

**Directions:** Solve 5 of the following 6 problems. See the course syllabus and the Homework Webpage on the course website for general directions and guidelines.

1. A *chord* of a cycle  $C$  is an edge  $e \in E(G) - E(C)$  that has both endpoints on  $C$ .
  - (a) Show that if  $\delta(G) \geq 3$ , then  $G$  has a cycle with a chord.
  - (b) Prove that for  $n \geq 4$ , if  $G$  has at least  $2n - 3$  edges, then  $G$  has a cycle with a chord.
2. Prove that an  $n$ -vertex graph with  $m$  edges has at least  $\frac{m}{3n}(4m - n^2)$  triangles. (Hint: adapt a proof from class.)
3. Recall that a *decomposition* of a graph  $G$  is a list of subgraphs  $H_1, \dots, H_t$  such that each edge in  $G$  appears in exactly one of  $\{H_1, \dots, H_t\}$ ; the *size* of the decomposition  $H_1, \dots, H_t$  is  $t$ .
  - (a) Prove that each graph  $G$  has a matching of size at least  $\delta(G)/2$ .
  - (b) Use part (a) to show that each  $n$ -vertex graph has a decomposition into triangles and edges of size at most  $n^2/4$ . (Hint: first handle edges incident to a vertex  $u$  of minimum degree, and then apply induction to an appropriate subgraph of  $G - u$ .)
4. For a vertex  $v$  in an  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$ , let  $f(v) = \alpha(G[N(v)])$ ; that is,  $f(v)$  is the maximum size of an independent set in the neighbors of  $v$ . Prove that  $\sum_{v \in V(G)} f(v) \leq \lfloor n^2/2 \rfloor$  and determine which graphs achieve equality.
5. Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex graph and let  $S$  be the set of nonnegative vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that sum to 1. Given an  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$ , define  $f(x) = \sum_{uv \in E(G)} x_u x_v$ , and let  $M = \max_{x \in S} f(x)$ .
  - (a) Prove that  $M = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \frac{1}{r})$ , where  $r = \omega(G)$ . (Recall that  $\omega(G)$  is the maximum size of a clique in  $G$ .) (Hint: if  $uv \notin E(G)$ , then show that  $f(x') \geq f(x)$  for some  $x'$  with  $x_u x_v = 0$ .)
  - (b) Show that  $|E(G)| \leq \frac{n^2}{2}(1 - \frac{1}{r})$ .

Comment: it is also possible to derive the structure of extremal examples from this proof with some additional work. Start by showing that  $M$  is attained by an  $x \in S$  with all positive coordinates if and only if  $G$  is a complete  $r$ -partite graph.

6. Let  $G$  be a connected graph such that  $d(u) + d(v) \geq k$  whenever  $uv \notin E(G)$ . Prove that  $G$  is Hamiltonian or has a copy of  $P_{k+1}$ .