

## ON THE ANNIHILATOR GRAPH OF GROUP RINGS

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with nonzero identity and  $G$  be a nontrivial finite group. Also, let  $Z(R)$  be the set of zero-divisors of  $R$  and, for  $a \in Z(R)$ , let  $\text{ann}(a) = \{r \in R \mid ra = 0\}$ . The annihilator graph of the group ring  $RG$  is defined as the graph  $AG(RG)$ , whose vertex set consists of the set of nonzero zero-divisors, and two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $\text{ann}(xy) \neq \text{ann}(x) \cup \text{ann}(y)$ . In this paper, we study the annihilator graph associated to a group ring  $RG$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with nonzero identity, and let  $Z(R)$  be the set of zero-divisors of  $R$ . If  $X$  is a subset of  $R$ , then the annihilator of  $X$  is the ideal  $\text{ann}(X) = \{r \in R \mid rX = 0\}$ . The *Jacobson radical* of  $R$  is denoted by  $J(R)$ . For any subset  $Y$  of  $R$ , the cardinality of  $Y$  is denoted by  $|Y|$ . Put  $Y^* = Y \setminus \{0\}$ . Let  $G$  be a finite group that is defined multiplicatively. Also we denote the cyclic group of order  $n$  by  $C_n$ , and a finite field with  $q$  elements by  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

The concept of the zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring  $R$ , denoted by  $\Gamma(R)$ , was introduced by Beck in [12], who let all elements of  $R$  be vertices and was mainly interested in colorings. The work of Beck is further continued by Anderson and Naseer in [6] and, for other graph theoretical aspects, by Anderson and Livingston in [5]. While they focus just on the zero-divisors of the rings, there are many other kinds of graphs associated to ring, some of which are extensively studied, see for example [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 20].

In [9], Badawi introduced the concept of the annihilator graph for a commutative ring  $R$ , which is denoted by  $AG(R)$ . The annihilator graph  $AG(R)$  is an undirected graph whose vertex set is the set of all nonzero zero-divisors of  $R$ , and two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $\text{ann}(xy) \neq \text{ann}(x) \cup \text{ann}(y)$ . Also, the annihilator graph of a commutative semigroup is studied in [1].

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Let  $RG$  be a commutative group ring and  $Z(RG)$  be its set of zero-divisors. In this paper, we study the annihilator graph of the group ring  $RG$ , which is denoted by  $AG(RG)$ . Also, we examine the planarity, outerplanarity of  $AG(RG)$  and some properties of the line graph of  $AG(RG)$ .

Let  $G$  be a graph with vertex set  $V(G)$ . For distinct vertices  $x, y \in V(G)$ , we use the notation  $x \sim y$  to say that  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent. The *distance* between two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in  $G$  is the number of edges in a shortest path connecting them and it is denoted by  $d(x, y)$ . The *diameter* of a connected graph  $G$ , denoted by  $\text{diam}(G)$ , is the maximum distance between any pair of the vertices of  $G$ . The degree of a vertex  $v$  of  $G$ , denoted by  $\text{deg}(v)$ , is the number of edges of  $G$  incident with  $v$  such that the maximum degree of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $\Delta(G)$ . The *girth* of  $G$ , denoted by  $\text{gr}(G)$ , is the length of a shortest cycle in  $G$ . If  $G$  does not contain a cycle, then  $\text{gr}(G)$  is defined to be infinity. The complete graph is a graph in which any two distinct vertices are adjacent. A *complete* graph with  $n$  vertices is denoted by  $K_n$ . A *bipartite graph* is a graph whose vertices can be partitioned into two disjoint sets  $U$  and  $V$  such that every edge connects a vertex in  $U$  to one in  $V$ . A *complete bipartite graph* is a bipartite graph in which every vertex of one part is adjacent to every vertex of the other part. If the size of one of the parts in a complete bipartite graph is 1, then the complete bipartite graph is said to be a *star graph*. The *line graph*  $L(G)$  of  $G$  is the graph whose vertices correspond to the edges of  $G$  and two vertices of  $L(G)$  are adjacent if and only if the corresponding edges of  $G$  are adjacent.

## 2. Preliminaries

Throughout the paper,  $R$  is a nontrivial commutative ring and  $G$  is a nontrivial Abelian group. A group ring  $RG$  is a construction which involves a group  $G$  and a ring  $R$ . The group ring is a ring and the underlying set consists of formal sums

$$\sum_{g \in G} a_g g \quad (a_g \in R, g \in G)$$

for which all but finitely many coefficients  $a_g$  are zero. The addition of two elements of  $RG$  is defined point-wise

$$\sum_{g \in G} a_g g + \sum_{g \in G} b_g g = \sum_{g \in G} (a_g + b_g)g,$$

and the multiplication is defined by

$$\left(\sum_{g \in G} a_g g\right)\left(\sum_{g \in G} b_g g\right) = \left(\sum_{g \in G} c_g g\right),$$

where

$$c_g = \sum_{e \in G} a_e b_{e^{-1}g}.$$

If this multiplication seems strange, it will surely help to notice that this is exactly what we would get by requiring that  $(a_g g)(b_h h) = (a_g b_h)gh$  and that the multiplication map  $RG \times RG \rightarrow RG$  is additive in both arguments. The above definitions make  $RG$  into a commutative ring with nonzero identity  $1_R \cdot 1_G$ .

Clearly, if  $R$  and  $G$  are commutative, then  $RG$  is commutative. We can define an action of the ring  $R$  on  $RG$  by

$$r \cdot \sum_{g \in G} a_g g = \sum_{g \in G} (ra_g)g.$$

This definition makes  $RG$  into a left  $R$ -module. The group ring is then a free  $R$ -module with basis consisting (of copies) of elements of  $G$ , and it is of rank  $|G|$ . Indeed,  $\{1_R g : g \in G\}$  is a basis for  $RG$ . So if  $R$  and  $G$  are finite, then  $|RG| = |R|^{|G|}$ .

If  $RG$  is a group ring and  $X$  is a finite subset of  $G$ , then  $\hat{X} := \sum_{x \in X} x$ . In particular, if  $X = G$  such that  $|G| < \infty$ , then  $\hat{G} = \sum_{g \in G} g$ .  $\hat{G} \in Z(RG)$ , since  $\hat{G}(1 - g) = 0$ .

The following lemmas are needed for the rest of the paper.

**Lemma 2.1.** *The following statements hold.*

- (i)  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ ;
- (ii)  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

*Proof.* If  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ , then  $|RG| = 4$ . So  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $G \cong C_2$  such that  $G = \{1, g\}$ . It is easy to see that  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2) = \{(\bar{0}, \bar{0}), (\bar{0}, \bar{1}), (\bar{1}, \bar{0})\}$  and  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_2 C_2) = \{0, \hat{G}\}$ . Hence  $\mathbb{Z}_2 C_2 \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ . Also, if  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ , then  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $G \cong C_3$  such that  $G = \{1, g, g^2\}$ .  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ , since  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2) = \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \setminus \{(\bar{1}, \bar{1}, \bar{1})\}$  and  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_2 C_3) = \{0, \hat{G}, 1 - g, 1 - g^2, g - g^2\}$ . So the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2.** *If  $|RG| = 9$ , then  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $|RG| = 9$ . Then  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $G = \{1, g\} \cong C_2$ . So  $Z(RG) = \{\bar{0}, \hat{G}, \bar{2}\hat{G}, \bar{1} + \bar{2}g, \bar{2} + g\}$ . Thus  $RG$  is a nonlocal ring. We know that  $RG$  is a finite commutative ring. So  $RG$  is a direct product of at least two local rings. On the other hand,  $|RG| = 9$ . So  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** *If  $AG(RG)$  is a complete graph, then  $R$  is a local ring,  $G$  is a  $p$ -group, and  $p \in J(R)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $RG$  is a finite ring,  $RG \cong R_1 \times \cdots \times R_n$  such that  $R_i$  is a local ring for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . If  $n \geq 3$ , then, by [9, Theorem 2.2],  $d((0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), (1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)) = 2$  in  $AG(RG)$ . So  $n \leq 2$ . Suppose that  $RG \cong R_1 \times R_2$  with  $|R_2| \geq 3$ . Then  $d((0, 1), (0, r)) = 2$  in  $AG(RG)$ , where  $1 \neq r \in R_2^*$ . If  $|R_1| = |R_2| = 2$ , then  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ , which is impossible, by Lemma 2.1. Hence  $RG$  is a local ring. So, by [19], the proof is completed.  $\square$

### 3. Some properties of $AG(RG)$

We begin this section with the following proposition which is obtained from [9, Theorem 2.2] and [9, Corollary 2.11].

**Proposition 3.1.** *The following statements hold.*

- (i)  $AG(RG)$  is connected and  $\text{diam}(AG(RG)) \leq 2$ ;

(ii)  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) \in \{3, 4, \infty\}$ .

**Theorem 3.2.**  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = \text{gr}(\Gamma(RG))$ .

*Proof.* Clearly,  $\Gamma(RG)$  is a spanning subgraph of  $AG(RG)$ . By [2, Proposition 2.8],  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 3$  if and only if  $RG$  is neither  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_2$  nor  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}C_q$  such that  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}C_q \cong \mathbb{F}_{q_1} \times \mathbb{F}_{q_2}$ . First, we show that  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 3$  if and only if  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 3$ . Suppose that  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 3$ , which implies that  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 3$ . If  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 3$ , then, by [9, Corollary 2.11],  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) \in \{3, 4, \infty\}$ . Let  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = \infty$ . Then, by [2, Proposition 2.8.1],  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ . Hence  $AG(RG) \cong K_1$ . Thus  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = \infty$ , which is impossible. Now, suppose that  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 4$ . Then, by [2, Proposition 2.8.2] and Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2,  $RG \cong \mathbb{F}_1 \times \mathbb{F}_2$  such that  $\mathbb{F}_1$  and  $\mathbb{F}_2$  are fields with at least three elements. In this situation,  $AG(\mathbb{F}_1 \times \mathbb{F}_2)$  is a complete bipartite graph. Hence  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 4$ , which is impossible. So  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 3$ .

Now, we show that  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 4$  if and only if  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 4$ . Let  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 4$ . Then, by [2, Proposition 2.8],  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) \in \{4, \infty\}$ . If  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = \infty$ , then, by [2, Proposition 2.8],  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ . Thus  $AG(RG) \cong K_1$ , and so  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = \infty$ , which is impossible. Thus  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 4$ . Now, if  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 4$ , then, by Proposition 3.1,  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) \in \{3, 4\}$ . By the above argument,  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 3$  if and only if  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 3$ . So we conclude that  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 4$ .

Finally, let  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = \infty$ . Then clearly,  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = \infty$ . If  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = \infty$ , then, by [2, Proposition 2.8],  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ . Hence  $AG(RG) \cong K_1$ . Therefore  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = \infty$ .  $\square$

#### 4. Planarity of $AG(RG)$

In this section, we investigate when  $AG(RG)$  is planar, outerplanar or ring graph whenever  $RG$  is a finite ring.

Recall that a graph is said to be *planar* if it can be drawn in the plane, so that its edges intersect only at their ends. A subdivision of a graph is any graph that can be obtained from the original graph by replacing edges by paths. A remarkable characterization of the planar graphs was given by Kuratowski in 1930. Kuratowski's Theorem says that a graph is planar if and only if it contains no subdivision of  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$ . Let  $G$  be a graph with  $n$  vertices and  $q$  edges. We recall that a *chord* is any edge of  $G$  joining two nonadjacent vertices in a cycle of  $G$ . We say that  $C$  is a *primitive cycle* if it has no chord. Also, a graph  $G$  has a primitive cycle property (*PCP*) if any two primitive cycles intersect in at most one edge. The number  $\text{frank}(G)$  is called the *free rank* of  $G$  and it is the number of primitive cycles of  $G$ . Also, the number  $\text{rank}(G) = q - n + r$  is called the *cycle rank* of  $G$ , where  $r$  is the number of connected components of  $G$ . By [16, Proposition 2.2], we have  $\text{rank}(G) \leq \text{frank}(G)$ . A graph  $G$  is called a *ring graph* if it satisfies in one of the following equivalent conditions (see [16]).

- (i)  $\text{rank}(G) = \text{frank}(G)$ ;
- (ii)  $G$  satisfies the *PCP* and  $G$  does not contain a subdivision of  $K_4$  as a subgraph.

Also, an undirected graph is *outerplanar* if and only if it does not contain a subdivision of  $K_4$  or  $K_{2,3}$ . Clearly, every outerplanar graph is a ring graph and every ring graph is a planar graph.

We begin this section with the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.1.**  *$AG(RG)$  is planar if and only if  $RG$  is isomorphic to one the following group rings.*

- (i)  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ ;
- (ii)  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_3$ ;
- (iii)  $\mathbb{Z}_3C_2$ ;
- (iv)  $\mathbb{F}_4C_2$ .

*Proof.* First, suppose that  $AG(RG)$  is planar. Then we have the following cases.

**Case 1.**  $|Z(R)| \geq 3$ . Then there exist distinct nonzero zero-divisors  $r$  and  $s$  such that  $rs = 0$ , since  $\Gamma(RG)$  is a connected spanning subgraph of  $AG(RG)$ . If  $1 \neq g \in G$ , then  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex set

$$\{r, rg, r\hat{G}\} \cup \{s, sg, s\hat{G}\}.$$

**Case 2.**  $|Z(R)| = 2$ . Since  $|R| \leq |Z(R)|^2$  and  $R$  is not a field,  $|R| = 4$ . Let  $Z(R) = \{0, a\}$ . Then  $a^2 = 0$ . Now, suppose that  $|G| \geq 5$ . Then there exist distinct nonidentity elements  $g_1, g_2, g_3$  and  $g_4$  in  $G$ . Hence  $AG(RG)$  has a copy of  $K_5$  with vertex set

$$\{\hat{G}, a(1 - g_1), a(1 - g_2), a(1 - g_3), a(1 - g_4)\}.$$

So we conclude that  $|G| < 5$ .

First, suppose that  $|G| = 2$ . Then  $\text{Char}(R) = 4$  or  $\text{Char}(R) = 2$ , since  $|R| = 4$ . If  $\text{Char}(R) = 4$ , then  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$  and  $Z(R) = \{\bar{0}, \bar{2}\}$ . Clearly, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{2} &\in \text{ann}((-1 + g)(1 - g)) \setminus (\text{ann}(-1 + g) \cup \text{ann}(1 - g)); \\ \bar{1} - g &\in \text{ann}((\bar{2}g)(1 - g)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{2}g) \cup \text{ann}(1 - g)); \\ \hat{G} &\in \text{ann}((\bar{2}g)(\bar{3}\hat{G})) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{2}g) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{3}\hat{G})), \text{ and} \\ \bar{2} &\in \text{ann}((\hat{G})(\bar{3}\hat{G})) \setminus (\text{ann}(\hat{G}) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{3}\hat{G})). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex set

$$\{\bar{2}g, -1 + g, \hat{G}\} \cup \{1 - g, \bar{3}\hat{G}, \bar{2}\hat{G}\}.$$

If  $\text{Char}(R) = 2$ , then  $R \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{(x^2)} = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \bar{x}, \bar{1} + \bar{x}\}$  such that  $Z(R) = \{\bar{0}, \bar{x}\}$ . Now, it is easy to see that

$$\bar{x} \in \text{ann}((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + g)(\bar{1} + g) \setminus (\text{ann}((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + g) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{1} + g));$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \bar{x} \in \text{ann}((\bar{1} + g)(\bar{1} + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{1} + g) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{1} + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)); \\
& (\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + g \in \text{ann}((\bar{x}g)((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{x}g) \cup \\
& \quad \text{ann}((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)); \\
& \bar{x} \in \text{ann}((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + g)((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g) \setminus (\text{ann}((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + g) \cup \\
& \quad \text{ann}((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)); \\
& \bar{x} \in \text{ann}((\bar{1} + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{1} + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g) \cup \\
& \quad \text{ann}((\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g)), \text{ and} \\
& (\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + g \in \text{ann}((\bar{1} + g)(\bar{x}g)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{1} + g) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{x}g)).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex set

$$\{\bar{x}g, (\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + g, \bar{1} + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g\} \cup \{\bar{x} + \bar{x}g, \bar{1} + g, (\bar{1} + \bar{x}) + (\bar{1} + \bar{x})g\}.$$

Now, suppose that  $|G| = 3$ . Then  $G = \{1, g, g^2\}$ . In this situation, if  $\text{Char}(R) = 4$ , then  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$  such that  $Z(R) = \{\bar{0}, \bar{2}\}$ . It is easy to see that  $(\bar{2} + \bar{2}g)(\bar{1} + g - g^2) = 0$ . Hence  $\bar{1} + g - g^2 \in Z(RG)$ . Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \bar{2} \in \text{ann}((\bar{3} - \bar{3}g^2)(\bar{1} + g - g^2)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{3} - \bar{3}g^2) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{1} + g - g^2)); \\
& \bar{2} \in \text{ann}((\bar{3} - \bar{3}g)(\bar{1} + g - g^2)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{3} - \bar{3}g) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{1} + g - g^2)), \text{ and} \\
& \bar{2} \in \text{ann}((\bar{1} - g^2)(\bar{1} + g - g^2)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{1} - g^2) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{1} + g - g^2)).
\end{aligned}$$

So  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex set

$$\{\bar{3} - \bar{3}g, \bar{3} - \bar{3}g^2, \bar{1} - g^2\} \cup \{\hat{G}, \bar{2}\hat{G}, \bar{1} + g - g^2\}.$$

If  $\text{Char}(R) = 2$ , then  $R \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{(x^2)}$  such that  $Z(R) = \{\bar{0}, \bar{x}\}$ . Hence  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex set

$$\{\bar{1} - g, \bar{1} - g^2, \bar{x} - \bar{x}g\} \cup \{\hat{G}, \bar{x}\hat{G}, (\bar{1} + \bar{x})\hat{G}\}.$$

Finally, in this case, suppose that  $|G| = 4$ . Then there exist nonidentity distinct elements  $g_1, g_2$  and  $g_3$  such that  $G = \{1, g_1, g_2, g_3\}$ . Let  $r, s$  be nonzero and nonidentity distinct elements in  $R$ . Thus  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex set

$$\{1 - g_1, 1 - g_2, 1 - g_3\} \cup \{\hat{G}, r\hat{G}, s\hat{G}\}.$$

**Case 3.**  $|Z(R)| = 1$ . Since  $R$  is finite and  $Z(R) = \{0\}$ , we conclude that  $R$  is a field. So we have the following subcases.

**Subcase 1.**  $\text{Char}(R) \mid |G|$  and  $|R| \geq 6$ . Then  $\hat{G}^2 = 0$  and there exist distinct nonzero elements  $r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4$  and  $r_5$  in  $R$ . Thus  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_5$  with vertex set

$$\{r_1\hat{G}, r_2\hat{G}, r_3\hat{G}, r_4\hat{G}, r_5\hat{G}\}.$$

**Subcase 2.**  $\text{Char}(R) \mid |G|$  and  $|R| = 5$ . So  $\hat{G}^2 = 0$  and  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_5$ . Let  $1 \neq g \in G$ . Then  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_5$  with vertex set

$$\{\hat{G}, 2\hat{G}, 3\hat{G}, 4\hat{G}, 1 - g\}.$$

**Subcase 3.**  $\text{Char}(R) \mid |G|$  and  $|R| = 4$  such that  $R = \{0, 1, r, s\}$ . Then  $\hat{G}^2 = 0$ . We know that  $R$  is a field. Hence  $\text{Char}(R) = 2$ . If  $|G| \geq 4$ , then there exists proper subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $|H| = 2$ . Hence there exists  $g_1 \in G \setminus H$ . We have  $\text{Char}(R) \mid |H|$ . Hence  $\hat{H}^2 = 0$ . Also  $\hat{H}\hat{G} = 2\hat{G} = 0$  and  $g_1\hat{H} \neq \hat{H}$ . Thus  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_5$  with vertex set

$$\{\hat{G}, \hat{H}, r\hat{G}, s\hat{G}, g_1\hat{H}\}.$$

If  $\text{Char}(R) = 2$  and  $|G| < 4$ , then  $|G| = 2$ . In this subcase,  $R$  is a local ring,  $G$  is a 2-group and  $2 \in J(R)$ . So, by [19],  $RG$  is a local ring. By [2, Definition 2.3],  $Z(RG) = \langle 1 - g; g \in G \rangle$ . Since  $\text{Char}(R) \mid |G|$ ,  $AG(RG) \cong K_3$ . Thus  $RG \cong \mathbb{F}_4C_2$ .

**Subcase 4.**  $\text{Char}(R) \mid |G|$  and  $|R| = 3$ . Then  $\text{Char}(R) = 3$ ,  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $|G| = 3k$ , for some positive integer  $k$ .

Suppose that  $|G| > 3$ . Then  $G$  has a proper subgroup  $H$  such that  $|H| = 3$ . In this situation,  $\text{Char}(R) = 3$ . Hence  $\hat{H}^2 = 0$ . So  $\hat{H}\hat{G} = 0$ . Let  $1 \neq g \in G \setminus H$  and  $1 \neq h \in H$ . Then  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_5$  with vertex set

$$\{\hat{G}, \hat{H}, \bar{1} - h, \hat{G} - g\hat{H}, g\hat{H}\}.$$

Let  $|G| = 3$ . Then  $G = \{1, g, g^2\}$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{1} - g &\in \text{ann}((\bar{1} - g^2)(g - g^2)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{1} - g^2) \cup \text{ann}(g - g^2)); \\ \bar{1} - g &\in \text{ann}((\bar{1} - g)(\bar{1} - g^2)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{1} - g) \cup \text{ann}(\bar{1} - g^2)), \text{ and} \\ \bar{1} - g &\in \text{ann}((\bar{1} - g)(g - g^2)) \setminus (\text{ann}(\bar{1} - g) \cup \text{ann}(g - g^2)). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_5$  with vertex set

$$\{\hat{G}, \bar{2}\hat{G}, g - g^2, \bar{1} - g, \bar{1} - g^2\}.$$

**Subcase 5.**  $\text{Char}(R) \mid |G|$  and  $|R| = 2$ . Then  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $G \cong C_2$ . It is easy to see that  $Z(RG) = \{0, \hat{G}\}$ . So  $AG(RG) \cong K_1$ , which is planar.

**Subcase 6.**  $\text{Char}(R) \nmid |G|$ . Then, by Perlis-Walker Theorem [18, Theorem 3.5.4],  $RG$  is a direct product of copies of at least two fields. First, if  $RG$  is a direct product of copies of two fields  $\mathbb{F}_1$  and  $\mathbb{F}_2$ , then  $Z^*(\mathbb{F}_1 \times \mathbb{F}_2) = \{(r, 0) \mid r \in \mathbb{F}_1^*\} \cup \{(0, r) \mid r \in \mathbb{F}_2^*\}$ . Hence  $AG(RG)$  is a complete bipartite graph with parts  $\{(r, 0) \mid r \in \mathbb{F}_1^*\}$  and  $\{(0, r) \mid r \in \mathbb{F}_2^*\}$ . If  $|\mathbb{F}_1^*|, |\mathbb{F}_2^*| \geq 3$ , then  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$ . So, without loss of generality, we may assume that  $|\mathbb{F}_1^*| \leq 2$  and  $|\mathbb{F}_2^*| \leq 3$ . Hence  $\mathbb{F}_1 \times \mathbb{F}_2$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{F}_4$  such that  $\mathbb{F}_4$  is a field with four elements. By the definition of  $RG$ ,  $|\mathbb{F}_1 \times \mathbb{F}_2|$  can not be 6 and 12, so  $\mathbb{F}_1 \times \mathbb{F}_2$  is not isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $RG$  is not isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ . If

$|RG| = 9$ , then, by Lemma 2.2,  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ . In this situation,  $AG(RG)$  is a cycle with length four such that  $\hat{G} \sim -\bar{1} + g \sim \bar{2}\hat{G} \sim \bar{1} - g \sim \hat{G}$ , where  $1 \neq g \in G$ . Hence  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_3C_2$ . Suppose that  $|RG| = 8$ . Then we show that  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ . In this situation,  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $G \cong C_3$ . Let  $G = \{1, g, g^2\}$ . Then  $Z(RG) = \{0, 1 + g, 1 + g^2, g + g^2, \hat{G}\}$ .  $Z(RG) \not\subseteq RG$ , since  $|Z(RG)| = 5$ . Thus  $RG$  is nonlocal. On the other hand,  $RG$  is finite. Hence  $RG$  is a direct product of at least two local rings. We show that  $RG$  is not isomorphic to three local rings. By the way of contradiction, assume that  $RG$  is isomorphic to three local rings. Since  $|RG| = 8$ ,  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ , which is impossible, by Lemma 2.1. Thus  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ . Hence  $RG$  is a direct product of copies of two local rings. So  $RG$  is isomorphic to one the following rings.

$$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{(x^2)}, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{(x^2)} \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \text{ and } \mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2.$$

We consider the rings  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{(x^2)}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ .  $\text{char}(RG) = 2$ , since  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ . On the other hand,  $\text{char}(\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4) = 4$ . Thus  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$ . Also, we know that the nonzero element  $(\bar{0}, \bar{x})^2 = (\bar{0}, \bar{0})$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{(x^2)}$  and  $RG$  does not have such as element. Hence  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{(x^2)}$ . Now, we show that  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4$  which is planar. If  $\varphi$  is a homomorphism from  $RG$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4$  given by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(0) &= (0, 0), & \varphi(1) &= (1, 1), & \varphi(\hat{G}) &= (1, 0), & \varphi(g + g^2) &= (0, 1), \\ \varphi(g) &= (1, a), & \varphi(g^2) &= (1, a^2), & \varphi(1 + g) &= (0, a^2), & \varphi(1 + g^2) &= (0, a), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbb{F}_4 = \{0, 1, a, a^2 : a^3 = 1\}$ , then  $\varphi$  is a ring isomorphism. So  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $G \cong C_3$ . In this situation,  $Z^*(RG) = \{\hat{G}, \bar{1} + g, \bar{1} + g^2, g + g^2\}$  such that  $AG(\mathbb{Z}_2C_3) \cong K_{1,3}$ , which is planar. Now, suppose that  $RG$  is a direct product of three fields, say  $\mathbb{F}_1, \mathbb{F}_2$  and  $\mathbb{F}_3$ . Let  $|\mathbb{F}_1|, |\mathbb{F}_2|$  and  $|\mathbb{F}_3| \geq 3$  such that  $\{0, 1, r_i\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ . Then since

$$(1, 1, 0) \in \text{ann}((0, r_2, 1)(1, 0, r_3)) \setminus (\text{ann}(0, r_2, 1) \cup \text{ann}(1, 0, r_3)),$$

$AG(RG)$  has a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex set

$$\{(0, r_2, 1), (0, r_2, 0), (0, 1, 0)\} \cup \{(1, 0, r_3), (1, 0, 0), (r_1, 0, 0)\}.$$

Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $|\mathbb{F}_1| = 2, |\mathbb{F}_2| \leq 3$  and  $|\mathbb{F}_3| \leq 3$ . Then  $RG$  can be isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ . We know that  $|RG|$  is neither 12 nor 18. Also, by Lemma 2.1,  $RG$  is not isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ . Thus  $RG$  is not isomorphic to direct product of copies of three fields. Finally, suppose that  $RG$  is isomorphic to direct product of copies of at least four fields. Then the element  $(1, 1, 0, 1, \dots, 1)$  belongs to

$$\text{ann}((1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)(0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)) \setminus (\text{ann}(1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \cup \text{ann}(0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)),$$



$(1, 1, 0, 1, \dots, 1)$  belongs to

$$\text{ann}((1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)(0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)) \setminus (\text{ann}(1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \cup \text{ann}(0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)),$$

$(1, 0, 1, 1, \dots, 1)$  belongs to

$$\text{ann}((1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)(0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)) \setminus (\text{ann}(1, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \cup \text{ann}(0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)),$$

$(1, 0, 1, 1, \dots, 1)$  belongs to

$$\text{ann}((1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)(0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)) \setminus (\text{ann}(1, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \cup \text{ann}(0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)),$$

$(1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$  belongs to

$$\text{ann}((1, 0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)(0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)) \setminus (\text{ann}(1, 0, 0, 1, \dots, 0) \cup \text{ann}(0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)),$$

and  $(1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$  belongs to

$$\text{ann}((1, 0, 0, 1, \dots, 0)(0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)) \setminus (\text{ann}(1, 0, 0, 1, \dots, 0) \cup \text{ann}(0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)),$$

$AG(RG)$  has a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  with vertex sets

$$\{(0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0), (0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), (0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)\},$$

and

$$\{(1, 0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), (1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), (1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)\}.$$

Thus  $RG$  is not isomorphic to at least four fields.

The converse statement is clear. □

Now, the following corollaries are obtained from Theorem 4.1.

**Corollary 4.2.**  $AG(RG)$  is a ring graph if and only if  $AG(RG)$  is planar.

**Corollary 4.3.**  $AG(RG)$  is outerplanar if and only if  $AG(RG)$  is planar.

### 5. Line graph of $AG(RG)$

We begin this section with the following lemma.

**Lemma 5.1** ([15, Lemma 2.1]). *If  $G$  is a graph, then  $\text{diam}(L(G)) = 1$  if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_{1,n}$ .*

In the following lemma, which is from [21], the planarity of a line graph  $L(G)$  is characterized by using the planarity of  $G$  and its vertex degrees.

**Lemma 5.2.** *A nonempty graph  $G$  has a planar line graph  $L(G)$  if and only if*

- (i)  $G$  is planar;
- (ii)  $\Delta(G) \leq 4$ , and

(iii) if  $\deg(v) = 4$ , then  $v$  is a cut-vertex in the graph  $G$ .

**Proposition 5.3.** *The graph  $AG(RG)$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  if and only if  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_4C_2$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $|G| \geq 3$ . Then there exist distinct elements  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  in  $G$  such that  $\{1, g_1, g_2\} \subseteq G$ . Thus  $\{\hat{G}, 1 - g_1, 1 - g_2, g_1 - g_2\} \subseteq Z^*(RG)$ , which is impossible. So  $G \cong C_2$ .

Now, consider the case that  $|R| \geq 5$ . Then there exist distinct elements  $r_1, r_2$  and  $r_3$  such that  $\{0, 1, r_1, r_2, r_3\} \subseteq R$ . Thus  $\{\hat{G}, r_1\hat{G}, r_2\hat{G}, r_3\hat{G}\} \subseteq Z^*(RG)$ . Thus  $|R| \leq 4$ . If  $|R| = 2$ , then  $Z(RG) = \{0, \hat{G}\}$ . So  $|R| \neq 2$ . If  $|R| = 3$ , then  $\{\hat{G}, 2\hat{G}, 1 - g, 2(1 - g)\} \subseteq Z^*(RG)$ . Hence  $|R| = 4$ . If  $\text{char}(R) = 4$ , then  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$ . So  $\{\hat{G}, 2\hat{G}, 3\hat{G}, 2\} \subseteq Z^*(RG)$ , which is impossible. Let  $|R| = 4$  and  $\text{char}(R) = 2$  such that  $R$  be not a field. Then there exist distinct elements  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  in  $R$ . We know that  $R$  is not a field. Thus without loss of generality, let  $r_1 \in Z^*(R)$ . Hence  $\{r_1, \hat{G}, r_2\hat{G}, r_1\hat{G}\} \subseteq Z^*(RG)$ , which is impossible.

Finally, suppose that  $R$  is a field with four elements, say  $R = \{0, 1, a, a^2\}$ . If  $RG \cong \mathbb{F}_4C_2$ , then  $Z(RG) = \{0, \hat{G}, a\hat{G}, a^2\hat{G}\}$  such that  $\hat{G}^2 = 0$ , since  $\text{char}(R) \mid |G|$ . Hence the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.4.**  $\text{diam}(L(AG(RG))) \leq 3$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $uv$  and  $xy$  are nonadjacent vertices in  $L(AG(RG))$ . Then  $u, v, x$  and  $y$  are distinct vertices in  $AG(RG)$ . Since  $AG(RG)$  is connected with  $\text{diam}(AG(RG)) \leq 2$ , by [9, Theorem 2.2], there exists a path  $P$  from  $x$  to  $u$  with length at most two, say  $P : x \sim w \sim u$  such that  $w \notin \{x, y, u, v\}$  and  $w \in V(AG(RG))$ . So there is a path with length at most three from  $uv$  to  $xy$  and the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.5.**  $\text{gr}(L(AG(RG))) = 3$  or  $RG$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings.

- (i)  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ ;
- (ii)  $\mathbb{Z}_3C_2$ .

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.2, we know that  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 3$  if and only if  $\text{gr}(\Gamma(RG)) = 3$ . So, by [2, Proposition 2.8],  $\text{gr}(AG(RG)) = 3$  if and only if  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2C_2$  and  $RG \not\cong \mathbb{F}_{p^r}C_q$  such that  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct prime numbers,  $p$  is a generator for  $(\frac{\mathbb{Z}}{q\mathbb{Z}})^*$  and  $\text{gcd}(r, q - 1) = 1$  such that  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}C_q$  is isomorphic to the direct product of two fields. Suppose that  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ . Then  $AG(RG) \cong K_1$ . So  $L(AG(RG))$  is a null graph. So  $L(AG(RG))$  does not contain any cycle. If  $RG \cong \mathbb{F}_1 \times \mathbb{F}_2$  such that  $|\mathbb{F}_1|, |\mathbb{F}_2| \geq 4$ , then  $AG(RG) \cong K_{|\mathbb{F}_1|, |\mathbb{F}_2|}$  such that  $AG(RG)$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$ . So  $\text{gr}(L(AG(RG))) = 3$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $|\mathbb{F}_1| \leq 3$  and  $|\mathbb{F}_2| \leq 4$ . In this situation, by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2,  $RG \cong \mathbb{Z}_3C_2$ . Hence  $AG(\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3)$  is a cycle of length four. Hence  $\text{gr}(L(AG(RG))) = 4$ . Thus the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.6.**  $\text{diam}(L(AG(RG))) = 1$  if and only if  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_4C_2$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_3$ .

*Proof.* First, suppose that  $\text{diam}(L(AG(RG))) = 1$ . Then, by Theorem 4.1, if  $RG \notin \{\mathbb{Z}_2C_2, \mathbb{Z}_2C_3, \mathbb{Z}_3C_2, \mathbb{F}_4C_2\}$ , then  $RG$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  or  $K_5$ , which is not a star graph. Now, suppose that  $RG \in \{\mathbb{Z}_2C_2, \mathbb{Z}_2C_3, \mathbb{Z}_3C_2, \mathbb{F}_4C_2\}$ . Then  $AG(\mathbb{Z}_2C_2) \cong K_1$ ,  $AG(\mathbb{Z}_2C_3) \cong K_{1,3}$ ,  $AG(\mathbb{F}_4C_2) \cong K_3$  and  $AG(\mathbb{Z}_3C_2)$  is a cycle. Also, by Lemma 5.1 and Proposition 5.3,  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_4C_2$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_3$ .

The converse statement is clear.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.7.**  $L(AG(RG))$  is planar if and only if  $RG$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings.

- (i)  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ ;
- (ii)  $\mathbb{Z}_3C_2$ ;
- (iii)  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_3$ ;
- (iv)  $\mathbb{F}_4C_2$ .

*Proof.* First, suppose that  $L(AG(RG))$  is planar. Then, by Theorem 4.1,  $RG$  is one of the rings  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_2$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3C_2$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_3$  or  $\mathbb{F}_4C_2$ . We know that  $|V(AG(\mathbb{Z}_2C_2))| = 1$ . Hence  $L(AG(RG))$  is a null graph, which is planar. Now, suppose that  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_3C_2$ . Then  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_3C_2) = \{0, \hat{G}, \bar{2}\hat{G}, \bar{1} + \bar{2}g, \bar{2} + g\}$ . Hence  $L(AG(RG))$  is isomorphic to the cycle of length four, which is planar. If  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2C_3$ , then  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_2C_3) = \{0, \hat{G}, 1 - g, 1 - g^2, g - g^2\}$ . In this situation,  $L(AG(RG))$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$ , which is planar. Finally, suppose that  $RG$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_4C_2$ . Then  $L(AG(RG)) \cong K_3$ , which is planar.

The converse statement is clear.  $\square$

The following corollaries are obtained from Theorem 5.7.

**Corollary 5.8.**  $L(AG(RG))$  is outerplanar if and only if  $L(AG(RG))$  is planar.

**Corollary 5.9.**  $L(AG(RG))$  is ring graph if and only if  $L(AG(RG))$  is planar.

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