

# Semiextensions and Circuit Double Covers

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If  $G$  is a cubic graph and  $C$  is a circuit in  $G$ , we will call a circuit  $D$  in  $G$  a "semiextension" of  $C$  if (i)  $D$  is different from  $C$ , (ii)  $D$  intersects  $C$ , and (iii) for each vertex  $x$  of  $V(C) \setminus V(D)$ , if  $P$  is a minimal nontrivial path in  $G$  from  $x$  to some vertex (call it  $y$ ) on either  $C$  or  $D$ , then there is also a path  $Q$  from  $x$  to  $y$ , such that all edges of  $Q$  belong to the symmetric difference of  $E(C)$  and  $E(D)$ .

The definition is motivated by a previous and failed approach by Robertson and Seymour to the Circuit Double Cover Conjecture (CDCC). We propose to conjecture that a semiextension of  $C$  always exists, except when the obvious obstacles exist. Furthermore, we show that the truth of the CDCC would follow from this conjecture. We also note that a weakening of our conjecture would imply an unsolved conjecture by Sabidussi concerning the existence of a circuit decomposition compatible to a given Eulerian trail.