

**Directions:** Solve 4 of the following 5 problems. See the course syllabus and the Homework Webpage on the course website for general directions and guidelines.

1. Let  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  be a Steiner Triple System with  $|X| = 7$ .
  - (a) Prove that if  $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $|A \cap B| = 1$ .
  - (b) Prove that, up to relabeling the points in  $X$ , there is only one Steiner Triple System of order 7.
2. Prove that for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $n$  such that in each  $k$ -coloring of the non-empty subsets of  $[n]$  has disjoint sets  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $A \cup B$  have the same color. (Hint: show that  $n \leq R_k(3; 2)$ , where  $R_k(3, 3, \dots, 3)$  is the minimum number of vertices in a complete graph in which every  $k$ -coloring contains a monochromatic triangle.)
3. Let  $S$  be a set of  $R(m, m; 3)$  points in the plane no three of which are collinear. Prove that  $S$  contains  $m$  points that form a convex  $m$ -gon.
4. The graph  $mK_2$  is the graph on  $2m$  vertices consisting of  $m$  disjoint copies of  $K_2$ . Prove that  $R(mK_2, mK_2) = 3m - 1$ .
5. A function  $f: [n] \rightarrow [n]$  is **contractive** if  $f(i) \leq i$  for all  $i$ . A **monotone  $k$ -list** for  $f$  is a strictly increasing list  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  from  $[n]$  such that  $f(a_1) \leq \dots \leq f(a_k)$ . Prove that  $2^{k-1}$  is the least  $n$  such that for every contractive mapping on  $[n]$  there is a monotone  $k$ -list. (Note: there are 2 things to prove. First, you must provide an example of a contractive function  $f: [n] \rightarrow [n]$  for  $n = 2^{k-1} - 1$  that has no monotone  $k$ -list. Next, you must show that every contractive function  $f: [n] \rightarrow [n]$  with  $n \geq 2^{k-1}$  has a monotone  $k$ -list.) (Hint: For how many  $a$  in  $[n]$  can the longest monotone list ending with  $a$  have  $j$  elements?)