

# Algebra II: Rational Canonical Form

Let  $F = \text{field}$ ,  $R = F[x]$ ,  $V = F\text{-v. space of dim } n < \infty$ ,

$T: V \rightarrow V$  linear.

Then we can define an  $R$ -module structure on  $V$

by  $x \cdot v = T(v)$  and extending to

$$\sum c_j x^j \cdot v = \sum c_j T^j(v).$$

As  $\dim_F(V) < \infty$ ,  $\dim_{F[x]}(V)$

$V$  is f.g. as an  $R$ -module (determined by action of  $T$  on a basis)

By the fund. th<sup>2</sup> of f.g. modules / PID's,

any free  $R$ -module is a direct sum of copies of  $R = F[x]$  is infinite  $\dim_{F[x]} R / F$

So as  $\dim_F(V) < \infty$ ,  $rK_R(V) = 0$ , i.e.,

it's a torsion  $R$ -module, and

$V =$  direct sum  $R$ -cyclic  $R$ -modules.

Fund. th<sup>2</sup> invariant factor form  $\rightarrow$  rat<sup>l</sup> canonical form of  $[T]_{\mathcal{B}}$ ,  
 elem. factors  $\rightarrow$  Jordan canonical form  $\mathcal{B}$  a basis of  $V$

Basis terms:  $T(v) = \lambda v \rightarrow \lambda =$  eigen value  
 $\{v \in V \mid T(v) = \lambda v\} =$  eigen space of  $\lambda$ . expanded in  $\mathcal{B}$ -coords

Given a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $V$ , the matrix for  $T$  is  $[T]_{\mathcal{B}}$ , with column  $i = T(\mathcal{B}_i)$

Now  $V$  is an  $F[x]$  torsion module, sat with  $m(x)$  generating the annihilator of  $V$  and chosen to be monic. Then  $m_f(x) = m(x)$  is called the minimal poly of  $f$ .  
 Similarly, for a matrix  $A$ ,  $m_A(x)$  is the unique monic poly. of smallest degree,  $m_A(A) = 0$ .

Now by the Fund. Th<sup>m</sup>, we have

$$(*) V \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m F[x]/(a_i(x)), \text{ where } a_1(x) | a_2(x) | \dots | a_m(x).$$

↑ unique if required to be monic.

Now  $\text{Ann}(V) = (a_m(x)) \Rightarrow m_f(x) = a_m(x)$ .

Convenient bases:  $\downarrow$  deg.  $k$   $\downarrow$  reductions mod  $a(x)$ .  
 basis of  $F[x]/(a(x)) : \{ \bar{1}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}^2, \dots, \bar{x}^{k-1} \}$ .

$T$ -action is multiplication by  $x$  in  $(*)$ , and

w.r.t. this basis,  $\bar{x}^i \mapsto \begin{cases} \bar{x}^{i+1} & i=0, 1, \dots, k-2 \\ \bar{x}^k = -a_0 - a_1 \bar{x} - \dots - a_{k-1} \bar{x}^{k-1} & i=k-1 \end{cases}$

→ gives the matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & & -a_1 \\ 0 & 1 & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & -a_{k-1} \end{pmatrix} =: C_{a(x)}$  companion matrix and  $a(x) = x^k + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} a_i x^i$

Doing this on each factor in  $(*)$  gives the matrix  $P \cup T$  as  $(C_{a_1(x)} \dots C_{a_m(x)})$  ← rational canonical form

Uniqueness follows from Fund. Th<sup>m</sup> (See next)  
 Next time: Cayley-Hamilton / Computing Rat. can. form...

thm:  $S, T$  in trans. on  $V$ . T.F.A.E:

1).  $S, T$  are similar.

2). The  $F[x]$ -module structures on  $V$  via  $S, T$  are  $\cong$ .

3).  $S, T$  have the same rational canonical form.

Pf:  $1 \Rightarrow 2$ : Say  $S = U T U^{-1}$ ,  $U \in \text{Hom}(V, V)$  <sup>Isom(V)</sup>

Then  $U: V \rightarrow V$  is also an  $F[x]$ -module <sup>isomorphism</sup>  
 e.g.:  $U(xv) = U(Tv) = U(TU^{-1}(Uv)) = SU(Uv) = x(Uv)$ .

$2 \Rightarrow 3$ : Let  $V_1 = V$  as an  $F[x]$ -module via  $S$   
 $V_2 = V$  " " " via  $T$ .

Then  $V_1 \cong V_2 \Rightarrow$  same invariant factors  $\Rightarrow$  same rational canonical form.

$3 \Rightarrow 1$ : Then  $S, T$  have the same matrix rep. w.r.t. some bases, so are the same up to change of basis  $\Rightarrow$  similar.

Thm (Cayley-Hamilton)

The minimal poly of  $A$  divides the char poly of  $A$ .

Moreover,  $\text{char}(A) =$  product of invariant factors of  $A$ ,  
 and  $\text{char}(A)$  divides a power of  $\text{min}(A)$ .

$\Rightarrow$  their char poly, min poly have the same set of roots.

Pf: Let  $BB$  be the rational canonical form of  $A$ .

Now ~~set~~  $\det \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & A_k \end{pmatrix} = \prod_{i=1}^k \det(A_i)$  (block matrices, check Leibniz formula.)

here, Thus,  $\text{char}(B) = \prod \text{char}(C(a_i, x))$

Companion mats for invariant factors of  $A$

Then one can check:

$$\text{Char}(C(a_i, x)) = \det \begin{pmatrix} -x & & & -a_0 \\ & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & -x & -a_{k-1} \\ & & & -a_{k-1} - x \end{pmatrix} = a(x)$$

$\Rightarrow \text{char}(B) = \prod a_i(x)$ , Now  $A, B$  are similar,  
 so  $\text{char}(A) = \prod a_i(x)$ , as claimed.

Now  $\text{min}(A) = a_k(x)$  (largest invariant factor)  
 $\Rightarrow \text{char min}(A) \mid \text{char}(A)$ .

Finally, all  $a_i \mid a_k$  by the def<sup>n</sup> of invariant factors,  
 so  $\text{char}(A) \mid \text{min}(A)^k$   $\square$

Cor:  $\text{char}(A) \neq 0$ ; satisfies its own char poly

Computing invariant factors:

Setup:  $V = F[x]$  module with basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\} = \beta$   
 $T: V \rightarrow V$  defined by  $x$ ,  $A = [T]_{\beta}$  matrix for  $T$  w.r.t.  $\beta$

Algorithm 1 1). Use elementary row/column ops,  
 keep track of row ops. used.

$B$  given by  $f_i, T f_i, \dots, T^{\deg(a_i(x))-1} f_i$ .

5). Write the  $k$ th elt of the  $v$ -space basis of  $U$  in terms of the original basis  $B$ .

Use coords for  $k$ th column of a matrix  $D$ .

Then  $P^{-1}AP$  is in rational canonical form and this is the matrix for  $T$  wrt. the basis of  $U$ .