On the number of points a given circle can cover from a diameter one finite point set

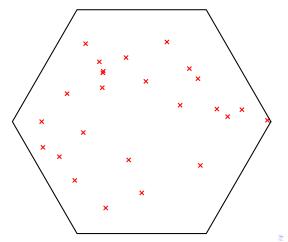
Owen Henderschedt Joint work with András Bezdek

Auburn University

On the number of points a given circle can cover from a diamete

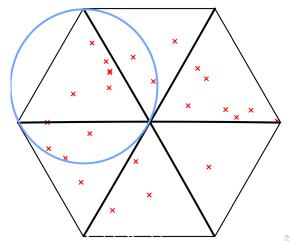
A well known exercise

Given a **hexagonal** dart board of side length $\sqrt{3}$, where 25 darts have landed, show that there exists a circle with radius 1 which covers at least 5 of the darts.



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Coincidentally In the **2023 Bulgarian Math Olympiad** they had the following problem:

Let *N* be the largest integer such that in any **diameter** 1 set of 3n points we can cover at least *N* of them with a circle with radius *r*. Prove that there exists an $\epsilon > 0$ (depending on *n*) such that the value of *N* does not depend on *r* in the interval $r \in (\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon, \frac{1}{2})$.

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Problem (Generalization of the hexagonal dart board problem)

Let n be a fixed positive integer. Let \mathcal{P}_n be the family of all sets of n points, so that in any set, the distance between any two points is at most 1. Let the function value $N_n(r)$ ($0 < r \le 1$) be the largest integer k so that for every point set $P \in \mathcal{P}_n$ there exists a circle of radius r which covers at least k points in P.

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We especially want to know what happens as n gets large. Let

$$c(r):=\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{N_n(r)}{n}$$

Remark 1:

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Remark 2: The Bulgarian 2023 Math Olympiad problem can be phrased with this notation as:

- $N_{3n}(r) = n$ on the interval $r \in (\frac{1}{2} \epsilon, \frac{1}{2})$.
- This implies that $c(r) = \frac{1}{3}$ on this interval. We will see that this is true on a much larger interval!

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Theorem (Jung's Theorem (planar version))

Every diameter d point set can be covered by a circle of radius $r \leq \frac{d}{\sqrt{3}}$.

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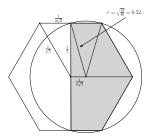
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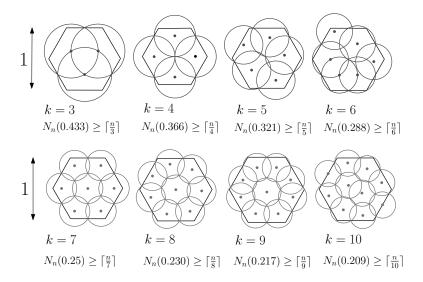
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"...it does seem safe to guess that progress on [this problem], which has been painfully slow in the past, may be even more painfully slow in the future." Klee and Wagon



Work of: Y. Liu 2022

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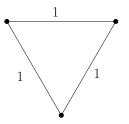
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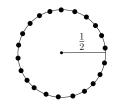
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Example 1:



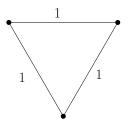
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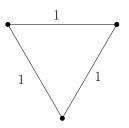
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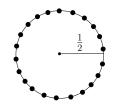
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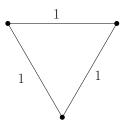


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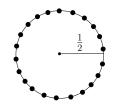
• Ex 1: $N_n(r) \leq \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$ on $r \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ and $N_n(r) \leq \lceil \frac{2n}{3} \rceil$ on $r \in \lfloor \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \rfloor$

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- Ex 2: $N_n(r) \leq \lceil \frac{n}{\pi} \sin^{-1}(2r) \rceil$ for $r \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$

Current knowledge of $N_n(r)$ and c(r)

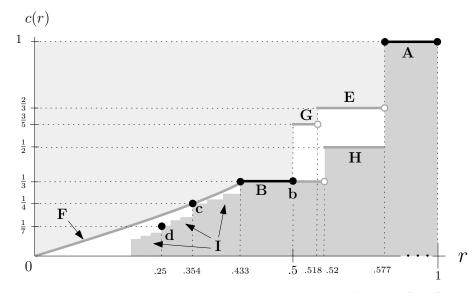
	Labels	Interval	Decimal Approx.	$N_n(r)$ result
Theorem 1	Interval \mathbf{A}	$r\in [\tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{3},1]$	$r \in [.577, 1]$	$N_n(r) = n$
Theorem 2	Interval ${\bf B}$	$r\in [\tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{4}, \tfrac{1}{2})$	$r \in [.433, .5]$	$N_n(r) = \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$
Theorem 3	Point \mathbf{b}	$r=rac{1}{2}$	r = .5	$n \le N_{3n}(r) \le n+1$
Theorem 4	Point \mathbf{c}	$r = rac{\sqrt{2}}{4}$	$r \approx .354$	$N_n(r) = \lceil rac{n}{4} ceil$
Theorem 5	Point \mathbf{d}	$r=rac{1}{4}$	r = .25	$N_n(r) = \lceil rac{n}{7} ceil, n eq 7$
Example 1	Interval \mathbf{E}	$r\in [\tfrac{\sqrt{3}-1}{\sqrt{2}}, \tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{3})$	$r \in [.518, .577]$	$N_n(r) \leq \lceil \frac{2n}{3} \rceil$
Example 2	Interval ${\bf F}$	$r\in(0,rac{1}{2})$	$r \in (0, .5)$	$N_n(r) \le \lceil \frac{n}{\pi} \sin^{-1}(2r) \rceil$
Example 3	Interval ${\bf G}$	$r\in [\tfrac{1}{2}, \tfrac{\sqrt{3}-1}{\sqrt{2}})$	$r \in [.5, .518]$	$N_n(r) \leq \lceil \frac{3n}{5} \rceil$
Lemma 1	Interval ${f H}$	$r \in [\sqrt{\frac{13}{48}}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3})$	$r \in [.52, .577]$	$N_n(r) \ge \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$
Figure 2	Intervals ${\bf I}$	$r \in [.209, .433]$ for bounds on $N_n(r)$ see *		

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Current knowledge of $N_n(r)$ and c(r)





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$$N_n(\frac{1}{4}) = \lceil \frac{n}{7} \rceil$$
 for $n \neq 7$ and $N_7(\frac{1}{4}) = 2$. Moreover, $c(\frac{1}{4}) = \frac{1}{7}$.

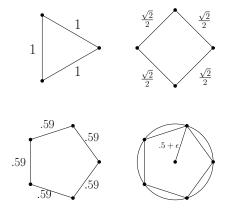
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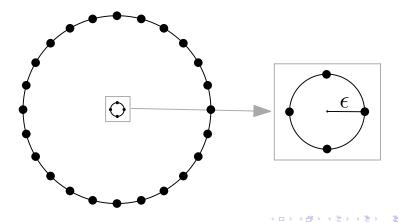


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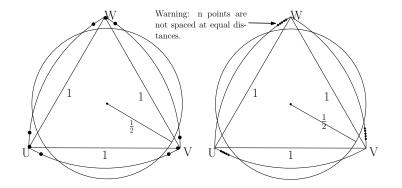


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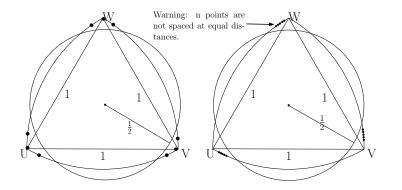


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$$n \leq N_{3n}(\frac{1}{2}) \leq n+1$$
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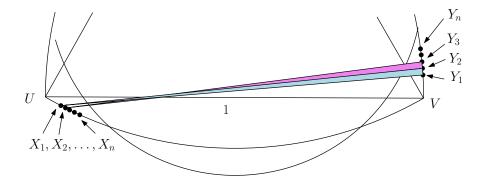
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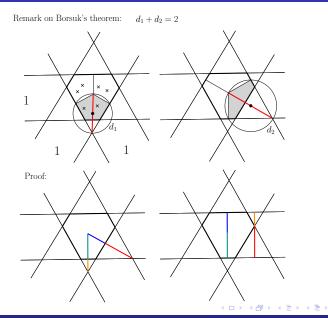
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- By dropping the other perpendiculars too we can see a nice proof without words!

A note on Borsuk's Theorem



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Open Questions

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• What is the correct answer: $N_{3n}(\frac{1}{2}) \in \{n, n+1\}$?

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- Ones the graph of c(n) follow a step function?
- Is there an r such that $N_n(r) = \frac{1}{2}$?
- Is $N_n(r) = \frac{1}{7}$ for $r \in (\frac{1}{4} \epsilon, \frac{1}{4} + \epsilon)$?



Questions!?

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