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Given positive integers n, k, s with $0 < k < n$, does there exist a cyclic ordering of the k -sets of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ such that every s consecutive k -sets are pairwise intersecting? For a given n and k , let $f(n, k)$ denote the maximum s for which such an ordering exists. Phrased in terms of graphs, $f(n, k)$ is the largest d such that the complement of the Kneser graph $K(n, k)$ contains the d 'th power of some Hamiltonian cycle in that complement.

For each $n \geq 6$ we show that $f(n, 2) = 3$. We show that $f(n, 3)$ equals either $2n - 8$ or $2n - 7$ when n is sufficiently large, conjecturing that $2n - 8$ is the correct value. For each $k \geq 4$ and n sufficiently large we show that

$$\frac{2n^{k-2}}{(k-2)!} - \frac{(\frac{7}{2}k-2)n^{k-3}}{(k-3)!} + O(n^{k-4}) \leq f(n, k) \leq \frac{2n^{k-2}}{(k-2)!} - \frac{(\frac{7}{2}k-c)n^{k-3}}{(k-3)!},$$

where c is an absolute positive constant. This is a preliminary report. (Received January 23, 2007)