

**Question 1.** (2 marks) Determine whether the following statement is true or false. If the statement is false provide a counterexample. If the statement is true provide a proof of the statement.

If the reduced row echelon form of the augmented matrix for a linear system has a row of zeros, then the system must have infinitely many solutions.

False,

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  has no solution since  $0x+0y=1$  cannot be satisfied by any  $x, y$ .

**Question 2.** (3 marks) The augmented matrix for a system of linear equations has been reduced by row operations to the given row echelon form. Solve the system.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc|c} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & b \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 0 & -5 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -9 & 3 \end{array}$$

let  $x_2 = s$   $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$   
 $x_4 = t$

$\therefore x_1 = -2s + 5t + 6$

$x_2 = s$

$x_3 = 9t + 3$

$x_4 = t$

$s, t \in \mathbb{R}$

**Question 3.** (5 marks) Determine the values of  $p$  for which the system has no solutions, exactly one solution, or infinitely many solutions

$$\begin{array}{rrrrr} -x & + & 4y & - & 2z & = & 1 \\ -2x & + & 10y & + & (2p-4)z & = & 6 \\ 3x & - & 11y & + & (p^2+6)z & = & 5p-1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & -2 & 1 \\ -2 & 10 & (2p-4) & 6 \\ 3 & -11 & (p^2+6) & 5p-1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{array}{l} -2R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2 \\ 3R_1 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2p & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & p^2 & 5p-2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{2}R_2 \rightarrow R_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & p & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & p^2 & 5p-2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim -R_2 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3 \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & p & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & p^2-p & 5p \end{bmatrix}$$

unique solution: #leading entries in var. col. = #var

$p^2 - p \neq 0$

$p(p-1) \neq 0$

$p \neq 0$   $p-1 \neq 0$   
 $p \neq 1$

$\therefore p \neq 0, 1$

no solution: leading entry in constant col.

$p^2 - p = 0$

and

$5p \neq 0$

$p(p-1) = 0$

$p \neq 0$

$p=0$  or  $p=1$

$\therefore p=1$

infinitely many solutions: #leading entry < #var

$p^2 - p = 0$

and  $5p = 0$

$p(p-1) = 0$

$p = 0$

$p=0$   $p=1$

$\therefore p=0$