

# Jordan Form

Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics

UTM

Sheldon Axler


## Linear Algebra Done Right

*Third Edition*

*Apollonius's Identity*

$$a^2 + b^2 = \frac{1}{2}c^2 + 2d^2$$



 Springer

# Notation

- $\mathbf{F}$  denotes either  $\mathbf{R}$  or  $\mathbf{C}$ .
- $V$  denotes a finite-dimensional nonzero vector space over  $\mathbf{F}$ .

# Examples

Example: Let  $N \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{F}^4)$  be the nilpotent operator defined by

$$N(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = (0, z_1, z_2, z_3).$$

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**With respect to the basis**

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## ***Basis corresponding to a nilpotent operator***

Suppose  $N \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is nilpotent. Then there exist vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n \in V$  and nonnegative integers  $m_1, \dots, m_n$  such that

- $N^{m_1}v_1, \dots, Nv_1, v_1, \dots, N^{m_n}v_n, \dots, Nv_n, v_n$  is a basis of  $V$ ;
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## Definition: *Jordan basis*

Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . A basis of  $V$  is called a *Jordan basis* for  $T$  if with respect to this basis  $T$  has a block diagonal matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & A_p \end{pmatrix},$$

where each  $A_j$  is of the form

$$A_j = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_j & 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ 0 & & & \lambda_j \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Suppose  $V$  is a complex vector space. If  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , then there is a basis of  $V$  that is a Jordan basis for  $T$ .

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$$V = G(\lambda_1, T) \oplus \cdots \oplus G(\lambda_m, T),$$

**where each  $(T - \lambda_j I)|_{G(\lambda_j, T)}$  is nilpotent.**



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**Thus some basis of each  $G(\lambda_j, T)$  is a Jordan basis for  $(T - \lambda_j I)|_{G(\lambda_j, T)}$ .**

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