

Read: Lax, Appendix 15, pages 363–366.

1. Let  $A$  be a  $7 \times 7$  matrix over  $\mathbb{C}$  with minimal polynomial  $m(t) = (t - 1)^3(t - 2)^2$ .
  - (a) List all possible Jordan canonical forms of  $A$  up to similarity.
  - (b) For each matrix from Part (a), find the rank of  $(A - I)^k$  and  $(A - 2I)^k$ , for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .
2. Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over  $\mathbb{C}$ . The matrix  $A$  is *nilpotent* if  $A^k = 0$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .
  - (a) Prove that if  $A$  is nilpotent, then  $A^n = 0$ .
  - (b) Prove that if  $A$  is nilpotent, then there is some  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  and positive integers  $k_1 \geq \dots \geq k_r$  with  $k_1 + \dots + k_r = n$  that determine  $A$  up to similarity.
  - (c) Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are  $6 \times 6$  nilpotent matrices with the same minimal polynomial and  $\dim N_A = \dim N_B$ . Prove that  $A$  and  $B$  are similar. Show by example that this can fail for  $7 \times 7$  matrices.
3. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{C}$ . The matrix  $A$  is *idempotent* if  $A^2 = A$ .
  - (a) Prove that if  $A^k = A$  for some integer  $k > 1$ , then  $A$  is diagonalizable.
  - (b) Prove that idempotent matrices are similar if and only if they have the same trace.
  - (c) Prove that if  $A$  and  $B$  are idempotent and  $B = UAV$  holds for some invertible maps  $U, V: X \rightarrow X$ , then  $A$  and  $B$  are similar.
4. Consider the matrices  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 & 0 \\ -3 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .
  - (a) Decompose  $\mathbb{R}^3$  into a direct sum of eigenspaces of each matrix.
  - (b) Further decompose the 2-dimensional  $A$ -eigenspace as a direct sum of two 1-dimensional  $B$ -eigenspaces, and vice-versa.
  - (c) Write  $\mathbb{R}^3$  as a direct sum of three 1-dimensional subspaces that are common eigenspaces of  $A$  and  $B$ , two different ways.
  - (d) For each of your answers to Part (c), find a matrix  $P$  so that  $P^{-1}AP = D_A$  and  $P^{-1}BP = D_B$ , where  $D_A$  and  $D_B$  are diagonal.
5. Let  $X$  be an  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and let  $A, B: X \rightarrow X$  be linear maps.
  - (a) Prove that if  $AB = BA$ , then for any eigenvector  $v$  of  $A$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , the vector  $Bv$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  for  $\lambda$ .
  - (b) Suppose that  $A$  and  $B$  are both diagonalizable. Prove that  $AB = BA$  if and only if they are *simultaneously diagonalizable*, i.e., there exists an invertible  $n \times n$ -matrix  $P$  such that both  $P^{-1}AP$  and  $P^{-1}BP$  are diagonal matrices.
  - (c) Show that if  $\{A_1, \dots, A_k \mid A_i: X \rightarrow X\}$  is a set of pairwise commuting maps, then there is a nonzero  $x \in X$  that is an eigenvector of every  $A_i$ .