

10/28/09

# Pigeon Hole Principle

positive integers

$$x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n \geq m$$

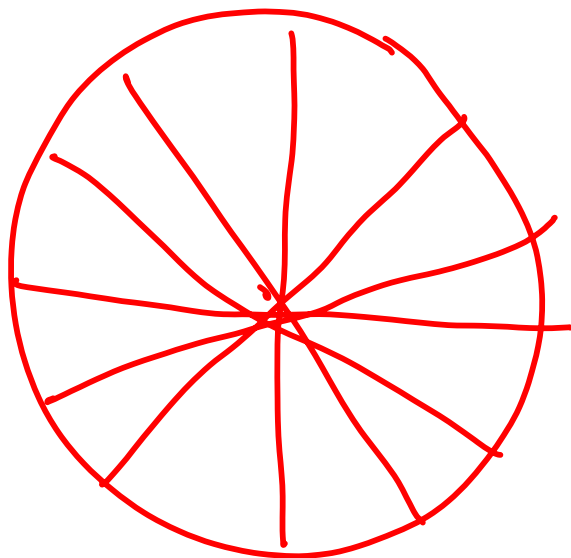
$$\Rightarrow \exists i : x_i \geq \left\lceil \frac{m}{n} \right\rceil$$

---

$$f: [m] \rightarrow [n] \Rightarrow \exists i \in [n]$$

$$\text{s.t. } x_i = |f^{-1}(i)| \geq \left\lceil \frac{m}{n} \right\rceil.$$

DISK 1

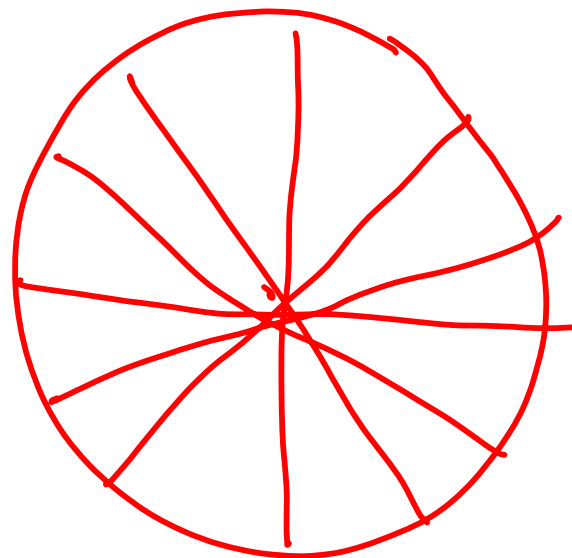


200 sectors

100 R

100 B

DISK 2



200 sectors

Arbitrarily  
colored R & B.

CLAIM: ONE CAN PLACE DISK 2 ON TOP  
DISK 1 SO THAT  $\geq 100$  SECTORS  
HAVE SAME COLOR.



Alternate explanation:

Place Disk 2 randomly on Disk 1.

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if sector matches} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$X = X_1 + \dots + X_{200} = \# \text{ matches}$$

$$E(X) = E(X_1) + \dots + E(X_{200}) = 100$$

$\frac{1}{2} \qquad \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{2}$

$\Rightarrow \exists$  placement with  $\geq 100$  matches.

# Erdős - Szekeres

$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k^2+1}$  are reals.

Then  $\exists$  a monotone subsequence  
of length  $k+1$

$i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k$  is monotone  $\downarrow$

$$a_{i_1} \leq a_{i_2} \leq \dots \leq a_{i_k}$$

or

$$a_{i_1} \geq a_{i_2} \geq \dots \geq a_{i_k}$$

↑  
3      ↑      4      ↘      ↑      33      12

↑      ↑  
decreasing

increasing

$k$  pigeonholes.



$l(i) =$  length of longest  
monotone increasing  
subsequence starting  
at  $a_i$

7 4 8 3 4 3 6 9 4 2

$$l(1) = 3 \quad l(3) = 2$$

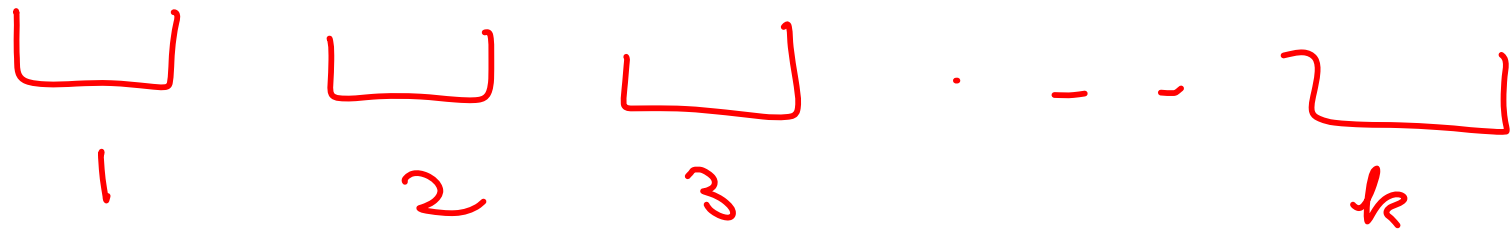
$$l(2) = 4$$

...

Case 1:  $\exists i$  s.t.  $l(i) \geq k+1$

Case 2:  $l(i) \leq k, \forall i$





Put  $i$  into bucket  $h(i)$

$k^2 + 1$  numbers  $\longrightarrow$   $k$  buckets

$\exists$  bucket with  $\geq k+1$   
indices

$$i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{k+1}$$

big bucket

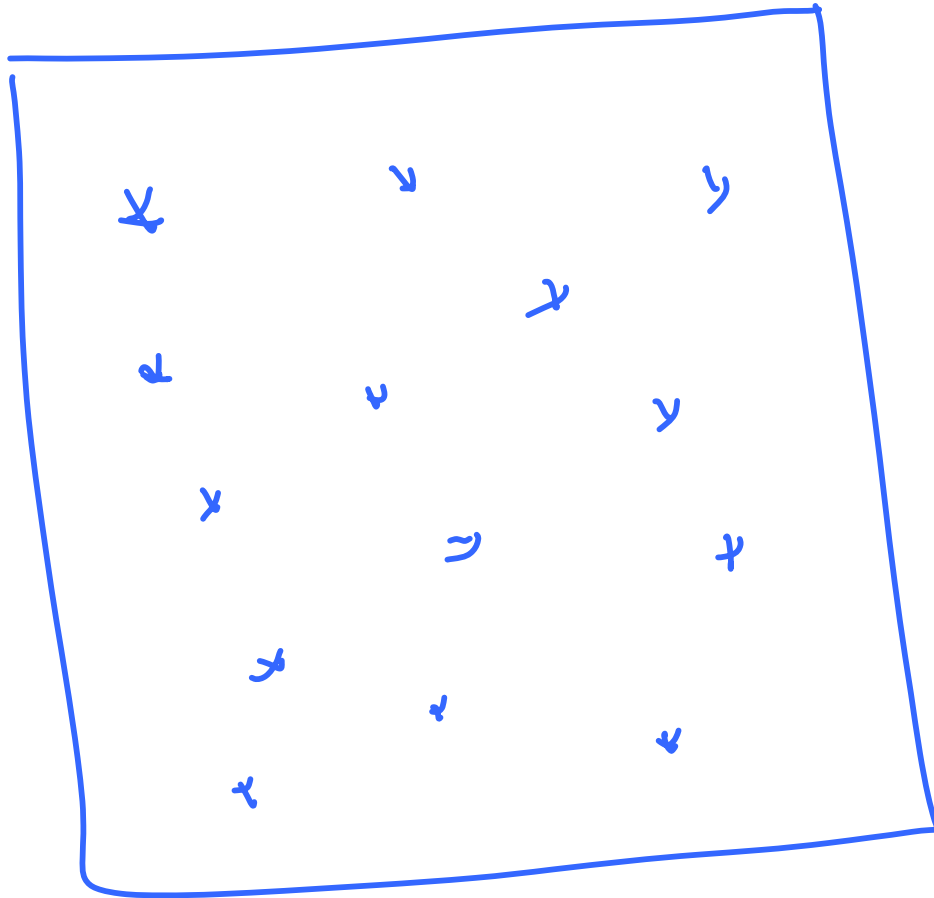
Claim:  $a_{i_1} > a_{i_2} > \dots > a_{i_{k+1}}$

Suppose

$$a_{i_t} \leq a_{i_{t+1}} \leq a_{j_2} \leq a_{j_2} \leq \dots \leq a_{j_2}$$

↖  $\exists$  mono ~~is~~ increasing sequence of length  $l$ .

$\Rightarrow l(a_{i_t}) \geq l+1$  - contradiction



$n$  points  $\Rightarrow \exists \triangle$  of  
small area -  $O(\frac{1}{n})$ .