

Star Coloring and Tree-width of the Kneser Graph $KG(n, 2)$

BEHNAZ OMOOMI and ELHAM ROSHANBIN

*Department of Mathematical Sciences
Isfahan University of Technology
84156-83111, Isfahan, Iran*

Abstract

A proper coloring of the vertices of a graph G is called a star coloring if any path of length three in G is not 2-colored. The star chromatic number of G is the minimum number of colors required to obtain a star coloring of G . In this paper, we give the exact value of the star chromatic number of the Kneser graph $KG(n, 2)$. Moreover, we obtain a lower bound and an upper bound for the tree-width of these graphs.

Keywords: Star coloring; Tree-width; Kneser graph.

1 Introduction

Throughout this paper, all graphs are finite and simple. We use $u \sim v$ and $u \not\sim v$ to respectively denote the adjacency and non-adjacency relations between vertices u and v . We denote a path and a cycle on n vertices by P_n and C_n , respectively. We refer the reader to [12] for graph-theoretic notation and terminology not described in this paper.

A *proper vertex coloring* of a graph G is an assignment of colors to the vertices of G such that no two adjacent vertices receive the same color. Given a proper coloring c of graph G and any subset $A \subseteq V(G)$, we let $c(A)$ denote the set of all colors used to color vertices in A . A proper vertex coloring of a graph G is called a *star coloring* if any path of length three in G is not 2-colored; equivalently, the union of every two color classes in G induces a forest whose components are stars. The *star chromatic number* of

G , denoted by $\chi_s(G)$, is the minimum number of colors required to obtain a star coloring of G . Star colorings of graphs were introduced by Grünbaum in 1973 [4] (see also [1, 3, 9]).

The *Kneser graph* $KG(n, k)$, $n \geq 2k$, is a graph whose vertices are the k -element subsets of an n -element set, where two vertices are adjacent if and only if the two corresponding sets are disjoint. In this paper, vertices of $KG(n, 2)$ are the 2-element subsets $\{i, j\}$, $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, which we denote ij .

Kneser graphs have many interesting properties and have been the subject of much research. It was conjectured by Kneser in 1955 [7] and proved by Lovász in 1978 [8] that $\chi(KG(n, k)) = n - 2k + 2$. Since then several types of colorings of Kneser graphs have been considered. For example, the circular chromatic number, the b -chromatic number and the multi-chromatic number of Kneser graphs were investigated in [5], [6] and [11], respectively.

The concept of tree-width of a graph introduced by Robertson and Seymour in 1984 [10] to measure how tree-like a graph behaves. Fertin et al. [3] gave the bound $\binom{t+2}{2}$ on the star chromatic number of graphs with tree-width t .

In this paper, we obtain the exact value of the star chromatic number of the Kneser graph $KG(n, 2)$, for $n \geq 5$. We also give a lower bound and an upper bound on the tree-width of $KG(n, 2)$.

2 Main results

In this section, we show that $\chi_s(KG(n, 2)) = \binom{n-1}{2}$, for $n \geq 6$ and $\chi_s(KG(5, 2)) = 5$. First, we prove the following proposition.

Proposition 1. *Let $G = (X, Y)$ be a bipartite graph, such that $|X| = |Y| = n$, and each vertex in G has degree $n - 1$. Then, $\chi_s(G) = n$. Moreover, there are only two types of optimum star colorings of G .*

Proof. Let c be a star coloring of G . If the vertices of X or Y all receive different colors, then the number of colors used in c is at least n .

Otherwise, there are vertices $u_1, u_2 \in X$ and $v_1, v_2 \in Y$, where $c(u_1) = c(u_2)$ and $c(v_1) = c(v_2)$. Since there is no 2-colored P_4 and G is $(n - 1)$ -regular, neither u_1 nor u_2 is adjacent to both vertices v_1 and v_2 . Say

$u_1 \approx v_1$ and $u_2 \approx v_2$. Therefore, there are no other pairs of vertices with the same color in the same part (except u_1, u_2 and v_1, v_2), because all vertices in Y (similarly in X), except v_1 (u_1), are adjacent to u_1 (v_1), and (G, c) does not have a 2-colored P_4 . Hence, in such a star coloring of G , at least $2 + (n - 2) = n$ colors are needed. Thus, $\chi_s(G) \geq n$. In Figure 1, two possible types of optimum star colorings of G with n colors are shown. Hence, $\chi_s(G) = n$. \blacksquare

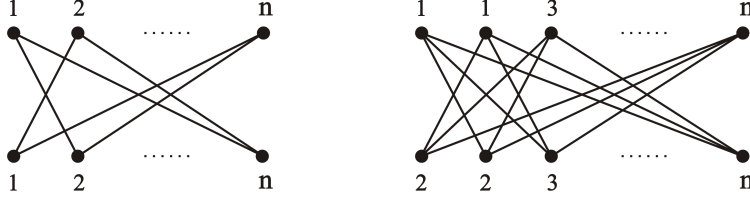


Figure 1: Two optimum star colorings of G .

Note that, for every $n \geq 6$, the vertex set of the Kneser graph $KG(n, 2)$ can be decomposed into three subsets $\{12\}$, A and B ; where A and B are the sets of all vertices adjacent and non-adjacent to vertex 12 , respectively. It is easy to see that, $|A| = \binom{n-2}{2}$, and the induced subgraph on B is a bipartite graph with parts $X := \{1i : 3 \leq i \leq n\}$ and $Y := \{2i : 3 \leq i \leq n\}$.

By Proposition 1, $\chi_s(B) = n - 2$. Thus, we can give a color assignment to the vertices of B , the same as the first star coloring given in the proposition above (Figure 1). Then, we assign $\binom{n-2}{2}$ new colors to the vertices of A , and, finally, give one of the colors of the vertices of B , to the vertex 12 . It can be easily checked that, this coloring is a star coloring of $KG(n, 2)$ with $\binom{n-2}{2} + n - 2 = \binom{n-1}{2}$ colors. Thus, $\chi_s(KG(n, 2)) \leq \binom{n-1}{2}$. Further, since $KG(n, 2)$ has $\binom{n}{2}$ vertices, in a given optimum star coloring c of $KG(n, 2)$, there are at least two vertices with a same color. Without loss of generality (after a renaming if necessary), suppose that $c(13) = c(23) = a$.

To prove the main result of this section, we need the following lemmas, which will make use of the above notation. Specifically, A , B , X , Y , and c continue to be used throughout this section.

Lemma 1. *Let $A' := \{kl : 4 \leq k < l \leq n\}$ together with $A'' := \{3l : 4 \leq l \leq n\}$ be a partition of A . In the optimum star coloring c of graph $KG(n, 2)$ we have*

(I) $c(B) \cap c(A') = \emptyset$.

(II) $|c(A')| = \binom{n-3}{2}$.

Proof. (I) The color of any vertex in $X \cup Y$ can not be the same as any vertex in A' , otherwise there would be a 2-colored P_4 containing 13 and 23, which is a contradiction.

(II) Since all vertices in A' are adjacent to 13 and 23, there are no two vertices in A' with the same color, otherwise there would be a 2-colored P_4 containing 13 and 23, which contradicts that c is a star coloring. ■

Let t be the number of pairs $(1i, 2i)$, $i \geq 4$, of vertices in B , such that $c(1i) = c(2i)$. Then we have the following lemma.

Lemma 2. *If $t \geq 1$, or equivalently there is some i , $4 \leq i \leq n$, such that $c(1i) = c(2i)$, then we have the following facts.*

(I) *All vertices in $A'' \setminus \{3i\}$ must have different colors. In other words, only for one $l \geq 4$, $l \neq i$, it is possible that $c(3l) = c(3i)$, i.e., a repeated color in A'' .*

(II) *If $c(A') \cap c(A'') \neq \emptyset$, then $c(3l) = c(il)$ or $c(3i) = c(li)$, for some $l \geq 4$.*

(III) *If $c(A'') \cap c(B) \neq \emptyset$, then either $c(3i) = c(1i) = c(2i)$ or $c(3i) = c(13) = c(23) = a$.*

(IV) *If $c(A') \cap c(A'') \neq \emptyset$ and there exists $l \geq 4$, such that $c(3l) = c(il)$, then $c(12) \notin \{a, c(1i)\}$.*

Proof. (I) Otherwise, there are $k, k' \neq i$ (noting that $n \geq 6$), such that $c(3k) = c(3k')$ and the path $3k \ 1i \ 3k' \ 2i$ is 2-colored.

(II) Otherwise, if there exists k and l , with $l, k \neq i$ and $c(3l) = c(kl)$, then the path $3l \ 1i \ kl \ 2i$ is 2-colored.

(III) Otherwise, suppose that there is $l \neq i$, and $c(3l) = c(1l)$ (similarly $c(3l) = c(2l)$). Then $1i \ 3l \ 2i \ 1l$ is 2-colored ($2i \ 3l \ 1i \ 2l$ is 2-colored). If there exists $l \neq i$, and $c(3l) = c(13) = c(23) = a$, then the path $13 \ 2i \ 3l \ 1i$ is 2-colored.

(IV) If there exists $l \geq 4$, such that $c(3l) = c(il)$ and $c(12) \in \{a, c(1i)\}$, then the path $13 \ il \ 12 \ 3l$ or the path $1i \ 3l \ 12 \ il$ is 2-colored. ■

Now we are ready to prove our main theorem, the proof of which uses the above notation.

Theorem 1. For $n \geq 6$, $\chi_s(KG(n, 2)) = \binom{n-1}{2}$, and $\chi_s(KG(5, 2)) = 5$.

Proof. Let $n \geq 6$. We have already shown that $\chi_s(KG(n, 2)) \leq \binom{n-1}{2}$. To prove the equality we need to show that every (optimum) star coloring of $KG(n, 2)$ requires at least $\binom{n-1}{2}$ colors. We consider the following two possibilities.

Case 1. In the optimum star coloring c , there are no two vertices with a same color in the same part of B .

If $t = 0$, then by Lemma 1 (I) and (II), we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(B)| + |c(A')| \\ &= (2(n-3) + 1) + \binom{n-3}{2} \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

If $t = 1$, and $c(1i) = c(2i) = b$, $4 \leq i \leq n$, then there are two possibilities.

If $c(A'') \cap c(B) \neq \emptyset$. Then, by Lemma 2 (III), we have either $c(3i) = c(1i) = c(2i) = b$ or $c(3i) = c(13) = c(23) = a$. Now, if for some $k \geq 4$, $k \neq i$, $c(12) = c(1k)$ (similarly, $c(12) = c(2k)$), then, in the former case, the path $2i \ 1k \ 3i \ 12$ (similarly, $1i \ 2k \ 3i \ 12$) is 2-colored, and, in the latter case, the path $23 \ 1k \ 3i \ 12$ (similarly, $13 \ 2k \ 3i \ 12$) is 2-colored. Therefore, $c(12) \cap c(B) \subset \{a, b\}$. On the other hand, by Lemma 2 (II) and (IV), if $c(12) \in \{a, b\}$ then $c(A') \cap (c(A'') \setminus c(3i)) = \emptyset$. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A')| + |c(B)| + |c(A'' \setminus \{3i\}) \cap c(B)| \\ &\geq \binom{n-3}{2} + (2(n-4) + 2) + (n-4) \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2} + n - 5 > \binom{n-1}{2} \quad (n \geq 6). \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts the assumption that c is an optimum star coloring. Hence, $c(12) \cap c(B) = \emptyset$ and consequently $c(12) \cap c(B \cup A) = \emptyset$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A')| + |c(B)| + |c(12)| \\ &= \binom{n-3}{2} + (2(n-4) + 2) + 1 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

If $c(A'') \cap c(B) = \emptyset$, then either there is a vertex in A'' which has a different color to the vertices in A' , and we have

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A')| + |c(B)| + |c(A'') \setminus c(A')| \\ &\geq \binom{n-3}{2} + (2(n-4) + 2) + 1 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

or, for each $l \geq 4$, $c(3l) = c(il)$ (by Lemma 2 (II)). We will now show that $c(12) \cap c(B) = \emptyset$. By Lemma 2 (IV), $c(12) \notin \{a, b\}$. If for some $k \geq 4$, $k \neq i$, $c(12) = c(1k)$ (similarly $c(12) = c(2k)$), then since $n \geq 6$, there exists $k' \geq 4$, $k' \notin \{i, k\}$, such that the path $3k' 12 ik' 1k$ is 2-colored. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A')| + |c(B)| + |c(12)| \\ &\geq \binom{n-3}{2} + (2(n-4) + 2) + 1 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

If $t = 2$, and there exist $i, j \geq 4$, $i \neq j$, such that $c(1i) = c(2i) = b$ and $c(1j) = c(2j) = c$, then by Lemma 2 (I) and (II), only the vertices $3i$, $3j$, and ij may receive the same color in A . Also, by Lemma 2 (III), we can easily deduce that $c(A'') \cap c(B) = \emptyset$. Now, there are the following possibilities.

If $c(ij) = c(3i) = c(3j)$, then $c(12) \cap c(B) = \emptyset$. Since, by Lemma 2 (IV), $c(12) \notin \{a, b, c\}$. Also, if for some $k \geq 4$, $k \neq i, j$, $c(12) = c(1k)$ (similarly, $c(12) = c(2k)$), then the path $1k 3i 12 ij$ is 2-colored (similarly, $2k 3i 12 ij$ is 2-colored). Therefore, the color of 12 is distinct from $c(A)$ and $c(B)$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A)| + |c(B)| + |c(12)| \\ &\geq \left(\binom{n-2}{2} - 2 \right) + (2(n-5) + 3) + 1 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2} + n - 6 \geq \binom{n-1}{2} \quad (n \geq 6). \end{aligned}$$

If $c(ij)$, $c(3i)$, and $c(3j)$ are not pairwise equal, then

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A)| + |c(B)| \\ &\geq \left(\binom{n-2}{2} - 1 \right) + (2(n-5) + 3) \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2} + n - 6 \geq \binom{n-1}{2} \quad (n \geq 6). \end{aligned}$$

If $t \geq 3$, then by Lemma 2 (I), (II), and (III), we deduce that all vertices in A must have different colors and $c(A) \cap c(B) = \emptyset$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A)| + |c(B)| \\ &\geq \binom{n-2}{2} + n - 2 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Case 2. In the optimum star coloring c of $KG(n, 2)$, there are two vertices in the same part of B with the same color. Without loss of generality, assume that $c(14) = c(15) = b$.

Now, we consider a new decomposition $(A'_1, A''_1, B', \{45\})$ for $KG(n, 2)$, which is isomorphic to $(A', A'', B, \{12\})$, where $A'_1 := \{kl : 6 \leq k < l \leq n\} \cup (Y \setminus \{24, 25\}) \cup \{3k : k \geq 6\}$ (corresponding to A'), $A''_1 := (X \setminus \{14, 15\}) \cup \{12\}$ (corresponding to A''), and $B' := \{4k : 1 \leq k \leq n, k \neq 4\} \cup \{5k : 1 \leq k \leq n, k \neq 5\}$ (corresponding to B). In other words, $A'_1 \cup A''_1$ and B' are the sets of all vertices adjacent and non-adjacent to vertex 45, respectively. Further, the induced subgraph on B' is a bipartite graph with parts $X' := \{4i : 1 \leq i \leq n, i \neq 4\}$ and $Y' := \{5i : 1 \leq i \leq n, i \neq 5\}$.

We need the following lemma.

Lemma 3. *If in the star coloring c of $KG(n, 2)$, $c(14) = c(15) = b$, then we have*

(I) $c(36) \notin c(A'_1 \cup B' \cup \{45, 12\})$.

(II) *If $c(34)$ and $c(35)$ are not repeated in X' and Y' respectively, then $|c(KG(n, 2))| \geq \binom{n-1}{2}$.*

(III) *If $c(34)$ and $c(35)$ are repeated in X' and Y' respectively, then $c(45)$ is not repeated in $KG(n, 2)$.*

(IV) $|c(B')| = 2(n-5) + |\{b, c(24), c(25)\}| + |c(\{c(34), c(35)\}) \setminus c(B' - \{c(34), c(35)\})|$.

Proof. (I) Otherwise, if for some $k \geq 6$, $c(36) = c(2k)$, then the path $2k \ 14 \ 36 \ 15$ is 2-colored. If $c(36) = a$, then the path $23 \ 14 \ 36 \ 15$ is 2-colored. If for some $k, l \geq 6$, $c(36) = c(kl)$, then the path $kl \ 14 \ 36 \ 15$ is 2-colored. If for some $k > 6$, $c(36) = c(3k)$, then the path $3k \ 14 \ 36 \ 15$ is 2-colored. By definition of a Kneser graph, $c(36) \notin \{b, c(24), c(25)\}$. If $c(36) = c(34)$ or $c(36) = c(35)$, then the path $34 \ 15 \ 36 \ 14$ or $35 \ 14 \ 36 \ 15$, respectively, is a 2-colored P_4 . If for some $k \geq 6$, $c(36) = c(4k)$ or $c(36) = c(5k)$, then the path $4k \ 15 \ 36 \ 14$ or $5k \ 14 \ 36 \ 15$, respectively, is a 2-colored P_4 . Finally, 36 is adjacent to both 12 and 45. Therefore, $c(36) \notin c(A'_1 \cup B' \cup \{45, 12\})$.

(II) By assumption and by Lemma 1 (I) and (II), for such a decomposition, all the vertices in $B' \cap A'$ ($\subset A'$) have different colors which are distinct from $\{b, c(24), c(25), c(34), c(35)\}$. This implies that there are no two vertices in the same part of B' which have the same color. Therefore, by renaming the vertices, it is an instance of Case 1 which already proved.

(III) Note that $45 \in A'$ and by Lemma 1 (II), all the vertices in A' have different colors. Therefore, $c(45) \cap c(B' \setminus B) \subset \{c(34), c(35)\}$. Now, either $c(4k) = c(34)$ for some $k \geq 6$, or $c(24) = c(34)$. Similarly, either $c(5l) = c(35)$ for some $l \geq 6$, or $c(25) = c(35)$. But, $4k, 5l, 45 \in A'$ and $24, 25 \in B$. Thus, by Lemma 1 (I) and (II), in all cases, $c(45) \cap c(B' \setminus B) = \emptyset$. Also, 45 is adjacent to 12 and to all the vertices in $A \setminus (B' \setminus B)$. Moreover, since $45 \in A'$, by Lemma 1 (I), $c(45) \cap c(B) = \emptyset$. Hence, $c(45)$ is not repeated in $KG(n, 2)$.

(IV) By Lemma 1 (I) and (II), all the vertices in $B' \setminus (B \cup \{34, 35\})$ ($\subset A'$) have different colors and $\{b, c(24), c(25)\} \cap c(B' \setminus (B \cup \{34, 35\})) = \emptyset$. Also, $c(\{34, 35\}) \cap c(B' \setminus \{34, 35\}) \neq \emptyset$ occurs only when for some $k, l \geq 6$, $c(4k) = c(34)$, or $c(5l) = c(35)$, or $c(24) = c(34)$, or $c(25) = c(35)$. ■

Now, we have two possibilities $c(34) = c(35)$ or $c(34) \neq c(35)$.

If $c(34) = c(35) = d$, then d can not be repeated in B' , and therefore, by Lemma 3 (II), we have $|c(KG(n, 2))| \geq \binom{n-1}{2}$.

If $c(34) = e \neq f = c(35)$ and both e and f are not repeated in B' , then by Lemma 3 (II), $|c(KG(n, 2))| \geq \binom{n-1}{2}$. If at least one of e or f is repeated in B' , then we have two possibilities; either $c(24) = c(25)$ or $c(24) \neq c(25)$.

If $c(24) = c(25) = c$, then we can have $c(\{34, 35\}) \cap c(B' \setminus \{34, 35\}) \neq \emptyset$ only possibly when for some $l, l' \geq 6$, $c(4l) = c(34)$ or $c(5l') = c(35)$. Now, we can see that $c(12) \notin c(A'_1) \cup c(B') \cup \{c(45)\}$. Otherwise, if $c(12) = a$, then $13 \ 4l \ 12 \ 34$ or $13 \ 5l' \ 12 \ 35$ is a 2-colored P_4 . If $c(12) = b$, then $4l \ 12 \ 34 \ 15$ or $5l' \ 12 \ 35 \ 14$ is a 2-colored P_4 (similarly, $c(12) \neq c$). If $c(12) = c(2k)$, for some $k \geq 6$, then $4l \ 12 \ 34 \ 2k$ or $5l' \ 12 \ 35 \ 2k$ is a 2-colored P_4 .

Thus, by Lemma 1 (II), and using Lemma 3 (I), (III), and (IV), we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A'_1)| + |c(B') \cup \{c(45)\}| + |\{c(36), c(12)\}| \\ &\geq \binom{n-3}{2} + (2(n-5) + 3) + 2 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2} \quad (n \geq 6). \end{aligned}$$

If $c(24) = c \neq d = c(25)$, then by Lemma 1 (II) and Lemma 3 (I), (III), and (IV), we have

$$\begin{aligned} |c(KG(n, 2))| &\geq |c(A'_1)| + |c(B') \cup \{c(45)\}| + |c(36)| \\ &\geq \binom{n-3}{2} + (2(n-5) + 4) + 1 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2} \quad (n \geq 6). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we consider $KG(5, 2)$, which is the well-known Petersen graph. Note that, Petersen graph contains C_5 . According to a proposition by Fertin et al. ([3], Proposition 3.2), $\chi_s(C_5) = 4$. Thus, $\chi_s(KG(5, 2)) \geq 4$. By inspection, we find that $\chi_s(KG(5, 2)) \neq 4$. In Figure 2, we present a star coloring of $KG(5, 2)$ with 5 colors. Hence, $\chi_s(KG(5, 2)) = 5$. ■

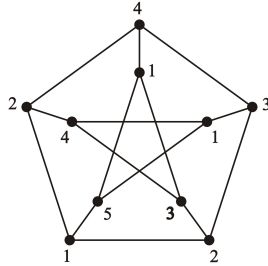


Figure 2: An optimum star coloring of Petersen graph.

3 Tree-width of $KG(n, 2)$

In this section, we obtain a lower bound and an upper bound for the tree-width of $KG(n, 2)$.

We denote the tree-width of a graph G with $\text{tw}(G)$. A *chordal graph* is a graph without induced cycles of order more than 3. The *clique number* of a graph G , denoted by $\omega(G)$, is the order of maximum clique of G . It is well known (see [2], Corollary 12.3.9) that the tree-width of a graph G can be expressed as

$$\text{tw}(G) = \min\{\omega(H) - 1 : E(G) \subseteq E(H) \text{ and } H \text{ is chordal}\}. \quad (1)$$

We also know the following theorem by Albertson et al. [1] and Fertin et al. [3].

Theorem 2. *If a graph G is of tree-width at most t , then $\chi_s(G) \leq \binom{t+2}{2}$.*

The following corollary gives a lower bound for the tree-width of $KG(n, 2)$.

Corollary 1. *For each integer $n \geq 6$, we have $\text{tw}(KG(n, 2)) \geq n - 3$.*

Proof. Let $\text{tw}(KG(n, 2)) = t$, for $n \geq 6$. By Theorems 1 and 2, we have $\chi_s(KG(n, 2)) = \binom{n-1}{2} \leq \binom{t+2}{2}$. Thus $t + 2 \geq n - 1$, and consequently $t \geq n - 3$. ■

Using the decomposition of the vertices of $KG(n, 2)$, as mentioned in the proof of Theorem 1, we find an upper bound for the tree-width of $KG(n, 2)$, as follows.

Theorem 3. *For each integer $n \geq 5$, we have $\text{tw}(KG(n, 2)) \leq \binom{n-1}{2} - 1$.*

Proof. By (1), it suffices to find a chordal graph with clique number $\binom{n-1}{2}$, which contains $KG(n, 2)$. We obtain such a chordal graph H , by the given vertex partition in the proof of Theorem 1 as follows. Suppose that A and B are the sets of all vertices adjacent and non-adjacent to vertex 12, respectively. Thus, $B = (X, Y)$ with $X = \{1j : 3 \leq j \leq n\}$ and $Y = \{2j : 3 \leq j \leq n\}$.

Let $V(H) = V(KG(n, 2))$ and $E(H) = E(KG(n, 2)) \cup \{uv : u, v \in A \cup X\}$. Now, it can be easily checked that

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(H) = |A| + |X| &= \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-2) \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, every cycle of order more than 3 in H contains at least two non-successive vertices in $A \cup X$, and hence is not an induced cycle. Thus, H is a chordal graph. ■

We use the software for computing the tree-width of graphs at <http://treewidth.com> to observe that the equality holds in Theorem 3 for $6 \leq n \leq 14$.

n	$\binom{n-1}{2} - 1$	$\text{tw}(KG(n, 2))$
5	5	4
6	9	9
7	14	14
8	20	20
9	27	27
10	35	35
11	44	44
12	54	54
13	65	65
14	77	77
15	90	89

References

- [1] M. O. Albertson, G. G. Chappell, H. A. Kierstead, A. Kündgen, and R. Ramamurthi, Coloring with no 2-colored P_4 's. *Electron. J. Combin.*, **11(1)**: Research Paper 26, 13 pp. (electronic), 2004.
- [2] R. Diestel, *Graph theory*, volume 173 of *Graduate Texts in Mathematics*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, third edition, 2005.
- [3] G. Fertin, A. Raspaud, and B. Reed, Star coloring of graphs. *J. Graph Theory*, **47(3)**: 163-182, 2004.
- [4] B. Grünbaum, Acyclic colorings of planar graphs. *Israel J. Math.*, **14**: 390-408, 1973.
- [5] H. Hajiabolhassan, and X. Zhu, Circular chromatic number of Kneser graphs, *J. Combin. Theory B*, **88**: 299-303, 2003.
- [6] R. Javadi, and B. Omoomi, On b -coloring of the Kneser graphs, *Discrete Math.*, **309**: 4399-4408, 2009.

- [7] M. Kneser. “Aufgabe 360”. Jahresbericht der Deutschen Mathematiker-Vereinigung, 2. Abteilung, **58**: 27, 1955.
- [8] L. Lovász, Kneser’s conjecture, chromatic number, and homotopy, *J. Combin. Theory A*, **25**: 319-324, 1978.
- [9] J. Nešetřil, and P. Ossona de Mendez, Colorings and homomorphisms of minor closed classes. In *Discrete and computational geometry*, volume 25 of *Algorithms Combin.*, pages 651-664. Springer, Berlin, 2003.
- [10] N. Robertson, and P. D. Seymour, Graph minors III: Planar tree-width, *J. Combin. Theory B*, **41(1)**: 92-114, 1984.
- [11] S. Stahl, The multi-chromatic numbers of some Kneser graphs, *Discrete Math.*, **185**: 287-291, 1998.
- [12] D. B. West, *Introduction to graph theory*, Prentice Hall Inc. Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458, Second Edition, 2001.