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1109 巻 1999 年 152-162

Analysis of Colored Symmetrical Patterns

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Introduction

The study and classification of colored symmetrical patterns continues to be of interest in color symmetry today. A meaningful analysis of colored symmetrical patterns involves the symmetry group G of the uncolored pattern as well as the symmetry group K of the pattern when it is colored. In certain instances, not all elements of G permute the colors and we also consider the subgroup H of elements of G which effect color permutations. This subgroup H contains K as a normal subgroup of elements of H which fix the colors.

A coloring of a symmetrical pattern may be perfect or non-perfect. Perfect colorings occur whenever all the elements of G permute the colors that is, $H = G$; otherwise we have non-perfect colorings.

Perfect colorings have been studied extensively before in [9]. The problem however lies on how to study non-perfect colorings systematically. In the paper "A Framework for Coloring Symmetrical Patterns" by De Las Peñas, Felix and Quilinguin[1], a framework was presented for analyzing both perfect and non-perfect colorings. Moreover, using the framework, all colorings of a symmetrical pattern were determined for which the elements of a given subgroup H of the symmetry group G of the uncolored pattern permute the colors and the elements of a given subgroup K of G fix the colors. In this paper, we shed more light to the study of perfect and non-perfect colorings by giving an alternative proof of this result. For the colorings obtained using the framework, we also find the subgroup H^* consisting of elements of G permuting the colors and the subgroup K^* consisting of elements of G fixing the colors. In [1], the case where the index of H in G is a prime p was considered. In this paper, we present an additional situation where the index of H in G is not prime. Specifically we look at the case where the index of H in G is the smallest composite 4.

Setting for Coloring Symmetrical Patterns

We first explain the setting in which we will color symmetrical patterns. Consider G to be the symmetry group of an uncolored pattern. We start with a fundamental domain for G

and a subset R of this fundamental domain. The set $\{g(R) : g \in G\}$ will be referred to as the G-orbit of R. We assume that the given pattern can be obtained as the G-orbit of some subset R of a fundamental domain for G. Then the assignment $g \longleftrightarrow g(R)$ defines a one-to-one correspondence between the group G and the G-orbit of R. We then can label the set $g(R)$ by g and by giving a color to each $g \in G$, we give a color to each set $g(R)$. This assignment of colors is what we will call a **coloring** of the pattern. Since this results in a partition of G wherein the elements assigned the same color form one set in the partition, a coloring may be treated as simply a partition of the group G or a decomposition of G into non-empty disjoint subsets. Hence, a coloring of a pattern with symmetry group G will be equivalent to a partition of G or a decomposition of G.

We give an example which will illustrate the above concepts. Consider the uncolored pattern in Figure 1.1 which has symmetry group $G = D_6 = \{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5, b, ab, a^2b, a^3b, a^4b, a^5b\}$ where a is a 60°-counterclockwise rotation about the center of the hexagon and b is a reflection in the horizontal line through the center of the hexagon. If R is the triangular region labeled "e" in Figure 1.2, then for each $g \in G$, the triangular region $g(R)$ is labeled "g". Let us partition G into the sets $\{e, a^2, a^4, ab, a^3b, a^5b\}$, and $\{a, a^3, a^5, b, a^2b, a^4b\}$, and assign white and black to the first and second sets respectively. Consequently, we obtain the coloring in Figure 1.3.

In the analysis of a coloring, three groups play a significant role. These groups are:

$G =$ symmetry group of the uncolored pattern

$H =$ subgroup of elements of G which permute the colors

$K =$ subgroup of elements of G which fix the colors

We will refer to H as the subgroup of color transformations and K as the symmetry group of the colored pattern. The groups G, H, K are such that $K \leq H \leq G$. Given a color, its stabilizer in G will lie between H and K. Since H acts on the set C of colors of the pattern, this action induces a homomorphism $f : H \rightarrow A(C)$, where $A(C)$ is the group of permutations of the set C of colors of the pattern. For $h \in H$, $f(h)$ is the permutation of the colors that h induces. An element h is in the kernel of f if and only if $f(h)$ is the identity permutation, that is, h fixes all the colors. Thus the kernel of f is K and the resulting group of color permutations $f(h)$ is isomorphic to H/K. Consequently, K is a normal subgroup of H.

Enumerating Colorings of Symmetrical Patterns

In this part of the paper, we determine all colorings of an uncolored pattern with symmetry group G such that the elements of a given subgroup H of G permute the colors and the elements of a given subgroup K of G fix the colors where $K \leq H \leq N_G(K)$.

The assumptions we are to consider in determining the colorings will be as follows. Let G be a group and H a subgroup of G. Let P be a partition of G. Since a partition of G corresponds to a coloring, we refer to the set P as the set of colors.

Definition 1 *Let G be a group, $H \leq G$, Y a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G, $\bigcup_{i\in I} Y_i$ a decomposition of Y and for each $i \in I$, $J_i \leq H$. Then the coloring or decomposition $G = \bigcup_{i\in I} \bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_iY_i$ or the partition of G, $P = \{hJ_iY_i : i \in I, h \in H\}$ is called a (Y_i, J_i)-H coloring.*

Lemma 2 *A (Y_i, J_i)-H coloring defines an H-invariant partition of G.*

Proof. If $G = \bigcup_{i\in I}^{t} \bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_iY_i$ is a (Y_i, J_i)-H coloring, then it defines an H-invariant partition since for $h' \in H$, $h'G = \bigcup_{i\in I} \bigcup_{h\in H} h'hJ_iY_i = \bigcup_{i\in I} \bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_iY_i$ since premultiplication by $h' \in H$ simply permutes the elements of H. ■

Also, if $K \leq G$ such that $H \leq N_G(K)$ and $K \leq J_i$ for each i, then the elements of K fix each of the sets hJ_iY_i because if $k \in K$ then $khJ_iY_i = hk'J_iY_i = hJ_iY_i$.

Lemma 3 *If $P = \{P_i : i \in I\}$ is a G-invariant partition of the group G, then P is the partition of G consisting of left cosets of some subgroup S of G. This subgroup is the set in the partition containing e.Moreover, the subgroup of elements of G fixing $P = \{P_i : i \in I\}$ is $core_G S$.*

Proof. Let $e \in P_1$ and P_i an arbitrary element of P. If $g \in P_i$, then $g^{-1}g \in g^{-1}P_i$ and $e \in g^{-1}P_i$. Thus, $g^{-1}P_i = P_1$ or $P_i = gP_1$. This means that any element of P, P_i, can be expressed as gP_1 for some $g \in P_i$. If we can show that P_1 is a subgroup of G, then we are done.Now, $g \in G_{P_1}$, the stabilizer of P_1 under left multiplication by elements of $G \Leftrightarrow gP_1 = P_1 \Leftrightarrow g \in P_1$ because $e \in P_1$. Thus, P_1 is the stabilizer of P_1 and P_1 is a subgroup of G.

If we consider $a \in G$, and take any P_i of P where $P_i = gP_1$ for some $g \in P_i$, a fixes $P_i = gP_1$ or $a(gP_1) = g(P_1)$ if and only if $(g^{-1}ag)P_1 = P_1$ so that $g^{-1}ag \in P_1$ and $a \in gP_1g^{-1}$. Thus the subgroup of elements of G fixing the colors in $core_G P_1$. ■

Lemma 4 *Let G be a group, X a non-empty subset of G and K a subgroup of G. Then $kX = X$ for all k in K if and only if X is a union of right cosets of K in G.*

Proof. Assume $kX = X$ for all k in K. Then $X = \bigcup_{x\in X} \{x\}$ is contained in $\bigcup_{x\in X} Kx$. Now $a \in \bigcup_{x\in X} Kx$ implies $a = kx$ for some $k \in K$ and $x \in X$. But $kx \in kX = X$. Therefore $a \in X$. Hence $X = \bigcup_{x\in X} Kx$.

On the other hand, if X is a union of right cosets of K in G, say $X = \bigcup_{g\in A} Kg$, where A is a subset of G, then $kX = \bigcup_{g\in A} kKg = \bigcup_{g\in A} Kg = X$. ■

Theorem 5 *Let G be a group and H a subgroup of G. If P is an H-invariant partition of G, then P corresponds to a decomposition of G in the form $G = \bigcup_{i\in I}\bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_iY_i$ where $\bigcup_{i\in I} Y_i = Y$ is a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G and $J_i \leq H$ for every $i \in I$. If in addition $K \leq H$ and K fixes the elements of P, then $K \leq J_i$ for every $i \in I$.*

Proof. Since P is an H-invariant partition of G, H acts on P by left multiplication. Consider the orbits under the action of H. Let C_i be a color in the ith orbit. Moreover, let J_i be the stabilizer in H of C_i so that $J_iC_i = C_i$. By Lemma 4, C_i is a union of right cosets of J_i, say $C_i = J_iY_i$ where Y_i is a set consisting of one representative for each right coset of J_i contained in C_i. Hence the ith orbit is the set $\{hJ_iY_i : h \in H\}$. So $G = \bigcup_{i\in I}\bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_iY_i$. Note that $\bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_iY_i = (\bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_i)Y_i = HY_i$ so that $G = \bigcup_{i\in I} HY_i$. This implies that $Y = \bigcup_{i\in I} Y_i$ is a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G. If $K \leq H$ and K fixes all elements of P then K fixes C_i. This means that $K \leq J_i$. ■

The above theorem characterizes all partitions of a group G which are invariant under multiplication on the left by elements of a subgroup H of G and whose elements are left fixed by multiplication on the left by elements of a subgroup K of H. It should be mentioned that distinct complete sets of coset representatives of H in G may give rise to the same partition. This situation is addressed in [1].

The Subgroup H* Permuting the Colors and the Subgroup K* Fixing the Colors

Based on the previous theorem, we have determined all colorings of an uncolored pattern with symmetry group G such that the elements of a subgroup H of G permute the colors and the elements of a subgroup K of G fix the colors. The next step is to actually determine for these colorings the subgroup H^* consisting of elements of G permuting the colors and the subgroup K^* of elements of G fixing the colors. At this point, all we can say is that H is contained in H^* and K is contained in K^*.

In the next theorem, given a $(Y_i, J_i)-H$ coloring, we establish the condition for determining when a coloring is perfect, that is, $H^* = G$ and for the special case where $[G:H] = p$ we compute for K^*.

1. The subgroup H* permuting the colors.

Theorem 6 *Let G be a group, $H \leq G$, Y a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G, $\bigcup_{i\in I} Y_i$ a decomposition of Y and for each $i \in I$, $J_i \leq H$. If $G = \bigcup_{i\in I}\bigcup_{h\in H} hJ_iY_i$ is a given (Y_i, J_i)-H coloring, then this coloring is perfect if and only if J_1Y_1 is a subgroup of G and for each i, $i \in I$ there is a $y_i \in Y_i$ such that $y_iJ_1Y_1 = J_iY_i$.*

Proof. Assume the coloring is perfect.. Then each set hJ_iY_i is a left coset of some subgroup of G. This subgroup is the set hJ_iY_i containing e which is J_1Y_1. Therefore, J_1Y_1 is a subgroup of G. Let $y_i \in Y_i$. Then $y_iJ_1Y_1$ is one of the sets hJ_iY_i since the coloring is perfect. This set is J_iY_i since y_i is in this set. Hence $y_iJ_1Y_1 = J_iY_i$. Conversely, assume J_1Y_1 is a group of G and for each $i \in I$ there is a $y_i \in Y_i$ such that $y_iJ_1Y_1 = J_iY_i$. Then $hJ_iY_i = hy_iJ_1Y_1$ is a left coset of the subgroup J_1Y_1. Hence the coloring is perfect since all elements of G permute the left cosets. ■

The next theorem looks at H^* when there is only one orbit of colors under the action of H.

Theorem 7 *Let G be a group, $H \leq G$, Y a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G, $e \in Y$, and $J \leq H$. Let $P = \{hJY : h \in H\}$ be a coloring and H^* the subgroup of G consisting of all elements of G which permute the colors. Let $Y' \subseteq Y$.*

(i) If $H^* = HY'$ then $y'JY = JY$ for all $y' \in Y'$.

(ii) If $y' \in N_G(H)$ and $y'JY = JY$ for all $y' \in Y'$ then $HY' \subseteq H^*$.

Proof. (i) Assume $H^* = HY'$. Since $y' \in Y' \subseteq HY'$, then y' permutes the sets in P and $y'JY$ is the set in P containing y'. This set is JY, hence $y'JY = JY$.

(ii) Assume $y' \in N_G(H)$ and $y'JY = JY$ for all $y' \in Y'$. We show y' permutes the sets in P. Now, $y' \in N_G(H)$ implies that if $h \in H$, there is an $h' \in H$ such that $y'h = h'y'$. Hence $y'hJY = h'y'JY = h'JY$. Thus for all $y' \in Y'$, y' permutes the elements in P. Since H permutes the elements in P, so does HY'. Therefore, $HY' \subseteq H$. ■

In the following corollary, we specialize Theorem 7 to the case where the index of H in G is 4.

Corollary 8 *Let G be a group, $H \leq G$ such that $[G : H] = 4$, $Y = \{y_1 = e, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$ a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G and $J \leq H$. Suppose $P = \{hJY : h \in H\}$ is the given coloring or partition.*

(i) The coloring is perfect if and only if JY is subgroup of G.

(ii) If $H^* \neq G$ then for $i = 2, 3, 4$, $H^* = H \cup Hy_i$ if and only if $H \cup Hy_i$ is a subgroup of G and $y_iJY = JY$. Otherwise $H^* = H$.

Proof. (i) This is a consequence of Theorem 6 where $JY = J_1Y_1$.

(ii) This follows from Theorem 7 since H is a normal subgroup of $H \cup Hy_i = H\{e, y_i\}$ when $H \cup Hy_i$ is a subgroup of G. ■

2. The subgroup K* fixing the colors

Now that we have established for certain cases the condition for determining H^*, the subgroup of G consisting of elements of G that permute the colors of the corresponding colored pattern, we can give for these cases the formulas for K^*, the subgroup of G consisting of the elements of G fixing the colors. Notice that K^* is a subgroup of H^* so that in determining K^* we consider only the elements of H^*.

Theorem 9 *Let G be a group, $H \leq G$ such that $[G : H] = p$ where p is prime, Y a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G, $\bigcup_{i=1}^{t} Y_i$ a decomposition of Y and for each $i \in \{1, 2, ..., t\}$, $J_i \leq H$. Suppose $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{t} \bigcup_{h \in H} hJ_iY_i$ is a given (Y_i, J_i)-H coloring.*

(i) If the coloring is perfect then $K^* = core_G(J_1Y_1)$.

(ii) If the coloring is non-perfect then $K^* = \bigcap_{i \in I} core_H(J_i)$.

Proof. (i) If the coloring is perfect, then the given (Y_iJ_i)-H coloring partitions G into the sets of left cosets of J_1Y_1 in G. It follows that $K^* = core_G(J_1Y_1)$.

(ii) On the other hand, if the coloring is non-perfect, then the subgroup H^* permuting the set of colors is H since $[G : H] = p$ and $H \leq H^* \leq G$ implies $H^* = H$ or $H^* = G$. Thus, in determining K^* we consider only elements of H. Let $a \in K^*$. Then $ahJ_iY_i = hJ_iY_i$ for $h \in H$, for all $i \in \{1, 2, ..., t\}$. This implies that if $Y_i = \{y_{i_1}, y_{i_2}, ..., y_{i_r}\}$, then $ahJ_iy_{i_1} \cup ahJ_iy_{i_2} \cup ...ahJ_iy_{i_r} = hJ_iy_{i_1} \cup hJ_iy_{i_2} \cup ...hJ_iy_{i_r}$. Now $a \in H$ so that $ahJ_iy_{i_1} \subseteq Hy_{i_1}$, $ahJ_iy_{i_2} \subseteq Hy_{i_2}$, ..., $ahJ_iy_{i_r} \subseteq Hy_{i_r}$. Since a fixes every color, then a takes $hJ_iy_{i_1}$ to itself in Hy_{i_1}, $hJ_iy_{i_2}$ to itself in Hy_{i_2} and so on. Thus for $a \in K^*$, we have $ahJ_iy_{i_j} = hJ_iy_{i_j}$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, ..., t\}$, $j \in \{1, 2, ..., r\}$. But $ahJ_iy_{i_j} = hJ_iy_{i_j}$ implies $ah \in hJ_i$ or $a \in hJ_ih^{-1}$ for $h \in H$. That is, $a \in \bigcap_{h \in H} hJ_ih^{-1} = core_H J_i$. Therefore $K^* \subseteq core_H(J_i)$. The proof of the inclusion $\bigcap_{i \in I} core_H(J_i) \subseteq K^*$ is straightforward. ■

Theorem 10 *Let G be a group, $J \leq H \leq G$, Y a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G containing e and Y' a subset of Y containing e. Let $P = \{hJY : h \in H\}$ be a partition of G. If $H^* = HY'$ then $K^* = core_{HY'}(JY')$.*

Proof. Since $H^* = HY'$, we limit our attention to H^*. Now $H^* \cap JY = JY'$ and the partition P induces the partition $P^* = \{hJY' : h \in H\}$ on H^*. Since P is H^*-invariant, it follows that P^* is H^*-invariant. Hence the induced coloring P^* is a perfect coloring and JY' is a subgroup of H^*. Correspondingly, the subgroup of H^* fixing all the sets or colors in P^* is $core_{H^*}(JY')$. Consequently, this is also the subgroup of elements of H^* which fix the sets in P, that is, $K^* = core_{HY'}(JY')$. ■

Corollary 11 *Let G be a group, $H \leq G$ such that $[G : H] = 4$, $Y = \{y_1 = e, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$ a complete set of right coset representatives of H in G and $J \leq H$. Suppose $P = \{hJY : h \in H\}$ is the given coloring or partition.*

(i) If the coloring is perfect then $K^* = core_G(JY)$.

(ii) If $H^* = H$ then $K^* = core_H J$.

(iii) If $H^* = H \cup Hy_i$ then $K^* = core_{H \cup Hy_i}(J \cup Jy_i)$ for $i = 2, 3, 4$.

Proof. We obtain (i), (ii) and (iii) by taking $Y' = Y, \{e\}$ and $\{e, y_i\}$ *in* Theorem 10 respectively. ■

We conclude the section by looking at the following examples. An illustration of Corollary 11 is given below.

Example 12 *Let* $G = D_6 = \{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5, b, ab, a^2b, a^3b, a^4b, a^5b\}$ *and* H, K *subgroups of* G *given by* $H = \{e, a^2, a^4\}$, $K = \{e\}$.

Now $G = H \cup Hb \cup Ha \cup Hab$

$G = \{e, a^2, a^4\} \cup \{b, a^2b, a^4b\} \cup \{a, a^3, a^5\} \cup \{ab, a^3b, a^5b\}$ *Among the possible* Y'*s are* $\{e, a^3, b, a^3b\}$, $\{e, a, ab, a^4b\}$, $\{e, a^5, a^2b, a^3b\}$ *and* $\{e, a, a^4b, a^5b\}$.

We give some colorings $P = \{hJY : h \in H\}$ *of the hexagon in Figure 2 such that the elements of* H *permute the colors and the elements of* $K = \{e\}$ *fix the colors. In the table below, we give* H^* *and* K^* *as well as the* Y *used for each of the colorings. Note that for all colorings* $J = \{e\}$ *so that* $JY = Y$. *We use the following notation: w for white, s for striped and b for black.*

Coloring	H			Hb			Ha			Hab		
Number	e	a^2	a^4	b	a^2b	a^4b	a	a^3	a^5	ab	a^3b	a^5b
1	w	s	b	w	s	b	b	w	s	b	w	s
2	w	s	b	s	b	w	w	s	b	w	s	b
3	w	s	b	b	w	s	s	b	w	b	w	s
4	w	s	b	s	b	w	w	s	b	s	b	w

Coloring			
Number	Y used	H*	K*
1	$Y = \{e, a^3, b, a^3b\}$	G	$\{e, a^3\}$
2	$Y = \{e, a, ab, a^4b\}$	H	K
3	$Y = \{e, a^5, a^2b, a^3b\}$	$\{e, a^2, a^4, b, a^2b, a^4b\}$	K
4	$Y = \{e, a, a^4b, a^5b\}$	$\{e, a^2, a^4, ab, a^3b, a^5b\}$	K

Example 13 *Consider the colored patterns in Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 which are assumed to repeat over the entire plane. For all the colored patterns, the symmetry group* G *of the patterns with the colors disregarded is a hexagonal plane crystallographic group of type p6m generated by* a, b, x *and* y *where* a *is a* $60°$ *- counterclockwise rotation about the indicated point* P, b *is a reflection in a horizontal line through* P *and* x, y *are translations as indicated. These colored patterns have been obtained by choosing the subgroups* $H = \langle a, x, y \rangle$ *and* $K = \langle a^2, x, y \rangle$ *of*

G. H and K are hexagonal plane crystallographic groups of types p6 *and* p3 *respectively. K is normal in G so that $G = N_G(K)$. Observe that the colorings in Figure 7 and Figure 8 are the only non-perfect colorings, that is, $H^* = H$. Moreover, for these colorings, $K^* = K$. All the other colorings are perfect, so that $H^* = G$. For the perfect colorings in Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, $K^* = H, < a^2, b, x, y >, < a^2, ab, x, y >$ and K respectively. $< a^2, b, x, y >$ and $< a^2, ab, x, y >$ are hexagonal plane crystallographic groups of types* p31m *and* p3m1 *respectively..*

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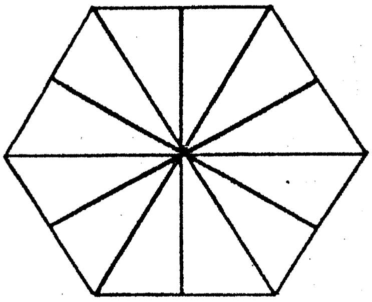

Figure 1.1

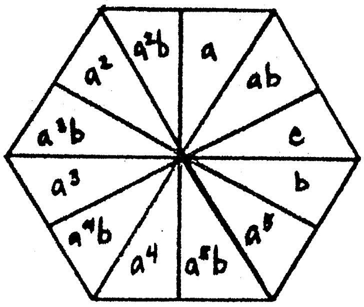

Figure 1.2

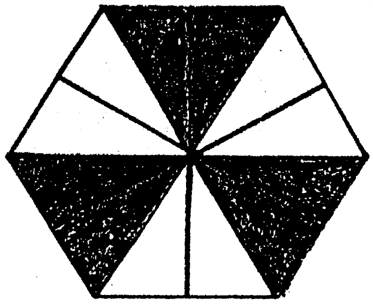

Figure 1.3

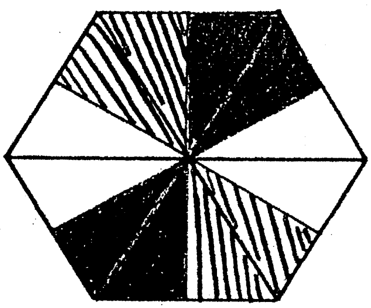

Figure 2.1

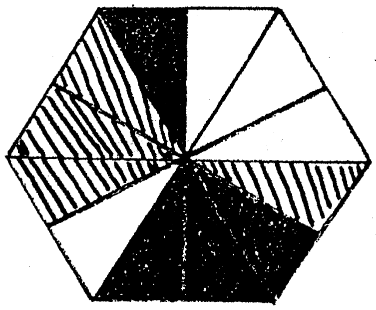

Figure 2..2

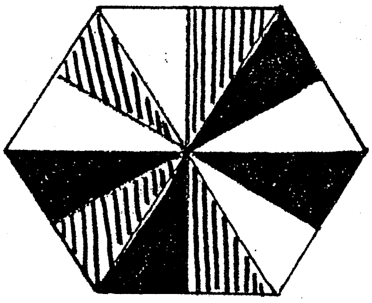

Figure 2.3

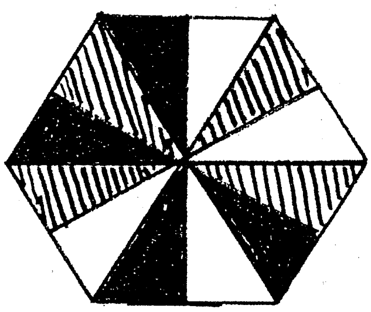

Figure 2.4

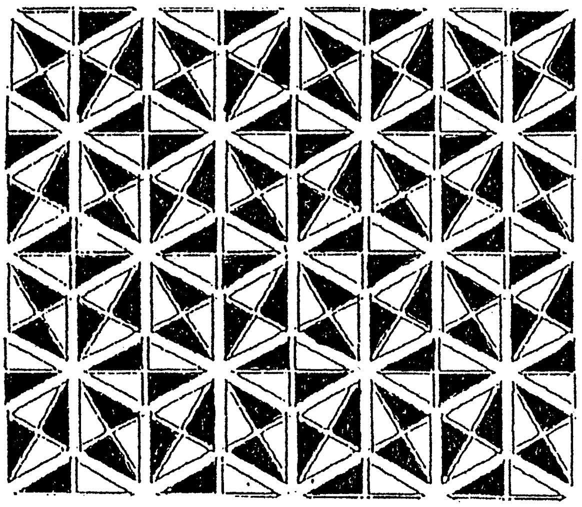

Figure 3

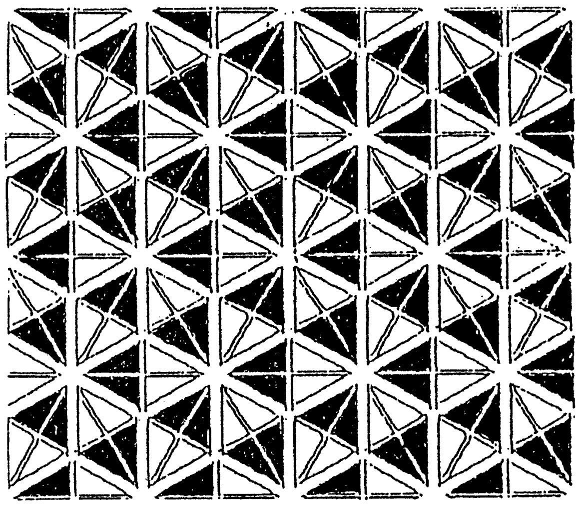

Figure 4

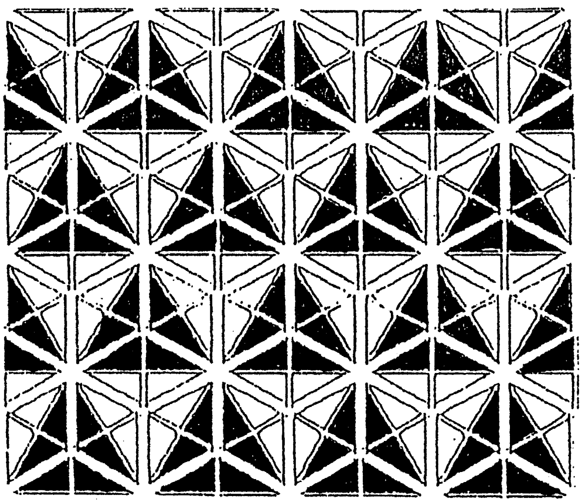

Figure 5

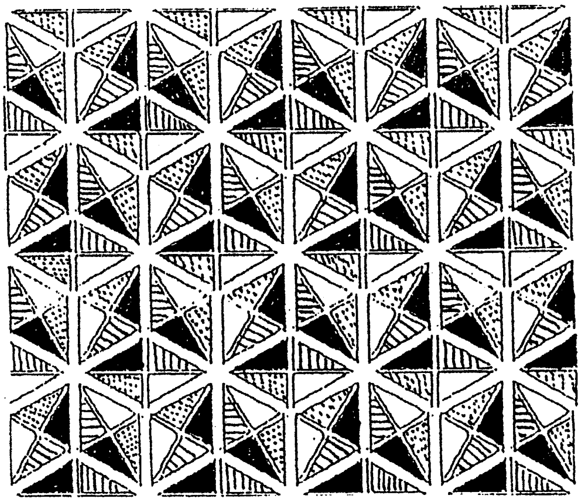

Figure 6

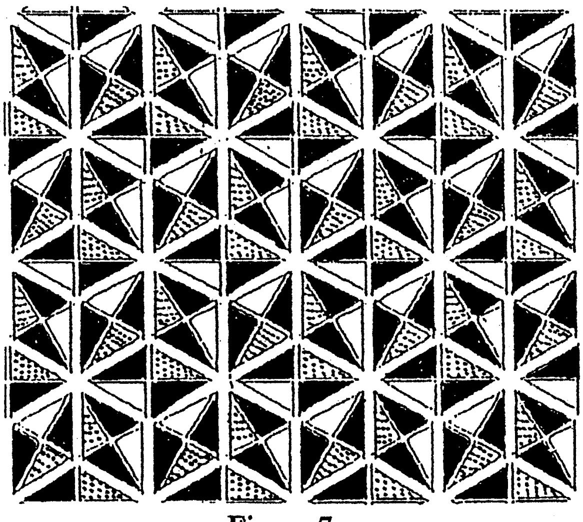

Figure 7

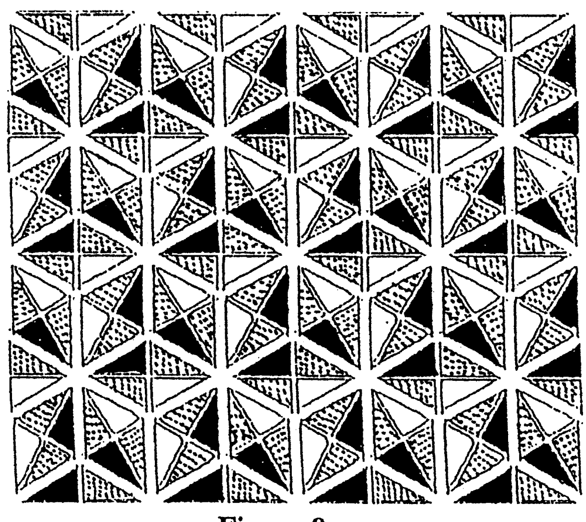

Figure 8