# Some results on the complete sigraphs with exactly three non-negative eigenvalues 

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#### Abstract

Let $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$be a complete sigraph of order $n$ whose negative edges induce a subgraph $H$. In this paper, we characterize ( $K_{n}, H^{-}$) with exactly 3 nonnegative eigenvalues, where $H$ is a non-spanning two-cyclic subgraph of $K_{n}$.


Keywords: sigraph, complete graph, two-cyclic graph, non-negative eigenvalues.
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## 1. Introduction

Let $G$ be a simple graph. As usual, $V(G)$ and $E(G)$ denote the set of vertices and the set of edges of $G$, respectively. If $V(G)=\left\{v_{1}, \ldots, v_{n}\right\}$, then $n=|V(G)|$ is called the order of $G$. The set of all neighbors of $v_{i}$ in $G$ is denoted by $N\left(v_{i}\right)$. A pendant vertex is a vertex of degree one. The girth of $G$, denoted by $\operatorname{gr}(G)$, is the order of the shortest cycle contained in $G$. A graph $H$ is a subgraph of $G$ if $V(H) \subseteq V(G)$ and $E(H) \subseteq E(G)$. A subgraph $H$ with $|V(H)| \neq|V(G)|$ is said to be a non-spanning subgraph (briefly, ns-subgraph) of $G$. Also, a subgraph $H$ of $G$ is induced if $E(H)$ contains all edges of $G$ that have both ends in $V(H)$. Let $K_{n}, P_{n}$ and $C_{n}$ denote the complete graph, the path and the cycle of order $n$, respectively. A two-cyclic graph is a connected graph with exactly two cycles.
A pair $\Gamma=(G, \sigma)$ is said to be a signed graph (called also sigraph), where $\sigma: E(G) \rightarrow$ $\{-,+\}$ is a function defined on $E(G)$. The graph $G$ is called the underlying graph of

[^0]$\Gamma$, and $\sigma$ is called the signature. We use $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$to denote a complete sigraph of order $n$ whose negative edges induce a subgraph $H$. If $H$ is a disjoint union of two graphs $H_{1}$ and $H_{2}$, then we denote $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$by $\left(K_{n}, H_{1}^{-} \cup H_{2}^{-}\right)$. Let $A(G)=\left(a_{i j}\right)$ be the adjacency matrix of $G$. The adjacency matrix of a sigraph $\Gamma=(G, \sigma)$ is a matrix $A(\Gamma)=\left(a_{i j}^{\sigma}\right)$, where $a_{i j}^{\sigma}=\sigma\left(v_{i} v_{j}\right) a_{i j}$. The nullity of a graph $G$, denoted by $\mathrm{n}(G)$, is the nullity of $A(G)$. By $\varphi(A)$, we denote the characteristic polynomial of a square matrix $A$. If $\Gamma$ is a sigraph, then we use $\varphi(\Gamma, \lambda)$ instead of $\varphi(A(\Gamma))$. The spectrum of $A(\Gamma)$ is referred to as the spectrum of $\Gamma$. The class of all sigraphs having exactly $r \geq 1$ non-negative eigenvalues (including their multiplicities) is denoted by $\mathcal{L}(r)$. Let $\lambda_{1}>\cdots>\lambda_{s}$ be the distinct eigenvalues of a sigraph $\Gamma$ with the corresponding multiplicities $m_{\Gamma}\left(\lambda_{1}\right), \ldots, m_{\Gamma}\left(\lambda_{s}\right)$. The spectrum of $\Gamma$ is denoted by
\[

\operatorname{Spec} \Gamma=\left($$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\lambda_{1} & \ldots & \lambda_{s} \\
m_{\Gamma}\left(\lambda_{1}\right) & \ldots & m_{\Gamma}\left(\lambda_{s}\right)
\end{array}
$$\right) .
\]

For some recent results on the spectra of sigraphs see [3,5-7, 14, 15].
Let $\Gamma_{1}=(G, \sigma)$ be a sigraph and $S \subset V\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$. If $\Gamma_{2}$ is the sigraph obtained from $\Gamma_{1}$ by reversing the signs of all edges between $S$ and $V\left(\Gamma_{1}\right) \backslash S$, then two graphs $\Gamma_{1}$ and $\Gamma_{2}$ are called switching equivalent, and denoted by $\Gamma_{1} \sim \Gamma_{2}$. If two sigraphs $\Gamma_{1}$ and $\Gamma_{2}$ are switching equivalent, then they are cospectral, see [17].
Characterizing graphs with a few non-negative eigenvalues has received a great deal of attention in literature. In [11-13], the authors characterized all graphs with exactly one or two non-negative eigenvalues. The authors in [9] determined all of the sigraphs $\left(K_{n}, \sigma\right)$ belonging to $\mathcal{L}(1)$ or $\mathcal{L}(2)$. Also, in [9, 10], they provided a characterization of $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$, where $H$ is either a non-spanning tree or a unicyclic ns-subgraph of $K_{n}$. In this paper, we characterize $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$, where $H$ is a two-cyclic ns-subgraph of $K_{n}$. After our Theorem 4, the next natural step toward the complete structural characterization of complete sigraph in $\mathcal{L}(3)$ is to detect all $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$in that set with $H$ being a $\theta$-graph. We plan to attack this problem in a future paper.

## 2. Preliminaries

To prove the main theorem, we need the following results.

Theorem 1. (Interlacing Theorem [8, Theorem 1.3.11]) Let $\Gamma$ be a sigraph with $n$ vertices and eigenvalues $\lambda_{1} \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_{n}$, and let $\Gamma^{\prime}$ be an induced subgraph of $\Gamma$ of order $m$. If $\lambda_{1}^{\prime} \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_{m}^{\prime}$ are the eigenvalues of $\Gamma^{\prime}$, then

$$
\lambda_{n-m+i} \leq \lambda_{i}^{\prime} \leq \lambda_{i} \quad(i=1, \ldots, m) .
$$

Theorem 2. [1, Corollary 1] Let $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$be a complete sigraph and $|V(H)|=t<n$. Then

$$
\varphi(\Gamma, \lambda)=(\lambda+1)^{n-t-1} \varphi\left(\left[\begin{array}{cc}
A\left(K_{t}, H^{-}\right) & (n-t) J_{t \times 1} \\
J_{1 \times t} & n-t-1
\end{array}\right]\right)
$$

and so $m_{\Gamma}(-1) \geq n-t-1$.

Theorem 3. [2, Theorem 3] Let $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$be a complete sigraph and $|V(H)|=t<n$. Then $m_{\Gamma}(-1)=n-t-1+\mathrm{n}(H)$.

Remark 1. Let $H$ be a connected graph and consider the following equivalence relation on the vertex set $V(H)$ : two vertices $v_{i}, v_{j} \in V(H)$ are related if and only if $N\left(v_{i}\right)=N\left(v_{j}\right)$. The corresponding quotient graph $C(H)$ is called the canonical graph of $H$. Let $n_{+}(H)$ and $n_{-}(H)$ denote the numbers of positive and negative eigenvalues of $H$, respectively. By [16, Proposition 1], we know that $n_{+}(H)=n_{+}(C(H))$ and $n_{-}(H)=n_{-}(C(H))$. Thus $\mathrm{n}(H)-\mathrm{n}(C(H))=|V(H)|-|V(C(H))|$. If $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$and $|V(H)|<n$, then by Theorem 3, we conclude that

$$
m_{\Gamma}(-1)=n-1+\mathrm{n}(C(H))-|V(C(H))| .
$$

## 3. Main result

Let $H$ be a two-cyclic ns-subgraph of $K_{n}$. In this section, we characterize $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right) \in$ $\mathcal{L}(3)$. First, we have the next lemma.

Lemma 1. Let $H$ be a two-cyclic ns-subgraph of $K_{n}$, and let $C_{g}$ be a cycle of $H$. If $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$, then $g \in\{3,4\}$.

Proof. If $g \geq 5$, then $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$contains $\left(K_{7}, P_{4}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right)$as an induced subgraph. By a computer search, one can see that

$$
\operatorname{Spec}\left(K_{7}, P_{4}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{ccccccc}
4.01 & 2.24 & 1 & 0.09 & -1.58 & -2.24 & -3.52 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}\right) .
$$

Note that the values in the spectrum are approximate. So $\left(K_{7}, P_{4}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(4)$ and hence by Theorem 1, we deduce that $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(r)$ for some $r \geq 4$, a contradiction.

Let $q \geq 1$ be an integer. Let $H(q)$ be the graph with $q+7$ vertices obtained by two quadrangles sharing a vertex $u_{1}$, by attaching $q$ pendant vertices to $u_{1}$. Note that $C(H(q)) \cong T$, see Figure 1 .


Figure 1. The two-cyclic graph $H(q)$ and its canonical graph $T$.

Now, we prove the main result of the paper.

Theorem 4. Let $\left(K_{n}, \sigma\right)$ be a complete sigraph and $\left(K_{n}, \sigma\right) \sim\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$, where $H$ is a two-cyclic ns-subgraph of $K_{n}$. Then $\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$ if and only if one of the next assertions holds:

1. $H \cong Q_{1}$ for $n=7$ or $H \cong Q_{2}$ for $n>7$ or $H \cong Q_{3}$ for $n>8$, see Fig. 2.
2. $H \cong H(1)$ for $9 \leq n \leq 12$ or $H \cong H(2)$ for $n=10$.

$Q_{1}$

$Q_{2}$


Q3

Figure 2. The two-cyclic graphs $Q_{1}, Q_{2}$ and $Q_{3}$.

Proof. First we consider the following cases:

1. Let $H \cong Q_{1}$, depicted in Figure 2, and $n=7$. By a computer search, we find the spectrum of ( $K_{7}, Q_{1}^{-}$) as follows:

$$
\operatorname{Spec}\left(K_{7}, Q_{1}^{-}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{ccccccc}
3.86 & 2.33 & 1 & -0.02 & -1 & -2.54 & -3.63 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

Hence $\left(K_{7}, Q_{1}^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$.
Now, let $H \cong Q_{2}$, shown in Figure 2 , and $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{2}^{-}\right)$, where $n>7$. Since $\mathrm{n}\left(Q_{2}\right)=3$, by Theorem 3, we have $m_{\Gamma}(-1)=n-5$. The following are the eigenvalues of $\left(K_{8}, Q_{2}^{-}\right)$:

$$
\operatorname{Spec}\left(K_{8}, Q_{2}^{-}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cccccc}
4.46 & 3 & 1.83 & -1 & -2.46 & -3.83 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

So $\left(K_{8}, Q_{2}^{-}\right)$has three positive eigenvalues and two negative eigenvalues smaller than -1 . The sigraph $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{2}^{-}\right)$contains $\left(K_{8}, Q_{2}^{-}\right)$as an induced subgraph, for each $n \geq 8$. By Theorem 1, we conclude that $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{2}^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$, for each $n>7$.

Next, suppose that $H \cong Q_{3}$ (shown in Figure 2) and $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{3}^{-}\right)$, where $n>8$. By Theorem 2, we find that

$$
\varphi(\Gamma, \lambda)=(\lambda+1)^{n-9} \varphi\left(\left[\begin{array}{cc}
A\left(K_{8}, Q_{3}^{-}\right) & (n-8) J_{8 \times 1} \\
J_{1 \times 8} & n-9
\end{array}\right]\right)=(\lambda+1)^{n-7} g(\lambda)
$$

where $g(\lambda)=\lambda^{7}+(7-n) \lambda^{6}+(21-6 n) \lambda^{5}+(21 n-133) \lambda^{4}+(124 n-829) \lambda^{3}+$ $(805-119 n) \lambda^{2}+(3751-502 n) \lambda+217-29 n$. It is easy to check that $g(-1) \neq 0$ and also $g(0)=217-29 n<0$, for each $n>8$. On the other hand, we have $\operatorname{Spec}\left(K_{9}, Q_{3}^{-}\right)$as follows:

$$
\left(\begin{array}{cccccccc}
4.46 & 3.69 & 2.56 & -0.06 & -1 & -1.56 & -2.46 & -4.63 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

Thus $\left(K_{9}, Q_{3}^{-}\right)$contains three positive eigenvalues and three negative eigenvalues smaller than -1 . Since $\left(K_{9}, Q_{3}^{-}\right)$is an induced subgraph of $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{3}^{-}\right)$, by Theorem 1 , we deduce that $\Gamma \in \mathcal{L}(3)$ or $\Gamma \in \mathcal{L}(4)$. If $\lambda_{1}, \ldots, \lambda_{7}$ are the roots of $g(\lambda)$, then $g(0)=-\prod_{i=1}^{7} \lambda_{i}$. Now, $g(0)<0$ yields that $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{3}^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$, for each $n>8$.
2. Let $H \cong H(q)$ and $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H(q)^{-}\right)$, where $m=n-(q+7)>0$. We have $C(H(q)) \cong T$ (cf. Figure 1) and $\mathrm{n}(T)=0$. By Remark 1, we find that

$$
m_{\Gamma}(-1)=n-1+\mathrm{n}(T)-|V(T)|=n-7 .
$$

The spectrum of $\left(K_{9}, H(1)^{-}\right)$is as follows:

$$
\left(\begin{array}{cccccccc}
5.62 & 3.14 & 1.83 & -0.22 & -1 & -1.95 & -2.58 & -3.83 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}\right)
$$

Hence $\left(K_{9}, H(1)^{-}\right)$has 3 positive eigenvalues and 3 negative eigenvalues smaller than -1 . Since $\Gamma$ has $\left(K_{9}, H(1)^{-}\right)$as an induced subgraph, by Theorem 1, $\Gamma \in \mathcal{L}(3)$ or $\Gamma \in \mathcal{L}(4)$. Now, we compute $\varphi(A(\Gamma))$. Suppose that $V(H(q))$ is partitioned into the parts $X_{1}=\left\{u_{1}\right\}, X_{2}=\left\{u_{2}, v_{2}\right\}, X_{3}=\left\{u_{3}, v_{3}\right\}, X_{4}=\left\{u_{4}\right\}$, and $X_{5}=\left\{u_{5}\right\}$, see Fig. 1. Let $X_{6}$ be the set of pendant vertices of $H(q)$ and $X_{7}=V\left(K_{n}\right) \backslash V(H(q))$. Note that $\left|X_{6}\right|=q$ and $\left|X_{7}\right|=m=n-q-7$. If $B$ is the quotient matrix of $A(\Gamma)$ related to the equitable partition $\Gamma=\left\{X_{1}, \ldots, X_{7}\right\}$ of $V(\Gamma)$, then

$$
B=\left[\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & -2 & -2 & 1 & 1 & -q & m \\
-1 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 & q & m \\
-1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 & q & m \\
1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & 1 & q & m \\
1 & 2 & -2 & 1 & 0 & q & m \\
-1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 & q-1 & m \\
1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 & q & m-1
\end{array}\right] .
$$

If $h(\lambda)=\varphi(B)$, then $h(\lambda)=\lambda^{7}+(7-n) \lambda^{6}+(21-6 n) \lambda^{5}+(17 m+9 q+4 m q-$ 6) $\lambda^{4}+(108 m+76 q+16 m q+87) \lambda^{3}+(q-15 m-40 m q+44) \lambda^{2}+(-262 m-166 q-$ $112 m q-99) \lambda+196 m q-105 q-161 m-70$. By [4, Lemma 2.3.1], $h(\lambda)$ divides $\varphi(A(\Gamma))$. A direct check shows that if $h(-1)=0$, then $m q=0$, a contradiction. Hence, $\varphi(\Gamma, \lambda)=(\lambda+1)^{n-7} h(\lambda)$. Since $h(0)=(196 q-161) m-105 q-70$, so if $m<\frac{105 q+70}{196 q-161}$, then $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H(q)^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$. Otherwise, $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H(q)^{-}\right) \in$ $\mathcal{L}(4)$. The function $f(q):=\frac{105 q+70}{196 q-161}$ is strictly decreasing for $q \geq 1$. Moreover, $f(1)=5$ and $f(3)<1<f(2)<2$. This means that only $H(1)$ and $H(2)$ can possibly satisfy the conditions $m<f(q)$ and $m=n-(q+7)>0$. Hence, $\left(K_{n}, H(1)^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$ for $9 \leq n \leq 12$, and $\left(K_{n}, H(2)^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$ for $n=10$.

$G_{1}$

$G_{2}$

$G_{3}$

$G_{4}$

Figure 3. The two-cyclic graphs $G_{1}, G_{2}, G_{3}$ and $G_{4}$.

Conversely, assume that $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(3)$, where $H$ is a two-cyclic ns-subgraph of $K_{n}$. Since two sigraphs $\left(K_{5}, C_{3}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right)$and ( $\left.K_{7}, P_{4}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right)$belong to the class $\mathcal{L}(4)$, so they cannot appear as induced subgraphs of $\Gamma$. By Lemma 1, $H$ has no cycle of length greater than 4. First, suppose that $\operatorname{gr}(H)=3$. It is not difficult to verify that $H \cong Q_{1}$ or one of the graphs $G_{1}, G_{2}, G_{3}$ (shown in Figure 3) is an induced subgraph of $H$, for otherwise the sigraphs $\left(K_{5}, C_{3}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right)$or $\left(K_{7}, P_{4}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right)$ will appear as induced subgraphs of $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, H^{-}\right)$. A direct check shows that the graphs $\left(K_{8}, Q_{1}^{-}\right),\left(K_{6}, G_{1}^{-}\right),\left(K_{8}, G_{2}^{-}\right)$, and $\left(K_{8}, G_{3}^{-}\right)$belong to the class $\mathcal{L}(4)$. Thus $H \cong Q_{1}$ and $n=7$. Next, assume that $\operatorname{gr}(H)=4$. Again, to avoid ( $\left.K_{7}, P_{4}^{-} \cup K_{2}^{-}\right)$ as an induced subgraph, one can deduce that $H \cong Q_{2}$ or $H \cong Q_{3}$ or $H \cong H(q)$ (for some positive integer $q$ ) or the two-cyclic graph $G_{4}$ (shown in Figure 3) is an induced subgraph of $H$. It is easy to check that $\left(K_{9}, G_{4}^{-}\right) \in \mathcal{L}(4)$. As we saw above, if $H \cong H(q)$, then $q=1$ and $9 \leq n \leq 12$ or $q=2$ and $n=10$. Also, the sigraphs $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{2}^{-}\right)$, for each $n>7$, and $\Gamma=\left(K_{n}, Q_{3}^{-}\right)$, for each $n>8$, belong to the class $\mathcal{L}(3)$.

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