

## Dual spaces, continued

**Def.** The lin. transformation  $T^t$  defined in Thm 2.25 is called the transpose of  $T$ .  
It is the unique lin. transformation  $U$  s.t.  $[U]_{\beta^*}^{g^*} = ([T]_{\beta}^g)^t$ .

**Ex 5** Define  $T: P_1(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  by  $T(p(x)) = (p(0), p(1))$ . This is a lin. transformation.  
Let  $\beta$  and  $g$  be the standard ordered bases for  $P_1(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , respectively. We have  $[T]_{\beta}^g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .  
We compute  $[T^t]_{g^*}^{\beta^*}$  from its definition.  
Let  $\beta^* = \{f_1, f_2\}$ ,  $g^* = \{g_1, g_2\}$ , and suppose that  $[T^t]_{g^*}^{\beta^*} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ .  
Then  $T^t(g_1) = af_1 + cf_2$ . So  $T^t(g_1)(1) = (af_1 + cf_2)(1) = af_1(1) + cf_2(1) = a(1) + c(0) = a$ .  
But also  $(T^t(g_1))(1) = g_1(T(1)) = g_1(1, 1) = 1$ . So  $a = 1$ .  
Using similar computations (Exercise!) we obtain  $c = 0$ ,  $b = 1$  and  $d = 2$ . Hence we get  
 $[T^t]_{g^*}^{\beta^*} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = ([T]_{\beta}^g)^t$  - as predicted by Thm 2.25.

Next we consider the double dual space  $V^{**}$  of  $V$ .

**Def.** For a vector  $x \in V$ , we define  $\hat{x}: V^* \rightarrow F$  by  $\hat{x}(f) = f(x)$  for every  $f \in V^*$ .  
Then  $\hat{x}$  is a lin. functional on  $V^*$  ( $\hat{x}(af + g) = (af + g)(x) = a(f(x)) + g(x) = a \cdot \hat{x}(f) + \hat{x}(g)$ ), so  $\hat{x} \in V^{**}$ .

**Lemma** Let  $V$  be a fin.dim. v.s., and  $x \in V$ . If  $\hat{x}(f) = 0$  for all  $f \in V^*$ , then  $x = 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $x \neq 0$ . We show that there exists  $f \in V^*$  s.t.  $\hat{x}(f) \neq 0$ .

Choose an ordered basis  $\beta = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  for  $V$  s.t.  $x_i = x$ .

Let  $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$  be the dual basis of  $\beta$ . Then  $f_i(x_i) = 1 \neq 0$ . Let  $f = f_i$ .

**Thm 2.26** Let  $V$  be a fin.dim. v.s., and define the map  $\psi: V \rightarrow V^{**}$  by  $\psi(x) = \hat{x}$ . Then  $\psi$  is an isomorphism.

**Prop.** a)  $\psi$  is linear:

Let  $x, y \in V$  and  $c \in F$ . For  $f \in V^*$ , we have  $\psi(cx + y)(f) = f(cx + y) = cf(x) + f(y) = c\hat{x}(f) + \hat{y}(f) = (c\hat{x} + \hat{y})(f)$

Therefore  $\psi(cx + y) = c\hat{x} + \hat{y} = c\psi(x) + \psi(y)$ .

b)  $\psi$  is one-to-one: Suppose that  $\psi(x)$  is the zero functional on  $V^*$  for some  $x \in V$ . Then  $\hat{x}(f) = 0$  for every  $f \in V^*$ . By the previous lemma,  $x = 0$ . So  $N(\psi) = \{0\}$ .

c)  $\psi$  is an isomorphism: This follows from (b) and the fact that  $\dim(V) = \dim(V^{**})$ .

**Corollary.** Let  $V$  be a fin.dim. v.s. with dual space  $V^*$ . Then every ordered basis for  $V^*$  is the dual basis for some basis for  $V$ .

**Prop.** Let  $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$  be an ordered basis for  $V^*$ . Combining Thm 2.24 and Thm 2.26, there exists a dual basis  $\{\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_n\}$  in  $V^{**}$ , that is  $\hat{x}_i(f_j) = f_j(x_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ .

Thus  $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$  is the dual basis of  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ .

## 115A Reminder: Eigenvectors

**Def.** A matrix  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$  is diagonal if  $A_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ .

**Def.** A lin. operator  $T \in L(V)$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ , is diagonalizable if there exists an ordered basis  $\beta$  for  $V$  such that  $[T]_{\beta}$  is a diagonal matrix.

**Def.** 1) Given  $A, B \in M_{n \times n}(F)$ , we say that  $A$  and  $B$  are similar if there exists an invertible matrix  $Q \in M_{n \times n}(F)$  such that  $B = Q^{-1}AQ$ .

2) A matrix  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$  is diagonalizable if  $A$  is similar to a diagonal matrix.

Then Let  $T \in L(V)$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$  and  $\beta, \gamma$  ordered bases for  $V$ .

Then  $\det([T]_{\beta}) = \det([T]_{\gamma})$ .

Thus,  $\det([T]_{\beta})$  does not depend on  $\beta$ , and is called the determinant of  $T$ , or  $\det(T)$ .

### Proposition

- 1)  $T$  is bijective  $\Leftrightarrow \det T \neq 0$ .
- 2)  $T$  is bijective  $\Rightarrow \det(T^{-1}) = (\det T)^{-1}$ .
- 3) If  $U \in L(V)$ , then  $\det(TU) = \det(T) \cdot \det(U)$ .

Then Let  $T \in L(V)$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$  and  $\beta$  an ord. basis for  $V$ . Then:

$T$  is diagonalizable  $\Leftrightarrow [T]_{\beta}$  is diagonalizable.

**Corollary**  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$  is diagonalizable  $\Leftrightarrow L_A$  is diagonalizable.

**Def** 1) Let  $T \in L(V)$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ .

A non-zero vector  $v \in V$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  if  $T(v) = \lambda v$  for some  $\lambda \in F$ .

Then  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvector  $v$ .

2) Let  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$ .

A non-zero  $v \in F^n$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  if  $Av = \lambda v$  for some  $\lambda \in F$ .

Then  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  corresp. to  $v$ .

Then A lin. operator  $T \in L(V)$  is diagonalizable if and only if there exists an ordered basis  $\beta$  for  $V$  consisting of eigenvectors for  $T$ .

Furthermore, then

$[T]_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $\lambda_i$  is the eigenvalue corresponding to the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vector in  $\beta$ .

Then 5.2  $\lambda \in F$  is an eigenvalue of  $T \Leftrightarrow \det(T - \lambda I_V) = 0$ .

**Corollary** For  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$ ,  $\lambda \in F$  is an eigenvalue of  $A \Leftrightarrow \det(A - \lambda I_n) = 0$ .

**Def** 1) For  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$ , the polynomial  $f(t) = \det(A - t I_n)$  is called the characteristic polynomial of  $A$ .

2) Let  $V$  be a v.s.,  $\dim(V) = n$  and  $\beta$  is an ord. basis for  $V$ . Let  $T \in L(V)$ . We define the characteristic polynomial of  $T$  to be  $f(t) = \det([T]_{\beta} - t I_n)$

### Properties of char. polynomials

Let  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$  be given, let  $f(t)$  be its char. polynomial.

1)  $f(t)$  is of degree  $n$ , and moreover  $f(t) = (-1)^n t^n + c_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \dots + c_0$  for some  $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n \in F$ .

2)  $\lambda \in F$  is an eigenvalue of  $A \Leftrightarrow f(\lambda) = 0$  (that is,  $\lambda$  is a root of  $f(t)$ ).

3)  $A$  has at most  $n$  distinct eigenvalues (as  $f(t)$  has at most  $n$  roots).

4) If  $\lambda \in F$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ , then:

$x \in F^n$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  corresp. to  $\lambda \Leftrightarrow x \neq 0$  and  $x \in N(L_A - \lambda I_{F^n})$ .

### Theorem 5.5

Let  $T \in L(V)$  be a lin. operator on  $V$ , and let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  be distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ . If  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  are e.vectors of  $T$  s.t.  $v_i$  corresponds to  $\lambda_i$ , then the set

$$\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$$

is lin. indep.

**Corollary** Let  $T \in L(V)$  and  $\dim(V) = n$ .

If  $T$  has  $n$  distinct e.val's, then  $T$  is diagonalizable.

**Def** A polynomial  $f(t) \in P(F)$  splits over  $F$  if there are scalars  $c, a_1, \dots, a_n \in F$  (not necessarily distinct) such that

$$f(t) = c(t-a_1)(t-a_2)\dots(t-a_n).$$

**Thm 5.6** The char. polynomial of any diagonalizable lin. operator splits.

**Def** Let  $\lambda$  be an e.val. of a lin. operator or matrix with char. polynomial  $f(t)$ . The (algebraic) multiplicity of  $\lambda$  is the largest positive integer  $k$  for which  $(t-\lambda)^k$  is a factor of  $f(t)$ . That is,  $f(t)$  can be written as  $f(t) = (t-\lambda)^k g(t)$  for some polynomial  $g(t)$ .

**Def** Let  $T \in L(V)$ ,  $\lambda$  an eigenvalue of  $T$ . We define  $E_\lambda$ , the eigenspace of  $T$  corresp. to  $\lambda$ , as

$$E_\lambda = \{x \in V : T(x) = \lambda x\} = N(T - \lambda I_V). \quad (\text{and similarly for a matrix}).$$

Note that this is a subspace of  $V$ , consisting of 0 and the e.vects of  $T$  corresp. to  $\lambda$ .

**Thm 5.7** Let  $T \in L(V)$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ ,  $\lambda$  an e.val. of  $T$  with multiplicity  $m$ .

$$\text{Then } 1 \leq \dim(E_\lambda) \leq m.$$

### Invariant and cyclic subspaces

**Def** Let  $T: V \rightarrow V$  be a lin. operator on  $V$ . A subspace  $W$  of  $V$  is called a  $T$ -invariant subspace of  $V$  if  $T(W) \subseteq W$ , that is, if  $T(v) \in W$  for all  $v \in W$ .

**Ex1** Let  $T$  be any lin. operator on  $V$ . Then the following subspaces of  $V$  are  $T$ -invariant:

1)  $\{0\}$  (as  $T(0)=0$ ),

2)  $V$ ,

3)  $N(T)$ ,

4)  $N(T)^\perp$ , ( $v \in N(T)^\perp \Rightarrow T(v)=0$ , then if  $w=T(v)$ , we have  $T(w)=T(\underbrace{T(v)}_{=0})=T(0)=0$ , so  $w \in N(T)$ ).

5)  $E_\lambda$ , for any eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $T$ . (if  $v$  is an eigen vect., by def.  $T(v)=\lambda v$  for some  $\lambda \in F$ , so  $T(v) \in \text{Span}(v)$ . Hence  $T(E_\lambda) \subseteq \text{Span}(E_\lambda) = E_\lambda$  as  $E_\lambda$  is a subspace of  $V$ ).

**Ex2.** Let  $T$  be a lin. op. on  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$  defined by

$$T(a, b, c) = (a+b, b+c, 0).$$

Then: 1) The  $xy$ -plane  $W_1 = \{(x, y, 0) : x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$  is a  $T$ -inv. subspace.

$$(v \in W_1 \Rightarrow v = (a, b, 0) \text{ for some } a, b \in \mathbb{R} \Rightarrow T(v) = (a+b, b+0, 0) \in W_1).$$

2) The  $x$ -axis  $W_2 = \{(a, 0, 0) : a \in \mathbb{R}\}$  is a  $T$ -inv. subspace

$$(v \in W_2 \Rightarrow v = (a, 0, 0) \text{ for some } a \in \mathbb{R} \Rightarrow T(v) = (a+0, 0+0, 0) = (a, 0, 0) \in W_2).$$

**Def** Let  $T$  be a lin. op. on  $V$ . And let  $x \in V$  be a non-zero vector. The subspace

$$W = \text{Span}(\{x, T(x), T^2(x), \dots\})$$

is called the  $T$ -cyclic subspace of  $V$  generated by  $x$ .

**Rem** It is the "smallest"  $T$ -invariant subspace of  $V$  containing  $x$ . That is, any  $T$ -invariant subspace of  $V$  containing  $x$  must also contain  $W$ . Indeed, if  $Z \subseteq V$  is a  $T$ -inv. subspace of  $V$  and  $x \in Z$ , then by  $T$ -inv. also  $T(x) \in Z$ ,  $T^2(x) = T(T(x)) \in Z, \dots$ . So  $\{x, T(x), T^2(x), \dots\} \subseteq Z$ , and as  $Z$  is a subspace we get  $W = \text{Span}(\{x, T(x), T^2(x), \dots\}) \subseteq Z$ .

**Ex 3** Let  $T$  be a lin. op. on  $\mathbb{R}^3$  defined by  $T(a, b, c) = (-b+c, a+c, 3c)$ .

We determine the  $T$ -cyclic subspace generated by  $e_1 = (1, 0, 0)$ .

$$T(e_1) = T(1, 0, 0) = (0, 1, 0) = e_2$$

$$T^2(e_1) = T(T(e_1)) = T(e_2) = (-1, 0, 0) = -e_1.$$

$$\text{Then } T^3(e_1) = T(T^2(e_1)) = T(-e_1) = -T(e_1) = -e_2, \quad T^n(e_1) = T(T^{n-1}(e_1)) = T(-e_2) = -T(e_2) = e_1.$$

$$\text{Hence } T^n(e_1) \in \{e_2, -e_1, -e_2, e_1\} \text{ for all } n, \text{ hence } \text{Span}(\{e_1, T(e_1), T^2(e_1), \dots\}) = \text{Span}(\{e_1, e_2\}) = \{(s, t, 0) : s, t \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

**Def** If  $T$  is a lin. op. on  $V$  and  $W$  is a  $T$ -invariant subspace of  $V$ , we consider the map  $T_W : W \rightarrow W$ , the restriction of  $T$  to  $W$ , defined by  $T_W(x) = T(x)$  for all  $x \in W$  (note that  $T(x) \in W$  as  $W$  is  $T$ -inv.).

Then  $T_W$  is a lin. op. on  $W$ . ( $\forall x, y \in W, a \in \mathbb{F}$  we have  $T_W(ax+ay) = T(ax+ay) \stackrel{T \text{ lin.}}{=} aT(x)+T(y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} aT_W(x)+T_W(y)$ ).

As a lin. op.,  $T_W$  inherits certain properties from its parent operator  $T$ .

**Thm 5.21** Let  $T$  be a lin. op. on a fin. dim. v.s.  $V$ , and let  $W$  be a  $T$ -inv. subspace of  $V$ .

Then the characteristic polynomial of  $T_W$  divides the characteristic polynomial of  $T$ .

**Proof.** Choose an ordered basis  $\gamma = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$  for  $W$ , and extend it to an ordered basis  $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n\}$  for  $V$ .

Let  $A = [T]_\beta$  and  $B_3 = [T_W]_\gamma$ . Then we have

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} 1 \\ [T(v_1)]_\beta \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ [T(v_2)]_\beta \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \cdots & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ [T(v_k)]_\beta \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \cdots & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ [T(v_{k+1})]_\beta \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \cdots & \begin{matrix} 1 \\ [T(v_n)]_\beta \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}.$$

As  $W$  is  $T$ -inv, we have that  $T(v_i) \in W$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Then by the choice of  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ , for every vector  $x \in W$  we have

$$[x]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} [x]_\gamma \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{cases} k \\ \vdots \\ n-k \end{cases}, \text{ in particular } [T(v_i)]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} [T(v_i)]_\gamma \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{cases} k \\ \vdots \\ n-k \end{cases} \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq k, \text{ so } A = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} B_1 & B_2 \\ 0 & B_3 \end{pmatrix}}_{k \times n} \begin{cases} k \\ \vdots \\ n-k \end{cases} \text{ for some } B_2 \in M_{k \times k}(\mathbb{F}), B_3 \in M_{(n-k) \times (n-k)}(\mathbb{F}).$$

Let  $f(t)$  be the char. polynomial of  $T$  and  $g(t)$  the char. polynomial of  $T_W$ . Then we have:

$$f(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \det(A - t I_n) = \det \begin{pmatrix} B_1 - t I_k & B_2 \\ 0 & B_3 - t I_{n-k} \end{pmatrix} = g(t) \cdot \det(B_3 - t I_{n-k}). \text{ Thus } g(t) \text{ divides } f(t).$$

**Ex 5** Let  $T$  be the lin. op. on  $V = \mathbb{R}^4$  defined by

$$T(a, b, c, d) = (a+b+2c-d, b+d, 2c-d, c+d), \text{ and let } W = \{(t, s, 0, 0) : t, s \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

$W$  is  $T$ -inv: for any  $(a, b, c, d) \in W$  we have  $T(a, b, c, d) = (a+b, b, 0, 0) \in W$ .

Let  $\gamma = \{e_1, e_2\}$ , it is an ordered basis for  $W$ . Extend it to the standard basis  $\beta = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$  for  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Then:

$$B_3 = [T_W]_\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad A = [T]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{char. poly. of } T \\ f(t) &= \det(A - t I_4) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1-t & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1-t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-t & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1-t \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1-t & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1-t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-t & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1-t \end{pmatrix} = g(t) \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 2-t & -1 \\ 1 & 1-t \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

In view of Thm 5.21, we may use the char. poly. of  $T_W$  to gain information about the char. poly. of  $T$  itself.

For this cyclic subspaces are useful because for them we can obtain an explicit formula for char. poly. as follows:

**Thm 5.22**

Let  $T$  be a lin. op. on  $V$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ . Let  $W$  be the  $T$ -cyclic subspace of  $V$  generated by  $v \in V, v \neq 0$ . Let  $k = \dim(W)$ .

a)  $\{v, T(v), T^2(v), \dots, T^{k-1}(v)\}$  is a basis for  $W$ .

b) If  $a_0v + a_1T(v) + \dots + a_{k-1}T^{k-1}(v) + T^k(v) = 0$ , then the char. poly. of  $T_W$  is

$$f(t) = (-1)^k (a_0 + a_1t + \dots + a_{k-1}t^{k-1} + t^k).$$

Proof.

a) Since  $V \neq 0$ , the set  $\{v\}$  is lin. indep.

Let  $j$  be the largest positive integer for which  $\beta = \{v, T(v), \dots, T^{j-1}(v)\}$  is lin. indep.  
(such a  $j$  must exist because  $\dim(V) < \infty$ ).

Let  $Z = \text{Span}(\beta)$ . Then  $\beta$  is a basis for  $Z$ . Furthermore,  $T^j(v) \in Z$ .

Claim:  $Z$  is a  $T$ -inv. subspace of  $V$ .

Let  $w \in Z$ . Since  $w$  is a lin. combination of the vectors of  $\beta$ ,  $\exists b_0, b_1, \dots, b_{j-1} \in F$  s.t.

$w = b_0 v + b_1 T(v) + \dots + b_{j-1} T^{j-1}(v)$ , hence using linearity of  $T$ :

$$T(w) = b_0 T(v) + b_1 T^2(v) + \dots + b_{j-1} T^j(v).$$

Thus  $T(w)$  is a lin. comb. of vectors in  $Z$ , hence  $T(w) \in Z$  - so  $Z$  is  $T$ -inv.

We have  $v \in Z$ . As the cyclic space  $W$  is the smallest  $T$ -inv. subspace containing  $v$ , we must have  $W \subseteq Z$ .

As  $\beta \subseteq W$ , we also have  $Z = \text{Span}(\beta) \subseteq W$ . So  $Z = W$ .

It follows that  $\beta$  is a basis for  $W$ , hence  $\dim(W) = j$ . Thus  $j = k$ , and this proves a).

b) Now view  $\beta$  from a) as an ordered basis for  $W$ . Let  $a_0, \dots, a_{k-1} \in F$  be s.t.

$$(*) a_0 v + a_1 T(v) + \dots + a_{k-1} T^{k-1}(v) + T^k(v) = 0. \quad \text{We calculate } [T]_\beta. \text{ For each vector in the basis } \beta \text{ we have:}$$
$$[T(v)]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, [T(T(v))]_\beta = [T^2(v)]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, [T(T^{k-2}(v))]_\beta = [T^{k-1}(v)]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, [T(T^{k-1}(v))]_\beta = [T^k(v)]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} -a_0 \\ -a_1 \\ \vdots \\ -a_{k-1} \end{pmatrix}. \quad \text{using (*)}$$

Hence  $[T_W]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & -a_1 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & -a_{k-1} \end{pmatrix}$ . By induction on  $k$  one can show that the char. poly is equal to  
 $f(t) = (-1)^k (a_0 + a_1 t + \dots + a_{k-1} t^{k-1} + t^k)$ . (Homework!)

Thus  $f(t)$  is the char. poly of  $T_W$ , proving b).