

# Jordan Normal Form.

2022. 11. 15

- Let  $K$  be any field ( $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$ , or  $\mathbb{F}_q$ ).
- Let  $V$  be a finite ~~to~~ dim v.s. over  $K$ .

Let  $T: V \rightarrow V$  be a linear operator on  $V$ .  
we want to classify  $T$  up to "similarity transf"

We say  $T$  and  $\tilde{T}$  are similar, if  $\exists V \xrightarrow{C} V$   
invertible transformation, such that  $T = C \cdot \tilde{T} \cdot C^{-1}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{T} & V \\ C \downarrow \cong & & \cong \downarrow C \\ V & \xrightarrow{\tilde{T}} & V \end{array}$$

In other words, we want to find a nice basis of  $V$ ,  
such that  $T$  "looks as diagonal as possible".

- characteristic polynomial on  $T: V \rightarrow V$ .  $n = \dim_K V$   
 $\det(\lambda \cdot I - T) = \lambda^n + p_1 \cdot \lambda^{n-1} + \dots + p_n$ .

┌ determinant for a linear operator  $A: V \rightarrow V$ :

- pick any basis  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  of  $V$ ,  
then  $A$  become a matrix, such that

$$A e_i = A_{i1} e_1 + \dots + A_{in} e_n.$$

$$\det(A) := \det([A]) \quad [A] \text{ matrix with entries}$$

$A_{ij}$

- if we choose a different basis, say  $\tilde{e}_1, \dots, \tilde{e}_n$ . Then the corresponding matrix

$$[\tilde{A}] = C [A] \cdot C^{-1}$$

thus  $\det([\tilde{A}]) = \det(C \cdot [A] \cdot C^{-1})$

$$= \det(C) \cdot \det([A]) \cdot \det(C^{-1})$$

$$= \det(C) \cdot \det(C)^{-1} \cdot \det([A])$$

$$= \det([A]).$$

- Assume  $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{K}$  is a root of the characteristic polynomial, i.e.,  $\det(\lambda_0 I - T) = 0$ .

- If  $x \in V$  satisfies

$$T \cdot x = \lambda_0 \cdot x$$

and  $x \neq 0$ , then we say  $x$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda_0$ .

- $\ker(\lambda_0 I - T)$  : **eigenspace** of  $T$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda_0$ .  
 $= \{x \in V \mid Tx = \lambda_0 x\}$ .

- root space (or generalized eigenspace) of eigenvalue  $\lambda_0$ .

Consider  $T - \lambda_0 I: V \rightarrow V$ .  
 and its power  $(T - \lambda_0 I)^2, (T - \lambda_0 I)^3, \dots$

if  $(T - \lambda_0 I)^k \cdot x = 0$ , then.  
 $(T - \lambda_0 I)^{k+1} x = (T - \lambda_0 I) \cdot \underbrace{(T - \lambda_0 I)^k \cdot x}_= 0 = 0$

$$\ker(T - \lambda_0) \subset \ker((T - \lambda_0)^2) \subset \dots \\ \subset \ker((T - \lambda_0)^k) \subset \ker((T - \lambda_0)^{k+1}) \subset \dots$$

Since they are all subspaces of  $V$ , and  $V$  is finite dimensional, we know for certain  $m$ ,

$$W_{\lambda_0} := \ker((T - \lambda_0)^m) = \ker((T - \lambda_0)^{m+1}) = \dots$$

$\uparrow$  root space for  $\lambda_0$ .

$$U_{\lambda_0} := \text{im}((T - \lambda_0)^m)$$

Lemma : •  $W_{\lambda_0}$  and  $U_{\lambda_0}$  are  $T$ -invariant.  
 •  $W_{\lambda_0} \cap U_{\lambda_0} = \{0\}$ .  
 •  $V = W_{\lambda_0} \oplus U_{\lambda_0}$ .

Pf : • If  $v \in W_{\lambda_0}$ , then  $(T - \lambda_0)^m \cdot v = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 (T - \lambda_0 I)^m (Tv) &= T \cdot (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot v = 0 \\
 \Rightarrow Tv &\in W_{\lambda_0}
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $v \in U_{\lambda_0}$ , then  $\exists \tilde{v} \in V$ , s.t.  
 $v = (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot \tilde{v}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Then } Tv &= T \cdot (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot \tilde{v} \\
 &= (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot (T\tilde{v}).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore Tv \in U_{\lambda_0}.$$

②. Suppose  $0 \neq v \in U_{\lambda_0} \cap W_{\lambda_0}$ , then.

$$v = (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot \tilde{v}$$

$$\text{and } (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot v = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot (T - \lambda_0 I)^m \cdot \tilde{v} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{v} \in \ker((T - \lambda_0 I)^{2m}) \text{ but}$$

$$\tilde{v} \notin \ker((T - \lambda_0 I)^m)$$

this contradicts with  $\ker((T - \lambda_0 I)^m) = \ker((T - \lambda_0 I)^{m+1})$   
 $= \dots$

Thus,  $\{0\} = U_{\lambda_0} \cap W_{\lambda_0}$ .

③. Recall for any lin map

$$A: V_1 \rightarrow V_2,$$

$$\text{we have } \dim V_1 = \dim \ker A + \dim \text{im} A.$$

apply this to

$$\cdot (T - \lambda_0 I)^m: V \rightarrow V$$

we get

$$\dim V = \dim W_{\lambda_0} + \dim U_{\lambda_0}.$$

- Recall that for any 2 vector subspaces  $V_1, V_2 \subset V$ ,

we have

$$\dim (V_1 + V_2) = \dim V_1 + \dim V_2 - \dim (V_1 \cap V_2).$$

Thus, 
$$\dim (W_{\lambda_0} + U_{\lambda_0}) = \dim W_{\lambda_0} + \dim U_{\lambda_0} - \underbrace{\dim (W_{\lambda_0} \cap U_{\lambda_0})}_{= 0 \text{ by } \textcircled{1}}.$$

- Thus  $W_{\lambda_0} + U_{\lambda_0} \subset V$   
and  $\dim (W_{\lambda_0} + U_{\lambda_0}) = \dim V$   
Hence  $V = W_{\lambda_0} + U_{\lambda_0}$   
 $= W_{\lambda_0} \oplus U_{\lambda_0}. \quad \#$

Assume  $\det(\lambda I - T) = (\lambda - \lambda_1)^{m_1} \cdots (\lambda - \lambda_r)^{m_r}$

Lemma:  $V = W_{\lambda_1} \oplus W_{\lambda_2} \oplus \cdots \oplus W_{\lambda_r}.$

Pf:  $V = W_{\lambda_1} \oplus U_{\lambda_1}$  by prev lemma.  
 $W_{\lambda_1} = \ker((T - \lambda_1)^{N_1}), U_{\lambda_1} = \text{im}((T - \lambda_1)^{N_1})$

claim:  $W_{\lambda_2}, \dots, W_{\lambda_r} \subset U_{\lambda_1}.$

indeed, if we consider

$$T - \lambda_1 \cdot I \text{ restricted to } W_{\lambda_2}.$$

it preserves  $W_{\lambda_2}$ . And  $\forall v \in W_{\lambda_2}$ ,

$(T - \lambda_1)v \neq 0$ , (if  $Tv = \lambda_1 v$ , then

$(T - \lambda_2)^{N_2} v = (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^{N_2} \cdot v \neq 0$ , contradiction).

Thus  $T - \lambda_1|_{W_{\lambda_2}}$  is invertible.

$(T - \lambda_1)^{N_1}|_{W_{\lambda_2}}$  is invertible,

$$W_{\lambda_2} = (T - \lambda_1)^{N_1}(W_{\lambda_2}) \subset (T - \lambda_1)^{N_1}(V) = U_{\lambda_1}$$

This claim shows  $W_{\lambda_i} \cap W_{\lambda_j} = \{0\}$ .

Hence

$$V = W_{\lambda_1} \oplus \dots \oplus W_{\lambda_r} \oplus U.$$

$U = U_{\lambda_1} \cap \dots \cap U_{\lambda_r}$ , hence is preserved by  $T$

claim: If  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$ , and  $T: V \rightarrow V$  preserves  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , then.

$$\text{char}(T) = \text{char}(T|_{V_1}) \cdot \text{char}(T|_{V_2}).$$

pf: one can choose a basis of  $V$ , adapted

to  $U = V_1 \oplus V_2$ , then  $T$  matrix is block diagonal

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} T_1 & 0 \\ 0 & T_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{matrix}$$

$$\det(\lambda - T) = \det \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \lambda - T_1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \lambda - T_2 \end{array} \right) = \det(\lambda - T_1) \cdot \det(\lambda - T_2).$$

$$, \quad \sim n_1 \quad \quad \quad \sim n_2$$

$$\text{char}(T) = \underbrace{(\lambda - \lambda_1)^{m_1}}_{\parallel} \cdots \underbrace{(\lambda - \lambda_r)^{m_r}}_{\parallel} \cdot \underbrace{\text{char}(T|_U)}_{\parallel \text{ has no roots in } \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r.}$$

Thus  $\mathcal{U} = \{0\}$ ,  $n_i = m_i$   $\#$

•  $T - \lambda_i I$  on  $W_{\lambda_i}$  is a nilpotent operator.  
 i.e.  $(T - \lambda_i I)^N = 0$  on  $W_{\lambda_i}$  for  $N$  large enough.

• Ex:  $N : \mathbb{K}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^n$ ,  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  be std basis,  
 $N(e_n) = e_{n-1}$ ,  $N(e_k) = e_{k-1}$ ,  
 $\dots$   $N(e_1) = 0$ .

$$N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & & 1 & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & \end{pmatrix}$$

such  $N$  satisfies  $N^n = 0$ , but  $N^{n-1} \neq 0$ .

we call such operator on  $\mathbb{K}^n$  a regular nilpotent operator.

$$N : e_n \mapsto e_{n-1} \mapsto e_{n-2} \mapsto \dots \mapsto e_1 \mapsto 0$$

Prop: Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dim v.s. /  $\mathbb{K}$ .

Let  $N: V \rightarrow V$  be a nilpotent op then there exist a decomposition

$$V = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \dots \oplus V_r$$

such that  $N|_{V_k}$  is a regular nilpotent op.

i.e. there exist a basis of  $V$ , s.t.

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{\begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{matrix}}_{n_1} & & & \\ & \circ & \circ & \\ & & \boxed{\begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{matrix}}_{n_2} & & \\ & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & \circ & \circ \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{of block diagonal form, where each diagonal block is regular nilpotent.}$$

Pf: (method 1). Assume  $N^m = 0$ ,  $N^{m-1} \neq 0$ .

Then consider  $\text{im}(N^k)$ , If  $v \in \text{Im}(N^k)$ , then  $v = N^k(\tilde{v}) = N^j(N^{k-j}\tilde{v})$  for any  $j < k$ .

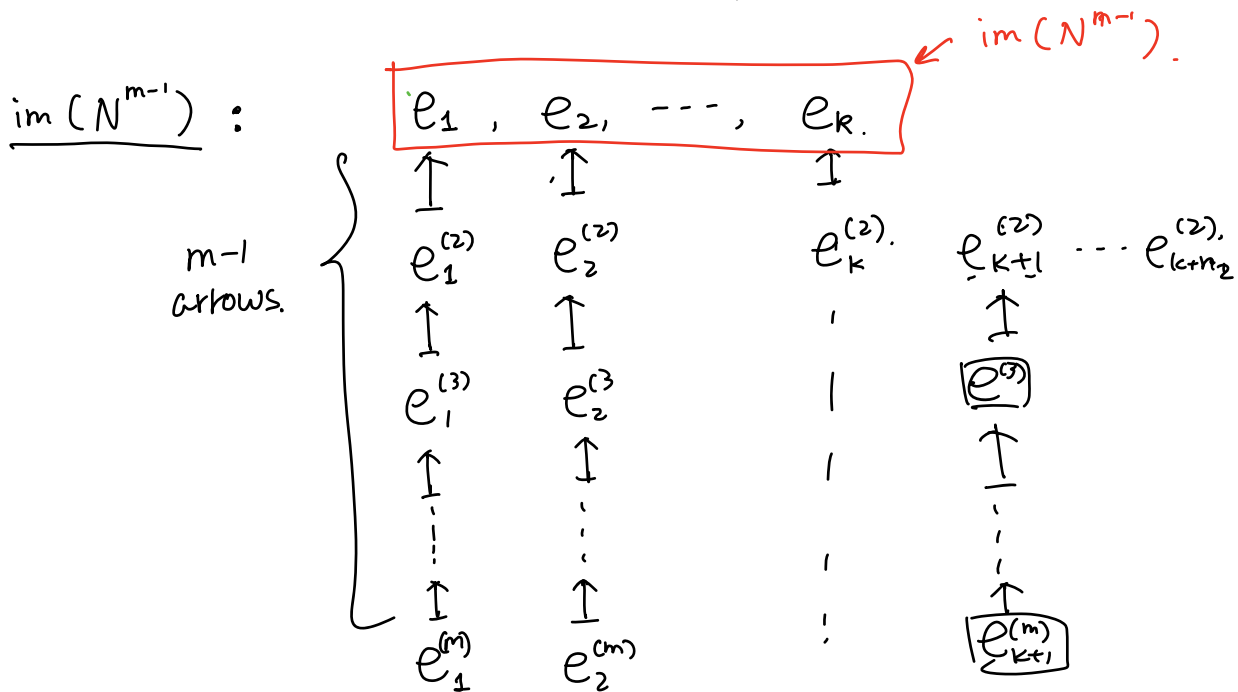
Thus  $\text{im}(N^j) \supset \text{im}(N^k)$  for any  $j < k$ .

$$V \supset \text{im}(N) \supset \text{im}(N^2) \supset \dots \supset \text{im}(N^{m-1}) \supset \text{im}(N^m) = 0.$$

We are going to construct a basis adapted to this flag, in the following sense.

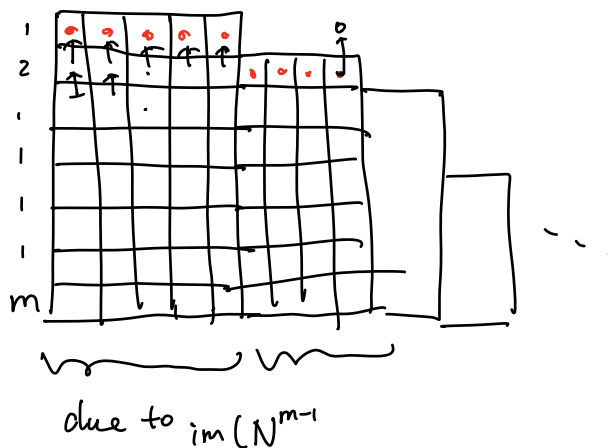


For  $\text{im}(N^{m-1})$ , we find a basis.



$\text{im}(N^{m-2})$  may contain more than  $\text{span}(e_1, \dots, e_k, e_1^{(1)}, \dots, e_k^{(1)})$

we can complete  $\downarrow$  to a basis of  $\text{im}(N^{m-2})$  by adding  $e_{k+1}^{(2)} \dots e_{k+n_2}^{(2)}$



This way, we have a basis of  $V$ , compatible with the action of  $N$ .

Each column of basis vectors generate a ~~such~~ subspace  $V_i$ , where  $N$  acts on  $V_i$  regular nilpotently. #.

---

Jordan Normal Form thm.

Let  $K = \mathbb{C}$ ,  $V = \mathbb{C}^n$ .

Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$ .

Then, there exists a basis of  $V$ , such that  $T$  is in block diagonal form, where each block is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & \lambda \end{pmatrix}.$$

Pf: we first decompose  
 $\det(\lambda - T) = (\lambda - \lambda_1)^{m_1} \cdots (\lambda - \lambda_r)^{m_r}$   
and define root spaces  $W_{\lambda_i}$ .

Then  $(T - \lambda_i)$  on  $W_{\lambda_i}$  is a nilp operator.

Hence  $W_{\lambda_i}$  decomposes into.

$$W_{\lambda_i}^{(1)} \oplus \cdots \oplus W_{\lambda_i}^{(n_i)}$$

where  $T - \lambda_i$  acts on each block reg-nilp.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (T - \lambda_i) \Big|_{W_{\lambda_i}} &= \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0 \dots 0} & & \\ & \boxed{0 \dots 0} & \\ & & \ddots \\ & & & \boxed{\phantom{0}} \end{pmatrix} \\
 T \Big|_{W_{\lambda_i}} &= \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\lambda_i \dots \lambda_i} & & \\ & \boxed{\lambda_i \dots \lambda_i} & \\ & & \ddots \\ & & & \boxed{\phantom{\lambda_i}} \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

and similarly for all roots spaces.

$$\therefore V = W_{\lambda_1}^{(1)} \oplus \dots \oplus W_{\lambda_1}^{(n_1)} \oplus W_{\lambda_2}^{(1)} \oplus \dots \oplus W_{\lambda_2}^{(1)} \oplus \dots$$