

No books, watches, notes or cell phones are allowed. You must show all your work, the correct answer is worth 1 mark the remaining marks are given for the work.

**Definition.** The number of non-zero rows of the row echelon form of a matrix is called the *rank of the matrix*.

**Question 1.**<sup>1</sup> (3 marks) Complete the following sentences with the word **must**, **might** or, **cannot**, as appropriate.

- a. If the  $3 \times 3$  coefficient matrix of the system  $Ax = b$  has a rank of 2, then the system might be inconsistent when  $b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .
- b. Given an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ . If the system  $Ax = b$  is inconsistent for some  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then the system  $Ax = 0$  must have non-trivial solutions.
- c. For any invertible matrix  $A$ , the rank of  $A$  must be the same as the rank of  $A^2$ .

**Question 3** (3 marks) Given the following system  $\begin{cases} x &= a \\ 2x + y &= b \\ z &= c \end{cases}$ .

- a. Find the inverse of the coefficient matrix.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- b. For which value(s), if any, of  $a, b, c$  is the system consistent, justify.

*Consistent for all  $a, b, c$  by the equivalence theorem since the coefficient matrix is invertible*

- c. Solve the system using the inverse for the value(s), if any, found in part b.

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= b \\ A^{-1}Ax &= A^{-1}b \\ Ix &= A^{-1}b \\ x &= A^{-1}b \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ -2a+b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

**Question 2.**<sup>1</sup> (4 marks) A matrix  $A$  is said to be *skew-symmetric* if  $A^T = -A$ . Given that  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$  are skew-symmetric and  $AB = -BA$ , show that matrix  $AB$  must also be skew-symmetric.

Premise:

- $A^T = -A$
- $B^T = -B$
- $AB = -BA$

$$\text{LHS} = (AB)^T$$

$$= B^T A^T$$

$$= -B(-A) \text{ from premise}$$

$$= BA$$

$$= -AB \text{ from premise}$$

Conclusion:

$AB$  is skew-symmetric

Need to show:  $(AB)^T = -AB$

**Question 3.** Determine whether the following statements are true or false. If the statement is false provide a counterexample. If the statement is true provide a proof of the statement.

- a. (3 marks) If  $B$  is a square matrix satisfying  $AB = I$ , then  $B = A^{-1}$ .

*True, consider  $Bx = 0 \Rightarrow ABx = A0 \Rightarrow Ix = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$  only trivial solution  
 $\therefore$  by equivalence then  $B$  is invertible. So  $AB = I \Rightarrow ABB^{-1} = IB^{-1} \Rightarrow AI = B^{-1}$   
 $\Rightarrow A = B^{-1} \Rightarrow A^{-1} = (B^{-1})^{-1} \Rightarrow A^{-1} = B$*

- b. (2 marks) If  $A^2$  is a symmetric matrix, then  $A$  is a symmetric matrix.

*False,*

*Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $A^2 = 0$  which is symmetric but  $A$  is not.*