

Solution to Revision Number 1

Q4. Solution

(i) We know that

$$\dim(\text{column space of } A) = \text{rank}(A).$$

From the matrix B , which is the reduced row echelon form of A , $\text{rank}(A) = 2$. Hence

$$\dim(\text{column space of } A) = 2.$$

(ii) The vectors

$$(1, -1, 2), \quad (1, 1, -3), \quad (4, -2, 3)$$

are columns of the matrix A . Since the dimension of the column space of A is 2, these vectors do not span \mathbb{R}^3 (which has dimension 3).

(iii) The vectors

$$(1, -1, 2), \quad (1, 1, -3), \quad (3, -1, 1)$$

are columns of the matrix A . Since the dimension of the column space of A is 2, these vectors cannot be linearly independent, for if they were the dimension of the column space would be 3.

(iv) We want to find constants a and b such that

$$a \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

In augmented matrix form this reads

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 4 \\ -1 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & -3 & 3 \end{array} \right].$$

Notice that this matrix consists of columns 1,3,4 of A . So its row echelon form consists of columns 1,3,4 of B :

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right].$$

This gives $b = 1$ and $a = 3$.