

# A study memo on jordan normal form of matrices

**Proposition 1.** *Let*

- (S1)  $m \in \mathbb{N} \cup [2, \infty)$
- (S2)  $f_1, \dots, f_m \in \mathbb{C}[X] \setminus 0$ .
- (A1)  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  don't have common divisor.

then there are  $h_1, \dots, h_m \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m h_i f_i = 1 \tag{1}$$

*Case when  $m = 2$ .* When  $\sum_{i=1}^m \deg(f_i) = 0$ ,  $\deg(f_1) = \deg(f_2) = 1$ . In this case, the the claim in this Proposition holds. We assume the claim in this Proposition holds when  $\sum_{i=1}^m \deg(f_i) < K$ . We can assume  $\deg(f_1) > 0$  There is  $q, r \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  such that  $f_1 = qf_2 + r$  and  $\deg(r) < \deg(f_1)$  By the assumption of our mathematical induction, there are  $h_1, h_2 \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  such that  $h_1 r + h_2 f_2 = 1$ . Because  $r = qf_2 - f_1$ ,  $-h_1 f_1 + (q + h_2) f_2 = 1$ .  $\square$

*Case when  $m > 2$ .* We assume the claim in this Proposition holds when  $m = K$ . Let us set  $q$  is a maximum divisor of  $f_1, \dots, f_K$  and  $g_i := \frac{f_i}{q_i}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, K$ ). Clearly,  $g_1, \dots, g_m$  don't have common divisor and  $f_{K+1}$  and  $q$  don't have common divisor. By the assumption of mathematical induction, there are  $h_1, \dots, h_K, h_{K+1}, s \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^K h_i g_i = 1 \tag{2}$$

and

$$sq + h_{K+1} f_{K+1} = 1 \tag{3}$$

Then  $\sum_{i=1}^K h_i f_i = q$ . Consequently,

$$\sum_{i=1}^K s h_i f_i + h_{K+1} f_{K+1} = 1 \tag{4}$$

$\square$

**Theorem 1.** *Let*

- (S1)  $A \in M(n, \mathbb{C})$

then the followings hold.

(i) There is  $P \in GL(n, \mathbb{C})$  and  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{pmatrix} J(\alpha_1) & O & \dots & O \\ O & J(\alpha_2) & \dots & O \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ O & \dots & \dots & J(\alpha_K) \end{pmatrix}$$

Here, for each  $i$ , there are  $j_1, \dots, j_{n_i}$  such that

$$J(\alpha_i) = \begin{pmatrix} J_1(\alpha_i) & O & \dots & O \\ O & J_2(\alpha_i) & \dots & O \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ O & \dots & \dots & J_{n_i}(\alpha_i) \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $J_k(\alpha_i)$  is a  $j_k$ -th square matrix

$$J_k(\alpha_i) = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_i & 1 & & O \\ O & \alpha_i & 1 & O \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ O & & & \alpha_i & 1 \\ O & & & & \alpha_i \end{pmatrix}$$

We call  $J_k(\alpha_i)$  is a Jordan block.

(ii) If  $\alpha_i \neq \alpha_j$  (for any  $i \neq j$ ),  $A$  is diagonalizable.

(iii) For any  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  such that  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are  $J_k(\alpha_i)$ -invariant subspaces and  $\mathbb{C}^\nu = W_1 \oplus W_2$ ,  $W_1 = \mathbb{C}^\nu$  or  $W_2 = \mathbb{C}^\nu$ .

*STEP1. Existence of the minimal polynomial of  $A$ .* Because  $E, A, A^2, \dots, A^{n^2}$  are linearly dependent, there are  $a_0, a_2, \dots, a_n$  such that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n^2} a_i A^i = 0 \quad (5)$$

So there is a  $\varphi_A \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  such that

$$\deg(\varphi_A) = \min\{\deg(\varphi) \mid \varphi \in \mathbb{C}[X] \text{ and } \varphi(A) = 0\} \quad (6)$$

□

*STEP2. Decomposition of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  into generalized eigenspaces.* By fundamental theorem of algebra, there are distinct  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K \in \mathbb{C}$

$$\varphi_A(x) = \prod_{i=1}^K (x - \alpha_i)^{m_i} \quad (7)$$

We set  $f_i \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  by  $f_i(x) := \frac{\varphi_A(x)}{(x - \alpha_i)^{m_i}}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, K$ ). By Proposition(), then there are  $h_1, \dots, h_m \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^K h_i(A) f_i(A) = E \quad (8)$$

We set  $W_{i,j} := \{x \in \mathbb{C}^n | (A - \alpha_i E)^j x = 0\}$  and  $W_i := W_{i,m_i}$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, m_i$ )  
For any  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $x = \sum_{i=1}^K h_i(A) f_i(A) x$ . For each  $i$ ,  $h_i(A) f_i(A) x \in W_i$ . So

$$\mathbb{C}^n = \sum_{i=1}^K W_i \quad (9)$$

□

*STEP3. Showing  $W_{i,k} \cap W_{j,l} = \{0\}$  ( $i \neq j$ ).* We assume  $k = l = 1$ . Let us fix arbitrary  $x \in W_{i,1} \cap W_{j,1}$ . Because  $0 = Ax - Ax = \alpha_i x - \alpha_j x = (\alpha_i - \alpha_j)x$ ,  $x = 0$ . So  $W_{i,1} \cap W_{j,1} = \{0\}$  ( $i \neq j$ ). Nextly we assume if  $k + l \leq K$  then  $W_{i,k} \cap W_{j,l} = \{0\}$  ( $i \neq j$ ). Let us fix arbitrary  $i, j, k, l$  such that  $i \neq j$ . Let us fix arbitrary  $x_0 \in W_{i,k} \cap W_{j,l}$ . We set  $s : \mathbb{C}^n \ni x \mapsto [x] \in \mathbb{C}^n / W_{1,1}$ . Because  $AW_{1,1} \subset W_{1,1}$ ,  $\tilde{A} : \mathbb{C}^n / W_{1,1} \ni [x] \mapsto [Ax] \in \mathbb{C}^n / W_{1,1}$  is well-defined and linear. We set  $\tilde{W}_{i,k} := \tilde{A}s(W_{i,k})$  and  $\tilde{W}_{i,l} := \tilde{A}s(W_{i,l})$ . We can assume  $k > 1$ . Clearly  $\tilde{W}_{i,k} \subset \{[x] \in \tilde{W}_{i,k} | (\tilde{A} - \alpha_i)^{k-1}[x] = 0\}$ . So by the assumption of mathematical induction,  $\tilde{W}_{i,k} \cap \tilde{W}_{j,l} = \{0\}$ . This implies that  $W_{i,k} \cap W_{j,l} \subset W_{i,1}$ . Similarly,  $W_{i,k} \cap W_{j,l} \subset W_{j,1}$ . So  $W_{i,k} \cap W_{j,l} \subset W_{i,1} \cap W_{j,1} = \{0\}$ . □

*STEP4. Showing  $\sum_{i=1}^K W_i = \oplus_{i=1}^K W_i$ .* By STEP3,  $\sum_{i=1}^2 W_i = \oplus_{i=1}^2 W_i$ . We assume if  $K \leq K_0$  then  $\sum_{i=1}^K W_i = \oplus_{i=1}^K W_i$ . We will show if  $K = K_0 + 1$  then  $\sum_{i=1}^K W_i = \oplus_{i=1}^K W_i$ . By the assumption of mathematical induction,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{K_0} W_i / W_{K_0+1} = \oplus_{i=1}^{K_0} W_i / W_{K_0+1} \quad (10)$$

Let us fix arbitrary  $w_i \in W_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, K_0 + 1$ ) such that  $\sum_{i=1}^{K_0+1} w_i = 0$ . By (10),  $w_i \in W_i \cap W_{K_0+1}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, K_0$ ). By STEP3,  $w_i = 0$  ( $i = 1, \dots, K_0$ ). So  $w_K = 0$ . □

*STEP5. Constructing a basis of  $W_i$ .* Let us fix  $i$ . There is  $\nu \leq m_i$  such that

$$W_{i,\nu-1} \subsetneq W_{i,\nu} = W_i$$

If  $\nu = 1$ , then we take a basis of  $W_{i,1} = W_i$ . If  $\nu > 1$ , there are  $w_1, \dots, w_{r_\nu}$  such that  $\{w_j + W_{i,\nu-1}\}_{j=1}^{r_\nu}$  is a basis of  $W_{i,\nu} / W_{i,\nu-1}$ . Clearly  $A_i w_1, \dots, A_i w_{r_\nu}$  are contained in  $W_{i,\nu-1}$ . Here,

$$A_i := A - \alpha_i E$$

We will show  $\{A_i^j w_k\}_{k=1, \dots, r_\nu, j=0, \dots, \nu-1}$  are linear independent. Let us fix any  $\{a_i^j w_k\}_{k=1, \dots, r_\nu, j=0, \dots, \nu-1} \subset \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} \sum_{j=0}^{\nu-1} a_{k,j} A_i^j w_k = 0$$

Then

$$\sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} a_{k,0} w_k = - \sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} \sum_{j=1}^{\nu-1} a_{k,j} A_i^j w_k$$

Because the right side is contained in  $W_{i,\nu-1}$  and  $\{w_j + W_{i,\nu-1}\}_{j=1}^{r_\nu}$  are linear independent,

$$a_{k,0} = 0 \quad (\forall k)$$

So,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} \sum_{j=0}^{\nu-1} a_{k,j+1} A_i^{j+1} w_k = 0$$

This implies that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} a_{k,1} w_k + \sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} \sum_{j=1}^{\nu-1} a_{k,j+1} A_i^j w_k = \sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} \sum_{j=0}^{\nu-1} a_{k,j+1} A_i^j w_k \in W_{i,\nu-1}$$

Because  $\sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} \sum_{j=1}^{\nu-1} a_{k,j+1} A_i^j w_k$  is contained in  $W_{i,\nu-1}$ ,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} a_{k,1} w_k \in W_{i,\nu-1}$$

Because  $\{w_j + W_{i,\nu-1}\}_{j=1}^{r_\nu}$  are linear independent,

$$a_{k,1} = 0 \quad (\forall k)$$

Hereafter, by repeating this discussion,

$$a_{k,j} = 0 \quad (\forall k, j)$$

We set

$$U_{i,k} := \left\langle \{A_i^j w_k\}_{j=0, \dots, \nu-1} \right\rangle$$

Clearly  $U_{i,k}$  is  $A$ -invariant and the representation matrix of  $A$  respects to  $\{A_i^j w_k\}_{j=0, \dots, \nu-1}$  is the Jordan block whose order is  $\nu$ .

We set

$$V_i := \sum_{k=1}^{r_\nu} U_{i,k}$$

Because  $V_i$  is  $A$ -invariant,

$$\tilde{A} : W_i/V_i \ni w + V_i \mapsto Aw + V_i \in W_i/V_i$$

is well-defined and linear. Because  $\{w_j + W_{i,\nu-1}\}_{j=1}^{r_\nu}$  is a spanning set of  $W_{i,\nu}/W_{i,\nu-1}$ , for any  $w \in W_{i,\nu}$ ,

$$w + W_{i,\nu-1} \in V_i + W_{i,\nu-1}$$

So,

$$A_i^{\nu-1} w \in V_i$$

This implies

$$(\tilde{A}_i - \alpha_i E)^{\nu-1} = 0$$

By applying the above argument to  $\tilde{A}_i$ ,  $\tilde{A}_i$  is broken into Jordan blocks whose order is less than  $\nu$  with respect to some basis.  $\square$

*STEP6. Showing (ii).* (i) implies (ii). □

*STEP7. Showing (iii).* We set  $M := j_k$  and  $J := J_k(\alpha_i)$  and  $\alpha := \alpha_i$  and  $J_\alpha := J - \alpha E$ . There are  $w_{1,1} \in W_1$  and  $w_{1,2} \in W_2$  such that

$$e_1 = w_{1,1} + w_{1,2}$$

Because

$$J_\alpha e_1 = 0$$

and  $W_1$  is  $J_\alpha$ -invariant and  $W_2$  is  $J_\alpha$ -invariant,

$$J_\alpha w_{1,1} = J_\alpha w_{1,2} = 0$$

and the kernel of  $J_\alpha$  is  $\mathbb{C}e_1$ , there are  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  such that

$$w_{1,1} = a_1 e_1, w_{1,2} = a_2 e_1$$

If  $a_1 = 0$ , then  $a_2 = 1$  and  $\mathbb{C}e_1 \subset W_2$ . If  $a_1 \neq 0$ , then  $\mathbb{C}e_1 \subset W_1$ . By replacing  $W_1$  by  $W_2$ , we can assume  $\mathbb{C}e_1 \subset W_1$ . There are  $w_{2,1} \in W_1$  and  $w_{2,2} \in W_2$  such that

$$e_2 = w_{2,1} + w_{2,2}$$

Because  $J_\alpha e_2 = e_1$ ,

$$e_1 = J_\alpha w_{2,1} + J_\alpha w_{2,2}$$

Because  $\mathbb{C}e_1 \subset W_1$ ,

$$J_\alpha w_{2,2} = 0$$

So,

$$w_{2,2} \in W_2 \cap \mathbb{C}e_1 = \{0\}$$

This implies  $e_2 \in W_1$ . By repeating this argument,  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_M \in W_1$ . □

**Proposition 2.** *We succeed notations in Theorem1. Let us assume*

$$f_A(x) = \prod_{i=1}^K (x - \alpha_i)^{n_i}$$

*Then*

$$\dim W_i = n_i$$

*Proof.* By the proof of Theorem1, the order of  $J(\alpha_i)$  is  $\dim W_i$ . So,

$$f_A = \prod_{i=1}^K f_{J(\alpha_i)} = \prod_{i=1}^K (x - \alpha_i)^{\dim W_i}$$

So,

$$\dim W_i = n_i$$

□

By Theorem1, it is easy to show the following famous theorem.

**Theorem 2** (Cayley-Hamilton theorem). *Let*

(S1)  $A \in M(n, \mathbb{C})$ .

(S2)  $f_A$  is the characteristic polynomial.

then

$$f_A(A) = O \tag{11}$$

*Proof.* We will show this theorem by mathematical induction. If  $n = 1$ , then this theorem holds. Because  $f_{P^{-1}AP} = f_A$  for any  $P \in GL(n, \mathbb{C})$ , by Theorem 1, we can assume  $A$  is an upper triangle matrix.

$$\begin{aligned} f_A(A) &= \prod_{i=1}^n (A - \alpha_i E) \\ &= (A - \alpha_1 E) \prod_{i=2}^n (A - \alpha_i E) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x \\ 0 & X \end{pmatrix} \prod_{i=2}^n (A - \alpha_i E) \end{aligned}$$

For any  $a_1, a_2, A$  and  $b_1, b_2, B$  there is  $c_1, c_2$  such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_1 & b_2 \\ 0 & B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_2 \\ 0 & AB \end{pmatrix}$$

So, there are  $d_1, d_2$  such that

$$\prod_{i=2}^n (A - \alpha_i E) = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & d_2 \\ 0 & O \end{pmatrix}$$

This implies

$$f_A(A) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x \\ 0 & X \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & d_2 \\ 0 & O \end{pmatrix} = O$$

□

## References

- [1] Ichiro Satake, LINEAR ALGEBRA, ISBN-0 8247-1596-9.