

Books, watches, notes or cell phones are not allowed. The only calculators allowed are the Sharp EL-531\*\*. You must show all your work, the correct answer is worth 1 mark the remaining marks are given for the work.

**Question 1.** (1 mark each) Complete each of the following sentences with MUST, MIGHT, or CANNOT.

- a. If  $(1, 0, 0, 0, 0)$  and  $(2, 0, 0, 0, 0)$  are both solutions of a system of 13 linear equations then  $(0, 1, 0, 0, 0)$  might be another solution of the system.

**Question 2.**

- a. (3 marks) Suppose  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix,  $B$  is an  $n \times m$  matrix, and  $BA = I_n$ . Prove that if for some  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution, then that solution is unique.

Suppose that the solution is not unique. That is,  $\exists \underline{x}_1$  and  $\underline{x}_2$  where  $\underline{x}_1 \neq \underline{x}_2$

$$\text{and } A\underline{x}_1 = \underline{b}, A\underline{x}_2 = \underline{b}$$

$$\text{We have } A\underline{x}_1 = A\underline{x}_2$$

$$BA\underline{x}_1 = BA\underline{x}_2$$

$$\underline{x}_1 = \underline{x}_2 \quad \checkmark$$

$\therefore$  the solution is unique.

- b. (3 marks) Suppose  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix,  $C$  is an  $n \times m$  matrix, and  $AC = I_m$ . Prove that the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is consistent for every  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } \underline{x} = C\underline{b}, \text{ then } A\underline{x} &= AC\underline{b} \\ &= I\underline{b} \\ &= \underline{b} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \underline{x}$  is a solution of  $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$

$\therefore A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$  is consistent.

**Question 3.** (3 marks each) 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.

- a. If  $A^2$  is a symmetric matrix, then  $A$  is a symmetric matrix.

$$\text{False, Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ then } A^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\therefore A^2$  is symmetric but  $A$  is not symmetric

- b. A matrix  $A$  is said to be skew-symmetric if  $A^T = -A$ . If  $A$  and  $B$  are skew-symmetric matrices such that  $AB = -BA$  then  $AB$  is skew-symmetric. True

Premise:

$$\bullet A^T = -A$$

$$\bullet B^T = -B$$

$$\bullet AB = -BA$$

Conclusion:

$$(AB)^T = -(AB)$$

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

$$= B^T A^T$$

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

$$= BA$$

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

**Bonus Question.** (5 marks) Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $m \times n$  and  $n \times m$  matrices, respectively. If  $m > n$ , show that  $AB$  is singular.