

Week 13: Jordan canonical forms (textbook § 7.1, 7.2)Diagonalization revisited once again

Recall that we have a characterization of the diagonalizability of a linear operator $T: V \rightarrow V$ on a finite dim. vector space V (over \mathbb{F}):

Theorem: $T: V \rightarrow V$ is diagonalizable

if and only if (1) the char. poly. splits over \mathbb{F}

$$f(\lambda) = (-1)^n (\lambda - \lambda_1)^{m_1} \cdots (\lambda - \lambda_k)^{m_k}$$

(2) the eigenspaces have "maximal dimension":

i.e. $\dim E_{\lambda_i} = m_i$ for all $i=1, \dots, k$.

FROM NOW ON, WE ASSUME $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$.

\Rightarrow (1) is always satisfied!

Hence, "diagonalizable" \Leftrightarrow eigenspaces are "big enough".

Remember the following example of a "non-diagonalizable" matrix due to "small" eigenspaces:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{only 1 eigenvalue } \lambda = 1 \\ \dim E_1 = 1 < 2. \end{cases}$$

What else can we do if a matrix is not diagonalizable?



Schur's lemma \Rightarrow we can always make a matrix "upper triangular" (when $F = \mathbb{C}$)

$$A \sim \begin{pmatrix} \triangle & * \\ 0 & \triangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Question: Can we do better?

Ans: Yes, "Jordan canonical form"

Theorem: Any $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ is similar to a matrix of the following form:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\begin{matrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_1 \end{matrix}} & & \\ & \boxed{\begin{matrix} \lambda_2 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_2 \end{matrix}} & & \\ & & \dots & & \\ & & & \boxed{\begin{matrix} \lambda_n & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{matrix}} & & \end{pmatrix}$$

"Jordan canonical form"

where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ are the eigenvalues of A (not nec. distinct!)

In other words, the "worst-case-scenario" for a matrix which is NOT diagonalizable is just having some 1's above the diagonals.

Examples of Jordan canonical forms:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{1} & \boxed{1} \\ 0 & \boxed{1} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{1} & \boxed{1} & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{2} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{0} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{1} & & & \\ & \boxed{2} & & \\ & & \boxed{3} & \\ & & & \boxed{4} \end{pmatrix}$$

diagonal!

Thus, a Jordan canonical form consists of a certain number of "Jordan blocks" \square along the "diagonals":

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & & \\ & \lambda & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \in M_{k \times k}(\mathbb{C})$$

"Jordan block" of size k with eigenvalue λ

We first study some basis properties of a Jordan block.

Prop: (1) A has only 1 eigenvalue λ . (multiplicity = k)

(2) $\dim E_\lambda = 1$ ($\Rightarrow A$ is NOT diagonalizable unless $k = 1$)

* (3) The smallest positive integer p s.t.

$$(A - \lambda I)^p = 0$$

is equal to its dimension k .

$$(\Rightarrow N(A - \lambda I)^p = \mathbb{C}^k)$$

* (4) If $\{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$ is the standard basis for \mathbb{C}^k ,

then $(A - \lambda I)^i e_i = 0$ for each $i = 1, \dots, k$.

Proof: (1) A upper triangular \Rightarrow char. poly. = $f(t) = (-1)^k (t - \lambda)^k$.

Hence, λ is the only eigenvalue with multiplicity k .

(2) $A - \lambda I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ & 0 & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$ null space = $\text{span}\{e_1\} = E_\lambda$
 $\dim = 1$.

(3) The 1's "marches up" one line at a time when we take powers of $A - \lambda I$

eg. $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

By (4), only e_1 is an eigenvector of A , since $(A - \lambda I)e_1 = 0$.

Other e_i 's are only annihilated by higher powers of $(A - \lambda I)$!

This motivates the following definition:

Defⁿ: Let λ be an eigenvalue of $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$.

$x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ is a **generalized eigenvector** of A corresponding to the eigenvalue λ if (i) $x \neq 0$

and (ii) $(A - \lambda I)^p x = 0$
for some positive integer p

We denote the **generalized eigenspace** by

$$K_\lambda = \{ x \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid (A - \lambda I)^p x = 0 \text{ for some } p \geq 1 \}$$

Ex: check K_λ is a subspace.

Remark: Eigenvectors are generalized eigenvectors with $p = 1$.

• For a Jordan block as above, $K_\lambda = \mathbb{C}^k$.

Given a matrix $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ with eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ (distinct),

A diagonalizable $\iff \mathbb{C}^n = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\lambda_k}$

In general, if A is NOT diagonalizable, we have

$$\mathbb{C}^n \not\cong E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\lambda_k}$$

i.e. some E_{λ_i} is too "small".

BUT, if we replace E_λ by K_λ , we always have

$$\mathbb{C}^n = K_{\lambda_1} \oplus K_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus K_{\lambda_k}$$

Main Theorem (Jordan Decomposition Theorem):

Let $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ with eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ (distinct) with corresponding multiplicities m_1, \dots, m_k . Then,

(1) $\dim K_{\lambda_i} = m_i$ for each $i=1, \dots, k$

(2) $\mathbb{C}^n = K_{\lambda_1} \oplus K_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus K_{\lambda_k}$

(3) Each K_{λ_i} has a basis $\beta_i = \gamma_{1,i} \cup \dots \cup \gamma_{p,i}$ where every $\gamma_{m,i}$ is a cycle: i.e.

$\gamma_{m,i} = \{ \underbrace{(A - \lambda_i I)^{p-1} x}_{\text{initial vector (an eigenvector!)}, \underbrace{(A - \lambda_i I)^{p-2} x, \dots, x}_{\text{end vector}} \}$ $p = \text{length}$

Proof: Postponed until later!

Example:

$A = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & \\ & \lambda & 1 \\ & & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$ "3x3 Jordan block".

In this case, $K_{\lambda} = \mathbb{C}^3$ and we have a basis consisting of 1 cycle:

$\gamma = \{ \underbrace{(A - \lambda I)^2 e_3}_{e_1}, \underbrace{(A - \lambda I) e_3}_{e_2}, e_3 \}$.

Now, let us first address the "computational aspect" of Jordan decomposition:

Question: Given $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$, how to find an invertible matrix Q s.t.

$Q^{-1} A Q = J$ Jordan canonical form ?

Example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

⑥

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues.

$$f(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 2-\lambda & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3-\lambda & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -2-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = -(\lambda-1)^3.$$

\Rightarrow Only 1 eigenvalue $\lambda = 1$ with multiplicity = 3.

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces.

$$E_1 = N(A - 1 \cdot I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -3 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Therefore, $\dim E_1 = 2 < 3$ ($\Rightarrow A$ NOT diagonalizable)

Step 3: Determine the Jordan canonical form.

Since A has only one eigenvalue $\lambda = 1$ and is NOT diagonalizable, we are left with only two possibilities for its

Jordan canonical form:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \square & & \\ & \square & \\ & & \square \end{pmatrix}$$

\uparrow
impossible since
each block \square would
have exactly 1
eigenvector.

$$\text{or } \begin{pmatrix} \square & & \\ & \square & \\ & & \square \end{pmatrix}$$

\uparrow This is it!
(up to order of blocks)

Step 4: Find basis of K_A consisting of cycles.

From Step 3, we need a basis

$$\beta = \gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2 = \{v_1\} \cup \{(A - \lambda I)v_2, v_2\}$$

\uparrow
eigenvectors

\uparrow
generalized
eigenvector

We find the generalized eigenvector v_2 first :

Need $v_2 \in N(A - \lambda I)^2$ but $v_2 \notin N(A - \lambda I)$

otherwise, cannot generate a cycle of length 2.

$$(A - 1 \cdot I)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & -3 \end{pmatrix}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

Therefore, we can pick any $v_2 \notin E_1$, e.g. $v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\Rightarrow \gamma_2 = \{ (A - 1 \cdot I)v_2, v_2 \} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

In the end, take any $v_1 \in E_1$ s.t. v_1 is not parallel to $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ ie take } Q = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow Q^{-1} A Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & 1 \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{Jordan canonical form of } A$$

One more example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues.

A upper triangular \Rightarrow only one eigenvalue

$$\lambda = -1 \text{ and } m = 3$$

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces.

$$E_{-1} = N(A - (-1) \cdot I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \dim E_{-1} = 1 < 3 \text{ (A NOT diagonalizable)}$$

Step 3: Determine Jordan canonical form.

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

can only have 1 block since $\dim E_{-1} = 1$

Step 4: Find basis of K_{λ} consisting of cycles.

From Step 3, we need a basis

$$\beta = \gamma = \{ (A+I)^2 v, (A+I)v, v \}$$

↑
cycle of length 3

Need $v \in \underbrace{N(A+I)^3}_{= \mathbb{C}^3}$ but $v \notin N(A+I)$ or $N(A+I)^2$.

Note: $A+I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow N(A+I) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$.

$$(A+I)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow N(A+I)^2 = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

We can take $v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, then

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \text{ i.e. } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $Q^{-1} A Q = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ & -1 & 1 \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{Jordan canonical form of } A$

Let's move on to some 4x4 examples!

Example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues.

The characteristic polynomial is

$$f(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$$

$$= \det \begin{pmatrix} 2-\lambda & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3-\lambda & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 3-\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

expand along 1st column since it has most 0's.

$$= (2-\lambda) \det \begin{pmatrix} 3-\lambda & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 3-\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

expand along 3rd column remember $\begin{pmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{pmatrix}$

$$= (2-\lambda)(3-\lambda) \left[\underbrace{(3-\lambda)(1-\lambda) + 1}_{\lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 4 = (\lambda - 2)^2} \right]$$

$$= (\lambda - 2)^3 (\lambda - 3)$$

Set $f(\lambda) = 0$, we get two eigenvalues:

$$\lambda_1 = 2 \quad m_1 = 3$$

$$\lambda_2 = 3 \quad m_2 = 1$$

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces.

$$\lambda_1 = 2: E_2 = N(A - 2I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\dim E_2 = 2 < 3$$

$$\lambda_2 = 3: E_3 = N(A - 3I) = N \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\dim E_3 = 1 = 1$$

Note: A is NOT diagonalizable.

Step 3: Determine the Jordan canonical form

We know that

$$\lambda_1 = 2, \dim E_2 = 2 < 3 = m_1$$

$$\lambda_2 = 3, \dim E_3 = 1 = 1 = m_2$$

From the multiplicities, we only have the following possibilities:

$J = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} & & & \\ & \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} & & \\ & & \boxed{2} & & \\ & & & \boxed{3} & \\ & & & & \end{pmatrix}$
or
 $\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & & & & \\ & \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} & & \\ & & \boxed{2} & & \\ & & & \boxed{3} & \\ & & & & \end{pmatrix}$
or
 $\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & & & & \\ & \boxed{2} & & & \\ & & \boxed{2} & & \\ & & & \boxed{2} & \\ & & & & \boxed{3} \end{pmatrix}$

↑ impossible
∴ $\dim E_2 = 1$ here.
↑ This is it!
↑ impossible
∴ A NOT diagonalizable.

Step 4: Find basis of K_2 's consisting of cycles.

$K_3 = E_3$ $\gamma = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ forms a basis.

$K_2 \neq E_2$ $\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2 = \left\{ v_1 \right\} \cup \left\{ (A-2I)v_2, v_2 \right\}$
↑ eigenvectors ↑ gen. eigenvector
s.t. $(A-2I)v_2 \neq 0$.

Goal: Find $v_2 \in N(A-2I)^2$ but $v_2 \notin N(A-2I)$

$N(A-2I) = E_2 = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ ← contains.

$N(A-2I)^2 = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

Therefore, one may take $v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow (A-2I)v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

and take $v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in E_2$ ← but indep. of this!

Hence, if we choose the basis

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad \text{i.e. } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

then $Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & & & \\ & \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} & \\ & & \boxed{2} & \\ & & & \boxed{3} \end{pmatrix} = J$

One more 4x4 example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -4 & 2 & 2 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 & 3 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1: Compute eigenvalues.

$$f(\lambda) = (\lambda - 2)^2(\lambda - 4)^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{Exercise: check this.}$$

⇒ There are 2 eigenvalues:

$$\boxed{\lambda_1 = 2, m_1 = 2}$$

$$\boxed{\lambda_2 = 4, m_2 = 2}$$

Step 2: Compute eigenspaces.

$$\boxed{\lambda_1 = 2} \quad E_2 = N(A - 2I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -4 & 2 & 2 \\ -2 & -2 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 & 3 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\boxed{\dim E_2 = 2 = m_1}$$

$$\boxed{\lambda_2 = 4} \quad E_4 = N(A - 4I) = N \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -4 & 2 & 2 \\ -2 & -4 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & -1 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 & 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\boxed{\dim E_4 = 1 < 2 = m_2}$$

↳ A not diagonalizable.

Step 3: Determine Jordan form.

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & & & \\ & \boxed{2} & & \\ & & \boxed{4} & \boxed{1} \\ & & & \boxed{4} \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 4: Find basis of K_λ 's consisting of cycles.

$$K_2 = E_2 \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ is a desired basis}$$

$$K_4 \neq E_4 \Rightarrow \{ (A-4I)v, v \} \text{ is a desired basis}$$

We need $v \in N(A-4I)^2$ but $v \notin N(A-4I) = E_4$

$$N(A-4I)^2 = N \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 8 & -4 & -4 \\ 4 & 4 & 0 & -4 \\ 4 & 0 & 4 & -4 \\ 4 & 8 & -4 & -4 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\text{Take } v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ then } (A-4I)v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

As a result, if we choose the basis

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \text{ i.e. } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{then } Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & & & \\ & \boxed{2} & & \\ & & \boxed{4} & \boxed{1} \\ & & & \boxed{4} \end{pmatrix} = J.$$

One more 4×4 example:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Char. poly} = f(\lambda) = \lambda^4 \Rightarrow \text{Eigenvalue: } \boxed{\lambda = 0, m = 4}$$

$$\text{Eigenspace: } E_0 = N(A) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad \boxed{\dim E_0 = 2}$$

Jordan form: (2 possibilities) \leftarrow since $4 = 2+2 = 1+3$.

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} & & \\ & \boxed{0} & & \\ & & \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} \\ & & & \boxed{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

or

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & & & \\ & \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} & \\ & & \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} \\ & & & \boxed{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

Q: How to tell which is the correct one?

Look at powers of the matrix:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & & & \\ & 0 & & \\ & & \boxed{0} & \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow J^2 = 0$$

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & & & \\ & \boxed{0} & & \\ & & \boxed{0} & \\ & & & \boxed{0} \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow J^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & & & \\ & \boxed{0} & & \\ & & \boxed{0} & \\ & & & \boxed{0} \end{pmatrix} \neq 0$$

Since $Q^{-1}A^2Q = J^2$, and we see that

$$A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq 0$$

we are in this case.

Need to find at last a basis of the form

$$\beta = \{v_1\} \cup \{A^2v_2, Av_2, v_2\}$$

Find v_2 : $N(A^3) = \mathbb{C}^4$

$$N(A^2) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{can choose } v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence, } \beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{, ie. } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{then } Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & & & \\ & \boxed{0} & & \\ & & \boxed{0} & \\ & & & \boxed{0} \end{pmatrix} = J$$