

## Regular Pentagon Cover for Isoperimetric Rectangles

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### Abstract

A region containing a congruent copy of every arc in a family is called a cover for the family. For the family of all rectangles of perimeter four, we present the smallest regular pentagon cover for the family.

**Keywords:** Cover, Rectangle, Pentagon

### 1. Introduction and Preliminaries

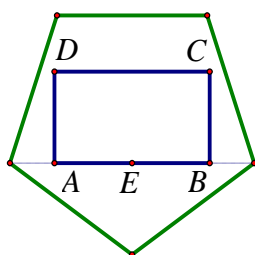
For a family of arcs, a cover for the family is a region containing a congruent copy of every arc in the family. For the family of all triangles of perimeter two, (1) Wetzel [10,11] gave the smallest rectangular cover for the family and the smallest equilateral triangular cover for the family, (2) Füredi and Wetzel [1] gave the smallest convex cover for the family, (3) Zhang and Yuan [12] gave the smallest regularized parallelogram (whose length of the smaller diagonal is not less than one) cover for the family, and (4) Sroysang [5-7] gave the smallest regularized trapezoid (whose length of the smaller diagonal is not less than one, and two smaller angles are opposite) cover for the family and the smallest regular pentagon cover for the family. For related papers, we refer to [2-4,8-9].

For a convex set  $X$  in the plane, we let  $\omega_X(\theta)$  be the distance between the two parallel support lines of  $X$  with angle of inclination  $\theta$  where  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ . For a convex set  $X$  in the plane, the minimum of  $\omega_X(\theta)$  is called the *thickness* of  $X$ , and the maximum of  $\omega_X(\theta)$  is called the *diameter* of  $X$ . We note that (1) the thickness of any rectangle of perimeter four is at most one, (2) the diameter of any rectangle of perimeter four is at most two, and (3) the diameter of any regular pentagon cover for the family of all rectangles of perimeter four is at least two since the cover contains a congruent copy of the line segment of length two.

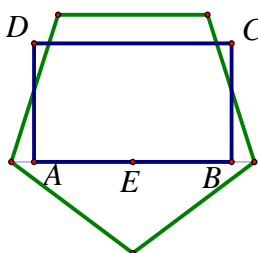
## 2. Results

**Theorem** *The smallest regular pentagon cover for the family of all rectangles of perimeter four is the regular pentagon of diameter one.*

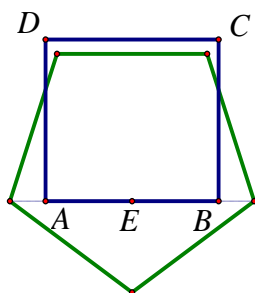
**Proof.** Let  $P$  be the regular pentagon of diameter one and let  $R$  be a rectangle of perimeter four. Now, we denote the vertices of the rectangle  $T$  by  $A, B, C$  and  $D$  into anticlockwise positions, where  $|AB| \geq |CD|$ . Let  $E$  be the midpoint of the segment  $AB$ . WLOG, we can put the rectangle  $R$  into the pentagon  $P$  where the segment  $AB$  lies on a diagonal of the regular pentagon  $P$  and the point  $E$  is the midpoint of the diagonal as shown in Fig. 1 or Fig. 2 or Fig. 3. Now, the vertex  $D$  may be in the pentagon  $P$  or not in the pentagon  $P$ . Since the thickness of any rectangle of perimeter four is at most one, we obtain that the distance between the vertex  $D$  and the segment  $AB$  is at most one. This implies that Fig. 3 is impossible. Now, we only consider Fig. 1 or Fig. 2.



**Fig. 1.** A rectangle  $R$  in the regular pentagon  $P$  where the vertex  $D$  is in  $P$

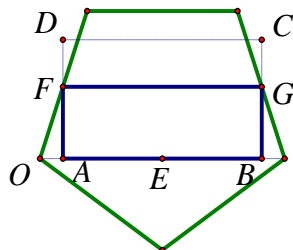


**Fig. 2.** A rectangle  $R$  in the regular pentagon  $P$  where the vertex  $D$  is not in  $P$



**Fig. 3.** A rectangle  $R$  in the regular pentagon  $P$  where the vertex  $D$  is not in  $P$

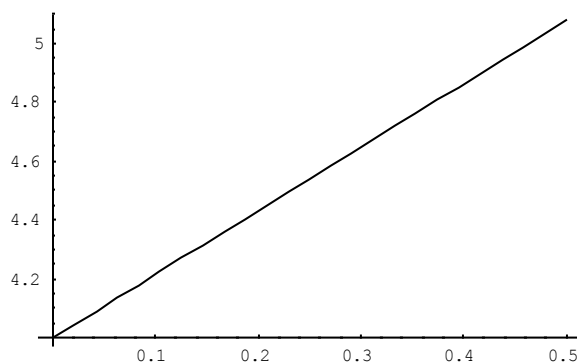
Suppose for a contradiction that the vertex  $D$  is not in the regular pentagon  $P$  as shown in Fig. 2. Let  $F$  be the intersection of the segment  $AD$  and the pentagon  $P$ , and let  $G$  be the intersection of the segment  $BC$  and the pentagon  $P$  as shown in Fig. 4.



**Fig. 4.** A rectangle  $FABG$  in the rectangle  $R$  and the regular pentagon  $P$

Let  $x$  be the length of the segment  $OA$ . Then  $0 \leq x \leq 0.5$  and the length of the segment  $AE$  is  $1 - x$ . We note that the angle  $FOA$  is  $72^\circ$ . Then the length of the segment  $AF$  is  $x\sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{5}}$ .

Define  $L(x) = 4(1 - x) + 2x\sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{5}}$ . Then  $L(x)$  is the total length of the perimeter of the rectangle  $FABG$ . By the calculation on  $L(x)$ , we obtain that  $L(x) \geq L(0) = 4$  as shown in Fig. 5.



**Fig. 5.** The graph of  $L(x)$  where  $0 \leq x \leq 0.5$

Since the total length of the perimeter of the rectangle  $ABCD$  is greater than the total length of the perimeter of the rectangle  $FABG$ , it follows that the total length of the perimeter of the rectangle  $R$  is greater than four. This is a contradiction. We obtain that the regular pentagon  $P$  is a cover for the family of all rectangles of perimeter four.

Next, we note that every cover for the family of all rectangles of perimeter four must cover the line segment of length two. Hence, the diagonal of any regular pentagon cover for the family of all rectangles of perimeter four must have length at least two. The diagonal of the regular pentagon  $P$  has length two. Hence, the regular pentagon  $P$  is a smallest cover for the family of all rectangles of perimeter four.

**Remark.** For the family of all rectangles of perimeter four, the area of the smallest regular pentagon cover for the family is  $\frac{\sqrt{50-10\sqrt{5}}}{8}$ .

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