# 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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- 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  $3 \times 3$  tiles. View a 2-coloring of  $[H] \times [H]$  as a 2<sup>9</sup>-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  $4 \times 4$ -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

## **Theorem** For all *c* there exists GG = GG(c) such that for all *c*-colorings of $[GG] \times [GG]$ there exists a mono *L*.

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

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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.

