# Word-Representability of Line Graphs 

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#### Abstract

A graph $G=(V, E)$ is representable if there exists a word $W$ over the alphabet $V$ such that letters $x$ and $y$ alternate in $W$ if and only if $(x, y)$ is in $E$ for each $x$ not equal to $y$. The motivation to study representable graphs came from algebra, but this subject is interesting from graph theoretical, computer science, and combinatorics on words points of view. In this paper, we prove that for $n$ greater than 3, the line graph of an $n$-wheel is non-representable. This not only provides a new construction of non-representable graphs, but also answers an open question on representability of the line graph of the 5 -wheel, the minimal non-representable graph. Moreover, we show that for $n$ greater than 4 , the line graph of the complete graph is also non-representable. We then use these facts to prove that given a graph $G$ which is not a cycle, a path or a claw graph, the graph obtained by taking the line graph of $G$ k-times is guaranteed to be non-representable for $k$ greater than 3 .


Keywords: Line Graph, Representability by Words, Wheel, Complete Graph

## 1. Introduction

A graph $G=(V, E)$ is representable if there exists a word $W$ over the alphabet $V$ such that letters $x$ and $y$ alternate in $W$ if and only if $(x, y) \in E$ for each $x \neq y$. Such a $W$ is called a word-representant of $G$. Note that in this paper we use the term graph to mean a finite, simple graph, even though the definition of representable is applicable to more general graphs.

It was shown by Kitaev and Pyatkin, in [1], that if a graph is representable by $W$, then one can assume that $W$ is uniform, that is, it contains the same number of copies of each letter. If the number of copies of each letter in $W$ is $k$, we say that $W$ is $k$-uniform. For example, the graph to the left in Figure 1 can be represented by the 2-uniform word 12312434 (in this word every pair of letters alternate, except 1 and 4, and 2 and 4), while the graph to the right, the Petersen graph,

[^0]can be represented by the 3-uniform word 027618596382430172965749083451 (the Petersen graph cannot be represented by a 2 -uniform word as shown in [2])

The notion of a representable graph comes from algebra, where it was used by Kitaev and Seif to study the growth of the free spectrum of the well known Perkins semigroup [3]. There are also connections between representable graphs and robotic scheduling as described by Graham and Zang in [4]. Moreover, representable graphs are a generalization of circle graphs, which was shown by Halldórsson, Kitaev and Pyatkin in [5], and thus they are interesting from a graph theoretical point of view. Finally, representable graphs are interesting from a combinatorics on words point of view as they deal with the study of alternations in words.

Not all graphs are representable. Examples of minimal (with respect to the number of nodes) non-representable graphs given by Kitaev and Pyatkin in [1] are presented in Figure 2.

It was remarked in [5] that very little is known about the effect of the line graph operation on the representability of a graph. We attempt to shed some light on this subject by showing that the line graph of the smallest


Figure 1. A graph representable by a 2 -uniform word and the Petersen graph.


Figure 2. Minimal non-representable graphs.
known non-representable graph, the wheel on five vertices, $W_{5}$, is in fact non-representable. In fact we prove a stronger result, which is that $L\left(W_{n}\right)$ (where $L(G)$ denotes the line graph of $G$ ) is non-representable for $n \geq 4$. From the non-representability of $L\left(W_{4}\right)$ we are led to a more general theorem regarding line graphs. Our main result is that $L^{k}(G)$, where $G$ is not a cycle, a path or the claw graph, is guaranteed to be non-representable for $k \geq 4$.

Although almost all graphs are non-representable (as discussed in [1]) and even though a criteria in terms of semi-transitive orientations is given in [5] for a graph to be representable, essentially only two explicit constructions of non-representable graphs are known. Apart from the so-called $\operatorname{co}-\left(T_{2}\right)$ graph whose non-representability is proved in [2] in connection with solving an open problem in [1], the known constructions of non-representable graphs can be described as follows. Note that the property of being representable is hereditary, i.e., it is inherited by all induced subgraphs, thus adding additional nodes to a non-representable graph and connecting them in an arbitrary way to the original nodes will also result in a non-representable graph.

- Adding an all-adjacent node to a non-comparability graph results in a non-representable graph (all of the graphs in Figure 2 are obtained in this way). This construction is discussed in [1].
- Let $H$ be a 4-chromatic graph with girth (the length of the shortest cycle) at least 10 (such graphs exist by a theorem of Erdös). For every path of length 3 in $H$ add a new edge connecting the ends of the path. The
resulting graph will be non-representable as shown in [5]. This construction gives an example of trianglefree non-representable graphs whose existence was asked for in [1].
Our results showing that $L\left(W_{n}\right), n \geq 4$, and $L\left(K_{n}\right)$, $n \geq 5$, are non-representable give two new constructions of non-representable graphs.

Our main result about repeatedly taking the line graph, shown in Section 5, also gives a new method for constructing non-representable graphs when starting with an arbitrary graph (excluding cycles, paths and the claw graph of course). Since we can start with an arbitrary graph this should also allow one to construct non-representable graphs with desired properties by careful selection of the original graph.

Although we have answered some questions about the line graph operation, there are still open questions related to the representability of the line graph, and in Sect. 6 we list some of these problems.

## 2. Preliminaries on Words and Basic Observations

### 2.1. Introduction to Words

We denote the set of finite words on an alphabet $\Sigma$ by $\Sigma^{*}$ and the empty word by $\varepsilon$.

A morphism $\varphi$ is a mapping $\Sigma^{*} \rightarrow \Sigma^{*}$ that satisfies the property $\varphi(u v)=\varphi(u) \varphi(v)$ for all words $u, v$. Clearly, the morphism is completely defined by its action on the letters of the alphabet. The erasing of a set $\Sigma \backslash S$
of symbols is a morphism $\varepsilon_{S}: \Sigma^{*} \rightarrow \Sigma^{*}$ such that $\varepsilon_{S}(a)=a$ if $a \in S$ and $\varepsilon_{S}(a)=\varepsilon$ otherwise.
A word $u$ occurs in a word $v=v_{0} v_{1} \cdots v_{n}$ at the position $m$ and is called a subword of $v$ if $u=v_{m} v_{m+1} \cdots v_{m+k}$ for some $m, k$. A subword that occurs at position 0 in some word is called a prefix of that word. A word is $m$-uniform if each symbol occurs in it exactly $m$ times. We say that a word is uniform if it is $m$-uniform for some $m$.

Symbols $a, b$ alternate in a word $u$ if both of them occur in $u$ and after erasing all other letters in $u$ we get a subword of $a b a b \cdots$.

The alternating graph $G$ of a word $u$ is a graph on the symbols occurring in $u$ such that $G$ has an edge $(a, b)$ if and only if $a, b$ alternate in $u$. A graph $G$ is representable if it is the alternating graph of some word $u$. We call $u$ a representant of $G$ in this case.

A key property of representable graphs was shown by Kitaev and Pyatkin in [1]:

Theorem 1 Each representable graph has a uniform representant.

Assuming uniformity makes dealing with the representant of a graph a much nicer task and plays a crucial role in some of our proofs.

### 2.2. Basic Observations

A cyclic shift of a word $u=u_{0} u_{1} \cdots u_{n}$ is the word $C u=u_{1} u_{2} \cdots u_{n} u_{0}$.

Proposition 2 Uniform words $u=u_{0} u_{1} \cdots u_{n}$ and Cu have the same alternating graph.
Proof. Alternating relations of letters not equal to $u_{0}$ are not affected by the cyclic shift. Thus we need only to prove that $u_{0}$ has the same alternating relations with other symbols in Cu as it had in $u$.
Suppose $u_{0}, u_{i}$ alternate in $u$. Due to $u$ being uniform, it must be that $\varepsilon_{\left\{u_{0}, u_{i}\right\}}(u)=\left(u_{0} u_{i}\right)^{m}$, where $m$ is the uniform number of $u$. In this case, $\varepsilon_{\left\{u_{0}, u_{i}\right\}}(C u)=u_{i}\left(u_{0} u_{i}\right)^{m-1} u_{0}$ and hence the symbols $u_{0}$, $u_{i}$ alternate in Cu .
Suppose $u_{0}, u_{i}$ do not alternate $u$. Since $u$ is uniform, $u_{i} u_{i}$ is a subword of $\varepsilon_{\left\{u_{0}, u_{i}\right\}}(u)$. Also, we know that $u_{i} u_{i}$ cannot be the prefix of $u$, so it must occur in $\varepsilon_{\left\{u_{0}, u_{i}\right\}}(C u)$ too. Hence, $u_{0}, u_{i}$ do not alternate in Cu .
Taking into account this fact, we may consider representants as cyclic or infinite words in order not to treat differently the end of the word while considering a local part of it.

Let us denote a clique on $n$ vertices by $K_{n}$. One
can easily prove the following proposition.
Proposition 3 An m-uniform word that is a representant of $K_{n}$ is a word of the form $v^{m}$ where $v$ is 1-uniform word containing $n$ letters.

Let us consider another simple case, the cycle $C_{n}$ on $n$ vertices.
Lemma 4 The word $0,1,2, \cdots, n$ is not a subword of any uniform representant of $C_{n+1}$ with vertices labeled in consecutive order, where $n \geq 3$.

Proof. Suppose, $u$ is a uniform representant of $C_{n+1}$ and $v=0,1,2, \ldots, n$ is a subword of $u$. Due to Proposition 2 we may assume that $v$ is a prefix of $u$. Define $a_{i}$ to be the position of the $i$-th instance of $a$ in $u$ for $a \in\{0,1, \cdots, n\}$. Now for all adjacent vertices $a<b$ we have $a_{i}<b_{i}<a_{i+1}$ for each $i \geq 1$.

Vertices 0, 2 are not adjacent in $C_{n+1}$ and so do not alternate in $u$. It follows that there is a $k \geq 1$ such that $0_{k}>2_{k}$ or $2_{k}>0_{k+1}$.

Suppose $2_{k}<0_{k}$. Since 1,2 and 0,1 are adjacent, we have $1_{i}<2_{i}$ and $0_{i}<1_{i}$ for each $i$. Then we have a contradiction $0_{k}<1_{k}<2_{k}<0_{k}$.

Suppose $0_{k+1}<2_{k}$. Since all pairs $j, j+1$ and the pair $n, 0$ are adjacent, we have inequalities $j_{i}<(j+1)_{i}$ for each $j<n, \quad i \geq 0$, and $n_{i}<0_{i+1}$ for each $i \geq 0$. Thus we get a contradiction $2_{k}<3_{k}<\cdots<n_{k}<0_{k+1}<2_{k}$.

Here we introduce some notation. Let $u$ be a representant of some graph $G$ that contains a set of vertices $S=S_{0} \cup S_{1} \cup\{a\}$ such that $a \notin S_{0} \cup S_{1}$ and $S_{0} \cap S_{1}=\varnothing$. We use the notation $\forall\left(a S_{0} S_{1} a\right)$ for the statement "Between every two consecutive occurrences of $a$ in $C^{n} u$, for every $n$, each symbol of $S_{0} \cup S_{1}$ occurs once and each symbol of $S_{0}$ occurs before any symbol of $S_{1}$ " and the notation $\exists\left(a S_{0} S_{1} a\right)$ for the statement "There are two consecutive occurrences of $a$ in $C^{n} u$, for at least one $n$, such that each symbol of $S_{0} \cup S_{1}$ occurs between them and each symbol of $S_{0}$ occurs before any symbol of $S_{1}$ " Note that $\forall\left(a S_{0} S_{1} a\right)$ implies $\exists\left(a S_{0} S_{1} a\right)$ and is contrary for $\exists\left(a S_{1} S_{0} a\right)$. The quantifiers in these statements operate on pairs of consecutive occurrences of $a$ in all cyclic shifts of the given representant. This notation may be generalized to an arbitrary number of sets $S_{i}$ with the same interpretation.

The following proposition illustrates the use of this notation.

Proposition 5 Let $a$ word $u$ be a representant of some graph $G$ containing vertices $a, b, c$, where $a, b$ and $a, c$ are adjacent. Then we have

1) $b, c$ being not adjacent implies that both of the statements $\exists(a b c a), \exists(a c b a)$ are true for $u$,
2) $b, c$ being adjacent implies that exactly one of the statements $\forall(a b c a), \quad \forall(a c b a)$ is true for $u$.

Proof. (Case 1) Since $a, b$ and $a, c$ alternate, at least one of $\exists(a b c a), \exists(a c b a)$ is true. If only one of them is true for $u$, then $b, c$ alternate in it, which is a contradiction with $b, c$ being not adjacent.
(Case 2) the statement follows immediately from Proposition 3.

## 3. Line Graphs of Wheels

The wheel graph, denoted by $W_{n}$, is a graph we obtain from a cycle $C_{n}$ by adding one external vertex adjacent to every other vertex.

A line graph $L(G)$ of a graph $G$ is a graph on the set of edges of $G$ such that in $L(G)$ there is an edge $(a, b)$ if and only if edges $a, b$ are adjacent in $G$.
Theorem 6 The line graph $L\left(W_{n+1}\right)$ is not representable for each $n \geq 3$.

Proof. Let us describe $L\left(W_{n+1}\right)$ first. Denote edges of the big (external) cycle of the wheel $W_{n}$ by $e_{0}, e_{1}, \cdots, e_{n}$ in consecutive order and internal edges that connect the inside vertex to the big cycle by $i_{0}, i_{1}, \cdots, i_{n}$ so that an edge $i_{j}$ is adjacent to $e_{j}$ and $e_{j+1}$ for $0 \leq j<n$ and $i_{n}$ is adjacent to $e_{n}, e_{0}$.
In the line graph $L\left(W_{n+1}\right)$ the vertices $e_{0}, e_{1}, \cdots, e_{n}$ form a cycle where they occur consecutively and the vertices $i_{0}, i_{1}, \cdots, i_{n}$ form a clique. In addition, vertices $i_{j}$ are adjacent to $e_{j}, e_{j+1}$ and $i_{n}$ is adjacent to $e_{n}$, $e_{0}$.

Suppose that $L\left(W_{n+1}\right)$ is the alternating graph of some word that, due to Theorem 1, can be chosen to be uniform. Now we deduce a contradiction with Lemma 4.

Let $E$ be the alphabet $\left\{e_{j}: 0 \leq j \leq n\right\}, I$ be the alphabet $\left\{i_{j}: 0 \leq j \leq n\right\}$ and a word $u$ on the alphabet $E \cup I$ be the uniform representant of $L\left(W_{n+1}\right)$. Due to Proposition 2, we may assume $u_{0}=i_{0}$.

As we know from Proposition 3, the word $\varepsilon_{I}(u)$ is of the form $v^{m}$, where $v$ is 1 -uniform and $v_{0}=i_{0}$. Let us prove that $v$ is exactly $i_{0}, i_{1}, \cdots, i_{n}$ or
$i_{0}, i_{n}, i_{n-1}, \cdots, i_{1}$.
Suppose there are some $\ell, k \in\{2, \cdots, n\}$ such that $\varepsilon_{\left\{i_{0}, i_{1}, i_{\ell}, i_{k}\right\}}(v)=i_{0} i_{\ell} i_{1} i_{k}$. Note, that $\ell \neq k$ due to $v$ being 1-uniform. The supposition implies that the statement $\forall\left(i_{0} i_{\ell} i_{1} i_{k} i_{0}\right)$ is true for $u$. The vertex $e_{1}$ is neither adjacent to $i_{\ell}$ nor to $i_{k}$. By Proposition 5 this implies $\exists\left(i_{0} e_{1} i_{\ell} i_{0}\right)$ and $\exists\left(i_{0} i_{k} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$ are true for $u$. Taking into account the previous "for all" statement, we conclude that both of $\exists\left(i_{0} e_{1} i_{1} i_{0}\right)$ and $\exists\left(i_{0} i_{1} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$ are true for $u$, which contradicts Proposition 5 applied to $i_{0}, i_{1}, e_{1}$. So, there are only two possible cases, i.e., $v=i_{0}, i_{1}, v_{2}, \cdots v_{n}$ and $v=i_{0} v_{1} \ldots i_{1}$.

Using the same reasoning on a triple $i_{j}, i_{j+1}, e_{j+1}$, by induction on $j \geq 1$, we get $v=i_{0}, i_{1}, \cdots, i_{n}$ for the first case and $v=i_{0} i_{n}, i_{n-1}, \cdots, i_{1}$ for the second.

It is sufficient to prove the theorem only for the first case, since reversing a word preserves the alternating relation.

By Proposition 5 exactly one of the statements $\forall\left(i_{0} e_{0} e_{1} i_{0}\right), \quad \forall\left(i_{0} e_{1} e_{0} i_{0}\right)$ is true for $u$. Let us prove that it is the statement $\forall\left(i_{0} e_{0} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$.

Applying Proposition 5 to the clique $\left\{i_{0}, i_{1}, e_{1}\right\}$ we have that exactly one of $\forall\left(i_{0} i_{1} e_{1} i_{0}\right), \quad \forall\left(i_{0} e_{1} i_{1} i_{0}\right)$ is true. Applying Proposition 5 to $i_{0}, i_{2}, e_{1}$ we have that both of $\exists\left(i_{0} e_{1} i_{2} i_{0}\right)$ and $\exists\left(i_{0} i_{2} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$ are true. The statement $\forall\left(i_{0} e_{1} i_{1} i_{0}\right)$ contradicts $\exists\left(i_{0} i_{2} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$ since we have $\forall\left(i_{0} i_{1} i_{2} i_{0}\right)$. Hence $\forall\left(i_{0} i_{1} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$ is true.

Now applying Proposition 5 to $i_{0}, e_{0}$ and $i_{1}$ we have $\exists\left(i_{0} e_{0} i_{1} i_{0}\right)$. Taking into account $\forall\left(i_{0} i_{1} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$ and Proposition 5 applied to the clique $\left\{i_{0}, e_{0}, e_{1}\right\}$ we conclude that $\forall\left(i_{0} e_{0} e_{1} i_{0}\right)$ is true. In other words, between two consecutive $i_{0}$ in $u$ there is $e_{0}$ that occurs before $e_{1}$.

Using the same reasoning, one can prove that the statement $\forall\left(i_{n} e_{n} e_{0} i_{n}\right)$ and the statements $\forall\left(i_{j} e_{j} e_{j+1} i_{j}\right)$ for each $j<n$ are true for $u$. Let us denote this set of statements by (*).


Figure 3.The wheel graph $W_{5}$ and its line graph.

The vertex $e_{0}$ is not adjacent to the vertex $i_{n-1}$ but both of them are adjacent to $i_{0}$, hence, by Proposition 5, somewhere in $\varepsilon_{\left\{e_{0}, i_{n-1}, i_{0}\right\}}(u)$ the word $i_{n-1} e_{0} i_{0}$ occurs. Taking into account what we have already proved for $v$, this means that we found the structure
$i_{0}-i_{1}-\cdots-i_{n-1}-e_{0}-i_{n}-i_{0}-i_{1}-\cdots-e_{n}$ in $u$, where symbols of I do not occur in gaps denoted by " - ".

Now inductively applying the statements (*), we conclude that in $u$ there is a structure
$i_{n-1}-e_{0}-e_{1}-\cdots-e_{n}-i_{n-1}$ where no symbol $i_{n-1}$ occurs in the gaps. Suppose the symbol $e_{0}$ occurs somewhere in the gaps between $e_{0}$ and $e_{n}$. Since $e_{0}$ and $e_{n}$ are adjacent, that would mean that between two $e_{0}$ another $e_{n}$ also occurs and this contradicts the fact that $e_{n}$ and $i_{n-1}$ are adjacent. One may prove that no symbol of $E$ occurs in the gaps between $e_{0}$ and $e_{n}$ in the structure we found, by using induction and arriving at a contradiction similar to the one above. In other words, $e_{0} e_{1} \cdots e_{n}$ occurs in the word $\varepsilon_{E}(u)$ representing the cycle. This results in a contradiction with Lemma 4 which concludes the proof.

## 4. Line Graphs of Cliques

Theorem 7 The line graph $L\left(K_{n}\right)$ is not representable for each $n \geq 5$.

Proof. It is sufficient to prove the theorem for the case $n=5$ since, as one can prove, any $L\left(K_{n \geq 5}\right)$ contains an induced $L\left(K_{5}\right)$.

Let $u$ be a representant of $L\left(K_{5}\right)$ with its vertices labeled as shown in Figure 4. Vertices 0,1,a,b make a clique in $L\left(K_{5}\right)$. By applying Propositions 3 and 5 to this clique we see that exactly one of the following statements is true: $\forall(a\{0,1\} b a), \forall(a b\{0,1\} a)$,
$\forall(a x b \bar{x} a)$, where $x \in\{0,1\}$ and $\bar{x}$ is the negation of $x$.
(Case 1) Suppose $\forall(a x b \bar{x} a)$ is true. The vertex 3 is
adjacent to $a, b$, but not to 0,1 . Keeping in mind that $a$ is also adjacent to 0 and 1 , then applying Proposition 5 we have that $\exists(a 3\{0,1\} a)$ and $\exists(a\{0,1\} 3 a)$ are true. But between $x, \bar{x}$ there is $b$, so we have a contradiction $\exists(a 3 b a), \exists(a b 3 a)$ with Proposition 5 .
(Case 2a) Suppose $\forall(a b 01 a)$ is true. The vertex $e$ is adjacent with $a, 0$, but not with $b, 1$. Applying Proposition 5 we have $\exists(a e b a)$ and $\exists(a 1 e a)$. Taking into account the case condition, this implies $\exists(a e 0 a)$ and $\exists(a 0 e a)$ which is a contradiction.
(Case 2 b ) Suppose $\forall(a b 10 a)$ is true. The vertex 2 is adjacent with $a, 1$, but not with $b, 0$. Applying Proposition 5 we have $\exists(a 2 b a)$ and $\exists(a 02 a)$. Again, taking into account the case condition this implies $\exists(a 21 a)$ and $\exists(a 12 a)$, which gives a contradiction.
(Case 3a) If $\forall(a 01 b a)$ is true, a contradiction follows analogously to Case 2 b .
(Case 3b) If $\forall(a 10 b a)$ is true, a contradiction follows analogously to Case 2a.

## 5. Iterating the Line Graph Construction

It was shown by van Rooji and Wilf [6] that iterating the line graph operator on most graphs results in a sequence of graphs which grow without bound. The exceptions are cycles, which stay as cycles of the same length, the claw graph $K_{1,3}$, which becomes a triangle after one iteration and then stays that way, and paths, which shrink to the empty graph. This unbounded growth results in graphs that are non-representable after a small number of iterations of the line graph operator since they contain the line graph of a large enough clique. A slight modification of this idea is used to prove our main result.

Theorem 8 If a connected graph $G$ is not a path, a cycle, or the claw graph $K_{1,3}$, then $L^{n}(G)$ is not representable for $n \geq 4$.

Proof. Note that if $H$ appears as a subgraph of $G$ (not necessarily induced), then $L^{n}(H)$ is isomorphic to


Figure 4. The clique $K_{5}$ and its line graph, where edges mentioned in the proof of Theorem 4 are drawn thicker.


Figure 5. Iterating the line graph construction.
an induced subgraph of $L^{n}(G)$ for all $n \geq 1$.
We first consider the sequence of graphs in Figure 5. All but the leftmost graph are obtained by applying the line graph operator to the previous graph. The last graph in the sequence is $W_{4}$, and by Theorem $6, L\left(W_{4}\right)$ is non-representable.

Now, let $G=(V, E)$ be a graph that is not a star and that satisfies the conditions of the theorem. $G$ contains as a subgraph an isomorphic copy of either the leftmost graph of Figure 5 or the second graph from the left. Thus $L^{3}(G)$, or respectively $L^{4}(G)$, is not representable, since it contains an induced line graph of the wheel $W_{4}$.

If $G$ is a star $S_{k \geq 4}$ then $L(G)$ is the clique $K_{k}$ and there is an isomorphic copy of the second from the left graph of Figure 5 in $G$, and $L^{4}(G)$ is not representable again.

Note that there is an isomorphic copy of the second graph of Figure 5 inside the third one. Therefore the same reasoning can be used for $L^{4+k}(G)$ for each $k \geq 1$, which concludes the proof.

## 6. Some Open Problems

We have the following open questions.

- Is the line graph of a non-representable graph always non-representable?
Our Theorem 8 shows that for any graph $G$, that is not a path, a cycle, or the claw $K_{1,3}$, the graph $L^{n}(G)$ is non-representable for all $n \geq 4$. It might be possible to find a graph $G$ such that $G$ is non-representable while $L(G)$ is.
- How many graphs on $n$ vertices stay non-representable after at most $i$ iterations, $i=0,1,2,3,4$ ?
For a graph $G$ define $\xi(G)$ as the smallest integer such that $L^{k}(G)$ is non-representable for all $k \geq \xi(G)$.

Theorem 8 shows that $\xi(G)$ is at most 4, for a graph that is not a path, a cycle, nor the claw $K_{1,3}$, while paths, cycles and the claw have $\xi(G)=+\infty$.

- Is there a finite classification of prohibited subgraphs in a graph $G$ determining whether $L(G)$ is representable?
There is a classification of prohibited induced subgraphs which determine whether a graph $G$ is the line graph of some other graph $H$. It would be nice to have such a classification, if one exists, to determine if $L(G)$ is representable.


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