1. Introduction

We divide the problem into two cases: small (number of pieces < 10) and big (number of pieces >= 10). Small cases can be solved by hand. Then big cases will be solved by our program.

2. Methodology used in the program

2.1 Small case

It will be easy to solve a case when there are few pieces. Also our program can convert big cases into small ones.

2.2 Big case

The program will find best matching pairs of pieces. Then it will combine then to create a new, bigger piece. This step we will call Combination step. After combination step, number of pieces will be decreased nearly by half. Repeating the combination step will bring us to a small case.

2.2 Best matching pairs of pieces

We will use following assessment function to measure matching of two pieces:

$f = \alpha * totalEdge + \beta * totalCorner;$

Here, totalEdge is the total length of the common edges, totalCorner is the total count of the common corners for the two pieces. Values of the coefficients α and β are evaluated by experiment.

3 Software library

We used an open source C library – OpenCV to detect edges and corners of pieces. Edge length and corner angle values are important information for our solution.

4. Conclusion

The method we chose will give us concentrate only on finding best matching pairs of pieces rather than solving the whole puzzle. That helped us to save our time too.