

**Directions:** Solve 5 of the following 6 problems. All written work must be your own, using only permitted sources. See the “General Guidelines and Advice” on the homework page for more details.

1. [IGT 5.1.20] Let  $G$  be a graph whose odd cycles are pairwise intersecting, meaning that every two odd cycles in  $G$  have a common vertex. Prove that  $\chi(G) \leq 5$ .
2. [IGT 5.1.31] Prove that a graph  $G$  is  $m$ -colorable if and only if  $\alpha(G \square K_m) \geq |V(G)|$ .
3. [IGT 5.1.{41,42}] *Looseness of*  $\chi(G) \geq |V(G)|/\alpha(G)$ . Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex graph.
  - (a) Prove that  $\chi(G) + \chi(\overline{G}) \leq n + 1$ . Hint: use induction on  $n$ .
  - (b) Let  $c = (n + 1)/\alpha(G)$ . Prove that  $\chi(G) \cdot \chi(\overline{G}) \leq (n + 1)^2/4$ , and use this to prove that  $\chi(G) \leq c(n + 1)/4$ .
  - (c) For each odd  $n$ , construct a graph such that  $\chi(G) = c(n + 1)/4$ .
4. [IGT 5.1.51] Let  $G$  be a  $k$ -colorable graph, and let  $P$  be a set of vertices in  $G$  such that  $\text{dist}(x, y) \geq 4$  whenever  $x, y \in P$ . Prove that every coloring of  $P$  with colors from  $[k + 1]$  extends to a proper  $(k + 1)$ -coloring of  $G$ .
5. [IGT 5.2.11] Prove that if  $G$  has no induced  $2K_2$ , then  $\chi(G) \leq \binom{\omega(G)+1}{2}$ . (Hint: use a maximum clique to define a collection of  $\binom{\omega(G)}{2} + \omega(G)$  independent sets that cover the vertices.)
6. [IGT 5.2.13] Let  $G$  be a  $k$ -chromatic graph with girth 6 and order  $n$ . Construct  $G'$  as follows. Let  $T$  be an independent set of  $kn$  vertices. Take  $\binom{kn}{n}$  pairwise disjoint copies of  $G$ , one for each way to choose an  $n$ -set  $S \subset T$ . Add a matching between each copy of  $G$  and its corresponding  $n$ -set  $S$ . Prove that the resulting graph has chromatic number  $k + 1$  and girth 6. (Comment: Since  $C_6$  has chromatic number 2 and girth 6, the process can start and these graphs exist.)