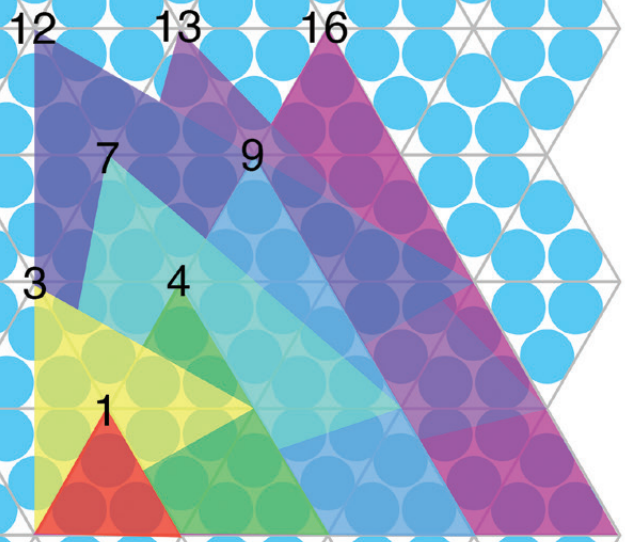

Triangulation Numbers

Caspar and Klug found that only some arrangements of subunits can form quasisymmetrical capsids. To explain this, they developed the concept of a "triangulation number," which represents the number of unique environments that subunits occupy.

You can find the allowable triangulation numbers by tracing out equilateral triangles on this hexagonal net of subunits. The smallest triangulation numbers are shown above.

Try finding larger triangles, and cut out 20 copies to make larger viral capsids.