

Generation of Checkered Patterns and Their Variations by Making Use of Eulerian Graph Features

ABSTRACT

Variety of pictures of checkered pattern graphics appear on the Internet. However, rarely seen is how those graphics were produced. This paper shows various checkered patterns and their variations generated automatically by a computer program, making use of features of Eulerian Graph. Given a line drawing of binary images, the procedure extracts contours of the line figures. The contours of the line figures in turn form a set of contour cycles of the regions surrounded by the original lines of the figures, which are supposed to form an Eulerian Circuit. The drawing can be various combinations of closed lines --- circles, rectangles, ellipses, any of closed drawings. Bi-partitioning the contours into partitions (X, Y), filling inside the regions of X and Y, and it outputs the checkered patterns or their likes. Various patterns were successfully produced in a number of experiments as well as demonstrating that the algorithm is very robust and that some of the patterns are aesthetic.

Keywords: Checkered patterns, Closed one stroke curve, Eulerian graph, Contour cycles, Region adjacency graph, Dual, Bipartite graph

1. INTRODUCTION

Checkered patterns (Ichimatsu Moyo in Japanese) are to appear, or it might be better saying to have appeared on the Emblem of Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 [1]. Checkered patterns are recognized as traditional arts and widely known in Japan as well as in the world.

Images of various checkered patterns [2] can be seen on the Internet. But we could rarely see articles written about how they are drawn, especially the methods to automatically draw the patterns by a computer program. This paper is intended to demonstrate various checkered patterns and their variations automatically generated by a computer program using the method [3], which was previously published but without demonstrations of generating checkered patterns.

2. OUTLINE OF THE STUDY AND THE RELATED REFERENCES

The procedure of this study first extract contours from an original binary line figure, which is supposed to constitute Eulerian Circuit [4]. Intersections of the lines of the figure are considered as vertices and the lines between the intersections are edges. The extracted contours are the cycles which surround each of the regions surrounded by the originally drawn curves. So, if two regions are adjacent, then the corresponding two contours are adjacent, that means the two contours are very near or very close. Based on this nearness between two contours, the contours can be bi-partitioned. The Bi-partitioning algorithm [3] separates them into X-partition and Y-partition. This algorithm works without or before organizing the adjacency graph, or region adjacency graph (RAG). The regions of one partition are painted

with a color and those of another partition are with another color --- 2-coloring, which produces the final checkered patterns or their variations.

3. RE-PHRASING AND MODIFYING ALGORITHM OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

The previous study [3] provides a method which generates a maze, where the solution path is the given one-stroke curve itself. In the study, an algorithm was introduced to make the bi-partitioning of the contours extracted from the one-stroke curve. The curve need not be literally one-stroke. Any curve having the crosses (or vertices) with an even number of lines (edges) can be handled. This includes a diagram made from a number of closed curves. That is, the line figure such as Fig. 1, grids, or a combination of a number of rectangles or closed curves are accepted. For such a figure, all crosses (vertices) have even number of edges, where extracted contours can be partitioned into sets [3].

Fig. 1 is an original drawing of two rectangles, the line width of which is 1, from which checkered patterns were produced. These rectangles were drawn by using OpenCV library with line thickness of 1. The program with VC++ and OpenCV for this study first extracts the contours of the lines from the figure. They are shown in Fig. 2. The contours are on the lines of the original figure. However, they are also the contours of regions surrounded by the drawn curves (lines). Actually, they are closed, hence cycles. They are numbered from 1 to 6 by the OpenCV program library as shown in Fig. 2. No.1 is for the contour of the outer region, or the outer region itself. They are double lines everywhere on the curves. However, those curves of Fig. 2 do not look double. It is because the contours overlap everywhere on the curves. Hence, Fig. 2 looks exactly the same as the original curves, Fig. 1. This means that all the contour lines are on the original image lines. It is known that the region adjacency graph (RAG), the dual [5], shown as yellow in Fig.3, where the regions are considered as vertices and the edges exist between the adjacent regions, constitutes the bipartite graph. The algorithm introduced can be applied to make the partitions (X, Y) and is rephrased with more clarity:

3.1 BI-PARTITIONING ALGORITHM

INPUT:

A set, *CONTOURS*, of all the extracted n contour cycles as in Fig. 2 and is expressed as

$$CONTOURS = \{ cycle_j \mid 1 \leq j \leq n \}. \quad (1)$$

With n_j the length of $cycle_j$, each $cycle_j$ is expressed as

$$cycle_j = \{ (x(j, i), y(j, i)) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n_j \}. \quad (2)$$

OUTPUT:

Two partitions called *X-partition* and *Y-partition*, obtained from the bipartite graph, are disjoint and the union of the two is *CONTOURS* of (1).

DEFINITIONS:

The distance from $cycle_j$ to $cycle_k$ is defined as:

$$d(j, k) = \min_{1 \leq p \leq n_j \& 1 \leq q \leq n_k} \sqrt{(x(j, p) - x(k, q))^2 + (y(j, p) - y(k, q))^2}. \quad (3)$$

METHOD:

Assumption: n : initial number of contour cycles in *CONTOURS*

92 X, Y: partition sets of the bipartite graph, both sets are empty at the beginning; they will have
 93 the resulted vertices of bi-partition.
 94 1.Remove an arbitrary $cycle_j$ from *CONTOURS* and put it in X;
 95 2.Repeat begin
 96 3. For each j in X do begin
 97 4. For each i in *CONTOURS* do begin
 98 5. If j and i are adjacent, do begin
 99 6. Remove i from *CONTOURS* and put it in Y;
 100 7. If no cycle remains in *CONTOURS*, do begin
 101 8. If the outer cycle is in Y, exchange X and Y;
 102 8. Paint inside all CONTOURS with different colors for X and Y and finish;
 103 10. end;
 104 11. end;
 105 12. end;
 106 13. end;
 107 14. Exchange X and Y;
 108 15.end;
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110 CONTOUR ADJACENCY:

111 The adjacency checking can be done by distance computation between two cycles. Let two
 112 $cycle_j$ and $cycle_i$ are defined; they are adjacent if there are more than a certain number, β , of
 113 points on $cycle_j$ such that the shortest distance from a point on $cycle_j$ to $cycle_i$ is less than
 114 the overall average of the shortest distance (d_{AS} defined below) multiplied by a certain number,
 115 α . Let $d_S(j, p_l, i)$ be the shortest distance from the point p_l on $cycle_j$ to $cycle_i$. $d_S(j, p_l, i)$ and
 116 d_{AS} are expressed as:

$$117 d_S(j, p_l, i) = \min_{1 \leq k \leq n_i} d(j, l, i, k); \quad (4)$$

$$119 d_{AS} = \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^c n_j} \sum_{j=1}^c \sum_{l=1}^{n_j} \min_{1 \leq i \leq c} \min_{1 \leq k \leq n_i} d(j, l, i, k). \quad (5)$$

121 And $d(j, l, i, k)$ is defined as
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$$124 d(j, l, i, k) = \sqrt{(x(i, k) - x(j, l))^2 + (y(i, k) - (y(j, l)))^2}, \text{ where} \quad (6)$$

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 126 $j \neq i$ and n_j is the number of points on $cycle_j$. So if more than β such different points on j
 127 exist, the two cycles j and i are considered adjacent. That is, cycles j and i are adjacent if the
 128 size of S is greater than β in the following expression:

$$129 S = \{p_l | d_S(j, p_l, i) \leq \alpha * d_{AS} \text{ and } 1 \leq l \leq n_j \text{ where } \alpha \text{ is a small positive value}\}. \quad (7)$$

132 2.2 EXPERIMENT WITH BI-PARTITIONING AND REGION FILLING

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 134 By applying the above algorithm to Fig. 2, the contour cycles are bi-partitioned to X-partition
 135 (Fig. 4) and Y-partition (Fig. 5). Although they are interchangeable, the partition with the most
 136 outer contour is designated as X-partition in this study. X-partition includes the contours of 1,
 137 and 4. While Y-partition holds 2, 3, 5, and 6. Fig. 6 is obtained by examining all the adjacencies
 138 between the contours. The graph (yellow) in Fig. 3 and the one in Fig. 6 represent the same
 139 graph. Filling the regions of X-partition with yellow, Fig. 7 is obtained, so called checkered
 140 patterns.
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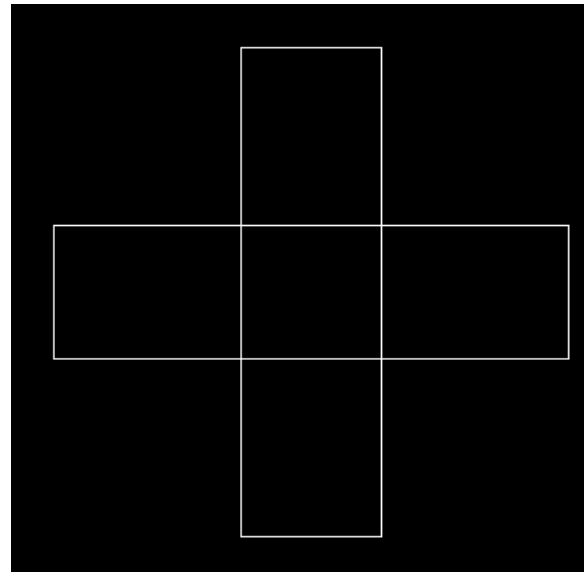


Fig. 1 Original drawing of two rectangles overlapped with line width of 1

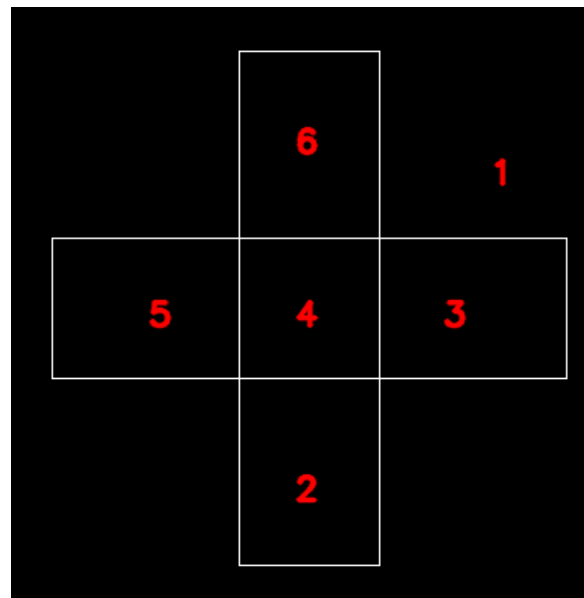


Fig. 2 Extracted contours of two rectangles overlapped, 6 contours

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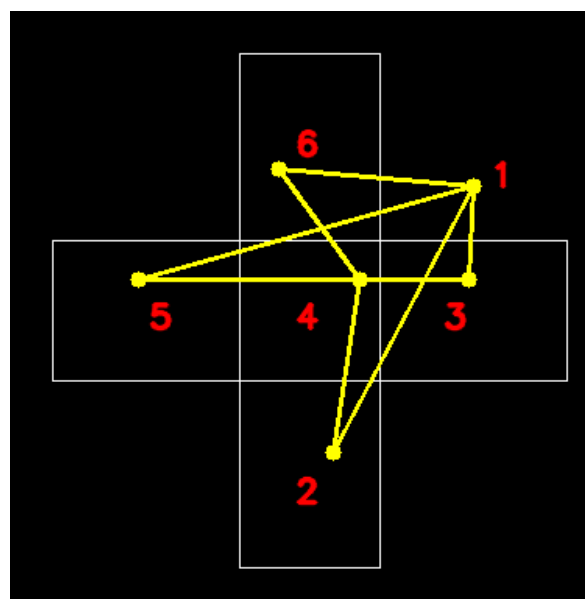


Fig. 3 Extracted contours constitute a bipartite graph; the regions are numbered

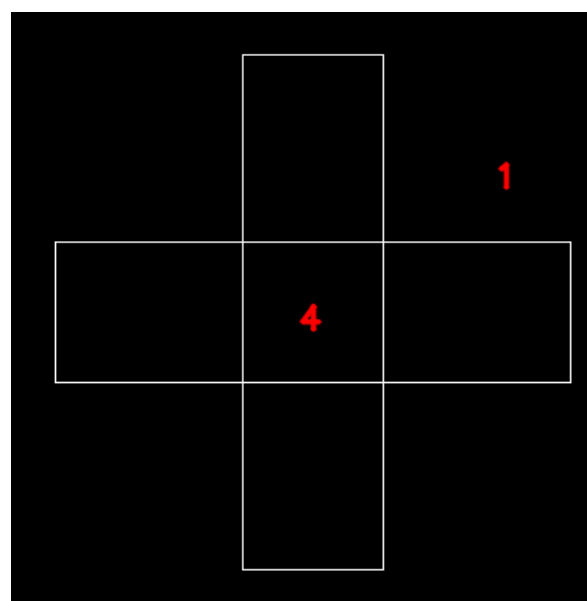


Fig. 4 X-partition, 2 contours

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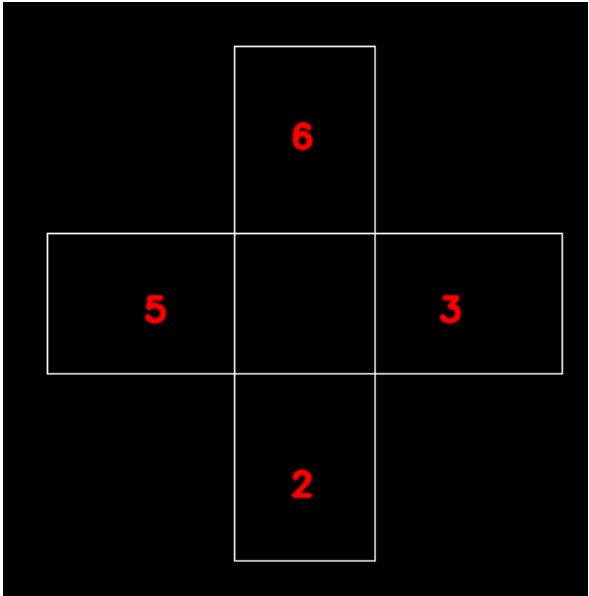


Fig. 5 Y-partition, 4 contours

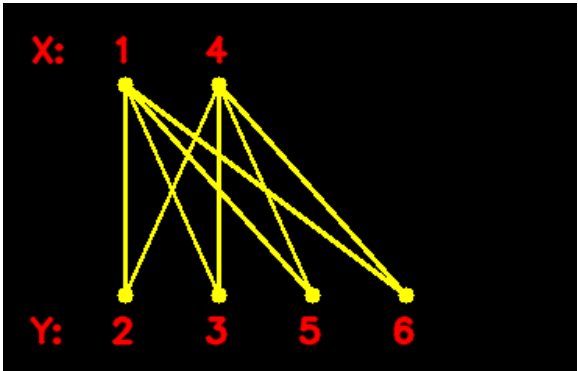


Fig. 6 bi-partitioned graph

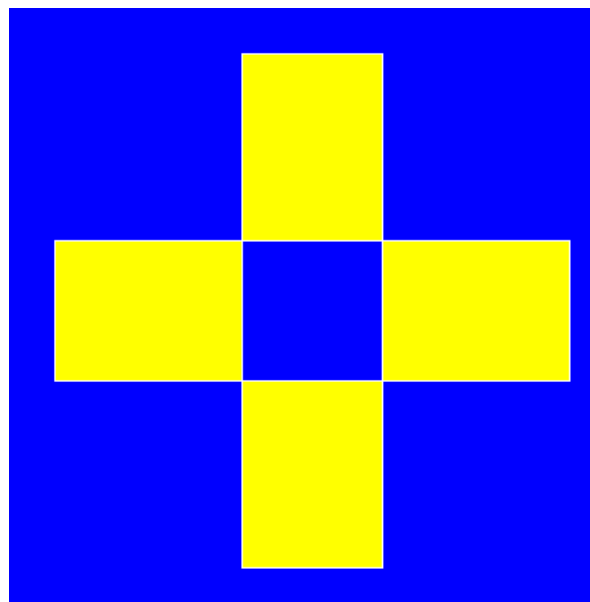


Fig. 7 Checkered patterns: X-partition is filled with blue; Y-partition and boundaries with yellow

4. MORE EXPERIMENTS WITH COMPLEX FIGURES AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 TWO RECTANGLES OVERLAPPED BUT WITH LINE WIDTH 5

In these experiments, the algorithm was applied to the diagram of Fig. 8, which was drawn using OpenCV library with line thickness of 5, the same shape figure as Fig. 1, but with different line width. Contours were extracted as in Fig. 9. All the contours clearly appeared and no overlap occurred this time. By comparing Figs. 8 and 9, we notice that contours are for the drawn lines as well as for the regions surrounded by the drawn lines. And the figure clearly shows how each of the contours is related to its corresponding region. The contours were bi-partitioned into X-partition (Fig. 10) and Y-partition (Fig. 11). These figures clearly illustrate which contour belongs to which partition. Although the two partitions are interchangeable, the partition with the most outer contour is designated as X-partition in this study. Hence, X-partition includes the contours of 1, and 4; Y-partition holds 2, 3, 5, and 6. Fig.12 (RAG) and Fig. 13 were obtained by checking all the adjacencies between the contours. The graph (yellow) in Fig. 12 is exactly the same as the RAG of Fig. 3. And the graph of Fig. 13 is the same as that of Fig. 6. This suggests that the width difference of the original line drawings causes no significant difference for the RAG. Filling the regions of X-partition with blue color and Y-partition with red color and the boundaries with white color, Fig. 14 was obtained, the checkered patterns with wider boundaries. The patterns give different impressions with wider boundaries. The successful experiments in section 3 and section 4.1 suggest that the algorithm is effective even for different line widths.

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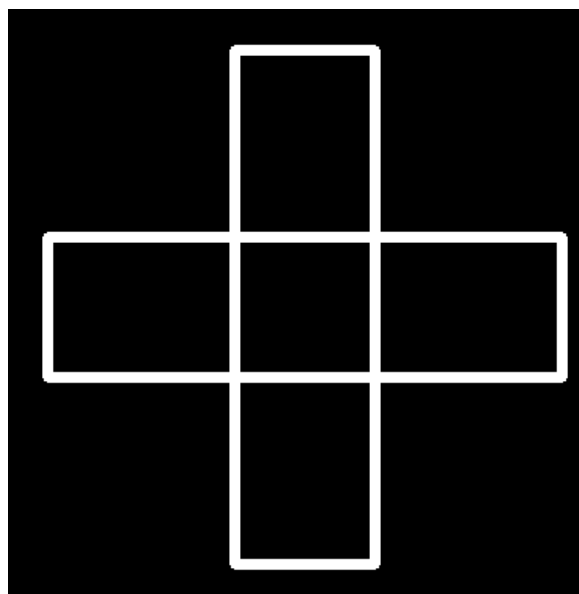


Fig. 8 Original drawing of two rectangles overlapped with line width of 5

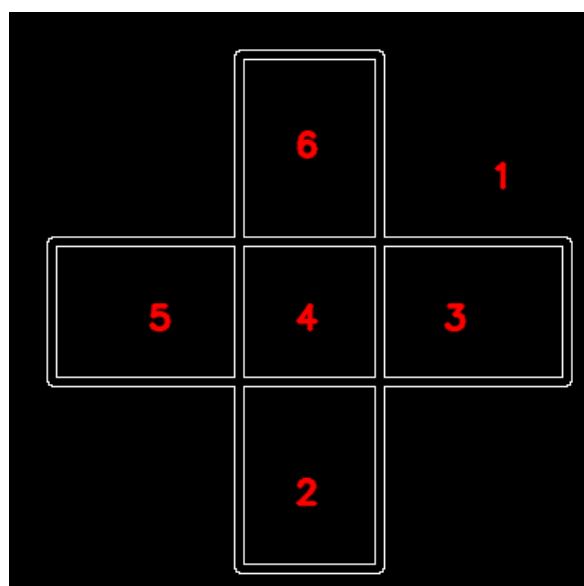


Fig. 9 Extracted contours, 6 contours; regions are numbered

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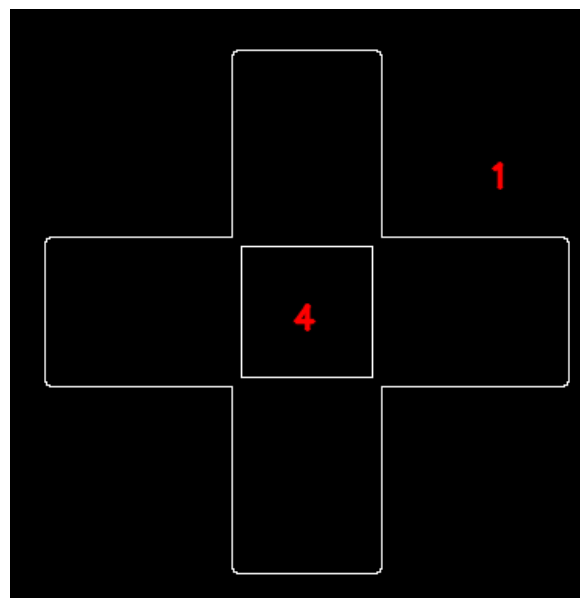


Fig. 10 X-partition, 2 contours

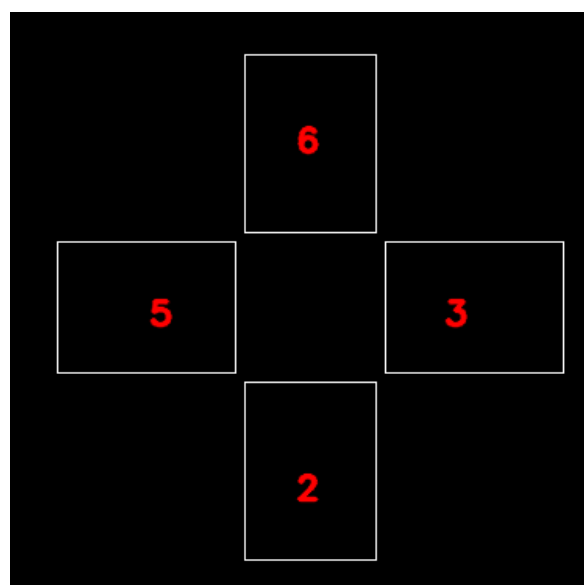


Fig. 11 Y-partition, 4 contours

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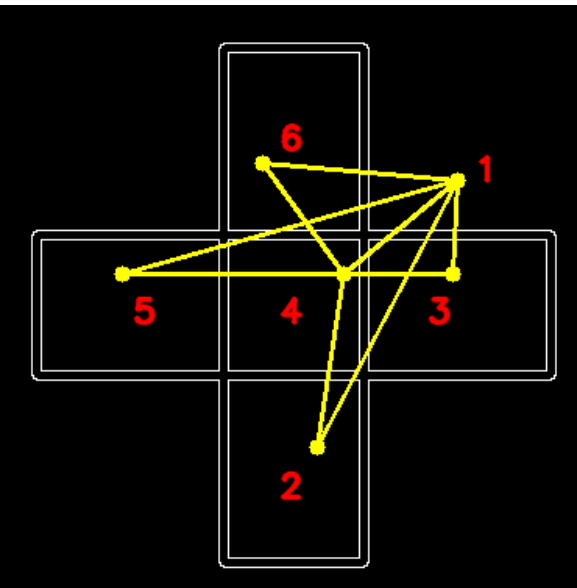


Fig. 12 Extracted contours constitute a region adjacency graph (RAG)

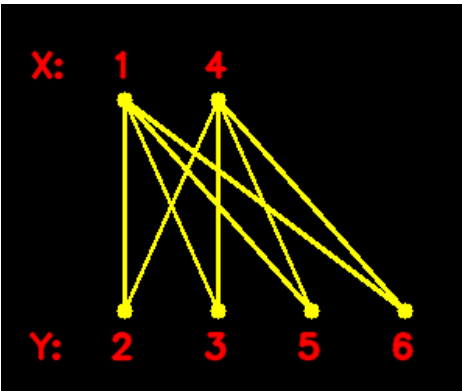


Fig. 13 Bi-partitioned graph

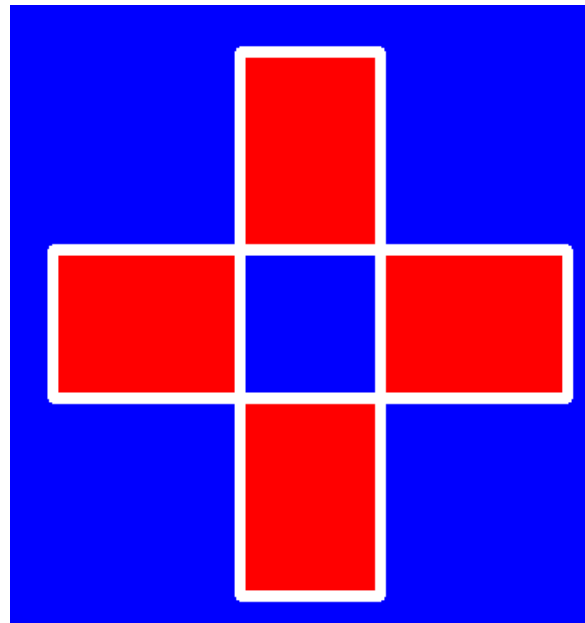


Fig. 14 Checkered patterns: X-partition blue;
Y-partition red; boundaries white

4.2 A LARGE NUMBER OF GRIDS WITH LINE WIDTH 1

Fig. 15 is the figure of 10 rectangles crossed drawn using OpenCV library with line thickness of 1. Contours were extracted as in Fig. 16. There are 102 contours. Figs. 15 and 16 look exactly the same. The lines in Fig. 16 look single everywhere on the lines. Hence, it means that the contours should be overlapped everywhere.

The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied to Fig. 16. Fig. 17 is the resulted Y-partition with 60 contours; X-partition is not shown because it's supposed to look the same as Y-partition. Fig. 18 is the checkered patterns obtained by filling the inside of all the contours of X-partition blue, Y-partition red, and the boundary white. Fig. 19 is with X-partition and boundary blue and Y-partition red, literally 2-colored. Some subtle difference seems to exist between Figs. 18 and 19.

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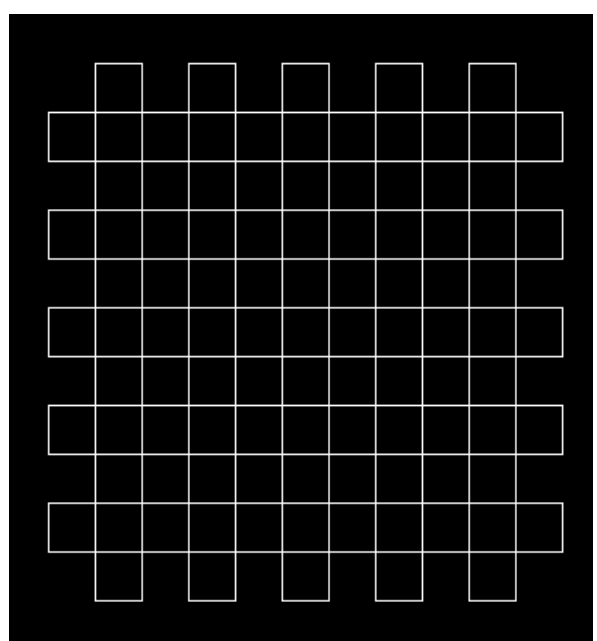


Fig. 15 Original drawing of grids: 10 overlapped rectangles with line width of 1

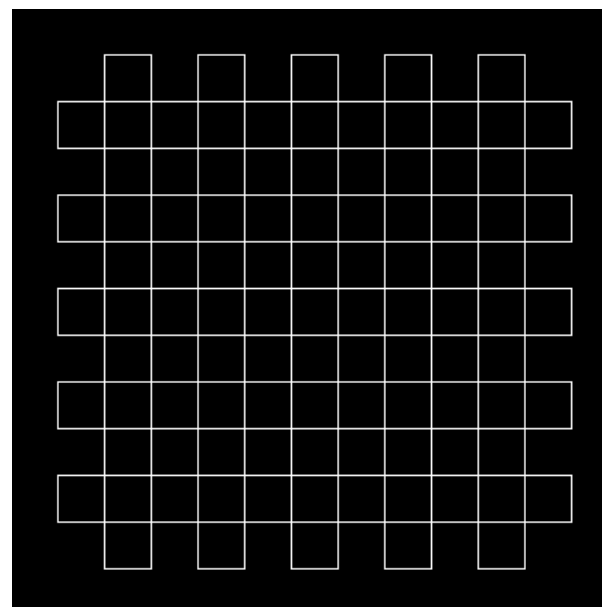


Fig. 16 Contours extracted, 102 contours

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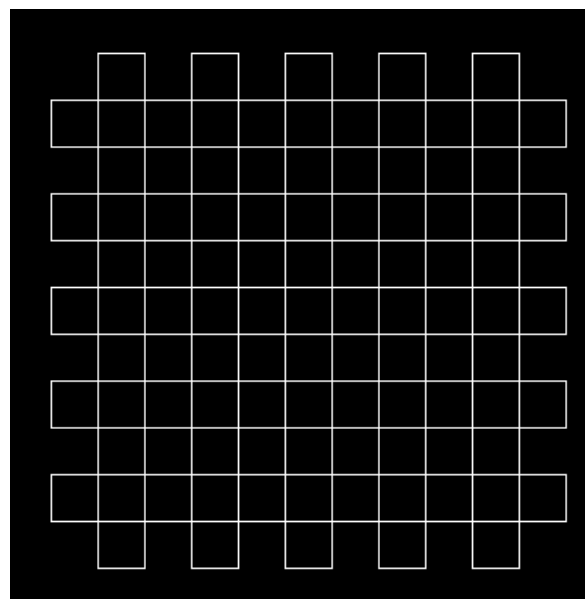


Fig. 17 Y-partition, 60 contours

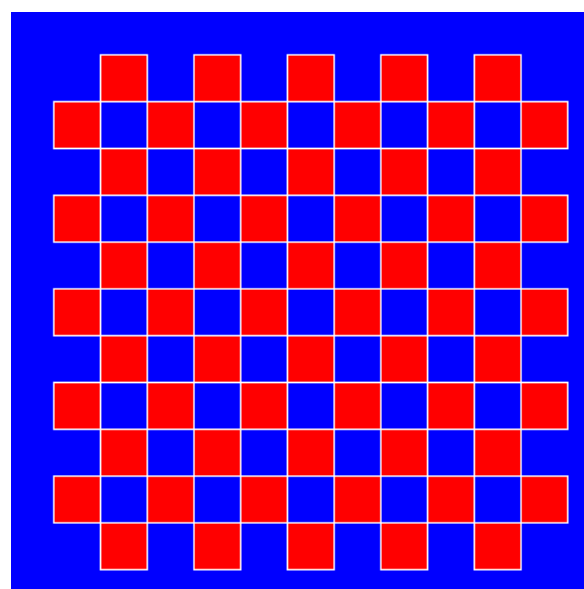


Fig. 18 Checkered patterns: X-partition with blue; Y-partition with red; boundary white

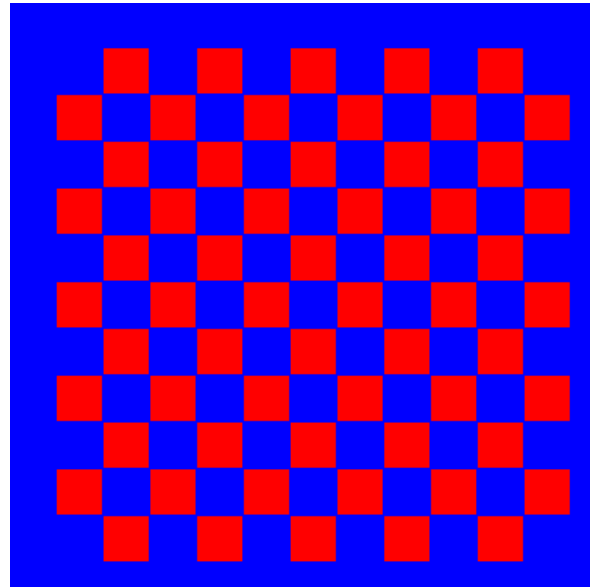


Fig. 19 Checkered patterns: X-partition and boundary blue; Y-partition red

4.3 A LARGE NUMBER OF GRIDS WITH LINE WIDTH 5

Fig. 20 is the figure of 10 rectangles crossed drawn using OpenCV library, but with line thickness of 5. Contours were extracted; the result is in Fig. 21. There are 102 contours shown as in Fig. 16. It seems that no contours overlap. The contours in Fig. 21 are quite different from those in Fig.16. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied to Fig. 21. Fig. 22 is X-partition with 42 contours, one of which is the outer contour, very long; and Fig. 23 is Y-partition with 60 contours. Fig. 24 shows the checkered patterns with X-partition filled with blue color and Y-partition with red and the boundaries with white. It seems that the algorithm worked quite well, even with the different line width, this time too. The original picture of Fig. 21 is different from that Fig. 15 just for the line width. But the resulted patterns give different impressions.

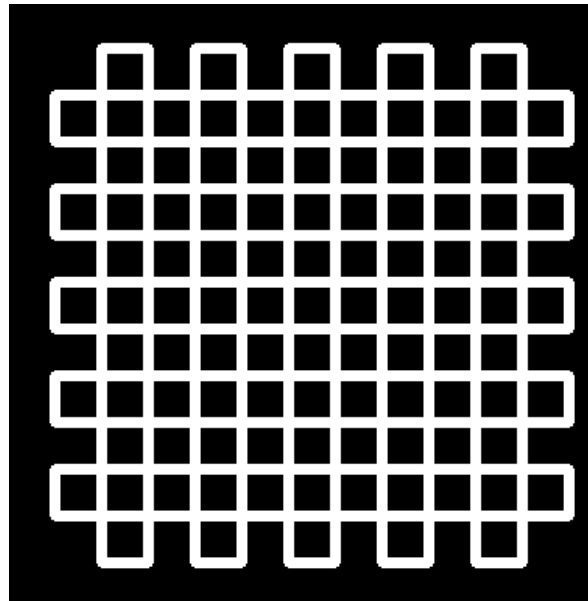


Fig. 20 Original drawing of grids: 10 overlapped rectangles with line width of 5

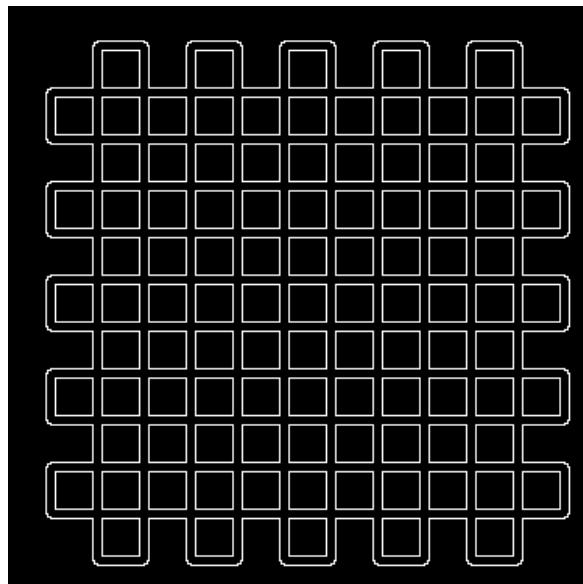


Fig. 21 Contours extracted from Fig. 20, 102 contours

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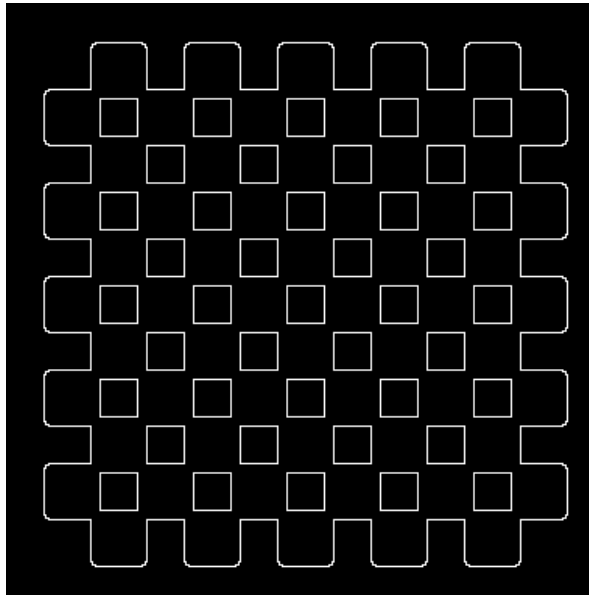


Fig. 22 X-partition, 42 contours

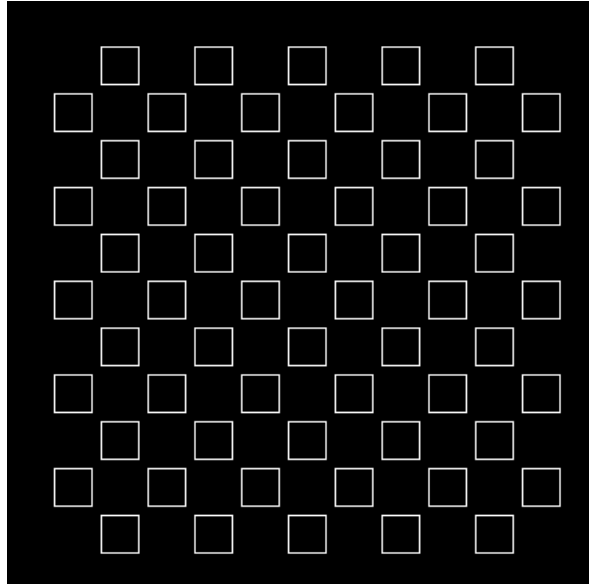


Fig. 23 Y-partition, 60 contours

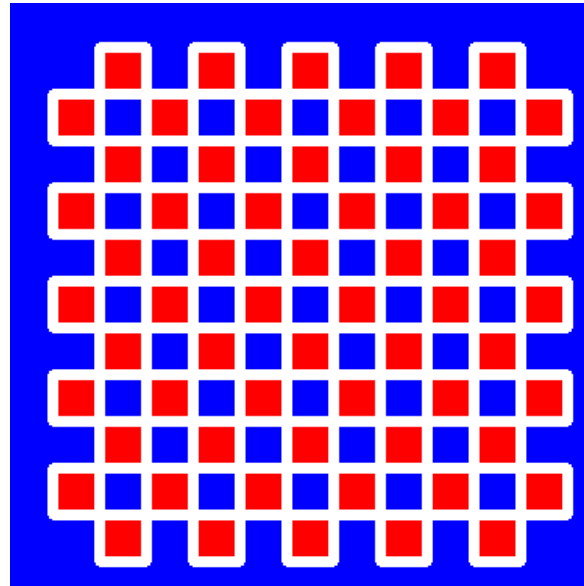


Fig. 24 Checkered patterns: X-partition with blue; Y-partition with red; boundary white

4.4 A LARGE NUMBER OF CIRCLES OVERLAPPED WITH LINE WIDTH 1

Fig. 25 is the figure of 30 circles crossed. These circles were drawn using OpenCV library with line thickness of 1. Since the drawing of circle curves is different from that of straight lines like rectangles, contours could be different from those of rectangle figure. Fig. 26 shows the contours extracted. But the lines look somewhat bolder. There are 140 contours counted by the program. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied to Fig. 26. Fig. 27 is the resulted X-partition; and Fig. 28 is Y-partition; both holding 70 contours. Figs. 26, 27 and 28 look alike. Lines of Fig. 26 look a little bolder. But those of Figs. 27 and 28 look thin. This suggests that the contour lines in Fig. 26 overlap partially, but those in Figs. 27 and 28 are not overlapped and just look single. As a matter of facts, the regions surrounded by the lines of Fig. 27 and those of Fig. 28 are completely different, exclusive each other because they are bi-partitioned regions. Fig. 29 is the output patterns (checkered-like patterns) with X-partition and boundaries painted with blue and Y-partition by red.

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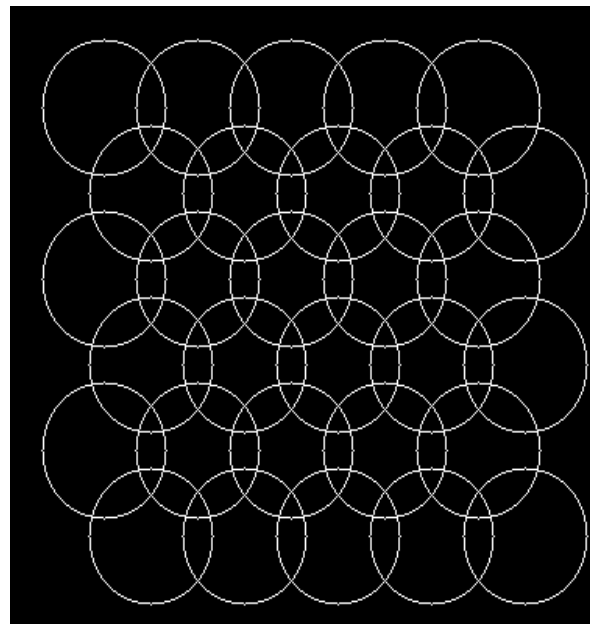


Fig. 25 Original drawing of 30 circles with line width of 1

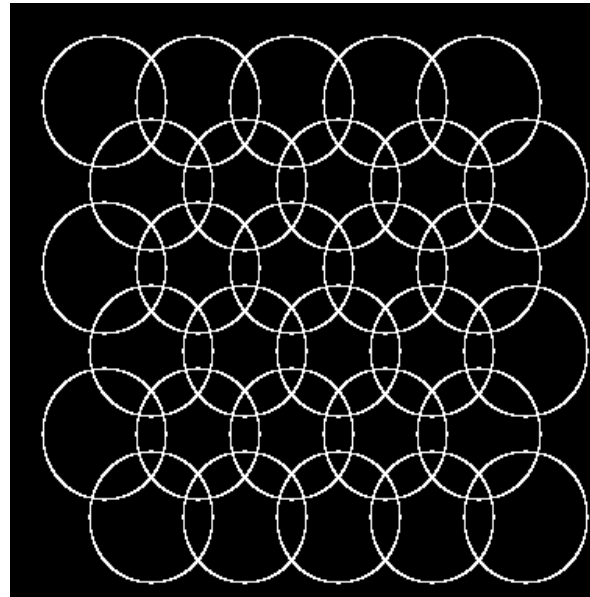


Fig. 26 Contours extracted, 140 contours

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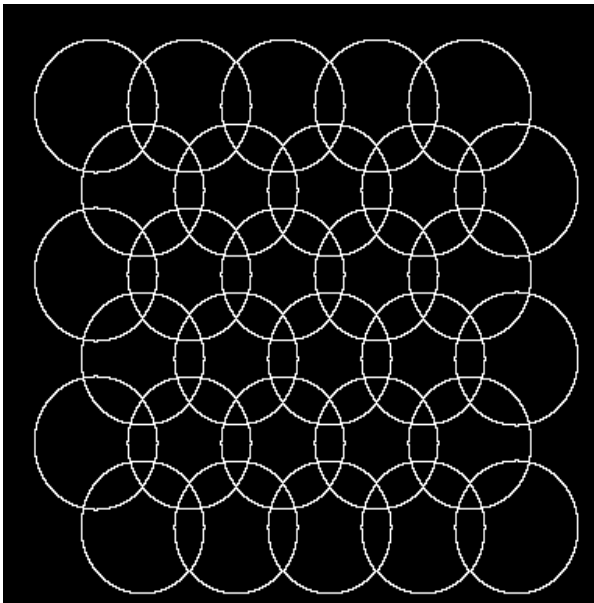


Fig. 27 X-partition, 70 contours

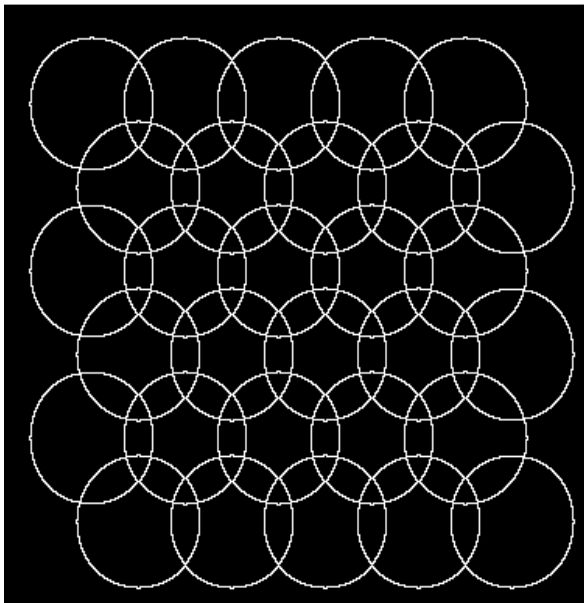


Fig. 28 Y-partition, 70 contours

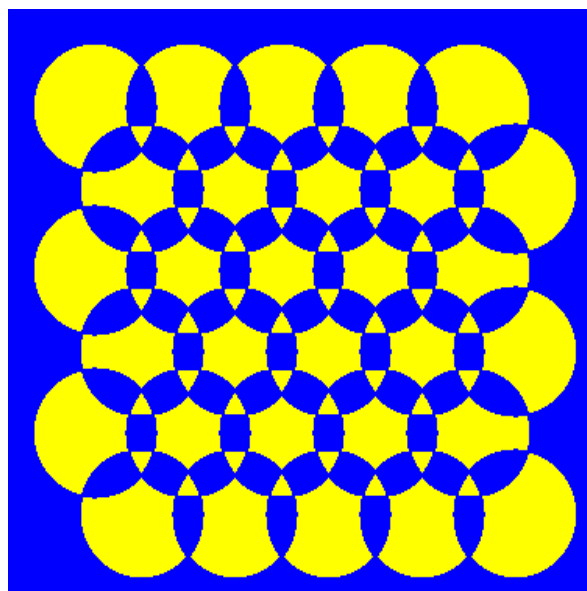


Fig. 29 Checkered-like patterns: with X-partition and boundaries blue, Y-partition yellow

4.5 A LARGE NUMBER OF CIRCLES OVERLAPPED WITH LINE WIDTH 3

Fig. 30 is the figure of 30 circles crossed, but drawn using OpenCV library with line thickness of 3. Fig. 31 shows the contours extracted. It seems that all the contour lines are completely separate and look thin. There are 140 contours. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied to Fig. 31. Fig. 32 is the resulted X-partition; and Fig. 33 is Y-partition; both holding 70 contours. Figs. 32 and 33 look complexly different and all the contours are completely separate. This means that regions of the partitions are completely separate and exclusive, but they occupy all the regions. Fig. 34 is the output patterns (checkered-like patterns) with X-partition painted by blue color, but the most outer region with green, Y-partition by red, and boundaries white.

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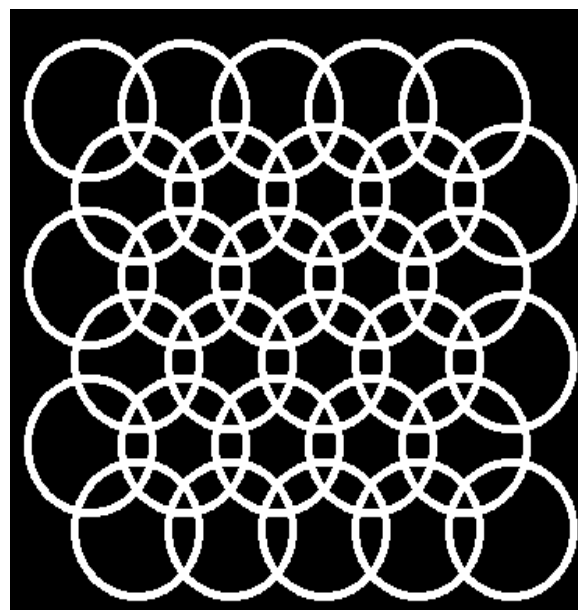


Fig. 30 Original drawing of 30 circles with line width of 3

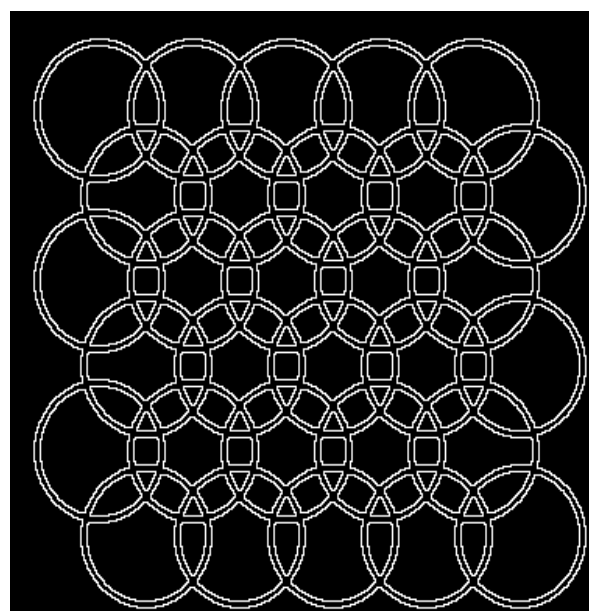


Fig. 31 Contours extracted, 140 contours

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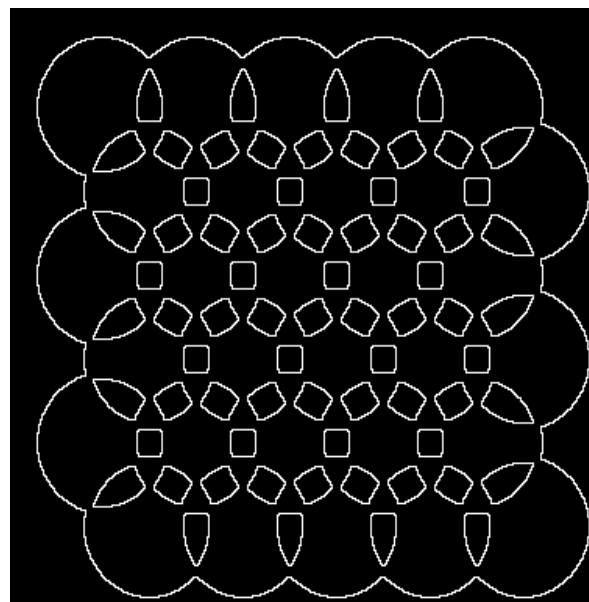


Fig. 32 X-partition, 70 contours

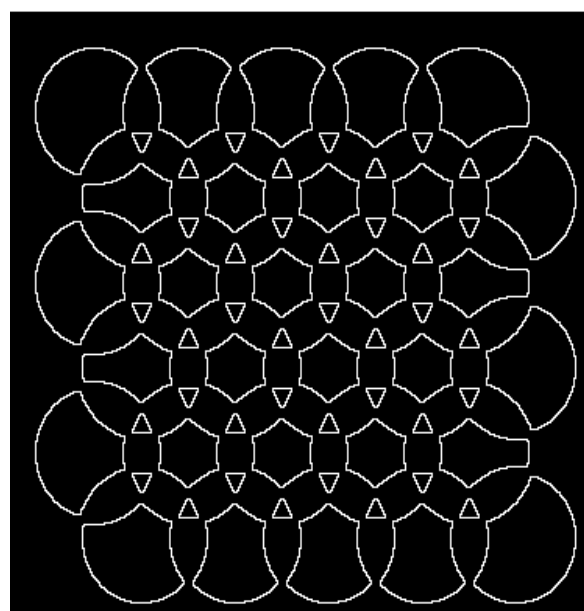


Fig. 33 Y-partition, 70 contours

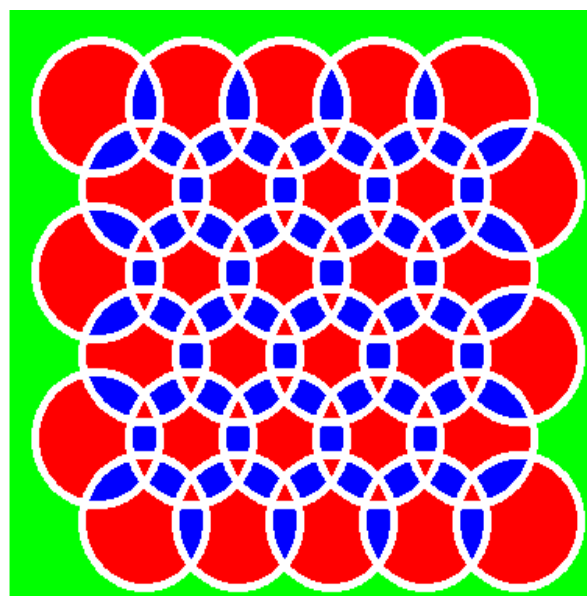


Fig. 34 Checkered-like patterns: with X-partition blue, most outer region green, Y-partition red and boundaries white

4.6 FREEHAND DRAWING OF 10 OVALS OVERLAPPED WITH LINE WIDTH 1

Fig. 35 is the diagram of 10 freehand drawn ovals with line width of 1 overlapped. Somehow line widths vary at places --- originally drawn by MS WORD. Fig. 36 shows 102 contours extracted. Notice that some curve parts are double lines. The double lines seem 2 pixels apart. That is, the distance between the two are two pixels. Accordingly, the distance of the rests should be one pixel. As will be shown in the subsequent section, the average shortest distance (5) for Fig. 35 is 1.01. This suggests that only a very limited line parts are double. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied to Fig. 36. Fig. 37 is the resulted X-partition with 42 contours and Fig. 38 is Y-partition with 60 contours. As seen, those contour curves are very thin, one-pixel width, thinner than those of Fig. 35. Fig. 39 is the checkered patterns obtained from Figs. 37 and 38 --- X-partition is blue, Y-partition and boundary are yellow.

Fig. 40 is the same diagram as Fig. 35, but with the outer rectangle frame line. The oval curves and the outer frame line cross for longer or wider area at the two touching places. Since these curves are not mathematically ideal curves, but realized in an actual image plane, occupying fussy crossing areas, it is expected to be more difficult to recognize the adjacency between contours. Actually, the parameter $\beta = 10$, adjacent point count, was used instead of $\beta = 4$ which were applied to most of the cases. This means that more severe criterion for adjacency was applied in this case. Fig. 41 shows 122 contours extracted. Those seem successfully extracted --- no significant difference from the Fig. 36. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied and the results are as in Fig. 42 (X-partition) and Fig. 43 (Y-partition). All contours were successfully partitioned into two parts. Since the intersecting parts are longer between

1104 freehand ovals and rectangle frame lines, the adjacent parts between the two regions which
 1105 are supposed to be in a same partition set are inclined to be longer. This length, sometimes
 1106 causes the confusion. But this was solved by setting β to 10, longer adjacent point count, of
 1107 (7). The final checkered patterns are shown in Fig. 44. Notice that colors of blue and yellow
 1108 are interchanged between Figs. 39 and 44. It is by the interchangeability of X-partition and Y-
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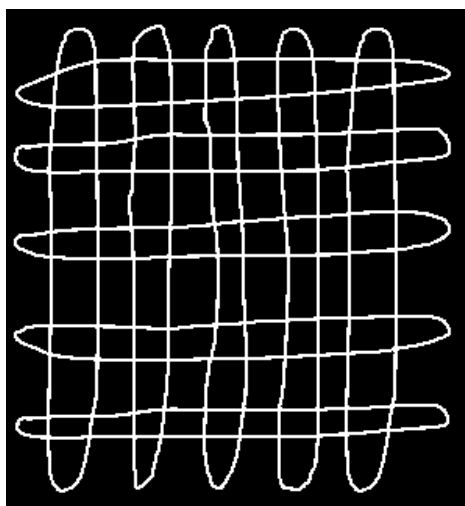


Fig. 35 Original drawing of 10
freehand ovals with line width of 1

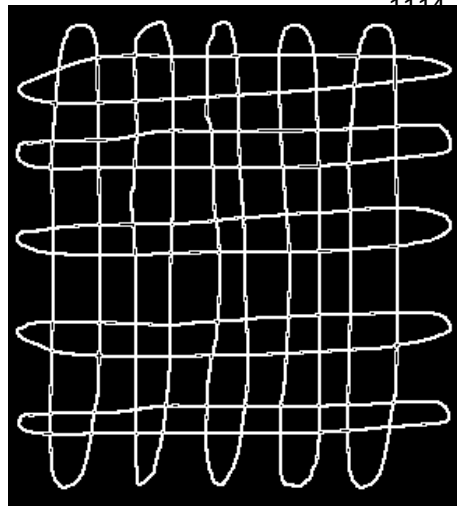


Fig. 36 102 contours extracted

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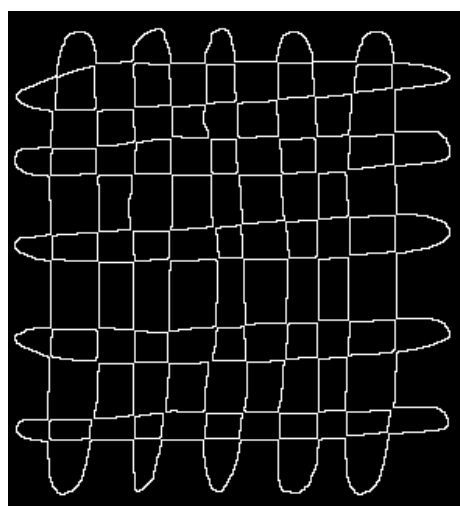


Fig. 37 X-partition, 42 contours

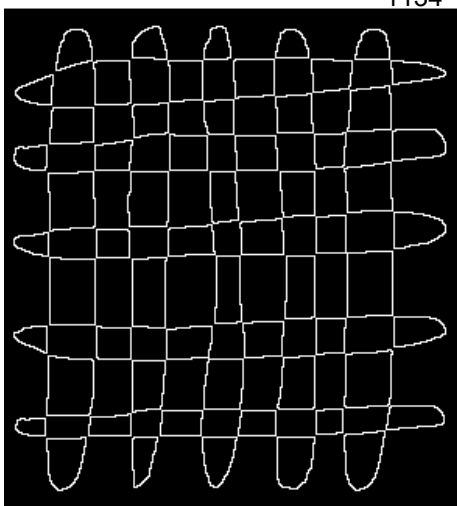


Fig. 38 Y-partition, 60 contours

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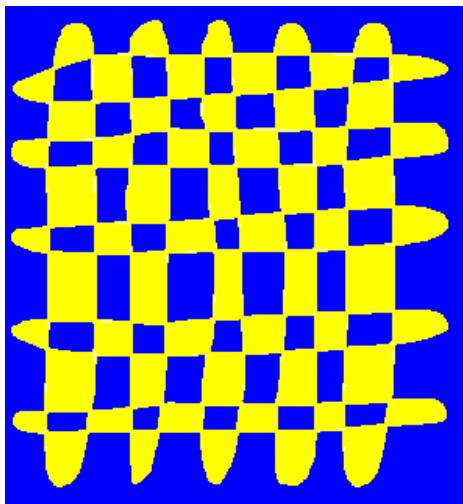


Fig. 39 Checkered-like patterns: X-partition blue; Y-partition and boundaries yellow

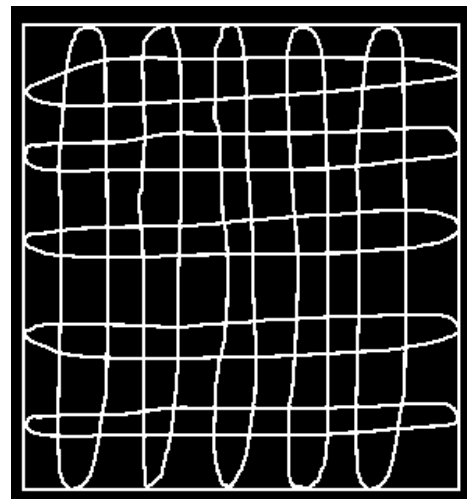


Fig. 40 Original drawing of 10 freehand ovals with line width of 1 and the outer frame

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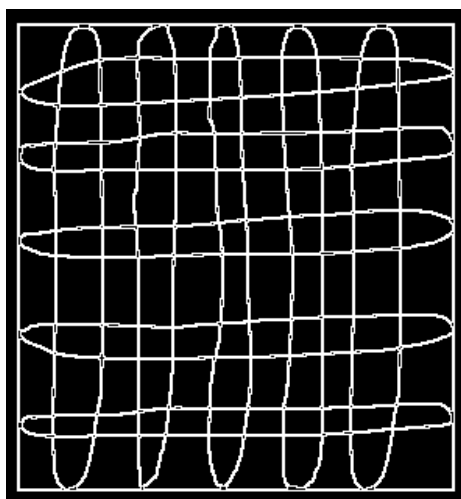


Fig. 41 122 contours extracted

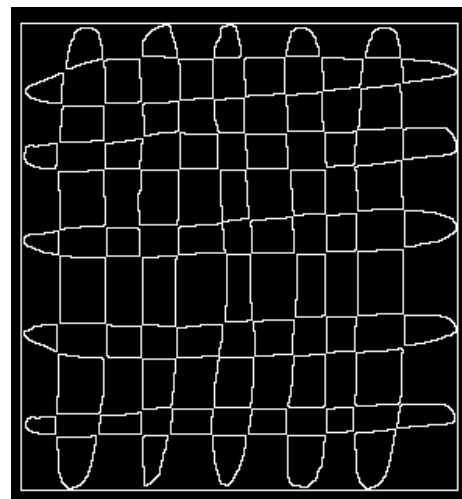


Fig. 42 X-partition, 61 contours

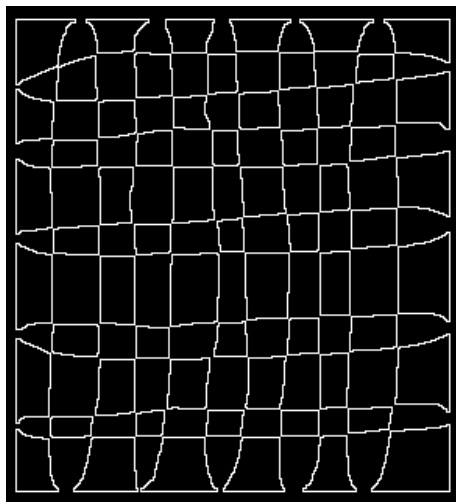


Fig. 43 Y-partition, 61 contours

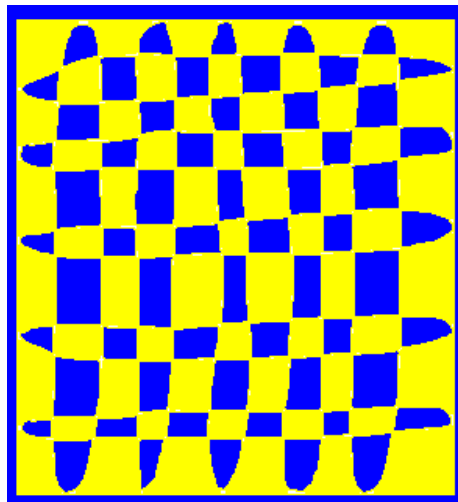


Fig. 44 Checkered-like patterns: X-partition blue, Y-partition and boundary yellow.

4.7 FREEHAND DRAWING OF 10 OVALS CROSSED WITH CURVE WIDTH 5

Fig. 45 is the figure of 10 freehand drawn ovals overlapped, but with curve width of 5. Fig. 46 shows 102 extracted contours. All of them are successfully extracted. Notice that the most outer contour is very long. All the contours are completely separate. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied to Fig. 46. Fig. 47 is the resulted X-partition with 42 contours and Fig. 48 is Y-partition with 60 contours. Despite the wide and fussy crossing areas of curves, the bi-partitioning was successfully performed for all the regions using the parameters $\alpha = 1.1$ and $\beta = 4$. Fig. 49 is the final checkered-like patterns with X-partition blue and Y-partition red and boundaries white. These give another different impression from the ordinary checkered-like patterns of Fig. 39 or Fig. 44.

Fig. 50 is supposedly the same diagram as Fig. 45, but with the outer rectangle frame line of width 5. Notice that curves and lines cross at wider and fussy areas. Fig. 51 shows successfully extracted 122 contours. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied. The results are as in Fig. 52 (X-partition with 61 contours) and Fig. 53 (Y-partition with 61 contours). The parameters $\alpha = 1.1$ and $\beta = 4$ were used as before. The final checkered-like patterns are shown in Fig. 54. Notice that colors of blue and red are seemingly interchanged between Figs. 49 and 54 despite regions of X-partition were painted with blue and those of Y-partition red. It is due to the interchangeable feature of X-partition and Y-partition.

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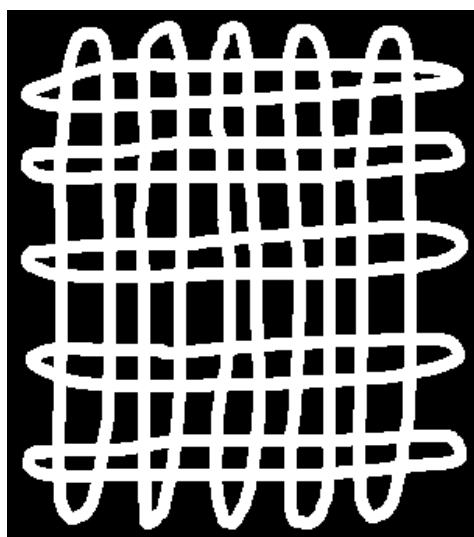


Fig. 45 Original drawing of 10 freehand ovals with line width of 5

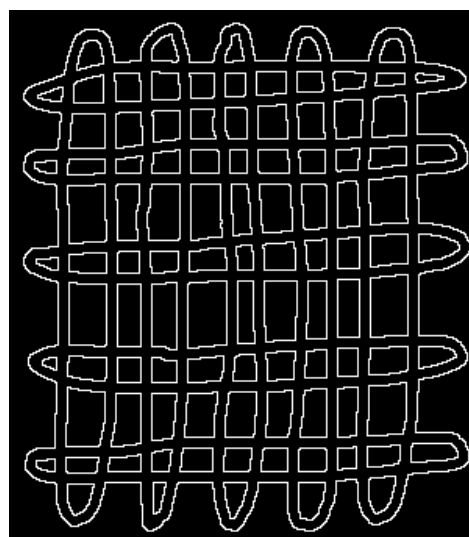


Fig. 46 102 contours extracted

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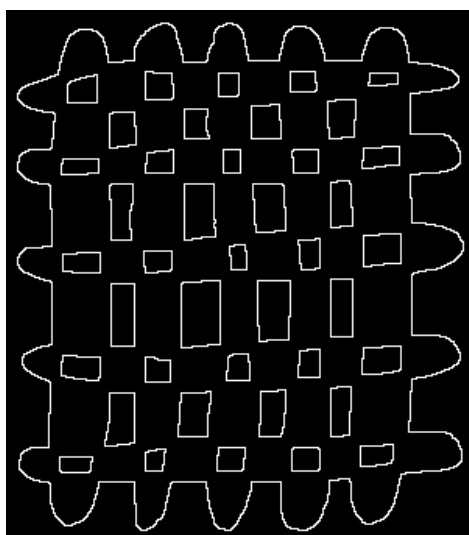


Fig. 47 X-partition, 42 contours

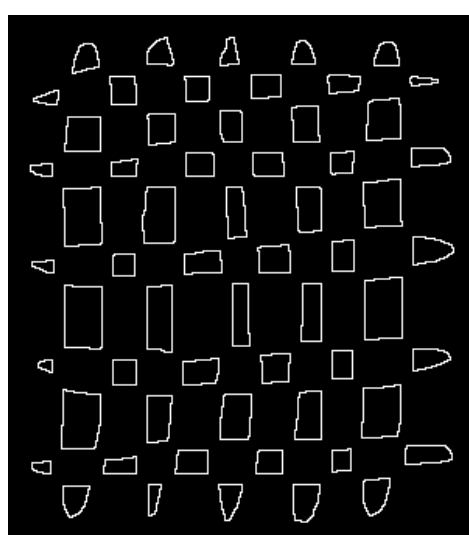


Fig. 48 Y-partition, 60 contours

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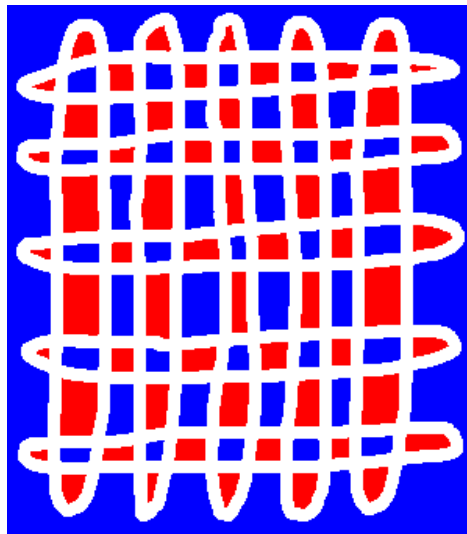


Fig. 49 Checkered-like patterns: X-partition blue, Y-partition red, boundary white

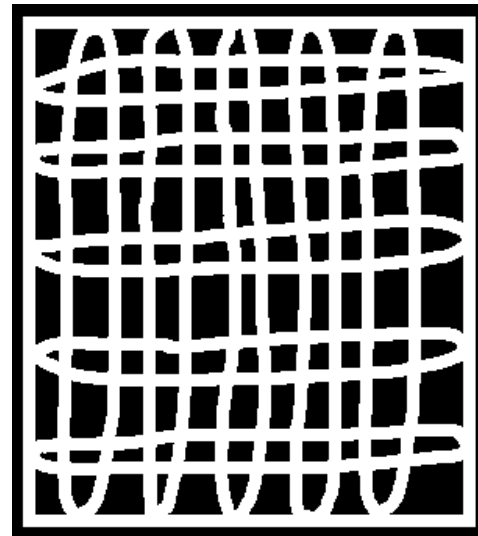


Fig. 50 Original drawing of 10 freehand ovals with line width of 5 and the outer rectangle frame

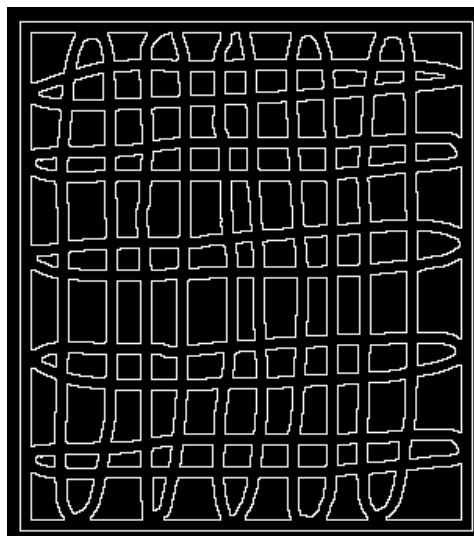


Fig. 51 122 contours extracted

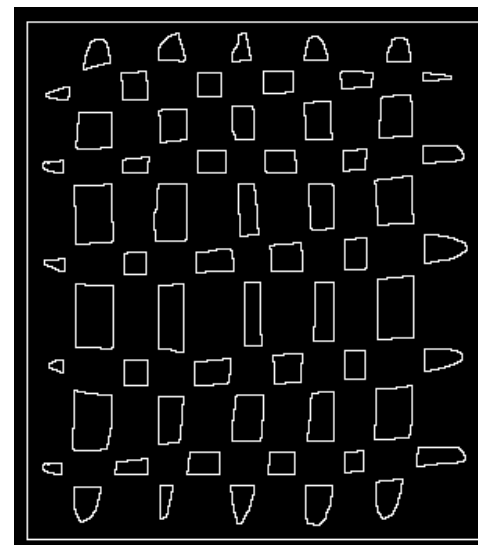


Fig. 52 X-partition, 61 contours

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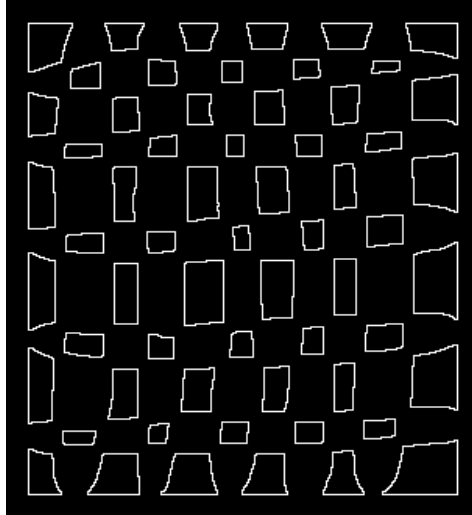


Fig. 53 Y-partition, 61 contours

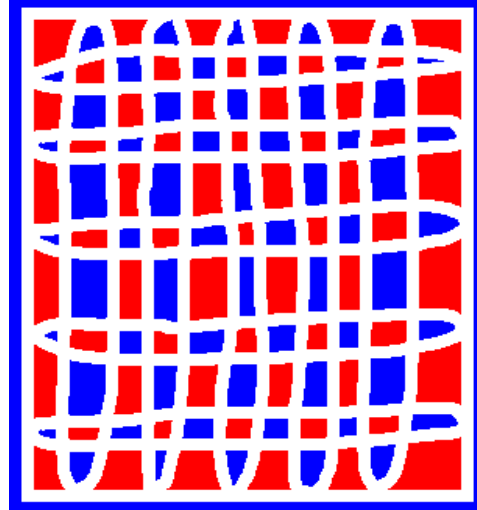


Fig. 54 Checkered-like patterns: X-partition blue, Y-partition red, boundary white

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4.8 TRIANGLES WITH SIX DEGREE VERTICES WITH LINE WIDTH 8

Fig. 55 is the figure of triangles with 6 degree vertices drawn using OpenCV library with line thickness of 8. Contours were extracted as in Fig. 56. There are 35 contours, all separate. The bi-partitioning algorithm was applied to Fig. 56 and contours were partitioned into two parts. Fig. 57 is the resulted X-partition with 15 contours and Fig. 58 is Y-partition with 20 contours. The vertices of 4 degrees as well as 6 were handled successfully. By the way, the parameters, $\alpha = 1.1$ and $\beta = 4$, were used as before. Fig. 59 is the colored checkered-like patterns with X-partition blue including the most outer region, Y-partition red and boundaries white.

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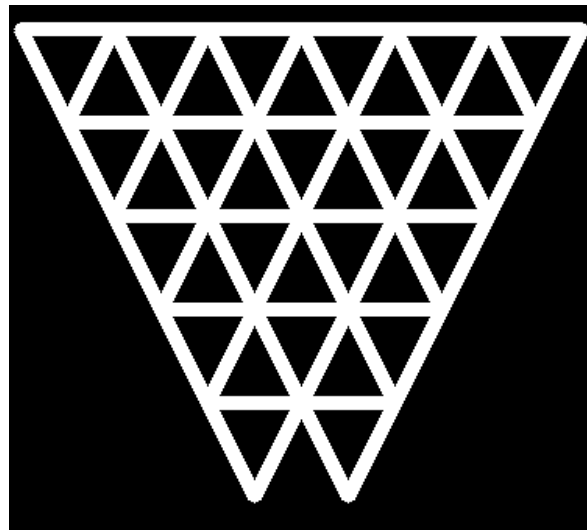


Fig. 55 Original drawing of triangles with 6 degree vertices and line width of 8

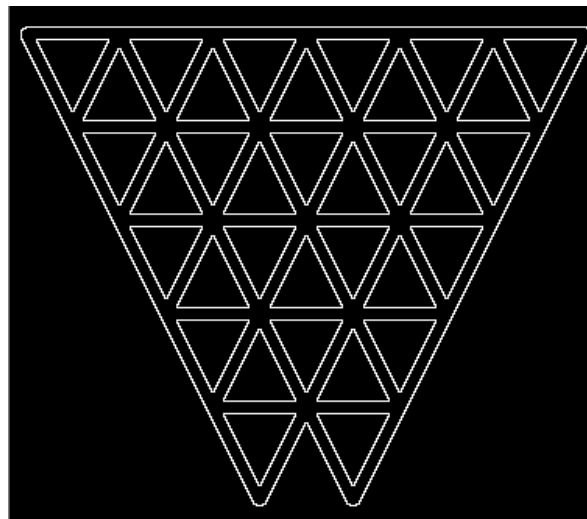


Fig. 56 35 contours extracted

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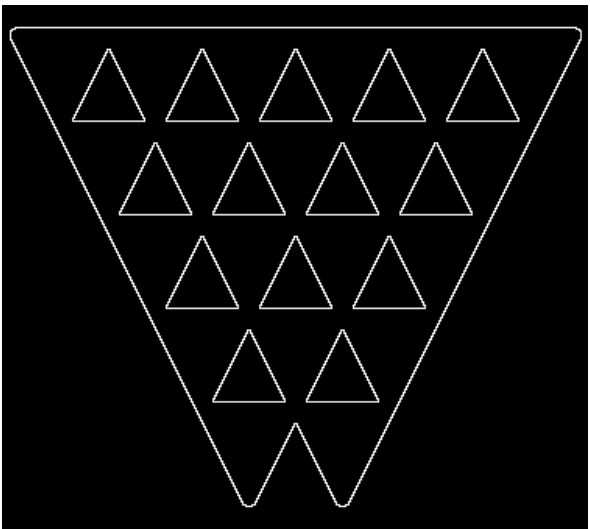


Fig. 57 X-partition, 15 contours

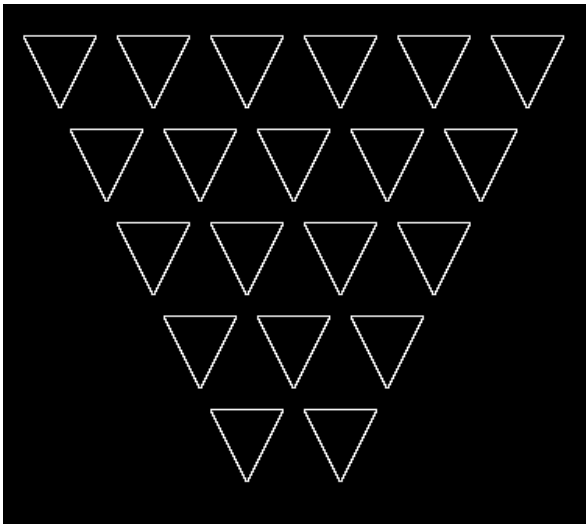


Fig. 58 Y-partition, 20 contours

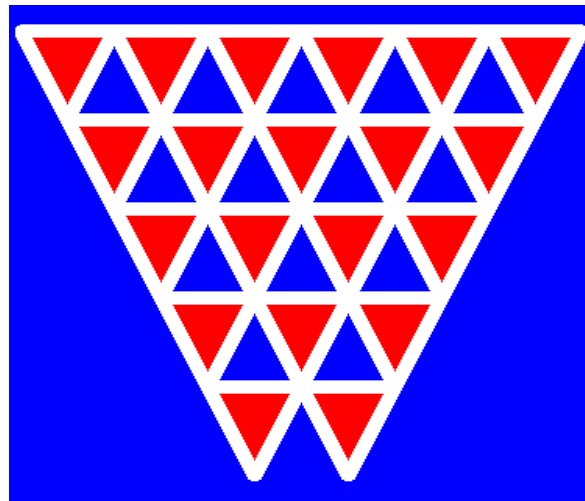


Fig. 59 Checkered-like patterns: X-partition blue; Y-partition red; boundary white

4.9 TRIANGLES WITH SIX DEGREE VERTICES AND LINE WIDTH 1

Fig. 60 is the figure of triangles with 6 degree vertices. It was drawn using OpenCV library with line thickness of 1. Fig. 61 is the colored checkered-like patterns with X-partition blue, but the most outer region green; and Y-partition and boundary yellow. This example also successfully demonstrates the bi-partitioning algorithm worked well with 6 degree vertices. The parameters, $\alpha = 1.1$ and $\beta = 4$, were used as before.

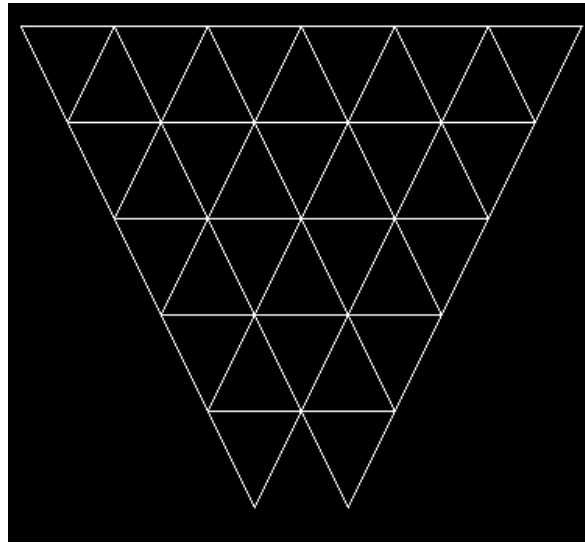


Fig. 60 Original drawing of triangles with 6 degree vertices and line width of 1

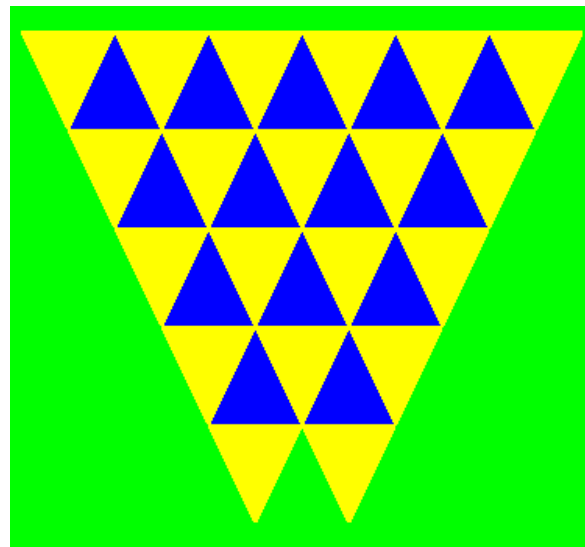


Fig. 61 Checkered-like patterns: X-partition blue, the most outer region green; Y-partition yellow

5. LINE WIDTH AND ADJACENCY BETWEEN CONTOURS

A number of figures with different drawing line widths were tried for generating checkered patterns and their likes in the experiments. This is to see the effects of the different line widths. It turned out that different line widths cause no problem in algorithm execution and give successful outputs with different impressions --- Figs. 7 and 14, Figs. 18 and 24, Figs. 29 and 34, Figs. 39 and 49, and Figs. 44 and 54, and Figs. 59 and 61 are the examples. These different line widths were specified by the parameters, but once the figures were drawn by hand or by the program, all the checkered-like patterns were automatically generated by the program. Specifications such as line width for different original figures are given in Table 1.

The bi-partitioning was done based on the adjacency between two contours. The adjacency criterion is the distance between two contours. In the experiments, the overall average of the shortest distance from a point on a contour to other contours as (5) was first computed. The values vary depending on the drawn lines, especially on the line widths. This distance was used as the criteria for deciding if two contours are adjacent. The averages (d_{AS}) for Figs. 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 45, 40, 50, 55, and 60, respectively, are shown in Table 1. This table also includes the shape type of figures and the line width originally given.

The adjacency is based on how many adjacent points exist between two contours. The minimal count was given by β of the expression (7) with the parameter $\alpha = 1.1$. $\beta = 4$ was used for all the experiments except for Fig. 40 ($\beta = 10$ was used). This figure of Fig.40 is with the outer rectangle frame. Many of the line crossing parts are relatively long for Fig. 40 than other figures. The adjacency checking had to be more severe for this kind of figures. That is, at those places where ovals touch the outer frame, the crossing parts are inclined to be longer and misleading. With these parameters given, the program produces automatically the checkered-like patterns at once. All the experiments successfully demonstrated that the bi-partitioning algorithm is very robust.

The contour cycles of Fig. 2 were all on the lines of rectangles with line thickness of 1 (as of OpenCV). This means that the distance between any two adjacent regions was zero. The computed average distance was also zero. Rectangles of Fig. 15, Circles of Fig. 25 and triangles of Fig. 60, all with the line width 1, give the distance of 0.0, 0.28 and 0.25, respectively. It seems that horizontal or vertical lines give the shorter distance. Rectangles of Figs. 20 and triangles of Fig. 55 are with line width of 5 and 8, respectively; the computed average distance was 6.0 and 7.8, respectively. The distance does not seem to be proportional to the width. Freehand ovals of Figs. 35 and 40 were drawn with line width 1. But the d_{AS} is slightly smaller for Fig. 35 than Fig. 40. It should be due to the crossing parts between ovals and outer frame.

Table 1 Figure specifications and average of shortest distance (d_{AS})

Unit shape symbol explanation: r means rectangle, c circle, f freehand drawing, t triangle; Line thickness of Figs. 35 and 44 are by MSWORD (point), others are by OpenCV library

Fig. NO	15	20	25	30	35	45	40	50	55	60
Unit shape	r	r	c	c	f	f	f	f	t	t
Line thickness	1	5	1	3	1pt	5pt	1pt	5pt	8	1
d_{AS}	0.0	6.0	0.28	3.4	1.01	7.0	1.03	7.03	7.8	0.25

6. CONCLUSION

The method of this study demonstrated its ability to generate varieties of checkered patterns and their variations with various features including:

- 1) Wide range of patterns can be produced.
- 2) It can be applied to drawings of various closed line shapes as --- circles, rectangle, triangles, freehand drawing, etc.
- 3) Width of line or curve can vary.
- 4) It is automatic and very robust as demonstrated.

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