BILL, RECORD LECTURE!!!!

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The Van Der Warden's Song: I Like Big Blocks!

Exposition by William Gasarch

November 5, 2026

I Like Big Blocks!

These slides have a song celebrating the original proof of Van Der Warden's Theorem.

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Its to the tune of

I Like Big Blocks!

These slides have a song celebrating the original proof of Van Der Warden's Theorem.

Its to the tune of

Baby Got Back

I Like Big Blocks!

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Its to the tune of

Baby Got Back

by Sir Mix-a-lot.

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

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We partition N into block so wide

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

We partition N into block so wide

Each Block's got a col-o-ring inside

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

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Encode each block by its own pro-file

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Collapse the colors; compress the style

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Pigeon-hole says types repeat

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

We partition N into block so wide

Each Block's got a col-o-ring inside

Encode each block by its own pro-file

Collapse the colors; compress the style

Pigeon-hole says types repeat

Now look at blocks, and take a seat.

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

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Encode each block by its own pro-file

Collapse the colors; compress the style

Pigeon-hole says types repeat

Now look at blocks, and take a seat.

Ind-uction hums

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Encode each block by its own pro-file

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Pigeon-hole says types repeat

Now look at blocks, and take a seat.

Ind-uction hums

The gears all click

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

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Each Block's got a col-o-ring inside

Encode each block by its own pro-file

Collapse the colors; compress the style

Pigeon-hole says types repeat

Now look at blocks, and take a seat.

Ind-uction hums

The gears all click

omega-squared—What a trick!

I Like Big Blocks! (Chorus)

I Like Big Blocks! (Chorus)

I like big blocks and I cannot lie!

I Like Big Blocks! (Chorus)

I like big blocks and I cannot lie!

You other math folks can't deny!

I Like Big Blocks! (Chorus)

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With finitely many colors that you choose

I Like Big Blocks! (Chorus)

I like big blocks and I cannot lie!

You other math folks can't deny!

With finitely many colors that you choose

There's a mono AP that you can't refuse.

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

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Color red-blue? Or three or more?

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

Color red-blue? Or three or more?

Doesn't matter– same encore

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

Color red-blue? Or three or more?

Doesn't matter– same encore

Hide your patterns, try to duck,

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

Color red-blue? Or three or more?

Doesn't matter– same encore

Hide your patterns, try to duck,

Regularity brings the luck

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

Color red-blue? Or three or more?

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Hide your patterns, try to duck,

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A Length-k run in one shade

I Like Big Blocks! (Non Chorus)

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Hide your patterns, try to duck,

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A Length-k run in one shade

Its a combinatorial serenade!

I Like Big Blocks! (Final Chorus)

I Like Big Blocks! (Final Chorus)

I like big blocks and I cannot lie!

I Like Big Blocks! (Final Chorus)

I like big blocks and I cannot lie!

Mono APs you can't deny.

I Like Big Blocks! (Final Chorus)

I like big blocks and I cannot lie!

Mono APs you can't deny.

With giant blocks and recursive tracks

I Like Big Blocks! (Final Chorus)

I like big blocks and I cannot lie!

Mono APs you can't deny.

With giant blocks and recursive tracks

Van der Waerden's got your back.

I Like Big Blocks! (Final Chorus)

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Mono APs you can't deny.

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(Applause if deserved.)

How Much Time?

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