

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)  $35a + 77b = 24$ .

- Since  $\gcd(35, 77) = 7$  does not divide 24, there is  $\boxed{\text{no solution}}$ .

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

- 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  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

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

- Rewrite as  $3(a + 2b + 5c) + b + 2c = 8$ .
  - Now substitute  $w = a + 2b + 5c$  to obtain the equation  $3w + b + 2c = 8$ , which we can easily solve as  $b = -3w - 2c + 8$ .
  - Substituting back yields  $a = w - 2b - 5c = -16 - c + 7w$ .
  - So the general solution is  $(a, b, c) = \boxed{(-16 - c + 7w, -3w - 2c + 8, c)}$  for  $c, w \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- 

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  $\boxed{40-399-401}$ .
- 

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 attainable.
- 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 2025.

- 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 2025.

- 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 2025 that are between these.

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

(a)  $355/113$ .

- Using the Euclidean algorithm we write

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

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

$$16 = 16 \cdot 1$$

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

(b)  $418/2021$ .

- Using the Euclidean algorithm we write

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

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

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

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

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

$$4 = 4 \cdot 1$$

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

(c)  $13579/2468$ .

- Using the Euclidean algorithm we write

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

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

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

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

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

$$9 = 9 \cdot 1$$

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

---

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.
-

7. The goal of this problem is to discuss the Weierstrass substitution  $t = \tan(\theta/2)$ . Recall the trigonometric identities  $\tan \frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta} = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$  shown in class. 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  $d\theta = \frac{2dt}{1+t^2}$ .

- By (a) 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  $0 < m < 2024$ , there exists an integer  $k$  with  $\frac{m}{2024} < \frac{k}{n} < \frac{m+1}{2025}$ . (Make sure to prove that your value is the smallest possible.)

- The answer is  $n = 4049$ . From our results on Farey fractions, we know the mediant  $\frac{2m+1}{4049}$  is always between  $\frac{m}{2024}$  and  $\frac{m+1}{2025}$ . Thus,  $n = 4047$  will work.
- On the other hand, if we take  $m = 2023$ , then we require  $\frac{2023}{2024} < \frac{k}{n} < \frac{2024}{2025}$ . Since  $2024 \cdot 2024 - 2023 \cdot 2025 = 1$ , the terms  $\frac{2023}{2024}$  and  $\frac{2024}{2025}$  are consecutive in the Farey sequence, so the next term that appears between them is  $\frac{4047}{4049}$ . This means  $n \geq 4049$ , and so indeed  $n = 4049$  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.

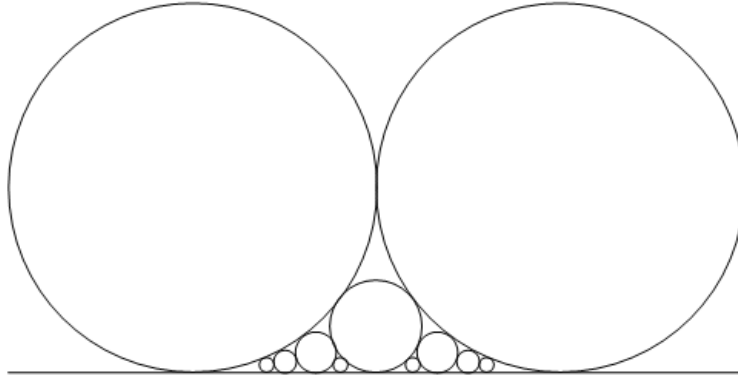
- By our results on the Farey sequences, we know that  $a/b$  and  $c/d$  are adjacent if and only if  $bc - ad = 1$ .
- The centers of the two circles are  $(a/b, r_{a/b})$  and  $(c/d, r_{c/d})$ , so the tangency condition is equivalent to saying that  $(r_{c/d} - r_{a/b})^2 + (a/b - c/d)^2 = (r_{c/d}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