

# Jordan Decomposition Theorem: LinearAlg

Jonathan L.F. King

University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-2082, USA  
squash@ufl.edu

Webpage <http://squash.1gainesville.com/>

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ABSTRACT: Gives a home-grown proof of the Jordan Decomposition Theorem. (Some of the lemmas work in Hilbert space.) The “Partial-form JCF Theorem”, (26), needs to be reworked.

## Prolegomenon

Our goal is to prove the “JCF” (Jordan Canonical Form) Theorem for a linear trn  $T: \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$ , where  $\mathbf{H}$  is a finite-dim’al vectorspace. Formally, we’ll assume that  $\mathbf{H}$  is  $\mathbf{F}^{\times \mathcal{H}}$ , where the field  $\mathbf{F}$  is either  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ .

For vectorspaces use

vectorspace:  $\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{V}$

dimension:  $\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{V}$ .

Use sans-serif font for matrices  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{M}$ . For square matrices  $\mathbf{A}_e$ , let  $Diag(\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\mathcal{E})$  be the partitioned matrix which has  $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\mathcal{E}$  along its diagonal, and zeros elsewhere.

**1: Notation.** A collection  $\mathcal{C} := \{\mathbf{V}_1, \mathbf{V}_2, \dots, \mathbf{V}_L\}$  of subspaces of  $\mathbf{H}$  is **linearly independent** (abbreviation **lin-indep**) if the only soln to

$$\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{v}_L = \mathbf{0}, \quad \text{with each } \mathbf{v}_\ell \in \mathbf{V}_\ell,$$

is the trivial soln  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_L = \mathbf{0}$ .

Recall that a subspace  $\mathbf{V} \subset \mathbf{H}$  is **T-invariant** if  $T(\mathbf{V}) \subset \mathbf{V}$ .

I’ll use **eval**, **vec** and **e-space** for *eigenvalue*, *eigenvector* and *eigenspace*.  $\square$

## §1 Examining nilpotent case

In sections §1 and §2, “eval” means the eigenvalue **zero**, and “vec” means an eigenvector with eval **zero**.

**2: Defn.** W.r.t  $T$ , a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is **nilpotent** if  $T^d(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$  for some posint  $d$ . Indeed, the **T-depth** of a vector  $\mathbf{v}$ , written  $T\text{-Depth}(\mathbf{v})$ , is the infimum of all natnums  $n$  for which  $T^n(\mathbf{v})$  is  $\mathbf{0}$ . The zero-vector has depth 0. An **vec** for **eval=0** has depth 1. (A non-nilpotent vector has depth  $\infty$ .)

Use  $\text{Nil}(T)$  for the **nilspace** of  $T$ ; it comprises the set of finite-depth vectors. So

$$\text{Nil}(T) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{Ker}(T^n) \stackrel{\text{note}}{\supseteq} \text{Ker}(T).$$

Transformation  $T$  is **nilpotent** if there exists a posint  $D$  such that  $T^D = \mathbf{0}$ . Since  $\mathbf{H}$  is finite dimensional,  $\boxed{\text{trn } T \text{ is nilpotent iff } \text{Nil}(T) = \mathbf{H}}$ .  $\square$

**3: Depth Lemma (preliminary).** Consider a sum

$$3': \quad \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{v}_L$$

whose depths satisfy

$$d_1 > d_2 > \dots > d_L.$$

Then the depth of (3') is  $d_1$ . **Proof.** Exercise.  $\diamond$

A **downtup** (“down tuple”)  $\vec{D} = (D_1, \dots, D_\mathcal{E})$  is a sequence of integers with

$$4: \quad D_1 \geq D_2 \geq \dots \geq D_\mathcal{E} \geq 1.$$

The **size** of  $\vec{D}$  is the sum  $D_1 + \dots + D_\mathcal{E}$ . A posint  $D$  determines a  $D \times D$  **Jordan Block** matrix

$$5: \quad \mathbf{JB}(D) := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ & 0 & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

with zeros on the diagonal and ones on the first off-diagonal. Every undisplayed position is zero.

**6: Nilpotent JCF Theorem.** A nilpotent  $T: \mathbf{F}^{\times \mathcal{H}} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}^{\times \mathcal{H}}$  has a unique downtup  $\vec{D}$  so that

$$7: \quad M = M(\vec{D}) := Diag(\mathbf{JB}(D_1), \dots, \mathbf{JB}(D_\mathcal{E}))$$

is the matrix of  $T$  w.r.t some basis. In particular,  $\text{Size}(\vec{D})$  equals  $\mathcal{H}$ .  $\diamond$

*Remark.* In general, the above basis is not unique.

The theorem can be restated ITOf matrices. A nilpotent  $\mathbf{F}$ -matrix  $\mathbf{M}'$  determines a unique downtup  $\vec{D}$  so that, with  $\mathbf{M}$  from (7),

$$\mathbf{M}' = \mathbf{G}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{M}(\vec{D}) \cdot \mathbf{G},$$

for some invertible  $\mathbf{F}$ -matrix  $\mathbf{G}$ .  $\square$

Temporarily letting  $\mathbf{c}^1, \dots, \mathbf{c}^D$  denote the standard basis, notice that the  $D \times D$  jordan-blk (5) acts on the standard basis by sending  $\mathbf{c}^D \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbf{c}^1 \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$ . Let this motivate our definition of a *chain*: a sequence  $\mathbf{C} = (\mathbf{c}^d)_{d=1}^D$  of vectors, with  $D \geq 1$ , fulfilling

$$8: \quad \mathbf{0} \xleftarrow{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{c}^1 \xleftarrow{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{c}^2 \xleftarrow{\mathbf{T}} \dots \xleftarrow{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{c}^D.$$

Furthermore  $\mathbf{c}^1 \neq \mathbf{0}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{c}^1$  is an eigenvector. Equivalently, the depth of each  $\mathbf{c}^d$  is  $d$ .

**9: Lemma.** *Consider a chain  $\mathbf{C}$  as in (8), Then the eigenspace in  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C})$  is just 1-dimensional. Further,  $\mathbf{C}$  is a basis for  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C})$  and so the dimension of  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C})$  is  $D$ . Proof. The Depth Lemma.  $\diamond$*

A *chain complex*  $\vec{\mathbf{C}}$  for  $\mathbf{T}$  is a sequence  $\mathbf{C}_1, \mathbf{C}_2, \dots, \mathbf{C}_\mathcal{E}$  of  $\mathbf{T}$ -chains such that  $\vec{D}$  is a downtuple, (4), where  $D_e := \text{Depth}(\mathbf{C}_e)$ . Furthermore

10: *The list  $\mathbf{c}_1^1, \mathbf{c}_2^1, \mathbf{c}_3^1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_\mathcal{E}^1$  of eigenvectors is linearly independent.*

The downtup  $\vec{D}$  is called the *signature* of  $\vec{\mathbf{C}}$ .

By the way, we call  $\vec{\mathbf{C}}$  a “*spanning chain-complex*” if  $\sqcup_{e=1}^\mathcal{E} \mathbf{C}_e$  is a *basis* for  $\mathbf{H}$ . Courtesy the next lemma, the chain-complex spans iff  $D_1 + \dots + D_\mathcal{E}$  equals  $\text{Dim}(\mathbf{H})$ .

**11: Chain Independence Lemma.** *Suppose that  $\mathbf{C}_1, \dots, \mathbf{C}_\mathcal{E}$  are chains (of possibly different lengths). Then TFAEivalent.*

*a: The list of eigenvectors  $\mathbf{c}_1^1, \mathbf{c}_2^1, \mathbf{c}_3^1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_\mathcal{E}^1$  is linearly independent.*

*b: The list  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_1), \text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_2), \dots, \text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_\mathcal{E})$  of subspaces is linearly independent.*

*c: The disjoint union  $\sqcup_{e=1}^\mathcal{E} \mathbf{C}_e$  is a lin-indep set.*  $\diamond$

*Proof.* That (b)  $\Rightarrow$  (c) follows from Lemma 9. The interesting implication is (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b).

Were the subspaces dependent, then we could find vectors  $\mathbf{v}_e \in \text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_e)$ , not all  $\mathbf{0}$ , so that

$$\dagger: \quad \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{E}-1} + \mathbf{v}_\mathcal{E}.$$

Let  $D$  be the max of  $\text{Depth}(\mathbf{v}_e)$ , taken over  $e = 1, \dots, \mathcal{E}$ . Replacing each  $\mathbf{v}_e$  by  $\mathbf{T}^{D-1}(\mathbf{v}_e)$  arranges that: *Each  $\mathbf{v}_e$  is either an eigenvector or is  $\mathbf{0}$ , and not all are  $\mathbf{0}$ .*

Courtesy (9), the eigenspace in each  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_e)$  is 1-dim'al, so  $\mathbf{v}_e$  is a multiple of  $\mathbf{c}_e^1$ . But, by hypothesis, these evects are linearly independent,  $\otimes$ . (I use  $\otimes$  for “contradiction”.)  $\blacklozenge$

The above proof allows us to jazz up an earlier lemma. For a nilpotent vector  $\mathbf{v}$  of depth  $d \geq 1$ , call  $\mathbf{T}^{d-1}(\mathbf{v})$  its *penultimate vector*. (This penultimate vector is an evect.)

**12: Depth Corollary.** *Let  $D$  be the max depth of some list of vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_\mathcal{E}$ . Suppose that those vectors of depth  $D$  have linearly-independent penultimate vectors. Then the sum  $\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{v}_\mathcal{E}$  has depth  $D$ .*  $\diamond$

## The Construction

To establish the existence part of Nilpotent JCF Theorem, we fabricate a spanning chain-complex for our nilpotent  $\mathbf{T}$ .

Pick a maximum-length chain  $\mathbf{C}_1$ . Look at the lengths of those chains whose evect is not in  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_1)$ ; among those having the maximum length, take one such chain and call it  $\mathbf{C}_2$ . Pick a maximum-length chain, call it  $\mathbf{C}_3$ , from those whose evect is not in  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_1 \sqcup \mathbf{C}_2)$ . Continuing, produces a sequence of some  $\mathcal{E}$  many

chains  $\mathbf{C}_1, \dots, \mathbf{C}_\mathcal{E}$ . By construction, the eigenvectors  $\mathbf{c}_1^1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_\mathcal{E}^1$  are linearly indep., and their lengths satisfy  $D_1 \geq D_2 \geq \dots \geq D_\mathcal{E}$ .

Our goal is to show that  $\text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup \mathbf{C}_\mathcal{E})$  is all of  $\mathbf{H}$ . (Corollarily, (11)&(12) will imply that  $\mathcal{E}$  is the dimension of the eigenspace of  $\mathbf{T}$ .)

*Proof.* If  $\mathbf{V} := \text{Spn}(\mathbf{C}_1, \dots, \mathbf{C}_\mathcal{E})$  is not all of  $\mathbf{H}$ , then there exists a “bad” vector  $\mathbf{b}$  i.e.

$$13: \quad \mathbf{b} \notin \mathbf{V}, \text{ yet } \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b}) \in \mathbf{V}.$$

(This, since  $\mathbf{T}$  is nilpotent.) Thus we can write  $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b})$  as a lin.comb over the  $\mathbf{V}$ -basis  $\bigsqcup_1^\mathcal{E} \mathbf{C}_e$ . Because it will make no difference to the following argument, I will assume, in the expansion of  $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b})$ , that each non-zero coeff is 1.

Suppose, for example, that

$$14: \quad \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b}) = [\mathbf{c}_3^5 + \mathbf{c}_3^9 + \mathbf{c}_3^{13} + \mathbf{c}_3^{47}] + [\mathbf{c}_6^1 + \mathbf{c}_6^4 + \mathbf{c}_6^9] + [\mathbf{c}_8^2 + \mathbf{c}_8^{31}] + \dots + [\mathbf{c}_{73}^2 + \mathbf{c}_{73}^{14}].$$

Consider the  $\mathbf{c}_3^5$  term. It has a predecessor on its chain, since  $5 < D_3$ . (After all,  $D_3$  is at least 47.) Hence *replacing* the bad vector  $\mathbf{b}$  by  $[\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{c}_3^6]$  preserves (13) and arranges that the  $\mathbf{T}$ -image of this *new*  $\mathbf{b}$  has one fewer term in (14). Only the *chain-end*  $\mathbf{c}_e^{D_e}$  of a chain  $\mathbf{C}_e$  cannot be so removed.

Continue this until there are only chain-ends. For example,<sup>♥1</sup> suppose that the new  $\mathbf{b}$  maps to

$$14': \quad \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{c}_3^{D_3} + \mathbf{c}_8^{D_8} + \dots + \mathbf{c}_{73}^{D_{73}}.$$

Corollary 12 tells us that vector  $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b})$  has depth<sup>♥2</sup>  $\text{Max}(D_3, D_8, \dots)$  —which is  $D_3$ . Consequently:

The depth of  $\mathbf{b}$  is  $1 + D_3$ .

But all the vectors in  $\text{RhS}(14')$  were chosen, during “The Construction”, at stages 3 and after. So  $D_3$  was *not* in fact the length of the longest available chain.  $\otimes$ . ♦

<sup>♥1</sup>In this example, (14) and (14') together tell us that  $D_3 = 47$ ,  $D_6 > 9$ ,  $D_8 = 31$ , and so on.

<sup>♥2</sup>Since  $\mathbf{b} \notin \mathbf{V}$ , our  $\mathbf{b}$  is not an evect; so  $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b})$  is not  $\mathbf{0}$ . Hence  $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{b})$  has *at least one* chain-end.

**Uniqueness of signature.** A spanning chain-complex must have exactly  $\mathcal{E} = \text{Dim}(\mathbf{E})$  chains, where  $\mathbf{E}$  is the eigenspace of  $\mathbf{T}$ . Although the spanning chain-complex itself is not unique nonetheless its *signature* is unique —the Nilpotent JCF Thm asserts this, so I’d better prove it!

**15: Lemma.** *Given a nilpotent  $\mathbf{T}$ , all spanning chain-complexes have the same signature.* ♦

*Proof.* Consider two spanning chain-complexes

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\mathbf{C}} &= (\mathbf{C}_1, \dots, \mathbf{C}_\mathcal{E}), \\ \vec{\mathbf{C}}^\bullet &= (\mathbf{Q}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Q}_\mathcal{E}), \end{aligned}$$

with different signatures. For specificity, suppose that the two signatures differ in their third term as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 \geq D_2 \geq 9 = D_3 \geq D_4 \geq \dots \geq D_\mathcal{E}; \\ D_1 \geq D_2 \geq 8 \geq D_3^\bullet \geq D_4^\bullet \geq \dots \geq D_\mathcal{E}^\bullet. \end{aligned}$$

Now write vector  $\mathbf{c}_1^9$  over the  $\vec{\mathbf{C}}^\bullet$ -basis:

$$\ddagger: \quad \mathbf{c}_1^9 = \alpha_1 \mathbf{q}_1^9 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{q}_2^9 + \mathbf{u}$$

for some scalars  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  and some vector  $\mathbf{u}$  (in  $\text{Spn}(\vec{\mathbf{C}}^\bullet)$ ) whose depth is at most 8; this, courtesy (12). Applying  $\mathbf{T}^8$  to ( $\ddagger$ ) thus tells us that

$$\mathbf{c}_1^1 \in \text{Spn}(\mathbf{q}_1^1, \mathbf{q}_2^1).$$

Repeating the argument twice more gives

$$\{\mathbf{c}_1^1, \mathbf{c}_2^1, \mathbf{c}_3^1\} \subset \text{Spn}(\mathbf{q}_1^1, \mathbf{q}_2^1).$$

But a 3-dim’al space won’t fit inside a 2-dim’al space. ♦

Having proved JCF in the nilpotent case, (6), we now develop the tools for the general case.

## §2 Algebraic information

The *characteristic poly* of an  $\mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{M}$  matrix  $M$  is

$$\wp_M(x) := \text{Det}(x\mathbf{I} - M).$$

So  $\wp_M$  is a monic  $\text{deg-}\mathcal{M}$  poly.

**16: Lemma.** For a  $\mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{B}$  matrix  $B$ ,

$$\text{Ker}(B) \text{ is trivial} \iff \wp_B(0) \neq 0,$$

i.e, IFF  $\wp_B()$  has a [non-zero] constant term.  $\diamond$

Suppose  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \subset \mathbf{H}$  is a lin-indep pair of subspaces, which jointly span  $\mathbf{H}$ . Indicate this by writing

$$\mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{H}.$$

Let  $\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}$  be projection, parallel to  $\mathbf{A}$ , from  $\mathbf{H}$  onto  $\mathbf{B}$ . Said differently, put an inner-product on  $\mathbf{H}$  making  $\mathbf{A} \perp \mathbf{B}$ . Then  $\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}$  is simply the orthogonal projection  $\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{B}}$ . An arbitrary linear trn  $T: \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$  gives a composition

$$*: \quad \mathbf{B} \xleftarrow{\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}} \mathbf{H} \xleftarrow{T} \mathbf{H}$$

Let “ $T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}$ ” denote the restriction of  $(*)$  to  $\mathbf{B}$ , i.e, the mapping  $\mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$  by

$$T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}} := [\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}} \circ T] \downarrow \mathbf{B}.$$

**17: Triangular Matrix Lemma.** Consider an upper-triangular partitioned matrix

$$18: \quad M = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A}} & \mathbf{G}_{\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}} \\ \mathbf{0}_{\mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{A}} & \mathbf{B}_{\mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{B}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then  $\text{Det}(M) = \text{Det}(\mathbf{A}) \cdot \text{Det}(\mathbf{B})$ . In consequence, the char-poly  $\wp_M$  factors as

$$18': \quad \wp_M = \wp_{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \wp_{\mathbf{B}}.$$

Restated, suppose  $T: \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$  has subspaces  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$  st.

$$19: \quad \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B}.$$

If subspace  $\mathbf{A}$  is  $T$ -invariant then

$$19': \quad \wp_T = \wp_{T \downarrow \mathbf{A}} \cdot \wp_{T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}}. \quad \diamond$$

*Proof of  $\text{Det}(M) = \text{Det}(\mathbf{A}) \cdot \text{Det}(\mathbf{B})$ .* Since  $\text{Det}(M)$  is a sum of products taken over all transversals of  $M$ , ISTS that a transversal straying from the  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$  blocks necessarily has product zero.

WLOG this misguided transversal hits  $\mathbf{G}$ . It therefore misses some row of  $\mathbf{A}$  hence (since  $\mathbf{A}$  is square) some column of  $\mathbf{A}$ . In this column, then, the transversal must hit the  $\mathbf{0}_{\mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{A}}$  block.

*Exer: Why do the signs of the permutations work out correctly?*  $\diamond$

*Proof of (19').* Let  $\mathcal{B} = (\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{\mathcal{A}}, \mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_{\mathcal{B}})$  be a basis for  $\mathbf{H}$ , with each  $\mathbf{a}_i \in \mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{b}_j \in \mathbf{B}$ . Then  $M$ , the  $\mathcal{B}$ -matrix of  $T$ , has form (18). Furthermore, the  $(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{\mathcal{A}})$ -matrix of  $T \downarrow_{\mathbf{A}}$  is  $\mathbf{A}$  and the  $(\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_{\mathcal{B}})$ -matrix of  $T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}$  is  $\mathbf{B}$ . Hence  $(18') \Rightarrow (19')$ .  $\diamond$

Recall from (2) the defn of *nilpotent* and  $\text{Nil}(T)$ .

**20: Lemma.** Consider a nilpotent  $S: \mathbf{F}^{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}^{\mathcal{A}}$ . Then

$$\wp_S(x) = [x - 0]^{\mathcal{A}}. \quad \diamond$$

*Pf.* The char-poly of a eval=0 Jordan-Block (5) is  $x^D$ . By the Triangular Matrix Lemma, the char-poly of  $\text{Diag}(\mathbf{J}_{\mathcal{B}}(D_1), \dots, \mathbf{J}_{\mathcal{B}}(D_{\mathcal{E}}))$  is the product  $x^{D_1} \dots x^{D_{\mathcal{E}}}$ . i.e  $x^{D_1 + \dots + D_{\mathcal{E}}}$ .  $\diamond$

**21: Multiplicity Theorem.** Let  $\mathbf{A} := \text{Nil}(T)$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} := \text{Dim}(\mathbf{A})$  is the multiplicity of 0 in the characteristic poly  $\wp_T$ , i.e,

$$\wp_T(x) = [x - 0]^{\mathcal{A}} \cdot g(x),$$

where  $g$  is a poly with a constant term.  $\diamond$

*Proof.* Let  $\mathbf{B}$  be a complementary subspace  $\mathbf{B} \oplus \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{H}$ . Then (19') and (20) tell us that

$$\wp_T(x) = [x - 0]^{\mathcal{A}} \cdot \wp_{T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}}(x).$$

Consequently, courtesy (16), ISTProve that  $T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}$  has no kernel. So fix a  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{B}$  sent to  $\mathbf{0}$  by  $T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}$ .

Decompose its image as  $T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a}$ , with  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{A}$ . Then  $\mathbf{0} = T_{\mathbf{B}}^{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{v}) \stackrel{\text{note}}{=} \mathbf{b}$ . Hence  $T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{a}$ . So  $T(\mathbf{v})$  is nilpotent. Thus  $\mathbf{v}$  too is nilpotent. So  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{A} \cap \mathbf{B}$  and is therefore  $\mathbf{0}$ .  $\diamond$

### §3 Using all the eigenvalues

For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , we now return to using “ $\lambda$ -evec” to mean an eigenvector with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , and we extend our defns to other evals.

An  $\lambda$ -**Jordan Block** is a  $D \times D$  matrix

$$22: \quad \lambda\text{-JB}(D) := \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & & & \\ & \lambda & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda & 1 \\ & & & & \lambda \end{bmatrix}.$$

Generalizing, a downtup  $\vec{D} = (D_1, \dots, D_\varepsilon)$  engenders an  $\lambda, \vec{D}$ -**Jordan Block**

$$23: \quad \lambda\text{-JB}(\vec{D}) := \text{Diag}(\lambda\text{-JB}(D_1), \dots, \lambda\text{-JB}(D_\varepsilon))$$

**24: Jordan Canonical Form Theorem.** Suppose that  $\mathbb{T}:\mathbf{F}^{\times \mathcal{H}} \curvearrowright$  has all of its eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_L$  in  $\mathbf{F}$ . Then there is a unique list of downtups,  $\vec{D}^1, \vec{D}^2, \dots, \vec{D}^L$ , so that

$$25: \quad \text{Diag}(\lambda_1\text{-JB}(\vec{D}^1), \dots, \lambda_L\text{-JB}(\vec{D}^L))$$

is the matrix of  $\mathbb{T}$  relative to some basis.

In particular,  $\text{Size}(\vec{D}^\ell) = S_\ell$ , where

$$\wp_{\mathbb{T}}(x) = [x - \lambda_1]^{S_1} \cdot [x - \lambda_2]^{S_2} \cdots [x - \lambda_L]^{S_L}.$$

is the  $\mathbf{F}$ -factorization of the char-poly of  $\mathbb{T}$ .  $\diamond$

**26: Partial-form JCF Theorem.** Given linear  $\mathbb{T}:\mathbf{F}^{\times \mathcal{H}} \curvearrowright$ , factor its char-poly over  $\mathbf{F}$  as

$$\wp_{\mathbb{T}}(x) = [x - \lambda_1]^{S_1} \cdots [x - \lambda_L]^{S_L} \cdot g(x),$$

where  $g$  is an  $\mathbf{F}$ -poly with no roots in  $\mathbf{F}$ . (And  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_L \in \mathbf{F}$  are distinct.) Then there is a unique list of downtups,  $\vec{D}^1, \dots, \vec{D}^L$ , **Unfinished:** as of 20Mar2018  $\diamond$

For  $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$ , let  $\mathbb{T}_\alpha$  abbreviate the  $\mathbb{T} - \alpha\mathbf{I}$  transformation, and let  $\mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(d)}$  comprise the vectors of  $\mathbb{T}_\alpha$ -depth at most  $d$ . Evidently

$$\mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(d)} = \text{Ker}(\mathbb{T}_\alpha^{\circ d})$$

is a subspace, and  $\mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(1)}$  is the eigenspace (when  $\alpha$  is an eigenvalue). Certainly

27:

$$\{\mathbf{0}\} = \mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(0)} \subset \mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(1)} \subset \mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(2)} \subset \mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(3)} \subset \dots \subset \mathbf{L}_\alpha,$$

where  $\mathbf{L}_\alpha := \bigcup_{d=0}^\infty \mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(d)}$  is the *nilspace*.

**28: Lemma.** Fix  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ . For each  $d = 0, 1, \dots$ , the subspace  $\mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(d)}$  is forward-invariant under  $\mathbb{T}_\beta$ . Therefore  $\mathbf{L}_\alpha$  is  $\mathbb{T}_\beta$ -forward-invariant.  $\diamond$

**Proof.** WLOG  $\alpha = 0$  (replace  $\mathbb{T}$  by  $\mathbb{T} - \alpha\mathbf{I}$  and  $\beta$  by  $\beta - \alpha$ ). Fix an order  $d$ , say  $d=3$ , and fix a vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{E}^{(3)}$ . Automatically  $\mathbb{T}(\mathbf{v}) \in \mathbf{E}^{(2)} \subset \mathbf{E}^{(3)}$ . Hence  $[\mathbb{T} - \beta\mathbf{I}]\mathbf{v} = \mathbb{T}(\mathbf{v}) - \beta\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{E}^{(3)}$ , as desired.  $\blacklozenge$

**29: Lemma.** Consider distinct scalars  $\alpha \neq \beta$ . For  $d = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , the restricted operator

$$[\mathbb{T} - \beta\mathbf{I}] \downarrow \mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(d)}$$

has trivial kernel and so is a (linear) automorphism of  $\mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(d)}$  (since  $\mathbf{E}_\alpha^{(d)}$  is finite-dim'al). Taking a union, then,  $[\mathbb{T} - \beta\mathbf{I}] \downarrow \mathbf{L}_\alpha$  is an automorphism of  $\mathbf{L}_\alpha$ .  $\diamond$

**Proof.** WLOG  $\alpha = 0$ ; so  $\beta \neq 0$ . By the preceding lemma,  $\mathbb{T}_\beta$  maps  $\mathbf{E}^{(d)}$  into  $\mathbf{E}^{(d)}$ . So FTSCONtradiction we may suppose that there is a non-zero  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{E}^{(d)}$  which is sent to  $\mathbf{0}$  by  $\mathbb{T}_\beta$ .

Evidently  $\mathbb{T} \rightleftharpoons \mathbb{T}_\beta$ . For  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , consequently, the vector  $\mathbb{T}^j(\mathbf{v})$  is also in  $\text{Ker}(\mathbb{T}_\beta)$ . Consider the value of  $j$  for which  $\mathbb{T}^j(\mathbf{v})$  is in  $\mathbf{E}^{(1)} \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . Redefining  $\mathbf{v}$  to be this  $\mathbb{T}^j(\mathbf{v})$ , we now have that

$\mathbf{v}$  is a non-zero vector simultaneously in  $\text{Ker}(\mathbb{T})$  and  $\text{Ker}(\mathbb{T}_\beta)$ .

But then  $\mathbf{0} = \mathbb{T}_\beta(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbb{T}(\mathbf{v}) - \beta\mathbf{v} = -\beta\mathbf{v}$ . And this latter is not zero, since  $\beta \neq 0$ .  $\blacklozenge$

**30: Prop'n.** Let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_L$  be the distinct eigenvalues of  $\mathbb{T}$ . Then the collection  $\mathbf{L}_{\lambda_1}, \dots, \mathbf{L}_{\lambda_L}$  of nilspaces is linearly independent.  $\diamond$

*Proof.* Consider a sum  $\mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}_L = \mathbf{0}$ , with each  $\mathbf{v}_\ell \in \mathbf{L}_{\lambda_\ell}$ . ISTShow that  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{0}$ . So ISTConstruct a linear  $\Lambda: \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$  sending each of  $\mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_L$  to  $\mathbf{0}$ , so that  $\Lambda|_{\mathbf{L}_{\lambda_1}}$  is an automorphism of  $\mathbf{L}_{\lambda_1}$ .

To this end, pick a number  $D$  large enough that

$$\left[ \mathbf{T}_{\lambda_\ell} \right]^{oD}(\mathbf{v}_\ell) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \text{for each } \ell = 2, 3, \dots, L.$$

Since all the operators  $(\mathbf{T}_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathbb{C}}$  commute, it follows that the composition

$$\Lambda := \left[ \mathbf{T}_{\lambda_2} \circ \mathbf{T}_{\lambda_3} \circ \cdots \circ \mathbf{T}_{\lambda_L} \right]^{oD}$$

sends each of  $\mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_L$  to  $\mathbf{0}$ . And Lemma 29 assures us that  $\Lambda$  is an automorphism of  $\mathbf{L}_{\lambda_1}$ .  $\blacklozenge$

*Proof of JCF, (24).* Apply the Nilpotent JCF to  $\mathbf{T}_{\lambda_\ell}$  on  $\mathbf{L}_{\lambda_\ell}$  to get a basis  $\mathcal{B}_\ell$  for  $\mathbf{L}_{\lambda_\ell}$  against which  $\mathbf{T}$  has a matrix-block of form  $\lambda_\ell \text{-JB}(\vec{D}^\ell)$ . Then  $\bigsqcup_{\ell=1}^L \mathcal{B}_\ell$  is a basis against which  $\mathbf{T}$  looks like (25). That the downtup sequence is unique follows from the uniqueness in Nilpotent thm and that  $\mathbf{T}$  uniquely determines its nilspaces.  $\blacklozenge$

## End Notes

See `cayley_hamilton.latex` for several applications of JCF, and the minimum polynomial of a matrix.

*Transposes.* Let  $\mathbf{J}$  be a jordan block. Its transpose  $\mathbf{J}^t$  is conjugate to  $\mathbf{J}$  simply by reversing the order of the vectors in the basis. It follows that

$$JCF(\mathbf{T}^t) = JCF(\mathbf{T})$$

for an arbitrary square matrix  $\mathbf{T}$ .  $\square$

*Remark.* Fix a square matrix  $\mathbf{T}$ . Given a scalar  $\lambda$ , let  $\vec{D}_\mathbf{T}(\lambda)$  be the corresponding downtup in  $JCF(\mathbf{T})$ ; if  $\lambda$  is not a  $\mathbf{T}$ -eval, then the downtup is empty.

The *complex-conjugate* of a JCF is a JCF. So  $JCF(\bar{\mathbf{T}}) = \bar{J}$ . This gives the  $(\Rightarrow)$  direction below.

**31: JCF-of-real Theorem.** A complex JCF  $\mathbf{B}$  is the JCF of some real matrix IFF

$$\vec{D}_\mathbf{B}(\lambda) = \vec{D}_\mathbf{B}(\bar{\lambda}),$$

for each complex number  $\lambda$ .  $\blacklozenge$

*Proof of  $(\Leftarrow)$ .* ISTProve this when  $\mathbf{B}$  consists of a jordan block and its complex-conjugate. For specificity suppose that each jordan block has dimension  $D=3$ .

Fix reals  $c$  and  $s$ , and let

$$\lambda^+ := c + is \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda^- := c - is.$$

We show that  $\mathbf{B} := \text{Diag}(\lambda^+ \text{-JB}(3), \lambda^- \text{-JB}(3))$  is conjugate to a real matrix by producing a basis

$$32: \quad \{\mathbf{u}_j, \mathbf{w}_j\}_{j=1}^3$$

for  $\mathbb{C}^{\times 6}$ , against which  $\mathbf{B}$  acts using only real coefficients.

For each choice of “+” and “-”, let  $\{\mathbf{e}_j^\pm\}_{j=1}^3$  be the std basis for  $\lambda^\pm \text{-JB}(3)$ . Thus for  $j \in [1..3]$ ,

$$33: \quad \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{e}_j^\pm) = \lambda^\pm \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^\pm + 1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_{j-1}^\pm,$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_0^\pm$  are two other names for  $\mathbf{0}$ .

Define new vectors

$$\mathbf{u}_j := 1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^+ + i \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^-;$$

$$\mathbf{w}_j := i \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^+ + 1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^-;$$

so  $\mathbf{u}_0$  and  $\mathbf{w}_0$  are each  $\mathbf{0}$ . Check that

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot [\mathbf{u}_j \mp i\mathbf{w}_j] = \mathbf{e}_j^\pm,$$

so (32) spans all the  $\mathbf{e}$ 's. Thus (32) indeed is a basis for  $\mathbb{C}^{\times 6}$ .

**The B-images of vectors.** Verify that

$$c\mathbf{u}_j + s\mathbf{w}_j = \lambda^+ \mathbf{e}_j^+ + i\lambda^- \mathbf{e}_j^- \quad \text{and}$$

$$-s\mathbf{u}_j + c\mathbf{w}_j = i\lambda^+ \mathbf{e}_j^+ + \lambda^- \mathbf{e}_j^-.$$



From (33) we compute:

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{u}_j) = 1 \cdot [\lambda^+ \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^+ + 1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_{j-1}^+] + \\ i \cdot [\lambda^- \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^- + 1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_{j-1}^-].$$

Grouping terms by subscript, our  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{u}_j)$  equals

$$[\lambda^+ \mathbf{e}_j^+ + i \lambda^- \mathbf{e}_j^-] + [1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_{j-1}^+ + i \cdot \mathbf{e}_{j-1}^-].$$

This, together with similar elbow grease, yields

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{u}_j) = [c\mathbf{u}_j + s\mathbf{w}_j] + \mathbf{u}_{j-1}; \\ \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{w}_j) = [-s\mathbf{u}_j + c\mathbf{w}_j] + \mathbf{w}_{j-1}.$$

Since all the coefficients are real, we get that  $\mathbf{B}$  is conjugate to a real matrix.  $\blacklozenge$

*Cyclic decompositions.* The (forward) *cyclic subspace* generated by  $\mathbf{v}$  is

$$\text{Spn}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbb{T}\mathbf{v}, \mathbb{T}^2\mathbf{v}, \mathbb{T}^3\mathbf{v}, \dots).$$

And  $\mathbb{T}$  is a *cyclic operator* if there is a  $\mathbf{v}$  whose cyclic subspace is all of  $\mathbf{V}$ .

Easily, a jordan-block is a cyclic operator on its space. So the jordan decomposition of  $\mathbb{T}$  yields a  $\mathbb{T}$ -cyclic decomposition of the vectorspace.

Yo! Look in source file, here.  $\square$

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