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A Note on Disjuncive Rado Numbers

Wojciech Kosek and Daniel Schaal

South Dakota State University
Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics
Box 2220, Harding Hall 128A
Brookings, SD 57007
Office Phone: (605) 688-6334 or 688-6202
Dept. Phone: (605) 688-6196
Fax: (605) 688-5880
E-mail: wojciech_kosek@sdstate.edu, daniel_schaal@sdstate.edu

For all integers m, n, such that $3 \leq m \leq n$, let $r(S(m), S(n))$ represent the least integer such that for every 2-coloring of the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, r(S(m), S(n))\}$ there exists a monochromatic solution to either

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} x_i = x_m, \text{ or } \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i = x_n.$$

The integer $r(S(m), S(n))$ is called the disjunctive Rado number for the above two equations. In this paper it is determined that

$$r(S(m), S(n)) = \begin{cases} m^2 - m - 1 & \text{for } m \leq n \leq m+1 \\ m^2 - 2m + 1 & \text{for } m+2 \leq n \leq m^2 - 2m + 2 \\ n - 1 & \text{for } m^2 - 2m + 3 \leq n \leq m^2 - m - 1 \\ m^2 - m - 1 & \text{for } n \geq m^2 - m \end{cases}.$$

Key Words: Rado numbers

1. INTRODUCTION

A function $\Delta : \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \to \{0, 1, \ldots, t-1\}$ is called a coloring of the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ with t colors. Given a coloring Δ and a system of equations in m variables, a monochromatic solution to the system is any solution $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_m)$, such that $\Delta(x_i) = const.$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$.

It was proved by I. Schur [10], in 1916, that for every coloring of the natural numbers with t colors there exists a monochromatic solution to $x_1 + x_2 = x_3$. For a given natural number t, the least integer $n = S(t)$, such that for every t-coloring of the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, there exists a monochromatic solution to this equation is called the t-color Schur number. The t-color Schur numbers are known only for a few small values of t [11].

In 1933, R. Rado, who was a student of Schur, determined necessary and suŒcient conditions to determine if an arbitrary system of linear equations admits a monochromatic solution for every coloring of the natural numbers with a ønite number of colors [7]. If L is a given system of linear equations, then the least integer $r(L)$, if it exists, such that for every coloring of the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, r(L)\}$ with t colors there exists a monochromatic solution to the system is called the t-color Rado number for the system. If such an integer does not exist, then the t-color Rado number for the system is inønite. Rado numbers are also referred to as generalized Schur numbers. Recently, the exact values of some simple one-equation Rado numbers have been found [3], [4], [5]. Two variations of the classical Rado numbers for a two-equation system have recently been introduced. The oœ-diagonal Rado numbers, which are similar to the classical oœ-diagonal Ramsey numbers [2], were introduced in [8] and are deøned below.

Definition 1.1. Let L_0 and L_1 be equations. The oœ-diagonal Rado number $n = r_{od}(L_0, L_1)$ is the least integer, if it exists, such that for every coloring of the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ there exists a solution to the eq. L_0 which is monochromatic in 0 or there exists a solution the eq. L_1 which is monochromatic in 1. If such an integer does not exist, then the oœ-diagonal Rado number is inønite.

In this paper we consider the equation:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} x_i = x_m, \qquad \text{(S(m))}$$

where $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_m \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 3$. In 1982, A. Beutelspacher and W. Brestovansky [1] proved that the 2-color Rado number for the eq. $S(m)$ is $m^2 - m - 1$. In [8] the system consisting of the two equations $S(m)$ and $S(n)$ was considered and it was determined that for all integers m, n such that $3 \leq m \leq n$,

$$r_{od}(S(m), S(n)) = \begin{cases} 3n - 4 & \text{if } m = 3 \text{ and } n \text{ is odd} \\ 3n - 5 & \text{if } m = 3 \text{ and } n \text{ is even} \\ mn - n - 1 & \text{if } 4 \leq m \leq n \end{cases}.$$

Another variation of the classical Rado numbers for a two-equation system of equations was introduced in [6].

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DEFINITION 1.2. Let L_0 and L_1 be equations. The disjunctive Rado number $n = r_d(L_0, L_1)$ is the least integer, if it exists, such that for every coloring of the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ there exists a monochromatic solution to the eq. L_0 or there exists a monochromatic solution to the eq. L_1. If such an integer does not exist, then the disjunctive Rado number is inønite.

The following is the main result of this paper.

THEOREM 1.1. Let $3 \leq m \leq n$ be integers. The disjunctive Rado number for the equations $S(m)$ and $S(n)$ is

$$r_d(S(m), S(n)) = \begin{cases} m^2 - m - 1 & \text{for } m \leq n \leq m+1 \\ m^2 - 2m + 1 & \text{for } m+2 \leq n \leq m^2 - 2m + 2 \\ n - 1 & \text{for } m^2 - 2m + 3 \leq n \leq m^2 - m - 1 \\ m^2 - m - 1 & \text{for } n \geq m^2 - m \end{cases}.$$

There are two obvious relationships between various Rado numbers for a given system of equations L_0 and L_1. It is clear that

$$r_d(L_0, L_1) \leq \min\{r(L_0), r(L_1)\}.$$

It follows immediately from Theorem 1.1 and [1], that

$$r_d(S(m), S(n)) = \min\{r(S(m)), r(S(n))\}$$

if and only if $n = m + 1$ or $n \geq m^2 - m$ (and of course trivially if $n = m$).

It is also clear that for any system consisting of the two equations L_0 and L_1,

$$r_d(L_0, L_1) \leq r_{od}(L_0, L_1).$$

Again, it follows from Theorem 1.1 and [8], that for all integers $3 \leq m < n$ we have

$$r_d(S(m), S(n)) < r_{od}(S(m), S(n)).$$

It would be interesting to ønd out under what conditions the disjunctive Rado numbers and the oœ-diagonal Rado numbers for a two-equation system are the same (and ønite). There certainly exist some simple systems like that, for example the system consisting of equations $x_1 + x_2 - 1 = x_3$ and $2x_1 + x_2 - 2 = x_3$, for which both the oœ-diagonal and the disjunctive Rado numbers are 1. What happens in the case of less trivial systems is still unknown.

2. PROOF

Without loss of generality we will assume throughout this paper that $\Delta(1) = 0$ for all colorings considered. We will also say that a 2-coloring $\Delta : \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \to \{0, 1\}$ is m-good if it avoids a monochromatic solution to the eq. $(S(m))$.

LEMMA 2.1. Every m-good coloring $\Delta : \left\{1, 2, \ldots, (m-1)^2\right\} \to \{0, 1\}$ satisøes the property:

$$\Delta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 1 \le x \le m-2 \text{ or } x = (m-1)^2 \\ 1 & \text{for } m-1 \le x \le m^2 - 3m + 3 \end{cases} . \tag{1}$$

Proof. Suppose Δ is a good coloring of $\left\{1, 2, \ldots, (m-1)^2\right\}$. Since

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = \cdots = x_{m-1} &= 1 \\ x_m &= m-1 \end{aligned}$$

is a solution to the eq. $(S(m))$, we have $\Delta(m-1) = 1$. Also, since

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = \cdots = x_{m-1} &= m-1 \\ x_m &= (m-1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

is a solution to the eq. $(S(m))$, we have $\Delta\left((m-1)^2\right) = 0$.

Suppose that $\Delta(m-2) = 1$. We would then have $\Delta(x) = 0$ for all $(m-1)(m-2) \le x \le (m-1)^2$ because

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = \cdots = x_k &= m-1 \\ x_{k+1} = \cdots = x_{m-1} &= m-2 \\ x_m &= (m-1)(m-2) + k \end{aligned}$$

is a solution to the eq. $(S(m))$, for every $k = 0, 1, \ldots, m-1$. But then

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = \cdots = x_{m-2} &= 1 \\ x_{m-1} &= (m-1)(m-2) + 1 \\ x_m &= (m-1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

would be a monochromatic solution to the eq. $(S(m))$, a contradiction. Hence $\Delta(m-2) = 0$.

We will show by induction that $\Delta(m-2-k) = 0$, for $k = 1, 2, \ldots, m-3$.

$\boldsymbol{k = 1}$: Since

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 1 \\ x_2 = \cdots = x_{m-1} &= m-2 \\ x_m &= m^2 - 4m + 5 \end{aligned}$$

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is a solution to the eq. $(S(m))$, we have $\Delta\left(m^2-4m+5\right)=1$. Suppose that $\Delta(m-3)=1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_1=\cdots=x_{m-2} &= m-3 \\ x_{m-1} &= m-1 \\ x_m &= m^2-4m+5 \end{aligned}$$

is a monochromatic solution to the eq. $(S(m))$, a contradiction.
Induction Step: Assume that $\Delta(m-2-i)=0$, for $i=0,2,\ldots,k$, $1\le k\le m-4$. It is easy to see that linear combinations of integers from the interval $[m-2-k,m-2]$ taken as a left hand side of the eq. $(S(m))$ cover all integers in the interval $I=[(m-1)(m-2-k),(m-1)(m-2)]$. It follows that $\Delta(x)=1$ for all $x\in I$.

Suppose now that $\Delta(m-3-k)=1$. Let $j\in\{0,1,\ldots,m-1\}$. Consider

$$\begin{aligned} x_1=\cdots=x_j &= m-1 \\ x_{j+1}=\cdots=x_{m-1} &= m-3-k \end{aligned}.$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} x_m^{(j)} &= \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} x_i = j(m-1)+(m-1-j)(m-3-k) \\ &= (m-1)(m-3-k)+j(k+2). \end{aligned}$$

Then $x_m^{(0)}<(m-1)(m-2-k)$ and $x_m^{(m-1)}>(m-1)(m-2)$. Also, $\Delta\left(x_m^{(j)}\right)=0$, for every $j\in\{0,1,\ldots,m-1\}$. Since the length of the interval I is greater than $k+2$, there exists a $j\in\{0,1,\ldots,m-1\}$, such that $x_m^{(j)}\in I$, a contradiction.

We have thus shown that $\Delta(x)=0$ for $1\le x\le m-2$ or $x=(m-1)^2$. As an immediate consequence of this we obtain that $\Delta(x)=1$ for $m-1\le x\le(m-1)(m-2)$.

Finally, since

$$\begin{aligned} x_1=\cdots=x_{m-2} &= 1 \\ x_{m-1} &= m^2-3m+3 \\ x_m &= (m-1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

is a solution to the eq. $(S(m))$, and $\Delta(x_1)=\cdots=\Delta(x_{m-2})=\Delta(x_m)=0$, we have $\Delta\left(m^2-3m+3\right)=1$. ▮

Remark 2.1. It is easy to verify that the property (1) characterizes all the m-good colorings of the interval $[1,(m-1)^2]$. In other words, one can color all the numbers in the interval $\left[m^2-3m+4,m^2-2m\right]$ in an arbitrary fashion and the coloring will be m-good, as long as the property (1) is satisøed.

The following is a straightforward generalization of Lemma 2.1:

PROPOSITION 2.1. For every $p = 0, 1, \ldots, m-3$, every m-good coloring $\Delta : \{1, 2, \ldots, m - 2m + 1 + p\} \to \{0, 1\}$ satisøes the property:

$$\Delta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 1 \le x \le m-2 \\ 1 & \text{for } m-1 \le x \le m^2 - 3m + 3 + p \\ 0 & \text{for } m^2 - 2m + 1 \le x \le m^2 - 2m + 1 + p \end{cases}. \tag{2}$$

Proof. Every m-good coloring Δ of the interval $[1, (m-1)^2 + p]$ is also an m-good coloring of $\{1, \ldots, (m-1)^2\}$. It follows from Lemma 2.1 that we only need to check that $\Delta(x) = 1$ for $m^2 - 3m + 3 < x \le m^2 - 3m + 3 + p$ and $\Delta(x) = 0$ for $(m-1)^2 < x \le (m-1)^2 + p$. For every $j = 0, 1, \ldots, p$ let us consider the following solution to the eq. $(S(m))$:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = \cdots = x_j &= m \\ x_{j+1} = \cdots = x_{m-1} &= m - 1 \\ x_m &= (m-1)^2 + j \end{aligned}.$$

Since $\Delta(x_1) = \cdots = \Delta(x_{m-1}) = 1$, we must have $\Delta\left((m-1)^2 + j\right) = 0$.

Next, for every $j = 0, 1, \ldots, p$ take

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = \cdots = x_{m-2} &= 1 \\ x_{m-1} &= m^2 - 3m + 3 + j \\ x_m &= (m-1)^2 + j \end{aligned}.$$

Again, since $\Delta(x_1) = \cdots = \Delta(x_{m-2}) = \Delta(x_m) = 0$, we have $\Delta(x_m) = 1$. ▮

Remark 2.2. The number of m-good colorings steadily decreases with increasing values of p, coming down to just one m-good coloring for $p = m - 3$. Since $(m-1)^2 + m - 2$ is the Rado number for the eq. $(S(m))$, for $p = m - 2$, there are no m-good colorings of $\{1, \ldots, (m-1)^2 + m - 2\}$.

Proof (of Theorem 1.1). For $n = m$ the result follows trivially from the fact that $r(S(m))$ is $m^2 - m - 1$ (as shown in [1]). For all values of n, the upper bound for $r_d(S(m), S(n))$ is also $m^2 - m - 1$.

For $n = m + 1$, the same coloring which avoids the monochromatic solution to the eq. $(S(m))$ also avoids the solution to the eq. $(S(m+1))$.

In fact, consider $\Delta : \{1, 2, \ldots, m^2 - m - 2\} \to \{0, 1\}$ deøned as

$$\Delta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 1 \le x \le m-2 \\ 1 & \text{for } m-1 \le x \le m^2-2m \\ 0 & \text{for } m-2m+1 \le x \le m^2-m-2 \end{cases}.$$

Suppose that $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{m+1}$ solve the equation $(S(m+1))$. Suppose that $\Delta(x_i) = 0$ for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$. If $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_m \le m-2$. Then $m \le x_{m+1} \le m(m-2) = m^2 - 2m$, and hence $\Delta(x_{m+1}) = 1$. If $x_i > (m-1)^2$ for some $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$, then $x_{m+1} > m - 1 + (m-1)^2 = m^2 - m$, a contradiction. Next, suppose $\Delta(x_i) = 1$ for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$. Then $x_m \ge m(m-1) \ge (m-1)^2$ and $\Delta(x_m) = 0$. Therefore, Δ is an $(m+1)$-good coloring.

Suppose now that $m + 2 \le n \le m^2 - 2m + 2$. For the upper bound let us suppose that Δ is a coloring of $\{1, 2, \ldots, m^2 - 2m + 1\}$ which is both m-good and n-good. By Lemma 2.1 the coloring Δ satisøes the property (1). In particular we have $\Delta(1) = \Delta(m-2) = 0$. It is easy to see that by looking at all possible choices of the numbers $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n-1}$ from the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, m-2\}$ one can be sure that $\Delta(x) = 1$ for all integers $x \in [n-1, (n-1)(m-2)]$. Since $n - 1 \le m^2 - 2m + 1$ and $(n-1)(m-2) \ge (m+2)(m-2) > m^2 - 2m + 1$, we have a contradiction with $\Delta(m^2 - 2m + 1) = 0$.

On the other hand, the coloring $\Delta : \{1, 2, \ldots, m^2 - 2m\} \to \{0, 1\}$ deøned by

$$\Delta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 1 \le x \le m-2 \\ 1 & \text{for } m-1 \le x \le m^2-2m \end{cases}$$

is obviously both m-good and n-good.

Next, suppose that $n = m^2 - 2m + 2 + p$, for some $p \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m-3\}$. Again, for the upper bound let us suppose that Δ is a coloring of $\{1, 2, \ldots, n-1\}$ which is both m-good and n-good. By Proposition 2.1 the coloring Δ satisøes the property (2). In particular, $\Delta(1) = \Delta(n-1) = 0$. By taking $x_1 = x_2 = \cdots = x_{n-1} = 1$, and $x_n = n-1$, we would have a monochromatic solution, a contradiction.

On the other hand, the coloring $\Delta : \{1, 2, \ldots, n-2\} \to \{0, 1\}$ deøned by

$$\Delta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 1 \le x \le m-2 \\ 1 & \text{for } m-1 \le x \le m^2-2m \\ 0 & \text{for } m-2m+1 \le x \le n-2 \end{cases}$$

is both m-good and n-good.

Finally, suppose that $n \ge m^2 - m$. In this case the disjunctive Rado number $r_d(S(m), S(n))$ is the same as the regular Rado number $r(S(m))$, simply because there are no solutions to the eq. $(S(n))$, monochromatic or not, with $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m^2 - m - 2\}$. ▮

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