

# On the genus of the essential graph of commutative rings

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## Abstract

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity and let  $Z(R)$  be the set of zero-divisors of  $R$ . The *essential graph* of  $R$  is defined as the graph  $EG(R)$  with the vertex set  $Z(R)^* = Z(R) \setminus \{0\}$  such that two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $\text{ann}(xy)$  is an essential ideal. In this paper, we classify all finite commutative rings with identity for which the genus and crosscap of  $EG(R)$  are at most one.

## 1 Introduction

The study linking commutative ring theory with graph theory was started with the concept of the zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $Z(R)^*$  be the set of all non-zero zero-divisors of  $R$ . The *zero-divisor graph* of  $R$ , denoted  $\Gamma(R)$ , is the simple graph with  $Z(R)^*$  as the vertex set such that two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are joined by an edge if and only if  $xy = 0$ . This definition was introduced by Beck, Anderson and Livingston in [1, 5] and later was studied extensively in [2, 6, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19]. For  $a \in R$ , let  $\text{ann}(a) = \{d \in R : da = 0\}$  be the annihilator of  $a$  in  $R$ . In 2014, Badawi [3] introduced the *annihilator graph*  $AG(R)$  as the simple graph with vertex set  $Z(R)^*$  such that two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $\text{ann}(xy) \neq \text{ann}(x) \cup \text{ann}(y)$ . One can see that the zero-divisor graph  $\Gamma(R)$  is a subgraph of the annihilator graph  $AG(R)$ . In view of this, Nikmehr et al. [11] have introduced and investigated a graph called the essential

graph of a commutative ring. A non-zero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is called *essential*, denoted by  $I \leq_e R$ , if  $I$  has a non-zero intersection with any non-zero ideal of  $R$ . The *essential graph* of  $R$  is defined as the graph  $EG(R)$  with the vertex set  $Z(R)^* = Z(R) \setminus \{0\}$  such that distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $\text{ann}(xy)$  is an essential ideal. The authors in [11] discussed some basic properties of  $EG(R)$  and studied the affinity between essential graph and zero-divisor graph. One can see that the zero-divisor graph  $\Gamma(R)$  is a subgraph of the essential graph  $EG(R)$ .

The main objective of topological graph theory is to embed a graph into a surface. There are many studies [2, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19] concerning orientable and non-orientable embeddings of the zero-divisor graph and other graphs. In this paper, we classify all finite commutative rings with identity for which the genus and crosscap of  $EG(R)$  are at most one.

Let  $S_g$  and  $\bar{S}_k$  denote the sphere with  $g$  handles and  $k$  crosscaps respectively, where  $g$  and  $k$  are non-negative integers, that is  $S_g$  and  $\bar{S}_k$  are the oriented and non-oriented with  $g$  handles and  $k$  crosscaps. The *genus*  $\gamma(G)$  of a simple graph  $G$  is the minimum  $g$  such that  $G$  can be embedded in  $S_g$ . Similarly, *crosscap number*  $\bar{\gamma}(G)$  is the minimum  $k$  such that  $G$  can be embedded in  $\bar{S}_k$ . When considering orientability, the surfaces  $S_g$  and the sphere are orientable  $\bar{S}_k$  is not orientable. A graph  $G$  is planar if  $\gamma(G) = 0$ . A graph  $G$  such that  $\gamma(G) = 1$  is called a toroidal graph and  $\bar{\gamma}(G) = 1$  is called a projective graph. It is easy to see that  $\gamma(H) \leq \gamma(G)$  and  $\bar{\gamma}(H) \leq \bar{\gamma}(G)$  for all subgraphs  $H$  of  $G$ . One of the most remarkable theorems in topological graph theory, known as Euler's formula, states that if  $G$  is a finite connected graph with  $n$  vertices,  $e$  edges and of genus  $g$ , then  $n - e + f = 2 - 2g$ , where  $f$  is the number of faces obtained when  $G$  is cellularly embedded in  $S_g$ .

Note that the zero divisor graph  $\Gamma(R)$  is a subgraph of  $EG(R)$ . In [11] it has been shown that for any reduced ring  $R$ ,  $EG(R)$  is identical to  $\Gamma(R)$ . Using this result, one can establish that for any reduced ring,  $EG(R)$  is complete if and only if  $\Gamma(R)$  is complete if and only if  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

By a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , we mean an undirected simple graph with vertex set  $V$  and edge set  $E$ . A graph in which each pair of distinct vertices is joined by the edge is called a complete graph. We use  $K_n$  to denote the complete graph with  $n$  vertices. An  $r$ -partite graph is one whose vertex set can be partitioned into  $r$  subsets so that no edge has both ends in any one subset. A complete  $r$ -partite graph is one in which each vertex is joined to every vertex that is not in the same subset. The complete bipartite graph (2-partite graph) with part sizes  $m$  and  $n$  is denoted by  $K_{m,n}$ . If  $G = K_{1,n}$  where  $n \geq 1$ , then  $G$  is a star graph. A *split graph* is a simple graph in which the vertices can be partitioned into a clique and an independent set. A graph  $G$  is said to be *unicyclic* if it contains a unique cycle. An undirected graph is an *outerplanar* graph if it can be drawn in the plane without crossings in such a way that all of the vertices belong to the unbounded face of the drawing. There is a characterization for outerplanar graphs that says that a graph is outerplanar if and only if it does not contain a subdivision of  $K_4$  or  $K_{2,3}$ . An edge  $e = uv$  of  $G$  is said to be contracted if it is deleted and its ends are identified and is denoted by  $[u, v]$ .

Throughout this paper, we assume that  $R$  is a finite commutative ring with identity,  $Z(R)$  its set of zero-divisors and  $\text{Nil}(R)$  its set of nilpotent elements,  $R^\times$  its group of units,  $\mathbb{F}_q$  denote the field with  $q$  elements, and  $R^* = R - \{0\}$ . For every ideal  $I$  of  $R$ , we denote the *annihilator* of  $I$  by  $\text{ann}(I)$ . The following results are useful in the subsequent sections.

**Theorem 1.1.** [1, Theorem 2.10] *Let  $R$  be a finite commutative ring. If  $\Gamma(R)$  is complete, then either  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  or  $R$  is local with  $\text{char } R = p$  or  $p^2$ , and  $|\Gamma(R)| = p^n - 1$ , where  $p$  is prime and  $n \geq 1$ .*

**Theorem 1.2.** [1, Theorem 2.13] *Let  $R$  be a finite commutative ring with  $|\Gamma(R)| \geq 4$ . Then  $\Gamma(R)$  is a star graph if and only if  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$ , where  $F$  is a finite field.*

**Theorem 1.3.** [11, Theorem 2.2] *Let  $R$  be a reduced ring. Then  $EG(R) = \Gamma(R)$ .*

**Theorem 1.4.** [11, Lemma 3.1] *Let  $R$  be a non reduced commutative ring. Then the following statements hold.*

- (i) *For every  $x \in \text{Nil}(R)^*$ ,  $x$  is adjacent to all other vertices.*
- (ii)  *$EG(R)[\text{Nil}(R)^*]$  is a (induced) complete subgraph of  $EG(R)$ .*

In view of Theorem 1.4, if  $R$  is a local ring, then  $EG(R)$  is complete.

$ Z(R)^* $	Local Ring $R$	$EG(R)$
1	$\mathbb{Z}_4, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$	$K_1$
2	$\mathbb{Z}_9, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$	$K_2$
3	$\mathbb{Z}_8, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2 - 2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{F}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$	$K_3$
	$\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle 2x, x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 + x + 1 \rangle}$	$K_3$
4	$\mathbb{Z}_{25}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_5[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$	$K_4$
6	$\mathbb{Z}_{49}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_7[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$	$K_6$
7	$\mathbb{Z}_{16}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^4 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^4, x^2 - 2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 - 2, x^4 \rangle}$	$K_7$
	$\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^4, x^3 + x^2 - 2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2 - 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^3, xy, y^2 - x^2 \rangle}$	$K_7$
	$\frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 - 4, 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle x^3, xy, x^2 - 2, y^2 - 2, y^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$	$K_7$
	$\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle x^2, y^2, xy - 2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, y^2, xy \rangle}$	$K_7$
	$\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle x^3, x^2 - 2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2, 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{F}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$	$K_7$
	$\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3 + x + 1 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle 2x, 2y, x^2, y^2, xy \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y, z]}{\langle x, y, z \rangle^2}$	$K_7$

**Table 1.1**

## 2 Basic Properties of an Essential Graph

In this section, we study some fundamental properties of the essential graph. Especially we identify when the essential graph is isomorphic to some well-known graphs.

**Remark 2.1.** Note that  $\Gamma(R)$  is a subgraph of  $EG(R)$ . Then by Theorems 1.1 and 1.4,  $R$  is a local ring or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  if and only if  $EG(R)$  is complete. We list in Table 1.1, some small commutative rings  $R$  for which  $EG(R)$  is complete.

**Remark 2.2.** Let  $R$  be a reduced ring. Then  $EG(R)$  is a subgraph of  $AG(R)$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a finite commutative ring with identity but not a field. Then  $EG(R)$  is a tree if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_9$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ , or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$ , where  $F$  is a finite field.*

*Proof.* Since  $R$  is finite,  $R \cong R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$ , where each  $R_i$  is a local ring. Suppose  $EG(R)$  is a tree. Suppose  $n \geq 3$ . Then  $(1, 0, \dots, 0) - (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) - (0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) - (1, 0, \dots, 0)$  is a cycle in  $EG(R)$ , a contradiction. Hence  $n \leq 2$ .

Suppose  $R \cong R_1 \times R_2$ . If  $R_1$  is local with  $\mathfrak{m}_1 \neq \{0\}$ , then there exists  $x_1 \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  such that  $\text{ann}(x_1) = \mathfrak{m}_1$ . Let  $x = (0, 1)$ ,  $y = (x_1, 0)$ ,  $z = (x_1, 1)$  and  $w = (1, 0) \in Z(R)^*$ . Then  $x - y - z - w - x$  is a cycle in  $EG(R)$ , a contradiction. Hence  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are fields and so  $EG(R) \cong K_{|R_1|-1, |R_2|-1}$ . Since  $EG(R)$  is tree,  $|R_1| = 2$  or  $|R_2| = 2$  and so  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$ , where  $F$  is a field.

Suppose  $R \cong R_1$ . Since  $R$  is not a field,  $Z(R) \neq 0$  and so  $EG(R)$  is complete. Since  $EG(R)$  is a tree, we have  $|Z(R)^*| \leq 2$ . Hence  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_9$ , or  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ .

Converse follows from Table 1.1 and Theorem 1.2. □

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be a finite commutative ring with identity but not a field. Then  $EG(R)$  is unicyclic if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle 2x, x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{F}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2+x+1 \rangle}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $EG(R)$  is unicyclic. Since  $R$  is finite,  $R \cong R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$ , where each  $R_i$  is a local ring. Suppose  $n \geq 4$ . Let  $x_1 = (1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $x_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $x_3 = (0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $x_4 = (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $y_1 = (1, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0) \in Z(R)^*$ . Then  $x_1 - x_2 - x_3 - x_4 - x_1$  as well as  $x_3 - y_1 - x_4 - x_3$  are two distinct cycles in  $EG(R)$ , a contradiction. Hence  $n \leq 3$ .

**Case 1.** Suppose  $n = 3$ . Suppose  $|R_1| \geq 3$ . Then  $(1, 0, 0) - (0, 1, 0) - (0, 0, 1) - (1, 0, 0)$  and  $(a, 0, 0) - (0, 1, 0) - (0, 0, 1) - (a, 0, 0)$  are cycles in  $EG(R)$  for some  $1 \neq a \in R_1^*$ , a contradiction. Hence  $|R_i| = 2$  for all  $i$  and so  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

**Case 2.** Suppose  $n = 2$ . If  $\mathfrak{m}_1 \neq \{0\}$ , then there exists  $x \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  such that  $\text{ann}(x) = \mathfrak{m}_1$ . Then  $(1, 0) - (x, 0) - (0, 1) - (1, 0)$  and  $(u, 0) - (x, 0) - (0, 1) - (u, 0)$  are cycles in  $EG(R)$  for some  $1 \neq u \in R_1^*$ , a contradiction. Hence  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are fields and so  $EG(R) \cong K_{|R_1|-1, |R_2|-1}$ . Since  $EG(R)$  is unicyclic,  $R_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $R_2 \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

**Case 3.** Suppose  $n = 1$ . Now  $R$  is a local ring but not a field. Then  $EG(R)$  is complete. Since  $EG(R)$  is unicyclic,  $|Z(R)^*| = 3$  and by Table 1.1,  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle 2x, x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{F}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2+x+1 \rangle}$ . □

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph. Then  $G$  is a split graph if and only if  $G$  contains no induced subgraph isomorphic to  $2K_2$ ,  $C_4$ ,  $C_5$ .*

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $R$  be a finite commutative non-local ring with identity and  $|Z(R)^*| \geq 2$ . Then  $EG(R)$  is a split graph if and only if  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$ , where  $F$  is a field or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $EG(R)$  is a split graph. By the assumption on  $R$ ,  $R \cong R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$  where each  $R_i$  is local and  $n \geq 2$ . If  $n \geq 4$ , then  $(1, 1, 0, \dots, 0) - (0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$  and  $(1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0) - (0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$  induce  $2K_2$  in  $EG(R)$  and by Theorem 2.5,  $EG(R)$  is not split, a contradiction. Hence  $n \leq 3$ .

**Case 1.** Suppose that  $n = 3$ . If  $|R_1| \geq 3$ , then  $(1, 0, 0) - (0, 1, 1) - (u, 0, 0) - (0, 1, 0) - (1, 0, 0)$  is a cycle of length 4 in  $EG(R)$  for some  $1 \neq u \in R_1^\times$ , a contradiction. Hence  $|R_i| = 2$  for all  $i$  and hence  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

**Case 2.** Suppose  $n = 2$ . If  $\mathfrak{m}_1 \neq \{0\}$ , then there exists  $x \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  such that  $\text{ann}(x) = \mathfrak{m}_1$ . Consider  $\Omega = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$  where  $x_1 = (1, 0)$ ,  $x_2 = (0, 1)$ ,  $x_3 = (v, 0)$ ,  $x_4 = (x, 1)$ ,  $1 \neq v \in R_1^\times$ . Clearly  $x_1x_2 = x_2x_3 = 0$ . Also  $\text{ann}(x_1x_4) = \mathfrak{m}_1 \times R_2 = \text{ann}(x_3x_4)$ , which is essential. Hence  $x_1 - x_2 - x_3 - x_4 - x_1$  is a cycle of length 4 in  $EG(R)$ , a contradiction. Thus  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are fields and so  $EG(R) \cong K_{|R_1|-1, |R_2|-1}$ . Since  $EG(R)$  is split,  $|R_1| - 1 = 1$  or  $|R_2| - 1 = 1$  and so  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$  where  $F$  is a field.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $R$  be a finite commutative ring with identity. Then  $EG(R)$  is outerplanar if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_9$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle 2x, x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{F}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2+x+1 \rangle}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ , where  $F$  is a field or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $R$  is finite,  $R \cong R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$ , where each  $R_i$  is a local ring. Assume that  $EG(R)$  is outerplanar. Suppose  $n \geq 4$ . Consider  $\Omega = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$  where  $x_1 = (1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $x_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $x_3 = (0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $x_4 = (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $\Omega$  in  $EG(R)$  is isomorphic to  $K_4$ , a contradiction. Hence  $n \leq 3$ .

**Case 1.** Assume that  $n = 3$ . Suppose  $|R_1| \geq 3$ . Consider  $\Omega' = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5\}$  where  $x_1 = (1, 0, 0)$ ,  $x_2 = (a, 0, 0)$ ,  $x_3 = (0, 1, 0)$ ,  $x_4 = (0, 0, 1)$ ,  $x_5 = (0, 1, 1)$ ,  $1 \neq a \in R_1^*$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $\Omega'$  in  $EG(R)$  contains  $K_{2,3}$  as a subgraph, a contradiction. Therefore  $|R_i| = 2$  for all  $i$  and  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

**Case 2.** Assume that  $n = 2$ . If  $\mathfrak{m}_1 \neq \{0\}$ , then there exists  $x \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  such that  $\text{ann}(x) = \mathfrak{m}_1$  for some  $x \in R_1$ . Consider the set  $\Omega'' = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4, y_5\}$  where  $y_1 = (1, 0)$ ,  $y_2 = (x, 0)$ ,  $y_3 = (u, 0)$ ,  $y_4 = (x, 1)$ ,  $y_5 = (0, 1)$ ,  $1 \neq u \in R_1^\times$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $\Omega''$  in  $EG(R)$  contains  $K_{2,3}$  as a subgraph, a contradiction. Hence  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are fields and so  $EG(R) \cong K_{|R_1|-1, |R_2|-1}$ . Since  $EG(R)$  is outerplanar,  $R$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$  where  $F$  is a finite field or  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

**Case 3.** Suppose that  $n = 1$ . Since  $R$  is local,  $EG(R)$  is complete. Since  $EG(R)$  is outerplanar,  $1 \leq |Z(R)^*| \leq 3$  and hence  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:

$$\mathbb{Z}_4, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_8, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x,y]}{\langle x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle 2x, x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{F}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2+x+1 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_9, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}.$$

□

### 3 Planarity of $EG(R)$

In this section, we characterize all finite commutative rings  $R$  with identity whose essential graph  $EG(R)$  is planar. The followings results are useful in this section.

**Theorem 3.1.** ([8], Kuratowski) *A graph  $G$  is planar if and only if it contains no subdivision of  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$ .*

**Theorem 3.2.** [17, Theorem 3.5.1] *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a finite local ring and  $\Gamma(R)$  be the zero-divisor graph of  $R$ . Then  $\Gamma(R)$  is planar if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:*

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{Z}_4, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_9, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_8, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x,y]}{\langle x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle 2x, x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{F}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2+x+1 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_{25}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_5[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \\ &\mathbb{Z}_{16}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^4 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2-2, x^4 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3-2, x^4 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3+x^2-2, x^4 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x,y]}{\langle x^3, xy, y^2-x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2-4, 2x \rangle}, \\ &\frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x,y]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2, xy, y^2-2, y^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x,y]}{\langle x^2, y^2, xy-2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x,y]}{\langle x^2, y^2 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_{27}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_9[x]}{\langle x^2-3, x^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_9[x]}{\langle x^2+3, x^3 \rangle}. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.3.** [12, Theorem 3.7] *Let  $R = F_1 \times \dots \times F_n$  be a finite ring, where each  $F_i$  is a field and  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $\Gamma(R)$  is planar if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times F$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$  where  $F$  is a finite field.*

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a finite commutative local ring with identity. Then  $EG(R)$  is planar if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_4, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_9, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_8, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2-2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x,y]}{\langle x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle 2x, x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{F}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2+x+1 \rangle}, \mathbb{Z}_{25}$  or  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_5[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $EG(R)$  is complete, the proof follows from Theorem 3.1 and Table 1.1. □

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $R = F_1 \times \dots \times F_n$  be a finite ring, where each  $F_i$  is a field and  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $EG(R)$  is planar if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times F$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times F$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$  where  $F$  is a finite field.*

*Proof.* Since  $R$  is reduced and by Theorem 1.3,  $\Gamma(R) = EG(R)$ . Now the proof follows from Theorem 3.3. □

Note that if  $R \cong R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$  is a commutative ring with identity where each  $(R_i, \mathfrak{m}_i)$  is a local ring with  $\mathfrak{m}_i \neq 0$  and  $n \geq 2$ , then  $K_{5,5}$  is a subgraph of  $EG(R)$  and hence  $\gamma(EG(R)) \geq 3$ . Hence if  $\gamma(EG(R)) = 0$  or  $1$ , then one of the component  $R_i$  must be a field.

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $R \cong R_1 \times \cdots \times R_n \times F_1 \times \cdots \times F_m$  be a finite commutative ring with identity, where each  $(R_i, \mathfrak{m}_i)$  is a local ring but not field,  $F_j$  is a field and  $m, n \geq 1$ . Then  $EG(R)$  is planar if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $EG(R)$  is planar. Note that  $|\mathfrak{m}_i^*| \geq 1$  and  $|R_i^*| \geq 3$  for all  $i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ . Suppose  $n + m \geq 3$ . Consider  $\Omega = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, y_1, y_2, y_3\}$ , where  $x_1 = (a_1, 0, \dots, 0), x_2 = (a_2, 0, \dots, 0), x_3 = (a_3, 0, \dots, 0), y_1 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), y_2 = (0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), y_3 = (0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0) \in Z(R)^*$ , where  $a_i \in R_1^*$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $\Omega$  of  $EG(R)$  contains  $K_{3,3}$  as a subgraph, a contradiction. Hence  $n + m = 2$  and so  $R \cong R_1 \times F_1$ .

Suppose  $|\mathfrak{m}_1^*| \geq 2$ . Then  $|R_1^\times| \geq 3$ . Note that  $|F_1| \geq 2$ . Since  $R_1$  is local,  $\text{ann}(x) = \mathfrak{m}_1$  for some  $x \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$ . Consider  $\Omega' = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, b_1, b_2, b_3\}$ , where  $a_1 = (u_1, 0), a_2 = (u_2, 0), a_3 = (u_3, 0), b_1 = (0, 1), b_2 = (x, 0), b_3 = (x, 1) \in Z(R)^*$ , where  $u_1, u_2$  and  $u_3$  are distinct units in  $R_1$ . Then  $a_i b_1 = 0$  in  $R$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Clearly  $\text{ann}(a_i b_j) = \mathfrak{m}_1 \times F_1$ , which is essential and so  $a_i$  is adjacent to  $b_j$  in  $EG(R)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and  $j = 2, 3$ . From this, we get  $K_{3,3}$  is a subgraph of  $\langle \Omega' \rangle$  in  $EG(R)$ , a contradiction. Hence  $|\mathfrak{m}_1^*| = 1$  and so  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$  or  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ .

Suppose  $|F_1| \geq 3$ . Let  $a \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  such that  $a^2 = 0$ . Consider  $\Omega'' = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, y_1, y_2, y_3\}$ , where  $x_1 = (1, 0), x_2 = (a, 0), x_3 = (u, 0), y_1 = (0, 1), y_2 = (0, v), y_3 = (a, 1) \in Z(R)^*$ , where  $1 \neq u \in R_1^\times$  and  $1 \neq v \in F_1^*$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $\Omega''$  in  $EG(R)$  contains  $K_{3,3}$  as a subgraph, a contradiction. Hence  $|F_1| = 2$  and so  $F_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ . □

### 4 Genus of $EG(R)$

In this section, we characterize all finite commutative rings  $R$  with identity whose essential graph  $EG(R)$  is toroidal. The following results are useful in this section.

**Lemma 4.1.** [20]  $\gamma(K_n) = \left\lfloor \frac{(n-3)(n-4)}{12} \right\rfloor$  if  $n \geq 3$ . In particular,  $\gamma(K_n) = 1$  if  $n = 5, 6, 7$ .

**Lemma 4.2.** [20]  $\gamma(K_{m,n}) = \left\lfloor \frac{(m-2)(n-2)}{4} \right\rfloor$  if  $m, n \geq 2$ . In particular,  $\gamma(K_{4,4}) = \gamma(K_{3,n}) = 1$  if  $n = 3, 4, 5, 6$ . Also  $\gamma(K_{5,4}) = \gamma(K_{6,4}) = \gamma(K_{m,3}) = 2$  if  $m = 7, 8, 9, 10$ .

**Theorem 4.3.** [17, Theorem 3.5.2] *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a finite local ring and  $\Gamma(R)$  be the zero-divisor graph of  $R$ . Then  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:*

$$\mathbb{Z}_{49}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_7[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x,y]}{\langle x^3, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x,y]}{\langle x^3, x^2 - 2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2, 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{F}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3 + x + 1 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x,y]}{\langle 2x, 2y, x^2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x,y,z]}{\langle x, y, z \rangle^2}, \mathbb{Z}_{32}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^5 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3 - 2, x^5 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^4 - 2, x^5 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 - 2, x^5 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 - 2x + 2, x^5 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 + 2x - 2, x^5 \rangle}.$$

**Theorem 4.4.** [19, Theorem 3.1] *Let  $R = F_1 \times \cdots \times F_n$  where each  $F_i$  is a finite field. Then  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:*

$\mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_5, \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_5, \mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_5, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{F}_4$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

**Theorem 4.5.** *Let  $(R, \mathfrak{m})$  be a finite commutative local ring with identity. Then  $\gamma(EG(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:*

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{Z}_{16}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^4 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^4, x^2 - 2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3 - 2, x^4 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^4, x^3 + x^2 - 2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^3, x^2 - 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^3, xy, y^2 - x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 - 4, 2x \rangle}, \\ & \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle x^3, xy, x^2 - 2, y^2 - 2, y^3 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle x^2, y^2, xy - 2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y]}{\langle x^2, y^2, xy \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3, 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle x^3, x^2 - 2, xy, y^2 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_8[x]}{\langle x^2, 2x \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{F}_8[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}, \\ & \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x]}{\langle x^3 + x + 1 \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_4[x, y]}{\langle 2x, 2y, x^2, y^2, xy \rangle}, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x, y, z]}{\langle x, y, z \rangle^2}, \mathbb{Z}_{49} \text{ or } \frac{\mathbb{Z}_7[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Since  $EG(R)$  is complete, by Lemma 4.1,  $5 \leq |Z(R)^*| \leq 7$ . Now the proof follows from Table 1.1. □

**Theorem 4.6.** *Let  $R = F_1 \times \dots \times F_n$  be a finite ring, where each  $F_i$  is a field and  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $\gamma(EG(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_5, \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_5, \mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_5, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{F}_4$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $R$  is a reduced ring, by Theorem 1.3,  $EG(R) = \Gamma(R)$ . Then the proof completes by Theorem 4.4. □

**Theorem 4.7.** *Let  $R = R_1 \times \dots \times R_n \times F_1 \times \dots \times F_m$  be a finite commutative ring with identity, where each  $(R_i, \mathfrak{m}_i)$  is a local ring with  $\mathfrak{m}_i \neq 0$ ,  $F_j$  is a field and  $m, n \geq 1$ . Then  $\gamma(EG(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_4, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{F}_4$ .*

*Proof.* By Fig. 4.2 and Fig. 4.3,  $\gamma(EG(R)) = 1$  where  $R$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ , or  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{F}_4$ .

Assume  $\gamma(EG(R)) = 1$ . Suppose  $n + m \geq 3$ . Since  $R_1$  is local, there exists  $a \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  with  $\text{ann}(a) = \mathfrak{m}_1$ . Consider  $\Omega = \{x_1, \dots, x_{10}\}$ , where  $x_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), x_2 = (a, 0, \dots, 0), x_3 = (u, 0, \dots, 0), x_4 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), x_5 = (0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), x_6 = (0, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0), x_7 = (a, 1, 0, \dots, 0), x_8 = (a, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), x_9 = (a, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0), x_{10} = (1, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), 1 \neq u \in R_1^\times$ . Consider  $G_1 = \langle \Omega \rangle$ . Then  $G_1$  is a subgraph of  $EG(R)$  and  $G_1$  contains  $G'$  in Fig. 4.1 as a subgraph. By Fig. 4.1,  $K_{3,6}$  is a subgraph of  $G'$  and hence by Theorem 4.2,  $\gamma(G') \geq 1$ .

Assume that  $\gamma(G') = 1$ . Fix an embedding of  $K_{3,6}$  on the surface of torus. By Euler’s formula, there are 9 faces in the embedding of  $K_{3,6}$ , say  $\{F'_1, \dots, F'_9\}$ . Let  $f_i$  be the length of the face  $F'_i$ . Note that  $\sum_{i=1}^9 f_i = 2e = 36$  and  $f_i \geq 4$  for every  $i$ . Thus  $f_i = 4$  for every  $i$ . Let  $S = \{x_7, x_8, [x_4, x_{10}]\} \subset V(G')$ . Further, the subgraph  $H$  of  $G'$  induced by the vertices in  $S$  is  $K_3, E(H) \cap E(K_{3,6}) = \emptyset$ . Since  $K_3$  cannot be embedded in the torus along with an embedding with only rectangles as faces, one cannot have an embedding of  $H$  and  $K_{3,6}$  together in the torus. This implies that  $\gamma(G') \geq 2$ . Since  $G'$  is a subgraph of  $EG(R), \gamma(EG(R)) \geq 2$ . Hence  $n + m = 2, R \cong R_1 \times F_1$  and by Theorem 3.6,  $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .



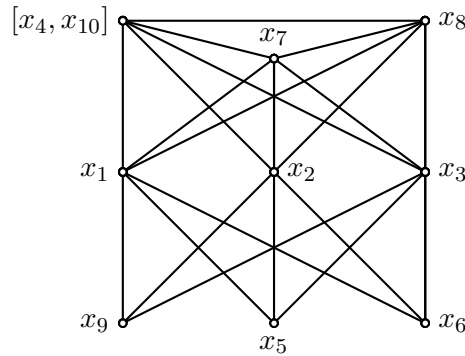


Fig. 4.1 Graph  $G'$

Now we claim that if  $|\mathfrak{m}_1^*| \geq 2$ , then  $\gamma(EG(R)) \geq 2$ . Suppose  $|\mathfrak{m}_1^*| = 2$ . Then  $R_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}_9$  or  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$  and hence  $|R_1^\times| = 6$ . Let  $a, b \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  such that  $ab = 0$  and  $\text{ann}(a) = \mathfrak{m}_1$ . Consider  $\Omega' = \{x_1, \dots, x_7, y_1, y_2, y_3\} \subseteq Z(R)^*$  where  $x_1 = (u_1, 0)$ ,  $x_2 = (u_2, 0)$ ,  $x_3 = (u_3, 0)$ ,  $x_4 = (u_4, 0)$ ,  $x_5 = (u_5, 0)$ ,  $x_6 = (u_6, 0)$ ,  $x_7 = (b, 0)$ ,  $y_1 = (0, 1)$ ,  $y_2 = (a, 0)$ ,  $y_3 = (a, 1)$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $\Omega'$  of  $EG(R)$  contains  $K_{3,7}$  as a subgraph and by Lemma 4.2,  $\gamma(EG(R)) \geq 2$ , a contradiction.

Suppose  $|\mathfrak{m}_1^*| \geq 3$ . Then  $|R_1^\times| \geq 4$ . Let  $x, y, z \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  such that  $xy = yz = 0$  and  $\text{ann}(y) = \mathfrak{m}_1$  and let  $\{v_1, \dots, v_4\} \subseteq R_1^\times$ . Consider  $\Omega'' = \{a_1, \dots, a_5, b_1, \dots, b_4\} \subseteq Z(R)^*$ , where  $a_1 = (v_1, 0)$ ,  $a_2 = (v_2, 0)$ ,  $a_3 = (v_3, 0)$ ,  $a_4 = (v_4, 0)$ ,  $a_5 = (x, 0)$ ,  $b_1 = (0, 1)$ ,  $b_2 = (y, 0)$ ,  $b_3 = (y, 1)$ ,  $b_4 = (x, 0)$ ,  $b_5 = (x, 1)$ . Then  $a_i b_1 = 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 5$  and  $a_5 b_2 = a_5 b_3 = 0$ . Since  $b_4 \in \text{Nil}(R)^*$ , by Theorem 1.4,  $\text{ann}(a_i b_4) = (y) \times F_1$  is essential for  $1 \leq i \leq 5$ . Also  $\text{ann}(a_i b_2) = \mathfrak{m}_1 \times F_1 = \text{ann}(a_i b_3)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 4$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $\Omega''$  of  $EG(R)$  contains  $K_{4,5}$  as a subgraph and by Lemma 4.2,  $\gamma(EG(R)) \geq 2$ , a contradiction.

Hence we conclude that  $|\mathfrak{m}_1^*| = 1$  and so  $R_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$  or  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ . By Theorem 3.6,  $F_1 \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  and so  $|F_1| \geq 3$ . Suppose  $|F_1| \geq 5$ . Let  $a \in \mathfrak{m}_1^*$  with  $a^2 = 0$ . Consider  $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_{11}\} \subseteq Z(R)^*$ , where  $x_1 = (u_1, 0)$ ,  $x_2 = (u_2, 0)$ ,  $x_3 = (a, 0)$ ,  $x_4 = (0, v_1)$ ,  $x_5 = (0, v_2)$ ,  $x_6 = (0, v_3)$ ,  $x_7 = (0, v_4)$ ,  $x_8 = (a, v_1)$ ,  $x_9 = (a, v_2)$ ,  $x_{10} = (a, v_3)$ ,  $x_{11} = (a, v_4)$  and  $u_1, u_2 \in R_1^\times$ ,  $v_j \in F_1^*$ . Then the subgraph induced by  $S$  of  $EG(R)$  contains  $K_{3,8}$  as a subgraph and by Lemma 4.2,  $\gamma(EG(R)) \geq 2$ , a contradiction. Hence  $F_1$  is isomorphic to either  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  or  $\mathbb{F}_4$ . □

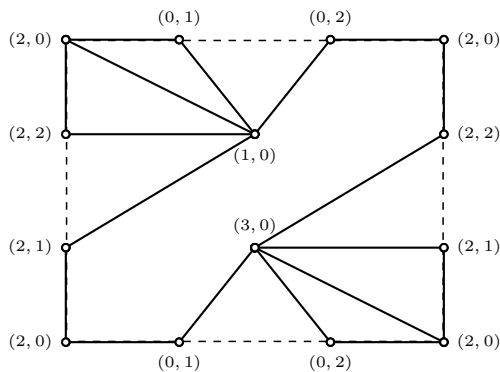


Fig. 4.2 :  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_3) \cong EG\left(\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{Z}_3\right)$  in  $S_1$

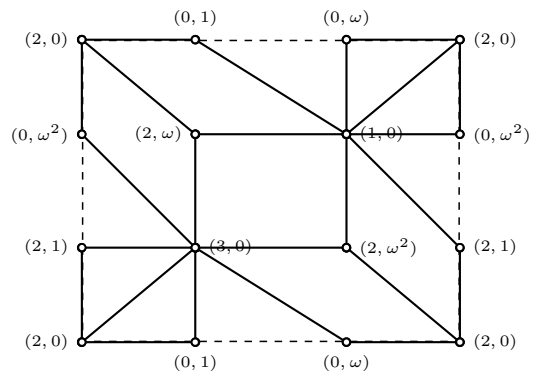


Fig. 4.3 :  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_4) \cong EG\left(\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{F}_4\right)$  in  $S_1$

### 5 Crosscap of $EG(R)$

In this section, we characterize all finite commutative rings  $R$  with identity whose essential graph  $EG(R)$  is projective. The following result is very useful for further reference in this section.

**Theorem 5.1.** [7] *Let  $m, n$  be integers and for a real number  $x$ ,  $\lceil x \rceil$  is the least integer that is greater than or equal to  $x$ . Then*

$$(i) \bar{\gamma}(K_n) = \begin{cases} \lceil \frac{1}{6}(n-3)(n-4) \rceil & \text{if } n \geq 3 \text{ and } n \neq 7; \\ 3 & \text{if } n = 7 \end{cases}$$

$$(ii) \bar{\gamma}(K_{m,n}) = \lceil \frac{1}{2}(m-2)(n-2) \rceil, \text{ where } m, n \geq 2.$$

**Theorem 5.2.** [9] *Let  $R = F_1 \times \dots \times F_n$ , where each  $F_i$  is finite field. Then  $\bar{\gamma}(\Gamma(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_5$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_5$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .*

**Theorem 5.3.** *Let  $R$  be a finite local ring with identity. Then  $\bar{\gamma}(EG(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_{49}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_7[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $EG(R)$  is complete, proof follows from Theorem 5.1. □

**Theorem 5.4.** *Let  $R = F_1 \times \dots \times F_n$ , where each  $F_i$  is finite field. Then  $\bar{\gamma}(EG(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to one of the following rings:  $\mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_4 \times \mathbb{F}_5$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_4$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_5$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .*

*Proof.* The proof follows from Theorems 1.3 and 5.2. □

By slight modifications in the proof of Theorem 3.6 with Lemma 5.1 and Fig. 5.1, one can prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 5.5.** *Let  $R = R_1 \times \dots \times R_n \times F_1 \times \dots \times F_m$ , where each  $(R_i, \mathfrak{m}_i)$  is a local ring and  $F_j$  is finite field and  $n, m \geq 1$ . Then  $\bar{\gamma}(EG(R)) = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is isomorphic to either  $\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$  or  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ .*

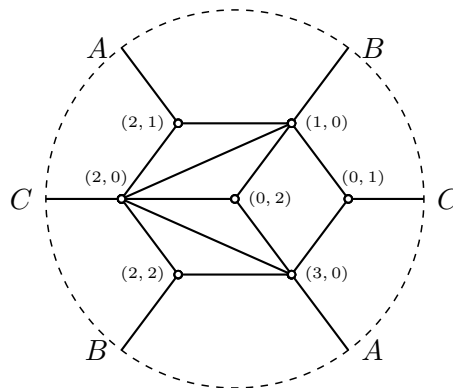


Fig. 5.1 Embedding of  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_3) \cong EG\left(\frac{\mathbb{Z}_2[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \times \mathbb{Z}_3\right)$  in  $\bar{S}_1$

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