

Meng Xiao Yin; Jian Hua Yin

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ON POTENTIALLY  $H$ -GRAPHIC SEQUENCES

MENG-XIAO YIN, Nanning, JIAN-HUA YIN, Haikou

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*Abstract.* For given a graph  $H$ , a graphic sequence  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  is said to be potentially  $H$ -graphic if there is a realization of  $\pi$  containing  $H$  as a subgraph. In this paper, we characterize the potentially  $(K_5 - e)$ -positive graphic sequences and give two simple necessary and sufficient conditions for a positive graphic sequence  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_5$ -graphic, where  $K_r$  is a complete graph on  $r$  vertices and  $K_r - e$  is a graph obtained from  $K_r$  by deleting one edge. Moreover, we also give a simple necessary and sufficient condition for a positive graphic sequence  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_6$ -graphic.

*Keywords:* graph, degree sequence, potentially  $H$ -graphic sequence

*MSC 2000:* 05C07

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The set of all non-increasing nonnegative integer sequences  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  with  $d_i \leq n - 1$  for each  $i$  is denoted by  $\text{NS}_n$ . A sequence  $\pi \in \text{NS}_n$  is said to be *graphic* if it is the degree sequence of a simple graph  $G$  on  $n$  vertices, and such a graph  $G$  is called a *realization* of  $\pi$ . The set of all graphic sequences in  $\text{NS}_n$  is denoted by  $\text{GS}_n$ . If each term of a graphic sequence  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  is nonzero, then  $\pi$  is said to be *positive graphic*. For a sequence  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$ , define  $\sigma(\pi) = d_1 + d_2 + \dots + d_n$ . For given a graph  $H$ , a sequence  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  is said to be *potentially  $H$ -graphic*, if there is a realization of  $\pi$  containing  $H$  as a subgraph. If  $\pi$  has a realization in which the  $r + 1$  vertices of largest degree induce a clique, then  $\pi$  is said to be *potentially  $A_{r+1}$ -graphic*. Erdős, Jacobson and Lehel [1] in 1991 considered an extremal problem on potentially  $K_{r+1}$ -graphic sequences: determine the smallest even integer  $\sigma(K_{r+1}, n)$  such that every sequence  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  with  $\sigma(\pi) \geq \sigma(K_{r+1}, n)$  is potentially  $K_{r+1}$ -graphic. They proved that  $\sigma(K_3, n) = 2n$  for  $n \geq 6$  and conjectured

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that  $\sigma(K_{r+1}, n) = (r - 1)(2n - r) + 2$  for sufficiently large  $n$ . Gould et al. [3] and Li and Song [6] independently proved it for  $r = 3$ . Recently, Li et al. [7], [8] proved that the conjecture is true for  $r = 4$  and  $n \geq 10$  and for  $r \geq 5$  and  $n \geq \binom{r}{2} + 3$ . Although the Erdős-Jacobson-Lehel conjecture was confirmed, it leaves a natural open question: given a graphic sequence  $\pi$ , how to tell whether it is potentially  $K_{r+1}$ -graphic? In [12], Rao considered the problem of characterizing potentially  $K_{r+1}$ -graphic sequences, proved that a sequence  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  is potentially  $A_{r+1}$ -graphic if and only if it is potentially  $K_{r+1}$ -graphic, and developed a ‘‘Havel-Hakimi’’ type procedure as follows to determine the maximum clique number of a graph with a given degree sequence.

Let  $n \geq r + 1$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  with  $d_{r+1} \geq r$ . We define sequences  $\pi_0, \dots, \pi_{r+1}$  as follows. Let  $\pi_0 = \pi$ . Let

$$\pi_1 = (d_2 - 1, \dots, d_{r+1} - 1, d_{r+2}^{(1)}, \dots, d_n^{(1)}),$$

where  $d_{r+2}^{(1)} \geq \dots \geq d_n^{(1)}$  is the rearrangement of  $d_{r+2} - 1, \dots, d_{d_1+1} - 1, d_{d_1+2}, \dots, d_n$ . For  $2 \leq i \leq r + 1$ , given  $\pi_{i-1} = (d_i - i + 1, \dots, d_{r+1} - i + 1, d_{r+2}^{(i-1)}, \dots, d_n^{(i-1)})$ , let

$$\pi_i = (d_{i+1} - i, \dots, d_{r+1} - i, d_{r+2}^{(i)}, \dots, d_n^{(i)}),$$

where  $d_{r+2}^{(i)} \geq \dots \geq d_n^{(i)}$  is the rearrangement of  $d_{r+2}^{(i-1)} - 1, \dots, d_{d_{i+1}+1}^{(i-1)} - 1, d_{d_{i+2}}^{(i-1)}, \dots, d_n^{(i-1)}$ .

**Theorem 1.1** [12]. *Let  $n \geq r + 1$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  with  $d_{r+1} \geq r$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_{r+1}$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_{r+1}$  is graphic.*

**Theorem 1.2** [12]. *Let  $n \geq r + 2$ ,  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  with  $d_{r+2} \geq d_{r+3} \geq \dots \geq d_n$ . If there exists a graph  $G$  on the vertex set  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  such that  $d_G(v_i) = d_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r+1}\}$  forms a complete subgraph of  $G$ , then there is one such graph in which  $v_1$  is joined to  $v_{r+2}, v_{r+3}, \dots, v_{d_1+1}$ .*

From the proof of Theorem 1.2, it is easy to obtain the following

**Remark 1.1.** Let  $n \geq r + 2$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  with  $d_{r+2} \geq d_{r+3} \geq \dots \geq d_n$ . If there exists a graph  $G$  on the vertex set  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  such that  $d_G(v_i) = d_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r+1}\}$  contains  $K_{r+1} - e$  as a subgraph, where  $e = v_r v_{r+1}$ , then there is one such graph in which  $v_1$  is joined to  $v_{r+2}, v_{r+3}, \dots, v_{d_1+1}$ .

In [13], Rao gave the following characterization for a sequence  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  to be potentially  $A_{r+1}$ -graphic.

**Theorem 1.3** [13]. Let  $n \geq r + 1$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_{r+1}$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (i)  $d_{r+1} \geq r$ ,
- (ii)  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,
- (iii) for any  $s$  and  $t$ ,  $0 \leq s \leq r + 1$  and  $0 \leq t \leq n - r - 1$ ,

$$L(s, t) \leq R(s, t),$$

$$\text{where } L(s, t) = \sum_{i=1}^s d_i + \sum_{i=1}^t d_{r+1+i} \text{ and } R(s, t) = (s+t)(s+t-1) + \sum_{i=s+1}^{r+1} \min\{s+t, d_i - r + s\} + \sum_{i=r+t+2}^n \min\{s+t, d_i\}.$$

The original proof of Theorem 1.3 remains unpublished, but recently Kézdy and Lehel [4] have given a different proof using network flows. Unfortunately, the conditions in Theorem 1.3 are not easy to check, but Luo et al. [10], [11] gave simple characterizations for a positive graphic sequence  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_r$ -graphic for  $r = 3$  and 4, and Yin and Li [15] also obtained two sufficient conditions for a graphic sequence  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_r$ -graphic. The following are their results.

**Theorem 1.4** [10]. Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $n \geq 3$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_3$ -graphic if and only if  $d_3 \geq 2$  except for two cases:  $\pi = (2^4)$  and  $\pi = (2^5)$ , where the symbol  $x^y$  in a sequence stands for  $y$  consecutive terms, each equal to  $x$ .

**Theorem 1.5** [11]. Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $n \geq 4$  and  $d_4 \geq 3$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_4$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi \neq (n - 1, 3^s, 1^{n-s-1})$  for  $s = 4, 5$ , and  $\pi$  is not one the following sequences:

- $n = 5$ :  $(4, 3^4), (3^4, 2)$ ;
- $n = 6$ :  $(4^6), (4^2, 3^4), (4, 3^4, 2), (3^6), (3^5, 1), (3^4, 2^2)$ ;
- $n = 7$ :  $(4^7), (4, 3^6), (4, 3^5, 1), (3^6, 2), (3^5, 2, 1)$ ;
- $n = 8$ :  $(3^7, 1), (3^6, 1^2)$ .

**Theorem 1.6** [15]. Let  $n \geq r + 1$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  with  $d_{r+1} \geq r$ . If  $d_i \geq 2r - i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r - 1$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_{r+1}$ -graphic.

**Theorem 1.7** [15]. Let  $n \geq 2r + 2$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  with  $d_{r+1} \geq r$ . If  $d_{2r+2} \geq r - 1$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_{r+1}$ -graphic.

Recently, Eschen and Niu [2] characterized potentially  $K_4 - e$ -graphic sequences, and Yin and Li [15] gave two sufficient conditions for a graphic sequence  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_r - e$ -graphic. In other words, they proved the following

**Theorem 1.8** [2]. *Let  $n \geq 4$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence. Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_4 - e$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold:*

- (1)  $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq 3, d_4 \geq 2$ ;
- (2)  $\pi \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ .

**Theorem 1.9** [15]. *Let  $n \geq r+1$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  with  $d_{r+1} \geq r-1$ . If  $d_i \geq 2r - i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r - 1$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_{r+1} - e$ -graphic.*

**Theorem 1.10** [15]. *Let  $n \geq 2r+2$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  with  $d_{r-1} \geq r$ . If  $d_{2r+2} \geq r - 1$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_{r+1} - e$ -graphic.*

In this paper, we characterize potentially  $K_5 - e$ -positive graphic sequences, give two simple necessary and sufficient conditions for a positive graphic sequence  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_5$ -graphic, and also present a simple necessary and sufficient condition for a positive graphic sequence  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_6$ -graphic, which are the following four theorems.

**Theorem 1.11.** *Let  $n \geq 5$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_3 \geq 4$  and  $d_5 \geq 3$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi$  is not one of the following sequences:*

- $(n - 1, 4^6, 1^{n-7}), (n - 1, 4^2, 3^4, 1^{n-7}), (n - 1, 4^2, 3^3, 1^{n-6});$   
 $n = 6: (4^6), (4^4, 3^2), (4^3, 3^2, 2);$   
 $n = 7: (4^3, 3^4), (5^2, 4, 3^4), (4^7), (4^5, 3^2), (5, 4^3, 3^3), (5^2, 4^5), (5, 4^5, 3), (4^3, 3^2, 2^2),$   
 $(4^4, 3^2, 2), (5, 4^2, 3^3, 2), (4^6, 2), (4^3, 3^3, 1);$   
 $n = 8: (5^8), (4^8), (5^2, 4^6), (6, 4^7), (4^4, 3^4), (5, 4^2, 3^5), (4^6, 3^2), (5, 4^6, 3), (4^3, 3^4, 2),$   
 $(4^7, 2), (4^4, 3^3, 1), (5, 4^2, 3^4, 1), (4^3, 3^3, 2, 1), (4^6, 3, 1), (5, 4^6, 1);$   
 $n = 9: (4^9), (4^3, 3^5, 1), (4^8, 2), (4^7, 3, 1), (5, 4^7, 1), (4^3, 3^4, 1^2), (4^7, 1^2);$   
 $n = 10: (4^8, 1^2).$

**Theorem 1.12.** *Let  $n \geq 14$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_5 \geq 4$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_5 \notin S$ , where  $S = \{(2), (2^2), (3, 1), (3^2), (3, 2, 1), (3^2, 2), (3^3, 1), (3^2, 1^2)\}$ .*

**Theorem 1.13.** *Let  $n \geq 18$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_6 \geq 5$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_6$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_6 \notin S$ .*

**Theorem 1.14.** Let  $n$  be sufficiently large and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_5 \geq 4$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic if and only if  $(d_1 - 4, d_2 - 4, d_3 - 4, d_4 - 4, d_5 - 4, d_6, \dots, d_n)$  is graphic,  $\pi \neq (n - a, n - b, 4^4, 2^{n-(a+b+4)}, 1^{a+b-2})$  for  $1 \leq a \leq b \leq n - 6$  and  $a + b \leq n - 4$ , and  $\pi \neq (n - a, n - b, 4^5, 2^{n-(a+b+5)}, 1^{a+b-2})$  for  $1 \leq a \leq b \leq n - 6$  and  $a + b \leq n - 5$ .

## 2. PREPARATIONS

In order to prove our main results, we need the following notations and known results.

Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . Let

$$\pi_k'' = \begin{cases} (d_1 - 1, \dots, d_{k-1} - 1, d_{k+1} - 1, \dots, d_{d_k+1} - 1, d_{d_k+2}, \dots, d_n), & \text{if } d_k \geq k, \\ (d_1 - 1, \dots, d_{d_k} - 1, d_{d_k+1}, \dots, d_{k-1}, d_{k+1}, \dots, d_n), & \text{if } d_k < k. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\pi_k' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$ , where  $d'_1 \geq d'_2 \geq \dots \geq d'_{n-1}$  is the rearrangement of the  $n - 1$  terms of  $\pi_k''$ .  $\pi_k'$  is called the *residual sequence* obtained by laying off  $d_k$  from  $\pi$ . It is easy to see that if  $\pi_k'$  is graphic then so is  $\pi$ , since a realization  $G$  of  $\pi$  can be obtained from a realization  $G'$  of  $\pi_k'$  by adding a new vertex of degree  $d_k$  and joining it to the vertices whose degrees are reduced by one in going from  $\pi$  to  $\pi_k'$ . In fact more is true:

**Theorem 2.1** [5]. Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . Then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  if and only if  $\pi_k' \in \text{GS}_{n-1}$ .

**Theorem 2.2** [14]. Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$ ,  $d_1 = m$  and  $\sigma(\pi)$  be even. If there exists an integer  $n_1$ ,  $n_1 \leq n$  such that  $d_{n_1} \geq h \geq 1$  and  $n_1 \geq \lceil \frac{1}{4}(m + h + 1)^2 \rceil / h$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$ .

**Theorem 2.3** [9]. Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  and  $\sigma(\pi)$  be even. If  $d_1 - d_n \leq 1$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$ .

**Theorem 2.4** [3]. If  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{GS}_n$  has a realization  $G$  containing  $H$  as a subgraph, then there exists a realization  $G'$  of  $\pi$  containing  $H$  as a subgraph so that the vertices of  $H$  have the largest degrees of  $\pi$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *If  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  is potentially  $K_{r+1} - e$ -graphic, then there is a realization  $G$  of  $\pi$  containing  $K_{r+1} - e$  such that the  $r + 1$  vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r+1}$  of  $K_{r+1} - e$  satisfy  $d_G(v_i) = d_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r + 1$  and  $e = v_r v_{r+1}$ .*

*Proof.* According to Theorem 2.4, there is a graph  $G'$  with vertex set  $V(G') = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, d_n\}$  and  $d_{G'}(v_i) = d_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  such that the subgraph of  $G'$  induced by  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r+1}\}$  contains a  $K_{r+1} - e$ . If  $e = v_r v_{r+1}$ , then the lemma holds. We now assume  $e = v_i v_j$ .

If  $v_i, v_j \in \{v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}\}$ , then for  $v_i$ , there exists a vertex  $v'_i \in G' \setminus \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r+1}\}$  such that  $v'_i v_i \in E(G')$  and  $v'_i v_r \notin E(G')$ . Otherwise  $d_r \geq d_i + 1$ , which is a contradiction. Similarly, for  $v_j$ , there is a vertex  $v'_j \in G' \setminus \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r+1}\}$  such that  $v_j v'_j \in E(G')$  and  $v'_j v_{r+1} \notin E(G')$ . Then

$$G = G' - v_i v'_i - v_r v_{r+1} - v_j v'_j + v_i v_j + v_r v'_i + v_{r+1} v'_j$$

is also a realization of  $\pi$  and  $G$  satisfies the conditions of the lemma.

If  $v_i \in \{v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}\}$ , without loss of generality, let  $v_j = v_r$ , then there exists a vertex  $v'_i \in G' \setminus \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{r+1}\}$  such that  $v'_i v_i \in E(G')$  and  $v'_i v_{r+1} \notin E(G')$  since  $d_i \geq d_{r+1}$ . Hence,

$$G = G' - v_i v'_i - v_r v_{r+1} + v_i v_r + v_{r+1} v'_i$$

is also a realization of  $\pi$  satisfying the conditions of the lemma.

For  $v_j \in \{v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}\}$ , the proof is similar to the above and is omitted here.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $\pi = (3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$  with even  $\sigma(\pi)$  and  $x + y + z = n \geq 1$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  if and only if  $\pi \notin S$ .*

*Proof.* For  $n = 1$ , since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $\pi$  must be  $(2)$ , which belongs to  $S$ . For  $n \geq 2$ , we consider the following cases.

**Case 1:**  $n = 2$ . Then  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:  $(3, 1), (2^2), (3^2), (1^2)$ . It is easy to check that only one sequence  $(1^2)$  is graphic.

**Case 2:**  $n = 3$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $\pi$  may be  $(3, 2, 1), (3^2, 2), (2^3)$  or  $(2, 1^2)$ . We can see that  $(2^3)$  and  $(2, 1^2)$  are graphic.

**Case 3:**  $n = 4$ . Then  $\pi$  is one of the following:

$$(3^3, 1), (3, 1^3), (3^4), (2^4), (3, 2^2, 1), (2^2, 1^2), (3^2, 2^2), (1^4), (3^2, 1^2),$$

which are all graphic except  $(3^2, 1^2)$  and  $(3^3, 1)$ .

**Case 4:**  $n = 5$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi$  must be one of the following graphic sequences:

$$(2, 1^4), (3, 2, 1^3), (3^2, 2, 1^2), (3^3, 2, 1), (3, 2^3, 1), (2^5), (3^2, 2^3), (2^3, 1^2), (3^4, 2).$$

Case 5:  $n \geq 6$ . If  $x > 0$  and  $z > 0$ , then  $n \geq \lceil \frac{(3+1+1)^2}{4} \rceil$ . Hence,  $\pi$  is graphic from Theorem 2.2. Otherwise,  $\pi$  is graphic by Theorem 2.3.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $\pi = (d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  with  $d_n \geq 1$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . (1) If  $n \geq 9$  and  $d_1 \leq 4$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$ . (2) If  $n \geq 12$  and  $d_1 \leq 5$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$ .

**Proof.** (1) If  $d_1 = 4$  and  $d_n \leq 2$ , then  $n \geq 9 = \max\{\lceil \frac{(4+1+1)^2}{4} \rceil, \frac{1}{2}\lceil \frac{(4+2+1)^2}{4} \rceil\}$ . Therefore,  $\pi$  is graphic by Theorem 2.2. If  $d_1 = 4$  and  $d_n \geq 3$ , then by Theorem 2.3,  $\pi$  is graphic. If  $d_1 \leq 3$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  by Lemma 2.2.

(2) If  $d_1 \leq 4$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  from (1). For  $d_1 = 5$  and  $d_n \leq 3$ , we have  $n \geq 12 = \max\{\frac{1}{2}\lceil \frac{(5+2+1)^2}{4} \rceil, \lceil \frac{(5+1+1)^2}{4} \rceil, \frac{1}{3}\lceil \frac{(5+3+1)^2}{4} \rceil\}$ . By Theorem 2.2,  $\pi$  is graphic. If  $d_1 = 5$  and  $d_n \geq 4$ , then  $\pi \in \text{GS}_n$  by Theorem 2.3.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $n \geq 5$  and  $\pi = (d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_3 \geq 4$  and  $d_5 \geq 3$ . If  $\pi$  is not potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic and  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ , then  $n - 2 \geq d_1 \geq \dots \geq d_4 \geq d_5 = d_6 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq d_{d_1+3} \geq \dots \geq d_n$ .

**Proof.** By way of contradiction, we assume that there exists an integer  $t, 5 \leq t \leq d_1 + 1$  such that  $d_t > d_{t+1}$ . Since  $d_3 \geq 4, d_5 \geq 3$  and  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ , the residual sequence  $\pi'_1 = (d'_1, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  satisfies the conditions in Theorem 1.8. Notice that  $d'_i = d_{i+1} - 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, t - 1$ . Therefore,  $\pi'_1$  has a realization  $G$  containing  $K_4 - e$  such that the degrees of the vertices of  $K_4 - e$  in  $G$  are  $d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4$ . Thus  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by  $\{d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1, d_4 - 1, d_5 - 1\} = \{d'_1, \dots, d'_4\}$ .  $\square$

For convenience, we need the following definitions.

Let  $n \geq 5$  and  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  with  $d_3 \geq 4$  and  $d_5 \geq 3$ . We define sequences  $\pi_0^*, \pi_1^*, \pi_2^*$  and  $\pi_3^*$  as follows. Let  $\pi_0^* = \pi$ . Let

$$\pi_1^* = (d_2 - 1, \dots, d_5 - 1, d_6^{(1)}, \dots, d_n^{(1)}),$$

where  $d_6^{(1)} \geq \dots \geq d_n^{(1)}$  is a rearrangement of  $d_6 - 1, \dots, d_{d_1+1} - 1, d_{d_1+2}, \dots, d_n$ . Let

$$\pi_2^* = (d_3 - 2, \dots, d_5 - 2, d_6^{(2)}, \dots, d_n^{(2)}),$$

where  $d_6^{(2)} \geq \dots \geq d_n^{(2)}$  is the rearrangement of  $d_6^{(1)} - 1, \dots, d_{d_2+1}^{(1)} - 1, d_{d_2+2}^{(1)}, \dots, d_n^{(1)}$ . Let

$$\pi_3^* = (d_4 - 3, d_5 - 3, d_6^{(3)}, \dots, d_n^{(3)}),$$

where  $d_6^{(3)} \geq \dots \geq d_n^{(3)}$  is the rearrangement of  $d_6^{(2)} - 1, \dots, d_{d_3+1}^{(2)} - 1, d_{d_3+2}^{(2)}, \dots, d_n^{(2)}$ .



**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $n \geq 5$  and  $\pi = (d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_3 \geq 4$  and  $d_5 \geq 3$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_3^*$  is graphic.*

*Proof.* The sufficient condition is obvious from the definition of  $\pi_3^*$ . Now we show the necessary condition. By Lemma 2.1 and Remark 1.1,  $\pi$  has a realization  $G_0$  on the vertex set  $V(G_0) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  such that  $d_{G_0}(v_i) = d_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , the subgraph of  $G_0$  induced by  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5\}$  contains  $K_5 - e$  as a subgraph, where  $e = v_4v_5$ , and  $v_1$  is joined to  $v_6, v_7, \dots, v_{d_1+1}$ . Let  $G'_1$  be the graph obtained from  $G_0$  by deleting  $v_1$ . Then  $G'_1$  is a realization of  $\pi_1^*$ . By Remark 1.1, there exists a graph  $G_1$  on the vertex set  $V(G_1) = \{v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n\}$  having the following properties. First,  $d_{G_1}(v_i) = d_i - 1$  for  $i = 2, 3, 4, 5$  and  $d_{G_1}(v_i) = d_i^{(1)}$  for  $i = 6, \dots, n$ . Additionally, the subgraph of  $G_1$  induced by  $\{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5\}$  contains a  $K_4 - e$  as a subgraph and  $e = v_4v_5$ . Finally,  $v_2$  is joined to  $v_6, v_7, \dots, v_{d_2+1}$ . Denote the graph obtained from  $G_1$  by deleting  $v_2$  by  $G'_2$ . Then  $G'_2$  is a realization of  $\pi_2^*$ . By Remark 1.1,  $\pi_2^*$  has a realization  $G_2$  on the vertex set  $V(G_2) = \{v_3, v_4, \dots, v_n\}$  satisfying: (1)  $d_{G_2}(v_i) = d_i - 2$  for  $i = 3, 4, 5$  and  $d_{G_2}(v_i) = d_i^{(2)}$  for  $i = 6, \dots, n$ , (2) the subgraph of  $G_2$  induced by  $\{v_3, v_4, v_5\}$  contains a  $K_3 - e$  as a subgraph, where  $e = v_4v_5$ , and (3)  $v_3$  is joined to  $v_6, v_7, \dots, v_{d_3+1}$ . Deleting the vertex  $v_3$  from  $G_2$ , we get a realization of  $\pi_3^*$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let  $n \geq 9$  and  $\pi = (d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_1 \leq n - 2$ ,  $d_3 \geq 4$  and  $d_5 \geq 3$ . If the residual sequence  $\pi'_5 \neq (3^7, 1), (3^6, 1^2)$  and  $d_3 > d_5$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.*

*Proof.* As  $d_1 \leq n - 2$  and  $\pi'_5 \neq (3^7, 1), (3^6, 1^2)$ , there is a realization  $G'$  of  $\pi'_5$  containing a  $K_4$  such that the degrees of vertices of  $K_4$  in  $G'$  are  $d'_1, \dots, d'_4$  by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. Since  $d_3 > d_5$ , we have  $\{d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1, \dots\} \subseteq \{d'_1, \dots, d'_4\}$ . Hence,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $n \geq 14$  and  $\pi = (d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $d_5 \geq 4$  and  $n - 2 \geq d_1 \geq \dots \geq d_5 = d_6 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq \dots \geq d_n$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic.*

*Proof.* Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a graphic sequence satisfying the conditions of the Lemma. Here,  $|\pi|$  means the positive term number of  $\pi$ . By Theorem 1.1, we only need to verify that  $\pi_5 = (d_6^{(5)}, d_7^{(5)}, \dots, d_n^{(5)})$  is graphic. According to Theorem 1.6 and Theorem 1.7, it is sufficient to consider the following three cases:

**Case 1.**  $d_1 \leq 6$  and  $d_{10} \leq 2$ . Then  $d_1 = 4, 5$  or  $6$ . We consider the following three subcases.

**S u b c a s e 1.1.**  $d_1 = 4$ . Then  $d_5 = d_6 = 4$ . We may assume that  $\pi = (4^6, d_7, d_8, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y \geq 5$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . It is easy to compute that the corresponding  $\pi_5$  is  $(4, d_7, d_8, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$ . It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

**S u b c a s e 1.2.**  $d_1 = 5$ . Then  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 \geq 4$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 4$ , then we may assume that  $\pi = (5, d_2, d_3, d_4, 4^3, d_8, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y \geq 5$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . Since  $1 \leq \sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) \leq 4$ , we have  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 4$  and  $|\pi_5| \geq 9$ . So  $\pi_5$  is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 5$ , then we assume that  $\pi = (5^7, d_8, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$ . Notice that  $\sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) = 5$ , we have  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 4$  and  $|\pi_5| \geq 9$ . It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

**S u b c a s e 1.3.**  $d_1 = 6$ . Then  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 \geq 4$ . The general form for  $\pi$  is  $(6, d_2, \dots, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y \geq 5$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ .

If  $d_5 = 4$ , then  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 4$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) \leq 8$ . Therefore,  $|\pi_5| \geq 9$ , and so  $\pi_5$  is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

If  $d_5 = 5$ , then  $6 \leq \sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) \leq 9$ . Thus,  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 4$  and  $|\pi_5| \geq 9$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

If  $d_5 = 6$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) = 10$  and  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 6$ . Therefore,  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 4$  and  $|\pi_5| \geq 9$ . It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

**C a s e 2.**  $d_2 \leq 5, d_1 \geq 7$  and  $d_{10} \leq 2$ .

Then  $d_2 = 4$  or  $5$ . Since  $d_{10} \leq 2$ , we have  $d_1 = 7$ . Thus  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 \geq 4$ .

If  $d_2 = 4$ , then we may assume that  $\pi = (7, 4^8, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y \geq 5$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . It is easy to compute that the corresponding  $\pi_5$  is  $(4, 3^3, 2^x, 1^y)$ , which is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

If  $d_2 = 5$  and  $d_5 = 4$ , then we may assume  $\pi = (7, 5, d_3, d_4, 4^5, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y \geq 5$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . Since  $\sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) \leq 6$ , we have  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 4$  and  $|\pi_5| \geq 9$ . It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

If  $d_2 = 5$  and  $d_5 = 5$ , then we assume  $\pi = (7, 5^8, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y \geq 5$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . Since  $\sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) = 7$  and  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 5$ , we have  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 4$  and  $|\pi_5| \geq 9$ . Thus  $\pi_5$  is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

**C a s e 3.**  $d_3 = 4, d_1 \geq 7, d_2 \geq 6$  and  $d_{10} \leq 2$ . Then  $d_1 = 7$  and  $d_2 = 6$  or  $7$ . The general form for  $\pi$  is either  $(7, 6, 4^7, 2^x, 1^y)$  or  $(7^2, 4^7, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y \geq 5$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . It is easy to compute that the corresponding  $\pi_5$  is  $(3^3, 2, 2^x, 1^y)$  or  $(3^2, 2^2, 2^x, 1^y)$ . From Lemma 2.2, both of them are graphic.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $n \geq 18$  and  $\pi = (d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a positive graphic sequence with  $n - 2 \geq d_1 \geq \dots \geq d_6 = d_7 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq d_{d_1+3} \geq \dots \geq d_n$  and  $d_6 \geq 5$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_6$ -graphic.*

**Proof.** Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in \text{NS}_n$  be a graphic sequence satisfying the conditions of the Lemma. By Theorem 1.1, it is sufficient to show that  $\pi_6 = (d_7^{(6)}, d_8^{(6)}, \dots, d_n^{(6)})$  is graphic. According to Theorem 1.6 and Theorem 1.7, we only need to consider the following four cases:

**Case 1.**  $d_1 \leq 8$  and  $d_{12} \leq 3$ . Then the general form for  $\pi$  is  $(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{11}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$  with  $x + y + z \geq 7$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . Consider the following four subcases.

**Subcase 1.1.**  $d_1 = 5$ . Then  $d_6 = d_7 = 5$ . We may assume that  $\pi = (5^7, d_8, d_9, d_{10}, d_{11}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ . It is easy to compute that  $\pi_6$  is  $(5, d_8, \dots, d_{11}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

**Subcase 1.2.**  $d_1 = 6$ . Then  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 \geq 5$ .

If  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 5$ , then  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  and  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  by  $1 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 5$ . Thus by Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

If  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 6$ , then  $\pi = (6^8, d_9, d_{10}, d_{11}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ . Since  $\sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) = 6$ , we have  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  and  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$ . Therefore,  $\pi_6$  is graphic from Lemma 2.3.

**Subcase 1.3.**  $d_1 = 7$ . Then  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 \geq 5$ .

If  $d_6 = 5$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 10$ . Thus  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  and  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$ . It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

If  $d_6 = 6$ , then  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  and  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  by  $7 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 11$ . Therefore,  $\pi_6$  is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

If  $d_6 = 7$ , then we assume that  $\pi = (7^9, d_{10}, d_{11}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ . Since  $\sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) = 12$ , we know that  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  and  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

**Subcase 1.4.**  $d_1 = 8$ . Then  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = d_{10} \geq 5$ .

If  $d_6 = 5$ , then  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  by  $\sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 15$ . Thus  $\pi_6$  is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

If  $d_6 = 6$ , then  $8 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 16$ . Hence  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  and  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$ , and so  $\pi_6$  is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

If  $d_6 = 7$ , then  $13 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 17$ . Therefore,  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  and  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

If  $d_6 = 8$ , then  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  and  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  by  $\sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) = 18$ . It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

C a s e 2.  $d_2 \leq 7$ ,  $d_1 \geq 9$  and  $d_{12} \leq 3$ . Then  $d_1 = 9$  and  $d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = d_{10} = d_{11} \geq 5$ . The general form for  $\pi$  is  $(9, d_2, \dots, d_{11}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$  with  $x + y + z \geq 7$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ . Consider the following three subcases.

S u b c a s e 2.1.  $d_2 = 5$ . Then  $d_6 = d_7 = \dots = d_{11} = 5$  and  $\pi = (9, 5^{10}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ . The corresponding sequence  $\pi_6$  is  $(5, 4^4, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ , which is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

S u b c a s e 2.2.  $d_2 = 6$ . Then  $d_6 = d_7 = \dots = d_{11} = 5$  or 6.

If  $d_6 = 5$ , then  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  and  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  by  $5 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 8$ . From Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

If  $d_6 = 6$ , then  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  and  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$  by  $\sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) = 9$ . Therefore,  $\pi_6$  is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

S u b c a s e 2.3.  $d_2 = 7$ . Then  $d_6 = d_7 = \dots = d_{11} = 5, 6$  or 7.

If  $d_6 = 5$ , then  $6 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 12$ . Therefore,  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  and  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 5$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

If  $d_6 = 6$ , then  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  and  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 4$  by  $10 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 12$ . It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

If  $d_6 = 7$ , then  $\pi = (9, 7^{10}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ . The corresponding sequence is  $\pi_6 = (5, 4^4, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$ , which is graphic by Lemma 2.3.

C a s e 3.  $d_3 \leq 6$ ,  $d_2 \geq 8$ ,  $d_1 \geq 9$  and  $d_{12} \leq 3$ . Then  $d_1 = 9$  and  $d_6 = \dots = d_{11} \geq 5$ . We may assume that  $\pi = (9, d_2, \dots, d_{11}, 3^x, 2^y, 1^z)$  with  $x + y + z \geq 7$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ .

If  $d_6 = 5$ , then  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  by  $\sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 11$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

If  $d_6 = 6$ , then  $11 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 12$ . Therefore,  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  and  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 4$ . From Lemma 2.3,  $\pi_6$  is graphic.

C a s e 4.  $d_4 = 5$ ,  $d_3 \geq 7$ ,  $d_2 \geq 8$ ,  $d_1 \geq 9$  and  $d_{12} \leq 3$ . Then  $d_1 = 9$  and  $d_5 = d_6 = \dots = d_{11} = 5$ . Since  $9 \leq \sum_{i=1}^6 (d_i - 5) \leq 12$ , we have  $|\pi_6| \geq 12$  and  $d_7^{(6)} \leq 4$ . It follows Lemma 2.3 that  $\pi_6$  is graphic.  $\square$

### 3. PROOFS OF THEOREMS

P r o o f o f T h e o r e m 1.11. Assume that  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:

$(n - 1, 4^6, 1^{n-7})$ ,  $(n - 1, 4^2, 3^4, 1^{n-7})$ ,  $(n - 1, 4^2, 3^3, 1^{n-6})$ ;

$n = 6$ :  $(4^6)$ ,  $(4^4, 3^2)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^2, 2)$ ;

$n = 7$ :  $(4^3, 3^4)$ ,  $(5^2, 4, 3^4)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4^5, 3^2)$ ,  $(5, 4^3, 3^3)$ ,  $(5^2, 4^5)$ ,  $(5, 4^5, 3)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^2, 2^2)$ ,  
 $(4^4, 3^2, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4^2, 3^3, 2)$ ,  $(4^6, 2)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^3, 1)$ ;

$n = 8$ :  $(5^8), (4^8), (5^2, 4^6), (6, 4^7), (4^4, 3^4), (5, 4^2, 3^5), (4^6, 3^2), (5, 4^6, 3), (4^3, 3^4, 2),$   
 $(4^7, 2), (4^4, 3^3, 1), (5, 4^2, 3^4, 1), (4^3, 3^3, 2, 1), (4^6, 3, 1), (5, 4^6, 1);$   
 $n = 9$ :  $(4^9), (4^3, 3^5, 1), (4^8, 2), (4^7, 3, 1), (5, 4^7, 1), (4^3, 3^4, 1^2), (4^7, 1^2);$   
 $n = 10$ :  $(4^8, 1^2).$

Then, it is easy to compute that the corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  of  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:  $(1^2, 3^2, 0^{n-7}), (0^2, 2^2, 0^{n-7}), (0^2, 2, 0^{n-6}), (1^2, 4), (1, 0, 3), (0^2, 2), (0^2, 3^2), (0^2, 2^2), (1^2, 4^2), (1^2, 3^2), (1, 0, 3, 2), (1^2, 4, 2), (0^2, 3, 1), (2^2, 4^3), (1^2, 4^3), (1^2, 4, 3^2), (1, 0, 3^3), (0^2, 3^2, 2), (1^2, 4^2, 2), (1, 0, 3^2, 1), (0^2, 3, 2, 1), (1^2, 4, 3, 1), (1^2, 4^4), (0^2, 3^3, 1), (1^2, 4^3, 2), (1^2, 4^2, 3, 1), (0^2, 3^2, 1^2), (1^2, 4^2, 1^2), (1^2, 4^3, 1^2).$  It is easy to check that all of the above sequences are not graphic. By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi$  is not potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic. Now, we show the sufficient condition.

If  $d_1 = n - 1$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.4. If  $n = 5$ , then  $\pi$  is either  $(4^3, 3^2)$  or  $(4^5)$ , and it is easy to see that they both have realizations containing  $K_5 - e$ . Assume that  $d_1 \leq n - 2$  and  $n \geq 6$ . According to Lemma 2.5, it is enough to prove that  $\pi_3^*$  is graphic. We consider the following cases:

**Case 1.**  $n = 6$ . Then  $d_1 = d_2 = d_3 = 4$ . As  $\pi \neq (4^6), (4^4, 3^2), (4^3, 3^2, 2)$ ,  $\pi$  must be either  $(4^5, 2)$  or  $(4^4, 3, 1)$ , each of which is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.

**Case 2.**  $n = 7$ . Then  $d_1 \leq 5$ . We consider the following two subcases.

**Subcase 2.1.**  $d_1 = 4$ . Then  $d_1 = d_2 = d_3 = 4$ . If  $\pi'_1 = (3^6)$  or  $(3^2, 2^4)$ , then  $\pi = (4^5, 3^2)$  or  $(4^3, 3^2, 2^2)$ , which is impossible. Since  $\pi'_1$  has six positive terms,  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^2, 2^3)$ . By Lemma 2.4, we may assume that  $d_5 = d_6 \geq 3$ . Notice that  $d_4 + d_5 + d_6 + d_7$  is even. If  $d_5 = d_6 = 3$ , then  $(d_4, d_7)$  is one of the following:  $(4, 2), (3^2), (3, 1)$ ; if  $d_5 = d_6 = 4$ , then  $(d_4, d_7)$  is either  $(4, 2)$  or  $(4^2)$ . Thus  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:

$$(4^4, 3^2, 2), (4^3, 3^4), (4^3, 3^3, 1), (4^6, 2), (4^7)$$

which is impossible.

**Subcase 2.2.**  $d_1 = 5$ . If  $\pi'_1 = (3^2, 2^3)$ , then the residual sequence  $\pi'_1$  must contain 1 as a term. Therefore,  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^2, 2^3)$ . If  $\pi'_1 = (3^6)$  or  $(3^2, 2^4)$ , then  $\pi$  is either  $(5, 4^5, 3)$  or  $(5, 4^2, 3^3, 2)$ , which is impossible. By Lemma 2.4, we may assume that  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 \geq 3$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, we have  $d_5 \neq 5$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 3$ , then  $d_2 + d_3 + d_4$  is even. Thus  $(d_2, d_3, d_4) = (4^3)$  or  $(5^2, 4)$  or  $(5, 4, 3)$ . If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 4$ , then  $(d_2, d_3, d_4)$  is either  $(5, 4^2)$  or  $(5^3)$  by  $d_2 + d_3 + d_4$  being odd. As  $\pi \neq (5^2, 4^5), (5, 4^3, 3^3), (5^2, 4, 3^4)$ ,  $\pi$  is either  $(5^4, 4^3)$  or  $(5^3, 4, 3^3)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is  $(2, 1, 3, 2)$  or  $(1, 0, 2, 1)$ , which are both graphic. Hence  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic from Lemma 2.5.

**Case 3.**  $n = 8$ . Then  $d_1 \leq 6$ . We consider the following three subcases.

**S u b c a s e 3.1.**  $d_1 = 4$ . Then  $d_1 = d_2 = d_3 = 4$ . As  $d_8 \geq 1$  and  $d_5 \geq 3$ , the residual sequence  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ . According to Lemma 2.4, we may assume that  $d_5 = d_6 \geq 3$ . Consider the residual sequence  $\pi'_5 = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$ .

If  $d_5 = 3$  and  $\pi'_5 \neq (4, 3^6), (4, 3^5, 1), (3^6, 2), (3^5, 2, 1)$ , then there is a realization  $G'$  of  $\pi'_5$  containing a  $K_4$  such that the degrees of vertices of  $K_4$  in  $G'$  are  $d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4$  by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. Therefore,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic from  $\{d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1\} \subseteq \{d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4\}$ . If  $\pi'_5$  is one of the following sequences:  $(4, 3^6), (4, 3^5, 1), (3^6, 2), (3^5, 2, 1)$ , then  $\pi$  must be one of the following sequences:  $(4^4, 3^4), (4^4, 3^3, 1), (4^3, 3^4, 2), (4^3, 3^3, 2, 1)$ , which is impossible.

Assume that  $d_5 = 4$ . Then  $d_1 = \dots = d_6 = 4$ . If  $\pi'_5 \neq (4, 3^6), (4, 3^5, 1)$ , then  $\pi'_5$  is potentially  $A_4$ -graphic by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. If  $d_7 \leq 3$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by  $\{d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1\} \subseteq \{d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4\}$ . If  $d_7 = 4$ , then  $\pi$  is either  $(4^7, 2)$  or  $(4^8)$ , which is impossible. If  $\pi'_5 = (4, 3^6)$  or  $(4, 3^5, 1)$ , then  $\pi = (4^6, 3^2)$  or  $(4^6, 3, 1)$ , which is also impossible.

**S u b c a s e 3.2.**  $d_1 = 5$ . Then  $\pi'_1$  has at most seven positive terms. If  $\pi'_1$  has at most six positive terms, then it must contain 1 as a term. Thus,  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ . By Lemma 2.4, we assume that  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 \geq 3$ . Consider the residual sequence  $\pi'_5$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 3$ , then  $d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1, d_4$  are the four largest degrees in  $\pi'_5$ . If  $\pi'_5 \neq (4, 3^6), (4, 3^5, 1)$ , then  $\pi'_5$  is potentially  $A_4$ -graphic by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. Thus  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic. If  $\pi'_5 = (4, 3^6)$  or  $(4, 3^5, 1)$ , then  $\pi$  is either  $(5, 4^2, 3^5)$  or  $(5, 4^2, 3^4, 1)$ , which is impossible.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 4$  and  $\pi'_5 \neq (4^7)$ , then  $\pi'_5$  is potentially  $A_4$ -graphic by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. If  $d_3 \geq 5$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by  $\{d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1\} \subseteq \{d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4\}$ . If  $d_3 = 4$ , then  $\pi = (5^2, 4^5, 2)$  since  $\pi \neq (5, 4^6, 1), (5, 4^6, 3), (5^2, 4^6)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is graphic sequence  $(1^2, 3^2, 2)$ . If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 4$  and  $\pi'_5 = (4^7)$ , then  $\pi = (5^4, 4^4)$ . The corresponding sequence  $\pi_3^* = (2, 1, 3^3)$ , which is graphic.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 5$ , then  $\pi = (5^7, 1)$  or  $(5^7, 3)$  by  $\pi \neq (5^8)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is  $(2^2, 4, 3, 1)$  or  $(2^2, 4, 3^2)$ , which are both graphic.

**S u b c a s e 3.3.**  $d_1 = 6$ . Then the residual sequence  $\pi'_1$  has at most seven positive terms. If  $\pi'_1$  has at most six positive terms, then it should contain 1 as a term. Therefore,  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ . We may assume that  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 \geq 3$  by Lemma 2.4. Consider the residual sequence  $\pi'_5 = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 3$ , then  $d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1, d_4$  are the four largest degrees in  $\pi'_5$ . Since  $d_1 - 1 = 5$ ,  $\pi'_5$  is potentially  $A_4$ -graphic by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. Therefore,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 4$  and  $d_4 \geq 5$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by  $\{d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1, d_4 - 1\} = \{d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4\}$  and Theorem 1.5. If  $d_4 = d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 4$ , then  $\pi = (6, 5^2, 4^5)$  or  $(6^3, 4^5)$  since  $\pi \neq (6, 4^7)$ . It is easy to see that  $(6, 5^2, 4^5)$  and  $(6^3, 4^5)$  are both potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 5$ , then  $(d_2, d_3, d_4)$  is either  $(6^3)$  or  $(6, 5^2)$  since  $d_2 + d_3 + d_4$  is even. That is,  $\pi = (6^4, 5^4)$  or  $(6^2, 5^6)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is  $(3, 2, 3^3)$  or  $(2^2, 4, 3^2)$ , which are both graphic.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 6$ , then  $\pi = (6^8)$  and  $\pi_3^*$  is graphic sequence  $(3^2, 4^3)$ .

C a s e 4.  $n = 9$ . Then the residual sequence  $\pi'_1$  has at most eight positive terms. If  $\pi'_1$  has at most seven positive terms, then it must contain 1 as a term. Therefore  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ . Assume that  $d_5 = d_6 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq 3$  by Lemma 2.4. We consider the following four subcases.

S u b c a s e 4.1.  $d_1 = 4$ . Then  $d_5 = d_6 \geq 3$ . Consider the residual sequence  $\pi'_5$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = 3$  and  $\pi'_5 \neq (3^7, 1), (3^6, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic according to Lemma 2.6. If  $d_5 = d_6 = 3$  and  $\pi'_5 = (3^7, 1)$  or  $(3^6, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi = (4^3, 3^5, 1)$  or  $(4^3, 3^4, 1^2)$ , which is impossible.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = 4$ , then  $\pi'_5 \neq (3^7, 1), (3^6, 1^2)$ . Thus there is a realization  $G$  of  $\pi'_5$  containing a  $K_4$  such that the degrees of vertices of  $K_4$  in  $G$  are  $d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4$  by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. If  $d_7 \leq 3$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by  $\{d_6, d_1 - 1, d_2 - 1, d_3 - 1\} = \{d'_1, d'_2, d'_3, d'_4\}$ . If  $d_7 = 4$ , then  $d_8 + d_9$  is even, and  $(d_8, d_9)$  is one of the following:  $(1^2), (2^2), (3^2), (4^2), (3, 1), (4, 2)$ . Therefore,  $\pi = (4^7, 2^2)$  or  $(4^7, 3^2)$  by  $\pi \neq (4^7, 3, 1), (4^8, 2), (4^9), (4^7, 1^2)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^* = (1^2, 4^2, 2^2)$  or  $(1^2, 4^2, 3^2)$ , which are both graphic.

S u b c a s e 4.2.  $d_1 = 5$ . Then  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 \geq 3$  and the residual sequence  $\pi'_5 \neq (3^7, 1), (3^6, 1^2)$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 3$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic from Lemma 2.6.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 4$  and  $d_3 = 5$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6. If  $d_2 = d_3 = 4$ , then  $d_4 = 4$  and  $d_8 + d_9$  is odd. Therefore  $(d_8, d_9)$  is  $(2, 1)$  or  $(3, 2)$  or  $(4, 1)$  or  $(4, 3)$ . Since  $\pi \neq (5, 4^7, 1)$ ,  $\pi = (5, 4^6, 2, 1)$  or  $(5, 4^6, 3, 2)$  or  $(5, 4^7, 3)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is one of the following graphic sequences:

$$(1^2, 4, 3, 2, 1), (1^2, 4, 3^2, 2), (1^2, 4^2, 3^2).$$

In this case, if  $d_3 = 4$  and  $d_2 = 5$ , then  $d_8 + d_9$  is even, and  $(d_8, d_9)$  is one of the following:

$$(1^2), (2^2), (3^2), (4^2), (3, 1), (4, 2).$$

Therefore,  $\pi$  must be one of the following sequences:

$$(5^2, 4^5, 1^2), (5^2, 4^5, 2^2), (5^2, 4^5, 3^2), (5^2, 4^7), (5^2, 4^5, 3, 1), (5^2, 4^6, 2)$$

and the corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is one of the following graphic sequences:

$$(1^2, 3^2, 1^2), (1^2, 3^2, 2^2), (1^2, 3^4), (1^2, 4^2, 3^2), (1^2, 3^3, 1), (1^2, 4, 3^2, 2).$$

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = 5$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:

$$(5^7, 2, 1), (5^7, 4, 1), (5^7, 3, 2), (5^8, 2), (5^8, 4), (5^7, 4, 3)$$

and it is easy to compute that the corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is one of the following graphic sequences:

$$(2^2, 4, 3, 2, 1), (2^2, 4^2, 3, 1), (2^2, 4, 3^2, 2), (2^2, 4^3, 2), (2^2, 4^4), (2^2, 4^2, 3^2).$$

**S u b c a s e 4.3.**  $d_1 = 6$ . Then  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 \geq 3$  and  $\pi'_5 \neq (3^7, 1), (3^6, 1^2)$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 3$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 4$  and  $d_3 \geq 5$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6. If  $d_3 = 4$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:

$$(6^2, 4^6, 2), (6^2, 4^7), (6, 5, 4^6, 3), (6, 5, 4^6, 1), (6, 4^7, 2), (6, 4^8)$$

and it is easy to compute that the corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is one of the following graphic sequences:

$$(1^2, 3^2, 2^2), (1^2, 3^4), (1^2, 3^3, 1), (1^2, 4, 3^2, 2), (1^2, 4^2, 3^2).$$

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 5$  and  $d_3 = 6$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6. If  $d_3 = d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 5$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:

$$(6^2, 5^6, 2), (6^2, 5^6, 4), (6, 5^7, 1), (6, 5^7, 3), (6, 5^8)$$

and the corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is one of the following graphic sequences:

$$(2^2, 4, 3^2, 2), (2^2, 4^2, 3^2), (2^2, 4^2, 3, 1), (2^2, 4^4).$$

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = 6$ , then  $\pi$  is  $(6^8, 2)$  or  $(6^8, 4)$  or  $(6^9)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  are  $(3^2, 4^3, 2)$ ,  $(3^2, 4^4)$  and  $(3^2, 5^2, 4^2)$ , respectively, all of which are graphic.

**S u b c a s e 4.4.**  $d_1 = 7$ . Then  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 \geq 3$ .

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 3$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 4$  and  $d_3 \geq 5$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6. If  $d_3 = d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 4$ , then  $\pi = (7, 5, 4^7)$  or  $(7^2, 4^7)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^* = (1^2, 3^4)$  or  $(1^2, 3^2, 2^2)$ , both of which are graphic.



If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 5$  and  $d_3 \geq 6$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6. If  $d_3 = d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 5$ , then  $\pi = (7, 6, 5^7)$ . The corresponding sequence  $\pi_3^*$  is  $(2^2, 4^2, 3^2)$ , which is graphic.

If  $d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 6$  and  $d_3 \geq 7$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Lemma 2.6. If  $d_3 = d_5 = d_6 = d_7 = d_8 = d_9 = 6$ , then  $\pi = (7^2, 6^7)$ ,  $\pi_3^* = (3^2, 4^4)$  is graphic.

**C a s e 5.**  $n = 10$ . Then  $d_1 \leq 8$ . The residual sequence  $\pi'_1$  has at most nine positive terms. If  $\pi'_1$  has at most eight positive terms, then it must contain 1 as a term. Therefore,  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ . We may assume that  $d_5 = d_6 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq 3$  by Lemma 2.4. We consider the following two subcases.

**S u b c a s e 5.1.**  $d'_3 \geq 4$  in the residual sequence  $\pi'_{10}$ .

If  $\pi'_{10} \neq (4^9), (4^3, 3^5, 1), (4^8, 2), (4^7, 3, 1), (5, 4^7, 1), (4^3, 3^4, 1^2), (4^7, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi'_{10}$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Case 4, and so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'_{10} = (4^9)$ , then  $d_{10} \leq 4$ . Thus  $\pi$  is one of the following sequences:

$$(5, 4^8, 1), (5^2, 4^7, 2), (5^3, 4^6, 3), (5^4, 4^6)$$

and it is easy to compute that the corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is one of the following graphic sequences:

$$(1^2, 4^3, 3, 1), (1^2, 4^2, 3^2, 2), (1^2, 4, 3^4), (2, 1, 4^2, 3^3).$$

If  $\pi'_{10} = (4^8, 2)$ , then  $d_{10} \leq 2$ . Therefore  $\pi$  is either  $(5, 4^7, 2, 1)$  or  $(5^2, 4^6, 2^2)$ . The corresponding sequence  $\pi_3^*$  is  $(1^2, 4^2, 3, 2, 1)$  or  $(1^2, 4, 3^2, 2^2)$ , both of which are graphic.

If  $\pi'_{10} = (4^3, 3^5, 1)$ , then  $d_{10} = 1$ . Hence,  $\pi = (5, 4^2, 3^5, 1^2)$  or  $(4^4, 3^4, 1^2)$ . The corresponding  $\pi_3^*$  is  $(0^2, 3^2, 2, 1^2)$  or  $(1, 0, 3^3, 1^2)$ , which are both graphic.

If  $\pi'_{10} = (4^7, 3, 1)$ , then  $d_{10} = 1$ . Since  $\pi \neq (4^8, 1^2)$ ,  $\pi = (5, 4^6, 3, 1^2)$ . The sequence  $\pi_3^* = (1^2, 4, 3^2, 1^2)$ , which is graphic.

If  $\pi'_{10} = (5, 4^7, 1)$ , then  $d_{10} = 1$ . Thus  $\pi = (6, 4^7, 1^2)$  or  $\pi = (5^2, 4^6, 1^2)$ . The sequences  $\pi_3^*$  are both  $(1^2, 4, 3^2, 1^2)$ , which is graphic.

If  $\pi'_{10} = (4^3, 3^4, 1^2)$ , then  $d_{10} = 1$ . Therefore,  $\pi = (5, 4^2, 3^4, 1^3)$  or  $\pi = (4^4, 3^3, 1^3)$ . The corresponding sequence  $\pi_3^*$  is  $(0^2, 3, 2, 1^3)$  or  $(1, 0, 3^2, 1^3)$ , which are both graphic.

If  $\pi'_{10} = (4^7, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi = (5, 4^6, 1^3)$  by  $d_{10} = 1$ . The sequence  $\pi_3^* = (1^2, 4, 3, 1^3)$ , which is graphic.

**S u b c a s e 5.2.**  $d'_3 \leq 3$  in the residual sequence  $\pi'_{10}$ . Then  $d'_3 = d'_4 = d'_5 = 3$  by  $d'_5 \geq 3$ . Since  $d'_3 = 3$ , we have  $d_{10} \leq 3$  and  $d_5 = d_6 = 3$ . It follows from Lemma 2.6 that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.

**C a s e 6.**  $n \geq 11$ . Then  $\pi'_1 \neq (3^6), (3^2, 2^4), (3^2, 2^3)$ . Otherwise, each of the three sequences should contain 1 as a term, which is a contradiction. Assume that  $d_5 =$

$d_6 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq 3$ . Consider the residual sequence  $\pi'_n$ . Obviously,  $d'_5 \geq 3$  in  $\pi'_n$ . We use induction on  $n$  to prove this case. We first prove the case  $n = 11$ .

If  $d'_3 \geq 4$  in the residual sequence  $\pi'_{11}$  and  $\pi'_{11} \neq (4^8, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi'_{11}$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by Case 5 and so is  $\pi$ . If  $\pi'_{11} = (4^8, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi = (5, 4^7, 1^3), \pi_3^* = (1^2, 4^2, 3, 1^3)$ , which is graphic.

If  $d'_3 = 3$  in  $\pi'_{11}$ , then  $d_5 = 3$ . From Lemma 2.6,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.

Now we assume that for  $n - 1 \geq 11$  the result is true. If  $d'_3 \geq 4$  in the residual sequence  $\pi'_n$ , then  $\pi'_n$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic by the induction hypothesis, and so is  $\pi$ . If  $d'_3 = 3$  in  $\pi'_n$ , then  $d_5 = 3$ . We consider the residual sequence  $\pi'_5$ . According to Lemma 2.6,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - e$ -graphic.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.12.** If  $d_1 = n - 1$  or there exists an integer  $t, 5 \leq t \leq d_1 + 1$  such that  $d_t > d_{t+1}$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_5 \notin S$  by Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 2.4. If  $n - 2 \geq d_1 \geq \dots \geq d_4 \geq d_5 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq d_{d_1+3} \geq \dots \geq d_n$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic by Lemma 2.7. Therefore,  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_5 \notin S$ .  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.13.** If  $d_1 = n - 1$  or there exists an integer  $t, 6 \leq t \leq d_1 + 1$  such that  $d_t > d_{t+1}$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_6$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_6 \notin S$  from Theorem 1.12 and Theorem 2.4. If  $n - 2 \geq d_1 \geq \dots \geq d_5 \geq d_6 = \dots = d_{d_1+2} \geq d_{d_1+3} \geq \dots \geq d_n$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_6$ -graphic by Lemma 2.8. Hence  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_6$ -graphic if and only if  $\pi_6 \notin S$ .  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.14.** If  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic, then it is obvious that  $(d_1 - 4, d_2 - 4, \dots, d_5 - 4, d_6, \dots, d_n)$  is graphic. If  $\pi$  is  $(n - a, n - b, 4^4, 2^{n-(a+b+4)}, 1^{a+b-2})$  or  $(n - a, n - b, 4^5, 2^{n-(a+b+5)}, 1^{a+b-2})$ , then the corresponding  $\pi_5$  is  $(2, 0^{n-6})$  or  $(2^2, 0^{n-7})$ , neither of which is graphic. Thus  $\pi$  is not potentially  $A_5$ -graphic by Theorem 1.1. Now we verify the sufficient condition. According to Theorem 1.6 and Theorem 1.7, we only need to consider the following three cases:

**Case 1.**  $d_1 \leq 6$  and  $d_{10} \leq 2$ . Let  $G$  be a realization of the sequence  $(d_1 - 4, d_2 - 4, \dots, d_5 - 4, d_6, \dots, d_n)$  with  $V(G) = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ ,  $d(v_i) = d_i - 4$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 5$  and  $d(v_i) = d_i$  for  $i = 6, \dots, n$ . Let  $A = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  and  $B = V(G) \setminus A$ . Moreover,  $G$  minimizes the edge number  $|E(G[A])|$  of the induced subgraph  $G[A]$ . If  $|E(G[A])| = 0$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic. Otherwise, there exists at least one edge  $e = uv$  in  $G[A]$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $d_G(u) \geq d_G(v)$ . Then  $u$  and  $v$  are respectively adjacent to at most one vertex  $u''$  and  $v''$  of  $B$ . Since  $n$  is sufficiently large and  $\pi$  is positive graphic, we may find an edge  $e' = u'v'$  with  $u', v' \in B$  and  $u', v' \neq u'', v''$ . Since  $d_1 \leq 6$ ,  $u$  and  $v$  are not adjacent to  $u'$  and  $v'$ . We may obtain another realization  $G'$  of  $(d_1 - 4, d_2 - 4, \dots, d_5 - 4, d_6, \dots, d_n)$  by

swapping the edges  $e$  and  $e'$  with the non-edges  $uu'$  and  $vv'$ . Clearly,  $|E(G'[A])|$  is less than  $|E(G[A])|$ .

**Case 2.**  $d_2 \leq 5, d_1 \geq 7$  and  $d_{10} \leq 2$ . If  $d_2 = 4$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic since  $(d_1-4, d_2-4, \dots, d_5-4, d_6, \dots, d_n)$  is graphic. If  $d_2 = 5$  and  $|E(G[A])| = 0$ , then  $\pi$  is potentially  $A_5$ -graphic, where the definition of  $G$  is the same as that in Case 1. If  $d_2 = 5$  and  $|E(G[A])| \neq 0$ , we assume that  $e = uv$  in  $G[A]$  and  $d_G(u) \geq d_G(v)$ . Then  $u$  is not adjacent to at least one vertex  $u'$  of  $B$ . Since  $\pi$  is positive graphic, there exists a vertex  $v' \in N(u')$ , where  $N(u')$  is the neighbor set of the vertex  $u'$ . As the vertex  $v$  has degree at most one in  $G$ ,  $v$  is not adjacent to  $u'$  and  $v'$ . Thus  $G' = G - uv - u'v' + uu' + vv'$  is also a realization of  $(d_1-4, d_2-4, \dots, d_5-4, d_6, \dots, d_n)$  with  $|E(G'[A])| < |E(G[A])|$ .

**Case 3.**  $d_3 = 4, d_2 \geq 6, d_1 \geq 7$  and  $d_{10} \leq 2$ . Then we assume that  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, 4^3, d_6, d_7, d_8, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y = n - 9$ . By Theorem 1.1, it is enough to prove that  $\pi_5 = (d_6^{(5)}, d_7^{(5)}, \dots, d_n^{(5)})$  is graphic. If  $d_6 \leq 2$ , then  $\pi_5$  is graphic by Theorem 2.3. If  $d_6 = 3$ , then  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \geq 5$ . Thus  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 2$  and  $h(\pi_5) = 1$ , where  $h(\pi_5)$  means the smallest positive term of  $\pi_5$ . It follows from Theorem 2.3 that  $\pi_5$  is graphic. For  $d_6 = 4$ , we consider the following three subcases.

**Subcase 3.1.**  $d_7 \leq 2$ . Assume  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, 4^4, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y = n - 6$ . Since  $\pi$  is graphic, we have  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \leq 2 + 2x + y$ , that is,  $d_1 + d_2 \leq n + 4 + x$ .

If  $d_1 + d_2 = n + 4 + x$ , then  $\pi_5 = (2, 0^{n-6})$ , which is not graphic. Hence  $\pi$  is not potentially  $A_5$ -graphic. Let  $d_1 = n - a$  and  $d_2 = n - b$ . Then  $x = n - (a + b + 4)$  and  $y = a + b - 2$ . Since  $x \geq 0$  and  $d_2 \geq 6$ , we have  $a + b \leq n - 4$  and  $b \leq n - 6$ . That is,  $\pi = (n - a, n - b, 4^4, 2^{n-(a+b+4)}, 1^{a+b-2})$ , which is impossible.

If  $d_1 + d_2 < n + 4 + x$ , then  $h(\pi_5) = 1$  and  $d_6^{(5)} = 2$  by  $\sum_{i=1}^5 (d_i - 4) \geq 5$ . Thus  $\pi_5$  is graphic by Theorem 2.3.

**Subcase 3.2.**  $d_7 = 3$ . Assume  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, 4^4, 3, d_8, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y = n - 9$ . Since  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \geq 5$ , we have  $d_6^{(5)} = 2$ . If  $d_1 \geq 8$ , then  $h(\pi_5) = 1$  by  $d_7 = 3$ . Thus by Theorem 2.3,  $\pi_5$  is graphic. If  $d_1 = 7$  and  $d_8 = 3$ , then  $\pi_5$  has at least three positive terms. If  $d_1 = 7$  and  $d_8 \leq 2$ , then  $h(\pi_5) = 1$ . Therefore,  $\pi_5$  is graphic by Lemma 2.2.

**Subcase 3.3.**  $d_7 = 4$ .

(1) If  $d_8 \leq 2$ , then we assume that  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, 4^5, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y = n - 7$ . Since  $\pi$  is graphic, we know that  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \leq 2 + 2 + 2x + y = n - 3 + x$ , that is,  $d_1 + d_2 \leq n + 5 + x$ .

If  $d_1 + d_2 = n + 5 + x$ , then  $\pi_5 = (2^2, 0^{n-7})$ , which is not graphic. Since  $x \geq 0, d_2 \geq 6, x = n - (a + b + 5)$  and  $y = a + b - 2$ , we have  $a + b \leq n - 5$  and  $b \leq n - 6$ . Therefore,  $\pi = (n - a, n - b, 4^5, 2^{n-(a+b+5)}, 1^{a+b-2})$ , which is a contradiction.

If  $d_1 + d_2 < n + 5 + x$ , then  $h(\pi_5) = 1$ . As  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \geq 5$ , we have  $d_6^{(5)} = 2$ . It follows from Theorem 2.3 that  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

(2) If  $d_8 \geq 3$  and  $d_9 \leq 2$ , then we assume that  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, 4^5, d_8, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y = n - 8$ .

If  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \geq 6$  and  $d_2 \geq 7$ , then  $d_6^{(5)} = 2$  and  $\pi_5$  has at least three positive terms; if  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \geq 6$ ,  $d_2 = 6$  and  $d_8 = 4$ , then  $\pi_5 = (3, 2^2, 2^{x'}, 1^{y'}, 0^{z'})$  with  $x' + y' + z' = n - 8$ ; if  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \geq 6$ ,  $d_2 = 6$  and  $d_8 = 3$ , then  $d_6^{(5)} = 2$  and  $\pi_5$  has at least three positive terms. By Lemma 2.2,  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

If  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) = 5$ , then  $d_1 = 7$  and  $d_2 = 6$ . If  $d_8 = 3$ , then  $\pi_5 = (2^3, 2^x, 1^y)$ . If  $d_8 = 4$ , then  $\pi_5 = (3, 2^2, 2^x, 1^y)$ . By Lemma 2.2,  $\pi_5$  is graphic.

(3) If  $d_8 \geq 3$  and  $d_9 \geq 3$ , then  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, 4^5, d_8, d_9, 2^x, 1^y)$  with  $x + y = n - 9$ . Since  $(d_1 - 4) + (d_2 - 4) \geq 5$ ,  $\pi_5$  has at least four positive terms and  $d_6^{(5)} \leq 3$ . If  $\pi_5$  has at least five positive terms, then  $\pi_5$  is graphic by Lemma 2.2. If  $\pi_5$  has exact four positive terms, then  $d_6^{(5)} = 2$ , and  $\pi_5$  is also graphic by Lemma 2.2.  $\square$

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*Author's address*: Meng - X i a o Y i n, College of Computer and Electronics Information, Guangxi University, Nanning, Guangxi 530004, China; J i a n - H u a Y i n, Department of Applied Mathematics, College of Information Science and Technology, Hainan University, Haikou, Hainan 570228, China, e-mail: yinjh@ustc.edu.