

# Dynamic Systems Theory - State-space Linear Systems \*

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## Jordan Normal Form

For each  $\lambda_j$ , define the sequence of generalized eigenspaces

$$M^k = \ker(A - \lambda I)^k$$

$$M^0 \subset M^1 \subset \dots \subset M^t = M_{(\lambda)}$$

(This is called as a flag of sub-spaces)

Note: Since we are only working with one eigenvalue, we dropped the subscript.

Also define

$$W^k = (A - \lambda I)^k \mathbb{C}^n$$
$$W_{(\lambda)} = W^k$$

We choose a basis for  $M_{(\lambda)} = M^t$  of the form  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{m_t}\}$  such that  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{m_k}\}$  is a basis for  $M^k$ . Other than this, there is nothing special about this basis.

We now modify the basis through a step-by-step procedure to get a representation of the desired form for the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

Let  $\{u_{m_{t-1}+1}, \dots, u_{m_t}\}$  be those basis elements that are in  $M^t$  but not in  $M^{t-1}$ . These elements do not need to be replaced but for consistency of notation, we change their names to

$$v_{m_{t-1}+1}, \dots, v_{m_t}$$

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\*This work is being done by various members of the class of 2012

Now set

$$v_{m_{t-2}+\nu} = (A - \lambda I)v_{m_{t-1}+\nu}$$

(recalling  $(A - \lambda I)M^{k+1} \rightarrow M^k$ )

Consider the set  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{m_{t-2}}\} \cup \{v_{m_{t-2}+1}, \dots, v_{m_{t-2}+m_{t-1}-1}\}$  and we claim that this is a linearly independent set.

Proof of claim: If it is not linearly independent, there will be a non-trivial linear combination yielding  $\theta$ , in which atleast one of the coefficients of one of the  $v_i$ 's would be non zero (this is because the set  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{m_{t-2}}\}$  is linearly independent of construction).

This means that a non-trivial linear combination of  $v_j$ 's is in  $M^{t-2}$  and thus,  $(A - \lambda I)^{t-2}$  would map this linear combination to zero. Then,  $(A - \lambda I)^{t-1}$  would map a non-trivial linear combination of vectors in  $\{v_{m_{t-1}+1}, \dots, v_{m_t}\}$  to  $\theta$ . This non-trivial linear combination would thus be in  $M^{t-1}$ , contradicting the construction of the basis  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{m_t}\}$ . This proves the claim.

Now, this linearly independent subset of  $M^{t-1}$  can be extended to form a basis  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{m_t}\} \cup \{v_{m_{t-2}+1}, \dots, v_{m_{t-1}}\}$  for  $M^{t-1}$ . Next set,

$$(A - \lambda I)v_{m_{t-2}+\nu} = v_{m_{t-3}+\nu} \text{ for } \nu = 1, \dots, m_{t-1} - m_{t-2}$$

Proceed as before to obtain a new basis,  $\{u_1, \dots, u_{m_{t-3}}\} \cup \{v_{m_{t-3}+1}, \dots, v_{m_{t-2}}\}$  of  $M^{t-2}$ .

Proceeding in this manner, we obtain a basis  $\{v_1, \dots, v_{m_t}\}$  of the entire generalized eigenspace  $(M_{(\lambda)})$  such that  $\{v_1, \dots, v_{m_k}\}$  is a basis for  $M^k$  and  $(A - \lambda I)v_{m_k+\nu} = v_{m_{k-1}+\nu}$  for  $k \geq 1$  (and  $m_0 = 0$ ).

Another way to write this is,

$$Av_{m_k+\nu} = \lambda v_{m_k+\nu} + v_{m_{k-1}+\nu} \text{ for } k \geq 1.$$

The basis we seek is obtained by re-ordering these spaces,

$$\begin{array}{c} v_1, v_{m_1+1}, v_{m_2+1}, \dots, v_{m_{t-1}+1} \\ v_2, v_{m_1+2} \\ \vdots \\ v_{m_1}, ? \end{array}$$

With respect to this ordering of the basis, the matrix has the form,

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{l} t\text{-rows} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \end{array} & & 0 \\ 0 & \begin{array}{c} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} & & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{array} \right)$$

Each of the blocks has the eigenvalue  $\lambda$  on the diagonal and 1's on the super diagonal. The diagonal blocks are called Jordan Blocks.

**Example:**

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|cc} \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{array} \right)$$

Suppose, a matrix with real entries has complex eigenvalues. Then you might have a Jordan normal form such as

$$\left( \begin{array}{cccc} \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{array} \right)$$

Where  $\lambda$  is complex ( $\lambda = \alpha + \iota\beta$ ) and ( $\bar{\lambda} = \alpha - \iota\beta$ ) is it's complex conjugate. One can do a similarity transformation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\lambda} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \bar{\lambda} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha + \iota\beta & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha - \iota\beta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha + \iota\beta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \alpha + \iota\beta \end{pmatrix}$$

A matrix  $\mathbf{U}$  is said to be unitary if  $\mathbf{U}^* = \mathbf{U}^{-1}$ , where  $\mathbf{U}^* = \overline{\mathbf{U}^T}$ . Consider the unitary matrix.

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -\iota/\sqrt{2} \\ -\iota/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -\iota/\sqrt{2} \\ -\iota/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha + \iota\beta & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha - \iota\beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & \iota/\sqrt{2} \\ \iota/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} (\alpha + \iota\beta)/\sqrt{2} & -(\iota\alpha - \beta)/\sqrt{2} \\ -(\iota\alpha + \beta)/\sqrt{2} & (\alpha - \iota\beta)/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & \iota/\sqrt{2} \\ \iota/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\beta \\ \beta & \alpha \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{U} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{U} \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha + \iota\beta & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha + \iota\beta & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha + \iota\beta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \alpha - \iota\beta \end{pmatrix} \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{U}^* & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{U}^* \end{array} \right) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\beta & 1 & 0 \\ \beta & \alpha & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha & -\beta \\ 0 & 0 & \beta & \alpha \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

This computation can be generalized to lead us to the notion of real Jordan Normal Form.

If  $\lambda = \alpha + \iota\beta$ ,  $\bar{\lambda} = \alpha - \iota\beta$  are complex conjugate eigenvalues of an  $n \times n$  real matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  and each of these eigenvalues has multiplicity  $S$ , the real Jordan form of the corresponding block is

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \left[ \begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{A}_{(\alpha,\beta)} & I_2 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{A}_{(\alpha,\beta)} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \mathbf{A}_{\alpha,\beta} & I_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \mathbf{A}_{\alpha,\beta} \end{array} \right] \\ \\ 0 \\ \\ \left[ \begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{A}_{(\alpha,\beta)} & I_2 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{A}_{(\alpha,\beta)} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \mathbf{A}_{\alpha,\beta} & I_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \mathbf{A}_{\alpha,\beta} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} M^{k+1} &= \ker(A - \lambda I)^{k+1} \\ &= \{v : (A - \lambda I)^{k+1}v = 0\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} M^k &= \{w : (A - \lambda I)^k w = 0\} \text{ Let } v \in M^{k+1}. \\ \text{Then, let } w &= (A - \lambda I)v \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } (A - \lambda I)^k w &= (A - \lambda I)^{k+1}v = 0 \\ \Rightarrow w &\in M^k \end{aligned}$$