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Euclidean Ramsey Theory: Area

Exposition by William Gasarch

June 19, 2025

Def Assume there is a coloring of \mathbb{R}^2 . A **Mono Triangle** is a triangle with all three vertices the same color.

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Def Assume there is a coloring of \mathbb{R}^2 . A **Mono Triangle** is a triangle with all three vertices the same color.

We will prove the following: **Thm** \forall finite colorings of \mathbb{R}^2 , \exists a mono triangle with area 1.

The Two Color Case

Thm For all COL: $\mathbb{R}^2 \to [2]$ there is a mono triangle with area 1.

Thm For all COL: $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [2]$ there is a mono triangle with area 1. **Case 1:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **R**, and a **R** point *p* not on *L*.

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Thm For all COL: $\mathbb{R}^2 \to [2]$ there is a mono triangle with area 1. **Case 1:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **R**, and a **R** point *p* not on *L*. Let *q* be point on *L* closest to *p*. d = d(p, q):

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Let r be a point on L such that $d(q, r) = \frac{2}{d}$.





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Area of triangle pqr is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{d} \times d = 1$.

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Area of triangle pqr is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{d} \times d = 1$. Case 1 DONE.

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The following cases are either trivial or similar to Case 1.

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The following cases are either trivial or similar to Case 1. Case 2: \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **R**, but every *p* not on *L* is **B**.

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The following cases are either trivial or similar to Case 1. Case 2: \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **R**, but every *p* not on *L* is **B**.

Case 3: \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **B**, and a **B** point *p* not on *L*.

The following cases are either trivial or similar to Case 1. **Case 2:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **R**, but every *p* not on *L* is **B**. **Case 3:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **B**, and a **B** point *p* not on *L*. **Case 4:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **B**, but every *p* not on *L* is **R**. The following cases are either trivial or similar to Case 1. **Case 2:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **R**, but every *p* not on *L* is **B**. **Case 3:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **B**, and a **B** point *p* not on *L*. **Case 4:** \exists a horiz. line *L* which is all **B**, but every *p* not on *L* is **R**. So whats left? See next slide.

Case 5: Every Horiz Line has Both Colors

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Three Key Points

We focus on (0,0), (0,1), (0,2) and the infinite horiz. lines that are 1 and 2 above x-axis.

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Case 5.2: (0,0) and (0,2) are R

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 $\exists \mathbf{R} p$ on middle line since all horiz. lines are mixed.

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 $\exists \mathbf{R} p$ on middle line since all horiz. lines are mixed. 1 р 0,0 0,2 Area of (0, 0), (0, 2), p is $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 1 = 1$.

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The Three Color Case

Thm For all COL: $\mathbb{R}^2 \to [3]$ there is a mono triangle with area 1.

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Thm For all COL: $\mathbb{R}^2 \to [3]$ there is a mono triangle with area 1. We use the colors R, B, G. Thoughts

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Thoughts

1. The key to the 2-color case was that we had horiz. lines that all used **R** and **B**. We will try to get a set of horiz lines that all use **the same** colors.

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2. Another key is that the horiz. lines were equally spaced.

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Thoughts

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- 2. Another key is that the horiz. lines were equally spaced.
- 3. So we need horiz. lines that all use the same set of colors and are equally spaced.

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 What does this make you think of?

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Let W = W(k, c) where we will pick k and c later.

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Define

 $\text{COL}': [W(k, c)] \rightarrow \{\{R\}, \{B\}, \{G\}, \{R, B\}, \{R, G\}, \{B, G\}, \{R, B, G\}\}\$ as follows:

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Define

 $\operatorname{COL}' \colon [W(k,c)] \to \{\{\mathsf{R}\}, \{\mathsf{B}\}, \{\mathsf{G}\}, \{\mathsf{R},\mathsf{B}\}, \{\mathsf{R},\mathsf{G}\}, \{\mathsf{B},\mathsf{G}\}, \{\mathsf{R},\mathsf{B},\mathsf{G}\}\}\}$

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as follows: COL'(i) = the set of colors used by COL on the line y = i.

What Happens

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There exists $X \subseteq \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{G}\}$ and d such that:



What Happens



Case 1: |X| = 1. Assume R

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Case 1: |X| = 1. Assume R



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Case 2: |X| = 2. Assume $X = \{R, B\}$

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Focus on $(0, d), (\frac{1}{3d}, d), (\frac{2}{3d}, d)$.

Case 2: |X| = 2. Assume $X = \{R, B\}$

Focus on $(0, d), (\frac{1}{3d}, d), (\frac{2}{3d}, d)$. Two of them are the same color. Assume **R**.

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Case 2.1: |X| = 2. COL $(0, d) = COL(\frac{1}{3d}, d) = R$

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Key Some point p on 6d-horiz. line is **R**.

Case 2.1: |X| = 2. COL $(0, d) = COL(\frac{1}{3d}, d) = R$

Key Some point p on 6d-horiz. line is **R**.



Area of triangle $((0, d), (\frac{1}{3d}, d), p)$ is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3d} \times 6d = 1$.

Case 2.2: |X| = 2. COL $(0, d) = COL(\frac{2}{3d}) = R$

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Key Some point p on 3d-horiz. line is **R**.

Case 2.2: |X| = 2. $COL(0, d) = COL(\frac{2}{3d}) = R$





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Area of triangle $((0, d), (\frac{2}{3d}, d), p)$ is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{3d} \times 3d = 1$.

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Focus on $(0, d), (\frac{1}{3d}, d), (\frac{2}{3d}, d), (\frac{1}{d}, d).$

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Key Two of $(0, d), (\frac{1}{3d}, d), (\frac{2}{3d}, d), (\frac{1}{d}, d)$ are same color.

Focus on (0, d), $(\frac{1}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{2}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{1}{d}, d)$. Key Two of (0, d), $(\frac{1}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{2}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{1}{d}, d)$ are same color. Old News If $\frac{1}{3d}$ apart or $\frac{2}{3d}$ apart then similar to Case 2.

Focus on (0, d), $(\frac{1}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{2}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{1}{d}, d)$. Key Two of (0, d), $(\frac{1}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{2}{3d}, d)$, $(\frac{1}{d}, d)$ are same color. Old News If $\frac{1}{3d}$ apart or $\frac{2}{3d}$ apart then similar to Case 2. We Assume $\text{COL}(0, d) = \text{COL}(\frac{1}{d}, d) = \mathbb{R}$.



Area of triangle $((0, d), (\frac{1}{d}, d), p)$ is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{d} \times 2d = 1$.

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Fill in the Parameters

We used W = W(k, c).



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1. The colors are nonempty subsets of $\{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{G}\}$ so $c = 2^3 - 1 = 7$.

Fill in the Parameters

We used W = W(k, c).

1. The colors are nonempty subsets of $\{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{G}\}$ so $c = 2^3 - 1 = 7$.

- 2. We need 7*d*, so AP of length 7. k = 7.
- 3. Upshot Used W(7,7).

Generalize

Thm $(\forall c)(\forall COL : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [c]) \exists$ mono triangle with area 1.

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Thm $(\forall c)(\forall COL : \mathbb{R}^2 \to [c]) \exists$ mono triangle with area 1. This is a HW problem.

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Key is to find the right parameters for VDW.