# Coloring Clean and $K_4$ -free Circle Graphs

Kevin G. Milans (milans@math.sc.edu)

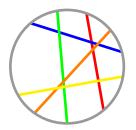
Joint with A.V. Kostochka

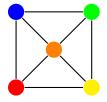
University of South Carolina

Atlanta Lecture Series in Discrete Mathematics: III
Atlanta, GA
2011 April 16

### Definition

A circle graph is the intersection graph of chords in a circle.

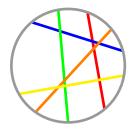


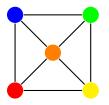


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### Example

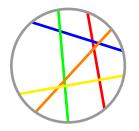


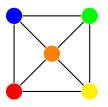


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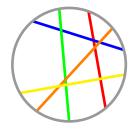


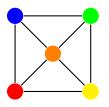


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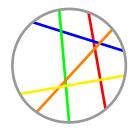


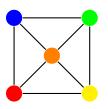


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- ▶ We may assume the endpoints are distinct.



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  - ► Keil-Stewart (2006): clique covering number

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For infinitely many k, there is a circle graph G with  $\omega(G)=k$  and

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Sharp bounds are known only for triangle-free circle graphs.

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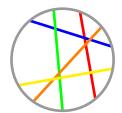
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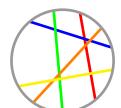


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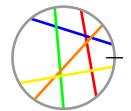


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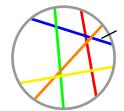


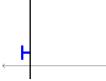
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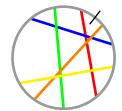


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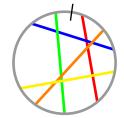


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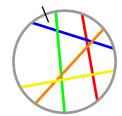


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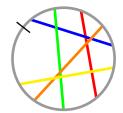


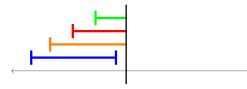
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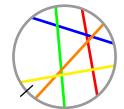


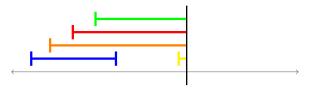
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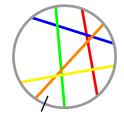


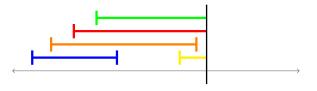
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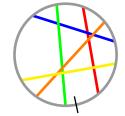


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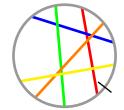


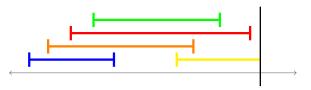
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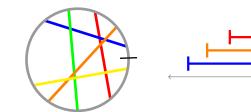


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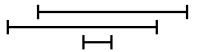
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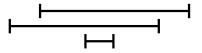
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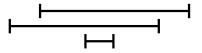


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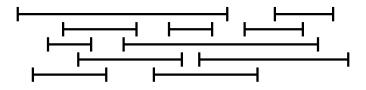


► A circle graph is clean if it is the overlap graph of a clean set of intervals.

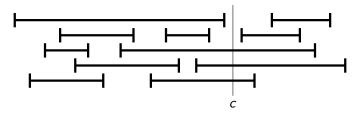
#### **Theorem**

If G is a clean circle graph with  $\omega(G) = k$ , then  $\chi(G) \le 2k - 1$ .

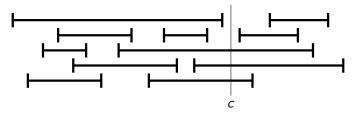




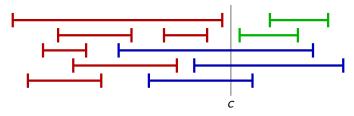
▶ Given a family intervals X, how do we color the overlap graph?



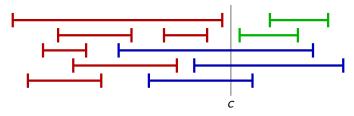
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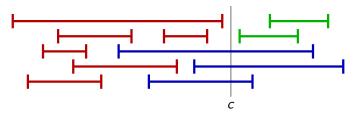
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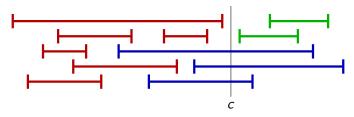
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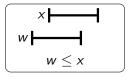
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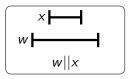
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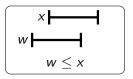
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- ▶ Hope the colorings agree on X<sup>c</sup>?
- ▶ We need to control the coloring on X<sup>c</sup>.

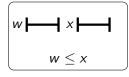


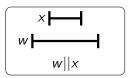




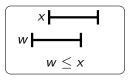
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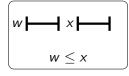


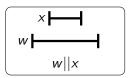




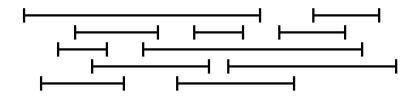
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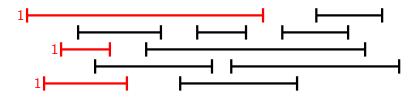




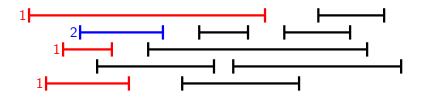
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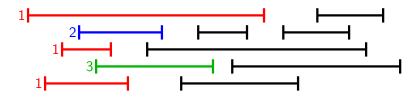
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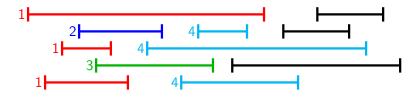
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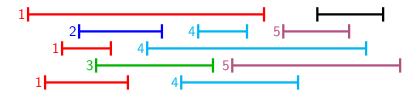
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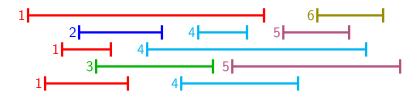
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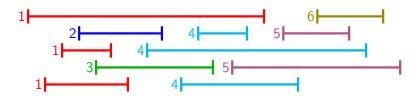
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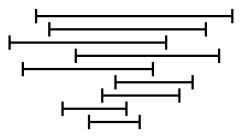
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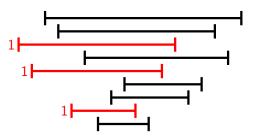




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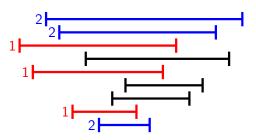




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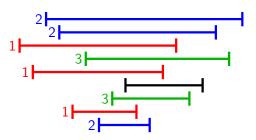




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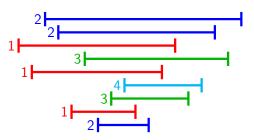




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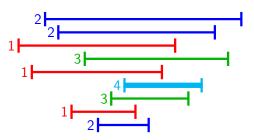




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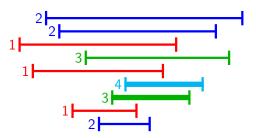




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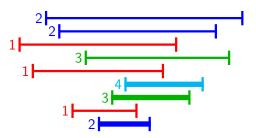




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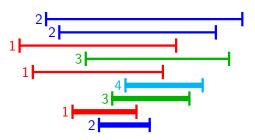


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## The Canonical Coloring

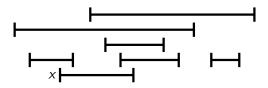


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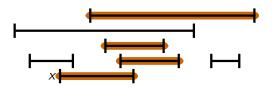
#### Proposition

When all intervals share a common point, the overlap graph is perfect and the canonical coloring is optimal.

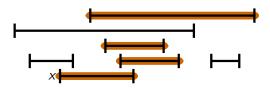




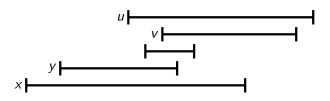
► The closed right-neighborhood of x, denoted R[x], consists of x and all neighbors of x that overlap x to the right.



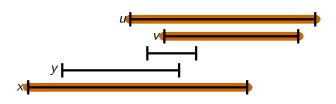
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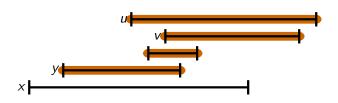
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- ► A coloring is good if it is canonical on every closed right-neighborhood.



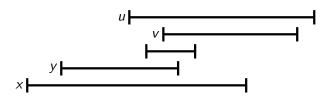
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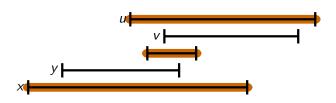
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There is a clean family of intervals whose overlap graph has clique number k for which every good coloring uses at least 2k-1 colors.

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- k = 2: 3 colors are sufficient and sometimes necessary.

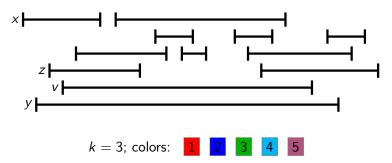
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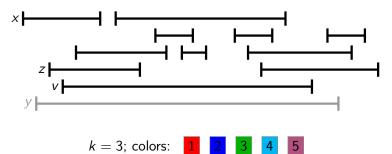
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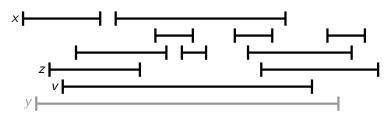
- Good colorings are stronger than proper colorings.
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- k = 2: 3 colors are sufficient and sometimes necessary.
- k = 3: 5 colors are sufficient and 4 are sometimes necessary.



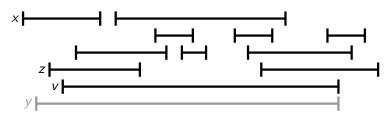
Find appropriate intervals x, y, z, and v. Delete y.



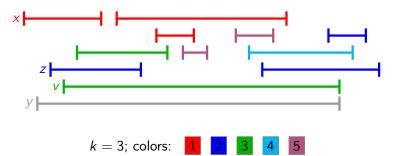
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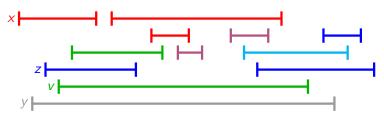
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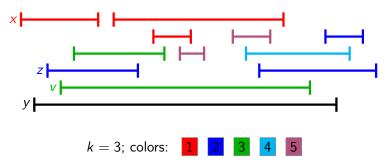
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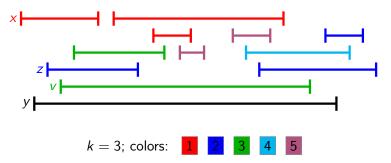


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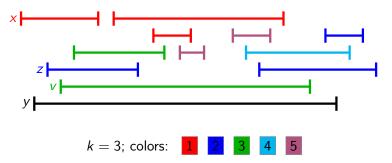


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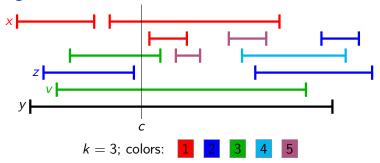




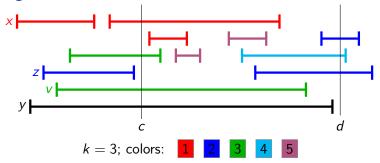
► How should we color *y*?



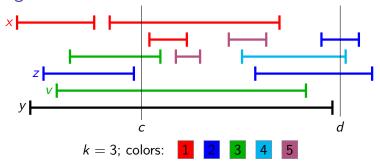
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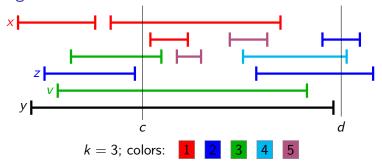
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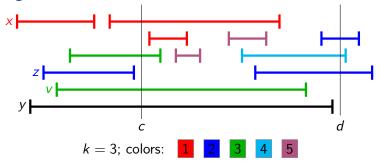
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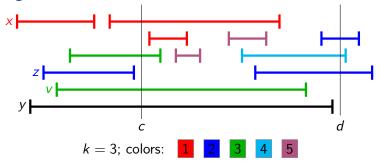
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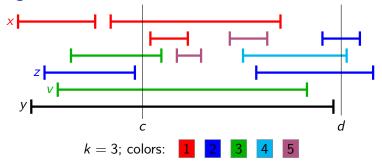
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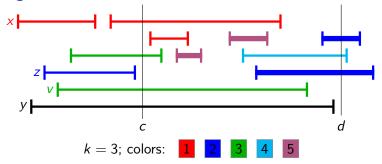
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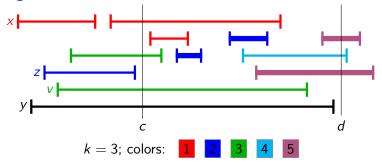
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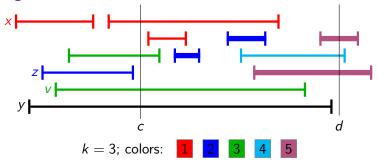
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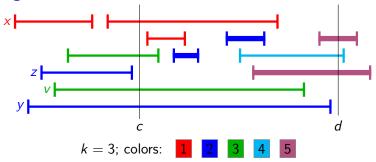


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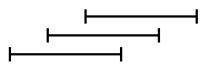
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- ▶ Swap  $\frac{2}{2}$  and  $\frac{5}{2}$  on  $X^{>c}$ .
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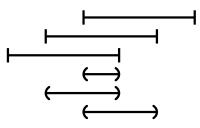


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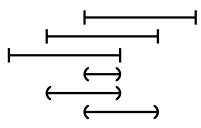




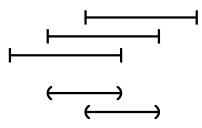
▶ A center of *X* is the intersection of two overlapping intervals.



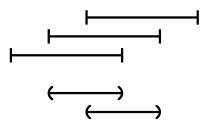
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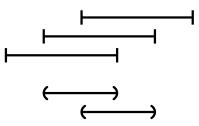
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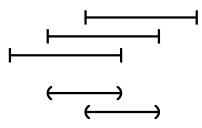
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#### Lemma

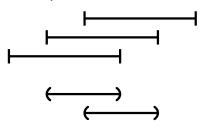
If X is a family of intervals whose overlap graph has clique number k, then the overlap graph of segments of X has clique number k-1.



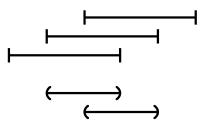
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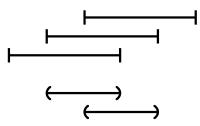
- ▶ Let *X* be a family of intervals.
- ▶ Let *Y* be the set of intervals contained in segments of *X*.



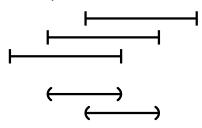
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- ▶ Let *Y* be the set of intervals contained in segments of *X*.
- ▶ Let Z = X Y.
- ▶ Since *Z* is clean, we can color it with few colors.
- When the clique number is small, the segments are highly structured.
- ▶ Using this and other tricks, we color Y.

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### Thank You.