Nut Graphs:
Maximally Extending Cores

Irene Sciriha
University of Malta

Ivan Gutman
University of Kragujevac

Keywords: nullity, nullspace, core, periphery, adjoint, nut graphs.

Abstract

A graph $G$ is singular if there is a non-zero eigenvector $v_0$ in the nullspace of its adjacency matrix $A$. Then $Av_0 = 0$. The subgraph induced by the vertices corresponding to the non-zero components of $v_0$ is the core of $G$ (w.r.t. $v_0$). The set whose members are the remaining vertices of $G$ is called the periphery (w.r.t. $v_0$) and corresponds to the zero components of $v_0$. The dimension of the nullspace of $A$ is called the nullity of $G$.

This paper investigates nut graphs which are graphs of nullity one whose periphery is empty. It is shown that nut graphs of order $n$ exist for each $n \geq 7$ and that among singular graphs nut graphs are characterized by their deck of spectra.

1 Introduction

The adjacency matrix $A(G) = A$ of a graph $G$ having vertex set $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n\}$ is an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix $(a_{ij})$ such that $a_{ij} = 1$ if $v_i$ and $v_j$ are adjacent and 0 otherwise. $A$ is also represented by $(R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_n)^T$ where $R_i$ is the $i$th row vector of $A$ corresponding to vertex $v_i$. The rank of a graph $G$, denoted by $r(G)$, is the rank of its adjacency matrix $A$ which is equal to $n(G) - \eta(G)$ where $n(G)$, $\eta(G)$ denote the order of $G$ and the dimension of the nullspace of $A$ (i.e. the nullity of $A$) respectively.

All the graphs we consider are simple (i.e. without multiple edges or loops) and the vertex set is labelled.

A graph $G$ is said to be singular if its adjacency matrix $A$ is a singular matrix. Then there exists a non-zero vector $v_0$ such that $Av_0 = 0$. Thus at least one of the eigenvalues of $A$ is zero. Also $v_0$ is in the nullspace of $A$ (which is the kernel of the linear transformation corresponding to $A$) and is called a kernel eigenvector.

For a graph $G$ of nullity one, the nullspace of $A$ is generated by $v_0$ since its dimension is one. Following [6], the subgraph of $G$ induced by the vertices corresponding to the non-zero components of $v_0$ is called the core $\chi_t$ (sometimes referred to as the support in the literature) with respect to $v_0$, where $t$ is the number of vertices of the core called the core-order.

The set, the members of which are the remaining vertices of $G$, is called the periphery (w.r.t. $v_0$).
In [6], the structural features particular to the 61 singular graphs of nullity one, called minimal configurations, whose periphery induces the empty graph (with no edges) and where $|\mathcal{V}(\chi_t)| \leq 5$, were determined. It would be interesting to study the extent to which the vertices of the core spread through $G$. The indications were that the core is a proper subgraph of $G$. The same result holds for $|\mathcal{V}(\chi_t)| = 6$. However in [1] an example of a graph of core-order 9, where the core is $G$ itself, is given and the question, whether there are other graphs with this property, that are substantially different in structure, is posed.

In this paper such graphs which we call nut graphs (having an empty periphery) are investigated. Certain structural features are studied and new structures presented. Furthermore it is shown that, for each integer $n \geq 7$, nut graphs of order $n$ exist and that among singular graphs, nut graphs are characterized by their deck of spectra.

In related work [8], these results are used to show that for singular graphs the core-orders for which nut graphs occur determine the maximum weight of the vectors in a minimal basis for the nullspace of $A$.

**Definition 1.1** A graph $G$ of order $n$ is a **nut graph** if it is

i) singular with nullity one

ii) none of the components of a kernel eigenvector is zero.

So in a nut graph, $G = \chi_n$ and the periphery $\mathcal{P}$ is empty.

## 2 Structural features of nut graphs

The following lemmas describe five structural features of nut graphs.

**Lemma 2.1** A nut graph $G$ is connected.

**Proof** Let $G$ be a nut graph of order $n$ with adjacency matrix $A$ and with kernel eigenvector $v_0 = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_t, \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_s)^T$. Suppose it is disconnected with 2 components $G_1$ and $G_2$. Then in block form,

\[
A = \begin{pmatrix}
A(G_1) & 0 \\
0 & A(G_2)
\end{pmatrix}, \tag{1}
\]

where $0$ is a zero matrix, and $G_1$ and $G_2$ are the components of $G$ of order $t$ and $s$ respectively.
Now $A(v_0) = 0 \implies A(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_t, 0, \ldots, 0)^T = 0$

and $A(0, \ldots, 0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_s)^T = 0$.

$\implies A$ has at least two linearly independent kernel eigenvectors.

This is a contradiction since a nut graph has nullity one. //

**Lemma 2.2** A nut graph $G$ has no terminal vertices.

**Proof**: Let $u_k$ be a terminal vertex of a nut graph $G$ with adjacency matrix $A$ and kernel eigenvector $v_0 = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n)^T$, $\alpha_i \neq 0$, $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$. Then the corresponding row vector of $A$ is $R_k = (a_{k1}, a_{k2}, \ldots, a_{kn})^T$ where $a_{k,i} = 1$ for exactly one value $i \in 1, 2, \ldots, t$, and zero for the rest. Thus $Av_0 = 0$ implies $\alpha_i = 0$, a contradiction. Thus $R_k$ has at least two non-zero entries so that a core cannot have terminal vertices. //

**Lemma 2.3** A nut graph $G$ is not bipartite.

**Proof**: Let $G$ be a nut graph of order $n$ with kernel eigenvector $v_0 = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_t, \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_s)^T$. Suppose that $G$ is the bipartite graph $G(X, Y, E)$. Then in block form,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix}
O & B_1 \\
B_2 & O
\end{pmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

where $O$ is a zero square matrix, and $B_1$ and $B_2$ describe the edges between $X$ and $Y$.

Now $A(v_0) = 0 \implies A(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_t, 0, \ldots, 0)^T = 0$

and $A(0, \ldots, 0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_s)^T = 0$.

$\implies A$ has at least two linearly independent kernel eigenvectors.

This is a contradiction since a nut graph has nullity one. //

**Lemma 2.4** Let $G$ be a nut graph. A vertex $v \in V(G)$ is not adjacent to just two adjacent vertices which have the same neighbours.

**Proof**: Suppose $v_1$ is adjacent to the two vertices $v_2$ and $v_3$ which are adjacent and have the same neighbours. Then by applying relation $Av_0 = 0$, it follows that $\alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = 0$, a contradiction. Hence this configuration is inadmissible. //
Lemma 2.5 Let $G$ be a nut graph. None of the vertex deleted subgraphs $G - v$ is $K_{n-1}$.

Proof: Suppose that the one vertex-deleted subgraphs of the nut graph $G$, say $G - v_n$, is the complete graph $K_{n-1}$. Further suppose that $v_n$ has valency $\rho$, $1 \leq \rho \leq n - 1$. Without loss of generality, it may be assumed that $v_n$ is adjacent to the vertices $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_\rho$. Then the adjacency matrix of $G$ is of the form

$$
A = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 1 & 1 & \ldots & 1 & a_{1n} \\
1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \ldots & 1 & a_{2n} \\
1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \ldots & 1 & a_{3n} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \ldots & 1 & a_{nn} \\
\end{pmatrix}, \tag{3}
$$

where $a_{1n} = a_{2n} = \ldots = a_{nn} = 0$ and $a_{\rho+1,n} = a_{\rho+2,n} = \ldots = a_{nn} = 0$.

Then if $v_0 = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n)^T$, $\alpha_i \neq 0$, $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, the first $\rho$ rows in the matrix equation $Av_0 = 0$ are

$$
\alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \ldots + \alpha_\rho + \alpha_{\rho+1} + \ldots + \alpha_n = 0
$$

$$
\alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \ldots + \alpha_\rho + \alpha_{\rho+1} + \ldots + \alpha_n = 0
$$

$$
\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_4 + \ldots + \alpha_\rho + \alpha_{\rho+1} + \ldots + \alpha_n = 0
$$

$$
\vdots
$$

$$
\vdots
$$

Hence

$$
\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = \ldots = \alpha_\rho. \tag{4}
$$

The last row in the matrix equation $Av_0 = 0$ is

$$
\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \ldots + \alpha_{\rho-1} + \alpha_{\rho+1} + \ldots + \alpha_n = 0
$$

From (5) and (6) it follows that $\alpha_i = 0, i = 1, 2, \ldots, \rho$. Hence, some of the components of the kernel eigenvector $v_0$ are zero, a contradiction since $G$ is a nut graph. //

3 Small Nut Graphs

Theorem 3.1 Let $G$ be a nut graph. Then $\omega(G) \geq 7$ and the number of edges $m$ is at least 8. There is only one nut graph with 7 vertices and 8 edges.

Proof: The graphs of order less than 7 that have nullity one, that are connected, non-bipartite and without terminal vertices are as follows [2, 3]:

- 1 of order 4,
• 2 of order 5 and
• 17 of order 6.

By direct checking, it is established that each of these graphs has core number less than the order of the graph and so is not a nut graph.

Let $G$ be a nut graph of order $n \geq 7$. Since it is connected $m \geq n - 1$. Equality is ruled out since connected graphs with $n - 1$ edges are trees which have terminal vertices.

Suppose now that $m = n$. Then $G$ is a circuit (which is not a nut graph) or has terminal vertices. Hence $m > n$.

Among the graphs of order 7 with 8 edges, 4 have nullity one. Of these 4 graphs, only the graph $X_1$ shown in Fig. 1 is a nut graph. Thus this graph is the smallest nut graph. This completes the proof. //

Theorem 3.2 There are 3 nut graphs of order 7 shown in Fig.1.

4 Construction of larger nut graphs

4.1 Inserting 4 vertices into an edge of a nut graph

Starting with a nut graph $G$ with 2 adjacent vertices $u$, $v$, a larger nut graph $G'$ is constructed by inserting 4 vertices $a, b, c, d$ in the edge $uv$, as shown in Fig.2. The components of a kernel eigenvector of $G'$ corresponding to the vertices $u, a, b, c, d, v$ of the subgraph $P_6$ taken in order are $f(u), f(v), -f(u), -f(v), f(u), f(v)$ where $f(u)$ and $f(v)$ are the components, corresponding to the vertices $u$ and $v$, respectively, of a kernel eigenvector $v_0$ of $G$. The components corresponding to the vertices of $G$ remain unchanged.

Lemma 4.1 The graph $G'$ just constructed is a nut graph.
Proof: That the constructed graph has nullity one can be seen by row reduction of the adjacency matrix. In nut graph $G$, two adjacent vertices joined by an edge $e$ into which 4 vertices are inserted to form $G^*$. Then

$$A(G) = \begin{pmatrix} A_{n-2} & \vdots & c_1 & c_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \cdots & r_1 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\ \cdots & r_2 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where the last two rows and columns correspond to the vertices $u$ and $v$. If in $A(G^*)$ the last 4 rows and columns correspond to the 4 inserted vertices then

$$A(G^*) = \begin{pmatrix} A_{n-2} & \vdots & c_1 & c_2 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \cdots & r_1 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdots & r_2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The following elementary matrix operations that leave the rank unchanged are performed in order.

The rows $R_{n+1}$ and $R_{n+2}$ are interchanged. This is followed by the interchange of rows $R_{n+3}$ and $R_{n+4}$.

The $(n + 4)$th row is replaced by $R_{n+4} - R_{n+2}$.

The $(n + 4)$th column is replaced by $C_{n+1} - C_{n+2}$.

The $(n + 1)$th row is replaced by $R_{n+1} - R_{n+3}$.

The $(n - 1)$th row is replaced by $R_{n-1} - R_{n+1}$.

So $A(G^*)$ is now

$$A(G^*) = \begin{pmatrix} A_{n-2} & \vdots & c_1 & c_2 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \cdots & r_1 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdots & r_2 & \cdots & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
In block form this is
\[
\begin{pmatrix}
A_n & 0 \\
0 & I_4
\end{pmatrix}
\]
where 0 is a zero square matrix, \(I_4\) is the identity matrix of order 4 and \(A_n\) denotes the rows and columns of \(A(G)\).

It is clear that the rank of \(A(G^*)\) is 4 more than the rank of \(A(G)\). Thus the nullity of \(G^*\) is one and so \(G^*\) is a nut graph.

### 4.2 Addition of one vertex

Starting with a nut graph \(G\) with a kernel eigenvector \(v_0 = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n)^T\), a vertex \(v\) is added joining a set of vertices \(I\) such that the sum of their corresponding \(\alpha_i\) vanishes. Another vertex \(u\) of \(G\) which is not adjacent to any of the vertices of \(I\) is joined to each vertex of \(I\).

This construction, is shown in Fig. 3 for \(|I| = 2\). If the nullity of the constructed graph \(G'\) is one then a nut graph \(G'\) of order \(\circ(G) + 1\), is produced such that the components of the kernel eigenvector corresponding to the vertex \(v\) is equal but of opposite sign to that of \(u\), whereas the components corresponding to the other vertices remain unchanged.

Starting with \(N_1 = X_1\) shown in Fig.1, \(N_2\) is constructed by joining each of the vertices \(v_3\) and \(v_8\) to \(v_1\) and to \(v_2\). A nut graph of order 8 is obtained. A nut graph \(N_3\) of order 9 is constructed by starting with \(N_2\) and joining each of the vertices \(v_4\) and \(v_9\) to \(v_2\) and to \(v_8\). A nut graph \(N_4\) of order 10 is constructed by starting with \(N_3\) and joining each of the vertices \(v_3\) and \(v_{10}\) to \(v_8\) and to \(v_9\).

The 4 nutgraphs \(N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4\) will be used in the proof to show for which orders nut graphs exist.

Repeating the procedure for constructing \(N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4\), another nut graph \(N_5\) of order 11 is constructed by starting with \(N_4\) and joining each of the vertices \(v_4\) and \(v_{11}\) to \(v_9\) and to \(v_{10}\). However, starting with \(N_5\) and joining each of the vertices \(v_3\) and \(v_{12}\) to \(v_{10}\) and to \(v_{11}\) does not yield a nut graph since the graph produced has nullity 2.
4.3 Inserting 2 vertices in an isthmus of a nut graph

Let $G$ be a nut graph (with kernel eigenvector $v_0$) whose edge $e = uv$ is an isthmus such that $G - e$ has 2 disjoint components $B_s$, $E_t$. The graph $G^a$, shown in Fig.4, is constructed by inserting 2 vertices $a, b$ in the edge $uv$. Then $G^a$ is a nut graph. The components of a kernel eigenvector of $G^a$ corresponding to the vertices of $P_4$ taken in order are $f(u), f(v), -f(u), -f(v)$ where $f(u)$ and $f(v)$ are the components of $v_0$ corresponding to the vertices $u$ and $v$, respectively.

The $s$ components corresponding to the vertices of $B_s$ remain unchanged while the $t$ components corresponding to the vertices of $E_t$ change sign.

\[
A(G) = \begin{pmatrix}
B_s & 0 \\
0 & 1 \\
\vdots & \vdots \\
0 & E_t
\end{pmatrix},
\]

and let the corresponding eigenvector be denoted by $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_s, \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_t)$, so that the rows $R_s$ and $R_{s+1}$ represent vertices $u$ and $v$ respectively.

The adjacency matrix of $G^a$ is then

\[
A(G^a) = \begin{pmatrix}
B_s & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix},
\]

where the last 2 rows and columns correspond to the vertices $a, b$. By row and column reduction the rank of $A(G^a)$ is the same as that of
which has an eigenvector $v' = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_s, -\beta_1, -\beta_2, \ldots, -\beta_t, 0, 0)$, so that $\eta(G^a) \geq 1$. Now suppose $\eta(G^a) > 1$. Then there is another eigenvector $v''$ of $D$ linearly independent of $v'$.

There are 3 possibilities:

1) $v''$ has no components corresponding to $R_s$ and to $R_{s+1}$. This would imply that $B_s$ is singular so that $G$ would not be of nullity one: a contradiction.

2) $v''$ has no component corresponding to $R_{s+1}$ but has one corresponding to $R_s$. This would imply that $C_t$ is singular so that $G$ would not be of nullity one: a contradiction.

3) $v''$ has components corresponding to $R_s$ and to $R_{s+1}$. The equations $Dv' = 0$ and $Dv'' = 0$ would imply that $B_s$ or $C_t$ is singular so that $G$ would not be of nullity one: a contradiction. Thus $\eta(G^a) = 1$.

### 4.4 Triangle and pentagon joined by an odd path

![Fig.5](image-url)

If $C_3$ and $C_5$ are joined by an odd path $P_s$ for $s \geq 3$, then the resulting graph is a nut graph $H_s$ with the components of the kernel eigenvector corresponding to the vertices of valency 2 of the path following the pattern $-2, 1, 2, -1 - 2, 1, \ldots$ as shown in Fig. 5. It is noted that given $H_s$ the addition of two vertices as in section 4.3 to obtain $H_{s+2}$ increases the rank of $A(H_s)$ by 2 so that the nullity remains one.

### 4.5 A Circuit $C_n$ surrounded by $n$ triangles

Let $C_n$ be the circuit on $n$ vertices and let a copy of $C_3$ be attached to each vertex of $C_n$. The resulting graph is of order $3n$. This construction is given in [1]. The smallest member of this class is illustrated in Fig.6.
It is now shown that this construction yields nut graphs. The adjacency matrix of such a graph $G$ of order $3n$ can be written as

$$A(G) = \begin{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
C_n
\end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & \cdots & \ddots & \cdots & \ddots & \cdots \\
\vdots & \cdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\
0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & 1 & 1
\end{pmatrix}
\end{pmatrix},$$

where $C_n$ represents the rows and columns of $C_n$. (The horizontal lines in the matrix were introduced to render the pattern of the entries more obvious).

Using elementary row and column operations a matrix $L$ of the same rank as $A(G)$ is obtained.

$$L = \begin{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
I_{3n-1}
\end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix}
\pm 1 \\
\vdots \\
\pm 1
\end{pmatrix} \\
0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{pmatrix}.$$

5 Order of nut graphs

Theorem 5.1 There exist nut graphs of order $n$ for each $n \geq 7$.

Proof:

The 4 nutgraphs $N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4$ (constructed in section 4.2) and the constant value of the nullity on inserting 4 vertices (proved in section 4.1) ensure that there are nut graphs for all $n \geq 7$.//
This result is the basis of the study of the maximum weight of the vectors in a minimal basis for the nullspace of the adjacency matrix of a singular graph in [8, 9].

6 Deck of spectra of nut graphs

Let \( \text{Adj}(A) \) denote the adjoint of \( A \), which is the matrix \( (A_{ij}) \) where \( A_{ij} \) is the cofactor corresponding to \( a_{ij} \) of \( A \).

**Lemma 6.1** Let \( G \) be a singular graph with adjacency matrix \( A \). If \( u_i = (A_{i1}, \ldots, A_{in}) \) is a non-zero row vector of \( \text{Adj}(A) \), then \( u_i^T \) is a kernel eigenvector.

**Proof:** The result follows since \( \text{Det}(A) = 0 \), and therefore \( \forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \),

\[
A = \begin{pmatrix}
A_{i1} & 0 \\
A_{i2} & 0 \\
A_{i3} & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots \\
A_{in} & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(6)

**Lemma 6.2** Let \( G \) be a graph with adjacency matrix \( A \).

Then \( \eta = 1 \Rightarrow \text{rank} (\text{Adj}(A)) = 1 \).

**Proof:** It is shown that each row of \( \text{Adj}(A) \) is a multiple of a non-zero row of \( \text{Adj}(A) \). If \( \eta(G) = 1 \) then \( r(G) = \omega(G) - 1 \) and the determinant of at least one submatrix of order \( n - 1 \) of \( A \) is not zero. So at least one row vector of the adjoint of \( A \) is not zero. By Lemma 1, every non-zero row vector of \( \text{Adj}(A) \) is a kernel eigenvector and is unique (up to multiples), since the nullspace of \( G \) has dimension one. //

**Lemma 6.3** For \( \eta = 1 \) the one-dimensional nullspace of \( A \) is generated by

\( u_k = (A_{k1}, \ldots, A_{kn}) \), any non-zero row vector of the adjoint.

**Proof:** This follows from Lemmas 1 and 2 since the non-zero rows of the adjoint are multiples of each other. //

**Theorem 6.1** A nut graph has a deck of nonsingular vertex-deleted subgraphs.

**Proof:** Let \( G \) be a nut graph with adjacency matrix \( A \) and adjoint \( \text{Adj}(A) = (A_{ij}) \). Since \( \eta = 1 \), \( \text{rank}(\text{Adj}(A)) = 1 \). The core of \( G \) is \( \chi_n \). So there exists \( k \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) such that,

\( u_k^T = (A_{k1}, A_{k2}, \ldots, A_{kn})^T \) is a kernel eigenvector no component of which is zero. Since \( \text{Adj}(A) \)
is symmetrical, each row is non-zero and a rational multiple of \( u_k \). Thus \( A_{ki} \neq 0 \), \( \forall i, k \). Hence each diagonal entry \( A_{ii} \) of \( \text{Adj}(A) \) is non-zero. On the other hand \( A_{ii} \) is equal to the determinant of the adjacency matrix of the vertex-deleted subgraph \( G - v_i \). The determinant of the adjacency matrix of a singular graph is equal to zero. Thus none of the vertex-deleted subgraphs of \( G \) is singular. //

\textbf{Theorem 6.2} A graph with nullity one having a deck of nonsingular vertex-deleted subgraphs is a nut graph.

\textbf{Proof:} Let \( G \) be a graph with adjacency matrix \( A \) and adjoint \( \text{Adj}(A) = (A_{ij}) \). The determinant of a vertex-deleted subgraph \( G - v_i \) of \( G \) is \( A_{ii} \) which is therefore non-zero. Hence every row of the adjoint is a non-zero vector. By Lemma 6.1, every non-zero row of the adjoint is a kernel eigenvector of \( G \). Because \( \eta(G) = 1 \), all rows of the adjoint are rational multiples of each other by Lemma 6.2. Hence each entry of \( \text{Adj}(A) \) is non-zero and therefore all components of a kernel eigenvector in the one-dimensional nullspace of \( A \) are non-zero. //

From Theorems 6.1 and 6.2 the following results are deduced:

\textbf{Theorem 6.3} If a graph \( G \) has nullity one, then \( G \) is a nut graph if and only if none of the spectra in the deck of spectra of \( G \) has a zero eigenvalue.

\textbf{Corollary 6.1} If a graph \( G \) has a deck of nonsingular vertex-deleted subgraphs, then \( G \) is either non-singular or is a nut graph.

Finally Theorem 6.1 is applied to deduce another structural feature of nut graphs.

\textbf{Lemma 6.4} If \( e \) is an edge of the nut graph \( G \) such that \( G - e \) has two disjoint components \( A, B \), then neither \( A \) nor \( B \) is bipartite.

\textbf{Proof} Let \( e = uv \), such that \( u \) is a vertex of \( A \) and \( v \) is a vertex of \( B \). Suppose that \( B \) is bipartite. Then \( B \) is a component of \( G - u \), whereas \( B - v \) is a component of \( G - v \). Either \( B \) or \( B - v \) possesses an odd number of vertices; hence either \( B \) or \( B - v \) is singular. Therefore either \( G - u \) or \( G - v \) is singular. Therefore, by Theorem 6.1, \( G \) is not a nut graph. //

It is observed that this property agrees with the structure of the nut graphs in sections 4.3 and 4.4.

7 \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Coefficient of } \lambda

In [7] it is proved that, for a graph \( G \) with nullity one, the square of the norm of the principal kernel eigenvector \( v_0 \) (the one with integral components the g.c.d. of which is one) divides \( L \),
the coefficient of $\lambda$ in the characteristic polynomial of $A(G)$. A minimal configuration is a
singular graph with nullity one, the periphery of which induces the empty graph and where the
deletion of a vertex of the periphery increases the nullity. A conjecture was presented which
said that for a minimal configuration, examples of which are shown in Fig.7, $|L| = ||v_0||^2$. Nut
graphs are minimal configurations and counter examples to the above conjecture are found
among nut graphs. In fact for nut graph $N_1$, $mf = \frac{|L|}{||v_0||^2} = 1$ but for nut graphs $N_2$, $N_3$, $N_4$
and $N_5$, $mf = \frac{|L|}{||v_0||^2} \neq 1$. Indeed the investigation of the significance of $mf$ is still an open
problem.

8 Acknowledgement:

The second author (I. G.) thanks the Mathematical Institute in Belgrade for financial support.

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