

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

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

where \mathbf{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

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

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

$$\mathbf{v}_1^{\text{I}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_1^{\text{II}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_1^{\text{III}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (18)$$

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

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1^{\text{I}} \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ \mathbf{O}_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{v}_1^{\text{II}} \\ \mathbf{O}_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{v}_2^{\text{II}} \\ \mathbf{O}_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ \mathbf{v}_1^{\text{III}} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ \mathbf{v}_2^{\text{III}} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_3 \\ \mathbf{O}_5 \\ \mathbf{v}_3^{\text{III}} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (19)$$

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).

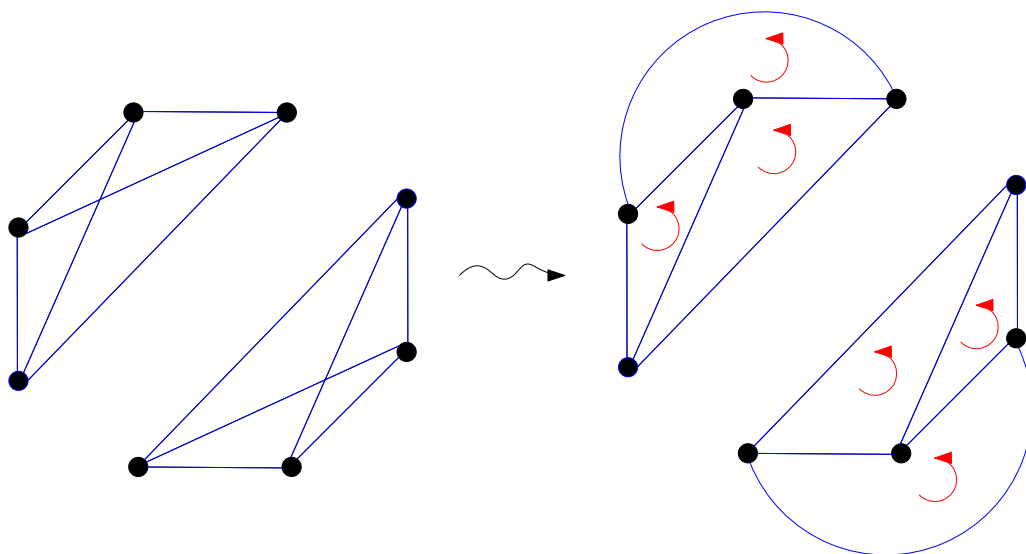
Similarly, for graph **(c)** we find $m = 12$ (just by counting).

The required dimensions of the left null space are therefore

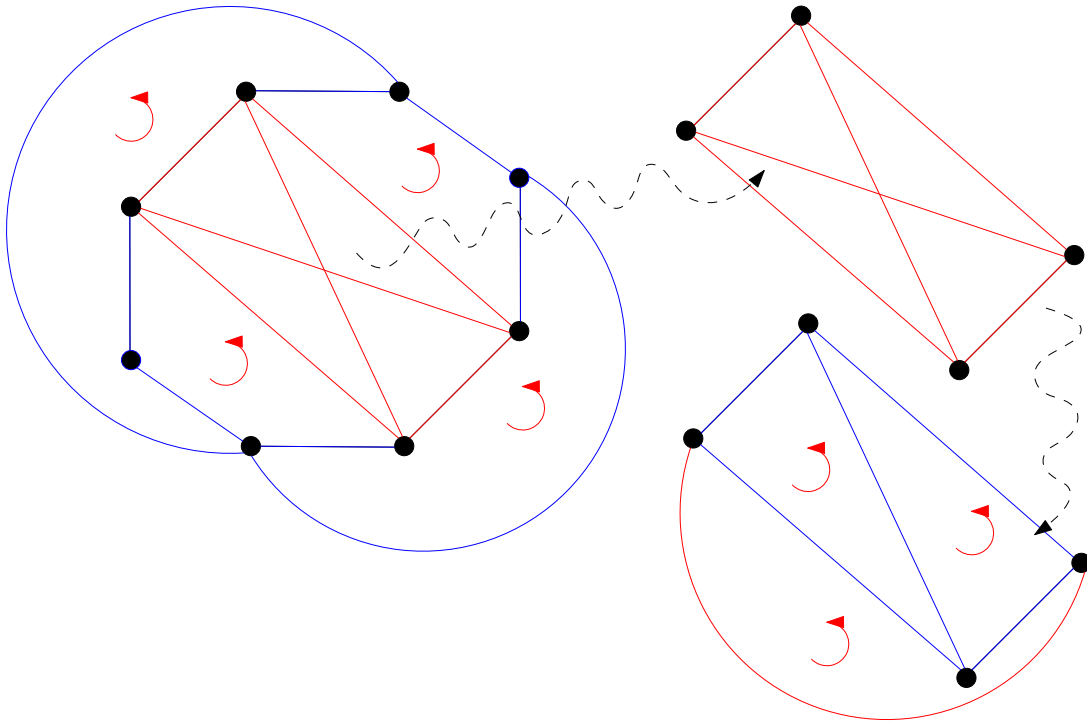
$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{graph (a)} : & 21 \\ \text{graph (b)} : & 7 \\ \text{graph (c)} : & 6 \end{array} \quad (25)$$

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)

$$x_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega \\ \omega^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \omega^2 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix}. \quad (31)$$

It is easy to check that both $\bar{x}_0^T x_1$ and $\bar{x}_0^T x_2$ equal zero because $1 + \omega + \omega^2 = 0$. Furthermore,

$$\bar{x}_1^T x_2 = 1 + \bar{\omega}\omega^2 + \bar{\omega}^2\omega = 1 + \omega + \frac{1}{\omega} = \frac{1}{\omega}(1 + \omega + \omega^2) = 0, \quad (32)$$

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

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

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:

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

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

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

These satisfy

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

Moreover the vector

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

clearly satisfies

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

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

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

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

- (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 $\mathbf{K}_0 \mathbf{K}_0^{-1} = \mathbf{I}$.