

## 7.3. Jordan form

Canonical form for matrices and transformations.

- $N$  nilpotent on  $V^n$ .
- Cyclic decomposition  
 $V = Z(a_1; N) \oplus \dots \oplus Z(a_r; N)$ .  
 $p_1, \dots, p_r$   $N$ -annihilators,  
 $p_{i+1} | p_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r-1$ .
- minpoly  $N = x^k$ ,  $k \leq n$ :
  - $N^r = 0$  for some  $r$ . Thus  $x^r$  is in  $\text{Ann}(N)$ .
  - minpoly  $N$  divides  $x^r$  and hence  
 minpoly  $N = x^k$  for some  $k$ .
  - minpoly  $N$  divides charpoly  $N$  of  $\text{deg} \leq n$ .
- $p_i = x^{k_i}$ ,  $\rightarrow k = k_1 \geq k_2 \geq \dots \geq k_r \geq 1$ .

- We now have a rational form for N:
  - Companion matrix of  $x^{k_i}$ :  $k_i \times k_i$ -matrix

$$A_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Thus the rational form of N is 1s at one below the diagonal that skips one space after  $k_1-1, k_2-1, \dots$ , so on.

- $N$  is a direct sum of elementary nilpotent matrices
- A nilpotent  $n \times n$ -matrix up to similarity  $\leftrightarrow$  positive integers  $r, k_1, \dots, k_r$ , such that  $k_1 + \dots + k_r = n$ ,  $k_i \geq k_{i+1}$ 
  - Proof is omitted.
- $r = \text{nullity } N$ . In fact  $\text{null } N = \langle N^{k_i-1} a_i : i=1, \dots, r \rangle$ .  $a_i$  cyclic vectors.
 

Proof:  $a$  in  $V \rightarrow$

  - $a = f_1(N)a_1 + \dots + f_r(N)a_r$ ,  $f_i$  in  $F[x]$ ,  $\deg f_i \leq k_i$ .

- $Na=0$  implies  $N(f_i(N)a_i)=0$  for each  $i$ .
  - (N-invariant direct sum property)
- $xf_i(N)a_i=0$ .
- $xf_i$  is in N-annihilator of  $a_i$
- $xf_i$  is divisible by  $x^{k_i}$ .
- Thus,  $f_i=c_i x^{k_i-1}$ ,  $c_i$  in  $F$  and
 
$$a=c_1(x^{k_1-1})(N)a_1+\dots+c_r(x^{k_r-1})(N)a_r.$$
- Therefore  $\{N^{k_1-1}a_1, \dots, N^{k_r-1}a_r\}$  is a basis of null  $N$ , and  $\dim = r$ .

- Jordan form construction:
- Let  $T$  be a linear operator where charpoly  $f=(x-c_1)^{d_1} \dots (x-c_k)^{d_k}$ . For example when  $F=C$ .
- minpoly  $f=(x-c_1)^{r_1} \dots (x-c_k)^{r_k}$ .
- Let  $W_i = \text{null } (T-c_i I)^{r_i}$ .
- $V=W_1 \oplus \dots \oplus W_r$ .
- Let  $T_i=T|_{W_i}: W_i \rightarrow W_i$ .
- $N_i=T_i-c_i I$  is nilpotent.
- Choose a basis  $B_i$  of  $W_i$  s.t.  $N_i$  is in rational form.
- Then  $T_i= N_i+c_i I$ .

- $[T_i]_{B_i} = \begin{bmatrix} c_i & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & c_i & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & c_i \end{bmatrix}$

- There are some gaps of 1s here.
- If there are no gaps, then it is called the **elementary Jordan matrix** with char value  $c_i$ .

- $A = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_k \end{bmatrix}$  Jordan form

- $A_i = \begin{bmatrix} J_1^i & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & J_2^i & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & J_{n_i}^i \end{bmatrix}$  elementary  
Jordan matrices

The size of elementary Jordan matrices decreases.



- Uniqueness of Jordan form:
- Suppose  $T$  is represented by a Jordan matrix.  $V = W_1 \oplus \dots \oplus W_k$ .
  - $A_i$  is  $d_i \times d_i$ -matrix.  $A_i$  on  $W_i$ .
  - Then  $\text{char poly } T = (x - c_1)^{d_1} \dots (x - c_k)^{d_k}$ .
  - $c_1, \dots, c_k, d_1, \dots, d_k$  are determined unique up to order.
  - $W_i = \text{null}(T - c_i I)^{d_i}$  clearly.
  - $A_i$  is uniquely determined by the rational form for  $(T - c_i I)$ . (Recall rational form is uniquely determined.)

- Properties of Jordan matrix:
- (1)  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  distinct char. values.  
 $c_i$  is repeated  $d_i = \dim W_i =$  multiplicity in char poly of  $A$ .
- (2)  $A_i$  direct sum of  $n_i$  elementary Jordan matrices.  $n_i \leq d_i$ .
- (3)  $J_i^{r_i}$  of  $A_i$  is  $r_i \times r_i$ -matrix.  $r_i$  is multiplicity of the minimal polynomial of  $T$ . (So we can read the minimal polynomial from the Jordan form)

- Proof of (3):
  - We show that  $(T-c_1I)^{r_1-1} \dots (T-c_kI)^{r_k-1} = 0$ .
    - $T|_{W_i} = A_i$  and  $(A_i - c_i I)^{r_i-1} = 0$  on  $W_i$ .
  - $(x-c_1)^{r_1-1} \dots (x-c_k)^{r_k-1}$  is the least degree.
    - This can be seen from the largest elementary Jordan matrix  $J_i^1$ .
    - $(J_i^1 - c_i I)^q \neq 0$  for  $q < r_i$ .
  - This completes the proof.