

The structure of an endomorphism

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Note that “similarity” is an equivalence relation on the set of $n \times n$ -matrices over \mathbb{F} .

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More fundamental theorem without a name. If \mathbb{F} is any field, then \mathbb{F} is contained in a larger field $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$ such that

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It follows that if $A \sim B$, then A and B have the same e-values and the e-values have the same algebraic multiplicities.

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Reason. Choose a basis \mathcal{B} for the subspace V_r and extend it to a basis $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C})$ for the whole space. With respect to this basis, A has a matrix $\begin{bmatrix} rI_m & X \\ \mathbf{0} & Y \end{bmatrix}$

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so $(\lambda - r)^m$ is a factor of $\chi_A(\lambda)$. This shows that the algebraic multiplicity of r is at least as large as the geometric multiplicity.

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Claim. Suppose that the e-values of A are r_1, \dots, r_k . If \mathcal{B}_i is a basis for V_{r_i} , then $(\mathcal{B}_1, \dots, \mathcal{B}_k)$ is independent.

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Consequence. A is diagonalizable iff \mathbb{V} has a basis of e-vectors for A iff geometric multiplicity = algebraic multiplicity for each e-value of A .

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Example. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is nondiagonalizable, but in Jordan form.