

Number Theory

Problem Set 2

Linear Combination

1. Find x and y such that $26x + 14y = (26, 14)$ with x positive but as small as possible.

Answer. $x = 6, y = -11$.

2. Find all solutions to $2x + 3y = 50$ in positive integers.

Answer. $x = -50 + 3t, y = 150 - 2t, 17 \leq t \leq 74$. You can list all these solutions in positive integers by running a simple Python program. You can download one at <https://sunglee.us/NT/diophantine.py>.

3. Prove that if $(a, b) = 1$ and $c \neq 0$, then $(ac, bc) | c$.

Hint. Since $(a, b) = 1$, there exist $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $ax + by = 1$.

4. Prove theorem 1 in the online notes on Linear Combination at <https://sunglee.us/mathphysarchive/?p=4864>.

Hint. Only If part is straightforward by a well-known division property. For If part, consider Bézout's lemma.

5. Use the Euclidean algorithm method to find one solution to each equation.

(a) $7x + 20y = 3$

Answer. $x = 9, y = -3$.

(b) $66x + 51y = 300$

Answer. $x = 700, y = -900$.

6. Find all solutions to each equation with x and y positive.

(a) $6x + 8y = 120$

Answer. $x = -60 + 4t, y = 60 - 3t, 16 \leq t \leq 19.$

(b) $169x + 663y = 2340$

Answer. $x = 6, y = 2.$

7. A girl spent \$100.64 on posters. Some cost \$4.98 and some \$5.98.
How many did she buy?

Answer. The girl bought 7 \$4.98/unit posters and 11 \$5.98/unit posters.