Problem 1 (15 points; 3 points each). Decide if each of the following is true or false.

- (a) _____ If A and B are $n \times n$ symmetric matrices, then AB + BA is symmetric. This is true. $(AB+BA)^T = (AB)^T + (BA)^T = B^TA^T + A^TB^T = BA + AB = AB + BA$.
- (b) _____ Given a matrix A, there might be more than one reduced row echelon form of A.

This is false. There is a unique reduced echelon form.

- (c) _____ If A is a 2 × 4 matrix, then Ax = 0 has at least two free variables. This is true. A 2 × 4 matrix corresponds to an *underdetermined system* with at least two free variables.
- (d) _____ $A^2 + 2AB + B^2 = (A+B)^2$ for all square $n \times n$ matrices A and B. This is false. $(A+B)(A+B) = (A+B)A + (A+B)B = A^2 + BA + AB + B^2$, but as $AB \neq BA$ can occur, there is no reason that AB + BA = 2AB.
- (e) _____ For A a 3×6 matrix, let E be the matrix so that EA is the result of the row op $R_2 3R_1 \to R_2$ applied to A. Then the second row of E is $\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. This is true.

I did not intend this to be a trick problem, so I will accept either answer here.

$$\begin{bmatrix} ? & ? & ? \\ -3 & 1 & 0 \\ ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{a}_1 \\ \boldsymbol{a}_2 \\ \boldsymbol{a}_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cdots \\ (-3) \cdot \boldsymbol{a}_1 + (1) \cdot \boldsymbol{a}_2 + (0) \cdot \boldsymbol{a}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Problem 2 (25 points). Solve Ax = 0 for

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 & 15 & -3 \\ -3 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 5 & 4 & 13 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Follow the procedure discussed in class

- (10 points) Use elementary row ops to reduce to an echelon matrix.
- (10 points) Write down the resulting triangular system and use back-substitution to solve.
- (5 points) Write out your solution as a linear combination of vectors.

Reduction to echelon form requires 3 row manipulations:

This part is 10/25 points.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 & 15 & -3 \\ -3 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 5 & 4 & 13 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - (-3/5)R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 & 15 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 & -9/5 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - (-1/3)R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 & 15 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 & -9/5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 37/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

So x_3 is the only free variable. Let $x_3 = t$. Back substitution gives

$$x_4 = 0$$

$$x_3 = t$$

$$3x_2 + 6t = 0 \rightarrow x_2 = -2t$$

$$5x_1 + 5(-2t) + 15t = 0 \rightarrow x_1 = -t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -t \\ -2t \\ t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This final answer is the remaining 5/25 points.