

Step-1

Given that the null space of 3 by 4 matrix A is a line through $(2, 3, 1, 0)$.

a) We have to find the rank of A and the complete solution of $Ax = 0$

From the given condition, the dimension of null space is 1.

The number of columns of A is 4, there is only one non pivot column.

Therefore the number of pivot columns is 3.

Hence the rank of A is $\boxed{3}$.

Step-2

b) We have to find the exact row reduced echelon form R of A .

Since the null space of A is the line through $(2, 3, 1, 0)$, the complete solution to $Ax = 0$ is $x = (2, 3, 1, 0)$

Therefore x_3 is a free variable $x_4 = 0$ and x_1, x_2 are pivot variables.

So $x_1 = 2x_3, x_2 = 3x_3$

Thus the reduced form of A is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step-3

Now

$$Ax = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow A \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 - 2x_3 = 0$$

$$x_2 - 3x_3 = 0$$

$$x_4 = 0$$

Step-4

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 2x_3$$

$$x_2 = 3x_3$$

$$x_4 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_3 \\ 3x_3 \\ x_3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step-5

Therefore the null space of A is line through $(2, 3, 1, 0)$.

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus reduced row echelon form of A is