

Suppose that

$$M_n = (2 \min\{i, j\} - 1)_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 & \cdots & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 5 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$T_n = \det(xI_n - M_n)$ be the characteristic polynomial of M_n . We have

$$\begin{aligned} T_n &= (-1)^n \det \begin{pmatrix} 1-x & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3-x & 3 & \cdots & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 5-x & \cdots & 5 & 5 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-3-x & 2n-3 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-3 & 2n-1-x \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (-1)^n \det \begin{pmatrix} 1-x & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3-x & 3 & \cdots & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 5-x & \cdots & 5 & 5 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-3-x & 2n-3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & x & 2-x \end{pmatrix} \\ &= -x(-1)^n \det \begin{pmatrix} 1-x & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3-x & 3 & \cdots & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 5-x & \cdots & 5 & 5 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-5-x & 2n-5 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-5 & 2n-3 \end{pmatrix} + (x-2)T_{n-1} \\ &= -x(-1)^n \left(\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-x & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3-x & 3 & \cdots & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 5-x & \cdots & 5 & 5 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-5-x & 2n-5 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-5 & 2n-3-x \end{pmatrix} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \det \begin{pmatrix} 1-x & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3-x & 3 & \cdots & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 5-x & \cdots & 5 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-5-x & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & \cdots & 2n-5 & x \end{pmatrix} \right) + (x-2)T_{n-1} \\ &= xT_{n-1} - x^2T_{n-2} + (x-2)T_{n-1} = (2x-2)T_{n-1} - x^2T_{n-2}, \quad n \geq 2, \end{aligned}$$

with $T_0 = 1$, $T_1 = x - 1$, so

$$T_n = \frac{(x - 1 + i\sqrt{2x - 1})^n + (x - 1 + i\sqrt{2x - 1})}{2},$$

and

$$T_n \left(\frac{1}{1 + \cos \theta} \right) = \frac{(-1)^n ((\cos \theta - i \sin \theta)^n + (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n)}{2(1 + \cos \theta)^n} = \frac{(-1)^n \cos n\theta}{(1 + \cos \theta)^n}, \quad \forall \theta \in [0, \pi),$$

from which we deduce that

$$T_n \left(\frac{1}{1 + \cos \frac{(2k - 1)\pi}{2n}} \right) = 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Since T_n is a polynomial of degree n as the characteristic polynomial of an $n \times n$ matrix, we conclude that the n roots of T_n are $\frac{1}{1 + \cos \frac{(2k - 1)\pi}{2n}}$, $k = 1, \dots, n$.