

E.g. Suppose $p_A(t) = (7-t)^5$

$\dim N(A-7I) = 2$ $e_1 \mapsto 0, e_2 \mapsto 0$ What is $J = J(A)$?

$\dim N((A-7I)^2) = 4$ $e_3 \mapsto e_1, e_4 \mapsto e_2$ $\dim N((A-7I)^3) = 5$

Ans: $n \times n$ for $n = 5$ 2 Jordan blocks

only two choices: sizes

$$1+4: \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & & & \\ & 0 & & & \\ & & 0 & & \\ & & & 0 & \\ & & & & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } 2+3: \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & & & \\ & 0 & & & \\ & & 0 & & \\ & & & 0 & \\ & & & & 0 \end{bmatrix} = J-7I \Rightarrow J = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 1 & & & \\ & 7 & & & \\ & & 7 & 1 & \\ & & & 7 & 1 \\ & & & & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

General meaning of a Jordan basis \mathcal{B} :

$v_1, \dots, v_d \leftrightarrow$ a block $\Rightarrow T v_1 = \lambda v_1 \Leftrightarrow (T-\lambda I)v_1 = 0$
 $T v_2 = \lambda v_2 + v_1 \quad (T-\lambda I)v_2 = v_1 \neq 0, \text{ but } (T-\lambda I)^2 v_2 = 0$
 $T v_3 = \lambda v_3 + v_2 \quad (T-\lambda I)v_3 = v_2 \neq 0, \text{ and } (T-\lambda I)^2 v_3 \neq 0$
 $\vdots \quad \vdots \quad \text{but } (T-\lambda I)^3 v_3 = 0$
 $T v_d = \lambda v_d + v_{d-1} \quad (T-\lambda I)v_d = v_{d-1} \neq 0, \dots, (T-\lambda I)^{d-1} v_d \neq 0$
 $\text{but } (T-\lambda I)^d v_d = 0$

$$T[v_1 \dots v_d] = [v_1 \dots v_d] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & & & & \\ & \lambda & & & \\ & & \lambda & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \lambda & \\ & & & & & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \dots$$

$$\dim N((A-\lambda I)^r) - \dim N((A-\lambda I)^{r-1}) = \# \text{ blocks of size } \geq r.$$

Note: If T has only one Jordan block, then

$v_d =$ almost any element of V works!

Need only $v_d \notin \ker((T-\lambda I)^{d-1})$.