Let us reduce the given matrix to the row reduced echelon form to find its rank.

$$\begin{pmatrix}
a & 1 & 2 \\
5 & 5 & -2 \\
3 & 3 & 6 \\
1 & a & 2
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{2}{a} \\
5 & 5 & -2 \\
3 & 3 & 6 \\
1 & a & 2
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{2}{a} \\
0 & 5 - \frac{5}{a} & -2 - \frac{10}{a} \\
3 & 3 & 6 \\
1 & a & 2
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{2}{a} \\
3 & 3 & 6 \\
1 & a & 2
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}$$

The code below also confirms the obtained row echelon reduced form.

Since all rows are linearly independent 
$$\implies$$
 matrix rank = 3  $\implies$   $C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 

Substituting 
$$a$$
 for 7, we obtain  $B=\begin{pmatrix}7&1&2\\5&5&-2\\&&&\\3&3&6\\&&&1&7&2\end{pmatrix}$ 

Since matrix C is an identity matrix, we obtain  $B \ast C = B$ 

$$\therefore B = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 1 & 2 \\ 5 & 5 & -2 \\ & & \\ 3 & 3 & 6 \\ 1 & 7 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

```
In [2]: import sympy as sp
import numpy as np

matrix = np.array([[7,1,2], [5,5,-2], [3,3,6], [1,7,2]])
# checking the obtaind RREF

sp.Matrix(matrix).rref()[0]
```

Out[2]: \[ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \]

In [ ]: