

Graphs generated by the iteration of line graph operations

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A line graph of an undirected graph G is another graph $L(G)$ that represents the adjacencies

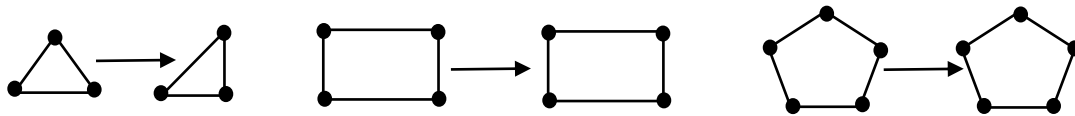
between edges of G . So we can define an operation: $G \xrightarrow{L} L(G)$, and its iteration:

$L \circ L, L \circ L \circ L, \dots$ We get the following sequence of graphs:

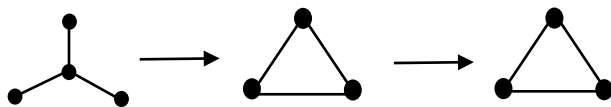
$G, L(G), L(L(G)), L(L(L(G))), L(L(L(L(G))))$, ...

To study the graphs generated by the iteration of line graph operation, we use the Theorem of van Rooij and Wilf. They have proved that when G is a finite connected graph, only four possible behaviors are possible.

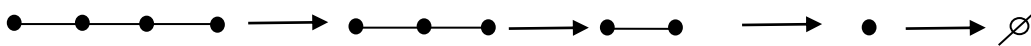
1) If G is a cycle graph then $L(G)$ is isomorphic to itself. By the way, Harary has proved that they are the only connected graphs for which $L(G)$ is isomorphic to G .



2) If G is $K_{1,3}$ then $L(G)$ is a triangle



3) If G is P_n then $L(G)$ is P_{n-1}



4) Else the size of $L(G)$ increases so the sequence can produce graphs with sizes that are not bounded.

