

# Avoiding subsystems in cycle systems

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A  $k$ -cycle decomposition of  $G$  is a partition of the edge set of  $G$  such that each element of the partition induces a  $k$ -cycle. If  $G = K_n$  then it is called a  $k$ -cycle system of order  $n$ . The necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of a  $k$ -cycle system of order  $n$  have already been determined. We aim to take this one step further. We will show how minute changes to systems can impact the structure of the  $k$ -cycle system in interesting ways. In particular, this talk will show there exists a  $k$ -cycle system  $\mathcal{P}$  of order  $n$  such that *no* subset of  $\mathcal{P}$  forms a  $k$ -cycle system of order  $t$  where  $2 < t < n$  and both  $n$  and  $k$  are odd; if we can show this, we say that  $\mathcal{P}$  contains no subsystems.