

Week 13: Jordan canonical forms (textbook § 7.1, 7.2)Diagonalization revisited once again

Recall that we have a characterization of the diagonalizability of a linear operator  $T: V \rightarrow V$  on a finite dim. vector space  $V$  (over  $\mathbb{F}$ ):

Theorem:  $T: V \rightarrow V$  is **diagonalizable**

if and only if (1) the char. poly. splits over  $\mathbb{F}$

$$f(\lambda) = (-1)^n (\lambda - \lambda_1)^{m_1} \cdots (\lambda - \lambda_k)^{m_k}$$

(2) the eigenspaces have "maximal dimension",

i.e.  $\dim E_{\lambda_i} = m_i$  for all  $i=1, \dots, k$ .

FROM NOW ON, WE ASSUME  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  (1) is always satisfied!

Hence, "diagonalizable"  $\Leftrightarrow$  eigenspaces are "big enough".

Remember the following example of a "non-diagonalizable" matrix due to "small" eigenspaces:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{only 1 eigenvalue } \boxed{\lambda = 1} \\ \dim E_1 = 1 < 2. \end{array} \right.$$

What else can we do if a matrix is not diagonalizable?



Schur's Lemma  $\Rightarrow$  we can always make a matrix "upper triangular" (when  $IF = \mathbb{C}$ )

$$A \sim \begin{pmatrix} * & \\ 0 & \end{pmatrix}$$

Question: Can we do better?

Ans: "Yes." Jordan canonical form"

Theorem: Any  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  is similar to a matrix of the following form:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \lambda_2 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & \lambda_N & \\ & & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix}$$

"Jordan canonical form"

where  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$  are the eigenvalues of  $A$  (not nec. distinct!)

In other words, the "worst-case-scenario" for a matrix which is NOT diagonalizable is just having some 1's above the diagonals.

Examples of Jordan canonical forms:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 2 & & \\ & & 3 & \\ & & & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

diagonal!

Thus, a Jordan canonical form consists of a certain number of "Jordan blocks"  $\boxed{\square}$  along the "diagonals":

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \in M_{k \times k}(\mathbb{C})$$

"Jordan block"  
of size  $k$   
with eigenvalue  $\lambda$

We first study some basic properties of a Jordan block.

Prop: (1)  $A$  has only 1 eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . (multiplicity =  $k$ )

(2)  $\boxed{\dim E_\lambda = 1}$  ( $\Rightarrow A$  is NOT diagonalizable unless  $k=1$ )

\* (3) The smallest positive integer  $P$  s.t.

$$(A - \lambda I)^P = 0$$

is equal to its dimension  $k$ .

$$(\Rightarrow \boxed{N(A - \lambda I)^P = \mathbb{C}^k})$$

\* (4) If  $\{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$  is the standard basis for  $\mathbb{C}^k$ .

then  $\boxed{(A - \lambda I)^i e_i = 0}$  for each  $i=1, \dots, k$ .

Proof: (1)  $A$  upper triangular  $\Rightarrow$  char. poly.  $= f(t) = (-1)^k (t-\lambda)^k$ .

Hence,  $\lambda$  is the only eigenvalue with multiplicity  $k$ .

$$(2) \quad A - \lambda I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{null space} = \text{span}\{e_1\} = E_\lambda$$

$\dim = 1$ .

(3) The 1's "marches up" one line at a time when we take powers of  $A - \lambda I$

e.g.  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

By (4), only  $e_1$  is an eigenvector of  $A$ , since  $(A - \lambda I)e_1 = 0$ .

Other  $e_i$ 's are only annihilated by higher powers of  $(A - \lambda I)$ !

This motivates the following definition:

Def<sup>n</sup>: Let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ .

$x \in \mathbb{C}^n$  is a **generalized eigenvector** of  $A$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$  if (i)  $x \neq 0$

and (ii)  $(A - \lambda I)^P x = 0$

for some positive integer  $P$

We denote the **generalized eigenspace** by

$$K_\lambda = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid (A - \lambda I)^P x = 0 \text{ for some } P \geq 1 \right\}$$

Ex: check  $K_\lambda$  is a subspace.

Remark: Eigenectors are generalized eigenvectors with  $P = 1$ .

• For a Jordan block as above,  $K_\lambda = \mathbb{C}^k$ .

Given a matrix  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  (distinct),

$A$  diagonalizable  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}^n = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\lambda_k}$

In general, if  $A$  is NOT diagonalizable, we have

$$\mathbb{C}^n \not\cong E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\lambda_k}$$

ie some  $E_{\lambda_i}$  is too "small".

BUT, if we replace  $E_\lambda$  by  $K_\lambda$ , we always have

$$\mathbb{C}^n = K_{\lambda_1} \oplus K_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus K_{\lambda_k}$$

### Main Theorem (Jordan Decomposition Theorem):

Let  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  (distinct) with corresponding multiplicities  $m_1, \dots, m_k$ . Then,

$$(1) \quad \dim K_{\lambda_i} = m_i \quad \text{for each } i=1, \dots, k$$

$$(2) \quad \mathbb{C}^n = K_{\lambda_1} \oplus K_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus K_{\lambda_k}$$

(3) Each  $K_{\lambda_i}$  has a basis  $\beta_i = \gamma_{1,i} \cup \dots \cup \gamma_{m,i}$  where every  $\gamma_{m,i}$  is a **cycle**: i.e.

$$\hookrightarrow \gamma_{m,i} = \left\{ \underbrace{(A - \lambda_i I)^{p-1} x}_{\text{initial vector}}, (A - \lambda_i I)^{p-2} x, \dots, \underbrace{x}_{\text{end vector}} \right\} \quad p = \text{length}$$

(an eigenvector!)

Proof: Postponed until later!

Example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{"3x3 Jordan block".}$$

In this case,  $K_A = \mathbb{C}^3$  and we have a basis consisting of 1 cycle:

$$\gamma = \left\{ \underbrace{(A - \lambda I)^2 e_3}_{\stackrel{\parallel}{e_1}}, \underbrace{(A - \lambda I) e_3, e_3}_{\stackrel{\parallel}{e_2}} \right\}.$$

Now, let us first address the "computational aspect" of Jordan decomposition:

**Question:** Given  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ , how to find an invertible matrix  $Q$  s.t.

$$Q^{-1} A Q = J^{\star} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{Jordan canonical} \\ \text{form} \end{matrix}$$

?

Example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues.

$$f(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 2-\lambda & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3-\lambda & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -2-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = -(\lambda-1)^3.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Only 1 eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  with multiplicity 3.

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces.

$$E_1 = N(A - 1 \cdot I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -3 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Therefore,  $\dim E_1 = 2 < 3$  ( $\Rightarrow A$  NOT diagonalizable)

Step 3: Determine the Jordan canonical form.

Since  $A$  has only one eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  and is NOT diagonalizable, we are left with only two possibilities for its Jordan canonical form:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

↑  
impossible since  
each block  $\square$  would  
have exactly 1  
eigenvector.

↑ This is it!  
(up to order of blocks)

Step 4: Find basis of  $K_A$  consisting of cycles.

From Step 3, we need a basis

$$\beta = \gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2 = \{v_1\} \cup \{(A - \lambda I)v_2, v_2\}$$

↑                      ↑                      ↑  
eigenvectors        generalized        eigenvector

We find the generalized eigenvector  $v_2$  first:

Need  $v_2 \in N(A - 2I)^2$  but  $v_2 \notin N(A - 2I)$

otherwise, cannot generate  
a cycle of length 2.

$$(A - 1 \cdot I)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -3 \end{pmatrix}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

Therefore, we can pick any  $v_2 \notin E_1$ , e.g.  $v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2 = \{(A - 1 \cdot I)v_2, v_2\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

In the end, take any  $v_1 \in E_1$  s.t.  $v_1$  is not parallel to  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ ie take } Q = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow Q^{-1} A Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & 1 \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{Jordan canonical form of } A$$

One more example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues.

$A$  upper triangular  $\Rightarrow$  only one eigenvalue

$$\lambda = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad m = 3$$

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces.

$$E_{-1} = N(A - (-1) \cdot I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\dim E_{-1} = 1 < 3} \quad (\text{A NOT diagonalizable})$$

Step 3: Determine Jordan canonical form.

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

can only have 1 block  
since  $\dim E_{-1} = 1$

Step 4: Find basis of  $K_2$  consisting of cycles.

From Step 3, we need a basis

$$\beta = \gamma = \{(A+I)^2 v, (A+I)v, v\}$$

$\uparrow$   
cycle of  
length 3

Need  $v \in \underbrace{N(A+I)^3}_{= \mathbb{C}^3}$  but  $v \notin N(A+I)$  or  $N(A+I)^2$ .

Note:  $A+I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow N(A+I) = \text{span}\left\{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right\}$ .

$$(A+I)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow N(A+I)^2 = \text{span}\left\{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right\}$$

We can take  $v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , then

$$\beta = \left\{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}\right\}, \text{ ie } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $Q^{-1}AQ = \boxed{\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}} = \text{Jordan canonical form of } A$

Let's move on to some  $4 \times 4$  examples!

Example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues.

The characteristic polynomial is .

$$f(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$$

$$= \det \begin{pmatrix} 2-\lambda & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3-\lambda & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 3-\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

expand along 1<sup>st</sup> column  
since it has most 0's.

$$= (2-\lambda) \det \begin{pmatrix} 3-\lambda & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 3-\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

expand along 3<sup>rd</sup> column  
remember  $\begin{pmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{pmatrix}$

$$= (2-\lambda)(3-\lambda) \underbrace{[(3-\lambda)(1-\lambda) + 1]}$$

$$\lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 4 = (\lambda - 2)^2$$

$$= (\lambda - 2)^3 (\lambda - 3)$$

Set  $f(\lambda) = 0$ , we get two eigenvalues:

$$\boxed{\lambda_1 = 2 \ . \ m_1 = 3}$$

$$\boxed{\lambda_2 = 3 \ . \ m_2 = 1}$$

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces.

$$\boxed{\lambda_1 = 2}: E_2 = N(A - 2I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\boxed{\lambda_2 = 3}: E_3 = N(A - 3I) = N \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\boxed{\dim E_3 = 1 = \mathbb{C}^1}$$

Note: A is NOT diagonalizable.

Step 3: Determine the Jordan canonical form

We know that

$$z_1 = 2, \dim E_2 = 2 < 3 = m,$$

$$\lambda_2 = 3 \quad . \quad \dim E_3 = 1 = 1 = m_2$$

From the multiplicities, we only have the following possibilities:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} & & & \\ & 2 & 1 & \\ & 2 & 1 & \\ & & 2 & \\ & & & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

↑  
impossible  
 $\because \dim E_2 = 1$   
here.

A hand-drawn diagram of a 4x4 grid. A path is drawn through the grid, starting at the bottom-right corner and ending at the top-left corner. The path is highlighted with green lines and contains three segments labeled with purple numbers: '2' (top-left square), '1' (middle square), and '2' (bottom-right square). The entire grid is enclosed in a red border.

or

(2, 2)  
(2, 2)

This is it!

$\uparrow$   
impossible  
 $\therefore A$  NOT diagonalizable.

Step 4: Find basis of  $K_2$ 's consisting of cycles.

$$K_3 = E_3 \quad \quad \gamma = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ forms a basis.}$$

$$K_2 \neq E_2 \quad \gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2 = \{v_1\} \cup \{(A - 2I)v_2, v_2\}$$

↑      ↑      ↑  
 eigenvectors      gen. eigenvector  
 s.t.  $(A - 2I)v_2 \neq 0$ .

Goal: Find  $v_2 \in N(A - 2I)^2$  but  $v_2 \notin N(A - 2I)$

$$N(A - 2I) = E_2 = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

contains.

$$N(A - 2I)^2 = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

Therefore, one may take  $v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow (A - 2I)v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

and take  $V_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in E_2$  but indep. of this!

Hence, if we choose the basis

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad . \text{ i.e. } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

then  $Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & & & \\ & 2 & 1 & \\ & & 2 & \\ & & & 3 \end{pmatrix} = J$

One more  $4 \times 4$  example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -4 & 2 & 2 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 & 3 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues :

$$f(\lambda) = (\lambda - 2)^2(\lambda - 4)^2 \leftarrow \text{Exercise: check this.}$$

$\Rightarrow$  There are 2 eigenvalues :

$$\boxed{\lambda_1 = 2, m_1 = 2}$$

$$\boxed{\lambda_2 = 4, m_2 = 2}$$

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces .

$$\boxed{\lambda_1 = 2} \quad E_2 = N(A - 2I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -4 & 2 & 2 \\ -2 & -2 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 & 3 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\boxed{\dim E_2 = 2 = m_1}$$

$$\boxed{\lambda_2 = 4} \quad E_4 = N(A - 4I) = N \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -4 & 2 & 2 \\ -2 & -4 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & -1 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 & 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\boxed{\dim E_4 = 1 < 2 = m_2}$$

$\hookrightarrow$  A not diagonalizable .

Step 3: Determine Jordan form .

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & & & \\ & 2 & & \\ & & 4 & 1 \\ & & & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 4 : Find basis of  $K_2$ 's consisting of cycles.

$$K_2 = E_2 \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ is a desired basis}$$

$$K_4 \neq E_4 \Rightarrow \{(A - 4I)v, v\} \text{ is a desired basis}$$

We need  $v \in N(A - 4I)^2$  but  $v \notin N(A - 4I) = E_4$

$$N(A - 4I)^2 = N \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 8 & -4 & -4 \\ 4 & 4 & 0 & -4 \\ 4 & 0 & 4 & -4 \\ 4 & 8 & -4 & -4 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\text{Take } v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ then } (A - 4I)v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

As a result, if we choose the basis

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \text{ i.e. } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{then } Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & & & \\ & 2 & & \\ & & 4 & 1 \\ & & & 4 \end{pmatrix} = J.$$

One more  $4 \times 4$  example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Char. poly} = f(\lambda) = \lambda^4 \Rightarrow \text{Eigenvalue: } \boxed{\lambda = 0, m = 4}$$

$$\text{Eigenspace: } E_0 = N(A) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad \boxed{\dim E_0 = 2}$$

Jordan form: (2 possibilities)  $\leftarrow$  since  $4 = 2+2 = 1+3$ .

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ & 0 & & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

or

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ & 0 & 1 & & \\ & & 0 & 1 & \\ & & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Q: How to tell which is the correct one?

Look at powers of the matrix:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow J^2 = 0$$

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ & 0 & 1 & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow J^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq 0$$

Since  $Q^{-1}A^2Q = J^2$ , and we see that

$$A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq 0$$

we are in this case.

Need to find at last a basis of the form

$$\beta = \{v_1\} \cup \{A^2 v_2, Av_2, v_2\}$$

Find  $v_2$ :  $N(A^3) = \mathbb{C}^4$

$$N(A^2) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{can choose } v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence,  $\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ , i.e.  $Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

then  $Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = J$