Let $T:V\to V$ be a linear transformation, where V is an n-dimensional vector space. T has an eigenbasis if and only if the sum of the geometric multiplicities of its eigenvalues equals n.

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Proof. (\Longrightarrow) Suppose T has an eigenbasis. We partition the vectors in the eigenbasis into m sets depending on their respective eigenvalues. These partitioned sets must be linearly independent as they are subsets of the eigenbasis. Thus, for a set with a given eigenvalue λ , it has at most gemu(λ) vectors. We also know that the eigenbasis has n vectors in it, and the total number of vectors in each partition must sum to n. Thus $\sum_{\forall \lambda} \operatorname{gemu}(\lambda) = n$. (\Longleftrightarrow) Suppose $\sum_{\forall \lambda} \operatorname{gemu}(\lambda) = n$. Note that $\operatorname{gemu}(\lambda)$ is the number of vectors in

(\Leftarrow) Suppose $\sum_{\forall \lambda} \operatorname{gemu}(\lambda) = n$. Note that $\operatorname{gemu}(\lambda)$ is the number of vectors in the basis of the eigenspace of λ . The union of all such bases has n elements, and because the union of bases for distinct eigenspaces is linearly independent, the union of all bases represents a basis for T. Thus T has an eigenbasis.