# On Potentially $K_5 - E_3$ -graphic Sequences \*

Lili Hu, Chunhui Lai
Department of Mathematics, Zhangzhou Teachers College,
Zhangzhou, Fujian 363000, P. R. of CHINA.
jackey2591924@163.com (Lili Hu)
zjlaichu@public.zzptt.fj.cn(Chunhui Lai, Corresponding author)

#### Abstract

Let  $K_m-H$  be the graph obtained from  $K_m$  by removing the edges set E(H) of H where H is a subgraph of  $K_m$ . In this paper, we characterize the potentially  $K_5-P_3$ ,  $K_5-A_3$ ,  $K_5-K_3$  and  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ -graphic sequences where  $A_3$  is  $P_2 \cup K_2$ . Moreover, we also characterize the potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic sequences where  $pK_2$  is the matching consisted of p edges.

**Key words:** graph; degree sequence; potentially  $K_5 - H$ -graphic sequences

AMS Subject Classifications: 05C07

## 1 Introduction

We consider finite simple graphs. Any undefined notation follows that of Bondy and Murty [1]. The set of all non-increasing nonnegative integer sequence  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  is denoted by  $NS_n$ . A sequence  $\pi \in NS_n$  is said to be graphic if it is the degree sequence of a simple graph G of order n; such a graph G is referred as a realization of  $\pi$ . The set of all graphic sequence in  $NS_n$  is denoted by  $GS_n$ . A graphic sequence  $\pi$  is potentially H-graphic if there is a realization of  $\pi$  containing H as a subgraph. Let  $C_k$ 

<sup>\*</sup>Project Supported by NNSF of China(10271105), NSF of Fujian(Z0511034), Science and Technology Project of Fujian, Fujian Provincial Training Foundation for "Bai-Quan-Wan Talents Engineering", Project of Fujian Education Department and Project of Zhangzhou Teachers College.

and  $P_k$  denote a cycle on k vertices and a path on k+1 vertices, respectively. Let  $\sigma(\pi)$  the sum of all the terms of  $\pi$  and let  $A_3$  and  $Z_4$  denote  $P_2 \cup K_2$  and  $K_4 - P_2$ , respectively. We use the symbol  $E_3$  to denote graphs on 5 vertices and 3 edges. A graphic sequence  $\pi$  is said to be potentially H-graphic if it has a realization G containing H as a subgraph. Let G - H denote the graph obtained from G by removing the edges set E(H) where H is a subgraph of G. In the degree sequence,  $r^t$  means r repeats t times, that is, in the realization of the sequence there are t vertices of degree r.

Given a graph H, what is the maximum number of edges of a graph with n vertices not containing H as a subgraph? This number is denoted ex(n, H), and is known as the Turán number. In terms of graphic sequences, the number 2ex(n, H) + 2 is the minimum even integer l such that every n-term graphical sequence  $\pi$  with  $\sigma(\pi) \geq l$  is forcibly H-graphical. Gould, Jacobson and Lehel [4] considered the following variation of the classical Turán-type extremal problems: determine the smallest even integer  $\sigma(H, n)$ such that every n-term positive graphic sequence  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \cdots, d_n)$  with  $\sigma(\pi) \geq \sigma(H,n)$  has a realization G containing H as a subgraph. They proved that  $\sigma(pK_2, n) = (p-1)(2n-p) + 2$  for  $p \ge 2$ ;  $\sigma(C_4, n) = 2[\frac{3n-1}{2}]$ for  $n \geq 4$ . Erdős, Jacobson and Lehel [3] showed that  $\sigma(K_k, n) \geq (k - 1)$ 2)(2n-k+1)+2 and conjectured that the equality holds. In the same paper, they proved the conjecture is true for k=3 and  $n\geq 6$ . The cases k = 4 and 5 were proved separately (see [4] and [17], and [18]). For  $k \geq 6$  and  $n \geq {k \choose 2}+3$ , Li, Song and Luo [19] proved the conjecture true via linear algebraic techniques. Recently, Ferrara, Gould and Schmitt proved the conjecture [5] and they also determined in [6]  $\sigma(F_k, n)$  where  $F_k$  denotes the graph of k triangles intersecting at exactly one common vertex. Yin, Li, and Mao [25] determined  $\sigma(K_{r+1}-e,n)$  for  $r\geq 3$  and  $r+1 \le n \le 2r$  and  $\sigma(K_5-e,n)$  for  $n \ge 5$ , and Yin and Li [24] further determined  $\sigma(K_{r+1}-e,n)$  for  $r\geq 2$  and  $n\geq 3r^2-r-1$ . Moreover, Yin and Li in [24] also gave two sufficient conditions for a sequence  $\pi \epsilon GS_n$  to be potentially  $K_{r+1} - e$ -graphic. Yin [27] determined  $\sigma(K_{r+1} - K_3, n)$  for  $r \geq 3$  and  $n \geq 3r + 5$ . Lai [12-15] determined  $\sigma(K_4 - e, n)$  for  $n \geq 4$  and  $\sigma(K_5 - C_4, n), \, \sigma(K_5 - P_3, n), \, \sigma(K_5 - P_4, n), \, \sigma(K_5 - K_3, n) \text{ for } n \geq 5.$  Lai [10-11] proved that  $\sigma(C_{2m+1}, n) = m(2n - m - 1) + 2$ , for  $m \ge 2, n \ge 3m$ ;  $\sigma(C_{2m+2},n)=m(2n-m-1)+4,$  for  $m\geq 2, n\geq 5m-2.$  Lai and Hu [16] determined  $\sigma(K_{r+1}-H,n)$  for  $n \geq 4r+10, r \geq 3, r+1 \geq k \geq 4$  and H be a graph on k vertices which containing a tree on 4 vertices but not contain

a cycle on 3 vertices and  $\sigma(K_{r+1}-P_2,n)$  for  $n \geq 4r+8, r \geq 3$ .

A harder question is to characterize the potentially H-graphic sequences without zero terms. Luo [21] characterized the potentially  $C_k$ -graphic sequences for each k=3,4,5. Recently, Luo and Warner [22] characterized the potentially  $K_4$ -graphic sequences. Eschen and Niu [23] characterized the potentially  $K_4$  – e-graphic sequences. Yin and Chen [26] characterized the potentially  $K_{r,s}$ -graphic sequences for r=2, s=3 and r=2, s=4. Chen [2] characterized the potentially  $K_5$  –  $2K_2$ -graphic sequences for  $5 \le n \le 8$ . Hu and Lai [7-8] characterized the potentially  $K_5$  –  $C_4$  and  $C_5$  –  $C_4$  and  $C_5$  –  $C_4$ -graphic sequences.

In this paper, we completely characterize the potentially  $K_5 - E_3$  graphic sequences, that is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ ,  $K_5 - A_3$ ,  $K_5 - K_3$  and  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic sequences. Moreover, we also characterize the potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic sequences.

## 2 Preparations

$$\text{Let } \pi = (d_1, \cdots, d_n) \epsilon NS_n, 1 \leq k \leq n. \text{ Let }$$

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

Denote  $\pi'_k = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$ , where  $d'_1 \geq d'_2 \geq \dots \geq d'_{n-1}$  is a rearrangement of the n-1 terms of  $\pi''_k$ . Then  $\pi'_k$  is called the residual sequence obtained by laying off  $d_k$  from  $\pi$ . In this paper, we denote  $\pi'_n$  by  $\pi'$ .

For a nonincreasing positive integer sequence  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ , we write  $m(\pi)$  and  $h(\pi)$  to denote the largest positive terms of  $\pi$  and the smallest positive terms of  $\pi$ , respectively. We need the following results.

**Theorem 2.1** [4] If  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  is a graphic sequence with 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  $\pi$ .

**Theorem 2.2 [20]** If  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  is a sequence of nonnegative integers with  $1 \le m(\pi) \le 2$ ,  $h(\pi) = 1$  and even  $\sigma(\pi)$ , then  $\pi$  is graphic.

**Theorem 2.3** [21] Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  be a graphic sequence. Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $C_4$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold: (1)  $d_4 \geq 2$ ; (2)  $d_1 = n - 1$  implies  $d_2 \geq 3$ ; (3) If n = 5, 6, then  $\pi \neq (2^n)$ .

**Lemma 2.4** [2] Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) \in NS_n$ ,  $1 \le j \le n-5$ ,  $0 \le k \le \lfloor \frac{n-j-i-4}{2} \rfloor$ . Let

$$\pi = \begin{cases} (n-i, n-j, 3^{n-i-j-2k}, 2^{2k}, 1^{i+j-2}) \\ n-i-j \text{ is even;} \\ (n-i, n-j, 3^{n-i-j-2k-1}, 2^{2k+1}, 1^{i+j-2}) \\ n-i-j \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Let  $S_1$  be the set consisting of the above sequences and let  $S_2$  be the set of the following sequences:  $(n-1,3^5,1^{n-6})$  and  $(n-1,3^6,1^{n-7})$ . If  $\pi \epsilon S_1$  or  $\pi \epsilon S_2$ , then  $\pi$  is not potentially  $K_{1,2,2}$ -graphic.

**Lemma 2.5** [8] If  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  is a nonincreasing sequence of positive integers with even  $\sigma(\pi)$ ,  $n \geq 4$ ,  $d_1 \leq 3$  and  $\pi \neq (3^3, 1), (3^2, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi$  is graphic.

**Lemma 2.6 (Kleitman and Wang [9])**  $\pi$  is graphic if and only if  $\pi'$  is graphic.

The following corollary is obvious.

Corollary 2.7 Let H be a simple graph. If  $\pi'$  is potentially H-graphic, then  $\pi$  is potentially H-graphic.

#### 3 Main Theorems

**Theorem 3.1** Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  be a graphic sequence with  $n \geq 5$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1)  $d_1 \ge 4$ ,  $d_3 \ge 3$  and  $d_5 \ge 2$ .
- (2)  $\pi \neq (4, 3^2, 2^3), (4, 3^2, 2^4)$  and  $(4, 3^6)$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. (1) and (2) are obvious. To prove the sufficiency, we use induction on n. Suppose the graphic sequence  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions (1) and (2). We first prove the base case where n = 5. In this case,  $\pi$  is one of the following: (4<sup>5</sup>), (4<sup>3</sup>, 3<sup>2</sup>), (4<sup>2</sup>, 3<sup>2</sup>, 2), (4, 3<sup>4</sup>), (4, 3<sup>2</sup>, 2<sup>2</sup>). It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. Now we assume that the sufficiency holds for  $n - 1(n \ge 6)$ , we will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic in terms of the following cases:

Case 1:  $d_n \geq 4$ . Clearly,  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

Case 2:  $d_n = 3$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_{n-3} \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), i.e.,  $d_1' = 3$ , then  $\pi' = (3^k, 2^{n-1-k})$  where  $n-3 \le k \le n-1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi')$  is even, k must be even. If k=n-3, then  $\pi = (4, 3^{n-1})$  where n is odd. Since  $\pi \ne (4, 3^6)$ , we have  $n \ge 9$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi_1 = (3^{n-5})$  is graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $\pi_1$ , then  $K_{1,2,2} \cup G_1$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4, 3^{n-1})$ . Thus,  $\pi = (4, 3^{n-1})$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic since  $K_5 - P_3 \subseteq K_{1,2,2}$ . If k = n-2, then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$  where n is even. It is easy to see that  $\pi = (4^2, 3^4)$  and  $\pi = (4^2, 3^6)$  are potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $(4^2, 3^4)$ , which contains  $K_5 - P_3$ . If  $n \ge 10$ , then  $\pi_2 = (3^{n-6})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_3$  be a realization of  $\pi_2$ , then  $G_2 \cup G_3$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$ . In other words,  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. If k = n-1, then  $\pi = (4^3, 3^{n-3})$  where n is odd. It is easy to see that  $\pi = (4^3, 3^4)$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. If  $n \ge 9$ , then  $K_5 - e \cup G_1$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^3, 3^{n-3})$ . Thus,  $\pi = (4^3, 3^{n-3})$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic since  $K_5 - P_3 \subseteq K_5 - e$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is just (4,3<sup>6</sup>), and hence  $\pi = (5,4^2,3^5)$  or (4<sup>4</sup>,3<sup>4</sup>). It is easy to see that these sequences are potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic.

Case 3:  $d_n = 2$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_2 \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), there are two subcases:

Subcase 1:  $d_1' \ge 4$  and  $d_3' = 2$ . Then  $\pi = (d_1, 3^2, 2^{n-3})$  where  $d_1 \ge 5$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $d_1$  must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (d_1 - 4, 2^{n-5})$  is graphic. It clearly suffices to show  $\pi_2 = (2^{n-1-d_1}, 1^{d_1-4})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Subcase 2:  $d'_1 = 3$ . Then  $d_1 = 4$ ,  $d_3 = 3$ ,  $d_2 = 4$  or  $d_2 = 3$ .

If  $d_2=4$ , then  $\pi=(4^2,3^k,2^{n-2-k})$  where  $k\geq 1$  and  $n-2-k\geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic. First, we consider  $\pi=(4^2,3^2,2^{n-4})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{n-5},1^2)$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic. Then we consider  $\pi=(4^2,3^k,2^{n-2-k})$  where  $k\geq 4$ . It is easy to see that  $(4^2,3^4)$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization

of  $(4^2, 3^4)$ , which contains  $K_5 - P_3$ . If  $n \ge 10$ , then  $\pi_2 = (3^{k-4}, 2^{n-2-k})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $\pi_2$ , then  $G_1 \cup G_2$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$ . If  $n \le 9$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2^3)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^6, 2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic.

If  $d_2=3$ , then  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^{n-1-k})$  where  $k\geq 2$  and  $n-1-k\geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic. First, we consider  $\pi=(4,3^2,2^{n-3})$ . Since  $\pi\neq(4,3^2,2^3)$  and  $(4,3^2,2^4)$ , we have  $n\geq 8$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{n-5})$  is graphic. Clearly,  $C_{n-5}$  is a realization of  $\pi_1$ . Second, we consider  $\pi=(4,3^4,2^{n-5})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_2=(2^{n-5},1^2)$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic. Then we consider  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^{n-1-k})$  where  $k\geq 6$ . If  $n\geq 9$ , then  $\pi_3=(3^{k-4},2^{n-1-k})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $\pi_3$ , then  $K_{1,2,2}\cup G_1$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^{n-1-k})$ . Hence,  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^{n-1-k})$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic since  $K_5-P_3\subseteq K_{1,2,2}$ . If  $n\leq 8$ , then  $\pi=(4,3^6,2)$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^{n-1-k})$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4,3^2,2^3)$ ,  $(4,3^2,2^4)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ . Hence  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5,4,3,2^4)$ ,  $(5,3^3,2^3)$ ,  $(4^3,2^4)$ ,  $(5,4,3,2^5)$ ,  $(5,3^3,2^4)$ ,  $(4^3,2^5)$ ,  $(5,4,3^5,2)$ ,  $(4^3,3^4,2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic.

Case 4:  $d_n = 1$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_3 \geq 3$  and  $d'_5 \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), i.e.,  $d_1' = 3$ , then  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^t, 1^{n-1-k-t})$  where  $k \geq 2$ ,  $k+t \geq 4$  and  $n-1-k-t \geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, n-1-t must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. First, we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^2, 2^t, 1^{n-3-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (2^{t-2}, 1^{n-3-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic. Second, we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^3, 2^t, 1^{n-4-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_2 = (2^{t-1}, 1^{n-3-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic. Third, we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^4, 2^t, 1^{n-5-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_3 = (2^t, 1^{n-3-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_3)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_3$  is graphic. Then we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^t, 1^{n-1-k-t})$  where  $k \geq 5$ . Let  $\pi_4 = (3^{k-4}, 2^t, 1^{n-1-k-t})$ . If  $n \geq 9$  and  $\pi_4 \neq (3^3, 1)$  or  $(3^2, 1^2)$ , then  $\pi_4$  is

graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $\pi_4$ , then  $K_{1,2,2} \cup G_1$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^t,1^{n-1-k-t})$ . Hence,  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^t,1^{n-1-k-t})$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic since  $K_5-P_3\subseteq K_{1,2,2}$ . If n=9 and  $\pi_4=(3^3,1)$  or  $(3^2,1^2)$ , then  $\pi=(4,3^7,1)$  or  $(4,3^6,1^2)$ . If  $n\le 8$ , then  $\pi=(4,3^5,1)$  or  $(4,3^5,2,1)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^t,1^{n-1-k-t})$  is potentially  $K_5-P_3$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4,3^2,2^3)$ ,  $(4,3^2,2^4)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ . Hence  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5,3^2,2^3,1)$ ,  $(4^2,3,2^3,1)$ ,  $(5,3^2,2^4,1)$ ,  $(4^2,3,2^4,1)$ ,  $(5,3^6,1)$ ,  $(4^2,3^5,1)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic.

**Theorem 3.2** Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  be a graphic sequence with  $n \geq 5$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1)  $d_4 \ge 3$  and  $d_5 \ge 2$ .
- (2)  $\pi \neq (n-1, 3^3, 2^{n-k}, 1^{k-4})$  where  $n \geq 6$  and  $k = 4, 5, \dots, n-2, n$  and k have the same parity.
- (3)  $\pi \neq (3^4, 2^2), (3^6), (3^4, 2^3), (3^6, 2), (4, 3^6), (3^7, 1), (3^8), (n-1, 3^5, 1^{n-6})$  and  $(n-1, 3^6, 1^{n-7})$ .

**Proof:** First we show the conditions (1)-(3) are necessary conditions for  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic. Assume that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic. (1) is obvious. If  $\pi = (n-1, 3^3, 2^{n-k}, 1^{k-4})$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic, then according to Theorem 2.1, there exists a realization G of  $\pi$  containing  $K_5 - A_3$  as a subgraph so that the vertices of  $K_5 - A_3$  have the largest degrees of  $\pi$ . Therefore, the sequence  $\pi^* = (n-4, 2^{n-1-k}, 1^{k-4})$ obtained from  $G-(K_5-A_3)$  must be graphic, which is impossible since G- $(K_5-A_3)$  has only n-4 vertices,  $\triangle(G-(K_5-A_3)) \le n-5$ . Hence, (2) holds. Now it is easy to check that  $(3^4, 2^2), (3^6), (3^4, 2^3), (3^6, 2), (4, 3^6), (3^7, 1)$  and (38) are not potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic. If  $\pi = (n-1, 3^5, 1^{n-6})$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic, then according to Theorem 2.1, there exists a realization G of  $\pi$  containing  $K_5-A_3$  as a subgraph so that the vertices of  $K_5 - A_3$  have the largest degrees of  $\pi$ . Therefore, the sequence  $\pi^* = (n-4,3,1^{n-5})$  obtained from  $G - (K_5 - A_3)$  must be graphic. It follows that the sequence  $\pi_1 = (2)$  must be graphic, a contradiction. Hence,  $\pi \neq (n-1, 3^5, 1^{n-6})$ . If  $\pi = (n-1, 3^6, 1^{n-7})$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic, then according to Theorem 2.1, there exists a realization G of  $\pi$  containing

 $K_5-A_3$  as a subgraph so that the vertices of  $K_5-A_3$  have the largest degrees of  $\pi$ . Therefore, the sequence  $\pi^*=(n-4,3^2,1^{n-6})$  obtained from  $G-(K_5-A_3)$  must be graphic. It follows that the sequence  $\pi_2=(2^2)$  must be graphic, a contradiction. Hence,  $\pi\neq (n-1,3^6,1^{n-7})$ . In other words, (3) holds.

Now we turn to show the conditions (1)-(3) are sufficient conditions for  $\pi$  to be potentially  $K_5-A_3$ -graphic. Suppose the graphic sequence  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions (1)-(3). Our proof is by induction on n. We first prove the base case where n=5. In this case,  $\pi$  is one of the following: (4<sup>5</sup>), (4<sup>3</sup>, 3<sup>2</sup>), (4<sup>2</sup>, 3<sup>2</sup>, 2), (4, 3<sup>4</sup>), (3<sup>4</sup>, 2). It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5-A_3$ -graphic. Now suppose that the sufficiency holds for  $n-1(n\geq 6)$ , we will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-A_3$ -graphic in terms of the following cases:

Case 1:  $d_n \geq 3$ . Clearly,  $\pi'$  satisfies (1). If  $\pi'$  also satisfies (2) and (3), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is just  $(5, 3^3, 2^2)$ , and hence  $\pi = (6, 3^6)$  which is impossible by (3).

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (3), since  $\pi \neq (4,3^6)$  and (3<sup>8</sup>), then  $\pi'$  is only one of the following: (3<sup>6</sup>), (3<sup>6</sup>, 2), (4,3<sup>6</sup>), (3<sup>8</sup>), (5,3<sup>5</sup>), (6,3<sup>6</sup>). Hence,  $\pi$  is one of the following: (4<sup>3</sup>,3<sup>4</sup>), (4<sup>2</sup>,3<sup>6</sup>), (5,4<sup>2</sup>,3<sup>5</sup>), (4<sup>4</sup>,3<sup>4</sup>), (4<sup>3</sup>,3<sup>6</sup>), (6,4<sup>2</sup>,3<sup>4</sup>), (7,4<sup>2</sup>,3<sup>5</sup>). It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic.

Case 2:  $d_n = 2$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_2 \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1)-(3), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), then  $d_4'=2$ . Hence  $\pi=(d_1,3^3,2^{n-4})$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $d_1$  must be odd. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-A_3$ -graphic. If  $d_1=3$ , then  $\pi=(3^4,2^{n-4})$ . Since  $\pi\neq(3^4,2^2)$  and  $(3^4,2^3)$ , we have  $n\geq 8$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{n-5})$  is graphic. Clearly,  $C_{n-5}$  is a realization of  $\pi_1$ . If  $d_1\geq 5$ , since  $\pi\neq(n-1,3^3,2^{n-4})$ , we have  $d_1\leq n-2$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_2=(d_1-3,2^{n-5})$  is graphic. It clearly suffices to show  $\pi_3=(2^{n-2-d_1},1^{d_1-3})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_3)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_3$  is graphic. Thus,  $\pi=(d_1,3^3,2^{n-4})$  is potentially  $K_5-A_3$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), i.e.,  $\pi' = (n-2, 3^3, 2^{n-5})$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi')$  is even, n must be odd. Hence  $\pi = (n-1, 4, 3^2, 2^{n-4})$  or  $(n-1, 3^4, 2^{n-5})$ . We will show that both of them are potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic. It is enough to

show  $\pi_1 = (n-4, 2^{n-5}, 1)$  is graphic. It clearly suffices to show  $\pi_2 = (1^{n-5})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (3), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(3^6)$ ,  $(3^4, 2^3)$ ,  $(3^6, 2)$ ,  $(4, 3^6)$ ,  $(3^8)$ ,  $(5, 3^5)$ ,  $(6, 3^6)$ . Since  $\pi \neq (3^6, 2)$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 3^2, 2^3)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^2, 2^4)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2^3)$ ,  $(3^6, 2^2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(4, 3^6, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^6, 2)$ ,  $(6, 4, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(7, 4, 3^5, 2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic.

Case 3:  $d_n = 1$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_3 \geq 3$  and  $d'_5 \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1)-(3), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), then  $d_4'=2$ . Hence  $\pi=(3^4,2^k,1^{n-4-k})$  where  $k\geq 1$  and  $n-4-k\geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, n-4-k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-A_3$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{k-1},1^{n-4-k})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), i.e.,  $\pi' = (n-2, 3^3, 2^{n-1-k}, 1^{k-4})$ . Hence  $\pi = (n-1, 3^3, 2^{n-1-k}, 1^{k-3})$  which contradicts condition (2).

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (3), then by  $\pi \neq (n-1,3^5,1^{n-6})$  and  $(n-1,3^6,1^{n-7})$ ,  $\pi'$  is only one of the following:  $(3^4,2^2)$ ,  $(3^6)$ ,  $(3^4,2^3)$ ,  $(3^6,2)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ ,  $(3^7,1)$ ,  $(3^8)$ . Since  $\pi \neq (3^7,1)$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4,3^3,2^2,1)$ ,  $(3^5,2,1)$ ,  $(4,3^5,1)$ ,  $(4,3^5,1)$ ,  $(4,3^5,1)$ ,  $(4,3^6,1^2)$ ,  $(4,3^7,1)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - A_3$ -graphic.

**Theorem 3.3** Let  $\pi=(d_1,d_2,\cdots,d_n)$  be a graphic sequence with  $n\geq 5$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1)  $d_2 \geq 4$  and  $d_5 \geq 2$ .
- (2)  $\pi \neq (4^2, 2^4), (4^2, 2^5), (4^3, 2^3)$  and  $(4^6)$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. (1) and (2) are obvious. To prove the sufficiency, we use induction on n. Suppose the graphic sequence  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions (1) and (2). We first prove the base case where n = 5. In this case,  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4^5)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^2, 2)$ ,  $(4^2, 2^3)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. Now suppose that the sufficiency holds for  $n - 1 (n \ge 6)$ , we will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic in terms of the following

cases:

Case 1:  $d_n \geq 4$ . Clearly,  $\pi'$  satisfies (1). If  $\pi'$  also satisfies (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ . If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is just (4<sup>6</sup>), and hence  $\pi = (5^4, 4^3)$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

Case 2:  $d_n = 3$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_{n-2} \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), i.e.,  $d_2'=3$ , then  $d_2=4$  and  $3 \le d_4 \le d_3 \le 4$ . There are three subcases:

Subcase 1:  $d_4=4$ . Then  $\pi=(4^4,3^{n-4})$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, n must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. It is easy to see that  $(4^4,3^2)$  and  $(4^4,3^4)$  are potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $(4^4,3^2)$ , which contains  $K_5-K_3$ . If  $n\geq 10$ , then  $\pi_1=(3^{n-6})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $\pi_1$ , then  $G_1\cup G_2$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4^4,3^{n-4})$ . In other words,  $\pi=(4^4,3^{n-4})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic.

Subcase 2:  $d_4=3$  and  $d_3=4$ . Then  $\pi=(d_1,4^2,3^{n-3})$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $d_1$  and n have different parities. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(d_1-4,3^{n-5},2,1^2)$  is graphic and the vertex with degree  $d_1-4$  is not adjacent to the vertices with degree 2 or 1 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Hence, it suffices to show  $\pi_2=(3^{n-1-d_1},2^{d_1-3},1^2)$  is graphic. By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi_2$  is graphic. Thus,  $\pi=(d_1,4^2,3^{n-3})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic.

Subcase 3:  $d_3 = 3$ . then  $\pi = (d_1, 4, 3^{n-2})$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $d_1$  and n have the same parity. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (d_1 - 4, 3^{n-5}, 1^3)$  is graphic and the vertex with degree  $d_1 - 4$  is not adjacent to the vertices with degree 1 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Hence, it suffices to show  $\pi_2 = (3^{n-1-d_1}, 2^{d_1-4}, 1^3)$  is graphic. By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is just (4<sup>6</sup>), and hence  $\pi = (5^3, 4^3, 3)$ . It is easy to check that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

Case 3:  $d_n = 2$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_2 \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), i.e.,  $d_2' = 3$ , then  $d_2 = 4$ . There are two subcases:  $d_1 = 4$  and  $d_1 \ge 5$ .

Subcase 1:  $d_1 = 4$ .

If  $d_3=4$ , then  $\pi=(4^3,3^k,2^{n-3-k})$  where  $n-3-k\geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. First, we consider  $\pi=(4^3,2^{n-3})$ . Since  $\pi\neq(4^3,2^3)$ , we have  $n\geq 7$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{n-4})$  is graphic. Clearly,  $C_{n-4}$  is a realization of  $\pi_1$ . Second, we consider  $\pi=(4^3,3^2,2^{n-5})$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi=(4^3,3^2,2)$  and  $\pi=(4^3,3^2,2^2)$  are potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. If  $n\geq 8$ , then  $K_5-e\cup C_{n-5}$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4^3,3^2,2^{n-5})$ . Thus,  $\pi=(4^3,3^2,2^{n-5})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic since  $K_5-K_3\subseteq K_5-e$ . Then we consider  $\pi=(4^3,3^k,2^{n-3-k})$  where  $k\geq 4$ . If  $n\geq 9$ , then  $\pi_1=(3^{k-2},2^{n-3-k})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $\pi_1$ , then  $K_5-e\cup G_1$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4^3,3^k,2^{n-3-k})$ . Thus,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic since  $K_5-K_3\subseteq K_5-e$ . If  $n\leq 8$ , then  $\pi=(4^3,3^4,2)$ . It is easy to see that  $(4^3,3^4,2)$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi=(4^3,3^k,2^{n-3-k})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic.

If  $d_3 \leq 3$ , then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  where  $n-2-k \geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. First, we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 2^{n-2})$ . Since  $\pi \neq (4^2, 2^4)$  and  $(4^2, 2^5)$ , we have  $n \geq 8$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (2^{n-5})$  is graphic. Clearly,  $C_{n-5}$  is a realization of  $\pi_1$ . Second, we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 3^2, 2^{n-4})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_2 = (2^{n-5}, 1^2)$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic. Then we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  where  $k \geq 4$ . It is easy to check that  $\pi = (4^2, 3^4)$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $(4^2, 3^4)$ , which contains  $K_5 - K_3$ . If  $n \geq 10$ , then  $\pi_3 = (3^{k-4}, 2^{n-2-k})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $\pi_3$ , then  $G_1 \cup G_2$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$ . If  $n \leq 9$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2^3)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^6, 2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

Subcase 2:  $d_1 \geq 5$ . Then  $\pi = (d_1, 4, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  where  $n-2-k \geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $d_1$  and k have the same parity. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

First, we consider  $\pi=(d_1,4,2^{n-2})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(d_1-4,2^{n-5})$  is graphic. It clearly suffices to show  $\pi_2=(2^{n-1-d_1},1^{d_1-4})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Second, we consider  $\pi = (d_1, 4, 3, 2^{n-3})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (d_1 - 4, 2^{n-5}, 1)$  is graphic and there exists no edge between two vertices

with degree  $d_1-4$  and 1 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Hence, it suffices to show  $\pi_2=(2^{n-1-d_1},1^{d_1-3})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Third, we consider  $\pi=(d_1,4,3^2,2^{n-4})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(d_1-4,2^{n-5},1^2)$  is graphic and the vertex with degree  $d_1-4$  is not adjacent to the vertices with degree 1 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Hence, it suffices to show  $\pi_2=(2^{n-1-d_1},1^{d_1-2})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Fourth, we consider  $\pi=(d_1,4,3^3,2^{n-5})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(d_1-4,2^{n-5},1^3)$  is graphic and the vertex with degree  $d_1-4$  is not adjacent to the vertices with degree 1 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Hence, it suffices to show  $\pi_2=(2^{n-1-d_1},1^{d_1-1})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Then we consider  $\pi=(d_1,4,3^k,2^{n-2-k})$  where  $k\geq 4$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(d_1-4,3^{k-3},2^{n-2-k},1^3)$  is graphic and the vertex with degree  $d_1-4$  is not adjacent to the vertices with degree 1 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Assume that the vertex with degree  $d_1-4$  is adjacent to  $t(t\leq k-3)$  vertices with degree 3 and  $d_1-4-t$  vertices with degree 2 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Hence, it suffices to show  $\pi_2=(3^{k-3-t},2^{n+2-d_1-k+2t},1^{d_1-1-t})$  is graphic. By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi_2$  is graphic. Thus,  $\pi=(d_1,4,3^k,2^{n-2-k})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 2^4)$ ,  $(4^2, 2^5)$ ,  $(4^3, 2^3)$ ,  $(4^6)$ . Hence  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5^2, 2^5)$ ,  $(5^2, 2^6)$ ,  $(5^2, 4, 2^4)$ ,  $(5^2, 4^4, 2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

Case 4:  $d_n = 1$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_1 \geq 4$ ,  $d'_2 \geq 3$  and  $d'_5 \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), i.e.,  $d_2' = 3$ , then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^t, 1^{n-2-k-t})$  where  $k + t \geq 3$  and  $n - 2 - k - t \geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, n - 2 - t must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

First, we consider  $\pi=(4^2,2^t,1^{n-2-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{t-3},1^{n-2-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic.

Second, we consider  $\pi=(4^2,3,2^t,1^{n-3-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{t-2},1^{n-2-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic.

Third, we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 3^2, 2^t, 1^{n-4-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (2^{t-1}, 1^{n-2-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic.

Fourth, we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 3^3, 2^t, 1^{n-5-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (2^t, 1^{n-2-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic.

Then we consider  $\pi=(4^2,3^k,2^t,1^{n-2-k-t})$  where  $k\geq 4$  and  $n-2-k-t\geq 1$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi=(4^2,3^4)$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $(4^2,3^4)$ , which contains  $K_5-K_3$ . Let  $\pi_1=(3^{k-4},2^t,1^{n-2-k-t})$ . If  $n\geq 10$  and  $\pi_1\neq (3^3,1)$ ,  $(3^2,1^2)$ , then  $\pi_1$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $\pi_1$ , then  $G_1\cup G_2$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4^2,3^k,2^t,1^{n-2-k-t})$ . If n=10 and  $\pi_1=(3^3,1)$  or  $(3^2,1^2)$ , then  $\pi=(4^2,3^7,1)$  or  $(4^2,3^6,1^2)$ . If  $n\leq 9$ , then  $\pi=(4^2,3^4,1^2)$ ,  $(4^2,3^4,2,1^2)$ ,  $(4^2,3^5,1)$  or  $(4^2,3^5,2,1)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi=(4^2,3^k,2^t,1^{n-2-k-t})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_3$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 2^4)$ ,  $(4^2, 2^5)$ ,  $(4^3, 2^3)$ ,  $(4^6)$ . Hence  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5, 4, 2^4, 1)$ ,  $(5, 4, 2^5, 1)$ ,  $(5, 4^2, 2^3, 1)$ ,  $(5, 4^5, 1)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

**Theorem 3.4** Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  be a graphic sequence with  $n \ge 5$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1)  $d_1 \ge 4$  and  $d_4 \ge 3$ .
- (2)  $\pi \neq (4, 3^4, 2), (4^6), (4^2, 3^4), (4, 3^6), (4^7), (4, 3^5, 1), (n 1, 3^4, 1^{n-5})$  and  $(n 1, 3^5, 1^{n-6})$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. (1) is obvious. Now it is easy to check that  $(4,3^4,2)$ ,  $(4^6)$ ,  $(4^2,3^4)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4,3^5,1)$  are not potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. If  $\pi = (n-1,3^4,1^{n-5})$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic, then according to Theorem 2.1, there exists a realization G of  $\pi$  containing  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$  as a subgraph so that the vertices of  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$  have the largest degrees of  $\pi$ . Therefore, the sequence  $\pi^* = (n-5,2,1^{n-5})$  obtained from  $G - (K_5 - K_{1,3})$  must be graphic and there must be no edge between two vertices with degree n-5 and 2 in the realization of  $\pi^*$ . Thus,  $\pi^*$  satisfies:  $(n-5)+2 \le n-5$ , a contradiction. Hence,  $\pi \ne (n-1,3^4,1^{n-5})$ . If  $\pi = (n-1,3^5,1^{n-6})$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic, then according to Theorem 2.1, there exists a realization G of  $\pi$ 

containing  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$  as a subgraph so that the vertices of  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$  have the largest degrees of  $\pi$ . Therefore, the sequence  $\pi^* = (n-5,3,2,1^{n-6})$  obtained from  $G - (K_5 - K_{1,3})$  must be graphic and there must be no edge between two vertices with degree n-5 and 2 in the realization of  $\pi^*$ . It follows that the sequence  $\pi_1 = (2^2)$  must be graphic, a contradiction. Hence,  $\pi \neq (n-1,3^5,1^{n-6})$ . In other words, (2) holds.

Now we prove the sufficient conditions. Suppose the graphic sequence  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions (1) and (2). Our proof is by induction on n. We first prove the base case where n=5. Since  $\pi \neq (4,3^4)$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4^5)$ ,  $(4^3,3^2)$ ,  $(4^2,3^2,2)$ ,  $(4,3^3,1)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Now suppose that the sufficiency holds for  $n-1 (n \geq 6)$ , we will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic in terms of the following cases:

Case 1:  $d_n \geq 4$ . Clearly,  $\pi'$  satisfies (1). If  $\pi'$  also satisfies (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ . If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), since  $\pi \neq (4^6)$  and  $(4^7)$ , then  $\pi'$  is just  $(4^6)$  or  $(4^7)$ , and hence  $\pi = (5^4, 4^3)$  or  $(5^4, 4^4)$ . It is easy to check that these sequences are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

Case 2:  $d_n = 3$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_{n-3} \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), there are two subcases:

Subcase 1:  $d_1' \ge 4$  and  $d_4' = 2$ . Then  $\pi' = (4, 3^2, 2^2)$ , and hence  $\pi = (5, 3^5)$  which contradicts condition (2).

Subcase 2:  $d_1'=3$ . Then  $\pi'=(3^k,2^{n-1-k})$  where  $n-3\leq k\leq n-1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi')$  is even, k must be even. If n is odd, then k=n-3 or n-1. If k=n-3, then  $\pi=(4,3^{n-1})$ . Since  $\pi\neq(4,3^6)$ , we have  $n\geq 9$ . It is easy to check that  $(4,3^8)$  and  $(4,3^{10})$  are potentially  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $(4,3^8)$ , which contains  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ . If  $n\geq 13$ , then  $\pi_1=(3^{n-9})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $\pi_1$ , then  $G_1\cup G_2$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4,3^{n-1})$ . In other words,  $\pi=(4,3^{n-1})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ -graphic. If k=n-1, then  $\pi=(4^3,3^{n-3})$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi=(4^3,3^4)$  is potentially  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ -graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_3$  be a realization of  $\pi_2$ , then  $K_5-e\cup G_3$  is a realization of  $\pi=(4^3,3^{n-3})$ . Hence,  $\pi=(4^3,3^{n-3})$  is potentially  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ -graphic since  $K_5-K_{1,3}\subseteq K_5-e$ . If n is even, then k=n-2, thus  $\pi=(4^2,3^{n-2})$ . Since  $\pi\neq(4^2,3^4)$ , we have  $n\geq 8$ . It is

easy to see that  $(4^2, 3^6)$  and  $(4^2, 3^8)$  are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Let  $G_4$  be a realization of  $(4^2, 3^6)$ , which contains  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ . If  $n \ge 12$ , then  $\pi_3 = (3^{n-8})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_5$  be a realization of  $\pi_3$ , then  $G_4 \cup G_5$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$ . In other words,  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4,3^4,2)$ ,  $(4^6)$ ,  $(4^2,3^4)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4,3^4)$ ,  $(5,3^5)$ . Hence  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5,4,3^5)$ ,  $(5^3,4^3,3)$ ,  $(5^2,4,3^4)$ ,  $(5,4^3,3^3)$ ,  $(4^5,3^2)$ ,  $(5,4^2,3^5)$ ,  $(4^4,3^4)$ ,  $(5^3,4^4,3)$ ,  $(5,4^2,3^3)$ ,  $(4^4,3^2)$ ,  $(6,4^2,3^4)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

Case 3:  $d_n = 2$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_3 \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), there are two subcases:

Subcase 1:  $d_1' \geq 4$  and  $d_4' = 2$ . Then  $\pi = (d_1, 3^3, 2^{n-4})$  where  $d_1 \geq 5$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $d_1$  must be odd. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (d_1 - 4, 2^{n-5}, 1)$  is graphic and there exists no edge between two vertices with degree  $d_1 - 4$  and 1 in the realization of  $\pi_1$ . Hence, it suffices to show  $\pi_2 = (2^{n-1-d_1}, 1^{d_1-3})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Subcase 2:  $d'_1 = 3$ . Then  $d_1 = 4$ ,  $d_3 = d_4 = 3$ ,  $d_2 = 4$  or  $d_2 = 3$ .

If  $d_2 = 4$ , then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  where  $k \ge 2$  and n-2-k > 1. Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. First, we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 3^2, 2^{n-4})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(2^{n-5},1^2)$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic. Second, we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 3^4, 2^{n-6})$ . It is easy to see that  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2^2)$  and  $(4^2, 3^4, 2^3)$  are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ , which contains  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ . If  $n \geq 10$ , then  $G_1 \cup C_{n-7}$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^2, 3^4, 2^{n-6})$ . In other words,  $\pi = (4^2, 3^4, 2^{n-6})$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Then we consider  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  where  $k \ge 6$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi = (4^2, 3^6)$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $(4^2, 3^6)$ , which contains  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ . If  $n \ge 12$ , then  $\pi_2 = (3^{k-6}, 2^{n-2-k})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_3$  be a realization of  $\pi_2$ , then  $G_2 \cup G_3$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$ . If  $n \le 11$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 3^6, 2)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^6, 2^2), (4^2, 3^6, 2^3), (4^2, 3^8, 2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  is

potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

If  $d_2 = 3$ , then  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^{n-1-k})$  where  $k \ge 3$  and  $n-1-k \ge 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ graphic. First, we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^4, 2^{n-5})$ . Since  $\pi \neq (4, 3^4, 2)$ , we have  $n \geq 7$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (2^{n-4})$  is graphic. Clearly,  $C_{n-4}$  is a realization of  $\pi_1$ . Second, we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^6, 2^{n-7})$ . It is easy to see that  $(4,3^6,2), (4,3^6,2^2)$  and  $(4,3^6,2^3)$  are potentially  $K_5-K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Let  $G_1$ be a realization of  $(4, 3^6, 2)$ , which contains  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ . If  $n \ge 11$ , then  $G_1 \cup$  $C_{n-8}$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4, 3^6, 2^{n-7})$ . In other words,  $\pi = (4, 3^6, 2^{n-7})$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Then we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^{n-1-k})$  where  $k \geq 8$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi = (4.38)$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $(4,3^8)$ , which contains  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ . If  $n \ge 13$ , then  $\pi_2 = (3^{k-8}, 2^{n-1-k})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_3$  be a realization of  $\pi_2$ , then  $G_2 \cup G_3$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^{n-1-k})$ . If  $n \leq 12$ , then  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(4, 3^8, 2)$ ,  $(4, 3^8, 2^2)$ ,  $(4, 3^8, 2^3)$ ,  $(4, 3^{10}, 2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic. In other words,  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^{n-1-k})$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4,3^4,2)$ ,  $(4^6)$ ,  $(4^2,3^4)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4,3^4)$ ,  $(5,3^5)$ . Hence  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5,4,3^3,2^2)$ ,  $(5,3^5,2)$ ,  $(4^3,3^2,2^2)$ ,  $(5^2,4^4,2)$ ,  $(5^2,3^4,2)$ ,  $(5,4^2,3^3,2)$ ,  $(4^4,3^2,2)$ ,  $(5,4,3^5,2)$ ,  $(4^3,3^4,2)$ ,  $(5^2,4^5,2)$ ,  $(5,4,3^3,2)$ ,  $(4^3,3^2,2)$ ,  $(6,4,3^4,2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

Case 4:  $d_n = 1$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_4 \geq 3$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1) and (2), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), i.e.,  $d_1' = 3$ , then  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^t, 1^{n-1-k-t})$  where  $k \geq 3$  and  $n-1-k-t \geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, n-1-t must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

First, we consider  $\pi=(4,3^3,2^t,1^{n-4-t})$ . If t=0, it is enough to show  $\pi_1=(1^{n-5})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic. If  $t\geq 1$ , it is enough to show  $\pi_2=(2^{t-1},1^{n-3-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Second, we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^4, 2^t, 1^{n-5-t})$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (2^{t+1}, 1^{n-5-t})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_1)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_1$  is graphic.

Then we consider  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^t, 1^{n-1-k-t})$  where  $k \geq 5$ . Since  $\pi \neq (4, 3^5, 1)$ , we have  $n \geq 8$ . It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (3^{k-4}, 2^{t+1}, 1^{n-1-k-t})$ 

is graphic. By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi_1$  is graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), since  $\pi \neq (n-1,3^4,1^{n-5})$  and  $(n-1,3^5,1^{n-6})$ , then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4,3^4,2),(4^6),(4^2,3^4),(4,3^6),(4^7),(4,3^5,1)$ . Hence,  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5,3^4,2,1),(4^2,3^3,2,1),(5,4^5,1),(5,4,3^4,1),(4^3,3^3,1),(5,3^6,1),(4^2,3^5,1),(5,4^6,1),(5,3^5,1^2),(4^2,3^4,1^2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - K_{1,3}$ -graphic.

**Theorem 3.5** Let  $\pi = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  be a graphic sequence with  $n \ge 5$ . Then  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic if and only if the following conditions hold:

(1)  $d_1 \ge 4$  and  $d_5 \ge 3$ ;

(2) 
$$\pi \neq \begin{cases} (n-i, n-j, 3^{n-i-j-2k}, 2^{2k}, 1^{i+j-2}) \\ n-i-j \text{ is even;} \\ (n-i, n-j, 3^{n-i-j-2k-1}, 2^{2k+1}, 1^{i+j-2}) \\ n-i-j \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

where  $1 \le j \le n-5$  and  $0 \le k \le \left[\frac{n-j-i-4}{2}\right]$ . (3)  $\pi \ne (4^2, 3^4)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^5)$ ,  $(5, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^4)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4, 3^6)$ ,  $(4, 3^5, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(5, 3^7)$ ,  $(5, 3^6, 1)$ ,  $(4^8)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^6)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^5, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^6, 2)$ ,  $(4, 3^5, 2, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^7, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^6, 1^2)$ ,  $(n-1, 3^5, 1^{n-6})$  and  $(n-1, 3^6, 1^{n-7})$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic. (1) is obvious. According to Lemma 2.4, (2) holds. Now it is easy to check that  $(4^2,3^4)$ ,  $(4,3^4,2)$ ,  $(5,4,3^5)$ ,  $(5,3^5,2)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4^3,3^4)$ ,  $(4^2,3^4,2)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ ,  $(4,3^5,1)$ ,  $(4,3^4,2^2)$ ,  $(5,3^7)$ ,  $(5,3^6,1)$ ,  $(4^8)$ ,  $(4^2,3^6)$ ,  $(4^2,3^5,1)$ ,  $(4,3^6,2)$ ,  $(4,3^5,2,1)$ ,  $(4,3^7,1)$ ,  $(4,3^6,1^2)$  are not potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic and by Lemma 2.4,  $\pi \neq (n-1,3^5,1^{n-6})$  and  $(n-1,3^6,1^{n-7})$ . Hence, (3) holds.

Now we prove the sufficient conditions. Suppose the graphic sequence  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions (1)-(3). Our proof is by induction on n. We first prove the base case where n=5. In this case,  $\pi$  is one of the following: (4<sup>5</sup>), (4<sup>3</sup>,3<sup>2</sup>), (4,3<sup>4</sup>). It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic. Now suppose that the sufficiency holds for n-1 ( $n \ge 6$ ), we will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic in terms of the following cases:

Case 1:  $d_n \geq 4$ . Clearly,  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_n)$  satisfies (1) and (2). If  $\pi'$  also satisfies (3), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ . If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (3), since  $\pi \neq (4^7)$ 

and  $(4^8)$ , then  $\pi'$  is just  $(4^7)$  or  $(4^8)$ , and hence  $\pi = (5^4, 4^4)$  or  $(5^4, 4^5)$ . It is easy to check that these sequences are potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic.

Case 2:  $d_n = 3$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_{n-3} \ge 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \ge 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1)-(3), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), there are three subcases:

Subcase 1:  $d_1' = d_5' = 3$ . Then  $\pi' = (3^k, 2^{n-1-k})$  where  $n-3 \le k \le n-1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi')$  is even, k must be even. If k=n-3, then  $\pi = (4, 3^{n-1})$  where n is odd. Since  $\pi \ne (4, 3^6)$ , we have  $n \ge 9$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi_1 = (3^{n-5})$  is graphic. Let  $G_1$  be a realization of  $\pi_1$ , then  $K_{1,2,2} \cup G_1$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4, 3^{n-1})$ . In other words,  $\pi = (4, 3^{n-1})$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic. If k = n-2, then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$  where n is even. Since  $\pi \ne (4^2, 3^4)$  and  $(4^2, 3^6)$ , we have  $n \ge 10$ . It is easy to see that  $(4^2, 3^8)$  and  $(4^2, 3^{10})$  are potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic. Let  $G_2$  be a realization of  $(4^2, 3^8)$ , which contains  $K_5 - 2K_2$ . If  $n \ge 14$ , then  $\pi_2 = (3^{n-10})$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. Let  $G_3$  be a realization of  $\pi_2$ , then  $G_2 \cup G_3$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$ . In other words,  $\pi = (4^2, 3^{n-2})$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic. If k = n-1, then  $\pi = (4^3, 3^{n-3})$  where n is odd. Since  $\pi \ne (4^3, 3^4)$ , we have  $n \ge 9$ . Clearly,  $K_5 - e \cup G_1$  is a realization of  $\pi = (4^3, 3^{n-3})$ . Thus,  $\pi = (4^3, 3^{n-3})$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic since  $K_5 - 2K_2 \subseteq K_5 - e$ .

**Subcase 2:**  $d'_1 \geq 4$  and  $d'_5 = 2$ . Since  $d'_{n-3} \geq 3$ , we have n = 6 or n = 7. Then  $\pi$  is  $(5^2, 3^4)$ ,  $(5, 3^5)$  or  $(6, 3^6)$ , which is impossible by condition (2) and (3).

Subcase 3:  $d_1' = 3$  and  $d_5' = 2$ . Then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^4)$  or  $(4, 3^6)$ , which is impossible by condition (3).

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), then  $\pi' = ((n-2)^2, 3^{n-3})$  or  $((n-2)^2, 3^{n-4}, 2)$ . Hence,  $\pi = ((n-1)^2, 4, 3^{n-3})$  or  $((n-1)^2, 3^{n-2})$ . But  $\pi = ((n-1)^2, 3^{n-2})$  contradicts condition (2), thus  $\pi = ((n-1)^2, 4, 3^{n-3})$ . Since  $\pi'_1 = (n-2, 3, 2^{n-3})$  is potentially  $C_4$ -graphic by Theorem 2.3, thus  $\pi = ((n-1)^2, 4, 3^{n-3})$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (3), since  $\pi \neq (5,4,3^5)$  and  $(5,3^7)$ , then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4^2,3^4)$ ,  $(5,4,3^5)$ ,  $(5,3^5,2)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4^3,3^4)$ ,  $(4^2,3^4,2)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ ,  $(5,3^7)$ ,  $(4^8)$ ,  $(4^2,3^6)$ ,  $(4,3^6,2)$ ,  $(5,3^5)$ ,  $(6,3^6)$ . Hence,  $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5^2,4,3^4)$ ,  $(5,4^3,3^3)$ ,  $(4^5,3^2)$ ,  $(6,5,4,3^5)$ ,  $(6,4^3,3^4)$ ,  $(6,4,3^6)$ ,  $(5^3,4^4,3)$ ,  $(5^3,3^5)$ ,  $(5^2,4^2,3^4)$ ,  $(5,4^4,3^3)$ ,  $(4^6,3^2)$ ,  $(5^2,3^6)$ ,  $(5,4^2,3^5)$ ,  $(4^4,3^4)$ ,  $(6,4^2,3^6)$ ,  $(5^3,4^5,3)$ ,  $(5^2,4,3^6)$ ,  $(5,4^3,3^5)$ ,  $(4^5,3^4)$ ,  $(5,4,3^7)$ ,  $(6,4^2,3^4)$ ,

 $(7,4^2,3^5)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic.

Case 3:  $d_n = 2$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_4 \geq 3$  and  $d'_{n-1} \geq 2$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1)-(3), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), there are three subcases:

Subcase 1:  $d_1' = d_5' = 3$ . Then  $d_1 = 4$ ,  $d_3 = d_4 = d_5 = 3$  and  $3 \le d_2 \le 4$ . If  $d_2 = 4$ , then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^k, 2^{n-2-k})$  where  $k \ge 3$  and  $n-2-k \ge 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, k must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (3^{k-3}, 2^{n-2-k}, 1)$  is graphic. If  $n \ge 8$ , then  $\pi_1$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. If  $n \le 7$ , then  $\pi = (4^2, 3^4, 2)$ , which is impossible by (3). If  $d_2 = 3$ , then  $\pi = (4, 3^k, 2^{n-1-k})$  where  $k \ge 6$ ,  $n-1-k \ge 1$  and k is even. Since  $\pi \ne (4, 3^6, 2)$ , we have  $n \ge 9$ . We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_2 = (3^{k-4}, 2^{n-1-k})$  is graphic. By Lemma 2.5,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Subcase 2:  $d_1' \geq 4$  and  $d_5' = 2$ . Then  $d_1 \geq 5$ ,  $d_2 = d_3 = d_4 = d_5 = 3$  and  $d_6 = \cdots = d_{n-1} = 2$ . Hence,  $\pi = (d_1, 3^4, 2^{n-5})$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even,  $d_1$  must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1 = (d_1 - 4, 2^{n-5})$  is graphic. It clearly suffices to show  $\pi_2 = (2^{n-1-d_1}, 1^{d_1-4})$  is graphic. By  $\sigma(\pi_2)$  being even and Theorem 2.2,  $\pi_2$  is graphic.

Subcase 3:  $d_1'=3$  and  $d_5'=2$ . Then  $\pi=(4,3^4,2^{n-5})$ . Since  $\pi\neq (4,3^4,2)$  and  $(4,3^4,2^2)$ , we have  $n\geq 8$ . Clearly,  $K_{1,2,2}\cup C_{n-5}$  is a realization of  $\pi$ . In other words,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), i.e.,

$$\pi' = \begin{cases} ((n-2)^2, 3^{n-3-2k}, 2^{2k}), & n \text{ is odd;} \\ ((n-2)^2, 3^{n-4-2k}, 2^{2k+1}), & n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

If  $n \geq 7$ , then

$$\pi = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} ((n-1)^2, 3^{n-3-2k}, 2^{2k+1}), & n \text{ is odd;} \\ ((n-1)^2, 3^{n-4-2k}, 2^{2k+2}), & n \text{ is even.} \end{array} \right.$$

which contradicts condition (2). If n = 6, then  $\pi' = (4^2, 3^2, 2)$  and hence  $\pi = (5^2, 3^2, 2^2)$  or  $(4^4, 2^2)$ , which is impossible by (1).

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (3), then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 3^4)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^5)$ ,  $(5, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^4)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4, 3^6)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(5, 3^7)$ ,  $(4^8)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^6)$ ,  $(4, 3^6, 2)$ ,  $(5, 3^5)$ ,  $(6, 3^6)$ . Since  $\pi \neq (5, 3^5, 2)$ , then

 $\pi$  is one of the following:  $(5^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4^2, 3^3, 2)$ ,  $(4^4, 3^2, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^3, 2^2)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^2, 2)$ ,  $(6, 5, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(6, 4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(6, 4, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(6, 3^6, 2)$ ,  $(5^2, 4^5, 2)$ ,  $(5^2, 4, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4^3, 3^3, 2)$ ,  $(4^5, 3^2, 2)$ ,  $(5^2, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(5, 4^2, 3^3, 2^2)$ ,  $(4^4, 3^2, 2^2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^3, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4^2, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(4^4, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^5, 2^2)$ ,  $(5, 4^3, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(6, 4, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(7, 4, 3^5, 2)$ . It is easy to check that all of these are potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic.

Case 4:  $d_n = 1$ . Consider  $\pi' = (d'_1, d'_2, \dots, d'_{n-1})$  where  $d'_5 \geq 3$ . If  $\pi'$  satisfies (1)-(3), then by the induction hypothesis,  $\pi'$  is potentially  $K_5 - 2K_2$ -graphic, and hence so is  $\pi$ .

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (1), i.e.,  $d_1'=3$ , then  $d_1=4$  and  $d_2=\cdots=d_5=3$ . Hence,  $\pi=(4,3^k,2^t,1^{n-1-k-t})$  where  $k\geq 4$  and  $n-1-k-t\geq 1$ . Since  $\sigma(\pi)$  is even, n-1-t must be even. We will show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic. It is enough to show  $\pi_1=(3^{k-4},2^t,1^{n-1-k-t})$  is graphic. Since  $\pi\neq (4,3^7,1)$  and  $(4,3^6,1^2)$ , we have  $\pi_1\neq (3^3,1)$  and  $(3^2,1^2)$ . If  $n\geq 9$ , then  $\pi_1$  is graphic by Lemma 2.5. If  $n\leq 8$ , since  $\pi\neq (4,3^5,1)$  and  $(4,3^5,2,1)$ , then  $\pi=(4,3^4,1^2)$  or  $(4,3^4,2,1^2)$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5-2K_2$ -graphic.

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (2), i.e.,

$$\pi' = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (n-1-i, n-1-j, 3^{(n-1)-i-j-2k}, 2^{2k}, 1^{i+j-2}), \\ n-1-i-j \text{ is even;} \\ (n-1-i, n-1-j, 3^{(n-1)-i-j-2k-1}, 2^{2k+1}, , 1^{i+j-2}), \\ n-1-i-j \text{ is odd.} \end{array} \right.$$

where  $1 \le j \le (n-1)-5$  and  $0 \le k \le \left[\frac{(n-1)-j-i-4}{2}\right]$ . If n-i > n-j+1 or n-i = n-j, then

$$\pi = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (n-i, n-(j+1), 3^{n-i-(j+1)-2k}, 2^{2k}, 1^{i+(j+1)-2}), \\ n-i-(j+1) \text{ is even;} \\ (n-i, n-(j+1), 3^{n-i-(j+1)-2k-1}, 2^{2k+1}, 1^{i+(j+1)-2}), \\ n-i-(j+1) \text{ is odd.} \end{array} \right.$$

which contradicts condition (2). If n-i=n-j+1, i.e.,

$$\pi' = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (n-1-i, n-2-i, 3^{n-2i-2k-2}, 2^{2k}, 1^{2i-1}), \\ n \text{ is even;} \\ (n-1-i, n-2-i, 3^{n-2i-2k-3}, 2^{2k+1}, 1^{2i-1}), \\ n \text{ is odd.} \end{array} \right.$$

Then

$$\pi = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (n-i, n-i-2, 3^{n-2i-2k-2}, 2^{2k}, 1^{2i}), \\ n \text{ is even;} \\ (n-i, n-i-2, 3^{n-2i-2k-3}, 2^{2k+1}, 1^{2i}), \\ n \text{ is odd.} \end{array} \right.$$

or

$$\pi = \begin{cases} & ((n-1-i)^2, 3^{n-2i-2k-2}, 2^{2k}, 1^{2i}), \\ & n \text{ is even;} \\ & ((n-1-i)^2, 3^{n-2i-2k-3}, 2^{2k+1}, 1^{2i}), \\ & n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

which contradicts condition (2).

If  $\pi'$  does not satisfy (3), since  $\pi \neq (5, 3^6, 1)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^5, 1)$ ,  $(n-1, 3^5, 1^{n-6})$  and  $(n-1, 3^6, 1^{n-7})$ , then  $\pi'$  is one of the following:  $(4^2, 3^4)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(5, 4, 3^5)$ ,  $(5, 3^5, 2)$ ,  $(4^7)$ ,  $(4^3, 3^4)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^4, 2)$ ,  $(4, 3^5, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^4, 2^2)$ ,  $(5, 3^6, 1)$ ,  $(4^8)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^6)$ ,  $(4^2, 3^5, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^6, 2)$ ,  $(4, 3^5, 2, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^7, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3^6, 1^2)$ . Hence,  $\pi$  is one of the following:

 $\begin{array}{l} (5,4,3^4,1),\,(4^3,3^3,1),\,(5,3^4,2,1),\,(4^2,3^3,2,1),\,(6,4,3^5,1),\,(5^2,3^5,1),\\ (6,3^5,2,1),\,(5,4^6,1),\,(5,4^2,3^4,1),\,(4^4,3^3,1),\,(5,4,3^4,2,1),\,(4^3,3^3,2,1),\\ (5,3^5,1^2),\,(4^2,3^4,1^2),\,(5,3^4,2^2,1),\,(4^2,3^3,2^2,1),\,(6,3^7,1),\,(6,3^6,1^2),\\ (5,4^7,1),\,(5,4,3^6,1),\,(4^3,3^5,1),\,(5,4,3^5,1^2),\,(4^3,3^4,1^2),\,(5,3^6,2,1),\\ (4^2,3^5,2,1),\,(5,3^5,2,1^2),\,(4^2,3^4,2,1^2),\,(5,3^7,1^2),\,(4^2,3^6,1^2),\,(5,3^6,1^3),\\ (4^2,3^5,1^3). \ \ \text{It is easy to check that all of these are potentially} \ K_5-2K_2-\text{graphic.} \end{array}$ 

## 4 Application

Using Theorem 3.1 and Theorem 3.3, we give simple proofs of the following theorems due to Lai:

Theorem 4.1 (Lai [14]) For  $n \ge 5$ ,  $\sigma(K_5 - P_3, n) = 4n - 4$ .

**Proof:** First we claim that for  $n \geq 5$ ,  $\sigma(K_5 - P_3, n) \geq 4n - 4$ . It is enough to show that there exists  $\pi_1$  with  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 6$ , such that  $\pi_1$  is not potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic. Take  $\pi_1 = ((n-1)^2, 2^{n-2})$ , then  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 6$ , and it is easy to see that  $\pi_1$  is not potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic by Theorem 3.1.

Now we show that if  $\pi$  is an *n*-term  $(n \geq 5)$  graphical sequence with  $\sigma(\pi) \geq 4n - 4$ , then there exists a realization of  $\pi$  containing  $K_5 - P_3$ . Hence, it suffices to show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic.

If  $d_5=1$ , then  $\sigma(\pi)=d_1+d_2+d_3+d_4+(n-4)$  and  $d_1+d_2+d_3+d_4\leq 12+(n-4)=n+8$ . Therefore,  $\sigma(\pi)\leq 2n+4<4n-4$ , a contradiction. Thus,  $d_5\geq 2$ .

If  $d_3 \le 2$ , then  $\sigma(\pi) \le d_1 + d_2 + 2(n-2) \le 2(n-1) + 2(n-2) = 4n-6 < 4n-4$ , a contradiction. Thus,  $d_3 \ge 3$ .

If  $d_1 \leq 3$ , then  $\sigma(\pi) \leq 3n < 4n - 4$ , a contradiction. Thus,  $d_1 \geq 4$ .

Since  $\sigma(\pi) \geq 4n-4$ , then  $\pi$  is not one of the following:  $(4,3^2,2^3)$ ,  $(4,3^2,2^4)$ ,  $(4,3^6)$ . Thus,  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions (1) and (2) in Theorem 3.1. Therefore,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - P_3$ -graphic.

**Theorem 4.2** (Lai [13]) For  $n \ge 5$ ,  $\sigma(K_5 - C_4, n) = 4n - 4$ .

**Proof:** Obviously, for  $n \geq 5$ ,  $\sigma(K_5 - C_4, n) \leq \sigma(K_5 - P_3, n) = 4n - 4$ . Now we claim  $\sigma(K_5 - C_4, n) \geq 4n - 4$  for  $n \geq 5$ . We would like to show there exists  $\pi_1$  with  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 6$ , such that  $\pi_1$  is not potentially  $K_5 - C_4$ -graphic. Let  $\pi_1 = ((n-1)^2, 2^{n-2})$ . It is easy to see that  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 6$  and the only realization of  $\pi_1$  does not contain  $K_5 - C_4$ . Thus,  $\sigma(K_5 - C_4, n) = 4n - 4$ .

**Theorem 4.3** (Lai [10], Luo[21])  $\sigma(C_5, n) = 4n - 4$  for  $n \ge 5$ .

**Proof:** Obviously, for  $n \geq 5$ ,  $\sigma(K_5 - C_5, n) \leq \sigma(K_5 - P_3, n) = 4n - 4(K_5 - C_5 = C_5)$ . Now we claim  $\sigma(C_5, n) \geq 4n - 4$  for  $n \geq 5$ . We would like to show there exists  $\pi_1$  with  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 6$ , such that  $\pi_1$  is not potentially  $C_5$ -graphic. Let  $\pi_1 = ((n-1)^2, 2^{n-2})$ . It is easy to see that  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 6$  and the only realization of  $\pi_1$  does not contain  $C_5$ . Thus,  $\sigma(C_5, n) = 4n - 4$ .

Theorem 4.4 (Lai [15]) For n = 5 and  $n \ge 7$ ,

$$\sigma(K_{3,1,1},n)=4n-2.$$

For n=6, if  $\pi$  is a 6-term graphical sequence with  $\sigma(\pi) \geq 22$ , then either there is a realization of  $\pi$  containing  $K_{3,1,1}$  or  $\pi=(4^6)$ . (Thus  $\sigma(K_{3,1,1},6)=26$ .)

**Proof:** First we claim that for  $n \geq 5$ ,  $\sigma(K_5 - K_3, n) \geq 4n - 2(K_{3,1,1} = K_5 - K_3)$ . It is enough to show that there exists  $\pi_1$  with  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 4$ , such that  $\pi_1$  is not potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. Take  $\pi_1 = (n - 1, 3^{n-1})$ , then  $\sigma(\pi_1) = 4n - 4$ , and it is easy to see that  $\pi_1$  is not potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic by Theorem 3.3.

Now we show that if  $\pi$  is an n-term  $(n \ge 5)$  graphical sequence with  $\sigma(\pi) \ge 4n-2$ , then there exists a realization of  $\pi$  containing  $K_5 - K_3$  (unless  $\pi = (4^6)$ ). Hence, it suffices to show that  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic.

If  $d_5=1$ , then  $\sigma(\pi)=d_1+d_2+d_3+d_4+(n-4)$  and  $d_1+d_2+d_3+d_4\leq 12+(n-4)=n+8$ . Therefore,  $\sigma(\pi)\leq 2n+4<4n-2$ , a contradiction. Thus,  $d_5\geq 2$ .

If  $d_2 \le 3$ , then  $\sigma(\pi) \le d_1 + 3(n-1) \le n-1+3(n-1) = 4n-4 < 4n-2$ , a contradiction. Thus,  $d_2 \ge 4$ .

Since  $\sigma(\pi) \geq 4n-2$ , then  $\pi \neq (4^2, 2^5)$ . Hence, for n=5 and  $n \geq 7$ ,  $\pi$  satisfies the conditions (1) and (2) in Theorem 3.3. Therefore,  $\pi$  is potentially  $K_5 - K_3$ -graphic. For n=6, since  $\sigma(\pi) \geq 4 \times 6 - 2 = 22$ , then  $\pi$  is not one of the following:  $(4^2, 2^4)$ ,  $(4^3, 2^3)$ . Thus, by Theorem 3.3, either there is a realization of  $\pi$  containing  $K_{3,1,1}$  or  $\pi = (4^6)$ .

## Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to the referee for his valuable comments and suggestions.

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