News on polychromatic colorings

Dömötör Pálvölgyi

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Discrete Geometry Days³

BME 2024

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Before abstract definitions, geometric examples.

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Theorem (1-dim cover-decomposition)

If collection \mathcal{I} of intervals covers some $X \subset \mathbb{R}$ k-fold, then $\exists \mathcal{I}_1 \cup^* \ldots \cup^* \mathcal{I}_k = \mathcal{I}$ such that each \mathcal{I}_i covers X.

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Lower are called *dual* range spaces—in this talk we mainly consider upper, so-called *primal* range spaces, i.e., coloring points.

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Lines

Theorem (Pach-Tardos-Tóth '05)

For every k, m there is a finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ such that for every k-coloring of X there is a line that contains at least m points from X and all have the same color.

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Theorem (Hales-Jewett '63)

For every k, m there is a d such that for every k-coloring of the d-dimensional grid $X = \{1, ..., m\}^d$ there is a line that contains m points from X and all have the same color.

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 $HJ \Rightarrow PTT$: Take a generic projection of $\{1, \ldots, m\}^d$ to \mathbb{R}^2 . \Box

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 $HJ \Rightarrow PTT$: Take a generic projection of $\{1, \ldots, m\}^d$ to \mathbb{R}^2 . From the point-line duality of \mathbb{R}^2 we get:

Theorem (Pach-Tardos-Tóth '05)

For every k, m^* there is a finite collection of lines \mathcal{L} in the plane such that for every k-coloring of \mathcal{L} there is a point contained in at least m^* lines from \mathcal{L} and all have the same color.

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For a hypergraph $\mathcal{H} = (V, \mathcal{E})$, denote by m_k the smallest number for which we can k-color any finite $X \subset V$ such that for any $E \in \mathcal{E}$ with $|E \cap X| \ge m_k$ all k colors occur in $E \cap X$.

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Same for chromatic number: $\chi_{fat} = \min\{k : \exists m \text{ there is a proper } k\text{-coloring of } m\text{-fat induced subhypergraphs}\}.$

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From defs:
$$\chi_{fat} = 2 \iff m_2 < \infty$$

 $m_k \le m_{k+1}$

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Back to Geometry: Translates



Conjecture (Pach '80)

Thick coverings of the plane by translates of any convex planar range are decomposable into two coverings.

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For every planar convex set D there is an m such that we can color any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ with two colors such that every translate of Dwith at least m points contains both colors, i.e., $\chi_{fat} = 2$.

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Theorem (P.-Tóth '10; Gibson-Varadarajan '11)

True for convex polygons. Even $m_k = O(k)$ for convex polygons.

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Theorem (P. '13, Pach-P. '16)

For every m there is a finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ such that for every two-coloring of X there is a unit disk that contains at least m points from X and all have the same color, i.e., $\chi_{fat} > 2$.

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Is Pach's conjecture true if we can use more colors?

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Theorem: Any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ can be four-colored such that any disk with at least 2 points is non-monochromatic, thus, $\chi_{fat} \leq 4$.







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Lemma: Delaunay triangulation is planar graph.

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Lemma: Delaunay triangulation is planar graph. We can apply the Four Color Theorem.

Conjecture (Keszegh '08, Keszegh-P. '17)

For every planar convex D there is an m such that any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ can be 3-colored such that every homothet of D with m points is non-monochromatic, i.e., $\chi_{fat} \leq 3$.

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What about disks?

Theorem (Pach-Tardos-Tóth '05)

For every *m* there is a finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ such that for every 2-coloring of *X* there is a disk that contains at least *m* points from *X* and all have the same color, i.e., $\chi_{fat} > 2$.

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Theorem (Damásdi-P. '22)

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Theorem (Damásdi-P. '22+)

For translates of any convex planar shape $\chi_{fat} \leq 3$.

Summary for Disks

	unit disks	any disks
stabbed	$\chi_{fat} = 2$ $m_k = O(k)$ Damásdi-P. '22	$\chi_{fat} = 3$ Damásdi-P. '22 Ackerman-Keszegh-P. '19
all	χ _{fat} = 3 Ρ. '13, Pach-P. '16 Damásdi-P. '22+	$\chi_{fat} = 4$ Four Color Theorem Damásdi-P. '22

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Theorem (P. '10)

For every polyhedron $P \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ and m there is a finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ such that for every two-coloring of X there is a monochromatic translate of P that contains at least m points from X, i.e., $\chi_{fat} > 2$.

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Theorem (Keszegh-P. '11, '15)

Any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ can be two-colored such that any translate of an octant with 9 points is non-monochromatic, therefore, $\chi_{fat} = 2$.



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Corollary

Any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ can be two-colored such that any homothet of a triangle with 9 points is non-monochromatic.

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Proof: Embed plane

into \mathbb{R}^3 as

x + y + z = 0.



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Corollary

Any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ can be two-colored such that any axis-parallel bottomless rectangle with 9 points is non-monochromatic.



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Theorem (Cardinal, Knauer, Micek, Ueckerdt (+ KP) '15) Any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ can be k-colored such that any translate of an octant with $m_k = O(k^{5.09})$ points contains all k colors.
Three Dimensions

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Same for (dual) homothets of a triangle, bottomless rectangles.

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Same for (dual) homothets of a triangle, bottomless rectangles.

Theorem (Cardinal-Korman '11)

For orthants in \geq 4-dimension $\chi_{fat} = \infty$.

Three Dimensions

Theorem (Keszegh-P. '11, '15)

Any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ can be two-colored such that any translate of an octant with 9 points is non-monochromatic, therefore, $\chi_{fat} = 2$.

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Follows from realizing all axis-parallel rectangles and from

Theorem (Chen-Pach-Szegedy-Tardos '09)

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Bottomless Rectangles

Theorem (Keszegh '11, Asinowski, Cardinal, Cohen, Collette, Hackl, Hoffmann, Knauer, Langerman, Lason, Micek, Rote, Ueckerdt '13)

Any finite $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ can be k-colored such that any axis-parallel bottomless rectangle with $m_k \leq 3k - 2$ points contains all k colors.

Theorem (Cardinal, Knauer, Micek, Ueckerdt (+ KP) '15) Any finite collection of axis-parallel bottomless rectangles can be k-colored such any point covered by $m_k^* = O(k^{5.09})$ rectangles is covered by all k colors.

We do not know matching lower bounds.

Theorem (Cardinal, Knauer, Micek, P., Ueckerdt, Varadarajan) $m_k^* \leq 2k - 1$ in many special cases.

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Hereditary k-colorability of Abstract Hypergraphs

For a hypergraph $\mathcal{H} = (V, \mathcal{E})$, denote by m_k the smallest number for which we can k-color any finite $X \subset V$ such that for any $E \in \mathcal{E}$ with $|E \cap X| \ge m_k$ all k colors occur in $E \cap X$. For intervals $m_k = k$, for halfplanes $m_k = 2k - 1$. $m_k = \infty$ is possible, e.g., for lines. Important: In the induced hypergraph $\mathcal{H}|_X$ we only care about m_k -heavy edges. This is m_k -fat induced subhypergraph of \mathcal{H} . Same for chromatic number: $\chi_{fat} = \min\{k : \exists m \text{ there is a proper}\}$ *k*-coloring of *m*-fat induced subhypergraphs}. $\chi_{fat} = \infty$ for lines. From defs: $\chi_{fat} = 2 \iff m_2 < \infty$

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Can we bound m_k with a function of m_2 ?

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Proof sketch of $m_2 = 2 \Rightarrow m_3 = 3$.

SEE BLACKBOARD!

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The best constructions we saw gave $m_k = 2k - 1$: Halfplanes; Union of two intervals; For dual bottomless rectangles and dual halfplanes:

 $m_2^* = 3$ but we don't know whether $m_k^* = 2k - 1$.

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Theorem (P. '23+)

There exists a 5-uniform hypergraph that has no polychromatic 3-coloring, but its 3-fat induced subhypergraphs are 2-colorable. Therefore, $m_3 = 6$ and $m_2 = 3$.

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Goal: Find 5-uniform hypergraph on 8 vertices with $m_2 = 3$ where every pair of vertices is avoided by a hyperedge $\Rightarrow \alpha \le 5 < \frac{2}{3} \cdot 8$.

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Can we get better separations for $m_2 = 3$ than $m_3 = 6$? Does $m_2 < \infty$ imply $m_k < \infty$?



