

WHEN A LINE GRAPH ASSOCIATED TO ANNIHILATING-IDEAL  
GRAPH OF A LATTICE IS PLANAR OR PROJECTIVE

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Received November 25, 2015. First published January 11, 2018.

*Abstract.* Let  $(L, \wedge, \vee)$  be a finite lattice with a least element 0.  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is an annihilating-ideal graph of  $L$  in which the vertex set is the set of all nontrivial ideals of  $L$ , and two distinct vertices  $I$  and  $J$  are adjacent if and only if  $I \wedge J = 0$ . We completely characterize all finite lattices  $L$  whose line graph associated to an annihilating-ideal graph, denoted by  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , is a planar or projective graph.

*Keywords:* annihilating-ideal graph; lattice; line graph; planar graph; projective graph

*MSC 2010:* 05C75, 05C10, 06B10

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the last twenty years, the study of algebraic structures, using the properties of graph theory, tends to an exciting research topic. Associating a graph to an algebraic structure has been the interest of many researchers. For example see [2], [4], and [13]. The notion of an annihilating-ideal graph  $\mathbb{A}G(R)$  of a commutative ring  $R$  was introduced by Behboodi and Rakeei in [5] and [6]. However, they let all annihilating-ideals of  $R$  be vertices of the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(R)$ , and two distinct vertices  $I$  and  $J$  be adjacent if and only if  $IJ = 0$ . In [1], Khashyarmanesh et al. introduced and studied the annihilating-ideal graph of a lattice  $L$ , denoted by  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ . Graf  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is a graph whose vertex set is the set of all nontrivial ideals of  $L$  and two distinct vertices  $I$  and  $J$  are joined by an edge if and only if  $I \wedge J = 0$ .

First we review some definitions and notation from lattice theory.

Recall that a *lattice* is an algebra  $L = (L, \wedge, \vee)$  satisfying the following conditions: for all  $a, b, c \in L$ :

- (1)  $a \wedge a = a, a \vee a = a,$
- (2)  $a \wedge b = b \wedge a, a \vee b = b \vee a,$

- (3)  $(a \wedge b) \wedge c = a \wedge (b \wedge c)$ ,  $a \vee (b \vee c) = (a \vee b) \vee c$ , and  
(4)  $a \vee (a \wedge b) = a \wedge (a \vee b) = a$ .

There is an equivalent definition for a lattice (see for example [15], Theorem 2.1). To do this, for a lattice  $L$ , one can define an order on  $L$  as follows: For any  $a, b \in L$ , we set  $a \leq b$  if and only if  $a \wedge b = a$ . Then  $(L, \leq)$  is an ordered set in which every pair of elements has a greatest lower bound (g.l.b.) and a least upper bound (l.u.b.). Conversely, let  $P$  be an ordered set such that, for every pair  $a, b \in P$ , g.l.b. $(a, b)$  and l.u.b. $(a, b)$  belong to  $P$ . For each  $a$  and  $b$  in  $P$ , we define  $a \wedge b := \text{g.l.b.}(a, b)$  and  $a \vee b := \text{l.u.b.}(a, b)$ . Then  $(P, \wedge, \vee)$  is a lattice. A lattice  $L$  is said to be *bounded* if there are elements 0 and 1 in  $L$  such that  $0 \wedge a = 0$  and  $a \vee 1 = 1$  for all  $a \in L$ . Clearly, every finite lattice is bounded. Let  $(L, \wedge, \vee)$  be a lattice with a least element 0 and let  $I$  be a nonempty subset of  $L$ .  $I$  is called an *ideal* of  $L$ , denoted by  $I \trianglelefteq L$ , if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) For all  $a, b \in I$ ,  $a \vee b \in I$ .  
(2) If  $0 \leq a \leq b$  and  $b \in I$ , then  $a \in I$ .

For two distinct ideals  $I$  and  $J$  of a lattice  $L$ , we put  $I \wedge J := \{x \wedge y : x \in I, y \in J\}$ .

In a lattice  $(L, \wedge, \vee)$  with a least element 0, an element  $a$  is called an *atom* if  $a \neq 0$  and, for an element  $x$  in  $L$ , the relation  $0 \leq x \leq a$  implies that either  $x = 0$  or  $x = a$ . We denote the set of all atoms of  $L$  by  $A(L)$ . For terminology in lattice theory we refer to [10].

Now, we recall some definitions and notation on graphs. We use the standard terminology of graphs following [7]. Let  $G$  be a simple graph with vertex set  $V(G)$  and edge set  $E(G)$ . In a graph  $G$ , for two distinct vertices  $a$  and  $b$  in  $G$ , the notation  $a - b$  means that  $a$  and  $b$  are adjacent. Also, the *degree of a vertex*  $a$ , denoted by  $\deg(a)$ , is the number of edges incident to  $a$ , and an *isolated vertex* is a vertex with zero degree. A graph with no edges (but at least one vertex) is called an *empty graph*. The graph with no vertices and no edges is the *null graph*. For a positive integer  $r$ , an  *$r$ -partite graph* is one whose vertex set can be partitioned into  $r$  subsets so that no edge has both ends in any one of the subsets. A *complete  $r$ -partite graph* is one in which each vertex is joined to every vertex that is not in the same subset. For notation, we let  $K_n$  represent the complete graph on  $n$  vertices, and  $K_{m,n}$  the complete bipartite graph with part sizes  $m$  and  $n$ . A complete bipartite graph  $K_{1,n}$  is called *star* (see [7] and [12]). A graph  $G$  is said to be *contracted to a graph*  $H$  if there exists a sequence of elementary contractions which transforms  $G$  into  $H$ , where an *elementary contraction* consists of deletion of a vertex or an edge or the identification of two adjacent vertices. A *subdivision of a graph* is any graph that can be obtained from the original graph by replacing edges by paths. The *line graph*

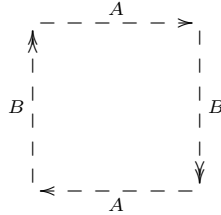
of a graph  $G$  is the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(G)$  with the edges of  $G$  as its vertices, and two edges of  $G$  are adjacent in  $\mathfrak{L}(G)$  if and only if they are incident in  $G$ .

Recall that a simple graph is said to be *planar* if it can be drawn in the plane or on the surface of a sphere so that its edges intersect only at their ends. A remarkable characterization of the planar graphs was given by Kuratowski in 1930 (cf. [7], page 153). In 1962, Sedláček characterized the planarity of a line graph  $\mathfrak{L}(G)$  by using the planarity of  $G$  and its vertex degrees. In the sequel, we give the following theorem from [18] which will be used later.

**Theorem 1.1** ([18], Lemma 2.6). *A nonempty graph  $G$  has a planar line graph  $\mathfrak{L}(G)$  if and only if*

- (i)  $G$  is planar,
- (ii)  $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ , and
- (iii) if  $\deg(v) = 4$ , then  $v$  is a cut vertex in the graph  $G$ .

By a *surface*, we mean a connected compact 2-dimensional real manifold without boundary, that is a connected topological space such that each point has a neighborhood homeomorphic to an open disc. It is well-known that every compact surface is homeomorphic to a sphere, or to a connected sum of  $g$  tori ( $S_g$ ), or to a connected sum of  $k$  projective planes ( $N_k$ ) (see [14], Theorem 5.1). This number  $k$  is called the *crosscap number* of the surface. The projective plane can be thought of as a sphere with one crosscap. This means that the crosscap number of the projective plane is 1.



The canonical representation of a projective plane.

A graph  $G$  is *embeddable* in a surface  $S$  if the vertices of  $G$  are assigned to distinct points in  $S$  so that every edge of  $G$  is a simple arc in  $S$  connecting the two vertices which are joined in  $G$ . A *projective graph* is a graph that can be embedded in a projective plane. The least number  $k$  that  $G$  can be embedded in  $N_k$  is called the *crosscap number* of  $G$ . We denote the crosscap number of a graph  $G$  by  $\overline{\gamma}(G)$ . One easy observation is that  $\overline{\gamma}(H) \leq \overline{\gamma}(G)$  for any subgraph  $H$  of  $G$ . If  $G$  cannot be embedded in  $S$ , then  $G$  has at least two edges intersecting at a point which is not a vertex of  $G$ . We say a graph  $G$  is *irreducible* for a surface  $S$  if  $G$  does not embed

in  $S$ , but any proper subgraph of  $G$  embeds in  $S$ . The set of 103 irreducible graphs for the projective plane has been found by Glover, Huneke and Wang in [11], and Archdeacon in [3] proved that this list is complete. This list also has been checked by Myrvoid and Roth in [17]. Hence a graph embeds in the projective plane if and only if it contains no subdivision of 103 graphs in [11]. Also, a complete graph  $K_n$  is projective if  $n = 5$  or  $6$ , and the only projective complete bipartite graphs are  $K_{3,3}$  and  $K_{3,4}$  (see [8] or [16]). Note that a planar graph is not considered as a projective graph. For more details on the notions concerning embedding of graphs following [19].

In this paper, we assume that  $L$  is a finite lattice and  $A(L) = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  is the set of all atoms of  $L$ . We denote the line graph associated with  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  by  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  and we denote  $w_{I,J}$  for the vertices  $I, J \in \mathbb{A}G(L)$ , where  $I$  and  $J$  are adjacent vertices in  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ . In the second section of this work, we completely characterize all finite lattices  $L$  such that the line graphs associated with their annihilating-ideal graphs  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ , are planar or projective.

## 2. ON THE PLANARITY AND PROJECTIVITY OF $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$

In this section, we explore the planarity and projectivity of the line graph associated with the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ , which is denoted by  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ . If  $|A(L)| = 1$ , then  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is an empty graph, and hence  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a null graph. We begin this section with the following notation, which is needed in the rest of the paper.

**Notation.** Let  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n$  be integers with  $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n$ . The notation  $U_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k}$  stands for the set

$$\{I \leq L: \{a_{i_1}, a_{i_2}, \dots, a_{i_k}\} \subseteq I \text{ and } a_j \notin I \text{ for } j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i_1, \dots, i_k\}\}.$$

Note that no two distinct elements in  $U_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k}$  are adjacent in  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ . Also, if the index sets  $\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k\}$  and  $\{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_{k'}\}$  of  $U_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k}$  and  $U_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_{k'}}$ , respectively, are distinct, then one can easily check that  $U_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k} \cap U_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_{k'}} = \emptyset$ . Moreover,  $V(\mathbb{A}G(L)) = \bigcup U_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k}$  for all  $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n$ . Suppose that  $L$  has  $n$  atoms. We denote the ideal  $\{0, a_i\} \in U_i$ , where  $a_i$  is an atom and  $U_i$  is an ideal, with  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , by  $u_i$ . Note that  $U_{12 \dots n}$  consist of isolated vertices. Clearly, the isolated points do not affect planarity and projectivity. Hence, we ignore the set of isolated vertices from the vertex-set of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , and so we do not show these points in our figures.

Now, we state the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.1.** *If  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar or projective, then the size of  $A(L)$  is at most four.*

**P r o o f.** Assume on the contrary that  $|A(L)| \geq 5$ . Then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a copy of  $K_5$  with vertices  $u_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2 \in U_2$ ,  $u_3 \in U_3$ ,  $u_4 \in U_4$  and  $u_5 \in U_5$ . So the contraction of the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subdivision of  $K_{3,3}$  (see Figure 1). Therefore it is not a planar graph, which is a contradiction.

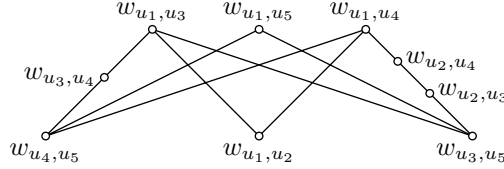


Figure 1.

Also, the contraction of the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $E_{20}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11] (see Figure 2). Therefore  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not a projective graph, which is again a contradiction.  $\square$

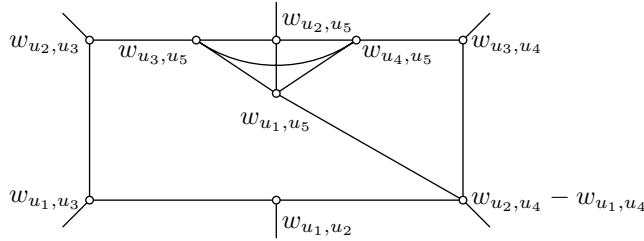


Figure 2.

By Lemma 2.1, it is sufficient for us to investigate the planarity and projectivity of the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  in the cases in which the size of  $A(L)$  is 2, 3, or 4.

First we state necessary and sufficient conditions for the planarity and projectivity of the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , when  $|A(L)| = 2$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** *Suppose that  $|A(L)| = 2$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a planar graph if and only if  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| \leq 5$ .*

**P r o o f.** First, assume that  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar and assume on the contrary that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| \geq 6$ . By [1], Theorem 2.6, we know that as  $|A(L)| = 2$ , the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is a complete bipartite graph. If  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is a star graph, then the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_5$ , which is not planar. Otherwise,  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is

not a star graph. Then it contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_{2,4}$  or  $K_{3,3}$ . In these two cases,  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subdivision of  $K_{3,3}$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not planar, which is a contradiction.

Conversely, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| \leq 5$ . If  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 2$ , then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{L}(K_2)$ , which is an empty graph with one vertex. Also, if  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 3$ , then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L)) \cong \mathfrak{L}(K_{1,2}) \cong K_2$ . In addition, if  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 4$ , then  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is isomorphic to  $K_{1,3}$  or  $K_{2,2}$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_{2,2}$ , respectively. Finally, assume that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 5$ . If  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is a star graph, then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L)) \cong K_4$ . Otherwise, the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is isomorphic to  $K_{2,3}$  with vertices  $u_1, I_1, I'_1 \in U_1$  and  $u_2, I_2 \in U_2$ . In this case, the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is pictured in Figure 3.

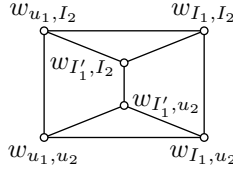


Figure 3.

In all of the above situations,  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a planar graph. □

**Theorem 2.2.** Suppose that  $|A(L)| = 2$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a projective graph if and only if one of the following conditions holds:

- (i)  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 6$  and  $|U_i| = 1$  for some unique  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  or  $|U_i| = |U_j| = 3$  for  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ .
- (ii)  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 7$  and  $|U_i| = 1$  for some unique  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ .

*Proof.* First, assume that the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is projective and on the contrary,  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| \leq 5$ . Then, by Theorem 2.1, the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar, which is not projective. Now, assume that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 6$  and  $\mathbb{A}G(L) \cong K_{2,4}$ . By [9], Example 2.14,  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{2,4})) = 2$ , and so the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not projective. Hence, if  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 6$ , then the statement (i) holds. Now, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 7$ . If  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is not a star graph, then it is isomorphic to  $K_{2,5}$  or  $K_{3,4}$ . By [9], Corollary 2.11,  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{2,5})) = 2$  and, by [9], Example 2.14,  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{3,4})) = 2$ . So if  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 7$ , then the statement (ii)

holds. Finally, we may assume that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| \geq 8$ . If  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is a star graph, then the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_7$ , which is not projective. Otherwise,  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is not a star graph. Then it contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_{2,6}$ ,  $K_{3,5}$  or  $K_{4,4}$ . In these cases,  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a copy of  $K_{2,4}$ . Clearly,  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))) \geq \overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{2,4}))$ , and we have  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{2,4})) = 2$ . It means that the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not projective. Therefore, if  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is projective, then one of the conditions (i) or (ii) holds.

Conversely, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 6$ , and the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is a star graph. Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L)) \cong K_5$ , and so it is a projective graph. Now, suppose that  $\mathbb{A}G(L) \cong K_{3,3}$ . By [9], Example 2.12,  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{3,3})) = 1$ , and so the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is projective. Finally, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^2 U_j \right| = 7$ , and the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is a star graph. Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L)) \cong K_6$ , and so it is a projective graph.  $\square$

Now, we investigate the planarity of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , when  $|A(L)| = 3$ . Let  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| \geq 5$ . It is easy to see that  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to a complete 3-partite graph  $K_{3,1,1}$  or  $K_{2,2,1}$ . Therefore the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subdivision of  $K_{3,3}$  or a subdivision of  $K_5$ , respectively. Hence it is not planar, and so we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.2.** *If  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar, then  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| \leq 4$ .*

**Theorem 2.3.** *Suppose that  $|A(L)| = 3$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a planar graph if and only if one of the following conditions holds:*

- (i)  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 3$  and  $|U_{ij}| \leq 2$  for  $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$ .
- (ii)  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 4$  and  $|U_{ij}| \leq 1$  for  $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$ .

**Proof.** First, assume that one of the conditions (i) or (ii) holds. Suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 3$  and  $|U_{12}| = |U_{13}| = |U_{23}| = 2$ . The graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  with vertices  $u_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2 \in U_2$ ,  $u_3 \in U_3$ ,  $I_{12}, I'_{12} \in U_{12}$ ,  $I_{13}, I'_{13} \in U_{13}$  and  $I_{23}, I'_{23} \in U_{23}$  is pictured in Figure 4.

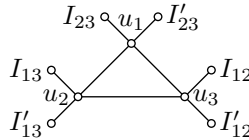


Figure 4.

Hence the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  pictured in Figure 5 is planar.

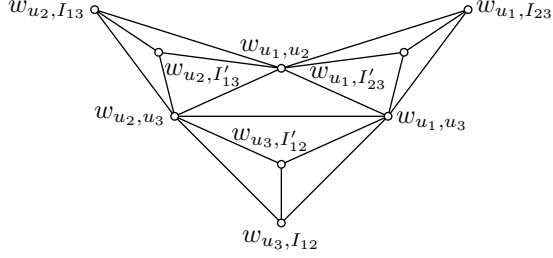


Figure 5.

Now, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 4$ ,  $|U_1| = 2$  and  $|U_{12}| = |U_{13}| = |U_{23}| = 1$ . The graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  with vertices  $u_1, I_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2 \in U_2$ ,  $u_3 \in U_3$ ,  $I_{12} \in U_{12}$ ,  $I_{13} \in U_{13}$  and  $I_{23} \in U_{23}$  is pictured in Figure 6 and  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , which is a planar graph is pictured in Figure 7.

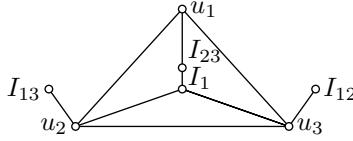


Figure 6.

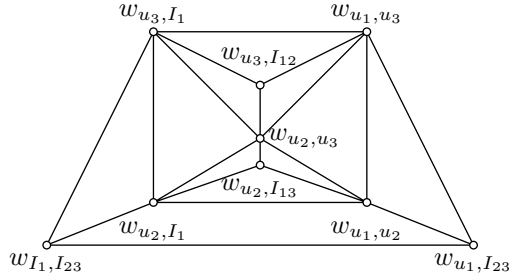


Figure 7.

Conversely, suppose that  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a planar graph. By Lemma 2.2,  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| \leq 4$ .

Hence we have the following cases.

*Case 1.*  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 3$ . If  $U_{12}$ ,  $U_{13}$  or  $U_{23}$  has at least three elements, then there exists at least a vertex of degree 5 in the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ . Hence the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_5$ , and so it is not planar, which is a contradiction.



*Case 2.*  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 4$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $|U_1| = 2$ . If  $U_{12}$  or  $U_{13}$  has at least two elements, then there exists at least a vertex of degree 5 in the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ . Hence the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $K_5$ , and so it is not planar, which is a contradiction. In addition, if  $U_{23}$  has at least two elements, then the contraction of  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_{2,4}$ . Therefore  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  has a vertex of degree 4 which is not a cut vertex. By Theorem 1.1,  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not a planar graph, which is a contradiction.  $\square$

Now, we investigate the projectivity of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , when  $|A(L)| = 3$ .

Suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| \geq 6$ . Then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_{4,1,1}$ ,  $K_{3,2,1}$  or  $K_{2,2,2}$ . If  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_{4,1,1}$ , then one can easily find a copy of  $A_1$ , one of the listed graphs in [11], in the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , which is not projective. Also, if  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_{3,2,1}$ , then one can easily find a copy of  $E_{20}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], in the contraction of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , which is not projective. Now, if  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_{2,2,2}$ , then the contraction of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $E_3$ , one of the listed graphs in [11], which is not projective. Therefore  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not a projective graph.

As a consequence of the above discussion, we state the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.3.** *If  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is projective, then  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| \leq 5$ .*

**Theorem 2.4.** *Suppose that  $|A(L)| = 3$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a projective graph if and only if one of the following conditions holds:*

- (i)  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 3$ , there exist unique  $i$  and  $j$ , with  $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$ , such that  $3 \leq |U_{ij}| \leq 4$  and  $|U_{kk'}| \leq 2$  for  $k \in \{i, j\}$  and  $\{k'\} = \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{i, j\}$ .
- (ii)  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 4$ , there exists a unique  $i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , such that  $|U_i| = 2$ , and for  $\{j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{i\}$ , if  $2 \leq |U_{ij}| \leq 3$ , then  $|U_{ik}| \leq 1$  and  $|U_{jk}| \leq 1$ .
- (iii)  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 5$ ,
  - (a) there exists a unique  $i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , such that  $|U_i| = 3$ , and for all  $1 \leq j, k \leq 3$ ,  $U_{jk} = \emptyset$ ;
  - (b) there exists a unique  $i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , such that  $|U_i| = 1$ , and for  $\{j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{i\}$ ,  $|U_{jk}| \leq 1$  and  $U_{ij} = U_{ik} = \emptyset$ .

**Proof.** First we assume that  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a projective graph. By Lemma 2.3,  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| \leq 5$ . Hence we have the following cases.

*Case 1.*  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 3$ . In this case, if  $|U_{ij}| \leq 2$  for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ , then by Theorem 2.3, the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar, which is not projective. Also, without loss of generality we may assume that  $|U_{12}|, |U_{13}| \in \{3, 4\}$ . Then one can easily check that the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $A_1$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not projective. In addition, if we assume that  $U_{12}$ ,  $U_{13}$  or  $U_{23}$  has at least five elements, then the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_7$ , which is not projective. Therefore, for the projectivity of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , it is necessary that there exist unique  $i$  and  $j$ , with  $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$ , such that  $3 \leq |U_{ij}| \leq 4$  and  $|U_{kk'}| \leq 2$  for  $k \in \{i, j\}$  and  $\{k'\} = \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{i, j\}$ .

*Case 2.*  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 4$ . In this case, if  $|U_{ij}| \leq 1$  for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ , then, by Theorem 2.3, the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar, which is not projective. Now, suppose that there exists a unique  $U_i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , say  $U_1$ , such that  $|U_1| = 2$ . If  $|U_{23}| \geq 2$ , then  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  contains a copy of  $K_{2,4}$ . Clearly,  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))) \geq \overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{2,4}))$ , and we have  $\overline{\gamma}(\mathfrak{L}(K_{2,4})) = 2$ . This implies that the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not projective. Now, we may assume that  $U_{23} = \emptyset$ . If  $U_{12}$  or  $U_{13}$  has at least four elements, then the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $K_7$ , which is not projective. Also, if  $|U_{12}| = |U_{13}| = 2$ , then the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $A_1$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not projective. Therefore, for the projectivity of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , it is necessary that  $2 \leq |U_{ij}| \leq 3$ ,  $|U_{ik}| \leq 1$  and  $|U_{jk}| \leq 1$ , for  $\{j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{i\}$ , when  $|U_i| = 2$ .

*Case 3.*  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 5$ . Suppose that  $|U_1| = 3$ . If  $U_{12}$  or  $U_{13}$  has at least one element, then the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $D_{17}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not projective. Also, if  $U_{23}$  has at least one element, then the contraction of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $E_{20}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not a projective graph. Therefore, for the projectivity of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , it is necessary that  $U_{12} = U_{13} = U_{23} = \emptyset$ , when  $|U_1| = 3$ . On the other hand, suppose that there exists a unique  $U_i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , say  $U_1$ , such that  $|U_1| = 1$ . If  $U_{12}$  or  $U_{13}$  has at least one element, then the contraction of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $E_{20}$ , one of the listed graphs in [11], which is not a projective graph. Also, if  $|U_{23}| \geq 2$ , then the contraction of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $D_{17}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not a projective graph. Therefore, for the projectivity of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , it is necessary that  $U_{12} = U_{13} = \emptyset$  and  $|U_{23}| \leq 1$ , when  $|U_1| = 1$ .

Conversely, if one of the statements (i), (ii) or (iii) holds, then we will show that  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a projective graph.

First suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 3$ . If  $|U_{12}| = |U_{13}| = 2$  and  $|U_{23}| = 4$ , then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  is pictured in Figure 8, which is planar and the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is pictured in Figure 9, which is projective. We have  $u_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2 \in U_2$ ,  $u_3 \in U_3$ ,  $I_{12}, I'_{12} \in U_{12}$ ,  $I_{13}, I'_{13} \in U_{13}$  and  $I_{23}, I'_{23}, I''_{23}, I'''_{23} \in U_{23}$ .

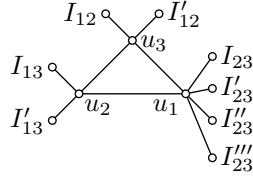


Figure 8.

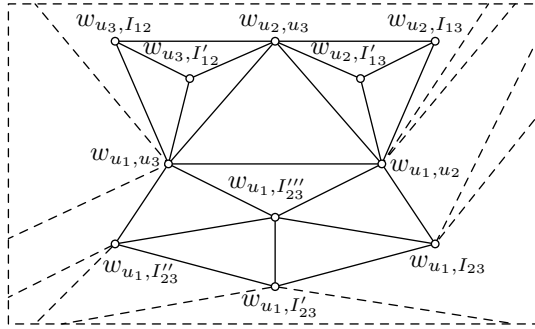


Figure 9.

Now, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 4$  and  $|U_1| = 2$ . If  $|U_{12}| = 3$  and  $|U_{13}| = |U_{23}| = 1$ , then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  with vertices  $u_1, I_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2 \in U_2$ ,  $u_3 \in U_3$ ,  $I_{12}, I'_{12}, I''_{12} \in U_{12}$ ,  $I_{13} \in U_{13}$  and  $I_{23} \in U_{23}$  is planar and the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is projective (see Figure 10).

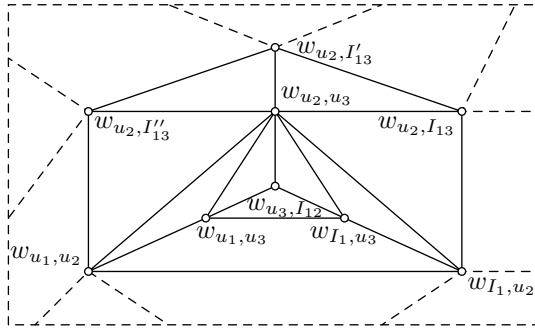


Figure 10.

Finally, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^3 U_j \right| = 5$  and consider the following cases.

*Case 1.* There exists a unique  $U_i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , say  $U_1$ , such that  $|U_1| = 3$ , and also  $U_{12} = U_{13} = U_{23} = \emptyset$ . Then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  with vertices  $u_1, I_1, I'_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2 \in U_2$  and  $u_3 \in U_3$  is planar. As observed, in Figure 11, the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is projective.

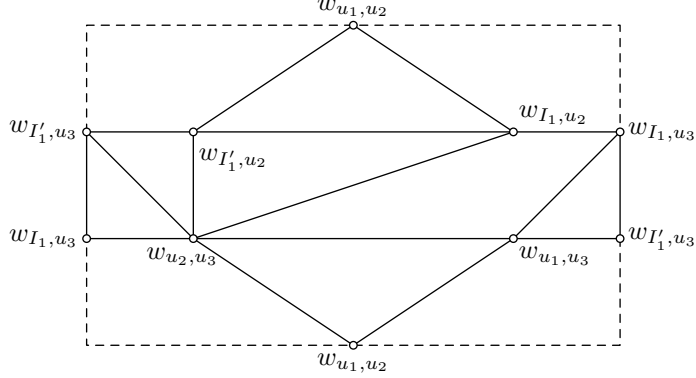


Figure 11.

*Case 2.* There exists a unique  $U_i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , say  $U_1$ , such that  $|U_1| = 1$ , also  $U_{12} = U_{13} = \emptyset$  and  $|U_{23}| = 1$ . Then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  with vertices  $u_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2, I_2 \in U_2$ ,  $u_3, I_3 \in U_3$  and  $I_{23} \in U_{23}$  is planar, and so  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is pictured in Figure 12, which is a projective graph.  $\square$

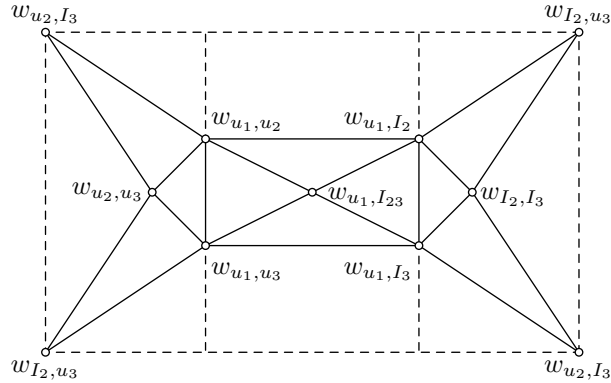


Figure 12.

In the following, we study the planarity and projectivity of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , when  $|A(L)| = 4$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar or projective, then  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^4 U_j \right| = 4$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose on the contrary that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^4 U_j \right| \geq 5$ . Then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  has a vertex of degree 4 which is not a cut vertex. Hence, by Theorem 1.1,  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is not a planar graph, which is a contradiction. Also, on the contrary, consider that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^4 U_j \right| = 5$  and  $|U_1| = 2$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $E_{20}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not a projective graph. It is again a contradiction.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** *Suppose that  $|A(L)| = 4$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a planar graph if and only if  $U_{ij} = \emptyset$  and  $|U_{ijk}| \leq 1$  for all  $i, j, k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .*

**Proof.** First, assume that the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar. By Lemma 2.4, we have  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^4 U_j \right| = 4$ . If there exists at least one element in  $U_{ij}$  for  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , then one can easily check that the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a subdivision of  $K_{3,3}$ , which is not planar. Also, if one of the sets  $U_{ijk}$  has at least two elements for  $i, j, k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  has a vertex of degree 5. Hence the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $K_5$ , which is impossible.

Conversely, suppose that  $U_{12} = U_{13} = U_{23} = \emptyset$  and  $|U_{123}| = |U_{124}| = |U_{134}| = |U_{234}| = 1$ . The graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$  with vertices  $u_1 \in U_1$ ,  $u_2 \in U_2$ ,  $u_3 \in U_3$ ,  $u_4 \in U_4$ ,  $I_{123} \in U_{123}$ ,  $I_{124} \in U_{124}$ ,  $I_{134} \in U_{134}$  and  $I_{234} \in U_{234}$  is pictured in Figure 13.

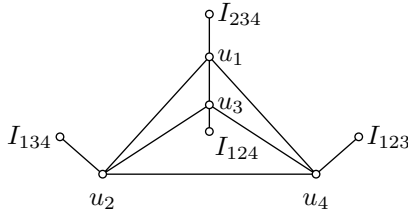


Figure 13.

Hence  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is pictured in Figure 14, which is a planar graph. Therefore, in the case that  $U_{ij} = \emptyset$  and  $|U_{ijk}| \leq 1$  for all  $i, j, k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , we have  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar.  $\square$

In the sequel, suppose that  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^4 U_j \right| = 4$ . We have the following situations.

- (i) There exist  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  such that  $|U_{ij}| \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $A_1$ , one of the listed graphs in [11], which is not a projective graph.

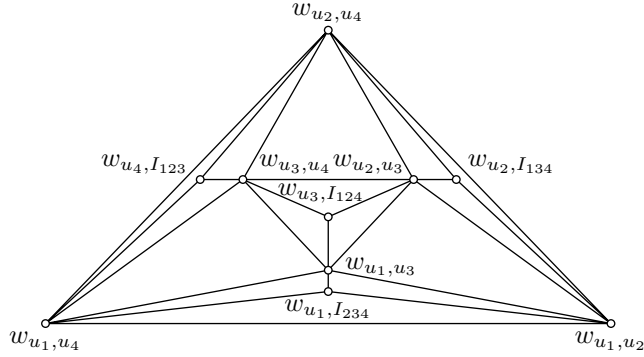


Figure 14.

- (ii) There exist  $i, i', j, j' \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with  $i \neq i', j \neq j'$ , such that  $|U_{ij}| = |U_{i'j'}| = 1$ . Then the contraction  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $D_{17}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not a projective graph.
- (iii) There exist  $i, i', j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with  $i \neq i', j$  such that  $|U_{ij}| = |U_{i'j}| = 1$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $D_{17}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not a projective graph.
- (iv) For all  $1 \leq i, j, k \leq 4$ ,  $|U_{ijk}| \leq 1$  and  $U_{ij} = \emptyset$ . Then, by Theorem 2.5, the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is planar, which is not projective.
- (v) There exist  $i, j, k$ , with  $1 \leq i, j, k \leq 4$  such that  $|U_{ijk}| \geq 4$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $K_7$ , which is not projective.
- (vi) There exist unique  $i, i', j, k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with  $i \neq i', j, k$  such that  $2 \leq |U_{ijk}| \leq 3$  and  $|U_{i'ij}| = |U_{i'ik}| = |U_{i'jk}| = 1$ . Then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ , with vertices  $u_1 \in U_1, u_2 \in U_2, u_3 \in U_3, u_4 \in U_4, I_{123}, I'_{123}, I''_{123} \in U_{123}, I_{124} \in U_{124}, I_{134} \in U_{134}$  and  $I_{234} \in U_{234}$  is planar. Therefore the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , which is pictured in Figure 15, is projective.

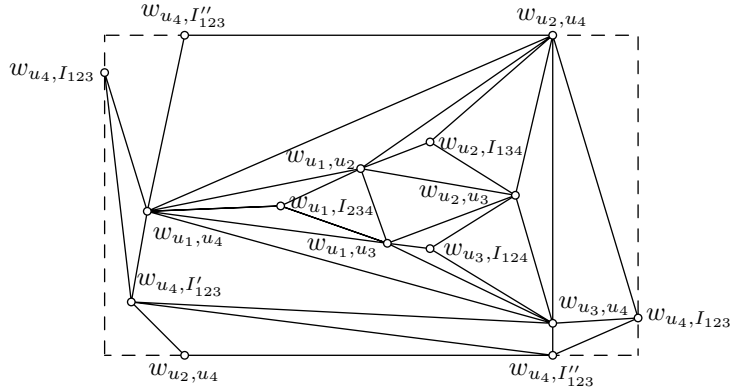


Figure 15.

- (vii) There exist  $i, i', j, k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with  $i \neq i', j, k$  such that  $|S_{ijk}| = |S_{i'jk}| = 2$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\Gamma_2(L))$  contains a copy of  $A_1$ , one of the listed graphs in [11], which is not a projective graph.
- (viii) There exist  $i, j, j', k, k' \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  with  $i, j \neq j', k \neq k'$  such that  $|U_{ij}| = 1$  and  $|U_{ij'k'}| = 2$ . Then the contraction of  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $B_1$ , one of the listed graphs in [11], which is not a projective graph.
- (ix) There exist  $i, j, k$ , with  $1 \leq i, j, k \leq 4$ ,  $|U_{ij}| = |U_{ijk}| = 1$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  contains a copy of  $E_{19}$ , one of the graphs listed in [11], which is not a projective graph.
- (x) There exist unique  $i, i', j, j'$  with  $\{i', j'\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \setminus \{i, j\}$  such that  $|U_{ij}| = |U_{ii'j'}| = |U_{jj'j'}| = 1$ . Then the graph  $\mathbb{A}G(L)$ , with vertices  $u_1 \in U_1, u_2 \in U_2, u_3 \in U_3, u_4 \in U_4, I_{12} \in U_{12}, I_{134} \in U_{134}$  and  $I_{234} \in U_{234}$  is planar. Therefore the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , which is pictured in Figure 16, is projective.

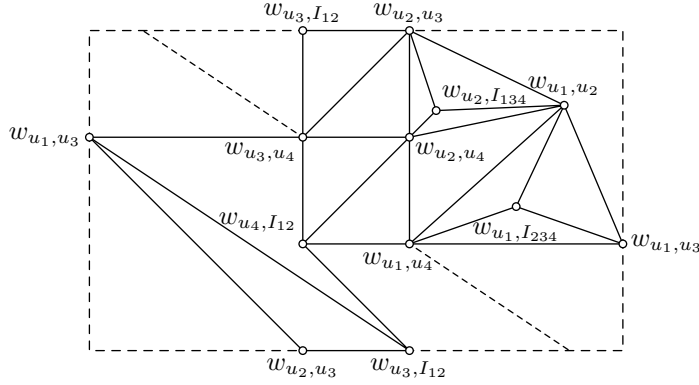


Figure 16.

As a consequence of the above discussion and Lemma 2.4, we state the necessary and sufficient conditions for the projectivity of the graph  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$ , when the size of  $A(L)$  is equal to 4.

**Theorem 2.6.** Suppose that  $|A(L)| = 4$ . Then  $\mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{A}G(L))$  is a projective graph if and only if  $\left| \bigcup_{j=1}^4 U_j \right| = 4$  and one of the following conditions holds:

- (i) There exist unique  $i \neq i', j, k$  with  $1 \leq i, i', j, k \leq 4$  such that  $2 \leq |U_{ijk}| \leq 3$  and  $|U_{i'ij}| = |U_{i'ik}| = |U_{i'jk}| = 1$ .
- (ii) There exist unique  $i, i', j, j'$  with  $\{i', j'\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \setminus \{i, j\}$  such that  $|U_{ij}| = |U_{ii'j'}| = |U_{jj'j'}| = 1$ .

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