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midterm-1-2026d

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Name SOLUTIONS

## Mathematics 1553

Midterm 1

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Section G1/Arjun G2/Talha G3/Athreya G4/Olivia G5/James (circle one!)  
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1. Answer the following questions. No justification for your answer is required.

Is the matrix  $\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)$  in reduced row echelon form?

YES

 NO

Suppose that  $A$  is an  $3 \times 4$  matrix and that  $b$  is the vector obtained by adding together the first two columns of  $A$ . Must it be true that  $Ax = b$  is consistent?

 YES

NO

Suppose we have four variables  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ , and  $x_4$ . Is the set of solutions to  $x_1 + x_2 = 0$  a 3-dimensional plane?

 YES

NO

Suppose  $A$  is a  $4 \times 3$  matrix. Must it be true that the set of solutions to  $Ax = 0$  is a span?

 YES

NO



2. Answer the following questions. No justification for your answer is required.

Complete the following definition: A linear combination of the vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  is...

a vector  $c_1 v_1 + \dots + c_k v_k$   
 where  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  are scalars.

Write down a  $2 \times 3$  matrix  $A$  so that  $Ax = b$  is consistent for every choice of  $b$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

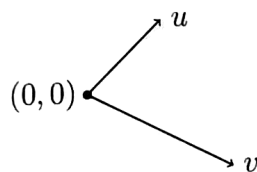
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Write down one vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that is not in the span of the vectors  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Circle the formula that best describes  $w$  in terms of  $u$  and  $v$ .

$w$



$u - v$

$v - u$

$-u - v$

$2u - v$



3. Consider the matrices

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -4 & 0 & 8 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the reduced row echelon form of the augmented matrix  $(A|b)$ .

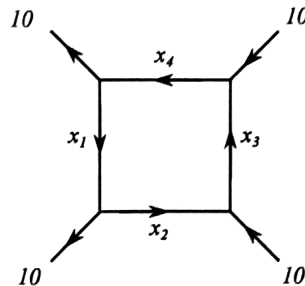
$$\begin{aligned} &\rightsquigarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -2 & 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right) \rightsquigarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -2 & 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & -4 & -4 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 4 & 4 \end{array} \right) \\ &\rightsquigarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -2 & 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 4 & 4 \end{array} \right) \rightsquigarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Write the set of solutions to the matrix equation  $Ax = b$  in vector parametric form.

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 1 \\ x_2 &= -2 + 2x_4 \\ x_3 &= 2 - 2x_4 \end{aligned} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_4 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$



4. The following diagram indicates traffic flow in the town square (the numbers indicate the number of cars per minute on each section of road).



Write a system of linear equations in  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ , and  $x_4$  describing the traffic flow around the square. Do not solve.

$$x_4 = x_1 + 10$$

$$x_3 + 10 = x_4$$

$$x_2 + 10 = x_3$$

$$x_1 = x_2 + 10$$

$$x_1 - x_4 = -10$$

$$x_3 - x_4 = -10$$

$$x_2 - x_3 = -10$$

$$x_1 - x_2 = 10$$

Write the above system of linear equations as a vector equation. Do not solve.

$$x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + x_3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_4 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -10 \\ -10 \\ -10 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

Write the above system of linear equations as a matrix equation. Do not solve.

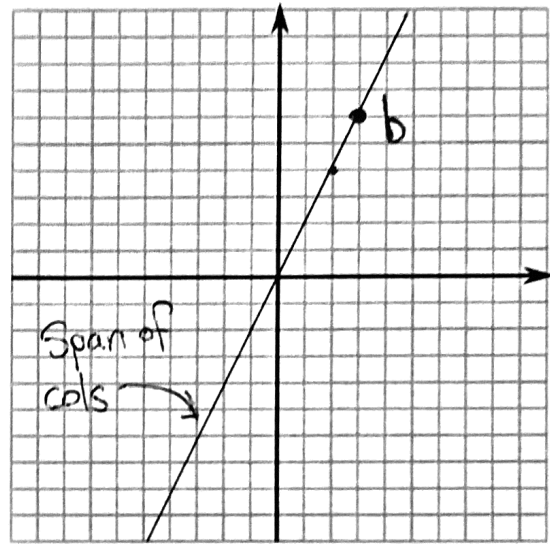
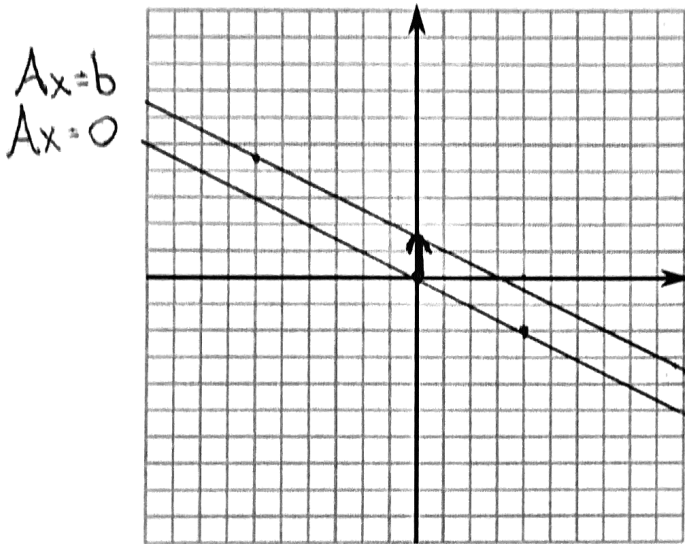
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -10 \\ -10 \\ -10 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$$



5. Consider the matrices

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

On the *left-hand side* draw and label three things: the set of solutions to  $Ax = 0$ , the set of solutions to  $Ax = b$ , and one particular solution to  $Ax = b$  as a vector/arrow. On the *right-hand side* draw and label two things: the span of the columns of  $A$  and  $b$  as a dot.



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y &= 0 \\ y &= -\frac{1}{2}x \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y &= 3 \\ y &= -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

For which values of  $h$  does the matrix equation  $Ax = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ h \end{pmatrix}$  have a solution?

$$h = -2$$

Is there a different choice of  $b$  so that the set of solutions to  $Ax = b$  is the line  $y = x$ ? If so, write down such a  $b$ . If not, briefly explain why not.

No.  $y = x$  is not parallel to  $y = -\frac{1}{2}x$ .