

1. Find all solutions in integers (if any) to the following linear Diophantine equations:

(a) $22a + 17b = 19$.

- Since $\gcd(22, 17) = 1$ divides 19, there is a solution.
- Reducing both sides modulo 17 yields $5a \equiv 2 \pmod{17}$. Since $5^{-1} \equiv 7 \pmod{17}$, scaling by 7 yields $a \equiv 14 \pmod{17}$.
- The general solution is $(a, b) = \boxed{(14 + 17k, -17 - 22k)}$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

(b) $42a + 27b = 39$.

- Since $\gcd(42, 27) = 3$ divides 39, there is a solution. Divide by 3 to get $14a + 9b = 13$.
- Reducing both sides modulo 9 yields $5a \equiv -5 \pmod{9}$, which clearly has the solution $a \equiv -1 \pmod{9}$.
- The general solution is $(a, b) = \boxed{(-1 + 9k, 3 - 14k)}$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

(c) $3a + 7b + 16c = 8$.

- Rewrite as $3(a + 2b + 5c) + b + c = 8$.
 - Now substitute $w = a + 2b + 5c$ to obtain the equation $3w + b + c = 8$, which we can easily solve as $b = -3w - c + 8$.
 - Substituting back yields $a = w - 2b - 5c = -16 - 3c + 7w$.
 - So the general solution is $(a, b, c) = \boxed{(-16 - 3c + 7w, -3w - c + 8, c)}$ for $c, w \in \mathbb{Z}$.
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2. Find all right triangles having one leg of length 40, and whose other two side lengths are integers.

- Any such right triangle has legs of lengths $k(2st)$ and $k(s^2 - t^2)$, with hypotenuse $k(s^2 + t^2)$, where $s > t$ are unique positive integers of opposite parity and k is some unique positive integer.
 - If $40 = 2stk$, then $20 = stk$, so $(s, t, k) = (20, 1, 1)$ or $(10, 1, 2)$ or $(5, 4, 1)$ or $(5, 2, 2)$ or $(4, 1, 5)$ or $(2, 1, 10)$, yielding 40-399-401, 40-198-202, 9-40-41, 40-42-58, 40-75-85, and 30-40-50.
 - If $40 = k(s^2 - t^2)$, then k must be divisible by 8. Since $k \neq 40$ we see $k = 8$, and then $s^2 - t^2 = 5$ requires $s = 3$ and $t = 2$. This yields a 40-96-104 triangle.
 - Hence there are seven: $\boxed{9-40-41}$, $\boxed{30-40-50}$, $\boxed{40-42-58}$, $\boxed{40-75-85}$, $\boxed{40-96-104}$, $\boxed{40-198-202}$, and $\boxed{40-399-401}$.
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3. Byzantine Basketball is like regular basketball except that foul shots are worth a points instead of two points and field shots are worth b points instead of three points. Moreover, in Byzantine Basketball there are exactly 35 scores that never occur in a game, one of which is 58. What are a and b ?

- Clearly a and b must be relatively prime, or else there are infinitely many unattainable scores. Assume $a < b$.
- By Sylvester's theorem, the number of unattainable scores is $\frac{1}{2}(a-1)(b-1)$, so $(a-1)(b-1) = 2 \cdot 35 = 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$.
- Then $(a, b) = (2, 71)$, $(3, 36)$, $(6, 15)$, or $(8, 11)$. However, the middle two pairs are not relatively prime, and the first pair leaves 58 unattainable.
- Hence $(a, b) = \boxed{(8, 11) \text{ or } (11, 8)}$.

Remark: This problem was on the 1971 Putnam exam.

4. Compute the following things:

- (a) Show that $7/13$ and $13/24$ are adjacent in the Farey sequence of level 24. What are the next three terms after them?
- We have $13 \cdot 13 - 7 \cdot 24 = 169 - 168 = 1$ so these terms are indeed consecutive in the Farey sequence of level $\max(13, 24) = 24$.
 - Using the recurrence, the next three terms are $\boxed{6/11, 11/20, 5/9}$.
- (b) Find all n such that exactly 2 terms appear between $7/13$ and $13/24$ in the Farey sequence of level n .
- The first term that will appear between them is the mediant $20/37$ in the Farey sequence of level 37.
 - Between $7/13$ and $20/37$ the next term will be $27/50$, while between $20/37$ and $13/24$, the next intermediate term will be $33/61$.
 - Thus, the first time there are two intermediate terms occurs with $n = 50$: the terms are $7/13, 27/50, 20/37, 13/24$. The next term that will appear between any of these is $33/61$, and so for $\boxed{n = 50, 51, \dots, 60}$ there are exactly two intermediate terms.
- (c) List all the terms between $6/19$ and $5/14$ in the Farey sequence of level 19.
- These terms are not consecutive because $5 \cdot 19 - 6 \cdot 14 = 11$ is not 1. To generate a term between them we try the mediant, which is $(6 + 5)/(19 + 14) = 11/33 = 1/3$.
 - We can then see $6/19$ and $1/3$ are consecutive since $19 - 6 \cdot 3 = 1$. Using the two-term recurrence to generate the next terms in this sequence produces $6/17$ and then $5/14$. Thus, the full list is $\boxed{6/19, 1/3, 6/17, 5/14}$. (We can check this by noting that $bc - ad = 1$ for each consecutive pair, and there are no missing terms because the mediants all have larger denominators.)
 - Alternatively, we could just have computed the next term after $6/19$ directly, and then used the recurrence.
- (d) Find the three terms following $154/227$ in the Farey sequence of level 2026.
- By the above results, if $154/227$ and c/d are consecutive terms, then $227c - 154d = 1$.
 - Solving this Diophantine equation using the Euclidean algorithm produces the solutions $(c, d) = (173 + 154k, 255 + 227k)$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.
 - The larger the value of k is, the smaller the value of $\frac{c}{d} - \frac{154}{227} = \frac{1}{227d}$ will be. The largest possible value for k is $k = 7$, so the first term is $\frac{1251}{1844}$.
 - Now we can apply the two-term recursion to find the next terms, which are $1097/1617$ and $943/1390$.
 - Thus, the three terms are $\boxed{\frac{1251}{1844}, \frac{1097}{1617}, \frac{943}{1390}}$.
- (e) List all the terms between $1502/1801$ and $1492/1789$ in the Farey sequence of level 2026.
- These terms are not consecutive since $1801 \cdot 1492 - 1502 \cdot 1789 = 14$ is not equal to 1.
 - Taking the mediant gives $(1502 + 1492)/(1801 + 1789) = 1497/1795$. This term is adjacent to $1502/1801$ but not to $1492/1789$. Taking the mediant again yields $427/512$, which is adjacent to both.
 - To generate terms between $1502/1801$ and $1497/1795$, taking the mediant does not work since it does not reduce to give a smaller denominator. Instead what we can do is compute the next term in the sequence following $1502/1801$ by solving $1801c - 1502b = 1$, which has solution $(c, d) = (643 + 1502k, 771 + 1801k)$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.
 - Taking $k = 0$ yields the term $643/771$. Then using the 2-term recurrence we can compute the next terms, which are $1070/1283$ and $1497/1795$.
 - Thus, the terms are $\boxed{\frac{1502}{1801}, \frac{643}{771}, \frac{1070}{1283}, \frac{1497}{1795}, \frac{427}{512}, \frac{1492}{1789}}$ since there are no terms in the Farey sequence of level 2024 that are between these.

5. Find the continued fraction expansions for the following rational numbers:

(a) $355/113$.

- Using the Euclidean algorithm we write

$$355 = 3 \cdot 113 + 16$$

$$113 = 7 \cdot 16 + 1$$

$$16 = 16 \cdot 1$$

$$\text{so } 355/113 = [3, 7, 16].$$

(b) $418/2021$.

- Using the Euclidean algorithm we write

$$418 = 0 \cdot 2021 + 418$$

$$2021 = 4 \cdot 418 + 349$$

$$418 = 1 \cdot 349 + 69$$

$$349 = 5 \cdot 69 + 4$$

$$69 = 17 \cdot 4 + 1$$

$$4 = 4 \cdot 1$$

$$\text{so } 418/2021 = [0, 4, 1, 5, 17, 4].$$

(c) $13579/2468$.

- Using the Euclidean algorithm we write

$$13579 = 5 \cdot 2468 + 1239$$

$$2468 = 1 \cdot 1239 + 1229$$

$$1239 = 1 \cdot 1229 + 10$$

$$1229 = 122 \cdot 10 + 9$$

$$10 = 1 \cdot 9 + 1$$

$$9 = 9 \cdot 1$$

$$\text{so } 13579/2468 = [5, 1, 1, 122, 1, 9].$$

6. Prove that the area of any right triangle with integer side lengths is always divisible by 6, but not necessarily any integer greater than 6.

- From our characterization we can see that the area of a Pythagorean right triangle is of the form $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2kst \cdot k(s^2 - t^2) = k^2st(s^2 - t^2)$ where s and t are relatively prime integers of opposite parity.
 - Since one of s, t is even, the area is also even.
 - If neither s nor t is divisible by 3, then they are either 1 or 2 mod 3, so their squares are both 1 mod 3. But then $s^2 - t^2$ is divisible by 3. Thus, the area is also divisible by 3.
 - Since the area is divisible by both 2 and 3, it is a multiple of 6.
 - The 3-4-5 triangle has area 6, so clearly the area need not be divisible by anything greater than 6.
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7. The goal of this problem is to discuss the Weierstrass substitution $t = \tan(\theta/2)$. Recall the trigonometric identities $\tan \frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta} = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$. Let $t = \tan(\theta/2)$.

(a) Show that $\sin \theta = \frac{2t}{1+t^2}$, $\cos \theta = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$, and $d\theta = \frac{2dt}{1+t^2}$.

- As given above, we have $t = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta}$ and $t = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$, yielding the linear system $\sin \theta - t \cos \theta = t$ and $t \sin \theta + \cos \theta = 1$. Multiplying the second equation by t and adding yields $(1+t^2) \sin \theta = 2t$ so $\sin \theta = \frac{2t}{1+t^2}$ and back-substituting yields $\cos \theta = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$.
- Finally, since $\theta = 2 \tan^{-1} t$, differentiating yields $d\theta = \frac{2dt}{1+t^2}$.

(b) Use the Weierstrass substitution to compute the indefinite integral $\int \frac{1}{5+3\cos \theta} d\theta$.

- By (a), with $t = \tan(\theta/2)$ we have $\cos \theta = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$ and $d\theta = \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt$. Substituting yields $\int \frac{1}{5+3\cos \theta} d\theta = \int \frac{1}{5+3\frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt = \int \frac{2}{5(1+t^2)+3(1-t^2)} dt = \int \frac{1}{4+t^2} dt = \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} \frac{t}{2} + C$.
- Thus, the original integral is $\boxed{\frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2} \tan(\theta/2) \right) + C}$.

(c) Use the Weierstrass substitution to compute the definite integral $\int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{4-\sin \theta} d\theta$.

- Substituting $t = \tan(\theta/2)$ yields $\int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{4-\sin \theta} d\theta = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{4-\frac{2t}{1+t^2}} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2t^2-t+2} dt = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{(4t-1)^2/15+1} dt = \frac{2}{\sqrt{15}} \tan^{-1} \frac{4t-1}{\sqrt{15}} \Big|_{t=-1}^1 = \boxed{\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{15}}}$.

Remark: As can be seen from (b) and (c), the Weierstrass substitution allows evaluation of any integral that is a rational function of $\sin \theta$ and $\cos \theta$.

8. Find the smallest positive integer n such that for all integers m with $0 < m < 2026$, there exists an integer k with $\frac{m}{2026} < \frac{k}{n} < \frac{m+1}{2027}$. (Make sure to prove that your value is the smallest possible.)

- The answer is $n = 4053$. From our results on Farey fractions, we know the mediant $\frac{2m+1}{4053}$ is always between $\frac{m}{2026}$ and $\frac{m+1}{2027}$. Thus, $n = 4053$ will work.
- On the other hand, if we take $m = 2025$, then we require $\frac{2025}{2026} < \frac{k}{n} < \frac{2026}{2027}$. Since $2026 \cdot 2026 - 2025 \cdot 2027 = 1$, the terms $\frac{2025}{2026}$ and $\frac{2026}{2027}$ are consecutive in the Farey sequence, so the next term that appears between them is $\frac{4051}{4053}$. This means $n \geq 4053$, and so indeed $n = 4053$ is the smallest possible n .

Remark: This is a variation of problem B1 from the 1993 Putnam exam.

9. For each Farey fraction a/b , define $\mathcal{C}(a/b)$ to be the circle in the upper-half of the Cartesian plane of radius $r_{a/b} = 1/(2b^2)$ that is tangent to the x -axis at the point $(a/b, 0)$. These circles are called the Ford circles.

(a) If a/b and c/d are adjacent entries in some Farey sequence, prove that the circles $\mathcal{C}(a/b)$ and $\mathcal{C}(c/d)$ are tangent.

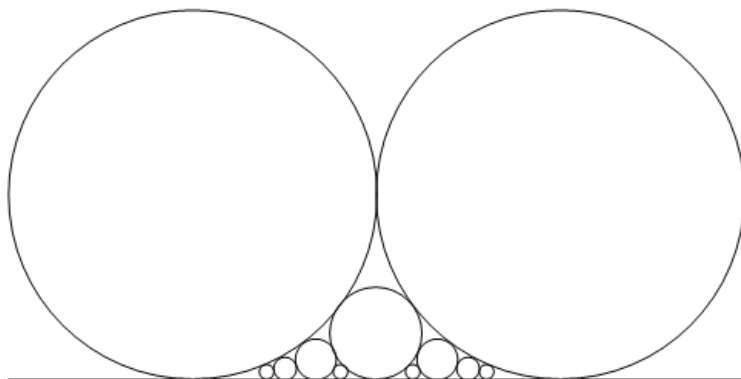
- By our results on the Farey sequences, we know that a/b and c/d are adjacent if and only if $bc - ad = 1$.
- The centers of the two circles are $(a/b, r_{a/b})$ and $(c/d, r_{c/d})$, so the tangency condition is equivalent to saying that $(r_{c/d} - r_{a/b})^2 + (a/b - c/d)^2 = (r_{c/d} + r_{a/b})^2$, which is equivalent to $(a/b - c/d)^2 = 4r_{a/b}r_{c/d}$.
- Since $r_{a/b} = 1/(2b^2)$ and $r_{c/d} = 1/(2d^2)$, both sides are equal to $\frac{1}{b^2d^2}$, and so the circles are indeed tangent.

(b) If a/b and c/d are not adjacent in any Farey sequence, prove that the interiors of the circles $\mathcal{C}(a/b)$ and $\mathcal{C}(c/d)$ are disjoint.

- Using the calculation in (a), we can see that the distance between the centers is equal to $(r_{c/d} - r_{a/b})^2 + (a/b - c/d)^2$, which will exceed $r_{c/d} + r_{a/b}$ whenever $|bc - ad| > 1$. Thus, if the terms are not adjacent, the interiors are disjoint.

(c) Draw (you should probably use a computer) the 11 Ford circles corresponding to the Farey sequence of level 5.

- Here's a plot:



10. [Challenge] Let a, b, c be pairwise relatively prime positive integers. Show that $2abc - ab - bc - ca$ is the largest integer that cannot be expressed in the form $xbc + yca + zab$ for nonnegative integers x, y, z . [Hint: Any integer is congruent modulo a to precisely one of $0, bc, 2bc, \dots, (a-1)bc$.]

- By Sylvester's theorem, the largest integer that cannot be written in the form $pb + qc$ is $bc - b - c$. Thus, multiplying by a shows that any multiple of a exceeding $a(bc - b - c) = abc - ab - ac$ can be written in the form $pab + qac$.
- But since bc is relatively prime to a , we see that the a integers $0, bc, \dots, (a-1)bc$ represent all of the residue classes modulo a .
- Therefore, any integer N exceeding $a(bc - b - c) + (a-1)bc = 2abc - ab - bc - ca$ is congruent to one of those a integers, and the difference $N - kbc$ is a multiple of a larger than $a(bc - b - c)$, hence is of the form $pab + qac$ for some nonnegative p, q by the above. This means $N = kbc + pab + qac$ for nonnegative k, p, q as required.
- However, if $N = 2ab - ab - bc - ca$ could be written as $xbc + yca + zab$ then modulo a we have $-bc \equiv xbc \pmod{a}$ so that $x \equiv -1 \pmod{a}$ and thus $x \geq a - 1$. Likewise we have $y \geq b - 1$ and $z \geq c - 1$. But then $xbc + yca + zab \geq 3abc - ab - bc - ca > N$, contradiction.

Remark: This is a Frobenius coin problem for the integers ab, bc, ca and was problem 3 from the 1983 IMO.