Grid Colorings that Avoid Mono Squares

Exposition by William Gasarch

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Notation

If $n \in \mathbb{N}$ then

$$[n] = \{1, \ldots, n\}.$$

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Mono L's and Mono Squares

Def Let $G \in \mathbb{N}$ and $c \in N$. Assume we have a *c*-coloring of $[G] \times [G]$

1. A mono *L* is 3 points

$$(x,y),(x+d,y),(x,y+d)$$

that are all the same color $(d \ge 1)$. (This should be called an *mono isosceles right triangle* but we just call it a *mono L*.)

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2. A mono Square is 4 points

$$(x, y), (x + d, y), (x, y + d), (x + d, y + d)$$

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that are all the same color $(d \ge 1)$. This is a square.

Theorem There exists G such that for all 2-colorings of $[G] \times [G] \rightarrow [2]$ there exists a mono square.

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- 4. More Colors: For all c there exists G = G(c) such that for all c-colorings of $[G] \times [G]$ there exists a mono square.

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- More Colors: For all c there exists G = G(c) such that for all c-colorings of [G] × [G] there exists a mono square. Proof needs a larger c' for GG(c').

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Take the $[H] \times [H]$ grid and tile it with 3×3 tiles. View a 2-coloring of $[H] \times [H]$ as a 2⁹-coloring of the tiles.

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Why This Size Tile?

Any 2-coloring of the 3 \times 3 tile will have two of the same color in the first column and hence an almost L

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Work on this with your neighbor.



First take 4×4 -tiles.



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Take Much Bigger Tiles

Take Tile so big that any 3-coloring of it has two different colored almost-L's converging to the same point.

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Full *L* Theorem

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We won't prove this but I am sure any of you could prove it given what we have done so far. Would be messy.

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Go to Whiteboard for rest of proof.

What Else is Known

For all *c* there exists *G* such that for any coloring of $G \times G$ there is a mono square.

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For all c there exists G such that for any coloring of $G \times G$ there is a mono square.

There are also multi-dim versions.

