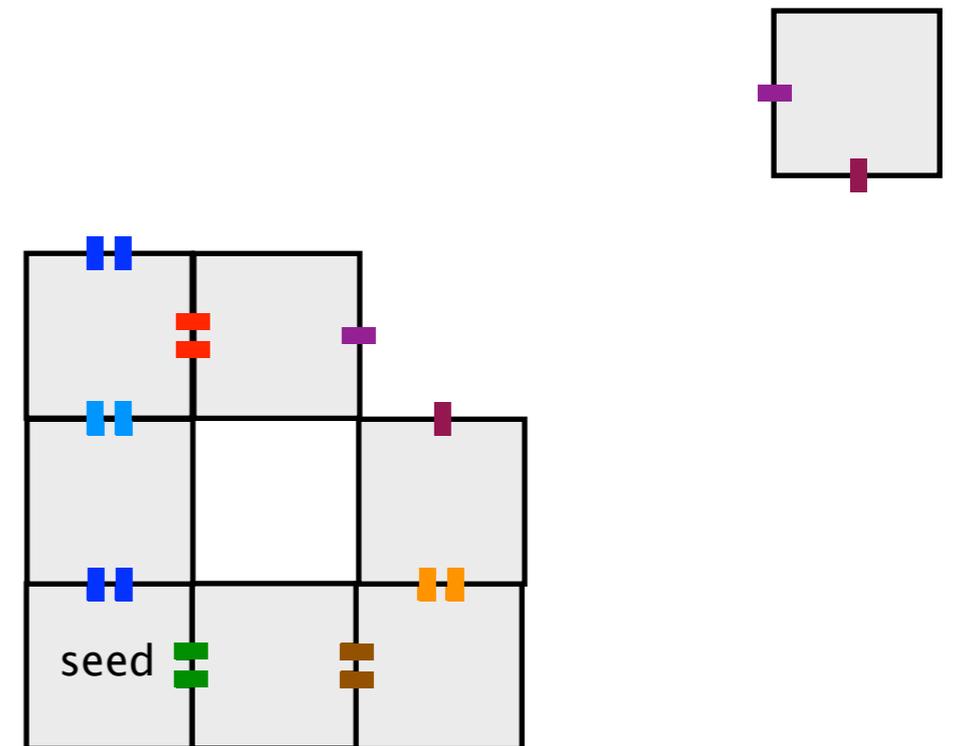
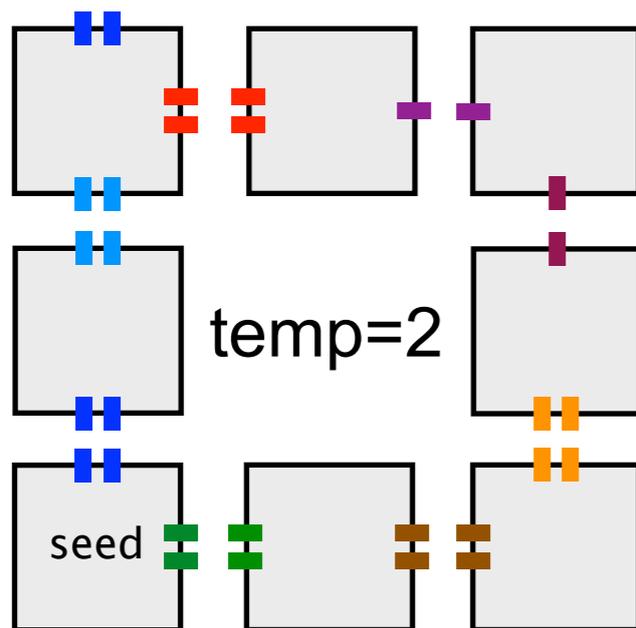


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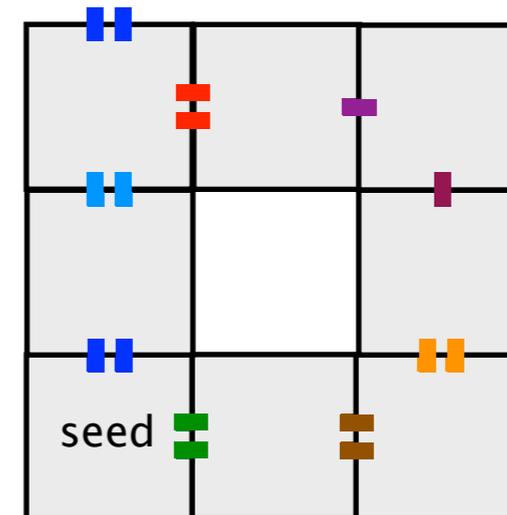
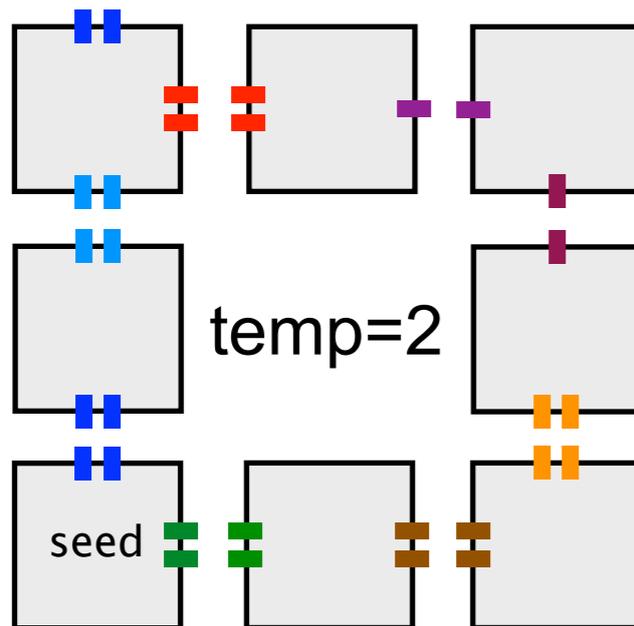
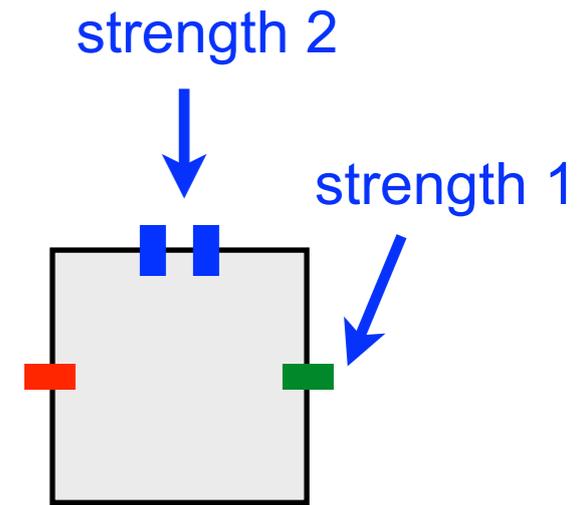


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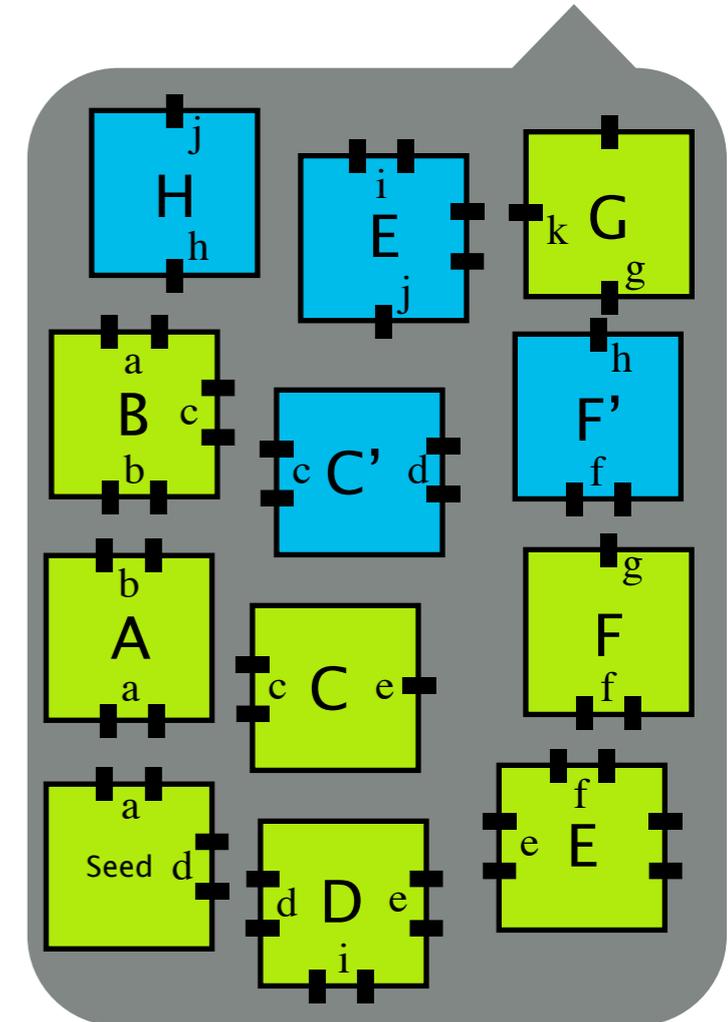
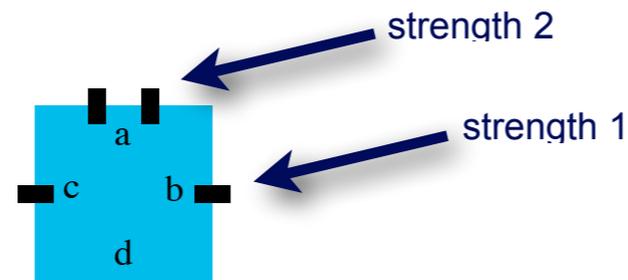
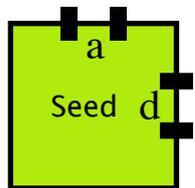
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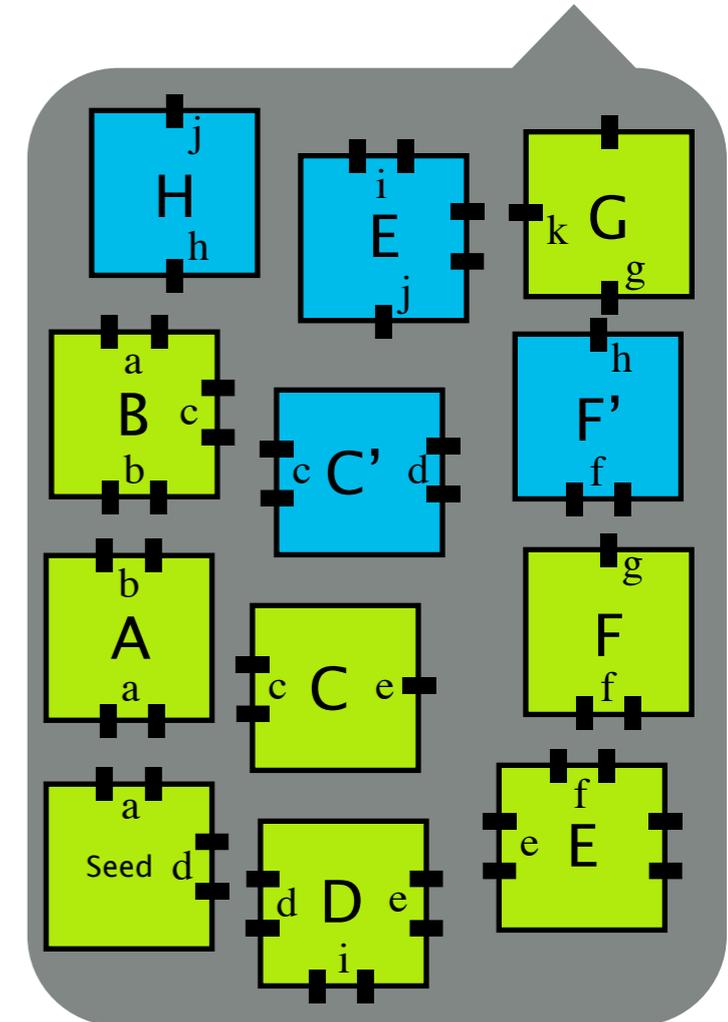
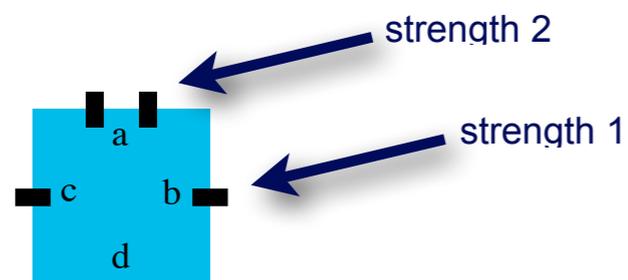
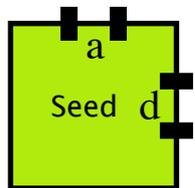


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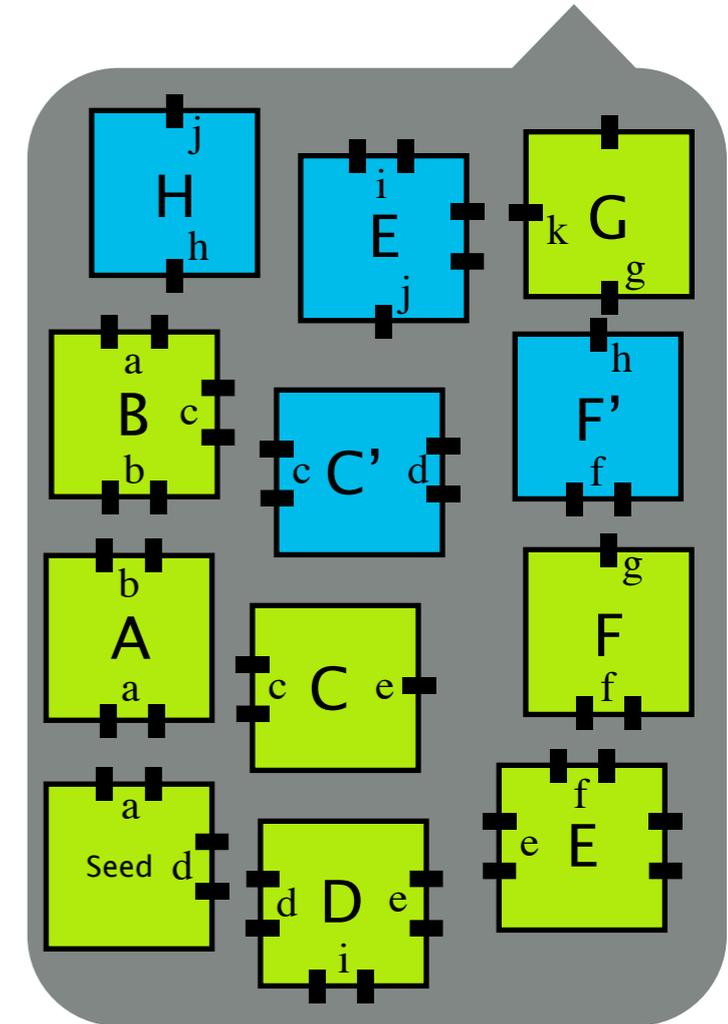
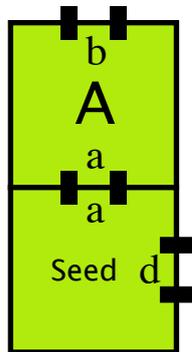


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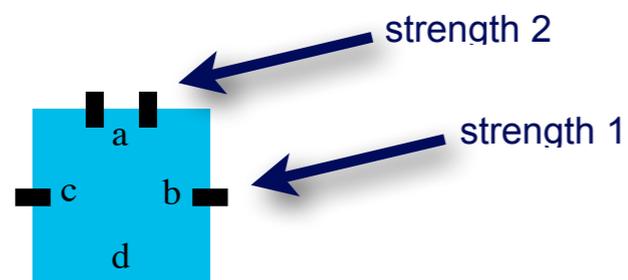
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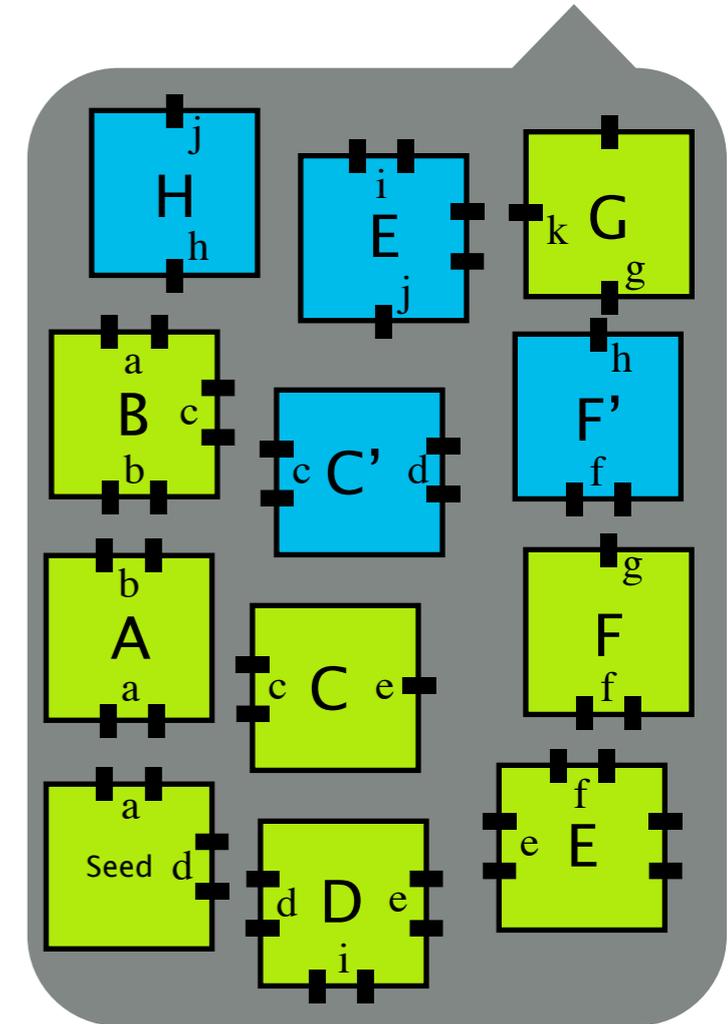
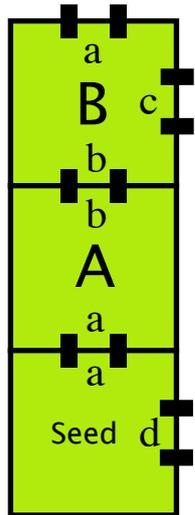
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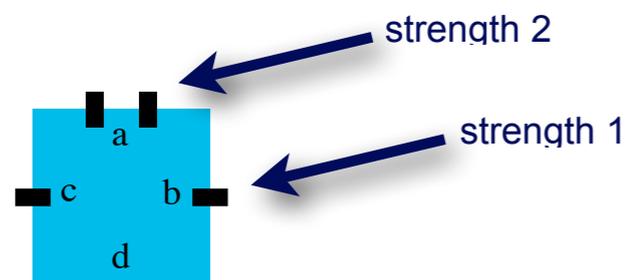
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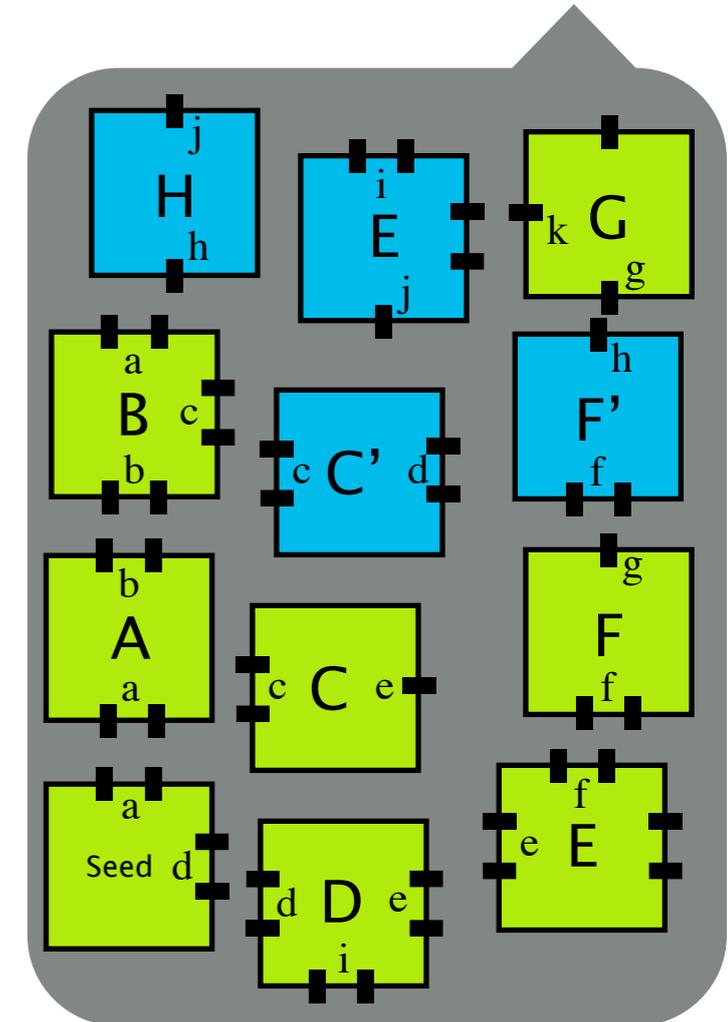
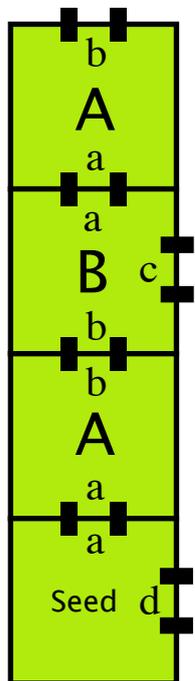
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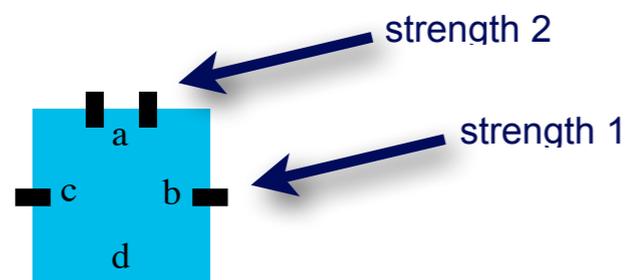
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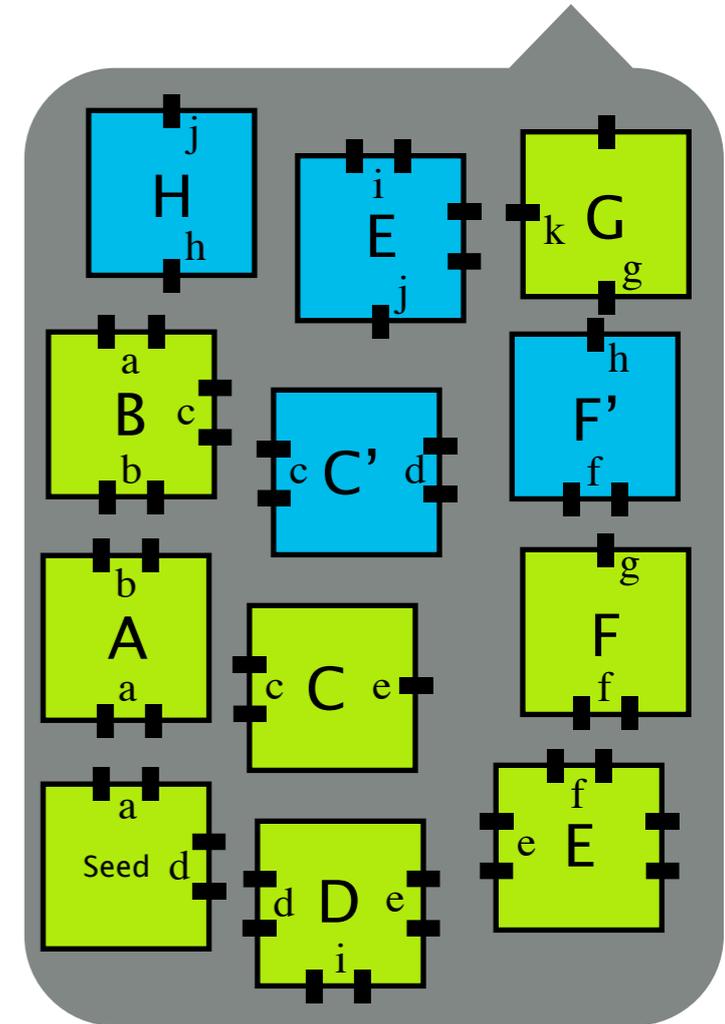
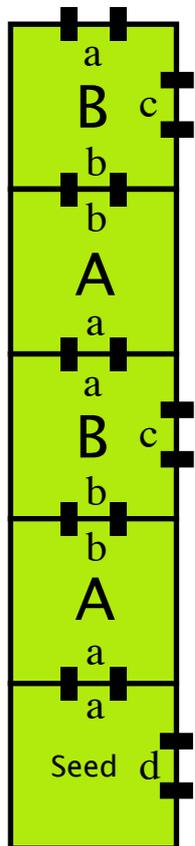
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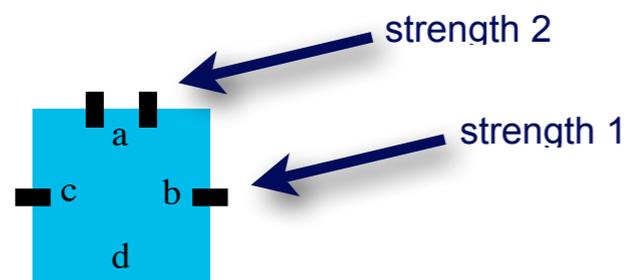
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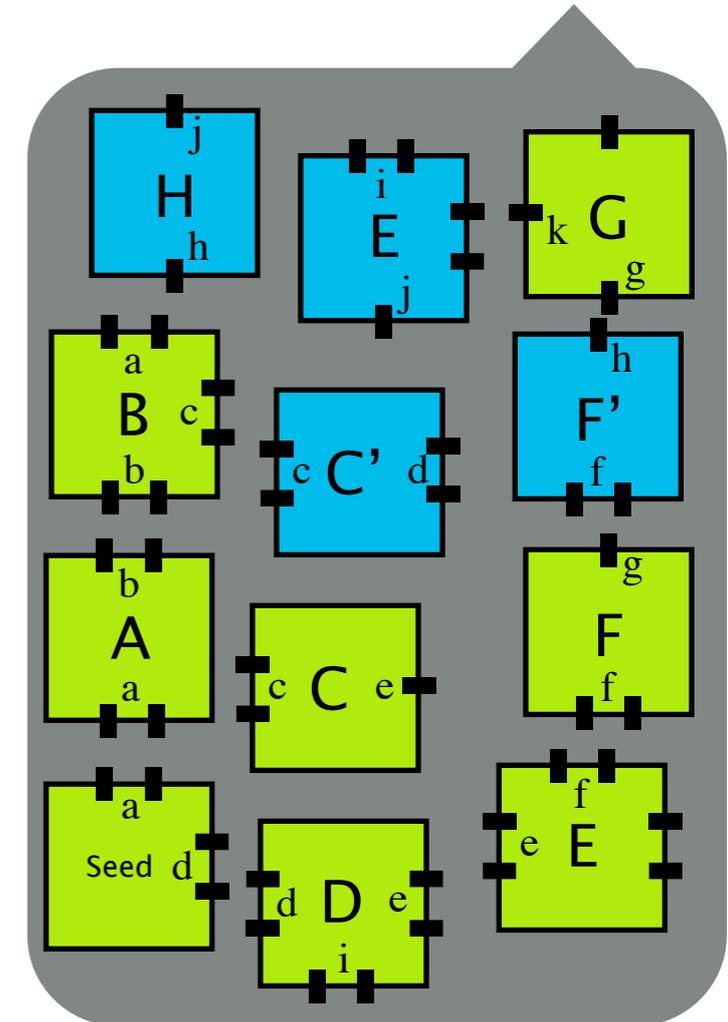
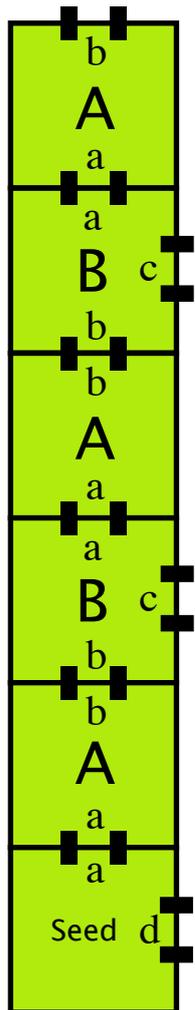
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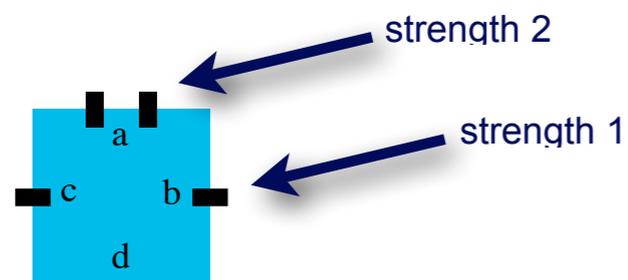
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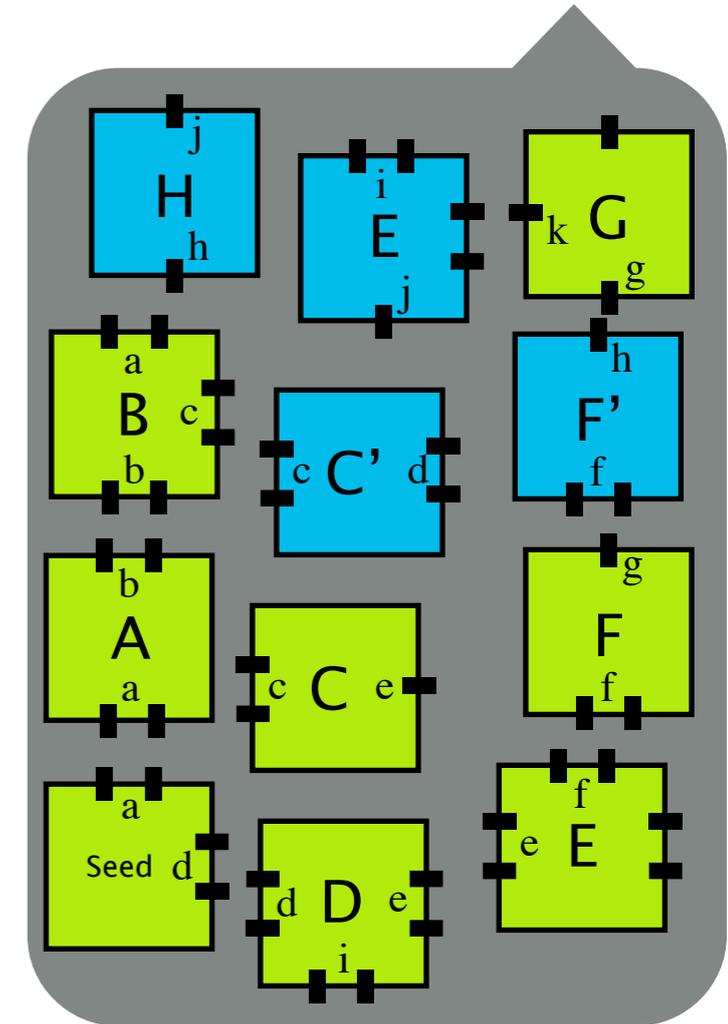
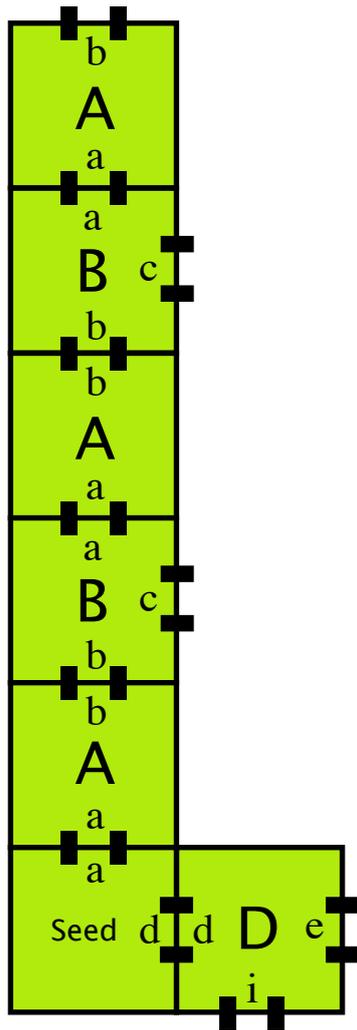
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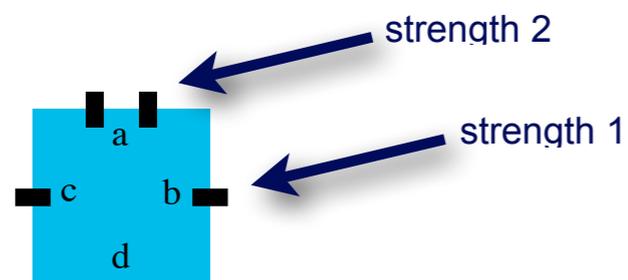
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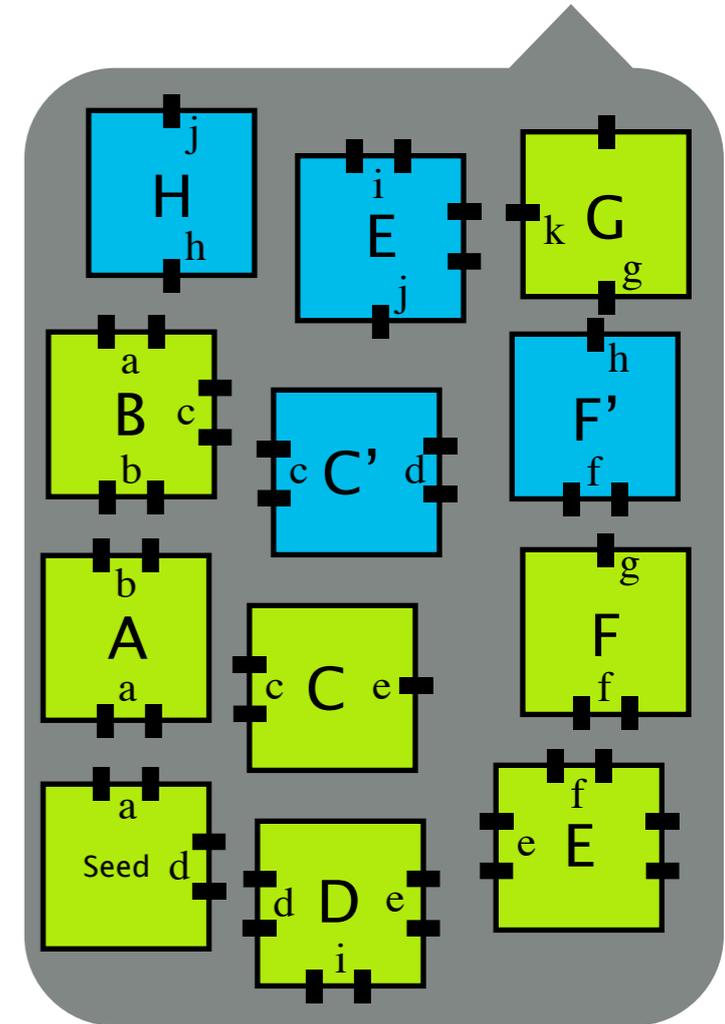
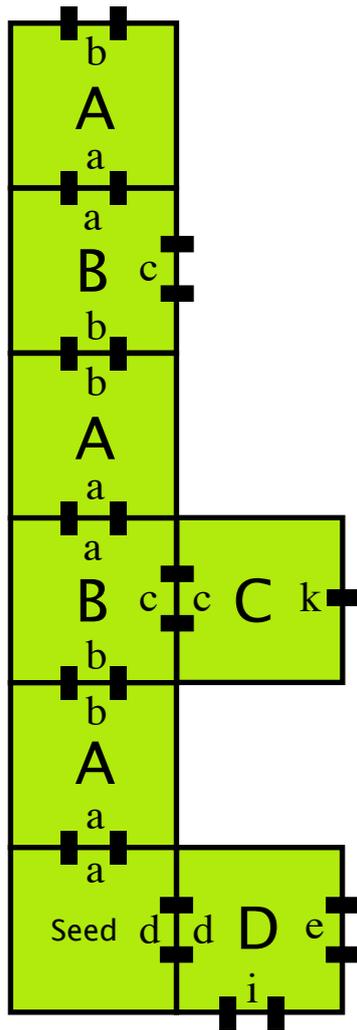
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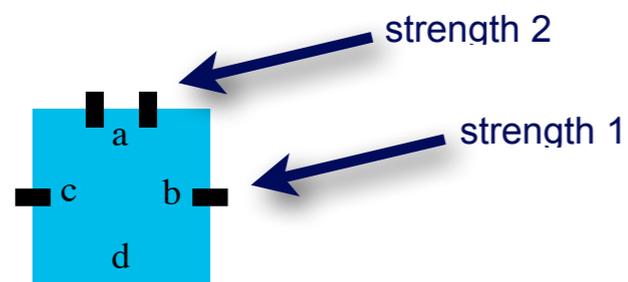
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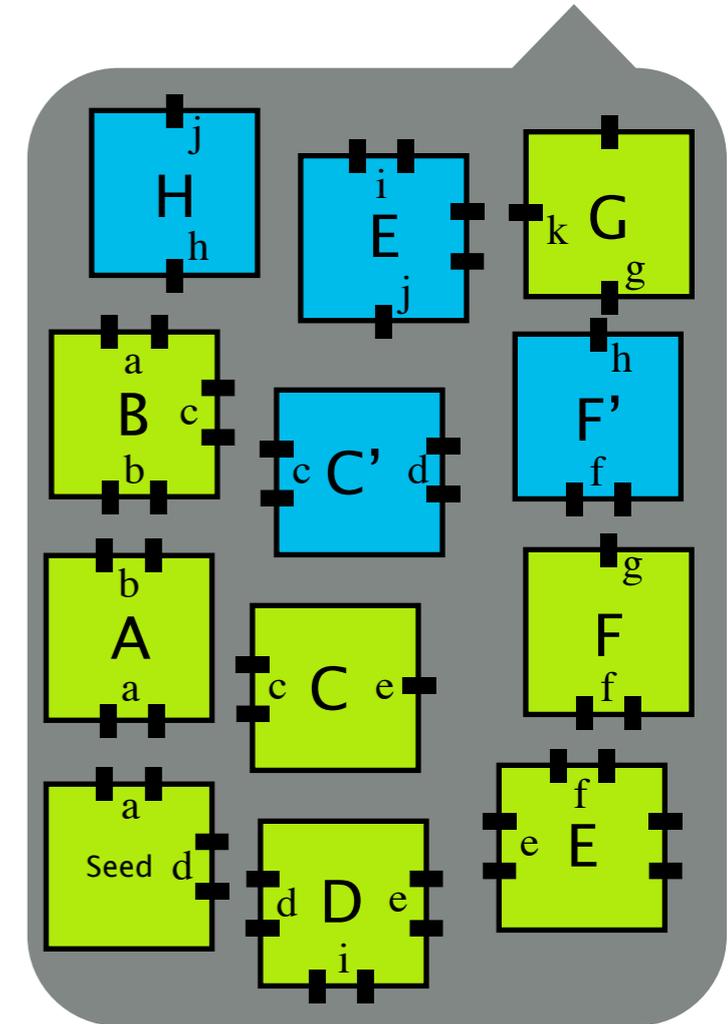
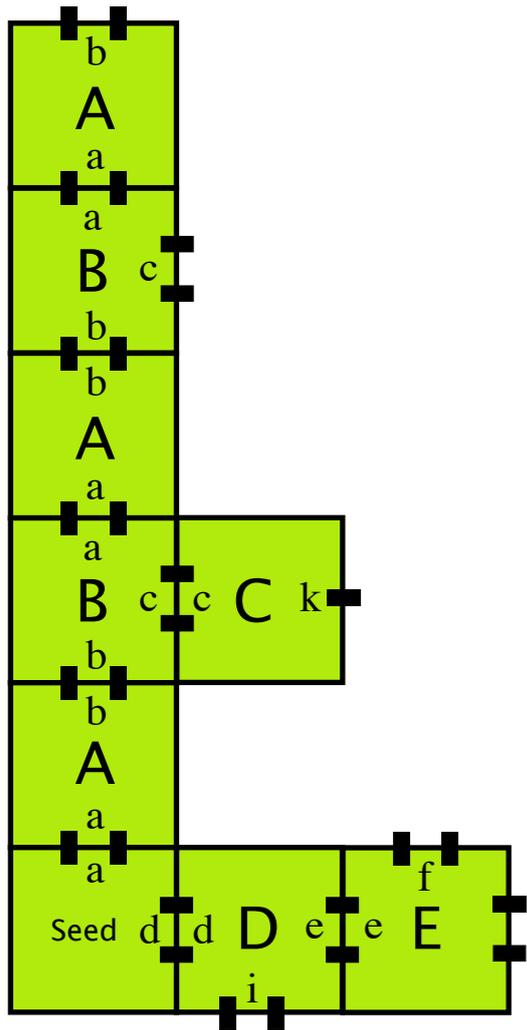
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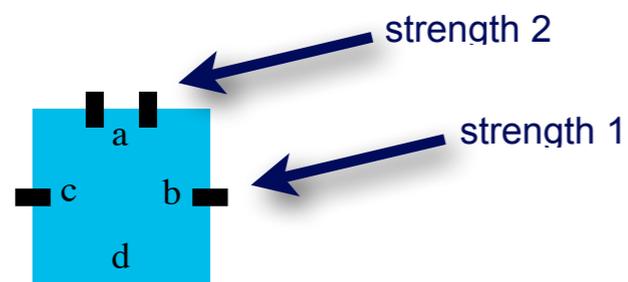
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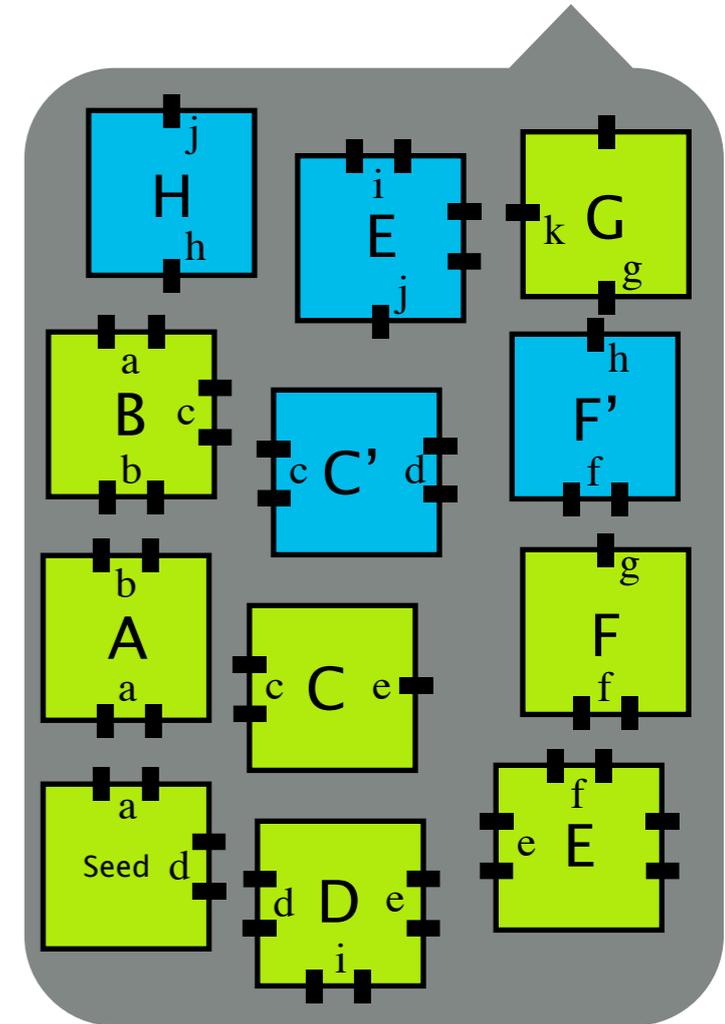
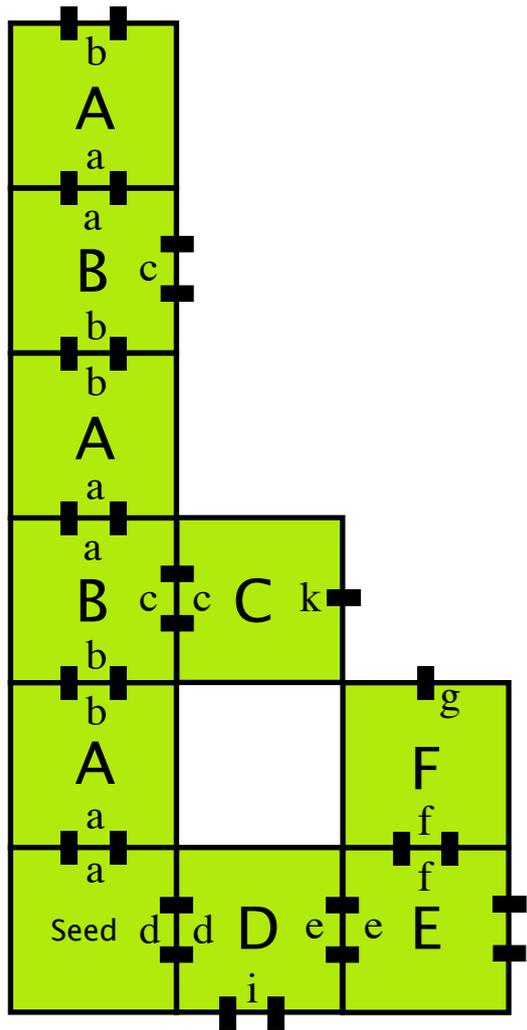
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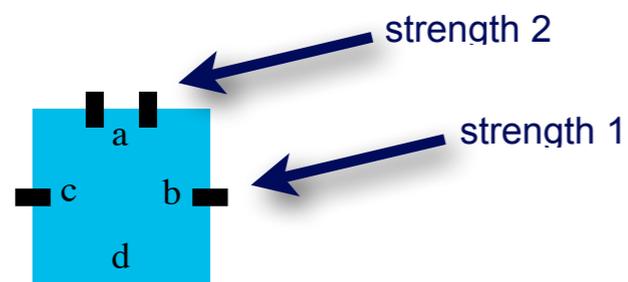
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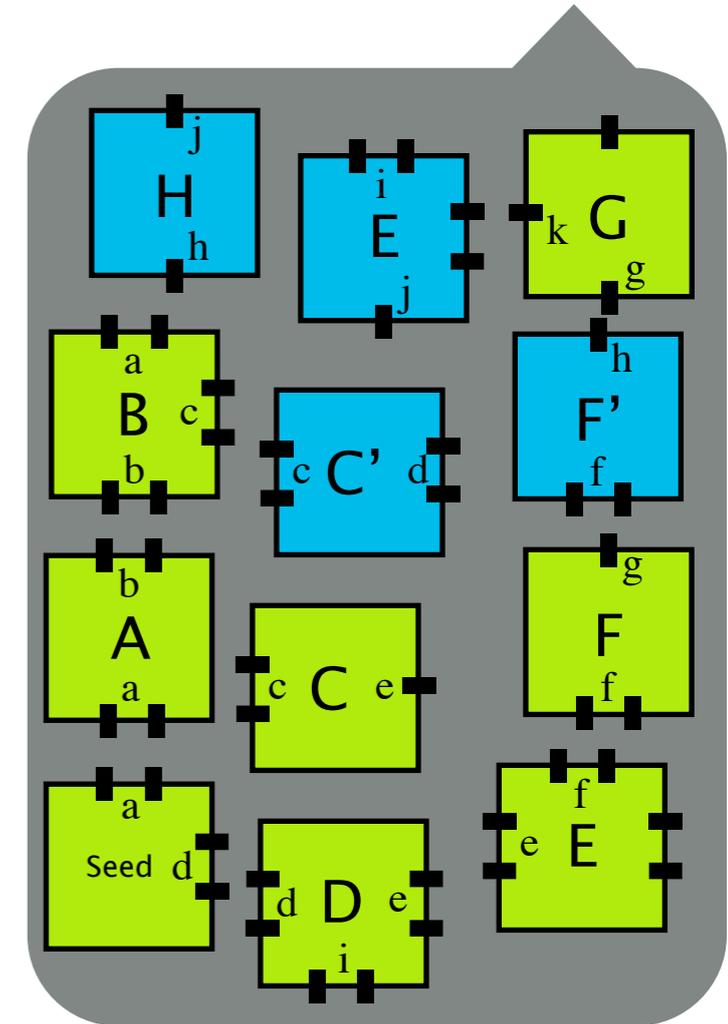
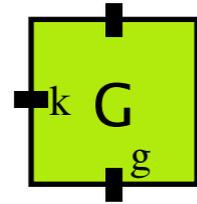
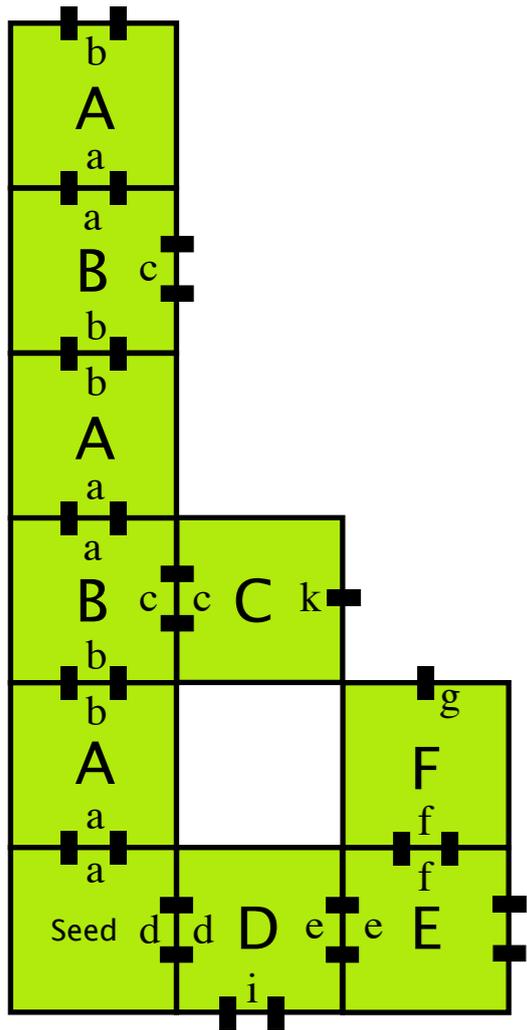
Temperature = 2



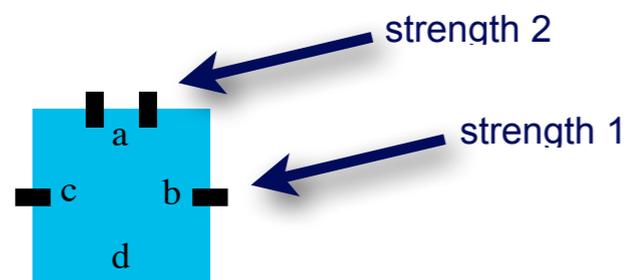
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# Abstract tile assembly model

Tile assembly system:  
tile set, seed tile, temperature



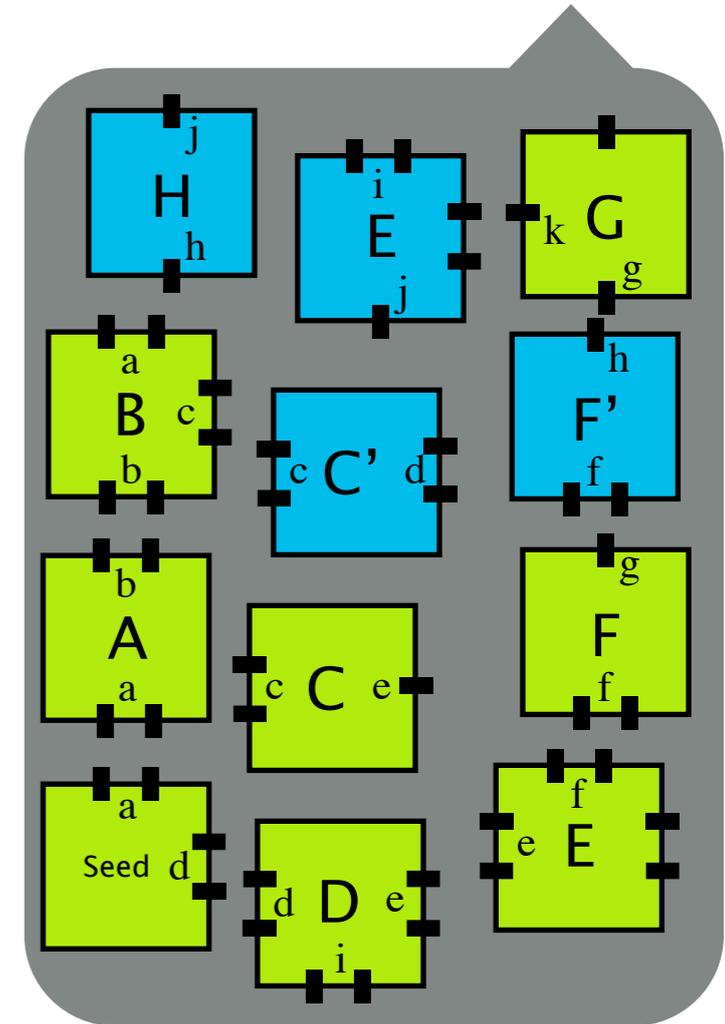
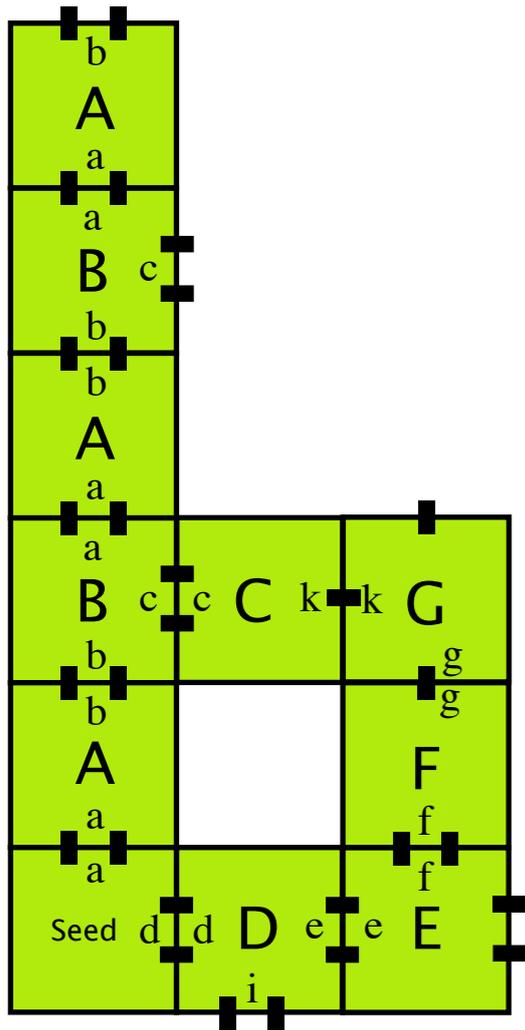
Temperature = 2



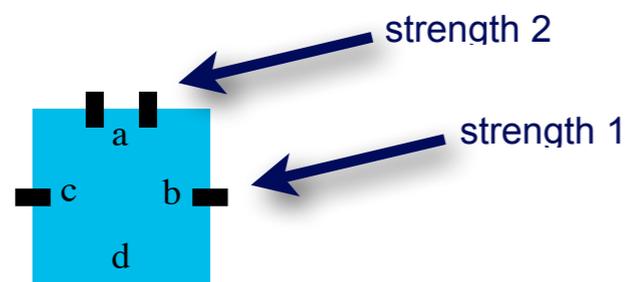
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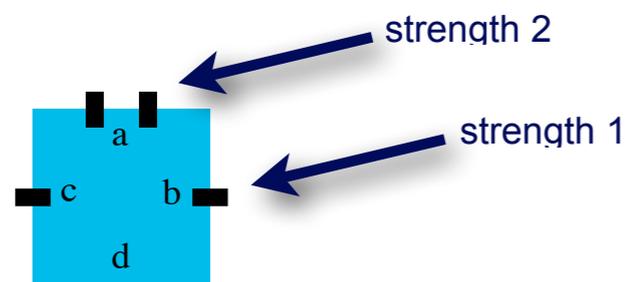
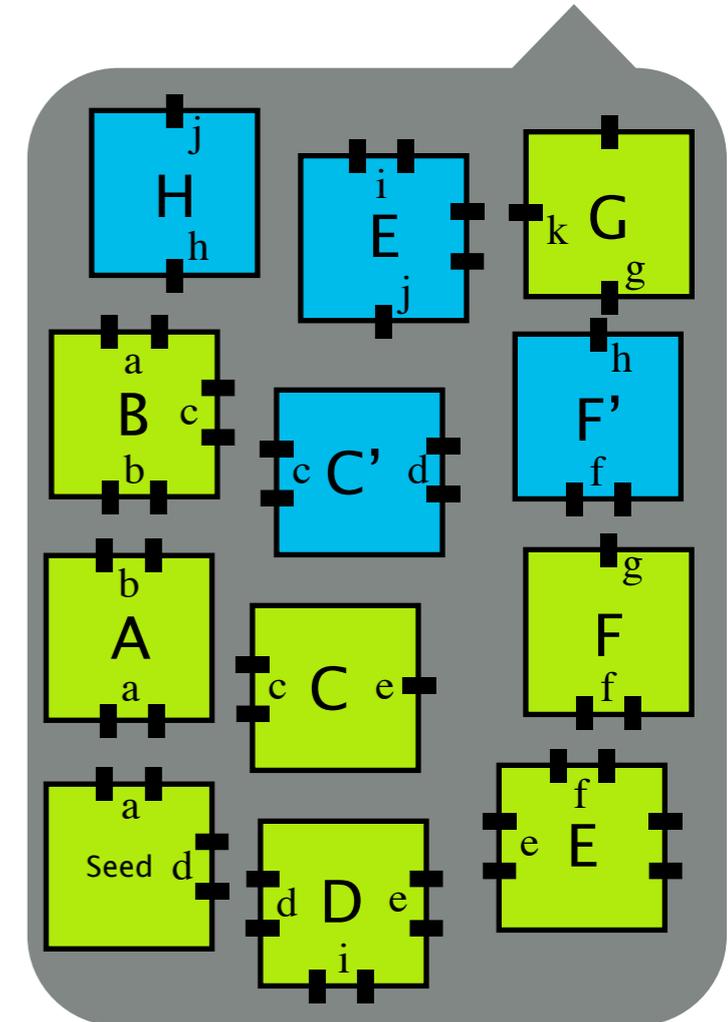
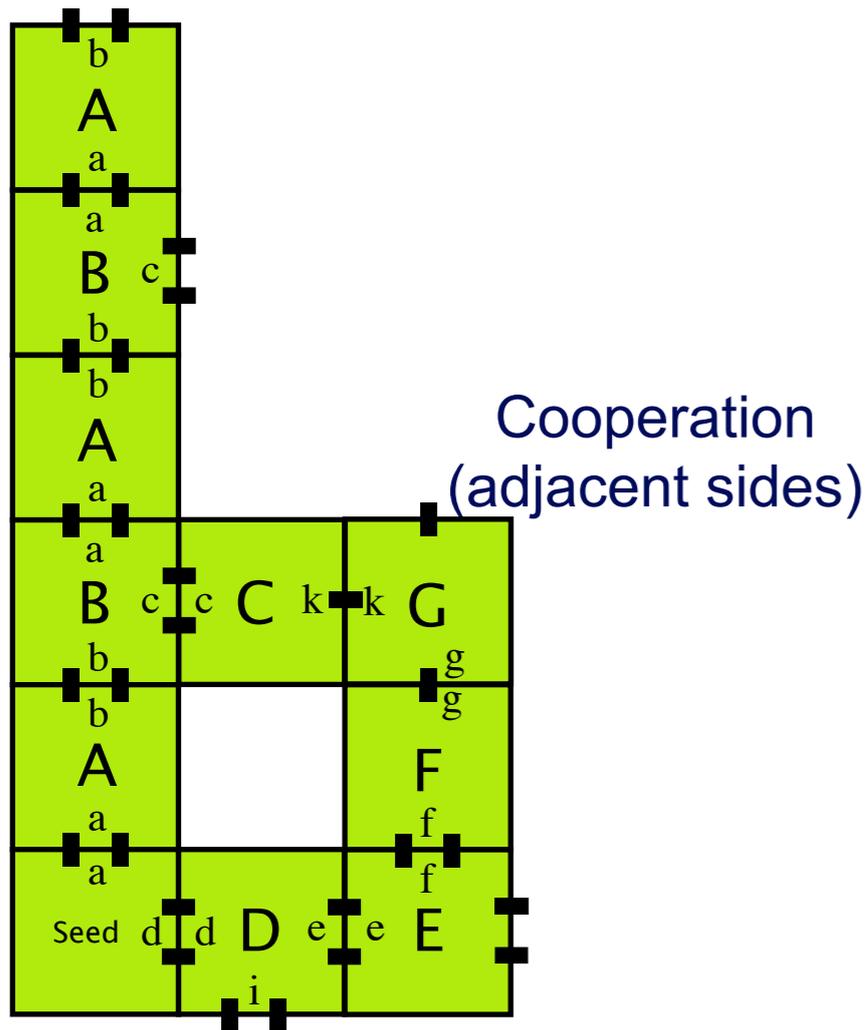
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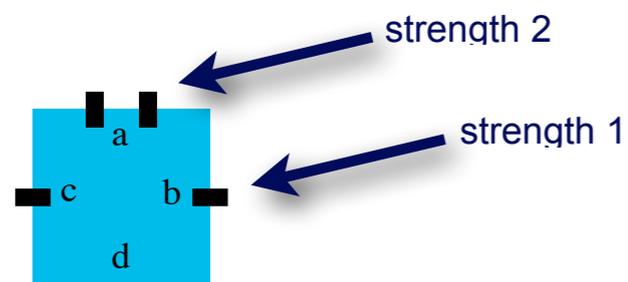
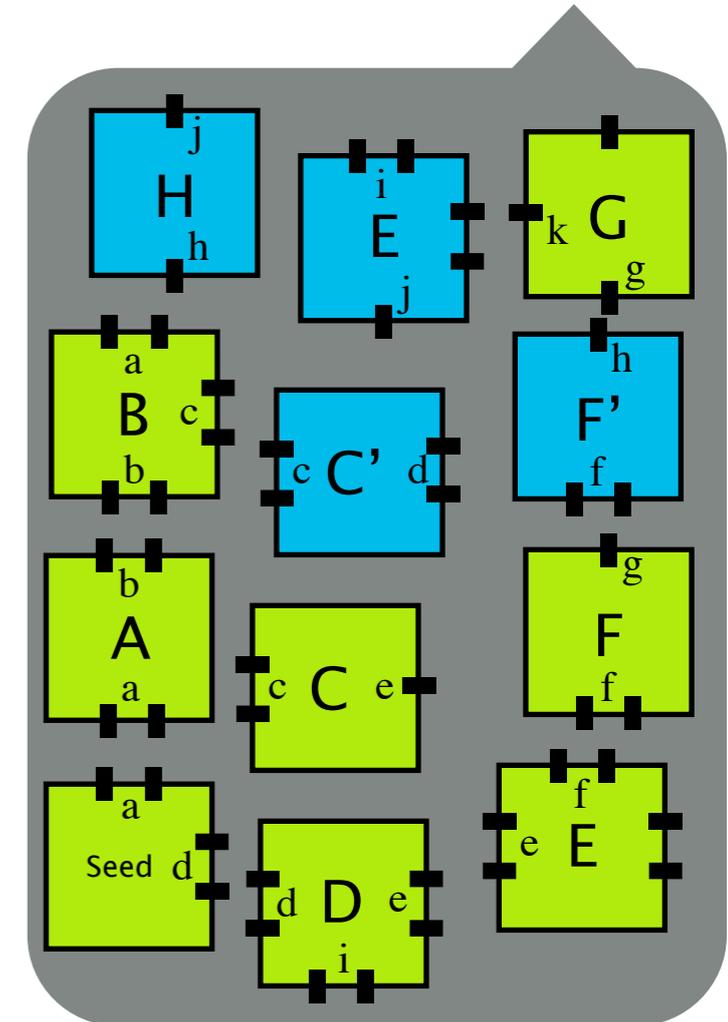
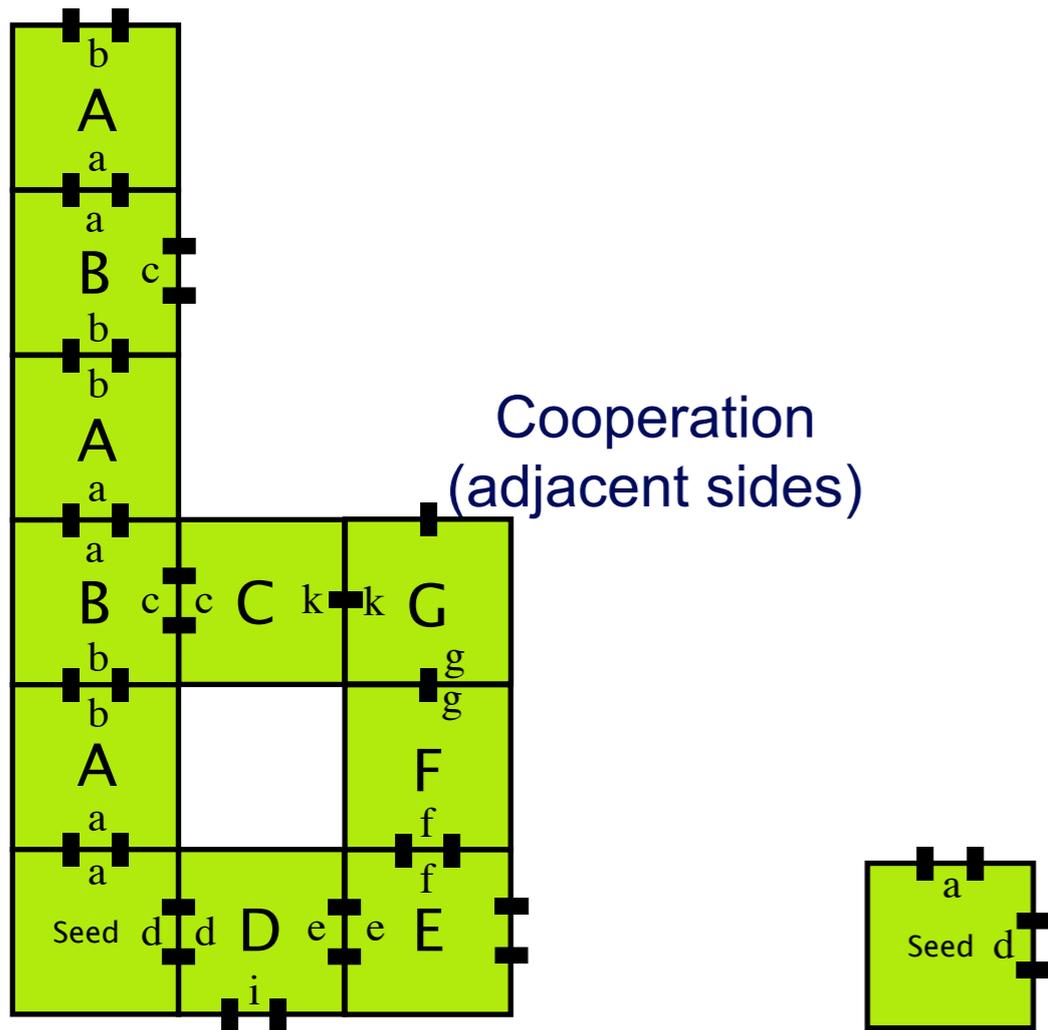
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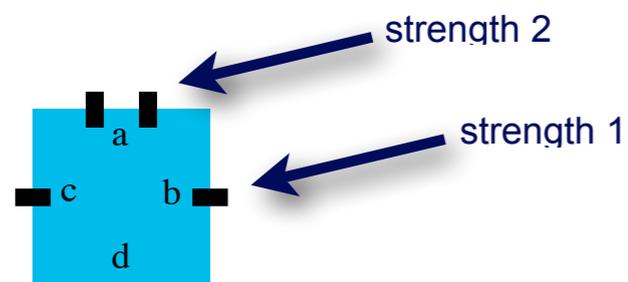
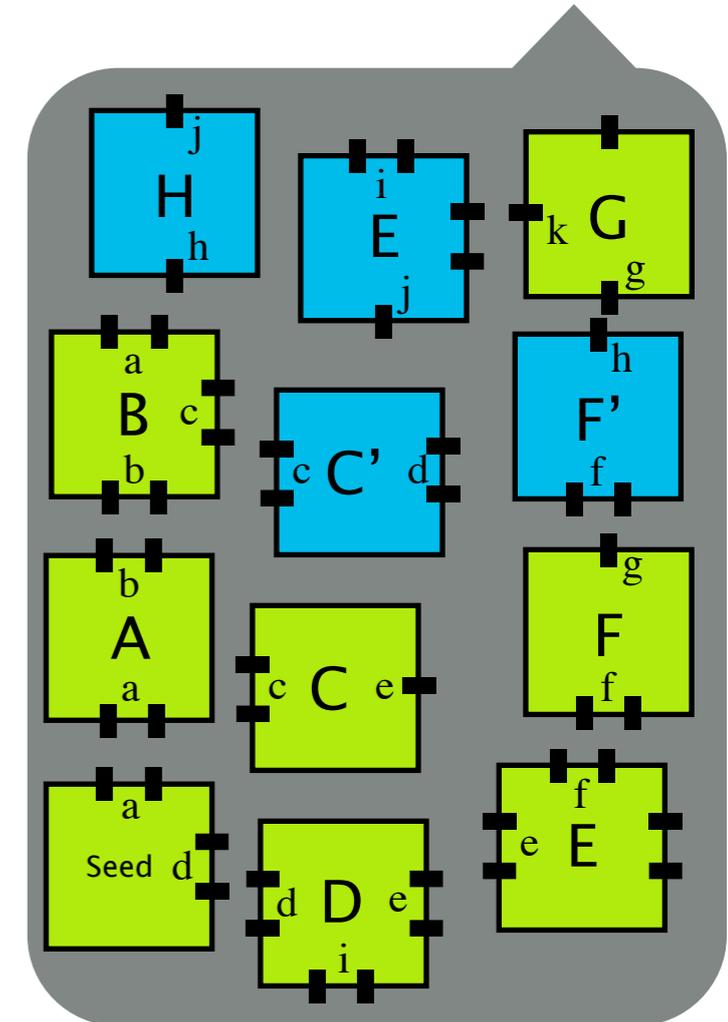
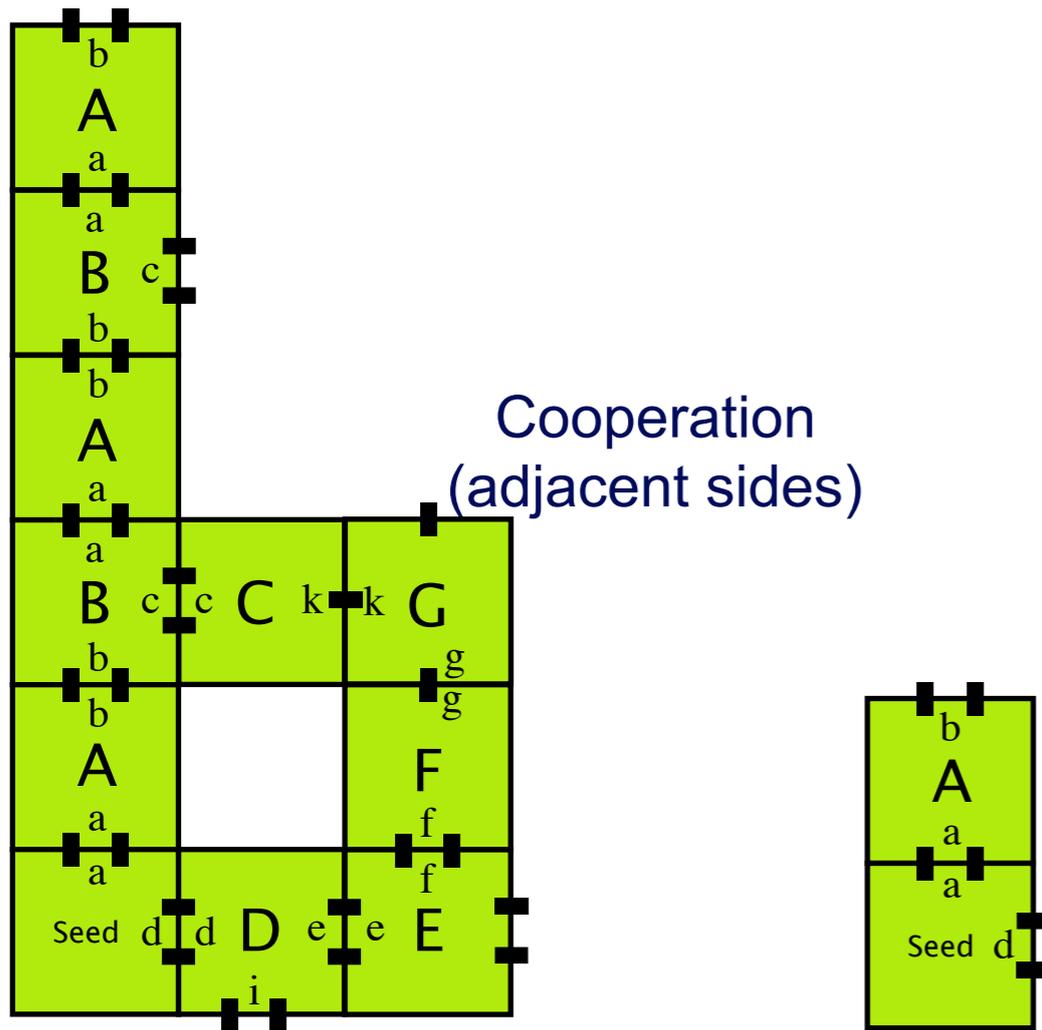
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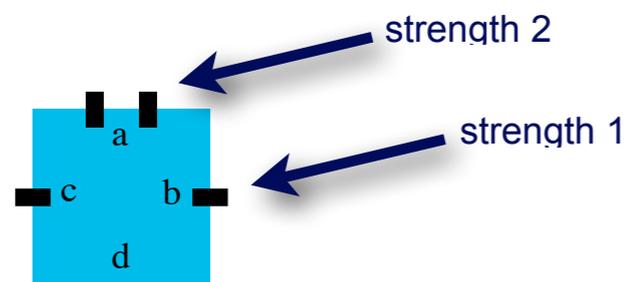
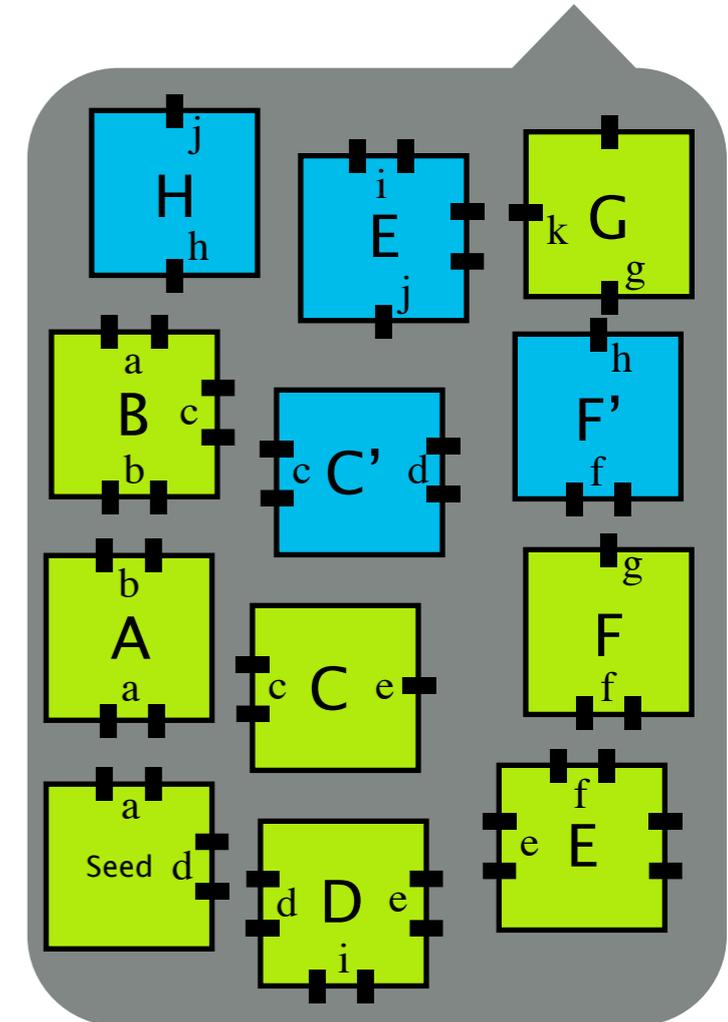
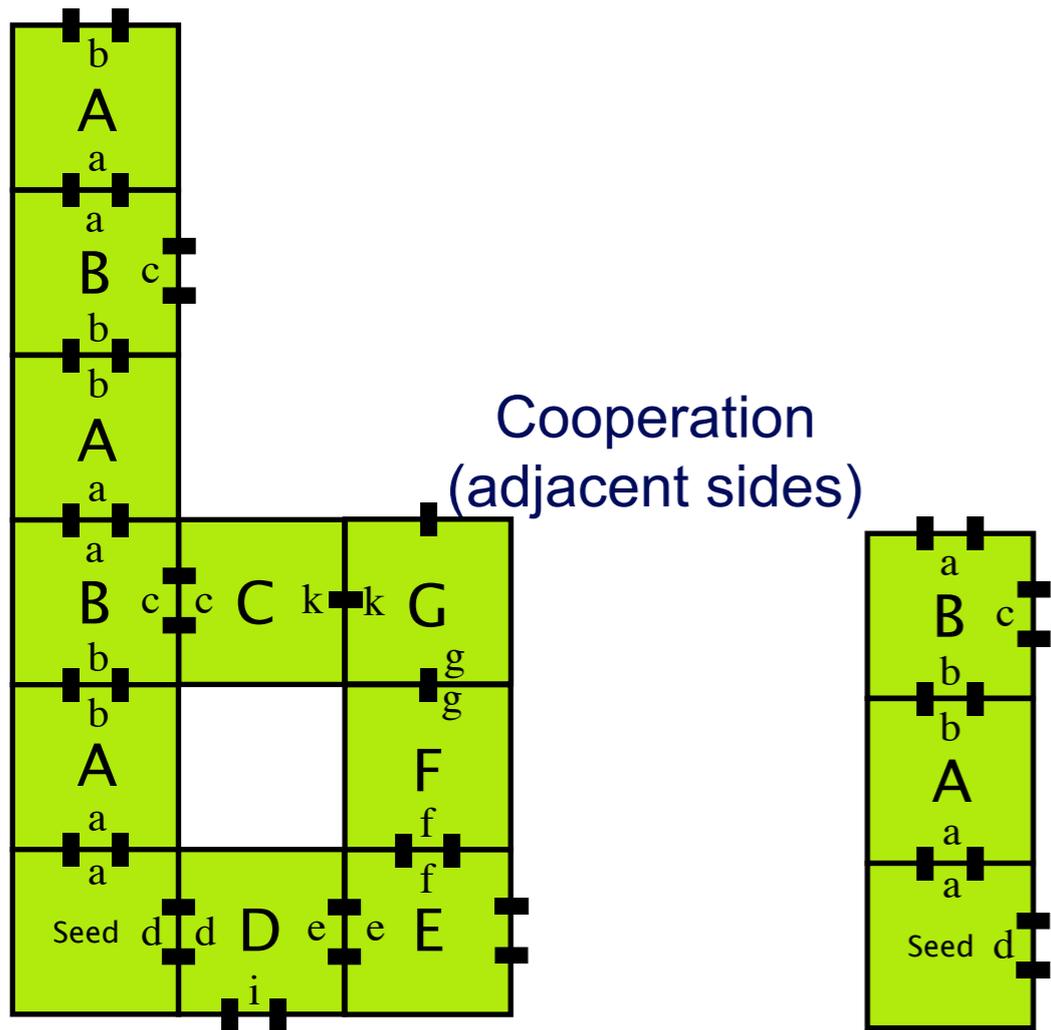
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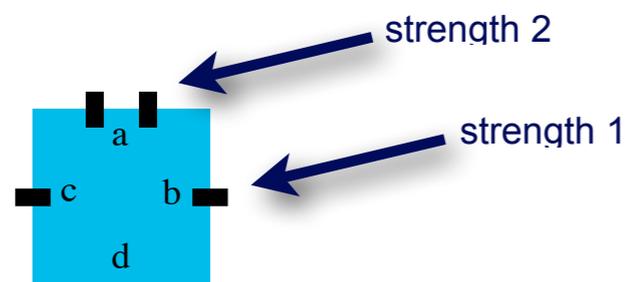
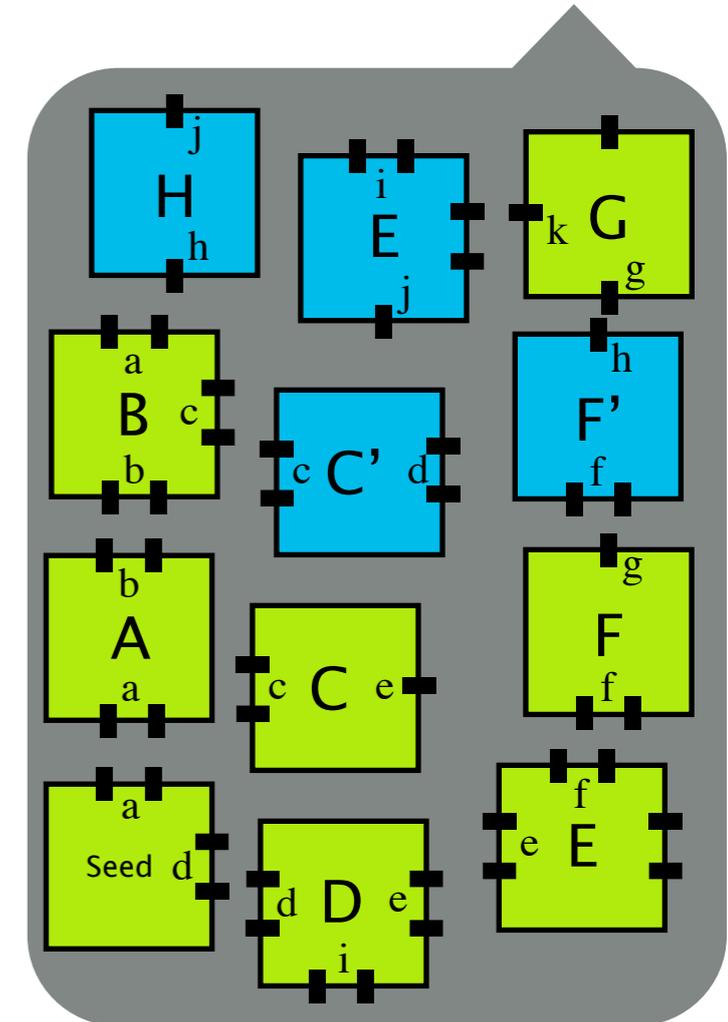
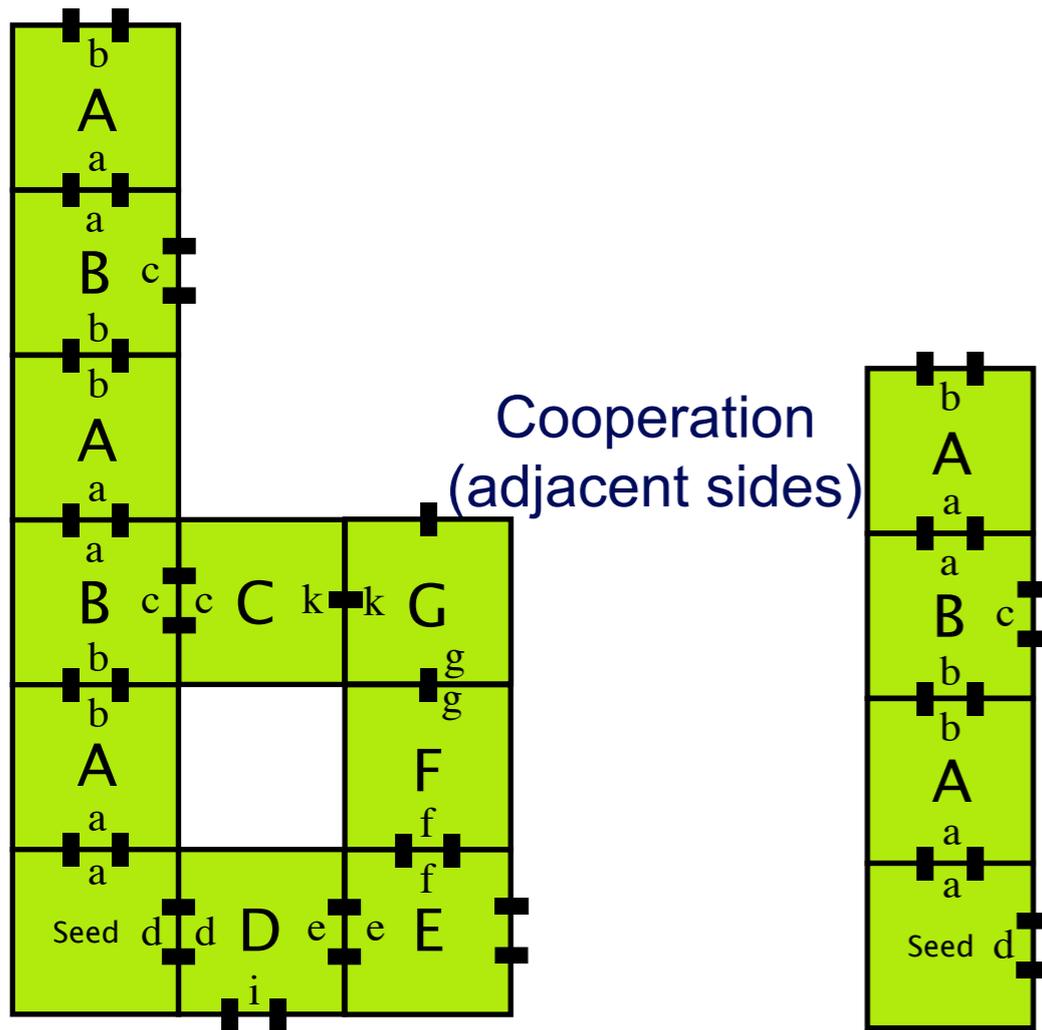
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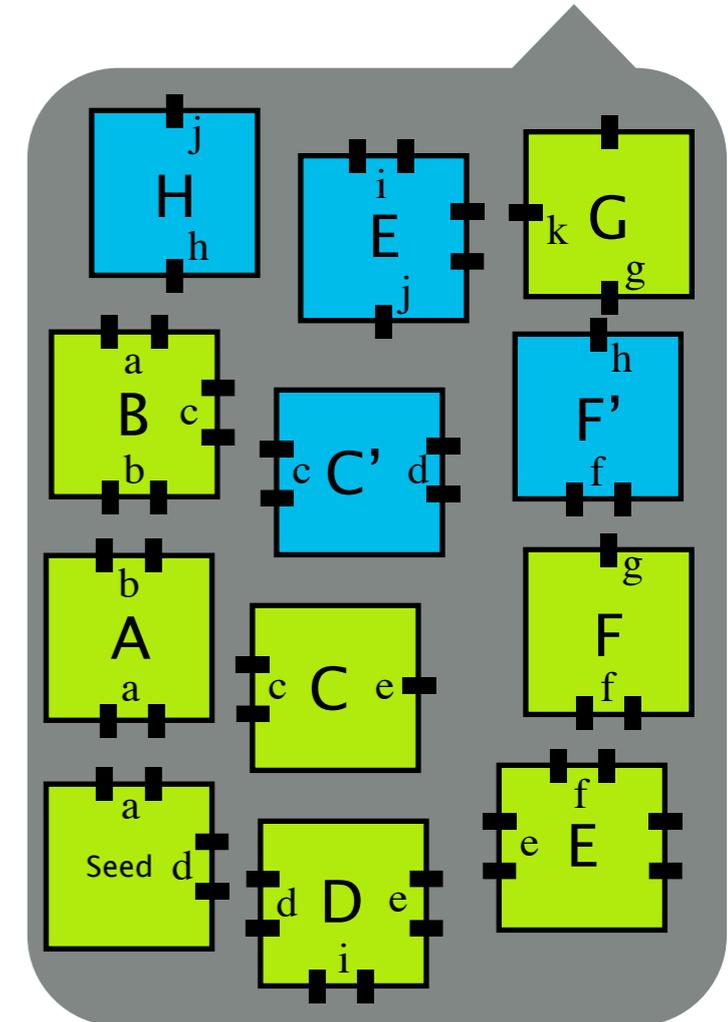
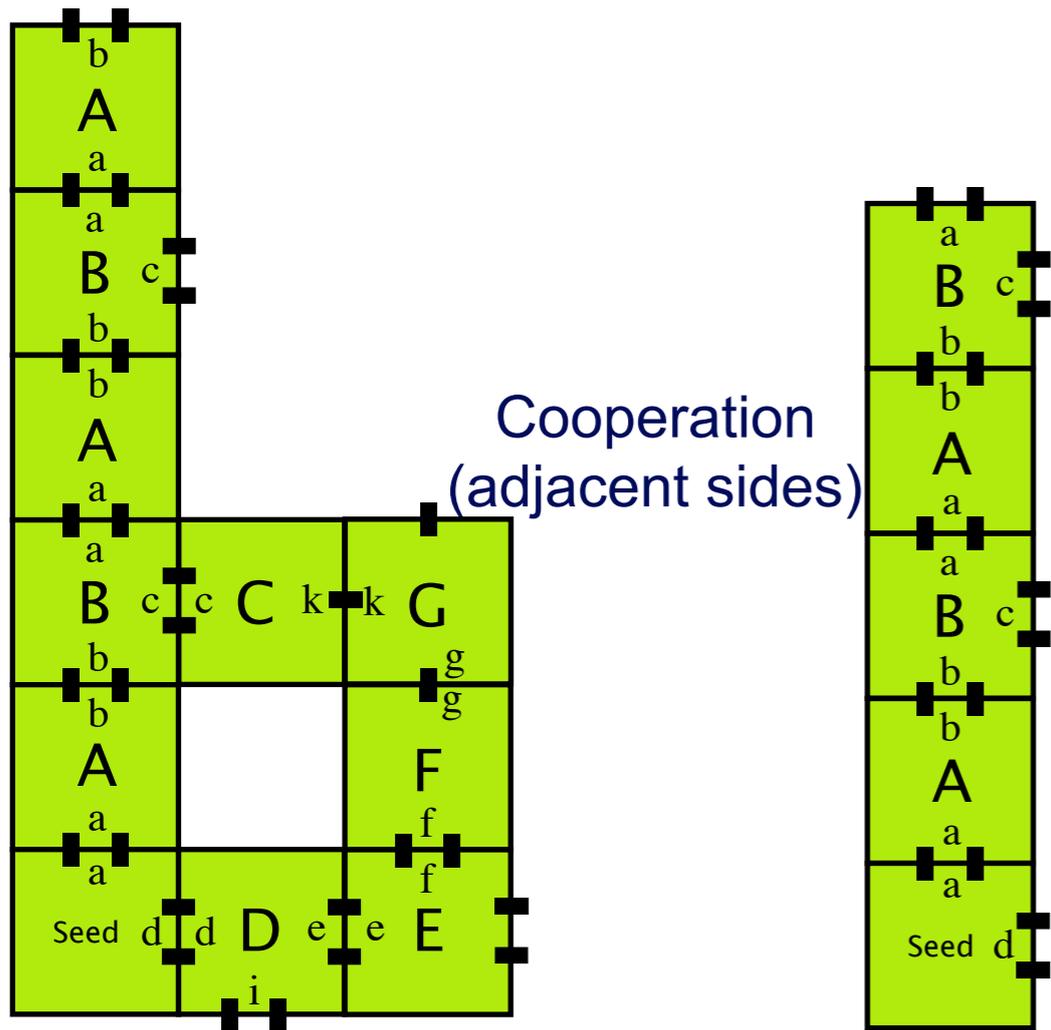
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tile set, seed tile, temperature



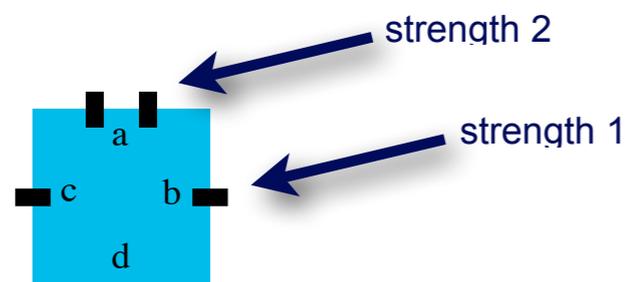
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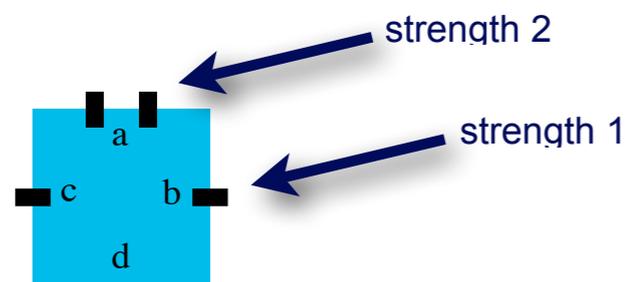
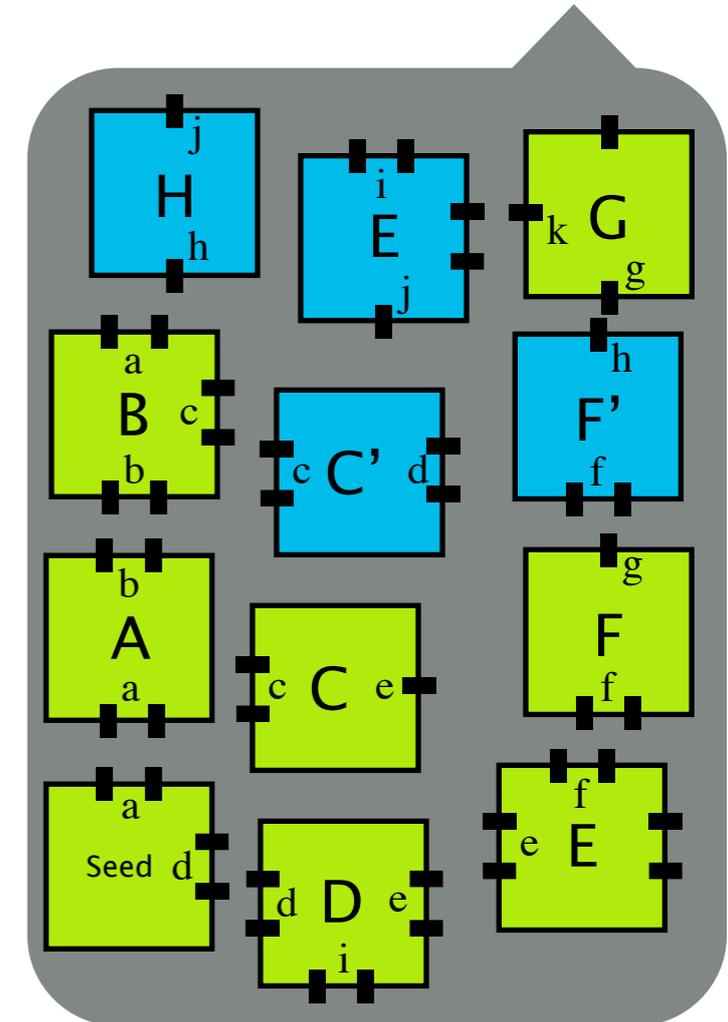
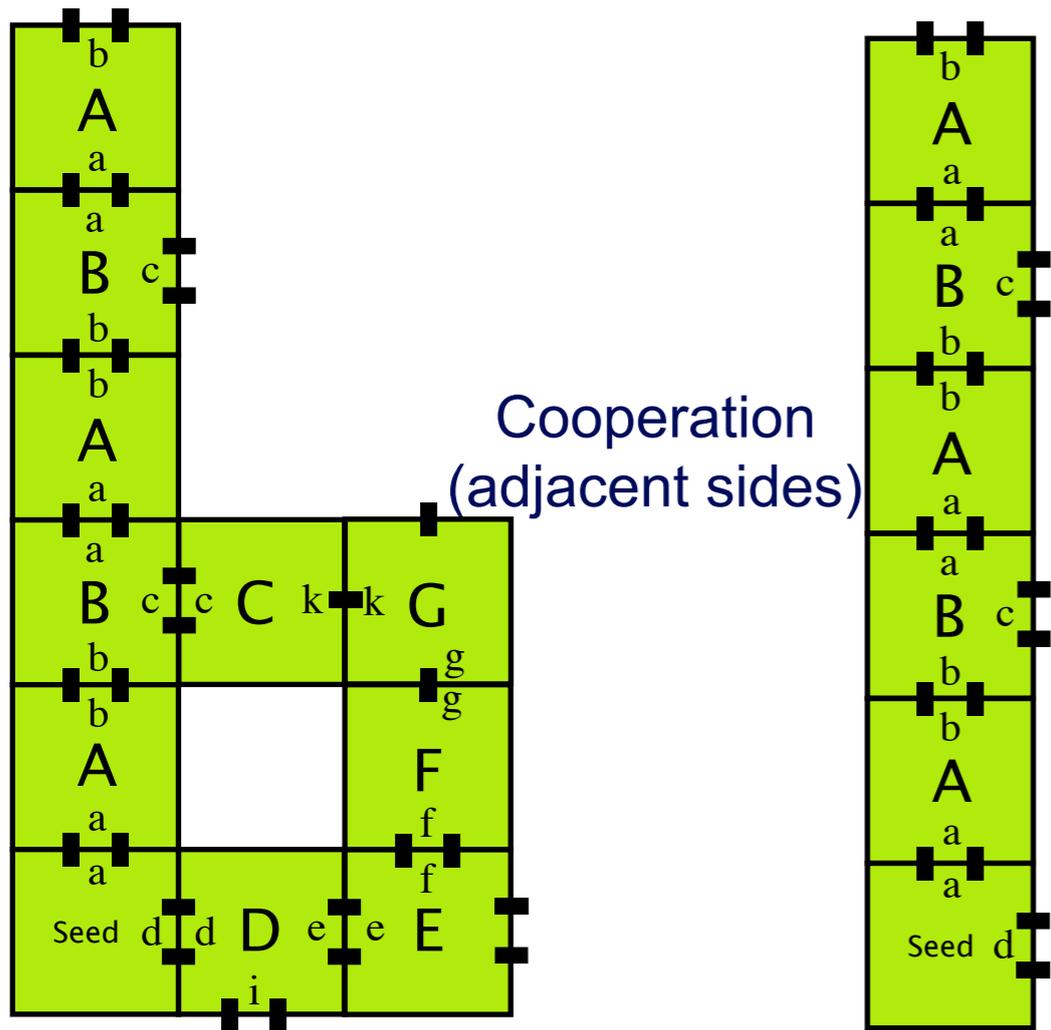
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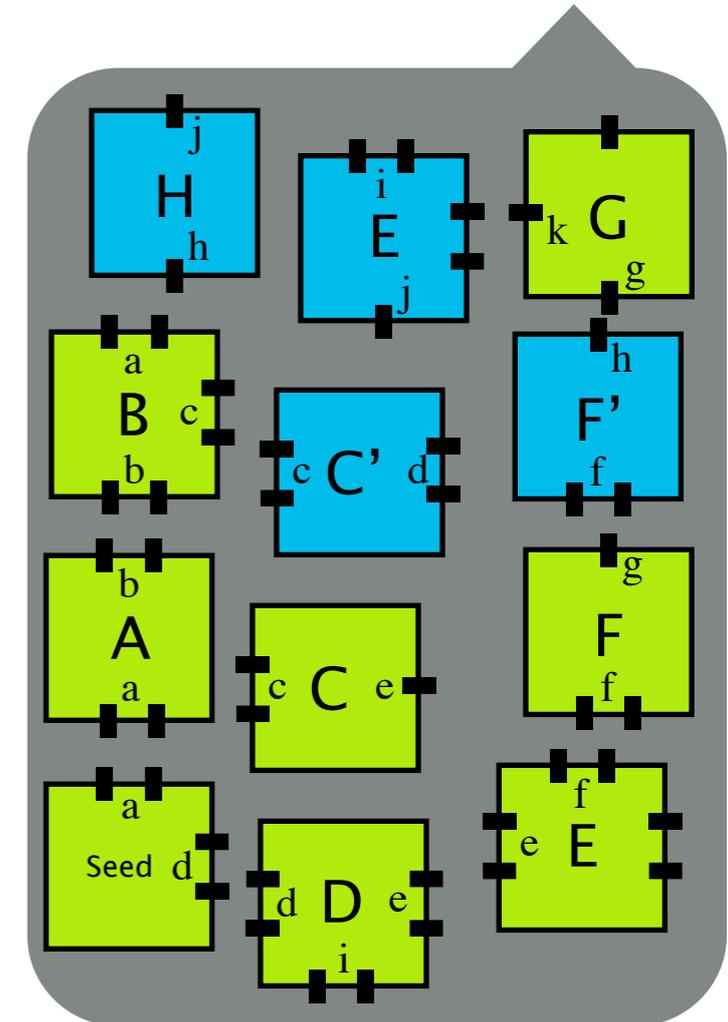
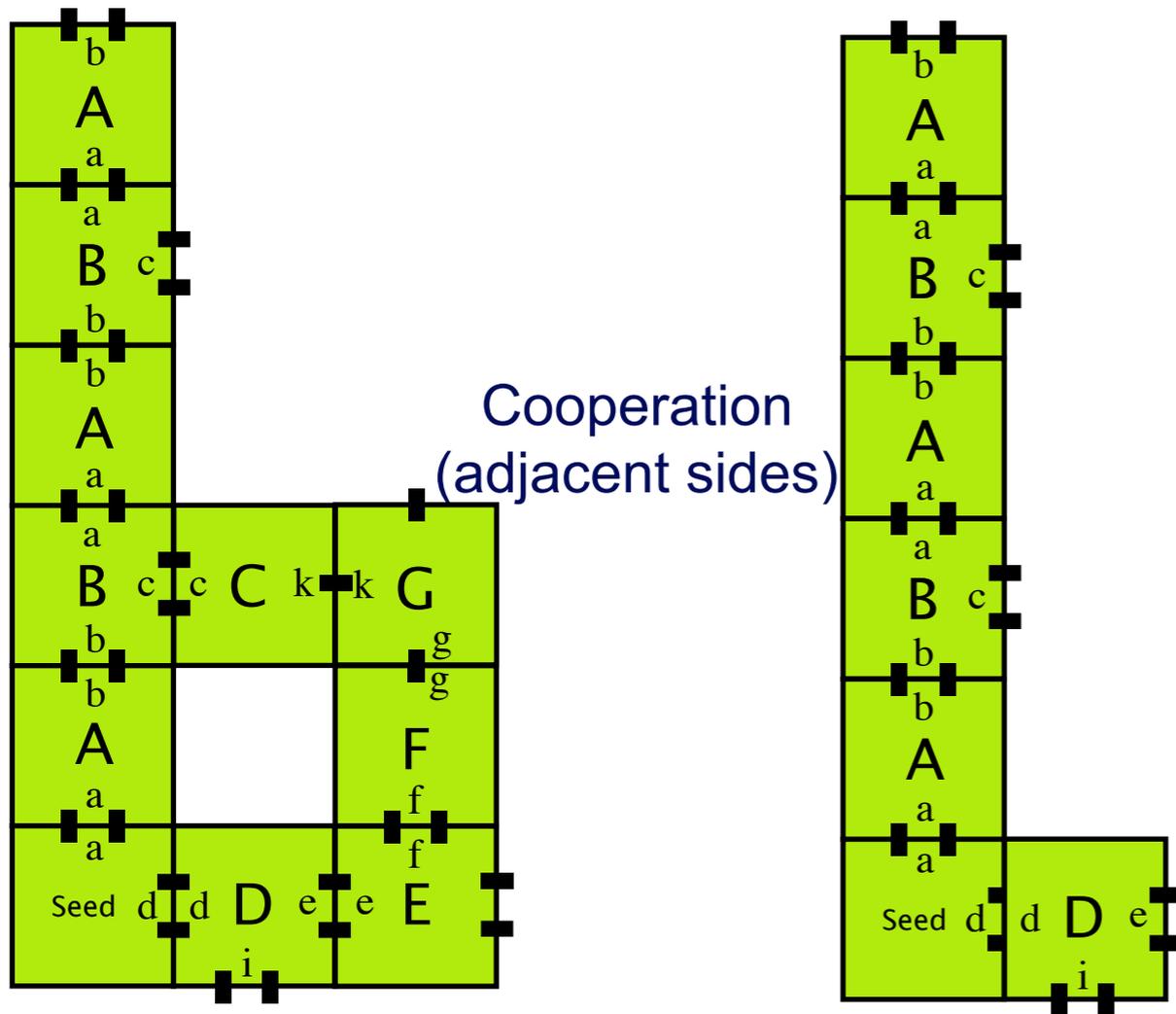
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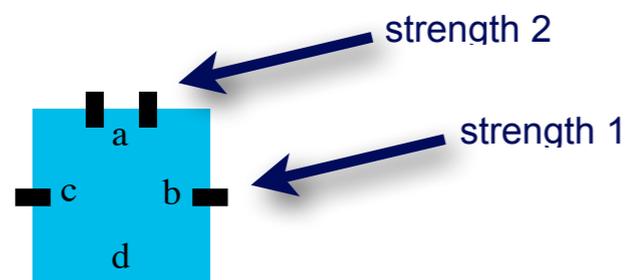
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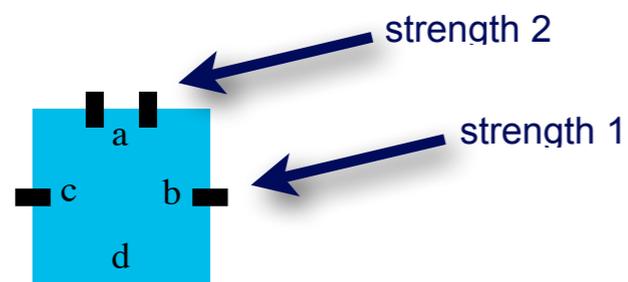
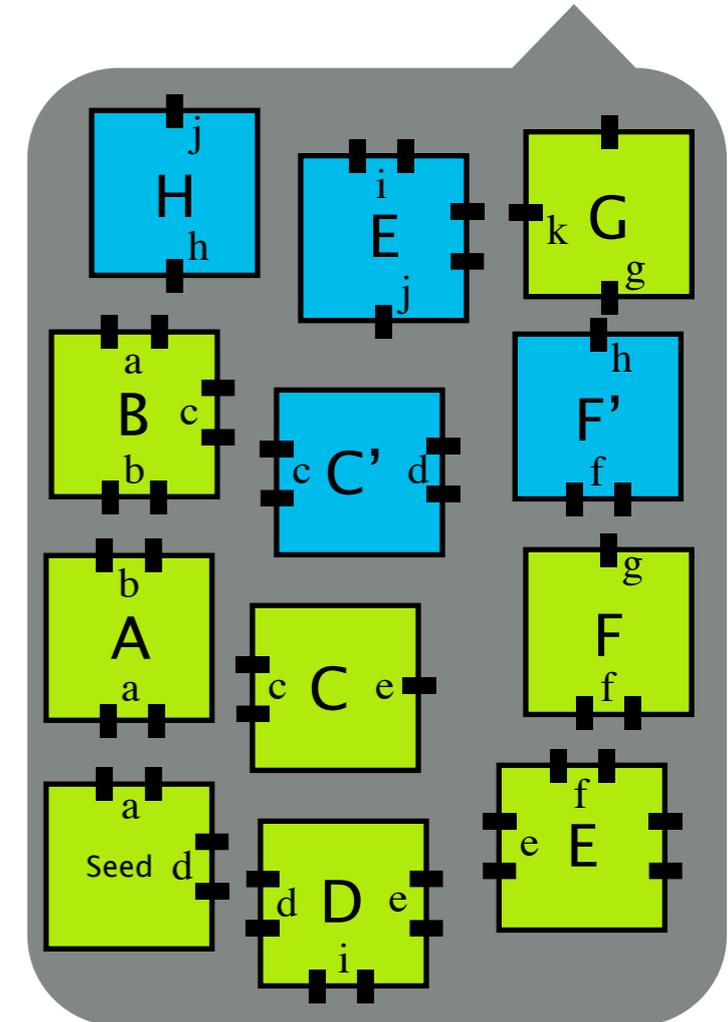
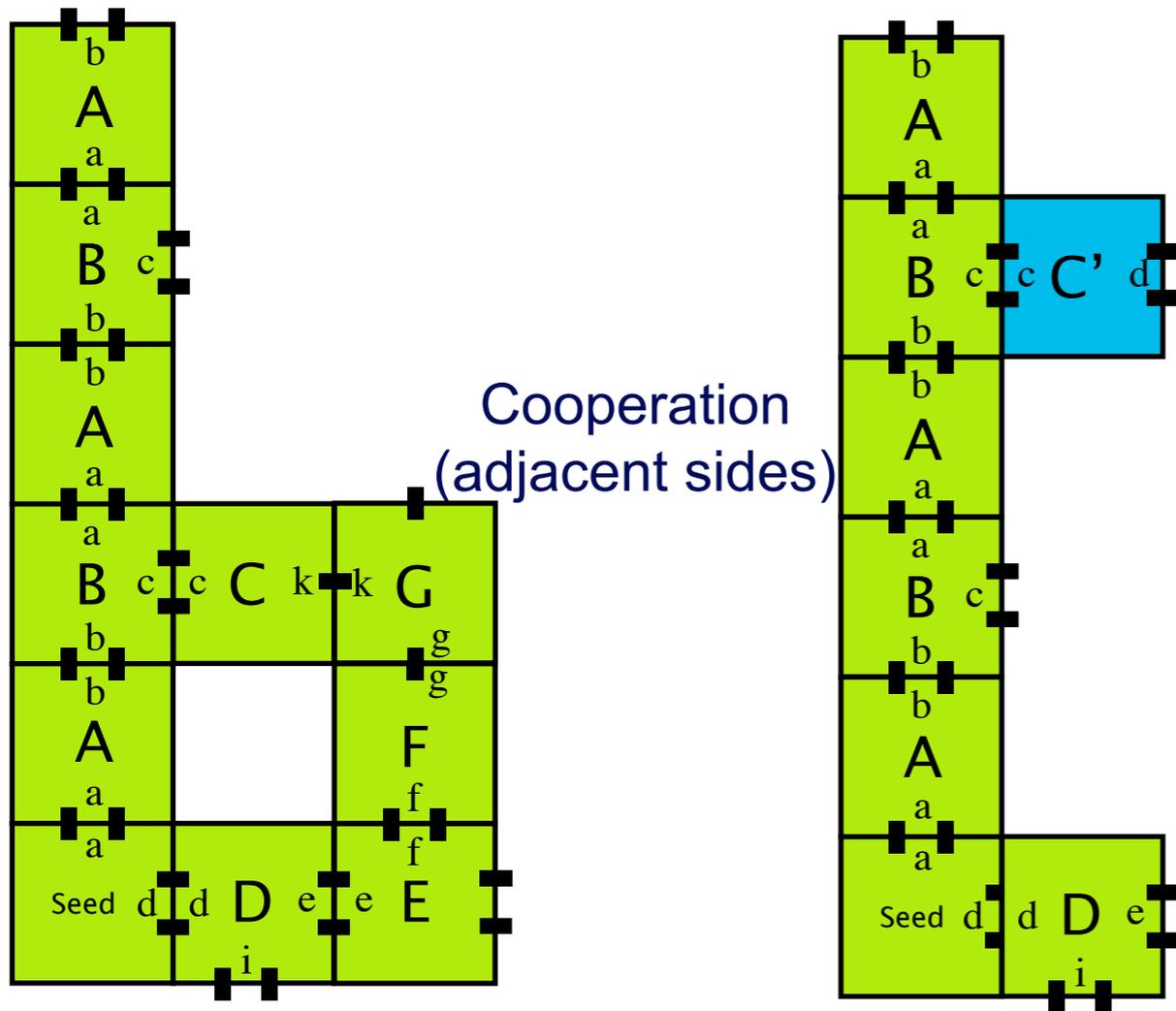
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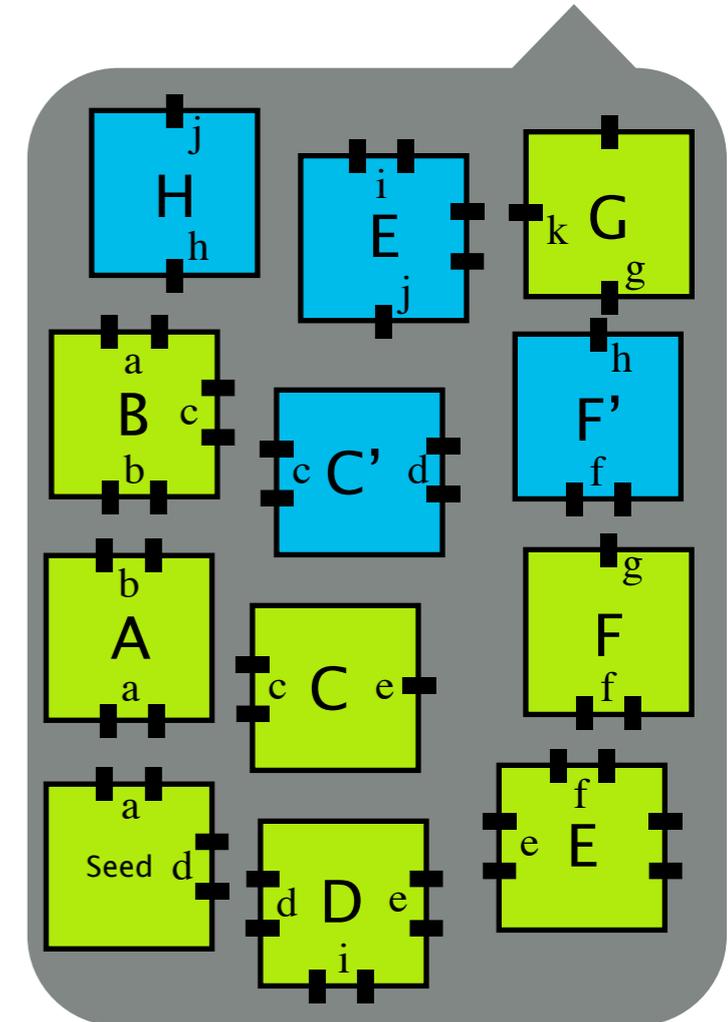
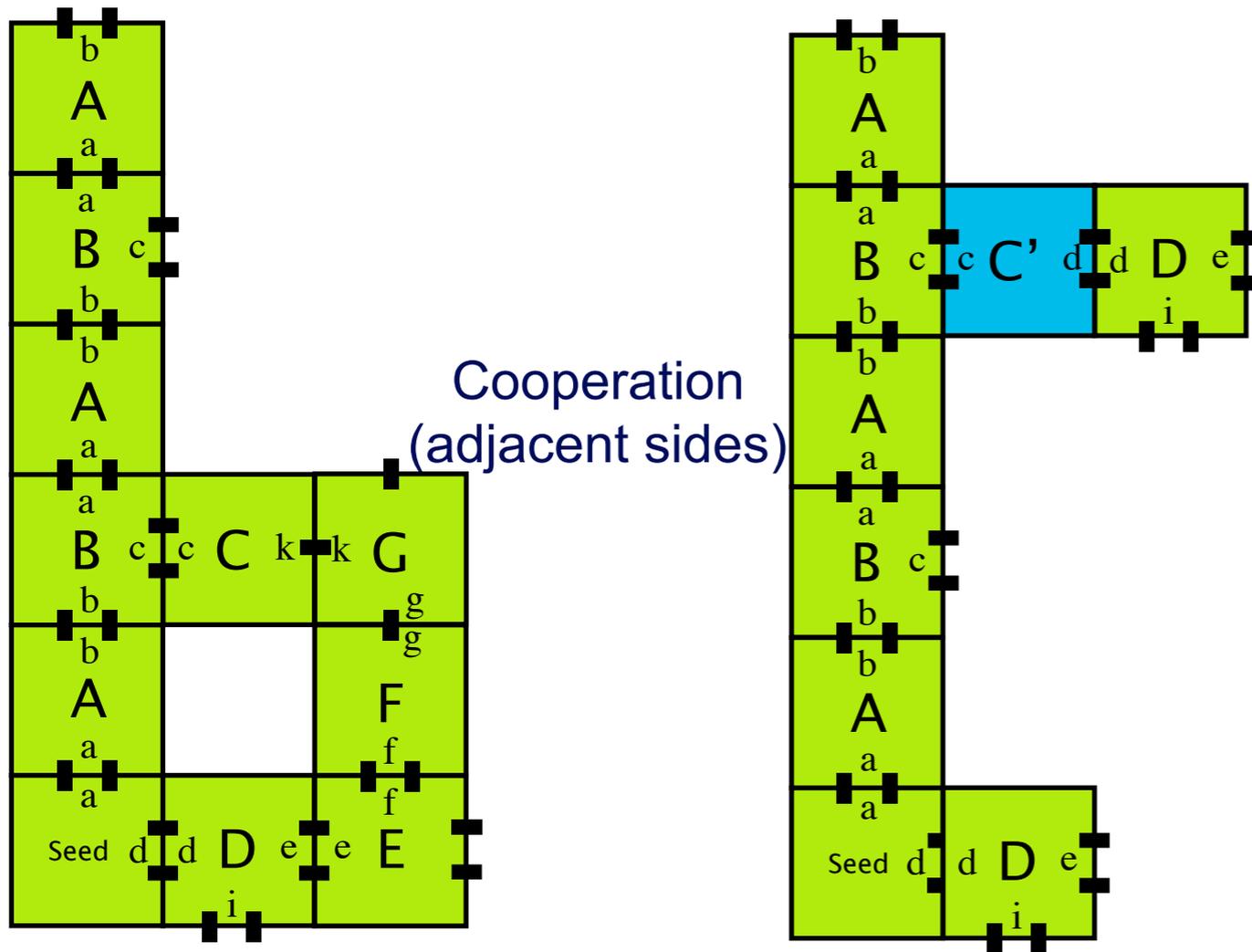
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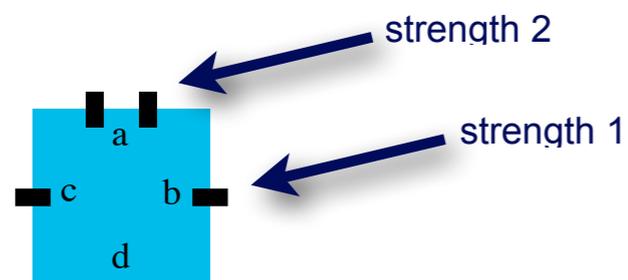
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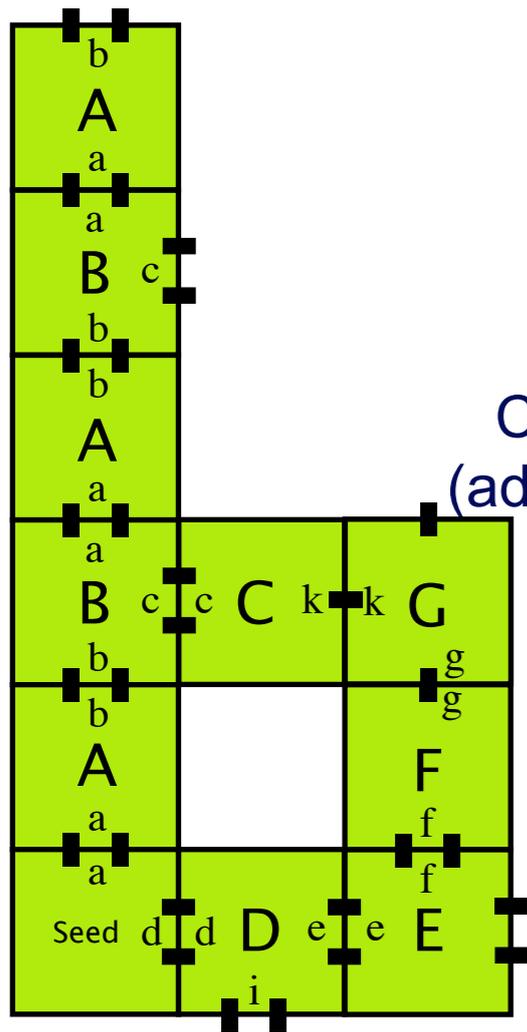
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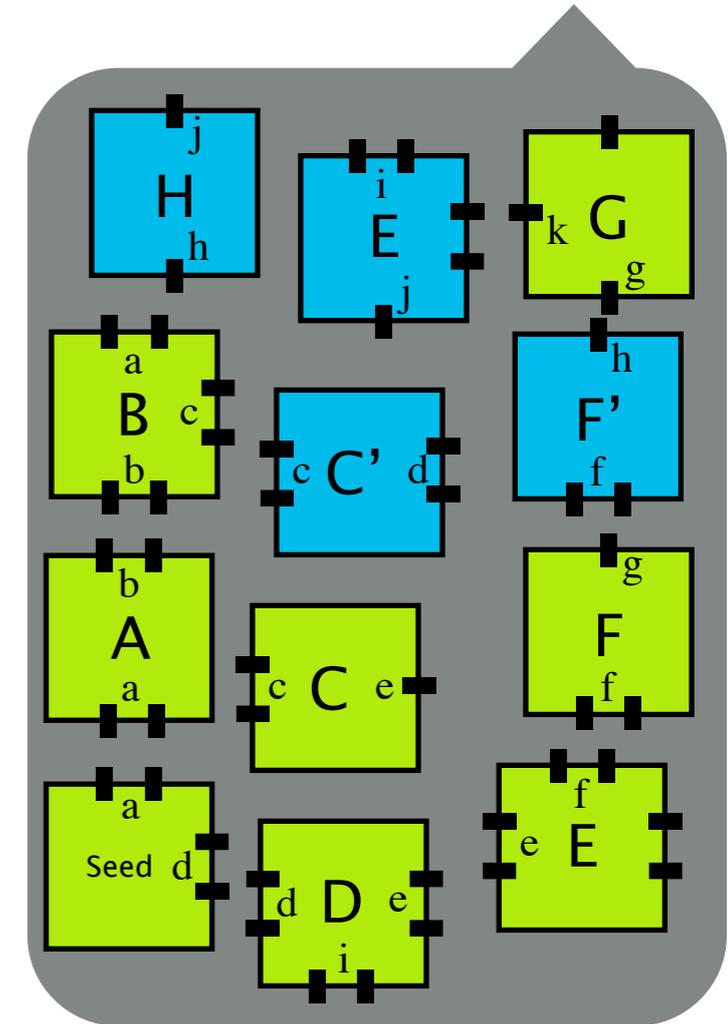
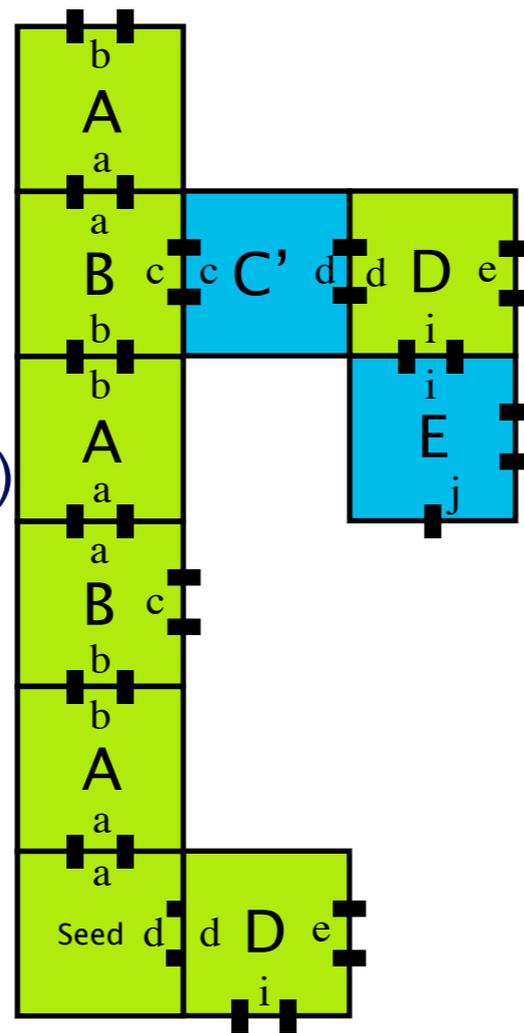
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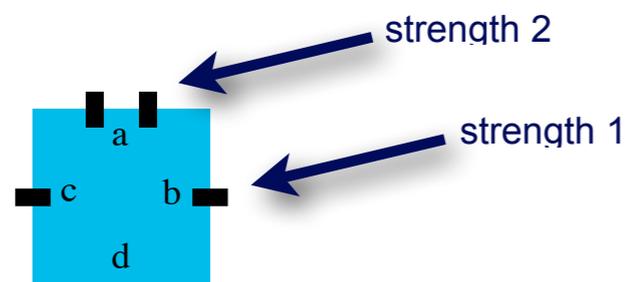
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Cooperation  
(adjacent sides)



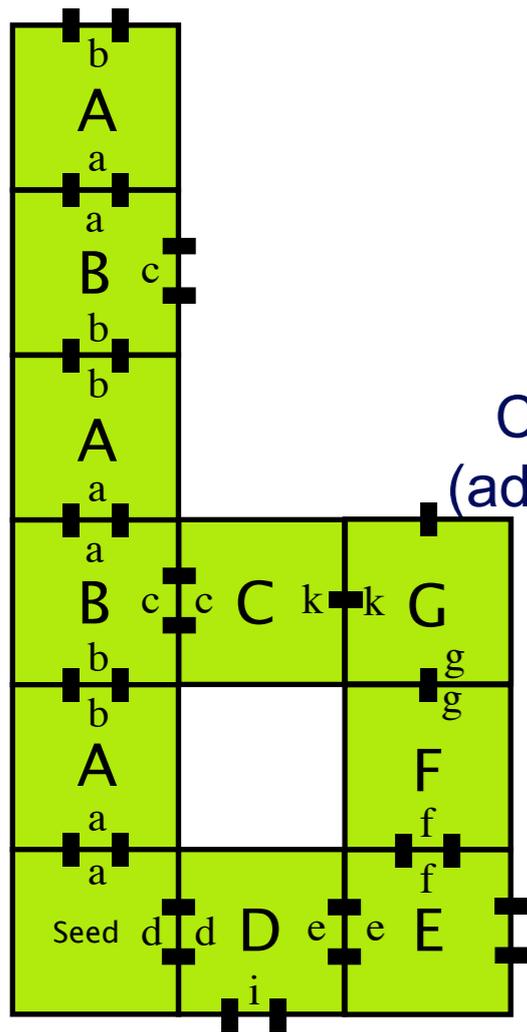
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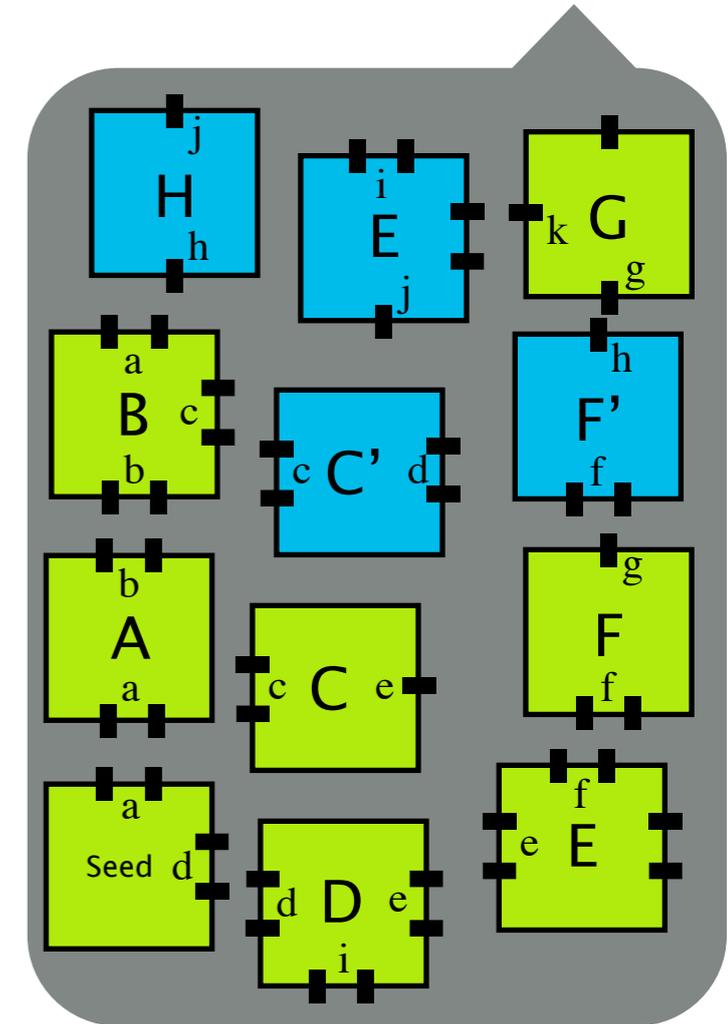
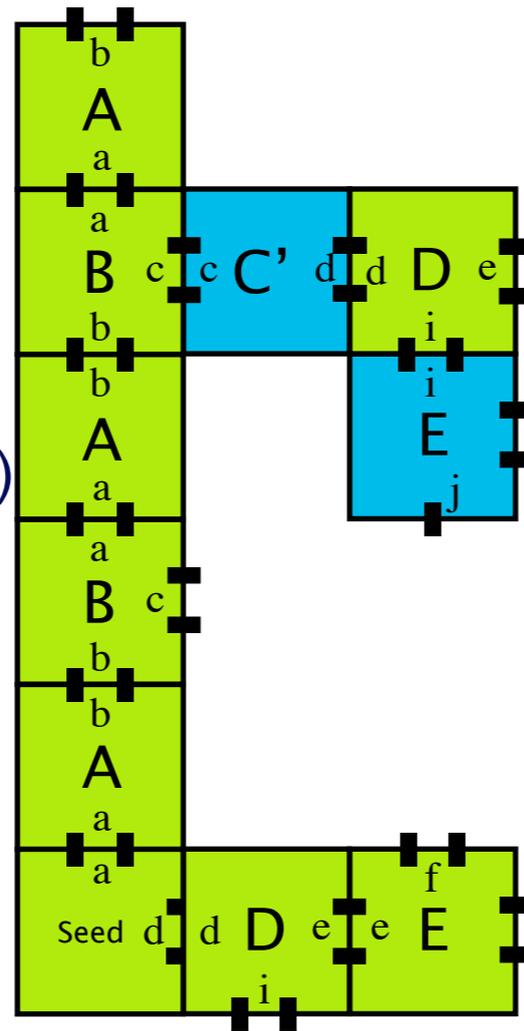
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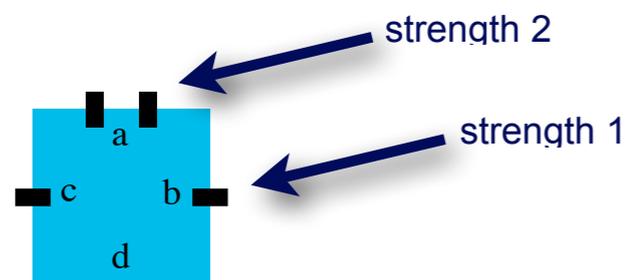
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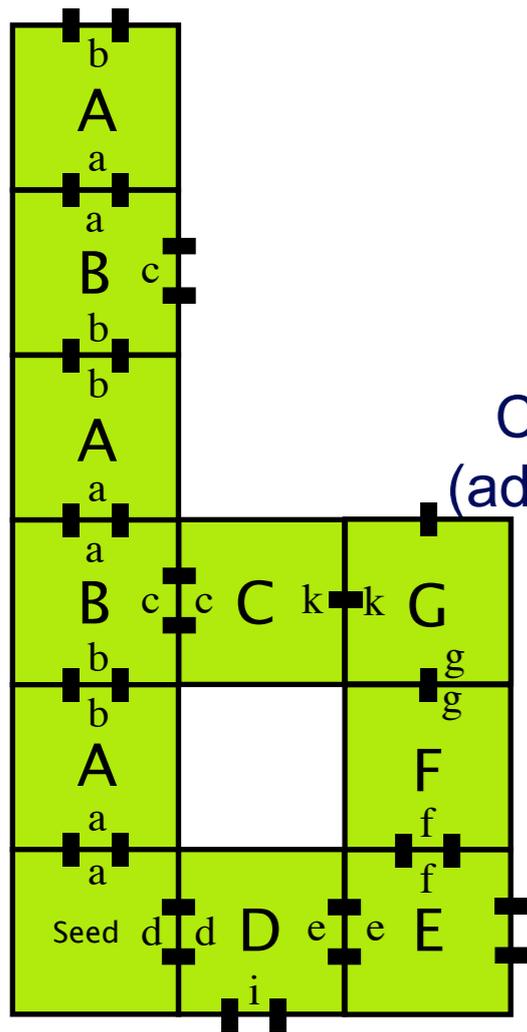
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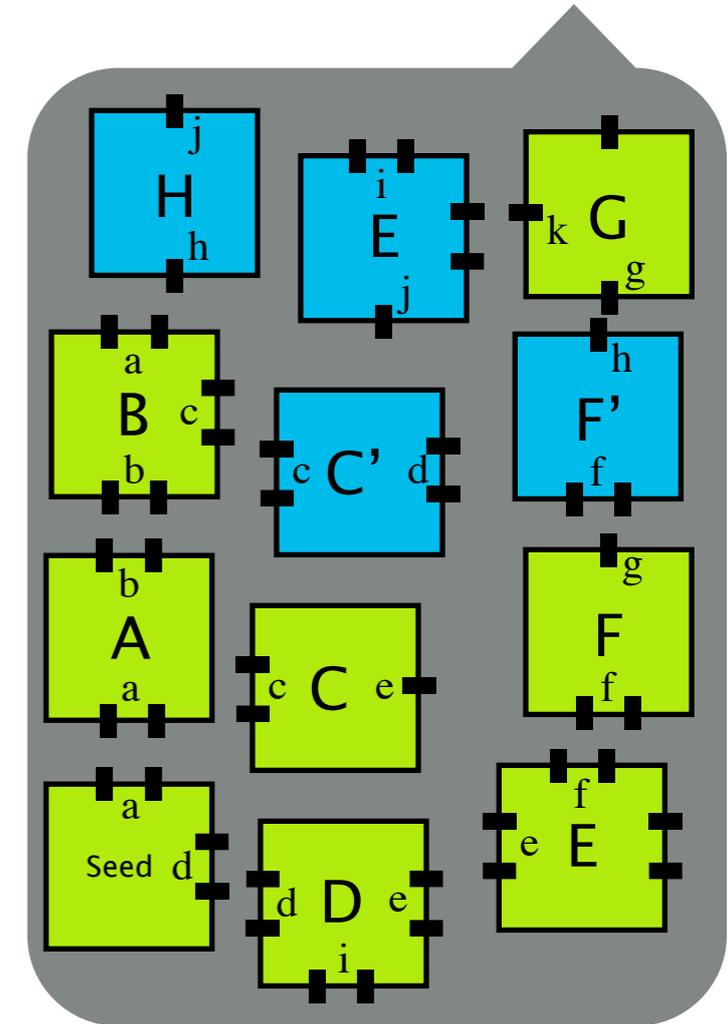
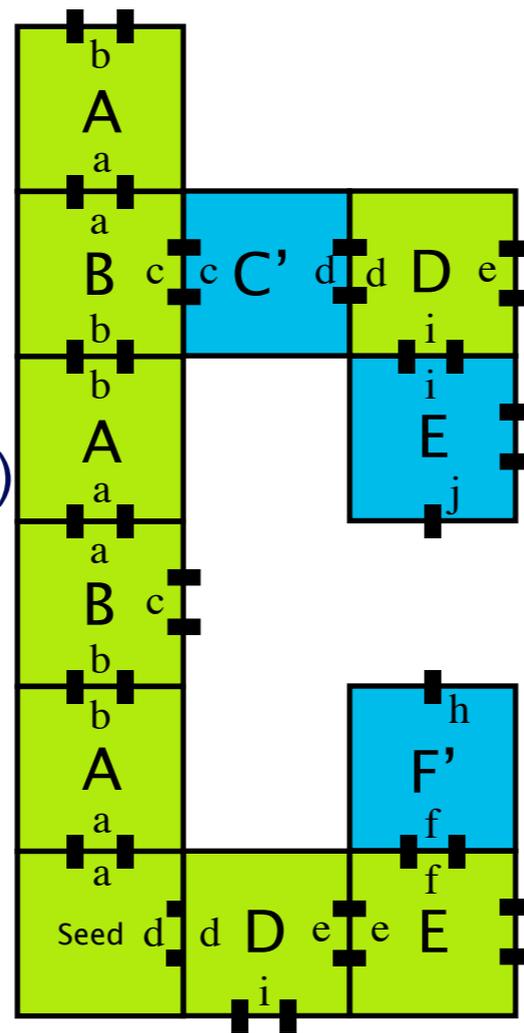
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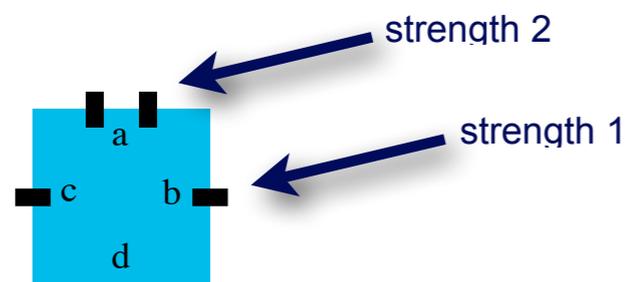
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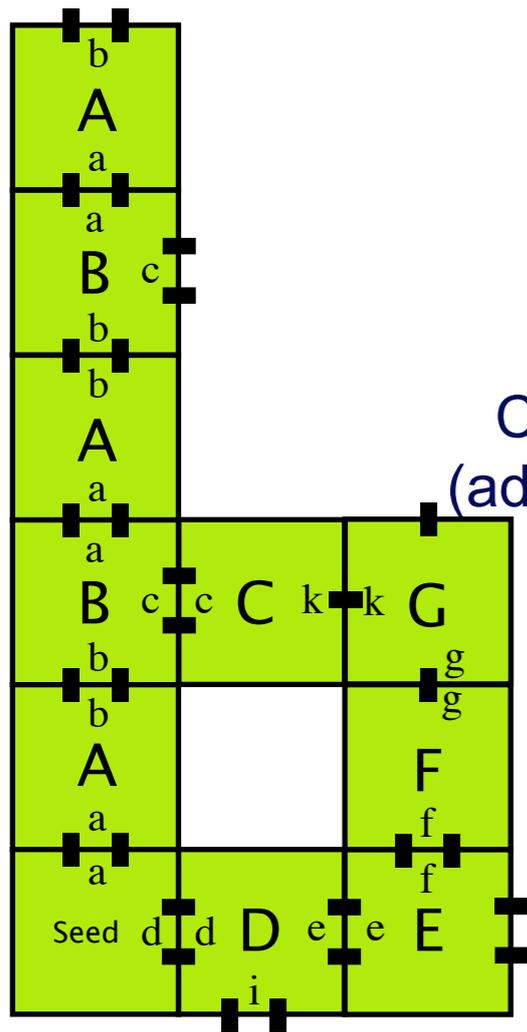
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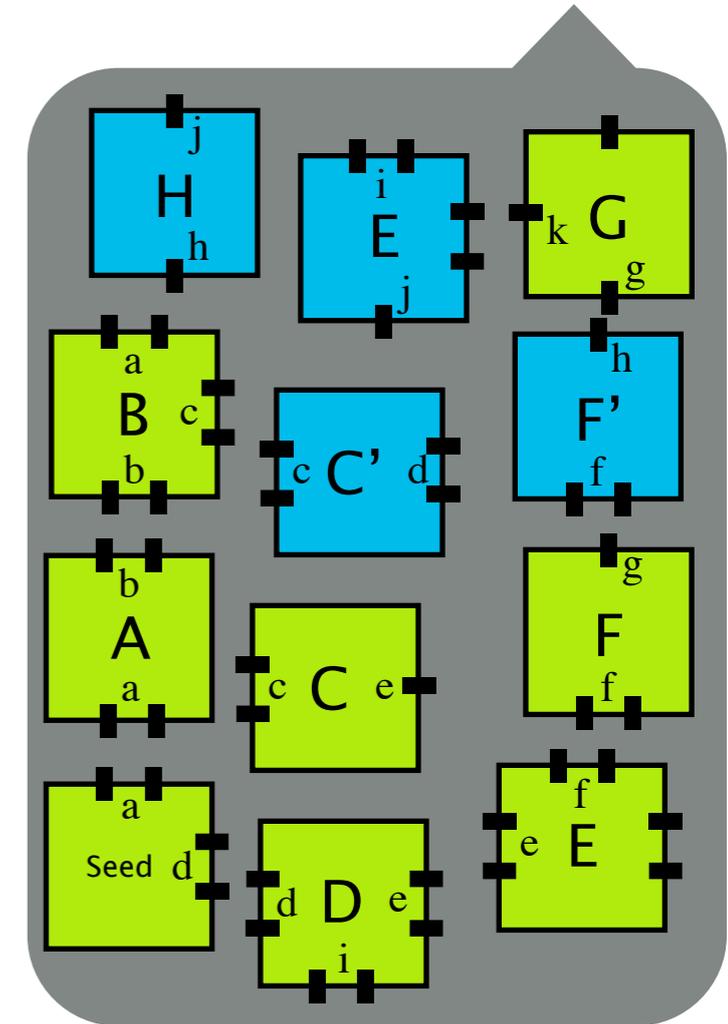
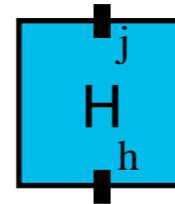
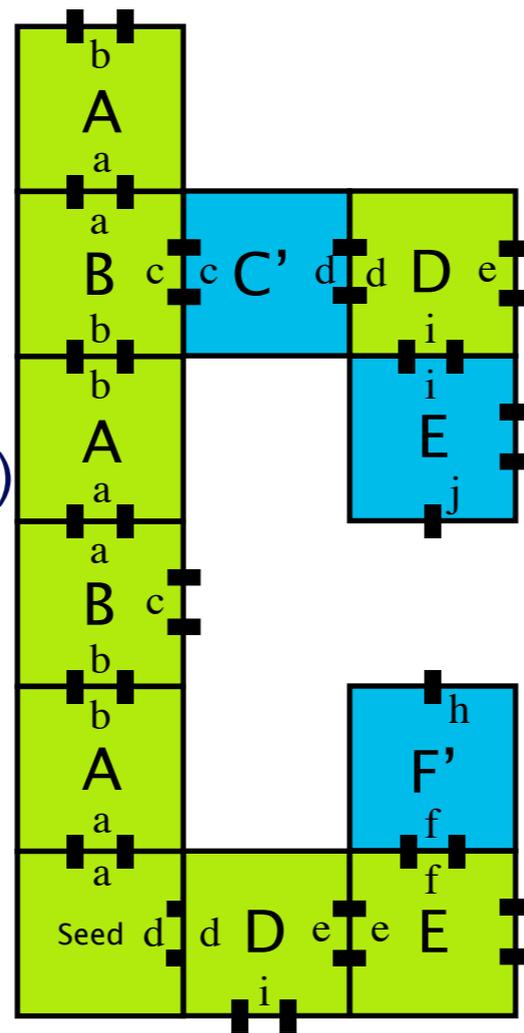
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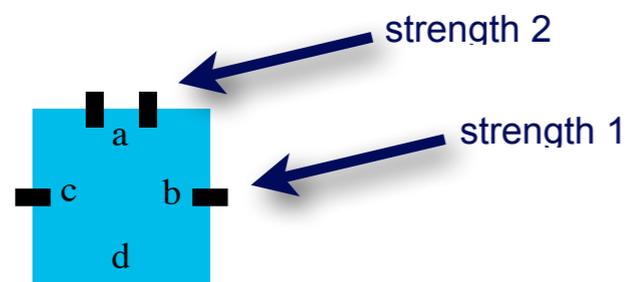
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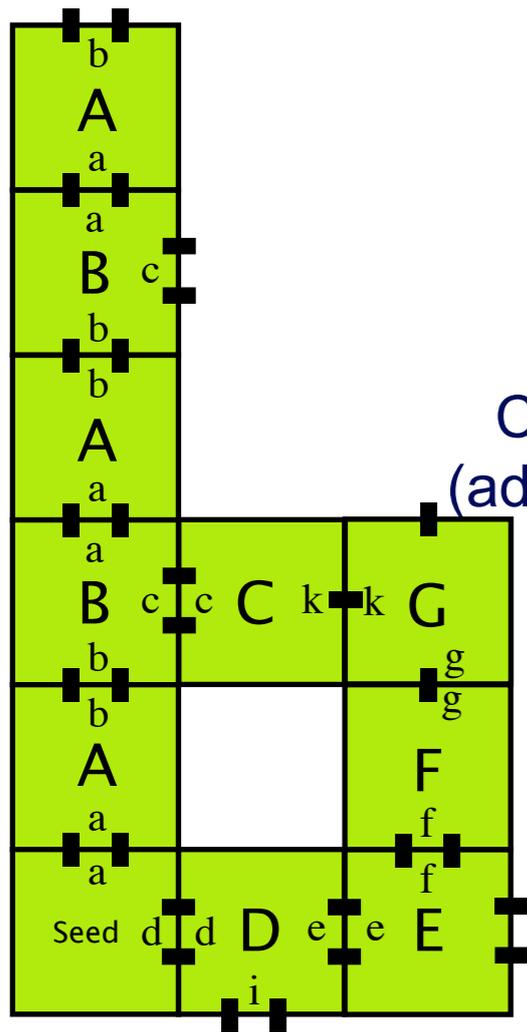
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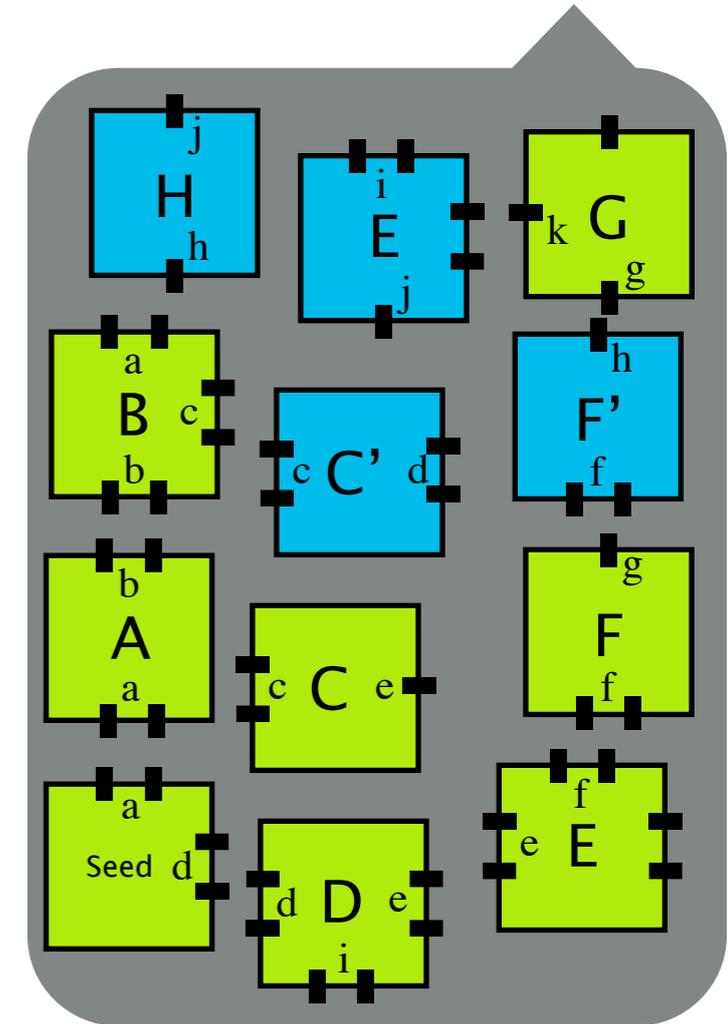
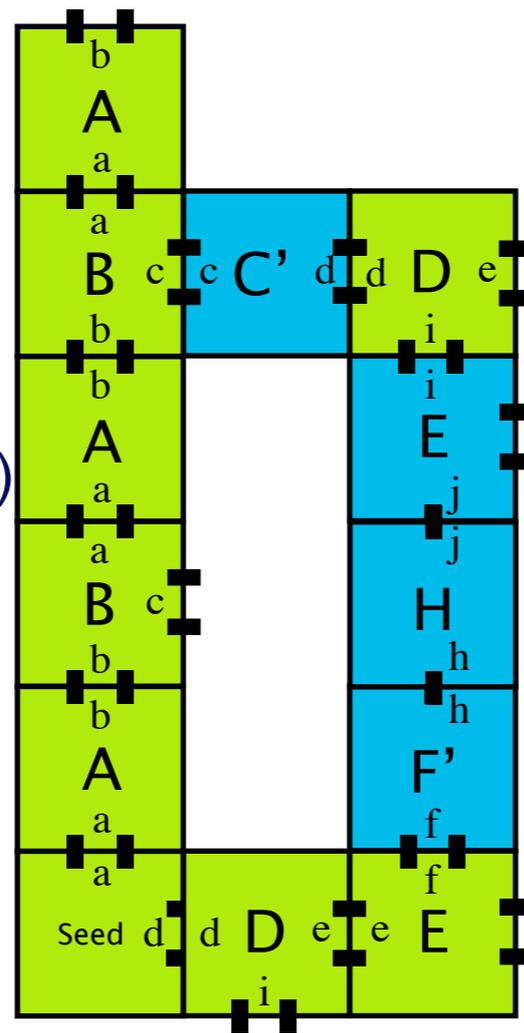
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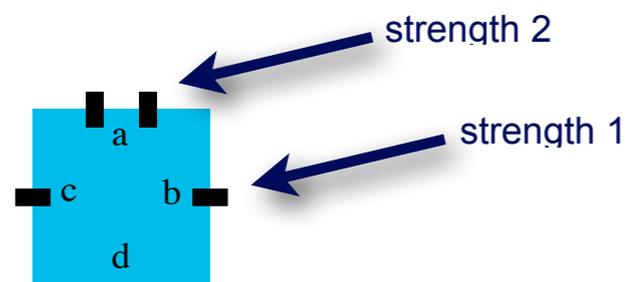
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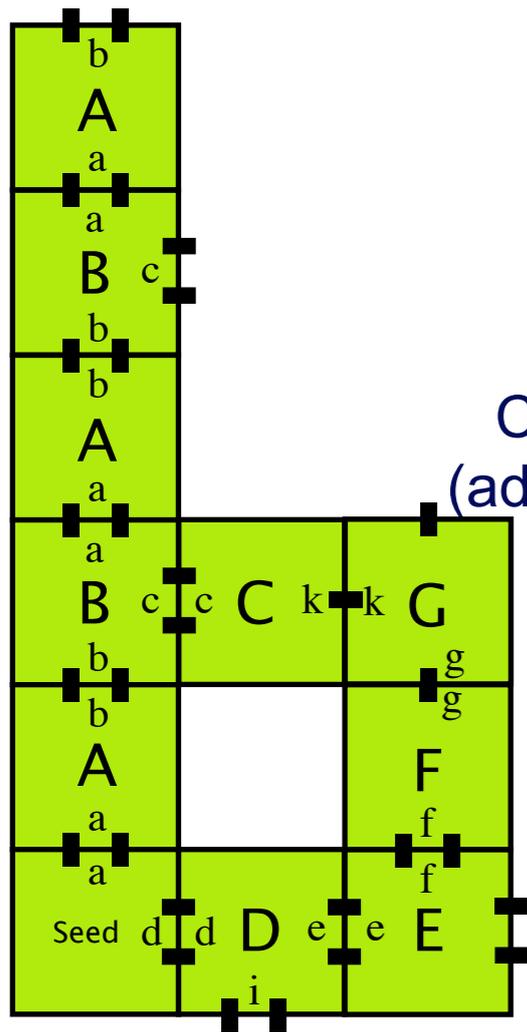
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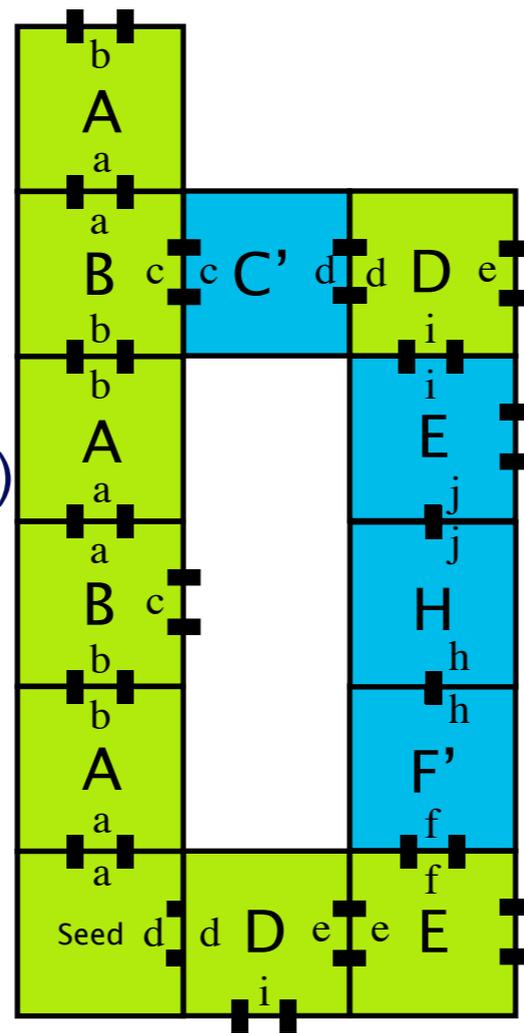
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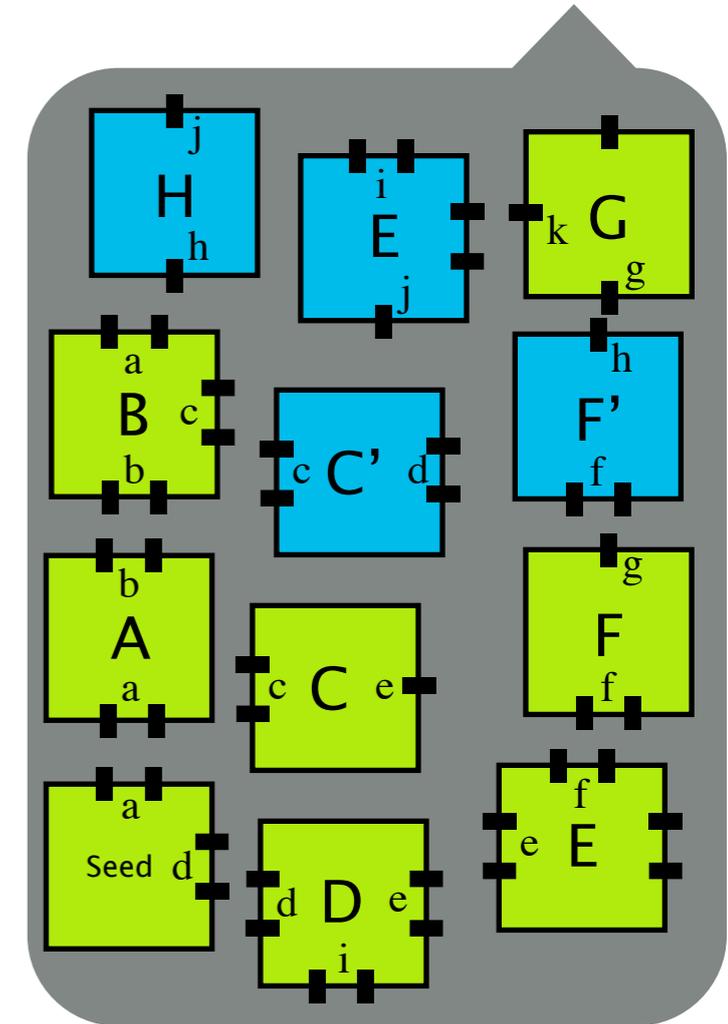
Tile assembly system:  
tile set, seed tile, temperature



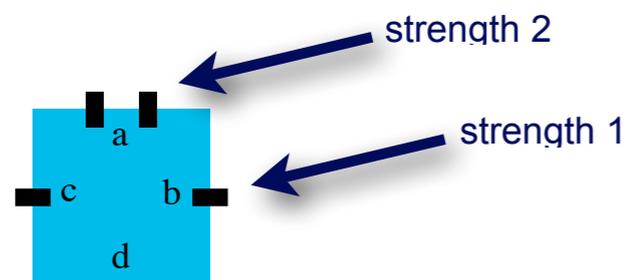
Cooperation  
(adjacent sides)



Cooperation  
(opposite sides)

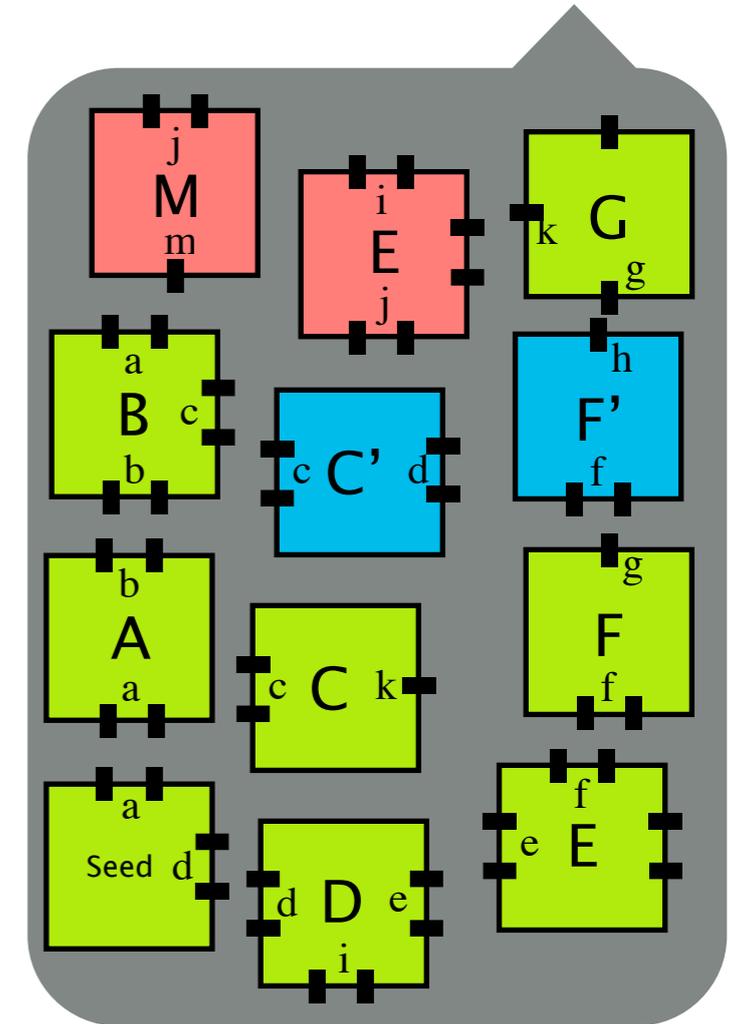
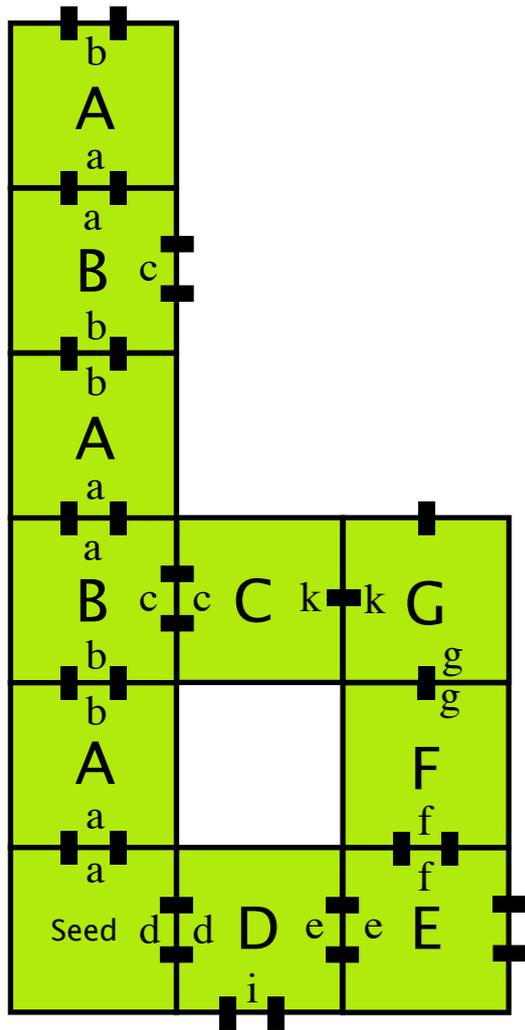


Temperature = 2

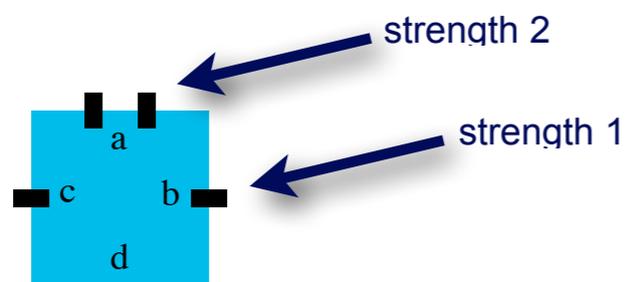


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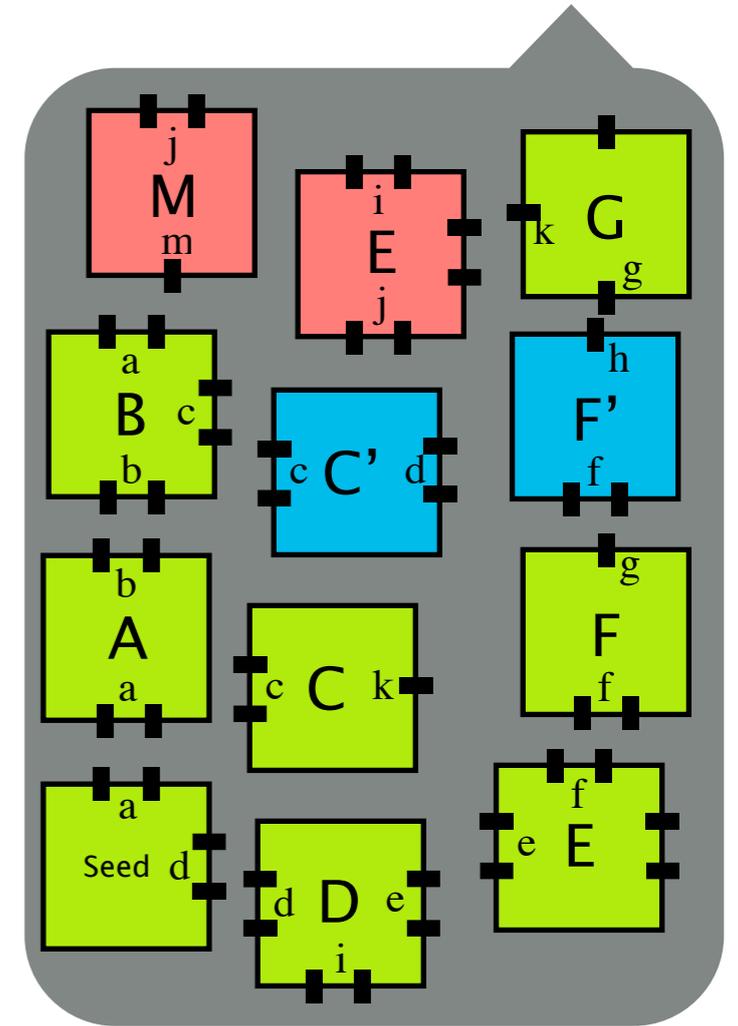
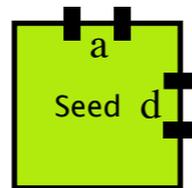
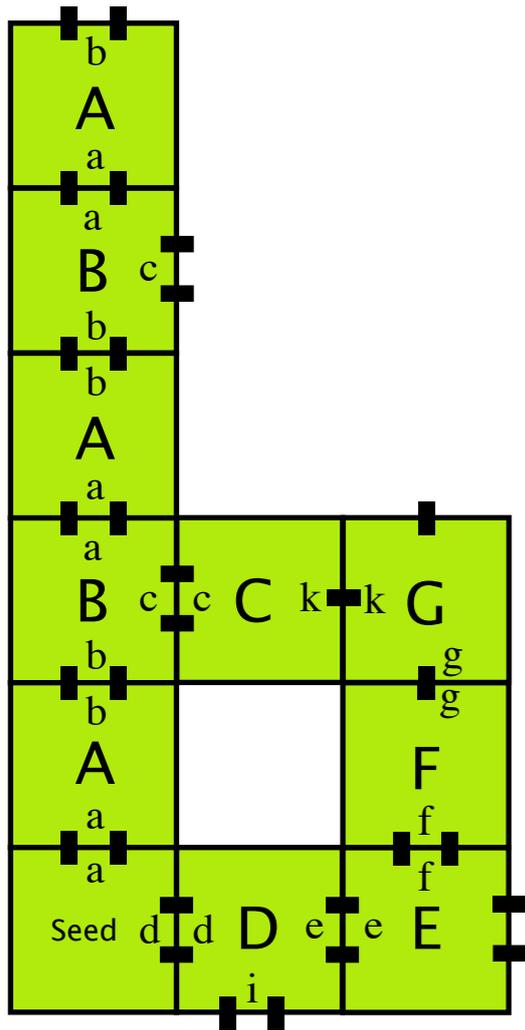


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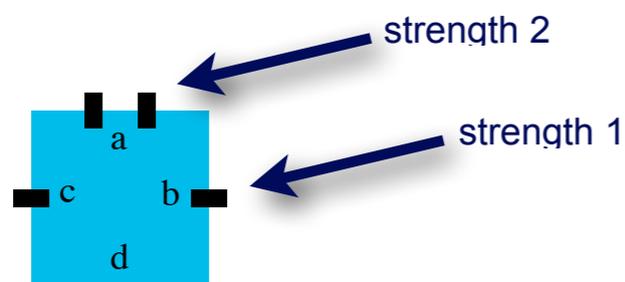


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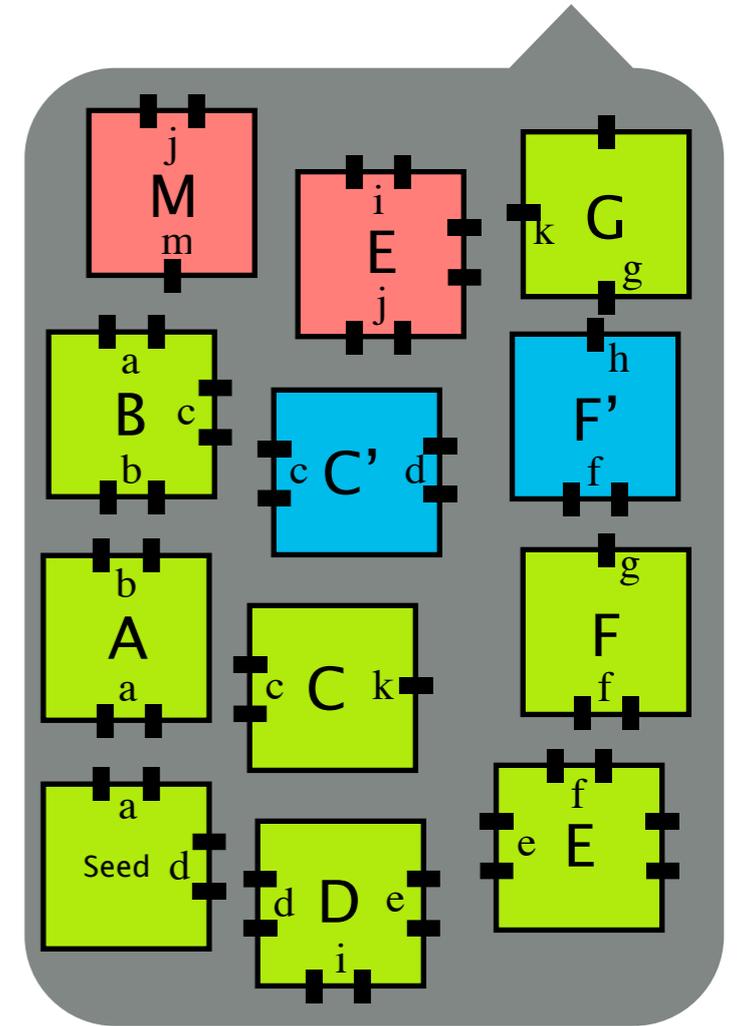
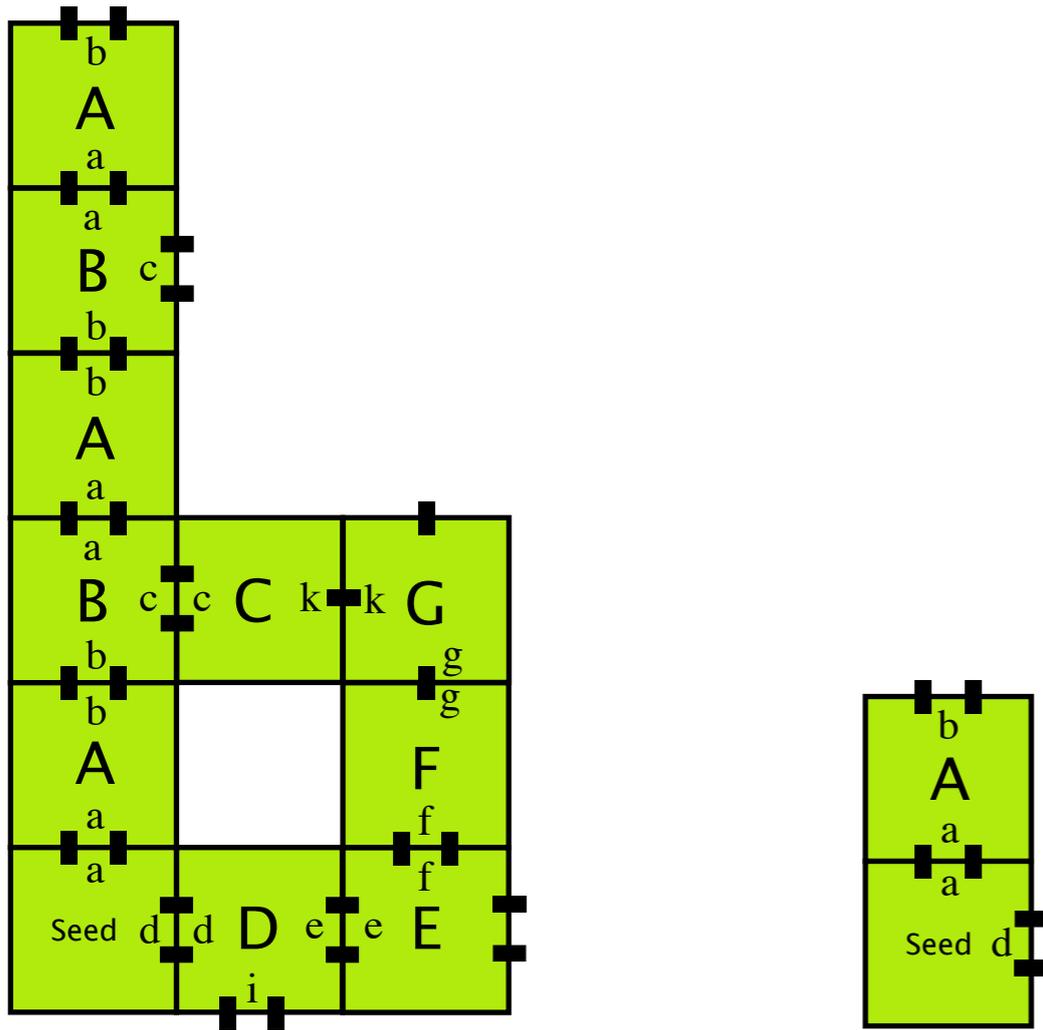


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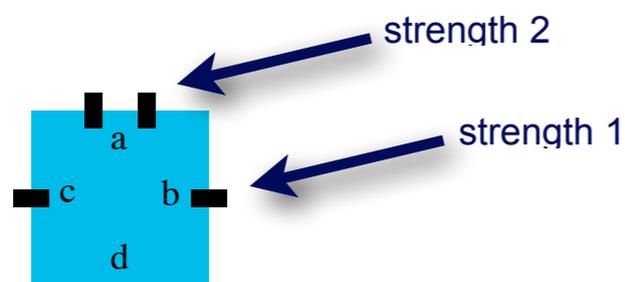


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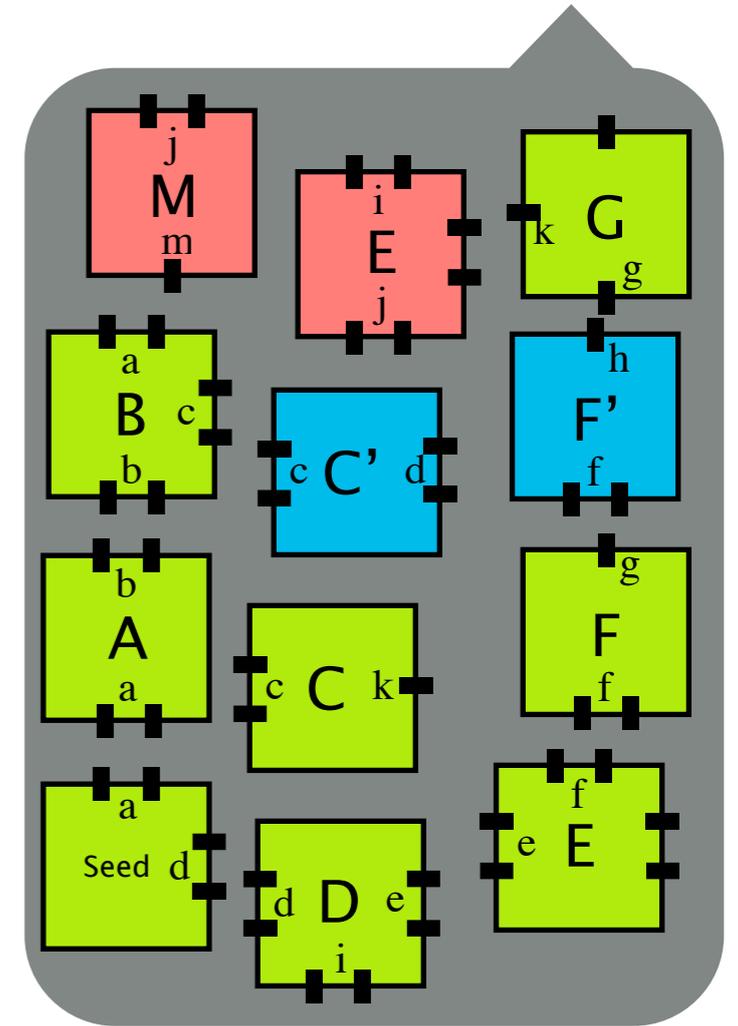
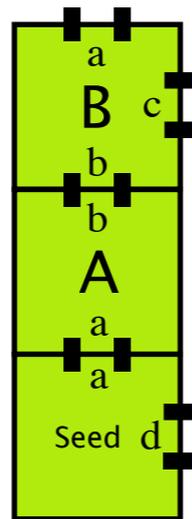
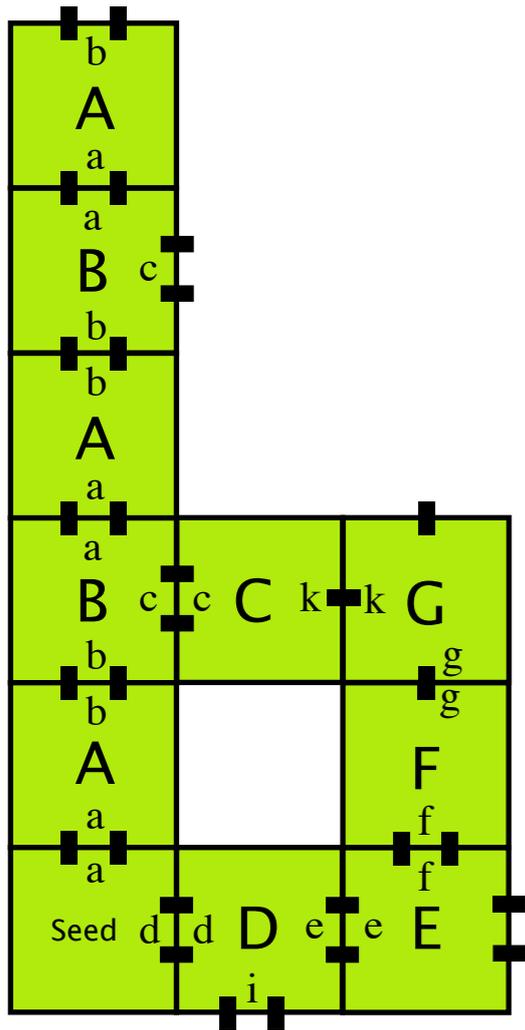


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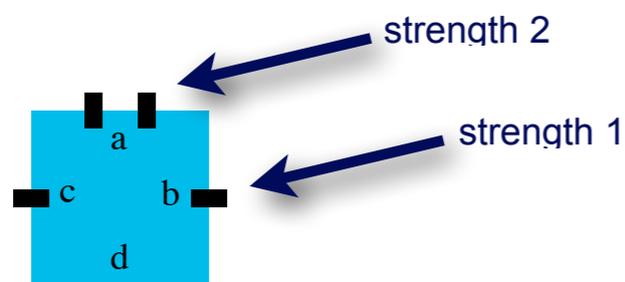


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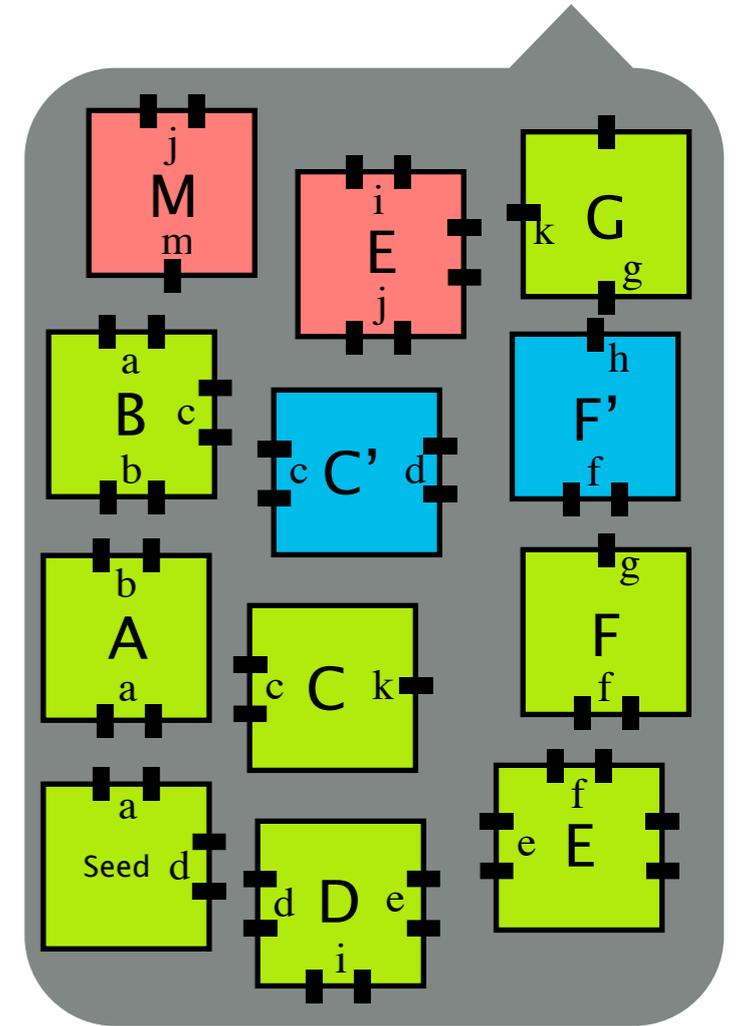
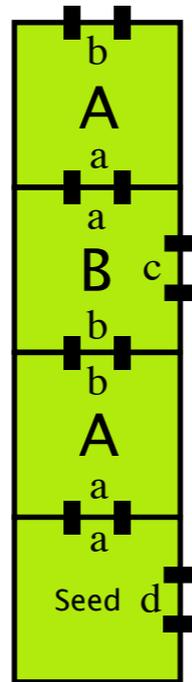
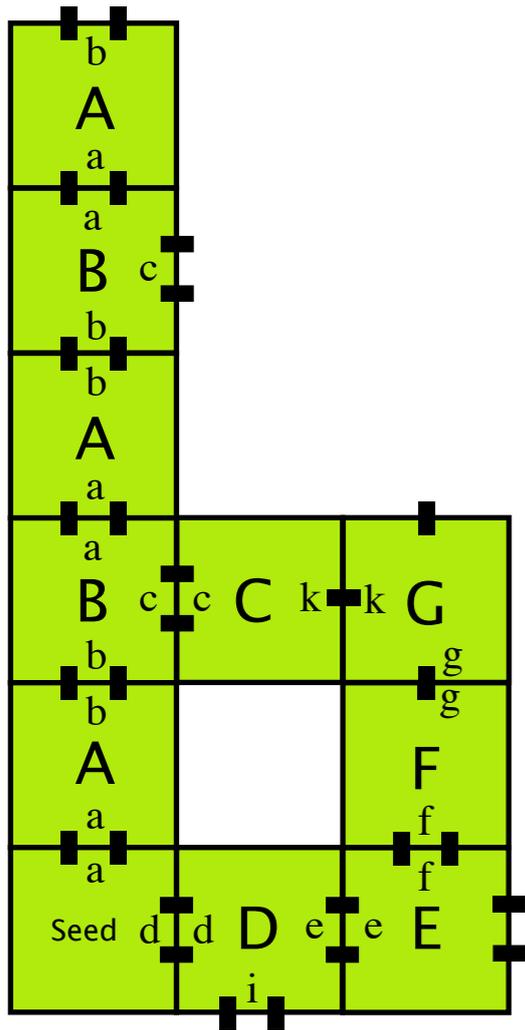


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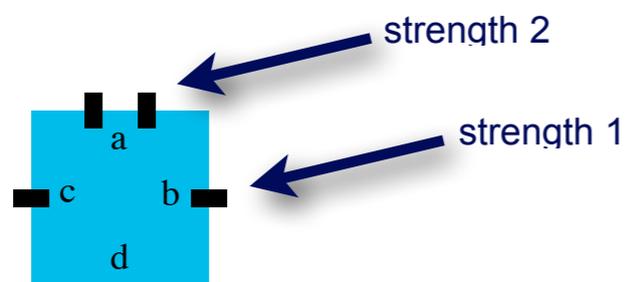


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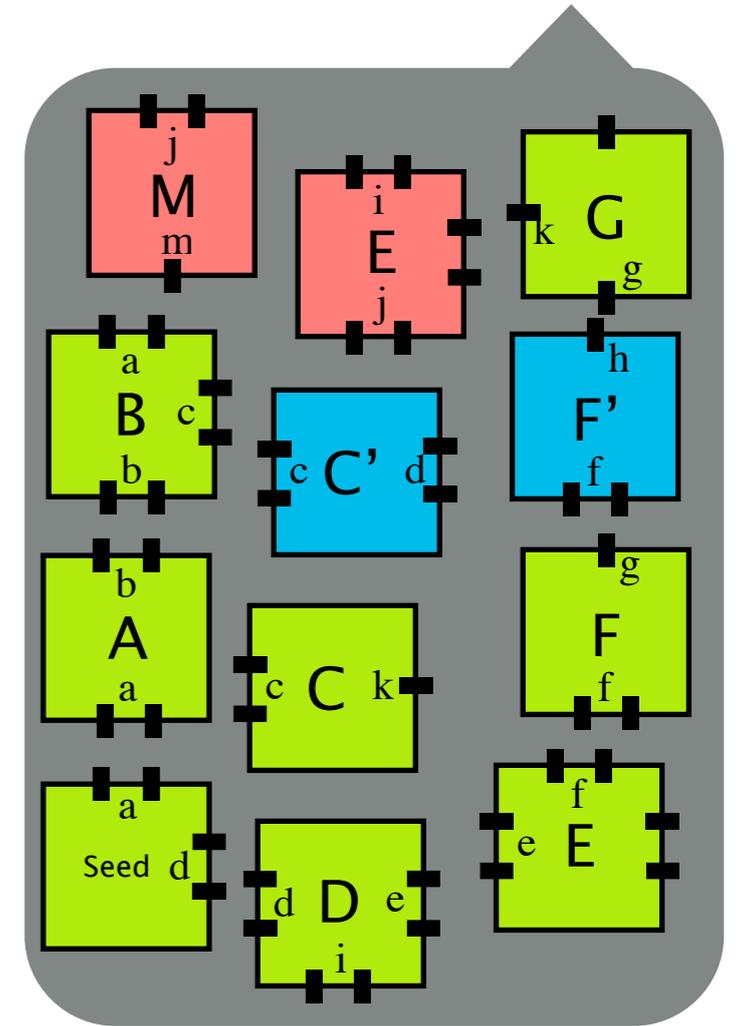
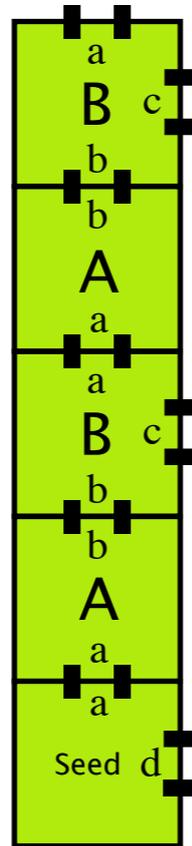
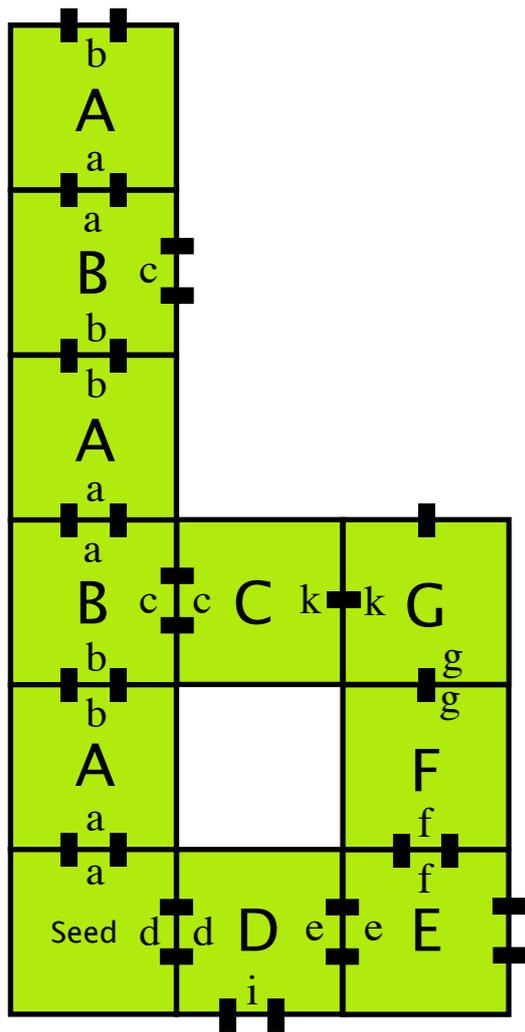


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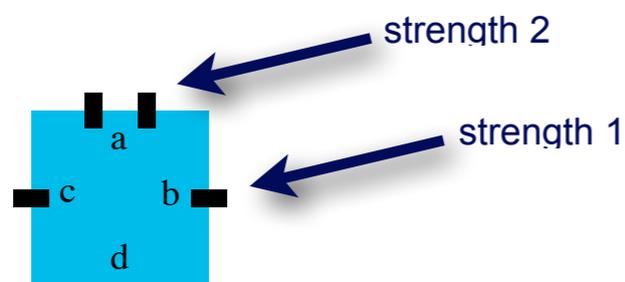


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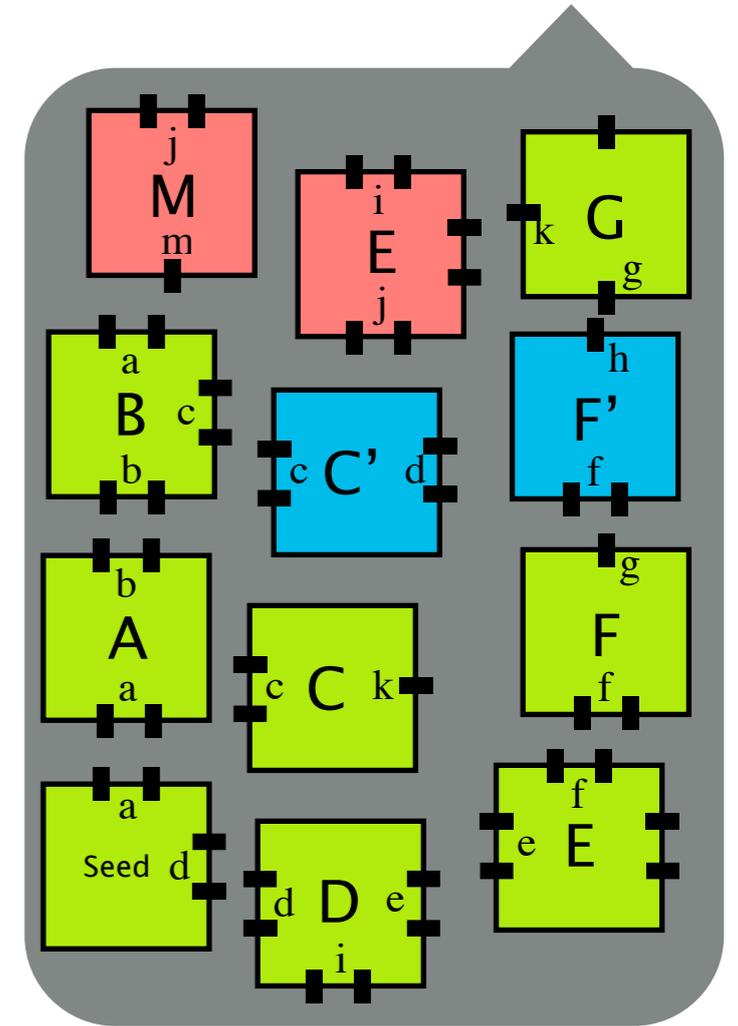
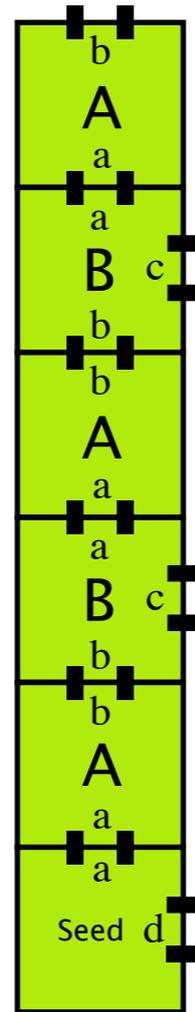
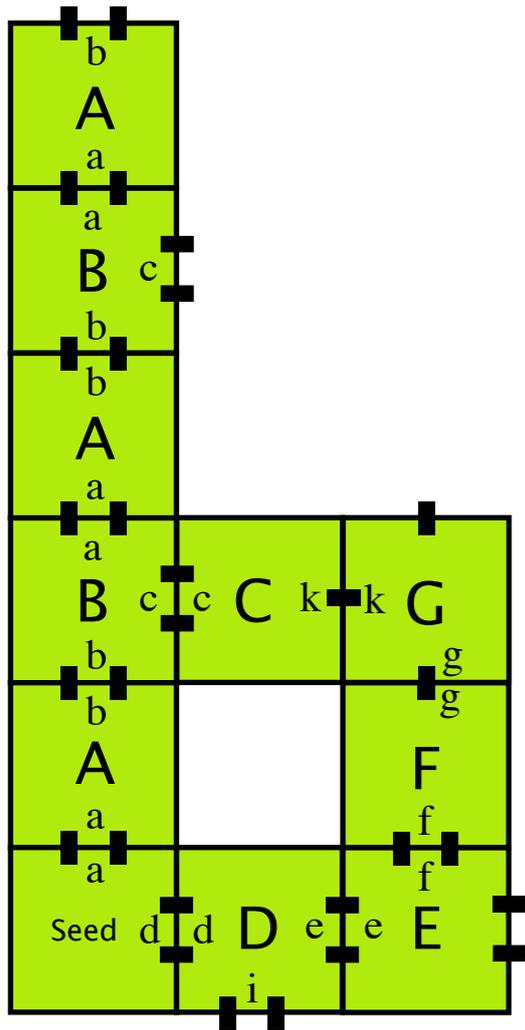


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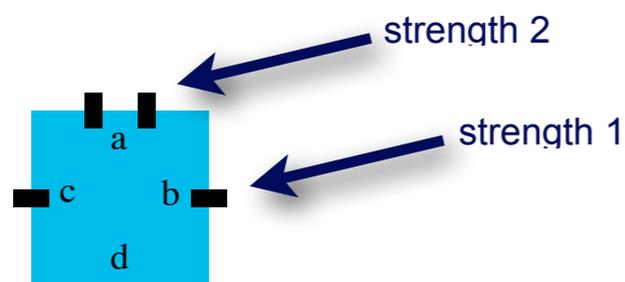


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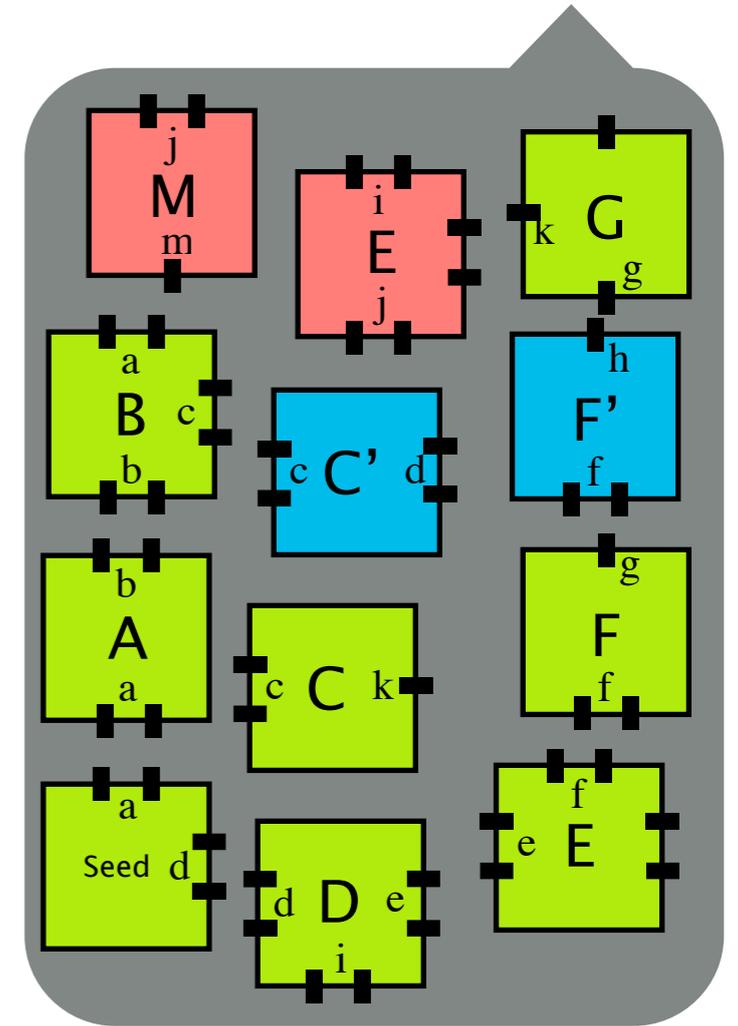
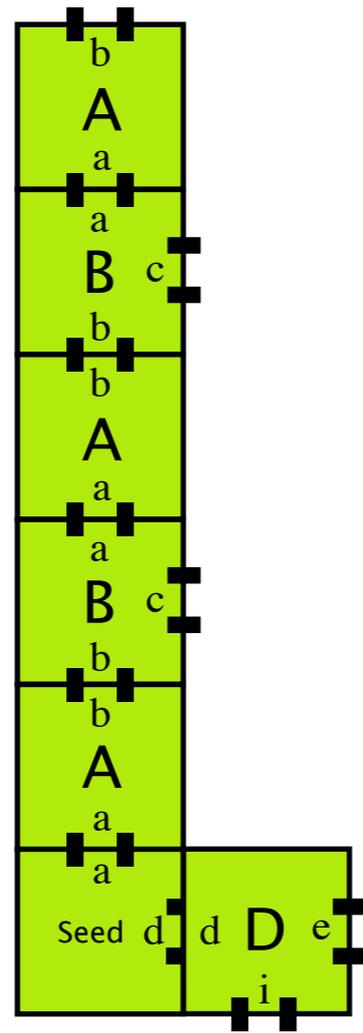
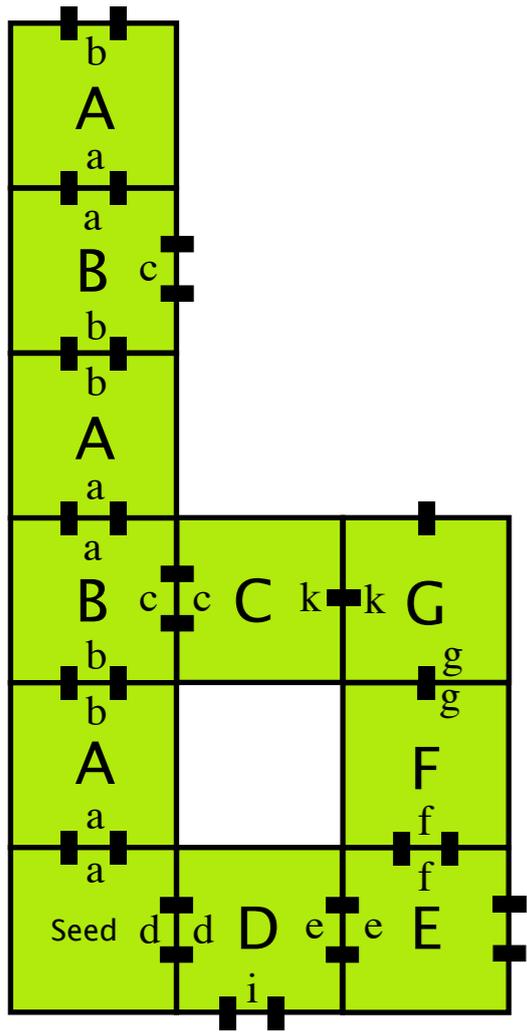


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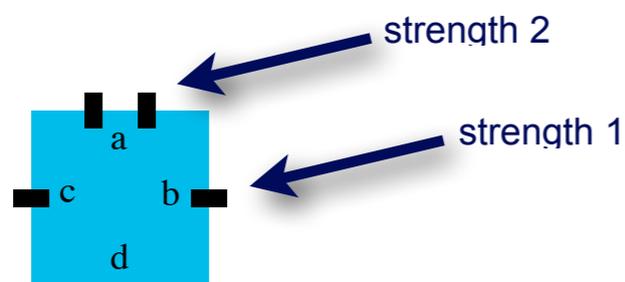


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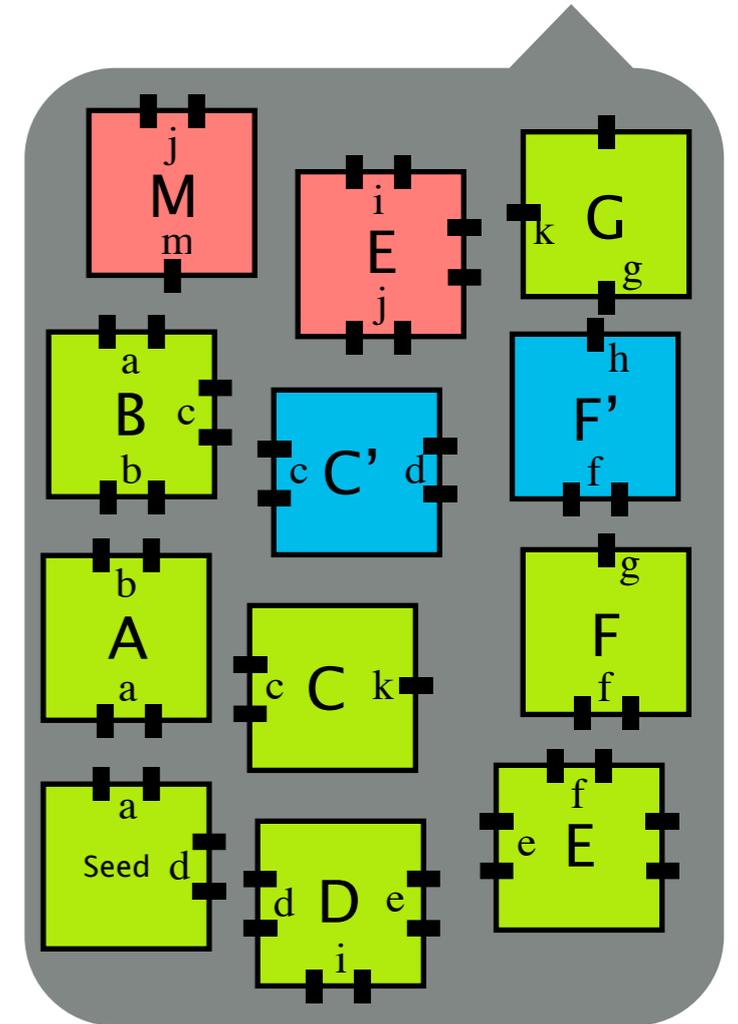
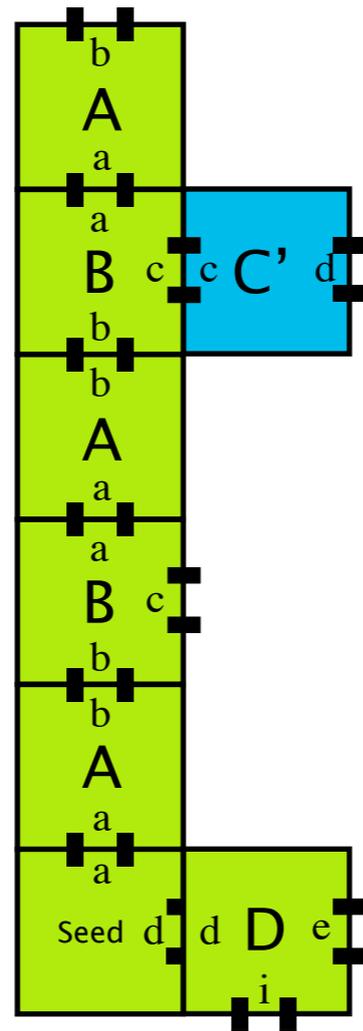
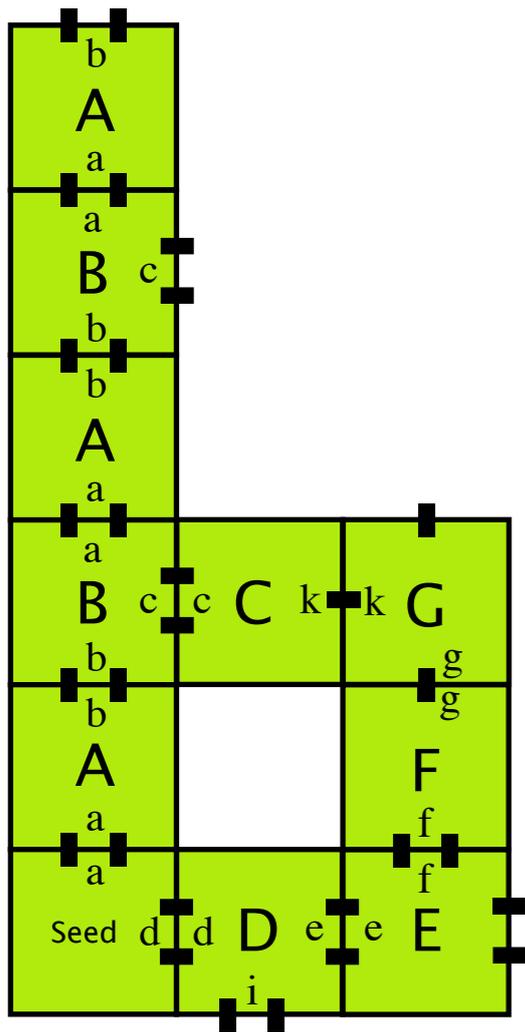


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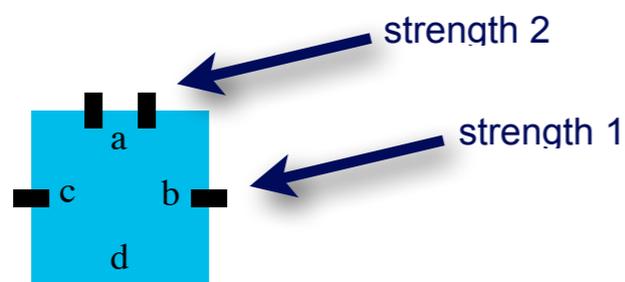


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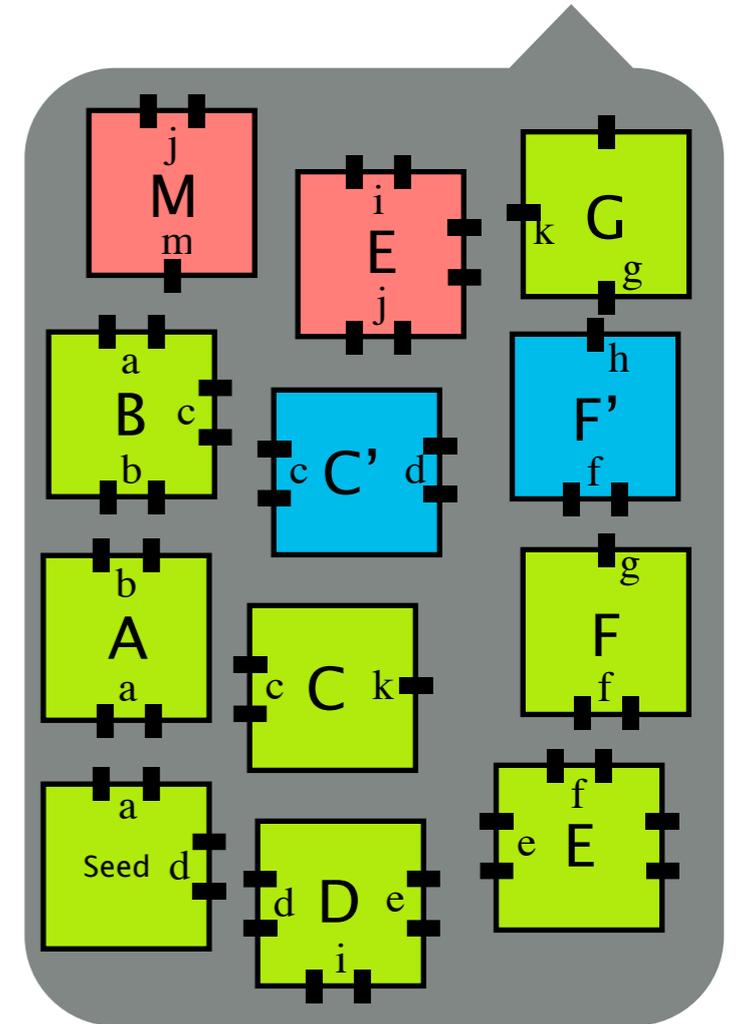
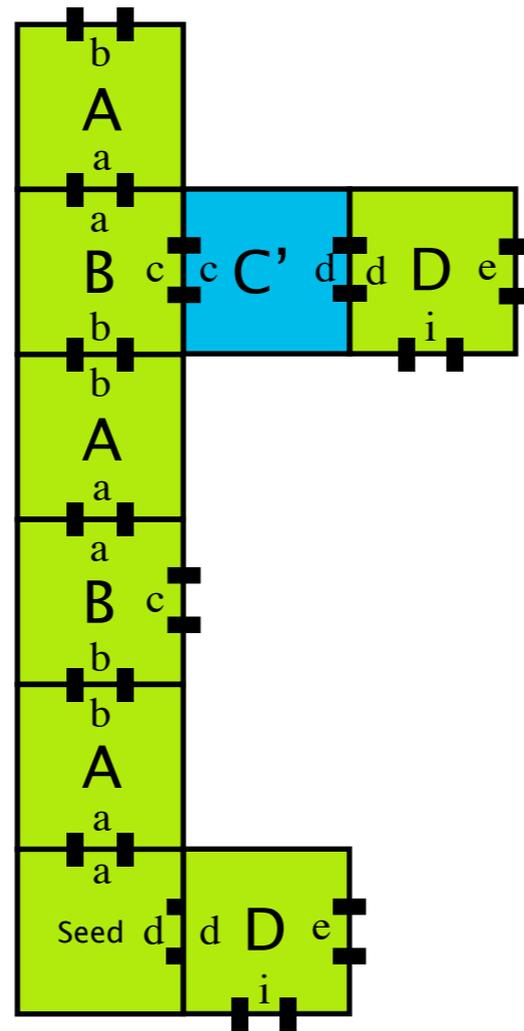
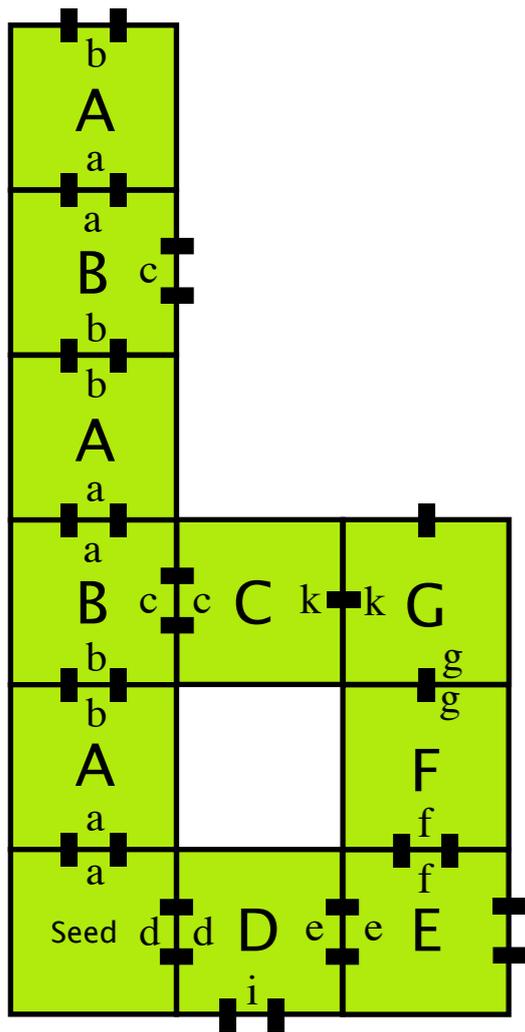


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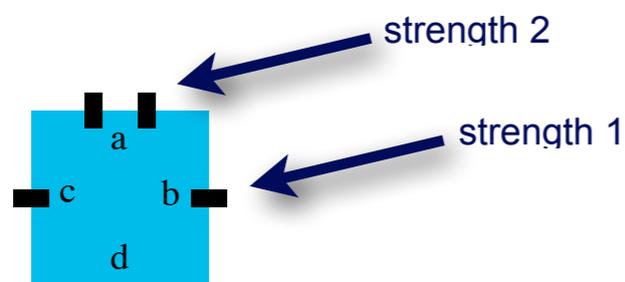


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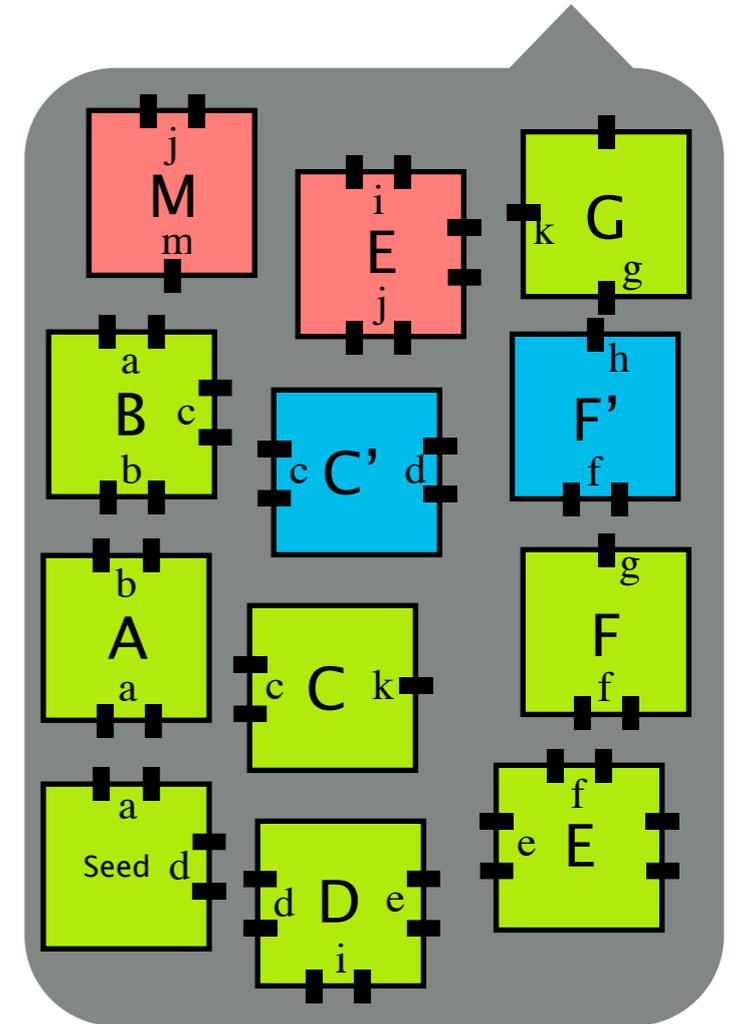
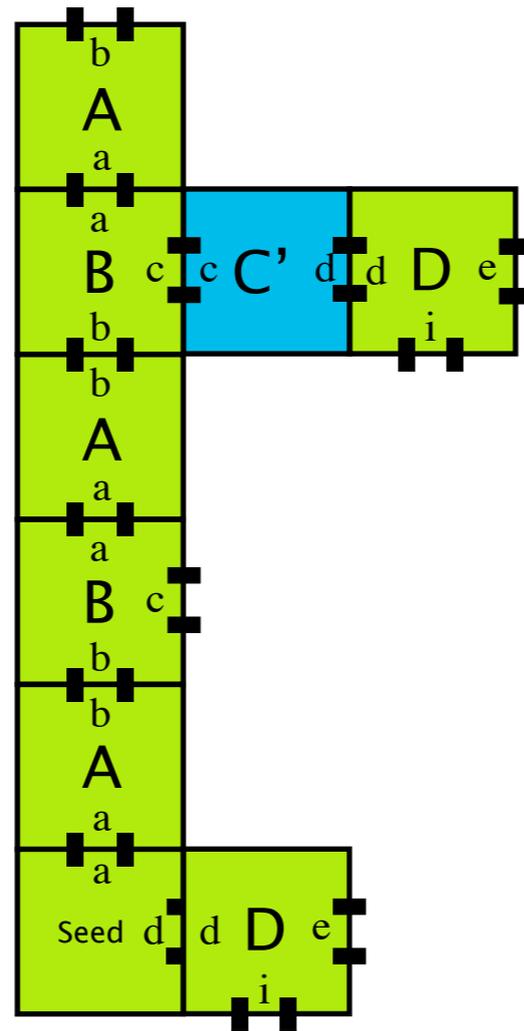
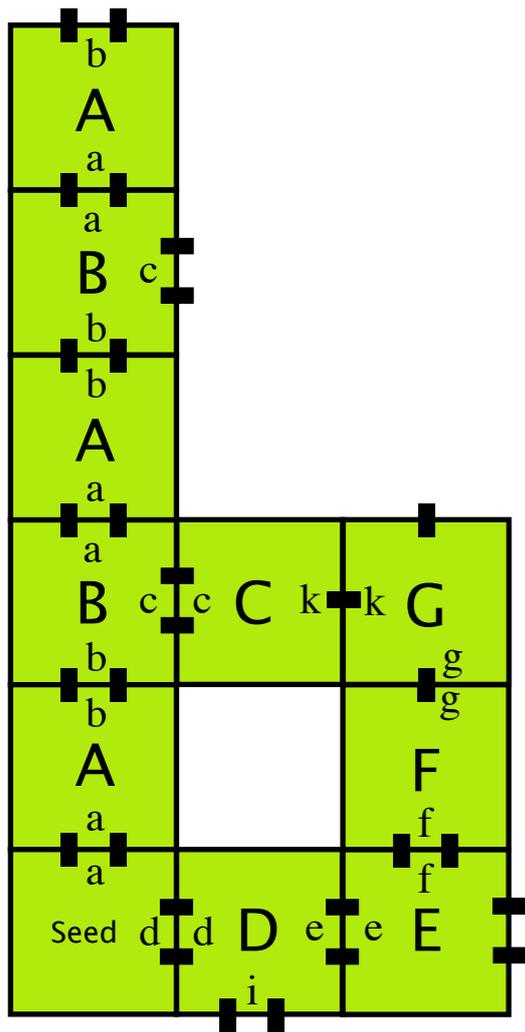


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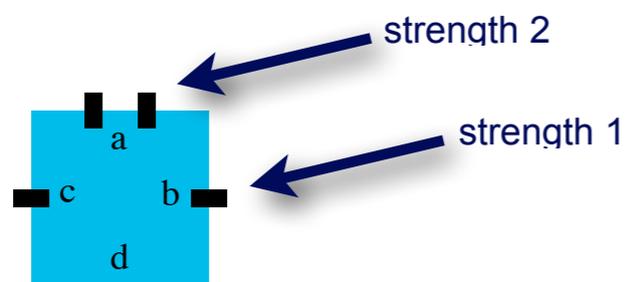
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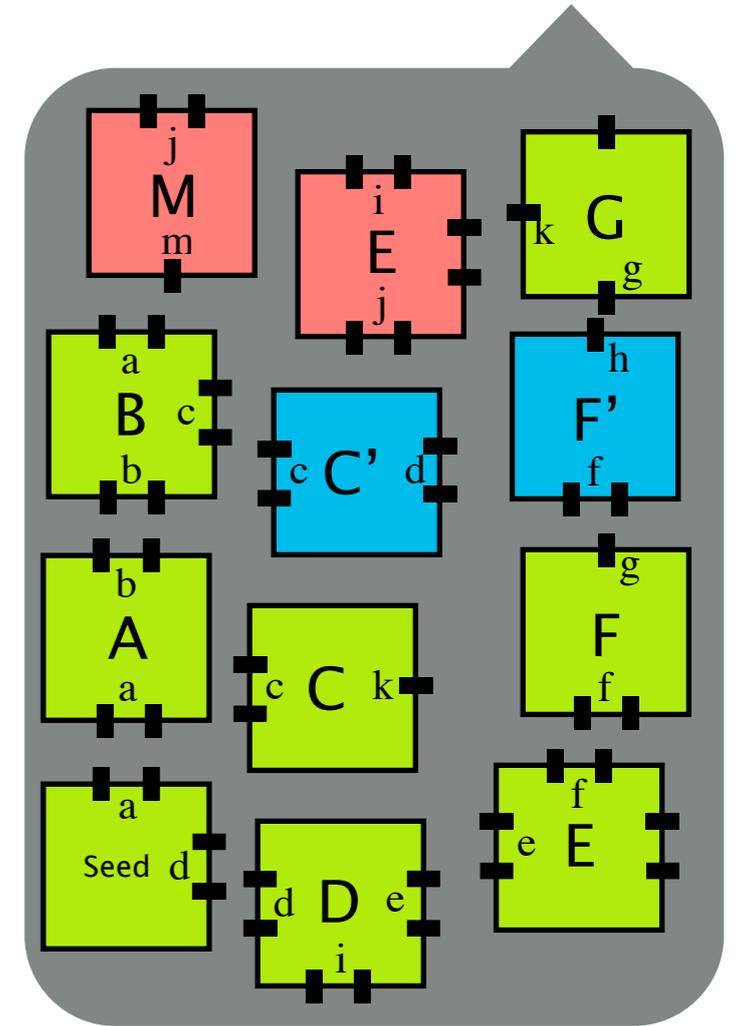
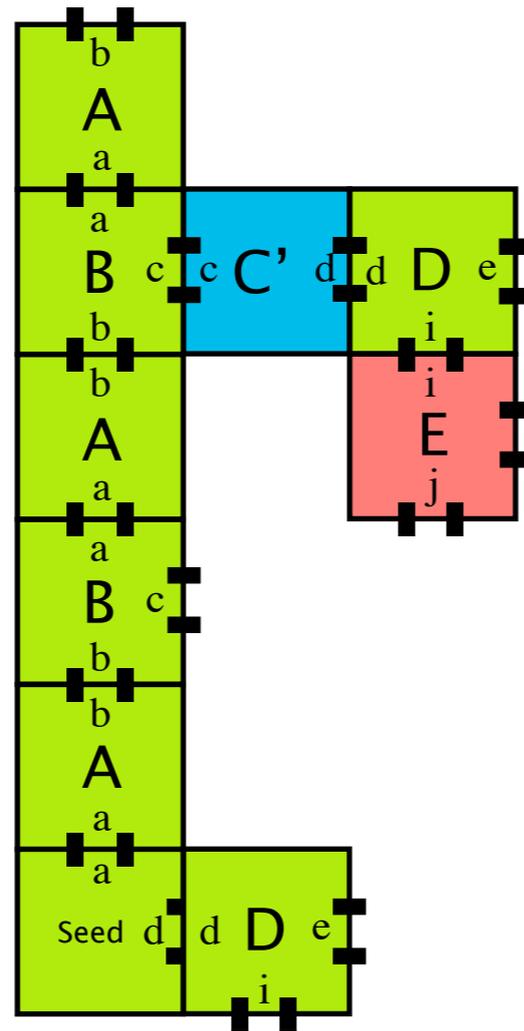
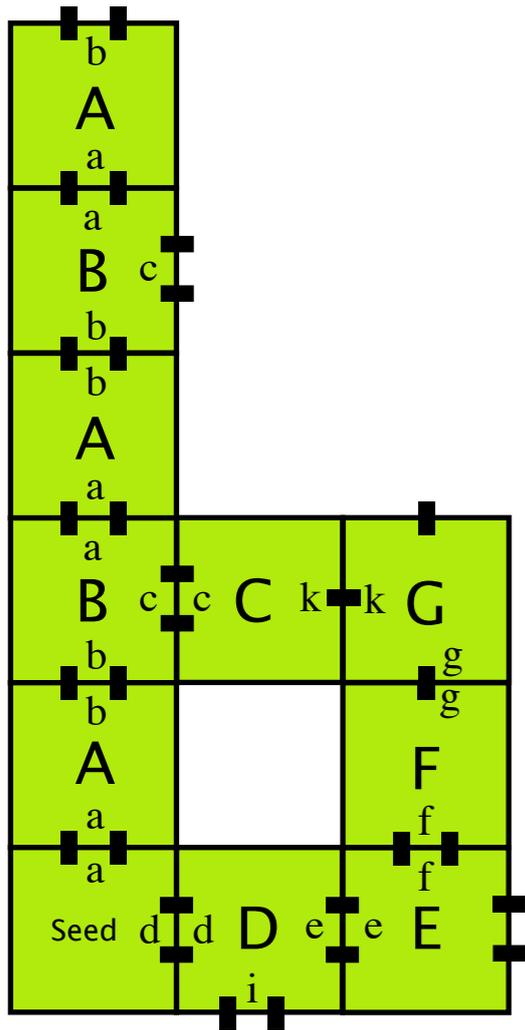
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More than one tile type can go at a given position



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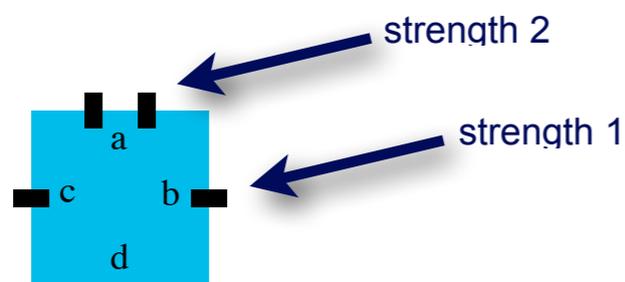
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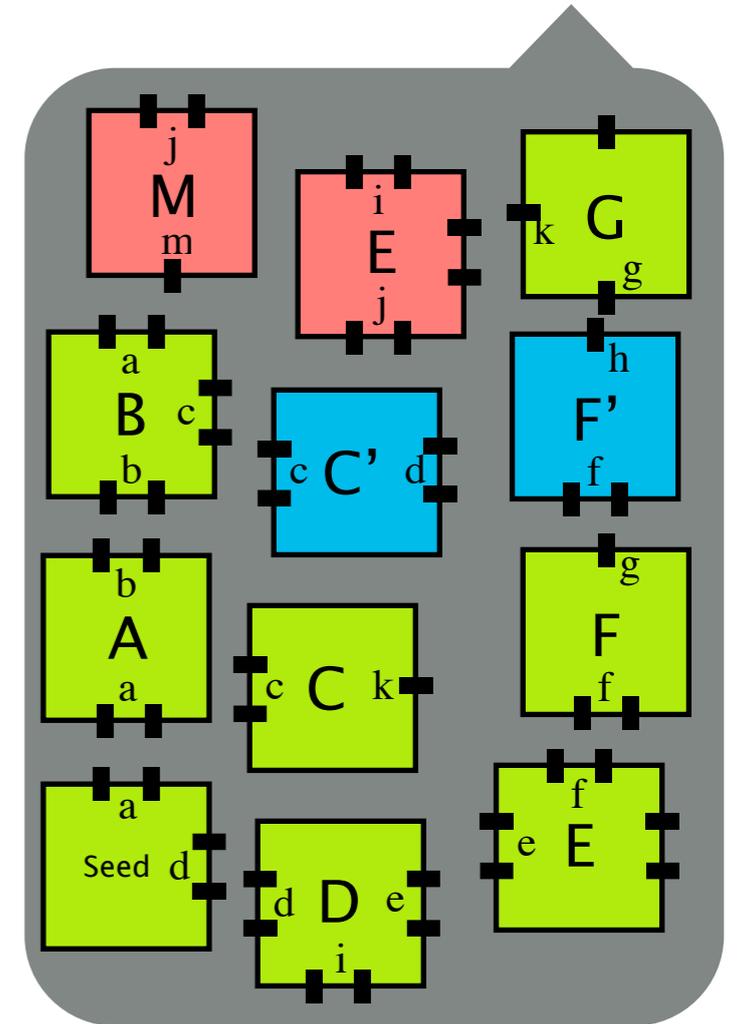
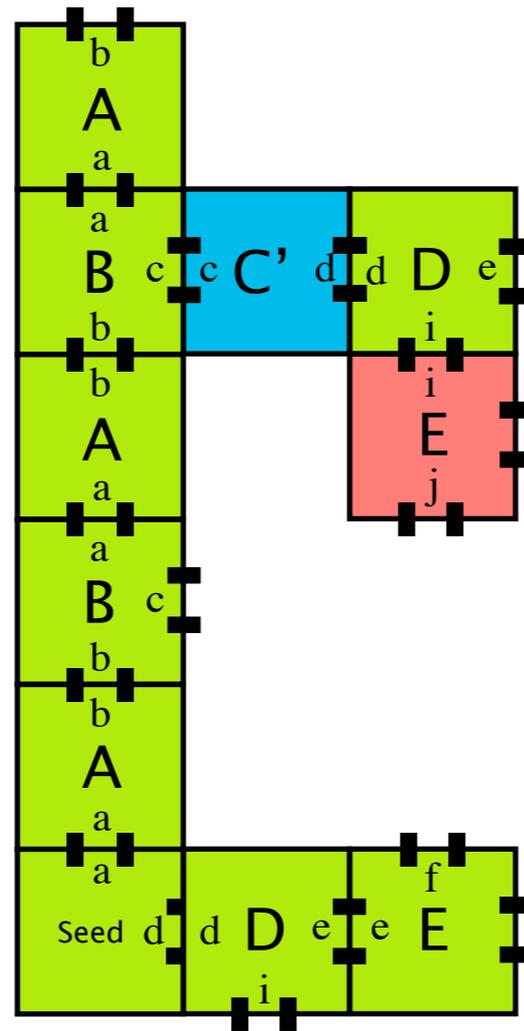
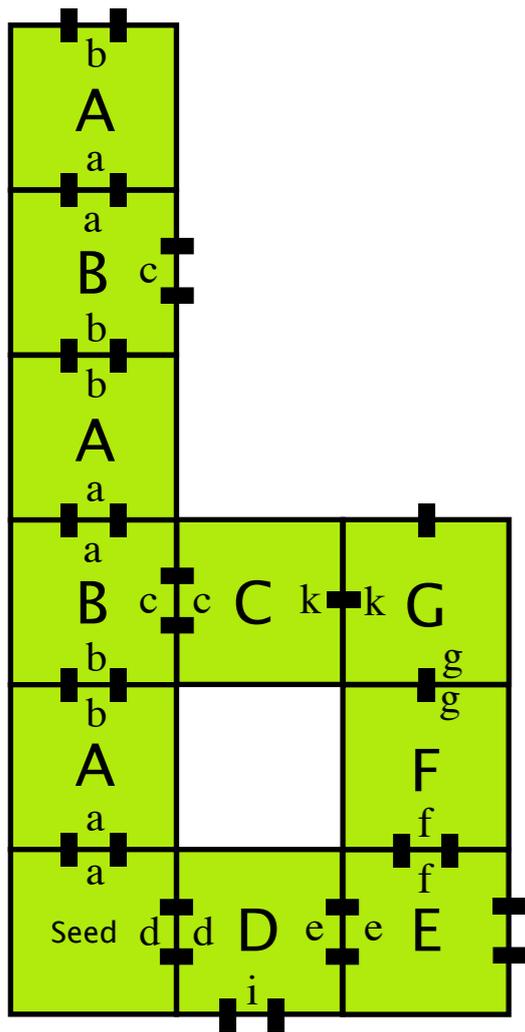
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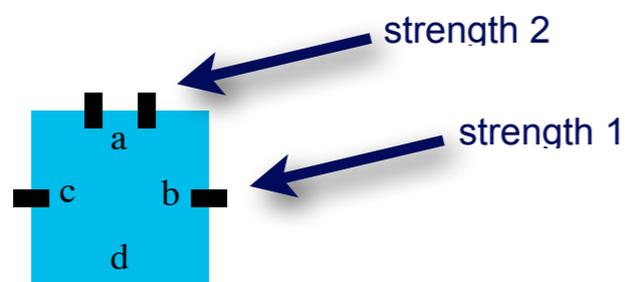
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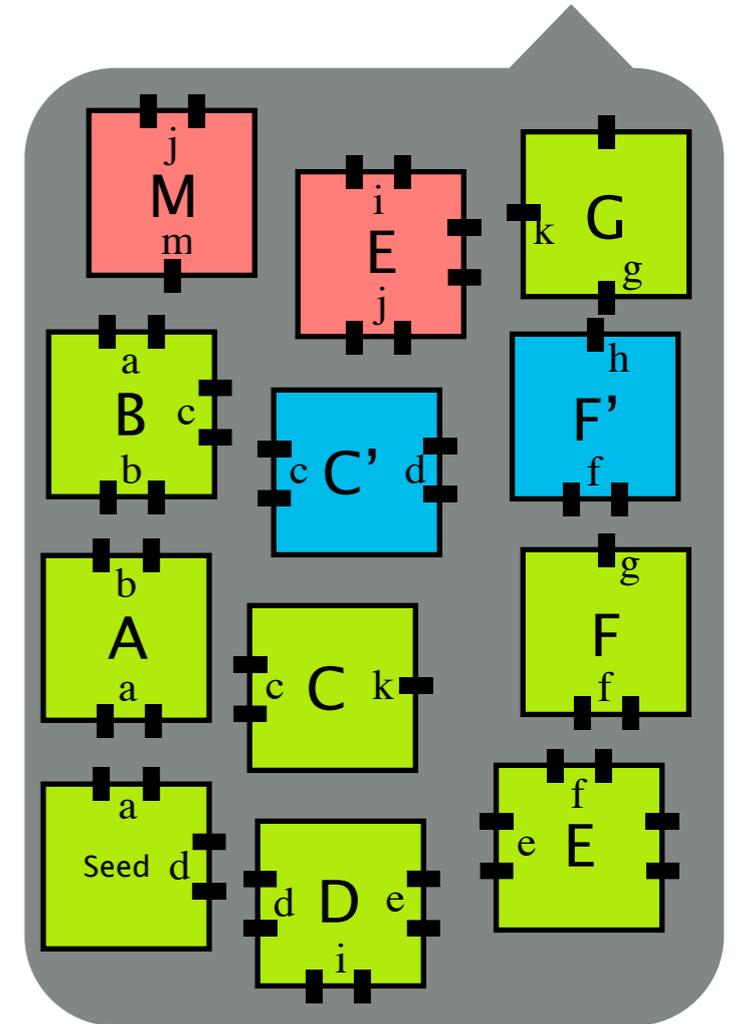
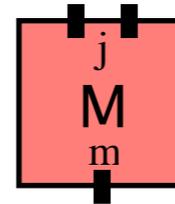
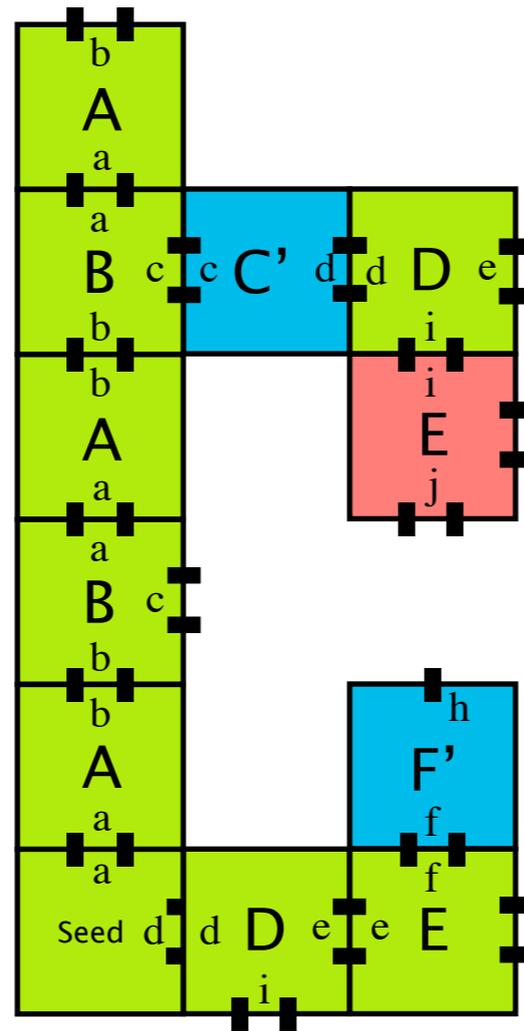
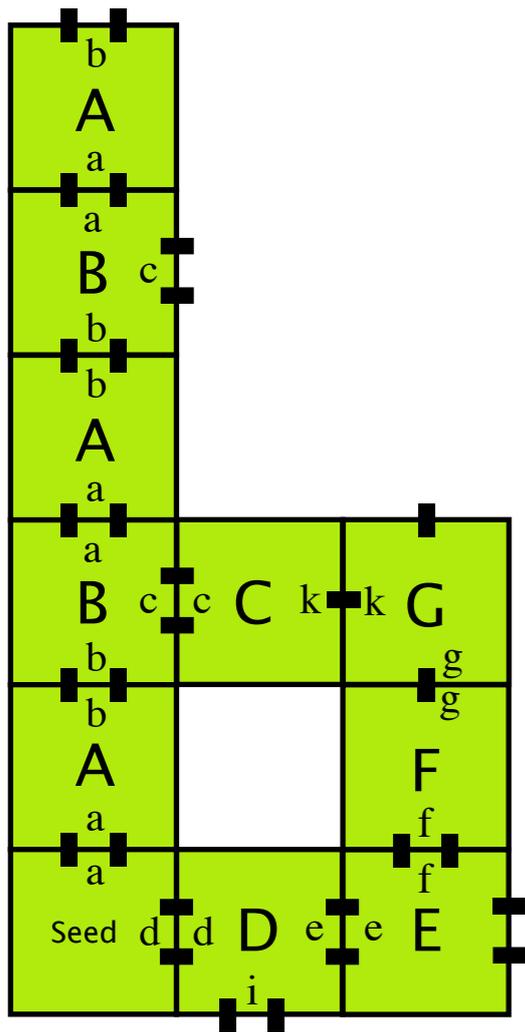
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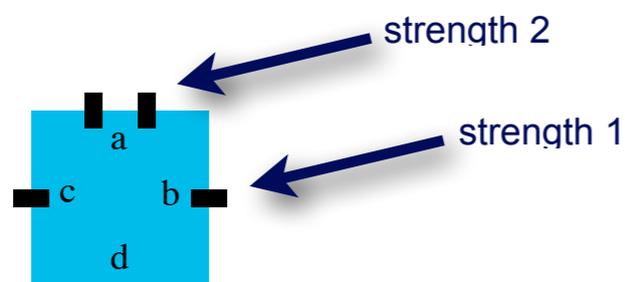
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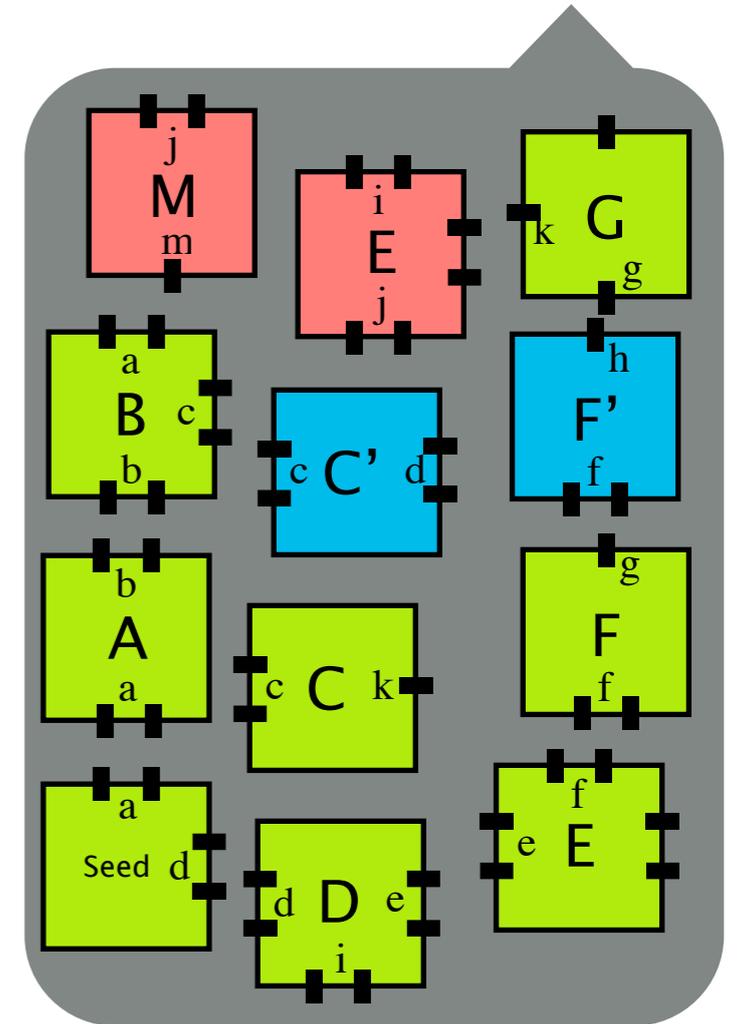
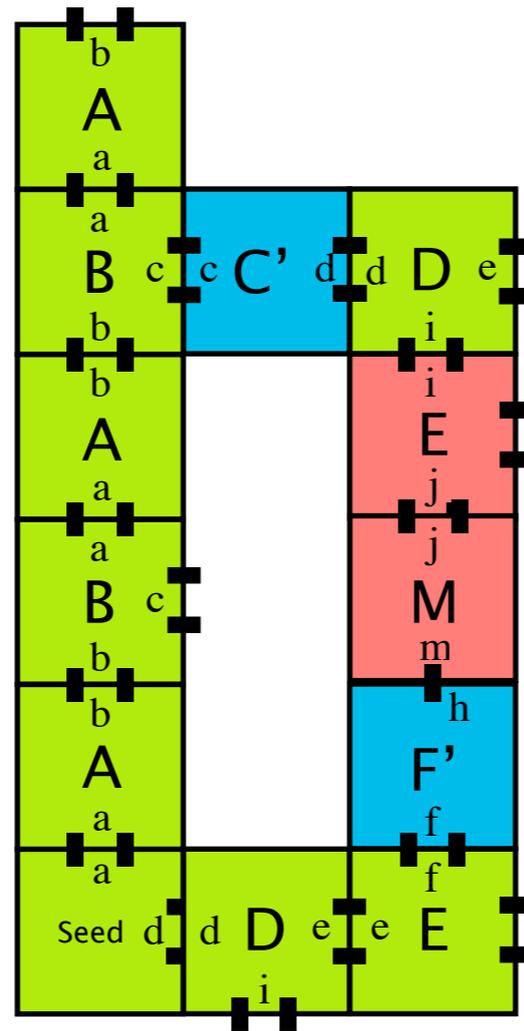
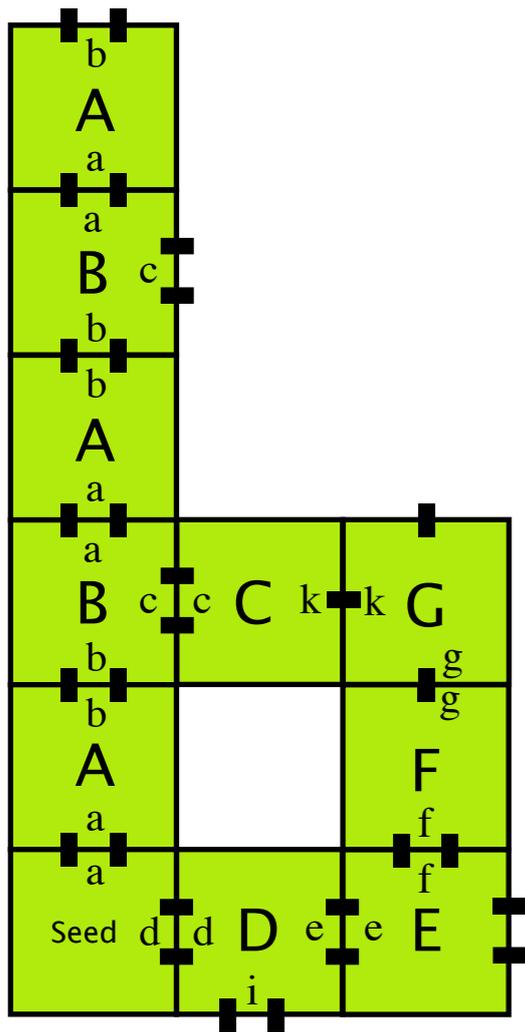
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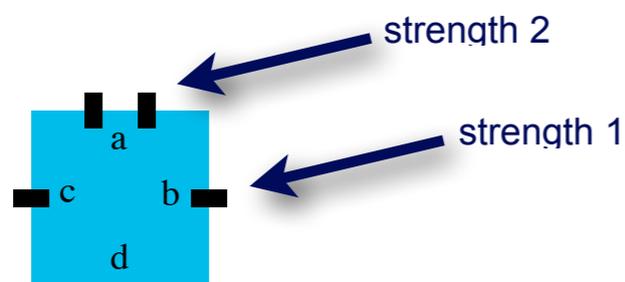
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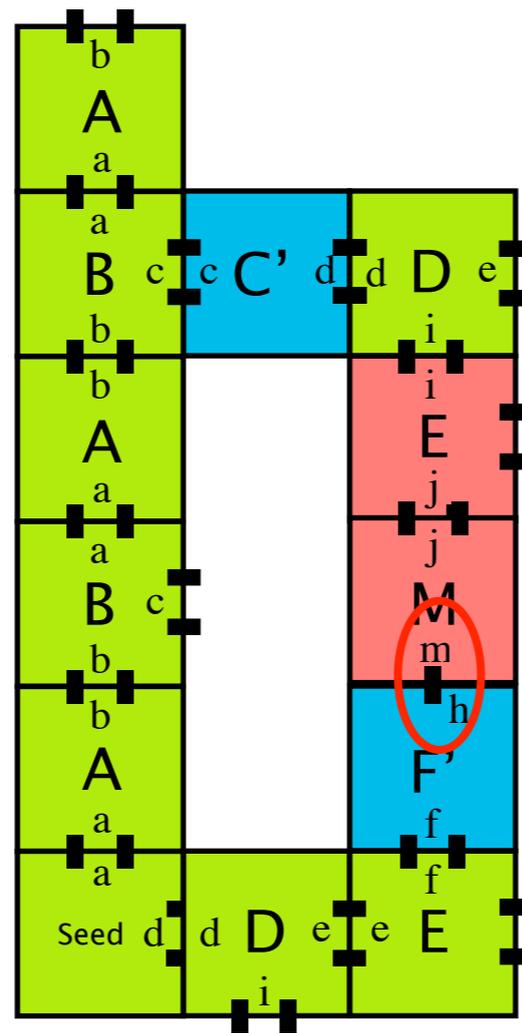
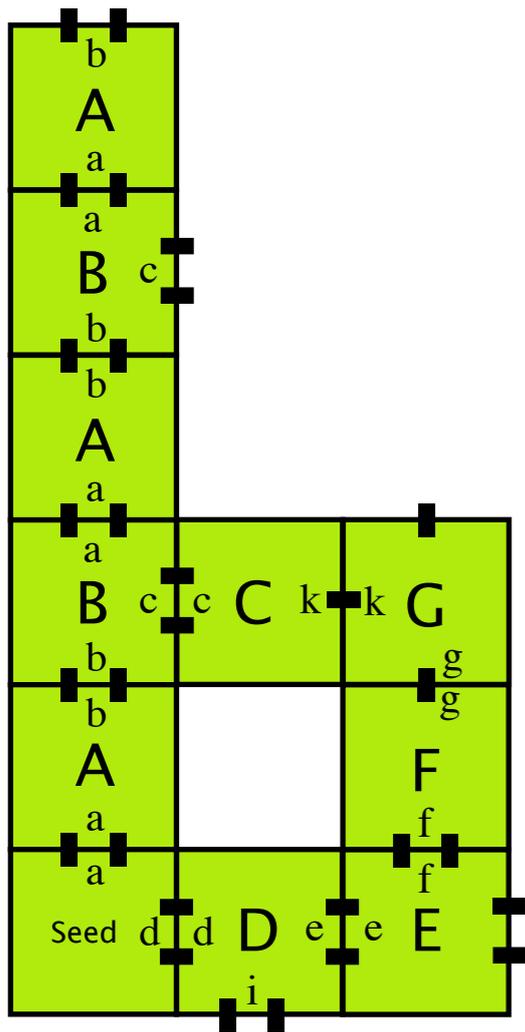
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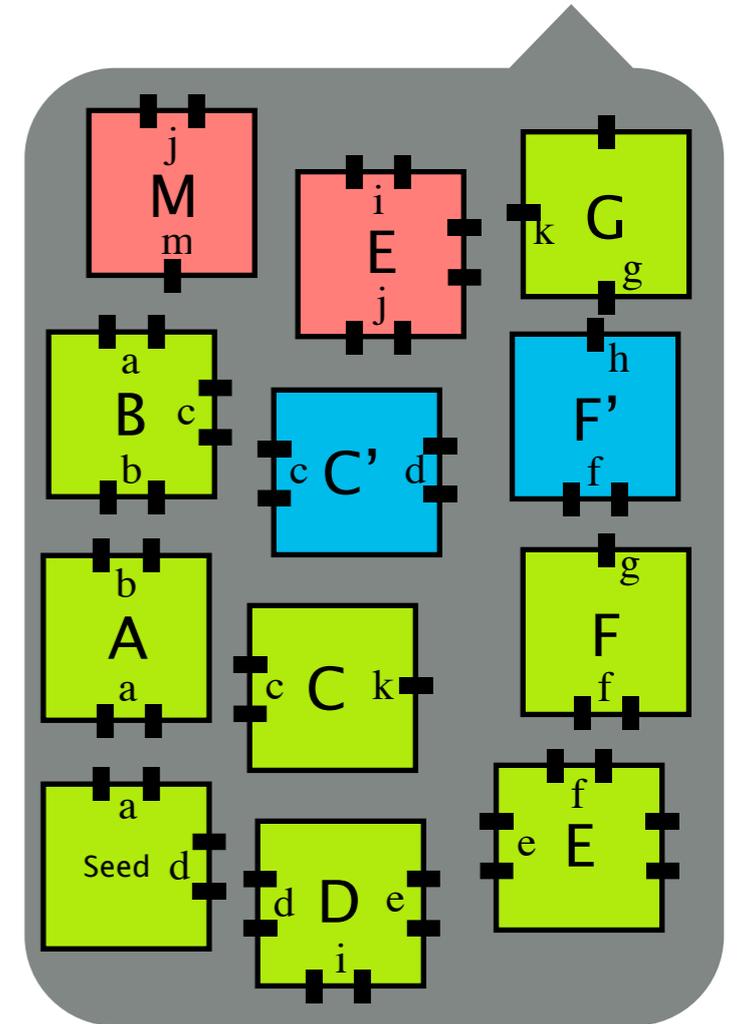


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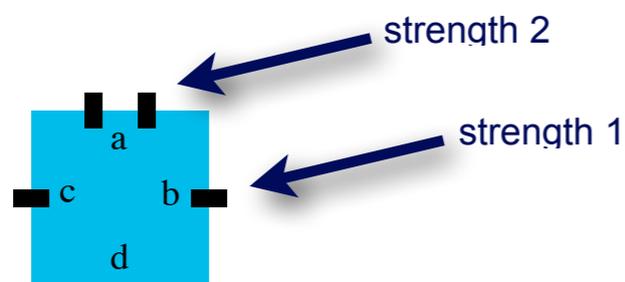
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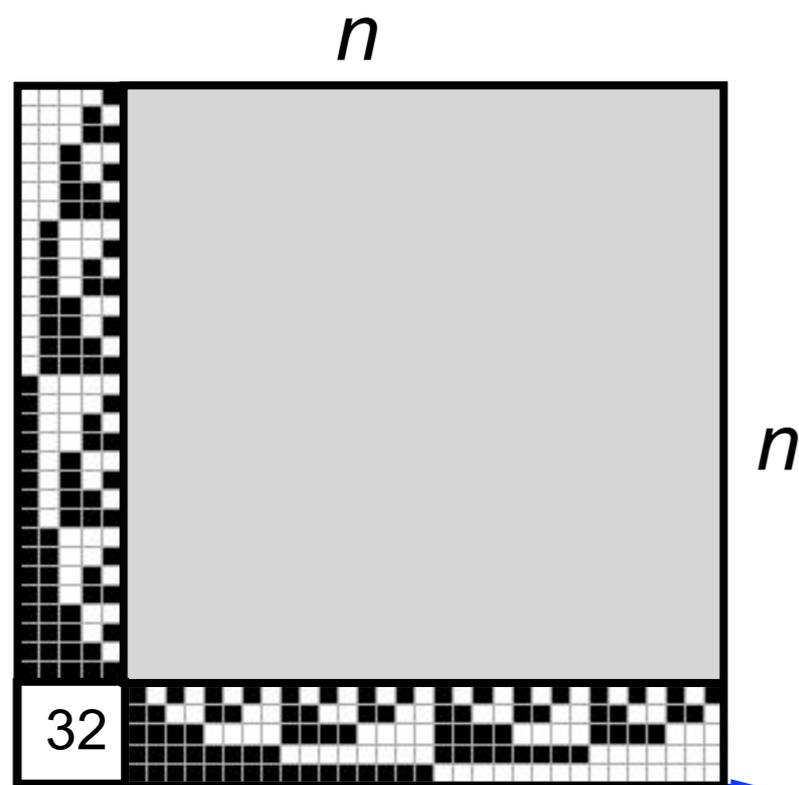
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# Computation with tile assembly: theory



- Turing universality

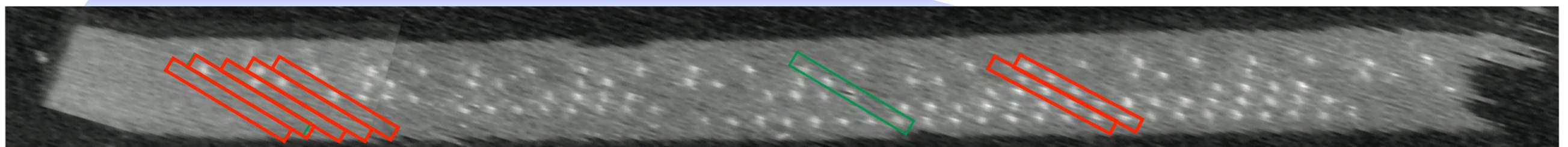
Winfree, PhD Thesis. 1998



- Efficient assembly of simple shapes:  $n \times n$  squares using  $\Theta(\log n / \log \log n)$  tile types

Adleman, Cheng, Goel, Huang STOC 2001

Rothemund, Winfree. STOC 2000



0 1 2 3 4 →

30 31

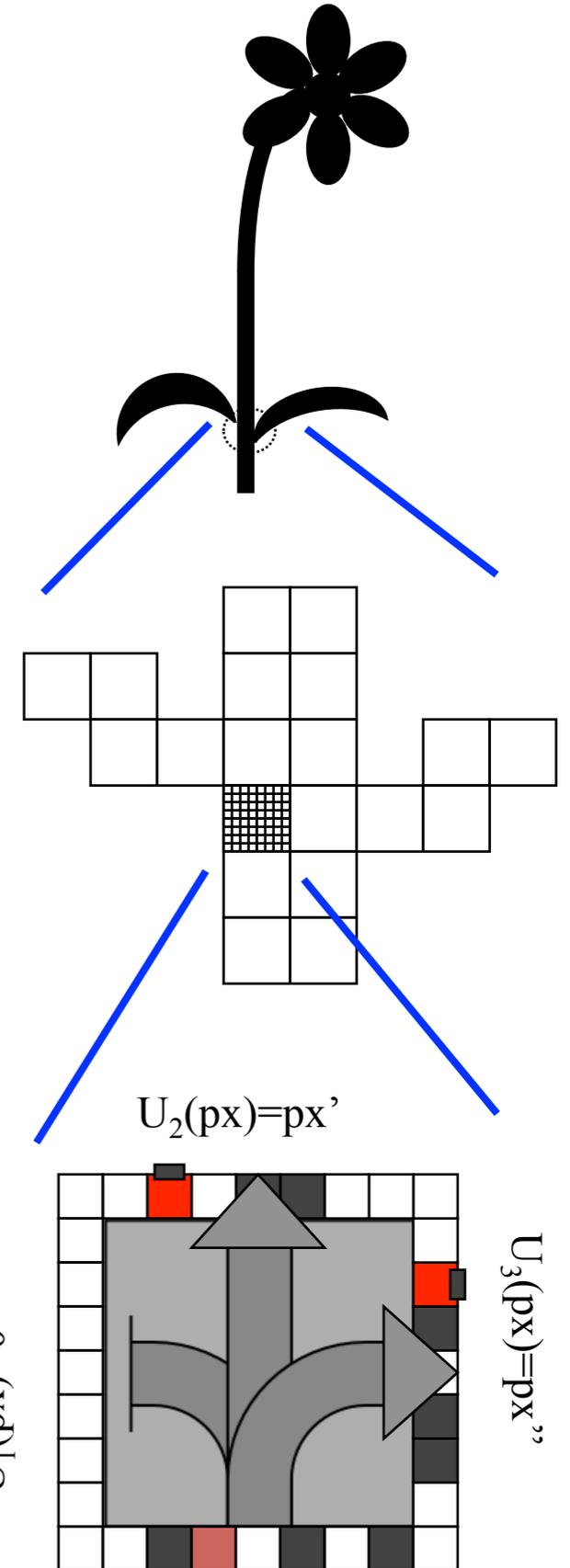
Evans. PhD Thesis 2014

- Efficient assembly of scaled complicated connected shapes using a number of tile types roughly equal to the Kolmogorov complexity of the shape

Soloveichik, Winfree. SICOMP 2007

# Theory of algorithmic self-assembly

- Helps us understand the abilities and limitations of self-assembly
  - Also, its fun!
- aTAM is Turing universal: can “run” any algorithm  
Winfree, PhD Thesis 1998.
- Efficiently assemble  $n \times n$  squares and other simple shapes
  - Using only  $\Theta(\log n / \log \log n)$  tile types  
Rothmund, Winfree. STOC 2000
- Efficiently assemble arbitrary finite shapes
  - Number of tile types is roughly the Kolmogorov *complexity* of the shape  
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- aTAM is intrinsically universal: there is one tile set that can simulate any tile assembly system
  - Shape complexity can be put into the seed  
Doty, Lutz, Patitz, Schweller, Summers, Woods. FOCS 2012
- Thinking about these topics leads to a kind of “complexity theory” for self-assembly

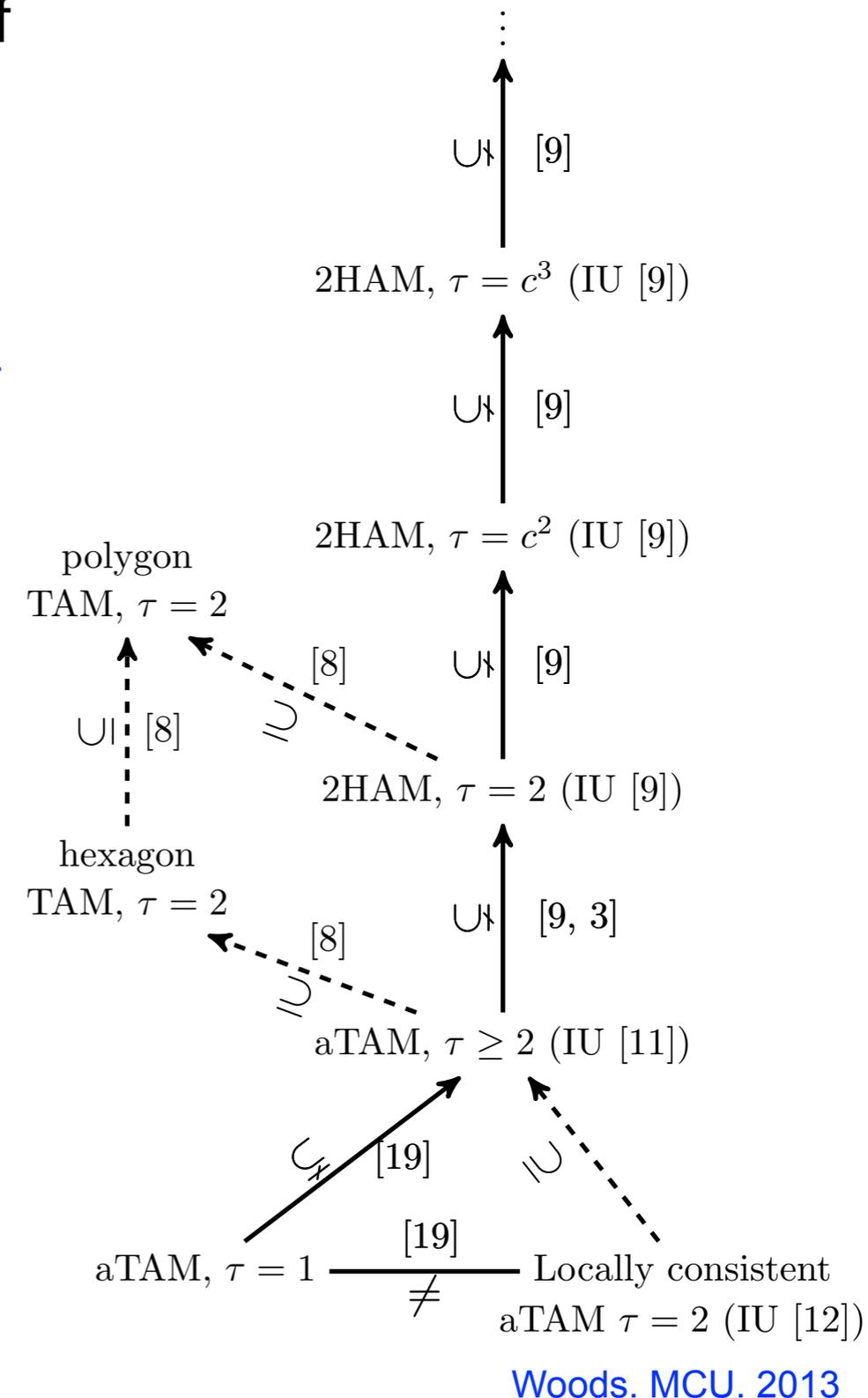


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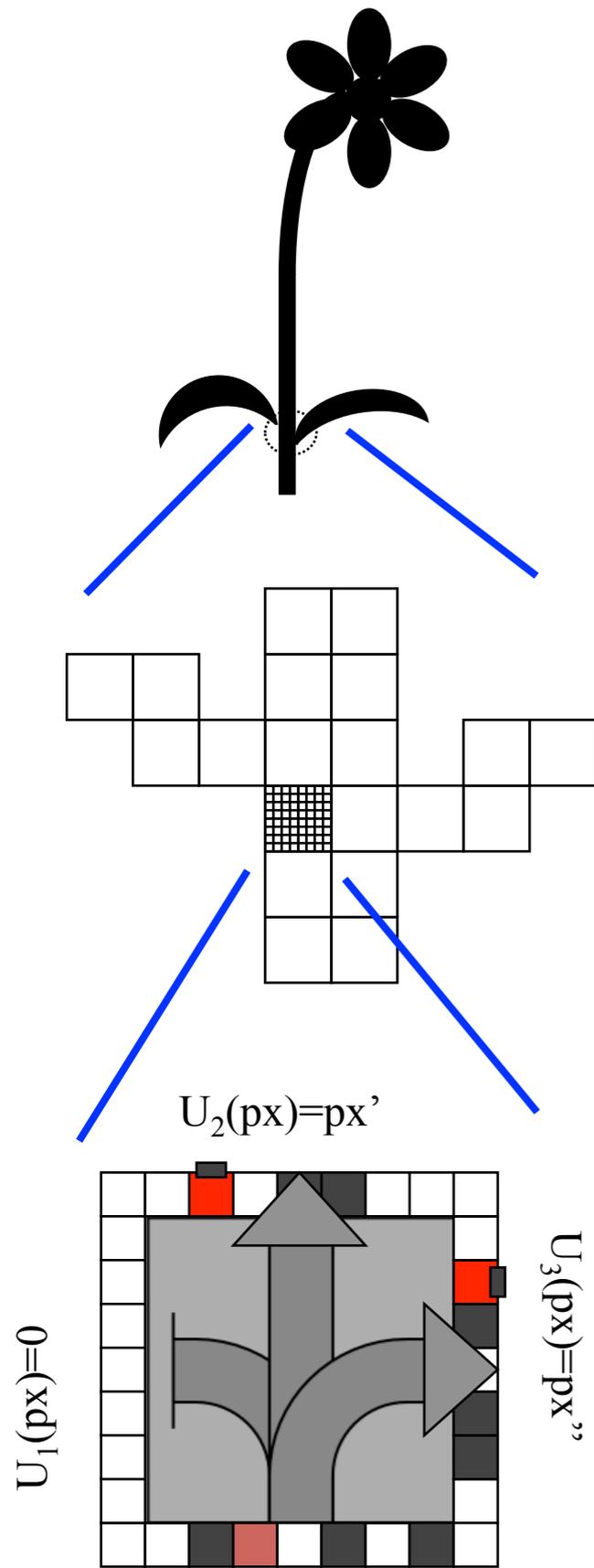
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# Theory of algorithmic self-assembly

- Helps us understand the abilities and limitations of self-assembly
  - Also, its fun!
- aTAM is Turing universal: can “run” any algorithm  
Winfree, PhD Thesis 1998.
- Efficiently assemble  $n \times n$  squares and other simple shapes
  - Using only  $\Theta(\log n / \log \log n)$  tile types  
Rothmund, Winfree. STOC 2000
- Efficiently assemble arbitrary finite shapes
  - Number of tile types is roughly the Kolmogorov *complexity* of the shape  
Soloveichik, Winfree. SICOMP 2007
- aTAM is intrinsically universal: there is one tile set that can simulate any tile assembly system
  - Shape complexity can be put into the seed  
Doty, Lutz, Patitz, Schweller, Summers, Woods. FOCS 2012
- Thinking about these topics leads to a kind of “complexity theory” for self-assembly



# Computation with tile assembly: theory

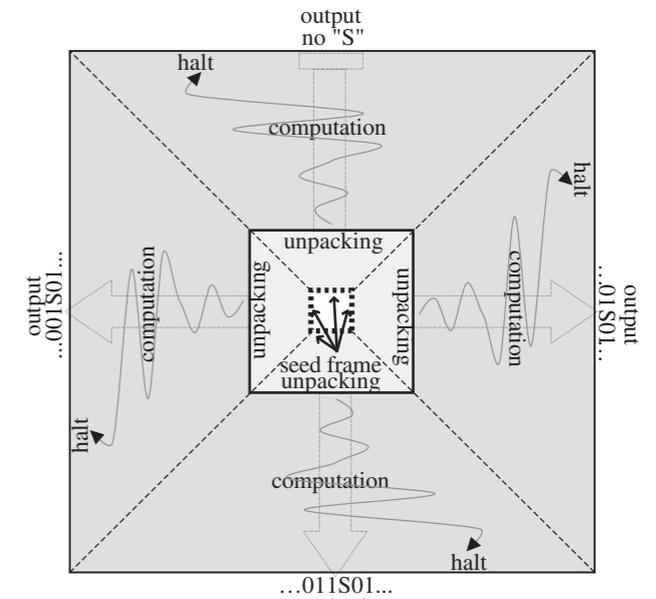
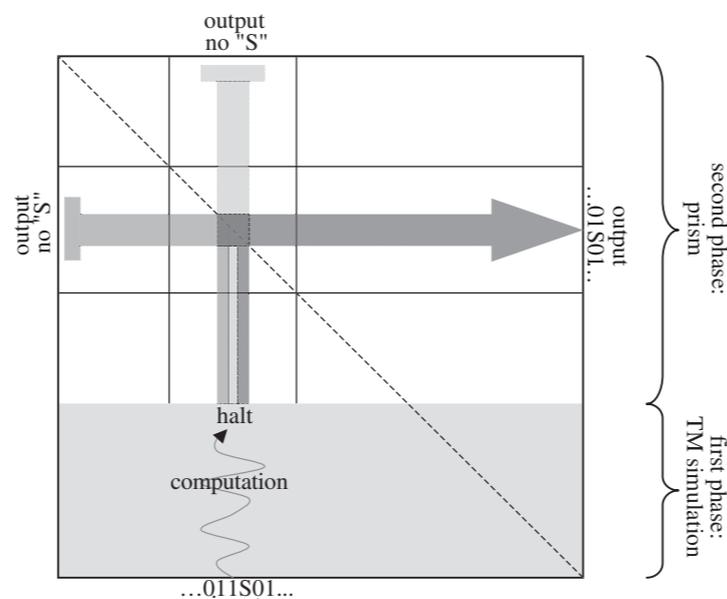
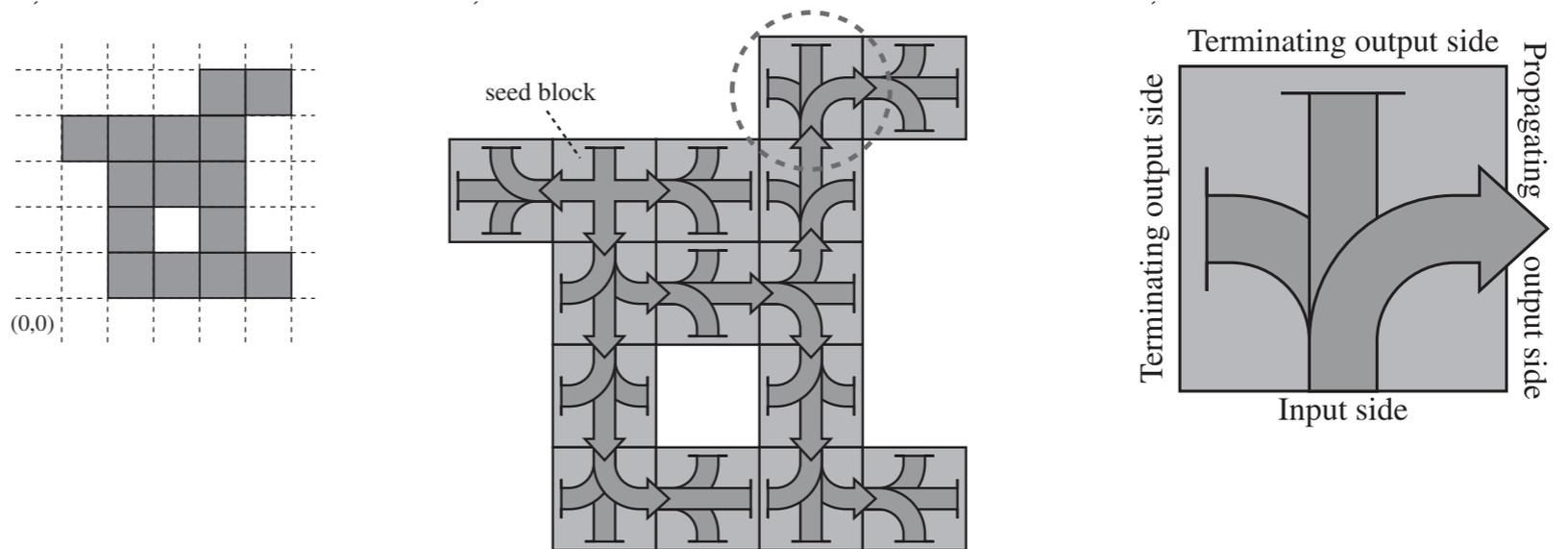


- Efficient assembly of scaled connected shapes using a number of tile types roughly equal to the Kolmogorov complexity of the shape [Soloveichik, Winfree. SICOMP 2007](#)

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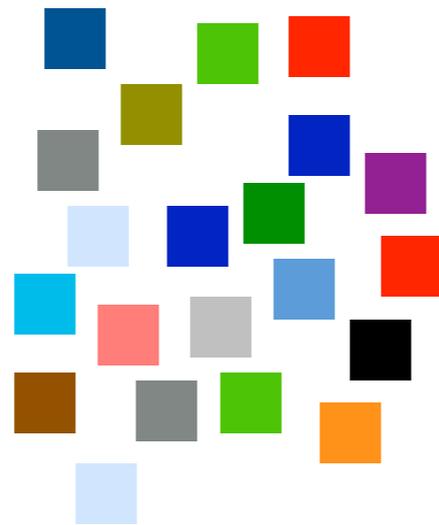
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# Computation with tile assembly: theory

- Many other theoretical questions have been asked
- What questions would you ask?
  
- The goal is to understand the capabilities of these systems!
- Another goal is to motivate what we should build in the lab!
  
- Next slide: Let's ask a question

# Intrinsic universality

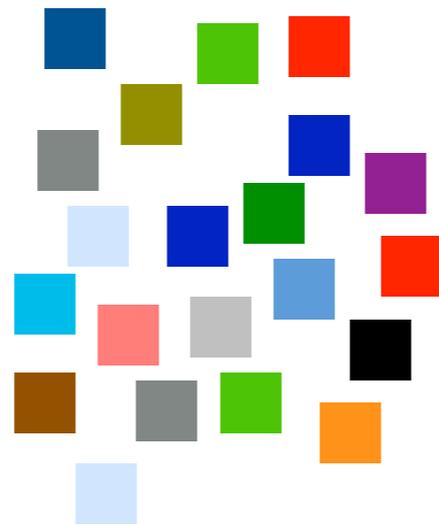
Is there a set of **intrinsically universal tiles**: a set of aTAM tiles  $U$  that can act like **any** other tile set?



One universal tile set  
to do everything

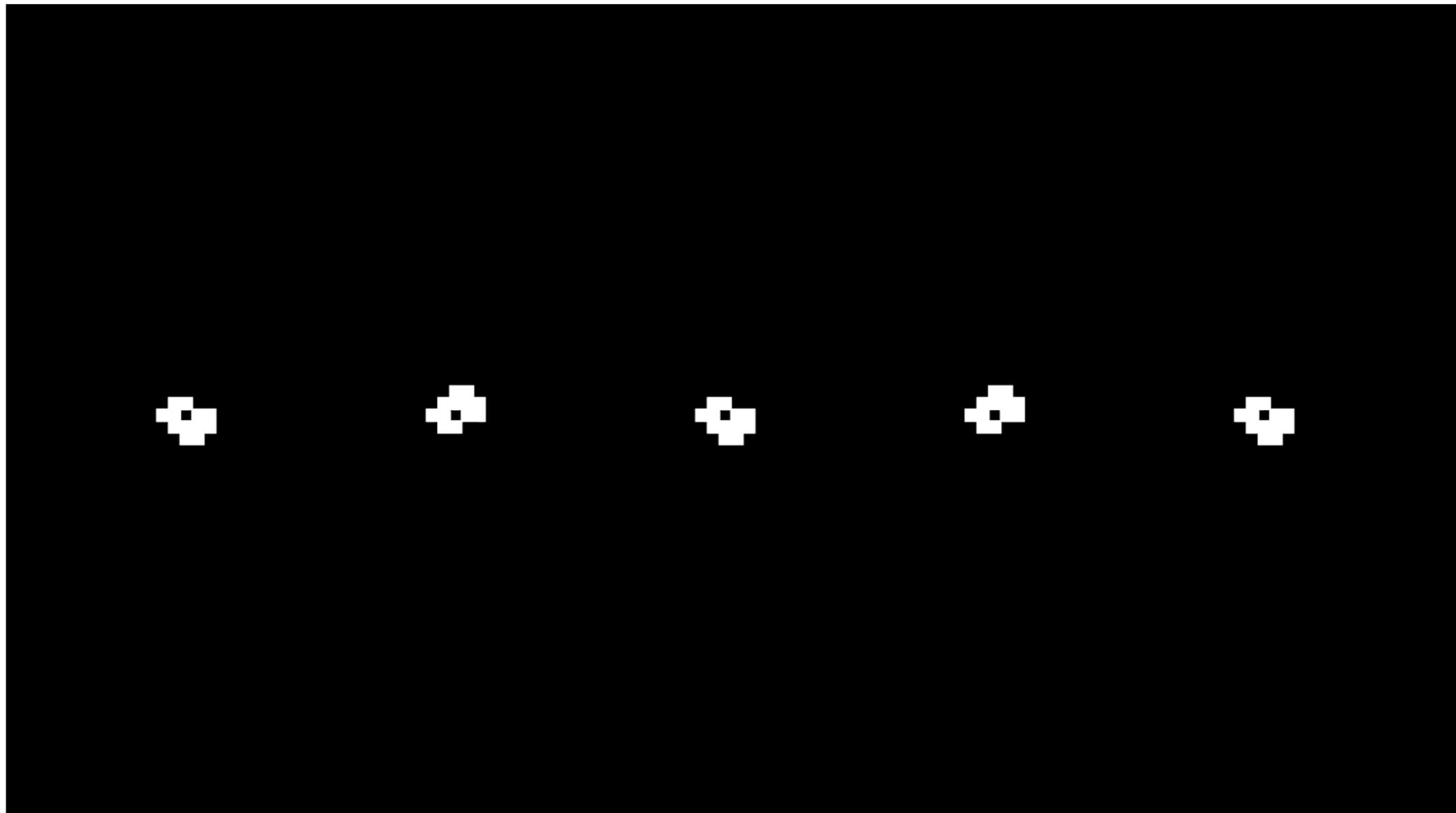
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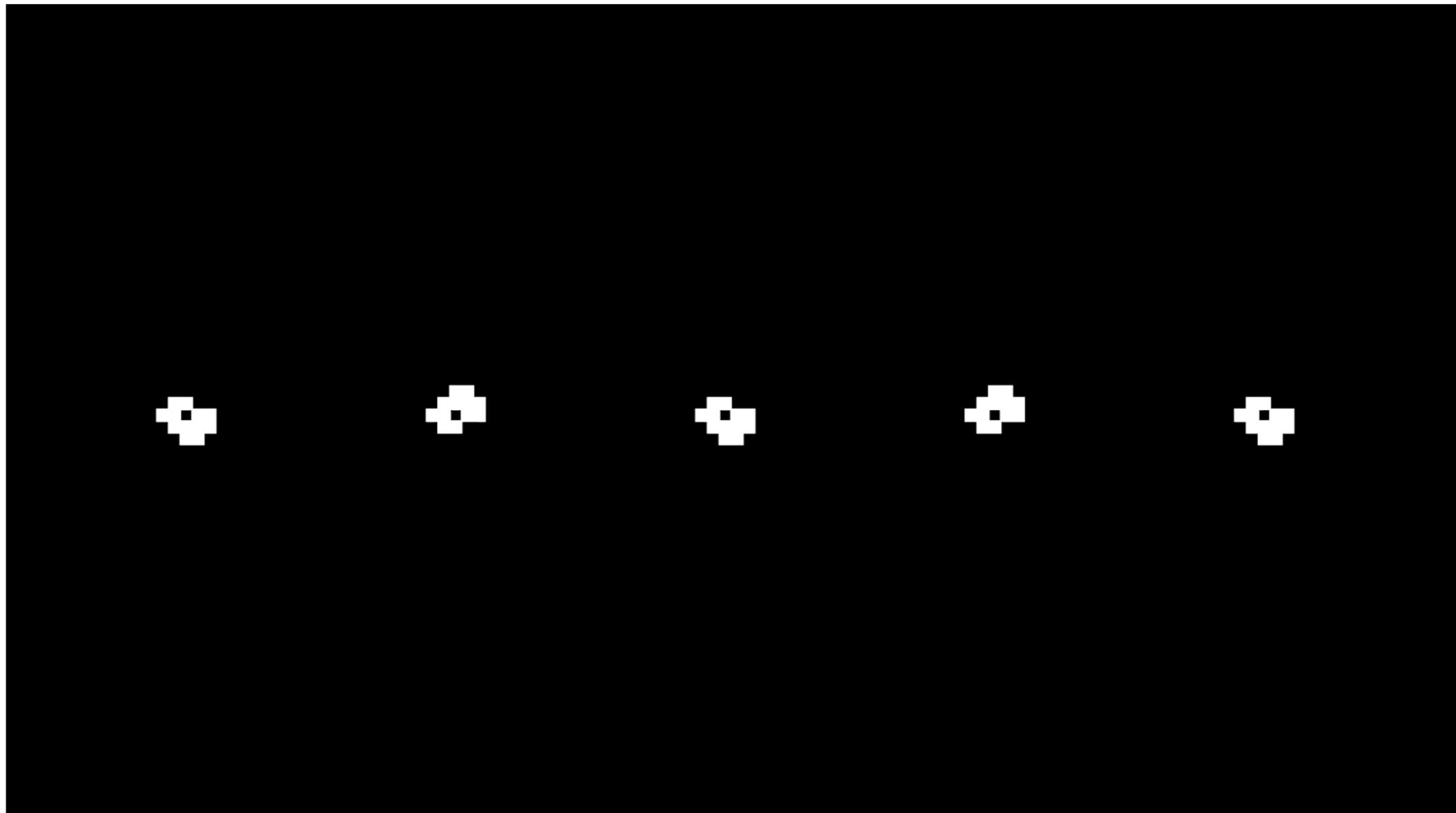


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What does “act like” mean?

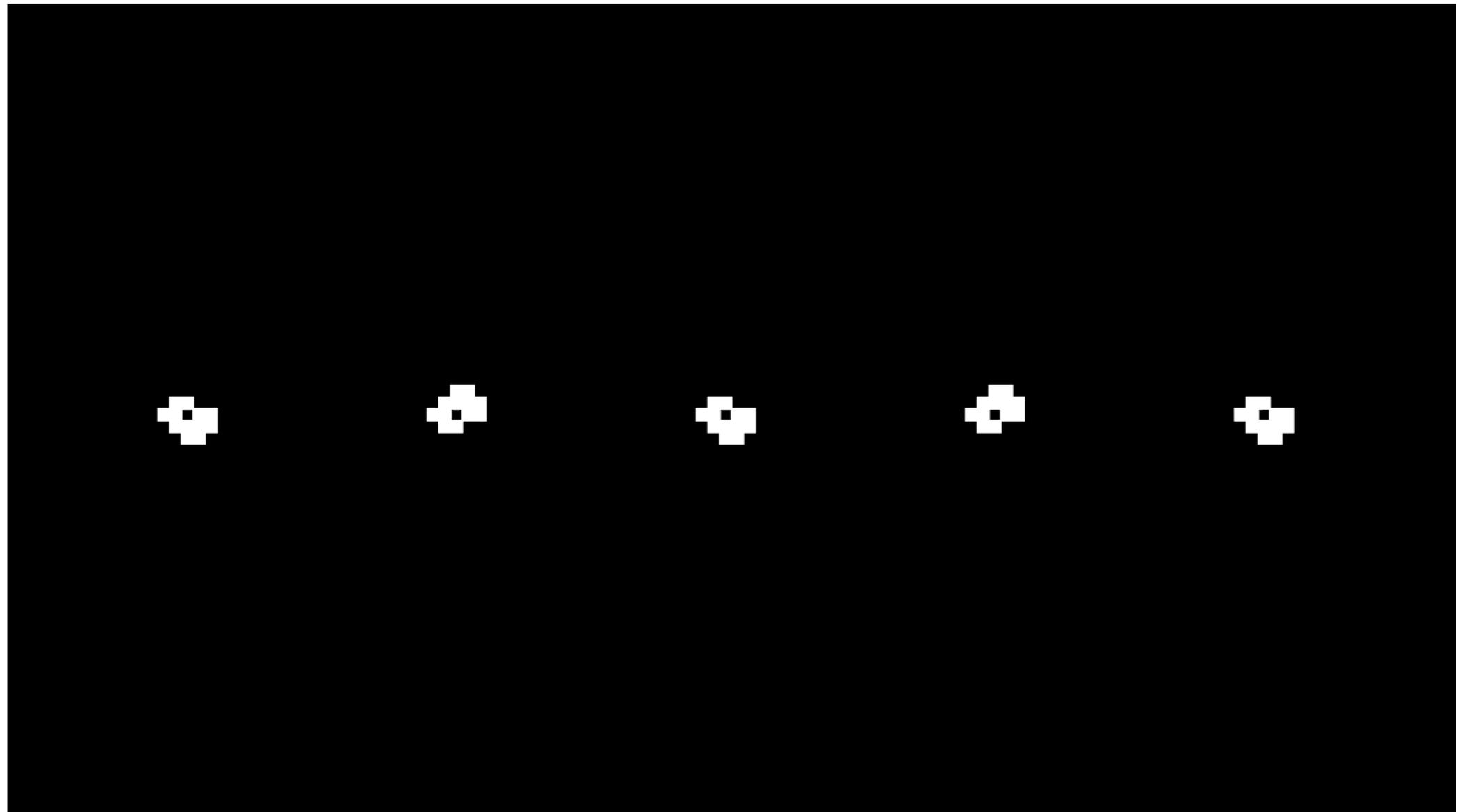


<http://otcametapixel.blogspot.com/>  
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- Conway's Game of Life is an intrinsically universal cellular automaton



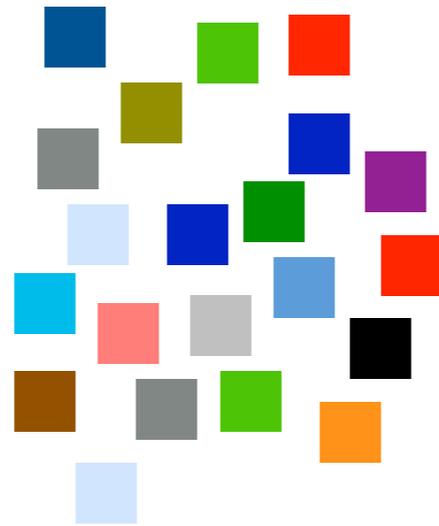
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Durand, Roka, The game of life: universality revisited. 1999

# Comparing tile assembly models

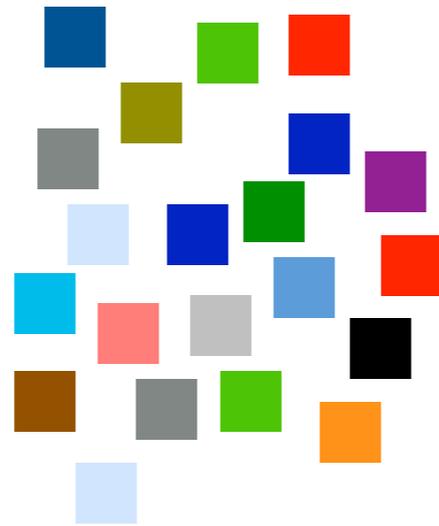
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- What is it that tile assembly systems do?
  - Make shapes and patterns
  - Carry out a crystal-like growth process (dynamics)
- Let define **simulate** using these criteria that are intrinsic to the model

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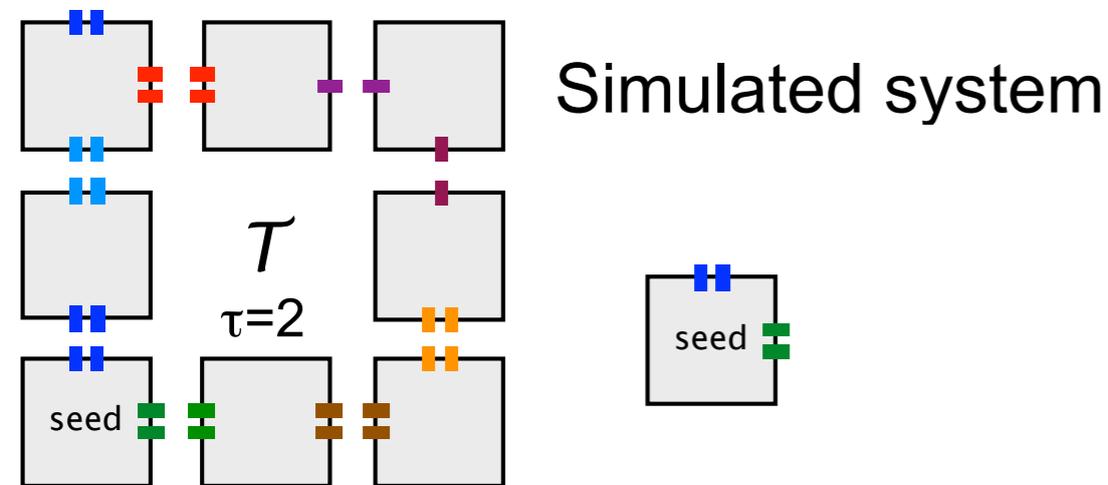


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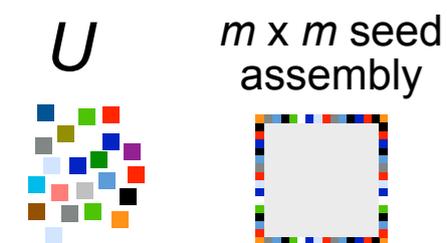
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# Simulation

- For (any) simulated tile assembly system  $\mathcal{T}$ 
  - $\mathcal{T} = (\text{tileset } T, \text{ seed assembly } \sigma, \text{ temperature } \tau)$
- Tile assembly system  $\mathcal{U}$  simulates  $\mathcal{T}$  if:
  - **Tiles** from  $\mathcal{T}$  are represented by  **$m \times m$  supertiles** in  $\mathcal{U}$
  - Assemblies produced by  $\mathcal{U}$  **represent exactly** assemblies produced by  $\mathcal{T}$  (via a representation function  $R : \text{Blocks of tiles from } U \rightarrow \text{tiles from } T$ )
  - **Dynamics are equivalent** in  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{T}$ , ignoring  $m \times m$  scaling

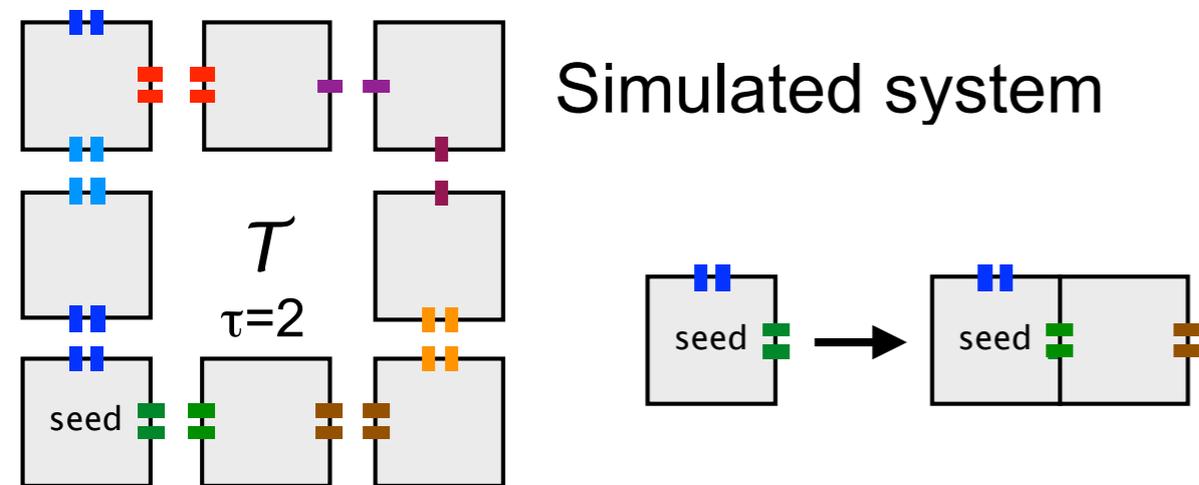


## Simulator system

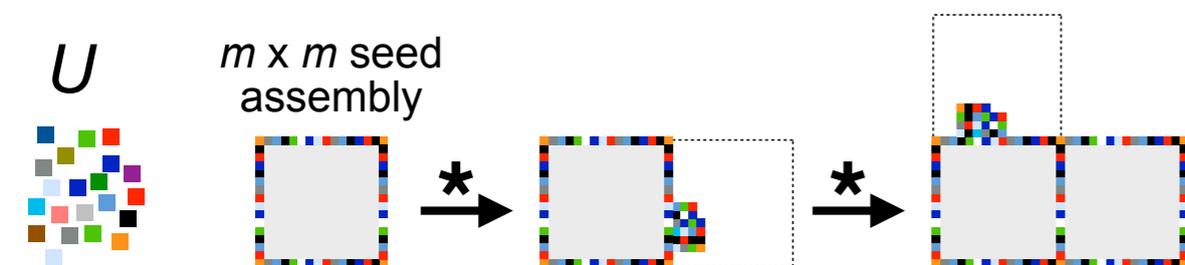


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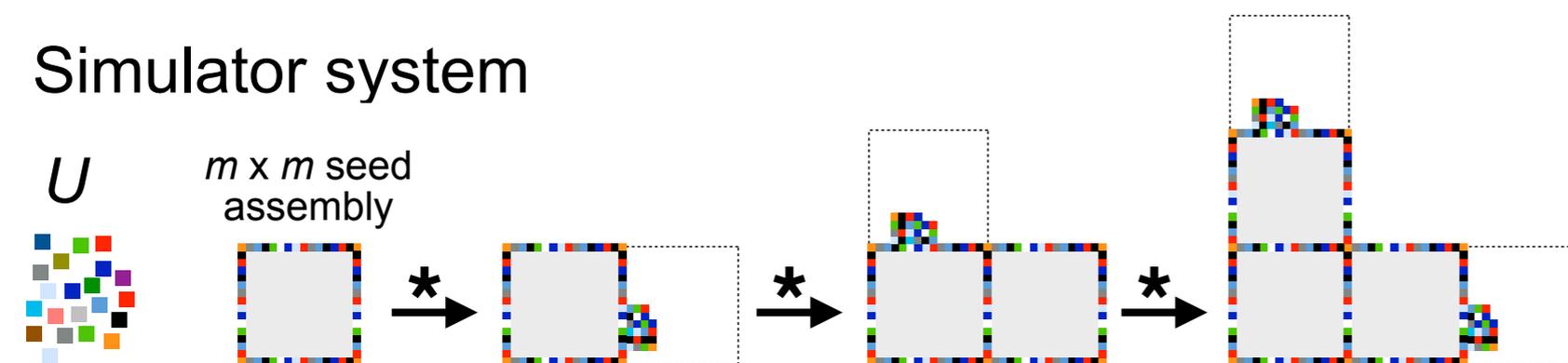
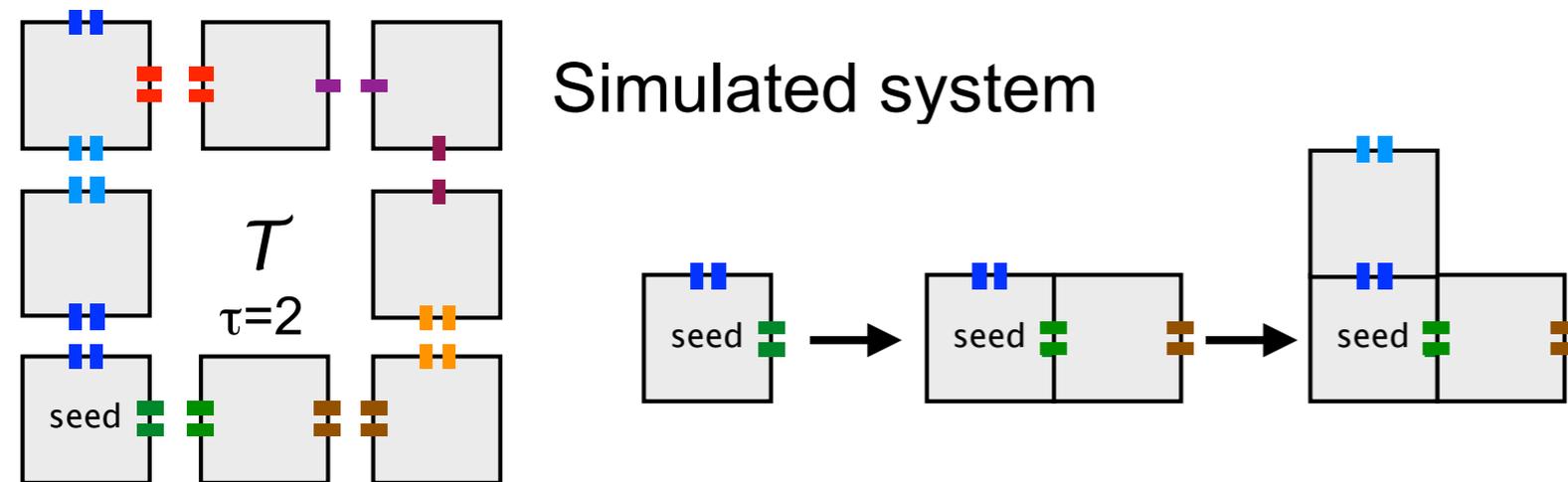


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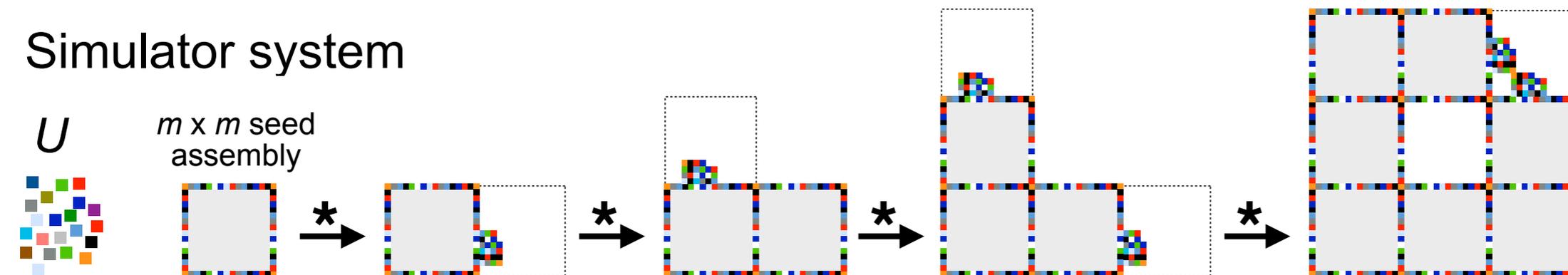
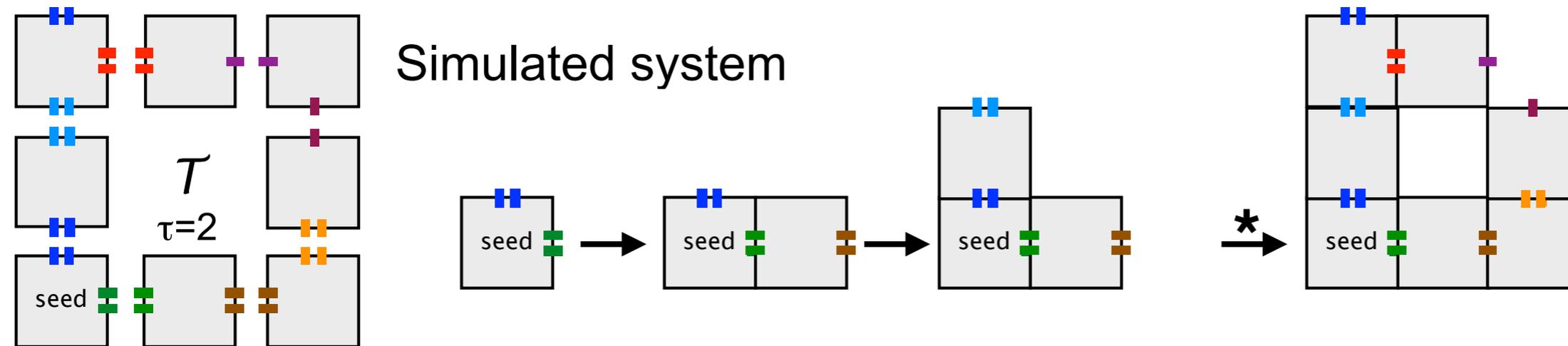
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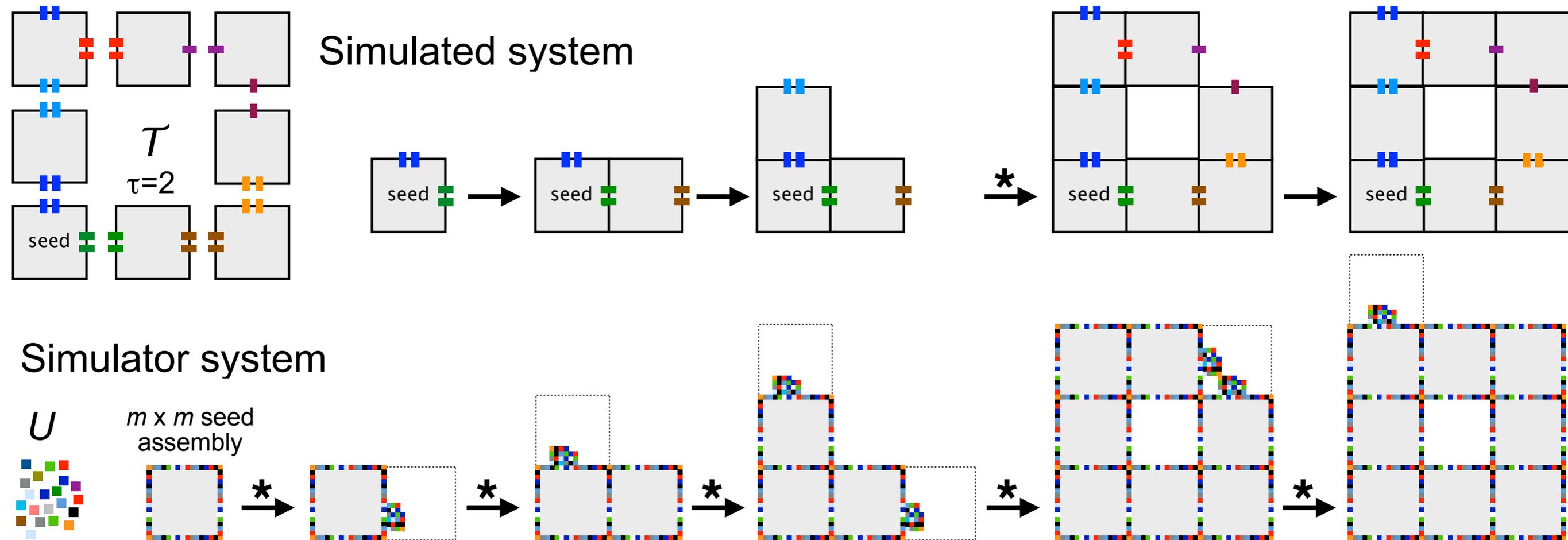
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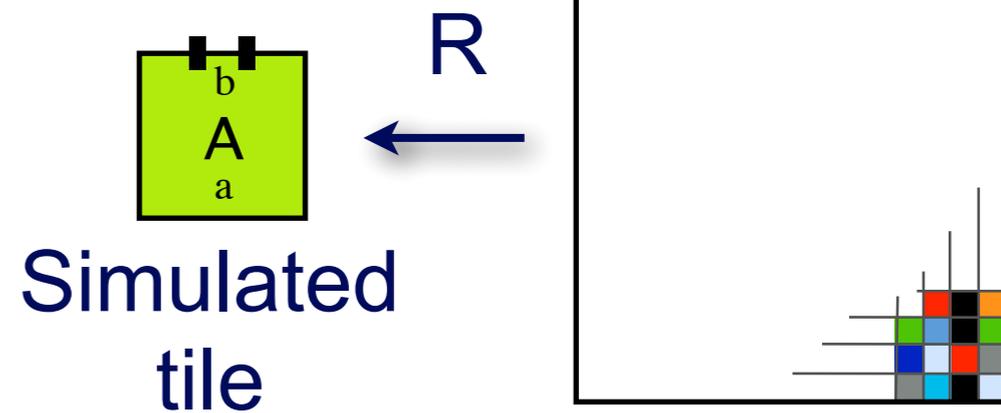
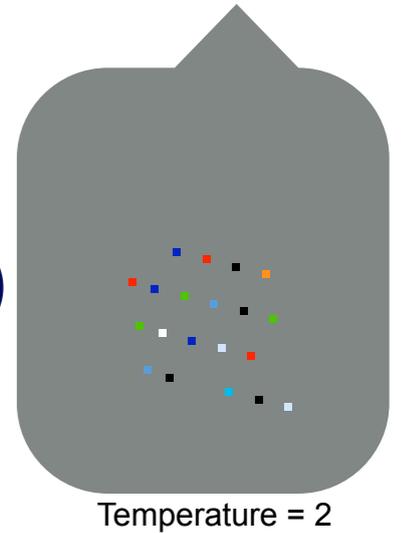
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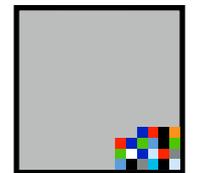


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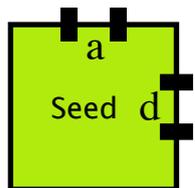
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



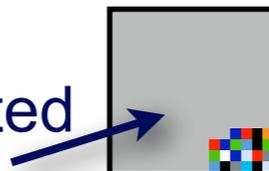
Simulator  
supertile



$T$



Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

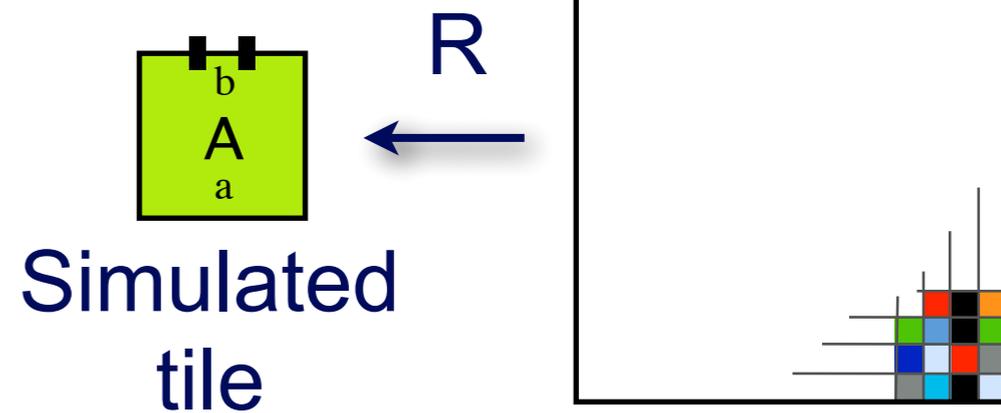
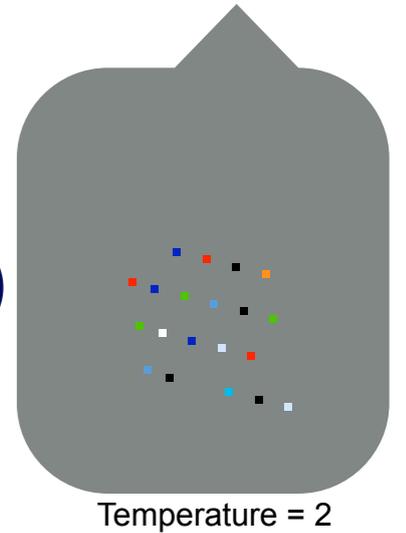


$u$

- Green tiles are simulated by supertiles
- For each assembly sequence in the simulated tile system, there is an assembly sequence in the simulator, and vice-versa

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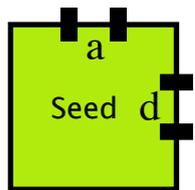
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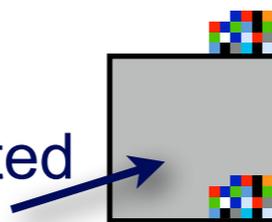
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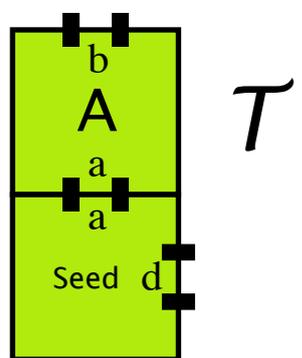
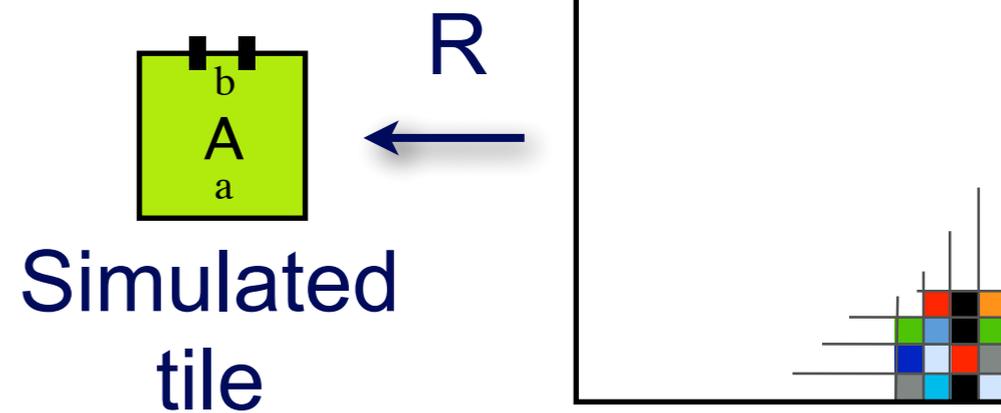
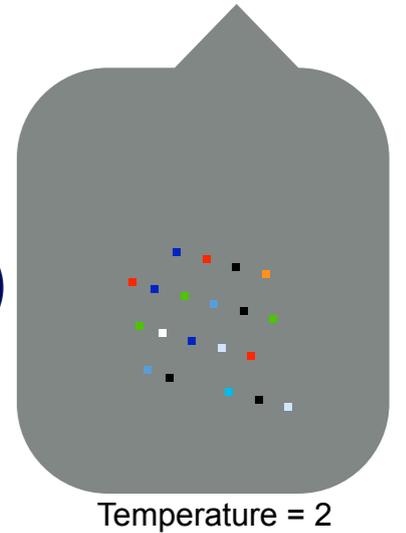
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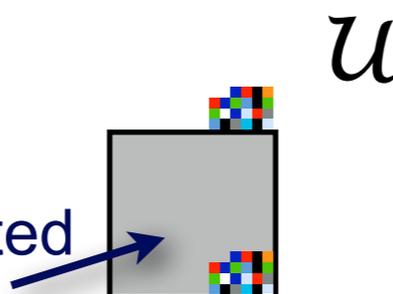
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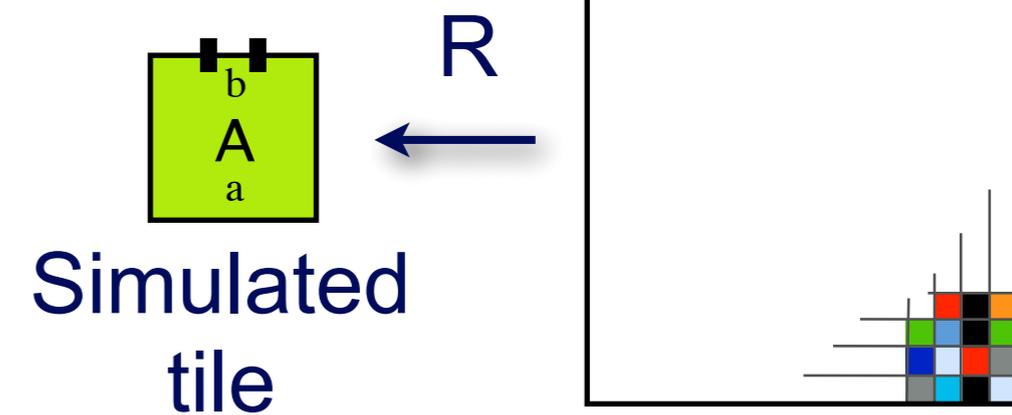
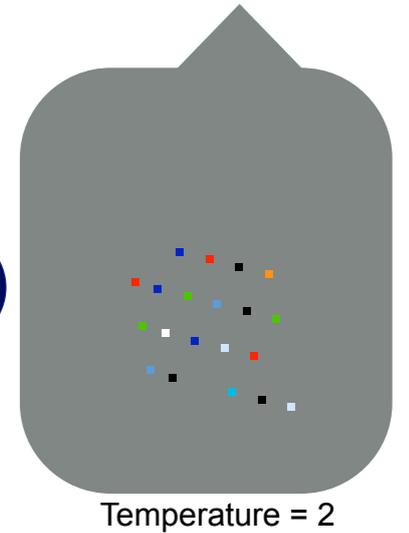
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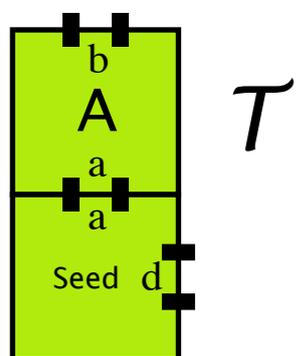
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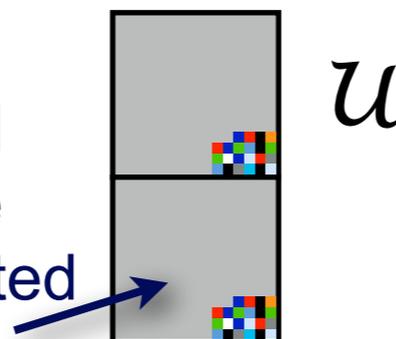
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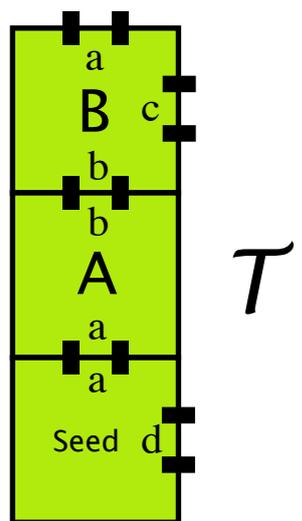
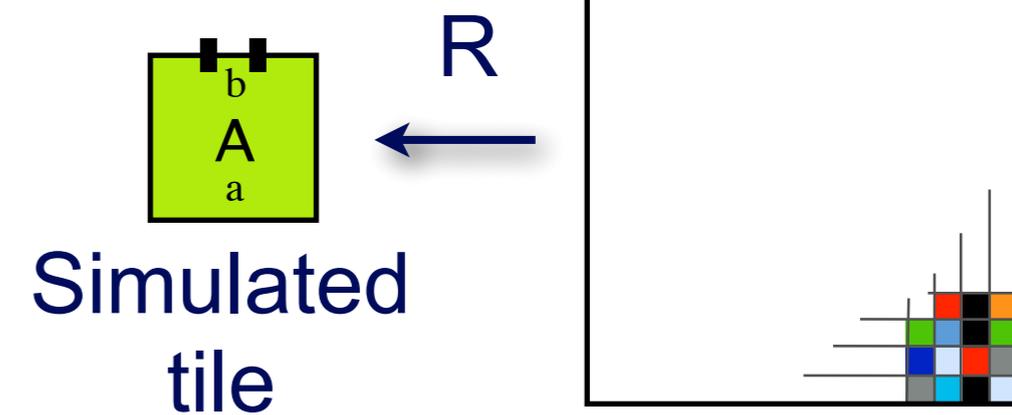
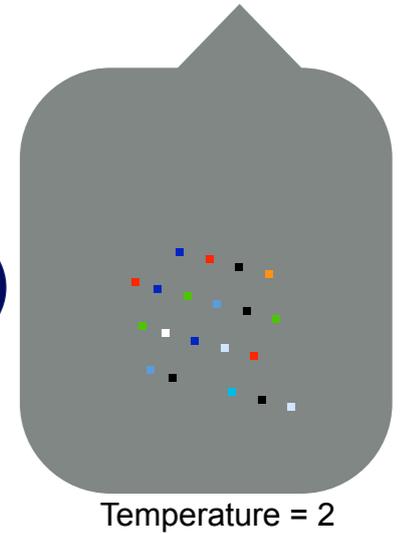


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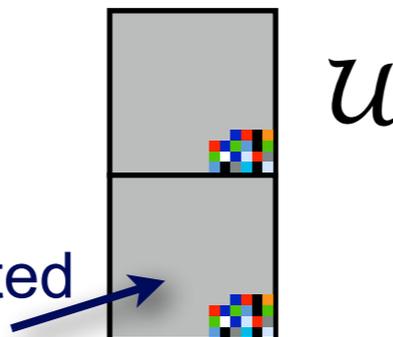


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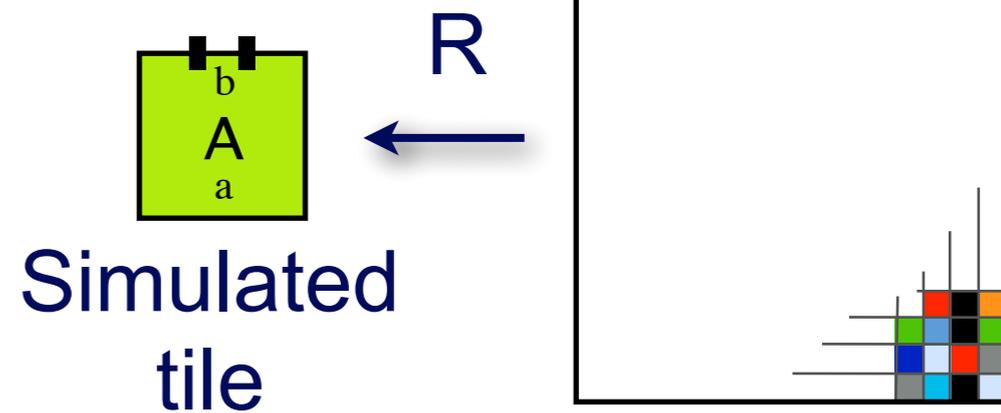
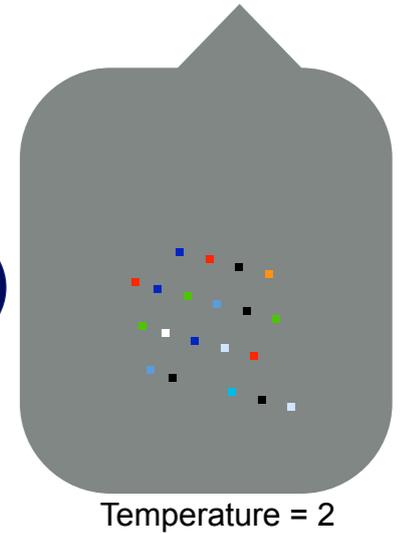
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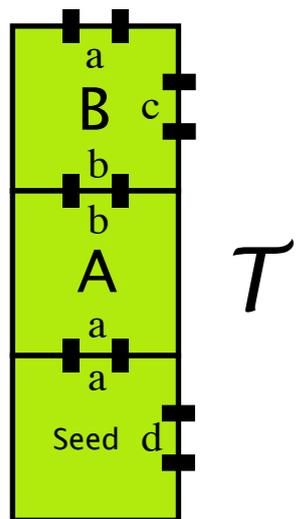
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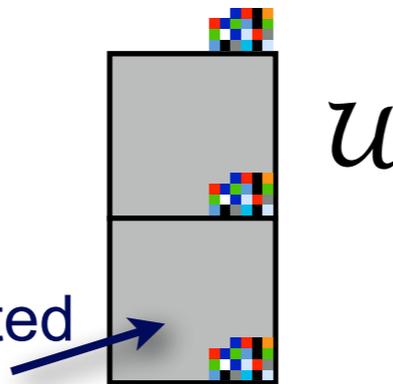
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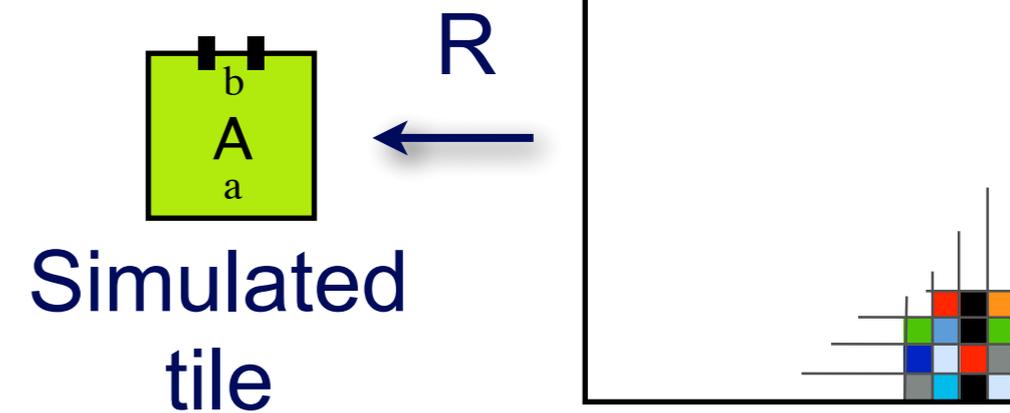
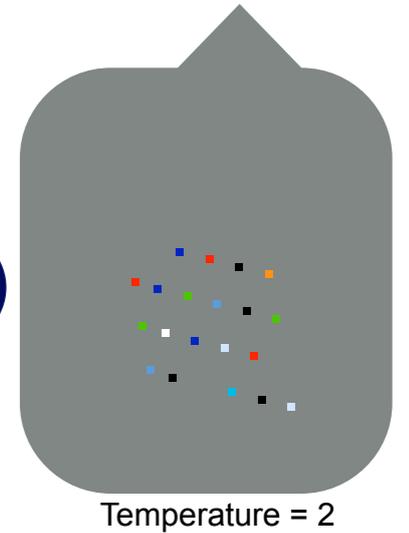


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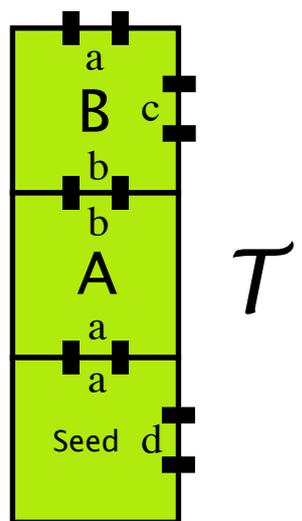
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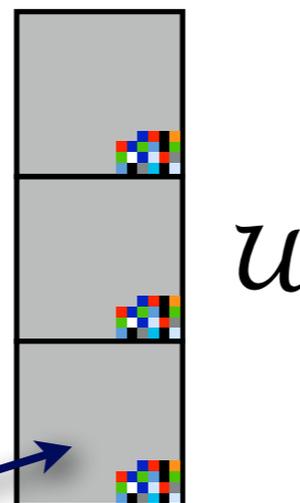


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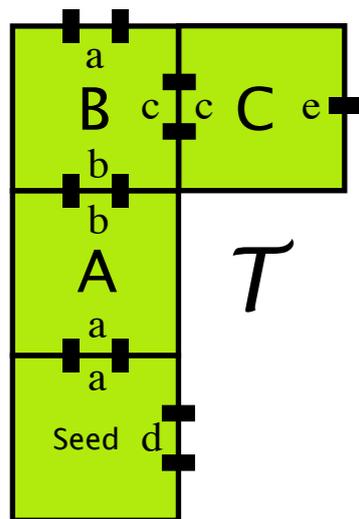
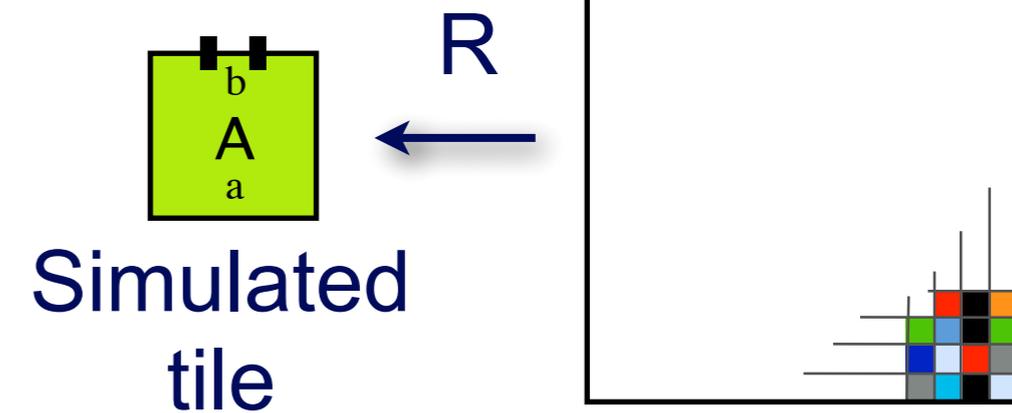
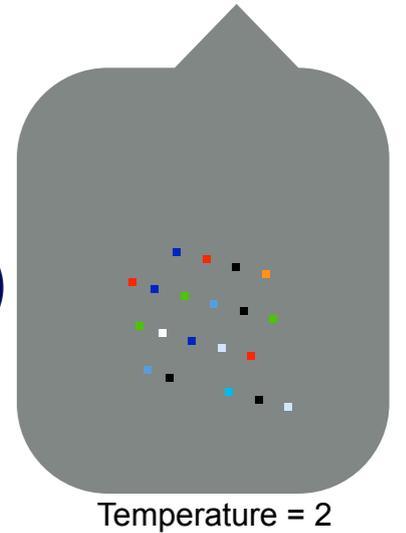


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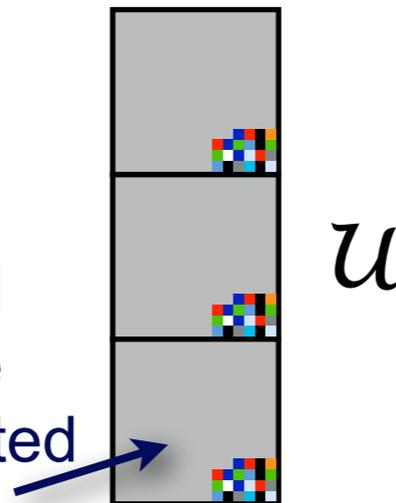


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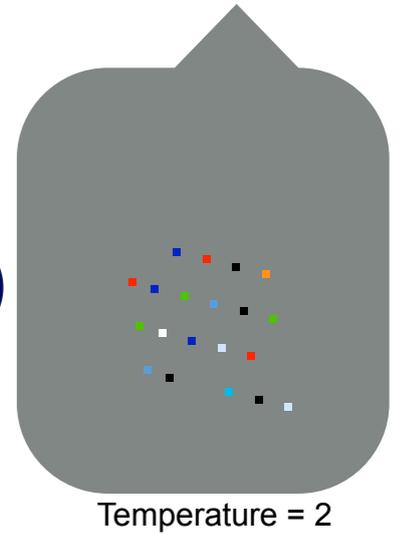
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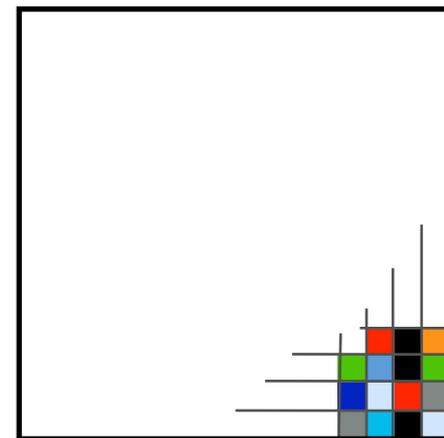
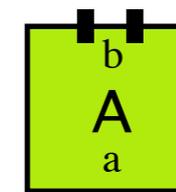
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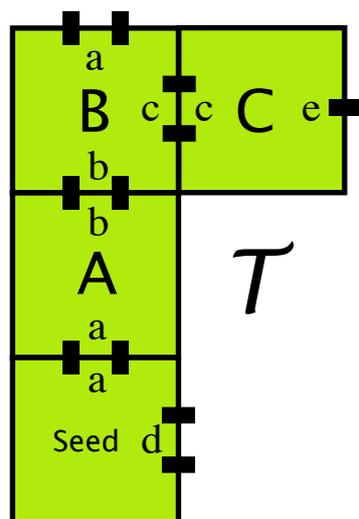
Simulated  
tile



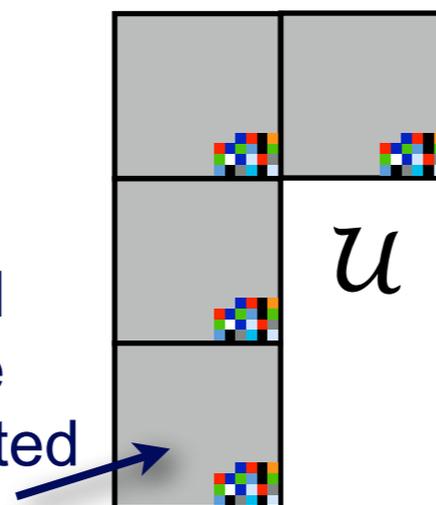
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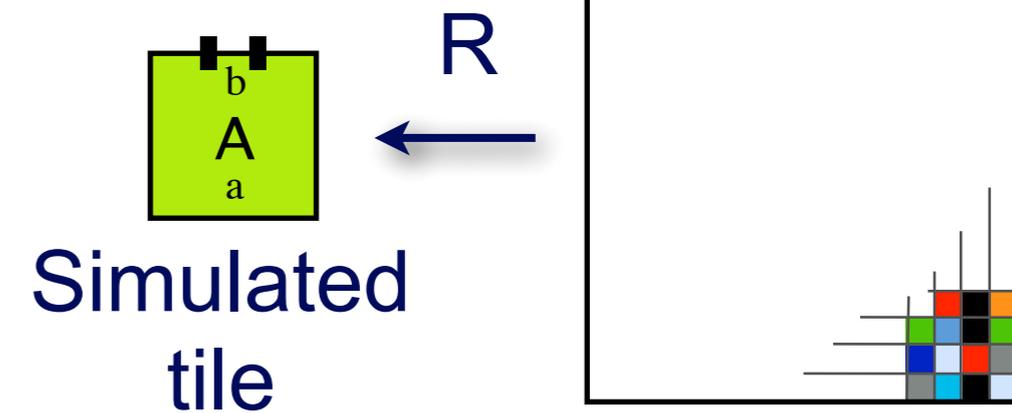
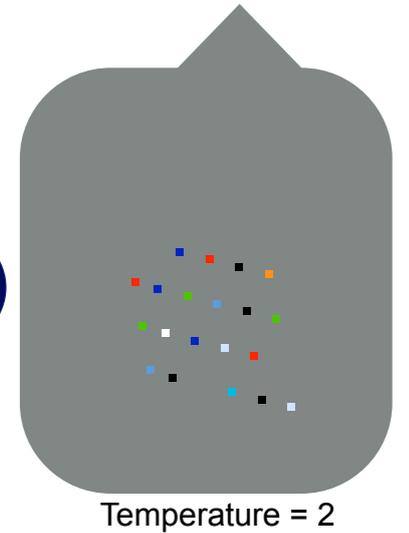


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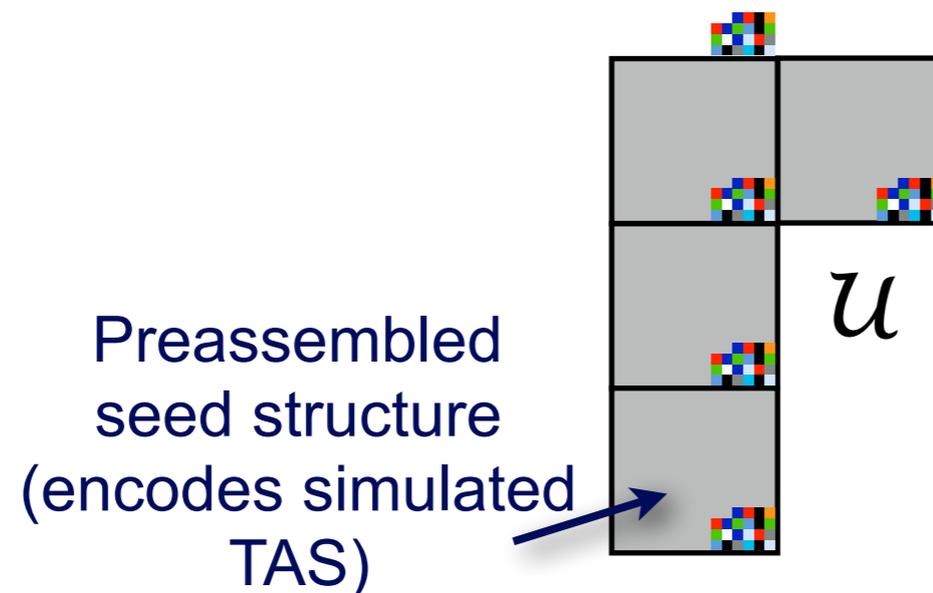
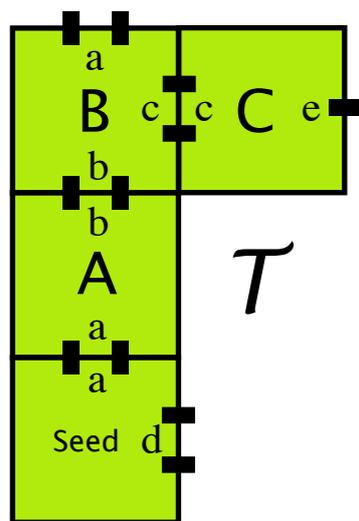
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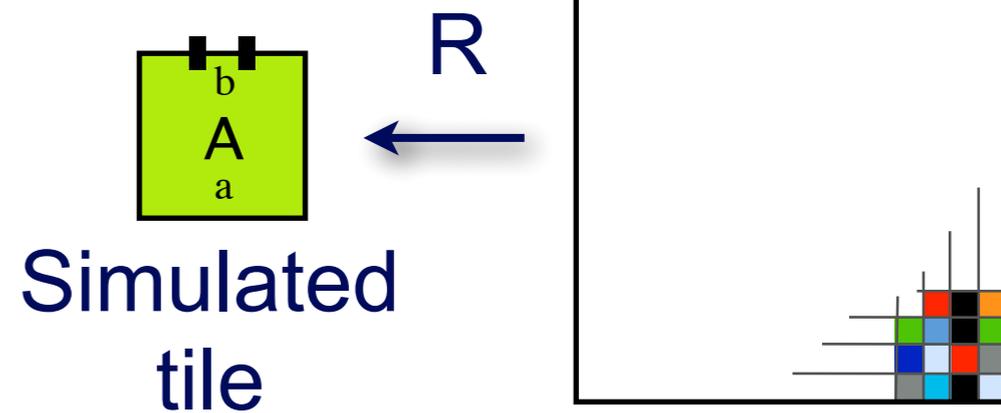
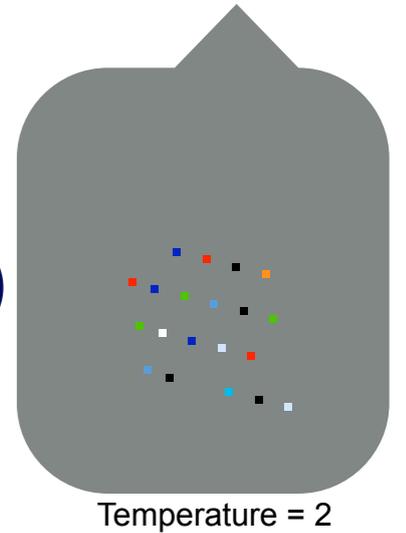
Simulator  
supertile

- Green tiles are simulated by supertiles
- For each assembly sequence in the simulated tile system, there is an assembly sequence in the simulator, and vice-versa



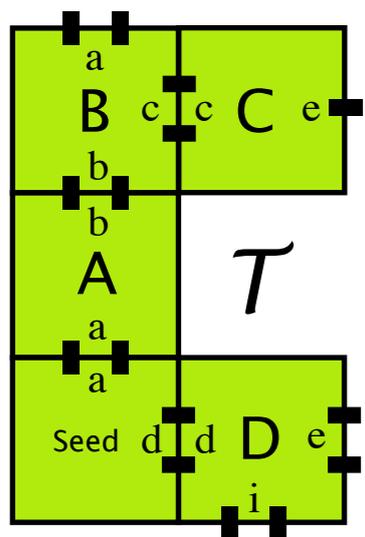
# Simulation definition

Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set

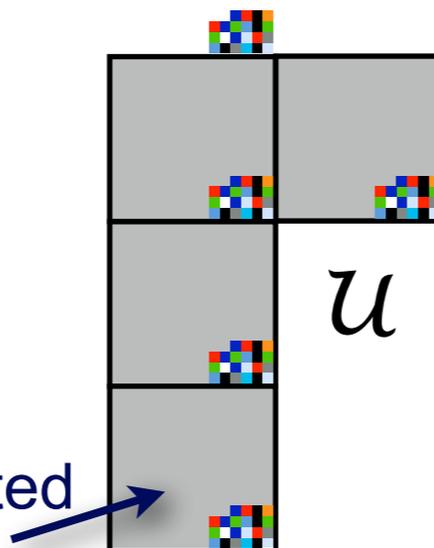


Simulator  
supertile

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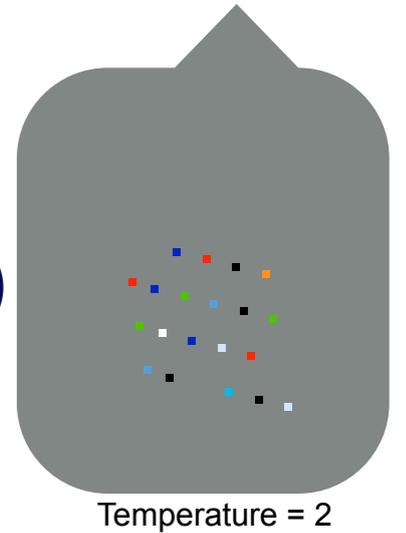


Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

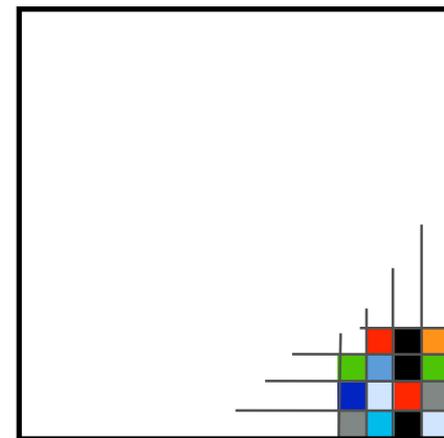
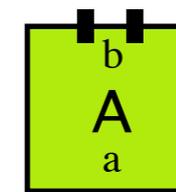


# Simulation definition

Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



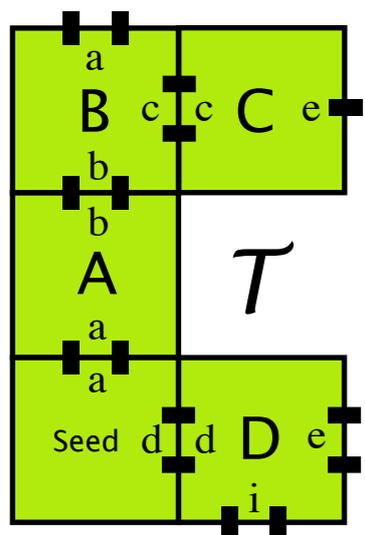
Simulated  
tile



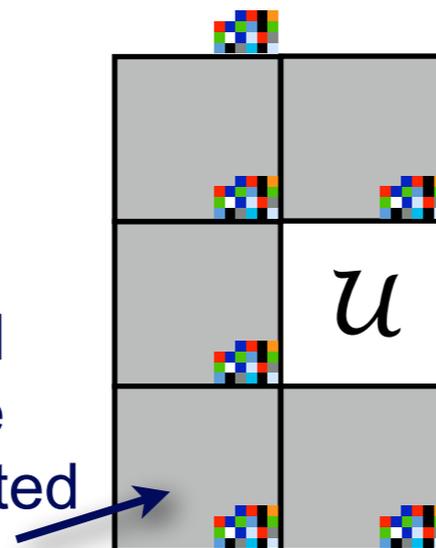
Simulator  
supertile



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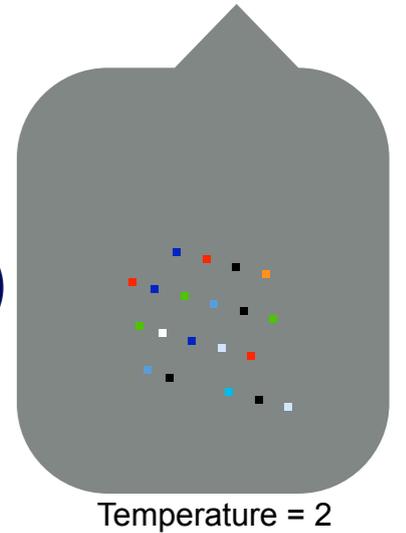


Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

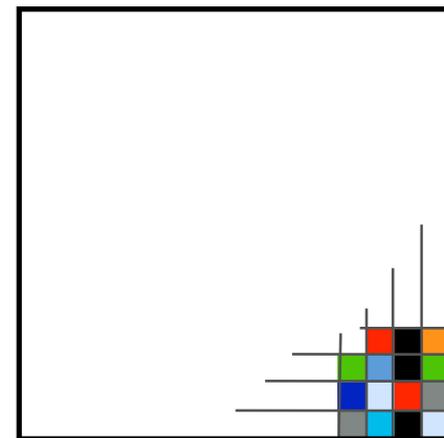
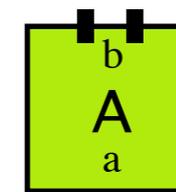


# Simulation definition

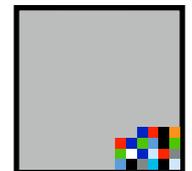
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



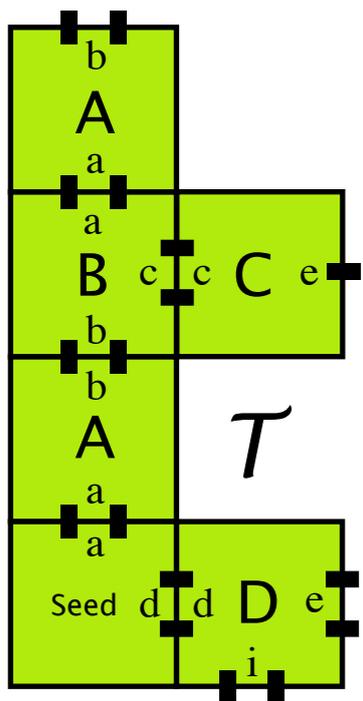
Simulated  
tile



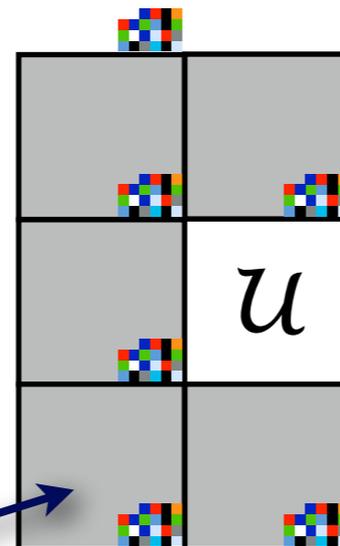
Simulator  
supertile



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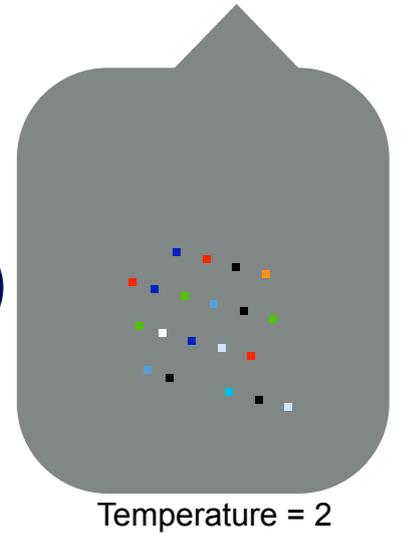


Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

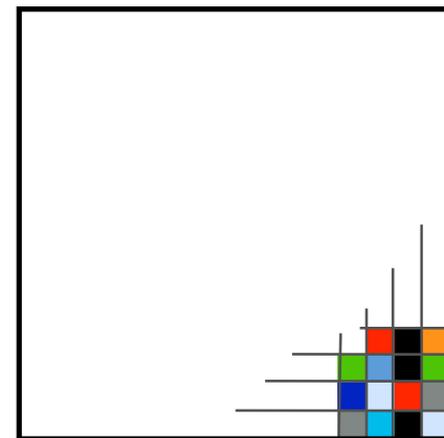
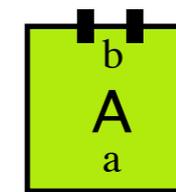


# Simulation definition

Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



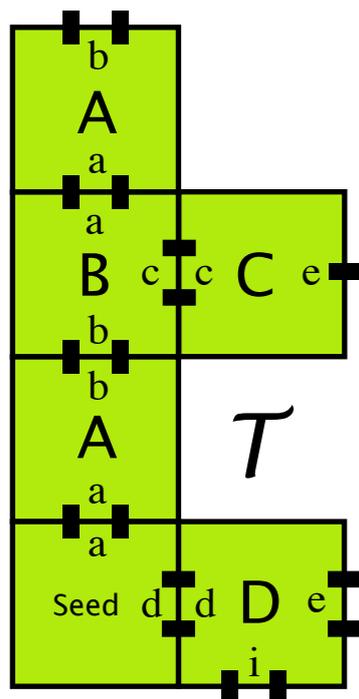
Simulated  
tile



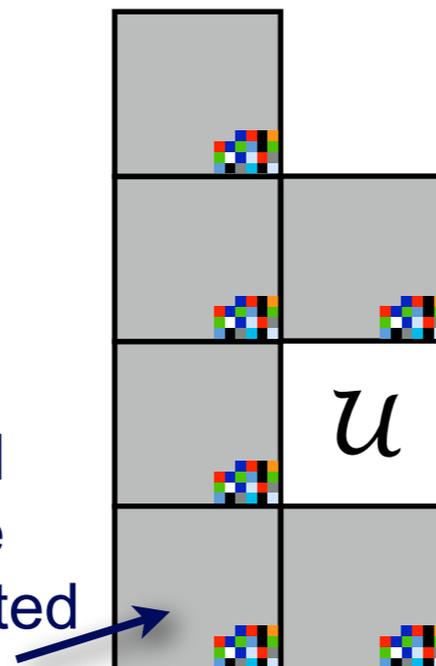
Simulator  
supertile



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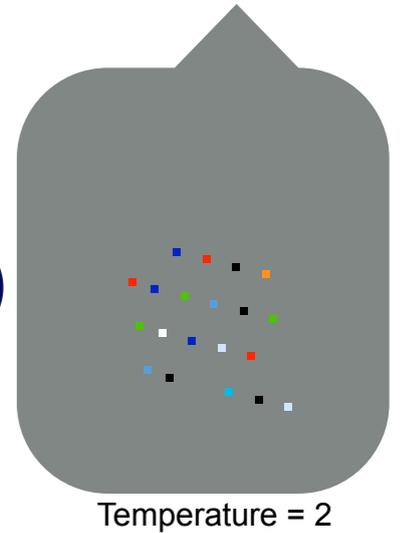


Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

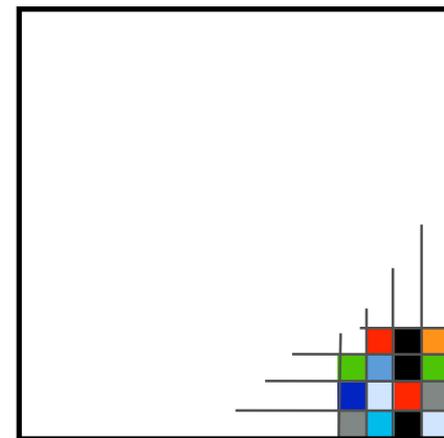
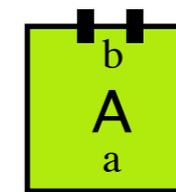


# Simulation definition

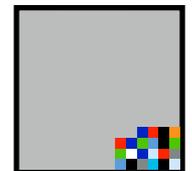
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



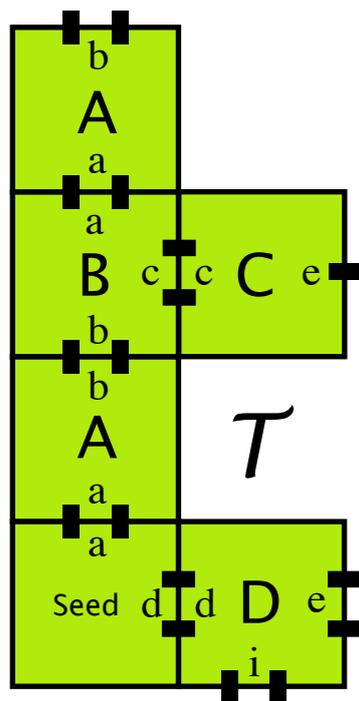
Simulated  
tile



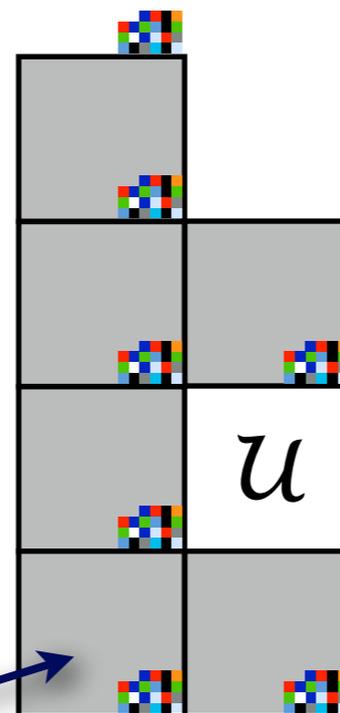
Simulator  
supertile



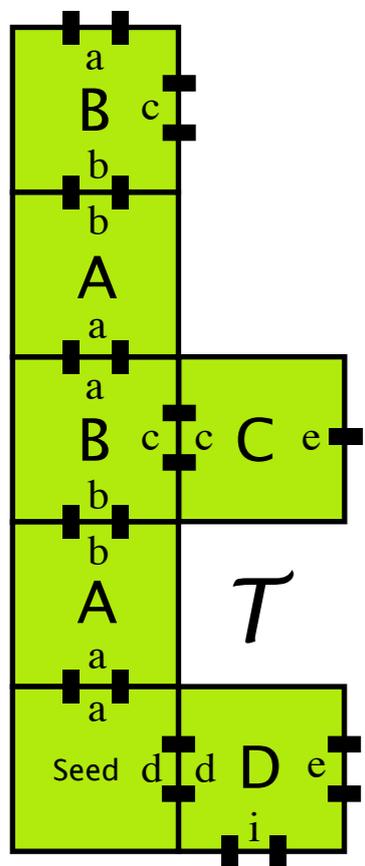
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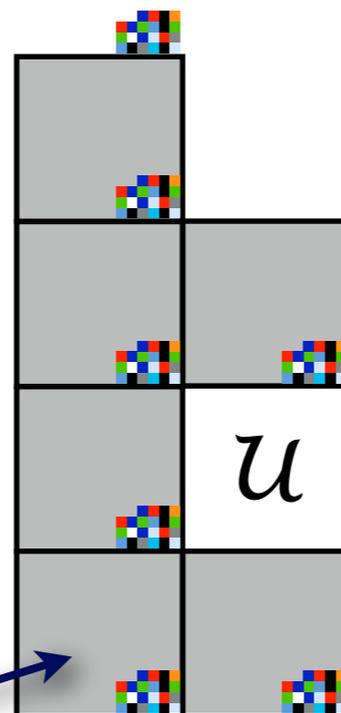
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



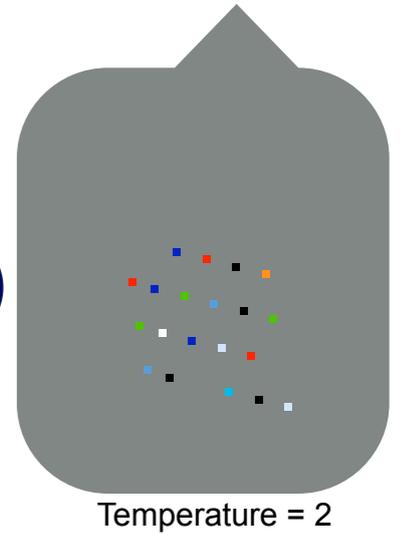
# Simulation definition



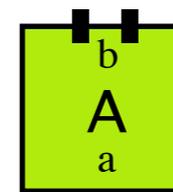
Preassembled seed structure (encodes simulated TAS)



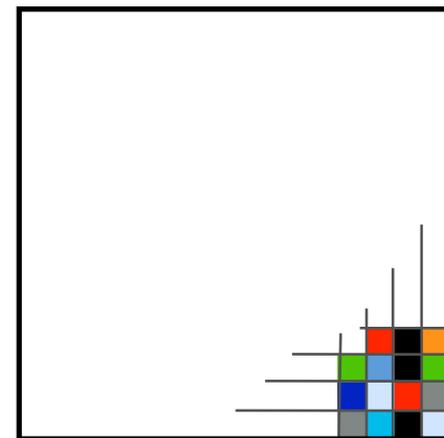
Universal (simulator) tile set



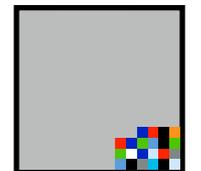
Simulated tile



R ←



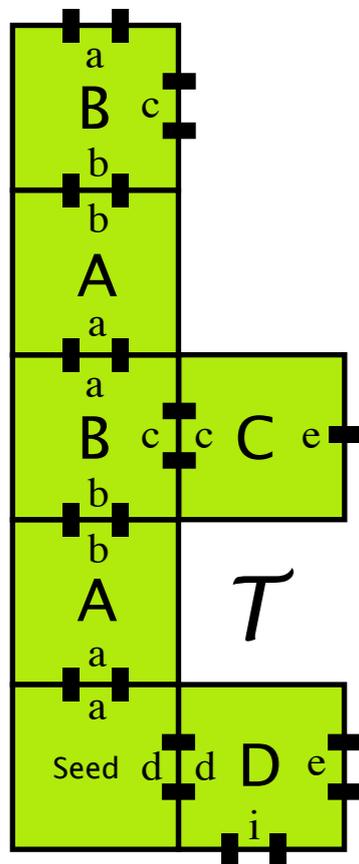
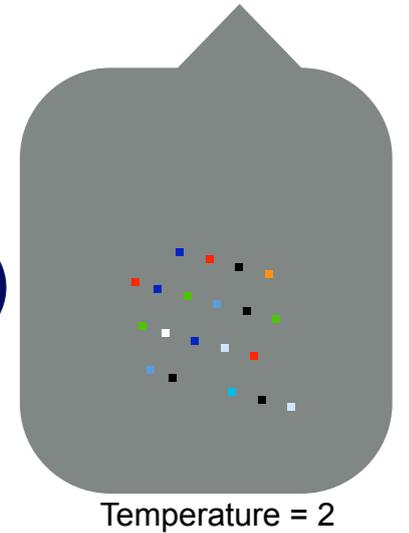
Simulator supertile



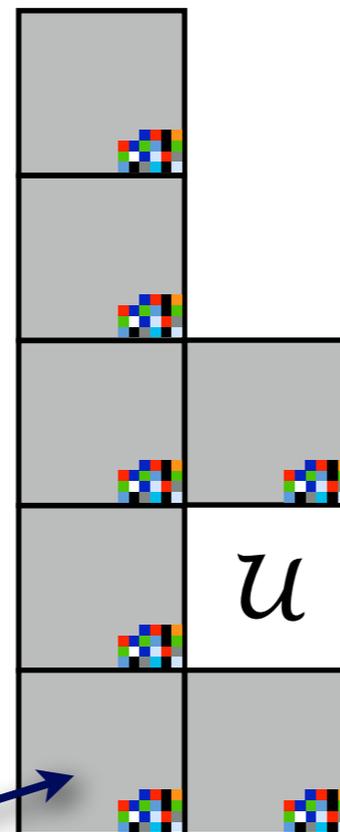
- Green tiles are simulated by supertiles
- For each assembly sequence in the simulated tile system, there is an assembly sequence in the simulator, and vice-versa

# Simulation definition

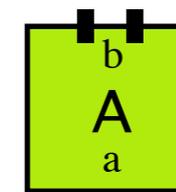
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



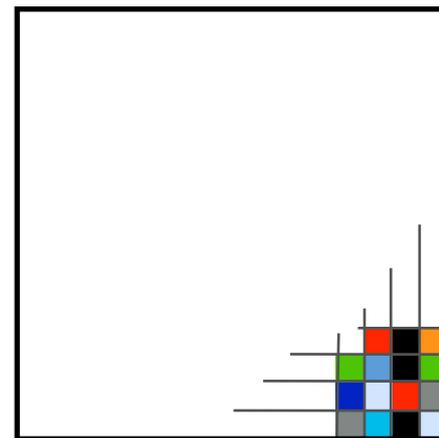
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



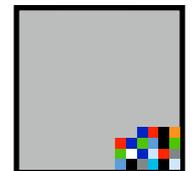
Simulated  
tile



R ←

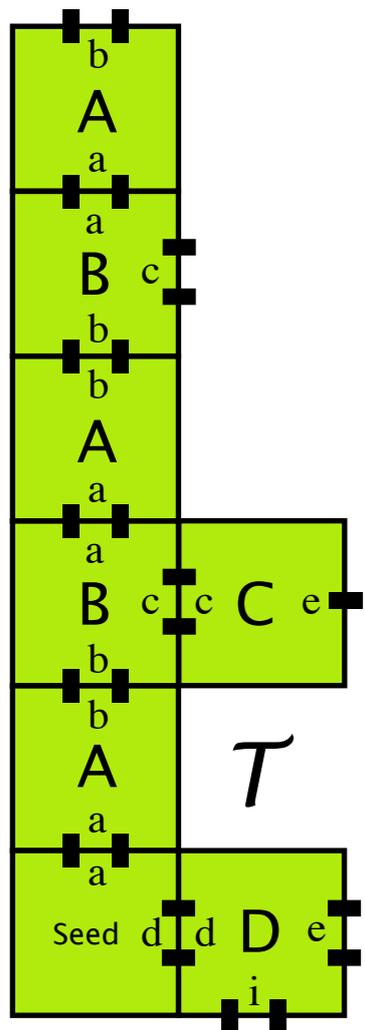


Simulator  
supertile

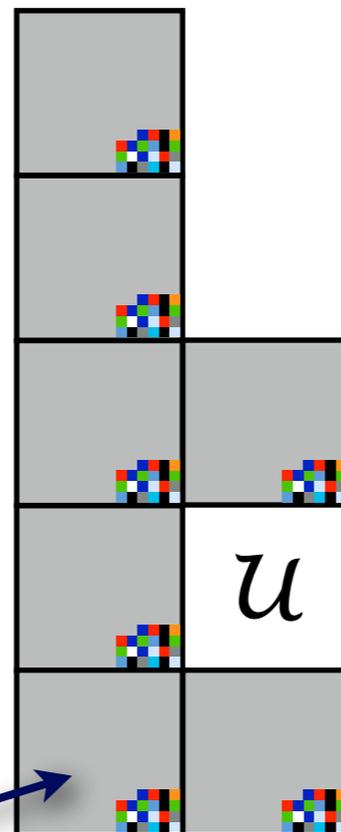


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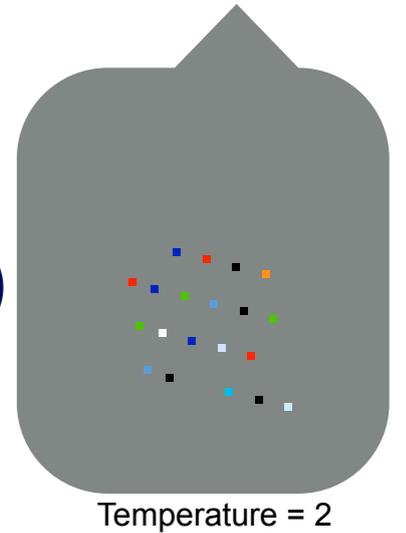
# Simulation definition



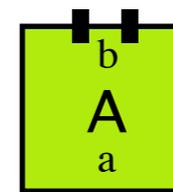
Preassembled seed structure (encodes simulated TAS)



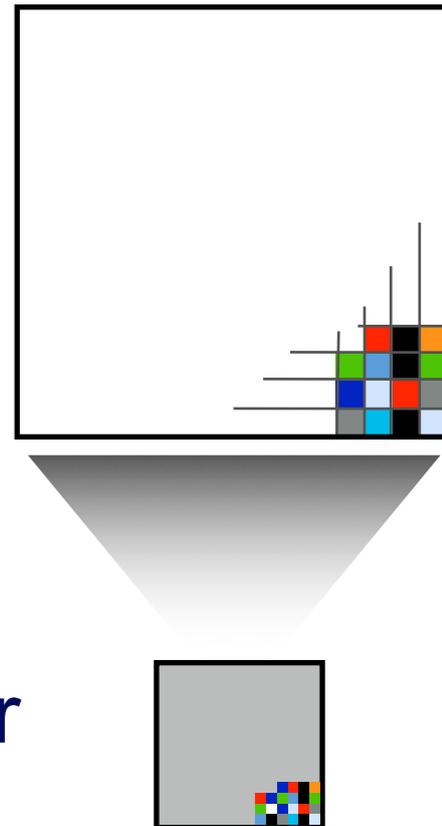
Universal (simulator) tile set



Simulated tile



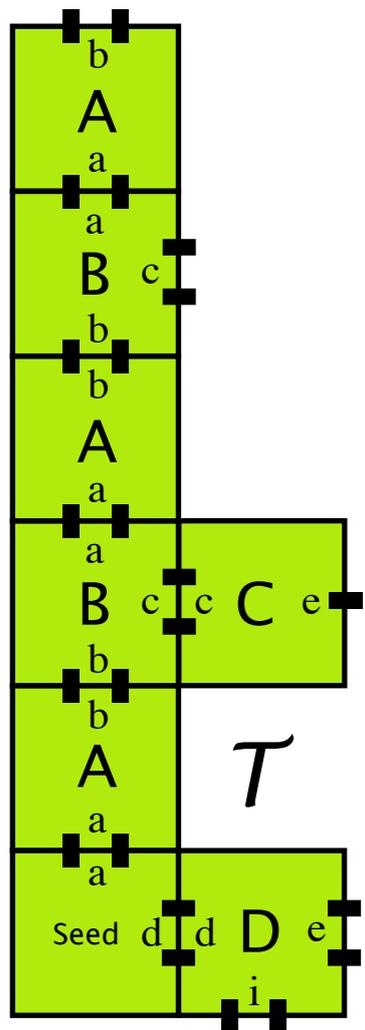
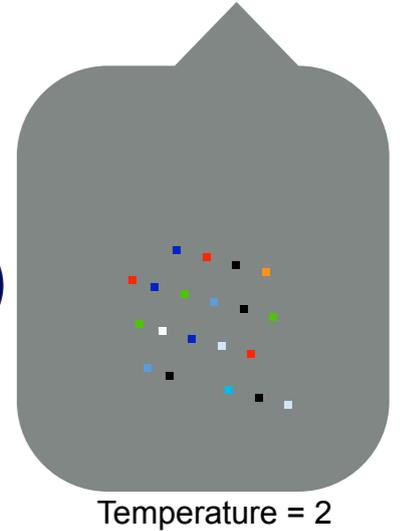
Simulator supertile



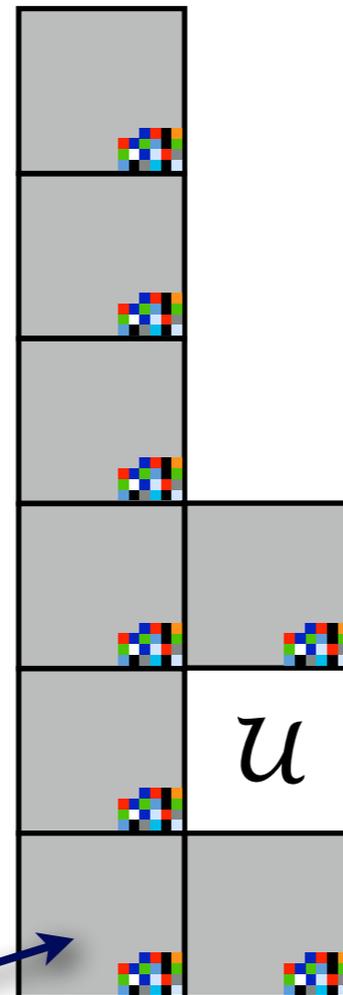
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# Simulation definition

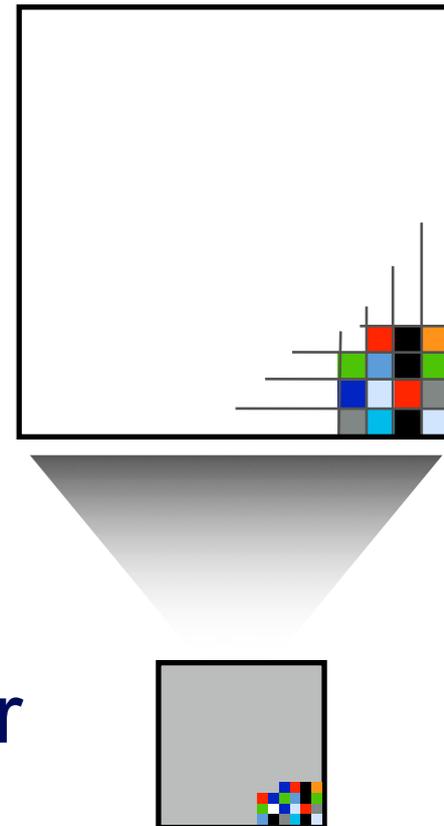
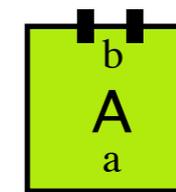
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



Simulated  
tile

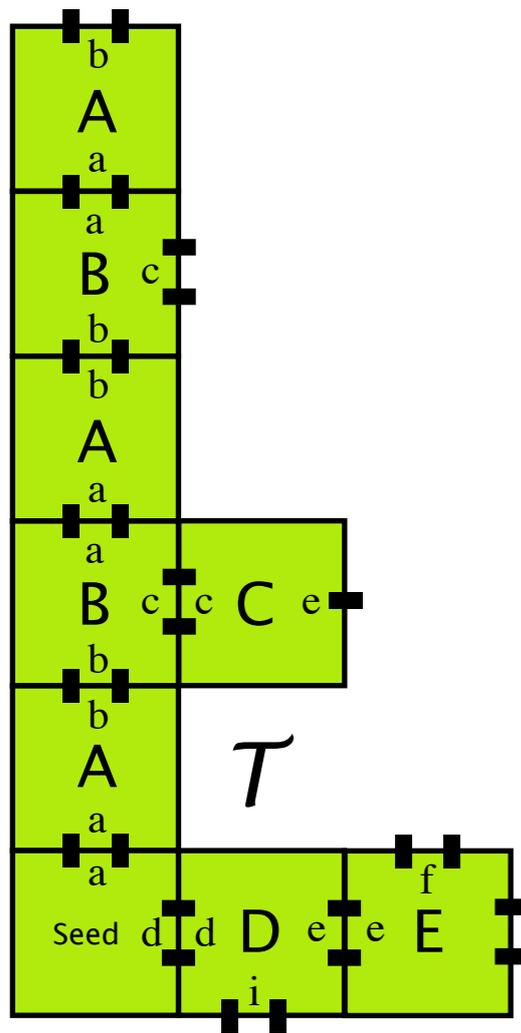
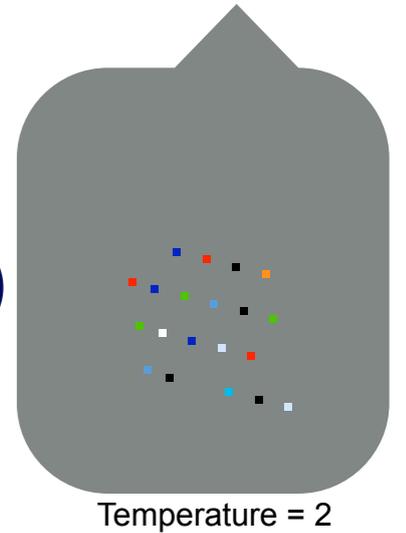


Simulator  
supertile

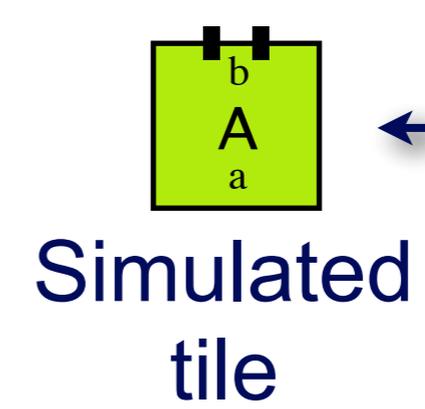
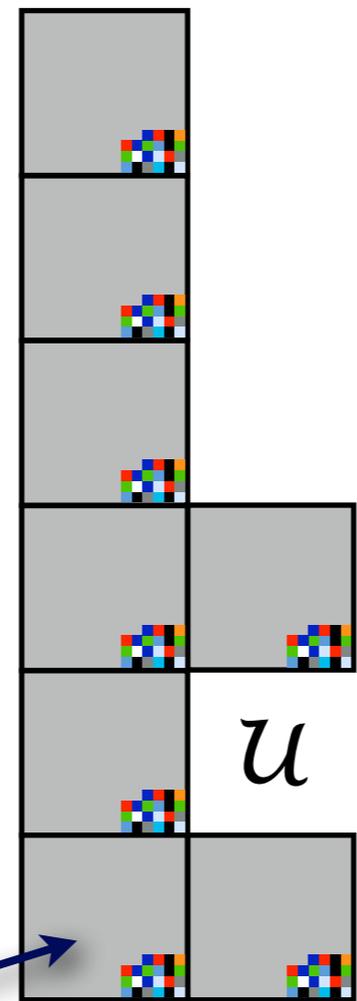
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# Simulation definition

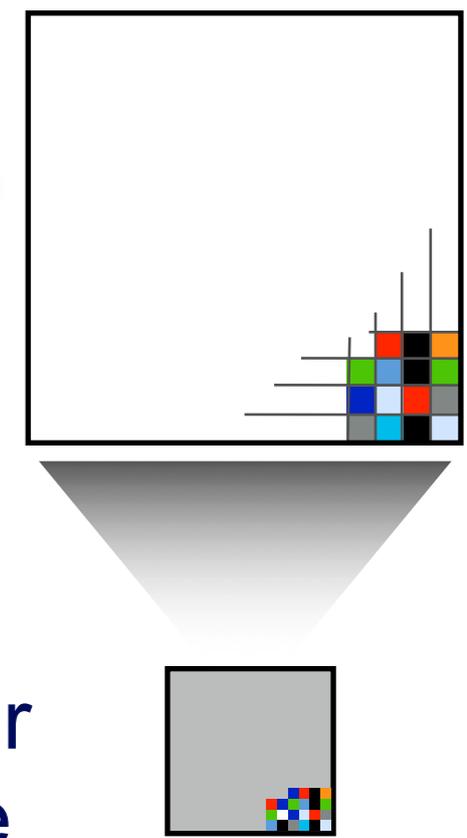
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



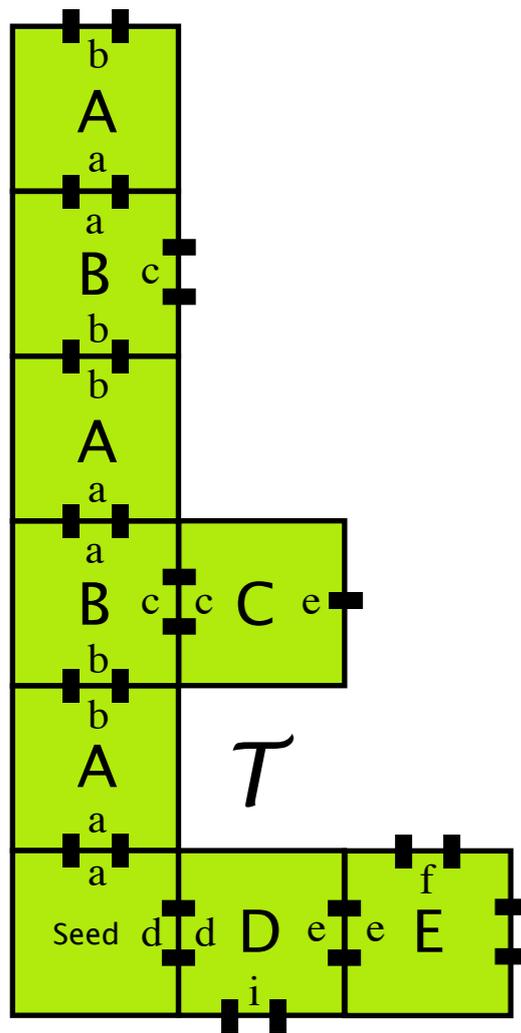
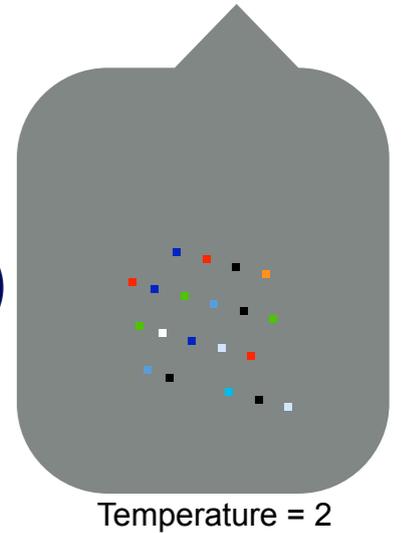
Simulator  
supertile



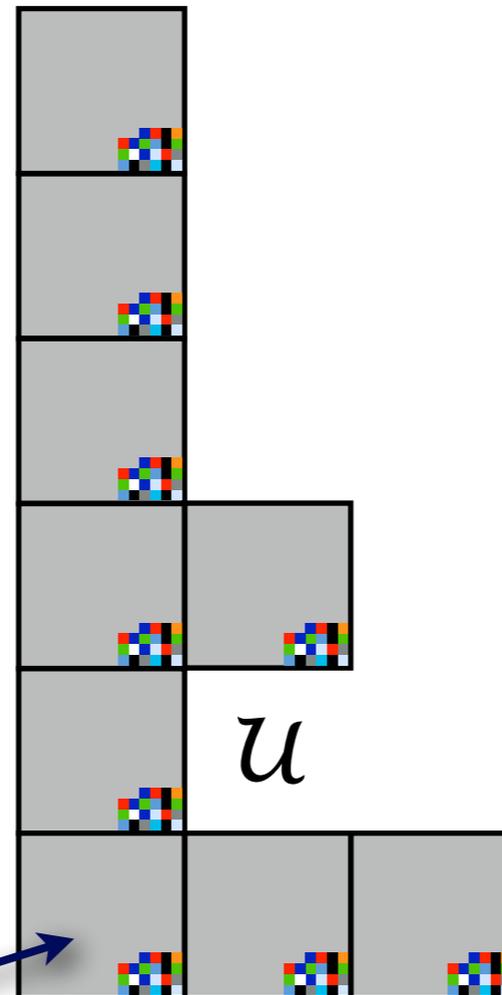
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# Simulation definition

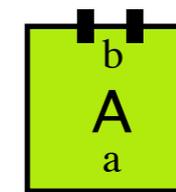
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

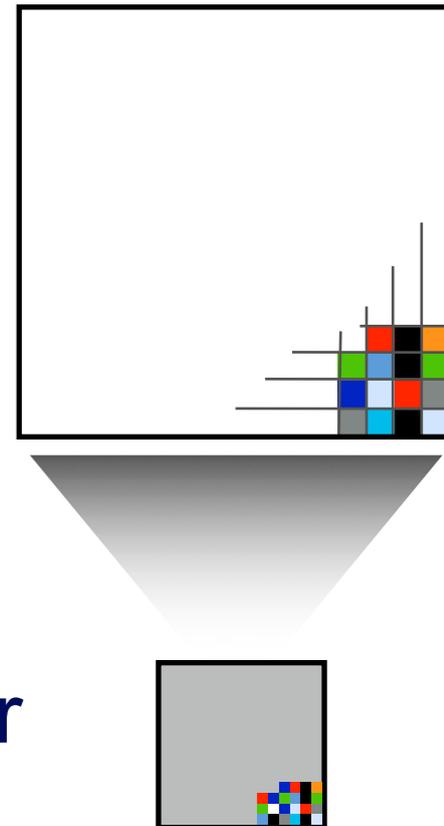


Simulated  
tile



R ←

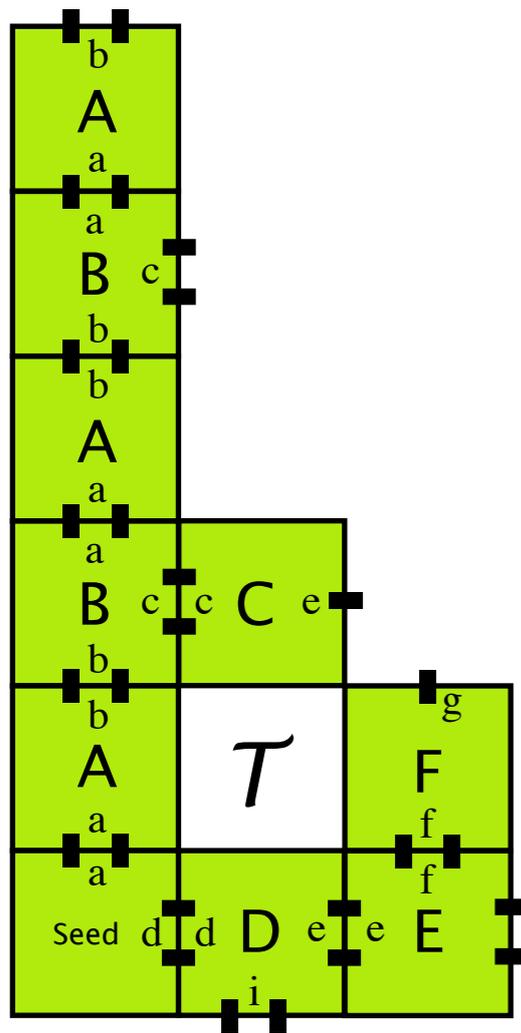
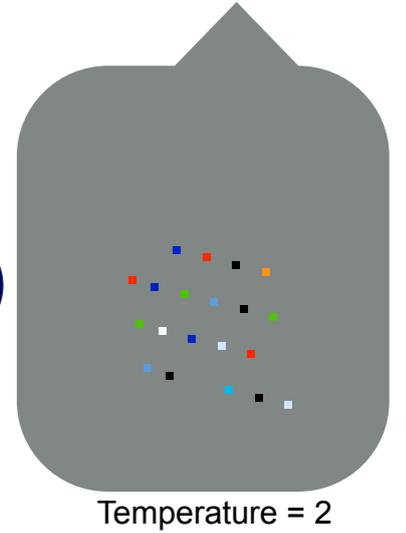
Simulator  
supertile



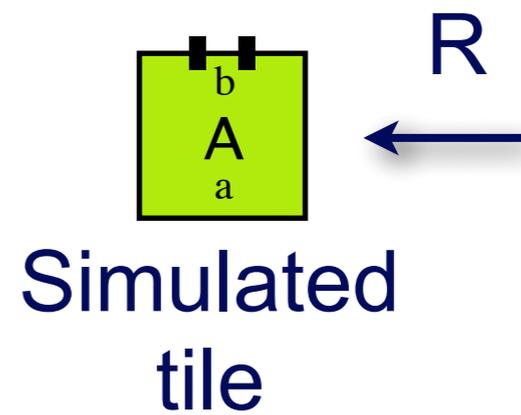
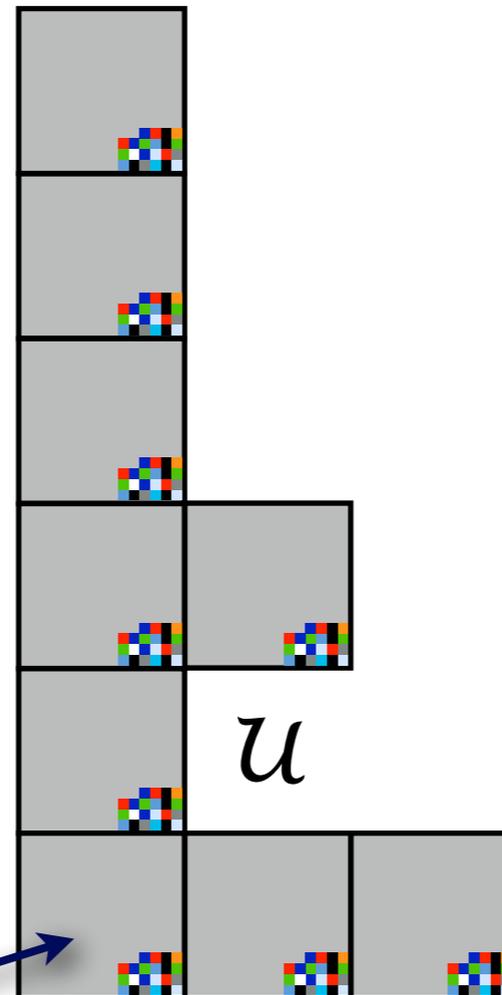
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# Simulation definition

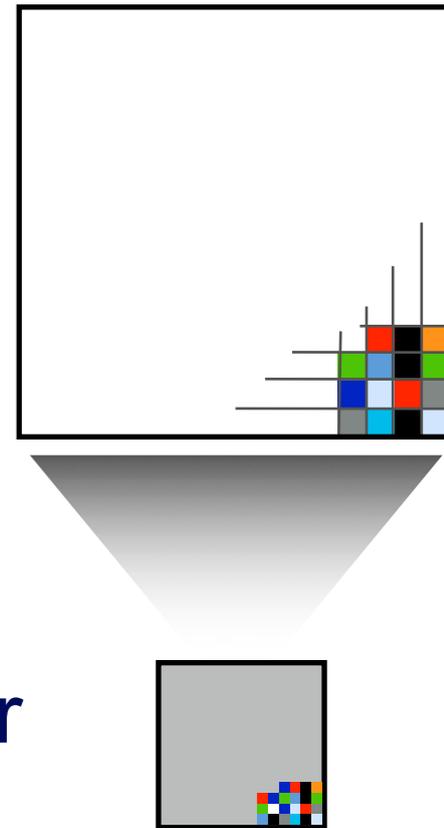
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



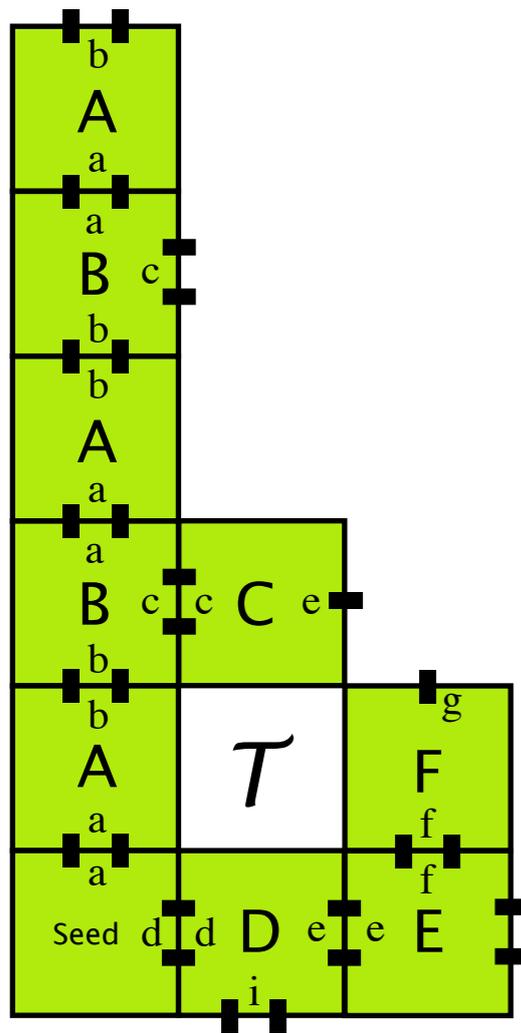
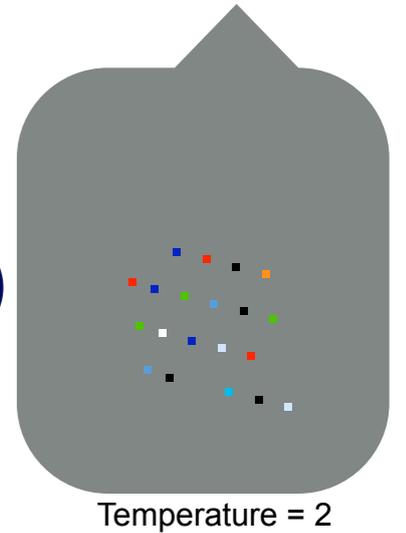
Simulator  
supertile



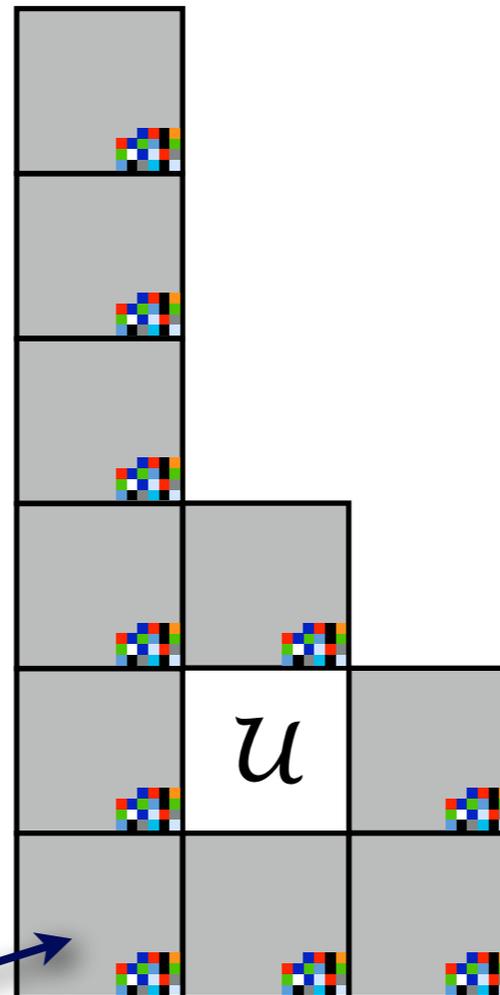
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# Simulation definition

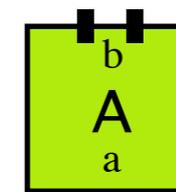
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



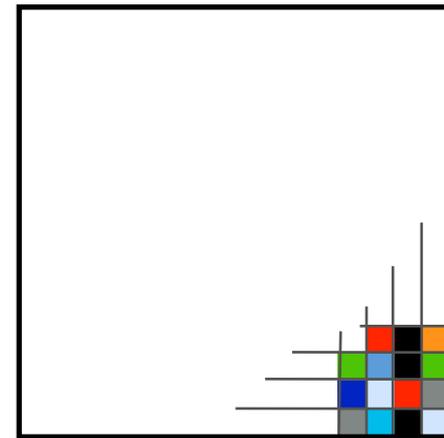
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



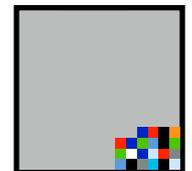
Simulated  
tile



R ←

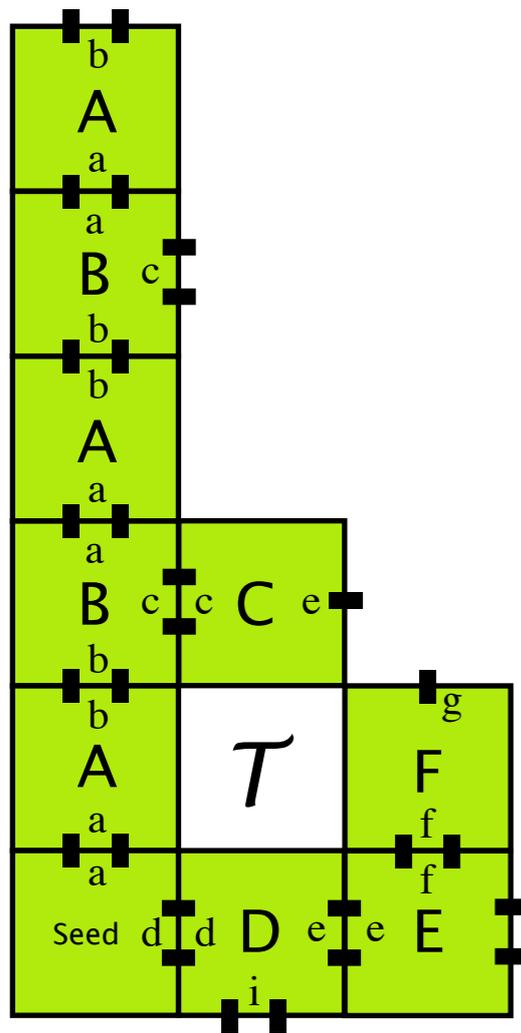


Simulator  
supertile

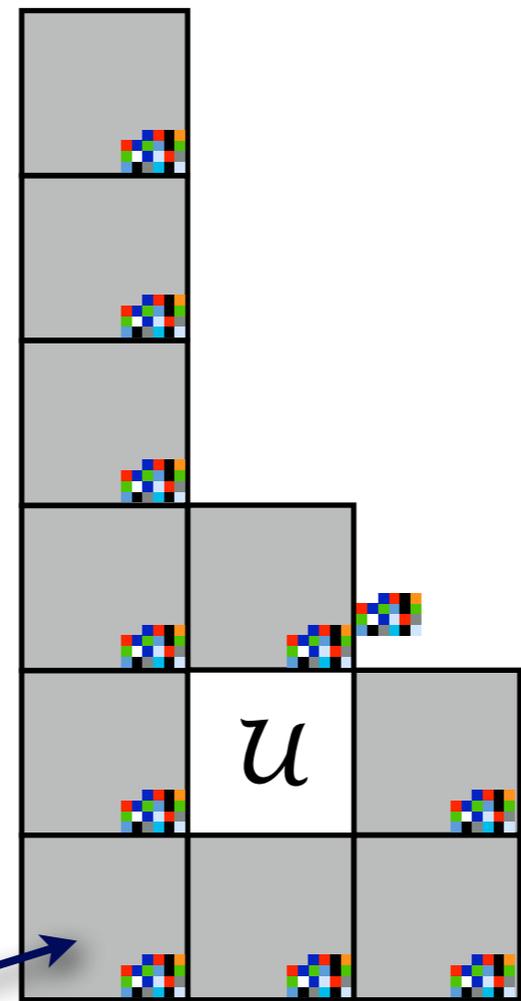


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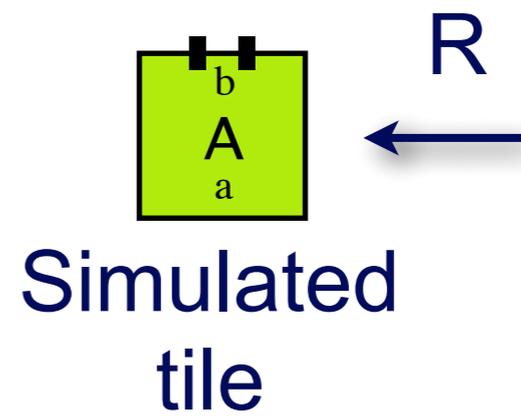
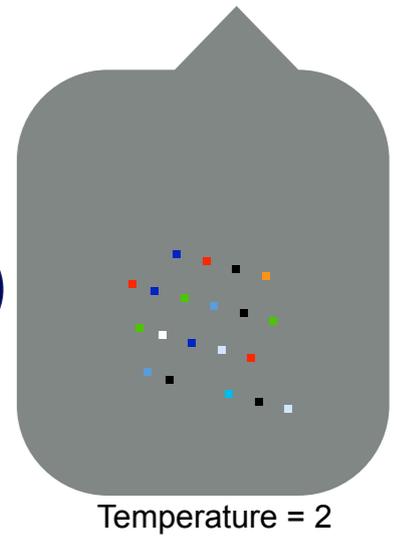
# Simulation definition



Preassembled seed structure (encodes simulated TAS)

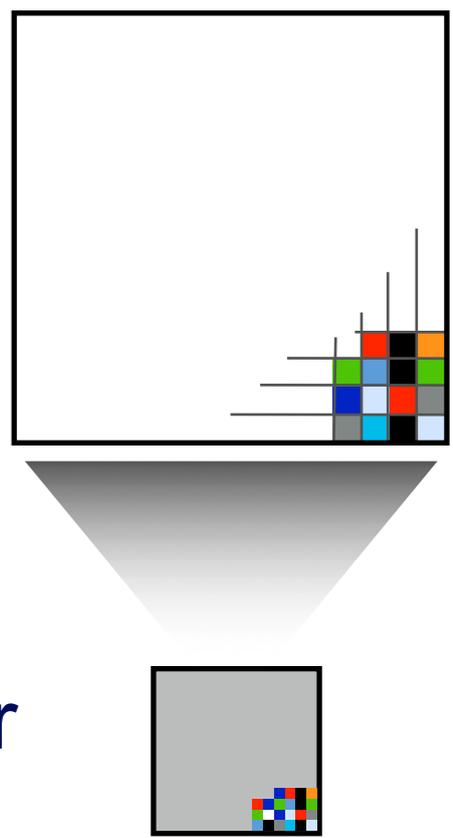


Universal (simulator) tile set



Simulated tile

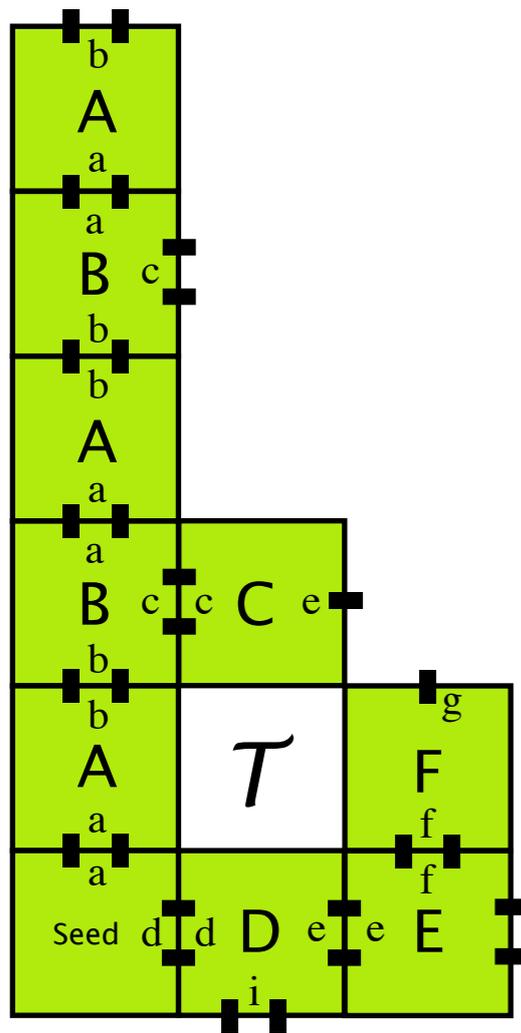
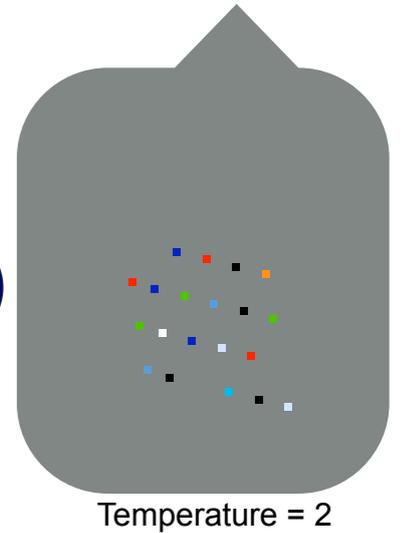
Simulator supertile



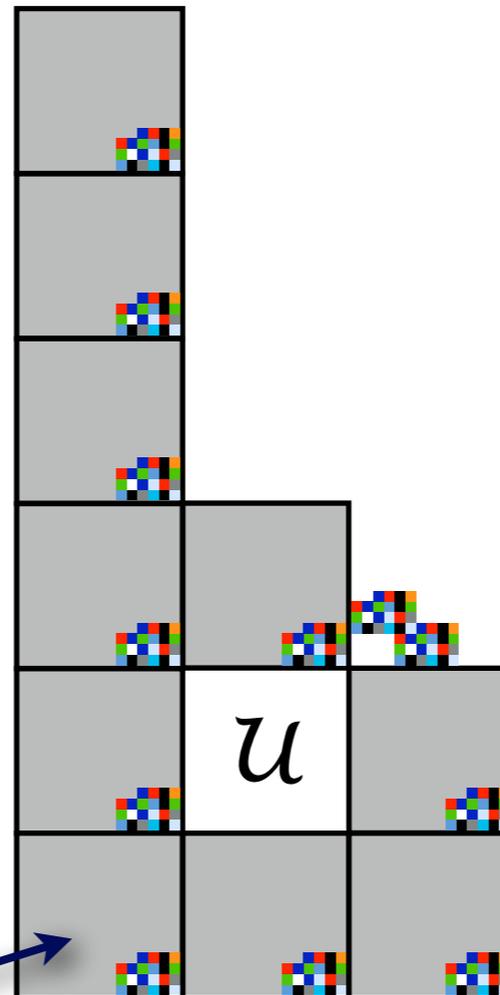
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# Simulation definition

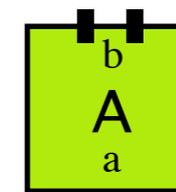
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



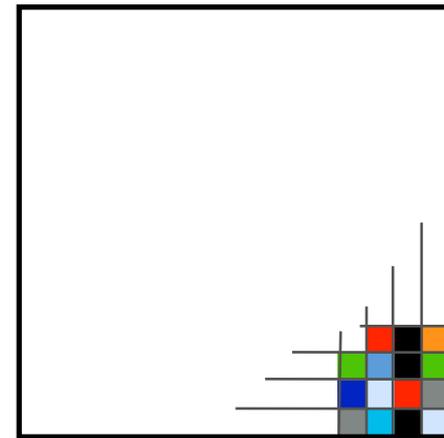
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



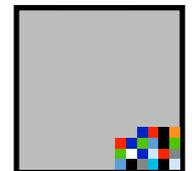
Simulated  
tile



R ←



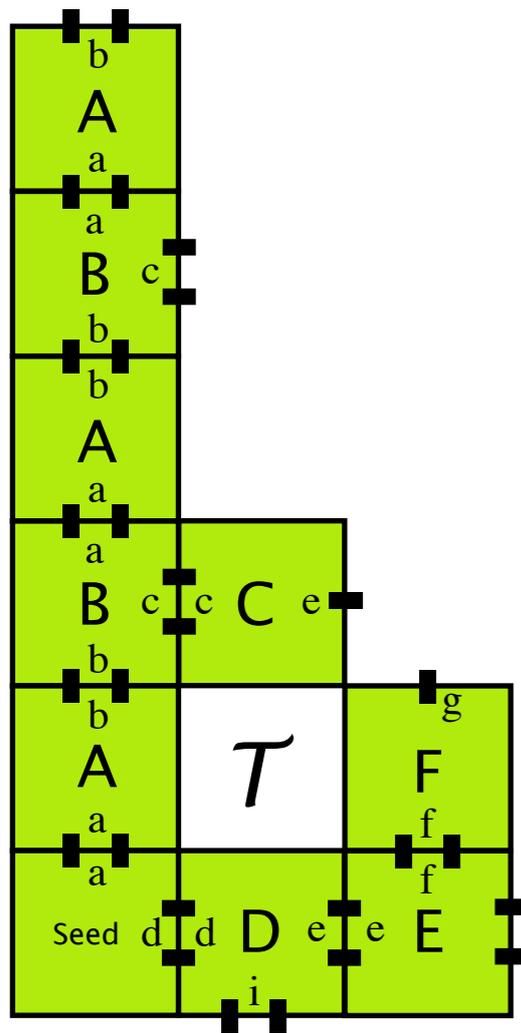
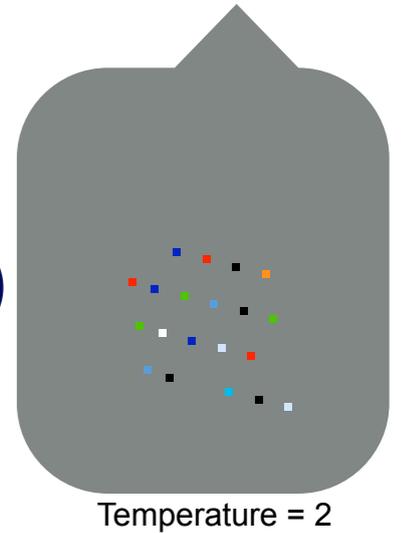
Simulator  
supertile



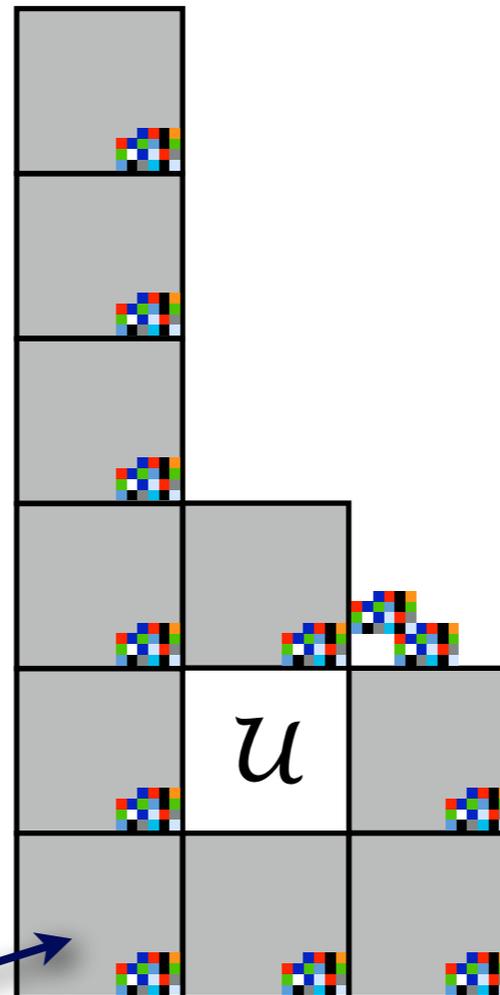
- Green tiles are simulated by supertiles
- For each assembly sequence in the simulated tile system, there is an assembly sequence in the simulator, and vice-versa

# Simulation definition

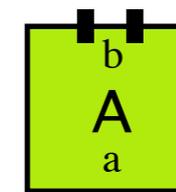
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



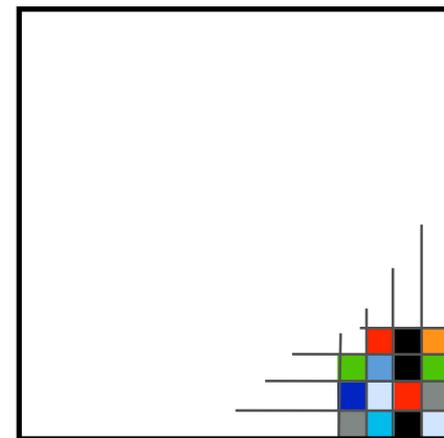
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



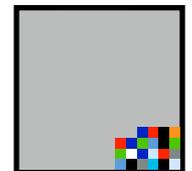
Simulated  
tile



R ←



Simulator  
supertile

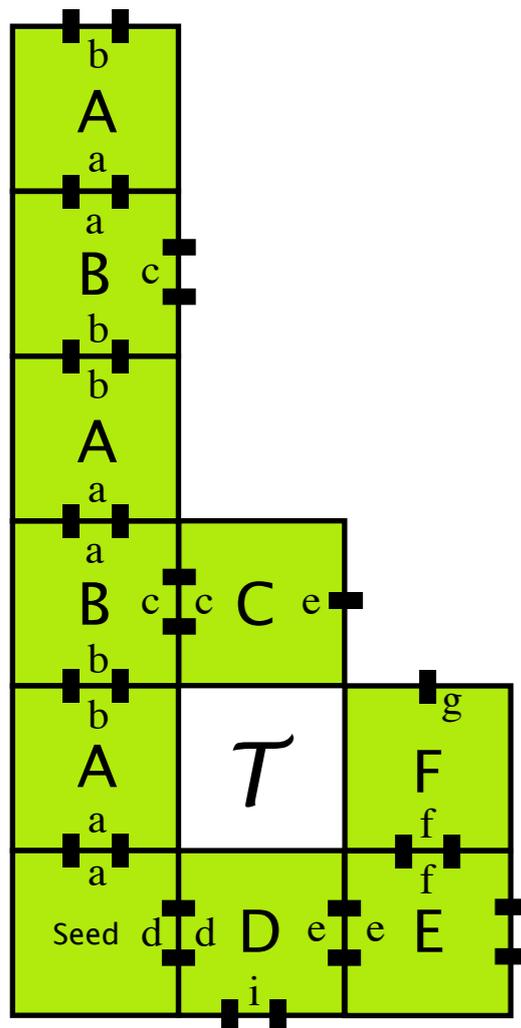
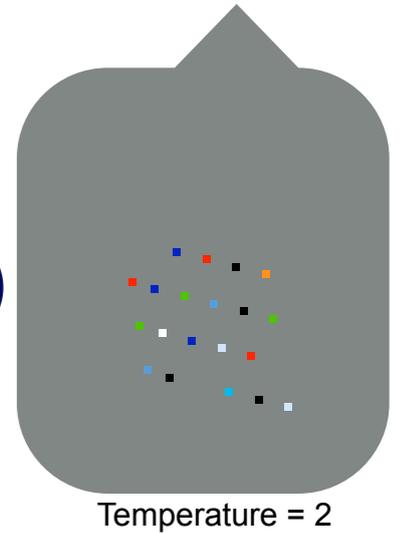


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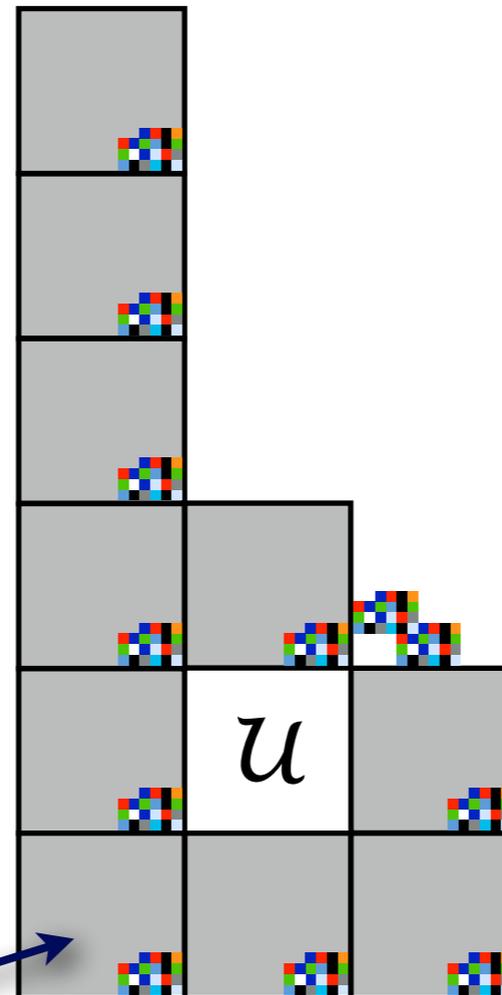
# Simulation definition

Ignoring  $m \times m$  scaling, production & dynamics are equivalent in the simulated system and simulator

Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



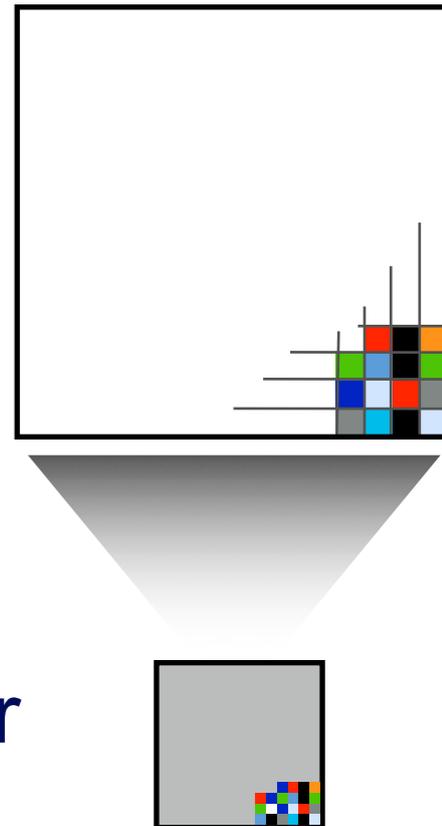
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



Simulated  
tile



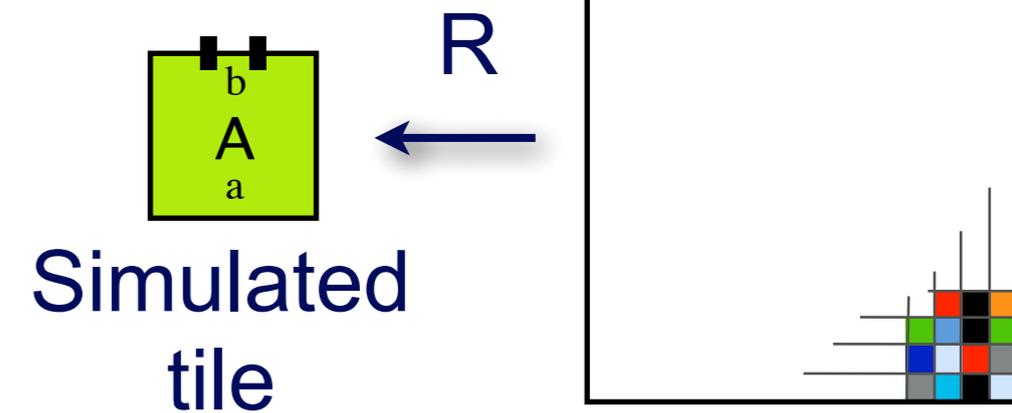
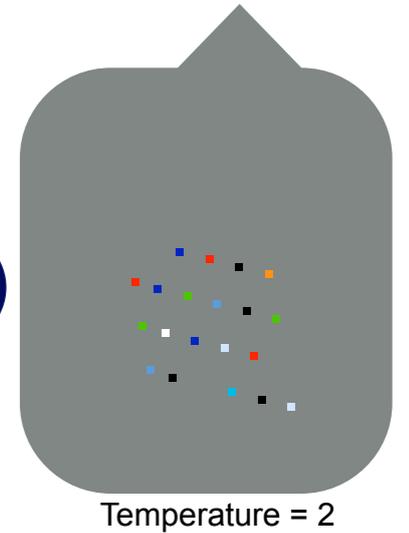
Simulator  
supertile



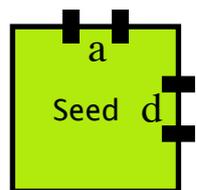
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# Simulation definition

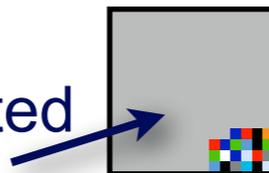
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



$T$



Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

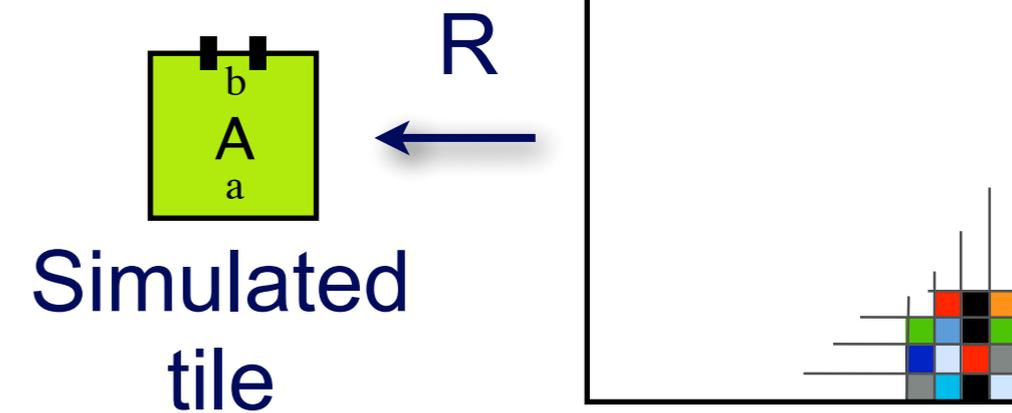
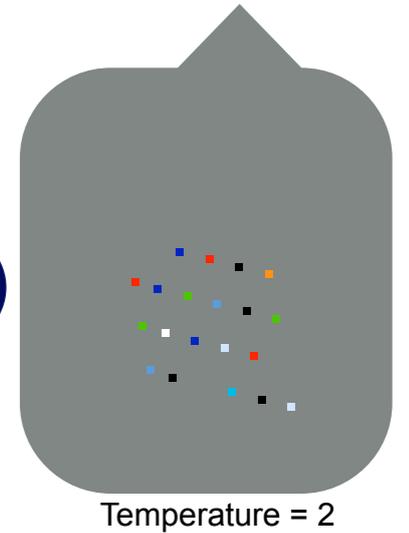


$U$

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# Simulation definition

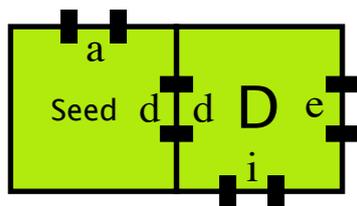
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



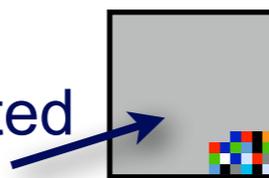
Simulator  
supertile

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$T$



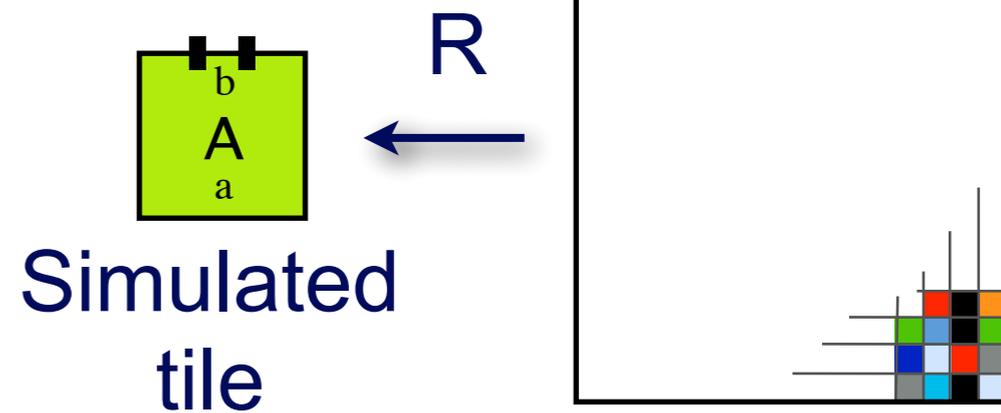
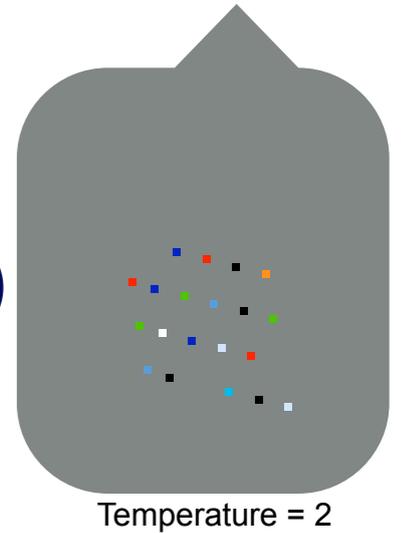
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



$u$

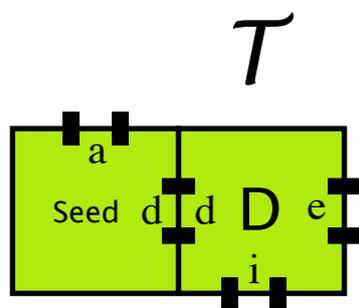
# Simulation definition

Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set

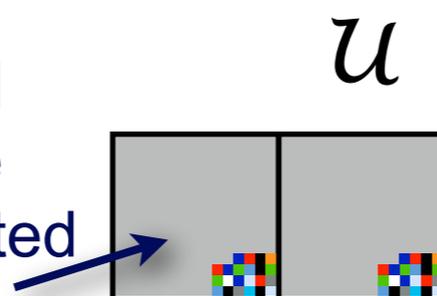


Simulator  
supertile

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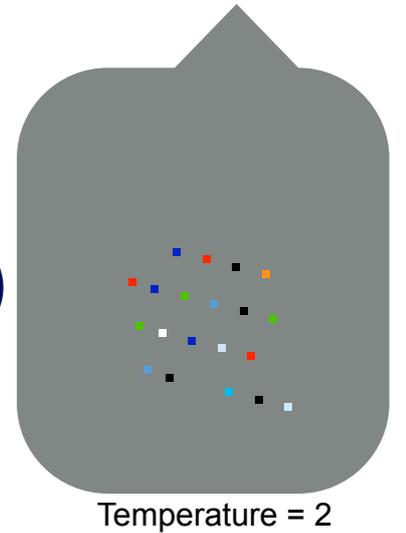


Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)

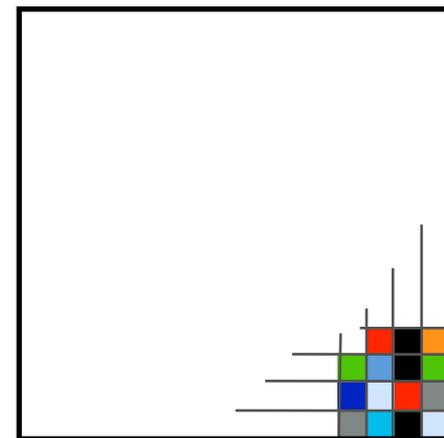
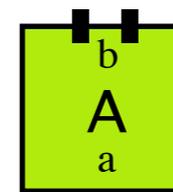


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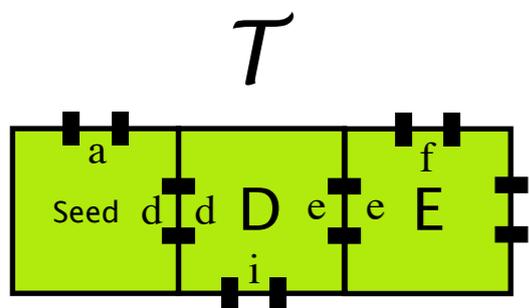
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



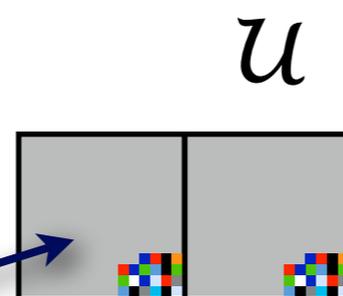
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



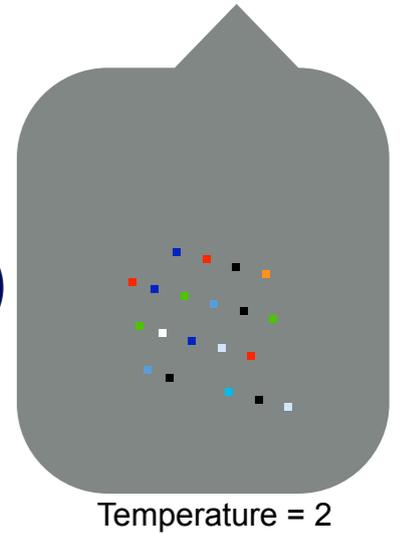
Preassembled  
seed structure  
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TAS)



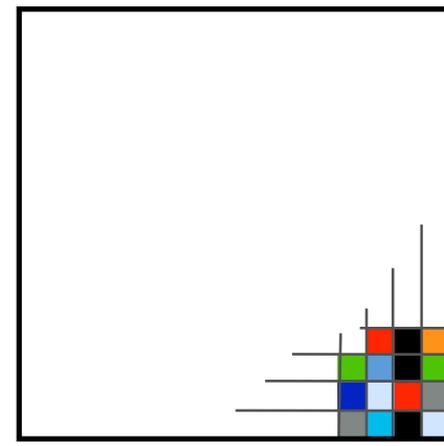
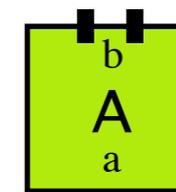
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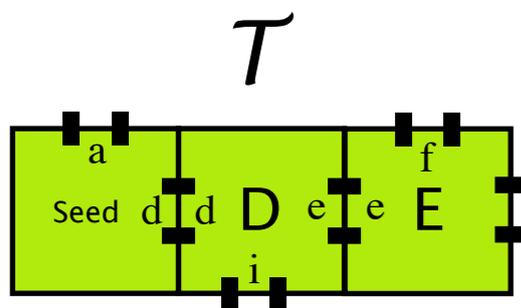
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



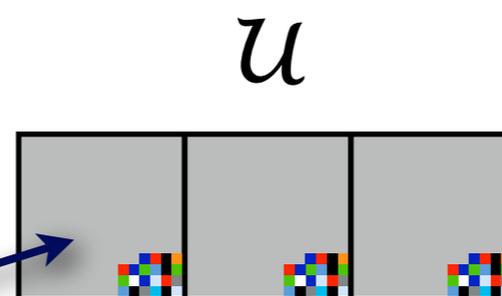
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



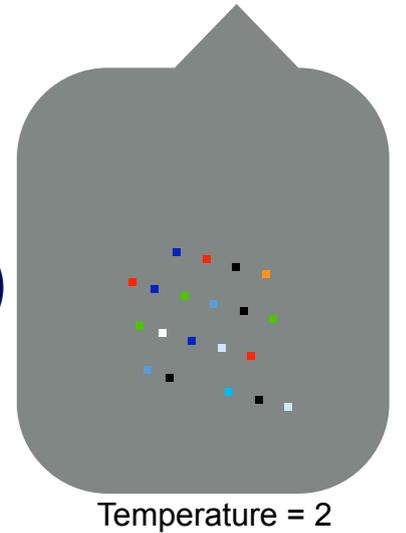
Preassembled  
seed structure  
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TAS)



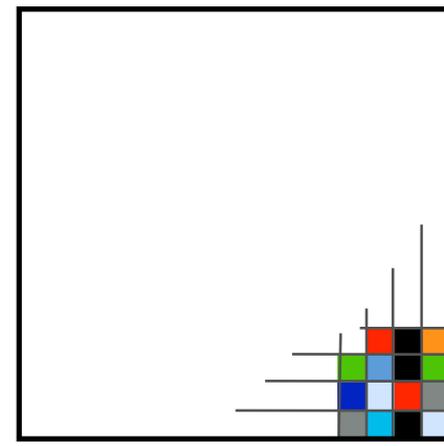
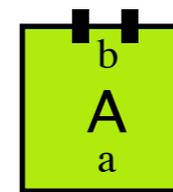
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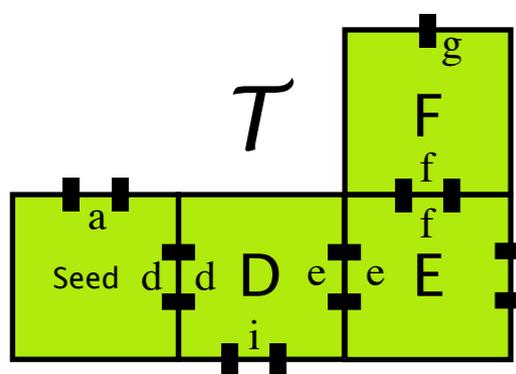
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



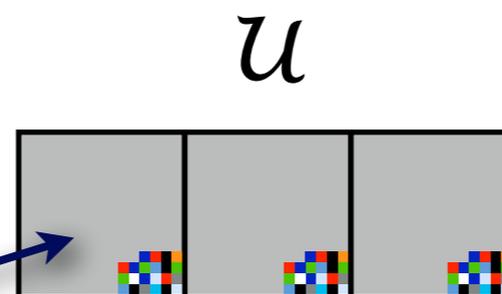
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



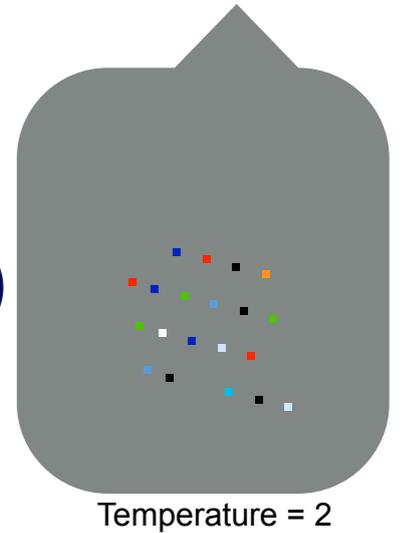
Preassembled  
seed structure  
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TAS)



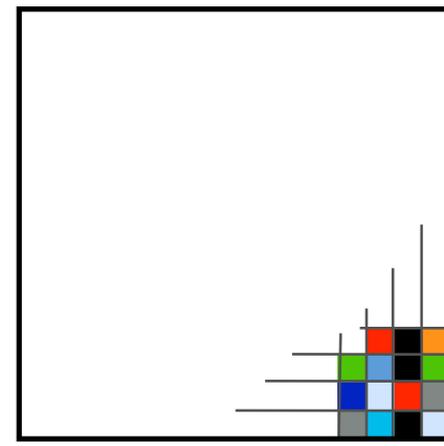
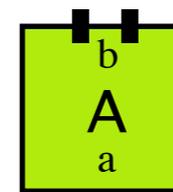
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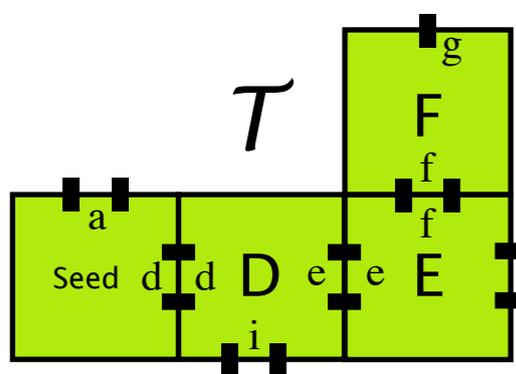
Universal  
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tile set



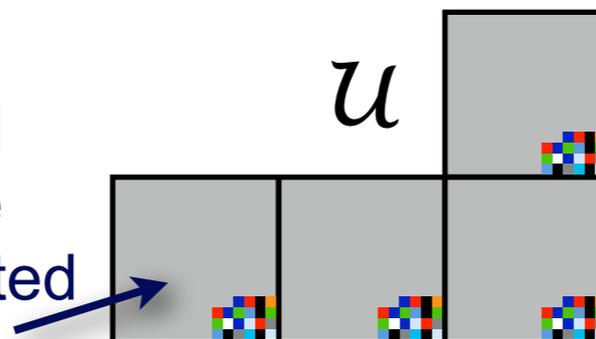
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



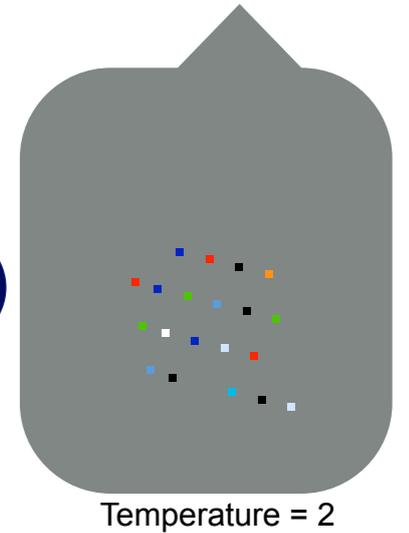
Preassembled  
seed structure  
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TAS)



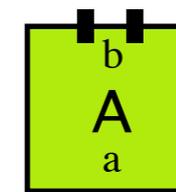
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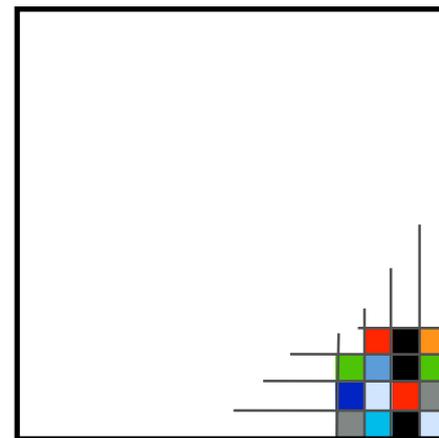
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



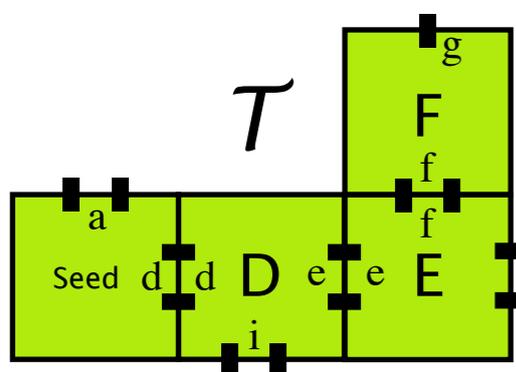
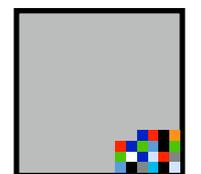
Simulated  
tile



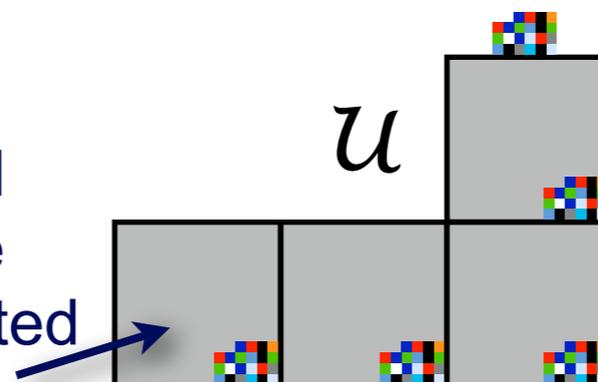
R



Simulator  
supertile



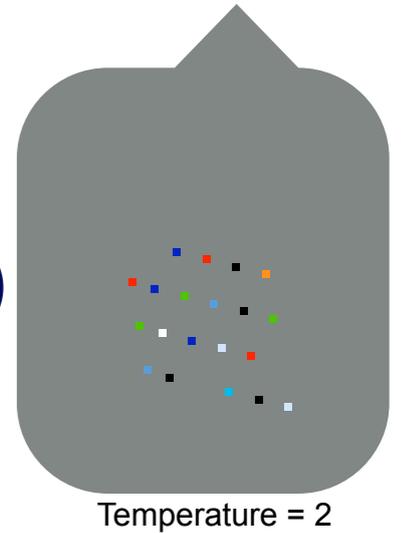
Preassembled  
seed structure  
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TAS)



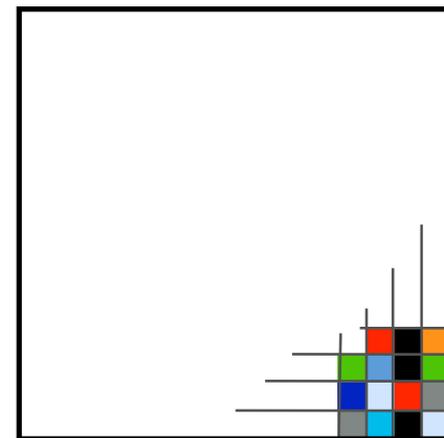
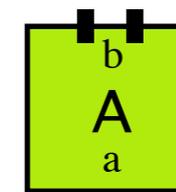
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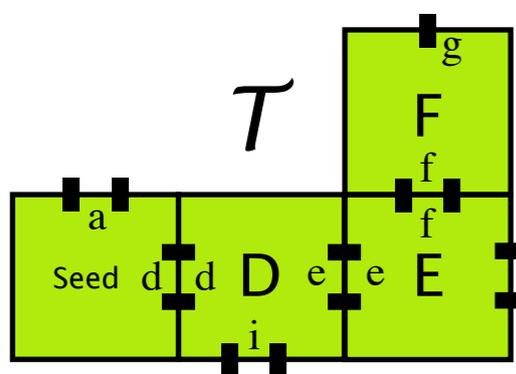
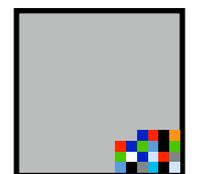
Universal  
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tile set



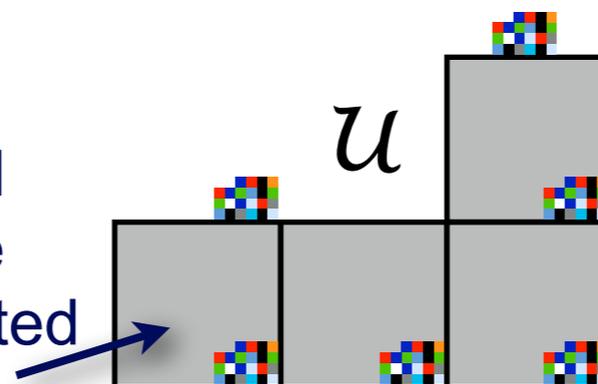
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



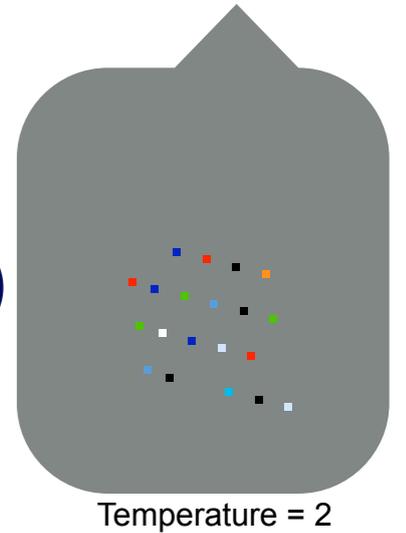
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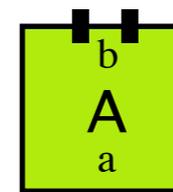
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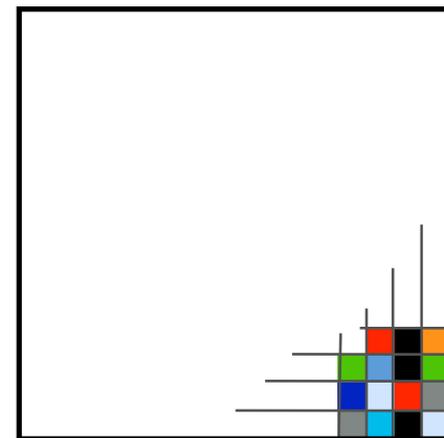
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



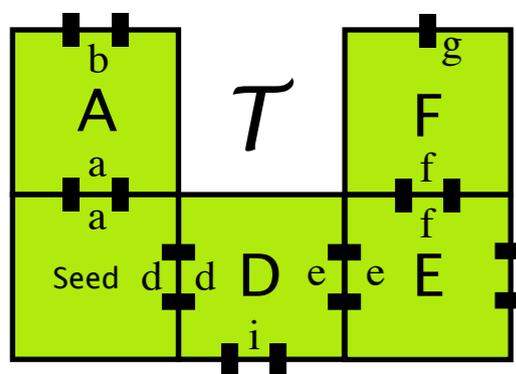
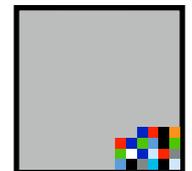
Simulated  
tile



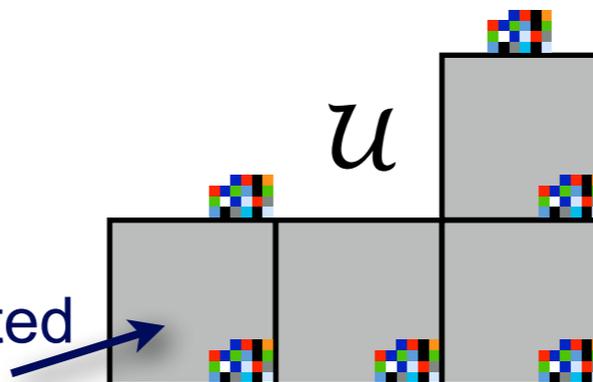
R



Simulator  
supertile



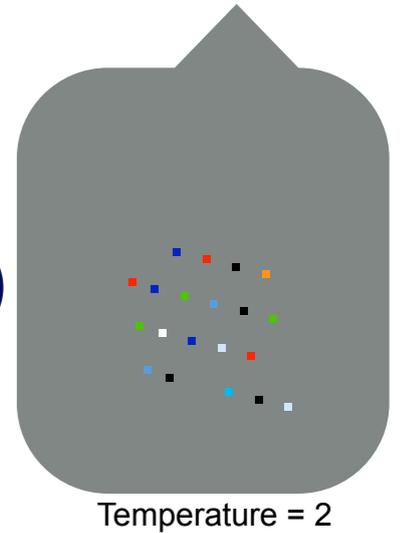
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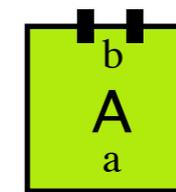
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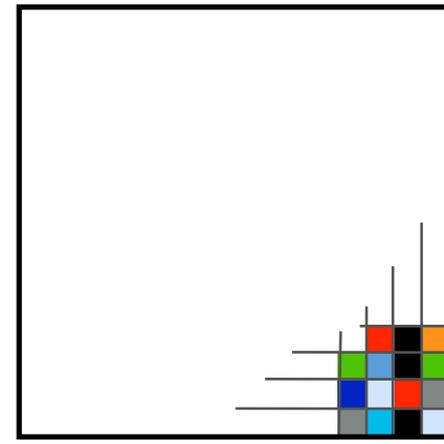
Universal  
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tile set



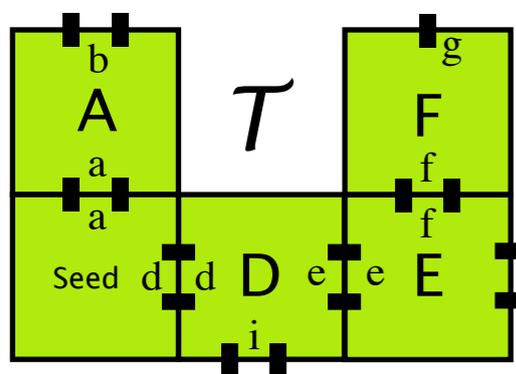
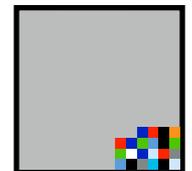
Simulated  
tile



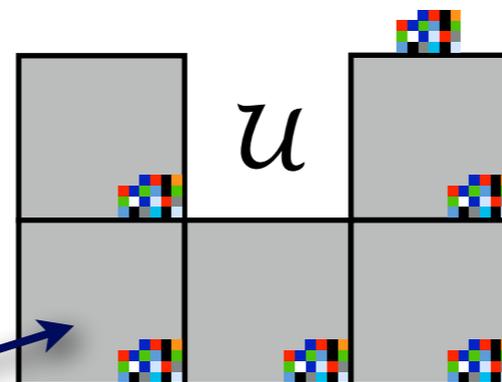
R



Simulator  
supertile



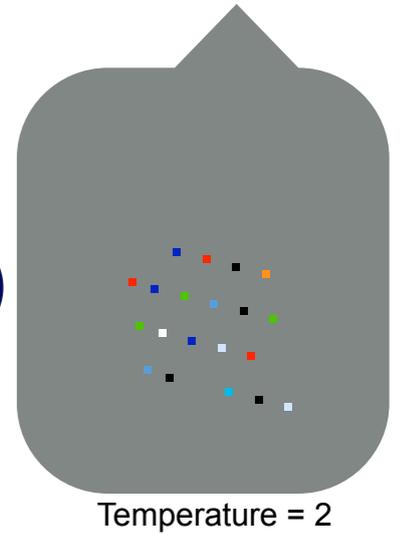
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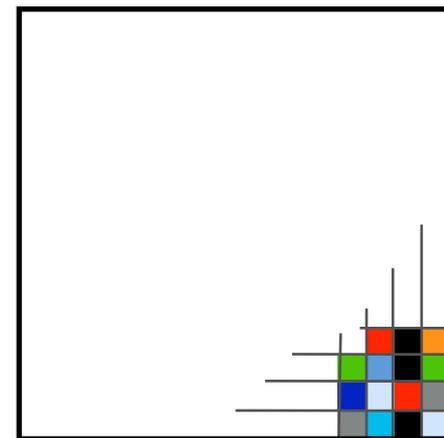
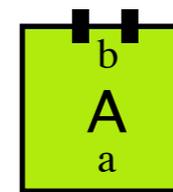
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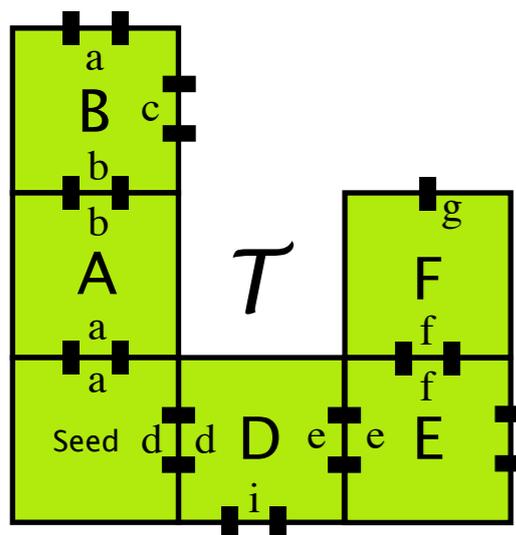
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tile set



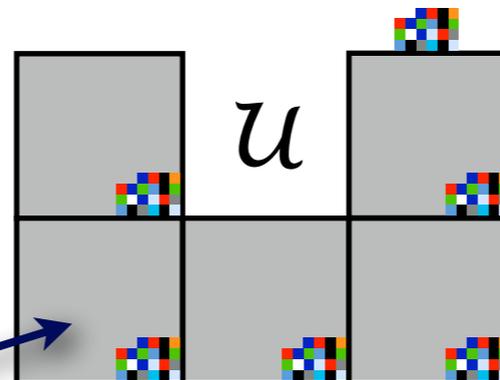
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



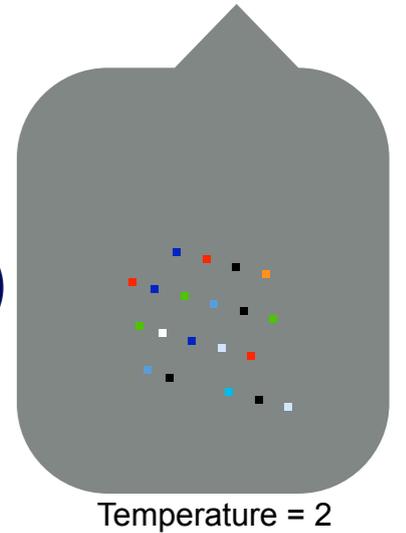
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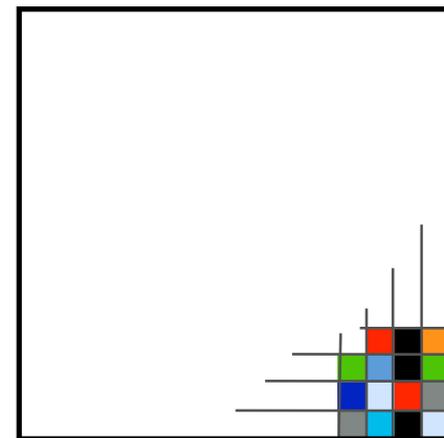
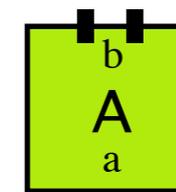
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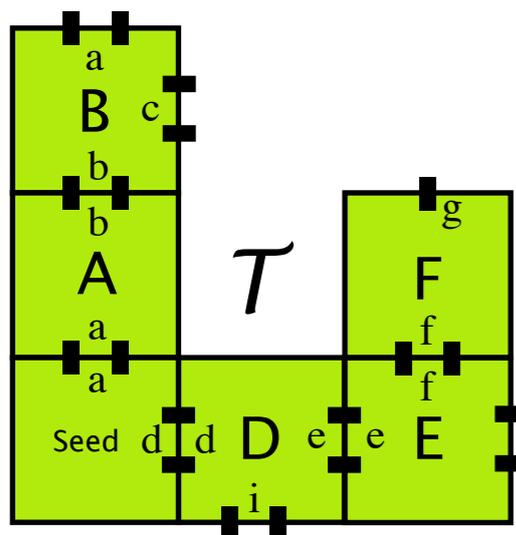
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(simulator)  
tile set



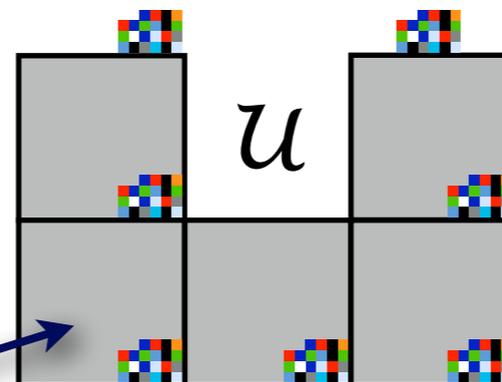
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



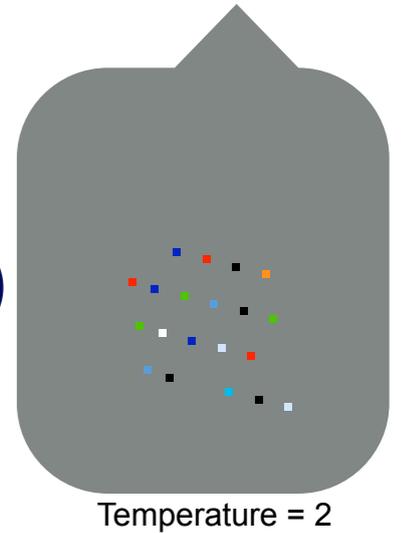
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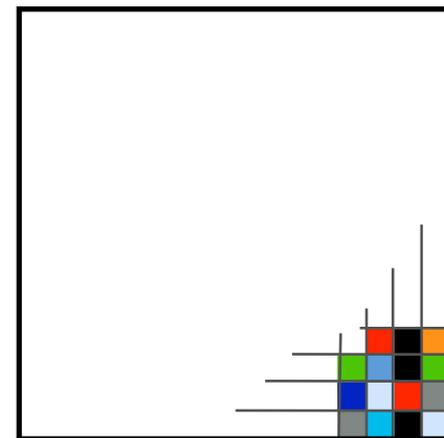
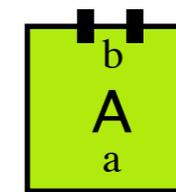
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# Simulation definition

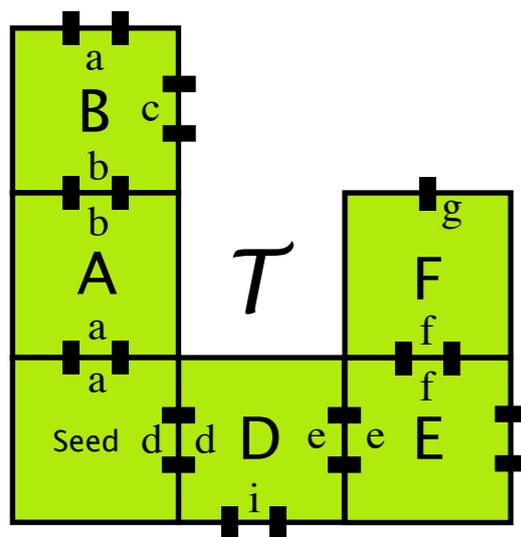
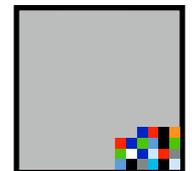
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



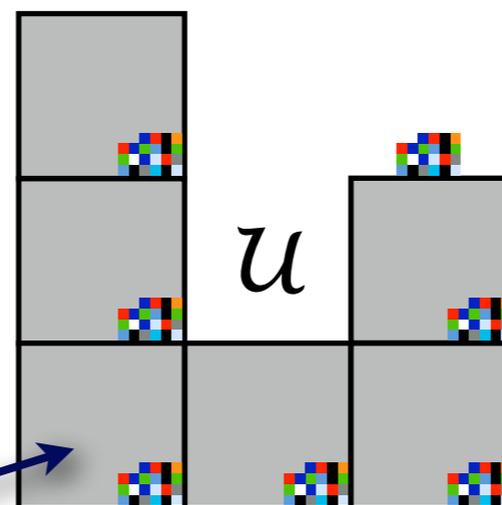
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



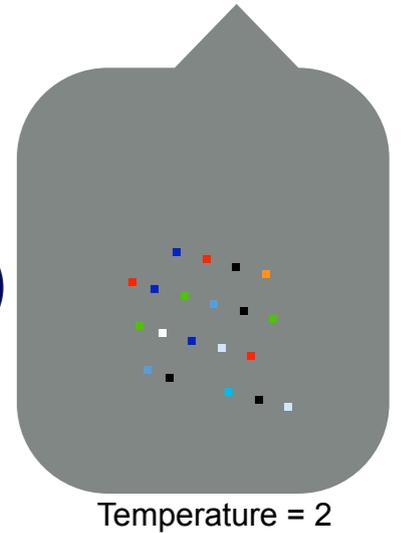
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



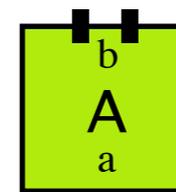
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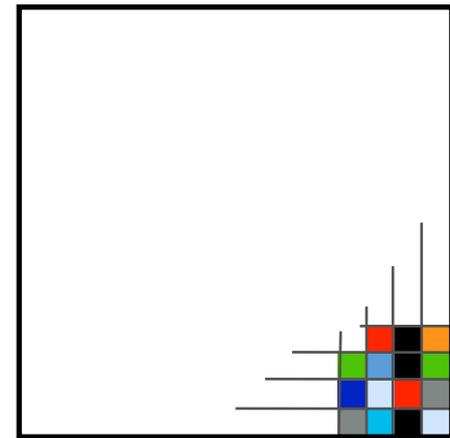
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



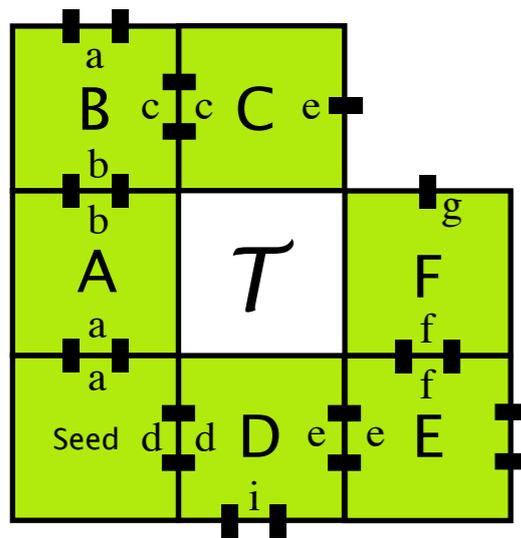
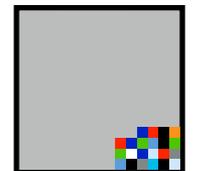
Simulated  
tile



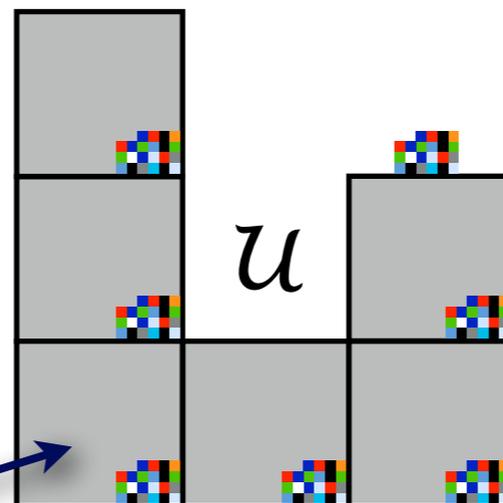
R



Simulator  
supertile



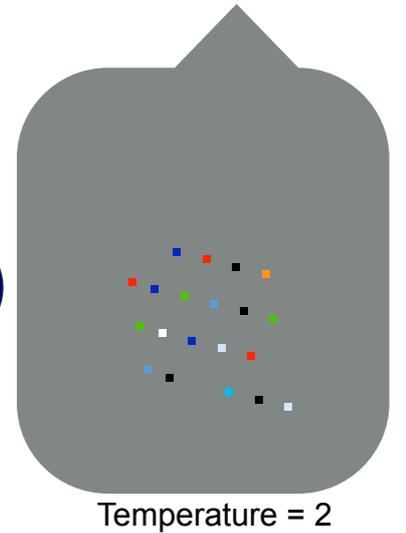
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



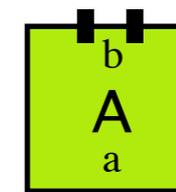
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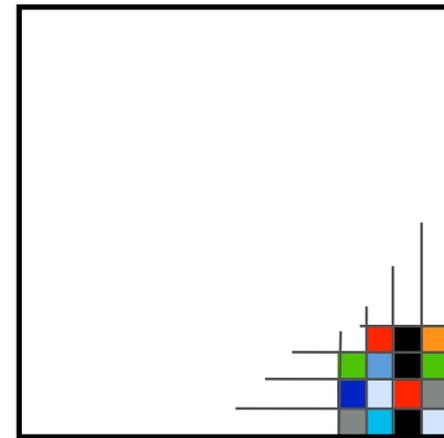
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



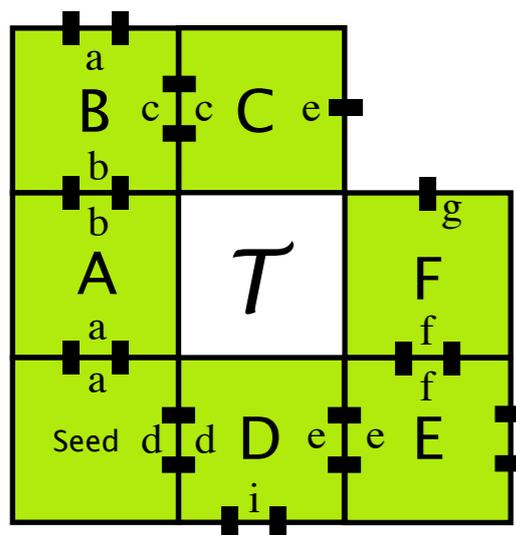
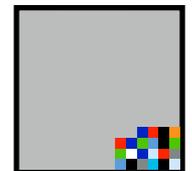
Simulated  
tile



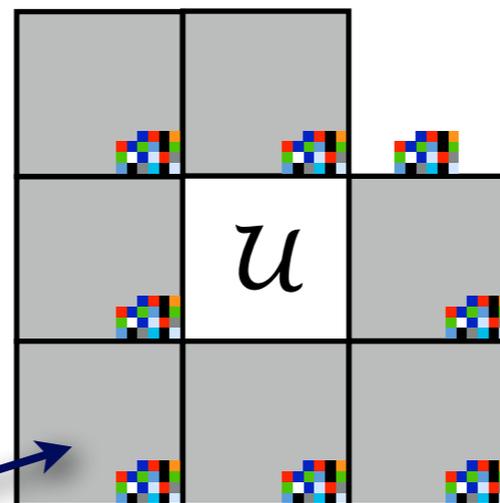
R



Simulator  
supertile



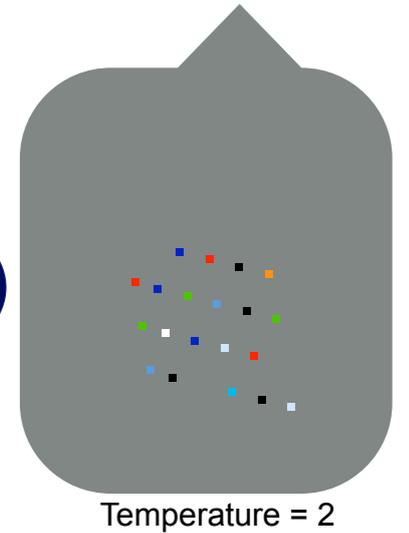
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



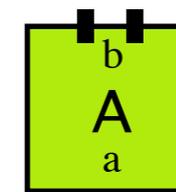
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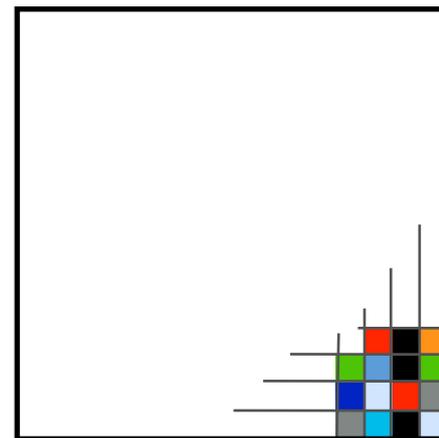
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



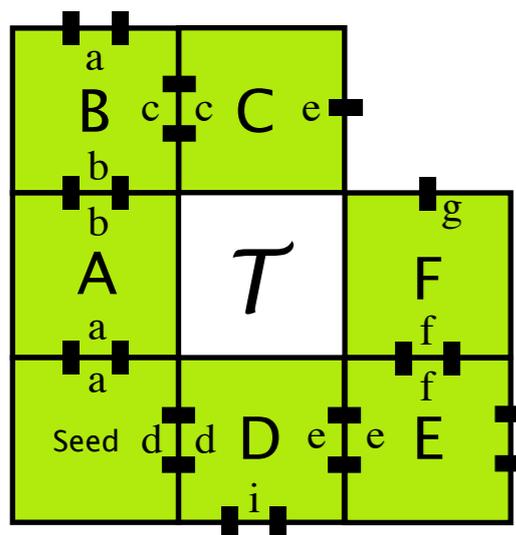
Simulated  
tile



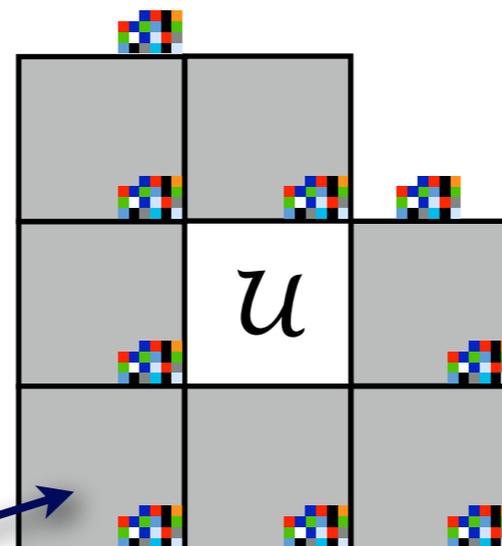
R



Simulator  
supertile



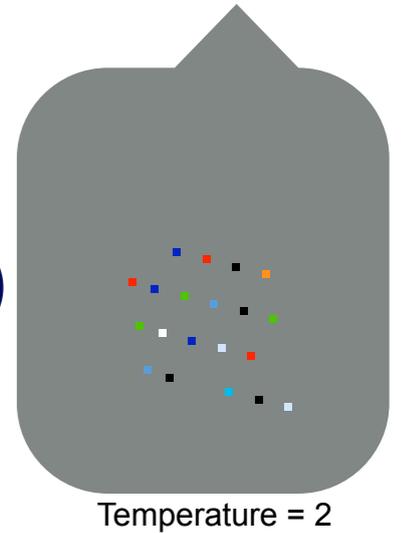
Preassembled  
seed structure  
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TAS)



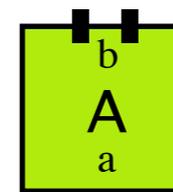
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# Simulation definition

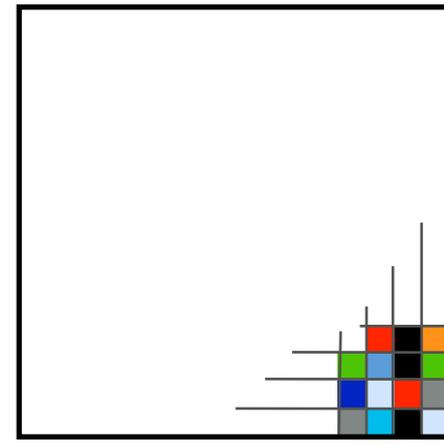
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



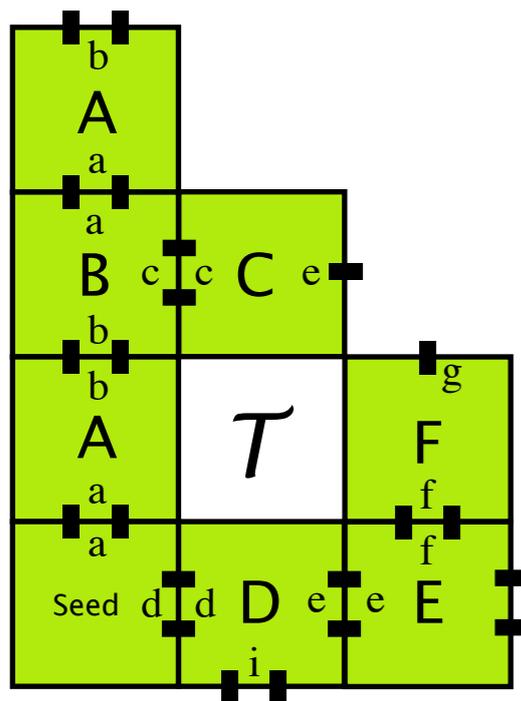
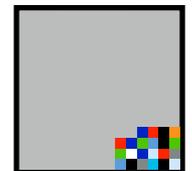
Simulated  
tile



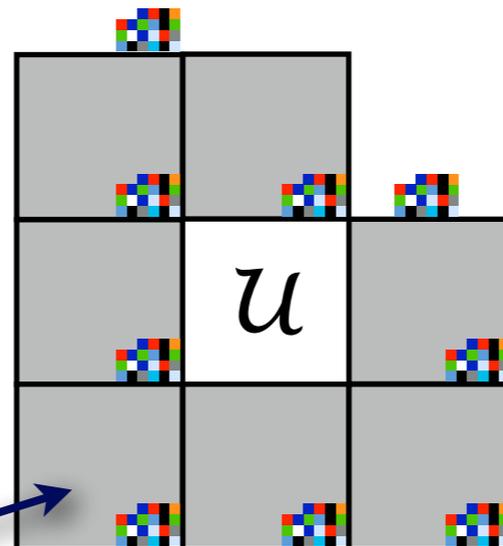
R



Simulator  
supertile



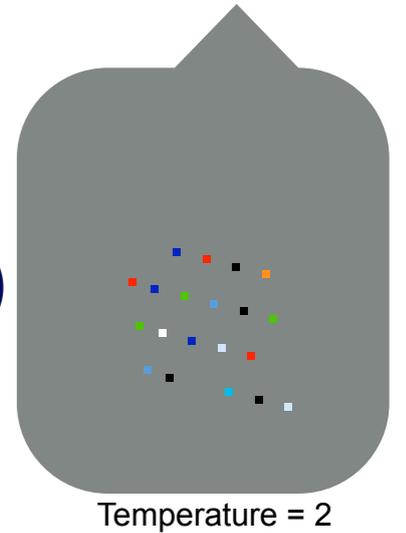
Preassembled  
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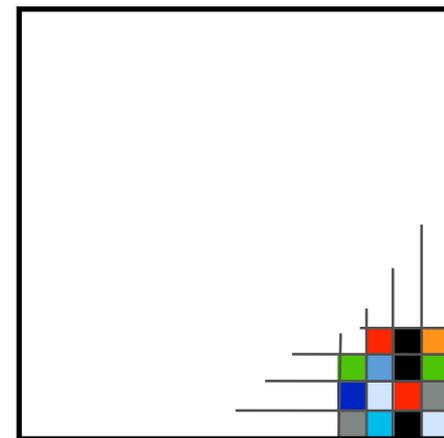
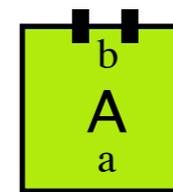
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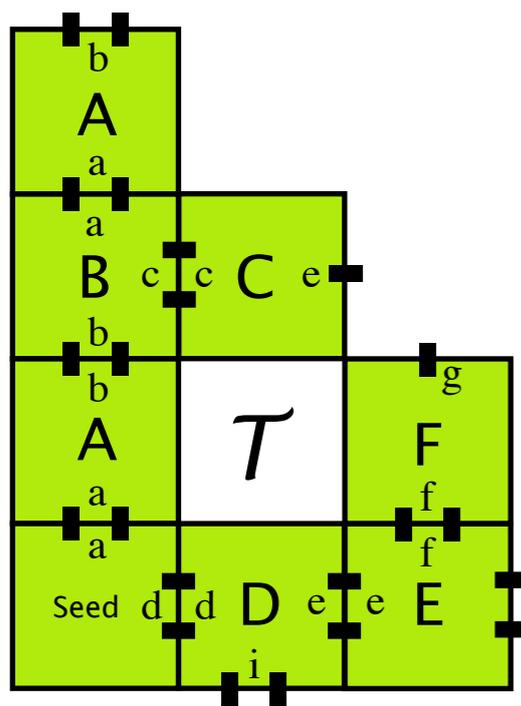
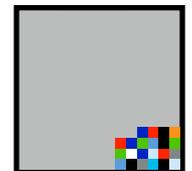
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



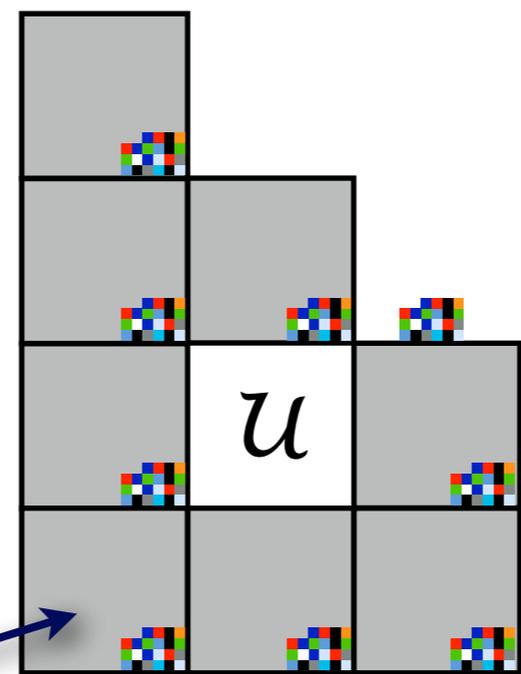
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



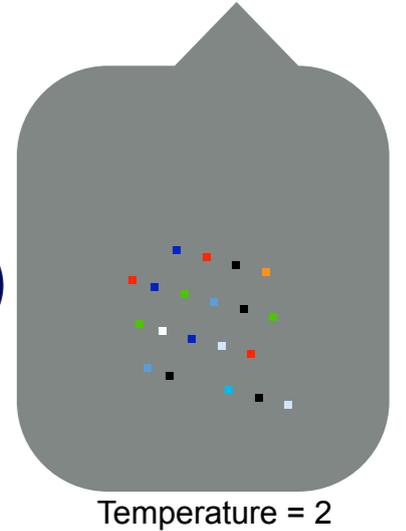
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



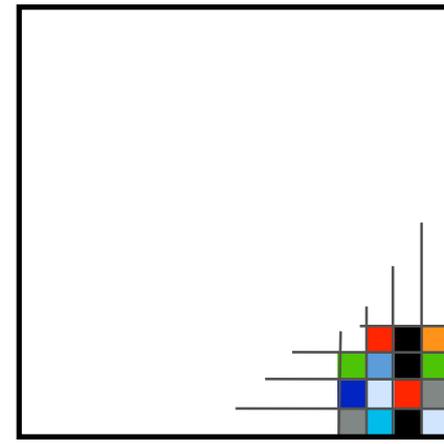
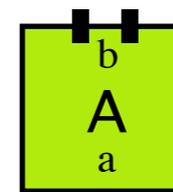
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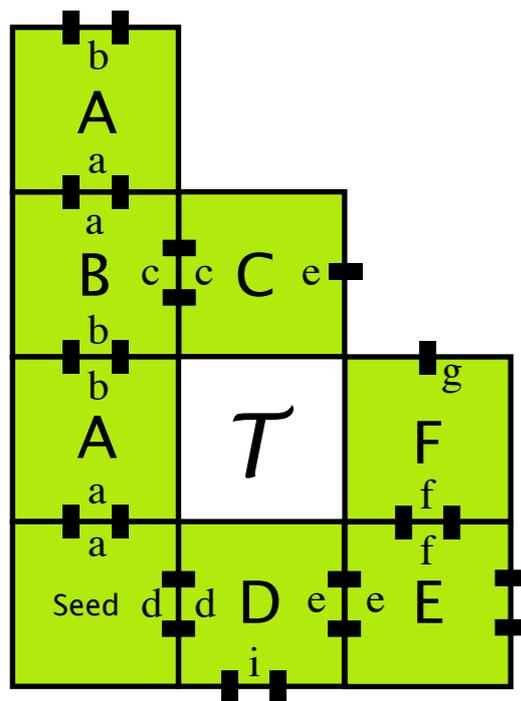
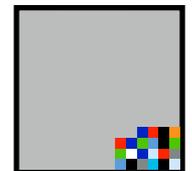
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



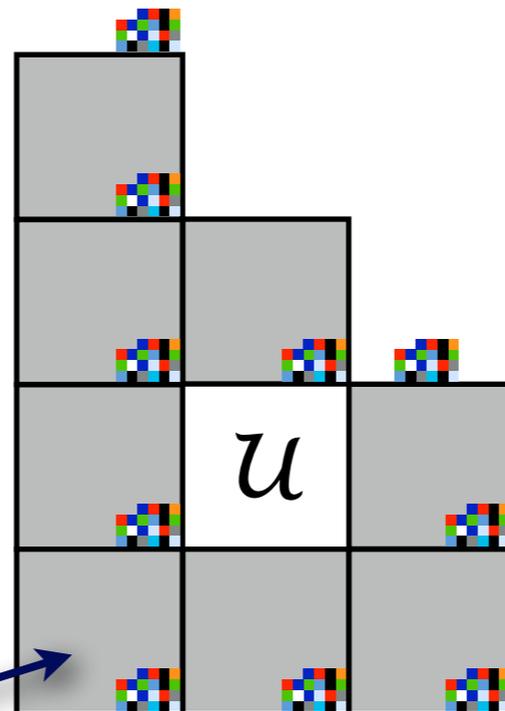
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



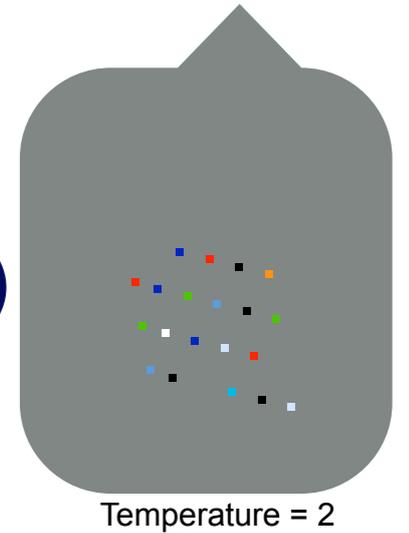
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



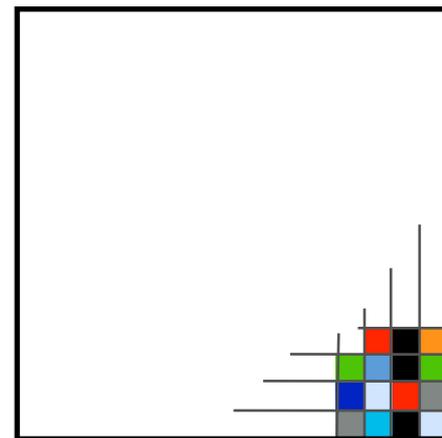
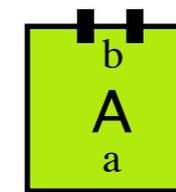
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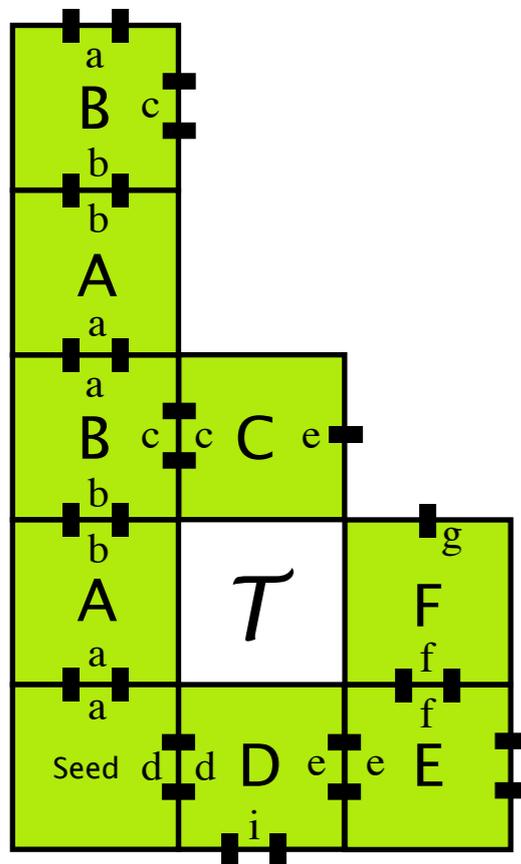
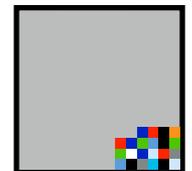
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



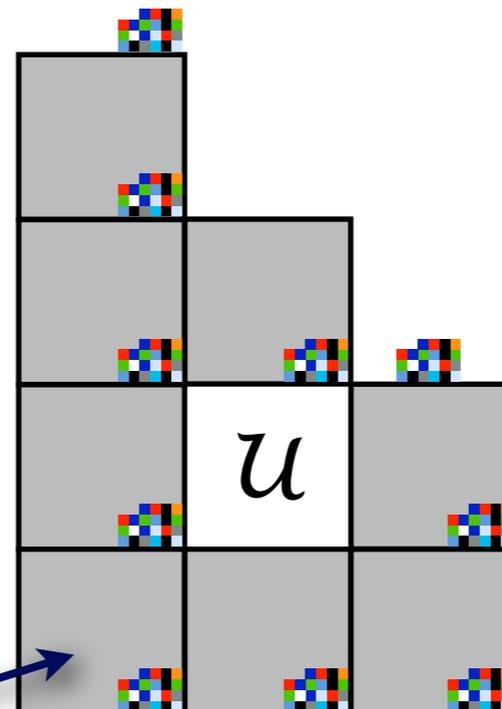
Simulated  
tile



Simulator  
supertile



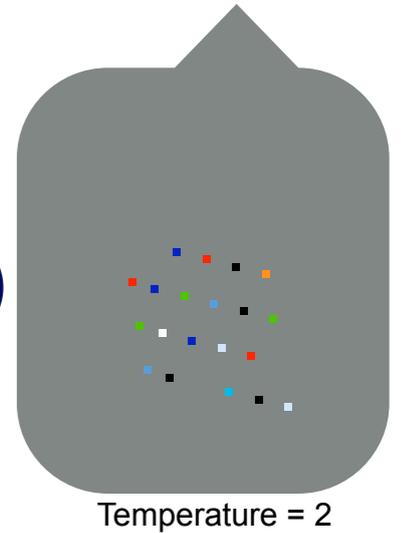
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



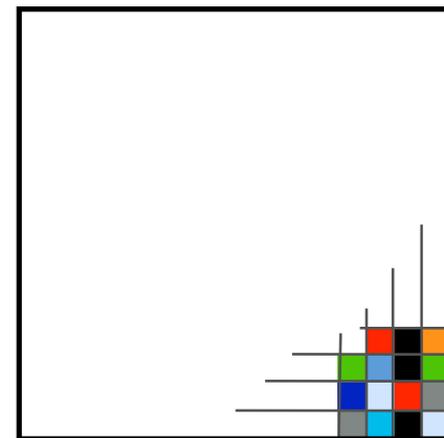
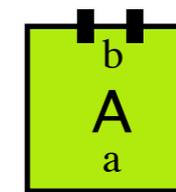
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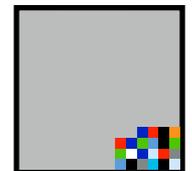
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



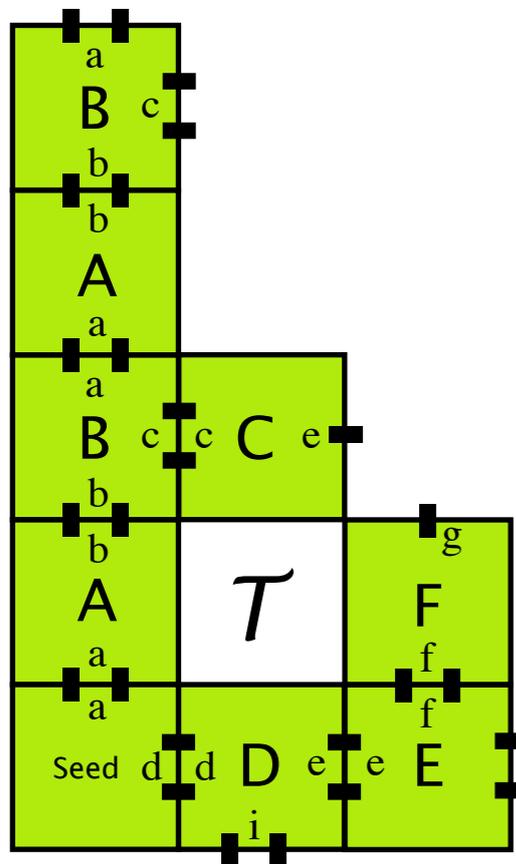
Simulated  
tile



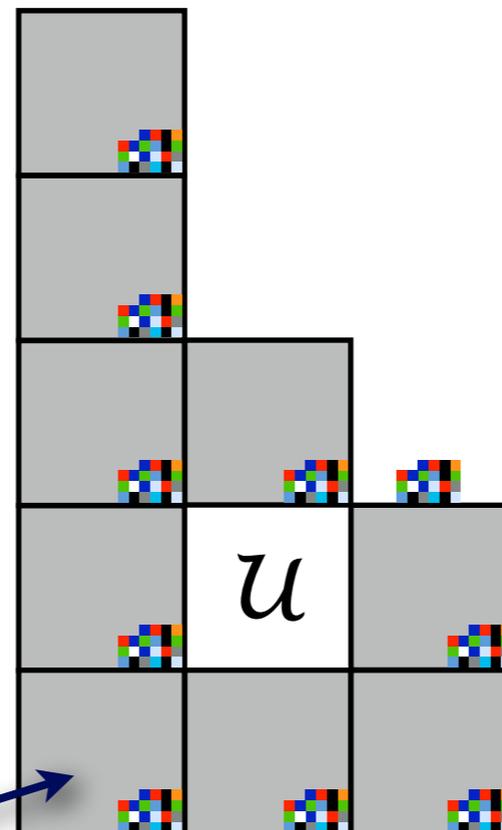
Simulator  
supertile



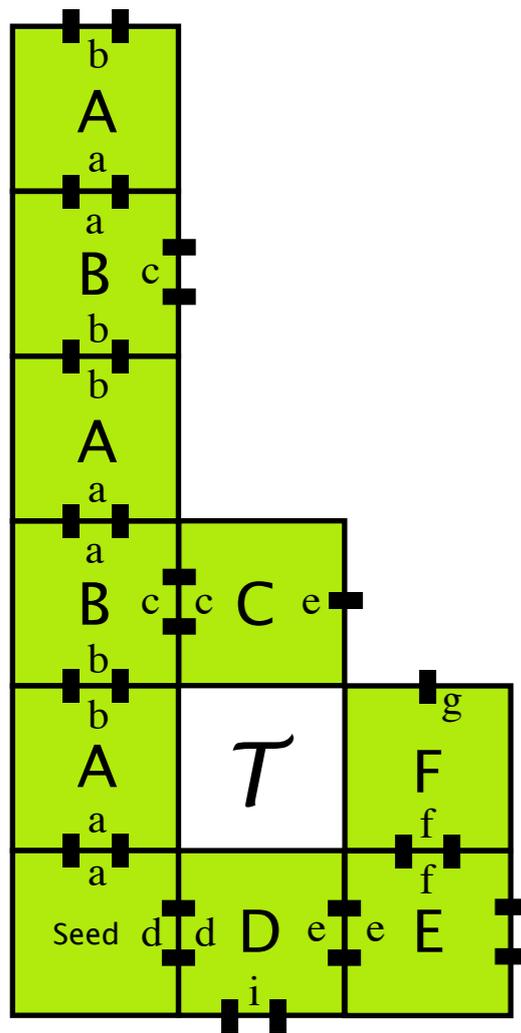
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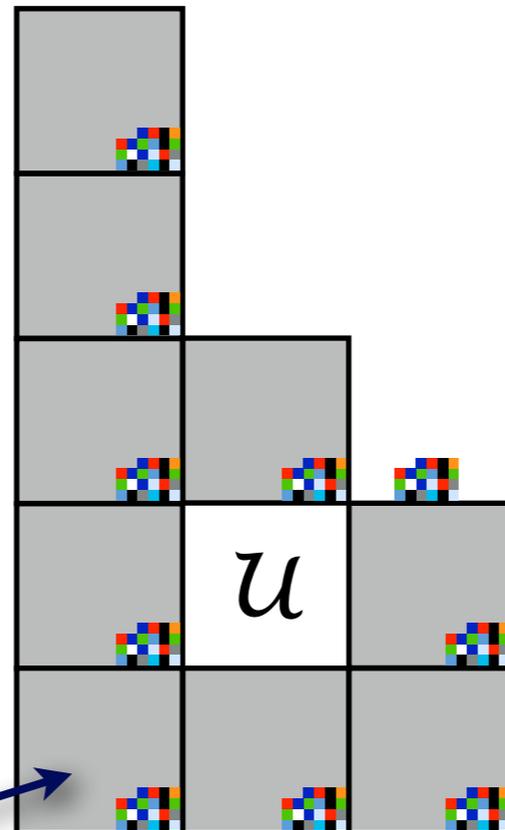
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



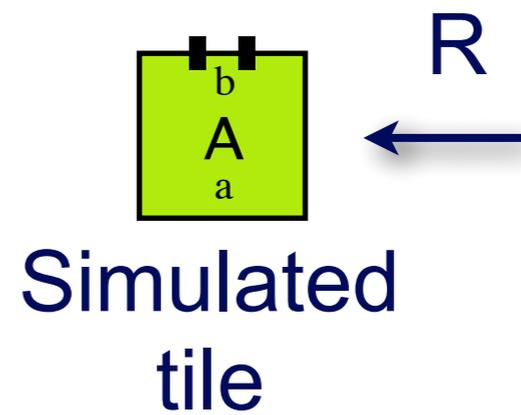
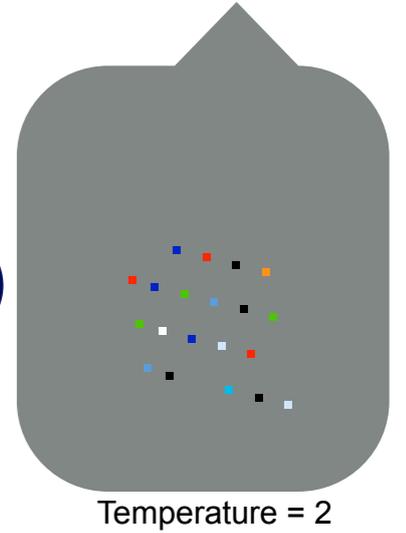
# Simulation definition



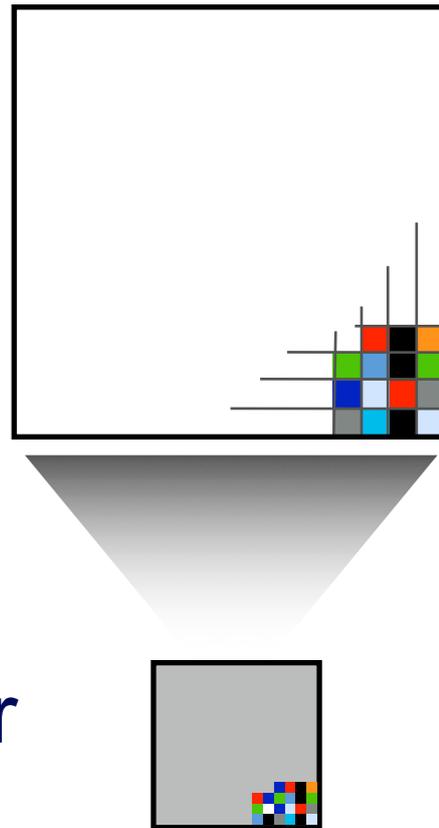
Preassembled seed structure (encodes simulated TAS)



Universal (simulator) tile set

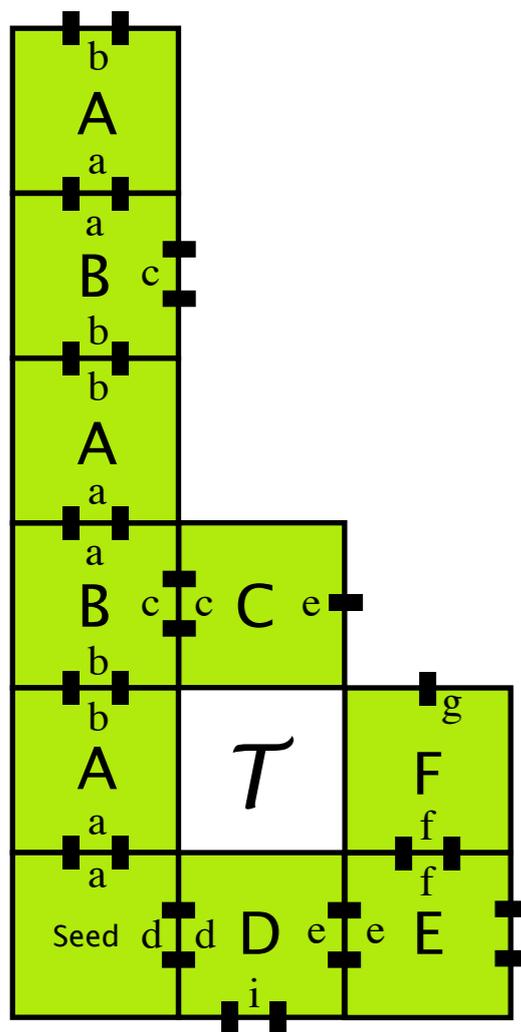


Simulator supertile

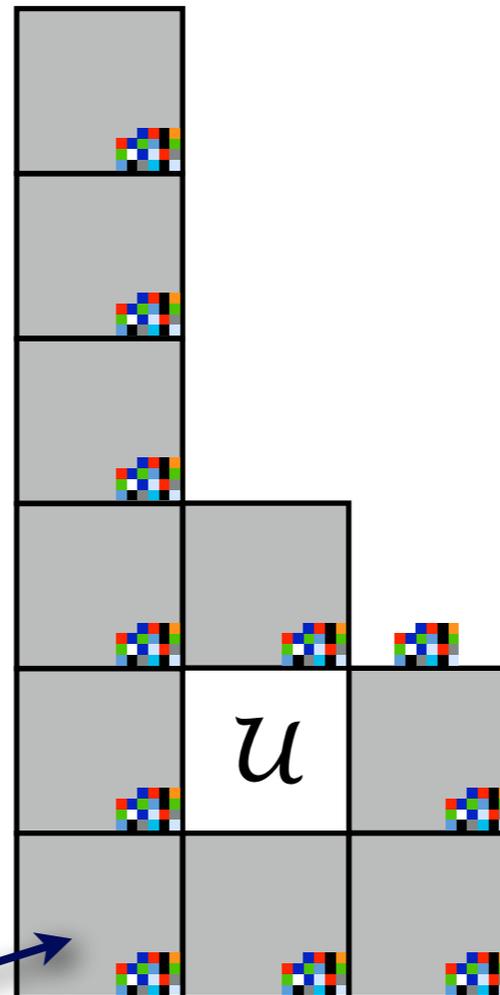


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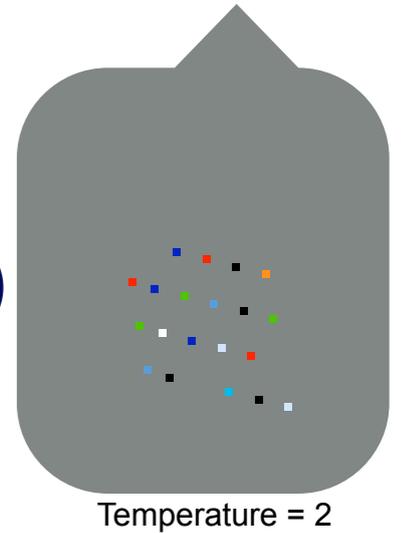
# Simulation definition



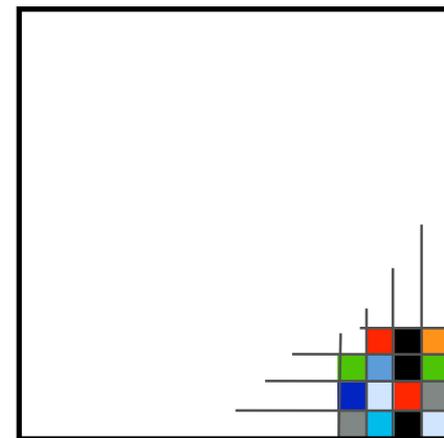
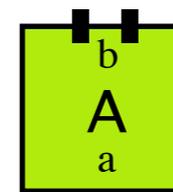
Preassembled seed structure (encodes simulated TAS)



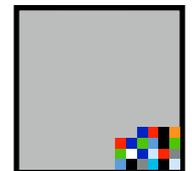
Universal (simulator) tile set



Simulated tile



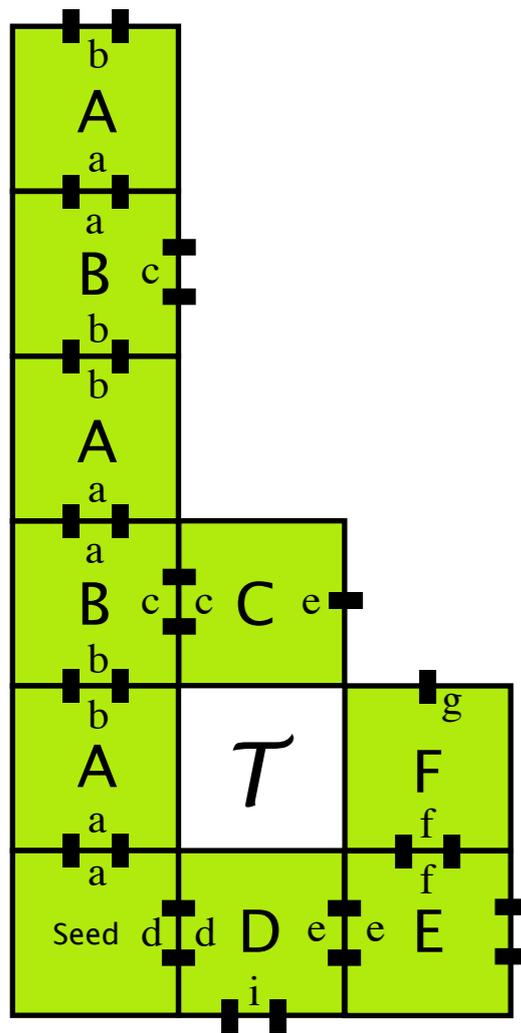
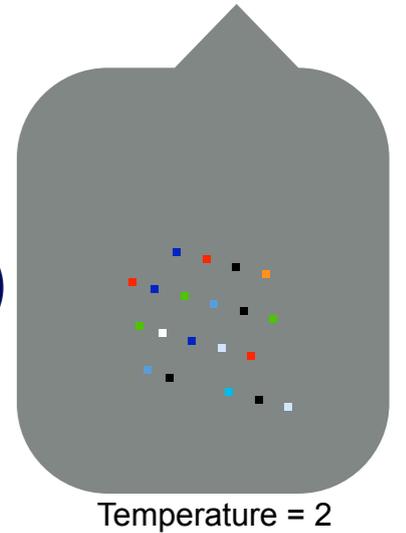
Simulator supertile



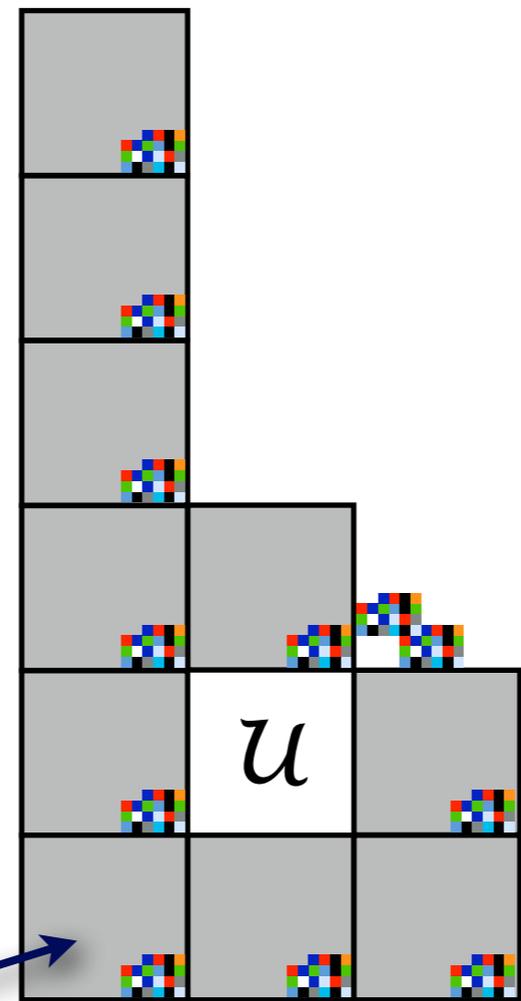
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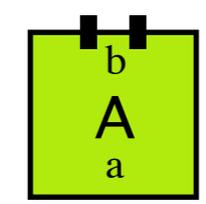
Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



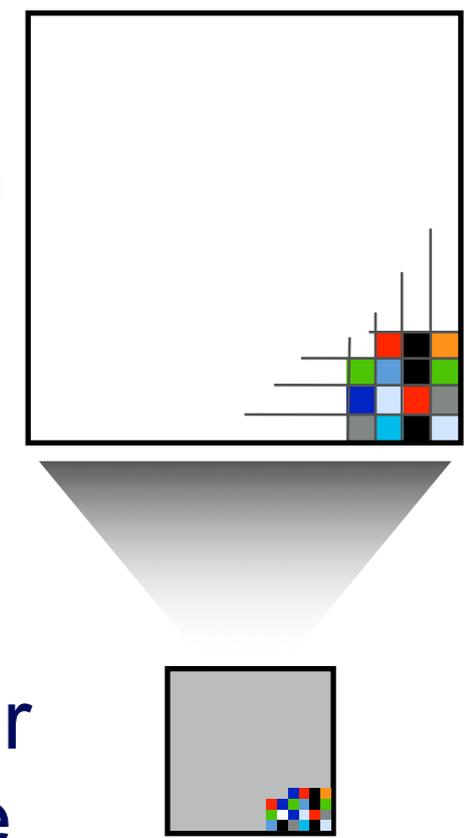
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



Simulated  
tile



R ←

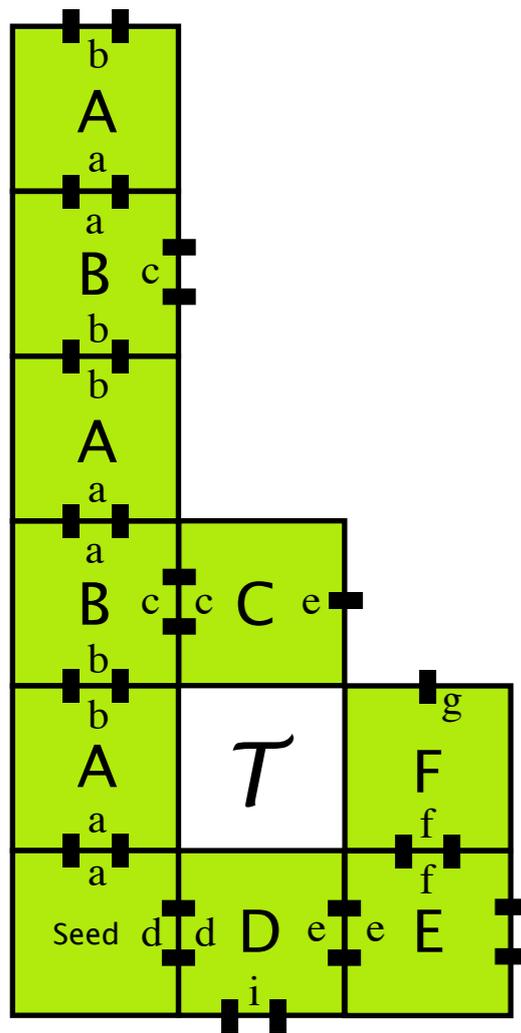
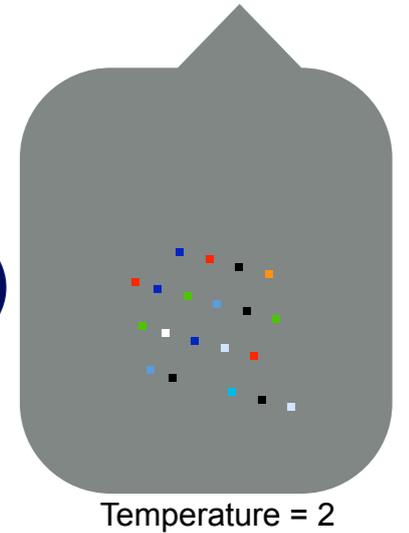


Simulator  
supertile

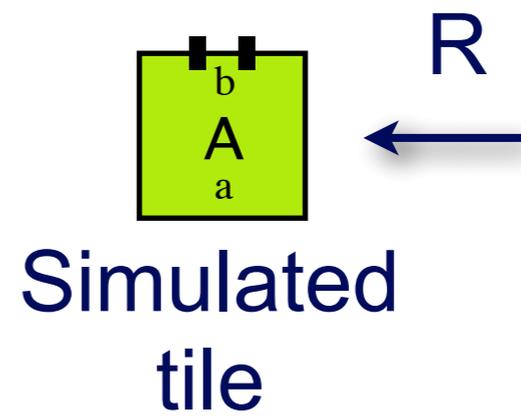
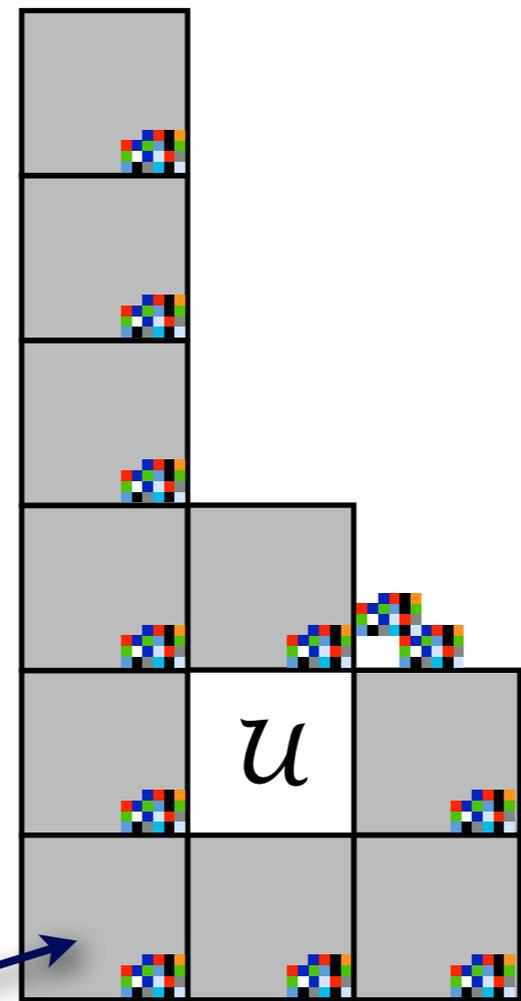
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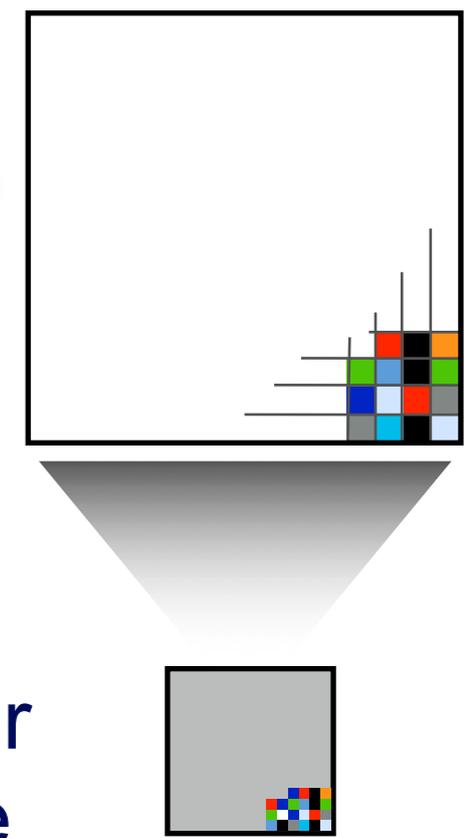
Universal  
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tile set



Preassembled  
seed structure  
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TAS)



Simulator  
supertile



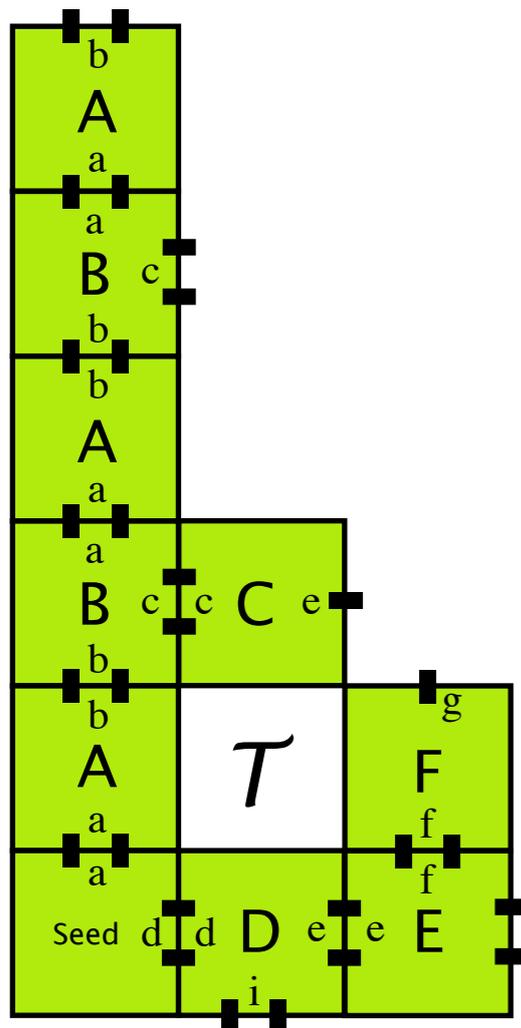
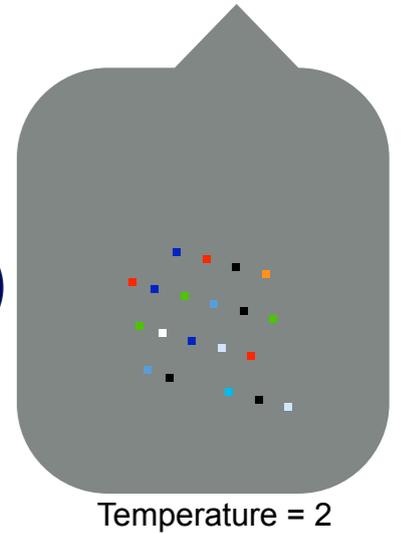
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etc. 15

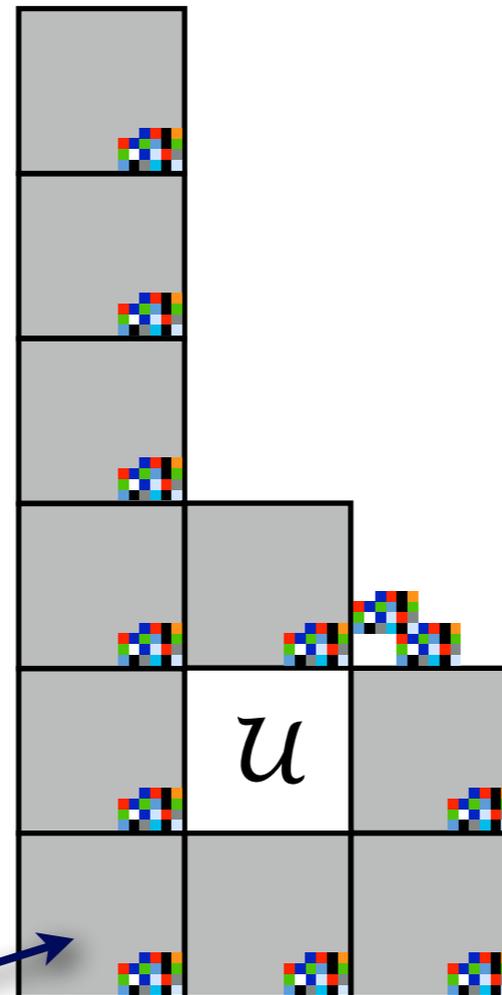
# Simulation definition

Ignoring  $m \times m$  scaling, production & dynamics are equivalent in the simulated system and simulator

Universal  
(simulator)  
tile set



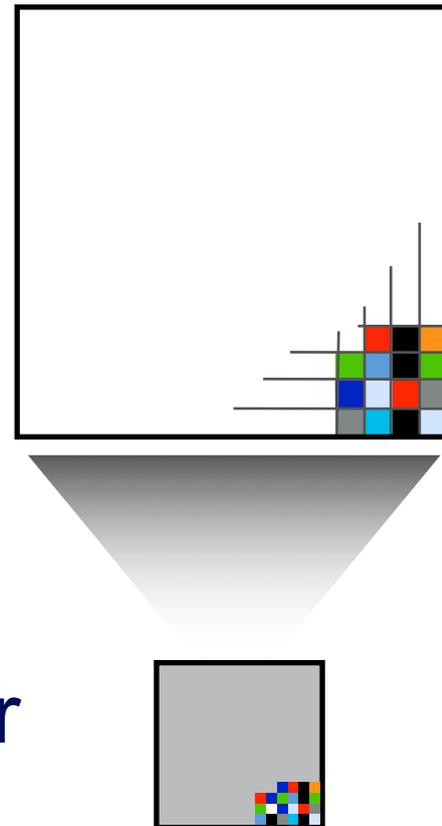
Preassembled  
seed structure  
(encodes simulated  
TAS)



Simulated  
tile

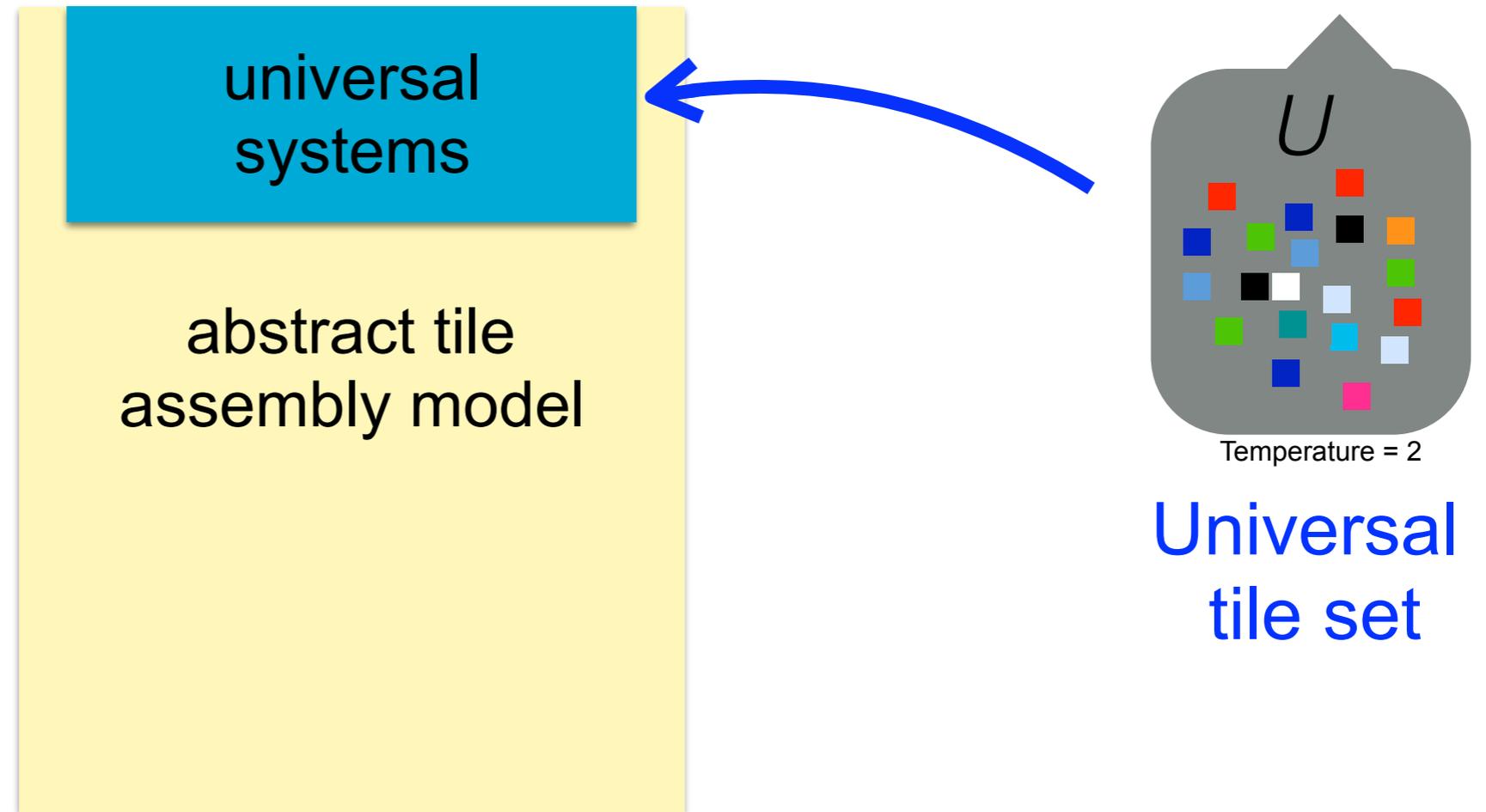


Simulator  
supertile

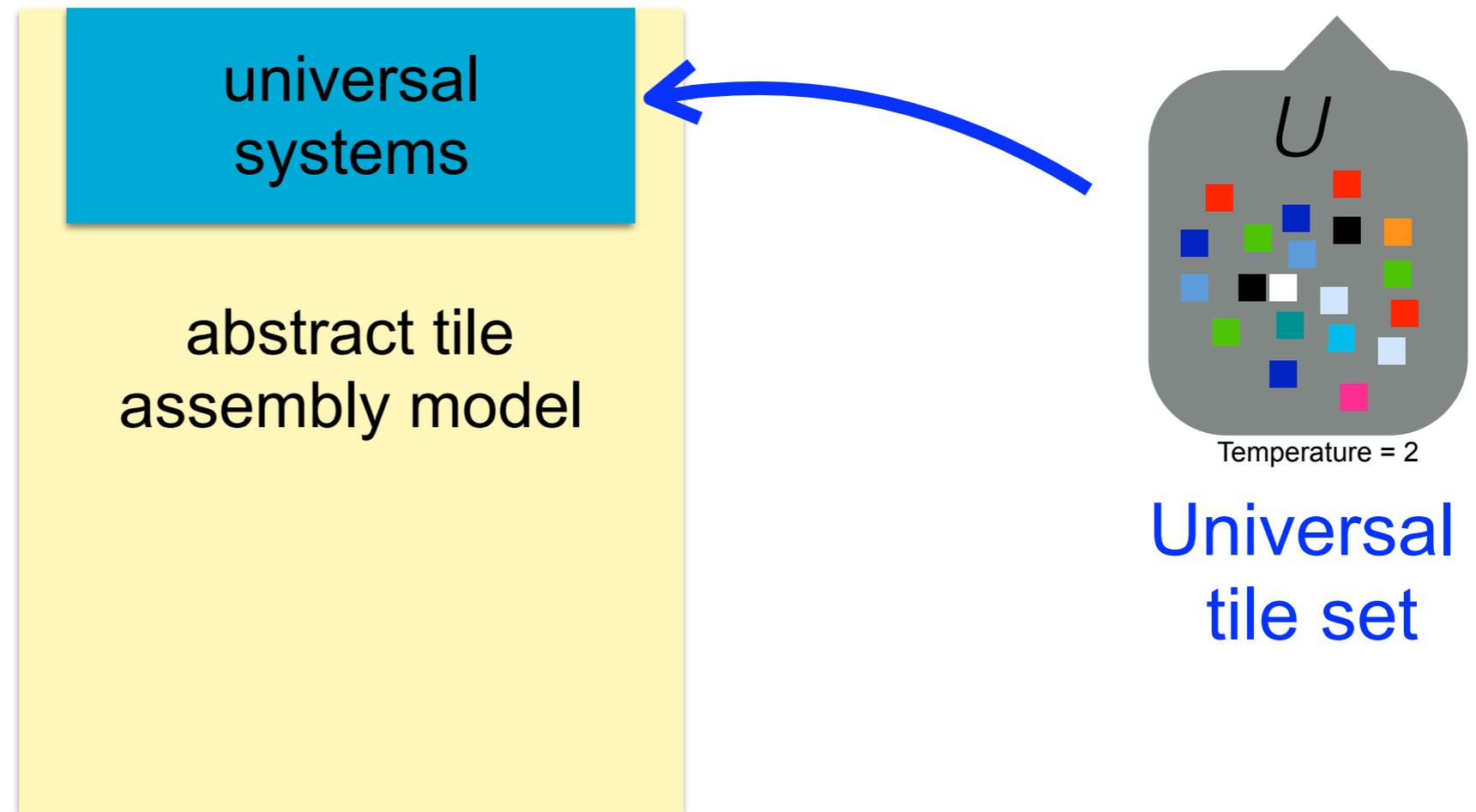


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# Is the abstract tile assembly model intrinsically universal?



# Is the abstract tile assembly model intrinsically universal? **Yes!**

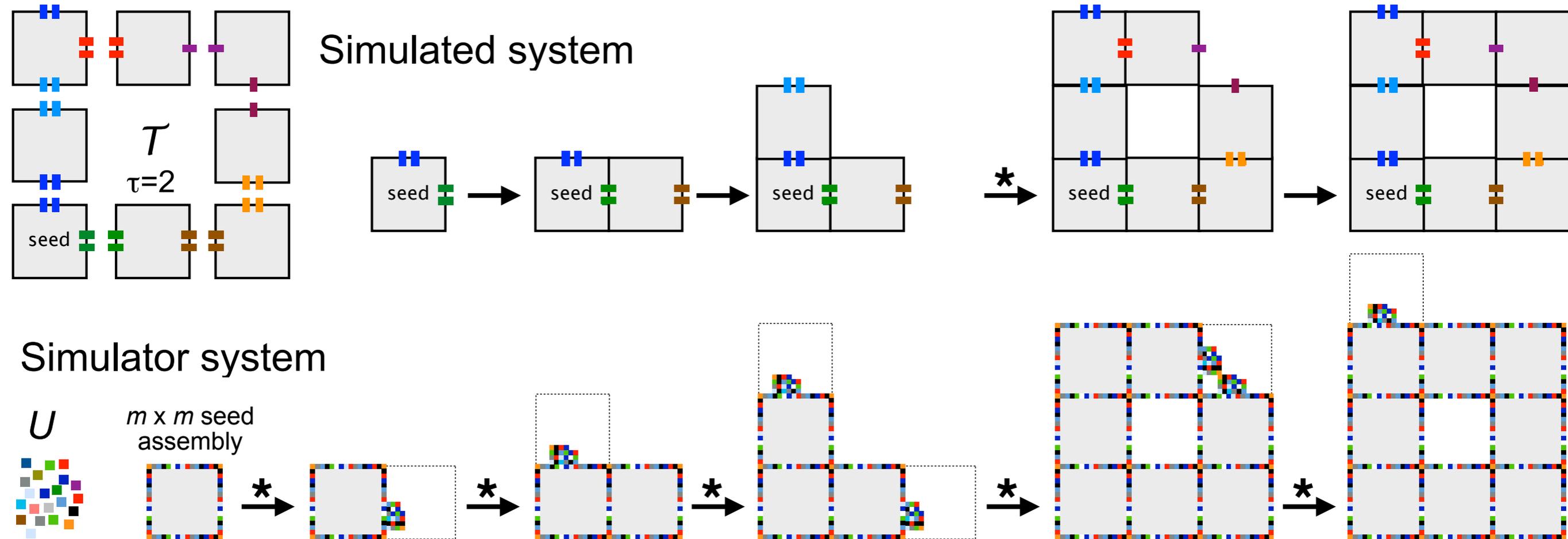


**Theorem:** There is a single intrinsically universal tile set  $U$  that simulates *any* tile assembly system

Doty, Lutz, Patitz, Schweller, Summers, Woods. FOCS 2012

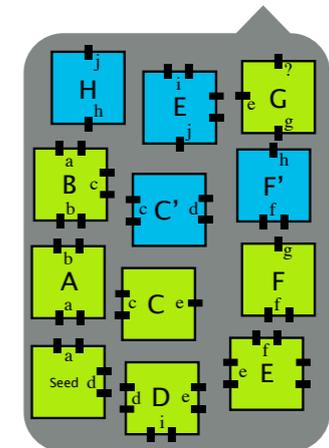
# Simulation

- For (any) simulated tile assembly system  $\mathcal{T}$ 
  - $\mathcal{T} = (\text{tileset } T, \text{ seed assembly } \sigma, \text{ temperature } \tau)$
- Tile assembly system  $\mathcal{U}$  simulates  $\mathcal{T}$  if:
  - **Tiles** from  $\mathcal{T}$  are represented by  **$m \times m$  supertiles** in  $\mathcal{U}$
  - Assemblies produced by  $\mathcal{U}$  **represent exactly** assemblies produced by  $\mathcal{T}$  (via a representation function  $R : \text{Blocks of tiles from } U \rightarrow \text{tiles from } T$ )
  - **Dynamics are equivalent** in  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{T}$ , ignoring  $m \times m$  scaling

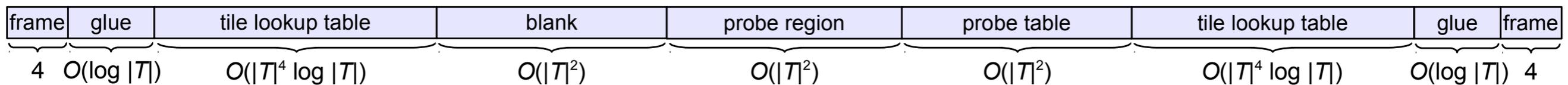
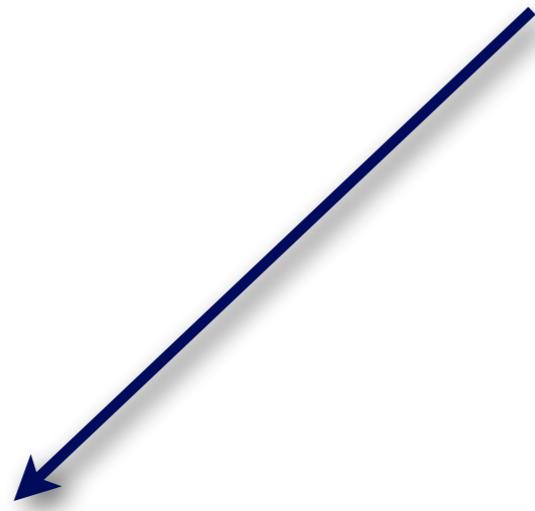


# Superside

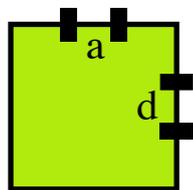
Encoding of the entire simulated **tile assembly system** written down using tiles from the simulator  $U$



Temperature = 2

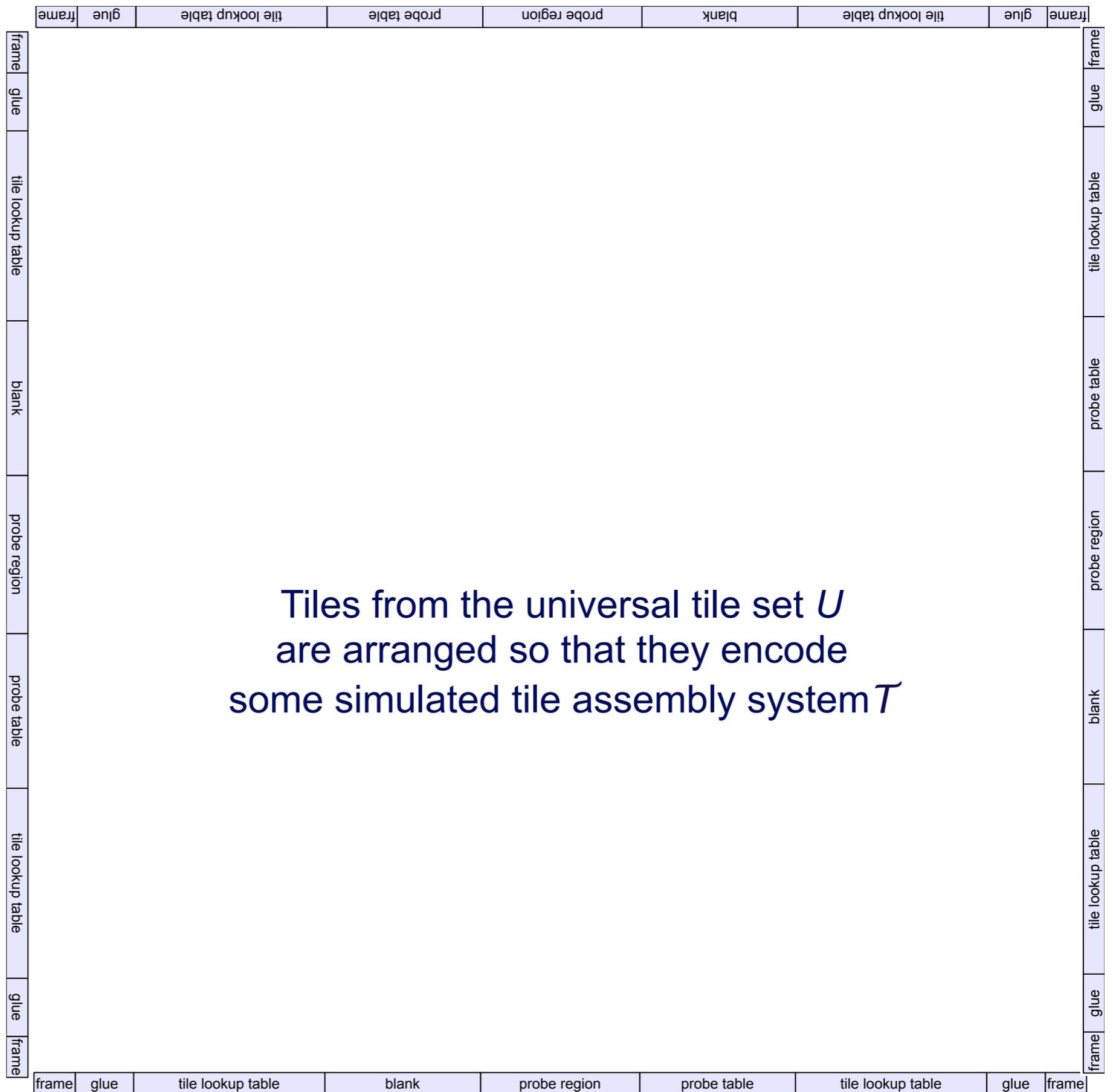


$|T|$  is number of tiles in the simulated tileset  $T$ .

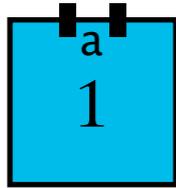


Preassembled  
seed supertile

Tiles from the universal tile set  $U$   
are arranged so that they encode  
some simulated tile assembly system  $\mathcal{T}$

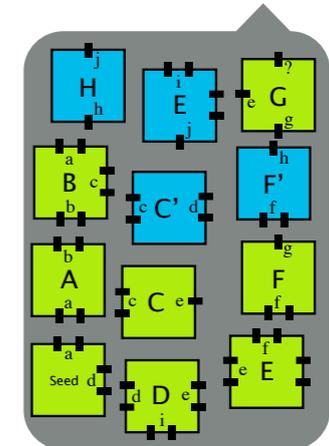


# Superside

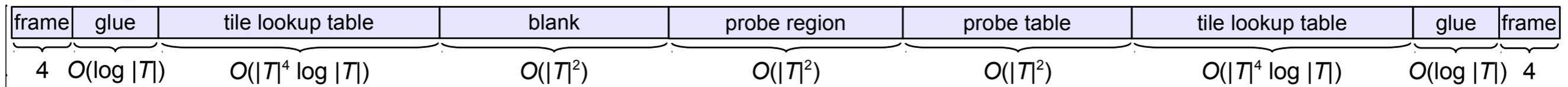


Encoded glue of  
**this** superside  
(e.g. “a”)

Encoding of the  
entire simulated **tile  
assembly system**  
written down using  
tiles from the  
simulator  $U$



Temperature = 2



Encoding of tile type 1 from  $T$

$|T|$  is number of tiles in the simulated tileset  $T$ .

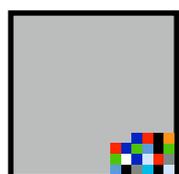
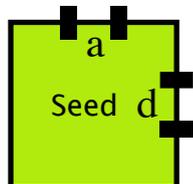
glue  
tile

fra  
glue  
fra



# seed supertile

Tiles from the universal tile set  $U$  are arranged so that they encode some simulated tile assembly system  $T$



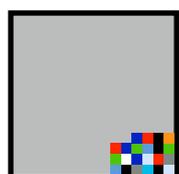
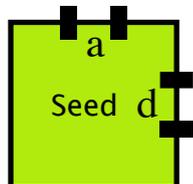
Preassembled seed supertile



# seed supertile

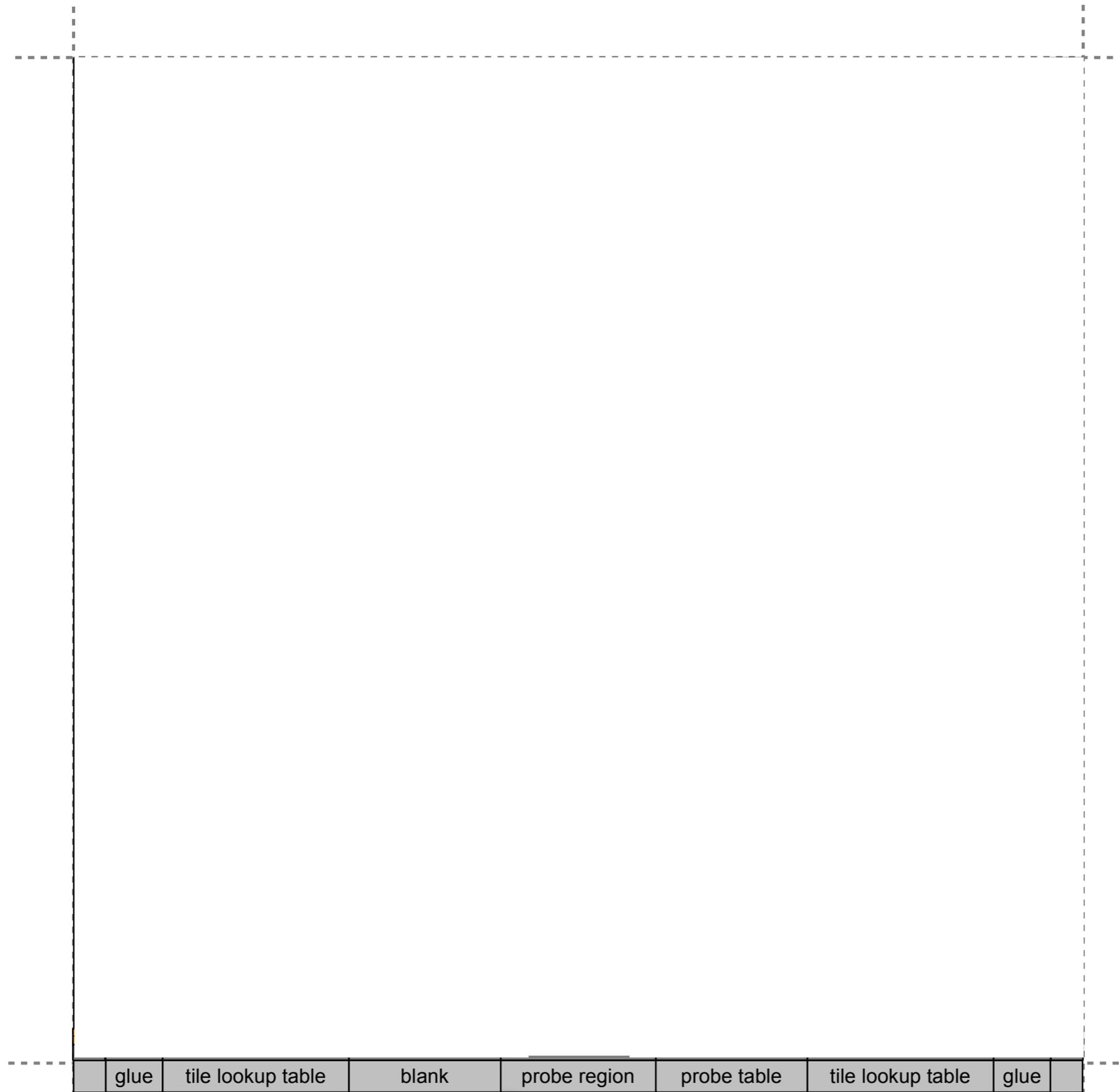
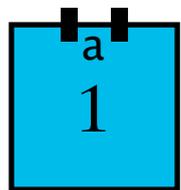
Growth begins from here!

Tiles from the universal tile set  $U$  are arranged so that they encode some simulated tile assembly system  $T$



Preassembled seed supertile

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside



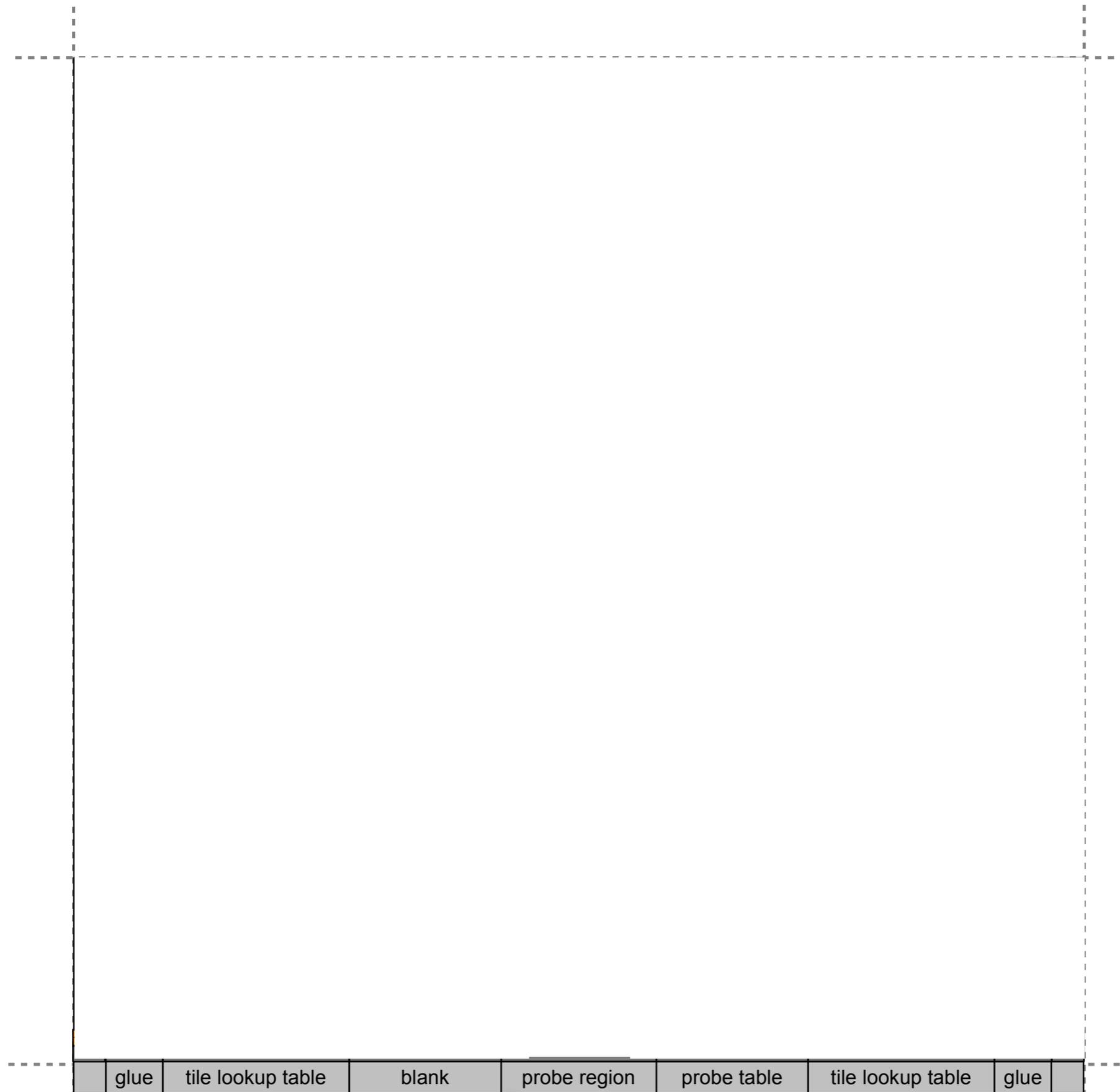
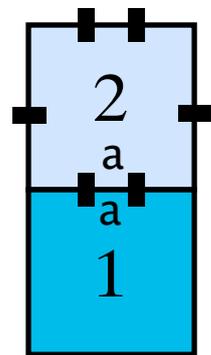
Glue "a" is encoded here

Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside



Glue "a" is encoded here

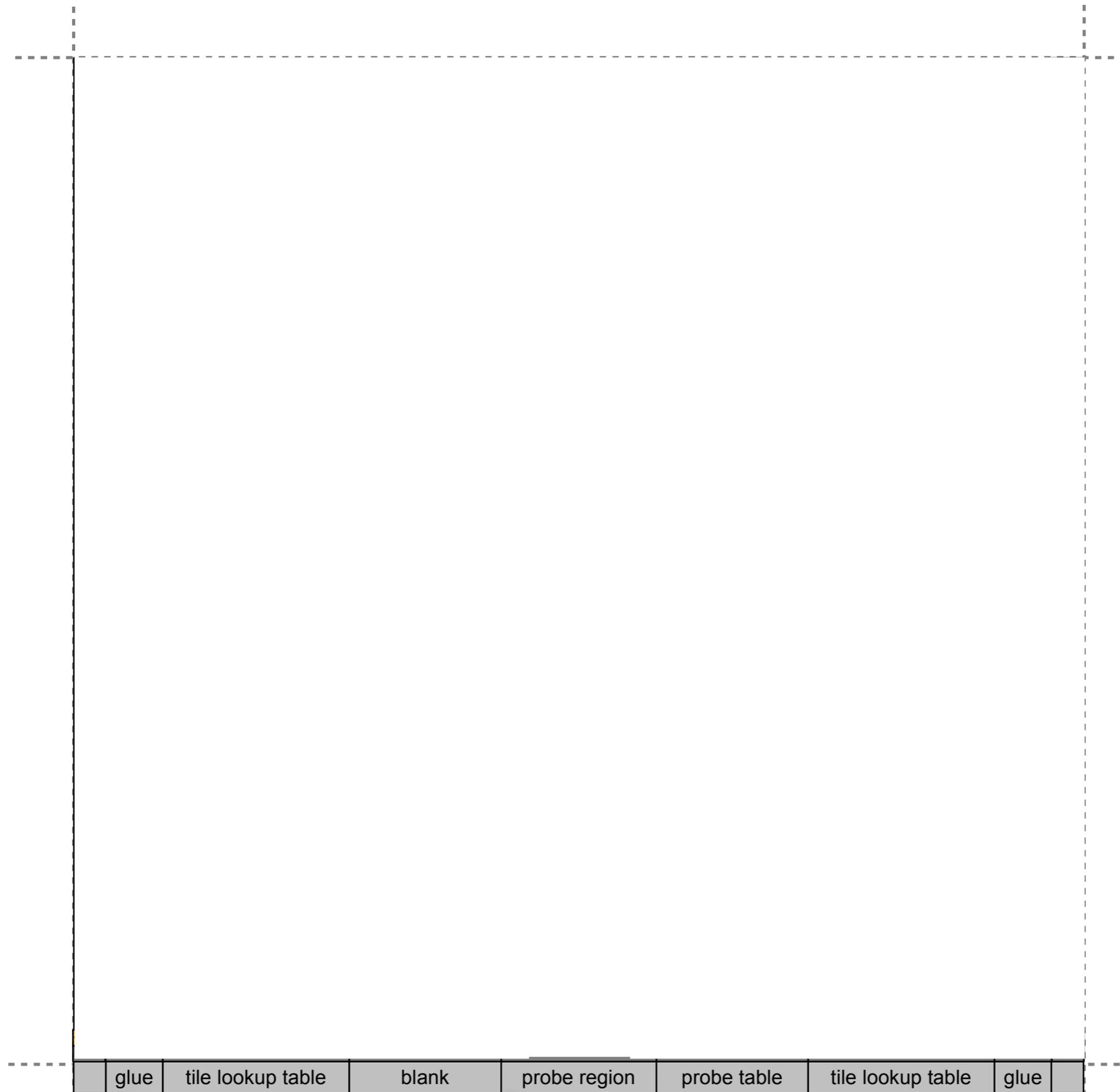
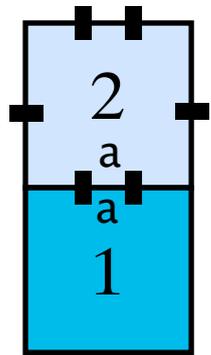
Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside

Goal: place a description of  $T$  and "tile 2" around the 4 super-edges



Glue "a" is encoded here

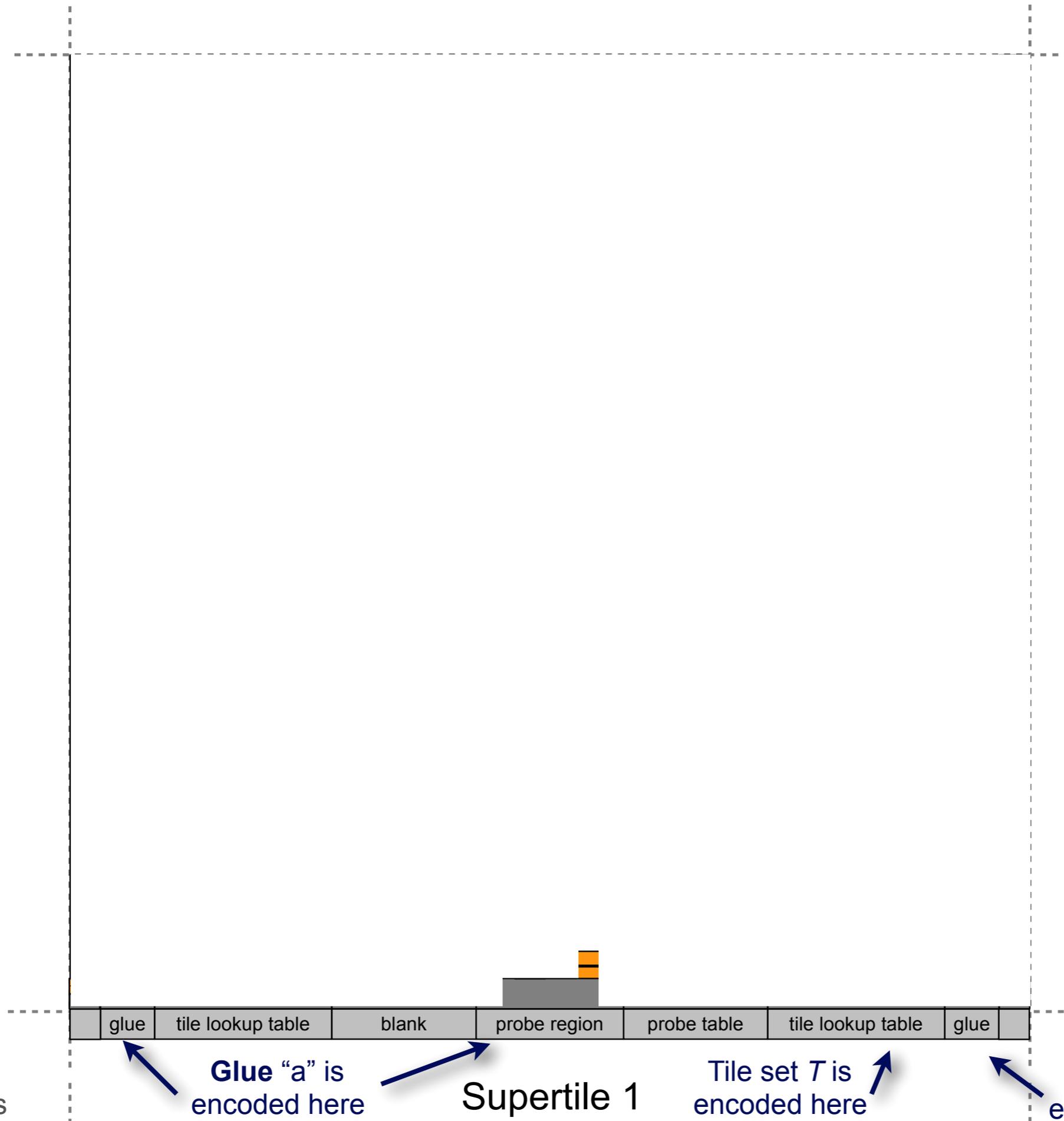
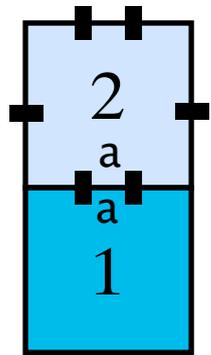
Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside

Goal: place a description of  $T$  and "tile 2" around the 4 super-edges



Glue "a" is encoded here

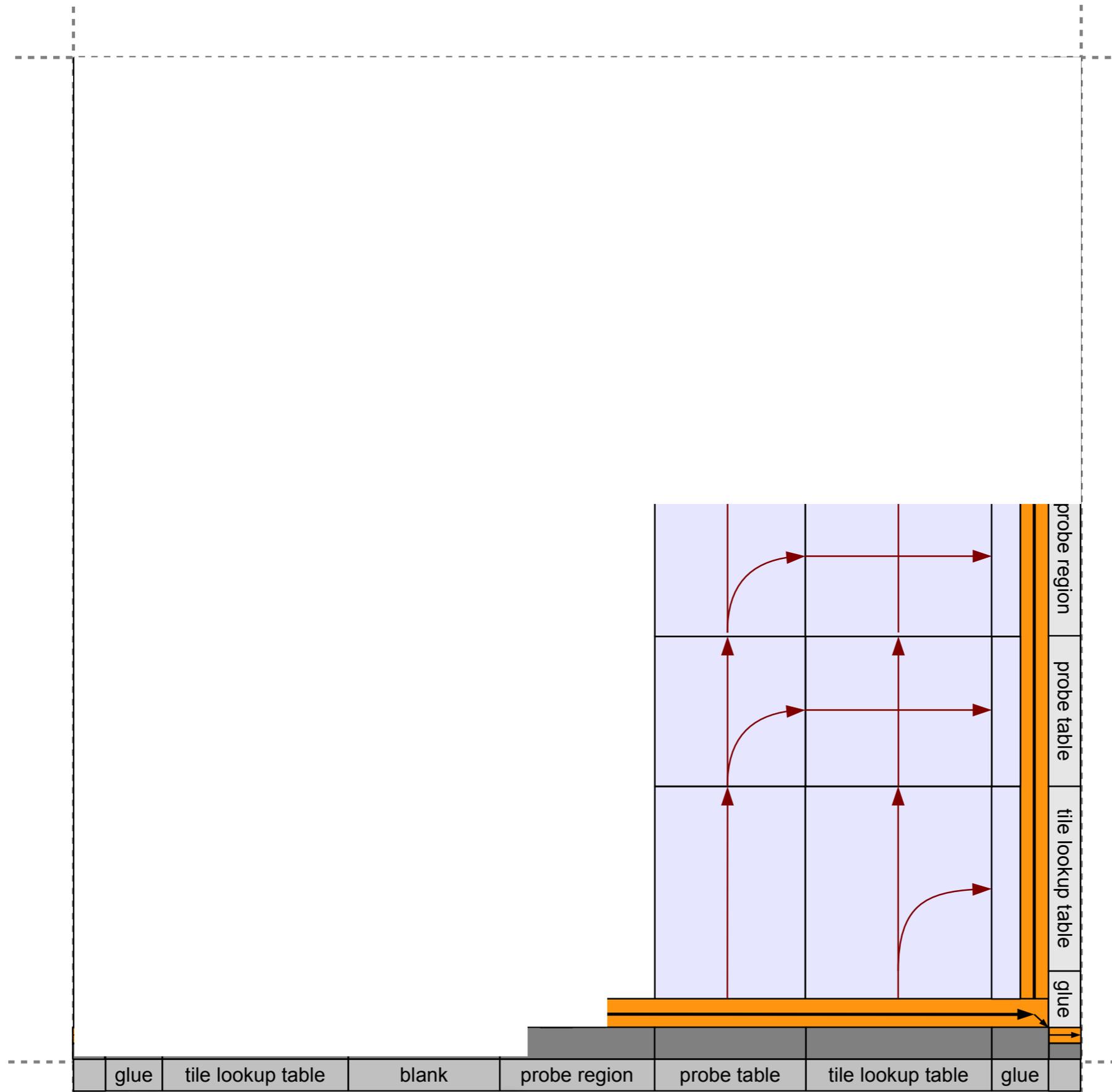
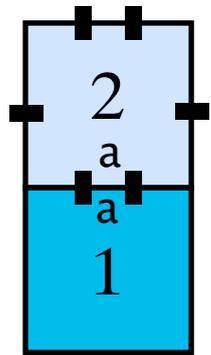
Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside

Goal: place a description of  $T$  and "tile 2" around the 4 super-edges



glue tile lookup table blank probe region probe table tile lookup table glue

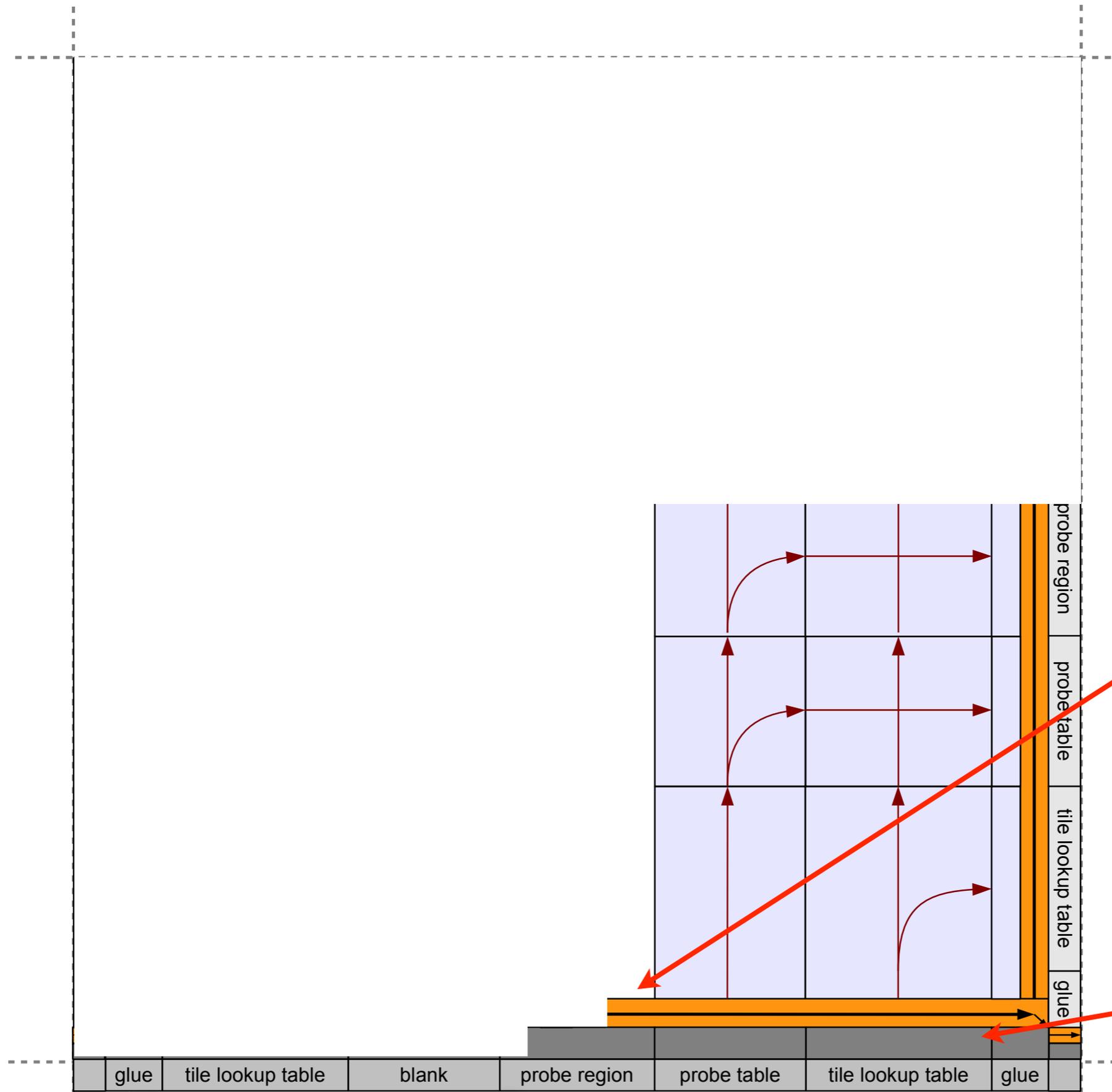
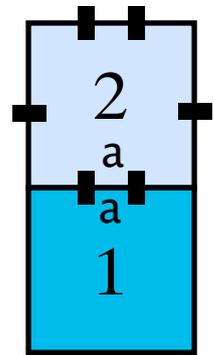
Glue "a" is encoded here

Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside



Goal: place a description of  $T$  and “tile 2” around the 4 super-edges

crawler encodes glue of south superside

“Genome” is copied

“Genome” is read

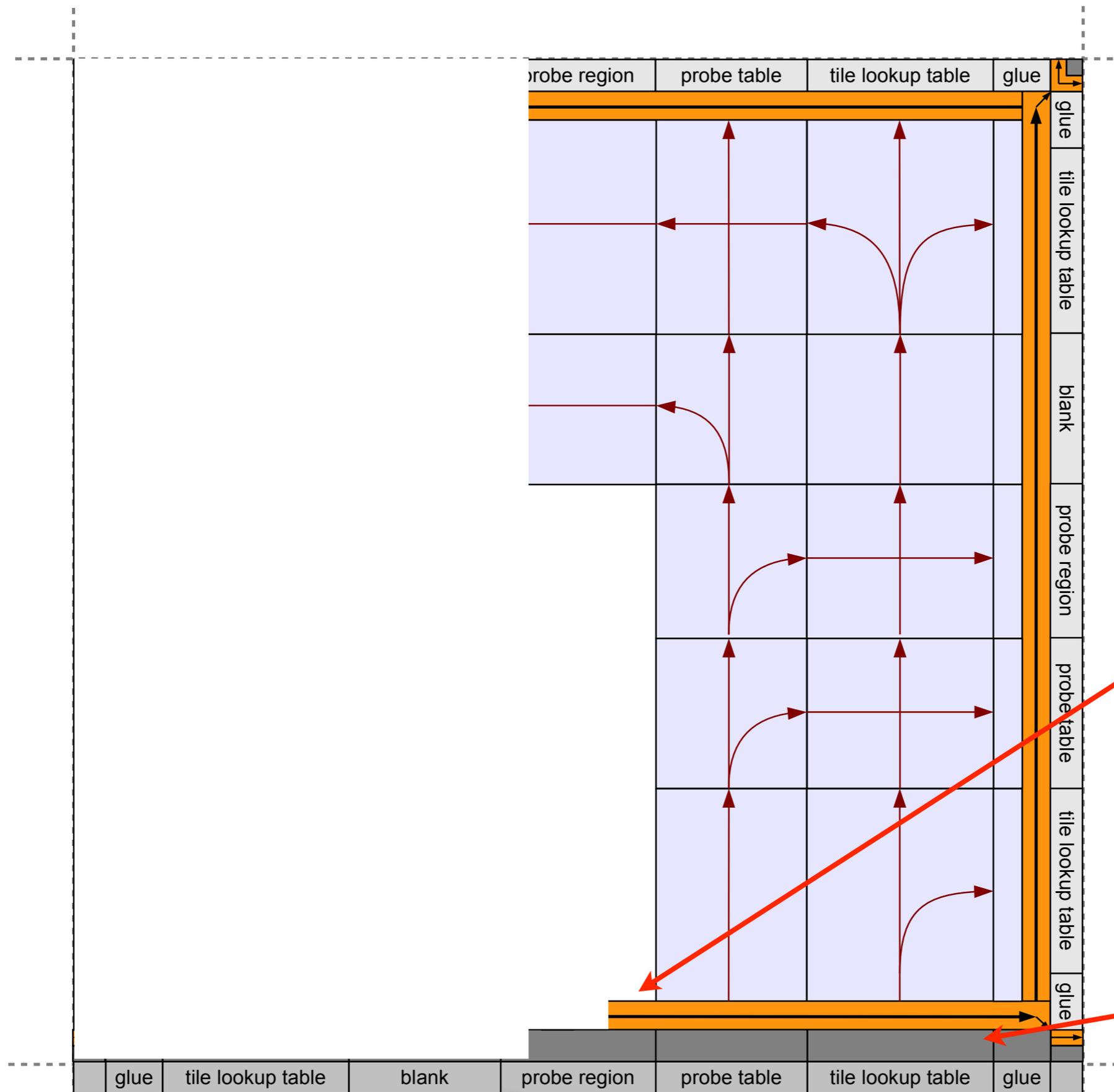
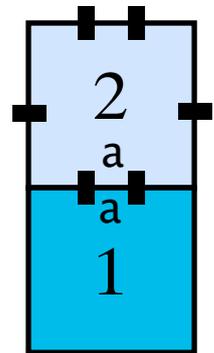
Glue “a” is encoded here

Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue “a” is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside



Goal: place a description of  $T$  and "tile 2" around the 4 super-edges

crawler encodes glue of south superside

"Genome" is copied

"Genome" is read

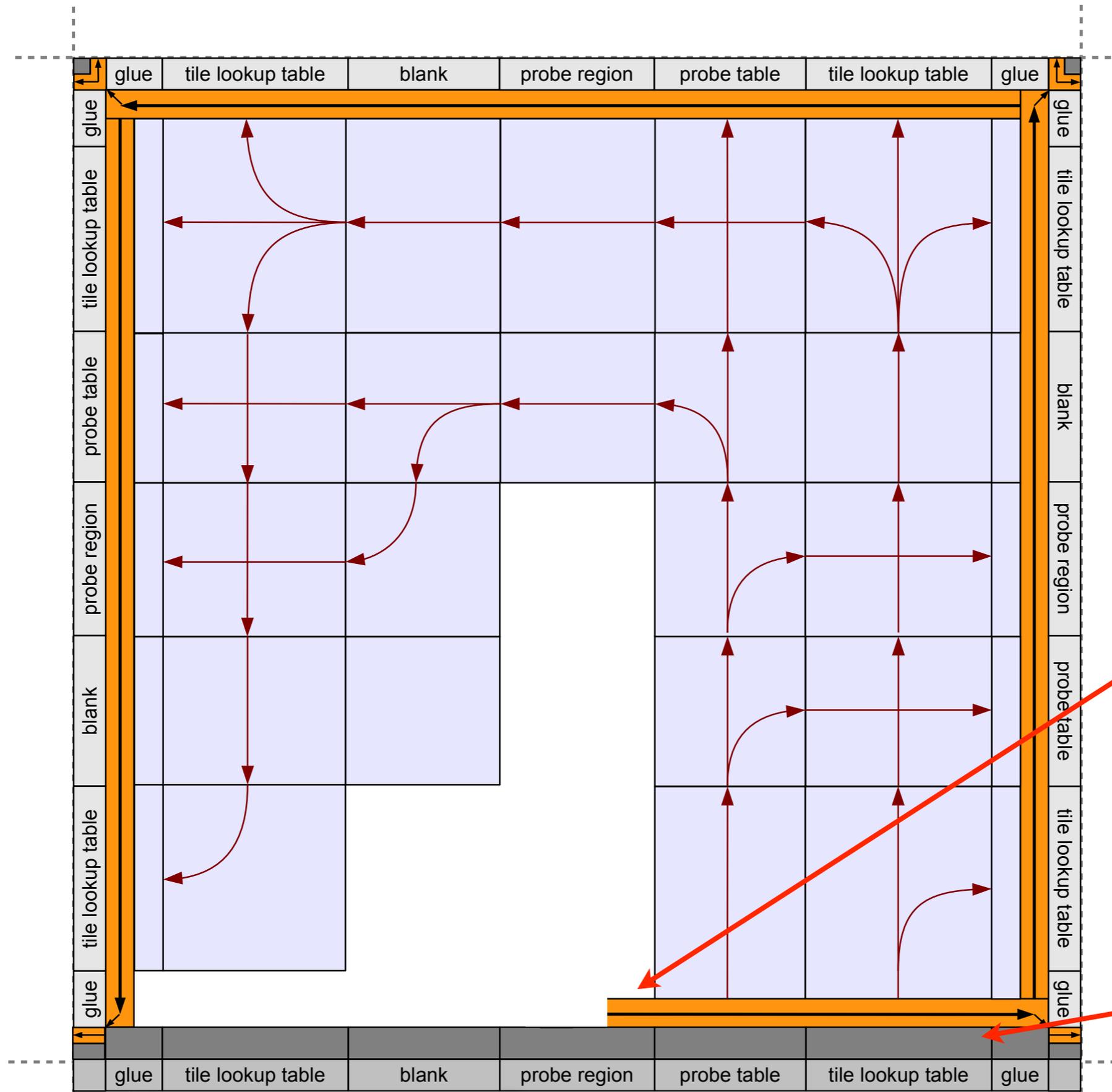
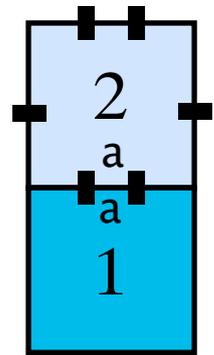
Glue "a" is encoded here

Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside



Goal: place a description of  $T$  and "tile 2" around the 4 super-edges

crawler encodes glue of south superside

"Genome" is copied

"Genome" is read

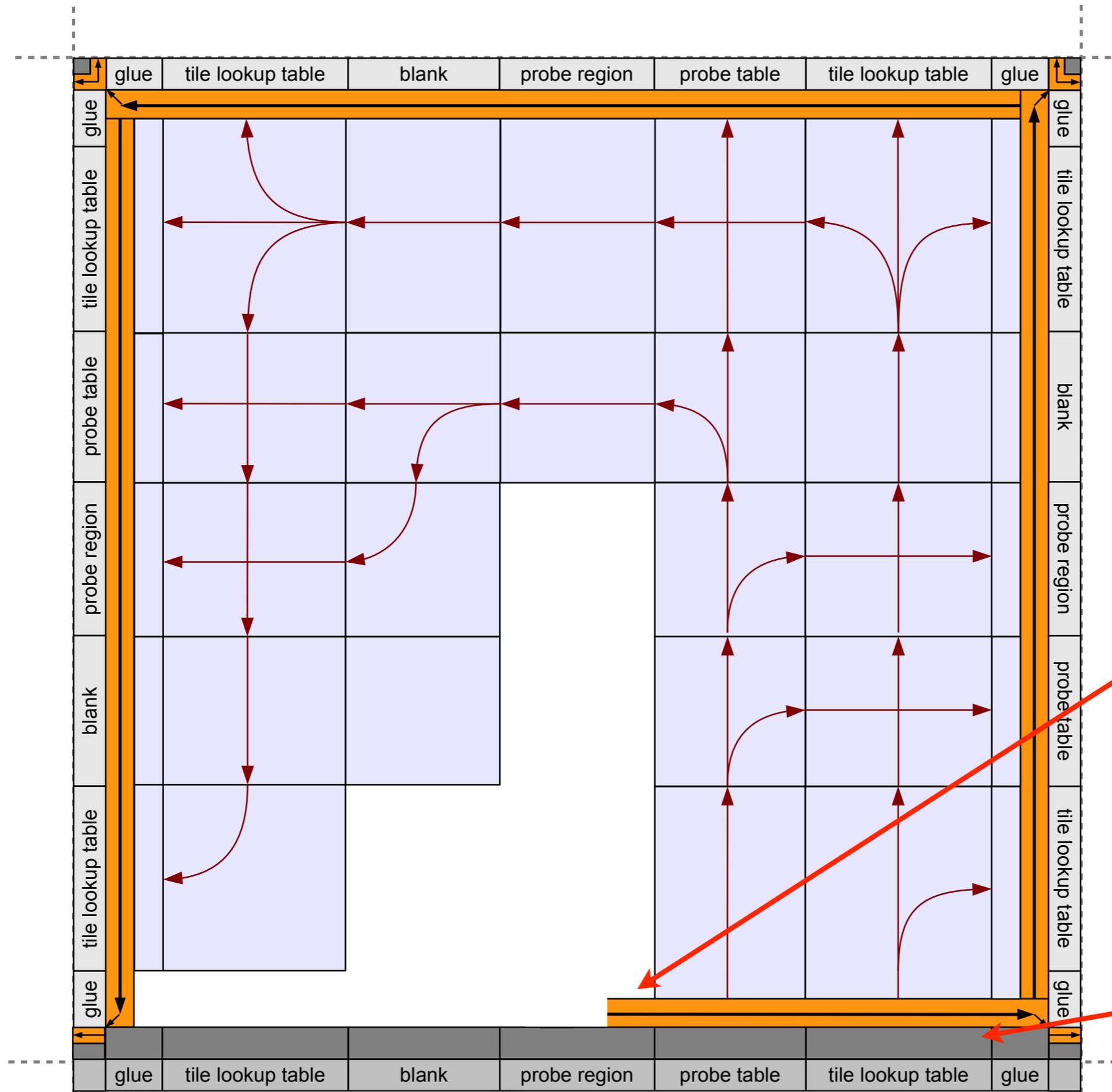
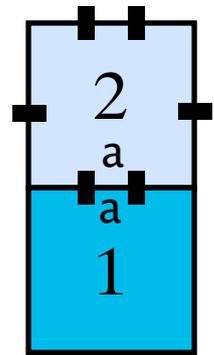
Glue "a" is encoded here

Supertile 1

Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# One-sided binding with a single strength- $\tau$ south superside



Goal: place a description of  $T$  and "tile 2" around the 4 super-edges

Nondeterminism  
Rotations

crawler encodes glue of south superside

"Genome" is copied

"Genome" is read

Glue "a" is encoded here

Supertile 1

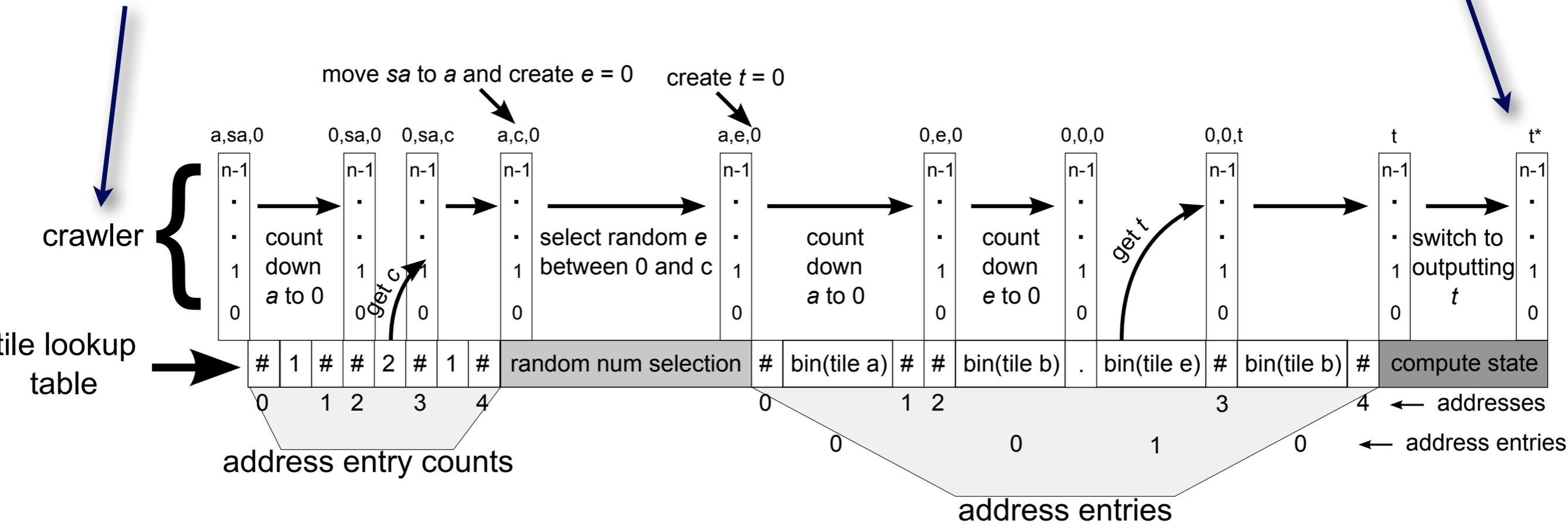
Tile set  $T$  is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

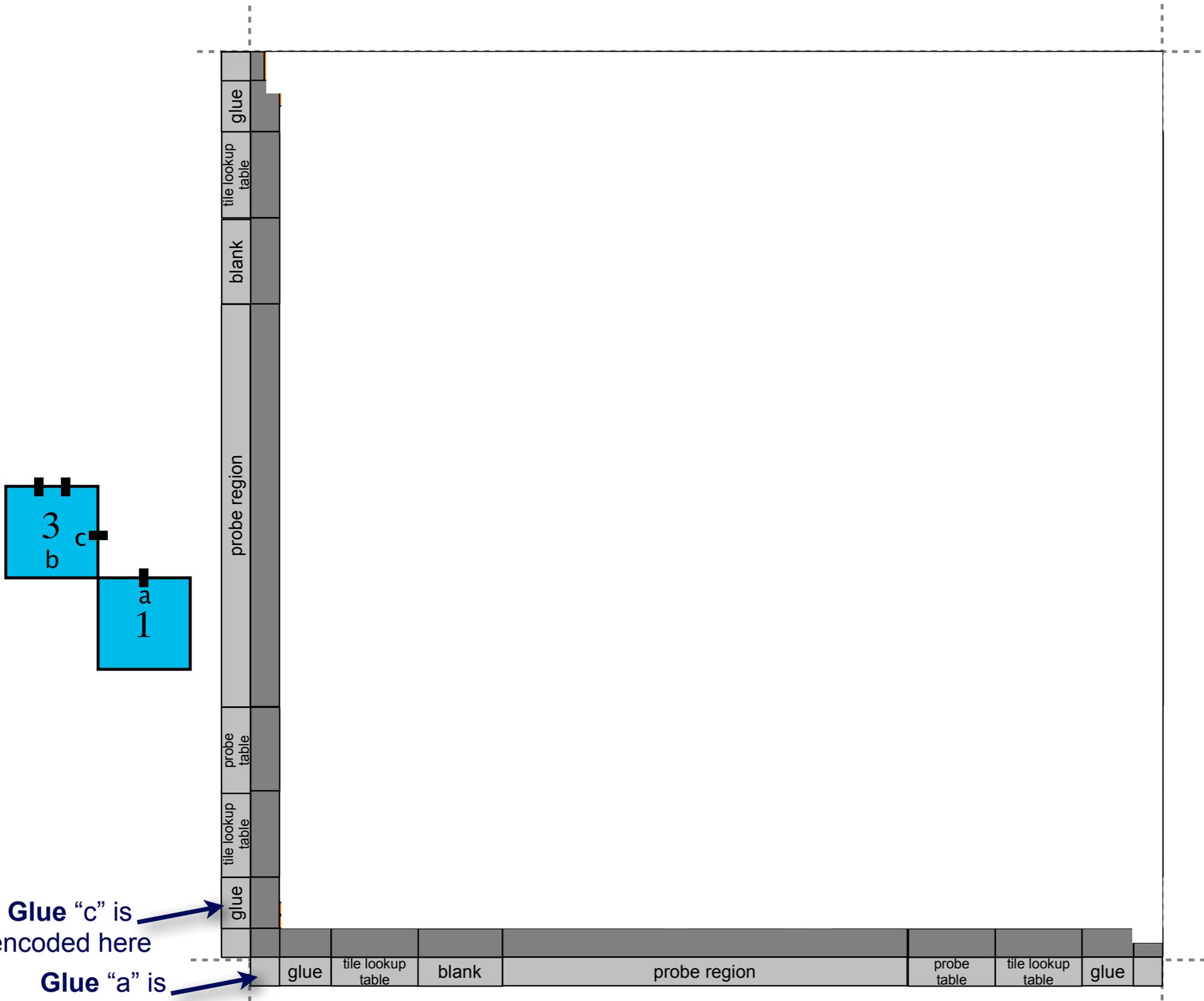
# Crawler doing a tile lookup

crawler encodes "input" glues

crawler encodes "output" tile type



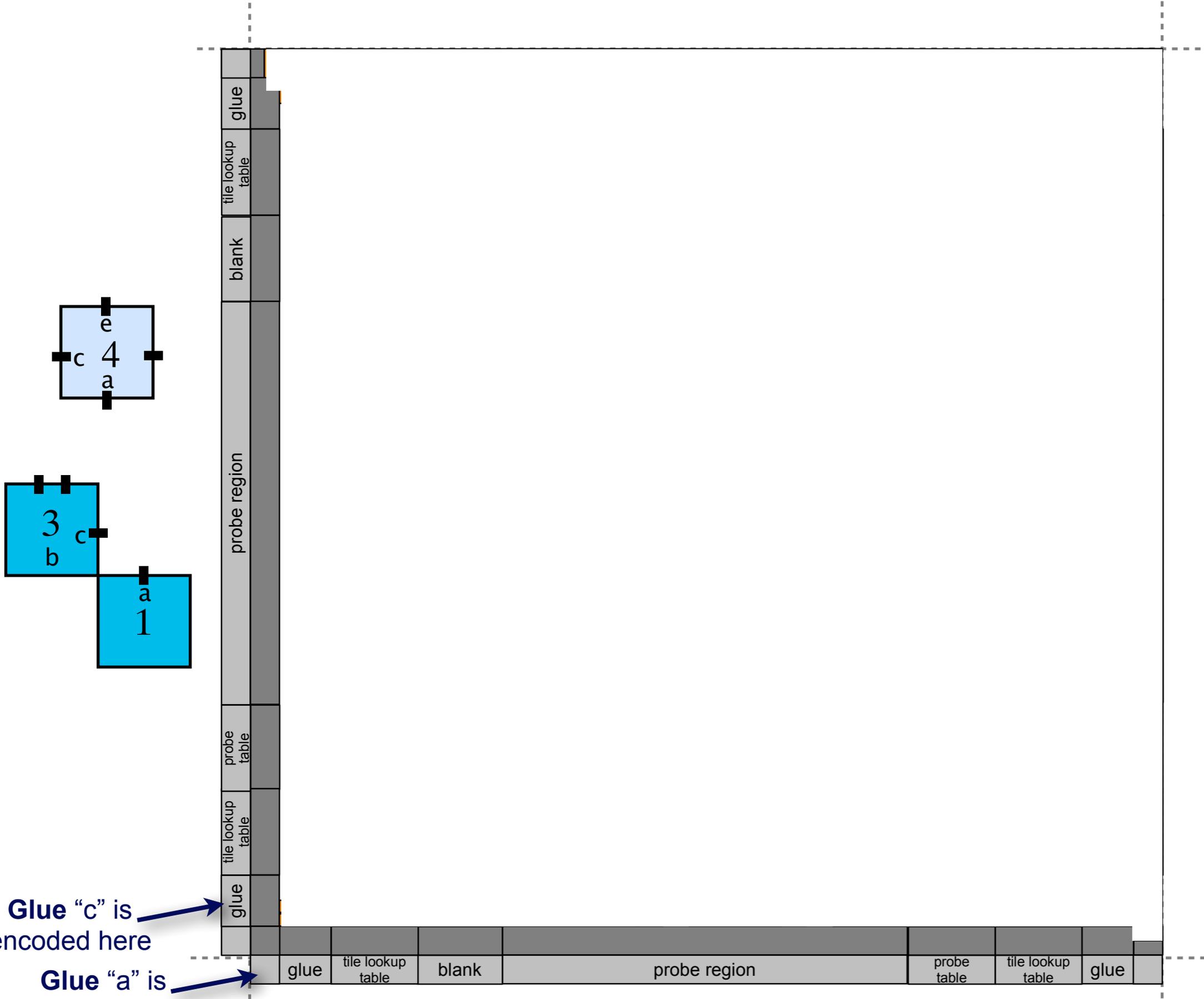
# Two-sided binding with adjacent cooperating supersides



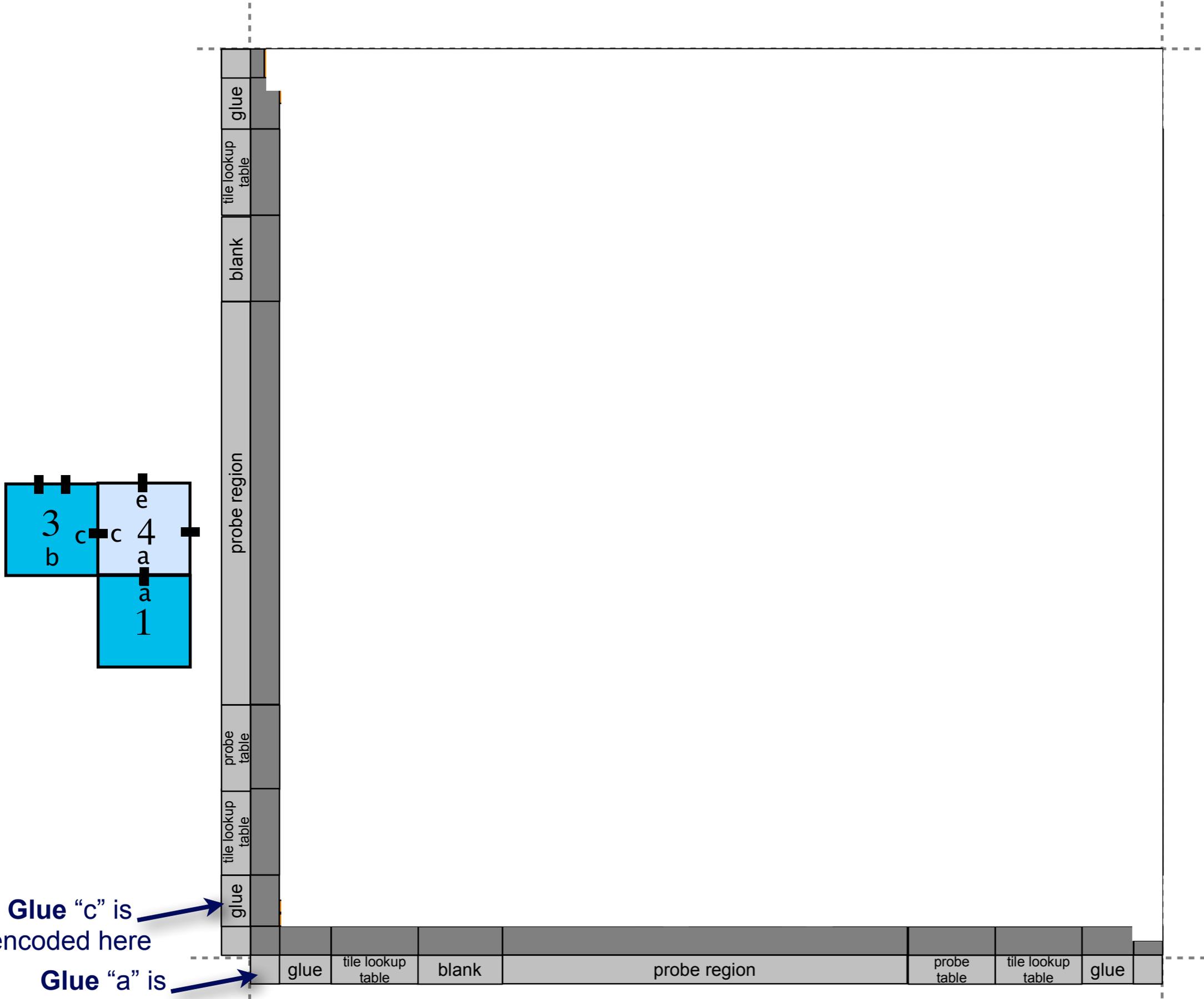
Glue "c" is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# Two-sided binding with adjacent cooperating supersides



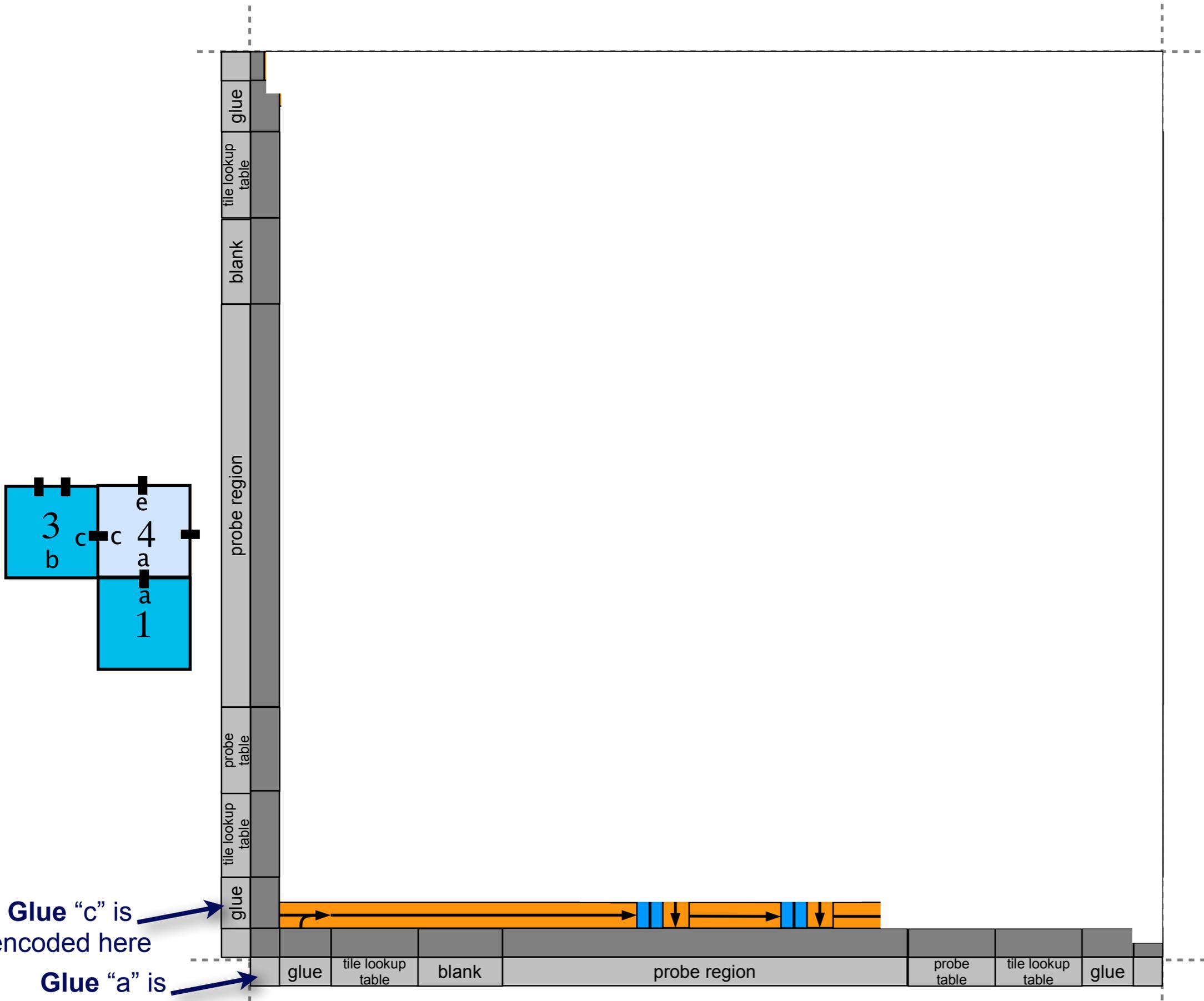
# Two-sided binding with adjacent cooperating supersides



Glue "c" is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

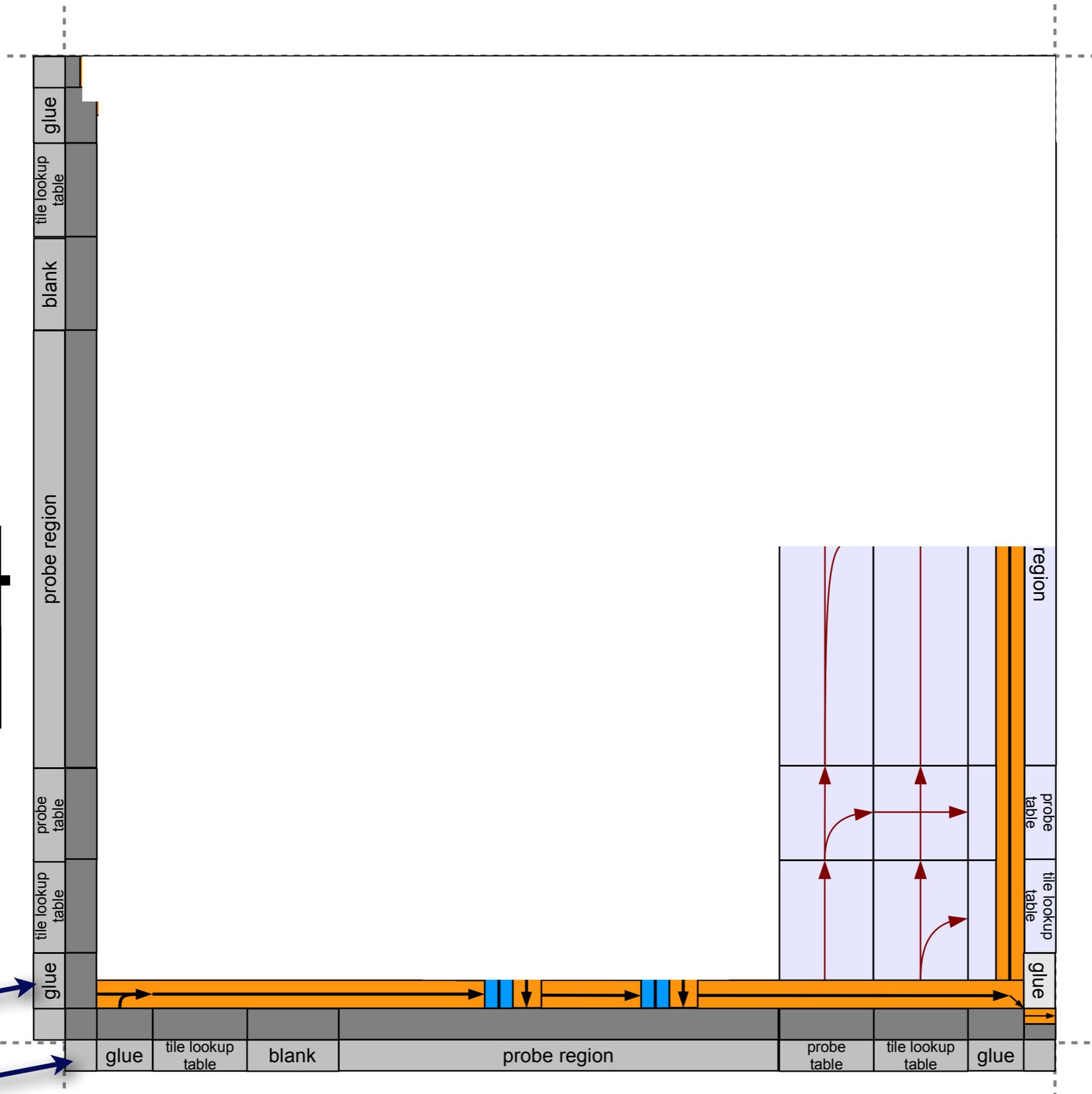
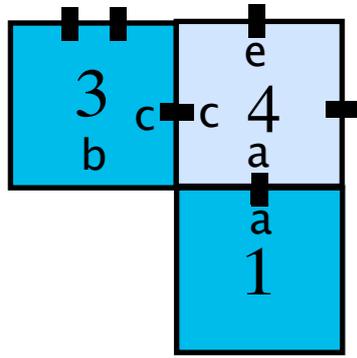
# Two-sided binding with adjacent cooperating supersides



Glue "c" is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

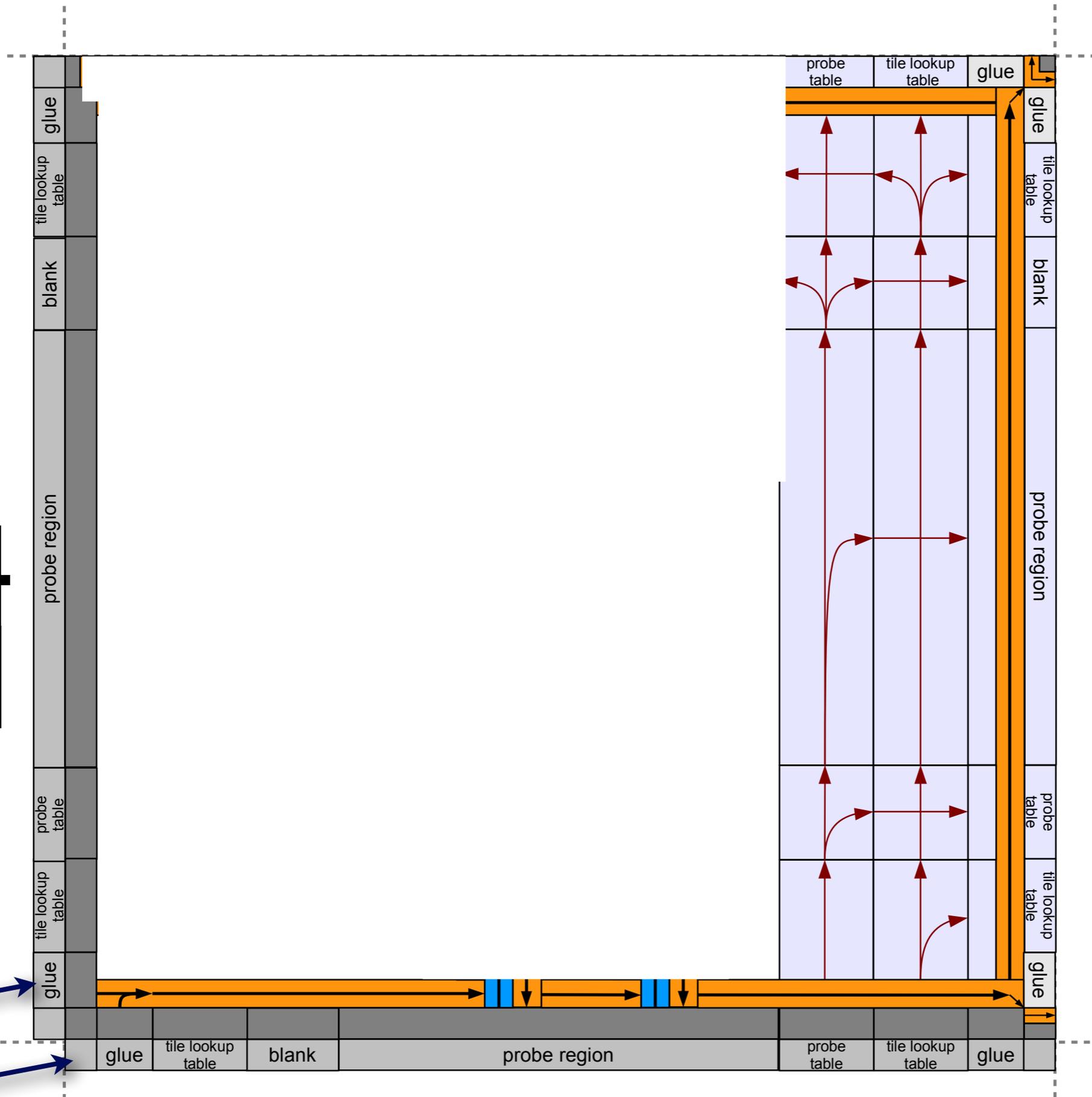
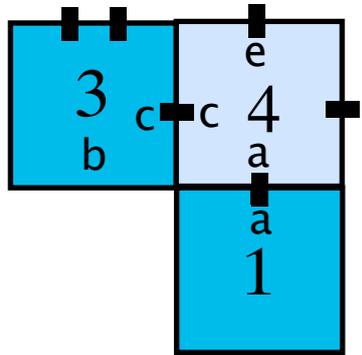
# Two-sided binding with adjacent cooperating supersides



Glue "c" is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

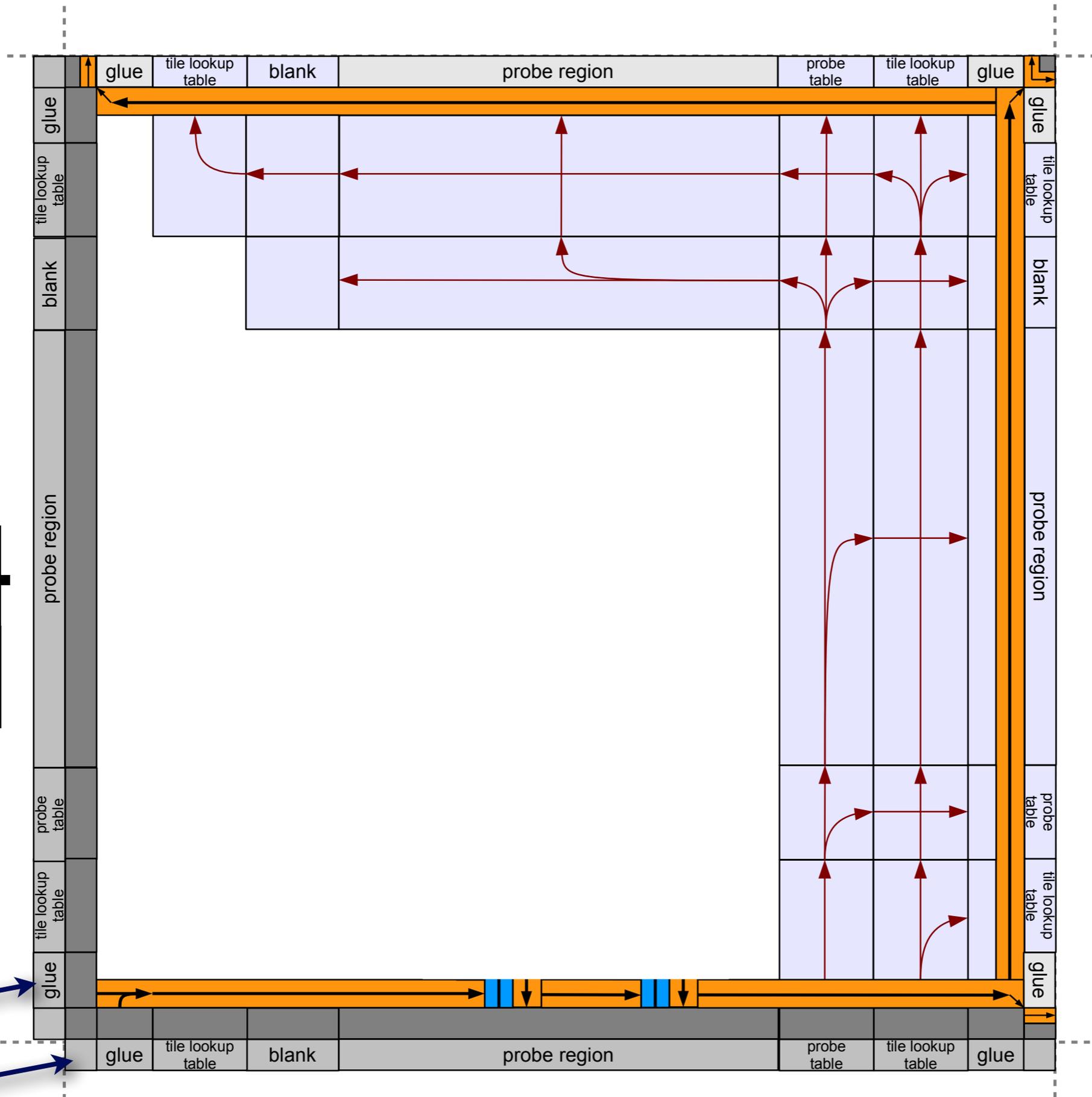
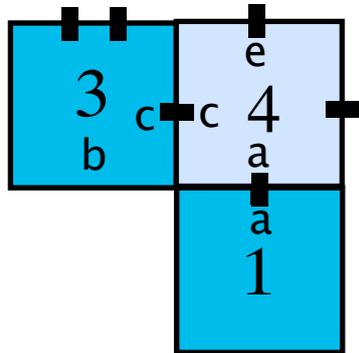
# Two-sided binding with adjacent cooperating supersides



Glue "c" is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

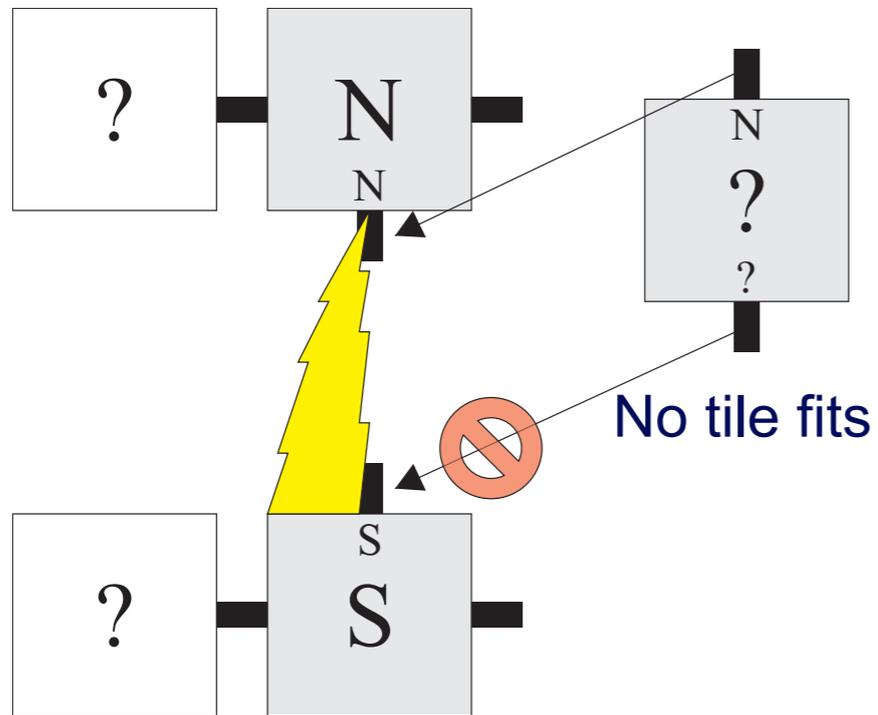
# Two-sided binding with adjacent cooperating supersides



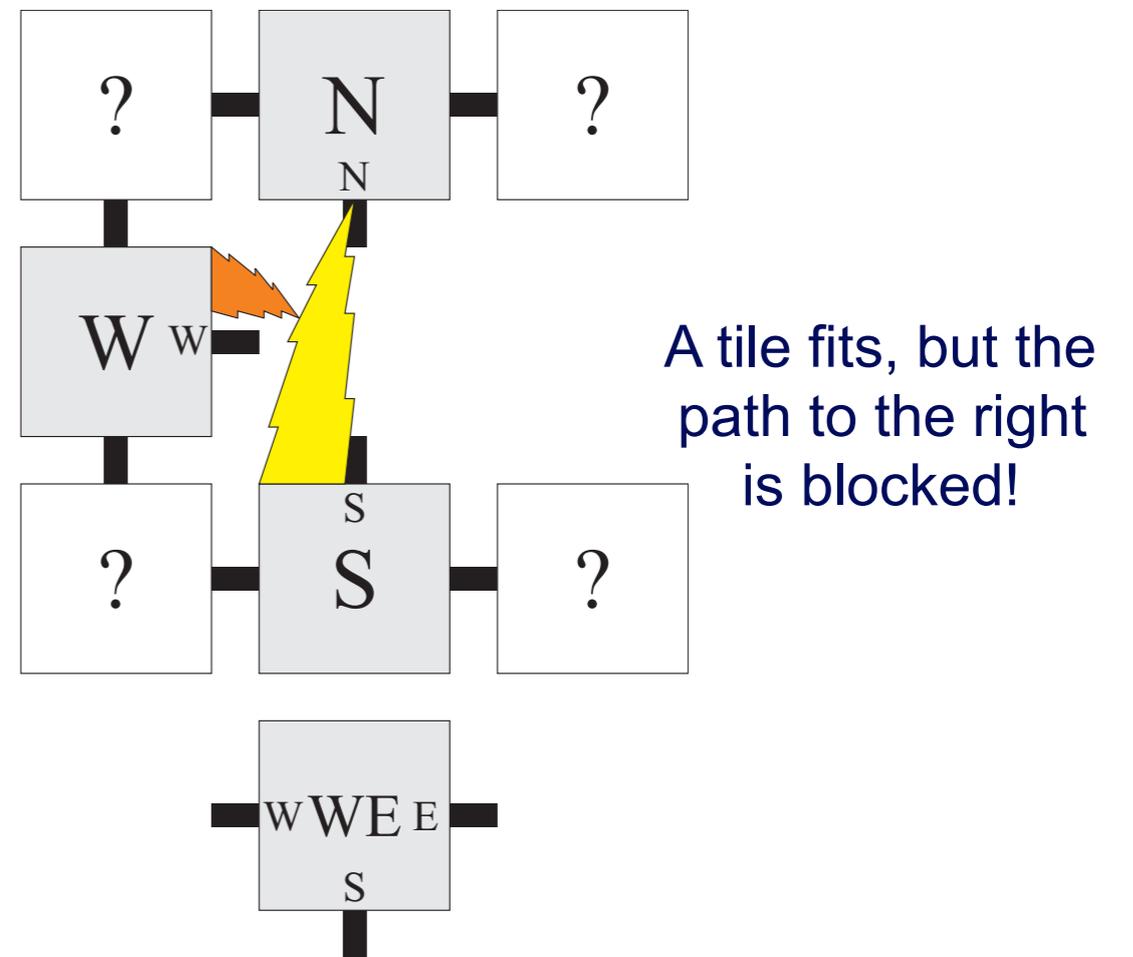
Glue "c" is encoded here

Glue "a" is encoded here

# A key problem

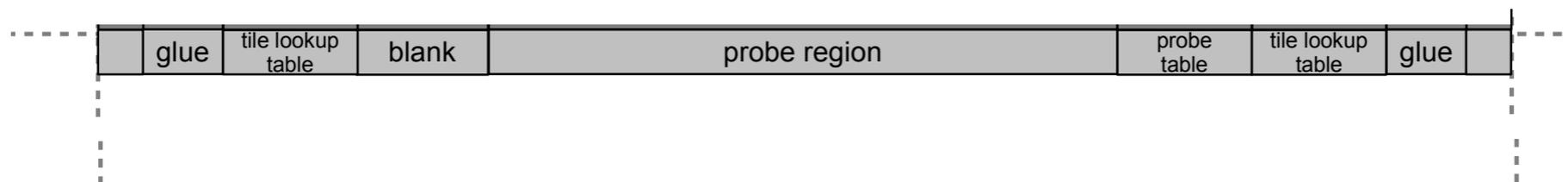
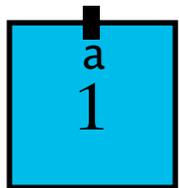
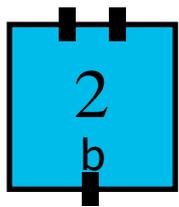
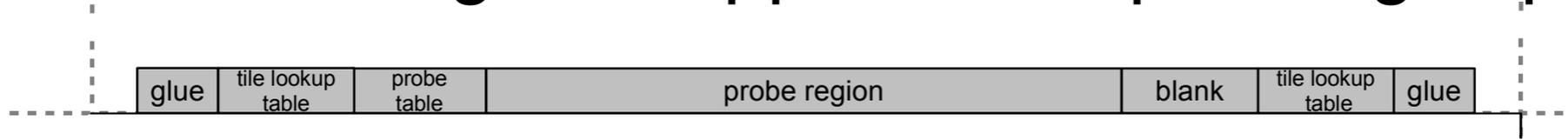


Better luck next time!

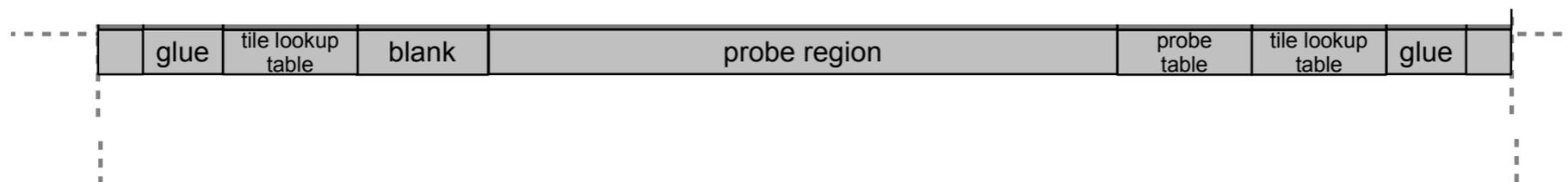
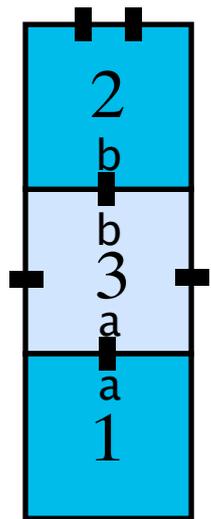
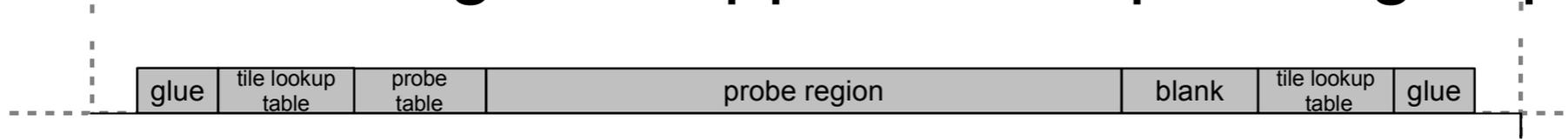


Uh oh!

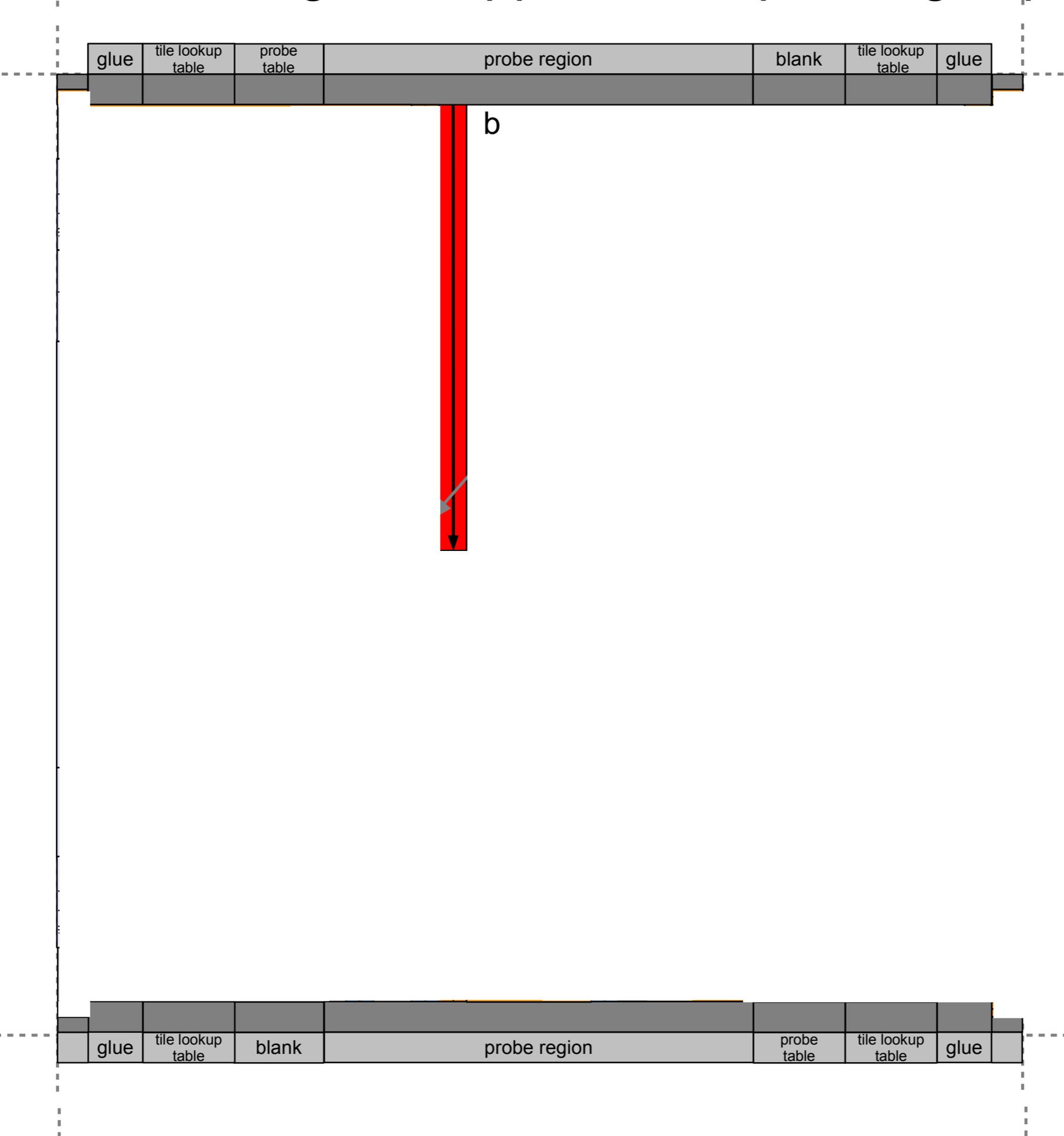
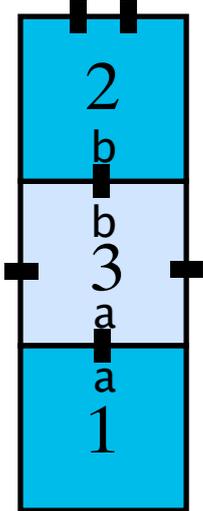
# Two-sided binding with opposite cooperating supersides



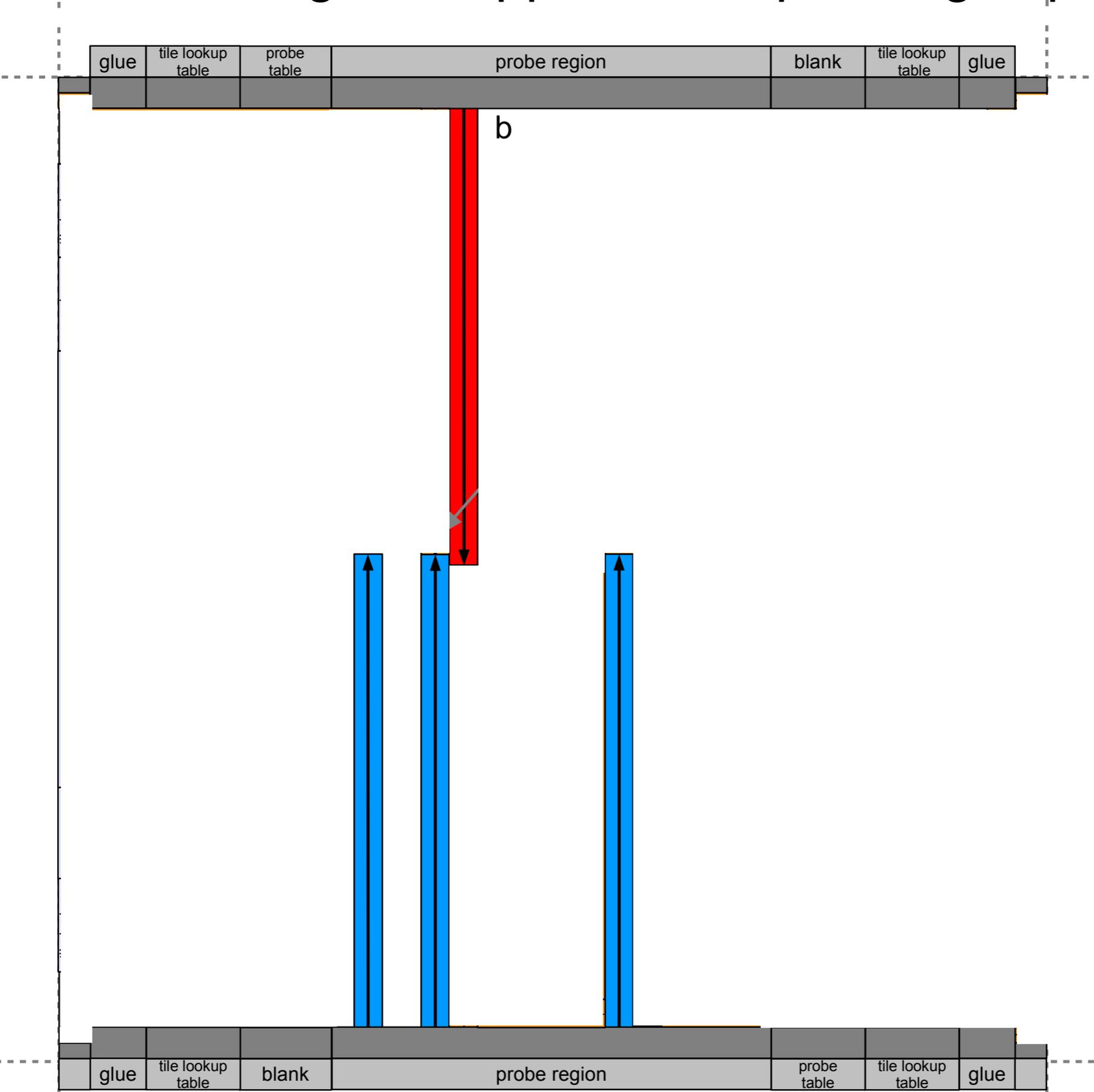
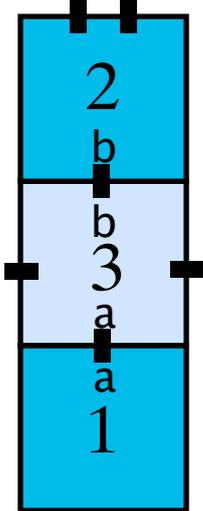
# Two-sided binding with opposite cooperating supersides



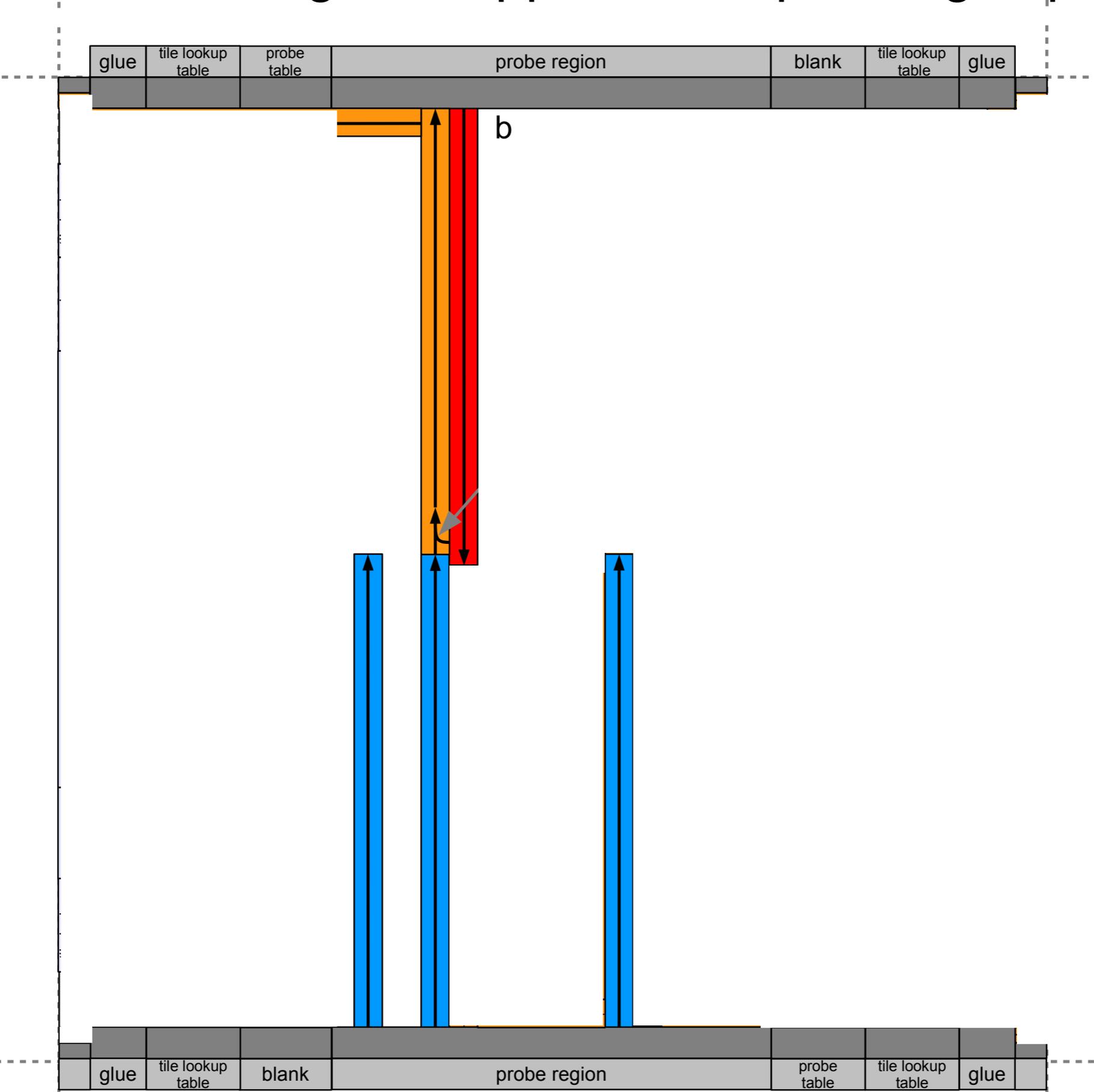
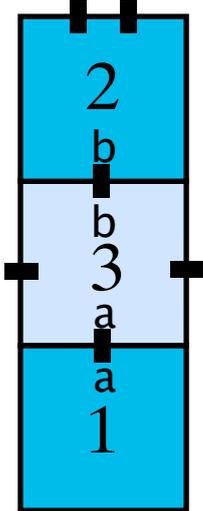
# Two-sided binding with opposite cooperating supersides



# Two-sided binding with opposite cooperating supersides



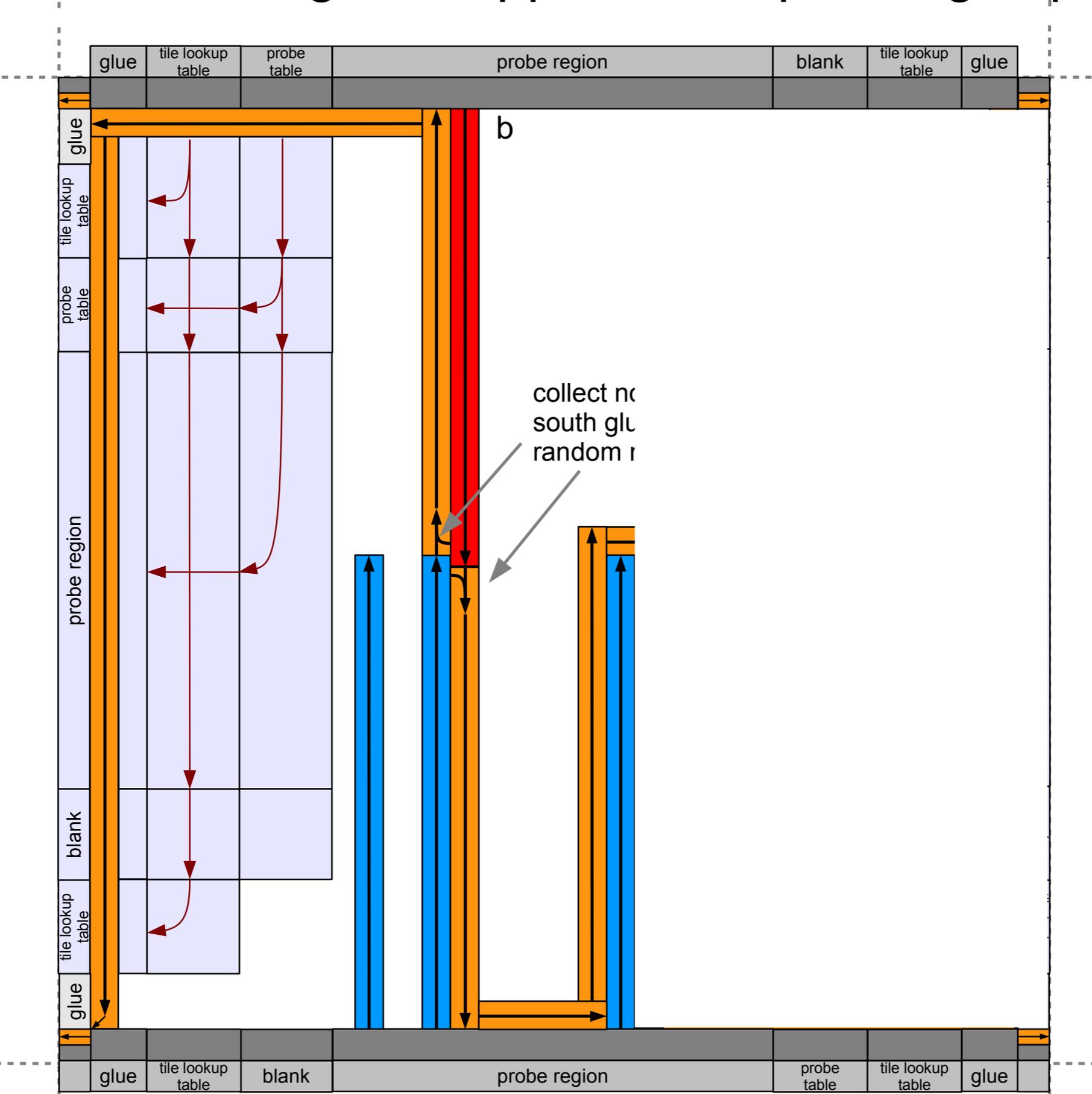
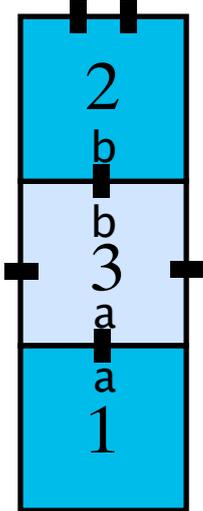
# Two-sided binding with opposite cooperating supersides



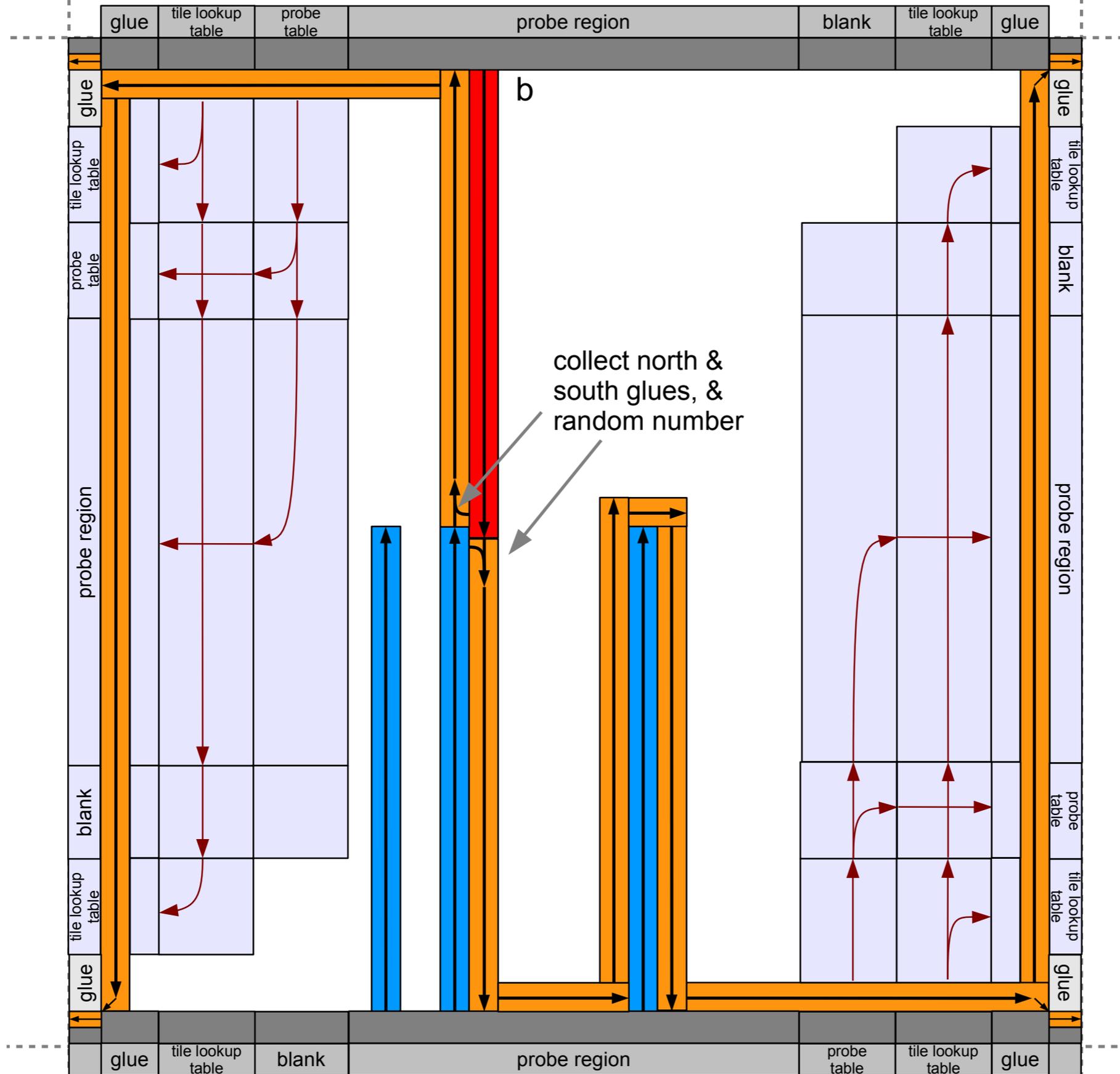
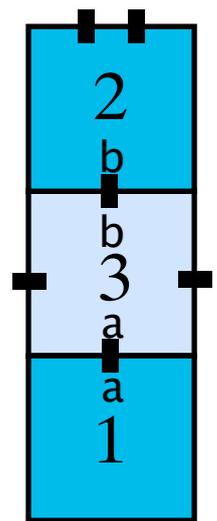




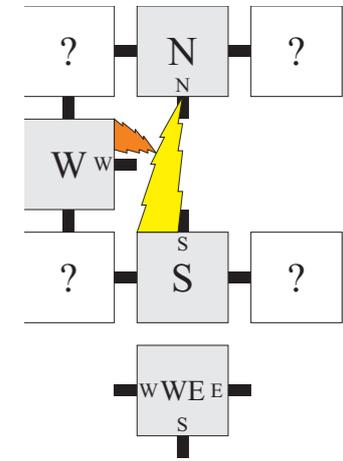
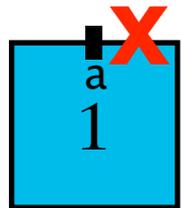
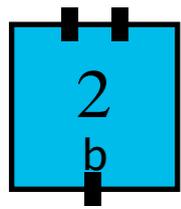
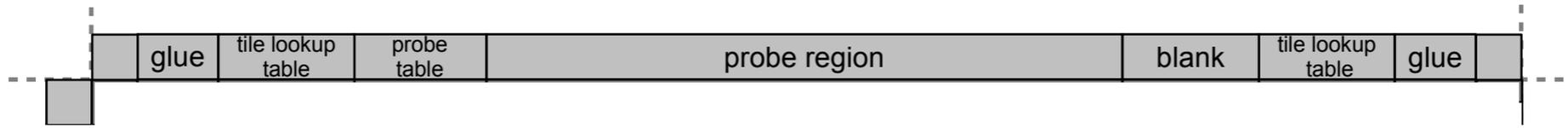
# Two-sided binding with opposite cooperating supersides



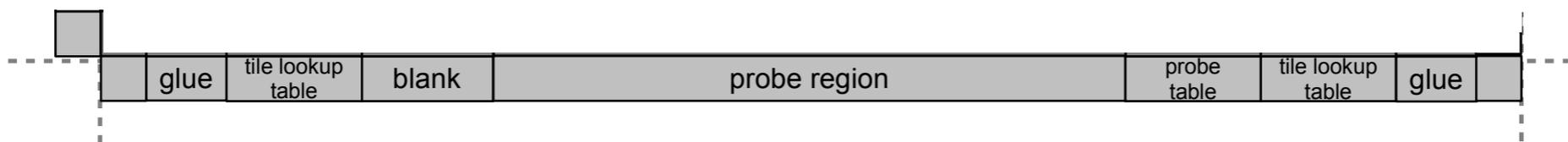
# Two-sided binding with opposite cooperating supersides



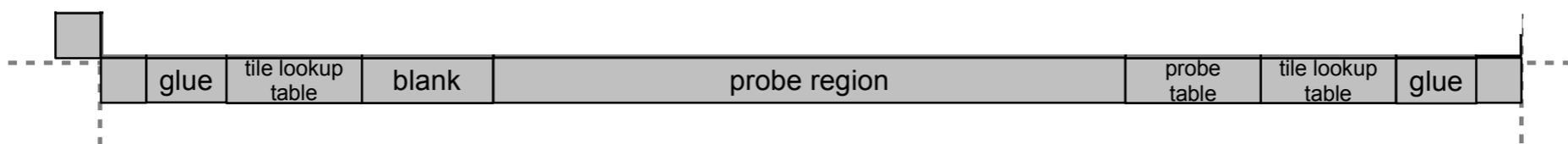
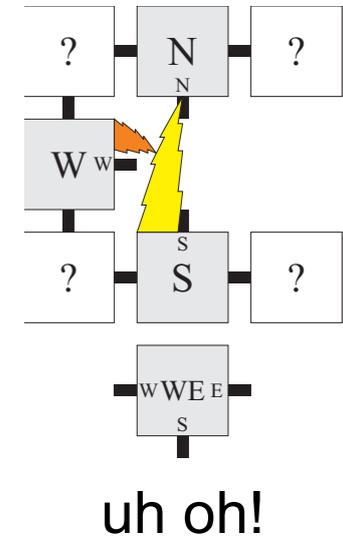
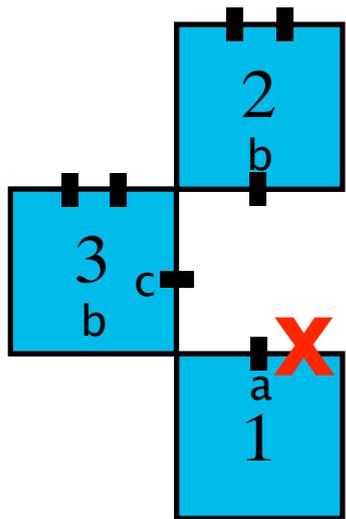
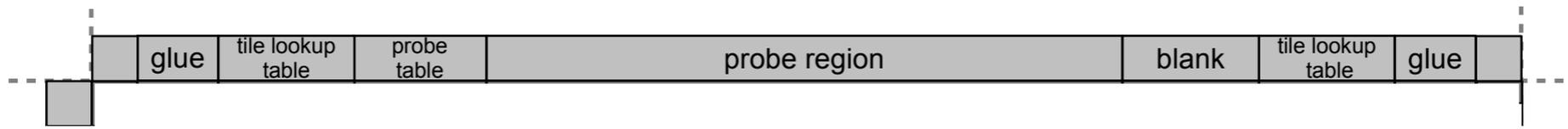
# 3-sided "uh-oh" example: probes miss each other



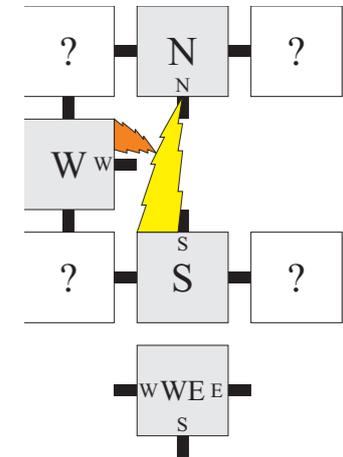
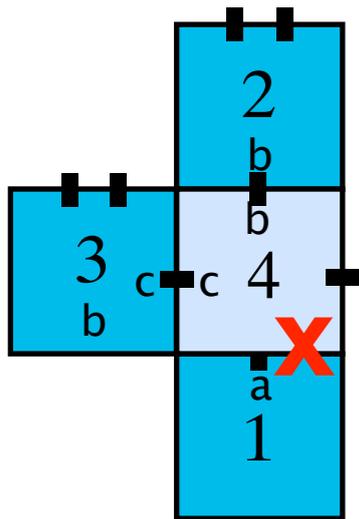
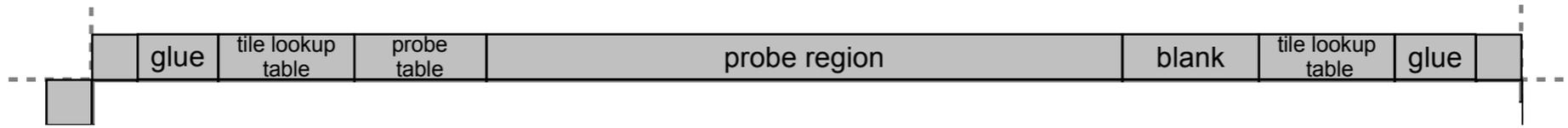
uh oh!



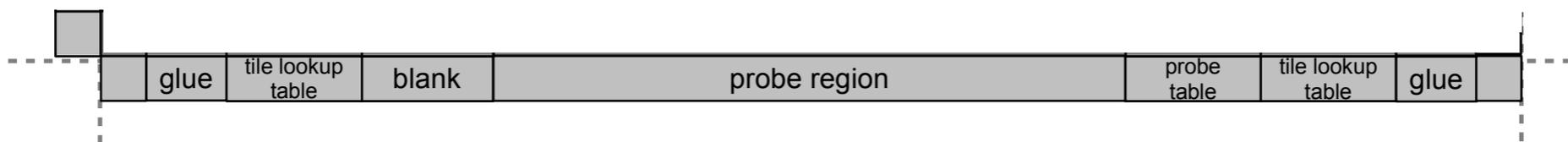
# 3-sided "uh-oh" example: probes miss each other



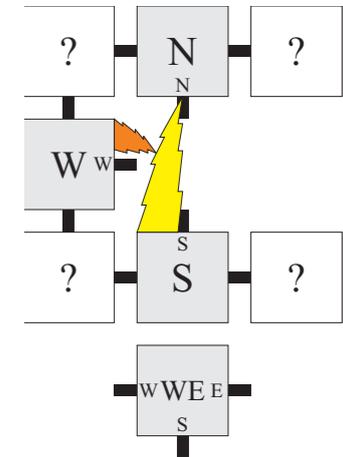
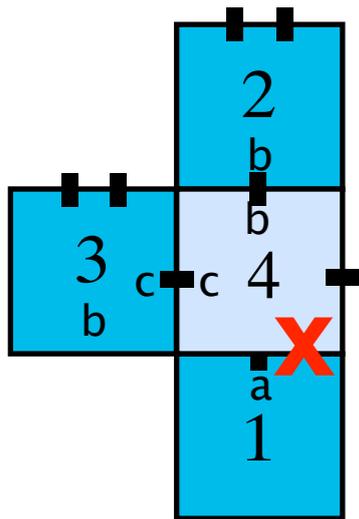
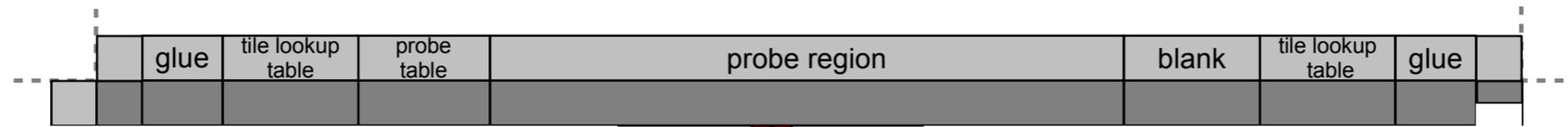
# 3-sided "uh-oh" example: probes miss each other



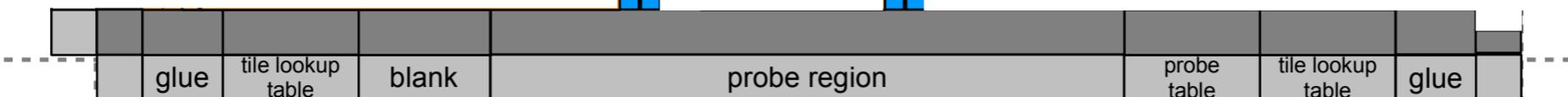
uh oh!



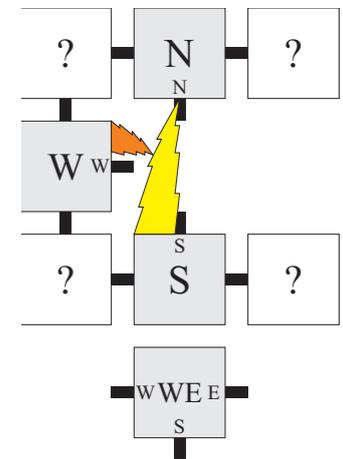
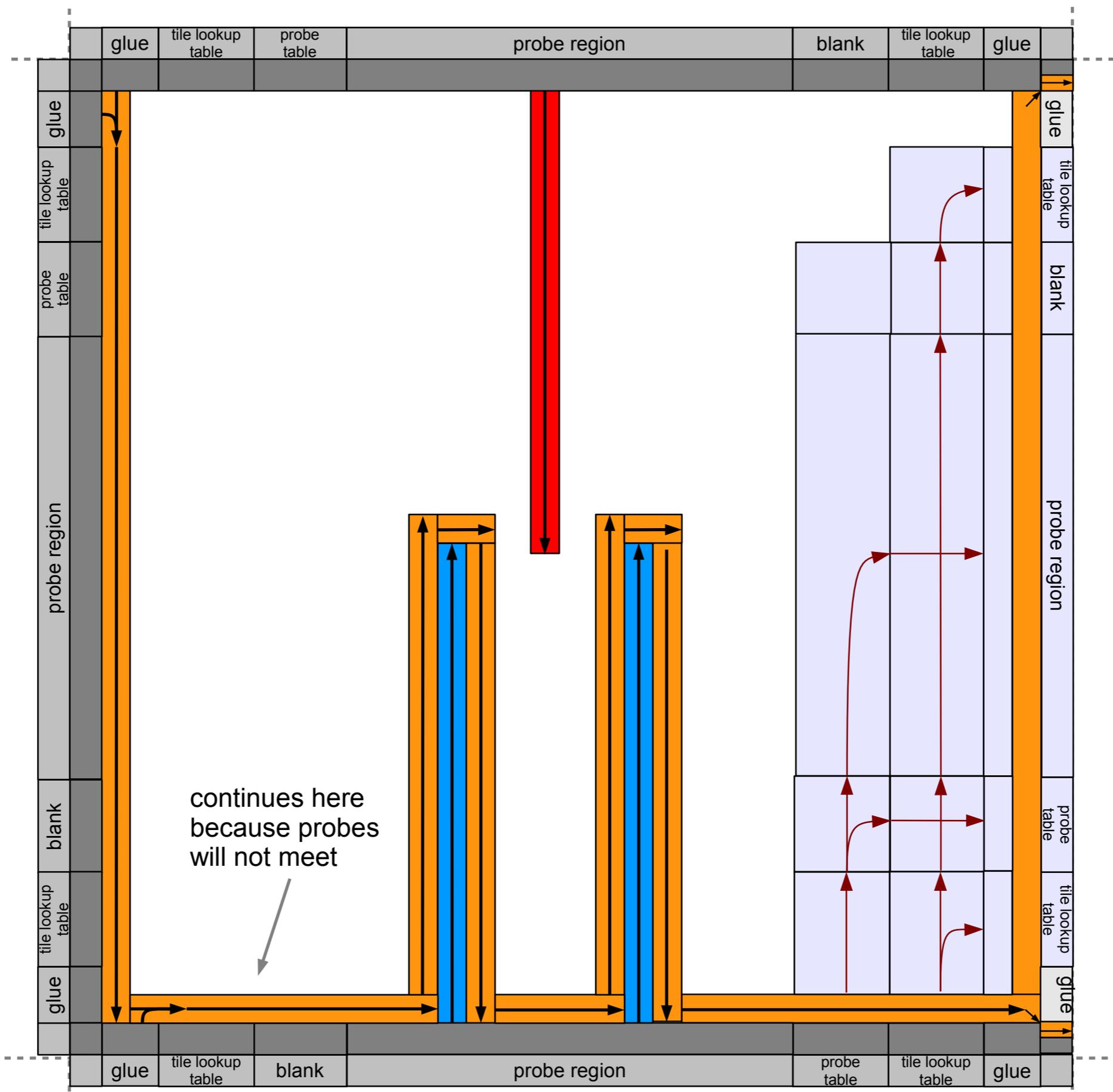
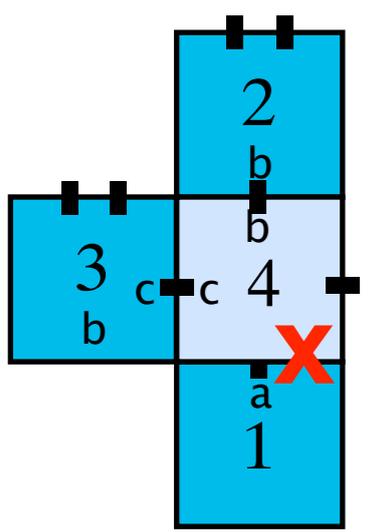
# 3-sided "uh-oh" example: probes miss each other



uh oh!

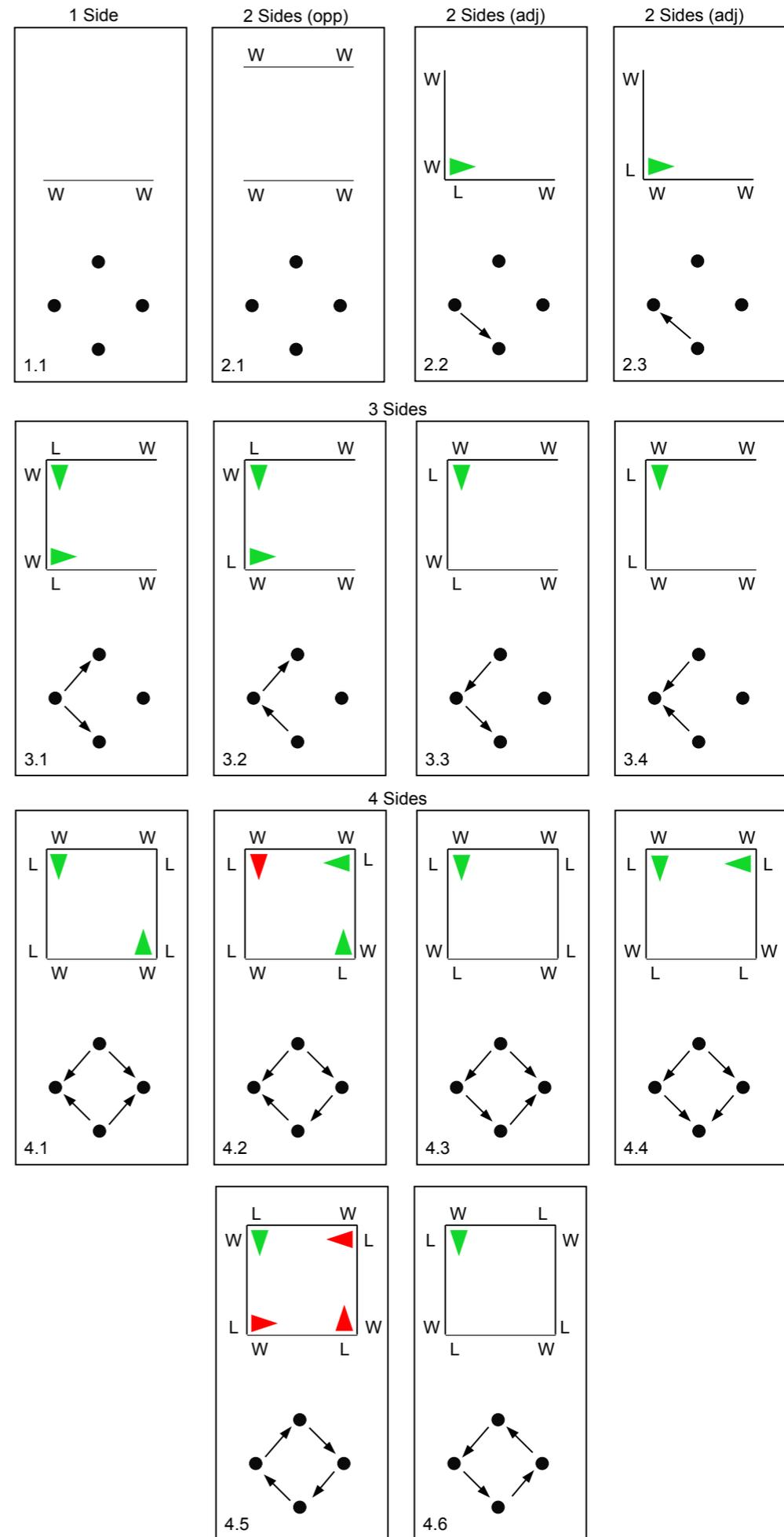


# 3-sided "uh-oh" example: probes miss each other



uh oh!

- Variety of cases for different orders of superside arrival
- Superside win/lose configurations and crawler initiation locations (green)
- Proof analogy:
  - Distributed game
  - Computation & geometry
  - Key challenge: make all the tricks work together



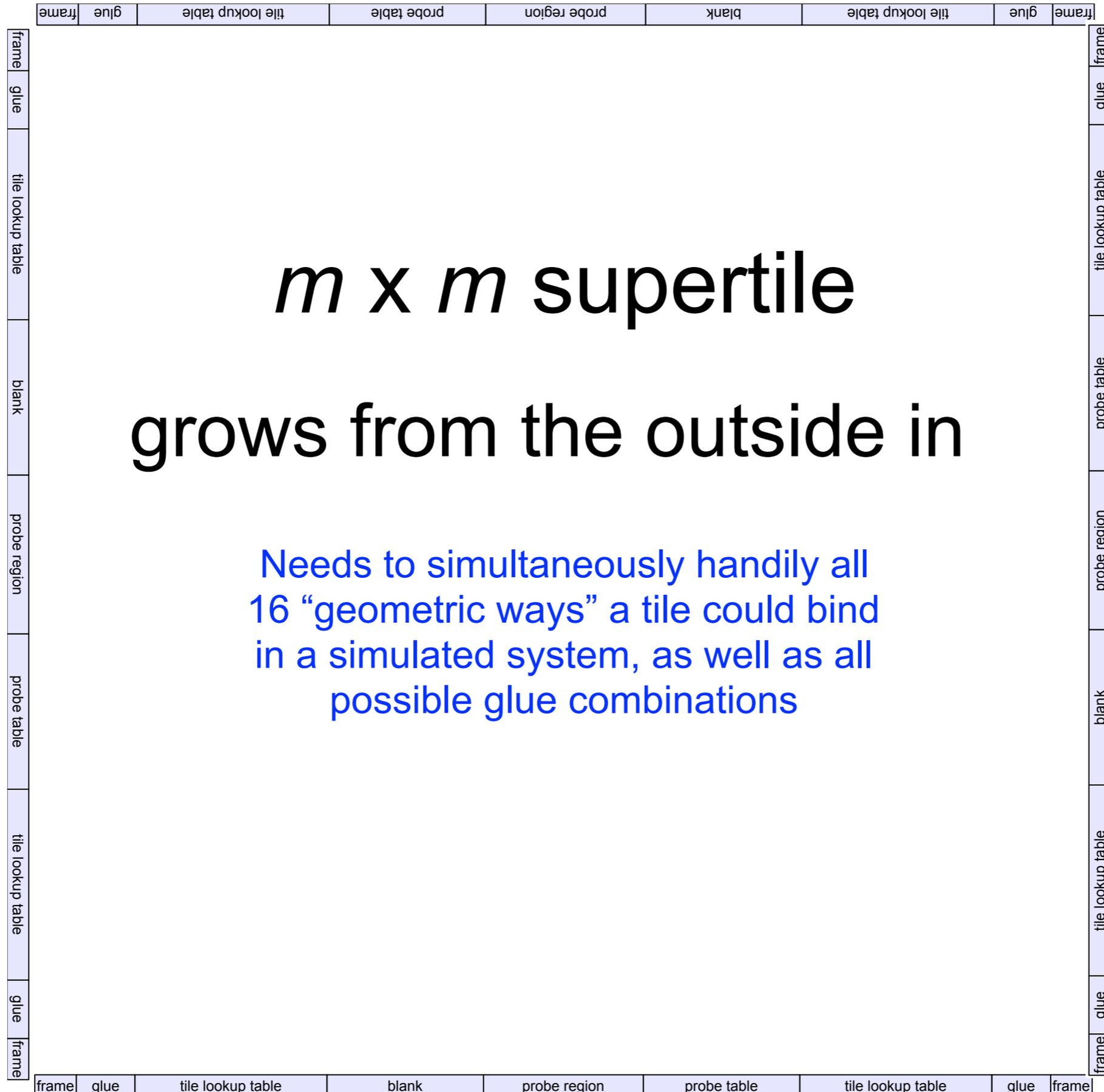
# $m \times m$ supertile

Needs to simultaneously handle all 16 “geometric ways” a tile could bind in a simulated system, as well as all possible glue combinations

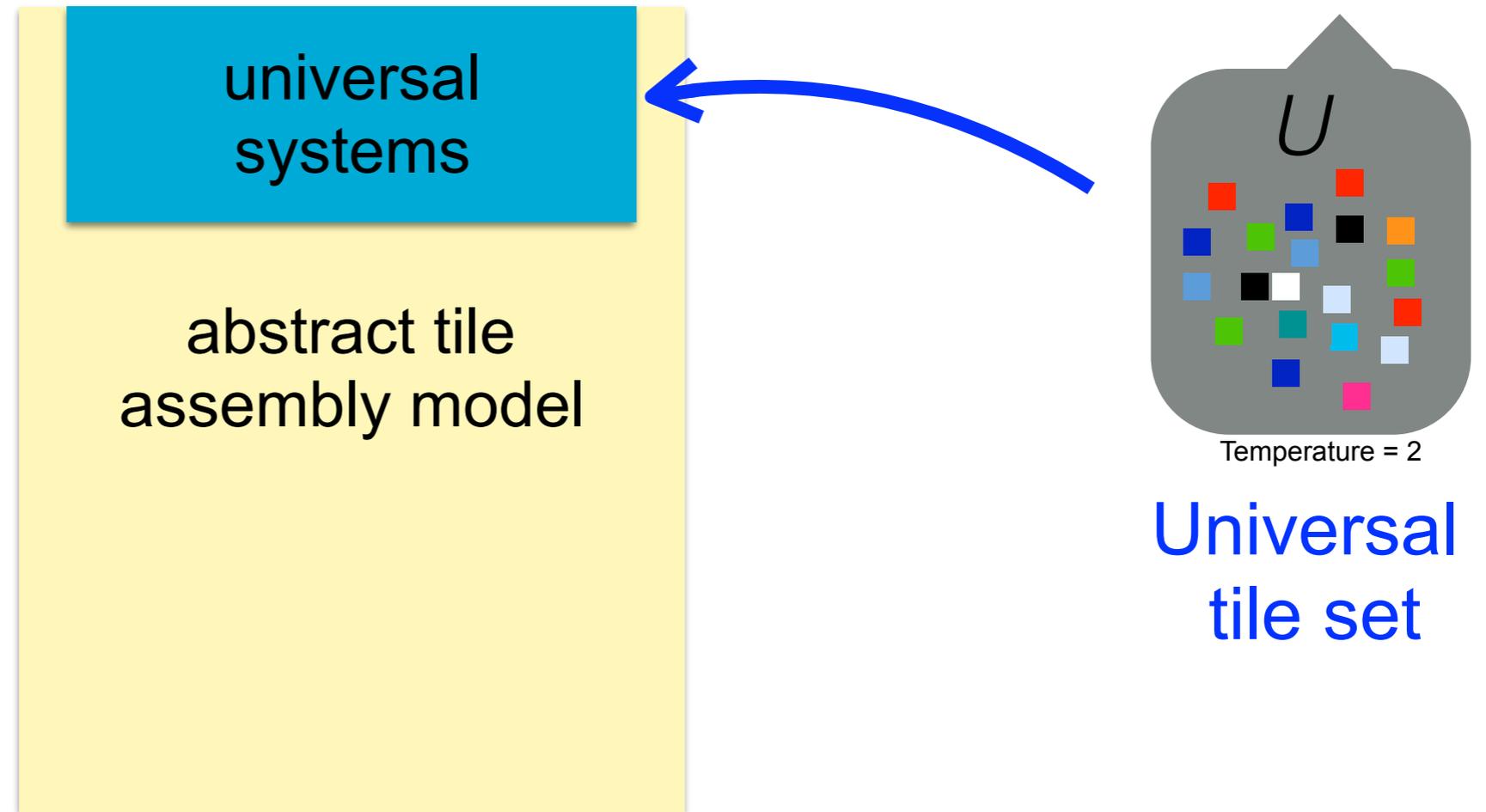


# $m \times m$ supertile grows from the outside in

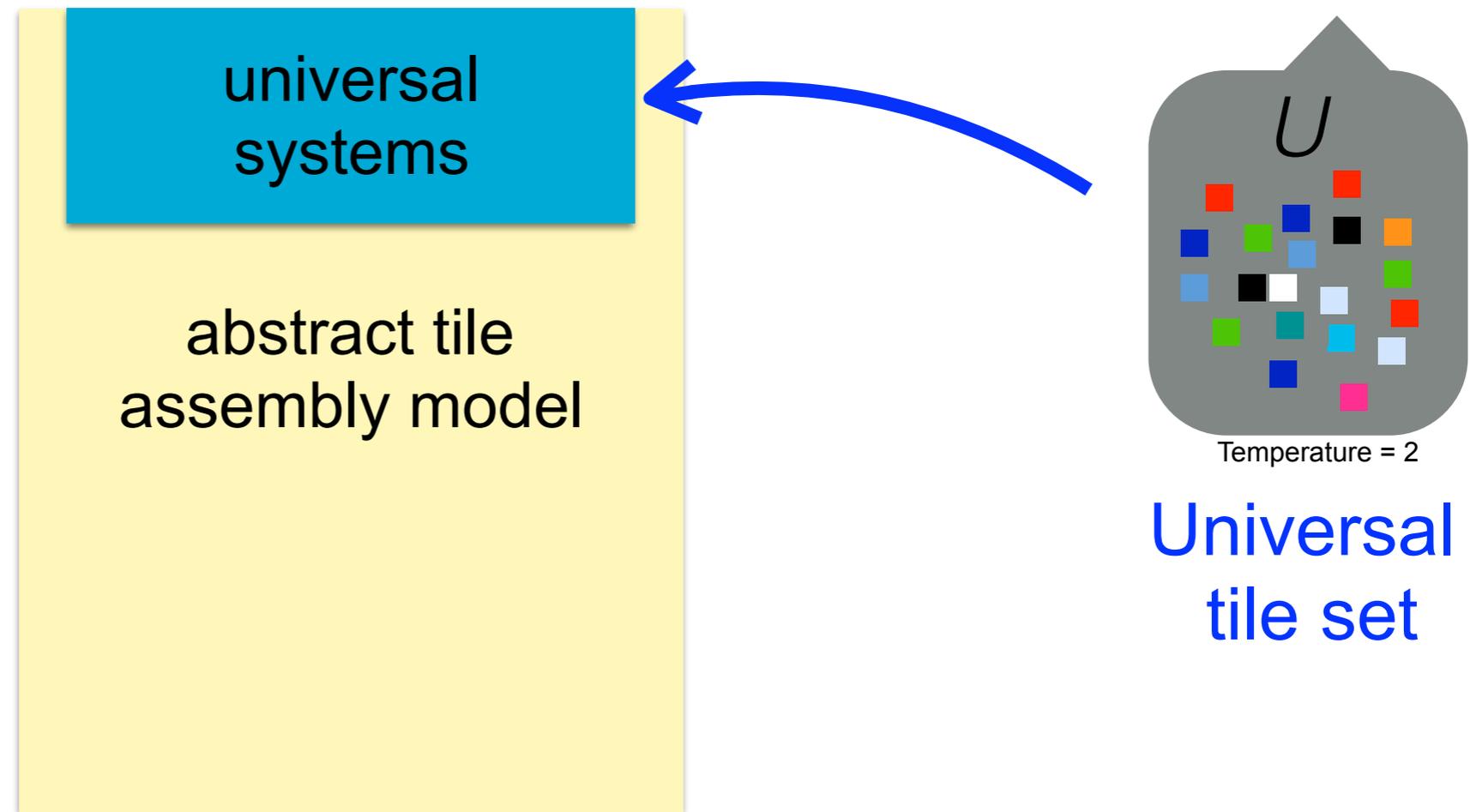
Needs to simultaneously handle all 16 “geometric ways” a tile could bind in a simulated system, as well as all possible glue combinations



# Is the abstract tile assembly model intrinsically universal?



# Is the abstract tile assembly model intrinsically universal? **Yes!**



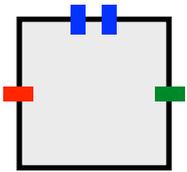
**Theorem:** There is a single intrinsically universal tile set  $U$  that simulates *any* tile assembly system

Doty, Lutz, Patitz, Schweller, Summers, Woods. FOCS 2012

# A zoo of self-assembly models

## How to compare these models?

abstract tile  
assembly model

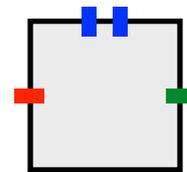


# A zoo of self-assembly models

## How to compare these models?

abstract tile  
assembly model

temperature 2



locally consistent

temperature 1

...

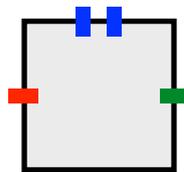
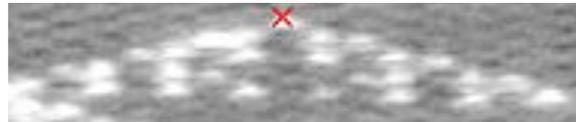
# A zoo of self-assembly models

## How to compare these models?

abstract tile  
assembly model

hierarchical

temperature 2



locally consistent

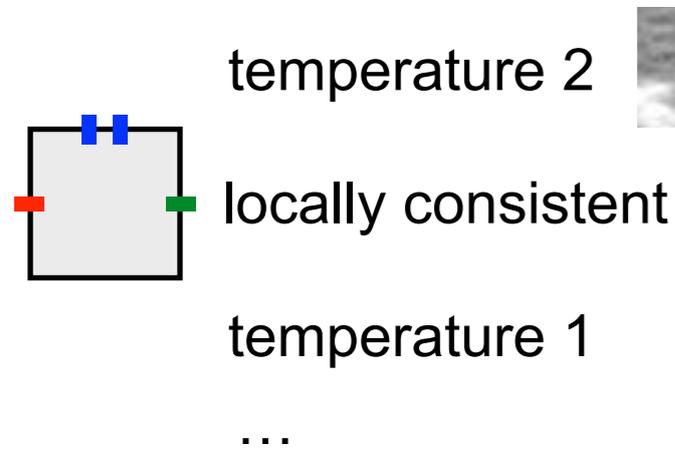
temperature 1

...

# A zoo of self-assembly models

## How to compare these models?

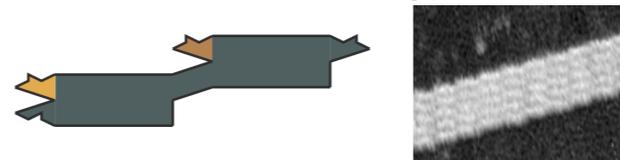
abstract tile  
assembly model



hierarchical

polyomino

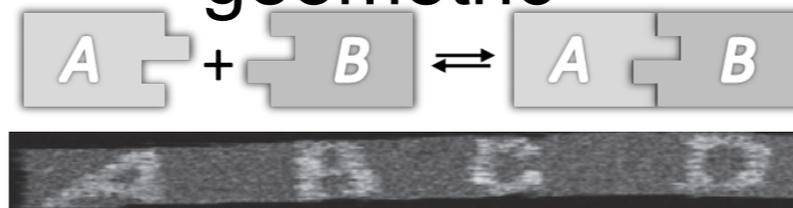
dupled (domino)



polygonal  
free-body



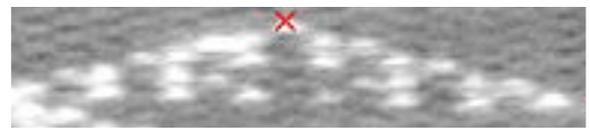
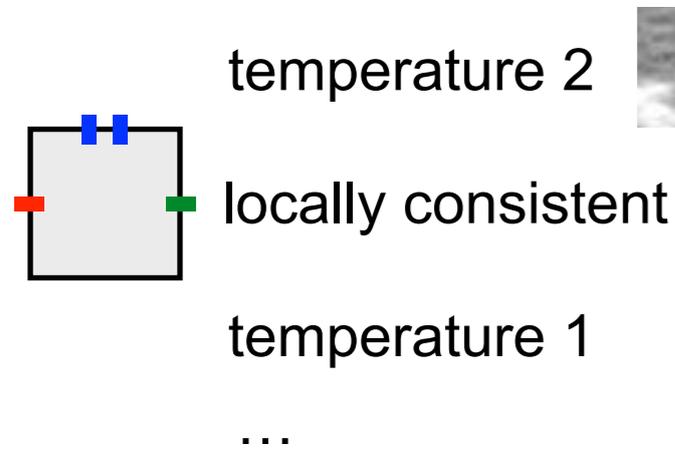
geometric



# A zoo of self-assembly models

How to compare these models?

abstract tile  
assembly model



hierarchical

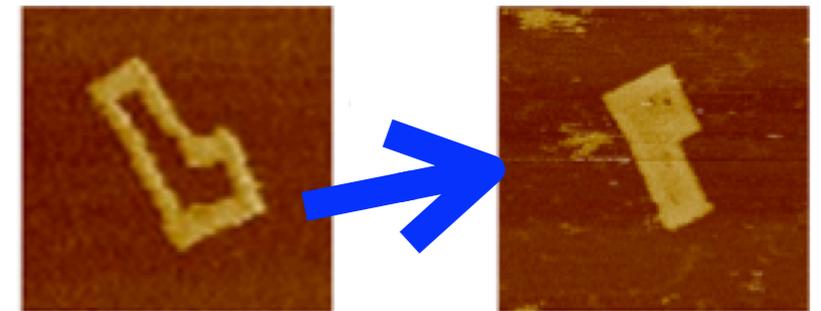
polyomino

dupled (domino)

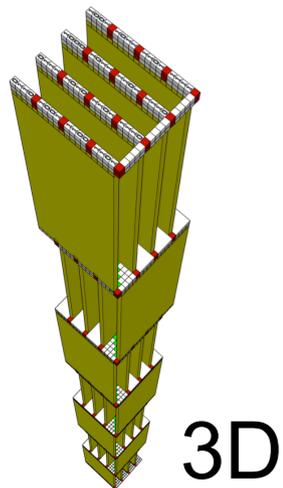


kinetic

staged (mixing)



signal-passing



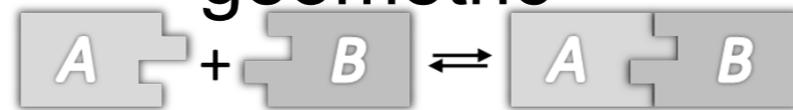
3D

polygonal  
free-body

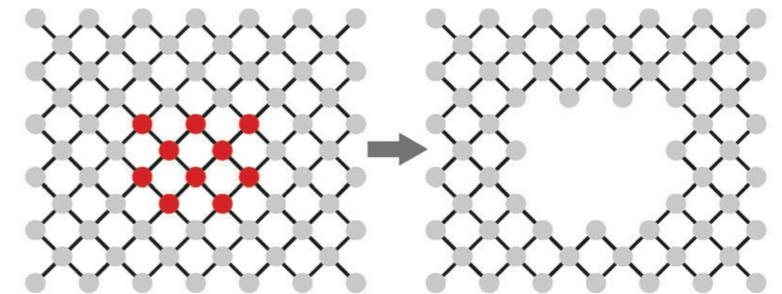


negative  
glue

geometric



RNase



Flexible glue

dupled & restricted glue



# A complexity theory for self-assembly

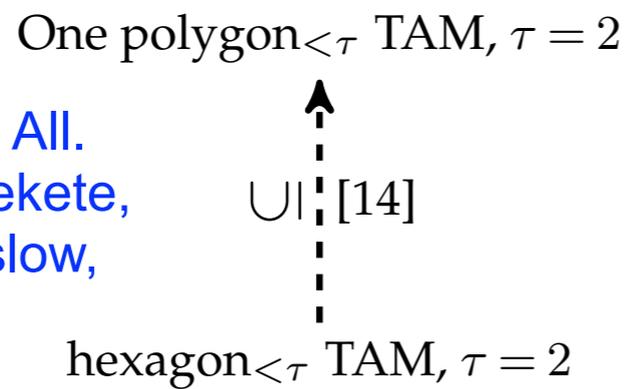
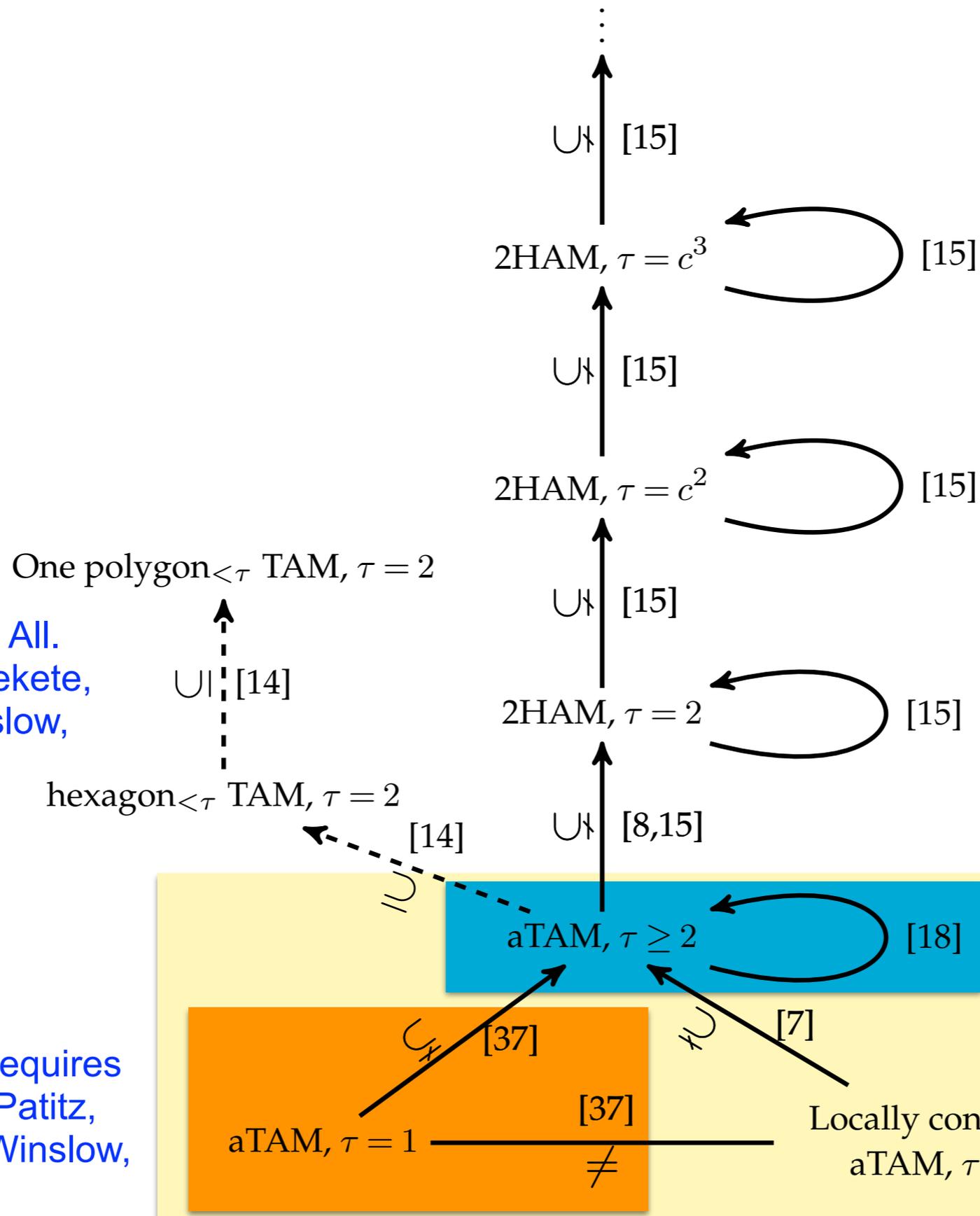
Intrinsic universality and the computational power of self-assembly. Woods. Phil Trans Royal Soc. A. 2014

The two-handed model is not intrinsically universal. Demaine, Patitz, Rogers, Schweller, Summers, Woods ICALP 2013

The tile assembly model is intrinsically universal. Doty, Lutz, Patitz, Schweller, Summers, Woods. FOCS 2012

One Tile to Rule Them All. Demaine, Demaine, Fekete, Patitz, Schweller, Winslow, Woods. ICALP 2014.

Intrinsic universality...requires cooperation. Meunier, Patitz, Summers, Theyssier, Winslow, Woods. SODA 2014



# A complexity theory for self-assembly

Gives a structure to the field of self-assembly - a way to compare models

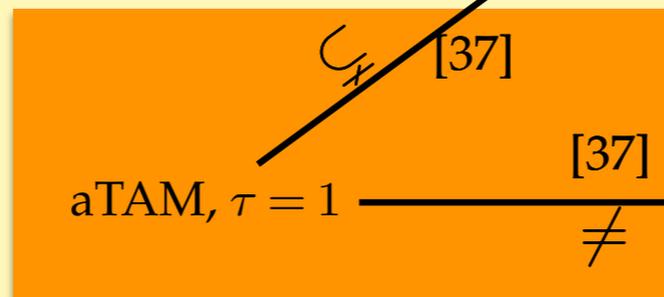
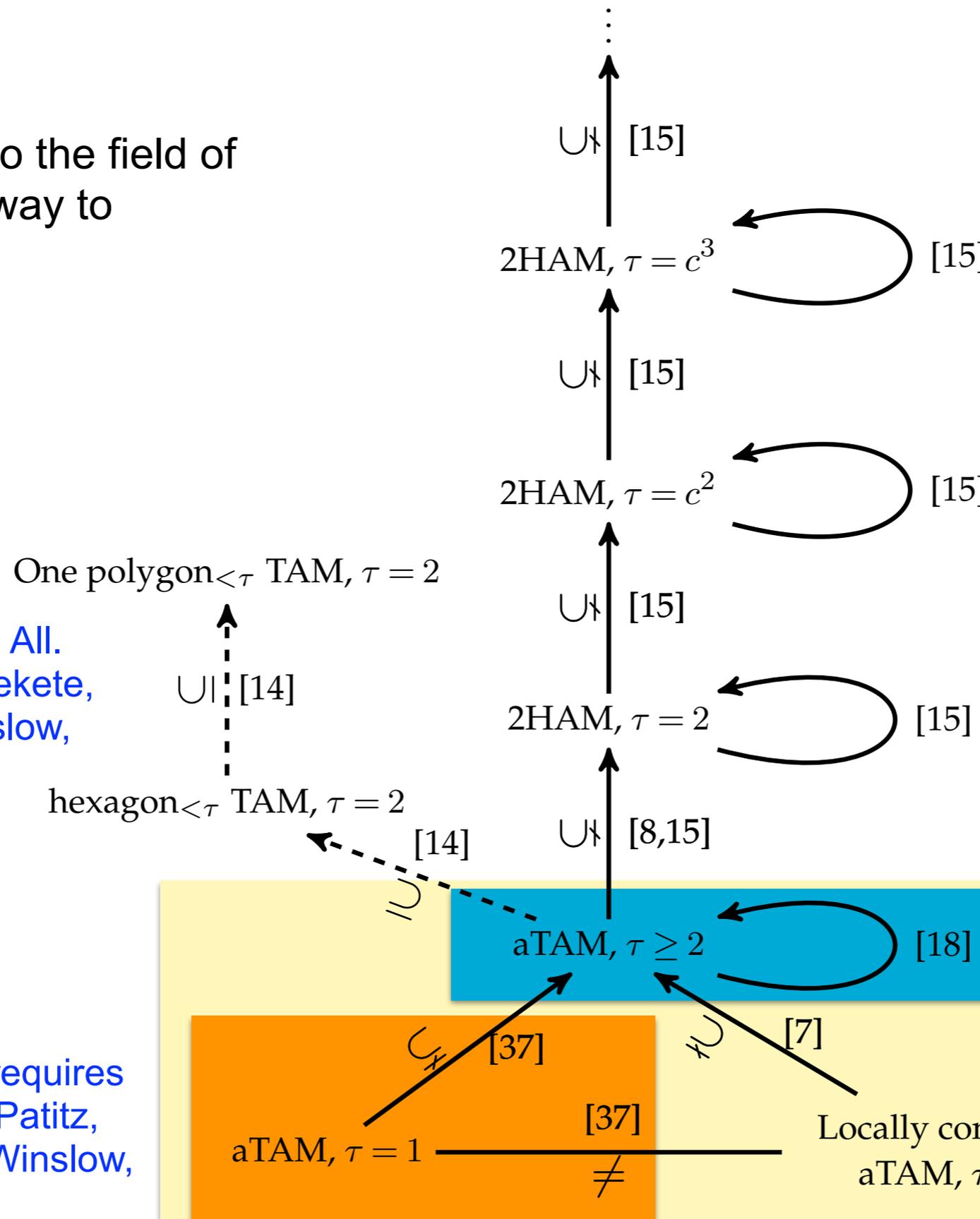
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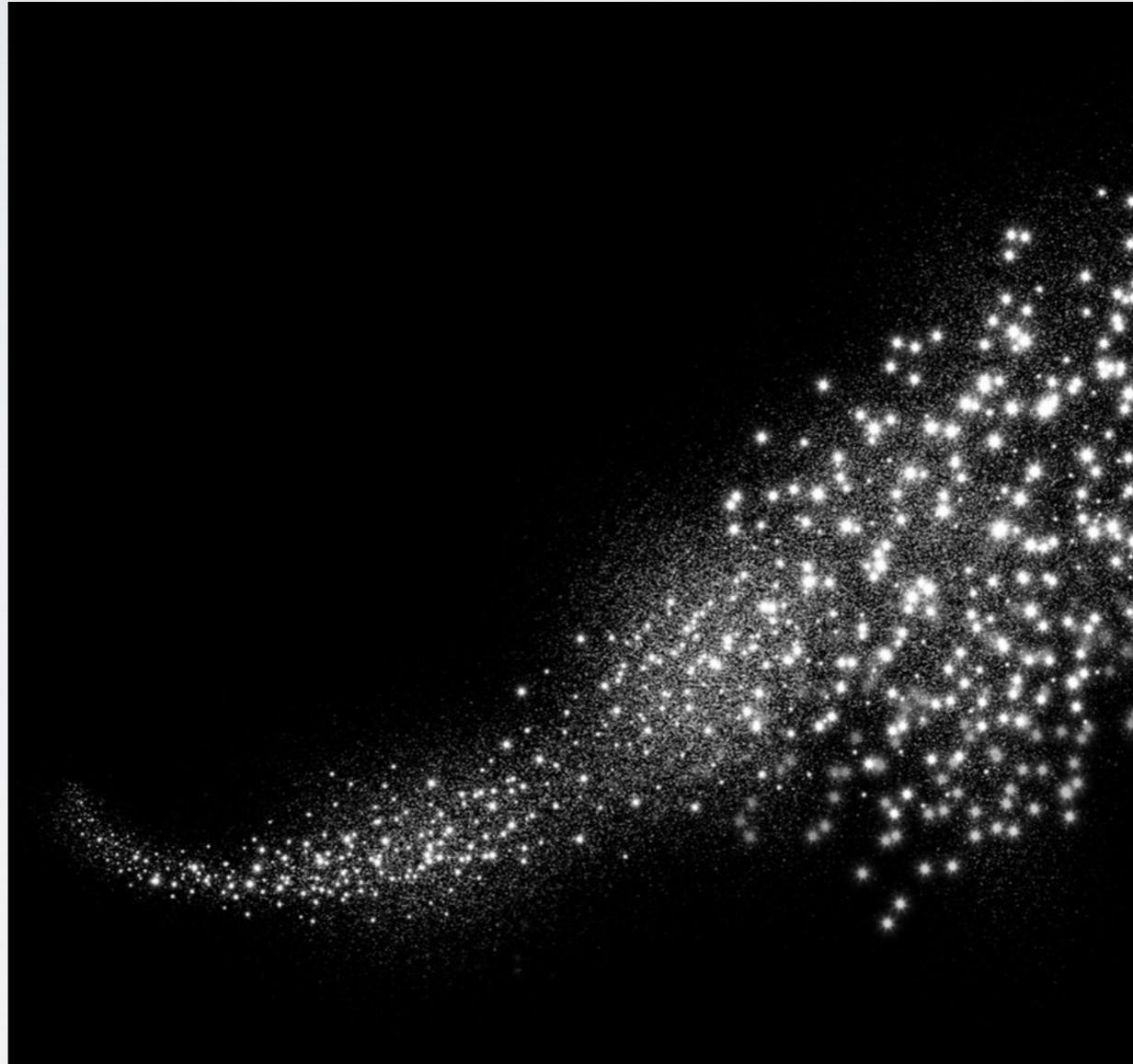
Intrinsic universality...requires cooperation. Meunier, Patitz, Summers, Theyssier, Winslow, Woods. SODA 2014



Locally consistent aTAM,  $\tau = 2$



# Magic dust



<http://nighthawk101stock.deviantart.com/>

# Result 1: There is a **single** rotatable polygon that simulates **all** tile assembly systems

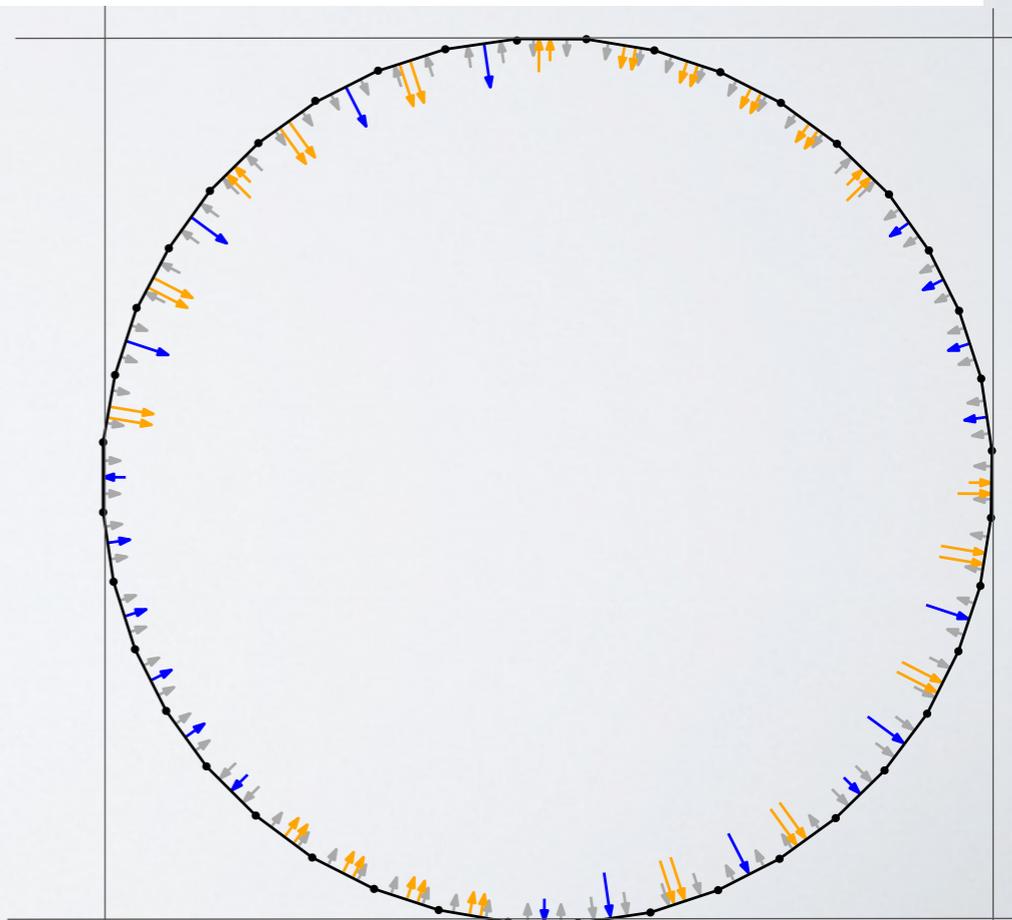


# Result 2: For each (e.g. Wang) plane tile system there is one rotatable polygon that simulates it

**Theorem 7.1** *Each colored square and hexagon plane tiling system in the families  $(\{\}, c_m)$ ,  $(\{t_r, t_f\}, c_m)$ ,  $(\{\}, c_c)$  and  $(\{t_r, t_f\}, c_c)$  is simulated by an  $n$ -gon nearly-plane tiling system.*

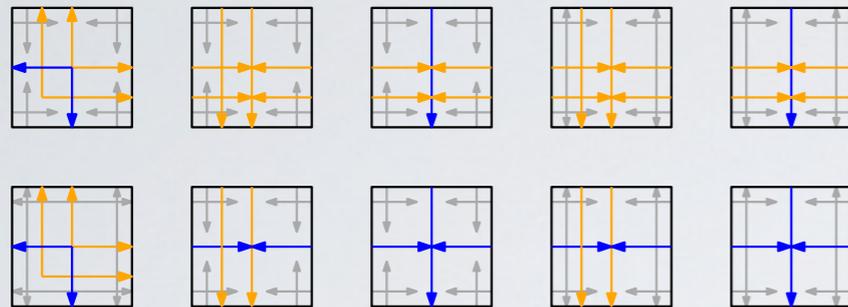


Robinson's 10-tile aperiodic tile set

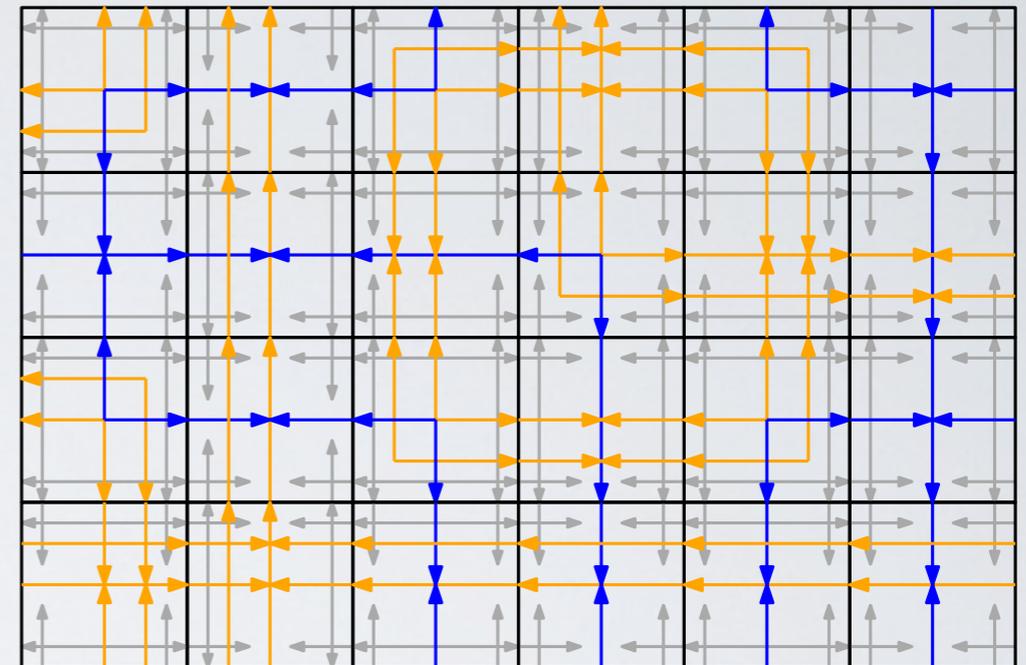


Demaine, Demaine, Fekete, Patitz, Schweller, Winslow, Woods. One Tile to Rule Them All: Simulating Any Turing Machine, Tile Assembly System, or Tiling System with One Rotatable Puzzle Piece. ICALP 2014.

# Theorem: For each (Wang) plane tiling system there is one rotatable polygon that simulates it



Robinson's 10-tile aperiodic tile set



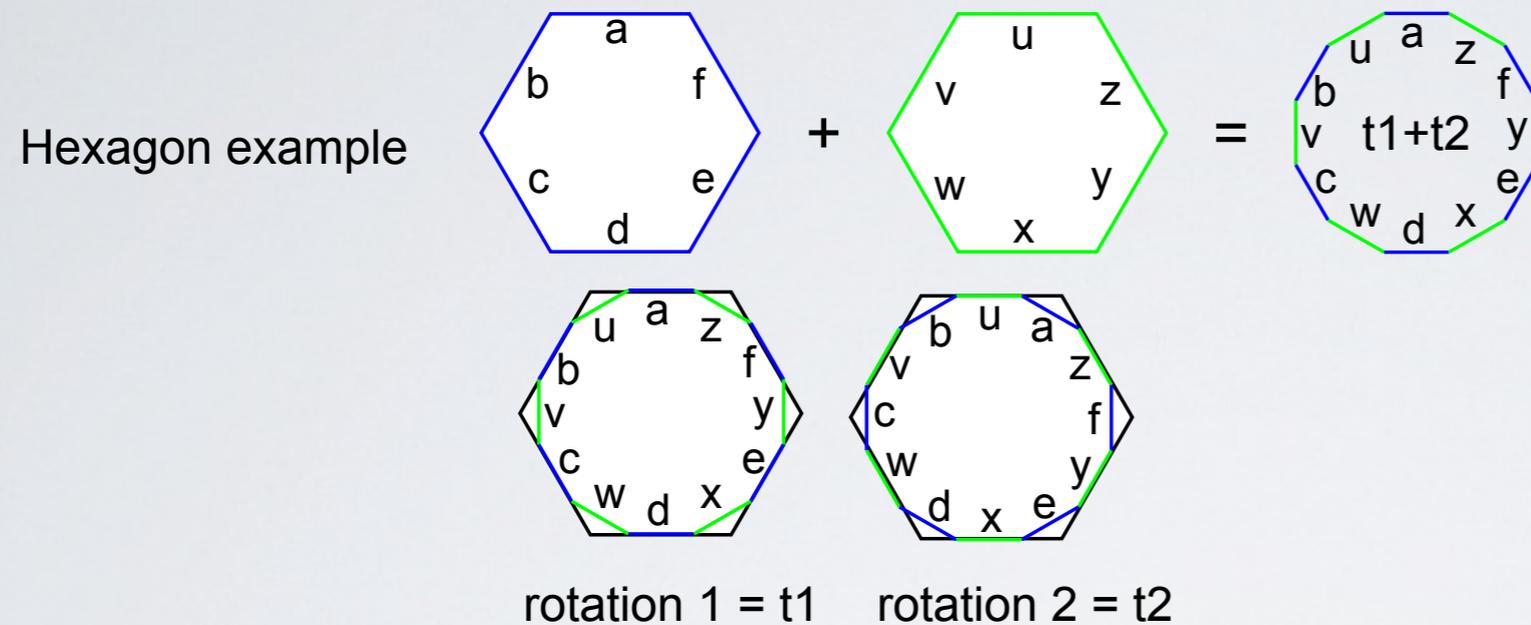
Portion of a tiling of Robinson's 10-tile aperiodic square tile set (with rotations)

- Wang plane tiling system:
  - Try to fill the plane with tiles.
  - All sides must match.
  - We care about the existence of tilings, but not how we made the tiling

Demaine, Demaine, Fekete, Patitz, Schweller, Winslow, Woods.  
One Tile to Rule Them All: Simulating Any Turing Machine, Tile  
Assembly System, or Tiling System with One Rotatable Puzzle  
Piece. ICALP 2014.

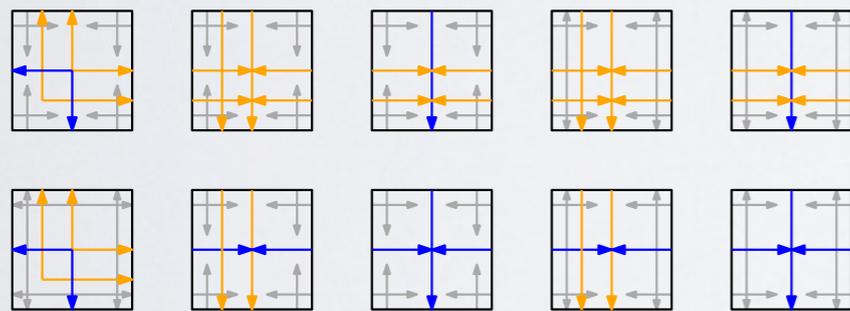
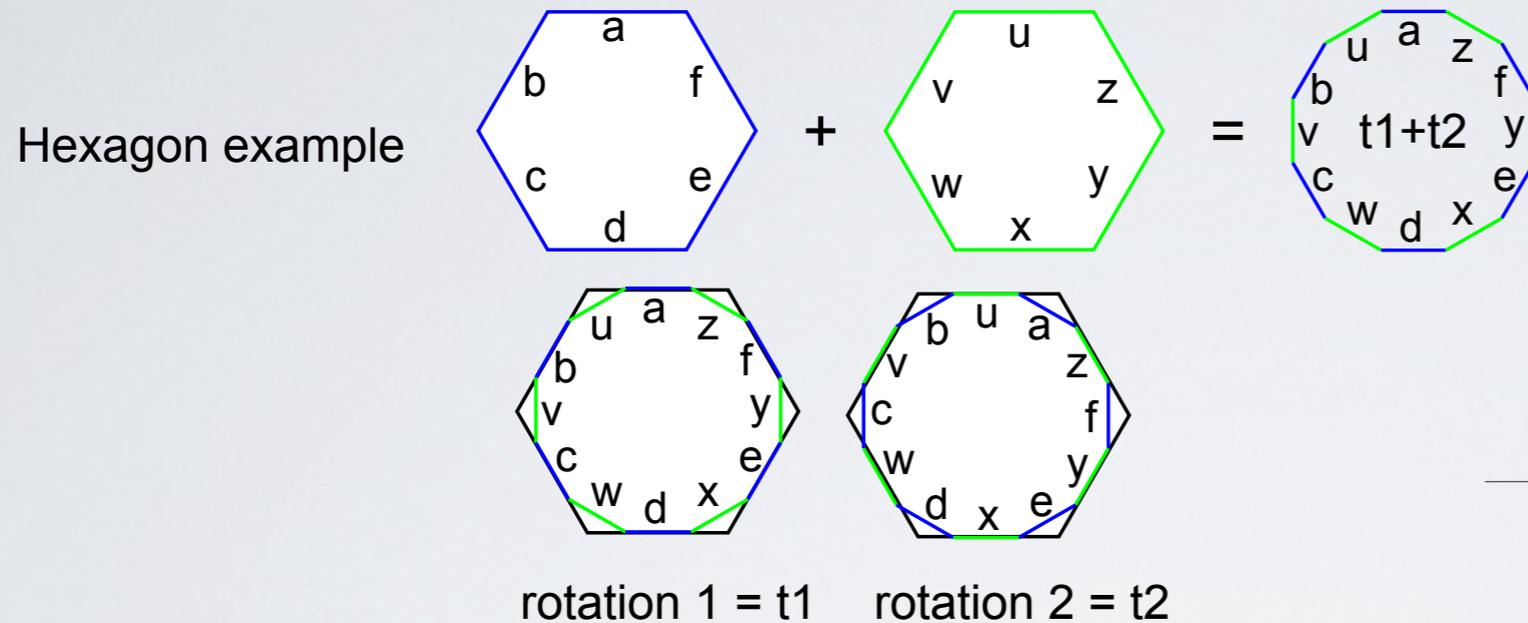
# A rotatable polygon that simulates a tile set

- For each set of (possibly rotatable, flipable) Wang square/hexagon tiles there is a single rotatable tile that simulates it

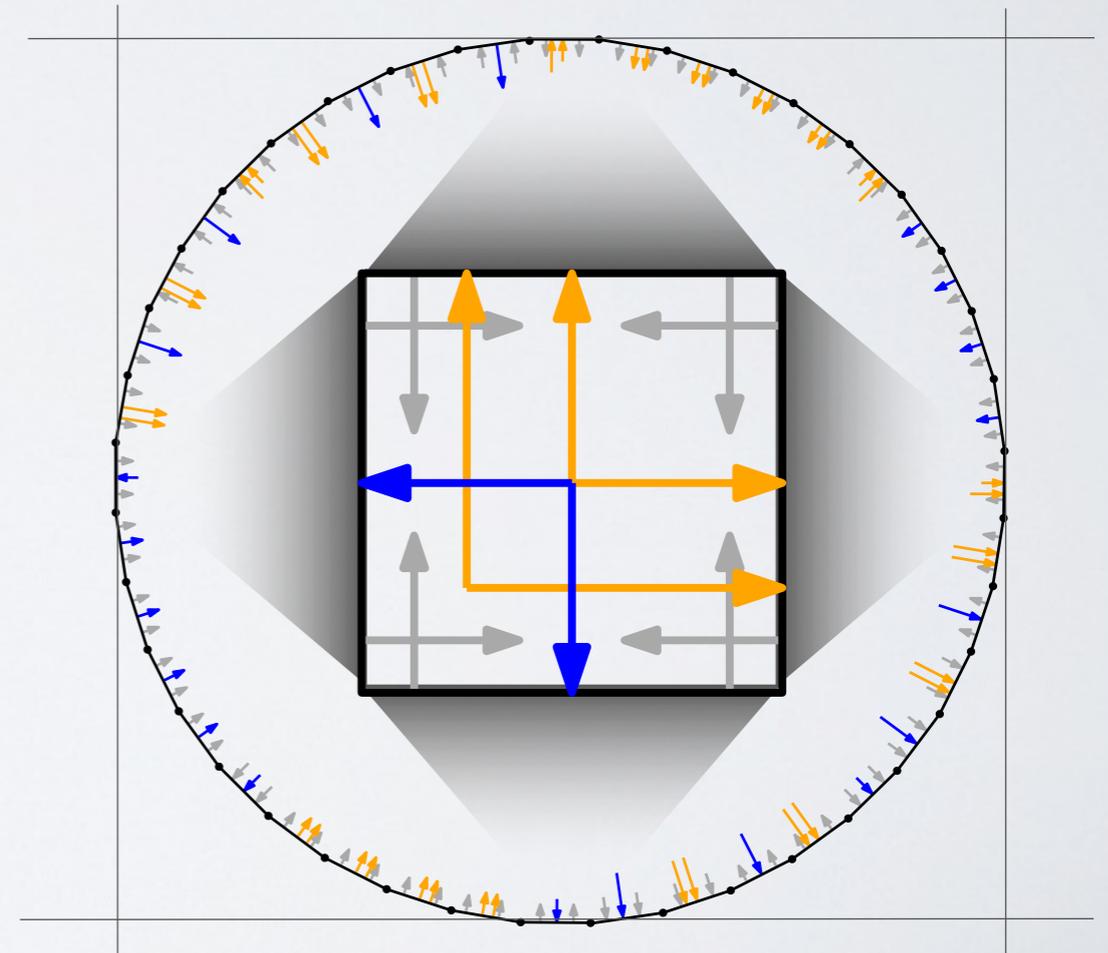


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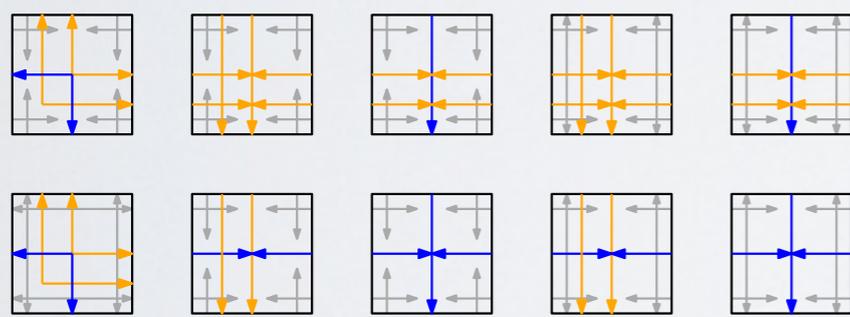
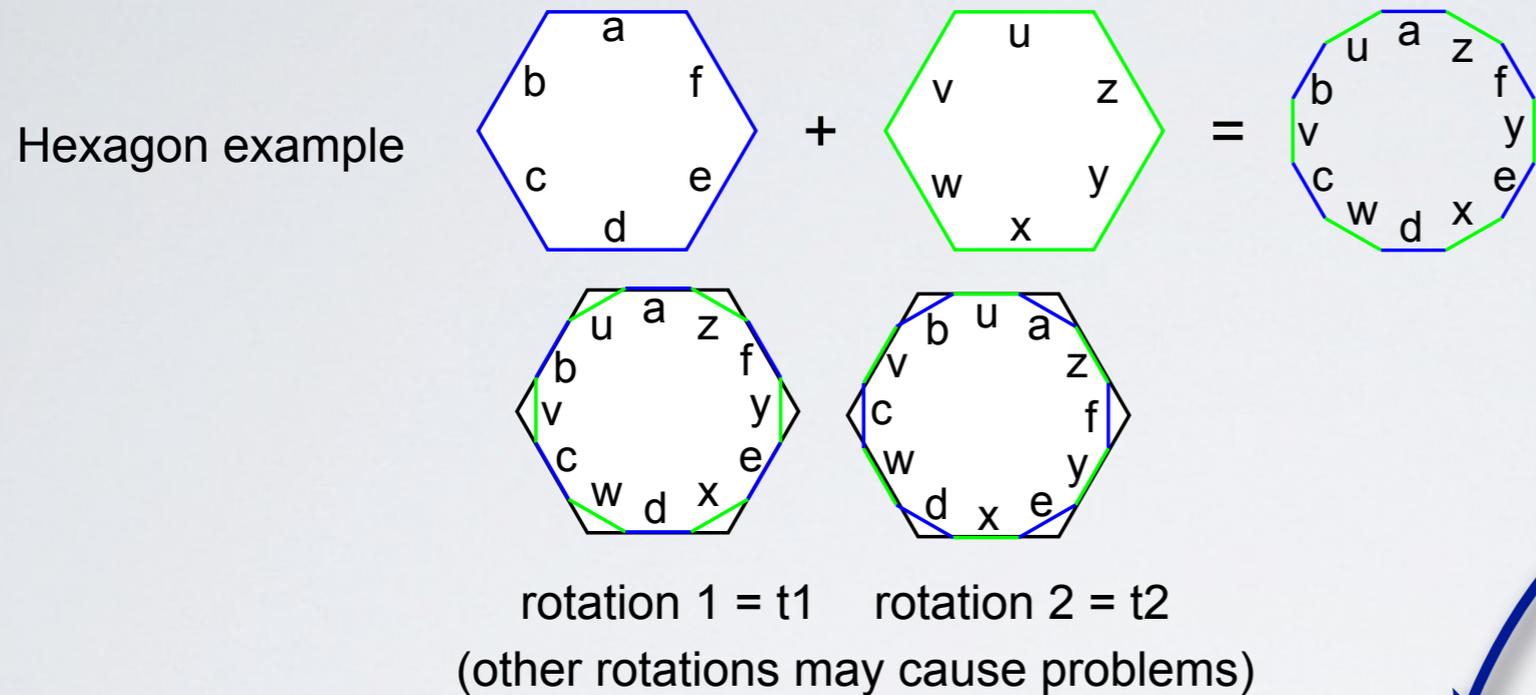


Robinson's 10-tile aperiodic tile set  
(complimentary matching constraint)

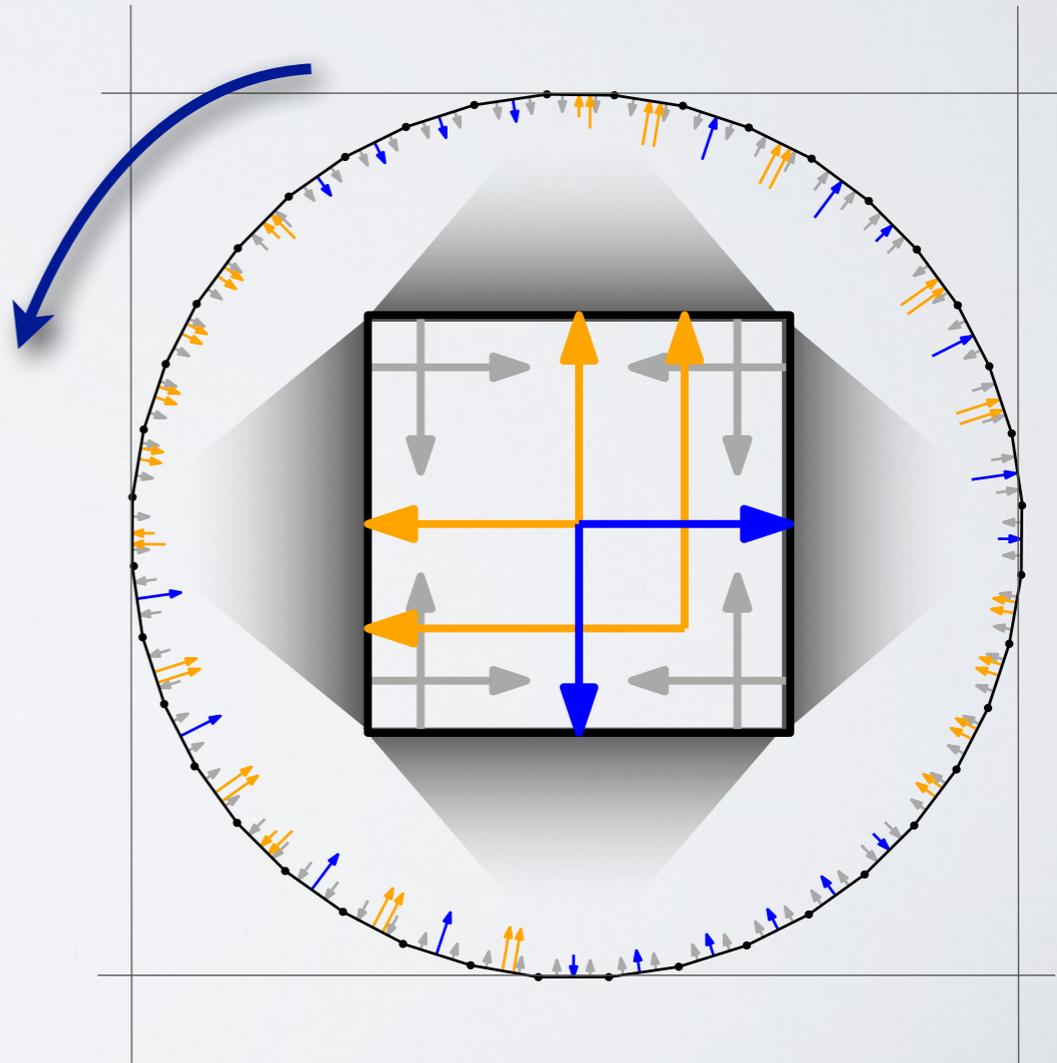


# A rotatable polygon that simulates a tile set

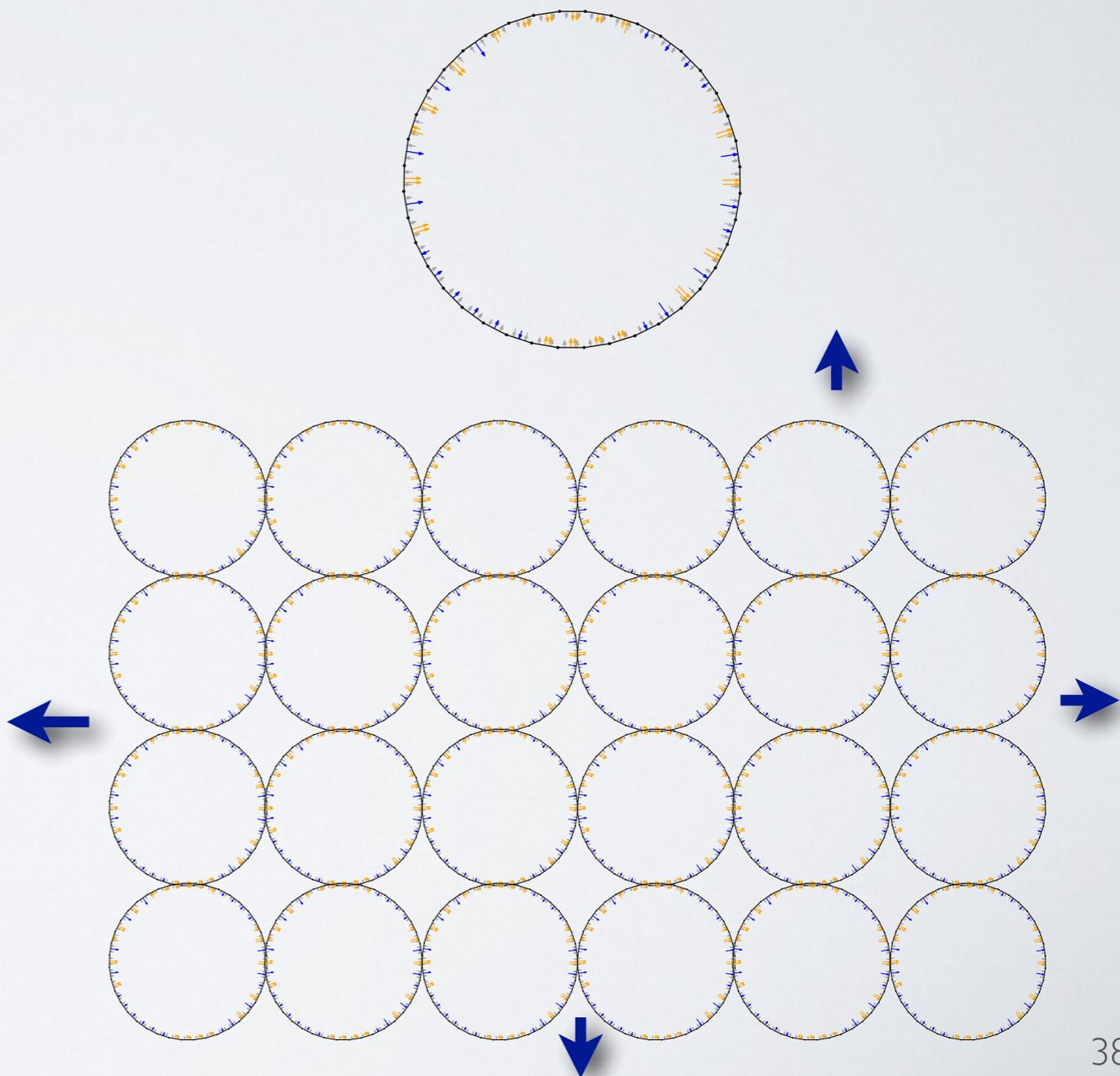
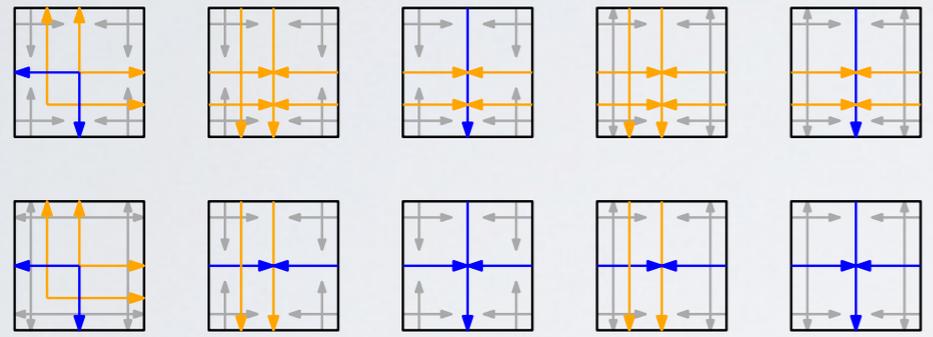
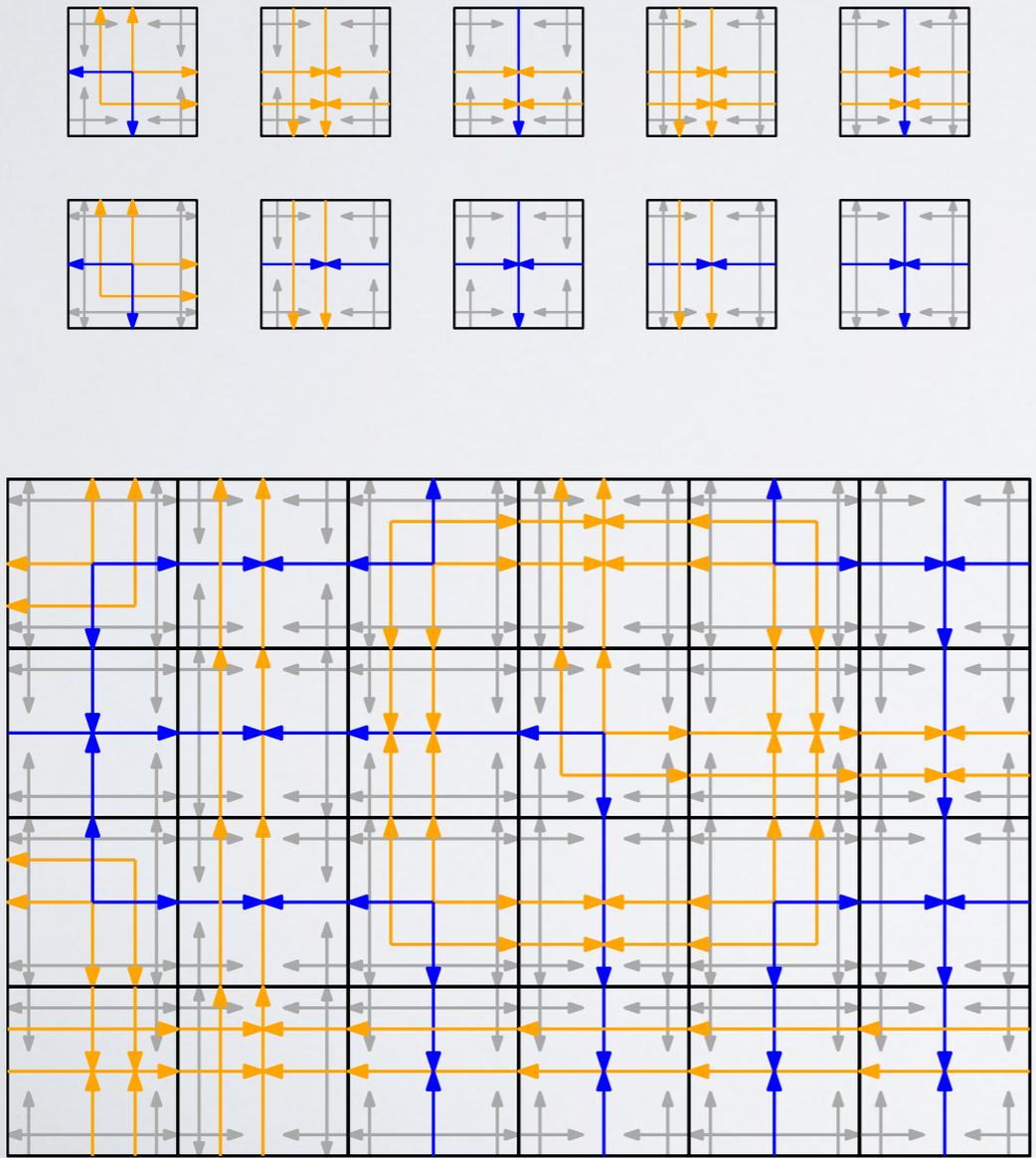
- For each set of (possibly rotatable, and/or flipable) square or hexagon tiles there is a single (rotatable, flipable) tile that simulates it



Robinson's 10-tile aperiodic tile set  
(complimentary matching constraint)

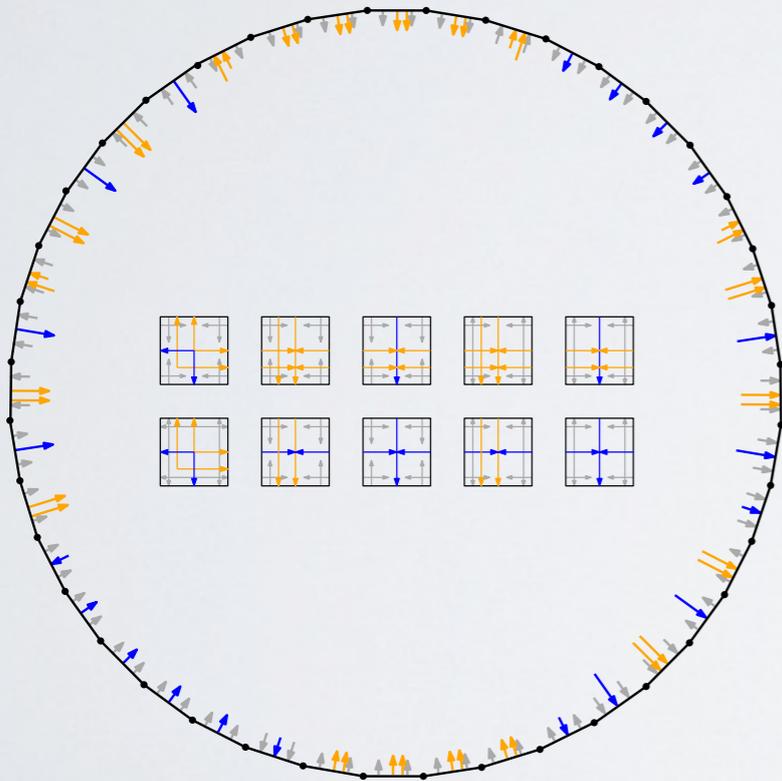


- An aperiodic tile set with 1 tile!
- Small gaps ( $< 1$  tile in size) in the tilings
- We have given a general method (a compiler) to convert any square/hexagon plane tiling tile set to a single tile that simulates it



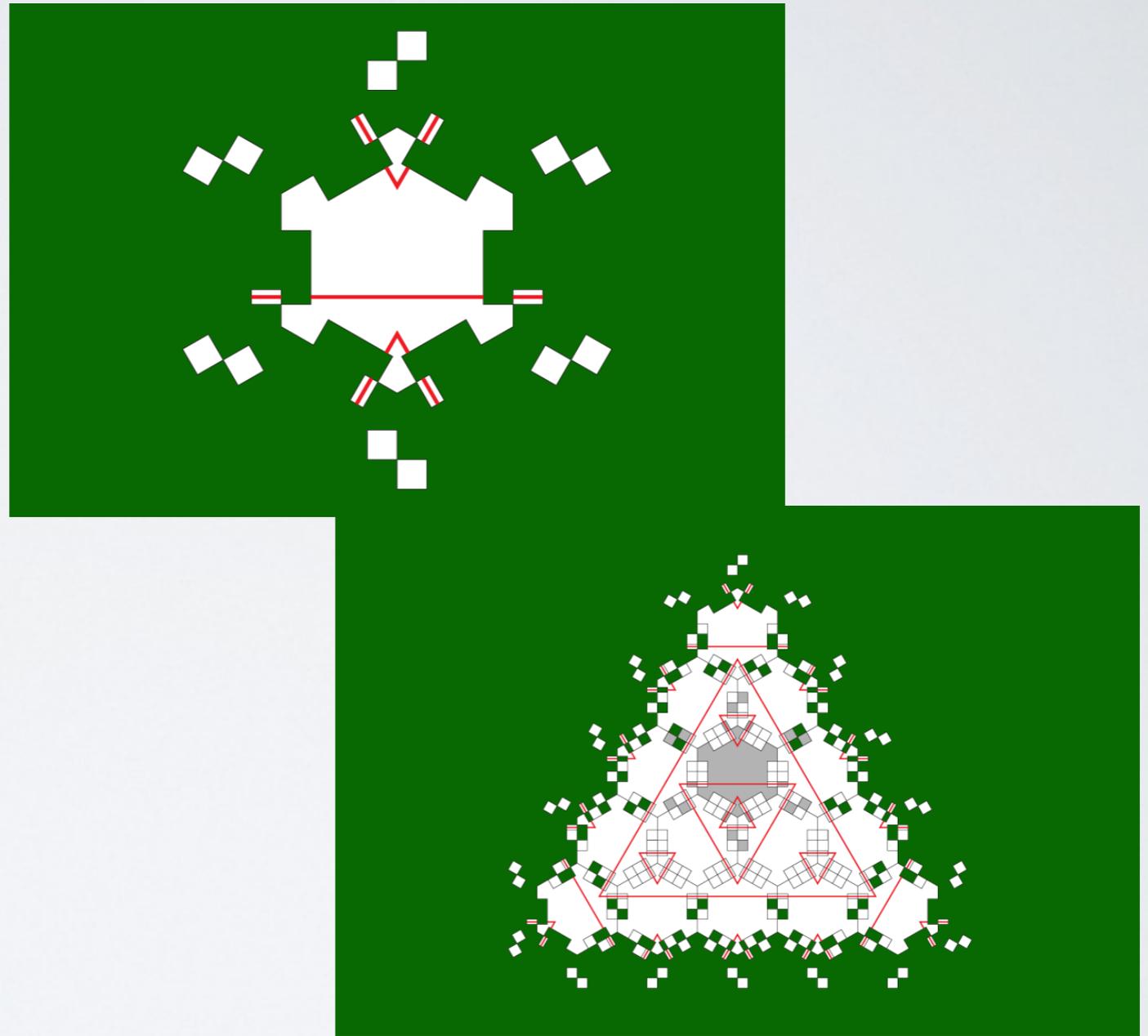
# 1 aperiodic tile

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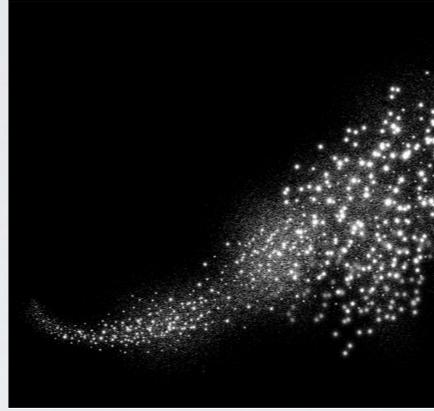
# 1 aperiodic tile

- Socolar–Taylor disconnected tile. 2012
- Aperiodic
- Rotations + flips



- Open question: Is there a single aperiodic connected 2D tile that makes gap-free tilings of the plane?

# But this is not (yet) magic dust

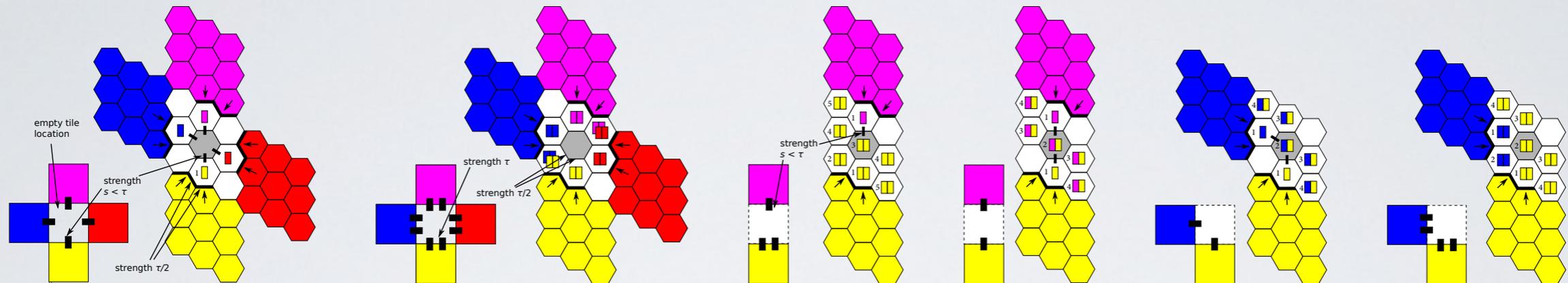


## A harder challenge: one tile for all of tile self-assembly

- Simulating tile assembly systems is significantly trickier than plane (Wang) tiling systems
- We want to design a single rotatable, flipable tile that simulates any tile assembly system (Note that as a corollary this gives a single tile that simulates any algorithm)
- Problem 1:
  - Strength  $\tau$  glues on rotatable tiles  $\Rightarrow$  Argh! There's pumpable junk everywhere!
  - Maybe we could find an intrinsically universal square tile set with strength  $< \tau$  glues? No! Any such tile set with a finite seed can not leave the seed's bounding box
  - Lets try hexagons!

# Low strength hexes simulate high-strength squares

- Strength 1 or 0 hexagon glues, simulating strength 2, 1 or 0 square glues



- Then we can simulate a set of low-strength hexagons with a single rotatable polygon
  - Bumps and dents to stop incorrect orientations and incorrect bindings
  - Glues are carefully rearranged on the polygon to allow “self seeding”
  - ...
  - Many details omitted!

# Construction overview

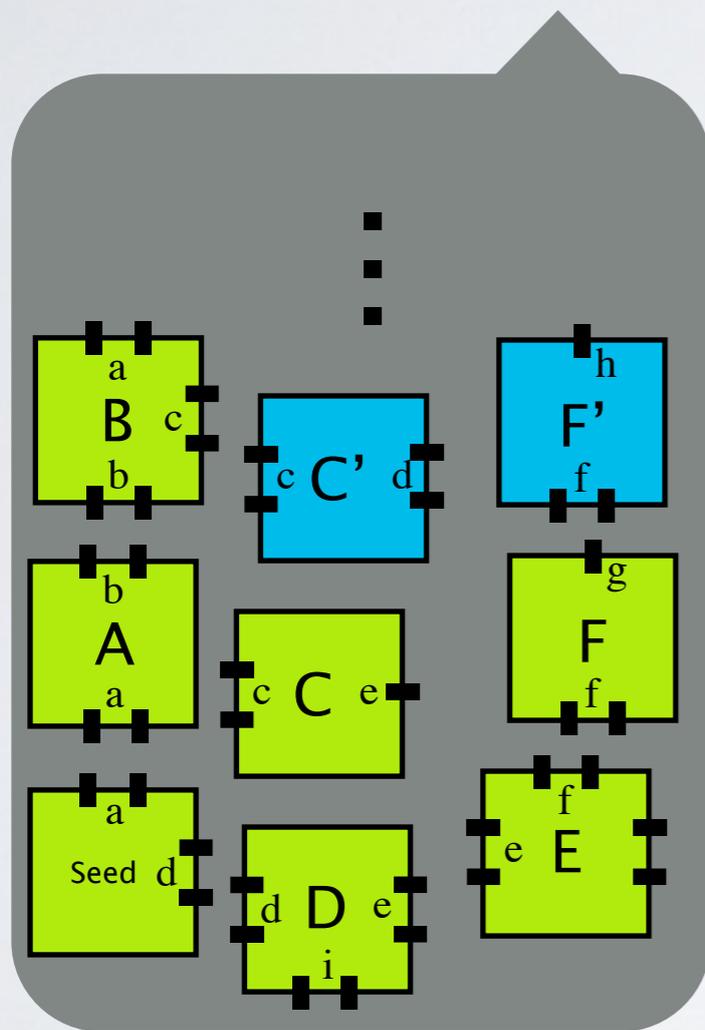
Tile assembly system  $T$



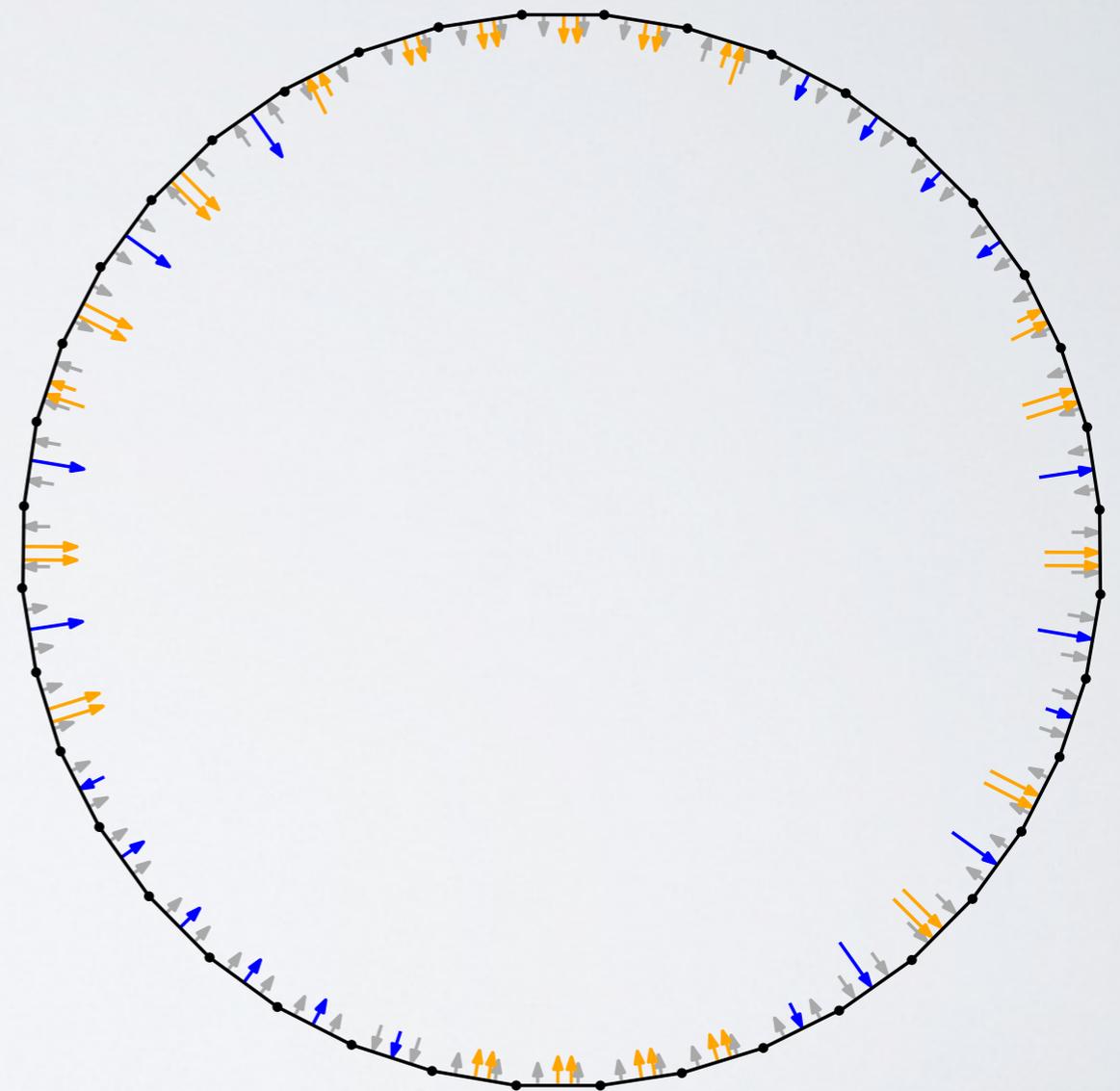
Hexagonal tile assembly system that simulates  $T$  (using low-strength glues)



One polygon that simulates  $T$

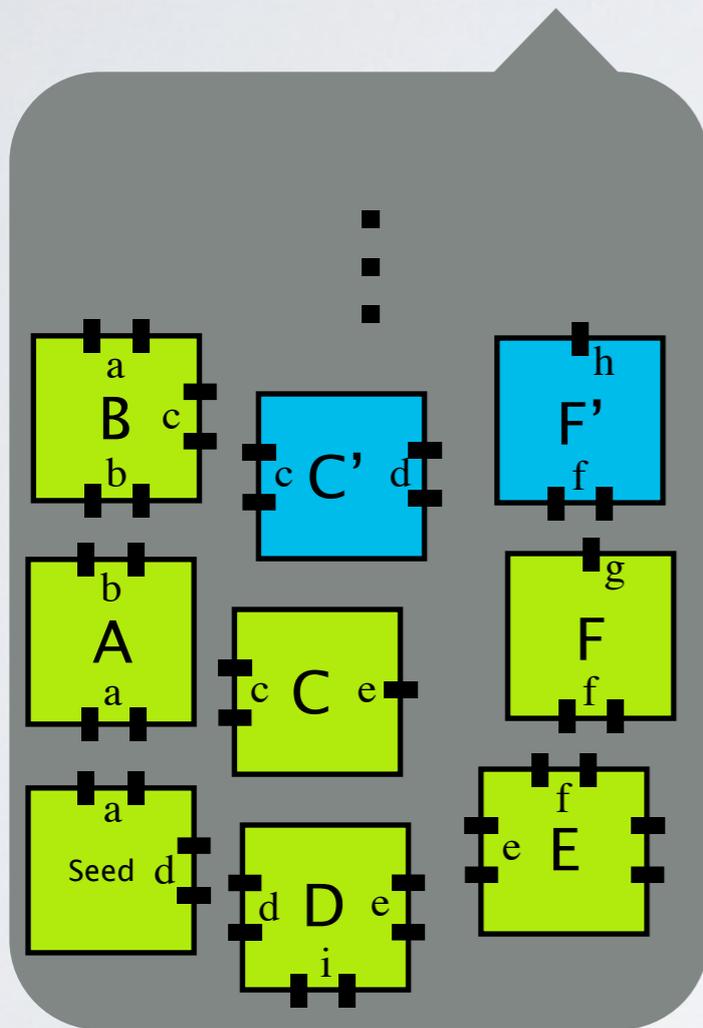
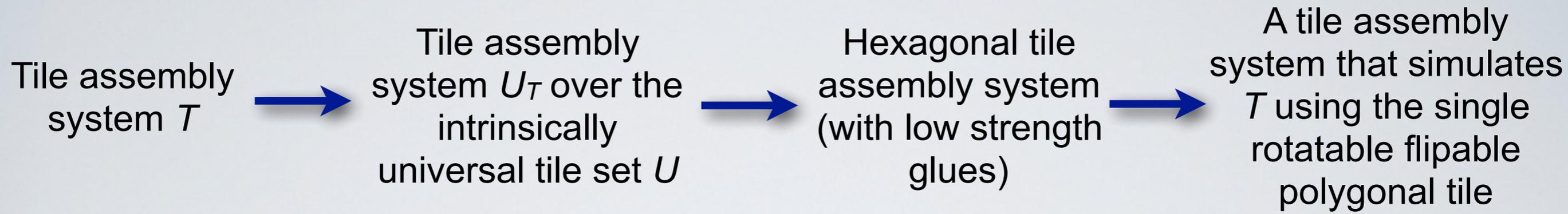


Tile set

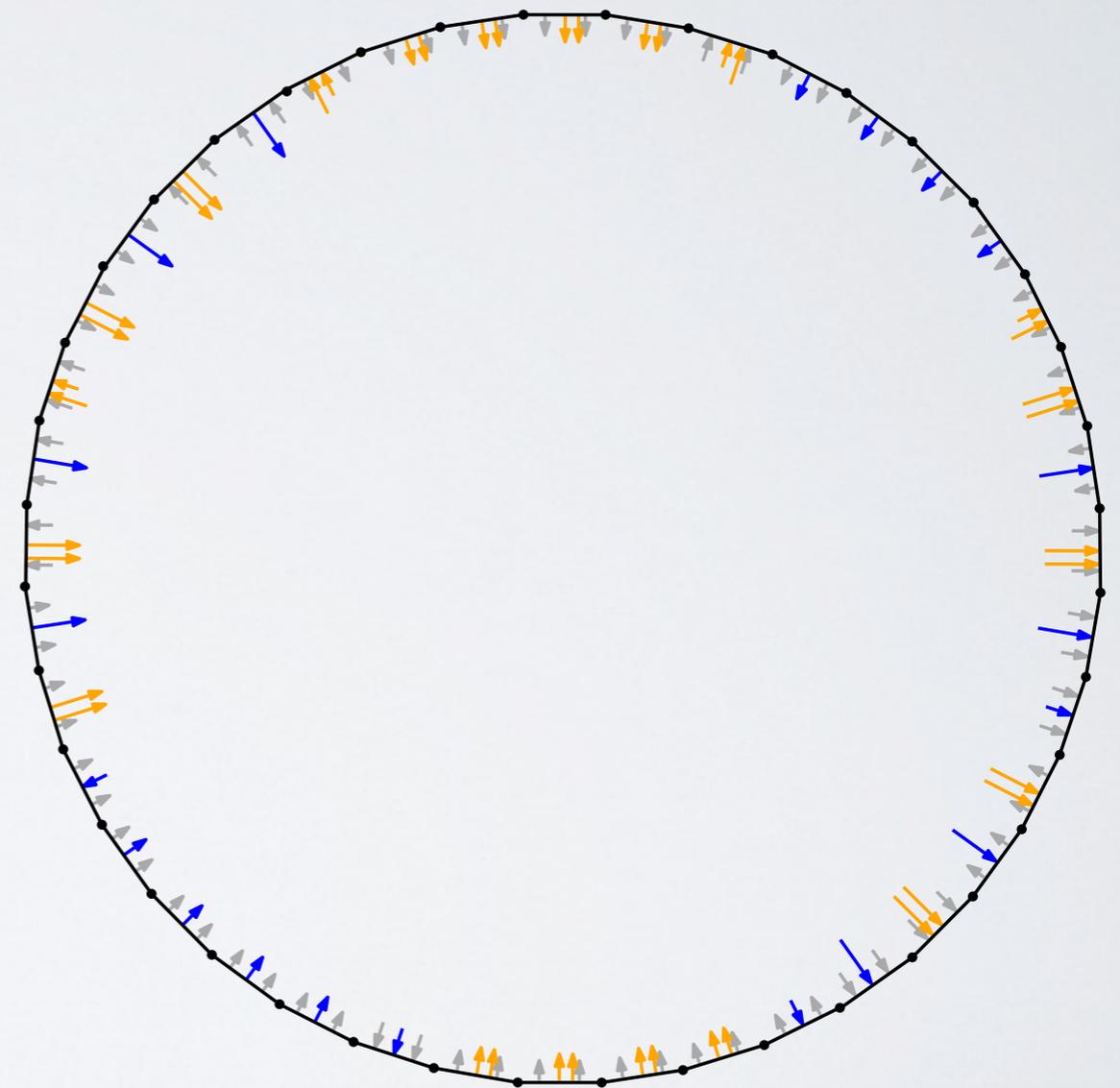


The one

To use The One, simply apply a sequence of tile assembly system simulations:

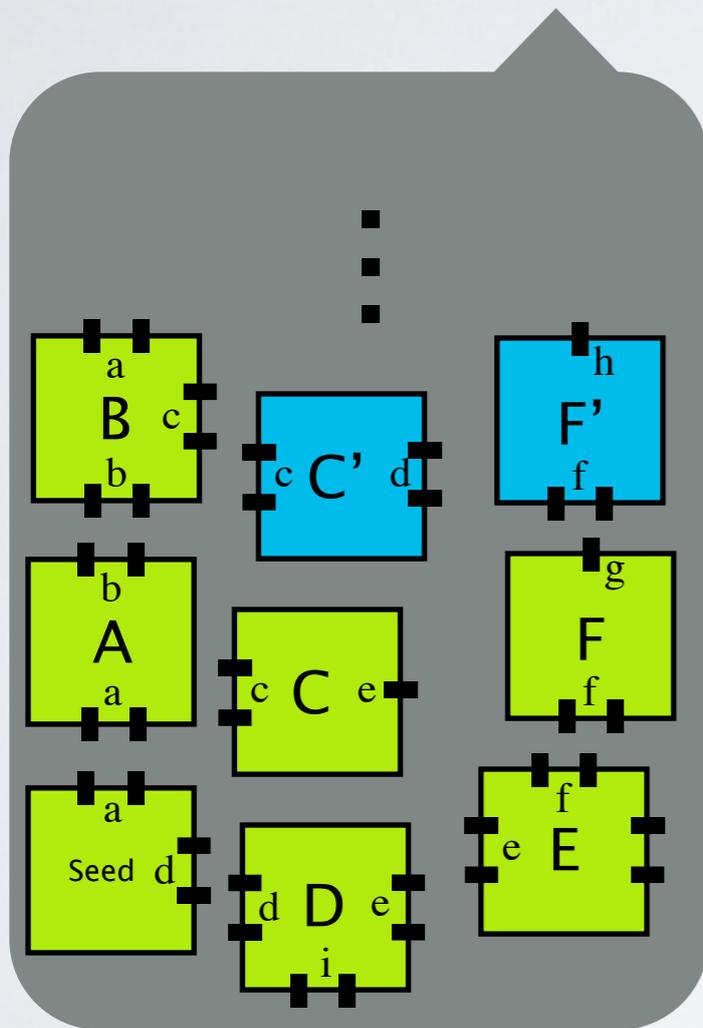
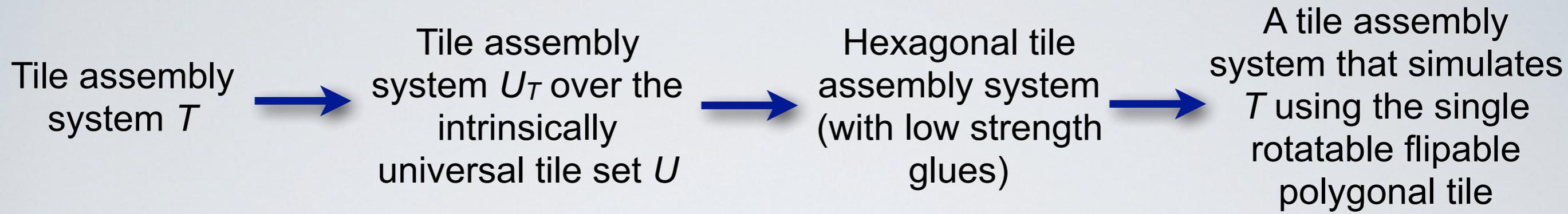


Intrinsically universal tile set



The one

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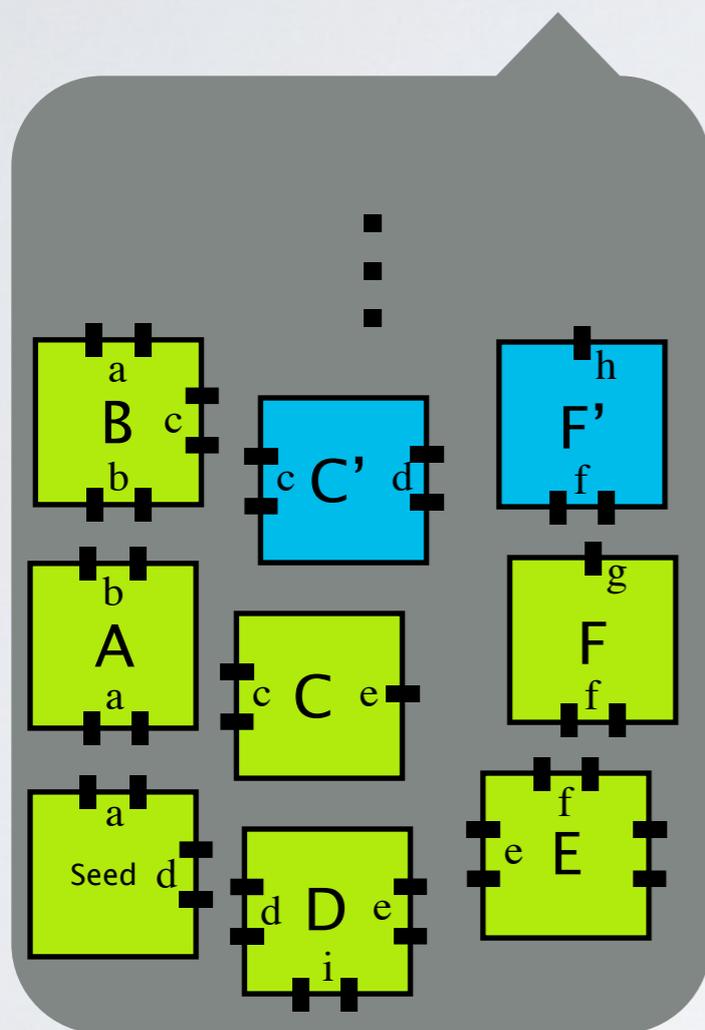


Intrinsically universal tile set



The one

# One tile to simulate them all

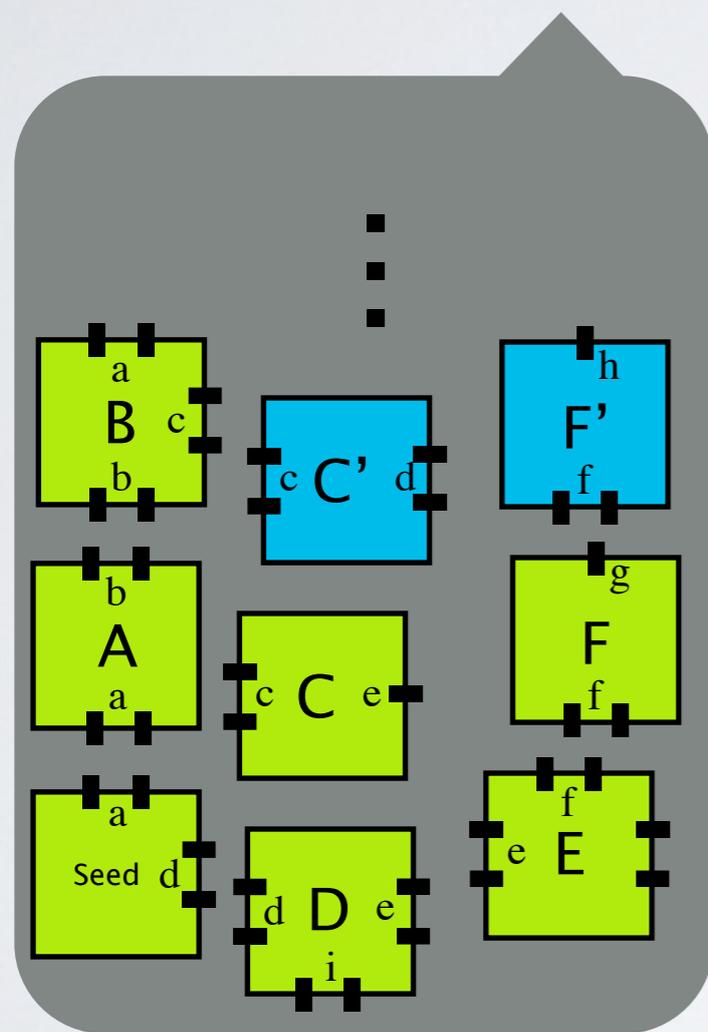


Intrinsically  
universal tile set



The one

# One tile to simulate them all

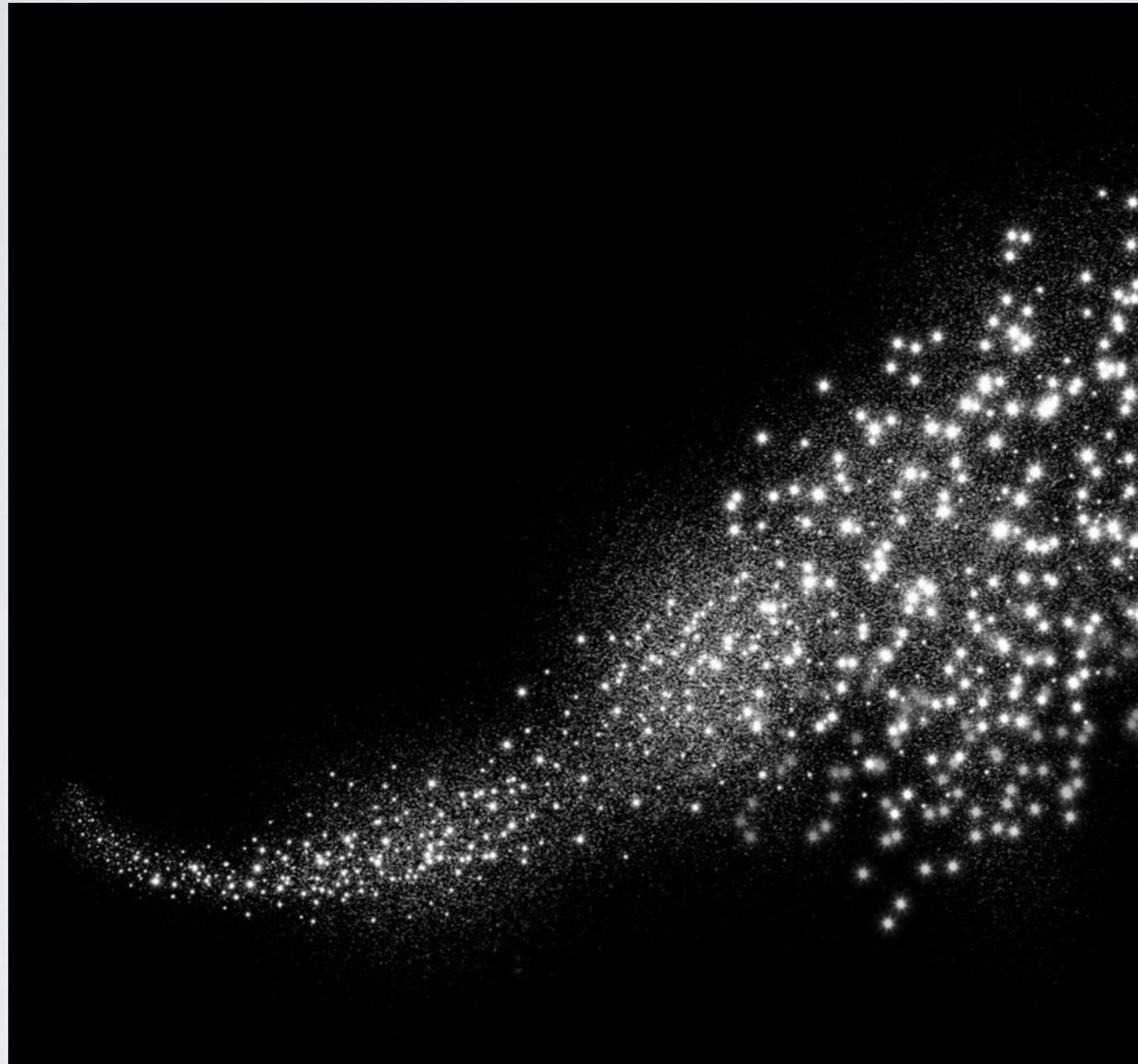


Intrinsically  
universal tile set



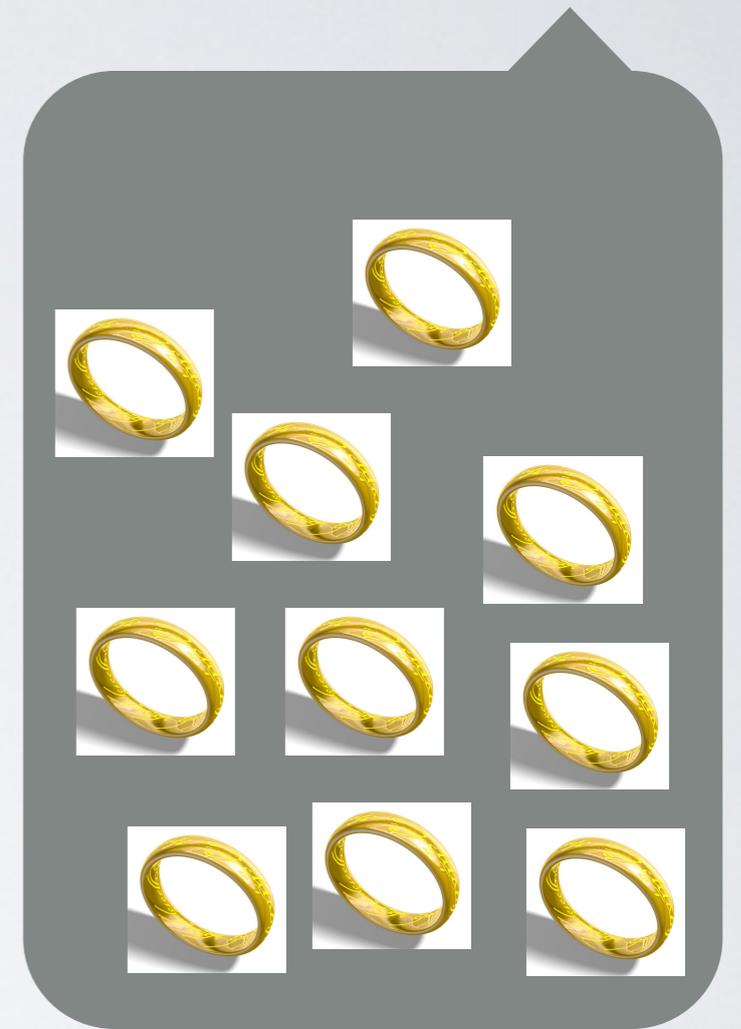
The one

# Magic dust

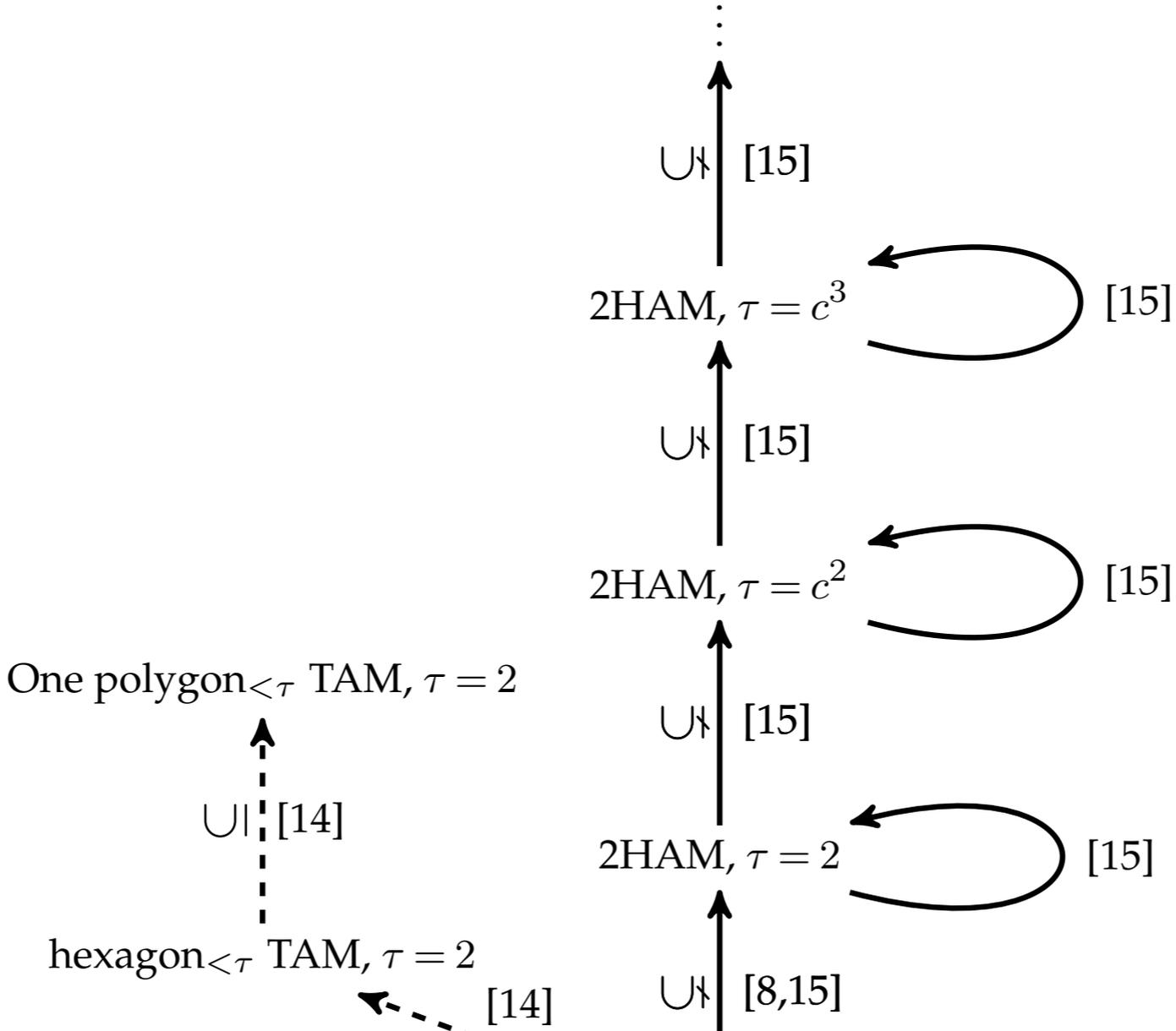


<http://nighthawk101stock.deviantart.com/>

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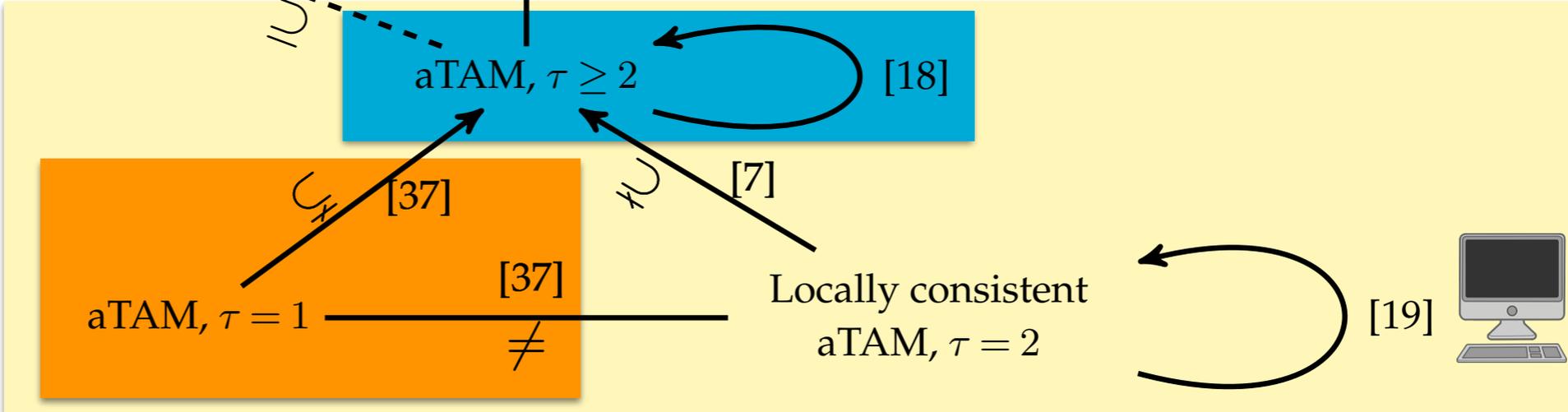


# A complexity theory for self-assembly



The tile assembly model is intrinsically universal. Doty, Lutz, Patitz, Schweller, Summers, Woods. FOCS 2012

Intrinsic universality...requires cooperation. Meunier, Patitz, Summers, Theyssier, Winslow, Woods. SODA 2014



# A complexity theory for self-assembly

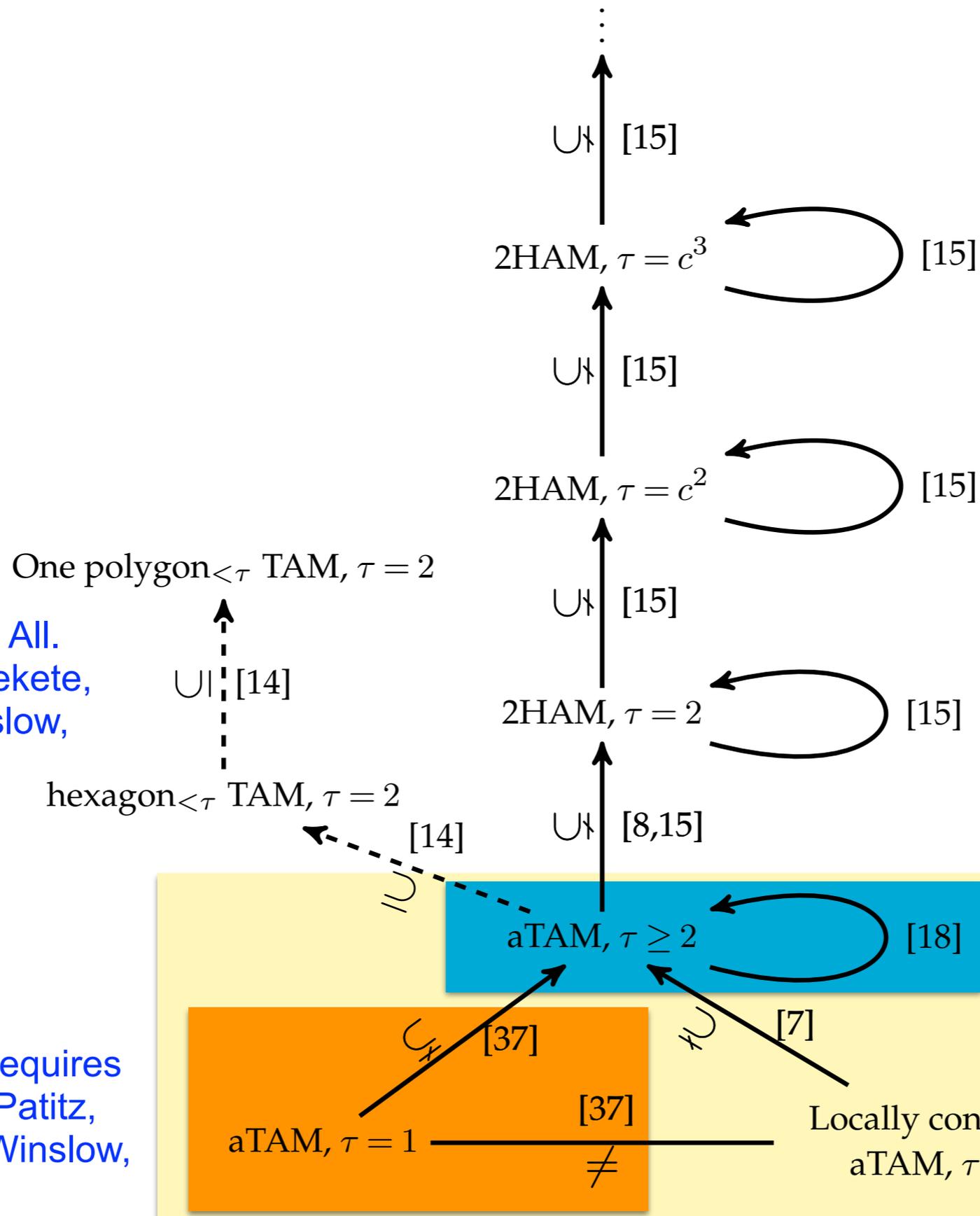
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# A complexity theory for self-assembly

Gives a structure to the field of self-assembly - a way to compare models

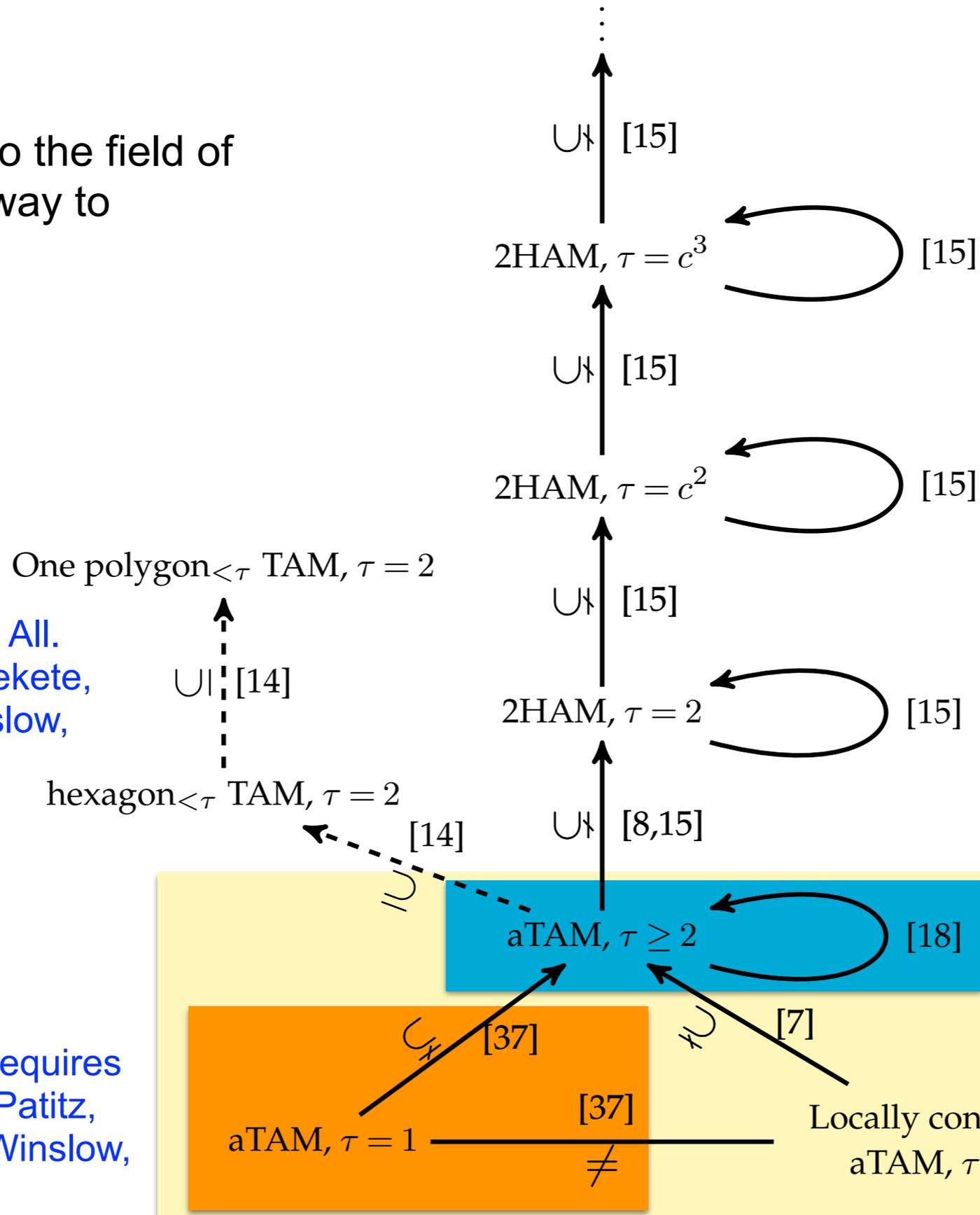
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# Acknowledgements



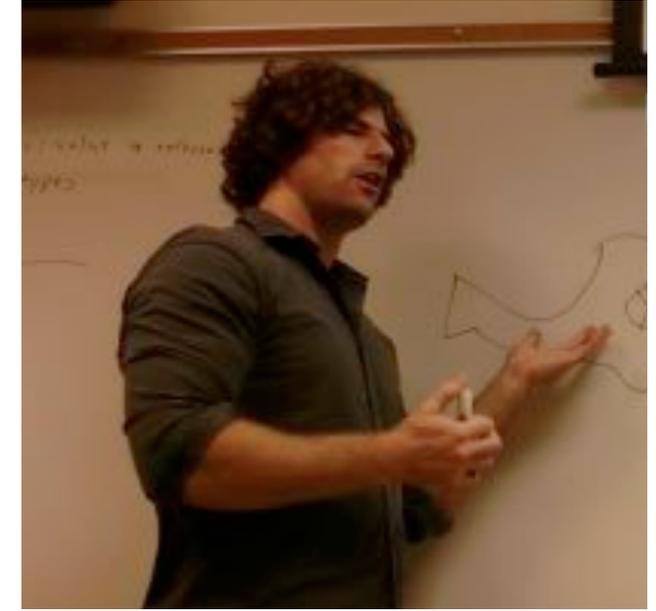
Jack  
Lutz

Matthew  
Patitz

Dave  
Doty

Scott  
Summers

Robert  
Schweller



Erik  
Demaine



Martin  
Demaine



Sándor  
Fekete



Pierre-Étienne  
Meunier



Guillaume  
Theyssier



Andrew Winslow  
And many others ....

Open question: Probabilistically fair  
intrinsically universal tile set?

*Fin*

# Structure

- Monday (lecture 1). Some high-level motivations, basic algorithmic self-assembly **models** (definitions) and very recent results on **implementing algorithmic DNA nanotube circuits, a self-assembly model**, in the wet-lab
- Tuesday (lecture 2): DNA sequence design and results on the DNA nanotube circuit model
- Wednesday (lecture 3). Complexity theory for self assembly.
  - **Theorem:** The (cooperative, temperature  $\geq 2$ ) abstract tile assembly model is intrinsic universal
- Thursday (lecture 4). Complexity theory for self assembly.
  - **Theorem:** The noncooperative (temperature 1) abstract tile assembly model does not simulate the cooperative model



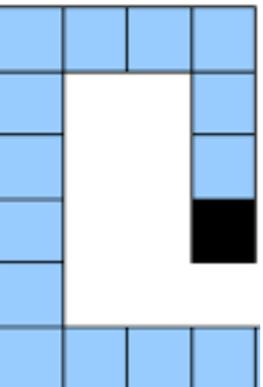
# Temperature 1 tile assembly

- Temperature 1 tile assembly systems:
  - Tile binds to an assembly if  $\geq 1$  side match
  - Snakes on a plane



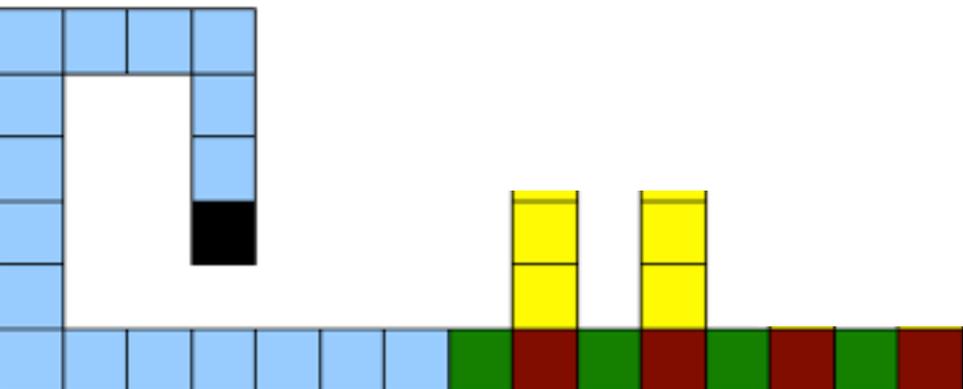
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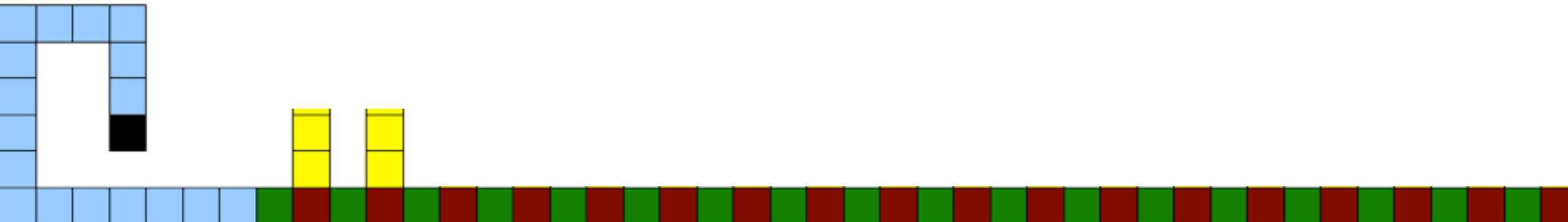
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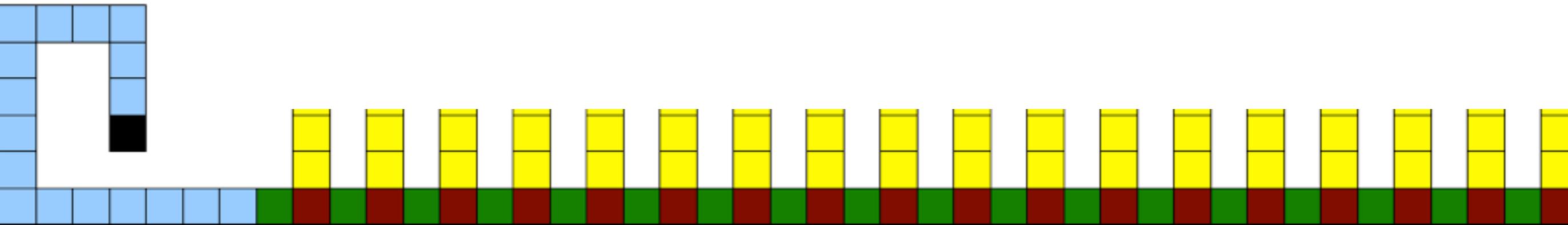
# Temperature 1 tile assembly

- Temperature 1 tile assembly systems:
  - Tile binds to an assembly if  $\geq 1$  side match
  - Snakes on a plane



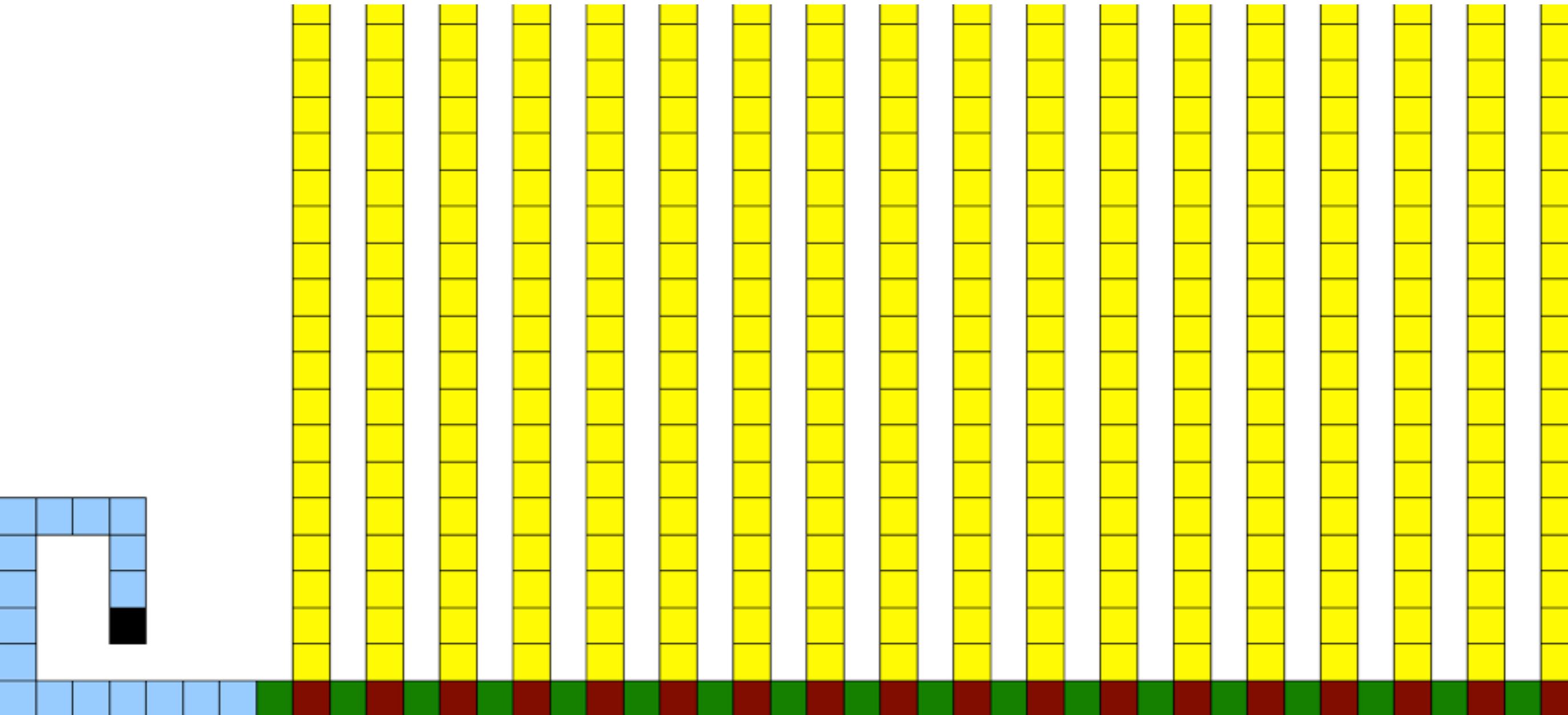
# Temperature 1 tile assembly

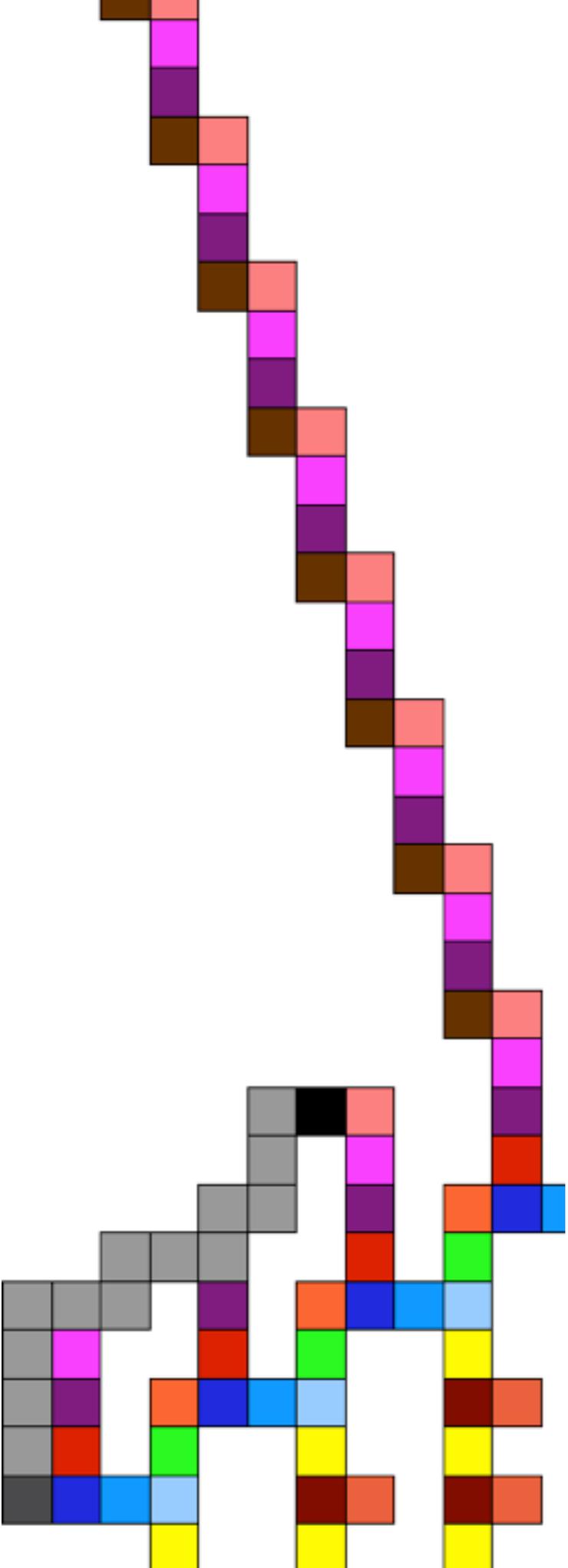
- Temperature 1 tile assembly systems:
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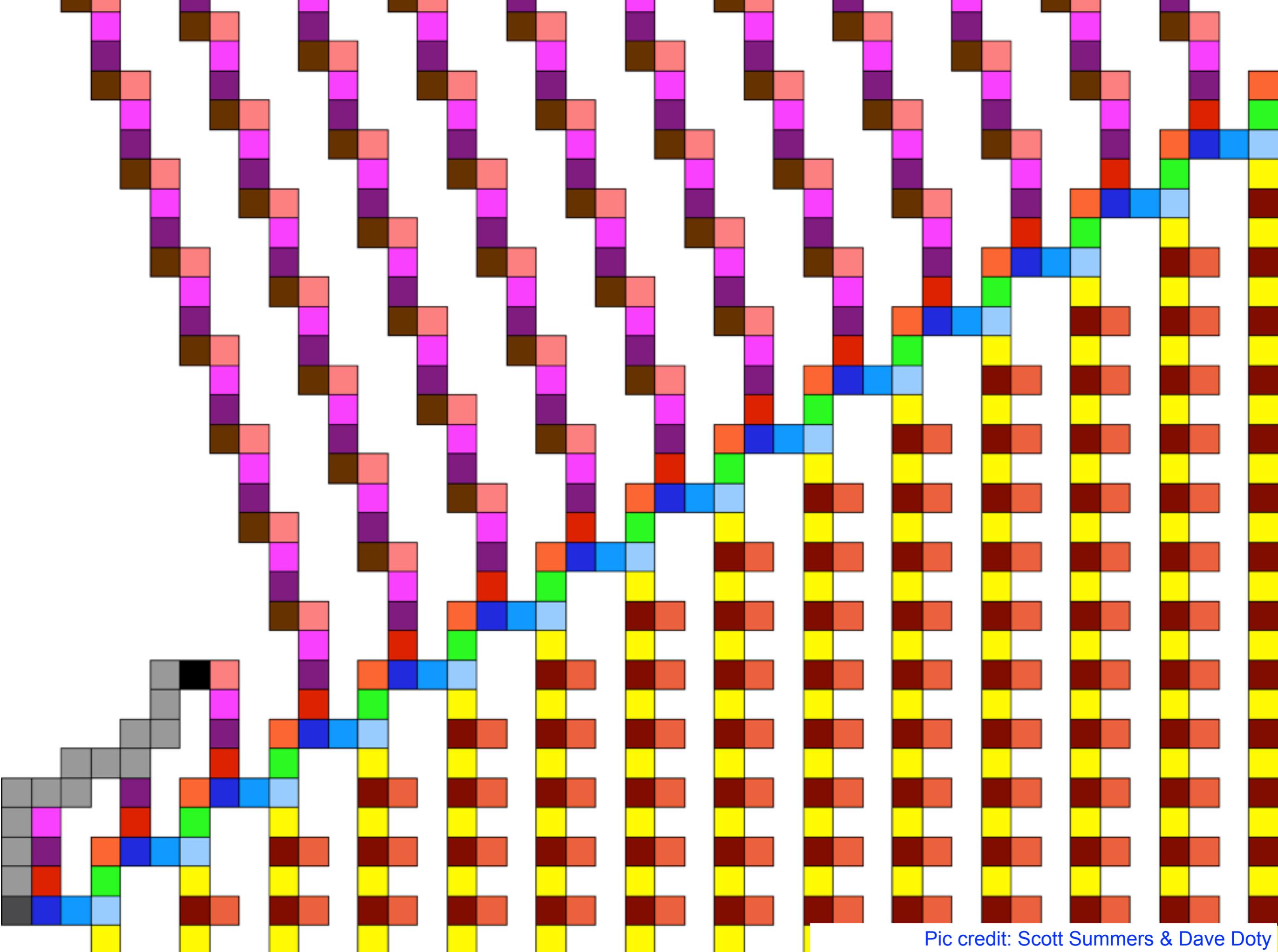


# Temperature 1 tile assembly

- Temperature 1 tile assembly systems:
  - Tile binds to an assembly if  $\geq 1$  side match
  - Snakes on a plane







Pic credit: Scott Summers & Dave Doty

# Is temperature 1 computationally weak?

Binding on 1 side *seems* much weaker than binding on 2 sides ... right?

- It has been **conjectured** (since 2000) that temperature 1 systems are computationally “weak” Rothemund, Winfree. STOC 2000
- Some partial negative results:
  - Temperature 1 systems that build **fully connected**  $n \times n$  squares require at least  $n^2$  tile types Rothemund, Winfree. STOC 2000
  - **Pumpable** temperature 1 systems produce periodic structures Doty, Patitz, Summers. TCS 2011
  - Temperature 1 with **no mismatches** require  $2n-1$  tile types to assemble an  $n \times n$  square Manuch, Stacho, Stoll. J Comp. Bio. 2010
- Positive results:
  - 3D deterministic temperature 1 simulates Turing machines Cook, Fu Schweller. SODA 2011
  - 2D temperature 1 simulates Turing machine, but with some error Adleman et al FOCS 2002
  - 2D temperature 1 can grow large(r than tile set size) structures Meunier. In submission. 2015

On the blackboard: fully-connected square result

# Is temperature 1 computationally weak?

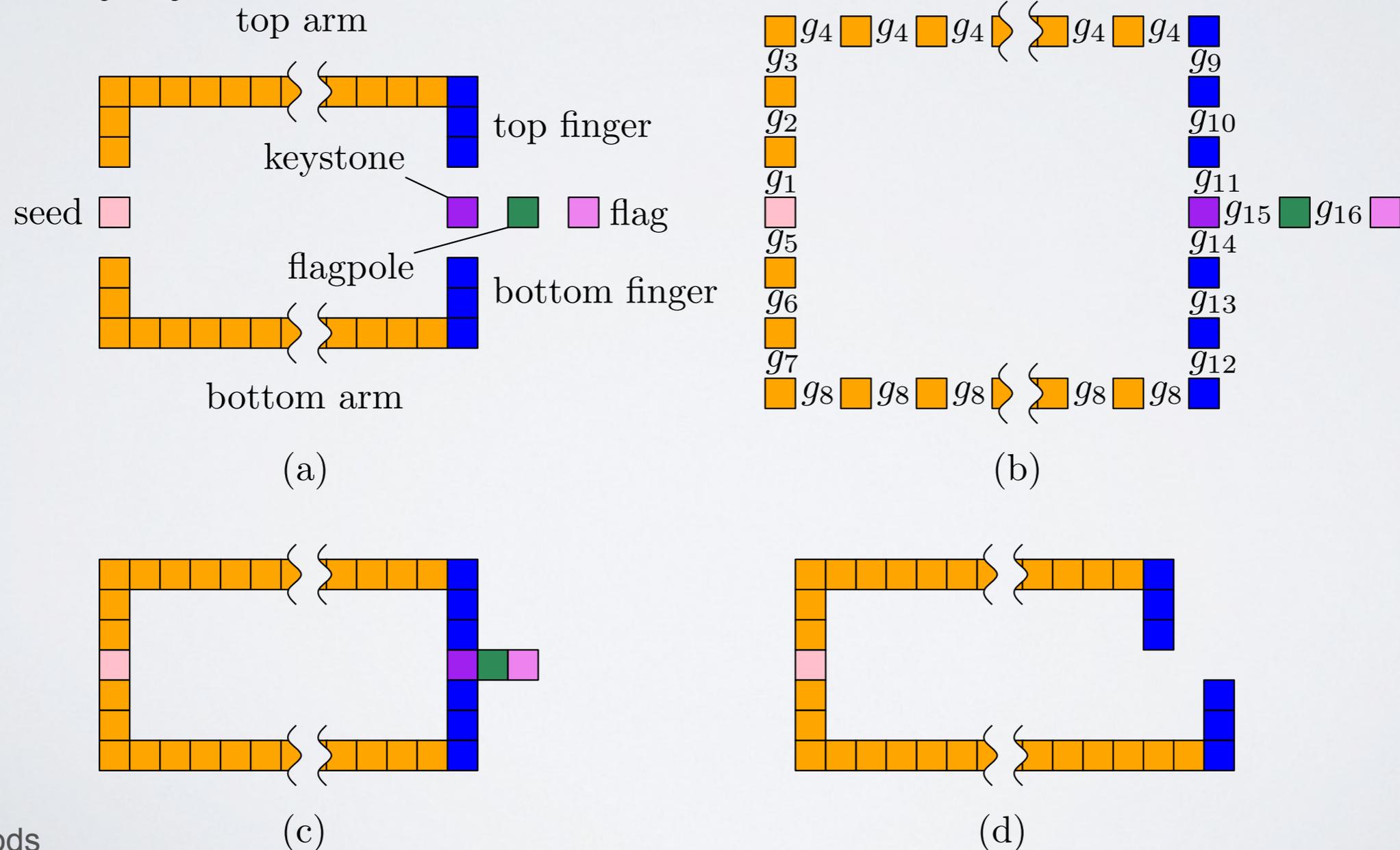
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- But can temperature 1 aTAM systems **simulate cooperative tile assembly?**
- Answer: **No!** Meunier, Patitz, Summers, Theyssier, Winslow, **Woods**. SODA 2014

On the blackboard: fully-connected square result

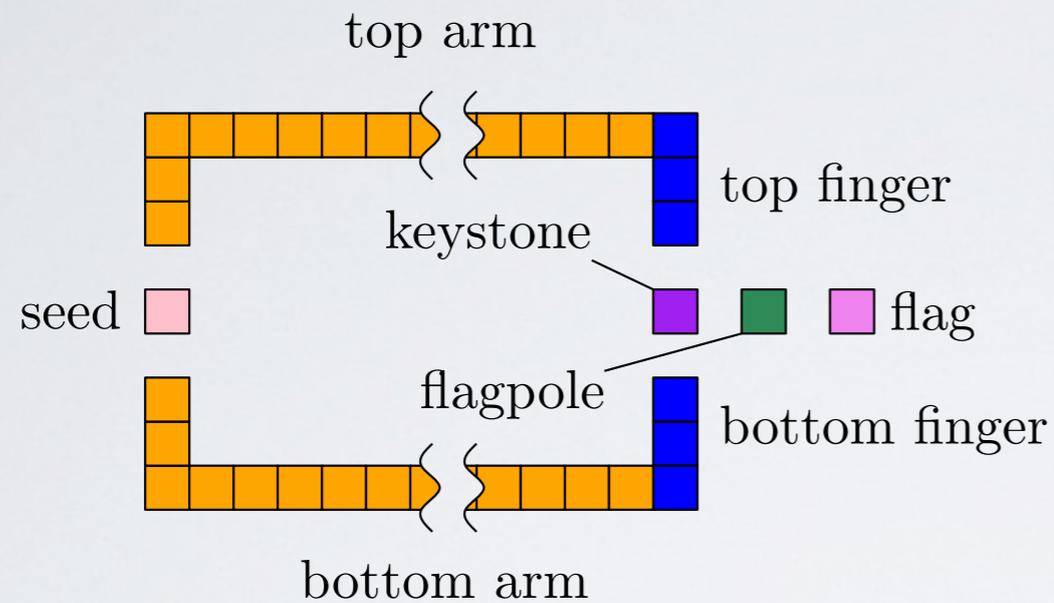
# Result

- Theorem 1. There is no tile set  $U$ , such that at temperature 1,  $U$  simulates all tile assembly systems.
- Theorem 2. There is a 2D temperature 2 tile assembly system  $T$  that can not be simulated by any 2D, nor any 3D, temperature 1 tile assembly system.

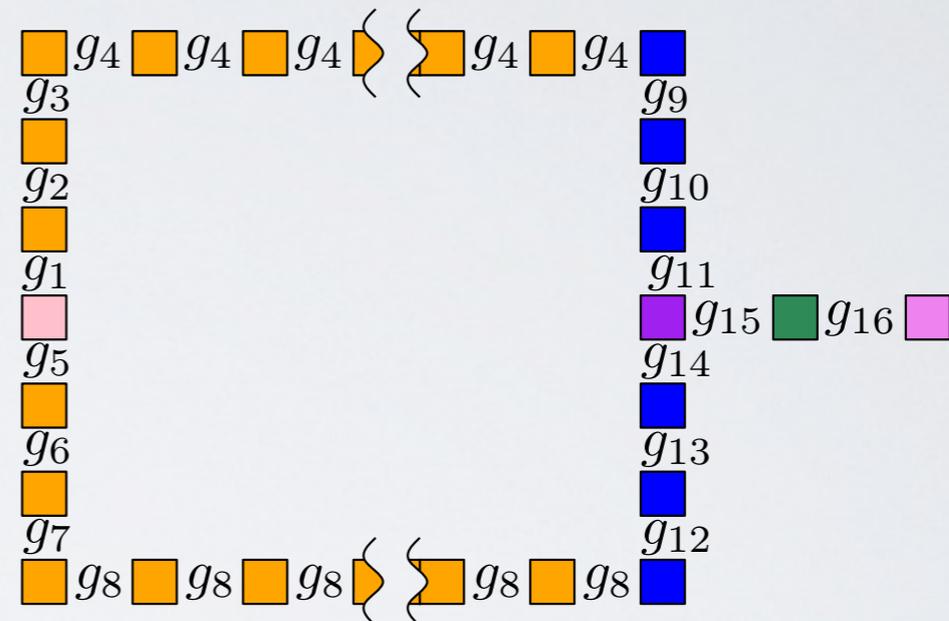


# Temperature 1 can not simulate temperature 2

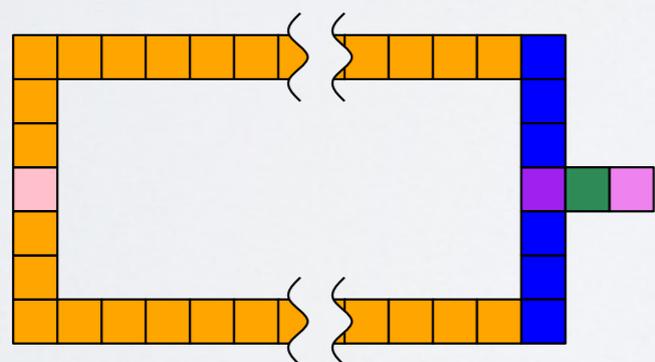
- We will show that no temperature 1 system simulates the following simple temperature 2 system



(a)

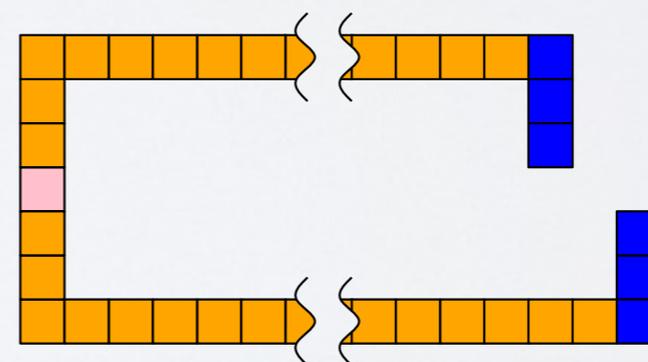


(b)



(c)

Equal arm lengths



(d)

Unequal arm lengths

# Warm-up: two-seeded system

On the blackboard: a much easier warm-up result

# Simulation definitions

## Follows:

*Definition 3.1* ( $\mathcal{T}$  follows  $\mathcal{U}$ ). We say that  $\mathcal{T}$  follows  $\mathcal{U}$  (under  $R$ ) if for all  $\alpha', \beta' \in \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{U}]$  where  $\alpha' \rightarrow^{\mathcal{U}} \beta'$ , it is the case that  $R^*(\alpha') \rightarrow^{\mathcal{T}} R^*(\beta')$ , and  $\alpha' \in \mathcal{A}_{\square}[\mathcal{U}] \implies R^*(\alpha') \in \mathcal{A}_{\square}[\mathcal{T}]$ .

## Models:

*Definition 3.2* (*nicely fuzzy*). We say that  $\mathcal{U}$  is *nicely fuzzy* with respect to  $T$  if for all  $\alpha'' \in \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{U}]$  there exists  $\alpha' \in \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{U}]_{\text{fuzz-free}}$  such that  $\alpha' \rightarrow^{\mathcal{U}} \alpha''$ , where  $R^*(\alpha'') = R^*(\alpha') = \alpha \in \mathcal{A}^T$ .

*Definition 3.4* ( $\mathcal{U}$  models  $\mathcal{T}$ ). We say that  $\mathcal{U} = (U, \sigma_{\mathcal{U}}, \tau_{\mathcal{U}})$  models  $\mathcal{T} = (T, \sigma_{\mathcal{T}}, \tau_{\mathcal{T}})$  (under  $R$ ) if:

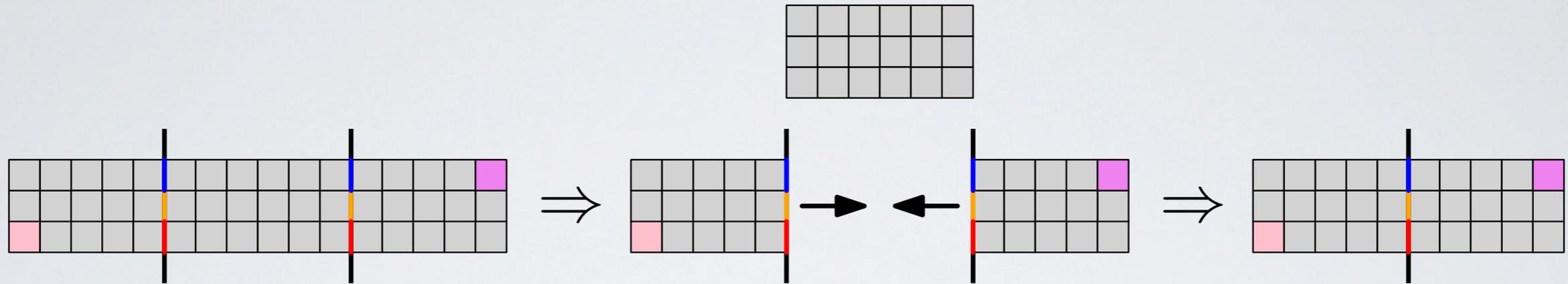
- (1)  $\mathcal{U}$  is nicely fuzzy with respect to  $T$ , and
- (2)  $R^*(\sigma_{\mathcal{U}}) = \sigma_{\mathcal{T}}$ , and
- (3) for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{T}]$  such that  $\alpha \rightarrow^{\mathcal{T}} \beta$  it is the case that for all  $\alpha' \in \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{U}]_{\text{fuzz-free}}$  where  $R^*(\alpha') = \alpha$ , there exists  $\beta' \in \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{U}]_{\text{fuzz-free}}$  such that  $\alpha' \rightarrow^{\mathcal{U}} \beta'$  and  $R^*(\beta') = \beta$ .

## Simulates:

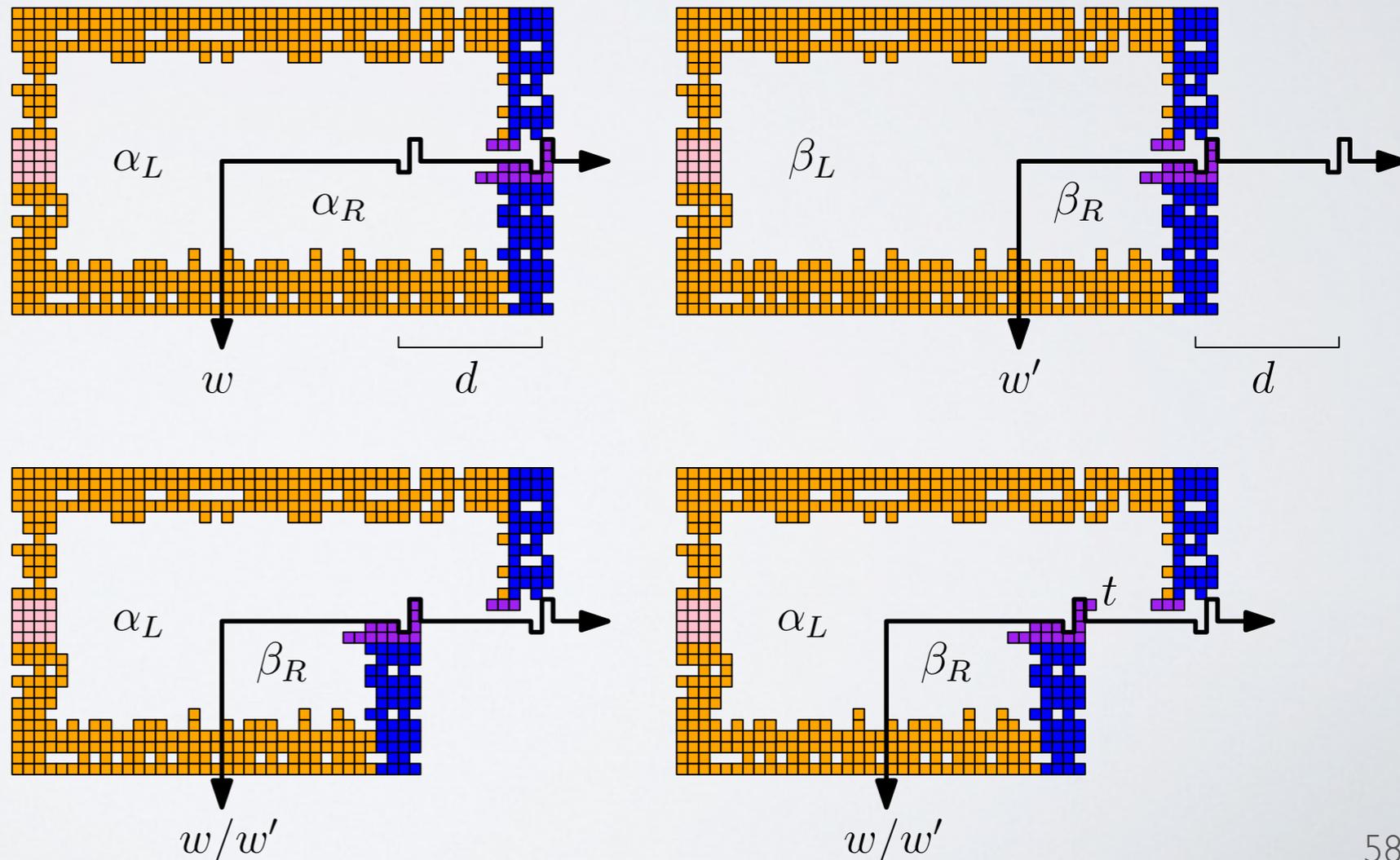
*Definition 3.5.* We say that  $\mathcal{U}$  *simulates*  $\mathcal{T}$  (under  $R$ ) if  $\mathcal{T}$  follows  $\mathcal{U}$  (under  $R$ ) and  $\mathcal{U}$  models  $\mathcal{T}$  (under  $R$ ).

# Temperature 1 is not IU for the aTAM

- First we prove a simple and general pumping lemma for tile assembly at any temperature (the window movie lemma)



- We then use this pumping lemma to “fool” any claimed temperature 1 simulator into exposing its inability to simulate cooperation



# Temperature 1 is not IU for the aTAM

- There are simple temperature 2 systems that can not be simulated by any temperature 1 system Meunier, Patitz, Summers, Theyssier, Winslow, Woods. SODA 2014
- First fully-general negative result on temperature 1 (i.e. no restrictions on the model)
- This negative result holds in 2D and 3D Cook, Fu, Schweller. SODA 2011
  - Recall: Deterministic 3D temperature 1 systems can simulate Turing machines!
  - So these Turing-universal (powerful!) tile assembly systems can not simulate tile assembly
- Turing universal algorithmic behaviour in self-assembly provably does not imply the ability to simulate arbitrary algorithmic self-assembly processes. Temp 1 3D can compute, but can't handle geometry
- The proof had almost zero “temperature 1 craziness”
  - Ongoing work: with Pierre-Étienne Meunier, & by Damien Regnault and Pierre-Étienne Meunier towards showing other negative results on temperature 1

# Acknowledgements



Pierre-Étienne  
Meunier



Matthew  
Patitz



Scott  
Summers



Andrew Winslow



Guillaume  
Theyssier

Meunier, Patitz, Summers, Theyssier, Winslow, Woods. SODA 2014

*Fin*