

MA3104

# Linear Algebra II

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## 1 Linear operators on a vector space

### 1.1 Preliminaries

We discuss finite dimensional vector spaces  $V$  over some field  $\mathbb{F}$ , along with linear operators  $T: V \rightarrow V$ . We also assume that  $V$  has the inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{L}(V)$  be the set of all linear operators on the vector space  $V$ . Then,  $\mathcal{L}(V)$  is a linear algebra over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ .*

### 1.2 Ideals in a ring

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $(R, +, \cdot)$  be a ring, where  $(R, +)$  is its additive subgroup. A set  $I \subseteq R$  is a left ideal of  $R$  if  $(I, +)$  is a subgroup of  $(R, +)$ , and  $rx \in I$  for every  $r \in R$ ,  $x \in I$ .

*Example.* Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the ring of integers. For some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the set  $n\mathbb{Z}$  is an ideal. In fact, these are the only ideals (along with  $\{0\}$ ).

**Definition 1.2.** The principal left ideal generated by  $x \in R$  is the set

$$I_x = Rx = \{rx : r \in R\}.$$

*Example.* In the ring of integers  $\mathbb{Z}$ , every ideal is a principal ideal. This follows directly from the fact that  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is a cyclic group, thus any subgroup is cyclic and generated by a single element.

Let  $I \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  be an ideal. If  $I = \{0\}$ , we are done. Otherwise, let  $n$  be the smallest positive integer in  $I$  (note that if  $a \in I$ , then  $-a \in I$  which means that  $I$  must contain positive integers). This immediately gives  $I \supseteq n\mathbb{Z}$ . Now for any  $m \in I$ , use Euclid's Division Lemma to write  $m = nq + r$ , where  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $0 \leq r < n$ . Since  $I$  is an ideal,  $nq \in I$  hence  $m - nq = r \in I$ . The minimality of  $n$  in  $I$  forces  $r = 0$ , hence  $m = nq$  and  $I \subseteq n\mathbb{Z}$ . This proves  $I = n\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field and let  $\mathbb{F}[x]$  denote the ring of polynomials with coefficients from  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then, every ideal in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$  is a principal ideal.

*Remark.* This is analogous to the theorem which states that every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. Both lead to a precise definition of the greatest common divisor.

**Corollary 1.2.1.** Let  $I$  be a non-trivial ideal in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ . Then, there exists a unique monic polynomial  $p \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  (leading coefficient 1) such that  $I$  is precisely the principal ideal generated by  $p$ .

### 1.3 Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and  $c \in \mathbb{F}$ . We say that  $c$  is an eigenvalue or characteristic value of  $T$  if  $T\mathbf{v} = c\mathbf{v}$  for some non-zero  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ . The vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is called an eigenvector of  $T$ .

**Theorem 1.3.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and  $c \in \mathbb{F}$ . The following are equivalent.

1.  $c$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .
2.  $T - cI$  is singular.
3.  $\det(T - cI) = 0$ .

**Definition 1.4.** The polynomial  $\det(T - xI)$  is called the characteristic polynomial of  $T$ .

**Definition 1.5.** Two linear operators  $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  are similar if there exists an invertible operator  $X \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  such that  $S = X^{-1}TX$ .

*Remark.* Similarity is an equivalence relation on  $\mathcal{L}(V)$ , thus partitioning it into similarity classes.

**Lemma 1.4.** *Similar linear operators have the same characteristic polynomial.*

*Proof.* Let  $S, T$  be similar with  $S = X^{-1}TX$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\det(S - xI) &= \det(X^{-1}TX - xX^{-1}X) \\ &= \det(X^{-1}) \det(T - xI) \det(X) \\ &= \det(T - xI).\end{aligned}$$

□

**Definition 1.6.** A linear operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is diagonalizable if there is a basis of  $V$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $T$ .

*Remark.* The matrix of  $T$  with respect to such a basis is diagonal.

**Theorem 1.5.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  where  $V$  is finite dimensional, let  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  be distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ , and let  $W_i = \ker(T - c_iI)$  be the corresponding eigenspaces. The following are equivalent.*

1.  $T$  is diagonalizable.
2. The characteristic polynomial of  $T$  is of the form

$$f(x) = (x - c_1)^{d_1} \dots (x - c_k)^{d_k}$$

where each  $d_i = \dim W_i$ .

3.  $\dim V = \dim W_1 + \dots + \dim W_k$ .

## 1.4 Annihilating polynomials

**Definition 1.7.** An polynomial  $p$  such that  $p(T) = 0$  for a given linear operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is called an annihilating polynomial of  $T$ .

**Lemma 1.6.** *Every linear operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , where  $V$  is finite dimensional, has a non-trivial annihilating polynomial.*

*Proof.* Note that the operators  $I, T, T^2, \dots, T^{n^2} \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , of which there are  $n^2 + 1$ , are linearly dependent, since  $\dim \mathcal{L}(V) = n^2$ . □

**Lemma 1.7.** *The annihilating polynomials of  $T$  form an ideal in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ .*

**Definition 1.8.** The minimal polynomial of  $T$  is the unique monic generator of the annihilating polynomials of  $T$ .

*Remark.* The minimal polynomial of  $T$  divides all its annihilating polynomials.

**Theorem 1.8.** *The minimal polynomial and characteristic polynomial of  $T$  share the same roots, except for multiplicities.*

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be the minimal polynomial of  $T$  and let  $f$  be its characteristic polynomial.

First, let  $c \in \mathbb{F}$  be a root of the minimal polynomial, i.e.  $p(c) = 0$ . The Division Algorithm guarantees

$$p(x) = (x - c)q(x)$$

for some monic polynomial  $q$ . By the minimality of the degree of  $p$ , we have  $q(T) \neq 0$ , hence there exists non-zero  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  such that  $\mathbf{w} = q(T)\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$ . Thus,  $p(T)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  gives

$$(T - cI)q(T)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}, \quad T\mathbf{w} = c\mathbf{w},$$

which shows that  $c$  is an eigenvalue, i.e. a root of the characteristic polynomial  $f$ .

Next, suppose that  $c$  is a root of the characteristic polynomial, i.e.  $f(c) = 0$ . Thus,  $c$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ , hence there exists non-zero  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  such that  $T\mathbf{v} = c\mathbf{v}$ . This gives  $p(T)\mathbf{v} = p(c)\mathbf{v}$ , but  $p(T) = 0$  identically, forcing  $p(c) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.9** (Cayley-Hamilton). *The characteristic polynomial of  $T$  annihilates  $T$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $S = \text{adj}(T - xI)$ . This is a matrix with polynomial entries, satisfying

$$(T - xI)S = \det(T - xI)I = f(x)I,$$

where  $f$  is the characteristic polynomial of  $T$ . Now, we can also collect the powers  $x^n$  from  $S$  and write

$$S = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} x^k S_k$$

for matrices  $S_k$ . Now, calculate

$$\begin{aligned} f(x)I &= (T - xI)S \\ &= (T - xI) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} x^k S_k \\ &= -x^k S_{k-1} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} x^k (TS_k - S_{k-1}) + TS_0. \end{aligned}$$

Compare coefficients with

$$f(x)I = x^n I + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0 I$$

to get

$$S_{n-1} = -I, \quad TS_0 = a_0I, \quad TS_k - S_{k-1} = a_kI \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq n-1.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} f(T) &= \sum_{k=0}^n a_k T^k \\ &= -T^n S_{n-1} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (TS_k - S_{k-1}) T^k + TS_0 \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Corollary 1.9.1.** *The minimal polynomial of  $T$  divides its characteristic polynomial.*

**Corollary 1.9.2.** *The minimal polynomial of  $T$  in a finite-dimensional vector space  $V$  is at most  $\dim V$ .*

**Theorem 1.10.** *The minimal polynomial for a diagonalizable linear operator  $T$  in a finite-dimensional vector space is*

$$p(x) = (x - c_1) \cdots (x - c_k),$$

where  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  are distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ .

*Proof.* The diagonalizability of  $T$  implies that  $V$  admits a basis of eigenvectors of  $T$ . Thus, for any such eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}_i$ , the operator  $T - c_i I$  kills it where  $c_i$  is the corresponding eigenvalue. Thus,  $p(T)\mathbf{v}_i$  vanishes for every basis vector  $\mathbf{v}_i$  □

*Remark.* The converse is also true, i.e.  $T$  is diagonalizable if and only if the minimal polynomial is the product of distinct linear factors.

## 1.5 Invariant subspaces

**Definition 1.9.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  where  $V$  is finite-dimensional, and let  $W \subseteq V$  be a subspace. We say that  $W$  is invariant under  $T$  if  $T(W) \subseteq W$ .

If a subspace  $W$  is invariant under  $T$ , we define the linear map  $T_W \in \mathcal{L}(W)$  as the restriction of  $T$  to  $W$  in the natural way, by setting  $T_W(\mathbf{w}) = T(\mathbf{w})$  for all  $\mathbf{w} \in W$ .

**Lemma 1.11.** *If  $W$  is an invariant subspace under  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , then there is a basis of  $V$  in which  $T$  has the block triangular form*

$$[T]_\beta = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $A$  is an  $r \times r$  matrix,  $r = \dim W$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\beta_W = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$  be an ordered basis of  $W$ , and extend it to an ordered basis  $\beta = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  of  $V$ . Thus, the matrix  $[T]_\beta$  has coefficients  $a_{ij}$  such that

$$T\mathbf{v}_j = a_{1j}\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + a_{rj}\mathbf{v}_r + \dots + a_{nj}\mathbf{v}_n.$$

However for all  $j \leq r$ ,  $T\mathbf{v}_j \in W$  by the invariance of  $W$ , so the coefficients of  $\mathbf{v}_{i>r}$  in the expansion of  $T\mathbf{v}_j$  must vanish. Thus, all  $a_{ij} = 0$  where  $i > r$ ,  $j \leq r$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 1.12.** *If  $W$  is an invariant subspace under  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , the characteristic polynomial of  $T_W$  divides the characteristic polynomial of  $T$ , and the minimal polynomial of  $T_W$  divides the minimal polynomial of  $T$ .*

*Proof.* Choose an ordered basis  $\beta$  of  $V$  such that

$$[T]_\beta = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix} = D.$$

Note that the matrix of  $T_W$  in the restricted basis  $\beta_W$  is just  $A$ . It can be shown that

$$\det(xI - D) = \det(xI - A) \det(xI - C),$$

which immediately gives the first result.

Now, it can also be shown that the powers of  $D$  are of the form

$$[T^k]_\beta = \begin{bmatrix} A^k & B_k \\ 0 & C^k \end{bmatrix} = D^k.$$

Now,  $T^k\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  implies  $T_W^k\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ , hence any polynomial which annihilates  $T$  also annihilates  $T_W$ . This gives the second result.  $\square$

**Definition 1.10.** Let  $W$  be an invariant subspace under  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and let  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ . We define the  $T$ -conductor of  $\mathbf{v}$  into  $W$  as the set  $S_T(\mathbf{v}; W)$  of all polynomials  $g$  such that  $g(T)\mathbf{v} \in W$ .

When  $W = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ ,  $S_T(\mathbf{v}, \{\mathbf{0}\})$  is called the  $T$ -annihilator of  $\mathbf{v}$ .

**Lemma 1.13.** *If  $W$  is invariant under  $T$ , then it is invariant under all polynomials of  $T$ . Thus, the conductor  $S_T(\mathbf{v}, W)$  is an ideal in the ring of polynomials  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ .*

**Definition 1.11.** If  $W$  is an invariant subspace under  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ , then the unique monic generator of  $S_T(\mathbf{v}, W)$  is also called the  $T$ -conductor of  $\mathbf{v}$  into  $W$ .

The unique monic generator of  $S_T(\mathbf{v}, \{\mathbf{0}\})$  is also called the  $T$ -annihilator of  $\mathbf{v}$ .

*Remark.* The  $T$ -annihilator of  $\mathbf{v}$  is the unique monic polynomial  $g$  of least degree such that  $g(T)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ .

*Remark.* The minimal polynomial is a  $T$ -conductor for every  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ , thus every  $T$ -conductor divides the minimal polynomial of  $T$ .

**Lemma 1.14.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  for finite-dimensional  $V$ , where the minimal polynomial of  $T$  is a product of linear operators*

$$p(x) = (x - c_1)^{r_1} \cdots (x - c_k)^{r_k}.$$

*Let  $W$  be a proper subspace of  $V$  which is invariant under  $T$ . Then, there exists a vector  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  such that  $\mathbf{v} \notin W$ , and  $(T - cI)\mathbf{v} \in W$  for some eigenvalue  $c$ .*

*Proof.* What we must show is that the  $T$ -conductor of  $\mathbf{v}$  into  $W$  is a linear polynomial. Choose arbitrary  $\mathbf{w} \in V \setminus W$ , and let  $g$  be the  $T$ -conductor of  $\mathbf{w}$  into  $W$ . Thus,  $g$  divides the minimal polynomial of  $T$ , and hence is a product of linear factors of the form  $x - c_i$  for eigenvalues  $c_i$ . Thus write

$$g = (x - c_i)h.$$

The minimality of  $g$  ensures that  $\mathbf{v} = h(T)\mathbf{w} \notin W$ . Finally, note that

$$(T - c_i I)\mathbf{v} = (T - c_i I)h(T)\mathbf{w} = g(T)\mathbf{w} \in W. \quad \square$$

## 1.6 Triangulability and diagonalizability

**Theorem 1.15.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  for finite-dimensional  $V$ . Then,  $T$  is triangulable if and only if the minimal polynomial is a product of linear polynomials.*

*Proof.* First suppose that the minimal polynomial is of the form

$$p(x) = (x - c_1)^{r_1} \cdots (x - c_k)^{r_k}.$$

We want to find an ordered basis  $\beta = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  in which

$$[T]_\beta = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus, we demand

$$T\mathbf{v}_j = a_{1j}\mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + a_{jj}\mathbf{v}_j,$$

i.e. each  $T\mathbf{v}_j$  is in the span of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_j$ .

Apply the previous lemma on  $W = \{\mathbf{0}\}$  to obtain  $\mathbf{v}_1$ . Next, let  $W_1$  be the subspace spanned by  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and use the lemma to obtain  $\mathbf{v}_2$ . Then let  $W_2$  be the subspace spanned by  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$  and use the lemma to obtain  $\mathbf{v}_3$ , and so on. Note that at each step, the newly generated vector  $\mathbf{v}_j$  satisfies  $\mathbf{v}_j \notin W_{j-1}$  and  $(T - c_i I)\mathbf{v}_j \in W_{j-1}$ , hence

$$T\mathbf{v}_j = a_{ij}\mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + a_{(j-1)j}\mathbf{v}_{j-1} + c_i\mathbf{v}_j$$

as desired.

Next, suppose that  $T$  is triangulable. Thus, there is a basis in which the matrix of  $T$  is diagonal, which immediately means that the characteristic polynomial is the product of linear factors  $x - a_{ii}$ . Furthermore, the diagonal elements are precisely the eigenvalues of  $T$ . Since the minimal polynomial divides the characteristic polynomial, it too is a product of linear polynomials.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.15.1.** *In an algebraically closed field  $\mathbb{F}$ , any  $n \times n$  matrix over  $\mathbb{F}$  is triangulable.*

**Theorem 1.16.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  for finite-dimensional  $V$ . Then,  $T$  is diagonalizable if and only if the minimal polynomial is a product of distinct linear factors, i.e.*

$$p(x) = (x - c_1) \cdots (x - c_k)$$

where  $c_i$  are distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ .

*Proof.* We have already shown that if  $T$  is diagonalizable, then its minimal polynomial must have the given form.

Next, let the minimal polynomial of  $T$  have the given form. Let  $W$  be the subspace spanned by all eigenvectors of  $V$ . Suppose that  $W \neq V$ . Using the fact that  $W$  is an invariant subspace under  $T$  and the previous lemma, we find  $\mathbf{v} \notin W$  and an eigenvalue  $c_j$  such that  $\mathbf{w} = (T - c_j I)\mathbf{v} \in W$ . Now,  $\mathbf{w}$  can be written as the sum of eigenvectors

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{w}_k$$

where each  $T\mathbf{w}_i = c_i\mathbf{w}_i$ . Thus for every polynomial  $h$ , we have

$$h(T)\mathbf{w} = h(c_1)\mathbf{w}_1 + \cdots + h(c_k)\mathbf{w}_k \in W.$$

Since  $c_j$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ , write  $p = (x - c_j)q$  for some polynomial  $q$ . Further write  $q - q(c_j) = (x - c_j)h$  using the Remainder Theorem. Thus,

$$q(T)\mathbf{v} - q(c_j)\mathbf{v} = h(T)(T - c_j I)\mathbf{v} = h(T)\mathbf{w} \in W.$$

Since

$$\mathbf{0} = p(T)\mathbf{v} = (T - c_j I)q(T)\mathbf{v},$$

the vector  $q(T)\mathbf{v}$  is an eigenvector and hence in  $W$ . However,  $\mathbf{v} \notin W$ , forcing  $q(c_j) = 0$ . This contradicts the fact that the factor  $x - c_j$  appears only once in the minimal polynomial.  $\square$

## 1.7 Simultaneous triangulation and diagonalization

**Definition 1.12.** Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space, and let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of linear operators on  $V$ . The family  $\mathcal{F}$  is said to be simultaneously triangulable if there exists a basis of  $V$  in which every operator in  $\mathcal{F}$  is represented by an upper triangular matrix.

An analogous definition holds for simultaneous diagonalizability.

**Lemma 1.17.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a simultaneously diagonalizable family of linear operators. Then, every pair of operators from  $\mathcal{F}$  commute.*

*Proof.* This follows trivially from the fact that diagonal matrices commute.  $\square$



**Definition 1.13.** A subspace  $W$  is invariant under a family of linear operators  $\mathcal{F}$  if it is invariant under every operator  $T \in \mathcal{F}$ .

**Lemma 1.18.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a commuting family of triangulable linear operators on  $V$ , and let  $W \subset V$  be a proper subspace invariant under  $\mathcal{F}$ . Then, there exists a vector  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  such that  $\mathbf{v} \notin W$  and  $T\mathbf{v} \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}, W\}$  for each  $T \in \mathcal{F}$ .

*Proof.* We observe that we can assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  contains only finitely many operators, without loss of generality. This is because of the finite dimensionality of  $V$ , which enables us to pick a finite basis of  $\mathcal{L}(V)$ .

Using Lemma 1.14, we can find vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1 \notin W$  and  $c_1$  such that  $(T_1 - c_1 I)\mathbf{v}_1 \in W$ , for  $T_1 \in \mathcal{F}$ . Define

$$V_1 = \{\mathbf{v} \in V : (T_1 - c_1 I)\mathbf{v} \in W\}.$$

Note that  $V_1$  is a subspace which properly contains  $W$ . Furthermore,  $V_1$  is invariant under  $\mathcal{F}$  – this uses the fact that the operators from  $\mathcal{F}$  commute. Now, let  $U_2$  be the restriction of  $T_2$  to  $V_1$ . Apply the lemma the find to  $U_2, W, V_1$  to obtain  $\mathbf{v}_2 \in V_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \notin W$  such that  $(U_2 - c_2 I)\mathbf{v}_2 \in W$ . Note that  $(T_i - c_i I)\mathbf{v}_2 \in W$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Construct  $V_2$  as before, and repeat this process until we have exhausted all linear operators in  $\mathcal{F}$ . The final vector  $\mathbf{v}_j$  satisfies the desired properties.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.19.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a commuting family of triangulable linear operators on  $V$ . There exists an ordered basis of  $V$  which simultaneously triangulates  $\mathcal{F}$ .

*Proof.* The proof is identical to that of Theorem 1.15.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.20.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a commuting family of diagonalizable linear operators on  $V$ . There exists an ordered basis of  $V$  which simultaneously diagonalizes  $\mathcal{F}$ .

*Proof.* We perform induction on the dimension of  $V$ . The theorem is trivial when  $\dim V = 1$ ; suppose that it holds for vector spaces of dimension less than  $n$ , and let  $\dim V = n$ . Pick  $T \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $T$  is not a scalar multiple of  $I_n$ . Let  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  be distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ , and let  $W_i$  be the corresponding eigenspaces. Each  $W_i$  is invariant under all operators which commute with  $T$ . Now let  $\mathcal{F}_i$  be the family of operators from  $\mathcal{F}$ , restricted to the invariant subspace  $W_i$ . Note that each operator in  $\mathcal{F}_i$  is diagonalizable. Furthermore,  $\dim W_i < \dim V$ , so the induction hypothesis says that  $\mathcal{F}_i$  is simultaneously diagonalizable; let  $\beta_i$  be the corresponding basis. Each vector in  $\beta_i$  is an eigenvector for every operator in  $\mathcal{F}_i$ . Let  $\beta$  consist of the such vectors from all  $\beta_i$  generated in this way. Since  $T$  is diagonal, this is indeed an basis of  $V$ , as desired.  $\square$

## 1.8 Direct sum decompositions

**Definition 1.14.** Let  $W_1, \dots, W_k$  be subspaces of  $V$ . We say that these  $W_i$  are independent if

$$\mathbf{w}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{w}_k = \mathbf{0}$$

where  $\mathbf{w}_i \in W_i$  implies that each  $\mathbf{w}_i = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Lemma 1.21.** *If  $W_1, \dots, W_k$  are independent, then each vector  $\mathbf{w} \in W_1 + \dots + W_k$  has a unique representation*

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{w}_k$$

*where each  $\mathbf{w}_i \in W_i$ .*

**Definition 1.15.** The sum of independent subspaces  $W_1 + \dots + W_k$  is called a direct sum, denoted

$$W_1 \oplus \dots \oplus W_k.$$

**Lemma 1.22.** *Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space, let  $W_1, \dots, W_k$  be subspaces of  $V$ , and let  $W = W_1 + \dots + W_k$ . Then, the following are equivalent.*

1.  $W_1, \dots, W_k$  are independent.

2. For each  $2 \leq j \leq k$ ,

$$W_j \cap (W_1 + \dots + W_{j-1}) = \{\mathbf{0}\}.$$

3. If  $\beta_i$  are bases of  $W_i$ , then the set  $\beta$  consisting of all these vectors is a basis of  $W$ .

## 1.9 Projections maps

**Definition 1.16.** A projection map on a vector space  $V$  is a linear operator  $E$  such that  $E^2 = E$ . In other words,  $E$  is idempotent.

**Lemma 1.23.** *Let  $E$  be a projection map on  $V$ , and let  $R = \text{im } E$ ,  $N = \ker E$ .*

1. A vector  $\mathbf{v} \in R$  if and only if  $E\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$ .

2. Any vector  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  has the unique representation  $\mathbf{v} = E\mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} - E\mathbf{v})$ , with  $E\mathbf{v} \in R$  and  $\mathbf{v} - E\mathbf{v} \in N$ .

3.  $V = R \oplus N$ .

*Remark.* If  $R$  and  $N$  are two subspaces of  $V$  such that  $V = R \oplus N$ , then there is exactly one projection map  $E$  such that  $R = \text{im } E$  and  $N = \ker E$ . Namely, send  $\mathbf{v} \mapsto \mathbf{v}_R$  where  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_R + \mathbf{v}_N$  is the unique decomposition of  $\mathbf{v}$ .

**Lemma 1.24.** *A projection map is trivially diagonalizable.*

*Proof.* Note that  $x^2 - x = x(x - 1)$  annihilates any projection map. Also note that any projection map restricted to its range is the identity map. Thus,  $\text{trace } E = \text{rank } E$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 1.25.** Let  $V = W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_k$ , and let  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}_k$  with  $\mathbf{v}_i \in W_i$ . Define the maps  $E_i$  such that  $E_i \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_i$ . Then, each  $E_i$  is the projection map along  $W_i$ .

*Remark.* Observe that

$$I = E_1 + \cdots + E_k.$$

Furthermore, we have  $E_i E_j = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ , which means that  $\text{im } E_j \subseteq \ker E_i$ .

**Theorem 1.26.** If  $V = W_1 + \cdots + W_k$ , then there exist  $k$  linear operators  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  on  $V$  such that

1.  $E_i^2 = E_i$ .
2.  $E_i E_j = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ .
3.  $I = E_1 + \cdots + E_k$ .
4.  $\text{im } E_i = W_i$ .

Conversely, if there exist linear  $k$  linear operators which satisfy properties 1, 2, 3 and label  $\text{im } E_i = W_i$ , then  $V = W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_k$ .

*Proof.* We only need to prove the converse. Let  $E_i, \dots, E_k$  satisfy the properties 1, 2, 3 and let  $\text{im } E_i = W_i$ . Pick  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ , hence

$$\mathbf{v} = I_k \mathbf{v} = E_1 \mathbf{v} + \cdots + E_k \mathbf{v} \in W_1 + \cdots + W_k,$$

which shows that  $V = W_1 + \cdots + W_k$ . We claim that this representation of  $\mathbf{v}$  is unique. In other words, suppose that

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}_k$$

where each  $\mathbf{v}_i \in W_i$ ; we claim that  $\mathbf{v}_i = E_i \mathbf{v}$  is the only choice. Since  $\mathbf{v}_i \in W_i$ , write  $\mathbf{v}_i = E_i \mathbf{w}_i$ . Then,

$$E_j \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^k E_j E_i \mathbf{v}_i = \sum_{i=1}^k E_j E_i \mathbf{w}_i = E_j^2 \mathbf{w}_j = E_j \mathbf{w}_j = \mathbf{v}_j. \quad \square$$

**Definition 1.17.** Let  $V = W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_k$ , and let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Additionally, let each  $W_i$  be invariant under  $T$ , hence  $T \mathbf{v}_i \in W_i$ . Define the linear operators  $T_i \in \mathcal{L}(W_i)$ , which are the restrictions of  $T$  to  $W_i$ . Then, given any  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ , there is a unique representation  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}_k$  where  $\mathbf{v}_i \in W_i$ , so

$$T \mathbf{v} = T \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + T \mathbf{v}_k = T_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + T_k \mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}_k.$$

This representation must be unique. We say that  $T$  is the direct sum of the linear operators  $T_1, \dots, T_k$ .

**Lemma 1.27.** Let  $V = W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_k$ , let  $\beta_i$  be ordered bases of  $W_i$ , and let  $\beta$  be the basis formed by combining all these vectors. Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and suppose that each  $W_i$  is invariant under  $T$ . Then, by setting  $[T_i]_{\beta_i} = A_i$ , we have the block diagonal form

$$[T]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & A_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_k \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Theorem 1.28.** Let  $V = W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_k$ , let  $E_i$  be the projections along  $W_i$ , and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Then, each  $W_i$  is invariant under  $T$  if and only if  $T$  commutes with each of the projections  $E_i$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $T$  commutes with each  $E_i$ , i.e.  $TE_i = E_iT$ . We want to show that each  $W_i = \text{im } E_i$  is invariant under  $T$ . Let  $\mathbf{v} \in W_i$ , hence  $\mathbf{v} = E_i\mathbf{v}$  and

$$T\mathbf{v} = TE_i\mathbf{v} = E_iT\mathbf{v}.$$

Thus,  $T\mathbf{v} \in W_i$  as desired.

Conversely, suppose that each  $W_i$  is invariant under  $T$ . Pick  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}_k \in V$  where  $\mathbf{v}_i \in W_i$ . Set  $\mathbf{w}_i = T\mathbf{v}_i \in W_i$ , and compute

$$E_iT\mathbf{v} = E_iT(\mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}_k) = E_i(\mathbf{w}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{w}_k) = \mathbf{w}_i = T\mathbf{v}_i = TE_i\mathbf{v}. \quad \square$$

**Theorem 1.29.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  where  $V$  is a finite-dimensional vector space. If  $T$  is diagonalizable and  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  are the distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ , then there are non-zero linear operators  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  on  $V$  which satisfy the following.

1.  $T = c_1E_1 + \cdots + c_kE_k$ .
2.  $I = E_1 + \cdots + E_k$ .
3.  $E_iE_j = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ .
4.  $E_i^2 = E_i$ .
5.  $\text{im } E_i = \ker(T - c_iI)$ .

Conversely, if there exist  $k$  distinct scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  and  $k$  non-zero linear operators which satisfy properties 1, 2, 3, then  $T$  is diagonalizable,  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  are the eigenvalues of  $T$ , and properties 4, 5 are also satisfied.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $T$  is diagonalizable, with distinct eigenvalues  $c_1, \dots, c_k$ . Let  $W_i = \ker(T - c_iI)$ , and note that  $V = W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_k$ . Let  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  be the projections associated with this decomposition. This immediately gives us the properties 2, 3, 4, 5. To show that property 1 holds, pick arbitrary  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  and write  $\mathbf{v} = E_1\mathbf{v} + \cdots + E_k\mathbf{v}$ . Then, note that  $E_i\mathbf{v}$  are eigenvectors, hence

$$T\mathbf{v} = TE_1\mathbf{v} + \cdots + TE_k\mathbf{v} = c_1E_1\mathbf{v} + \cdots + c_kE_k\mathbf{v}.$$

Conversely, let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and suppose that  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  and non-zero  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  satisfy properties 1, 2, 3. Then, note that

$$E_i = E_iI = E_i(E_1 + \cdots + E_k) = E_i^2,$$

giving property 4. Also,

$$TE_i = (c_1E_1 + \cdots + c_kE_k)E_i = c_iE_i^2 = c_iE_i,$$

hence  $\text{im } E_i \neq \{0\}$  is an eigenspace of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $c_i$ , i.e.  $\text{im } E_i \subseteq \ker(T - c_iI)$ . We claim that there are no other eigenvalues; suppose that  $\ker(T - cI)$  is non-zero. Write

$$T - cI = c_1E_1 + \cdots + c_kE_k - cI = (c_1 - c)E_1 + \cdots + (c_k - c)E_k.$$

Pick non-zero  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  such that  $(T - cI)\mathbf{v} = 0$ . Then, some  $E_i\mathbf{v} \neq 0$  (this is because the images of the projection operators are independent, and  $I = E_1 + \cdots + E_k$ ). On the other hand, we must have each  $(c_i - c)E_i\mathbf{v} = 0$ , forcing  $c = c_i$ . Finally,  $I = E_1 + \cdots + E_k$  says that  $V$  is the direct sum of the  $\text{im } E_i$ , which are contained within the eigenspaces of  $T$ . This means that  $T$  is diagonalizable.

We finally show that  $\text{im } E_i = \ker(T - c_iI)$ . Pick  $\mathbf{v} \in \ker(T - c_iI)$ , which means that

$$(c_1 - c_i)E_1\mathbf{v} + \cdots + (c_k - c_i)E_k\mathbf{v} = 0.$$

By the independence of each  $\text{im } E_i$ , each  $(c_j - c_i)E_j\mathbf{v} = 0$ , or  $E_j\mathbf{v} = 0$  for  $j \neq i$ . Thus,

$$\mathbf{v} = E_1\mathbf{v} + \cdots + E_k\mathbf{v} = E_i\mathbf{v},$$

so  $\mathbf{v} \in \text{im } E_i$ . This proves that  $\text{im } E_i = \ker(T - c_iI)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 1.30.** *The Lagrange polynomials  $p_i$  of degree  $n$  form a basis of the vector space of polynomials of degree at most  $n$ . If we have  $p_i(t_j) = \delta_{ij}$ , then for any polynomial  $f$  of degree  $n$ , we have*

$$f = \sum f(t_i)p_i.$$

**Lemma 1.31.** *If  $T$  is diagonalizable with  $T = c_1E_1 + \cdots + c_kE_k$  where  $E_i$  are projections as discussed earlier, Then, for any polynomial  $g$ , we have*

$$g(T) = g(c_1)E_1 + \cdots + g(c_k)E_k.$$

*Thus, if  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  are the Lagrange polynomials corresponding to the points  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  and we put  $g = c_i$ , then each  $p_i(T) = E_i$ . Thus, each  $E_i$  is a polynomial in  $T$ .*

**Theorem 1.32** (Primary Decomposition Theorem). *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  where  $V$  is finite-dimensional, and let  $p$  be the minimal polynomial of  $T$ , where*

$$p = p_1^{r_1} \cdots p_k^{r_k}$$

*where  $p_i$  are distinct, irreducible polynomials. Let  $W_i = \ker p_i(T)^{r_i}$ , then*

1.  $V = W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_k$ .
2. Each  $W_i$  is invariant under  $T$ .
3. If  $T_i$  is the restriction of  $T$  to  $W_i$ , then the minimal polynomial of  $T_i$  is  $p_i^{r_i}$ .

*Proof.* Set

$$f_i = \frac{p}{p_i^{r_i}} = \prod_{j \neq i} p_j^{r_j}.$$

Since the polynomials  $f_i$  are relatively prime, we can pick polynomials  $g_i$  such that

$$f_1 g_1 + \cdots + f_k g_k = 1.$$

Note that when  $i \neq j$ , we have  $p | f_i f_j$ . Set  $h_i = f_i g_i$ , and let  $E_i = h_i(T)$ . We have  $E_1 + \cdots + E_k = I$ , and  $E_i E_j = 0$  for  $i \neq j$  (the  $f_i f_j(T)$  term contains  $p(T) = 0$ ). This shows that  $E_i$  are projections corresponding to some direct sum decomposition of  $V$ . We claim that  $\text{im } E_i = W_i$ . To see this, first let  $\mathbf{v} \in \text{im } E_i$ , whence  $\mathbf{v} = E_i \mathbf{v}$  so

$$p_i(T)^{r_i} \mathbf{v} = p_i(T)^{r_i} E_i \mathbf{v} = p_i(T)^{r_i} f_i(T) g_i(T) \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Conversely, if  $\mathbf{v} \in W_i$ , when  $p_i(T)^{r_i} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ . Now, for  $i \neq j$ , we have  $p_i^{r_i} | f_j g_j$  hence  $E_j \mathbf{v} = f_j g_j(T) \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  for  $i \neq j$ . This leaves

$$\mathbf{v} = I \mathbf{v} = (E_1 + \cdots + E_k) \mathbf{v} = E_i \mathbf{v},$$

hence  $\mathbf{v} \in \text{im } E_i$ . This proves 1.

It is clear that  $W_i$  is invariant under  $T$ . Pick arbitrary  $\mathbf{v} \in W_i$ , whence  $\mathbf{v} = E_i \mathbf{v}$  so  $T \mathbf{v} = T E_i \mathbf{v} = E_i T \mathbf{v} \in W_i$ . This proves 2.

Since  $p_i(T)^{r_i} = 0$  on  $W_i$ , we have  $p_i(T_i)^{r_i} = 0$ , hence the minimal polynomial of  $T_i$  divides  $p_i^{r_i}$ . Conversely, if  $g(T_i) = 0$  for some polynomial  $g$ , then  $g(T) f_i(T) = 0$  ( $g$  kills everything in  $W_i$ , while  $f_i$  kills everything in the other  $W_j \neq W_i$ ). Thus,  $p = p_i^{r_i} f_i$  divides  $g f_i$ , or  $p_i^{r_i}$  divides  $g$ . Hence, the minimal polynomial of  $T_i$  is precisely  $p_i^{r_i}$ . This proves 3.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.32.1.** *Let  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  be the projections associated with the primary decomposition of  $T$ . Then, each  $E_i$  is a polynomial in  $T$ , so any operator which commutes with  $T$  must also commute with each  $E_i$ . The subspaces  $W_i$  are thus invariant under any operator which commutes with  $T$ .*

**Theorem 1.33.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  where  $V$  is finite-dimensional, and let the minimal polynomial of  $p$  be of the form*

$$p = (x - c_1)^{r_1} \cdots (x - c_k)^{r_k}.$$

*Then, there is a unique diagonalizable operator  $D$  and a unique nilpotent operator  $N$  such that  $T = D + N$ ,  $DN = ND$ , and both are polynomials in  $T$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $D = c_1 E_1 + \cdots + c_k E_k$ ,  $N = T - D$ . Note that  $D$  is diagonalizable, and

$$N = (T - c_1 I) E_1 + \cdots + (T - c_k I) E_k.$$

It can be shown that

$$N^r = (T - c_1 I)^r E_1 + \cdots + (T - c_k I)^r E_k,$$

hence  $N^r = 0$  when  $r$  is equal to the maximum of the  $r_i$ .

We now claim that this choice of  $D$  and  $N$  is unique. Let  $D'$  and  $N'$  also satisfy the above properties; since  $D'$  and  $N'$  commute and  $T = D' + N'$ , all the operators  $T, D, N, D', N'$  commute. Write  $D + N = D' + N'$ , hence

$$D - D' = N' - N.$$

Since  $D$  and  $D'$  commute, they are simultaneously diagonalizable, hence  $D - D'$  is diagonalizable. Now, note that

$$(N' - N)^r = \sum_{j=0}^r \binom{r}{j} (N')^{r-j} (-N)^j.$$

Since  $N'$  and  $N$  are both nilpotent, the right hand side is zero for sufficiently high  $r$ . In other words,  $N' - N$  is nilpotent, hence so is  $D - D'$ . This forces  $D = D'$ , since the only nilpotent diagonalizable operator is the zero operator.  $\square$

## 1.10 Cyclic subspaces

**Lemma 1.34.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  where  $V$  is finite-dimensional, and let  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ . There is a smallest invariant subspace  $W$  containing  $\mathbf{v}$ , namely the intersection of all invariant subspaces containing  $\mathbf{v}$ . Then,  $W$  is the collection of  $g(T)\mathbf{v}$ , for all polynomials  $g$ .*

*Proof.* It is clear that the collection  $\{g(T)\mathbf{v}\}$  is a  $T$ -invariant subspace containing  $\mathbf{v}$ . We now show that this is contained within every  $T$ -invariant subspace containing  $\mathbf{v}$ . Let  $W'$  be a  $T$ -invariant subspace containing  $\mathbf{v}$ . Then,  $T\mathbf{v} \in W'$ , hence all  $T^k\mathbf{v} \in W'$ . This means that all polynomials  $g(T)\mathbf{v} \in W'$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Definition 1.18.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ . We define the  $T$ -cyclic subspace generated by  $\mathbf{v}$  as

$$Z(\mathbf{v}, T) = \{g(T)\mathbf{v} : g \in \mathbb{F}[x]\}.$$

If  $V = Z(\mathbf{v}, T)$ , then  $\mathbf{v}$  is called a cyclic vector for  $T$ .

**Theorem 1.35.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , let  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  be non-zero, and let  $p_{\mathbf{v}}$  be the  $T$ -annihilator of  $\mathbf{v}$ . Then,*

1.  $\dim Z(\mathbf{v}, T) = \deg p_{\mathbf{v}}$ .
2. If  $\deg p_{\mathbf{v}} = k$ , then  $\mathbf{v}, T\mathbf{v}, \dots, T^{k-1}\mathbf{v}$  forms a basis of  $Z(\mathbf{v}, T)$ .
3. If  $U$  is the restriction of  $T$  to  $Z(\mathbf{v}, T)$ , then  $p_{\mathbf{v}}$  is the minimal polynomial of  $U$ .

*Remark.* If  $V$  contains a  $T$ -cyclic vector  $\mathbf{v}$ , then  $Z(\mathbf{v}, T)$ , then the minimal polynomial of  $T$  is precisely its characteristic polynomial. The converse of this is also true.

*Proof.* First note that

$$\mathbf{0} = p_{\mathbf{v}}(T)\mathbf{v} = a_k T^k \mathbf{v} + a_{k-1} T^{k-1} \mathbf{v} + \dots + a_0 \mathbf{v}.$$

Since  $a_k \neq 0$ , this immediately gives  $T^k \mathbf{v}$  as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}, \dots, T^{k-1} \mathbf{v}$ . Thus,  $Z(\mathbf{v}, T)$  is spanned by  $\mathbf{v}, \dots, T^{k-1} \mathbf{v}$ . The same thing can be shown by using the Division Lemma to write  $g = p_{\mathbf{v}}q + r$  where  $0 \leq \deg r < k$ .

We now show that  $\mathbf{v}, \dots, T^{k-1} \mathbf{v}$  are linearly independent. If not, then

$$a_0 \mathbf{v} + \dots + a_{k-1} T^{k-1} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$$

for at least one  $a_i \neq 0$ . This contradicts the minimality of the degree of the  $T$ -annihilator of  $\mathbf{v}$ . Thus, we have properties 1, 2.

Note that  $p_v(U) = 0$ . Any polynomial of lower degree such that  $p(U)v = 0$  must be the zero polynomial by the linear independence of  $v, \dots, T^{k-1}v$ . This means that  $p_v$  must be the minimal polynomial of  $Z(v, T)$ , proving 3.  $\square$

**Definition 1.19.** Let  $p$  be the following monic polynomial.

$$p(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_{k-1}x^{k-1} + x^k.$$

The following matrix is called its companion matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_1 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & -a_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & -a_{k-1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Lemma 1.36.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  such that  $v \in V$  is a cyclic vector of  $T$ . Then, the matrix representation of  $T$  in the basis  $v, T v, \dots, T^{n-1}v$  is the companion matrix of the characteristic/minimal polynomial of  $T$ .

*Remark.* If  $T$  is also nilpotent, then  $T^n = 0$  hence the last column in our matrix vanishes.

**Theorem 1.37.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Then,  $T$  admits a cyclic vector if and only if there is an ordered basis of  $V$  in which the matrix representation of  $T$  is the companion matrix of its characteristic polynomial.

*Proof.* If  $T$  admits a cyclic vector  $v$ , we have already shown that the desired basis is  $\{v, T v, \dots, T^{n-1}v\}$ .

Conversely, suppose that in the basis  $\{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}\}$ , the matrix representation of  $T$  is the companion matrix of its characteristic polynomial. Then we immediately have  $T v_0 = v_1$ ,  $T v_1 = v_2$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $T^{n-2}v_{n-2} = v_{n-1}$ . This immediately shows that  $v_0$  is a cyclic vector of  $T$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1.37.1.** If  $A$  is companion matrix of a monic polynomial  $p$ , then  $p$  is both the minimal and characteristic polynomial of  $A$ .

**Corollary 1.37.2.** If  $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  both have cyclic vectors in  $V$ , then they are similar if and only if they have the same characteristic polynomial.

**Definition 1.20.** Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and let  $W \subseteq V$  be a  $T$ -invariant subspace. We say that  $W$  is  $T$ -admissible if the following condition holds: if  $f(T)v \in W$  for some polynomial  $f$ , then there exists  $w \in W$  such that  $f(T)v = f(T)w$ .



**Theorem 1.38** (Cyclic Decomposition Theorem). *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and let  $W_0 \subset V$  be a proper  $T$ -admissible subspace. Then, there exist non-zero vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$ , with respective  $T$ -annihilators  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  such that*

1.  $V = W_0 \oplus Z(\mathbf{v}_1, T) \oplus \dots \oplus Z(\mathbf{v}_r, T)$ .
2.  $p_k$  divides  $p_{k-1}$ .

*The integer  $r$  and the annihilators  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  are uniquely determined by 1 and 2.*

**Corollary 1.38.1.** *Every  $T$ -admissible subspace of  $V$  has a complementary  $T$ -invariant subspace.*

**Corollary 1.38.2.** *The annihilator  $p_1$  is the minimal polynomial of  $T$ .*

*Proof.* Choose  $W_0 = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ , hence  $V$  is the direct sum of  $T$ -cyclic subspaces. Since each  $p_k$  divides  $p_{k-1}$ , we see that  $p_1$  annihilates every vector in  $V$ . Its minimality is guaranteed by the fact that it is the minimal polynomial of  $Z(\mathbf{v}_1, T)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1.38.3.** *Given any  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , there exists  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  such that its  $T$ -annihilator is the minimal polynomial of  $T$ .*

**Corollary 1.38.4.** *Given,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ ,  $T$  has a cyclic vector if and only if its minimal and characteristic polynomials are identical.*