

## Proof of chromaticity of the complete tripartite graphs $K(n-k, n-3, n)$

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**Abstract:** Let  $P(G, \lambda)$  be the chromatic polynomial of a graph  $G$ . A graph  $G$  is chromatically unique if for any graph  $H$ ,  $P(H, \lambda) = P(G, \lambda)$  implies  $G \cong H$ . Here, by comparing the number of the triangular subgraphs and the number of the quadrangular subgraphs without chords, the chromatic uniqueness problem of the complete tripartite graphs  $K(n-k, n-3, n)$  was completely solved. It was proved that  $K(n-k, n-3, n)$  is chromatically unique if  $n \geq k+2 \geq 5$ .

**Key words:** complete tripartite graph; chromatically uniqueness; triangular subgraph; quadrangular subgraph without chords

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## 完全3部图 $K(n-k, n-3, n)$ 色唯一性的证明

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**摘要:** 设  $P(G, \lambda)$  是图  $G$  的色多项式, 如果任意与图  $G$  的色多项式相等 ( $P(G, \lambda) = P(H, \lambda)$ ) 的图  $H$  都与图  $G$  同构 ( $G \cong H$ ), 则称图  $G$  是色唯一图. 这里, 通过比较图的三角形子图和无弦四边形的个数, 完全解决了一类完全三部图  $K(n-k, n-3, n)$  的色唯一性问题, 证明了, 若  $n \geq k+2 \geq 5$ , 则完全三部图  $K(n-k, n-3, n)$  是色唯一图.

**关键词:** 完全三部图; 色唯一性; 三角形子图; 无弦四边形子图

### 0 Introduction

All graphs considered here are finite and simple. For a graph  $G$ , let  $V(G)$ ,  $E(G)$  be the vertex set, edge set of  $G$ , respectively. We denote

by  $P(G, \lambda)$  the chromatic polynomial of  $G$ . Two graphs  $G$  and  $H$  are said to be chromatically equivalent, denoted by  $G \sim H$  if  $P(G, \lambda) = P(H, \lambda)$ . A graph  $G$  is said to be chromatically unique or  $\chi$ -unique if  $G \cong H$  for any graph  $H$  such that  $H \sim$

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$G$ . The complete tripartite graph can be denoted by  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)$  having partite sets  $V_i$  with  $|V_i|=n+a_i$  for  $i=1,2,3$ .

Ref. [1] gave the conjecture that the  $K(n-k, n, n)$  is chromatically unique if  $n \geq k+2 \geq 4$ . Refs. [2-4] showed that the  $K(n-k, n-i, n)$  is chromatically unique if  $n \geq k+2 \geq 4$  and  $i=0,1$ . Ref. [5] showed that the  $K(n-k, n-v, n)$  is chromatically unique if  $k \geq v+2 \geq 4$  and  $n \geq v^2(k+v/3)/4$ , and that the  $K(n-k, n-2, n)$  is chromatically unique if  $n \geq k+2 \geq 4$ . Ref. [6] showed that the  $K(n-k, n-v, n)$  is chromatically unique if  $4 \geq v \geq 2, k \geq v$  and  $n \geq k^2/4+v+1$ . Ref. [7] showed that  $K(n-k, n-v, n)$  is chromatically unique, if  $k-v \geq 2, v \geq 1$  and  $n-v \geq \max\{[(k-v)^2/4+k], [(k-v)^2/4+3(k-v)/2+2v-11/4], [(k-v)v+k-2v+1]\}$ .

Here we show that the complete tripartite graph  $K(n-k, n-3, n)$  is chromatically unique for  $n \geq k+2 \geq 5$ .

For a positive integer  $i$ , a partition  $\{U_1, U_2, \dots, U_i\}$  of  $V(G)$  is called a  $i$ -independent partition in  $G$  if each  $U_i$  is a nonempty independent set of  $G$ . By  $m(G, i)$  we denote the number of  $i$ -independent partition in  $G$ .

Let  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  be the edge subsets of  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)$  with  $A_1 \subseteq \{xy \mid \forall x \in V_2, \forall y \in V_3\}$ ,  $A_2 \subseteq \{xy \mid \forall x \in V_1, \forall y \in V_3\}$  and  $A_3 \subseteq \{xy \mid \forall x \in V_1, \forall y \in V_2\}$ . Let  $A=A_1 \cup A_2 \cup A_3, |A_1|=l_1, |A_2|=l_2, |A_3|=l_3$ . By  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A$  we denote the graph obtained by deleting all edges in  $A$  from the complete tripartite graph  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)$ . By  $\Delta(G)$  we denote the number of triangles  $C_3$  in  $G$ . By  $\alpha(G)$  we denote the number of cycles  $C_4$  of without chords in  $G$ . By  $T(e, r)$  we denote the tree  $T_3$  containing the edges  $e$  and  $r$  in  $G$ . By  $\Delta(e, r, w)$  we denote the triangle  $C_3$  containing the edges  $e, r$  and  $w$  in  $G$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi &= |\{T(e, r) \mid e \in A_1, r \in A_2\}| + |\{T(e, r) \mid e \in A_1, r \in A_3\}| + |\{T(e, r) \mid e \in A_2, r \in A_3\}|, \\ \varphi_1 &= |\{\Delta(e, r, w) \mid e \notin A_1, r \in A_2, w \in A_3\}|, \\ \varphi_2 &= |\{\Delta(e, r, w) \mid e \in A_1, r \notin A_2, w \in A_3\}|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_3 &= |\{\Delta(e, r, w) \mid e \in A_1, r \in A_2, w \notin A_3\}|, \\ \gamma &= |\{\Delta(e, r, w) \mid e \in A_1, r \in A_2, w \in A_3\}|. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly  $\varphi = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3 + 3\gamma$ .

## 1 Some lemmas

**Lemma 1.1**<sup>[8]</sup> Let  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A \sim K(n-k, n-v, n), n > k \geq v \geq 0$ . Then

$$\textcircled{1} a_1+a_2+a_3=-(k+v),$$

$$\textcircled{2} |A|=a_1a_2+a_1a_3+a_2a_3-vk=(k^2+v^2-a_1^2-a_2^2-a_3^2)/2,$$

$$\textcircled{3} \Delta(K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A)=\Delta(K(n-k, n-v, n)),$$

$$\textcircled{4} \alpha(K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A)=\alpha(K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)).$$

**Lemma 1.2**<sup>[2]</sup> Let  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A \sim K(n-k, n-v, n), 0 \leq v \leq k, a_1 \leq a_2 \leq a_3$ . Then  $-v \leq a_3 \leq 0$ .

**Lemma 1.3**<sup>[9]</sup> Let  $a_1+a_2+a_3=-(k+v), |A|=a_1a_2+a_1a_3+a_2a_3-vk$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\Delta} &= \Delta(K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A) - \\ &\Delta(K(n-k, n-v, n)). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\bar{\Delta} = a_1a_2a_3 - a_1l_1 - a_2l_2 - a_3l_3 + \varphi - \gamma.$$

**Lemma 1.4**<sup>[5]</sup> Let  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A \sim K(n-k, n-v, n), a_1 \leq a_2 \leq a_3, n \geq k+2 \geq v+2, \bar{\alpha} = \alpha(K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3)-A) - \alpha(K(n-k, n-v, n))$ . Then

$$\textcircled{1} \bar{\alpha} \leq -(l_1l_2+l_1l_3+l_2l_3)/2 + (\varphi - \gamma)/4 - (n+a_2+a_3-a_1)\varphi_1/2 - (n+a_1+a_3-a_2)\varphi_2/2 - (n+a_1+a_2-a_3)\varphi_3/2 + (\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi - \gamma)/2 - (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3)\gamma - (3\gamma + 1)\gamma/2,$$

$$\textcircled{2} \bar{\alpha} \leq -(\varphi - \gamma)/4 - (n+a_2+a_3-a_1)\varphi_1/2 - (n+a_1+a_3-a_2)\varphi_2/2 - (n+a_1+a_2-a_3)\varphi_3/2 + (\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi - \gamma)/2 - (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3)\gamma - (3\gamma + 1) \cdot \gamma/2 - (n+a_3-1)(n+a_2-(l_1+1))l_1/2 - (n+a_3-1)(n+a_1-(l_2+1))l_2/2,$$

$$\textcircled{3} \bar{\alpha} \leq -(\varphi - \gamma)/4 - (n+a_2+a_3-a_1)\varphi_1/2 - (n+a_1+a_3-a_2)\varphi_2/2 - (n+a_1+a_2-a_3)\varphi_3/2 + (\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi - \gamma)/2 - (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3)\gamma - (3\gamma + 1) \cdot \gamma/2 - (n+a_3-1)(n+a_2-(l_1+1))l_1/2,$$

$$\textcircled{4} \bar{\alpha} \leq -(\varphi - \gamma)/4 - (n+a_2+a_3-a_1)\varphi_1/2 - (n+a_1+a_3-a_2)\varphi_2/2 - (n+a_1+a_2-a_3)\varphi_3/2 + (\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi - \gamma)/2 - (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3)\gamma - (3\gamma + 1) \cdot$$

$$\gamma/2 - (n+a_3-1)(n+a_1-(l_2+1))l_2/2.$$

**Lemma 1.5**<sup>[10]</sup> Let  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3) - A_3 \sim K(n+b_1, n+b_2, n+b_3)$ ,  $a_3 \in \{b_1, b_2, b_3\}$  and  $\min\{n+b_1, n+b_2, n+b_3\} \geq 2$ . Then

$$K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3) - A_3 \cong K(n+b_1, n+b_2, n+b_3), |A_3| = 0.$$

**Lemma 1.6**<sup>[8]</sup> Let  $G \sim H$ . Then  $m(G, i) = m(H, i)$  for  $i=1, 2, \dots, |V(G)|$ .

## 2 Main result

**Theorem 2.1** The complete tripartite graph  $K(n-k, n-3, n)$  is chromatically unique if  $n \geq k+2 \geq 5$ .

**Proof** Let  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3) - A \sim K(n-k, n-3, n)$  and  $a_1 \leq a_2 \leq a_3$ . By Lemmas 1.1 and 1.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 + a_2 + a_3 &= -(k+3), \\ |A| &= a_1a_2 + a_1a_3 + a_2a_3 - 3k, \\ \bar{\Delta} &= 0, \bar{\alpha} = 0, -3 \leq a_3 \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1.3,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\Delta} &= a_1a_2a_3 - a_1l_1 - a_2l_2 - a_3l_3 + \varphi - \gamma = \\ &= a_3(k+a_3)(3+a_3) - (a_1-a_3)l_1 - \\ &= (a_2-a_3)l_2 + \varphi - \gamma = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $l_1l_2 \geq \varphi_3 + \gamma$ ,  $l_1l_3 \geq \varphi_2 + \gamma$  and  $l_2l_3 \geq \varphi_1 + \gamma$ , we have that  $l_1l_2 + l_1l_3 + l_2l_3 \geq \varphi$ .

Now we consider the following three cases.

**Case 1**  $-3 < a_3 < 0$ .

Suppose  $l_1 + l_3 = 0$ , we have  $\varphi - \gamma = 0$ . Hence  $a_1a_2a_3 - a_2l_2 = 0$ ,  $l_2 = a_1a_3 = |A| = a_1a_3 - (k+a_2)(3+a_2)$  and  $(k+a_2)(3+a_2) = 0$ .

Hence  $a_2 = -3$  or  $a_2 = -k$ . From Lemma 1.5, we have  $|A| = 0$ ,  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3) - A \cong K(n-k, n-3, n)$ . Hence  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3\} = \{-k, -3, 0\}$ , a contradicting  $a_3 < 0$ . Such  $l_1 + l_3 \neq 0$ .

Similarly, we have that  $l_1 + l_2 \neq 0$  and  $l_2 + l_3 \neq 0$ . Hence  $l_1l_2 + l_1l_3 + l_2l_3 \neq 0$ . Since  $a_3 = -1$  or  $a_3 = -2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_3(k+a_3)(3+a_3) &= -2(k+a_3), \\ \bar{\Delta} &= -2(k+a_3) - (a_1-a_3)l_1 - \\ &= (a_2-a_3)l_2 + \varphi - \gamma = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose  $\varphi - \gamma = 0$ , From ① of Lemma 1.4, we have  $\bar{\alpha} < 0$ , contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

For  $\varphi - \gamma > 0$ , we consider the following three subcases.

**Subcase 1.1**  $l_1 \geq 2$ . We consider the following three subcases.

**Subcase 1.1.1**  $l_2 \geq 2$ . Since  $a_1 + a_2 - 2a_3 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 - 3a_3 = -(k+3) - 3a_3$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\Delta} &= -2(k+a_3) - 2(a_1+a_2-2a_3) - \\ &= (a_1-a_3)(l_1-2) - \\ &= (a_2-a_3)(l_2-2) + \varphi - \gamma = 0, \\ 6 + 4a_3 &= (a_1-a_3)(l_1-2) + \\ &= (a_2-a_3)(l_2-2) - (\varphi - \gamma) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $a_3 = -2$  and  $\varphi - \gamma \leq 2$ . Since  $\varphi - \gamma \geq 2\gamma$ , we get  $\gamma \leq 1$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} n + a_1 + a_2 - a_3 - (\varphi - \gamma + 1) &\geq \\ (k + 2 - (k + 3) - 2a_3) - 3 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|A| = (k^2 + 3^2 - a_1^2 - a_2^2 - a_3^2)/2 \geq 4$ , we have  $a_1 < a_3 = -2$ .

Suppose  $l_1 \geq 3$ . Since  $\varphi - \gamma = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3 + 2\gamma \leq -6 - 4a_3 + (a_1 - a_3) \leq 1$ , we have  $\gamma = 0$ . By ① of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< -(n+a_1+a_2-a_3)(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 + \\ &= (\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi - \gamma)/2 \leq \\ &= -(\varphi + 1)\varphi/2 + (\varphi + 1)\varphi/2 = 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

Suppose  $l_1 = 2$ . Since  $n + a_3 - 1 \geq k + 2 - 3 \geq 2 \geq 2\gamma$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} n + a_2 - (l_1 + 1) &= \\ n + (a_1 + a_2 + a_3) - (a_1 + a_3) - 3 &\geq \\ n - (k + 3) + 5 - 3 &\geq 1, \end{aligned}$$

by ③ of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< -(n+a_1+a_2-a_3)(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 + \\ &= (\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi - \gamma)/2 - (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3)\gamma - \\ &= (3\gamma + 1)\gamma/2 - (n + a_3 - 1)(n + a_2 - \\ &= (l_1 + 1)l_1/2 \leq -(\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3)/2 + \\ &= (\varphi - \gamma + 1)(\varphi - \gamma)/2 - (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3)\gamma - \\ &= (3\gamma + 1)\gamma/2 - \gamma \leq (\varphi - \gamma + 1)\gamma - (\varphi - 3\gamma)\gamma - \\ &= (3\gamma + 1)\gamma/2 - \gamma = 2\gamma^2 - (3\gamma + 1)\gamma/2 \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Subcase 1.1.2**  $l_2 = 1$ . Since

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\Delta} &= -(k-3-a_3) - (a_1-a_3)(l_1-1) - \\ &= (a_2-a_3)(l_2-1) + \varphi - \gamma = 0, \end{aligned}$$

we have  $\varphi - \gamma \leq (a_1 - a_3) + (k - 3 - a_3)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (n+a_1-2) - (\varphi-\gamma) &\geq n+a_1-2 - \\ (k-3-a_3) - (a_1-a_3) &\geq 3+2a_3, \\ (n+a_3-1) - (\varphi-\gamma+1) &= \\ n+a_3-2 - (\varphi-\gamma) &\geq 3+2a_3. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose  $a_3 = -1$ . We have  $(n+a_1-2) - (\varphi-\gamma) > 0, (n+a_3-1) - (\varphi-\gamma+1) > 0$ . From ④ of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< -(n+a_3-1)(n+a_1-(l_2+1))l_2/2 + \\ &(\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 \leq \\ &-(\varphi-\gamma+1)(n+a_1-2)/2 + \\ &(\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 < 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

Suppose  $a_3 = -2$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} n+a_1+a_2-a_3 &= n+a_1+a_2+a_3-2a_3 = \\ n-(k+3)+4 &= (n-k)+1 \geq 3, \\ n+a_1-2 - (\varphi-\gamma) &\geq -1, \\ (n+a_3-1) - (\varphi-\gamma+1) &\geq -1. \end{aligned}$$

From ④ of Lemma 1.4, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< -(n+a_2+a_3-a_1)\varphi_1/2 - \\ &(n+a_1+a_3-a_2)\varphi_2/2 - \\ &(n+a_1+a_2-a_3)\varphi_3/2 + \\ &(\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 - (3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 - \\ &(n+a_3-1)(n+a_1-2)/2 \leq \\ &-3(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 - (3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 + \\ &(\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 - (\varphi-\gamma-1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 \leq \\ &-3(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 - 2\gamma + (\varphi-\gamma) \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Subcase 1.1.3**  $l_2 = 0$ . Such  $\varphi = \varphi_2$  and  $\gamma = 0$ .

Since  $\bar{\Delta} = -2(k+a_3) - (a_1-a_3)l_1 + (\varphi-\gamma) = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (n+a_1+a_3-a_2) - (\varphi_2+1) &\geq \\ (n+a_1+a_3-a_2) - 2(k+a_3) - 2(a_1-a_3) - 1 &= \\ (n+a_3-a_1-a_2) - 2k - 1 &\geq \\ (k+2) + 2a_3 + (k+3) - 2k - 1 &= 4+2a_3 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

From ① of Lemma 1.4, we have  $\bar{\alpha} < 0$ , contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Subcase 1.2**  $l_1 = 1$ . we consider the following three subcases.

**Subcase 1.2.1**  $l_2 \geq 2$ . Since

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\Delta} &= -(k-3-a_3) - (a_1-a_3)(l_1-1) - \\ &(a_2-a_3)(l_2-1) + \varphi-\gamma = 0, \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$(n+a_2-2) - (\varphi-\gamma) \geq$$

$$\begin{aligned} n+a_2-2 - (k-3-a_3) - (a_2-a_3) &\geq \\ k+2+2a_3+1-k &= 3+2a_3, \\ (n+a_3-1) - (\varphi-\gamma+1) &= \\ (n+a_3-2) - (\varphi-\gamma) &\geq 3+2a_3. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose  $a_3 = -1$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} (n+a_2-2) - (\varphi-\gamma) &> 0, \\ (n+a_3-1) - (\varphi-\gamma+1) &> 0. \end{aligned}$$

By ③ of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< (\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 - \\ &(n+a_3-1)(n+a_2-2)/2 \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

Suppose  $a_3 = -2$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} (n+a_2-2) - (\varphi-\gamma) &> -1, \\ (n+a_3-1) - (\varphi-\gamma+1) &> -1, \\ n+a_1+a_2-a_3 &\geq 3. \end{aligned}$$

From ③ of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< -(n+a_2+a_3-a_1)\varphi_1 - \\ &(n+a_1+a_3-a_2)\varphi_2 - (n+a_1+a_2-a_3)\varphi_3 + \\ &(\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 - (3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 - \\ &(n+a_3-1)(n+a_2-(l_1+1))l_1/2 \leq \\ &-3(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 + (\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 - \\ &(3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 - (\varphi-\gamma)(\varphi-\gamma-1)/2 \leq \\ &-3(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 + (\varphi-\gamma) - 2\gamma \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Subcase 1.2.2**  $l_2 = 1$ . Since  $\bar{\Delta} = -(k-3-a_3) + \varphi-\gamma = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [n+a_2-(l_1+1)]l_1 + \\ [n+a_1-(l_2+1)]l_2 - (\varphi-\gamma) &= \\ 2n+a_1+a_2-4 - (\varphi-\gamma) &\geq \\ 2(k+2) - a_3 - (k+3) - (k-3-a_3) - 4 &= 0, \\ (n+a_3-1) - (\varphi-\gamma) &= \\ (n+a_3-1) - (k-3-a_3) &= \\ n-k+2+2a_3 &\geq 4+2a_3 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $n+a_1+a_2-a_3 = n-(k+3)-2a_3 \geq 1$ , by ② of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< -(n+a_1+a_2-a_3)(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 + \\ &(\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 - (3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 - \\ &(n+a_3-1)[n+a_2-(l_1+1)]l_1/2 - \\ &(n+a_3-1)[n+a_1-(l_2+1)]l_2/2 \leq \\ &-(\varphi_1+\varphi_2+\varphi_3)/2 + (\varphi-\gamma+1)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 - \\ &(3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 - (\varphi-\gamma)(\varphi-\gamma)/2 \leq \\ &-(\varphi-3\gamma)/2 + (\varphi-\gamma)/2 - (3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 = \\ &\gamma - (3\gamma+1)\gamma/2 = -(3\gamma-1)\gamma/2 \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Subcase 1. 2. 3**  $l_2 = 0$ . Such  $\gamma = 0, \varphi = \varphi_2$ .

Since  $m(K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3) - A, 3) = m(K(n-k, n-3, n), 3) = 1$ , we have that the bipartite subgraph  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2) - A_3$  is connected. Hence  $\varphi_2 \leq n+a_1-1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (n+a_1+a_3-a_2) - (\varphi_2+1) &\geq \\ (n+a_1+a_3-a_2) - \\ (n+a_1-1) - 1 &= a_3-a_2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

By ① of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha} &< -(n+a_1+a_3-a_2)\varphi_2/2 + \\ &(\varphi_2+1)\varphi_2/2 \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Subcase 1. 3**  $l_1 = 0$ . Such  $\varphi - \gamma = \varphi_1, \gamma = 0$ .

We consider the following two subcases.

**Subcase 1. 3. 1**  $l_2 \geq 2$ . Since  $\bar{\Delta} = -2(k+a_3) - (a_2-a_3)l_2 + \varphi - \gamma = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (n+a_2+a_3-a_1) - (\varphi_1+1) &\geq \\ (n+a_2+a_3-a_1) - \\ 2(k+a_3) - 2(a_2-a_3) - 1 &= \\ n+a_3-a_1-a_2-2k-1 &= \\ n+(k+3)+2a_3-2k-1 &\geq \\ (k+2)+(k+3)+2a_3-2k-1 &= 4+2a_3 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

By ① of Lemma 1.4, we have

$$\bar{\alpha} < -(n+a_2+a_3+a_1)\varphi_1/2 - (\varphi_1+1)\varphi_1/2 \leq 0,$$

contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Subcase 1. 3. 2**  $l_2 = 1$ . Since that bipartite subgraph  $K(n+a_1, n+a_2) - A_3$  is connected, we have  $\varphi_1 \leq n+a_2-1$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} (n+a_2+a_3-a_1) - (\varphi_1+1) &\geq \\ (n+a_2+a_3-a_1) - \\ (n+a_2-1) - 1 &= a_3-a_1 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

By ① of Lemma 1.4, we have  $\bar{\alpha} < 0$ , contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Case 2**  $a_3 = -3$ .

Similarly  $l_1l_2 + l_1l_3 + l_2l_3 \neq 0$ . Since  $\bar{\Delta} = -(a_1-a_3)l_1 - (a_2-a_3)l_2 + \varphi - \gamma = 0$ , we have  $\varphi - \gamma = 0$ . By ① of Lemma 1.4, we have  $\bar{\alpha} < 0$ , contradicting  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$ .

**Case 3**  $a_3 = 0$ .

By Lemma 1.1, we have  $|A| = a_1a_2 - 3k \geq 0$ . Hence  $a_1a_2 \neq 0$ . Since  $-a_1l_1 \geq 0, -a_2l_2 \geq 0, -a_1l_1 - a_2l_2 + \varphi - \gamma = 0$ , we have  $l_1 = l_2 = 0$ . By Lemma 1.5, we have

$$K(n+a_1, n+a_2, n+a_3) - A \cong$$

$$K(n-k, n-3, n).$$

Hence the complete tripartite graph  $K(n-k, n-3, n)$  is chromatically unique for  $n \geq k+2 \geq 5$ .

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