

First, note that if $\|u\| \leq \varepsilon\|v\|, \forall \varepsilon > 0$, that's the same as saying $\|u\| \leq \varepsilon, \forall \varepsilon > 0$. Also, since both $\|u\|, \varepsilon \geq 0$, $\|u\| \leq \varepsilon \iff \|u\|^2 \leq \varepsilon, \forall \varepsilon$.

It is therefore sufficient to show that $\exists m : \forall \varepsilon > 0, \|T^m v\|^2 \leq \varepsilon$.

Since $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$, there exists an orthonormal basis of V such that T is upper triangular. We'll work in that basis. Let λ_i be the i th diagonal element of T . Each λ_i corresponds to an eigenvalue of T , so the absolute value of each $|\lambda_i|$ is less than 1. Also, we know that if T is upper triangular, so is T^m . Any subspace of U is invariant under T , so any subspace of U is also invariant under T^m . We'll prove using induction on the dimension of U .

Base case: $\dim U = 1$. (Since it's trivially true for $\dim U = 0$) Then, $v = a_1 e_1$. So, $Tv = a_1 \lambda_1^m e_1$. So, $\|T^m v\|^2 = |a_1 \lambda_1^m|^2 = |a_1|^2 |\lambda_1|^{2m}$, and since $|\lambda_1| < 1$ picking $m : |\lambda_1|^{2m} < \frac{\varepsilon}{|a_1|^2}$ suffices.

Inductive Step: Assume if $U = \text{span}(e_1, \dots, e_k)$, $\dim U = k$ there exists an m that works for all vectors in U . Note that, in fact, if m works for a subspace U , any integer multiple of m does, since $T^m u \in U$. For simplicity, let U' refer to the k dimensional subspace given by $\text{span}(e_1, \dots, e_k)$. This will make the rest of the proof a lot easier to read.

Now, we need to prove for a $k + 1$ dimensional subspace of V . Let $U = \text{span}(e_1, \dots, e_{k+1})$. Then, $v = a_1 e_1 + \dots + a_k e_k + a_{k+1} e_{k+1}$. So, $T^m v = T^m(a_1 e_1 + \dots + a_k e_k) + T^m(a_{k+1} e_{k+1})$. Let $T^m(a_1 e_1 + \dots + a_k e_k) = L$, and note that since T^m is upper triangular, $T^m a_{k+1} e_{k+1} = a_{k+1} T^m e_{k+1}$. $T^m e_{k+1}$ is equal to $\lambda_{k+1}^m e_{k+1}$ plus some linear combination of e_1, \dots, e_k . Call this linear combination v' . So, we have $T^m v = L + v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m e_{k+1}$. Both $L, v' \in U'$.

Since the power of T can be whatever we want, apply T^m to both sides again, getting:

$$T^m T^m v = T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m T^m e_{k+1}$$

And, again, for readability, let's let $p = 2m$. Then, we have:

$$T^p v = T^m(T^m v) = T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m (\lambda_{k+1}^m e_{k+1} + v').$$

The claim is that $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists p$ so that $\|T^p v\| \leq \varepsilon$. Now we expand the left side:

$$\begin{aligned} \|T^p v\|^2 &= \langle T^p v, T^p v \rangle \\ &= \langle T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1}, T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &= \langle T^m(L + v'), T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v', T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1}, T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &= \langle T^m(L + v'), T^m(L + v') \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle T^m(L + v'), a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &\quad + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m \langle v', T^m(L + v') \rangle \\ &\quad + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m \langle v', a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &\quad + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p \langle e_{k+1}, T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &= \|T^p v\|^2 \\ &\quad + \overline{a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m} \langle T^m(L + v'), v' + \lambda_{k+1}^m e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &\quad + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m \langle v', T^m(L + v') \rangle \\ &\quad + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m \langle v', a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + \lambda_{k+1}^m e_{k+1} \rangle \\ &\quad + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p \langle e_{k+1}, T^m(L + v') + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^m v' + a_{k+1} \lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \|T^p v\|^2 + \overline{a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^m} \langle T^m(L+v'), v' \rangle + a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^m \langle v', T^m(L+v') \rangle + a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^m \langle v', a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^m v' \rangle \\
&+ a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^p \langle e_{k+1}, a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^p e_{k+1} \rangle \\
&= \|T^p v\|^2 + \operatorname{Re}(\overline{a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^m} \langle T^m(L+v'), v' \rangle) + |a_{k+1}|^2 |\lambda_{k+1}^m|^2 \|v'\|^2 + |a_{k+1}|^2 |\lambda_{k+1}^p|^2 \\
&= \|T^p v\|^2 + \operatorname{Re}(\overline{a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^m} \langle T^m(L+v'), v' \rangle) + |a_{k+1}|^2 |\lambda_{k+1}|^p \|v'\|^2 + |a_{k+1}|^2 |\lambda_{k+1}|^{2p}
\end{aligned}$$

Don't worry, almost done. That was gross, but what's important is that in front of every term of that sum there's a factor of either λ_{k+1}^m or λ_{k+1}^p , other than the first term $\|T^p v\|^2$, and the term that takes the real part of some complex number. Let's address the $\|T^p v\|^2$ first. Since by induction we know that there's a number k that lets us make the first term as small as we want, we can pick a value of m that's an integer multiple of k that makes $|\lambda_{k+1}^p|$ as small as we want. And of course, if $|\lambda_{k+1}|^p$ is as small as we want, $|\lambda_{k+1}|^{2p}$ is smaller still. Similarly, $\operatorname{Re}(\overline{a_{k+1}\lambda_{k+1}^m} \langle T^m(L+v'), v' \rangle)$ scales with λ_{k+1} , so we can make that as small as we want by exponentiating λ_{k+1} as well. So, we can pick an m that makes each term as small as we want. For a given ε , we just pick an m that makes each term less or equal to $\frac{\varepsilon}{4}$, and we're done.