This exam contains 5 pages (including this cover page) and 4 problems. Check to see if any pages are missing. Enter all requested information on the top of this page, and put your initials on the top of every page, in case the pages become separated.

You may not use your books, notes, or any calculator on this exam.

You are required to show your work on each problem on this exam. The following rules apply:

- **If you use a theorem of lemma you must indicate this** and explain why the theorem may be applied.

- **Organize your work**, in a reasonably neat and coherent way, in the space provided. Work scattered all over the page without a clear ordering will receive very little credit.

- **Mysterious or unsupported answers will not receive full credit.** A correct answer, unsupported by calculations, explanation, or algebraic work will receive no credit; an incorrect answer supported by substantially correct calculations and explanations might still receive partial credit.

- If you need more space, use the back of the pages; clearly indicate when you have done this.

Do not write in the table to the right.
1. (25 points) **Solving linear systems.** Consider the following linear system:

\[
\begin{cases}
x - y + (k^2 - 1)z &= 1 - k \\
2x - y + (4k^2 - 4)z &= 4 - k \\
-3x + 4y + (-2k^2 + 2)z &= -2 + 4k
\end{cases},
\]

where \( k \in \mathbb{R} \).

(a) (5 points) Write the augmented matrix \((A | \vec{b})\) of the linear system.

(b) (15 points) Consider \( k \) is fixed. Find \( \text{rref}(A | \vec{b}) \).

(c) (5 points) Analyse whether the linear system has solutions or not according to the values of \( k \). For each \( k \) such that solutions exist, find all solutions.
2. (25 points) Inverses and transformations on the plane. Let

\[
A = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}.
\]

(a) (10 points) Decide if \(A\) and \(B\) are invertible. If they are, find the inverses. If they are not, say why not.

(b) (5 points) The matrices \(A\) and \(B\) define certain well known linear transformations \(T_A\) and \(T_B\) on the plane. Say which transformations they are (i.e. give their name and say why).

(c) (10 points) \(A\) and \(B\) fix all points in some lines \(L_A\) and \(L_B\) respectively, i.e \(A \vec{x} = \vec{x}\) \(\forall \vec{x} \in L_A\) and \(B \vec{x} = \vec{x} \vee \vec{x} \in L_B\). Give the equations of \(L_A\) and \(L_B\).
3. (25 points) **Image, kernel and bases.** Let

\[ T(\vec{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 6 & 2 & 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 6 & 6 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \vec{x} \]

where \( \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^5 \).

(a) (10 points) Find a basis for the image of \( T \). Justify why the vectors you provide are linearly independent and span \( \text{Im}(T) \).

(b) (15 points) Find a basis for the kernel of \( T \). Justify why the vectors you provide are linearly independent and span \( \text{Ker}(T) \).
4. (25 points) **Properties of linear transformations.**

(a) (15 points) Let $\text{Mat}_{3 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ be the space of all $3 \times 2$ matrices. We can identify $\text{Mat}_{3 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ with $\mathbb{R}^6$ in the following way:

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
a_1 & b_1 \\
a_2 & b_2 \\
a_3 & b_3 \\
\end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix}
a_1 \\
a_2 \\
a_3 \\
b_1 \\
b_2 \\
b_3 \\
\end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{or more concisely, in vector form:} \quad \begin{pmatrix}
\overrightarrow{a} \\
\overrightarrow{b} \\
\end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix}
\overrightarrow{a} \\
\overrightarrow{b} \\
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

Since the sum of matrices and the product of a matrix by a scalar in $\text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{R})$ corresponds to that of $\mathbb{R}^6$, we can think of $\text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{R})$ as a vector space. Show that the following map is a linear transformation:

\[
f : \text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}^6 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3, \quad f \left( \begin{pmatrix}
\overrightarrow{a} \\
\overrightarrow{b} \\
\end{pmatrix} \right) = 2\overrightarrow{a} - \overrightarrow{b}.
\]

(b) (10 points) Consider the following statements. If they are true, provide a proof. If they are false, provide a counter-example.

(i) Given square matrices $A$ and $B$ of the same size, if $A \cdot B = 0$, then $A = 0$ or $B = 0$.

(ii) Let $A$ be a square matrix. Then $\text{Ker}(A) \subseteq \text{Ker}(A^2)$. 