

1 | upper triangular matrix def

A matrix in which all entries below the diagonal are zero

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

1.1 | results

1.1.1 | Axler5.26 Conditions for upper-triangular matrix

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and v_1, \dots, v_n is a basis of V . The following are equivalent:

- the matrix of T with respect to v_1, \dots, v_n is upper triangular
- $Tv_j \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_j)$ for each $j = 1, \dots, n$
- The span of each prefix of the basis is invariant under T .

1.1.2 | Axler5.27 Over \mathbb{C} , every operator has an upper-triangular matrix

Suppose V is a finite-dimensional complex vector space and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Then T has an upper-triangular matrix wrt some basis of V .

1. intuition

There are n eigenvalues (fundamental theorem of linear algebra) and each one should have a corresponding eigenvector that can sweep out a column? What happens when an eigenvalue has higher multiplicity?

2. proof

- (a) induction on the dimension of V . use the fact that the first column can be found, then use the remaining basis vectors as a smaller subspace and do the same thing?