

1(a). Graph I:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Graph II:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Graph III:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

1(b). In this question, any vector in these spaces can be written as a *linear combination* of the following basis vectors:

Graph I (\mathbf{A}):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Graph I (\mathbf{A}^T): Note that a right null vector of \mathbf{A}^T corresponds to a left null vector of \mathbf{A} (to see this, just take a transpose) which correspond to loops in the graph.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Graph II (\mathbf{A}):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

Graph II (\mathbf{A}^T):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Graph III (\mathbf{A}):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

Graph III (\mathbf{A}^T):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

1(c). The degree matrix \mathbf{D} for each graph:

Graph I

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

Graph II

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

Graph III

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

1(d). The adjacency matrix \mathbf{W} for each graph:

Graph I

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (13)$$

Graph II

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

Graph III

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

1(e). The graph Laplacian is given by $\mathbf{K} \equiv \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{W}$. It is therefore easy to deduce these from the previous answers.

1(f). **Completeness** of graphs can be checked by examining if all nodes are connected to each other.

Graph I: Complete

Graph II: Not complete

Graph III: Complete

2(a). We define incidence matrices of Graph I, II, III to be \mathbf{A}^I , \mathbf{A}^{II} , and \mathbf{A}^{III} , respectively. Because these graphs are disconnected, the incidence matrix \mathcal{A} of this new single graph is

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A}^I & & O \\ & \mathbf{A}^{II} & \\ O & & \mathbf{A}^{III} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (16)$$

where O is short-hand for filling in the rest of the matrix (off the diagonal sub-blocks) with zero elements.

The rank of \mathbf{A}^I , \mathbf{A}^{II} , and \mathbf{A}^{III} is 2, 3, and 3 respectively, so the rank of \mathcal{A} is 8.

2(b). From 1(b), we collect all vectors in the null spaces of \mathbf{A} of each graph I–III and pad them with an appropriate set of zeros (to make up an 11-dimensional vector). The right null vectors of \mathcal{A} are

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

2(c). We define the i -th right null vector of graph j ($j = I, II, III$) as v_i^j ($i = 1, 2, \dots$). For example,

$$v_1^I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad v_1^{II} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad v_1^{III} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (18)$$

Because graphs I, II, and III are disconnected, linearly independent solutions (the left null vectors of \mathcal{A}) are

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1^I \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ \mathbf{O}_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ v_1^{II} \\ \mathbf{O}_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ v_2^{II} \\ \mathbf{O}_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ v_1^{III} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ v_2^{III} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ v_3^{III} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (19)$$

where \mathbf{O}_n denotes a zero vector with n elements. There are 6 of these, in accordance with the rank-nullity theorem ($14 - 8 = 6$).

3(a). We know that the diagonal element of the Laplacian matrix K_{ii} is the number of edges at each node, and the off-diagonal element K_{ij} is -1 if node i is connected to node j , all other elements are zero.

The quickest way to compute the number of zero elements is to count the non-zero elements as follows. Notice that there are 9 nodes and 12 edges. All diagonal elements will be non-zero, and there are 9 of these; each edge produce 2 non-zero elements because a -1 will appear in K_{ij} (for $i \neq j$) as well as in K_{ji} . Hence the total number of non-zero elements is

$$9 + 12 \times 2 = 33. \quad (20)$$

The number of zero elements is therefore

$$81 - 33 = 48. \quad (21)$$

Another argument goes as follows. For each row of \mathbf{K} , corresponding to a given node, the number of zeros in that row is the number of nodes that are **not** connected to the given node by an edge. By the symmetry of this graph there are 3 types of nodes: 4 corner nodes, 4 nodes in the middle of each side, and one central node. Each corner node is **not** connected to 6 other nodes; each middle-side node is **not** connected to 5 other nodes; the central node is **not** connected to 4 nodes. The total number of zeros in the Laplacian is therefore

$$\underbrace{4 \times 6}_{\text{from corner nodes}} + \underbrace{4 \times 5}_{\text{from middle-side nodes}} + \underbrace{1 \times 4}_{\text{from middle node}} = 48. \quad (22)$$

3(b). The degree matrix is the diagonal matrix containing the number of nodes connected to each node. Using the node numbering given in the figure:

$$D_0 = \text{diag}(2, 3, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 2). \quad (23)$$

4. Consider a graph having n nodes and n edges. It must have at least one connected subgraph and hence the graph's n -by- n incidence matrix \mathbf{A} will have a corresponding right null vector with all ones in components corresponding to the nodes in this connected subgraph (and zeros elsewhere) meaning that the rank is $n - 1$ or less. By rank-nullity there must therefore be at least one left null-vector, or equivalently, a vector in the nullspace of \mathbf{A}^T . This corresponds to a loop.

5(a). Graphs **(a)** and **(b)** are connected so the dimension of the right null space of their incidence matrices is 1. Hence the rank of those matrices is 7 (since there are $n = 8$ nodes). For graph **(c)** the graph is disconnected, with two connected components, so the dimension of the right null space of its incidence matrix is 2 making its rank equal to 6 ($= n - 2$).

5(b). The rank-nullity theorem says that the dimension of the left null space of the incidence matrix \mathbf{A} is

$$m - r,$$

where m is the number of rows of \mathbf{A} and r is its rank. We therefore need to compute m for each graph. Graph (a) is connected, and complete, with $n = 8$ nodes; each node is connected to $n - 1 = 7$ other nodes making a total of

$$8 \times 7 = 56 \quad (24)$$

connections but this is *twice* the number of edges (since each one is double counted) hence $m = 28$ for graph (a).

For graph (b) we find $m = 14$ (just by counting).

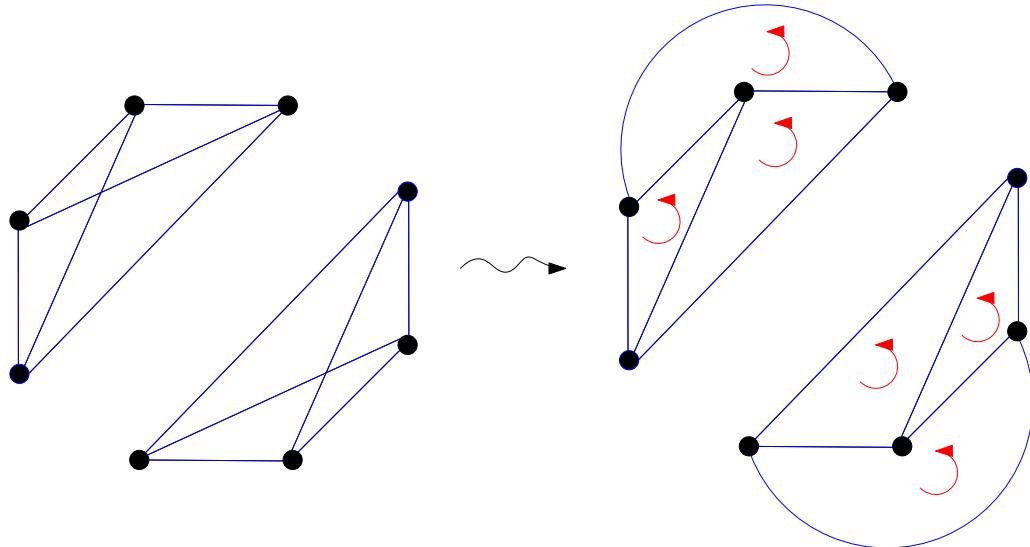
Similarly, for graph (c) we find $m = 12$ (just by counting).

The required dimensions of the left null space are therefore

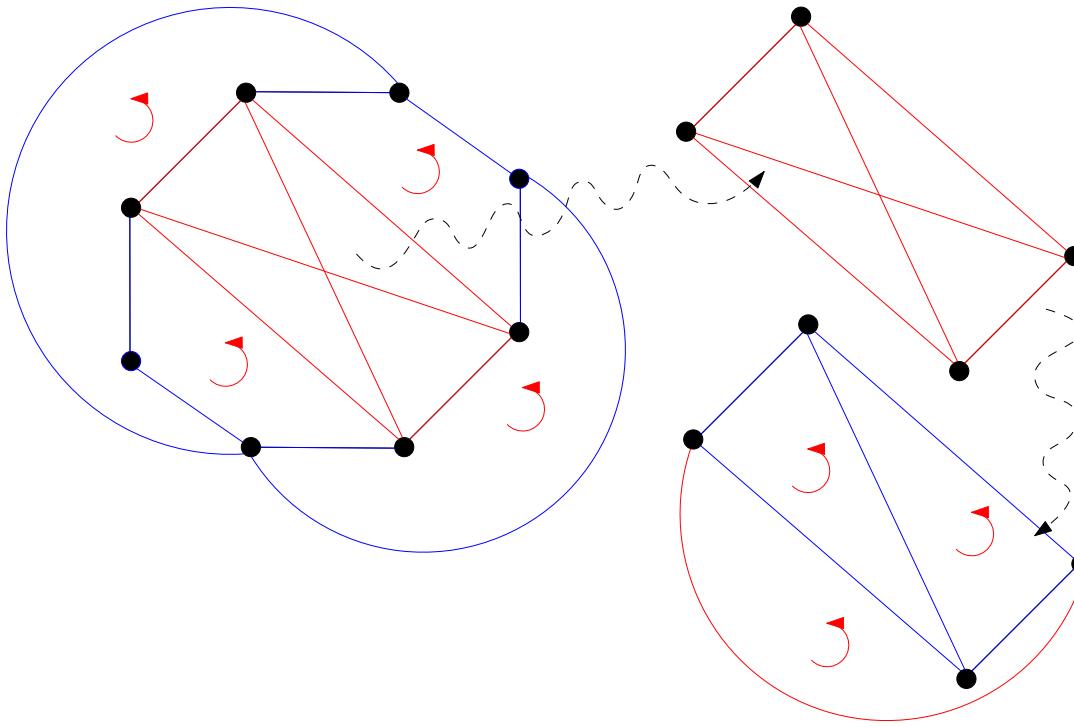
$$\begin{aligned} \text{graph (a)} &: 21 \\ \text{graph (b)} &: 7 \\ \text{graph (c)} &: 6 \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

5(c). We know that elements of the left null space of an incidence matrix correspond to closed loops in a graph. A basis for the left null space can therefore be constructed geometrically by identifying such (independent) loops (with an obvious interpretation of “adding” loops).

It is easiest to start with graph (c) and to redraw the graph as follows so that the choice of the 6 independent loops representing the left null space of the incidence matrix become obvious:



For graph (b) by redrawing as in the following figure (on the left) we can identify a subgraph (shown red) looking like the two subgraph components making up graph (c):



Therefore, the 4 loops shown on the left, together with the 3 loops associated with the subgraph shown on the right, form an independent basis of $4 + 3 = 7$ loops representing the left null space of the incidence matrix.

6. For this question it is useful to note that $\omega^3 - 1 = (\omega - 1)(\omega^2 + \omega + 1) = 0$ and that for $\omega \neq 1$, $\omega^2 + \omega + 1 = 0$.

(a)

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{K} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (26)$$

(b)

$$\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega^n \\ \omega^{2n} \end{pmatrix} = (2 - \omega^n - \omega^{2n}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega^n \\ \omega^{2n} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (27)$$

Therefore, $\lambda_n = 2 - \omega^n - \omega^{2n}$:

$$\lambda_0 = 2 - \omega^0 - \omega^0 = 0, \quad (n = 0), \quad (28)$$

$$\lambda_1 = 2 - \omega - \omega^2 = 3, \quad (n = 1), \quad (29)$$

$$\lambda_2 = 2 - \omega^2 - \omega^4 = 3, \quad (n = 2). \quad (30)$$

(c) For any integer n , $n \geq 0$, we can classify $n = 3k$, $n = 3k + 1$, $n = 3k + 2$. It is easy to check $\lambda_{3k} = \lambda_0$, $\lambda_{3k+1} = \lambda_1$, and $\lambda_{3k+2} = \lambda_2$. Therefore it is only necessary to consider $n = 0, 1, 2$.

(d)

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega \\ \omega^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega^2 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix}. \quad (31)$$

It is easy to check that both $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_0^T \mathbf{x}_1$ and $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_0^T \mathbf{x}_2$ equal zero because $1 + \omega + \omega^2 = 0$. Furthermore,

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1^T \mathbf{x}_2 = 1 + \bar{\omega}\omega^2 + \bar{\omega^2}\omega = 1 + \omega + \frac{1}{\omega} = \frac{1}{\omega}(1 + \omega + \omega^2) = 0, \quad (32)$$

where the relations of $\bar{\omega}\omega = \bar{\omega^2}\omega^2 = 1$ have been used.

7(a). It is easy to check, by direct computation of the characteristic equation, i.e., evaluation of the determinant

$$\det(\mathbf{C} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = \begin{vmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 - \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad (33)$$

that the eigenvalues λ of \mathbf{C} are

$$\lambda_n = 3 - \omega^n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \quad (34)$$

where

$$\omega = e^{2\pi i/3} \quad (35)$$

is a third root of unity. The eigenvector corresponding to $\lambda = 2$ is $(1, 1, 1)^T$; the eigenvector corresponding to $\lambda = 3 - \omega$ is $(1, \omega^2, \omega^4)^T$; the eigenvector corresponding to $\lambda = 3 - \omega^2$ is $(1, \omega, \omega^2)^T$.

(b) The eigenvectors are the same as those of the Laplacian matrix in part 6(b).

(c) Any matrix of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & c & b \\ b & a & c \\ c & b & a \end{pmatrix} \quad (36)$$

has the same eigenvectors (later in the course, we will see why - these are called *circulant matrices*).

8. This question is based on the same idea as question 6 except that the number of nodes, N , in the “ring” of nodes changes from $N = 4$ up to $N = 6$. Students should see a pattern emerging. For example, when $N = 4$, the 4 eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_n = 2 - \omega^n - \omega^{3n}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \quad (37)$$

where $\omega = e^{2\pi i/4}$ and we can use $1 + \omega + \omega^2 + \omega^3 = 0$. The corresponding vectors \mathbf{x}_n (“eigenvectors”) can be verified to be

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega^n \\ \omega^{2n} \\ \omega^{3n} \end{pmatrix} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3. \quad (38)$$

For general N we find

$$\lambda_n = 2 - \omega^n - \omega^{(N-1)n} = 2 - \omega^n - \frac{1}{\omega^n}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1, \quad (39)$$

where $\omega = e^{2\pi i/N}$. The corresponding vectors \mathbf{x}_n (“eigenvectors”) are

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega^n \\ \omega^{2n} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \omega^{(N-1)n} \end{pmatrix} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1. \quad (40)$$

9(a). The general form of \mathbf{K} is the n -by- n matrix

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} n-1 & -1 & -1 & \cdots & \cdots & -1 \\ -1 & n-1 & -1 & \cdots & \cdots & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & n-1 & \cdots & \cdots & -1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ -1 & -1 & \cdots & \cdots & n-1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & \cdots & \cdots & -1 & n-1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (41)$$

(b) Notice that \mathbf{K} can be written

$$\mathbf{K} = n\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J}, \quad (42)$$

where \mathbf{I} is the n -by- n identity matrix and \mathbf{J} is the rank-one n -by- n matrix of all ones:

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (43)$$

By rank-nullity, since \mathbf{J} has rank 1, it has $n - 1$ right null vectors which are easy to work out. They are the following n -dimensional vectors

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \dots, \quad \mathbf{x}_{n-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (44)$$

These satisfy

$$\mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}_j = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, n-1. \quad (45)$$

Moreover the vector

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (46)$$

clearly satisfies

$$\mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}_0 = n\mathbf{x}_0. \quad (47)$$

By (42) the vectors $\{\mathbf{x}_j | j = 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ just found satisfy

$$\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}_0 = (n\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J})\mathbf{x}_0 = n\mathbf{x}_0 - n\mathbf{x}_0 = 0, \quad (48)$$

and

$$\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}_j = (n\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J})\mathbf{x}_j = n\mathbf{x}_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, n-1. \quad (49)$$

Hence we have found the required vectors and associated values of $\lambda = 0, \underbrace{n, n, \dots, n}_{n-1 \text{ times}}$.

(c) The general form of \mathbf{K}_0 is the same as \mathbf{K} except you can remove the last column and row making it now an $(n - 1)$ -by- $(n - 1)$ matrix.

(d) The arguments here are exactly as in part (b). We write

$$\mathbf{K}_0 = n\hat{\mathbf{I}} - \hat{\mathbf{J}}, \quad (50)$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{I}}$ is the $(n - 1)$ -by- $(n - 1)$ identity matrix and $\hat{\mathbf{J}}$ is the rank-one $(n - 1)$ -by- $(n - 1)$ matrix of all ones. Now it can be shown that the modified $(n - 1)$ -dimensional vectors given by

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{n-2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (51)$$

(there are $(n - 2)$ of these) satisfy

$$\hat{\mathbf{J}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, n - 2 \quad (52)$$

and the $(n - 1)$ -dimensional vector

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (53)$$

satisfies

$$\hat{\mathbf{J}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = (n - 1)\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0. \quad (54)$$

Hence these vectors $\{\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j | j = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1\}$ satisfy

$$\mathbf{K}_0\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = (n\hat{\mathbf{I}} - \hat{\mathbf{J}})\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = n\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 - (n - 1)\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0, \quad (55)$$

and

$$\mathbf{K}_0\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j = (n\hat{\mathbf{I}} - \hat{\mathbf{J}})\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j = n\hat{\mathbf{x}}_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, n - 1. \quad (56)$$

We have therefore found the required vectors and associated values of $\lambda = 1, \underbrace{n, n, \dots, n}_{n-2 \text{ times}}$.

- (e) By explicitly computing the inverses of \mathbf{K}_0 for $n = 2, 3, 4$ and spotting a pattern we can guess that, for general n ,

$$\mathbf{K}_0^{-1} = \frac{1}{n} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & \cdots & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (57)$$

and it is easily verified that this is the correct inverse: i.e., check directly that $\mathbf{K}_0 \mathbf{K}_0^{-1} = \mathbf{I}$.