

**Question 1.**

a. (3 marks) Find all symmetric  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $A$  such that  $A^2 = 0$ .

b. (2 marks) If  $A$  is invertible and skew-symmetric ( $A^T = -A$ ), the same is true of  $A^{-1}$

**Question 2.** (5 marks) Given the following matrices:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } C = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find  $\det(X)$  given that  $X$  satisfies the equation

$$(X + BC)^{-1} = A.$$

**Question 3.** (3 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.

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix and  $S$  is an  $n \times n$  invertible matrix. If  $\mathbf{x}$  is a solution to the system  $(S^{-1}AS)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , then  $S\mathbf{x}$  is a solution to the system  $A\mathbf{y} = S\mathbf{b}$ .

**Question 4.** (5 marks) Find the real numbers  $x$  and such that

$$0 = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 & x^3 \\ x & x^2 & x^3 & 1 \\ x^2 & x^3 & 1 & x \\ x^3 & 1 & x & x^2 \end{vmatrix}$$

**Bonus.** (3 marks) Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $m \times n$  and  $n \times m$  matrices, respectively. If  $m > n$ , show that  $AB$  is not invertible.