

**JORDAN NORMAL FORM**

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**JORDAN NORMAL FORM THEOREM.**Every  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is similar to a matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} [A_1] & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & [A_2] & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & & [A_k] \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $A_i$  are matrices of the form

$$A_i = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

are matrices called **Jordan blocks****EXAMPLES OF MATRICES IN JORDAN FORM:**1) A generalized shear matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . It is itself a Jordan block.2)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . This matrix has three Jordan blocks. The first one is a 2x2 Jordan block, the second

a 1x2 Jordan block, the third again a 2x2 Jordan block.

3) Every diagonal matrix like

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

is in Jordan normal form. It consists of 5 Jordan blocks.

4)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & i & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & i & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

is in Jordan normal form. It consists of 4 Jordan blocks. Note that the diagonal elements can be complex and that we can have different blocks with the same diagonal elements. The eigenvalue 5 for example has here 3 Jordan blocks of size 1x1, 2x2 and 3x3.

**QUESTION:** How many different Jordan normal forms do exist for a  $5 \times 5$  matrix with eigenvalues 3 and 2 of algebraic multiplicity 3 and 2?**ANSWER:** Examples 2) and 3) are examples. There are more.**QUESTION:** Is  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  in Jordan normal form?