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Given a positive integer  $n$  and a family  $\mathcal{H}$  of  $r$ -graphs, the Turán number  $ex_r(n, \mathcal{H})$  is the maximum number of edges in an  $r$ -graph on  $n$  vertices not containing any member of  $\mathcal{H}$ . An  $r$ -uniform loose cycle of length  $k$  consists of a cyclic list of  $r$ -sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k$  such that  $A_i \cap A_j \neq \emptyset$  if and only if  $i = j$  or  $i, j$  are consecutive modulo  $k$ . A loose cycle is linear if consecutive sets in the list intersect in precisely one element. Let  $\mathcal{C}_k^r$  denote the family of  $r$ -uniform loose cycles of length  $k$  and let  $L_k^r$  denote the  $r$ -uniform linear cycle of length  $k$ . For fixed  $r, k \geq 3$ , Mubayi and Verstraëte conjectured that  $ex_r(n, \mathcal{C}_k^r) = \ell \binom{n-1}{r-1} + O(n^{r-2})$ , where  $\ell = \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor$ . They proved the conjecture for all  $r$  when  $k = 3$  or  $4$ .

We prove their conjecture for all  $r \geq 4$  and  $k \geq 3$  in a stronger form by establishing for all large  $n$  the exact value of  $ex_r(n, \mathcal{C}_k^r)$ . We also characterize the unique extremal construction and establish stability. When  $r \geq 5$ , we also obtain exact results for linear cycles. The asymptotics follow from a more general result that we establish. Our main tool is the Delta system method. (Received September 20, 2012)