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CLUSTER PACKING OF CONCAVE NON-ORIENTED POLYHEDRA IN A CUBOID

The subject matter of the article is the solution of the problem of optimal packing of concave polyhedra in a cuboid of minimal volume. The goal is to construct a mathematical model of the problem under consideration and to develop a solution method. The task to be solved are: to develop tools for mathematical modeling of the interaction of two concave non-oriented polyhedra; to construct a mathematical model of the problem of packing concave non-oriented polyhedra in a cuboid of minimal volume; to investigate the peculiarities of the mathematical model; to develop an effective method of solution and implement its software. The **methods** used are: the phi-function technique, the internal point method. The following results are obtained. Using the phi-function for two convex non-oriented polyhedra, a phi-function for two concave non-oriented polyhedra is constructed. On the basis of the phi-function, an exact mathematical model of the packing problem for concave polyhedra that allow simultaneous continuous translations and rotations is constructed. The mathematical model is represented as a non-linear programming problem. The properties of the constructed mathematical model are analyzed and a multi-stage approach based on them is proposed, which makes it possible to obtain a good locally optimal solution of the problem posed. Since working with polyhedra is an important to determine the optimal clustering of two objects, one of the stages of the proposed approach is to solve the problem of pairwise clustering of polyhedra. A numerical example demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposed approach is given. Conclusions. The scientific novelty of the obtained results consists in the following: an exact mathematical model of the packing problem of concave nonoriented polyhedra is constructed in the form of a nonlinear optimization problem and a multi-stage approach is proposed that allows obtain a good locally optimal solution of the problem.

Keywords: cluster packing; concave polyhedra; continuous rotation; nonlinear optimization.

Introduction

The 3D packing problems of concave polyhedra have extensive engineering applications. For example, as actual applications of the problems we can note the following problems: the optimization of the 3D-printing process in SLS technologies of additive production [1]; 3D simulation of microstructures of different materials (including nanomaterial's) [2]. Also it has a wide spectrum of applications in powder metallurgy, modern biology, mineralogy, materials science, nanotechnology, robotics, pattern recognition systems, control systems, space apparatus control systems, aircraft construction, civil engineering, etc.

It is well known that the 3D objects packing problem is NP complex. Because of its NP complexity, it is hard to be solved satisfactorily. So, to find their approximate solution many research works use a wide variety of techniques, including heuristics, traditional optimization methods and different mixed approaches which utilize heuristics and methods of non-linear mathematical programming. The review of this methods is given in [3].

In most works, orientation changes of 3D objects either are not allowed or only discrete changes in the orientation for given angles (45 or 90 degrees) are permitted. In [4] authors propose HAPE3D algorithm which can deal with arbitrarily shaped polyhedral which may be rotated around each coordinate axis at four different angles only.

Due to the difficulty of construction of adequate mathematical models at present there are few works that solve the 3D packing problems of concave provided that continuous rotations of geometric objects are allowed.

The solutions of such problems are considered in works [5-6].

This work is devoted to solving of the packing problem of concave polytopes with continuous angles rotations. Our approach is based on mathematical modeling of relations between geometric objects reducing the problem to a nonlinear programming one. To this end we use the phi-function technique for analytic description of objects interactions and objects placements into a container taking into account continuous rotations and translations.

Problem statement and its mathematical model

Let there be concave polyhedra P_i , $i \in I = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$, and a cuboid

$$C = \{X \in \mathbb{R}^3, w_1 \le x \le w_2, l_1 \le x \le l_2, \eta_1 \le x \le \eta_2\},\$$

where $w_1, w_2, l_1, l_2, \eta_1$ and η_2 are variables, i.e. a vector $\zeta = (w_1, w_2, l_1, l_2, \eta_1, \eta_2)$ defines sizes of C.

The polyhedra P_i are a union of convex polyhedra

$$P_i = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\varepsilon_i} P_{ik}, i \in I,$$

where polyhedra P_{ik} are given by vertices

$$\begin{aligned} p_{ikt} &= (p_{ikt}^1, p_{ikt}^2, p_{ikt}^3), & i \in I, \ k \in K_i = \{1, 2, ..., \varepsilon_i\}, \\ t &\in T_{ik} = \{1, 2, ..., \rho_{ik}\}. \end{aligned}$$

A location of polyhedra P_i in the Euclidean 3D arithmetic space R^3 is defined by a translation vector $v_i = (x_i, y_i, z_i)$ and rotation angles

$$\theta_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i, \omega_i), i \in I.$$

Thus, a motion vector

$$u_i = (v_i, \theta_i) = (x_i, y_i, z_i, \phi_i, \psi_i, \omega_i)$$

gives the location of P_i in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Whence, a vector $u = (u_1, u_2, ..., u_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{6n}$ defines the location of P_i , $i \in I$, in \mathbb{R}^3 and, consequently, a complete set of variables makes up a vector $(u, \zeta) = (u_1, u_2, ..., u_n, \zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^m$, where m = 6n + 6.

In what follows, polyhedra P_i translated by vector v_i and rotated by angles ϕ_i, ψ_i and ω_i is denoted by $P_i(u_i)$ and a cuboid C with variable sizes s is designated as $C(\zeta)$.

Let $V_{ir} = (V_{1ir}, V_{2ir}, V_{3ir}), r \in J_i = \{1, 2, ..., 9_i\}$, be vertex coordinates of convex hull of P_i . Then a location of V_{ir} and p_{ikt} in R^3 are defined by the relations

$$V_{ir}(u_i) = (V_{1ir}(u_i), V_{2ir}(u_i), V_{3ir}(u_i)) = R_i^T V_{ir} + v_i,$$

$$i \in I, r \in J_i,$$

$$p_{ikt}(u_i) = R_i^T p_{ikt} + v_i, i, j \in I, k \in K_i, t \in T_{ik},$$

where R_i is a rotation operator.

Then the following packing problem arises.

Basic problem. Find a vector $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$ which insures the arrangement $P_i(u_i)$, $i \in I$, without mutual overlapping's into a cuboid $C(\zeta)$ so that the cuboid volume $H(\zeta)$ will attain the minimal value.

Based on phi-functions (see [3,7]) a mathematical model of the problem takes the form

$$H(\zeta^*) = \min H(\zeta) \quad s.t. (u, \zeta) \in \Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^m,$$
 (1)

where

$$\Lambda = \{(u,\zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^m : \Phi_{ij}(u_i, u_j) \ge 0, i < j \in I, \\
\Phi_i(u_i, \zeta) \ge 0, i \in I, F(\zeta) \ge 0\}; \\
H(\zeta) = (w_2 - w_1)(l_2 - l_1)(\eta_2 - \eta_1), \\
F(\zeta) = \min\{w_2 - w_1, l_2 - l_1, \eta_2 - \eta_1\}, \\
\Phi_i(u_i, \zeta) = \min\{\phi_{io}^r(u_i, \zeta), o \in O_2 = \{1, 2, ..., 6\}, \\$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \phi_{i1}^{r}(u_{i},\zeta) = V_{1ir}(u_{i}) - w_{1}, \phi_{i2}^{r}(u_{i},\zeta) = w_{2} - V_{1ir}(u_{i}), \\ & \phi_{i3}^{r}(u_{i},\zeta) = V_{2ir}(u_{i}) - l_{1}, \phi_{i4}^{r}(u_{i},\zeta) = l_{2} - V_{2ir}(u_{i}), \\ & \phi_{i5}^{r}(u_{i},\zeta) = V_{3ir}(u_{i}) - \eta_{1}, \phi_{i6}^{r}(u_{i},\zeta) = \eta_{2} - V_{3ir}(u_{i}). \end{aligned}$$

Here the inequality $\Phi_{ij}(u_i,u_j) \geq 0$ insures non-overlapping P_i and P_j , the inequality $\Phi_i(u_i,\zeta) \geq 0$ provides a containment of P_i into $C(\zeta)$ i.e. $\Phi_i(u_i,\zeta)$ is the phi-function for P_i and

$$B(\zeta) = R^3 \setminus \operatorname{int} C(\zeta)$$

where int $C(\zeta)$ is the interior of C.

Since
$$P_i = \bigcup_{s=1}^{\varepsilon_i} P_{is}$$
 and $P_j = \bigcup_{p=1}^{\varepsilon_j} P_{jp}$ then $P_i \cap P_j = \emptyset$ if $P_{is} \cap P_{jp} = \emptyset$, $s \in K_i$, $p \in K_j$. This means that

$$\Phi_{ij}(u_i, u_j) = \min\{\Phi_{ij}^{sp}(u_i, u_j), s \in K_i, p \in K_j\},$$

where $\Phi_{ij}^{sp}(u_i,u_j)$ is the phi-function for P_{is} and P_{jp} [7]. Hence, $\Phi_{ij}(u_i,u_j) \ge 0$ if the following condition if fulfilled

$$\min\{\Phi_{ij}^{sp}(u_i, u_j), s \in K_i, p \in K_j\} \ge 0.$$

Clustering of polyhedra

In order to obtain starting point for the problem (1)-(2) the following step by steps procedure is offered. Firstly polyhedra are in pair packed into clusters to be cuboids and spheres of the minimal volumes. Next the cuboids and spheres are placed into a cuboid of the minimal volume. Then having taken the polyhedra instead of cuboids and spheres packed into the cuboid we pack the polyhedra into a cuboid of the minimal volume.

Let P_i , $i \in I$, consists of k groups each from which contains l_k identical polyhedra. We cluster in pairs P_i , $i \in I$, into cuboids Q_{ij} of the minimal volumes D_{ij}^C , $i < j \in K = \{1, 2, ... k\}$. To this end we solve the problems

$$D_{ij}^{C} = H_{ij}(\zeta^{\Diamond}) = \min H(\zeta),$$

s.t. $(u_i, u_j, \zeta) \in \Omega_{ij} \subset R^{16}, \ i < j \in I,$ (3)

where

$$\Omega_{ij} = \{ (u_i, u_j, \zeta) \in R^{16} : \Phi_{ij}(u_i, u_j) \ge 0,
\Phi_i(u_i, \zeta) \ge 0, \Phi_i(u_j, \zeta) \ge 0, F(\zeta) \ge 0 \}.$$
(4)

The inequality

$$\Phi_{ii}(u_i,u_i) \ge 0$$

insures $intP_i \cap intP_j = \emptyset$ and $\Phi_i(u_i, \zeta) \ge 0$ guarantees placement of P_i within $C_{ij}(\zeta)$.

After that we cluster in pairs P_i , $i \in I$, into spheres S_{ij} of the minimal volumes D_{ij}^S , $i < j \in K = \{1, 2, ... k\}$. Then we solve the problems

$$D_{ij}^{S} = \frac{4}{3} \pi \min R_{ij}^{3},$$

$$s.t. (u_{i}, u_{i}, R_{ij}) \in \Omega_{ij} \subset R^{16}, i < j \in I,$$
(5)

where

$$\Omega_{ij} = \{ (u_i, u_j, R_{ij}) \in R^{16} :
\Phi_{ij}(u_i, u_j) \ge 0, \Phi_i(u_i, R_{ij}) \ge 0,
\Phi_j(u_j, R_{ij}) \ge 0, F(R_{ij}) \ge 0 \}.$$
(6)

The inequality

$$\Phi_{ij}(u_i,u_j) \ge 0$$

insures

$$intP_i \cap intP_j = \emptyset$$

and

$$\begin{split} & \Phi_i(u_i,\zeta) = \\ & = (V_{1ir}(u_i))^2 + (V_{2ir}(u_i))^2 + (V_{3ir}(u_i))^2 - R_{ij}^2 \ge 0, \end{split}$$

guarantees placement of P_i within $S_{ii}(R_{ii})$ (10).

Note that local extrema of the problems (3)-(4) and (5)-(6) are calculated in the same way as a local minimum point of the problem (1)-(2). For local optimization we used the IPOPT code (https://projects.coin-or.org/Ipopt).

Let P_i , $i \in I$, consists of k groups each from which contains l_k identical polyhedra. We construct clusters pack in pairs P_i , $i \in I$, into cuboids Q_{ij} of the minimal volumes D_{ii} , $i < j \in K = \{1, 2, ...k\}$.

Now we compute

$$\delta_{ij}^C = (D_i + D_j) / D_{ij}^C$$

and

$$\delta_{ij}^S = (D_i + D_j) / D_{ij}^S,$$

$$i < j \in K = \{1, 2, ... k\},\$$

and find

$$\delta_{sp} = \max\{\delta_{ij}^C, \delta_{ij}^S, i < j \in K\}.$$

If $\delta_{sp} = \delta_{ij}^{C}$ then we generate identical cuboids

$$Q_i = Q_{sp}, i = 1, 2, ..., k_{sp} = \min\{l_s, l_p\}.$$

In addition, if $k_{sp} = l_s$ ($k_{sp} = l_p$) then we exclude s(p) from K.

If $k_{sp} = l_s = l_p$ then we omit s and p from K. If $\delta_{sp} = \delta_{ij}^S$ then we generate identical spheres

$$S_j = S_{sp}, i = 1, 2, ..., k_{sp} = \min\{l_s, l_p\}.$$

In addition, if $k_{sp} = l_s$ ($k_{sp} = l_p$ then we exclude s(p) from K.

If $k_{sp} = l_s = l_p$ then we omit s and p from K.

After that we define

$$\delta_{rt} = \max\{\delta_{ii}^C, \delta_{ii}^S, i < j \in K \setminus \{\lambda_{SD}\}\},\,$$

where either $\lambda_{sp} = s$ or $\lambda_{sp} = p$ or $\lambda_{sp} = \{s, p\}$ and so on until K is exhausted.

As a result sets of cuboids C_i , $i=1,2,...,\mu_1$, and spheres S_i , $i=1+\mu_1,2+\mu_1,...,\mu=\mu_1+\mu_2$, are formed. For the sake of convenience we rename

$$C_i$$
, $i = 1, 2, ..., \mu_1$,

and spheres

$$S_i$$
, $i = 1 + \mu_1, 2 + \mu_1, ..., \mu = \mu_1 + \mu_2$,

as
$$Q_i$$
, $i \in M = \{1, 2, ..., \mu\}$.

Thus each cluster Q_i contains pair of polyhedra P_{k_i} and P_{t_i} with placement parameters $u_{k_i}^C$ and $u_{t_i}^C$ with respect to the local coordinate system of Q_i . Next we solve a packing problem of Q_i , $i \in M$, into a cuboid C of the minimal volume. We suppose that a location of cluster Q_j in R^3 is defined by a vector

$$\gamma_{j} = (v_{j}, \xi_{j}) = (x_{1j}, y_{1j}, z_{1j}, \xi_{1j}, \xi_{j2}, \xi_{j3}) \in \mathbb{R}^{6}, \ j \in M.$$

Then a mathematical model of the packing problem has the form

$$H(\zeta^{\Diamond}) = \min H(\zeta), \ s.t. (\gamma, \zeta) \in \Omega \subset R^{(6n+1)},$$
 (7)

where

$$\Omega = \{ (u, \zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^{6n+1} : \Phi_{ij}(\gamma_i, \gamma_j) \ge 0, i < j \in M, \\ \Phi_i(\gamma_i, \zeta) \ge 0, i \in T, F(\zeta) \ge 0 \}.$$
 (8)

The inequality

$$\Phi_{ii}(\gamma_i, \gamma_i) \ge 0$$

insures

$$intQ_i \cap intQ_j = \emptyset$$
 and $\Phi_i(\gamma_i, \zeta) \ge 0$

guarantees placement of Q_i within $C(\zeta)$.

Searching for an approximation to a global minimum point of the problem is realized by methods which are presented in the papers [8, 9].

Let $(\gamma^{\Diamond}, \zeta^{\Diamond}) \in R^{6(n+1)}$ be an approximation to a global minimum point of the problem (7)-(8). To the point $(\gamma^{\Diamond}, \zeta^{\Diamond})$ there corresponds the arrangement of clusters $Q_i(\gamma_i^{\Diamond})$, $i \in M$ into the cuboid $C(\zeta^*)$ and each cluster contains a pair of polyhedra P_{k_i} and P_{t_i} with placement parameters $u_{k_i}^{C*}$ and $u_{t_i}^{C*}$. It permits to take appropriate polyhedra P_i , $i \in I$, instead of clusters Q_i , $i \in M$, and form a starting point $(u^0, \zeta^0) = (u^0, \zeta^*)$ for the problem (1)-(2).

Construction of the point is executed by the special problem that called "inverse rotation".

Multistage solution approach

A solution strategy (3D MultiStage Approach (3D-MSA)) can be described by the following stages.

- 1. Pack in pair polyhedra P_i , $i \in I$, into cuboids C_i , $i = \{1, 2, ..., \mu_1\}$, and spheres S_i , $i = 1 + \mu_1, 2 + \mu_1, ..., \mu = \mu_1 + \mu_2$, of minimum volumes. For optimal clustering of two polyhedrons also we can apply quasi phi-function technique. This approach presented in [10].
- 2. Cover polyhedra P_i by spheres S_i , with centers v_i , $i \in I$; cover convex polyhedra P_{ik} by spheres S_{ik}^t of minimal radius ρ^0 and centers $v_{ik}^t = (x_{1i}^k, y_{2i}^k, z_{3i}^k)$, $i \in I$, $k \in K_i$.
- 3. Solve the packing problem of cluster Q_i , $i \in M = \{1,2,...,\mu\}$. Wherein, if Q_i , $i \in M = \{1,2,...,\mu\}$ is set of cuboids C_i then we solve packing problem of parallelepipeds with the feasibility of changing their orthogonal orientation [8]. And if Q_i , $i \in M = \{1,2,...,\mu\}$ is set of cuboids C_i and spheres S_i then we solve packing problem of cuboids and spheres using approach proposed in [9]. As a result we obtain local minimum point $(\gamma^{\Diamond}, \zeta^{\Diamond}) \in R^{6(n+1)}$.
- 4. Replace clusters Q_i , $i \in M$, with corresponding polyhedra P_i , $i \in I$. In order to form a starting point (u^0, ζ^0) for the problem (1)-(2) we solve n auxiliary non-linear optimization problems ("inverse rotation") to define vector u^0 based on γ^{\Diamond} . As a result we derive a point $(u^0, \zeta^0) \in R^{6(n+1)}$ on the ground of the point $(\gamma^{\Diamond}, \zeta^{\Diamond}) \in R^{6(n+1)}$.
- 5. Fix θ^0 and find a local minimum point X^* of the problem

$$H(\zeta^*) = \min H(\zeta) \quad \text{s.t. } X \in Q \subset R^{3n+6}$$
 (9)

where

$$Q = \{X = (v, \zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^{3n+6} : \Phi_{ij}(v_i, v_j) \ge 0, i < j \in I, \\ \Phi_i(v_i, \zeta) \ge 0, i \in I, F(\zeta) \ge 0\}.$$
 (10)

As a starting point of problem (9)-(10) we take point (v^0, ζ^0) . Since rotation angles are fixed then inequality sysytem (10) is linear.

6. Form a starting point $(u^0, \zeta^0) = (v^*, \theta^0, \zeta^*)$, and calculate a local minimum point (u^{0*}, ζ^{0*}) of the problem (1)-(2).

Numerical results

Here presented an example that demonstrates the efficiency of proposed methodology.

We have run our experiments on an Intel Core I5 750 computer and for local optimisation we used the IPOPT code (https://projects.coin-or.org/Ipopt).

We consider the collection of polytopes of example 1 given in [4]. In fig. 1 depicted five types of polyhedrons that need to pack.



Fig. 1. Five types of polyhedrons

Figure 2 presents clusters Q_i used for solving problem (7)-(8).



Fig. 2. Clusters Q_i

Fig. 3 shows the results obtained on each stage of 3D-MSA of optimal placement of 36 polyhedrons. The container has volume $H^* = 10720$.

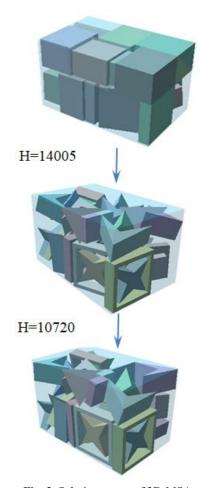


Fig. 3. Solution stages of 3D-MSA

As shown in table 1, the 3D-MSA allows us to reduce the container volume. The packing efficiency is

significantly improved by 14%. At the same time, the solution time is less by 60%.

Table 1. Comparison of HAPE3D and 3D-MSA

	HAPE3D	3D-MSA
H*	12480	10720
Time (s)	9637	3789
layout		

Conclusions

The paper presents an exact mathematical model of packing optimization problem of concave polyhedra which are allowed both translations and continuous rotations.

The phi-functions enable us to apply state-of-the art methods of nonlinear optimization on all solution stages of the problem (1)-(2) including the construction of starting points, the calculation of

local extrema and searching for of "approximations" to global extrema.

Iterative processes being used to solve the problem can be easily parallelized.

Numerical results above have shown effectively of solution approach offered when tackling optimization 3D packing problems.

Optimization approaches worked out in the paper can be used for solving other packing optimization problems.

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Кластерна упаковка неопуклих неорієнтованих багатогранників у кубоід

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Предметом вивчення у статті є розв'язання задачі оптимальної упаковки неопуклих багатогранників у прямий паралелепіпед мінімального об'єму. Метою є побудова математичної моделі даної задачі і розробка методу розв'язання. Задачі: розробити засоби математичного моделювання взаємодії двох неопуклих неорієнтованих багатогранників; побудувати математичну модель задачі упакування неопуклих неорієнтованих багатогранників в кубоід мінімального об'єму; дослідити особливості математичної моделі; розробити ефективний метод розв'язання і виконати його програмну реалізацію. Використовуваними методами є: метод phi-функцій, метод внутрішньої точки. Отримані наступні результати. Використовуючи рһі-функцію для двох опуклих неорієнтованих багатогранників, побудована рһі-функція для двох неопуклих неорієнтованих багатогранників. На основі цієї рһі-функції побудована точна математична модель задачі упаковки неопуклих багатогранників, що допускають одночасно безперервні трансляції та повороти. Математична модель представлена у вигляді задачі нелінійного програмування. Проаналізовано властивості побудованої математичної моделі і на їх основі запропонований багатостапний підхід, що дозволяє отримати гарний локально оптимальний розв'язок поставленої задачі. Оскільки при роботі з багатогранниками важливою задачею є визначення оптимальної кластеризації двох об'єктів, то одним з етапів запропонованого підходу є розв'язання задачі попарної кластеризації багатогранників. Наводиться чисельний приклад, який демонструє ефективність запропонованого підходу. Висновки. Наукова новизна отриманих результатів полягає в наступному: побудована точна математична модель задачі упаковки неопуклих неорієнтованих багатогранників у вигляді задачі нелінійної оптимізації та запропонований багатостапний підхід, що дозволяє отримати гарне локально оптимальний розв'язок поставленої задачі.

Ключові слова: кластерна упаковка; неопуклі багатогранники; безперервне обертання; нелінійна оптимізація.

Кластерная упаковка невыпуклых неориентированных многогранников в кубоид

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Предметом изучения в статье является решение задачи оптимальной упаковки невыпуклых многогранников в прямой параллелепипед минимального объема. Целью является построение математической модели рассматриваемой задачи и разработка метода решения. Задачи: разработать средства математического моделирования взаимодействия двух невыпуклых неориентированных многогранников; построить математическую модель задачи упаковки невыпуклых неориентированных многогранников в кубоид минимального объема; исследовать особенности математической модели; разработать эффективный метод решения и выполнить его программную реализацию. Используемыми методами являются: метод phi-функций, метод внутренней точки. Получены следующие результаты. Используя рhі-функцию для двух выпуклых неориентированных многогранников, построена рhі-функция для двух невыпуклых неориентированных многогранников. На основании этой phi-функции построена точная математическая модель задачи упаковки невыпуклых многогранников, допускающих одновременно непрерывные трансляции и повороты. Математическая модель представлена в виде задачи нелинейного программирования. Проанализированы свойства построенной математической модели и на их основе предложен многоэтапный подход, позволяющий получить хорошее локально оптимальное решение поставленной задачи. Поскольку при работе с многогранниками важной задачей является определение оптимальной кластеризации двух объектов, то одним из этапов предложенного подхода является решение задачи попарной кластеризации многогранников. Приводится численный пример, демонстрирующий эффективность предложенного подхода. Выводы. Научная новизна полученных результатов состоит в следующем: построена точная математическая модель задачи упаковки невыпуклых неориентированных многогранников в виде задачи нелинейной оптимизации и предложен многоэтапный подход, позволяющий получить хорошее локально оптимальное решение поставленной задачи.

Ключевые слова: кластерная упаковка; невыпуклые многогранники; непрерывное вращение; нелинейная оптимизация.