

Packing It In

Packing items into bins of given capacities may not sound important (unless you're packing for a trip), but the topic of *bin packing* includes situations such as allocating blocks of computer memory and scheduling airline flights as well as traditional problems like loading trucks. Researchers use areas of mathematics (such as number theory, geometry, and probability) to solve packing problems so that time and storage – both physical and electronic – can be used efficiently.

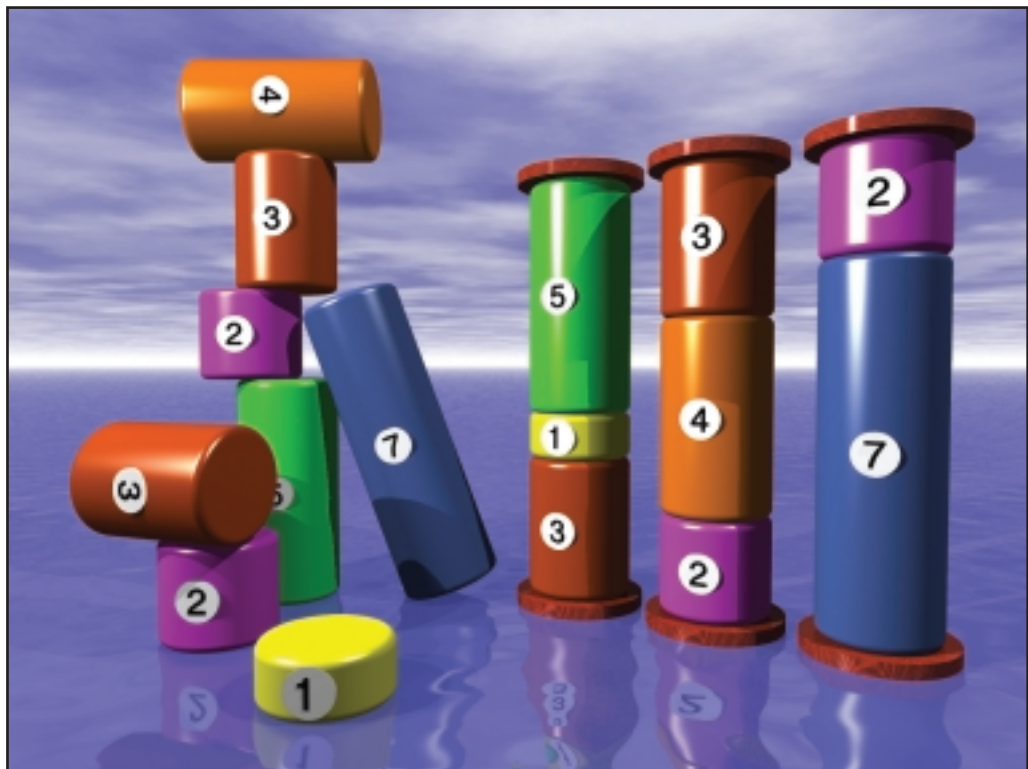


Image courtesy of Olivier Briant.



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