

1. Consider the following system of equations where  $a$  is an unknown parameter,

$$ax + 3y = -3$$

$$4x + 6y = 6.$$

(a) 4 points. Can you find a value of  $a$  for which the linear system has one solution? If so, give the value of  $a$  and solve the system. EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} a & 3 & -3 \\ 4 & 6 & 6 \end{array} \right) &\xrightarrow[R_2' = \frac{1}{2}R_2]{R_2 \leftrightarrow R_1} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & 3 \\ a & 3 & -3 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow[R_2' = \frac{a}{2}R_1]{R_2' = \frac{a}{2}R_1} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 - \frac{3a}{2} & -3 - \frac{3a}{2} \end{array} \right) \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{divide } R_2 \text{ by } \frac{3-a}{2}} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{3}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{-2-a}{2-a} \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\text{eliminate } \frac{3}{2} \text{ from } R_1} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{a+2}{a-2} \right) \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{a+2}{a-2} \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & \frac{-12}{(a-2)^2} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{a+2}{a-2} \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

If  $a \neq 2$  you will have 1 solution

(b) 4 points. Can you find a value of  $a$  for which the linear system has no solution? If so, give the value of  $a$ . EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

$$a = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-12}{(0-2)^2} = \frac{-12}{-2 \cdot 2} = \frac{6}{2} = 3$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$y = \frac{0+2}{0-2} = \frac{2}{-2} = -1$$

If  $a = 0$

$$3y = -3 \rightarrow y = -1$$

$$4x + 6y = 6$$

$$4x - 6 = 6$$

$$4x = 12 \Rightarrow x = 3$$

(c) 2 points. Can you find a value of  $a$  for which the linear system has more than one solution? If so, give the value of  $a$ . EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

If  $a = 2$  There will be NO solution

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & -3 \\ 4 & 6 & 6 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 \end{array} \right)$$

$$2x + 3y = -3$$

$$0 = 12$$

implies no solution