

## Q6

Assume there does not exist a direct sum decomposition of  $V$  into two invariant subspaces. Since  $V$  is a complex vector space, we know  $T$  has at least one eigenvalue. We also know

$$V = G(\lambda_1, T) \oplus \dots \oplus G(\lambda_n, T)$$

With each  $G(\lambda_i, T)$  invariant under  $T$ . However, if  $n > 1$ , then we can write  $V$  as the sum of two invariant subspaces (by taking sums of generalized eigenspaces). So,  $n = 1$ , meaning  $\lambda_1$  is the only eigenvalue of  $T$ , and  $V = G(\lambda_1, T)$ , so the minimal polynomial of  $T$  is  $p(T) = (z - \lambda)^{\dim V}$ .

For the other direction, suppose  $p(T) = (z - \lambda)^{\dim V}$ . We know that  $\lambda$  is the only eigenvalue of  $T$ . Assume by contradiction that  $V = U_1 \oplus U_2$ , with  $U_1, U_2$  invariant under  $T$ . Note that  $1 \leq \dim(U_1), \dim(U_2)$  since they're proper subspaces, and  $\dim(U_1), \dim(U_2) < \dim(V)$ . Now, let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be a basis for  $U_1$ , and  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m$  be a basis for  $U_2$ .

Now, we know that since  $\lambda$  is the only eigenvalue of  $T$ , that

$$p(T|_{U_1}) = (z - \lambda)^{\dim U_1}$$

$$p(T|_{U_2}) = (z - \lambda)^{\dim U_2}$$

Since  $U_1, U_2$  invariant under  $T$ , they're also invariant under polynomials of  $T$ . So, if  $v \in V$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} v &= a_1\alpha_1 + \dots + a_n\alpha_n + b_1\beta_1 + \dots + b_m\beta_m \\ (T - \lambda I)^j v &= (T - \lambda I)^j (a_1\alpha_1 + \dots + a_n\alpha_n + b_1\beta_1 + \dots + b_m\beta_m) \\ &= (T - \lambda I)^j|_{U_1} (a_1\alpha_1 + \dots + a_n\alpha_n) + (T - \lambda I)^j|_{U_2} (b_1\beta_1 + \dots + b_m\beta_m) \end{aligned}$$

The first term is 0 for  $j \geq \dim U_1$ , and the second is 0 for  $j \geq \dim U_2$ , so  $(T - \lambda I)^j v = 0$  for  $j = \max\{\dim U_1, \dim U_2\}$ , but  $\dim(U_1), \dim(U_2) < \dim(V)$ , contradicting  $p(T) = (z - \lambda)^{\dim V}$ , meaning  $V \neq U_1 \oplus U_2$ , completing the proof.