

MATH 307

CHAPTER 5

SECTION 5.5: SIMILAR MATRICES, DIAGONALIZATION, AND JORDAN CANONICAL FORM

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Motivation

EXAMPLE 1. Let A be the 3×3 matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then, (a) compute A^5 (b) find the eigenvalues of A (c) find a basis for each eigenspace.

$$(a) \quad A \cdot A \cdot A \cdot A \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 2^5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3^5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4^5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(b) \quad \lambda I - A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda-2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda-3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda-4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \det(\lambda I - A) = (\lambda-2)(\lambda-3)(\lambda-4)$$

$$\text{So, } \det(\lambda I - A) = 0 \iff \lambda=2, \lambda=3 \text{ or } \lambda=4.$$

$$(c) \quad \underline{\lambda=2} \quad 2I - A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow y=0, z=0 \text{ \& } x \text{ free variable}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ basis for } E_2.$$

$$\underline{\lambda=3} \quad 3I - A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} x=0 \\ z=0 \\ y \text{ free var.} \end{matrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = y \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ basis for } E_3.$$

$$\underline{\lambda=4} \quad 4I - A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} x=0 \\ y=0 \\ z \text{ free var.} \end{matrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ z \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ basis for } E_4.$$

Remarks

- It is pretty easy to deal with diagonal matrices.
- Our goal is to try to transform a general matrix into a diagonal matrix.

EXAMPLE 2. Let A be the following 3×3 matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -4 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find (a) the eigenvalues of A (b) a basis for each eigenspace (c) compute A^5 .

$$(a) \det(\lambda I - A) = \lambda^3 - 9\lambda^2 + 26\lambda - 24 = (\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 3)(\lambda - 4).$$

\rightarrow Eigenvalues: $\lambda = 2, \lambda = 3$ & $\lambda = 4$.

$$(b) \underline{\lambda = 2}. \quad (2I - A) = \begin{bmatrix} -4 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad \text{Solve } (2I - A)v = 0$$
$$v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -4 & 4 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z \\ z/2 \\ z \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

A basis for E_2 is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\underline{\lambda = 3}. \quad 3I - A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Solve } (3I - A)v = 0$$
$$v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2z \\ z \\ z \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

A basis for E_3 is $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\underline{\lambda = 4}. \quad 4I - A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Solve } (4I - A)v = 0$$
$$v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3z \\ z \\ z \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

So $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is a basis for E_4 .

c) we could compute directly A^5 . This will be long though. Instead, we will try to transform A into a diagonal matrix D : we have to represent A in another basis.

The eigen vectors are the key!

Write the change of basis from $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ to the set of eigen vectors which form a basis Λ of \mathbb{R}^3 :

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1/2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now, the matrix A in the basis Λ is

$$[A]_{\Lambda} = P^{-1} A P$$

$$\rightarrow A = P [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} P^{-1}$$

Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A^5 &= \underbrace{(P [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} P^{-1})}_{\overset{I}{\parallel}} \underbrace{(P [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} P^{-1})}_{\overset{I}{\parallel}} \underbrace{(P [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} P^{-1})}_{\overset{I}{\parallel}} \underbrace{(P [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} P^{-1})}_{\overset{I}{\parallel}} \underbrace{(P [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} P^{-1})}_{\overset{I}{\parallel}} \rightarrow I \\ &= P [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} I [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} I [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} I [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} I [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} P^{-1} \\ &= P ([A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge})^5 P^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Also, } [A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge} = P^{-1} A P = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{A diag. Matrix!}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow A^5 &= P^{-1} ([A]_{\Lambda}^{\wedge})^5 P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & 2 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2^5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3^5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4^5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1/2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2586 & -4264 & -422 \\ 781 & -1108 & -211 \\ 781 & -1140 & -179 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Definition

Diagonalizable Matrices:

An $n \times n$ matrix A is *diagonalizable* if there is a matrix D and an invertible matrix P such that

$$A = P^{-1}DP$$

Facts:

- Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix.
- Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ be the eigenvalues of A .
- Let $E_{\lambda_1}, E_{\lambda_2}, \dots, E_{\lambda_k}$ be the eigenspaces associated to each eigenvalue.

If $\dim(E_{\lambda_1}) + \dim(E_{\lambda_2}) + \dots + \dim(E_{\lambda_k}) = n$, then A is diagonalizable.

EXAMPLE 3. Is the matrix from Example 2 diagonalizable?

A is a 3×3 matrix $\rightarrow n = 3$.

$$\lambda_1 = 2, \lambda_2 = 3, \lambda_3 = 4$$

We have

$$\dim(E_2) = 1, \dim(E_3) = 1, \dim(E_4) = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \dim(E_2) + \dim(E_3) + \dim(E_4) = 1 + 1 + 1 = 3$$

$\rightarrow A$ is diagonalizable.

EXAMPLE 4. Is the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -6 \\ -2 & 2 & -5 \\ 2 & 1 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

diagonalizable? If so, determine the invertible matrix P such that $P^{-1}AP$ is a diagonal matrix.

Eigen Values.

$$\det(\lambda I - A) = \lambda^3 - 11\lambda^2 + 39\lambda - 45 = (\lambda - 5)(\lambda - 3)^2$$

$$\rightarrow \lambda = 5, \lambda = 3 \text{ (multiplicity 2)}.$$

Eigen Spaces.

$$E_5 (\lambda = 5) \quad \text{Solve } (5I - A)v = 0 \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$5I - A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 \\ -2 & -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 & 6 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x = -z \\ y = -z \\ z = z \end{array}$$

$$\text{So, } \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -z \\ -z \\ z \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ basis for } E_5 \text{ \& } \dim(E_5) = 1$$

$$E_3 (\lambda = 3) \quad \text{Solve } (3I - A)v = 0 \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$3I - A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 \\ -2 & -1 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 6 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & -5 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x = -2z \\ y = -z \\ z = z \end{array}$$

$$\text{So } \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2z \\ -z \\ z \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ basis for } E_3 \text{ \& } \dim(E_3) = 1$$

We have $\dim(E_5) + \dim(E_3) = 1 + 1 = 2 \neq 3$.

Therefore, A is not diagonalizable.

EXAMPLE 5. Is the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

diagonalizable? If so, determine the invertible matrix P such that $P^{-1}AP$ is a diagonal matrix.

Eigen Values.

$$\det(\lambda I - A) = (\lambda - 1)^2 + 1 = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 2$$

$$\lambda = \frac{-(-2) \pm \sqrt{4 - 4 \cdot 2}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{-4}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm 2i}{2} = 1 \pm i$$

Eigen Spaces.

E_{1+i} ($\lambda = 1+i$) Solve $((1+i)I - A)v = 0$ $v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$, $x, y \in \mathbb{C}$.

$$(1+i)I - A = \begin{bmatrix} i & 1 \\ -1 & i \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} i & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} i & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} ix + y = 0 \\ y = -ix \end{matrix}$$

Thus, $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ -ix \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}$ basis for E_{1+i} & $\dim(E_{1+i}) = 1$.

E_{1-i} ($\lambda = 1-i$) Solve $((1-i)I - A)v = 0$, $v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$, $x, y \in \mathbb{C}$.

$$(1-i)I - A = \begin{bmatrix} -i & 1 \\ -1 & -i \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -i & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} -i & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} -ix + y = 0 \\ y = ix \end{matrix}$$

Thus, $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ ix \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$ basis for E_{1-i} & $\dim(E_{1-i}) = 1$.

We have $\dim(E_{1+i}) + \dim(E_{1-i}) = 1 + 1 = 2 \rightarrow A$ is diag.

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -i & i \end{bmatrix} \quad \& \quad P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ i/2 & -i/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow D = P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} 1+i & 0 \\ 0 & 1-i \end{bmatrix}$$

In general:

An $n \times n$ matrix A is *similar* to an $n \times n$ matrix B if there is an invertible $n \times n$ matrix P such that

$$B = P^{-1}AP.$$

Notation: $A \sim B$ means that A is similar to B .

Facts:

- If A is similar to B and B is similar to C , then A is similar to C .
- If P is the change of bases matrix from α to β and T is a linear transformation, then $[T]_{\beta}^{\beta} = P^{-1}[T]_{\alpha}^{\alpha}P$. So $[T]_{\beta}^{\beta} \sim [T]_{\alpha}^{\alpha}$.

Question:

For non-diagonalizable matrices, can we reduce them to a simple form?

In other words, can we find a matrix B , as simple as possible, such that $B \sim A$?

Answer: Yes! We will replace the diagonal form by the Jordan canonical form.

Jordan blocks

A Jordan block is a square matrix A taking the following shape:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \mu & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \mu & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \mu \end{bmatrix}.$$

Why are these type of matrices important?

EXAMPLE 6. Let A be the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \mu & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \mu \end{bmatrix}.$$

(a) Compute $\det(\lambda I - A)$. (b) Find the dimension of the eigenspaces.

(a) $\det(\lambda I - A) = (\lambda - \mu)^3 \rightarrow \lambda = \mu.$

(b) E_μ Solve $(\mu I - A)v = 0 \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$

$$\mu I - A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow -y = 0 \text{ \& } -z = 0, \quad x \text{ free}$$

$$\rightarrow y = z = 0 \text{ \& } x \text{ free var.}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ basis for } E_\mu \text{ \& } \dim(E_\mu) = 1.$$

We see that: $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{alg. mult } (\lambda = \mu) = 3 \\ \text{geom. mult } (\lambda = \mu) = 1 \end{array} \right\} \text{ play important role later.}$

Remark:

- a $n \times n$ Jordan block associated to a number μ has only one eigenvalue.
- The algebraic multiplicity of this eigenvalue is necessarily equal to n .
- We always have $\dim(E_\mu) = 1$ for an $n \times n$ Jordan block.
- Jordan blocks are the building blocks for the set of matrices that can't be diagonalizable.

Reduction to Jordan Blocks

EXAMPLE 7. We know that the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -6 \\ -2 & 2 & -5 \\ 2 & 1 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

is not diagonalizable. Find a matrix B , not necessarily a diagonal matrix, such that A is similar to B .

We know that

$$\text{geom. mult } (\lambda=5) = \dim(E_5) = 1$$

$$\text{alg. mult } (\lambda=5) = 1$$

&

$$\text{geom. mult } (\lambda=3) = \dim(E_3) = 1$$

$$\text{alg. mult } (\lambda=3) = 2.$$

so, the matrix B will be constructed as followed

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{5} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{\begin{matrix} 3 & * \\ 0 & 3 \end{matrix}} \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Nothing to do with block 5.

$$\text{Block } \begin{bmatrix} 3 & * \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} : \quad \hookrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{geom. mult} = 1$$

$$\hookrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{geom. mult} = 2$$

$$\text{our case} \rightarrow \text{geom mult} = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 & * \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore :

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

General Procedure: Suppose A is an $n \times n$ matrix.

- Express $\det(\lambda I - A)$ as

$$\det(\lambda I - A) = (\lambda - \lambda_1)^{m_1} (\lambda - \lambda_2)^{m_2} \cdots (\lambda - \lambda_k)^{m_k}$$

where m_1 is the multiplicity of λ_1 , m_2 is the multiplicity of λ_2 , ..., m_k is the multiplicity of λ_k .

- For each λ_j , write

$$A_j = \begin{bmatrix} J_{m_{j-1}+1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & J_{m_{j-1}+2} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & J_{m_j} \end{bmatrix}.$$

where each J_p , for $p = m_{j-1} + 1, \dots, m_j$, is a Jordan block

$$J_p = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_j & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_j & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_j & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \lambda_j \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Then the Jordan Canonical Form (JCF) is

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_3 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_k \end{bmatrix}$$

- The invertible matrix P such that $B = P^{-1}AP$ is more complicated to find. In theory, the method to find P uses the notion of a **generalized eigenvector**. In our situation, we will use Python to find this matrix P .

If you want to know more on the generalized eigenvectors and the Jordan Canonical Form, I suggest to take a look at the following references:

- A more math article: *Down With Determinants!* by Sheldon Axler, <https://www.maa.org/sites/default/files/pdf/awards/Axler-Ford-1996.pdf>.
- A Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVixvieNnyc>.

EXAMPLE 8. Let A be an 7×7 matrix with the following eigenvalues:

$$\{1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3\}.$$

Give the possible Jordan canonical form B of the matrix A .

Write $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 2, \lambda_3 = 3$

Then $B = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_3 \end{bmatrix}$

Shape of A_1

alg mult = 1

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ geom. mult} = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ geom. mult} = 2$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ geom mult} = 3$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ geom mult} = 4$$

Shape of A_2

$$A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & * \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ geom. mult} = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ geom mult} = 2$$

Shape of A_3

$$A_3 = [3]$$

So, there are 8 possibilities for B . For example :

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$