Learning Opportunity 1-1

1-1-1 Consider the square matrix A below. Compute the following items and answer the associated questions for this matrix. (Note: you will likely need to use Sage's help facilities, such as tab-completion to determine which methods to use.)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & -1 & -7 \\ 2 & 4 & -1 & -6 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Row-reduce A. What important property of the matrix is implied by this result?
2. Use a single Sage command to determine if this matrix is singular or not.
3. What do you expect for the null space of the matrix and why? Compute the null space with Sage and verify your suspicion.
4. Use Sage to solve the system of equations that has A as its coefficient matrix and the vector of constants $b = (2, -1, 7, -2)$. What is the size of the solution set, and how do you know this before using Sage?
5. How would the solution set change if we used a different vector for b?

1-1-2 This exercise uses theorems and techniques from Sections FS and DM of FCLA, as applied to the matrix T.

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 & -1 \\ -2 & -4 & 0 & -8 & 2 \\ -1 & -2 & 2 & -8 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Determine by hand the row operations necessary to convert T into its reduced row-echelon form, a matrix we call B. You do not need to submit this part of your work. Hint: follow the
2. For each row operation you found form the associated elementary matrix, using Sage's `matrix.elementary()` constructor.
3. Use Sage to form the product of these elementary matrices as the matrix J, so that the matrix product JT equals B. Hint: be sure to use the right order in your product.
4. Verify your answer to the previous part is correct by using Sage's `extended_echelon_form()` method on T.
5. Find a matrix S that provides the matrix decomposition $T = SB$.