

Almost resolvable k -cycle systems

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A k -cycle system of order n is a pair (X, \mathcal{C}) where \mathcal{C} is a collection of edge disjoint k -cycles which partition the edge set of the complete undirected graph K_n with $V(K_n) = X$. A k -cycle system (X, \mathcal{C}) is said to be resolvable if the cycles belonging to \mathcal{C} can be partitioned into parallel classes.

If (X, \mathcal{C}) is a k -cycle system of order n and k does not divide n then we cannot have a parallel class of k -cycles. The closest we can come to a parallel class is a collection of $(n-1)/k$ vertex disjoint k -cycles; any such collection is called an almost parallel class. The maximum possible number of edge disjoint almost parallel classes in a k -cycle system of order n is $(n-1)/2k$ in which case a half parallel class containing $(n-1)/2$ vertex disjoint k -cycles is left over. A k -cycle system of order n whose k -cycles can be partitioned into $(n-1)/2k$ almost parallel classes and a half parallel class is said to be almost resolvable and is denoted by k -ARCS(n).

The existence of 3-ARCSs was settled in 1993 by H. Hanani. Moreover, quite recently I. Dejter, C. Lindner, C. Rodger and M. Meszka proved the existence of 4-ARCSs. Complete solutions for $k=6$ and $k=10$ as well as a complete solution with one possible exception for $k=14$ will be presented.