

Zero-weight-cycle is in \mathcal{NP} because we can exhibit a cycle in G , and it can be checked that the sum of the edge weights on this cycle are equal to 0.

We now show that $\text{Subset Sum} \leq_P \text{Zero-weight-cycle}$. We are given numbers w_1, \dots, w_n , and we want to know if there is a subset that adds up to exactly W . We construct an instance of *Zero-weight-cycle* in which the graph has nodes $0, 1, 2, \dots, n$, and an edge (i, j) for all pairs $i < j$. The weight of edge (i, j) is equal to w_j . Finally, there is an edge $(n, 0)$ of weight $-W$.

We claim that there is a subset that adds up to exactly W if and only if G has a zero-weight cycle. If there is such a subset S , then we define a cycle that starts at 0, goes through the nodes whose indices are in S , and then returns to 0 on the edge $(n, 0)$. The weight of $-W$ on the edge $(n, 0)$ precisely cancels the sum of the other edge weights. Conversely, all cycles in G must use the edge $(n, 0)$, and so if there is a zero-weight cycle, then the other edges must exactly cancel $-W$ — in other words, their indices must form a set that adds up to exactly W .

¹ex642.498.819