

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

a. If A and B are square matrices of the same order, then $\text{tr}(AB)$ might be equal to $\text{tr}(A)\text{tr}(B)$.

Question 2. (3 marks) Find all matrices A that commute with $\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_B$.

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

$$AB = BA$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & a \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow c=0 \\ a=d$$

$$\therefore \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s & t \\ 0 & s \end{bmatrix} \quad s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{Let } \begin{matrix} b=t \\ d=s \end{matrix} \quad t, s \in \mathbb{R}$$

Question 3. (3 marks) Prove: If A is an $m \times n$ matrix and $A(BA)$ is defined, then B is an $n \times m$ matrix.

For the product BA to be defined, B needs the same # columns as rows of A .

$\therefore B$ has m columns.

The product $A \times (BA)$ to be defined, BA needs the same # rows as columns of A .

$\therefore BA$ has n rows

$\therefore B$ has n rows

$\therefore B$ is an $n \times m$ matrix.

Question 4. (3 marks) Use the following properties of the trace:

$$1. \text{tr}(A \pm B) = \text{tr}(A) \pm \text{tr}(B)$$

$$2. \text{tr}(AB) = \text{tr}(BA)$$

to show that there does not exist matrices A and B such that $AB - BA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$. Hint: Prove by contradiction.

$$\text{Suppose } \exists A, B \text{ s.t. } AB - BA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{tr}(AB - BA) = \text{tr} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$\text{tr}(AB) - \text{tr}(BA) = 5$$

$$0 = 5$$

by ①

by ②

$\therefore \nexists A, B$

¹ From or modified from a John Abbott final examination