

2.4 The Diophantine Equation $ax + by = c$

Note Title

11/10/2004

1. (a). $6x + 51y = 22$

$\gcd(6, 51) = 3$, and $3 \nmid 22 \therefore$ Can't be solved.

(b) $33x + 14y = 115$

$\gcd(33, 14) = 1$, \therefore it can be solved.

(c) $14x + 35y = 93$

$\gcd(14, 35) = 7$, $7 \nmid 93 \therefore$ can't be solved.

2. Use Euclidean Alg. to get $d = \gcd(a, b)$, then express d in terms of a, b , then multiply d to get c and x_0, y_0 .

(a) $56x + 72y = 40$

$$72 = 56 + 16$$

$$56 = 3 \cdot 16 + 8$$

$$16 = 2 \cdot 8$$

$$\therefore \gcd = 8$$

$$8 = 56 - 3 \cdot 16$$

$$= 56 - 3(72 - 56)$$

$$= 4 \cdot 56 - 3 \cdot 72$$

$$\therefore 5 \cdot 8 = 40 = 20 \cdot 56 - 15 \cdot 72$$

$$\therefore (20, -15) \text{ a solution}$$

$$\therefore x = 20 + \frac{72}{8}t, \quad y = -15 - \frac{56}{8}t$$

$$\text{or } x = 20 + 9t, \quad y = -15 - 7t$$

$$(6) 24x + 138y = 18$$

$$138 = 5 \cdot 24 + 18$$

$$24 = 18 + 6$$

$$18 = 3 \cdot 6$$

$$\therefore \gcd = 6$$

$$6 = 24 - 18$$

$$= 24 - (138 - 5 \cdot 24)$$

$$= 6 \cdot 24 - 138$$

$$\therefore 18 = 3 \cdot 6 = (18)24 - (3)138$$

$$\therefore (18, -3) \text{ is a solution}$$

$$\therefore x = 18 + \frac{138}{6}t = 18 + 23t$$

$$y = -3 - \frac{24}{6}t = -3 - 4t$$

$$(c) 221x + 35y = 11$$

$$221 = 6 \cdot 35 + 11$$

$$35 = 3 \cdot 11 + 2$$

$$11 = 5 \cdot 2 + 1$$

$$2 = 2 \cdot 1$$

$$\therefore \gcd = 1$$

$$\therefore 1 = 11 - 5 \cdot 2$$

$$= 11 - 5(35 - 3 \cdot 11)$$

$$= 16 \cdot 11 - 5 \cdot 35$$

$$= 16(221 - 6 \cdot 35) - 5 \cdot 35$$

$$= 16 \cdot 221 - 101 \cdot 35$$

$$\therefore 11 = (16 \cdot 16)(221) - (11 \cdot 101)(35)$$

$$\therefore (176, -111) \text{ a solution}$$

$$\therefore x = 176 + 35t$$

$$y = -111 - 221t$$

$$3. (a) 18x + 5y = 48$$

$$18 = 3 \cdot 5 + 3$$

$$5 = 3 + 2$$

$$1 = 3 - 2$$

$$= 3 - (5 - 3)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
3 &= 2 + 1 & = 2 \cdot 3 - 5 \\
2 &= 2 \cdot 1 & = 2(18 - 3 \cdot 5) - 5 \\
\therefore \gcd &= 1 & = 2 \cdot 18 - 7 \cdot 5 \\
& & \therefore 48 = 96 \cdot 18 - (48 \cdot 7) \cdot 5 \\
& & \therefore (96, -336) \text{ a solution} \\
\therefore x &= 96 + 5t \\
y &= -336 - 18t
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Since } x, y > 0, \quad 96 + 5t > 0 &\Rightarrow t > -19.2 \\
-336 - 18t > 0 &\Rightarrow t < -18.7
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore t &= 19 \\
\therefore x &= 96 + 5(-19) = 1 \\
y &= -336 - 18(-19) = 6
\end{aligned}$$

$$(6) \quad 54x + 21y = 906$$

$$\begin{aligned}
54 &= 2 \cdot 21 + 12 & \therefore 3 &= 12 - 9 \\
21 &= 12 + 9 & &= 12 - (21 - 12) = 2 \cdot 12 - 21 \\
12 &= 9 + 3 & &= 2(54 - 2 \cdot 21) - 21 \\
9 &= 3 \cdot 3 & &= 2 \cdot 54 - 5 \cdot 21 \\
\gcd &= 3 & \therefore 906 &= (302 \cdot 2)(54 - (302 \cdot 5)(21)) \\
& & \therefore (604, -1510) &\text{ a solution}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore x &= 604 + 7t > 0 &\Rightarrow t > -86.3 \\
y &= -1510 - 18t > 0 &\Rightarrow t < -83.9
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore x = -84, -85, -86$$

$$\therefore (x, y) = (16, 2), (9, 20), (2, 38)$$

$$(c) 123x + 360y = 99$$

$$360 = 3 \cdot 123 - 9 \quad \therefore 3 = 14 \cdot 9 - 123$$

$$123 = 14 \cdot 9 - 3 \quad = 14(3 \cdot 123 - 360) - 123$$

$$9 = 3 \cdot 3 \quad = 41 \cdot 123 - 14 \cdot 360$$

$$\therefore \gcd = 3 \quad \therefore 99 = (33 \cdot 41)123 - (33 \cdot 14)360$$

$$\therefore (1353, -462) \text{ a solution}$$

$$\therefore x = 1353 + 120x > 0 \Rightarrow x > -11.275$$

$$y = -462 - 41x > 0 \Rightarrow x < -11.3$$

\therefore no x exists, so no positive solutions

$$(d) 158x - 57y = 7$$

$$158 = 3 \cdot 57 - 13$$

$$57 = 4 \cdot 13 + 5$$

$$13 = 2 \cdot 5 + 3$$

$$5 = 3 + 2$$

$$3 = 2 + 1$$

$$2 = 2 \cdot 1$$

$$\therefore \gcd = 1$$

$$1 = 3 - 2 = 3 - (5 - 3)$$

$$= 2 \cdot 3 - 5 = 2(13 - 2 \cdot 5) - 5$$

$$= 2 \cdot 13 - 5 \cdot 5$$

$$= 2 \cdot 13 - 5(57 - 4 \cdot 13)$$

$$= 22 \cdot 13 - 5 \cdot 57$$

$$= 22(3 \cdot 57 - 158) - 5 \cdot 57$$

$$= 61(57) - 22 \cdot 158$$

$$\therefore 7 = 427 \cdot 57 - 154 \cdot 158$$

$\therefore (-154, -427)$ a solution

$$\therefore x = -154 - 57t > 0 \Rightarrow t < -2.7 \Rightarrow t \leq -3$$

$$y = -427 - 158t > 0 \Rightarrow t < -2.7 \Rightarrow t \leq -3$$

4. $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, then $ax - by = c$ has infinitely many positive solutions.

Pf: Assume $a, b > 0$.

Since $1|c$, a solution exists. Let x_0, y_0 be a solution. $\therefore ax_0 - by_0 = c$. By corollary on p. 36, all solutions are given by:

$$x = x_0 - bt \quad y = y_0 - at$$

$$\text{For } x, y > 0, \quad \begin{aligned} x_0 - bt > 0, \quad t &< \frac{x_0}{b} \\ y_0 - at > 0, \quad t &< \frac{y_0}{a} \end{aligned}$$

\therefore if $t < \min\left(\frac{x_0}{b}, \frac{y_0}{a}\right)$, then

$$t < \frac{x_0}{b} \Rightarrow bt < x_0 \Rightarrow x_0 - bt > 0$$

$$t < \frac{y_0}{a} \Rightarrow at < y_0 \Rightarrow y_0 - at > 0$$

There are infinitely many t s.t. $t < \min\left(\frac{x_0}{b}, \frac{y_0}{a}\right)$

5. (a) $ax + by + cz = d$ is solvable in integers $\Leftrightarrow \gcd(a, b, c) \mid d$

Pf: (1) Let $g = \gcd(a, b, c)$. $\therefore \exists p, q, r$ s.t.
 $gp = a, gq = b, gr = c$.

$$\therefore gp x + gq y + gr z = g(px + qy + rz) = d$$

$$\therefore g \mid d$$

(2) Let $g = \gcd(a, b, c)$ and suppose $g \mid d$

By Lemma, $\exists x_0, y_0, z_0$ s.t. $g = ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0$.

Let t be s.t. $gt = d$.

$$\therefore d = gt = ax_0 t + by_0 t + cz_0 t$$

\therefore a solution is $(x_0 t, y_0 t, z_0 t)$

Lemma: Given a, b, c not all of which are zero. There exist integers x, y, z s.t.

$$\gcd(a, b, c) = ax + by + cz$$

Pf: Analogous to proof of Th. 2.3.

$$\text{Let } S = \{au + bv + cz \mid au + bv + cz > 0, \\ u, v, w \text{ integers}\}$$

S is non-empty: Suppose $a \neq 0$.

$$\therefore |a| = au + b \cdot 0 + c \cdot 0 > 0, \text{ where}$$

$$u = 1 \cdot \text{sign}(a)$$

By Well Ordering Principle, S has a minimum value, d

By def. of S , \exists integers x, y, z s.t.
 $d = ax + by + cz$

Let q, r be s.t. (by Division Alg).

$$a = qd + r, \quad 0 \leq r < d$$

$$\therefore r = a - qd = a - q(ax + by + cz) \\ = a(1 - qa) - bqy - cqz$$

if $r > 0$, Then $r \in S \Rightarrow r < d$

But d is smallest element. $\therefore r = 0$

$$\therefore a = qd \Rightarrow d \mid a$$

Similarly, $d \mid b, d \mid c$

$\therefore d$ is a common divisor.

Let e be any other common divisor of a, b, c . Let $eh = a, ej = b, ek = c$

$$\therefore d = ax + by + cz = ehx + ejy + ekz \\ = e(hx + jy + kz) \Rightarrow e \mid d$$

By Th. 2.2 p. 21, $|e| \leq |d|$,

$$\therefore d = \gcd(a, b, c)$$

Alternate Lemma: By #11, p. 32,
 $\gcd(a, b, c) = \gcd(\gcd(a, b), c)$.

Let $u = \gcd(a, b)$. $\therefore \exists x, y$ s.t.

$u = ax + by$. Also, $\exists h, k$ s.t.

$$d = uh + ck = (ax + by)h + ck \\ = axh + byh + ck$$

$\therefore \exists$ integers p, q, r s.t. $d = ap + bq + cr$

(6) Find all integer solutions of $15x + 12y + 30z = 24$

$\gcd(15, 12, 30) = 3$, and $3 \mid 24$, so integer solutions exist by (a) above.

Now divide by \gcd to simplify.

$$15x + 12y + 30z = 24 \Leftrightarrow 5x + 4y + 10z = 8$$

$\therefore 5x + 10z = 8 - 4y$. Since $\gcd(5, 10) = 5$,

$$5x + 10z = 5n, \text{ some } n. \therefore 5n = 8 - 4y$$

$x = n, z = 0$ is a solution, \therefore by Th. 2.9,

$x = n + 2t, z = -t$, gives all solutions for $5x + 10z = 5n$

$\therefore (x, y, z)$ is a solution \Leftrightarrow

$$x = n + 2t \quad \text{for some } n, t$$

$$z = -t$$

$$8 - 4y = 5n, \text{ or } 4y = 8 - 5n$$

$$\therefore y = 2 - \frac{5n}{4}, \text{ which means } 4 \mid n,$$

so n must be divisible by 4.

$$\therefore \text{Let } n = 4k. \therefore y = 2 - 5k. \therefore x = 4k + 2t$$

\therefore if k and t are any integers,

$$x = 4k + 2t$$

$$y = 2 - 5k$$

$$z = -t$$

6. (a) \$4.55 in dimes and quarters.

(1) Determine max + min. # of coins

(2) Can # dimes = # quarters?

$$(1) 10d + 25q = 455, \quad d \geq 0, \quad q \geq 0$$

$$\gcd(10, 25) = 5$$

$$\text{Equation} \equiv 2d + 5q = 91 \quad (3, 17) \text{ a solution.}$$

\therefore All solutions of form

$$d = 3 + 5t \quad d \geq 0 \Rightarrow 3 + 5t \geq 0, t \geq \frac{-3}{5}, t \geq 0$$

$$q = 17 - 2t \quad q \geq 0 \Rightarrow 17 - 2t \geq 0, t \leq \frac{17}{2}, t \leq 8$$

$$\therefore 0 \leq t \leq 8$$

Max # coins is when $d+q$ is a max.

$d+q = 20+3t$, so when $t=8$,
you will have 44 coins (43d, 1q)

Min # coins : $t=0$, or 20 coins (3d, 17q)

(2) For $d=q$, $3+5t = 17-2t$, $7t = 14$, $t=2$
 \therefore 13 dimes, 13 quarters is a solution.

(b) $180a + 75c = 9000$, $a > c$ Also, $a \geq 0, c \geq 0$

$$\gcd(75, 180) = 15$$

Reduce equation to $12a + 5c = 600$

One solution is (50, 0)

\therefore All solutions of form $a = 50 + 5t$
 $c = -12t$

$$a > c \Rightarrow 50 + 5t > -12t, 17t > -50, t \geq -2$$

$$a \geq 0 \Rightarrow 5t \geq -50, t \geq -50$$

$$c \geq 0 \Rightarrow -12t \geq 0, t \leq 0$$

$$\therefore -2 \leq t \leq 0$$

$$\therefore t = 0, -1, -2$$

So, 50 adults, 0 children

45 adults, 12 children

40 adults, 24 children

$$(c) \quad 6x + 9y = 126$$

$$6y + 9x = 114$$

$$36x + 54y = 756$$

$$36x + 24y = 456$$

$$\therefore 30y = 300, y = 10$$

$$\therefore 6x + 9(10) = 126$$

$$6x = 36, x = 6$$

\therefore 6 sixes, 10 nines

$$7. \quad c + l + p = 100$$

$$c, l, p \geq 1$$

$$120c + 50l + 25p = 4000$$

$$\gcd(120, 50, 25) = 5$$

$$\therefore \text{Reduce to } 24c + 10l + 5p = 800$$

$$\therefore 24c + 10l + 5(100 - c - l) = 800$$

$$19c + 5l = 300 \quad (0, 60) \text{ a solution}$$

$$\therefore c = 5t$$

$$l = 60 - 19t$$

$$\therefore p = 100 - 5t - (60 - 19t)$$

$$p = 40 + 14t$$

$$\text{Now, } 5t \geq 1 \Rightarrow t \geq 1$$

$$60 - 19t \geq 1 \Rightarrow 19t \leq 59, t \leq 3$$

$$40 + 14t \geq 1 \Rightarrow 14t \geq -39, t \geq -2$$

$$\therefore 1 \leq t \leq 3$$

$$\therefore 5 \text{ calves, } 41 \text{ lambs, } 54 \text{ piglets}$$

$$10 \text{ calves, } 22 \text{ lambs, } 68 \text{ piglets}$$

$$15 \text{ calves, } 3 \text{ lambs, } 82 \text{ piglets}$$

8. Let original check be d dollars and c cents.
 So, Mr. Smith was given $100c + d$ cents.
 Find smallest value of $100d + c$.

$$\therefore 100c + d - 68 = 2(100d + c), \quad d, c \geq 0$$

$$\therefore 98c - 199d = 68 \quad \gcd(98, 199) = 1$$

$$199 = 2 \cdot 98 + 3 \quad \therefore 1 = 3 - 2$$

$$98 = 32 \cdot 3 + 2 \quad = 3 - (98 - 32 \cdot 3) = 33 \cdot 3 - 98$$

$$3 = 2 + 1 \quad = 33(199 - 2 \cdot 98) - 98$$

$$2 = 2 \cdot 1 \quad = 33 \cdot 199 - 67 \cdot 98$$

$$\therefore 68 = (68 \cdot 33)199 - (68 \cdot 67)98$$

$$\therefore (-4556, -2244) \text{ is a solution.}$$

\therefore All solutions are of form:

$$c = -4556 - 199t \quad c \geq 0 \Rightarrow 199t \leq -4556, \quad t \leq -22.9$$

$$d = -2244 - 98t \quad d \geq 0 \Rightarrow 98t \leq -2244, \quad t \leq -22.9$$

$$\therefore t \leq -23$$

$$100d + c = -228956 - 9999t$$

This is smallest when t is biggest, so $t = -23$

$$\therefore 100d + c = -228956 - 9999(-23) = 1021 \text{ cents}$$

or 10 dollars 21 cents

Check: 21 dollars 10 cents - 68 cents = 20 d 42 cents

$$9. (a) \quad m + w + c = 100, \quad m, w, c > 0$$

$$3m + 2w + \frac{1}{2}c = 100, \text{ or } 6m + 4w + c = 200$$

$$c = 100 - m - w$$

$$\therefore 5m + 3w = 100$$

One solution is $(14, 10)$

\therefore All solutions of form:

$$m = 14 + 3t \quad m > 0 \Rightarrow t > -\frac{14}{3}, \quad t \geq -4$$

$$w = 10 - 5t \quad w > 0 \Rightarrow 5t < 10, \quad t \leq 1$$

$$c = 76 + 2t \quad c > 0 \Rightarrow t > -38, \quad t \geq -37$$

$$\therefore -4 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$\therefore t = -4 : 2 \text{ men, } 30 \text{ women, } 68 \text{ children}$$

$$t = -3 : 5 \text{ men, } 25 \text{ women, } 70 \text{ children}$$

$$t = -2 : 8 \text{ men, } 20 \text{ women, } 72 \text{ children}$$

$$t = -1 : 11 \text{ men, } 15 \text{ women, } 74 \text{ children}$$

$$t = 0 : 14 \text{ men, } 10 \text{ women, } 76 \text{ children}$$

$$t = 1 : 17 \text{ men, } 5 \text{ women, } 78 \text{ children}$$

(b) Let $x = \#$ plantain fruit in each of the 63 poles.

$$\therefore 63x + 7 = \text{total \# fruit}, \quad x > 0$$

Let $y = \#$ fruit to each of the 23 travelers.

$$\therefore 23y = \text{total \# fruit}, \quad y > 0$$

$$\therefore 63x + 7 = 23y, \text{ or } 63x - 23y = -7$$

$$63 = 3 \cdot 23 - 6 \quad \therefore 1 = 4 \cdot 6 - 23$$

$$23 = 4 \cdot 6 - 1 \quad = 4(3 \cdot 23 - 63) - 23$$

$$6 = 6 - 1 \quad = 11 \cdot 23 - 4 \cdot 63$$

$$\therefore -7 = -77 \cdot 23 + 28 \cdot 63$$

$\therefore (28, 77)$ a solution.

\therefore All solutions of form:

$$x = 28 - 23t \quad x > 0 \Rightarrow 23t < 28, \quad t \leq 1$$

$$y = 77 - 63t \quad y > 0 \Rightarrow 63t < 77, \quad t \leq 1$$

\therefore Infinitely many solutions

$$t = 1: \quad x = 5, \quad y = 14 \quad (5 \text{ fruits/pile}, 14/\text{traveler})$$

$$t = 0: \quad x = 28, \quad y = 77 \quad (28 \text{ fruits/pile}, 77/\text{traveler})$$

\vdots

(c) Let $x = \#$ coins on a string when make 77 strings. $\therefore 77x - 50 = \text{total } \# \text{ coins}$

Let $y = \#$ coins on a string when make 78 strings.

$$\therefore 78y = \text{total } \# \text{ coins.}$$

$$\therefore 77x - 50 = 78y, \text{ or } 77x - 78y = 50, \quad x, y > 0$$

$$\gcd(77, 78) = 1$$

$$\therefore 78 = 77 + 1 \quad \therefore 50 = 50(78) - 50(77)$$

$$77 = 1 \cdot 77 \quad \therefore (-50, -50) \text{ a solution}$$

\therefore All solutions of form:

$$x = -50 - 78t, \quad x > 0 \Rightarrow 78t < -50, \quad t \leq -1$$

$$y = -50 - 77t, \quad y > 0 \Rightarrow 77t < -50, \quad t \leq -1$$

Infinitely many solutions.

One solution is $t = -1, \therefore x = 28, y = 27$
 \therefore total # coins is $78(27) = 2106$

$$(d) \quad m + w + c = 20, \quad m, w, c \geq 0$$

$$3m + 2w + \frac{1}{2}c = 20, \quad \text{or} \quad 6m + 4w + c = 40$$

$$c = 40 - 6m - 4w$$

$$\therefore 5m + 3w = 20$$

One solution is $(1, 5)$

\therefore All solutions of form:

$$m = 1 + 3t \quad > 0 \Rightarrow t \geq -\frac{1}{3}, \quad t \geq 0$$

$$w = 5 - 5t \quad > 0 \Rightarrow 5t < 5, \quad t \leq 0$$

$$c = 14 + 2t \quad > 0 \Rightarrow t > -7, \quad t \geq -6$$

$$\therefore t = 0$$

\therefore 1 man, 5 women, 14 children

$$(e) \quad 100 = x + y, \quad 7|x, \quad 11|y, \quad 0 \leq x, y \leq 100$$

$$\text{Let } 7k = x, \quad 11n = y$$

$$\therefore 7k + 11n = 100, \quad 0 \leq 7k, 11n \leq 100$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 11 &= 7 + 4 & \therefore 1 &= 4 - 3 = 4 - (7 - 4) = 2 \cdot 4 - 7 \\
 7 &= 4 + 3 & &= 2(11 - 7) - 7 \\
 4 &= 3 + 1 & &= 2 \cdot 11 - 3 \cdot 7 \\
 3 &= 3 \cdot 1 & \therefore 100 &= 200 \cdot 11 - 300 \cdot 7 \\
 & & \therefore &(-300, 200) \text{ a solution}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore K &= -300 + 11t \\
 n &= 200 - 7t
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Now } 0 \leq 7K \leq 100 &\Rightarrow 0 \leq K \leq \frac{100}{7}, \quad 0 \leq K \leq 14 \\
 0 \leq 11n \leq 100 &\Rightarrow 0 \leq n \leq \frac{100}{11}, \quad 0 \leq n \leq 9
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore 0 \leq -300 + 11t \leq 14 &\Rightarrow 300 \leq 11t \leq 314, \\
 28 \leq t \leq 28 &\therefore t = 28
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 \leq 200 - 7t \leq 9 &\Rightarrow -200 \leq -7t \leq -191 \\
 28.6 \geq t \geq 27.3 &, \quad t = 28
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore K &= -300 + 11(28) = 8 & \therefore 7K &= 56 \\
 n &= 200 - 7(28) = 4 & 11n &= 44
 \end{aligned}$$

Note on problem 5(6) - Author's solution

The choice of $y = 3s - 5t$, $z = -5 + 2t$

was ad hoc. Other choices for the coefficients of s and t are fine, as long as they are relatively prime. They were chosen so that $12y + 30z$ would eliminate one variable. You would then reduce 2 variables (y, z) to one variable (s), thereby solving an equation in two variables (x, s) in terms of a parameter r using Th. 2.9. By substitution, y and z would then be expressed in terms of r and t .

Any value of y and z can be expressed in terms of s and t , as long as the coefficients are "non-parallel" lines, and are relatively prime. In other words, $y = 3s - 10t$, $z = -s + 4t$ would not work, as $t = 2.5$ could give a solution in integers, but $t = 2.5$ is not allowed. Relatively prime coefficients precludes this.