

# BILL, RECORD LECTURE!!!!

BILL RECORD LECTURE!!!

# Euclidean Ramsey Theory Chromatic Number of the Plane

**Exposition by William Gasarch**

January 26, 2025

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

2)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a mono } k\text{-AP}]$ .

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

2)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a mono } k\text{-AP}]$ .

3)  $(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \times [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ mono square}]$ .

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

2)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a mono } k\text{-AP}]$ .

3)  $(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \times [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ mono square}]$ .

Note that



# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

2)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a mono } k\text{-AP}]$ .

3)  $(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \times [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ mono square}]$ .

Note that

A) The objects we are coloring are **discrete**.

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

2)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a mono } k\text{-AP}]$ .

3)  $(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \times [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ mono square}]$ .

Note that

A) The objects we are coloring are **discrete**.

In Euclidean Ramsey Theory we will be coloring the Plane or  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

2)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a mono } k\text{-AP}]$ .

3)  $(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \times [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ mono square}]$ .

Note that

A) The objects we are coloring are **discrete**.

In Euclidean Ramsey Theory we will be coloring the Plane or  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

B) We do not care about the geometric size. For example, the Square can be any size.

# Ramsey Theory VS Euclidean Ramsey Theory

Examples of Ramsey Theory:

1)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: \binom{[n]}{2} \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a 3-homog set}]$ .

2)  $(\forall k)(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ a mono } k\text{-AP}]$ .

3)  $(\exists n)[\forall \text{COL}: [n] \times [n] \rightarrow [2] \quad \exists \text{ mono square}]$ .

Note that

A) The objects we are coloring are **discrete**.

In Euclidean Ramsey Theory we will be coloring the Plane or  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

B) We do not care about the geometric size. For example, the Square can be any size.

In Euclidean Ramsey Theory we will be seek an object of a certain size, for example the unit square.

## For All 2-Colorings of the Plane...

**Thm**  $\forall \text{COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [2] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

# For All 2-Colorings of the Plane...

**Thm**  $\forall \text{COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [2] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

**Discuss** Try to prove it, what are your thoughts.

# For All 2-Colorings of the Plane...

**Thm**  $\forall \text{COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [2] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

**Discuss** Try to prove it, what are your thoughts.

Proof on the next page.

# For All 2-Colorings of The Plane...

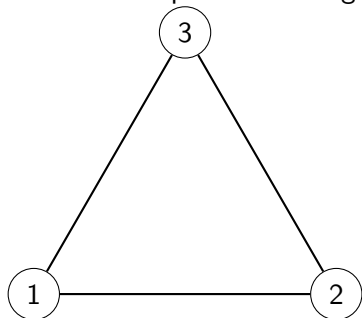


# For All 2-Colorings of The Plane...

Look at an equilateral triangle in the plane

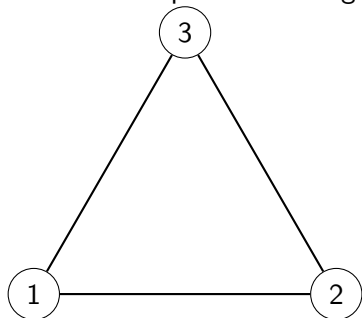
# For All 2-Colorings of The Plane...

Look at an equilateral triangle in the plane



## For All 2-Colorings of The Plane...

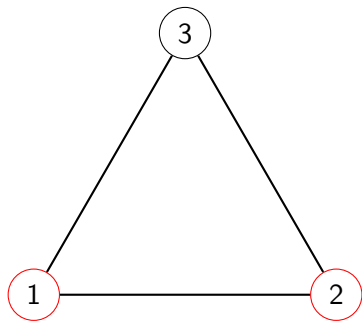
Look at an equilateral triangle in the plane



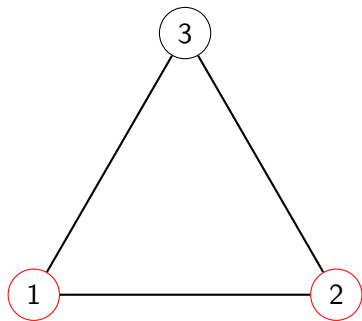
3 vertices and 2 colors. So 2 of the vertices are the same color.

# For All 2-Colorings of The Plane...

## For All 2-Colorings of The Plane...



## For All 2-Colorings of The Plane...



Vertices 1 and 2 are an inch apart.

# Chromatic Number of the Plane

Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  where

# Chromatic Number of the Plane

Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  where  
 $V = \mathbb{R}^2$



# Chromatic Number of the Plane

Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  where

$$V = \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$E = \{(x, y) : d(x, y) = 1\}.$$

# Chromatic Number of the Plane

Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  where

$$V = \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$E = \{(x, y) : d(x, y) = 1\}.$$

**Def**  $\chi$  is the chromatic number of this graph.

# Chromatic Number of the Plane

Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  where

$$V = \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$E = \{(x, y) : d(x, y) = 1\}.$$

**Def**  $\chi$  is the chromatic number of this graph.

The Theorem

**Thm**  $\forall \text{COL} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [2] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

Can be rephrased as

# Chromatic Number of the Plane

Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  where

$$V = \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$E = \{(x, y) : d(x, y) = 1\}.$$

**Def**  $\chi$  is the chromatic number of this graph.

The Theorem

**Thm**  $\forall \text{COL} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [2] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

Can be rephrased as

**Thm**  $\chi \geq 3.$

# Chromatic Number of the Plane

Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  where

$$V = \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$E = \{(x, y) : d(x, y) = 1\}.$$

**Def**  $\chi$  is the chromatic number of this graph.

The Theorem

**Thm**  $\forall \text{COL} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [2] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

Can be rephrased as

**Thm**  $\chi \geq 3.$

We investigate what  $\chi$  can be.

# What about 3-Colorings of The Plane?

**Vote**

# What about 3-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi \leq 4$ )

# What about 3-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \leq 4$ )

2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi = 3.$ )



# What about 3-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \leq 4$ )

2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi = 3.$ )

3) Unknown to Science!

# What about 3-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \leq 4$ )

2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi = 3.$ )

3) Unknown to Science!

Answer on next slide

# For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

**Thm**  $\forall \text{COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi \geq 4.$ )

# For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

# For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

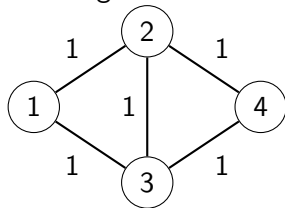
Assume COL is a proper 3-coloring of the plane.

## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

Assume COL is a proper 3-coloring of the plane.  
Glue together two unit equilateral triangles:

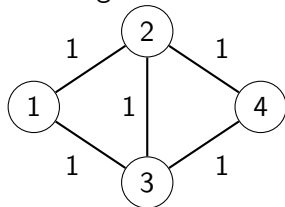
## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

Assume COL is a proper 3-coloring of the plane.  
Glue together two unit equilateral triangles:



## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

Assume COL is a proper 3-coloring of the plane.  
Glue together two unit equilateral triangles:

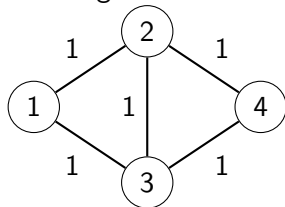


$\text{COL}(1) = \mathbf{R}$ , so  $\text{COL}(2) \neq \mathbf{R}$  and  $\text{COL}(3) \neq \mathbf{R}$ .



## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

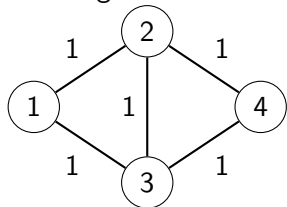
Assume COL is a proper 3-coloring of the plane.  
Glue together two unit equilateral triangles:



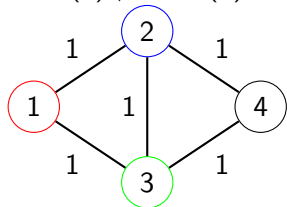
$\text{COL}(1) = \mathbf{R}$ , so  $\text{COL}(2) \neq \mathbf{R}$  and  $\text{COL}(3) \neq \mathbf{R}$ .  
 $\text{COL}(2) \neq \text{COL}(3)$  so  $\text{COL}(2) = \mathbf{B}$  and  $\text{COL}(3) = \mathbf{G}$ .

## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

Assume COL is a proper 3-coloring of the plane.  
Glue together two unit equilateral triangles:

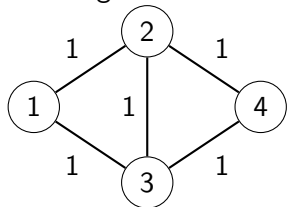


$\text{COL}(1) = \mathbf{R}$ , so  $\text{COL}(2) \neq \mathbf{R}$  and  $\text{COL}(3) \neq \mathbf{R}$ .  
 $\text{COL}(2) \neq \text{COL}(3)$  so  $\text{COL}(2) = \mathbf{B}$  and  $\text{COL}(3) = \mathbf{G}$ .

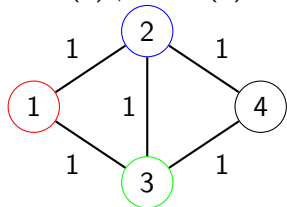


## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

Assume COL is a proper 3-coloring of the plane.  
Glue together two unit equilateral triangles:



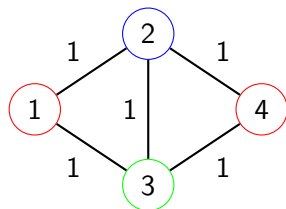
$\text{COL}(1) = \mathbf{R}$ , so  $\text{COL}(2) \neq \mathbf{R}$  and  $\text{COL}(3) \neq \mathbf{R}$ .  
 $\text{COL}(2) \neq \text{COL}(3)$  so  $\text{COL}(2) = \mathbf{B}$  and  $\text{COL}(3) = \mathbf{G}$ .



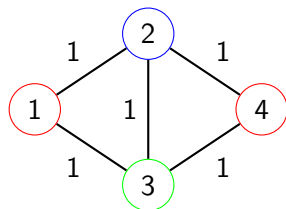
Hence  $\text{COL}(4) = \mathbf{R}$ .

# For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...

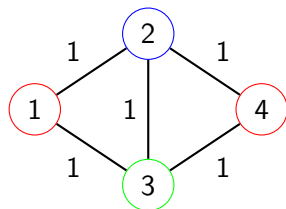


## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...



Distance from 1 to 4 is  $\sqrt{3}$ .

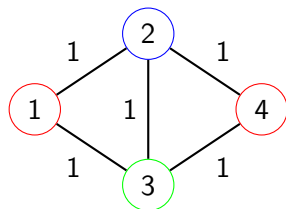
## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...



Distance from 1 to 4 is  $\sqrt{3}$ .

**Upshot 1** If  $p, q$  are  $\sqrt{3}$  apart then  $\text{COL}(p) = \text{COL}(q)$ .

## For All 3-Colorings of The Plane...



Distance from 1 to 4 is  $\sqrt{3}$ .

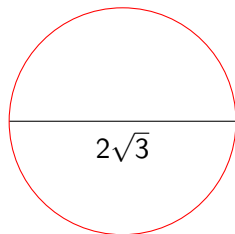
**Upshot 1** If  $p, q$  are  $\sqrt{3}$  apart then  $\text{COL}(p) = \text{COL}(q)$ .

**Upshot 2** If  $\text{COL}(p) = \mathbf{R}$  then circle of radius  $\sqrt{3}$  around  $p$  is  $\mathbf{R}$ .

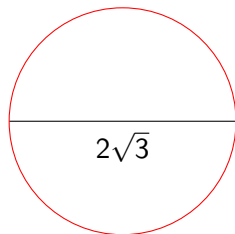


# R Circle of Diameter $\sqrt{3}$

## R Circle of Diameter $\sqrt{3}$

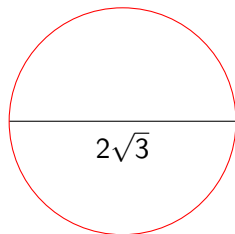


## R Circle of Diameter $\sqrt{3}$

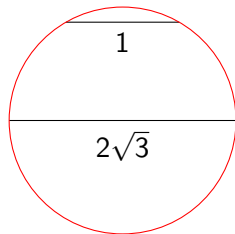


Look at a chord of the circle of length 1.

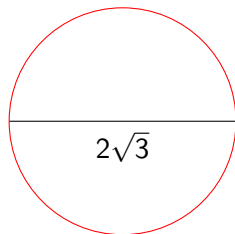
## R Circle of Diameter $\sqrt{3}$



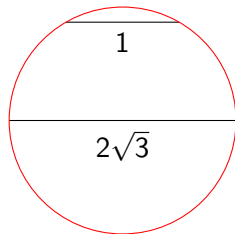
Look at a chord of the circle of length 1.



## R Circle of Diameter $\sqrt{3}$



Look at a chord of the circle of length 1.



Endpoints of chord are **R** and an inch apart.

# Alternative Proof: The Moser Spindle

# Alternative Proof: The Moser Spindle

**Recall** The proof that  $\chi \geq 2$  is to restrict the coloring to a 3-point set, the equilateral triangle.

# Alternative Proof: The Moser Spindle

**Recall** The proof that  $\chi \geq 2$  is to restrict the coloring to a 3-point set, the equilateral triangle.

**Is there a finite subset of the plane that shows  $\chi \geq 3$ ?**



# Alternative Proof: The Moser Spindle

**Recall** The proof that  $\chi \geq 2$  is to restrict the coloring to a 3-point set, the equilateral triangle.

**Is there a finite subset of the plane that shows  $\chi \geq 3$ ?** Yes.

# Alternative Proof: The Moser Spindle

**Recall** The proof that  $\chi \geq 2$  is to restrict the coloring to a 3-point set, the equilateral triangle.

**Is there a finite subset of the plane that shows  $\chi \geq 3$ ?** Yes.  
We point to the Wikipedia page of **The Moser Spindle**.

# Alternative Proof: The Moser Spindle

**Recall** The proof that  $\chi \geq 2$  is to restrict the coloring to a 3-point set, the equilateral triangle.

**Is there a finite subset of the plane that shows  $\chi \geq 3$ ?** Yes.

We point to the Wikipedia page of **The Moser Spindle**.

It is a 7-vertex graph drawn in the plane with all sides of length 1.

It is an easy exercise to show that this graph is not 3-colorable.

# Alternative Proof: The Moser Spindle

**Recall** The proof that  $\chi \geq 2$  is to restrict the coloring to a 3-point set, the equilateral triangle.

**Is there a finite subset of the plane that shows  $\chi \geq 3$ ?** Yes.

We point to the Wikipedia page of **The Moser Spindle**.

It is a 7-vertex graph drawn in the plane with all sides of length 1.

It is an easy exercise to show that this graph is not 3-colorable.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moser\\_spindle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moser_spindle)

# Recap 2-Coloring and 3-Coloring the Plane

## Recap 2-Coloring and 3-Coloring the Plane

- ▶ There is a 3-point subset of the plane that is NOT 2-colorable.

## Recap 2-Coloring and 3-Coloring the Plane

- ▶ There is a 3-point subset of the plane that is NOT 2-colorable.
- ▶ There is a 7-point subset of the plane that is NOT 3-colorable.

# What about 4-Colorings of The Plane?

Vote



# What about 4-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi \geq 5.$ )

# What about 4-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi \geq 5.$ )

2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi = 5.$ )

# What about 4-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

- 1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi \geq 5$ .)
- 2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi = 5$ .)
- 3) Unknown to Science!

# What about 4-Colorings of The Plane?

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi \geq 5.$ )

2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi = 5.$ )

3) Unknown to Science!

Answer on next slide

# For All 4-Colorings of The Plane...

**Thm** (Aubrey de Grey, 2018)

$\forall \text{COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \geq 5$ .)

# For All 4-Colorings of The Plane...

**Thm** (Aubrey de Grey, 2018)

$\forall \text{COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \geq 5$ .)

de Grey did this with a construction of a 1581-vertex unit-distance graph that is not 4-colorable.

# For All 4-Colorings of The Plane...

**Thm** (Aubrey de Grey, 2018)

$\forall \text{COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \geq 5$ .)

de Grey did this with a construction of a 1581-vertex unit-distance graph that is not 4-colorable.

As of 2021 this was gotten down to a 509-vertex graph.

# For All 4-Colorings of The Plane...

**Thm** (Aubrey de Grey, 2018)

$\forall \text{COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [3] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \geq 5$ .)

de Grey did this with a construction of a 1581-vertex unit-distance graph that is not 4-colorable.

As of 2021 this was gotten down to a 509-vertex graph.

So we know that  $\chi \geq 5$ .



# For All 5-Colorings of The Plane...

**Vote**

# For All 5-Colorings of The Plane...

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [5] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$   
(So  $\chi \geq 6$ .)

# For All 5-Colorings of The Plane...

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [5] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \geq 6.$ )

2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi = 6.$ )

# For All 5-Colorings of The Plane...

## Vote

1)  $\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [5] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi \geq 6$ .)

2)  $\exists \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [4] \text{ no 2 points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

(So  $\chi = 6$ .)

3) Unknown to Science!

# For All 5-Colorings of The Plane...

The status of

# For All 5-Colorings of The Plane...

The status of

$\forall \text{ COL: } \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [5] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

# For All 5-Colorings of The Plane...

The status of

$\forall \text{ COL}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [5] \exists 2 \text{ points, same color, 1 inch apart.}$

is **Unknown to Science!**

# Upper bound on $\chi$

**Thm**  $\chi \leq 7$ .



# Upper bound on $\chi$

**Thm**  $\chi \leq 7$ .

There is a 7-coloring of the plane, so  $5 \leq \chi \leq 7$ .

# Upper bound on $\chi$

**Thm**  $\chi \leq 7$ .

There is a 7-coloring of the plane, so  $5 \leq \chi \leq 7$ .

Here is the 7-coloring:

[https://thatsmaths.com/2022/03/24/  
the-chromatic-number-of-the-plane/](https://thatsmaths.com/2022/03/24/the-chromatic-number-of-the-plane/)