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On sets of cardinality 2 of nondecreasing diameter.

Our problem comes from Ramsey theory. For positive integers m, r , and t , we say that a coloring of n integers, $[n]$, with r colors is (m, r, t) -*permissible* if there exist t monochromatic subsets B_1, B_2, \dots, B_t such that

- (a) $|B_1| = |B_2| = \dots = |B_t| = m$,
- (b) $\max(B_i) < \min(B_{i+1})$ for $1 \leq i \leq t - 1$, and
- (c) $\max(B_{i+1}) - \min(B_{i+1}) \geq \max(B_i) - \min(B_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq t - 1$;
that is, the diameters of the subsets are nondecreasing.

Let $f(m, r, t)$ be the smallest integer n such that any coloring of $[n]$ is (m, r, t) -permissible. In this presentation, we fix $m = r = 2$ and show that $5t - 5 < f(2, 2, t) \leq 5t - 2$. We conjecture that $f(2, 2, t) = 5t - 4$ and prove the conjecture in certain cases. We conclude by investigating colorings with more than two colors. (Received September 15, 2016)