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Folkman's Theorem

Exposition by William Gasarch

January 23, 2025

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Thm $(\forall c)(\exists S = S(c))$ st \forall COL : $[S] \rightarrow [c] \exists x, y, z$ st



Thm
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 \triangleright $x + y = z$

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We can view this another way:

$$\operatorname{COL}(x) = \operatorname{COL}(y) = \operatorname{COL}(x+y).$$

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More generally, we want all non-empty sums are the same color.

Thm $(\forall c)(\exists T = T(c))$ st $\forall \text{ COL} : [T] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < b_2$ st $\text{COL}(b_2) = \text{COL}(b_1 + b_2)$

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Let T = 3c (this is prob not optimal).

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Let T = 3c (this is prob not optimal). Look at $2c + 0, \ldots, 2c + c$.

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Let T = 3c (this is prob not optimal). Look at $2c + 0, \dots, 2c + c$. $(\exists 0 \le i < j \le c)[COL(2c + i) = COL(2c + j)].$

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Let T = 3c (this is prob not optimal). Look at $2c + 0, \dots, 2c + c$. $(\exists 0 \le i < j \le c)[COL(2c + i) = COL(2c + j)].$ $b_1 = j - i$

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$$b_2 = 2c + i$$

Thm $(\forall c)(\exists T = T(c))$ st \forall COL : $[T] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < b_2$ st COL $(b_2) =$ COL $(b_1 + b_2)$ Let T = 3c (this is prob not optimal). Look at $2c + 0, \dots, 2c + c$. $(\exists 0 \le i < j \le c)[$ COL(2c + i) =COL(2c + j)]. $b_1 = j - i$ $b_2 = 2c + i$ Note $b_1 < b_2$ easy.

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Thm $(\forall c)(\exists T = T(c))$ st \forall COL : $[T] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < b_2$ st $\operatorname{COL}(b_2) = \operatorname{COL}(b_1 + b_2)$ Let T = 3c (this is prob not optimal). Look at 2c + 0, ..., 2c + c. $(\exists 0 \leq i \leq j \leq c)[\operatorname{COL}(2c+i) = \operatorname{COL}(2c+i)].$ $b_1 = i - i$ $b_2 = 2c + i$ Note $b_1 < b_2$ easy. $\operatorname{COL}(b_2) = \operatorname{COL}(2c+i)$

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Thm
$$(\forall c, d)(\exists T = T(c)d)$$
 st $\forall \text{ COL} : [T] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < b_2$ st $\text{COL}(b_2) = \text{COL}(b_1 + b_2)$ AND $b_1 < b_2$ AND $b_1, b_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{d}$.

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Let T(c, d) = T(c)d = 3cd (this is prob not optimal).

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Look at (2c+0)d, ..., (2c+c)d.

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 $\operatorname{COL}(b_2) = \operatorname{COL}(b_1 + b_2)$ AND $b_1 < b_2$ AND
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Let $T(c, d) = T(c)d = 3cd$ (this is prob not optimal).
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 $(\exists 0 \le i < j \le c)[\operatorname{COL}((2c + i)d) = \operatorname{COL}((2c + j)d)]$.

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 $(\exists 0 \le i < j \le c)[$ COL $((2c + i)d) =$ COL $((2c + j)d)]$.
 $b_1 = (j - i)d$

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 $b_1 = (j - i)d$
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 $\text{COL}(b_2) = \text{COL}((2c + i)d)$

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 $b_1 = (j - i)d$
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Note $b_1 < b_2$ easy.
COL $(b_2) =$ COL $((2c + i)d) =$ COL $((2c + i)d) =$ COL $((2c + j)d)$.
WRITE DOWN WHAT $T(c, d)$ MEANS FOR LATER USE.

Thm $(\forall c)(\exists U = U(c))$ st $\forall \text{ COL} : [U] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < b_2 < b_3$ st

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All sums with last term b_3 have same color

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Can Restate As

All sums with last term b_3 have same color All sums with last term b_2 have same color All sums with last term b_1 have same color (trivial).

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Can Restate As

All sums with last term b_3 have same color All sums with last term b_2 have same color All sums with last term b_1 have same color (trivial). Note that these can be different colors.
$b_1 < b_2 < b_3$ Theorem

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Can Restate As

All sums with last term b_3 have same color All sums with last term b_2 have same color All sums with last term b_1 have same color (trivial). Note that these can be different colors.

Will prove on next slides.

$b_1 < b_2 < b_3$ Theorem

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All sums with last term b_3 have same color All sums with last term b_2 have same color All sums with last term b_1 have same color (trivial). Note that these can be different colors.

Will prove on next slides.

We later show general case of $b_1 < \cdots < b_n$.

Fix c. U is TBD. Assume there is COL: $[U] \rightarrow [c]$.

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Fix c. U is TBD. Assume there is COL: $[U] \rightarrow [c]$. U will be in two blocks, both very large. Block2 will be W(k, c) where k is TBD.

Fix c. U is TBD. Assume there is COL: $[U] \rightarrow [c]$. U will be in two blocks, both very large. Block2 will be W(k, c) where k is TBD. $(\exists a, d)[a, a + d, ..., a + (k - 1)d$ same color]

Fix c. U is TBD. Assume there is COL: $[U] \rightarrow [c]$. U will be in two blocks, both **very large**. Block2 will be W(k, c) where k is TBD. $(\exists a, d)[a, a + d, ..., a + (k - 1)d$ same color] a will be b_3 .

Fix c. U is TBD. Assume there is COL: $[U] \rightarrow [c]$. U will be in two blocks, both very large. Block2 will be W(k, c) where k is TBD. $(\exists a, d)[a, a + d, ..., a + (k - 1)d$ same color] a will be b_3 . Note that $d \leq \frac{W(k,c)}{k}$.

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Recap proof so far

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Block2 has a, d st $a, a + d, \ldots, a + (k - 1)d$ same color.

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Recap proof so far Block2 has a, d st a, a + d, ..., a + (k - 1)d same color. Block1 has $\{b'_1d, b'_2d\}$ st

Recap proof so far Block2 has a, d st a, a + d, ..., a + (k - 1)d same color. **Block1** has $\{b'_1d, b'_2d\}$ st 1) $b'_1, b'_2 \leq T(c)$.

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Recap proof so far Block2 has *a*, *d* st *a*, *a* + *d*,..., *a* + (*k* - 1)*d* same color. **Block1** has $\{b'_1d, b'_2d\}$ st 1) $b'_1, b'_2 \le T(c)$. 2) $\text{COL}(b'_2d) = \text{COL}(b'_2d + b'_1d)$. We set $b_1 = b'_1d$ $b_2 = b'_2d$ $b_3 = a$ $\text{COL}(b_2 + b_1) = \text{COL}(b_2)$ since we applied $b_1 < b_2$ Thm. $\text{COL}(b_3 + b_2 + b_1) = \text{COL}(a + b'_2d + b'_1d) = \text{COL}(a + (b'_2 + b'_1)d)$.

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U(c) = 3cW(6c, c) + W(6c, c) = (3c + 1)W(6c, c).

Summarize Proof

U = 2W(k, c) where k = 2W(dT(c), c).

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U = 2W(k, c) where k = 2W(dT(c), c). VDW-in 2nd part: $a, a + d, \dots, a + (k - 1)d$ all colored e

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U = 2W(k, c) where k = 2W(dT(c), c). VDW-in 2nd part: a, a + d, ..., a + (k - 1)d all colored eBy $b_1 < b_2$ thm, 1st part have $b_1 < b_2$, both div by d, $COL(b_2 + b_1) = COL(b_2)$.

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$$b_1=b_1'd\quad <\quad b_2=b_2'd\quad <\quad b_3=a$$

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$$U = 2W(k, c)$$
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 $\operatorname{COL}(b_2 + b_1) = \operatorname{COL}(b_2)$ from $b_1 < b_2$ Theorem.

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 $COL(b_2 + b_1) = COL(b_2)$ from $b_1 < b_2$ Theorem. $COL(b_3 + b_2) = COL(a + b'_2d)$ (We made sure $b'_2 \le 2T(c)$.) $COL(b_3 + b_1) = COL(a + b'_1d)$ (We made sure $b'_1 \le 2T(c)$.) $COL(b_3 + b_2 + b_1) = COL(a + b'_2d + b'_1d)$ (We made sure $b'_1 + b'_2 \le 2T(c)$.)

Thm $(\forall n, c)(\exists U = U(n, c))$ st $\forall \text{ COL} : [U] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < \cdots < b_n$ st

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Thm $(\forall n, c)(\exists U = U(n, c))$ st $\forall \text{ COL} : [U] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < \cdots < b_n$ st 2) $(\forall I \subseteq \{1\})[\text{COL}(b_2 + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}].$

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Thm $(\forall n, c)(\exists U = U(n, c))$ st $\forall \text{ COL} : [U] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < \cdots < b_n$ st 2) $(\forall I \subseteq \{1\})[\text{COL}(b_2 + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}].$ 3) $(\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2\})[\text{COL}(b_3 + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color }].$:

Thm
$$(\forall n, c)(\exists U = U(n, c))$$
 st $\forall \text{COL} : [U] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < \cdots < b_n$ st
2) $(\forall I \subseteq \{1\})[\text{COL}(b_2 + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}].$
3) $(\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2\})[\text{COL}(b_3 + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color }].$
:
 $n-1) (\forall I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n-2\})[\text{COL}(b_{n-1} + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}]$

Thm
$$(\forall n, c)(\exists U = U(n, c))$$
 st $\forall \text{COL} : [U] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < \cdots < b_n$ st
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 \vdots
 $n-1) (\forall I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n-2\})[\text{COL}(b_{n-1} + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}]$
 $n) (\forall I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n-1\})[\text{COL}(b_n + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}]$

Thm
$$(\forall n, c)(\exists U = U(n, c))$$
 st $\forall \text{COL} : [U] \rightarrow [c] \exists b_1 < \cdots < b_n$ st
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3) $(\forall I \subseteq \{1, 2\})[\text{COL}(b_3 + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color }].$
:
 $n - 1) (\forall I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n - 2\})[\text{COL}(b_{n-1} + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}]$
 $n) (\forall I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n - 1\})[\text{COL}(b_n + \sum_{i \in I} b_i) \text{ same color}]$
Will prove on next slides.

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Fix c. U is TBD. Assume there COL: $[U] \rightarrow [c]$.

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Folkman's Theorem (Statement)

Thm $(\forall n, c)(\exists F = F(n, c))(\forall \text{COL}[F] \rightarrow [c])(\exists x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ st all of the sums of elements of $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ are the same color

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$$F(n,2) = U(2n-1,2).$$

$$\begin{split} F(n,2) &= U(2n-1,2).\\ \text{By prior thm } (\exists b_1,\ldots,b_{2n-1})\\ \text{All sums with max elt } b_1 \text{ are colored } c_1\\ \text{All sums with max elt } b_2 \text{ are colored } c_2 \end{split}$$

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Look at c_1, \ldots, c_{2n-1}. n of them are the same color, say R.
Call those n x_1, \ldots, x_n.
All sums with max elt x_1 are colored R
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