

Step-1

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ 0 & d & e \\ 0 & 0 & f \end{bmatrix}$$

If a, d, f are all zero thus

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ d \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ e \\ f \end{bmatrix}$$

Then the columns of

$$\text{Let } c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + c_3 v_3 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} b \\ d \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 \begin{bmatrix} c \\ e \\ f \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{i.e. } c_1 a + c_2 b + c_3 c = 0$$

$$c_2 d + c_3 e = 0$$

$$c_3 f = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_3 = 0 \text{ (since } f \neq 0 \text{)}$$

Plug this value in the following equation.

$$c_2 d + c_3 e = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 = \left(\frac{-e}{d} \right) c_3 \text{ (since } c_3 = 0 \text{)}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 = 0$$

Plug these values in the following equation.

$$c_1 a + c_2 b + c_3 c = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 a = 0 \quad (\text{since } c_3 = 0, c_2 = 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \text{ (since } a \neq 0 \text{)}$$

$$\text{Therefore } \boxed{c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0}$$

Therefore, v_1, v_2, v_3 are linearly Independent.