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# Folding shapes with oritatami systems

Nicolas Schabanel\*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratoire de l'Informatique du Parallélisme (LIP) – École Normale Supérieure - Lyon, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS : UMR5668 – 46 Allée d'Italie 69364 LYON CEDEX 07, France

## Résumé

Joint work with Erik D. Demaine, Jacob Hendricks, Meagan Olsen, Matthew J. Patitz, Trent A. Rogers, Shinnosuke Seki and Hadley Thomas.

An oritatami system (OS) is a theoretical model of self-assembly via co-transcriptional folding. It consists of a growing chain of beads which can form bonds with each other as they are transcribed. During the transcription process, the *most recently produced beads dynamically fold so as to maximize the number of bonds formed, self-assembling into a shape incrementally. The parameter  $\delta$  is called the {delay} and is related to the transcription rate in nature.*

*This article initiates the study of shape self-assembly using oritatami. A shape is a connected set of points in the triangular lattice assembly system by exhibiting a family of finitely many shapes that can be tiled but cannot be folded by any OS. As it is NP-hard in general to determine whether there is an OS that folds into (self-assembles) a given finite shape, we explore the folding problem by an OS with delay  $\delta$ . We also show that any shape can be folded at the smaller scale  $\delta^2$  by an OS with {unbounded} delay. These results serve as a foundation for the study of shape-building in this new model of self-assembly, and have the potential to assemble via this complex dynamical process.*

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\*Intervenant