

1. Show that for every prime  $p$  and  $q = p^k$  there exists a projective plane of order  $q$ .  
**Hint:** consider  $\mathbb{F}_q^3$  and its 1-dimensional and 2-dimensional subspaces.
2. Let  $1 \leq k \leq n/2$  and let  $\mathcal{F} = \{F_1, \dots, F_m\} \subset 2^{[n]}$  be a Sperner family on  $[n]$  all of whose members have size at most  $k$ . Show that  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq \binom{n}{k}$ .
3. Prove the following extension of the LYM inequality. Let  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  be a set system not containing  $s + 1$  nested sets:  $F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \dots \subset F_{s+1}$ , and write  $f_k$  to denote the size of  $\mathcal{F} \cap \binom{[n]}{k}$ . Prove that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n f_k \binom{n}{k}^{-1} \leq s.$$

4. (a) Let  $\{A_1, \dots, A_s\}$  be a collection of  $l$ -subsets of  $[n]$ , where  $l < n/2$ . Show that there exist  $s$  distinct  $(l + 1)$ -subsets  $B_1, \dots, B_s$  of  $[n]$  such that  $A_i \subset B_i$  for every  $1 \leq i \leq s$ .  
**Hint:** use P. Hall's Marriage theorem to match the collection  $\{A_1, \dots, A_s\}$  to the collection of  $(l + 1)$ -subsets of  $[n]$  that contain one or more of the sets  $A_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s$ .
 

(b) Prove the following extension of the Erdős-Ko-Rado theorem. Let  $1 \leq k \leq n/2$  and let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of subsets of  $[n]$  all of whose members have size at most  $k$ . Show that if  $\mathcal{F}$  is both **intersecting** and **Sperner** then  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq \binom{n-1}{k-1}$ .  
**Hint:** Use part (a) to reduce this claim to the Erdős-Ko-Rado theorem.

(c) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of subsets of  $[n]$  which is both **intersecting** and **Sperner**. Assume also that  $A \cup B \neq [n]$  for all  $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ . Prove that  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq \binom{n-1}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}$ .  
**Hint:** Show that large sets can be replaced by their complements; apply part (b).