

# M50003 revision

Teddy Wu

November 2025

**Upper triangular block matrix:** Define the upper triangular block matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & & & * \\ & A_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & A_n \end{pmatrix}$$

then

(1)  $\det(A) = \det(A_1) \cdots \det(A_n)$

(2) For any polynomial  $p$ :

$$p(A) = \begin{pmatrix} p(A_1) & & & * \\ & p(A_2) & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & p(A_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

**Similar matrices:** If  $A$  and  $B$  are similar, then they share the same characteristic polynomial, minimal polynomial, eigenvalues, nullity, geometric multiplicities, rank, and trace.

**Direct sum of two subspaces:** Suppose  $V_1, V_2$  are subspaces of f.d. vector space  $V$ . Then  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$  is equivalent to the following conditions:

(1)  $\forall \underline{v} \in V$ , there is exactly one way to write  $\underline{v} = \underline{v}_1 + \underline{v}_2$ , where  $\underline{v}_1 \in V_1, \underline{v}_2 \in V_2$ ;

(2)  $V = V_1 + V_2$  and  $V_1 \cap V_2 = \{0\}$ ;

(3)  $V = V_1 + V_2$  and  $\dim(V_1) + \dim(V_2) = \dim(V)$ .

(4)  $V_1 \cap V_2 = \{0\}$  and  $\dim(V_1) + \dim(V_2) = \dim(V)$ .

**Direct sum of  $n$  subspaces:** Suppose  $V_1, \dots, V_n$  are subspaces of f.d. vector space  $V$ . Then  $V = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_n$  is equivalent to the following conditions:

(1)  $\forall \underline{v} \in V$ , there is exactly one way to write  $\underline{v} = \underline{v}_1 + \dots + \underline{v}_n$ , where  $\underline{v}_i \in V_i$  for every  $i$ ;

(2)  $\dim(V) = \sum_{i=1}^n \dim(V_i)$ , and if  $B_i$  is a basis of  $V_i$ , then  $B = B_1 \cup \dots \cup B_n$  is a basis of  $V$ .

**Direct sum and block diagonal matrix:** Suppose  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear and  $V = V_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_k$ , where each  $V_i$  is  $T$ -invariant. Let  $B_i$  be the basis of  $V_i$ , and thus  $B = B_1 \cup \dots \cup B_k$  is a basis of  $V$ . Then  $[T]_B$  is the block diagonal matrix

$$[T]_B = \begin{pmatrix} [T_{V_1}]_{B_1} & & & \\ & [T_{V_2}]_{B_2} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & [T_{V_n}]_{B_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

**Algebraic and geometric multiplicities:** If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of linear map  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , then  $g(\lambda) \leq a(\lambda)$ .

**Equivalent conditions for diagonalisability:** Let  $n = \dim(V)$ ,  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear,  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r$  are distinct eigenvalues, and

$$c_T(x) = \prod_{i=1}^r (x - \lambda_i)^{a(\lambda_i)}$$

then  $T$  diagonalisable is equivalent to the following conditions:

- (1)  $\sum_{i=1}^r g(\lambda_i) = n$ ;
- (2)  $g(\lambda_i) = a(\lambda_i)$  for all  $i$ ;
- (3)  $V = E_{\lambda_1}(T) \oplus \cdots \oplus E_{\lambda_r}(T)$ , where  $E_{\lambda}(T) = \text{Ker}(T - \lambda I)$ .

**Dimension of quotient space:**  $\dim(V/U) = \dim(V) - \dim(U)$

**Basis of quotient space:** If  $V$  has basis  $\underline{v}_1, \dots, \underline{v}_n$  and the subspace  $W$  has basis  $\underline{v}_1, \dots, \underline{v}_m$ , then  $W + \underline{v}_{m+1}, \dots, W + \underline{v}_n$  is a basis for  $V/W$ .

Conversely, given the basis of  $W$  being  $\{\underline{v}_1, \dots, \underline{v}_m\}$  and basis of  $V/W$  being  $\{W + \underline{w}_1, \dots, W + \underline{w}_n\}$ , a basis for  $V$  is

$$\{\underline{v}_1, \dots, \underline{v}_m, \underline{w}_1, \dots, \underline{w}_n\}$$

**Matrix and invariant subspace:** Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear,  $W$  is a  $T$ -invariant subspace of  $V$ . If  $W$  has basis  $B_W = \{\underline{w}_1, \dots, \underline{w}_r\}$ ,  $V/W$  has basis  $\overline{B} = \{W + \underline{v}_1, \dots, W + \underline{v}_s\}$ , so  $V$  has basis  $B = \{\underline{w}_1, \dots, \underline{w}_r, \underline{v}_1, \dots, \underline{v}_s\}$ . Then

$$[T]_B = \begin{pmatrix} [T_W]_{B_W} & * \\ 0 & [\overline{T}]_{\overline{B}} \end{pmatrix}$$

**Characteristic polynomial of restriction and quotient operator:** Suppose  $W$  is a  $T$ -invariant space. Let  $T_W$  be the restriction operator on  $W$  and  $\overline{T}$  be the quotient operator on  $V/W$ . Then

$$c_T(x) = c_{T_W}(x) c_{\overline{T}}(x)$$

**Triangularisation theorem:** Let  $n = \dim(V)$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear. Suppose the characteristic polynomial factorizes in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$  as a product of linear factors:

$$c_T(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n (x - \lambda_i), \quad \lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}$$

then there exists a basis  $B$  s.t.  $[T]_B$  upper triangular.

**Note:** The equivalent condition of  $T$  being upper triangularisable is  $m_T(x)$  can be factorized into linear factors.

**Find basis that triangularises a linear map:** Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear. The following steps find the basis  $B$  s.t.  $[T]_B$  is upper triangular.

- (1) Find an eigenvector  $\underline{v}_1$  of  $T$ . Extend to a basis  $\underline{v}_1, \underline{w}_1, \dots, \underline{w}_m$  of  $V$ ;
- (2) Let  $V_1 = \text{span}(\underline{v}_1)$ , thus  $B_1 = \{V_1 + \underline{w}_1, \dots, V_1 + \underline{w}_m\}$  is a basis of  $V/V_1$ ;
- (3) Consider  $\bar{T}_1 : V/V_1 \rightarrow V/V_1$ . By calculating  $[\bar{T}_1]_{B_1}$ , find an eigenvector  $V_1 + \underline{v}_2$  of  $\bar{T}_1$ ;
- (4) Let  $V_2 = \text{span}(\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2)$ . Follow (2), (3) to find an eigenvector  $V_2 + \underline{v}_3$  of  $\bar{T}_2 : V/V_2 \rightarrow V/V_2$ ;
- (5) Repeat to find  $\underline{v}_i$ .  $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  is the desired basis.

**Note:** Suppose  $\dim(V) = n$ , then after finding the first  $n - 1$  basis vectors, we can pick any vector  $\underline{v}_n$  that makes the list of vectors LI, because the last vector only affects the last column of  $[T]_B$ , but  $[T]_B$  will be upper triangular regardless of the last column.

**Cayley-Hamilton theorem:**  $c_T(T) = 0$

**Euclid algorithm:** Let  $f, g \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  with  $\deg(g) \geq 1$ . Then  $\exists q, r \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  s.t.

$$f = gq + r$$

where  $r = 0$  or  $\deg(r) < \deg(g)$ .

**Bezout lemma:** If  $d = \gcd(f, g)$ , then  $\exists s, r \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  s.t.

$$d = rf + sg$$

**Properties of polynomials:** Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear,  $p$  and  $q$  are polynomials. Then

- (1)  $\text{Ker}(p(T))$  and  $\text{Im}(p(T))$  are  $T$ -invariant;
- (2)  $(pq)(T)(\underline{v}) = [p(T)q(T)](\underline{v}) = p(q(T)(\underline{v}))$ ;
- (3)  $\text{lcm}(f, g) \cdot \gcd(f, g) = fg$ .

**Irreducible polynomials:**

- (1) If  $p$  is irreducible,  $p|fg$ , then  $p|f$  or  $p|g$ ;
- (2) All irreducible monic polynomials in  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  takes form  $x - a$ ; All irreducible monic polynomials in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  takes form  $x - a$  or  $x^2 + bx + c$ , where  $b^2 - 4c < 0$ ;
- (3) The irreducible polynomials in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  with degree  $\leq 4$  are

$$x, x + 1, x^2 + x + 1, x^3 + x + 1, x^3 + x^2 + 1, x^4 + x + 1, x^4 + x^3 + 1, x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

**Properties of minimal polynomial:** Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be linear. Then

- (1)  $m_T(x) | c_T(x)$ ;
- (2) If  $p(T) = 0$ , then  $m_T | p$ ;
- (3) If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ , then  $m_T(\lambda) = 0$ ;
- (4) If  $p(x)$  is an irreducible factor of  $c_T(x)$ , then  $p(x) | m_T(x)$ ;
- (5) Suppose  $W$  is  $T$ -invariant. Then  $m_{T_W}$  and  $m_{\overline{T}}$  both divide  $m_T$ .

**Companion matrix:** Let  $p(x) = x^n + \cdots + a_1x + a_0$ . The companion matrix

$$C(p(x)) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_1 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & -a_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & -a_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

has characteristic polynomial and minimal polynomial  $= p(x)$ .

**Diagonal block matrix:** Define the diagonal block matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & & & \\ & A_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & A_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

- (1) If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ , then its geometric multiplicity is the sum of geometric multiplicities in the sub blocks:

$$\dim(\text{Ker}(A - \lambda I)) = \dim(\text{Ker}(A_1 - \lambda I)) + \cdots + \dim(\text{Ker}(A_n - \lambda I))$$

- (2) The minimal polynomial of  $A$  is

$$m_A(x) = \text{lcm}(m_{A_1}(x), \cdots, m_{A_n}(x))$$

**Primary decomposition:** Let  $V$  be f.d. over  $\mathbb{F}$ , the characteristic and minimal polynomial of  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be  $c_T$  and  $m_T$ . Suppose the factorization of the characteristic and minimal polynomial into irreducible factors be

$$c_T(x) = \prod_{i=1}^k f_i(x)^{n_i}, \quad m_T(x) = \prod_{i=1}^k f_i(x)^{m_i}$$

Define  $V_i = \text{Ker}(f_i(T)^{m_i})$ . Then

- (1)  $V = V_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_k$ ;

(2) Each  $V_i$  are  $T$ -invariant, and  $c_{T_i}(x) = f_i(x)^{n_i}$ ,  $m_{T_i}(x) = f_i(x)^{m_i}$ .

This theorem says the whole space can be decomposed into several mutually independent subspaces, each of which corresponds to a single irreducible factor. We can choose a basis for each subspace and combine them, obtaining a basis for  $V$ . If we do a change of basis under these vectors, then the matrix of the transformation becomes block diagonal (justified by previous thms about direct sum).

**Diagonalisability and minimal polynomial:** The linear map  $T : V \rightarrow V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  is diagonalisable iff  $m_T(x)$  can be factored into distinct linear factors:

$$m_T(x) = \prod_{i=1}^k (x - \lambda_i)$$

where  $\lambda_i$  are distinct.

**Existence of nontrivial invariant subspace:**

(1). If  $m_T(x)$  is reducible in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ , then  $T : V \rightarrow V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  has a nontrivial invariant subspace (that is,  $\exists W \neq 0$  or  $V$  that is  $T$ -invariant)

(2). If  $c_T(x)$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ , then  $T : V \rightarrow V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  has no nontrivial invariant subspace

**Jordan block:** The matrix

$$J = J_n(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & & & \\ & \lambda & 1 & & \\ & & \lambda & & \\ & & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfy

(1)  $c_J(x) = m_J(x) = (x - \lambda)^n$ ;

(2)  $a(\lambda) = n, g(\lambda) = 1$ ;

(3)  $(J - \lambda I)^i$  has rank  $n - i$ . Particularly,  $(J - \lambda I)^n = 0$ .

**Jordan Canonical Form:** Let  $A$  be  $n \times n$  matrix and suppose  $c_A(x)$  factors as a product of linear factors over  $\mathbb{F}$ , then

(1)  $A$  is similar to a matrix of form

$$J = J_{n_1}(\lambda_1) \oplus J_{n_2}(\lambda_2) \oplus \cdots \oplus J_{n_k}(\lambda_k)$$

where  $\sum n_i = n$ ;

(2)  $J$  is unique apart from changing the order of Jordan blocks.

**Determine the JCF:** Suppose the JCF of  $A$  is  $J$ . Write  $J$  as

$$J = (J_{n_1}(\lambda) \oplus \cdots \oplus J_{n_a}(\lambda)) \oplus (J_{m_1}(\mu) \oplus \cdots \oplus J_{m_b}(\mu)) \oplus \cdots$$

To determine the  $\lambda$ -blocks, use the following results:

- (1)  $n_1 + \cdots + n_a = a(\lambda)$ ;
- (2) Number of  $\lambda$ -blocks  $= g(\lambda)$ ;
- (3)  $\max(n_1, \dots, n_a) = r$ , where  $r$  is the highest power s.t.  $(x - \lambda)^r$  dividing  $m_A(x)$ ;
- (4) When the above results still unable to identify a JCF, rewrite all  $\lambda$ -blocks as

$$J(\lambda) = J_{n_1}(\lambda)^{a_1} \oplus J_{n_2}(\lambda)^{a_2} \oplus \cdots \oplus J_{n_r}(\lambda)^{a_r}$$

find the dimension of generalized eigenvector spaces

$$d_i = \dim(\text{Ker}(A - \lambda I)^i)$$

now

$d_1$  is the number of  $\lambda$ -blocks;

$d_2 - d_1$  gives the number of  $\lambda$ -blocks with size  $\geq 2$ ;

$d_3 - d_2$  gives the number of  $\lambda$ -blocks with size  $\geq 3$ ;

$\dots$

so we can identify  $J(\lambda)$ . Repeat the process for all eigenvalues, we can identify the JCF.

**Determine the Jordan basis:** Given any  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  with minimal polynomial

$$m_T(x) = \prod_{i=1}^k (x - \lambda_i)^{m_i}$$

use primary decomposition to find a basis  $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  s.t. after the change of basis (view  $A$  as a linear map) we get a block diagonal matrix  $A_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_k$ , where each  $A_i$  has minimal polynomial  $(x - \lambda_i)^{m_i}$ . Thus we can assume  $A$  has minimal polynomial  $(x - \lambda)^m$ .

Let  $S = A - \lambda I$ . The Jordan basis for  $S$  also works for  $A$ .

For each  $i \geq 1$ , find the generalized eigenspace

$$N_i = \text{Ker}(S^i)$$

This gives a nested vector space

$$0 \subsetneq N_1 \subsetneq N_2 \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq N_{r-1} \subsetneq N_r = V$$

Find a basis  $\{\underline{v}_1, \dots, \underline{v}_{a_r}\}$  for  $V \bmod N_{r-1}$ . They are cyclic vectors for the blocks  $J_r(0)^{a_r}$ . So we get some Jordan basis vectors

$$\dots, S^2(\underline{v}_1), S(\underline{v}_1), \underline{v}_1, \dots, S^2(\underline{v}_{a_r}), S(\underline{v}_{a_r}), \underline{v}_{a_r}$$

If we get enough basis vectors we are done. Otherwise, consider the set of vectors

$$S(\underline{v}_1), \dots, S(\underline{v}_{a_r})$$

which are LI in  $N_{r-1} \bmod N_{r-2}$ . Extend to a basis

$$S(\underline{v}_1), \dots, S(\underline{v}_{a_r}), \underline{w}_1, \dots, \underline{w}_{a_{r-1}}$$

for  $N_{r-1} \bmod N_{r-2}$ . Now  $\underline{w}_1, \dots, \underline{w}_{a_{r-1}}$  are cyclic vectors for blocks  $J_{r-1}(0)^{a_{r-1}}$ .

Repeat the algorithm until we get enough basis vectors corresponding to all  $\lambda$ -blocks. Do this for all blocks, we obtain a Jordan basis for  $A_1 \oplus \dots \oplus A_k$ .

Use these Jordan basis as coefficients of linear combination of vectors in  $B$  to find the Jordan basis of the original matrix  $A$ .

**Property of annihilator:** Suppose  $f(x)$  is the annihilator of the cyclic subspace  $Z(\underline{v}, T)$ . Then  $f(T)(\underline{w}) = 0$  for all  $\underline{w} \in Z(\underline{v}, T)$ .

**Properties of cyclic subspace:** Let  $Z = Z(\underline{v}, T)$  be a cyclic subspace of  $V$ , and suppose  $Z$  has annihilator  $f(x)$  with degree  $k$ . Then  $B = \{\underline{v}, T(\underline{v}), \dots, T^{k-1}(\underline{v})\}$  is a basis for  $Z$ . Further more, the matrix of  $T|_Z$  is the companion matrix  $C(f)$  with respect to the basis  $B$ , so the minimal polynomial of  $T|_Z$  is  $f(x)$ .

**Rational Canonical Form:** Let  $A$  be any  $n \times n$  matrix. Let  $m_A(x)$  be factorized as

$$m_A(x) = \prod_{i=1}^t f_i(x)^{k_i}$$

where  $f_1(x), \dots, f_t(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  are distinct irreducible polynomials. Then  $A$  is similar to a block diagonal matrix of form

$$R = C(f_1(x)^{k_{11}}) \oplus \dots \oplus C(f_1(x)^{k_{1r_1}}) \oplus \dots \\ \oplus C(f_t(x)^{k_{t1}}) \oplus \dots \oplus C(f_t(x)^{k_{tr_t}})$$

where  $k_i = k_{i1} \geq \dots \geq k_{ir_i}$  for each  $i$ .

**Determine the RCF:** Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  with  $V$  f.d.. Suppose in the factorization of the minimal polynomial we have a term  $f(x)^k$ . We first find the RCF corresponding to that term. The RCF of all other terms can be found similarly. Thus, now we assume  $T : V \rightarrow V$  has minimal polynomial  $f(x)^k$ .

The RCF corresponding to  $f(x)^k$  has form  $C(f(x)^{k_{11}}) \oplus \dots \oplus C(f(x)^{k_{1r_1}})$ . Rewrite as

$$C(f)^{a_1} \oplus C(f^2)^{a_2} \oplus \dots \oplus C(f^k)^{a_k}$$

Suppose the degree of  $f(x)$  is  $d$ . Then from the equation above we can infer an equation

$$da_1 + 2da_2 + \cdots + kda_k = \dim(V)$$

If we write out the vector spaces spanned by the basis vectors corresponding to each diagonal block, we get

$$V = (Z_{11} \oplus \cdots \oplus Z_{1a_1}) \oplus \cdots \oplus (Z_{k1} \oplus \cdots \oplus Z_{ka_k})$$

Apply  $f(T)^{k-1}$  to both sides. It sends  $Z_{ij}$  to 0 if  $i < k$ , and it sends  $Z_{kj}$  to a vector space of dimension  $d$ . None of the resulting vector spaces overlap, so

$$\dim(f(T)^{k-1}(V)) = \text{rank}(f(T)^{k-1}|_V) = a_k d$$

And similarly

$$\dim(f(T)^{k-2}(V)) = \text{rank}(f(T)^{k-2}|_V) = 2a_{k-1}d + a_k d$$

using these equations to find the values of  $a_1, \dots, a_k$ .

In a more general case, say  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$ , minimal polynomial factors as  $f(x)^{k_1}g(x)^{k_2}$ . We need to find  $\text{rank}(f(T)^{k-1}|_{V_1})$  and  $\text{rank}(g(T)^{k-1}|_{V_2})$ . The trick is to use

$$\text{rank}(f(T)^{k-1}|_V) = \text{rank}(f(T)^{k-1}|_{V_1}) + \text{rank}(f(T)^{k-1}|_{V_2})$$

Which simplifies to

$$\text{rank}(f(T)^{k-1}) = \text{rank}(f(T)^{k-1}|_{V_1}) + \dim(V_2)$$

Since  $f(x)^{k-1}$  and  $g(x)$  are co-prime.