

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

SECTION 2.5

Math 2050 Worksheet

WINTER 2026

SOLUTIONS

1. (a) We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 4 & -8 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & -23 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 20 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{4}R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -2 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & 0 \\ 12 & -23 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 20 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 12R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -2 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 20 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - (-2)R_2 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 20R_2}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{23}{4} & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 60 & -20 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow \frac{1}{4}R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{23}{4} & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 15 & -5 & \frac{1}{4} \end{array} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

so

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{23}{4} & 2 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 15 & -5 & \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix}.$$

(b) We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 3R_1, R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -6 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 6 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - (-1)R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -6 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -4 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we have a row of zeros, so there is no way to row-reduce the matrix on the left to  $I$ . Hence  $A$  is **not invertible**.

(c) We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -4 & 1 & -8 & 8 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 19 & -12 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & -8 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{\substack{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - (-4)R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 6R_1}} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & -8 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_4 \rightarrow R_4 - (-2)R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - 3R_3 \\ R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 4R_3}} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 19 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 28 & 1 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - (-2)R_4} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 35 & 4 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 28 & 1 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

so then

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 35 & 4 & -3 & 2 \\ 28 & 1 & -4 & 0 \\ -6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 8 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

2. (a) Writing the system in the form  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  we have

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -3 \\ 5 & \frac{1}{3} & -15 \\ -1 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

First we compute  $A^{-1}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & \frac{1}{3} & -15 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 5R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - (-1)R_1}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & -5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow 3R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -15 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -15 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 16 & -3 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - (-3)R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 49 & -9 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -15 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 16 & -3 & 1 \end{array} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

so

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 49 & -9 & 3 \\ -15 & 3 & 0 \\ 16 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and hence

$$\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 49 & -9 & 3 \\ -15 & 3 & 0 \\ 16 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(b) The matrix  $A$  in this case would be  $3 \times 4$  and hence not square. Therefore  $A$  would not be invertible.

3. First we try to row-reduce  $A$  to  $I$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 4 & -6 \\ 1 & -1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 1 & -1 \\ 4 & -6 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 4R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 & \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - (-1)R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{array} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Then the elementary matrices involved are

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad E_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The associated inverses are

$$E_1^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_2^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_3^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_4^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and so

$$E_4 E_3 E_2 E_1 A = I \quad \implies \quad A = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} E_3^{-1} E_4^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$