

# Kochen-Specker Uncolorable Sets:

## An Algorithmic Approach to Proving Contradictions

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# Vector Spaces

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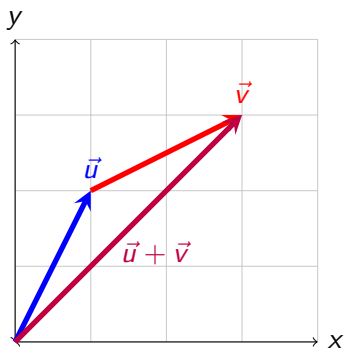


Figure 1: Vector addition

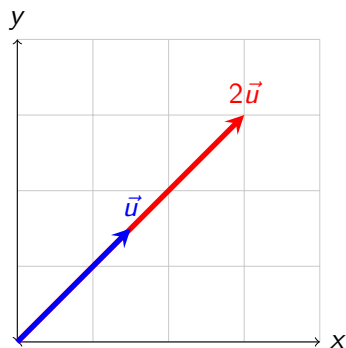


Figure 2: Scalar multiplication

# Orthogonality

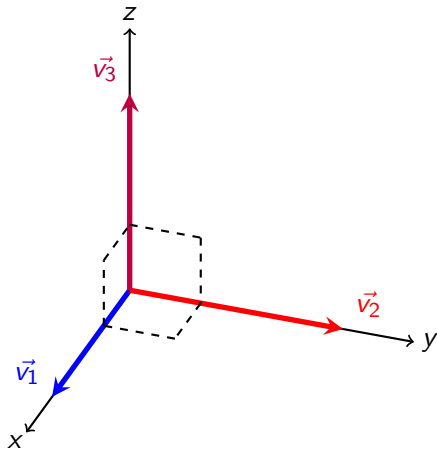
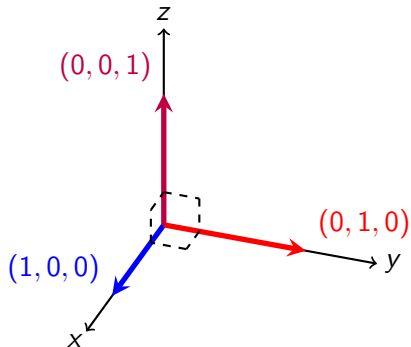
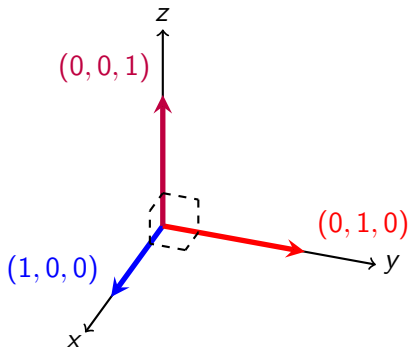


Figure 3:  $\vec{v}_1$ ,  $\vec{v}_2$ , and  $\vec{v}_3$  are pairwise orthogonal.

# Orthogonality



# Orthogonality



Computing the dot product of each pair of vectors above will always yield 0:

$$(1, 0, 0) \cdot (0, 1, 0) = (1 \cdot 0) + (0 \cdot 1) + (0 \cdot 0) = 0 + 0 + 0 = 0.$$

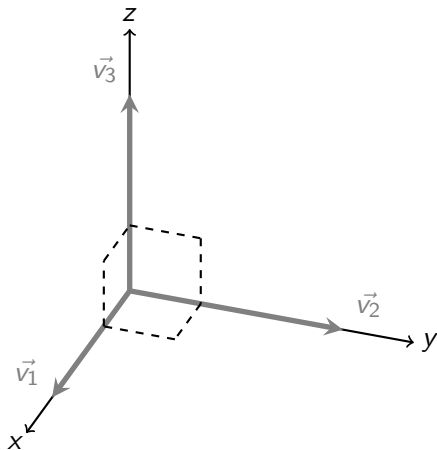
# Orthogonal Sets

## Definition

A set of vectors  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$  in a vector space  $V$  is called an **orthogonal set** if all pairs of distinct vectors in the set are orthogonal – that is, if

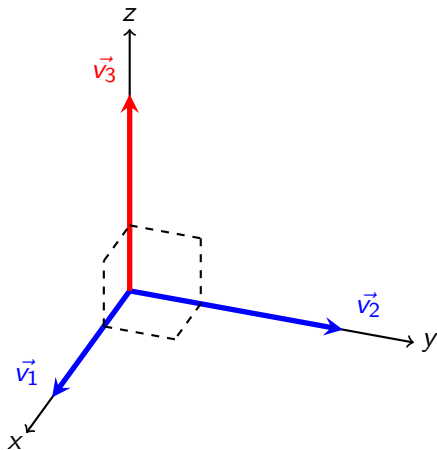
$$\vec{v}_i \cdot \vec{v}_j = 0 \quad \text{whenever} \quad i \neq j \text{ for } i, j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

# Coloring and Contextuality





# Coloring and Contextuality



# The Kochen-Specker (KS) Theorem

Kochen-Specker, 1967

There is a finite set  $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  such that there is no function  $f : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  satisfying

$$f(\vec{u}) + f(\vec{v}) + f(\vec{w}) = 1$$

for all triples  $(\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w})$  of mutually orthogonal vectors in  $\mathcal{S}$ .

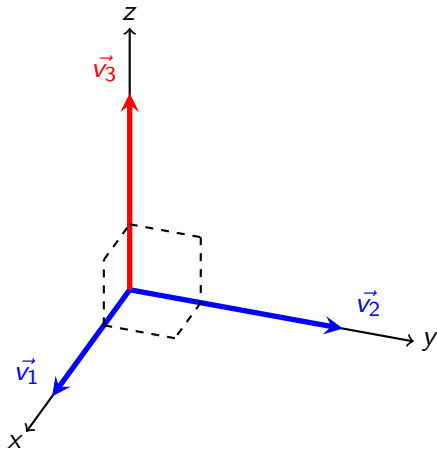
$$\mathbb{R}^3 := \{(x, y, z) : x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

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Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a set of vectors and consider the value function  
 $f : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ .

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$$f(\vec{v}_1) = 0 \quad f(\vec{v}_2) = 0 \quad f(\vec{v}_3) = 1$$

# The Kochen-Specker (KS) Theorem

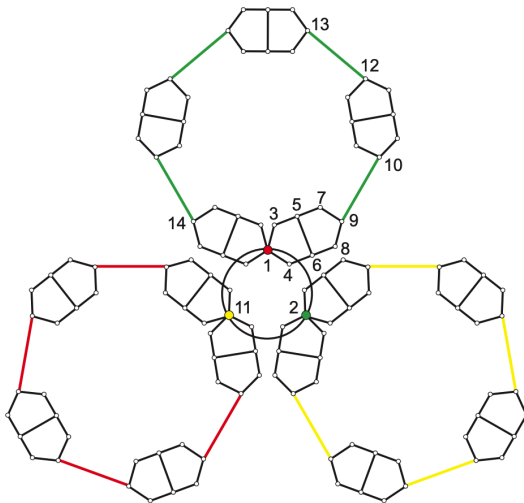


Figure 4: A graphical representation of the set of 117 vectors in the original proof of the KS Theorem (Budroni et al, 2022).





# Uncolorable Sets of Integer Vectors



# Uncolorable Sets of Integer Vectors

Let  $N$  be a positive squarefree integer. We define

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S}_n(N) &= \{\vec{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \|\vec{v}\|^2 \text{ is a unit in } \mathbb{Z}[1/N]\} \\ &= \{\vec{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \|\vec{v}\|^2 \text{ divides a power of } N\}.\end{aligned}$$

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## Question

For which positive squarefree integers  $N$  is the set of vectors  $\mathcal{S}(N) := \mathcal{S}_3(N)$  Kochen-Specker uncolorable?

# (Un)colorable Sets of Integer Vectors

Let  $M$  be an integer such that  $M$  divides a squarefree integer  $N$ . It follows that  $\mathcal{S}(M) \subseteq \mathcal{S}(N)$ . Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S}(N) \text{ colorable} &\implies \mathcal{S}(M) \text{ colorable,} \\ \mathcal{S}(M) \text{ uncolorable} &\implies \mathcal{S}(N) \text{ uncolorable.}\end{aligned}$$

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Ben-Zvi et al., 2017

If  $\mathcal{S}(N)$  is KS uncolorable, then 6 divides  $N$ .

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Ben-Zvi et al., 2017

If  $\mathcal{S}(N)$  is KS uncolorable, then 6 divides  $N$ .

Bub, 1996

If 30 divides  $N$ , then the set  $\mathcal{S}(N)$  is KS uncolorable.

# Diophantine Equations

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Let  $N$  be a positive squarefree integer.

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = N \rightarrow (x, y, z)^T \in \mathcal{S}(N)$$

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$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = N \rightarrow (x, y, z)^T \in \mathcal{S}(N)$$

```
from sympy import diophantine
from sympy.abc import i, j, k
vec_sol = diophantine(i**2 + j**2 + k**2 - n, permute
= True)
```



# Primitive and Well-Signed Vectors

## Definition

An integer vector is *primitive* if its entries have a greatest common divisor equal to 1.

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A vector  $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  is *well-signed* if either:

- $\vec{v}$  has only one nonzero entry which is positive,
- $\vec{v}$  has two nonzero entries and its first nonzero entry is positive, or
- $\vec{v}$  has three nonzero entries, at least two of which are positive.

# Coloring the Vectors

Let  $N$  be a positive squarefree integer.

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`color_dict = {(1, 0, 0): 1, (0, 0, 1): 0,  
              (0, 1, 0): 0}`

# Coloring the Vectors

Let  $N$  be a positive squarefree integer.

$\text{color\_dict} = \{(1, 0, 0): 1, (0, 0, 1): 0,$   
 $(0, 1, 0): 0\}$

If  $N \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , then

$\text{color\_dict}[(1, 0, -1)] = 1$

$\text{color\_dict}[(1, 0, 1)] = 0$

$\text{color\_dict}[(1, 1, 0)] = 0$

$\text{color\_dict}[(1, -1, 0)] = 1$

$\text{color\_dict}[(0, 1, 1)] = 0$

$\text{color\_dict}[(0, 1, -1)] = 0.$

## Coloring the Vectors

Let  $n = N$  be a positive squarefree integer and recall that

```
vec_sol = diophantine(i**2 + j**2 + k**2 - n, permute  
= True).
```

# Coloring the Vectors

Let  $n = N$  be a positive squarefree integer and recall that  
`vec_sol = diophantine(i**2 + j**2 + k**2 - n, permute  
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Let  $\vec{v}_1$  be a primitive, well-signed vector in `vec_sol` and  $\vec{v}_2$  be a vector in `color_dict`.

# Coloring the Vectors

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= True)`.

Let  $\vec{v}_1$  be a primitive, well-signed vector in `vec_sol` and  $\vec{v}_2$  be a vector in `color_dict`.

If  $\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2 = 0$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  was assigned the value 1, then  $\vec{v}_1$  must be assigned the value 0.



## Coloring the Vectors

Let  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  be vectors in `color_dict`, which was updated in the previous slide.

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Let  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  be vectors in `color_dict`, which was updated in the previous slide.

If  $\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2 = 0$  and both  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  were assigned the value 0, then we take the cross product of  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$ .

## Coloring the Vectors

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Let  $\vec{v}_{\text{cross}}$  be the normalized cross product of  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$ , which must be assigned the value 1.

# Preliminary Results

```
Kochen_Specker_Colorability - Vector_Coloring.py
19 def color_assignment(N):
20     """Return True if all vectors (constructed) from primitive_well_signed_solutions(N) has been designated
21     either a 1 or 0 and False if we identify a contradiction.
22     """
23     # white = 1 and black = 0
24     color_dict = {(1, 0, 0): 1, (0, 0, 1): 0, (0, 1, 0): 0} # Q_{1} is a subset of S_{n} (N) for all n and
25     if N % 2 == 0:
26         color_dict[(1, 0, -1)] = 1 # Now, we add vectors from Q_{2} that form an orthogonal set with (0,
27         color_dict[(1, 0, 1)] = 0
28         color_dict[(1, 1, 0)] = 0 # Add vectors from Q_{2} that form an orthogonal set with (0, 0, 1) in
29         color_dict[(1, -1, 0)] = 1
30         color_dict[(0, 1, 1)] = 0 # Finally, add vectors from Q_{2} that form an orthogonal set with (1
31         color_dict[(0, 1, -1)] = 0
32
33     # vec_set = primitive_well_signed_solutions(N)
34     vec_set = vectors_to_color(N)

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL
In [3]: run Vector_Coloring.py

In [4]: color_assignment(10)
A contradiction has been identified from coloring (2, 1, 0), the cross product of (0, 0, 1) and (1, -2, 0).
We colored the other vectors as follows: {(1, 0, 0): 1, (0, 0, 1): 0, (0, 1, 0): 0, (1, 0, -1): 1, (1, 0, 1): 0, (1, 1, 0): 0, (1, -1, 0): 1, (0, 1, 1): 0, (0, 1, -1): 0, (0, 1, 1): 0, (0, 1, -3): 0, (0, 1, 3): 0, (0, 2, -1): 0, (0, 2, 1): 0, (1, 1, -1): 0, (0, 1, 2): 0, (1, 1, 2): 0, (0, 1, -2): 0, (0, 3, -1): 0, (0, 3, 1): 0, (1, 1, 3): 0, (1, 1, -3): 0, (-1, 1, 0): 1, (-1, 1, 0): 1, (-1, 2, 1): 1, (1, -1, -2): 1, (2, 1, -1): 1, (2, -1, -1): 1, (-3, 1, 2): 1, (-2, -1, 1): 1, (-5, -2, 1): 1, (-5, -2, 1): 1, (-5, 1, -2): 1, (1, -2, -1): 1, (2, -1, 1): 1, (5, 2, -1): 1, (-5, 2, 1): 1, (-5, -2, 1): 1, (5, -1, 2): 1, (-2, 1, 1): 1, (1, 5, -2): 0, (2, 1, 0): 0, (2, 5, -1): 0, (2, 5, 1): 0, (5, 2, 1): 0, (-2, 5, 1): 0, (1, 0, -2): 0, (5, 1, 2): 0, (2, 0, 1): 0, (2, 1, 5): 0, (1, -2, 0): 0, (-2, 1, 5): 0, (1, 2, 0): 0, (1, -2, 5): 0, (2, -1, 5): 0, (1, 0, 2): 0, (-1, 2, 0): 1}
Out[4]: False

In [5]: color_assignment(162)
A contradiction has been identified from coloring (-3, 2, 8), the cross product of (2, -5, 2) and (4, 2, 1).
We colored the other vectors as follows: {(1, 0, 0): 1, (0, 0, 1): 0, (0, 1, 0): 0, (1, 0, -1): 1, (1, 0, 1): 0, (1, 1, 0): 0, (1, -1, 0): 1, (0, 1, 1): 0, (0, 1, -1): 0, (3, 3, 2): 0, (5, 5, -4): 0, (4, 1, 4): 0, (4, 4, -1): 0, (1, 2, 1): 0, (3, 2, 3): 0, (1, 3, 1): 0, (5, 4, 5): 0, (3, -2, 3): 0, (3, 3, -2): 0, (1, 1, 0): 0, (1, 1, 1): 0, (4, 4, 1): 0, (1, 1, 3): 0, (5, -4, 5): 0, (1, -3, 1): 0, (1, 1, -1): 0, (1, 1, -2): 0, (1, -1, 1): 0, (2, 2, 5): 0, (1, -2, 1): 0, (2, -5, 2): 0, (1, 1, 2): 0, (1, 1, -3): 0, (2, 2, -5): 0, (4, -1, 4): 0, (1, 1, -8): 0, (1, -8, 1): 0, (5, 5, 4): 0, (1, 0, 1): 0, (2, 5, 2): 0, (-1, 0, 0): 1, (-1, 1, 0): 1, (-1, 0, 1): 1, (-1, 2, 1): 1, (1, -1, -2): 1, (-2, 1, -1): 1, (2, 1, -1): 1, (2, -1, -1): 1, (-7, 4, -1): 1, (-2, 1, 1): 1, (-7, -1, 4): 1, (1, -2, -1): 1, (2, -1, 1): 1, (-1, 1, 2): 1, (-2, -1, 1): 1, (-7, 1, -4): 1, (-7, -4, 1): 1, (2, 1, -3): 0, (-1, 3, 1): 0, (4, 1, 5): 0, (6, -4, 5): 0, (3, 8, -2): 0, (4, 1, 2): 0, (2, 4, -1): 0, (-1, 2, 4): 0, (5, 4, 6): 0, (4, 7, 1): 0, (4, -7, 1): 0, (5, 4, -6): 0, (-3, 2, 8): 0, (4, 7, -1): 0, (-2, 17, 13): 0, (2, 3, 1): 0, (2, 8, -3): 0, (7, 4, -1): 0, (10, 1, 19): 0, (3, 2, -1): 0, (5, -4, 6): 0, (8, 3, 2): 0, (2, 3, -1): 0, (8, 2, 3): 0, (4, 2, 1): 0, (1, -2, 4): 0, (19, 10, -1): 0, (-2, 13, 17): 0, (17, 13, 2): 0, (1, 10, -19): 0, (5, 6, 4): 0, (1, 2, 4): 0, (3, -1, 2): 0, (2, 17, 13): 0, (1, 2, -3): 0, (19, -1, 10): 0, (3, 2, 8): 0, (-2, -13, 17): 0, (10, 19, 1): 0, (10, -19, 1): 0, (-1, -1, 3): 0, (-1, 4, 2): 0, (2, -1, 3): 0, (13, -2, 17): 0, (10, 1, -19): 0, (5, -6, 4): 0, (5, -6, 4): 0, (-1, 7): 0, (10, 19, 1): 0, (5, 6, -4): 0, (6, 5, -4): 0, (2, 13, 17): 0, (2, 17, -13): 0, (4, -6, 5): 0, (2, -3, 8): 0, (-1, 1, 3): 0, (3, -3, 2): 0, (1, 4, -2): 0, (10, -1, 1): 0, (2, -3, 1): 0, (3, 8, 2): 0, (1, -19, 10): 0, (2, 1, 3): 0, (4, 5, -6): 0, (1, 4, -7): 0, (2, -1, 4): 0, (1, 4, 2): 0, (13, 17, -2): 0, (3, 1, 1): 0, (1, -7, 4): 0, (4, 1, 7): 0, (7, -1, 4): 0, (1, 3, -1): 0, (-3, 8, 2): 0, (17, 2, 13): 0, (-3, -2, 3): 1, (-3, 2, 3): 1, (3, -3, -2): 1, (3, -3, 2): 1, (2, -3, -3): 1, (-2, 4, 1): 1, (-6, 4, 5): 1, (6, -5, 4): 1, (5, -6, -4): 1, (-4, 5, -1): 1, (-5, 4, 1): 1, (-5, 4, 1): 1, (4, 1, -5): 1, (6, -5, -4): 1, (2, -1, -4): 1, (1, -5, -4): 1, (4, -5, -1): 1, (7, 1, 4): 1, (-4, 1, 5): 1, (-1, 4, 5): 1, (-8, 3, 2): 1, (-7, -4, -1): 1, (-4, -2, -1): 1}
Out[5]: False

In [6]:
```

# Preliminary Results

```
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33     # vec_set = primitive_well_signed_solutions(N)
34     vec_set = vectors_to_color(N)
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL

Out[5]: False

In [6]: color\_assignment(6)

The vectors we have left to color are:  
{(2, 1, 1), (1, -1, 2), (1, 2, -1), (-1, 1, 1)}

Let's assume (2, 1, 1) is colored 0.  
The vectors we have left to color are:  
set()

Every element in our original finite set of vectors has been colored.

Out[6]: False

In [7]: color\_assignment(\*\*\*)

The vectors we have left to color are:  
{(-2, 1, 2), (1, 4, -1), (2, 1, 1), (-1, 4, 1), (1, -1, 2), (1, -2, 2), (-1, 1, 1), (4, 1, -1), (-2, 2, 1), (4, -1, 1), (-1, 1, 4), (1, -1, 4), (1, 2, 2), (-4, 1, 1), (1, 2, -1), (2, -2, 1), (1, 2, -2), (2, 1, -2)}

Let's assume (-2, 1, 2) is colored 0.  
The vectors we have left to color are:  
{(-1, 4, 1), (2, 1, 1), (1, -1, 2), (-1, 1, 1), (-2, 2, 1), (4, -1, 1), (-1, 1, 4), (1, -1, 4), (1, 2, 2), (-4, 1, 1), (1, 2, -1), (2, -2, 1), (1, 2, -2), (2, 1, -2)}

Let's assume (-1, 4, 1) is colored 0.  
The vectors we have left to color are:  
{(2, 1, 1), (1, -1, 2), (-1, 1, 1), (-2, 2, 1), (4, -1, 1), (1, -1, 4), (1, 2, -1), (1, 2, -2)}

Let's assume (2, 1, 1) is colored 0.  
The vectors we have left to color are:  
{(-2, 2, 1), (4, -1, 1), (1, 2, -2), (1, -1, 4)}

Let's assume (-2, 2, 1) is colored 0.  
The vectors we have left to color are:  
set()

Every element in our original finite set of vectors has been colored.

Out[7]: False

In [8]:

# Preliminary Results

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PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL
bash + v [ ] ... ^ x

The vectors we have left to color are:
{(-1, 4, 1), (2, 1, 1), (1, -1, 2), (-1, 1, 1), (-2, 2, 1), (4, -1, 1), (-1, 1, 4), (1, -1, 4), (1, 2, 2), (-4, 1, 1), (1, 2, -1), (2, -2, 1), (1, 2, -2), (2, 1, -2)}
Let's assume (-1, 4, 1) is colored 0.
The vectors we have left to color are:
{(2, 1, 1), (1, -1, 2), (-1, 1, 1), (-2, 2, 1), (4, -1, 1), (1, -1, 4), (1, 2, -1), (1, 2, -2)}
Let's assume (2, 1, 1) is colored 0.
The vectors we have left to color are:
{(-2, 2, 1), (4, -1, 1), (1, 2, -2), (1, -1, 4)}
Let's assume (-2, 2, 1) is colored 0.
The vectors we have left to color are:
set()
Every element in our original finite set of vectors has been colored.
Out[7]: False

In [8]: color_assignment(644)
The vectors we have left to color are:
{(-2, 5, 5), (-1, 7, 2), (1, 5, -1), (-5, 5, 2), (2, 5, -5), (-1, 1, 1), (5, -5, 2), (1, 7, -2), (-1, 1, 4), (5, 2, -5), (1, 2, -7), (1, -1, 4), (2, 7, -1), (1, 2, 2), (1, -2, 7),
(-7, 2, 1), (2, 7, 1), (1, -7, 2), (-5, 1, 1), (2, -2, 1), (-7, 1, 2), (2, -1, 2), (-1, 5, 1), (2, -5, 5), (2, 1, -7), (2, -7, 1), (1, 2, -2), (1, 2, -1), (1, 2, 7),
(-5, 2, 5), (1, 4, -1), (4, 1, -1), (-2, 2, 1), (5, 1, -1), (5, 1, 1), (-3, 2, 7), (2, 1, -2), (1, 7, 2), (-2, 1, 2), (2, 1, 1), (2, 1, 7), (-1, 4, 1), (1, -1, 2), (1, -2, 2),
(2, 5, 5), (-1, 1, 5), (1, -1, 5), (4, -1, 1), (-4, 1, 1), (-2, 1, 1), (-1, 1, 1), (7, 2, -1), (7, 1, 2), (7, 2, 1)}
Let's assume (-2, 5, 5) is colored 0.
A contradiction has been identified from taking the dot product of (2, -2, 1) and (-2, -1, 2).
We colored the other vectors as follows: (1, 0, 0): 1, (0, 0, 1): 0, (0, 1, 0): 0, (1, 0, -1): 1, (1, 0, 1): 0, (1, -1, 0): 1, (0, 1, 1): 0, (0, 1, -1): 0, (1, 5,
1): 0, (0, -1, 1): 0, (0, -2, 1): 0, (1, -5, 1): 0, (5, 5, 2): 0, (5, -2, 5): 0, (1, 1, 2): 0, (5, 5, -2): 0, (1, 1, -5): 0, (1, 1, 4): 0, (1, 1, 1): 0, (1, -4, 1)
: 0, (1, 1, -2): 0, (2, 1, 2): 0, (2, 2, 1): 0, (1, 4, 1): 0, (1, 2, 1): 0, (1, 1, -4): 0, (1, 1, 5): 0, (5, 2, 5): 0, (2, -1, 2): 0, (1, 1, -1): 0, (-1, 0, 0): 1, (-1, 0, 1)
: 1, (-1, 2, 1): 1, (-1, 2, 1): 1, (1, -1, -2): 1, (2, 1, -1): 1, (-2, 1, -1): 1, (2, -1, -1): 1, (-1, 1, 2): 1, (-2, -1, 1): 1, (1, -2, -2): 1, (-7, -1, 2): 1, (7, -2, 1): 1, (7, 1,
-2): 1, (-2, 1, 1): 1, (-7, 2, -1): 1, (-1, 2, 2): 1, (1, -2, -1): 1, (2, -1, 1): 1, (4, 1, 1): 0, (-2, 1, 7): 1, (2, -7, -1): 1, (2, -1, -7): 1, (-2, 7, 1): 1, (-2, 5, 5): 0, (
5, 1, 1): 1, (-5, -1, -1): 1, (-1, 1, 4): 0, (1, -7, 2): 0, (1, 2, -7): 0, (-1, 4, 1): 0, (-2, -1, 2): 1, (2, -2, -1): 1, (-2, 2, -1): 1, (2, 1, -2): 1}
Out[8]: False

In [9]:
```

# References

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